



Township of Cavan Monaghan

Downtown Park

Council Educational Session



Agenda



Land Acknowledgement



We respectfully acknowledge that the Township of Cavan Monaghan is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory, in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishnaabeg.

We offer our gratitude to First Nations for their care for and teachings about these lands. May we honour these teachings

Introductions



Township of Cavan Monaghan Project Team:

Yvette Hurley, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

Chris Allison, Parks & Facilities Manager

Jennifer Steen, Executive Assistance to Corporate Services

Landscape Planning Limited (Consultant):

John Shank, Principal

Greg Baskin, Senior Associate

Holly MacAlpine, Landscape Architectural Designer



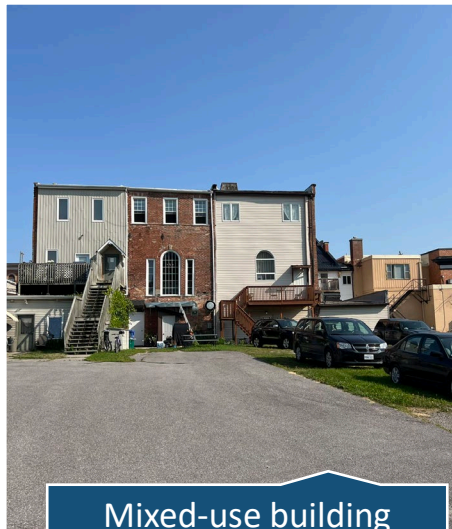
Purpose of Meeting



Council education session to provide the Township of Cavan Monaghan Council with a summary of the feedback received from the public survey for a community park in Downtown Millbrook on the lands of the Millbrook Arena.



Pedestrian bridge and island



Mixed-use building parking lot



Needlers Lane



Connection to Old Millbrook School and Library



Millbrook Arena

Project Overview



- R-2023-1 68, Moved by: Graham Seconded by: Huntley That Staff be directed to commence planning for the creation of a community park on the Millbrook Arena lands; and That the existing users of the Millbrook Arena be permitted to use the existing facility in its current state until the final plans for the community park are approved by Council or that the facility becomes a health and safety concern; and That Council’s direction be carried forward in Phase Two of the Parks and Recreation Plan — Vision 2035.

- The creation of a signature downtown park or civic square will become a focal point and gathering space for the community in the centre of Millbrook.
- Landscape Planning was retained by the Township in June 2024 through an RFP process.



Project Overview

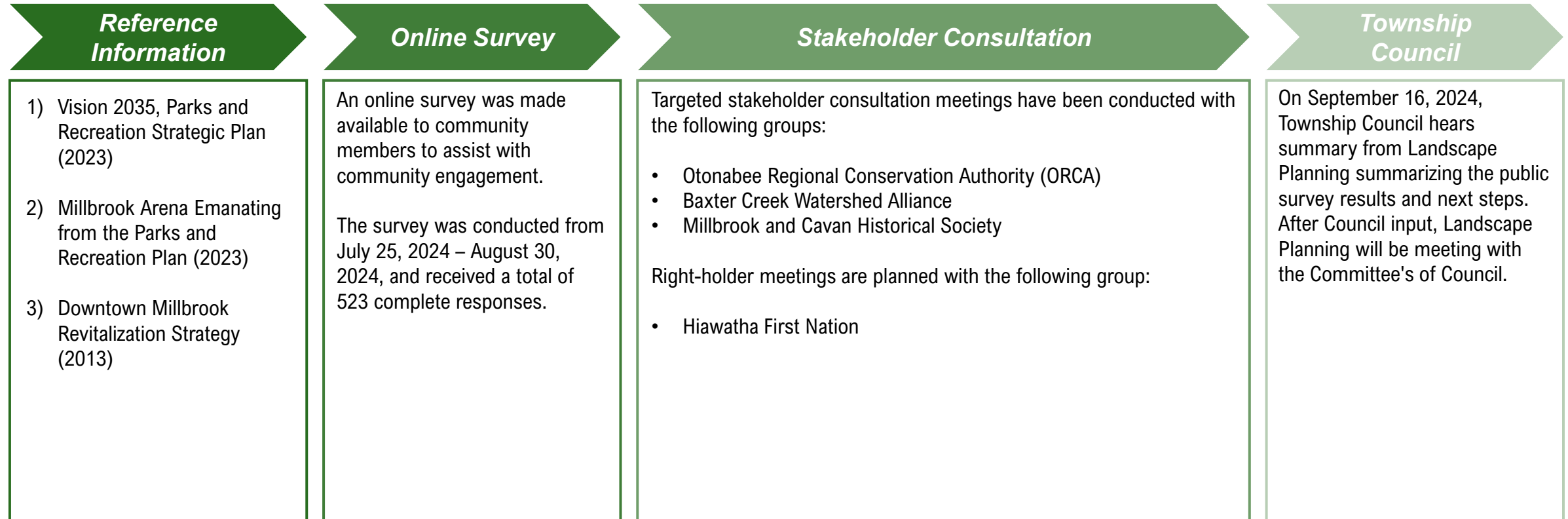


- Located at 4 Needler's Lane, Millbrook
- Designated as Community Core and Natural Linkage in the Township Official Plan, zoned as Future Development and Natural Linkage.
- Approximately 1 acre in size, the parcel is bound by Needler's Lane, Baxter Creek, Little Creek, Commercial Properties and Mill Pond.
- Adjacent to Otonabee Conservation (ORCA) lands and situated within the floodplain.



— . . . — Approximate Boundary of Arena Lands

The Process to Date



Public Survey – Overview

- Public Survey Opened: **July 25, 2024**
- Public Survey Closed: **August 30, 2024**
- Community informed through post cards distributed at community events, Township project page, social media posts on Instagram and Facebook, and the Millbrook Times.
- Paper copies also distributed at the Municipal Office, Cavan Monaghan Community Centre, Millbrook Library, and Bruce Johnston Library
- A total of **523** complete survey responses!



Give us your Feedback!

Tell us what you would like to see! Complete the online survey:

www.cavanmonaghan.net/downtownpark

Or visit any of the locations below and pick up a paper copy of the survey:

- Municipal Office
- Cavan Monaghan Community Centre
- Millbrook Library
- Bruce Johnston Library



Visit the website:

cavanmonaghan.net/downtownpark

Subscribe to the page and stay up-to-date on the project!



Give us your Feedback!

Landscape Planning Architects have been hired to develop a conceptual design and site plan for a Downtown Park in Millbrook.



Contact Us →

Visit the website:

cavanmonaghan.net/downtownpark

Subscribe now and find out how you can participate!

Public Survey – Summary Outline

Survey Summary Report prepared outlining:

- Introduction
- Survey notices
- Summary of findings
- Analysis of results
- Conclusion

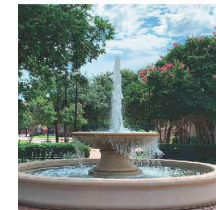
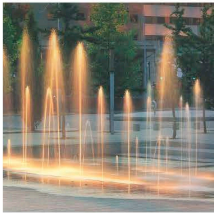
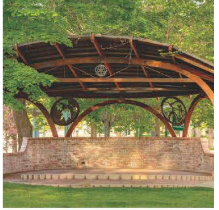
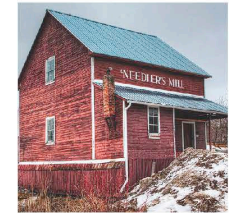


DOWNTOWN PARK

SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

September 2024

Prepared for:



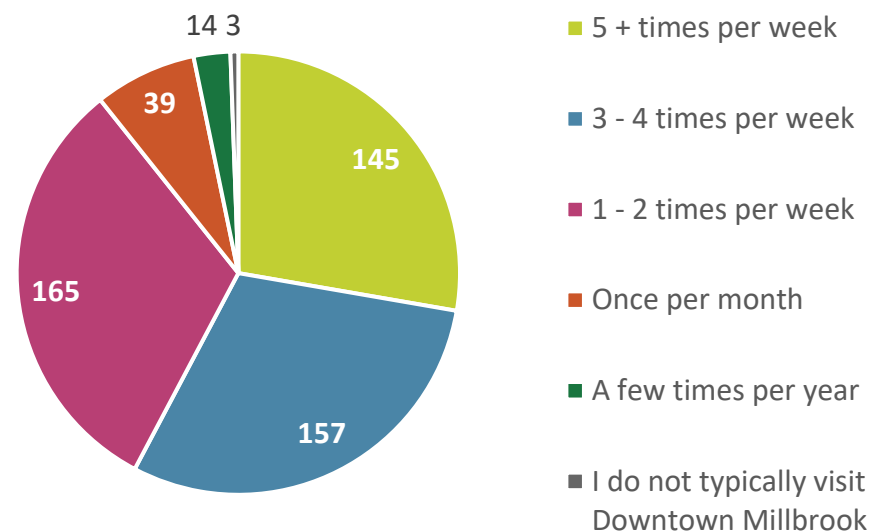
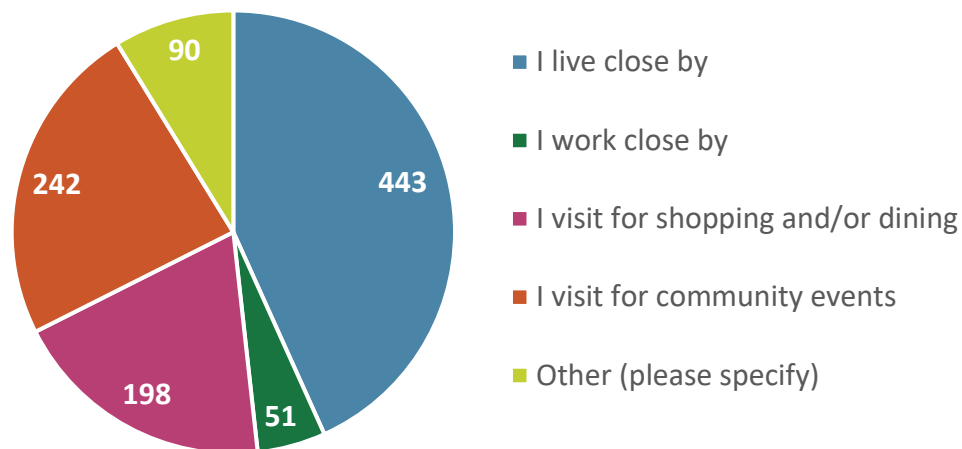
Prepared by:





Public Survey – Summary

- 443 respondents live close to the Downtown
- 318 respondents visit the Downtown on Weekends
- 145 respondents visit the Downtown 5 + times per week
- 157 respondents visit the Downtown 3-4 times per week
- 371 respondents visit the Downtown for recreational purposes (parks, trail system, etc.)
- 358 respondents visit the Downtown for shopping
- 89 respondents indicated they visit the Downtown to use the arena

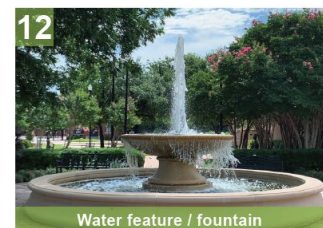
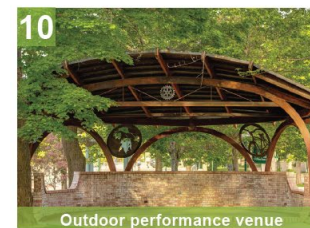


Public Survey – Summary



Priority ranking of the facilities the public would like to see in the Downtown Park:

1. Washroom Facilities (**2.90** weighted rank)
2. Natural Ice Skating Trail (**2.76** weighted rank)
3. Playground Equipment (**2.55** weighted rank)
4. Walking Pathways with lighted rest stations and connections to adjacent trails (**2.51** weighted rank)
5. Pollinator / display gardens (**2.48** weighted rank)
6. Viewing areas for the pond, creek and Medds Mountain (**2.47** weighted rank)
7. Water Play (**2.33** weighted rank)
8. Open Lawn / Passive Area for Activities (**2.31** weighted rank)
9. Shade Structure / Picnic Pavilion (**2.27** weighted rank)
10. Outdoor Performance Venue (**2.24** weighted rank)
11. Community Square / Gathering Space (**2.21** weighted rank)
12. Water Feature (**1.58** weighted rank)
13. Other: Parking facilities

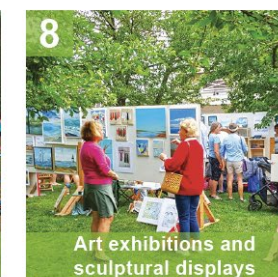
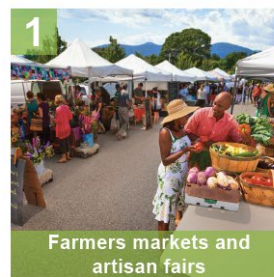




Public Survey – Summary

Priority ranking of the activities / events the public would like to see hosted in the Downtown Park:

1. Farmers Markets and Artisan Fairs (**308**)
2. Seasonal Events (winter festivals / holiday markets) (**305**)
3. Children's play and family activities (**247**)
4. Outdoor concerts and music festivals (**239**)
5. Movie nights and outdoor film screenings (**188**)
6. Cultural celebrations and community events (**181**)
7. Fitness sessions (**140**)
8. Art exhibitions and sculptural displays (**110**)

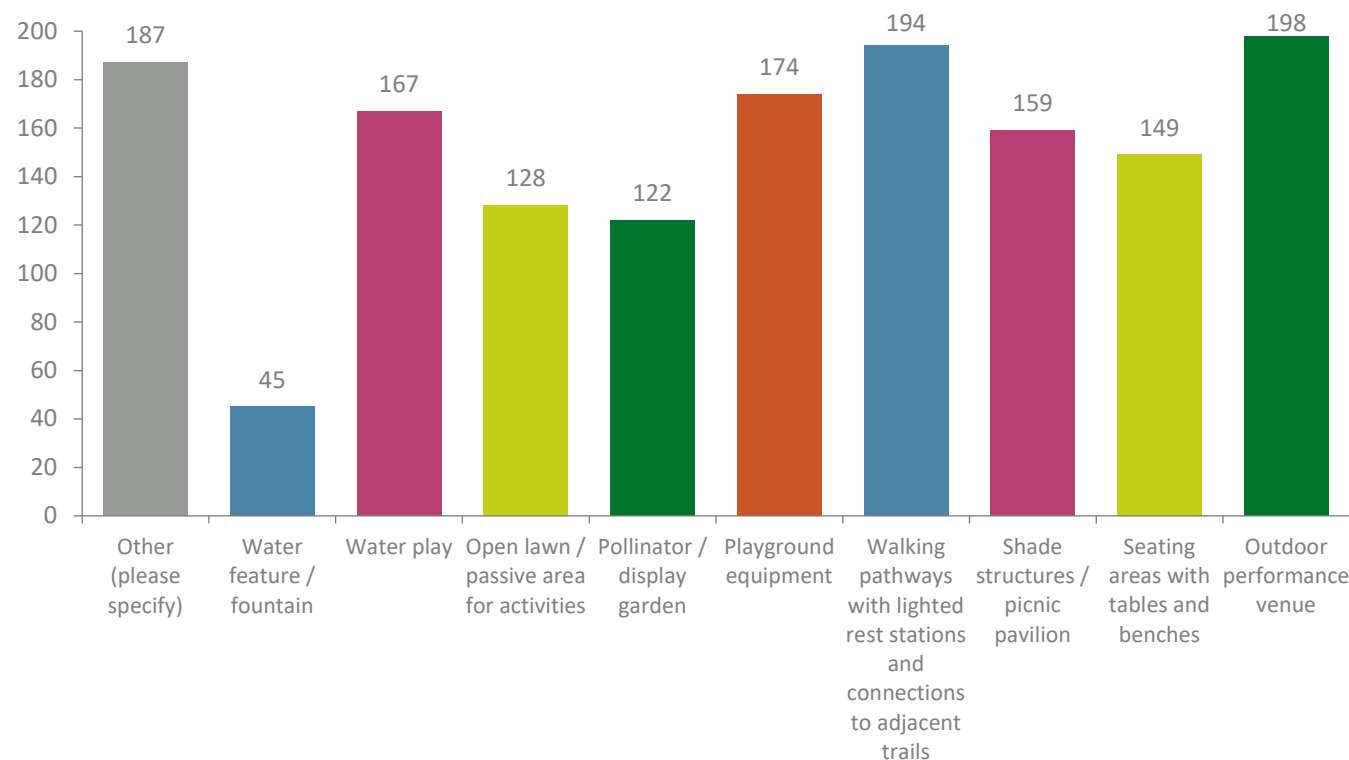




Public Survey – Summary

Respondents expressed interest in the following **summer** amenities:

1. Outdoor Performance Venue (**198**)
2. Walking Pathways with lighted rest stations and connections to trails (**194**)
3. Play equipment (**174**)
4. Water Play (**167**)
5. Shade Structure / Pavilion (**159**)
6. Seating Areas with tables and benches (**149**)
7. Other: respondents suggested retaining the existing arena for indoor sports

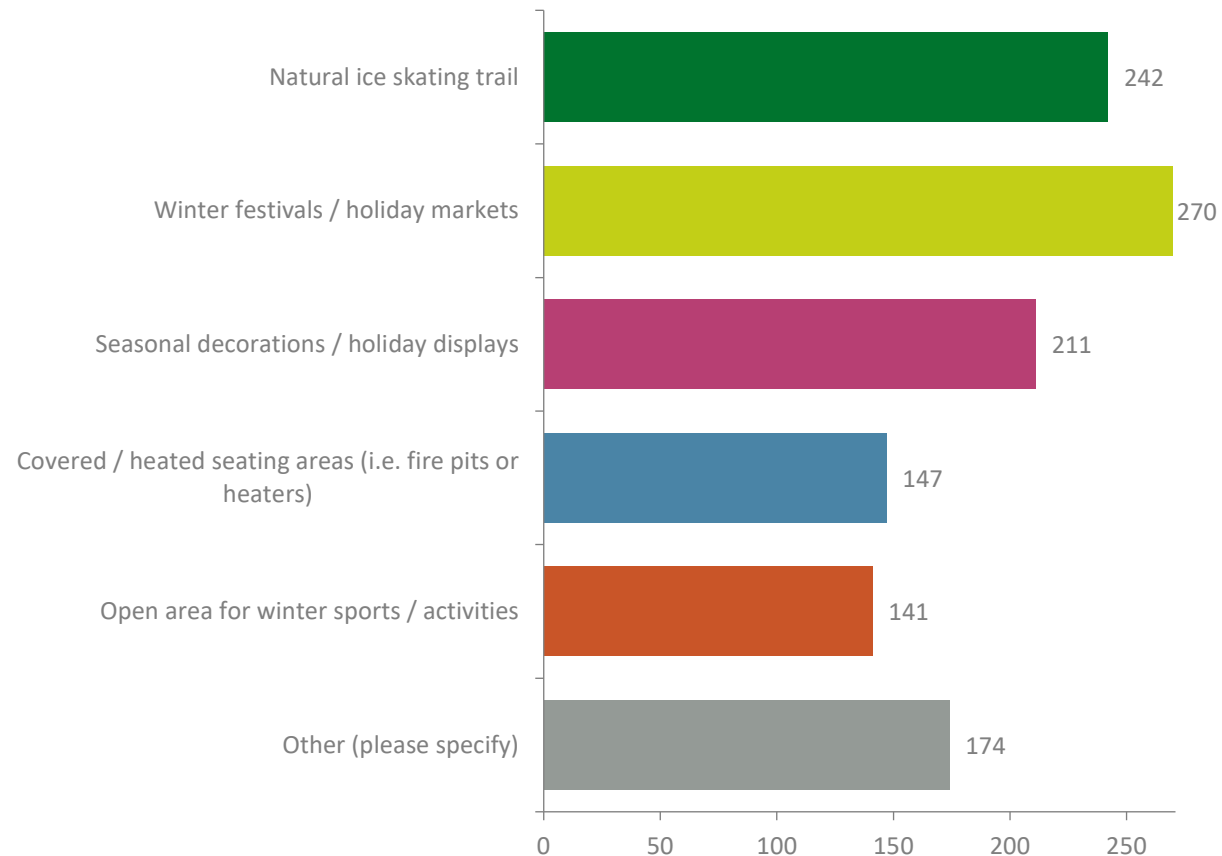




Public Survey – Summary

Respondents expressed interest in the following **winter** activities:

1. Winter Festivals / Holiday Markets (**270**)
2. Natural Ice Skating Trail (**242**)
3. Seasonal Decorations / Holiday Displays (**211**)
4. Covered / heated seating areas (**147**)
5. Open Areas for winter sports / activities (**141**)
6. Other: respondents suggested retaining the existing arena for indoor sports

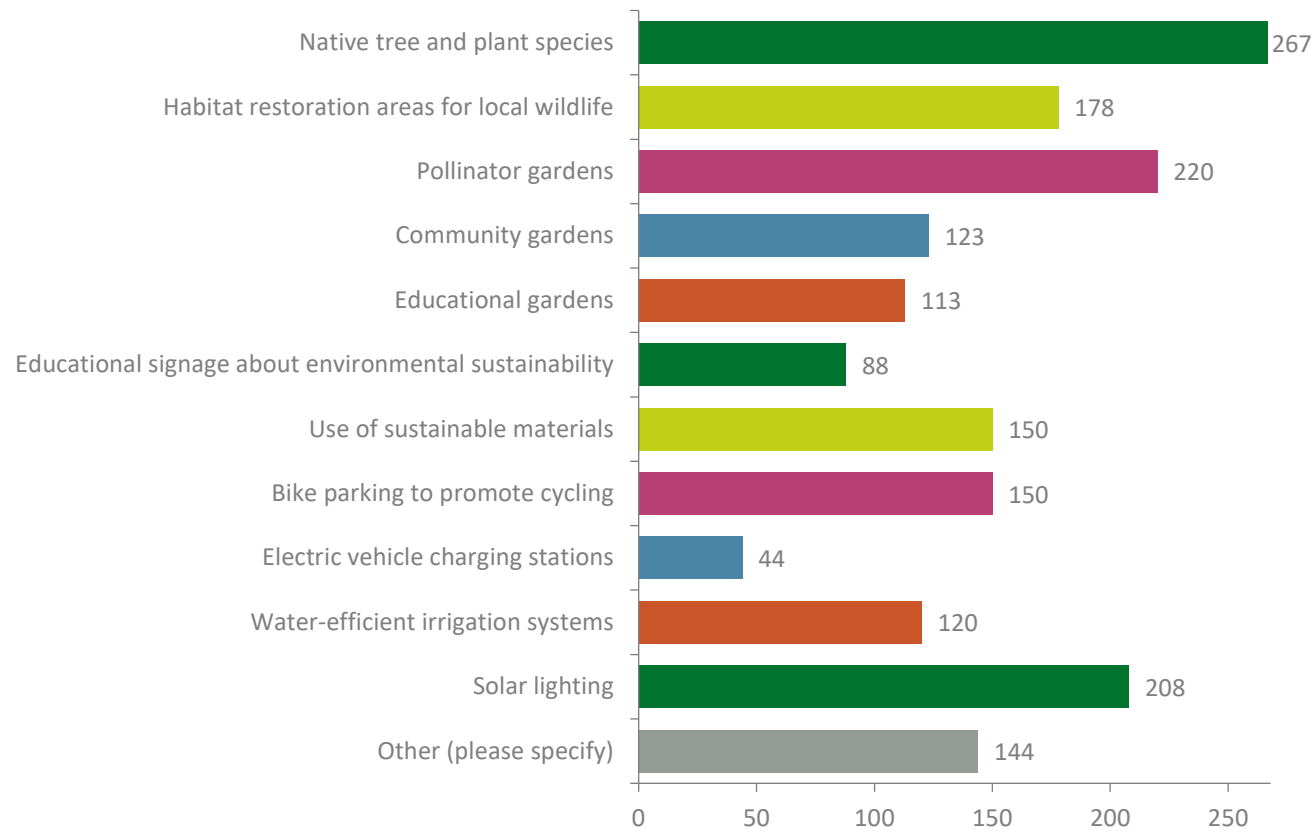




Public Survey – Summary

Respondents expressed interest in the following **sustainability initiatives**:

1. Native Tree and plant species (**267**)
2. Pollinator Gardens (**220**)
3. Solar Lighting (**208**)
4. Habitat restoration (**178**)
5. Use of sustainable materials (**150**)
6. Bike parking to promote cycling (**150**)
7. Community Gardens (**123**)
8. Water efficient irrigation systems (**120**)
9. Educational Gardens (**113**)
10. Educational Signage (**88**)
11. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (**44**)
12. Other: respondents suggested retaining the existing arena

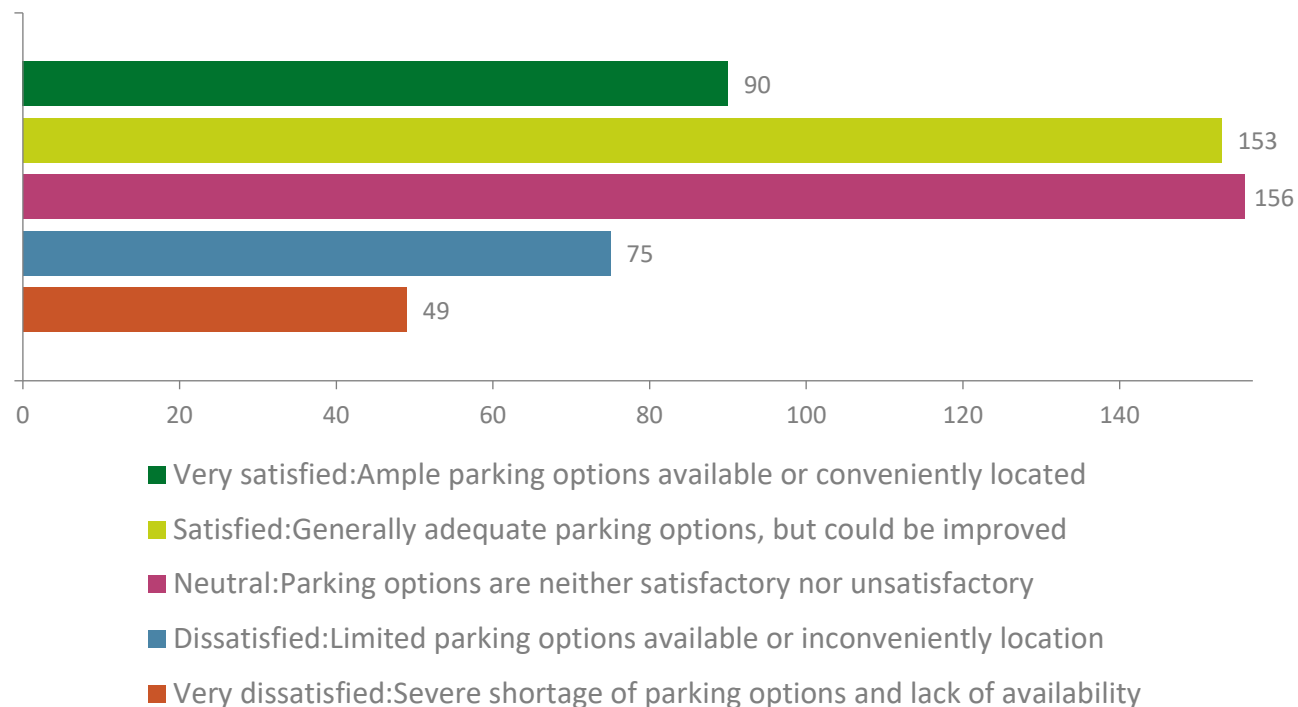




Public Survey – Conclusions

Respondents expressed the following about parking options near the Downtown Park:

1. Very Satisfied: **17.2%**
2. Satisfied but could be improved: **29.3%**
3. Neutral: **29.8%**
4. Dissatisfied: **14.3%**
5. Very Dissatisfied: **9.3%**



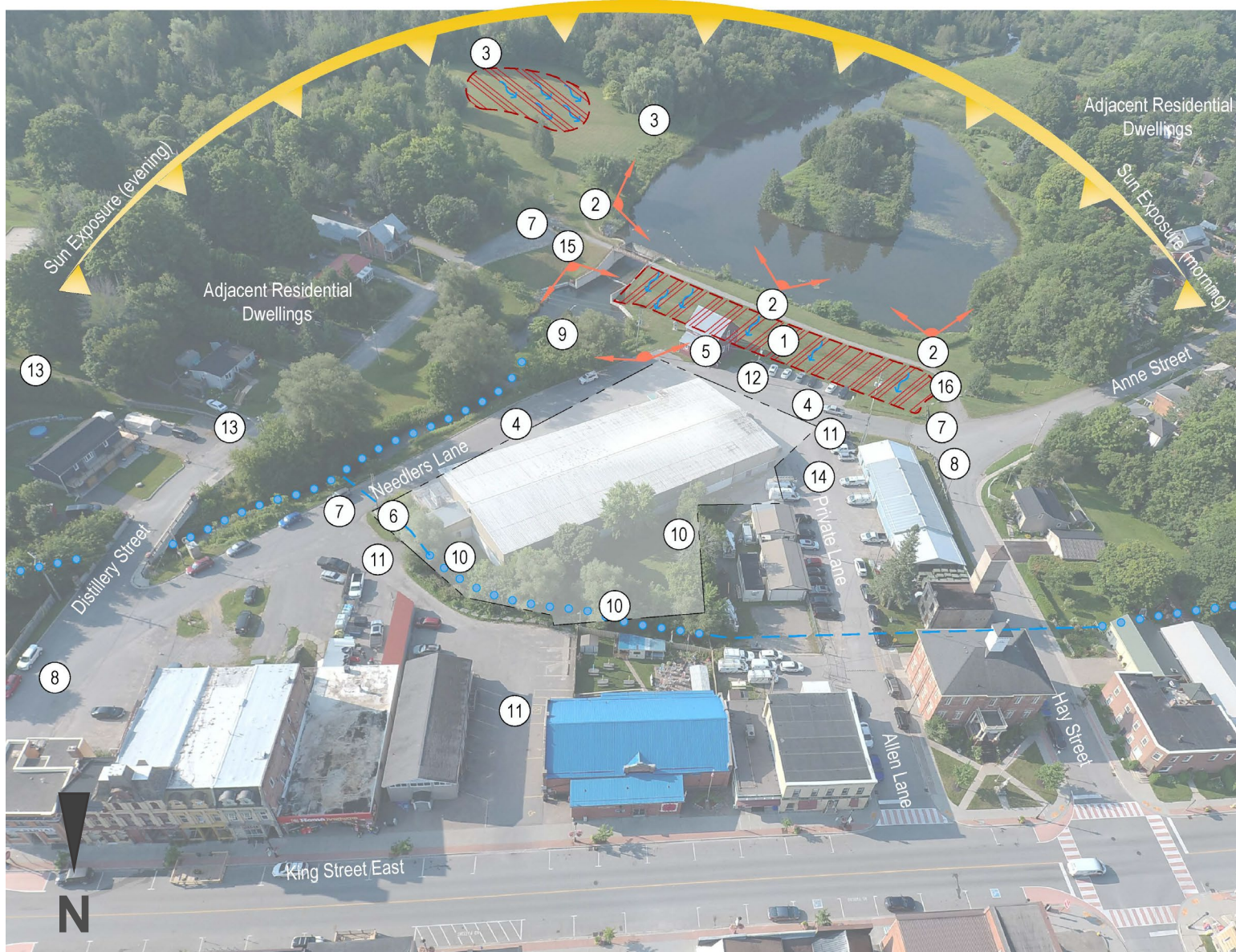


Public Survey – Conclusions

The following amenities should be considered for the Downtown Park Conceptual Plans:

- Picnic pavilion & washroom facilities
- Reconfigured parking lot to accommodate both park users and businesses in the downtown core.
- Playground
- Versatile plaza with an elevated stage for events, gatherings, and everyday use
- Open lawn for passive activities
- Shade elements adjacent to the water's edge
- Consistent site furnishings, including litter/recycling receptacles, benches, gathering tables, etc.
- Display/pollinator gardens at focal points and main entrances of the park.
- Lit pedestrian connections to the existing trail network, old school/library, and downtown.
- Pedestrian bridge connecting the island (below dam) to Distillery St.
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage providing historical and nature-based context.
- Observation decks overlooking the spillway, Baxter Creek, and Mill Pond.

Opportunities and Constraints – Conclusions



Opportunities and Constraints

	Existing Feature	Opportunities	Constraints
①	Sloped Area	Opportunity to use grade change as a vantage point (views to new park).	Potential grading constraints as related to accessible connection.
②	Mill Pond	Opportunity to enhance pedestrian connection and education to the water through lookouts and interpretive signage. Consider opportunity to locate area for fishing derby.	No swimming and recreational use; swallow water.
③	Trail System	Opportunity to connect proposed park walkways to trails.	-
④	Circulation	Opportunity to redefine safe pedestrian circulation.	Lack of safe pedestrian circulation separate from vehicular circulation.
⑤	Needler's Mill	Repurpose building for tourism and commercial uses.	The building cannot be used while on ORCA lands.
⑥	Little Creek	Opportunity to daylight more of the creek to improve wildlife habitat, increase groundwater infiltration, and elevate the park user experience.	Private ownership and costly.
⑦	Primary Park Entrances	Integrate placemaking elements and gateway / wayfinding features.	-
⑧	Connectivity to Downtown	Establish safe and accessible pedestrian linkages between King St E and the park.	Lack of connectivity to Downtown core (King St E).
⑨	Island	Enhance the use of the island; venue location, seating opportunities, and connection to Distillery St.	Located within the floodplain; redevelopment requires ORCA approvals and further review of storm flow.
⑩	Mature Vegetation	Opportunity to maintain and enhance buffer to commercial uses.	Land ownership
⑪	Private Parking	Opportunity to redefine the park edge with planting to reduce undesirable views.	Undesirable views of commercial buildings from future park land.
⑫	Overhead Utilities	Opportunity to relocate utilities underground to mitigate undesirable views.	Costly and approvals.
⑬	Walkway to Old Millbrook School	Opportunity to enhance connection to the future park with a safe and accessible walkway.	Existing slope does not meet accessible standards. No existing defined pedestrian crossing at Distillery St.
⑭	Private Lane / Commercial Buildings	-	No pedestrian access to King St E.
⑮	Sloped Green Space	Opportunity to capture vistas of the park from the high point and develop gathering and seating areas.	ORCA approvals and possible engineering considerations.
⑯	Granular Walkway	Opportunity to improve upon accessibility.	Existing topography would require switch back, ORCA approvals, consideration for engineer embankment.

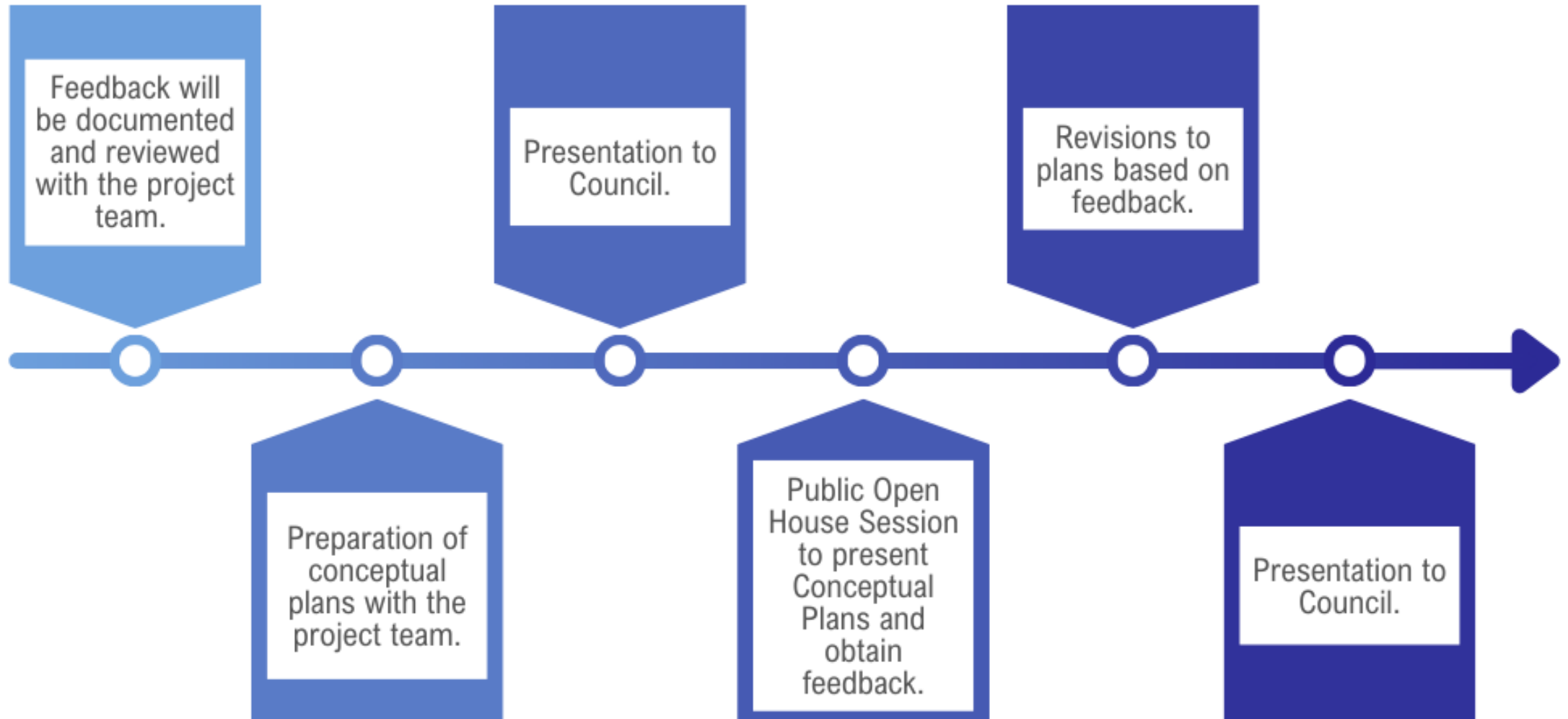
Legend

- Existing creek / water course (below grade)
- Existing creek / water course (daylight)
- Approximate boundary of existing arena
- Direction of drainage
- Sloped area (ORCA Lands)
- Key vista locations



Discussion

Next Steps





Thank You

