

ST. JOHN'S

Rennie's River Neighbourhood Plan

Phase 2 Engagement
What We Heard Report
April 2026



Table of Contents

Project Overview	3
Engagement Approach	4
How We Engaged	5
Key Themes	8
Public Engagement Findings	10
Vision	11
Neighbourhood Strategy	14
Land Use Recommendations	20
Mobility Recommendations	26
Parks & Recreation Recommendations	36
Survey Demographics	44
Indigenous Engagement	46
Interested Parties	47
Property Owners and Developers	49
Next Steps	50

Disclaimer: The City creates a What We Heard Report for every City-led public engagement process to be transparent about the information collected. The report is a summary of all feedback, and does not include word for word submissions. This feedback is used to inform project and Council recommendations and decisions. The City protects the privacy of those who provide feedback as per Access to Information and Privacy Legislation.

Project Overview

The City of St. John's is developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Rennie's River. The Neighbourhood Plan will set out a clear vision for land use, transportation, open space, and growth in the area. This plan will be shaped by the existing policies of the Envision St. John's Municipal Plan, analysis of local conditions, and engagement with the neighbourhood and wider community.

To be successful, the vision and plan for Rennie's River must be grounded in an understanding of the unique characteristics of the community. The plan will incorporate the needs and desires of the people who live, work, and play in the neighbourhood.

The Neighbourhood Plan for Rennie's River is being completed at the same time as the Neighbourhood Plan for the Central and Mundy Pond neighbourhoods, and engagement phases are occurring at the same time. The project involves two main phases of public engagement prior to the release of a draft plan. This is the What We Heard Report for Phase 2 Engagement. The Phase 1 What We Heard Report is available at [EngageStJohns.ca](https://www.engagestjohns.ca)

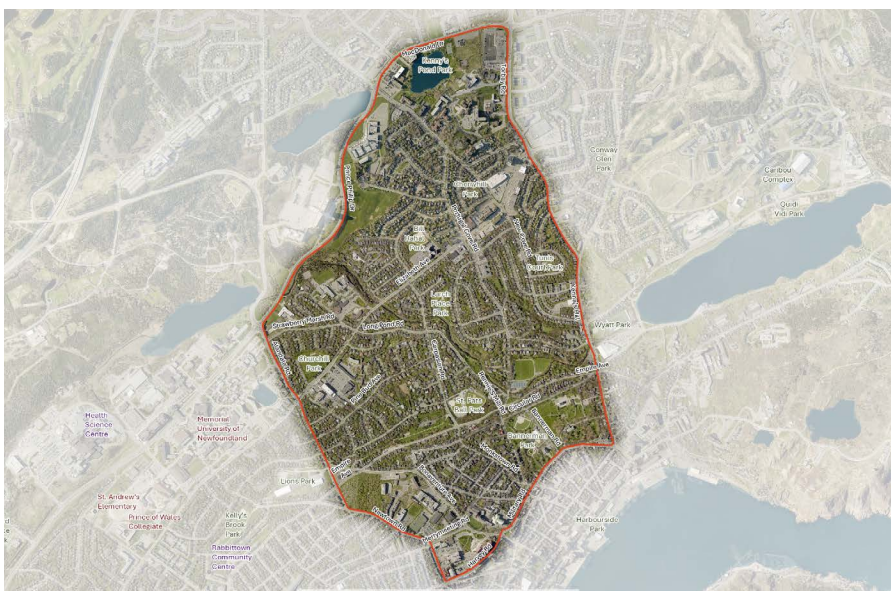


Figure 1. Rennie's River Neighbourhood Plan Boundary



**Phase 1
Engagement**

Fall 2025



**Phase 2
Engagement**

Winter 2026







**Draft Plan
Release**

Summer 2026





How We Engaged

A variety of methods were used to promote the project and collect feedback from the public and a diverse range of interested parties. Tactics included online engagement, in-person engagement, and a range of outreach and communications tactics. The following pages provide additional details about each of these components, including the number of participants who engaged.





Online Engagement

Activity	Description	Outputs
 Online Public Survey	The online survey was available on EngageStJohns.ca from February 16 to March 22, 2026. Hardcopies were available upon request.	298 responses
 Virtual Information Session	One online information session was hosted for Rennie’s River on March 12, 2026.	8 participants
 Council Committees Survey	An online survey was circulated to all Council Committees seeking feedback from their specific committee’s perspective.	8 responses 6 committees
 First Light Lunch	The project team hosted a virtual lunch on April 8, 2026 on both Neighbourhood Plan projects.	6 First Light staff participants

In-Person Engagement

Activity	Description	Outputs
 Focus Group Sessions	Three focus group sessions were hosted jointly for both Neighbourhood Plan projects: Two in-person on March 2 and 3, 2026 and one online on March 12, 2026.	5 organizations
 Interviews	One-on-one interviews were held with a range of interested parties and developers throughout the engagement window for both Neighbourhood Plan projects. Some were in person and some virtual.	4 meetings
 Open House	An open house took place on March 2, 2026 from 5-8 p.m. at The Lantern (35 Barnes Road) for the Rennie’s River Neighbourhood.	19 participants
 Pop-Ups	Three pop-up events were held for both Neighbourhood Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 28 at the St. John’s Farmer’s Market (245 Freshwater Road) • March 1 at the Capital Mitsubishi Arena (17 Anthony Avenue) • March 3 at the H.G.R. Mews Community Centre (60 Blackler Avenue) 	65+ participants

Communications

	Activity	Description	Outputs
	Project Website	EngageStJohns.ca was available for the duration of the engagement and included information about events, how to get involved, simple poll questions, and the survey link. The project page also linked to the Central and Mundy Pond project page.	2,357 page visits 424 quick poll responses 6 questions
	Email List	Three email updates were sent to EngageStJohns.ca subscribers on February 17, February 27, and March 13, 2026.	4,700 registered 53-55% open rate
	Media Release	A media release was posted on the City's website on February 16, 2026.	1 release
	Social Media	The City of St. John's posted on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn throughout the engagement phase from February 16 to March 22, 2026.	Link clicks: 915 Impressions: 58,463 Unique reach: 33,640

Key Themes

Five main themes were identified from the feedback received across all in-person and online engagement activities, including all audiences. While all feedback received will help inform project next steps, these main takeaways represent the most significant findings from this phase of engagement, and are summarized below.



Retain natural spaces and enhance community places

Parks and trails in Rennie’s River are highly valued in the neighbourhood, particularly Bannerman Park, Rennie’s River Trail, the Elks Club playground, and Kelly’s Brook Trail. There were several suggestions for how to improve smaller parks to support more local use and improvements specifically for Churchill Park and Larch Park. Some of the main suggestions were to update existing amenities such as playgrounds or fields and support more gathering in parks through the provision of seating, community gardens, and shade. There were also calls for more indoor gathering or “third places” in the neighbourhood.

Feedback on the Neighbourhood Strategies also highlighted remaining tensions about keeping the Rennie’s River Trail natural. Some participants believe it should be paved for accessibility or to allow bikes, while others agreed with keeping it naturalized for pedestrian use only. Several wanted to see it remain a bike route or to see a replacement shared-use path route if bikes are not allowed on the trail.



Prioritize safe, year-round mobility

One of the key themes heard through this phase of engagement was the importance of supporting more walking, cycling, and transit in all seasons. There were many suggestions provided on how to improve specific streets and crossing points, such as new or improved crosswalks, lighting, snow clearing, covered bus shelters, and traffic calming. Feedback highlighted the need to consider greater accessibility, both for young children and families and aging adults. With any new redevelopment, participants want to see consideration for safe pedestrian and bike connections and more friendly pedestrian environments through landscaping, buffers, and pedestrian priority crossings.



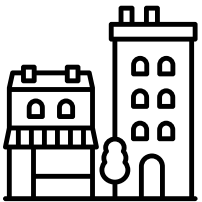
Provide local access to amenities and services

A key theme through Phase 2 Engagement was the desire to see more access to local services and amenities. There was a high level of support for enabling more mixed-use development along Elizabeth Avenue between Portugal Cove Road and Torbay Road, similar to Churchill Square. Additionally, feedback indicated there is some desire to see more small-scale local commercial uses allowed throughout the Rennie's River Neighbourhood, as well as for rezoning existing local commercial uses in Georgestown to support their ongoing operation.



Recognize unique areas within the plan

Generally, there was support for the proposed Neighbourhood Strategy approach that identifies specific recommendations for each of the unique areas within the Rennie's River neighbourhood, including Churchill Park, Georgestown, Torbay Road, and the Ecclesiastical District.



Focus growth and intensification

There was general agreement with focusing growth and intensification through the Neighbourhood Strategy. Churchill Square, Elizabeth Avenue, and Torbay Road were supported as the key locations for mixed-use and higher density development. There were some mixed opinions on removing Elizabeth Avenue from the Intensification Area, as this was seen as an appropriate area for intensification and improvements. There were some concerns about parking and traffic impacts of intensification. Some participants wanted to see more of a focus on affordable or specifically seniors' housing.

Public Engagement Findings

The following section provides the findings from the online survey, project website, and virtual and in-person public events. Online and in-person results have been combined in the following qualitative summaries, however the graphs and statistics reflect online survey and website responses only.

The online survey was divided into a short form and optional long form survey.

The short form survey asked questions on:

- Neighbourhood Vision
- Neighbourhood Strategy
- Demographics

The optional long form sections asked questions on:

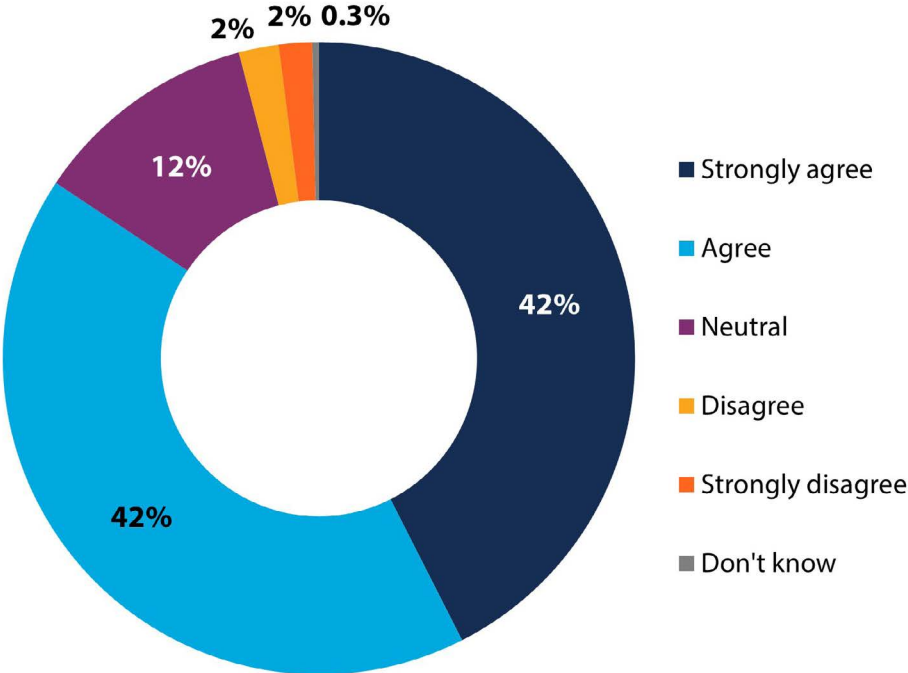
- Land Use
- Mobility
- Parks & Recreation

Due to this, there are more responses for the short form than the long form sections. Quantitative questions are presented in percentage of participants per question. The total number of people who completed or skipped the question, out of the 298 total surveys, is noted below each graph.

Vision

Overall, feedback on the vision was positive, with 84% of participants selecting agree or strongly agree with the proposed vision and 4% selecting disagree or strongly disagree.

What is your level of agreement with the draft vision?



Percentage of Participants (294 completed, 4 skipped)

Do you have any suggested changes to the draft vision?

94
comments

There were several suggestions for how the vision could be improved. The main themes were a desire to be more specific about what types of housing are appropriate, emphasizing the need for pedestrian improvements, adding more local commercial and services, and adding in the protection of natural areas.

All themes are summarized below.

Mobility

- Disagree with neighbourhood already being walkable, particularly in the winter/needs improvement
- Unsure what Active Transportation means
- Speed limits too high
- Main thoroughfares that run through such as Torbay, Portugal Cove and New Cove Roads are difficult to cross safely as lights, stop signs and crosswalks are too spread out
- Need an alternative route to the Rennie's River Trail for bikes
- Keep Rennie's River Trail natural
- Concerns about conflict between pedestrians and other modes, including motorized scooters and bikes
- Need safer pedestrian routes
- Concerns about active transportation

improvement impacts on streets

- Work with MUN to extend cycle-route connectivity across campus
- New Cove Road needs a pathway/right-of-way to Kerry Street
- Remove transit from the vision
- Separated bike lane is needed to connect Kelly's Brook to Quidi Vidi
- Add cycling connections along Strawberry Marsh Road to connect with the Long Pond Rd proposed cycling connection to better connect Memorial University to this cycling network
- More shared use paths like Kelly's Brook
- Traffic calming infrastructure and single lanes on Torbay Road from New Cove Road to Ennis Road
- Better pedestrian access from Logy Bay Road across

Torbay Road to access the path to Rennie's River Trail

Land Use

- Concerns about housing options being too vague
- Do not want to see low-income housing
- Want to see more affordable housing
- Want to see high density housing/apartments (like Churchill Square)
- Don't want to see high density housing/apartments
- Want to see more walkable services, including grocery store, restaurants, shopping
- Focus growth on Elizabeth Avenue
- Need grocer at Churchill Square
- More mixed commercial in Georgestown
- More mixed use
- Include tourism focus

Parks and Recreation

- Need more indoor and outdoor recreation space
- Focus on parks and walkability
- Address river water quality
- More free recreation for youth
- Stop the music festival in Churchill Park

- Make Churchill Square more of a gathering space
- Add disc golf to parks

Other

- No/none
- Recognize diverse character of area and protect this character/identity
- Include equity/inclusivity
- Protect ecosystems and wildlife

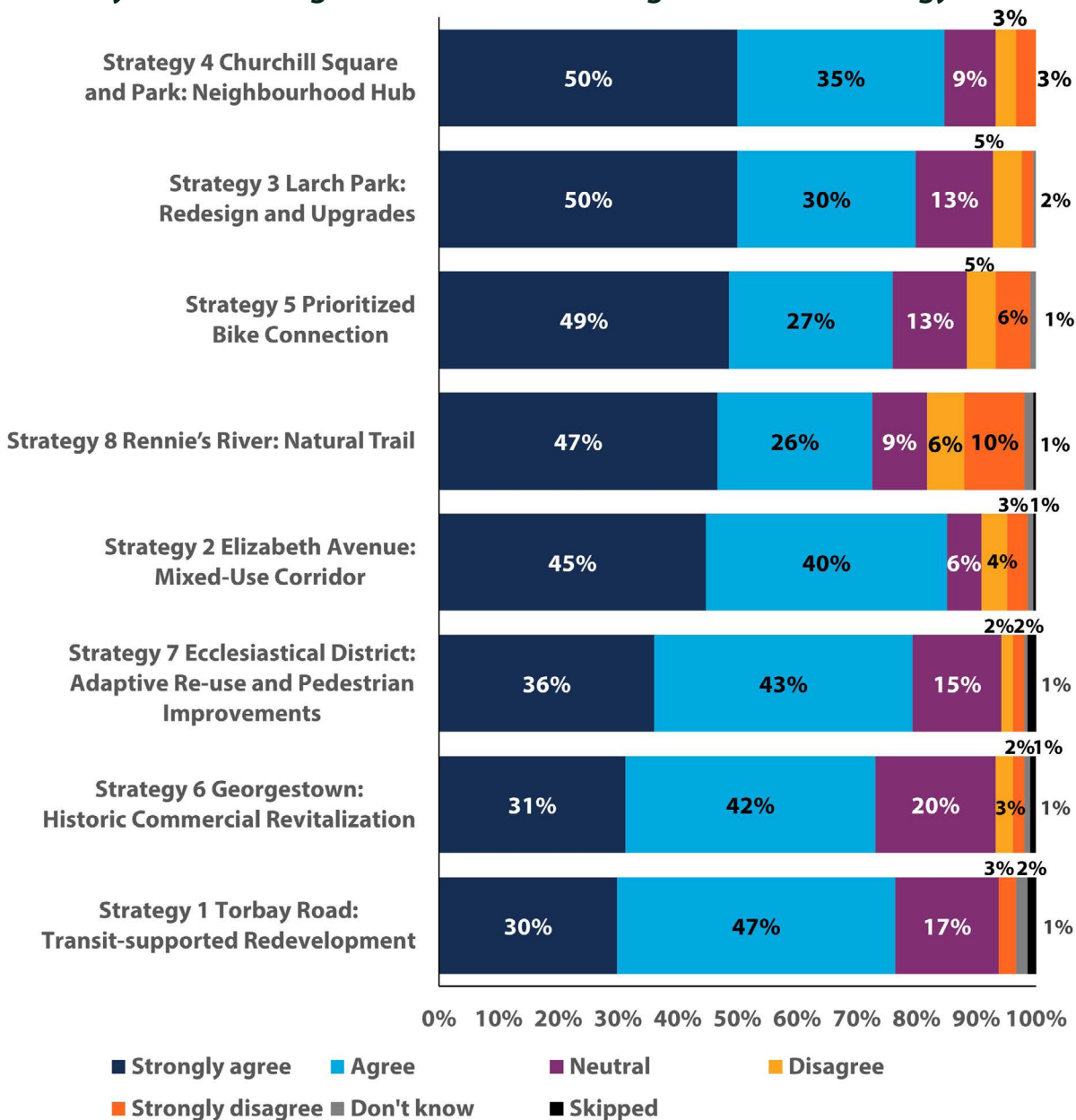
- Need more details
- Disagree with 'destination'
- More focus on heritage/ need to recognize significance and needs of the Ecclesiastical District
- Maintain views and sightlines
- Recognize arts, culture, and religion

Neighbourhood Strategy

The Neighbourhood Strategy was the main concept engaged on in Phase 2. It was the primary information shared at the smaller in-person pop-up and focus group sessions. The Strategy included eight preliminary Neighbourhood Strategies.

All strategies received over 70% agreement. Though Strategies 3 and 4 had the highest number of 'strongly agree' responses, Strategies 2 and 4 had the highest overall agreement at 85% and were ranked as the top two priorities.

What is your level of agreement with each Neighbourhood Strategy?



Percentage of Participants (208 completed, 86 skipped)

Rennie's River Neighbourhood Strategy

- 1 Torbay Road: Transit-supported Redevelopment
- 2 Elizabeth Avenue: Mixed-Use Corridor
- 3 Larch Park: Redesign and Upgrades
- 4 Churchill Square and Park: Neighbourhood Hub
- 5 Prioritized Bike Connection
- 6 Geogestown: Historic Commercial Revitalization
- 7 Ecclesiastical District: Adaptive Re-use and Pedestrian Improvements
- 8 Rennie's River: Natural Trail



Are there any high level strategies that you think are missing for this Neighbourhood?

93
comments

The main themes from the comments were prioritizing winter mobility and snow clearing, whether the Rennie's River Trail should be converted for bikes or not, and enabling more small businesses throughout the neighbourhood.

Additional themes are summarized below:

Land Use

- Increasing height/density more and more mixed-use
 - More on Elizabeth Avenue
 - Allow gradual/gentle density in single family areas
 - Node at Empire Avenue and Bonaventure Avenue for mixed use
- Should be affordable housing
- Focus areas for historic conservation/rehabilitation
- Concerns about historic buildings being neglected
- Enable small businesses throughout more of the neighbourhood (like Georgestown)

Parks and Recreation

- Add off-leash dog area by Gazebo on Rennie's River Trail or in Larch Park
- Add updated playground equipment for teens in Larch Park

- More health services
- More greenspace, trees, and pollinator gardens
- Naturalize outside edges of Larch Park and Churchill Park
- Make better use of Churchill Park
- Add a disc golf course
- Add sports pads to small parks
- Recognize Bannerman Park as key part of neighbourhood
- Better use of Provincial Open Spaces/Colonial Building, and Government House into one big park
- All season use, such as skating rink

Mobility

- Reduced speeds
 - Vision-zero approach
 - New Cove Road
 - Road diets
 - Traffic calming at schools

- Focus on safety at main arterials
- Need bigger transit hub at Torbay Road or Churchill Road for increased density
- More bus shelters
- Pedestrian and bike conflicts:
 - Keep bikes off walking trails, concerns about ebikes
 - Bike lanes instead of shared-use paths
 - Prioritize pedestrians over bikes
- Want to see trails paved for bikes and to help with accessibility
- Biking
 - Would like to see more safe cycling in Ecclesiastical District
 - Would like to see greater connectivity between bike routes
 - Disagree with bike route on Elizabeth Avenue (too

- o busy)/suggest Empire Avenue
- o Add path on Circular Road
- Prioritize winter/all season walkability and snow clearing
- Reclaim pedestrian connections that have been privatized
- Need advanced turn light at Elizabeth Ave and Portugal Cove Road
- Safer walking connections to Torbay Road and Macdonald Drive for high school students
- Address safety at Carpasian Road and Elizabeth Avenue intersection
- Make Bannerman Road pedestrian only
- Improve the pedestrian access to Rennie’s River by modifying the Logy Bay Road /Torbay Road intersection on Kenna’s Hill including a single lane from New Cove Road to Ennis Avenue
- Improve driving access
- Need a replacement bike connection for Rennie’s River Trail
 - o Path from Kelly’s Brook to Quidi Vidi
 - o North-south bike connection
 - o Connect Rennie’s River trail to Kelly’s Brook trail
 - o Suggest Empire Avenue route
 - o Make biking safer in the area
- Rennie’s River Trail
 - o Disagree with removing bike path on the trail
 - o Keep natural
 - o Make the trail more accessible (the stairs approaching Portugal Cove Road), and between Carpasian Road and Elizabeth Avenue (stairs)
 - o More garbage cans

Other

- Need to account for newcomers and changing needs (Cricket in Kelly’s Brook Park)
- Safety concerns around the Gathering Place
- Strategy 6 is too vague

How would you rank the Neighbourhood Strategies from most to least important?

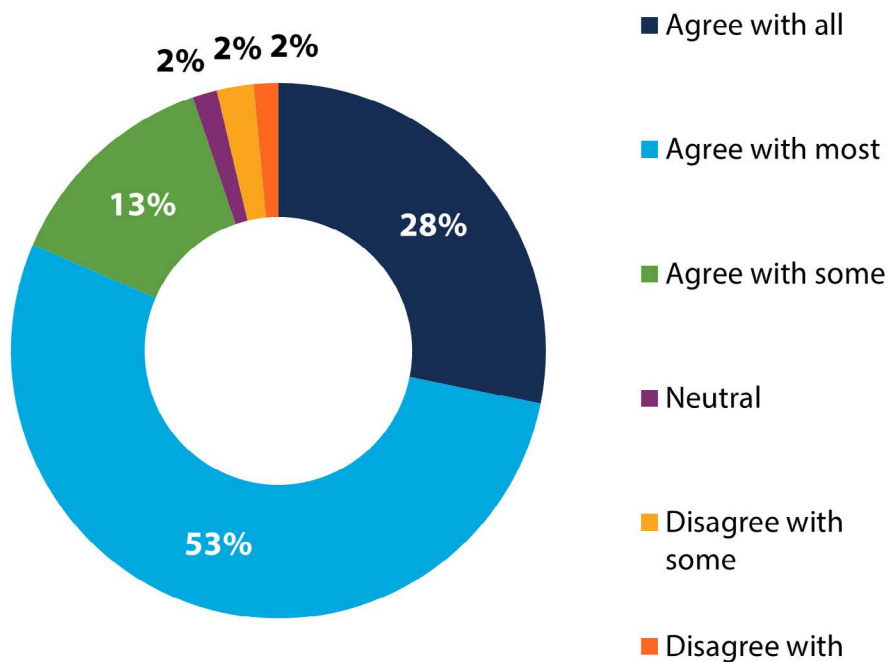
1st	Strategy 2 Elizabeth Avenue: Mixed-Use Corridor
2nd	Strategy 4 Churchill Square and Park: Neighbourhood Hub
3rd	Strategy 8 Rennie’s River: Natural Trail
4th	Strategy 1 Torbay Road: Transit-supported Redevelopment
5th	Strategy 3 Larch Park: Redesign and Upgrades
6th	Strategy 5 Prioritized Bike Connection
7th	Strategy 6 Georgestown: Historic Commercial Revitalization
8th	Strategy 7 Ecclesiastical District: Adaptive Re-use and Pedestrian Improvements

Percentage of Participants (200 completed, 98 skipped)

Website Quick Polls

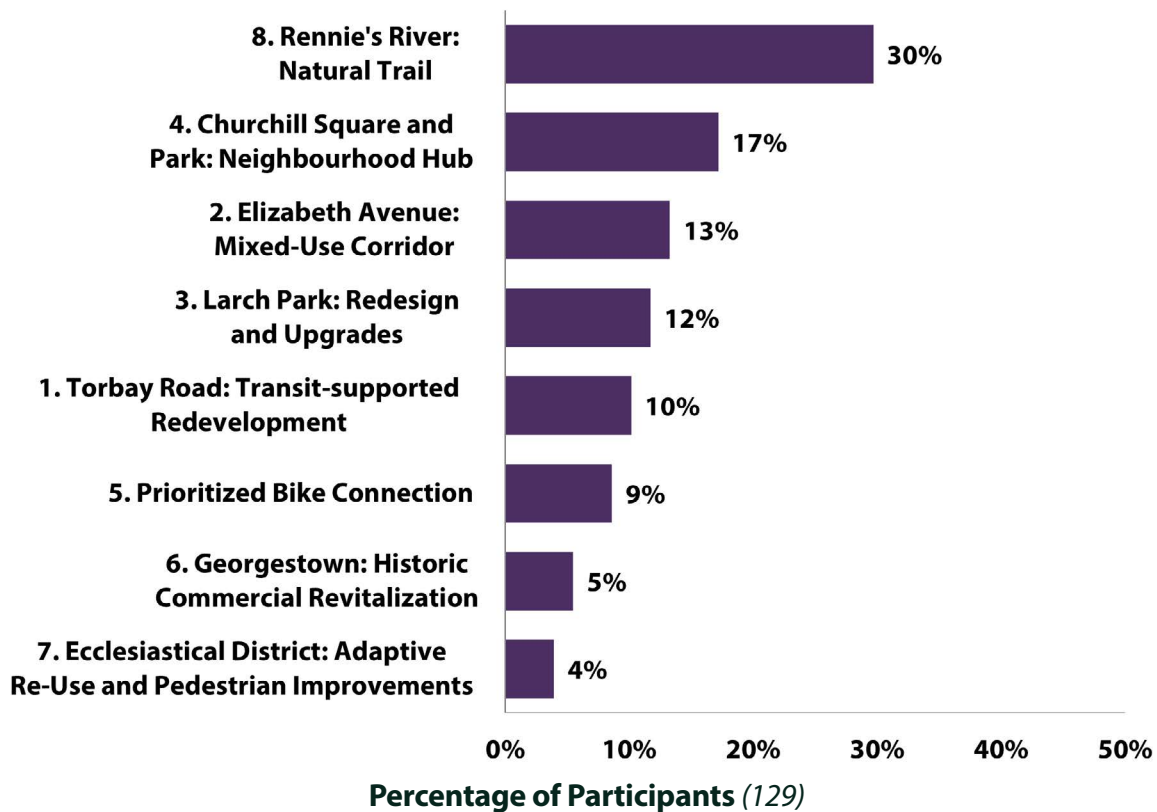
In addition to the full online survey, three multiple choice questions were posted on the project website for feedback about the Neighbourhood Strategy. Similar to the survey questions responses, there was a high level of agreement with the strategies. Strategy 8 Rennie’s River: Natural Trail was the most polarizing strategy, receiving both the highest levels of support and higher levels of disagreement, indicating there are divergent opinions on this recommendation.

What do you think of the key proposed Neighbourhood Strategies for Rennie’s River?

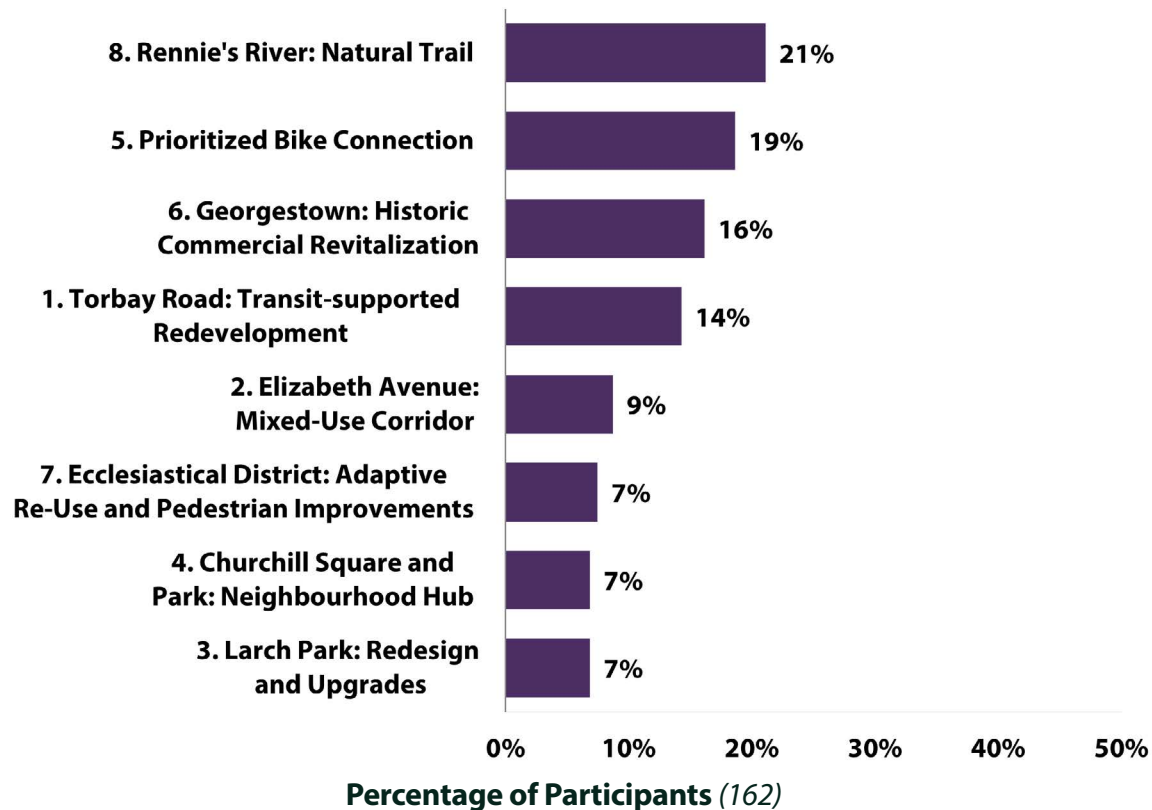


Percentage of Participants (136)

Which of the strategies do you support the most?



Which of the strategies do you support the least?



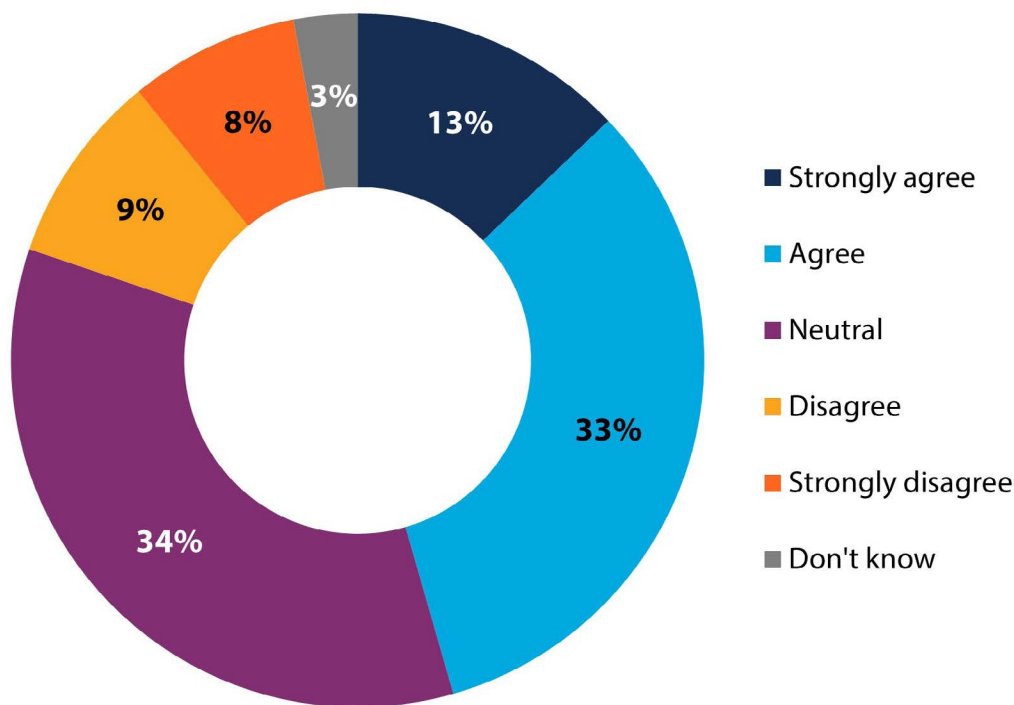
Land Use Recommendations

In this optional section, participants were asked about recommendations for Intensification Areas and proposed zoning changes to support the proposed Neighbourhood Strategy.

Intensification Areas

There was generally more agreement than disagreement with the intensification area recommendation, however there was a higher proportion of neutral responses to the question than other questions in the survey.

What is your level of agreement with decreasing the Macdonald Drive and Torbay Road Intensification Area?

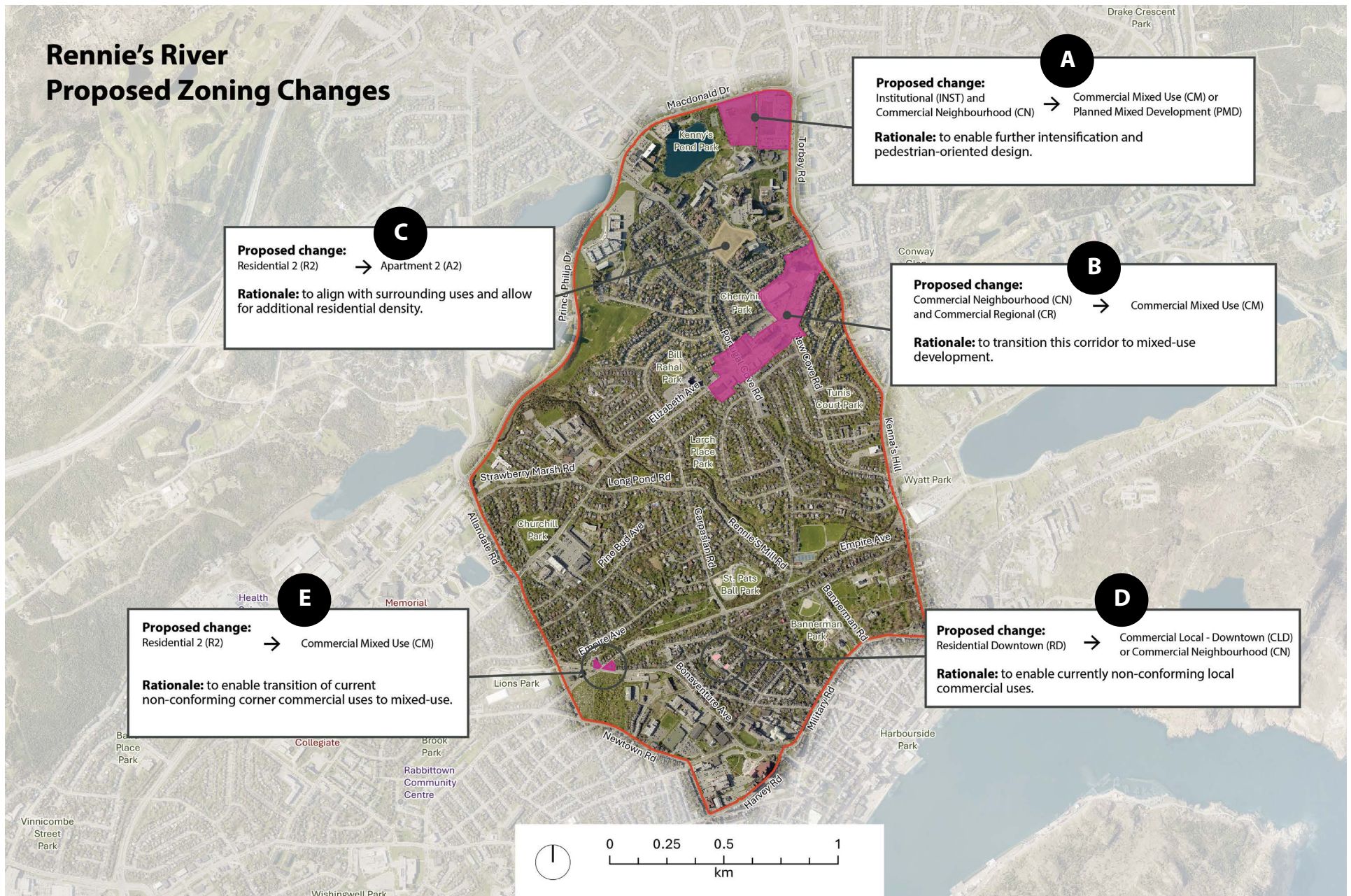


Percentage of Participants (101 completed, 197 skipped)

Additional Intensification Area Comments (15)

- Need more intensification
- Disagree with removing Elizabeth Avenue. Should be intensified (along transit and bike routes)
- Elizabeth Avenue already planned for commercial
- Put parking away from the street and have design guidelines
- Only likely to see small changes
- Make the area another Churchill Park
- Unclear image
- Remove the golf course
- Protect the Pond
- Ensure landscaping on bingo hall site
- Important commercial centre for the region
- Reduce Elizabeth Avenue width
- Do not intensify along Portugal Cove Road

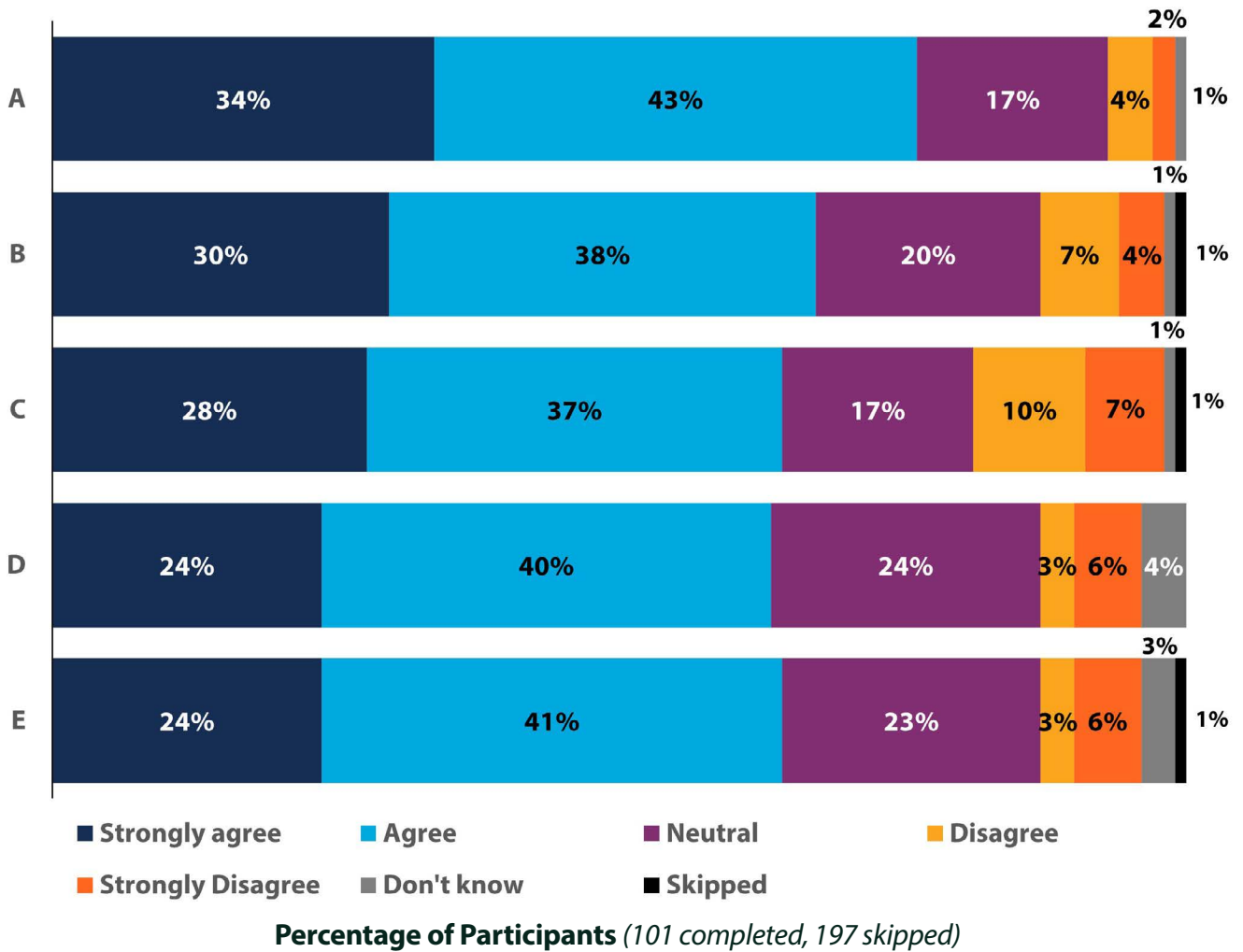
Rennie's River Proposed Zoning Changes



Zoning Recommendations

All of the proposed zoning changes received over 60% agree responses. Of the proposed zoning changes, the proposal to change the Torbay Road Mall and adjacent site to a Planned Mixed Development (PMD) district had the highest level of agreement, with combined 76% strongly agree and agree responses.

What is your level of agreement with each of the proposed zoning changes?



Additional Zoning Comments

A - Rezoning to Planned Mixed Development (PMD) or Commercial Mixed-Use (CM) (11)

- Already commercial / current zone is appropriate
- Concerns about conflicts between commercial and residential uses
- Commercialized mixed use already
- Torbay Road Mall is a good place for intensification
- Needs to be affordable
- Need a pedestrian walkway in this area because of schools and transit use
- Should be discretionary based on the type of commercial proposal
- Would like to see another seniors home or daycare
- Landscape the bingo hall
- Get rid of mini golf
- Need examples

B - Rezoning to Commercial Mixed-Use (CM) (11)

- Already commercial
- What uses would be included in mixed-use?
- Support residential and commercial mix
- Doesn't need any further traffic or commercialization
- Concerns about traffic

- Only allow low-rise
- Need wider sidewalks/ better pedestrian access and crossings/reduced speeds/reduced road widths
- Need bus pullouts
- Important commuting route

C - Rezoning to Apartment 2 (A2) (14)

- Agree with more residential density
- Do not agree with more residential density here
- Concerns about traffic
- Need better public transit along Portugal Cove Road
- Would like to see lower density/less height and more green space
- Should have underground parking/min one space per unit
- Need more local services to support growth
- Should be townhouses instead of apartments
- Search previous heritage property for anything of heritage value
- Want to see mixed-use with commercial
- Apartments should be rent capped

D - Commercial Local - Downtown (CLD) or Commercial Neighbourhood (CN) (11)

- Too hard to see on the map
- Concerned about conflicts with residential area
- Agree with encouraging local commercial/ encouraging local businesses
- Not a big change/not as impactful as some others
- Encourage the Georgestown Bakery and Pub
- Should include other businesses too

E - Rezoning to Commercial Mixed-Use (CM) (6)

- Only agree with this zoning change (not the others proposed)
- Too hard to see on the map
- Concerned about commercial in residential area
- Agree with commercial here
- Make sure the existing tree buffer is maintained from the back of these properties to the Kelly's Brook trail
- Drive-throughs should not be permitted

Are there any other areas that should be rezoned?

16
comments

There were a few additional suggestions for areas that should be rezoned:

- No suggestions
- Higher density zoning for Elizabeth Avenue/ whole corridor should be Commercial Mixed-Use
- King's Bridge Road across from Dominion should allow commercial
- Limit Margaret's Place to townhousing or low density apartments under 3 storeys
- More commercial throughout the whole neighbourhood and allow other commercial areas in Georgestown
- Former military base should be mixed-use
- Thanks to the City for proactively rezoning!
- Allow intensification at Bonaventure Place and the heathplex
- Retain views to the Ecclesiastical District
- Enforce property standards on Elizabeth Avenue

Mobility Recommendations

The mobility section focused on the prioritization of improvements at intersections and along trails.

Intersections & Pedestrian Crossings

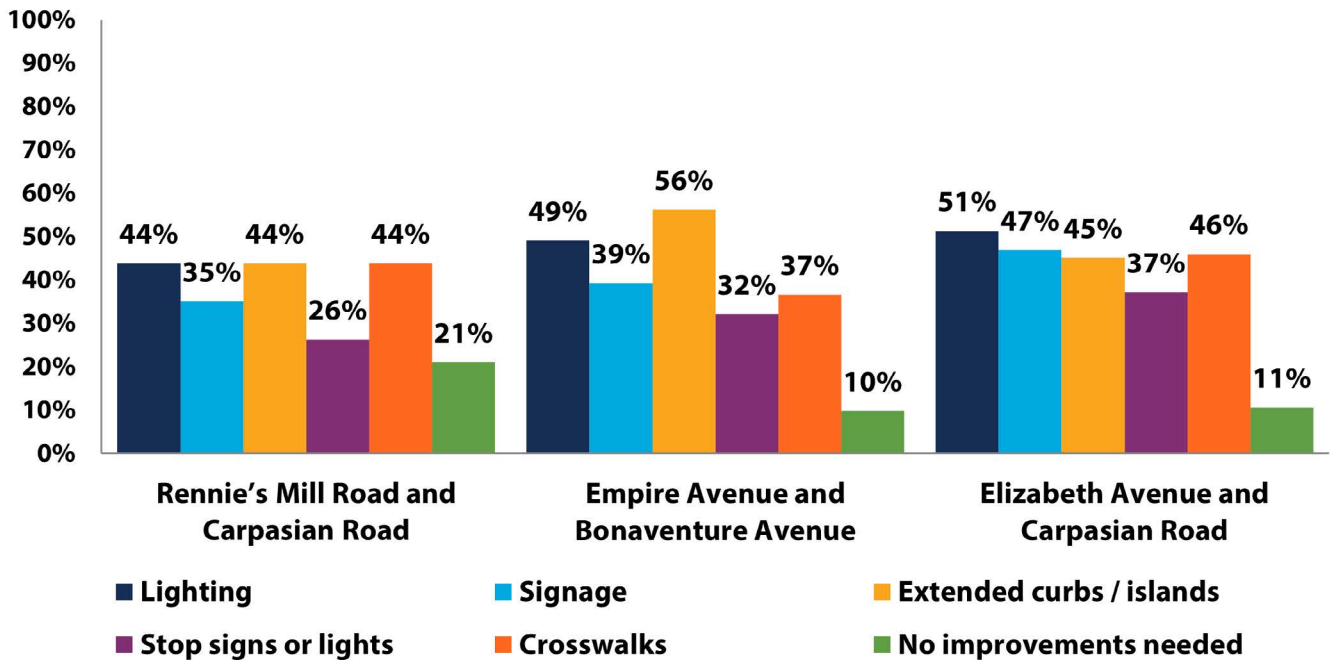
The following intersections were ranked by level of priority for improvements.

Which intersections should be prioritized for improvements? Rank from highest priority to lowest priority.

- 1st** | Elizabeth Avenue and Carpasian Road
- 2nd** | Empire Avenue and Bonaventure Avenue
- 3rd** | Rennie’s Mill Road and Carpasian Road

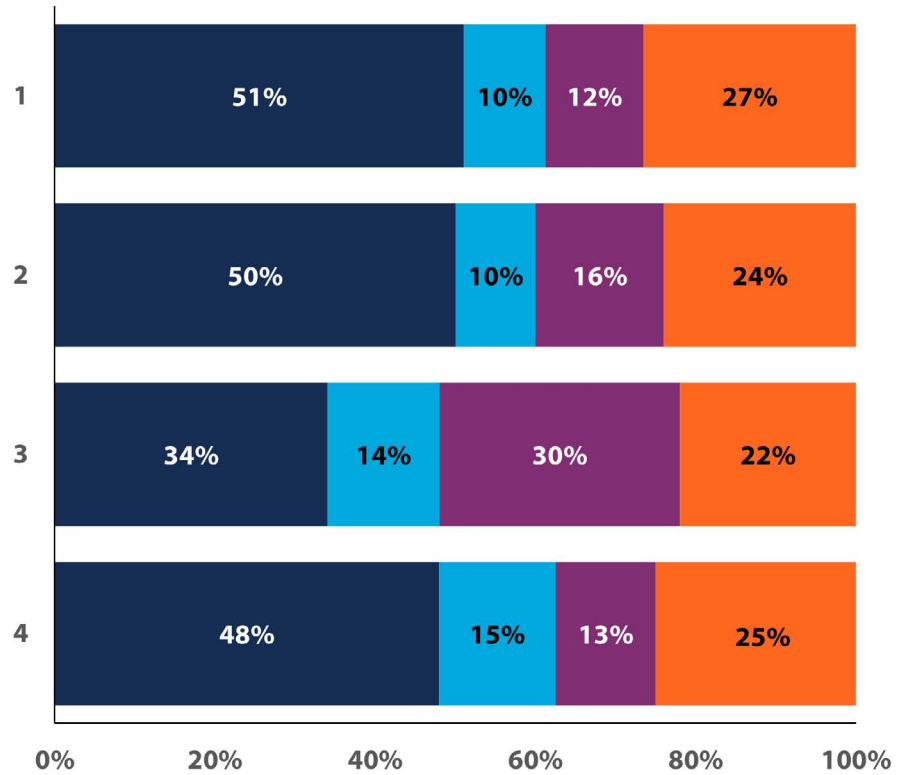
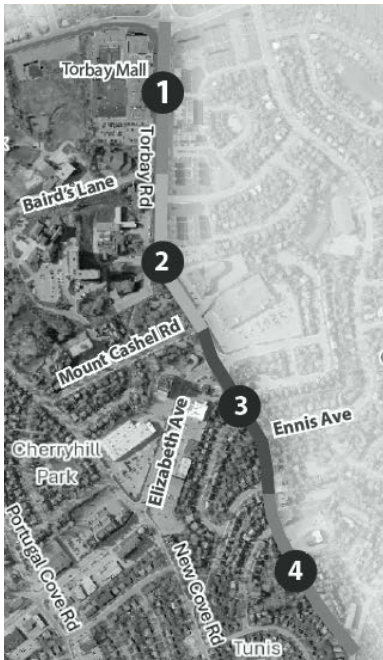
Percentage of Participants (107 completed, 191 skipped)

At each of these intersections, how could pedestrian comfort be improved?



Percentage of Participants (114 completed, 184 skipped)

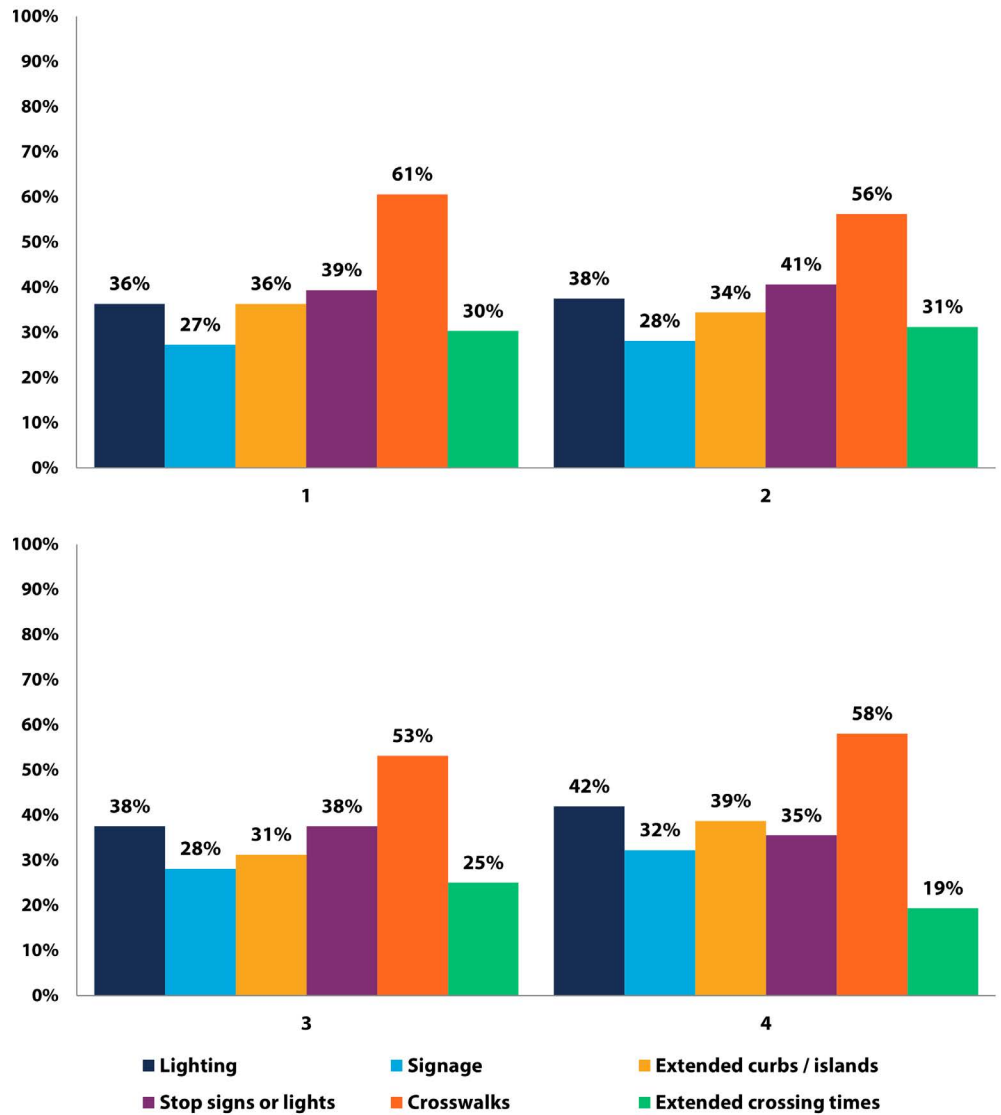
Where do you typically cross or wish to cross Torbay Road? Do you feel comfortable crossing at these locations?



- Don't cross here / Don't need to cross here
- Would like to cross here
- Feel comfortable crossing here already
- Have to cross here, but don't feel comfortable

Percentage of Participants (50 completed, 248 skipped)

What would make you feel more comfortable crossing at these locations?

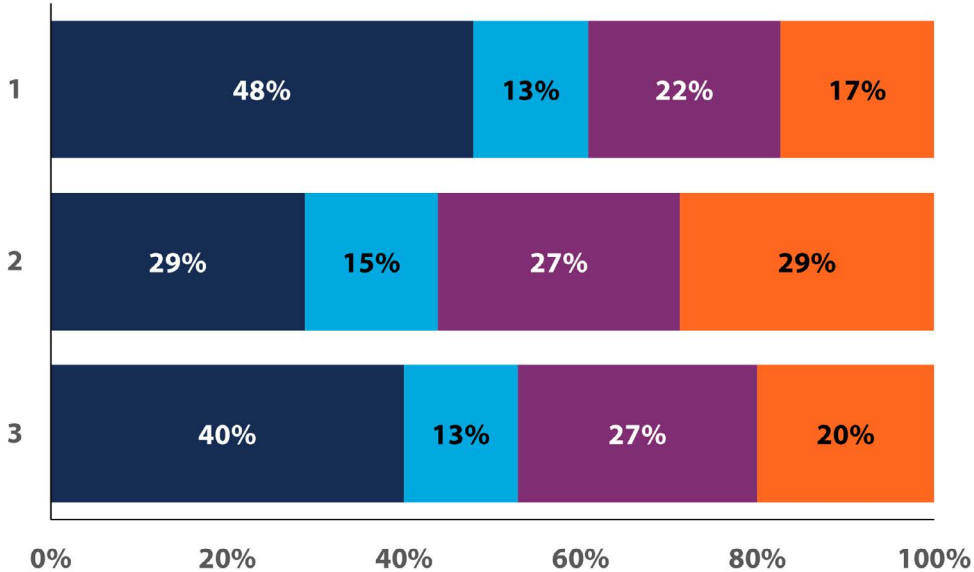
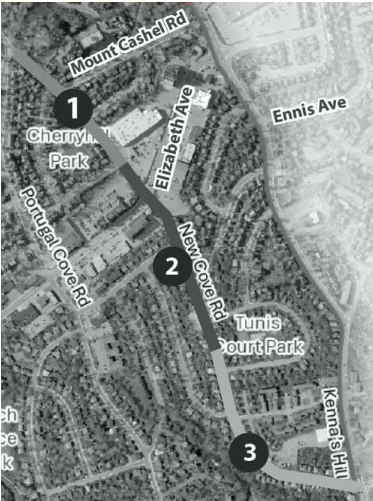


Percentage of Participants (36 completed, 262 skipped)

Additional Comments (10)

- Prefer immediate pedestrian light at crossings
- More traffic calming, such as speed bumps and raised crosswalks
- Do not want to see curb extensions in St. John's
- Suggest narrowing the road to slow traffic, add landscaped buffer from the sidewalk, make snow clearance easier, and have wider curbs at bus stops
- Challenge having bus stops across the street for those needing to transfer (waiting to cross at the intersection means missing the bus)
- Suggest pedestrian overpass to Torbay Road Mall

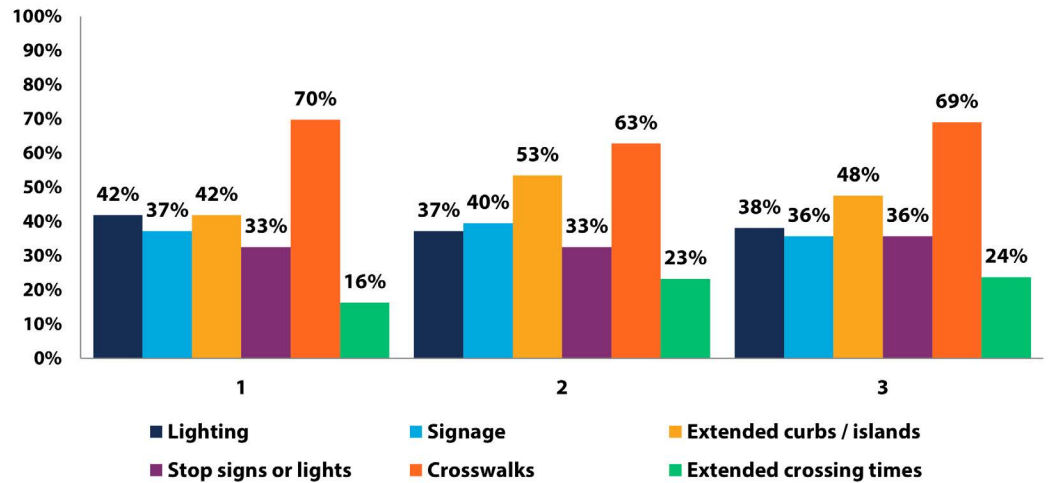
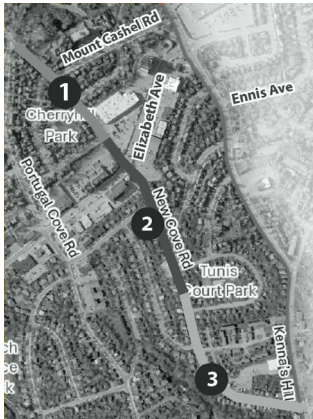
Where do you typically cross or wish to cross New Cove Road? Do you feel comfortable crossing at these locations?



- Don't cross here / Don't need to cross here
- Would like to cross here
- Feel comfortable crossing here already
- Have to cross here, but don't feel comfortable

Percentage of Participants (74 completed, 224 skipped)

What would make you feel more comfortable crossing at these locations?

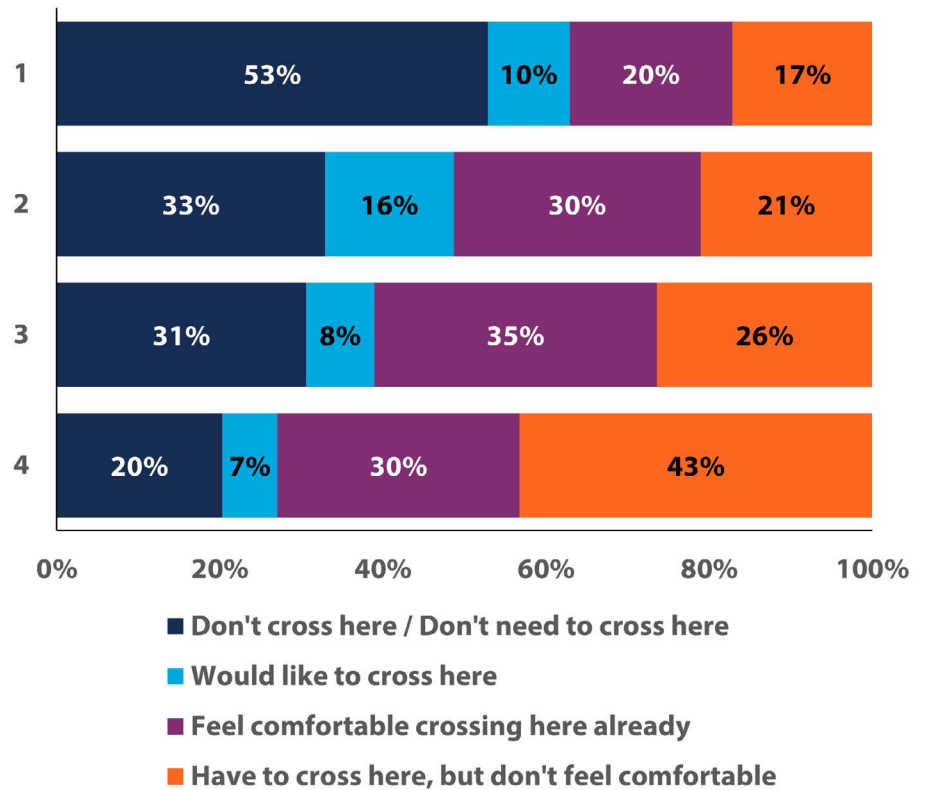


Percentage of Participants (52 completed, 246 skipped)

Additional Comments

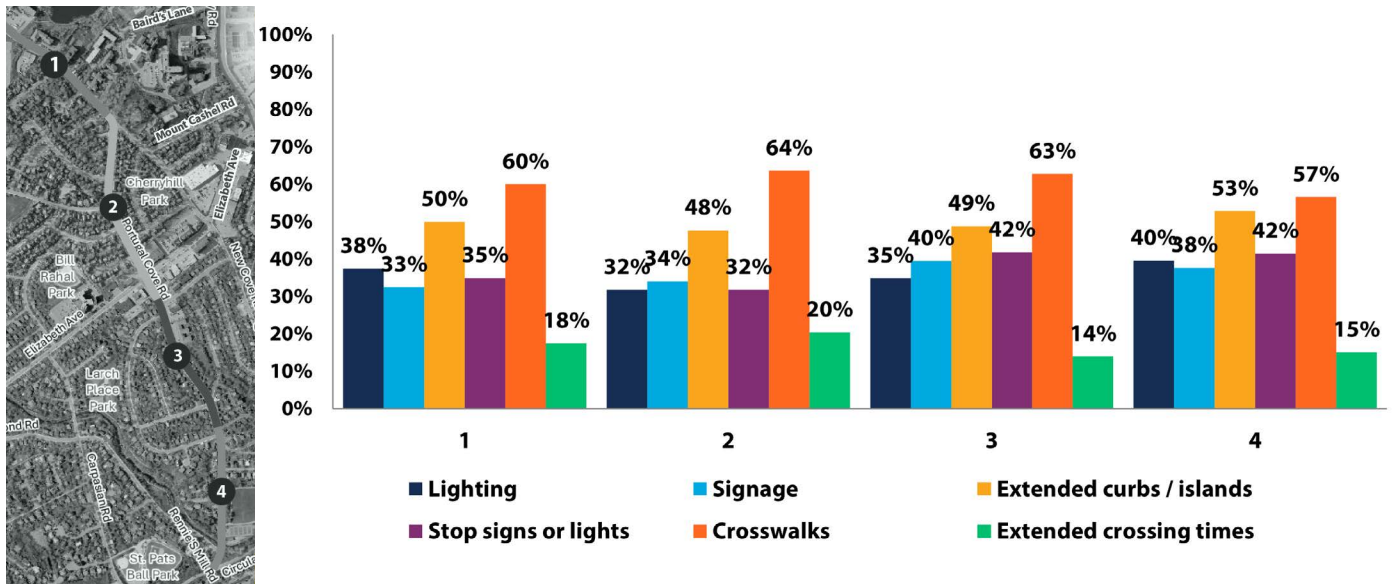
- Suggest lights and crosswalks
- No improvements required
- Traffic calming, including speed bumps and raised crosswalks
- No lighting (impacts to residents)
- Do not extend curbs
- Audible signals for crosswalks
- Better snow clearing, especially in #3
- Instant controlled pedestrian crossing lights

**Where do you typically cross or wish to cross Portugal Cove Road?
Do you feel comfortable crossing at these locations?**



Percentage of Participants (78 completed, 220 skipped)

What would make you feel more comfortable crossing at these locations?

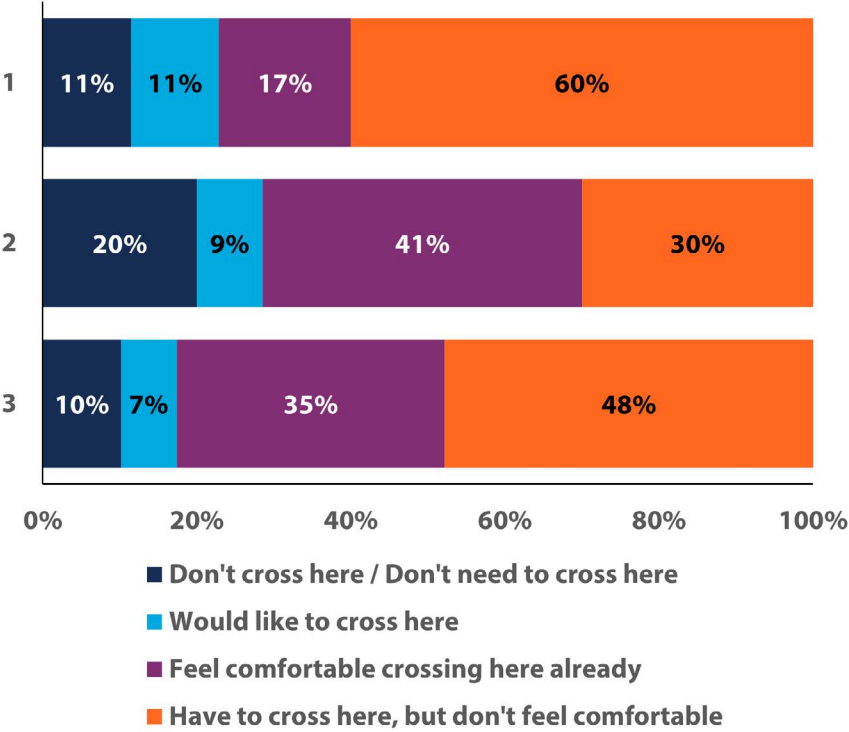


Percentage of Participants (59 completed, 239 skipped)

Additional Comments (15)

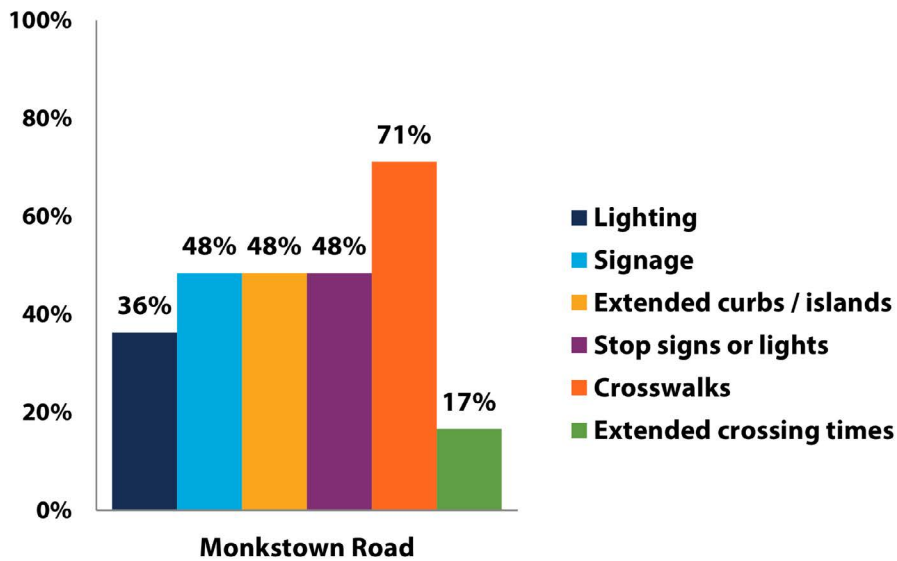
- Very dangerous for cyclists because of the bottleneck
- Traffic calming, speed bumps, raised crosswalks
- Stoplights
- Extended curbs
- Snow clearing of sidewalk connecting Rennie's River Trail and Empire Avenue (Rennies Mill Road side)
- Narrow the road to one lane each way and a turn lane, add bike lane
- More crossings needed because road is only cleared on one side
- Instant controlled pedestrian crossing lights
- Improve the crosswalk on Rennie's Mill Road over to Circular Road from the west side of Rennie's Mill Road to the east side of Circular Road to prevent speeding cars around the corner
- Bright car headlights make pedestrians invisible to other cars at the corner

Where do you typically cross or wish to cross Monkstown Road? Do you feel comfortable crossing at these locations?



Percentage of Participants (73 completed, 225 skipped)

What would make you feel more comfortable crossing at these locations?



Percentage of Participants (66 completed, 232 skipped)

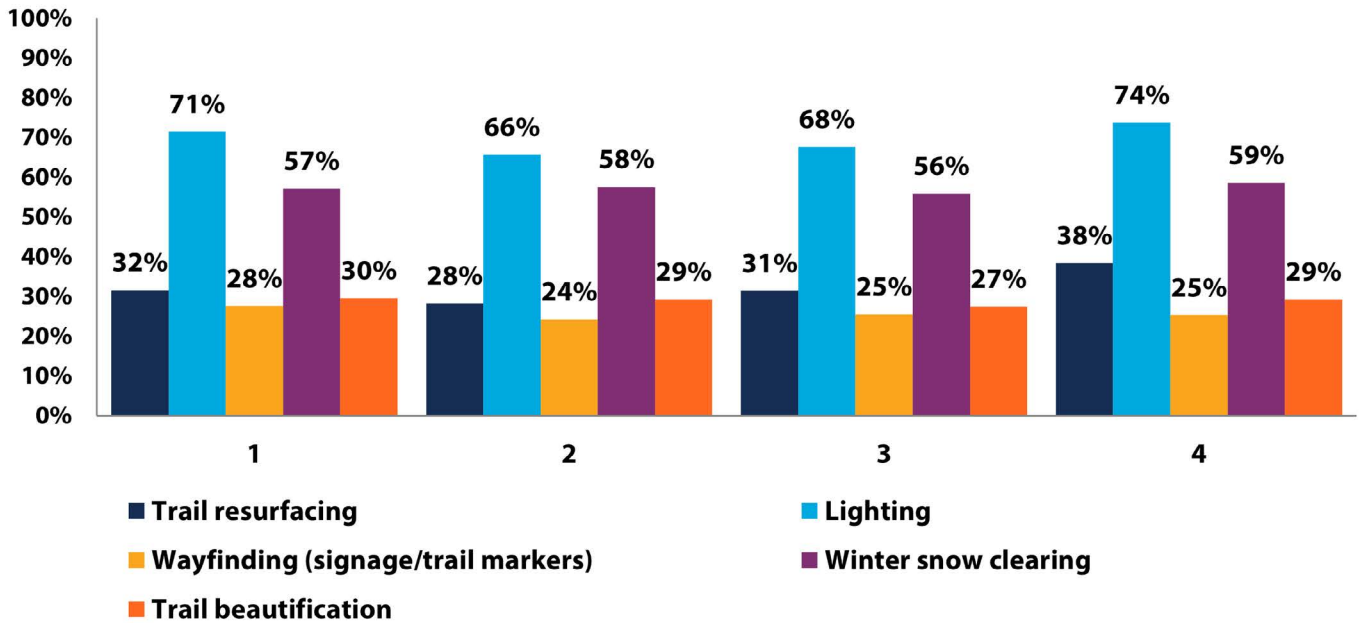
Additional Comments (14)

- Curb Islands near Empire Avenue, Circular Road, and Fleming Avenue
- Narrow the road
- Consider making a one-way
- Make Empire Avenue one-way
- No change needed
- Traffic calming, including speed bumps and raised crosswalks
- On demand flashing crosswalk lights
- #1 at Circular Road is dark in fall/winter and combined with the curve in the road makes it dangerous; need extended sidewalks islands, lighting and signs
- Improve sightlights at Portugal Cove Road
- Enforcement for cars parking on sidewalks/ too close to crosswalks in Georgestown
- Roundabout at Monkstown and Circular Road
- Fix blind corner for traffic coming up from Carpasian Road on the hill

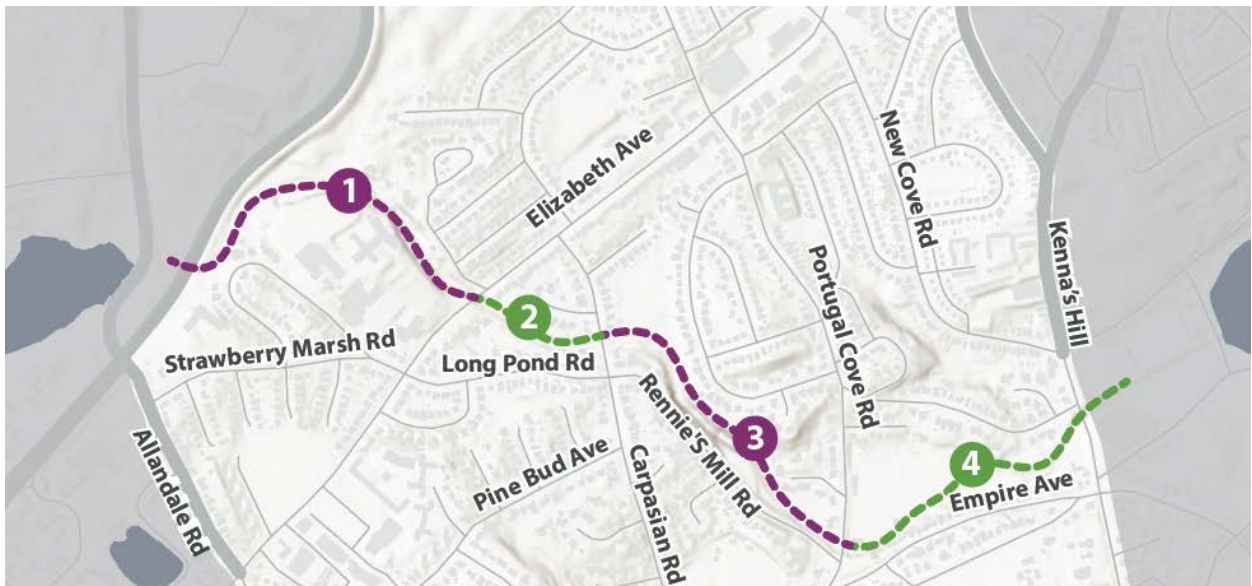
Trails

Lighting and snow clearing were top priorities across the trail system with over 50 percent of participants selecting them as needed improvements.

Which trail sections are most in need of the following improvements?



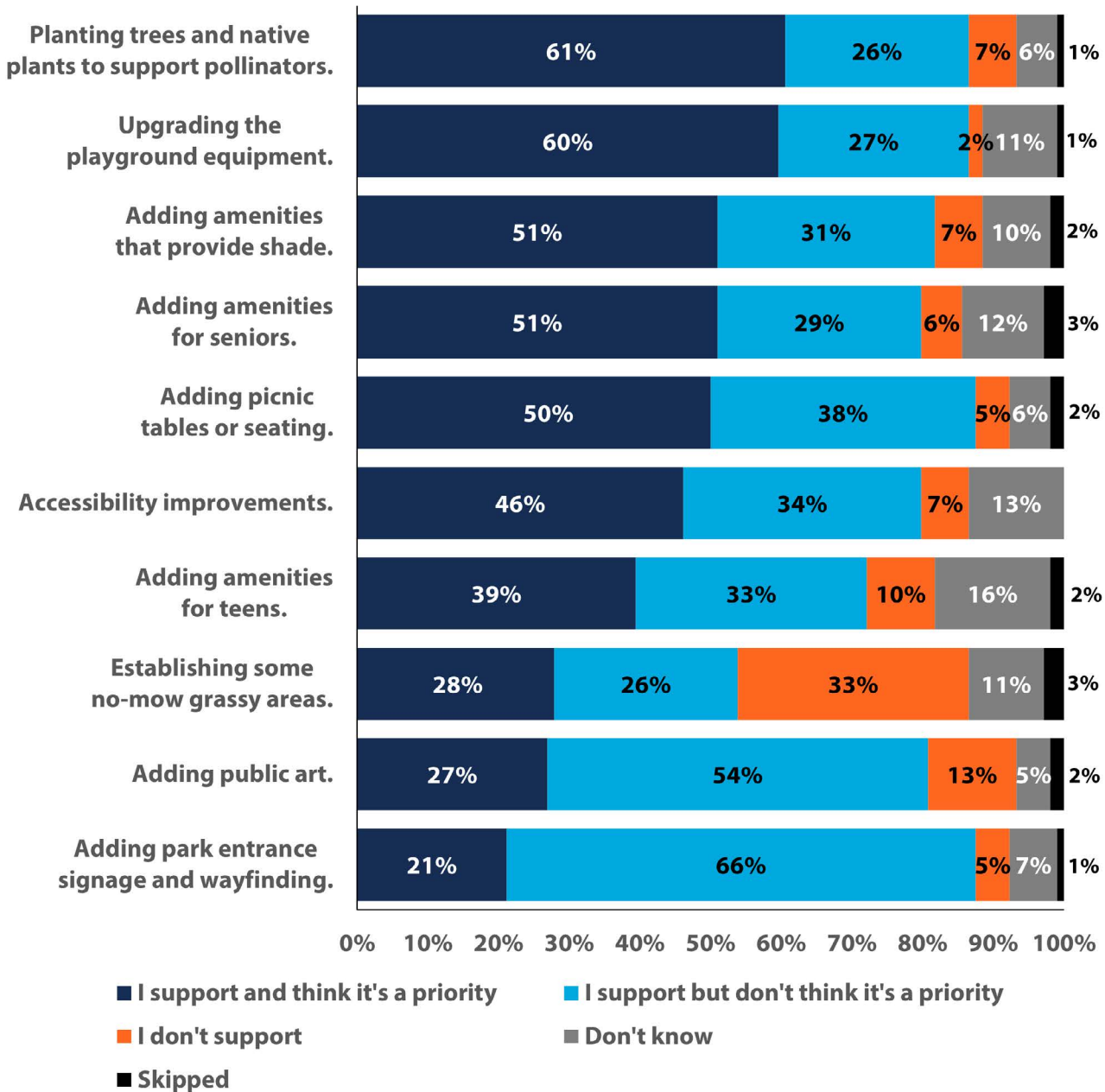
Percentage of Participants (106 completed, 192 skipped)



Parks & Recreation Recommendations

The parks and recreation section focused on prioritizing potential park improvements.

Which of the following recommendations would you support for Larch Park and how would you prioritize them?



Percentage of Participants (106 completed, 192 skipped)

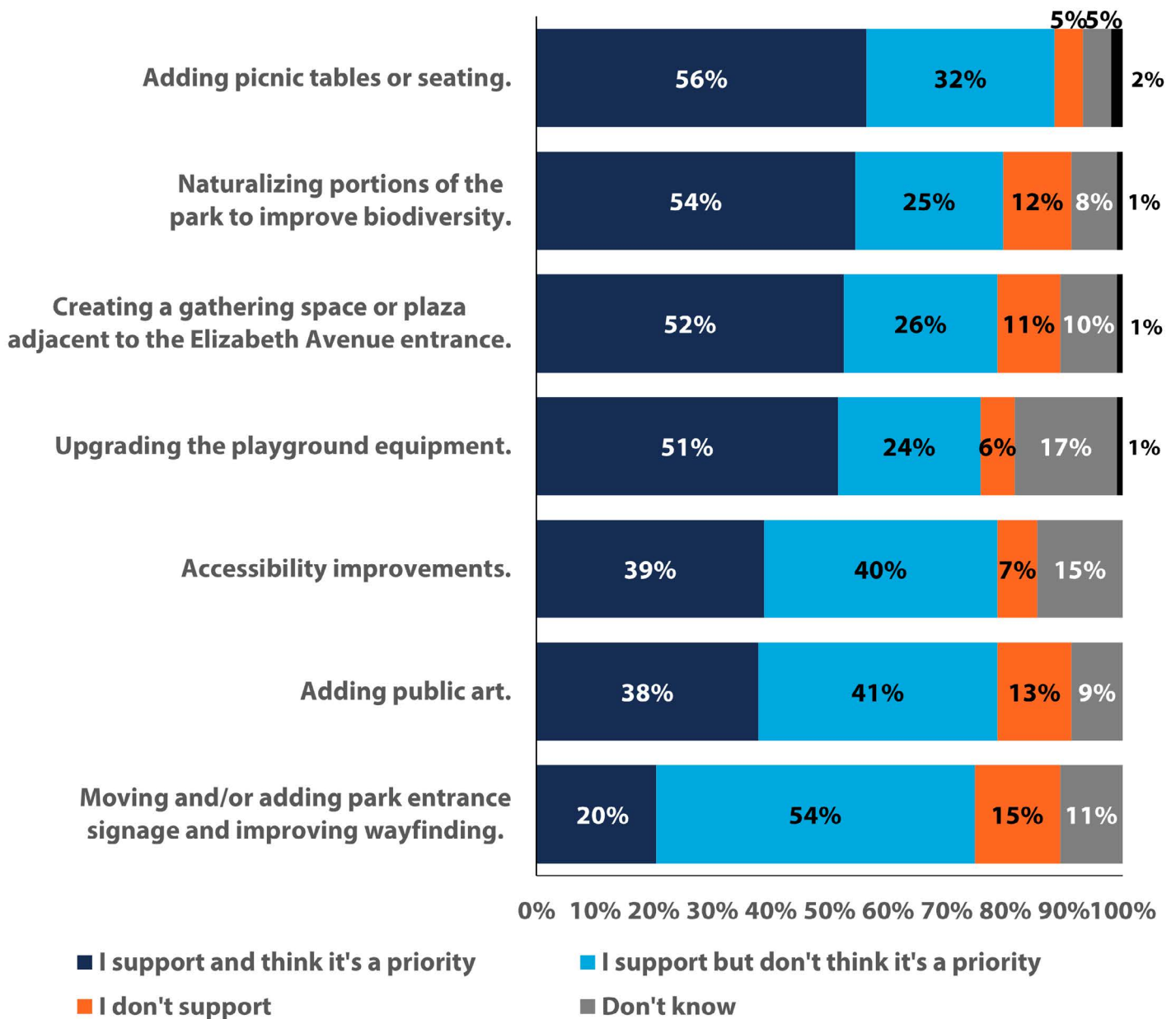
For Larch Park, planting trees and native plants to support pollinators and upgrading the playground equipment were the most supported and highest priority improvements. Adding park entrance signage and wayfinding as well as adding public art received high support, but were not considered as much of a priority.

Several other suggestions are summarized below:

Other (26)

- Leave the park alone/Don't add too much structure
- What amenities for teens/seniors? What is meant by accessibility improvements?
- Courts and green space already get used a lot
- Concerns about teens causing disturbance in the park
- Add educational signage about wildlife and vegetation
- Add paved paths from entrances
- Shade is a priority, including for playground
- Suggest a covered seating area
- Upgrade basketball court
- Space for ball hockey or small skating rink
- Need lighting for safety, especially at tennis courts and along paths
- Suggest dedicated soccer area with nets
- Suggest small dog park in the north end of the park
- Resurface playground
- Add washrooms in the summer
- Add accessible parking on Carpasian Road and Roche Street
- Signage

Which of the following recommendations would you support for Churchill Park and how would you prioritize them?



Percentage of Participants (104 completed, 194 skipped)

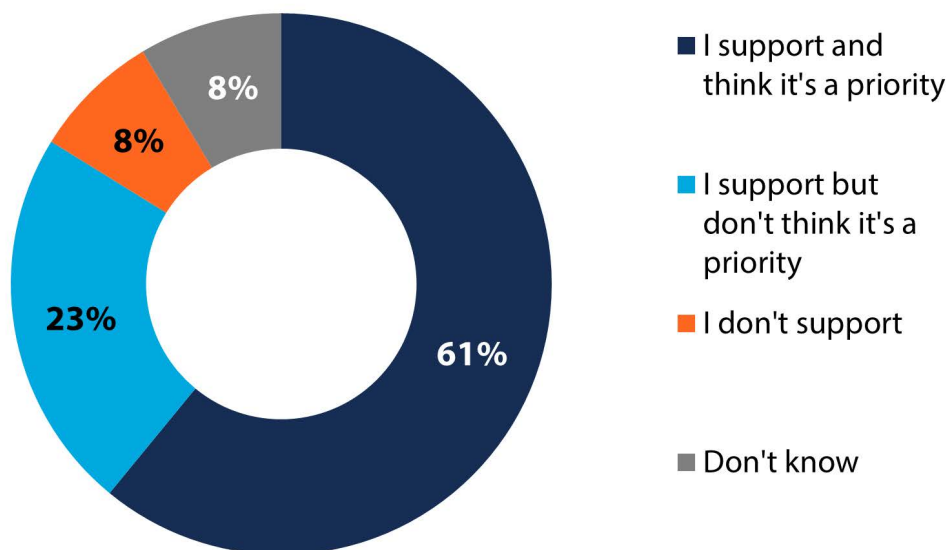
For Churchill Park, four of the seven recommendations received over 50% support and priority. Adding picnic tables or seating was the highest supported and priority improvement, followed by naturalizing portions of the park to improve biodiversity, and creating a gathering space or plaza adjacent to the Elizabeth Avenue entrance.

Other suggestions for the park are summarized below:

Other (19)

- Learn from the success of Bannerman Park renewal
- Ban the music festival (doesn't belong in a residential area)
- Maintain soccer pitches and playground equipment
- Mow more
- Lighting to support gathering and sports in the evening
- North-South shared use path along park edge
- More shelter from wind
- Pathways connecting Elizabeth Ave to Cork Place and Bideford Place
- Make Churchill Park and Churchill Square feel more like one cohesive space
- Don't add buildings to the park
- Outdoor skating rink
- All season amenities
- Do not reduce greenspace - put the plaza in Churchill Square
- Re-open public access to the step from the Churchill Park apartments down to Churchill Square next to Terrace on the Square
- Allow all field users to use the space
- Reduce Elizabeth Avenue lanes
- Add entrance feature across from Churchill Square
- Consult with families before upgrading the playground

Do you support providing additional lighting in Bannerman Park?



Percentage of Participants (105 completed, 193 skipped)

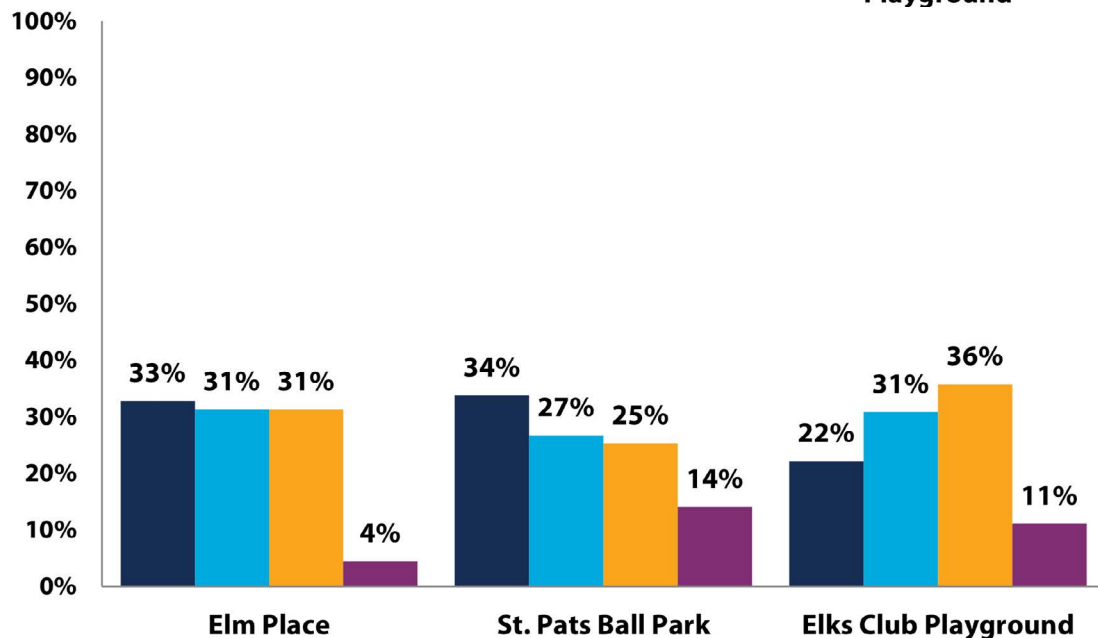
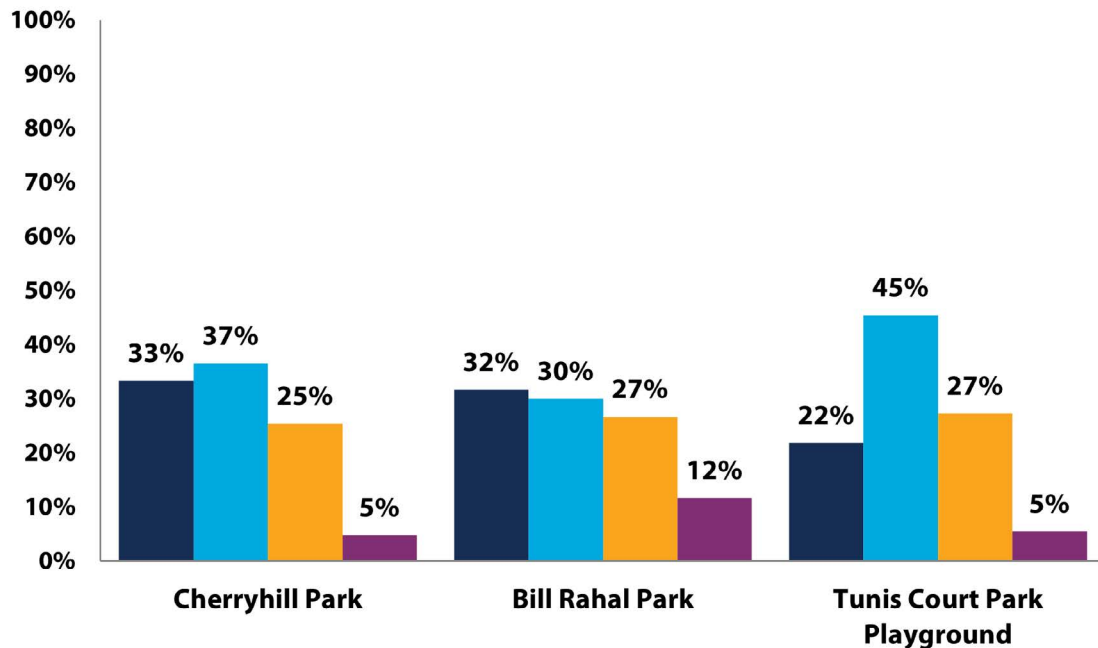
Do you have any other suggestions for Bannerman Park?

27
comments

- Leave as is/existing upgrades are great
- Lighting between the Loop and baseball diamond
- Less signage
- More variety of flowers
- Softball park could be used more
- Remove the iron fence and decorative posts
- Reduce light pollution and impacts
- More on street parking, but don't remove park space for parking
- More public art
- Improve security and enhance police presence
- Concerns about speeding on adjacent streets and unsafe crossings for pedestrians and desire for traffic calming
- SUP path connections to Kelly's Brook and Quidi Vidi Lake
- Align the crosswalk at Military Road and Carew Street with the park entrance
- Improve the intersection/entrance at Circular Road and Rennies Mill Road
- Improved bathrooms
- More maintenance and clean-up of sharps
- More paved paths for accessibility
- Add another skating oval to Bowring Park
- Update and maintain playground

Neighbourhood Parks, Community Commons, and Tot Lots

Which passive amenities would you like to see in these parks?



■ More naturalized areas and trees
 ■ Community gardens
■ Seating / picnic areas
 ■ Shaded areas

Percentage of Participants (89 completed, 209 skipped)

Other (15)

- Trees for shade (but do not impede sliding hills)
- Unique playground at each park
- Difficult to answer without a map
- Wayfinding signage
- Update Elks Club playground, Elm Street Playground
- Want to select more than one option per park
- Community gardens
- No 'no-mow' areas because of ticks
- Add playground to Bill Rahal Park
- Small dog park

Which parks should be prioritized first?

1st	Elks Club Playground
2nd	Cherryhill Park
3rd	Bill Rahal Park
4th	Tunis Court Park Playground
5th	St. Pats Ballpark
6th	Elm Place

Percentage of Participants (82 completed, 212 skipped)

Do you have any additional ideas about programs, events, or improvements to public space for your neighbourhood?

The main themes were adding more seating to parks, additional suggested improvements for Larch Park, and additional mobility improvements. There were a range of other ideas about events and priorities for the neighbourhood, which are captured on the next page.

23
comments

Seating in Parks

- Need more benches for seniors
- Shady /covered places to sit
- More lighting near seating
- More central gathering places in parks with seating
- Provide different heights of seating to accommodate all different users

Larch Park

- Update playground equipment in Larch Park to support youth
- Add splash pad at Larch Park
- Upgrade to basketball court/ball hockey and more tennis courts with lighting
- Lighting for Larch Park
- Better lighting through Larch Park and connecting to trails
- Keep the grass short and groomed to make clean up easier
- Clear signage/make the entrance more clearly marked and accessible

Park Amenities & Activities

- More community gardens where supported by the community
- Incorporate more winter activities
- Need multigenerational spaces where communities

can play, exercise and/or be outside (Century Park in Georgetown is a good example)

- Neighbourhood hot chocolate or lemonade day events, sponsored by the City, run by neighbourhoods
- Would like to see more outdoor fitness equipment like in Larch Park elsewhere

Mobility

- Prioritize sidewalk and trail snow clearing
- Separate sidewalks from the road/cars with a landscaped buffer
- Better wayfinding for all parks and pathways
- Fix the intersections at Garrison Hill/Harvey Road/ Bonaventure Avenue / Military Road, and at Circular Road/King's Bridge Road/Empire Avenue /Lake Avenue for pedestrian and cyclist safety
- Ensure safe walking connections to parks
- Remove public access to the light lever/switch for Kelly's Brook Trail

Other Parks/Open Spaces

- Include Brother Brennan Field
- Improve access and use of green space across from

Confederation Building and connect to the Rennie's River Trail

- Upgrade Kerry Street Open Space to a Park

Park Priority

- Prioritize Elks Club space
- Prioritize Churchill Park

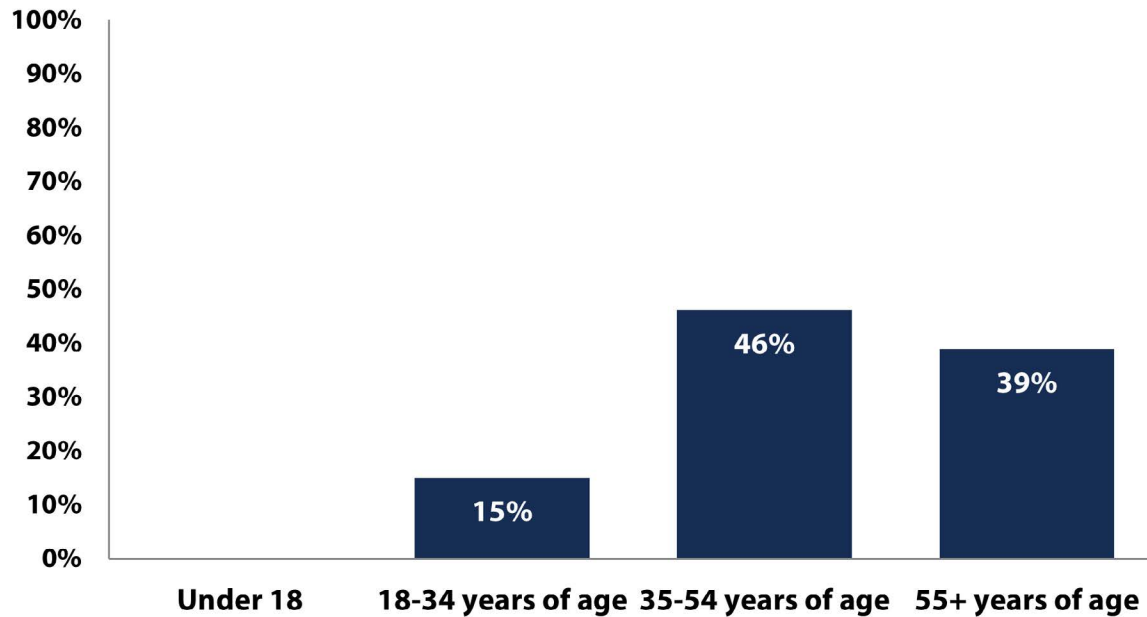
Other

- Engage with residents when defining the needs for each park
- Keep parks natural/less developed
- Better maintenance of parks
- Do not try to over-engineer flood protections
- Concerns about the Churchill Park music festival and impacts
- Love Churchill Park festival in summer
- Address social issues in parks
- Keep infrastructure low cost and reduce maintenance

Survey Demographics

The following demographic questions were only asked in the online survey.

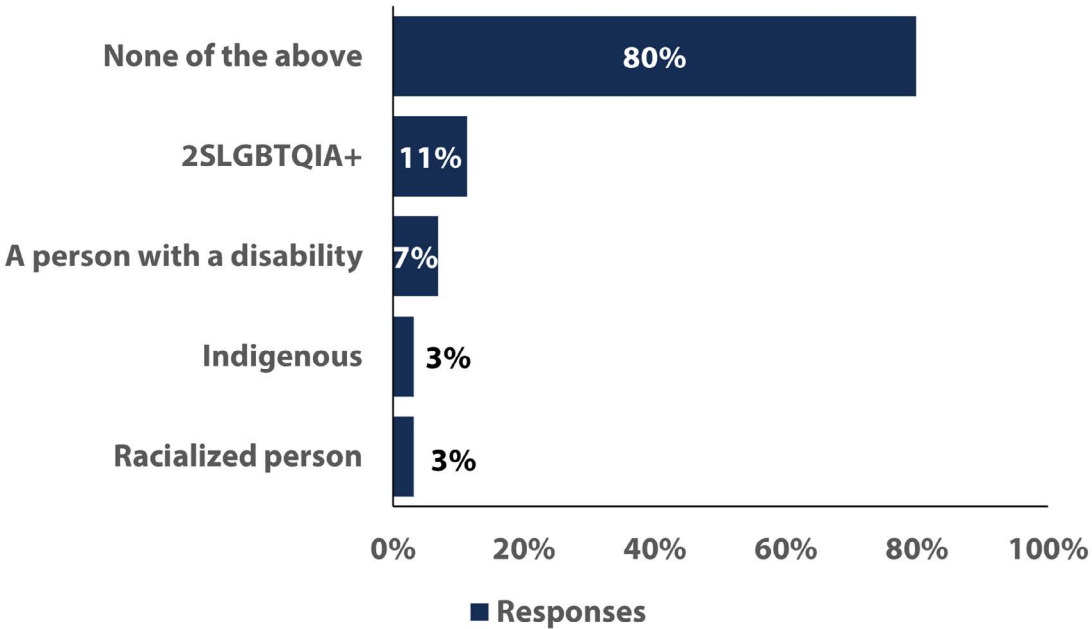
What is your age bracket?



Percentage of Participants (180 completed, 118 skipped)

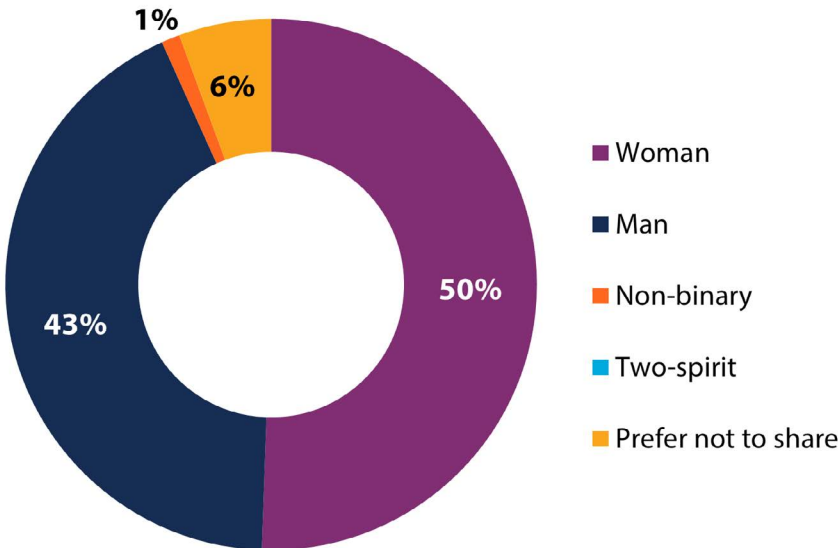
The largest age group that completed the survey was 35-54 years of age, followed by 55+ years of age, then 18-34 years of age. There were no participants under 18 years of age.

Do you identify as any of the following?



The majority of respondents did not identify as any of the listed categories. There were 11% who identified as belonging to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, 7% as a person with a disability, and 3% as Indigenous and 3% as a racialized person.

How do you identify?



Half of survey participants identified as female. Approximately 43% identified as male and 1% identified as non-binary.

Indigenous Engagement

The project team met with staff members from First Light to talk about the needs of the Indigenous Community in the Rennie's River and Central and Mundy Pond Neighbourhoods. The session started with a high-level overview of the proposed Neighbourhood Strategies for both the Rennie's River and Central and Mundy Pond Neighbourhoods.

The key themes from the conversation are summarized below.

Housing

- Excited to see more housing proposed through intensification in the plans
- Would like housing to include a mix of market and affordable housing

Mobility and Access

- Agree with making the area more accessible for those without a car
- The trails are a great amenity, but could be made safer through improvements light straighter paths, better sightlines, and lighting

Parks and Recreation

- Like seeing improvements to greenspaces and keeping some spaces more natural
- Would like to see more opportunities to create a connection to the land in urban spaces through landscaping, trees, and wildflowers
- Parks should be welcoming for everyone, including people who need a place to go when services such as shelters are not open
- Would like to see more lighting and seating in parks

Visibility of Indigenous Culture

- Would like to see opportunities through redevelopment and park design to increase the visibility of Indigenous culture in St. John's, such as street naming, murals, and public art

Interested Parties

In addition to the broad public engagement opportunities, the project team met with various community organizations and groups representing different interests in Rennie’s River, as well as Central and Mundy Pond. A general overview was provided to groups about the proposed Neighbourhood Strategies and participants were asked to share their feedback.

The following groups participated in Phase 2 Engagement:

Council Committees

- Affordable Housing Working Group
- Building Safer Communities Steering Committee
- Built Heritage Experts Panel
- Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel

- Sustainable and Active Mobility Advisory Committee
- Local Immigration Partnership

Organizations

- Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation
- Business and Arts Newfoundland
- Destination St. John’s
- Royal Newfoundland Constabulary
- Georgestown Community Association

Mobility and Connectivity

One of the key themes was to strengthen active transportation connections throughout Rennie’s River, especially linking neighbourhoods to the Rennie’s River Trail and key destinations like Churchill Square. Participants expressed a preference for a cohesive, clearly defined, and traffic-separated walking and cycling network instead of isolated segments. Some participants wanted to see road widths and lanes reduced or specific streets closed to traffic to provide active transportation connections.

Improving safety was another consistent theme, with participants calling for better-designed crossings, improved sightlines, lighting and traffic calming in key areas. Winter conditions were identified as a barrier to walkability, highlighting the need for reliable sidewalk maintenance. Some participants also emphasized the importance of clearly communicating how the active transportation network will function and connect throughout the neighbourhood.

Some participants also wanted to see more transit focus and improvements in the neighbourhood, including improving the pedestrian crossing to transfer busses on Torbay Road.

Parks, Open Space, and Recreation

Participants widely value the Rennie's River Trail as a defining neighbourhood feature and support enhancing it within a comprehensive open space network. However, some cautioned against over-formalizing natural areas, noting that not all spaces need to be paved or highly programmed.

Participants expressed interest in expanding recreational opportunities, such as adding pickleball or tennis courts and increasing programming in spaces like Churchill Square. They also identified opportunities to improve park design and usability, including seating, lighting, and year-round functionality.

Land Use and Intensification

Participants had mixed views on intensification. While there was general support for accommodating growth, some were concerned that proposed intensification areas are too dispersed or too far from existing services and transit. Many recommended focusing density along Torbay Road and other well-serviced corridors.

Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining neighbourhood character, stating that new development should be compatible with surrounding areas and not overwhelm the existing built form. Transition and scale were identified as key considerations, especially at the edges of intensification areas.

Neighbourhood Character

Maintaining the existing character of Rennie's River was a key theme. Participants stressed that new development and infrastructure should integrate thoughtfully with established neighbourhoods and preserve natural features and mature trees where possible.

Participants also highlighted the need for better connectivity within and between neighbourhood areas, noting that improved internal linkages would strengthen community cohesion.

Access to Amenities and Community Spaces

Participants identified opportunities to improve access to community amenities and gathering spaces. Churchill Square was often mentioned as a key destination, with interest in strengthening its role as a community hub through better connections and programming.

Participants also expressed interest in ensuring recreational and community uses are well-distributed across the neighbourhood to better serve residents in all areas.

Property Owners and Developers

The project team also met with several members of the development community and landowners in Rennie's River. These conversations helped the project team understand the specific interests and challenges of this group as well as alignment with specific properties and development goals with the proposed Neighbourhood Strategies, rezonings, and Intensification Area changes.

Next Steps

Thank you everyone who participated in this engagement. The findings from this phase of engagement will inform the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Project updates and information will continue to be posted to the project website at www.engagestjohns.ca/rennies-river-neighbourhood-plan.





ST. JOHN'S