



ERITH PARK REDESIGN OPTIONS



Erith Park

Redesign Options

Submitted By:

Authenticcity Design Inc.
15, 51109 Range Road 271
Parkland County, AB T7Y 1G7
780.271.1689



@authenticcity.ca
www.authenticcity.ca

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1.0 Introduction

Erith Park, situated in the heart of the Town of Hinton, has long served as a central gathering place for recreation, social interaction, and community celebration. Over time, renewal has become necessary, and the Town of Hinton has identified that the redevelopment of Erith Park be explored in order to restore the Park with enhanced amenities that meet the recreational needs of the community. The revitalized park is intended to offer a diverse range of recreational opportunities that reflect current and emerging trends in both passive and active recreation, consistent with best practices observed in communities comparable to Hinton.

The primary objective of this conceptual planning process was to engage local residents in order to better understand community perspectives and integrate this input into potential redevelopment options for the Park. Through the introduction of renewed infrastructure and enhanced amenities, the project seeks to deliver an elevated level of service and a broader range of activities suitable for users of all ages, thereby better addressing the community's evolving recreational needs.

The Town of Hinton Parks, Open Spaces, and Trails Master Plan (POST) establishes a framework for classifying parks according to scale, intensity of use, and the range of amenities provided. A complete version of the POST document is available on the Town of Hinton website. Upon completion and adoption of POST, the Town has since endorsed the reclassification of Erith Park from a Neighbourhood Park into a Community Park. The chart below outlines the key differences between these classifications. Ultimately, this reclassification would support the introduction of a greater diversity of amenities and activities, and necessitates a more comprehensive and robust design approach for Erith Park.





Figure 1 - park POST classifications: community parks and neighbourhood parks

Through a public call for proposals, the Town engaged professional design services from Authenticcity, a landscape architecture and environmental planning firm with many years of park and trail planning experience within Hinton. The terms of reference outlined the desire to develop two distinct conceptual plans for the redevelopment of Erith Park. The first concept incorporates a range of activities identified through prior community engagement. The second concept seeks to integrate as many of the identified program elements as possible, while also introducing a degree of infill residential development on a portion of the site. The inclusion of residential development is intended to respond to the increasing demand for infill housing, given the limited availability of suitable land within the Town, while supporting cost-effective development and the delivery of attainable housing options within the community.

Upon completion of the two concept plans, a public engagement process was initiated to gather feedback on the two alternatives. The input received through this engagement was subsequently used to refine both concepts options. This report demonstrates the initial two preliminary concept plans, summarizes the feedback received, a refinement of the two concept plans and provides estimated probable costs for each alternative. The report will be considered by senior Town leadership and Council to inform decisions regarding the future of Erith Park, including the selection of a preferred option and to what degree this redevelopment will be implemented in a phased approach.

1.1 Project Location

Erith Park is located within the Mountain View district of Hinton. Situated between Erith Drive and Maple Drive, Erith Park is considered a central greenspace within the Town and one of the community's primary recreation destinations.

The Park is bound by streets on three sides, with the fourth side adjacent to a power line corridor that has naturalized planting along a sloped hillside. The surrounding road network provides opportunities for curbside parking, supplemented by limited on-site parking facilities. A more detailed description of the site is provided in Section 3.0 – Existing Site Conditions. Engagement findings indicate that the majority of users access Erith Park on foot or by vehicle.

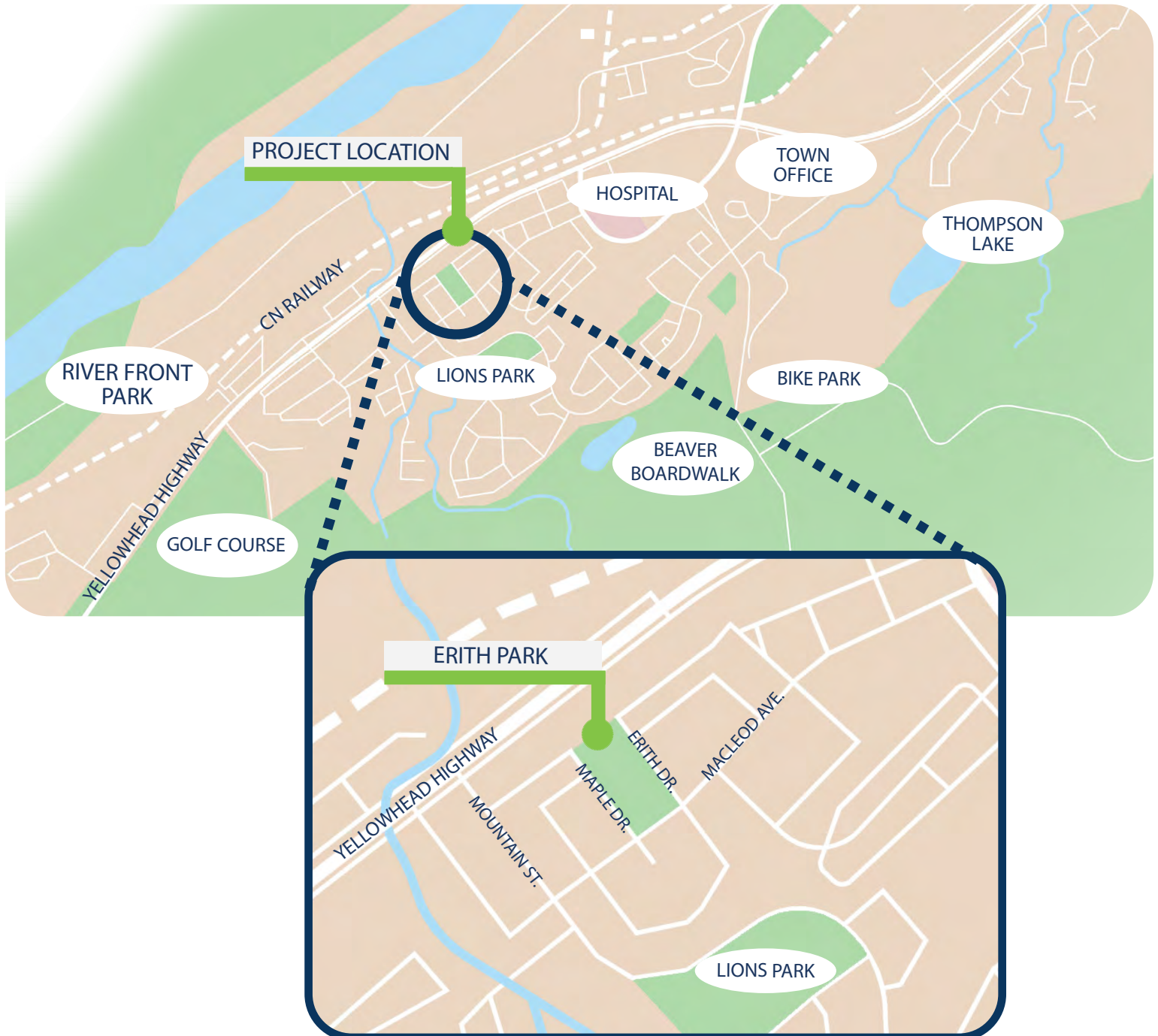


Figure 2 - project location

2.0 Project Scope

2.1 Project Objectives

The following principles and objectives were established at the onset of this conceptual park redevelopment planning process:

- To enhance Erith Park through revitalized infrastructure and new amenities, with the potential to reclassify the site from a Neighbourhood Park to a Community Park in accordance with the recommendations of the POST document;
- To develop two distinct designs that demonstrate feasible approaches to redevelop the Park, with consideration of constraints such as existing utilities, accommodating vehicular traffic and site access, and local community transportation and pedestrian routes;
- To collaborate with Town of Hinton staff, who have been actively involved in previous planning and community engagement initiatives for Erith Park, to ensure that prior learnings are appropriately incorporated into the current planning process;
- To prioritize the enhancement of green space, infrastructure updates, and development of a beautiful, inclusive park as outlined in POST, while considering options for providing residential development opportunities within the site;
- To ensure that all proposed design elements are consistent with the principles and guidelines established within the POST framework;
- To undertake a comprehensive site evaluation and assessment of existing infrastructure in order to develop a detailed understanding of site conditions, informing both opportunities and constraints for redevelopment;
- To follow a public engagement program that creates opportunities for residents to contribute feedback on the proposed plans and participate in meaningful dialogue with the project team;
- To understand current usage of the site, as well as existing and potential community needs; and
- Taking into consideration any servicing limitations and opportunities for the site, provide two distinct conceptual design scenarios that offer an appropriate level of service to residents, while ensuring that recommendations are financially viable and sustainable for long-term operation and maintenance by the Town.



2.2 Project Principles

The following principles were part of completing this assignment:

- 

Bring a strong team of practitioners and Town staff together to collaboratively realize a new vision for Erith Park. The objective is to develop a strategy for a new park experience open to a variety of programs, events and everyday uses, while delivering an exceptional, safe and memorable visitor experience;
- 

Develop an understanding of the current site programming and examine how future site planning can complement existing programs and events, while encouraging new activities that support the operational objectives of the Town of Hinton and other potential community interest groups;
- 

Create an exceptional visitor experience through the application of placemaking principles, positioning the Park as a vibrant and engaging destination for both residents and visitors to the community;
- 

Undertake a public and stakeholder engagement program that complies with Town requirements for public and stakeholder consultation, reflects community expectations, and provides meaningful opportunities for residents and project stakeholders to contribute to the development of the final plan.
- 

As a winter community, develop the site with winter city design principles in mind, ensuring the inclusion of features that become used year-round and actively celebrate the community's adaptability to winter conditions through dedicated programming and events;
- 

Enhance comfort and safety for all people;
- 

Address the needs of people with limited mobility, physical impairments, and other accessibility challenges. While this amenity is for active use, ensure that people of all abilities are able to access and experience portions of the Park; and
- 

Ensure the recommended plan(s) are cognizant of all municipal, Provincial and Federal statutory and non-statutory bylaws, policies, procedures, acts and legislation. The plan must align with all guiding policies and legislative requirements and be cognizant of any guidelines such as Town of Hinton municipal standards, and recommendations of POST.

2.3 Scope of Work

Using the project objectives and guiding principles outlined above, the primary objective of this study was to develop two distinct design options that are financially feasible for the Town to construct, maintain, and program for years to come.

Design One: Focuses on updating and upgrading existing recreational infrastructure, with the intent of elevating Erith Park from a Neighbourhood Park to a Community Park.

Design Two: Integrating a residential housing component on a portion of the site, while retaining sufficient proportion of the site that continue to meet the recreational needs of the community.

The following steps were taken to complete this project:

1

SITE EVALUATION

Evaluating the site to explore existing site features such as existing trees, on-site infrastructure, how the Park is currently used, solar and wind exposures and other considerations that affect how the Park is used on a regular basis;

Collecting and assemble data from the Town regarding site utilities, past events held on site, other related studies and redevelopment initiatives for land surrounding the site, amongst others;

Through an initial brainstorming workshop, reviewing and refining the scope of this project with Town staff representatives from Parks and Recreation, and Operations. Through this discussion, developing a stronger understanding of the site, potential future uses, and realistic, achievable project budgets and timelines for redevelopment; and

Creating a strategy in alignment with POST for the types of activities appropriate for the site, materials, potential site users and other parameters that would influence the final preferred concept plan.

2

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

A written document completed for review and approval by the Town, outlining the steps taken for public and stakeholder engagement. This plan included the level of engagement, tactics used, and the information sought by engagement.

3

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN

Develop two distinct conceptual plans for the site, incorporating a range of potential features and spaces to accommodate diverse daily activities. The program elements are informed by prior engagement undertaken by the Town, as well as amenities recommended within the POST framework for a park of this scale.

4

PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Outreach to identified project stakeholders, hosting a public open house session and a public online survey to solicit feedback on the preliminary conceptual plans. At the conclusion of engagement, summarizing what was heard throughout engagement and how it would influence the revised conceptual plans.

5

FINALIZED CONCEPT PLAN

Refinement of each concept plan reflective of the feedback received through public and stakeholder engagement. The approach was not to advance a single preferred option, but rather to maintain two distinct conceptual alternatives and adjust both in response to the public feedback, then allowing Senior Town leadership and Council to determine the preferred direction for the project based on the findings within this report.

6

**COUNCIL
PRESENTATION**

Presenting the study findings to Town Council for endorsement, and consideration for capital investment within upcoming budget cycles.

7

**FINAL
REPORT**

To compile all project information into this final report.

2.4 Relationship to POST Document

There are currently no designated trail connections identified within Erith Park as part of the POST network. With the redevelopment of the site, connectivity is required to support community access, ensure that amenities are readily accessible, and provide a high standard of service and user experience.

The POST framework establishes the following principles to support the community vision and objectives for Hinton, and these principles were fundamental in guiding the design decisions undertaken throughout the conceptual design process for Erith Park:

- Access and Connectivity
- Nature
- Facilities
- Amenities
- Public Safety
- Management
- Programming
- Community

Erith Park is currently classified as a Neighbourhood Park. As outlined in POST, the definition of a Neighbourhood Park is as follows:

“Neighbourhood Parks in Hinton create accessible open space to residential areas”

As outlined in the scope of work, conceptual design was intended to explore the potential of enhancing Erith Park into a Community Park. As defined in the POST, the characterization of a Community Park is as follows:

“Community Parks in Hinton are designed to deliver an inclusive outdoor facility with further enhancement than at the neighbourhood level. Community Parks and facilities should be planned and designed to provide infrastructure that satisfies a variety of recreational needs.”

Key items initially identified with the Project team as potential assets to incorporate into the conceptual design and bring forth for public engagement were as follows:

- Parking
- Child-Friendly Skateboard Park / All Wheeled Park
- Pump Track
- Covered Picnic Shelter
- Green Space
- Playground
- Basketball Hoops / Court
- Community Garden

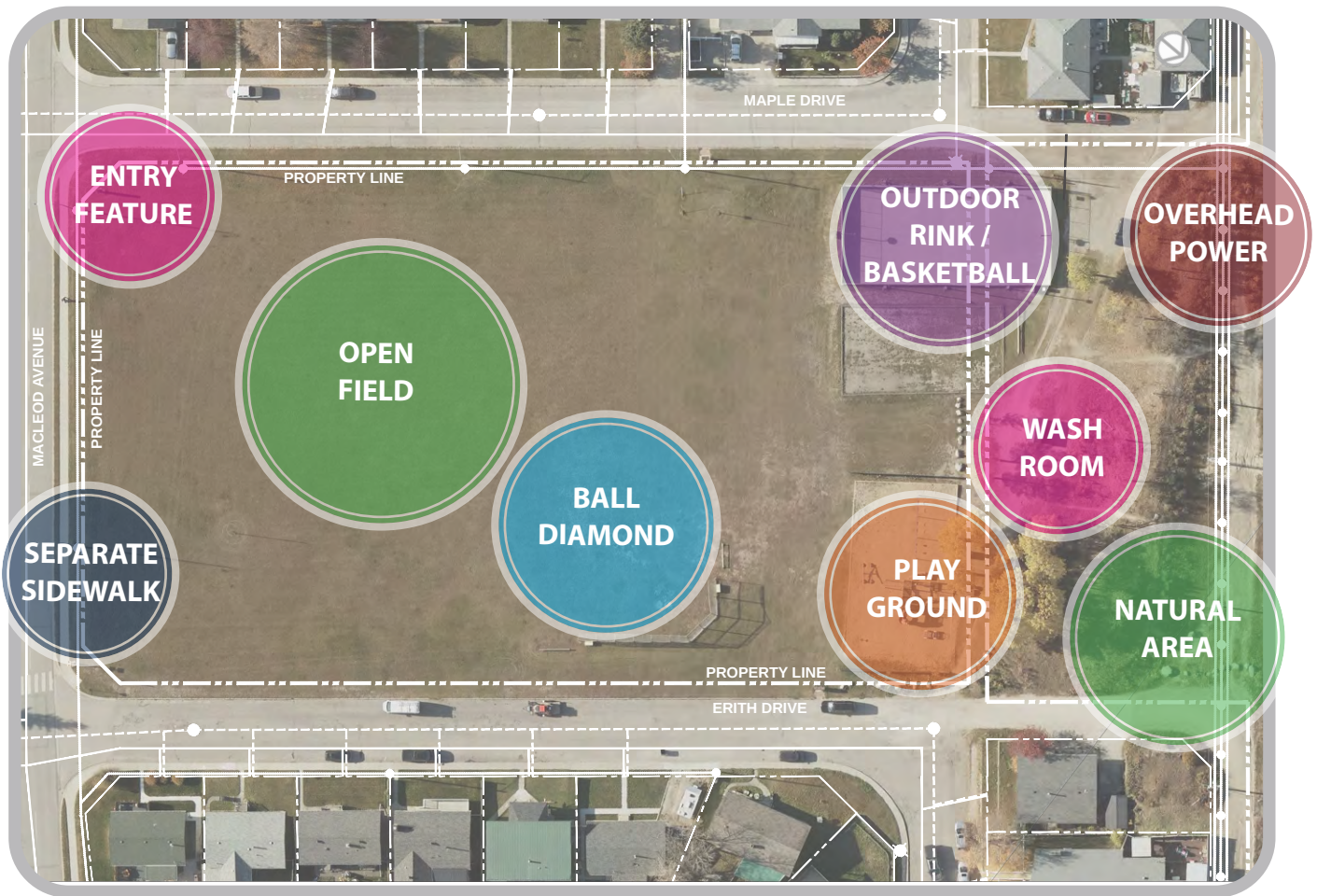


Figure 3 - existing site conditions

3.0 Existing Site Conditions

Erith Park is located along MacLeod Avenue and is considered a central greenspace within the Town. Commonly referred to as part of “The Hill” area of Hinton, the Park currently includes a playground with sand surfacing, a baseball diamond backstop, and an outdoor rink with a combined basketball court, as well as general open greenspace. A washroom facility is present on site but is no longer in use due to vandalism. Curbside parking is available along the Park’s frontage streets, supplemented by a small informal parking area near the playground. The northern portion of the site consists of a naturalized hillside with overhead power lines. Municipal electrical service is currently available at the outdoor rink location. Among the existing amenities, the playground is the most frequently used component of the Park.

3.1 Site Observations

An initial site evaluation was conducted prior to commencing the formal work program. Observations are as follows:

- The site is self-contained within the community, with roadways to the east, south and west and topography barriers to the north. There are currently no formal community trail connections traversing the Park. However, an informal, undefined trail is present along the base of the power line corridor on the north side of the site, suggesting a high level of use in this area;



- The northern portion of the site contains a naturalized area featuring a variety of native plant species, with several informal trails providing connections to the surrounding neighbourhood. Following the selection of a preferred site plan and completion of detailed design, an assessment will be required to determine whether any of the mature poplar trees should be removed and which have the potential of being retained;
- The site is primarily characterized by open grassed areas associated with the existing ball diamond and currently lacks formal sidewalks or accessible pathways connecting the various amenities within the parcel;
- The east and west edges of the Park include on-street vehicular parking without adjacent sidewalk infrastructure, while the southern boundary along McLeod Drive is served by a separate sidewalk;
- There is no known underground infrastructure within the Park. Overhead power lines are located along the northern property boundary, and an existing power connection at the outdoor rink provides the sole source of electrical service on the site;
- Signage on site is limited to a park name sign located at the south west corner along McLeod Avenue;
- A washroom structure is currently present on site; however, it is no longer in use due to vandalism and is recommended for removal. Should replacement be considered, the Town should consider the use of more durable materials to enhance longevity and resilience.
- A well-utilized playground is located at the base of the hillside along the northern end of the site. The play area currently features sand surfacing, which has resulted in ongoing challenges for both park users and municipal staff, as strong winds frequently displace sand beyond the designated playground area;
- An outdoor rink structure is currently present on site; however, it has exceeded its service life and is in need of rehabilitation or replacement. Despite its condition, the amenity remains highly valued by park users, serving as a skating surface during winter months and a basketball court during summer months.



existing natural area / overhead utility



existing playground



existing outdoor rink / basketball hoops

Due to significant sun exposure and prevailing wind conditions, maintaining consistent ice coverage throughout the winter season has been a persistent challenge for municipal staff, resulting in suboptimal ice quality; and

- Single-family residential dwellings front onto the Park along its eastern and western edges. Through the engagement process, it was identified that a significant portion of routine on-street parking in these areas is attributable to adjacent residents rather than park users.

4.0 Preliminary Planning

4.1 Preliminary Conceptual Design

Guided by the direction outlined in the POST, two distinct concept plans were developed, each integrating a range of site amenities.

The following describes each of the two options:

preliminary concept one



Figure 4 - preliminary conceptual design option 1

legend

1. PARKING LOT

Paved day use parking lot designed for park users, with capacity to accommodate 14 vehicles with access off MacLeod Avenue

2. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Enclosed public garden plots supported by a user groups, with access provided off adjacent parking lot

3. ASPHALT TRAIL

2.0 meter wide multi-use surfacing connecting park features and amenities

4. DAY USE PICNIC

Picnic table seating on concrete pads, with select locations equipped with cooking grills

5. PLAYGROUND

Playground features intended to serve primarily younger users, complete with engineered wood chip mulch and rubber surfacing

option 5-A: standard level design including accessible play structure with a variety of engaging equipment

option 5-B: premium level design including 5A design items as well as additional features such as swings or climbing structures

6. OPEN SPACE BERMING

Gently contoured berming introduced to create varied terrain within the Park and provide visual screening from adjacent residences. The addition of soil will also support improved tree health and promote long-term growth

7. ALL WHEEL PARK

A recreational area designed to accommodate a range of non-motorized wheeled activities, including skateboarding, BMX biking, scootering, and inline skating

option 7-A: standard level design including features such as ramps, rails and ledges

option 7-B: premium level design including 7A design items as well as bowls and transition features

8. WASHROOM BUILDING

Fully serviced, two-stall washroom facility constructed on a concrete pad

9. VIEWPOINT SEATING

A gravel seating area adjacent to the asphalt trail, positioned at the crest of existing slope, providing an overlook with views across the park space

10. NATURAL AREA

Retention of existing vegetated areas, supplemented by succession planting and selective removal of declining vegetation as required. Additional single-track trails will be introduced to enhance connectivity within the Park

11. GROUP SHELTER

An overhead group shelter situated on a concrete plaza, designed to accommodate large gatherings and events, with an orientation that engages both the open park space and adjacent amphitheater seating

12. AMPHITHEATER SEATING

Tiered row seating oriented toward the overhead structure, incorporating the site's natural topography as a backdrop

13. NATURALIZED TRAIL

Existing trails within the natural area are to be retained, with the addition of a new single-track trail extending from the top of the slope to the all-wheel park



preliminary concept two



Figure 5 - preliminary conceptual design option 2

legend

1. PARKING LOT

Paved day use parking lot designed for park users, with capacity to accommodate 10 vehicles with access off Erith Drive

2. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Enclosed public garden plots supported by a user groups, with access provided off adjacent plaza

3. ASPHALT TRAIL

2.0 meter wide multi-use surfacing connecting park features and amenities

4. DAY USE PICNIC

Picnic table seating on concrete pads, with select locations equipped with cooking grills

5. PLAYGROUND

Playground features intended to serve primarily younger users, complete with engineered wood chip mulch and rubber surfacing

option 5-A: standard level design including accessible play structure with a variety of engaging equipment

option 5-B: premium level design including 5A design items as well as additional features such as swings or climbing structures

6. OPEN SPACE BERMING

Gently contoured berming introduced to create varied terrain within the Park and provide visual screening from adjacent residences. The addition of soil will also support improved tree health and promote long-term growth

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option 7-B: premium level design including 7A design items as well as bowls and transition features

8. WASHROOM BUILDING

Fully serviced, two-stall washroom facility constructed on a concrete pad

9. VIEWPOINT SEATING

A gravel seating area adjacent to the asphalt trail, positioned at the crest of existing slope, providing an overlook with views across the Park space

10. NATURAL AREA

Retention of existing vegetated areas, supplemented by succession planting and selective removal of declining vegetation as required. Additional single-track trails will be introduced to enhance connectivity within the Park

11. PLAZA

Concrete plaza with overhead trellis, bench seating and planting

12. HOUSING

A multiplex development in a reverse housing configuration, with connecting pedestrian pathways linking directly to the Park space.



4.2 Conceptual Imagery

The following precedent imagery provides visualization for the items included within the preliminary concepts:



parking lot



washroom building



asphalt trail



day use picnic



day use cook grill



screen planting



playground feature



natural area



amphitheater seating



concrete plaza



all wheel park option



all wheel park option



viewpoint seating



amphitheater seating



site amenities



playground feature



community garden



overhead group shelter

4.3 Housing Typology

A primary objective of this study was to explore the feasibility of introducing new infill housing on a portion of this site. Several housing typologies were explored, considering building heights, density of units and the resulting demand for nearby or on-site parking. The different typologies explored included:

1. Four story apartment building with underground and onsite surface parking;

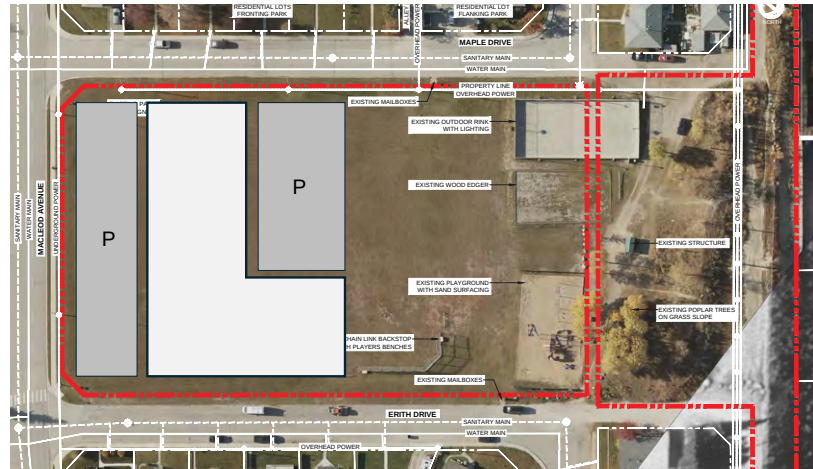


Figure 6 - housing typology type 1

2. Row housing with six- to eight-plex units, and including detached garages;

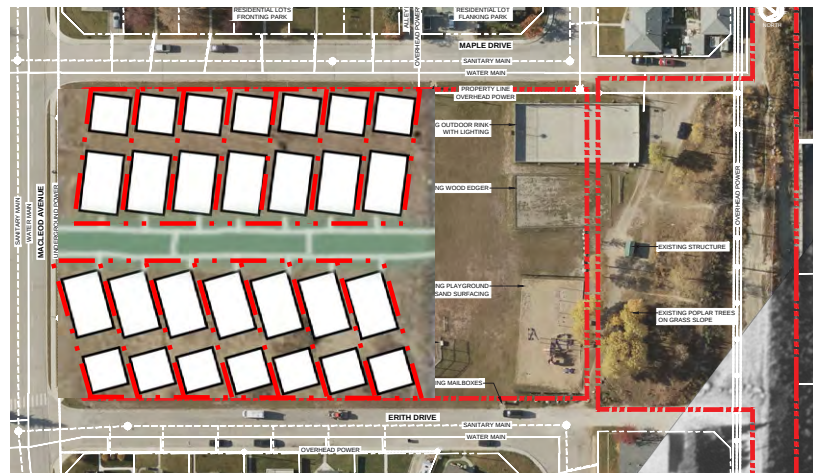


Figure 6 - housing typology type 2

3. Row housing in a staggered configuration with attached garages; and

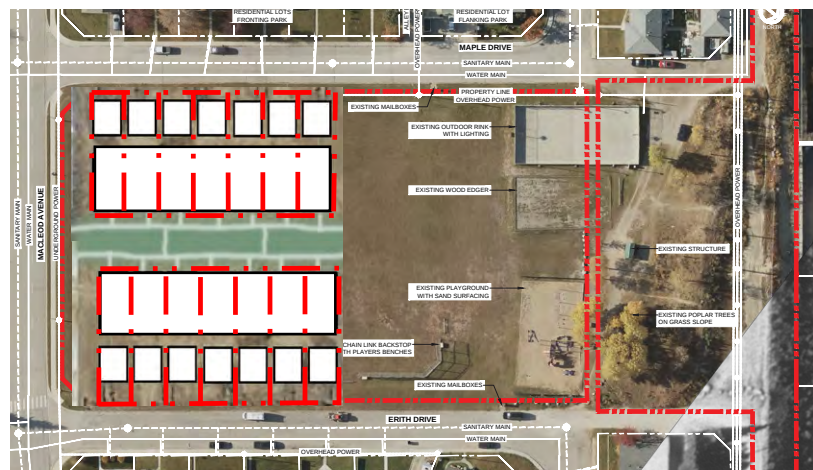


Figure 6 - housing typology type 3

4. Single family housing with detached garages.

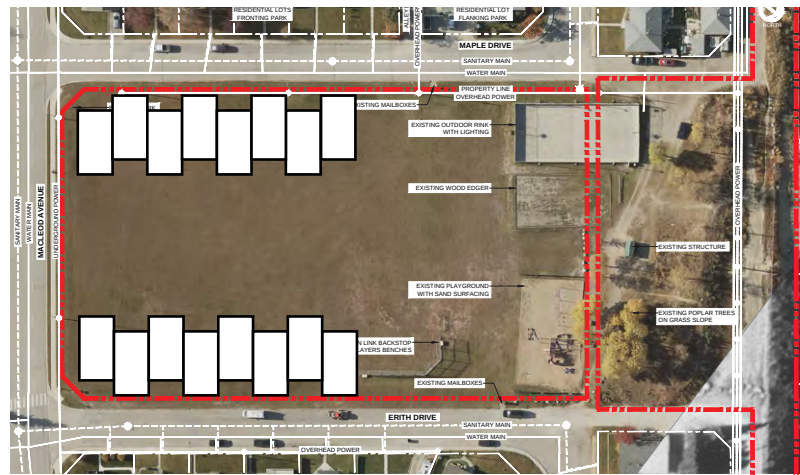


Figure 6 - housing typology type 4

Through a workshop session with Town staff, it was determined that Typology #3 represented the most appropriate housing form to incorporate into one of the concept plans. This typology consists of row housing arranged in a staggered configuration with attached garages. Private outdoor space would be minimal due to the units fronting onto the park; however, a clear delineation between private and public realms would be required, such as the installation of a rail fence along the property line. This typology was also envisioned to adopt a reverse housing configuration, whereby the “rear” of the units faces the flanking streets, while the primary frontage is oriented toward the interior of the Park.

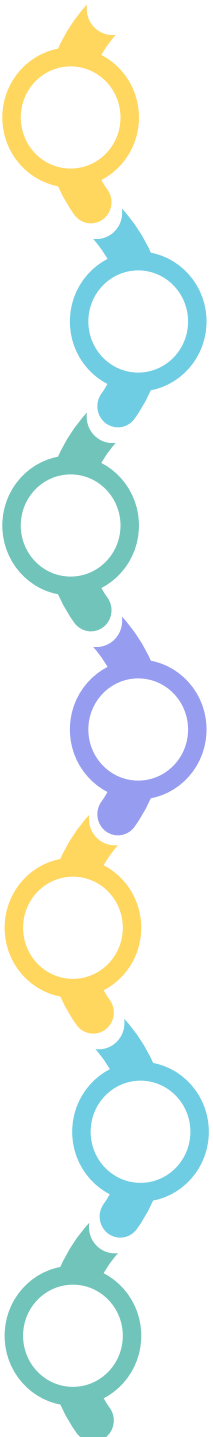


Conceptual housing rendering

5.0 Public and Stakeholder Engagement

5.1 Stakeholder Engagement

At the onset of the study and during the process of developing the preliminary conceptual plan options, local stakeholders were contacted to get early-on feedback on community and local neighbourhood needs. Groups contacted for interviews included area schools, local child care organizations, the Town of Hinton FCSS, community gardening, local home builders and BILD Edmonton which represents land developers across the Province. Through this stakeholder engagement, general findings included:

- 
- The provision of open play space for informal programming and spontaneous recreation remains essential, ensuring adequate areas for activities such as flying kites, playing catch, and accommodating larger groups of children engaging in informal games (e.g. soccer);
 - On-street parking is insufficient, as it is already heavily utilized for routine and overnight parking by adjacent residents. Should the Park's programming be enhanced, the design would need to either restrict overnight and regular parking by nearby residents or incorporate dedicated on-site parking to accommodate park users;
 - The ball diamond experiences limited use, and alternative facilities within the community are better suited to serve organized baseball or softball groups;
 - There is a strong community gardening presence within the area. Should additional garden plots be designated in Erith Park, it is likely that they would see significant uptake—particularly if medium-density (row housing) or high-density (apartment) development is approved for part of the Park. However, the existing community garden group in the Town is currently operating at full capacity and would be unable to provide oversight or support for a new community gardening initiative;
 - The playground represents a critical amenity for the site, as it serves as a gathering space for large, organized groups, including those from daycare programs and schools. Demand for this amenity would likely increase with the introduction of additional housing;
 - The outdoor rink is highly popular; however, its current exposure to sun and wind presents challenges for maintaining ice quality. Should investment in an outdoor rink proceed, consideration should be given to relocating it to a more suitable site where shade and wind protection can be achieved, while remaining within the Mountain View / Hillcrest region of Town;
 - The proposed housing typology (reverse 6plex - 8plex row housing with attached garages) is well suited to the community, as it achieves a balance between increasing density and avoiding the impacts associated with taller, high-density apartment forms, including substantial additional parking demand;
 - Development of a portion of the site would generate much-needed revenue to support required capital funding. Even limited development may generate sufficient proceeds to facilitate the redevelopment of a significant portion, if not the entirety of Erith Park;
 - There is a need for a housing typology that attracts young families with children, offers affordable downsizing options for existing residents, and aligns with the Town's objectives to deliver more attainable housing. The proposed typology is well suited to meet these goals by providing a product that appeals to new home buyers and those seeking attainable housing options;

- Any new playground development should prioritize imaginative play and cognitive development, rather than focusing solely on physical play elements; and
- Introducing additional residents adjacent to the Park would increase passive surveillance (“eyes on the street”), which may help deter vandalism and other undesirable activities, thereby enhancing overall safety and stewardship of the Park.

5.2 Public Open House

On October 29, 2025, a Public Open House was hosted both on site and at the Hinton Government Center. Approximately 70 individuals attended between both locations, with a mix of all age demographics within the community. Of that attendance counted, approximately 10 individuals attended both the outdoor and indoor sessions. A series of panels were on display with facilitators from both the consulting team and Town of Hinton available to answer questions. Feedback received during the session was collected using interactive stickers placed on the display panels, as well as notes taken by facilitators.

Some of the key findings through discussions at the open house included:

- Nearly all participants in the sessions identified themselves as residents living within walking distance of Erith Park. A substantial majority indicated that the Park is visible from their private properties. As such, the participant sample was skewed toward individuals in close proximity to the Park, with limited representation from residents outside the immediate surrounding community;
- Overall, there was strong enthusiasm for the proposed enhancement of the Park and selection of amenities that were chosen to be included;
- A strong gravitation toward Preliminary Concept One, of the two concept plans proposed;
- There was significant concern and opposition regarding the proposed integration of housing within the Park. The most commonly cited issues among adjacent residents related to the perceived imposition of housing and its potential impacts on sight lines and local parking conditions;
- Opinions were mixed regarding the proposed relocation of the outdoor rink to a more shaded and wind-protected location within the Mountain View / Hillcrest community, as well as the removal of the existing ball diamond; and
- Notable enthusiasm for the introduction of new neighbourhood amenities, including a playground, planting areas, and informal day-use spaces; however, this was accompanied by concern regarding parking and its potential impact on neighboring residents.



During the engagement sessions, participants were encouraged to complete an online survey to provide additional feedback. When asked about their awareness of the survey, nearly all attendees indicated that they had already completed it prior to attending the open house sessions.

5.3 Public Survey

A Public survey was conducted collecting feedback in both an online and paper format. The following questions were included in this survey:

1. Do you support using part of Erith Park for housing in the future?

2. What portion of the Park would you consider appropriate for a potential housing development?

3. In a few words, how would you describe the Neighbourhood around Erith Park?

4. Of the two options presented, which do you prefer?

5. Which features do you believe are best suited for Erith Park?

6. Are there any features that you feel would suit this site and are not included in either plan?
7. These designs include a playground area. What size and type of playground do you feel is best for this park?

8. These designs include a wheeled park (for skateboarding, BMX, scooters, etc) What size and type of wheeled park do you feel is best for this park?

9. Which age group do you belong to?

10. How long have you lived in Hinton?

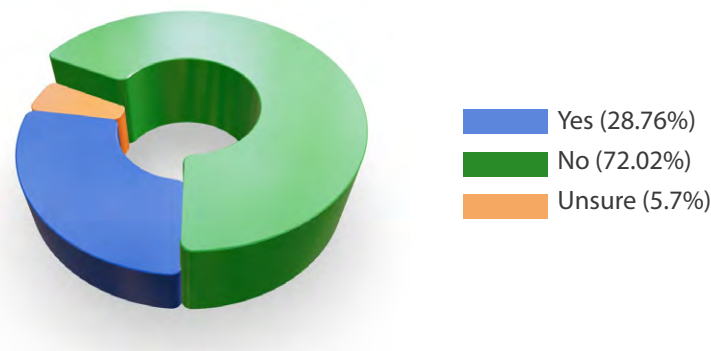
11. Based on the Town Districts map, which area do you live in?

12. Are you within walking distance of Erith?

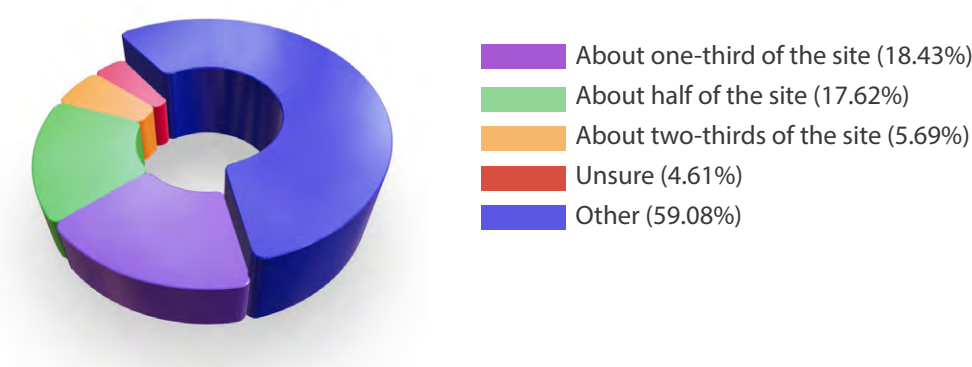
13. When you visit Erith, how do you usually get there?

5.3 Survey Results:

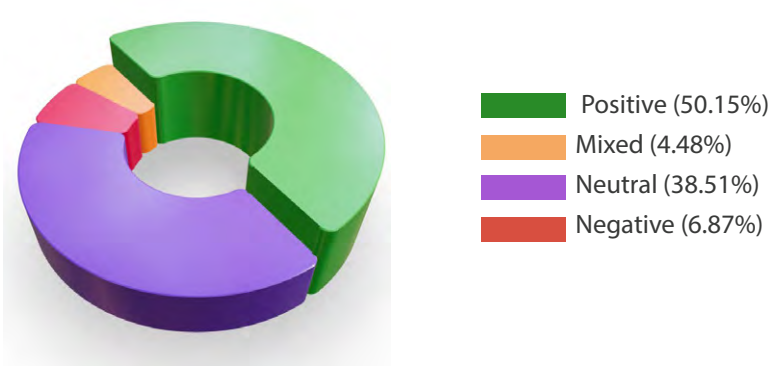
Do you support using part of Erith Park for housing in the future



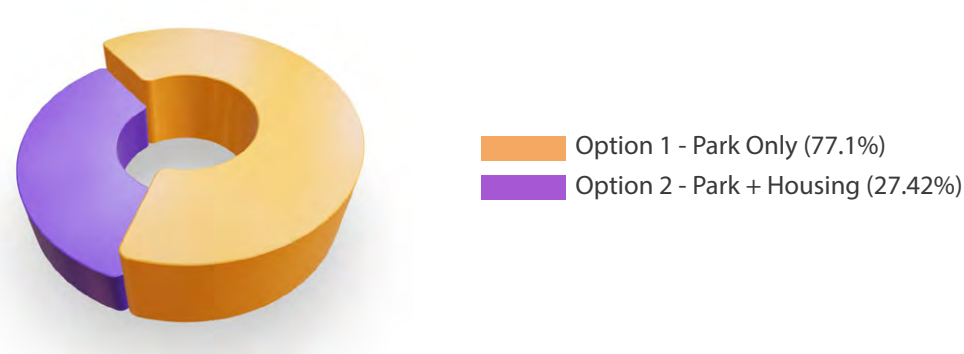
What portion of the Park would you consider appropriate for potential housing



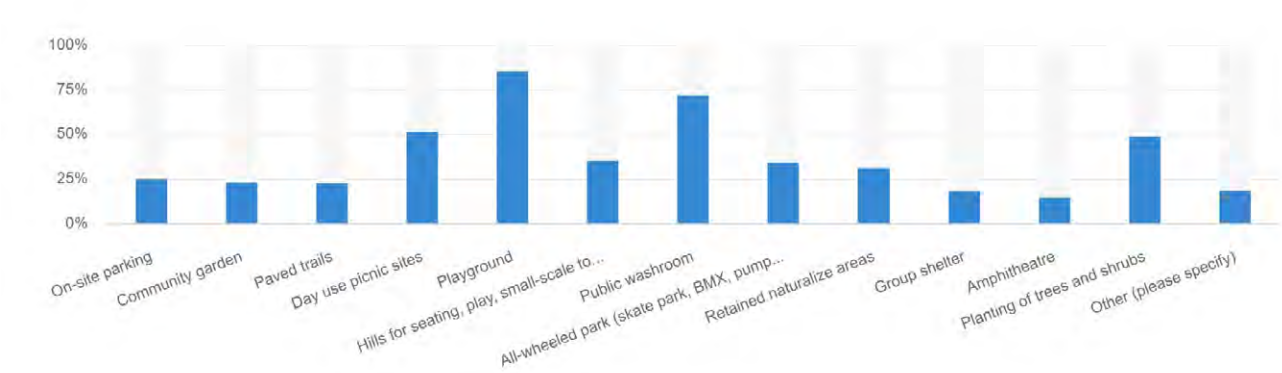
In a few words, how would you describe the neighbourhood around Erith Park?



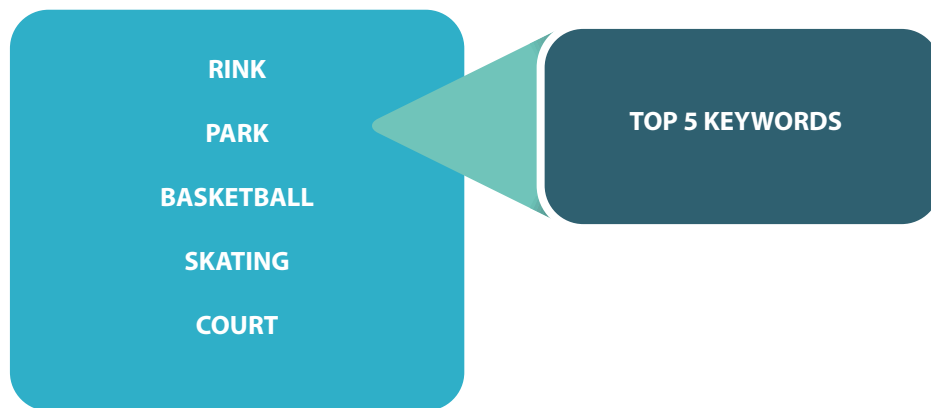
Of the two options presented which do you prefer?



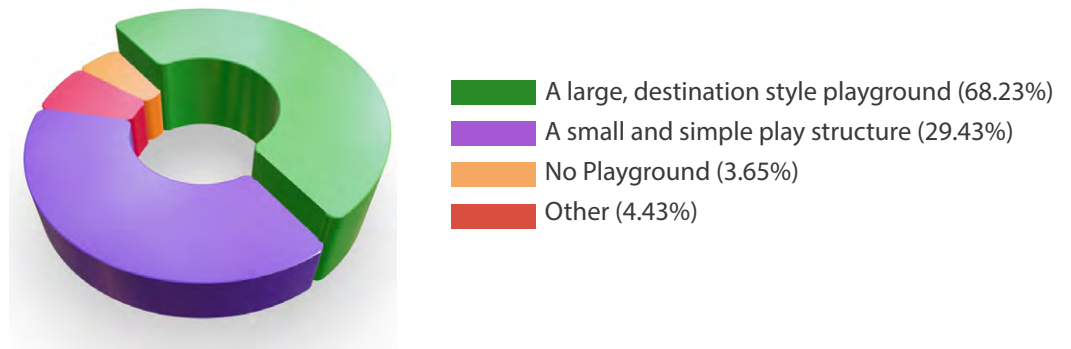
Which features do you believe are best suited for Erith Park



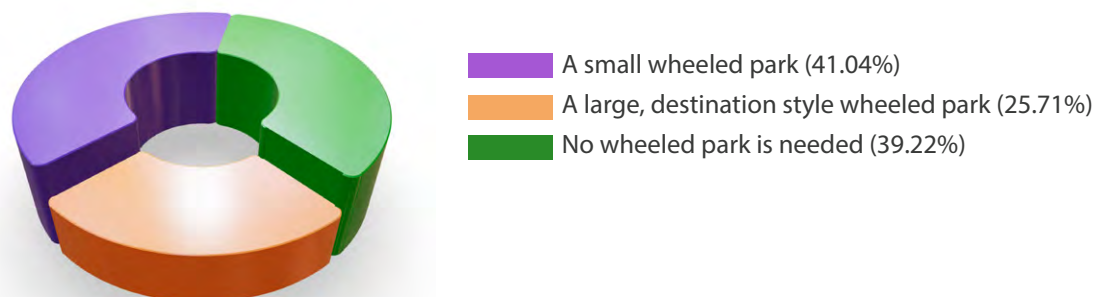
Are there any features that you feel would suit this site and are not included in the plans



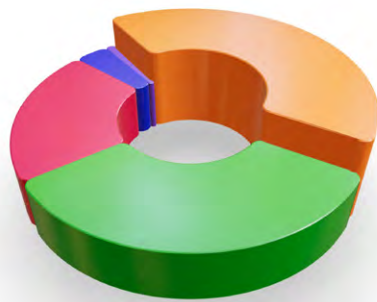
These design include a playground. What size and type of playground do you feel is best for this Park?



These designs include a wheeled park (for skateboards, BMX, scooters, etc) What size and type of wheeled park do you feel is best for this Park?



Which age group do you belong to?



- 17 or younger (0.26%)
- 18-34 (34.2%)
- 35-54 (45.17%)
- 55-74 (22.98%)
- 75+ (3.39%)

How long have you lived in Hinton?



- Less than 1 year (0.52%)
- 1-3 years (8.62%)
- 4-6 years (10.18%)
- 7-10 years (10.7%)
- 11-20 years (15.4%)
- 21+ years (60.84%)

Based on the Town Districts map, which area do you live in?



- West Riverside (1.05%)
- Terrace Heights (6.58%)
- Miette (0.26%)
- Mountain View (40.26%)
- Hillcrest (20.53%)
- Riverside (0.79%)
- Eaton (3.68%)
- Hardisty (20.79%)
- Thompson Lake (7.63%)
- Yellowhead County (2.11%)
- Others (2.63%)

Are you within walking distance to Erith Park?



- Within a 5 minute walk (40.47%)
- Between 5-15 minute walk (21.67%)
- Between 15-30 minute walk (13.58%)
- More than 30 minute walk (15.14%)
- Not within walking distance (15.4%)

When you visit Erith Park, how do you usually get there?



- Walking (55.12%)
- Biking (6.82%)
- Driving (41.73%)
- Public Transport (0.26%)
- Other (2.1%)

6.0 Conceptual Planning

6.1 What we Heard: Preliminary Concept One

Based on feedback received, a few key elements were refined in the finalization of Concept One

Lack of interest in expanding community garden into Erith Park without addition of integrated housing



Removal of community garden from revised concept

Lack of community interest in group shelter and amphitheater with more focus on open space day use sites



Removal of group shelter and amphitheater from revised concept

Concern of community impact with skate park / need to focus on younger age demographic and beginner features rather than replicating what currently exists within the Town



Creating a smaller footprint within the revised concept with understanding that an evaluation and design will be undertaken separate to this report identifying the community and user group needs

Desire to create expanded parking lot within park space with less reliance on adjacent street parking and relocate entrance from McLeod Avenue to side streets



Increased allocated parking stalls from 14 to 28, doubling capacity. Parking access has been moved from McLeod Avenue onto Maple Drive

Consideration of location of public amenities such as waste receptacles and bike racks



Inclusion of these items and their location within concept plan

Consideration of winter activities with relocation of outdoor rink to Lions Park



Identify opportunities for optional winter skating within sport court and open park space

Creating opportunity for artistic elements within the Park



Inclusion of artistic elements is now shown within entry plazas

revised concept one

6.2 Revised Conceptual Design: Option 1



Figure 7 - revised concept option 1

legend

1. PARKING LOT

Paved day use parking lot designed for park users, with capacity to accommodate 28 vehicles

2. OPEN SPACE BERMING

Gently contoured berming introduced to create varied terrain within the Park and provide visual screening from adjacent residences. The addition of soil will also support improved tree health and promote long-term growth

3. DAY USE PICNIC

Picnic table seating on concrete pads, with select locations equipped with cooking grills

4. BENCH SEATING

Accessible benches strategically located alongside trails and recreational amenities, offering views into the Park space and proximity to key amenities

5. PUBLIC AMENITY

Waste receptacles and bike racks installed within proximity to park amenities and gathering locations to support user convenience

6. ASPHALT TRAIL

2.0 meter wide multi-use surfacing connecting park features and amenities

7. CONCRETE PLAZA

Circular plaza providing welcoming entrance into park

8. ARTISTIC FEATURE

A visually engaging installation within a landscaped planting bed, contributing an artistic element to the park environment

9. PLAYGROUND

A large, premium playground equipped with accessible rubber surfacing in accordance with municipal standards. Play areas are proposed to be set below landscaped berms and adjacent elevated pathways to provide shelter from prevailing wind

10. ALL WHEEL PARK

A recreational area designed to accommodate a range of non-motorized wheeled activities, including skateboarding, BMX biking, scootering, and inline skating. The facility is intended to serve primarily younger users, with entry-level features that complement and differentiate it from existing town amenities (e.g. potential inclusion of a pump track)

11. ASPHALT SPORT COURT / WINTER SKATING

Half-court basketball facility with asphalt surfacing, enclosed by berming and evergreen planting to provide wind protection and separation from day use areas. The space may also be seasonally adapted for winter use through surface flooding of court and adjacent open space to support informal public skating, utilizing snowbanks in lieu of boards

12. WASHROOM BUILDING

Fully serviced, two-stall washroom facility constructed on a concrete pad

13. NATURAL AREA

Retention of existing vegetated areas, supplemented by succession planting and selective removal of declining vegetation as required. Additional single-track trails will be introduced to enhance connectivity within the Park



6.3 What we Heard: Preliminary Concept Two

Based on feedback received, a few key elements were adjusted to the finalization of Concept Two

Strong concerns regarding impact on existing street parking for adjacent residents



Repositioning of homes to north end of site and allowing allocated alley access and resident only parking / drop off

Concerns that the proposed reverse housing configuration may create a perception that the playground and other park amenities are overly private, potentially discouraging general public use



Reducing the number of units and repositioning them towards the north end of the Park to create separation from park space. Berming and landscape planting were also introduced between the Park amenities and residential units to further reinforce this separation

Desire to create expanded parking lot within park space with less reliance on adjacent street parking



Increased allocated parking stalls from 10 to 14, while also ensuring that each housing unit is provided with sufficient resident and guest parking in order to reduce potential strain on the Park

Create better proximity for community gardens for vehicle access



Community gardens have been relocated to the edge of the Park with both parking lot and roadway access points

Concern of community impact with skate park / need to focus on younger age demographic and beginner features rather than replicating what currently exists within the Town



Creating a smaller footprint within revised concept with understanding that a evaluation and design will be conducted separate to this report identifying the community and user group needs

Consideration of location of public amenities such as waste receptacles and bike racks



Inclusion of these items is now shown within revised concept plan

Consideration of winter activities with relocation of outdoor rink to Lions Park



Identify opportunities for optional winter skating within sport court and open park space

Creating opportunity for artistic elements within the Park space



Inclusion of artistic elements within sport court and alongside trail



revised concept two

6.4 Revised Conceptual Design: Option 2



Figure 8 - revised concept option 2

1. PARKING LOT

Paved day use parking lot designed for park users, with capacity to accommodate 14 vehicles

2. OPEN SPACE BERMING

Gently contoured berming introduced to create varied terrain within the Park and provide visual screening from adjacent residences. The addition of soil will also support improved tree health and promote long-term growth

3. DAY USE PICNIC

Picnic table seating on concrete pads, with select locations equipped with cooking grills

4. BENCH SEATING

Accessible benches strategically located alongside trails and recreational amenities, offering views into the Park space and proximity to key amenities

5. PUBLIC AMENITY

Waste receptacles and bike racks installed within proximity to park amenities and gathering locations to support user convenience

6. ASPHALT TRAIL

2.0 meter wide multi-use surfacing connecting park features and amenities

7. CONCRETE WALKWAY

2.0 meter wide concrete walkway providing access to the playground and adjacent housing, complemented by a standard 1.0 meter wide perimeter walkway to enhance overall pedestrian circulation

8. ARTISTIC FEATURE

A visually engaging installation within a landscaped planting bed, contributing an artistic element to the park environment

9. PLAYGROUND

A large, premium playground equipped with accessible rubber surfacing in accordance with municipal standards. Play areas are proposed to be set below landscaped berms and adjacent elevated pathways to provide shelter from prevailing wind

10. ALL WHEEL PARK

A recreational area designed to accommodate a range of non-motorized wheeled activities, including skateboarding, BMX biking, scootering, and inline skating. The facility is

legend

intended to serve primarily younger users, with entry-level features that complement and differentiate it from existing town amenities (e.g. potential inclusion of a pump track)

11. ASPHALT SPORT COURT / WINTER SKATING

Half-court basketball facility with asphalt surfacing, enclosed by berming and evergreen planting to provide wind protection and separation from day use areas. The space may also be seasonally adapted for winter use through surface flooding of court and adjacent open space to support informal public skating, utilizing snowbanks in lieu of boards

12. WASHROOM BUILDING

Fully serviced, two-stall washroom facility constructed on a concrete pad

13. NATURAL AREA

Retention of existing vegetated areas, supplemented by succession planting and selective removal of declining vegetation as required. Additional single-track trails will be introduced to enhance connectivity within the Park

14. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Public garden plots supported by a user group storage building and picnic table seating. The garden area to be enclosed with post-and-wire fencing with access points from both the plaza and the adjacent roadway

15. HOUSING

A 10-unit multiplex development in a reverse housing configuration, with connecting pedestrian pathways linking directly to the Park space. The development will include designated driveway parking, as well as up to two visitor parking spaces per unit, provided separately from public park parking. The orientation of the housing has been carefully planned to minimize visual impacts on existing residences and to align lane access with the current road network

6.5 Visualization

The following renderings provide visualization for the items included within the revised conceptual designs



sport court with mural wall



front of housing with community garden



day use picnic with park planting



playground and open park space



winter skating option



revised concept option 2, back of housing lane access with parking

7.0 Next Steps

The following are recommended next steps to consider as the redevelopment of Erith Park is completed:

- Work with Town staff to bring forward this report and any other necessary background information to senior administration for review and alignment with strategic goals of the Town;
- An evaluation regarding the potential inclusion of residential development within the site and whether Erith Park represents and appropriate location for such implementation. The discussion should highlight:

Growing community housing needs, opportunities to support cost-effective development that attracts young families, and the provision of affordable downsizing options within the community; and

The potential for revenue generation through the inclusion of housing to support overall project cost

- Bring the report to Town Council for their information, and input regarding the preferred option that Council feels is most appropriate for the broader community;
- Engage in partnerships with local organizations to support the planning, funding, and programming of select elements, such as the skate park, playground, community garden;
- Actively pursue grant and funding opportunities related to community park redevelopment. If partnering with third-party organizations, support their pursuit of funding that may not be available to municipalities;
- Once a preferred option is selected, develop a phasing strategy that aligns with the Town's ability to reasonably and sustainably fund, maintain and program the Park. The Town needs to make a commitment to new capital funding, operational funds to maintain an improved and enhanced Erith Park, and staff resources to promote programs and events to support the Park's vitality; and
- Once capital investment is confirmed, pursue a detailed design program for the first phase(s) of development, while continuing dialogue with the community through ongoing public and stakeholder outreach and engagement.





end of report