What We Heard Report

Iitopatopa Park Survey

...what we heard from the community

In March 2022, Town Council approved the concept plan for developing Iitopatopa Park, located at 370068 40 Street East, into a leisure recreation space, approving a budget of $1.5 million for this project which will be phased over the next two years, 2023-2024.

The proposed concept plan, which includes developing day use space and associated leisure recreation amenities for this area, was informed by the Town's 2017 Recreation, Parks and Leisure Master Plan (RPLMP), the Social Wellness Framework and by Council's Community Life Purpose Statement.

In alignment with the Town's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use assessment was completed and consultation with our Indigenous partners was undertaken. The concept plan incorporates feedback received from this process and Council endorsed an Indigenous site name of "Iitopatopa" Park (phonetic – e'toba'toba), meaning "A place where we return to often."

The Town's natural asset inventory also guided the concept planning and uses for the site, which focuses on balancing conservation and respect for the area's natural assets with complementary and respectful day use features and amenities.

Thank you to those who took the opportunity to complete the survey to identify what amenities are priority for installation over the phasing period. Community involvement is a priority for the Town of Okotoks and survey responses will help guide development of Iitopatopa Park leisure recreation space.



> *This project will help meet long-term community needs by providing increased opportunities for access to unprogrammed leisure recreation including day use/picnicking areas, play space, disc golf, river access, and winter use activities such as a skating path and snow shoe trails.*
>
> - Christa Michailuck, Parks Manager

okotoks.ca/iitopatopa-park

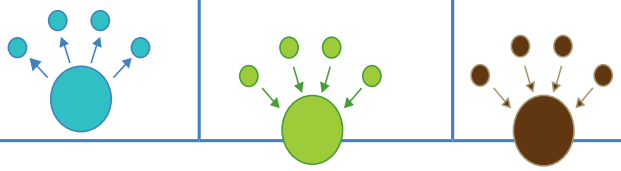
Iitopatopa Park Development

Public Participation

...What stage?

The Iitopatopa Park online survey was at CONSULT.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE
GOAL	To provide balanced and objective information in a timely manner.	To obtain feedback on analysis, issues, alternatives, and decisions.	To work with public to make sure concerns and aspirations are understood and considered.



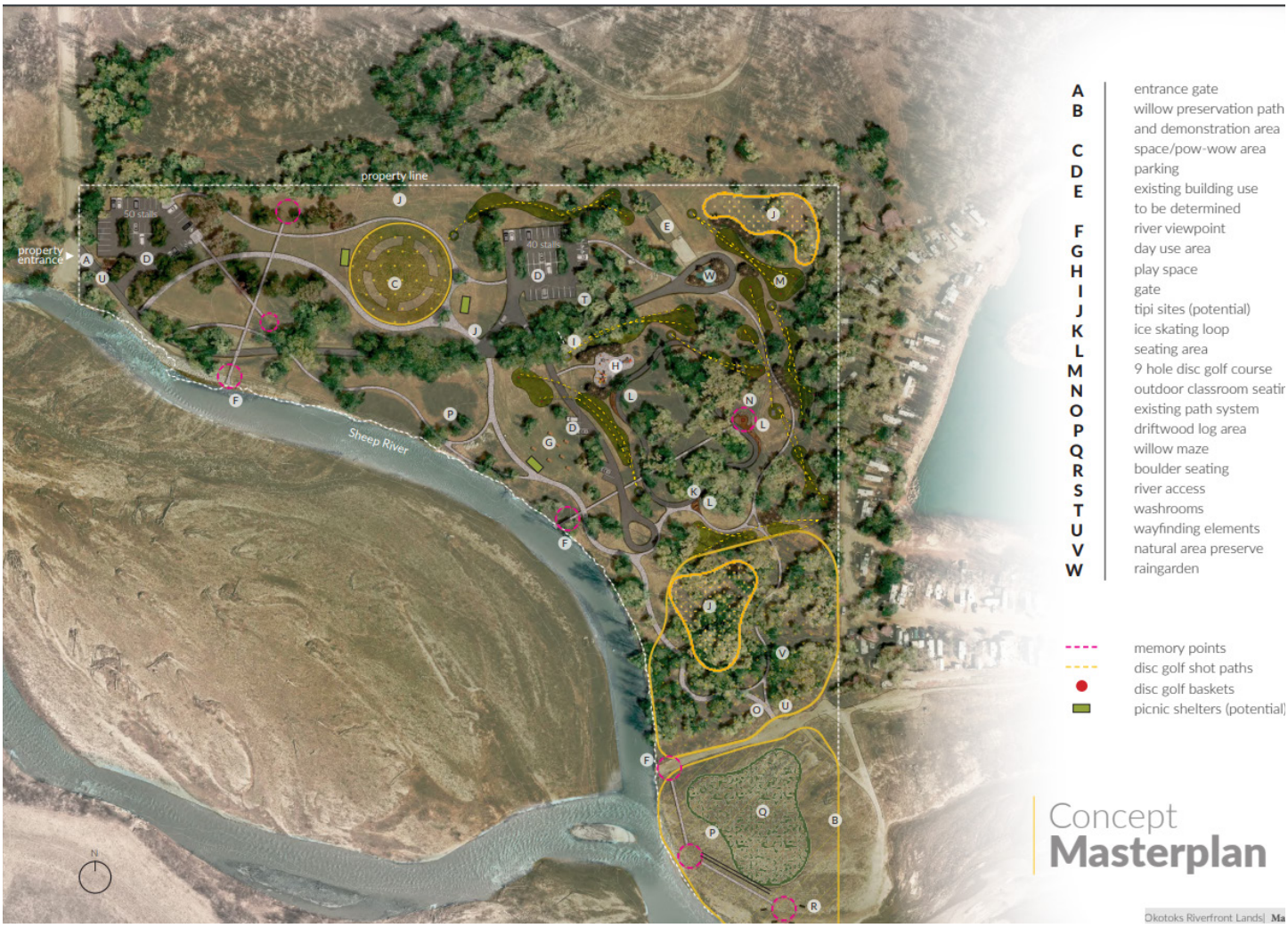
The Town has made a commitment through Council's public participation policy to ensure the community has an opportunity for input into decisions that will have an impact on residents and businesses.

700
Survey Responses

290
Comments



Iitopatopa Park Development



Concept Plan

See Above. The proposed concept plan, which includes developing day use space and associated leisure recreation amenities for this area, was informed by the Town's 2017 Recreation, Parks and Leisure Master Plan (RPLMP), the Social Wellness Framework and by Council's Community Life Purpose Statement.

Iitopatopa Park Development

Most Preferred AMENITIES:

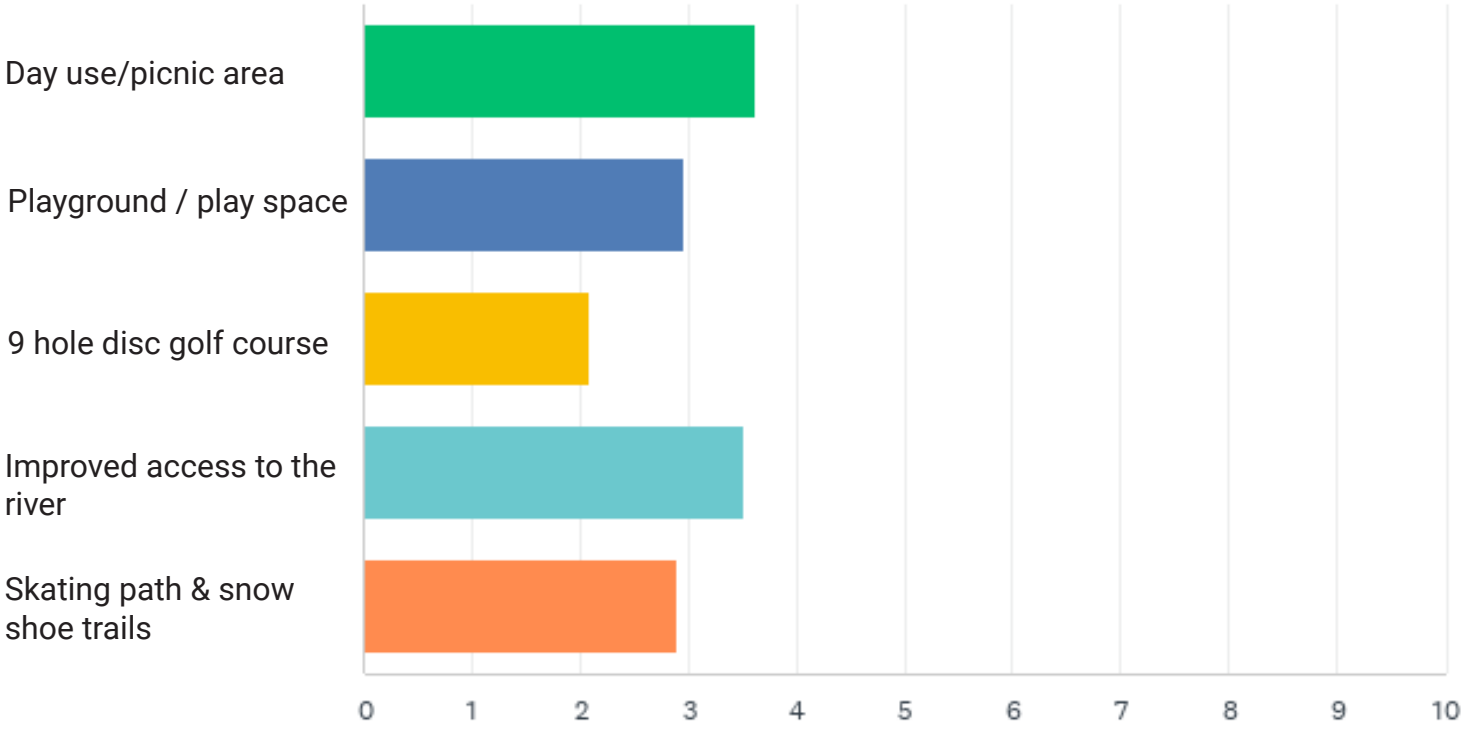
01 DAY USE / PICNIC AREA

02 IMPROVED ACCESS TO RIVER

03 PLAYGROUND / PLAY SPACE

Day use / picnic areas were identified by survey participants as the highest priority item for Iitopatopa Park development. **Work will begin in 2023** and remaining priority items to come at a later date once contracts and materials are secured.

Q1: Please order the items below in terms of what you want to see first:



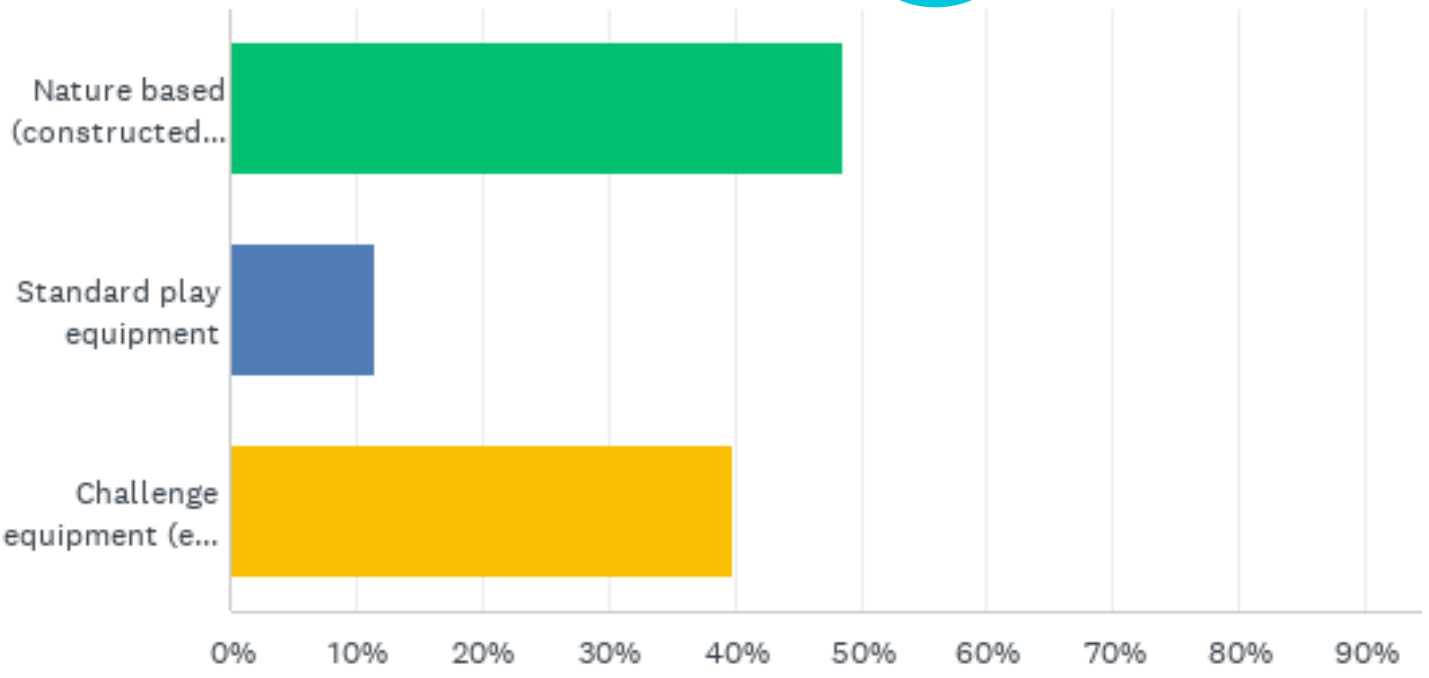
Iitopatopa Park Development

Playground Theme:

48.56% of survey respondents indicated that they would like to see a Nature-Based play space, constructed from natural material or made to look like natural materials.

Q2: For the playground, what would you like to see in terms of theme/style?

700 responses



Iitopatopa Park Development

Your Comments

Common THEMES:

290 Comments

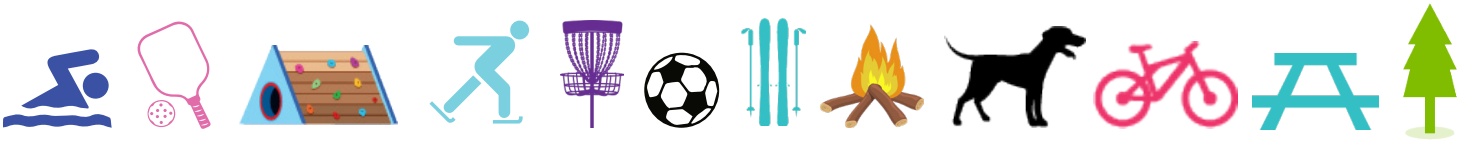
- OFF-LEASH DOG AREA WITH ACCESS TO THE RIVER
- PICNIC AREAS WITH FIREPITS
- CHALLENGE EQUIPMENT / PLAY SPACE FOR OLDER KIDS & TEENS
  (e.g. slackline, parkour, zip line, rock climbing, technical park for bikes, etc.)
- DISC GOLF COURSE

...more What We Heard

Based on your comments, we heard there is a desire for off-leash access to the river.

At the March 14 report to Council, off-leash activities were not recommended for this site in consideration to general land use sensitivities; to prevent erosion and contamination to the Sheep River; to minimize conflict with wildlife and park users; as well as for overall site hygiene. As the top priority was identified as day use/picnicking, off-leash opportunities may present a conflict between park users in the space.

The Town is committed to exploring new off-leash areas and will address this feedback in the updated Recreation, Park & Leisure Master Plan.



Iitopatopa Park Development

Next Steps

Project to be phased over next TWO YEARS:

1. General site preparations, such as road improvements, washroom facilities and parking.
2. Begin construction of three picnic shelters in 2023. Remaining amenities to follow.
3. Recruit disc golf enthusiasts interested in volunteering their time to help design a disc golf course. Those interested can contact okparks@okotoks.
4. Stay up-to-date on the project at okotoks.ca/iitopatopa-park.ca

