

## Project Background

The existing playground and sport court in the Park are dated and in need of repair. Community input to the current and future desired use of Boulton Drive Community Park will help guide how the park is planned and improved over the coming years.

## Engagement Process

In early 2021, the Area G Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee reviewed the Engagement Plan for the Park Planning Project at Boulton Drive Community Park. Key aspects of the plan included a mailout to 333 households within 500m of the park, an online questionnaire (open for comment from March 24 to April 22, 2021), and a notice posted in the Park to inform visitors of the project.

A website was created to serve as the landing page and primary point of contact with residents about the project: <https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/boulton-community-park>

## Questionnaire Summary:

### 1. About the Respondents

- 69 questionnaires were completed.
- 18 respondents have children under age 10.
- 10 respondents have children aged 10-19.
- 38 respondents were over the age of 65.
- 79% of respondents learned of the questionnaire directly from the RDN (letter in the mail/poster in park); 12% heard through word-of-mouth; 9% heard through the Sandpiper Facebook Group.
- 83% of respondents walk to the Park.
- 58% of respondents visit the Park at least once a month; 25% visit the park a few times a year; 17% never visit the park.

### 2. Current Park Use

The playground, walking/dog-walking, and free play in the grass are the most popular current uses.

### 3. Primary Concerns with the Park

In order of popularity:

- Lack of picnic tables/seating
- Playground is too small
- Playground age-range (2-5) not suitable
- No defined pathways
- Playground not used often

### 4. Vision for Park over next 20 years

In order of popularity:

- Walking/dog-walking
- Open grassy area for free play & a playground for age-range 5-12
- Picnicking & nature appreciation
- Playground for preschoolers (2-5)
- 1/2 basketball court

### 5. Park Improvements Budget

Costs for improved seating and new playground equipment are MOST supported by respondents.

Cost of removal & no playground or sport court in the park is LEAST supported by respondents.

Slightly more respondents were NOT in favour of the cost for defined walking trails or a multi-use sport court.

Slightly more respondents were IN favour of the cost for improving the existing basketball court.

Several respondents commented that they cannot support the park improvements until the water quality is addressed.

*Questionnaire data and comments follow.*

# Boulton Drive Community Park Planning

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## QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE SUMMARY

24 March 2021 - 22 April 2021

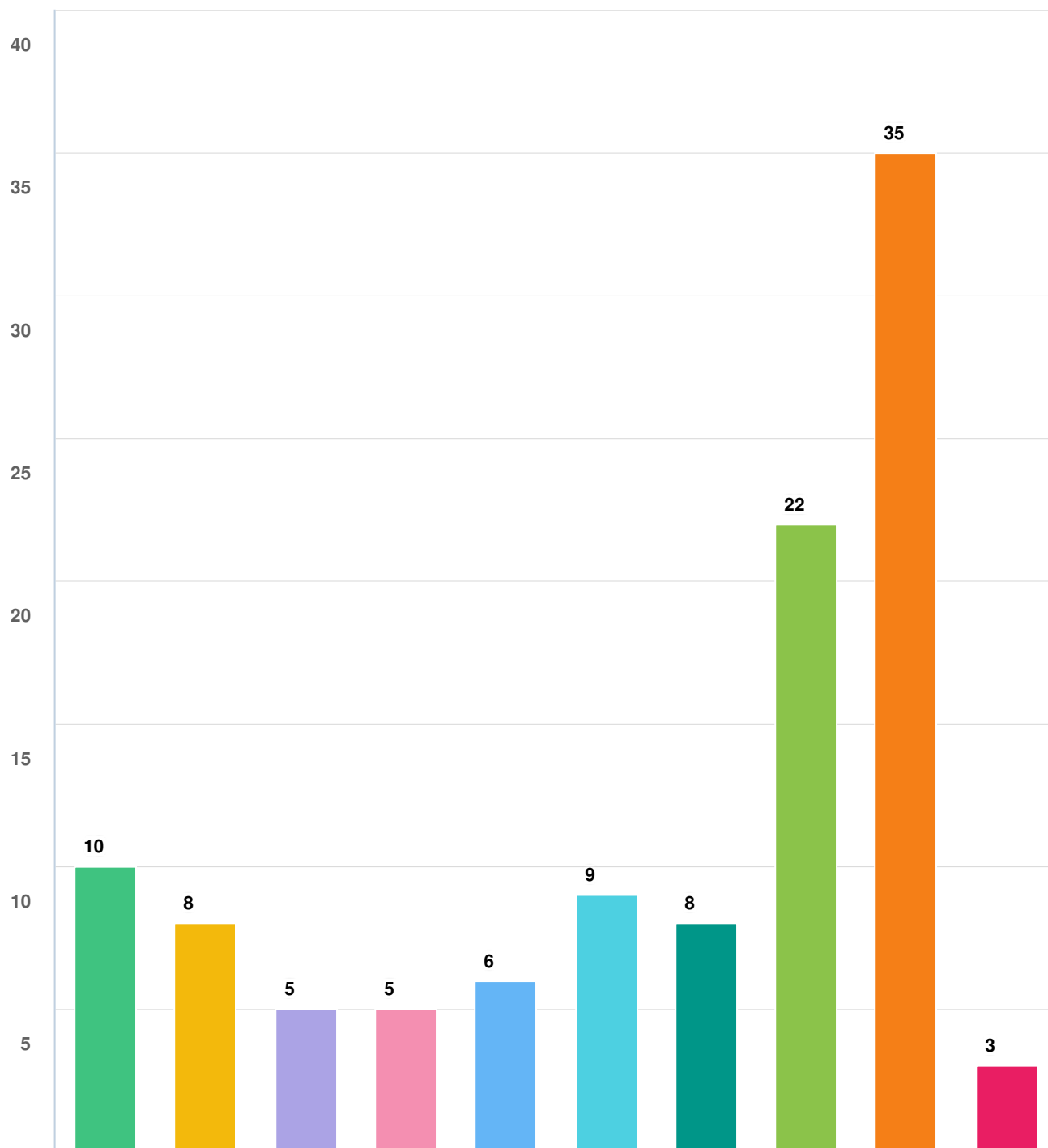
PROJECT NAME:

Boulton Drive Community Park Planning



# SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1** Please indicate the age range of residents in your household. Check all that apply:



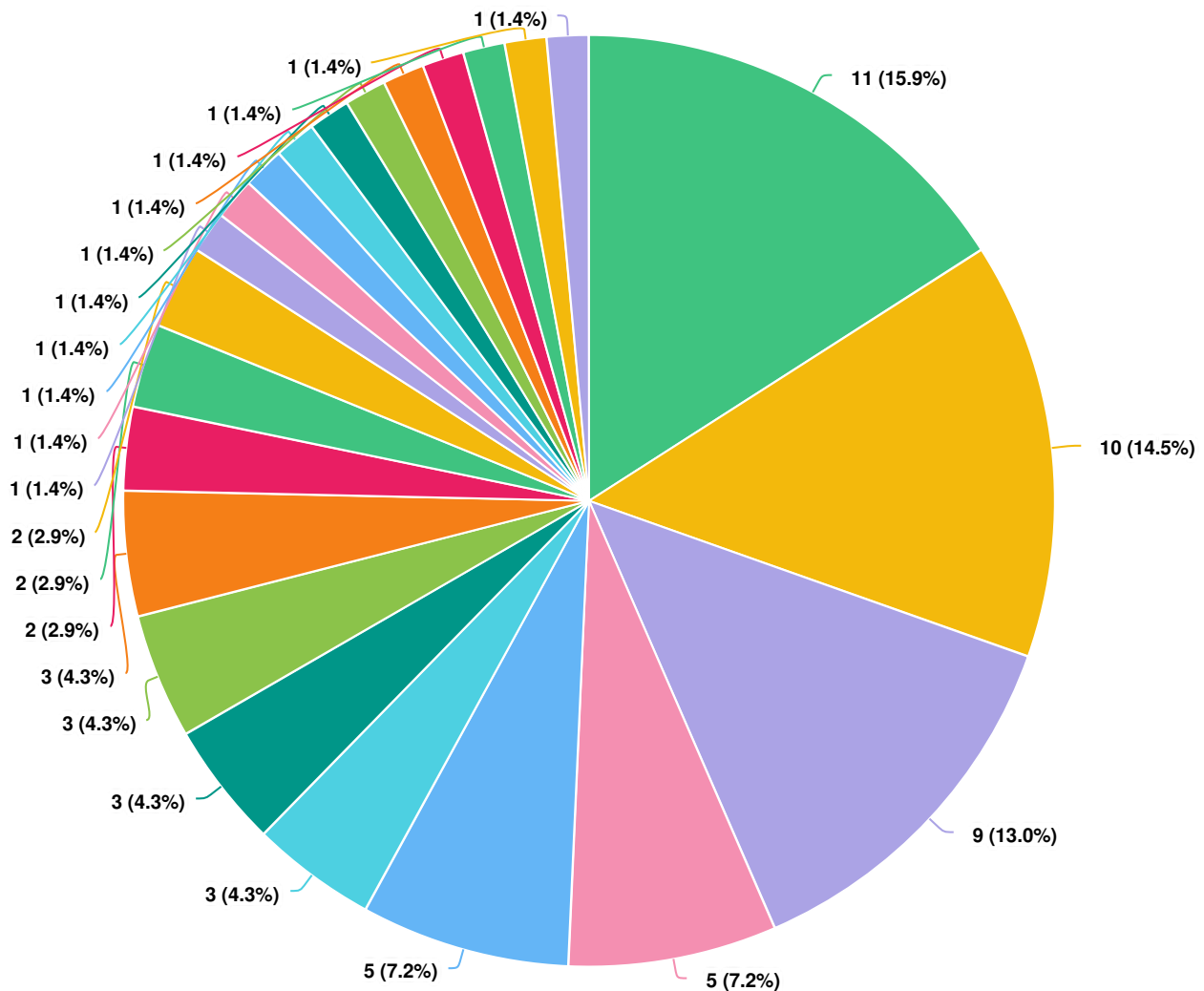
**Question options**

0 to 4 years 5 to 9 years 10 to 14 years 15 to 19 years 20 to 29 years 30 to 39 years  
40 to 49 years 50 to 64 years 65 to 84 years 85 years and over

Mandatory Question (69 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q2 Please provide your Postal Code:**



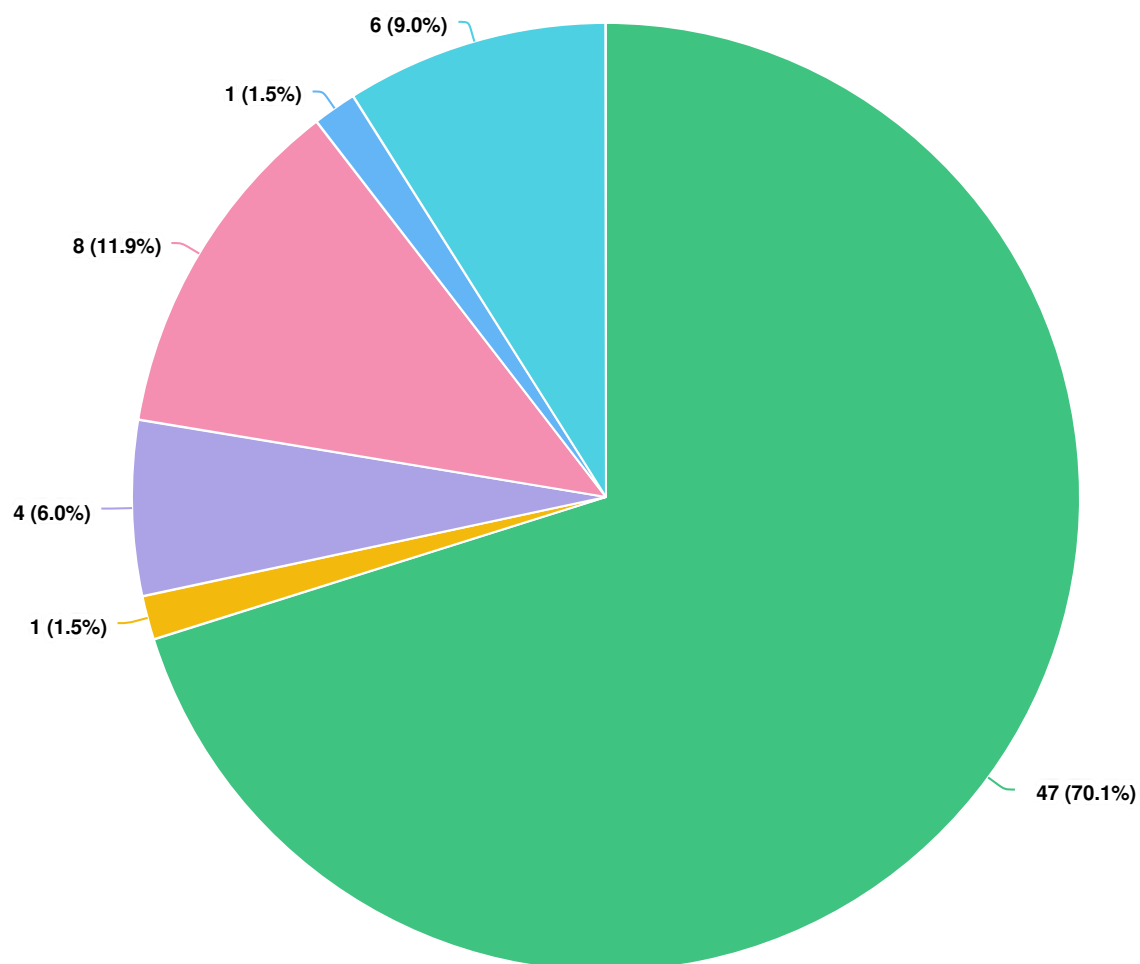
**Question options**

- Parksville, BC, V9P1W5
- Parksville, BC, V9P1W8
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X1
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X4
- Parksville, BC, V9P1W9
- Parksville, BC, V9P1W7
- Parksville, BC, V9P1W6
- Parksville, BC, V9P1W4
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X3
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X5
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2K9
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X2
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2S7
- Parksville, BC, V9P2A1
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2T2
- Nanose Bay, BC, V9P9L3
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X6
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X8
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K1E2
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2G1
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2P2
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K1M8
- Errington, BC, V0R1V0

Mandatory Question (69 response(s))

Question type: Region Question

**Q3** How did you learn about this questionnaire?



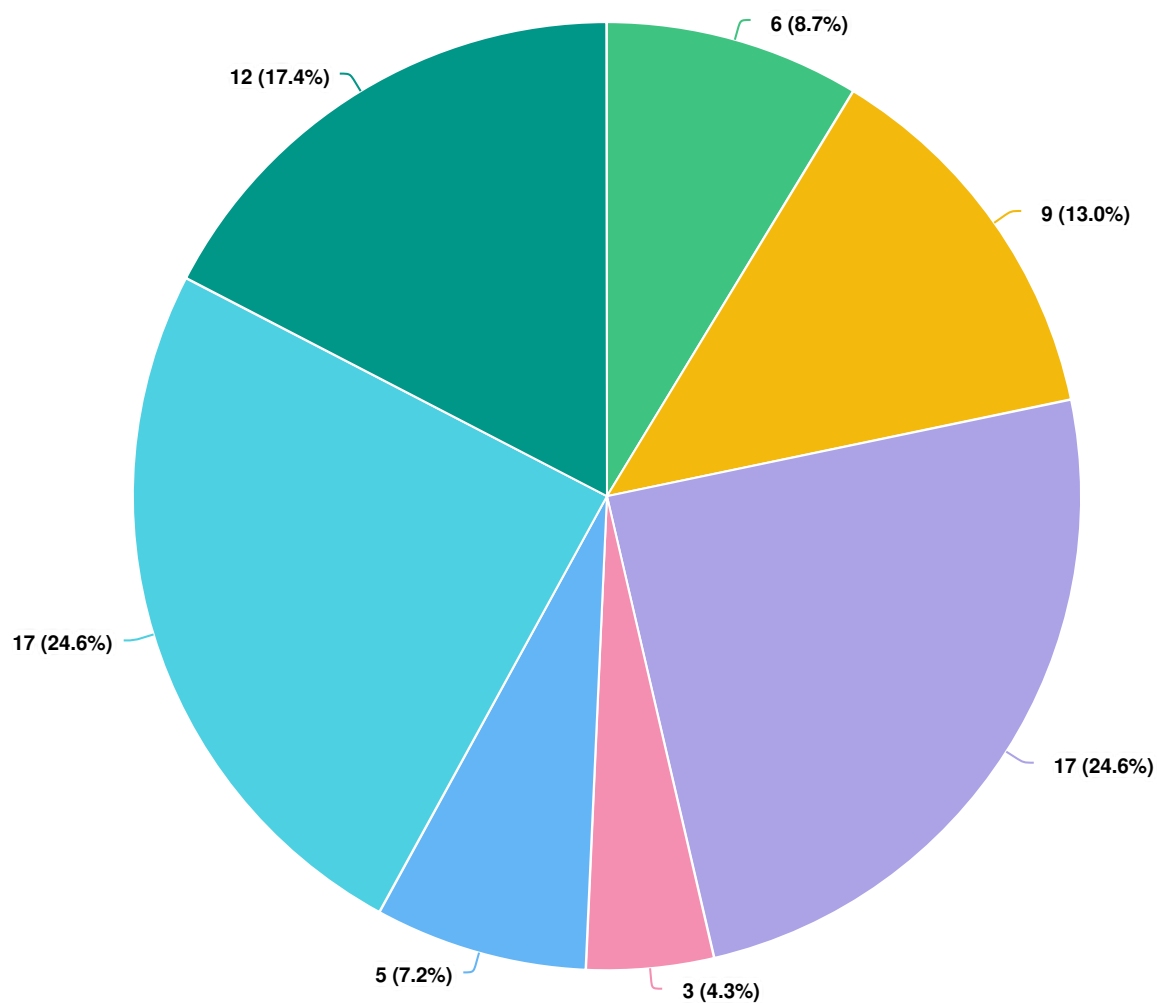
**Question options**

- From a letter in the mail
- From a RDN email notification
- From a poster in the park
- From my neighbour / friend (word-of-mouth)
- From the RDN website
- Other (please specify):

(5) Sandpiper/French Creek Group on Facebook  
(1) Talking to people in the park at the same time we were.

Optional question (67 response(s), 2 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q4** | On average, how often do you or members of your household visit Boulton Drive Community Park?

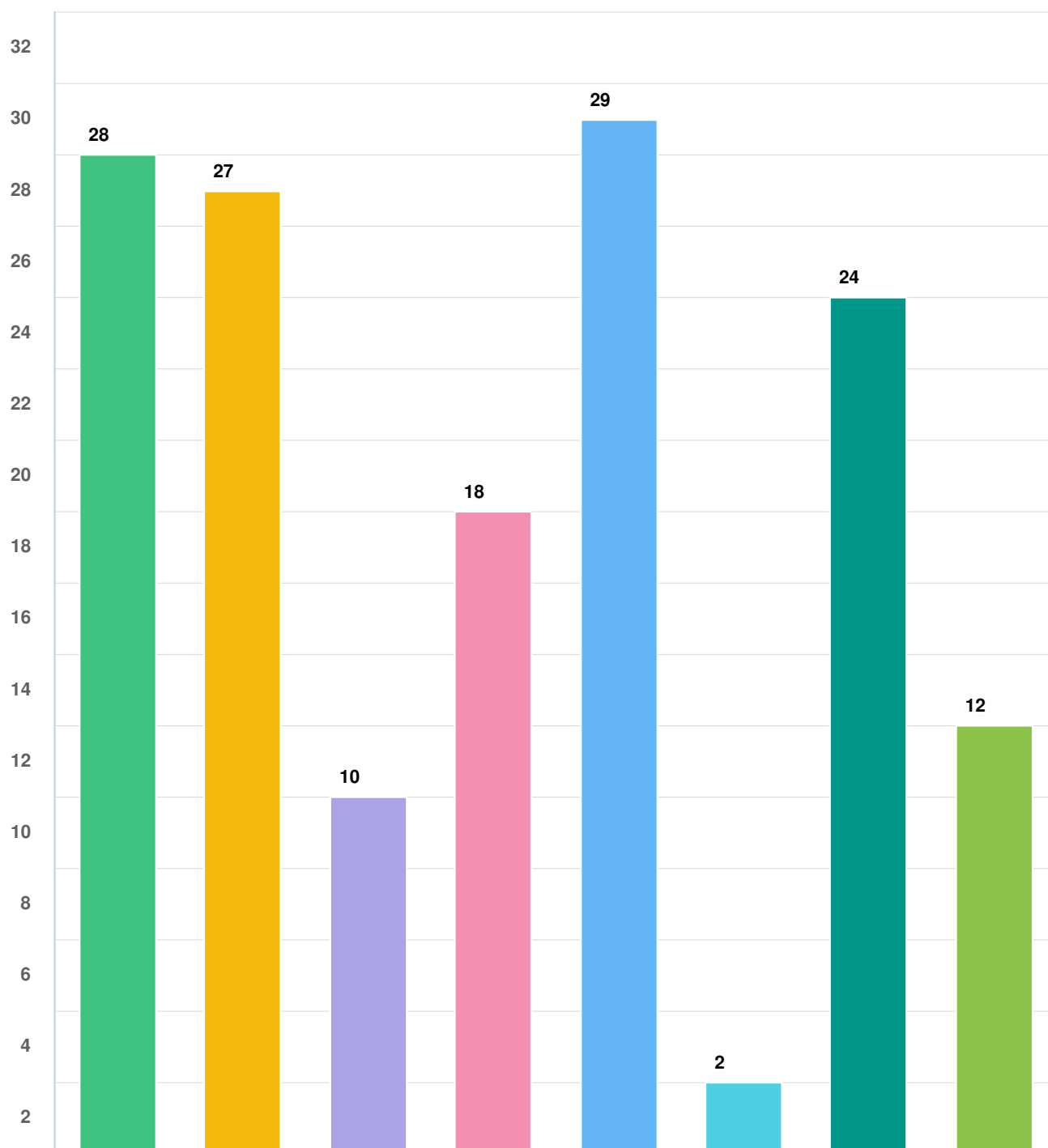


**Question options**

Every day   Once a week   A few times a week, but not every day   Once a month   A few times a month  
A few times a year   I / We have never visited this park

Optional question (69 response(s), 0 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q5 What activities do you currently enjoy at Boulton Drive Community Park? Check all that apply:**



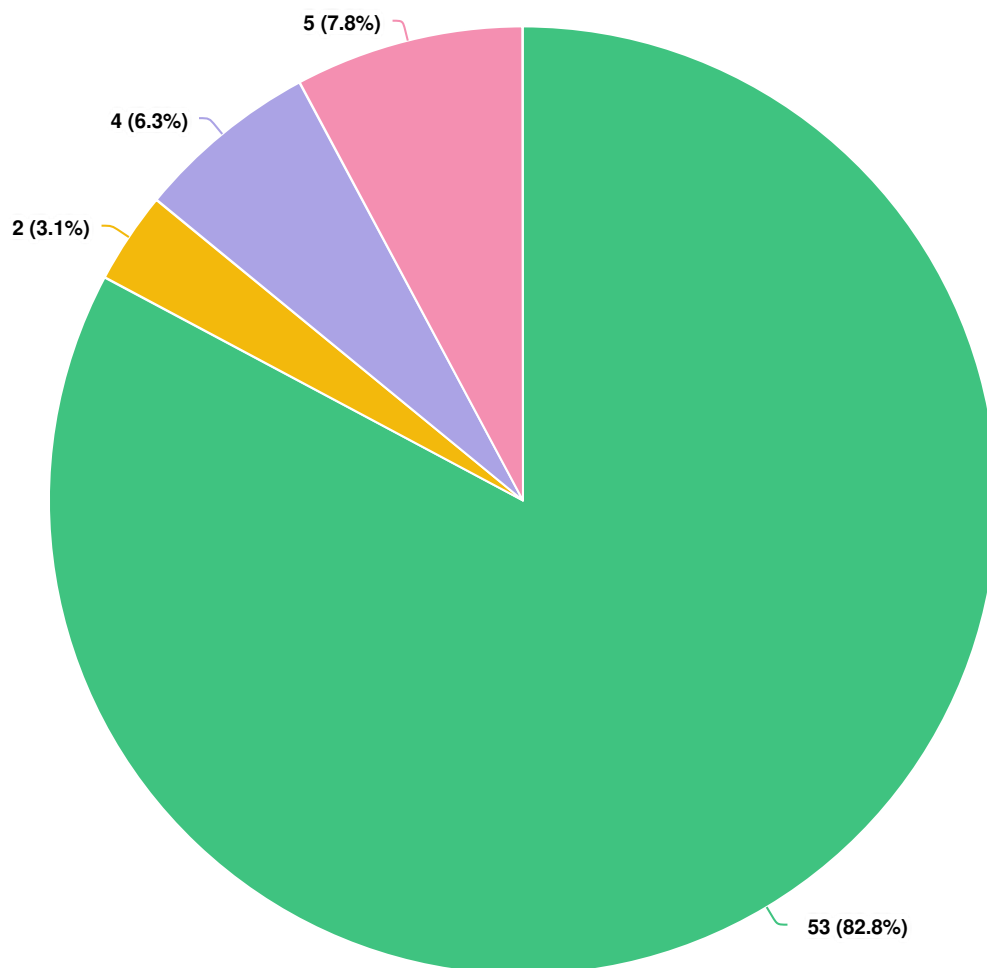
**Question options**

- Walking
- Dog-walking
- Picnicking
- Basketball hoop
- Playground
- Frisbee
- Open grassy area for free Play
- Other (please specify):
  - We have 3 grandchildren
  - Nature appreciation
  - Meet and greet the neighbors.
  - Rest and solace.
  - Throwing the ball for our dog to run and chase.
  - I used to have a dog so would walk the area.
  - Kids love playing in the dirt and digging. They also love all the trees, so much to explore.
  - I have lived in Sandpiper for 18 years and have walked through it possibly three times. In all of these years I have never ever seen anyone utilize this park and I walk by at least once a day.
  - 1. Enjoy trees and vegetation. 2. Pre 2012 helping clean up park in spring.

Optional question (62 response(s), 7 skipped) Question type: Checkbox Question



**Q6** How do you usually get to the park? Check one:



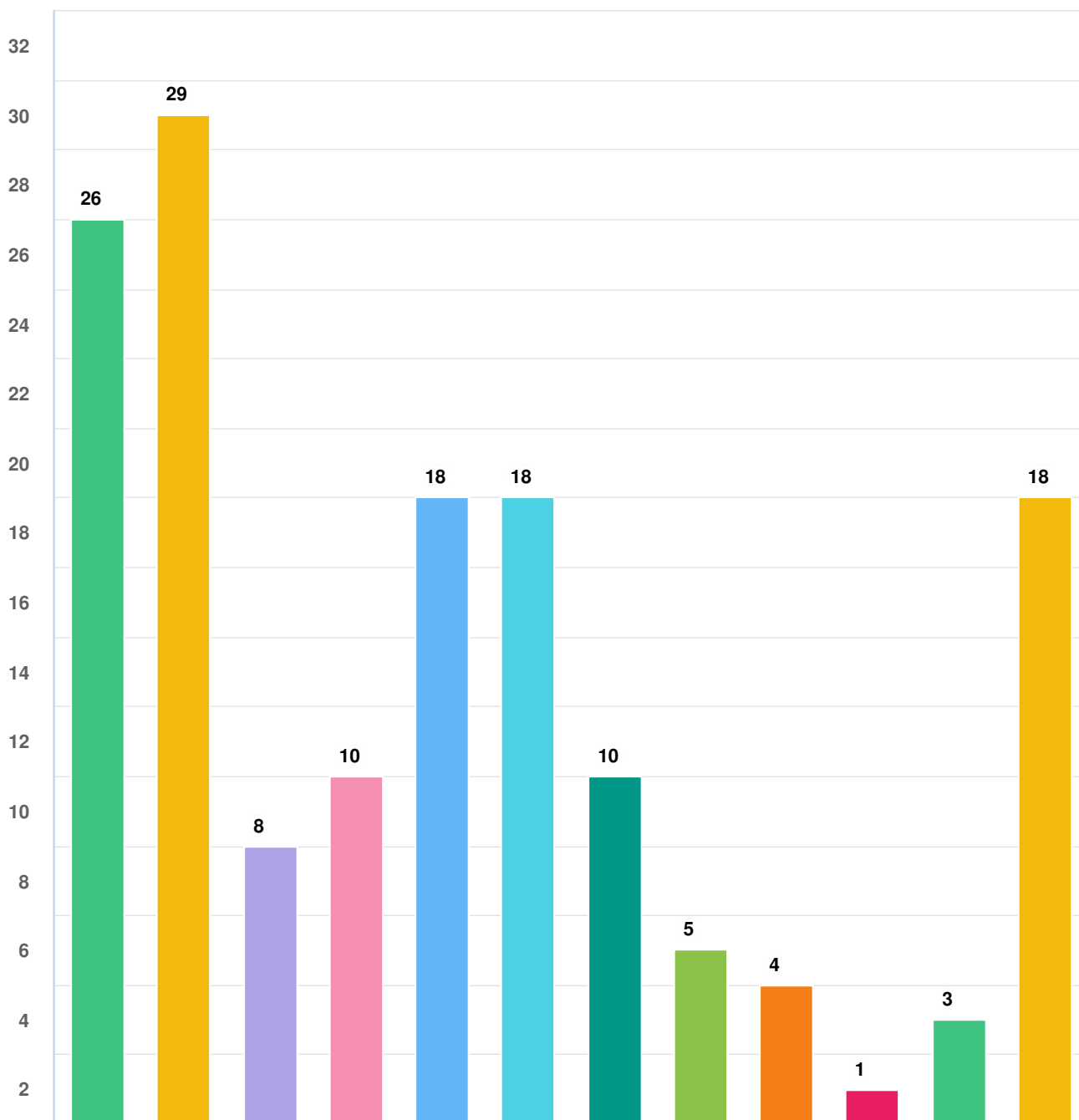
**Question options**

- ☒ On-foot / Walk ☐ By bicycle ☐ By car / Drive ☐ Other (please specify): (2) Backyard gate  
(1) I walk past it on both Boulton and Nicolls Drives

Optional question (64 response(s), 5 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q7 Do you have any concerns with the park? Check all that apply:**



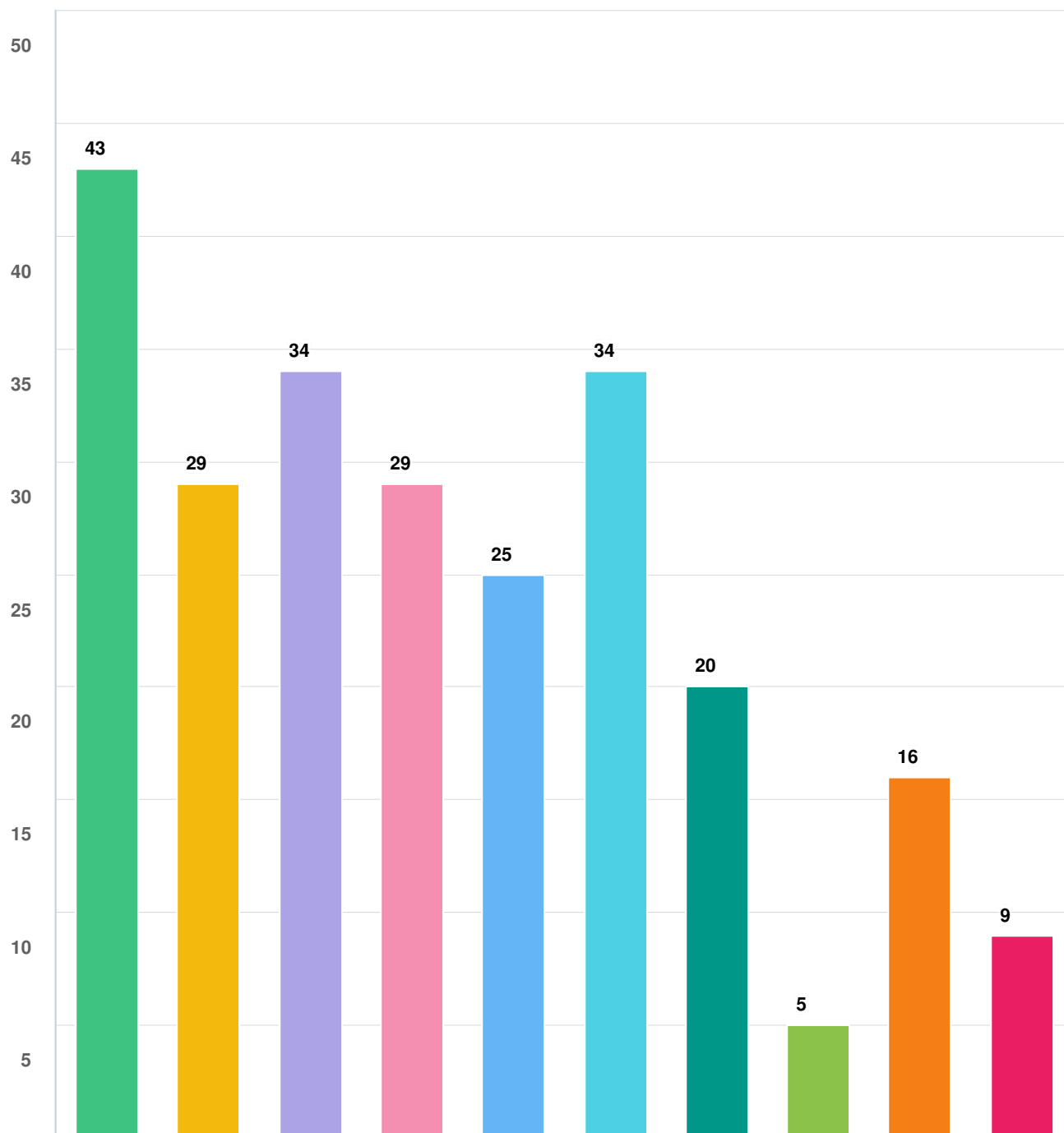
**Question options**

- Lack of seating
- Lack of picnic tables
- Lack of bike rack
- No defined pathways within the park
- Playground is too small
- Age-range of the playground (2-5 year-olds) is not suitable
- Playground is not used often
- Basketball court is too small
- Lack of painted lines on basketball court
- Basketball court is not used often
- Limited parking
- Other (please specify):
  - (2) No dog poop bags or garbage bin.
  - Only used for local residents.
  - Would not want this to be a dog walking park!!
  - Basketball hoop is mounted too high.
  - (3) Poor condition of park and lack of pathways into and out of park limit our use of it.
  - Playground equipment should be for 2 to 12 year old.
  - (2) Grassy area is not level, too many small depressions make it dangerous to toss a football or kick a soccer ball. Tree roots protruding through ground are a tripping hazard.
  - Lack of bathrooms
  - Lack of use!!
  - Not enough trees.
  - Older equipment, and small park.

Optional question (56 response(s), 13 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q8 How do you envision using this park in the next 20 years? Check all that apply:**

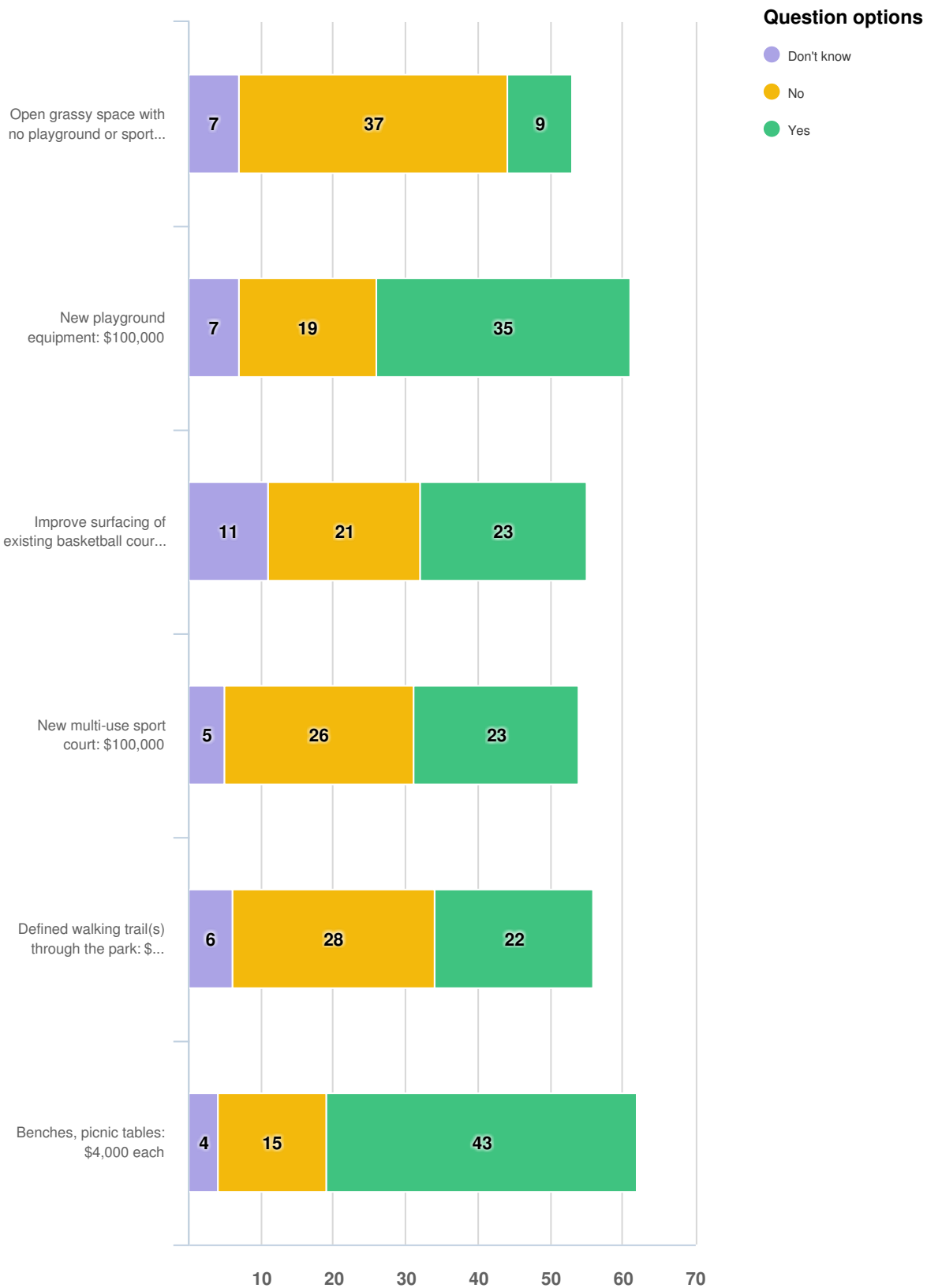


**Question options**

- Walking / dog-walking
 ● Picnicking
 ● Open grassy area for free play
 ● Nature appreciation
- Playground for pre-schoolers (2-5 years)
 ● Playground for children (5-12 years)
 ● Half-basketball court
- Pickleball court
 ● Multi-use court (pickleball / half-basketball)
 ● Other (please specify):
  - Picking blackberries.
  - Waterpark needed.
  - Safe clean area for children, teens. Access funding from Lottery Corporation and Bass Pro/Cabelas "outdoor fund"
  - I'd love to see a couple of fire pits and a larger playground with a tire swing (like the old days).
  - I think the water issues of the Sandpiper area are much more serious than the money that will be spent on this park that is barely used.
  - Wished it was nicer for a wider range of ages.
  - Would love to see the park free of dogs.
  - All of the above! resident since 1988 expect my grandchildren will be here using the park for their family some day.
  - Some outdoor gym equipment for adult and teen use would be fantastic.

Optional question (65 response(s), 4 skipped)  
Question type:  
Checkbox Question

**Q9** Given the general construction costs for the following items, would you support their development in Boulton Drive Community Park?



Optional question (68 response(s), 1 skipped)  
Question type: Likert Question

**Q10 | Do you have any other general comments about future improvements to Boulton Drive Community Park?**

The responses received have been categorized into the following main themes:

1. Upgrade the playground and park as a space for families and people of all ages, including seating, waste receptacles, and signage.
2. Integrate natives trees, gardens and remove the cottonwoods in the park.
3. Improving the water quality for the community should take precedence over the park.
4. Preference for keeping the park as is without pickleball or multi-use courts.
5. Funding and budget concerns and comments.
6. Requests for improved maintenance.
7. Other

**1. Upgrade the playground and park as a space for families and people of all ages, including seating, waste receptacles and signage.**

It is lovely, need benches. Maybe a rubber surface in playground.

A couple of benches close to playground area for parents and grandparents to rest and watch children playing. A soft surface on playground area (reconstituted rubber or similar) Picnic tables because meeting people outside especially now (pandemic) will be very useful. Thank you and I look forward to an improved park area that will be used by more people.

We just walk by the park on our walks. The park is good for families as a safe place to play and get exercise. Need to keep green space. Good for residents of the area.

I would really like to see seating in the park as indicated and an updated playground for all ages. A proper walkway in makes sense.

Please keep the playground space. Our kids need a place to play!

We only use the park when and if our grandchildren are visiting.

Great Park but lots of seniors would like to take a seat somewhere.

Please keep the park accessible to grand parents and children. Please keep it safe and clean---free from dogs. There is a dedicated dog park less than 2k away off Bennett Rd.

Better signage would be beneficial as it is easily missed.

It has been very nice to have a park within walking distance from our house to be able to take our kids to. It would be wonderful to keep it as a park that is kid friendly!

A dog poop bag dispenser would be nice to have, as well as a garbage can.

This is a great location for a playground please don't take it away! With the area around welcoming lots of young families I think this playground will continue to get lots of use for years to come.

Would be nice if there was a more defined parking area ...I never really know where to park and it's too far for my younger kids to walk (as I mentioned before -not enough playgrounds in our neighbourhood and no designated sidewalks for kids to walk on) therefore we drive. Wish RDN would do more for the young families in the area. Thanks for your consideration

It would be nice to see a small water park feature.

This little park is practically perfect especially with the addition of a more interesting playground for the children. The beauty of this park is the fact that people are "on the grass" playing, chatting, picnicking and playing various sports. It doesn't need 'walking paths' as the entire area is used. The basketball court, as it is, is active year round, weather permitting of course. A few benches around the playground might be practical.

No other community parks in the area with a playground. Would be nice to have a newer playground for the area.

Install wheel chair accessible paths from both streets (min 4feet wide).

This is such a nice quiet area, it should be upgraded.

The actual ground is in rough shape and a person probably has more of a chance of spraining an ankle walking through the park than hurting themselves on a piece of playground equipment. While not feasible to level the park some on the swales could be filled in to smooth over the ground contour.

It's a nice little park. Some picnic tables and a couple of fire pits would be nice (away from the trees of course). A bench along the multi use court would be great and badminton nets would be cool!

Please upgrade this beloved green space!

There was no place for seating when I accompanied my grand children who were using the swing and plastic slide.

I think the park needs to be designed for all ages. Playground for the younger kids and also designed for older kids to exercise and do sports. I ran a licensed family day care and used it daily. My boys still use the park daily.

If you add benches and picnic tables a more family friendly environment would be created. I hope that such an addition would include waste receptacles at each park entrance. Our grandchildren (5 and 8 years old) always ask to go to the park when they come over.

As older folks move away, we see more younger families moving in, and this would certainly be a benefit to them. We also have grandchildren , from 5 years to 15 years who love to go to the park when they are here.

Need 1 picnic table and 1 bench by playground, leave open space for frisbee. Upgrade playground.

My home backs onto the park so I have a good view of its use. The grassy area, though rough, is well-used in summer for pitch-and-catch and year-round for exercising dogs. The playground equipment, especially the swings, is well-used by young children. The basketball court is well-used by children 8-16. I have long thought a second hoop, creating a small court, could lead to fun games of two-on-two or three-on-three. Please god, do not put in pickleball courts. The bonging sound of the balls hitting the paddles would drive me crazy and probably force me to move. I know benches and picnic tables sound nice but they also create a night-time hangout for teens and invite area vandalism. Thank-you for the opportunity to have input. I look forward to your plans. No pickleball!

Perhaps better signage to encourage more use of the park.

## **2. Integrate natives trees, gardens and remove the cottonwoods in the park.**

We would be happy to pay for more trees and native vegetation in the park.

Having plants or garden beds would look lovely and the RDN could offer volunteer opportunities for Sandpiper community members to tend to the garden beds. It would be a great community engagement opportunity.

Setting up a garden: Flowers, flower shrubs, beautify the area as well as a child upgraded play area.

Remove cotton wood trees before roots destroy everything.

I would like to see this space become a garden/seating/pathway similar to the water-wise garden on Yambury. A natural space to sit and enjoy nature.

Would be a nice park to highlight some of the native floral & fauna to show case our natural forests. Some of the trees & shrubs are not very well maintained. Would be an idea to have some local volunteers come & do some spring/fall landscaping or create a 'wild garden' that requires very little water & year-round maintenance. Something with visual appeal. The space is not very well utilized with over-grown patches of brambles.

Getting rid of the cotton and all the trees and replacing them with some thing more Park friendly as these trees make a horrendous mess and makes use unavailable for two months during peak season of the cotton due to allergies.

## **3. Improving the water quality for the community should take precedence over the park.**

My initial response to this mail out is "are you serious?!?" I have lived in Sandpiper for 18 years and walk twice a day and I am not exaggerating when I say I almost never see a child anywhere in this area. I know of 3, yes a whole 3 houses in Sandpiper that have children. Two on Drew Road and one on Gilley. You never see a child riding a bike or out playing, only older people/retirees out walking alone or in groups or with their dogs. I commend your bravery for having the audacity to send this questionnaire out considering us tax payers have no proper drinking/bathing water, yet you expect us to re-vamp a park for hundreds of thousands that is never utilized. Besides, \$4000 for a bench?, \$4000 for a picnic table? This is beyond ridiculous and was sent out as a joke on April 1st right?

As a new resident to this area we are very alarmed at the water quality and would like to see the money planned to be spent on the park going to the water quality, there is no comparison as to the importance of the park in relation to the water.

There are so few options for families in this area. People come from other areas like Eaglecrest just to use this tiny playground as there are so few playgrounds in Oceanside. My kids would be heartbroken to lose this space as a place to play. That being said, Sandpiper needs to focus its efforts on fixing the awful water.



I cannot support any improvements to the park when our drinking water is below canadian health standard. Priority should be drinkable water.

The Sandpiper Water Upgrade is a much higher priority than the Park.

The Sandpiper Water situation is far more important than this park. RDN a should be spending money to give the residents of Sandpiper safe drinking water!!!!

#### **4. Preference for keeping the park as is without pickleball or mulit-use courts.**

It's just used as a walk space, too small for improvements.

Given the small size of park and surrounding residential area it would be nice to support 'quiet' activities like nature appreciation (vs. noisy sports).

No Pickleball (that is meant for Community Park and I feel it would draw people from other communities).

NO pickleball as it will only attract outsiders. We already have a problem with basketball players in the park at 12:30-1:00AM disturbing people!

## 5. Funding and budget concerns and comments.

I have lived here 15 years, my kids used to play on the swings and sometimes play basketball but mostly its a place to run loose and let your dog run loose. There is a huge play ground at Arrowview. I think the money would be better used to clean up the entrance to Sandpiper and put a proper sidewalk from the crossing up drew road. Also many potholes in the roads. The park is fine as is, just needs a garbage bin and dog poop bags!

Although I would welcome a new playground, so that kids can play safely, the overall costs are beyond what the true cost of this project would be. Yes the pandemic has made everything more expensive, but one should negotiate regardless where the money comes from!

With a school playground/ courts within 5 blocks no need to spend money for the very few children in the area. Very few adults frequent the park except to pass through dog walking.

Yeah, prices are a little excessive, I don't think it would be worth those costs with the amount of people / kids that actually use the park, I would like to see it as it is but with upgraded play area, my daughter lived in sechelt , the school did a fundraiser and the whole huge playground cost \$25,000  
And I would like to see our water system upgraded before the park was upgraded, and the remaining cottonwood trees taken out that are doing a lot of property damage ,we've been told this is the year for the tree removal because of budget, so can't see where all the money will be coming from to do the park upgrades. Also it's quite nice to be not so well known, we are very afraid that undesirable people will perhaps not want to leave !

## 6. Requests for improved maintenance.

The contractor who cuts the grass works around obstacles like fallen branches so a general clean up is required.

It is a nice park. It just needs better maintenance on a consistent basis.

Better maintenance.

## 7. Other

Tennis court would be awesome.

I walk by this park every morning and evening but never see anyone using the park.

It works well as it is, people seem to enjoy the opportunity to visit a park in the area.

I grew up going to this park and now my son is enjoying the park as I did.

Parking panhandle poor concept - park should be aimed at those who can walk. Seek highest level advice on low maintenance, drought tolerant slow-grow trees and shrubs. Decide on vegetation and start planting before more vegetation is removed. Start a pruning program for all trees. Think of promoting the park as to enhance property values. Consider natural playground like as proposed for Elk Lake playground makeover.

Regarding Boulton park, we my family and i have resided nearby on Lanyon Drive since 1996, long term residents here, and have raised three children that are now teen/young adults. We used this park often in those days and two of ours still visit the park occasionally , as do I from time to time to walk thru it.

I have to ask if you have requested funding from the Lottery corporations? During these pandemic times, there must be some access to these funds in lieu of normal donations to various groups. Also the Cabela's/Bass Pro company has an outdoor fund that you may be able to access, especially if some wildlife/bird landscaping renewal is envisioned to replace the large trees at either entrance that were taken down this year and a couple years ago.

I do not think the playground equipment replacement needs be overly luxurious. My experience and observations indicate that many people come here to allow very young children a clean and safe environment to toddle and crawl and picnic. That is what is most important. There are very precious few such places in this region for young children/teens to find time out and solace. Within the RDN and just outside it in parkville I do not see evidence of park spaces being created anymore [ linear style walking spaces are not really parks] and see instead encroachment upon traditional children spaces , i.e. schools.

To that end, this park needs to keep its children only status as such and Not allow dog walks nor defecation/urination in the space. there are other areas for dog owners to visit... as we recently have seen in local papers dog owners have been taking unwarranted liberties in off-areas such as cemeteries and waterfrontages. Please keep Boulton Park free from pets.

Also please relocate the basket ball hoop on the reverse side so that sunlight does not get into the player's eyes. The east side should have a hedging, there was a start to a similar spreading of evergreens there a few years ago but that mysteriously vanished.

Just keep it small , simple , not complicated. Keep it safe and very clean. Do not introduce doggy bag stations and garbage bins... this only encourages a subset of visitors that are not always keen on children and picnicking and other's personal spaces.

In response to your sign in Boulton Community Park, I wish to submit my opinions and requests. Firstly it is an Asset to the Subdivision! Sandpiper is not a Retirement community, but has people of all ages.

2. I appreciate the lawn is kept cut. On our dog walks we walk through there once a day, so know the park well.
3. The entrances are well marked.
4. The playground and basketball court are a great asset. I see parents with children in the playground area frequently in nice weather. And I see young folk playing on the basketball court frequently as well , especially after the basketball hoop was replaced. It certainly doesn't need to be resurfaced! Lines painting, and power washing, possibly.
5. It needs a light at each end of the Park.
6. It needs a garbage pail anchored by the playground and emptied each week.
7. The Park definitely needs a minimum of 2 anchored park benches. A few years ago someone contributed 2 homemade benches which were used and also abused. I repaired them each once, but it wasn't to be.
8. Also a minimum of 2 anchored picnic tables would be a huge asset!
9. It does not need to be landscaped with pathways!

I could not get in to your website for the questionnaire so I very much appreciate getting this in the mail.

**Optional question** (48 response(s), 21 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question