

Greengrove Park – Pilot Disc Golf Course Engagement Results

October 20, 2022



Introduction and Methodology

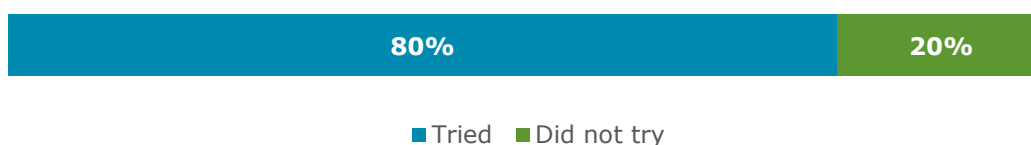
Strathcona County recently piloted a new disc golf course site at Greengrove Park (near Glen Allan Recreation Complex). To gather feedback from Strathcona County residents, we solicited feedback on the pilot from County residents who used the disc golf course and those who used the park during the pilot period. The survey ran from October 3-17, 2022.

We are aware that this topic garnered significant interest from both disc golf enthusiasts and detractors, and from non-County residents. A core tenet of the County's public engagement policy is that the public and stakeholders have the right to be informed, consulted and engaged in decisions that affect them. As this pilot addressed a potential change in use for a County park primarily used by County residents, we wanted to ensure feedback from County residents was considered fully. To this end, we limited participation solely to County residents and disqualified responses from respondents outside of Strathcona County. A number of duplicate, ineligible and fraudulent responses from respondents both inside and outside the County were also disqualified. These actions have been deemed appropriate to maintaining the validity of the data collected. We received feedback from 80 eligible respondents.

This survey was made available via a publicly accessible online link. The survey was communicated to the public in a variety of ways: a newspaper ad in the Sherwood Park News, coroplast signs in Greengrove Park, posters and tv screens in County facilities, and posts on County social media channels. Letters were also sent to 69 households that back onto Greengrove Park. Given the non-random methods used to implement and recruit respondents for the survey, readers should be careful when applying the results to the broader population of Strathcona County. Further the low count of respondents should also be considered a limiting factor of this study. As with other Strathcona County public engagement processes, the results of this study will be used to inform decision-makers of community input. Feedback gathered through the survey will be used alongside usage data and existing policies and frameworks to evaluate the pilot 5-hole course.

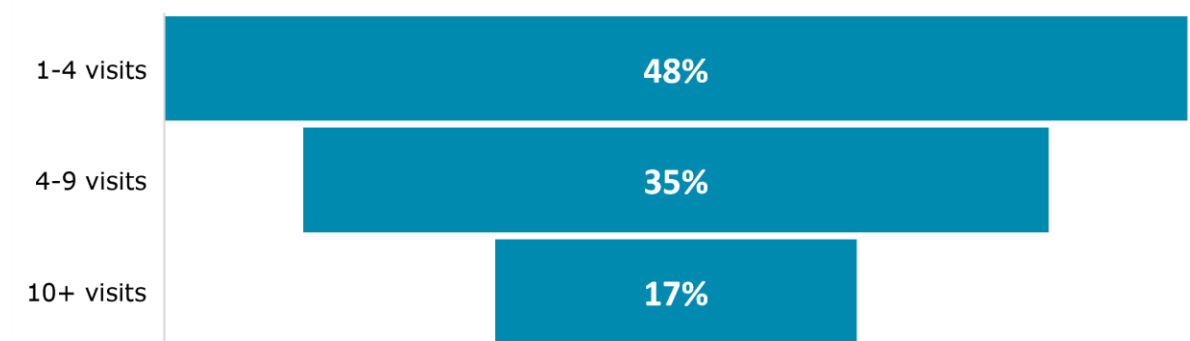
What we heard

To best categorize feedback, we first asked respondents whether they had tried disc golf at Greengrove Park this summer. Four out of five respondents tried the pilot disc golf course this summer.



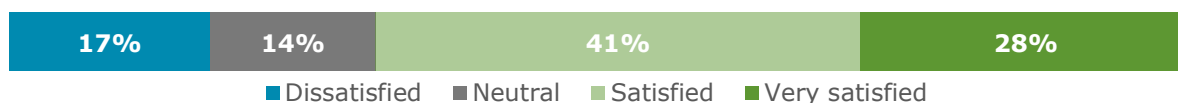
Those who tried disc golf n=58

We asked those who tried the pilot course how frequently they visited Greengrove park to play disc golf between May and September 2022.



Just under half of respondents who had tried disc golf in Greengrove park last summer had tried it just a handful of times. However, the other half were very enthusiastic users of the disc golf course, trying it multiple times.

We next asked these respondents what their experience was with disc golf at Greengrove Park.



The majority of respondents were satisfied with the disc golf experience at Greengrove Park. Only 17% indicated being dissatisfied. Please note that while very

dissatisfied was an option, it was not selected by any respondents. To fully understand respondent perspectives, we asked respondents to explain their choice in their own words.

Those who were satisfied, were pleased to have an opportunity to play disc golf in the community. These respondents noted that they were happy to not have to drive to Edmonton or outside of Sherwood Park to play. We also heard that this was a family friendly activity that encourages active lifestyles.

Neutral or dissatisfied responses were largely related to the lack of holes and the layout of the course. We heard from many respondents that there needs to be at least nine holes to make it a satisfying experience or at least one comparable to other disc golf courses available. We also heard some concerns about the layout, with some stating that the layout of the holes is poor and that baskets are too close to trees.

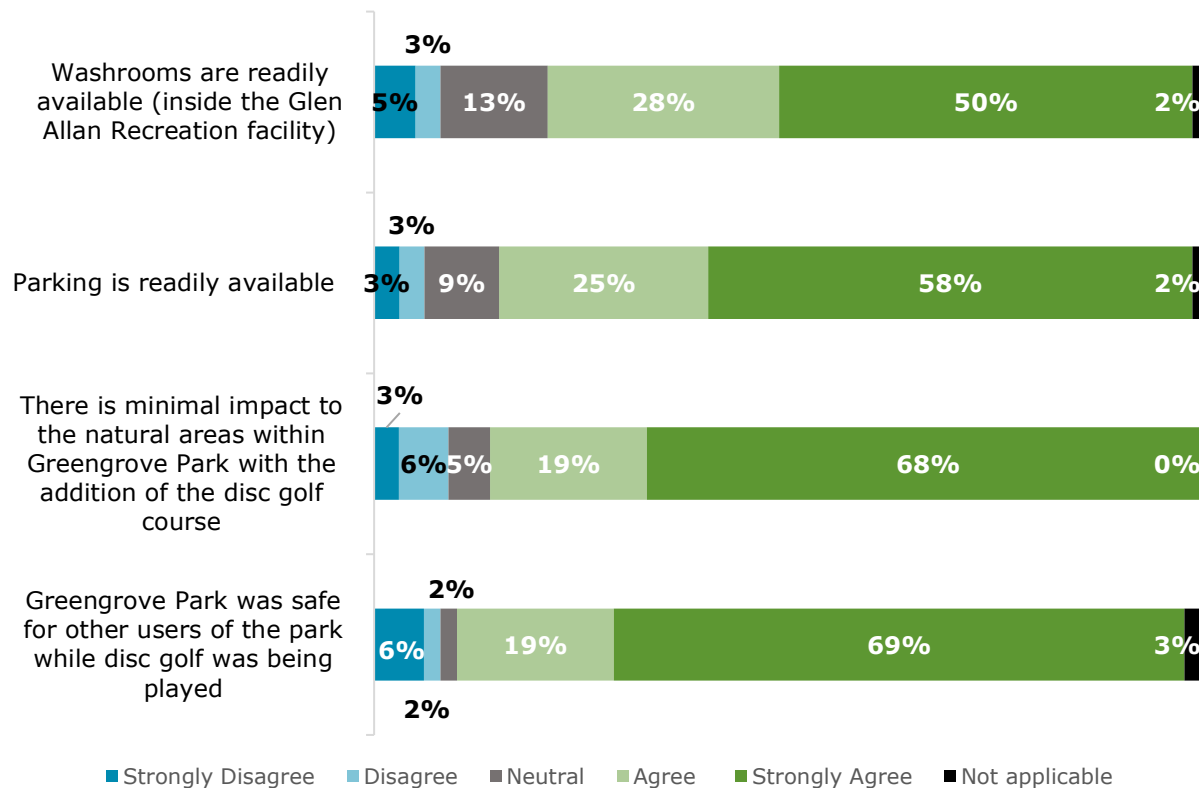
Visitors to Greengrove park who had not tried disc golf n=8

One fifth of respondents indicated they had visited the park but had not tried the disc golf course. As the park is multi-use, it is important to hear from residents and visitors to the park that are not disc golf users as well to understand potential externalities. However, there were only eight respondents so caution should be used in evaluating these results.

Most of these users were avid users of the park, visiting the park more than 10+ times. Five of the eight respondents had observed disc golf being played during one of their visits to Greengrove Park. Most reported being satisfied with their experience of the park, but we heard from one respondent being negatively impacted by disc golf in Greengrove. Of key concern was feeling at risk of being hit by a flying disc and being treated rudely by disc golfers. We also heard some concerns that the disc golf baskets detracted from the calm and quiet feeling of the green space.

Evaluating the pilot program n=65

To conclude the survey, we asked all respondents (both those who had used the disc golf course and those who had not) their agreement with statements on the impact of disc golf on the park, specifically regarding four aspects: washroom availability, parking availability, impact on natural areas and park user safety.



Generally, the vast majority of respondents were in agreement that the disc golf course did not negatively impact the park space. However, parking and washroom availability had somewhat less enthusiastic agreement compared to impact on natural areas and park user safety.

Lastly, we asked respondents whether the number of disc golf holes (five in the pilot) is appropriate for Greengrove Park. As evidenced in the previous comments on respondent experience of disc golf in Greengrove Park, there was a clear desire from the majority of respondents for more holes.

There should be more disc golf holes

80%

The number of disc golf holes is appropriate

4%

There should be fewer holes

8%

Parting Comments

We invited respondents to share any other thoughts they had regarding the pilot project. The most common comment was a desire for more holes, and a belief that the park could accommodate at least nine holes. We also heard from disc golf enthusiasts about their appreciation for disc golf in Greengrove Park and a desire to see more disc golf opportunities in the County.

We also heard some comments reiterating the danger of potentially being hit by a flying disc and other disruptions to other park use. These respondents believe that disc golf is inappropriate for the park and could be relocated to another park with the potential for fewer conflicts between disc golfers and other users.