



La Croisée Community Association

COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT

PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACE

JUNE 2016

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INTRODUCTION

“Defend and promote the shared, common interests of our community on issues affecting the planning, resources, development and environment of our community in a cooperative, informative manner.”

(La Croisée Community Association – Bylaws, Article 2 – Objectives, #2)

This community survey was conducted in order to obtain the opinions, ideas and preferences of the La Croisée resident citizens regarding our public spaces. These spaces include the existing side park “Parc de la Croisee” and the possibilities of a future park based on the current local zoning plans. This was an anonymous on-line survey provided in both French and English through the on-line survey provider Survey Monkey. As outlined in this report, this survey provides a reflection of our community interest on the aspects of our public space and community life.

As a result of recent communications, we wish to thank our Councilor Richard Begin, Marie-Claude Tremblay, Francois Lemay, and Jérémie Laroche of the City of Gatineau for their awareness of our concern with public space in La Croisee to date. In addition, and in regards to this survey, we thank the La Croisée residents and volunteers who have sincerely participated in this survey on such short notice. This report would not be possible without the participation of the citizens of La Croisee.

OBJECTIVE

In January of 2016, the La Croisée Community Association became aware of the planned Phase II upgrade to La Croisée Park. That information was appreciated and respectfully presented under the condition that the proposed plan would not be made public to the community. This community survey will allow the La Croisee Community Association to respond and pursue its mandate, as outlined above, with a more accurate representation on behalf of the community.

We are also aware there is an area of land reserved for a future larger park in our community. This survey will help acquire a statistically valid reflection of our community interests in that future public space as well.

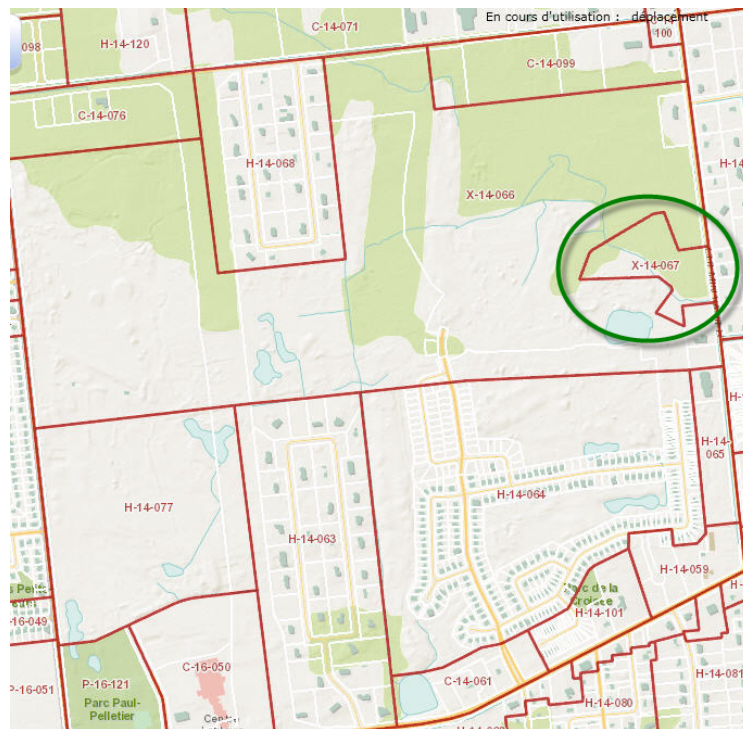
Through this report, the La Croisee Community offers a more collaborative and communal approach in support of the City of Gatineau actions plans regarding our public space and social development. This survey also offers a reflection of community interest, local support and, ultimately, an opportunity for greater success of local municipal and community initiatives.

SCOPE

This survey was not an open, public consultation beyond our community. It was limited to those residents registered on our community website. However, the 102 residents who responded anonymously to the survey remain a statistically valid base of the total number of registered residents who were contacted to participate in the survey.

Since Phase II upgrades are being planned for La Croisée Park and the La Croisée residents may be considered “stakeholders” of these upgrades, the residents’ use and visions for the park were considered important. Their opinion on the importance of the use of the park for community events, including a storage facility and an electrical supply was also considered.

The second topic explored was the future park area (Zone X-14-067) reserved by the City of Gatineau within the north-east undeveloped area of our community. Similarly, the residents’ potential use and visions for this larger park were considered.



METHOD

Survey Monkey was the on-line provider used to do the survey, due to the following constraints of this being confidential, anonymous “residents only” survey, the time available and the number of volunteers available. The Community Association created and funded the survey for a limited time period on the Survey Monkey website.

Registered residents on our community website were emailed the on-line survey connectors in both French and English. Initially, it represented 142 members.

The confidential survey was designed by the Community Association volunteers to reflect a variety of response types for each topic category. For example, multiple choice, rated scale, open comment and demographic questions were provided.

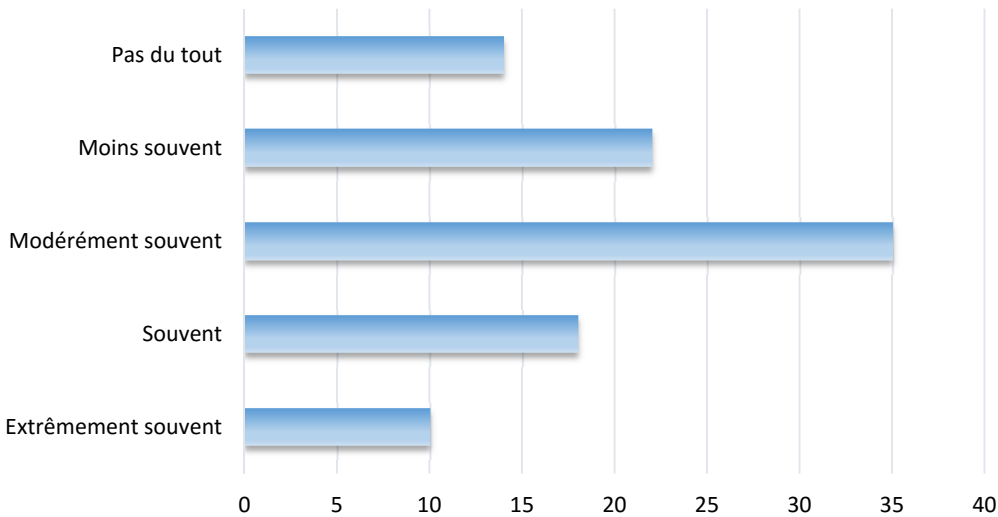
The anonymous responses provided the sole source of data for volunteers to produce the summary charts for each question in this report.

During the survey, as the result of the “door to door” volunteer effort of two community Street Representatives, an additional 60 addresses not registered on our community website were contacted with information regarding the on-going community survey. This resulted in an additional 10 participants in the survey within a matter of hours. Higher levels of participation in future surveys are expected as the La Croisee Association Street Representative program develops and more residents become registered on our community website.

ANALYSIS

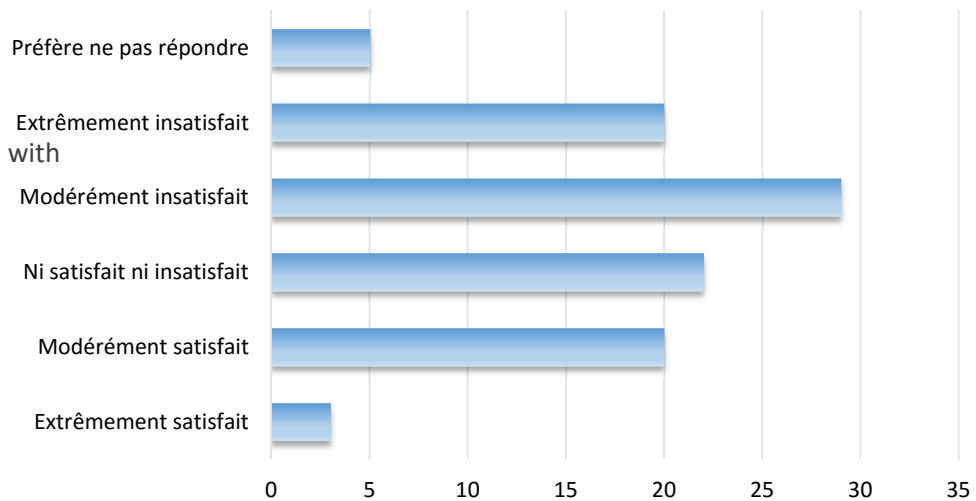
The 17 Survey Questions:

1. How often do you visit La Croisée Park?



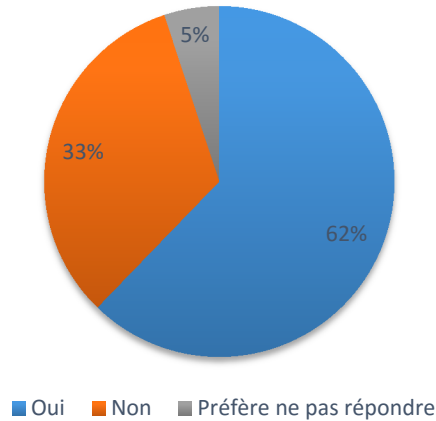
64% of respondents visited the park “moderately” or more. 71% visited the park “moderately” or less. Three respondents skipped this question.

2. Are you satisfied with La Croisée Park?



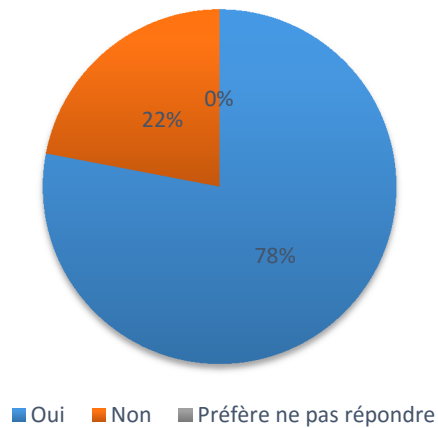
Only 23% of respondents are satisfied the park. 3 respondents skipped this question.

3. Do you consider it important to have electricity in the park?



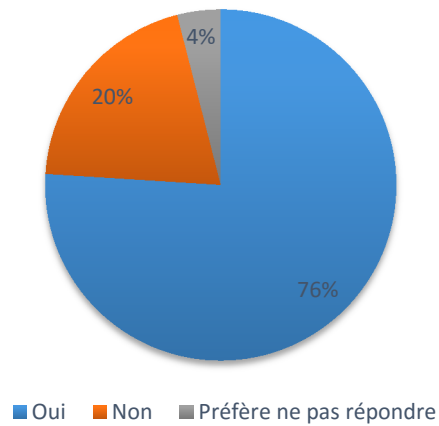
A majority (62%) of respondents considered that “Yes”, it is important. Four respondents skipped this question.

4. Do you consider it important to have access to drinkable water in the park?



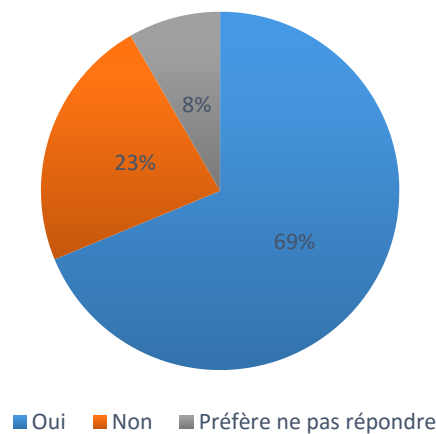
A majority of respondents (78%) considered “Yes”, it is important. Two respondents skipped this question.

5. Do you consider it important to have additional seating/picnic areas in the park?



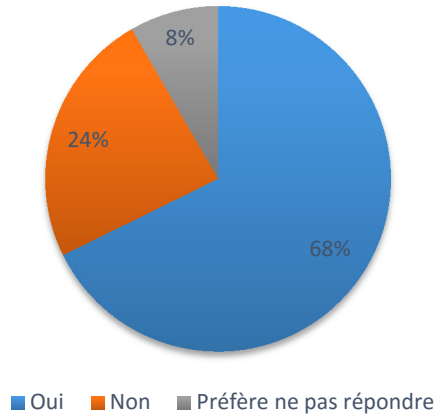
76% of respondents considered "Yes", it is important. Two respondents skipped this question.

6. Do you consider it important to have water park structure in the park?



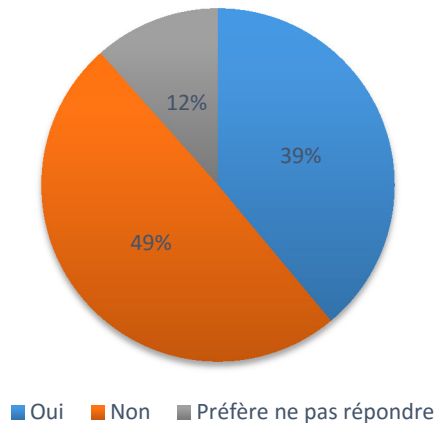
69% of respondents considered "Yes", it is important. Six respondents skipped this question.

7. Do you consider it important to have additional play structures in the park?



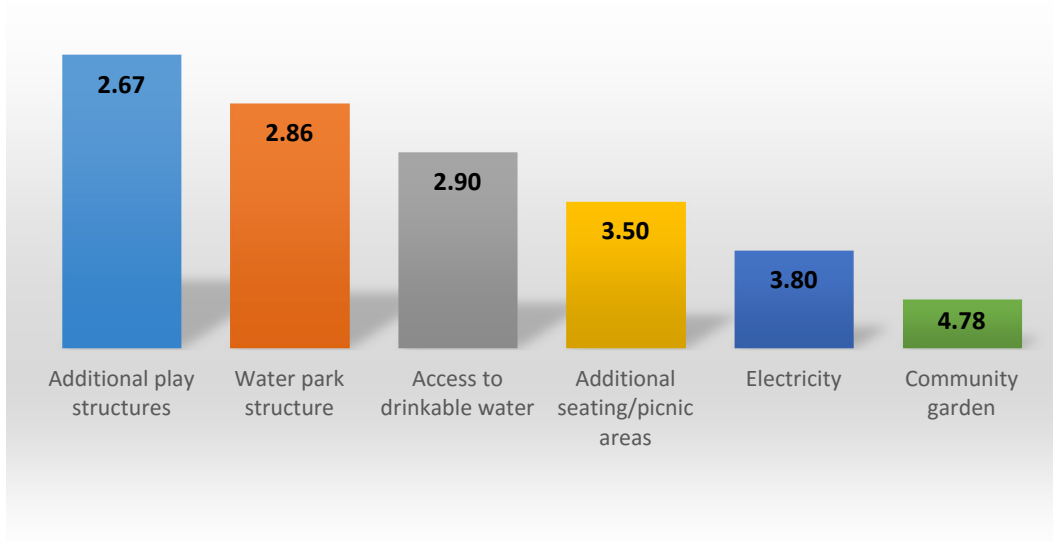
A majority of respondents (68%) considered "Yes", it is important. Six respondents skipped this question.

8. Do you consider it important to have a small community garden in our park?



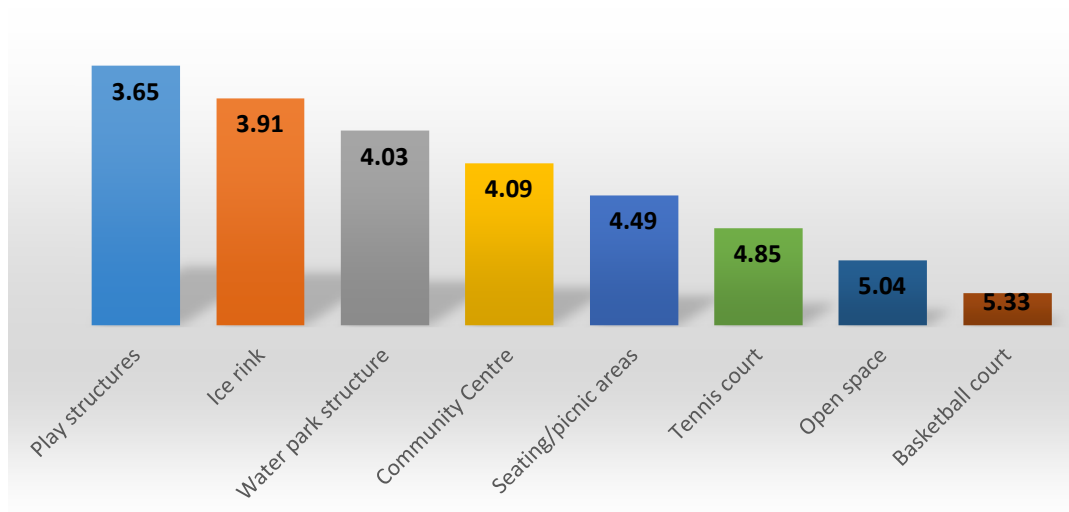
A majority of respondents (49%) considered "No", it is not important. Seven respondents skipped this question.

9. On a scale from 1 to 6, where 1 is the most important and 6 the least important, how important are the following La Croisée Park items for you?



Overall, "Additional Play Structures" obtained an average "important" rating of 2.67. Ten participants skipped this question.

10. For a larger, future park on a scale of 1 to 8, where 1 is the most important and 8 the least, how important are the following items for you?



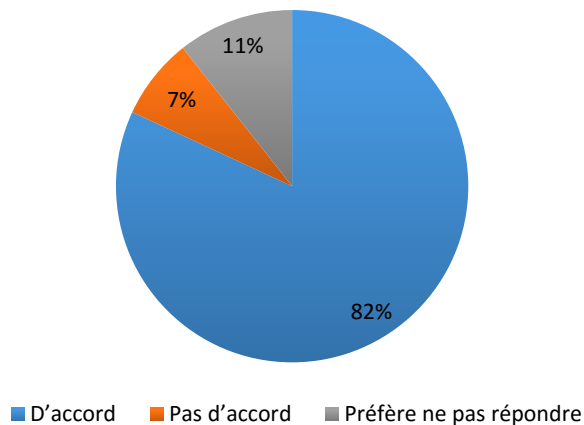
"Play Structures" obtained an average "important" rating of 3.65. Eight participants skipped this question.

11. What other items or facilities would you find of value in the larger future park?

Thirty-six survey participants suggested other items, facilities or design options for the future park. The following is a list of different suggestions by residents in no particular order. Sixty-six survey participants skipped this question.

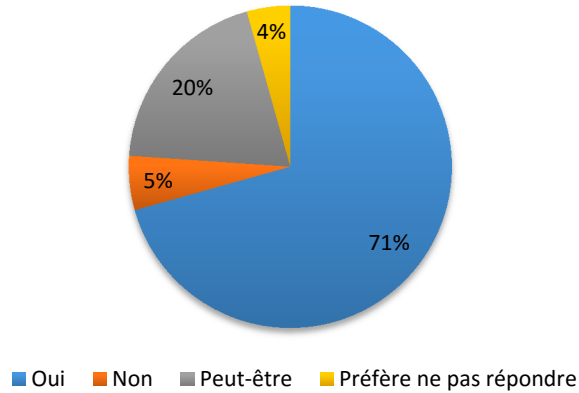
“Public outdoor pool, community garden, BBQ areas, soccer field, non-wasp attracting cedar chips at the base of the play structures instead of sand, lots of trees for shade, public washrooms, bulletin board, walking trail, activities for the older kids, parking spaces, small hill for tobogganing, skate parc, keep the La Croisée park too, drinking water fountain, lights, dog play, walking area, play structures for children 8-15 years, pizza oven Wood, no sand – use “caoutchouc chips”, many trees, place for a picnic, place for walking and running, a park more natural state, if space permits, an interior lot with inflatable dome, shaded areas, 400m track for running, places for our young people growing up ...”

12. Do you agree that a storage facility in Parc La Croisée would be useful to the community?



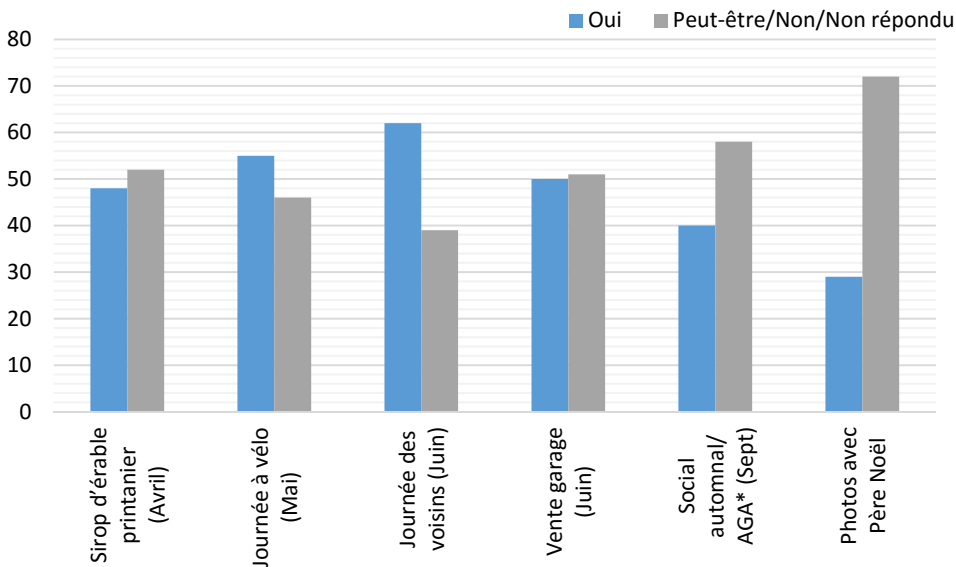
A majority of participants (82%) “Agreed”, it would be useful. Eight participants skipped this question.

13. Would you help support this project if it was undertaken by the community?



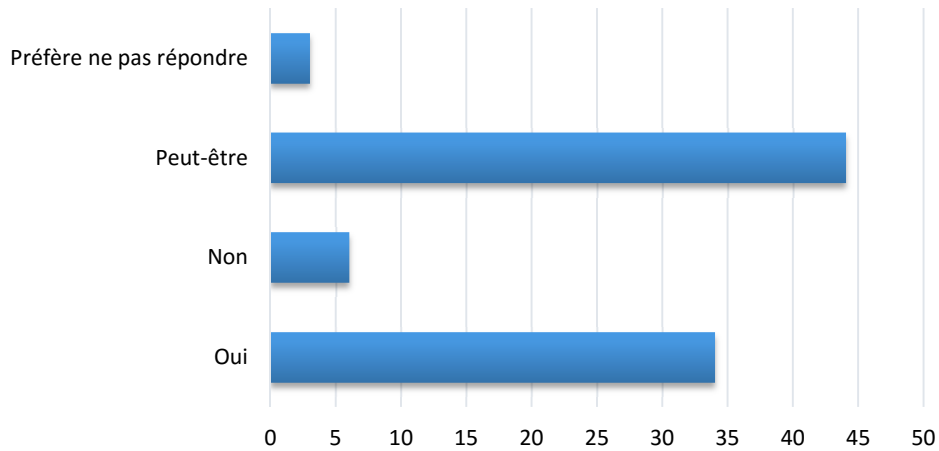
A majority of participants (71%) would help support this project. Ten participants skipped this question.

14. Would you and/or your family be willing to attend or participate in community events?



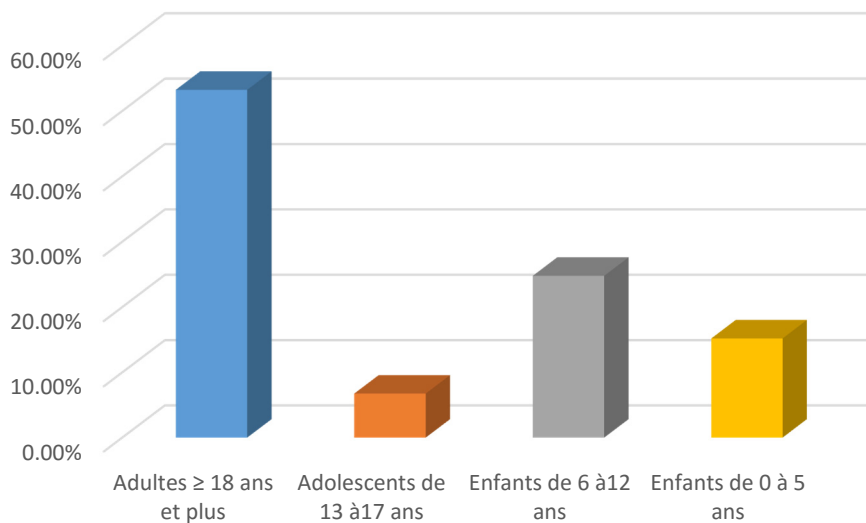
Currently, the Bike Day and Fêtes des voisins (Neighbours Day) events are the most likely to be attended. Eight participants skipped this question.

15. Knowing that we can only have community events if we have volunteers, would you be willing to volunteer with our community events?



The majority of participants were “maybe” willing to volunteer and 34 participants were willing. Fifteen participants skipped this question.

16. How many residents live at your address?



The relative percentage of age groups within the community may assist in the planning of our community events and parks conception. Thirteen participants skipped this question.

This relative demographic distribution was similar for

participants who visited our existing park “moderately often” or less.

17. Do you have comments or suggestions regarding La Croisée Park or our community events?

Twenty-one survey participants provided comments and suggestions. The following is a list of different suggestions provided by residents in no particular order. Eighty-three survey (83) participants skipped this question.

- *Thank you for your efforts.*
- *GOOD LUCK.*
- *Thank you for putting French first.*
- *We should avoid planning our activities during holidays: people tend to leave the area.*
- *Thank you for your work.*
- *Organize a Streets of Soccer event when a part of the street will be closed to cars...for a couple of hours.*
- *Remove sand and replace with environmentally friendly non-wasp attracting wood chips.*
- *The current play structures are not safe and are not interesting for children.*
- *Add more children's swings instead.*
- *Remove 2 of the 4 adult swings and replace two with children swings.*
- *Replace the old play structure with a newer one.*
- *Pave the laneway.*
- *Do not expand the sanded area. We have enough sand.*
- *Our family used to use the La Croisée Park often. We now use it less given there are less play structures; although we were happy to see trees were planted. It would be nice to see bigger and better play structures ...What works best for our family is a park with great play structures for the kids, benches for the adults, and lots of trees for shade. (ps. A drinking fountain would be a plus...) In the nice weather, with interesting play structures, we would be out there again nearly every day with other neighbours from our street. Thank you for your time creating this survey. We appreciate it.*
- *This is a good way to get some data. Thank you.*
- *I think that the second park should be pretty different from the existing park. If the existing park is more for little kids, the second one could have basketball court, community centre etc.*
- *We would support paying a fee for an outdoor pool;*
- *We would like to have an area where we can exercise our dogs.*
- *Remove the blue/purple climbing structure on the old part of the park.*
- *In the spring maybe do a large garage sale at the park all at one time.*
- *When can we expect this amazing project?"*

CONCLUSION

La Croisée Park

Individually, the importance of “Drinking Water” in Parc La Croisée received the highest percentage of “Yes” responses. However, on a rated scale of all suggested park options, “Additional Play Structures” were considered most important, overall.

In open comments, useful play structures, swings, too much sand and not enough shade were common concerns and references.

A majority of participants (82%) agreed that a community storage facility in the park would be useful. A slightly less percentage (71%) of participants would help support this project. 20% responded “maybe” in regards to supporting the project.

Based on the perceived usefulness and community support from citizens for this park facility, along with the additional electrical service, our Community Association believes it would be most prudent for the City of Gatineau to incorporate the planning and creation of these facilities within the Phase II development of Parc de la Croisee.

Future Park:

In regards to the area of land (Zone X-14-067) reserved by the City of Gatineau for a future park, perhaps the most important question missing from the survey was “In your view, how important is the development of this future park to you and the community?”

This has become evident when in the majority of cases, the first question most residents have asked in return, is; “When will this park be built?” We can interpret this response from residents, with confidence, that this potential public space is highly valued by the majority of residents in our community.

In the approximate 25 year history of La Croisee, no other public space or facilities have been allotted to the community of approximately 350 homes except a side park built in 1999 under the City of Aylmer.

In regards to this future public space, the top four preferred elements within a future park by those who completed the survey were useful play structures, ice rink, water structures and community centre.

The open comments by participants reflected a broad range of possibilities for this public space. Overall, they reflect many ways a public space would be valued and attract La Croisee community residents.