WHAT WE HEARD

Community feedback on three parks in Thornhill

Community members were invited to review and comment on initial concepts for Langstaff School Park (PDF), Riverside Park (PDF), and Thornhill Park (PDF).

WHO WE ENGAGED

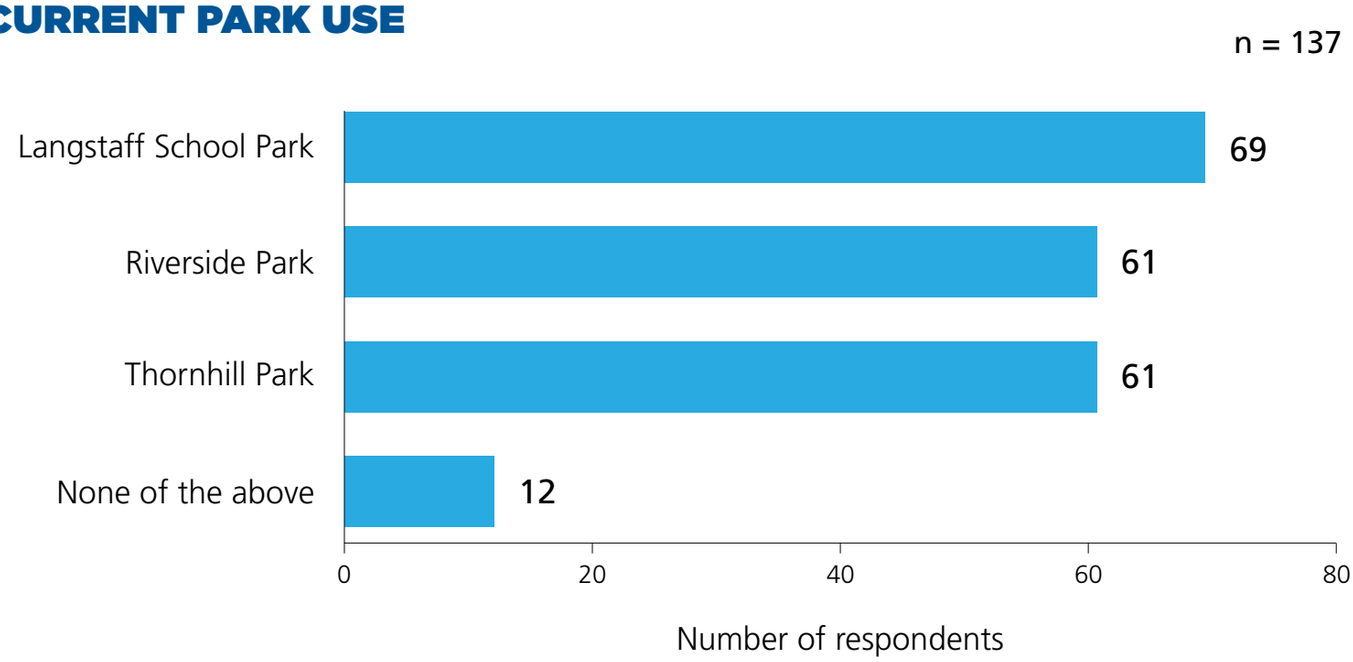
From June 1 to June 29, 2026, we engaged:

142 survey respondents

Five others via email

…reached through a project webpage, road signs in the community, a mailed notice to local residents, a public service announcement, social media and eNewsletters.

CURRENT PARK USE





Aerial view of Thornhill Park, City of Vaughan

LANGSTAFF SCHOOL PARK

A new gathering space with seating was proposed at Langstaff School Park to provide a comfortable place to relax, socialize and supervise children while making use of the park's mature trees.



Langstaff School Park, City of Vaughan

When asked how they would use the proposed new gathering space, we heard:

- **Social connection:** Many participants said they would use the space to gather and socialize with family, friends and neighbours.
- **Relaxation:** Some participants said they would use the space to relax, especially under the trees during their lunch breaks.
- **Supervise children:** Some participants said they would use the space to supervise children or grandchildren using the playground.
- **Food and leisure activities:** Some participants said they would use the space for picnics and reading.

When asked what additional features the City should consider in the design of the gathering space, we heard broader feedback related to:

- **Playground improvements:** Many participants requested playground improvements, including replacing old structures, removing the sand surface, adding rubber or other soft surfacing, incorporating wood or natural materials and introducing more interactive and inclusive play elements.
- **Basketball court improvements:** Some participants requested resurfacing the basketball court to address drainage concerns.
- **Seating:** Some participants requested additional seating options, including benches, tables and picnic tables.

While some respondents expressed excitement and support for the gathering space improvements, others suggested the funding should prioritize alternative amenities like the playground and sports facilities.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Proposed improvements to enhance the enjoyment and inclusivity of Riverside Park included an expanded and enhanced playground with new play opportunities, engineered wood fibre playground surfacing, the addition of a shade structure overlooking the play area and more seating.



Riverside Park, City of Vaughan

When asked what additional elements the City should consider to improve the playground, we heard:

- **Playground surfacing:** Many participants asked to replace the existing sand surface with rubber or synthetic surfacing instead of the proposed engineered wood fibre. In contrast, a few participants expressed a desire to retain sand play opportunities.
- **Play equipment for multiple age groups:** Some participants requested larger and more challenging play equipment that would appeal to a wider range of ages.
- **Climbing structures:** Some participants requested additional climbing features.
- **Swing sets:** Some participants requested additional swings.

When asked how they would use a shade structure, we heard:

- **Supervise children:** Many participants said they would use the shade structure to supervise children or grandchildren using the playground.
- **Protection from weather:** Many participants said they would use the structure to seek relief from the sun and heat. Some said they would use the structure for protection from rain and other weather conditions.
- **Seating and resting:** Many participants said they would use the structure as a place to sit, rest and take breaks after walks or bike rides.
- **Social connection:** Many participants said they would use the space to connect with neighbours, friends, caregivers and other community members.
- **Picnics and snacks:** Some participants said they would use the structure for picnics and outdoor meals or to eat a snack.

Additionally, many participants used this opportunity to request additional improvements, including adding more trees, such as oak and fruit trees, as well as incorporating a splashpad or water play features. A few participants noted the park is currently underused, while recognizing future improvements may encourage greater use and activity.

THORNHILL PARK

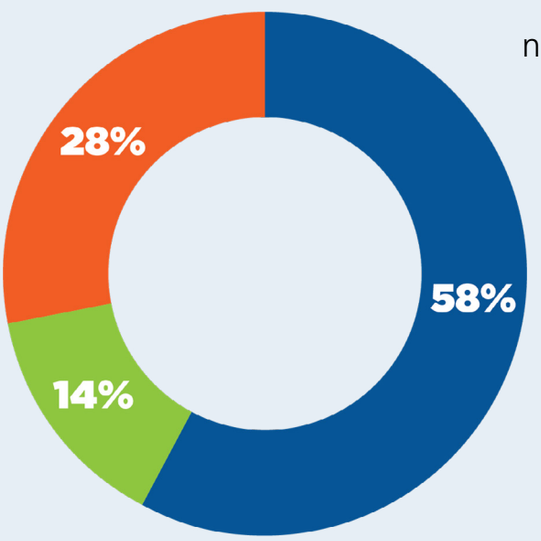
A new outdoor fitness area was proposed at Thornhill Park to support active recreation and complement the park's role as a community activity hub.



Thornhill Park, City of Vaughan

Interest in using an outdoor fitness area

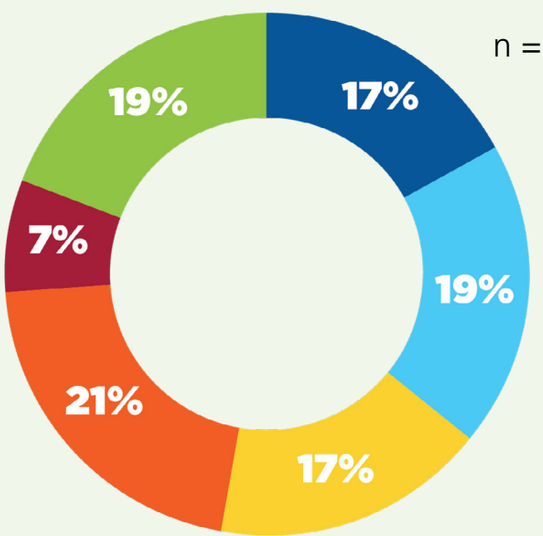
n = 43



- Yes
- No
- Maybe

How fitness equipment would be used

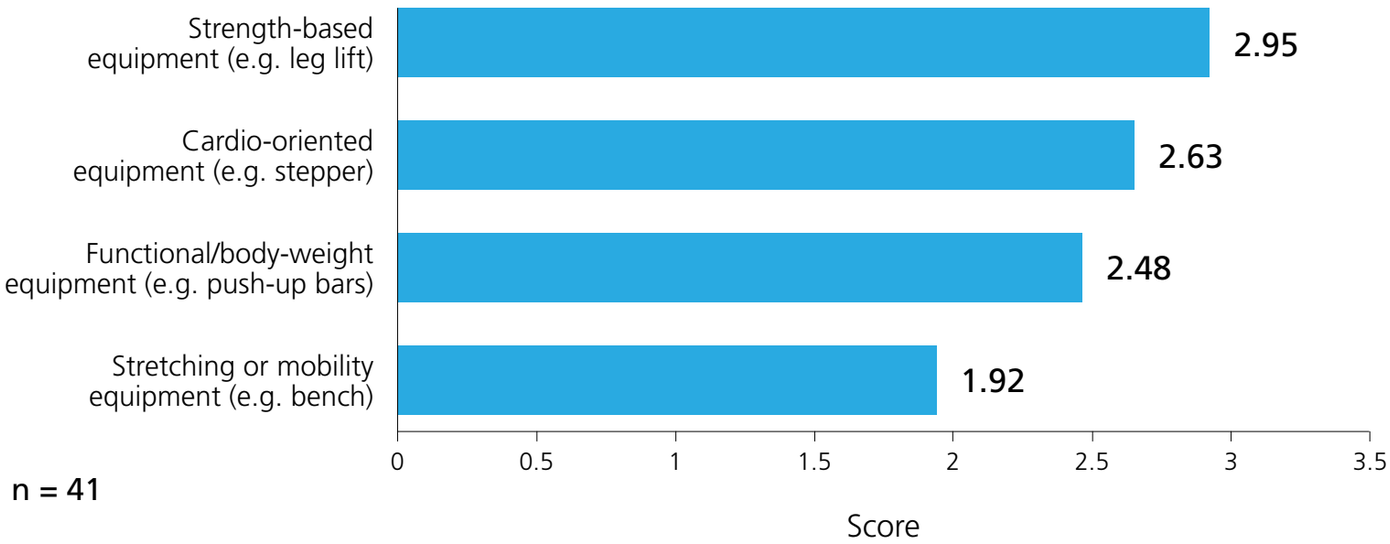
n = 42



- As part of my regular exercise routine
- Occasionally, during casual park visits
- While supervising children or attending nearby activities
- As a supplement to walking or jogging in the park
- Unsure, but I am interested in trying it
- Other, please specify

Among those who selected "other," some participants questioned whether this amenity would see regular use, including by themselves and other park users.

PREFERRED TYPES OF OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT



n = 41

When asked what additional features the City should consider for the outdoor fitness area, we heard broader feedback related to:

- **Drinking fountains:** Some participants requested drinking fountains or water refill stations.
- **Playground surfacing:** Some participants requested replacing the existing sand surface with softer or more solid playground surfacing.
- **Pickleball courts:** A few participants requested pickleball courts, noting they travel to other cities to play due to a lack of local opportunities.
- **Splashpad:** A few participants requested a splashpad or additional water play opportunities.
- **More trails:** A few participants requested additional walking and biking trails.
- **Seating:** Some participants requested additional seating, including benches.



Example of outdoor fitness equipment, Jack Pine Park, City of Vaughan