



NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Community Survey Results

December 2020

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**north
park**
EDGY TO THE CORE

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Community Survey Overview

Introduction

In October 2020, the NPNA launched a community survey to gauge the values of residents, business owners, and other users of the neighbourhood and how they want to see it develop in the next 5, 10, or 20 years into the future.

Executive summary

A total of 258 people took the survey, which was open for approximately a month during October 2020. In order to engage as many people as possible, the NPNA distributed the survey through several methods:

- Posted on the NPNA website
- Linked survey in the NPNA newsletter, for a total of 3 notifications/reminders
- Posted on social media (Twitter and Facebook)
- Postcard sent to all addresses within North Park
- Postcards delivered by hand to businesses in the neighbourhood

The 258 respondents make up approximately 7.2% of the neighbourhood's total population.

DEMOGRAPHICS - WHO TOOK THE SURVEY?

Overall, a diverse mix of people responded to the survey, and they overwhelmingly live or work in North Park.

- The spread of incomes and ages was fairly evenly spread, with most people responding being under the age of 50. However, when compared with Census data, middle-aged to older adults were overrepresented.
- More women than men took the survey.
- About 28% of respondents identified as at least 1 minority (Indigenous, Racialized, Immigrant, Refugee, or LGBTQ2).
- More owners (62%) than renters (28%) filled out the survey; respondents lived in a mix of detached homes, suites, duplexes or townhouses, and apartments or condos. Homeowners were overrepresented in the survey.

- Just over half of respondents never struggle to pay rent; just under half sometimes, usually, or always struggle to pay rent, mortgage, and/or utility bills
- Most respondents either live alone, live with a partner/spouse, or live with a partner/spouse and one or more kids.

Despite a diverse mix of respondents, when the results were compared with data from the 2016 Census, it appears that respondents of the survey were wealthier, less diverse, and older than the general population of North Park.

More demographics data can be found in section 8.

BROAD VALUES AND CONCERNS

When asked an open question about what they like about the neighbourhood, 58% of respondents mentioned the general feeling, the “vibe”, the inclusivity, the “community feeling”, village feel, or knowing their neighbours. There seems to be an intangible feeling of community in North Park, which residents value. Other common responses included access to parks and the mixed-use nature and proximity to downtown.

The most commonly selected values that respondents want to guide development are:

- Access to green space/parks
- An inclusive neighbourhood that welcomes people of all incomes, races, ethnicities, religions, gender identities, and sexuality
- Family-friendly (family housing, traffic calming, safe places to play, etc.)
- Arts, culture and entertainment (public art, art galleries, musical and theatre performances)
- Affordable housing for a range of demographics

When asked what concerns respondents had about the neighbourhood, many responses referenced homelessness and the situation at Central Park. At the time of writing this report, people having been sheltering at Central Park as a result of the reduced capacity of indoor shelters during the COVID-19 Pandemic and several City of Victoria policies. However, this is a temporary situation, and the purpose of the survey was to gauge broad concerns about the direction of the neighbourhood.

The most common responses in this section referenced traffic/transportation issues, crime, lack of feeling safe, lack of affordability, and the general appearance of the neighbourhood. See Section 1 for more details on these questions.

LAND USE, TRANSPORTATION AND HERITAGE

Generally, respondents agreed that a diversity of land uses, a diversity of housing types, and that housing that accommodates a diversity of incomes are part of North Park's identity and should be encouraged. Affordability objectives were wide ranging but affordable units for families, affordable home-ownership opportunities, and affordable housing for low-income families were listed as especially important. Respondents strongly supported commercial developments of a smaller size that serve the local community or niche market. There was no strong consensus on building height preference, although the largest number of people selected 6 storeys or less. However, most people would support higher or more dense developments if affordable housing units were part of the development.

More/improved pedestrian facilities, traffic calming, and more/improved cycling facilities were transportation priorities. There was no consensus on parking concerns in the neighbourhood, with a wide range of issues being important, but not enough street parking for residents, visitors, and customers was the most commonly selected concern. About a quarter of respondents felt parking was not a concern for them.

Broadly speaking, people feel safe/comfortable walking around North Park and taking public transit around North Park and are there is no consensus on the safety of cycling around North Park. People with disability or mobility impairments generally thought it was difficult to get around the neighbourhood safely and comfortably, many citing the condition of the sidewalks, conflict with other sidewalk users, and feeling vulnerable to theft, assault, or intimidation.

North Park residents and users value heritage homes and historic buildings, and are more comfortable with their conversion into residential units than into commercial buildings.

PARKS AND GREEN SPACE

Opinions on having enough access to green space were split, with slightly more (57%) people feeling like there is not enough access to green space.

Respondents want to see community gardens, natural vegetation, open/flexible green space, shelters for gathering, and Indigenous cultural presence in parks. A significant majority (86%) of respondents felt that Royal Athletic Park (RAP) should be open for activities other than paid admission events. This was the most significant issue that respondents agreed on. Opinions were split on whether to permanently change the use of RAP from a paid admission events field to a public park. Most people were not interested in seeing some or all of RAP used for affordable housing.

SUSTAINABILITY, SERVICES, CULTURE, AND ART

Respondents rated greener buildings and more trees/canopy cover as their sustainability priorities, and around 65% were concerned or very concerned about the environmental sustainability of new developments.

Although most people (71%) feel like they have access to the services they need living in North Park, many felt that daily needs (groceries, pharmacy, etc.), doctor and medical offices, and indoor spaces for classes/fitness would be nice to see.

The majority of people would like to see more cultural activities and venues in North Park. Music events, art, festivals, and theatre were all popular suggestions for what cultural events are desired.

Respondents generally felt that North Park is a diverse and inclusive place, but open comments revealed some NIMBYism (Not In My Back Yard) and discrimination particularly against Indigenous people and those dealing with homelessness. Many respondents acknowledged their own privilege and that they perceived the neighbourhood as welcoming and inclusive but that others may have a different experience.

Respondents felt that there could be more restaurants, cafes, and pubs in the neighbourhood, and street-side outdoor patios were the most popular suggestion for what respondents would like to see.

86% of respondents would like to see more public art in North Park, with murals on buildings suggested by 81% of respondents.

CONCLUSION AND USING THE REST OF THE DOCUMENT

The NPNA Community Survey provided a valuable insight into how residents, workers, and business owners feel about their neighbourhood. While the results are not an exact representation of the neighbourhood, they provide a good starting point for the NPNA's work in land use and advocacy with the City of Victoria.

The remainder of this document takes a more in depth look at the response of the survey, include some comparison in how different demographics answered important questions.

1. Land Use

The questions below were meant to gauge residents' opinions on land use and transportation issues in the neighbourhood. These questions are highly relevant to the 2020/2021 Local Area Plan (LAP) update and will be shared with City staff.

What do you like most about North Park right now? (open-ended. Think parks, village, community feeling, public art, inclusiveness, etc.)

This was an open-ended question with wide-ranging responses. Most frequently, people referenced the “village feel”; the community feel or vibe, the eclectic vibe; or generally feeling like a community and knowing their neighbours. Other common responses referenced the neighbourhood parks, the local businesses, and the mixed use/good location of the neighbourhood. Below is a table with the common themes:

Table 1: Common themes in responses to survey question 1

Theme	% of respondents who referenced
Community/village feeling	58%
Parks	32%
Mixed use/location	27%
Local businesses	25%
Walkability	18%
Food	13%
Art	13%
Diversity	12%
Architecture	7%
Housing options	7%
Services	5%
Events	3%

It should be noted that approximately 5% of respondents mentioned homelessness/camping making it difficult for them to enjoy the neighbourhood and about 6% of respondents had only neutral or negative comments.

Q1 What do you like most about North Park right now? (open-ended. Think parks, village, community feeling, public art, inclusiveness, etc.)

also diverse lots friendly variety architecture downtown around nice open SEE families
 much home walking distance appreciate spaces bakery services pool Central Park
 ACCESS sense community safe Franklin Green small ages local businesses
 place walkable proximity love day public art etc streets neighborhood
 area welcoming green space trees Central Park neighbours
 businesses bike neighbourhood Crystal Pool
 Community feeling close downtown
 community buildings parks small businesses
 village culture diversity food shops along feel inclusive
 North Park events people food trucks art Location walk atmosphere
 mix industrial vibe live great residents proximity downtown
 shops restaurants used Proximity town local way good really housing Inclusiveness
 walkability neighbors stores inclusivity enjoy well eclectic Quiet within amenities many
 Fernwood gone s pool groceries

Figure 1: Word cloud summarizing answers to question 1

What broad values do you want to see guiding the development of North Park over the next 10-20 years? (select up to 5)

This question gave respondents 10 options to choose from, as well as an “other” option where they could fill in their own option

Table 2: Broad values to guide North Park development

Answer Choice	Responses
Access to green space/parks	80%
An inclusive neighbourhood that welcomes people of all incomes, races, ethnicities, religions, gender identities, and sexuality	73.6%
Family-friendly (family housing, traffic calming, safe places to play, etc.)	64.4%
Arts, culture, and entertainment (public art, art galleries, music and theatre performances)	62.8%
Affordable housing for a range of demographics	53%

Sustainable transportation (better bus routes, pedestrian infrastructure, cycling infrastructure)	44%
Accessibility (space and amenities for those with disabilities or mobility barriers)	34%
Access to services like daycares and medical offices	29%
Aging in place	20%
Inter-generational and extended family living	19%
Other	17%

“Other” answers garnered a range of responses. Table 3 below summarizes the themes that emerged from these

Table 3: Open-ended responses for broad values

Theme	Number of responses
Less crime/drugs/poverty	11
Ecological values	7
More density and/or housing	6
More services and recreation activities (library, gym, etc.)	3
Music events/venues	2
Active transportation	2
Driveability/access by car	2
Supporting local businesses	1
Plaza/gathering places	1

What concerns do you have with the neighbourhood?

This was also an open-ended question. As may be expected, many of the answers related to homelessness or sheltering at Central Park. The themes are summarized below:

Table 4: Concerns about the neighbourhood

Theme	Number of responses
Homelessness	89
Property damage and crime	67
Unsafe	50
Traffic, sidewalks, transportation	37
Cost of living/gentrification	35
Social issues and services	23

Access to green space	17
Attitudes	10
Noise	10
Lack of attention from City	9
Crystal Pool	7
Land use	7
NIMBYism	4
NPNA	3
Schools	2

Having a diversity of land uses (residential, commercial, light industrial) is part of North Park's identity and should be encouraged:

81% of respondents agree or strongly agree that having a diversity of land uses is part of North Park's identity and should be encouraged.

Table 5: Respondent agreement with diversity of land uses

Answer Choice	Responses
Strongly agree	33%
Agree	48%
Neither agree nor disagree	10%
Disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	3%

Having a diversity of housing types (apartments and condominiums of different sizes; single-detached houses; townhouses) is part of North Park's identity and should be encouraged.

89% of respondents agree or strongly agree that having a diversity of housing types is part of North Park's identity and should be encouraged.

Table 6: Respondent agreement with having a diversity of housing types

Answer Choice	Responses
Strongly Agree	42%
Agree	47%
Neither agree nor disagree	6%
Disagree	3%
Strongly disagree	2%

Having housing that accommodates a diversity of incomes is part of North Park's identity and should be encouraged.

86% of respondents feel that having housing that accommodates a diversity of incomes is part of North Park's identity and should be encouraged.

Table 7: Respondent agreement to having housing that accommodates diverse incomes

Answer Choice	Responses
Strongly Agree	44%
Agree	42%
Neither agree nor disagree	7%
Disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	2%

Are there any specific affordability objectives you would like to see in new developments? (check up to 3)

Respondents had wide-ranging views on what affordability objectives should be pursued in new developments. Affordable units for families and affordable home-ownership units were most frequently selected, perhaps indicating a lack of choice in affordable housing options (with few family-size units) and the difficulty in moving from a renter to being a homeowner.

Table 8: Affordable housing priorities

Answer Choice	Responses
Affordable units for families	40%
Affordable home ownership opportunities	38%
Any type of affordable housing is desirable	37%
Affordable rental units for households with low to moderate income	36%
Affordable units for seniors	32%
Affordable units for refugees and immigrants	22%
Affordable units for women fleeing violence	20%
Transitional housing (housing with services to support those at risk)	17%
Shelter-rate housing (very low-cost housing for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness)	14%

Affordable Micro-units	13%
Other	13%
Not a concern for me	7%

Respondents were given the option to provide suggestions if selecting the “other” response option. Most commonly people expressed feelings that there is already enough (or too much) affordable housing in the neighbourhood or that it should be spread across the City. Other suggestions included

- Accessible units (especially for families)
- A mix/balance is important
- Co-ops
- Mid-income units

Several people mentioned the typology/style of housing, suggesting “missing middle” or medium density housing (townhouses, rowhouses, low rise apartments/condos) is needed.

What types of commercial developments (shops, services, offices) would you like to see more of in North Park? (Select up to 3)

Respondents could select up to 3 responses to this question, and North Park’s desire for locally owned businesses stood out. Table 9 below summarizes the answers.

Table 9: Desired commercial developments

Answer Choice	Responses
Smaller commercial spaces that serve the local community or niche market	78%
Restaurants/cafes/pubs	68%
Music and cultural venues	52%
Medium-sized commercial spaces (e.g. hardware store, smaller grocery store, medical office)	45%
Makerspaces for artisans and small industries	39%
Office space in buildings	13%
Other	7%

Larger commercial spaces (e.g. full-service grocery store) that may serve the broader community and region)	4%
Larger office spaces	1%

There was no consensus in the open comment section, but they included:

- Markets (flea, craft, farmers)
- Food trucks
- Food (co-op; butcher; small restaurant)
- Cannabis shops
- Local/conscious business

While not commercial developments, several people suggested child-oriented activities and a community centre, gym, and library.

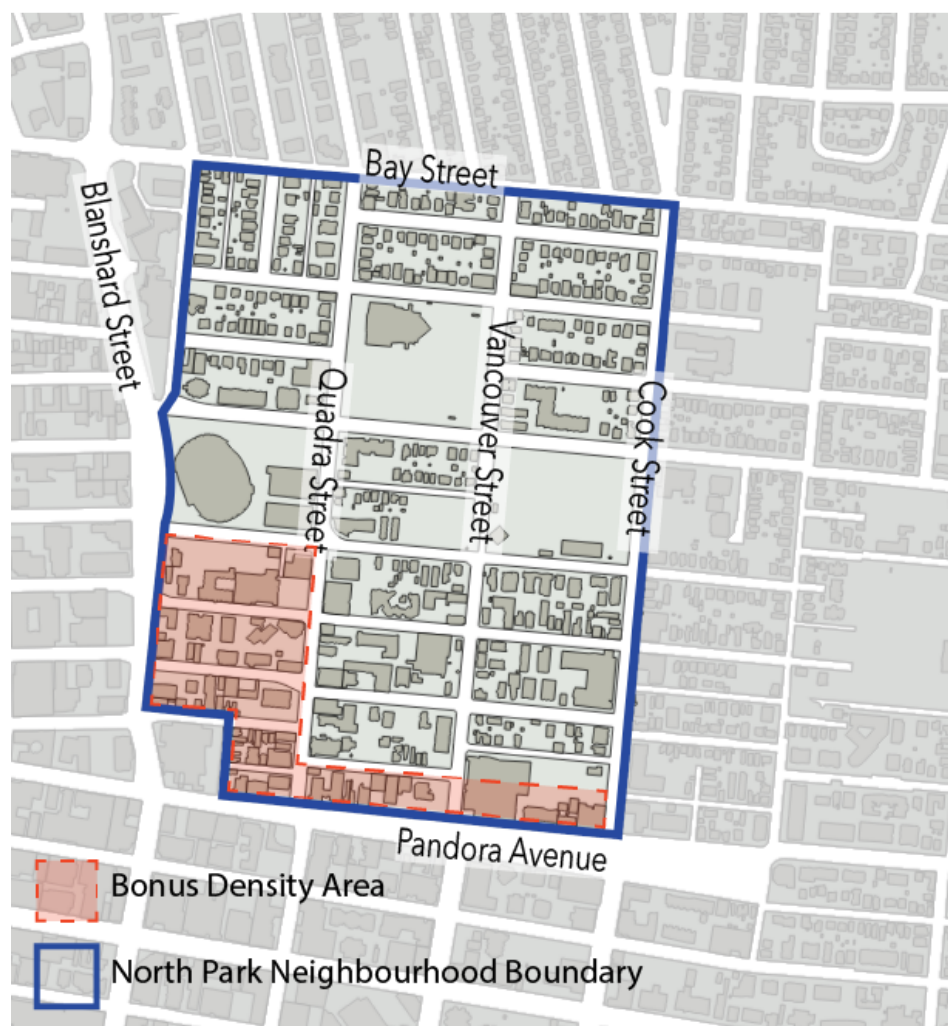


Figure 2: Bonus Density policy area in North Park

In the areas affected by the Bonus Density Policy (see map above), the current policy allows for development of up to 10 or 15 storeys. What scale of future development do you think would be appropriate?

Respondents had mixed opinions on what height might be acceptable in the bonus density area; generally, they were in favour of medium density of 4 to 6 storeys.

Table 10: Acceptable height choices

Answer Choice	Responses
Up to 4 to 6 storeys	42%
Up to 10-12 storeys	28%
More than 12 storeys	19%
Other/it depends	11%

Suggestions provided in the “other” selection were wide-ranging. Some emphasized lower/medium height is important, while others thought it would depend on the impact on the area on the benefits it may provide. Others specified areas that would be acceptable for higher height - for example, 10 storey buildings along Blanshard were suggested as appropriate.

It should be noted that this is a difficult question to quantify. People may have strong reactions to building heights they see as too high, but architecture/urban design plays a big role in how streets feel with higher buildings. The massing and potential step-backs of upper floors can drastically reduce the negative impact of taller buildings on the street level experience. Meanwhile, smaller buildings might lead to fewer chances at affordable housing, as the cost of land is so high.

The results of this question give a broad sense of how people in North Park feel, but the public engagement component of development applications remains important for neighbours to evaluate individual proposals for the neighbourhood.

Would you support higher or more dense developments in this area if affordable housing units were part of the development?

Overall, respondents thought it was possible to support higher or more dense developments they included an affordable component.

Table 11: Support for denser developments with provision of affordable housing

Answer Choice	Responses
Definitely would	32%
Probably would	39%
Probably would not	17%
Definitely would not	12%

2. Transportation

What are your priorities regarding transportation in North Park? (Select up to 3)

Respondents could select up to 3 options and their responses indicated a desire for safer streets for all.

Table 12: Transportation priorities

Answer Choice	Responses
More/improved pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, crosswalks, off street paths, etc.)	65%
Slow down traffic (traffic calming) so that all road users feel safe	45%
More/improved cycling facilities (bike lanes, bicycle parking)	43%
Reduce traffic through neighbourhood (modify streets to reduce traffic cutting through the neighbourhood)	39%
Better transit (more bus routes, more comfortable bus stops, more frequent service).	38%
Improve automobile traffic flow through the neighbourhood	22%
Other	9%

In the “other” response option, responses suggested certain areas that need improvement (such as better walking and cycling on Cook Street); issues with the bike lanes; the need for more parking; and the safety/security of bus stops.

Do you have parking concerns about the neighbourhood? (select up to 3)

Respondents had wide-ranging opinions of parking, with on-street parking for residents, visitors, and customers being a top concern. However, many respondents felt that parking was not a concern for them.

Table 13: Parking concerns

Answer Choice	Responses
There is not enough on-street parking for residents	28%
There is not enough on-street parking for visitors and customers	28%
Parking is not a concern for me	26%
More bicycle parking is needed in public locations	23%
The City requires too much parking for new developments; car-light living should be encouraged	20%
Too much parking used during events	20%
Parking lots and/or street parking could be better used for other purposes (housing, trees, wider sidewalks)	19%
More bicycle parking is needed in buildings	15%
There is not enough parking on-site for new apartment and condo buildings	15%
More car-share opportunities are needed	15%
More bicycle parking is needed in buildings	15%
Too much space is dedicated for parking	12%
Better signage is needed for available visitor/customer parking	7%
There is not enough of the right type of parking for persons with disabilities	4%

The results of this question indicate that while parking is an issue in the neighbourhood, there is no consensus on what needs to be done. Parking issues should likely be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

How safe/comfortable to do you feel:

Walking around North Park?

Cycling around North Park?

Taking public transit around/to/from North Park?

This question indicated a mix of responses and respondents had mixed feelings about each category.

Walking

The responses weighed slightly more to feeling safe/comfortable walking around NP, with 28% of respondents feeling somewhat safe/comfortable and 24%

feeling very safe/comfortable. A fairly significant 38% feel somewhat or very unsafe/uncomfortable, however, indicating lots of room for improvement.

Cycling

Many respondents (28%) were neutral on this topic, perhaps indicating that they do not cycle regularly and have no opinion. 27% feel somewhat safe/comfortable and 18% feel very safe/comfortable, leaving 15% feeling somewhat unsafe and 12% feeling very unsafe.

Transit

Like cycling, many respondents (39%) feel neutral about transit, indicating little transit use. More people feel somewhat or very safe/comfortable (42%) taking transit compared to 19% feeling somewhat or very unsafe/uncomfortable.

If you are a person with a disability or mobility impairment, do you feel you can get around North Park safely and comfortably?

The majority (86%) of respondents reported not having a disability or mobility impairment. Of those that reported a disability, 20 people felt that they could not get around NP safely and comfortably and 12 felt that they could.

Comments on this question overwhelmingly mentioned poor sidewalk conditions as a barrier to getting around safely. Also mentioned were conflict with other users (bikes, skateboards, etc.) and feeling vulnerable to theft/assault/intimidation.

3. Heritage



Figure 3: An example of a historic building in North Park

North Park has several historic buildings and heritage/character homes like the photo above. How important is it to you to preserve North Park's heritage buildings?

92% of respondents feel it is at least somewhat important to preserve heritage buildings in North Park.

Table 14: Importance of preserving heritage buildings in North Park

Answer Choice	Responses
Extremely Important	42%
Very Important	32%
Somewhat important	18%
Not so important	7%
Not at all important	1%

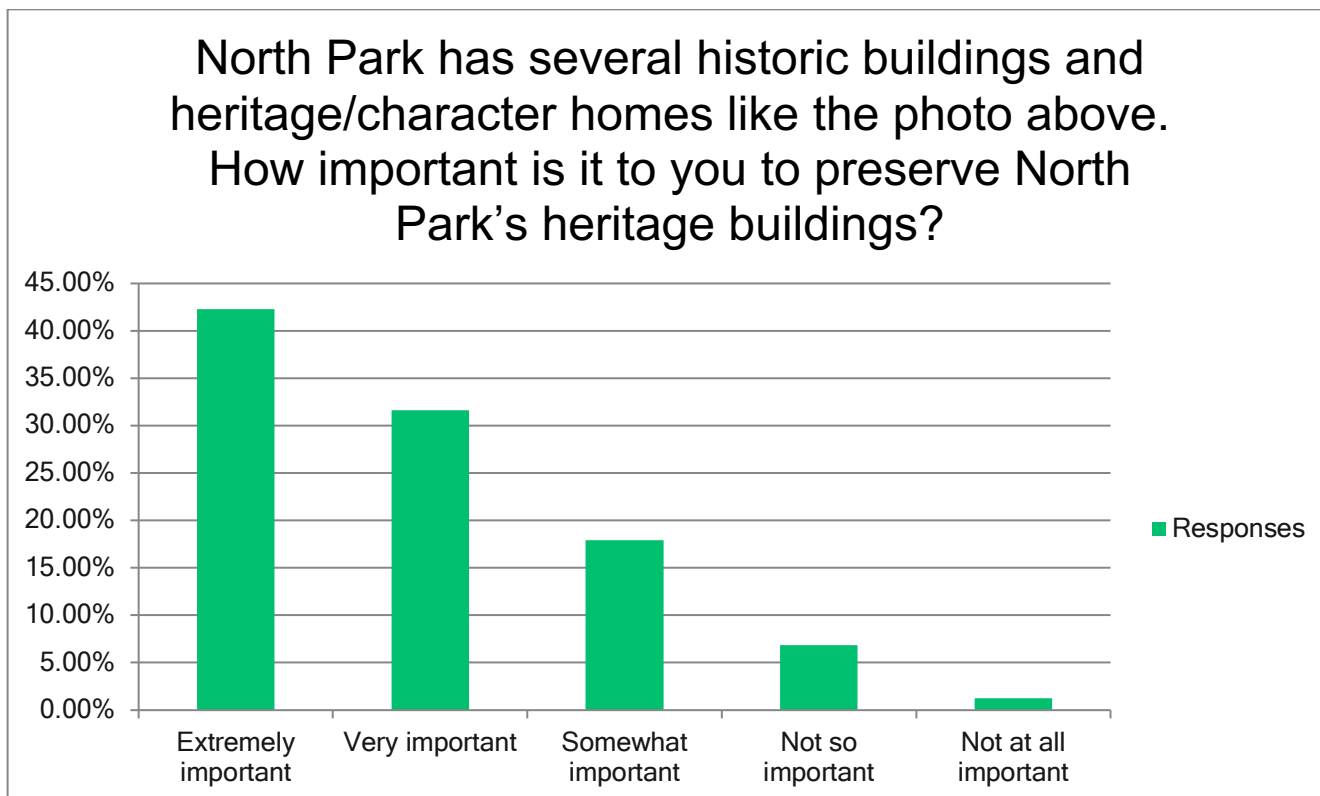


Figure 4: Importance of preserving heritage buildings in North Park

Do you support the conversion of heritage/character homes into commercial buildings?

Respondents had mixed feelings about the conversion of heritage/character homes into commercial buildings, but almost half (49%) agree or strongly agree.

Table 15: Support for conversion of heritage/character homes into commercial buildings

Answer Choice	Responses
Strongly Agree	13%
Agree	36%
Neither agree nor disagree	31%
Disagree	10%
Strongly Disagree	10%

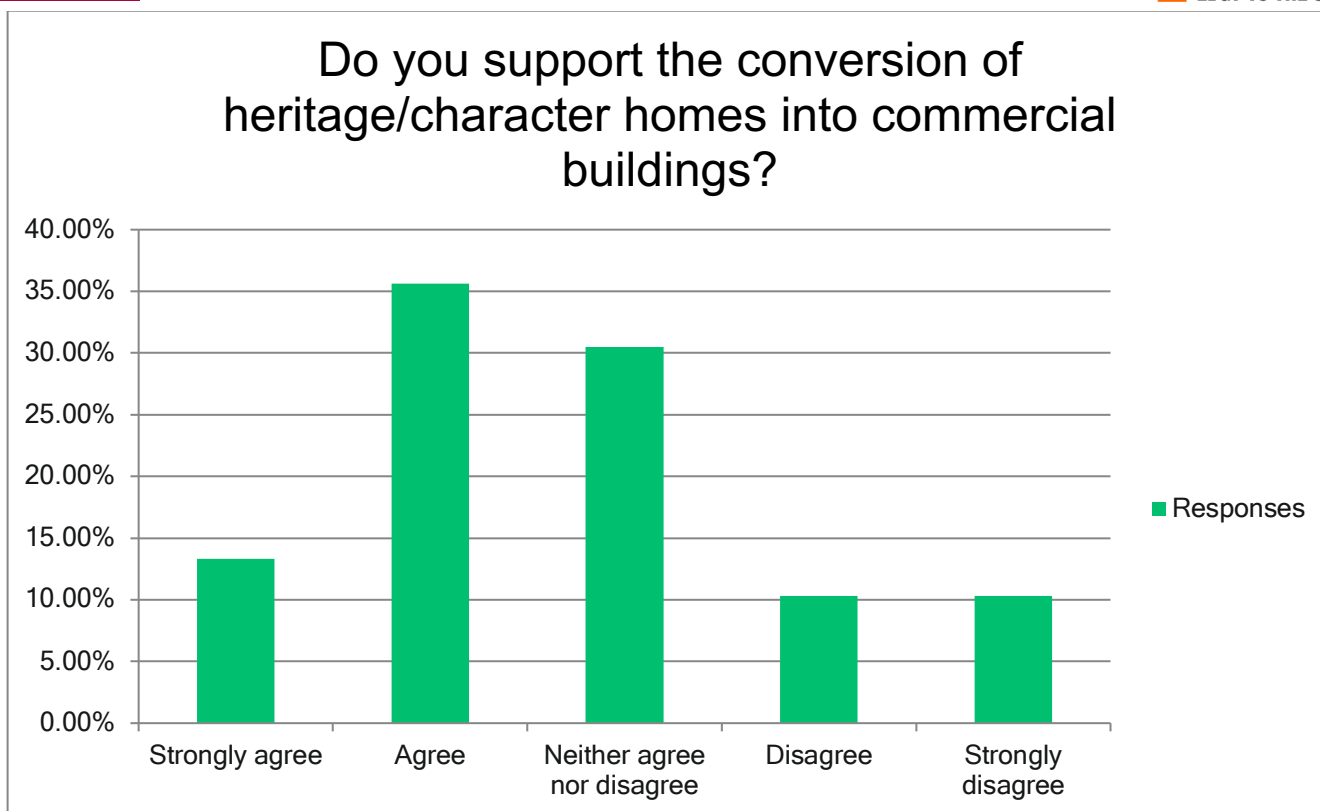


Figure 5: Support for conversion of heritage/character homes into commercial buildings

Do you support the conversion of heritage/character homes to multi-unit apartments?

There was stronger consensus (70% of respondents support) for converting heritage/character homes to multi-unit apartments, indicating a desire to keep heritage homes as a residential use.

Table 16: Support for conversion of heritage/character homes to multi-unit apartments

Answer Choice	Responses
Strongly Agree	20%
Agree	50%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%
Disagree	8%
Strongly Disagree	4%

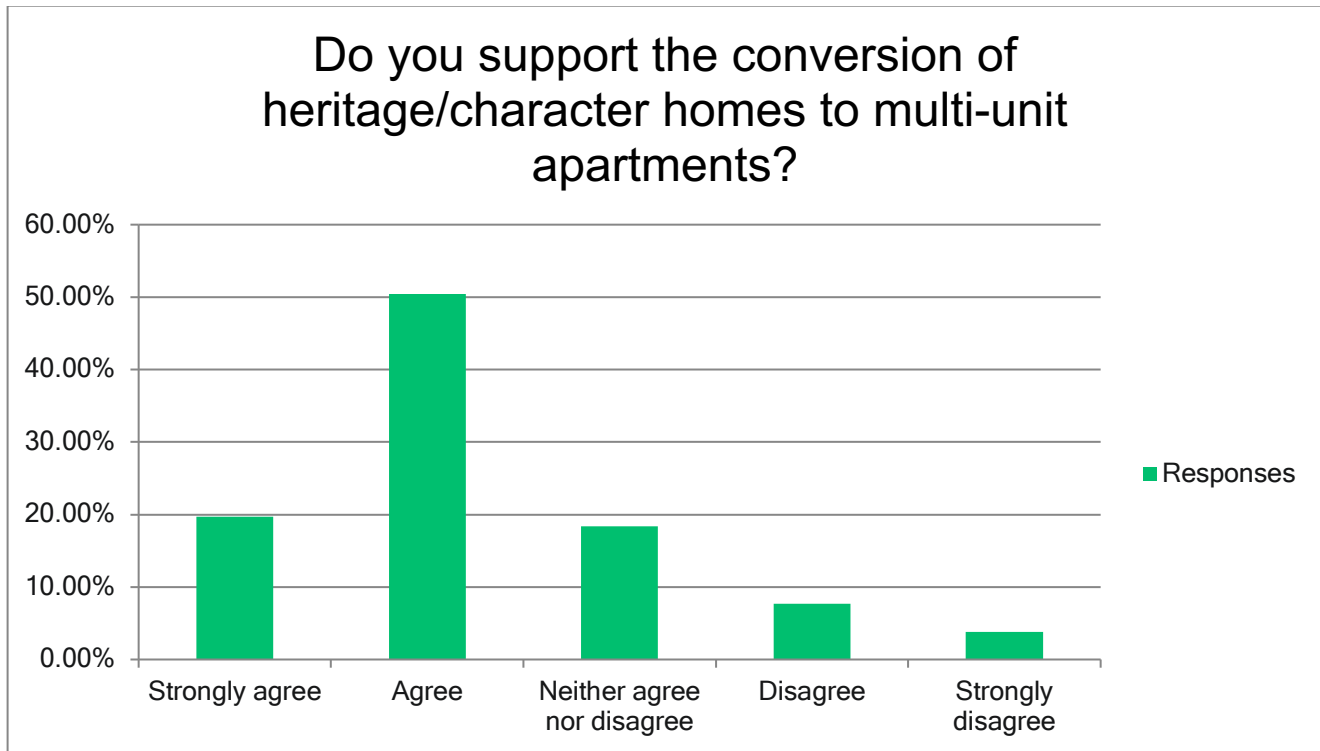


Figure 6: Support for conversion of heritage/character homes to multi-unit apartments

4. Parks

Do you feel North Park has enough park/green space?

North Park residents were split on whether the neighbourhood has enough park space, but more people (57%) feel that it does not.

Table 17: Responses to having enough park/green space

Answer Choice	Response
Yes	43%
No	57%

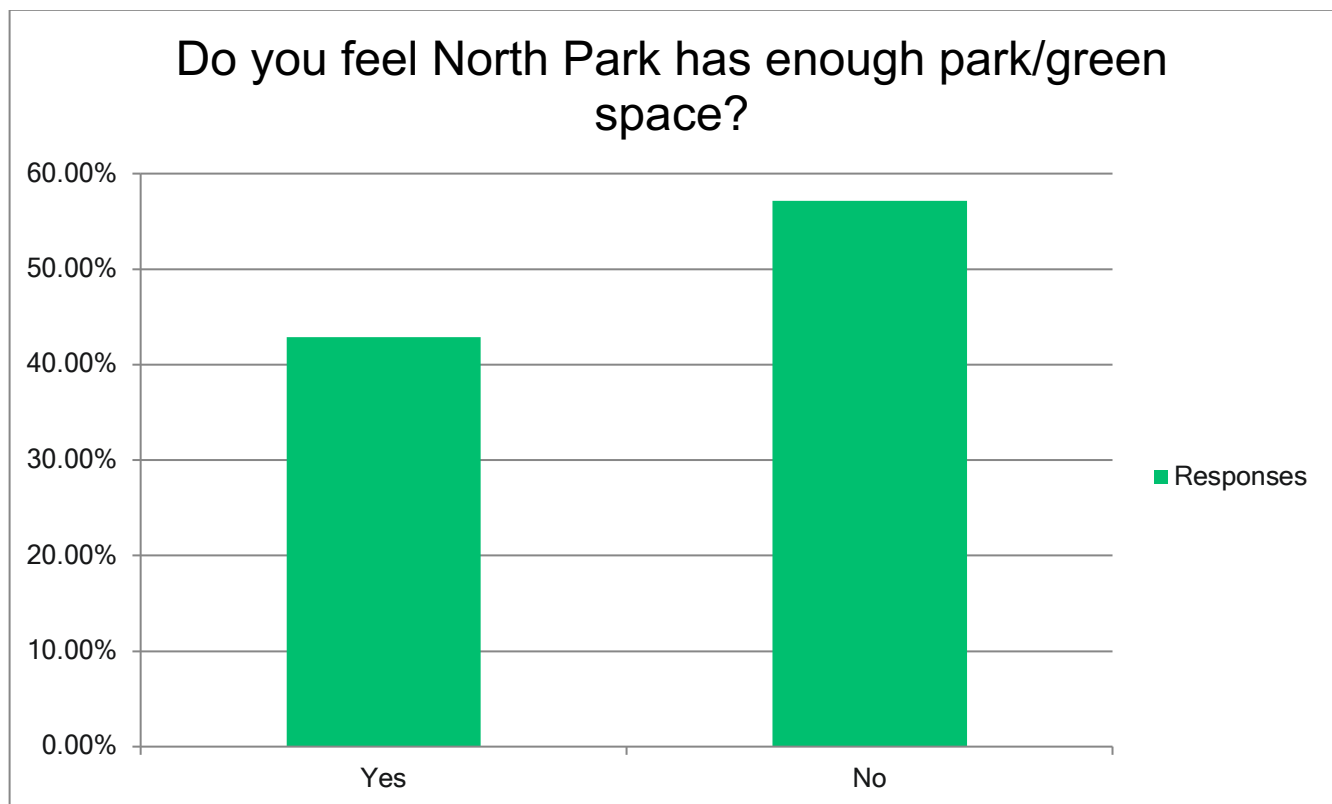


Figure 7: Responses to having enough park/green space

What features would you like to see more of in neighbourhood parks (Select up to 5)

The responses for desired features in parks indicate a desire for more greenspace/vegetation.

Table 18: Desired features in parks

Answer Choice	Responses
Community Gardens	50%
Natural vegetation/pockets of natural habitat	49%
Open/flexible green space	43%
Shelters for gathering during all types of weather (gazebos, picnic shelters, etc.)	34%
Indigenous presence such as art, gathering spaces, etc.	33%
Off-leash dog park	32%
More and varied seating options	30%
Playgrounds/play equipment	29%
Band shell for musical and theatre performances	28%
Picnic tables	22%
Landscaped gardens	21%
Sports facilities	19%
Splash park	19%
Skate park	12%
Other (please specify)	10%

Many respondents mentioned their discomfort with sheltering in parks in the “other” response choice. Other suggestions for park features included

- plazas/patios/hardscapes,
- food-oriented features (such as food forests and edible landscaping),
- pathways for walking/cycling
- Outdoor sports and exercise equipment
- Family/kids space
- Trees

The Royal Athletic Park is city-owned property that is most frequently used for paid admission events (Harbour Cat games, beer and music festivals), however most of the time it is not in use. When not in use for paid admission events, do you agree that Royal Athletic Park should be open for other activities?

87% of respondents feel that RAP should be used for activities other than paid admission events.

Table 19: Agreement with using RAP for activities other than paid events

Answer Choice	Responses
Strongly Agree	60%
Agree	27%
Neither agree nor disagree	8.5%
Disagree	4%
Strongly Disagree	0.5%

It is worth noting that during the time the survey was being conducted and for several months leading up to the survey, RAP had been open to the public for limited hours every day, including for programming and free/open use. This was a new initiative to open up more recreation space during the COVID-19 pandemic, but it has proved extremely popular.

What uses would you like to see in Royal Athletic Park?

There was strong support for all of the answer choices on this question, but free/low-cost programming for children or adults had very strong support.

Table 20: Support for alternative uses of RAP

Answer Choice	Responses
Free or low-cost programming for adults (fitness group dance, etc.)	77%
Free or low-cost programming for children (sports and summer camps, etc.)	74%
Bookings for sports teams or other recreational groups	59%
Free open access to the public	47%
Other (please specify)	7%

“Other” responses were wide ranging and showed no real consensus. Below are some themes/suggestions:

- More live music, outdoor theatre events, arts and cultural outdoor events
- Less live music (like Rifflandia)
- Off leash dog park
- Less geared to spectator sports
- Do not open for public - sports fields require too much maintenance
- Do not use for camping for the homeless
- Space for foot trucks with seating
- Natural landscaping, space for birds

Would you like to see the use of RAP change from a paid admission events field to a public park?

Responses to this question were split almost 50/50, indicating that there is still value that the neighbourhood places on the events that are hosted at RAP.

Table 21: Support for permanent use change of RAP to public park

Answer Choice	Responses
Yes	49.56%
No	50.44%

Would you like to see some or all of RAP used for affordable housing?

There was general consensus on this question that RAP should not be used for affordable housing. The results of this and the previous few questions indicate that the neighbourhood feels like RAP could be used for more diverse and accessible things, but that there is still value in it as an events field.

Table 22: Support for affordable housing on RAP land

Answer Choice	Responses
Yes	21.8%
No	78.2%

5. Sustainability

How would you like to see North Park become more environmentally sustainable? (please rank the following strategies from 1 - most important, to 5 - least important, by clicking the arrows and ranking or by clicking and dragging)

There were mixed opinions on how North Park could become more sustainable, but the largest group of respondents selected *Greener buildings* and *More trees/canopy cover* as the most important strategy. *Opportunities to reduce car ownership, such as access to car share/bike share/e-bike share* was most commonly rated as the least important strategy.

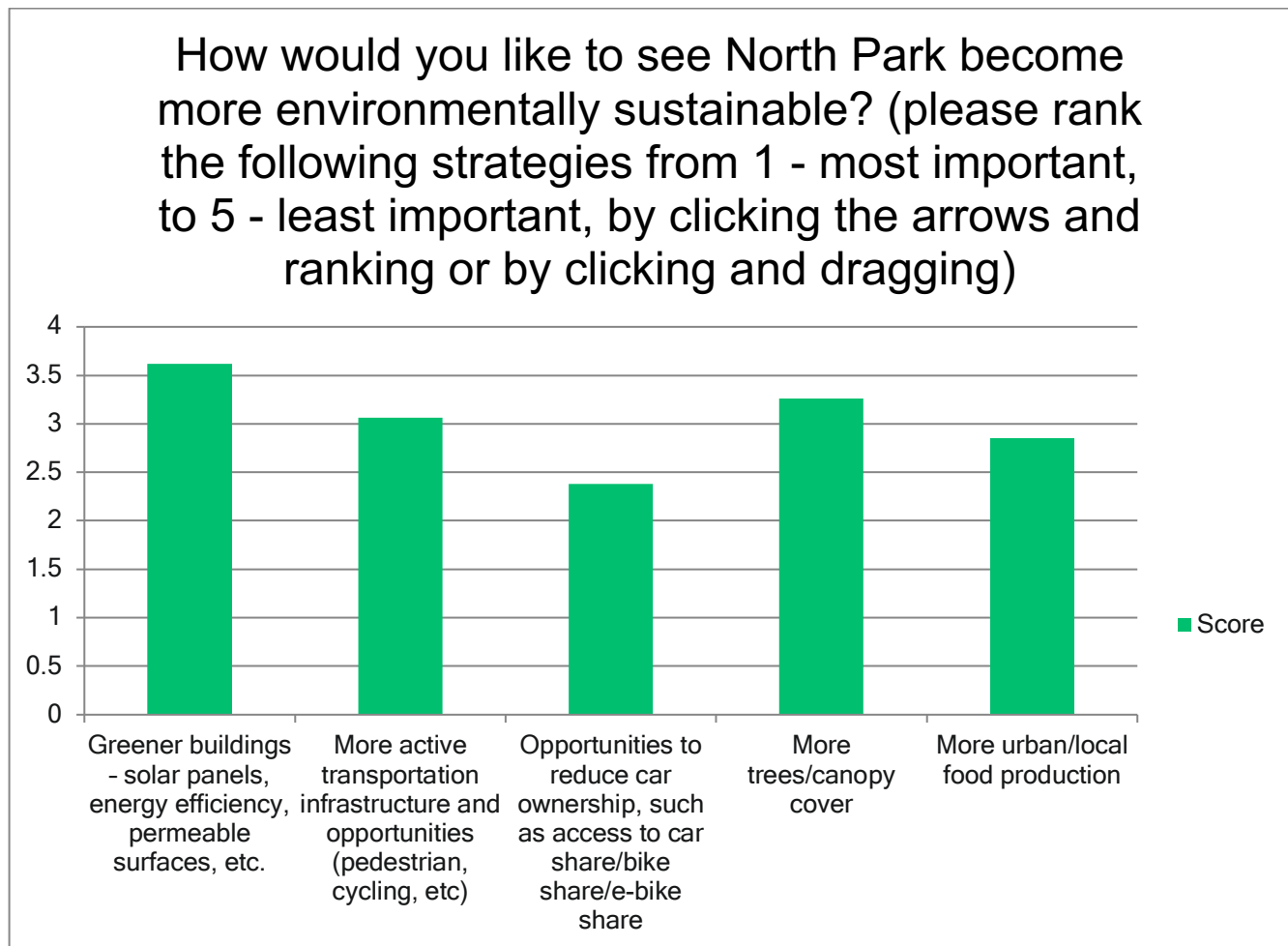


Figure 8: Sustainability priorities

Table 23: Sustainability priorities

	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Greener buildings - solar panels, energy efficiency, permeable surfaces, etc.	37.7%	19.8%	19.3%	13.2%	9.9%	3.62
More active transportation infrastructure and opportunities (pedestrian, cycling, etc)	17.9%	22.7%	19.9%	26.5%	13.0%	3.06
Opportunities to reduce car ownership, such as access to car share/bike share/e-bike share	8.2%	13.5%	20.2%	24.5%	33.7%	2.38
More trees/canopy cover	27.4%	20.3%	18.4%	18.9%	15.1%	3.26
More urban/local food production	15.0%	22.7%	22.3%	12.7%	27.3%	2.85

How concerned are you about the environmental sustainability of new developments in North Park? (think energy efficiency, density, green space, etc).

Respondents are generally concerned about the sustainability of new developments in the neighbourhood, with only 6% of respondents not being concerned at all. 65% answered “a lot” or “a great deal” to the question, indicating that it is a high priority for residents.

Table 24: Concern about environment sustainability of new developments

Answer Choice	Response
A great deal	40%
A lot	24%
A moderate amount	22%
A little	8%
None at all	6%

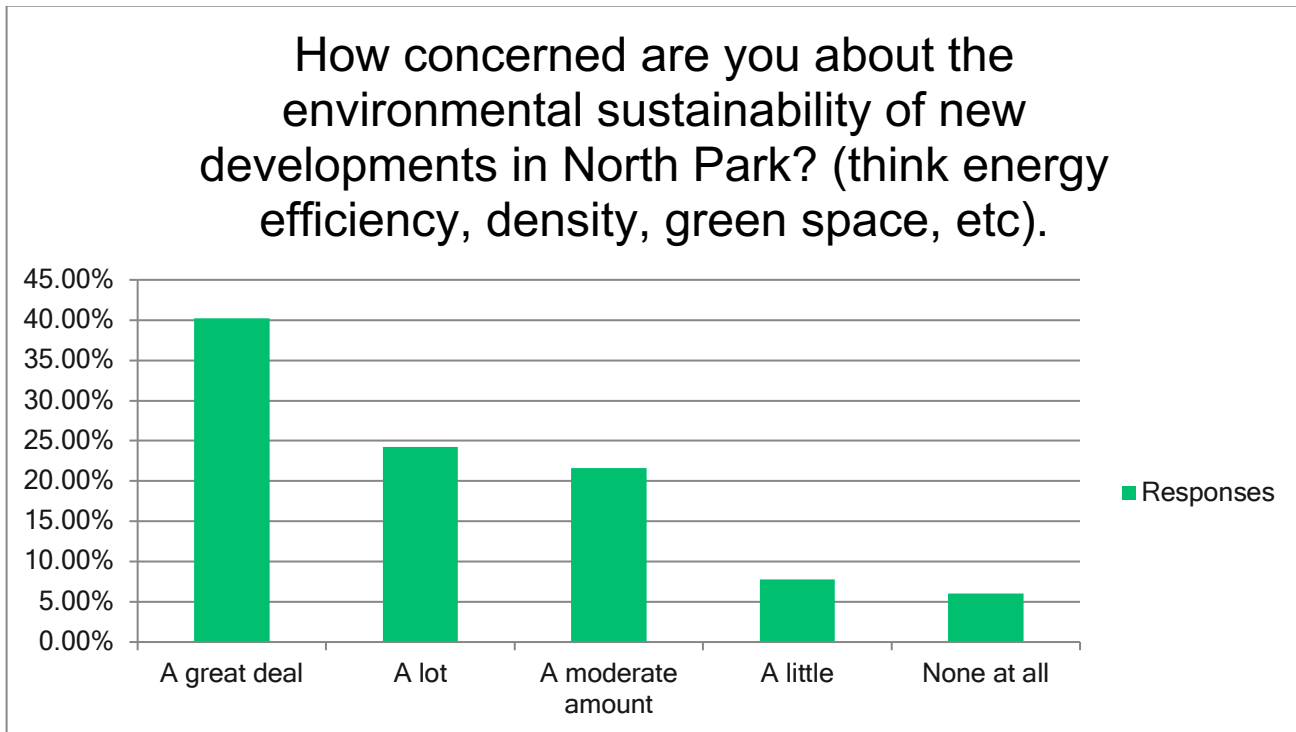


Figure 9: Concern about environmental sustainability of new developments

6. Services

Do you feel like you have access to the services you need, living in North Park?

Generally, respondents felt like they had access to the services they need (71%). However, a significant number of respondents (30%) felt that they did not, perhaps indicating a gap in certain types or range of services.

Table 25: Responses to having access to services in the neighbourhood

Answer Choice	Responses
Yes	71%
No	29%

What type of services and facilities would you like to have access to in North Park? (select up to 5)

Respondents were able to select up to 5 responses for this question, and 3 stood out as being the most desired with 50% or wanting to see these services in the neighbourhood: *Daily needs like groceries, pharmacy, etc.; Doctor/medical offices and/or pharmacy; and Indoor spaces for classes and fitness.*

Table 26: Desired services

Answer Choice	Responses
Daily needs like groceries, pharmacy, etc.	59%
Doctor/medical offices and/or pharmacy	55%
Indoor spaces for classes and fitness	49%
Child care spaces	31%
Services for Seniors	31%
Services for youth	25%
Services aimed at those experiencing homelessness	21%
Services aimed at those experiencing addiction	20%
Services for Indigenous Peoples	20%
Co-working space	13%
Services for single parents	13%
Other (please specify	13%
Services for employment	11%
Services for students	9%

Where respondents were able to select “Other” and write open responses, several people expressed that the neighbourhood has enough services already. Other suggestions included:

- Bank
- Gas station
- Services for people with disabilities
- Practice spaces for musicians
- Flexible space that can host a variety of things
- Community meeting space for NPNA and neighbourhood functions and groups
- Small grocery store
- Massage, physio, counselling

Several respondents also mentioned that they feel there are too many services concentrated in the neighbourhood aimed at those experiencing homelessness and/or addiction and that this has an impact on their feelings of safety.

7. Culture

Would you like to see more cultural activities and venues in North Park? (for example, religious events and spaces, art galleries, theatre venues, events at Royal Athletic Park, Central Park, or community spaces etc)

Generally, respondents felt that they would like to see more cultural activities and venues in the neighbourhood.

Table 27: Responses to seeing more cultural activities and venues

Answer Choice	Responses
Yes	83%
No	17%

What types of cultural activities or spaces would you like to see more of in North Park?

This open-ended question yielded wide ranging responses. Some of the most common themes were:

- Anything
- Music
- Street entertainment
- Art
- Street Art
- Food
- Block party/community fair
- Outdoor spaces/events
- Markets
- Festivals
- Plays/theatres/dance
- Activities for kids
- Sports
- Community Gardens
- Specific cultural events

Of those themes, the most commonly suggested events/activities included music, art, festivals, and plays/theatre/dance performances.

Several respondents also mentioned that they do not want to see more cultural activities, are unsure, or feel that the current level of events is enough.

Do you feel that North Park is an inclusive place for people of all ethnic, racial, gender, sexual, and religious backgrounds/identities?

This question was a yes/no question with the option to expand on why or why not. The responses indicate that people do feel that North Park is an inclusive place, but the open-ended question reveals some nuance.

Table 28: Responses to North Park being an inclusive place

Answer Choice	Responses
Yes	90%
No	10%

The most common response in the open ended “why or why not?” was that respondents felt unqualified to answer, due to their privileged position. Some of those respondents felt that it was based on observations but as someone not within a visible minority, they cannot say for sure.

Other common response themes included:

- There is intolerance present
 - NIMBYism was mentioned several times (Not In My Back Yard)
- It is very homogenous/white, with little diversity
- The mixed use and mixed housing means people of diverse backgrounds live in the neighbourhood
- It is relatively diverse for the Victoria region
- Somewhat inclusive but issues remain
- Neighbours are friendly and tolerant
- Specific types of intolerance are present, such as anti-Indigenous racism

Overall, it appears that North Park is a relatively diverse neighbourhood, but issues remain that need to be addressed.

8. Food and Art

Do you feel that North Park has enough restaurants, cafes, and pubs?

The majority of respondents felt that the neighbourhood does not have enough eating and drinking establishments.

Table 29: Responses to the neighbourhood having enough eating and drinking establishments

Answer Choice	Responses
Yes	32%
No	68%

What types of food/beverage services would you most like to see?

Over half of respondents felt that more street-side outdoor patios and cafes would be good to see in the neighbourhood. Sit-down restaurants were also a popular choice.

Table 30: Desired types of food/beverage services

Answer Choice	Responses
Street-side outdoor patios	71%
Cafes	57%
Sit-down restaurants	48%
Food trucks	44%
Pubs or bars	42%
Other (please specify)	12%

The themes that emerged from the open ended “other” option were:

- Pub
 - Note that *Logans*, a local pub and music venue, had recently announced its closure while the survey was open. Several people felt that this left a hole in the community
- Takeout restaurants
- Cannabis shops
- None - there is enough selection already
- Bakery
- Affordable food options

The popularity of street-side/outdoor patios may have been especially relevant because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Victoria had facilitated pop-up patios around the City which have been popular with patrons who do not want to eat inside restaurants.

Would you like to see more public art in North Park (e.g. murals, art pieces, etc.)?

Respondents overwhelmingly wish to see more public art in the neighbourhood:

Table 31: Responses to having more public art in North Park

Answer Choice	Responses
Yes	87%
No	13%

What types of public art would you like to see more of?

Murals on buildings and *Sculptures/art installations* were the most popular options selected.

Table 32: Desired public art

Answer Choices	Responses
Murals on buildings	81%
Sculptures/art installations	63%
Galleries	40%
Art competitions	30%
Banners	18%
Other (please specify)	10%

The most common “other” response was that art is not a priority or that the neighbourhood has enough. Other suggestions included:

- Graffiti
- Musical, interactive art
- Street Murals
- Local artists
- Indigenous
- Hanging flower baskets

9. Demographics

The following questions gave an indication of who took our survey. This allows us to compare with Census data to evaluate how representative the results might be of the whole neighbourhood. These questions also allow us to filter results based on certain demographics, to see if there is a difference in the way different groups view the neighbourhood.

The tables in the responses below show how the responses compare to Census data where it is available. The Census data was taken from the City of Victoria open data website (<https://opendata.victoria.ca/search?collection=Dataset>). The City has disseminated much of the Census data by neighbourhood, rather than by Census tract.

Note that the latest census data is from 2016 and a new one is scheduled for 2021. The results from the new Census may be added to an updated report when available.

Please indicate your age range:

Respondents were fairly evenly spread between age ranges, with most respondents in the “working adults” range of 30-65 years old.

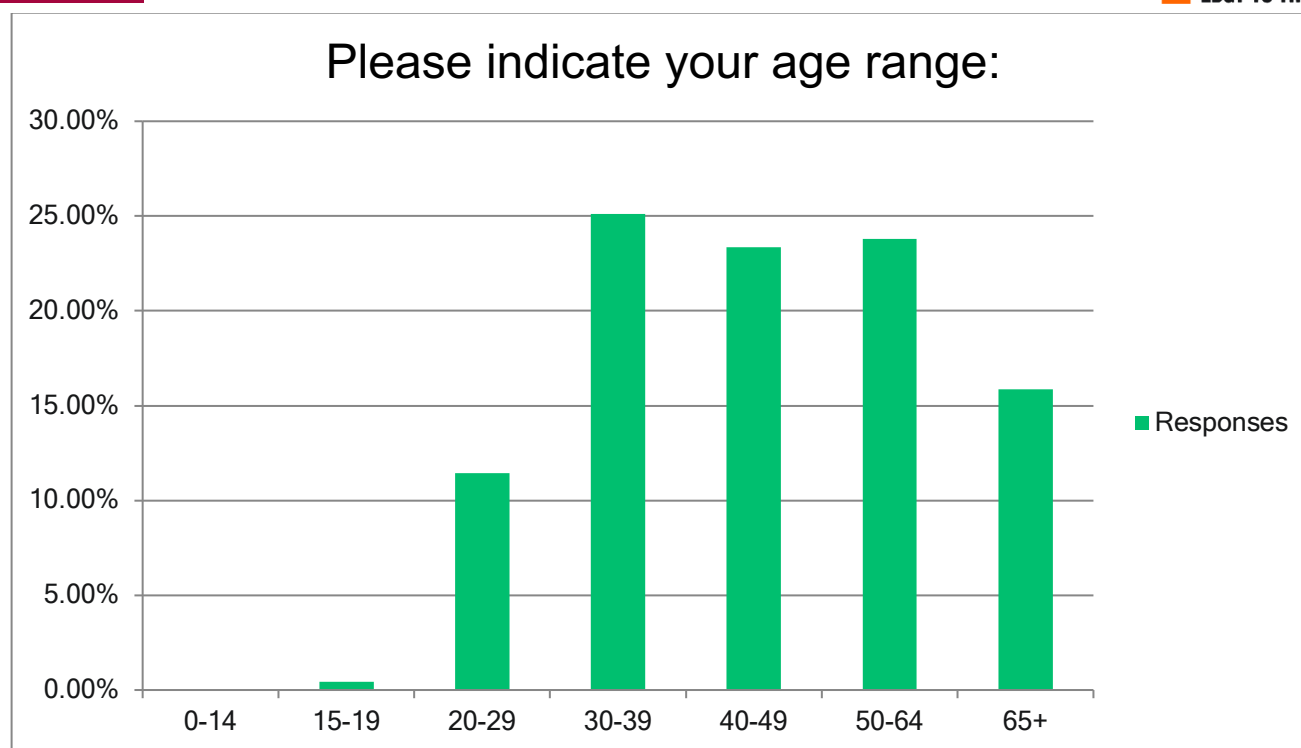


Figure 10: Age range of participants

Table 33: Age range of participants

Age	Responses	2016 Census
0-14	0%	7.6%
15-19	0.5%	2.7%
20-29	11.5%	24.7%
30-39	25%	18.9%
40-49	23%	9.7%
50-64	24%	19.5%
65+	16%	16.8%

Comparing the results to the 2016 Census data for North Park, the results are slightly skewed with adults between 30 and 64 being overrepresented in the survey. North Park is a relatively young neighbourhood with the largest age cohort (20-29 years old) consisting of 24.7% of the population and just over half (53.2%) of residents being under the age of 40. The 40-49 age cohort was especially overrepresented, making up 9.7% of the population but consisting of 24% of responses.

Please indicate your gender:

Responses were heavily weighted to more female respondents. Some research supports this trend, but there is little understanding as to why women respond to surveys at higher rates than men.

Table 34: Gender of respondents

Answer Choice	Responses	2016 Census Data
Female	60%	48.3%
Male	35%	51.6%
Non-binary or two-spirit	3%	No data available
Other	0%	
Prefer not to say	2%	

These results are particularly interesting when compared with the census data, which indicates that there are slightly more men than women living in North Park.

Do you identify as any of the following? (Check all that apply)

The majority of respondents did not identify as a minority.

Table 35: Minority status of respondents

Answer Choice	Responses	2016 Census Data
Indigenous	2%	20% visible minority
Racialized	5%	
Immigrant	11%	20.4%
Refugee	0%	
LGBTQ+	13%	No data available
None of the above	72%	80% not a visible minority; 76% non-immigrants

The comparison between the survey responses and the Census data is difficult to fully quantify, as the question sets are different. However, according to the census, 20% of North Park's population is a visible minority, whereas only 7% of respondents to the survey reported being Indigenous or racialized. Similarly, 20% of residents in the neighbourhood are immigrants, whereas only 11% of respondents were. There is not census data available for the LGBTQ+ population of North Park.

Please indicate your housing tenure:

More homeowners than renters completed the survey.

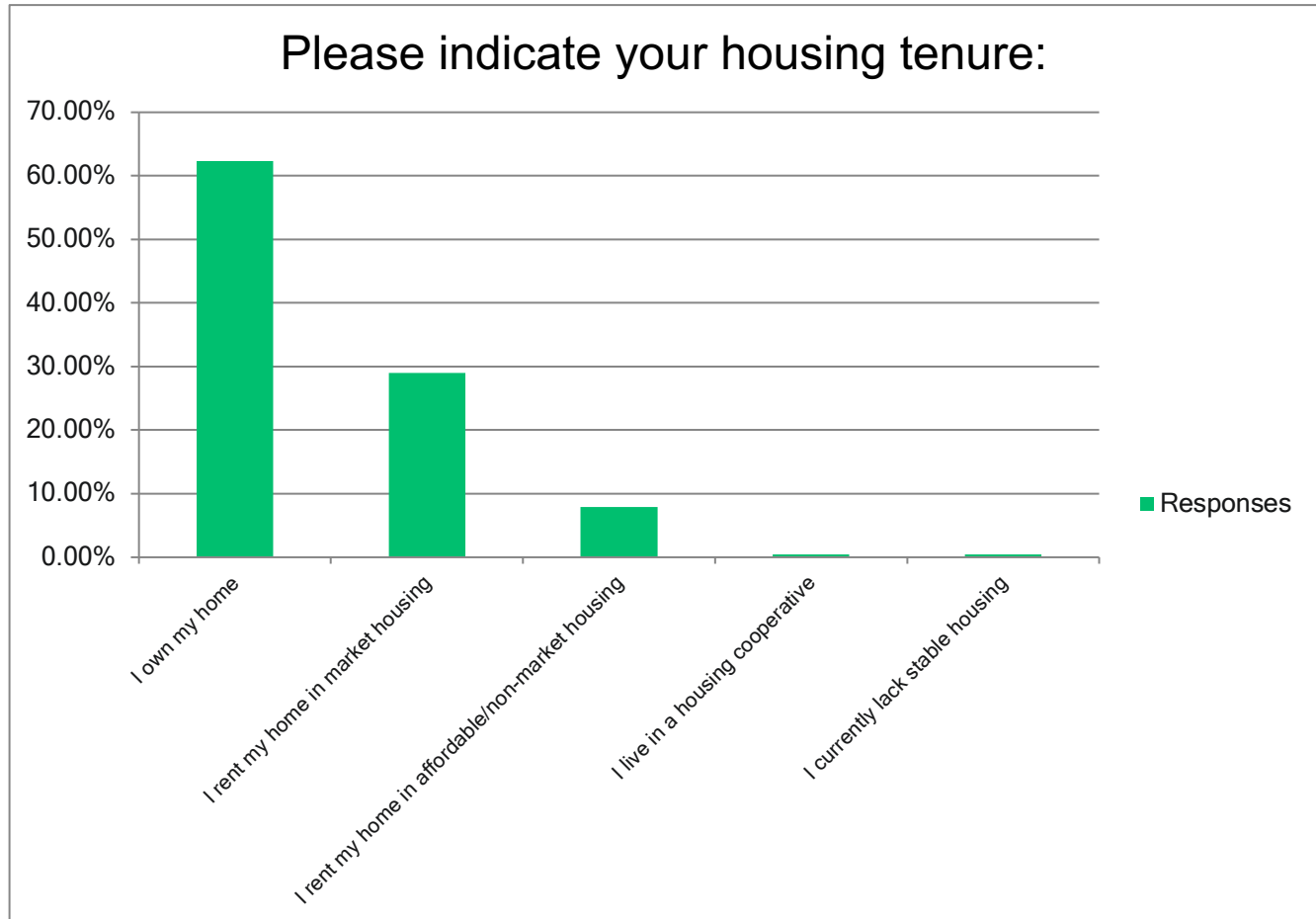


Figure 11: Housing tenure of respondents

Table 36: Housing tenure of respondents

Answer Choice	Responses	2016 Census Data
I own my home	62%	20.7%
I rent my home in market housing	29%	79.1% are renters
I rent my home in affordable/non-market housing	8%	
I live in a housing cooperative	0.5%	No data available
I currently lack stable housing	0.5%	No census data available

When comparing the data comparing renters and owners in the Census, we see that responses were heavily skewed by homeowners, even though almost 80% of residents are renters.

Please indicate all that apply (relationship to NP neighbourhood):

The majority of respondents live in/near North Park neighbourhood, with about one quarter of respondents working or owning a business in Victoria. Only about 6% of respondents do not live in the neighbourhood, and only 2% live outside of the City of Victoria.

Table 37: Relationship of respondents to North Park

Answer Choices	Responses
I live in/near North Park Neighbourhood	93%
I work in North Park Neighbourhood	16%
I own a business or property in North Park	8%
I live in another neighbourhood in Victoria	4%
I live elsewhere	2%

Which of the following best describes the type of building you live in?

Respondents live in a mix of housing types, with about a quarter in duplex or townhouses and just over a quarter live in detached/single family homes. Roughly one third live in apartments or condos.

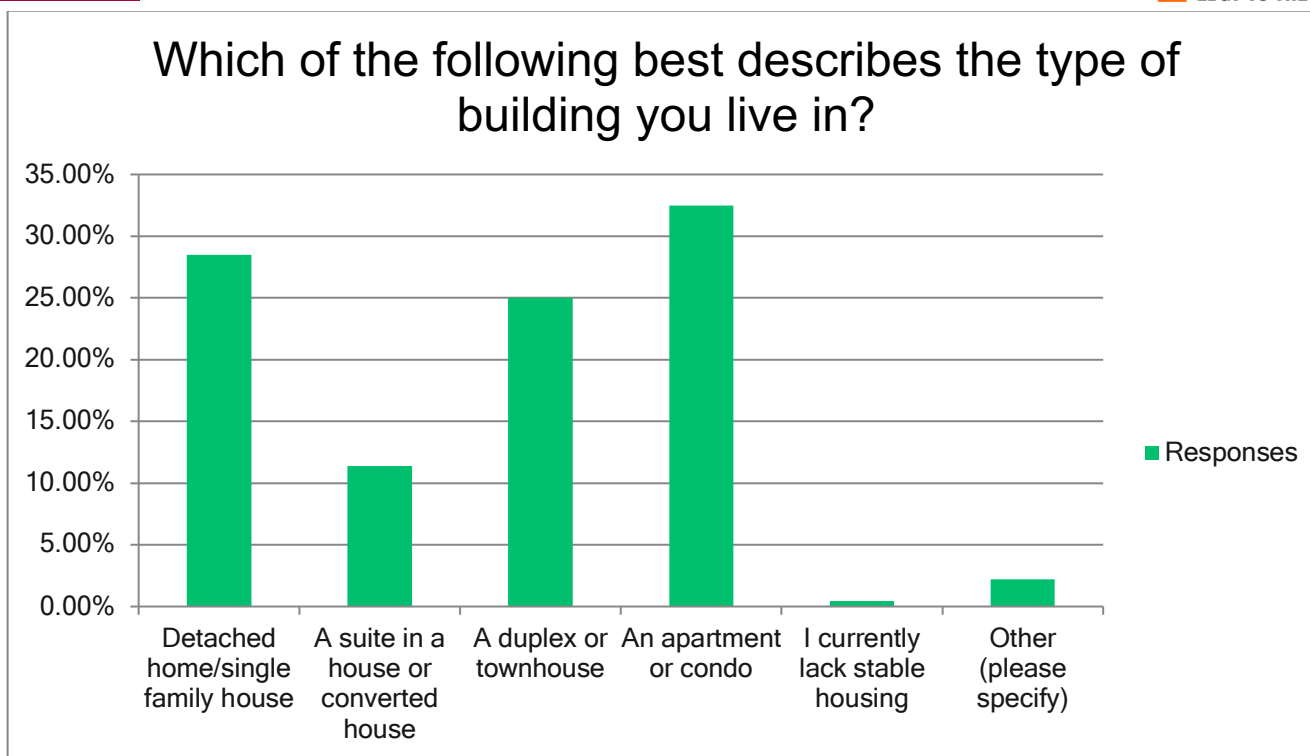


Figure 12: Housing building type of respondents

Table 38: Housing building type of respondents

Answer Choices	Responses	2016 Census Data
Detached home/single family house	28.5%	3.6%
Suite in a house or converted house	11.5%	No data available
A duplex or townhouse	25%	9.5%
An apartment or condo	32.5%	63%
I currently lack stable housing	0.5%	No data available
Other (please specify)	2%	No data available

While the answer choices on this survey do not align totally with the Census data, comparing the closest answer indicate a disparity between who responded to the survey and who lives in North Park. While 28.5% of respondents live in detached/single family homes, only 3.6% of North Park's population lives in that housing typology. Meanwhile, the majority (63%) of residents in North Park live in apartments or condos under 5 storeys, while only 32.5% of respondents live in that housing typology.

How often to you struggle to pay your monthly rent, mortgage, and/or utility bills?

Most respondents rarely or never struggle to pay their monthly living expenses, but roughly one quarter of respondents sometimes, usually, or always struggle.

Table 39: Frequency of struggling to pay monthly bills

Answer Choice	Responses
Always	4.5%
Usually	5%
Sometimes	19%
Rarely	15%
Never	56.5%

This indicates that despite being a relatively affordable neighbourhood, housing affordability remains an issue as current residents are struggling to pay their living expenses.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) provides data on the private rental market for jurisdictions across BC. Their latest data for Victoria is from October 2019 and is therefore slightly outdated, but below shows the trend of private rentals over the last 4 years. According to Statistics Canada, the average after-tax income in North Park is \$48,928. In order for housing to be considered affordable, households must spend no more than 30% of their income on housing/rent. Someone making the average income could spend up to \$1,223 in monthly rent; this means that anything more than a 1 bedroom is unaffordable for many North Park residents.

Table 40: Private Apartment Average Rents (Source: CMHC)

	OCT-16		OCT-17		OCT-18		OCT-19	
Bachelor	792	b	899	a	947	a	991	a
1 Bedroom	898	a	964	a	1,059	a	1,114	a
2 Bedroom	1,179	a	1,262	a	1,378	a	1,454	a
3 Bedroom +	1,540	a	1,607	b	1,670	a	1,774	b
Total	964	a	1,035	a	1,132	a	1,191	a

What is your household income?

Income levels of respondents were relatively spread across the spectrum, with no income group representing more than 20% of respondents. The largest income group was \$50,000-\$74,000, which roughly reflects the average and median incomes (both before and after taxes) of households in the neighbourhood.

Table 41: Median and Average household incomes for North Park (2016 Census)

Household Income (from 2016 Census)	
Average total income of economic families in 2015	\$65,419
Median total income of economic families in 2015	\$54,526
Average after-tax income of economic families in 2015	\$56,370
Median after-tax income of economic families in 2015	\$48,928

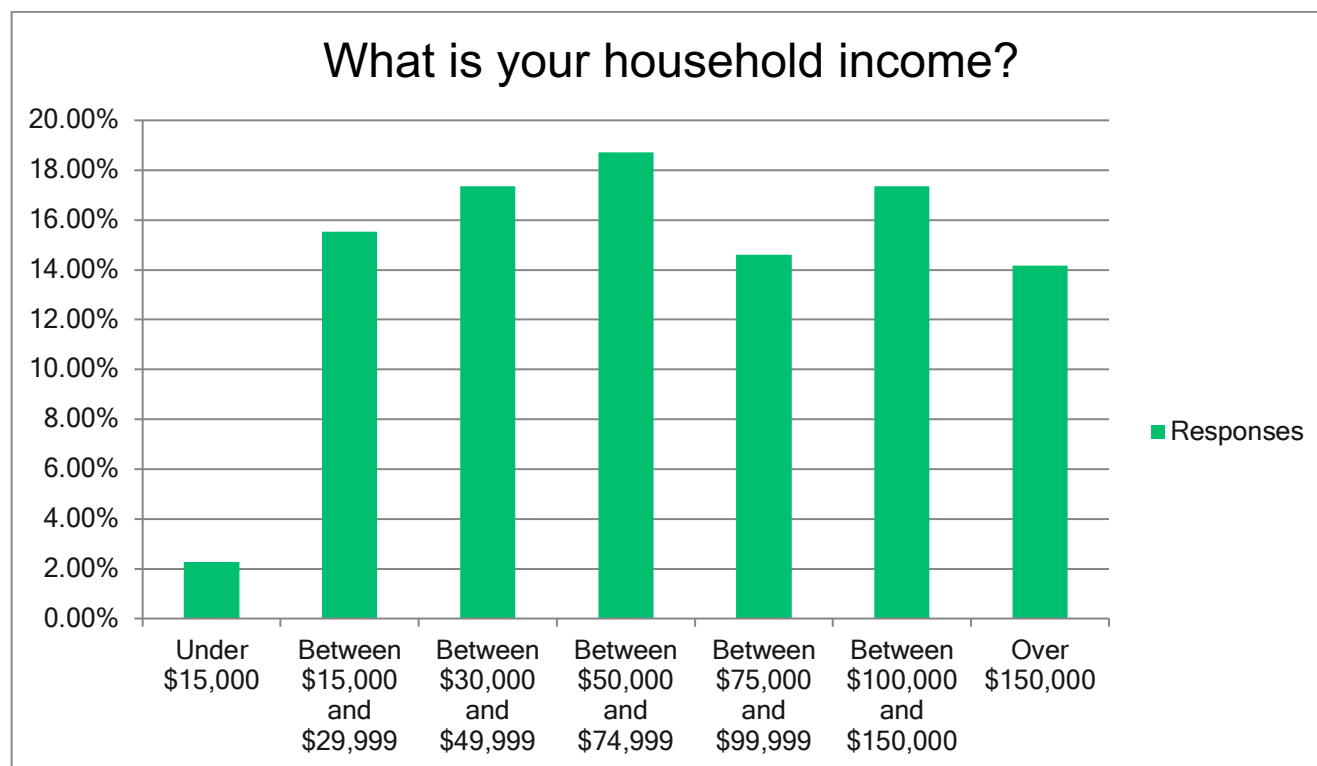


Figure 13: Respondent Household Income

Table 42: Respondent household income

Answer Choice	Responses	2016 Census Data
Under \$15,000	2%	15.4%
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	15.5%	31%
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	17%	18.4%
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	19%	16.3%
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	14.5%	8.8%
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	17%	8.1%
Over \$150,000	14%	2.1%

When comparing with the Census data, we see that households with a higher income level were overrepresented in the data, and those earning under \$30,000/year were underrepresented.

Do you own or have access to a car?

Most respondents (82.5%) have access to a car.

Table 43: Respondent access to a car

Answer Choice	Response
Yes	82.5%
No	17.5%

Which best describes your family size?

Most respondents either live alone, live with a partner/spouse, or live with a partner and one or more kids.

Table 44: Respondent family size

Answer Choice	Responses
I live alone	28%
I live with one or more roommates	7%
I live with my partner/spouse	34%
I am a single parent with one or more kids at home	3%
I live with a partner/spouse and one or more kids	26%
I live in a multi-generational household	3%
We are two or more families sharing the same house	0%