

Project Report

15 August 2018 - 02 November 2021

EngageWR

Soper Park: What could it be?



Visitors Summary

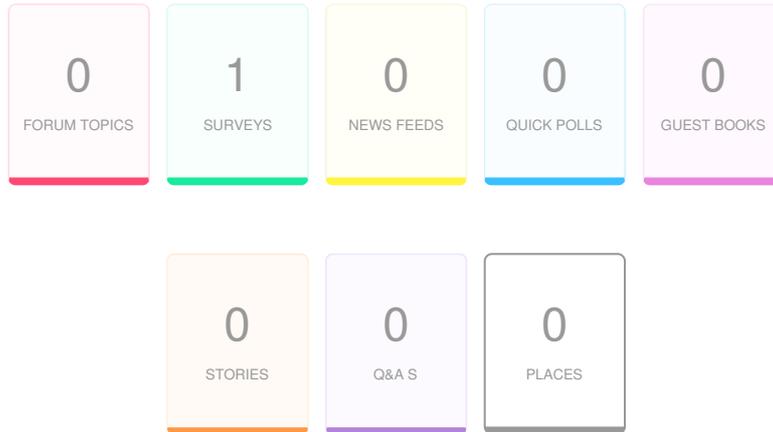


Highlights



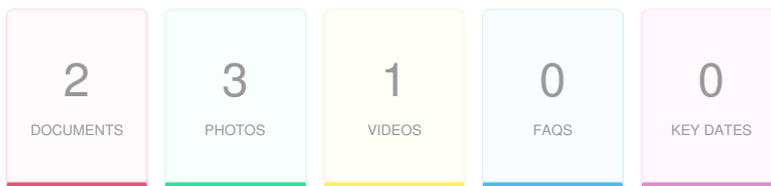
Aware Participants		Engaged Participants	
	492		168
Aware Actions Performed	Participants	Engaged Actions Performed	Registered Unverified Anonymous
Visited a Project or Tool Page	492		
Informed Participants	264	Contributed on Forums	0 0 0
Informed Actions Performed	Participants	Participated in Surveys	19 3 96
Viewed a video	0	Contributed to Newsfeeds	0 0 0
Viewed a photo	83	Participated in Quick Polls	0 0 0
Downloaded a document	4	Posted on Guestbooks	0 0 0
Visited the Key Dates page	0	Contributed to Stories	0 0 0
Visited an FAQ list Page	0	Asked Questions	0 0 0
Visited Instagram Page	0	Placed Pins on Places	0 0 0
Visited Multiple Project Pages	101	Contributed to Ideas	18 17 28
Contributed to a tool (engaged)	168		

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Guest Book	Your Ideas	Draft	0	0	0	0
Survey Tool	Your vision for Soper Park	Archived	139	19	3	96
Ideas	Your Vision for Soper Park	Archived	101	18	17	28

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



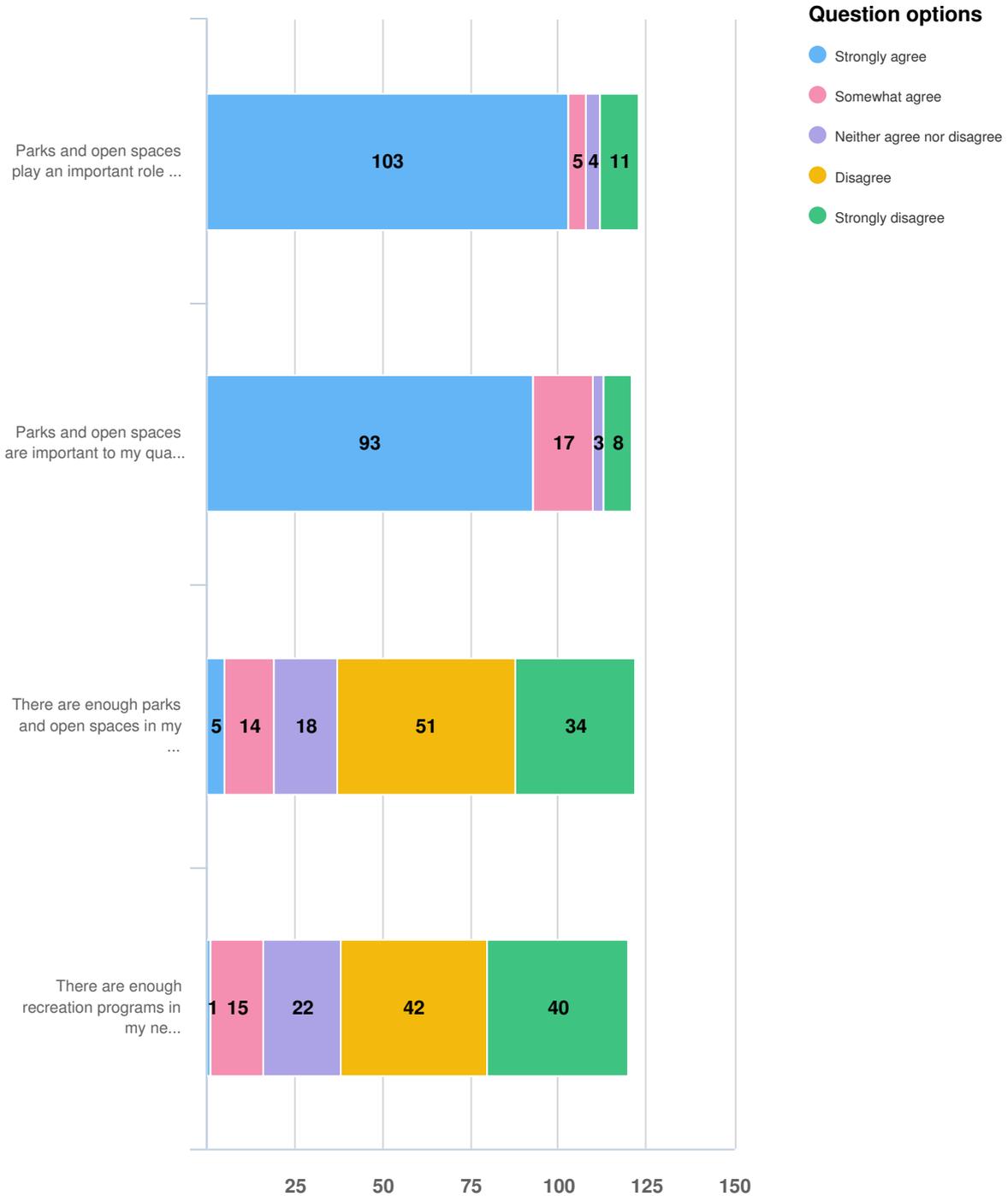
Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Photo	Concept 1: Pollinators & Play	63	66
Photo	Concept 2: Sports & Splash	55	58
Photo	Concept 3: Art & Agriculture	40	41
Document	Cambridge Connected Strategic Plan, 2020-2023	2	3
Document	Council Report - Nov. 18, 2020	2	3
Video	Soper Park Concepts Presentation	0	0

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

Your vision for Soper Park

Visitors 139	Contributors 118	CONTRIBUTIONS 124
---------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------

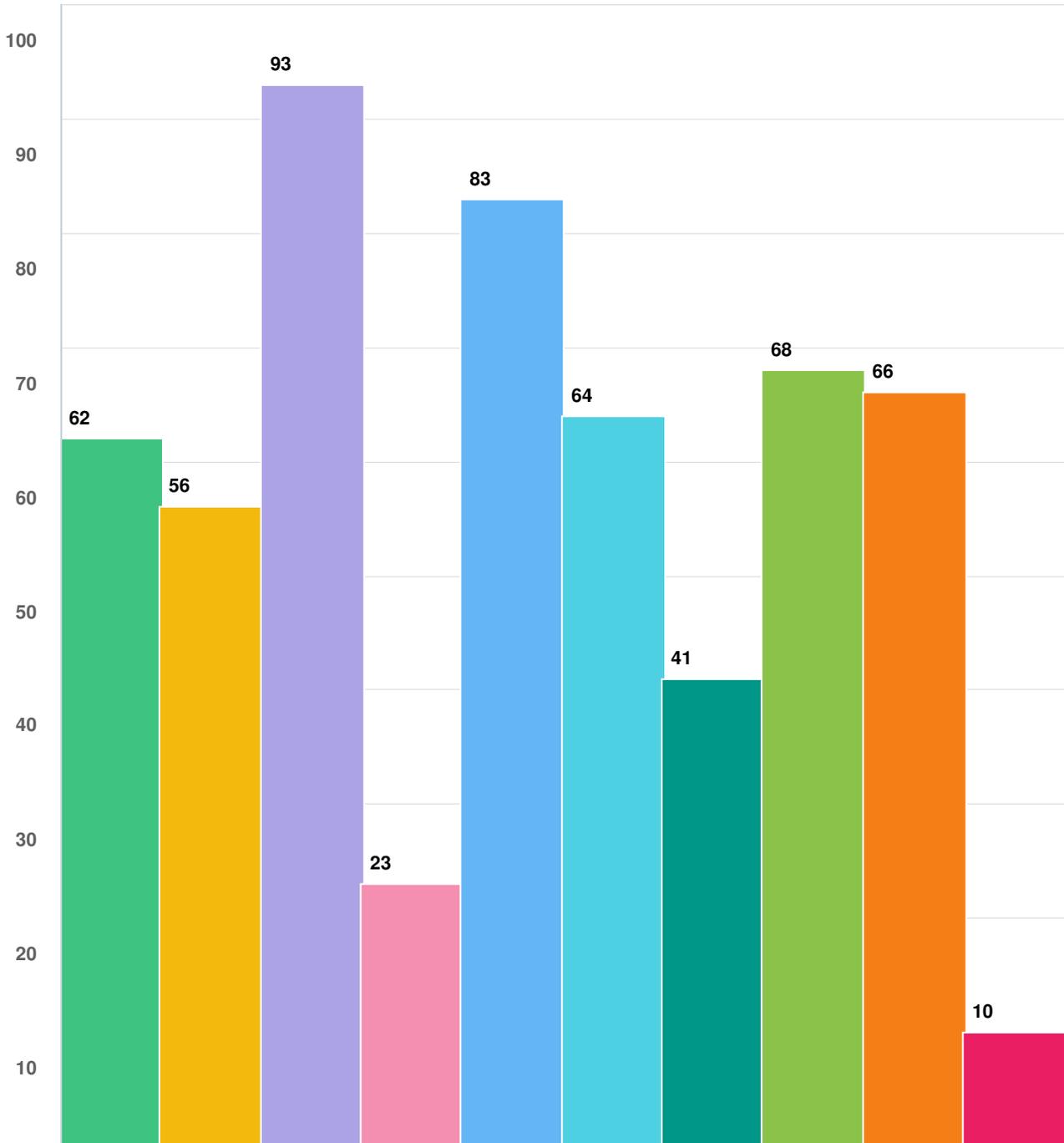
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.



Optional question (123 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

What is most valuable to you in a park? (choose up to 5)



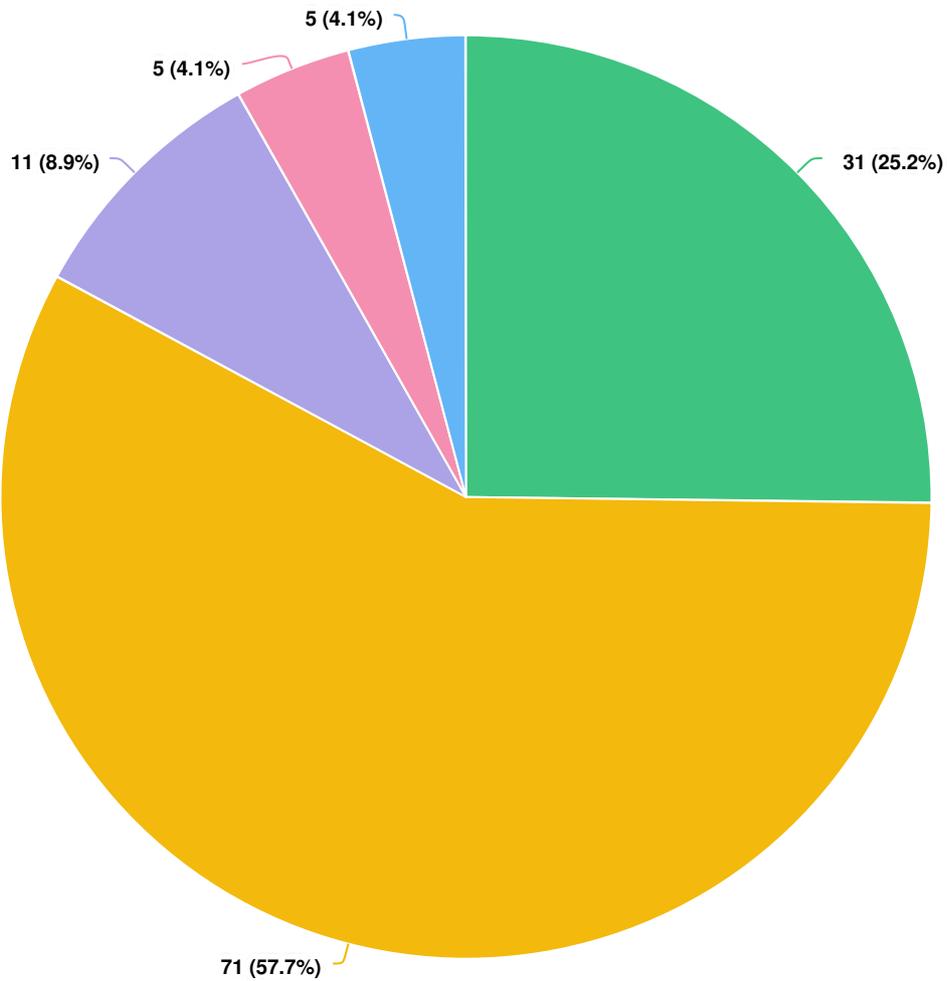
Question options

- Other (please specify)
- Lots of diverse activities in the park
- Opportunities to socialize, be with family and friends
- Quiet places and places to relax
- Places to exercise or be active
- Safety
- East to get to
- Cleanliness
- Places to connect with nature
- Beauty (natural features, landscape, views, etc.)

Optional question (123 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

How often do you and/or members of your household visit City parks?



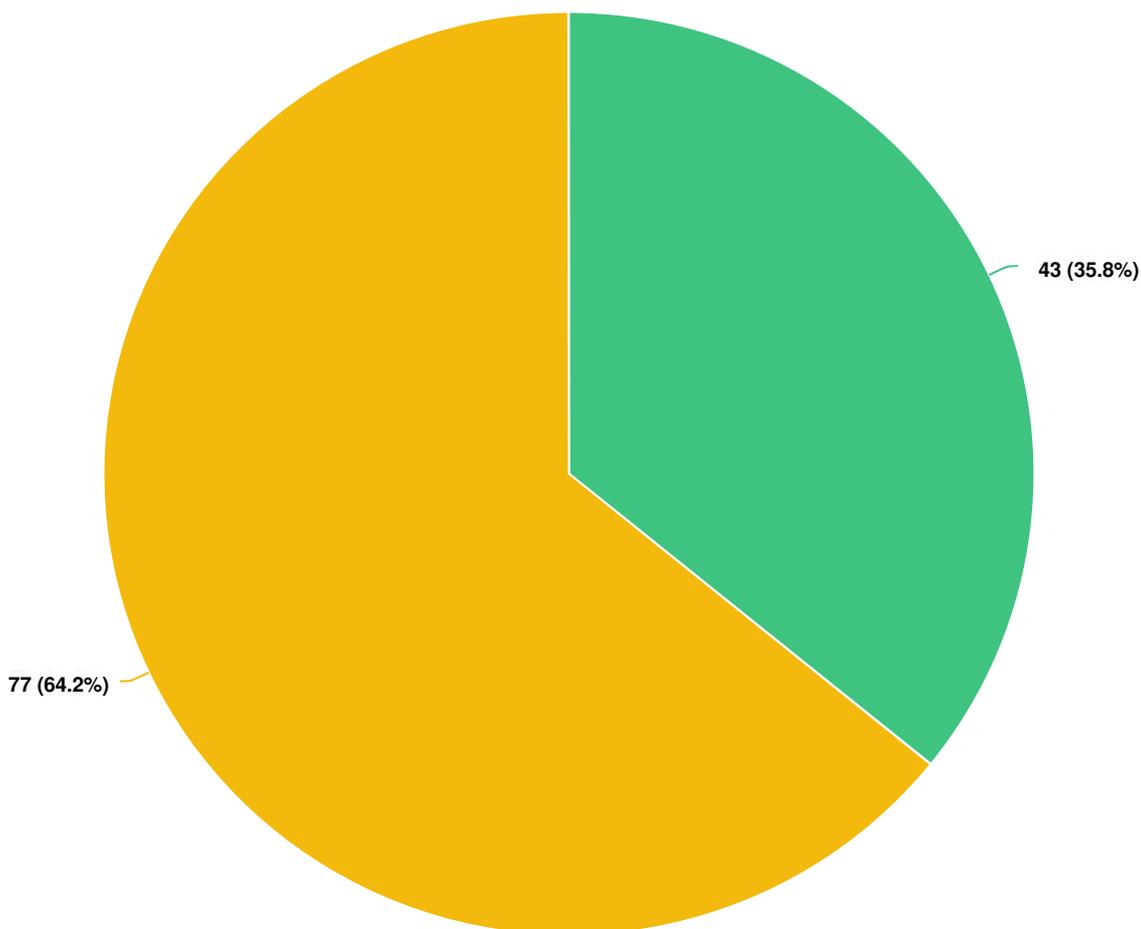
Question options

- 1-3 times a year
- 4-6 times a year
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily

Optional question (123 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Do you feel that you and/or members of your household are able to participate as often as you would like in the parks that are of most interest to you?



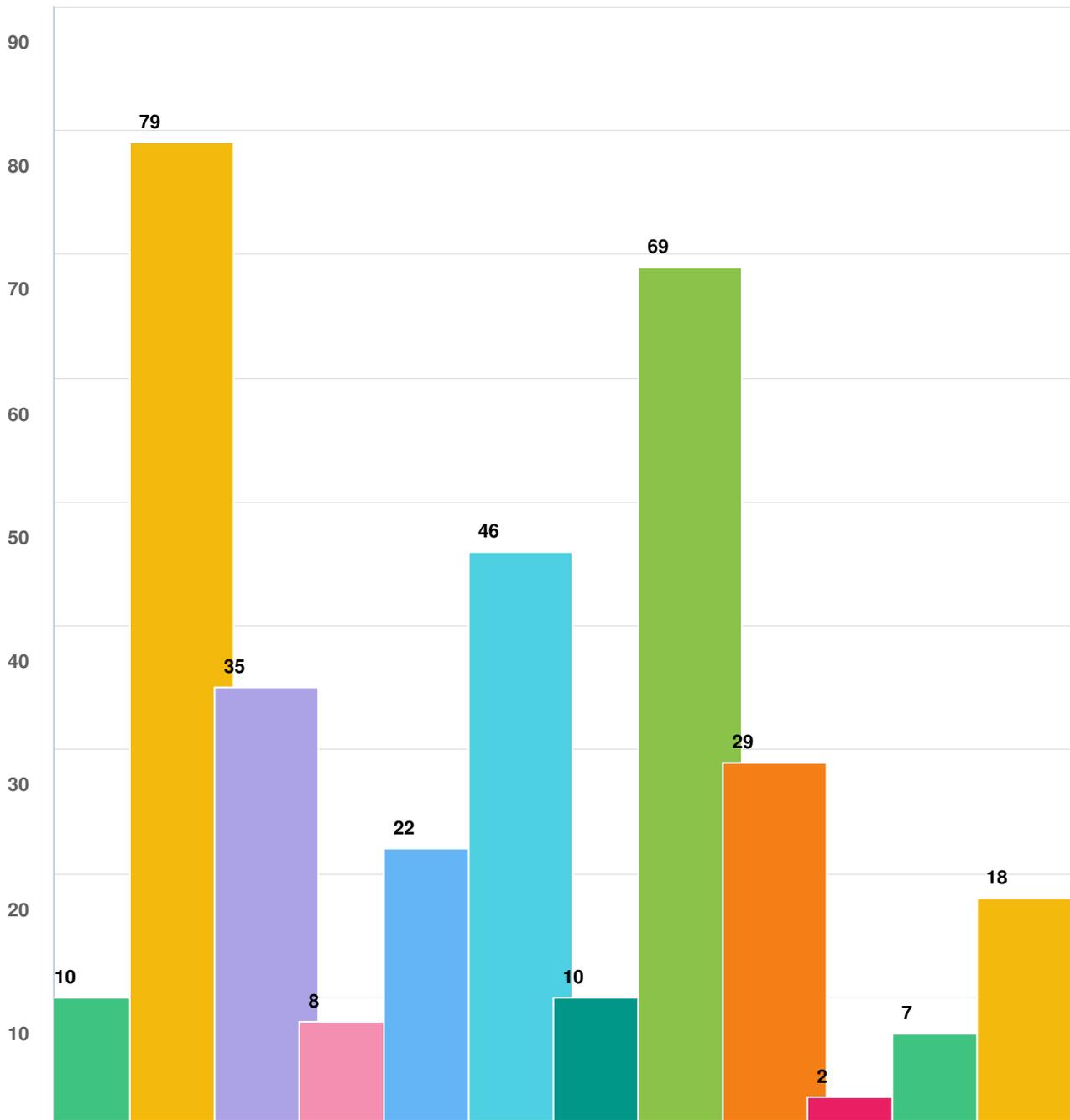
Question options

- No
- Yes

Optional question (120 response(s), 4 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

What stops you and/or members of your household from using City parks? (choose all that apply)



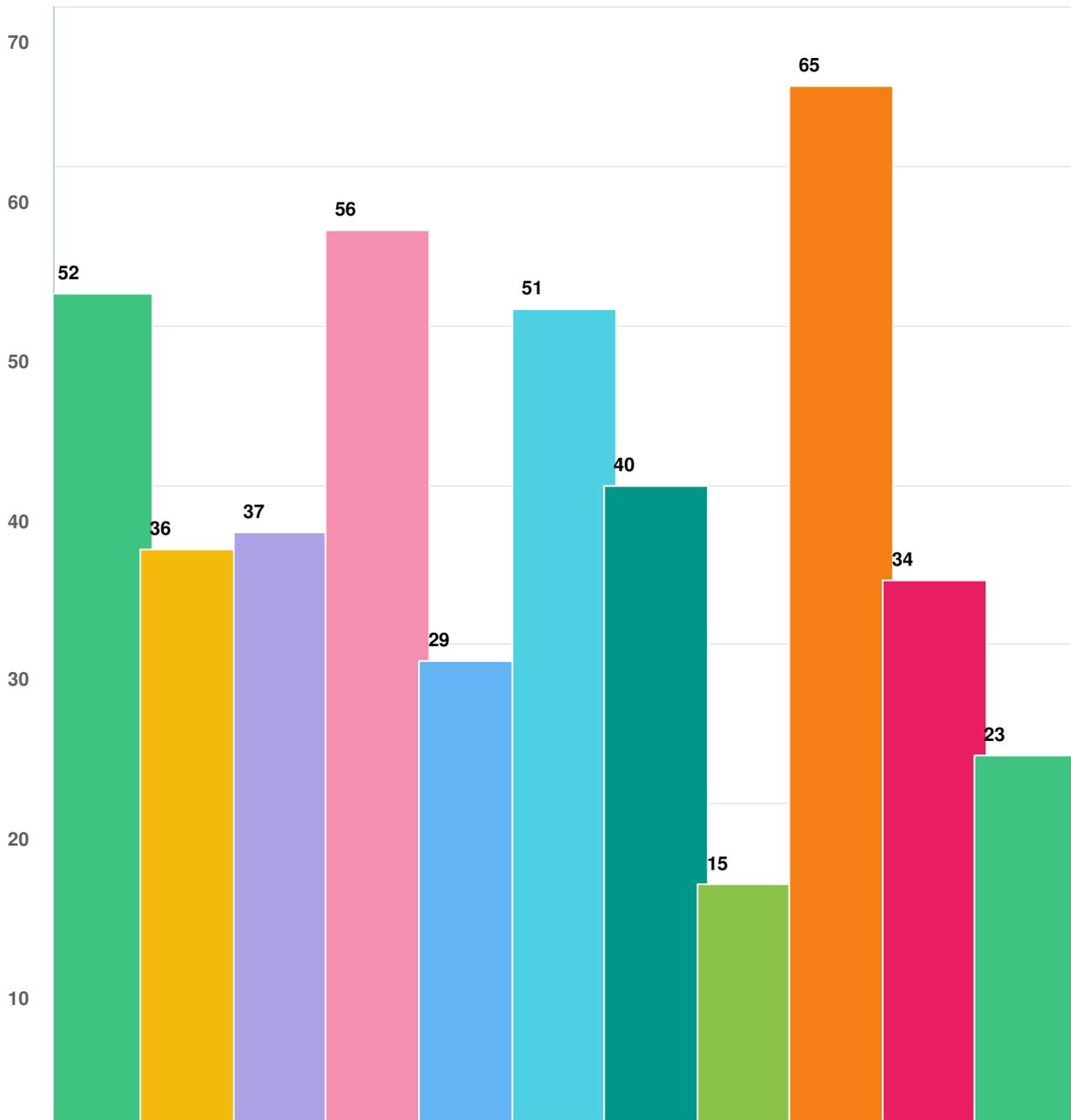
Question options

- Other (please specify)
 ● Lack of physical accessibility
 ● Lack of access due to cultural or language barriers
- Lack of lighting
 ● Presence of people experiencing homelessness
 ● Inadequate parking
- Parks appear in poor condition/poorly maintained
 ● Not enough time
 ● Lack of awareness of City parks
- Lack of parks close to home
 ● Crime or safety concerns
 ● No current barriers

Optional question (123 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

What are the top 5 programs you and/or members of your household would be most likely to use at Soper Park? (choose up to 5)



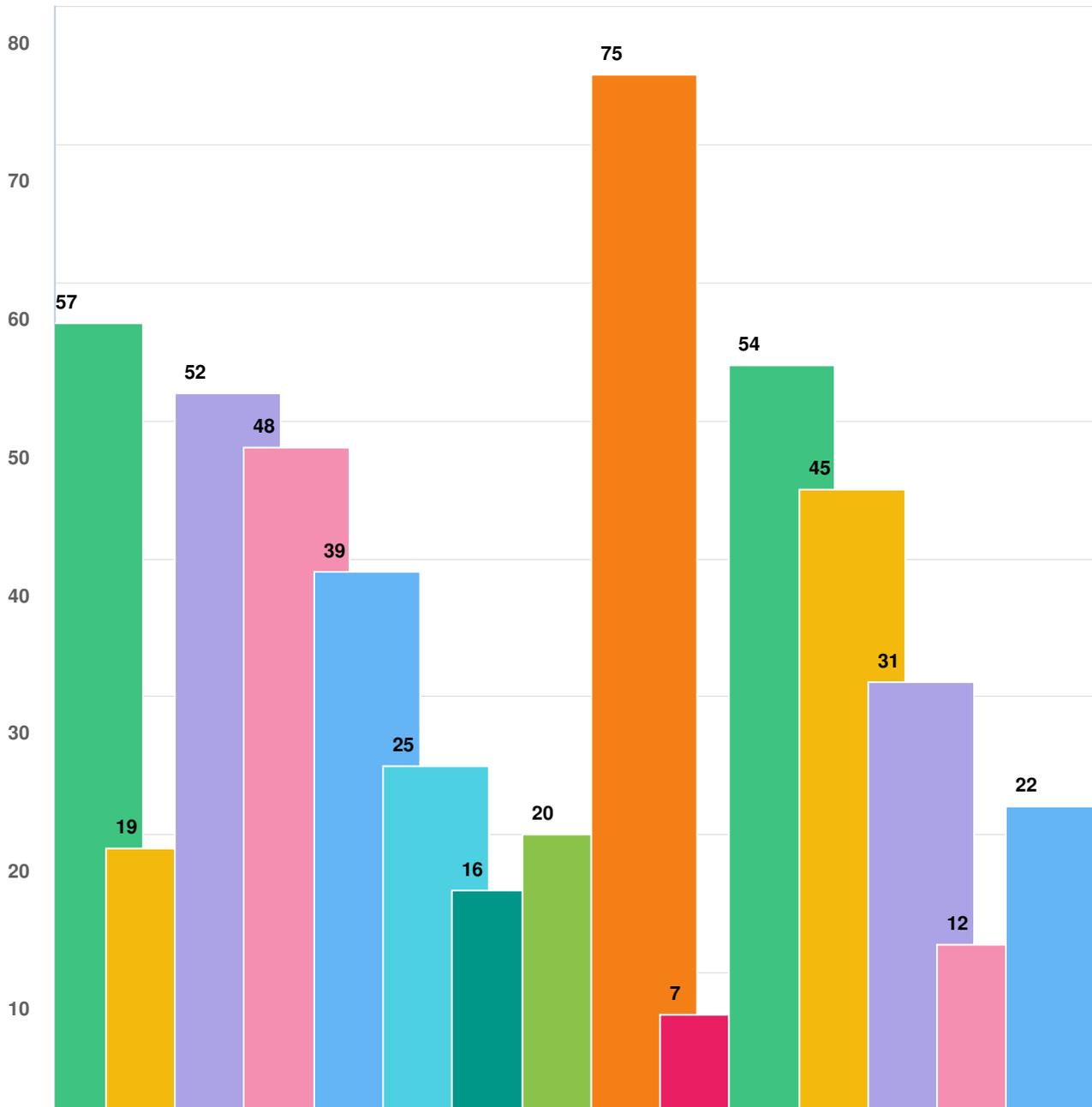
Question options

- Other (please specify)
 ● Organized sports leagues
 ● Children's programming
- Stewardship and Volunteer opportunities
 ● Fitness classes (e.g. Yoga, Zumba, Boot Camps, Circuit training, etc.)
- Neighbourhood gatherings and parties
 ● Culture and heritage events
 ● Movies in the park
- Activity groups (e.g. walking clubs, gardening groups, etc.)
 ● Musical or theatrical performances
 ● Nature programs

Optional question (120 response(s), 4 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

What are the top 5 facility and amenity options that you and/or members of your household would be most likely to use at Soper Park? (choose up to 5)



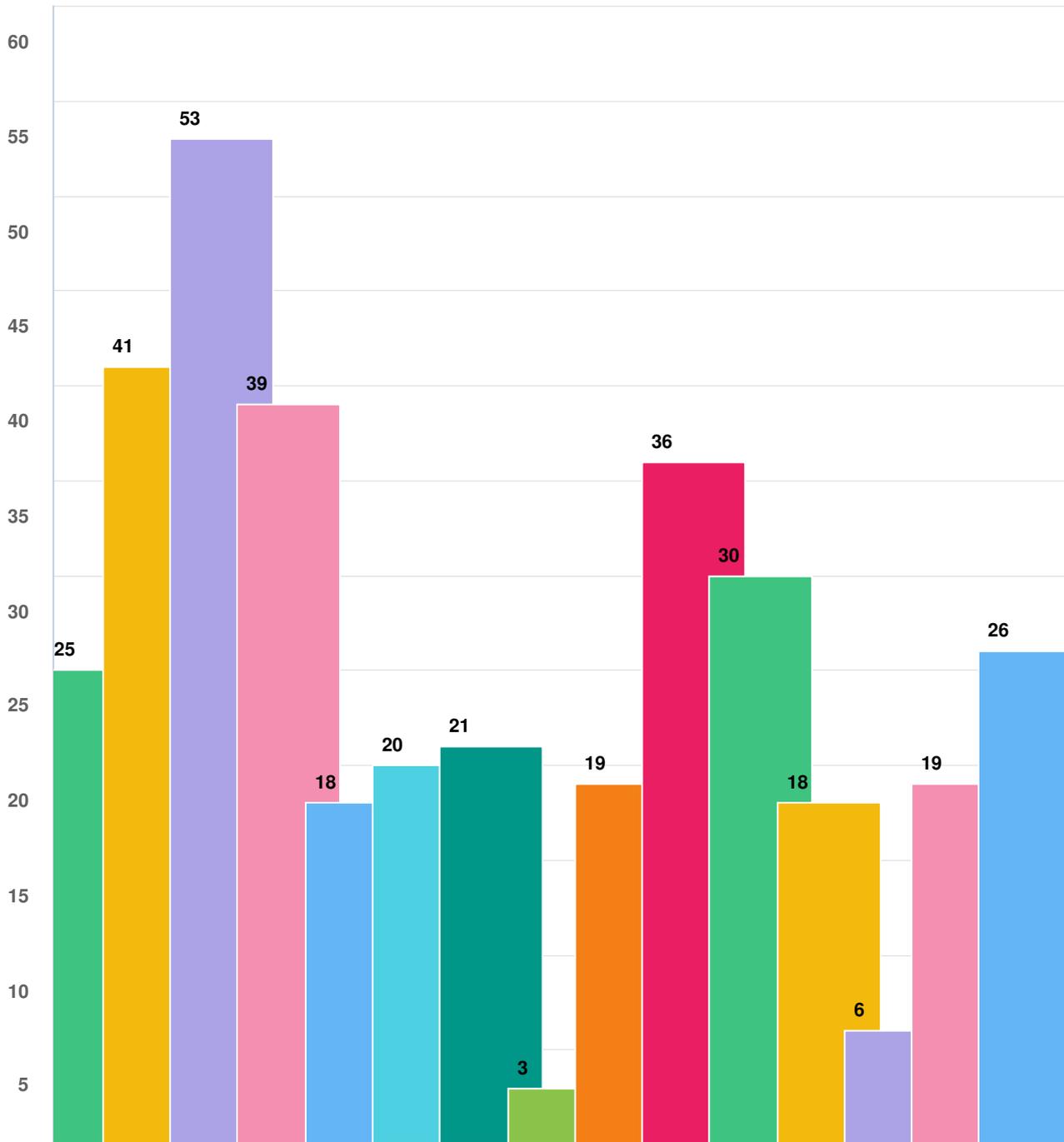
Question options

- Other (please specify)
 ● Multi-use field
 ● Outdoor Multi-use sport court
 ● Picnic areas and pavillion
- Playscapes and play feature
 ● Interactive public art feature
 ● Water/splash feature
 ● Outdoor performance space
- Community garden
 ● Off-leash dog park
 ● All-abilities playground
- Nature-based play elements (e.g. balancing log, climbing bounders, etc.)
 ● Multi-purpose trails for walking, running, hiking
- Natural areas and preserves
 ● Nature trails for hiking and walking

Optional question (123 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

**What sport programs would be a priority for you and/or members of your household?
(choose up to 5)**



Question options

- Other (please specify)
 ● Lawn bowling
 ● Cricket
 ● Pickleball
 ● Tennis
 ● Soccer
 ● Ball hockey
- Lacrosse
 ● Archery
 ● Disc golf
 ● Bocce
 ● Cycling
 ● Outdoor fitness equipment
- Group exercise programs
 ● Gardening programs

Optional question (115 response(s), 9 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

Visitors	101	Contributors	63	CONTRIBUTIONS	335
06 September 21					
Julielewis					
VOTES	5	UNVOTES	0		
I love the polinators and play idea! Large splash pad ! Natural playground! Shady area for parents and children to take a break.					
06 September 21					
LF					
VOTES	2	UNVOTES	0		
Natural play area with splash pad. Also include clean and safe facilities (washrooms) and shelter that invite families to stay and play.					
It would be wonderful to have something like the Huron Natural Play area (Kitchener) in our city. A large natural play area that would include sand play, climbing structures made of logs etc...There isn't a park like this in Cambridge and young children need more spaces to connect with nature. Water play is crucial to keep in this area. If not a pool than a generous splash pad with facilities to makes visits easy and appealing for families (shelter/shade, washrooms). I appreciate you taking the ideas of community members, however, this will be all for nothing if we cannot remedy the larger issue in this particular area which is homelessness and drug use.					
07 September 21					
RF					
VOTES	24	UNVOTES	0		
we need outdoor pools in the city before they are gone. bring back the pool good for kids and parents.					
08 September 21					
snoopdog103					
VOTES	5	UNVOTES	0		
I would like to see a outdoor rink and parking for winter activity.					

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

<p>08 September 21</p> <p>Monica [REDACTED]</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	2	0	<p>A sporty area that could be an ice rink in the winter and have outdoor play spaces in the summer with shelters and shade. Home for day camps</p> <p>The splash concept might be closest. Get kids and parents outside again.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
2	0				
<p>09 September 21</p> <p>Chris</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	3	0	<p>Multi use walking trail or cement pad for hockey and summer sports in the summer and a outdoor skating pad in the winter.</p> <p>I would love to see a outdoor family skating rink. It could be used in the summer as a walking trail or a basketball/hockey pad but turned into a skating rink in the winter. Or a reflection pond that kids can sit in during the summer months and skate on in the winter. There are no safe outdoor skating rinks in the city. My son who is 9 loves skating and wants to always skate on a pond by our home but it is unsafe. With washrooms and change rooms. Snack bar with hot chocolate. Music in the background would be a nice family outing for all ages.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
3	0				
<p>09 September 21</p> <p>Midge</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	0	0	<p>Pickleball courts (2), with overhead shelter. Kids playground with splash pad.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
0	0				
<p>10 September 21</p> <p>Dish</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	0	0	<p>Why the duplication</p> <p>Why does one of the concepts talk about adding a splashpad and jungle gym when there is currently one in the park. What is going to happen to it? Is it easier to add on to it if enhancing the splashpad and playground. Does the city own the land that use to have the lawnbowling club?</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
0	0				
<p>10 September 21</p> <p>Dish</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	15	0	<p>An outdoor pool</p> <p>It would be unique in the city and wouldn't be duplicated by existing services in the park already.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
15	0				
<p>12 September 21</p> <p>Swimmer</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	19	0	<p>I would like to see a new outdoor pool where the citizens could enjoy the benefits of swimming and learning to swim</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
19	0				

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

13 September 21		<p>Etherington</p> <p>Outdoor pools will become essential as the climate gets warmer in summer. Build a new larger one like the Hancock pool.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES	
18	0	
13 September 21		<p>Emilia</p> <p>Small amphitheater for live events</p> <p>A small outdoor amphitheater for live music and theatre events (ie: kids shows, Shake speare in The Park etc)</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES	
2	0	
14 September 21		<p>Etherington</p> <p>Add a clubhouse to a newer enlarged pool for comm unity programs for kids, teens and seniors</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES	
14	0	
14 September 21		<p>Oscar 5314</p> <p>How about a swimming pool . New. Updated maybe even 50metre</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES	
19	0	
16 September 21		<p>Community First</p> <p>New Community Pool</p> <p>The need to have a new outdoor pool at Soper Park is essential to the future health of the community and the park. Closing the pool and forcing residents to get in their car t o drive to the proposed new city complex nowhere need the Soper park community ar ea is misguided. It will destroy the community that desperately needs to be reinvigorat ed.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES	
19	0	
16 September 21		<p>Cowssaymoo</p> <p>Keep the pool open until the new rec center is built and open. Already a shortage of pools in cambridge</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES	
15	0	
16 September 21		<p>Cowssaymoo</p> <p>Harry Class Pool in Kitchener is an amazing facility, why can't cambridge have something similar? Keep the pool open longer.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES	
16	0	

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

<p>16 September 21</p> <p>Cowssaymoo</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	17	0	<p>Kitchener, Ontario Why can't we have nice facilities too??</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
17	0				
<p>19 September 21</p> <p>Melissa [REDACTED]</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	7	0	<p>Off leash dog park</p> <p>Ever since river bluffs closed their dog park the only dog park in Cambridge is at the other end of town. There are a lot of people who would benefit from having a closer option.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
7	0				
<p>20 September 21</p> <p>Robert G</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	15	0	<p>A new pool</p> <p>I'll add my vote for a new pool to the majority of voices above. After what our children have gone through, they deserve a new pool just as nice as the new pools just built in Kitchener and Paris.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
15	0				
<p>22 September 21</p> <p>JoeyJoey</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	17	0	<p>Build a bigger and better pool complex that lets youth adults and seniors have outdoor and social activities.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
17	0				
<p>23 September 21</p> <p>Celeste</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	0	0	<p>Not nearly enough space for ideas. Sports & Splash . Splash only good for under 8 yrs. Add adult/teen outdoor fitness equip, walking track</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
0	0				
<p>23 September 21</p> <p>Celeste</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	3	0	<p>Children under 8 - splash pad. Adults/teens - outdoor fitness equipment. Seniors - walking track that circles the area.</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
3	0				
<p>23 September 21</p> <p>Celeste</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOTES</th> <th>UNVOTES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOTES	UNVOTES	2	0	<p>In addition to splash pad, outdoor fitness equipment, walking track, have a big play structure that accommodates younger and older children</p>
VOTES	UNVOTES				
2	0				

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

24 September 21		Keisha Off-leash dog park, sports and rec Dog park as there is none in Cambridge (the one we have is practically kitchener), ball hockey area for summer, spring and fall that gets turned into ice rink in winter (real ice). Tennis court and playground for kids
VOTES	UNVOTES	
5	0	
24 September 21		Deester A dog park divided in to two. One half to small and medium dogs and the other half for medium to large dogs. Provide water taps.
VOTES	UNVOTES	
3	0	
24 September 21		Hoop Outdoor fitness equipment , gardens, shading fixtures , splash pad , dog park Something. For community first! Multigenerational space. Gardens, outdoor fitness equipment, splash pads, possible dog park
VOTES	UNVOTES	
0	0	
24 September 21		Tara W We'd love to see the disc golf course expanded. We'd love to see the disc golf course expanded. There is already a playground and splash pad. They can use an update with natural elements, and fitness and instrument stations. I wouldn't recommend them or a dog park being where the pool was because that can create hazard with flying discs around.
VOTES	UNVOTES	
2	0	
24 September 21		Brenda We need to replace this pool! A city our size needs more than one outdoor pool! We don't need more splash pads.
VOTES	UNVOTES	
11	0	
25 September 21		Julie A naturescape playground, native species of trees, shrubs and perennials could be labelled like a mini arboretum, adult workout stations
VOTES	UNVOTES	
0	0	
26 September 21		Tammy p Pool/ice rink splash pad Use the area as a 4 season facility . Outdoor pool . Winter skating rink which we need more of and a splash pad . Surround with gardens that are fruit trees and community gardens to help feed one another. If any room left a dog park would be nice as well .
VOTES	UNVOTES	
6	0	

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

27 September 21		<p>My Soper park includes an outdoor pool. More family friendly - picnic tables, creatives, outdoor concerts, vendors, splash pad.</p> <p>Walking accessible-trail from Main to Dundas needs to be cleaned.</p>
GJ		
VOTES 5	UNVOTES 0	

27 September 21		<p>Outdoor Pool</p> <p>An outdoor pool provides opportunity to swim during the pandemic when indoor pools are closed. When 2024 is here, there will only be 1 outdoor pool in Cambridge. The residents deserve more options to swim outdoors!</p>
Mrs. Hislop		
VOTES 5	UNVOTES 0	

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

27 September 21

Debra [REDACTED]

VOTES

3

UNVOTES

0

Please see my email below with the reasons that I outline for the importance of updating, and retaining Soper Park pool.

In a recent email to Councillors Liggett and Mann, I voiced my concerns around the decision to close the outdoor pools, and yesterday's notice in the Record confirmed that Soper Park pool ("the beloved community hangout") is "set to close in October" (the Record, September 01, 2021). I am writing to implore all members of Council to reconsider the decision to close this pool. In particular I am asking that any Councillor(s) who initially voted to close the pool bring the decision forward as a "vote of reconsideration." It is my understanding that this is the only way that the decision to close the pool(s) can be revisited. I will begin by outlining my personal experience of using the outdoor pools in Cambridge, and highlighting some of the relevant scholarly research that underscores the importance of outdoor environments. Finally, I will argue that in light of COVID-19, maintaining our outdoor pools is especially important for our well-being, and for pandemic planning for the future. During July and August, I have been attending daily the exercise 'aqua combo' classes held at the Soper Park pool, and whenever they are available, the 'aqua deep' classes at the Ed Newland pool. I am thankful to the City for providing the number of classes offered, and for employing very well-qualified instructors who are both professional and personable. Even though I typically am a daily user of the W.G. Johnson Centre pool because I live in Hespeler, the opportunity to do physical exercise in these outdoor pools has been especially enjoyable because of what I have found to be the mental health benefits of being outside. The number of registrants for these programs is proof of their popularity, and many participants have revealed that it is the only form of exercise that is possible given their health situations. My children also used the outdoor pools every summer for swimming lessons and public swims when they were younger, and I purposefully chose to have them take lessons in the outdoor pool because of the health benefits of being in outdoor environments. Indeed, outdoor pools provide opportunities for citizens of all ages and abilities. Because as Canadians we tend to spend a great deal of time inside during the colder months, to be able to capitalize on what our outdoor pools have to offer during the summer months is especially meaningful. The Cambridge Recreation Complex - which is not slated to be completed until 2025 - will not take the place of Soper pool or any other outdoor pool. In addition, Soper Park Pool is located IN the community, unlike the Cambridge Recreation Complex which will be on the outskirts of, and removed from, the community. To be mindful of the well-being of our communities, we need to be thinking in terms of more pools, not in terms of replacing pools. In sum, I cannot emphasize enough how important our outdoor pools have been to me and my family, and I argue, for our Cambridge communities more broadly. As a sociologist/criminologist, I am familiar with scholarly research that points to the health and social benefits of being in outdoor public spaces (for example, Kondo et al., 2018; Schwass et al., 2021; Ulrich et al., 1991). As noted by Schwass et al. (2021, 215), there has been "a dramatic global shift towards a swelling urban culture driven by technology," and there is a large body of research that speaks to the detrimental effects of 'too much screen time' (for example, see Boone et al., 2007; Scott et al., 2017) which is also associated with time spent indoors. While understandings of what constitutes a "natural" environment are relative, according to one's social location, for me, Soper pool - nestled in the beautiful, historic Soper Park - is one of the more 'natural' settings of our urban landscape. The locale is a nostalgic reminder of what were arguably simpler times that pre-date the arrival of private back-yard pools and indoor community centre pools. The importance of outdoor pools in the context of pandemic times cannot be overstated. No doubt we are all familiar with media reports about the harmful impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, on our physical, social, and mental health, and there is a staggering amount of academic research that has been published during the last 18 months that is in firm agreement. The fluctuating nature of the pandemic and its potential to continue into the foreseeable future strengthen the argument that we should maintain our outdoor pools given that enclosed spaces have a higher likelihood of transmission of the virus. The pandemic protocol restrictions that we have experienced over the past 18 months have taken a toll on all of us, fostered an appreciation for things that we may have taken for granted pre-COVID, and brought to the fore what is - or is not - important. The significance of our outdoor pools for our health and well-being has become glaringly apparent, and I urgently ask Members of Council to put forth a "vote of reconsideration" on the decision to close Soper - or any other - outdoor pool. Thank you very much for your consideration, [REDACTED]

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

27 September 21		Something for the Youth in the community.
Jen [REDACTED]		
VOTES	UNVOTES	<p>After speaking with some of the local youth they would like to see a skate park installed, in place of the outdoor pool. With several local business closing in the past few years (splatzone paintball, Dickson bowl, Z beside the Y) they need places for their enjoyment. There are a lot of playgrounds around town for small children to play on and when the old teenage crowd go and also play on these structures parents are vocal about how they are for small children. There are currently 2 skate parts in Cambridge. One at Riverside park and the other at Churchill Park. Both are packed all summer long with youth and teenagers but there is nothing similar in Central Cambridge. Would give the youth another avenue for a park closer to home where they can out and stay active.</p>
0	0	

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

27 September 21	
Debra [REDACTED]	
VOTES	UNVOTES
0	0

Please see my email below to members of city council, imploring them to reconsider their decision to close the pool.

In a recent email to Councillors Liggett and Mann, I voiced my concerns around the decision to close the outdoor pools, and yesterday's notice in the Record confirmed that Soper Park pool ("the beloved community hangout") is "set to close in October" (the Record, September 01, 2021). I am writing to implore all members of Council to reconsider the decision to close this pool. In particular I am asking that any Councillor(s) who initially voted to close the pool bring the decision forward as a "vote of reconsideration." It is my understanding that this is the only way that the decision to close the pool(s) can be revisited. I will begin by outlining my personal experience of using the outdoor pools in Cambridge, and highlighting some of the relevant scholarly research that underscores the importance of outdoor environments. Finally, I will argue that in light of COVID-19, maintaining our outdoor pools is especially important for our well-being, and for pandemic planning for the future. During July and August, I have been attending daily the exercise 'aqua combo' classes held at the Soper Park pool, and whenever they are available, the 'aqua deep' classes at the Ed Newland pool. I am thankful to the City for providing the number of classes offered, and for employing very well-qualified instructors who are both professional and personable. Even though I typically am a daily user of the W.G. Johnson Centre pool because I live in Hespeler, the opportunity to do physical exercise in these outdoor pools has been especially enjoyable because of what I have found to be the mental health benefits of being outside. The number of registrants for these programs is proof of their popularity, and many participants have revealed that it is the only form of exercise that is possible given their health situations. My children also used the outdoor pools every summer for swimming lessons and public swims when they were younger, and I purposefully chose to have them take lessons in the outdoor pool because of the health benefits of being in outdoor environments. Indeed, outdoor pools provide opportunities for citizens of all ages and abilities. Because as Canadians we tend to spend a great deal of time inside during the colder months, to be able to capitalize on what our outdoor pools have to offer during the summer months is especially meaningful. The Cambridge Recreation Complex - which is not slated to be completed until 2025 - will not take the place of Soper pool or any other outdoor pool. In addition, Soper Park Pool is located IN the community, unlike the Cambridge Recreation Complex which will be on the outskirts of, and removed from, the community. To be mindful of the well-being of our communities, we need to be thinking in terms of more pools, not in terms of replacing pools. In sum, I cannot emphasize enough how important our outdoor pools have been to me and my family, and I argue, for our Cambridge communities more broadly. As a sociologist/criminologist, I am familiar with scholarly research that points to the health and social benefits of being in outdoor public spaces (for example, Kondo et al., 2018; Schwass et al., 2021; Ulrich et al., 1991). As noted by Schwass et al. (2021, 215), there has been "a dramatic global shift towards a swelling urban culture driven by technology," and there is a large body of research that speaks to the detrimental effects of 'too much screen time' (for example, see Boone et al., 2007; Scott et al., 2017) which is also associated with time spent indoors. While understandings of what constitutes a "natural" environment are relative, according to one's social location, for me, Soper pool - nestled in the beautiful, historic Soper Park - is one of the more 'natural' settings of our urban landscape. The locale is a nostalgic reminder of what were arguably simpler times that pre-date the arrival of private back-yard pools and indoor community centre pools. The importance of outdoor pools in the context of pandemic times cannot be overstated. No doubt we are all familiar with media reports about the harmful impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, on our physical, social, and mental health, and there is a staggering amount of academic research that has been published during the last 18 months that is in firm agreement. The fluctuating nature of the pandemic and its potential to continue into the foreseeable future strengthen the argument that we should maintain our outdoor pools given that enclosed spaces have a higher likelihood of transmission of the virus. The pandemic protocol restrictions that we have experienced over the past 18 months have taken a toll on all of us, fostered an appreciation for things that we may have taken for granted pre-COVID, and brought to the fore what is - or is not - important. The significance of our outdoor pools for our health and well-being has become glaringly apparent, and I urgently ask Members of Council to put forth a "vote of reconsideration" on the decision to close Soper - or any other - outdoor pool. Thank you very much for your consideration, [REDACTED] st

IDEAS

Your Vision for Soper Park

28 September 21		<p>New Outdoor Pool</p> <p>Please build a new outdoor pool similar to the Hancock Pool, which would include a very shallow area for little kids and a gradual progression to deeper water.</p>
Jennifer B		
VOTES	UNVOTES	
2	0	
29 September 21		<p>leash free dog park</p>
AG1		
VOTES	UNVOTES	
1	0	
02 October 21		<p>Bandshell/auditorium</p> <p>A bandshell or intimate public space would be great, minimal parking to maximize space for humans.</p>
BMaloney		
VOTES	UNVOTES	
0	0	

Date of contribution	Survey Response				
	What is most valuable to you in a park? (choose up to 5) (Other (please specify))	What stops you and/or members of your household from using City parks? (choose all that apply) (Other (please specify))	What are the top 5 programs you and/or members of your household would be most likely to use at Soper Park? (choose up to 5) (Other (please specify))	What are the top 5 facility and amenity options that you and/or members of your household would be most likely to use at Soper Park? (choose up to 5) (Other (please specify))	What sport programs would be a priority for you and/or members of your household? (choose up to 5) (Other (please specify))
Sep 06 21 01:15:06 pm			A swimming pool for adults. Keep it at least until the new Center opens. It is still years away.	The swimming pool.	AquaFit in an outdoor pool during the summer.
Sep 06 21 01:25:12 pm		All park shade areas and tables etc. are always full of older gentlemen who stay at the park all day ...never anywhere for families to sit when we visit Cambridge city parks		pool	Basketball ball
Sep 06 21 01:38:40 pm					Basketball
Sep 06 21 01:59:36 pm			A swimming pool.	A swimming pool.	Swimming
Sep 06 21 02:06:38 pm	Engaging spaces for children	Inadequate playground quality			
Sep 06 21 02:23:09 pm			Creative or play equipment for kids		
Sep 06 21 03:06:25 pm	Functional and purposeful - like a pool.		Pool	Pool	Swimming in an outdoor pool
Sep 06 21 03:31:55 pm			Keep the pool open		
Sep 06 21 03:38:00 pm			AquaFit in the pool!	Pool	Swimming
Sep 06 21 03:52:00 pm	Need washroom facilities at this end of the park		facilities for reunions and family gatherings ... with washrooms at this end of the park	Washroom at this end of the park.	
Sep 06 21 06:53:25 pm					Volleyball
Sep 06 21 09:05:17 pm	Place to cool down And get exercise/ playtime in the summer	Covid kept us All in the house			
Sep 06 21 10:11:03 pm			the Pool!		
Sep 06 21 10:16:08 pm		Playgrounds and play areas could be more interesting and challenging for kids so they were willing to spend all afternoons in the park. Also, paths in the parks are limited. People living within 2 kms from the park shouldn't have to drive to park. They could walk. Southern part of the Soper park has no easy access from Spruce Street.			
Sep 06 21 10:41:37 pm					As a 78 year old senior who exercises by lane swimming, I would like to see the current pool maintained or a new pool in it's place. A splash pool does not cut it for me.
Sep 07 21 05:55:19 am					Swimming lessons
Sep 07 21 10:32:35 am			A pool	A pool A tennis court	Pool

Sep 07 21 12:53:00 pm			Swimming! Aquafit Fitness	A swimming pool	Swimming
Sep 07 21 02:30:03 pm	Not so concerned about the homelessness piece in terms of safety, but more about the sense of safety when in the park alone given the mental health and addiction problems and crime in our city.	This city has yet to create a safe senior outdoor playground. Would love to see this opportunity finally materialize together with a children's playground. It's multigenerational. We're not all just about bocce ball. I do like the ping pong tables. I DISLIKE the sandpits as I'm afraid of needles being buried and also of human and animal leavings		Please include swings for seniors if possible, or physical fitness equipment. We could also have singing swings like they did in Montreal. They make music as you and others swing together	An outdoor walking track would be lovely
Sep 07 21 05:39:47 pm	Weather. Too hot . Too cold				Basketball
Sep 07 21 09:10:19 pm	Trash, needles, drug paraphernalia, people in various states of drug use, lewd acts	Swimming pools		This park is such an absolute disaster that we avoid it. The pool was nice, but the rest of the park is sketchy.	Swimming
Sep 08 21 05:15:27 am	Nothing my son and I go for a walk everyday though Soper park (weather permitting)			Pool	
Sep 08 21 07:43:27 am	A pool..	Parks are old / need rehabilitation...		A pool	
Sep 08 21 07:52:21 am					A "safe place to visit is most important or I'll continue to not visit. Provide security to ensure this is a safe and None.
Sep 08 21 02:50:42 pm	Most are geared at children and I don't want to go for a walk with screaming children around.	Swimming. Oh, wait. That's not an option except for the creek.		A pool. Because I don't think that's what you mean by "water/splash feature".	
Sep 08 21 03:31:47 pm		A pool! Like the one we already use.		A Pool!!!!	Swimming!!
Sep 08 21 11:32:18 pm		A pool!		A. Pool	Pool
Sep 11 21 11:31:05 am		A pool!!!!		Leave the pool or better yet build a new pool.	Swimming in the pool. Do not close it or build a new one.
Sep 11 21 12:02:42 pm		Swimming!!! We don't want the pool to close!		Swimming pool!!!	
Sep 12 21 10:53:24 am	I would like to see an outdoor swimming pool were citizens can enjoy the benefits of swimming and taking swimming lessons both at reasonable costs.	Currently I visit Soper Park to swim outdoors. With the facility being closed I will no longer have that opportunity/	Swimming.	A swimming pool.	Swimming.
Sep 12 21 02:03:42 pm	Swimming pool not a splash pad but an actual pool	Soon there will be no outdoor pools	Public swimming and swimming lessons	Swimming pool	Swimming
Sep 13 21 10:34:29 am		Parks in Kitchener have better amenities than in Cambridge, Ex. RBJ Schlegal and Huron Park Natural Area. We need more variety for play			
Sep 20 21 10:16:20 am			A pool would be nice!	We'd use a pool every other day in the summer.	Swimming, please!
Sep 24 21 04:37:47 pm		Presence of people experiencing addiction, people with dogs off leash that jump and scare my child			
Sep 24 21 06:09:28 pm			Dog park		
Sep 24 21 06:38:28 pm	a SAFE place for my family to spend time....i.e.....NO JUNKIES and				

Sep 24 21 08:49:17 pm	I feel like Cambridge parks are just not exciting. My kids are three and five, we do a lot of park hopping. Guelph, Hamilton, Waterloo, Southampton. All have AMAZING unique parks. Cambridge - except Riverside which is pretty cool. Are all very fun of the mill, standard parks. Riverside in Guelph is such a neat space for little kids and older kids.			
Sep 24 21 09:13:36 pm		Swimming		Swimming
Sep 24 21 09:57:29 pm			Pool. Please also add a sidewalk along the lighted path north of the tennis courts.	
Sep 25 21 08:21:09 pm				As a mom and daycare provider I visit a lot of parks, my suggestion is to keep the play area close and open. Its the worst having multiple children running to multiple play structures and not having open view. Also the homelessness issue isn't going anywhere, me personally I feel safer when it's not just parents with kids, I like when I have people there playing disc golf and walkers and people playing tennis .. so the variety of activities is a bonus. It draws more people and keeps it safer.
Sep 27 21 04:17:21 pm	Not enough places to swim outdoors	Swimming - lane swim, aquafit, aquadeep, aquacombo, aquatic therapy	outdoor pool (excellent activity during pandemic when indoor pool facilities are closed)	Swimming
Sep 27 21 08:44:19 pm	No drug addicts. It's horrible and unsafe to go to. Used to go all the time and constantly worried for safety now. Used to go all the time. Avoid the area now.			
Sep 29 21 09:22:03 pm	Currently needles in the park have me worried about the kids. Music venue maybe safer than water play?			
Oct 02 21 08:05:16 am				Swimming
Oct 06 21 05:40:30 pm	Sometimes it's lack of updated amenities. The park nearest us, Studiman Park has alright amenities, but one of the parks next closest by, Otto Klotz, has the exact same dated plat structures. It's just a little frustrating that the nearby stuff lacks diversity.			

Oct 10 21 08:19:39 pm

Currently a cricket field has been added to (Gordon) Chaplin Park which disables park use during the entire cricket play time. The park is not large enough to accommodate the space needed and the multi use trail and parking lot have become unsafe due to the ball breaching both when in play. The soccer nets are also moved aside to try and provide more room for cricket play. It simply is not able to fit into this park and now park use is only available when cricket use is not.

It would be the perfect opportunity to add another level of activity with the upgrading of Soper Park. Move the current Picnic Area from the back of the park, which currently is only used by our homeless for shelter, to the former pool area to be added to the concepts already on the table. It once again would be used for family picnics and with high visibility and incorporated with the new activity areas along Marian Way, would remain for that use.

Moving the picnic shelter would now fit the Cricket field into the back of Soper Park into it's location. There is ample parking. There would not be a trail within the perimeter of the field and could be permanently used for practice and play without disruption to themselves or other park users. Markings could be put on the grass as they do with soccer fields and possibly a scoreboard unlocked during registered game play.