

What We Heard Report

Edworthy North Parking Lot Upgrades

Overview

The City conducted three community information sessions to provide information regarding the proposed paving, expansion and parking management changes to the north parking lot adjacent to Edworthy Park. This park is a well-utilized public space, frequented by local residents, daily commuters, and park visitors.

The proposal includes paving the existing lot, introducing new management under Calgary Parking, and adding overflow parking that would affect nearby green space. The City informed the community, residents of Point McKay, business owners and park users of the plans to upgrade the current lot and charge for parking.

Visitors at the information sessions were encouraged to visit the Edworthy Park website and provide feedback via an online survey. 513 participants completed the survey prior to it closing on June 4. Additional 1-1 meetings were held with neighbouring businesses and residents.

Information sessions:

Session 1 - Edworthy Park Outdoor

- May 5 – 7:30-9:30 am
- Approximately 35-40 people attended
- This session was focused on early commuters who park and bike

Session 2 - Edworthy Park Outdoor

- May 9 – 5:30 – 7:30 pm
- Approximately 45-50 people attended
- This session was focused on those who use the park

Session 3 - Nifty Fifties Club at Parkdale Community Hall

- May 28 – 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- 85-90 people attended
- This session was focused on the community

Themes

Summary of Community Feedback

Community members voiced a variety of perspectives on the proposed changes. Five prominent themes emerged from feedback received:

1. Payment for Parking

- **Theme:** Divided opinion on the introduction of paid parking.

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- **Details:** While approximately 50% of participants indicated general support for paid parking, they expressed a strong preference for more generous time limits. The consensus among this group was that the currently proposed two-hour free parking should be extended to **three hours** to accommodate common park visits and recreational use.
- **Concern:** The remaining participants opposed any form of paid parking, arguing that it would discourage park use and penalize citizens who regularly access the parking lot for park visits or commuting downtown by bike, or working locally.

2. Change in Land Stewardship

- **Theme:** Strong opposition to the internal land transfer from **Real Estate & Development Services (REDS)** to **Calgary Parking**.
- **Details:** Many community members expressed concern that a shift in stewardship would lead to a diminished focus on public benefit and environmental sustainability. Residents feared that Calgary Parking's mandate may not align with the location's role as a public green space intended for recreation and community enjoyment. There was also a sense that Calgary Parks had transferred the land to Calgary Parking, even though the property was held by the Real Estate & Development Services business unit.
- **Concern:** Community members emphasized the importance of maintaining a **parks-first approach**, ensuring that any decisions prioritize ecological preservation and community use. There were many questions around the process for Parks to become the stewards.

3. Proposed Overflow Parking and Impact on Green Space

- **Theme:** Widespread opposition to the creation of overflow parking that would encroach on green space.
- **Details:** Residents and park users were highly concerned about the proposed extension of the lot into adjacent green space. Many cited the value of this space for passive recreation, ecological diversity, and mental well-being. There was a strong preference to explore **alternative solutions**, such as better utilization of nearby existing lots or promotion of alternative modes of transportation, before considering any reduction in parkland.
- **Concern:** The proposal was viewed as contrary to The City's stated environmental goals and inconsistent with community priorities around preserving green space. As well, local residents facing the greenspace feared a decrease in property value.

4. Concerns with the Development Permit (DP) Process and Public Trust.

- **Theme:** Negative sentiment regarding the City's engagement process and project transparency.
- **Details:** Many residents felt the DP process had advanced without adequate community consultation or transparency. Residents felt that engagement efforts and public input was being sought only after major decisions had already been made.
- **Concern:** There is a growing mistrust in The City's approach to managing public land and infrastructure projects. The approval process for this proposal was seen by many as rushed, top-down and lacking the collaborative spirit expecting in planning. Also, the local residents

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and business owners in the area are experiencing construction fatigue from several projects over the last years.

5. Questioning the need to pave the existing parking lot.

- **Theme:** Most citizens were satisfied with the current lot and didn't see a strong need to pave it especially if it meant a fee structure would be put in place.
- **Details:** Many citizens were in agreement that paving the lot would improve overall conditions as well as improve safety. When reviewing the proposed plan for paving the existing parking lot, citizens and business owners liked the idea of designated stalls, directional traffic, and lighting, citing improved safety as the main benefit. But they were not in favour of payment.
- **Concern:** While an organized and paved parking lot improves traffic flow and maximizes space usage, and eliminates dust and potholes, citizens were overall satisfied with the current lot conditions.

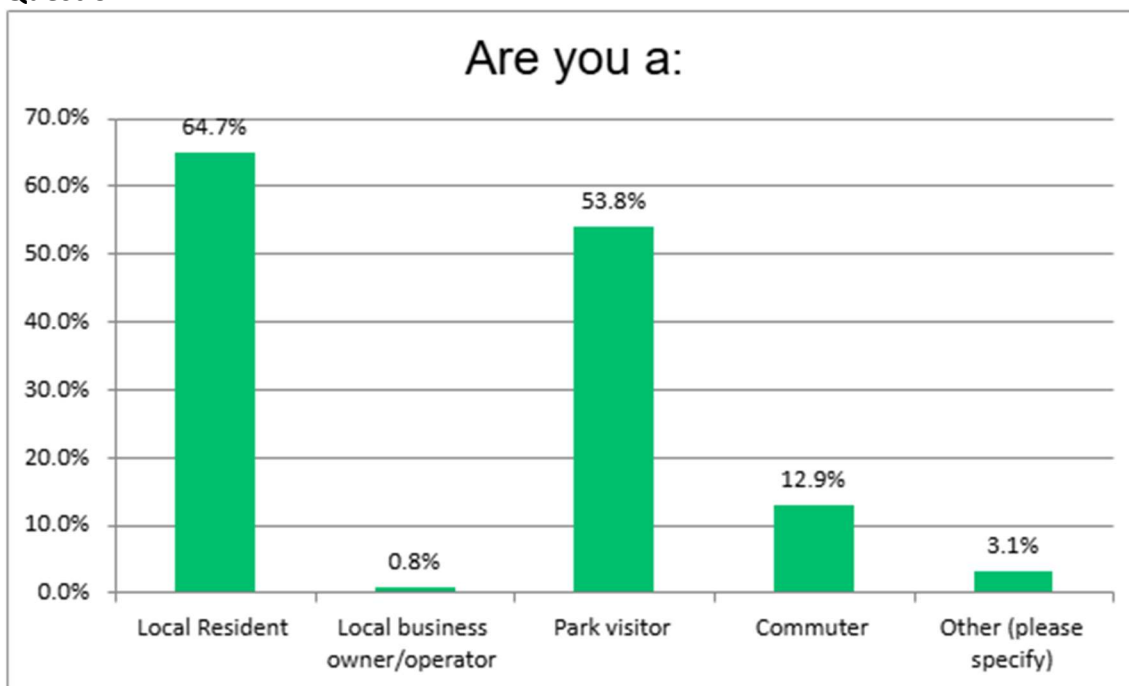
Conclusion & recommendations

The intention of the proposed improvements was always to support, not override the preferences of the community. Given the clear feedback, the City of Calgary will proceed with cancelling the project and associated development permit. The existing gravel parking lot will remain in operations, with maintenance provided as needed.

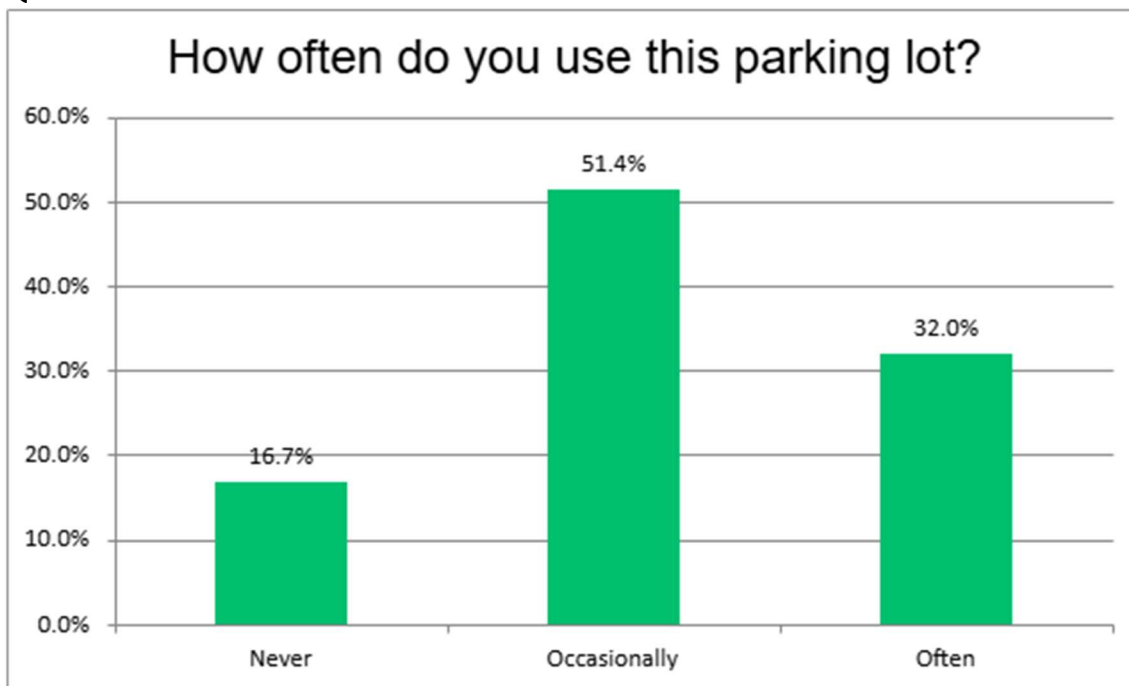
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Survey Results

Question 1.

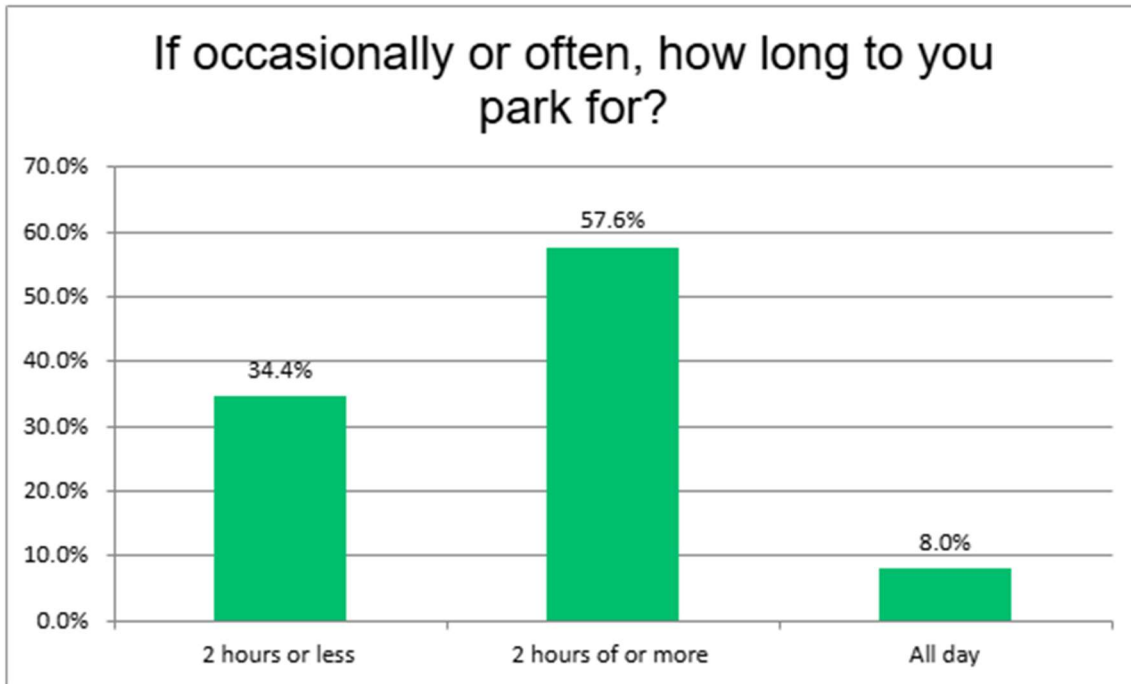


Question 2.

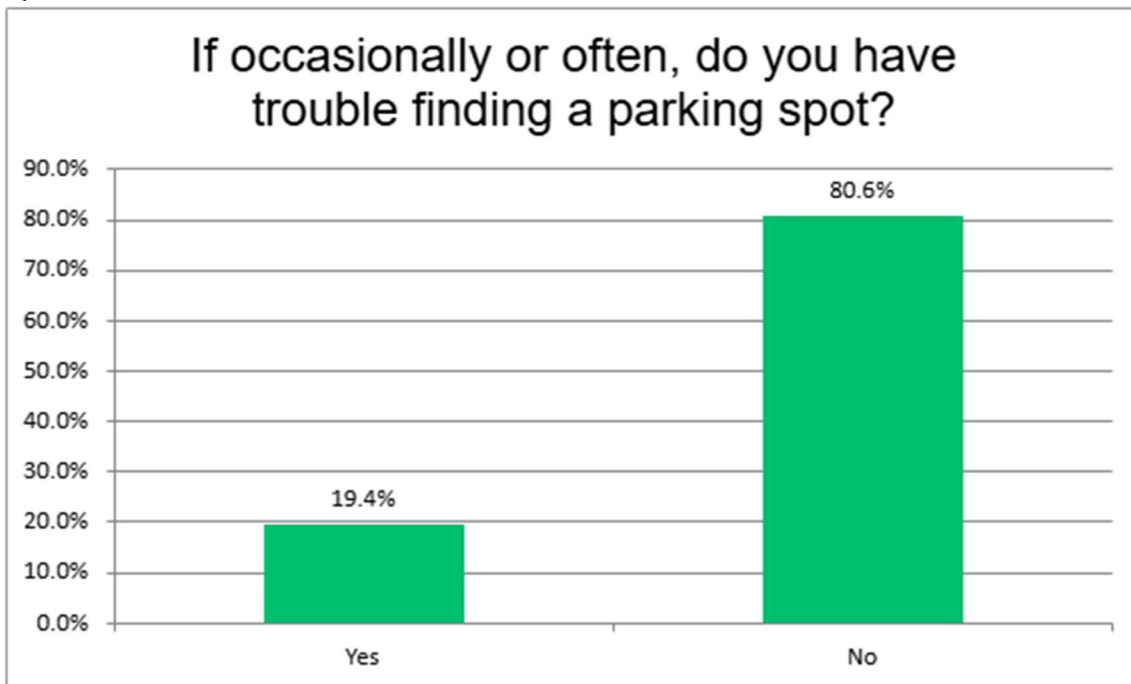


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Question 3.

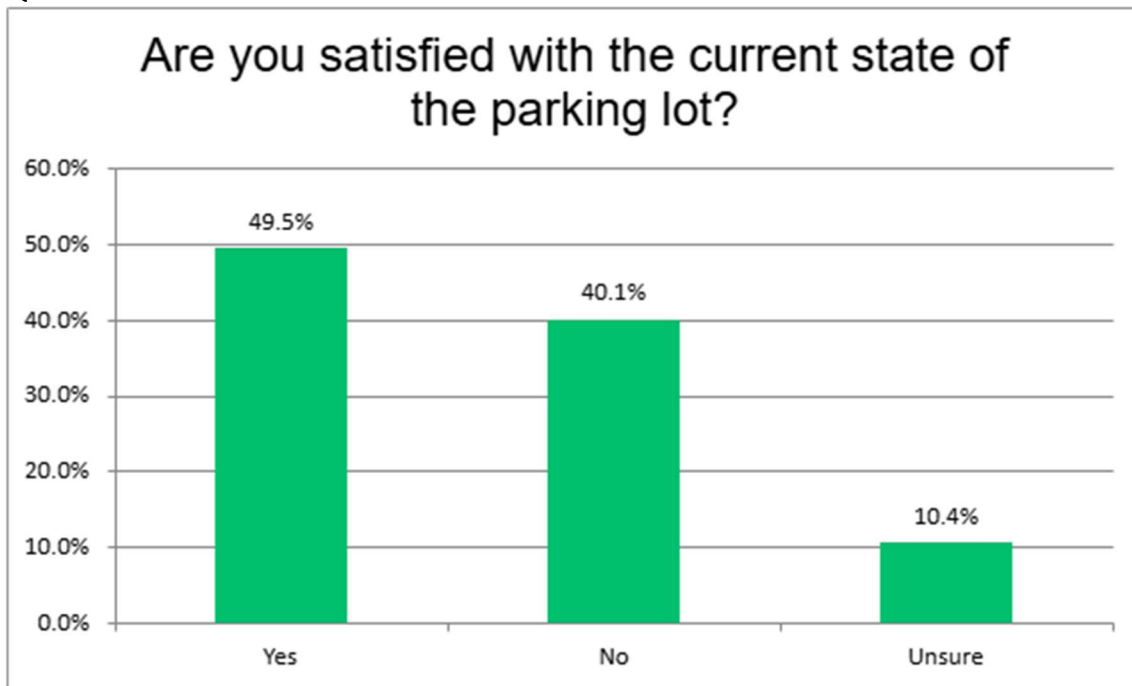


Question 4.

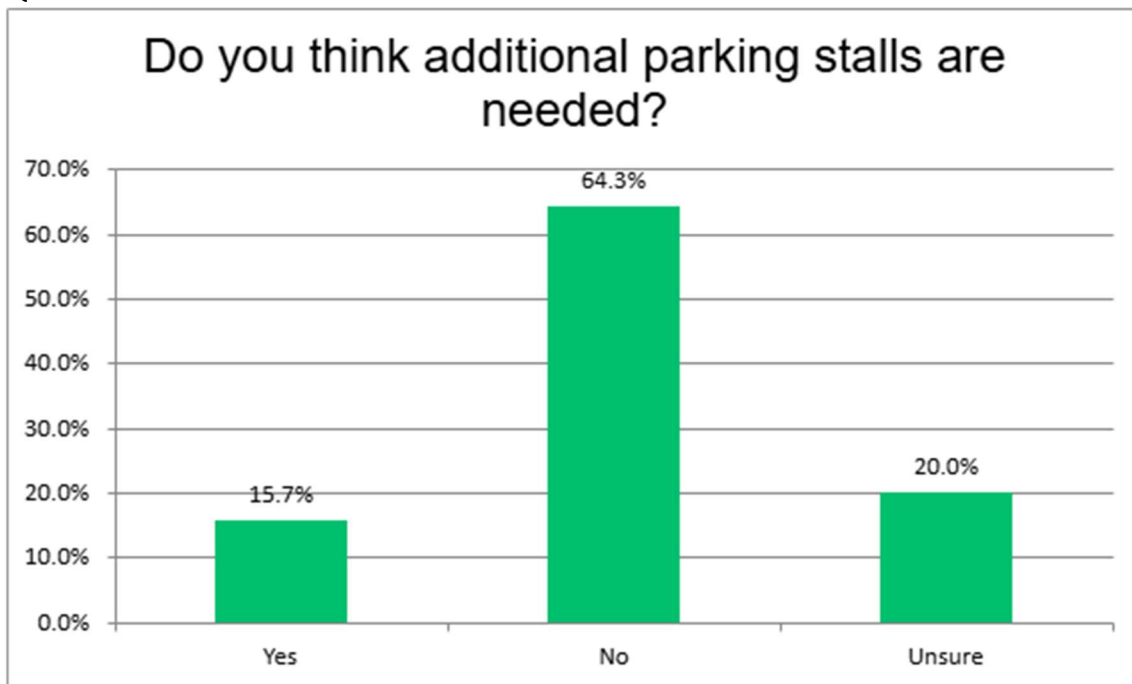


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Question 5.

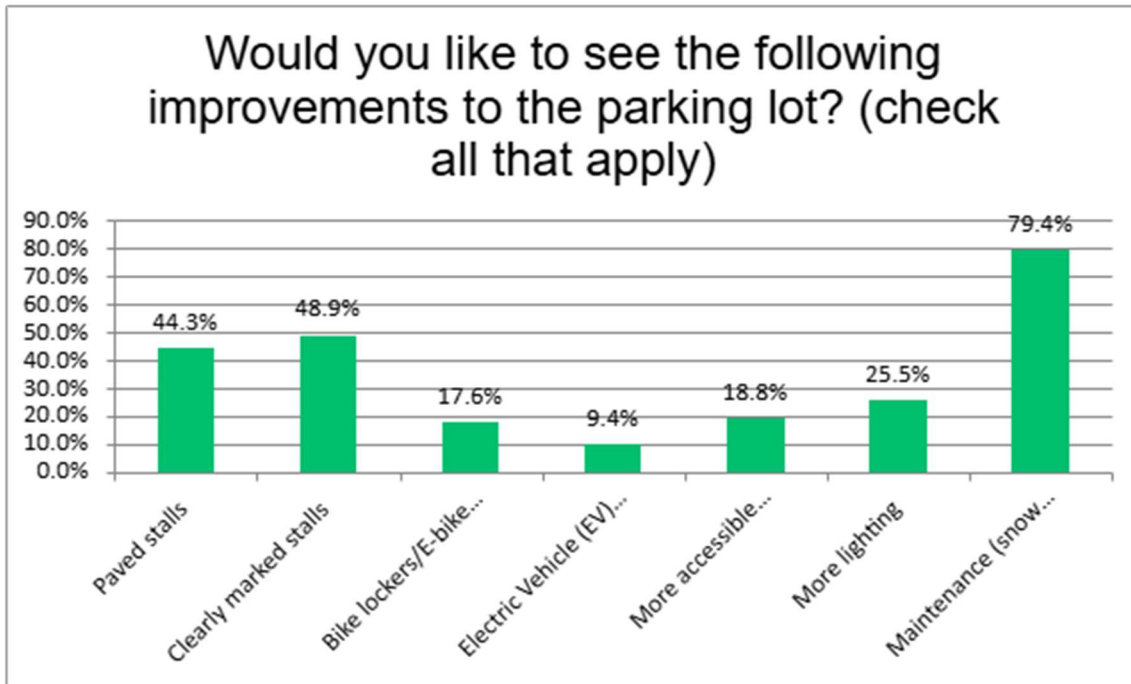


Question 6.



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Question 7.



Question 8

