

# East Bowmont Natural Environment Park Phase II Concept Design

## Summary of Stakeholder Engagement



October 2013



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The East Bowmont Natural Environment Park Design Development Plan project consists of three phases:

<b>Phase I</b>	<b>Site Analysis and Review of Existing Information</b>
<b>Phase II</b>	<b>Concept Design</b>
<b>Phase III</b>	<b>Design Development Plan</b>

In Phase II, information about the project site and stakeholder / public feedback that was gathered and analysed in Phase I was used to inform the concept design for the park. Key stakeholders and citizens were engaged to review the concept design and provide feedback on different aspects of the plan.

The second phase of stakeholder engagement consisted of five elements:

1. Workshop #4 – City of Calgary Stakeholders
2. Workshop #5 – Community Stakeholders
3. Public Open House #2
4. Online Survey #2
5. Summary Report

Over the course of these stakeholder engagement activities, common themes and points of tension were identified by analyzing the written feedback collected and grouping responses into “top themes” for each event and topic. The resulting common themes for Phase II of the stakeholder engagement are:

- Support for Protection of Natural Habitat
- Support for Parking, Trails and Pathways
- Issues Surrounding Specific Proposed Amenities
- Support for Mountain Biking Trails in the Park
- Opposition to the Proposed Reduction in Off-Leash Area
- Support for Stormwater Design
- Enforcement of Park Bylaws

This summary report provides a detailed description of each engagement event in Phase II and summarizes the results of the feedback from each event. The appendices to the report provide copies of maps and graphics that were presented at the engagement events, as well as meeting notes and spreadsheets that compile every comment received at each event and show how the comments were grouped into common themes.

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- A. WORKSHOP #4 – CITY OF CALGARY STAKEHOLDERS – MAY 21, 2013 + WORKSHOP #5 – COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS – MAY 21, 2013
  - Concept Design Presentation
  - Detailed Comment Sheets
  
- B. PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2 – MAY 22, 2013
  - Open House Posters
  - Detailed Comment Sheets
  
- C. ONLINE SURVEY #1 – MAY 23 TO JULY 5, 2013
  - Sample Survey
  - Detailed Comment Sheets

## 1.0 SUMMARY OF PHASE I ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The East Bowmont Natural Environment Park Design Development Plan project consists of three phases:

<b>Phase I</b>	<b>Site Analysis and Review of Existing Information</b>
<b>Phase II</b>	<b>Concept Design</b>
<b>Phase III</b>	<b>Design Development Plan</b>

In Phase II, information about the project site and stakeholder / public feedback that was gathered and analysed in Phase I was used to inform the concept design for the park. Key stakeholders and citizens were engaged to review the concept design and provide feedback on different aspects of the plan.

The second phase of stakeholder engagement consisted of five elements:

1. Workshop #4 – City of Calgary Stakeholders
2. Workshop #5 – Community Stakeholders
3. Public Open House #2
4. Online Survey #2
5. Summary Report

### 1.1 Common Themes

Over the course of these stakeholder engagement activities, common themes and points of tension were identified by analyzing the written feedback collected and grouping responses into “top themes” for each event and topic. The resulting common themes for Phase II of the stakeholder engagement are:

- Support for Protection of Natural Habitat
- Support for Parking, Trails and Pathways
- Issues Surrounding Specific Proposed Amenities
- Support for Mountain Biking Trails in the Park
- Opposition to the Proposed Reduction in Off-Leash Area
- Support for Stormwater Design
- Enforcement of Park Bylaws

## 2.0 PHASE II ENGAGEMENT APPROACH AND OBJECTIVES

During Phase II of the East Bowmont Natural Environment Park (NEP) Design Development Plan, information about the project site and stakeholder / public feedback that was gathered and analysed in Phase I was used to inform the concept design for the park. The design team, made up of artists, landscape architects, and stormwater engineers, worked collaboratively with The City of Calgary, Parks and Water Resources project managers to develop a concept for the park that addresses the functional requirements of stormwater management, while creating an exciting new park amenity that can be enjoyed by a wide range of park visitors. The concept plan was presented to stakeholders and the public in a series of workshops, open house and online survey activities. As part of the process, the design team showed how the feedback from Phase 1 was addressed, or explained why it could not be incorporated into the design. The information collected in Phase II of the engagement process will be reviewed and, where feasible, incorporated into the design development plan for East Bowmont Park.

### 2.1 Community Stakeholder Involvement

A community stakeholder group was formed in Phase I of the project, consisting of community groups and local community associations with an interest in East Bowmont NEP. The community stakeholder group includes representatives from the following groups who were initially contacted to participate in the project:

Organizations Identified as Potential Community Stakeholders	Organizations Represented in East Bowmont NEP Community Stakeholder Group
Varsity Community Association	•
Montgomery Community Association	•
Bowness Community Association/Society of Bowness Residents	•
Silver Springs Community Association	•
Nature Calgary	•
Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance	•
Calgary Pathways Advisory Council	•
Alderman Dale Hodges, Ward 1	•
Calgary River Valleys	•
Off Leash Calgary	
Calgary Roadrunners Club	

Of the groups contacted in Phase I, only the Calgary Roadrunners Club declined to attend or participate in the initial community stakeholder workshop. Several attempts were made to engage a representative for off-leash dog park users (refer to Summary of Phase I Stakeholder Engagement for details), but to date, off-leash dog park users have not been specifically represented within the community stakeholder group.

## 2.2 Phase II Engagement Objectives

The second phase of stakeholder engagement consisted of five elements:

1. Workshop #4 – City of Calgary Stakeholders
2. Workshop #5 – Community Stakeholders
3. Public Open House #2
4. Online Survey #2
5. Summary Report

Throughout this phase of engagement, the intent was to gather opinions about the proposed concept design for the park.

The following sections of the report provide a detailed description of each engagement event in Phase II and summarize the results of the feedback from each event. The appendices to the report provide copies of maps that were used to gather feedback, as well as spreadsheets that compile every comment received at each event and show how the comments were grouped into common themes.



**Public Open House #2**

### **3.0 WORKSHOP #4 – CITY OF CALGARY STAKEHOLDERS MAY 21, 2013**

Workshop #4 was held at The City of Calgary's offices at 205 8th Avenue SE on May 21, 2013.

The objectives of the workshop were to accomplish the following:

- Provide an overview of the concept design and how the park / stormwater features will function.
- Review the top themes that resulted from Phase I and how the feedback was or was not addressed by the design.
- Generate feedback on the concept plan specifically from the perspective of City of Calgary stakeholders.

#### **3.1 Workshop Format**

The City of Calgary provided a list of key stakeholders from within The City's organization, who were invited to participate in a workshop. The business units and specialty groups represented at the workshop included:

- Public Art
- Parks Operations and Maintenance
- Watershed+ Art Program
- Natural Areas
- Recreation
- Water Resources
- Parks Planning and Development
- Access and Disability Planning
- Pathways

#### **Part 1: Presentation of Concept**

The workshop began with a presentation of the proposed concept design for the park. The slide show included an overview of the engagement activities completed in Phase I and highlighted the most common feedback relating to the topics of natural habitat and biodiversity, access and amenities, mountain biking, off-leash dog access and stormwater management. The presentation explored how the concept design relates to these topics, as well as providing background about how the forms and shapes of the design were inspired by natural forms and processes of rivers.

#### **Part 2: Discussion and Survey**

Following the presentation, an informal discussion about the design and the presentation in general took place.

Participants were then asked to fill out a survey to collect specific feedback on the design. The survey included a mix of rating scale-type questions and free response questions. In the rating scale questions, the survey respondent was asked to rate their feelings about an issue on a 1 to 5 scale. In the free response questions, the respondent had the ability to provide a written response explaining their unique opinions on a topic.

The Workshop #4 survey was organized into the topic categories of:

- Natural habitat
- Access and amenities
- Stormwater management
- Other feedback

In each topic, maps showing specific aspects of the concept design related to the topic were provided.

## **3.2 What We Heard – Summary**

One completed survey was received from Workshop #4. The survey results are summarized below.

### **Rating Scale Questions**

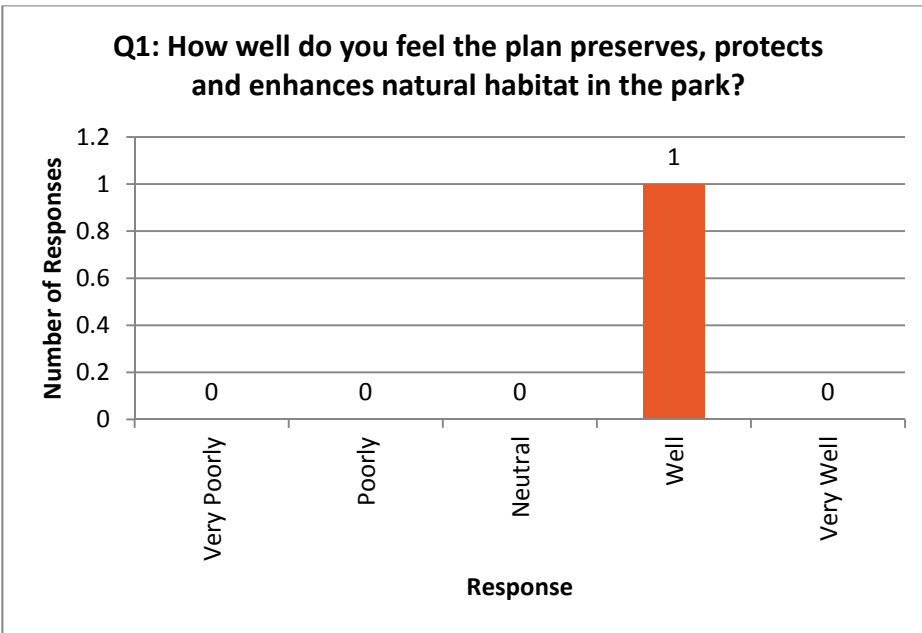
The following graphs illustrate the responses received to the rating scale questions. The survey question is shown at the top of each graph, with the distribution of responses below.

### **Free Response Questions**

The detailed written feedback from the free response questions in Workshop #4 Survey was analysed to identify common themes in the survey responses. In each topic category, the most frequently repeated opinions have been grouped into themes that generally express ideas that recurred in different ways throughout the detailed feedback. The scale of text sizes (large to small) represents the number of times an opinion was repeated (most to least). The detailed feedback is available for review in Appendix A



## Natural Habitat



## Top Themes: Natural Habitat

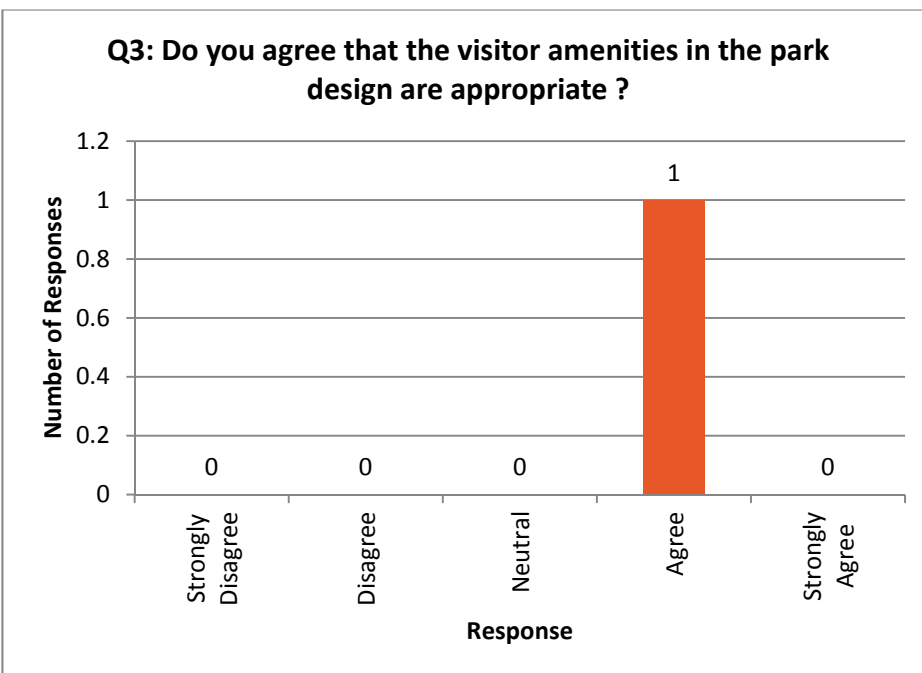
Q1: Is there anything else you want to tell us about natural habitat in the park?

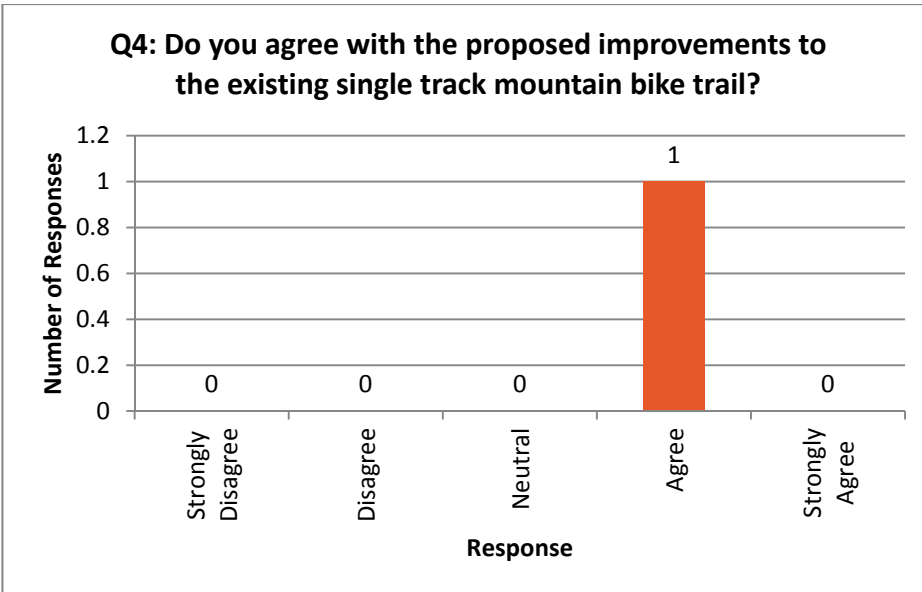
- No response received

## Access and Amenities

Q2: Are you satisfied with the variety and level of access provided for the park?

- No response received





Q5: Do you agree with the proposed changes to the off-leash areas in East Bowmont Park?

- No response received

### Top Themes: Access and Amenities

#### Access

Q2: Is there anything else you want to tell us about the park access and circulation?

- No response received

#### Amenities

Q3: Is there anything else you want to tell us about park activities and facilities?

1. Washrooms should be year-round to support seniors and other visitors with health issues. (1 out of 1 comments)

#### Single Track Mountain Biking Trail

Q4: Is there anything else you want to tell us about the single track mountain bike trail?

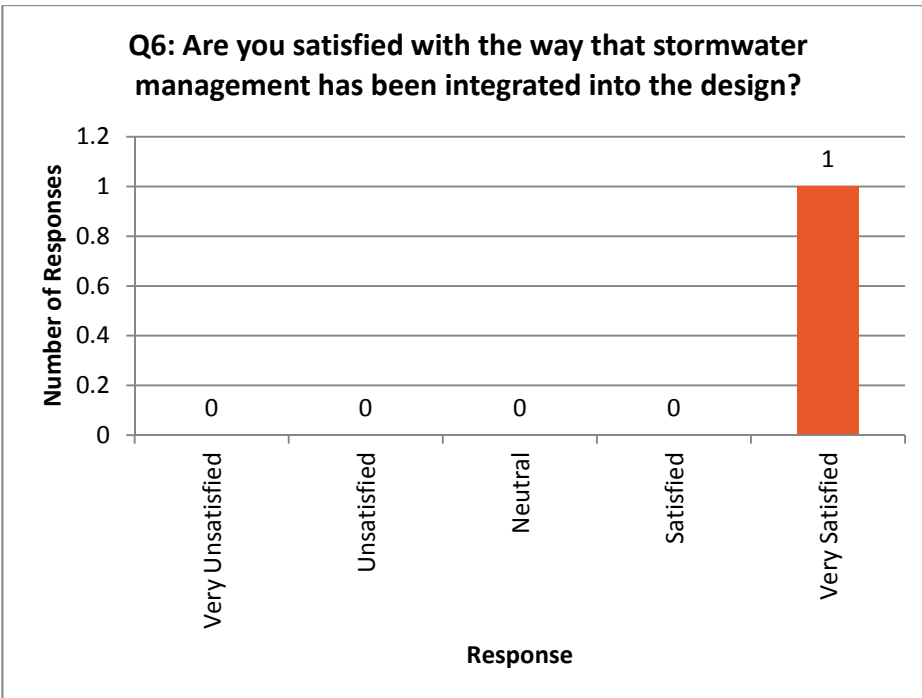
- No response received

### Off-Leash Dog Access

Q5: Is there anything else you want to tell us about the off-leash dog access?

- No response received

### Stormwater Management

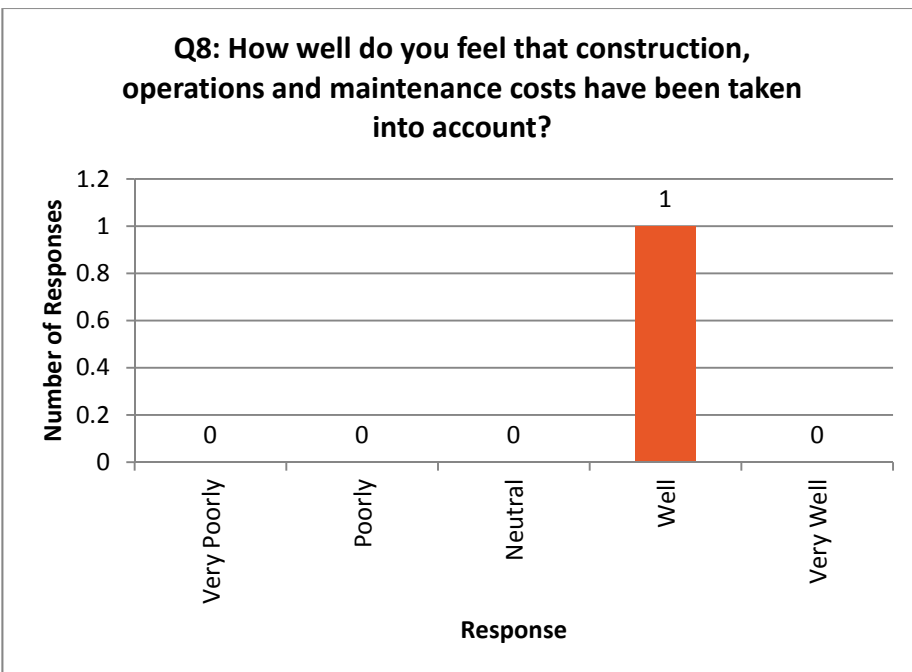
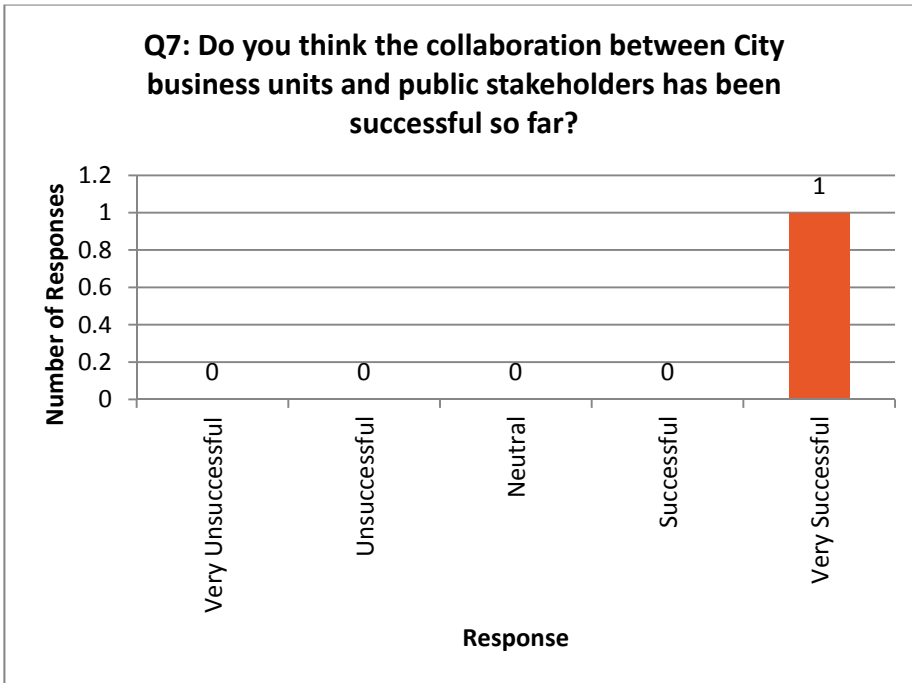


### Top Themes: Stormwater Management

Q6: Is there anything else you want to tell us about stormwater management?

- No response received

## Other Ideas



## Top Themes: Other Ideas

Q7: Do you think the collaboration between City business units and public stakeholders has been successful so far? Please share any additional comments on this topic.

- No response received

Q8: How well do you feel that construction, operations and maintenance costs have been taken into account? Please share any additional comments on this topic.

# 1. Stairs and boardwalks are expensive to maintain, but worthwhile. Paved pathways should be accessible and signage should be clear. (1 out of 1 comments)

Comments collected in Phase 2 engagement events will be considered in the final design development plan, and alternations may be made to the plan if the feedback can be reasonably accommodated.



Public Open House #2

## **4.0 WORKSHOP #5 – COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS – MAY 21, 2013**

Workshop #5 was held at the Varsity Community Centre, 4303 Varsity Dr. NW, on May 21, 2013.

The objectives of the workshop were to accomplish the following:

- Provide an overview of the concept design and how the park / stormwater features will function.
- Review the top themes that resulted from Phase I and how the feedback was or was not addressed by the design.
- Generate feedback on the concept plan specifically from the perspective of community stakeholders.

### **4.1 Workshop Format**

The group of community organizations that participated in Workshop #2 was invited to attend and participate in Workshop #5. The organizations represented at the workshop included:

- Varsity Community Association
- Montgomery Community Association
- Bowness Community Association
- Silver Springs Community Association
- Nature Calgary
- Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance
- Calgary River Valleys
- City of Calgary, Parks
- City of Calgary, Water Resources
- Alderman Dale Hodges, Ward 1 (observer only)

### **Part 1: Presentation of Concept**

The workshop began with a presentation of the proposed concept design for the park. The slide show included an overview of the engagement activities completed in Phase I and highlighted the most common feedback relating to the topics of natural habitat and biodiversity, access and amenities, mountain biking, off-leash dog access and stormwater management. The presentation explored how the concept design relates to these topics, as well as providing background about how the forms and shapes of the design were inspired by natural forms and processes of rivers.

### **Part 2: Discussion and Survey**

Workshop participants were broken into two groups and given maps of the proposed East Bowmont NEP concept design. A design team facilitator in each group led a discussion of the following questions:

- Do you feel that the feedback from Phase I is addressed by the concept?
- Do you think there are elements of the design that are particularly successful? What are they?
- Are there any modifications that could be made to make the design better?

The facilitator recorded the key points of the discussion on a flip chart and reported the results of the discussion back to the workshop participants.

Participants were then asked to fill out a survey to collect specific feedback on the design. The survey included a mix of rating scale-type questions and free response questions. In the rating scale questions, the survey respondent was asked to rate their feelings about an issue on a 1 to 5 scale. In the free response questions, the respondent had the ability to provide a written response explaining their unique opinions on a topic.

The Workshop #5 survey was organized into the topic categories of:

- Natural habitat
- Access and amenities
- Stormwater management
- Other feedback

In each topic, maps showing specific aspects of the concept design related to the topic were provided.

## 4.2 What We Heard – Summary

Ten completed surveys were received from Workshop #5. The survey results are summarized below.

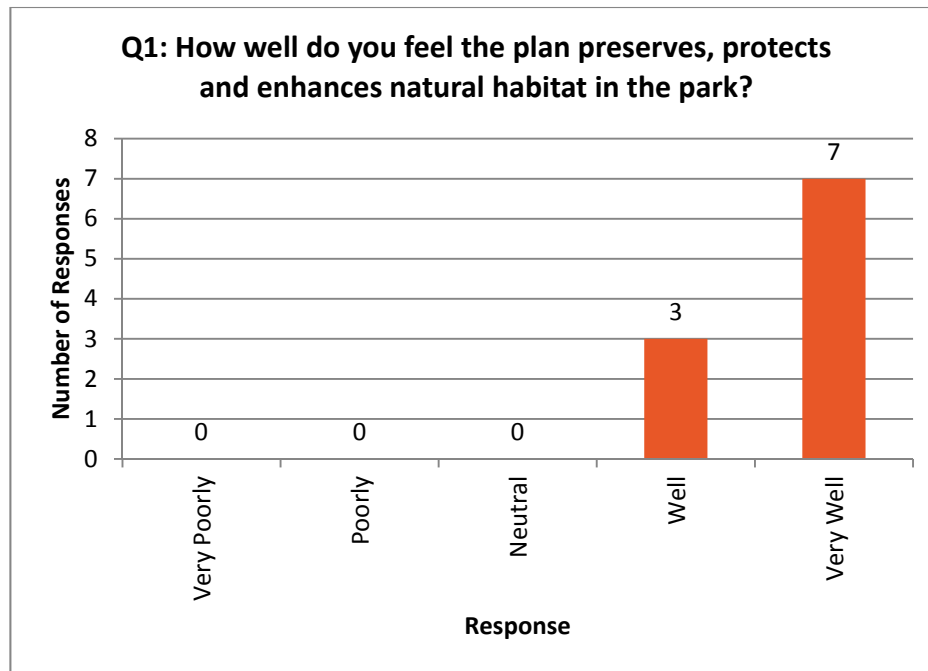
### Rating Scale Questions

The following graphs illustrate the responses received to the rating scale questions. The survey question is shown at the top of each graph, with the distribution of responses below.

### Free Response Questions

The detailed written feedback from the free response questions in Workshop #5 Survey was analysed to identify common themes in the survey responses. In each topic category, the most frequently repeated opinions have been grouped into themes that generally express ideas that recurred in different ways throughout the detailed feedback. The scale of text sizes (large to small) represents the number of times an opinion was repeated (most to least). The detailed feedback is available for review in Appendix A.

## Natural Habitat



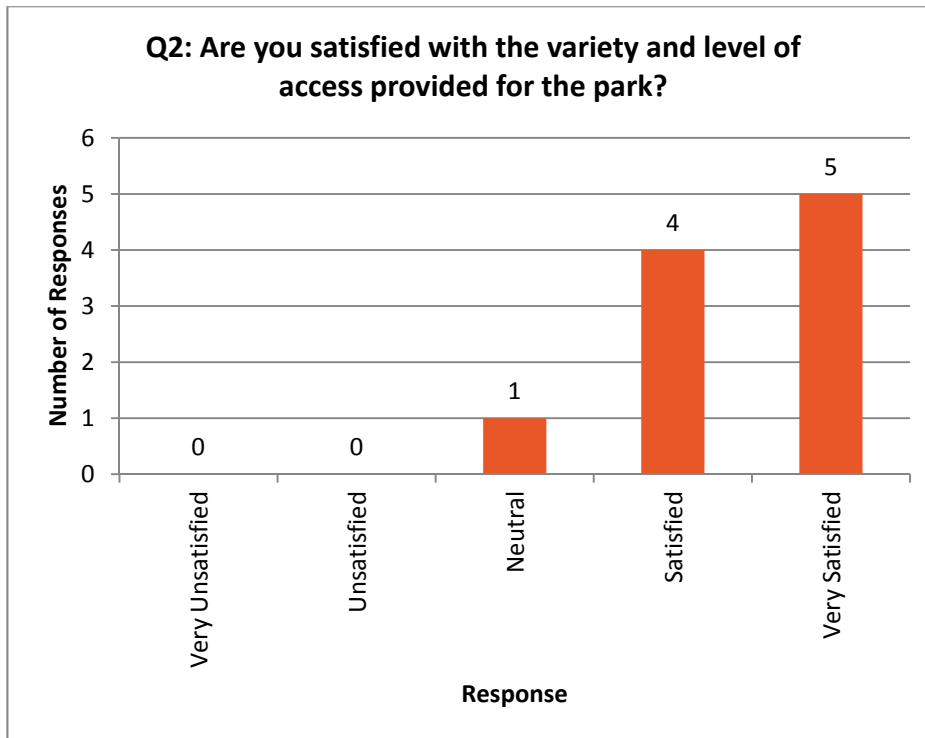
### Top Themes: Natural Habitat

1. Limiting access to the river bank is important (3 out of 6 comments or 50%)
2. Support for protection of habitat along the river bank (2 out of 6 comments or 33%)
3. May be issues with reduction / enforcement of off-leash areas (2 out of 6 comments or 33%)
4. Why wait for phytoremediation to take effect? Remediate the contaminated areas right away. (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)
5. Preserve or relocate the osprey nesting pole (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)



## Access and Amenities

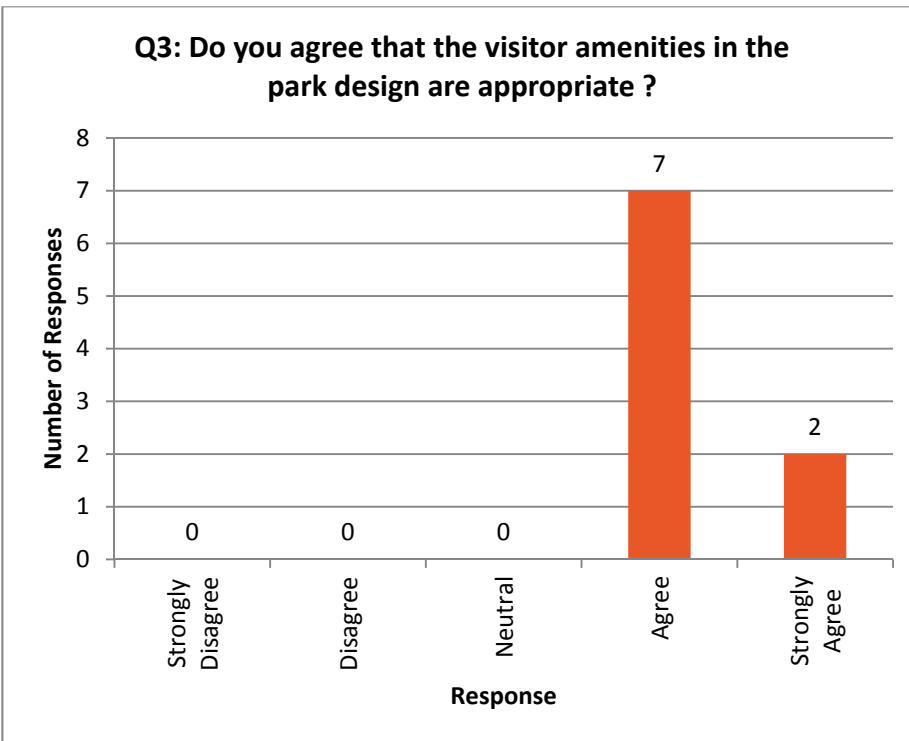
### Access



### Top Themes: Access

1. Don't wish to see expansion of vehicular access / parking in the park (2 out of 7 comments or 29%)
2. Consider moving the staircase a little farther north to accommodate people parking on 40th Ave NW (2 out of 7 comments or 29%)
3. Nature trails require long term maintenance to be successful (1 out of 7 comments or 14%)
4. Paved trails should be permeable (1 out of 7 comments or 14%)
5. Some proposed picnic areas may be too far from parking lot to be well-used (1 out of 7 comments or 14%)

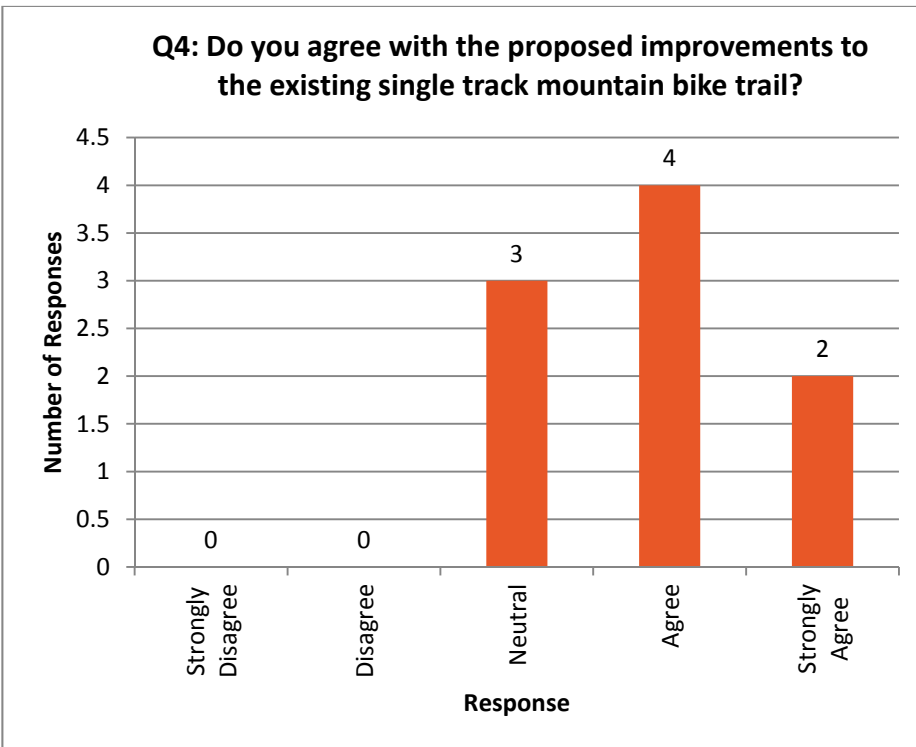
## Amenities



### Top Themes: Amenities

1. Concerns about vandalism and transients using covered or enclosed amenities (5 out of 8 comments or 63%)
2. Support the inclusion of washrooms (3 out of 8 comments or 38%)
3. Work with the Montgomery community on the design of the south parking lot area (1 out of 8 comments or 13%)
4. Provide more places for people to dispose of dog waste (1 out of 8 comments or 13%)
5. Consider reducing the number of look-out platforms (1 out of 8 comments or 13%)

## Single Track Mountain Biking Trail



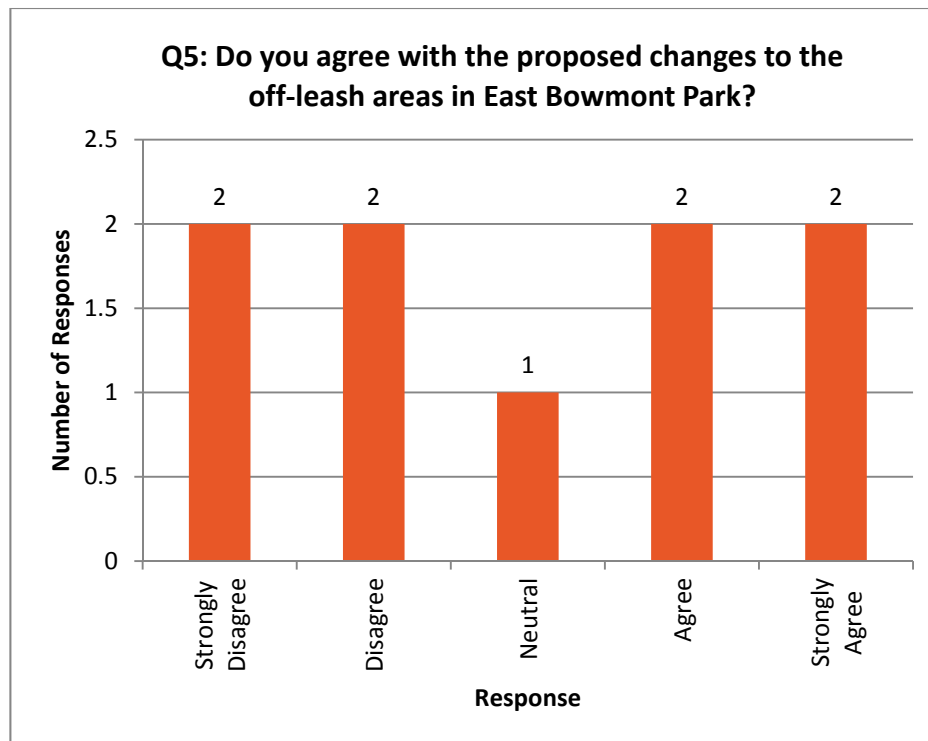
### Top Themes: Single Track Mountain Biking Trail

1. The single track trail can be made more sustainable through education, enforcement or better design

(2 out of 6 comments or 33%)

2. Concern that mountain biking will continue to degrade the escarpment (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)
3. It may be difficult to change patterns of use (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)
4. Maintenance costs are a concern (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)
5. Prefer to not see mountain biking increase in the park (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)

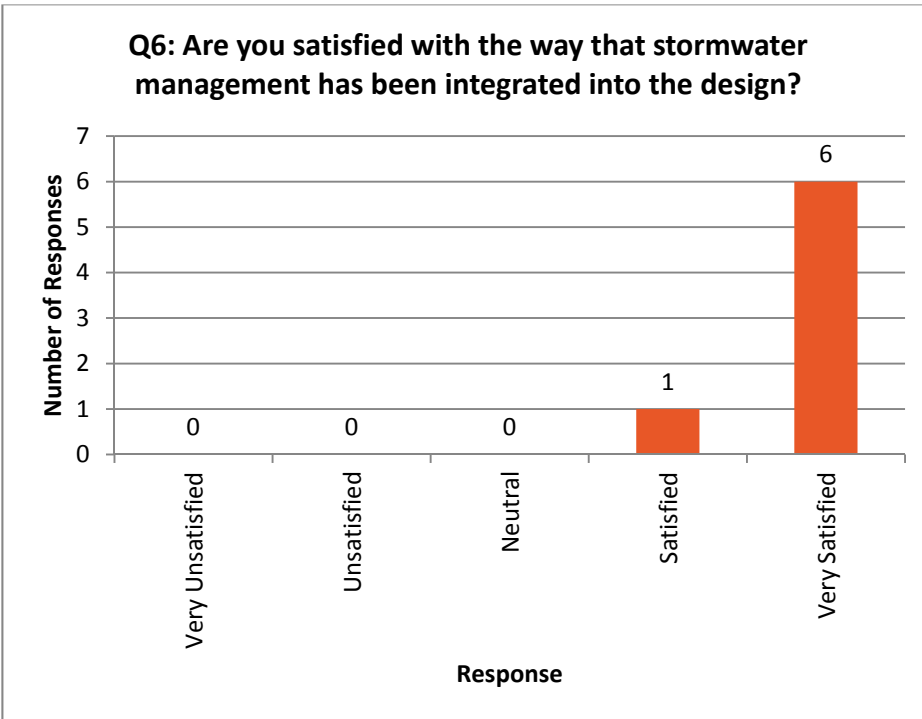
## Off-Leash Dog Access



### Top Themes: Off-Leash Dog Access

1. There should be an off-leash swimming area for dogs (3 out of 8 comments or 38%)
2. There should be some off-leash in select areas of the park (3 out of 8 comments or 38%)
3. It will be difficult to enforce the proposed on-leash areas (2 out of 8 comments or 25%)
4. Agree with changes to off-leash areas (1 out of 8 comments or 13%)

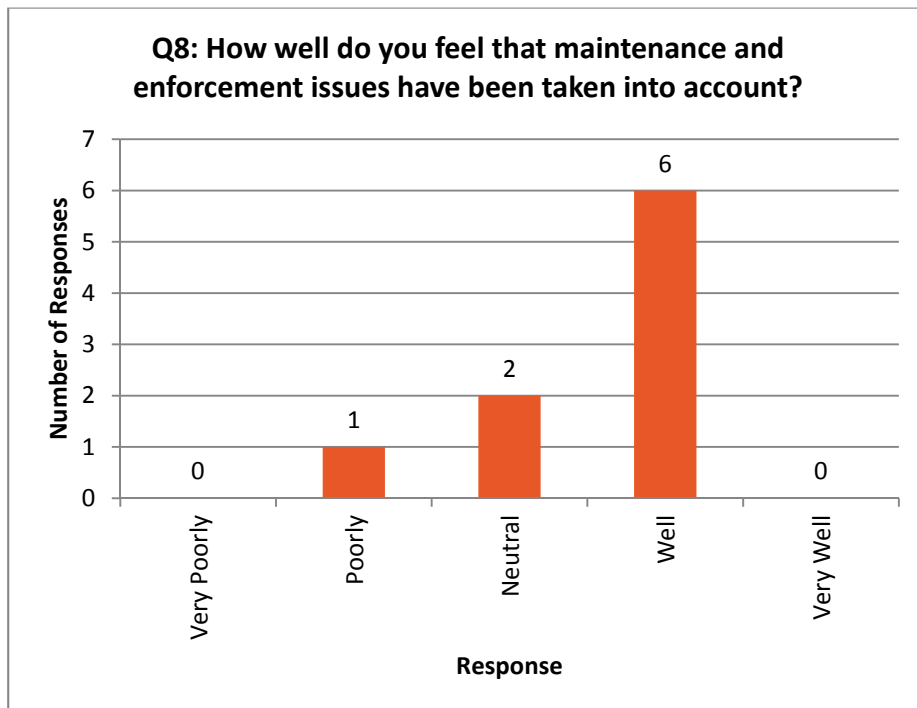
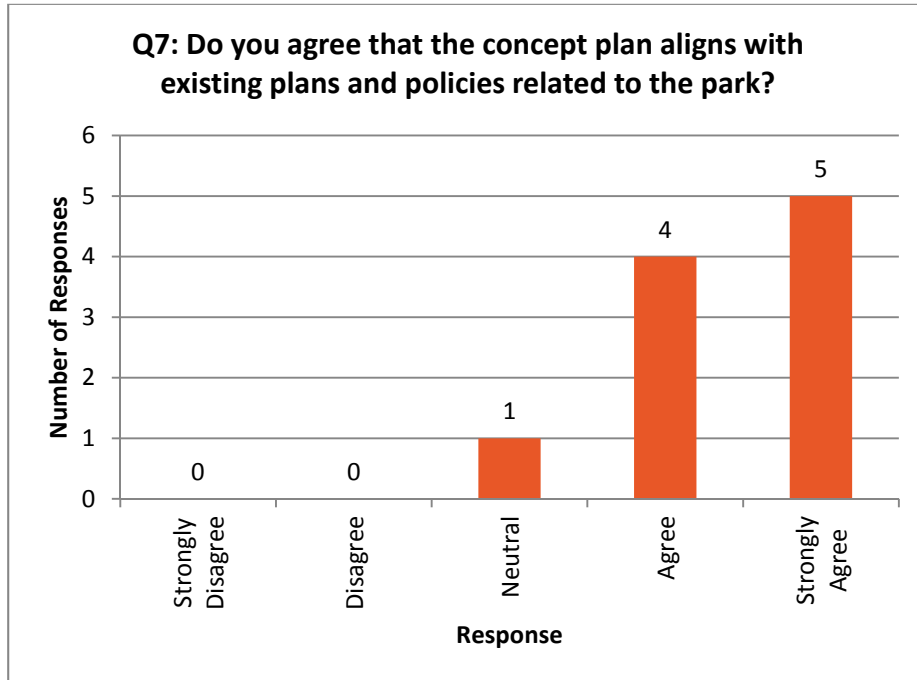
## Stormwater Management



## Top Themes: Stormwater Management

1. Like the design (2 out of 3 comments or 67%)
2. Need to address Market Mall outflow (1 out of 3 comments or 33%)

## Other Ideas



### Top Themes: Other Ideas

1. Maintenance and enforcement need to be addressed in greater detail (3 out of 10 comments or 30%)
2. Enforcement of off-leash areas will be a major issue impacting the success of the park (2 out of 10 comments or 20%)
3. Like the design (2 out of 10 comments or 20%)
4. Switchback trail at south parking lot does not fully address desire line straight up the hill. May need to add stairs. (1 out of 10 comments or 10%)
5. Plan does not resolve traffic issues at Home Road and 32 Ave. intersection (1 out of 10 comments or 10%)



Stakeholder Workshop #5

## 5.0 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2 – MAY 22, 2013

Public Open House #2 was held at the Bowness Community Centre and Arena on May 22, 2013. The event was advertised by the following methods:

- Bold signs were placed at five on-street locations in the neighborhoods surrounding the park
- A flyer was posted at the four area community associations (Montgomery, Bowness, Varsity and Silver Springs) and at parking lot bulletin boards surrounding Bowmont Natural Environment Park
- A notification was posted on the City of Calgary Parks website
- The event flyer was provided to the community stakeholder group in digital format for distribution to the members' organizations and communities
- Ads were placed community association newsletters in the communities of Bowness and Montgomery

### 5.1 Open House Format

The open house was open to the public from 3:00 – 8:00pm. A total of seven stations were set up around the venue, with each station focused on a particular topic. The station topics were distributed as follows:

#### **Sign-In Station**

##### **Station 1: Introduction**

Project background information

Context map and study area

Site photos

##### **Station 2: Concept - Habitats Along the Water**

Concept development process

Rendered plan and visualizations of the proposed concept design

Comment sheet

##### **Station 3: Enhancing Biodiversity**

Habitat diagram

Succession strategy and vegetation communities

Phytoremediation

What we've heard so far - Natural habitat and environment

Comment sheet: "How well do you feel the plan preserves, protects and enhances natural habitat in the park?"



#### **Station 4: People in the Park**

Circulation diagram

Trail and pathway types

Activities and facilities

Off-leash area

Single track mountain biking trail plan

Detailed plans and visualizations of select areas of the park

What we've heard so far - Access and amenities

Comment sheet:

- “Are you satisfied with the variety and level of access provided for the park?”
- Do you agree that the visitor amenities in the park design are appropriate?
- Do you agree with the proposed improvements to the existing single track mountain biking trail?
- Do you agree with the proposed changes to the off-leash areas in East Bowmont Park?”

#### **Station 5: Protecting the Bow River**

Stormwater management issues in Calgary

Stormwater management concept

Stages of stormwater quality management

What we've heard so far - Stormwater management

Comment sheet: “Are you satisfied with the way that stormwater management has been integrated into the design?”

#### **Station 6: Map Station**

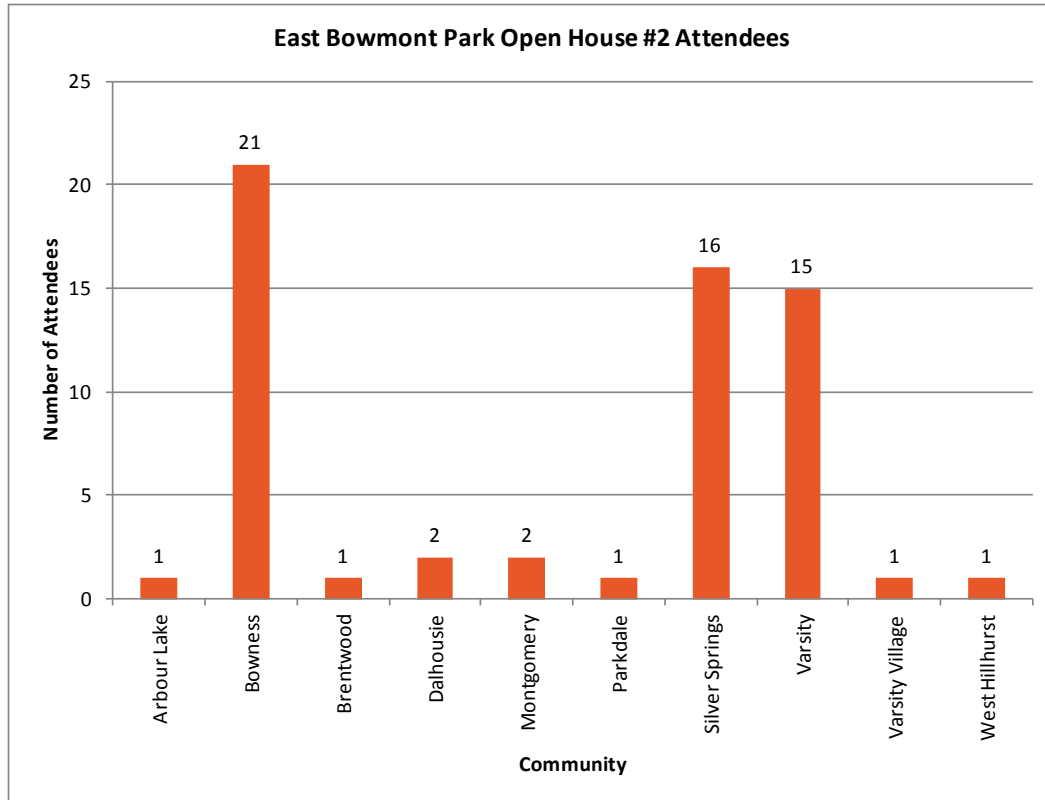
Blank concept plans that attendees could draw or make notes on

Poster and maps showing different aspects of the proposed concept design were posted at each station, as well as posters summarizing the feedback gathered to date as it related to each station topic. At each station, comment sheets with relevant questions from the survey were posted, as noted above. Open house attendees were provided with a total of 6 stickers each that they could use to vote on the survey questions. Sticky notes and pens were made available throughout the open house for attendees to post additional comments at any station. Each station included a facilitator from the design team who was experienced in the subject matter being discussed at the station. Maps and sticky notes used to record the ideas discussed during the open house were collected by the facilitators, photographed and compiled into the topics below.

The open house posters as presented at the open house may be viewed in Appendix B.

## 5.2 What We Heard – Summary

In total, 61 people attended and signed the sign-in sheet for the open house. Most of the attendees lived in the communities surrounding the park (see table below).



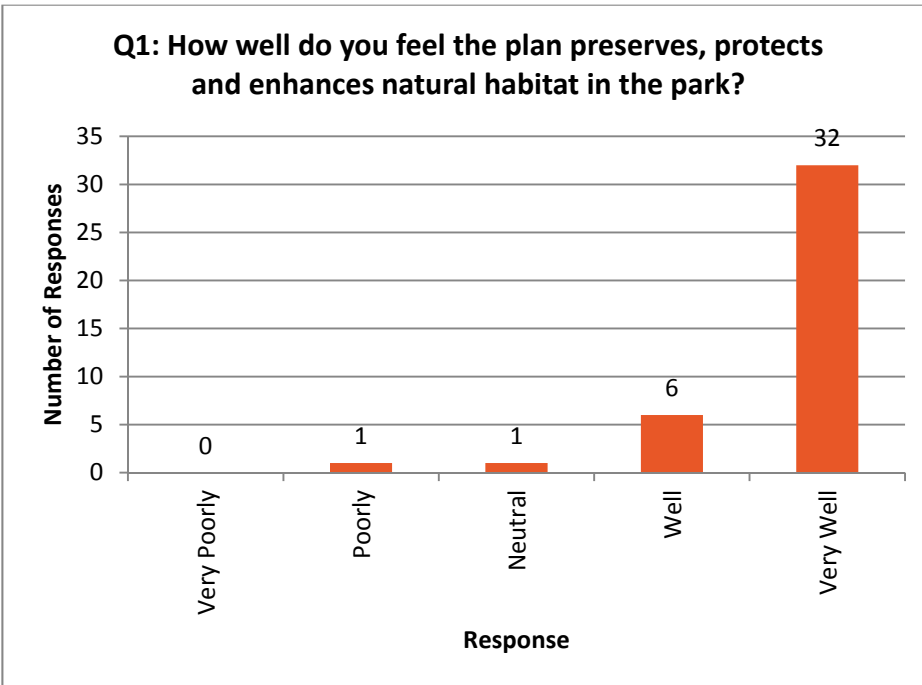
### Rating Scale Questions

The following graphs illustrate the responses received to the rating scale questions that open house attendees voted on with stickers at each station. The survey question is shown at the top of each graph, with the distribution of responses below.

### Other Comments

The additional comments provided as notes on maps or sticky notes attached to the comment sheets at the open house were analysed to identify common themes in the feedback. In each topic category, the most frequently repeated opinions have been grouped into themes that generally express ideas that recurred in different ways throughout the detailed feedback. The scale of text sizes (large to small) represents the number of times an opinion was repeated (most to least). The detailed feedback is available for review in Appendix B.

## Natural Habitat



### Top Themes: Natural Habitat

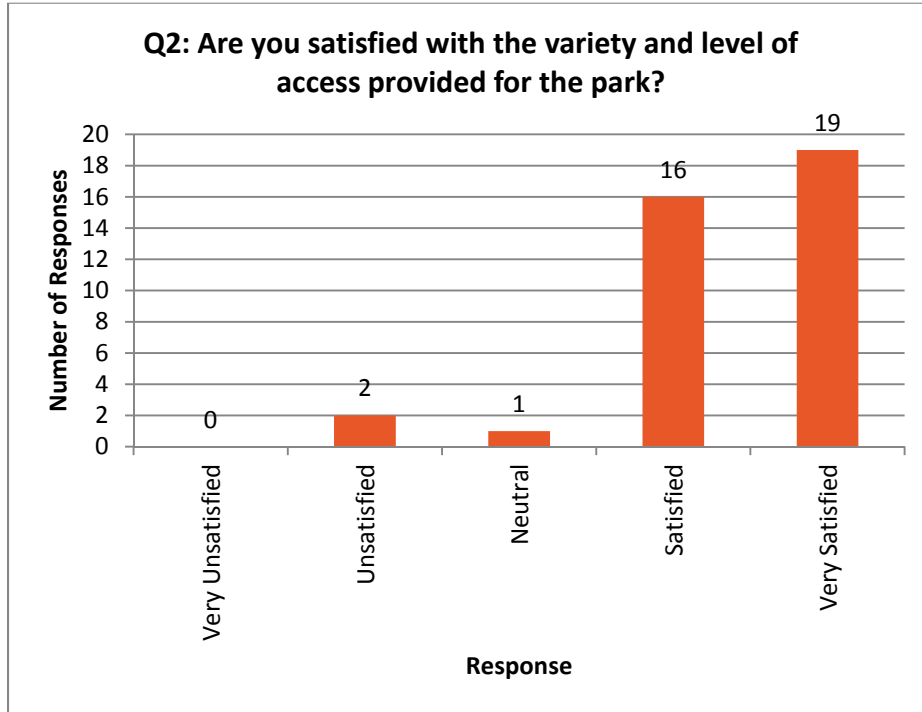
# 1. Dog use in the park may be a conflict with wildlife, even if dogs are on-leash

(2 out of 6 comments or 33%)

2. Protecting the natural environment is more important than accommodating recreational use in the park (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)
3. Would like to see fish habitat enhanced as part of the plan (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)
4. Would like to see access to the wetlands for bird watching (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)
5. Keep the park natural, not too urban (1 out of 6 comments or 17%)

## Access and Amenities

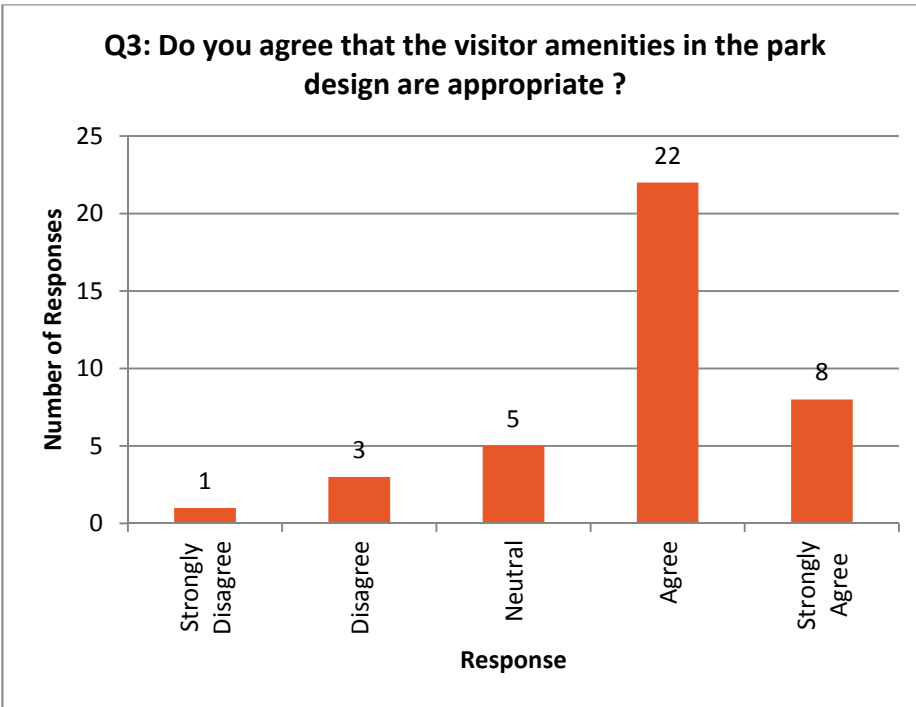
### Access



### Top Themes: Access

1. **Restrict vehicular access into the park** (3 out of 17 comments or 18%)
2. **Widen or add turn-outs to the bike path along Home Road** (3 out of 17 comments or 18%)
3. **The current amount of parking is sufficient** (3 out of 17 comments or 18%)
4. **Concern that there is not enough parking provided** (3 out of 17 comments or 18%)
5. **There should be better access / drop-offs for seniors and physically challenged park visitors** (2 out of 17 comments or 12%)

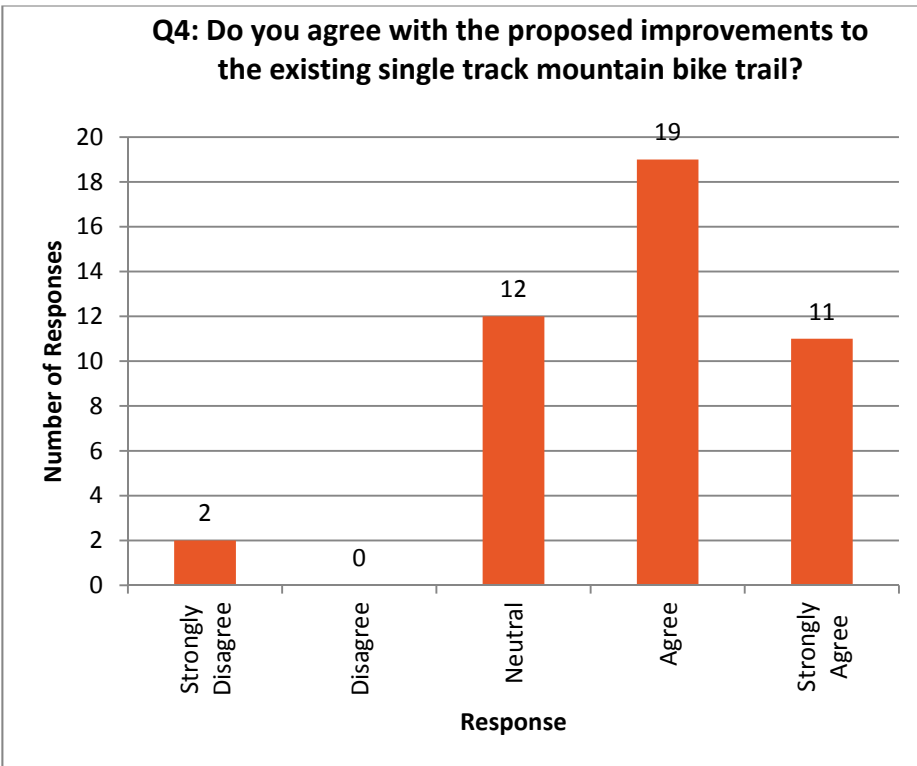
## Amenities



### Top Themes: Amenities

1. **Support the inclusion of washrooms**  
(6 out of 20 comments or 30%)
2. **Do not support the proposed view platforms** (5 out of 20 comments or 25%)
3. **There are not enough washrooms** (3 out of 20 comments or 15%)

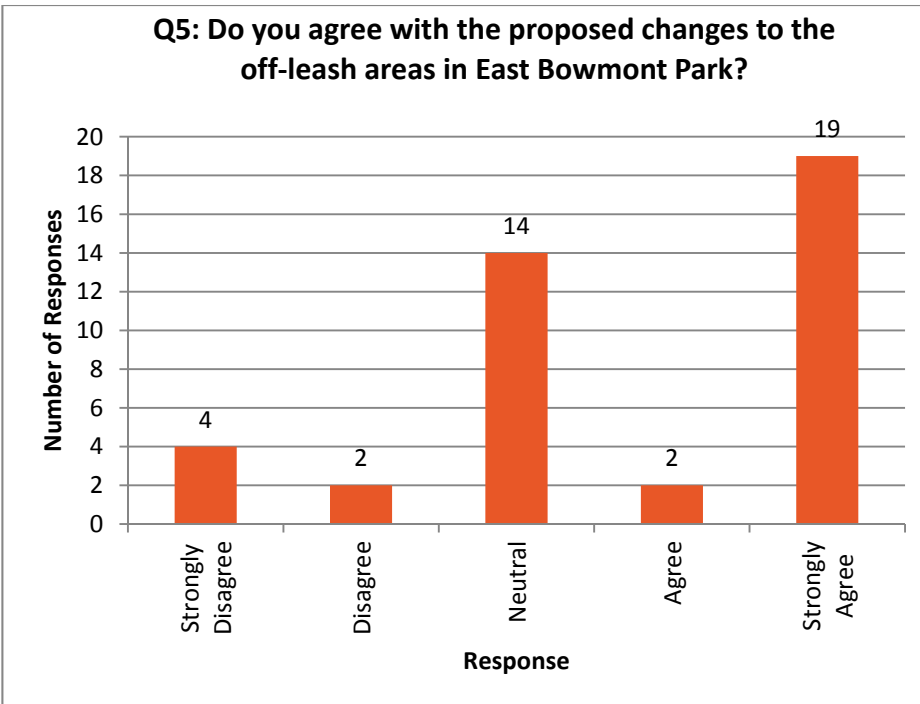
## Single Track Mountain Biking Trail



### Top Themes: Single Track Mountain Biking Trail

1. Support the inclusion of mountain bike trails in the park (4 out of 8 comments or 50%)
2. A mountain bike skills / terrain park should be included in the design (3 out of 8 comments or 38%)

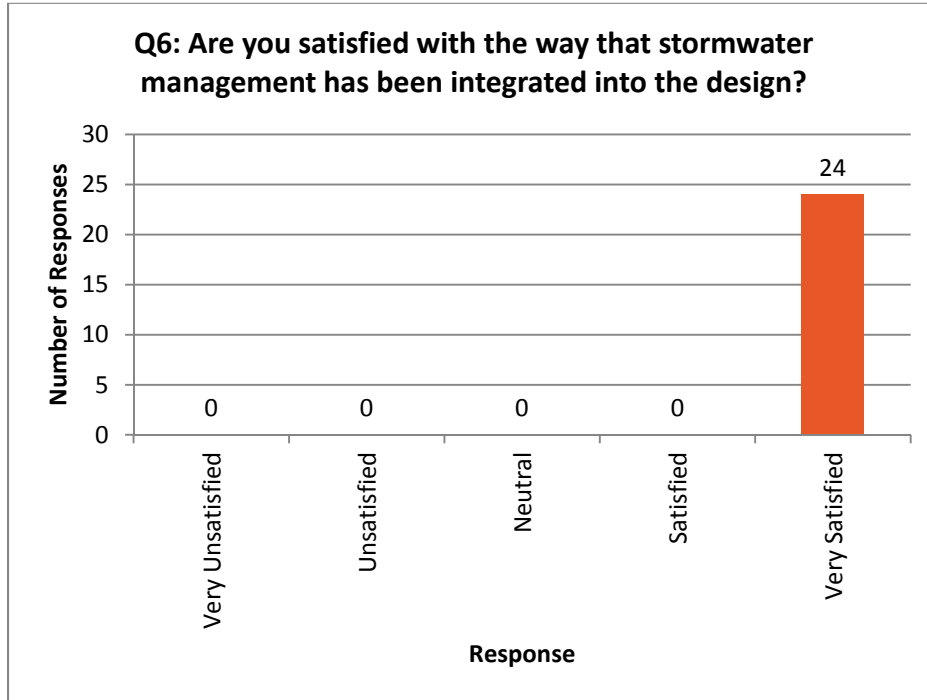
## Off-Leash Dog Access



### Top Themes: Off-Leash Dog Access

1. Support the restriction of off-leash use in East Bowmont Park (7 out of 17 comments or 41%)
2. Do not support the proposed reduction in off-leash area (5 out of 17 comments or 30%)
3. There should be an off-leash swimming area for dogs (3 out of 17 comments or 18%)
4. Better enforcement / education related to off-leash use is needed (2 out of 17 comments or 12%)

## Stormwater Management



### Top Themes: Stormwater Management

1. Upstream mitigation in neighborhoods should be part of the strategy (3 out of 7 comments or 43%)
2. Support the proposed technology (2 out of 7 comments or 29%)

### Top Themes: Other Ideas

1. Better enforcement of park bylaws is needed (3 out of 8 comments or 38%)
2. Support for proposed concept (2 out of 8 comments or 25%)
3. Clear signage is important (2 out of 8 comments or 25%)
4. Beaver activity is a problem in the park (2 out of 8 comments or 25%)



## 6.0 ONLINE SURVEY #2 – MAY 23 TO JULY 5, 2013

An online survey was posted on the City of Calgary, Parks website from May 22 to July 5, 2013. The survey was originally scheduled to close June 22, but due to the events of the 2013 flooding, the survey was kept open for an additional two weeks to give citizens more time to respond. A total of 382 surveys were completed, including four paper copies that were filled out at the public open house event.

### 6.1 Survey Format

The online survey was mainly based on rating scale-type questions, with one free response question at the end of the survey. In the rating scale questions, the survey respondent was asked to rate their feelings about an issue on a 1 to 5 scale. In the free response question, the respondent had the ability to provide a written response explaining their unique opinions on the concept design for the park.

Online Survey #2 was organized into the topic categories of:

- Background information and concept design (information and images only, no questions asked)
- Natural habitat
- Access and amenities, including
  - Access
  - Amenities
  - Single track mountain biking trail
  - Off-leash dog use
- Stormwater management
- Other feedback

In each topic, a link to a map or series of maps showing specific aspects of the concept design related to the topic was provided. Respondents were able to view the map and then return to the survey and answer questions related to the map. A sample survey is available in Appendix C.

### 6.2 What We Heard – Summary

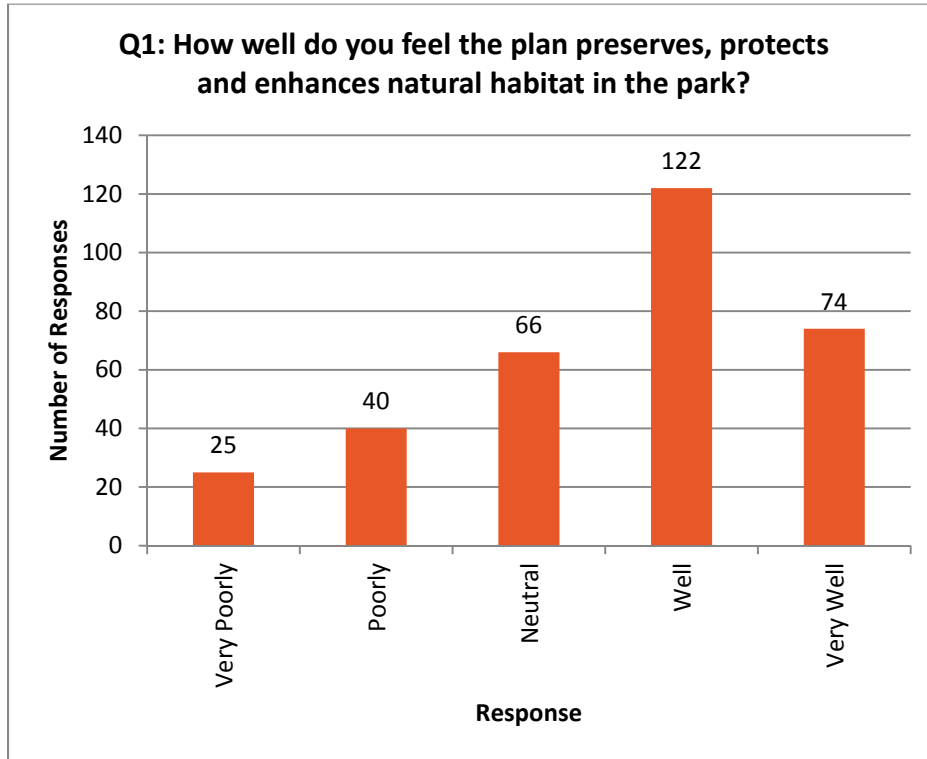
#### Rating Scale Questions

The following graphs illustrate the responses received to the rating scale questions. The survey question is shown at the top of each graph, with the distribution of responses below.

#### Free Response Questions

The detailed written feedback from the free response question in Online Survey #2 was analysed to identify common themes in the survey responses. The most frequently repeated opinions have been grouped into themes that generally express ideas that recurred in different ways throughout the detailed feedback. The scale of text sizes (large to small) represents the number of times an opinion was repeated (most to least). The detailed feedback is available for review in Appendix C.

## Natural Habitat

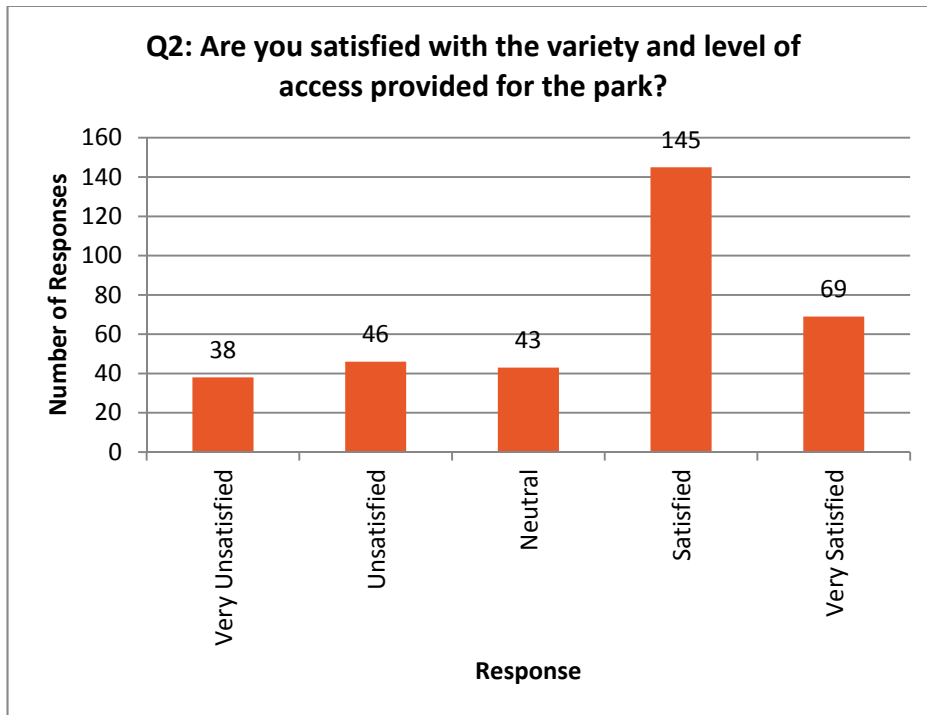


## Top Themes: Natural Habitat

1. Too much development is proposed for a natural park (22 out of 245 comments or 9%)

## Access and Amenities

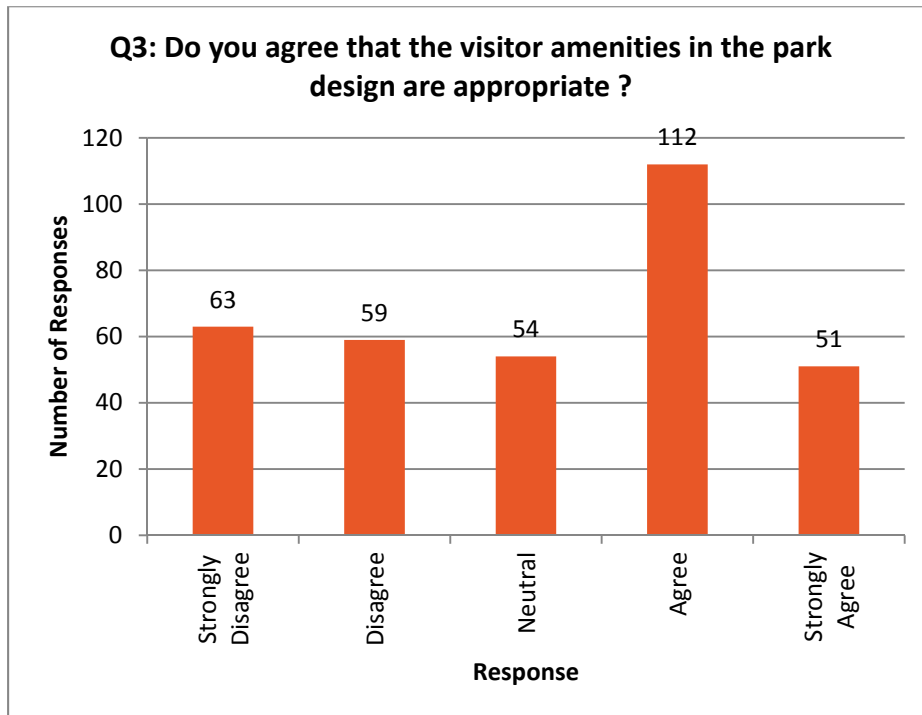
### Access



### Top Themes: Access

1. **Concern regarding the degradation of trails by cyclists** (21 out of 245 comments or 9%)
2. **Cycling should be limited in speed / access** (17 out of 245 comments or 7%)
3. **Concern about speed of cyclists on the pathway** (13 out of 245 comments or 5%)
4. **Like to see less hard surface trails and pathways** (11 out of 245 comments or 5%)

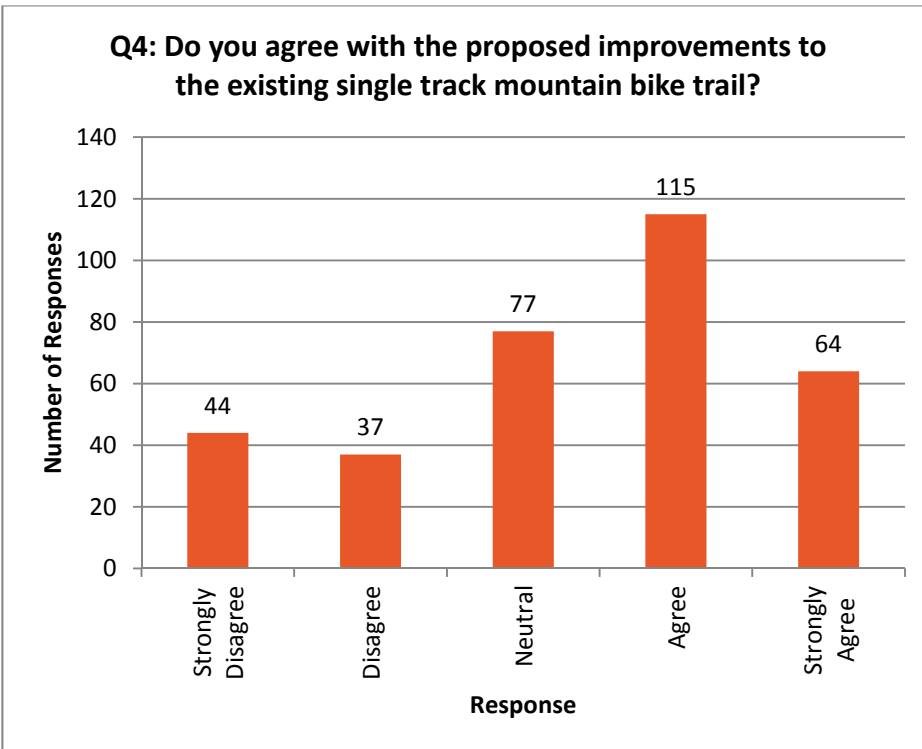
## Amenities



### Top Themes: Amenities

1. Do not support structures such as stairs or view platforms (15 out of 245 comments or 6%)
2. Concern that washroom / picnic area near parking lot is too close to residences (12 out of 245 comments or 5%)
3. Do not support proposed amphitheatre (8 out of 245 comments or 3%)

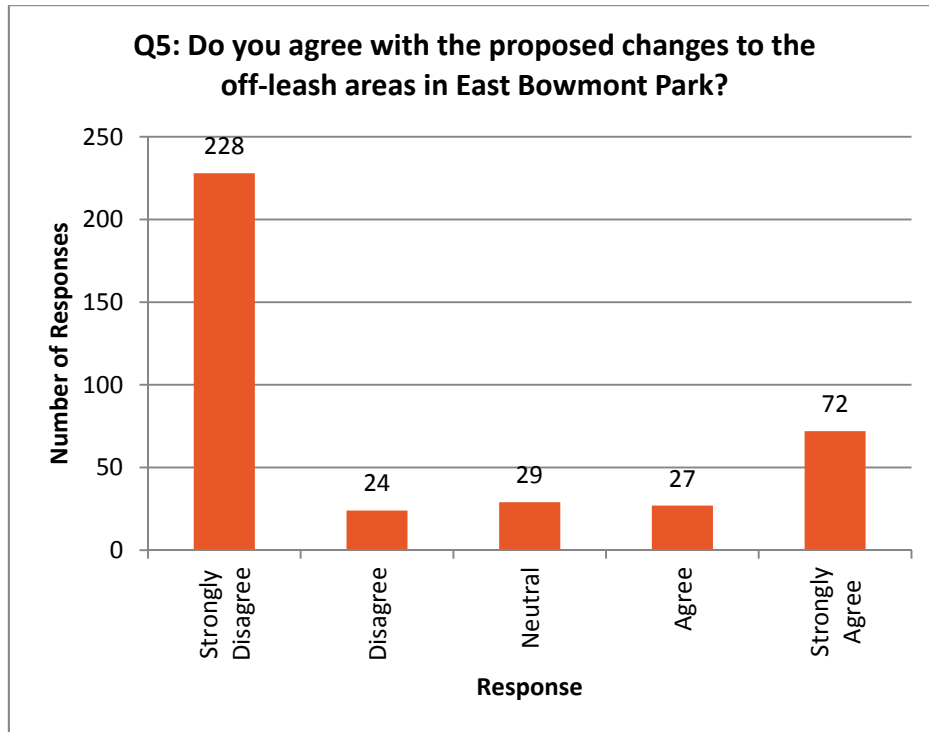
## Single Track Mountain Biking Trail



### Top Themes: Single Track Mountain Biking Trail

1. Support mountain biking in the park / single track trail access (22 out of 245 comments or 9%)
2. A mountain bike skills / terrain park should be included in the design (5 out of 245 comments or 2%)

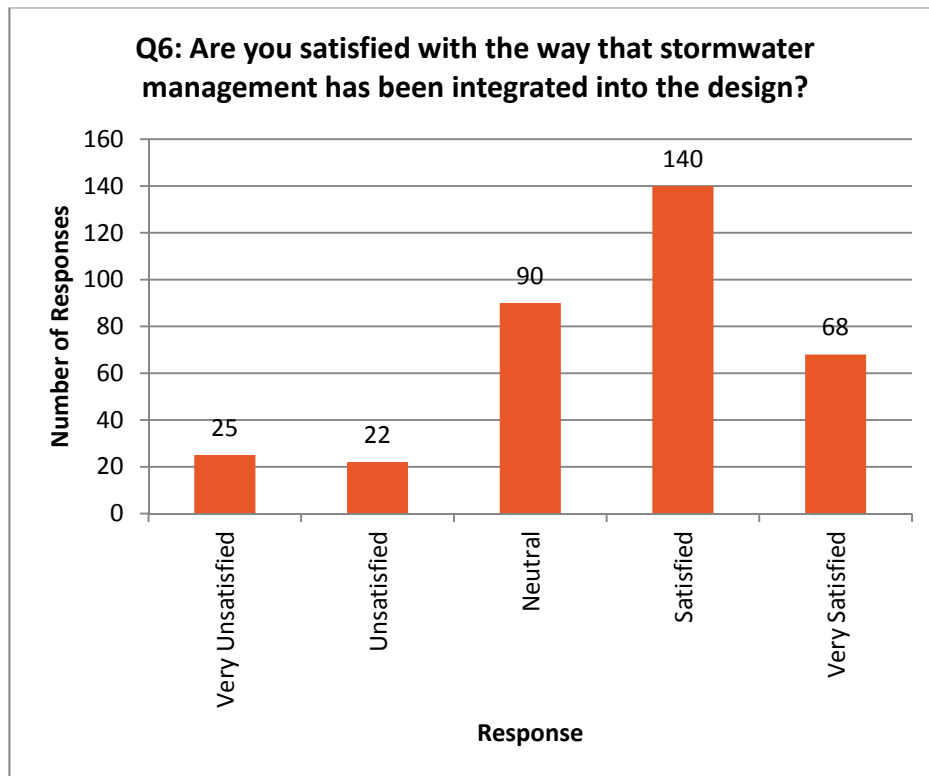
## Off-Leash Dog Access



### Top Themes: Off-Leash Dog Access

1. Do not support the removal of off-leash areas (145 out of 245 comments or 60%)
2. There should be an off-leash swimming area for dogs (56 out of 245 comments or 23%)
3. Support the removal of off-leash areas (21 out of 245 comments or 9%)

## Stormwater Management



### Top Themes: Stormwater Management

1. In favour of stormwater management plan (14 out of 245 comments or 6%)
2. Concerns about the design of the Nautilus Pond (5 out of 245 comments or 2%)

### Top Themes: Other Ideas

1. Better enforcement of park bylaws is needed (35 out of 245 comments or 14%)
2. Support for proposed concept (26 out of 245 comments or 11%)
3. Concern about amount of construction required to implement the plan (16 out of 245 comments or 7%)
4. Don't think City should be spending money on the park (8 out of 245 comments or 3%)

The information collected in Phase II of the engagement process will be reviewed and, where feasible, incorporated into the design development plan for East Bowmont Park. Feedback will be analyzed to determine if it can be accommodated, within the context of regulatory requirements, physical requirements or limitations of the site, and existing plans and policies that need to be followed. Each top theme will be addressed, with an explanation of how and why the feedback was or wasn't accommodated in the design.



**Public Open House #2**



## 7.0 SUMMARY

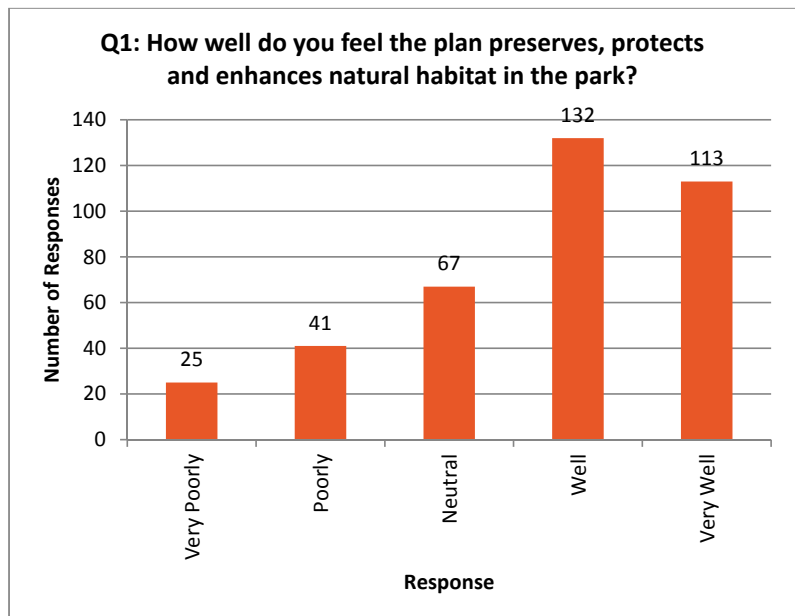
Through the four engagement events that were held in the second phase of the East Bowmont Natural Environment Park Design Development Plan project, the design team has successfully gathered feedback from various user-groups concerning the proposed concept design for the park. The level of participation in the process indicates how important this park is to the citizens of Calgary. The following graphs and tables summarize the total responses received for the rating scale questions of the survey, which were collected at all four events, as well as the top themes that emerged from the written feedback.

### Natural Habitat

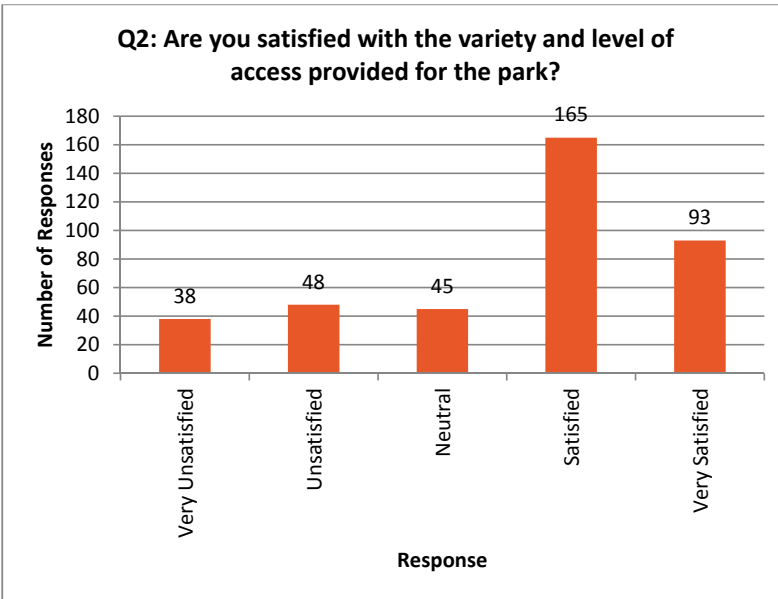
**65% Support  
for the plan**

(245 out of 378 responses)

**17% Opposed to the  
plan** (66 out of 378 responses)



### Access and Amenities | Access

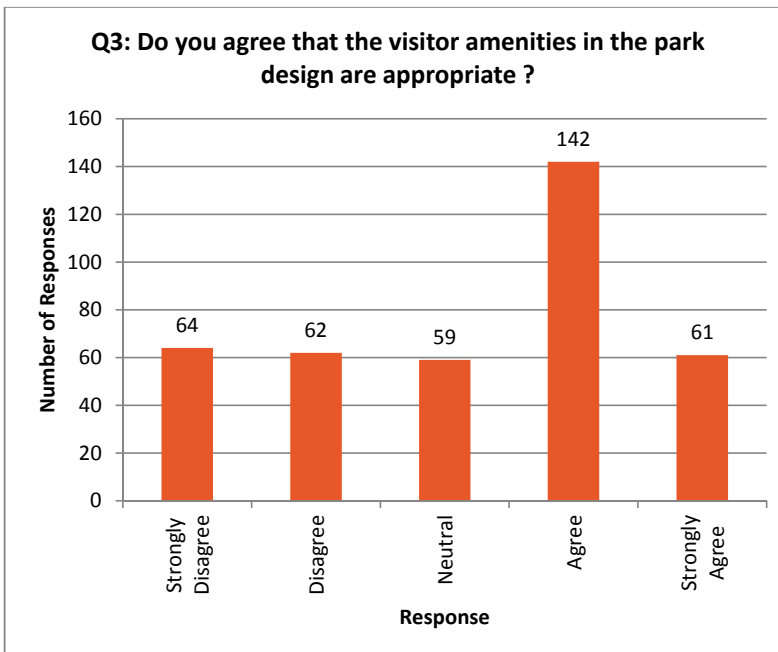


**66% Support for the plan**

(258 out of 389 responses)

**22% Opposed to the plan** (86 out of 389 responses)

### Access and Amenities | Amenities



**52% Support for the plan**

(203 out of 388 responses)

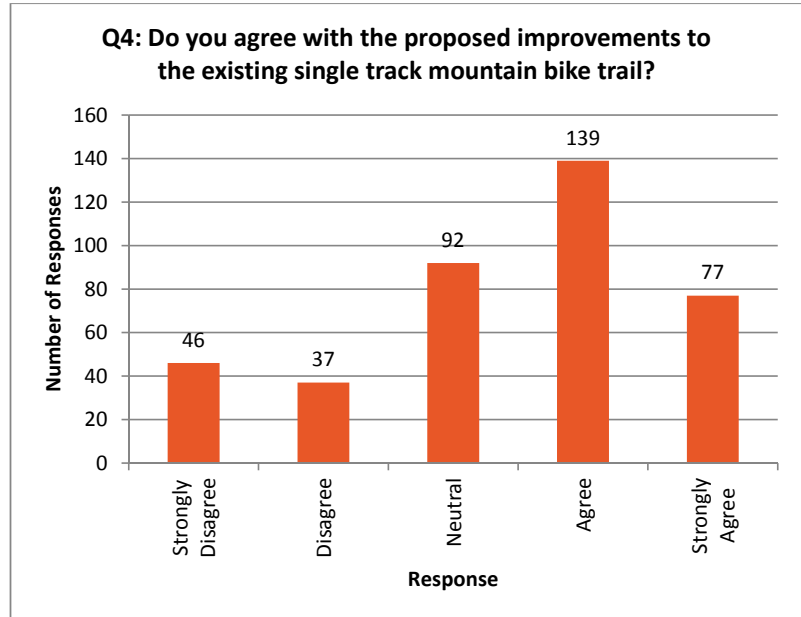
**32% Opposed to the plan** (126 out of 388 responses)

## Access and Amenities | Single Track Mountain Biking Trail

**55% Support**  
for the plan

(216 out of 391 responses)

**21% Opposed** to the  
plan (83 out of 391 responses)



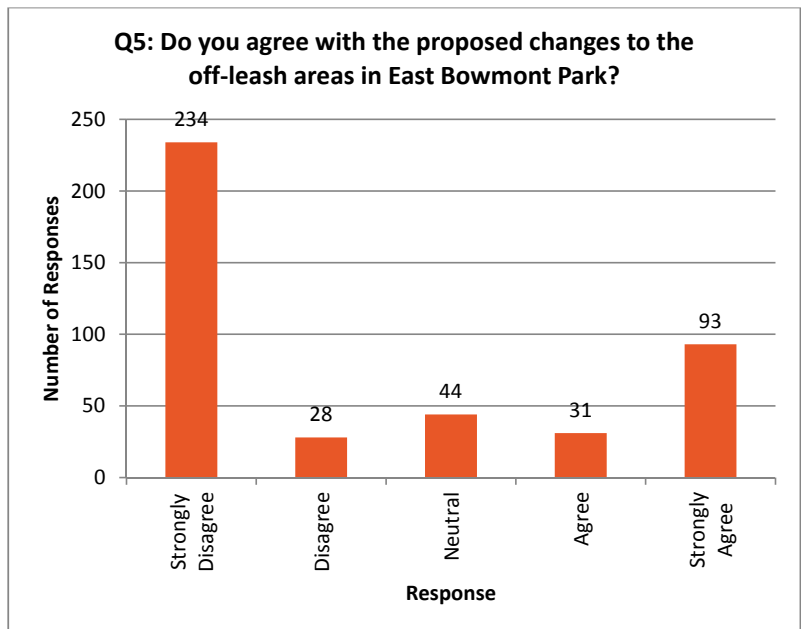
## Access and Amenities | Off-Leash Dog Access

**29% Support** for the  
plan

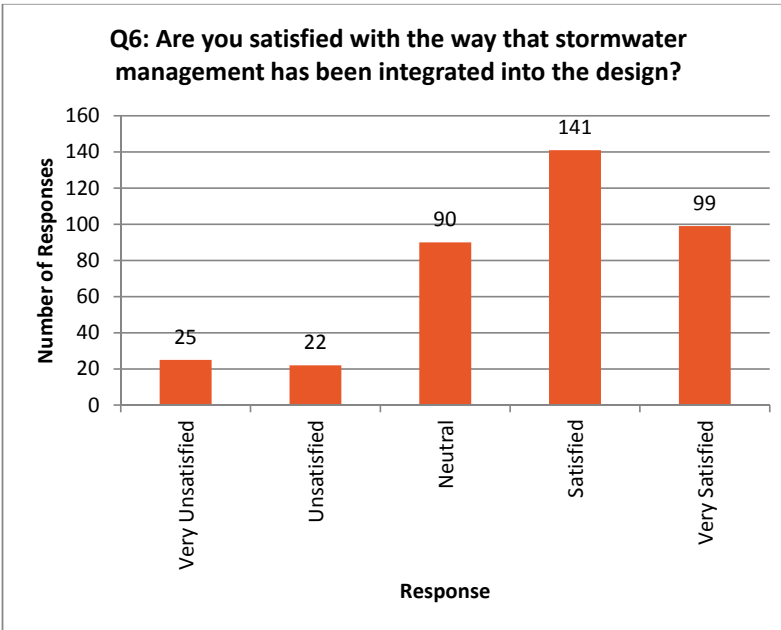
(262 out of 430 responses)

**61% Opposed**  
to the plan

(124 out of 430 responses)



## Stormwater Management



# 64% Support for the plan

(240 out of 377 responses)

12% Opposed to the plan (47 out of 377 responses)

## TOP THEMES IN PHASE II ENGAGEMENT

### Precedence

### Theme

## NATURAL HABITAT

### Stakeholder Workshop #4 and 5

1 Limiting access to the river bank is important

2 Support for protection of habitat

3 May be issues with reduction / enforcement of off-leash areas

### Open House #2

1 Dog use in the park may be a conflict with wildlife, even if dogs are on-leash

### Online Survey #2

1 Too much development is proposed for a natural park

## ACCESS AND AMENITIES

### Access

### Stakeholder Workshop #4 and 5

1 Don't wish to see expansion of vehicular access / parking in the park

2 Consider moving the staircase a little farther north to accommodate people parking on 40th Ave NW

### Open House #2

1 Restrict vehicular access into the park

2 Widen or add turn-outs to the bike path along Home Road

3 The current amount of parking is sufficient

4 Concern that there is not enough parking provided

5 There should be better access / drop-offs for seniors and physically challenged park visitors)

### Online Survey #2

1 Concern regarding the degradation of trails by cyclists

2 Cycling should be limited in speed / access

3 Concern about speed of cyclists on the pathway

4 Like to see less hard surface trails and pathways

<b>Amenities</b>	
Stakeholder Workshop #4 and 5	
1	Concerns about vandalism and transients using covered or enclosed amenities
2	Support the inclusion of washrooms
3	Washrooms should be year-round to support seniors and other visitors with health issues
Open House #2	
1	Support the inclusion of washrooms
2	Do not support the proposed view platforms
3	There are not enough washrooms
Online Survey #2	
1	Do not support structures such as stairs or view platforms
2	Concern that washroom / picnic area near parking lot is too close to residences
3	Do not support proposed amphitheatre
<b>Single Track Mountain Biking Trail</b>	
Stakeholder Workshop #4 and 5	
1	The single track trail can be made more sustainable through education, enforcement or better design
Open House #2	
1	Support the inclusion of mountain bike trails in the park
2	A mountain bike skills / terrain park should be included in the design
Online Survey #2	
1	Support mountain biking in the park / single track trail access
2	A mountain bike skills / terrain park should be included in the design
<b>Off-Leash Dog Access</b>	
Stakeholder Workshop #4 and 5	
1	There should be an off-leash swimming area for dogs
2	There should be some off-leash in select areas of the park

3	It will be difficult to enforce the proposed on-leash areas
Open House #2	
1	Support the restriction of off-leash use in East Bowmont Park
2	Do not support the proposed reduction in off-leash area
3	There should be an off-leash swimming area for dogs
4	Better enforcement / education related to off-leash use is needed
Online Survey #2	
1	Do not support the removal of off-leash areas
2	There should be an off-leash swimming area for dogs
3	Support the removal of off-leash areas
<b>STORMWATER MANAGEMENT</b>	
Stakeholder Workshop #4 and 5	
1	Like the design
Public Open House #2	
1	Upstream mitigation in neighborhoods should be part of the strategy
2	Support the proposed technology
Online Survey #1	
1	In favour of stormwater management plan
2	Concerns about the design of the Nautilus Pond
<b>OTHER IDEAS</b>	
Stakeholder Workshop #4 and 5	
1	Stairs and boardwalks are expensive to maintain, but worthwhile. Paved pathways should be accessible and signage should be clear.
2	Maintenance and enforcement need to be addressed in greater detail
3	Enforcement of off-leash areas will be a major issue impacting the success of the park
4	Like the design
Public Open House #2	
1	Better enforcement of park bylaws is needed
2	Support for proposed concept
3	Clear signage is important

4	Beaver activity is a problem in the park
Online Survey #2	
1	Better enforcement of park bylaws is needed
2	Support for proposed concept
3	Concern about amount of construction required to implement the plan
4	Don't think City should be spending money on the park



## 7.1 Common Themes

The following themes were repeated throughout the Phase II stakeholder engagement process. Not all of the participants necessarily agreed with the statements below, but they reflect the popular opinion as indicated by the feedback collected.

### Support for Protection of Natural Habitat

In rating scale-based questions throughout the Phase II engagement process, participants voted in favour of the protection and restoration of natural habitat as shown in the concept design (65% support for the plan). Out of a total of 375 individual comments that were analyzed, 22 respondents (6%) felt that the concept showed too much development for a natural environment park.

### Support for Parking, Trails and Pathways

In rating scale-based questions throughout the Phase II engagement process, participants voted in favour of the variety and level of access shown in the concept design (66% support for the plan). A few people noted that the proposed stairway from the top of the escarpment would be more useful if it was moved slightly to the north, with better connections to the playground area at the top of the escarpment. Degradation of unpaved trails by cyclists and speeding cyclists on the regional pathway were two issues that emerged in the online survey. A total of 51 out of 245 comments received in the online survey (21%) were about bicycle speed and access in the park. A few people noted that they would like to see some trails identified specifically for cross country skiing.

### Issues Surrounding Specific Proposed Amenities

Respondents were somewhat divided regarding the new amenities proposed in the park (52% support for the plan). Specific issues included concerns that covered or enclosed amenities, such as the picnic shelter, amphitheatre and washrooms, particularly the proposed seasonal washroom in the lower area of the park, would invite vandalism and use by transients. Residents near the parking lot off 52nd Street were also concerned that the proposed picnicking and washroom amenities were too close to residences. A number of respondents (20 out of 265 comments, or 8%) did not support the proposed design for the view platforms or stairs, citing that these types of structures would detract from the natural park setting. 3% of online survey respondents did not think an amphitheatre was an appropriate use in the lower park area.

### Support for Mountain Biking Trails in the Park

Overall, survey respondents supported the proposed improvements to the existing single track mountain biking trail (55% support for the plan). Out of 260 comments, 26 respondents (10%) specifically stated their support for retaining the trail. Another 3% of respondents noted that they would like to see a mountain bike skills area with jumps included in the design.

## Opposition to the Proposed Reduction in Off-Leash Area

The majority of respondents that were engaged in Phase II were opposed to the proposed reductions in off-leash area in the park (61%). It should be noted that The City of Calgary was making changes to off-leash areas throughout Bowmont Park at the same time that the East Bowmont Park engagement process was ongoing. Information regarding the proposed changes throughout Bowmont Park was presented by Parks at the East Bowmont Park public open house on May 22, 2013, and was posted on the Parks website at the same time as the East Bowmont Park online survey. It appears that some of the feedback received was in response to the proposed changes throughout Bowmont Park, rather than the specific changes proposed for East Bowmont Park.

However, two areas of concern related to East Bowmont Park emerged through the free response comments. First, out of 269 comments, 61 (23%) noted that an off-leash swimming area should be provided for dogs. Many commentors specified an area near the existing stormwater outfall that has been popular for swimming in the past. Second, a number of respondents noted that the playground at the top of the escarpment is infrequently used and supported fencing the playground to reduce conflicts with dogs rather than changing the area at the top of the escarpment to on-leash.

Parks plans to facilitate further public engagement regarding off-leash areas in East Bowmont Park. Public consultation will continue to inform the decision-making process regarding off-leash boundary changes in East Bowmont Park.

## Support for Stormwater Design

In rating scale-based questions throughout the Phase II engagement process, participants voted in favour of the way that stormwater management has been integrated into the concept design (64% support for the plan). A few online survey respondents (2%) had concerns that the design of the Nautilus Pond™ forebay was too artificial, or that it could be unsafe for children playing in the park.

## Enforcement of Park Bylaws

Whether it was in relation to speeding cyclists on the pathways, dog owners disregarding pet use bylaws, or vandalism, crime and transient use of the park, many respondents (43 out of 258 comments, or 17%) felt that better enforcement of park bylaws was important in ensuring the success of the park and the enjoyment of its diverse visitors.

### **7.3 Finalizing the Design for the Park**

The information collected in Phase II of the engagement process will be reviewed and, where feasible, incorporated into the design development plan for East Bowmont Park. Feedback will be analyzed to determine if it can be accommodated, within the context of regulatory requirements, physical requirements or limitations of the site, and existing plans and policies that need to be followed. Each top theme will be addressed, with an explanation of how and why the feedback was or wasn't accommodated in the design.