

Idlewild Park Community Survey Summary Report

1.0 Introduction

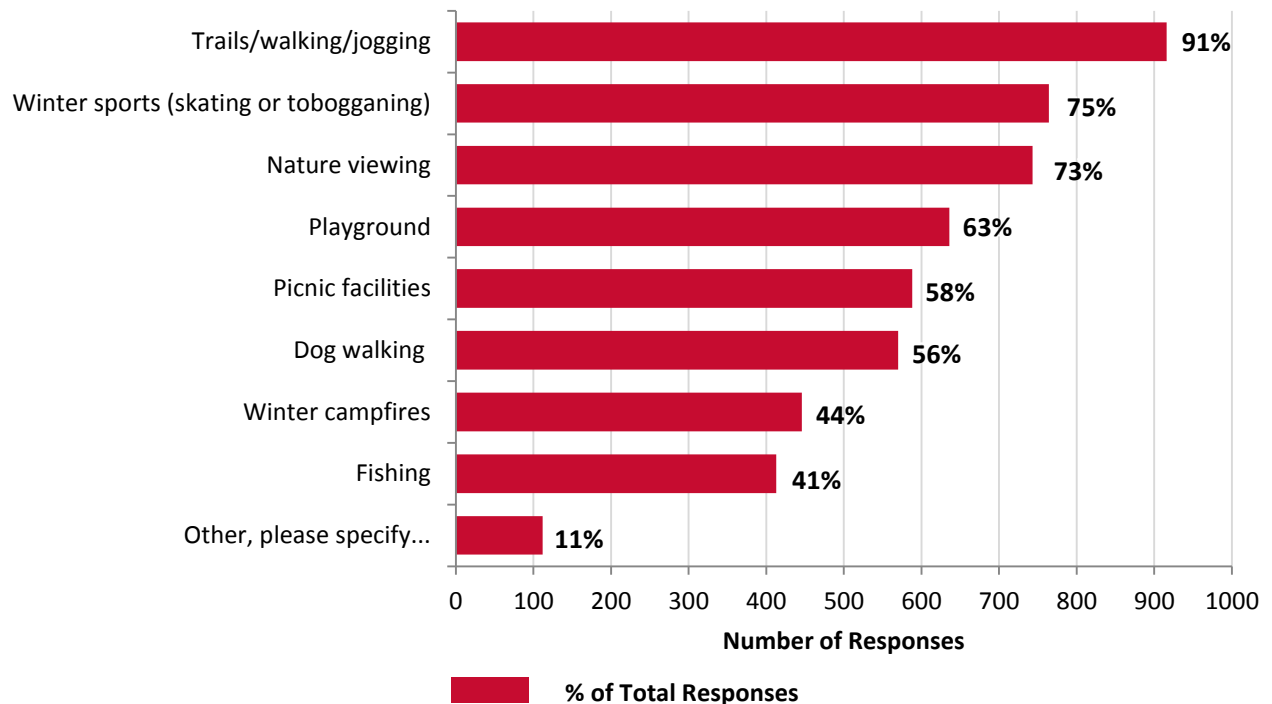
Based on recent assessments of the dam at Idlewild Lake, the water levels will be lowered to protect public safety. Cranbrook City Council recognizes the significance of Idlewild Lake to the community, and is looking for funding to replace the dam and restore the lake. As part of the restoration, the City would like to enhance the park. To assist in planning the future of the park, the City sought input from Cranbrook residents on the future of Idlewild Park through a community survey on the City's website. The survey was also made available in hard-copy format.

The survey was open to the public for approximately one month, ending May 25th, 2015. In total, there were 1,013 surveys completed. The following is a summary of the input received through the community survey.



2.0 Use of Idlewild Park

Respondents were asked to indicate how they currently use Idlewild Park from a list of eight options, with the opportunity to list other uses. Over 90% of those who responded indicated they currently use Idlewild Park for trails/walking/jogging. For all but two of the options provided, at least 50% of respondents indicated using Idlewild Park for those purposes. The graph below represents a summary of how Idlewild Park is used by respondents.

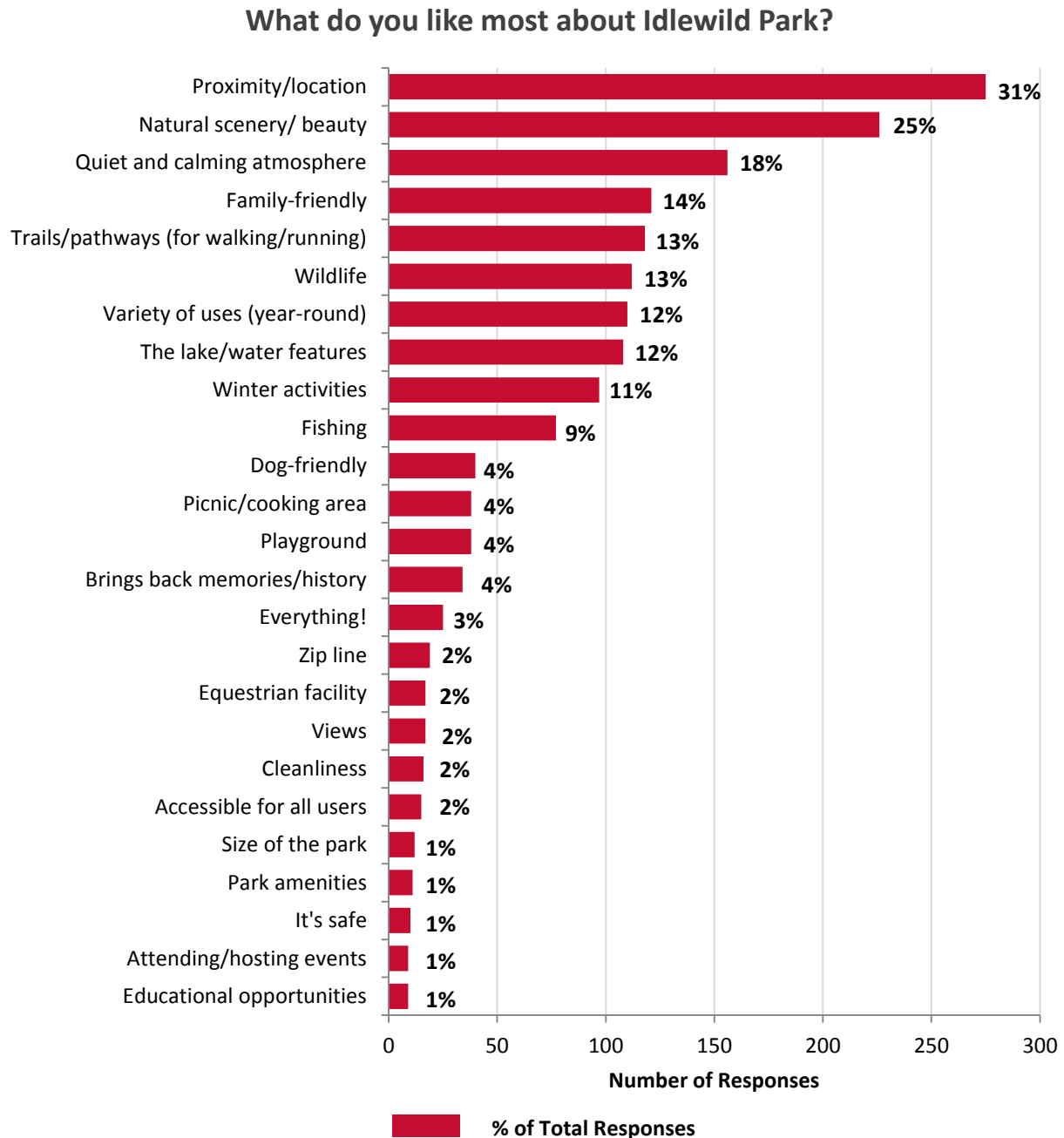


In total, 112 respondents indicated other ways in which they use Idlewild Park. The table below outlines the “other” uses given along with the number of respondents listing those uses.

Other Existing Uses	Number of Comments
Equestrian activities	35
Photography	18
Outdoor events/festivals	17
Biking	8
Relaxation/meditation	8
Field trips/learning opportunities	7
Fitness	5
Zip Line	2

3.0 Park Appreciation

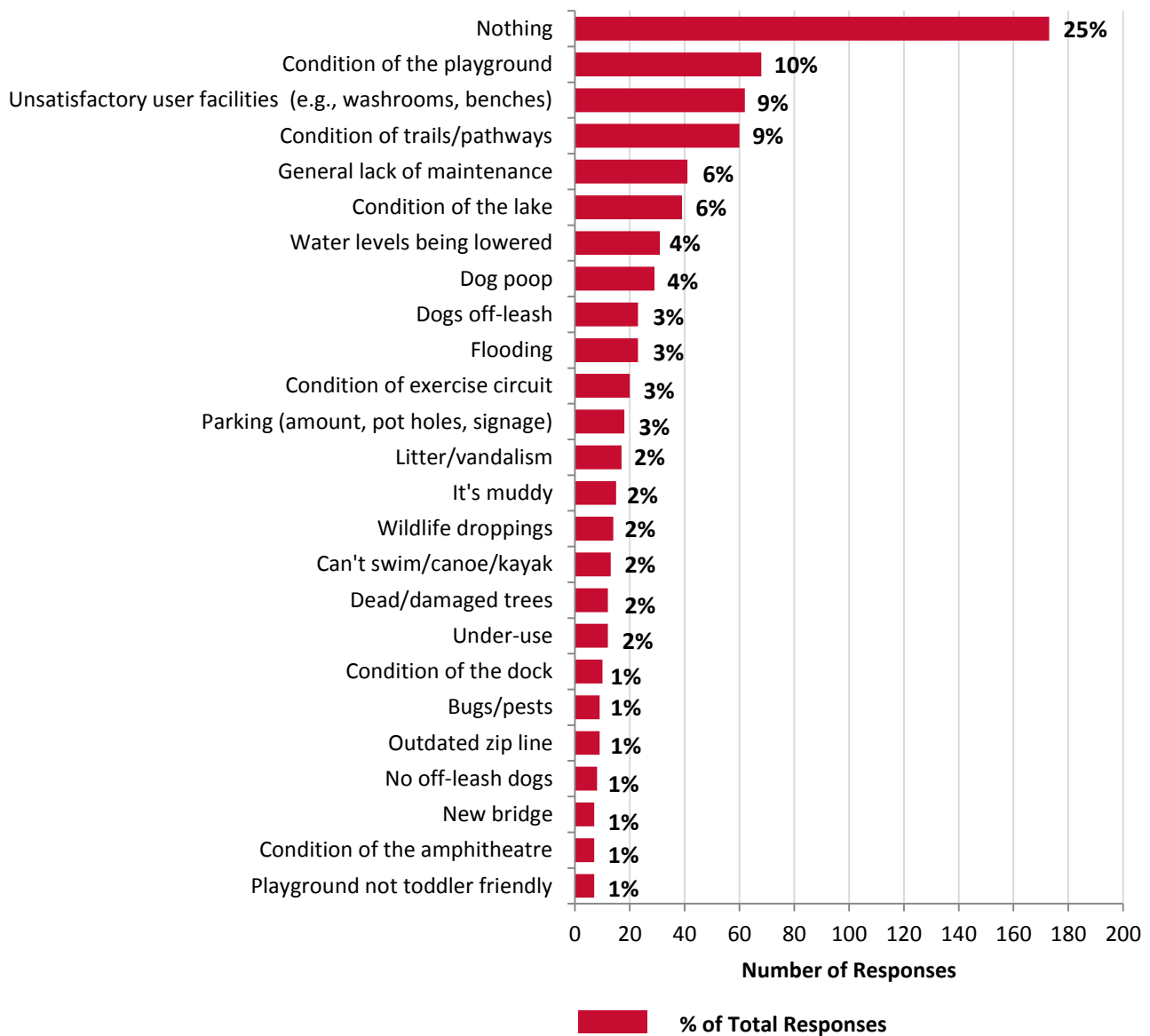
Respondents were asked to share what they like most about Idlewild Park with an open-ended response. In total, 889 comments were provided. Many residents value the location of the park; close to the City – but feeling far away. The graph below highlights the top 25 themes that emerged from the comments. Some of the other themes identified include people-watching, the trees, “the park is never crowded”, availability of parking, and the uniqueness of the park.



4.0 Areas for Improvement

Respondents were asked to share what they like least about Idlewild Park through an open-ended response. More than 700 responses were provided to this question by respondents. Many respondents said there was nothing they do not like about Idlewild Park, while others indicated that the playground equipment needs upgrading (including making it more suitable for younger children), and that visitor facilities are unsatisfactory. The graph below highlights the top 25 themes that emerged from the comments. Some of the other themes identified include unused/under-utilized space, restrictions on fishing, accessibility for wheelchairs and stroller.

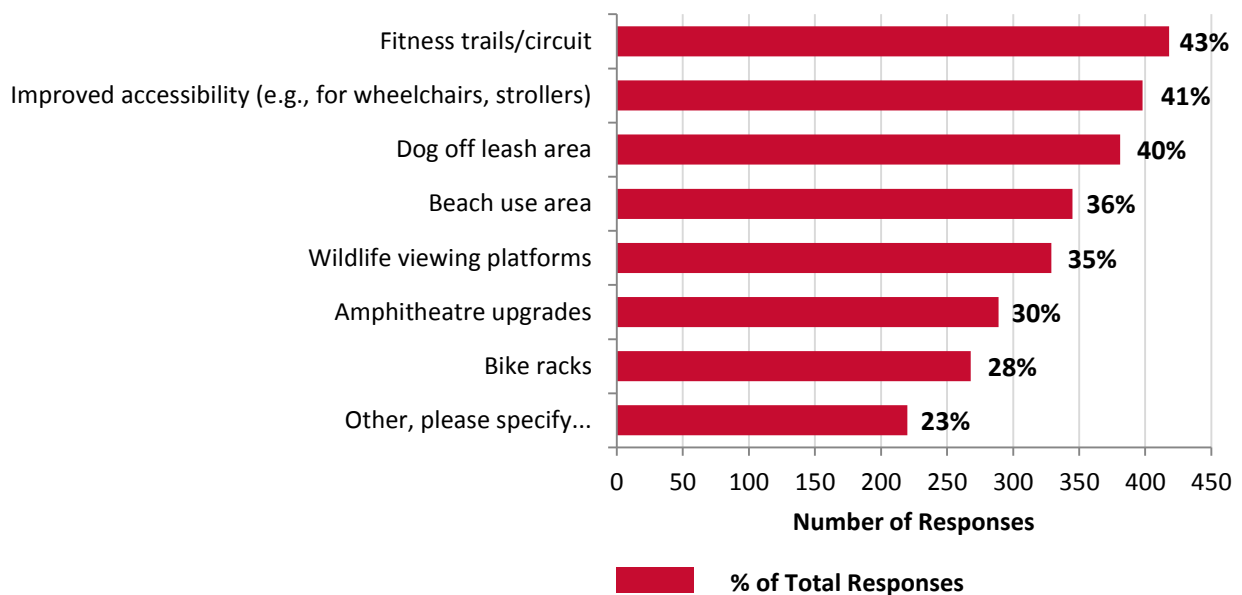
What do you like least about Idlewild Park?



5.0 New or Improved Uses

Respondents were asked to identify what activities or amenities they would like to see within Idlewild Park. Respondents were provided with seven potential uses for consideration, and the option to suggest other improvements. The graph below shows a breakdown of the potential improvements that respondents would like to see.

What new or improved activities or amenities would you like to see included in Idlewild Park?



In total, 220 respondents provided “other” new or improved activities and amenities they would like to see included in Idlewild Park. The table below outlines the improvements wanted along with the number of respondents listing those improvements.

Other Improvements Wanted	Number of Comments
Improve children’s play area	60
Improve/more user amenities (benches, restrooms, trash cans)	37
Maintain park as is	17
Improve area for fishing	14
Improve picnic area	12
Enhance natural beauty/upkeep of park	12
Restore lake/stream to natural state	11
Improve trails	11
Winter activity improvements	10

Other Improvements Wanted	Number of Comments
Improve signage	7
Improve accessibility for all users	7
Improve habitat for wildlife	6
Make the lake suitable for swimming	5
Improve horse riding facility	5
Improve zip line	4
More event/festival facilities	4
Access for canoes/kayaking	3

6.0 Other Comments

The final question invited respondents to provide any final comments about Idlewild Park. In general, the sentiment among respondents is that the dam should be repaired and the lake restored as soon as possible. Many respondents highlighted the importance of Idlewild to the community for social and recreational purposes.