

F A I R V I E W C O M M U N I T Y
A S S O C I A T I O N

FLINT PARK
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Introduction:

In the spring of 2012, the Fairview Community Association commissioned a survey of its residents to provide feedback in regards to the current state and future improvements of all of Fairview's parks and greenspaces (Flint, Flavelle, Fawn, Foster and Fountain). Of the five parks, Flint Park ranked first or second in the park residents lived nearest to and the park residents used the most, yet placed third or fourth in satisfaction of its current state or maintenance respectively.

In 2012, the City of Calgary dedicated funds and resources for the improvement of parks in established communities, including Fairview, adding significant importance to the Fairview Parks Survey as a directing guide to park improvements.

This report provides an executive summary of the findings of the Fairview Parks Survey specific to Flint Park. 75 households in Fairview out of 1257 took part in the survey, a response rate of 6.0%. Of the 75 respondents, 62 completed the entire survey for a completion rate of 82.7%. When stated, a number in parentheses indicates the number of respondents who replied to a particular statement.

Uses:

When asked what uses Fairview residents use Flint Park for, the largest proportion of respondents stated that they used the playground the most (27), but this was followed very closely by casual walking (26), likely a statistical tie. These were followed closely by walking dogs (22), although this would result would likely be significantly higher with a safer off-leash area. Playing sports/games (10), restful leisure (8), picnicking (4) and tobogganing (3) rounded out the responses.

Positive Features:

Survey participants were asked (without choices provided) what features they liked *most* about Flint Park. Thirty-four respondents provided feedback to this question. Popular positive features included large, open space / uncrowded (10), the off-leash dog area (and its potential) (9), playground equipment



(7), appropriate for longer walks (6), mature trees (6), the view (4) and convenient/nearby (4) Other individual comments included: “garbage removal is reliable”, “trains going by”, “cross-country ski potential”, “lots of potential” and “great place to picnic”.

Negative Features:

Survey participants were also asked (without choices provided) what features they liked *least* about Flint Park. Thirty-one respondents provided feedback to this question. A large number of respondents commented on the concerns/limitations of an off-leash area in this park without the safety of a fence separating it from Flint Road (8). Equally negative were specific features about the playground with respondents commenting that the playground equipment was old, unsafe, uninspiring, didn’t represent enough ages or contained gravel substrate (8). Pet owners not cleaning up after their pets was also a concern for some (4) and maintenance of grass and weeds was an issue for others (3).

Other individual comments included: “nothing to invite/entice me to go there”, “lack of path/sidewalk through park”, “poorly used for its size and beautiful view”, “hard to get to entrances off allies”, “no path on slanted hill makes walking difficult”, “the wind (no trees west of the playground)”, “not inviting”, “does not have much appeal as a space that is seen by many outside of our community”, “garbage bin too far away from main area, dog sign not visible”, “tendency to attract vagrants in treed areas”, “noisy”, “quite isolated and out of the way, also the steep angle of the green space makes it impractical for playing ball etc.” and “in 13 years I’ve rarely seen it used”.

Improvements:

Survey respondents were asked what changes or improvements they would like to see in Flint Park *with choices provided*, although additional comments could be added. The largest number of votes went to improved sitting areas (27), followed closely by natural/native planting/landscaping areas (25). Strong support also went to add pathways/sidewalks (21), improved playgrounds (20), improved picnic sites (20), add Adopt-A-Rink skating rink (19), more/improved garbage bins (18), community garden (18), improve/add off-leash dog areas (17), safer/unobstructed tobogganing areas (17), fence replacement or addition (15), boulders or large rocks (15), drinking fountain (15), public art (14) and park tree planting (12). Additional comments for this question that were specific to Flint park included: “Clear off-leash area versus non off leash; entrance sign by Fairmount, more trees/native landscaping, more large deciduous that are not poplars! keep some of the new playground pieces (spinner, turtle), train theme at playground, south site for community garden, north site for something else? picnic areas with view of city, better sitting areas throughout, one more garbage midway through park, doggie bags station, linear pathway, replace car barrier at Fairmount, nice fencing, crosswalk across flint at NSD and perhaps across RR tracks?” and “A fence along the road in the Flint Park so I could let my dogs off-leash would be wonderful.”

Additional comments:

The remainder of the survey asked for general comments regarding playground equipment, public art, signage, sitting/picnic areas and garbage disposal, other parks that impressed you, things that would entice you to use our parks more and any other comments. Additional Flint Park-specific comments from these questions included:

- (Playground) themes (e.g. trains at Flint)
- I would just like to have a couple of signs saying “Welcome to Fairview”. The only park that warrants a sign is Flint.

- Larger off-leash sign where it can be seen at Flint park and maybe others
- This (sitting/picnic areas and waste disposal items) would be GREAT in the Flint Park.
- Modern equipment, flowers, pathways in Flint (would entice to use)
- I would love to use the Flint Park to take my dogs to. There are a lot of dogs in the area, but no one will take their dogs there because it is so dangerous with out a fence and next to a busy road. I never see children there either because it is so close to the road. I don't have children yet, but can honestly say I wouldn't take my kids there when I do because there is no barrier between the park and the road.
- Appropriate (art) themes unique to each site (e.g. trains at Flint)
- To have a fence around the off leash area at Flint park, some pathways in Flint as well and a community garden in Flint.
- Prefer dog park on Flint road to be fenced off from the street
- Just a fence for the off-leash area - it is dangerous to not have one, especially given the rabbit population in the park. Most dogs can't resist chasing rabbits, and I've seen them run onto Flint Road.
- There are some parks we don't go to because we have heard there are often people drinking alcohol and hanging out at them (Flint). If they were used more often and looked maintained then I think people would respect that and find another place to hang out.
- I know there has been talk of making the park on Flint Road more of a feature. This would be a great idea to help improve the overall feel of the neighbourhood, which is feeling a bit run down and in need of some beautification. Maybe put in some parking off the lane way at Flint park

