



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
**Emery Barnes OLA Renewal &
Proposed Expansion**

**Engagement 2: summary report
April 20–May 27, 2022**



Engagement Overview

By the Numbers

424

surveys completed

294

who use Emery Barnes Park with their dog

150

who use the off-leash area at least once a week

25

people engaged at a pop-up engagement event at Emery Barnes Park on May 14, 2022.

Notification



Postcards: postcards were sent to 42,918 households within a 15-minute walk of the park



Social media posts: posts to our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram about engagement reached 26,889 people



Email Newsletter: an email newsletter was sent to 507 people on our dog off-leash area mailing list



Signage: 205 posters went up in Downtown Vancouver and at local businesses. Six signs were placed in Emery Barnes Park to notify visitors of the opportunity to learn more and provide feedback



Background

We approved the **People, Parks and Dogs Strategy** in 2017, to help deliver carefully designed parks that accommodate park users with and without dogs. The strategy identified Downtown as a priority neighbourhood in need of additional and renewed off-leash areas (OLAs) to support the high number of licensed dogs in the neighbourhood.

Emery Barnes Park is located in the heart of Yaletown. The OLA here serves one of the most densely populated parts of Vancouver, with the second highest number of licensed dogs within 1km.

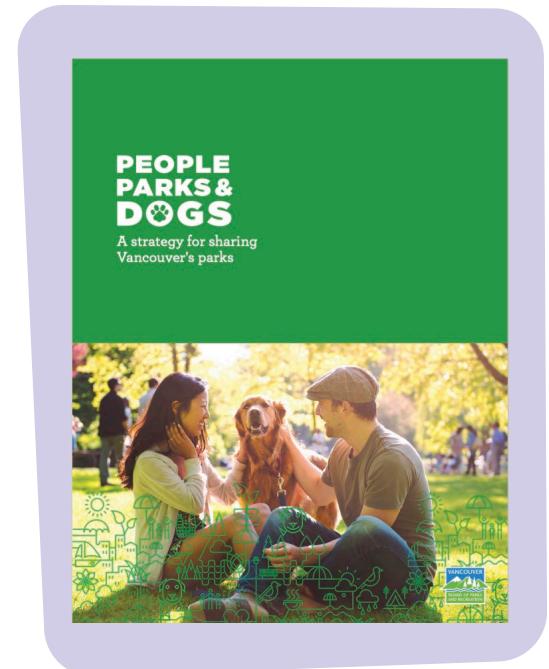
We are planning a renewal of the existing OLA and have proposed an expansion, which would add to the overall OLA space available. The expansion space is an existing small lawn area with a bench and two trees located in close proximity to the existing OLA.

In round 1 of public engagement that was held from September 23–October 15, 2021, we heard from you on topics including park use, the potential OLA expansion, and features to be included in the renewal concept, including

enrichment features, amenities, and surfacing. We heard strong support for expanding the existing OLA with 80% of respondents saying they strongly or somewhat agree with the proposed expansion.

Based on the feedback received in round 1, we developed a design concept for the proposed OLA renewal and expansion.

In round 2 of public engagement that was held from April 20–May 27, 2022, we asked for your feedback on the design concept. A survey hosted on ShapeYourCity.ca asked Emery Barnes Park users for feedback on the balance between space for the OLAs and the existing activity spaces in the park, as well as the features inside the OLAs.



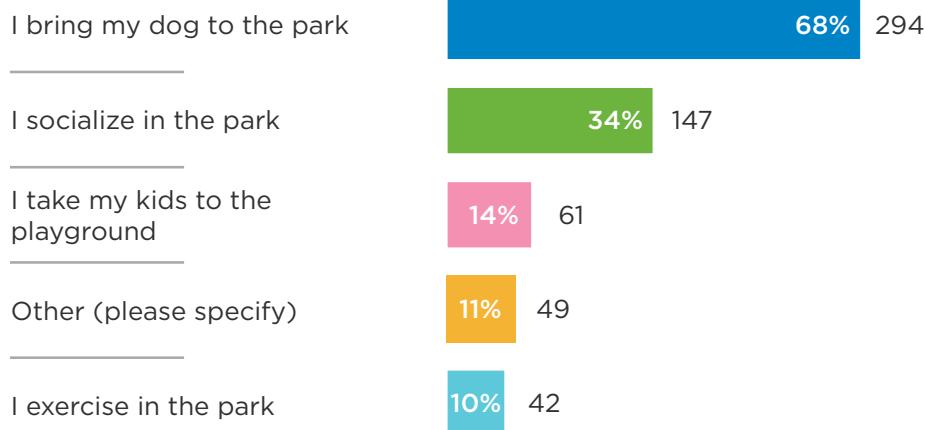
Click here to see the engagement summary report from round 1.

Note: not all respondents answered all questions. Some questions allowed a respondent to select multiple answers, so percentages may not add up to 100.

What we heard—current use

We asked people how they currently use Emery Barnes Park.

How do you use Emery Barnes Park?



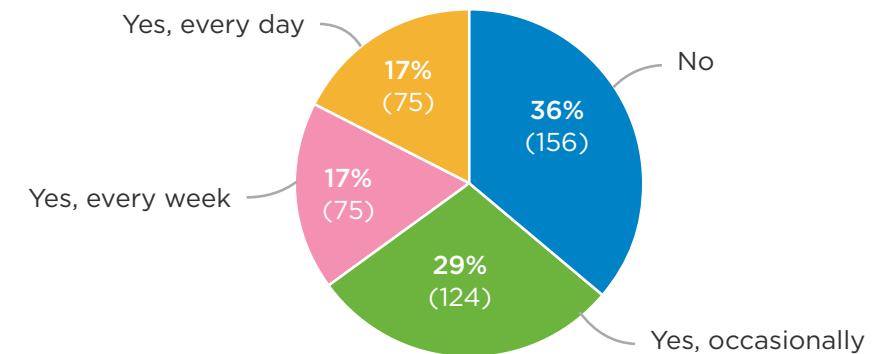
Other responses:

I walk through the park on my way through the city.
I enjoy watching the dogs play.

I take a break from working in my office which faces the park.
Sit by the creek and relax.

I usually relax in the park, and also eat meals there.

Do you currently use the Emery Barnes off-leash area with dog(s)?



If you do have a dog, what size is your dog(s)?

122

Prefer not to answer/
I don't have a dog



My dog is small
(under 25 lbs)



My dog is medium
to large (25lb +)

What we heard

Emery Barnes is a well-loved park that balances a variety of spaces including the off-leash area. Within the city of Vancouver, the park has the second highest number of licensed dogs within 1 km.

We see an opportunity to expand the OLA into an additional area to help accommodate the high number of dogs while maintaining the existing activity spaces in the park.

In the first round of engagement, we heard strong support for expanding the existing OLA with 80% of respondents saying they strongly or somewhat agree with the proposed expansion.

We also heard that 67% of respondents would value a separate space for small/shy dogs. By expanding the OLA to

include a small/shy dog area, we would be able to accommodate a growing number of dogs while still maintaining the existing park uses and circulation.

Currently, the proposed expansion area is an existing small lawn area with a bench and two trees.

The design concept includes a mix of amenities, a more usable open space, and agility features, which were selected as a result of feedback received in the first round of engagement.

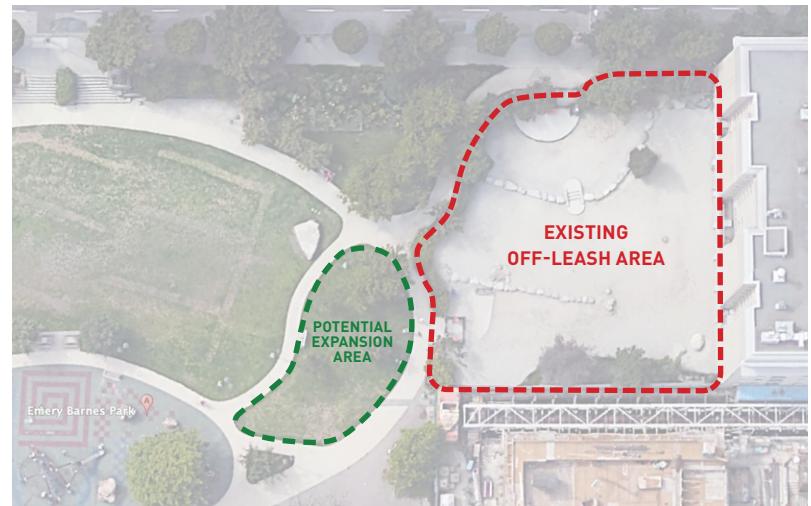
In the first round of engagement:

80%

of respondents strongly or somewhat agreed with expanding the OLA.

67%

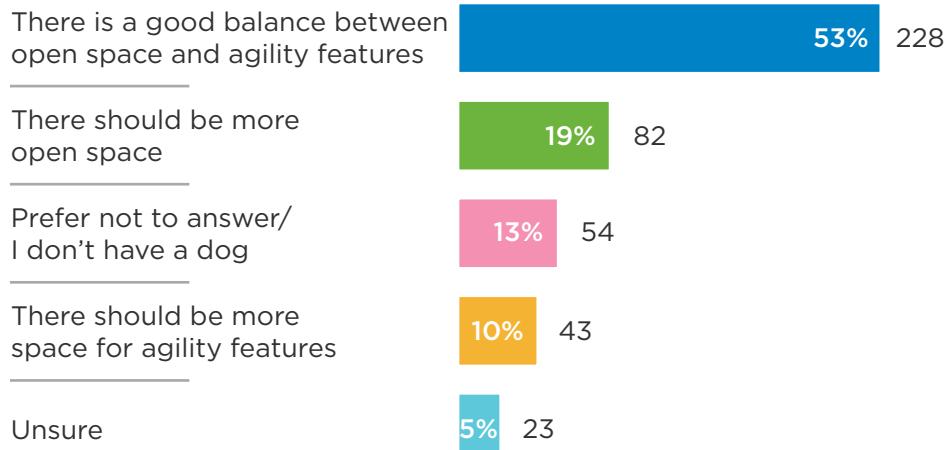
of respondents said they would value a separate space for small/shy dogs.



What we heard—open space in the OLAs

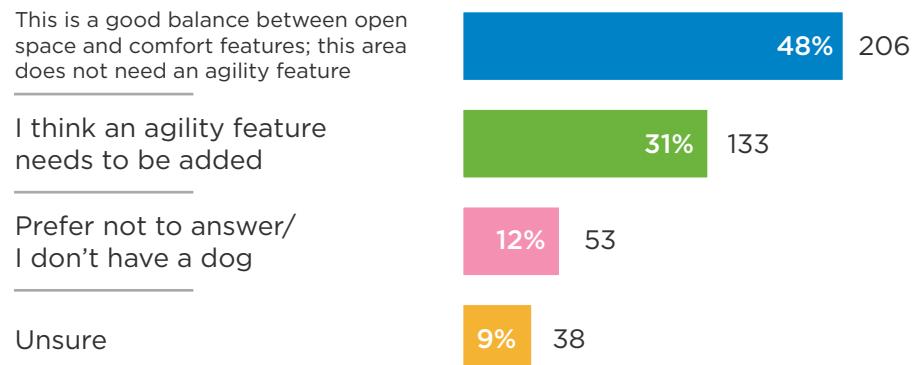
The design concept for the main off-leash area provides a balance of more usable open space as well as agility features for enrichment*.

Choose the statement that best represents your view on the balance between open space and agility features:
(in the main OLA)



The design for the self-managed** small/shy dog area focuses on comfort rather than agility features to maximize the available open space. For comfort, we have included seating, shade trees, a waste bin, and a water fountain. There are no agility features in this area.

Choose the statement that best represents your view of the balance between open space, agility features, and comfort features:
(in the small/shy dog OLA)

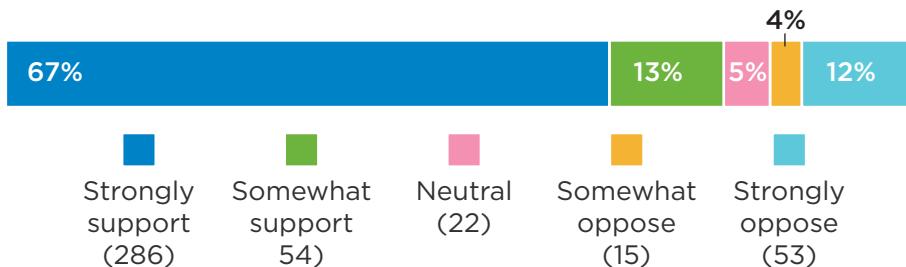


*Enrichment refers to activities that are designed to mentally stimulate dogs.

**At a self-managed small/shy OLA, dog owners determine whether their dog is the right size and/or has the right temperament to use the space. Communication between owners is encouraged.

What we heard—design concept

What is your level of support for the OLA renewal and proposed expansion design concept?

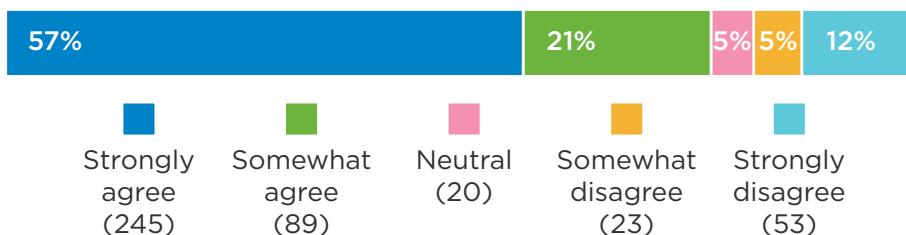


79%

said they strongly or somewhat support the OLA renewal and proposed expansion design concept

Note: the number above uses the unrounded data (66.5% strongly support and 12.6% somewhat support).

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: The OLA renewal and proposed expansion provides a good balance between space for the OLA and the existing activity spaces in the park.



78%

said they strongly or somewhat agree the OLA renewal and proposed expansion provides a good balance between space for the OLA and the existing activity spaces in the park

Additional comments

Please ensure that the fences for the off-leash dog areas are high enough that dogs will not be able to easily jump over and escape to the playground or field.

Really appreciate the addition of the small/shy dog section. Thank you!

I think the priority needs to be for folks who go there for quiet contemplation. We need space to rest. Without more dogs.

More trees and foliage please!

I oppose taking away space for human park users and reassigning it to dogs. This is not just a neighbourhood with a lot of dogs, but also with a lot of humans.

I'm really looking forward to seeing the proposed changes at the park!

It is a good idea to replace the gravel in the off-leash area with a different surface.

I visit the playground and grassy areas with my young family. It is very frustrating some owners let their dogs run free outside the dog area.

Dogs simply need more space, not agility features.

I hope there would be an effective solution to the odour problem. Just walking by the park, on some days, it smells.

Get in Touch

You can email the project team at offleash@vancouver.ca

What's next?

The results from this survey will be used to refine the final design concept for the off-leash area (OLA) renewal and expansion. The final design concept will be posted in the park and online at shapeyourcity.ca/emery-barnes-park-ola. In winter 2023, the design concept will be presented to the Park Board for decision.

OLA renewal and proposed expansion design concept



Bird's Eye View: Looking toward Seymour Street