

Lac La Biche County

# McArthur Park Concept Review

March 2021





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# Introduction

Situated in the Hamlet of Lac La Biche, McArthur Park is a jewel in the community and is highly visible to anyone traveling through the hamlet. It is 12 acres of parks and recreation amenity and provides an unparalleled view of the lake. A park of this size provides great opportunity for hosting events and serving the needs of both the resident population as well as visitors. McArthur Park is a significant recreation and social place in the community and has been so since the community's beginnings.

Because of the community's use and demands of the space and its potential as a tourism amenity Lac La Biche County has undertaken planning to present a long term vision – a master plan – for McArthur Park. The Master Plan will also ensure the potential of the Park as a tourist destination (certainly supporting the tourism that exists in the area due to the natural beauty and lake activities and the draw of Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park) in an appropriate balance with the local recreation uses.

A process has been employed in order to develop the Master Plan.

This document presents the findings from the public review of the two concepts for McArthur Park. It is the second document in a series for the McArthur Park Master Plan, following the McArthur Park Vision & Program report.



**Public Review**

**McArthur Park Master Plan**



# Concepts

# 2

Two potential concepts for McArthur Park were developed based upon the McArthur Park Vision & Program report. The concepts are relatively similar in many ways; the primary differences are that Concept 1 includes a ball diamond that is not part of Concept 2. As well Concept 2 includes a Skate Park. Refer to the two concepts on the following pages.



Concept 1



## Concept 2



# Public Review

# 3

The public reviewed the two concepts and provided their thoughts. The concepts and the review questions were posted on Lac La Biche County's website. A banner on the County's home page prominently promoted the opportunity to review the concepts and provide feedback. Additionally the various community and stakeholder organizations were sent a notice of the review opportunity and encouraged to fan out the opportunity. County staff were also all informed of the opportunity and they were asked to further share this information. Feedback was gathered from February 19, 2021 to March 7, 2021 and 297 responses were gathered<sup>1</sup>. The findings from the survey are presented beginning on the next page.

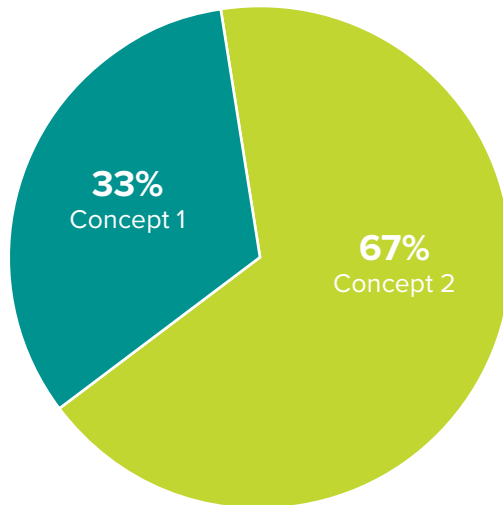
<sup>1</sup> While not considered statistically representative of the community, the findings do represent significant community input that will enable the County to determine a final direction for the McArthur Park master plan.



## 3.1 Concept Preference

After reviewing the two concepts, respondents identified their preferences. As illustrated in the graph, two-thirds (67%) of respondents preferred Concept 1 (without the ball diamond).

### Which Concept Do You Prefer?



Respondents were then asked to explain why they preferred one concept over the other. The most frequently cited comments are noted according to the concept respondents preferred.

### Prefer Concept 1

The most commonly cited comments made by respondents who preferred Concept 1 are below.

- The inclusion of the ball diamond made Concept 1 preferable to Concept 2. (44 comments)
- The ball diamond is part of the community's history and heritage so it is important to maintain in the Park. (22)
- Skating needs can be addressed by offering skating on the lake as was done this year. (18)
- It is good to have a diamond in the middle of town. It supports business and is easier for people to get to. (12)
- The skate board park can go elsewhere / there is a skate board park elsewhere. (9)
- The skating trails are not needed. (8)
- The ball diamond provides an activity space rather than more green space that may not get used. (6)
- Add a skate board park to Concept 1. (4)
- A multi-use indoor area is important to have in the Park. (4)
- The ball diamond brings people together and draws people to McArthur Park. (4)

### Prefer Concept 2

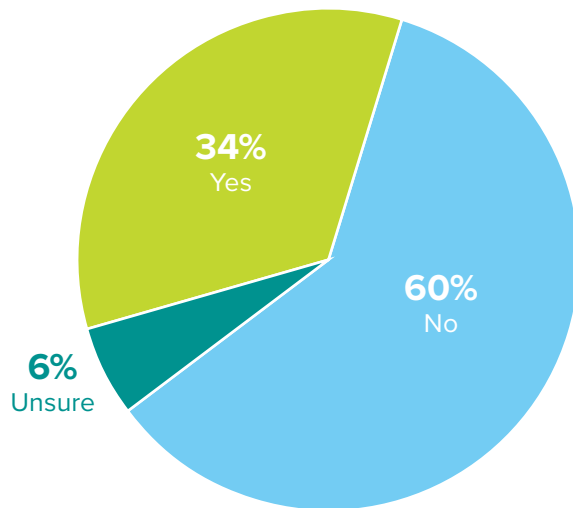
The most commonly cited comments made by respondents who preferred Concept 2 are below.

- The Bold Center has the diamond complex, clustering them there is good. (54 comments)
- A skate board park is a needed amenity. The high visibility area is positive. (49)
- The amount of greenspace and the landscaping is better in this concept. (47)
- There are better uses for the park space than for a ball diamond. (35)
- The skating trail in this concept is good. (24)
- There are sufficient ball diamonds elsewhere. (23)
- Concept 2 provides for more diverse activities. (23)
- Concept 2 is more of a year round 4 season design. (12)
- The walking trails system in this concept is appealing. (11)
- McArthur Park should be for more leisure, recreation purposes. (7)
- The design is attractive and will draw visitors. (7)
- Consider additional parking, particularly for RVs. (4)

## 3.2 Ball Diamond in McArthur Park

Ball diamonds exist throughout Lac La Biche County and new ones are built at the Bold Center. However the ball diamond in McArthur Park has been there for generations. Given these circumstances respondents were then asked whether there should be a ball diamond in McArthur Park. As illustrated below, approximately two-thirds (60%) said there should not be. Six percent (6%) are unsure.

### Should There Be a Ball Diamond in McArthur Park?



Respondents were able to explain why they answered the way they did. The most frequently mentioned comments are noted according to their answer to the question.

### No to Diamonds in McArthur Park

- There are new diamonds developed at the Bold Center. The Bold Center site is where the sports fields / diamonds are concentrated. (56 comments)
- There are better uses for the space than the diamond. (39)
- McArthur Park is a place intended for gatherings and recreation and leisure purposes. The ball diamond does not fit in. (36)
- There are other diamonds in the community so the one in McArthur Park is not needed. (26)
- The ball diamond has been there for a long time but it is time for a change. (20)
- Removing the ball diamond from McArthur Park will make the park more attractive. (17)
- Diamond serves fewer people than would be served by something else on the site. (11)
- The diamond takes up too much space. (10)
- Tournament play is better supported when diamonds are clustered and where better support amenities are. (10)
- There are safety concerns with having the diamond at McArthur Park amongst the other uses. People can be injured and property damaged by baseballs. (10)

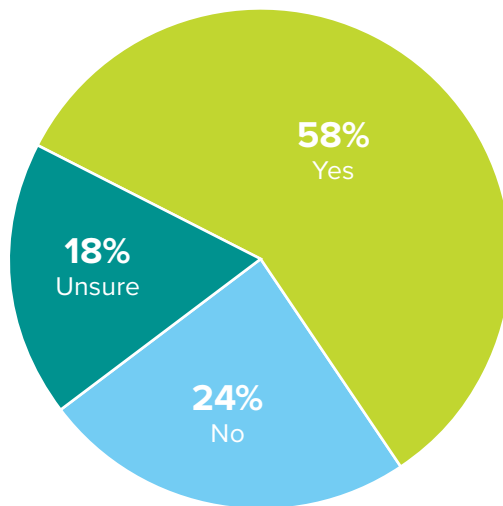
### Yes to Diamonds in McArthur Park...

- The diamond in McArthur Park is an important part of the community's history. (29)
- The park is central so that people from across the community are able to access the diamond. That is not the case for diamonds in other locations. (19)
- The diamond is an important part of the inventory of diamonds – it is needed to support play. (11)
- When there is play on the diamond it is appealing for people to see and makes the community seem very welcoming. (9)
- Players using the diamond are easily able to access downtown and thus support local businesses. (9)
- It is a good location near the lake that attracts players and teams from other communities. (8)
- A ball diamond fits in with the other activities at McArthur Park and it physically fits on the site. (6)

### 3.3 Skate Board Park in McArthur Park

Lac La Biche County has been planning to build a new skate board park in Lac La Biche County. When asked if McArthur Park is the right location for a skate board park, over half (58%) said yes. Refer to the graph.

#### Is McArthur Park the Right Location for a Skate Board Park?



Respondents were able to provide some rationale for their responses. The most frequently mentioned comments are noted according to the respondents' answers to the question.

#### Yes – McArthur Park is right for a skate board park

- The central location makes it easy to get there for many people and it is close to downtown. (45 comments)
- Including the skate board park helps ensure that the entire family can visit McArthur Park and have an activity to do. (33)
- The location is highly visible which will help ensure the safety of participants and the reduction of undesirable behaviour. (32)
- The skate board park is complementary to the other features and amenities in the Park. (12)
- The skate board park is another item that ensures a diversity of activities at the Park. (11)
- Having the skate board park there will help attract people to McArthur Park. (9)
- It is nice to include the skate board park because it provides something specifically for teens. (4)

#### No – McArthur Park is not right for a skate board park

- It is better suited at the Bold Center. There is parking there, the school has most of the users, it can be used while others use the amenities at the Bold Center, and the Bold Center provides support amenities. (29 comments)
- Enhance the existing skate board park. (11)
- There already is a skate board park in Lac La Biche. (9)
- The sound and activity from a skateboard park may impact people's use and enjoyment of McArthur Park. It can also be disruptive to houses nearby. (8)
- A skate board park is not particularly attractive and does not help the aesthetic of the Park. (5)
- There does not seem to be enough skate boarders in Lac La Biche to warrant its development. (3)

#### Unsure – about a skate board park in McArthur Park

- It might fit better at the Bold Center. (11 comments)
- The location at the front of the Park is not ideal. (5)
- Not sure a skate board park is even needed in Lac La Biche. (4)
- It does not fit in with the other aspects and atmosphere of the park. (3)
- Can the skate board park be accommodated along with the ball diamond? (3)

## 3.4 Respondent Profile

The following table describes the profile of the survey respondents.

Where do you live?	
Lac La Biche County - within the hamlet of Lac La Biche	46%
Lac La Biche County - outside the hamlet of Lac La Biche	53%
Other	2%

How long have you lived in the Lac La Biche area?	
5 years or less	9%
6-10 years	14%
11-20 years	19%
More than 20 years	58%

What category best describes your age?	
Under 20 years of age	7%
20-29 years	16%
30-39 years	33%
40-49 years	20%
50-59 years	15%
60-69 years	11%
70 years and older	2%



# Conclusions

# 4

The main conclusions from the public review include the following:

- Concept 2 is the preference of approximately two-thirds (67%) of respondents.
  - » The Bold Center is the best place for ball diamonds.
  - » A skate board park is a needed amenity.
- Over half (60%) do not think McArthur Park is an appropriate place for a ball diamond.
  - » The Bold Center is where the sports activities should be concentrated.
- Over half (58%) think McArthur Park is an appropriate location for a skate board park.
  - » Its central location and visibility are key factors in favour of the location.





