



UXBRIDGE URBAN PROVINCIAL PARK

PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2023 Public Survey Results and
Regulation Amendment Proposal Comments

June 2024

2023 Public Survey Results and Regulation Amendment Proposal Comments

ENGAGEMENT

- To provide Ontarians with an opportunity to share initial thoughts and ideas on urban provincial parks in general and about creating an urban provincial park in the Township of Uxbridge, MECP conducted a survey from June 19 to September 4, 2023. **MECP received over 4,200 responses.**
- We asked survey takers:
 - if they support or oppose the development of urban provincial parks in Ontario and within the proposed study area, and why.
 - how often they might visit if there was a new provincial park in the study area and how often they currently visit places in the study area; and which places in particular.
 - what do they do when visiting.
 - What activities should and should not be offered in an urban provincial park.
 - In October 2023, MECP proposed a regulation amendment under the Provincial Parks and Conservations Reserves Act, 2006 (PPCRA) to create a recreational class provincial park in the Township of Uxbridge. The proposal was posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) ([Notice # 019-7733](#)) for a 45-day public and Indigenous community comment period. MECP received a total of **one hundred - eighteen (118) unique responses.**

WHAT WE HEARD

Analysis of closed ended questions from the survey:

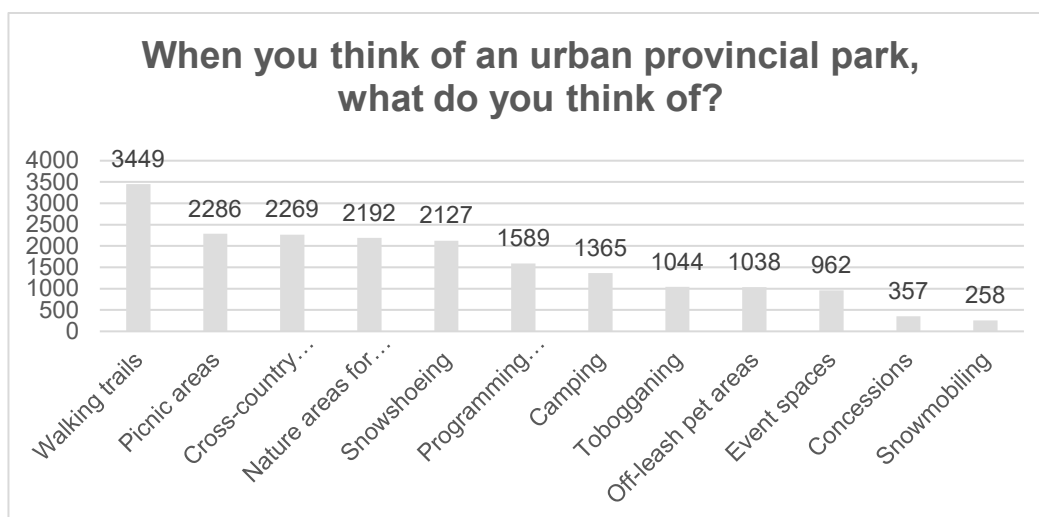
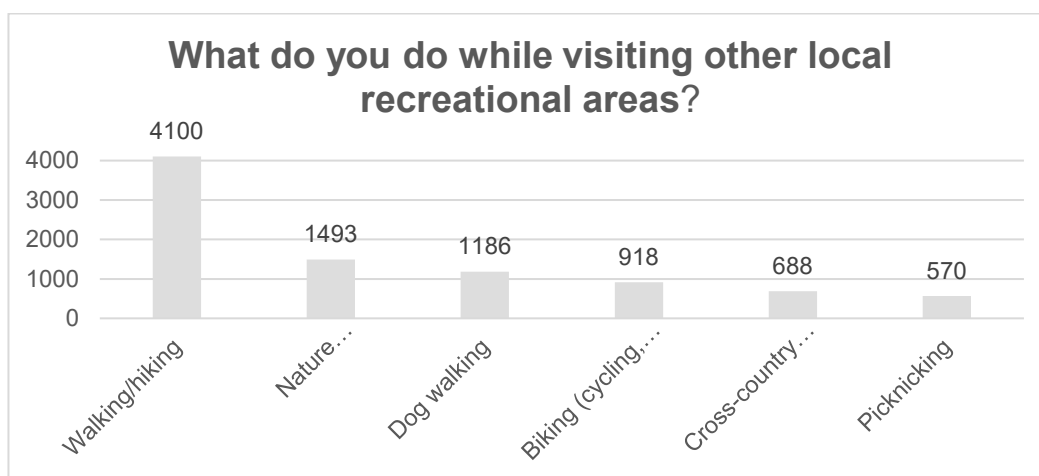
- 83% of respondents somewhat support or strongly support the creation of urban provincial parks in Ontario
- 75% of respondents somewhat support or strongly support the creation of an urban provincial park near Uxbridge
 - Although a comprehensive analysis is not yet complete, there remain some underlying concerns amongst those who support the creation of the park.
 - Over 19% indicated that they would likely visit a new provincial park near Uxbridge monthly and just over 23% indicated that they would visit a few times a year.
- Respondents said that they currently visit places within the study area daily (9%), weekly (30%), monthly (18%) or a few times a year (25%).
- 50% of respondents are frequent visitors to the Uxbridge area and 37% of respondents are a year-round residents of Uxbridge and surrounding area.
- 50% of the respondents were between the ages of 35 and 54.
 - 18% were 34 years of age or younger
 - 27% were older than 55 years of age
 - Approximately 5% of respondents declined to answer the question or chose “Prefer not to say”

REGULATION AMENDMENT PROPOSAL COMMENTS

General comments related to park management planning:

- Many indicated that nature be a top consideration in park development is a top priority; ensuring that development of the park and its operation keeps nature, hydrology, and connectivity top priority
- Consider accessibility, and support ecologically sustainable multi-use recreation
- Consideration of traffic (e.g., traffic study).
- One comment requested that prime agricultural lands be excluded from park recreational use
- one comment asked about whether rifle/hunting regulations will be changed on private property within the park perimeter
- three comments opposed to hunting in the park
- Indigenous communities expressed an interest in being involved in management planning discussions and decisions

SURVEY QUESTION RESPONSES



Which of the following should NOT be included in an urban provincial park?

