

# Kitchener's Neighbourhood Strategy: What Did the Community Tell Us?



Kitchener's guide to **great neighbourhoods**

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## **Introduction**

In 2015 the City of Kitchener initiated a project to develop Kitchener's first-ever Neighbourhood Strategy. A project team of staff and residents with diverse interests was brought together. Over an 18 month period, the project team met monthly, engaged the public and community partners, listened to the public's input and developed the Neighbourhood Strategy.

The Neighbourhood Strategy is based on one of the most diverse and inclusive community engagement processes the City has ever undertaken. In total, over 5,000 members of the community participated in close to 4,000 hours of conversation about Kitchener's neighbourhoods. The input gathered through those discussions is the basis upon which the Neighbourhood Strategy has been created.

The community engagement process that was undertaken to help guide the creation of the Neighbourhood Strategy can be divided into four phases:

1. Lemonade stand consultations (July to September 2015)
2. Stories, colouring books and hot chocolate (December 2015 to March 2016)
3. Neighbourhood party and community engagement (April to August 2016)
4. Comments and prioritization of draft recommendations (October to November 2016)

This document summarizes what the community told us during each of those four phases of community engagement.

### **Lemonade Stand Consultations (July to September 2015)**

The purpose of the first community engagement campaign was to inform and consult with the community by creating awareness about the strategy with a travelling lemonade stand offering lemonade and cookies in exchange for completing a brief survey about neighbourhoods. The high-level questions asked through that survey were:

- What do you love most about your neighbourhood?
- If there was one thing you could do to make your neighbourhood better, what would that be?
- Help us to understand what you consider to be your neighbourhood by drawing the boundaries (edges) of your neighbourhood on the map.

The project team attended 27 events across the city and collected 1308 surveys from people of all ages. One of the most interesting lessons came from the responses around the boundaries of neighbourhoods. It is clear that our community does not have a single definition for the size of a neighbourhood. The majority of respondents (37%) defined their neighbourhood as a medium block consisting of approximately 6 to 20 streets. But respondents also identified neighbourhoods as small as one street or as big as an entire city ward. Additional findings from the lemonade stand are displayed in the following infographic.

CONNECTING WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS TO DO GREAT THINGS!



What makes our NEIGHBOURHOODS GREAT?  
To find out, Kitchener's Neighbourhood Strategy Project Team asked YOU!

OUR TEAM  
ATTENDED

27 EVENTS!



We handed out

2,000

(THAT'S A LOTTA LEMONS!)

 glasses of  
LEMONADE  
and collected

1,308

(WBOA! AND A LOTTA DATA)



SURVEYS!

WHO  
PARTICIPATED IN OUR  
SURVEY?

 130  
Aged 13 or under

 140  
Aged 14 - 24

 509  
Aged 25 - 49

 154  
Aged 50 - 64

 123  
Aged 65 or over

? 252  
Not specified

AND HERE IS WHAT **YOU** HAD TO SAY ABOUT **YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD!**



**YOU** consider **YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD** to be this big:

MY STREET 8%  
MY CITY WARD 8%

**MEDIUM BLOCK**  
(approx. 6 - 20 streets)



**37%**

**LARGE BLOCK**  
(bound by major roads)



**24%**

**SMALL BLOCK**  
(approx. 2- 5 streets)



**23%**

HERE ARE THE THINGS YOU LOVE **MOST** ABOUT **YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD!**

**PEOPLE** you love spending time with in **YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD** \*:

**24%**  
NEIGHBOURS

**21%**  
FRIENDS

**17%**  
FAMILY

**11%**  
NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATIONS



\* Based on top four answers.



**PLACES** where you love to hang out in **YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**:

**PARKS** 15%

**HOMES** 15%

**TRAILS** 10%

**PLAYGROUNDS** 7%

**NATURAL AREAS** 7%

**COMMUNITY CENTRES** 6%

**FRONT YARDS** 6%

**BACK YARDS** 6%

**LIBRARIES** 6%

**STORES** 6%

**SCHOOLS** 5%

**SPORTS FIELDS** 4%

**ARENAS** 2%

**FIRE STATIONS** 2%

**BUSINESSES** 2%

(THAT'S A LOTTA HANGOUTS!)

Parts of **YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD** that are most important to **YOU** :\*



**29%** TRANSPORTATION NETWORK



**25%** NATURAL RESOURCES



**11%** HERITAGE RESOURCES

\* Based on top three answers.

HERE ARE **YOUR IDEAS** TO MAKE **YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD** BETTER!



IMPROVE OUR **PARKS!**

**#1 OVERALL IDEA**

(THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!)

POPULAR IDEAS, BASED ON **YOUR AGE**:

BASKETBALL COURTS & POOLS

UNDER 13



MORE TRAILS & BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE

13 - 24

COMMUNITY SPIRIT & EVENTS

25 - 49



MORE AMENITIES

50 - 65

THANK YOU!

WE **LOVED** HEARING FROM **YOU!**

THANK YOU!

We'll be back some time next year to ask **HOW** to put these ideas in **ACTION**.

## **Neighbourhood Party and Community Engagement (April to August 2016)**

The purpose of the neighbourhood party and community engagement process was to inform, consult and collaborate with the community in order to create Kitchener's first-ever Neighbourhood Strategy. A series of questions was developed for the public to respond to using four different tools:

1. a statistically representative telephone survey,
2. street team surveys,
3. focus groups, and
4. an online ideas forum and survey.

Through all of that community engagement, it became very clear that Kitchener residents want to embrace a resident-led, City supported approach to creating great neighbourhoods that are made up of great places and connected people working together.

When it comes to each theme, residents told us:

- **Great Places** Create a variety of things to do at outdoor neighbourhood places, to attract lots of different people to spend more time together.
- **Connected People** Strengthen relationships between neighbours by creating more ways to connect with one another.
- **Working Together** Help residents lead positive change in their neighbourhood, through cooperation with neighbours, organizations and the City.

The following four documents provide a summary along with detailed findings and analysis from the main community engagement campaign:

1. Neighbourhood Strategy statistically representative survey results dated August 16, 2016 and prepared by Environics Research.
2. Neighbourhood Strategy Consultation Report: What We Heard dated September 22, 2016 and prepared by The Talent Business Solutions.
3. Engage Kitchener Neighbourhood Strategy survey results collected between May and August 2016.
4. Engage Kitchener Neighbourhood Strategy ideas forum results collected between May and August 2016.

# Neighbourhood Strategy Consultation Report: What We Heard

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## **Project Background**

The launch of the Neighbourhood Strategy came with a clear commitment to hosting a massive and inclusive community engagement process, in order to hear from diverse groups of people and people who aren't typically engaged in City consultations.

The goal was to learn from the knowledge, experience, and aspirations of neighbours, to build a strategy that will help people connect and work together to do great things in their neighbourhoods.

We offered a variety of ways for people to give input. Included in this report is analysis on four of the tools we used:

- **Street Teams:** Volunteers and staff were trained to engage in comprehensive 10-minute street team interviews at a broad array of community events, gatherings and public places. Survey questions were open-ended, designed to tap into the ideas, experiences, and aspirations of participants.
- **Organization Focus Groups:** Community agencies, not-for-profits, neighbourhood associations and other organizations were invited to host a focus group and provided materials to guide their discussion.
- **Resident Focus Groups:** Participants were invited to host their neighbours, friends, and/or family for a focus group, with a fun activity to spark conversation.
- **Online Engagement:** Residents were asked to answer a survey on the Engage Kitchener portal and engage in an online 'ideas forum'.

We are grateful to **The Talent Business Solutions** for assisting the project team in developing the questions we asked and providing analysis on the many, many comments we received. The remainder of this report has been written and prepared by **The Talent**.

### **A Summary for Community Leaders and Everyday Citizens**

I'd like to tell you about my neighbourhood. In some ways it's the same neighbourhood that it's always been, but in other ways it's changed a lot lately. I moved here because the location was great – I could bike to work or take transit, and whenever I need to drive, traffic isn't a problem. My kids play ball hockey on the street, go to neighbourhood schools, and we can shop for all our basics nearby.

However, something started changing recently. I think it all started with a multicultural potluck BBQ – I had no idea that we had such diversity in our neighbourhood. Then a few other events started happening. We had a neighbourhood clean-up day and the sidewalks and parks have stayed clear of garbage since. Then someone organized a street party, and I now know a few more neighbours. I see some older folks on the trails now – sometimes they're resting on our new benches as I ride by. My neighbours are out more – there's a new little dog park down in the local park, and I see lots of people gathered there, every day.

Our playground and ball diamond are busier than I've ever seen them before – this past summer I had to explain to my son what the game of cricket is, and we are all excited for a small makeshift skating rink that we are putting in over the winter with our neighbours. And the family down the street, they are new to Canada, they've helped some other neighbours build a small community garden along the trail, and their children are always dropping fresh vegetables off on our doorstep.

This is not actually my neighbourhood – nor are these my ideas. This is just a sampling of the many, many ideas gathered through the most unique community engagement process in the City of Kitchener's history.

### **It's about the little things.**

Peter Kageyama wrote in his book *For the Love of Cities*:

“People love small intimate things that, in the grand scheme of the city, are very inexpensive yet generate positive feelings, a smile and even the love that we ultimately have for a place. These are the chocolates on the pillow or the heated bathroom floors at a fine hotel – little touches that make for meaningful impressions. Of course, the room has to be clean and the toilet has to work, but you get no love for meeting those standards. Those are expected the way we would expect that parking, crime and potholes would be managed in a city.”

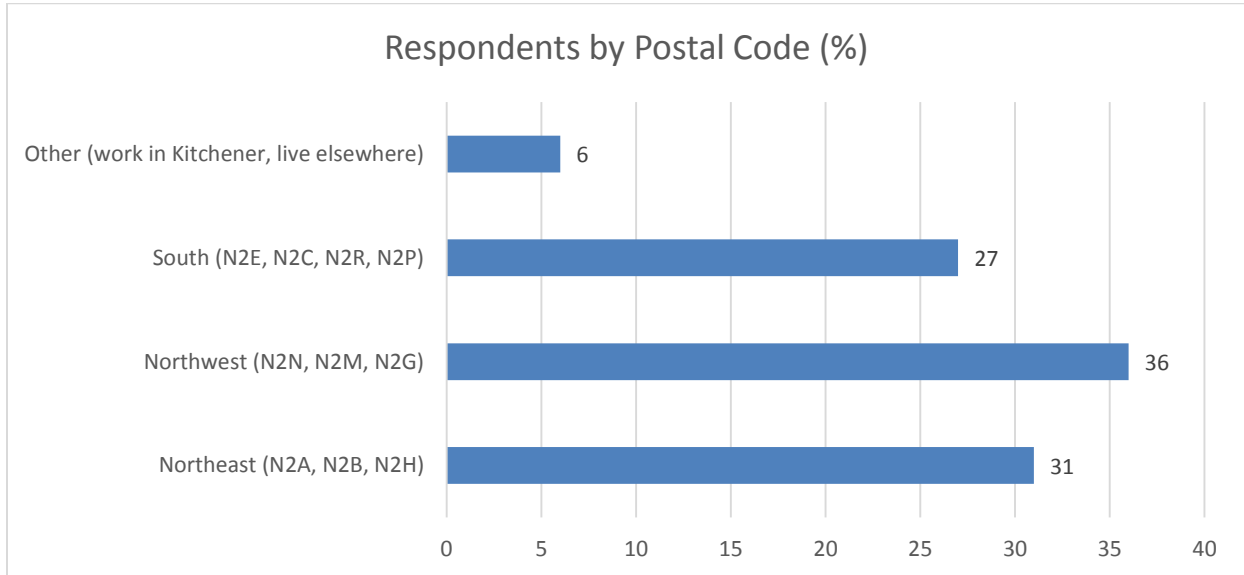
Over the past four months, we have watched the same principle shine through as we asked residents of Kitchener what can be done to make their neighbourhoods even better. We've learned that building better neighbourhoods isn't about building new ones, or new fancy facilities, but making the best use of the facilities and people that are already here – whether that's finding a new use for a playground or planting a community garden in the space by a trail head. It's about building connections, and using our skills to help each other – including such things as finding jobs for youth to help seniors. And it could be as simple as communicating the events and activities that are already happening, because we don't all know what's going on in our neighbourhood.

We have painted a picture of how we can build on the great things that are already happening in Kitchener – the things that make us fall in love with our neighbourhoods and our city.

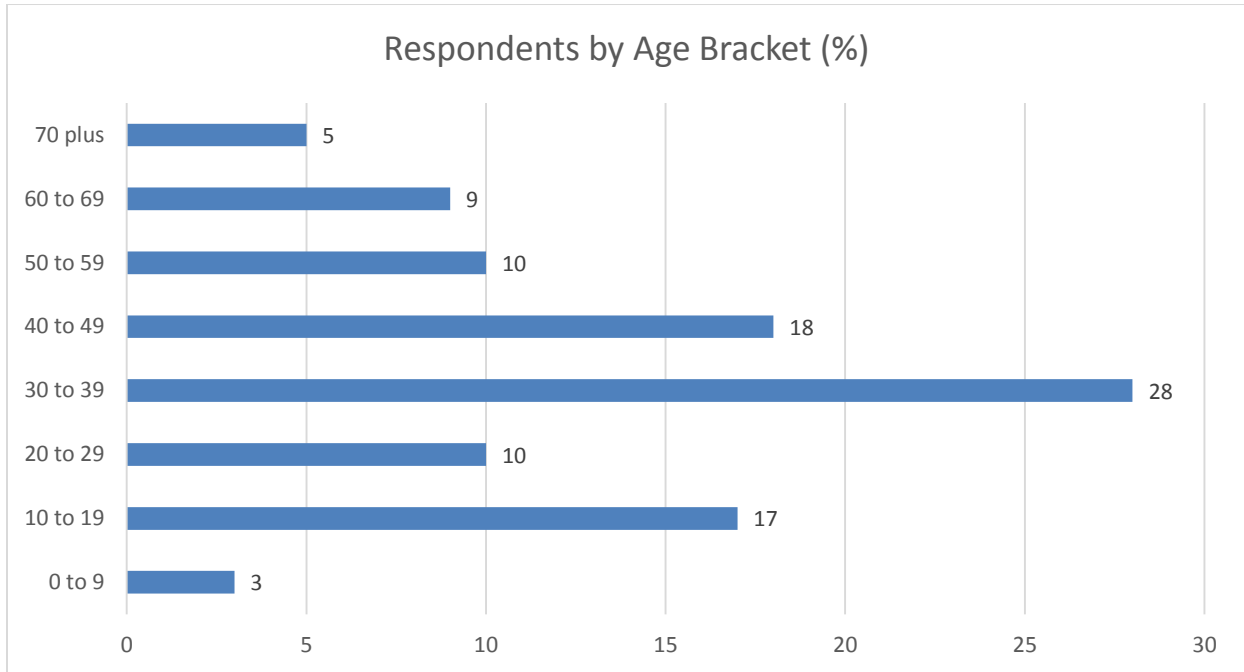
We are building Kitchener's Neighbourhood Strategy, and we are building it with YOU!

### Demographics

Participants in the street teams and resident focus groups were asked if they live and/or work in Kitchener, and to provide the first three digits of their area code.

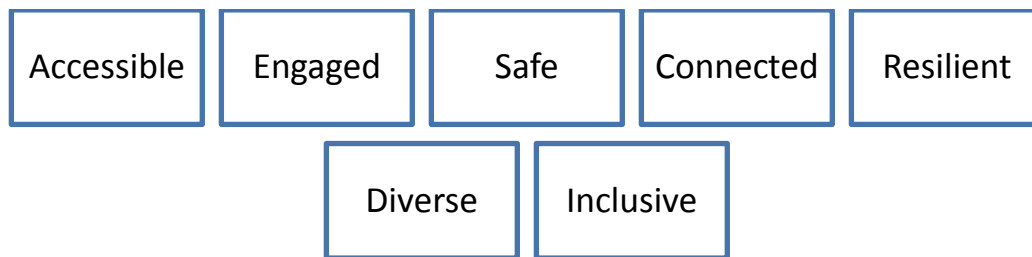


Participants in the street teams and resident focus groups were also asked to provide their 'age range', if they were comfortable in doing so.



### Characteristics of a Great Neighbourhood

The Neighbourhood Strategy Project Team, which includes volunteers and staff, completed a series of exercises to identify seven characteristics of a great neighbourhood:



Each **Street Team participant** was prompted about one of the desired outcomes on a rotating/randomized basis, responding to the question “What does ‘x’ mean to you?”

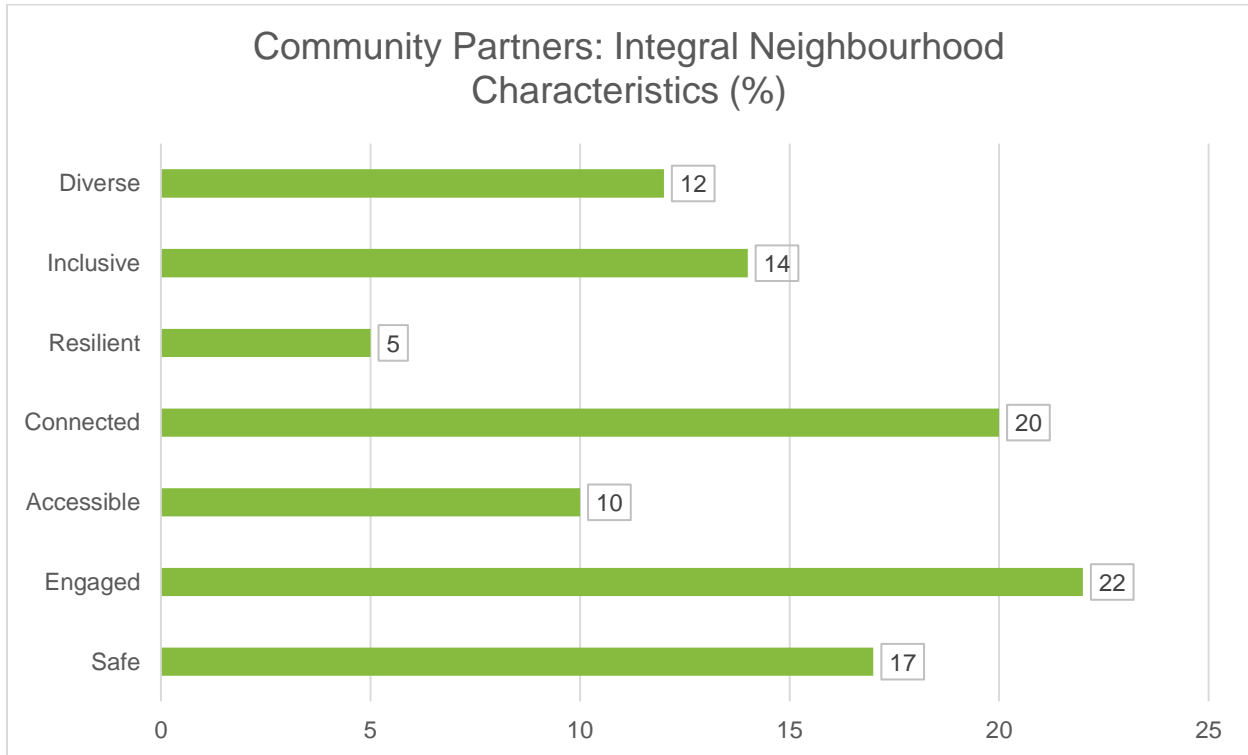
The following chart is representative of the responses from the street team interviews:

Desired Characteristic	Representative responses from Street Team participants
Accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No barriers, a sense of belonging, accessibility for all not just those with</li> </ul>

Desired Characteristic	Representative responses from Street Team participants
	<p>disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people are able to get into the park or a building and use the facilities. Access to support groups (ex. Food Bank, Emergency Shelters).</li> <li>• Plain language, walkable, 'roll-able', lit pathways, accessible store fronts and inside.</li> </ul>
<b>Connected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When you pass by, people say Hi, recognize your face and say Hi next time.</li> <li>• Sense of community - watch out for each other's kids.</li> <li>• Know your neighbours/events/services available.</li> <li>• People you can rely on for cup of sugar, babysitting, talking. Certain level of family. Understanding of differences.</li> </ul>
<b>Diverse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different cultures, age groups, religion, ways of going about life.</li> <li>• Different housing options, variety of families, amenities, live/work/play.</li> <li>• Understanding perspectives of people and make them feel comfortable.</li> <li>• Different kinds of people coming together, diverse ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>Engaged</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged in activities, shopping, walking, not just living in your house and only going to work.</li> <li>• Participating/involved within community.</li> <li>• Aware of events and concerns in neighbourhood, getting involved with things that interest or concern you.</li> <li>• People taking care of their neighbourhood, volunteering, attending events.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No barriers to anyone being able to be an individual in the community, people with disabilities, different cultures.</li> <li>• Inclusive of everyone, no matter who they are, even those with mental health issues.</li> <li>• For everyone regardless of age, colours, sex, orientation, religion, employment.</li> <li>• Accessible to everyone, spaces that more people will use, things going on for all ages groups.</li> </ul>

Desired Characteristic	Representative responses from Street Team participants
<p><b>Resilient</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A neighbourhood that you don't want to leave, mixed housing, broader socio-economic range, more schools, family friendly.</li> <li>• People who come forward and help out in various ways; preserve quality of life in neighbourhood; people with different gifts and time.</li> <li>• Come back from things, come together, bring things back.</li> <li>• Can stand the test of time, can change as the community changes.</li> <li>• Put up with change, forward vision, shopping locally to support local.</li> <li>• Being able to bounce back from hard times, evolve to match what is needed, agile.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Safe</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kids being able to play outside with friends without fear of something bad happening. Feeling safe to walk to school and back.</li> <li>• Reduce speed around community.</li> <li>• A neighbourhood where people know you well enough to know when something isn't right. Caring neighbours, without invading your privacy.</li> </ul>

Participants in the **Community Partners Focus Groups** - when instructed to: 'Enter the Top THREE Characteristics your group identified as most integral to your organization's neighbourhood work' - identified the following:



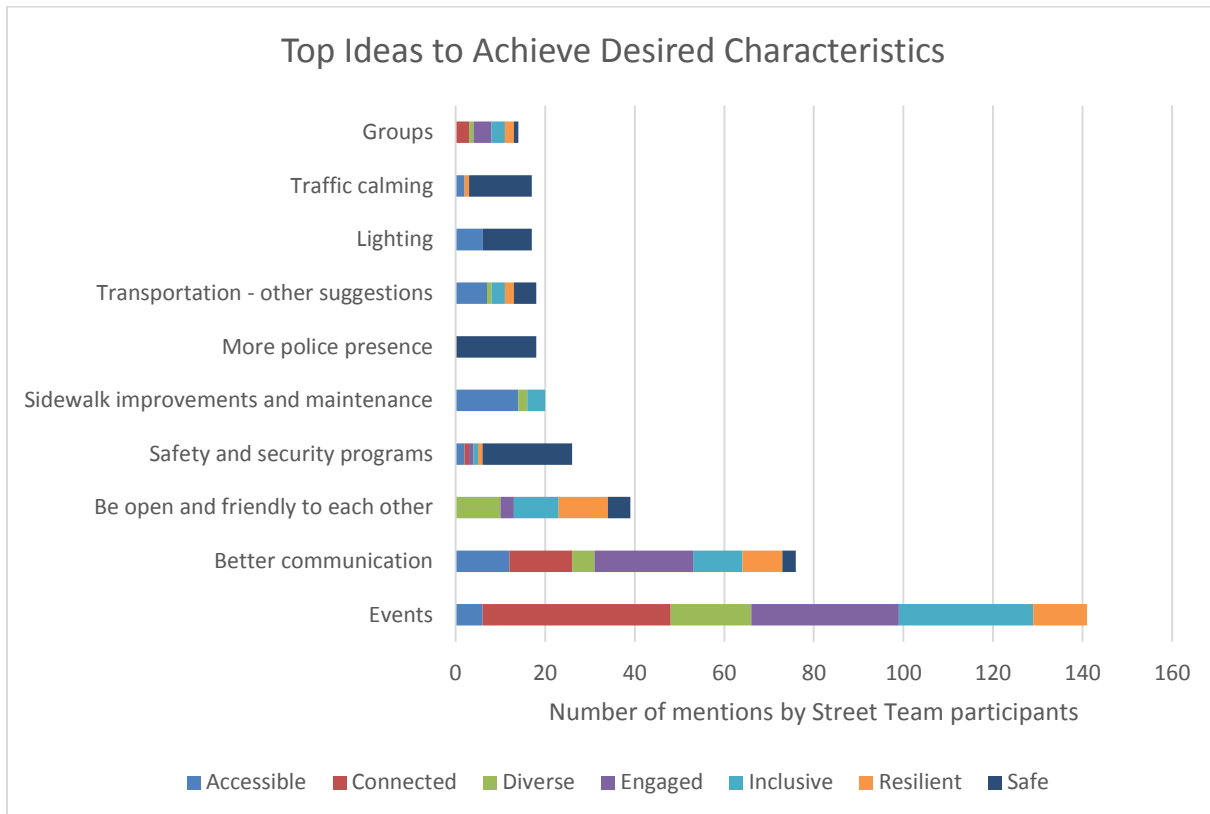
Participants in the **Engage Kitchener online survey** ranked the characteristics as follows:

1. Safe
2. Inclusive
3. Connected
4. Engaged
5. Accessible
6. Diverse
7. Resilient.

### **Ideas to Help Achieve the Characteristics**

In addition to defining these characteristics, participants of the Street Team survey were also asked to provide ideas to improve their neighbourhood to better meet the characteristic they

were surveyed on. The results shown in the following chart indicate an overwhelming recommendation for events to help with all characteristics.



**Events** were very frequently suggested to help achieve several characteristics in particular, including “connected” (38.2% of those surveyed), “engaged” and “inclusive” (33.7% for each), and “diverse” (19.6%). Examples of suggested events included street parties, porch parties, cultural events, BBQ’s, and other small scale events. Many participants simply requested “more events.”

The second most frequently suggested idea was **better communication**. This idea encompasses suggestions such as better advertising of events, improved use of social media, other ways to raise awareness, neighbours communicating better with each other, and better communication with city council. Better communication was suggested by 22.4% of participants who were asked about the “engaged” characteristic, and by 12-13% of those who were asked about “accessible, “connected”, “inclusive” and “resilient” neighbourhood characteristics.

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***Idea of Note:** Have signs to state how welcoming our neighbourhood is, each neighbourhood should design their own sign and make it unique.*

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Simply being **open and friendly to each other** was a stand-out idea for those who were prompted on “resilience” (14.7%), for “inclusive” (11.2%), and “diverse” (10.9%). **Safety and security programs** were ideas specific to those prompted for the “safe” characteristic, where 22% suggested programs such as block parents and neighbourhood watch. Additionally, 19.8% of these participants suggested an increased police presence to help make their neighbourhood “safe.”

A variety of other **transportation** related ideas were provided to make neighbourhoods more “accessible” (14%) and “inclusive” (4.5%). Examples of these ideas included separating cyclists and pedestrians from traffic, parking improvements, and changes to signage and traffic lights.

The walkability of Kitchener neighbourhoods is something that is highly valued. This was indicated by suggestions for **sidewalk improvements and maintenance** to achieve several characteristics, especially “accessible” (14%) and “inclusive” (4.5%). These suggestions included grooming pathways, fixing bumps on sidewalks, managing the vegetation around sidewalks, lit pathways, and plowing of sidewalks.

With a few exceptions, the majority of ideas suggested by street team participants to achieve these desired neighbourhood characteristics were for “soft” community support such as help with events and improved communication, rather than hard infrastructure such as new recreational facilities.

### **The Building Better Neighbourhoods Framework**

Participants in the **public engagement process** have provided a wealth of input and ideas for consideration.

We are reporting on the emergent themes, in five broad categories: **The Blue Prints** for the **Neighbourhood Strategy**.



**The Blue Prints** reflect a set of **guiding principles** that will enable the City of Kitchener to foster a different type of relationship with the community and achieve the goal of ‘helping people connect and work together to do great things in their neighbourhoods’. These principles speak to the roles and relationships involved – who is empowered to act, who makes decisions about what is needed, and how they easily access the resources they may need to accomplish their goals.

The **Blue Prints** are supported by data and illustrated with actual input – concerns, opinions, and ideas expressed by the residents of Kitchener - from the engagement process.

## The Blue Prints

These **Blue Prints** serve as guiding principles, laying the foundation for the tools what will make the Neighbourhood Strategy come to life.

They reflect a set of common thoughts that clearly radiated from the public engagement, a clear appetite for an enhanced social experience at the neighbourhood and city levels.

Each **Blue Print** is supported by qualitative and/or quantitative evidence from the public engagement process.

<p><b>Understand that relationships matter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Friendly neighbours' are identified as the most important 'little thing' looked for in a new neighbourhood.</li> <li>• Look for opportunities to be inclusive, encouraging a diverse community to participate in their neighbourhoods.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Provide neighbours with good information</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for new ways to share information with citizens.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Shake up our traditional ideas about 'space'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for opportunities to blend uses/add value in existing public places.</li> <li>• Encourage small-scale placemaking to bring people together in unexpected ways.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keep an eye on safety</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take purposeful steps to enhance safety in public places.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Provide the tools &amp; get out of the way</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut the 'red-tape'.</li> <li>• Encourage local decision-making and facilitate action, by providing needed resources and support.</li> </ul>

These **Blue Prints** are strategic in nature. They allow an individual and/or organization to consider any new idea and opportunity through this set of human-centred lenses.

- Will this idea enhance relationships on the neighbourhood level?
- Will this help us do a better job of sharing information with our residents?
- Are we open to considering new ideas around public places?
- Are we allowing room for the 'informal' or 'unexpected'?
- Are we addressing the specific needs of a given neighbourhood?
- Are we taking steps to increase positive perceptions of safety?
- Are we driving the process or allowing others to step forward and provide leadership?
- Are we removing unnecessary 'red-tape'?

Keeping these questions front-of-mind while designing the **Neighbourhood Strategy Tool Box** will help keep the City of Kitchener focused on its goal of building a strategy that will "help people connect and work together to do great things in their neighbourhoods".

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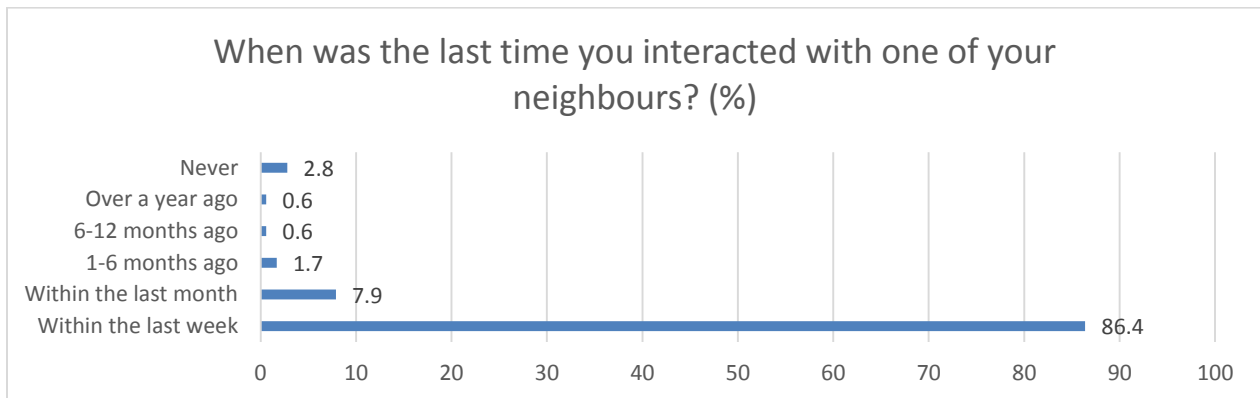
***Idea of Note:*** Lend a helping hand: Create a list at the community centre, a volunteer board for shoveling, planting gardens and time banks. – Resident Focus Group participant

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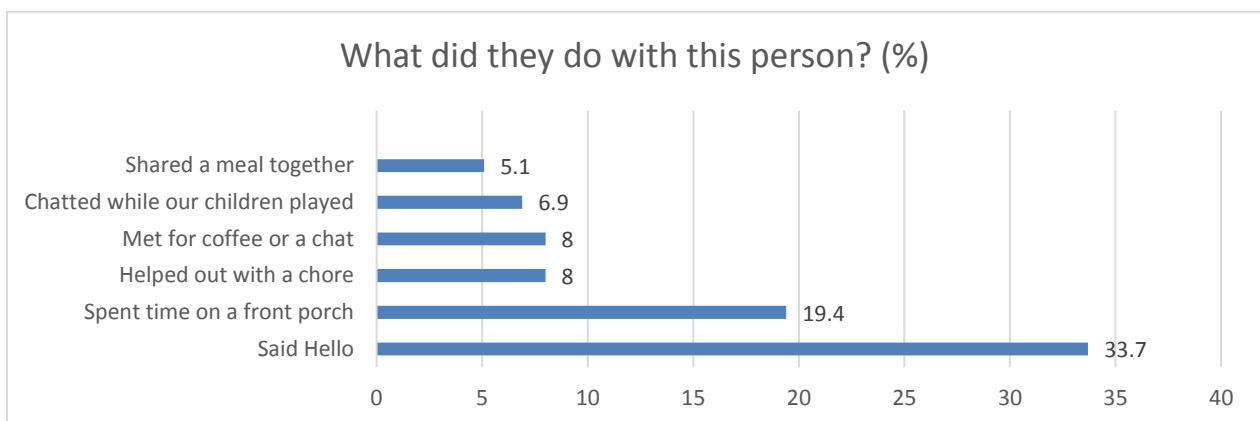
### **Blue Print 1: Understand That Relationships Matter**

A key part of the neighbourhood strategy public engagement focused on understanding the human qualities that residents value in their neighbourhoods. Identifying these qualities leads to an opportunity to leverage them further, via the Neighbourhood Strategy.

Participants in the **Engage Kitchener online survey** were asked “when was the last time you interacted with one of your neighbours?” The results were rather dramatic, with 86.4% of residents indicating that they had interacted with a neighbour in the last week.

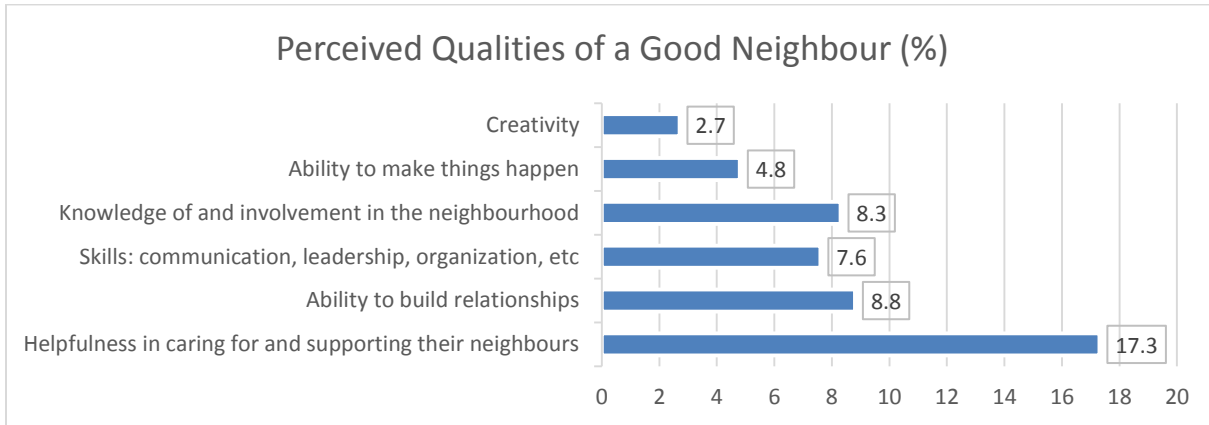


When asked “what did they do with this person”, they offered the following **top six responses**, illustrating a variety of relationship ‘transactions’ in a given neighbourhood.

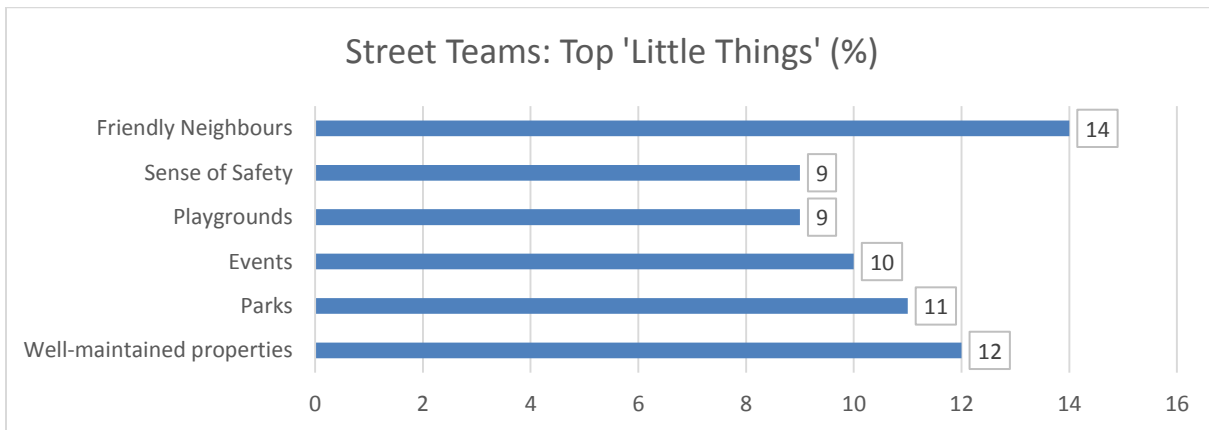


Participants in **all engagement platforms** were asked a variation of the following question: “Think of a person or group in your neighbourhood that you respect or admire – what is it that you respect or admire about them?”

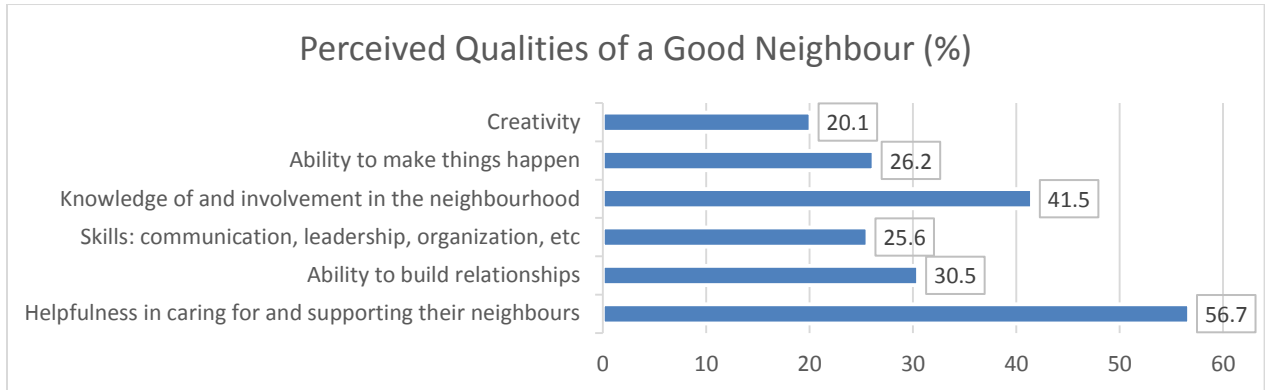
Participants in the **street team interviews** identified 'Helpfulness in caring and supporting their neighbours' (17.3%) and 'Ability to build relationships' (8.8%) as the top two qualities of a good neighbour.



In addition, when **street team participants** were asked to identify the '**little things**' that you want in a neighbourhood, relationship-based items ('friendly neighbours', 'well-maintained properties', 'events') ranked higher than most items related to urban form (i.e., 'paths and trails', 'parks', 'playgrounds'). Please note that respondents were able to identify as many 'little things' as they liked.



The results of the **Engage Kitchener online survey** support these findings of the role of relationships, when respondents were asked to pick the top **three** qualities:



As part of the **street team engagement**, participants were asked to reflect upon and share their thoughts about the seven desired outcomes – Accessible, Connected, Diverse, Engaged, Inclusive, Resilient, Safe - of the Neighbourhood Strategy.

Of note, the majority of responses for all seven outcomes, **across the engagement tools**, is highly focused on *relationship-related* items:

The importance of belonging;

A desire for more events, to bring people together;

A focus on tolerance and acceptance of others in our neighbourhoods;

An awareness of the physical and social needs of others – babies, children, teens, seniors, neighbours with disabilities, and New Canadian.

### **Events**

**A key component of successful relationship building involves bringing people together, giving them the opportunity to interact in formal and informal ways.**

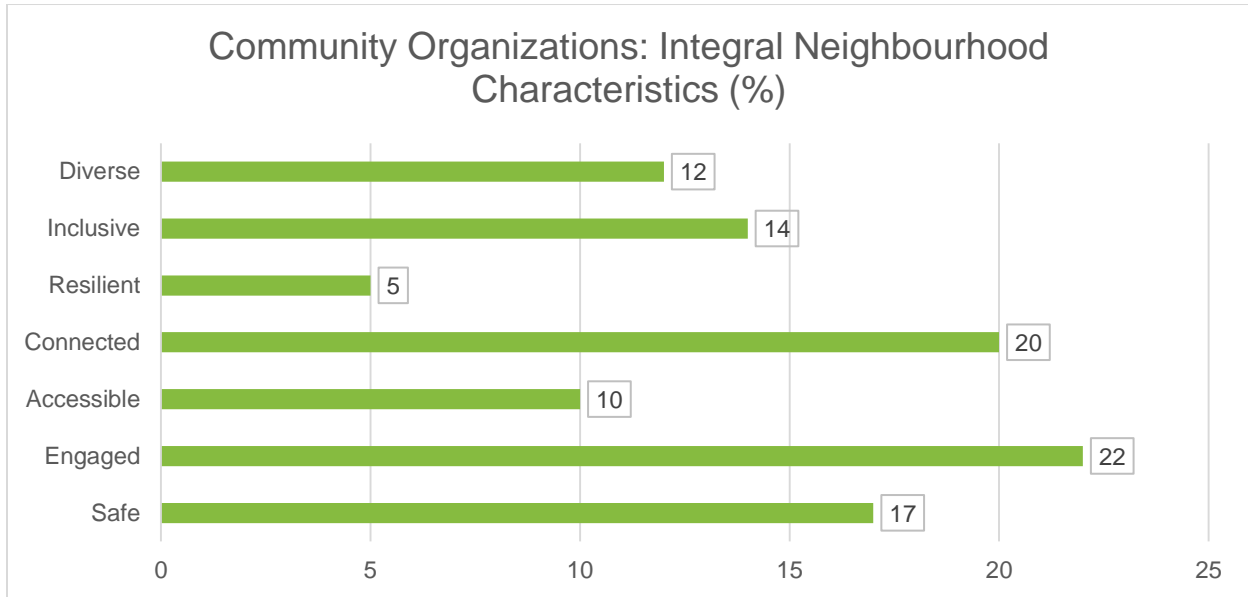
**When asked, participants in the public engagement focused on the need for more events in their neighbourhoods:**

- Events were the fourth most frequently mentioned item as a ‘Little Thing’ that people look for when selecting a neighbourhood (on the Street Team survey).
- More events were also the top idea from resident focus groups, where nearly a third (27.4%) of participants suggested a neighbourhood improvement idea that involved a local event. Some examples from the engagement:
  - More events with community partners (i.e., REEP, Bike Kitchener, WRPS).

- More community parties - "Block Parties".
  - Paying a small fee \$5-\$10 and having local music in a space.
  - Monthly neighbourhood events that bring the neighbours together.
  - Neighbourhood partners to celebrate holidays and community meals.
  - Neighbourhood outdoor movie nights; potluck picnics that share different ethnic foods.
  - Dance, theatre, art street festivals, a buskers spot/gazebo.
  - Continue with community events and festivals that are free or low cost to include everyone in neighbourhood.
  - More frequent neighbour to neighbour events (Porch Parties, community clean ups, street sports, Jane's walks).
  - Fun fair in the field.
  - Neighbours Day Party - Annual Pot Luck/ Winter Picnic or Winterfest.
  - Neighbourhood picnic at Park.
  - Street Fish Fry.
  - Community BBQ.
- In Street Team interviews, when asked for ideas to help achieve one of the desired outcomes of the neighbourhood strategy, 'events' were consistently recommended, regardless of which desired outcome participants were asked about.
  - One group of residents from the resident focus groups proposed an idea involving front yard BBQ's for neighbours with brightly coloured picnic tables on front lawns as a gathering place.
  - Another resident focus group proposed a Winterfest special event in their community.
  - Participants identified key ways that the city can support local events:
    - Providing space
    - Providing connections for sponsorship, grants
    - Helping to promote events

### **Fostering Diverse & Inclusive Neighbourhoods**

Participants in the **Community Group Focus Groups**, when instructed to: 'Enter the Top THREE Characteristics your group identified as most integral to your organization's neighbourhood work' identified the following, placing Inclusive (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Diverse (4<sup>th</sup>) as medium-high areas of priority.



Building “diverse” neighbourhoods means embracing the notion that each individual is unique, and that there is value in our individual differences. These differences can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies.

Building “inclusive” neighbourhoods involves exercising an intention or policy of including people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized.

Together, planning for a diverse and inclusive neighbourhood will involve understanding who lives in the neighbourhood and taking the time to discover what their needs may be.

It may also involve identifying opportunities to develop tools that add value across a diverse neighbourhood – programs that bring people together, in new and exciting ways.

As an example of developing a tool that adds value across a diverse neighbourhood, the idea of **community gardens** (including orchards, food sharing, urban agriculture) was offered by participants of all ages, leading us to conclude that a community garden could be popular with many people, of many ages, in a given neighbourhood.

Other qualitative ideas related to inclusivity and diversity, as offered by the participants in the public engagement:

- It would be nice to have a couple extra rest benches in shaded areas for the elderly walkers.
- As KW is a tech community both young and old can contribute to building open source projects which benefits the community at large.
- As a daycare provider and a mum, I would find our small local parks more enjoyable if they had a small play structure for the toddlers...most of the parks only have a large climber and slide designed for the older kids so the little ones are stuck with a baby swing or eating sand.
- Human library to decrease isolation especially for newcomers.
- Tool share, time bank - where people share skills and time.
- Knowing and connecting with more neighbours than just those beside us; neighbourhood outdoor movie nights; potluck picnics that share different ethnic foods.
- Snow and lawn angels to help clear snow and cut lawns of neighbours that can't.
- Space for alternative sports – skateboarding, parkour – integrated into parks.
- Craft ‘messaging’ so it is tailored for specific audiences – arts, seniors, teenagers.
- Identify and address communication needs of New Canadians.
- Be mindful of a neighbourhood’s unique needs – demographics, ease of reach, distribution channels - and work to move away from one-size-fits-all approach.
- Mentoring a newcomer family.
- Focus on keeping people of all ages active and healthy, in formal and informal ways.
- Fitness programs for a variety of ages – yoga classes for kids, exercise classes for seniors.
- Equipment for a variety of ages – i.e., play structures for toddlers, exercise equipment for adults.
- Create reasons for youth to visit community centres, with programming and by creating youth rooms in all community centres.
- Understanding that alcohol can be a barrier to participation for some neighbours.
- Focus on diversity within neighbourhoods - unite residents around larger societal issues (local food, environmental impact).
- Build Tree Houses and gathering place for kids in neighbourhoods. Do this in underutilized spaces like green spaces, forests, etc.
- Communicate effectively with mail outs that are multi-lingual and clear.

- Have identified 'Community Ambassadors' to welcome newcomers and people with needs or new neighbours.

This data - related to the importance of relationships in great neighbourhoods - presents a significant opportunity for the City of Kitchener, as it dovetails nicely with a key recommendation in the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation's (KWCF) 2015 Vital Signs report, which highlighted the importance of 'belonging': "When people do not feel they belong to a community, they are less likely to engage with others or feel satisfied with their neighbourhoods, impacting our community as a whole" (Vital Signs, 2015).

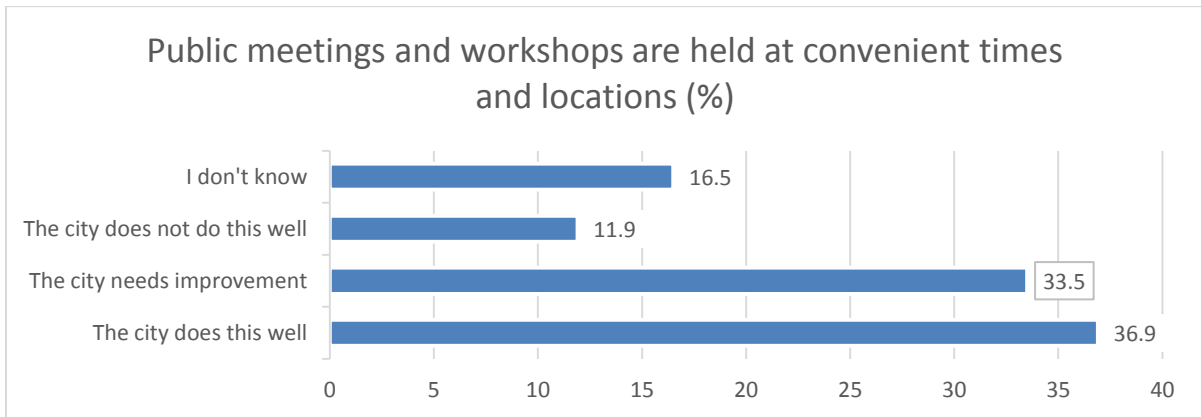
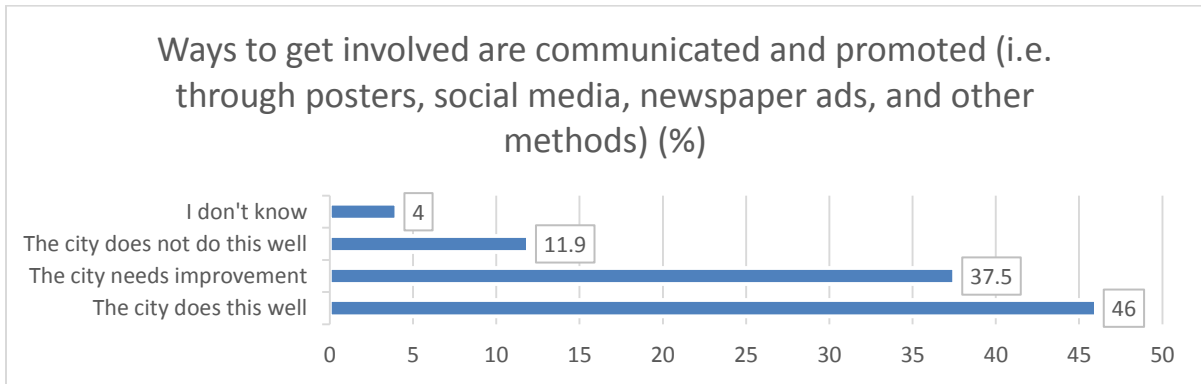
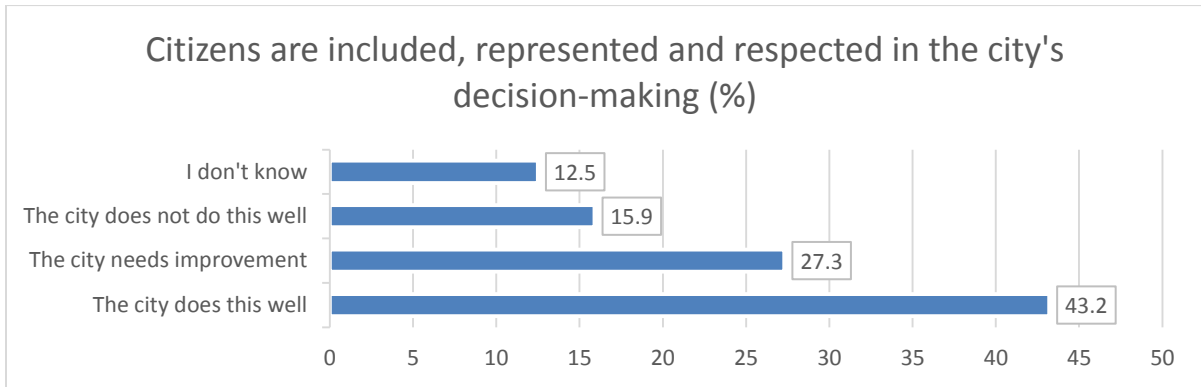
The KWCF characterizes our collective sense of belonging as "luke-warm", particularly in specific parts of the community: "Immigrants who have been in Canada between 11 and 20 years; people who identify as: lesbian, gay, bisexual or other-identified (LGBO); people with low incomes; and single parents" (Vital Signs, 2015).

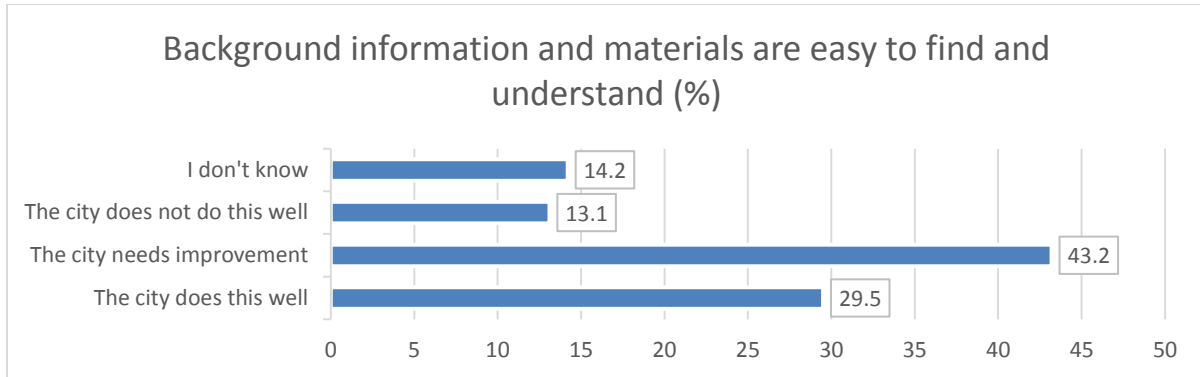
**The participants in the neighbourhood strategy public engagement demonstrated a keen awareness of the importance of 'belonging' – feeling welcome and connected to and an appetite for neighbourhoods that are built on a foundation of strong relationships.**

***The elements of this Blue Print – relationship building, events, and fostering diverse and inclusive neighbourhoods - show up in all other Blue Prints, as participants in the engagement process illuminated their perspective that positive relationships and a sense belonging are integral to the neighbourhood experience.***

**Blue Print 2: Provide Neighbours with Good Information**

Participants in the **Engage Kitchener Online Survey** were asked to reflect on their experiences when engaging with the city. The results clearly illustrate a split response from the community – while a significant portion of the respondents believe the city is doing a good job in communicating with its residents, there is a significant (>50%) opportunity for improvement.

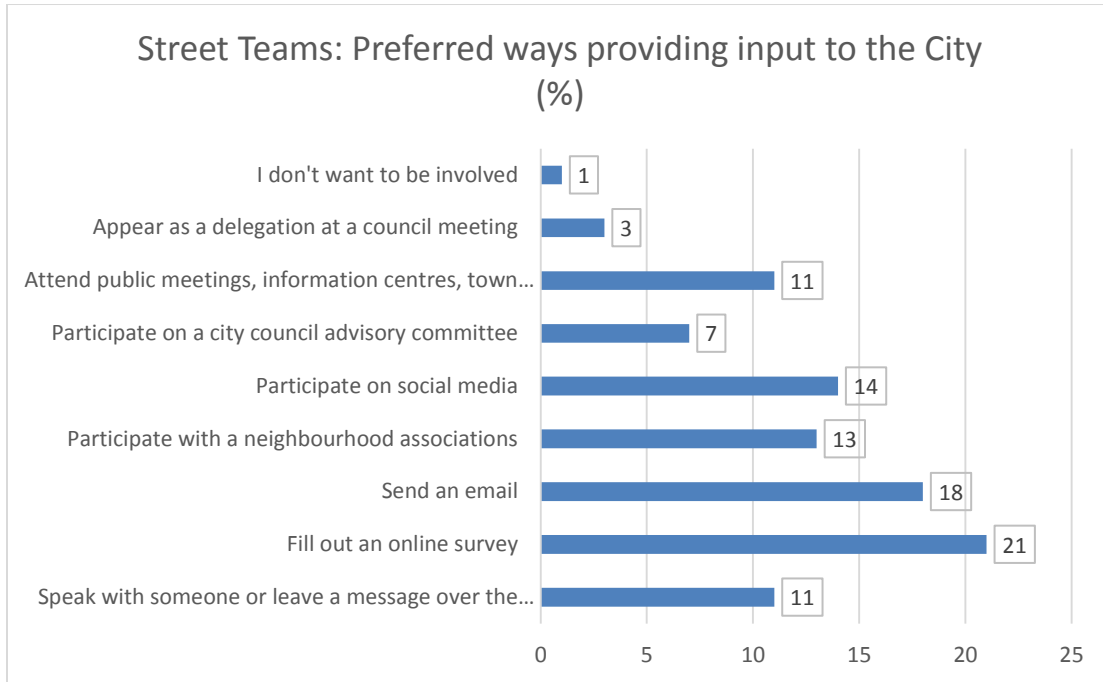




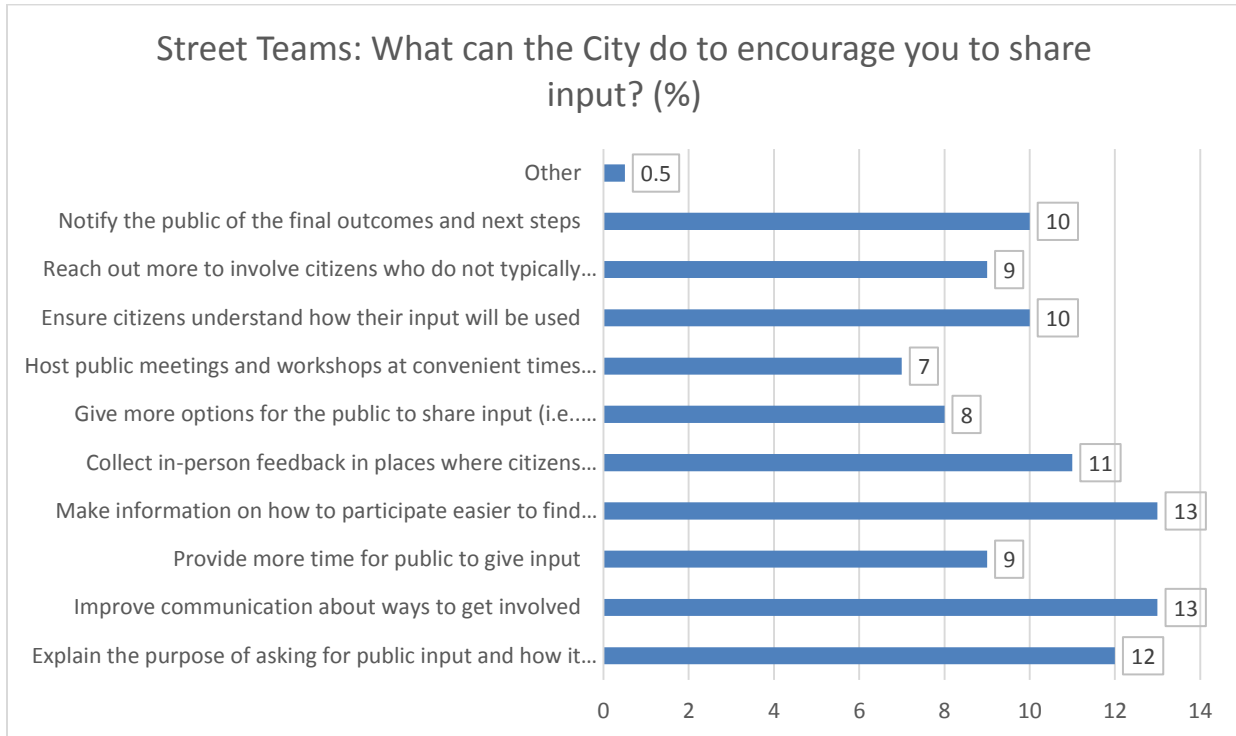
The results of the **street team** interviews support these findings and illuminate a significant opportunity for the city, in terms of how they interact – arguably a move away from the traditional “city hall centric” processes of local government - with residents.

When asked “How would you like to share input with the City?”, participants indicated an appetite for new engagement tools – online surveys (21%), emails (18%) and participating in social media (14%). All of these methods of interacting with the city involve an element of technology and a level of physical distance from city hall.

Very few respondents indicated a willingness to appear as a delegation at a council meeting (3%) or participate in a city council advisory committee (7%).



The follow-up question in the **street team interviews** - What can the City do to encourage you to share input? - provides further information regarding several alternative ways to gather input and/or share information with residents.



**Representative examples of input from the Community Partners & Resident Focus Groups:**

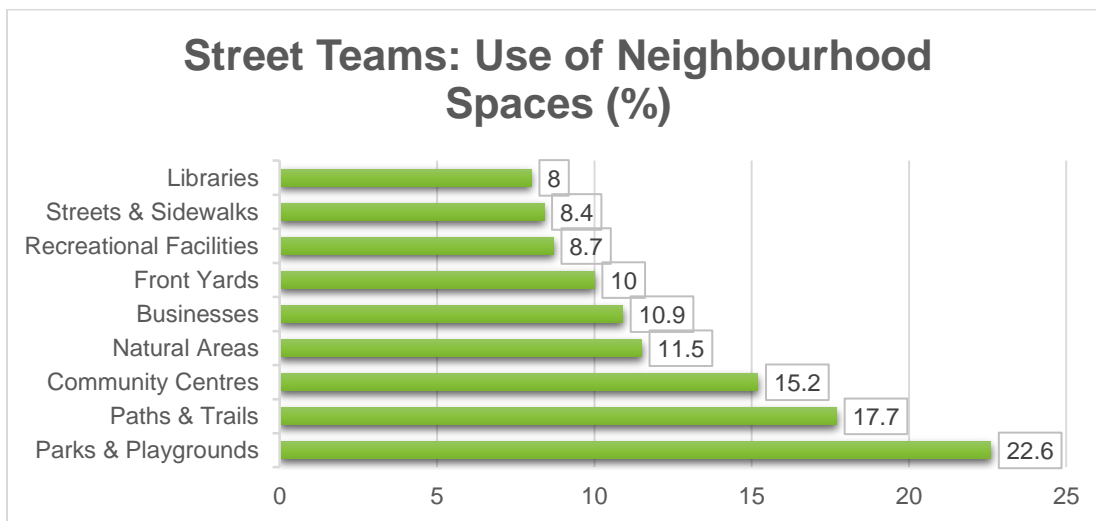
- Downtown Community Centre has great programming but few know about it.
- Strong call for ‘better advertising of events’ – not just the big events.
- Craft ‘messaging’ so it is tailored for specific audiences – arts, seniors, teenagers.
- Online tools – bulletin boards, community information forums, neighbourhood websites, interactive online platforms, central online calendar, online newsletters.
- Fewer bureaucratic barriers to new communication tools.
- Identify and address communication needs of New Canadians.
- Be mindful of a neighbourhood’s unique needs – demographics, ease of reach, distribution channels - and work to move away from one-size-fits-all approach.
- On the other hand, make sure all neighbourhoods have access to a set of basic services – outdoor bulletin boards, web page, resources.

- Provide informal space to connect – casual conversations, neighbourhood places, benches, community gardens.
- City can provide ‘best-practice’ guidelines for online and neighbourhood communication, then let other groups do the work.
- Bring neighbourhood groups together regularly, to share ideas and support each other.
- Having someone who coordinates things for all neighbourhoods ... can play a big role in helping facilitate, organize, and administer coordination between neighbourhoods.
- All information has to be really easy to see, read, and access.
- Free advertising in leisure guide for neighbourhood groups.
- Highlight the good work being done by neighbours, via social media storytelling.
- Improve signage and wayfinding in neighbourhoods.
- Have neighbourhood ambassadors, block captains.
- A community job board - either physical and/or on the web for youth to get work experience from people in the neighbourhood who need help with odd jobs.
- Work with the GRT to provide current information on busses/trains.

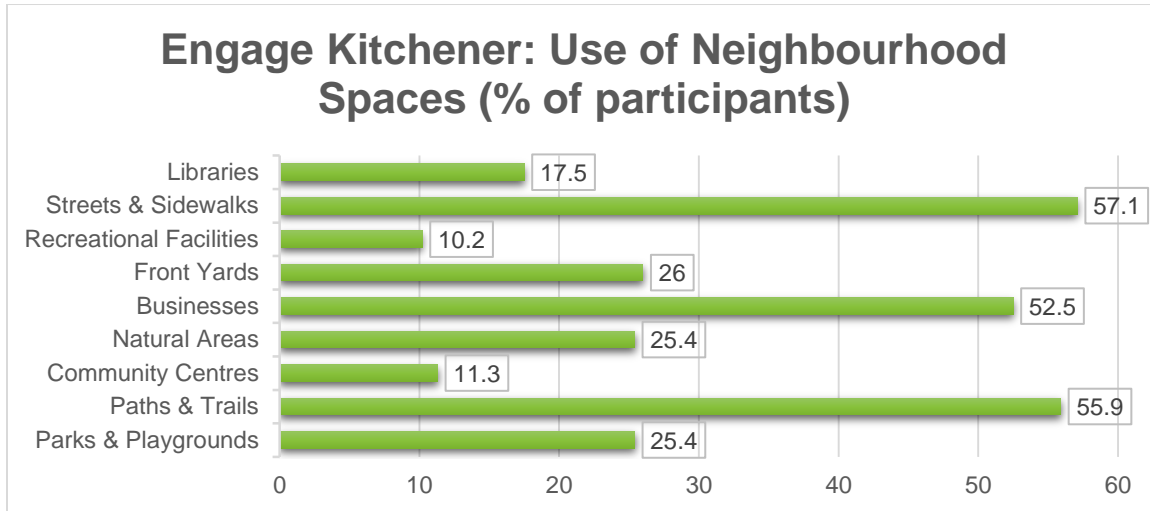
### **Blue Print 3: Shake Up Our Traditional Ideas About 'Space'**

Participants in the **street teams** were asked "Where do you spend time in your neighbourhood?"

The data collected reflects a broad distribution of usage of available space, with higher usage reported for **outdoor places** (62%: playgrounds, paths & trails, natural areas, front yards, streets & sidewalks) than **indoor places** (38%: community centres, recreational facilities, libraries).



Respondents to the **Engage Kitchener online survey** were asked to pick their 'top three places that you spend time in':

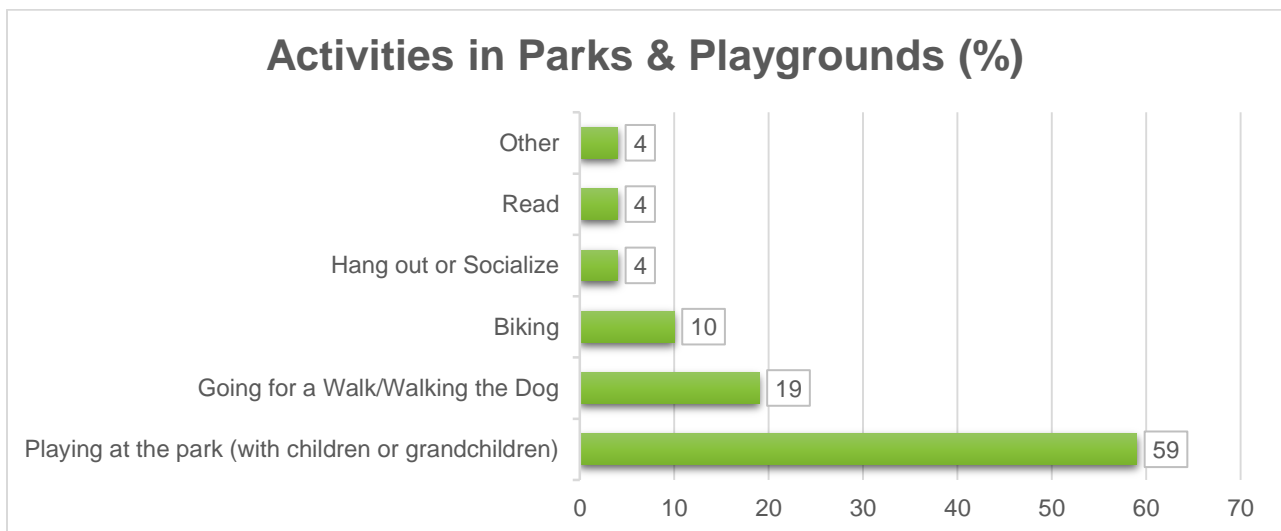


The results painted a similar picture – a preference for **outdoor spaces** (playgrounds, paths & trails, natural areas, front yards, streets & sidewalks) over **indoor places** (community centres, recreational facilities, libraries).

The exception in the Engage Kitchener data set is the interest in spending time in **businesses** (52.5% of participants) and a heavy focus on streets & sidewalks (57.1% of participants), along with paths & trails (56.9% of participants).

As a follow up question, street team participants were asked “**What do you currently do in these places?**” which provides insight in the types of activities our residents currently enjoy in neighbourhood places.

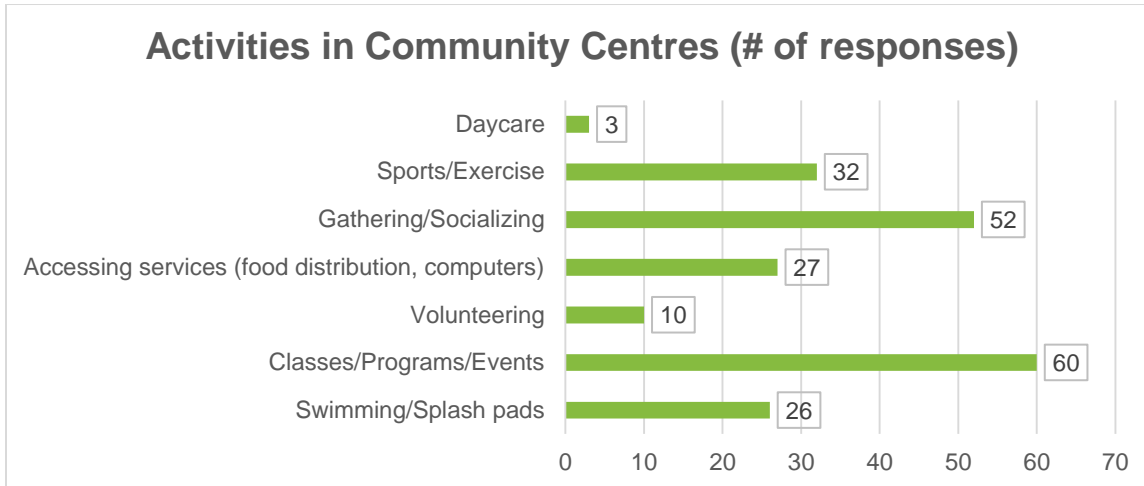
By digging a little deeper into one popular type of public place – parks & playgrounds – we are able to find more information about the types of activities people currently participate in, in these places.



- While ‘play’ is a clear preference, approximately 40% of street team respondents indicate alternate activities, both as individuals and in groups.
- Many responses to this question reflected ‘informal activities’, rather than formal activities in our parks and playgrounds. For example:
  - More places to sit, relax, and watch the world go by.
  - Places to rest with shade, on parks and city sidewalks.

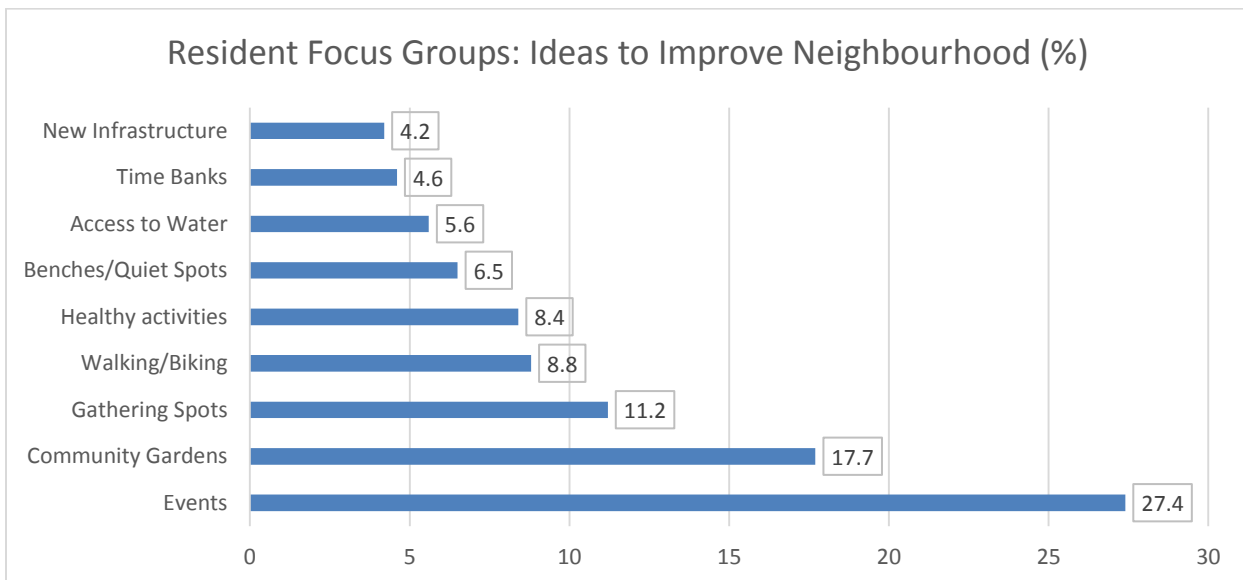
- Walking, walking, walking, with an emphasis on path/trail maintenance and connectivity.
- Participants were also asked “**What is something you'd like to do in one of these places?**”, a question intended to find out what residents would like to do, but are not currently doing, in Kitchener’s public places.
- The following comments are representative of participant responses to this question, across engagement platforms, related to public parks, playgrounds and other outdoor places:
  - Access to water in public parks – including spots to refill water bottles on trails, pet drinking stations, cooling stations, paddling pools, splash pads.
  - More places to sit, relax, and watch the world go by.
  - Places to rest with shade, on parks and city sidewalks.
  - Places to gather – picnic spots, cafés, benches.
  - Little Libraries in parks.
  - Off leash dog parks.
  - Focus on keeping people of all ages active and healthy, in formal and informal ways.
  - Fitness programs for a variety of ages – yoga classes for kids, exercise classes for seniors.
  - Walking, walking, walking, with an emphasis on path/trail maintenance and connectivity.
  - Equipment for a variety of ages – i.e., play structures for toddlers, exercise equipment for adults.

We can take a closer look at another type of public place – **community centres** – to see how residents are currently using them:



Again, **informal** uses such as gathering and socializing in community centres were popular with respondents, along with the more expected formal classes and programs.

Also of note, the need for **new recreational facilities** was not identified as a priority by participants. For example, resident focus groups were asked to offer ideas to improve their neighbourhood and building new infrastructure (community centres, libraries, pools) was 9<sup>th</sup> on the list:



These observations – reflecting an appetite for *alternative uses of public spaces* - held true when respondents reflected on their use of community centres, recreational facilities and paths & trails.

### **Alternative uses of public places**

Representative examples of ‘fresh ideas for traditional spaces’ from the public engagement include:

- Look for ways to transition underused existing spaces into new uses;
- Dedicate a public space (a park, community centre, a townhouse, etc.) in each neighbourhood which will serve as neighbourhood core;
- Host coffee houses in community centres;
- Consider the use of ‘pop-up’ facilities to spread the use across the city;
- Turning flanking trail areas into community gardens or orchards;
- Zone for urban agriculture, community gardens, and food sharing;
- Paved, accessible pathways with benches, with edible plants along the way;
- Physical activity stations along existing trails;
- Small-scale dog parks in unused spaces (i.e., along a rail corridor);
- Turning basketball courts into ice rinks in the winter;
- Hammock friendly zones in our public parks;
- Community picnic shelters and festival areas;
- Use soccer and baseball fields for more than organized sports;
- Space for alternative sports – skateboarding, parkour – integrated into parks.
- More public art, across the city: Public mural program, street art, community art projects.
- Create reasons for youth to visit community centres, with programming and by creating youth rooms in all community centres.
- Neighbourhood library as community living room.
- “It would be great to keep orphaned, undeveloped lots green, and let them become community gardens.”
- A neighbourhood tree house, neighbourhood garden in the park or a village in the forest.

This principle of *alternative uses of public spaces* applies the notion of ‘mixed-use’ planning to the micro-system that is a public place and may also inform choices about types of recreational amenities – size, scale, scope – and location in individual neighbourhoods.

For instance, when retrofitting an existing park, this framework presents an opportunity to:

- Work with neighbours to analyze the social and physical composition of their neighbourhood; and
- Work with the neighbours to analyze the current uses of space and consider new, unexpected uses of space that may work in their neighbourhood.

Using 'dog parks' as another example, most municipalities currently look to host single, large-scale dog parks in isolated spaces, which often require a commute for users. Our research suggests that residents are looking for a different approach – smaller dog parks, placed locally in neighbourhoods, in unexpected and perhaps underused spaces. This may present an opportunity for neighbours to work together, in order to maintain and monitor their dog park, all providing an opportunity to build ownership of the public space and, ultimately, a stronger neighbourhood.

This principle of 'shaking up our traditional ideas of space' may also inform official zoning or bylaw processes, as new uses of traditional spaces often involves a shift in how a municipality exercises control and administers risk. It also invites a conversation about the city's changing built form – i.e., what does 'shaking it up' mean in a high rise neighbourhood?

**Two areas in this blueprint are worthy of further investigation: Small-scale Placemaking and Community Gardens.**

### **Small-Scale Placemaking**

An integral part of **Blue Print 3** is the idea of **small-scale placemaking**, with the key elements of placemaking – the physical, cultural, and social aspects of space – tying into the principle of 'shaking up our traditional ideas about space'.

The Project for Public Spaces (PPS) defines placemaking:

As both an overarching idea and a hands-on approach for improving a neighborhood, city, or region, **placemaking** inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community ... more than just promoting better urban design, placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution.

Participants of the public engagement demonstrated an inherent appreciation for and an appetite for small-scale placemaking initiatives – the city and the residents working together, to bring people together - in their neighbourhoods.

**The ideas offered in the engagement are broad and varied, and these representative examples are connected to the core principles of placemaking:**

- Animate public spaces in all seasons, including winter.
- Give neighbourhoods access to tools to host their own street parties.
- Establish community gardens, orchards, kitchens, outdoor cooking spaces and dining tables.
- Edible landscapes, fruit trees along streets, seed bombing in parks.
- “I live on a cul-de-sac; I would like a flower garden in the centre of the island.”
- Little libraries and benches could really liven up the open space that just sits there right now.
- Install more public art at the neighbourhood level.
- Rotating spaces for food trucks across the city.
- Beautifying trail network with plantings and mixed-uses.
- A neighbourhood tree house, neighbourhood garden in the park or a village in the forest.
- Dog parks to build community - using a school property after hours as a dog park could bring people together to build community.
- Historical walks, allowing people to learn about the community.
- Colouring sidewalks, art-based traffic calming, murals allowed on blank walls.
- More little libraries.
- More benches and tables in parks.
- Naturalized play spaces.
- Infrastructure for pets – watering spots, misting stations, small scale dog parks.
- Performance spaces – gazebos, covered spaces, provision of hydro if needed.
- Hammock friendly zones.
- Providing space for regular potlucks, campfires & neighbourhood discussions.
- Art walks, pop-up art shows, street performers in parks.
- Make it easy to shut our streets down for street parties, concerts and festivals.
- Make Wi-Fi available in all parks.

- Quiet spaces for quiet activities.
- Don't think everything needs to be 'grand' – 'little community centres' in townhouse/high-rise developments
- Move beyond the mundane, let things loosen up a bit, allow things to be a little messy.

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*There are a lot of dog walkers in my neighbourhood. I'm thinking of putting up a dog biscuit drive in my front yard to encourage neighbours to stop and chat for a moment with their dog. – Resident Focus Group Participant*

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### **Community Gardens:**

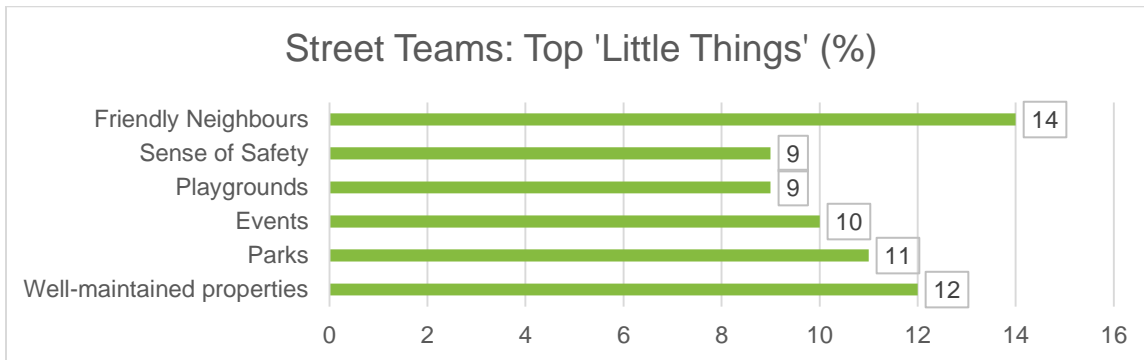
- The idea for Community Gardens / Orchards suggested in the Ideas Forum had the highest number of supporters (13), and there were two other similar community garden ideas suggested – one for using the space in a traffic circle!
- The second most popular idea raised in resident focus groups was that of community gardens suggested by 17.7% of participants
- Some examples from the resident focus groups serve to illustrate the breadth of this area of interest:
  - More community gardens or fruit trees.
  - A neighbourhood tree house, neighbourhood garden in the park or a village in the forest.
  - There are a couple empty lots that the city keeps with grass. It would be great to keep them green and not build on them and see if people in nearby apartments would like to turn them into community gardens.
  - Community orchard.
  - Seed bombing.
  - Turn trail areas into community gardens.
  - Community flowerbeds turned into vegetable gardens.
  - Fruit trees through neighbourhood.
  - Bee hives.
  - Edible landscapes, free organic food for all, absolutely better environment through permaculture, community connections, build communities.
  - Community Garden at Stanley Park Community Centre.
  - Community green house.

In a Resident Focus Group activity, one group provided further details on an idea to turn flanking trail areas into community gardens. Other participants suggested using cul-de-sacs, empty lots or rail beds to do the same.

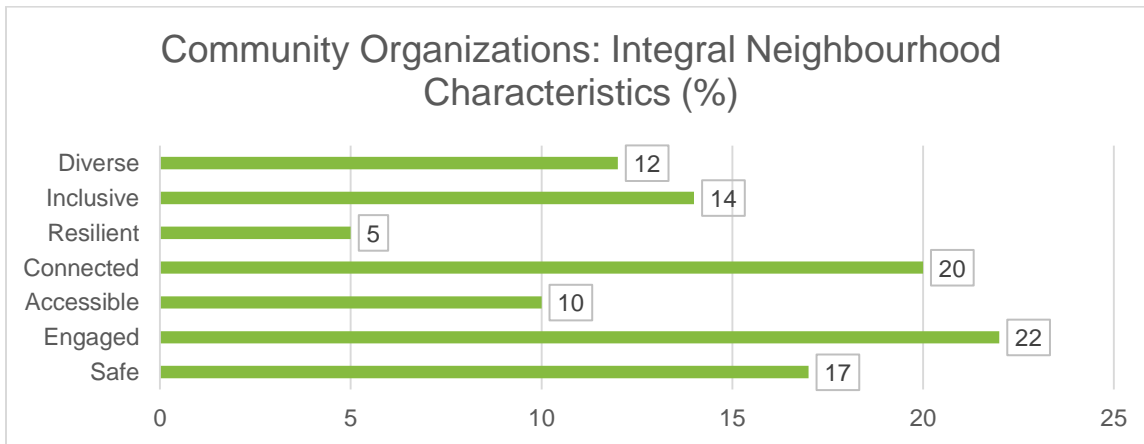
### **Blue Print 4: Keep an Eye on Safety**

The theme of **neighbourhood safety** rang loudly and clearly throughout the engagement process: Perceptions of neighbourhood safety can foster or inhibit community participation and connectedness, directly impacting the health and well-being of local residents.

- When asked “When choosing which neighbourhood to live in, what are the ‘big things’ that you want in your neighbourhood?” a “sense of safety” was the fourth most frequently mentioned item – 13.5% of participants, after schools (19%), access to shopping (17%), and parks (16.2%)
- Respondents to the Engage Kitchener online survey identified a ‘safe’ neighbourhood as their number one priority.
- A “sense of safety” was also mentioned by 45 participants (9%) as a “little thing” that was important to them when selecting a neighbourhood to live in.



- Participants in the Community Organization Focus Groups identified ‘safe’ as an integral (3rd) neighbourhood characteristic, central to the work that they do.



The built environment – roads, streets, parks - and the way neighbourhoods are designed and maintained, impact greatly on perceptions of safety and are critical factors in any strategy for improving safety in neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood safety can only be achieved through the development and support of partnerships, within local communities, working together to identify local solutions to local issues.

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*Idea of Note: While touring Germany I noticed that they had colourful permanent paintings by children on the streets near elementary schools. This let drivers know that children often walked in these areas so they could change their speed and awareness accordingly. – Engage Kitchener Participant*

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**Key areas of concern – and opportunity – from participants can be themed in two main, yet often connected categories: Transportation and Lighting. The ideas offered below are taken directly from the public engagement.**

### **Transportation**

- Can we create better signed bike routes throughout the city? There is a lack of signage and it's hard to tell where the trail goes and what it connects to.
- This is a great north-south trail linkage within the City of Kitchener, but it's so difficult to cross Ottawa Street in this location. It's not safe.
- If we want more people to use Kitchener's trail system, we need to place a stronger focus on trail/road crossings... not just stop controls on the trail itself (i.e. stop sign, bollard, etc.) but actual improvements within the road right of way (i.e. pavement markings, refuge islands, etc.). This improvement alone would make a lot more people feel comfortable navigating through the City.
- Access to city trails during the winter: I live beside the Iron Horse Trail.
- City ensures sidewalks are clear of snow and maintained of cracks and bumps - accessible;
- Improvements to cycling trails - wider surfaces, lighting, benches, bush trimmed back e.g., spur line
- Upgrading local parks; Signs to direct people to trails; Ensure safety of pedestrians by enforcing parking by-laws; Sidewalks that go everywhere - eliminate need to cross street;

Crosswalk times need to be increased for people with mobility issues; More crosswalks at key locations - consider crossings with yellow button with lights.

- More benches to sit down on trails - not enough for old people, people with mobility issues - on Iron Horse trail.
- Fixing missing sidewalks, groomed pathways, grading fixed to deal with water so paths don't get washed out, street lights.
- Busy corner - needs shelter or garage to protect homes, each bus stop needs garbage cans, live on Iron Horse Trail - lighting for night walking, emergency buttons, extend walking times
- Sidewalks, safe crossings, adequate lighting, spaces with more people, activities and actively used.

### **Lighting**

- A few lights in the park would make it feel safer. One or two more garbage cans, repaving the broken paths, and trimming the dead and falling trees would be great.
- Provide lighting; create active use amenities along the trail; reduce tree cover; remove signs that say trail is closed at night or in winter; plow trails in winter.
- Lighting (solar lighting in multiple locations) added to trails (would increase use).
- Extra lighting on walking path around SPCC.
- Lighting added to trails for safety and to encourage use in the evenings.
- Partnerships to add light to winter rinks to make them safe - involve people to monitor site.
- More lights at the playground at night, leading up to the apartment.
- More open fields because they're always booked, lighting in parks and fields at night.
- More street lights, more police presence, neighbourhood watch.
- Good street lights and ample parking.
- Cameras in parks, off duty officers need to be more observant, more lighting in areas, encourage people to wear bright colours at night.
- Study the problem, make street lights come to area.
- Ease of getting around - wheel chairs included, better lighting, access to translators.
- Better lighting for safety.
- More lighting for neighbourhood.

These two interconnected themes present a clear opportunity to work with other blue prints presented in this report – focus on relationships, shake up our traditional ideas about ‘space’ – to dramatically impact safety, both real and perceived, in our community.

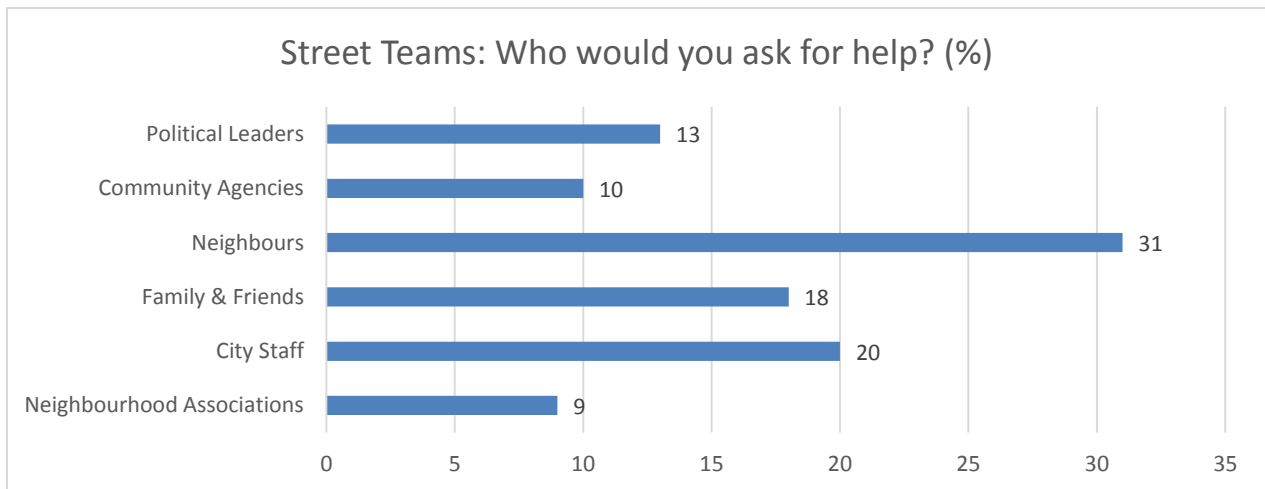
**Blue Print 5: Provide the Tools & Get Out of the Way**

In presenting this blue print, we revisit the goal of the Neighbourhood Strategy: Tap into the knowledge, experience, and aspirations of neighbours, to build a strategy that will “help people connect and work together to do great things in their neighbourhoods”.

An integral part of that goal is the understanding that ‘neighbours know what their neighbourhoods need’, as well as a desire to move away from a traditional, top-down, city-driven approach to neighbourhood support.

Throughout the engagement process, participants expressed a strong desire to foster local ownership of and participate in decision-making about their own neighbourhoods.

When asked “Who would you ask for help?” to make an idea come to life, **street team** participants demonstrated a significant appetite for autonomy, working with their neighbours, friends and family to make their neighbourhoods better.



The following are representative responses to the street team question: “What could the City do to help you make [a specific] idea happen?” and reflect a set of common themes:

1. Less red-tape;

2. Increased funding and other in kind supports such as space, infrastructure and advertising; and
  3. Provide guidance for neighbourhood groups, rather than doing the work for them.
- Provide workshops; create more volunteer positions/jobs for children & youth.
  - Scheduling space in facilities.
  - Help neighbourhoods do events, lots of ideas, seeing others, facilitation rather than creating, button up approach, grants or prizes.
  - Bureaucracy needs to be quicker, with less red tape
  - Increase grants for neighbourhood groups to do things themselves.
  - Provide resources and advice.
  - Provide volunteer activities to get people to engage with each other and better know each other.
  - Research how other cities are doing things, provide resources, demonstrate how to implement ideas.
  - Help with funding & long term planning in a neighbourhood.
  - Participatory budgeting at the neighbourhood level.
  - Provide supports: financials, logistics, kind of a pathway or road map to know how to do it, rather than doing it for us.
  - Create a neighbourhood education strategy that reaches people through events and parades
  - Make community space easily available, both indoors and outdoors.
  - Provide the grant to fund the event. Provide guidelines to go along with the grant.
  - Provide a platform or social space to connect.
  - Central clearing house of services and connections.
  - Stay out of it, unless you would want to come over for a burger.
  - Remove red tape in closing a street for event.
  - Funding dollars; make it easier to communicate ideas to City and how to do it.

**While the public engagement results offer an abundance of ideas, suggestions, and aspirations, they also clearly demonstrate a high level of frustration with traditional city**

processes and regulations, leading members of the community to have negative experiences and/or avoid participating all together, due to their assumptions about 'how things work'.

## **Appendix 1: City-hosted Focus groups**

The Neighbourhood Strategy Project Team hosted three resident focus groups, using the same engagement tool offered to the broader public.

The following is a summary of the main outcomes of these focus groups.

1. **Inspiring NEWS! What IDEA do you have to make your neighbourhood even better?**
  - a. Ideas that help us connect with our neighbours
    - i. “More people active and doing stuff in the neighbourhood.”
    - ii. Events to bring people together.
    - iii. Opportunities to talk to neighbours beyond summer sidewalk chats and school events.
    - iv. An interactive app like Pokémon Go that gets people walking around in the neighbourhood and talking to each other (i.e. treasure hunt game).
    - v. Parties in the neighbourhood, annual block parties.
  - b. Ideas that focus on safe neighbourhoods.
    - i. Lower speed limits so kids feel safer playing.
    - ii. Signs to direct people to trails.
    - iii. Ensure safety of pedestrians by enforcing parking by-laws.
    - iv. Sidewalks that go everywhere - eliminate need to cross street.
  - c. Ideas that create inclusive public places.
    - i. Upgrades to park that reflect the people – i.e., age, access.
    - ii. Meeting places for adults young and old.
    - iii. Convert stairs to ramps (bikes); walkways.
    - iv. Adult playground (gym instruments).

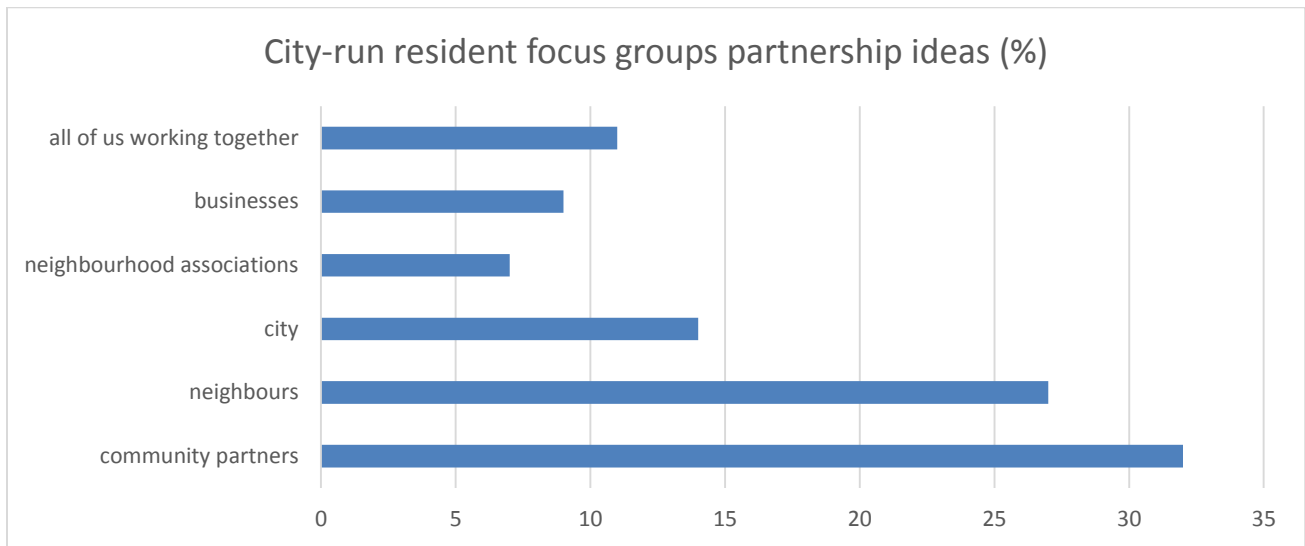
*These findings are nicely in alignment with the findings of the other focus groups and engagement platforms.*

2. **Our AWESOME Neighbours! Think of a neighbour you respect or admire. How are they improving your neighbourhood in 2026?**

The most frequently listed attributes were ‘helpful’ (50%), ‘welcoming’ (25%) and ‘able to introduce me to others’ (22%).

*This is nicely in alignment with the findings of the other focus groups and engagement platforms.*

3. Perfect Partnerships! Who is working together and what are they doing to address challenges and opportunities in your neighbourhood?



*This is a bit divergent from the other resident focus groups, as many more community partners – not-for-profits, schools, churches, etc. - were mentioned as responses to this question. Of note, the next most popular answer (neighbours) is more in alignment with the findings of the rest of the public engagement process.*

**Conclusion**

It has been a pleasure working with the Neighbourhood Strategy Project Team, supporting your efforts to undertake one of the largest and most inclusive **community engagement processes** in the city's history.

Karen Scian & Sanathan Kassiedass












**The TALENT Business Solutions**

# Engage Kitchener Neighbourhood Strategy Survey Results












- The survey had 1077 visitors during a 4 month period from May to August 2016.
- 620 surveys were completed.

## About your neighbourhood

1. Take a minute and picture yourself in your neighbourhood. What are the top three places that you spend time in?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Businesses: cafes, restaurants, shopping centres, stores		53.6%	328
Community Centres		53.4%	327
Front Yards		51.5%	315
Libraries		27.3%	167
Natural Areas		26.1%	160
Paths and Trails		25.2%	154
Playgrounds		19.9%	122
Sportsfields		12.3%	75
Streets and Sidewalks		9.0%	55
Recreational Facilities: arenas, pools, dance halls, music studios, etc.		8.8%	54
Other		6.9%	42

2. a) Is there a specific place in your neighbourhood that you don't tend to go?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Businesses: cafes, restaurants, shopping centres, stores		23.4%	121
Community Centres		20.8%	108
Front Yards		11.2%	58
Libraries		10.0%	52
Natural Areas		8.9%	46
Paths & Trails		7.3%	38
Playgrounds		6.6%	34
Sportsfields		4.6%	24
Streets & Sidewalks		3.3%	17
Recreational Facilities: arenas, pools, dance halls, music studios, etc.		2.5%	13
Other		1.4%	7

## 2. b) What could be done to get you to spend more time there?

- Community Events
- Offer programs that interest me
- Perhaps make it more of an activity centre, or an integrated centre for more than just the traditional library items. Add in maker spaces, workshops, etc. Make it a more modern place to learn and a greater hub for knowledge. more talks, events, etc.
- Build them and enforce a speed limit
- Build some! We don't have any in Pioneer Park
- Having sportsfields for more diverse sports (e.g. a community track for track & field, as opposed to baseball diamonds or football fields). I feel like a lot of people would like to use a full 400m track with a rubber surface for running/training purposes but also for recreation. The City currently has an under-utilized track at the Aud that would be great to revamp. The walking tracks at community centres (e.g. Activa) are great but aren't the full size. Plus it would be nice to have something outdoors.
- Not that involved in organized sports.
- I don't play sports, but I am happy to support these services anyhow since they are good for the community.
- I don't need to go
- More community/neighbor organized events. Non-competitive sports. Not having to rent spaces through the city.
- Have grandkids? Kid's grown.
- Better advertising, understanding of services available and specifically to my demographic.
- Because there aren't any! There is not a single grocery store that is within reasonable walking distance (< 1km.) of my home. If I need milk or just crave some Doritos, I must get in my car and drive to a store.
- There is a large natural area around a storm water pond that is fenced off. This could be opened up to connect to our community garden natural space

- More actual businesses, safer walking/cycling routes (along Weber St in particular).
- More advertisements engaging activities
- There are not many natural areas in my area. Lots of construction though.
- Offer activities I would consider participating in at a reasonable cost.
- Better street lighting and pathways to encourage pedestrian/cycling activities in the evenings.
- I don't really know what's happening or available at my local community centre.
- I don't have children and am in my twenties so I don't think there is something to be done
- My kids would need to get a bit older.
- More neighbourhood commercial (small scale)
- I don't know of any libraries in my neighbourhood.
- No, I don't have kids and too old to play on playgrounds - haha.
- Put a larger one in my neighbourhood
- There isn't a library in our neighbourhood. It would be great to have a KPL drop-off location in our neighbourhood (maybe at Don McLaren arena) - or allow us to drop off or pick up KPL books at the WPL.
- There isn't a library in our neighbourhood, so if there was one I'd go!
- Make it possible to afford to go there.
- Build a community centre or some type of recreational facility in our area of Kitchener. We have nothing here but a trail and sidewalks and streets and houses.
- If I had a grandchild who played a sport.
- Market
- Nothing, sports do not interest me.
- I worry about the equipment and facility costs. I don't have anyone to go with either.
- Build an indoor swimming pool for use all year long
- Just an age thing-- retired and done all that with kids and grandkids
- Traffic calming
- More trees. They provide shade, economic and environmental benefits, and happiness. There is something wonderful about chatting with neighbours and friends on the sidewalk under a beautiful tree canopy
- Few recreational facilities close by
- It's a little bit far away from our home and seems to attract individuals who are not similar to those who live around us.
- Location is key. Our subdivision doesn't have anything within walking distance.
- It doesn't really fit my life of work, church, grandkids.
- I don't have children. Maybe one day I'll use them.
- If I come into a café or restaurant with 2 or more neighbours (different addresses), can we get a discount on food being shared/eaten?
- Better knowledge of what was going on or offered at my community centre.
- Kid friendly
- It depends on my daughters activities
- Grandchildren

- Information: what commercial facilities will be added to the land under construction?
- More events and educational opportunities to learn about the natural areas and the species that inhabit them.
- There is no library branch in my neighbourhood. Currently there are almost no cafes or restaurants in my neighbourhood either.
- Playground equipment is old and play options are limited. There is only a single bench for seating and little to no shade near the play area.
- Nothing - sportsfields aren't my thing
- Not much, not into sports.
- Move them out of the neighbourhood. Homes should be a place where peace and quiet reflection, sleep and solitude are possible so that group activities are fun. Having too many people, too much noise and too many things in a neighbourhood breaks down relationships because there is no time for a person to be alone and refocus to want to connect with people.
- Near me is Weber Park. It's really just a big open field with a community garden. I prefer walks on trails in natural areas. My neighbourhood really doesn't have anything like that.
- Have more programming in the evenings so we can all go together as a family.
- More resources and play space for children
- Get me grandchildren!
- I simply don't play a lot of sports and prefer hiking/walking in parks. I don't avoid them intentionally. Free leagues would certainly be a better option for me to play sports as equipment is expensive.
- We don't have one
- Find a way to get connected to children
- More welcoming to ALL
- I don't know my neighbours so it's hard to spend time on front yards!
- I don't have kids so nothing
- Do not have children that would draw me into them
- Family involvement
- As I do not have children, I do not find it necessary to go to playgrounds.
- Add more trails and pave them
- We just prefer outdoor activities when possible.
- None
- Nothing
- Give me more money to spend
- My employer could require me to work fewer hours, lol.
- Grandchildren
- I don't have any children, so no reason for me to go.
- While we live near the Breithaupt Community Centre, we both have a gym membership at GoodLife. If more affordable yoga, pilates, etc. classes were available at our community centre, I would go there quite often.
- Information about the trails

- I live across from Breithaupt Park. Most of it is just a huge crunchy sports field for much of the summer. Could the section between Margaret Ave and Fairfield Ave not be converted into a giant community garden? Residents could rent a plot of land for the summer and water could be metered somehow.
- More evening program geared to my children ages for free.
- We don't have any libraries near Chicopee
- Have more economical and fun filled activities for all ages.
- Make sidewalks on Carson Drive & both sides of Natchez Road
- Once my kids are older I will be spending lots of time at sport fields just not at this time.
- More flexibility in class times, possibly lower costs for classes
- It's a fairly new neighbourhood, so none of those businesses exist yet. Having them exist would be a way to get me to spend more time there, ha-ha.
- I currently don't have children so I don't tend to go to playgrounds often but if there were more dog friendly options in the city our household would strongly appreciate it.
- Easier access to information about scheduling (it's a skating rink; I never know when the classes or free skates are, and the city page is hard to decipher)
- Meet more neighbours....I guess.
- Sports or activities for the whole family (large family) that is affordable
- You'd have to completely outlaw smoking. I get sick from exposure to smoke and so have to carefully plan and circumscribe my use of outdoor spaces
- Nothing
- Unsure
- My children are grown and past playground age. Maybe if there are grandchildren in my future that may change.
- Go to areas where there are front yards linked to parks or public areas
- More free or low cost programs for my kids. What is there fills up fast
- Evening farmers market
- Larger variety of sports fields in the area: support a wider variety of sports
- Our community centre is the DCC and the walk there can be quite treacherous during the winter when the sidewalks are not shoveled and I have to push a stroller along Weber Street.
- I don't feel that there are many paths/trails within walking distance of my house.
- I don't think I am the right demographic.
- We spend most of our free time walking the dog, gardening, and doing activities with the kids. I am sure once I am not working full time, I will take advantage of the programs at the community center.
- Nothing, it's a complete waste of money.
- Nothing
- Increase income
- I don't know where mine is lol
- We need a Starbucks in downtown Kitchener.
- More accessibility and variety.
- Make them more affordable for small groups to rent.

- I am a woman and I live alone. Sometimes I don't feel safe in less busy areas. Measures to make sure everyone feels safe in public space would be great.
- Clean it up. Make sure the trails and paths are welcoming. Not with fallen down trees.
- There is a park/playground green space that could really use an updated playground and would benefit many kids in this area. I feel like all the decent playgrounds in this area are too far for my kids to access by bike or walking themselves.
- Nothing, I just don't have a reason to go. Not into sports, no young children playing sports anymore.
- Have people there to greet you and connect you to others so that these spaces feel inclusive vs. exclusive to newer participants
- Affordable activities for children
- More awareness in what they offer.
- Taking my internet access away would make me spend more time at the library:)
- More appealing family events centered at the preschooler age group, at times that work (early morning and midafternoons).
- I live downtown. We don't have front yards.
- Being in a wheelchair the sports offered aren't for me, I'm more a sit and play cards or games type
- Remove the 'urban youth' that smokes weed, steals, and swears.
- You can tell my son that I would like grandchildren.
- Less traffic
- Closer options.
- I really don't have enough time to visit everywhere.
- Use the spaces for gardens and musical venues. I don't play or watch sports often.
- Not interested in sports so nothing can be done really
- More bicycle and foot police patrol
- I don't have a child, so there's no reason for me to go.
- Not much, we just don't spend time there
- My children are too old but have spent LOTS of time there!!!
- More attractive programming to young adults
- Better programming for my age or that of my kids. 40's & 20's
- Not applicable - no kids = no playgrounds, sports fields, etc.
- Have police and security.
- Safety is my main concern as I have a 7 month old. I would love to walk more but am concerned with the safety of my child and myself.
- Not much, I'm just not into sports.
- Having a front yard would help. (I live in an apartment.)
- More courses or activities that interested me as a young professional.
- Better playground equipment
- Nothing really, just don't have kids
- Nothing I'm single adult with no kids; so I don't visit playgrounds.
- My kids are too young for most programs, or they happen during times that don't work for us. I'm sure we'll spend more time in community centres once the kids are older.

- I don't always feel safe with some of our neighbors
- My view is the outside always mirrors the inside and Lyle Hallman Pool landscape is atrocious, it's a huge eyesore at that corner and would be nice if some money was used to clean it up.
- I would love to see a herb garden and/or vegetable garden initiative for boulevards. It would help to get neighbours talking and working together.
- Nothing. I hate sports and sportsfields are a waste of space and taxpayers money.
- Not sure
- Make them more appealing to adults
- Police presence would keep attacks down on the trails
- I don't even know if there is a community centre in my neighbourhood. I also have no idea what they could provide that would appeal to me (35 year old professional with no kids.) Community centres tend to focus on children and seniors.
- Nothing - we have way too many
- The house design and subdivision grading don't work for spending time in our front yards.
- I would like to spend more time at the community centre, but it has seniors program. Go to the YMCA, and now they focus on seniors. So I would like to have a family friendly space for all ages to do something at the same time. I'm a single mom, and wasting my life waiting for one kid at a time to finish one activity is not living.
- Wish we had more parks etc. in the area. We have grassy areas but nothing to attract people to them.
- Readily accessible Library
- Not much.
- Nothing really, sorry!
- Not many options downtown.
- Make a natural area in my area
- Our neighbourhood has no cafes or restaurants with outside areas that you can go to....you would have to drive to one.
- Nothing I absolutely hate shopping I only buy something when I need it
- Nothing. My children are grown now
- My neighbourhood does not have businesses, community centres, a library, a playground, sportsfields or recreation facilities. We tend to chat with each other while out walking on the sidewalks or nearby trails.
- Include some leash-free play area for dogs.
- Nothing. I don't like sports.
- A bus route, connectivity - there is a Mattamy community across the street from me but it does not connect to us. A simple path between water retention ponds would connect more people. Also connect the Huron natural area to the community - make it more accessible from Huron/Fischer Hallman
- There could be more of them and better options within walking distance. And/or more frequent buses to get to those a bit further away.
- Make walking and biking trails continuous and safe. I would ride my bike more on the streets but do not feel safe to do so. Educate drivers and bikers about how to share the

roads safely. Also have programs to support neighbours to get to know one another better. To go beyond their back yard fences.

- Build some! There aren't any in Pioneer Park
- Nothing at the moment. No kids in sports or leagues to be a part of.
- Offer programming at the community centres outside of business hours - many programs I'm interested only run when I'm working (9-5 job)
- There are no good family or chain restaurants in our neighbourhood but I wish there were.
- I don't have children, so I don't use these facilities. I am happy they are there for those who do!
- At age 76 I am not much interested in sporting events.
- Don't know really - I am afraid to go there alone but would really love to go.
- We live in Central Frederick which is an older built-up downtown area and therefore does not have many nearby Natural Areas (if by Natural area you are referring to forested/woodlot lands with hiking trails).
- Have fun events or work out classes
- I don't have young children and am not on an organized sports team, so I find not much need to visit sports fields
- Fewer kids :)
- I have no children so no interest.
- Paving the trails
- We don't have a community centre in our neighbourhood (The Aud neighbourhood).
- I'm just not involved in sports and don't have kids involved in sports. Doesn't mean that they're not important.
- More drop-in men's basketball options nearby
- Offering more programs for infants, toddlers and their parents.
- Finish the LRT!
- Better signage, better trail maintenance
- More available knowledge on what programs are being offered. And free things...:)
- Programming targeting my demographic
- Less kids
- Nothing - we do not have children.
- Nothing
- Nothing, I don't like team sports.
- Mostly apartment buildings, and down the street where there are houses, I don't know anyone.
- Maybe if they had a yard sale, or we had a street festival.
- N/A as I don't have children
- More events geared to my age group --50 plus.
- Likely will spend more time there as my kids get older
- My kids are grown and are finished with sports.
- Lower prices on programs.

- I don't have kids, so it's not really targeted for me. (My balcony is as close as I get to a porch, but I use it a lot.)
- Improve the quality of the locations and other housing around them, less riffraff
- Have programs that attract me. Make one closer to me.
- Be provided more information on what activities are run there.
- Create a park so the kids can play but then take the dogs for a walk
- Put benches on trails
- More programs specific to my demographic
- Feels like most activities are for youth or older adults.
- I don't know that my neighbourhood has a community centre, or if so, where it is
- We don't have a need to access programs at the nearest centre
- I just don't use sportsfields facilities. The only way I would visit them is if non-sporting events were held there, but this would likely ruin the fields with too many people walking on them. They are serving their intended purpose.
- Have kids
- Not much; prefer outdoors
- More privacy, quiet areas.
- Not a need of mine at this time in my life.
- Just have more options to explore...variety of food, necessities, arts and crafts,
- I would like to maybe have my children sign up for soccer teams, but for much cheaper. Maybe we could have community centre leagues: reduced prices, emphasize on team spirit and sportsmanship, and compete with other community centre teams. I love hiking and biking, but often avoid trails because of overgrowth (mosquitoes) or fears in some areas as a woman walking alone. Graffiti can be offensive on bridges by trails--but it can also be cool community art. Is there a wall we could dedicate to graffiti artists (without the abusive language and gangs signs).
- Better seating for watching games.
- I've been there, it's a great place. The programming is good; I'm all over the city so I'm not held to any particular area.
- I really wish the South District Park in Kitchener would be built so I can spend more time there!
- Cheaper admission to indoor pools
- Nothing. I do not have a reason to go there
- Have activities other than sports take place at them. Outdoor movies, music, community sales, etc.
- Honestly not much. The programs offered are not of enough interest to me, or even for my demographic, for me to spend that kind of money on. They also operate in a way that seems to have changed little in the past 30 years, despite the rest of society changing drastically. Look to libraries and places that are way, way, way more connected to the community. But I doubt anything will change...
- Build some. The suburbs seem to have no bus or accessible small businesses
- Events/workshops geared towards adults, or events focusing on technology. Perhaps public lectures.
- Wait till my kids are older

- Not much don't see the point of public libraries these days
- The sidewalk need to be cleaned
- Have more teen and parent activities. You have kids and adults but the only thing you really have for teens is drop in. If I want to do yoga with my teen I can't. There is too much division of ages in activities.
- Have more events and activities for teenagers
- They are too far away. Too expensive and not relevant to my lifestyle
- The people are sketchy
- Wi-Fi + stuff to do + safer people living around it
- I just don't play sports.
- Privacy from my loud mouth neighbours.
- More affordable programming, more programs geared towards 25-35 year olds
- I'm sure once my daughter is old enough to enjoy activities we will consider looking into the available amenities at our community centre, but right now I don't feel there are activities that a late 20's male would do on their own.
- Nothing offered that appeals to a need I have.
- I just simply don't like sports; it's nothing against the centers themselves.
- If it was cleaned up and not so run down. We do not feel safe to take our children there.
- Not much. There is nothing there that I need in my life.
- I don't have kids, so playgrounds are not geared to me, but I like having them for kids in the neighbourhood.
- If it was cleaned up, the landscaping is an eyesore....looks very dumpy
- We have a lot of teenagers on our street. We live on a cul-de-sac and the teenagers and their friends race down the street, don't look when in reverse or when they pull away from the curb. I don't want my children getting killed just playing on their own street.
- More activities
- Weekend large gatherings
- We have a lot of options in our neighbourhood (mid-town - Gildner Street). I would think that if people don't have access to these types of facilities in their neighbourhoods they can't spend any time there.
- Safety
- We just moved from Markham to Kitchener and I noticed that my neighborhood is lacking a good playground area for kids. Our main intersection is Westheights Dr and Blackwell Dr. There are no splash pads and the closest playground is mediocre.
- I also was quite disappointed with the Forest Heights Library. The children section is so small and the Library is old and I felt that I was in a 1980 Library.
- Since we do not register for community centre programs anymore, I don't think we have a need to visit the community centre. In order for us to start spending time there it would need to feel more welcoming, more natural to sit there and visit with neighbours and more relaxed. The lobby space is rather small so with parents already waiting for their kids it does not make me want to linger around.
- More time needed. Love the library when I do go but just don't have the time to spend there.
- Reduce the traffic speed on our street.

- Have different kinds of activities: not only sports. As well as activities that are not solely geared towards families and kids
- Slow the traffic on the street.
- Nothing, I don't play sports. Why would you want me to go to one place out of 11 that I do not go to? This is a stupid question.
- I have too much time devoted to working + commuting to have time for organized activities at community centres and other recreational facilities. During my off time I prefer outdoor patios, wandering the CBA, and naturalized areas.
- Neighbourhood based sports and games for either children or adults - some enthusiasts should have to lead it, make it appealing for non-sporty people as I am, but 'healthy' activities in a good and well organized spirit would make it possible for me to participate.
- No trails too close to where I am. Often prefer to walk through neighbourhood to see more people.
- Nothing, unless it was not sports related.
- I don't have children, so some of these areas are geared more towards families. No need to adjust for my needs.
- There would have to be something being held at the sports field that was not sports related.
- Better pedestrian infrastructure to allow for easy travel to places like community centres. For example, the continued expansion of sidewalks on streets that do not already have them, or adding bike lanes to roads as they are being redone.
- Longer weekends:-)
- Make it more clear what is available.
- If I had kids, I would go there!
- More friendly neighbours.
- I think having playgrounds are very important to neighbourhood. I just don't go there since I don't have children.
- It's just swings and such for young children, and mine are older. Would need something like basketball or tennis surfaces/equipment for older kids to engage us in that part of the neighbourhood.
- More advertisement of the events happening there
- We will go there more when the kids are older.
- More subsidies.
- There's not much offered that I am interested in at the Community Centre. I work full time and would access programs in the evenings generally, but this is when most of the youth activities are offered (which makes sense to do this)
- Free admission
- Make it more family friendly.
- Improve the parks so they include better play structures.
- I am intrinsically motivated to visit various places in my neighbourhood. Nothing needs to be happening for me to explore.
- I wish my community centre was closer to us (DCC)
- Build them.
- Build more

- Opportunities for people watching / public seating
- If our kids played more sports
- Public transportation is very limited in my neighborhood so it is impossible for me to get my children to the sports fields without inconveniencing others for rides.
- Another concern about my neighborhood is the lack of garbage cans. We have only been able to locate one and it disappears from time to time. The trails, sidewalks, yards and public areas are littered with dog poop and garbage. It shows a lack of respect for those of us that live in the area.
- I don't have kids...I have no need to go to a playground.
- A park within King East neighbourhood boundaries; more interesting businesses (most commercial properties in our neighbourhood lie vacant and/or derelict as I assume property owners - possibly few with multiple properties - are prospect squatting); more green space with seating/public art - but NOT along Weber Street
- Open more smaller stores in new developing neighbourhoods too. Let homebuilders build homes on main roads that can have small stores on the main levels.
- Promotions/offers
- Do something other than sports?! It's ok I don't need to use the baseball diamonds
- Closest one is at a busy high school and it's not a convenient location to take my young children.
- More playground equipment for various ages. In Williamsburg the park is way too small and I am reluctant to take my 2 and 4 year old as there are always too many kids who play extremely aggressively. There are simply too many people trying to use the equipment
- We live on Parkvale Dr. The street is too busy to play in the front yard.
- In Williamsburg we currently do not have a community centre so it's difficult to spend time in many of these places when the development has not yet happened. For example, the new recreation center has not yet been built but I anticipate once it is completed my family and I will spend a lot of time in this location.
- Need more recreation opportunities for youth- pre-teen and up. I'd love for my son to spend more time outdoors in the neighbourhood. Basketball nets, outdoor chess, skate parks would be good.
- There currently aren't any in the neighbourhood.
- More publicity about sporting events, timing/schedule and cost
- Closer location
- Stage of life - post kids, pre grand-kids.
- There are no suitable facilities nearby.
- Throw an event I was interested in going to
- Too many homeless, drug users. Police don't care.
- Well the front yard view is not ideal so more trees or less construction
- Likely not much, no interest in what is offered there
- Be closer
- Not sure
- More signs to direct location of library. I know there is one close by but no clue exactly where.







- Probably nothing right now? I'd be more likely to go if I had children.
- Nothing. I'm a grown adult without children, thus playgrounds don't apply to me.
- My front yard is all garden
- Have one close by
- Make me feel like these spaces are for me.
- Free programs.
- Adult recreation leagues (we don't have children)
- Larger playgrounds (even just one really nice one in the city) would be great. One like Paris, Ontario has (Lion's Park) would be amazing.
- More free events
- Easier access for handicapped.
- Better lit pathways and trails, and clean pathways and trails free from needles and drug paraphernalia.
- I would love to see an ice skating rink (more for teens and families). More opportunities for public education (made more accessible).
- Build more public adult-friendly outdoor gyms
- Just not my thing
- I guess more programs that I would be interested in.
- More 18+ recreational activities
- Safer to cross and walk along Weber Street to get to them
- Neighbours to improve yards e.g. mow lawns, cut weeds
- If we had a playground /park in the neighbourhood, I would spend time at it.
- Nothing
- Majority of programs are geared towards retirees or families. Working singles seem to have been forgotten somewhere in the mix.
- My son is only 1 so a kite toddler friendly playground.
- I have two kids that love the park but the play structure is too small. We need more equipment for the amount of kids that use it.
- Don't forget marginal neighbourhoods cut off from the rest of the community -create linkages so we can feel connected to playgrounds, stores, parks and trails
- My kids ages?! Law says they can't be left alone and I can share the experiences of all of the other areas with them - so I do
- I don't feel particularly safe or comfortable in my front yard. Many cars have been broken into in our neighbourhood. Also, we live in an old neighbourhood but all of the trees in the front yard were cut down to make room for sidewalks on both sides of the street. So it is not a comfortable place to spend time.
- We also live beside a rental property which has changed renters at least 12 times in the 6 years that we have lived there. Some have been nice, others don't care about the property or the neighbourhood because they don't plan to stay long so they are not particularly friendly.
- Not a thing.
- I don't know anyone who plays a sport there and I don't play sports either.
- Run appropriate programming of interest

- We don't have any cafes or small shops directly in our neighbourhood. A change in zoning & policy to allow for more store front small business in residential neighbourhoods!
- No infrastructure, lack of sense of safety, lots of individuals experiencing homelessness, unsafe environment (needles)
- More walkable options. I live near Rockway Gardens and would love to see more restaurants, stores at this end of King Street. While I use the Iron Horse Trail, I can't convince my husband or change his perception about safety, cleanliness - similar with his perceptions about downtown Kitchener. Still more work needs to be done around police visibility on trails and changing hearts and minds re downtown.
- Be more culturally inclusive
- Make the working hours between 6 and 7 hours a day.
- Reduce the entrance fees.
- I don't know very many neighbours. I would like social opportunities to specifically meet other moms with similar aged kids
- I will not drive downtown Kitchener. The streets are all torn up with the LRT, the signage is brutal and no place to park when I finally wiggle my way through the craziness.
- Nothing
- Increase the number of events that have interest to me.
- Neighbourhood associations are not organized well
- We need space that is ours. We do not have a community garden. We have the firefighters park and Hibner Park. Our neighbourhood does not get enough neighbourhood attention -more city attention
- Have a Goodlife gym close to Doon south and a better grocery store. Things are far away.
- There isn't a lot in my direct neighbourhood. One tiny plaza.
- I will when my kids are older
  
- My family doesn't play sports anymore but did when the kids were younger.
- Nothing - it's too small
- We have none
- Not a huge sports fan
- More lighting, better security
- Skunks and coyotes keep me from using the trails
- We try to stay local as much as we can.
- More marketing? I don't know much about what goes on in these places. Maybe neighbourhood flyers, notices, or a neighbourhood email notification.
- There isn't one in our neighborhood unfortunately
- Ha! I have little interest in sports.
- Nothing
- Our neighbourhood does not have any of these spaces.
- I don't know of any in my neighbourhood
- I would have to quit my job so I would have time to go there lol.












- If programs didn't cost so much.
- My child would have to be more interested in sports
- Library, businesses out of the list above
- Proximity is an issue as there isn't one near by
- To make plaza more appealing with a variety of businesses.
- Grandchildren
- Well-advertised community events (potlucks, trading events, movie nights, campfires, holiday celebrations...)
- Not sure.
- More businesses would need to be built (it's coming on the corner of Lackner and Fairway)
- Have that in our area would be great.
- Too small
- Too many cars
- Not sure. I don't play many outdoor sports.
- Nothing. I have no reason to go.
- Remove the nets, to discourage people playing at all hours of the night.
- Make them child free - adult only
- My kids are still pretty young, this will probably change in the near future
- I'm sure this will change as my children are still young.
- Grandkids
- Not sure of the activities that go on there.
- When my children are old enough to play sports, I imagine I'll be there!
- If the programming and facilities met my needs and interests I would spend more time at community centres.
- Splash pad or more options for bigger kids in playground like basketball net etc. Mississauga City has one in close proximity to all neighborhoods.
- We moved from there and we miss it
- Better maintenance of the ponds and lakes.

## People in your neighbourhood








### 3. a) When was the last time you interacted with one of your neighbours?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Within the last week		84.3%	515
Within the last month		9.8%	60
1 - 6 months ago		3.6%	22
6 - 12 months ago		1.0%	6
Over a year ago		0.7%	4
Never		0.7%	4

### 3. b) What did you do with this person?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Said hello		41.4%	251
Worked through a conflict		16.8%	102
Helped out with a chore		9.4%	57
Met for coffee or a chat		9.1%	55
Spent time on a front porch		7.9%	48
Played a sport or recreational activity together		6.6%	40
Met at a festival or event		4.0%	24
Hung out at a public space such as a park		1.5%	9
Chatted while our children played		1.5%	9
Shared a meal together		1.3%	8
Other		0.7%	4

### 4. Think of a person or group in your neighbourhood that you admire or respect. What three things do you admire or respect about them?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Their creativity		55.7%	314
Their ability to make things happen		33.3%	188
Their skills: communication, leadership, organization, etc.		30.1%	170
Their helpfulness in caring for and supporting their neighbours		29.8%	168
Their knowledge and involvement in the neighbourhood		25.7%	145
Their ability to build relationships		20.7%	117
Other		9.8%	55













### Ideas for your neighbourhood

**5. The Neighbourhood Strategy Project Team, which includes volunteers and city staff, completed a series of exercises to identify characteristics of a great neighbourhood. Seven characteristics were identified and are being presented to the public for input. Pick your top priority.**

*Note: The following list represents the collective response of all participants who completed a survey.*

1. Safe
2. Connected
3. Inclusive
4. Engaged
5. Accessible
6. Diverse
7. Resilient

**6. Congratulations! You have a really great idea to make your neighbourhood better. If you need help with your idea, who will you reach out to first?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Other levels of government		40.3%	244
City of Kitchener staff		33.8%	205
Neighbourhood associations		30.2%	183
Faith or cultural group		23.3%	141
Non-profit or social service organization		19.8%	120
Service club		12.4%	75
City Councillor		7.4%	45
Neighbours		7.1%	43
Friends		5.4%	33
Family		3.5%	21
I wouldn't ask for help		2.5%	15
Other		1.7%	10

# Engage Kitchener Neighbourhood Strategy Ideas Forum

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- The ideas forum had 503 visitors during a 4 month period from May to August 2016.
- 99 ideas were submitted.

## **Ideas for your neighbourhood**

### **1. Do you have a great idea to make your neighbourhood even better? It could be a new or improved place, event, program or initiative. Describe the idea and how the city could help you make it happen.**

- The City is putting a lot of thought, time and money to promote urban living. It is a difficult sell however if there is little thought given to the ability of the residents to enjoy their properties. The traffic noise in many areas is unceasing and interferes with a sound sleep. The dust from the emissions is constant, and it makes it difficult to mingle with neighbors on the other side of the street. I would love to see some attention given to this, because I think living in an urban area is great for the most part.
- As the city is part way through the big budget LRT program, my daughter can't get a bus without a 45 minute walk from our house. I'm not exaggerating. We don't live in the country. We're a five minute drive to Conestoga. Yet there is no bus that comes anywhere near our Foxbrook Crt house on a regular schedule. It makes the prospect of a social life or getting a job impossible for teens unless they drive, which mine doesn't. I couldn't believe it when we first moved to this house. I thought there must be some mistake that there's 'no way out' of the neighbourhood for kids. Before completing LRT, finish supporting neighbourhoods waiting for transit now. This is more in line with KW'S vision of getting people out of their cars and onto transit.
- Drive into Kitchener on King Street East and look around with fresh eyes, as if you're not from this city. You will notice a preponderance of tattoo parlours, used car lots, social services, vacant buildings and unkempt, sketchy storefronts. What does this drive up King Street East communicate to visitors about our city? And for residents of Kitchener, does the vista along this drive succeed in instilling pride of place in our city? As residents, the desire to connect with others in our own neighbourhoods and take ownership in what happens in our community starts with feeling proud of the city we live in, as a whole. An attractive and welcoming entrance to the city (a gateway) will help us feel proud of Kitchener, our home.
- I would like to see Biehn Green turned into a parkette. It currently is overgrown with weeds and brush and not useable or attractive. I'm sure there are knowledgeable people

who could design and recommend a low maintenance garden that incorporates a seating area.

- I live in the Huron Rd / Biehn Dr area and find it lacking a playground. I would like to see a playground added in Brigadoon park. I like the idea of a natural playground like the one in the Huron Natural Area.
- I live at Doon South. this community is getting busier without enough park and playgrounds. Kids plays on the street, there is not any play ground in this neighbourhood that children can play. Every day at least 10 children play in my backyard..... WE NEED SAFE PLACE FOR OUR CHILDREN
- A foot path at the south end of Grenville where it ties to train tracks, up to Ottawa St south and the LRT stop. Residents willing and wanting to be a part of the addition :)
- Each year the St Petersburg Optimist hold a community breakfast, for families this is very well supported and donations go back to the community. We could have games, children's face painting etc. to make it a family event. Location could be a community center close to a park.
- I would like to see different forms of affordable and accessible housing encouraged. This ranges from non-profit housing that is sponsored by governments, loan policies that enable groups of ordinary citizens to build co-housing for example, housing that may be legislated by government in high rise developments, lower development fees that allow home owners to build apartments in their existing homes, zoning by-laws and research that encourage house sharing, Habitat for Humanity ownership type housing and private non-profits like Menno Homes, research into small houses. and concern and design for public space. Let's tap into the creativity of our citizens, along with enabling city planning.
- For residents in older neighbourhoods, the tree canopy can be a bit of a concern. Mature trees are an important part of the neighbourhoods. However, many are aging and dying around the same time which could mean a huge loss of trees in a short period of time. Perhaps neighbours could get together to fund raise for a tree fund of sorts. Then when a neighbour feels the need to cut down an old tree, she can use some funds from the tree fund to mitigate the costs of purchasing and planting a new tree. This can serve as a motivator to replace any trees as they are lost to age and disease.
- I pay municipal taxes. While I do own a car, do people who do not drive car subsidize our roadways to a large extent?
- I use a pathway regularly summer and winter.
- Similar to the car share, except a pool of tools, including lawn care equipment, snow blowers, tree pruning tools, saws (electric and otherwise) drills, etc. People pay a nominal fee to use the tools, administrated (potentially) by the neighbourhood association or available on the honour system. Could have community workshops to teach people with few skills how to use the tools (skills sharing).
- Since the Doon South area is ever expanding, it would be great to see more swings at the park located on Thomas Slee Drive and possibly soccer nets or a splash pad. The park is always busy in the evening and these items would get used.
- Sandhills Park has lots of young families, but the park has a tiny playground with no swings. It would be nice to have something more. Also a few lights in the park would

make it feel safer. One or two more garbage cans, repaving the broken paths, and trimming the dead and falling trees would be great. The park could support a wonderful naturalized playground with a little imagination.

- Recycling bins as well!
- Speed humps on Trico and Watch Hill Ln
- As KW is a tech community both young and old can contribute to building open source projects which benefits the community at large. If the White House can have Christmas Tree lights coded by Students why not students and the entire community contribute to contributing an entire line of code for lighting our city's Christmas tree.
- In order to socialize and get to know your neighbors, nothing is better than to join for a cup of coffee or tea. A community centre where parents socialize with each other while their kids play together.
- "Kitchener needs city sanctioned and operated adult sports leagues for Soccer, Ultimate, Flag/Touch Football, Baseball/Softball, etc. Waterloo has operated CARL (Community Adult Recreation Leagues) for many years and has been very successful. Why doesn't kitchener have something similar? I am a Rec and Leisure grad and would personally manage and operate this initiative for the city.
- Much is said about obesity rates and that people need to spend more time outdoors. Right now the only adult sport leagues in Kitchener are privately run and many are not beginner-friendly and are dominated by teams that have played in them for years. If the city were to offer leagues, I believe that many people would have interest, especially if they were overseen by a facilitator to help with conflicts.
- Can we create better signed bike routes throughout the city? There is a lack of signage and it's hard to tell where the trail goes and what it connects to.
- This is a great north-south trail linkage within the City of Kitchener, but it's so difficult to cross Ottawa Street in this location. It's not safe. Can a pedestrian refuge island be installed here for easier crossing? If we want more people to use Kitchener's trail system, we need to place a stronger focus on trail-road crossings... not just stop controls on the trail itself (i.e. stop sign, bollard, etc.) but actual improvements within the road right of way (i.e. pavement markings, refuge islands, etc.). This improvement alone would make a lot more people feel comfortable navigating through the City.
- There is an underutilized traffic circle here that is covered in grass. It could be a great spot for a community garden or other public amenity. It is also right along a trail that leads to Wilson Park and also Fairview Mall.
- Build a world class outdoor basketball court. With new NBL team looking to play out of The Aud and a perfect space currently used as a staging point for construction equipment and parking area, this seems like a great opportunity.
- I do as much as I can, but I back on to greenspace, and the side is a wetland marshy area. Near Springmount Park and Lackner Woods. I have documented much of the native species and the invasives and some wildlife with pictures. That said, I have all I can handle keeping the invasives from invading my property. I have managed to keep the reeds from spreading, and the loosestrife, garlic mustard, grapevine but the coltsfoot and horsetail may be winning. I do try to keep up on the grapevine in the area. I am not

winning. I would be better training and teaching so people are aware and could assist :). I was considering a day for the Garden Kitchener Members to come out and assist...

- This program would get more support if it was available to people who live in apartments. Country Hills is now loaded with apartment buildings that have no access to green bins. Community Centres, small plazas. Limiting access from say 5pm the evening before morning pickup. I currently bring my compost to a friend's house or my daughter's house and it's very inconvenient but I do it.
- I would like to see no smoking signs/reminders of the legislation next to the splash pad and playground. Too many people are smoking within 20m.
- I would also like to see more signage for pedestrian crossing along the park. Motor vehicles are never stopping for pedestrians crossing and people can end up waiting 5-7 mins before there is a reasonable break in traffic or until one car decides to stop."
- A park that meets the needs of the community. Williamsburg has Max Becker Commons that has inadequate playground (not enough and none if which is designed for younger children) and it lacks shade even though the Region has a shade policy.
- The Sunrise community as a whole lacks adequate indoor infrastructure as well, the Community centre is rented office space and the closest library (Forest Heights) is across the highway and major roads thus making it inaccessible to school children.
- The Sunrise area as a whole is wholly underserved given its young family demographic.
- This area has the potential to be a community IF the city would prioritize infrastructure to meet its needs.
- Ideas: Address immediate outdoor underservicing at Max Becker Commons: Install mature trees to comply with Region's Shade Policy directive and address inadequate playgrounds for the area's youngest members (Breithaupt Centre has an outdoor play structure designed for ages 2-5 which would be perfect for Williamsburg).
- It would be nice to have a survey for the young part of the population too. Young professionals are arriving here and noticing that the city feels more like a family oriented city. Makes you feel bad when this is not your lifestyle. Cities that have more suburban neighbourhoods than urban ones tend to separate people and discourage youth from living there. I think it may be interesting to hear what the youth has to say on this.
- I walk to work every day and notice that on King St there are often cleaning machines on the sidewalk. The sidewalks are almost clean already and the trash that is there can be picked up manually. Is there really a need for these imposing gas guzzling machines?
- Is there a way to encourage the vendors at the farmer's market not to automatically hand out plastic bags? Could some ads also encourage buyers to bring their own bags?
- Restriction of houses in residential areas being able to be run as boarding houses.
- We live in a highly populated neighbourhood. Our local playground is always packed with families. We have one table with four seats at our playground. It would be nice in the summer to have some extra picnic tables around for the families to utilize. We also have a baseball diamond in the same park that would benefit from tables as well. There is also a seating shelter at the playground (a small brown hut with benches and a table), that the kids are not able to sit at because the table was built too wide in it, the kids can't

sit on the benches. I think this shelter would get utilized more if the table was either made smaller, or removed completely.

- I would love to see garbage cans at the trail entrances around the city. We live near Victoria hills community centre (Gzowski Park) and Filsinger Park. Both get a lot of traffic, but there is no place to put garbage on walks through the trails. Also at Filsinger Park, it would be nice to have a couple extra rest benches in shaded areas for the elderly walkers. I believe there are two benches near the bridges and both are in full sun spots. Not a very nice spot to rest on a hot day.
- Currently there is no splash pad in Stanley Park. We have to travel out of our neighbourhood to go to one. There are a ton of kids in this area that would benefit from a splash pad.
- I know dogs do not like the Heat. And some people cannot afford air conditioning. I think it would be a great idea 2/2 places dogs can go for a swim. Without having to be on a leash.
- Currently there's a stretch of Joseph St. which is being crossed by pedestrians going to the parking lot from the tannery almost constantly. It's a very dangerous situation, but human behavior is what it is. We need a dedicated crosswalk for these workers so that they have a better option than trying to cross unsafely.
- As the city will keep growing, parking will need to become more scarce if we want to keep it a vibrant community. Parking lots are usually not what make a city more interesting. If we wanted to have two cars instead of one imagine how much parking would eat up the city. There are alternatives to cars, like trains and buses.
- As a daycare provider and a mum, I would find our small local parks more enjoyable if they had a small play structure for the toddlers...most of the parks only have a large climber and slide designed for the older kids so the little ones are stuck with a baby swing or eating sand!
- There are a number of home daycare providers, including myself, who frequent the small local parks in our area on a daily basis. With 4 or 5 children in tow, it is more manageable to walk to these areas. On hot days we discuss how wonderful and convenient it would be to have a small splash area where we don't have to worry about large crowds and big spaces where we can't see all the kids running between the playground and splash area. Even a simple pole with one sprayer would keep the kiddies happy and cool! Our fave spots are Charles Best and Highland courts
- I have heard of those cob ovens and thought it was a great idea for a shared space. I'd get in touch with the group who helped build those ones. We even have fire brick to donate. I'd be prepared to contact city and community officials for funding and to help organize fundraising ventures to support the park.
- I have an idea of more green space for children to play, natural play grounds like what we have at the Huron Nature trails with big Canadian maple leaf you trees. And then in places where more green space is not an option speed bumps put on the roads to slow speeders down because our children play basketball hockey and bike along the road. It only takes a split second for something terrible to occur if a child cannot move out of the way fast enough and joy riders are speeding and not in control.
- Speeding in the Doon South area is a major concern. Not stopping @ stop signs is also a serious problem.

- "There is a large land lock park off of Stoke Drive, and is bordered by the CN Rail Line. It has a ball diamond and one basketball court, along with a tunnel connecting the Westvale area of Waterloo and the Northern portion of the City of Kitchener. This area has room to added a dog park, and with talking with the neighbors, with dogs, and there are many, would agree it would be a good addition to the neighborhood. Please consider this.
- Many new developments are being built with only one space for a car and the street parking is woefully inadequate. We would just love to be able to have TWO family members visit from out of town at a time.
- I live on the north side on River and just off of Manchester and it is a daily struggle to turn left at or go through River Rd coming from Manchester. Currently there is just a two way stop sign for vehicles on Manchester. The problem is there is a T-Intersection where Krug meets River Rd nearby with a dominance for vehicles on River and all of the right-turning traffic from Krug is forced to make right turns on a red light on to River heading in the direction of Manchester since the light is dominantly red. With each vehicle coming to a stop before turning, it creates a bottle neck at Krug and then a stream of vehicles spaced apart but not spaced enough to turn left between them from Manchester or go through the intersection and the bottle neck ensures there is a non-stop stream of vehicles. It also doesn't help that some drivers forget how yielding the right of way works at a two way stop. If I'm turning left at River and an oncoming vehicle approaches the intersection with the intent of going through, I know that I need to yield to them but many drivers sit and wait thinking I have the right of way for some reason as if it was a 4-way stop. I know I can't educate other drivers, but the habit that seems to have developed has delayed me so many times and nearly on a daily basis. I have also seen many near-miss collisions as a result of a drivers not familiar with stop-sign rules. I think we need to save drivers from themselves as unfortunate as that sounds. The bottom line is that River road is just too busy for a popular access road to only have a stop sign to control it. A roundabout would be a good idea here as there is enough staggered traffic heading west on River to allow access to vehicles approaching from the south on Manchester which would help slow the eastbound traffic which tend to speed in the 50km/h zone through the green space on River.
- I agree. I live a 10 minute bike ride from Downtown and miss so much. I have been lucky enough to 'stumble' upon some events that I didn't even know were going on and enjoyed them very much. I search for them on the Event Calendar but quickly get frustrated when I can only browse day by day and most events are sporting events.
- As it stands now, you can have fun without alcohol everywhere. Sure everyone can have fun without alcohol and the purpose here isn't to say that people need alcohol to have fun. It just provides an option. I can have fun without a drink very easily, but sometimes maybe I wouldn't mind hanging out in public while enjoying a beer but right now I can only do that at a licensed patio. Most times at a restaurant I don't have a drink, but sometimes I do. It would be nice to have that 'sometimes' option while hanging out and enjoying our community with a few friends. If you're worried about people drinking excessively, there are still public intoxication laws. Plus there isn't much difference from someone consuming too many drinks in a park or consuming too many

drinks at a bar and walking through a park. I think if people respected the freedom, it could work just as it works in Montreal.

- I am fully behind this idea. I have chosen to take a greener approach to getting around the city and have discovered a variety of bicycle trails and pathways. I find there is a great trail system that runs along the bottom on Wilson that I can access from King and Montgomery area and then come up Vanier to get access to Fairway, but when I first tried this, it was all blocked off to everyone. I'm not a huge ion supporter and figured our buses weren't busy enough to warrant Light Rail Transit, so I was pretty disappointed to learn that the ion was going to take away a great trail and access. I commute often to Ayr by bicycle and that access would save me a few kms.
- Springmount Bush had a lovely trail now only a couple feet wide. The areas are covering in grapevine, common reeds, liatris, buckthorn and horsetail. Native plant materials are in decline. There is so much nature- animals and types of trees, natives, invasives, swampy area, nice walking bush vs a thick brush... The huge number of native plants (or are they weeds- eye of the beholder). It would be a great teaching area for nearby schools. An understanding of what the neighbourhood can do to take care of their green areas. Even if all the kids or visitors had a pair of cutters along the side of the bush and cut back the grapevine....
- It would be great to have a splash pad at Weber park
- Breakdancing competitions or dancing groups all ages all you need is space and a slippery surface.
- In Country Hills, we have a trail that runs from the community centre, up past Glen Carin School, down through Rittenhouse Park, behind Blessed Sacrament School and ending just shy of the community centre again. This path is full of stones and dirt. Kids try to ride their bikes, but they have difficulty. Seniors avoid this trail because of the uneven ground and I personally don't use it because I hate rocks in my shoes. It would be better utilized if it was paved and lit at night.
- This park has very little equipment and a huge, unused green space. It would be great to add some more equipment and develop the green space into a sports field, picnic area, maybe a communal firepit/cob oven, or even a splash pad. There are many families within walking distance who would make good use of this space.
- I have heard future garbage collection will be reduced to every second week but I think limiting the number of bags per week would be a better idea. After one week my garbage starts to smell and I don't have a place to store it without animals tearing it to shreds. If the number of bags was limited to 2 bags a week that would make more sense than the current 10 bag limit.
- Exactly! I grew up wishing I could live in such a city as those they have in Europe or Asia where the city seems so alive, because there is so much space for people to walk about. I don't see why we couldn't have this here. So many people go to visit those cities in Europe, because they have built a reputation for being very pedestrian friendly. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to have this without needing to travel?
- That would be great! Having seen other cities where these exist in parks, I was seeing much more people outside and active. It would give another option than gyms that would make it more accessible to everyone and motivate passersby.

- Kitchener is a great city with lots of outdoor parks but for years I have taken note of the lack of outdoor adult physical fitness areas! Easy to integrate into our already wholesome parks, some kinetic workout stations would be amazing. Requiring only the weight of the user in place of traditional weights, these outdoor workout areas would prove durable and attractive. For example, a metal step attached to an adjacent lever mechanism whereby the user holds onto a bar at waist height and simulates dumbbell curls by applying force to the stationary bar which in turn applies pressure to the step causing it to lower. There are various designs using this concept. Another attractive idea stems from the increasing interest in outdoor obstacle courses such as events like tough mudder, I have noticed in Waterloo and now the Huron natural area that we have begun creating natural playgrounds, this is the right idea. If we could incorporate varying ideas into the construction of these playgrounds they would simulate obstacle courses, and given the proper size deter young ones from attempting them. As tax payers we deserve some fun too! These ideas will fuel teens and adults to take on new challenges and revamp interest in physical fitness among those confined to video games or the television. Get up and get out! Let's make it happen.
- Bikers have no room on the road on Westmount, nor do the walkers like the bikers on sidewalks.  
Also, patch up potholes and ruts on all streets where bikers need to ride
- Please continue to support neighbourhood spring clean ups by providing gloves, bags and especially garbage pick-up. Our neighbourhood does this every year and we love it. After a couple hours of picking up garbage, we all gather for a potluck lunch/bbq at a neighbour's property. Its lots of fun and a great way to get to know each other.
- If you travel through Europe, you will find many of these areas that are "car-free", but packed with people. I was recently in Istanbul and very much enjoyed walking down a very long street that was car free, lined with restaurants, entertainers and shops...and full of people enjoying it all! Several years ago I was fortunate to spend time in Madrid and noted the same thing -- many streets for people only and there were many of us enjoying this space! We really need to reduce our love affair with cars in KW!
- When our road (Strange Street) was being rebuilt a few years ago I spoke with the planners about installing traffic calming and was told that this street is a route used by fire trucks, thus traffic calming is not possible. In order to build relationships between community members and neighbors, it has been proven that "calmed" streets encourage engagement. I have a front porch on my house but since I've lived there (11 years) nobody in my household has used it for anything but storage; we sit on our back deck where we don't see or engage with our neighbors much. We don't sit in the front because it isn't interesting to watch cars race by. We have a rail crossing on Strange and often guys with hot cars will race over those tracks giving them a "rise" but creating a hazardous environment for children and noise for the rest of us. All that to say that traffic calming would be really helpful!
- I live on a cul-de-sac and would love to see one in the middle of our circle. A strip of wild flowers around the exterior could quell aesthetic concerns. Since our street is in an 'old growth forest' the island gets the most sun and would allow residents to participate in gardening. There is also a green space down the street that is near a low income co-op

residence that could be well-utilized for such an endeavour and still leave a full soccer pitch, ball diamond and open grass field. Country hills neighbourhood.

- The lane markings on Lackner Blvd where it tops the hill at Ebycrest need to be painted so there is a bike lane on both sides, not just one. It is extremely dangerous the way it is now with the disappearance of the north-east lane as it tops the hill.
- We need an Olympic-size pool, such as the Waterloo Recreation Centre, in the newly-developing area east of Stanley Park and bordering the Grand River
- Facilitate the sharing of food in neighbourhoods in order to tackle food waste. It would be great to have some interface online or on an app to inform us of someone trying to get rid of some excess food. It could be done through trading like some people are doing with Bunz.
- It would be nice if there were areas in Kitchener that were zoned for small scale urban agriculture. Not everyone can afford farm land. Not everyone can live far away from their jobs. Many people however would love to keep chickens, mini goats, bees or other urban agricultural livestock. If there were an area zoned as small scale agricultural people who wanted these things would be able to purchase land with neighbors who see the value in such things and who are doing the same thing themselves. I think a building company could make a fortune offering this option with a small house on a larger lot, a small barn instead of a 2 car garage and a general store at the community gate where locals could sell their excess produce or products. It would also help keep the rural history of Kitchener alive in the modern world.
- There is a pond at this corner that is an eyesore. It would be nice if it could be cleaned up, have a fountain in the middle and have running water circulating in/out. This will eliminate the scum/algae on the surface and promote a natural looking environment, attract birds, plants/grasses, will grow. Will look very attractive.
- The air quality in Kitchener is bad enough with the wood burning done in fire pits and pizza ovens. If air quality improved, people could actually be outside in the summer months and get to know their neighbours instead of being stuck in their houses with all the windows closed. Even the dogs stink to high heavens after going out only to pee.
- Stop the burning, and burning garbage. People do NOT abide by the times of burning as it smells all day long any day of the week. When calling in to complain, we need to provide an address and when there are over 10 known fire pits in the neighbourhood you cannot know which it is nor can go outside to figure it out so bylaw does nothing.
- The reasons for banning public drinking in cities often come from outdated laws that were put in place because of social problems seen in certain cities at a certain period in time ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/14/public-drinking-laws\\_n\\_4312523.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/14/public-drinking-laws_n_4312523.html)). I'm surprised in a part of the world sharing so many different cultures that laws are not made to reflect different ways of life. Many people travelling here or moving here may be surprised by these strict laws. Countries where public drinking is legal are not necessarily places that are noisy, dangerous or alcoholic. Germany, Japan, France are some of these.
- I completely support designated crossings along the hydro corridor path. Fence posts have already been installed along the path which indicates that it will be completely blocked. People in the surrounding neighbourhood will likely be forced to cross dangerously if proper crossings are not created, and if they are unable to cross their

access to shopping and services will be hindered. Please consider connecting Kingsdale with the Fairway strip and further improving walkability with a paved, lit, trail.

- I think that this is a great idea. I think that we're ready as a society to be ok with people drinking responsibly in public. Not only would I enjoy this myself, it would also be good to have spaces for those who have nowhere to go to drink to do so without harassment from police. Policing alcohol consumption seems a frustrating and fruitless endeavour at best. If people can drink responsibly without shame and harassment this will make our neighbourhoods more inclusive.
- With the further development of the LRT in the Fairview park area, it is evident that there will no longer be easy or suitable access for pedestrians to cross from Traynor to Fairway. Since there is a lot of low income housing, this direct path allowed ease for access to groceries, restaurants, services, and lots of other various vendors. The development of the LRT is going to take this convenience away from a lot of people who may not have access to a vehicle.
- I propose the city looks at investing a single or multiple footbridge(s) to link Traynor to Fairway. It does not necessarily need to go the entire length. Simply above the LRT tracks. It seems like a lot of these businesses would benefit from the increased traffic as well. While this trail was initially closed, several businesses were forced to shut their doors. A project like this could have a huge positive impact on the community. Possible locations for a footbridge could include McDonald's (666 Fairway Rd) to 301 Traynor parking lot. 560 Fairway Rd to 260 Traynor Ave, or Balfour trail to 500 Fairway Rd. All of the listed vendors and locations already have footpaths and access for pedestrians. A project such as this could become a landmark for tourists in the distant future. Help bring more business to the small and large businesses on fairway. Overall, it would help bring the community in these neighbourhoods closer together.
- Where would you like to see advertisements about local events? It would be nice to have them at intersections that have a lot of pedestrian traffic. I think they should be made as visible as possible. It would be nice to have posts that are easily recognizable that would have either a map with nearby local shops, museums, schools, etc. or arrows pointing to the directions to get to these. (I believe these will be especially useful for newcomers or people visiting the city during festivals)
- In order to help strengthen local communities and welcome new neighbours wouldn't it be interesting to have Neighbours day more often? Possibly every month or 2. I think this would be good at a time since the city is seeing growth and it will help the city grow without losing its local community feel and make it more vibrant with time.
- Great project! I think this is very needed in our community.
- Homeless in Waterloo is a social project that provides an opportunity for our community to connect with people who are experiencing or who have experienced homelessness through their photos and stories. By having this connection made online, it allows our community members to offer support at their own pace, on their own time, and at a level they are comfortable with. So many great stories in the Waterloo Region end up untold because no one took the time to ask. Homeless in Waterloo aims to bridge the gap between the community and people experiencing homelessness. We are a growing project and would really appreciate your support, whether it's by liking our page, sharing our project with our community or by reaching out to us to partner and work together!

- Would be great for bike paths as well
- Agencies that provide non-profit affordable housing have limited resources and therefore reduced access to land that would be ideally suited to create new housing. A land bank that would set aside property for non-profit housing could help to address this.
- Also, inclusionary zoning that would require a certain percentage of new developments to include affordable housing would help to integrate this housing into neighbourhoods, which is healthier than creating large concentrations of one type of housing.
- In the area I live, it's still developing with new houses and I hope that with new houses being built, that more parks will be built.
- I think that we need to build a boxing ring in our cities so that me and others can practice the sport we love
- Have a park in the middle of the neighbourhood that everyone can go to. It can be a place to rest, look at nature and hang out with friends in your neighbourhood
- More trees on streets would allow for more privacy within the neighborhood, it would also aesthetically be more appealing.
- With this people can share gardens and plant what they think will look good. There can also be gardens with vegetables and the fresh crops can be used by families or people who do not have access to food at all times.
- Get more garbage cans
- Bike lanes
- Make walls for people to put graffiti on instead of them vandalizing. Make a wall for them then every once and a while when it gets filled up just white wash it
- The path to Tim Hortons on highland near the roundabout is really bad to walk on, you basically get hit by a car every time you walk along there
- Big bonfire or bbq
- Just a place to relax & hangout. Couches, tables, Wi-Fi.
- I enjoy the trails, but there was no trail going to my direction. Rather I walked through a street that has calming bumps to slow down automobile traffic. It was a shorter way to my destination, and a beautiful warm sunny day with less traffic. Would you welcome more pedestrians and perhaps cyclists on your street, as a way to slow automobile traffic?
- Reasonable to have regulations, like daytime and early evening hours only
- A lot of people use my street to get through the neighbourhood. This results in people speeding. There are a lot of kids in the area and we're right by a couple schools so it makes me very nervous. Also, not as big of a concern, but it's obnoxiously loud, especially when you're trying to sleep with the window open on a hot night. Finding a fun way to get people to slow down would be awesome. Like those cool road paintings, or something else.
- neighbours put together information and treats to welcome to people to the neighbourhood
- Even as an adult I have had great hot dog roasts, popcorn and sing songs in a camp/retreat setting with benches in a circle around a camp fire pit. Can this be duplicated in a city setting? There may be safety issues, although there may be ways

around this concern. Residents, for example, with big back yards are allowed this amenity. Kitchener allows cob ovens in a community setting.

- Clear pathways of snow and ice during winter time.
- Accessible winter pathways: Clear pathways of snow in winter making them accessible year round
- Have pathways cleared of snow in winter
- Right. I'm really surprised it hasn't been seen as an asset to the city. Such buildings are a rare sight nowadays.
- That house could make a neat museum, art gallery, or community centre. It's a shame it's been so neglected for so long.
- Also crossings should not be right at the roundabout. Should be set back from intersection to allow better flow of traffic and with crosswalk lights for pedestrian safety.
- I would like to see actual sod in Foxglove Park so that it can be a place where kids can run and play instead of a field where wild grass grows in tufts. I would also like to see the paths in the park and the adjacent Prosperity Trail paved so that there is not further erosion and washout.
- While touring Germany I noticed that they had colourful permanent paintings by children on the streets near elementary schools. This let drivers know that children often walked in these areas so they could change their speed and awareness accordingly. For example, one particularly meaningful and simple painting was of a turtle. I teach children at the Waterloo Region Museum and would be willing to help implement this throughout the Region in cooperation with elementary schools. Simple, beautiful, effective.
- Access to city trails during the winter: I live beside the Iron Horse Trail. It is great. I enjoy the trail more than the sidewalk route. Furthermore I walk to downtown Kitchener in 20 minutes (by cutting over to Victoria Park trails) and walk to uptown Waterloo in 30 minutes. The Iron Horse Trail is cleared of snow in winter so I have quick access all year round. Are any other city trails cleared of snow in winter?
- Designate protected zones within Kitchener which are in need of trees where local residents (retirees, gardeners, school children) can plant saplings collected from nearby trees at no cost to the City of Kitchener. Schools could create programs for kids to plant a tree each year. Trees could be tagged with something colourful and/or fun so the citizen could return to it to water, maintain, or view it. This would be slow to start, but within decades could grow the city into a forested region.
- The Manulife Parking Lot is a huge eye sore in the centre of the innovation district right beside the Tannery. Converting this into mixed use space with stores, a seating area (with greenery) and office space would make it a vibrant place for local professionals and community members.
- Large roundabouts should have flashing lights similar to crosswalks when pedestrians are crossing to make other vehicles more aware.
- As a newcomer to the city coming from a cosmopolitan city, I like to know about what is going on in the city during the week end or in the evenings. I found it a little difficult to find out about events going on nearby. I think this would give more visibility to local businesses and will help as the city will get bigger. It would be interesting to see more

advertisement for things local than for movies and products often coming from the U.S. not necessarily reflecting the local situation nor encouraging it.

- I myself rarely drink and I think it's very possible to have fun without alcohol, but I also think that it's possible for people not to overindulge and to trust that people will not drink in excess.
- It is time to take care of the dirty business that some dog owners neglect to scoop. Any dog walker caught without a poop bag should pay \$200 on the spot. If you don't have one, it is obvious you don't intend to scoop.
- So, we can't have fun without alcohol? Bad idea.
- Not a bad idea, issue free permits to artists who wish to display their work. Designate only one area in town. We could use a European style bazaar near downtown.
- It is time to clean up our parks and trails. More and more dog owners neglect to scoop after their pets. It is time to implement high penalties for offenders. In UK there is a law that any person walking a dog pays 100BP if caught without a poop bag. It is obvious, if you don't carry one, you are not going to clean up the dirty business. Let's follow a good example.
- With the arrival of the LRT downtown in the coming years, would it be possible to have more permanent car free zones downtown possibly between Duke and Charles? These zones could be used as public space for little markets and events.
- Are there any plans to do anything with the land in front of the 11 Margaret Ave. tower? It could be a good place for some low height apartment buildings where the ground floor would serve as retail space for cafés or boutiques or it could become a park.
- In order to facilitate access to events and encouraging people to meet and discover their neighbours, dedicate a public space (a park, community centre, etc.) in each neighbourhood which will serve as neighbourhood core. I think this could help in terms of cost since the fact that there would be a good concentration of people would help guarantee the benefits of investing in new events or local shops and may increase the chances of these surviving instead of closing down.
- In order to support the local artists and bring people together, wouldn't it be interesting to showcase some of the local art in parks, where people go to relax or take a walk and can enjoy seeing something new.
- It would be bring some life in the area. Perhaps by encouraging cafés or restaurants to settle nearby. Is there any plan to reuse the seemingly abandoned house at the intersection Queen St./Margaret Ave. could it not be rented to local businesses?
- It would be interesting to have a pilot to see if it would be reasonable to decriminalize drinking in a park (for example: Victoria park). There could be a law like in Montréal where you must have food while drinking and must drink in a dedicated space (for example: near the picnic tables). The goal here is not to encourage debauchery, but rather to bring people together and give another option than bars.
- This would let people make bbqs together and get to know each other
- I believe there is a plan approved to completely redo SWO park
- I would love to see the city create and administer a Public Mural Program that would support neighbourhoods who come together to paint a mural on public property (e.g. the

side of a community centre, a pumping station, along a paved trail). Pick any location that is boring, ugly or attracting graffiti - and paint it with a beautiful mural.

- Having more community garden spaces can allow neighbours to get together.
- Fire pits in parks that could be permitted to be used by the community.
- Fire pits that could be permitted to be used by the community.
- I would like to see benches around the playground at the SW Optimist Ball Park. I would also like to see a playground at the DPPCC.

# Engage Kitchener

## Draft Recommendations Survey Results (October to November 2016)





The purpose of the last community engagement campaign was to confirm what the community told us and to help prioritize the implementation of the Neighbourhood Strategy recommendations.

The following document provides a summary of the comments and priorities identified by the community.

- The survey had 1113 visitors during a 4 month period from May to August 2016.
- 258 surveys completed.

### Great Places

1. Which of these recommendations would have the biggest impact in supporting Great Places in your neighbourhood? You've got 10 dots to 'use' on the recommendations you think are most important and should be developed first.








			Response Percent	Response Count
Parks, Playgrounds & Trails Community Engagement		32.9%	32.9%	826
Neighbourhood Places Program		28.3%	28.3%	711
Tree Planting on Private Property		17.2%	17.2%	432
Placemaking Challenge		9.7%	9.7%	243
Placemaking Guide		9.1%	9.1%	228

2. Which of the following neighbourhood improvement projects would have the most positive impact on your neighbourhood? Note: The following list represents the collective response of all participants who completed a survey.

1. Neighbourhood Greening
2. Neighbourhood Markets
3. Public Seating
4. Resident-led Public Art
5. Little Libraries in Public Spaces
6. Neighbourhood Signage
7. Cul-De-Sac Enhancements







### **CONNECTED PEOPLE**

#### **3. Which of these recommendations would have the biggest impact in Connecting People in your neighbourhood?**



















		Response Percent	Response Count
More Neighbourhood Events		23.0%	575
Snow Angel Program		14.80%	371
Neighbourhood Website		14.10%	353
Event-in-a-Trailer		12.9%	322
Inviting Front Porches		10.5%	263
Block Connector Approach		10.5%	263
Community Spaces in Multi-Residential Buildings		10.4%	261

### **WORKING TOGETHER**

#### **4. Which of these recommendations would have the biggest impact to encourage Working Together in your neighbourhood?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Reduce Municipal Barriers		22.90%	568
Neighbourhood Matching Grant (increased funding)		18.80%	465
Neighbourhood Action Plans		17.7%	439
Neighbourhood Use of Schools and Faith-Based Facilities		16.3%	405
Neighbourhood Leadership Program		12.8%	318
Neighbourhood Demographic Profiles		8.0%	198

The following bar graph reports on all three themes (great places, connected people and working together) combined:

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Neighbourhood Demographic Profiles		8.0%	198

**5. Please share your thoughts and comments on any of the recommendations proposed in the Neighbourhood Strategy. We're all ears!**

- More conversation with community members.
- I am glad to see that the strategy involves horizontal efforts (neighbour to neighbour) in conjunction with vertical level efforts (reducing red tape). The sweet spot is where they meet.
- I believe some of the strategies must be adapted to the condo living. There are already some simple but effective examples under way that are worth exploring.
- I do not see an expressed attempt for inclusion of those at the margins which is problematic. Street people are as much part of our community as those who have a porch to decorate. So what will be our approach to their engagement? "
- I live in a Condo Based area of Kitchener that is growing drastically, I have many neighbors that are so friendly but we have no place or nothing to do in order to make our tiny community Friendly.
- My dream would be a Community (food) Garden in each neighborhood!! Better seating for local sports events like baseball); better seating EVERYWHERE for seniors. Adult Education made available in a variety of settings but closer to neighborhoods.
- In any of the recommendations, just a note to be always mindful of those not in the mainstream and ensure communication modes allow all to participate, if they want to.

- More recycling and green bins alongside garbage cans, please. It is also disappointing how early bins are removed from area parks - i.e. Weber Park, Brubacher Green
- Being able to adopt a park and work with the city to plant flowers and improve existing greenspaces would be great.
- Great results from a very collaborative process!
- Seniors who are trying to maintain some involvement in the neighbourhood activities or even just trying to get around need many more benches where they can stop to watch (at playground for example) or just stop to rest as they walk through the neighbourhood.
- In our Neighbourhood Association, we are implementing many of these items on our own already. It will be great to see even more support from the City while we build the capacity among our volunteers to help drive our neighbourhood forward.
- I love where this Neighbourhood Strategy is going!  
I think the Placemaking section is absolutely vital. In our neighbourhood, we have the greater area covered by the Neighbourhood Association, and at least three smaller distinct districts within that neighbourhood, so being able to recognize the differences, culture and pride within each district through placemaking will be important for us to engage more residents.
- I'm really concerned about demographics and how they would be used. I think these should be private not public except info that isn't problematic like age.
- A lot of these recommendations are very exciting. It's hard to understand the difference between the Neighbourhood Places Program and Parks Engagement.
- Adopt the European way of life. More common areas (piazzas) where people can come together for music, dancing, coffee, wine or beer. Or just to read or relax. There isn't enough things to do in this city. Just bars and restaurants. No culture. No cool exhibits, plays or theatre, great modern live music venues, and sports teams except the Rangers. This is 2016. Let's see a vision!!! Develop neighbourhoods where you can walk to something. If you want community you have foster it by giving people a reason to meet and speak to each other.
- Neighbourhood clean-up day! Opportunity to connect with neighbours...
- KW is an amazing city that brings the whole community together. Smaller neighbourhood events would help build neighborliness. That said with so many 2 wage earner families and the busyness of families, it is really hard to get to know your neighbour. Personally a dog and retirement helped me.
- Who owns the land across from Dare Cookies? This is my neighbourhood and I think this land could be put to good use. Give local residence the first shot at buying city owned land so developers can't gobble it all up.
- Create a mentorship program in neighbourhoods.
- I love the green space and woods near Kingsdale community centre but people are afraid to walk through the wooded areas. Bring back the book mobile! Bring services to where the people are. Have scheduled public health nurses and other professionals provide services in schools and churches. People feel safe going to a familiar building and it breaks down transportation barriers.
- My neighbourhood in the East Ward feels very connected - I think it is this way because the backyards are small and kids have to play on the street, people have to walk their

dogs, and the way the area was built lends itself to people running into each other.

There are also many events, but I don't like events so I don't go to them. I'd rather just say hi to people when they walk their dogs and run into them. Lots of people host neighbourhood events as well. I think if you want a neighbourhood feel, it takes effort from everyone to be open to it - otherwise you'll just spend a lot of money for nothing.

- Safer communities, particularly better lighting on trails is important. Many trails are poorly lit and scary to use at night or early morning.
- K. The neighbourhood website idea is fantastic. I would even download an app so I get notifications when a parent puts up a post about a crime in our area and to watch out for this or that. This is genius. Nobody has time for "action plans" we're all tied with our families and life. Not many care to be neighbourhood advocates on a physical level. But a website that relates to our community where people can post issues etc. is again genius. Other than that, let's get more splash pads going. They don't have to be a big project. Even a small one with less than a dozen jets would suffice. Any water is fun. Kids don't know the difference in quantity to that extent. Also having a seat near paths and trails would be great. Don't know how many times I go on a walk with my three kids and only want to take a break and have a seat to nourish the kids and catch a break. I think near walkways would be a great start.
- 1. Enable online feedback on physical upgrading, especially serious soil improvement of boulevards. Reconstruction projects seem to result in extremely low quality soil to replace well-established boulevards with healthy lawns, gardens, etc.
- 2. Institute a neighbourhood boulevard improvement publicizing/com commendation program. The intent of this would be to encourage volunteer enhancement of streetscapes.
- It is disappointing that there is virtually no mention of the existing Neighbourhood Associations. It seems the city has abandoned them to focus on more local 'ad hoc' groups. These groups are fine, but the NAs have a lot of experience that you are ignoring. I agree that reducing the red tape (or "barriers") is a great idea. And the fact you added "using schools and faith based facilities" points out the fact that the city has not built any new community centres in years despite the increase in population.
- We are a dual income no kids household that are adults but not seniors. There are few events ever inclusive for this demographic, everything is targeted for families with young children or seniors. Our property taxes include the school taxes and if we could reserve use of a gymnasium on a drop in basis during the winter months it would be nice to meet up with adult neighbours for a game of whatever or a group crafting activity, if the high schools or college have the facilities, the ability to use a wood shop or sewing machines, host a potluck on a large scale without excessive rental fees. Adults still like to learn - basic auto care, sewing, foreign languages for travel, book clubs, musicians jamming
- I think that if we can get neighbours talking to each other we would have very happy neighbourhoods. I think it would reduce the need for a lot of bylaws that are continuously challenged by residents that don't understand the meaning of keeping a caring and person oriented place to live. I like the Motto "Let's Talk"
- We live in a small neighbourhood with mixed ages. We have two schools that have great facilities that could be used to include families that do not have kids. I think this would be a good way to connect neighbours by using our schools to develop relationships with the local families through community supported events.

- Since we are near two schools traffic calming would be nice as well as no overnight street parking.
- Make connections more efficient in the neighbourhoods - Get rid of the steps on paths between streets. More bike lanes, bike paths beside busy roads. Make sure that the community centres are all easily reached by foot paths and bike paths.
- Make spaces where people can meet on the street - with benches, plantings, playframes, street chess, etc. Do this where people can buy food and drink. Light these spaces well and make sure that they are safe spaces.
- I like the approach. As a general item, I struggle with City driven research, especially online research as I believe it is not random or statistically accurate. Thanks for listening.
- Free space in community centres? Block Connector Approach and Snow Angel Program should be put together. Free use in use of schools and faith-based facilities? All of the Neighbourhood Places Program ideas are awesome!
- The Snow Angel program won't work as well as you think.
- I have a request. If the Neighbourhood Strategy could find a way to advertise themselves so that more neighbourhoods would know this strategy even existed, that would be great! Smiley face.
- Great strategy. I think building strong communities is important.
- Do them all!
- More public art within communities would be a good way to involve youth. More gardens would enhance the communities; volunteers could be used to care for them.
- I think that access to resources & municipal barriers are the biggest factors leading to the look of neighbourhood friendships/events.
- When we have limited funds to invest, we should find the biggest Bang for our buck. Investing in cul-de-sacs seems counter to this, as they are very closed off to those who don't live on the street, and are hard for the neighbourhood to stumble upon, or feel as welcome in as a more diversely trafficked area. Neighbourhood identity strengthening should also be done carefully, as it can come across as alienating to those who don't feel as engaged or welcome. CORE in Waterloo, and several of the neighbourhood associations, have made me feel unwelcome, as they tend to have strong voices pushing to keep new residents from being able to enter a neighbourhood, or for it to grow and change. Welcoming of outsiders, newcomers, renters, and those in new developments should be key parts of making neighbourhoods more welcoming.
- I think that in the Centreville area there should be a community book/library box.
- Banner ad - consider creating a banner ad for NA's to put on their websites to link to the webpage to order the activity trunk/trailer.
- Community board (info)
- Multi-residential areas need more effort. With a lack of home ownership and shared building there is a decreased feeling of ability to engage and create in these spaces/neighbourhoods.
- I believe we need to be involved more in neighborhoods.
- Please keep neighbourhood demographics in mind, i.e. do not base all neighbourhood programming and events around a niche group, even if they are a majority. This looks exciting and I am glad to see it!

- So many great ideas here. I'm in favour of expecting more from citizens (they got to organize stuff themselves) and regulating neighbourhood activities less. If neighbours know they won't get slapped on the wrist for taking action without going through a permit process, they can take better advantage of the many great ideas here.
- Neighbourly get-togethers - game nights - all included. Pot luck - Bring your own dishes/utensils etc. Bring your family favorite food - casserole/homemade dessert/ etc. Maybe you play a musical instrument and would supply music?
- Prioritize paying artists (in relation to resident-led art, events and matching grant)
- What does 'make it easier' mean? Policy or funding?
- What has the best opportunity to support more arts? Events and placemaking  
Adding more grants is great but can there be a consistent, single source for supporting arts?"
- I want my children to grow up knowing the members of the community and their neighbours, the same way my husband and I had when we were young. While respecting the need for privacy for some individuals, I want to know the people who live on our street... it takes a village to raise a child after all.
- I believe the action plans are a great opportunity for the city to help define the unique qualities of a particular neighbourhood while also ensuring the residents take ownership of the action items.
- It may be a bad idea to show demographics to a wide range of people. It may make them view a neighbourhood as belonging to a particular cultural group to which they don't belong. In this way, it may lead to more separatism than connection.
- It is troubling and AN OXYMORON to say what you have called the action items will take 3-5 years to implement WHAT? that is the example
- You should look at what festivals in the core do well and attract great numbers of people from NEIGHBERHOOD and work with them
- Stop using people's photos without credit
- I really like these suggestions and I'm excited to see what other residents think!
- Community Centres should be open on the weekends.
- Community garden markets are an important idea that will address a number of the strategy ideas- biggest bang!
- I am confused about the dots. Not sure what to do
- One of the biggest problems that I see with these neighbourhood initiatives is that they are often run by a small group of friends and they tend to be very exclusive (if you want to actually help rather than just attend events etc.). In theory lots of this stuff is great, but it fails in execution because the small group of friends tends to be myopic. For example, there was a new cross walk painted in my neighbourhood, they spent 1000s on it, but it did nothing. It is confusing to drivers, it doesn't look like a crosswalk, doesn't have any effective signage, doesn't match the crosswalk next to it. Furthermore, the city pays a crossing guard for that corner. It was a noble plan (safety!) but really poor results. I feel that giving more money to the neighbourhoods will result in more vanity projects like this, directed by a small group of people. Probably the most effective way to help communities is to have someone, employed by the city, to act as liaison, guiding planning and research, facilitating greater cooperation and resource sharing between

neighbourhoods, and to help process requests to the city. It will also ensure that areas without strong neighbourhood associations don't fall through the cracks or miss out on improvement opportunities because they don't have prime demographics (higher incomes, higher education, homeowners>renters).

- Year-round garbage bins
- DIY Bike Lanes (in relation to municipal barriers)
- Neighbourhood Leadership Program could feed advisory committees
- Snow Angel Program could be done via an app.
- The Leadership program should also have a youth component in it so that tweens and teens can get involved and be more "connected" to their "hood" in positive ways.
- The Block Parent program was always viewed as giving a "safe haven" to children who may feel fearful for whatever reason and having something similar in areas where children walk to school would be a valuable asset.
- I am a member of the Forest Heights Community Centre mixed choir, and we put on free concerts for the community at large. I know funding has been an issue this past session, so much so that the program is not being offered in the winter season. But we want to be part of Canada's 150th birthday and our Director, Dr Alfred Kunz, already has a concert concept planned out. We have our fingers crossed that the Community Association will support the program in the spring (April to June) but we are fearful that they may not agree to run the spring program. For FREE community events like this - there should be some way groups can access funding in order to continue.
- Snow angels- expand past snow shoveling, checking in on pets, picking up mail while away"
- Parks as third places of neighbourhood, natural hubs, building our community, ownership, relationship between City & neighbourhood, stronger collaboration.
- Community spaces in multi-residential - an extension of inviting, more to feel belong
- Signage - boundaries, seems exclusionary
- Playgrounds for adults (exercise equipment, etc.)  
go for those recommendations prioritized by broadest number of users, broadest community impact
- The greatest challenge we face in our neighbourhood is excessive traffic. This graphic is a pretty accurate picture of our relationships with people on our street:  
<https://safestreetstrategies.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/appleyard-3-grpahics.jpg> I'm sure many other neighbourhoods have this problem. Strategies for strengthening neighbourhoods need to include ways to reduce motor vehicle traffic on neighbourhood streets.
- Add shading to the public seating program. Need to consider parks in new neighbourhoods. Parks/playgrounds at schools.







## MASSIVE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS TO CREATE KITCHENER'S NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY

So many involved! **5,343 PEOPLE**  
That's one person for every three streets!

Really deep conversations! **3,842 HOURS** of input.  
That's like talking neighbourhoods for 160 days straight!

Lots of diversity! **145** different organizations  
and informal groups were consulted!

<p><b>LEMONADE!</b></p>  <p><b>1,308</b> people spent <b>65</b> hours drinking lemonade and completing a survey at 27 events.</p>	<p><b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTY!</b></p>  <p><b>400</b> people spent <b>1,000</b> hours talking neighbourhoods at our Neighbourhood Party.</p>	<p><b>STREET TEAMS!</b></p>  <p><b>1,093</b> people spent <b>182</b> hours being interviewed across the city at 86 locations.</p>	<p><b>FOCUS GROUPS!</b></p>  <p><b>408</b> people spent <b>408</b> hours participating in 35 focus groups.</p>
<p><b>ONLINE STUFF!</b></p>  <p><b>961</b> people spent <b>39</b> hours commenting online through a survey, ideas forum and on social media.</p>	<p><b>MEETINGS!</b></p>  <p><b>111</b> people spent <b>222</b> hours providing input at meetings with neighbourhood associations and other community partners.</p>	<p><b>PHONE SURVEY!</b></p>  <p><b>600</b> people spent <b>150</b> hours sharing their perspectives through a statistically-valid phone survey.</p>	<p><b>BRAINSTORMING!</b></p>  <p><b>134</b> people spent <b>268</b> hours identifying the red tape that limits people from acting on neighbourhood ideas.</p>
<p><b>PLACEMAKING!</b></p>  <p><b>310</b> people spent <b>620</b> hours testing and practicing placemaking at 9 different sites throughout the city.</p>	<p><b>TEAM EFFORT!</b></p>  <p><b>18</b> volunteers spent <b>888</b> hours guiding the creation of this strategy at 53 project team and subcommittee meetings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHAT DID WE HEAR?</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p><b>OVERALL =</b> YOU WANT easy-to-use city programs for <b>RESIDENT-LED ACTION</b> </p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p>YOU WANT more <b>GREAT PLACES</b> </p> <p>YOU WANT more <b>CONNECTED PEOPLE</b> </p> <p>YOU WANT everyone <b>WORKING TOGETHER</b> </p>	

Based on **YOUR INPUT**, the project team created a bunch of **RECOMMENDATIONS!** See them all at: