Exploring a Youth Centre in Kinsmen Park

What We Heard Report

Appendix A: Detailed Feedback by Participant Group

October 2026

About this appendix

This appendix accompanies the City of Leduc's *Exploring a Youth Centre in Kinsmen Park: What We Heard Report* (October 2026). The main report provides an overview of the public engagement process, including how we engaged, who participated and the key themes that emerged.

This companion document provides a more detailed look at the feedback received, organized into four participant groups. Each section explores the opportunities, concerns, trade-offs and advice shared with City Council, providing additional context and detail to the findings presented in the main report.

- **Nearby residents**: Feedback from people living in Corinthia Park, Alexandra Park and Linsford Park, with particular attention to neighbourhood impacts and how a youth centre could fit within the surrounding area.
- **Youth and young adults**: Feedback from participants ages 24 and under, sharing what young people need from the space, and what they want adults to understand.
- **Kinsmen Park users**: Feedback from people and organizations who use the park, including considerations related to existing recreation activities, park facilities and future needs.
- **Broader Leduc community**: Perspectives from community members across Leduc on the potential location, City investment, ownership and operations and long-term community needs.

A note about participant groups: These categories may overlap. For example, someone may be both a nearby resident and a Kinsmen Park user. The groupings are intended to highlight different perspectives and should not be interpreted as completely separate groups of participants. The findings describe perspectives shared within each group and do not necessarily reflect the views of everyone in that group. Where percentages are presented, they reflect the survey respondents who answered the relevant question. Because survey groups may overlap, their results should not be added together.

What's inside

What we heard from nearby residents **4**
- Comfort with a youth centre in Kinsmen Park 4
- Opportunities identified by nearby residents 4
- Questions, concerns and trade-offs 5
- Support for City investment 6
- What would help the youth centre fit within the neighbourhood? 7
- Advice to City Council 8

What we heard from youth and young adults **9**
- Comfort with a youth centre in Kinsmen Park 9
- Opportunities identified by youth 9
- Questions, concerns and trade-offs 10
- Support for City investment 10
- What would make the youth centre easy to get to? 11
- What youth want adults to understand 12
- Advice to City Council 13

What we heard from Kinsmen Park users **14**
- Comfort with a youth centre in Kinsmen Park 14
- Opportunities identified by Kinsmen Park users 14
- Questions, concerns and trade-offs 15
- Support for City investment 16
- Advice to City Council 17

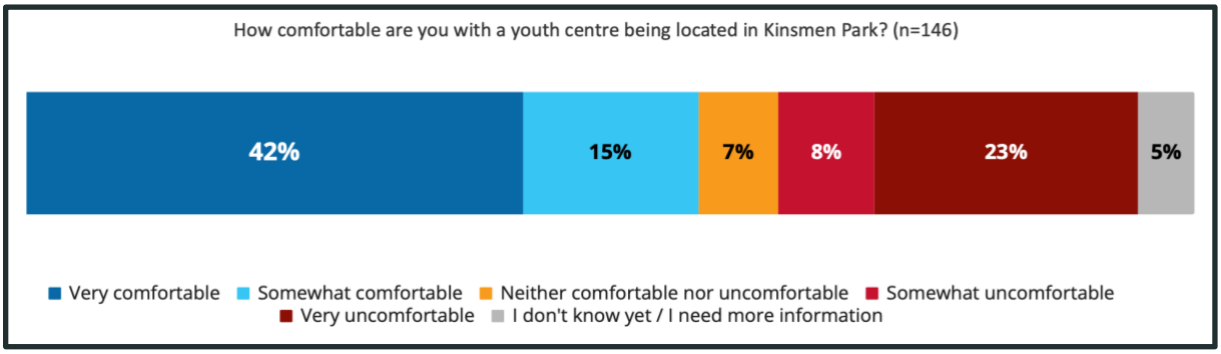
What we heard from the broader Leduc community **18**
- Comfort with a youth centre in Kinsmen Park 18
- Opportunities identified by broader community participants 18
- Questions, concerns and trade-offs 19
- Support for City investment 21
- Advice to City Council 23

What we heard from nearby residents

This section summarizes feedback categorized as coming from residents living near Kinsmen Park in the neighbourhoods of Corinthia Park, Alexandra Park and Linsford Park. In addition to the questions asked of all participants, this specific group was asked what would help a youth centre fit well within the park and surrounding neighbourhood.

Comfort with a youth centre in Kinsmen Park

Among online survey respondents living in neighbourhoods near Kinsmen Park who answered this question, over half were very or somewhat comfortable with a youth centre being located in Kinsmen Park, while nearly one-third were somewhat or very uncomfortable. Compared with all survey respondents, nearby residents expressed lower overall comfort with the location and higher discomfort.



Opportunities identified by nearby residents

Residents who identified opportunities focused on how a youth centre could complement the park's existing strengths. They saw potential to use nearby sport and recreation facilities and green space as part of youth programming, and to build partnerships with organizations already operating in and around Kinsmen Park.

Feedback also highlighted the potential value of bringing more activity to the park and providing young people with a supervised place to socialize, participate in activities, and connect with their community. Some residents expressed interest in using the future facility themselves or asked whether it could also be available to community groups and residents.

Questions, concerns and trade-offs

A prominent theme in feedback from residents living in neighbourhoods directly adjacent to Kinsmen Park was how a youth centre might operate day to day and what that could mean for the surrounding neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood impacts and safety

We heard concerns about the possibility of increased noise, litter, vandalism, loitering, late-night activity, and other disturbances. Some nearby residents were concerned about crime, drug or alcohol use and what might happen in the surrounding park before or after the centre's operating hours. We also heard concerns about potential effects on nearby property values.

Traffic, parking and access

Some nearby residents described the Kinsmen Park parking lot and surrounding roads as already busy. They raised questions about whether there would be enough parking and how traffic would move through the area. Questions were also raised about whether the existing entrances and exits could accommodate another major use within the park. Some residents encouraged the City to consider the combined movement of park users, Leduc Composite High School students and staff, Maclab Centre visitors and Corinthia Park residents.

Impacts on existing park uses

Some residents emphasized the importance of maintaining existing park activities and amenities. They specifically raised concerns about potential impacts on the football fields, track, tennis courts, playground, and green space. Questions were also raised about exactly where the building would be placed and what space, if any, would no longer be available for current users.

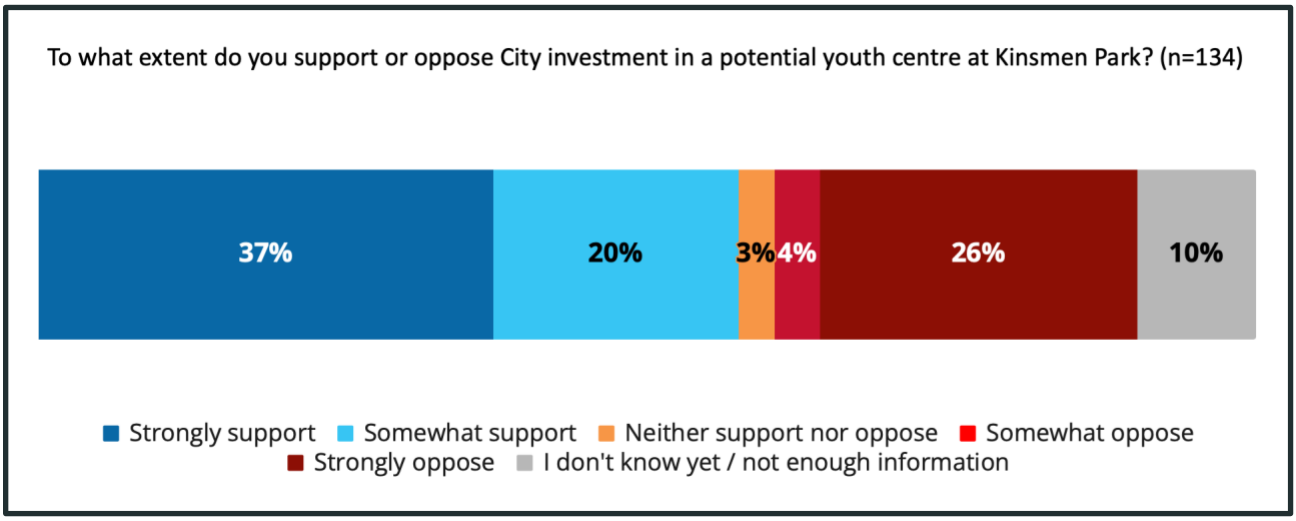
Facility operations

Questions raised by nearby residents included:

- The youth centre operating hours
- The number of youth the facility would accommodate
- How the 12–17 and 18–24 age groups would use the space
- Rules, supervision and consequences for harmful behaviour
- Who would own, manage and fund the facility
- Why an existing building could not be used
- Whether the facility would be available to other community groups or residents

Support for City investment

Among nearby resident survey respondents who answered this question, over half strongly or somewhat supported City investment in a potential youth centre at Kinsmen Park, while less than one-third somewhat or strongly opposed it. Nearby residents were less supportive of City investment than survey respondents overall and were more likely to oppose it.



Funding and operating considerations

Nearby residents shared different perspectives about the role the City should play. Some saw value in City involvement to provide oversight, protect community interests, maintain the building and support the centre's long-term viability. Other feedback favoured a collaborative model in which a youth-serving organization would bring expertise in programming and day-to-day operations, while the City would share responsibility for the facility and its long-term success.

Other residents were more cautious about City involvement. They questioned whether City land and funding should support a facility serving a specific portion of the population, whether there is sufficient demand, and whether other community priorities should receive funding first. Some residents asked Council to consider the potential impact on taxpayers and to explore fundraising, donations, sponsorships and other funding sources. Affordable access for youth was also identified as an important consideration.

What would help the youth centre fit within the neighbourhood?

Nearby residents shared a range of suggestions for addressing potential neighbourhood impacts and helping a youth centre fit within Kinsmen Park. These included:

- **Set operating hours that balance youth and neighbourhood needs.** Some residents expressed concern about programming extending late into the evening, while others highlighted the value of after-school, weekend and potentially lunchtime access. Coordinating operating hours with other organizations using Kinsmen Park was also suggested.
- **Plan for parking and traffic before the centre opens.** Suggestions included expanding or redesigning the parking lot and reviewing nearby roads, alleys, sidewalks, entrances and intersections to better manage vehicle movement through the area.
- **Develop a clear safety and supervision plan.** Suggestions included adequate staffing, visible supervision, lighting, security cameras, clear rules, consequences for harmful behaviour, and coordination with law enforcement. Some recommended offering structured programming for youth rather than relying only on unstructured drop-in use.

- **Protect the park's current uses.** Some residents emphasized protecting green space and the playground, ensuring the building fits with other facilities in Kinsmen Park and keeping the surrounding area available to other users. Some suggested that upgrades to the playground and other amenities could be considered as part of the project.
- **Keep the site clean and well maintained.** Suggestions included consistent cleanup around the centre and additional garbage cans. Some also suggested involving youth in caring for the facility and surrounding park space.
- **Continue involving nearby residents.** We heard that nearby residents want to remain informed and have opportunities to provide input as more detailed decisions are made.

Advice to City Council

Residents offered mixed advice about whether a youth centre should move forward in Kinsmen Park. Some encouraged City Council to proceed and prioritize the needs of youth. Others advised against the potential location, suggested exploring another site or opposed the project altogether.

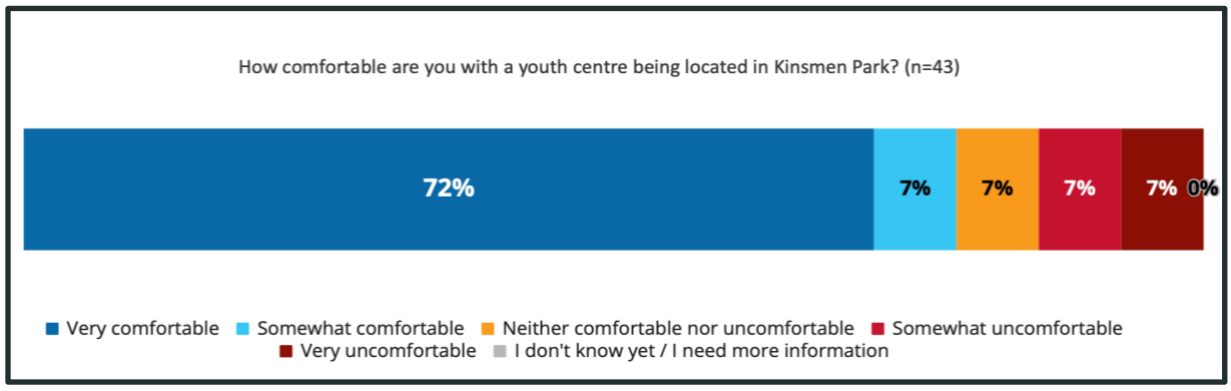
Advice to Council also highlighted the importance of making a well-informed, long-term decision. Suggestions included establishing a clear management and maintenance plan, ensuring adequate staffing, exploring sustainable funding, and considering a collaborative operating model involving the City and a youth-serving organization. Other feedback emphasized neighbourhood impacts, traffic, parking, public safety, project costs and potential impacts on taxpayers. Some residents wanted more detailed information about the potential facility and questioned why BGC Leduc requires a stand-alone space before a final decision is made.

What we heard from youth and young adults

This section summarizes feedback shared by youth and young adults. In addition to the questions asked of all participants, survey respondents between the ages of 12 and 24 were asked what would make a youth centre easy for them to get to and what they wished adults understood about the needs of youth in Leduc.

Comfort with a youth centre in Kinsmen Park

Among youth survey respondents, the large majority were very or somewhat comfortable with a youth centre being located in Kinsmen Park, and a small percentage were somewhat or very uncomfortable. Among survey respondents aged 12 to 24, the proportion expressing comfort with Kinsmen Park was higher than among survey respondents overall, while the proportion expressing discomfort was lower.



Opportunities identified by youth

Youth participants described opportunities for the centre to be a place where they could meet friends, spend time in a safe environment, build relationships, and participate in activities. Some emphasized the value of having a space specifically for older youth that would not always need to be shared with younger children.

Kinsmen Park was seen as a convenient location because it is central, close to schools and accessible using different forms of transportation. Some youth also highlighted the value of the park's existing sports facilities and outdoor space.

Questions, concerns and trade-offs

Youth raised several questions about how the centre would operate and how it could affect Kinsmen Park and the surrounding community.

Potential community impacts

Some youth were concerned that bringing larger groups of young people together could contribute to noise, litter, broken glass, break-ins, drug use or other negative activity in the area.

Impacts on existing park uses

Some youth raised concerns about the limited space and parking available in Kinsmen Park and the possibility that a new facility could increase pressure on existing amenities. They raised concerns that sports amenities could become less available or more crowded if the number of park users increases.

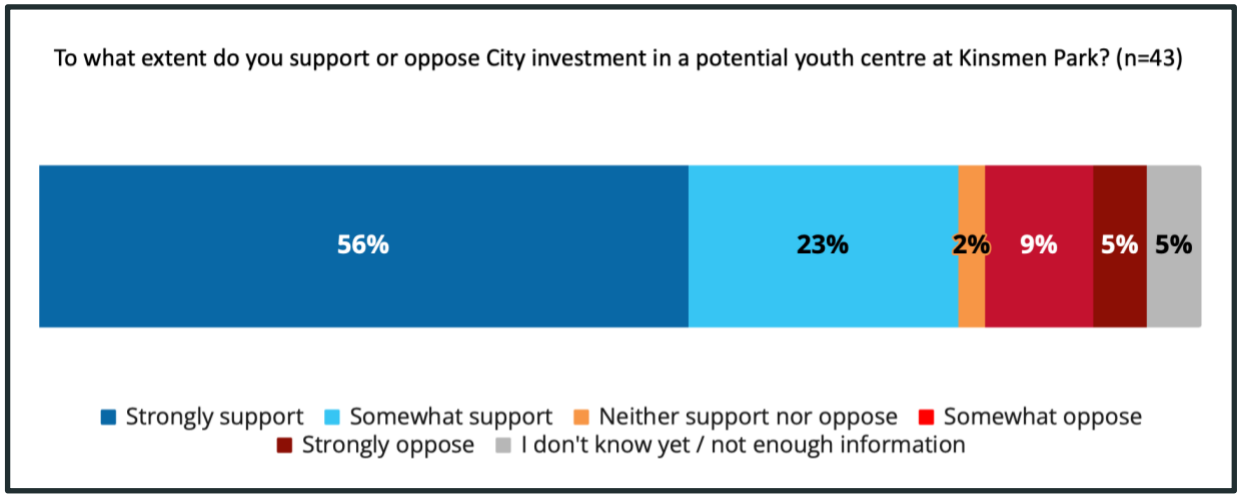
Facility operations

Questions raised by youth included:

- Which organization would operate the centre
- What programs and activities would be available
- Which ages the centre would serve
- How much the facility and its programs would cost

Support for City investment

Among youth respondents, the large majority strongly or somewhat supported City investment in a potential youth centre at Kinsmen Park, while a small group somewhat or strongly opposed it. Youth were more supportive of City investment than survey respondents overall and were less likely to oppose it.



Funding and operating considerations

Youth comments focused more on what the centre should provide than on one preferred ownership model. Feedback emphasized the importance of funding relevant and engaging programming, high-quality services and accessibility for a wide range of youth.

Some youth identified a role for the City in supporting a future centre, although perspectives differed on how involved the City should be in ownership and operations. They also emphasized that the safety of the broader community matters and that community members should have opportunities to help shape decisions about the centre.

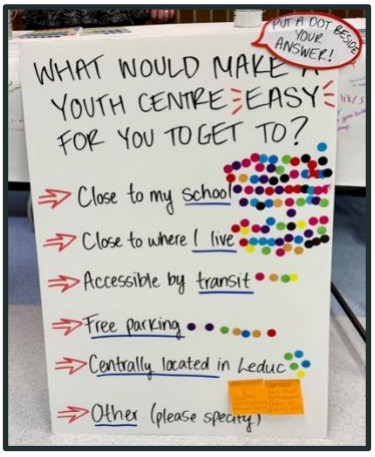
What would make the youth centre easy to get to?

When asked what would make a youth centre easy to get to, youth identified several factors rather than one single priority.



Among youth survey respondents, free parking and being centrally located in Leduc were selected most often, followed by being close to where they live, close to school and accessible by transit.

During youth pop-ups, we asked the same question, and heard different feedback than the survey. We heard that being close to school and close to where youth live would make a youth centre easiest to get to.



Together, these responses highlight how accessibility may depend on where young people live, go to school and how they travel, with different transportation options important to consider in future planning.

What youth want adults to understand

Youth provided a detailed picture of what they want adults to understand when making decisions about a potential youth centre in Kinsmen Park.

Activities and space to spend time together

Youth feedback highlighted the value of combining structured programming with opportunities to relax, socialize, and connect on their own terms. They described wanting a space that feels safe, fun, comfortable, and cozy, where they can be themselves without feeling judged. Some participants also emphasized the importance of having a space dedicated to youth rather than primarily serving younger children.

Access to support

Some youth described opportunities for the centre to offer supports beyond recreation. They identified a need for mental health resources and professionals, support during stressful or difficult situations in their lives, schoolwork support, and employment or skill development. Youth shared that young people today experience pressures that may be different from those experienced by previous generations and want adults to take those realities seriously.

An inclusive and accessible centre

Feedback highlighted the importance of affordability, accessibility and operating hours that align with when young people would use the space. We also heard desire for the centre to be welcoming to young people with different needs, interests and life experiences, including youth who are not currently well served by existing activities in Leduc.

Opportunities for youth involvement in planning

Some youth emphasized the importance of having people involved in the centre who genuinely care about young people and understand their needs. They suggested involving youth and young adults in planning, staffing and ongoing decision-making so that the space continues to reflect what young people need.

Ideas for the space

Young people shared many different ideas for what a future youth centre could include. Ideas shared by youth included:

- A gym, skate park and other sport facilities
- Ping pong, air hockey and games
- Music, arts and crafts
- Study areas, tutoring and a library
- Quiet rooms and sensory spaces
- Food and refreshments
- Outdoor green space or a garden
- Lockers and security for personal belongings

Youth also suggested creating different zones for different activities and designing the facility to be environmentally responsible.

Advice to City Council

Advice shared by youth included continuing to ask young people what they need and meaningfully considering their feedback in future decisions. Participants encouraged Council to involve youth who may be harder to reach or who may not currently participate in established programs or activities.

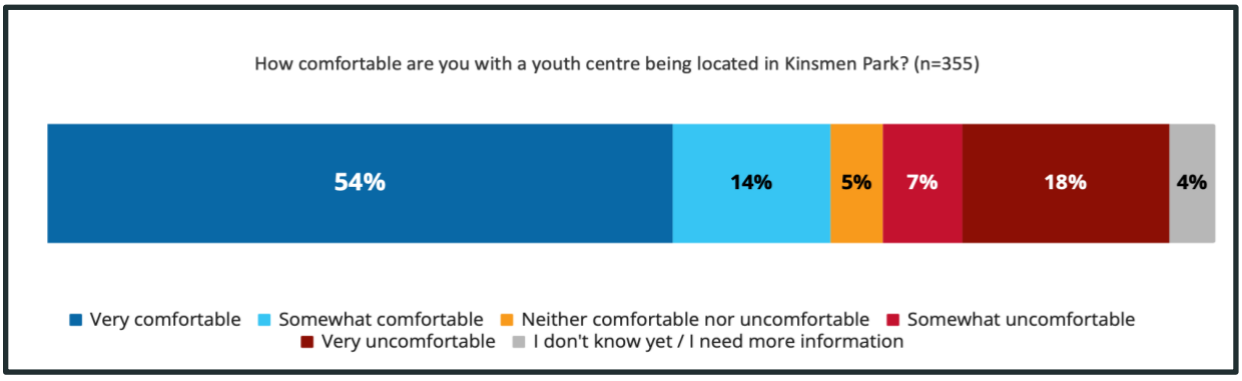
Other considerations raised included planning for the centre's long-term success, prioritizing safety, affordability and accessibility, and collaborating with organizations that have experience serving youth, including BGC Leduc.

What we heard from Kinsmen Park users

This section summarizes feedback from people and organizations who regularly use Kinsmen Park.

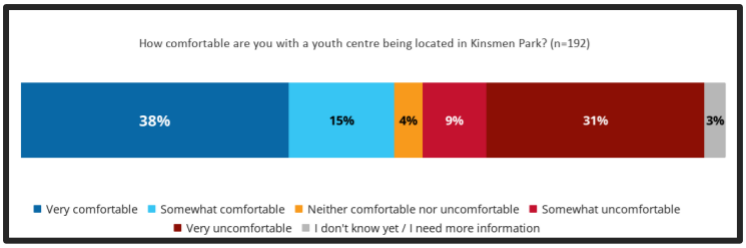
Comfort with a youth centre in Kinsmen Park

Among survey participants who use Kinsmen Park, over two-thirds were very or somewhat comfortable with a youth centre being located in Kinsmen Park, while one-quarter were somewhat or very uncomfortable. Among online survey respondents who identified themselves as Kinsmen Park users, the proportion expressing comfort was similar to the overall survey results, while a greater proportion expressed discomfort.

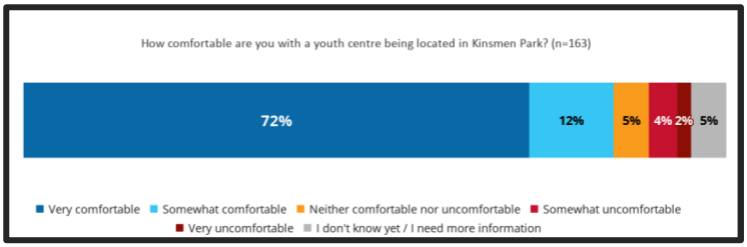


Among Kinsmen Park users, we heard different feedback from those who use the park regularly (once a month or more) and those who use it rarely (a few times a year).

Those who use the park regularly had the lowest level of comfort (52%) and highest level of discomfort (41%) with Kinsmen Park as a potential location for a youth centre.



In contrast, those who use Kinsmen Park a few times a year had the highest level of comfort (84%) and lowest level of discomfort (6%).



Opportunities identified by Kinsmen Park users

Some Kinsmen Park users identified the park's central location, proximity to schools and existing recreation amenities as potential benefits for young people. Feedback also highlighted opportunities to provide youth with a positive place outside of home and school where they could connect with others, participate in activities and access support. Some participants felt that a supervised youth space could also help reduce youth mischief elsewhere in the community.

Some park users also saw the project as an opportunity to improve or invest in existing park amenities. However, not all participants identified benefits with locating the centre in Kinsmen Park. Some supported establishing a youth centre but preferred a different location, while others did not see opportunities associated with the potential site.

Questions, concerns and trade-offs

A central consideration raised in feedback from Kinsmen Park users was how another facility and group of users could fit within a park that already supports many overlapping activities.

Parking and traffic considerations

Parking and traffic were recurring topics in feedback from Kinsmen Park users. Some described parking as already limited and raised concerns about how a youth centre could increase demand, particularly when sports and other activities are taking place at the same time. Feedback also included concerns about increased vehicle traffic, existing congestion and pedestrian safety. Suggestions included reviewing entrances, crossings and traffic flow if another major use is added to the park.

Impacts to existing park users and amenities

Feedback highlighted concerns about adding another facility to a park that already accommodates several overlapping activities and questioned how a new facility would fit within the park without reducing green space or placing further pressure on the area. Concerns were raised about potential impacts on the organizations and individuals who currently use the park, along with a desire for existing recreation activities, user groups and their amenities to be considered in decisions about the location and footprint of a future facility. Some specifically raised potential impacts to the stormwater berm and suggested that broader upgrades to park infrastructure should be considered alongside any new development.

These participants encouraged the City to consider a long-term plan for Kinsmen Park as a whole, rather than planning the youth centre as a stand-alone project. They emphasized that future planning should account for the growth of football, track and other recreation activities. Some park users expressed the view that upgrades to existing recreation amenities and infrastructure (that support existing needs) should take priority over developing a youth centre at this location.

Safety, supervision and site management

Park users raised questions about how the youth centre and surrounding park would be supervised and secured, particularly outside of programming hours. Some expressed concerns about break-ins, vandalism or groups gathering around the facility, as well as

potential impacts such as noise, litter and ongoing building maintenance. These comments reflected a desire for clear plans for staffing, supervision, security and management of the site.

Broader community benefit and centre operations

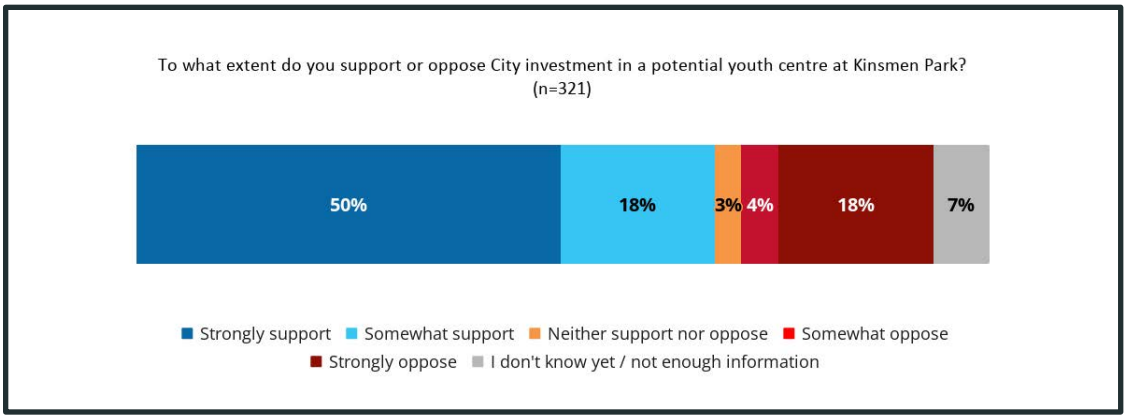
Participants also raised questions about how the youth centre would operate and how its benefits would extend to the broader community. Some wanted the City to consider how the facility could provide the greatest community benefit and raised concerns about costs to taxpayers. Others asked about the centre's capacity, operating hours, programming and who would operate the space. A smaller number of participants also raised questions about construction impacts and the role of BGC Leduc.

Construction and access

Participants asked how construction would affect access to sports fields, storage areas, the community centre and other facilities. Some participants encouraged the City to consider the seasonal schedules and operational needs of existing park users when planning construction.

Support for City investment

Among Kinsmen Park users, over two-thirds strongly or somewhat supported City investment in a potential youth centre at Kinsmen Park, while nearly a quarter somewhat or strongly opposed it. Overall, survey respondents who use Kinsmen Park expressed similar levels of support and opposition to City investment as survey respondents overall.



Funding and operating considerations

Open-ended feedback from park users did not identify a clear preferred ownership or operating model. Their comments and questions focused instead on:

- Who would operate the facility
- How construction and ongoing operations would be funded
- Whether sufficient staff and operational resources would be available
- Which age groups the centre would serve
- How many youth it would accommodate
- When construction could occur
- Whether broader park and infrastructure upgrades would be included

Advice to City Council

Advice from Kinsmen Park users included considering the potential youth centre within the long-term vision for the park as a whole. Suggestions included clarifying the facility's potential footprint and assessing possible impacts on existing activities, future recreation growth, traffic, parking, drainage and access during construction.

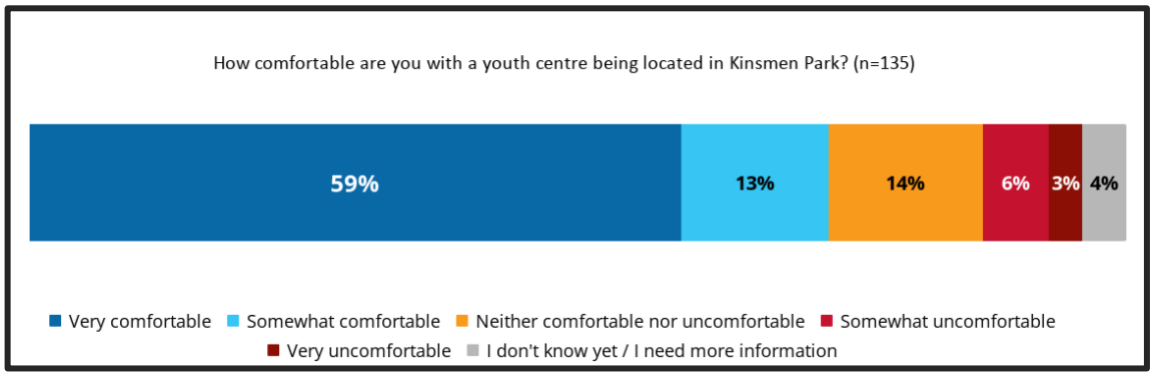
Some park users supported creating a youth centre but felt another location would better protect existing and future park uses. If the project moves forward at this location, participants emphasized that established recreation programs and park amenities should continue to be accommodated, and necessary infrastructure improvements should be planned before the facility opens.

What we heard from the broader Leduc community

This section summarizes feedback shared by participants from across Leduc, including insights gathered through targeted conversations with educators and others who work with youth. Participants were asked about the opportunities, questions and trade-offs associated with locating a youth centre in Kinsmen Park, as well as City investment and possible ownership and operating approaches.

Comfort with a youth centre in Kinsmen Park

Among survey respondents who were not categorized as youth, Kinsmen Park users, or nearby residents, the majority said they were very or somewhat comfortable with a youth centre being located in Kinsmen Park, compared with a much smaller group who were somewhat or very uncomfortable.



Opportunities identified by broader community participants

Some participants described a youth centre as an investment in young people and the broader Leduc community. Opportunities identified included developing new skills, accessing tutoring and career support, building leadership experience and connecting with caring adults. Participants highlighted the potential value of the centre for youth who may not currently participate in organized sports, recreation programs or other community supports.

Some participants felt that providing youth with a safe and welcoming place to spend time could help prevent negative activity by creating positive alternatives and earlier access to support. They encouraged the City to think beyond recreation and design the centre for youth with a range of interests, needs and life experiences.

Other opportunities raised included:

- Collaborate with community organizations and service providers
- Connect youth with existing park facilities and nearby amenities
- Upgrade infrastructure and amenities within Kinsmen Park
- Attract additional investment to the park and surrounding area
- Learn from successful youth centres operating in other communities

Some noted that Kinsmen Park is already City-owned, which could reduce the need to purchase land elsewhere.

Questions, concerns and trade-offs

Broader community participants raised questions about the need for a stand-alone facility, who it would serve and how it would be managed over time.

Is a new stand-alone facility the right investment?

Some participants questioned whether a new building is necessary, whether Kinsmen Park is the best location and whether City land and funding could be better used for other priorities. Some suggested exploring other locations that could better reflect the future growth of Leduc or allow Kinsmen Park's existing recreation programs to continue expanding.

We also heard from those who supported the project but wanted more information about the potential facility, costs, programming and long-term operating plan before deciding whether they supported the Kinsmen Park location.

Who will the centre serve?

We heard feedback highlighting the importance of including youth with a range of interests, abilities, and circumstances.

Questions were also raised about serving both the 12–17 and 18–24 age groups in the same facility. Questions also focused on how programming and shared spaces would be

managed to protect younger youth, including how washrooms, change rooms and other common areas would be supervised.

Is the centre prepared to respond to different youth needs?

Some participants raised questions about how a future centre would respond to young people with different needs and circumstances. They encouraged the future operator to be prepared to support youth experiencing challenges at home, school, or in the community. They shared that this may include being prepared for situations involving intoxication, substance use, physical altercations or other safety concerns (e.g. weapons).

Suggestions included:

- Having trained, experienced staff
- Partnering with organizations that provide mental health and community supports
- Setting clear rules and expectations
- Establishing procedures for difficult or unsafe situations
- Collecting parent or guardian contact information where appropriate
- Building positive relationships between youth, staff and the RCMP

How will the centre build and maintain community trust?

Participants encouraged the City and future operator to communicate proactively about the centre. They recommended sharing positive stories and clearly explaining how concerns will be managed. Feedback also highlighted the importance of explaining how concerns or problems would be addressed if they arise.

Some were concerned that the centre could develop a negative reputation if individual incidents define how the community views it. They emphasized that this could discourage youth and families from using the space, making transparent communication and relationship-building important from the beginning.

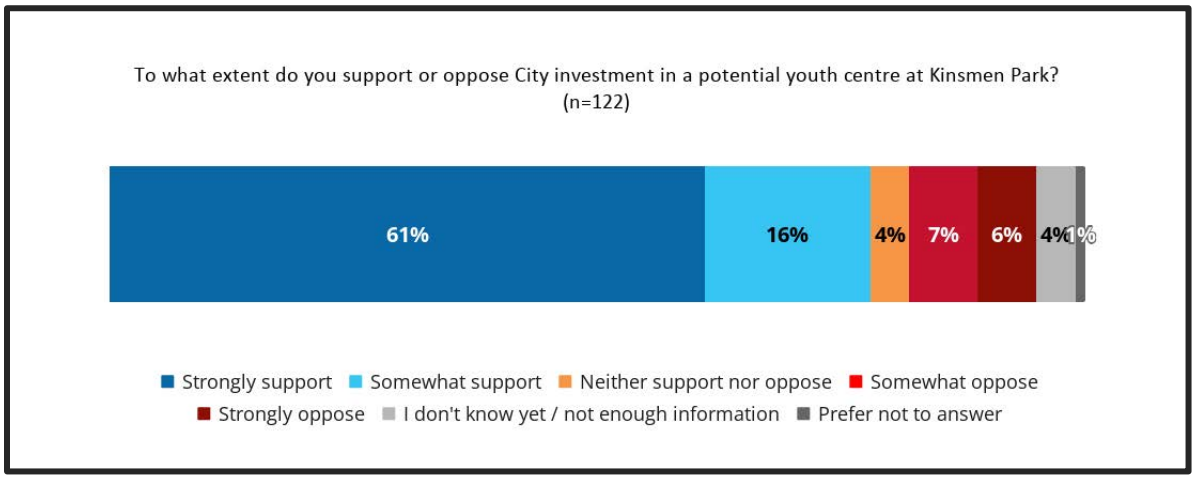
Some participants did not identify any concerns or trade-offs, while others suggested alternative locations or asked for additional information before forming an opinion.

Suggestions for other locations included:

- Corinthia Park, near the skate park
- West side of Leduc
- Lede Park
- Near the Leduc Recreation Centre
- Close to the RCMP and hospital
- Close to other schools, including near Ohpaho Secondary School
- Burnco building
- Stageworks City building
- Vacant buildings in Leduc (both City-owned and privately-owned)
- Other parks in Leduc

Support for City investment

Survey respondents who were not categorized as youth, nearby residents or Kinsmen Park users expressed overall support for City investment in a potential youth centre at Kinsmen Park, with the majority indicating they strongly or somewhat support City investment, compared with less than one-fifth who somewhat or strongly oppose it.



Funding and operating considerations

Participants expressed a range of preferences about the City's role. Some supported a collaborative model where the City owns or provides the facility and one or more community organizations deliver youth programming. They saw this as an opportunity to combine public accountability and long-term facility stability with the expertise of organizations that work directly with youth.

We also heard from those who preferred more limited City involvement, such as providing land while a community organization owns and operates the centre. Some felt the specific arrangement was less important than ensuring youth needs were met through high-quality and affordable services.

Feedback also raised questions about the long-term stability and capacity of whichever organization operates the centre. Questions included whether the operator would have the capacity to sustain programming, staffing, maintenance and building upkeep over time, and what would happen if an organization could no longer fulfil its responsibilities. Overall, we heard strong support regarding BGC as a potential operator for a youth centre, with participants noting that they already provide programming to youth in the community.

Additional funding ideas included fundraising, business sponsorships, and naming opportunities for the building or individual rooms. Some participants emphasized the importance of protecting the centre's long-term viability while making responsible use of public resources.

Advice to City Council

Advice shared with City Council included considering the needs of a broad range of youth, not only those already participating in sports or established programs. Participants also suggested continuing to involve young people, parents, educators, and people with experience supporting youth as planning moves forward.

Other suggestions included:

- Continue hearing directly from youth, including those who may be harder to reach
- Consider establishing a youth advisory council to help shape the design, programming and operations
- Establish clear decision-making criteria based on whether the centre can meet a range of youth needs
- Learn from youth centres in other communities, including in Red Deer and Beaumont
- Plan proactively for staffing, safety, communications and challenging situations
- Continue connecting with the broader community before and after decisions are made

Across the advice shared, participants highlighted the value of thoughtful planning and ongoing youth involvement in creating a centre that young people would feel comfortable using and that could earn the broader community's support.