

“What We Heard” Executive Summary

The City of Saskatoon is improving flood protection for about 37 residential and business properties near the 1st Street/Dufferin Avenue and Taylor Street/ Broadway Avenue intersections, many of which flooded twice during 2017 rain events. The most feasible solution is to add a dry storm water pond in W.W. Ashley District Park, which would collect run-off during intense rain events. Approximately 30 people attended the June 17, 2019 open house for the park redesign and potential angle parking on Albert Street.

The feedback about considerations for the park redesign were generally centered around making it family/kid friendly and accessible for continued use with examples including walking, dog walking, biking, kite flying, informal ball, and reading. The main concerns expressed were about safety given the proximity to other recreation used by children and water held during intense rain events, safe access for wheelchairs, scooters and bikes, and minimizing tree loss and wetness in the pond bottom which could detract from use and attract mosquitoes.

Citizens suggested the following design considerations:

- walking paths with multiple access points
- benches and garbage cans
- water tolerant trees (orchard, willows, food forest) and vegetation
- gradual slope at the bottom for safety of bikes and toboggans
- round versus rectangular shape
- place for concerts
- pergola for shade
- tennis courts
- putting green

Strong opposition to the changes was expressed by one couple who live adjacent to the park who were concerned about the impact on their family’s quality of life, with comments about accessibility, impact on the park’s current use, aesthetics, and noise during construction. They also would like to have had an opportunity to provide input during the decision making process for adding a dry pond, and a town hall meeting format at a location that was wheelchair accessible.

Support for adding additional angle parking on Albert Street was fairly evenly split by numbers, but with stronger opposing views held by people who lived closest to the proposed parking. Opposition was primarily due to fears of a worsening situation in which students were said to be loitering, littering, partying, making noise at night, speeding, blocking the street with cars, and being disrespectful to residents. Concern also was expressed that additional parking would increase congestion and make it less safe and desirable for biking. Supporting comments indicated that angle parking was a reasonable solution to help alleviate the area’s parking shortage, particularly during events in the park when parked cars have sometimes blocked driveways, and to help reduce speed.