



Vaudreuil-Dorion

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Harwood Nature Park: survey confirms popularity for this new municipal park

Vaudreuil-Dorion, December 13, 2021 – In its aim to identify a long-term plan for the Harwood Nature Park and its service offering, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion called on its citizens to learn more about their needs related to parks and outdoor activities. An online survey was conducted for this purpose between November 12th and December 6th in which 2,133 people participated. Overall, the responses make it quite clear that the population is looking for a service offering that respects the site's natural environment.

Interests and concerns

Walking (84.1%), nature observation (68.6%) and relaxation (59.4%) were among the top reasons why respondents planned to visit Harwood Nature Park. Some people would like to engage in family activities (37.2%) or sports (35.6%) while others would like to visit the site with their dog (39.2%). Most people expressed concern about the tranquility and cleanliness of the premises. While some people partially agree that dogs should be allowed on some trails (37.6%) or all trails (48.9%), many are concerned that dog owners are not respecting the obligation to keep their pet on a leash and pick up their waste. It should be mentioned that 44.8% of respondents claimed to own a dog.

Based on several comments, we noted that people would like the site to maintain its natural character as much as possible and would like trees and bushes to be added and trails to be provided to walk on. It was also important to them that the City make access possible for people with reduced mobility. Some people mentioned that access is difficult other than by car. In terms of facilities, the majority of people said they would like to see picnic tables, benches, lounging furniture, shaded areas and wildlife structures (e.g. nesting boxes) on site.

Activities

Among the activities proposed, people showed the most interest for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, walking and skating during winter, and outdoor fitness classes, introduction to different sports, yoga, walking and cycling during the summer. About 38% of respondents would like to see a day camp offered at the nature park. It should be mentioned that 45.9% of respondents indicated they had minor children.

"We are very happy with the participation rate in this survey. It proves that there is a lot of enthusiasm for this acquisition we made for our citizens. Although we will already be offering some activities at the nature park this winter, in addition to the dog park presently under development,

this survey will help us direct our thinking towards clearly defining the purpose of the Harwood Nature Park," said Mayor Guy Pilon.

Those interested in consulting the results of the survey are invited to visit the new Citizen Participation page by clicking on The City / Information, on the City's website at ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca. The citizen consultation process is an integral part of item 5 in the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 "*Susciter la participation de tous au mieux-être collectif*" (Promoting the participation of all to the well-being of all) aimed at promoting a culture of public participation.

Harwood Nature Park is located at 3900 Route Harwood (formerly the Harwood Golf Club), halfway between Côte Saint-Charles and Chemin Daoust. The City made its acquisition last August with the objective of preserving it. This site covers an area of 196,396.1m² (2,113,990ft²) and is already accessible to the community.