

## Ward 2 – 2024 Temporary Portable Washroom Survey and Mapping Engagement

### High Level Summary on Potential Winter Use

In the summer of 2024, temporary accessible washrooms were placed in nine (9) Ward 2 parks to support summer park use where facilities otherwise did not exist.

The purpose of the **Ward 2 - Temporary Accessible Park Washrooms Trial, Summer 2024 Engagement** was to gather information on the impact of these temporary improvements to inform future program planning such as demand for extending the trial into winter use at these 9 park locations.

The purpose of this report is to review the survey data from the standpoint of park and portable washroom use and preference, to inform extension of the portable washrooms into winter use in select Ward 2 parks. The key findings of this report were distilled from the community responses to the **survey and mapping tool**, and based on respondents who indicated that they visit parks, and where applicable those that would use a portable washroom.

#### 1. Key Engagement Details

Key Dates	Engagement ran from October 14, 2024 – November 4, 2024 and was hosted on the Engage Hamilton Platform <a href="#">Ward 2 Temporary Accessible Park Washrooms   Engage Hamilton</a>
Content	Engagement included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Survey - 20 questions (313 respondents)</li><li>b. Mapping tool - respondents could also indicate Ward 2 park locations that they would like a washroom facility (3 respondents)</li></ul>
Outreach	The community was informed of the opportunity to provide input by the following avenues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Weekly social media blast (x3).</li><li>b. Posters at relevant park locations providing links to the survey.</li><li>c. Encampment Outreach staff informed encampment residents and supported participation in the engagement with access to a device for input.</li><li>d. Communication of engagement opportunity to the Councilor's office.</li></ul>
Response	313 responses to the survey 3 responses to the mapping tool

## 2. Key Findings:

Key findings from the feedback collected include:

1.	Over 50% of respondents who visited nine Ward 2 participating parks (154) this summer "never" felt that the washrooms allowed them to stay at the park longer or felt safe while using the portable washroom provided.
2.	109 of (154) these respondents had further thoughts about the portable washrooms and their experience. These comments are listed in the Survey Response Report and include a number of comments around health and safety (sanitary condition including blood, drug paraphernalia, feces, and urine), security and intended use versus actual use of the portable washrooms. One comment specified that the accessible washroom was not large enough to accommodate their mobility device.
3.	199 survey participants provided input into which downtown parks they would like to see accessible portable washroom facilities. Top parks/results are as follows: None (117), Bayfront Park*(10), All Parks (9), Gage Park (9), Gore Park (6).
4.	Of the 279 respondents indicating that they used portable washrooms during the fall and winter months, 88 (32%) respondents indicated that an onsite washroom determines their visit to a park "always" or "occasionally".
5.	Of the 88 respondents who visit parks in the fall and winter, and for whom an onsite washroom either determines their visit always or occasionally, 61 (66%) respondents would use a portable washroom, or only use a portable washroom if no other option existed (permanent park washroom or nearby public washroom in a facility).
6.	22 (out of 88) of fall and winter park users who only visit parks with washrooms on site, visited the following participating parks during the summer 2024 program: Bayfront (12)*, Central (7), Shamrock (5), Beasley (4), Copps (4), McLaren (4), John Rebecca (3), Carter (2), Woolverton (2)

**\*Bayfront Park has a winter washroom (portable/ accessible)**

## 3. Conclusions:

Of those who responded to the survey, there was an overwhelming concern about the daily condition (hygiene, safety, security) of the temporary accessible portable washrooms.

Bayfront Park clearly stood out as an area of interest for accessible portable washroom facilities though the winter, though for the number of respondents visiting parks in the fall / winter, a low percentage required a washroom facility to determine their visit.

Bayfront Park is currently a Winter Washroom Program location, and based on the survey results it is recommended that this site continue to be part of this program.