

# McKernan Park

112 Street and 76 Avenue



## *Spray Deck Survey*

### *Results*

*October 5, 2009*

**Total number of respondents = 73**

**93% of respondents had kids under 12**

**66% of respondents visited McKernan Park at least once per week or more.**

**87% of respondents would increase their visits to the park if there was a spray deck.**

**55% of respondents live in McKernan.**

**66% would like a rubber surface.**

**60% want water cannons and team based cannons.**

1. Check all of the age categories that you (or your children) fall under:

† 0-5 years: **56%** (53)

6-9 years: **26%** (24)

10-12 years: **11%** (10)

Not applicable: **7%** (7)

2. How often do you and/or your children visit McKernan Park between June and September?

3 or more times per week: **39%** (28)

1 to 2 times per week: **27%** (19)

1 to 3 times per month: **10%** (7)

Occasionally: **18%** (13)

Never: **6%** (4)

3. Would having a spray deck increase the number of times you or your children visit McKernan Park?

Yes: **87%** (58) † no: **13%** (9)

4. Check all that apply:

I (we) live in McKernan: **55%** (40)

I (we) live in Belgravia: **3%** (2)

I (we) live in Parkallen: **10%** (7)

I (we) live in Garneau: **3%** (2)

I or my child attends a school or has child care in McKernan: **26%** (19)

N/A: **14%** (10)

5. A concrete ground surface is provided by the City at no additional cost. The McKernan Community can upgrade to a rubber ground surface at a cost of about \$20,000. A concrete surface would allow us to afford more upgraded spray features.

Which surface for the spray deck would you prefer?

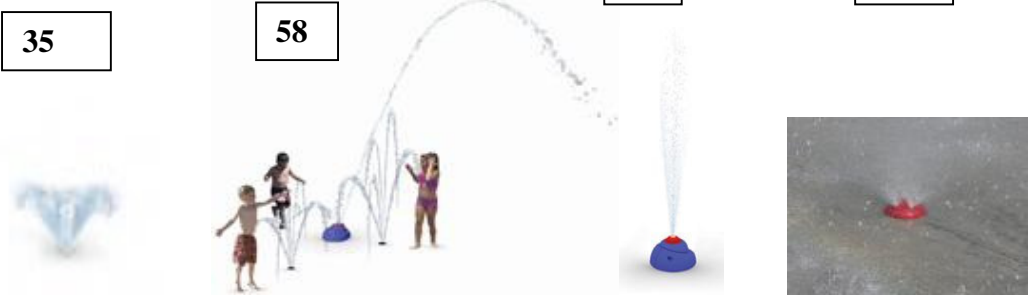
† Cement - Easier to maintain, no extra cost to community: **34%** (23)

Rubber - More forgiving for falls, \$20,000 cost to community: **66%** (44)

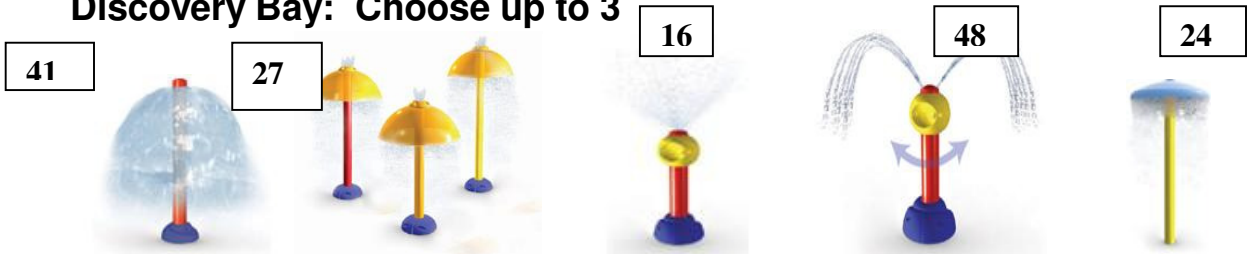
# Features for our future spray deck at McKernan Park

Instructions: In each section **circle** the features you like the best.

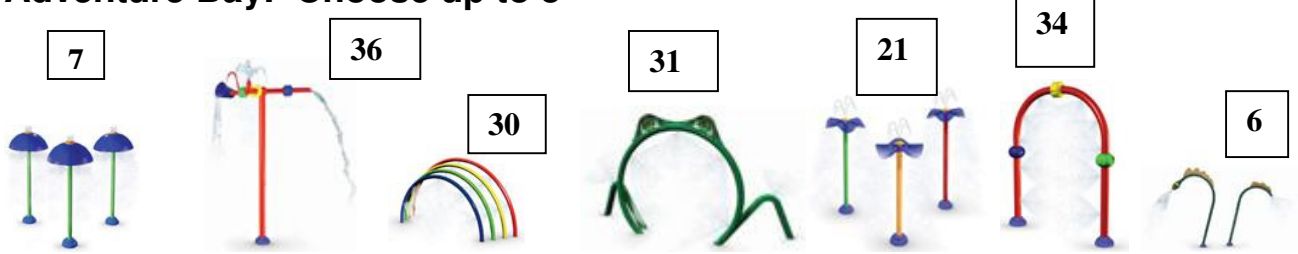
## Ground Sprays: Choose up to 3



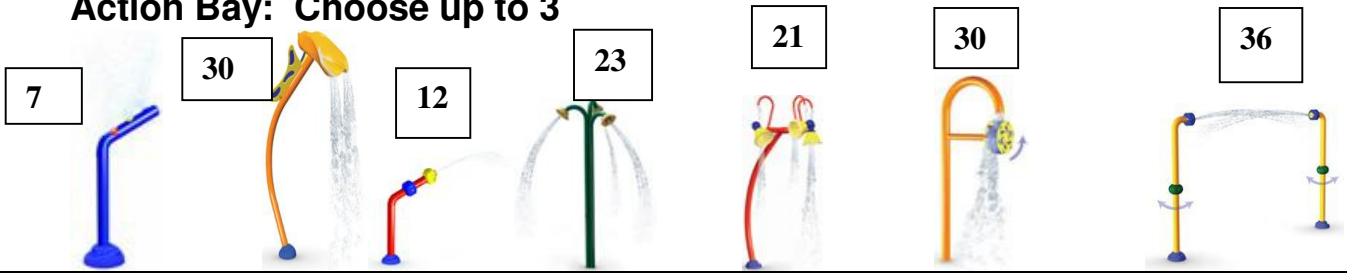
## Discovery Bay: Choose up to 3



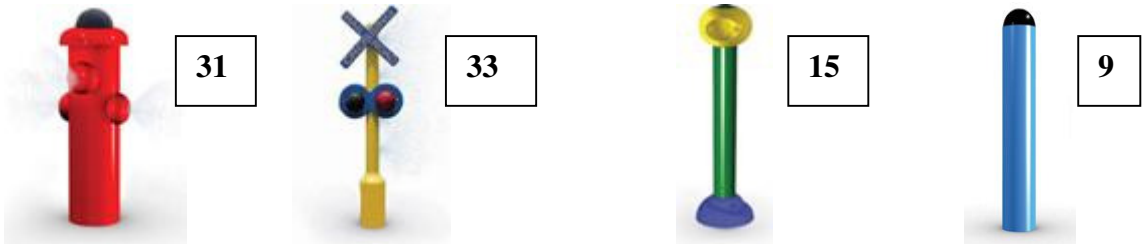
## Adventure Bay: Choose up to 3



## Action Bay: Choose up to 3



## Activators: Choose 1



**Would you also like:** Water cannons (stationary water guns, a minimum of 2 are needed)?

Yes: **61%** (34)      No: **39%** (22)

Teamwork-based cannon?      Yes: **62%** (35)      No: **38%** (21)

## Online responses

### 4. What specifically would you like to avoid putting in our spray deck?

**What other additions would you like to see in our new spray deck area? (Dream Big!) Please answer both questions in the box below.**

1. If money were not a problem, I would like to see more seating, washroom facilities, and a playground upgrade. There is a lot of grass area and lots of skateboarders/bikers. So something for that group of kids would be great. You said dream big!

2. Our kids are older now but I am deeply disappointed that the province has regulated "no standing water". Not really our concern any more but when our children were smaller we took them to spray decks several times (Ft. McMurray) and they were not at all fond of them. The sprays can be fun but I observed that our kids, and others, got tired of them quickly and even got to the point that they did not want to go back. Too much sensory input: water in the face, chilling effect of the water on their skin all over, too much noise from the sprayers. On the other hand, they always had a great time in the wading pool. Also, they would get sick after a visit to the spray deck but spent whole summers in McKernan park with the wading pool without getting ill.

I sense that this is more regulation to deal with perceived issues with liabilities and less concern with children's fun and health.

BTW: My initial view of a spray deck was positive; it was only after observing the activities around the wading pool vs the spray deck that I realized how much better the pool was for the kids.

3. I would like to see separate activities/areas for infants/toddlers and older kids.

4. Growing up in Belgravia and now living in McKernan, I have enjoyed the wading pool immensely. Although I am upset to see it go, I am excited about the spray deck. I visited some excellent ones in southern Alberta and British Columbia and am keen to see what can be accomplished here.

It would be delightful to have a mini water slide and a splash pond. Playful water falls and snakes that trick you when they are going to spray. A musical water keyboard would also be excellent. I recommend some items for the toddlers and some other items for the older kids. An open shower to rinse off before and after is also a must!

I would like to help out with the planning committee and will try contacting the leader soon. Thank you for allowing input into this process.

Carolyn Jones

5. a port-a-potty!

6. We should make sure that as much as possible we avoid high maintenance costs in the future. This would be my only concern with the rubber service.

How will WINTER affect that service?

Wiggert

7. Water cannons, and a ship. Lots of fun stuff for the little bit older kids, so they don't get so easily bored.

As for things to avoid, not to sure, don't know that much about spray decks.

8. Don't matter to me

9. Please don't forget the forgotten park for us other McKernan residents at 79th ave and 116 street. It is unsafe and looks like it belongs at Fort Edmonton. We are part of McKernan too.

10. Other suggestions for inclusion: Motion-activated sprayers, nozzles that spray erratically in different directions at different times.

11. The more spray structures the better. Firemen hoses rings for kids to run through, structure that spray all over

12. I would like to avoid putting any spray toys that look like weapons.

I would like to see a locked restroom that would only be accessible to the summer camp counsellors.

## Paper Responses

### 6. What would you like to avoid in our spray deck?

- Hard corners, slippery surfaces
- Water cannon
- Wood
- Wood
- The discontinuation of your wonderful green shack program and the fantastic ladies who entertain our kids...we love it and the kids need it.
- Smaller objects, avoid tripping
- Water turned on constantly – it's preferable to have a system that sprays only when kids are using it
- Bathroom
- Nothing that has an age limit
- Nothing with age limits or climbing walls
- Any slippery areas or ability to use area as a washroom
- Any people using the spray deck as a washroom
- Accidents
- Nothing
- Cannons
- Surfaces that are slippery!
- Broken glass
- Fire hydrant sprayer
- Garbage, dogs
- Reckless children
- Dogs/cats

### 7. What other additions would you like to see in our new spray deck area? (Dream Big!)

- Imaginative play structures
- Frankly I would prefer a wading pool. The only spray park we have really enjoyed so far is the elaborate one in St. Albert.
- 1 -6 feet pool, water slide, free swimming goggles
- Additional seating, more picnic tables
- Foot rinser, ball dispenser, water slide
- Public washrooms/change room
- A small water slide
- water slides

- high powered water cannons
- paddle boats
- waterslide
- waterslide
- partially shaded area
- picnic tables, shelter, bathroom
- water slide (slip n' slide)
- Design of spray park should include a grassy barrier between spray park and sand park. Covered picnic area. Washrooms, play area for kids to run hot wheel cars on (eg. Mini ramps), water fountain (drinking).
- Water slide
- Water slide
- Coloured water (non – staining), bubbles?
- A big train
- Tables, chairs, picnic equipment
- Toilet facility/saucer wing
- Seating/change room/toilet facilities
- Changing area, more benches
- Change facilities, toilet bench area, concession