



## Results of the 2023 Summer Survey

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The Oaklands Rise Woonerf has emerged in the spirit of neighbourhood  
on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen speaking peoples  
known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

Those involved are honoured to continue in the stewardship of these lands.

This project was made possible through the  
City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood Grant program.

Administration of grant funds was provided by the  
Kiwanis Pavilion, Oak Bay Kiwanis Health Care Society.

## **How it all began, and what the survey is actually about.**

It all started in 2017 when the re-zoning of a single lot threatened to impose thirty feet of cement, a lone “sidewalk to nowhere,” in a 12-15 block, sidewalk-free residential area in the Oaklands neighbourhood.

The 21 neighbours who gathered in a back yard were largely unknown to each other. They all shared an appreciation of the uniquely rural aspect of the area.

Some had been told by City staff that the area had been canvassed and all residents agreed on the installation of sidewalks. At the meeting, all participants confirmed that not one of them had ever been asked. In fact, several spoke of coming to the neighbourhood specifically because the lack of such infrastructure created a character that is almost unknown in Victoria. Others reported that they had understood that there was an agreement with the City that the sidewalk free character would be preserved.

The group agreed on principles to protect, preserve and enhance the area.

The Oaklands Rise Woonerf was born. Research and volunteer work began.

Six years on, some 230 households are on the mailing list and the City has recognized our co-leads as Community Champions with the initial ORW Planning Group achieving success through extraordinary volunteer efforts with partial funding through the *My Great Neighbourhood Grant* and similar programs.

Neighbours from as far away as James Bay and Fairfield have joined volunteers from Oaklands, Hillside-Quadra, North Park and supporters from Burnside-Gorge, Quadra-Cedar Hill and Oak Bay to be a part of something special happening along the wide-surface shared space that serves as the backbone of the Oaklands Rise Woonerf.

This most recent survey is the second one looking into aspects of the Oaklands Rise Woonerf and views of those who live on, near or simply frequent the area. It builds upon an earlier 2018 survey which was itself shaped by that initial backyard gathering to share concerns and explore possibilities 2017.

## **What's a Woonerf—and how do you say it?**

Second thing, first. It is: *VŌN-airf*. But “woo-nerf” is commonly heard and works, too.

### **And what is a Woonerf?**

This Dutch word may be translated as “living yard.” It is a residential street that puts people and community at the forefront of street life. The concept was invented by Dutch traffic engineers to reduce risk of harm on residential streets.

The Woonerf is a shared space that invites human connections and encourages non-local drivers to make use of nearby connector and arterial roadways designed to move traffic from A to B. On a Woonerf, everything moves at the pace of people and community is the point.

A successful Woonerf is always fit to its context. While there are design principles and repeatable elements to draw upon, there is no “one size fits all” template. A Woonerf emerges from its specific environment.

The Oaklands Rise Woonerf (ORW) is guided by the principles established in 2017, reaffirmed through two public surveys and ongoing interaction among those who frequent the area.

Placemaking, environmental and community wellness are themes guiding activities to protect, preserve and enhance the natural characteristics of the area. In this, we are grateful to be joining in the long tradition of stewardship on these lands of the Lekwungen speaking peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt nations.

Meaningful inspiration is found in internationally proven models such as Projects for Public Spaces, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Permaculture Flower, Indigenous Community Health and One Planet Living—all contributing to activities that make a difference. If you are not yet involved and would like to be, please reach us through the website: [oaklandsrise.ca](https://oaklandsrise.ca).

Volunteer efforts are made possible through the generous donations of time, cash and kind; the City of Victoria *My Great Neighbourhood* grant program; support of several non-profit fund administrators; and the energy and enthusiasm of so many supporters. Thanks, Woonervians!

*See you on the Woonerf!*

## Introduction to the Results

Respondents bring perspectives from their various locations and personal experience.

Distribution of the 2018 survey focused on those in the area near the subdivided lot that served as catalyst for what became the Oaklands Rise Woonerf pilot. This served the important purpose of demonstrating the views of local residents to City of Victoria decision makers. The result was Council's unanimous approval of the pilot.

In 2023, distribution was expanded to invite views of the broader population known to enjoy greenway. The already designated people-priority backbone of Kings Road and the 2017 map presented to Council was the guide (see page 23 ).

Those living directly on the Woonerf enjoy a very different context from those living on typical City streets. Understanding this fact is important in interpreting responses, planning learning opportunities, communications and activities.

Each survey prompt (question statement) is listed and arranged within three categories:

- General Views On the Woonerf
- On Navigating the Woonerf
- About the Respondents

Data is aggregated into bar charts for easy review. Where applicable, 2018 responses are identified for comparison with the 2023 responses.

A brief statement as to the purpose of each prompt is followed, where space permits, by a sampling of comments received from respondents. The full set of comments is provided in the appendix.

The LimeSurvey tool distinguishes between partial and fully completed surveys and reports that data represents 76 completed responses from a larger number of survey engagements. These partially completed responses are included to ensure the fullest possible representation of community views.

105 survey engagements were made in during the period of end-April 29 to October 22, 2023).

Handwritten forms distributed at events on May 13 and September 16 complement the online survey. During the May 13 event, participants were invited to provide input to ORW Planning Group members stationed at a series of information boards. Comments on sticky-notes posted to the boards are included in the appendix.

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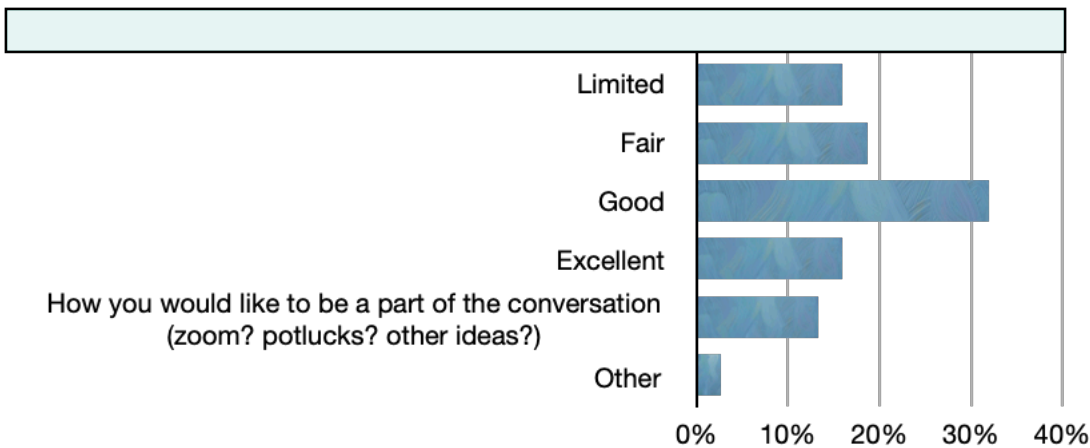
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# On the Woonerf

## 1) My understanding of the Woonerf concept is:

This prompt, new in 2023, can be correlated with other responses to explore how familiarity with the Woonerf concept affects reaction to design elements such as:

- factors that dissuade cut-through drivers;
- multimodal use of the street as shared space;
- introduction of vertical elements and street art as calming influences, etc.



36% of respondents report limited or fair understanding of the Woonerf concept. These may be representative of those who are not aware of or have been less involved in the Woonerf effort.

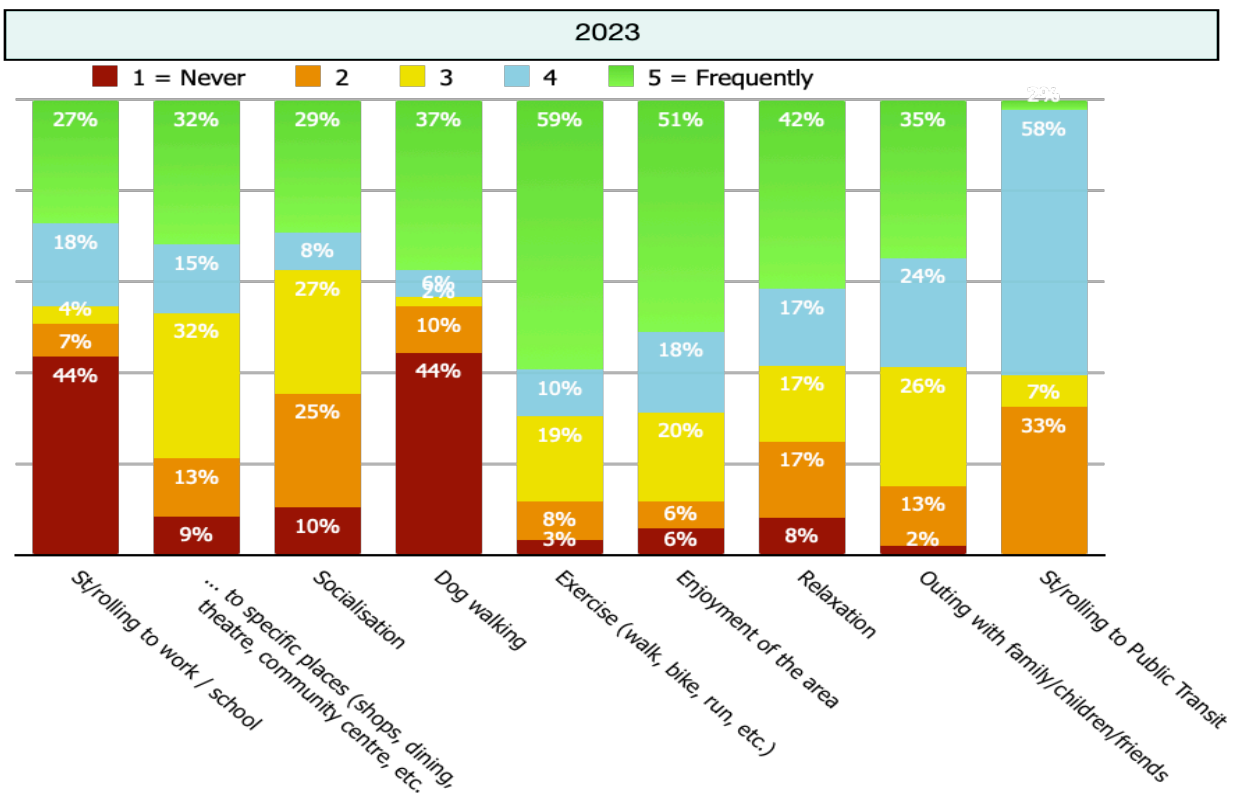
Respondents were invited to suggest ways to be a part of the conversation (zoom, potlucks, gatherings or other ideas) and 13% of respondents offered comments on both the Woonerf concept and ways to engage as shown below.

- “Newsletter works great” (id 09)
- “Zoom meetings, information sessions, Q&A sessions, social gatherings in which to share” (id 39)
- “I love the Woonerf concept and our living streets (id 40)
- “Learning more...have seen the signs” (id 43)
- “In person. Potlucks or wine-lucks would be great.” (id 55)
- “Love a good potluck!” (id 64)
- “Face-to-face or zoom meetings and potlucks both sound like good ideas” (id 65)
- “Any format of meetings I would like to attend” (id 68)
- “Potlucks, political action, volunteering” (id 76)
- “Tried to get a Woonerf in my former neighbourhood in Ottawa” (id 80)
- “Willing to work on planning” (id 85)

## 2) I use these sidewalk-free streets for:

In 2018, this prompt identified a range of ways that the Woonerf serves local needs. In 2023, ranking from 1 (never) to 5 (frequently) gives deeper insight. Exercise and enjoyment of the area are top activities for 69% of respondents. 59% cite relaxation and outings with family/friends.

2023 data builds upon what was revealed to rank the identified uses according to frequency/preference. Both results confirm that the Woonerf adaptation serves a community wellness function beyond the typically assumed purpose of streets as thoroughfares to get from A to B.



Results support all four attributes of a healthy community as defined by both the Project for Public Spaces and Crime Prevention Through Environmental models. Though not a specific focus of the survey, data reveals a contribution to 7 of 10 principles of the One Planet Bioregional model for One Planet Living.

St/rollers report concern that some streets are experiencing an increase in the number of drivers with no local purpose except to avoid traffic congestion on arterial roads and recent interventions at Cedar Hill/Bay and Fernwood/Haultain.

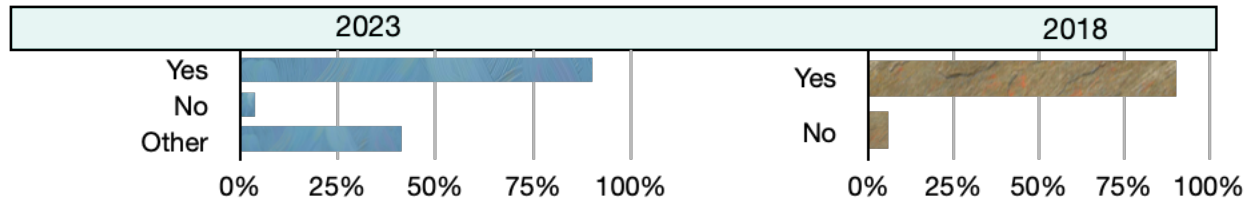
Monitoring of traffic volume and speed is underway in cooperation with the City.



### 3) I support street art installations

Street art is overwhelmingly popular, with attention to specific (subjective) aspects.

41.3% of respondents added detailed comment. Examples are provided below with full commentary in the appendix.



“Why not?” (id 17)

“Current art installations are thoughtful and tasteful, more of the same please :)” (id 27)

“Art that reflects the nature of the area. The current planters are very bulky and not very attractive. Professional art rather than by residents.” (id 31)

“Visual elements will slow traffic, give people pride in/ownership of their shared built environment, benefits of art on mental health” (id 64)

“I would love to see a carving from the local Indigenous Nation” (id 40)

“The sky is the limit. Sculptures, street paintings” (id 63)

“I would like more of the large concrete planters installed all through the Woonerf area. This would calm traffic and create a consistent "place identity" (id 65)

“We enjoy unique local creations in our neighbourhood and would love to see both permanent and ephemeral art creations” (id 72)

“Plantings and trees” (id 80)

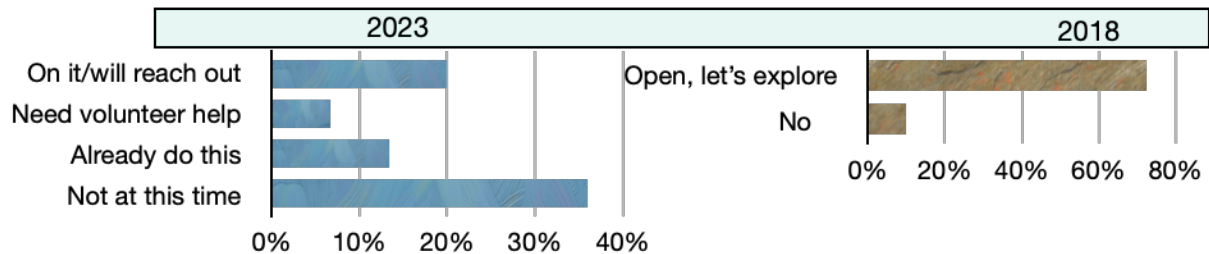
“Allows the creative talents of so many to be showcased-personalize the character of the neighbourhood.” (id 99)

“Paintings on the street and at intersections” (id 100)

“Things like Garry Oak benches” (id 102)

#### 4) Would you like your boulevard included?

Over the past five years boulevard gardening activity has increased. Xeriscape demonstration gardens invite learning for low/no water gardens (once established). As presented in the bubble charts on signboards at a Woonerf event in May 2023, a number of private garden efforts have stretched onto and complement boulevard gardening on Acton Street, Kings Road Mt. Stephen Avenue and beyond.



20% of respondents have added comments such as the following.

“Little pockets along the "soft edge" of the Woonerf could be planted with local ecosystem plans - I would join in that to make it happen.” (id 10)

“A great identity for the neighbourhood” (id 39)

“My property does not front on Kings street boulevard but I'd like to reach out to those that are to explain to them the idea of the Woonerf and how they can be involved or helped” (id 68)

“We have transitioned our front yard to pollinator habitat and plan to do the same with the boulevard soon.” (id 72)

“Would like to know what would be entailed.” (id 95)

“I am establishing wildflowers onto my boulevard.” (id 99)

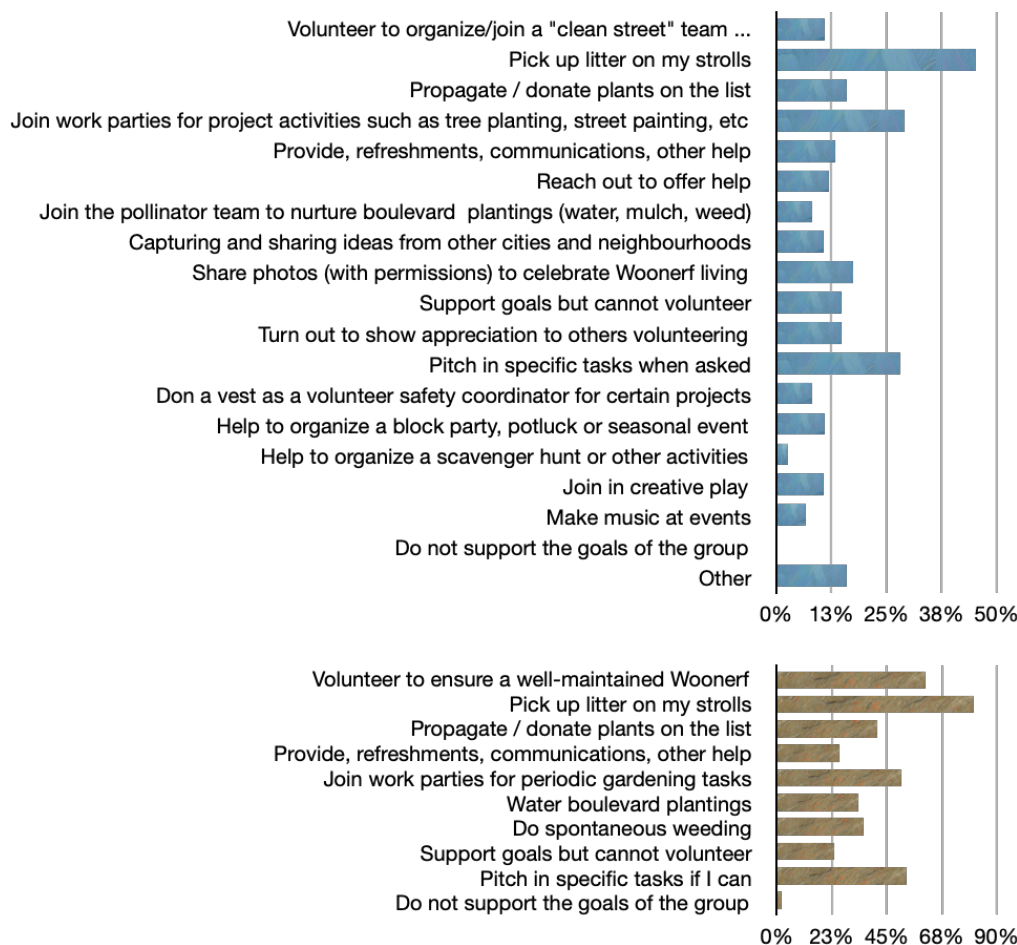
## 5) As someone who enjoys these streets, I will:

Noting the ever-present challenge of connecting volunteers with their preferred opportunities, survey design in 2023 attempts to rank activities according to preference. This can improve outreach when tasks need to be done—if respondents self-identify with contact details specific to volunteering .

To respect privacy and invite frank responses, the survey is anonymized.

Meanwhile, we hope that respondents will be proactive in reaching out to [oaklandsrise@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandsrise@gmail.com) or via the contact form at [oaklandsrise.ca](http://oaklandsrise.ca) to get involved.

2023 preferences are shown first, followed by 2018 general input.



84% of respondents selected one or more specific volunteer activities. Additional analysis is required to identify detail within age categories, but with 42% of contributors aged 19-60 and an additional 39% aged 61-75, it can be safely concluded that there is multigenerational interest in volunteering.

**6) Please add a phrase or two to sum up your views.**

An abbreviated sampling of respondent comments is provided below. Please refer to the appendix for a full list of respondent views.

These comments reflect the enthusiasm encountered street-side.

"The Woonerf has transformed the area...important in getting through difficult times.  
(id 10)

"Woonerf is *woonderful*!" (id 17)

"I love it how it is and enjoy walking there as a destination. Keep up the great work." (id 18)

"Thanks for all you are doing! We will help where and when we can." (id 53)

"Supportive. Important to involve intersecting streets in this concept." (id 31)

"Kings is a magical street as it is now ... hope it stays this way :-)" (id 49)

"Thank you for all the work being done to promote the Woonerf and to make our neighbourhood a beautiful sanctuary and a model to other communities!!!" (id 63)

"All that's been done so far to improve our neighbourhood is lovely, and we can do so much more together to make this place more lively and livable." (id 65)

"Such an interesting idea and I enjoy learning more about it!" (id 66)

"Thank you for bringing life to our neighbourhood. We notice and appreciate your work. (id 72)

"All in all I think the Woonerf is just fine on top of the hill...pointless and useless below." (id 74)

"Live on the Woonerf and like the concept, and would like to see it extended..." (id 80)

"Would love to get rid of the large grass boulevard! Less lawn mowing! (id 86)

"I'm all for anything that brings community together (id 88)

"Love this idea and would love to support but I don't have very much. (id 89)

"Very supportive" (id 91)

"Thank you for making this neighbourhood amazing! I am so grateful to live here." (id 94)

"Better together." (id 96)

"LOVE the work that you all do to make our community better. Much appreciated. (id 9)

"Love ... producing something beautiful with...neighbours, many ... become good friends." (id 58)

"Together we are making a difference...resilient, welcoming and healthy neighbourhood." (id 39)

"Excited...this project...positively influence[s]...surrounding neighbourhoods!" (id 64)

"More community music on the verge! Local performers & community groups included." (id 81)

"I don't live in the Woonerf but walk there regularly and really appreciate all of the work that has been done to make this area so walking friendly and accessible...several friends ...have commented that they had no idea such an area existed in the city." (id 93)

"A wonderful collaborative neighbourhood initiative!" (id 99)

"This is a very worthwhile community building initiative. Thank you!" (id 100)

"Keep up the good work!" (id 102)

"Gratifying...creative work of so many, bearing fruit to enhance Oaklands community! (id 105)

# On Navigating the Woonerf

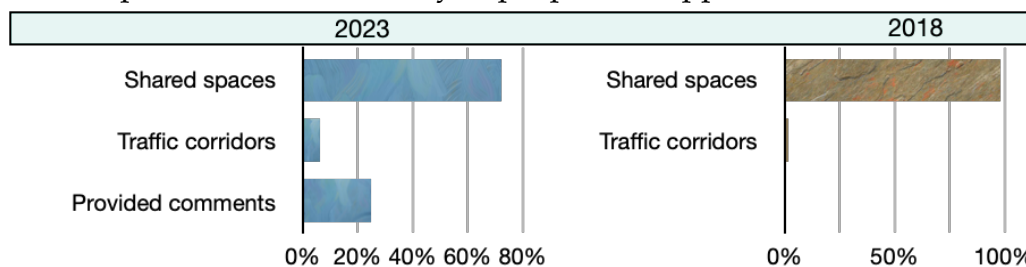
## 7) Residential streets of the Woonerf area should be managed as:

In 2018, the online question type did not permit comments. Re-building for 2023, an alternative type was used to invite comments. A sampling is below.

“I love Kings Road for its feeling of safety for pedestrians...keep it that way!” (id 49)

“I do find the planter at Cedar Hill and Kings to be somewhat ill-advised...I'd like to see the planter moved to a better location. ” (id 51)

“We enjoy walking the Woonerf and would love to see the area closer to Oaklands Park developed to be more friendly to people first approach.” (id 72)



### Observations:

Signage seen at Capital Heights and Cedar Hill Road confirms the people-priority status of the greenway. Currently placed too high, shifting these lower akin to the Qualicum Road signage would improve visibility to influence drivers.

The shared space approach acknowledges that drivers with a local purpose are welcome with an expectation of sensitivity to other users of the streets: driving at the pace of people. Concern about the painted planters bumps up against concern that some drivers do not know that they should be travelling at the pace of people. Speed of traffic is a identified in Prompt 14.

Elements such as plantings, street art and obstacles that influence drivers to navigate, rather than simply speed through. These and other elements help to convey that “this space is not just for cars.” They are at the core of creating a people priority space. Attention to planning a more obvious visual identity along the Woonerf and, perhaps, implementation of four-way stops along the greenway may be advisable.

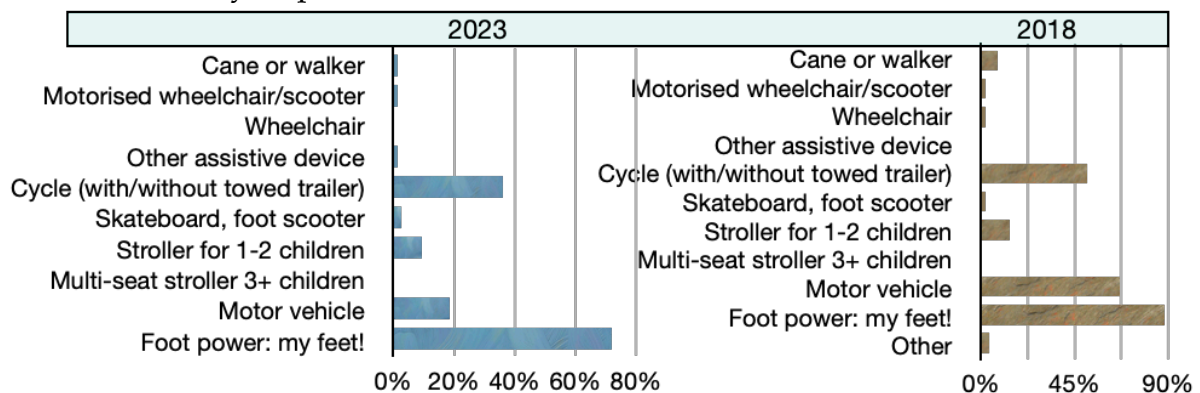
55% of survey respondents say they will drive at 5-15 kph when people and animals are seen; 43% commit to a maximum of 20 kph generally. A 2018 City of Victoria assessment, Prompt 14, reveals that local experience exceeds norms for avoiding accidents and risk of harm. As noted in Prompt 9, 79% of respondents are attentive, key for safety.

## 8) St/rolling these streets I use:

This prompt explores multi-modal, all abilities enjoyment of the sidewalk-free, wide-surface walkway. Given the expanded set of respondents in 2023, for planning purposes we are informed by responses for both years to best represent those with different abilities, lightly represented by a term coined to recognize strollers who roll as well as walk.

General findings are consistent. Daily observation reveals increased use of walkers and assistive scooters as well as an increase in parents / guardians cycling with children in towed trailers and specialized cargo bikes.

- Pedestrian use remains highest at 72% with cycling at 40%.
- Vehicle use by respondents ranks 18%.



### Observations:

St/rollers on the Woonerf report anecdotally that the reduced non-local vehicle traffic achieved as measured in 2018 is challenged by traffic management interventions in nearby locations.

Drivers without a local purpose are cutting through the area travel at faster speeds and are not informed by road design that they are in a designated people-priority area. Lowering of the people-priority signage at Capital Heights and Cedar Hill Road may help.

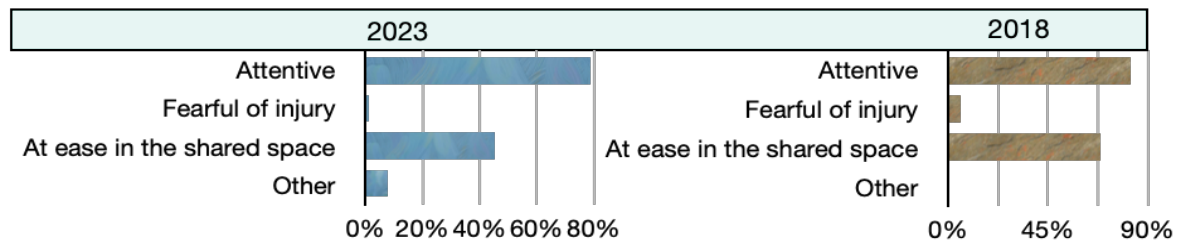
Monitoring of traffic volume and speed is underway in cooperation with the City of Victoria. Observation on the effectiveness of various design treatments and interventions from those who frequent the area can be emailed to [oakandsrise@gmail.com](mailto:oakandsrise@gmail.com).

It is vital to retain the wide-surface walkway as a place where kids can learn to ride bikes, seniors in wheel chairs can roll side-by-side with friends, and neighbourly interaction enliven the Woonerf area.

## 9) On these streets I am generally:

This prompt is grounded in research that confirms a strong correlation between attentiveness and safety on the streets.

80% of respondents are attentive and aware of their surroundings on the Woonerf. 46% report being at ease in the shared space. 1 respondent is fearful of injury.



### Comments:

"We are not there yet!" (id 9)

"When walking on Fernwood I do try to get off it asap, until traffic patterns come into alignment with the rest of the Woonerf area" (id 55)

"Happy" (id 40)

"It is a shared space." (id 90)

"One has to be aware of the surrounding environment." (id 95)

### Observations:

An interesting aspect of research on safety in shared spaces is the difference between perceived and actual safety. The lack of response from 16% of respondents may suggest this quandary. As a general rule, greater safety results from attentiveness from all users rather than from methods that invite taking safety for granted through rules and signage aimed at vehicle drivers.

A principle of Woonerf development is to force attentiveness and a conscious navigation of the shared space by all users. This is achieved through the use of obstacles such as planters placed in the street, planted circles, paintings on the street surface, introduction of vertical elements to inform drivers of speed and which obscure nightlines just enough to require slower navigation, but not so much as to increase risk of harm.

Safety is a guiding aspect in adapting the Woonerf.



## **Sidewalks on the Woonerf: Yes or No?**

The following two prompts invite explicit views on whether sidewalks are wanted to replace the current shared space greenway with a more typical engineered street design.

For ease of comparison, respondent views pro and con are presented over the following pages. Summarizing:

- 7% want sidewalks to be installed
- 66% do not want sidewalks
- 16% choose not to complete the question.

For context, it may be helpful to repeat that the catalyst for community engagement was the subdivision of a single lot which, in turn, called for a short, roughly 9 meter (30 foot) sidewalk to be imposed on a 12 block sidewalk-free greenway.

This requirement of the Victoria Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw has historical roots and makes sense where a new build damages existing infrastructure. However, where no such infrastructure exists, the bylaw can impose “30 feet of cement to nowhere.”

That was the concern raised in 2017, resulting in a neighbourhood petition for a moratorium on sidewalks. Council agreed, despite that the Pedestrian Master Plan does not envision the Woonerf and would impose an engineered urban design with sidewalks throughout. Derived in one with the US National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) guidelines, sidewalks are incorporated regardless of context.

Thoroughfares that are designed primary to move traffic from A to B require sidewalks. However, in areas meeting certain criteria, alternative designs are proven to invite community life and reduce risk of harm. That is where a Woonerf can emerge in a neighbourhood.

European guidelines and contemporary re-thinking of the urban environment in North America recognizes shared spaces as important to urban planning. The Woonerf is found in over 6000+ Dutch locations, 400+ US cities, Toronto, Halifax, Montreal, North Capilano, and now, Victoria.

Victoria has the opportunity to implement the Woonerf at a fraction of the cost born by other jurisdictions because, unlike projects that require ripping out expensive infrastructure, the Oaklands Rise Woonerf is already designated as people-priority greenway, a place for community.

## 10) I WANT sidewalks because

The two “want/don’t want” prompts invite views, pro and con, and should be read together. Input received through a 2020 University of Victoria Directed Study advised to confirm the “want/don’t want” position. Therefore, each prompt includes an additional, explicit choice.

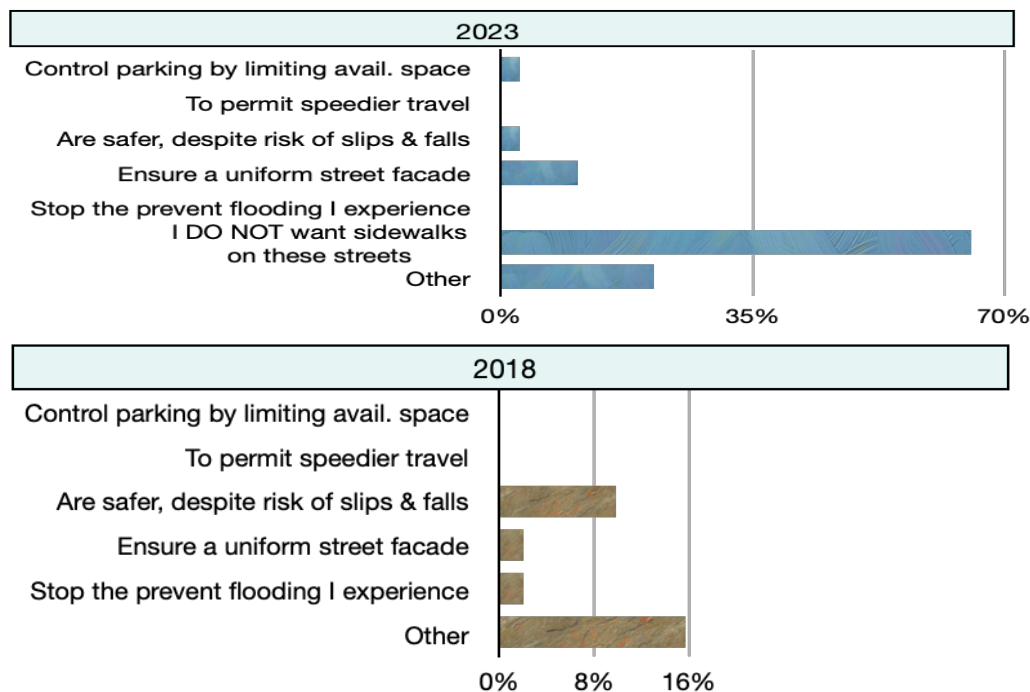
Comparison reveals that:

- 7% of respondents want sidewalks
- 66% do not

Respondents were invited to select reasons for their perspectives or elaborate under “other.” This information is helpful in understanding wants and needs as part of learning and design activities. Familiarity with the Woonerf model, personal experience and mobility needs are important factors in understanding respondent views.

Perception of sidewalk safety has fallen from 9.8% in 2018 to 2.7% in 2023. This may reflect observation that increasing numbers of seniors are visibly active on the Woonerf using a variety of assistive devices that they report are more stable on the wide-surface walkway.

Data on sidewalk slips and falls is available through the Canadian Institute for Health Information. It is not tracked specifically as part of traffic data.

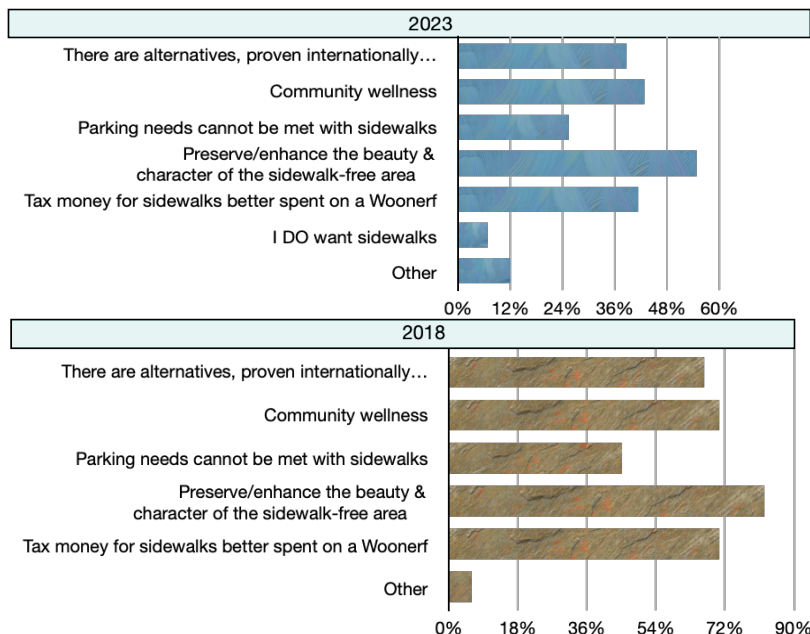


### Observations:

In both the 2018 and 2023 surveys, commentary under “other” offers ideas for how to make a sidewalk-free shared space work effectively. This input is included in the appendix to help guide the *block by block* planning approach.

## 11) I DO NOT want sidewalks because

Adapting the Woonerf model to local context continues to have strong support as seen in both the 2018 and latest 2023 public surveys. Selected comments from both prompts follow the charts below.



“Sidewalks permit faster speeds from drivers who are not being attentive to people (seniors, kids) pets etc.” (id 10)

“I’d like to research the safety of no sidewalks...it does not seem to be safer.” (id 29)

“It works the way it is now. People on the street slow ... traffic. Not sure the cost of sidewalks is worth the benefit.” (id 31)

“The reason it feels safer on these streets is because the lack of sidewalks makes cars drive slower or avoid the streets altogether. Leave it without sidewalks! :) (id 49)

“I thought sidewalks were helpful in establishing safe walking areas for pedestrians, but if the research shows that pedestrians are just as safe without and the traffic in these areas stays minimal with low speed limits then I could understand them not being necessary.” (id 61)

“My experience using King St is that almost all drivers are respectful of pedestrians. with this mindset somewhat in place it should be possible to involve car drivers in the 'new make- up' for Kings St.” (id 68)

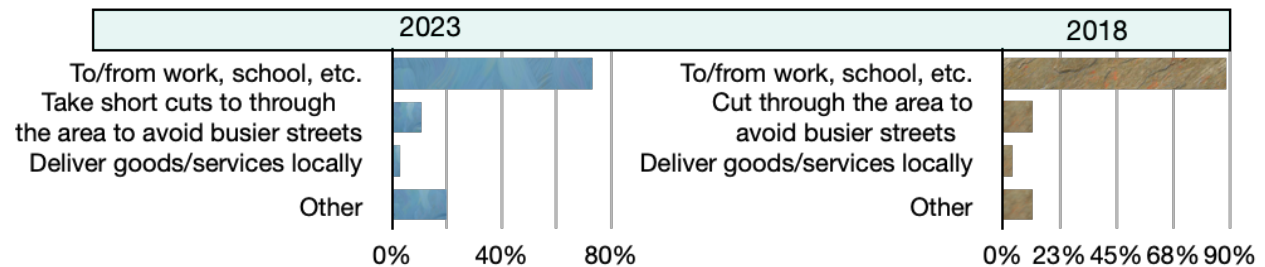
“I am not concerned about sidewalks, just want a people centred approach to the streets use.” (id 72)

“I have been struck by a car while a pedestrian on Kings. This tends to affect ones opinions.” (id 74)

“Reduce grass boulevards - gardens? wild flowers?” (id 86)

## 12) When driving, my purpose is:

Comments add confirmation that driving is a task oriented necessity for residents of the Woonerf area.



Selected comments are shown below. Additional commentary is provided in the appendix.

"I rarely drive on these streets" (id 9)

"Work from home but maybe 6-8 times per month for a work purpose." (id 10)

"As an alternate route" (id 41)

"Go to meetings on and near the woonerf" (id 64)

"My driveway is on the woonerf" (id 80)

"Mostly by bike " (id 85)

"I don't drive here ever, I only walk" (id 93)

"I use it to loop around the block depending on how our vehicle is parked" (id 31)

"Because Haultain was blocked at Fernwood" (id 44)

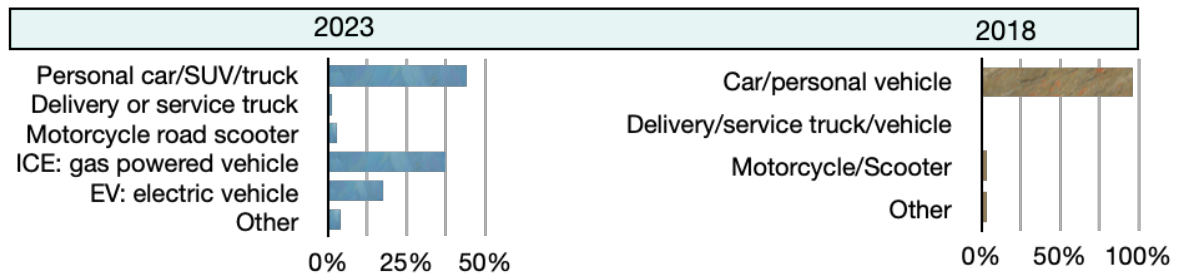
"Weekly shopping, haul garden supplies (mulch, etc.)" (id 10)

"I commute on Bay or Hillside, try to avoid inner streets" (id 82)

### 13) Driving a motorized vehicle, I use a:

This prompt has been expanded from the 2018 version to help inform the ORW [One Planet Action Plan](#).

Over the five years since the 2018 survey, electric vehicles (EVs) have grown in number in the area. 47% of respondents report that their personal vehicles are EVs.



Correlated with other questions, it may be determined that the Woonerf streets are used for transportation to and from work or school and to reach destinations for entertainment and other needs but that, overwhelmingly, needs are met on foot or via bicycle ahead of motor vehicle use, consistent with a 15-20 minute neighbourhood.

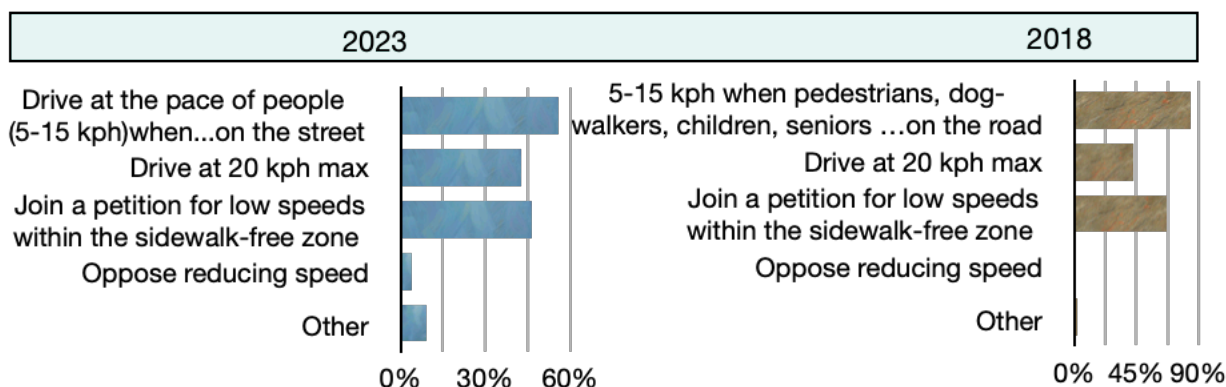
Anecdotally, there is a marked increase in electric vehicles including bikes, scooters and cars.

**14) With a connector or arterial thoroughfare just 2-3 blocks from every residence, while in the Woonerf area I agree to:**

Reduced speeds are strongly supported. If carried out in practice, these speeds are *well* below risk of harm factors and should permit the avoidance of accidents altogether. However 3 respondents oppose slower speeds.

Respondent comments illustrate willingness and concern over nearby interventions that may be negatively affecting the people-priority greenway and contiguous Woonerf streets.

Effort to dissuade cut-through drivers by emphasizing the Woonerf is critical to retain the lower traffic volume and speeds obtained since the start of the Woonerf initiative. The chart on the following page provides insight.



Comments are available in the appendix. A sampling is provided below.

“Always under 30 & under 20 when people are in the street - often slow to stop and chat.” (Id 10)

“We live on 2600 block of Cedar Hill Rd. I very much support the concept. Wondering about the impact it has had on the traffic on our street. Traffic seems to have increased.” (id 31)

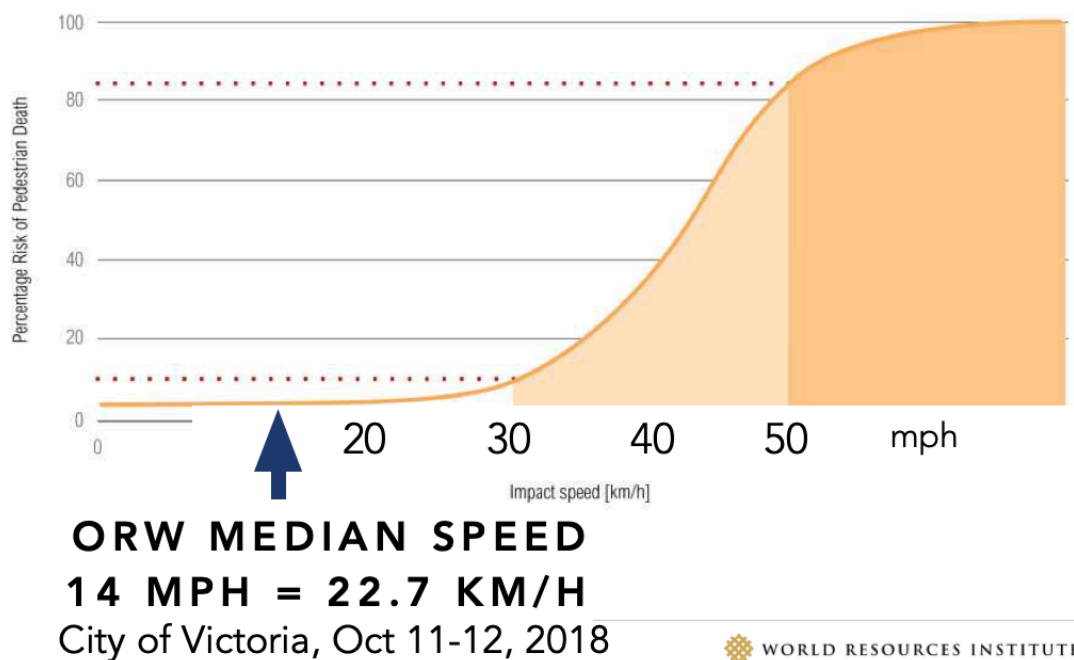
“At the pace of people but people need to be aware.” (id 89)

“I think some modal filters could be a valuable tool to decrease car through traffic on certain streets also, eg: Recent Vancouver St improvements.” (id 65)

“Good idea.” (id 92)

The World Resources Institute chart below is expressed in miles per hour (MPH). For ease of comparison, the 2018 City of Victoria assessment of Woonerf traffic speed is provided in both MPH and KM/H.

Retaining the volume and speed of traffic achieved during the initial year of Woonerf adaptation is critical to ensuring a people-priority shared space.



As respondents and others have observed, interventions on other roads in nearby areas may affect the Woonerf negatively.

Monitoring has begun at specific locations in cooperation with the City of Victoria. Data collection in 2023 and 2024 is associated with planned street art. We hope to assess the effect of street art applied to certain intersections as a means to heighten attentiveness and communicate a people-priority to both st/rollers and drivers, thereby slowing traffic and dissuading drivers with no local purpose.

2018 data results from traffic counters that distinguish categories of vehicles as well as volume and speed. Resource limitations in 2023-2024 may indicate less precise forms of measurement. The impact on findings is yet to be known.



# About the Respondents

## 15) I live on ...

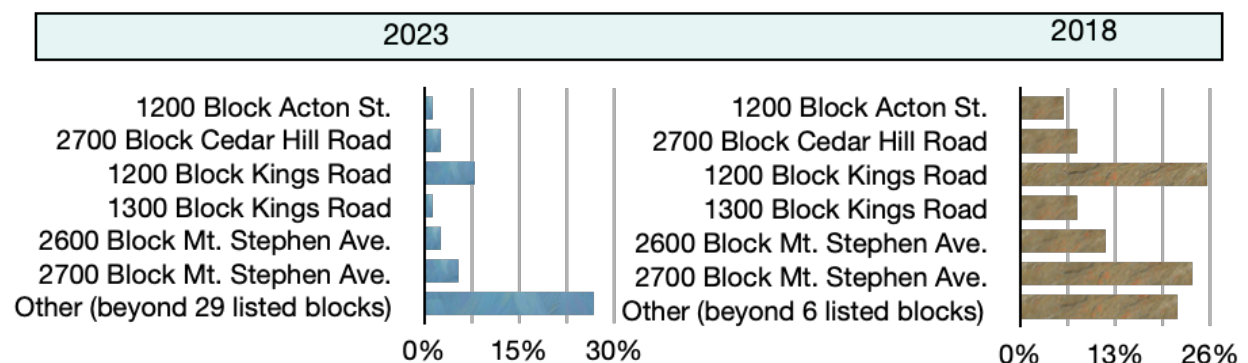
Identifying the location of respondents' homes helps to understand the context for views received. Correlated with other responses, it can inform activity planning.



Respondents were asked to select the street name and block of their residence. The list of locations was expanded from the 2018 set to encompass blocks in proximity to the backbone of Kings Road as presented to Victoria City Council in 2017. Placemaking elements, indicated by capital letters, are explained in the [ORW brochure](#).

As found in 2018, the Woonerf continues to be enjoyed by both those who live in close proximity and those living farther away. The charts below compare a limited selection of locations.

The full list of locations is provided in the appendix where streets shown in *italics* are *in addition to* the already expanded list.





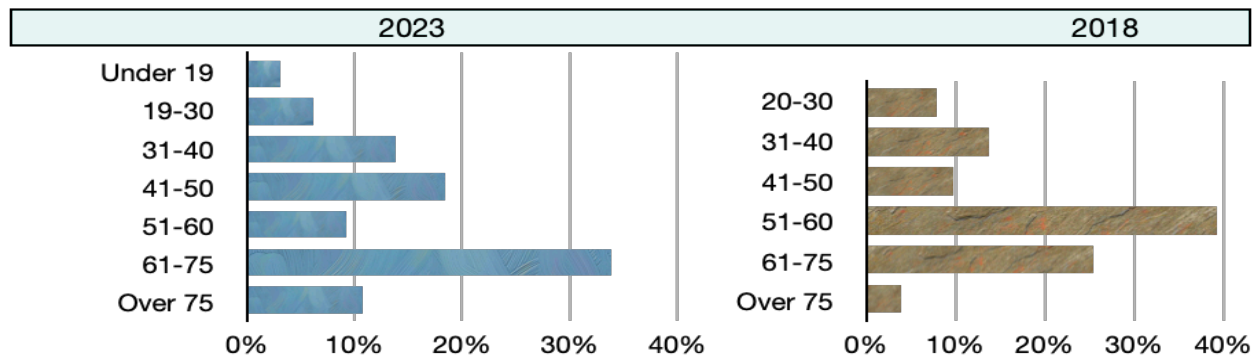
## 16) My age range is ...

This prompt helps guide event activities and volunteer opportunities. It also serves to represent the broad, multigenerational interest observed locally.

A practical consideration is one of coordinating activities and volunteers. Participants whose work involves traditional work hours and those who work-at-home may not be available at the same time. Similarly, those out of the work force are typically active community members and may not have the flexibility that some assume.

Coordinating volunteers is an ongoing (volunteer) challenge.

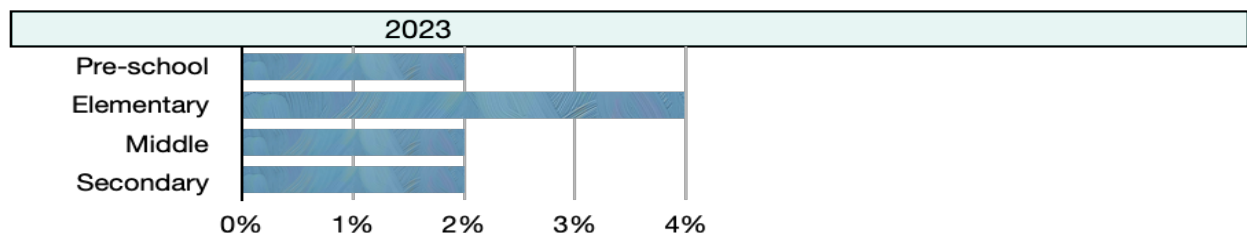
- 48% may be considered “workforce” age 19-60
- 45% includes “workforce plus” aged 61-75
- 5% did not respond



## 17) How many of these age groups in your household?

This prompt is new in 2023. It is intended to inform the development of opportunities to involve children and youth.

The limited response is nonetheless in line with anecdotal observation that the area has seen an increase in young families. Display of pre-school artwork at family events and activities involving kids of all ages serve to invite greater participation.

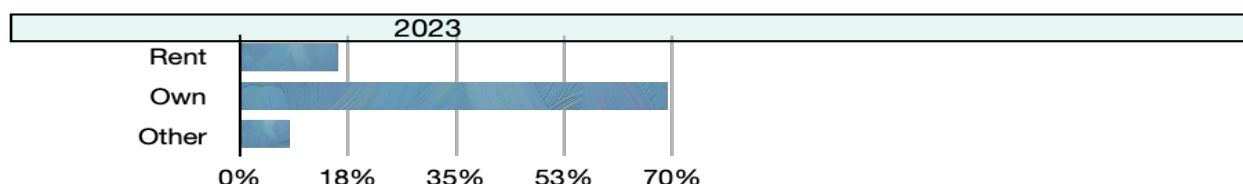


The bar chart represents the percentage of identified age groups among respondents.

## 18) I currently rent or own ...

This prompt, also new in 2023, reveals engagement of both owners and renters. Located relatively close to educational and health care institutions, the area is attractive to renters, some of whom are regular participants. The area features many secondary suites, a seniors residential facility, co-op housing, and other public housing.

- 16% rent
- 70% own
- 8% noted “other” including 1 Woonerf supporter with no fixed address



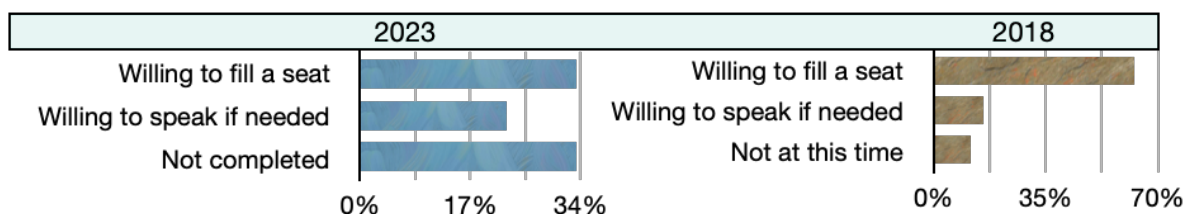
## 19) Strength in numbers at City Hall

Beyond the 34% willing to attend at Council, those willing to speak if needed has increased to 22%. The lesser percentage of those indicating a willingness to attend at City Hall may reflect the positive progress of the initiative and, therefore, a perceived lesser need for representation. Several incomplete responses include comments indicating conditional willingness to attend or speak. For example:

“With the proper background information I can speak to council” (id 68)

“If I know when to be there” (id 89)

“Time allowing” (id 100)



The Woonerf concept and scope was introduced to City Council (2017-2019) with a petition for a moratorium on sidewalks. The resulting 100% support from two elected Councils is understood to continue under the current Council.

COVID and subsequent efforts to achieve goals have delayed an update to the current Council. Meanwhile, the Woonerf has been recognized by the City of Victoria in September 2023 as a Community Champions' success.

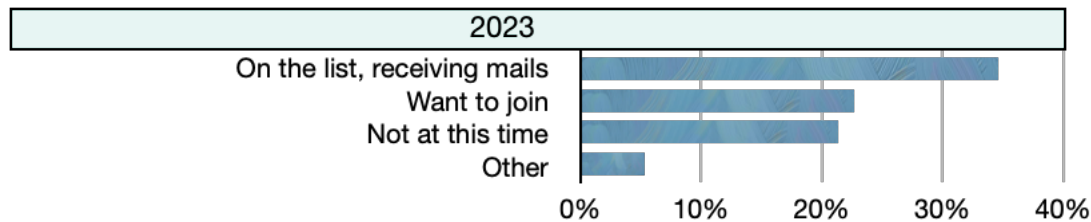
An update is projected for 2024, likely after completion of planned street art noted under the Median Speed chart following in prompt #14.

## 20) Mailing list:

Currently, the ORW Planning Group uses Mailchimp to protect the security of list member addresses.

The mailing list is a one-way communication tool. Input on how to create a two-way communication loop is welcome.

- 24% of respondents want to join the mailing list.
- 34% are already list members
- 21% do not want to join the list
- 21% did not respond to this question



Currently, the mailing list is the primary tool for outreach to some 230 households. Feedback through street-side conversation indicates that many are content with receiving event notification, newsletters and calls to action through this method.

Survey results suggest that 21% of respondents do not want to receive communications through emails. A further 21% did not respond.

This illustrates a challenge in using the list as a tool to reach all who are interested in the progress of the Woonerf initiative.

Of the 24% wishing to join the list, only one has done so independently, suggesting that the direction provided in a “help” dialogue box may not have been viewed. When feasible, a volunteer will undertake to add those respondents to the list.

A two-way communication loop is very important to sustaining the Woonerf as participation grows and we enter the seventh year of the initiative.

Ideas may be shared via [oaklandsrise@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandsrise@gmail.com)

# Appendix

A number of question prompts provided opportunity for respondents to clarify perspectives or add factual detail. Some comments have been abbreviated in the body of the report.

All comments are provided in full in this appendix, arranged by question prompt within three sections:

- Commentary on the Woonerf Adaptation
- Commentary On Navigating the Woonerf
- Commentary About the Respondents

On the following pages, respondent identifiers are shown at left to link each comment to a specific survey response.

# Commentary on the Woonerf adaptation

## Ref.1: My understanding of the Woonerf concept is:

Respondents were invited to suggest ways to be a part of the conversation (zoom, potlucks, gatherings or other ideas).

- 9 Newsletter works great.
- 10 More two-way conversation. An annual update potluck, Q&A opportunities.  
More of the Monday afternoon gatherings that got us through the pandemic.
- 39 Zoom meetings, information sessions, Q&A sessions, social gatherings in which  
to share.
- 40 I love the Woonerf concept and our living streets.
- 43 Learning more...have seen the signs.
- 44 Better aesthetics and better for non-vehicle travel.
- 55 In person. Potlucks or wine-lucks would be great.
- 53 Any would work.
- 64 Love a good potluck! I'm sure there is still more to learn!
- 65 Face-to-face or zoom meetings and potlucks both sound like good ideas.
- 68 Any format of meetings I would like to attend.
- 76 Potlucks, political action, volunteering.
- 85 Willing to work on planning.
- 94 Zoom or outdoor gatherings (accessible to those still taking Covid precautions) 65  
some amount of regularity to scheduling would be helpful to plan attending.

**Ref. 3: I support installation of street art elements:**

- 9 ALL OF IT.
- 10 More planters, paintings to enliven street surface and communicate "place."
- 17 Why not?
- 55 Keeps it interesting and inspiring.
- 22 So long as it doesn't cost tax payer \$ or is funded by donations.
- 53 Yes but not too much be selective but create whimsy.
- 27 Current art installations are thoughtful and tasteful, more of the same please :)
- 29 All types of art!
- 31 Art that reflects the nature on the area. The current planters are very bulky and not very attractive. Professional art rather than by residents.
- 39 Banners, mosaics, metal sculptures work.
- 40 I would love to see a carving from the local Indigenous Nation.
- 46 Indigenous Art.
- 58 More! Slow traffic.
- 61 Already enjoy the current art.
- 63 The sky is the limit. Sculptures, street paintings .
- 65 I would like more of the large concrete planters installed all through the woonerf area. This would calm traffic and create a consistent "place identity."
- 66 Art on roads?
- 68 Imagine along the boulevards large, large boulders/rocks painted bright colours placed at certain areas on the city boulevards. It's a visual feature. Also, painted on the road way hop scotch or 'one-foot' or two-feet' hopping games for children, and other familiar or new 'sidewalk' games.
- 72 We enjoy unique local creations in our neighbourhood and would love to see both permanent and ephemeral art creations.
- 76 Art that reflects the values of the neighbourhood and Woonerf, nature themed, tasteful, green.
- 80 Plantings and trees.
- 83 Road painting, plantings.
- 89 There isn't enough art around, we need to see more.

- 90 Sculptures.
- 95 Neutral in good taste. Apolitical.
- 99 Allows the creative talents of so many to be showcased — personalize the character of the neighbourhood.
- 100 Paintings on the street and at intersections.
- 102 Things like Garry Oak benches.
- 103 I love the painted poles!
- 104 Bird houses.

**Ref. 4: Would you like your boulevard frontage be included?**

- 2 We have transitioned our front yard to pollinator habitat and plan to do the same with the boulevard soon.
- 10 Little pockets along the "soft edge" of the woonerf could be planted with local ecosystem plans - I would join in that to make it happen.
- 17 Sidewalk at curb, but blvd / city area planted to garden
- 39 A great identity for the neighbourhood
- 55 I'm currently not in the Woonerf Greenway
- 58 We do a front garden. Do not want to add more space that needs watering at this time.
- 64 Unfortunately we do not have a boulevard frontage on the woonerf
- 68 My property does not front on Kings street boulevard but I'd like to reach out to those that are to explain to them the idea of the Woonerf and how they can be involved or helped
- 80 I would need some help to maintain any plantings.
- 81 Mine is too small
- 89 If I lived in the area
- 92 Don't have boulevard frontage
- 95 Would like to know what would be entailed.

**Ref. 4: (continued)**

- 99 I am establishing wildflowers onto my boulevard.
- 100 N/A
- 105 My corner Ryan and Fernwood Rd. includes a wide boulevard. Although there is a sidewalk and a marked crossing there, there is space potentially to create a corner filled with plantings, a bench, and/or a booknook library, or a sign explaining that one is entering Oaklands Rise woonerf area. This corner is quite busy with pedestrian traffic from neighbours, school before and after school programs, as well as traffic using Fernwood Rd. I have been working on creating a wildflower patch on a part of the boulevard. Would love to explore other ideas for the boulevard.

**Ref. 5: As someone who enjoys these streets, I will:**

- 10 Research, writing, editing, graphic arts for communications, mentoring project mgmt, public speaking, etc.
- 44 None {presumed to mean no specific preference in volunteering activities}.
- 76 I am happy to volunteer canvassing the neighbourhood for feedback or to share information with neighbours.
- 100 Communications in my network
- 104 When available.



**Ref. 6: Please add a phrase or two to sum up your views.**

- 9 I LOVE the work that you all do to make our community better. Much appreciated. Again, cars booo, people yaaay!
- 10 The woonerf has transformed the area, becoming a force nurturing relationships and a sense of belonging that has been important in getting through difficult times. I feel lucky to live in the area and am proud to share it when meeting passersby that turn out to come here from across the city just to be in this special space. Thanks to all who are making it happen.
- 17 Woonerf is woonderful!
- 18 I love it how it is and enjoy walking there as a destination. Keep up the great work.
- 27 Thanks to all for your continued action and outreach. I hope to be more available in the coming months, but not able to commit more at this time...
- 31 Supportive. Important to involve intersecting streets in this concept.
- 39 ORW is a great neighbourhood initiative. Kudos to the neighbourhood volunteers, anonymous neighbours who have made donations of funds and plants, support and contributions from profit organizations, support from not-for-profit organizations and to key members of the ORW planning group. Together we are making a difference - a more resilient, welcoming and healthy neighbourhood. Together we are creating a legacy for the City of Victoria.
- 46 I appreciate all of the Woonerf efforts. One thing I'd request is that with the money saved on NOT installing sidewalks, that the City of Victoria fix the extensive potholes on Acton St and add speed humps (like on Haultain).
- 49 Kings is a magical street as it is now. Feels like a small town. Reminds me of visiting my grandmother's home. Like a small step back in time (in a good way). Hope it stays this way :)
- 53 Thanks for all you are doing! We will help where and when we can.
- 55 Thank you!
- 58 Love getting out and producing something beautiful with my neighbours, many of whom have become good friends.
- 63 Thank you for all the work being done to promote the Woonerf and to make our neighborhood a beautiful sanctuary and a model to other communities!!!
- 64 I'm excited to see how this project can grow and positively influence the Oaklands and surrounding neighbourhoods!
- 65 All that's been done so far to improve our neighbourhood is lovely, and we can do so much more together to make this place more lively and livable.
- 66 This is such an interesting idea and I enjoy learning more about it!

72 Thank you for bringing life to our neighbourhood. We notice and appreciate your work. I'm sorry we have not had time to participate, but may one day in the future.

74 All in all I think the woonerf is just fine on top of the hill and pointless and useless below.

80 I live on the woonerf and like the concept, and would like to see it extended to my space.

81 I would like to see more community music on the verge! Local performers & community groups included.

83 23Sep17-3 [respondent added the date of survey submission]

86 Would love to get rid of the large grass boulevard! Less lawn mowing!

88 I'm all for anything that brings community together

89 I love this idea and would love to support but I don't have very much.

91 Very supportive

93 I don't live in the Woonerf but walk there regularly and really appreciate all of the work that has been done to make this area so walking friendly and accessible. I've taken several friends there on walks and they all have commented that they had no idea such an area existed in the city.

94 Thank you for making this neighbourhood amazing! I am so grateful to live here.

96 Better together.

97 Good luck!

99 A wonderful collaborative neighbourhood initiative! Looking forward to seeing how it continues to enhance our neighbourhood.

100 This is a very worthwhile community building initiative. Thank you!

102 It feels lovely in this neighbourhood. Keep up the good work!

105 It is very exciting and gratifying to realize the creative work of so many is bearing fruit to enhance our Oaklands community!

## Commentary on navigating the Woonerf

### Ref. 7: Residential streets of the Woonerf area should be managed as:

- 10 Friendly waves, eye contact with drivers who surprisingly often stop for a chat through the window. Liking that most are very good about slowing right down when people with walkers, wheelchairs and strollers are on the street. Would like more potted plants and planters.
- 58 Many cars don't know they should travel at the pace of people when in this area.
- 55 My hope is Fernwood Rd from Bay to Hillside also becomes people-centric and thoroughfare traffic take Cook or Shelbourne.
- 29 People (walkers) and bicycles are equal priorities.
- 51 I do find the planter at Cedar Hill and Kings to be somewhat ill-advised. It makes for difficult turns for vehicles, and I've seen some dangerous situations arise due to two or three cars arriving at the same time, one turning, the others blocking the lane. I'd like to see the planter moved to a better location.
- 50 We don't need anymore spaces privileging cars. More people-first spaces please!!
- 49 I love Kings Road for its feeling of safety for pedestrians. Let's keep it that way!
- 64 Existing transportation corridors should be utilized for vehicles, esp. multipassenger motorized vehicles
- 72 We enjoy walking the Woonerf and would love to see the area closer to Oaklands Park developed to be more friendly to people first approach.
- 83 Respondent selected both answers in print form (only one is possible online). Shared space is wanted AND selection of using the streets as a route from A to B is affirmed in R7 where the respondent cites avoidance of busier streets.
- 86 Boulevard fixes.
- 89 Hope it can work out well for everyone.
- 90 Slow down. Safety!
- 102 Yes!

**Ref. 9: When I am on these streets I am generally:**

- 9 We are not there yet!
- 55 When walking on Fernwood I do try to get off it asap, until traffic patterns come into alignment with the rest of the Woonerf area.
- 40 Happy.
- 90 It is a shared space.
- 95 One has to be aware of the surrounding environment.

**Ref. 10: I want sidewalks in the currently sidewalk-free Woonerf area because they:**

- 10 Sidewalks permit faster speeds from drivers who are not being attentive to people (seniors, kids) pets etc.
- 49 The reason it feels safer on these streets is because the lack of sidewalks makes cars drive slower or avoid the streets altogether. Leave it without sidewalks! :)
- 61 Don't have much knowledge of the pros/ cons of sidewalks.
- 68 My experience using King street is that almost all drivers are respectful of pedestrians. With this mindset somewhat in place it should be possible to involve car drivers in the 'new make- up' for Kings Street.
- 72 I am not concerned about sidewalks, just want a people centred approach to the streets use.
- 74 I have been struck by a car while a pedestrian on Kings. This tends to affect ones opinions.
- 80 It would be good to plan off-pavement walkways .
- 81 I do want a solution to flooding however! on Forbes.
- 82 I am not comfortable with a stroller in a road shared with cars & parked vehicles limit visibility.
- 84 Dutch woonerven are paved.
- 86 Reduce grass boulevards - gardens? wild flowers?
- 88 I am neutral on sidewalks
- 92 Don't think sidewalks are necessary. Grassy boulevards are adequate.
- 97 If vehicles on the road, otherwise no sidewalks
- 101 Allow wheelchair access safe and bum[p] free.

**Ref. 11: I do not want sidewalks in the currently sidewalk-free Woonerf area because:**

- 9 Cars boo, people yaay!
- 10 Re parking: would like angle/head on grouped between planters areas to meet the need with beauty & environmentally sound practice rather than the ugly canyon of cars seen on most streets.
- 22 Use roundabouts and speed bumps
- 53 Too much concrete, takes away the rural feel, will lose trees.
- 29 I'd like to research the safety of no sidewalks because it does not seem to be safer.
- 61 I thought sidewalks were helpful in establishing safe walking areas for pedestrians, but if the research shows that pedestrians are just as safe without and the traffic in these areas stays minimal with low speed limits then I could understand them not being necessary.
- 72 As above [in reference to the response to question prompt 11: "I am not concerned about sidewalks, just want a people centred approach to the streets use."]
- 92 See above [in reference to the response to question prompt 11: "Don't think sidewalks are necessary. Grassy boulevards are adequate."].

**Ref. 12: When driving, my purpose is:**

- 9 I rarely drive on these streets .
- 10 Work from home but maybe 6-8 times per month for a work purpose.
- 41 As an alternate route.
- 64 Go to meetings on and near the woonerf.
- 72 We rarely drive these streets.
- 80 My driveway is on the woonerf .
- 85 Mostly by bike.
- 93 I don't drive here ever, I only walk.
- 95 I drive at sporadic [...] time. No schedule.
- 31 I use it to loop around the block depending on how our vehicle is parked.
- 44 Because Haultain was blocked at Fernwood.
- 10 Weekly shopping, haul garden supplies (mulch, etc.).
- 18 Other - I never drive here.
- 81 I drive to dog parks, more dog park zones / times in neighbourhood pls!
- 82 I commute on Bay or Hillside, try to avoid inner streets.
- 84 Short cuts because: kids on Forbes, Ryan & Belmont (school); can't use Haultain to drive.
- 92 We're retired, so car use less than in our younger years.
- 102 Monthly trek to Lifestyles.

**Ref. 13: When driving a motorized vehicle within the Woonerf area, I use a:**

- 9 Hybrid
- 18 N/A
- 65 This question isn't super clear; I think it's likely not to give very accurate data if people are confused.
- 83 Honda Kona
- 85 & bike
- 90 Hybrid: Toyota
- 94 Car free/bicycle
- 102 N/A

**Ref. 14: With a connector or arterial thoroughfare just 2-3 blocks from every residence, while in the Woonerf area I agree to:**

- 10 Always under 30 & under 20 when people are in the street - often slow to stop and chat.
- 17 n/a
- 31 We live on 2600 block of Cedar Hill Rd. I very much support the concept. Wondering about the impact it has had on the traffic on our street. Traffic seems to have increased.
- 65 I think some modal filters could be a valuable tool to decrease car through traffic on certain streets also. Eg: Recent Vancouver St improvements.
- 88 Respondent enclosed the question & responses in a bracket without selecting.
- 89 At the Pace of People but People need to be aware.
- 92 Good idea [added a request for information on recent interventions]
- 105 30 km speeds are being implemented in Oaklands soon! Good!



## Commentary about the respondents

### Ref. 15: Respondent locations: I live on the:

Streets shown in *italics* are in addition to the expanded list of streets and blocks. Some respondents provided specific house numbers. These have been redacted for privacy. Six respondents did not identify their place of residence.

#### Locations

Acton St, 1200 Blk	<i>Ivy Place</i>
Asquith St, 2600 Blk	Kings Rd, 1200-1260 Blk
Asquith St, 2700 Blk	Kings Rd, 1270-1290 Blk
Avebury Ave, 2600 Blk	Kings Rd, 1270-1290 Blk
Belmont Ave, 2600 Blk	Kings Rd, 1300 Blk
Belmont Ave, 2700 Blk	Kings Rd, 1700 Blk
Capital Heights, 2600 Blk	Mt. Stephen Ave, 2600 Blk
<i>Cedar Hill Rd 2500 block</i>	Mt. Stephen Ave, 2700 Blk
Cedar Hil Rd, 2600 Blk	<i>Newton St, 2000 Blk</i>
Cedar Hil Rd, 2700 Blk	<i>Pendergast St.</i>
<i>Cedar Hill Rd 2800 block</i>	Roseberry Ave, 2600 Blk
<i>Doncaster 2600 block</i>	Roseberry Ave, 2700 Blk
<i>Edgeware Rd, 1400 block</i>	<i>Scott St, 2500 Blk</i>
<i>Elgin Rd. (Fort/Foul Bay)</i>	<i>Shelbourne 2700 Blk</i>
Fernwood Rd, 2600 Blk	<i>Taunton St.</i>
Fernwood Rd, 2700 Blk	<i>Victor St, 2400 Blk</i>
Forbes St, 2600 Blk	<i>Wark St, 2400 Blk</i>
Forbes St, 2700 Blk	
Haultain St.,1200 Blk	
Haultain St., 1700 Blk	

**Ref. 18: I currently [rent/own]:**

- 55 Suite in house owned by my son and his family.
- 39 Housing provider.
- 65 Living with parents.
- 76 Parents Own.
- 89 No fixed address.
- 96 Other, neither rent nor own.

**Ref. 19: Strength in numbers: City Hall Public Hearings**

- 31 I willing to speak about reducing the traffic and or traffic speed on 2600 block of Cedar Hill Rd.
- 39 Numbers is a great asset when dealing with city council.
- 40 I'm always willing to support.
- 41 If available
- 53 Possibly
- 68 With the proper background information I can speak to council.
- 89 If I know when to be there.
- 100 Time allowing.

An event held on May 13, 2023 included opportunity for participants to add post-it notes to boards displaying a number of recent community achievements. Input received is shown below.

Sequential #	Comment
1.	I would love more trees/painting
2.	Tree planting on Kings Rd
3.	Info about history of the area
4.	More xeriscape gardens
5.	Yes, [music/gatherings] in this very parklet.
6.	More barriers to through traffic would be good
7.	Luv the benches!
8.	Little Library on Roseberry!
9.	Acknowledgement of bench artist/craftsman(s)
10.	Metal Art Work
11.	I would love to see something similar develop in my neighbourhood!
12.	Love that my dog is immortalized!!! [re painted planters on the Woonerf at Capital Heights]