

2014 Project Voting Results

Prepared for the Ward 1 Participatory Budgeting Advisory Committee

June 2014

CivicPlan

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ForWard One Project Voting Results 2014

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1.0 Introduction

This report was prepared for the Ward 1 Participatory Budgeting Advisory Committee (PBAC) by CCS Urban Research. Councillor Brian McHattie established a Ward 1 PBAC to advise him on how \$1.5 million in area rating dollars should be spent in the ward.

Area rating is the method used to assign specific program costs to different areas within the city for the purposes of taxation. In April 2011, Council approved the transition to an “urban/rural” model of taxation for the area rated services. As a result of these changes, an Area Rating Special Capital Re-Investment Reserve was set up for Wards 1 to 8 (the former City of Hamilton). The purpose of this reserve is to address the required infrastructure investments within the former City of Hamilton. Ward Councillors are responsible to identify infrastructure priorities within their wards for this investment.

Councillor McHattie has engaged the community to help identify these priorities through a process known as “Participatory Budgeting.” Participatory Budgeting (PB) directly involves the community in making decisions on the spending priorities for a defined public budget.

The Ward 1 PBAC is made up of twenty (20) community members. The committee designs the consultation process, solicits ideas from the community, helps identify the priorities of Ward 1 residents, and makes a recommendation to the Councillor. As this is a citizen-oriented process, all project and voting content was determined by the PBAC and Ward Councillor and the CCS assisted in the collection and analysis of the final data.

Using CivicPlan, the CCS collected community input to solicit ideas from residents and identify project priorities for area rating funding. CivicPlan is a service of the CCS that provides a platform for community engagement. It combines strategic advice, online tools and analysis to provide clients with a direct way to communicate with citizens and plan for the future. A CivicPlan community mapping tool, the Ward 1 Neighbourhood Explorer, was used to help inform the PB process by outlining existing community infrastructure, as well as the successful projects from the 2013 participatory budgeting process.

This report summarizes the results of the PB process to help the PBAC in its deliberations on setting project priorities for Ward 1, as well as planning for future years.

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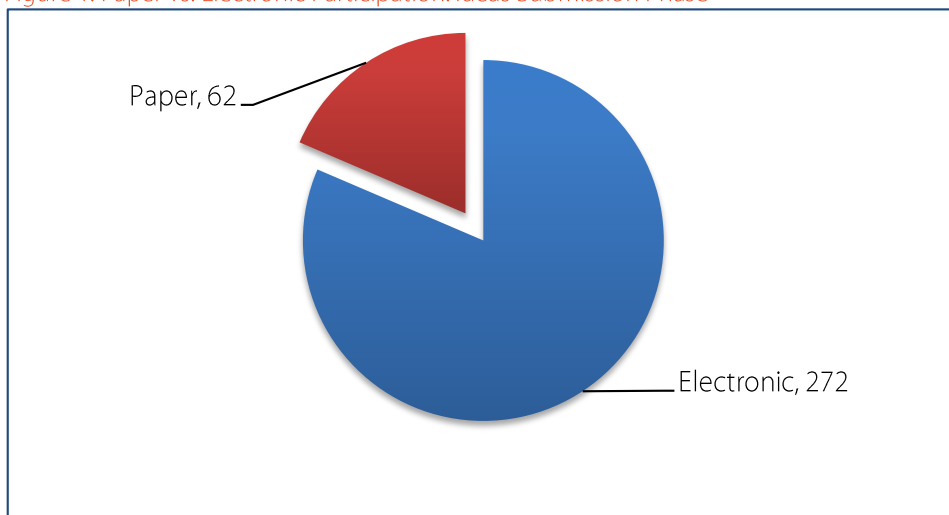
1.1 ForWard One Participatory Budgeting Process

A two-phased engagement approach was employed in the Ward 1 participatory budgeting process. The first phase collected submissions of ideas for project funding from Hamilton residents. The second phase gathered votes from Ward 1 residents prioritizing which projects should be funded. The process was communicated broadly throughout the community via social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter), the Councillor's regular e-mails, ward-wide postering, meetings with community groups, and coverage in the *Hamilton Spectator*. Additionally, Ward 1 residents received a ForWard One postcard in advance of both the ideas submissions phase, and the project voting phase.

1.1.1 Ideas Submission Phase

The ideas submission postcards were delivered to Ward 1 residents in early April 2014. Residents could submit their ideas by May 8 2014, either through the project website (ForWard1.ca) or writing their suggestions on the back of the postcard and drop those off at designated public locations in each Ward 1 neighbourhood (either libraries, community centres or schools). This process resulted in the submission of 334 project ideas, 62 of which were received via postcards, the remaining 272 were submitted online. Thus, paper responses represented just over 19 percent of total ideas submitted (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Paper vs. Electronic Participation: Ideas Submission Phase



As in previous years, the ideas submission process was open to all City of Hamilton residents. Only four ideas were submitted from outside the ward. Also, residents were able to submit multiple ideas and 40 people submitted more than one idea. The most common number of ideas submitted were two per person, the largest number of ideas submitted by a single resident was 11.

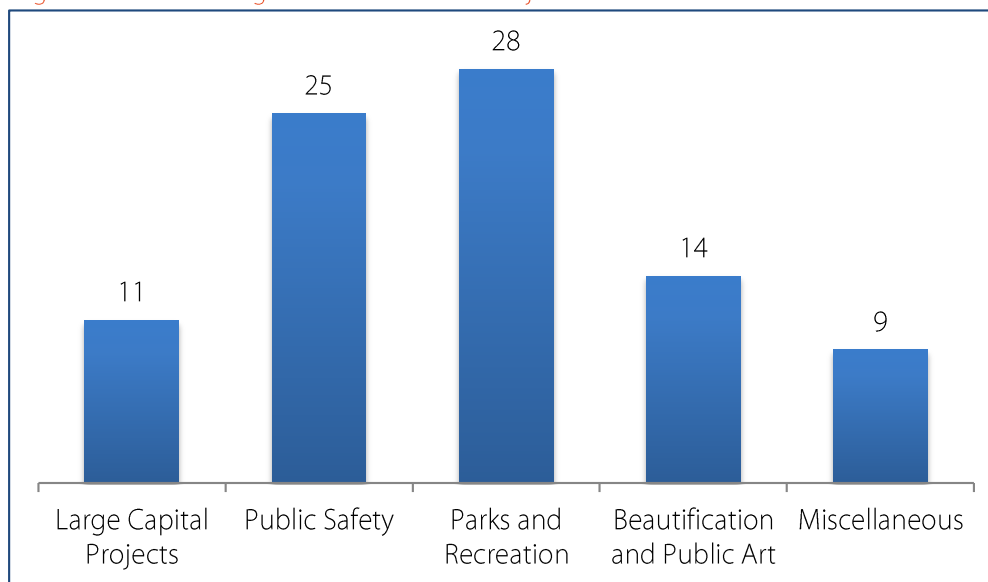
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Following the deadline for ideas submission, the PBAC streamlined the submissions using a variety of criteria to screen the initial list including:

- 1) Some project ideas are already underway,
- 2) Others require operating funding, not capital funding,
- 3) Some ideas didn't conform to city policies,
- 4) Some ideas related to private property and
- 5) Some suggestions were about ideas, rather than capital projects.
- 6) The idea is similar enough to another idea that they could be merged.

The final shortlist included 87 projects. These were organized into five general categories, as illustrated in figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Shortlist Categories and Number of Projects



1.1.2 Project Voting Phase

Once the project shortlist was determined, the second phase of the engagement process was initiated. Ward 1 residents were asked to select their top five projects, ranking their preferences from one to five. This second phase was conducted from May 19 to 31, 2014.

The results of the ranked ballot were totaled using the following weighted method:

- 1st Place Votes =5 points each
- 2nd Place Votes = 4 points each
- 3rd Place Votes =3 points each
- 4th Place Votes=2 points each
- 5th Place Votes=1 point each

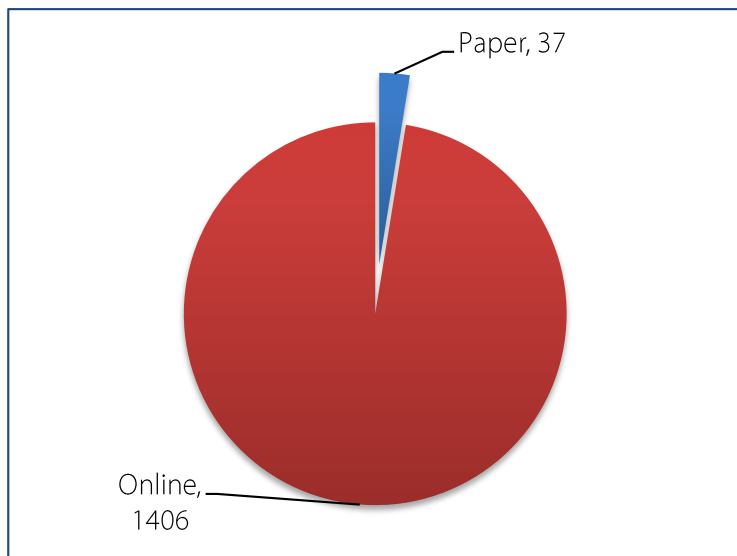
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In total, there were 1443 distinct responses to the survey, of that total 1245 (86%) completed the survey, voted on projects and were included in the vote analysis, and therefore were counted as valid ballots. Of the 198 submissions not included in the vote analysis the reasons for disqualification included:

- Incomplete contact information
- Incomplete ballot (no votes cast)
- Duplicate ballot
- Out of ward
- After voting deadline.

In addition, of the total distinct responses submitted, 37 were submitted in paper format, while the rest were submitted online. This represents 3 percent of total distinct responses (Figure 3).¹

Figure 3: Paper vs. Electronic Participation: Project Voting Phase



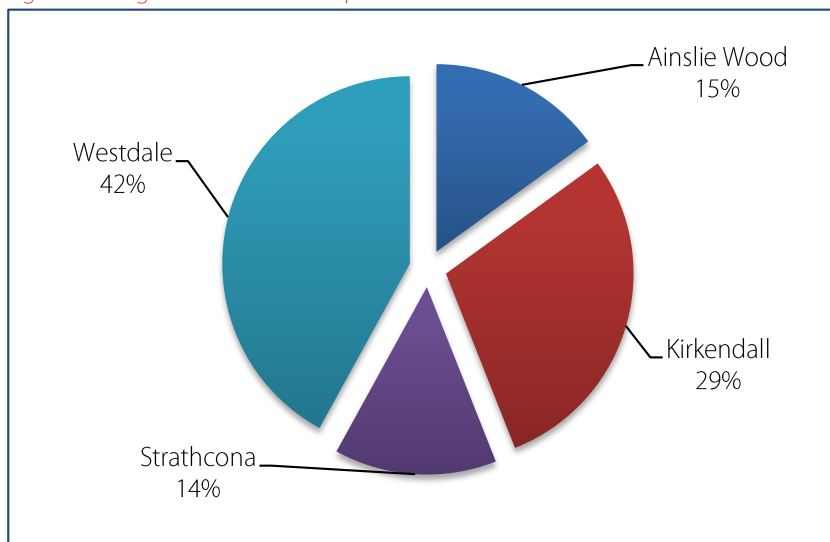
2.0 Voting Results

Ward 1 residents had the option to vote on 87 Ward projects. The following charts and table summarize the results.

2.1 Neighbourhood Participation

Respondents were asked to identify their address and the Ward 1 neighbourhood in which they live. Figure 4 below details the percentage breakdown of valid ballots by neighbourhood.

Figure 4: Neighbourhood Participation

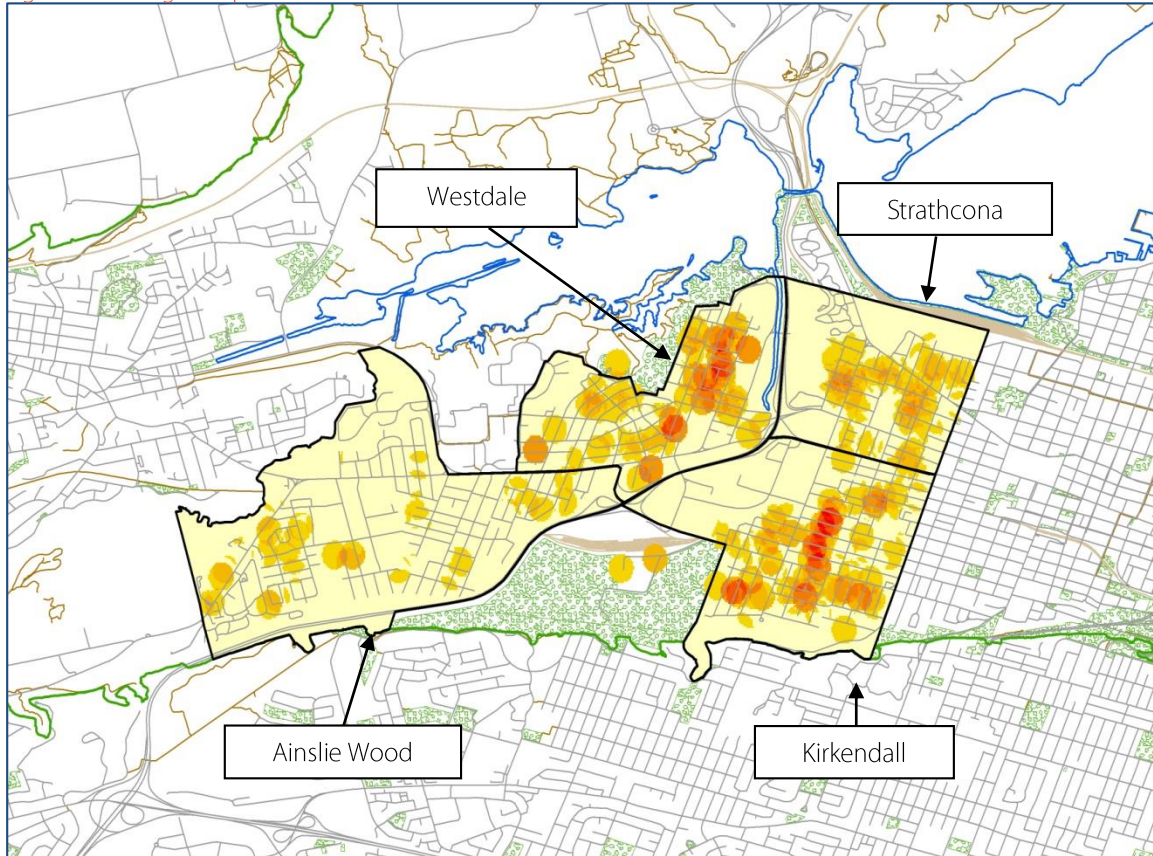


- The largest group of responses came from Westdale (42%)
- 29 percent of respondents live in Kirkendall
- 14 percent of respondents noted they live in Strathcona, while 15 percent were from Ainslie Wood.
- Only 0.16 percent of respondents indicated they lived in a McMaster Student Residence.

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Figure 5 below illustrates the voting hotspot locations within each neighbourhood where the darker red clusters represent areas with a higher density of votes. The highest voter densities were found in Westdale North and in Kirkendall.

Figure 5: Voting Hotspot Locations



Source: CCS Urban Research

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2.2 Project Voting Results

The following table lists the results of the project voting, including the overall total points score and the individual vote totals. Total points score was calculated as the sum of the following: 1st Place Votes =5 points each, 2nd Place Votes = 4 points each, 3rd Place Votes =3 points each, 4th Place Votes=2 points each, 5th Place Votes=1 point each.

Table 1: Ward 1 Project Voting Results

Rank	Project	Total Points	1 st Place Votes	2 nd Place Votes	3 rd Place Votes	4 th Place Votes	5 th Place Votes
1	Cootes Paradise Elementary School – Build natural playground	2035	331	65	21	16	25
2	Additional funds for purchase of Prince Philip School	870	111	50	17	22	20
3	Dalewood Recreation Centre renovation	710	35	58	51	56	38
4	School nutrition programs – Continue funding	672	59	32	35	42	60
5	Seniors’ activity centre in west Hamilton	603	54	45	33	15	24
6	Road diet on Aberdeen from Queen to Longwood	599	68	34	21	19	22
7	Locke Street North pedestrian bridge to Bayfront	594	54	38	30	29	24
8	Earl Kitchener – Revitalize/naturalize playground and repave tarmac at park	520	56	29	21	24	13
9	Natural turf at Westdale Secondary School	452	25	50	25	15	22
10	Churchill Park – Improvements to lawn bowling club house (accessibility, washrooms, public art)	424	9	38	47	31	24

ForWard One Project Voting Results 2014

Rank	Project	Total Points	1st Place Votes	2nd Place Votes	3rd Place Votes	4th Place Votes	5th Place Votes
11	Throughout Ward 1 – More native plants in support of bees, monarchs and other species at risk	409	13	29	32	43	46
12	Connect Longwood Rd to Frid St with pedestrian and cyclist path	396	19	27	32	30	37
13	HAAA – Splash pad installation	352	20	24	33	22	13
14	Prince Philip School – Purchase and convert to green space	345	8	48	24	15	11
15	York Blvd between Dundurn and downtown – Protected bike lanes	338	15	24	29	28	24
16	Throughout Ward 1 – Pedestrianize more streets i.e. widen and fix sidewalks	330	12	27	27	29	23
17	Churchill Park – Allocate funds for general improvements and updates	313	2	14	42	42	37
18	403 ramps on Main and King – Pedestrians safety measures including lighting and mirrors	301	16	22	29	17	12
19	Dundurn St S from Aberdeen to Main – Protected bike lanes	266	10	19	23	26	19
20	Between Bond St and South Oval (at Cootes Paradise School) – Pedestrian crossover lights at King	262	7	26	27	17	8
21	Pedestrian bridge from Kay Drage Park up to Strathcona neighbourhood	249	15	27	8	14	14
22	Throughout Ward 1 – More speed bumps	236	12	15	21	18	17

ForWard One Project Voting Results 2014

Rank	Project	Total Points	1st Place Votes	2nd Place Votes	3rd Place Votes	4th Place Votes	5th Place Votes
23	Throughout Ward 1 – General alleyway maintenance throughout the ward	223	11	20	15	14	15
24	Churchill Park – Outdoor exercise area	218	5	17	17	31	12
25	Family skills bike park for families to learn safe biking	215	7	17	22	15	16
26	Churchill Park – Beautification/renovation of gardens near Aviary	209	7	17	14	22	20
27	Churchill Park – Deer fence around community garden	202	17	12	13	9	12
28	Rifle Range through to Stroud Park – Rail trail sensor lighting and poop n scoop stations	176	10	14	13	10	11
29	Chedoke Stairs – Exercise station	171	5	12	16	17	16
30	Victoria Park – Upgrades to outdoor pool	168	4	15	20	11	6
31	Main between Dundurn and Queen – Tree planting	168	6	10	16	16	18
32	Victoria Park – Year-round public toilet	161	11	13	8	9	12
33	Sterling from King St to McMaster campus – Widen sidewalks	158	5	16	11	11	14
34	Alexander Park beautification	154	0	7	21	24	15
35	Chedoke Trail – Beautification, trail improvements and waterfall identification signage	143	6	9	11	14	16
36	Crosswalk on Dundurn St S at either Melbourne or Hill	135	3	13	10	15	8

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Rank	Project	Total Points	1st Place Votes	2nd Place Votes	3rd Place Votes	4th Place Votes	5th Place Votes
37	One-time arts grants to be administered by the Hamilton Arts Council through a juried process	135	10	8	7	11	10
38	Victoria Park – Resurface splash pad with poured rubber	130	5	9	11	14	8
39	Ryerson Rec Centre – Improvements to indoor pool	128	5	8	9	16	12
40	Bond St S between King and Main – Traffic calming	126	8	10	9	6	7
41	HAAA – Install outdoor fitness/interval course	118	7	8	6	11	11
42	Throughout Ward 1 – Neighbourhood-themed bike racks designed by Hamilton artists	118	3	6	9	19	14
43	Throughout Ward 1 – Beautification, i.e. floral islands	116	8	5	6	12	14
44	Glen Rd and Parkside Dr – Traffic calming near entrance of Churchill Park playground	115	3	9	16	5	6
45	Churchill Park – Replacement/replanting of cherry trees near Aviary	115	1	10	8	16	14
46	Throughout Ward 1 – Install benches	115	2	3	13	21	12
47	Ewen Rd and Main St W – Crosswalk and/or stoplight	109	6	5	14	6	5
48	Charlton from Locke to Dundurn – New bike lane	108	6	3	9	16	7
49	Charlton from Locke to Dundurn – Install speed bumps	104	8	8	6	4	6

ForWard One Project Voting Results 2014

Rank	Project	Total Points	1st Place Votes	2nd Place Votes	3rd Place Votes	4th Place Votes	5th Place Votes
50	Devon Place from Longwood Rd N to Parkside Dr in north Westdale – Widen sidewalks	103	6	7	8	9	3
51	Beulah Park – Install hard surfaced play area for basketball or road hockey	102	3	8	9	12	4
52	York Blvd near T. B. McQuesten High Level Bridge – Pedestrian crossing lights	88	7	2	8	7	7
53	HAAA – Refurbish basketball court	84	2	3	10	12	8
54	Main St W from Leland to Cootes Drive – Tree planting	83	3	6	8	5	10
55	Welcome to Hamilton sign at 403 exit to Aberdeen	83	2	6	6	7	17
56	Beulah Park – Pizza oven	81	5	5	7	5	5
57	Improvements to children's area at Locke Street Library	80	3	3	10	6	11
58	Strathcona & Main – Crosswalk and/or stoplight	75	2	8	5	6	6
59	Throughout Ward 1 – Prioritized crosswalks at each location where rail trail crosses a street	74	2	3	9	6	13
60	Various locations – Dog poop bag dispensers	74	0	6	6	9	14
61	Victoria Park – Public piazza / community square at unused bus loop	74	2	6	4	9	10
62	Victoria Park – Addition of park benches, picnic tables	71	1	3	7	8	17
63	Beddoe Drive – Speed bumps and sidewalk from 120 Beddoe Drive to Chedoke Golf Course Club House	70	5	4	5	4	6

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Rank	Project	Total Points	1st Place Votes	2nd Place Votes	3rd Place Votes	4th Place Votes	5th Place Votes
64	Bike box at King and Dundurn	70	3	5	3	7	12
65	Emerson, Whitney and Ofield – Speed bumps	57	3	4	5	4	3
66	Monument to original indigenous peoples – subject to public consultation	57	2	4	6	5	3
67	Lookouts with benches at the north end of Crooks St and Locke St to view harbour	55	2	4	5	5	4
68	Dundurn Park – Provide adequate wheelchair access at entrances and throughout park	54	3	3	4	5	5
69	Quiet reading room in the Westdale Library	52	2	1	4	8	10
70	Reservoir in Kirkendall – Planting in eroded natural areas	50	3	0	4	9	5
71	Ryerson Rec Centre – Fix parking lot	44	2	3	3	4	5
72	Victoria Park – Expand butterfly garden to the end of the tennis courts	39	1	4	4	2	2
73	York Blvd and Dundurn Park area – Flowers and beautification along	39	2	2	2	4	7
74	Dundurn St S between Orchard Hill and Hillcrest (south of Aberdeen) – Speed bumps	38	4	1	4	0	2
75	Victoria Park – Statue of Martin Short	38	3	2	3	1	4
76	Dufferin St between Macklin and Paradise – Speed bumps	32	3	2	2	1	1
77	Orchard Hill and Mount Royal – All-way stop sign	28	2	1	3	2	1

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Rank	Project	Total Points	1st Place Votes	2nd Place Votes	3rd Place Votes	4th Place Votes	5th Place Votes
78	Rail Trail in Ainslie Wood – Public art	27	1	1	2	4	4
79	King, Main and York – Banners and hanging flower baskets for light poles on streets	27	0	1	4	2	7
80	King Street over 403 – Murals on bike lane barriers	25	0	2	3	2	4
81	Tom Park – Fencing around park for safer boundary for kids	22	0	3	1	3	1
82	Throughout Ward 1 – Community-branded murals throughout the ward	21	1	1	1	3	3
83	High Level Bridge at York Blvd – Lighting and public art	19	1	0	3	1	3
84	Locke and George – Install stop sign	16	0	1	2	1	4
85	Jackson St W – Install speed bumps	15	2	1	0	0	1
86	Victoria Park – Seating and walls of various heights with Plexiglas for rotating art displays, changed seasonally	13	0	1	0	2	5
87	Various locations – Public display counters that show how many people pass by	11	1	0	1	1	1
Total²			1204	1142	1129	1126	1078

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2.3 Summary of Voting Results

The following outlines the top results from the 2014 PBAC voting:

- The top project was building a natural playground at Cootes Paradise Elementary School. This project received more than two times the total points, derived from valid ballots, of the second project, additional funds for the purchase of Prince of Philip School. The success of the natural playground project is consistent with the increased voter participation from Westdale, as well as the concentration of voting in Westdale North, as indicated in the voting hotspots. In addition, there was an article about this particular project in the *Hamilton Spectator* during the project voting period, which may have increased the profile of the idea for voting.
- The third project selected was for renovations of Dalewood Recreation Centre.
- The fourth project, continued funding for school nutrition programs, and the fifth project, to fund a senior's activity centre in west Hamilton, are ward-wide projects.
- Three of the top five projects are larger capital projects: Building a natural playground at Cootes Paradise Elementary School, additional funds for the purchase of Prince Philip School, and a seniors' activity centre in west Hamilton, respectively.
- Of the top 10 projects, all but two are specific to neighbourhoods. Four of the top 10 projects are in the Westdale neighbourhood, one in Ainslie Wood, two are in Kirkendall, and one is Strathcona.
- Also of note is that there were 10 instances of tied total points; the 31st, 37th, 45th, 55th, 60th, 64th, 66th, 73rd, 75th, and 79th projects were all tied.

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3.0 Comparison with 2013 Participatory Budgeting

There are some interesting insights to be gained through a year to year comparison of the Ward 1 participatory budgeting process and results. There are three general areas of comparison; the operation of the PB process, the nature of responses, and the nature of the results.

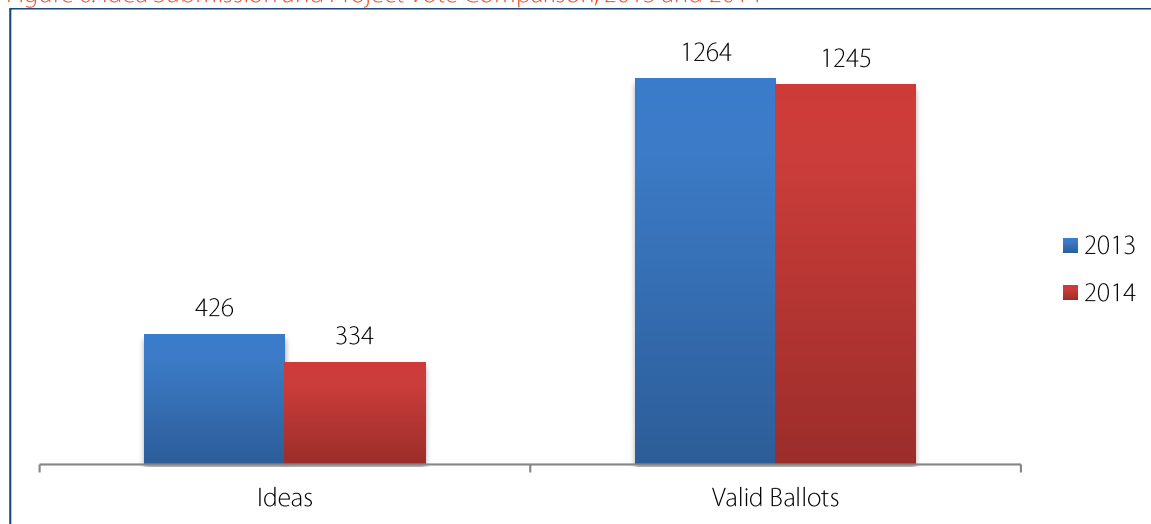
3.1 Process

The major change in process between 2013 and 2014 was that the whole PB process took place between April and May in order to better feed in to the City's annual budget cycle. Additionally, due to the change in time of year, the timespan for the whole process was shortened. In 2013, the ideas submission phase was open for the summer months, while the project voting was open for 21 days in October. The 2014 process was shorter, with the ideas submission phase open for 24 days (April 15- May 8), and the project voting open for 13 days (May 19- May 31).

3.2 Responses

Due to the change in timing of the Ward 1 PB process, as well as the shorter ideas submission and project voting periods, there was concern that there would be fewer participants than previous years. While the numbers of ideas submitted and valid ballots were less than in 2013, it was not a significant drop (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Idea Submission and Project Vote Comparison, 2013 and 2014



In terms of ideas submitted, there was a 22 percent drop in the number of submissions, yet two more ideas were included in the project shortlist in 2014. In the case of the valid ballots, the difference was much less, with only a small difference of 19 ballots or 1.5 percent fewer ballots in 2014 than 2013.

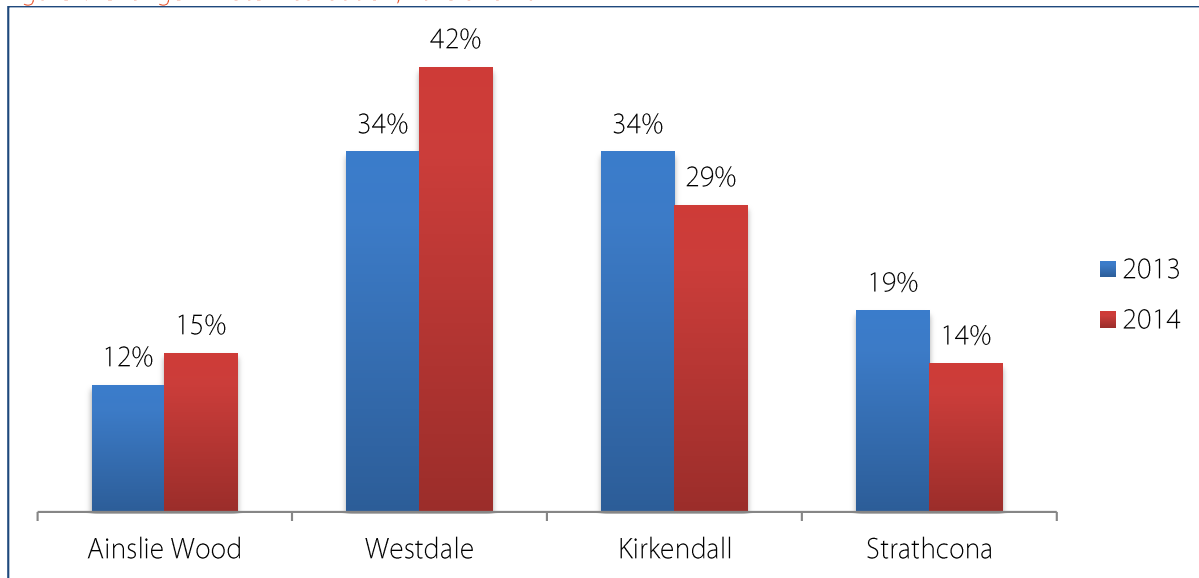
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A few changes were present in paper versus online submissions in the ideas submission and project voting phases. There were 28 fewer paper idea submissions in 2014, representing a two percent drop (from 21 to 19 percent). A greater drop in paper ballots was noted from 2013 to 2014. There were 109 fewer paper ballots submitted in the project voting phase, representing a nine percent drop in 2014 (from 11 to 2 percent of total valid ballots).

3.2.1 Change in Vote Distribution

Vote distribution refers to the distribution of total valid ballots by neighbourhood. The change in the neighbourhood distribution of valid ballots from 2013 to 2014 is displayed in figure 7 below.

Figure7: Change in Vote Distribution, 2013 and 2014



While Westdale and Kirkendall neighbourhoods remained the top two in terms of valid ballots, the relative percentages changed from 2013. This year, there was a shift in distribution with an increase in the percentage of valid ballots in Westdale (up 8%), while a five percent drop from 2013 to 2014 was noted in Kirkendall. Change in distribution can also be seen in Strathcona and Ainslie Wood. There was a five percent drop in Strathcona for 2014 from 19 to 14 percent, and an increase of three percent in Ainslie Wood, from 12 percent in 2013 to 15 percent in 2014.

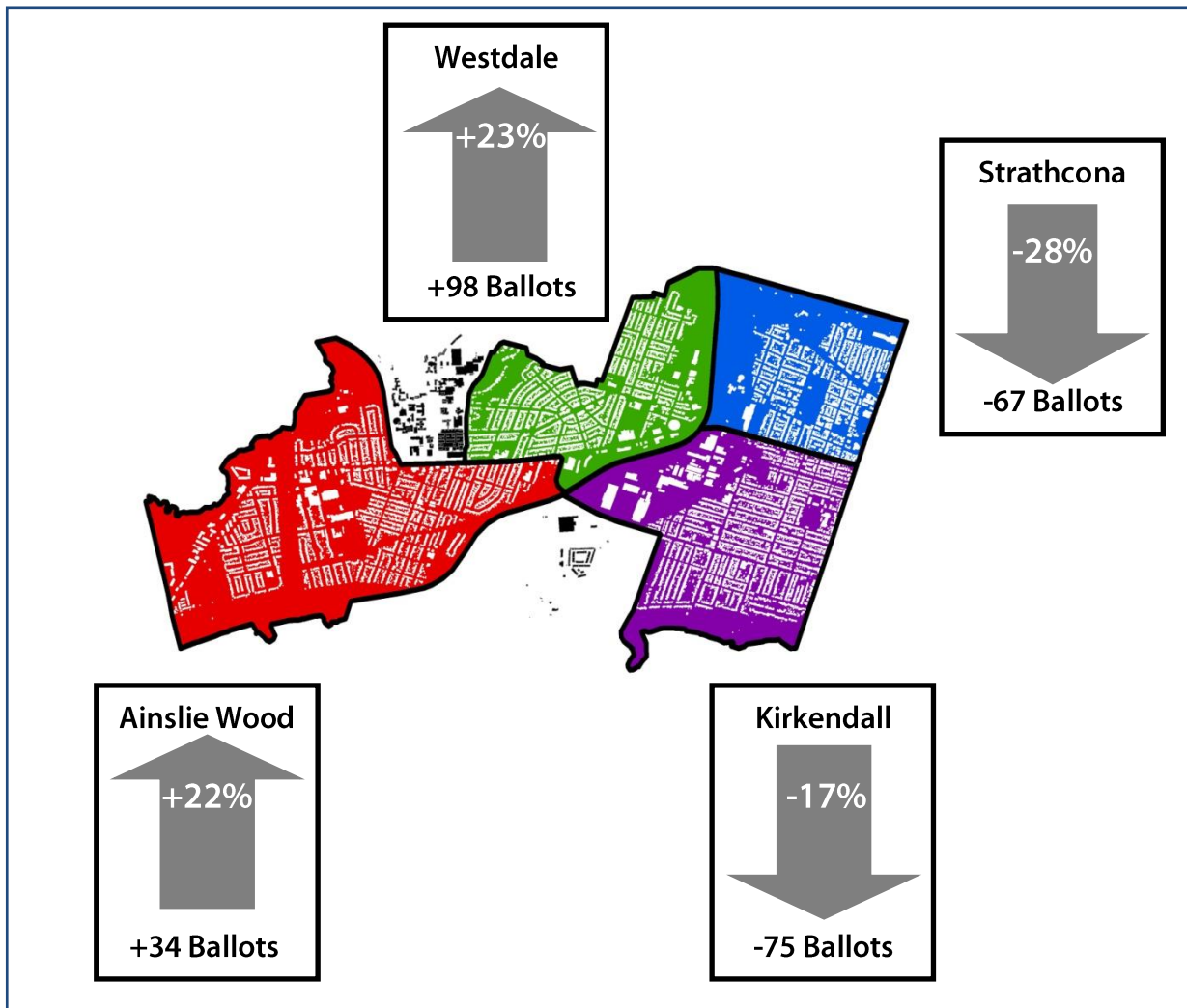
While respondents living in McMaster residences were able to identify themselves again this year, there was less than one percent of participants who noted this. What these results show is that while in 2013 vote distribution was evenly spread among the top two neighbourhoods, in 2014, results were more heavily concentrated in Westdale. Further, in 2013, the majority of votes were from neighbourhoods east of highway 403, but in 2014, the majority were from the two western neighbourhoods.

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3.2.2 Change in Neighbourhood Participation

Neighbourhood participation refers to the change in number of valid ballots cast in each neighbourhood. This gives a sense of whether there is an increased or decreased level of participation. Figure 8 below illustrates the change in neighbourhood participation levels from 2013 to 2014. While Westdale and Ainslie Wood saw growth in the number of valid ballots cast, up 23 and 22 percent respectively, Strathcona and Kirkendall saw decreases from 2013 to 2014, down by 28 and 17 percent respectively.

Figure 8: Change in Neighbourhood Participation, 2013 and 2014



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3.3 Results

The selection of the top ten projects for 2014 differed from those of previous years. Whereas in 2012 and 2013 the top projects selected were funding for school food and nutrition programs, this project selection fell to the fourth place in 2014. There are three other projects that had repeated support for funding in 2014. These included building a pedestrian bridge from Locke Street North to the Bayfront, and improvements to the lawn bowling club in Churchill Park. Another recurring project was related to updating the turf at Westdale high school. Although in this instance it appears that the support was for reversing last year's idea of artificial turf in favour of natural turf.

One difference between 2013 and 2014 relates to the number of ward wide projects that appear in the top ten ranked ideas. While half of the 2013 top ten projects had ward wide reach, only two of the 2014 top ten projects have the same impact. These are the continued funding of school nutrition programs and the building of a seniors' activity centre in west Hamilton.

5.0 Summary

- The Ward 1 PB process was held earlier in the year and for a shorter period of time in 2014.
- There were 1245 valid ballots in the 2014 participatory budget process.
- While there were a mix of ballots from all four neighbourhoods in Ward 1 (Ainslie Wood (15%), Kirkendall (29%), Strathcona (14%), Westdale (42%)), a notable high concentration of this year's participation came from Westdale. Less than one percent of respondents identified as living in McMaster student residence.
- The top project this year was the building of a natural playground at Cootes Paradise Elementary School.
- The project priorities tended toward neighbourhood specific projects. Only two of the top ten projects selected were Ward-wide. Four of the top 10 projects are in the Westdale neighbourhood, one in Ainslie Wood, two are in Kirkendall, and one is Strathcona.
- The participatory budgeting process saw a small decrease in participation for 2014, perhaps due to the change in when it was held and the length of time voting was open.
- There was some continuity in the priority projects selected in 2014 from 2013. Specifically, school food/nutrition programs, improvements of the Lawn Bowling Club at Churchill Park, and connecting Strathcona to the Waterfront Trail via Locke Street, and new turf at Westdale high school.
- For the first time, participants in the Ward 1 PB process were asked for their feedback on the process itself. Three general themes emerged from the feedback, including support for the PB process, suggestions on how to improve the online experience, and suggestions about the PB process overall.

6.0 Endnotes

¹ Please note that six paper ballots were invalidated; two were incomplete, three were duplicates, and one was from out of ward.

² Please note that totals will not equal the total of valid ballots (1245) as not all voters selected five projects.