

ENVS 210 UNBC

The Value of Nature:
Understanding the
Values of Green and
Natural Space and
Green Space in the
City of Prince George,
BC

- Research and Presentation by:
**Naokah Bailes, Namuun Bat-Urnult,
Mariah Curry, Tate Fowler,
Courtney Froehlich,
Mary'ann Gabriel, Ben Gadd,
Drew Gilchrist, Hayley Heidinger,
Nicholas Holmes, Denae Meise,
Kiara Mills, King'ori Mwangi,
Megan O'Bee, Jerek Postuk,
Heather Romeyn, Colton Savage,
Olivia Schneider, Riana Smith,
Andrea Vargas, Chantal Wickson,
Ashley Yorston**

The Project: Examine the Following Issues

- The Values of Nature for Ecological Protection
- Ecological Services & Pricing Ecological Services
- The Aesthetic Value of Greenspace
- The Social and Educational Benefits of Green Space
- The Mental Health and Wellness Benefits of Greenspace

THE VALUES OF NATURE: ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION

HAYLEY HEIDINGER, DENAE MEISE, TATE FOWLER, NICK HOLMES, MARIAH CURRY



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

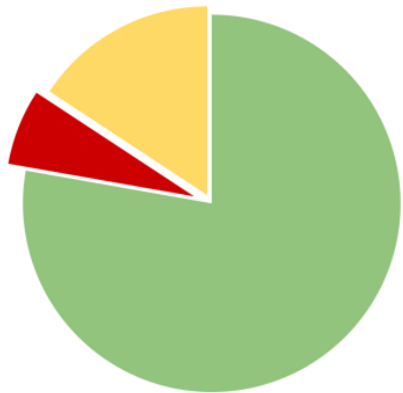
- 1) PRIORITIZE MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENTS TO MINIMIZE URBAN SPRAWL, RELIANCE ON VEHICLE TRAFFIC AND HABITAT FRAGMENTATION
- 2) ENSURE DEVELOPERS COMPLETE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS, SENIORS AND LOW INCOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Ecological Services

Ecosystem services provided by Canada's forests are worth \$93.2 billion/year (*Pembina Institute*)

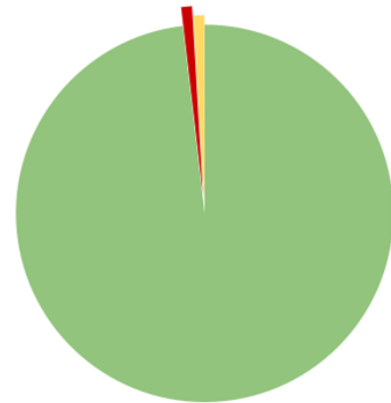
City Income, Development

- Increased property value
- Increased value of life



● Yes ● No ● Neutral

Would you be willing to pay more for housing with access to green space?



● Yes ● No ● Neutral

Does access to green space add value to your life?

Disaster Mitigation (Savings)

- Floods
- Fires
- Landslides



Maintenance (savings)

- Building heating & cooling
- Pollination and pest control
- Carbon sequestration

The Value of an Aesthetically-Pleasing Greenspace

Feeding Wildlife in Cottonwood Park

Background Information:

- When experiencing nature, individuals prefer more pristine environments (Ibarra et al, 2017; Karden et al, 2015)
- Greenspace positively impacts mental health, and interventions aimed at improving psychological functioning through the use of green spaces are particularly successful in treating mental illness (Louv, 2005; Epstein et al., 2006; Davis & Atkins, 2004; Wilson et al, 2008; Allen, 2007).
- Exposure to biodiverse, aesthetically-pleasing greenspace is beneficial to the cognition of adolescents and adults. (Gunnarsson et al., 2016; Joye et al., 2018; Maes et al., 2021)
- Unique greenspaces are profitable through tourism (Flanagan, 2011; D'Souza, 2021; Government of Manitoba, 2017).

Issues:

- Disturbed and compromised aesthetic
- Duck population staying through the winter (not migrating)
- Dangerous animal attractant
- Garbage Bears

Recommendations:

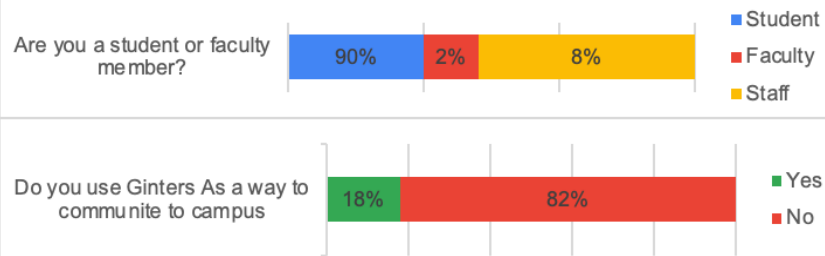
- Bylaw officers enforcing Prince George Bylaws 11.1 and 11.2
- Educational posters on negative impacts of feeding wildlife
- Seek environmental consultation for assistance with duck populations

6. Greenspace - Social & Education

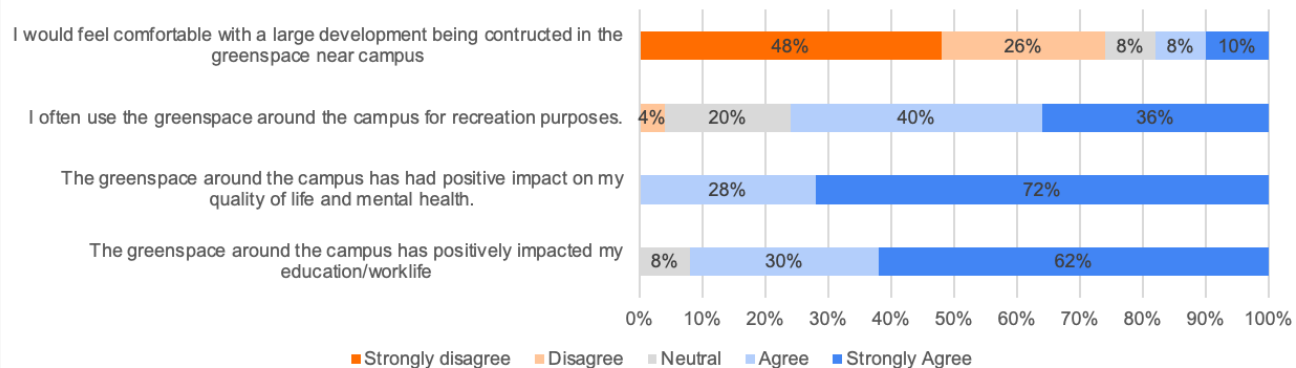
Community Value of Wild Green Space

- Current community use
- Education
- Social
- Concerns

Survey Participants



The Greenspace Questionnaire



GREEN SPACE USE SURVEY

UNBC Student, Faculty and Staff... Do you use Ginters Green or Forests for the World?

ENVS 210
Environmental Perspectives

Professor:
Dr. Annie Booth



WHY?

We are doing this survey to determine the benefits and uses of the green space surrounding UNBC to students, faculty and staff, for your learning and personal well-being.



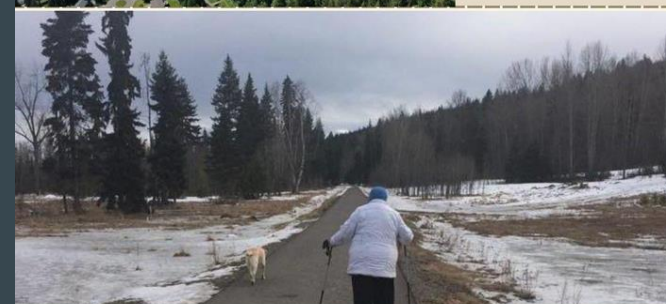
WHATS HAPPENING?

The Prince George Official Community Plan has the greenspace surrounding UNBC slated for potential commercial and housing development.

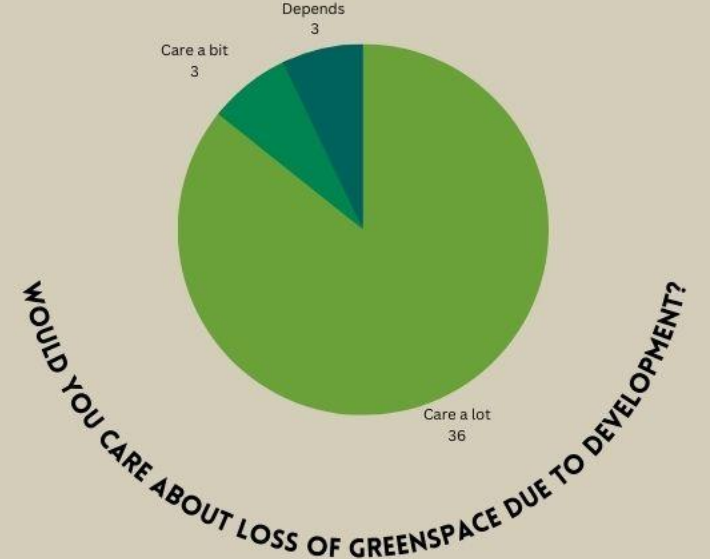
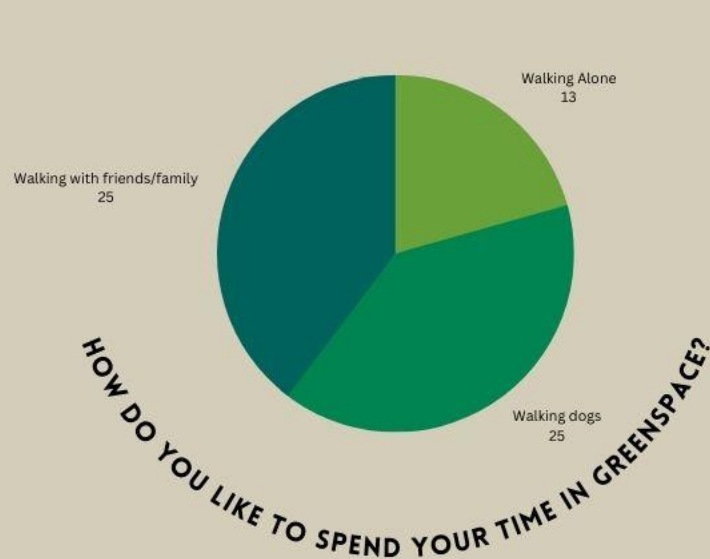
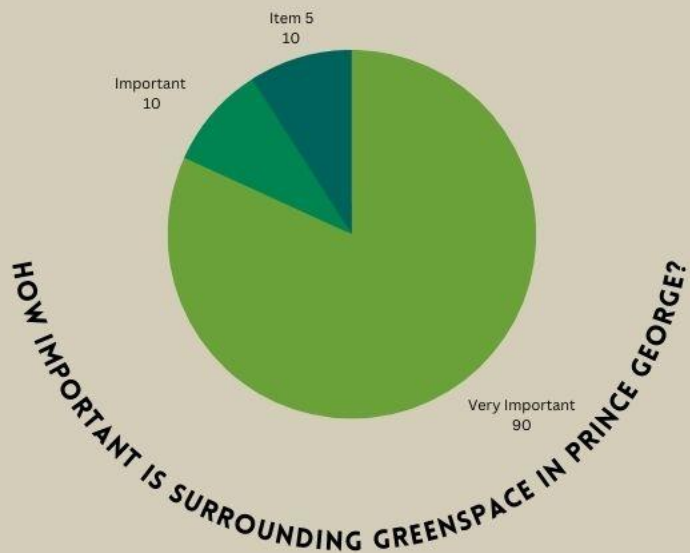
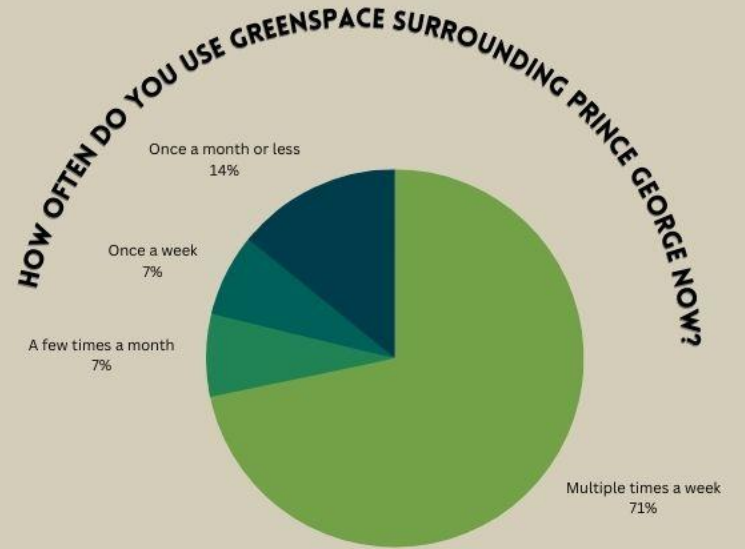
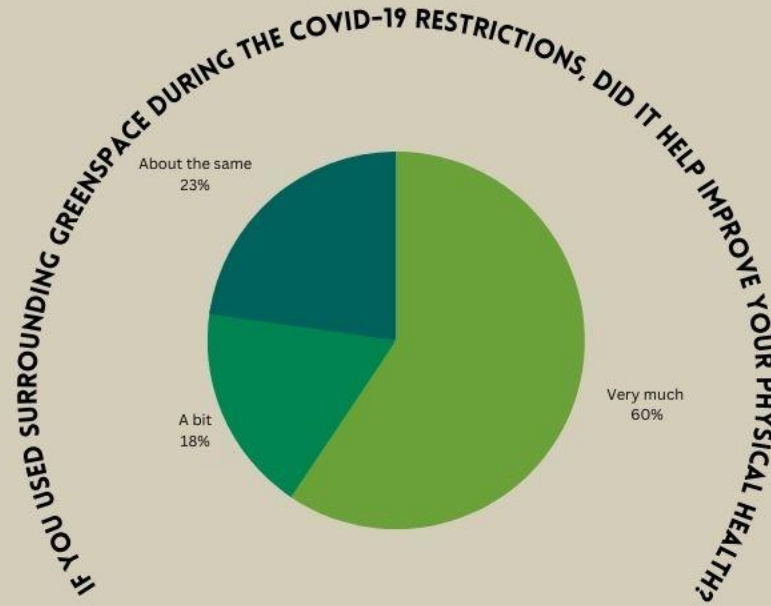
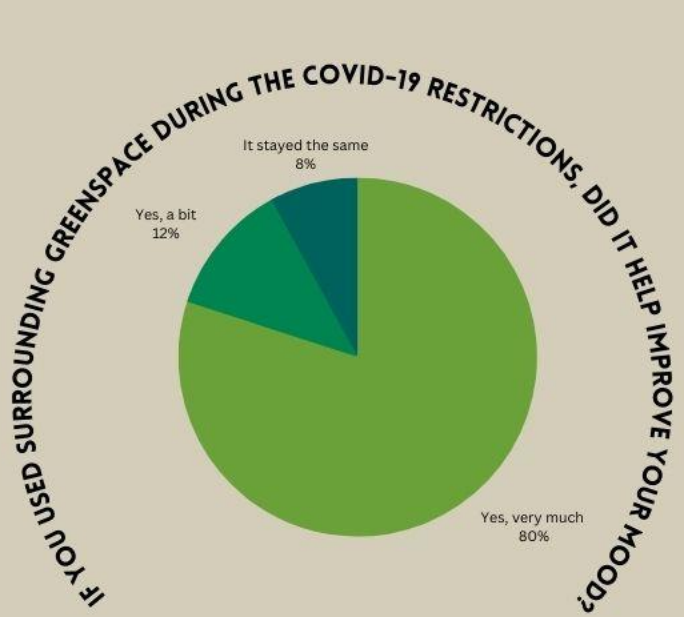


HOW HAS THE GREEN SPACE AFFECTED YOU?

Do you use Ginters Green or Forests for the World to get to work or school? Do you hike or bike for recreation? Have you used either space in a UNBC course or activity? Do you value access to green space? Are you unaffected?



HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN URBAN GREENSPACE



THANK YOU!

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Will share the full report after
December 7