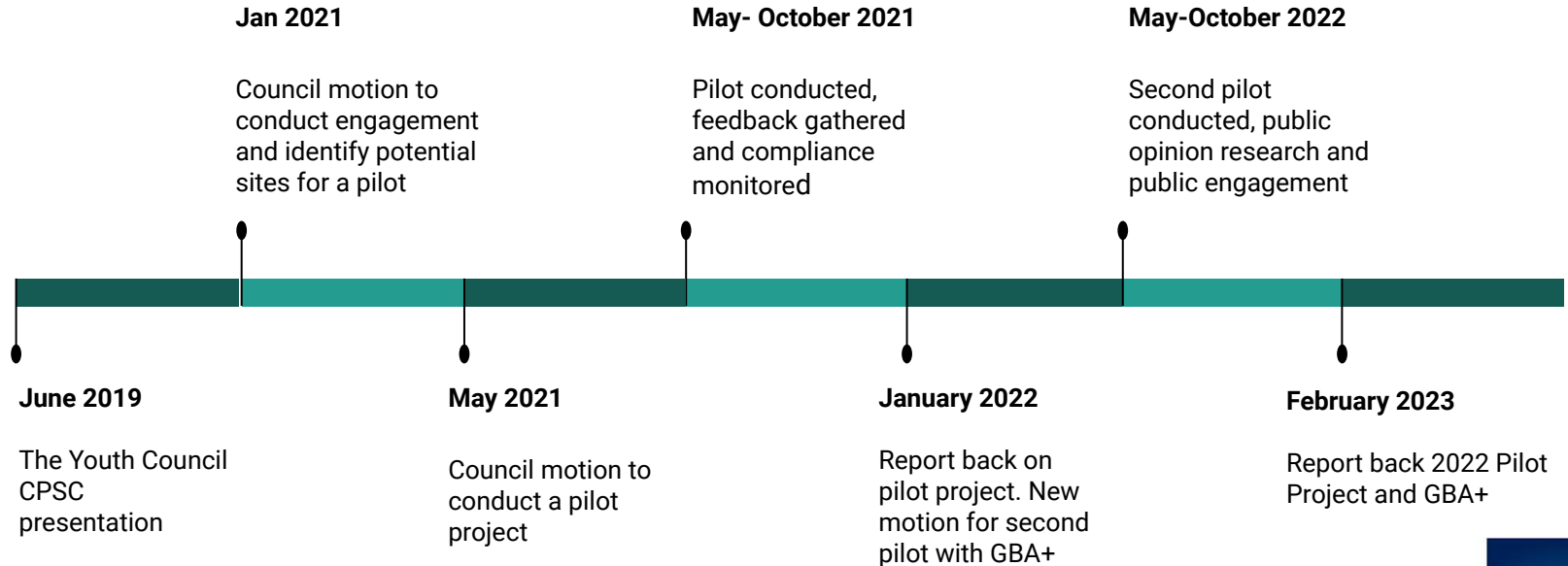




Alcohol Consumption at Designated Picnic Sites - Further Analysis

February 27, 2023
Community and Public Services Committee

Alcohol Consumption in Parks Pilot - Background



Literature Review

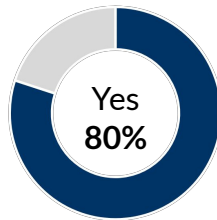
- Limited Canadian or international sources found specific to alcohol consumption in parks
- Uptick in Canadian municipalities piloting and/or debating alcohol consumption in parks
- Harms associated with alcohol consumption are well-studied, including physical health, mental health and social impacts related to community, family, and gender-based violence
- Recently released *Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health*
 - No consumption of alcohol is safest
 - 1-2 drinks per week: likely avoid risk

Public Opinion Research

Investigated opinions of the broader population using:

- Telephone surveys
- Online surveys
- Intercept surveys

Should the City
allow drinking
in designated sites
at designated parks?

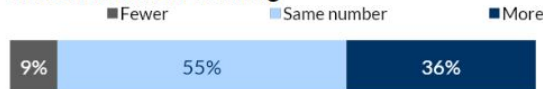


Among those who think drinking should be allowed

Number of parks that should allow drinking



Number of sites in the parks
that should allow drinking



Focused Public Engagement (GBA+ Approach)

- Less awareness and support of the program among equity-deserving groups compared to the broader public.
- Workshop participants were more critical of the initiative.
- Individuals representing a cross-section of identities noted alcohol complicates their feelings of safety.
- Alberta Health Services and Edmonton Public School Board concerned about:
 - The misalignment between promoting healthy lifestyles and the harms associated with alcohol
 - Undesirable behaviours and activities around schools and children.



Pilot Project Results: Operations and Enforcement

- Minimal impacts to the designated sites and infrastructure
- Limited complaints from the public
- There have been limited incidents of public disorder across the two pilot project years.
- Administration can implement the program within existing budgets



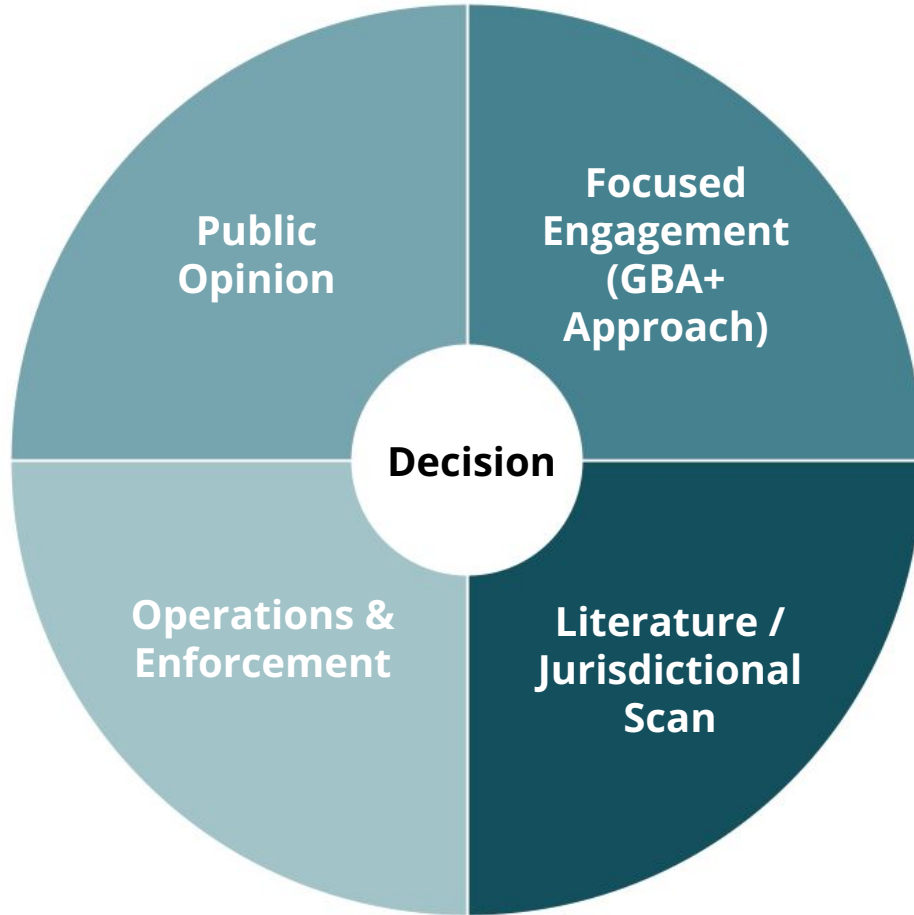
Practices That Can Mitigate Concerns

Practices in Place

- Limiting the number of picnic sites and parks that permit alcohol
- Review the program on a regular basis
- Choose the number and placement of designated picnic sites with care
- Expanding inspection and enforcement staffing (2021 only)

Additional Practices

- Establish additional limits on the program
- Education campaign about the effects of alcohol consumption
- Expanding transit service



Thank You

Edmonton