Bridgwater Neighbourhood Pathway Lighting

Public Engagement Summary

December 2018

Background

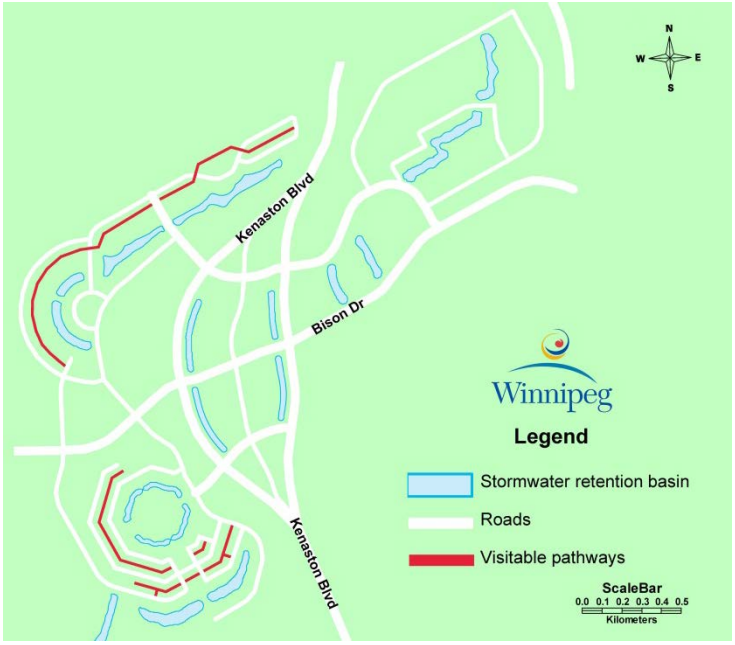
The Bridgwater neighbourhood developer has requested that a requirement for pedestrian lighting along some of the visitable pathways be removed from the development agreement. Visitable pathways are the public pathways located in the drainage area behind accessible homes with no-step entries (called "visitable homes"). The City of Winnipeg gathered feedback from residents on support and opposition for the installation of lighting along several visitable pathways in the Bridgwater neighbourhood.

Engagement & Promotion

Postcards were mailed to 4,079 houses, condominiums and apartment units in the Bridgwater neighbourhood, inviting residents to provide input through an online survey. The postcard also provided a link to a webpage with additional information.

Participant addresses were collected to determine which survey respondents directly backed onto the visitable pathways.

A total of 204 survey responses were received from October 29 to November 15, 2018. Two responses were from outside Bridgwater, as one of the Canada Post mail routes overlapped with an adjacent neighbourhood.



Of those who participated in the survey, 48 were from those who back directly onto the visitable pathways. In total, 276 homes in the area back onto the visitable pathways where the requirement for lighting will be decided.

Key Findings

Support for lighting:



Respondents = 204

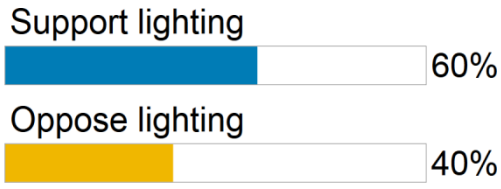


91%

of respondents use visitable pathways

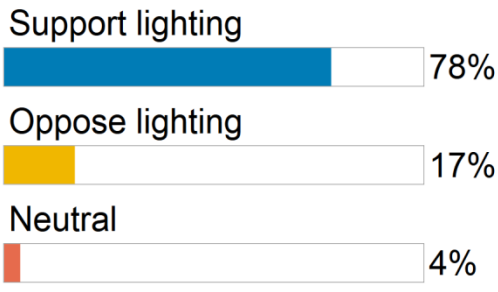
Respondents = 204

Of respondents who back onto a visitable pathway:



Respondents = 48

Of respondents who use visitable pathways:



Respondents = 185

To learn more about the Bridgwater Neighbourhood Pathway Lighting, please visit winnipeg.ca/bridgwaterlighting

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What We Heard

Responses were separated to determine support or opposition for lighting by those who back onto the pathways and those who use the pathways.

The final survey question asked if the participant had anything they would like to add. These responses were categorized into themes to provide further reasons for support or opposition for pathway lighting.

Increased security (30), ease of pathway use (12), and improved neighbourhood aesthetics (3) were the top reasons for supporting pathway lighting. One respondent indicated that lighting is "*a very important element to the appeal, safety and accessibility of the Bridgwater neighborhoods and pathways.*"

Light pollution (14), decreased security (5), and impacts to nature (2) were the top reasons for opposing pathway lighting. Those who back onto the visitable pathways noted their concerns about light disturbance in their home (9), for example: "*I am concerned that the light will enter the bedrooms at the rear of my home*."

Respondents (18) also advocated for improved pathway maintenance, including snow clearing, grass cutting, and drainage.



Limitations

Due to a Canada Post strike, postcards may have been delayed in arriving to residents. The strike was rotating so residents may have received postcards with other delayed mail. The survey period was long enough to allow for delays in postcard delivery.

Expressing the impacts of lighting is difficult with photos and text. Those with properties that back on to the visitable pathways may not fully understand how the lighting will impact them despite the images and explanation of potential for light spillage. In addition, the number of lights and the exact location of lighting were not provided as the design for the pathway lighting is not available.

Next Steps

Key findings and survey results will be shared with the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development for consideration on the January 7, 2019. City Council is expected to make a final decision on amending the development agreement at the January 31, 2019 Council meeting.

Appendices

Appendix A – Postcard

Appendix B – Survey Results

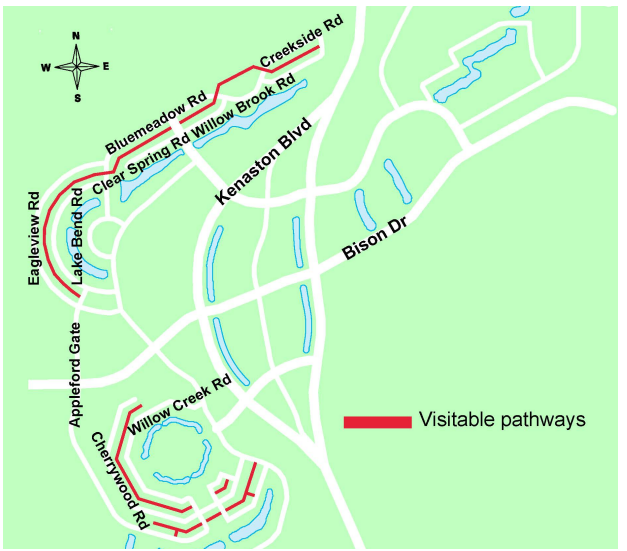
To learn more about the Bridgwater Neighbourhood Pathway Lighting, please visit winnipeg.ca/bridgwaterlighting

Appendix A – Postcard

Bridgwater Neighbourhood Pathway Lighting Survey

The City of Winnipeg is consulting with residents and gathering feedback on support and opposition for the installation of lighting along several public pathways (called 'visitable pathways', identified on the map below) in Bridgwater neighbourhood. Please take the time to fill out the survey at the web address below. Only one survey per household will be accepted. The survey closes November 15, 2018.

For more information, visit: winnipeg.ca/bridgwaterlighting



We want to hear from you!

Your survey URL is:
surveymonkey.com/r/FHVKY8L

If you require alternate formats or prefer to complete a paper copy of the survey, please contact City-Engage@winnipeg.ca or 204-986-7134

Appendix B – Online Survey Results

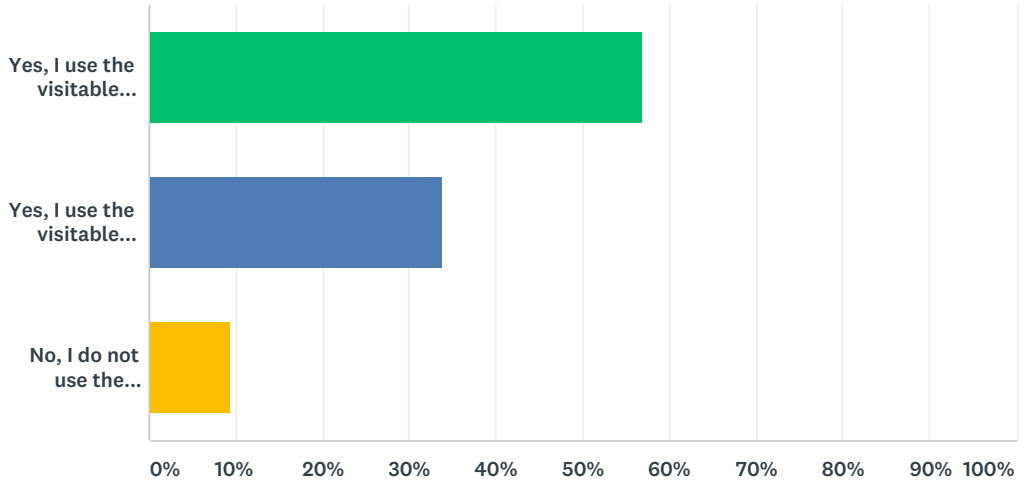
Q1 Please indicate your address.

Answered: 204 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	0.00%	0
Company	0.00%	0
Street Number (e.g. 24)	100.00%	204
Street Name (e.g. Kentland Road)	100.00%	204
City/Town	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	0.00%	0
Phone Number	0.00%	0

Q2 Do you use the public pathways called ‘visitable pathways’ in the Bridgwater neighbourhood (shown in red on the map above and in the photo)?

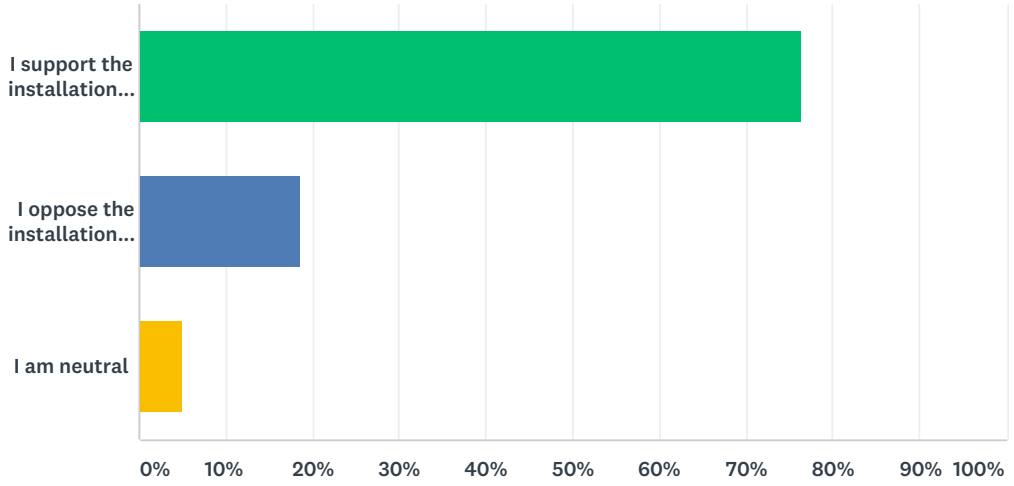
Answered: 204 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I use the visitable pathways often.	56.86%	116
Yes, I use the visitable pathways from time to time.	33.82%	69
No, I do not use the visitable pathways.	9.31%	19
TOTAL		204

Q3 How do you view the installation of pathway lighting on the visitable paths in the Bridgwater neighbourhood (defined in red in the map above)?

Answered: 203 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I support the installation of lighting	76.35%	155
I oppose the installation of lighting	18.72%	38
I am neutral	4.93%	10
TOTAL		203

Q4 Do you have anything else you would like to add?

Answered: 111 Skipped: 93

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Je voudrais aussi l'eclairage dans les sentiers de Bridgwater Forest.	11/15/2018 1:39 PM
2	THE PATHS NEED TO PART OF THE SNOW CLEAN UP IT IS CALLED WINTERPEG FOR A REASON STOP INHIBITING PEOPLE FROM ACCESSING THE PATH SYSTEM IN WINTER	11/15/2018 9:51 PM
3	My suggestion is to stall some ground light, not that very tall. That's a little waste.	11/15/2018 11:37 AM
4	I feel safer walking my dog and my family with these lights.	11/15/2018 9:00 AM
5	I live on ********** and have just learned of this survey via Facebook. We received no survey card and I find the information on the website lacking the necessary information to make an informed decision at this time. More information required such as the number of lights to be installed, will these lights be on timers ie. will they be on for four afters dusk or will they be on the entire evening? Are the lights seasonal ie Summer and Fall, or will they be year round? If year round, will the walkways be maintained year round with snow removal, so that they are accessible?	11/15/2018 5:36 AM
6	Yes I would walk more in the summertime if there was more lighting in my area	11/14/2018 4:17 PM
7	My master bed room faces the pathway. I feel if these lights are installed it will be too bright and I will not be able to sleep. I have already spent $12,000 on blinds that are one level above black out and they still let in quite a bit of light from the street light in front of my house. I do not want to spend money changing my blinds to black out. Thank you for asking for my feedback.	11/14/2018 12:03 AM
8	It would be better if the light can be spread out over a wider area.	11/13/2018 11:44 PM
9	I use lots of the pathways in the Bridgwater Forest area. The two areas noted here are quite far from my home and I would likely only venture that distance in the summer when lighting in the evening is not as big an issue. I do think that lighting on the paths would make more residents comfortable using the paths in the darker hours. It's usually pretty quiet out there.	11/13/2018 9:13 PM
10	Please consider the paths through the forrest as well as it is very dark and concerning for women. I have 3 daughters and we all do not feel comfortable walking those paths after sundown.	11/13/2018 8:59 PM
11	We have sidewalks for people in this neighbourhood which have ample lighting, and no further lighting should be required for people who choose to use the pathways!	11/13/2018 5:36 PM
12	There should have been lighting installed in the parks and walking paths years ago. It would deter crimes from happening. It is also a safety issue for children getting off the buses in the winter when it is dark. They need to be able to use the paths and walk home safely, not in the dark!	11/13/2018 1:52 PM
13	Please install more lighting along the pathways in Bridgwater Forest.	11/13/2018 12:15 PM
14	Please consider adding lights at the playgrounds. In the winter they are pitch black very early and we can't use them with our young children.	11/13/2018 9:22 AM
15	Would be nice if you could use a lighting fixture that projects light onto the path with limited light bleed onto the yards.	11/13/2018 6:52 AM
16	We should put more fund on park and fountain maintenance.	11/12/2018 7:38 PM
17	That path between the houses on Creekside and the field between Bridgwater Lake and Whyte Ridge is a perfect place for creeps to hide. Without lighting I would never use that path in the dark. I honestly can't believe people even bought those houses given that the path provides access to their backyard. The only reason that the the developer (or the province) wants to cancel that requirement is for cost savings, which should not supersede community safety.	11/12/2018 6:10 PM
18	We need more lighting, at night it is extremely dark in the fall and winter	11/12/2018 5:29 PM
19	I think lighting is important for the safety of residents.	11/12/2018 2:55 PM
20	Pathways are scary dark at night!	11/12/2018 1:55 PM

21	No	11/12/2018 10:36 AM
22	Requesting the City to be mindful of individual residencies putting up large buildings like sheds towards the edge of the land, covering the neighbour's view of the lakes (man made ponds) and open view.	11/12/2018 9:24 AM
23	Lighting these areas would allow for safer use during times of low light, and extend the the users ability into evening hours.	11/12/2018 8:52 AM
24	More trees	11/11/2018 7:45 PM
25	There are other parks and pathways along Bridge lake Dr and Del Monica Road area that lead and walk out to Kenaston that require more lighting for the safety of our community as well.	11/11/2018 12:24 PM
26	If the lights are going to be installed, are the paths going to be maintained as in being shovelled during the winter time as well? I would find it not worth it if it’s not shoveled and lights are installed. It would not be useful or useable as the paths are lite up and not shovelled during the winter season.	11/10/2018 5:25 PM
27	No	11/10/2018 3:36 PM
28	We live in Bridgwater Forest, and have only indicated we do not use the 'visitable pathways' because they are not in our immediate area and not been to those pathways yet, i.e. by bike. We do use the other pathways very often, multiple times per week. Lighting adds a perception of safety and support safety over the negative element of light spilling over to private properties.	11/10/2018 11:35 AM
29	There are three pedestrian-only bridges providing access to the Bridgwater Trails Fountain area. The pedestrian-only bridge connecting Willow Creek Road to the fountain area had lighting installed at least one year ago (perhaps longer). The lighting on this bridge has never been turned on. These three access pathways and adjacent playground are well used throughout the spring, summer and fall months. It's unfortunate that the existing lights are not being used. Does the decision to illuminate the existing "lighting-equipped" pedestrian bridge(s) also require community input? It is a waste of resources to have the lights there and not use them.	11/10/2018 11:13 AM
30	There does not need to be extra lighting added to the pathway. I am concerned that more people will attempt to use the pathway at night than right now.	11/9/2018 6:45 PM
31	Need some lights in the back. It is so dark.	11/8/2018 11:02 PM
32	The priority should keeping the paths useable, the paths are not ploughed in the winter time making them difficult to use with the drifted snow. This is a much higher priority than lighting	11/8/2018 9:15 PM
33	I do not wish for there to be any light spillage into my property. I greatly enjoy the dark evenings at the rear of my home. I would consider any lighting on the pathways to be light pollution that reduces my enjoyment of the night sky from my property. I am also concerned that the light will enter the bedrooms at the rear of my home.	11/8/2018 7:52 PM
34	This is a safety issue for both those using the pathways and homeowners. Unlit areas behind homes pose a serious risk for inviting criminal activity like break ins, etc. Back lanes in the neighbourhood should be under consideration for lighting as well. Lots of garages are broken into on our street.	11/8/2018 6:49 PM
35	This should be a safety concern. I use these paths every evening and they are incredibly dark - especially during the winter months.	11/8/2018 3:49 PM
36	There has been a great deal of vandalism throughout Bidgwater. This would be a positive deterrent to that.	11/8/2018 2:48 PM
37	Lighting is very important and we fully recommend doing it. Thank you.	11/8/2018 1:25 PM
38	As this is a safety issue I feel that it is very important. I know of a few incidents happening on the pathways in Bridgwater, man exposed himself to girls, clowns hiding and scaring people to name a few hopefully lighting would deter these assaults.	11/7/2018 7:48 PM
39	There is enough light pollution in the area as it is.	11/7/2018 5:18 PM
40	None	11/7/2018 4:49 PM
41	I said I was neutral to the idea of lighting on the pathways in Bridgwater Neighbourhoods simply because the indicated areas in question are in Bridgwater Lakes and Bridgwater Trails. I live in Bridgwater Forest. If lights are to be installed in the Bridwater Neighbourhoods, then it should INCLUDE ALL AREAS OF BRIDGWATER, INCLUDING BRIDGWATER FOREST. If all areas of Bridgwater are going to get lighting, than I support the installation of said lights.	11/7/2018 12:26 PM

42	Use solar-powered lighting if less costly.	11/7/2018 11:47 AM
43	Installation would provide promote safety on top of convenience.	11/7/2018 10:57 AM
44	No, I don't have anything to add.	11/7/2018 2:04 AM
45	Light is too bright and would shine right in my living room and bedroom windows.	11/6/2018 11:00 PM
46	Thank you	11/6/2018 9:29 PM
47	There is a significant lack of information in this survey to be able to make an informed decision. What times would the lights be on? Are they to be LED or Sodium Halide? The only way we could possibly support lighting being installed is if it was directional with absolute focus on the pathway. The style being proposed will cause excessive light pollution into yards and bedrooms. Also, from the notes that have been put into this survey it sounds like the current street lights do not meet the guidelines set forth by Transportation Canada.Why not spend the millions of dollars this will cost remediating that?	11/6/2018 6:36 PM
48	These paths need to be plowed in winter to allow for year round use! They are critical for active transportation and to the bus route in the development.	11/6/2018 6:28 PM
49	I think this would be beneficial for safety reasons as well as usage of the path without restricted daylight hours.	11/6/2018 4:57 PM
50	i want Govermwnt to set lighing around my area.	11/6/2018 4:35 PM
51	Our family would prefer the playgrounds to have lighting.	11/6/2018 8:09 AM
52	Lighting will open the opportunity for late night shopping, noise issues from people and they taking their dogs for a walk which happens already never mind at 11 pm or later which I am sure will happen. Over the last five winters the walkways were not snow cleared so if they are installed they should be shut off during this time.	11/6/2018 7:39 AM
53	The grass on either side of the path is quite narrow. We have issues with drainage and sitting water there. I would hope care would be taken during installation to not make the drainage issues worse.	11/5/2018 10:25 PM
54	We the bridgwater Forest Phase 1 neighbours would like lighting on our pathways too. Why do they deserve special treatment?	11/5/2018 9:50 PM
55	Thank you for asking the residents for input. We use these paths on a regular basis; jogging, cycling and walking. As someone who lives directly beside and in front of the path in question, privacy has always been an issue. We have lived in Bridgwater for nearly nine years (we originally lived on Lake Forest) and have noticed that lights attract teenagers. Teenagers make noise late at night and leave their garbage and empty beer cans on the ground. The bridge behind Hunterbrook used to have lighting and it was removed. The fountain is very loud and garbage is seen on nearly a daily basis (empty beer and coffee containers) in the summer. By adding lights to the pathway, you are encouraging people to stay out past dark behind peoples homes. Not a good idea. If someone needs to walk home in the dark, please use the existing sidewalks on the well-lit street. These new lights would pollute every back yard. Let me ask you, would you like a light placed just outside your property line that is brighter than your street light? Thanks again for allowing input from someone who may or may not be directly affected by a bad idea.	11/5/2018 9:01 PM
56	no	11/5/2018 6:32 PM
57	Would like to see some small lighting in the forest paths. It would be much more practical than a fountain.	11/5/2018 6:27 PM
58	I am highly opposed to adding lighting for a variety of reasons. Firstly, at nighttime, it is not necessary for people to be walking close to houses and forest areas. I want to maintain the integrity of the natural surroundings in this area. Adding lighting would allow for night-time gatherings etc close to homes and natural forest areas. There are a variety of wild animals living in the forest - with the development of the area, the land is already highly compromised for them to live comfortably. Adding more lighting will add further and unnecessary encroachment on the animal population removing the last bit of privacy they have - at night. With added lighting, it offers areas for people to gather late at night, to party, etc. This type of activity is unwarranted in a community of this type. Further, added lighting will most likely raise our taxes in the area. There is already ample lit-up sidewalk area on the main and side streets offering evening walking	11/5/2018 4:27 PM
59	Why on earth would anyone be against something that would only improve the safety of our citizens and children? I am definitely in favour of lighting these paths.	11/5/2018 3:05 PM

60	Visible pathways is the way forward! Thank you for taking charge of the good things for Bridgewater!	11/5/2018 2:10 PM
61	What about the Forest pathways? Many use these as shortcuts going home.	11/5/2018 1:58 PM
62	Are we going to be paying extra property taxes with the installation of these lights?	11/5/2018 12:22 PM
63	I hope that there will be snow clearing on such pathways too during winter even once or twice per season so we can walk there during winter.	11/4/2018 6:24 PM
64	We already feel that our neighborhood is well lit. We don't use the paths after dark and this will add a lot of light at the rear of the homes along the path which I'm sure won't be appreciated.	11/4/2018 5:59 PM
65	Nothing to add	11/4/2018 5:17 PM
66	The pathway lighting is important for our entire neighbourhood. It not only brings more lights and visibility for drivers but also for children and seniors when they are walking on the pathways, especially in winter before sunrise and after sunset.	11/4/2018 4:45 PM
67	Pathways through the forest in Bridgwater Forest; and the playgrounds should also have night lighting as the darkness is attracting undesirable activities at night.	11/4/2018 1:37 PM
68	I would like to see lighting among the other paths in the Bridgwater area.	11/4/2018 11:17 AM
69	I think new lighting would be o.k. on paths not behind houses etc.	11/4/2018 10:49 AM
70	Why is the lighting only considered in Bridgwater Lakes and not Forest? There's a section of forest that connects arbour meadow gates to the bridgwater forest play area... primarily from a safety perspective in winter months.	11/4/2018 10:34 AM
71	Lighting is necessity for the pathways, as is an occasional plow in the winter so we can actually use the paths all year round. Thanks.	11/4/2018 10:01 AM
72	The light installation is needed to increase security.	11/4/2018 6:50 AM
73	Have lived in the neighborhood for 18 months and last winter the paths were almost completely useless as they didn't get snow removed even one time. That would be a better use of money as the paths are used far more frequently during the day.	11/3/2018 4:41 PM
74	I oppose the installation; I don't believe more light pollution is necessary. I prefer being able to use the pathways with only the minimal background lighting that is always present in cities.	11/3/2018 3:32 PM
75	I think all pathways should be lit	11/3/2018 3:17 PM
76	i understand that it is distressing for those who back onto these pathways, to have to think of having extra light spilling into their yards- but this is to maintain safety to those in our area walking in the evening or night. unfortunately, they chose to purchase a house that backs onto a pathway- and this goes along with that choice. I do believe that if completed backyards are damaged as a result of the insertion of these lamp posts- that those residents should be reimbursed in order to have a company come to fix the damages that are done to their property (ie. mud on their new mod/in yard)- as this should not have been an after thought of the developer/city and should have been done prior to the building of these homes in the first place.	11/3/2018 3:03 PM
77	Why would you spend the money to put lights on a "visitable path" that the city doesn't even clear in the winter! This path is not even accessible 5-6 months out of the year. In addition, many homeowners leave the path covered with debris and dirt from their landscaping and the city does nothing to reprimand these homeowners. Do something about keeping the path clean and accessible and forget about the lights.	11/3/2018 2:04 PM
78	Lighting the paths will add unnecessary brightness to residents who enjoy the peace at night. It will disturb wildlife! We moved here for the woods, not lit up woods...so unnatural and unnecessary due to our very low crime rates. We have enough lights already and don't need more! Has anyone bothered to walk our paths at twighlight or complete darkness? I can assure you it is bright enough and we feel completely safe in the dark winter nights. Don't hurt the wildlife, and don't hurt the residents by adding more light pollution!!!!	11/3/2018 12:02 PM
79	I have osteoporosis. A fall would likely result in broken bones. Some of these paths already have obstacles with cutouts across the path filled gravel. Lighting is an importanct safety issue. Not having lighting is a legal liability issue.	11/3/2018 9:44 AM
80	I have no issues with the lights however most of the time the grass isn't cut throughout the pathways and its disgusting to look at.	11/3/2018 8:39 AM

81	We wish the lighting was less bright. Would also like these pathways to be snow cleared in winter so they can be used year round.	11/2/2018 10:04 PM
82	Thank you	11/2/2018 9:52 PM
83	Maybe nicer light post design	11/2/2018 9:40 PM
84	Too light to sleep at night because the lighting is so closed to the house's windows.	11/2/2018 7:29 PM
85	Already found kids smoking / drinking /making noise around the bridge water area where there is lightings in summer. Pathway light will cause safety issues and hurt neighbors.	11/2/2018 6:10 PM
86	Project sounds good to my household.	11/2/2018 5:12 PM
87	Having lite pathways would be great and encourage more people to use them in the evenings	11/2/2018 5:01 PM
88	No	11/2/2018 2:03 PM
89	I support lighting on all the pathways	11/2/2018 12:17 PM
90	I support adding lights to the walkways, but i do think the walkways would then also have to be cleared in the winter so that they are walkable and then the lights could provide an actual service year round. They have not been plowed or cleared for the last few years.	11/2/2018 9:36 AM
91	visibility and safety are of prime importance	11/2/2018 9:30 AM
92	Is solar lighting an option?	11/2/2018 8:12 AM
93	The drainage is the issue along many stretches of the pathway. The homeowners cost of replacing drown out trees and vegetation is the real issues. Can't wait for the lights to be installed.	11/2/2018 6:49 AM
94	Fix lawn drainage along rear pathway of Eagleview Rd. Certain areas are not graded/sloped properly resulting in standing water.	11/2/2018 3:28 AM
95	I strongly support the installation of pathway lighting in Bridgwater FOREST. We have had instances of crime in these pathways and at certain spots, the pathways are in complete darkness through the forest. This is more of a priority than having lights in Lakes & Trails as there aren't dark stretches of forest, which pose as safety hazards.	11/1/2018 11:26 PM
96	Unlit trails are unpleasant and dangerous.	11/1/2018 9:26 PM
97	no	11/1/2018 9:12 PM
98	Lighting level higher than that of main streets is excessive, glare into our bedroom will be unacceptable. Height of proposed lights is too tall and the potential for such lighting to be installed was not indicated to us when we purchased our lot. We are strongly against the installation of such lighting in our immediate backyard, it will impact on our investment, change how we use our backyard, and cannot be added after the fact as we have made our purchase decsions on the basis that such lighting will not be in place. If we had known this, we would not have purchased this lot. This cannot be allowed to proceed.	11/1/2018 9:08 PM
99	Good idea to have these light posts.	11/1/2018 8:01 PM
100	I really like the Decorative light and decorative top that are similar to the ones by the sidewalks that are surrounding/approaching the fountains in both locations. (Lake Bend Rd. & Rose Lake Ct.	11/1/2018 7:21 PM
101	I often walk the pathways alone and would feel much safer if the walkways had lighting.	11/1/2018 6:21 PM
102	The lighting is needed & will be appreciated. Any chance for more speed bumps on Bridgeland Drive North? The one we have is great, but could use 3-5 more!	11/1/2018 5:17 PM
103	I do not want lights shining into my bedroom which backs onto the pathway. Far better would be to plow those paths so people could use them year round.	11/1/2018 5:14 PM
104	It would be good to understand how far apart light posts will be from each other on the same side of path and as well opposite from each other...will they be staggered?	11/1/2018 4:17 PM
105	Our household is in favour of lighting the visitable pathways for safety reasons. The pathways are incredibly dark at night time unless there is a very bright moon. We would prefer lower lighting, like that along the walkways of the Bridgwater Lakes fountain, however any lighting is better than no lighting.	11/1/2018 3:02 PM
106	The pathways aren’t cleared in the winter, so half the year lighting is a mute point. I was also told when I paid and built there wouldn’t be lighting so my window selection reflects that lack of light noise at night.	11/1/2018 1:19 PM

107	Installing lighting is the best bet for a safe, comfortable, classy community.	11/1/2018 12:47 PM
108	A very important element to the appeal, safety and accessibility of the Bridgwater neighbourhoods and pathways. We fully support the installation of lights.	11/1/2018 11:02 AM
109	I walk my dog daily on these paths and in winter months, it is very dark before and after work so there hope for a bright walk. The paths are not cleared in the winter and the uneven ice is very dangerous. This development was designed around the paths so they should be usable year round.	11/1/2018 10:50 AM
110	I dont feel that strongly because i am not directly affected. More weight should be given to responses from those directly affected.	11/1/2018 10:39 AM
111	Proper lighting not only adds safety to a neighborhood, but also adds a sense of a caring and progressive community. We strongly support this option, and thank you for your efforts to make it happen.	11/1/2018 10:29 AM