



Errol Heights Park Outreach Summary

September Open House and Online Survey

Overview

Portland Parks and Recreation plans to spend \$12 million to make improvements to Errol Heights Park. As part of that process, they are engaging neighbors and the public in order to refresh the vision and master plan for the park. A committee advisory committee has been meeting since May 2018 to provide input and direction to the project team on early design concepts.

The September Open House and Online Survey were the first chance for the broader public to weigh in on their priorities and preferences for the park design. The engagement goals included:

- Understand how people currently use the park and what they like about it.
- Identify what guiding principles for the park design are most important to the community.
- Gather feedback on proposed concepts for park designs and programming.

This document summarizes the key themes and trends from the open house and survey in order to help refine the park designs further.



Event Notification

The events were promoted in several ways, including:



Mailer – The project team mailed flyers about the open house and survey to all homes within ½ mile radius of the park.

Email invitations - An email was sent to 450 project stakeholders to invite them to the open house and encourage participation in the survey.

Social Media Outreach – The event and survey were promoted through the Portland Parks & Recreation Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as through NextDoor.

Yard signs – Five signs promoting the in-person event were posted along the perimeter of the park.

Posters – Posters were dropped off at key community destinations around the park to be posted.



Neighborhood Association Outreach – The Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association promoted the engagement activities through their website and social media channels.

School newsletters and communications – Members of the CAC informed schools and PTA groups about the events and ways to participate.

Activities

Open House Event



On Saturday, September 8, 2018 the project team hosted an open house at the park. Tenino Court (at SE 52nd Avenue) was closed for the community event and the public were invited to come learn about the project and share their input on initial park designs. The event was held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and featured refreshments, children’s activities and organized walking tours of the park with a city ecologist.

There were four input opportunities at the event:

- 1. Guiding Principles.** A board showcased all of the potential guiding principles. Participants were asked to place dot next to their priority principles. They were also able to write in comments.
- 2. Park Programming.** Two boards showed pictures of park features and amenities. Participants used dots to indicate their preferences. They were also able to write comments on the board.
- 3. Site Design Options.** Three different basic site design concepts were shown on boards. The initial site designs presented were inspired by CAC ideas from the meeting on August 29. Participants used dots to indicate their preferences. Participants were encouraged to write comments on each of the concepts.
- 4. Comment Forms.** Additional questions were asked through the comment forms which were provided at the welcome table.

Online Survey

The online survey consisted of five pages:

- 1. Introduction.** This station included an overview of the project, timeline, and design process.
- 2. Current Use of the Park.** This station included questions about park use and preferences for current features.
- 3. Core Values and Guiding Principles.** Participants were shown a list of 20 guiding principle statements and asked to choose ten that they consider most important for parks planning.
- 4. Amenities and Setting.** Participants were asked to choose their preferences for a variety of features and amenities. In the first section, participants were asked to choose images that best represent their vision for the park. Additionally, people were asked to rate a number of specific features from 5 – “I like this a lot” to 1 – “I really dislike this.”
- 5. Tell Us About Yourself.** This station included optional demographic information questions.



The online survey was open from August 28, 2018 to September 22, 2018.

Participation Results

Overall Participants

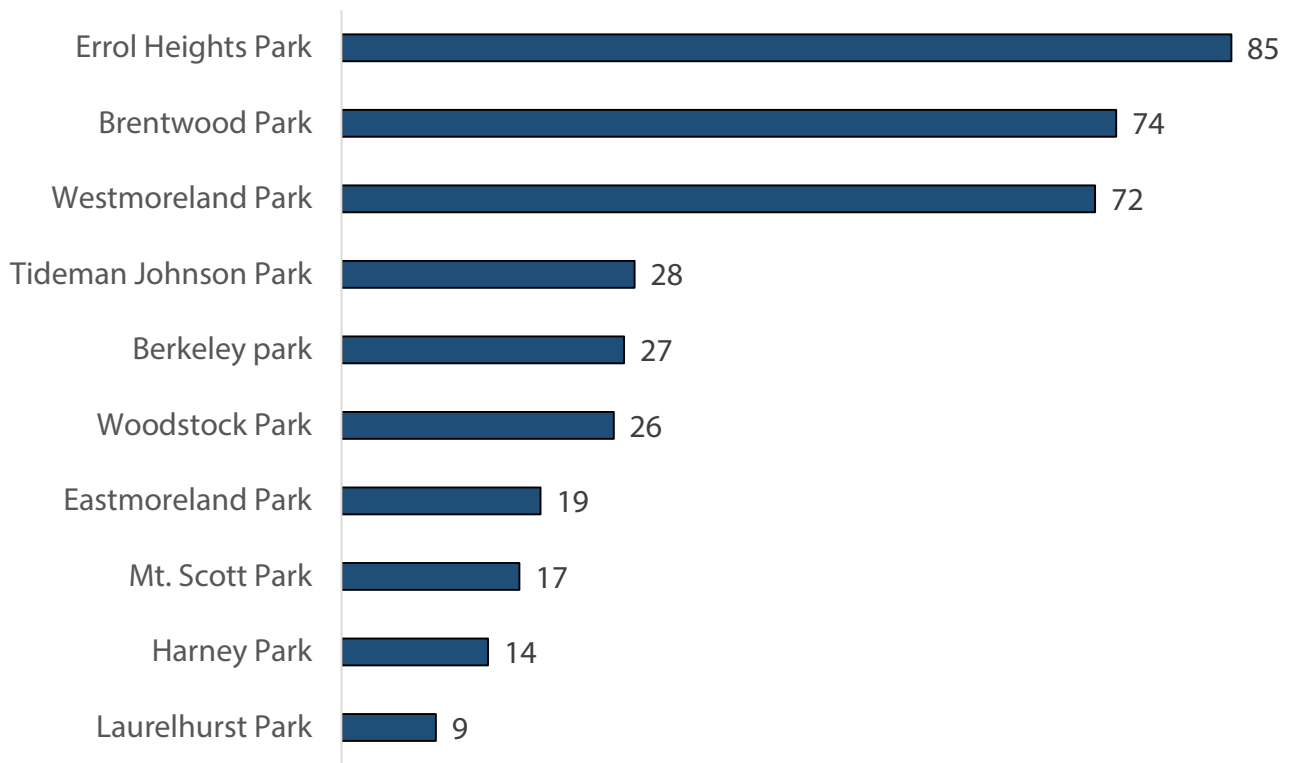
- Online Survey: **355**
- Open House Sign-Ins: **108***
- Open House Comment Forms: **28**

** The total number of open house attendees was higher as some people did not sign in or had a single person sign in for a family.*

Most Used Parks

Participants were asked which park they use most frequently. In the online survey, they were given a list of seven nearby parks and they were able to choose one. They could also write in an additional answer in an "other" comment box. Comment form respondents were able to write in whatever answers they wanted, including multiple parks. Below is a list of the ten most frequently mentioned parks.

Most Used Parks

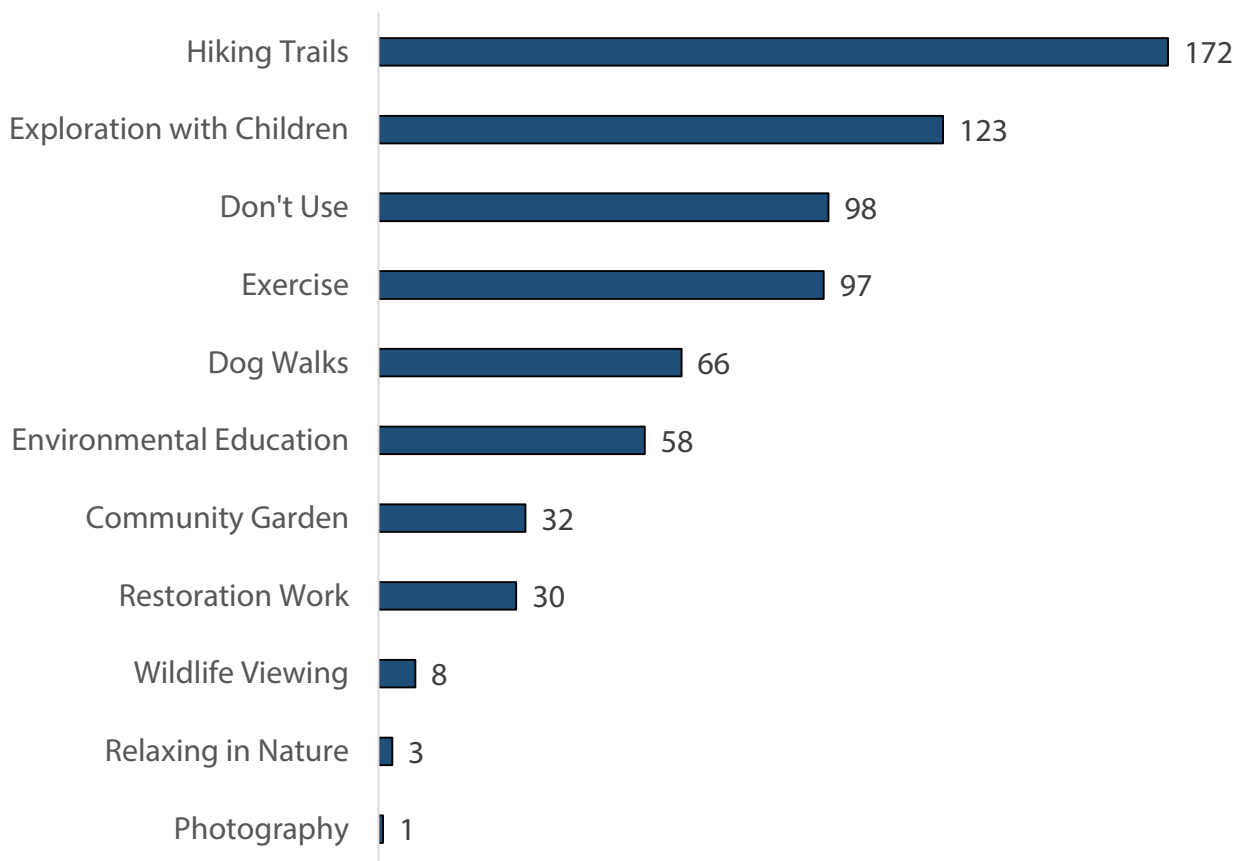




Current Use of Errol Heights Park

Participants were asked how they currently use the park. Survey respondents were able to choose as many uses as they wanted from a list of nine uses, as well as write in additional uses. On the comment form, participants could write in whatever responses they wanted. Below is a summary of uses.

Currents Uses





Guiding Principles

Community members were asked to choose the most important guiding principles for Errol Heights Park. Guiding Principles included in this activity were included in the 2005 Master Plan. In the online survey, participants could choose exactly 10 guiding principles from a list of 23. At the open house, participants were given 3 stars and asked to put them next to the guiding principles that they felt were most important. In both cases participants were also able to write in their own guiding principles. At the open house, people were able to vote for write-in options. Below are the ten guiding principles that were most frequently chosen by community members.

Guiding Principle		Responses
1	Restore wetland habitat, function and quality	280
2	Develop a pathway system that integrates the park's three access points and connects the lower basic to the upper recreation area.	235
3	Provide a variety of spaces and facilities that are appropriate to a "hybrid" park, inclusive of both natural and recreational areas.	230
4	Protect water quality by providing fish habitat for resting and rearing.	227
5	Develop a "systems" approach to improve habitat values for flora and fauna through an ongoing program of invasive species removal and habitat restoration.	226
6	Improve the park's visual character through vegetation management.	178
7	Continue legacy of partnerships with neighborhoods, Friends groups, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, and others.	172
8	Provide opportunities for learning about the site's history and natural resources.	168
9	Meet recreation needs of existing and future area residents in designated areas.	166
10	Provide two trail types: hard surface paths that meet ADA requirements and soft surface paths in natural areas where there are no ADA requirements.	158

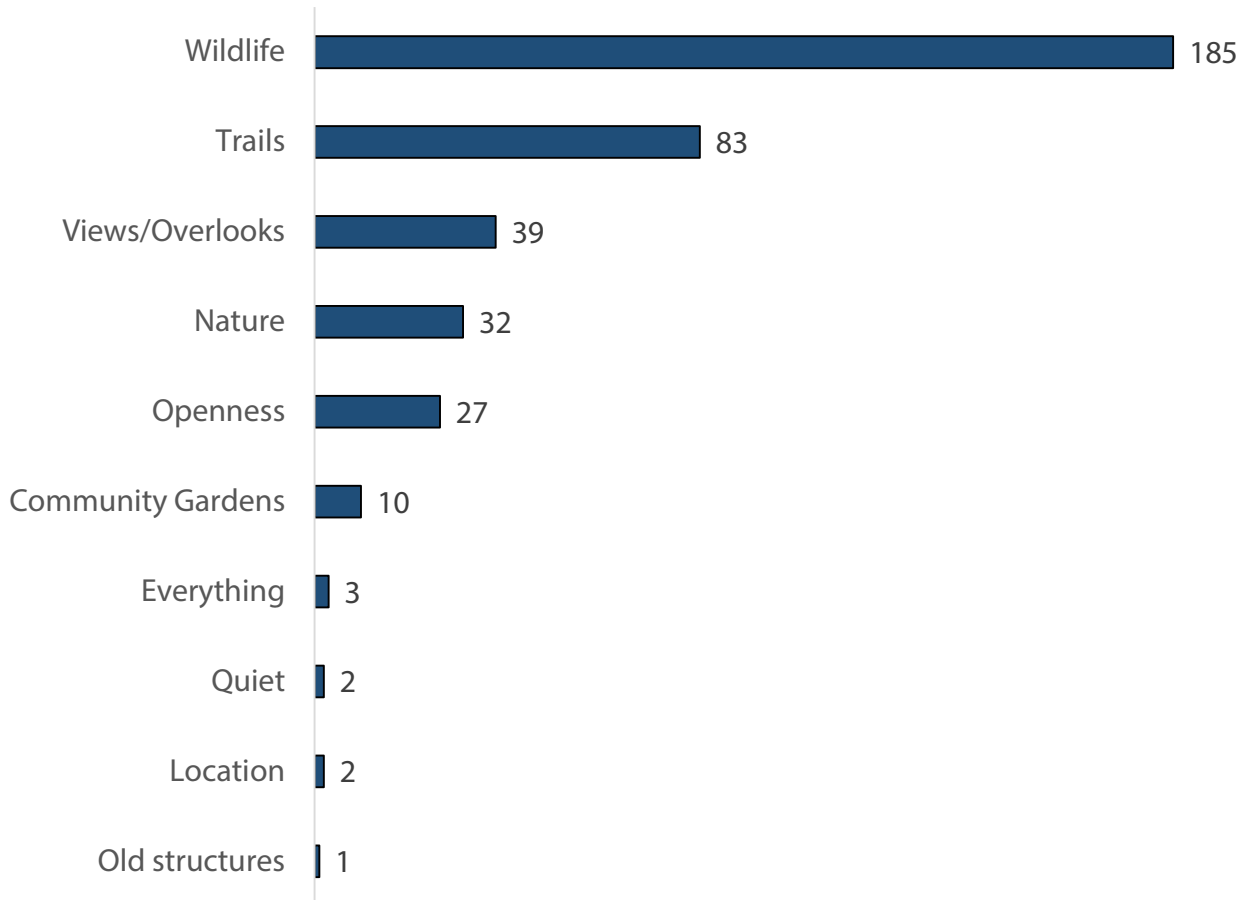


Favorite Existing Features

Participants were asked to identify what aspect of the existing park they like most. In the survey, participants were able to choose from a drop-down list of four options, as well as write in additional answers in an “other” comment box. On the comment form, participants were able provide any answer they wanted. Below is a summary of the responses.

Note that although “Nature” was not an option on the drop-down menu it garnered more responses as a write-in answer and from comment forms than “Openness,” which was a drop-down option.

Responses

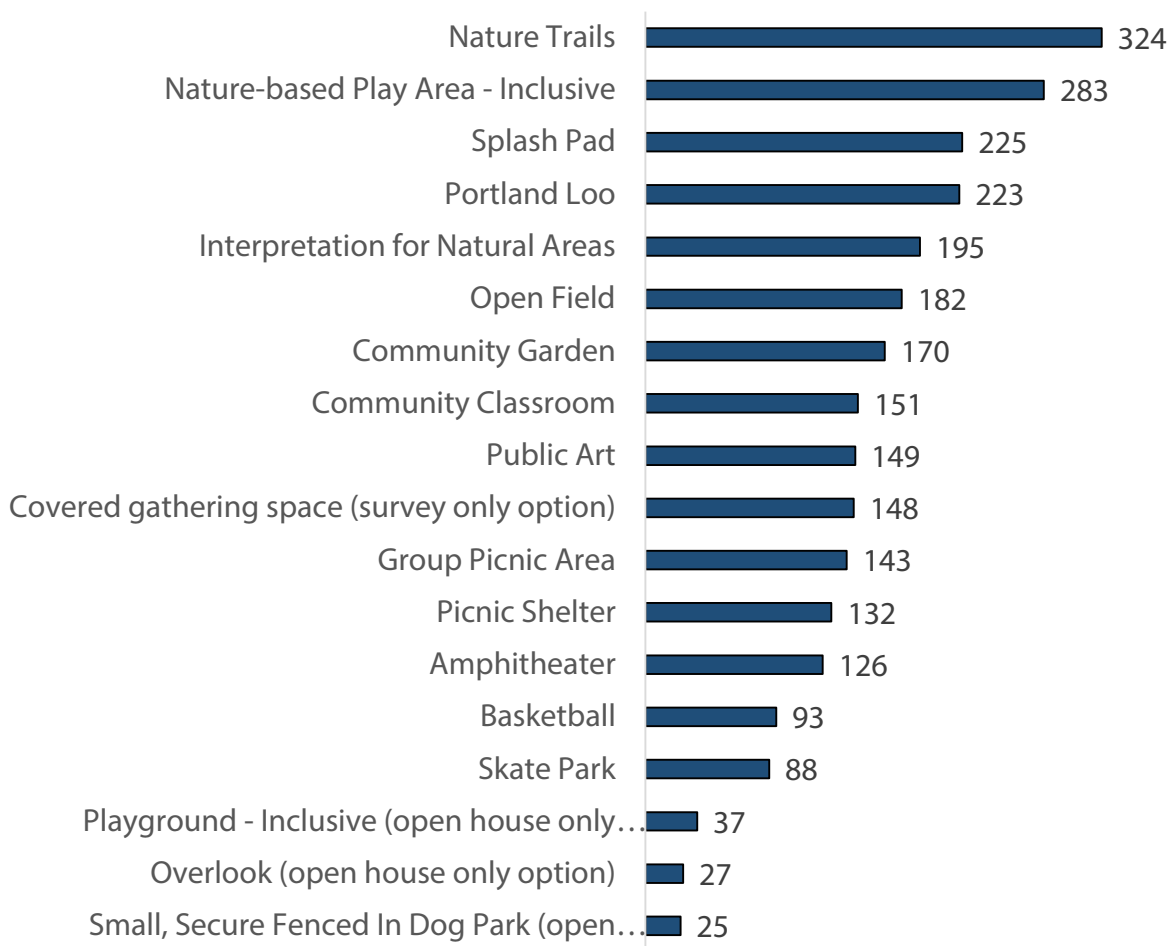




Preferred Park Features

Community members were asked to choose the features that they would enjoy at the park. In the survey and at the open house, participants were provided a series of images of different types of features and were able to select all that they would like to see at Errol Heights Park. At the open house, participants were able to write in additional features that others could vote on.

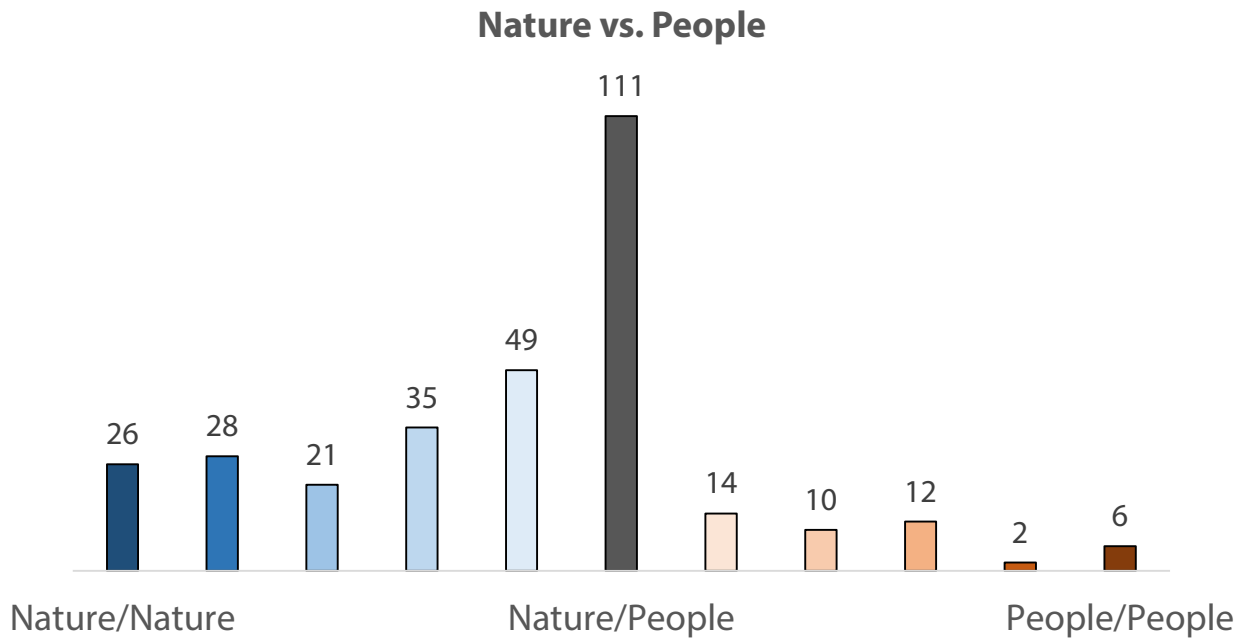
Preferred Park Features





Balance of Nature vs. People *(survey only)*

As part of the survey, participants were asked to identify the balance they would prefer between a park oriented toward nature and a park oriented toward people, by providing their rating on a sliding scale.



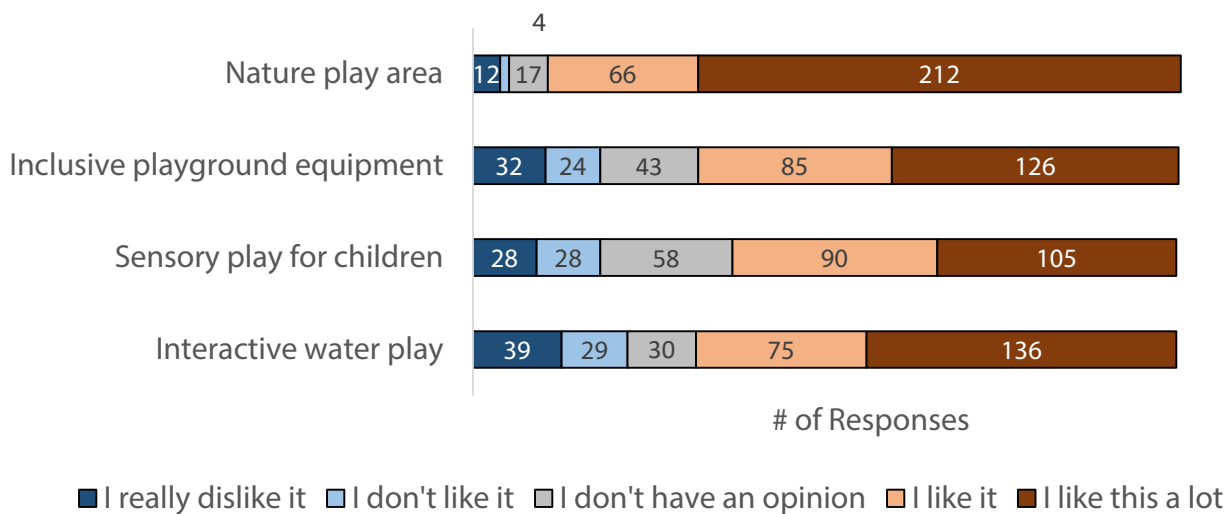


Play Feature Preferences (survey only)

Survey participants were asked to choose their preference on several different play features. The *Nature Play Area* was the most preferred of the features, with 278 respondents saying either “I like it” or “I really like it.” Though all the features were more liked than disliked, the *Interactive Water Play* feature had the most people respond with either “I don’t like it” or “I really dislike it” at 68 responses.

Additionally, there were 24 write-in comments. They mostly fell into two categories: 1) a preference for no play area at all or 2) a preference for another feature (dog park, skate park, basketball court, etc.). See appendix for all comments.

Play Feature Preferences

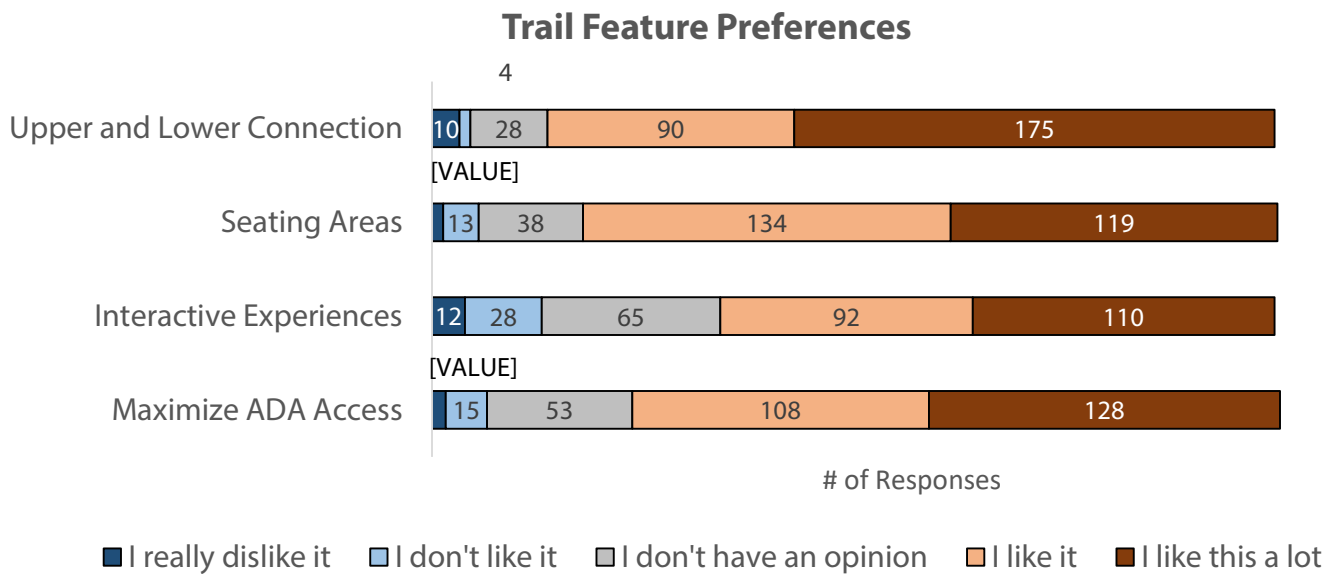




Trail Feature Preferences *(survey only)*

Survey participants were asked to choose their preference on a number of different trail features. The *Trail Connection between Upper and Lower Areas* was the most preferred of the features, with 265 respondents saying either “I like it” or “I really like it.” Though all the features were more liked than disliked, the *Interactive Experiences* feature had the most people respond with either “I don’t like it” or “I really dislike it” at 40 responses.

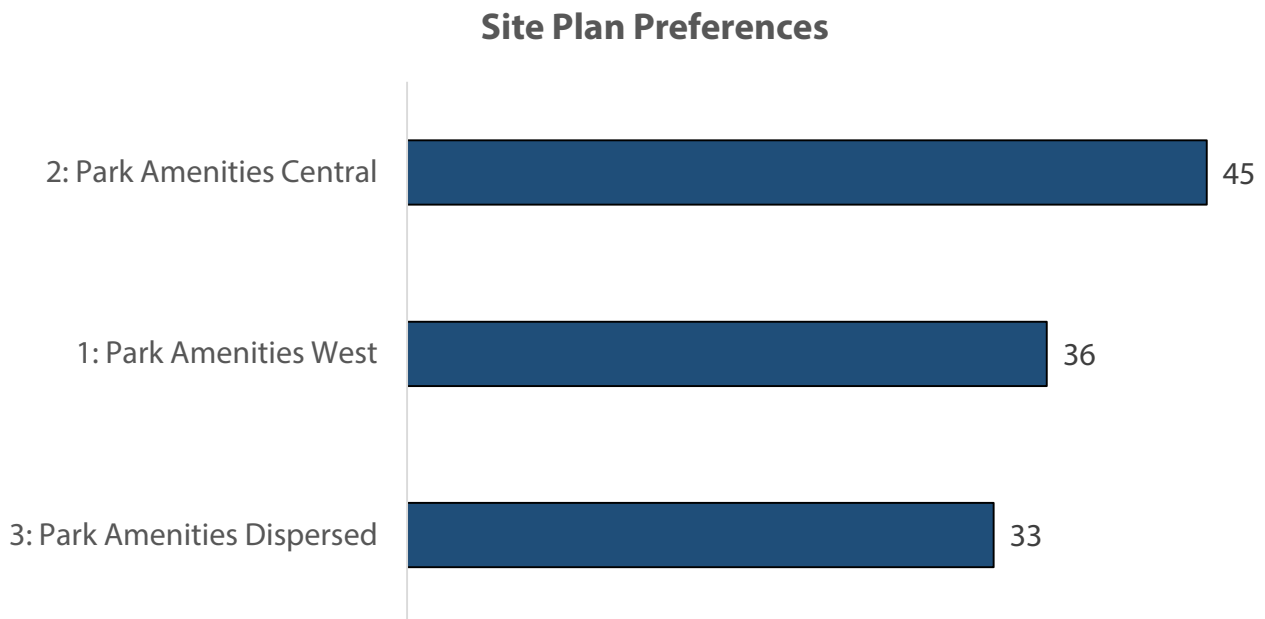
There were 11 write-in comments which were quite broad in nature. See appendix for all comments.





Site Plan Preferences *(open house event only)*

During the open house, community members were shown three design layouts for possible parks programming and asked to choose which of the three they preferred by marking the design with a star. The design with amenities concentrated in the center was the most popular, while the design with the amenities dispersed was the least popular.





Additional Comments

Participants in both the survey and the open house were able to provide additional, open-ended comments about the park and planning process. A total of 83 people provided these comments in the survey and 26 using the comment card at the open house. Below is a summary of the comment themes that were present in more than one comment. See appendix for all comments.

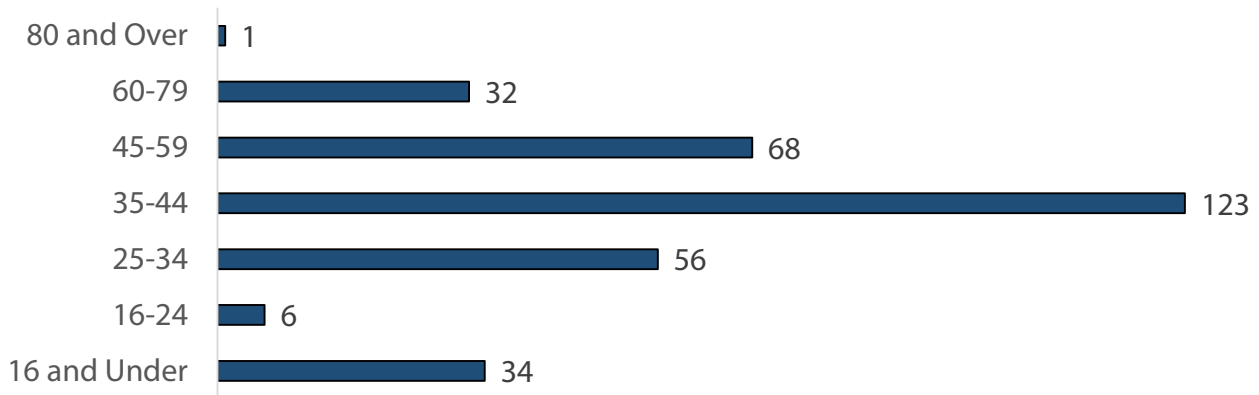
Comment Theme	# of Comments
It is important to keep the natural feel of the park.	29
The current homeless and transient population is a concern.	13
Interest in including amenities that cater to children.	11
Interest in including dog-friendly features (dog park).	5
Interest in including a skate park.	4
The community garden is very important, consider increasing garden space.	3
Interest in including a basketball court.	3
Important to improve access to the park on adjacent streets to increase pedestrian safety.	3
Consider the importance of ADA access.	2



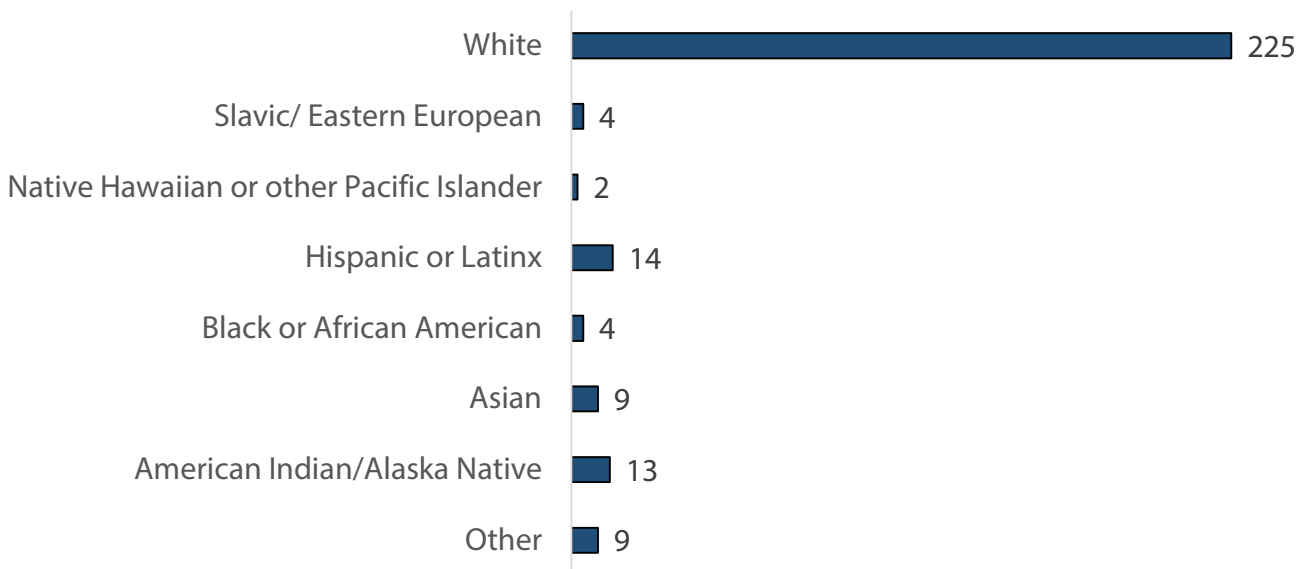
Demographics

Below is a summary of demographic information provided by participants in the survey as well as from open house participants that filled out the comment form.

Age

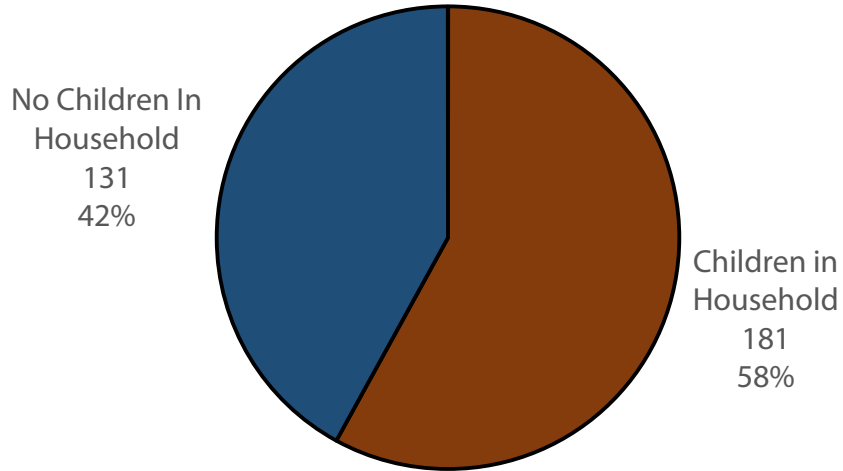


Race or Ethnicity

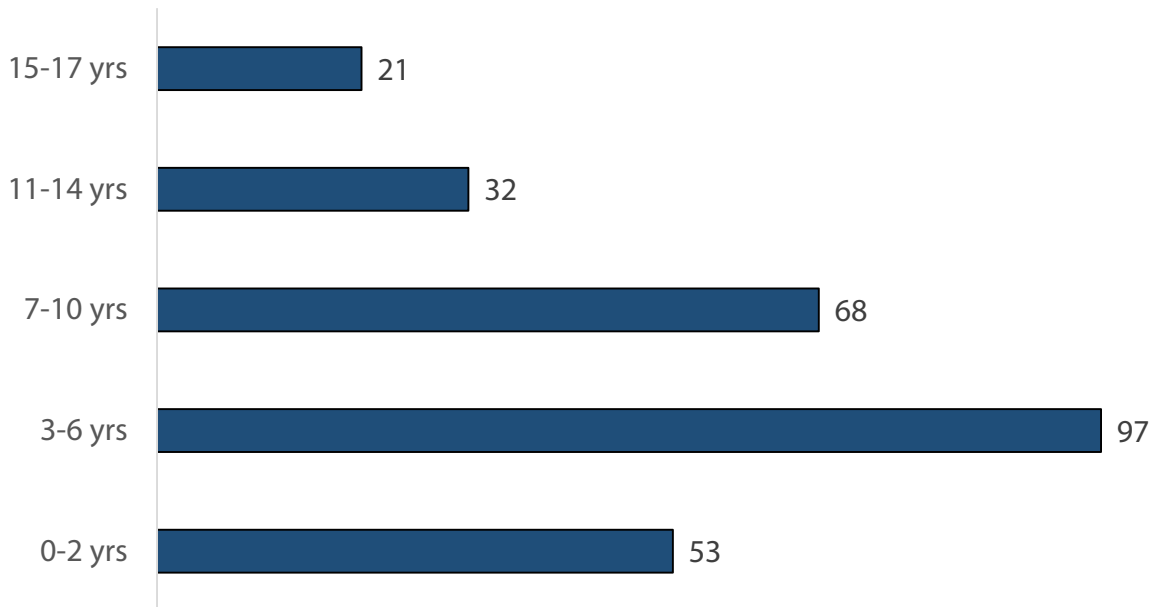




Children in Household

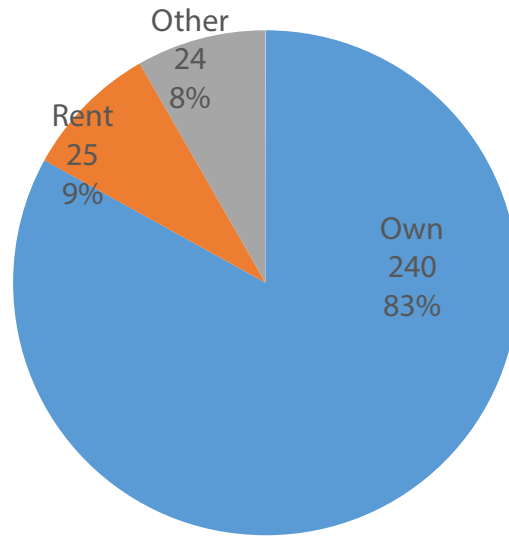


Age of Children





Housing Type



**This question was only asked on the online survey.*