

Balcones Park Community Input Survey

Friday, January 13, 2017

448 Total Responses

Complete Responses: 372

Date Created: Thursday, August 18, 2016

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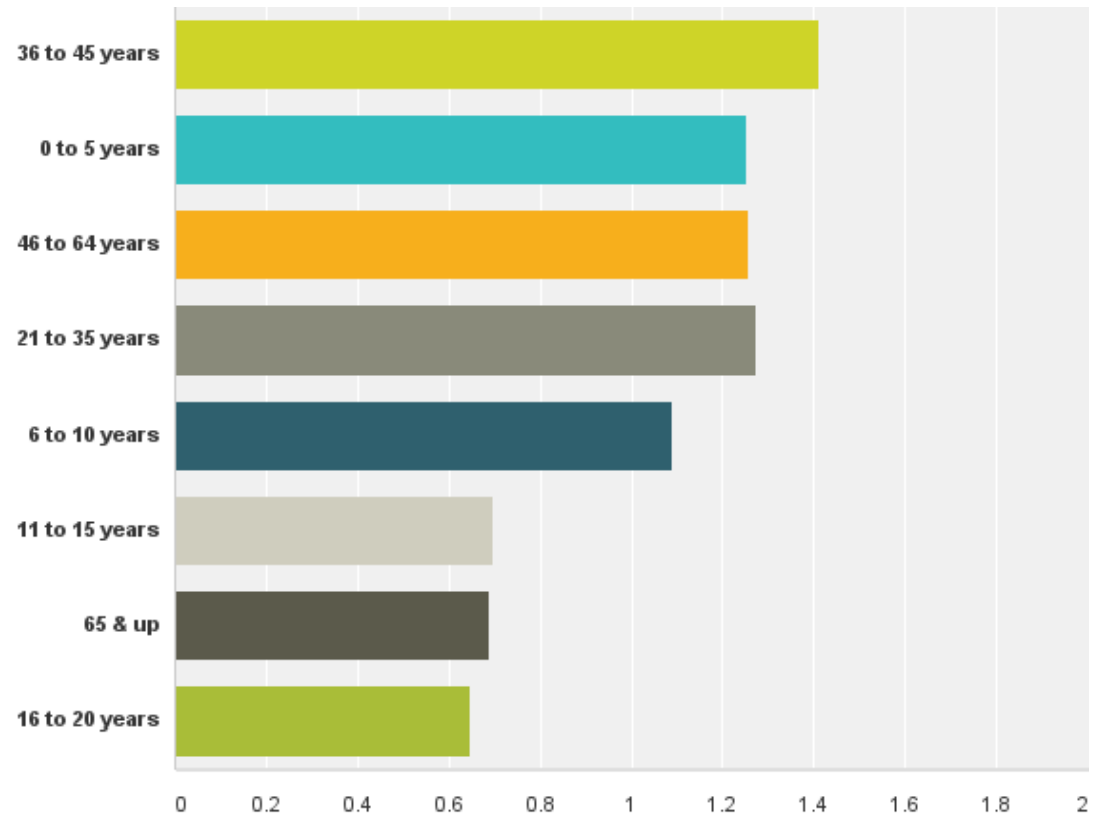
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Complete Responses: 372

Date Created: Thursday, August 18, 2016

Q1: Please add the number of individuals in your household that fall within each age range.

Answered: 447 Skipped: 1



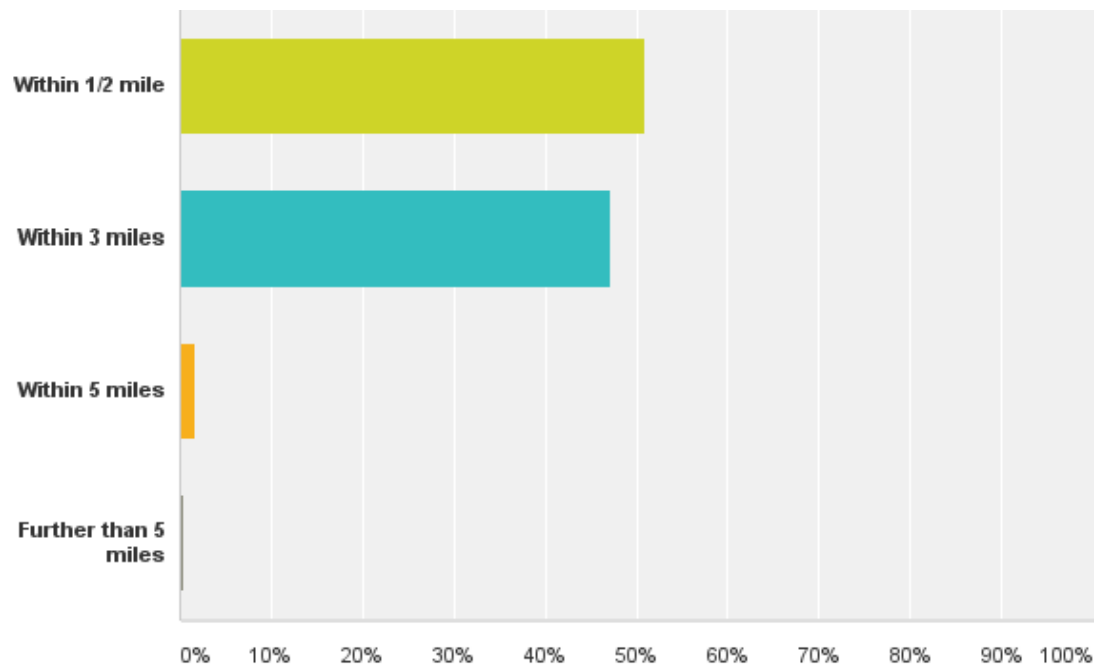
Q1: Please add the number of individuals in your household that fall within each age range.

Answered: 447 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
36 to 45 years	1	333	236
0 to 5 years	1	291	232
46 to 64 years	1	231	184
21 to 35 years	1	219	172
6 to 10 years	1	196	180
11 to 15 years	1	80	115
65 & up	1	66	96
16 to 20 years	1	57	88
Total Respondents: 447			

Q2: How close do you live in relation to Balcones Park?

Answered: 446 Skipped: 2



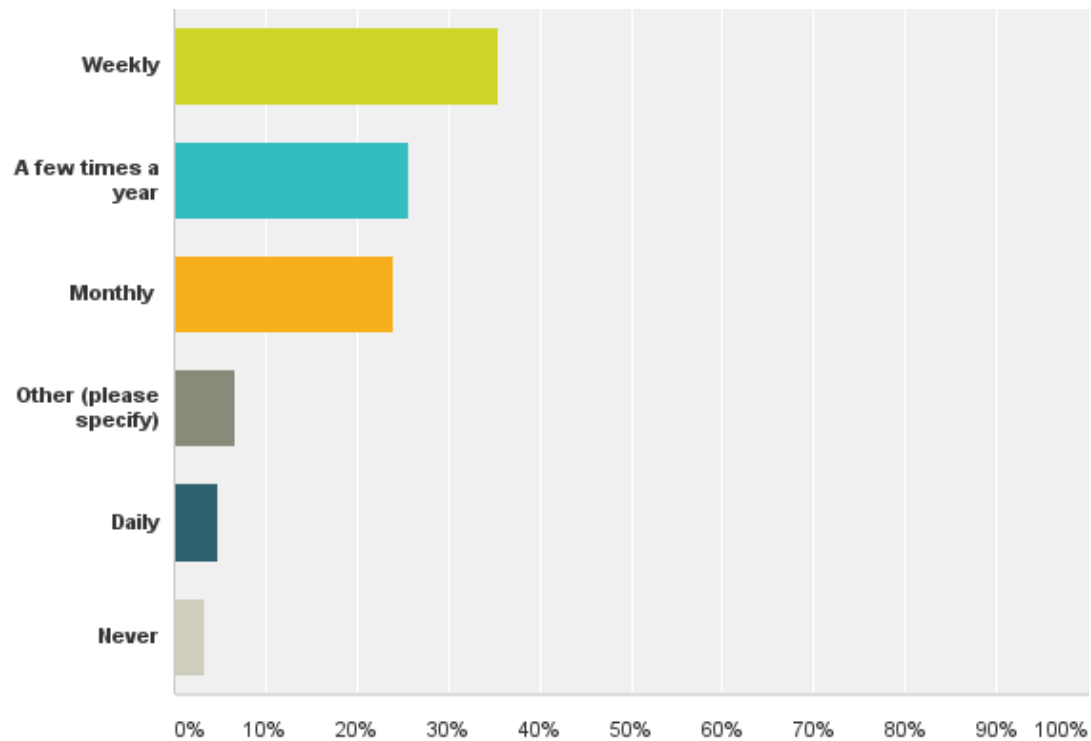
Q2: How close do you live in relation to Balcones Park?

Answered: 446 Skipped: 2

Answer Choices	Responses	
Within 1/2 mile	50.90%	227
Within 3 miles	47.09%	210
Within 5 miles	1.57%	7
Further than 5 miles	0.45%	2
Total		446

Q3: In the last year, how often have you used Balcones Park? (Please select the most accurate response.)

Answered: 437 Skipped: 11



Q3: In the last year, how often have you used Balcones Park? (Please select the most accurate response.)

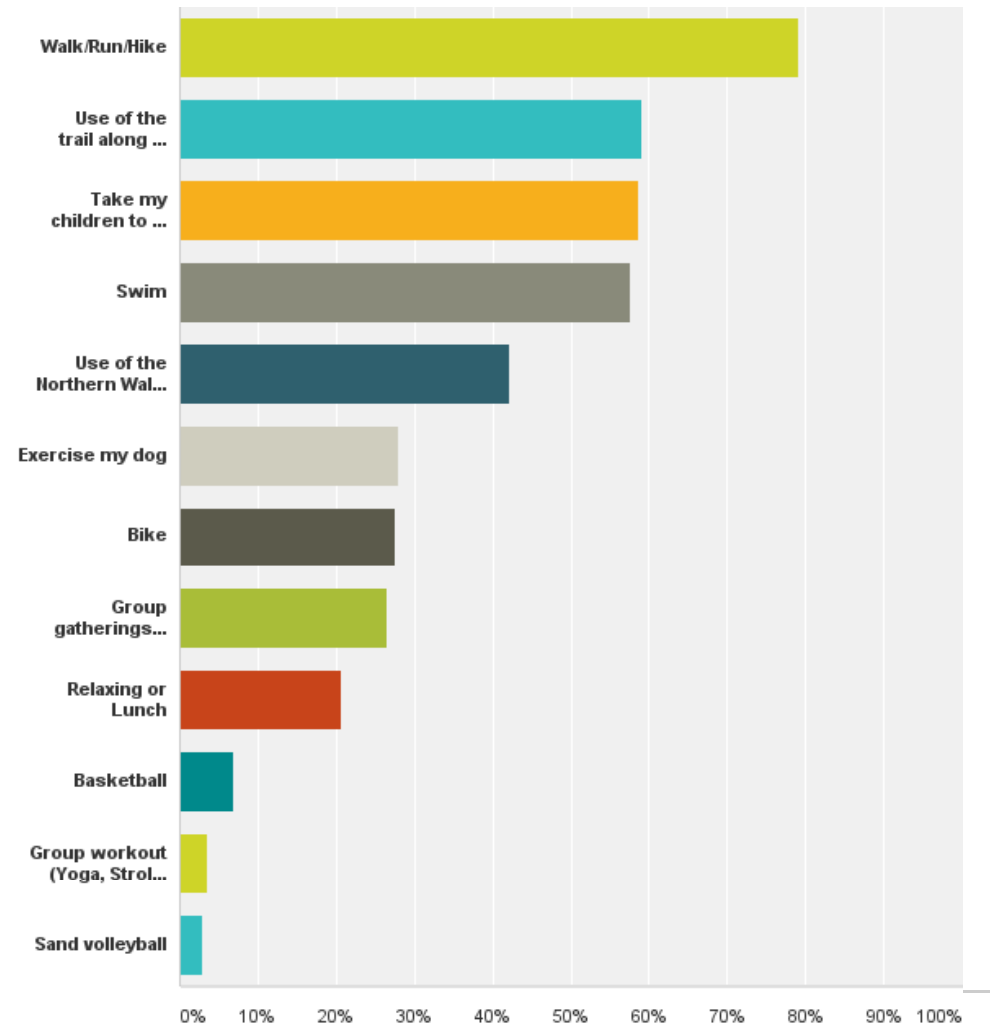
Answered: 437 Skipped: 11

Answer Choices	Responses	
Weekly	35.47%	155
A few times a year	25.63%	112
Monthly	24.03%	105
Other (please specify)	6.64%	29
Daily	4.81%	21
Never	3.43%	15
Total		437

Q4: In the last year, which of the following activities did you engage in at Balcones Park? (Please check ALL that apply.)

Answered: 422

Skipped: 26

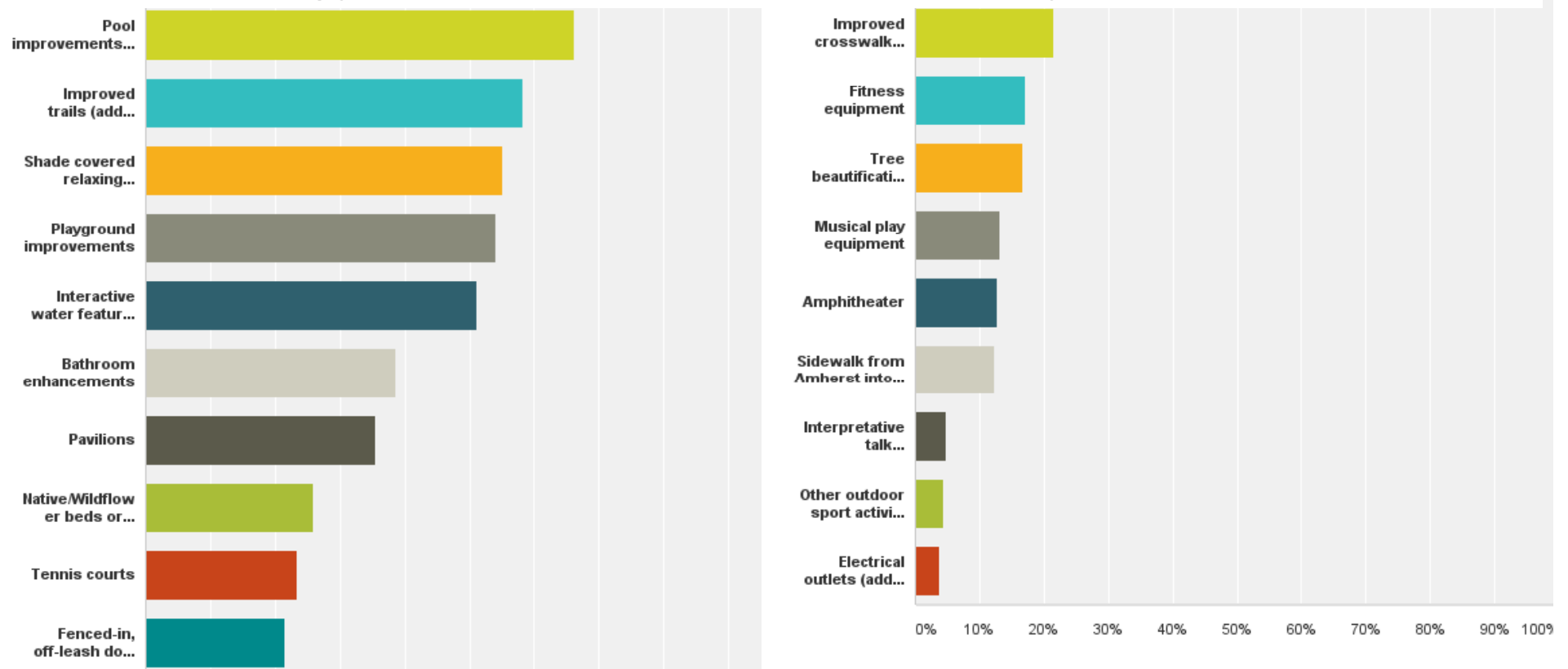


Q4: In the last year, which of the following activities did you engage in at Balcones Park? (Please check ALL that apply.)

Answered: 422 Skipped: 26

Answer Choices	Responses
Walk/Run/Hike	79.15% 334
Use of the trail along the creek	59.00% 249
Take my children to the playground	58.77% 248
Swim	57.58% 243
Use of the Northern Walnut Creek Trail	42.18% 178
Exercise my dog	27.96% 118
Bike	27.49% 116
Group gatherings (parties, picnics, etc)	26.54% 112
Relaxing or Lunch	20.62% 87
Basketball	6.87% 29
Group workout (Yoga, Stroller Strides)	3.55% 15
Sand volleyball	2.84% 12
Total Respondents: 422	

Q5: The Co-Adopters of Balcones Park's current goal is to develop a concept plan for the playground and pavilion based on the funding that has been received. While locations for the playground/pavilion are considered, we would like to know if there are other amenities that would increase your use of the park. This information could be useful to maintain flexibility for those amenities in the future. What amenities would bring you to Balcones Park more often? (Please select your top six choices.)



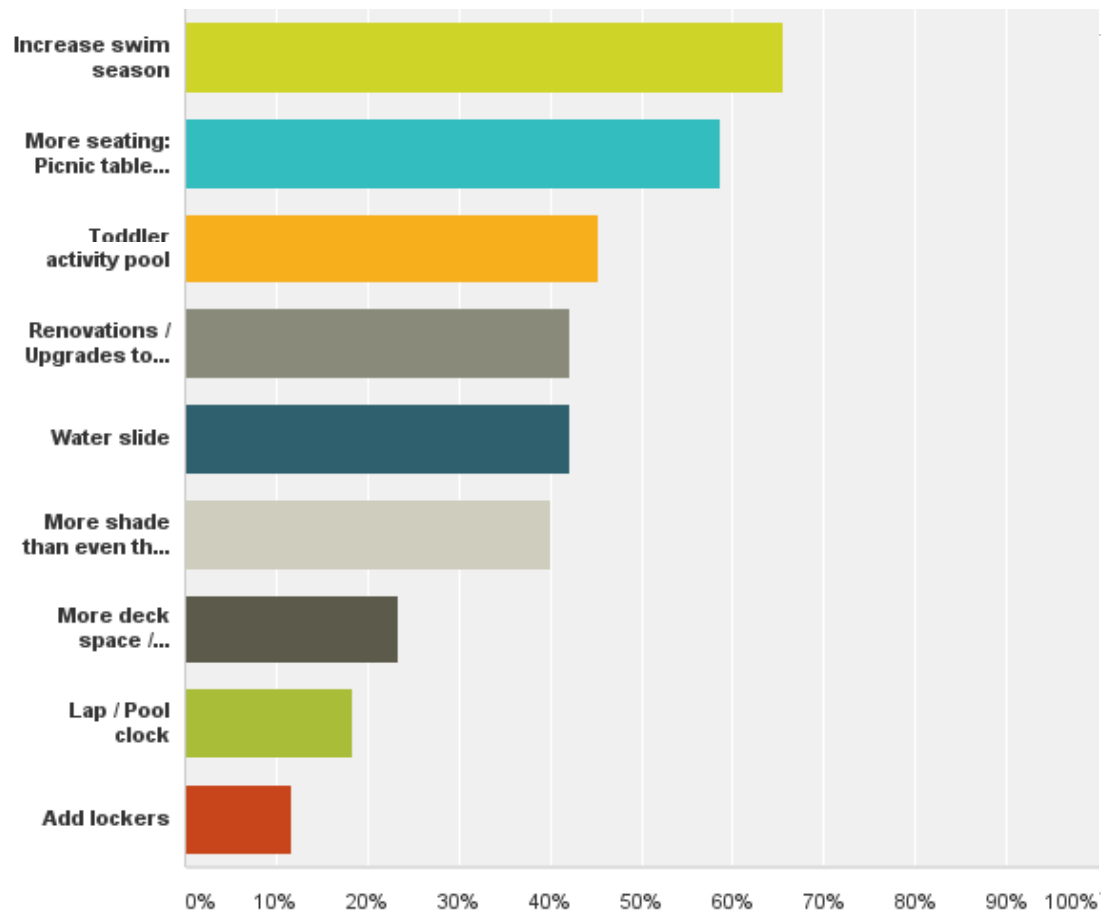
Q5: The Co-Adopters of Balcones Park’s current goal is to develop a concept plan for the playground and pavilion based on the funding that has been received. While locations for the playground/pavilion are considered, we would like to know if there are other amenities that would increase your use of the park. This information could be useful to maintain flexibility for those amenities in the future. What amenities would bring you to Balcones Park more often? (Please select your top six choices.)

Answered: 429 Skipped: 19

Answer Choices	Responses	
Pool improvements (shade, seating, etc)	66.20%	284
Improved trails (add signage, mark distances, improve quality)	58.28%	250
Shade covered relaxing locations (such as benches, picnic tables, etc)	55.01%	236
Playground improvements	54.08%	232
Interactive water feature (splash pad)	51.05%	219
Bathroom enhancements	38.69%	166
Pavilions	35.43%	152
Native/Wildflower beds or gardens	25.87%	111
Tennis courts	23.31%	100
Fenced-in, off-leash dog park (requires a large area)	21.45%	92
Improved crosswalk across Amherst	21.45%	92
Fitness equipment	17.02%	73
Tree beautification, such as pruning, stump/dead tree removal	16.78%	72
Musical play equipment	13.05%	56
Amphitheater	12.82%	55
Sidewalk from Amherst into parking lot and to the pool	12.35%	53
Interpretative talk location/signage (history/education)	4.90%	21
Other outdoor sport activity (Please list in comment section.)	4.43%	19
Electrical outlets (add location in the comments)	3.73%	16

Q6: What other improvements would you like to see at the pool? (Check ALL that apply.)

Answered: 396 Skipped: 52



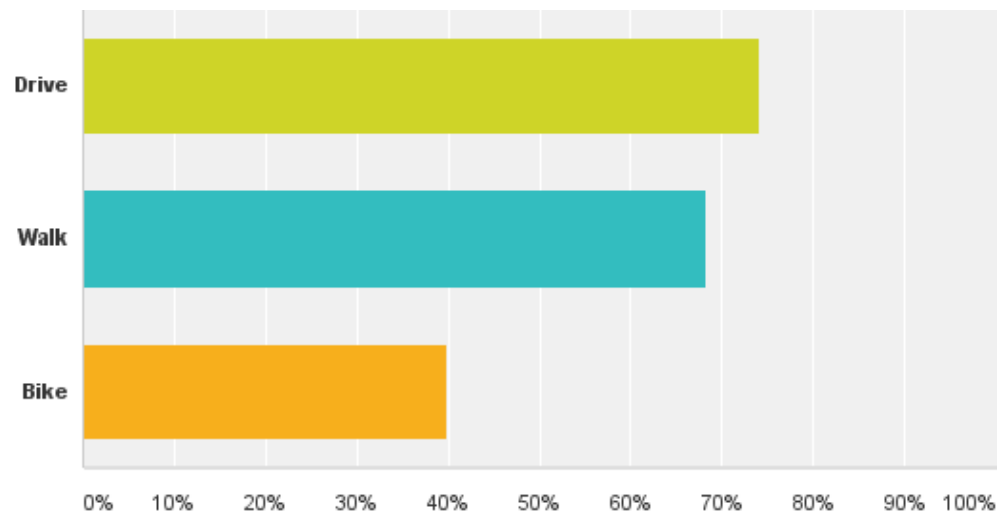
Q6: What other improvements would you like to see at the pool? (Check ALL that apply.)

Answered: 396 Skipped: 52

Answer Choices	Responses	
Increase swim season	65.66%	260
More seating: Picnic tables / benches	58.59%	232
Toddler activity pool	45.20%	179
Renovations / Upgrades to bathhouse	42.17%	167
Water slide	42.17%	167
More shade than even the 20x30ft new shade canopy	40.15%	159
More deck space / concrete coverage	23.48%	93
Lap / Pool clock	18.43%	73
Add lockers	11.62%	46
Total Respondents: 396		

Q7: Do you walk, bicycle, or drive to Balcones Park? (Check ALL that apply.)

Answered: 429 Skipped: 19



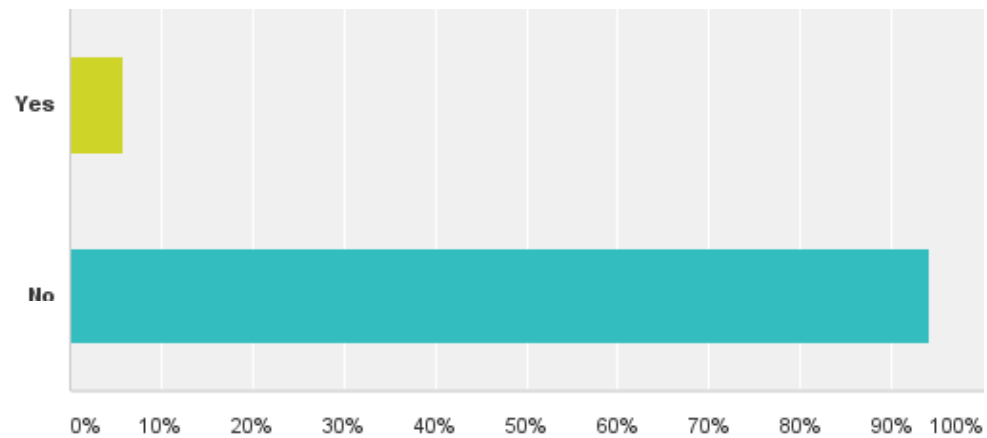
Q7: Do you walk, bicycle, or drive to Balcones Park? (Check ALL that apply.)

Answered: 429 Skipped: 19

Answer Choices	Responses	
Drive	74.13%	318
Walk	68.30%	293
Bike	39.86%	171
Total Respondents: 429		

Q8: Do you ever have trouble finding a parking spot? If so, please list the times/days of week.

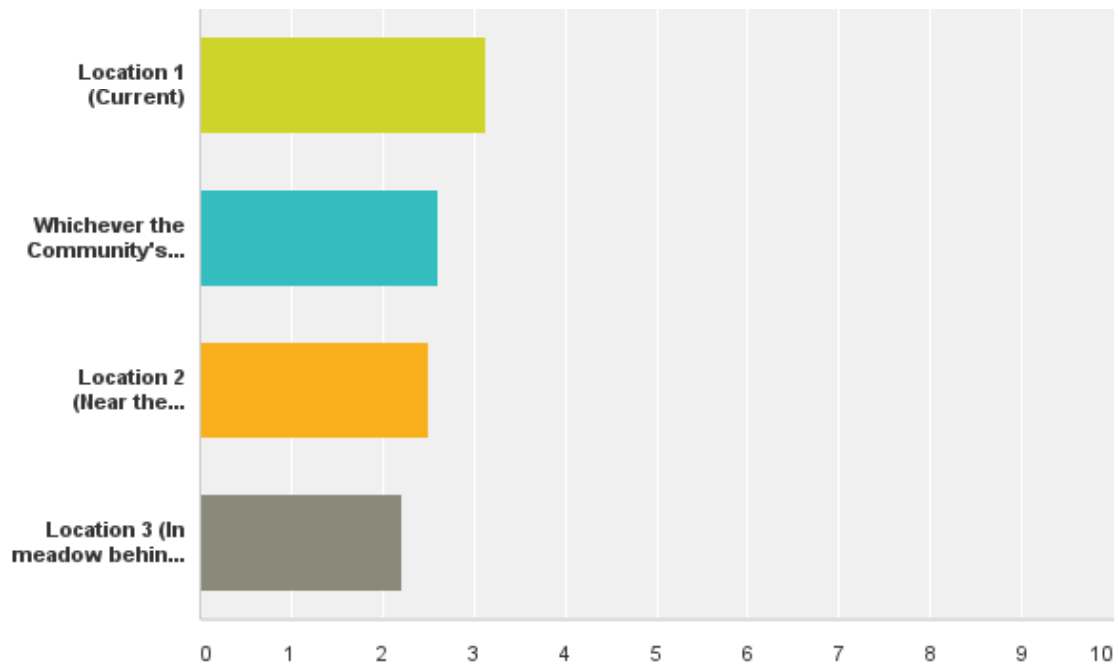
Answered: 294 Skipped: 154



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	5.78%	17
No	94.22%	277
Total		294

Q9: Please rank your playground location preference, with 1 being the highest. (The pavilion will be installed in the same proximity.)

Answered: 379 Skipped: 69



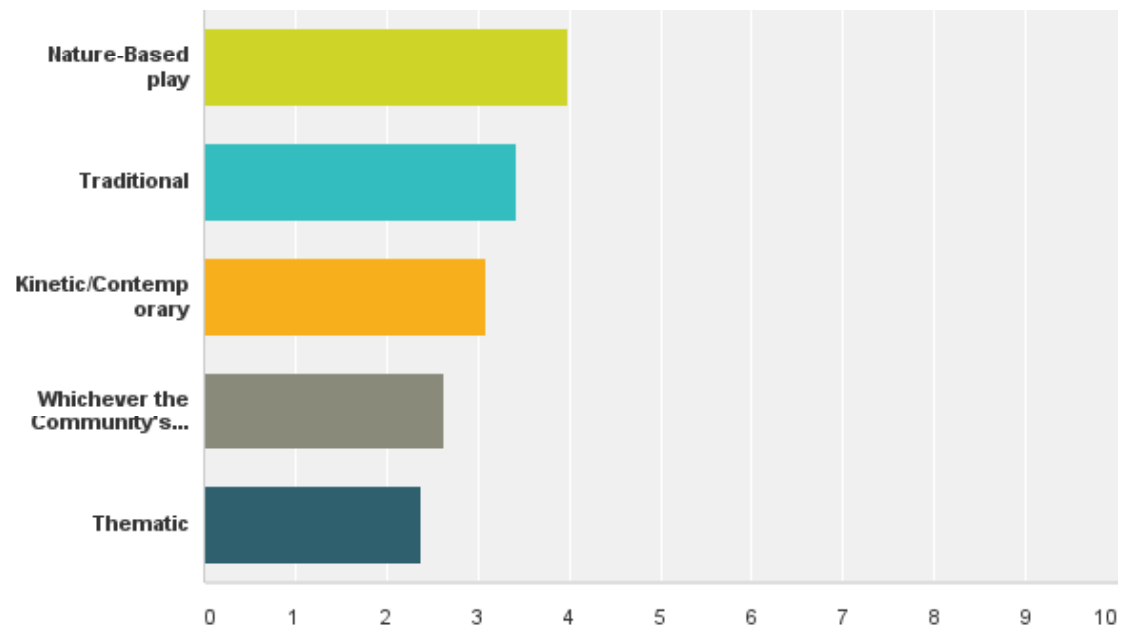
Q9: Please rank your playground location preference, with 1 being the highest. (The pavilion will be installed in the same proximity.)

Answered: 379 Skipped: 69

	1	2	3	4	Total	Score
Location 1 (Current)	43.27% 151	33.81% 118	15.19% 53	7.74% 27	349	3.13
Whichever the Community's Designers decide is most appropriate and cost efficient.	35.95% 110	16.99% 52	18.30% 56	28.76% 88	306	2.60
Location 2 (Near the volleyball & basketball courts)	23.26% 77	25.08% 83	30.51% 101	21.15% 70	331	2.50
Location 3 (In meadow behind the pool)	11.14% 37	25.90% 86	36.14% 120	26.81% 89	332	2.21

Q10: Please RANK the playground themes with 1 being your first preference.

Answered: 374 Skipped: 74



Q10: Please RANK the playground themes with 1 being your first preference.

Answered: 374 Skipped: 74

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Score
Nature-Based play	40.11% 142	33.05% 117	16.10% 57	7.34% 26	3.39% 12	354	3.99
Traditional	27.11% 93	25.07% 86	21.57% 74	16.62% 57	9.62% 33	343	3.43
Kinetic/Contemporary	18.37% 63	22.45% 77	21.87% 75	25.07% 86	12.24% 42	343	3.10
Whichever the Community's Designers Decide is most appropriate.	20.68% 61	10.51% 31	16.61% 49	15.25% 45	36.95% 109	295	2.63
Thematic	3.82% 13	12.06% 41	25.88% 88	35.59% 121	22.65% 77	340	2.39

Q11: Is there a playground in the city that you will drive out of your way to go to? Or several? Please list & tell us why:

182 respondents to Q11 (41%)

Selected responses:

	<u>Votes</u>
Play for all Abilities- Round Rock-	11
Shade, gated, water, bathrooms, big sandbox	
Springwood Park-	16
Shade, lots of activity, different ages separated, trails, field for sports, large size, multiple levels of equipment, nice bathrooms, benches, tables, sandbox, space to run and for group games, pavilions, tracks for scooter/bikes, 2 tennis courts, highest climbing structure in N. Austin for kids to judge risk	
Robinson Park	7
Toddler area, big kid, short trail to playing fields, shade, artificial grass protects from insects	
Zilker Park	6
Train ride, nearby trails, large playground, old fire truck	
Katherine Fleischer	6
Shady, like treehouse structure, different ages, stream	
Ramsey Park	6
Good for older kids, lots of space, includes nature-based log area, scooter/bike trails ringing	
Mueller Lake Park	6
Challenges, fenced, swings and climbing, sand pits, lake, developmentally engaging play	
Rattan Creek (not in Austin)	5
Shade, green, climbing, big play structures, seating options	

Q12: Other thoughts about the playground and its location, theme or types of elements:

120 respondents to Q11 (27%)

Selected comments:

Related to Location #1:

“Current location is not large enough and is too close to trail head. Consider keeping a small area for group exercise such as yoga/cross fit in the current playground location and discourage groups from using the trail head as a group exercise area.”

“The current space is accessible for many needs (bathroom, parking, shade for benches) and is a good distance from busy streets (Amherst and Duval). Putting a playground near streets is an illogical move. The inconvenience of 9 months of construction does not outweigh the decades of safe, shaded and convenient play for children and families. I look forward to the new concepts that have been introduced to other parks (like Ramsey and Zilker) and believe our great park should join them.”

“Being under the shade I think is very important. The area where it is now has a huge shade tree and I think that needs to be a very important factor if moving it.”

“I love the current location, I love that there's some shade and am concerned that none of the other areas may have the same amount of shade. The more we read about sun exposure and skin cancer, I think that should be at the forefront of our decisions.”

“If location other than 1 is chosen, I would like to see area #1 go back to natural landscape.”

“Shade and safety are my biggest priorities! Would love our playground to be closer to the street for the viability factor. The current location is close to the path, where a lot of people go that don't have kids, and I often don't feel safe there by myself.”

“It seems that the pavilion & playground area in location #1 makes the most sense for our annual 4th of July event.”

Q12: Other thoughts about the playground and its location, theme or types of elements: (continued)

Related to Location #2:

"I would like to keep location 2 available for future tennis courts/amenities."

"I like the idea of location 2 if there can be fencing around the playground - otherwise would be very concerned about proximity to Amherst traffic."

"For location 2 - move the volleyball court to the west of current location #1 and put tot lot where volleyball court is. It would be great to get 2 age/stage playgrounds. Maybe separate area for swings (designated)."

"Isn't the pavilion going to require cutting down trees? That's why I vote for option 2 because there are less trees to cut down."

"I strongly believe that the new location should be chosen to keep the current playground open. 6-9 months is a long time for some families to not have a nearby playground area. While it is always necessary to balance the short and long term benefits, I believe that site 2 is nearly as good or better than site 1, so the added benefit of keeping the original playground open during construction is icing on the cake."

"One of the cons listed for Option 2 is potentially moving the volleyball court. That's not so bad because the location for the current playground could become the new location for the volleyball courts, which could actually be nicer than the current location - a double win."

Related to Location #3:

"For Location 3 - it would work if new parking is built closer to it. "

"Playground option #3 is not a good choice. The tree cover alongside Walnut Creek should be preserved. That helps control runoff and pollution into the creek and serves as shelter for wildlife."

"Please leave the meadow behind the pool for us with dogs - Keep natural look."

Q12: Other thoughts about the playground and its location, theme or types of elements: (continued)

Related to any location:

“Keep away from major streets.”

“Keep park entry roads away from Amherst/Duval intersection. Also, the playground needs to be seen well from the street to alert that draw in users. The current wild flower area should be expanded with featured colorful natives.”

“I do not think it would be safe near Duval or Amherst. I also worry about the kids breathing in the exhaust from the cars sitting at the light.”

“Safety is major concern.”

“Please locate the play area in good shady area that is very visible. Visibility is key for safety for moms.”

“Away from parking lot.”

“Being somewhat near to bathrooms is important, especially for small kids. If it is closer to Amherst, maybe there can be some sort of element to block kids from easily getting to the busy road.”

“Shade is nice to have but consider impacts of construction and increased compaction and potential damage to trees from users of playground when choosing new site. Perhaps shade structures would be better to incorporate into design? Trees require regular clearance pruning over play structures, their health is often negatively impacted by construction and increased traffic on root systems, trees don't live forever and need to be monitored closely when a target rich playscape is set at their feet. Just things to consider.”

“Optimize for the least amount of habitat destruction as possible. Whichever location requires the fewest trees to be cut down and does not harm the creek ecosystem.”

“Whatever destroys the least amount of trails and greenery.”

“Seems like it would make more sense to be by the road, but I'd love to see the wooded area be used better for a picnic area. This big open area of trees goes to waste.”

“...Upgrades to the baseball field area would be ideal!!! Small play scape over there would be well received.”

“Playgrounds on the trail are fun because it incorporates more activity for bike rides and bigger family days.”

“I like it being near trails like a mini Zilker.”

“Proximity to water/lake.”

Q12: Other thoughts about the playground and its location, theme or types of elements: (continued)

Related to theme:

"Theme: something Austin-y!"

"Austin theme with shade!"

"Please choose a natural design, fitting for our environment..."

"Please don't make it ugly and clash with the beautiful natural spaces currently on site. Please consider adding botanical/natural elements."

"It should blend in with nature. And not look like a carnival."

"Some variety would be much appreciated, less swings and more activities!"

"Granddaughter finds most playscapes "a boring collection of platforms that aren't really that much fun to play on." So something with elements to spark a child's imagination and creativity would be lovely. Something where they can easily play pretend and make up stories while playing on the equipment. My g-daughter speaks of a park she goes to that has a castle. She has fun there."

"If it's possible to add in elements of all the themes-- that would be best. I do know that my kids enjoy climbing a lot, and treehouse, bridged type play areas are their favorite. Any parqor type elements would be appreciated as well. Also, the pretend city block with bike streets and such like the Play For All Abilities Park has could be neat to have. I think it's worth the extra effort to be further from the traffic though. A great playground will bring people whether or not they can see it from the street."

"Thematic parks seem dated quickly."

"We are in a stage of life where the park is for our children and we know this will be true for generations of Milwood residents. We would like to see adult groups and hikers taken care of, but our priority is families particularly those with children 5 and under."

"Aesthetically there is already a substantial amount of fencing/playground on Amherst, so don't like the idea of adding more."

"My children are older so it would be nice to have an appropriate age section for younger and older kids. If that's not possible, then some things off to the side of the main play area would be nice to engage the older kids."

"I want the different age levels to be close enough together that my different age level kids are close enough that I can see both or not have to decide which playground to play on and upset one."

"It would be really great to have some activities or elements of the playgroup at this playground that would engage older kids like the ones above."

"Have items that little bitty kids can play on as well as big kids."

"It would be nice to have enough varied elements to keep things interesting as kids get older - such as the playhouse at Katherine Fleischer or enough nature elements for extended pretend play."

"(I)f thematic, wild flowers could be a cool theme. (O)lder kids really like climbing walls and net/rope features. (A) dirt bmx or pump track would be an intestine and unique feature for kids to use bikes on safer than skateboarding and relatively low cost addition, just dirt and some shovels."

"Splash pad would be positive addition. Also important to maintain natural untouched land with all the trees & large wild flower areas."

"Water play area would be nice."

"It's nice to have a playground in the neighborhood but it's a neighborhood park and attracting lots of people from other areas seems like a bad idea."

"Consider what is available at Summit down Amherst. May be nice to complement versus duplicate."

"We need shade but also open space for football and soccer etc."

"It would be interesting to see if the developers will choose to spearhead an innovative playground or stick to the boring traditional playgrounds that don't push the move into STEM."

"Built to last."

"Minimize plastic. (P)laygrounds should enhance nature and be sustainable. More and more research indicates plastic is not healthy, and the next 500 years of humanity shouldn't have to live with it."

"Similar to Tatum's garden in Salinas, CA."

"I don't have any children in my life, so I don't really care about the playground."

Q12: Other thoughts about the playground and its location, theme or types of elements: (continued)

Related to types of elements:

"More swings. Tire swing? Don't use sand, woodchips, or foam playpad. Maybe pebbles or rocks?"

"SWINGS!!! Making a playground that is fun and accessible for a wide range of ages/abilities. Not closer to the street unless there is going to be some sort of enclosure around the playground."

"Maximize shade, limit metal features in non-shade area. Seating around structure, keep trash bins away from play area (flies/bees). Include working drinking fountains near play area. Add crosswalk light. Add natural "fencing" between playground and street (location 1). Add fitness equipment at original playscape location."

"The typical play equipment is a must (slides, swings, etc.) but having something unique would be wonderful! Zipline, climbing area, interactive music area. Love the spinwheel at Mueller Park by the Thinkery. Balance Beams, see saws, pretend play (think castles, fire trucks, cars, etc.)"

"Should also have sand box/Dino dig."

"No sand pit please."

"If there is a sandbox, can it be somehow separated from the rest of the playground? Though some people love them, there are also many that really try to stay away from them. It's very hard to keep kids away if it's too close to the playground equipment."

"The Dino Dig looks like it would get used as a cat litter box by all the neighborhood cats. Yuck!"

"We would like more swings and different types, ie. for more than one kid, spinning, etc. Also more elements that are accessible to those with disabilities."

"Climbing wall, gravel chimes at the Ross Perot museum (so great for toddlers), curvy slides, interactive elements, if thematic is chosen a train play structure would be nice,"

"It needs a nice area for parents to sit."

"Like recycled tire padding is soft and fun to play it, also like soft/ foamy colored as in Colorado river park, like see saws, possibly material on slide that doesn't get too hot."

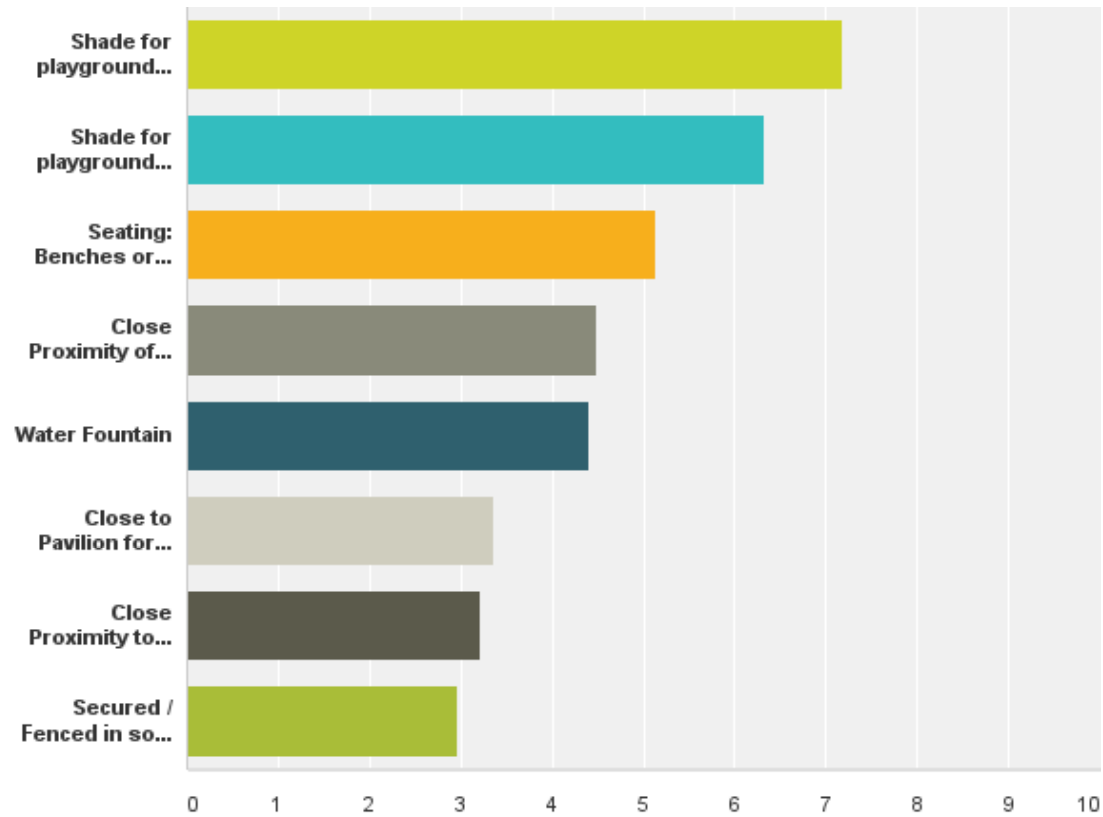
"Access to water fountains that stay turned on would be nice."

"Fire ants need to be treated more frequently. Have severe allergy to them."

"The small individual spinning pieces at Phil's & Rattan Creek seem to be kid favorites, in addition to a big central piece."

Q13: Which amenities do you feel are most important to have for the Playground: (RANK with 1 being your highest priority)

Answered: 352 Skipped: 96



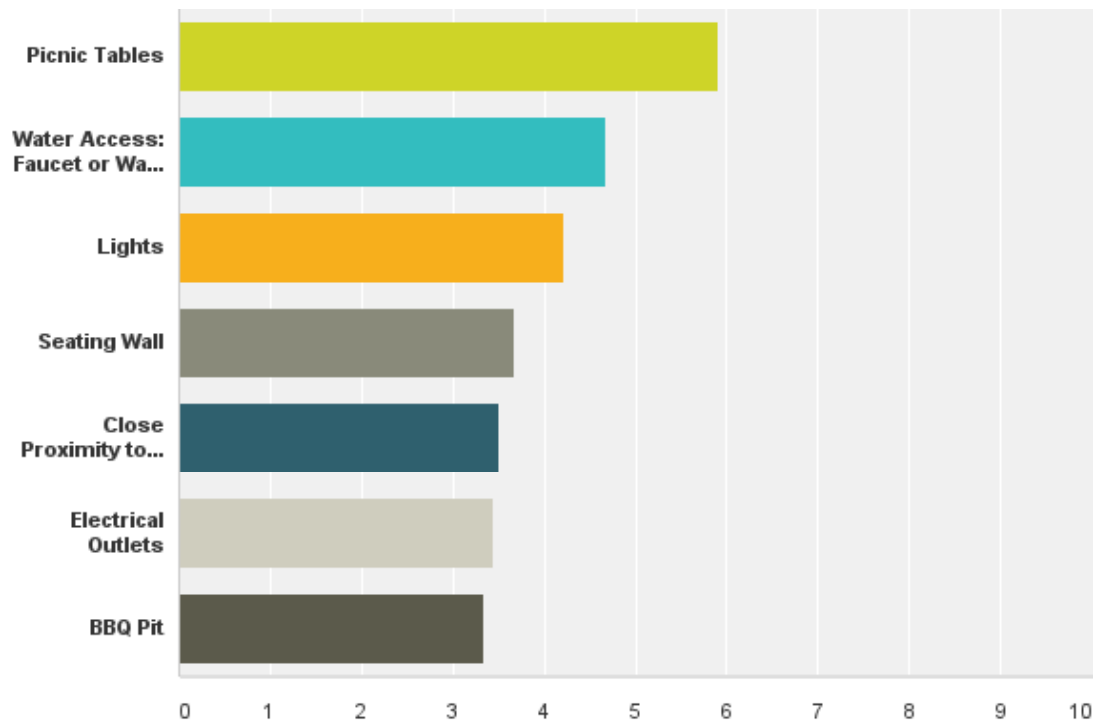
Q13: Which amenities do you feel are most important to have for the Playground: (RANK with 1 being your highest priority)

Answered: 352 Skipped: 96

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	N/A	Total	Score
Shade for playground users	62.94% 214	15.29% 52	5.88% 20	5.29% 18	4.71% 16	2.94% 10	0.29% 1	0.29% 1	2.35% 8	340	7.18
Shade for playground caregivers	14.33% 49	49.71% 170	12.87% 44	8.77% 30	5.56% 19	3.80% 13	1.46% 5	1.75% 6	1.75% 6	342	6.33
Seating: Benches or Picnic Tables	5.78% 19	10.33% 34	29.48% 97	23.40% 77	13.68% 45	7.90% 26	6.99% 23	0.91% 3	1.52% 5	329	5.14
Close Proximity of Bathrooms	3.99% 13	7.98% 26	18.40% 60	15.64% 51	21.78% 71	15.64% 51	12.58% 41	1.53% 5	2.45% 8	326	4.48
Water Fountain	8.51% 28	7.29% 24	16.41% 54	16.41% 54	14.59% 48	13.98% 46	10.33% 34	10.33% 34	2.13% 7	329	4.40
Close to Pavilion for Gatherings	3.25% 10	2.60% 8	6.49% 20	12.01% 37	16.56% 51	10.03% 58	22.40% 69	14.29% 44	3.57% 11	308	3.37
Close Proximity to Parking Lot	0.95% 3	3.80% 12	7.91% 25	10.44% 33	12.97% 41	20.89% 66	21.52% 68	18.04% 57	3.48% 11	316	3.21
Secured / Fenced in some way (for example: hedges or	4.21% 13	5.18% 16	5.83% 18	7.77% 24	7.12% 22	11.00% 34	16.50% 51	34.63% 107	7.77% 24	309	2.96

Q14: Which amenities do you feel are most important for the pavilion that will be located near the playground: (RANK with 1 being your highest priority.)

Answered: 336 Skipped: 112



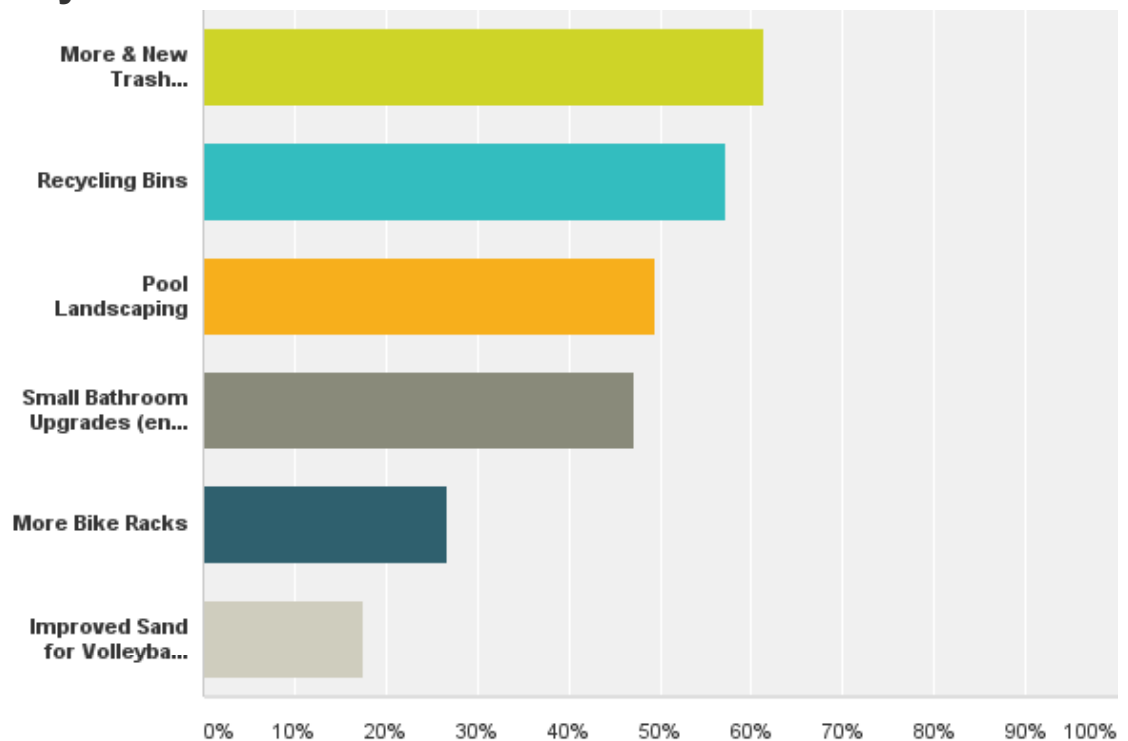
Q14: Which amenities do you feel are most important for the pavilion that will be located near the playground: (RANK with 1 being your highest priority.)

Answered: 336 Skipped: 112

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Score
Picnic Tables	47.80% 152	22.01% 70	13.84% 44	8.49% 27	5.35% 17	1.57% 5	0.94% 3	318	5.90
Water Access: Faucet or Water Fountain	20.71% 64	19.74% 61	17.48% 54	14.24% 44	10.03% 31	11.33% 35	6.47% 20	309	4.67
Lights	12.91% 39	12.58% 38	19.54% 59	20.20% 61	14.57% 44	13.58% 41	6.62% 20	302	4.22
Seating Wall	7.46% 22	19.66% 58	9.83% 29	14.92% 44	12.20% 36	16.61% 49	19.32% 57	295	3.68
Close Proximity to Parking Lot	11.53% 34	9.49% 28	12.88% 38	13.90% 41	14.24% 42	12.20% 36	25.76% 76	295	3.51
Electrical Outlets	3.72% 11	12.50% 37	14.19% 42	14.53% 43	20.95% 62	16.89% 50	17.23% 51	296	3.44
BBQ Pit	3.75% 11	9.22% 27	16.04% 47	14.33% 42	18.09% 53	21.84% 64	16.72% 49	293	3.34

Q15: Other IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES in the PARK:Austin Parks Foundation offers a Neighborhood Grant in the amount of \$5,000 or less for smaller improvements and repairs in a park.The list below includes improvements that fall into this price range. Please select 3 improvements that you like to see in Balcones Park.

Answered: 360 Skipped: 88



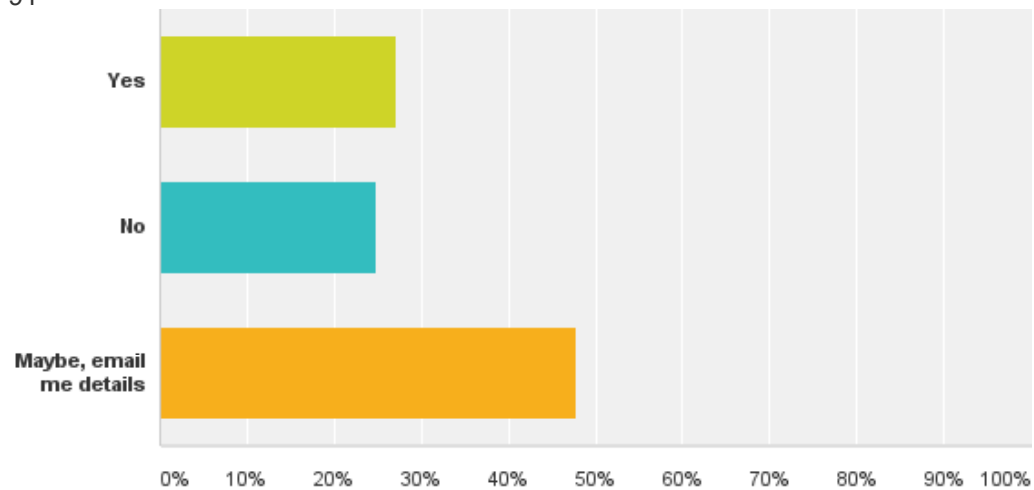
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Answered: 360 Skipped: 88

Answer Choices	Responses	
More & New Trash Receptacles	61.39%	221
Recycling Bins	57.22%	206
Pool Landscaping	49.44%	178
Small Bathroom Upgrades (enter details in comments)	47.22%	170
More Bike Racks	26.67%	96
Improved Sand for Volleyball Court	17.50%	63
Total Respondents: 360		

Q16: Are you interested in volunteering to help make improvements happen or to help in a Balcones Park work day?

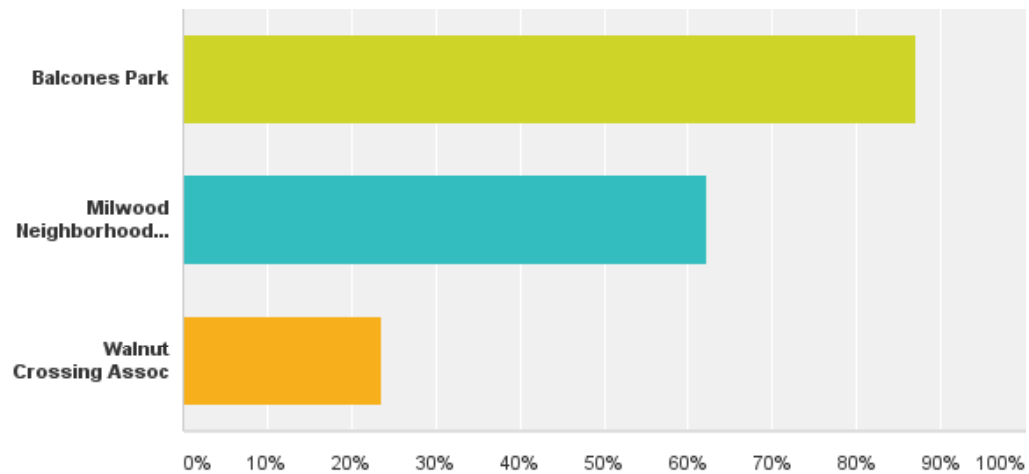
Answered: 357 Skipped: 91



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	27.17% 97
No	24.93% 89
Maybe, email me details	47.90% 171
Total	357

Q18: Please select any email list you would like to be on. (We'll use the email address listed above.)

Answered: 254 Skipped: 194



Answer Choices	Responses
Balcones Park	87.01% 221
Milwood Neighborhood Assoc	62.20% 158
Walnut Crossing Assoc	23.62% 60
Total Respondents: 254	