



# Parks and Recreation Equity Study Public Input Survey April/May 2023

## Contents

- I. [Background](#)
- II. [Outreach](#)
- III. [Survey Results](#)
- IV. [Demographics](#)
- V. [Emails](#)

### I. Background

Tempe Parks and Recreation is conducting an equity study to analyze, assess, recommend, and act on equity within our parks and recreation spaces and programs. This study will build upon the guiding principles of the updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which was adopted in July 2021. The study includes a robust and embedded community engagement process, culminating in a comprehensive matrix that identifies and prioritizes gaps to ensure that future investment occurs in the areas where residents have fewer resources. It also establishes an innovative service philosophy that reflects a commitment to engage and serve all residents with boundless opportunity.

Two public meetings were held virtually on April 24 and a survey was available online at [tempe.gov/Forum](https://tempe.gov/Forum) from April 24 through May 25, 2023 to gather feedback on the proposed concepts. This survey received a total of 641 visitors and 447 responses.

### II. Outreach

Several methods were used to provide information to the public and stakeholders regarding the project, meetings and opportunities for input.

Outreach for the Parks and Recreation Equity Study was focused on obtaining input on social mixing, program diversity, feelings of safety, and access to amenities within the City of Tempe's Parks and Recreation system. The additional focus groups

outside of the Tempe Forum allowed for the direct input from the community to ensure park improvements meet the needs for all.

### Project Webpage

The project [webpage](#) was updated continuously and included information about the project, the date and access information for the public meeting and online comment information. From April 14 – May 25, the website had 1,269 views.

### Top Sources:

- Direct
- Social Media
- Mailchimp
- Google
- Spikes:
  - social media posts on 5/3 and 5/10



### Social Media, Eblasts and Press Release



#### City of Tempe Page

4/18/23 – Public Feedback Announcement

- Reach: 736 | Engagements: 692 | Link clicks: 16

4/23/23 – Public Meeting Reminder

- Reach: 557 | Engagements: 12 | Link clicks: 1

5/4/23 – Making Space Festival

- Reach: 3,941 | Engagements: 338 | Link clicks: 89

5/9/23 – Making Space Festival Reminder

- Reach: 652 | Engagements: 16 | Link clicks: 7

#### Tempe Parks & Rec page

4/21/23 – Public feedback announcement

- Reach: 408 | Engagements: 41 | Link clicks: 3

5/9/23 – Making Space Festival

- Shared post – no insights available



- 4/18/23 - Public Feedback Announcement
  - Impressions: 686 | Engagements: 8 | Link clicks: 1
- 4/23/23 - Public Meeting Reminder
  - Impressions: 1,910 | Engagements: 13 | Link clicks: 1
- 5/4/23 - Making Space Festival
  - Impressions: 2,191 | Engagements: 10 | Link clicks: 2
- 5/9/23 - Making Space Festival Reminder
  - Impressions: 1,433 | Engagements: 13 | Link clicks: 0
- 5/18/23 - Survey Reminder
  - Impressions: 880 | Engagements: 13 | Link clicks: 6



- 4/1/8/23 - Instagram post - Public Input announcement
    - Reach: 1,420 | Engagements: 91 | Link clicks: 1
  - 4/24/23 - Instagram story - Meeting reminder
    - Reach: 229 | Engagements: 0 | Link clicks: 0
  - 4/27/23 - Instagram reel - "3 ways to get involved"
    - Reach: 2,563 | Engagements: 124
  - 5/3/23 - Instagram story - Making Space Festival announcement
    - Reach: 429 | Engagements: 9 | Link clicks: 2
  - 5/9/23 - Instagram story - Making Space Festival reminder
    - Reach: 470 | Engagements: 8 | Link clicks: 5
  - 4/27/23 - Instagram reel - "What does equity mean to you?"
    - Reach: 1,422 | Engagements: 57
- Tempe Parks & Rec page - post
- Reach: 217 | Engagements: 18 | Link clicks: 0



- 4/17/23 - Public Input announcement
  - Impressions: 1,739 | Engagements: 4
- 5/3/23 - Meeting reminder
  - Impressions: 755 | Engagements: 1
- 5/8/23 - Making Space Festival reminder
  - Impressions: 891 | Engagements: 3



- 4/16/23 – Public outreach announcement
  - 7,359 emails sent, 38.3% open rate, 0.9% click rate, 153 clicks
- 4/17/23 – Tempe This Week
  - 8,059 emails sent, 40.2% open rate, 4% click rate, 22 clicks on link
- 4/23/23 – Public meeting reminder
  - 7,351 emails sent, 37.7% open rate, 0.8% click rate, 85 clicks
- 4/24/23 – Tempe This Week
  - 8,070 emails sent, 39.8% open rate, 3.7% click rate, 14 clicks on link
- 5/3/23 – Making Space Festival announcement
  - 7,942 emails sent, 38.4% open rate, 1.2% click rate, 148 clicks
- 5/8/23 – Tempe This Week
  - 8,060 emails sent, 39.4% open rate, 2.9% click rate, 45 clicks on link
- 5/9/23 – Making Space Festival reminder
  - 3,615 emails sent, 70.2% open rate, 1.4% click rate, 100 clicks
- 5/15/23 – Tempe This Week
  - 8,056 emails sent, 39.2% open rate, 5.1% click rate, 11 clicks on link
- 5/18/23 – Survey reminder
  - 7,291 emails sent, 36.1% open rate, 2.1% click rate, 219 clicks
- 5/22/23 – Tempe This Week
  - 8,050 emails sent, 39.2% open rate, 4.3% click rate, 18 clicks on link

#### Media Hits

- [Tempe Independent](#)
- [Signals AZ](#)

#### Direct Mailer

A direct mailer was sent to over 6,000 places of residence in very high equity zones and high equity zones throughout Tempe. In Making Space: Tempe Parks and Recreation Equity Analysis Memorandum, DesignWorkshop identifies equity zones by the layering and weighting of the following factors: Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) consisting of 16 socioeconomic factors, the CDC’s Healthy Places data of asthma prevalence, mental health distress and physical inactivity, rental tenure, crime concentrations, and places of informal housing encampments, among others.

#### Yard Signs

45 yard signs with meeting and comment information were placed in various parks and community centers around the City of Tempe.

#### Emails

A notification email was sent to Tempe Forum subscribers, neighborhood contacts, relevant Boards and Commissions, parks update subscribers, Arts in the Parks subscribers and community partner stakeholders identified in the initial focus group outreach inviting them to attend the meetings or to comment online.

#### Making Space Festival

Hosted on May 10, 2023, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Escalante Park and Community Center, the Making Space Festival engaged community members with the Parks and Recreation Equity Study in a manner that was fun and free to all. Approximately 200

attendees enjoyed various activities including art, music, bike tune-ups, games, drop-in workouts, local food demonstrations, and tree and plant giveaways.

### Virtual Meetings

Two [virtual meetings](#) were held via Zoom on Monday, April 24, 2023 to kickoff the public survey.

### Community Navigator Program

Community Navigators were hired to assess parks and centers as well as assist with community outreach when the community survey was available. Community Navigators were a diverse group of community members who were each able to bring unique perspectives to this project.

- 11 Navigators
- 40 City Parks and Centers assessed
- 332 Overall assessments
- 400 Approx. hours worked
- 9 community events attended to promote the survey

### Peer Solution Consulting

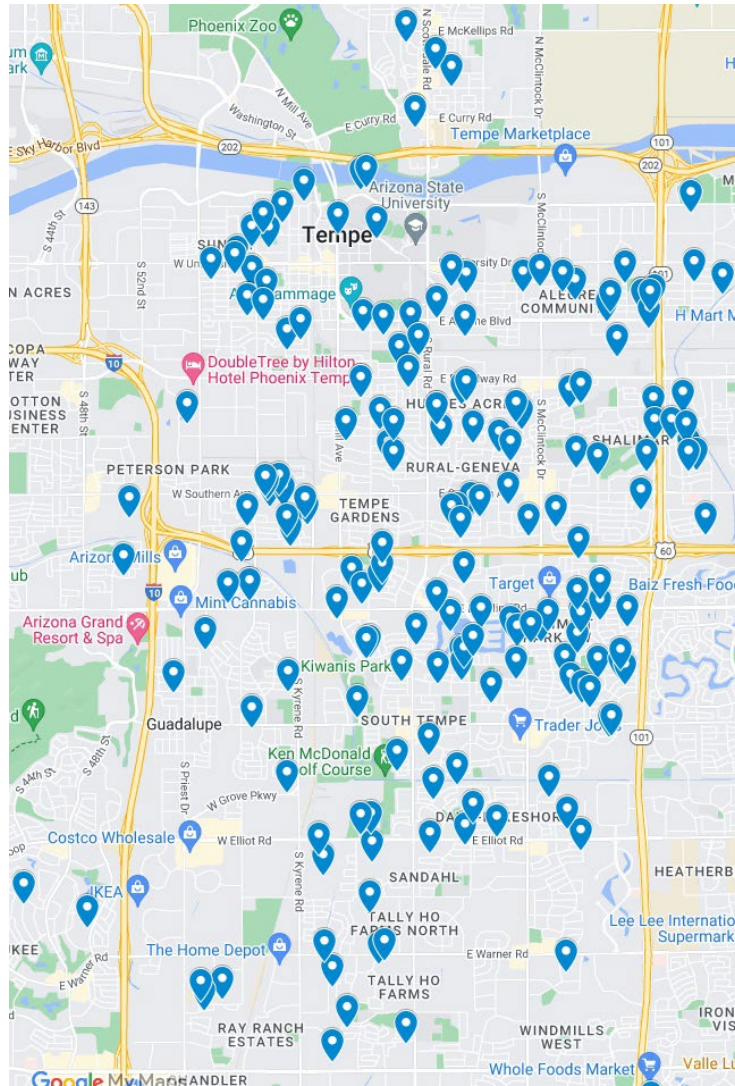
The local nonprofit, Peer Solutions, was hired to help gather feedback about Tempe's Parks and Recreation system from Tempe youth. The youth survey was designed to take approximately four minutes to complete. Students who completed the survey were entered into a \$50 raffle.

- 167 youth participants
- Tempe High School and North Tempe Boys & Girls Club
- 15% self-identified as LGBTQIA+
- 52% Hispanic/Latinx, 29% Black/African American, 15% American Indian/Alaska Native, 17% White, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2% Native Hawaiian

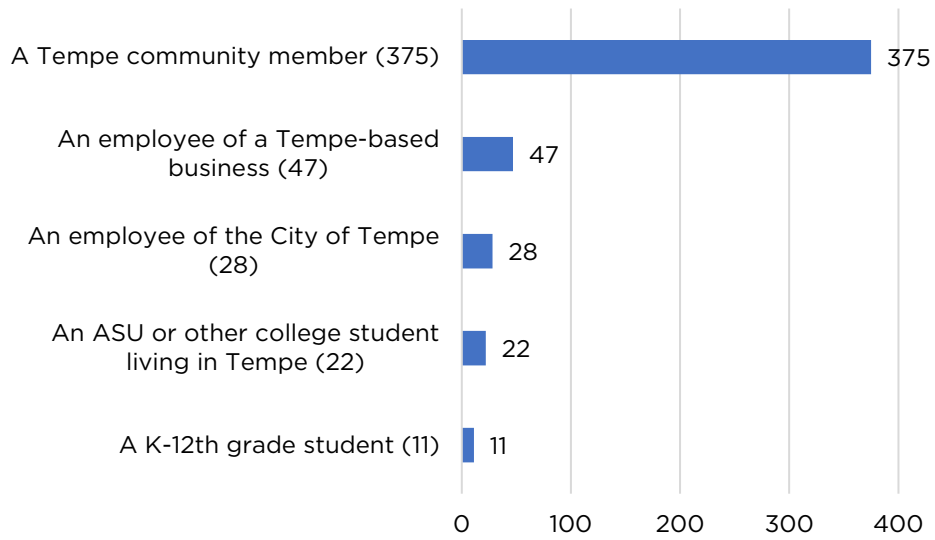
### III. Survey Results

The survey was available online at [tempe.gov/Forum](http://tempe.gov/Forum) from April 24 through May 25, 2023 to gather feedback on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), program diversity, feelings of safety, and access to amenities within Tempe's Park and Recreation system.

209 respondents provided an address with approximately 85% in Tempe.

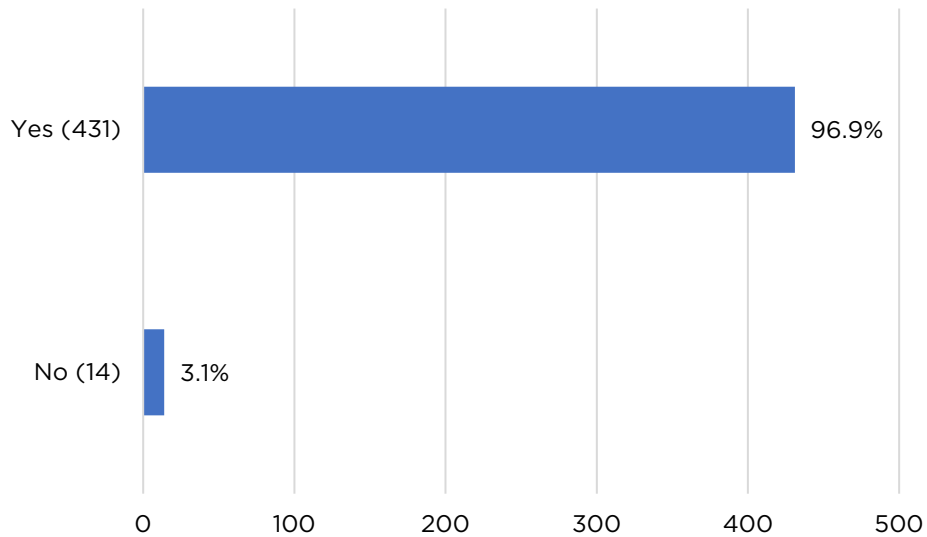


1. Hello, I am (select all that apply)?



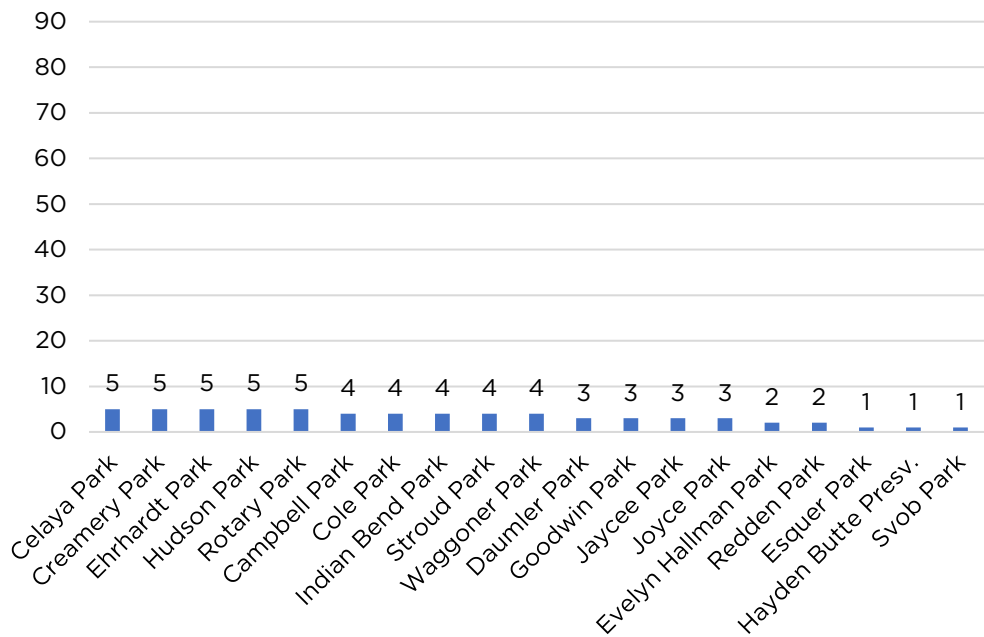
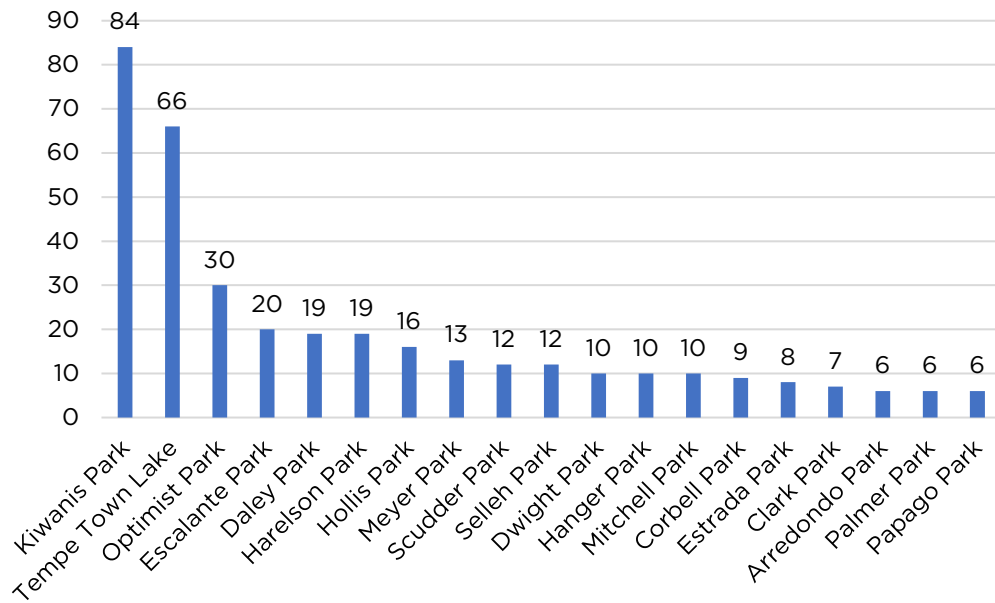
Responses: 428

2. I visit City of Tempe parks



Responses: 445

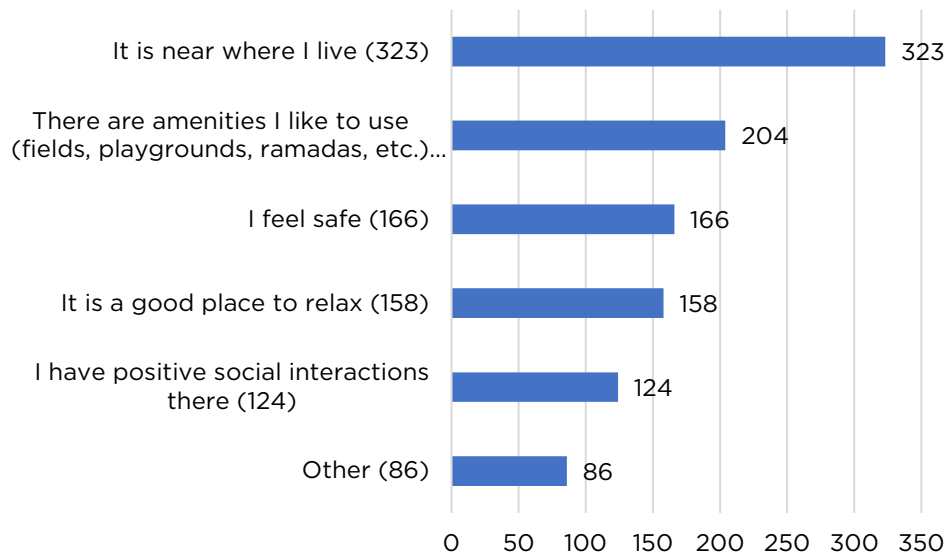
3. (If yes) This is the park I visit most often:



Responses: 427



4. (If yes) I visit this park because: (check all that apply)



Responses: 428

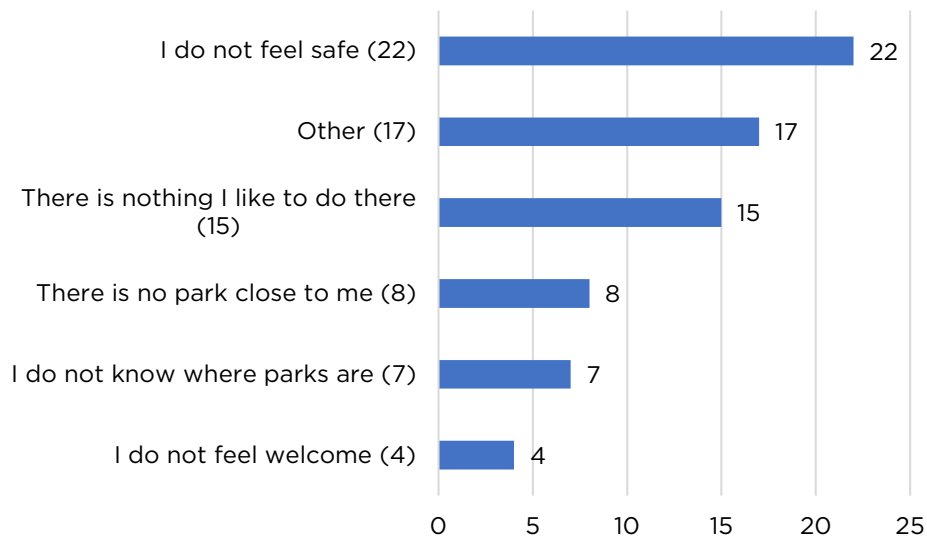
Other comments:

- Annual car show
- Basketball gym
- Because of scheduled programming
- Big
- Bike rides along the path around the lake.
- Community Garden
- Community Garden
- Cycle the rio salado pathway
- Dog park
- Dog park, garden
- Easy bike access from all directions
- Escalante Community Garden
- Events
- Exercise
- Family event
- For the Prostate On-Site Project (POP) walk/event in late September.
- Good amount of shade.
- Good place for running.
- Good place to jog and bike
- Great events held here!
- Great place to walk the dog.
- Has a pickleball court
- I attend special events there
- I commute through it
- I enjoy coming to run

- I like to walk my dog on the walking path, watch kids playing, watch sports in the big field area
- I like to walk through it and over the freeway on my daily walks
- I love the natural desert and wildlife
- I meditate in the peace garden, walk my dogs there and use the dog water bowls
- I play on sand volleyball and softball at Kiwanis
- I plein aire sketch there with a fellow artist
- I practice Tai Chi with 6-8 friends every Wed morning for the last 5+ yrs. Also rent the ramada semi-annually for a picnic with about 40 in attendance
- I ride my bike and walk my dog there regularly
- I take a class there
- I used to enjoy the old pool and am very excited about the new one.
- I usually bike there from home and there are lots of bike paths available. Also enjoy spotting birds in the lake.
- I visit Tempe Sports Complex more often, but it's not listed in the parks above.
- I walk my dog 6-8 miles a day in different places, he gets bored walking in the same place every day. We walk at Kiwanis once a week.
- I walk the hills every day
- I walk with a friend who lives in Tempe
- In the morning unable to use playground items for young children due to no canopy from the sun.
- It has a great running path
- It has a pond with ducks and other birds
- It has options for walking and running
- It is a natural desert environment a good place for wildlife viewing.
- It is close
- It is large
- It is near where I work
- It is next door to my child's school
- It is one of the only places in South Tempe with pickleball courts besides the Sports Complex.
- It is where I work
- It's a good place to exercise
- It's a pretty place to run, I enjoy the pond and hills, sometimes I swim at the pool
- Its near where i work
- It's near where I work
- It's pretty and has good/long walking paths
- It's spacious and welcoming to dogs. It's also very, very clean.
- It's the only large park within 5 miles
- Meet with friends
- More families and bathrooms at the park near the baseball fields
- movie nights
- Movies in the Park, splash pad, lake, paddle boats

- My child likes to play at this park
- My dog likes walking around the lake!
- My kids like to go there
- nature, away from concrete jungle
- Nice area to walk and cycle around
- Nice place to walk.
- Pickleball courts
- Plenty of shade trees
- Scooter rental
- Shade
- Splash pad
- T chi group meets there and alternates with Meyer
- Tempe center for the Arts is there and I attend events
- Tempe sports complex
- Tempe Sports Complex is not listed. We are there daily. Please use this as my vote.
- The awesome huge tree
- The new playground is very nice. My son likes it too
- The puppy likes it
- There are rarely drug users at this park, due to proximity to Scottsdale police
- To walk the path around the lake
- Town lake really needs to be updated. After being in existence for 25 years, there should be much more shade. Existing hard scape needs sooo many repairs.
- Walk our dog
- Went to concert
- Youth Softball

**5. (If no) I do not visit City of Tempe parks because: (check all that apply)**

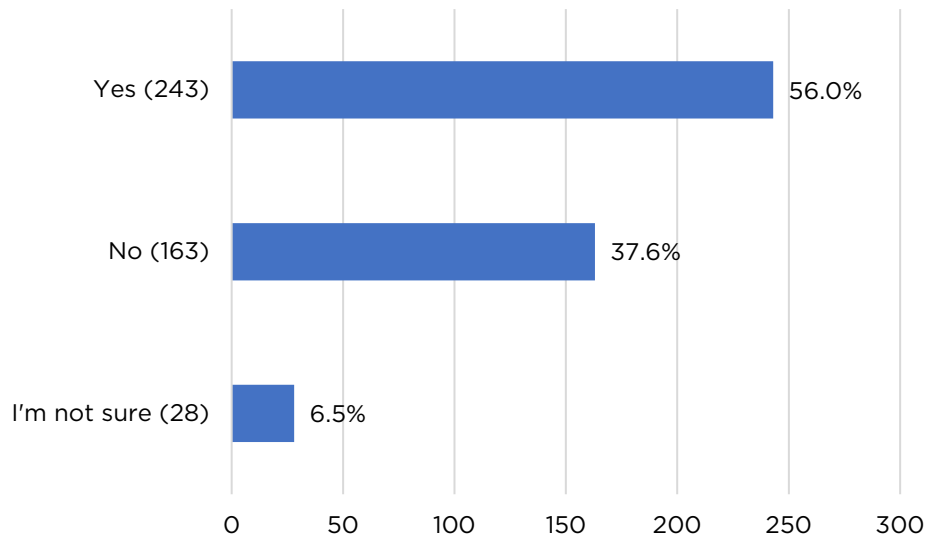


Responses: 54

Other comments:

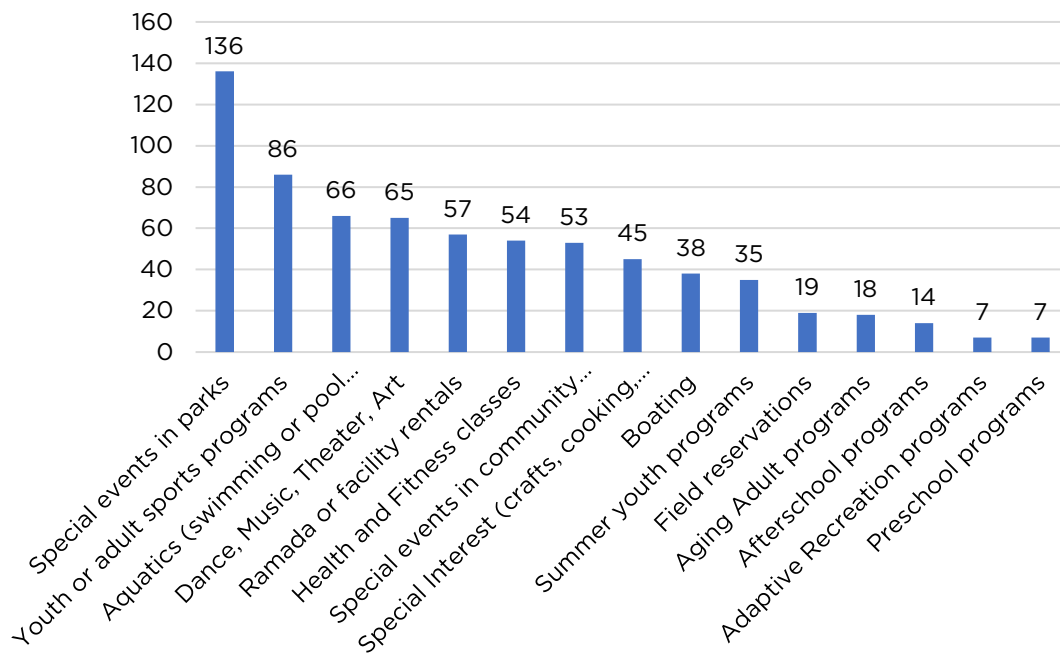
- don't have kids
- Finding time to get to a park.
- homeless
- Homeless have made it their home. And No Pickleball courts
- I do not feel safe after sun down.
- I do visit other parks - Kiwanis mostly to walk my dog
- I have to first be sure that there are restrooms, and that they will be open, which is intimidating because I have often found them to be locked when I go there.
- Kids like to go there
- my home and neighborhood fills my needs.
- No pickleball courts
- Scooters in the parks are a death wish. They need to be banned.
- There are many unsheltered people at the park
- There are often armed "guards" which make me feel unsafe.
- There are too many homeless.
- too busy with work and elderly parents

## 6. I participate in City of Tempe Parks and Recreation Programs



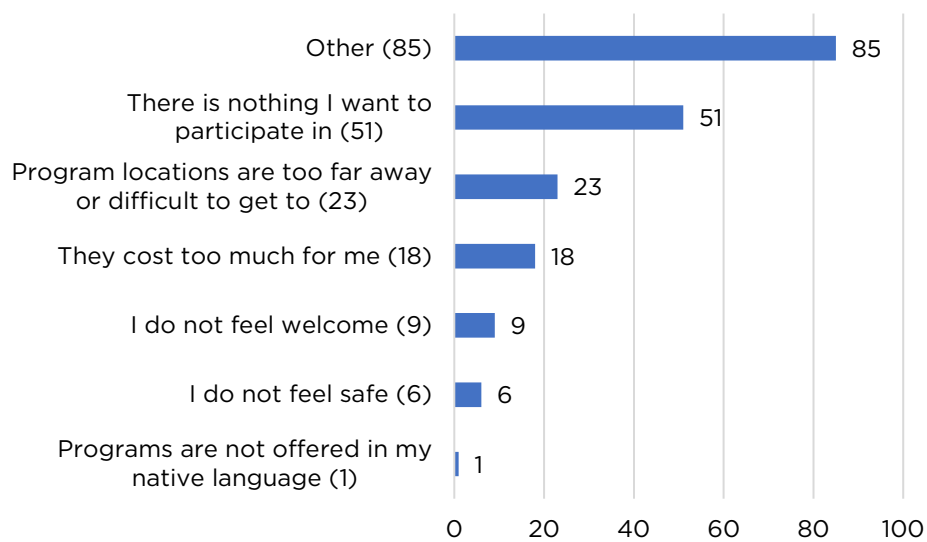
Responses: 434

7. (If yes) I participate in these City of Tempe Parks and Recreation Programs: (check all that apply)



Responses: 271

8. (If no) I do not participate in City of Tempe Parks and Recreation programs because: (check all that apply)



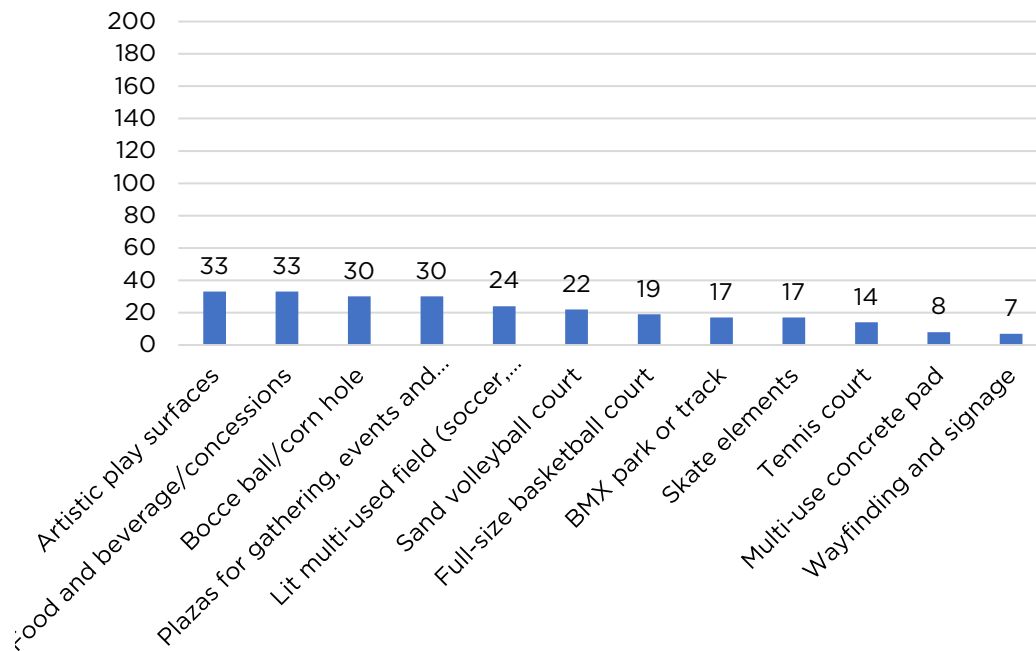
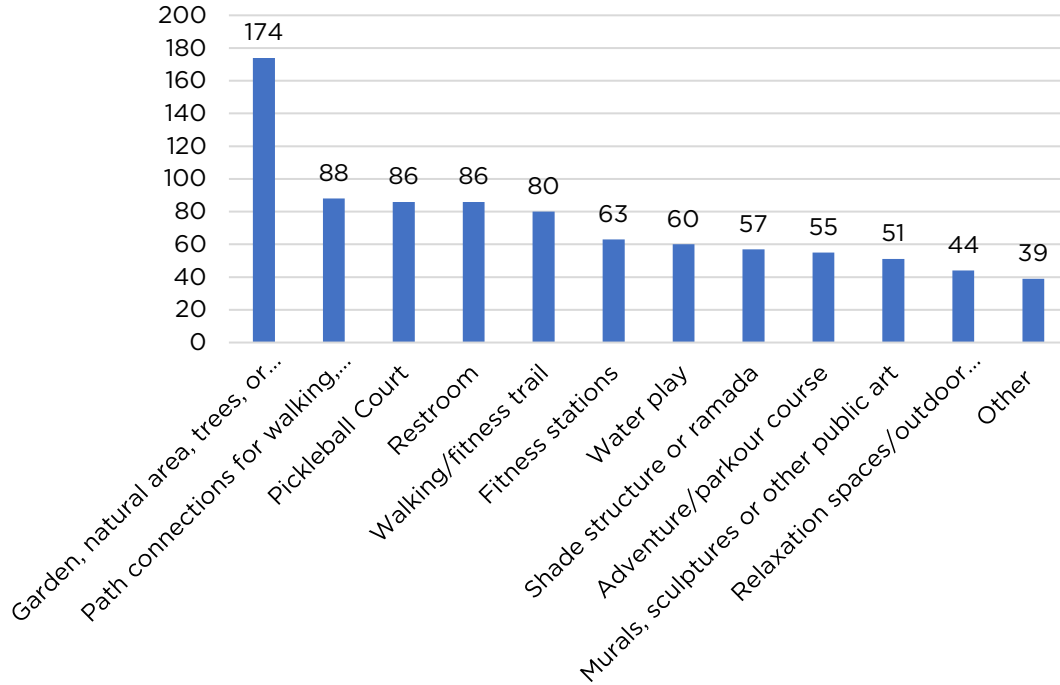
Responses: 168

Other comments:

- A lot of classes I'd like to check out are in the daytime when I am working
- as a working community member, my availability does not allow me time to participate
- Busy, they all sound cool
- Didn't know about them
- Didn't know about them
- Didn't really know about them.
- didn't really know what was offered
- Do not have time. Still working full time.
- Do not know about them
- Don't have time
- Hard to find a spot in aquatics for kids
- Have not had the time
- Have not thought about it.
- Haven't had the time in the last few years.
- Haven't paid attention to it. No longer get a print book.
- Haven't taken the time to do so
- I am not a child.
- I am not aware of them
- I am not aware of them.
- I am older and busy with other activities
- I couldn't have the time but I'm on the watch for schedule and openings.
- I do not know what they are.
- I didn't know about them before this survey
- I didn't know about these programs
- I do not have time.
- I do not know about them.
- I do not live her yet.
- I don't have enough time to commit to these events
- I don't know about them
- I don't know how to start
- I don't know yet - I'm new to this part of town and haven't tried yet-did use in the past with my family - I want these programs!
- I have access to similar programs already at ASU
- I have not participated since 2019.
- I haven't had enough free time to participate in community events.
- I haven't had time to evaluate the offerings available to me.
- I live in another city.
- I live in Chandler but a block away from Tempe Chandler border so end up going to Tempe parks but don't get Tempe emails
- I love too far away, just here visiting
- I play pickleball
- I recently looked at offerings and didn't see anything that interested me that fit into my available times. I will keep looking though.
- I row with Rio Salado Rowing Club
- I use an electric bike and there's not secure locations to lock a bicycle.

- I want to start
- I was rehabilitating from injuries but can now participate.
- I was unaware of their existence.
- I was/am not aware of them
- I would like to know what is available
- I'm a visitor
- It is hot outside.
- Just haven't had a chance yet, but will be participating soon!
- Just haven't had time recently
- Just moved here and haven't had a chance yet!
- just moved to the area
- Lack of advertising/Rarely hear about them
- Lack of free time
- Lack of free time. I will join many when retired.
- Little time
- Never looked into it.
- No reason. Just busy
- None that interest me
- Not aware
- Not aware of all amenities
- not aware of them
- Not aware of what programs are offered
- Not enough time in the day
- Not familiar with them
- Not sure how to find information
- Not sure how to participate, but interested in more information
- Not sure where to find this info
- Our kids are grown and live in other towns or cities. Will use again when our Grandchildren come along.
- Programs aren't offered at a time I can attend, like after work for seniors.
- Son is too young to participate in events.
- They are not always at times that work for my schedule
- Time doesn't allow
- Timing didn't make it work
- timing doesn't work out
- Too busy
- too busy
- Too many off-leash dogs (irresponsible owners) in the non-dog park parts of parks.
- Types of programs I am interested in are not offered.
- Unaware that city of Tempe has these programs
- Unsure what programs are available
- Want to take art classes that fill up to fast
- When area is closed

9. As a result of this study, parks and recreation spaces in Tempe could be eligible for new amenities based on a number of criteria. Examples are not limited to the following list. Which 3 amenities would you choose to have in your neighborhood?



Responses: 431



Other comments:

85281

- anything would be nice, trees, shade, trail, mural, whatever neighbors would want. Currently, we have no park, here in the Phoenix-part-of-Tempe, aka Gililand.
- Beer Garten
- Children's playgrounds
- Connect all parks to a linear bike system (Equity issue for Escalante as needs N/S connections at Railroad & Salt River to Scottsdale path).
- Pull up bars/work out station
- Trees and shade
- Volleyball court

85282

- Access to the "community" garden. I've lived across the street for four years and not once have I seen the gate open/unlocked.
- Make the parks safer, get rid of the homeless who camp there and take over the restrooms.
- more playground equipment merry go round etc.
- Skating rink
- Swing sets large enough for adults
- We really need more pickleball courts - inside and outside in central Tempe. North of the Tempe Sports complex. The Kiwanis courts are unusable due to poor/confusing lineage on floor. Lake needs separate walking and riding lanes. Scary to walk after dark.

85283

- Benches, swing area, grills
- Just better cleanliness of the amenities that are already there.
- More lighting
- Special park for adults with disabilities and dementia. This would have sensory features, mobility paths, and a closed environment to ensure the safety of participants (they can't wonder off).
- Water that shoots up from the ground like the Escalante park. This park is unappealing in comparison to other updated parks.
- We like the parks as they are now. Money should be spent on other needs.

85284

- Better kept grass and landscaping. We have more weeds than grass. Also regular clean up of trash and pet poop. ( don't understand why people cannot pick up after their pets, but they can't)
- Indoor gym available for roller skating
- More secure location to lock bicycles
- Mountain Bike Skills park like Desert Trails Bike Park in Mesa
- The pickleball courts at Tempe Sports complex are too crowded. Please add more courts at this facility!!

85288

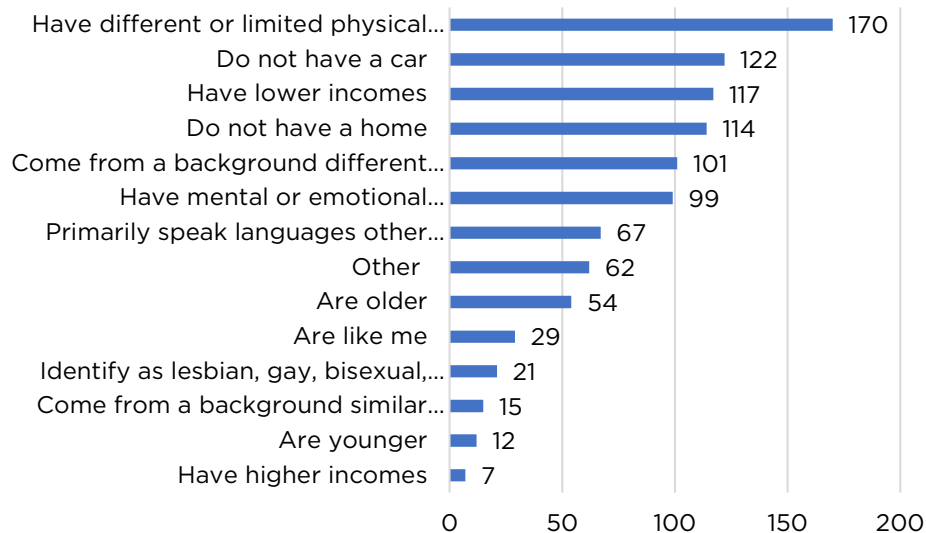
- After our latest renovations we really have all we need, or all we have room for!
- An education ramada on history of the park and native plants and animals.

- Baseball/softball facilities & amenities
- Wheelchair accessibility

Unregistered

- Baseball parks
- Disc golf
- dog amenities
- Golf Course
- <https://kjzz.org/content/1676531/phoenix-parks-has-new-smoke-free-policy> Follow Phoenix's lead!
- More courts at Tempe Sports Complex
- Pickleball
- running track (high school tracks are not open to public)
- Security. There needs to be more enforcement of rules at the parks, especially the leash law. What's the point of dog parks if so \*many\* people let their dogs off-leash in the rest of the park?
- Splash Pad

10. When I think of inclusion in Tempe parks and recreation, the people who are left out: (check all that apply)



Responses: 366

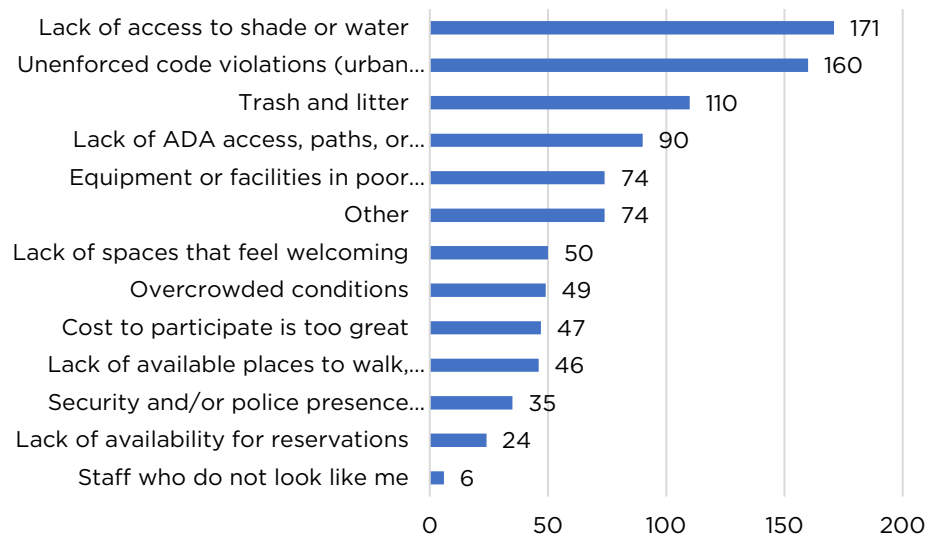
Other comments:

- Are not aware of opportunities or programs
- Do not have natural areas near to them.
- Don't have small children so are left out of playgrounds
- Everybody can use the parks
- Have no idea how to answer for other people.

- I believe everyone is included. Everyone is made to feel welcome in my art classes.
- I can't imagine who would feel left out. Tempe is VERY inclusive!
- I do not believe the city leaves anyone out.
- I do not feel that people in our neighborhood are excluded from our neighborhood parks
- I don't feel anyone is left out.
- I don't feel as if Tempe parks & rec leaves out anyone
- I don't know who would feel left out. I suspect this survey will not reach those groups.
- I don't think anybody is left out, except for criminals. But, what's wrong with that?
- I don't think anyone is left out. People have the ability to make choices to take advantage of amenities. Some people may not know about opportunities though so that could probably be improved.
- I don't think anyone is left out. I see families and people of all ages and economic backgrounds (ie a homeless person resting under a shade tree or a Mercedes Benz parked at the tennis courts) . Pathways & amenities at Indian Bend are ADA compliant.
- I feel Tempe parks & recreations had a good array of services and activities that are inclusive.
- I see all kinds of people at the parks and can't identify anyone left out.
- I think Tempe does a fantastic job in providing inclusive parks and recreation.
- I think the city of Tempe leaves our houseless and low income neighbors out of their inclusion plans
- I think the parks and rec people do a good job in this area. I don't see a issue
- in my park, teens are left out completely. Playground only for under 12
- Is this a joke? Parks are incapable of discrimination. It's open, free, and anyone is welcome.
- It does not appear anyone is left out.
- I've never heard someone say they felt "left out" on a visit to a park of their choice. Unrealistic ask and categorizes/stigmatizes individuals.
- Less emphasis on equity and more emphasis on quality
- Live in the far south part of Tempe
- Live in the Phoenix-part-of-Tempe, aka Gililand.
- Lots of homeless people in the parks. Not sure of the answer, or if they are a group that we want to "include"?
- may be homeless - no obvious access to internet
- My grandfather has physical limitations that prevent him from using city park spaces. If you had wide sidewalks, shade, a place to sit down, he could join me at the park.
- N/A

- No one
- no one is left out
- no one is left out
- No one is left out
- No one is left out
- No one is left out if they want they can use it
- No one is left out of a public park stop.
- no one is left out. If you can get there your welcome
- No one is left out. NO ONE!
- Nobody is left out
- Nobody is left out. It is everyone's own choice to participate or not
- Nobody is left out...IT'S A PARK!!!
- None
- none
- None
- None of the above
- None of the above
- None! Anyone can go to the park as it is free! This study is a huge waste of taxpayer money! Shame on you for catering to a small number of people.
- Not sure
- People who need a restroom!
- People who obey the rules and respect everyone's enjoyment of the park
- Ridiculous question
- Something is adaptable and for everyone
- Tempe has always done a good job for all; no need to start changing things because a small minority with a bull horn is the loudest.
- Tempe parks are a melting pot.
- The parks need to support the taxpayers, whatever their background. We pay for the parks and are often chased away by the homeless.
- there are no people "left out". Everyone has choices.
- This is a poorly worded question that centers on exclusion rather than inclusion. I don't know who is left out. I see a lot of diversity at the parks already and think we're doing a really good job.
- Those who do not have a home are TOO comfortable
- Those with dementia. As a Dementia Friendly City, we should have a dementia friendly park.

11. When I think of barriers to equity in parks and recreation spaces in Tempe I think of (select all that apply):



Responses: 379

Other comments:

85281

- G4s security made parks unwelcoming. Keep them out.
- Homeless people doing drugs and fondling themselves in public (wish I could erase that memory)
- Homeless populations.
- More police presence needed
- Motorized vehicles on the Tempe Town Lake path, urban camping doesn't really bother me.
- No access without a car; parks are too far away; neighborhood roads (e.g. Hardy) are too busy and dangerous to cross. Lack of traffic calming circles requires pedestrians to walk far to (or wait for) a light and it's impossible to slowly cross e.g. Hardy
- no restroom
- Nun

85282

- Adults without children (likely the majority of Tempe residents if you include ASU students) are not given equal consideration in the idea of leisure and play
- Dogs off leash is a very big problem.
- Generally the cost to participate is low, but there are specific areas where the cost seems high, renting a room for a meeting is really inexpensive, but

renting an indoor gymnasium space is very high, higher than most private facilities as an example

- homeless
- Homeless and persons seemingly "under the influence" of drugs and or alcohol can make coming to some of the parks feel intimidating.
- Hostile architecture
- I do not know
- I don't feel that any are true
- Lack of restrooms
- mm
- No Spaces to rent for roller derby or roller skating not allowed in gyms
- Parking
- public restrooms at Mitchell Park would make it inclusive for children and people with different restroom abilities
- Restrooms
- Several awesome kids in our hood are in wheelchairs so that aspect is obvious too me.
- there are no real barriers
- Unkept bathrooms
- weeds and lack of maintenance of parks the last 6 years. ground also uneven

85283

- Dogs off leash is a problem in Optimist park. Even in the playground.
- homeless causing unsafe; not having enough police presence
- Homeless sleeping and, using at our parks.
- Lack of SAFE access to the parks and recreation spaces. Too many street people just hanging out, living/sleeping and tweaking in public areas and street corners preventing safe access to parks for families.
- Lack of security / police presence makes me feel the area is unsafe because sketchy people hang out at the park, especially at dawn and dusk
- Large group parties with heavy drinking. This is not good for children to see.
- N/A
- No barriers as far as cost to my art classes. Tempe is far more reasonable in cost than Phoenix, Chandler, Gilbert or Mesa
- no barriers,
- None. We vote for our tax dollars to upgrade parks
- Non-fenced off parks for children who like to run away
- Parking is full or not available near the facilities I wish to use.
- There are no barriers to equal use. This is a stupid question. "Equity" eliminates diversity. Shame on you. We are not robots. It seems you want to create problems where none exist. Everyone is equal but with different hopes and dreams.
- We often think about kids using parks but forget about adults, especially those with disabilities or dementia.

85284

- Again it is a personal choice. Don't try to place fault where there is none.

- Benches or other seating areas near paths. Garden space and interesting landscaping to look at.
- Difficulty and lack of options to make reservations for ramadas (not online or by the hour)
- I see no barriers to equity. The city needs to stop trying to build an elusion.
- Lack of a restroom
- Lack of facilities for programs that interest me and my family - primarily indoor roller skating
- NA
- No rec center in South Tempe
- No restrooms (and this is for everyone, not an "equity" question)
- None. I feel all the Tempe parks are inclusive
- Not very well kept up
- Pickleball courts are always full
- proximity
- The parks need to be open at 5AM in heat of the year
- There are none
- transportation to park, transportation to a class

85288

- Drug use and left-over drug paraphernalia make the park unsafe for our kids to use
- Non
- People not picking up after their dogs!

Unregistered

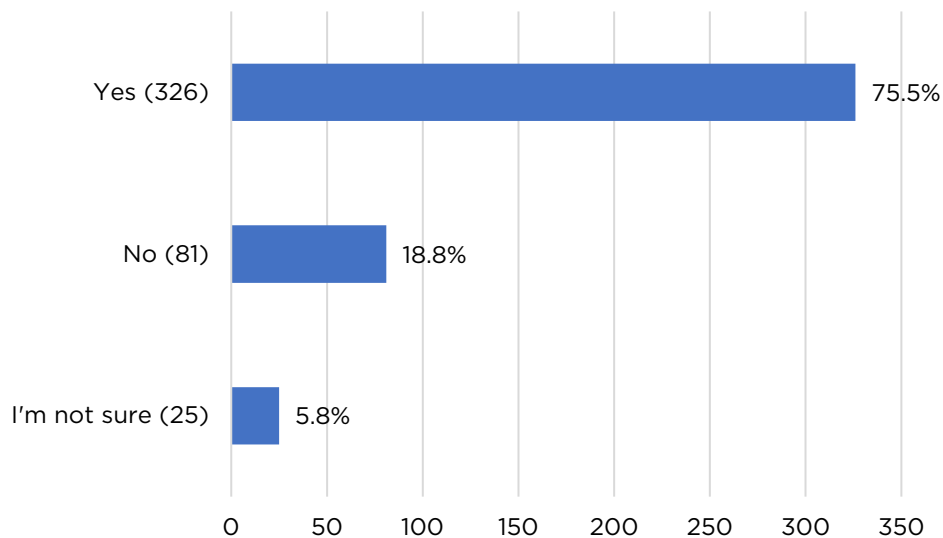
- 8 pickleball courts so busy leave 20 -30 people waiting to play
- Barriers to equity? C'mon man
- Better announce!
- Lack of knowledge about event.
- Lack of promotion of Health by not yet being smoke and vape-free.
- lack of restrooms
- My step grandmother has dementia. My handicapped grandpa cannot take her for walks anywhere safely. If you had a park with an enclosed area, with a wide sidewalk, shade, and seating, he could take her for walks and feel safe that she couldn't run away.
- none
- parking is limited for special events
- Scooters all over the park cause the parks to look like junk and make the less fortunate feel left out.
- This question is ridiculous- it has nothing to do with equity but rather the need to revamp the parks.
- Too many people let their dogs off the leash. Both of my daughters were attacked by dogs.
- Uneven watering

12. When I think of parks and recreation facilities and programming for Tempe I would prioritize: (please rank in order of importance)

First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
Physical health, fitness and well-being (93)	Social and Cultural events (64)	Physical health, fitness and well-being (54)
Facilities and programs for youth and teens (64)	Arts and cultural experiences (57)	Arts and cultural experiences (48)
Social and Cultural events (50)	Physical health, fitness and well-being (52)	Education and hands-on learning experiences (42)
Arts and cultural experiences (46)	Facilities and programs for youth and teens (46)	Outdoor programming for youth (42)
Outdoor programming for youth (38)	Education and hands-on learning experiences (41)	Social and Cultural events (39)
Education and hands-on learning experiences (34)	Outdoor programming for youth (34)	Facilities and programs for aging adults (35)
Facilities and programs for aging adults (26)	More drop-in programs and events (30)	More drop-in programs and events (32)
More drop-in programs and events (23)	Facilities and programs for aging adults (22)	Facilities and programs for youth and teens (30)
Programs in languages other than English (4)	Programs in languages other than English (10)	Programs in languages other than English (11)

Responses: 378

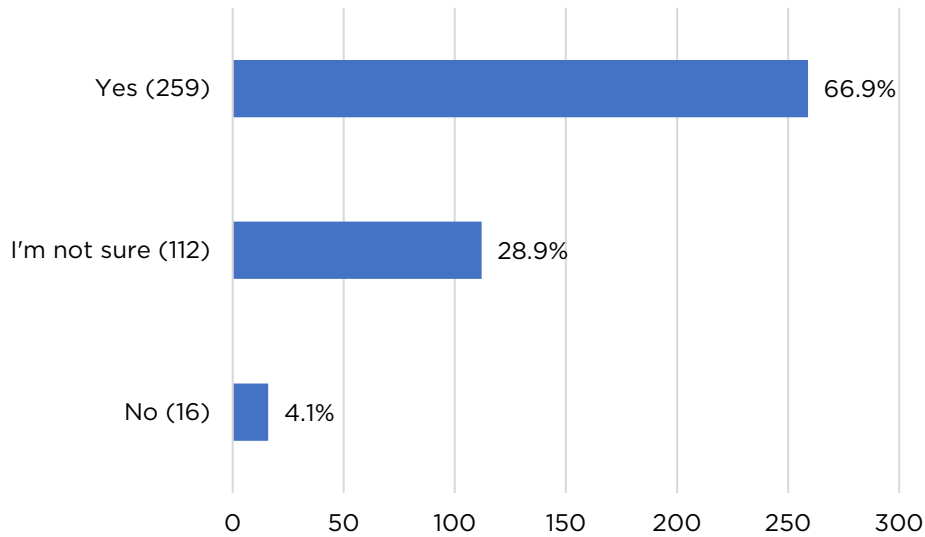
13. Have you ever had interactions with City of Tempe Parks and Recreation staff?



Responses: 432



14. (If yes) Do you feel that the staff represents the community?



Responses: 387

15. I value parks and recreation spaces in Tempe for (please rank in order of priority)

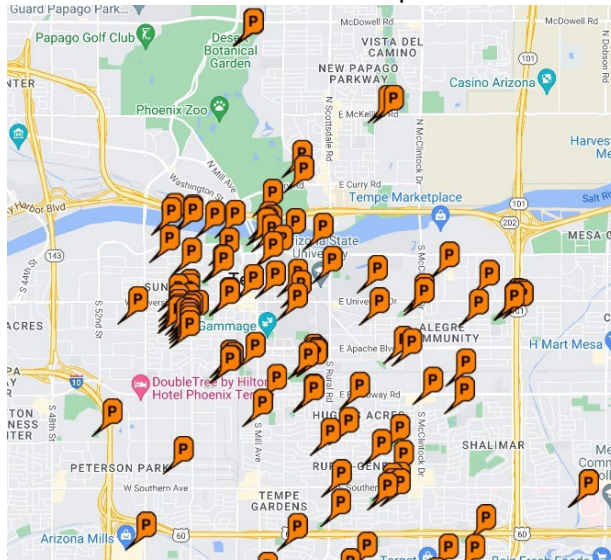
First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
Activity and recreation (170)	Enjoyment of Nature (83)	Enjoyment of Nature (75)
Enjoyment of Nature (62)	Rest and relaxation (79)	Rest and relaxation (66)
Building Community (61)	Activity and recreation (77)	Plant and animal habitats (51)
Rest and relaxation (33)	Building Community (46)	Activity and recreation (48)
Plant and animal habitats (26)	Plant and animal habitats (34)	Building Community (48)
Public health (24)	Public health (30)	Public health (26)
Other (8)	Influence on property values (12)	Influence on property values (20)
Influence on property values (8)	Other (3)	Attracting businesses (6)
Attracting businesses (2)	Attracting businesses (3)	Tourism (1)
Tourism (1)	Tourism (0)	Other (0)

Responses: 395

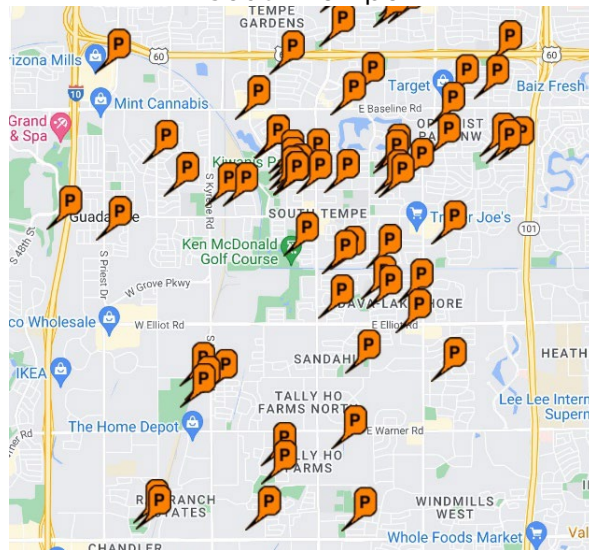
16. Using the below map, please select areas where programs, events, and facilities could be improved to support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Select up to 3 pins for each focus area.

## Programming:

### North Tempe



### South Tempe

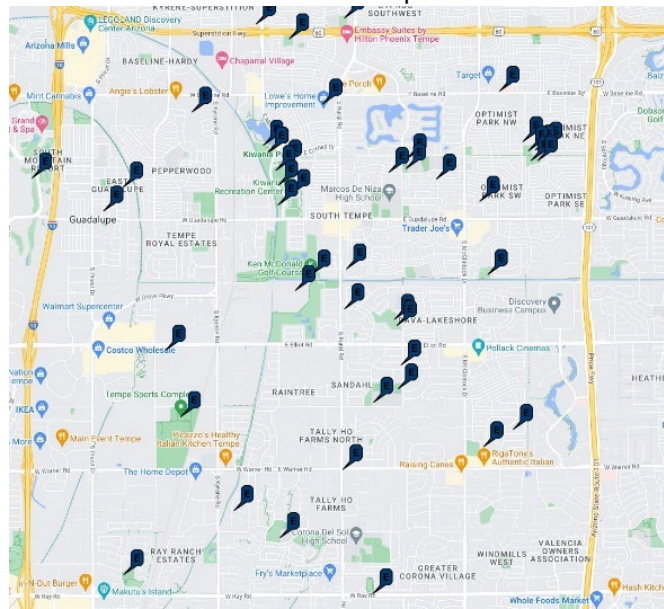


- A better water park
- A library branch.
- Art programs for adults
- benches and shade trees
- benches and shade trees
- Better water fountains
- Create outdoor spaces for programming instead of TED
- Daley park
- Develop Tempe Town Lake
- Ditto my previous comments. This area seems to have been forgotten when it comes to community activities for all.

- For disabled children under the age of 12, there is little rec activities for them to be a part of. If a child is developmentally delayed they are told they can "include" them in any rec class. Whomever decided this is sadly misinformed. Camp challenge has limited available spots for DD kids and some kids cannot function in a "typical" rec class. The instructors are not well educated on developmental differences in children and making accommodations doesn't truly happen in the city rec classes. It ends up being a class in losing a bit of dignity, as other parents and children watch you and r child struggle. They should have adapted classes for developmentally disabled children under 12. Inclusion is great if the instructor understands how to implement it. Until then, please have classes specifically for DD children.
- I know there are sometimes events but i haven't been aware of the cadence
- I live near here and the only outside exercise is south mountain. Sand volleyball courts nearby would be nice
- Improve/add facilities for seniors at Daley Park
- In south and north Tempe; as well as west Tempe
- Indigenous Cultural Education
- Jazz music in park, community gatherings,
- More community involvement such as classes or events. Locations should be more convenient for elderly and youth; more convenient times.
- More events for seniors at the Pyle Center
- More pickleball courts in South Tempe.
- Nature Walks
- Neighbors can use the fields when school is not in session
- Nothing in this side of campus
- Old playground. Don't feel super safe here
- Palmer Park
- Parks with programs or playgrounds need restrooms that can be locked at night and open in the morning.
- pocket park?
- Shade trees
- Soccer or sports team
- South Tempe could be included more in culturally diverse programming at its parks and even spaces for outdoor events
- Tempe Beach Park location--- more events at Tempe Center of the Arts--- Place to sit down and eat outside by snack bar or restaurant
- The bathrooms are unusable. It's feels unsafe. It's heavily used by the community but isn't kept up well. The grass is weedy and muddy.
- The discontinuation of adults programs like the baseball league is an indication of poorly directed recreation priorities. Programs supposedly ended by Covid should have been brought back by now.
- This area has a nice diversity of people that could use programming closer to their homes. Youth/Aging and now a new large apartment facility - there are community centers in the area as part of HOAs that could perhaps host events or programs locally. There is also a school building that could be used on either side of the freeway.
- This area needs a boost from the community; it feels disconnected, and basically fast-paced, but there are many homeless.



## South Tempe



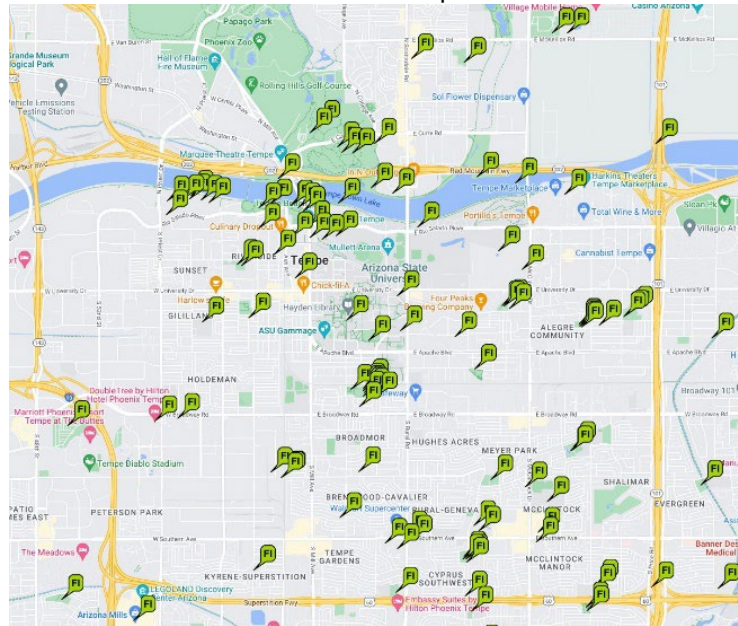
- Art in the Park events at Optimist Park have been well attended. Please continue them
- Concerts and shows
- Create outdoor spaces to host events instead of TED
- cultural and historic events that are relevant to Tempe. Asian and Arab festivals to promote local neighborhood diversity.
- Diverse community engagement would be nice
- Diwali
- Drop in clinic for unhoused people offering basic medical, dental, mental health services, as well as housing and job outreach.
- find a way to activate this space for the local neighborhood
- Goodwin park
- History Tours
- I included my comments with programming - but this area would benefit from receiving both community events and programs locally - There are school facilities and HOA community centers that could host events and programs.
- I think that the library complex could be used for larger events.
- I wish the city of Tempe had a local farmer's event. I know we have the Second Sunday's but that is filled with vendors from all over Maricopa. I tried to be a vendor and got denied. I have never been denied at any other vendor events, just my own city.
- In north and south Tempe; as well as west Tempe
- Memorial Day event,
- More events for caregivers (caring for those with dementia).
- Perhaps Tempe Beach should be beautified and have free events more often. It looks dystopian and often holds events many can't afford.
- South Tempe in general
- Space by Edna Arts Center rarely utilized



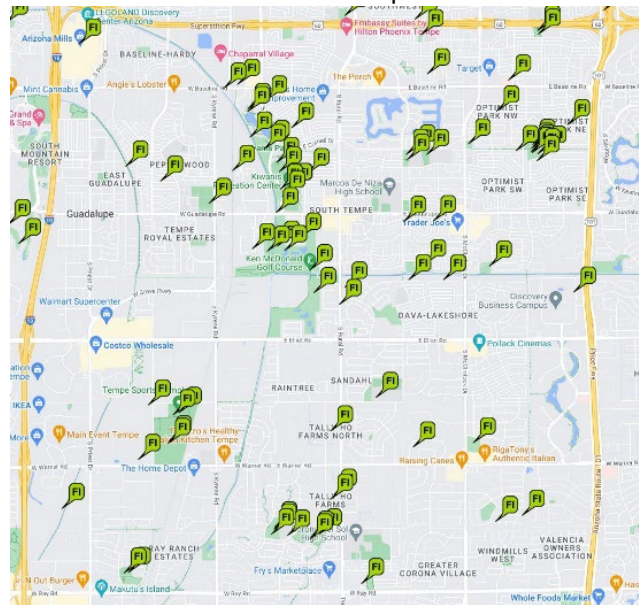
- This is a fantastic space. Wish more events were held here compared to Scudder, etc.
- this needs to be more of a community gathering spot
- This park is so spacious and should be more utilized for Arts in the Park, etc. events.
- this park should be utilized more
- would love more events at the parks and library. Would be great to see other cultures represented in events at the parks, etc.

**Facility Improvements:**

North Tempe



South Tempe



- A bike crossing should be added here to make a safer connection between these two bike paths.
- A small gymnasium here would allow for more multi-age events available in this area without the need to travel down to Kiwanis or up to Escalante or the North Tempe center.
- A small park in Dromedary neighborhood please.
- Add MTB skills park on this city Land
- Add restrooms so kids can have a Bday party.
- Add Restrooms, Splash Pad
- Add shade where parents sit at splash pad Recycle the water used at the splash pad and make it an educational/experimental feature to demonstrate how the grey water is used sustainably
- All the plazas in this area are old and outdated. Can use a little TLC
- Arboretum
- Area from Tempe Beach Park to Daley Park
- Art Park featuring Diverse Local and International Artists
- Bathroom
- Bathrooms are scary
- Better bathrooms. Many times I feel uncomfortable using the bathrooms at Tempe Town Lake.
- Better facilities
- Better maintenance of soccer fields (improved grass / possible addition of at least one turf field)
- Boat docks. Add restrooms.
- Build a dog park here.
- Community Gardens
- Connect El Paso Gas Path to park
- Create a park space for those with dementia/physical disabilities near the library so that those that come there could utilize this space (shrink the size of the parking lot on the west side of the library, near the Pyle Center).
- Create a space in this part of Tempe within an existing park for those adults with physical disabilities and those with dementia.
- Daley Park pickleball courts
- Dementia friendly park space. Change out some of the parking lot by the library/senior center and make a confined dementia space.
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Drinking fountains or water fill stations
- Expand Beach Park instead of TED
- Facility in South Tempe
- For all of the great improvements along Alameda there remains a barrier at the railroad crossing west of Mill to bicycles that are pulling a child-

carrying cart. My son and daughter-in-law do not own a car. When they bike with our infant grandson from their home at Southern and Hardy to ours on Wesleyan Dr they are forced out onto busy streets in what would otherwise be a safe ride for a visit due to the barrier at the railroad crossing.

- golf courses
- Golf please
- Harden fencing under freeways to increase safety of path by excluding trolls from under bridges
- Have you thought about building a multigenerational facility in South Tempe? Something that would include a large community gathering space so we wouldn't have to use the AZ Community Church?
- High profile pedestrian crosswalk. This area is very dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.
- I know these were JUST upgraded, but we NEED bathroom access at either Harelson or Hanger parks. My kids hate having to leave just to pee.
- I would like to see a dog park in Optimist Park.
- I would love to see a Ramada or shade structure and bathrooms
- Improve indoor pickleball courts at Kiwanis and add outside courts
- improve parks
- Improve Svob Park add Ramadas or group reservation area. Put a fitness track around the perimeter with activity stations.
- Improve the quality of the soccer fields here (better grass, better maintenance, possible installation of turf on one or more fields.
- Improved signage educating community on indigenous culture and that graffiti on butte damages indigenous heritage
- In north and south Tempe; as well as west Tempe
- In theory there is a continuous trail here (along the canal that links to Kiwanis park). However, there is not a good place to cross Baseline. It would be really great if you could include a pedestrian traffic light or something to make it safer to cross here.
- is a large park surrounded by neighborhoods, but with few park amenities
- It is impossible to get a bike trailer through here because of cement posts that are designed to probably prevent cars from driving through. I appreciate the idea behind the infrastructure, but the posts are slightly too close together to allow a standard bike trailer, trike, or recombinant bike through. I am unable to use the path to bike with my dog or baby in tow because of this, and instead have to use busier roads with less well developed bike paths/infrastructure.
- It would be great to get dog parks in the neighborhood parks (with separate spaces for large and small dogs).
- Kiwanis Park
- Kiwanis park bathrooms are always in poor condition (dirty, water on the floor, not enough soap, toilets not functioning properly)
- Kiwanis park needs shade for walking paths and more security presence.
- Maybe a limited park space for dementia folks.
- Me gustaria que agregaran cancha de basketball
- More offerings at Kiwanis Park to include more people.



- More parking? partner with school, fitness evening hours
- More pickleball courts.
- More pickleball courts
- more picnic areas, so more families can enjoy the park, BBQ on the 4th of July or something like that.
- More public restrooms along Tempe Town Lake
- More restrooms and parking.
- More restrooms, and more parking
- More shade
- More shade needed at literally every park. This is Tempe and it does not offer more shade than many parks in other states. Shade needs to be top priority.
- Need a wide sidewalk all around Tempe Beach Park.
- Need a wide sidewalk all around the Kiwanis Park.
- Need a wide sidewalk somewhere on the south side.
- Need more gym rentals for roller skates and wheel chair sports
- Need more pickleball courts
- Needs elevator to observation room, remove carpet in classrooms (retains odor) and replace with vinyl plank.
- Newer playground equipment would be an improvement to this park
- North Tempe needs pickleball courts! This is such an in-demand sport and there's perfect space for it here.
- Often trash along railroad side. People camp out but do not bother others
- Old equipment, large community use. Need bathroom or water
- Our aquatics centers are embarrassing when compared to offered centers in Gilbert and Chandler.
- Papago and Evelyn Helman could be FANTASTIC outdoor spaces but have had no investment.
- Parking, pickleball, no softball
- Parks here need more investment.
- People drive badly on this road and should be more aware of cyclists and pedestrians.
- People have been playing ultimate frisbee here for years which is a great use of the space off hours for school and I applaud the city/school for allowing that. To enhance the experience I would advocate for drinking fountains and restroom access.
- Pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts with shade so can be used year round also dog off leash areas close to neighborhoods so not to have to drive to them
- picnic areas, ramadas, new landscaping.
- Playground equipment has rusted handle bars on slides. Red spinning thing is broken and one spring fractured and it doesn't turn. Water in fountains won't turn off and water just runs and runs
- Public restrooms at Mitchell Park
- Restroom facilities needed at this park

- Restrooms and drinking water faucets south soccer fields. Better Maintenance of sprinkler system throughout park Runners course throughout park (DG material)
- Restrooms need to be at all parks!
- Riparian oriented Greenspace with Shaded Relaxation and Reading Areas
- Safe bike and pedestrian path across I-10 into South Phoenix area
- Same linear park needs a bridge between Escalante Park and parks to South and North.
- Same linear park needs a bridge between Escalante Park and parks to South and North.
- Same, nothing this dude of campus
- Scudder park: add restrooms.
- Sculpture Garden featuring diverse local and international artists
- See other notes about this park needing updates
- Shade covering over playground.
- Shade structures needed
- Skate Park
- Some areas at park need a facelift
- Stroud
- The bathrooms feel unsafe, and there's only one set of them in the whole huge park. There's so much potential in this park.
- The closest park to me - not too much to do for adults
- The Creamery Park is outdated and definitely not accessible for the disabled. The sand limits our son from accessing the swings. The equipment is garbage. This survey map thing is a silly, hard to use design.
- The dog park is muddy and small, and several dog owners allow their dogs to be aggressive, or don't have their shots. Everyone walks the perimeter of the park but there's no good path, and hardly any shade
- The Ramadas need maintained, need more events here
- There is a lot of green space here that is highly underutilized. Can we add Parkour equipment or more community gardens that can be compatible with the rare flooding that happens?
- This is the most important to me of the three requests. There are barriers around the train tracks on Alameda; they are big enough for a bike, but not a bike trailer. As a result, if I am traveling with my child, we need to ride on Southern, rather than the safe Alameda bike path. Please remove some of these barriers to make it so that bike trailers can pass through. These barriers are too small for anything other than a traditional bike, which is a problem to anyone who rides a non-traditional bike due to a disability.
- This is the one place where I continuously don't feel safe. Even from decades ago, They're just so dark and scary looking. The unhoused frequent them often and actually I was very disappointed a few weeks ago at Movies in the Park. I had to use the ladies room and went in. It was absolutely one of the most disgusting things I've seen. The water was flooded out into the breezeway, spilling over into the men's room, reeking of urine. Stepping into the bathroom, there was feces everywhere in the stalls. Not like a little bit either. The toilets were all overflowing with waste

and toilet paper. This was the absolute worst I have ever seen this and on such a busy family evening at Kiwanis.

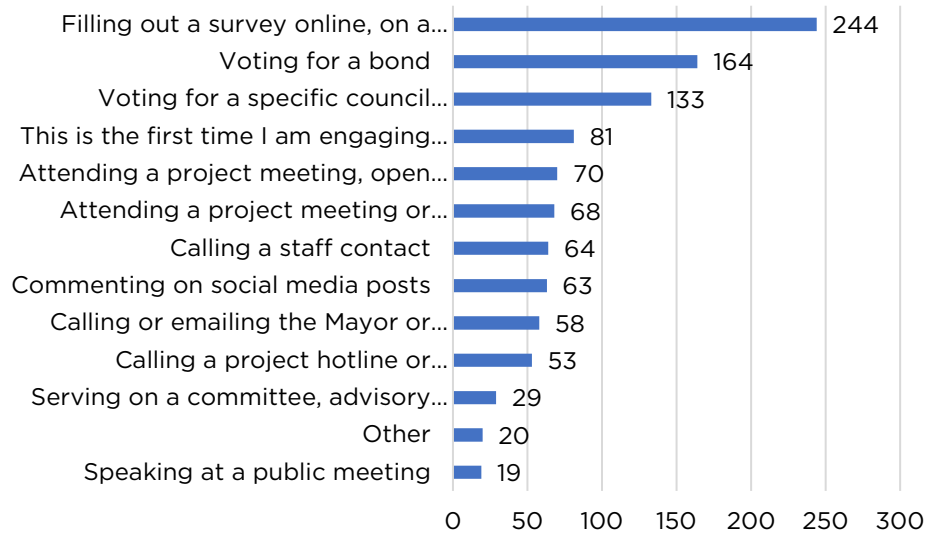
- this one is more minor, my 3rd most important request. It would be really great if there was a pedestrian traffic light here too.
- This park is highly underutilized as it lacks any facilities. Can any additional exercise equipment or other facilities be added to increase desire for use that won't conflict with the rare flood event
- This park property is large and gorgeous but some of the playground pieces aren't cared for and it would be better used if converted to 100% rubberized surfacing.
- this should be turned into more of a community gathering spot with bocce, pickleball, corn hole, lawn bowling, golf, friends of library book exchange, community rooms
- Up stream bridge over Rio Salado, then connection between Escalante and Connolly/ Selleh Park for being able to take safe, long bike rides in Tempe.
- Up stream bridge over Rio Salado, then connection between Escalante and Connolly/ Selleh Park for being able to take safe, long bike rides in Tempe.
- Update playgrounds, Ramadas.
- Very outdated area. Can use a makeover
- victory park
- Walking path around the park and the fitness path
- Water Fountains, Shade for Dugouts, Restrooms
- Why aren't there great facilities in south Tempe. Escalante and Kiwanis are not enough.
- Why is the library's outdoor lower level completely ignored? It's fully shaded and can offer a safe place outdoors and it isn't used at all? This makes no sense.
- Would love to see some restrooms and places to buy drinks/light snacks around Tempe town lake

**17. What overall theme should be prioritized in this study?**

First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
Safety (124)	Tailored and Flexible Amenities (56)	Fair Access (49)
Diverse Park Programming (60)	Safety (55)	Tailored and Flexible Amenities (43)
Tailored and Flexible Amenities (47)	Expanded Level of Service (50)	Increased Social Mixing (36)
Fair Access (46)	Diverse Park Programming (46)	Diverse Park Programming (34)
Expanded Level of Service (41)	Fair Access (37)	Safety (28)
Increased Social Mixing (24)	Increased Social Mixing (26)	Expanded Level of Service (27)
Activation (21)	Activation (16)	Activation (19)

Responses: 363

18. In the past, I have been involved in decisions about parks and recreation by:  
(check all that apply)



Responses: 384

Other comments:

- As a staff member in Arts, I have been involved in the internal processes.
- Attending an event and voted for playground equipment.
- City Staff
- Discussions with friends
- Former Tempe Park ranger.
- I am not Tempe resident
- I did in Illinois, have not here
- I have sought help from Director, Dep Director, grounds-persons to deal with garbage
- I live in another city.
- I live in another community close to Tempe
- I never received a phone call back from the recreation department even before and after Corbell park was done.
- I've contacted recreation on many occasions asking for the reinstatement of adult baseball.
- Online park restructure participation
- Reported
- Studying urban planning in college
- Survey
- surveys
- Working together with neighbors to advocate for needs.
- Working together with neighbors to advocate for needs.
- wrote, submitted neighborhood grants and received funding for various projects.

## 19. Additional Comments

1. Adapted Rec should bring back Zumba. Boat house should have dolly or cart to carry kayaks to/from water.
2. As a senior with potentially a lot of extra time - parks are a good option, but not if we're not comfortable while we are there.
3. As mentioned above, I would like to see more parks better serve the adult population with equipment & facilities. I would like to see more "playgrounds" that are better suited for adults (including swings, climbing apparatus, parkour, fitness challenges, etc.) built in the community that seems to be home to a lot more adults without young children.
4. Can you find grant money to help build a dementia friendly space (or two)? Since Tempe is a certified Dementia Friendly City, we should promote that by having more available than just the Memory Cafe. A city park that has been modified for those with dementia would be something that the city could promote and bring recognition to the city as well as help its residents.
5. Clark park looks amazing. Thanks COT for the refresh, looking forward to the pool! My only ask would be more pickle-ball courts in north/downtown/lake. It's a cheap sport, that anyone can play, and builds community.
6. courts. Thanks for letting me give my input
7. Every neighborhood should have a green space that residents can walk to--if you have to drive to a park, then you don't have access to a park. Tempe parks need to be more accessible to everyone: those with disabilities, those without cars, etc. There should be shade, water fountains, and bathrooms at every park and on the canals.
8. For some of questions asking for my priorities, I really have no response..... I enjoy being able to use both Hollis and Meyer parks on a weekly basis for 5+ years, where (probably close to 10 years) my little informal group (6-8) of "mature women" practice Tai Chi every Wed morning. We alternate parks based on the irrigation and mowing schedules. And the maintenance staff has been very helpful and willing to work with our little informal group to coordinate our timing with regard to scheduling mowing, so the resulting noise and dust doesn't overwhelm us. I would specifically credit --and thank Craig Hayton and for his consistently kind cooperation. And for crews that occasionally collide with our schedule.
9. Great idea for a survey. We need to think about the total view that parks and recreation provide. The city focuses on kids but that shouldn't be the only focus for Tempe's open spaces. I would love to have my grandparents accompany me to a park. They can't currently do this safely. My grandfather will worry that my grandmother will wonder off. We need an enclosed space or two (on either side of the US 60) to provide equitable space for this venerable group - adults with disabilities and adults with dementia.
10. Ground, maintenance in our parks is horrific. We need to have the weeds cleaned up, especially in the dog parks and parks where folks walk their dogs on leash. We need park rangers to ticket folks who have dogs off leash in our leash only parks and enforce leash only. We need to have the grounds even, not filled with holes so that those with disabilities, whether sight or physical mobility issues can feel safe walking in the park. We need better lighting on

the streets that abut the parks because they are so dark crime happens there all the time at night.

11. Hey, my neighbor needs some help. She would like to take her husband to a park but they both have issues. He can't remember anything, and she has to use a four-wheeled walker. If there was some place same for both of them that would be great. I try to help her get him out but it's tough. Some place with a fence (kind of like a dog park) would help her out - it would fence in her husband so he can't get away.
12. Having participated in ceramics classes for over 15 years it's obvious we need a new and larger studio. 2) more shaded area in our parks. 3) Papago Disc Golf course needs a makeover.
13. Homelessness is destroying our parks and community.
14. how are the unhoused being valued in Tempe?
15. I always respond I am engaged in my neighborhood activities and improving our park, Daley Park.
16. I am alarmed by the homeless population at Ehrhardt park, of course they have as much right to be there as the rest of us but drug use directly by the playground where kids are playing & long-term stays seem to becoming the norm instead of the exception
17. I am annoyed that this survey is more concerned about social buzzwords like diversity, equity and inclusion than generally improving parks and recreation opportunities for all Tempe residents. The more government tries to force these basic human decencies, the more divisive and exclusive people tend to become. Create more opportunities for all residents to enjoy, invite all to participate, and the diversity and inclusion will occur naturally. We need restrooms at the smaller parks no matter what race or economic status we are!
18. I am not a resident of Tempe but my daughter is (at ASU) and I have visited parks over the years and have had Coffee With Joel Navarro and the re-instated Police Chief during that time period where Police were being scrutinized. I am impressed with the dedication the City has toward all city services and your continued desire for achievements and improvement in all areas of city government.
19. I appreciate this survey, but fail to see the value in all the questions about equality, diversity. These parks are used by a vast array of people. Most of whom respect there availability. The parks employees seem to take a lot of pride in the condition of their park, thus many of the users are willing to help keep these parks free of litter and graffiti. It would be nice to have more restroom facilities in more strategic locations. The staff has a tough job to do in maintaining these parks, at times it seems they need more help.
20. I couldn't add this to the map but we need bike trails that are safe and have barriers from the street.
21. I enjoy all parks in Tempe
22. I feel the parks need better upkeep
23. I have spoken to staff attending events in Harelson Park and mentioned problems with Harleson and Hanger. There is a weed growing in the park that has small burrs with thorns attached. Spurge? I can no longer walk my dog in the park because he gets these in his paws and can no longer walk. Today, at the event in Harelson (May 3, 2023) a friend with two long hair dogs found more than 50 of these burrs on his dogs and they are very painful to remove.

Especially if stuck in his paws. It would be useful if your groundskeepers could identify these weeds and develop a means to remove them from the park.

Thanks in advance.

24. I live in Chandler but at the border so parks closest to my house are in Tempe.
25. I really appreciate Tempe and this event
26. I really like when the community gets together and does arts, music and activities.
27. I support this survey, Thank You.
28. I think Tempe does a good job of providing park and rec. services. I don't think the police patrol Tempe Town Lake area enough at night on the south shore and there are several cars that race on the north side of the lake under Mill Ave bridge area.
29. I value parks and recreation for the overall quality of life enhancement.
30. I walk a large dog who has been attacked by off leash dogs. Even though my dog is trained at the Advanced Obedience level (off leash), I never have my dog off leash in Public because dogs are animals and therefore can be unpredictable. I do not use Dog Parks because people who do use Dog Parks do not always have their dogs under control. I have seen dog fights in Dog Parks and I do not want to risk my dog being injured. I see many off-leash dogs at Kiwanis Park (and other Parks in Scottsdale, Gilbert where we also walk). Off leash dogs make me feel very unsafe since my dog has been attacked and both of us were injured. Please enforce the Leash Law to keep everyone safe. Thank you.
31. I walk around Tempe town lake almost every day and would love to see some more amenities there, particularly water fountains (or better yet kiosks with more drinks and snacks) and restrooms. Would also love to add recycling bins to the lake area
32. I walk often with friends and we often aim for a park we haven't been to in awhile. We love the differences in the parks and generally think we have wonderful parks.
33. I would like more pickleball courts at Tempe Sports Complex. The existing courts are extremely busy during good weather, both in the morning and after work.
34. If Shalimar Golf Course goes away, please make it a park or something- not a high rise, apartments or anything else to increase population density, concrete, parking or more cars.
35. I'm a new "returning" resident to Tempe. In the past, I was highly involved in the community and have always participated in and want to continue participating in programs offered through the Parks and Rec program. I feel that there are less opportunities for people to participate in the community now than when I was a child or even my children were young. Having programs in central locations - isn't as helpful as having regular programs offered in the areas where people live.
36. Improvements to facilities should include on-site solar energy generation for all outside lighting
37. In the summer of 2022, I signed up my then four-year-old son to participate in the Shrimps swim lessons class at Kiwanis Pool for the full summer season. He had never attended swim lessons before. My son has an auditory processing disorder. You can educate yourself on those here:

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/central-auditory.html>. He can hear but his brain doesn't always make the typical connections for sounds. As a result, new sounds or loud places can be overwhelming. He can have a lot of anxiety in a new setting. This is typically expressed through tantrums or "koala-like" clinging behavior to me. When my son is comfortable, adults still often need to tap him on the back or shoulder, say his name, and make eye contact to help ensure comprehension. He also has difficulty speaking himself and sounds as though he has multiple speech impediments. He goes to full-time preschool, participates in team sports like soccer and t-ball and attends individual and group speech therapy. He responds well to his instructors there, has lots of good friends, and loves to learn. Here is what I observed during his first and only swim lesson: I saw my son in a brand new, very loud place: Kiwanis Pool. I saw and heard him express his anxiety. I spoke briefly with his instructor about his disability and suggested simple re-direction if he isn't paying attention or tapping him on the shoulder if it doesn't seem like he understood instructions. I saw an instructor very sweetly offer my son a toy frog to help him feel more comfortable. This worked beautifully and I saw him warm up enough to sit with his new teacher and classmates. He did not get upset. He did not cry. He did not refuse to let go of me. In fact, when it was his turn, I heard him his instructor if he could go in the water now. I saw him doing a happy dance of excitement as he entered the water. I heard him yell that this pool is just like the beach, which he loves. After that, I never saw a smile leave his face. I saw him start to wander off from time to time, but I saw him respond to the instructors' re-direction. I saw other children in need of occasional re-direction as well, including a boy who continuously splashed the instructor in the face and a girl who began to cry when she needed to use the restroom. I saw my son try new things. I saw him put his face in the water, which he will never do for me. I saw him use a kickboard. I heard him yell back to me "Mama, look, I did it!" At the end of class, he rushed to me, and I could see the pride and joy in his face and it matched my own. Unfortunately, Kiwanis Pool management saw something different. At least, I assume it was management. A young man came up to me as I was helping my son was dry off. He did not introduce himself to me, did not give me his title, nor did he ask my name. I run a cultural institution in downtown Phoenix with over 100,000 visitors a year - this is a failure of customer service 101. The man expressed that there were clearly some "serious behavior issues" displayed by my son today. He went on to say that "we can't have children just swimming off like that," as though my son was being willfully disobedient. He can't have his guards just watching one child. He then went on to inform me that if my son didn't "behave" better next time, we would be asked to leave the class. Stunned, I stated that my son has a disability and this was not misbehavior on his part. I saw the young man's face freeze as if he was not expecting this response. Another person (again, I'm assuming a manager but this person also did not introduce themselves or ask me my name) blithely suggested things would be better next week. I rushed my son to the exit to leave. As I left, I did not see management approach any other parents, including the boy who kept splashing the instructors and the girl who actually did have an emotional outburst. I withdrew my son (and neurotypical daughter) from swim lessons the next day and have not even looked at a City of Tempe recreation brochure



since. I wish I had said more in that moment. I wish Kiwanis staff had approached me in a different way. Based on this interaction, I am left to believe that Kiwanis Pool staff (and possibly other Tempe Recreation staff) have never come across a neurodivergent child before and have no idea how to work with this audience. If there had been even a moment where I felt a sense of community or collaboration, that the pool management was at all invested in setting up my son for success, we would have come back. But this interaction left such a horrible taste in my mouth. Your managers reduced a true moment of happiness and accomplishment for my son into a "bad behavior issue." I saw my son being brave and happy. Your staff saw a problem to be solved. I sent this story via email to the Kiwanis Pool management in June 2022, and requested a full refund for the summer from the city, which I received. I never heard from any City of Tempe staff regarding my experience - I only saw proof of the refund in my bank statement. City of Tempe recreation employees need basic customer service training, basic pedagogical training for interacting with young children, and training on how to create an inclusive environment.

38. Include better (yet inobtrusive) signage pointing out where to find certain ramadas, the two playgrounds, where pickle ball courts would be if you add them, etc.
39. I've written to our newest city council members and I'm disappointed that they don't even verify they received emails. I hear this from my neighbors as well. I voted for most of them, but they are not listening to their constituents.
40. Keep up the good work! This survey is a great idea to see where the city can make improvements. I would love to take my mother to my neighborhood park but it would be hard for her to walk in the grass. She broke her hip last year and needs a flat surface like a sidewalk to walk on. It would be great if more parks had sidewalks all around them. Also, more shade trees or shade areas with benches and sitting areas (these would need to have backs and some type of armrest so she could get up from a sitting position). Maybe check in with the Disability Commission for inclusion ideas for parks? Or the ADA guidelines? We have a great city but could do more!
41. Lack of maintenance in Tempe Parks is causing long term damage that will cost more in the future to repair. Weeds are not pulled, trash is not picked up, land scaping is not maintained and infrastructure is not maintained. Water erosion is causing damage to park structures because weeds are not pulled from cracks in the side walks and landscaping trash is not picked up and causing collection of water. The management of the City of Tempe should be ashamed of the condition of our City parks. Do not blame the homeless because maintenance is not being performed as required.
42. Let's get over this DEI. We do not need any more decisiveness. We live in USA and English is primary language. I am impressed in Kiwanis park staff workers.
43. Love Kiwanis park the most
44. More shade. Prioritizing native plants over non-native plants. Large attractive (art opportunity here) murals or signs that encourage recycling and throwing trash away in the proper place as many of the parks are littered as park-goers are careless. Creating a community culture that encourages recycling in an artistic way would go a long way. Kids in Tempe are simply not taught enough about recycling.

45. More skate parks and bike paths please
46. N/A
47. No on the new sports complex - we need to spend money on fixing streets and improving the quality of life for neighborhoods reducing the need to drive. The new arena will disrupt our tax dollars and lower property value.
48. Other: housing unsheltered
49. Overall, I love Tempe Parks & Rec. The programming and opportunities for community learning & enjoyment are fantastic. All parks are well maintained and it is easy to log in online to the app to report issues, like too many ants at the playground or feeling unsafe due to the presence of vagrants engaging in inappropriate activities & they are responded to very quickly. My only complaint is access to a bathroom at certain park areas. We live close to 2 parks that are across the road from each other & separated by an elementary school. However, there are NO toilets at either, and the school does not have open facilities. While I understand the safety & extra-responsibility & maintenance they are, it is a hassle for kids (& older adults) with smaller bladders to have to leave to go home to pee. It usually means we leave & don't go back that day & playtime is forced to end early. Also, little boys will water the trees & bushes, which probably isn't the healthiest option for the park or the visitors.
50. Parks here are great overall! Services should be expanded to cover lower income communities who may not have a car, as well as seniors and those who have physical difficulties accessing Parks.
51. Parks need to update facilities bathrooms and courts and ball fields. Pickleball courts in Daily Park is a great goal.
52. Paying for parking (e.g. Tempe Beach Park) is exclusionary. Tempe needs to follow Mesa's lead and keep parking free. Housing near our parks is so expensive, it is insulting to have to drive to a park and not be able to park. I do not care for parks as vehicles for building businesses/revenue for "entrepreneurs" or for tourists. It is vital that parks and access to them are free - for the children, the elderly, houseless people, everyone.
53. Pickleball courts at Tempe Sports complex at Warner and Hardy are great but attendance has outgrown the number of courts! 20 to 30 people are waiting to get a game during morning drop-in. Please add more courts! Thank you.
54. Please give thought to following Phoenix Parks and Recreation by making all P&R smoke and vape-free, including parking lots. Let me know if you'd like to see the sign that Phoenix P&R has developed to help educate about their new policy.
55. Please keep providing great amenities. The scariest part of the parks is the drug addicted population. I do not want needles in the grass.
56. Please make the sidewalks friendly to rollerbladers. Those decorative cement elements that are rough concrete are not good.
57. Providing excellent parks and quality programs will attract businesses which are forward thinking. Not GPLET!
58. Pyle Center could use an update. Expand programs to neighborhood strip mall leasing space. Walk and exercise programs in the neighborhood parks. Walking path in the park with suggested activities at stations and an app to link to physical fitness goals; add neighborhood competition to exercise program. Drop in competition for sports events, corn hole or other basketball

or softball or other games. Bike rodeos and other events in the parks. Halloween trick or treating in the park with costume contests for all ages; get adjacent school involved so will have participant predictability. Music in the parks with a bring your own picnic or sponsored event with a local eatery that is dirt cheap and affordable.

59. REMOVE HOMELESS

60. Roller skating and roller derby needs a public space to survive. We are now allowed in any Tempe gyms. I assume this means it also excluded wheelchair sports. We need a public multi use rink or to be allowed in gyms.

61. Since I rarely use these resources, I'm responding based on what I read in the Arizona Republic and City of Tempe emails/newsletters. I'm not sure that my responses should be weighted very heavily.

62. South Tempe 85284 is often overlooked for most Parks and Rec items. I often need to drive to the far north side of Tempe so my kids can attend activities at North Multi Gen or Escalante. The south end of Tempe lacks any indoor facilities.

63. Tempe does a terrific job with their parks and activities. Proud to live here.

64. Tempe parks are heavily used by everyone! Some of them are constantly busy, which shows how important being outside is to people. There's just not enough shade or bathrooms in many of them, or the dog parks are small and gross.

65. Thank u

66. Thank you for all your work on improving our parks and recreation!

67. Thank you for great parks in Tempe. I look forward to more wonderful updates in the future. Refresh Tempe is bringing welcome changes to Clark Park!

68. Thank you for the opportunity to share my input. I really like some of the recent Corbell Park events with shows, music, and food trucks. I hope we can keep this up. I wonder too about other ways to make south Tempe included a little more with outdoor live music. From restaurants, to parks, or other public spaces to create music oriented events would increase the quality of life of the community on south side of the city. Thanks.

69. Thank you for the work you do to bring great programming and wonderful parks to families. I generally feel that Tempe parks are so much better than the ones where I live.

70. Thank you. Overall, I think Tempe does a great job with parks and recreation.

71. Thanks

72. The city does a fantastic job with its parks, providing different amenities, & programming services! In terms of equity & inclusion, please continue: Collaboration on ground/staff level with TempeCares & training for addressing different populations: Parks are at the forefront of addressing unhoused populations & often get overlooked in their role across different cities. Ensuring staff training is provided to address different populations (i.e.. de-escalation, disability awareness, etc.) & that the city's Tempe HOPE/cares (& maybe PD) is engaged with programming & outreach is critical as it relates to safety concerns & overall accessibility to park services for community members. Parks are some of the few places people with limited resources can exist & relax & providing things like contact info. to promote awareness & facilitate city services for mental health & housing support can be helpful in

printed material on ramadas or at events. It may not be the responsibility to be a health care provider, but recognizing the role parks play in addressing mental & physical health means staying engaged/ connected to resource providers that do. Engaging at-risk Youth w/programming aid & resources: For usage of parks in underserved populations, connecting youth in outdoor activities and programming is key as parents may not be engaged, available, or aware of services, or those in LGBTQ+ communities may be needing the events & spaces Parks provide away from home. These populations may face cost issues for programming as well. Perhaps having staff for youth programs check in at basketball courts can help or having options for low-income aid. Diverse facilities & promoting healthy/active lifestyles to park users outside typical programming: Tempe does a great job at recognizing the amenity needs of young adults/aging adults. Dog parks are increasingly important, but so are passive walking & fitness trails. Especially for families of different cultural backgrounds, they may go to the park & not the rec. center to walk around to address their health; similarly, renting ramadas for birthdays may be the only point of contact with parks staff, so having dual language signage (QR code) to promote awareness of education & program availability is an idea. Walking trails w/fitness stations are an inexpensive way to help bridge the gap for health disparities for physical activity. Connecting health organizations & programs like ParkRx would be great when programming community events to facilitate active lifestyles (partnership with walk groups, diabetes prevention organizations, 5ks, etc.). I love the walkability integration in Tempe's parks with shaded paths & sitting areas. Similarly climbing or parkour areas for young adults is also great at addressing the need for physical activity & getting people out. Providing flexible field access to small informal groups like LARPing or Juggler can also address sports and populations that otherwise are not typically included or compete with bigger organized sports like rugby or soccer. Overall, I understand the costs of providing resources & the challenges in prevailing needs for tackling mental health & housing; However, to address equity and inclusion, the need for parks to be involved as a point of contact & facilitating communication is critical and should leverage every opportunity to collaborate with other city efforts & promote awareness of existing resources.

73. The City of Tempe has aging park infrastructure and a good plan in place to address and update our parks. However, no consideration is given to increased maintenance cost in both staffing and equipment.
74. The closest parks to my house have homeless people and trash. Kiwanis is only safe when it's very busy. I wouldn't walk around the lake at a quiet time of day. The splash pad has had homeless people bathing in it. Bathrooms are nasty.
75. The increase of Street People (the regulars that hangout and panhandle at the intersections and hole up in nearby neighborhoods) in Tempe is disturbing especially with all of the City of Tempe ""Homeless"" resources. It seems that it's actually attracting more destitute people to panhandle and carry on in the same manner as those who have been in there for YEARS panhandling. We do not let our girls ride their bikes to their schools or the parks because of all of the homeless/street people loitering around. WE FEEL UNSAFE in Tempe.

76. The most important thing is law and order and enforcing our codes to keep our parks safe 24 hours a day, Police Presence is most welcome and encouraged. And absolutely no bums, drug addicts, and campers ( the so called "Homeless") in our Parks EVER!!!
77. The park ranger program should have never been cut from Tempe. Park rangers were visible and proactive, police are reactive. Private security just hasn't been able to or had little vested interest in Tempe parks or citizens.
78. The people that planned our Optimist Park get together last night (May 9th) did a fantastic job large crowd and everyone was having a good time it seems that these events do much better on a weekday compared to a weekend
79. The pickleball courts at TSC have been popular and busy since they opened 4 years ago. They were designed to be expanded to 16 courts. It's past time to add additional courts at TSC . We love playing there but we often have to wait to long to get on a court to play. It can be very crowded!!
80. there are very few activities in parks for older adults, it might be difficult for older people to enjoy parks if the only activity is walking and even walking may be difficult for long distances on a hot day with very few places to rest. I don't think people sit in the park and play chess but community gardens would probably help a lot because it's popular among all ages. Tempe can create a gardening program where residents are able to help plant landscaping in parks so you're not just gardening but helping to maintain the park and make it more beautiful, it creates a personal connection with community members.
81. This is my first time involved. I'm not a resident of Tempe. I live in Chandler, but have always enjoyed Temple Town Lake and Kiwanis Park. My child goes to school in Tempe - Kyrene Del Norte and the city park next door was closed renovated. It's beautiful and the children of Norte enjoy playing in the playground afterschool.
82. This study is a huge waste of taxpayer money! Shame on you for catering to a small number of people just to look like you are being fair to all ppl. Tempe parks have no barriers; anyone can enjoy them if they so choose. Instead of wasting our money to pay for this study why don't you use it to clean or refurbish the parks.
83. This whole diversity etc. thing has gotten way out of hand. The City of Tempe should work on providing basic safety and essential government services and stay out of this whole DIE thing IMHO.
84. Throw out diversity, equity and inclusion. Instead just focus on great park spaces that work for all Tempe residents and taxpayers. If you do this, the other three topics will be covered.
85. Very nice
86. We also should have a defibrillator at Tempe sports complex pickleball courts. There are doctors who play regularly and would train others
87. We love Tempe's parks and events at the library complex. My children have taken so many classes through the city, dance, art, and swim to name a few. We spent so much time going to Library Storytime when they were young and still enjoy going to the library on a regular basis. My teenager now volunteers at the library and will be a jr. lifeguard this summer. As a runner and triathlete, I use the canal paths, Tempe Town Lake path, and Papago trails quite often. I am enjoying the newish completed path from 101 to Kiwanis between

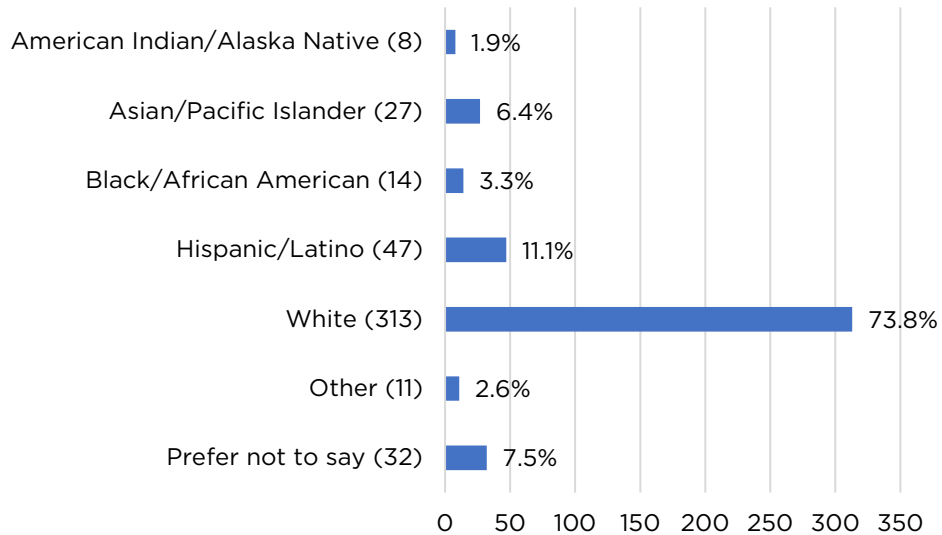
Guadalupe and Baseline. More paths like that throughout the city would be wonderful. Another pedestrian bridge over Tempe Town Lake, closer to McClintock, would be a much utilized addition as well.

88. We need restroom's and Hanger and Harelson parks. Chandler and Tempe have bathrooms at other park. These place are packed with families and they can't go home or to the store with young children
89. Would like to have better communication on grants or financial assistance for activities for low income youths. Due to cost some Children are unable to participate in classes or programs. These may be available however not advertised.
90. You guys have a severe problem with homelessness. Are your parks intended to be living quarters for homeless people? Where they can do drugs and get in fights? That's essentially what they are. I prefer my parks to be filled with kids playing, adults walking their dogs, people engaged in sports. You can't have it both ways.

## IV. Demographics

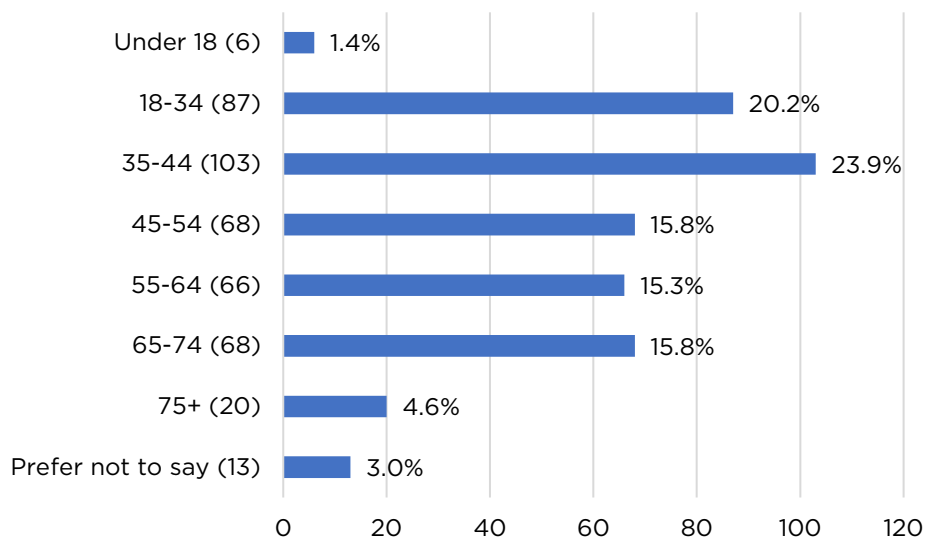
The City of Tempe wants to better understand how well it is serving community members. Collecting demographic data allows the city to effectively plan and distribute its programs and investments. The collection of data provides a more precise picture of current Tempe residents and businesses. Providing this information is highly encouraged and helpful to the city, but it is not mandatory.

### Race:



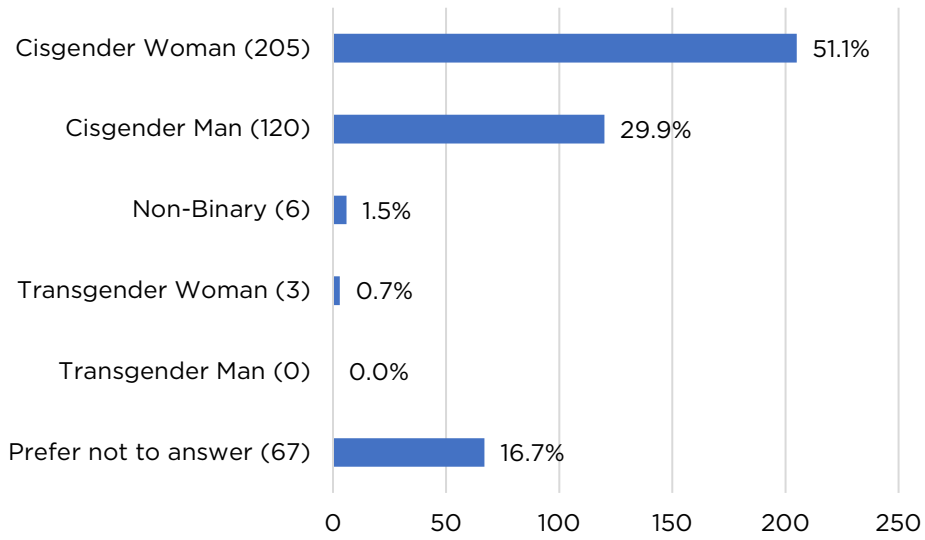
Responses: 424

### Age:



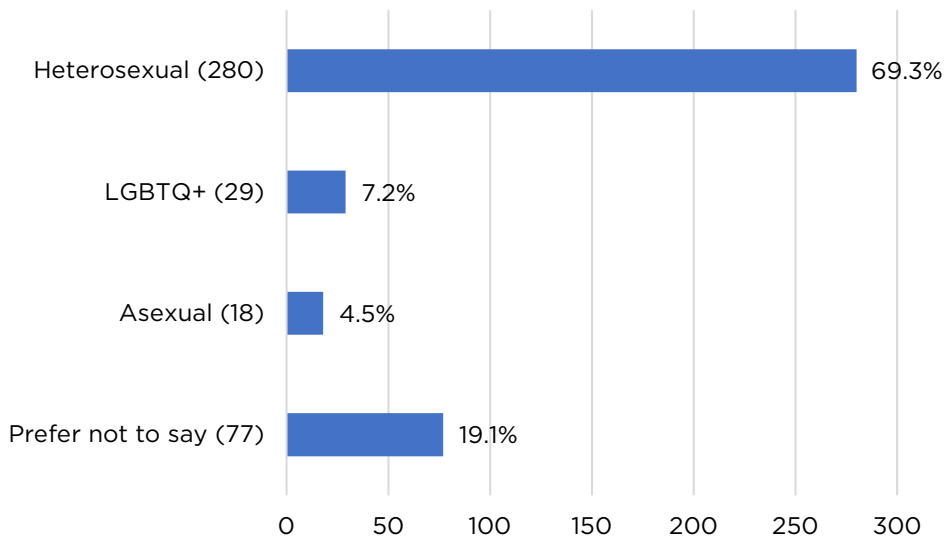
Responses: 431

**Gender:**



Responses: 401

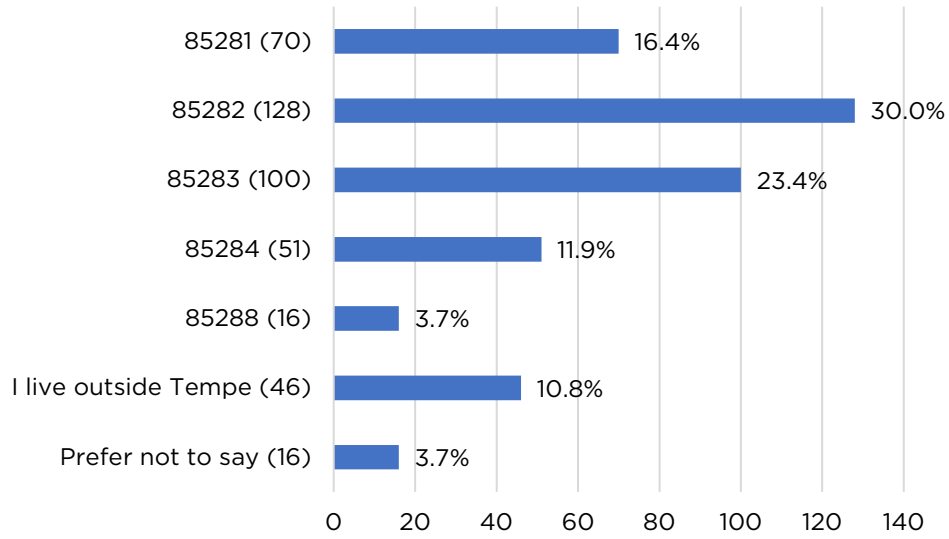
**Sexual orientation:**



Responses: 404

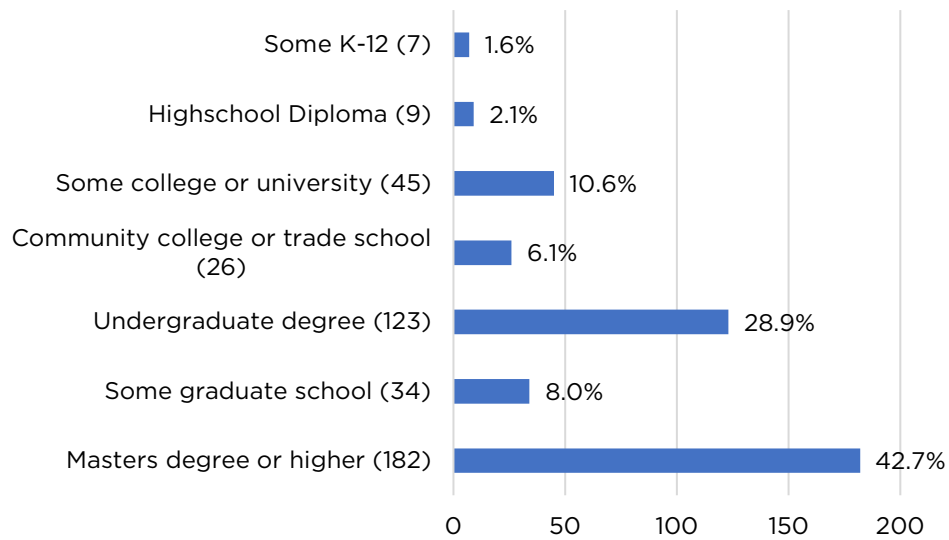


**Zip code:**



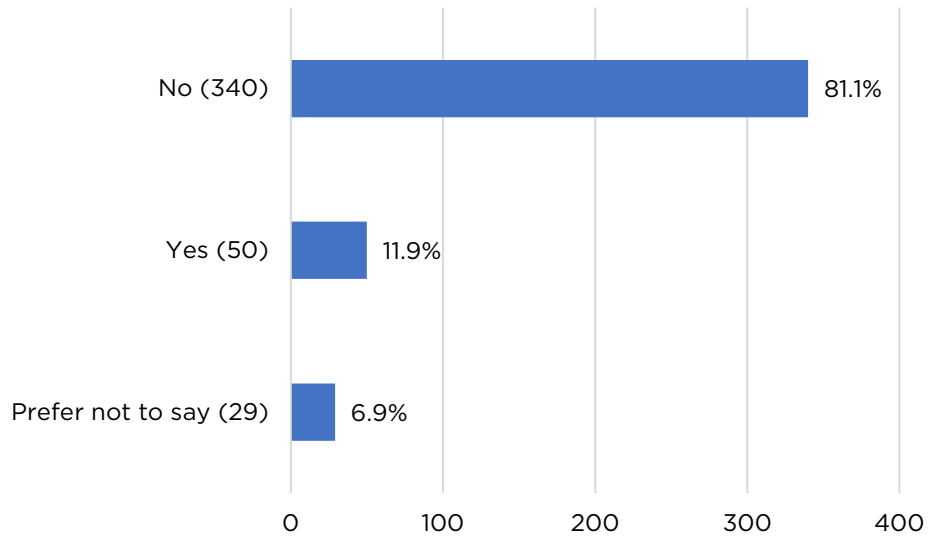
Responses: 427

**Highest level of education received:**



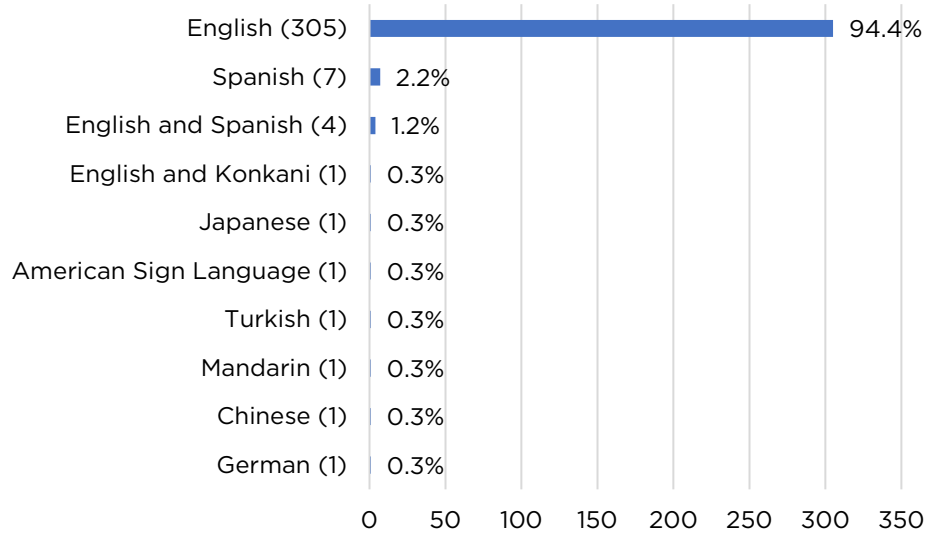
Responses: 426

### Do you have a limiting condition or ability?



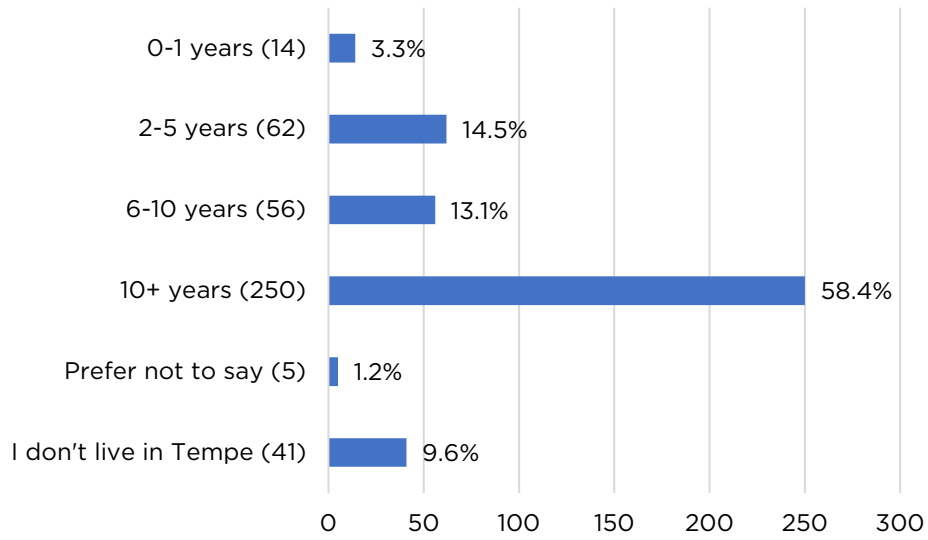
Responses: 419

### What is the primary language spoken at home?



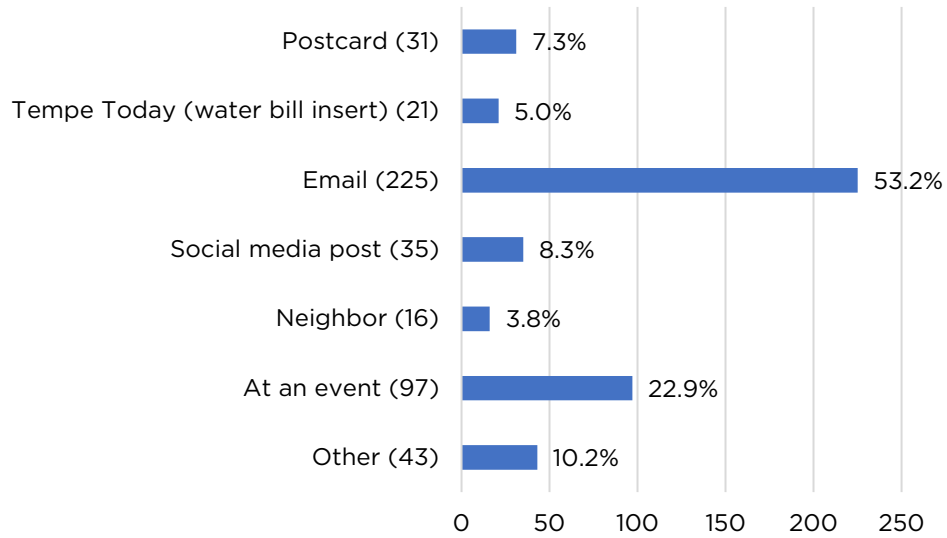
Responses: 323

### How long have you lived in Tempe?



Responses: 428

### How did you hear about this survey? Check all that apply



Responses: 423

## V. Emails

### 1. April 24, 2023 -

1. I have asked Maricopa County Supervisor Bill Gates to support Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department joining the Act One Culture Pass program through the libraries. The program would make 10 county park passes available each week in libraries across the region. Currently, it is \$7 to enter the county parks using a vehicle pass (and the parks are mostly accessible only by car - not a single bus route exists). One thing we had mentioned during the planning process was the importance of having epic outdoor adventures within a 1.5 hour drive of the metro region. This is so those who are not able to pay to stay overnight can still have access to incredible outdoor recreation opportunities. It would be great to have Tempe's support in the initiative to get not only Maricopa County Parks, but also Tonto National Forest, to join the culture pass program so Tempe residents have more of an opportunity to have outdoor recreation experiences. (I raised \$460 by crowdfunding online and was able to purchase over fifty Tonto National Forest passes for the 5th grade students in Tempe! My hope is in the future they could check out a pass from their library and that anyone could visit the county parks and national forest.)

2. The river corridors and streetscapes have a huge opportunity to expand parks, trails, open space and recreational opportunities in the Tempe area by bringing park elements outside of park boundaries. The Center for the Future of Arizona 2020 Gallup Survey stated that, "75% of Arizonans think it's important "to reduce the heat island in our urban areas by planting trees and creating cooler outdoor walkways" These areas provide more opportunity for physical activity and a way to expand art throughout the city. With the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) it sounds like there will be a lot of transportation funding so we should build in trees, wide pathways, exercise equipment, and shade into the project where possible. Biking is the #1 outdoor activity nationwide for youth. For adults, it is still in the top 3, with walking and hiking come in ahead. Since biking is such a popular outdoor activity for youth and adults, we need to consider more safe biking opportunities in our communities, especially since according to the MAG Active Transportation Plan 1/3 of the region is obese or overweight.

3. It would be great if you all could get the full results of the Maricopa County Parks Vision 2030 Public Outreach Feedback Form to give you an idea of the responses we received across the county. For example, for how we could improve the visitor experience #1 was quality web-based park maps, #2 was helping low-income/underserved groups, #3 was improving ADA accessibility.

4. It would be great to have a website of wheelchair accessible viewing or park areas similar to Texas State Parks & Wildlife - [https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/programs/tourism/wheelchair\\_access/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/programs/tourism/wheelchair_access/) and I'm hoping AZ State Parks and Trails can do something similar. Currently, there is not a lot of ADA access at the Maricopa County Parks (one way I think

this can be improved is with adding paved or DG multi-use paths offset from the roads in the parks as currently as mostly they have just have dirt trails).

5. The Maricopa County parks survey received a strong response from the disc golf community. It seems to be one of the fastest growing newer sports, which may be something to consider making more available. On high-use trails in Colorado, hikers and bikers switch each day and the public enforces it. An employee of AZ State Parks and Trails (AZSPT) told me he went out to mountain bike and people told him it's a hiking-only day. I wonder if the golf courses could get more use by sometimes being available for disc golf.

6. I attached some data from the AZSPT Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). I found these results interesting as it is showing a preference for more natural elements in parks and support for expanded pathways. This is so important as traditionally parks departments have focused within park boundaries, but the public is stating their support for pathways which are a win-win for recreation and transportation connectivity (and an opportunity to use IJJA funding!)