

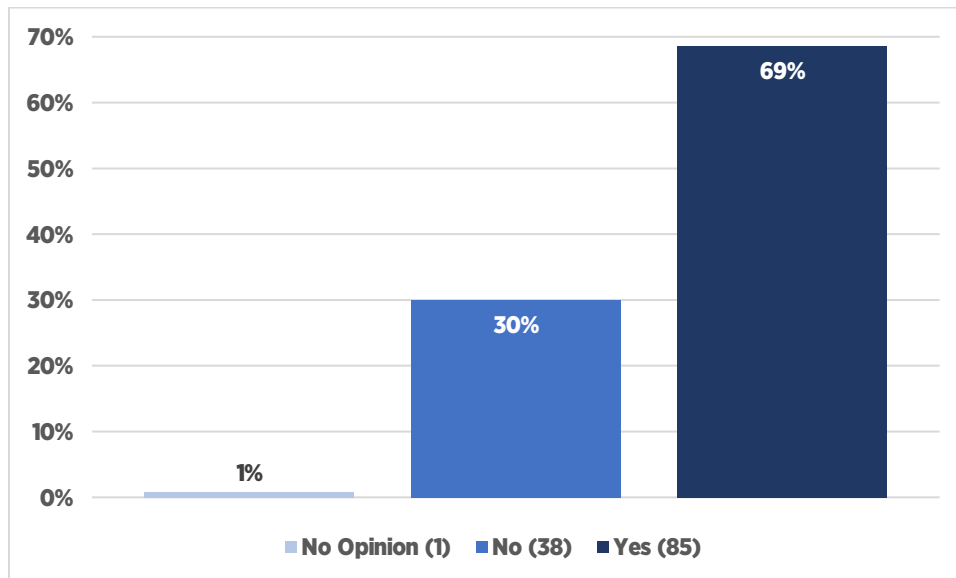


## PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY: Dwight Park Final Response

### Overview

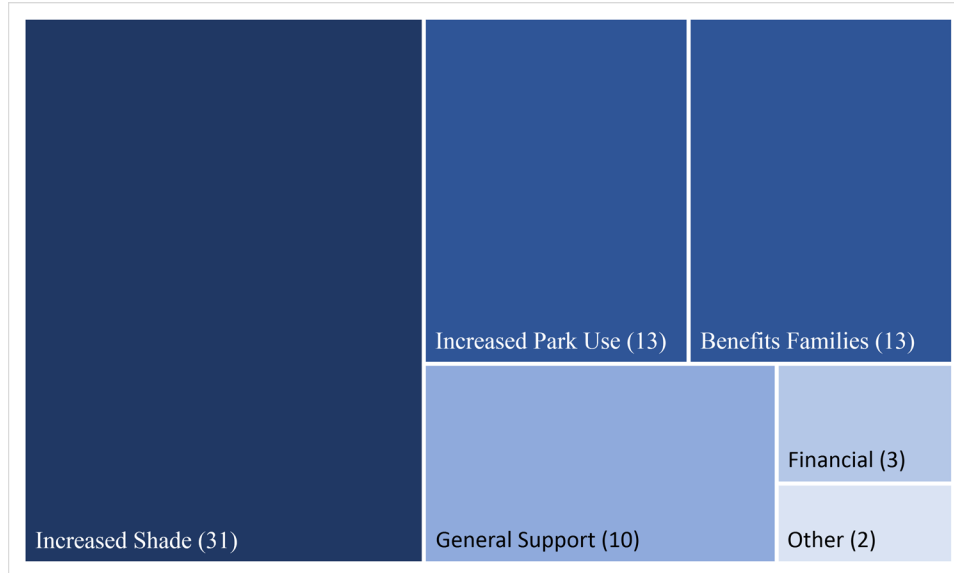
The City of Tempe sent out a survey and to ask for more input about Dwight Park. Residents in the area of Southern Avenue to the U.S. 60, S. Kyrene Road to S. Hardy Drive (1221 households) were asked to express their level of support for the addition of a picnic ramada at Dwight Park. The surveys were sent out in a mailer with a postage-paid card and were available online. In total, there were 124 survey responses received; 86 via the mail and 38 online; all within the project area. The majority (69%) of the responses supported the addition of a picnic ramada.

#### 1. Do you support the addition of a picnic ramada in Dwight Park?



## 2. Why or why not?

**Yes.** Themes that occur in the following comments: Increased shade, increased park use, benefits families, general support, financial, and other.



### Theme: Increased Shade

1. Protect from sun or rain.
2. It would be a great area for friends and family to gather for a picnic and it would provide welcome shade from the Arizona sun.
3. Opportunities for play, shaded gathering spaces, and overall comfort in our neighborhood park. Dog friendly environment.
4. It is a nice area that could use some shade.
5. Need more shaded sit-down areas to eat or picnic. Plant more shade trees. Build ramada with materials that will resist graffiti. Put more toys in play area. Need more lighting
6. We need some shaded area there
7. It will make the park more usable in the summer months.
8. Check Clarp Senior Fit Park in Phx and The Gathering Place Tulsa, OK for ideas. It would be a nice place to gather for adults and have a cover during hot or rainy weather. Nice place to stop and eat lunch for anyone wanting to eat outdoors.
9. Why not? I have noticed families BBQing in the park and it would provide them with shade and cover from the rain.
10. It's a nice little park for family get togethers and such- needs a shaded area
11. The park has many beautiful trees, but a ramada would provide a large shaded area to sit and enjoy all the park has to offer.
12. safe, shady picnic areas and seating spaces rock.
13. It's hard to have a picnic out in the AZ sun.
14. I welcome ANY SHADE While I watch my kids play on the playground!!

15. Because az is so hot so at least there will be a little shade. Plus the park looks boring so it needs an upgrade
16. People enjoy having picnics and cover/shade is great!
17. We would enjoy the extra shade provided by the ramada. We'd probably get more use out of it.
18. It would be great for the summer months when it is really hot and people want to still enjoy the park.
19. I support having a shady ramada for people to use, however the east side of the playground already has picnic table and trash cans. I think a different location would be better suited so all of our amenities are all bunched in one spot. Moving two the north side of the park would be a better location.
20. Opportunities for play, shaded gathering spaces, and overall comfort in our neighborhood park, "Dwight Park." Quality of life.
21. It provides additional shade and a place to entertain. I like that it's not near the playground, too, that way people can spread out and use more of the park.
22. It would be a great shaded area for picnics or watching my nieces and nephews. Summers in Tempe can be hot so this will help.
23. It would be nice to have a covered area.
24. The park could use more shade. Especially near the soccer goals. More families would utilize the park if this was added- make it user friendly.
25. I've been walking my dogs over to Dwight Park for 27 years. I'm 73 yrs old and would love a shaded seating area to sit and watch the kids play. It's a happy place. Thank you.
26. The park would benefit from a space with additional shade and seating
27. It will provide a nice covered area for families to have picnics. Especially, during the hotter months. Thanks!
28. The additional shade would make family/social gatherings more possible and enjoyable, especially in summer.
29. Even though the tables and grills are near trees, during the summer there is not enough shade to truly enjoy them. The park is lovely in any case!
30. This will bring more appeal to families during the hotter months. We can enjoy the park and the shade.
31. It is a great park, but it is not really usable in the summer because of the heat. A ramada will help provide shade and a little comfort from the heat.

### **Theme: Increased Park Use**

32. It will increase the use of the park in the hot months of the year. Park is really busy. I hope this will bring out more families!
33. Increased use of the park could enhance the neighborhood!
34. Ramadas are a great way for family or community to come together, encourage each other, celebrate... over simple meals. This is lacking in our culture now. Currently we have to go to Kiwanis or further to do this Love
35. With the playground upgrade more and more families are using the park. Bathroom facilities would make it even better
36. Seen neighbors at east end of park - visiting, reading or texting & eating. Tables are not shaded or protected from weather. If they were, feel would be receive more use.
37. I think that it would enhance the park and be a nice gathering place for family outings.

38. A lot of people use the park and I think adding the ramada will attract even more people to the park. I enjoy how popular the park is.
39. The need for pleasant comfortable community spaces is very important!
40. Yes!!! How about affordable housing too? We love to have picnics there with our friends and bring our own extra chairs. This addition would make these days even lovelier
41. Makes the park more enjoyable
42. Honestly I'm moving out of the neighborhood soon so it won't affect me. But I see people all the time enjoying the park and having a nice covered picnic area might bring in more people, or let people who are there enjoy some shade. I'm all for improving the parks in whatever way, it's great for families and kids.
43. "I don't see a downside in adding a picnic Ramada. I personally would probably never use it but I can imagine others utilizing it and having a shaded place to sit is never a bad idea. I would also like to see a walking path around the border of the whole park/grass area. Right now there is a sidewalk that goes nowhere which is a little silly. Thank you
44. Why were people opposed to this improvement? Why? Because it would add more opportunity for our neighborhood and it is a park improvement, that's why I support a picnic ramada, I would support 1, 2 or 3 of them.

### **Theme: Benefits Families**

45. It would draw families to the park.
46. It make the park more family friendly.
47. Dwight Park is a wonderful park! My family are the original owners of our house back in 1977 and have seen the neighborhood develop tremendously! Having the covered ramada will encourage more families to "opt outside"!
48. Good for families to host large gatherings that cannot fit in their yards or patios
49. Would be nice for families. Thank you.
50. A covered picnic area would make the park more valuable for our family to go to for some time out.
51. Families will get more use of the park. It would be nice to have restrooms someday.
52. It would increase the utility of the park to local residents and visitors without an excessive investment. Having a place to sit down and eat as well as additional shade would make the park more family-friendly.
53. There are a lot of apartments and condos in the area. It would be nice if the people could have a covered place to gather to picnic and kids to run around and play in an open area.
54. That sounds so nice for the families in our neighborhood. Thank you
55. I see a lot of children and teens here when I bring my family here for some fresh air and play. It would be nice to host a bday party here or for this park to become small and nice like Selleh park including a restroom. This neighborhood has families who could benefit from the Ramada.
56. More than one, safety near home with neighbors, friends and families. It would be great to have a special place in the park to have birthday parties or special occasions to be able to have families and friends to celebrate at outside were kids can run and play for free of charge

57. It's a beautiful park that could be enhanced by providing more space for family/group gatherings. I have recently started frequenting the park and love it- anything to spruce it up is a great idea! Thank you!

**Theme: General Support**

58. This would be a beneficial addition to what has already occurred. The park has already improved the neighborhood experience.
59. Seems like a nice thing to add to a nice park!
60. Great idea!!
61. It would be a great addition.
62. A ramada is needed.
63. It would be nice to have
64. I think this would be a perfect addition to our great park.
65. Bunch of scairdy cats! Grow up! Grow a pair! Sure! Why the hell not! Is this too politically hot an issue for you guys to handle? Are you afraid of all the developers. Does Trump scare you?
66. I support it if it has the thin metal poles supporting it so it's easy to see people and animals inside. Additional shade options might be better though
67. Not thrilled about location of ramada. I believe it should be located at north end of the park. To help balance out park amenities.

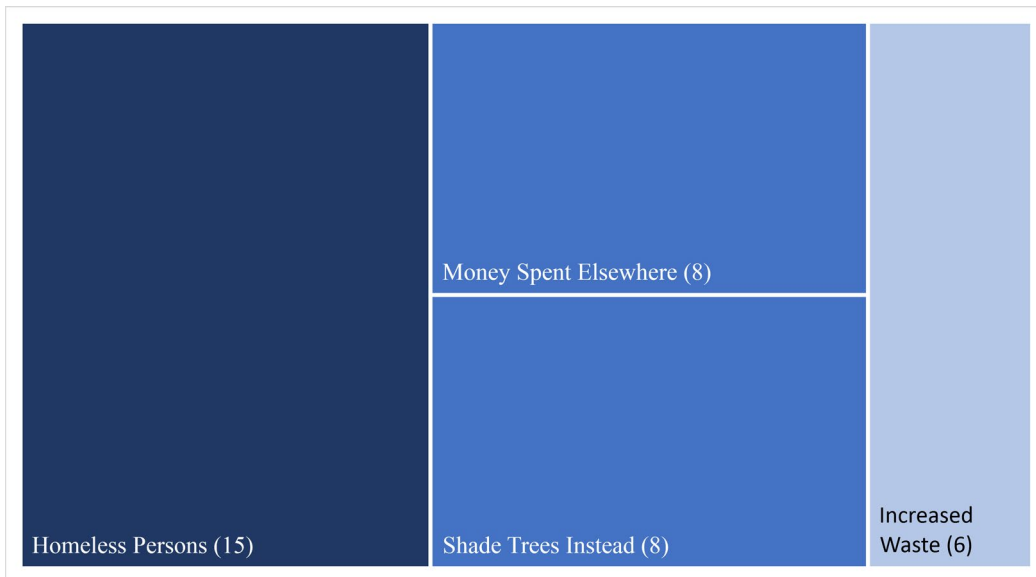
**Theme: Financial**

68. Because it is vitally important to have well kept up to date parks and attractions to keep property values high and crime rates low.
69. As long as you do not raise my utilities and more. 3 times in the last 6 years is ridiculous
70. A community park with Ramadas, trees and additional amenities does nothing but increase my property value which I'm in 100% support of. I use the park for morning and sunset walks and enjoy seeing family activities and children having so much fun on the new playground. Please continue to improve Dwight Park. An idea: maybe a plaque in the park explaining why its called Dwight Park. Thank You,

**Theme: Other**

71. It's an improvement! However, I am concerned about trash, loud music, and homeless inhabitants that may come with it. Is there a reservation process and a contact should there be any of the aforementioned issues?
72. Also need toilets first

**No:** Themes that occur in the following comments: Homeless persons, want money spent elsewhere, want shade trees instead, and increased waste in park.



**Theme: Homeless Persons**

- 73. It will attract homeless people to the Ramadas. Like at Clark Park Thank you
- 74. More trees will bring the shade desires and/or needed. Ramadas in other parks become homeless shelters and marked with trash and graffiti. Use the money towards helping the city's homeless.
- 75. "I don't want to see a ramada in Dwight Park for several reasons:1. The park is small, only 4 acres. A ramada would overwhelm the park and clutter it. Now there is some Zen in the park (though the sidewalk from hell in the soccer field ruins the aesthetic of the park and needs to be moved under the trees, nearer the south sidewalk and remove that damn sidewalk where it is anyway).2. A ramada invites homeless persons to sleep in our park. Since we do not have a bathroom, we would be picking up human waste which I do not find particularly appealing. I pick up dog waste all the time and it is just sometimes more than 1 person can handle. Fortunately there are many of us cleaning the park every day. 3. The park is too small to accommodate a bathroom, therefore, we do not need a ramada in our park, especially one that invites homeless, or graffiti or other problems.
- 76. Homelessness! My children attended the Littlerascals daycare where there was a major homelessness problem. Having the human waste in the park that they play in and get the bus in is just too much. I am glad Tempe has pushed the problem out of the downtown core, but the problem has just migrated to the neighborhoods. More shade trees would be great instead.
- 77. Don't need the additional riffraff that will move into it.
- 78. I see the homeless in other Parks camping in these structures.
- 79. A friend lived near Clark Park's ramadas. Always had transients sleeping on the concrete tables and benches and smelled like piss. We have enough transients walking the rails through the neighborhood. No thanks.

80. I just answered the survey in support of a Ramada but then I read other people's comments who oppose it due to the likelihood that it'll attract more homeless people and the inevitable trouble that comes along with it. I have to say that I 100% agree with them so I would like to change my vote to NOT support adding a Ramada to Dwight park. Thank you
81. Will attract homeless people to sleep there
82. COT has no measurable solutions in place to address the growing homeless situation. Nearby neighborhood parks with ramadas, such as Clark and Daley, have experienced increased crime and vagrancy with their ramadas. With Kiwanis being in walking distance down the canal, the money spent on a ramada would be better invested in that destination park. Dwight is a neighborhood park only, as demonstrated by no parking lot. If a community member needs an amenity a ramada would provide, they can simply walk home. All neighboring housing developments have yards or courts. The PD refuses to come out when called and remove displaced citizens from parks, despite the HOPE project, promoting an unsafe and potentially unclean environment for the tax paying citizens of the community. Parks are to promote public health and wellness for those that financially fund their existence. Examples of parks with ramadas nearby demonstrate compromise to this fundamental principal. NO RAMADA!
83. They tend to attract homeless people
84. Please keep our neighborhood safe and clean! Dwight Park is a park for community members, not a destination. Anyone who needs a ramada style amenity can simply walk home. Tempe has a problem with homelessness and no one comes out to help with the situation when called (like police). Every park in the region with ramadas has increased homelessness and crime until the city addresses that issue, no ramada should be built.
85. It sounds all fine and dandy, but with Tempe's infestation of homeless people and with nothing being done about said infestation, it seems that a "picnic ramada" would just be a welcoming place for homeless people to sit around doing dope. So no.
86. Ramadas tend to attract the homeless and others perhaps drug users. Its a great park as it is. Thank you!
87. Tempe does not keep up things after they build. We do not need a homeless shelter in the middle of our park.

### **Theme: Want Money Spent Elsewhere**

88. Rather than trashy ideas like this one we need to resurface the streets and replace the light bulbs with LEDs. Mainly on Santa Cruz Dr (west of Hardy Dr). Dwight Park is not as big as Kiwanis Park to contain all the people attending picnics. It does not have a parking lot either. A ramada will bring too many children running all over the place which will reduce the space for people walking dogs. I will support a peaceful park as it is now. We do not need noise in our neighborhood.
89. "Dwight Park is NOT as big as Kiwanis Park to contain all the people attending picnics. It does not have its own parking lot either. A ramada will overpopulate our park, will bring unnecessary noise at all times, and we will lose a peaceful and decent place to relax. WE NEED TO RESURFACE THE STREETS AND REPLACE THE LIGHT BULBS WITH LEDs TO MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFER, MAINLY ON SANTA CRUZ DR (WEST OF HARDY DR)!!! "

90. Don't want higher taxes
91. This is unnecessary expense. We have potholes in road that are more important to spend upon. We have police who don't have enough armory to protect police. We have no need for useless ramada when identified places only fully used by . Don't subject Tempe Police to citizen review. Look at Detroit, Chicago, and the Capital.
92. Not necessary- Long time resident thank you! "Rarely" used for large gatherings. Occasional soccer or basketball. Not many kids either. Mostly dog walkers. What might be nice is a small bench near sidewalk for children waiting for school bus- 7am P/O.
93. Unless you put in bathrooms, I don't feel like it makes sense.
94. I don't think it would be used. Money could be used to remove abandoned car in front of Diamond Park Condos (at least since Oct.) or to reduce crimes in Tempe. A safer community is desirable.
95. Picnic tables already exist @ and around the park. How about a dog park enclosure instead?

### **Theme: Want Shade Trees Instead**

96. Prefer natural shade from trees. :) The funds for the ramada could go toward other amenities.
97. Not needed. Trees provide just as much shade.
98. If it needs to be a choice between additional shade vs. covered picnic, then I choose additional shade. However, if both can be done, a picnic ramada would be nice. Shade #1 priority though.
99. We support additional amenities and comfort at parks in the form of more trees, especially over existing benches and tables. We love the tall pine trees, oak trees, and others that balance water conservation goals too. We like a more natural look.
100. Sorry this is late. We would like more trees- but a ramada would be in the way- thank you!
101. Need open sight lines to as much grass as possible. Additional shade- good idea from trees- not bldgs/structures
102. Having lived in the neighborhood for over 40 years my family has used the park for the playground, soccer and basketball. More trees would be welcome but we wouldn't use a ramada.
103. Dwight Park needs more shade trees and not more concrete and steel. A picnic ramada is nothing but a shelter for drug dealers and kids trying to find a place to party and drink. We need shade trees

### **Theme: Increased Waste**

104. Construction is unwelcome. Already had a recent lengthy renovation. Park does not need more clutter. Green > more stuff! -Thank you
105. Not needed! The folks in this area will not clean-up their own mess!
106. It will reduce the amount of green space and someone will need to clean it.
107. It seems like shaded picnic areas often lead to trashier picnic areas. I would interested in hearing the other shade options for the park. Thanks.



108. Unnecessary addition to a park with recent remodel. We are at this park typically multiple times per day and more lengthy construction is unwanted and would only add clutter to the park.

109. There is way too much of a problem of people not cleaning up after themselves in Dwight Park now, and I think that a ramada would just make matters worse. I also think that there would be a propensity for drinking without the required permit, which happens now anyhow, but I think it would get worse. Another concern is amplified music becoming more of a problem. People don't read the signs in the park stating the rules, and feel like they can do anything they want. I'm concerned that more of the rules will be broken, more dogs off leash, more dog feces not picked up, and in general less respect for the park and the neighbourhood. I live right across the street, walk my dog in the park almost every day, and am continually cleaning up after other people and their dogs.

**No opinion:**

110.No opinion- I don't use the park