

Clark Park and Aquatics Center Concept Plan

Public Input Summary – Feb. 9 – 23, 2021



I. OVERVIEW

The Clark Park and Aquatic Center Master Plan continues the conversations about the future community pool and other park amenity improvements. Feedback from the first and second round of outreach was the basis for the proposed design concepts for Clark Park and the Aquatic Center. Planned park improvements at Clark Park include: a community swimming pool and other park amenities including playground, ramada, restroom, baseball infield material, basketball court lighting, additional trees and landscaping. Two virtual public meetings, along with an online survey, were conducted to gather input on the proposed concepts.

II. OUTREACH

- Postcards inviting the public to attend the meetings or to comment online were mailed to the project area, University Dr. to Broadway Rd., Mill Ave. to Priest Dr.
- Signs were posted in Clark Park.
- Information was posted on social media.
- Emails were sent to those that previously engaged in outreach.
- The topic was posted online from Feb. 9 – 23, 2021 on Tempe Forum.
- A recording of the virtual meeting was available online
- Information was posted via reach screens in community centers and on Tempe 11.

Below are the engagement rates for digital outreach tools that were used to provide information regarding the project, meetings and opportunities for input:

Eblasts – 2,637 opens (1 eblast for public meeting and 2 eblasts for online survey)

Facebook – 3,642 reach

Nextdoor – 1,019 impressions

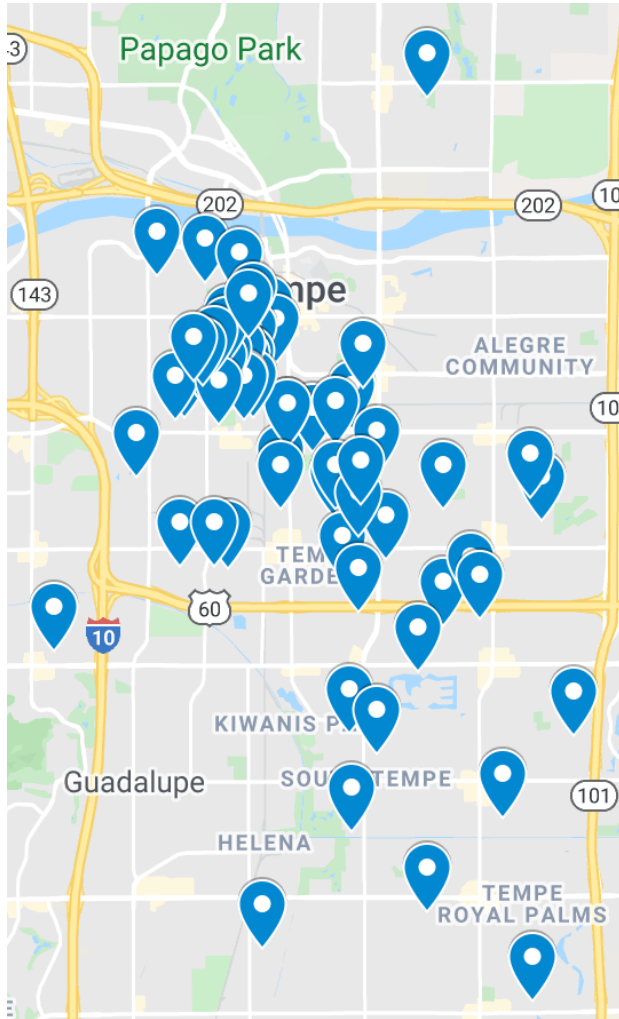
Web hits to Clark Park page – 614

Web hits to Park Updates page – 1,959 (27% increase over normal traffic)

III. SURVEY RESPONSES

A total of 115 survey responses were received.

Map of responses received:

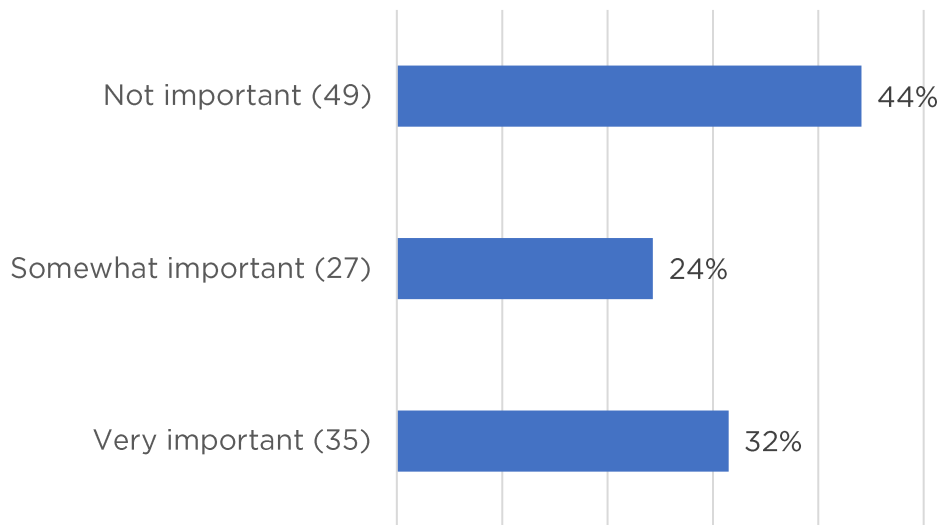


Concept Plan

Thank you for all the previous feedback on design options. Please provide additional feedback regarding the preferred concept layout.

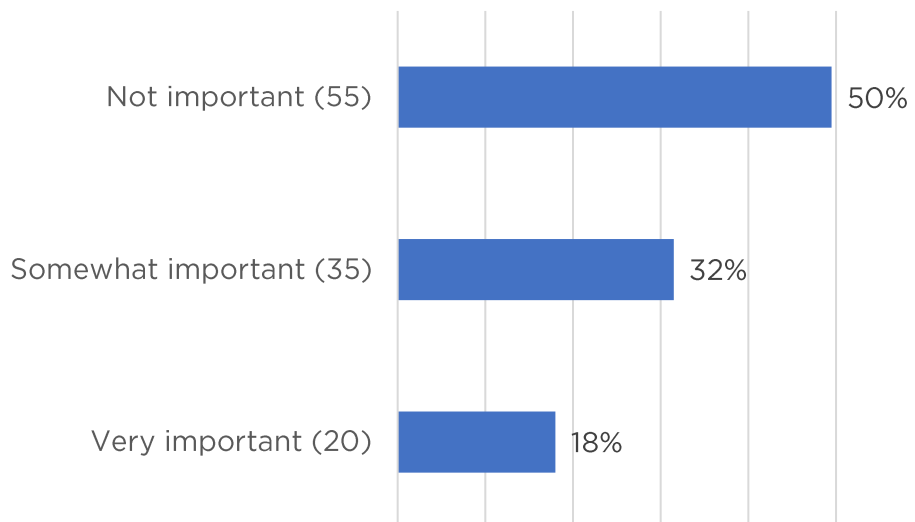
1. The preferred concept shows the possible relocation of the sport courts further west. How important to you is the relocation of the basketball and volleyball courts, if funding allows?

Basketball court



Responses: 111

Volleyball court

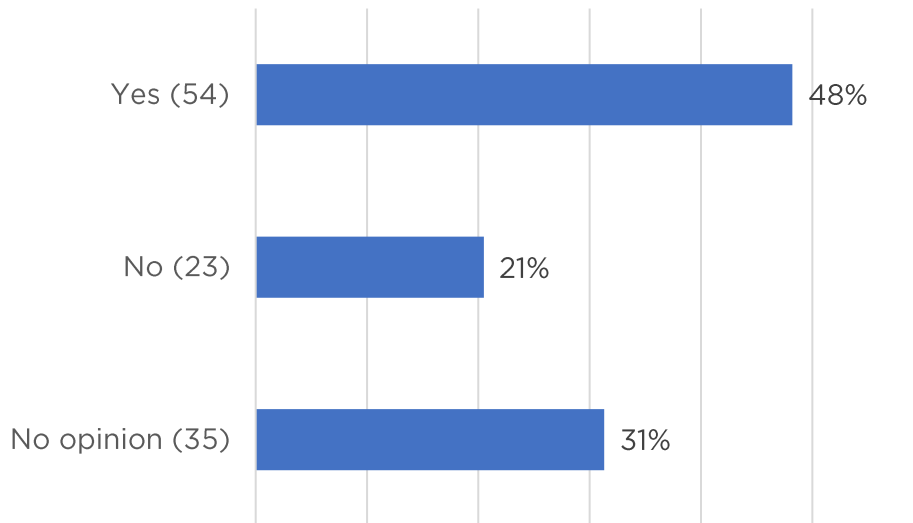


Responses: 110

Play Area

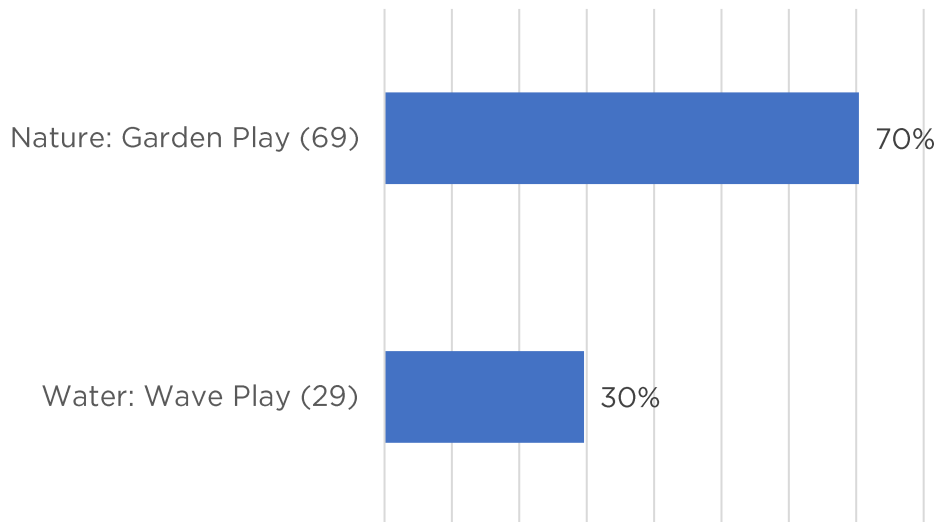
The final design for the playground will be developed with input from the local neighborhood. With that in mind, please provide general feedback regarding the themes and types of play.

2. Should the playground include a theme?



Responses: 112

3. If there is a theme, which do you prefer?



Responses: 98

4. A play structure with multiple play features as well as playground equipment from the following categories will be incorporated into playground designs for Clark Park: balancers, climbers, spinners, rockers and swings. Please prioritize the categories of equipment you would like to see Clark Park, with your first choice being your favorite.

1. Swings
2. Climbers
3. Balancers
4. Rockers
5. Spinners

Aquatics

5. Any further comments or feedback for the City and Design Team?

1. The community gardens are by far the most popular and engaging elements in the park. It invites all ages to work together, to grow and plant together and make life-long friendships. The garden allows people to understand where their food comes from and how they can contribute to growing non-GMO seeds and flowers for supporting bees & butterflies which are essential to our food. Please provide info relating to source of financing to pay for the swimming pool, equipment and necessary staffing. Thank you.
2. Hi Design Team!!! Please give this park the attention it deserves. Many families have lived in this neighborhood for decades and have been trying to improve the safety and appearance of this park. We have used the park for years and years as recommend by city staff and police. Just please make the park look absolutely amazing, clean, and really really COOL!
**And if possible please include a colorful social justice and equality mural on the concrete block fence next to the baseball diamond.
Thank you for your work on this project!!! It means a great deal to families raising children in the world today!!
3. Thank you for working with the Clark Park Community Gardens group throughout this process. The garden is a place to showcase the sustainable efforts of Tempe locals and learn new skills. Beyond the education, it produces safe, healthy, locally adapted food to people that are food insecure and those who subscribe to the CSA (community supported agriculture) through Sun Produce Co-op. What's most important about the garden is that it is a place for people to gather and support one another through earth's gifts. If you haven't visited Clark Park Gardens on a Saturday morning to hangout and volunteer, I really encourage you to do so; bring friends and family as it is friendly to all ages!

4. We live walking distance from Clark Park and are so excited about these improvements! We've been driving to downtown Phoenix to Hance Park Playground and it's incredible. If you could incorporate a climbing wall like they have, I think it would bring a lot of joy to the kids in the neighborhood. Our daughter loves it, and it's so unique! Here's a photo: https://ktar.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/131673805_3581245551970863_2320492862544700533_o-600x400.jpg The whole park there is an inspiration, so imaginative. I cant wait to see what you all cook up!
5. Putting up some fencing in the corner of the park for a dog park wouldn't cost too much extra and would mean a lot to community members
6. no more stupid spending. just stop and fix roads and clean alleys.
7. No
8. What will be the hours of the aquatic center? I live across the street from Clark Park and am kept up late many nights due to the people at the park making noise, cranking music, and screaming and yelling at each other. Now we are going to add squealing kids in the pool?
9. I really like the final design concept. I like how the pathways tie all the amenities together and make them feel more connected. I like keeping the volleyball courts near the pool, and relocating the basketball courts to the west side near the dog park and bathroom. For the north pathway that leads out to the parking (near the garden plaza & ramada), I recommend creating a small opening in the street median between the parking lot and Roosevelt, so cyclists have easy access to the pathway directly from Roosevelt.
10. The diagram for the above design is not labeled, so it is difficult to see whether my comment makes sense. (1) I believe the sport courts should be separated so that errant balls won't interfere with the other court during play. (2) I believe there should be space for a community garden where families can grow nutritional food. Thank you.
11. I think the pool should be bigger as it's the only public outdoor pool (to my knowledge) offered by the city. Residents without pools may come flocking. I know I plan on it... unless it's too crowded.
12. Consider adding a monarch waystation or general pollinator garden in the landscaping changes!
13. Please ensure adequate shallow end area for younger children.
14. If water play is incorporated as a theme, will open air showers be included (similar to a beach shower, for rinsing off sand while in a swim suit)? These are great for kids, dogs, after a swim at the pool, other park users who may just need a free shower option, etc.
15. Until covid is under control, spending money should be halted. Would be sad to have these amazing facilities PAID for and them be unusable
16. I think anything will be greatly appreciated.

17. Please add security around the pool. Our lifeguard was followed after work by stranger.
18. Please make any buildings open, airy with lots of natural light
19. A wall along the alley would be helpful. Our son was always trying to run into the alley because the residential trash cans were so interesting
20. I just want to say that I really appreciate the parks in Tempe! Other cities don't get the amount and variety of high quality parks as Tempe does and I'm very grateful that my kids have gotten to play and have fun at so many amazing ones! Tempe making playgrounds a priority has made a difference to families here!
21. It would be nice to see a garden there where Tempe residents could purchase organic produce.
22. I would like to have a public pool within walking distance from my home.
23. I love the idea of theming the playground, both options are great reflecting dual park focuses of the community pool and garden
24. It's disappointing the city is doing all these park improvements at Clark park and nothing is being included for skateboarding. The skate spot needs to be developed. That has become one of the most used components in the park since it was built. There seems to be a disregard for the need of more places to skate in Tempe especially in downtown Tempe. Hudson and Clark park skate spots do not meet the need. For some reason a skateboarding component was never part of the design alternatives presented. The process seemed to steer the project in a specific direction giving the public limited ability to comment on what was shown. If the skate community was invited you would have received overwhelming support for a better skate spot at Clark Park. It is not too late. Please consider the option to create a better skate spot. The costs can be low depending on the type of design and it can be a basic expansion of what is already there. It can even be developed separate from the main park improvements. Where there is a will, there is a way. Please take this into serious consideration. Thank you.
25. My main concern is the Community Garden. Volunteers have spent years building the current garden. Please do not move and keep the same size or enlarge it. Volunteers at the Community Garden are the actors who have most contributed to Clark Park in recent years; please give them priority on any new planning. There are plenty of playgrounds, basketball, and volleyball courts in Tempe. But children and teens have only Clark Park to visit (and contribute to) an actual garden! This is the most unique resource at the Park; please protect it.
26. I love both themes for the playground, acknowledging the two main park draws the community pool and garden
27. We live closer to Selleh Park, however, Clark Park has always been important to our family. Our kids played on the baseball field for years. The restrooms

were often unsafe (needles & more). Little League rented portable bathrooms closer to the field. Restrooms should be safer for kids (lighting/open on top, single stall w/lockable door & proximity to the fields). Also, we now visit the gardens and value the volunteers who run the Saturday market/CSA. Please keep that vibrant. The small dog park is wonderful, too.

28. Yes reopen the pool, I used to attend as a child and now that I have my own children I would love to create new memories with them at Clark Park pool!
29. Please make sure that the restroom stalls either have doors or have a design such that someone in an undooed stall is not on display for everyone outside to see (that is, do NOT have the restrooms designed like those at Roadrunner Park in Phoenix).
30. If there was a lap pool that would be open early or later in the day it would be nice. I realize space is an issue. also shade is important.
31. Please take as much time needed to select plants and landscape materials for our climate. Consider the directions for care and who will follow them to take care plants and ground cover. My experience with your care of projects is wanting. You plant bunch of 1 gal. plants; they end up passing on and not being replaced. I do not know if you are requiring xeriscape standards. One last thing; It seems that with everyone using powered shears now most plants like shrubs and ground covers get pruned to death. Most nice projects get pruned to oblivion. We ask the plant to live where we put it not where it likes to live. A nurseryman and landscaper for 25 years in Tempe.
32. Please make the pool functional for all ages and abilities. Shade is always great. Maximize deck space. A heated pool is desired especially to help Tempe High have a pool to practice in as well as a pool to use for winter recreation. Family changing rooms on the pool side would be very helpful for people like myself with small children.
33. What about the dog park? It is very important to me and the people who use it daily. It is a wonderful experience. I don't want the dog park to go away.
34. The volleyball court is seldom used. The basketball court is used everyday.
35. While the dog park has some trees and benches, none of the trees provide shade over any of the benches is there anyway that the benches/concrete pads could be moved under a tree or a shade structure built for sun protection. Also could the dog poop bag dispenser be replaced inside the park. It is gone. The one in the entryway is problematic w dogs getting in and out while getting a bag.
36. As a medical provider and parent, I can't reiterate how important shade is. I wasn't at the presentation so perhaps the shade structures shown are not exactly what will be going in, but it does not seem like sufficient shade. When it's 110 degrees during the summer, parents and children will never want to be sitting in direct sunlight. It's miserable and not good for the health of anyone. I would be less likely to take my family there if there isn't shade. So while it's not

- as pretty to have a giant shade structure maximizing the shade available, it certainly is the most helpful. Having smaller umbrellas is only helpful during a short time each day, Thanks for letting us be a part of the planning! It's one of the many reasons I love living in Tempe! My opinion and experience with the city parks seems important to you, and I appreciate that. Thank you so much!!
37. I love it!!! I think we need to update all our parks. I have lived in Tempe for 38 years and I love it here. We need to keep Tempe beautiful.
 38. Please consider removing the cement strips in the center of the dog park (my dog has injured herself on them when running in the park). Please also consider extending the dog park out to the edge of the park and McKemy Street. The current design shows a picnic area in this corner. There are picnic tables there now and they are never used - except, unfortunately, for vagrants who occasionally set up camp there. This area of the park by the bathrooms posed a huge safety concern for residents during the community meetings. Another dead space in this area is not ideal and would not address the safety issues. Our preference would be to extend the dog park and move the picnic tables to one of the green areas near the playground.
 39. It will be nice to have Clark Park back!!!!
 40. I would like to see the community garden plots remain an option for people to rent at the park. In the rendering of the possible future design, I can't tell how much shade is planned. Large trees and large shade structures are incredibly important to include.
 41. Great examples.
 42. The aquatic center is not needed, there's not enough space for parking- the garden gets plenty use as is- and the rest of the amenities don't receive enough care as is- I don't think adding a more expensive addition is a good thing
 43. Don't get rid of the community garden
 44. Why are you putting a pool back in when you took one out? Waste of money
 45. instead of a volleyball court what about 2 pickleball courts
 46. Please designate at least one pool lane to lap swimming WITH LANE LINE DIVIDERS to keep kids out and safe away from serious swimmers
 47. Keep the Community Garden
 48. Will the city be cleaning these lounge chairs and the pool nightly?
 49. Destroying the existing community garden to reestablish a pool the city abandoned a decade ago is an utterly garbage idea. The neighborhood street-parking around the ballfield is a hazard to the lives of the children who attend the games, and a huge hassle for the neighborhood which you continue to ignore, but will be further exasperated when the new Habitat housing is occupied, eliminating some of the park-adjacent parking, sending people further into the residential area to park. This park continues to receive the

most half-assed, short-sighted attention I've ever seen is a project like this.
Fire your design consultants and start over with the community in mind.

50. Wasn't a pool taken out several years ago?
51. I hope that something is done to ensure the park is not full of homeless people. The city should prioritize getting them help, spending all of this money will be wasteful if families are not comfortable to go there.
52. Love that we're bringing back the pool. I hope that it can be heated to be used year round
53. Regardless of shape, the pool will need to be multifunctional. Most important element will be shade.... Design the amenity to incorporate more shade.
54. Please do not incorporate a pool. Leave the community garden. The garden is a greater asset to the community than a pool.
55. The highest priority for me would be the separation of deep water/lane swimming and shallow water/play areas for safety. From the rendering, it appears this has been accomplished with a defined "waist" in the pool.
56. The sooner the better!
57. Thanks so much for all your design efforts for Clark Park. They look great. It does appear that there will be swim lanes which is great. I hope there will be a partial shaded platform area for yoga, tai chi and other activities etc. It's hard to tell from the drawing. Also please remember to address parking and the lack of sidewalks on Roosevelt that connect the Clark Park neighborhood to Clark Park in future plans.
58. Will the community garden stay?
59. I would like to see the inclusion of interactive structures for learning and play equipment for handicapped children such as can be seen at Mesa's Dobson Ranch Park adjacent to the library there. I am not aware that any such equipment exists in Tempe Parks and I think inclusion of all children should be a City priority.