

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2021

I. Background

The City of Tempe works to offer opportunities for play, shaded spaces, and comfort in our neighborhood parks. Towards that effort, a 20'x20' picnic ramada is planned for Scudder Park. If there is not a majority support, in the form of written or online responses, for the addition of a picnic ramada, the city will explore additional shade in the park.

II. Outreach

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

- Two direct mail postcards were sent to 1,817 households in the project area, Baseline to Guadalupe Roads, McClintock Drive to Rural Road. The first with meeting and survey information and the second as a reminder to provide comments.
- Email notification to neighborhood and homeowners' association contacts inviting them to attend the meeting or to comment online and share with their neighborhoods,
- Email notification to relevant Boards and Commissions inviting them to attend the meeting or to comment online.
- An open house was held on Oct. 19 at Scudder Park with approximately 15 attendees and a virtual public meeting was held, also on Oct. 19 with 1 attendee.
A recording of the virtual meeting was made available online.
- The topic was posted on the project website for input from Oct. 19 through Nov. 2, 2021.
- Project website was available.

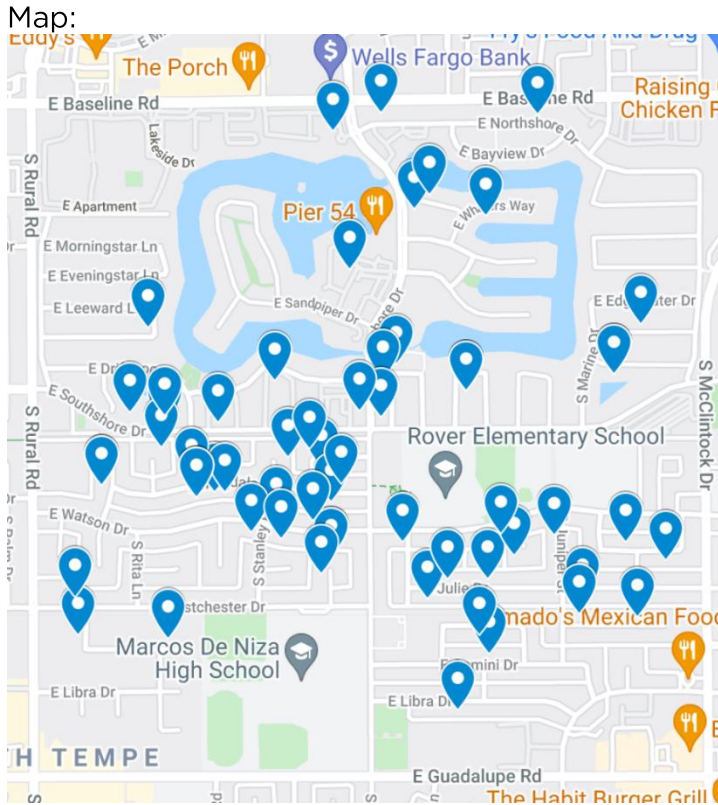
Below is a summary of digital outreach that provided information to the public regarding the meeting, project and opportunities for input:

NEXTDOR

10/18/21 – public meeting. Impressions: 45

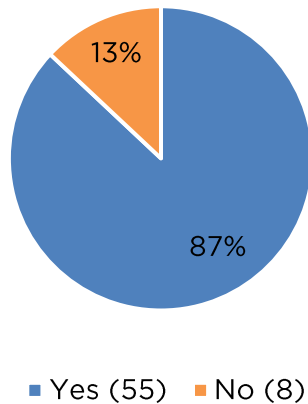
10/29/21 – online input reminder. Impressions: 149

III. Survey Responses



Total responses: 61

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



Total responses: 63 responses

Why or Why Not?

“Yes” Responses:

1. Add extra shade to the area.
2. added shade and seating will be a good thing
3. Added shade near bbq areas would be a welcome addition!
4. Any additional opportunity for a shaded seating area would be welcome and could benefit all age groups.
5. Better accommodations for year-round use are always welcome.

6. Continue financial investment in parks.
7. Good to have a dedicated space for party/bbq that is shaded.
8. Great for birthday parties, bbqs, etc.
9. Great neighborhood park for family social gatherings i.e. Birthday Parties
10. I think it would be a nice addition to the area
11. I think it would be great because it would be shaded. The tables are not shaded. It is Hot in Arizona!!
12. In this climate, shade is essential for outdoor activities during much of the year.
13. It might be nice to have an additional covered structure for meeting, eating, etc. Although more swings are definitely needed in the 5-12 age range. I am there every weekday morning and afternoon and they're always occupied with kids lining up for their turn.
14. It needs shade
15. It needs to be brought into the 2010's at least
16. It provides more seating options for those who'd like to picnic in the park!
17. It's a great neighborhood playground for kids an families. The additional shade and seating is needed. Thank you!
18. Lots of neighborhood families use park for picnic and birthday party so I do believe it would be appreciated thanks
19. Love to bring my family here and the ramada would help keep sun out while eating at the tables.
20. Many students from Fees/Marcos de Niza like to hang out in the park. It would be nice to provide some shade for them. It would be nice to have a picnic area for families.
21. More family use of park for birthday parties, chess or checkers for older children & adults, etc. /shade in hot summers.
22. More shade is helpful
23. Need a shaded place for the parents to sit and watch the children.
24. Need the shade for family events
25. Nice place for a picnic close to the house
26. Not enough shaded spaces for gatherings
27. Parents need a shaded space to monitor kids
28. Place to gather
29. Promote more family friendly activity.
30. Shade is an invaluable commodity.
31. Sounds like something very useful and beneficial for the whole neighborhood.
32. The neighbors would use this for gathering.
33. The park is a central location for the South Tempe neighborhood and schools and needs more shade amd gathering areas.
34. The park is regularly and heavily used by the neighborhood and Rover staff for outdoor lunch. Additional shade really needed!
35. The park is very much in need of shaded areas for gatherings.
36. The shade, seating, and tables will be such an asset to a well-loved and used neighborhood park.
37. There definitely needs to be more shadded options with so many kids in the area. aot of the kids from the surrounding schools converge in that park

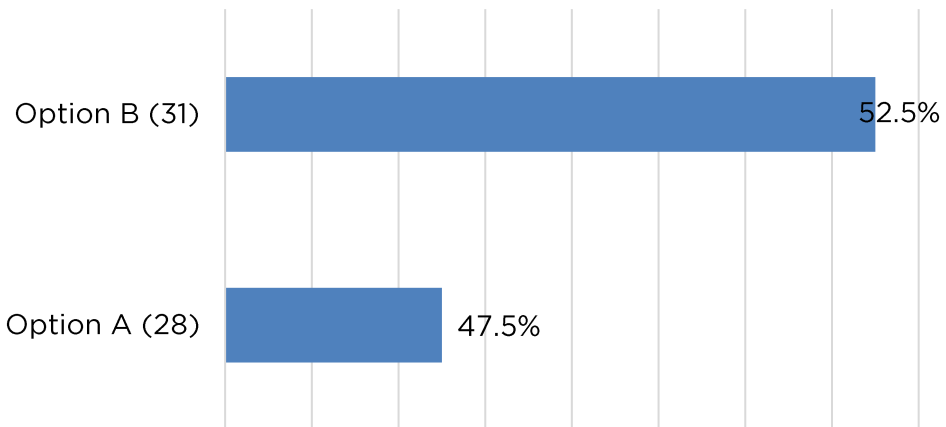
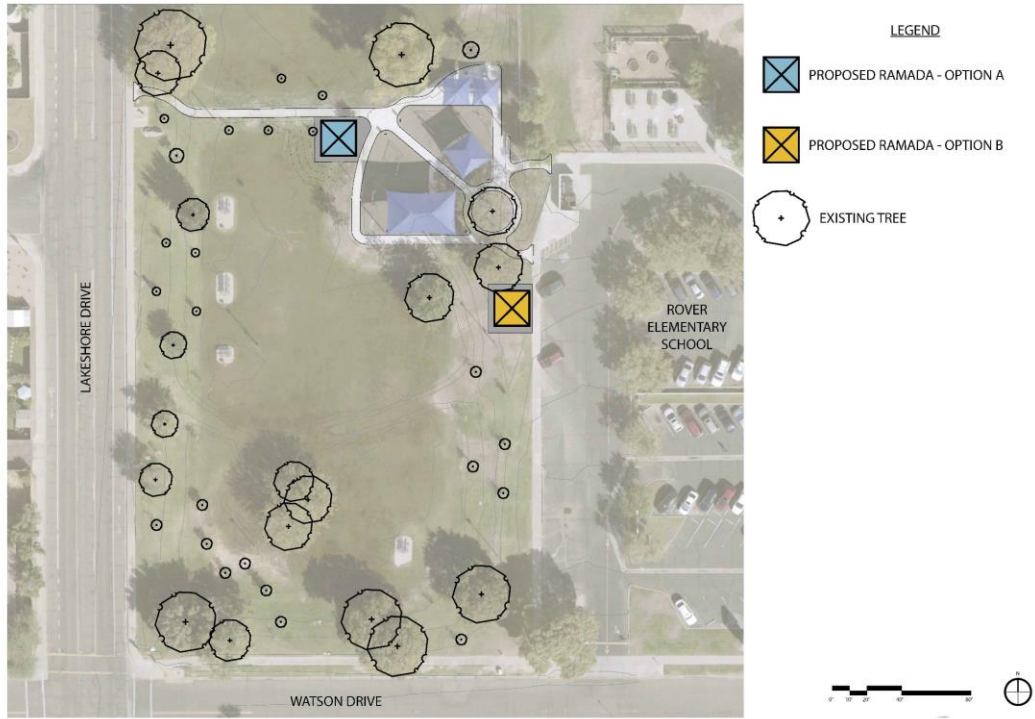
including high school kids and there aren't really any options unless they are on the playground area.

38. There needs to be more undercover area for people away from parents watching their kids.

“No” Responses:

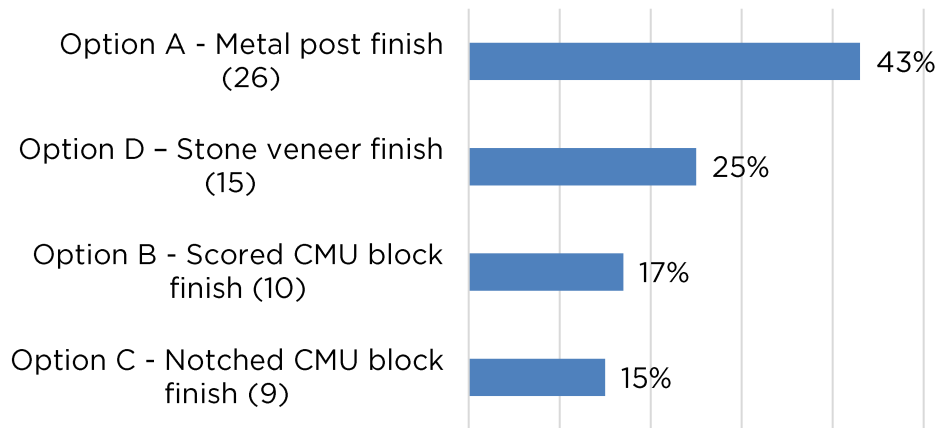
1. A ramada would be an acceptable addition to the park, but only in the location immediately next to the parking lot. One of the great things about Scudder Park is that it is a largely open, grassy, tree-filled park. The renovated play area is terrific, but is located well to one side. Placing a large ramada in the center of the park would greatly change the overall feel and aesthetic of the park, and I do not support that change. While not enthusiastic about a ramada, in general (more shade trees would be better, in my opinion, particularly in the southern area, where the old sculpture/artwork used to be), the location adjacent to the parking lot would be acceptable.
2. Feel like adding a ramada is not a good use of money. There is already a covered area with picnic tables. Think the money could be used toward other projects like a multi-purpose field.
3. No need to continue to develop Park. The more grass open space the better.
4. Scudder Park is small but many people use the park daily for short periods of activity, not picnics. It is primarily used by walkers, dog walkers, small children with parents, grade school and high school students before and after school, and small teams practicing and playing soccer or football. Most use is active and for an hour or two. The 20 trees planted recently will provide quite a bit of shade while leaving open spaces for activities. A ramada would encourage larger groups to hang out and that could change the character of the park.
5. There is already a couple of shaded tables close to the playground. As a frequent walker around the park, I would instead appreciate a walkway around the park, specifically running by the fence separating the park from Rover. Also, the park smells like sewage when they flood it monthly. Can something be done about this?
6. We use Scudder park with our kids nearly every day and have never felt the need for more seating. We've hosted birthday parties and gatherings without ever running into an issue in this regard. A big concern is watching how a lot of the Ramadas are used in other Tempe parks as gathering places for the homeless population in Tempe. Additionally, this park is used by dozens of families in the neighborhood daily and there is concern that an addition like this so close to the playground would close the playground during construction - which would hinder a LOT of free play that is so valuable to our kids these days. If this would require closing the playground, please do not move forward with the project.
7. Wish the park to remain pristine without having families leaving the area with trash, after a noisy outing. Believe me this is not an assumption. With the increase of transients I fear this little oasis of neighborhood sanctuary will inevitably be transformed into a “hangout”. Also the area available for individual activities combined seems to be too small.

2. If there is support from the neighborhood, Scudder Park will receive one 20'x20' picnic ramada. Please choose your favorite ramada location from the two options shown on the map:



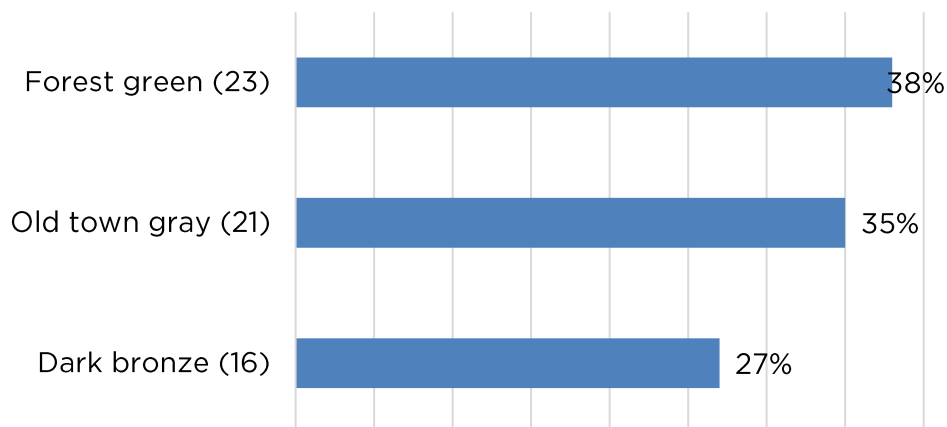
Total responses: 59 responses

3. The picnic ramada will have a metal hip roof. Which column material do you prefer?



Total responses: 60 responses

4. Which color do you prefer for the ramada roof?



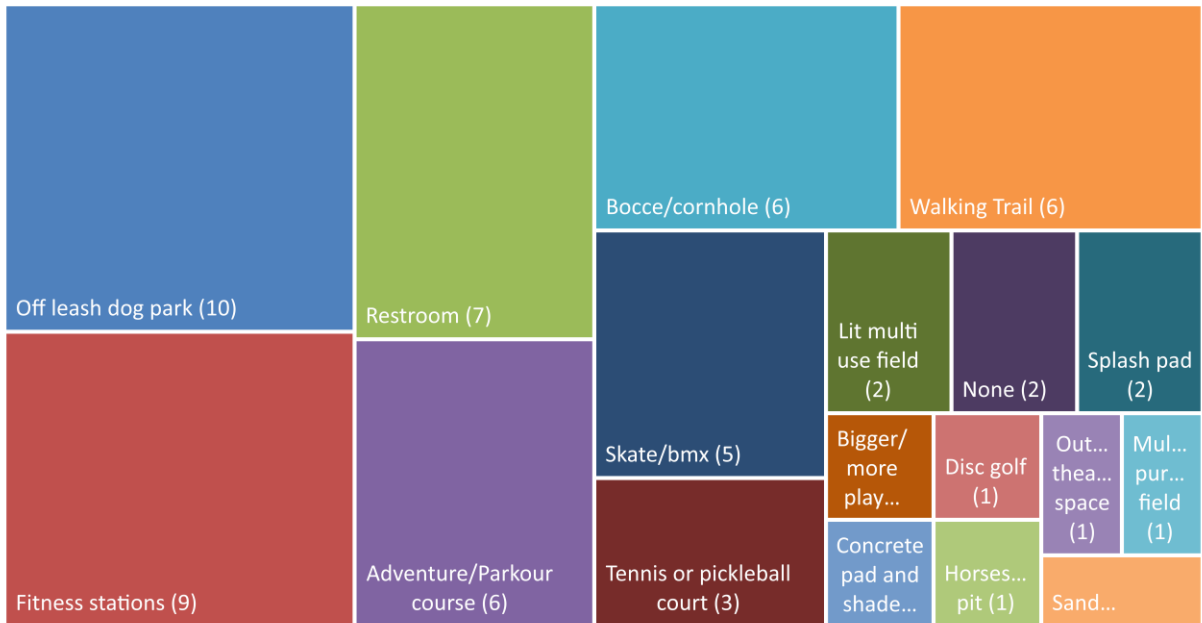
Total responses: 60 responses

5. In the future, Scudder Park could be eligible for enhanced amenities which would increase the recreational value of a park. The number, type, and size of amenities will be determined by size of park, cost of amenity, and fit.

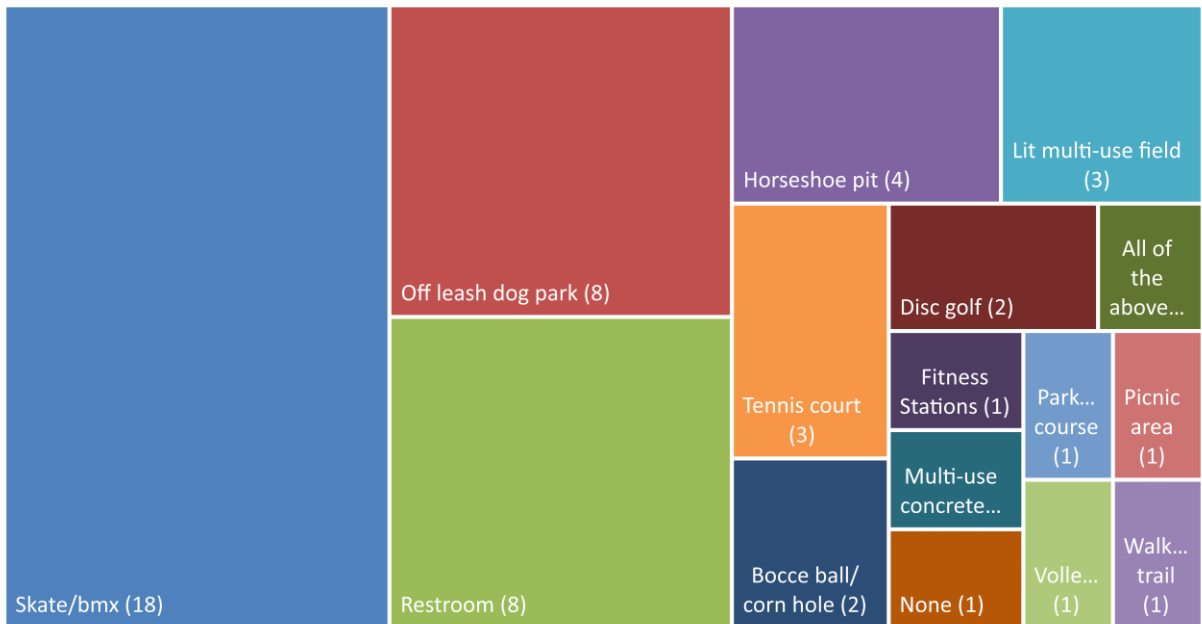
Examples could include, *but are not limited to*:

- Off leash area (dog park)
- Skate or BMX park
- Sand volleyball court
- Bocce ball/corn hole
- Adventure/Parkour Course
- Horseshoe pit
- Disc golf
- Walking/fitness trail
- Fitness Stations
- Multi-use concrete pad
- Lit multi-use field
- Tennis Court
- Pickleball Court
- Restroom
- Other _____

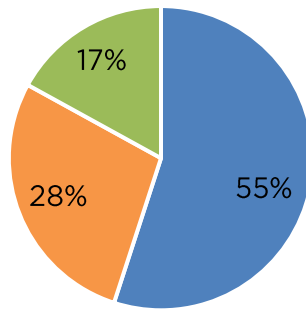
Please select the enhanced amenity you would most like to see in Scudder Park:



Please select the enhanced amenity you would least like to see in Scudder Park:



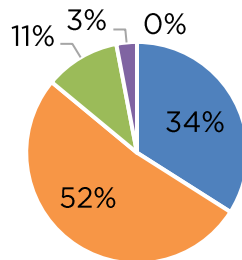
6. Currently your park sign states that the park is open from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. (midnight). Are you in favor of changing the posted park hours to 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.?



■ Yes (36) ■ No (18) ■ No opinion (11)

Total responses: 65

7. Our objective is to provide clean, safe, and friendly parks. Please rate how we are doing on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 means very dissatisfied and 5 means very satisfied.



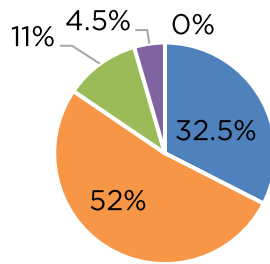
■ Very Satisfied (22) ■ Satisfied (33)
 ■ No opinion/neutral (7) ■ Dissatisfied (2)
 ■ Very dissatisfied (0)

Total responses: 64

Comments on cleanliness:

1. Occasionally, the trash needs to be removed more often.
2. Improved
3. Grass needs to be cut more often.
4. Trash is overflowing and a lot of glass on the ground
5. A second set of trash cans near the benches around the trees on the Rover side of the park would help alleviate the overflow issue.
6. trash often overflows and people don't use recycling properly

Safety of Scudder Park



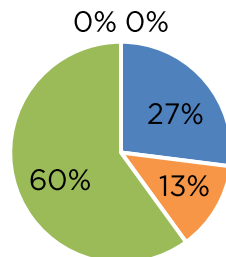
- Very Satisfied (21)
- Satisfied (33)
- No opinion/neutral (7)
- Dissatisfied (3)
- Very dissatisfied (0)

Total responses: 64

Comments on safety:

1. Never really had a problem, but have seen some graffiti.
2. Like the lighting
3. besides the coyote problem we have around here
4. Better lighting and shaded area for park bench
5. Homeless people
6. There are some areas in the rubberized surface that need repaired as well as the location where the steering wheel for the "bus" used to be.

Friendliness of the park staff



- Very Satisfied (15)
- Satisfied (7)
- No opinion/neutral (33)
- Dissatisfied (0)
- Very dissatisfied (0)

Total responses: 55

Comments on friendliness:

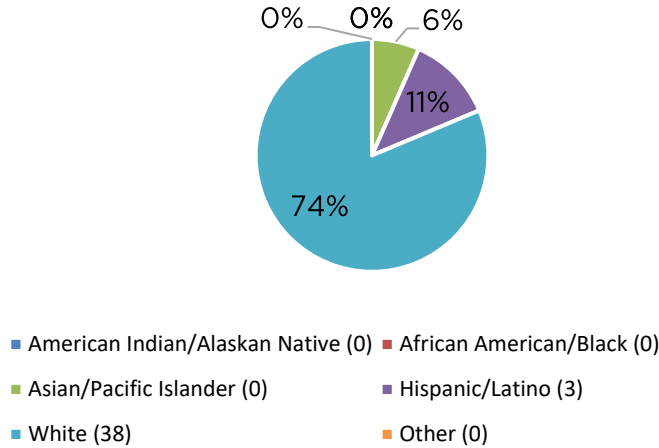
1. doing great
2. what staff?
3. N/A
4. Have never seen anyone
5. I've never seen any
6. No staff
7. I have never seen park staff
8. Did not know there was a Park Staff
9. No staff
10. Haven't met any yet
11. We don't see park staff often/ if ever.

8. Additional Comments

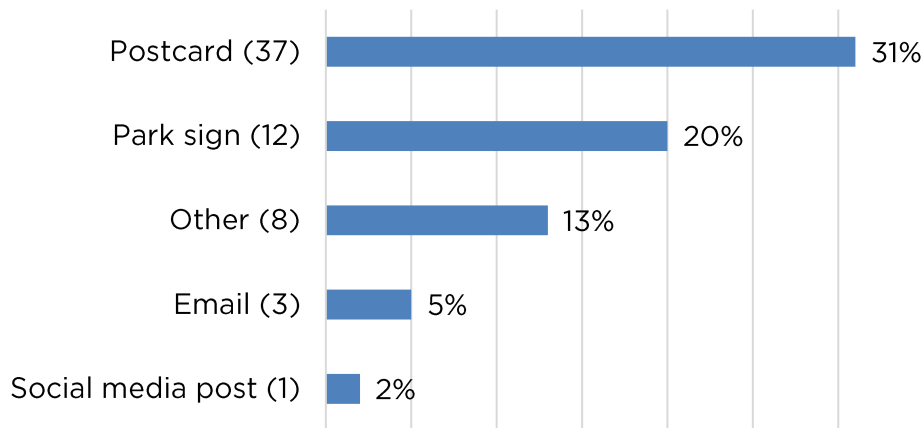
1. Has been a neglected park for awhile. Teens tend to gather at night sometimes/often for no good.
2. We love this park. High school, middle, and elementary students use it daily. It is a safe and fun place for young people to engage in the outdoors.
3. We need to make Watson and Lakeshore a 4 way stop as it should be (everyone that lives in this area treats it as such already). There also needs to be speed bumps from at least Southshore to Watson to help slow traffic around the park.
4. My husband and I have lived in Scudder park for 10 years. We love how the park has developed over the the time we have lived here. We both agree that adding a ramada is not beneficial and will not be used. When families meet at the park with their children they use the existing tables or are hanging out at the park watching their kids play.
5. Adding restrooms would be nice
6. We would like to see a splash pad or other Ramada's that are not so close to the playground
7. Have not met the park staff
8. Restrooms would be nice to have.
9. The addition of the new playground is wonderful. Families are back using Scudder park. Continue to invest taxpayer funds wisely.
10. Again, as stated above, additional swings in the 5-12 year age range would be greatly appreciated.
11. The park gives people of all ages enjoyment of the fresh air and greenery. It has open space for physical activities and some tables and grills. Building concrete structures or the other things on the list would narrow the participation of most neighbors who now use it. Kiwanis Park is a mile away and would be better for all of those amenities listed above. However, a walking/fitness trail would be good because dog walkers mostly use the sidewalks with their dogs and walkers have to step onto the bike lane on the street to get around.
12. The park is much better with the addition of the playground equipment. My grandchildren love it! My husband and I would love to have a walking/ fitness trail! This way, the Park would be much more useful for us.
13. Love the trees and the meadow like setting of Scudder. Whatever complement and improves on that feature up
14. I like the Ramada by the parking area - less walking to bring supplies.
15. I love the new playground put in a couple of years ago!
16. I would like to see the dead saplings replaced.
17. The new addition of trees in the last couple of years was great. Many kids love climbing the one tree near the Rover side of the park. More trees would always be welcome! Especially ones that are climbable!
18. Staff excellent presentation of materials etc. for surveys.
19. for your consideration- the single sidewalk leading from Lakeshore to Rover is difficult to navigate on school days. My kids ride their bikes to school and with the single narrow sidewalk it's hard to get around pedestrians (the bike locker is right next to Scudder Park, and approaching from the south is a non-starter because of the car traffic). It would be great to see any future changes to

Scudder Park incorporate multiple options for walking paths so that kids on bikes could easily ride around walkers. This is one reason I support the ramada location B. I think location A would just add congestion to that area.
 20. More trees around the perimeter of the park is always a nice addition.

9. The following question is voluntary. If you choose to respond, please mark all that apply:



10. How did you find out about the Scudder Park project?



Other:

- Friend
- Friend
- Neighbor
- Friend
- Friend
- postcard AND park sign
- Friend
- Neighbor

Total responses: 61

IV. Email

1. Oct. 20, 2021 - I Do Not support the proposed improvement to Scudder. You are proposing to spend \$50,000 for a concrete slab, concrete or metal supports, and a metal roof. In the summer, that is a Radiator. I thought we were all striving for a more climate friendly city in Tempe. Why not spend the money to turn this very small gem of a park in our neighborhood into a cool Oasis with sustainable trees? It is so small, it could be an example of what can be done on a larger scale. We have a world class university in our town. Give the project design to them as a student challenge. We have certainly done that before. See Tempe Town Lake. But whatever you do, please No More Concrete. Now or in the future. We CAN do better if we try.