



## Pierce County Parks Sprinker Recreation Center Site Improvements Project

### Workshop 1: Outreach Summary

#### Overview

Pierce County Parks is developing design concepts for proposed improvements to Sprinker Recreation Center. To gauge public priorities and solicit feedback, Pierce County Parks hosted a workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Sprinker Recreation Center (14824 C St S, Tacoma). Materials from the in-person workshop are also available on the project's online participation site ([www.piercecountywa.gov/sprinkerupdate](http://www.piercecountywa.gov/sprinkerupdate)), including an online survey that was open for additional community input through Jan. 15, 2020.

The in-person workshop included informational boards arranged around the room, a table for children's activities, and light refreshments. Attendees could view the boards, ask questions of the project team, and provide feedback via conversations with staff or directly on the boards. The project team led a discussion with a group of attendees seated around a table, describing the proposed improvements and inviting feedback from participants. Several attendees also completed the online survey on an iPad at the meeting.



#### Participation

The workshop drew 12 attendees. Six attendees sat around a table with project team members for a group discussion. Three adult attendees accompanied by three children walked through the display boards and engaged project team members in one-on-one conversations. Six attendees signed up for email updates about the project.

## **Notifications**

People were notified about the workshop and project website in the following ways:

- Announcements on several Pierce County Parks websites
- Mailer sent to 4,000 residences within three miles of Sprinker Recreation Center
- Two banners and several posters on site at Sprinker Recreation Center
- Emails to approximately 650 contacts from the ActiveNet listserv (previous Sprinker event participants) and interested parties
- Emails to key stakeholders and flyers emailed to all Pierce County Parks Regional Managers, the East Side Community Center, and two local libraries (Parkland/Spanaway and Summit)
- Pierce County Parks Facebook posts the week before the workshop (reaching 850 people with 55 engagements and three shares) and the week of the meeting (reaching 5,164 people with 84 engagements and seven shares)
- Posts on community Facebook groups the week before the open house, including Midland Matters, Summit-Waller, North Clover Creek Collins, Parkland Bulletin Board, and Being Neighborly - Parkland
- Listings in the community calendars of the Tacoma News Tribune and Suburban Times
- Press releases published on the Pierce County News website and Suburban Times online newspaper
- Project team attendance at the Franklin Pierce Community Summit on Oct. 3, where they shared design concepts and handed out invites to the workshop
- Sign-up sheet placed in the Sprinker Control Room, with an invitation to receive email updates.

## **Summary of community feedback from the in-person workshop**

### **Current use and existing outdoor recreational facilities**

Attendees had varying levels of previous experience at Sprinker Recreation Center, including playing tennis recreationally and through leagues, playing organized softball, using the basketball courts, walking through Bresemann Forest, skating on the indoor ice rink, and attending community events like “Junk in the Trunk” and the food truck festival.

Regarding the existing outdoor facilities, attendees expressed several concerns, including concern about safety issues in Bresemann Forest, a sense that there is not enough parking for events and tournaments, concern that the existing basketball courts are located too far back on the site, and a sense that the existing tennis courts are underutilized. Attendees also felt that the fencing around the site is unwelcoming and that the site is generally aesthetically unappealing.

### **Proposed improvements**

About the proposed improvements to outdoor facilities at Sprinker, attendees shared the following feedback:

- Comment from a passerby: Would love to have well-defined walking loops. Some parents come with their kids to their practices and end up waiting for three or more hours, which is a very long time with nothing to do. Walking is the preferred activity.
- Support for the all-weather turf fields, with the caveat of questioning how this would impact events like “Junk in the Trunk,” since cars would not be allowed to park on turf
- Enthusiasm for the spray park, thinking it would draw many families
  - Attendees strongly felt the spray park should be located at Sprinker (question posed by staff). It would help to diversify the outdoor programming, as well as become an attraction. Attendees recommended the spray park be visible from the street to draw people in and that it should be located adjacent to a playground.
  - Attendees suggested that the spray park should be protected from errant baseballs from nearby ballfields
- Adamant support for protecting the osprey nests on the site. People love the ospreys and enjoy observing them.
- Interest in facilities and programming that serve all ages, from kids to seniors. Ideas for facilities that would interest seniors included a horseshoe pit, shuffleboard, and pickleball, and bingo
- Recurring call for more programming to make use of existing and future facilities
  - Attendees expressed an interest in Pierce County Parks developing partnerships for programming to host large tennis and softball tournaments for kids and adults
- Call for more spectator seating and parking to support tournaments; concern that there would not be enough parking for tournaments and events
- General enthusiasm about the proposed improvements, with the sentiment that Sprinker is already a one-of-a-kind community asset and has the potential to draw many more people with improved facilities and programming
- Call for more picnic tables and shelters. The idea of the park as a one-stop destination, with available amenities for all members of the family (playground, spray park, picnic, sports) is highly appealing.

When asked if the proposed improvements were missing any facilities that the community would like to see, attendees expressed interest in:

- Interpretive signage that would provide historical, cultural, and ecological background information about the Sprinker site.
  - Attendees noted the following historical information about the site:
    - A mine was once considered to be built in the Sprinker area
    - There used to be a trolley and Old Betsy the Steam Engine ran through the site
    - A destination on the Oregon Trail is nearby
- Additional parking, including at the north end of the site and at properties east of the existing site
- Safety improvements to Bresemann Forest
- A strong pedestrian connection from Military Rd and Pacific Ave to Sprinker

## Other

To advertise the facilities and programming at Sprinker, attendees suggested:

- More eye-catching signage on the building exterior, rebrand the recreation center and ice rink with a catchier recognizable name
- Signage on the highway, directing people to Sprinker
- Fliers for take-home packets at local elementary schools
- Have larger, grander entrances to the parking lot

Though not part of this planning effort, attendees expressed interest in improvements to the *indoor* facilities at Sprinker and requested more information about Pierce County Parks' indoor renovation plans when available.

## Summary of community feedback from the online survey

The online survey was open from Oct. 7, 2019, to Jan. 15, 2020. Forty-four people provided responses, of which 25 people completed the survey in entirety.

See Appendix A for the full response report from the online survey.

### Key takeaways from the survey responses include:

- Regarding existing facilities, respondents expressed concern about safety and lack of lighting, as well as lack of seating, tables, and covered areas (especially for spectators of ballfield games). Respondents also expressed interest in year-round bathrooms and more parking spots that are accessible.
- Of the proposed elements, respondents expressed most interest in walking trails, flexible event space, open lawn/field areas, picnic areas, and a spray park.
- Other elements that are important to respondents include shelters for picnic areas and a formal park entry that is inviting.
- Regarding the proposed changes, many respondents expressed concern for safety and/or tree preservation. Other respondents expressed concern about accessibility for people with limited mobility, as well as concerns about access to open field space.
- Outreach methods that directed the most respondents to the survey include Facebook, emails (from community groups and schools, followed by Parks), and online calendars.

The following provides a summary of responses per each survey question.

### Question 1: In an average year, how often do you use the outdoor recreational facilities at Sprinker Recreation Center?

- 38% of respondents answered “a few times a month”
- 28% of respondents answered “a few times a year”
- 22% answered “multiple times a week”

- 13% answered “almost never, or I’ve never been to Sprinker”

**Question 2: What's the primary reason you don't use the outdoor facilities at Sprinker more often?**

- Answers varied, with common responses including not being interested in current activities offered and not knowing what programs are offered.

**Question 3: Which outdoor facilities at Sprinker do you currently use most often? (Select all that apply)**

- Many respondents reported using the back field located behind the fenced ball field. Others reported using the play area, climbing rocks, and baseball or softball fields. A few use the hiking trails in Bresemann Forest.

**Question 4: Pierce County Parks regularly hosts outdoor community events at Sprinker (for example, annual car show, food truck festival.) List any outdoor events you have attended at Sprinker or would like to attend in the future.**

- Respondents reported attending the food truck festival, car show, fantasy live action role-playing games (LARP), carnival, and swap meets/Junk in the Trunk events. Others noted attending skate day and roller derby events, however, these would have occurred inside the Sprinker Recreation Center facilities.

**Question 5: Do you have comments or concerns about any of Sprinker's existing outdoor recreational facilities or events?**

- Respondents expressed concern about safety and lack of lighting, as well as lack of seating, tables, and covered areas (especially for spectators of ballfield games). Respondents also expressed interest in year-round bathrooms and more parking spots that are accessible.

**Questions 6: Of the proposed program elements, which are the most important to you?**

- Fifty percent of respondents ( $n = 12$ ) reported that walking trails are the most important to them.
- Approximately 38% of respondents reported that each of the following elements are most important to them, respectively: flexible event space, open lawn areas, picnic areas, and a spray park
- Approximately 21% of respondents reported that the playground is most important to them, and 17% reported that public art is most important.

**Question 7: Share comments about your favorite program elements.**

- Program elements that were commonly selected by respondents as their favorites included the spray park, walking trails, open field areas (especially for LARP-ing), picnic areas (many expressed interest in covered picnic areas), and a formal park entry that is inviting.

**Question 8: Are there any outdoor recreational facilities we've missed that you'd like to see?**

Responses included the following facilities:

- Covered area for the back field, plus improvement to the rocky surface on the back field
- Swimming pool
- Off-leash dog park
- Batting cages
- Archery range
- Mountain bike trail
- Racquetball court
- Skate park

**Question 9: What concerns, if any, do you have about the proposed changes to Sprinker's outdoor facilities?**

- A majority of respondents expressed concern for safety/security and/or tree preservation. Other respondents expressed concern about accessibility for people with limited mobility, as well as concerns about access to open field space.

**Demographic summary**

Most people who completed the survey self-identify as white, between the ages of 35 and 44, and report speaking English at home.

**Next steps**

The public can follow along with the project on the project website, at [www.piercecountywa.gov/sprinkerupdate](http://www.piercecountywa.gov/sprinkerupdate). The project team will solicit additional feedback from the community as they develop design concepts and move toward a final design.

**Appendix A.**

Full response report from the online survey

# Report for Pierce County Parks | Sprinker Recreation Center Outdoor Improvements Project

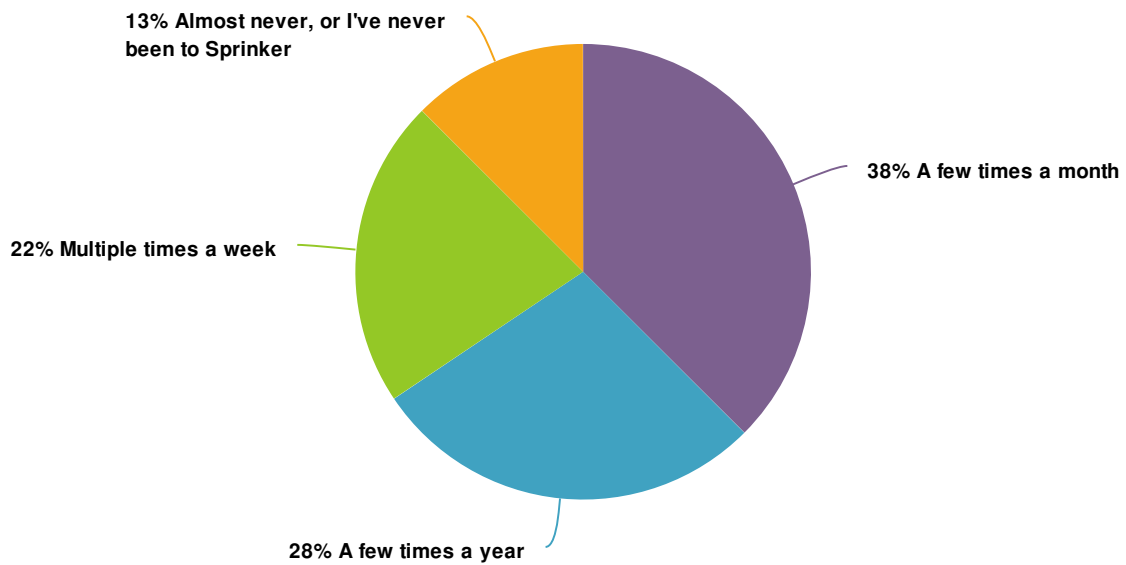
Response Counts







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Totals: 44

1. In an average year, how often do you use the outdoor recreational facilities at Sprinker Recreation Center? (Select one)

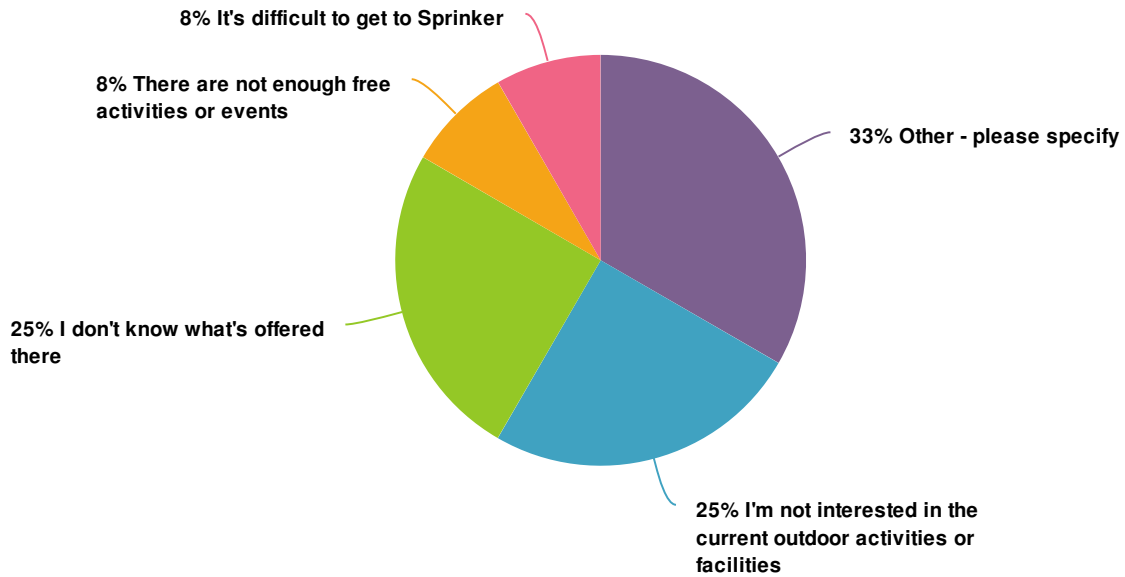


Value		Percent	Responses
A few times a month		37.5%	12
A few times a year		28.1%	9
Multiple times a week		21.9%	7
Almost never, or I've never been to Sprinker		12.5%	4

Totals: 32



2. What's the primary reason you don't use the outdoor facilities at Sprinker more often? (Select one)

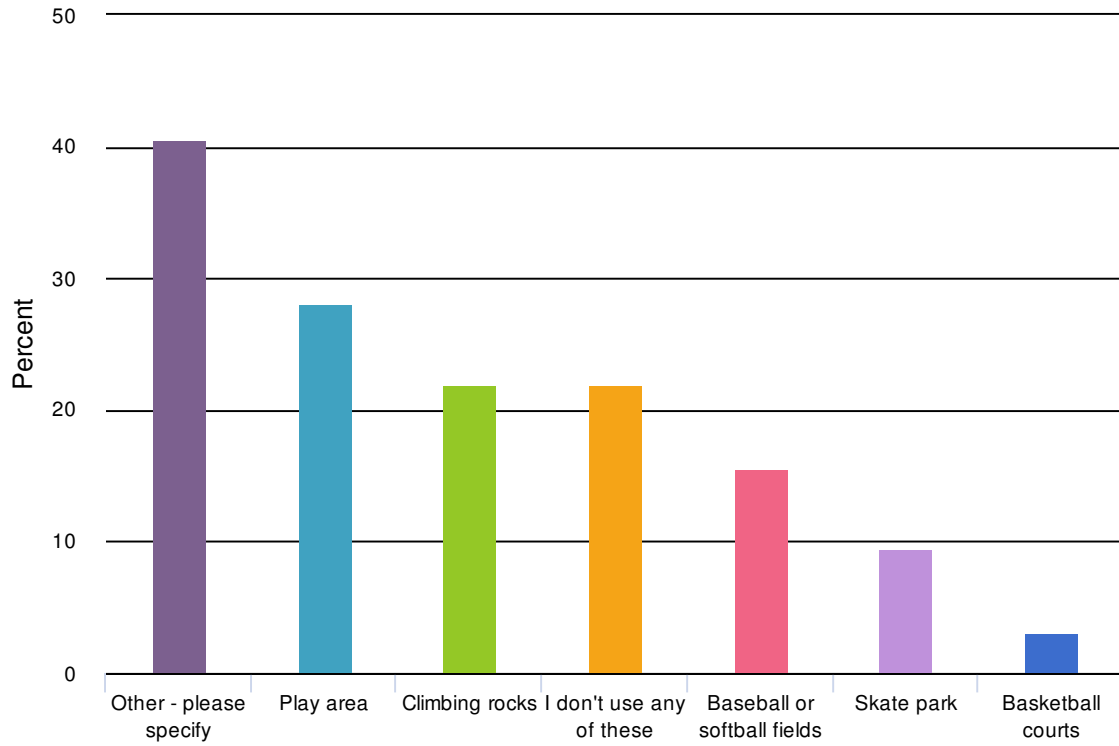









Value	Percent	Responses
Other - please specify	33.3%	4
I'm not interested in the current outdoor activities or facilities	25.0%	3
I don't know what's offered there	25.0%	3
There are not enough free activities or events	8.3%	1
It's difficult to get to Sprinker	8.3%	1

Totals: 12

Other - please specify	Count
Don't use sports features as much as I used to	1
Other facilities are closer	1
To many homeless and drug using teenagers	1
aging equipment, not a welcoming environment	1
Totals	4

3. Which outdoor facilities at Sprinker do you currently use most often? (Select all that apply)



Value		Percent	Responses
Other - please specify		40.6%	13
Play area		28.1%	9
Climbing rocks		21.9%	7
I don't use any of these		21.9%	7
Baseball or softball fields		15.6%	5
Skate park		9.4%	3
Basketball courts		3.1%	1

Other - please specify	Count
Back Field (behind fenced ball field)	2
Area behind the fields as part of Amtgard and the woods.	1
Back field	1
Hiking trails in the Bresman Forest: have used and walked these woods for over 25 years! Have participated in organised clean-ups and feel personally concerned over changes I have witnessed during the last 10 years.d over	1
Open field behind the baseball fields.	1
Parking lot	1
The field in the very back behind the baseball fields. (Amtgard)	1
The forest-field "small hill" area on the north-north-west edge	1
Trails in Bresemann Forest	1
field behind Baseball fields	1
junk in the trunk...food trucks...ice bumper cars	1
walking	1
Totals	13

4. Pierce County Parks regularly hosts outdoor community events at Sprinker (for example, annual car show, food truck festival.)List any outdoor events you have attended at Sprinker or would like to attend in the future.



ResponseID	Response
26	Mobile Food Fest Car Show
27	food truck, junk in the trunk
28	Car show
29	Ice shows and skating events
30	Wasn't aware before today interested in food truck festival or a movie in the park night. If there was a poo I would come.
31	Car show
33	Have attended-Car show, carnival, touch a truck.
34	Car Show, Food Truck Festival, Junk in you Trunk
35	Food Truck Festival, Junk in the Trunk
36	Car show Skate day/Roller Derby/Chicks'n'bowls
39	The ones I attend at sprinker arent community events but weekly larping with friends.
40	Food truck festival
41	Food truck festival

## ResponseID Response

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42	The "swap meet" and the "carnival".
43	I primarily go to the park to assist and to play games with Amtgard (LARP)
46	Amtgard, the fantasy LARP, every Sunday, for nearly 16 years.
49	Haven't been to sprinkler in years.
50	I go to those foam-sword fighting things sometimes. Very fun!
52	Food Trucks, Junk in trunk.
53	Food Truck Festival
56	Car show, ice skating
58	Car show, food truck festival, junk in the trunk
59	Classic Cars show, Summer musical presentation of reggae band (event name unknown), Hydro races (again, exact reference unknown), are a few that we attended in the summer season of '19. Would love to see/hear more musical events, of ANY genre! Bring on the classical strings and let us spend regular evenings listening to Bach & deBussy in the park!
61	Food truck festivals, farmers markets, flea markets, music

5. Do you have comments or concerns about any of Sprinker's existing outdoor recreational facilities or events?



**ResponseID    Response**

26                    While the parking is good, there aren't really good seating and relaxing areas for the events. Why aren't those in the park next door?

27                    no...i like the food truck being in the fence area now

29                    Yes; they are old and outdated

30                    The climbing wall and skate park should stay. Maybe revamp, but don't eliminate.

31                    No

33                    No

34                    NA

35                    Would love more lights on walkways and parking area. I felt very uncomfortable walking to my car in the dark after softball games.

37                    A covered area in the backfield would be great! As well as year-round bathrooms.

38                    A covered area in the backfield would be great! As well as year-round bathrooms.

42                    Not at this time.

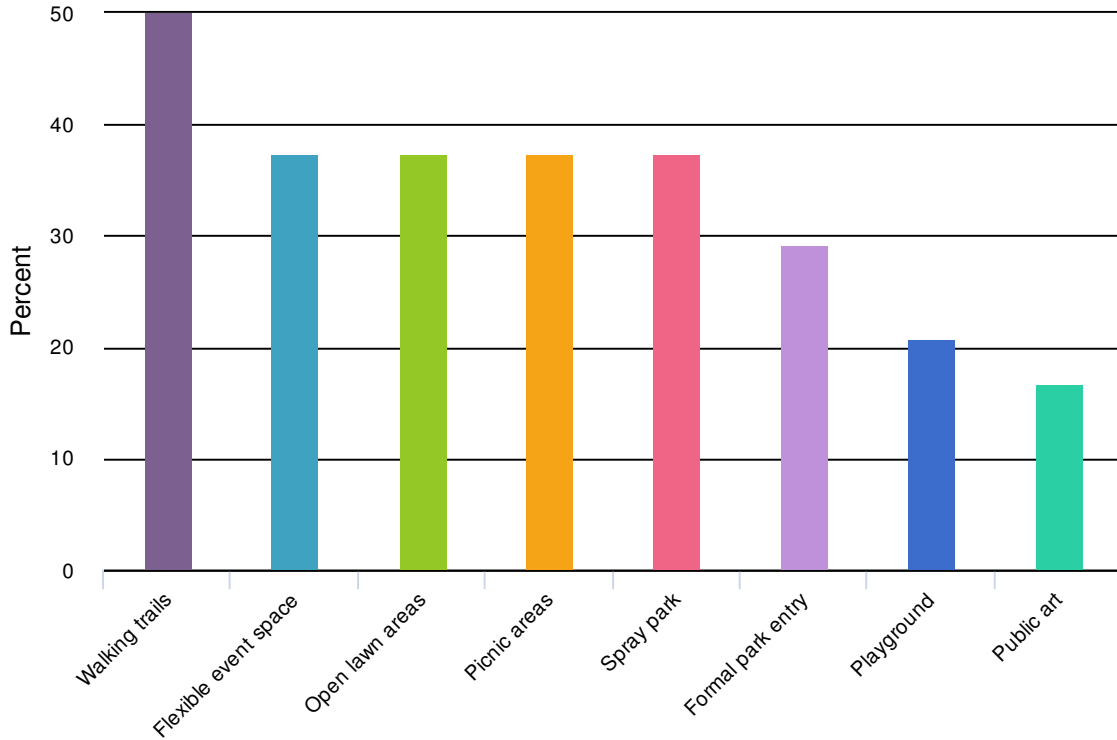
43                    It is such a long walk to the restrooms from the back field. and there is not any picnic areas back there to easily use.. we have to bring our own tables, etc.







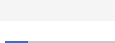
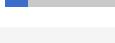
## ResponseID Response

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- 46 There is a complete lack of seating/tables in the back field. We have been using this park for years, and when it's rain and ugly, we still come. Having a covered area, and some seating/tables would make the place much more useful to our group.
- 52 Need to keep the homeless out of the parks and woods.
- 53 No
- 54 The reason I don't take my family is the audience you attract. Too many pot smoking teenagers and other use of drugs. Too many homeless people on and around grounds. Not appealing to me and my family and friends
- 57 Just making sure there are enough parking spots and better access in and out while driving
- 59 VERY CONCERNED: re: trail blockages marked "Closed for restoration"! These that have been closed are the most indigineous (sic?) areas of the woods. RESTORATION FOR WHAT??? Really seems arbitrary to me...suspiciously close to private homeowner's property that have caused problems before. Have they been shown "special considerations"?
- 61 It seems unfriendly and run-down. Why is there such a long, ugly fence? Not comfortable with the homeless folks who park there or camp in the woods.

6. Of the proposed program elements, which are the most important to you? (Select up to three)



Value		Percent	Responses
Walking trails		50.0%	12
Flexible event space		37.5%	9
Open lawn areas		37.5%	9
Picnic areas		37.5%	9
Spray park		37.5%	9
Formal park entry		29.2%	7
Playground		20.8%	5
Public art		16.7%	4



7. Share comments about your favorite program elements.



## ResponseID Response

30	I like the idea of a spray park and even pool. Picnic areas by playground or by forest would be nice for a fair weather get away. I also do like the idea of bringing in art and a cooler entrance. I was a stay at home for 4 years and we loved finding "fun" parks to spend the day with mommies and kiddos. This is currently not one of them, but has definite potential.
33	Spray park and opening central plaza
34	I think a formal park entry is a great idea and will be welcoming, also the walking trails will a great addition in conjunction with the Bresemann forest trails.
37	I am part of the Amtgard group that uses your park 2x a week (Fri and Sun), having that open area for battle games has been great as we have used Sprinker weekly since 1990.
38	I am part of the Amtgard group (LARP) that has been using Sprinker weekly since 1990. We love the size of the backfield and having access to the extensive trails.
42	For the picnic areas, having permanent shelters would be very helpful, especially considering the amount of rain and inclement weather that we have in the area. Also, and back field behind the baseball fields, if there was the possibility of having a covered area, that would be truly nice.
43	I like how the area is inviting to most.. but the walk is so far
52	I enjoy playing softball in my backdoor. Its a great time to get away from all the daily stress and go play ball with friends and also meet new friends.
54	I would love to use the walking trails with my family and pets
57	There needs to be more walking for families to take an afternoon stroll. The splash pad should be large enough to accommodate the amount of people but not block any parking or access to other locations.
58	Love the spray park idea.
61	I walk for fitness, so more safe trails are my first vote.

8. Are there any outdoor recreational facilities we've missed that you'd like to see?



## ResponseID Response

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28 Mountain bike trails in Breseman forest

30 Pool! Racquetball court?

31 Archery range

33 Batting cages!

34 An off leash dog park, making Bresemann forest more welcoming, removing trash and graffiti in Bresemann forest and at the Sprinker Rec center area (including the climbing rock). Also adding more trash cans.

37 The backfield is rocky and needs a covered area.

38 The backfield is rocky and needs a covered area.

40 Shelter for the back field that we use minimum twice a week as a group that has been at your park for a long time

42 The back Field behind the baseball fields. The ground is quite rocky, is there is no covered area. Those two items be really nice to be addressed and possibly taking care of. (The 60-70 ppl that use it per month for Amtgard would be extremely grateful)

43 more picnic areas and easy access to restrooms from ALL of the park

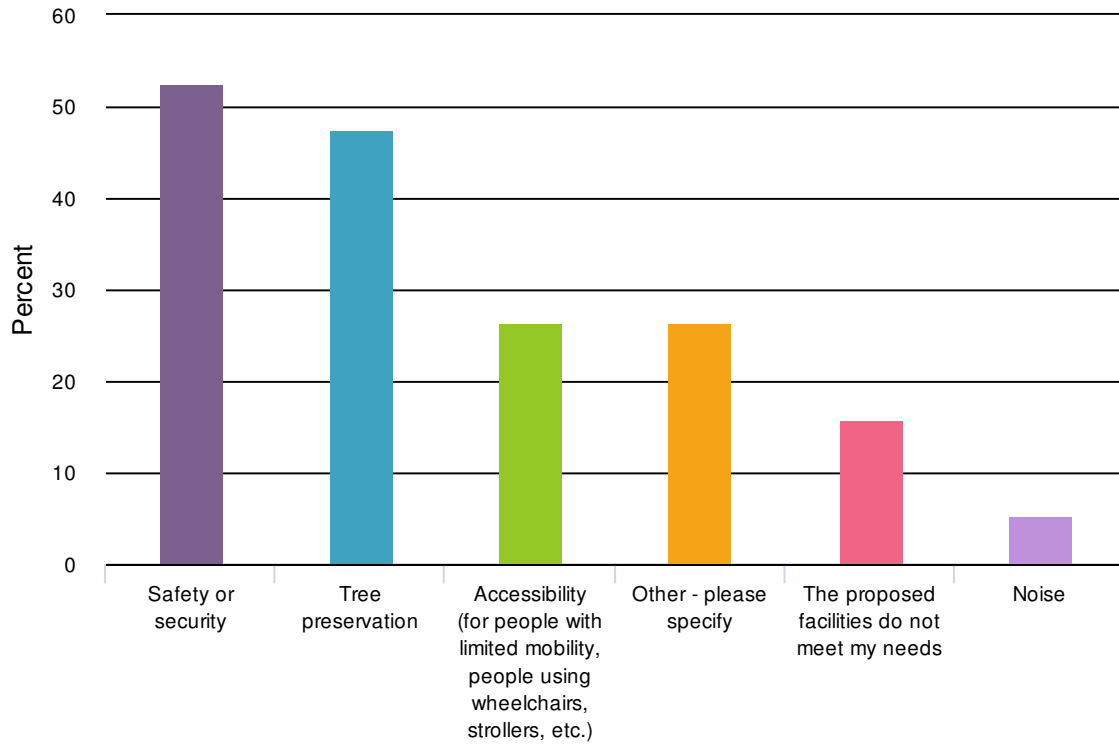
49 No

57 Fenced in skate park that allows for skateboarding or blade classes.

58 Swimming pool

61 No.

9. What concerns, if any, do you have about the proposed changes to Sprinker's outdoor facilities? (Check all that apply)



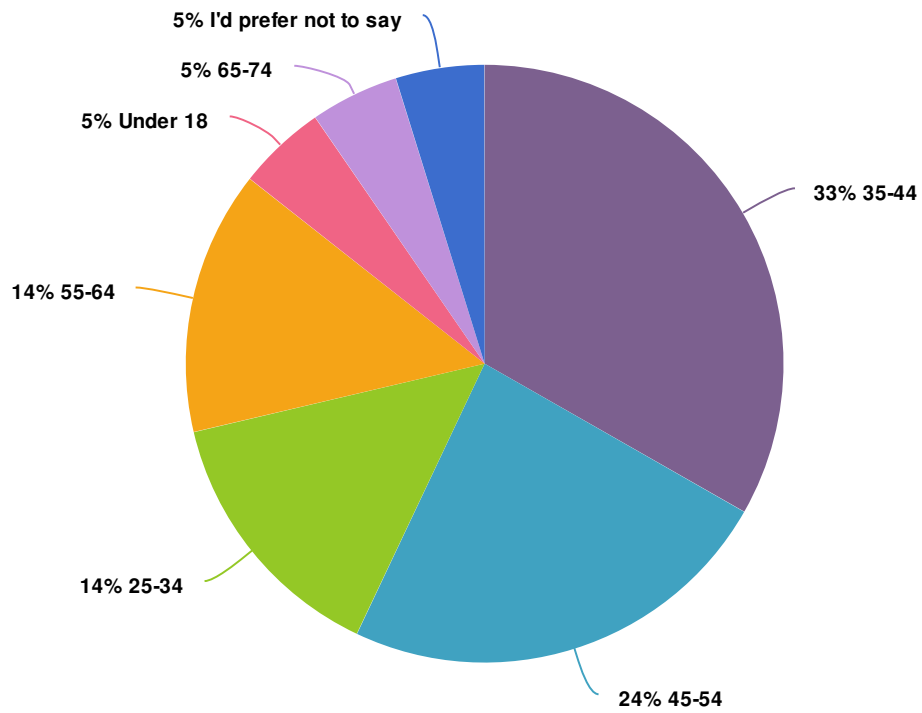
Value	Percent	Responses
Safety or security	52.6%	10
Tree preservation	47.4%	9
Accessibility (for people with limited mobility, people using wheelchairs, strollers, etc.)	26.3%	5
Other - please specify	26.3%	5
The proposed facilities do not meet my needs	15.8%	3
Noise	5.3%	1

Other - please specify	Count
Should be across the street	1
The usability for the Amtgard group which meets behind the baseball fields every sunday	1
There looks to not be enough space for us to continue meeting at Sprinker if the full plan for the back field goes thru.	1
W	1
Totals	4

## 10. What is your zip code?

ResponseID	Response
28	98335
29	98409
30	98406
31	98445
33	98387
35	98387
38	98524
40	98498
41	98372
42	98498
43	98408
49	98387
50	98502
52	98387
53	98338
54	98375
56	98597
57	98387
58	98387
61	98388

## 11. What is your age?

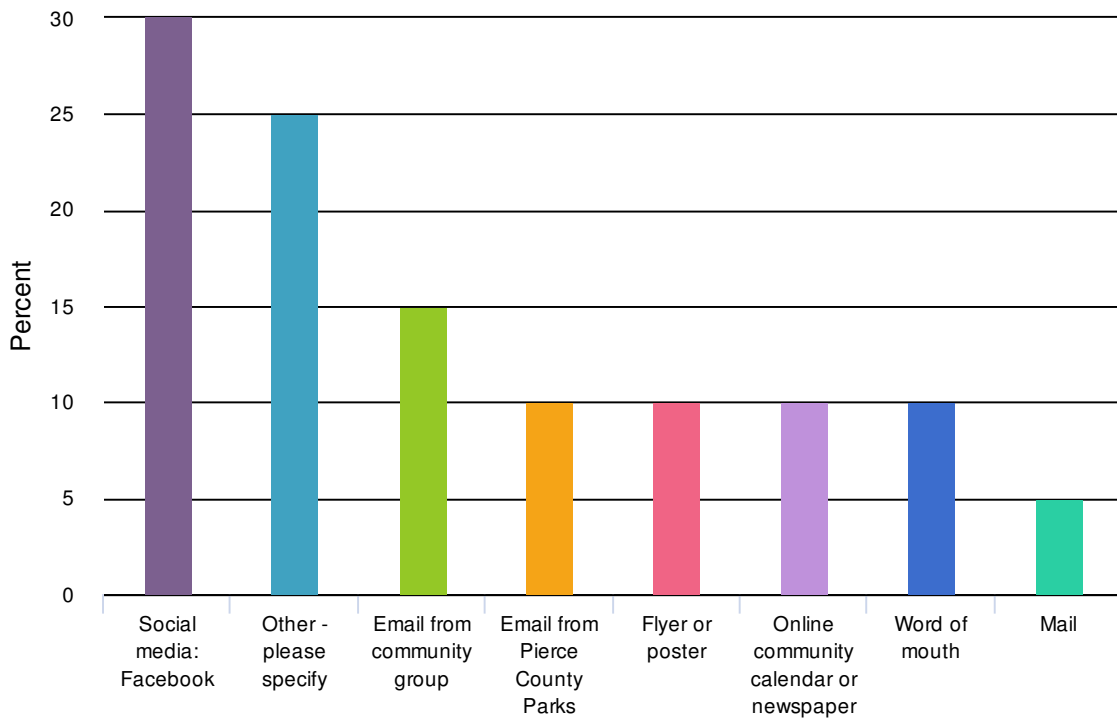


Value	Percent	Responses
35-44	33.3%	7
45-54	23.8%	5
25-34	14.3%	3
55-64	14.3%	3
Under 18	4.8%	1
65-74	4.8%	1
I'd prefer not to say	4.8%	1

Totals: 21



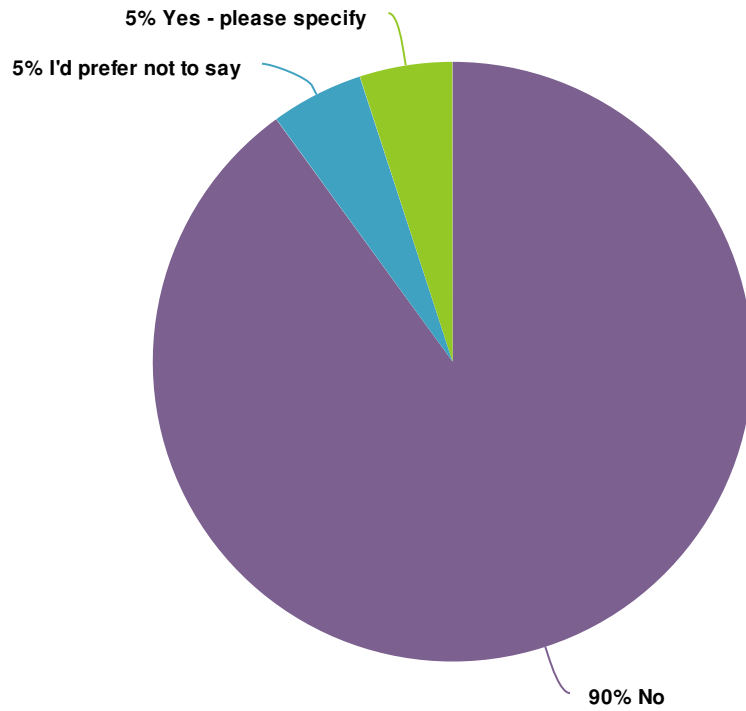
## 12. How did you hear about this survey? (Select all that apply)



Value	Percent	Responses
Social media: Facebook	30.0%	6
Other - please specify	25.0%	5
Email from community group	15.0%	3
Email from Pierce County Parks	10.0%	2
Flyer or poster	10.0%	2
Online community calendar or newspaper	10.0%	2
Word of mouth	10.0%	2
Mail	5.0%	1

<b>Other - please specify</b>	<b>Count</b>
Email from school principale	1
Principal Announcement	1
School	1
The person that is in charge of Amtgard group that uses the back Field behind the baseball fields shared the article with our Facebook group.	1
Totals	4

### 13. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

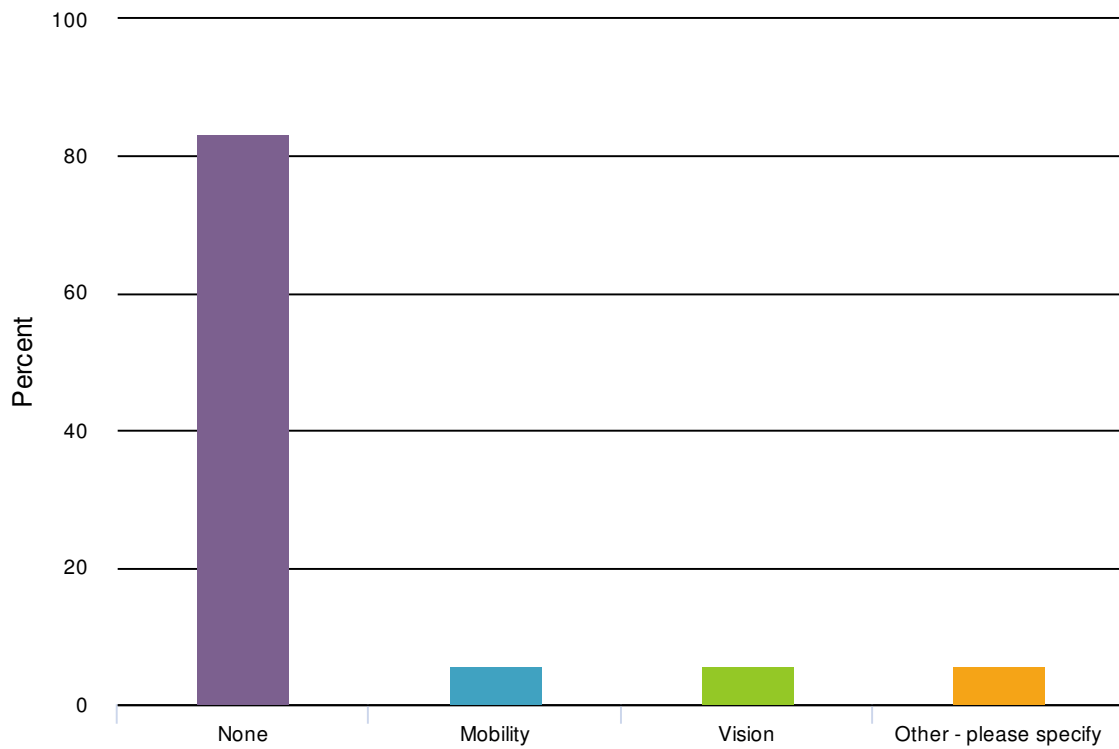



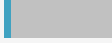


Value	Percent	Responses
No	90.0%	18
I'd prefer not to say	5.0%	1
Yes - please specify	5.0%	1

Totals: 20

Yes - please specify	Count
Korean	1
Totals	1

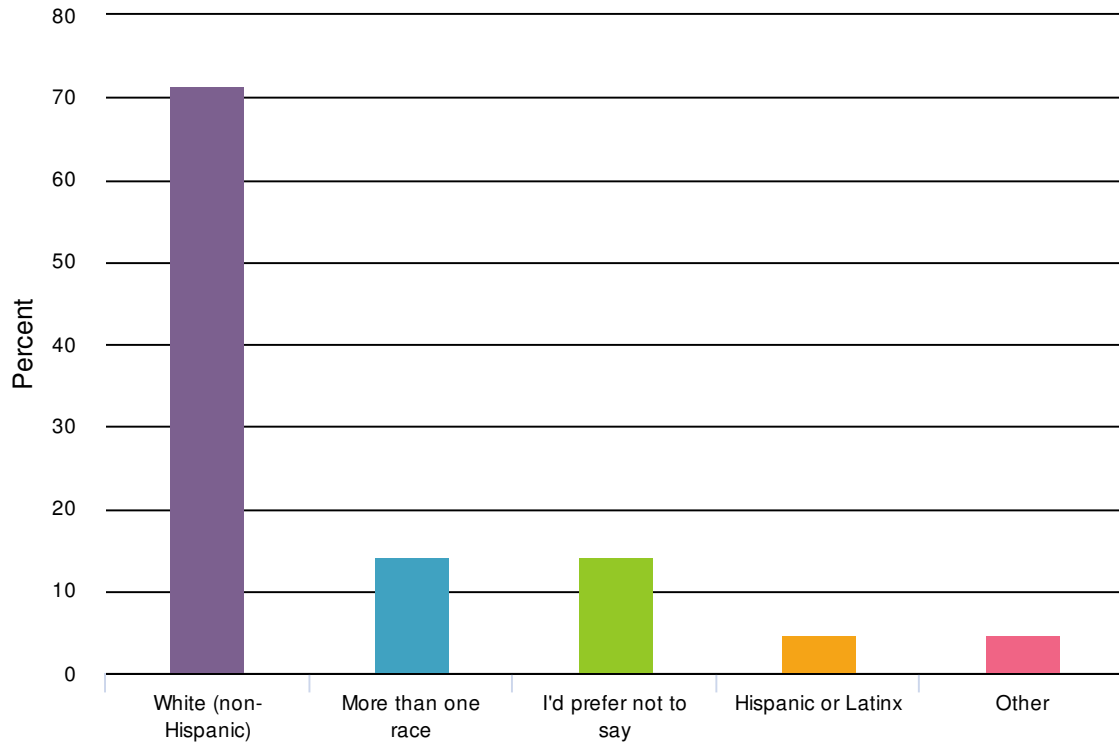
14. Would accommodations in any of the following areas make engaging on this project easier or more comfortable for you? Check all that apply or describe your needs.








Value		Percent	Responses
None		83.3%	15
Mobility		5.6%	1
Vision		5.6%	1
Other - please specify		5.6%	1

Other - please specify	Count
Less homeless people and less drug using teenagers and adults.	1
Totals	1

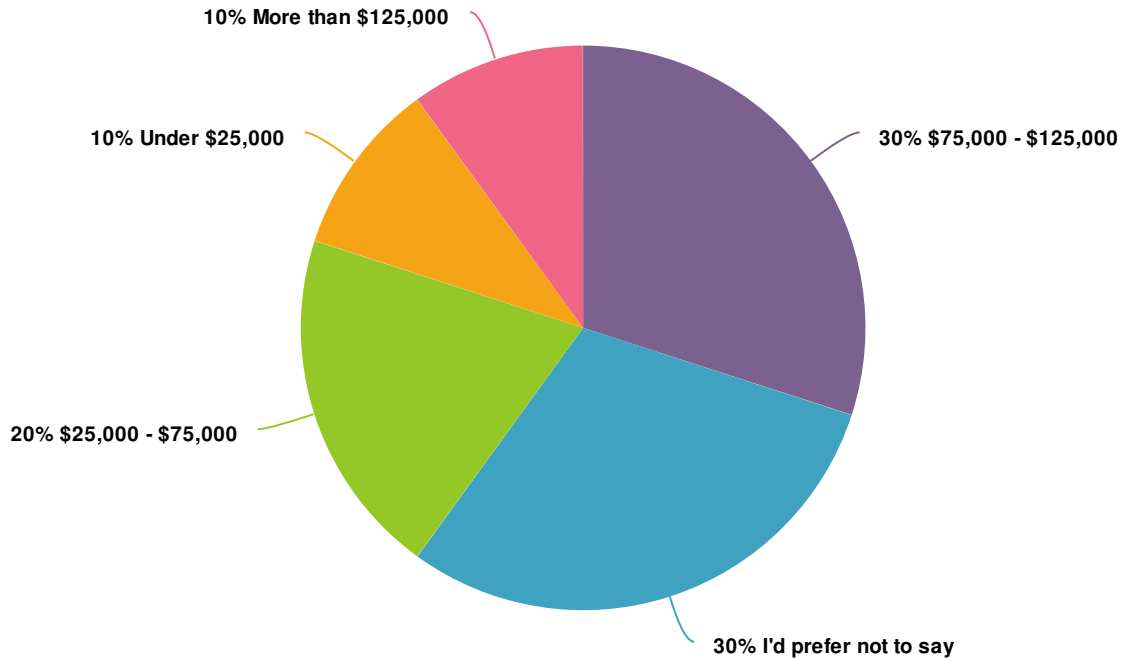
15. Which of the following best represents your racial or ethnic heritage? (Select all that apply)



Value		Percent	Responses
White (non-Hispanic)		71.4%	15
More than one race		14.3%	3
I'd prefer not to say		14.3%	3
Hispanic or Latinx		4.8%	1
Other		4.8%	1

### Statistics

## 16. What is your total annual household income?



Value		Percent	Responses
\$75,000 - \$125,000		30.0%	6
I'd prefer not to say		30.0%	6
\$25,000 - \$75,000		20.0%	4
Under \$25,000		10.0%	2
More than \$125,000		10.0%	2

Totals: 20