

MILWAUKIE PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: BALFOUR PARK

SUMMER 2022 OUTREACH SUMMARY



Prepared for

City of Milwaukie



Prepared by

JLA Public Involvement

August 2022

Introduction

For the second phase of the City of Milwaukie's Parks Engagement Project, the City conducted an online survey and in-person event for Balfour Park in July and August 2022. Participants could learn about the Balfour Park redesign project, provide input on the current master plan, and provide feedback on what they would like to see in the park. The event and online survey were bilingual in English and Spanish.

Overall Participation and Notification

The project team developed an **online survey** and hosted an **in-person event** to gather community feedback. The online survey was open from July 25 – August 8, 2022. There were **172 visitors** and **71 responses** to the online survey.

The in-person event, held on July 20th, was well attended with **62 participants signing-in**, and approximately 80 people in attendance. Those who participated could visit a series of stations to provide input. The City also received **49 written surveys** and **4 written comment cards**.

The online survey and written survey had similar questions. A **total of 120 people responded to the survey** either online or in written form.

Community members were informed about the event through the following:

- Mailers were sent to addresses within a ½ mile radius of the park. A total, 1,755 post cards were mailed and an additional 150 were distributed at the Ledding Library, Hillside Manor Housing Complex, and neighborhood businesses.
- Social Media posts to Facebook pages.
- An article in the local Pilot newspaper introducing the parks project.
- Posts on the project website.
- Text message was sent to all Hillside Manor residents through their internal communication system with the assistance of Clackamas County Housing Authority.



Feedback Themes

Several themes emerged from the online and in-person feedback. Most respondents would like to see **natural design elements** in the park (i.e., nature play and native plantings), as well as **picnic amenities** (shelters and tables), **walking paths**, and **preservation of/adding additional fruit trees**. Many people said that they would like to see a swing set in Balfour Park as well.

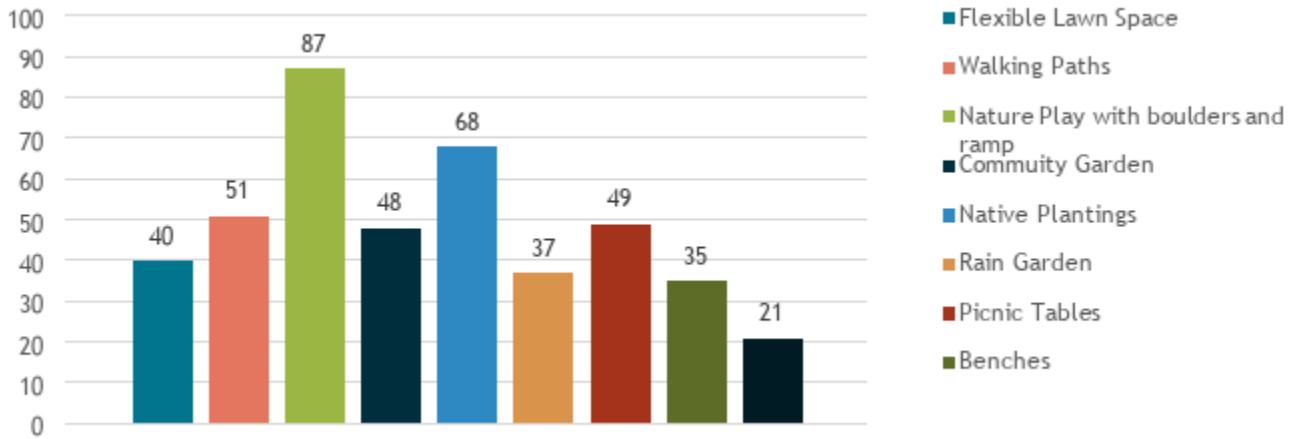
The addition of a splash pad was a popular write-in option that many participants supported.

Combined Online and In-Person Survey Responses

Participants were given the opportunity to answer a series of questions related to what they like about the current Balfour Park master plan, challenges they have when visiting the park, and desired improvements. Feedback from both the online survey and in-person event (which included a feedback form and interactive activities) has been combined and is summarized below.

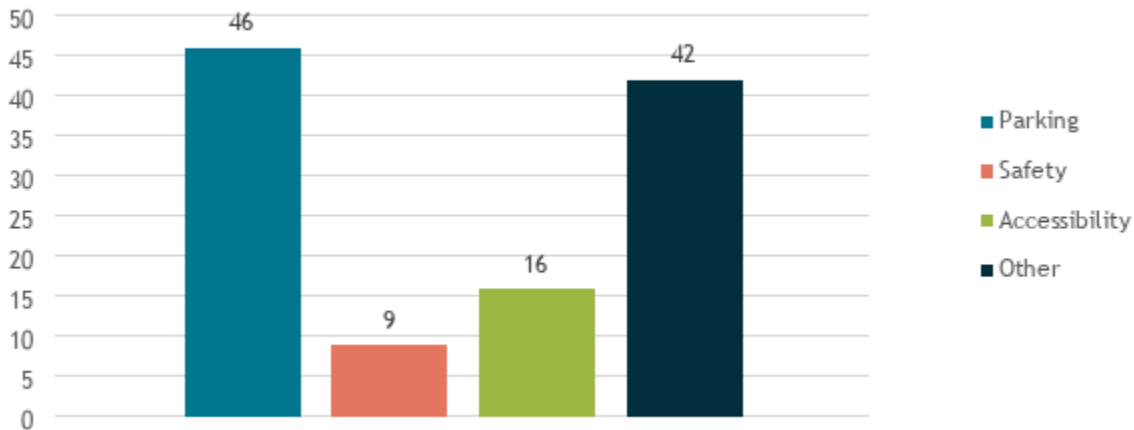
1. What do you like most about the current master plan?

The most selected elements were the **nature play area with boulders and a ramp (87)**, and **native plantings (68)**. Other favorites include walking paths, a community garden, and picnic tables.



2. Do you see any challenges to visiting the park once it is constructed?

Parking was indicated as the biggest challenge to accessing the park. Of those who responded as “other,” many said that **parking, bike racks, dog use, and transportation safety** getting to and from the park make it challenging to visit Balfour Park.

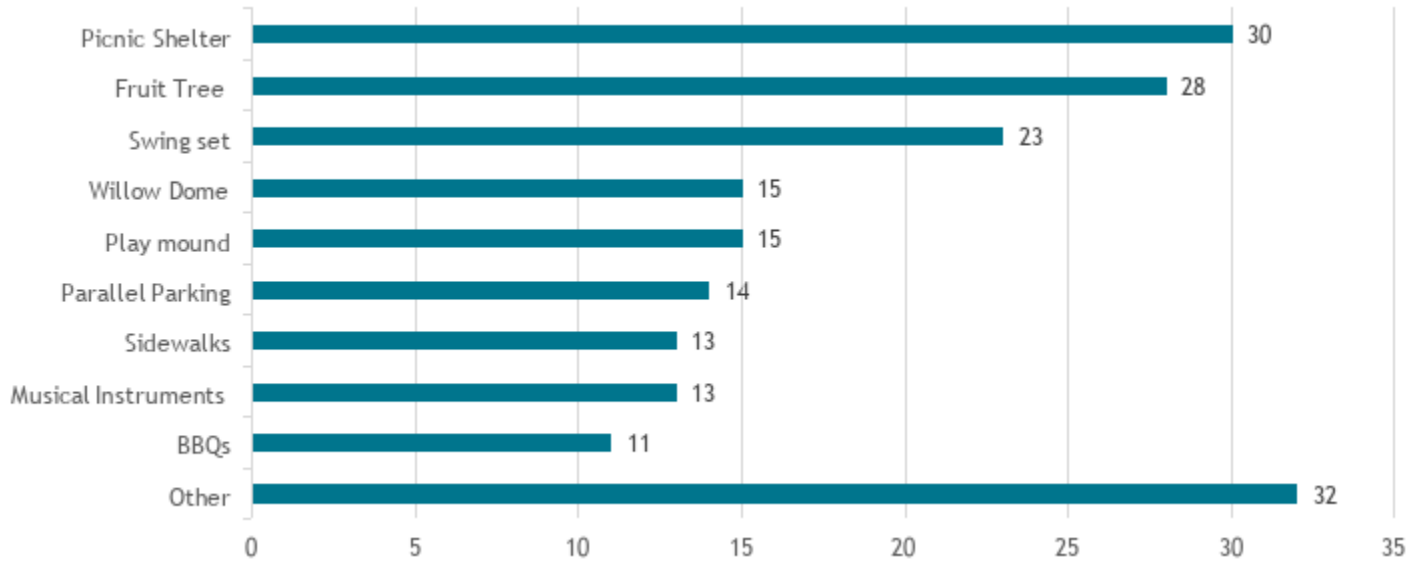


3. There is an opportunity to refresh the design, what do you want to see added to the design?

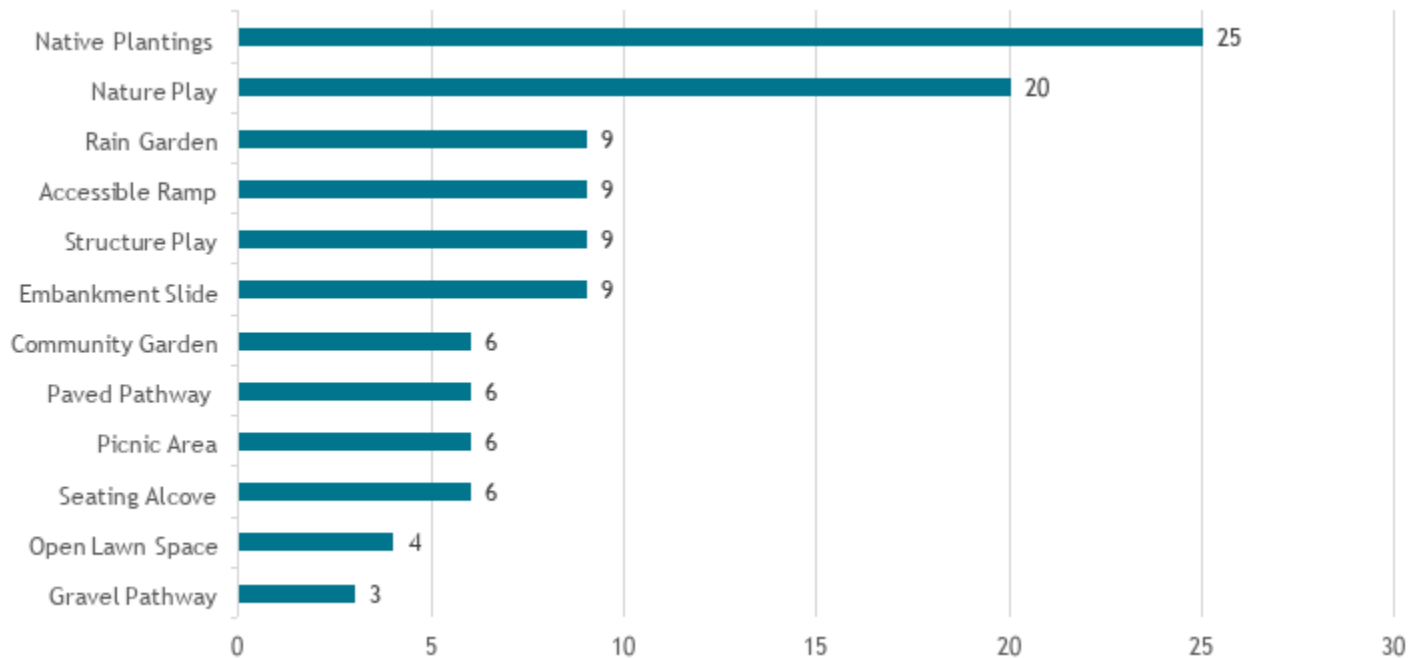
The most requested additional park elements were a **picnic shelter (30)**, **fruit trees (28)**, and **native plantings (25)**, followed by a **swing set** and **nature play**.

Of those who responded as “other,” a **splash pad** and a **covered community space** were most popular.

**These items were available for selection on the written survey and online.*



These items were offered only in the online version of the survey. Even so, **Native Plantings and **Nature Play** received a substantial number of selections.*

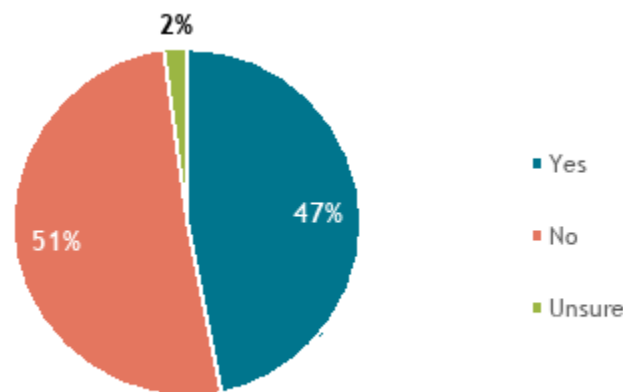


4. Is there anything else we should consider for the Balfour Park Design?

Participants had many ideas about how they would like the new park to look and feel, with many expressing excitement for a new park. Emphasis in these comments was placed on **protecting natural elements**, especially the existing trees. Participants also expressed desire for a **splash pad**. Several participants mentioned that they would like to **bring their dogs to the park**; however, respondents were divided on whether they wanted an off-leash or on-leash only option.

5. Have you participated in Milwaukie planning events before? (i.e., surveys, online or in-person open house, etc.)

A little more than half of respondents said that they had not participated in Milwaukie planning events before.



Dots Activity (What are your favorite elements?) *In-person only*

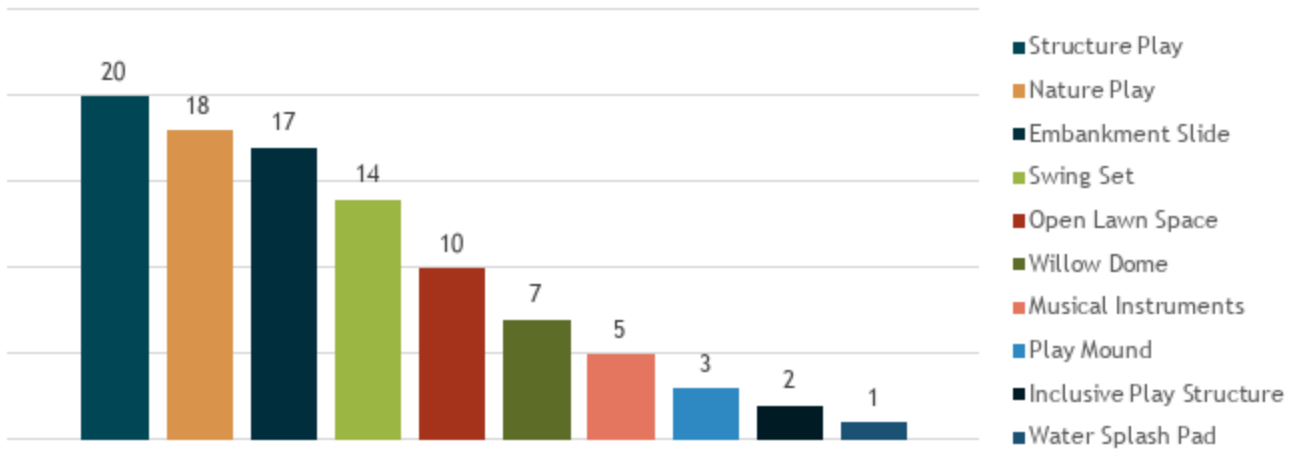
The in-person event also offered an activity for people to express their preferences. Each participant was given three dots to indicate their preferred elements in the park design. This covered some pieces from the current Master Plan and some of the items in the design refresh list above.

The feedback gathered from this activity reflected similar priorities as survey questions #1 and #2 above. The most popular elements were **picnic facilities (a shelter or area)**, **structure play** and **nature play**, **native plantings**, and walkways (with **paved pathways** being preferred to gravel or concrete). One difference between the survey responses and this dot exercise was that structure play was more preferred than nature play.

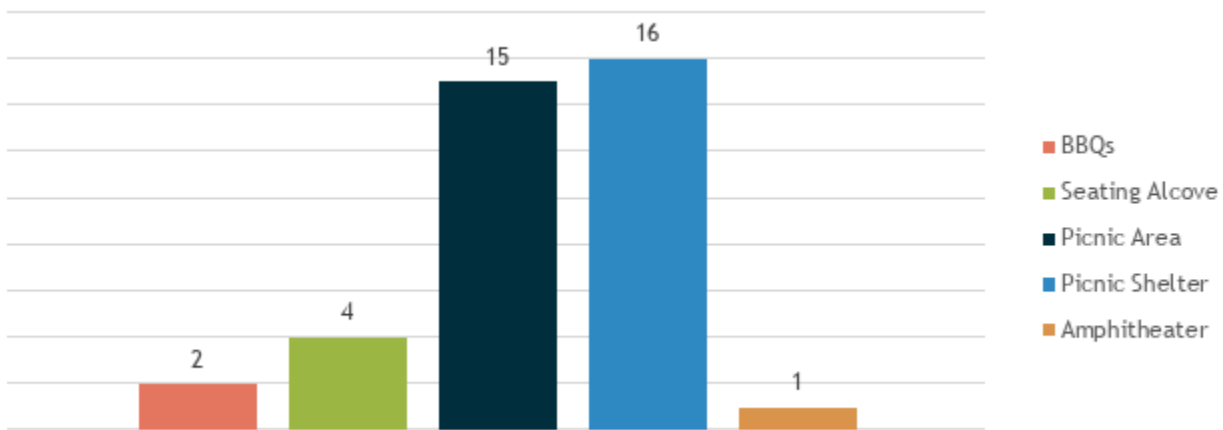
The top three elements for each category are as follows:

Play elements: Structure play (20), nature play (18), and embankment slide (17)

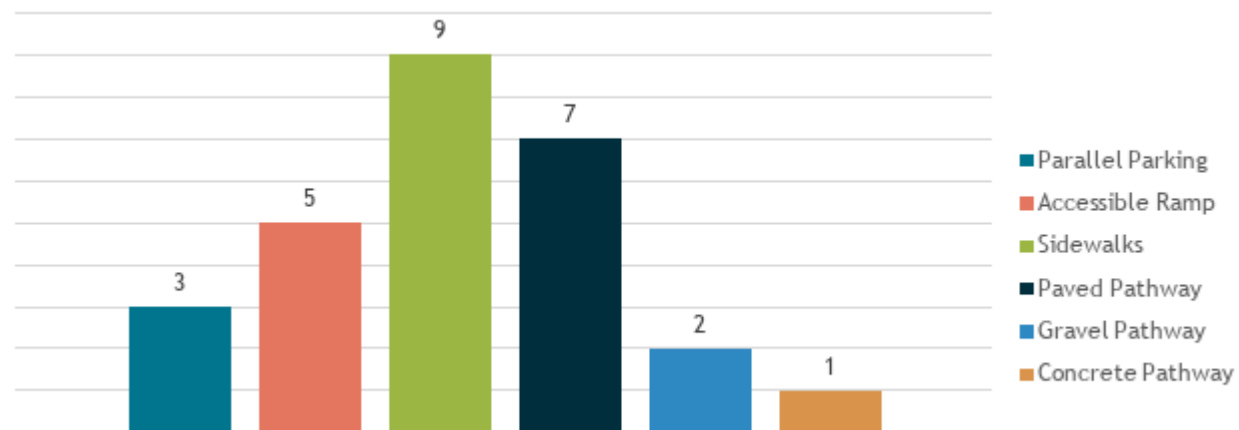




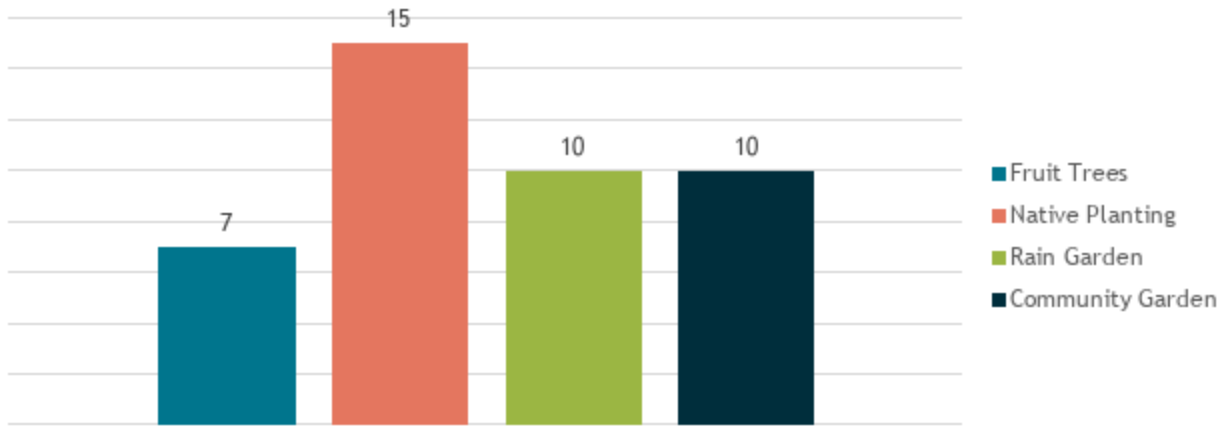
Gathering elements: Picnic shelters (16), picnic area (15), and seating alcove (4)



Circulation and access: Sidewalks (9), paved pathway (7), accessible ramp (5)



Planting and improvements: Native planting (15), rain garden (10), community garden (10)

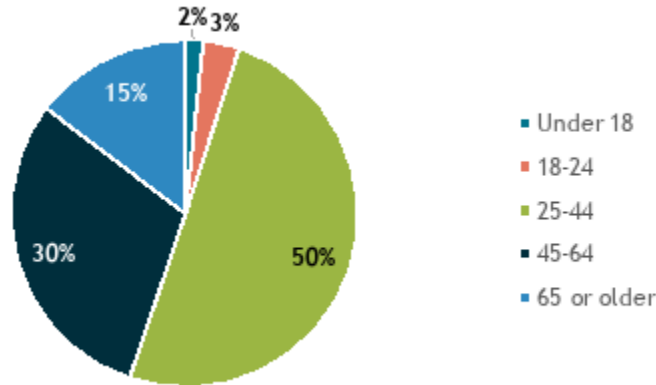


DEMOGRAPHICS INFORMATION

There were optional demographic questions on both the written and online surveys. Below are the results from those who provided answers to these questions.

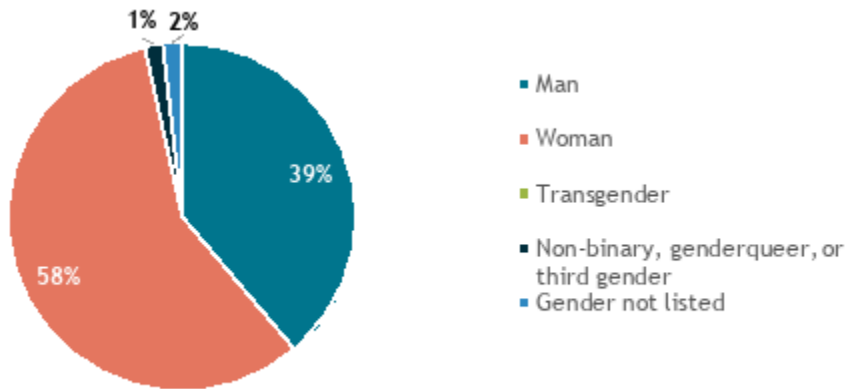
Age

The majority of participants were in the age range **25 to 44 (51%)**, followed by the **45 to 64-year-olds (31%)**. The under 18 and 65 or older age demographics were underrepresented in survey participation compared to the city rates.



Gender

The majority of the participants identified as women (58%) and a little more than a third (39%) identified as men.

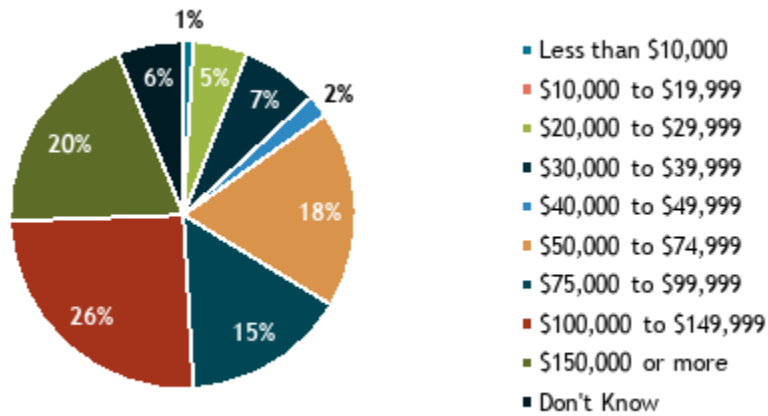


Race/Ethnicity

The majority of respondents (104) indicated that they identify as white. There were five (5) Black or African American respondents, one (1) Asian or Asian American, one (1) Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native, and four (4) said their race was not listed. City of Milwaukie has a Hispanic population of 10% (higher in schools), this was not represented in the in participation.

Income

The majority of people responding have an annual income of **\$50,000 or more (79%)**, with 20% of those being over \$150,000. About 21% of respondents have a total annual household income below \$50,000 or don't know. This is substantially higher income rates than the City at 62% over \$50,000.

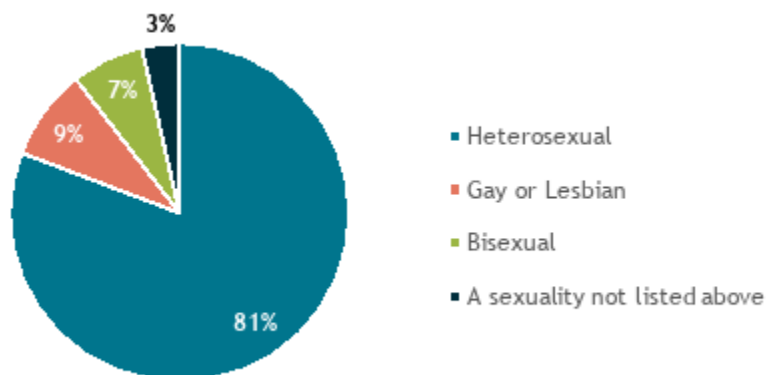


Language

Of those responding **100 people indicated English** as their primary language. 1 person indicated Russian, and 2 people said their language was not listed.

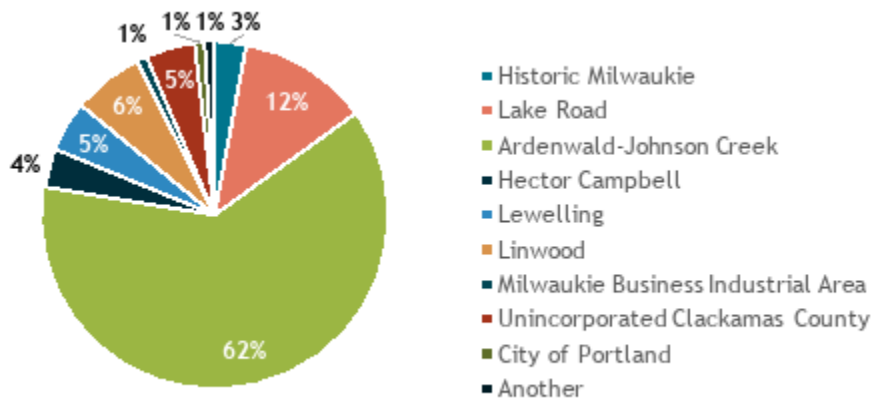
Sexual Orientation

Most respondents identify as **heterosexual (81%)**, with some identifying as gay or lesbian (9%), and bisexual (7%). *Note: This question was only asked in the online survey.*



Neighborhood

The majority of respondents indicated that they live or work in the **Ardenwald-Johnson Creek neighborhood (62%)**. Lake Road was another prominent area for participation.



What is your connection to Milwaukie?

The vast majority of respondents **live and/or own a home in Milwaukie**. Some work or own a business in the city. *Note: This question was only asked in the online survey.*