

MILWAUKIE PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: SCOTT PARK

SPRING 2022 OUTREACH SUMMARY

Prepared for

City of Milwaukie



CITY OF MILWAUKIE

Prepared by

JLA Public Involvement

June 2022

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INTRODUCTION

To kick off the City of Milwaukie's Parks Engagement Project, the City conducted an online open house and in-person celebration for Scott Park in early May 2022. Participants could learn about the Scott Park redesign project, provide input on how they currently use its facilities, and provide feedback on what they would like to see in the future park. Both events were bilingual in English and Spanish.

OVERALL PARTICIPATION AND NOTIFICATION

The project team developed an **online survey** and hosted an **in-person celebration event** to gather community feedback. The online survey was open from May 2 – May 18, 2022. There were **116 unique visits**, and **42 responses**.

The in-person celebration event was well attended, 199 participants signing-in at the event. Those who participated could visit a series of stations to provide input. The City also received **39 written surveys**, **7 written comment cards** and **24 drawings from children**.

Community members were informed about the event through the following:

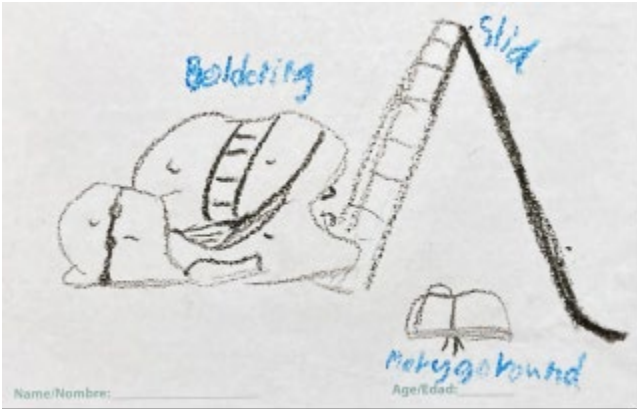
- Mailers were sent to all addresses in the 97222 zip code as well as mail carrier routes that covered Milwaukie's Urban Growth Management Area. A total, 21,566 post cards were mailed and an additional 500 were distributed at the Library or downtown businesses or apartment complexes.
- Social Media posts to Facebook pages.
- An article in the local Pilot newspaper introducing the parks project.
- Posts on the project website.

FEEDBACK THEMES

Several themes emerged from the online and in-person feedback. Most respondents appreciated the trees, nature, and greenspaces of Scott Park. **The duck pond was a popular feature**, and many participants said that they **enjoy the peace and quiet of the park**.

Several respondents **did not like the park's water viewing areas, and felt they were unsafe or difficult to access**. The pond is a main feature and reason people visit, so access is important. Many participants also felt the park was **unmaintained, with overgrown weeds and natural areas**. Parking was a common issue, especially as the lot is shared with the library. Others felt the park needed better overall maintenance, more programming, and a play structure to entice more people to visit.

The most commonly requested improvements included adding a **play area**, followed by **more nature and greenspaces, park programming, and better seating and walking paths**. Respondents also wanted more natural areas when considering the design of Scott Park. Better parking, programming, access, and seating were also mentioned.



CHILDREN'S RESPONSES

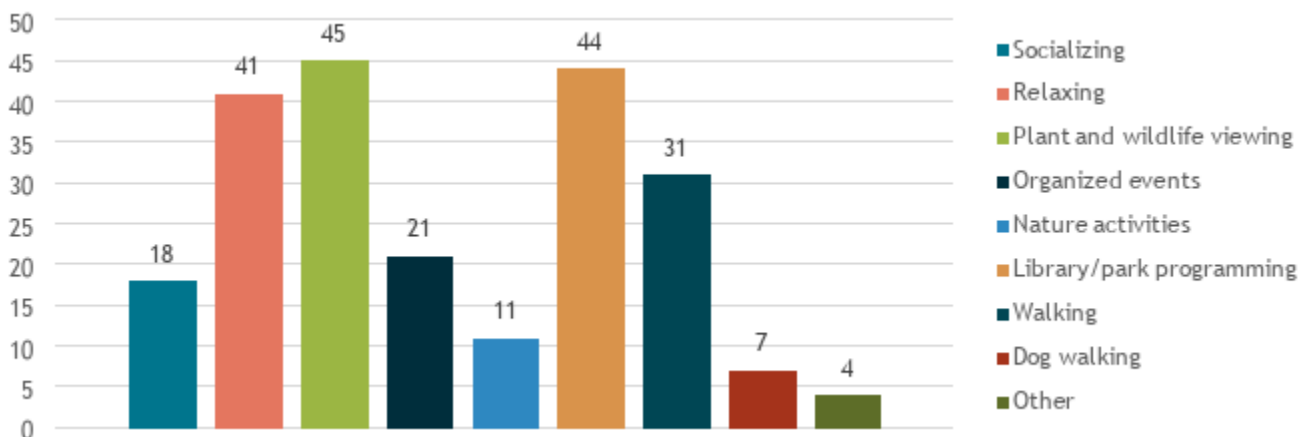
Children had the opportunity to draw pictures showing what they wanted the new park design to consider. A playground was very popular, specifically one with a slide and swings. Kids also asked for a seat spinner, and many wanted a climbing structure or climbing net.

COMBINED ONLINE SURVEY AND IN-PERSON RESPONSES

Participants were given the opportunity to answer a series of questions related to how they currently use Scott Park, challenges they have when visiting, 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. HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY USE SCOTT PARK? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

The **most common activities include plant and wildlife viewing, library/park programming, and relaxing.** Other answers include playing games with grandkids, book reading, and occasional library visits.



2. WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT SCOTT PARK?

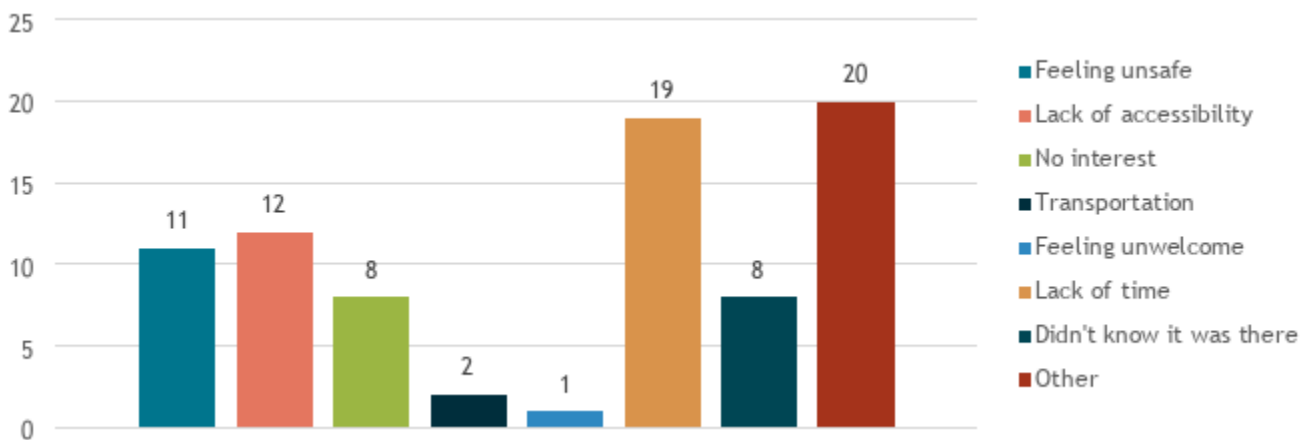
For this open-ended question, **most respondents** said that they enjoy the **natural areas, trees, and beauty** of the park. Respondents were almost equally split on preferring the **duck pond and wildlife viewing area**, as well as its proximity to the library and that it is close to where participants live. Others enjoyed the **peace and quiet** of the park.

3. WHAT DO YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT SCOTT PARK?

There were a **broad range of answers** to this question. Most felt that the **aesthetics of the park and natural areas** could be improved through **better maintenance and plantings**. Others had **issues with parking** due to the size of the parking lot and it being shared with the library. Many respondents wanted a **play area for their children** and **additional programming**. Some felt that **safety and lighting** were an issue, and others desired **more seating and benches**.

4. WHAT MAKES IT HARD OR CHALLENGING TO VISIT SCOTT PARK?

Most respondents answered “other” or said that they **did not have enough time to visit**. This was followed by lack of park accessibility and safety issues. Of those who responded as “other,” many said that it was not challenging to visit Scott Park, while a few mentioned parking and a lack of amenities.

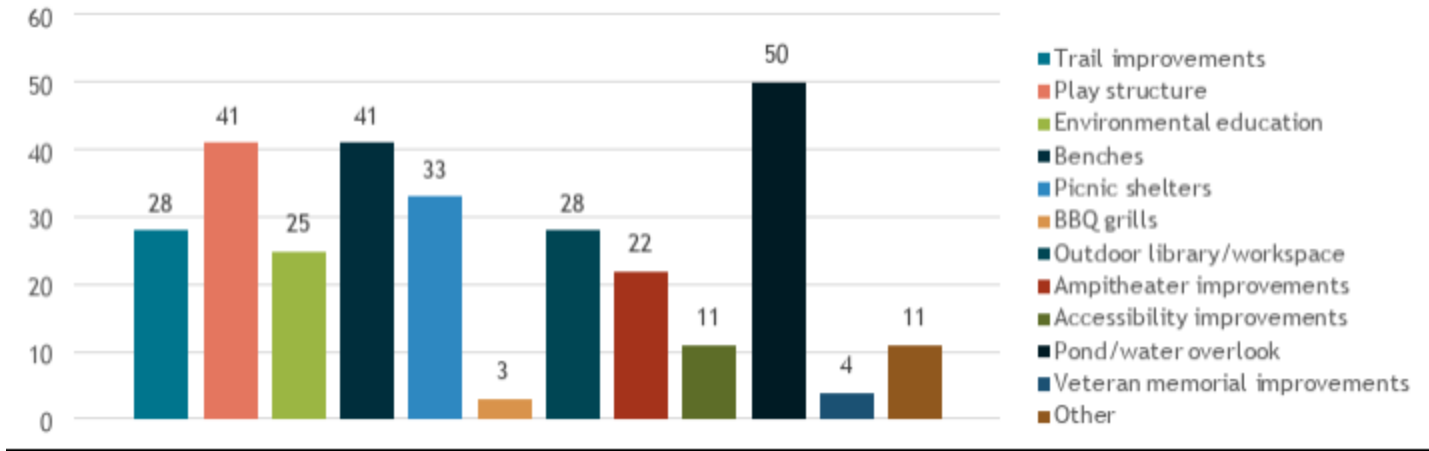


5. WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU VISIT SCOTT PARK MORE?

For this open-ended question, **most respondents** felt that a **play area and activities for children** would entice them to visit Scott Park more often. Other responses included **more plantings and natural areas**, followed by **seating, picnic tables, and benches**. Several respondents also wanted more trails or walking paths.

6. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR US TO IMPROVE AT SCOTT PARK?

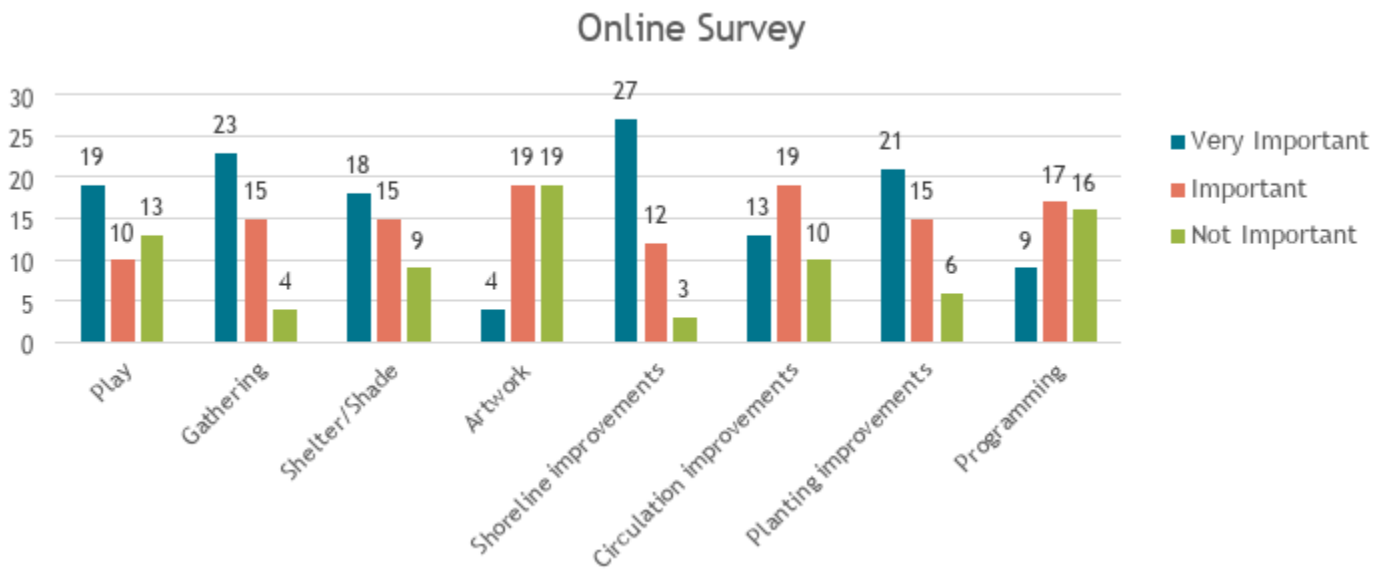
The majority of respondents felt that the **pond and water viewing area needs improvements**. Many also feel the park needs a **children's play area and better seating or benches**, including picnic shelters.



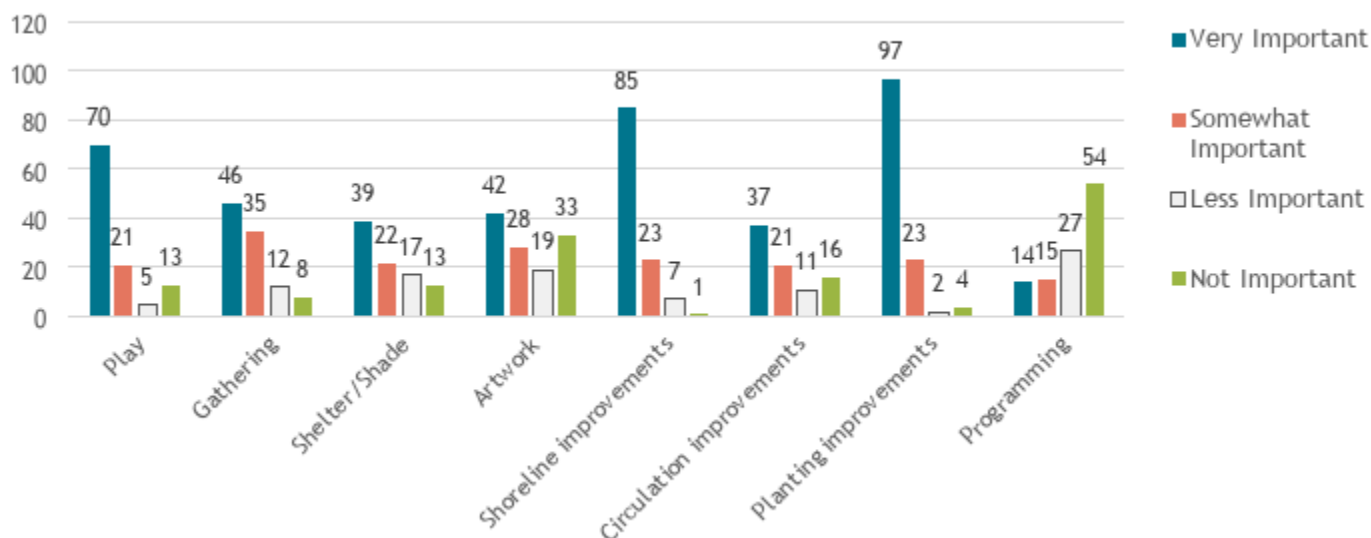
7. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO YOU?

Across both the in-person event and online survey, **planting improvements and shoreline improvements near the pond were very important** to respondents, followed by a play area and gathering areas. Art and programming improvements were not as important.

The responses to the online survey and in-person event are separated out in the below charts as they had slightly different response options. At the in-person event, participants answered this question on a poster board.



In-Person Event



During the in-person event, participants were also asked to place stars next to the elements within each of the above categories (i.e., play, gathering, shelter/shade, etc.) that they would like to see improved or added to Scott Park. Below is a summary of the elements that were most popular with participants within each category:

Shelter and Shade

- Most wanted **natural shade**, such as tree cover. This was followed by picnic shelters.

Artwork

- **Public art** was the **most popular** option. Art installations and interpretive art were slightly less popular but had equal interest.

Play

- The **overwhelming majority wanted natural play options**, followed by a play structure and inclusive, accessible play areas.

Gathering

- **Private rest areas and picnic areas** were **almost equally chosen**, followed by open lawn areas to walk and play on.

Shoreline Improvements

- **Most participants** wanted **habitat restoration**. Improvements to the overlook and viewpoints were also important.

Circulation Improvements

- Although there were fewer responses to this question, **several wanted an accessible ramp** and a paved pathway throughout the park.

Planting Improvements

- The **majority of respondents** wanted more **native plantings**, followed by a sensory garden.

Programming

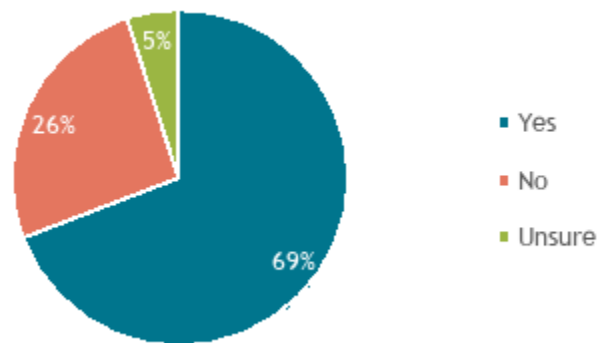
- **Story hours and environmental education** were almost equally chosen. Several participants wanted outdoor games as well.

8. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD CONSIDER FOR THE SCOTT PARK DESIGN?

This was another open-ended question, and the **vast majority of respondents** wanted **improved greenspaces, nature and habitat viewing points, and native plantings**. This was followed by a **play structure and activities for children**. Seating and covered areas, better parking, and a larger sized park were also mentioned.

9. HAVE YOU EVER PARTICIPATED IN MILWAUKIE PLANNING EVENTS BEFORE?

Most respondents (69%) have participated in **Milwaukie Planning Events**. A little over a quarter of respondents said that they had not participated in planning events before.

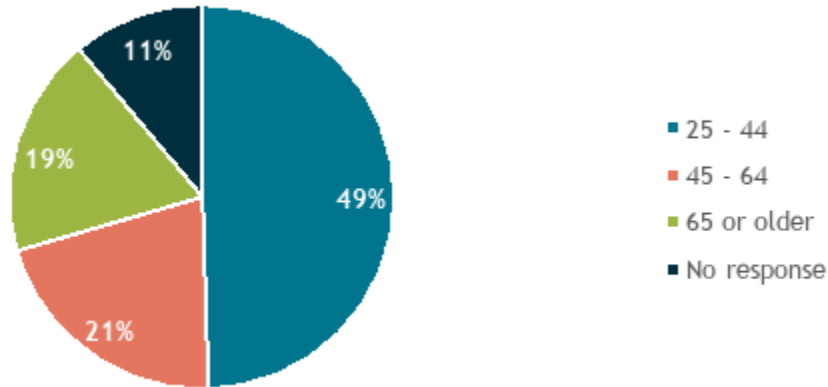


DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Participants were asked a series of optional demographic questions in both the online survey and the in-person feedback form. This information is useful to compare with the city's current demographics.

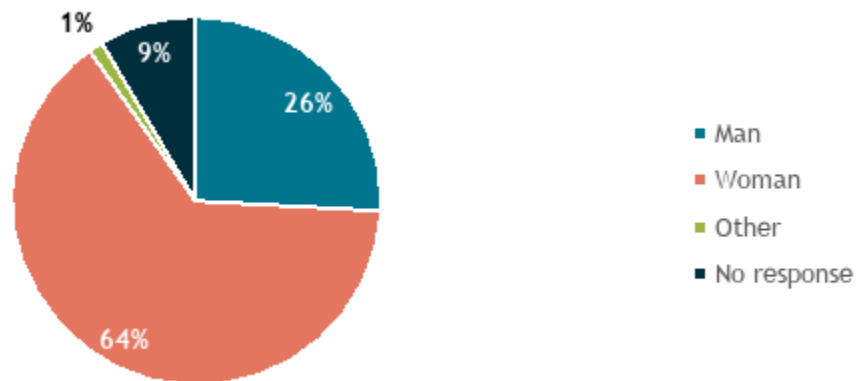
AGE

The majority of respondents (49%) were between the ages of 25-44. The second largest group was between the ages 45-64.



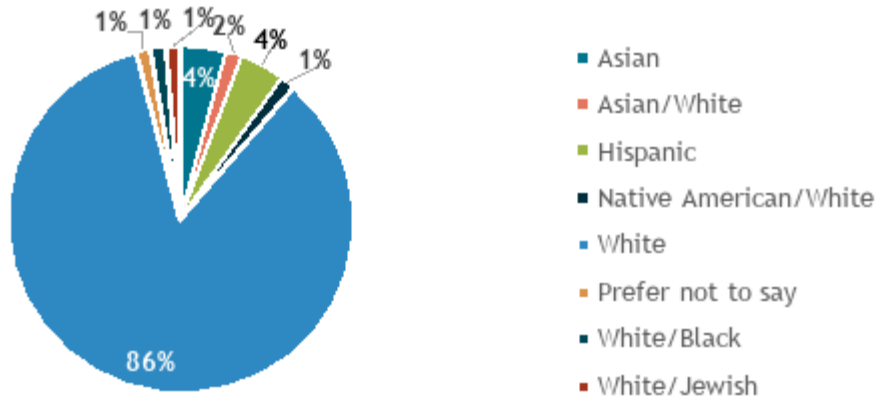
GENDER

The majority of participants (64%) identify as women while a quarter (26%) identify as men.



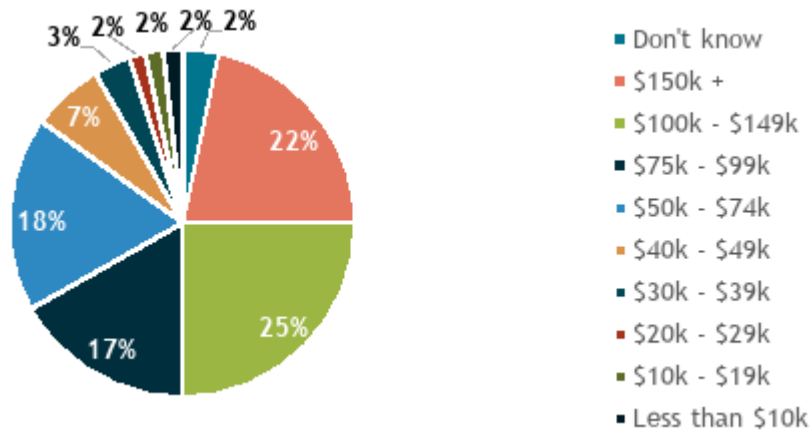
RACE/ETHNICITY

The majority of respondents (86%) identified as white, followed by 3 participants identifying as Asian and 3 participants identifying as Hispanic.



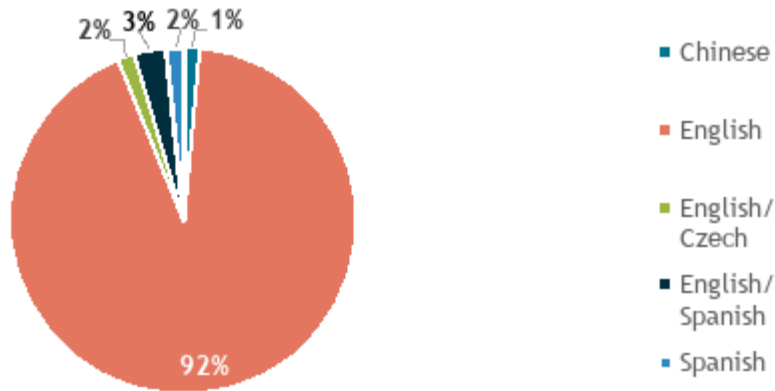
INCOME

The majority of respondents (25%) have an annual household income of between \$100k-\$149k. This was followed closely by almost a quarter of respondents (22%) having an income of \$150k or above.



LANGUAGE

The majority of respondents (92%) speak English, followed by English/Spanish.



NEIGHBORHOOD

Most participants lived in the Lake Road or Historic Milwaukie neighborhoods, followed by Ardenwald-Johnson Creek and Linwood.

WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO MILWAUKIE?

When asked about their connection to Milwaukie, the majority of respondents (37) said that they live in Milwaukie. Of those living in Milwaukie, many own a home in Milwaukie (27). Nine (9) respondents said that they work in Milwaukie. *Note: This question was only asked in the online survey.*

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The majority (94%) of respondents identified as heterosexual. *Note: This question was only asked in the online survey.*

