

MILWAUKIE PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: FINAL PARK DESIGNS

OCTOBER 2023 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON FINAL PARK DESIGNS



Prepared by

City of Milwaukie



October 2023

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Introduction

For the final phase of engagement of the City of Milwaukie's Parks Development Project, the city held an open house at **Scott Park on October 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** and conducted online engagement between October 3 and October 17. Participants could view final park and playground designs for Scott, Balfour, and Bowman-Brae Parks, provide input on the designs, and give feedback on what they would like to see in future projects. The surveys, project information, and graphics were bilingual in English and Spanish and interpreters were available in Spanish at the open house, if needed.

The open house included facepainting, an inclusive park design workshop by the Children's Healing Art Project (CHAP), a story time performance from Nikki Brown Clown, and a musical performance by Ants Ants Ants. Pip's Mobile Doughnut and Chai was available for all participants. It is estimated that between 350 and 450 people attended the open house.

Participation Breakdown & Response Summary

At the open house, **140 surveys** were completed for all three parks. In many cases groups of people or families participated in the engagement together making the total number of participation difficult to determine. Park specific surveys were completed online with an additional **23** surveys for **Scott Park**, **20** additional surveys for **Balfour Park**, and **14** online surveys for **Bowman-Brae Park**. Below is a look at some select information on who participated in this round.

It should be noted that many people did not fill out the full survey at the open house, or that many surveys were completed by groups of people or families. It may be possible that some people filled out multiple surveys, so it is not clearly known how many unique people participated in this round of engagement. A full breakdown of each answer is available at the end of this summary.

- **79%** of **163** surveys came from people who answered that they felt the final design for **Scott Park** met their needs with **15%** unsure or neutral on the topic.
- **70%** of **160** of surveys came from people who answered that they felt the final design for **Balfour Park** met their needs with **17%** unsure or neutral on the topic.
- **67%** of **154** surveys came from people who answered that they felt the final design for **Bowman-Brae Park** met their needs with **20%** unsure or neutral on the topic.
- **47%** of surveys came from people who answered that they were new to the Milwaukie planning process.
- **16%** of the surveys came from people who self-identified as being more than one race or ethnicity or from a non-white race or ethnicity.
- **49%** of surveys came from people who stated that they live within a city of Milwaukie neighborhood.
- **20%** of surveys came from people who stated that they are living with a disability.
- **18%** of surveys came from households with incomes near or below the area median (\$75,000 or below).

Engagement Notification and Outreach Strategy

Stakeholders were invited to this final round of meaningful engagement via postcards, emails, social media, and digital flyers distributed to elementary schools, as well as flyers at other events, city buildings, partnership organizations and local businesses.

Like the kick-off event in May 2022 and the final concept plan engagement, postcards in English and Spanish were sent to the 97222-zip code and carrier routes covering Milwaukie's Urban Growth Management Area (UGMA). This strategy comes out of the project public involvement plan (PIP) that was put together with the city's **Equity Steering Committee (ESC)**, **Parks and Recreation Board (PARB)**, city and North **Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD)** staff in the spring of 2022.

Reaching out to those who live near Milwaukie or who might have a Milwaukie mailing address was seen as important for several reasons. Including people who live just outside the city's current limits, though live within the NCPRD district area, was viewed as one way that we could help advance the city's partnership with NCPRD and help meet the city's goals for equity, diversity, and inclusion. Many of these people have Milwaukie mailing addresses, utilize Milwaukie's parks or the **Ledding Library**, and (through a process of annexation) could one day be Milwaukie residents, therefore inviting them to participate in the planning and design process was seen as important.

Another way that the project's PIP works to advance the city's equity goals through engagement was to conduct pop-up engagement at local events which have an equity focus. During the playground design phase of the project, for example, city staff attended and conducted engagement the community Pride and Juneteenth celebrations. Likewise, ahead of this engagement on the parks' final designs, City staff and consulting staff from **Izo** attended NCPRD's Fiesta Latina de la Parque. At this event staff answered questions about the park concept plans and invited people to attend the final park open house. This was seen as an opportunity not only to reach new participants, but also to help let people know that city's park project provided Spanish interpretation services at the open house and all project materials in both English and Spanish.

While materials and surveys were all available in both English and Spanish, though no surveys were received in Spanish.

Final Design Engagement

The city, with support from **GreenWorks** and **Izo** and graphics from **NWPlaygrounds** and GreenWorks, completed the park design after nearly two years of engagement work. This included three open houses for park concept planning, four park planning meetings, multiple special PARB meetings, several pop-up engagement opportunities, and six focus groups. Focus groups that convened people with disabilities, the area's Spanish-speaking community, and BIPOC communities were conducted during the concept planning phase of the project. During the playground design phase of the project focus groups were held with the **Oak Grove Boys and Girls Club**, **FACT Oregon**, and Milwaukie community stakeholders from the ESC, PARB, area Neighborhood District Associations, the Ledding Library Board, and staff members from FACT Oregon, the city, NCPRD, and Ledding Library.

In order to meet the objectives of the PIP and the citywide goals centered on park development and equity-based engagement, it was important to hold an event that attracted a large number of people to ensure that those who wanted to participate in the planning and design portion of the project could do so. It was also seen as important to hold a community-wide festivity for the milestone reached on the project and to celebrate two years of hard work on the project. Creating planning and design meetings that were inclusive and offered food, family entertainment, and activities for children was one strategy called for in the PIP to help reduce the barriers to participation.

At the open house, participants were invited to complete surveys that asked if the final park designs met their or their family's needs. I also asked them to provide a written explanation of their answers and to let the project team know what sorts of amenities they might like to see in future park projects. A full breakdown of all the survey responses is included in this report.

Feedback Themes on Addition Amenities

Participants were asked to provide ideas for other amenities they felt were needed in Milwaukie Parks and where they thought those amenities should be provided. Some of the most common feedback provided on the final designs and in responses to question 7 of the survey was that Milwaukie Parks and the three park designs lack enough **benches (21)** and **picnic tables (11)**. Additional accessible benches and picnic tables have been added to the design of Bowman-Brae and Balfour Parks. Additional benches and tables will be added to Scott Park if construction budgets allow.

Splash Pads (41) were the overwhelmingly most requested feature followed by **Public Bathrooms (25)**, **Off-leash Dog Parks (11)**, and **Sand Boxes (7)**. **Climbing Walls**, a **Public Swimming Pool**, and **Outdoor Exercise Equipment** were all requested on **4** surveys. Full results are below.

In some cases, respondents suggested different nearby parks that residents felt met their needs better than Milwaukie's current park offerings. [Westmoreland Nature Park \(2\)](#), [Gabriel Park's inclusive playground \(2\)](#), [Creston Park's domes & constructed mounds \(1\)](#), and Hillsborough's [Hidden Creek Park \(formerly 53rd Avenue Community Playground\) \(1\)](#) were all mentioned in surveys as parks for Milwaukie to try to emulate.

The most common response to where people would like to see park development were **Milwaukie Bay Park (4)**, **Water Tower Park (2)**, **Ardenwald Park (1)**.

While Milwaukie Bay Park was only specifically mentioned on 4 surveys, 4 of the top 5 requested amenities (Splash Pads, Bathrooms, Benches, and Tables) and the types of play features often requested in surveys are included in the Milwaukie Bay Park's design and construction documents. Other surveys requested additional park land be acquired, such as the former Christmas Tree Farm on Lake Road.

Combined Survey Responses

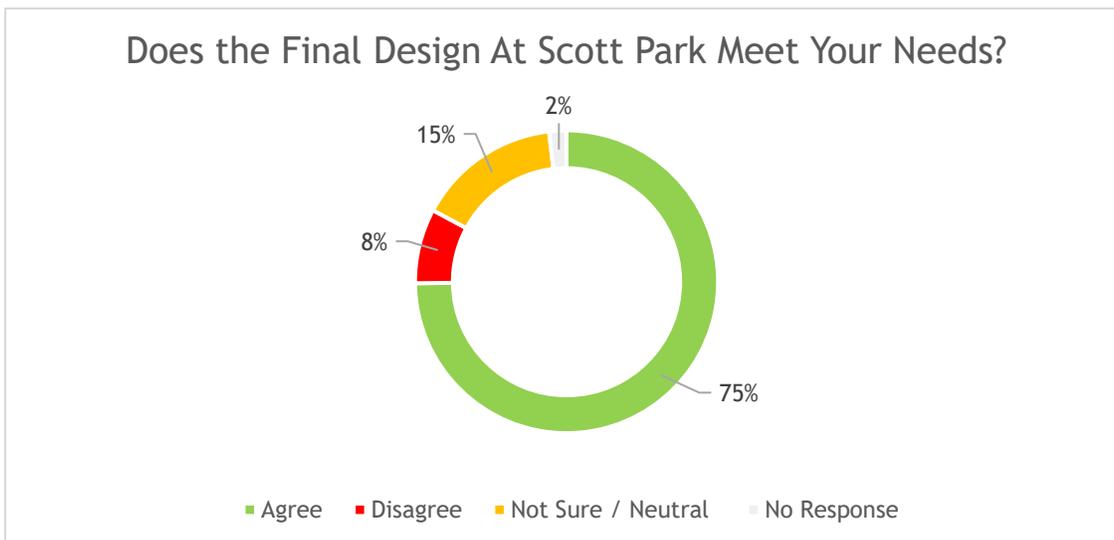
Participants were given the opportunity to answer a series of questions on whether each of the three parks met their needs or not. This information will be utilized for future park planning and shared with NCPRD and other partners. It is also possible that some of the feedback will be able to be incorporated into the final designs

either before or during construction depending on the parks' construction budget. Feedback on the number benches or tables, types of trees, styles of fencing, materials used in paths, colors of playground equipment, layout of electrical utilities are all examples of feedback that could be incorporated into designs depending on costs. In other cases, these surveys provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions or receive a response from the city.

A Frequently Asked Question document is also included at the end of the document and will be available on the city's website for these purposes. The information below summarizes responses that were received both online and in person.

1. Does the Scott Park final design meet your needs?

| Scott | | | | |
|-------|----------|--------------------|-------------|-------|
| Agree | Disagree | Not Sure / Neutral | No Response | Total |
| 122 | 13 | 25 | 3 | 163 |
| 74.8% | 8.0% | 15.3% | 1.8% | 100% |

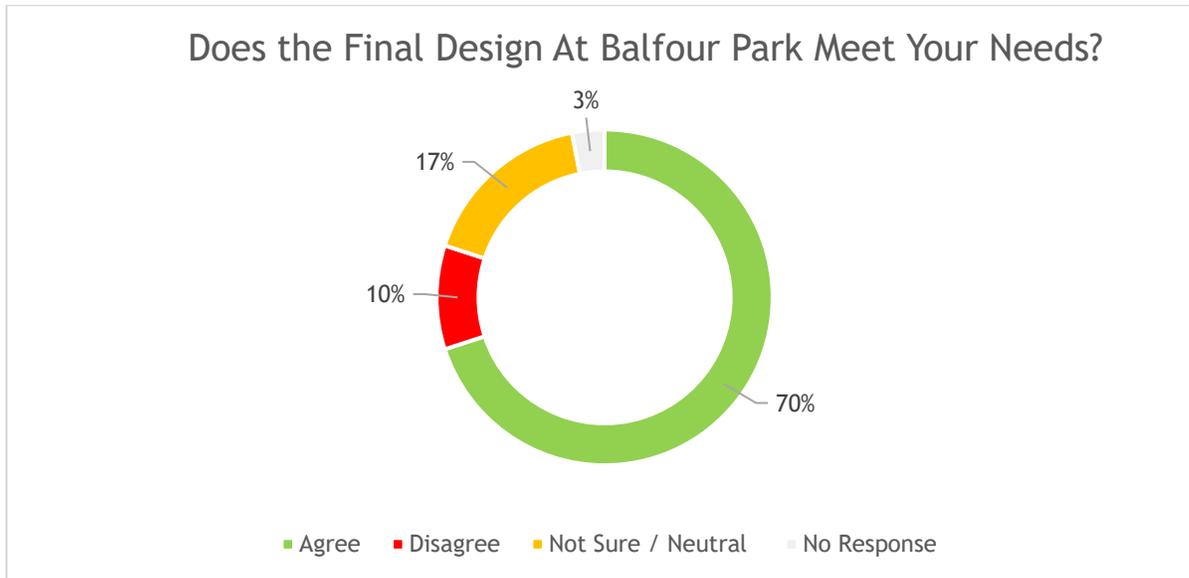


2. Please explain the answer you selected for question 1.

Many survey respondents enjoyed the snail climber and the way the design balances play features and nature. The most common response to this question was a request for more seating in the form of benches and accessible picnic tables. Landscaping or walls that could double as seating was also suggested. Other responses suggested that the park design lacked a bathroom, a shelter, swings, slides, or additional play structures were also requested. It should be noted that many of these amenities were explored during the concept planning and playground design processes. Many people commenting online were concerned about a railing or fence to help contain children in the playground area. This element is already in the designs for Scott Park.

3. Does the Balfour Park final design meet your needs?

| Balfour | | | | |
|---------|----------|--------------------|-------------|-------|
| Agree | Disagree | Not Sure / Neutral | No Response | Total |
| 112 | 16 | 27 | 5 | 160 |
| 70.0% | 10.0% | 16.9% | 3.1% | 100% |



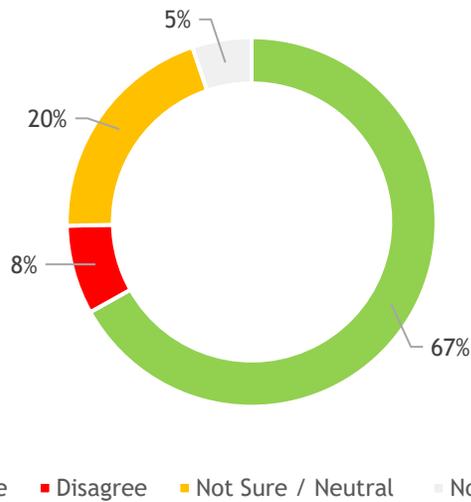
4. Please explain the answer you selected for question 3.

Responses suggested that the park design lacked a bathroom, benches, tables, sand play, and play features for younger users. . Additional play structures, exercise equipment, play logs, and features representing peacocks were also requested. At least one survey expressed concerns with decomposing apples from the existing apple tree, the possible high temperature of the metal slide, and the lack interactive play equipment. It should be noted that many of these amenities were explored during the concept planning and playground design processes. Many surveys expressed that they appreciated the tree coverage, water feature, and use of nature-based play in this park design.

5. Does the Bowman-Brae Park final design meet your needs?

| Bowman-Brae | | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------------|-------------|-------|
| Agree | Disagree | Not Sure / Neutral | No Response | Total |
| 103 | 12 | 31 | 8 | 154 |
| 66.9% | 7.8% | 20.1% | 5.2% | 100% |

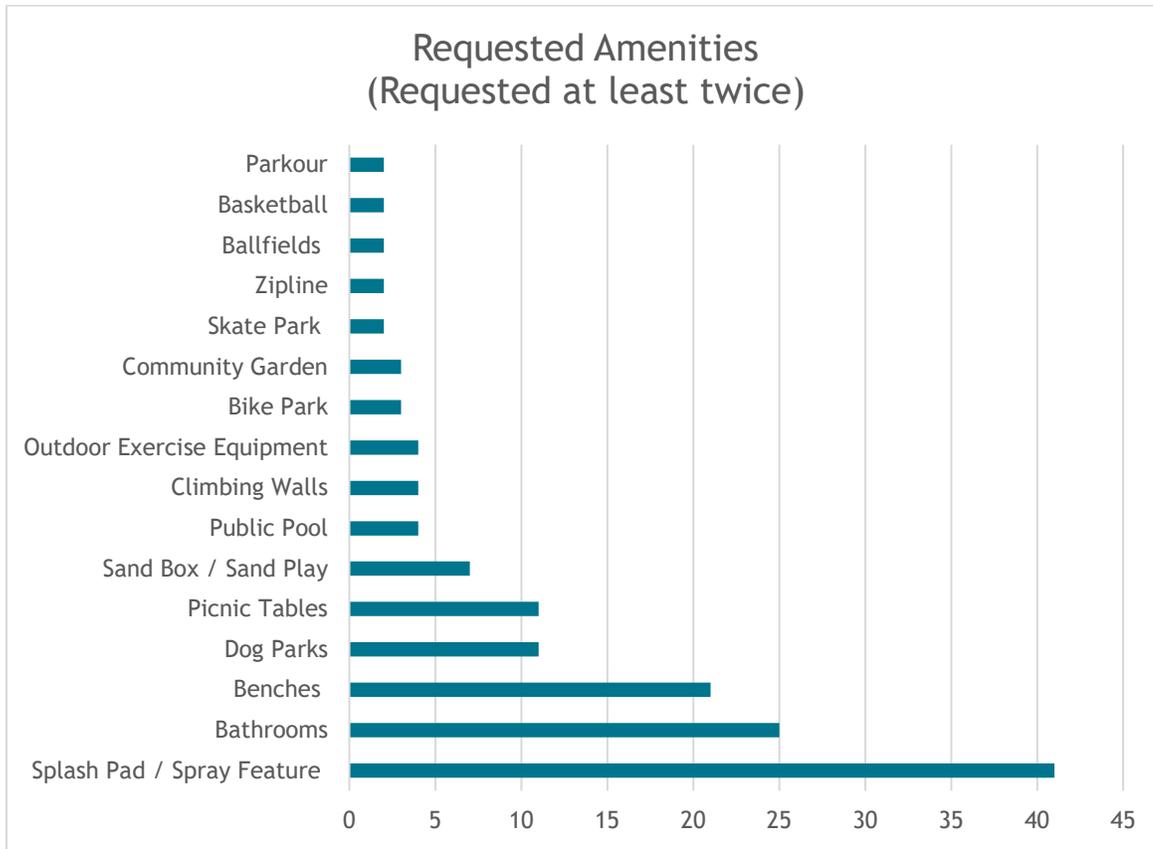
Does the Final Design At Bowman-Brae Park Meet Your Needs?



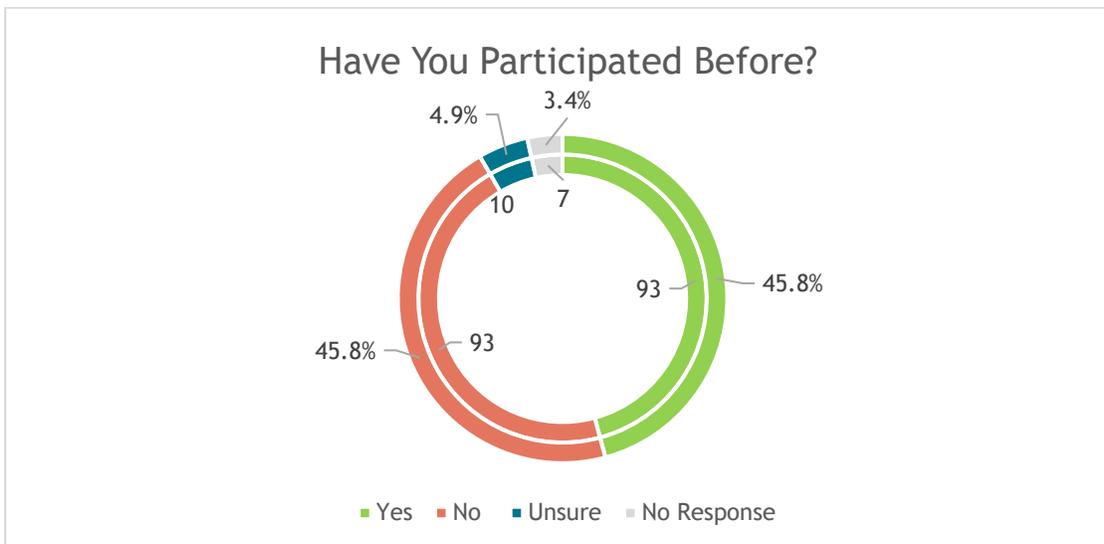
6. Please explain the answer you selected for question 5.

Many participants expressed their appreciation for the design's pollinator garden and picnic shelter. Some surveys expressed appreciation for the park's unique climbing structure while others expressed some concern about its design. Other responses suggested that the park design lacked a bathroom, benches, tables, slides, or a more traditional play structure, and/or play features for younger features. Many surveys expressed that they were thankful for the connection to the west side of the neighborhood through Where Else Lane. Many surveys online expressed concerns for the proximity of the playground to Bowman Street. To help provide a safe experience for all users there will be a fence between Bowman Street and the park, and the playground area is separated from the multiuse path by a planting area, trees, and benches. It should also be noted that Bowman Street west of Brae Street serves as an access road to the park and turns into a private driveway beyond the park.

7. If we were to plan and construct more parks, what sorts of amenities would you like to see? And where would you like to see those amenities?

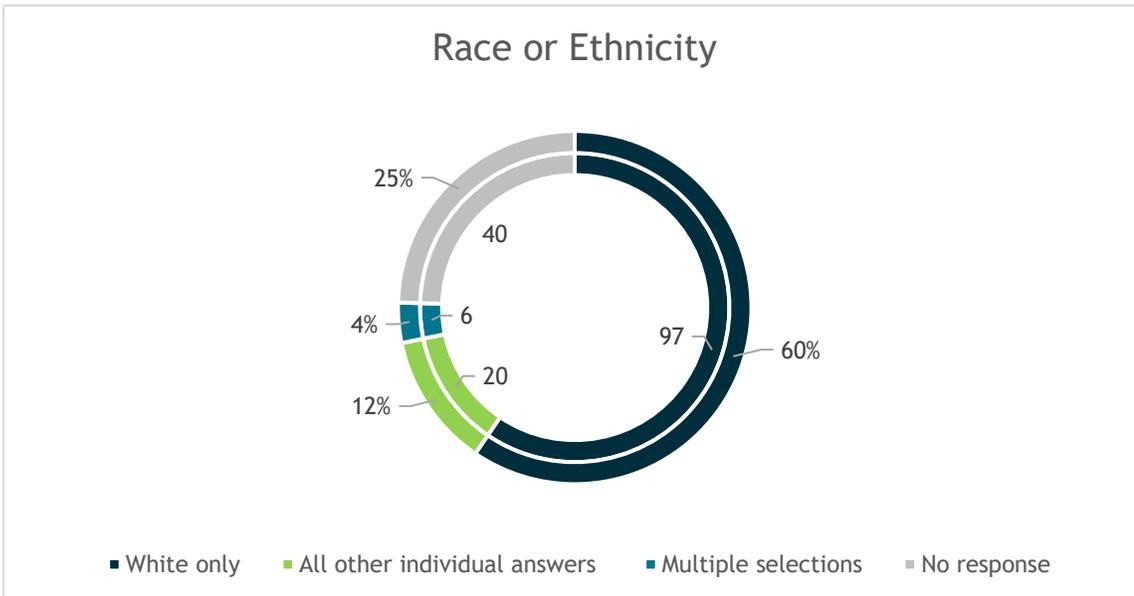


8. Have you participated in Milwaukie planning events before? (i.e., surveys, online or in-person open house, etc.)

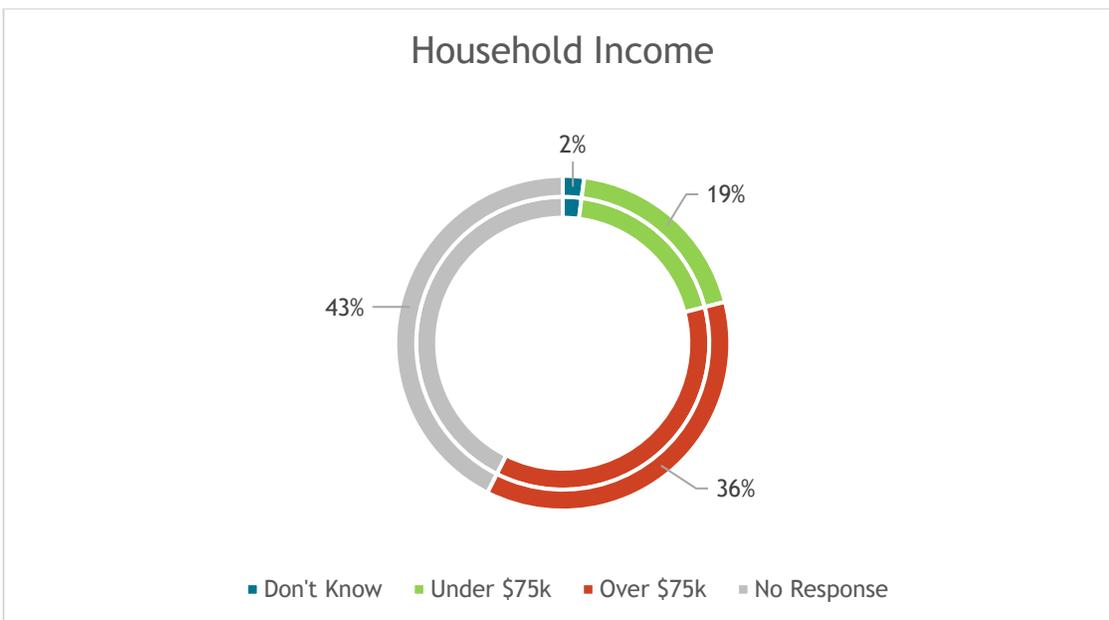


Survey Responses To Select Demographic Questions

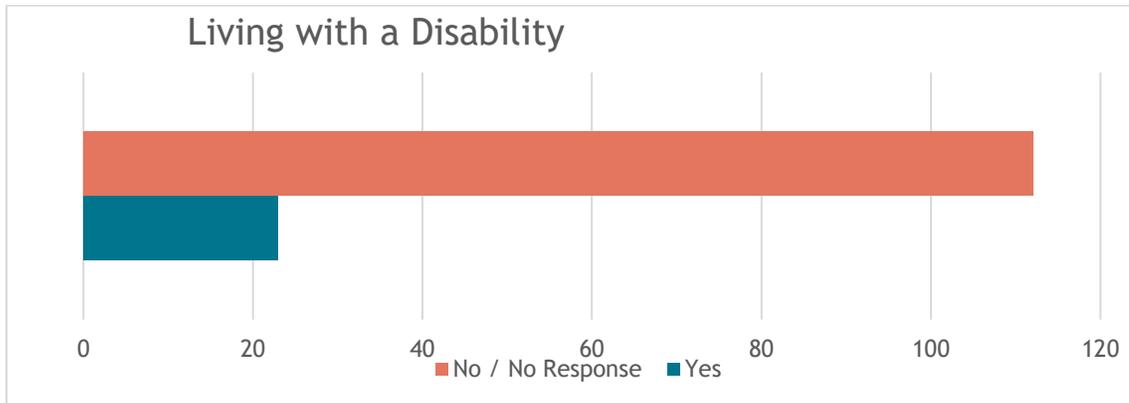
9. Within these broad categories, where would you place your racial or ethnic identity?



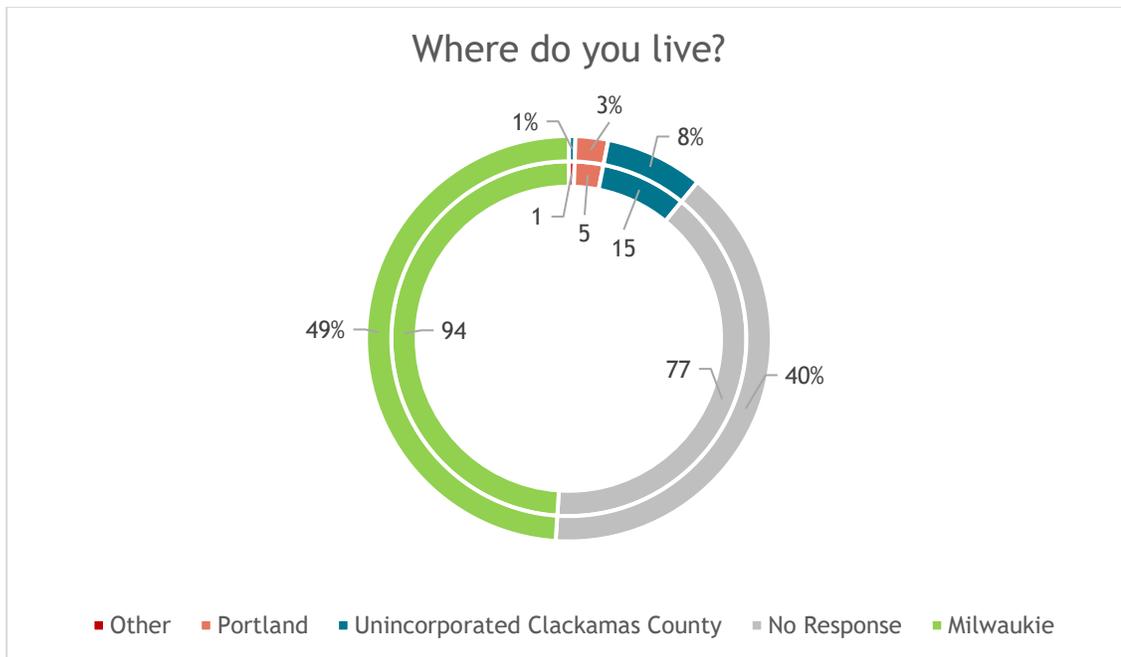
10. What is your annual household income?



11. Do you identify with having or living with a disability? If yes, please describe the nature of your disability.



12. What is your neighborhood?



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the Final Designs for Scott, Balfour, and Bowman-Brae Parks.

1. Do the park designs include dedicated parking or additional parking?

No. All three parks are relatively small (less than an acre each) and are designed to be neighborhood parks to be accessed primarily by pedestrians or bicyclists. These parks do not have room for dedicated parking lots and the designs do not include amenities that are seen as being a regional draw that would bring many people from outside the neighborhood. Therefore, park users will need to use existing parking or street parking to access each of the three parks. Scott Park users will be able to use the adjacent parking for the Ledding Library to the south of the park and the new City Hall parking lot to the west of the park. Bowman-Brae & Balfour Parks are designed to offer a drop off space for users with mobility issues and then use street parking in the neighborhoods. City staff will work with concerned residents to the extent possible to help address park access and parking concerns. **Please note that access to Bowman-Brae Park from Where Else Lane is for pedestrians and bicyclists only due to the size of the existing Right of Way (street).**

2. Will the playgrounds and parks be accessible and inclusive?

Yes. To the extent the budget allows each of the three parks were designed to ensure that they offer something for everyone. All amenities (picnic shelters and tables, drinking fountains, benches, and the Scott Park amphitheater stage and pond viewing platform) are designed to be accessible by barrier-free ADA compliant pathways. Each of the three playgrounds will also feature rubber tile safety surface that will allow users with mobility devices or strollers to access the equipment. Playground designs meet ADA standards and equipment was carefully selected to offer options for those people living with disabilities. The City of Milwaukie has made Equity, Inclusion, and Justice a city-wide goal and wants all people to feel welcome in our parks. Please contact the city with more specific information on the park and playground designs or if you have any concerns.

3. Will the playgrounds be contained by fences or other features?

Scott Park's playground will be contained by a railing on three sides with benches and landscaping on the fourth side to help parents keep the children in the playground area. Bowman-Brae Park will feature landscaping and benches between the multi-use path and the playground and fencing between the path and Bowman Street. All three parks will include perimeter fencing around all four sides and each of the three parks are less than an acre in size so additional fencing felt redundant in some cases.

4. Will the parks have permanent bathrooms?

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No. The budget for these three neighborhood parks is relatively small at a combined \$3.3 million. Participants in the city's robust community engagement process did not prioritize using this budget for bathrooms given the trade-offs. Temporary toilets are often used for larger events and Scott Park is adjacent to the Ledding Library which offers public bathrooms when open.

5. Will the parks have electricity and drinking fountains?

Yes. All three parks will have accessible drinking fountains. Picnic shelters at Bowman-Brae and Balfour will offer electricity as will the amphitheater stage at Scott Park.

6. Will the parks have splash pads, skate parks, or pools?

No. These parks are designed to be neighborhood parks and will offer gathering spaces, play areas, and access to nature for a relatively small number of people. Balfour Park will feature a water play table, though it is not a splash pad. The relatively small size of these parks and the relatively small budget of this project do not allow for regional features such as splash pads, skate parks, or pools.

7. What happened to the features and amenities shown during the planning process?

These parks went through a robust public planning process to revise the existing plans for Balfour and Bowman-Brae Parks and to create a new plan for Scott Park. Through the planning process city staff worked with a consulting team led by GreenWorks to design these three parks. Careful consideration was given to all feedback received, each park's size and layout, and the project budget. Summaries of all engagements are available on the city website and recordings of monthly Parks and Recreation Board or City Council updates are available on the city's YouTube channel.

8. What trees will be removed in each of the parks?

Milwaukie's Public Tree code requires all trees over 2" DBH to be accounted for and for their removal to be permitted. In the event of a healthy tree is removed, a fee is assessed based on a tree's size and the tree must be replaced with a tree or trees from the city's approved list of trees. These three parks have been designed to limit the removal of healthy trees above 2" DBH wherever possible. Current designs only show unhealthy trees to be removed and they will be replaced. Please keep in mind that tree conditions do change over time and many things beyond the city's control do occur during construction. The city will continue to monitor the condition of trees and follow Milwaukie's code for removal of trees, which includes a public notice and comment period.

9. What trees will be planted in each park?

Milwaukie's tree code requires only trees from an approved list be planted. Planting schedules, plant precedent images, and park designs are available on the city's website for review.