

Northcroft Park Master Plan Community Engagement Results

August 28, 2023

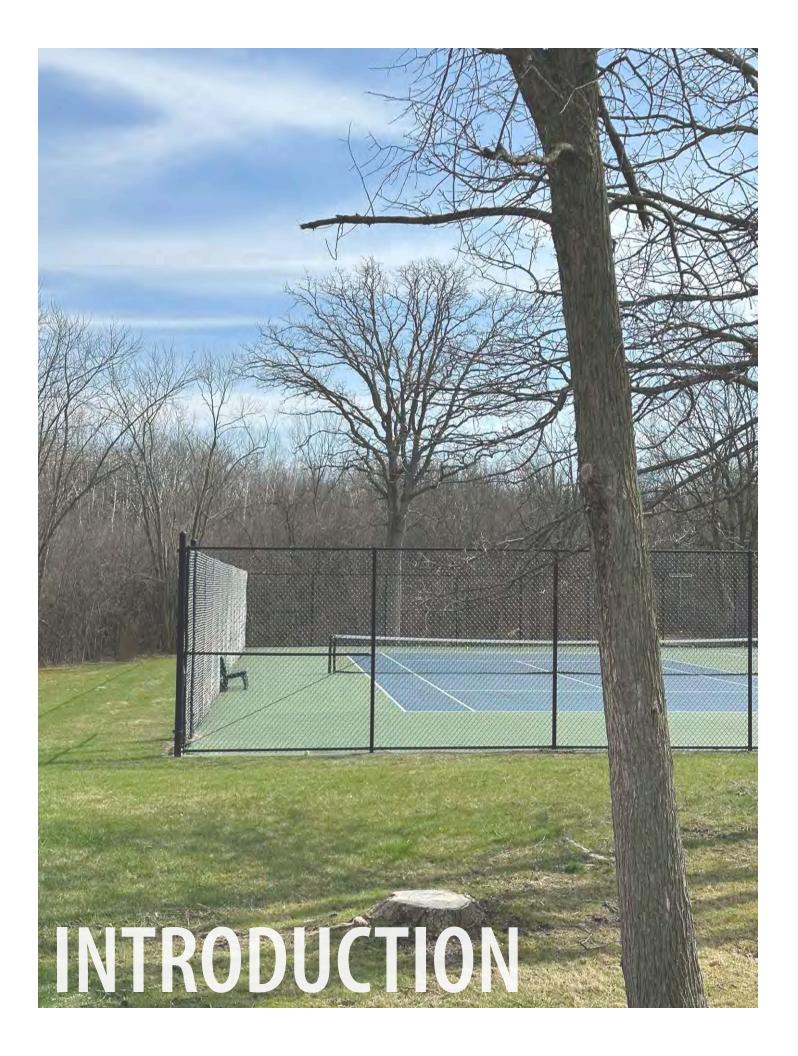


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Prepared by: Hitchcock Design Group 22 E. Chicago Avenue, Suite 200A Naperville, IL 60540





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Executive Summary

Date:August 28, 2023To:Chuck Myers, City of Lake ForestFrom:Abby Mies, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG)

RE: Northcroft Park Master Plan – Community Engagement

Background:

In 2018, the City of Lake Forest in partnership with the Friends of Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Foundation engaged Hitchcock Design Group to develop a 10-year Strategic Master Plan for the City of Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Department's facilities and parks. During the development of the plan, multiple engagement events were conducted to solicit feedback from the community that was used to develop overall goals and objectives for facilities, parks, and planning/policy improvements. A key action item from the Strategic Plan included development of a Master Plan and implementation of the proposed Northcroft Park improvements. At that time, key objectives of the Master Plan focused on renovation of aging infrastructure, trail system enhancements including improved accessibility, connectivity, and wayfinding, grading and drainage improvements for soccer fields, and considering additional site amenities for all ages and abilities including considerations for recreation deficits within the community as compared to local, State and National benchmarks.

Master Plan:

In 2023, the City of Lake Forest engaged Hitchcock Design Group to conduct a series of community engagement events pertaining to the development of a Master Plan vision for Northcroft Park. During the first phase of the planning process, public input was collected to better understand how residents currently use the park and identify opportunities for improvement. Two engagement events were conducted during the months of May and June 2023, including an online survey and an in-person community open house held at Northcroft Park. This report summarizes the feedback received during these two events. Additional engagement events will be held throughout the planning process to continue to solicit feedback as the Master Plan is developed and refined through input from the community, City staff, City Council, and Park Board.

According to the online survey results, most respondents are Lake Forest residents and are familiar with Northcroft Park. Most respondents state they are satisfied with the current state of the park and rate the overall condition of site amenities as good to excellent. The top three highest ranked attributes of the park include maintenance and cleanliness, personal safety and comfort, and noise levels. The lowest three ranked attributes of the park include lighting levels after dusk, amount of parking, and lack of various activities offered for all ages and abilities. According to the online survey and open house feedback, most respondents ranked the playground, walking path, and restrooms as the top three most important existing park features to their household, followed by parking and pavilion as secondary importance. There were also several respondents who wrote in comments that noted the importance of the woodland path to their household.

When asked if the City of Lake Forest should improve Northcroft Park, most respondents answered yes with the top three reasons being to provide additional recreation opportunities for all ages, replace

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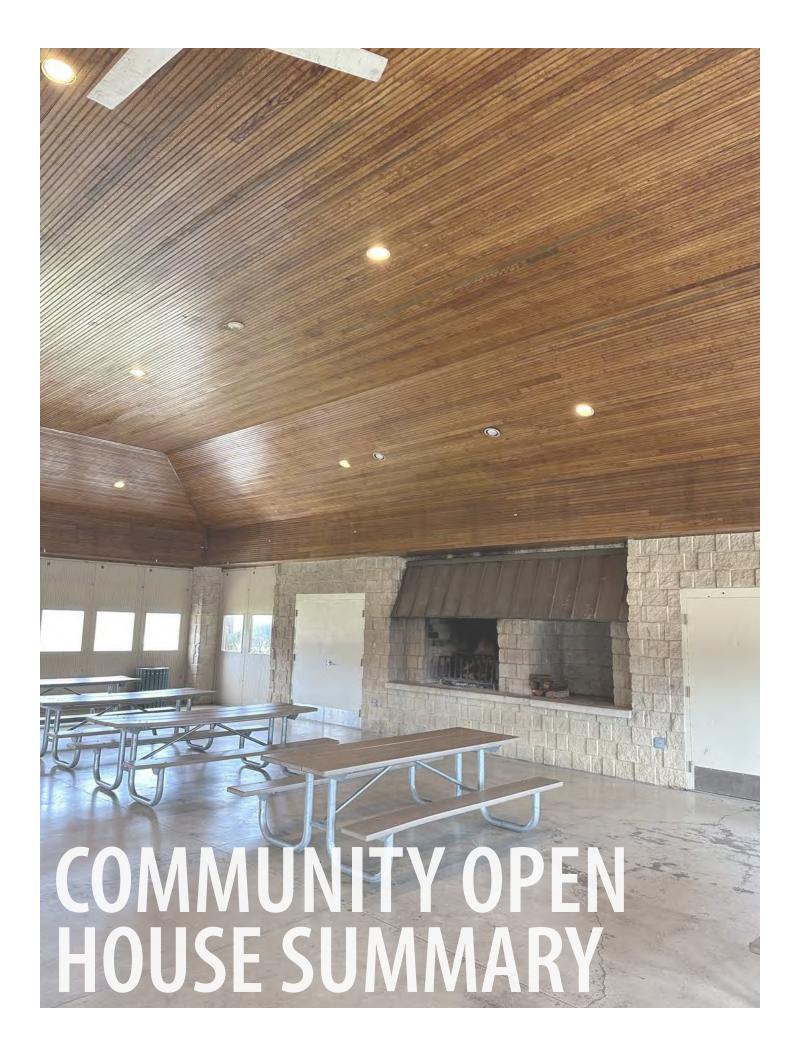
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aging infrastructure that is beyond useful life, and restore the woodland area for improved trail access and wildlife habitat. According to the online survey, most respondents ranked updated/expanded playground equipment, designated/dual striped pickleball courts, splash feature, sled hill, and improved/accessible woodland trail as the top five new amenities that would increase their desire to visit the park. There were also several respondents who wrote in comments that noted handball and pool as desired amenities. Community open house responses ranked the top three additional park features that would increase their visit as splash pad, expansion of the walking loop, and additional trees and landscaping, with multiple write-in comments for a sled hill. Several comments were noted requesting additional connections to adjacent community destinations as a high priority: including, Dickinson Hall in the Grove Cultural Campus, the Heller Nature Center to the south, and adjacent residential district and Skokie Valley Bike Path to the north. While the proposed new amenities are popular, there is an overall desire by the community to protect the existing open space within Northcroft Park and evaluate parking capacity in tandem when considering additional park amenities.

City staff and representatives from the Park Board provided some additional considerations for the development of a Master Plan, including alignment with resources, operations, and long-term management considerations. Some of the desired elements that were determined to be higher priorities for the City and Board include: consideration of additional safety measures for users crossing the parking lot going to and from the playground and restrooms/pavilion, possible relocation of the playground space, implementing a unique theme or equipment selection for the playground that would provide the community a singular experience from other parks in the City, and converting the play surfacing to poured-in-place rubber in lieu of engineered fiber for improved accessibility. Additionally, the group discussed the inclusion of destinations along the walking path providing users an opportunity to pause and reflect with either garden spaces, art installations, and/or interpretive signage with areas for seating. Lastly, another high priority outcome is consideration of optimizing the open space for better field configurations and improved spectator areas. Secondary priorities also discussed include the addition of fitness stations, disc golf course, community garden plots, and lawn games specifically bocce courts, baggo courts, and game tables.

Additional information regarding the community engagement events, results, and project program can be found in the supplemental sections of this report.





Meeting Summary

Date:May 24, 2023Time:4:00-6:00 PMLocation:Northcroft Community Park PavilionFrom:Lacey Lawrence, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG)

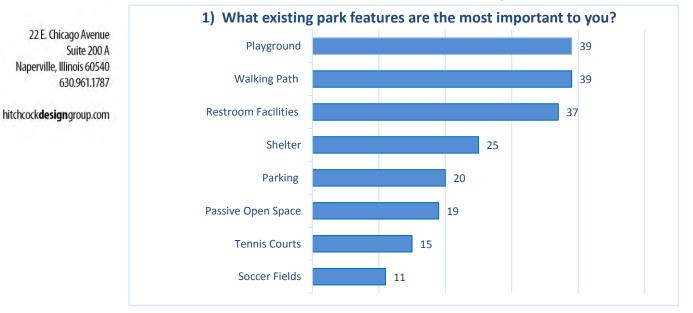
RE: Northcroft Community Park

Purpose of Meeting: Community Open House

Community Input Summary

Attendees of the community open house were provided comment cards and asked to circle and/or write in features that are most important to them in the development of the Nicholas Dowden Park Master Plan. They were also asked to circle and/or write in other features that would increase their desire to visit the park. Based on the feedback received from 61 responses, residents most value the following existing features: playground, walking path, and restroom facilities. Based on feedback, respondents most value the following potential new features: splash pad, walking loop path, and trees and landscaping.

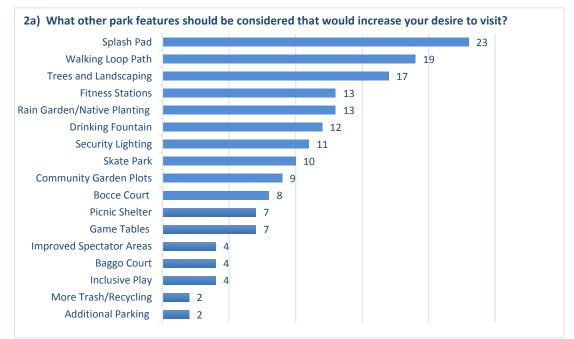
1. The table below summarizes the feedback from 55 respondents:



a. What existing park features are the most important to you? (Write in answers)i. Walking path through the woods

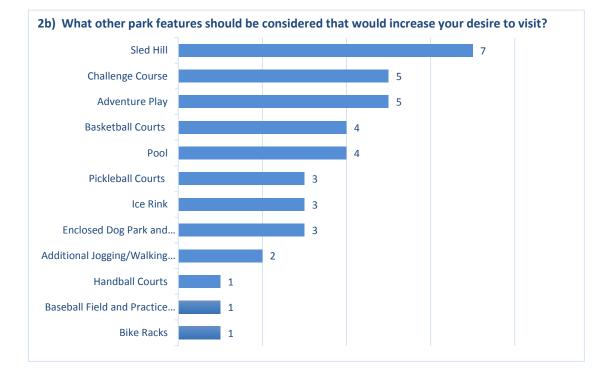


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2. The table below summarizes the feedback from 43 respondents:

The table below reflects the answers of 39 respondents who filled out the 'other' category for question two; What other park features should be considered that would increase your desire to visit?



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COMMUNITY MEETING RESULTS



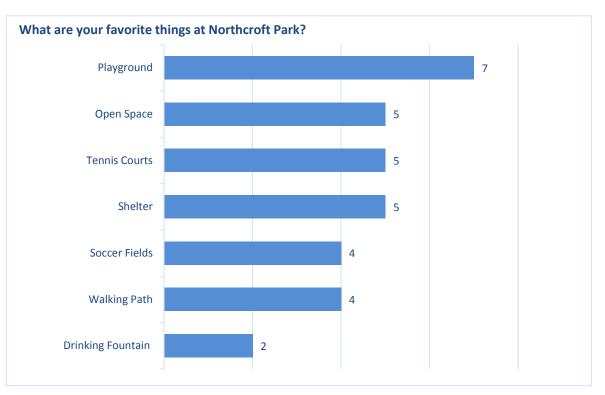
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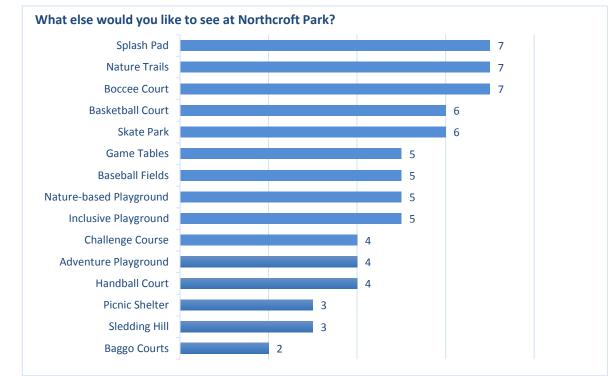
- 3. General Comments:
 - a. Seating Requests
 - i. More benches around walking path
 - ii. Additional seating around playground, picnic tables
 - b. Landscape Requests
 - i. Woodland restoration
 - ii. Native prairie plants
 - iii. Invasive species removal
 - iv. Woodland/prairie trails
 - v. Less buckthorn
 - c. Dog Requests
 - i. Designated no pet areas
 - ii. Dog water bowl
 - iii. Off leash dog area
 - iv. Green dog bags preferred over black ones
 - d. Accessibility
 - i. Playground is currently inaccessible for wheelchairs
 - ii. Include park features for neurodiverse children
 - e. Playground
 - i. Park elements for older kids needed, few nearby parks geared toward upper elementary age
 - ii. Challenging involved play areas for kids to grow into
 - iii. No artificial turf requested by multiple residents
 - iv. Sun and shade areas desired
 - f. Connectivity
 - i. Connect senior center and Northcroft Park
 - ii. Connect Northcroft to other trails/parks.
 - iii. Maintain path through woods behind tennis courts to link with Heller Park
 - iv. Safer spot to cross Old Elm Road into the park than near tracks needed
 - v. Paved entrance of Old Elm Road requested
 - vi. Car loop turn around in parking lot requested
 - vii. Walking paths at Northcroft is well used by residents, especially older demographic, and an important feature at the park
 - viii. Wayfinding/educations signage desired
 - ix. Bathrooms should be nearer the playground
 - g. Miscellaneous
 - i. Continued access to playground during construction requested to minimize impact/time upgrades with peak season
 - ii. Maintain quiet street and neighborhood
 - iii. No additional concrete
 - iv. Space for small concerts
 - v. Handball plays a historic role in Lake Forest. The addition of a court could be impactful for the community.



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The table below summarizes the feedback from 21 kids:





COMMUNITY MEETING RESULTS



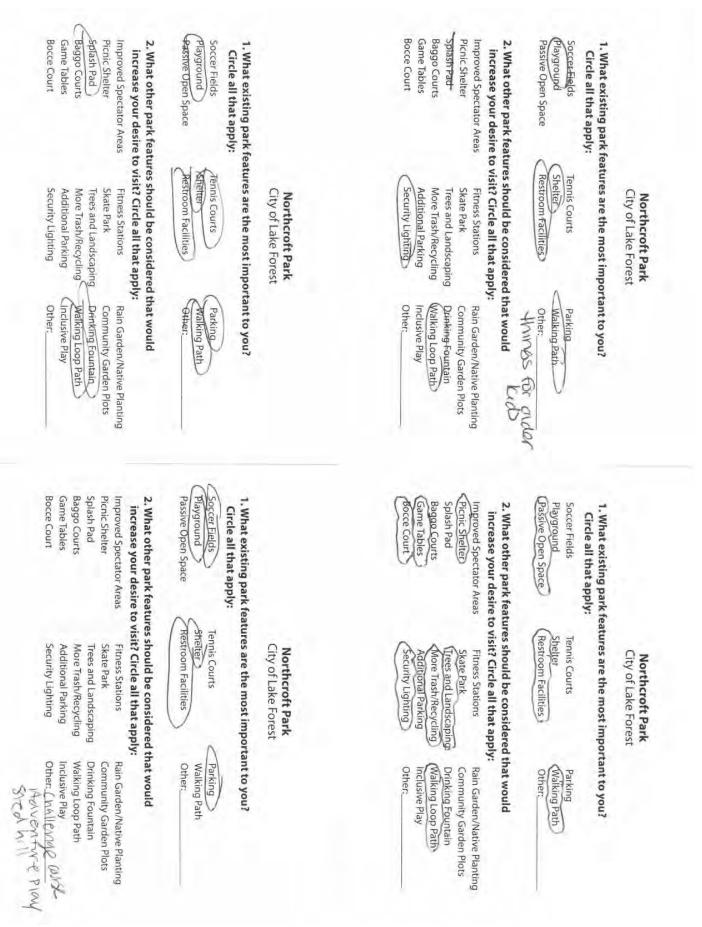
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- 1. General Comments
 - a. I think playing outside is really important and I think that nature-based play is a good idea. Maybe something that involves animals.
 - b. Šwings (4)

 - c. Frisbee golfd. Batting cage
 - e. Pond
 - f. Four square court
 - g. More trees between soccer fields for shade
 - h. Slides (4)



1. What existing park features are the most important to you? Circle all that apply: Secen Fields Playground Passive Open Space Termits Courts Shelter Parking Passive Open Space 2. What other park features should be considered that would increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply: Parking Passive Open Space Improved Spectator Areas Spass Pasi- Baggo Courts Game Tables Bocce Court Sime schaige Schash Pasi- Baggo Courts Sime schaige Schash Pasi- Baggo Courts More Trash/Recycling Additional Parking Bocce Court More Trash/Recycling Additional Parking Oright Uighting Trinking Fountain Walking Loop Path- Increase Page	Northcroft Park City of Lake Forest	2. What other park features should be considered that would increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply: Improved Spectator Areas Fitness Stations Picnic Shelter Fitness Stations Splash Pad Trees and Landscaping Baggo Courts More Trash/Recycling Game Tables Additional Parking Bocce Court Security Lighting	1. What existing park features are the most important to you? Circle all that apply: Soccer Fields Playground Passive Open Space Restroom Facilities Other:	Northcroft Park City of Lake Forest
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Passive Open Space	Playground	-Soccer Fields
Restroom Facil	Shelter	Tennis Courts

Restroom Facilities

Other:

Walking Path

2. What other park features should be considered that would

increase your desire to	increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply:	-
Improved Spectator Areas	Fitness Stations	Rain Gi
Dirnir Chaltar	Skate Park	Comm

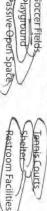
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Security Lighting Additional Parking More Trash/Recycling Trees and Landscaping

Other: Walking Loop Path Inclusive Play Drinking Fountain nunity Garden Plots arden/Native Planting

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

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ire to visit? Circle all that apply: features should be considered that would

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Additional Parking More Trash/Recycling Trees and Landscaping Fitness Stations Skate-Park

Security Lighting

Other:

Rain Garden/Native Planting

Community Garden Plots Walking Loop Path **Drinking Fountain** Inclusive Play



City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you?

Circle all that apply:

Passive Open Space Playground Soccer Fields

Restroom Facilities Courts



2. What other park features should be considered that would

increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply:

Fitness Stations

Rain Garden/Native Planting

Picnic Shelter Splash Pad mproved Spectator Areas

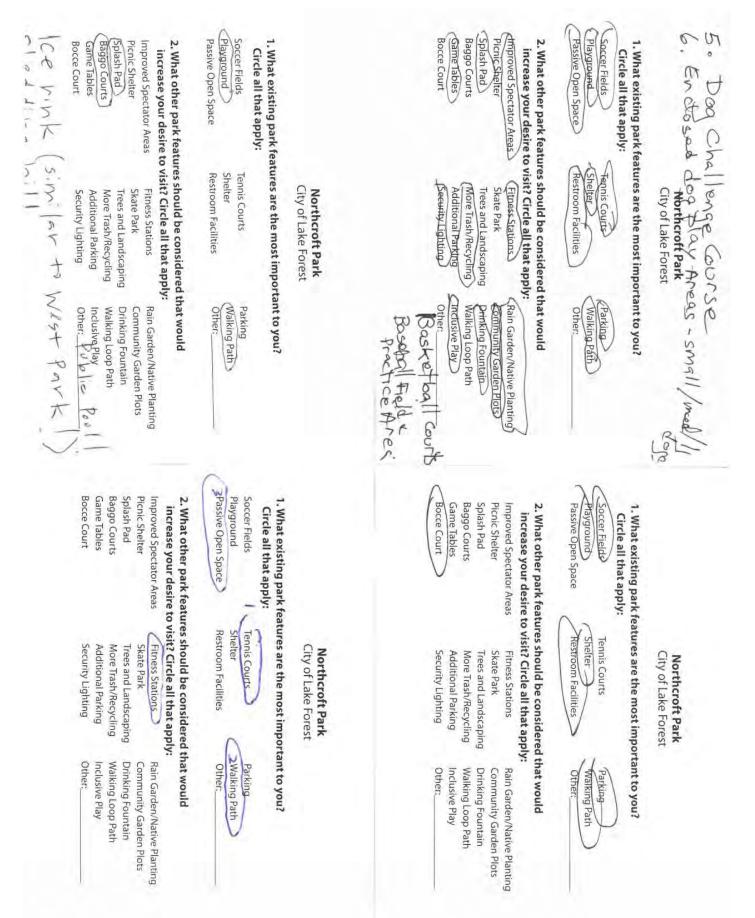
Baggo Courts

Game Tables

Bocce Court

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COMMUNITY MEETING RESULTS

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Other; Basketball

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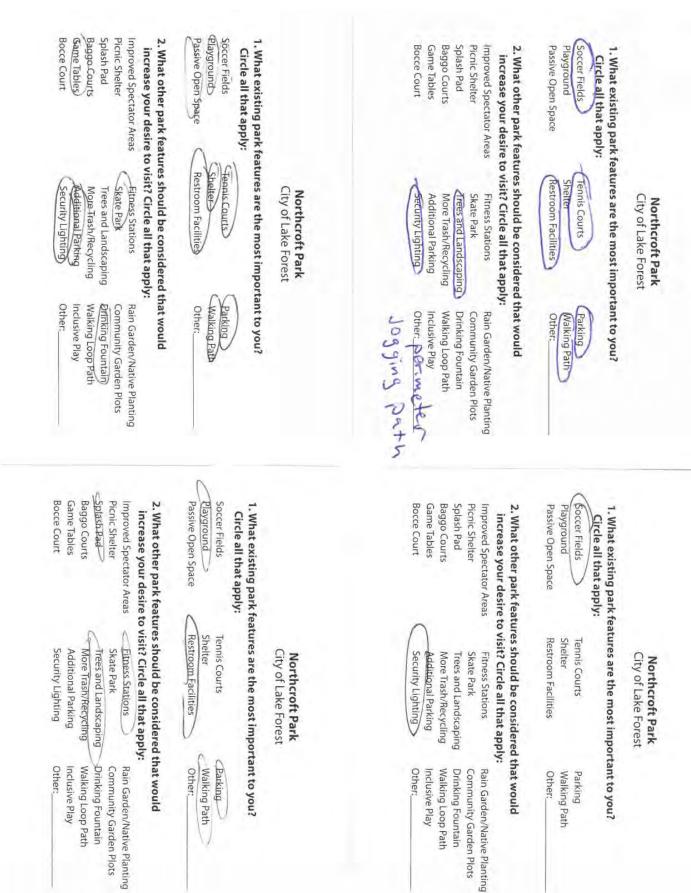
Bocce Court

Security Lighting Additional Parking

Other: Yiclcle tay 1

Basketlaall court

NORTHCROFT PARK MASTER PLAN



NORTHCROFT PARK MASTER PLAN

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Northcroft Park City of Lake Forest sting park features are the most importa that apply:	sting park featu that apply:	rtant to you?
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What existing park features are the most important to you? Circle all that anniv

assive Open Space	Playground	occer Fields	circle all ulat apply.
Restroom Facilities	Shelter	Tennis Courts	
	~		



What other park features should be considered that would incre Ply:

increase your desire to visit? Circle all that app	visit? Circle all that app
Improved Spectator Areas	Fitness Stations
Picnic Shelter	Skate Park
Splash Pad	Trees and Landscaping
Baggo Courts	More Trash/Recycling
Game Tables	Additional Parking
Bocce Court	Security Lighting

Drinking Fountain Other: Inclusive Play Walking Loop Path **Community Garden Plots** Rain Garden/Native Planting

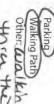
SKATING A

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you?







2. What other park features should be considered that would

Picnic Shelter Improved Spectator Areas plash Pad increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply: Skate Park Fitness Stations

More Trash/Recycling Security Lighting Additional Parking rees and Landscaping

Bocce Court Game Tables Baggo Courts

> Inclusive Play Walking Loop Path **Drinking Fountain** Rain Garden/Native Planting Community Garden Plots

Other: Winder ICC PINE

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you? Circle all that apply:

ayground	ccer Fields	}
Shelter	Tennis Courts	

Other: Walking Path Parking

Restroom Facilities

Passive Open Space

2. What other park features should be considered that would

NORTHCROFT PARK MASTER PLAN

Picnic Shelter Improved Spectator Areas increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply: Fitness Stations

Game Tables Baggo Courts Splash Pad

Security Lighting Additional Parking More Trash/Recycling Skate Park Trees and Landscaping

Other: **Drinking Fountain** Rain Garden/Native Planting Inclusive Play Walking Loop Path **Community Garden Plots**

Splash Pad

Picnic Shelter

Skate Park Fitness Stations

Improved Spectator Areas

Baggo Courts

Game Tables

Bocce Court

Security Lighting

Other PICKLE BY

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More Trash/Recycling

frees and Landscaping

Drinking Fountain Walking Loop Path

Community Garden Plots Rain Garden/Native Planting

Additional Parking

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you?

Circle all that apply:

Shelter

2. What other park features should be considered that would

increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply:

























Soccer Fields Circle all that apply:

Playground

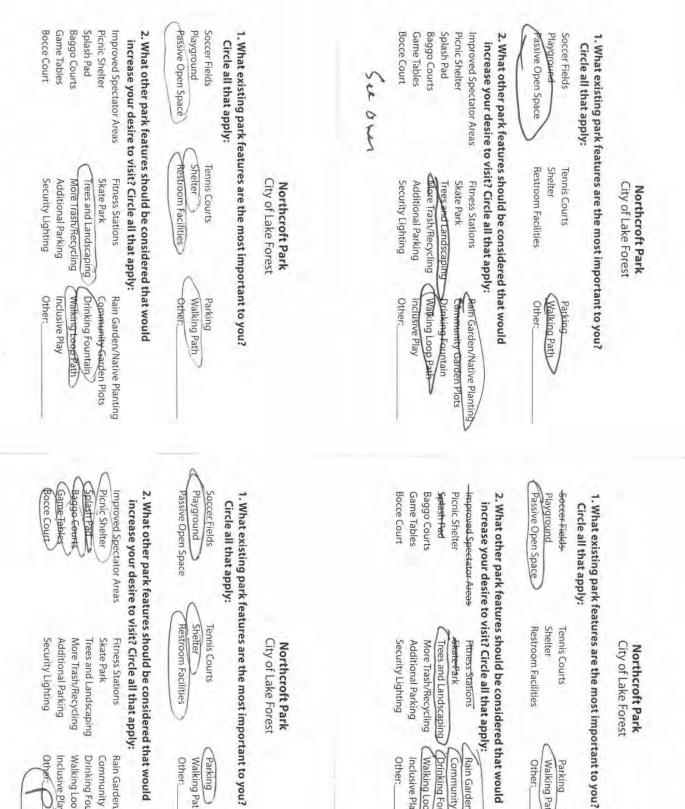






Bocce Court

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Drinking Fountain-For Pats

Community Garden Plots

Rain Garden/Native Planting

Walking Path

Parking

Other:

Other:

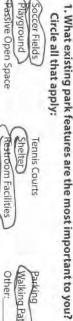
Inclusive Play Walking Loop Path

Trees and Landscaping **Drinking Fountain Community Garden Plots** Rain Garden/Native Planting

Walking Path Parking

Other:

Other: Inclusive Play Walking Loop Path



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What other park features should be considered that would

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Baggo Courts Splash Pad

More Trash/Recycling

rees and Landscaping

Additional Pasking

Inclusive Play

Other:

Bocce Court

Security Lighting

Socce Court iame Tables

> **Drinking Fountain** Community Garden Plots Rain Garden/Native Planting

Walking Loop Path

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you? Circle all that apply:

Playgroupd Soccer Fields

Passive Open Space





What other park features should be considered that would increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply:

Game Tables Baggo Courts Splash Pad Picnic Shelter Improved Spectator Areas **Fitness Stations**

More Trash/Recycling Security Lighting Additional Parking Trees and Landscaping Skate Park

Other:

Drinking Fountain Inclusive Play Walking Loop Path Rain Garden/Native Planting Community Garden Plots

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you?

Soccer Fields Circle all that apply: Tennis Courts

Shelter

Parking

Playground

Passive Open Space

Restroom Facilities Walking Path Other:



increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply:

Picnic Shelter Improved Spectator Areas Splash Pad

More Trash/Recycling Security Lighting Skate Park **Fitness Stations** Additional Parking Trees and Landscaping

Inclusive Play Walking Loop Path **Drinking Fountain** Other: listu **Community Garden Plots** Rain Garden/Native Planting 5

> City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you? Circle all that apply:

Playground Soccer Fields



Passive Open Space



2. What other park features should be considered that would

increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply:

Picnic Shelter Baggo Courts Game Tables Splash Pad Improved Spectator Areas

Bocce Court

Security Lighting More Trash/Recycling **Fitness Stations** Skate Park Additional Parking Trees and Landscaping

Walking Loop Path> Other: Sled Kill **Drinking Fountain** Community Garden Plots Rain Garden/Native Planting SA

Bocce Court Game Tables Baggo Courts

City of Lake Forest

Northcroft Park

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you? Circle all that apply:

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Shelter	Tenni	and the second se

Passive Open Space

Restroom Facilities Courts

Other: Parking Malking Path

2. What other park features should be considered that would 1 642

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Bocce Court

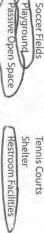
Security Lighting

Other:

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you?

Soccer Fields Circle all that apply:





2. What other park features should be considered that would

Improved Spectator Areas increase your desire to visit? Circle all that apply: **Fitness Stations** State Faik

Splash Red Game Tables Baggo Courts **Picnic Shelter**

Bocce Court

More Trash/Recycling Additional Parking Trees and Landscaping

> **Community Garden Plots** Rain Garden/Native Planting

Security Lighting Urinking Fountain Walking Loop Path

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Other More Walling

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

1. What existing park features are the most important to you? Circle all that apply:

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Other:	Walking Path	Rarking

2. What other park features should be considered that would inc

Other:	Security Lighting	Bocce Court
Inclusive Play	Additional Parking	Game Tables
Walking Loop Path	More Trash/Recycling / Walking Loop Path	Baggo Courts
Drinking Fountain	Trees and Landscaping Drinking Fountain	Splash Pad
Community Garden Plots	Skate Park	Picnic Shelter
Rain Garden/Native Planting	Fitness Stations	Improved Spectator Areas
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Northcroft Park

Northcroft Park City of Lake Forest

Achildian activities, Paths + Knowscape, tennis Court. woold be nice. Woold like to see the Shelter remain or possible improvement. Attraction for all agas (Phygoword Very nice park already. Some improvement lepd shing Kanh tos 11 Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments Deen't need which where! We live nearby and think Northcipt is a arrest park. regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! City of Lake Forest City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park Northcroft Park I would like to see More space for prairie Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments plants that are notive AdvENTURE play GAEEN INTRASTRACTURE Uny Finding Jeducational SIGNAGA NATURE PLAY NO PLASTIC GRASS INCLUSIVE play Wordland RESTORATION regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! Northcroft Park City of Lake Forest City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

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City of Lake Forest

Northcroft Park

also Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments 5730 would be impactful to the community nul loach bas from the hendball community As a LFC alumn, I'm a residuat with 3 young children that 512 indu add thin to the part and the purch share area. DWS de nearly enjoy walking around regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! this park moltiple times a week. I regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! know that the addition of hendbull courts proble ball courts would be a great. Ser mer around 00 SHAR City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park Allood 12 the I know the impact of handbell astruct Henn's De great wallare JONG TRANC outies and nac Riven an Ъ Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments Woke on ont Picase 000 UN1+ NP INMAN YOU! regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us pitasc pierse put VIIPalt PUVIN City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park No Want 20 thotal MUN H wall EN 50% N/V Vaive 554 Sevien Now in # henr OW an a +15 DAV'N M A me 5 Chi Meauty [[wing]] 2 12 CNVIA Dienn, diren + 5

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Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments

City of Lake Forest

Northcroft Park

regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us!

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

34 NORTHCROFT PARK MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY MEETING RESULTS

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Sand and maintainince of the sand area. duass north pave on + Um The ice rink was fun nere tor Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments)s have lived across the Such ra regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! DUND 30 YRANS happy NOW RAN O arave 20 MOR of the the uges the 1 City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park Northcroft Park City of Lake Forest their plagground and Necdor Wal WRST Davik withing toat own Access chi im provement that Strec drer 3 has bolly Kids Please the 5 55 Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments Thank you for your feedback! Please provide any additional comments CA-NOCE 32200 1CASE regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! regarding Northcroft Park you would like to share with us! 000 ort Kert Kees in plans eash 5.5 City of Lake Forest City of Lake Forest 2 6 Northcroft Park Northcroft Park act 22 CON ove trails. ones P Leen arcon Varouno 9 BUISE 165

NORTHCROFT PARK MASTER PLAN 35

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COMMUNITY MEETING RESULTS

City of Lake Forest Northcroft Park

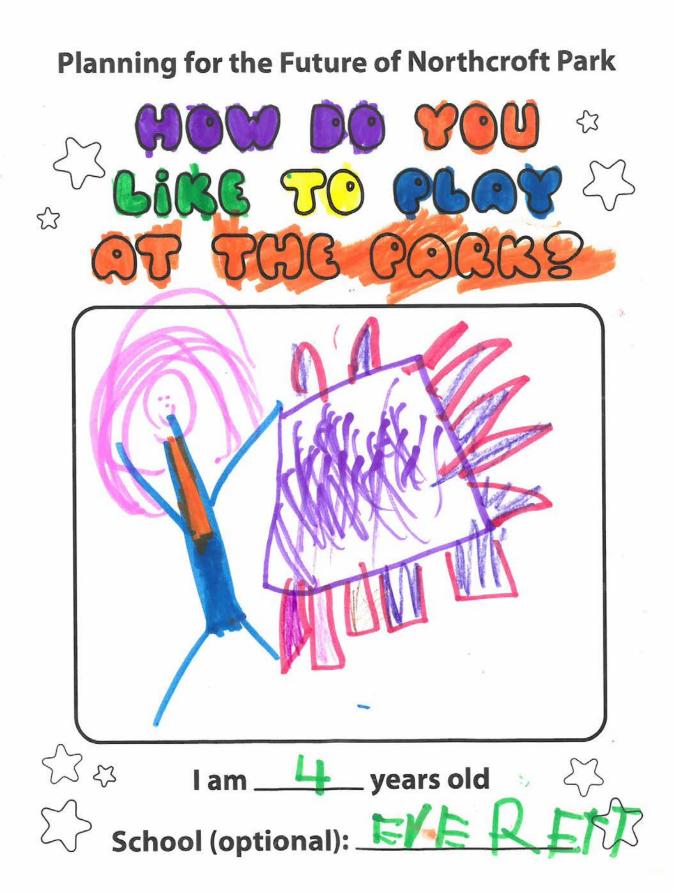
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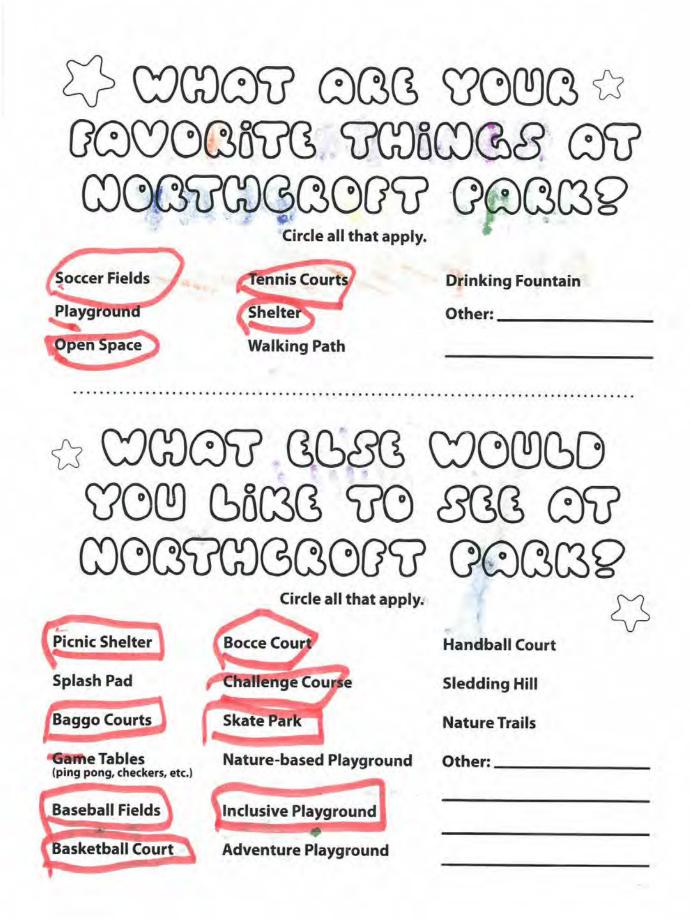
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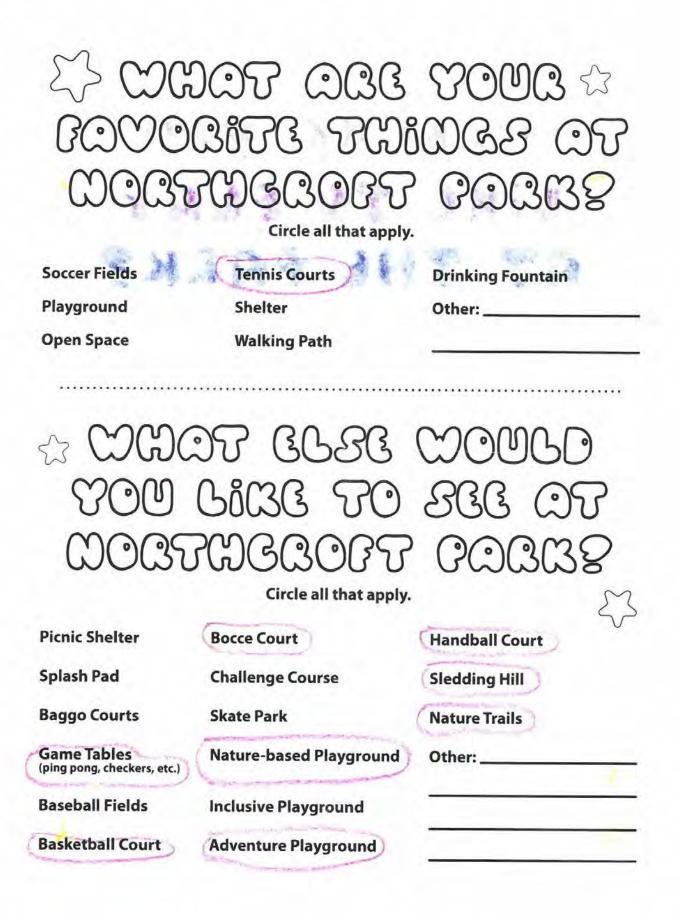
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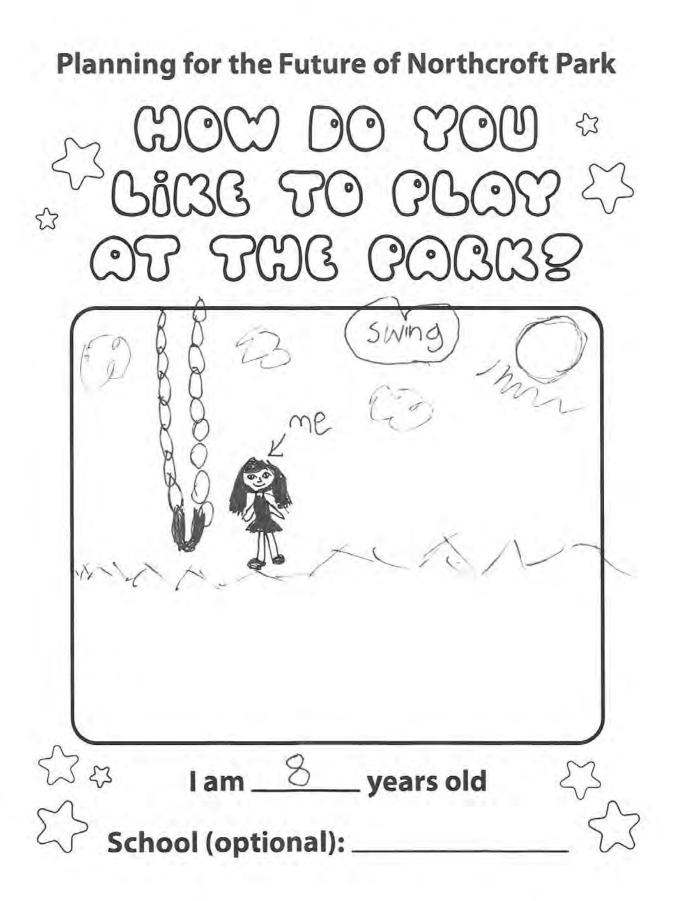




Planning for the Future of Northcroft Park

3 TO PLAY 2 e cor I think that playing outside is neally important and I think that mature based park is a good idea. maybe armething that nuolines annimala 11 53 I am <u>1</u> years old School (optional): _









Soccer Fields

Tennis Courts

Drinking Fountain

Other: ____

Open Space

Playground

Shelter

Walking Path

23(3) 3/1 0 3(2 0) 50

Circle all that apply.

Picnic Shelter

Bocce Court

Splash Pad

Baggo Courts

Game Tables (ping pong, checkers, etc.)

Baseball Fields

Basketball Court

Challenge Course

Skate Park

Nature-based Playground

Inclusive Playground

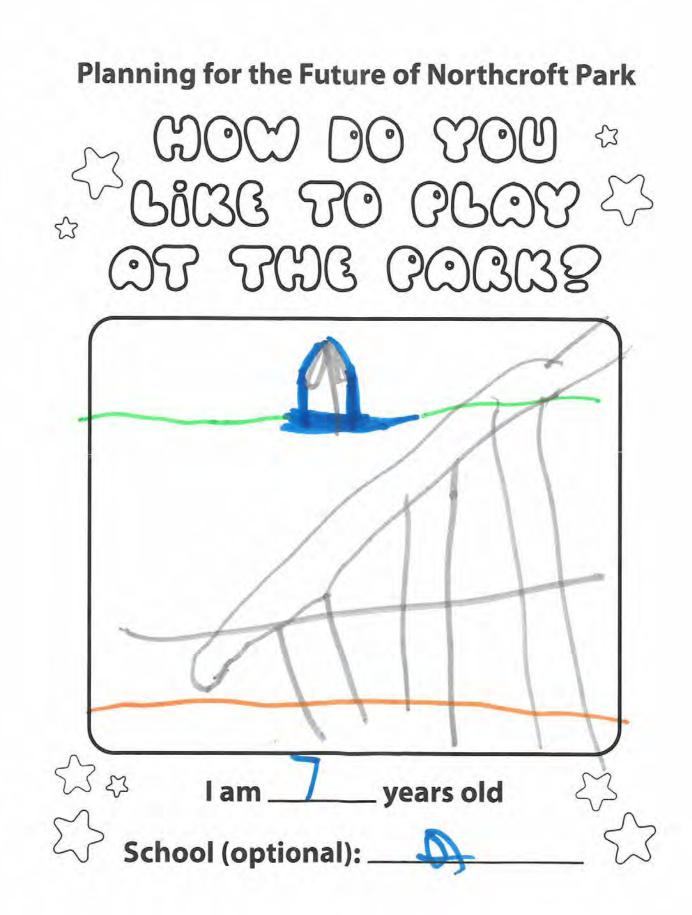
Adventure Playground

Handball Court

Sledding Hill

Nature Trails

Other:





Soccer Fields

Tennis Courts

Open Space

Playground

Shelter

Walking Path

Drinking Fountain

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Other: _____

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Circle all that apply.

Picnic Shelter

Bocce Court

Skate Park

Challenge Course

Sledding Hill

Handball Court

Baggo Courts

Splash Pad

Game Tables (ping pong, checkers, etc.)

Baseball Fields

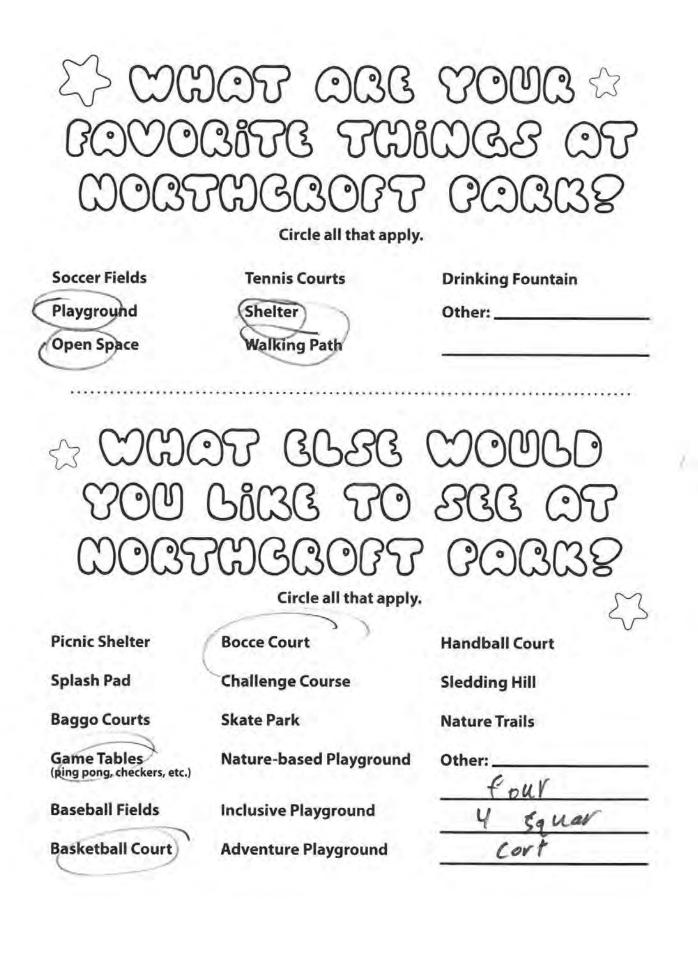
Inclusive Playground

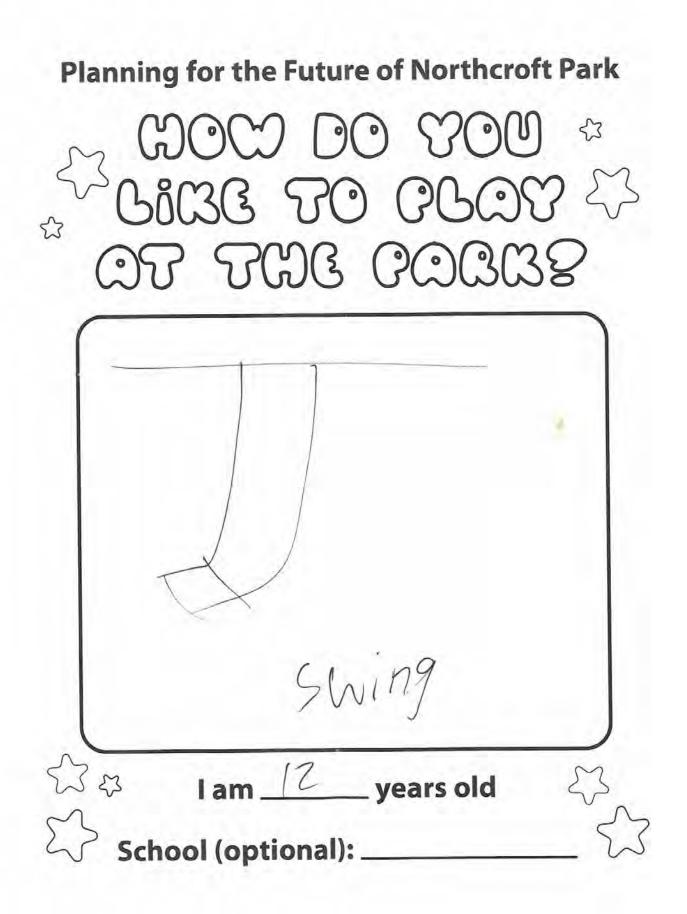
Nature-based Playground

Basketball Court Adventure Playground

Nature Trails Other:

Planning for the Future of Northcroft Park 3 0 0 QC 2 0 () 3 THE POBKS IJ IJ 13 lam___ ____ years old School (optional):







Soccer Fields

Tennis Courts

Drinking Fountain

Other:

Playground

Shelter

Open Space

Walking Path

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Circle all that apply.

Picnic Shelter

Splash Pad

Baggo Courts

Bocce Court

Challenge Course

Skate

Game Tables (ping pong, checkers, etc.)

Baseball Fields

Basketball Court

Skate Park

Nature-based Playground

Inclusive Playground

Adventure Playground

Handball Court

Sledding Hill

Nature Trails

Other: _____

Planning for the Future of Northcroft Park 0 3 00 70 P 3 3 $\binom{1}{3}$, bike with purcheds · Plax soccer with purends 553 I am 13____years old School (optional): _____

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	Circle all that apply.	9212Q9
Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	Drinking Fountain
Playground	Shelter	Other:
Open Space	Walking Path	-
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003 2003	GICE TO THECOFT Circle all that apply.	TO 228 SEDON 3
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Picnic Shelter Splash Pad Baggo Courts	Gild TO THOROGY Circle all that apply. Bocce Court Challenge Course Skate Park Nature-based Playground	SGG QT CQQQQS Handball Court Sledding Hill Nature Trails



Soccer Fields

Playground

Tennis Courts

Drinking Fountain

Other:

Open Space

Shelter

Walking Path

(3BSG 3(3) •) 75

Circle all that apply.

Picnic Shelter

Baggo Courts

Game Tables

Baseball Fields

Basketball Court

(ping pong, checkers, etc.)

Splash Pad

Bocce Court

Challenge Course

Skate Park

Nature-based Playground

Inclusive Playground

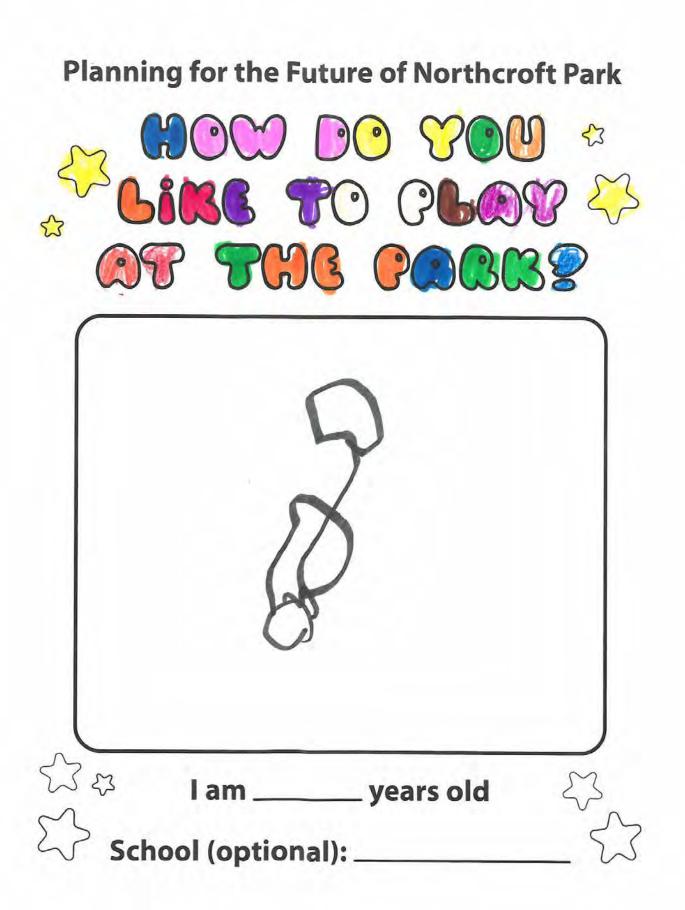
Adventure Playground

Handball Court

Sledding Hill

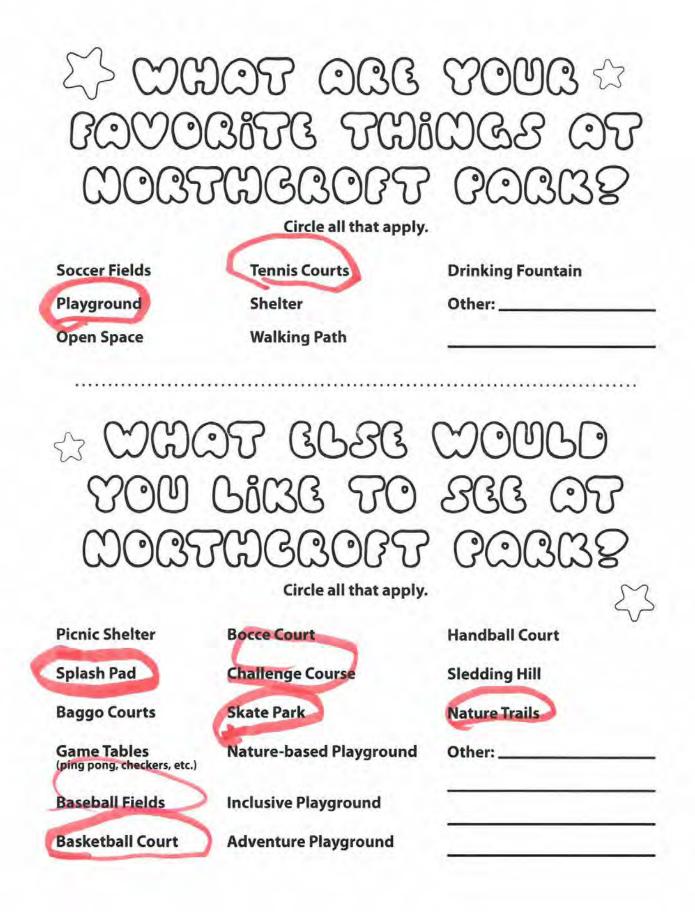
Nature Trails

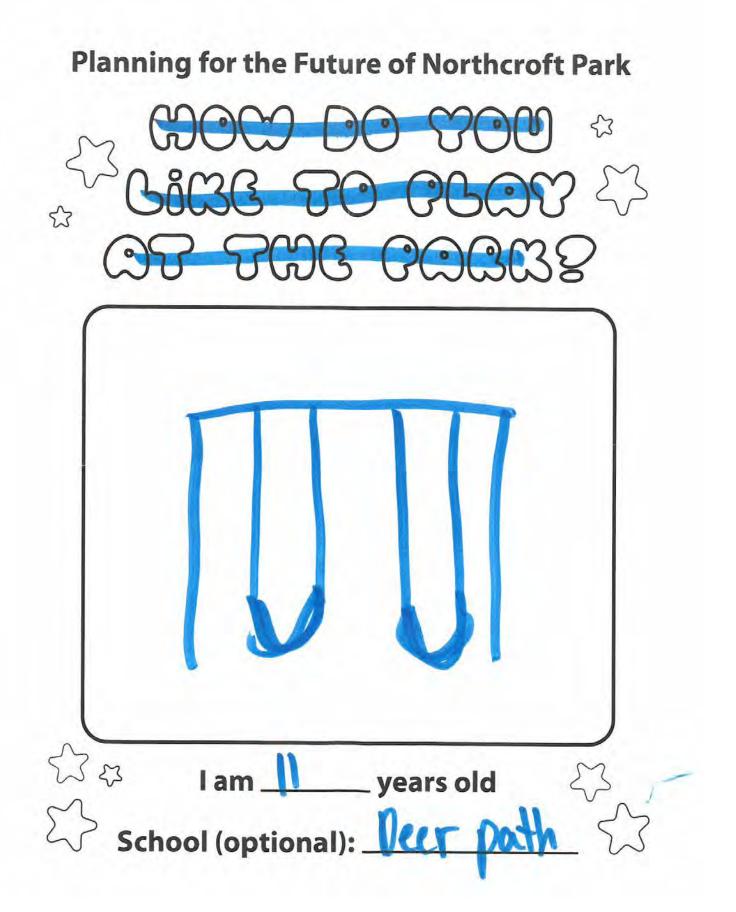
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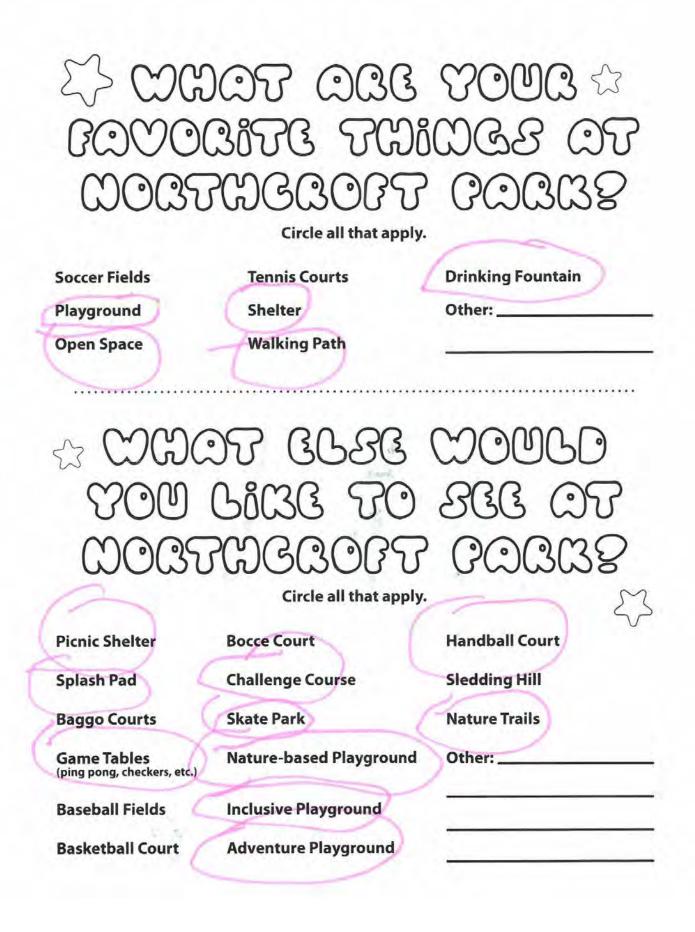




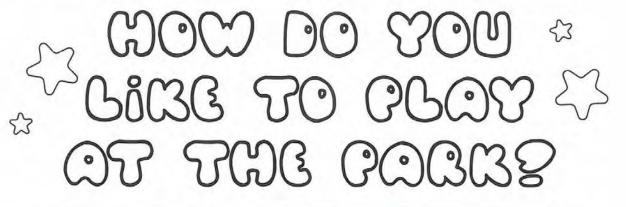








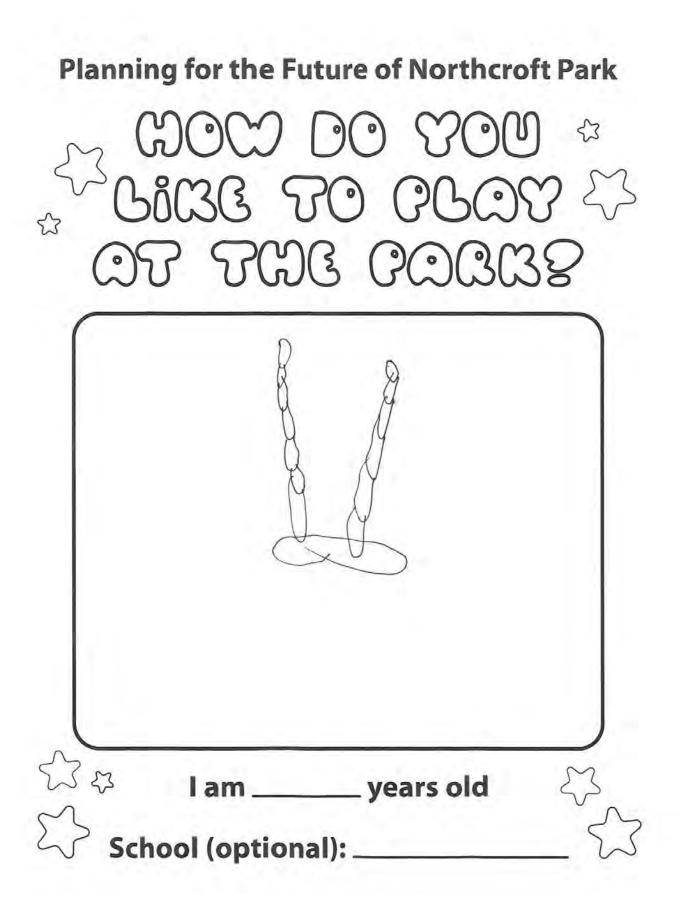
Planning for the Future of Northcroft Park

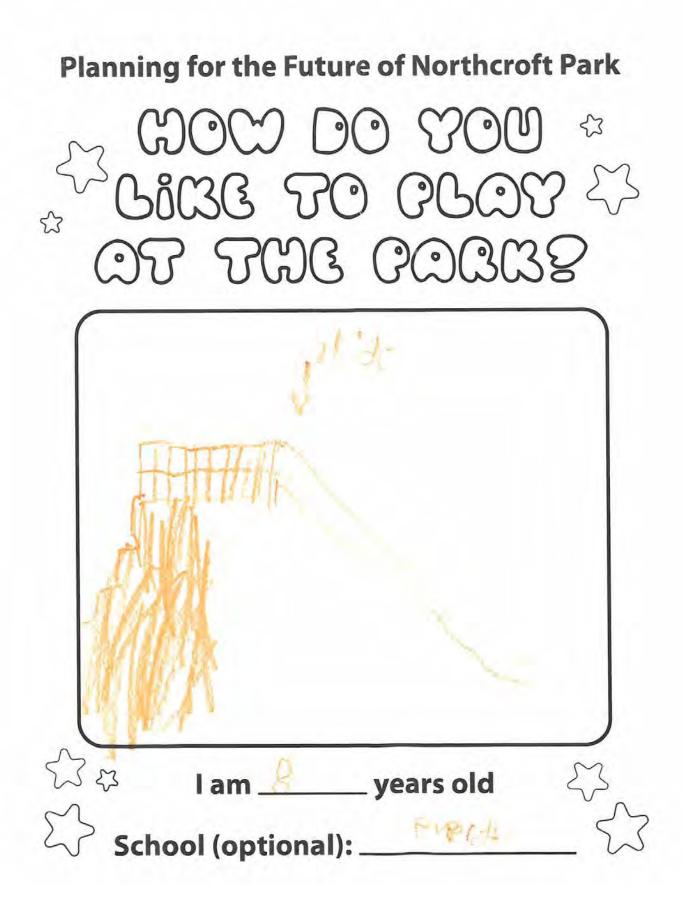






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Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	Drinking Fountain
Playground	Shelter	Other:
Open Space	Walking Path	·
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Picnic Shelter	Bocce Court	Handball Court
Splash Pad	Challenge Course	Sledding Hill
Baggo Courts	Skate Park	Nature Trails
Game Tables (ping pong, checkers, etc.)	Nature-based Playgrou	ind Other:
Baseball Fields	Inclusive Playground	
Basketball Court	Adventure Playground	





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Circle all that apply.

Soccer Fields

Playground

Shelter

Walking Path

Tennis Courts

Drinking Fountain

Other:

Open Space

Walking

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Circle all that apply.

Picnic Shelter

Baggo Courts

Game Tables

Baseball Fields

Basketball Court

(ping pong, checkers, etc.)

Splash Pad

Bocce Court

Challenge Course

Skate Park

Nature-based Playground

Inclusive Playground

Adventure Playground

Handball Court

Sledding Hill

Nature Trails

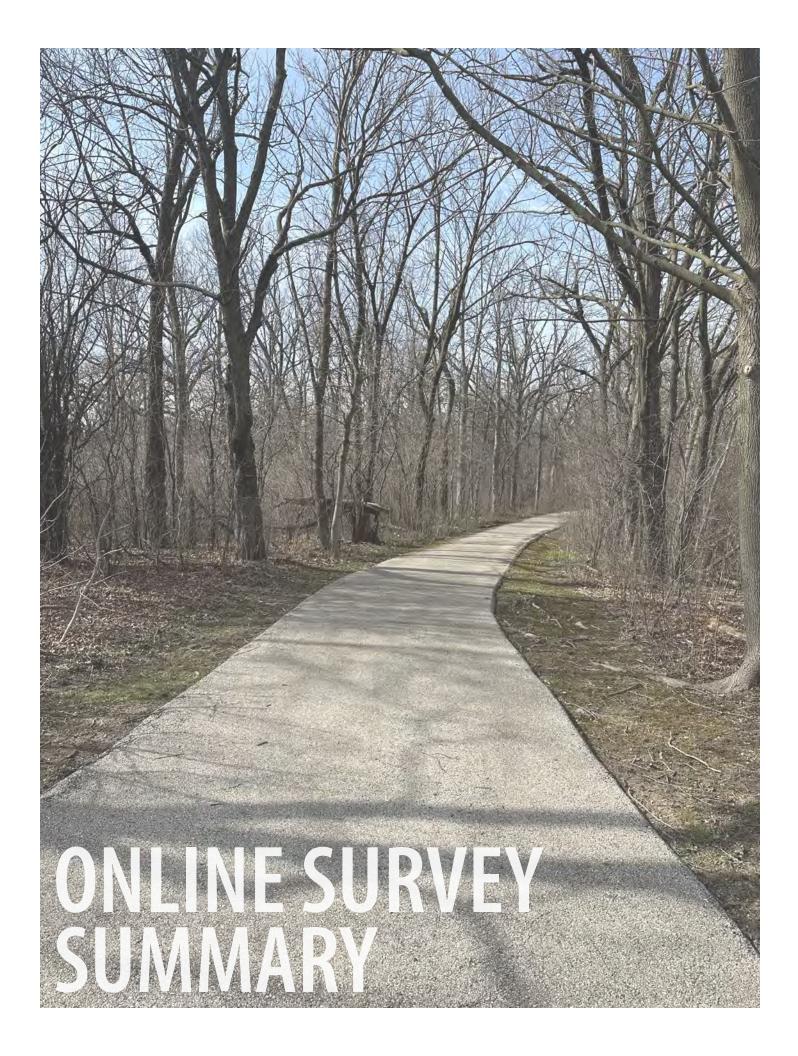
Other: ____



COMMUNITY MEETING RESULTS



COMMUNITY MEETING RESULTS





Memorandum

Date:July 31, 2023To:Chuck Myers, City of Lake ForestFrom:Abby Mies, Hitchcock Design Group

RE: Northcroft Community Park

Online Survey Summary:

A total of 440 responses were received for the online survey between May 25th and June 19th.

- 1. Most respondents are Familiar (28%) or Very Familiar (51%) with Northcroft Park.
 - a. 38% visit several times per year
 - b. 20% visit several times per month
 - c. 19% visit every week
- 2. Most respondents travel 0-1 miles (33%) or 1-5 miles (50%) to visit the park
- 3. Most respondents visit the park with others from their household (56%) or with friends (21%)
- 4. The top five reasons why respondents visit Northcroft Park:
 - a. Playground (65%)
 - b. Leisure time with family, friends, or acquaintances (37%)
 - c. Fitness (running, walking, biking) on internal pathways (36%)
 - d. Attend a special event (25%)
 - e. Walk or play with pet (24%)
- Open-ended responses include:
 - a. Boy Scouts (5)
 - b. Archery (3)
 - c. Pathway in the woods (3)
 - d. Handball court (2)
- 5. Most of respondents do not use Northcroft Park for their health/fitness routine (43%)
- 6. Most of the respondents use the playground equipment often (44%) and sometimes (32%)
- 7. Majority of the respondents never use the soccer fields (64%) or tennis courts (59%)
- 8. The top 3 rated amenities at Northcroft Park:
 - a. Maintenance and cleanliness
 - b. Personal safety and security
 - c. Noise Level
- 9. The bottom 3 rated amenities at Northcroft Park
 - a. Lighting levels after dusk
 - b. Variety of activities offered for all ages and abilities
 - c. Amount of parking
- 10. Majority of respondents think Northcroft Park is good (67%) or excellent (21%)
- 11. Majority of respondents want improvements at Northcroft Park (84%)
- 12. Top 3 reasons for enhancement at Northcroft Park:
 - a. Provide additional recreation opportunities for all ages (65%)
 - b. Replace aging infrastructure that is beyond useful life (46%)
 - c. Restore the woodland area for improved trail access and wildlife habitat (44%)

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

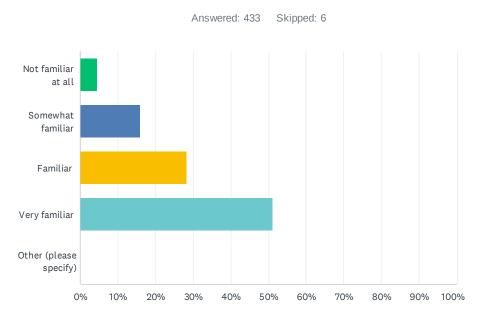


Page 2

- 13. The top five most important existing amenities at Northcroft Park:
 - a. Playground (66%)
 - b. Restroom facilities (59%)
 - c. Walking paths (55%)
 - d. Pavilion (45%)
 - e. Parking (36%)
- 14. The top five amenities respondents said would increase their desire to visit Northcroft Park:
 - a. Updated equipment/expand the playground space (41%)
 - b. Splash feature (29%)
 - c. Add designated or dual striped pickleball courts (28%)
 - d. Sled hill (24%)
 - e. Woodland trails (23%)
- 15. Most desired amenities from open-ended responses:
 - a. Handball (28)
 - b. Pickleball courts (28)
 - c. Pool (16)
 - d. Splash Pad (11)
 - e. Dog Park (9)
 - f. Resurfacing
 - i. Tennis courts (8)
 - ii. Pathway (7)
 - iii. Playground (7)
 - g. Safety concerns with kids crossing from playground to the pavilion (6)
 - h. Ice rink (5)
 - i. Increase parking (3)
- Most respondents are Lake Forest residents (84%) with households comprised of either one or more adults and children (71%) OR two or more adults without children (25%)
- 17. Most respondents are between the ages of 36-50 (59%)

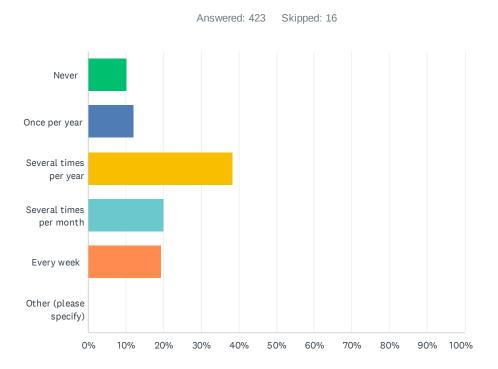


Q1 How familiar are you with Northcroft Park (1365 South Ridge Rd)?

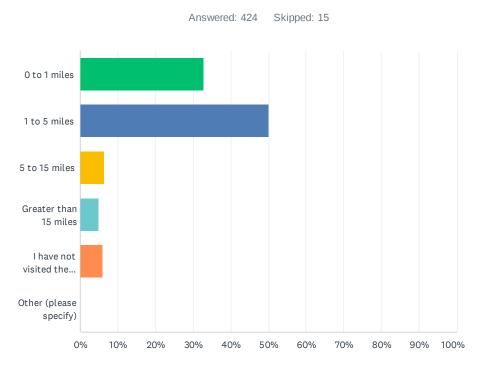


ANSWER (CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not familia	at all	4.39%	19
Somewhat	familiar	15.94%	69
Familiar		28.41%	123
Very familiar		51.27%	222
Other (plea	se specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL			433
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)		DATE
	There are no responses.		

Q2 How often have you or members of your household visited Northcroft Park in the past 12 months?

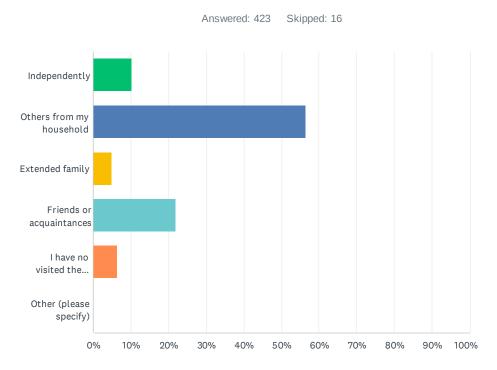


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Never	10.17% 43
Once per year	12.06% 51
Several times per year	38.30% 162
Several times per month	20.09% 85
Every week	19.39% 82
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0
TOTAL	423



Q3 How far did you travel to get to Northcroft Park?

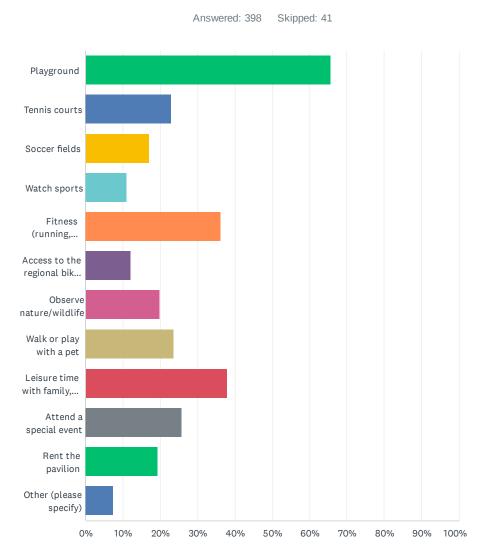
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 to 1 miles	32.78%	139
1 to 5 miles	50.00%	212
5 to 15 miles	6.37%	27
Greater than 15 miles	4.95%	21
I have not visited the park	5.90%	25
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		424



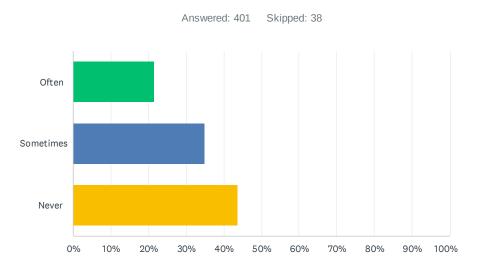
Q4 In general, do you visit the park independently or with others?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Independently	10.17% 43
Others from my household	56.50% 239
Extended family	4.96% 21
Friends or acquaintances	21.99% 93
I have no visited the park	6.38% 27
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0
TOTAL	423

Q5 Why do you or members of your household visit Northcroft Park? (check all that apply)

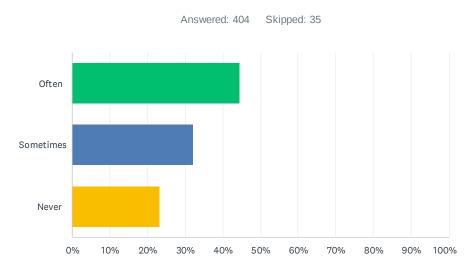


Q6 How often do you or members of your household use Northcroft Park as part of a health/fitness routine?



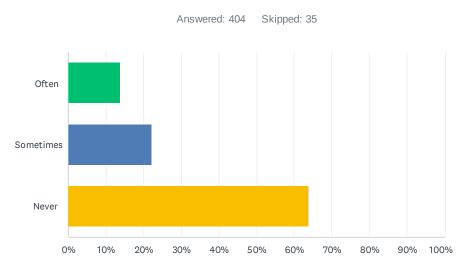
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Often	21.45%	86
Sometimes	34.91%	140
Never	43.64%	175
TOTAL		401

Q7 How often do you or your household use the playground equipment?



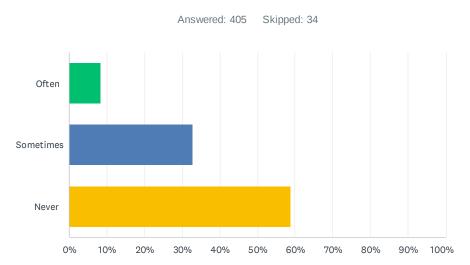
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Often	44.55%	180
Sometimes	32.18%	130
Never	23.27%	94
TOTAL		404

Q8 How often do you or your household use the soccer fields?



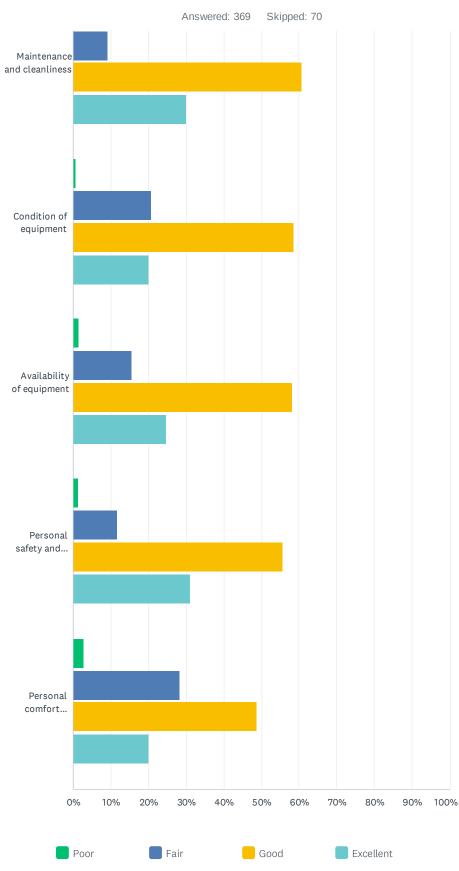
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Often	13.86%	56
Sometimes	22.28%	90
Never	63.86%	258
TOTAL		404

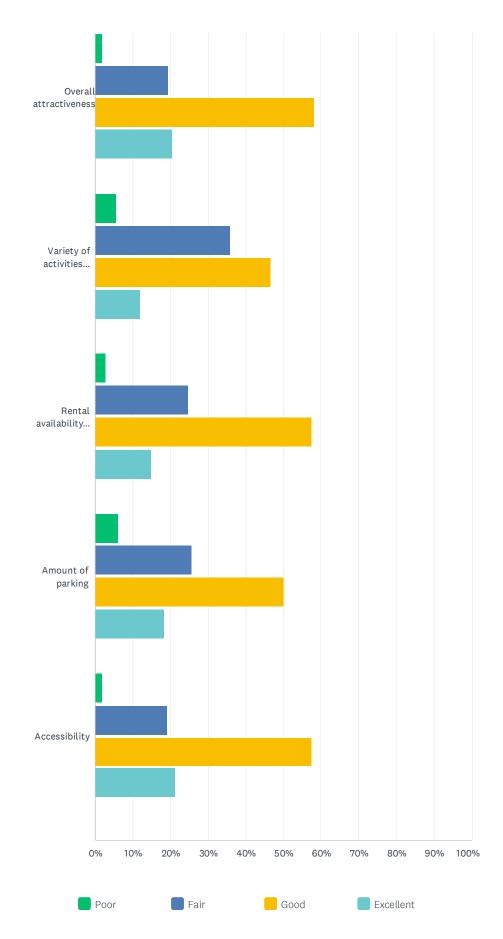
Q9 How often do you or your household use the tennis courts?

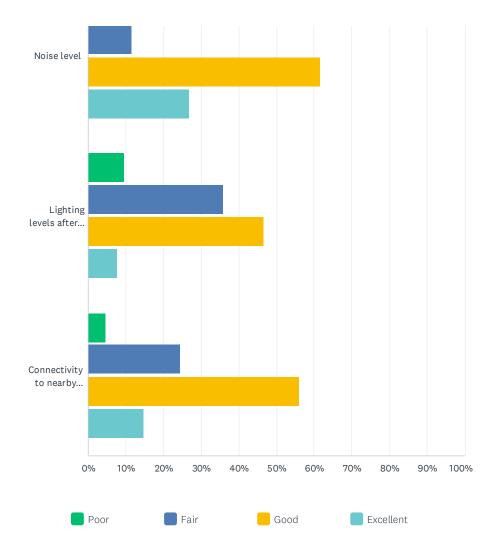


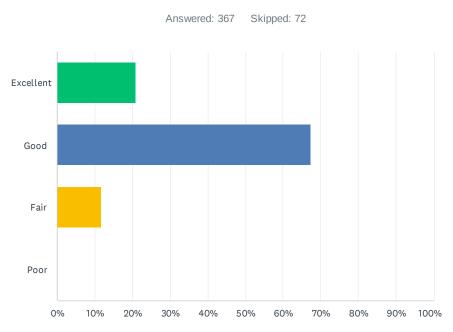
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Often	8.40%	34
Sometimes	32.84%	133
Never	58.77%	238
TOTAL		405

Q10 How would you rate each of the following amenities at Northcroft Park? (poor, fair, good, excellent)





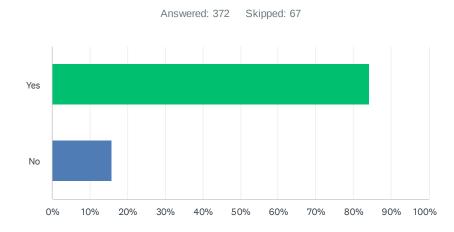




Q11 How would you rate Northcroft Park overall?

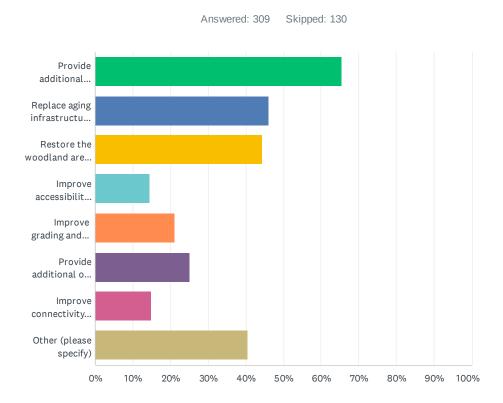
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	20.98% 77	,
Good	67.30% 247	,
Fair	11.72% 43	;
Poor	0.00% 0	,
TOTAL	367	

Q12 Should the City of Lake Forest improve/enhance Northcroft Park?



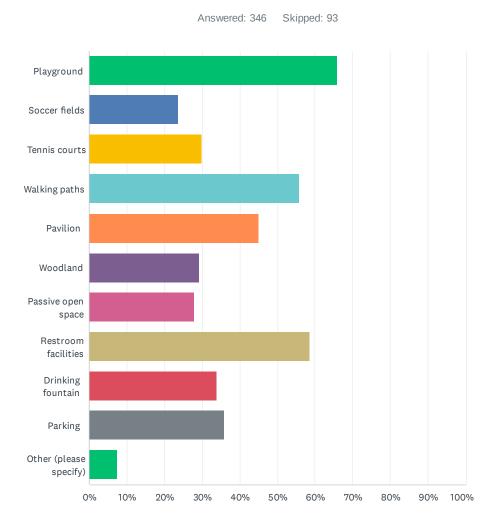
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	84.14%	313
No	15.86%	59
TOTAL		372

Q13 If you answered "yes", please tell us why Northcroft Park should be enhanced:



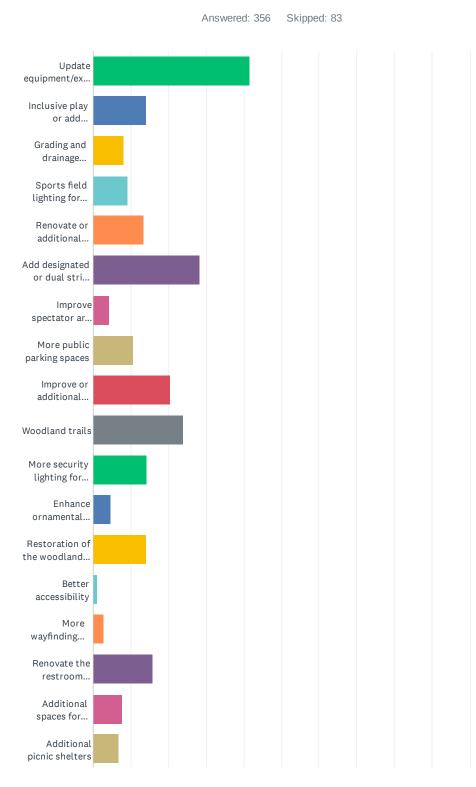
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Provide additional recreation opportunities for all ages	65.37%	202
Replace aging infrastructure that is beyond useful life	45.95%	142
Restore the woodland area for improved trail access and wildlife habitat	44.34%	137
Improve accessibility to the various park amenities	14.56%	45
Improve grading and drainage of the sports fields	21.04%	65
Provide additional or enhanced event facilities for rentals	25.24%	78
Improve connectivity to key adjacent community features	14.89%	46
Other (please specify)	40.45%	125
Total Respondents: 309		

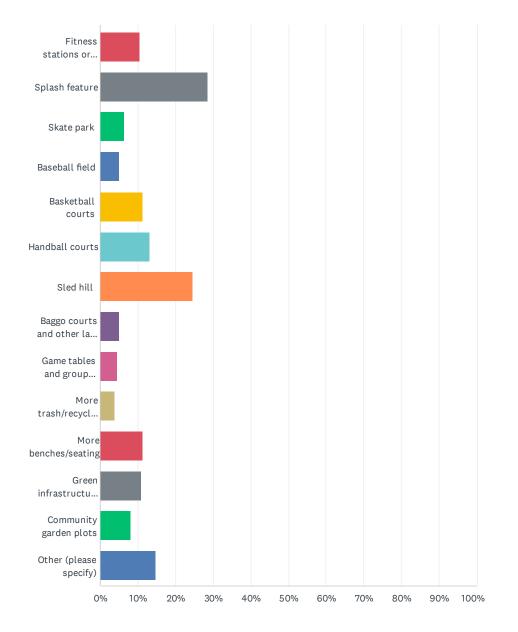
Q15 What existing park amenities are the most important to you or members of your household? (check all that apply)



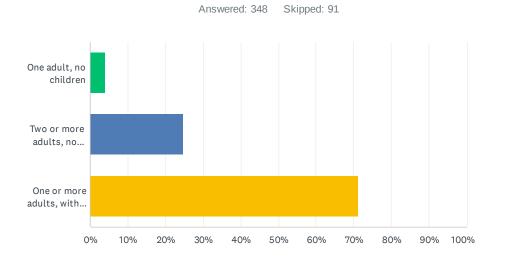
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Playground	65.90%	228
Soccer fields	23.70%	82
Tennis courts	29.77%	103
Walking paths	55.78%	193
Pavilion	45.09%	156
Woodland	29.19%	101
Passive open space	28.03%	97
Restroom facilities	58.67%	203
Drinking fountain	33.82%	117
Parking	35.84%	124
Other (please specify)	7.51%	26
Total Respondents: 346		

Q16 What other park features should be considered that would increase your desire to visit Northcroft Park? (select your top 5)



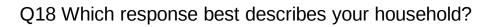


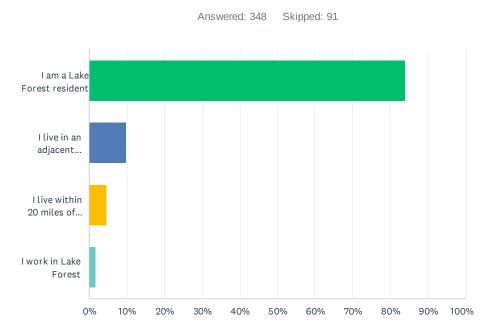
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Update equipment/expand the playground space	41.57%	148
Inclusive play or add equipment for all abilities	14.04%	50
Grading and drainage improvements for soccer fields	8.15%	29
Sports field lighting for soccer fields	9.27%	33
Renovate or additional tennis courts	13.48%	48
Add designated or dual striped pickleball courts	28.37%	101
Improve spectator areas for fields and courts	4.21%	15
More public parking spaces	10.67%	38
Improve or additional walking paths	20.51%	73
Woodland trails	23.88%	85
More security lighting for after dusk	14.33%	51
Enhance ornamental landscaping	4.78%	17
Restoration of the woodland area	14.04%	50
Better accessibility	1.12%	4
More wayfinding signage and regional path map	2.81%	10
Renovate the restroom facilities	15.73%	56
Additional spaces for small events/rentals	7.58%	27
Additional picnic shelters	6.74%	24
Fitness stations or challenge course	10.39%	37
Splash feature	28.65%	102
Skate park	6.46%	23
Baseball field	5.06%	18
Basketball courts	11.24%	40
Handball courts	13.20%	47
Sled hill	24.44%	87
Baggo courts and other lawn games	5.06%	18
Game tables and group seating options	4.49%	16
More trash/recycling receptacles	3.93%	14
More benches/seating	11.24%	40
Green infrastructure (rain garden/bioswale with native vegetation)	10.96%	39
Community garden plots	8.15%	29
Other (please specify)	14.61%	52



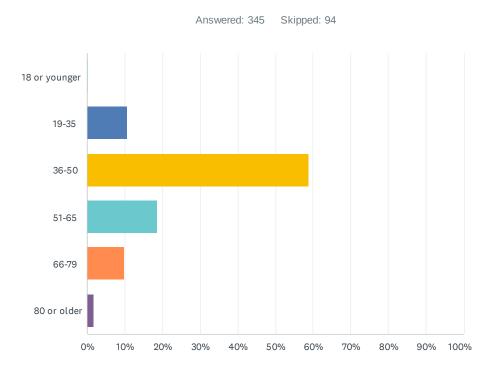
Q17 My household is best described as:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
One adult, no children	4.02%	14
Two or more adults, no children	24.71%	86
One or more adults, with children under 18	71.26%	248
TOTAL		348





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am a Lake Forest resident	83.91%	292
I live in an adjacent community	9.77%	34
I live within 20 miles of Lake Forest	4.60%	16
I work in Lake Forest	1.72%	6
TOTAL		348



Q19 My age is:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
18 or younger	0.29%
19-35	10.72% 37
36-50	58.84% 203
51-65	18.55% 64
66-79	9.86% 34
80 or older	1.74%
TOTAL	345