



PARK COMMISSION MEETING  
July 26th, 2016

6:30 P.M.  
Watab Creek Park Shelter

+++++

- 1) AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION
- 2) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES  
A. May 25th, 2016
- 3) Park Maintenance Update
- 4) Neighborhood 5 Survey results
- 5) Other Business
- 6) ADJOURN  
*\*If time allows the Park Commission will take a "walk in the park" following the meeting to make observations and follow-up with items noted in the Neighborhood 5 Park Survey.*

\*\*\*\*\*

---

FOR THOSE REQUIRING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT  
CITY HALL AT 253-2171

---

\*\*\*\*\*



**Sartell Park Commission**  
**May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**Val Smith Park Shelter**

---

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting of the Sartell Park Commission was held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Val Smith Park shelter. Dave Lindbloom called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dennis Molitor, Diane Schellinger, Michael Burzette, Rachel Lolmasteymaugh, Dave Lindbloom

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nate Keller, Community Development Technician  
Brad Borders, Public Works Director  
John Kotheunbeuttel, Assistant Public Works Director  
Larry Then, Utility System Supervisor

**AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

*A motion was made by Schellinger to adopt the agenda with the addition of 5a) Miscellaneous. The motion was seconded by Molitor. Motion carried unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Burzette and seconded by Schellinger to approve the March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 Park Commission minutes pending spelling error correction. Motion carried unanimously. Lindbloom abstained.*

**I-2 Standards/Redevelopment Task Force**

Keller explained the purpose of the moratorium and gave an overview of the properties impacted by the ordinance (Dezurik, Paper mill property, Hydro facility). Keller explained the creation of the “task force committee” and asked for a volunteer from the Park Commission to serve on the task force. Burzette volunteered to be on the task force committee. Keller will communicate to Burzette the meeting dates and times once the task force is selected and approved.

**Comprehensive Plan Recommendation**

Keller provided an overview of the Comprehensive Plan along with the specific goals allotted to in the Parks and Open Space section. Discussion was made on what the timeline was for the Comprehensive Plan and the overall goals of the plan. Keller also discussed what a Comprehensive Plan is and isn't. Overall the Commission liked the goals in the Parks and Open Space section and will provide Keller with additional input as they have more time to review.

**Eastside Park Survey**

The Commission discussed the results of the survey for Val Smith and Eastside Kiddie Park. The following were discussed as it relates to Sartell's East side parks:



- Val Smith is used quite often during PAL's activities which brings great exposure to the park
- Parking is an issue at Val Smith. Currently the parking options are limited. Staff and Commission members noted that many people park right next to the Val Smith park shelter along Park Ave leading to distress on the grass. Commission members discussed if adding some parking spaces along Park Ave would be viable. Staff noted that the road is currently privately owned and the city does not own any right-of way. Due to Park Ave being privately owned the ability for the city to construct parking along this roadway at this time is not a possibility.
- Burzette asked if we are repeating ourselves with the amenities offered at East Side Kiddie Park. Staff mentioned Eastside Kiddie Park is a small neighborhood park meant to service only those residents in the adjacent blocks. While Val Smith is a regional park which attracts residents outside of the area due to the wider range of amenities offered (baseball/softball tournaments, shelter rental, etc.) Discussion was made on the purpose of each of the parks and the residents they serve.
- Staff discussed the maintenance schedule of Val Smith and Eastside Kiddie.
- Lolmasteymaugh noted enacting an ordinance to be smoke free is an intriguing idea. Keller also explained the discussions staff has had with the Police Department. One major obstacle with this ordinance is effective and consistent enforcement.
- Staff will inquire if another picnic table or two can be added to Eastside Kiddie Park based on the feedback received from the survey.

### Miscellaneous

Lolmasteymaugh discussed a letter she received from the Lacrosse Association requesting an electronic billboard for Pinecone Central Park. Kotheunbeuttel explained the resources and staff time currently put into prepping the fields for Lacrosse games. Kotheunbeuttel suggested to Lolmasteymaugh to start the request by reaching out to the Pinecone Central Park Board for feedback and input. Discussion was also made on the importance of grassroots activism and fundraising.

Keller updated the Commission on a possible partnership with the Sauk River Watershed Association in hosting a Rain Garden maintenance class. Staff allotted to the fact that many of the raingardens in the city are not up kept and in disrepair. Keller will provide an update to the Commission once a date is established for the class.

Keller provided an update on the potential joint meeting between the City Council and Park Commission. Keller recommended the Joint meeting wait until winter since two current Council members are not seeking reelection. The Commission agreed it's better to wait until the new Council members get elected.

Discussion was made on the new Pickleball courts. Keller suggested partnering with the Pickleball Association and hosting a "grand opening" of the Val Smith Pickleball courts. Keller will outreach to the association and keep the Commission updated on the potential grand opening event. The Commission agreed the event would be a great opportunity for public engagement while exposing people to the game of Pickleball.



Lolmasteymaugh mentioned the importance of having pictures and more information on the city's parks available on the website. Keller will look at adding more pictures for each of the parks to the city's website.

Keller suggested the next Park Commission be held at Watab Park Shelter (Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>). The next Neighborhood Focus area will be Neighborhood 5. The Commission agreed.

**ADJOURN**

*A motion was made by Molitor and seconded by Schellinger to adjourn the meeting at 7:48PM. The motion carried unanimously.*

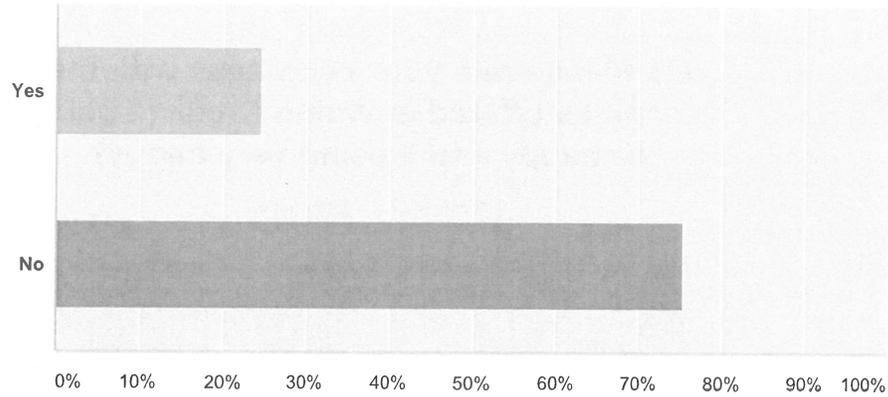
Upon the conclusion of the meeting the Commission and staff members conducted a walk around Val Smith to follow-up on recommendations made in the survey by residents.

Minutes by:  
Nate Keller, Community Development Technician



**Q1 Do you live within Neighborhood 5 as seen in the map below (You do not have to live within this neighborhood to take the survey)?**

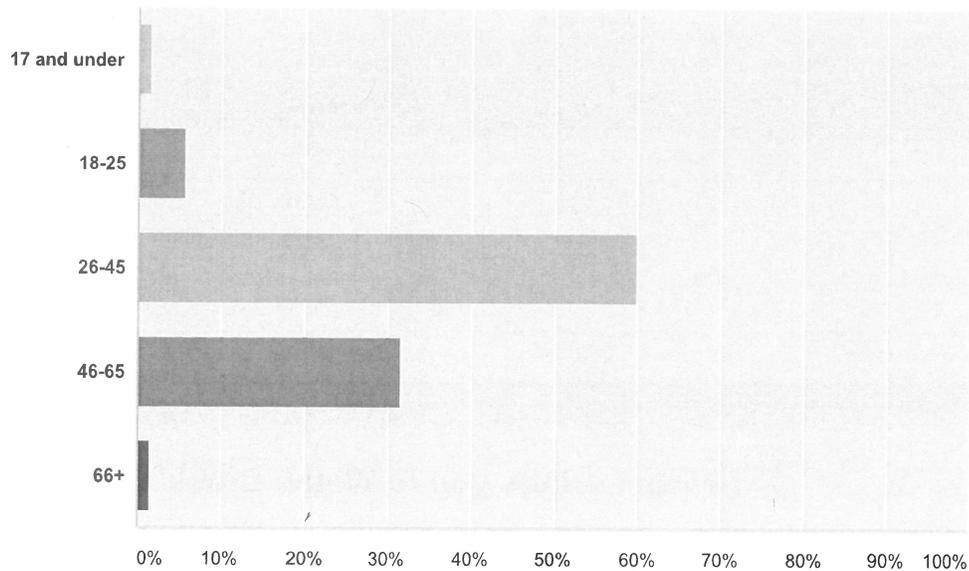
Answered: 69 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	24.64%	17
No	75.36%	52
<b>Total</b>		<b>69</b>

**Q2 What age group are you in?**

Answered: 70 Skipped: 1

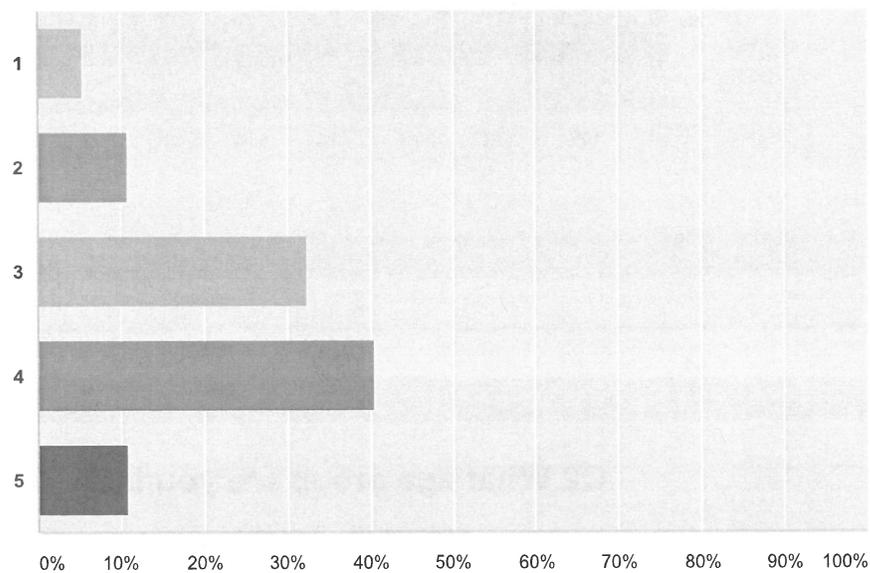


Answer Choices	Responses
----------------	-----------

17 and under	1.43%	1
18-25	5.71%	4
26-45	60.00%	42
46-65	31.43%	22
66+	1.43%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>

**Q3 Please rate your happiness with the amenities offered at Watab Creek (1 being unhappy and 5 being very happy)**

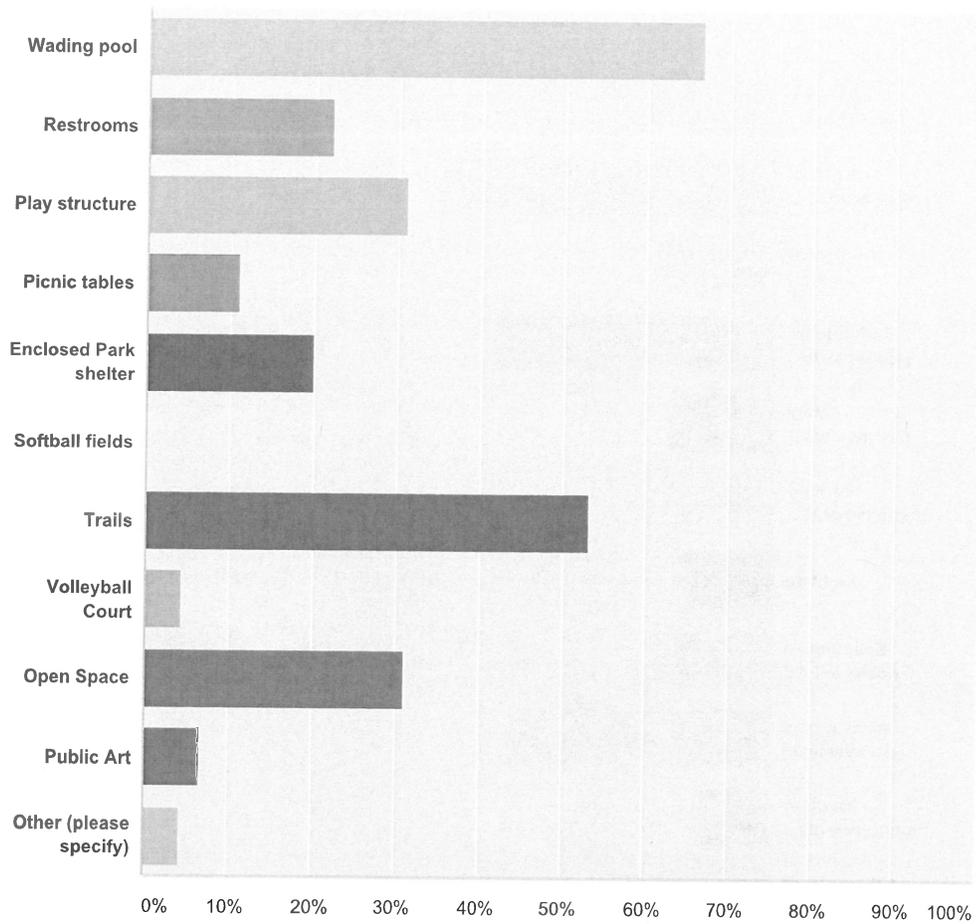
Answered: 37 Skipped: 34



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
1	5.41%	2
2	10.81%	4
3	32.43%	12
4	40.54%	15
5	10.81%	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>

**Q4 What brings you to Watab Creek?**

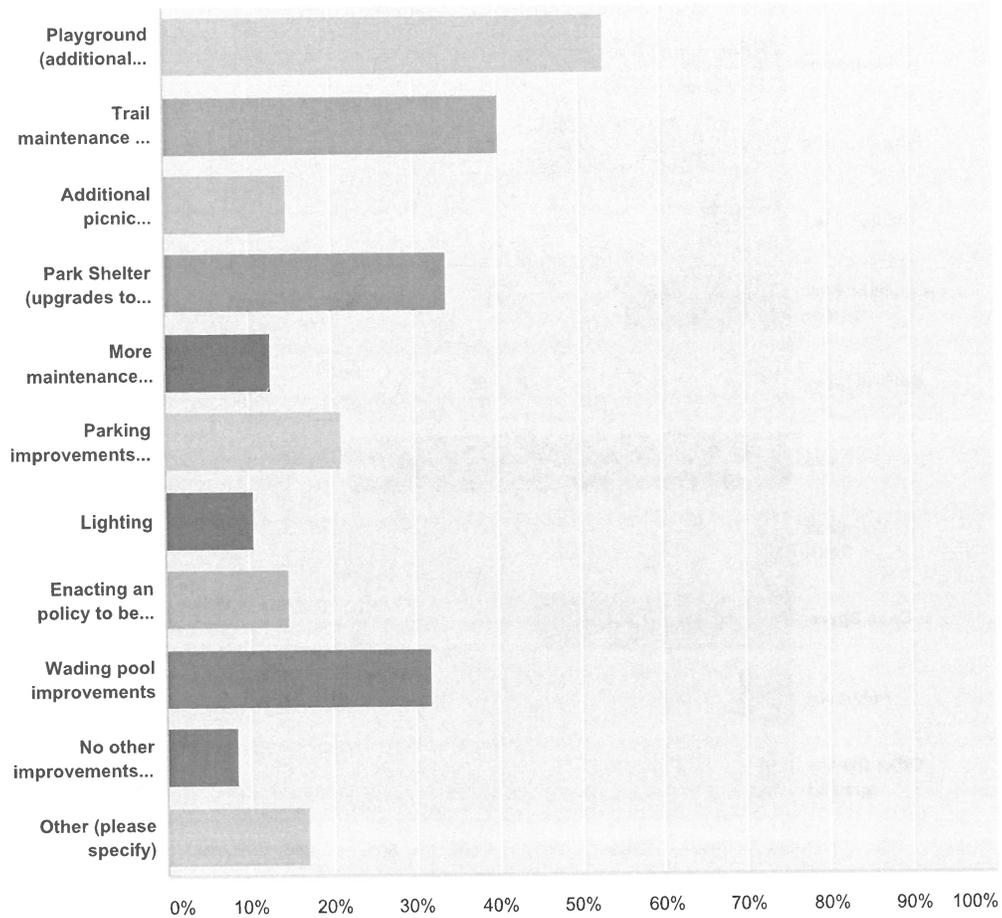
Answered: 45 Skipped: 26



Answer Choices	Responses
Wading pool	66.67% 30
Restrooms	22.22% 10
Play structure	31.11% 14
Picnic tables	11.11% 5
Enclosed Park shelter	20.00% 9
Softball fields	0.00% 0
Trails	53.33% 24
Volleyball Court	4.44% 2
Open Space	31.11% 14
Public Art	6.67% 3
Other (please specify)	4.44% 2
<b>Total Respondents: 45</b>	

**Q5 What are the top three priorities for Watab Creek park?**

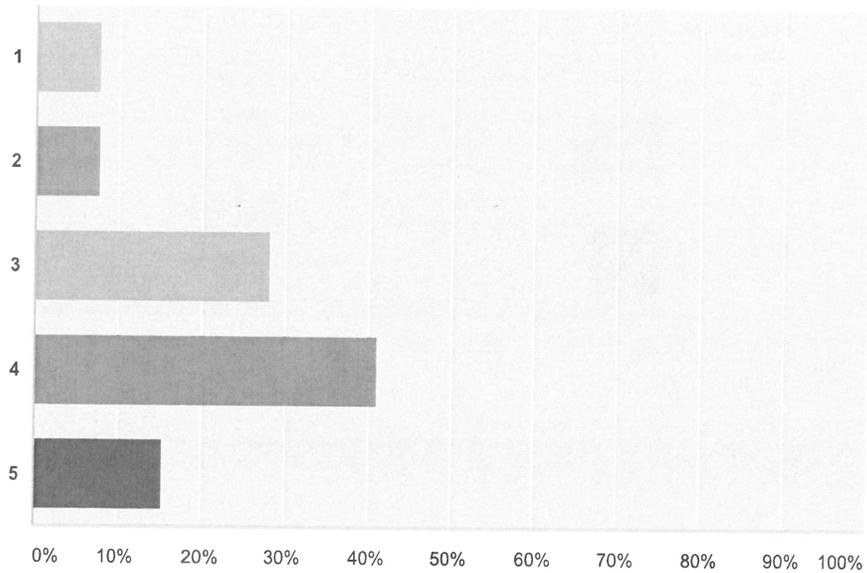
Answered: 47 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses
Playground (additional equipment, upgrade current equipment)	53.19% 25
Trail maintenance or additional trail connections	40.43% 19
Additional picnic tables/benches	14.89% 7
Park Shelter (upgrades to existing shelter/new shelter)	34.04% 16
More maintenance (weed cutting, garbage removal, tree trimming)	12.77% 6
Parking improvements (paved parking, increase in parking spaces, etc.)	21.28% 10
Lighting	10.64% 5
Enacting an policy to be smoke free	14.89% 7
Wading pool improvements	31.91% 15
No other improvements needed	8.51% 4
Other (please specify)	17.02% 8
<b>Total Respondents: 47</b>	

**Q6 Please rate your happiness with the amenities offered at Sartell Veterans park (1 is unhappy and 5 is very happy)**

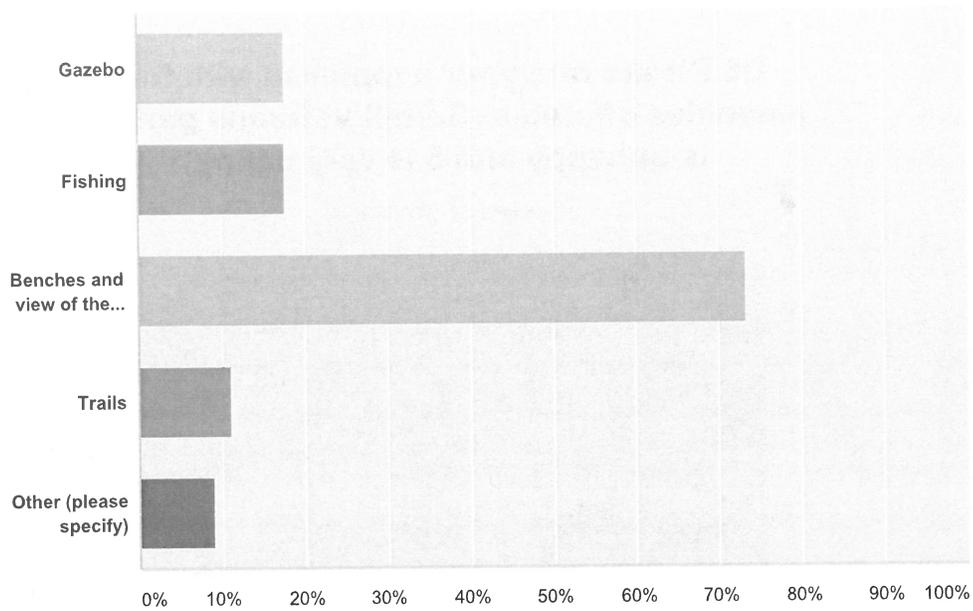
Answered: 39 Skipped: 32



Answer Choices	Responses	
1	7.69%	3
2	7.69%	3
3	28.21%	11
4	41.03%	16
5	15.38%	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>39</b>

**Q7 What brings you to Sartell Veterans park?**

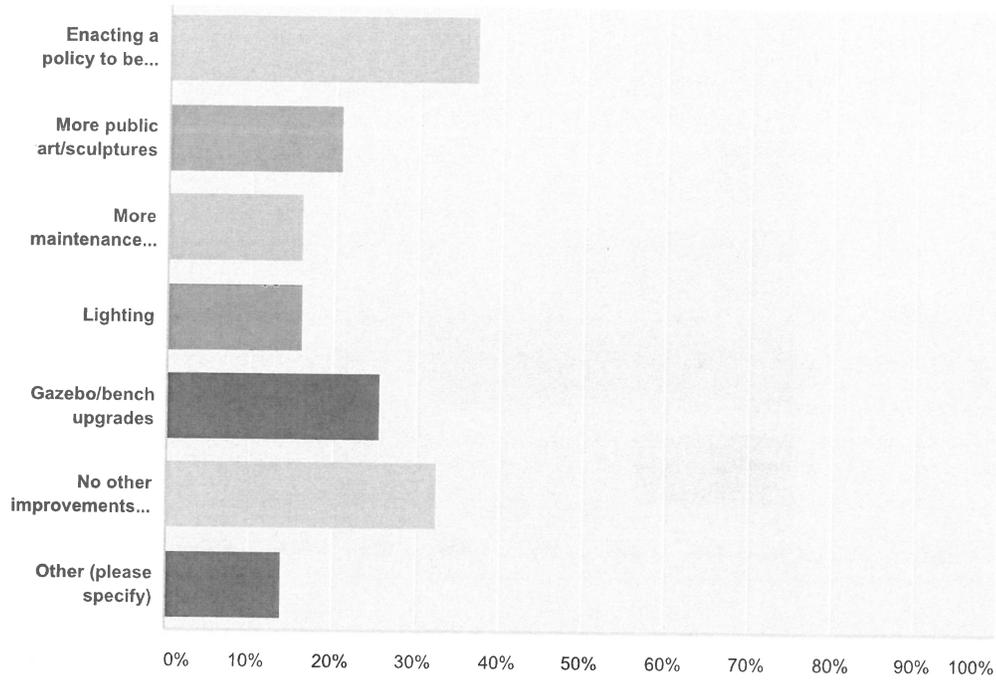
Answered: 45 Skipped: 26



Answer Choices	Responses
Gazebo	17.78% 8
Fishing	17.78% 8
Benches and view of the river	73.33% 33
Trails	11.11% 5
Other (please specify)	8.89% 4
<b>Total Respondents: 45</b>	

**Q8 What are the top three priorities for Sartell Veterans park?**

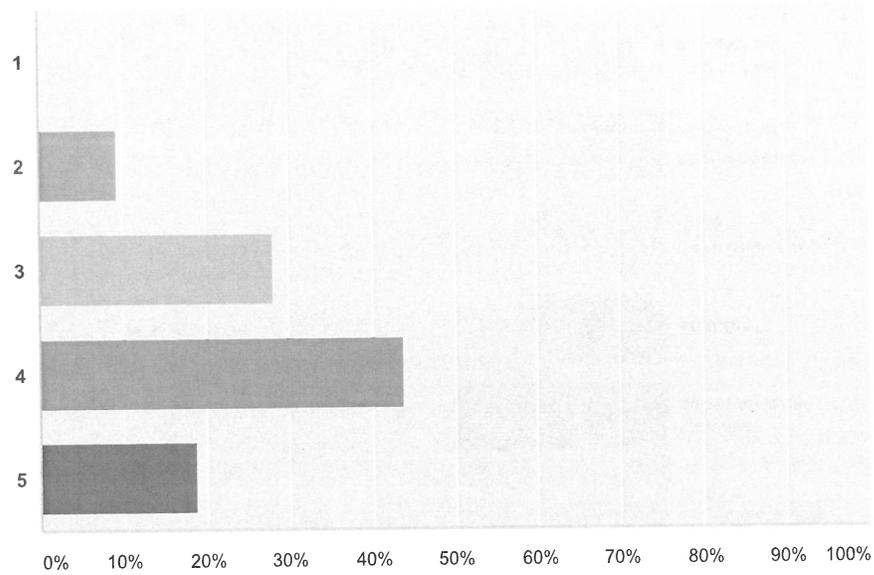
Answered: 43 Skipped: 26



Answer Choices	Responses
Enacting a policy to be smoke free	37.21% 16
More public art/sculptures	20.93% 9
More maintenance (garden upkeep, trash removal, etc.)	16.28% 7
Lighting	16.28% 7
Gazebo/bench upgrades	25.58% 11
No other improvements needed	32.56% 14
Other (please specify)	13.95% 6
<b>Total Respondents: 43</b>	

**Q9 Please rate your happiness with the amenities offered at Sabre Oaks park (1 being unhappy and 5 being very happy)**

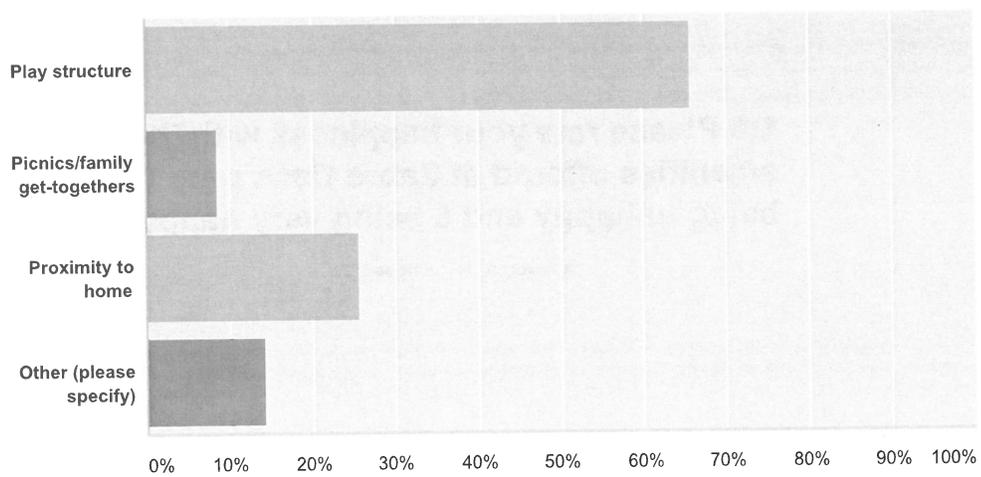
Answered: 32 Skipped: 39



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
1	0.00%	0
2	9.38%	3
3	28.13%	9
4	43.75%	14
5	18.75%	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>32</b>

### Q10 What brings you to Sabre Oaks park?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 36

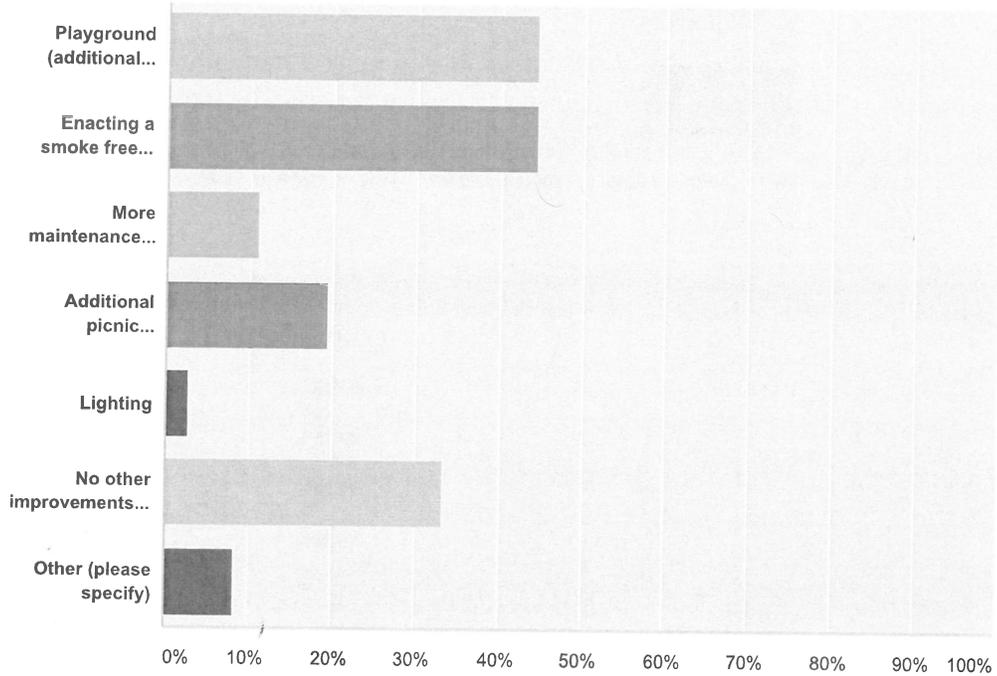


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Play structure	65.71%	23

Picnics/family get-togethers	8.57%	3
Proximity to home	25.71%	9
Other (please specify)	14.29%	5
<b>Total Respondents: 35</b>		

### Q11 What are the top three priorities for Sabre Oaks park?

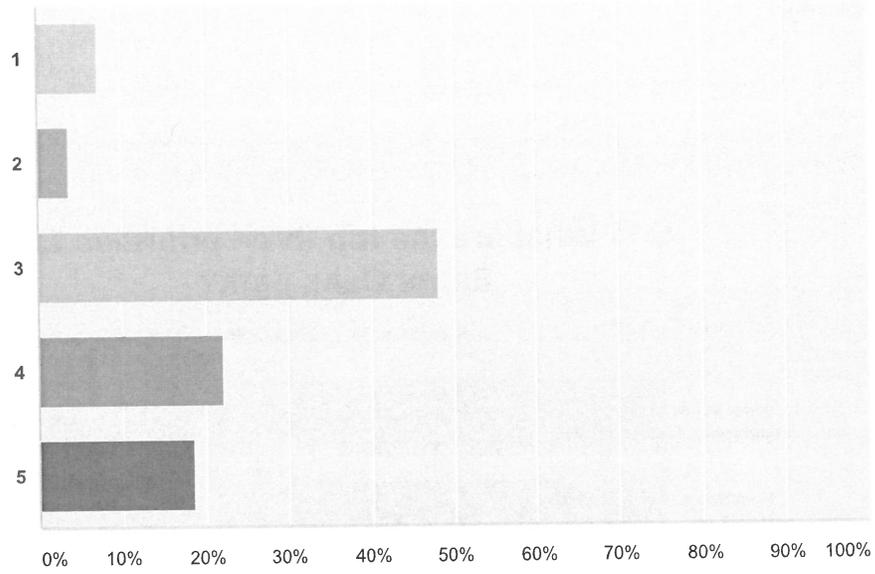
Answered: 36 Skipped: 35



Answer Choices	Responses
Playground (additional equipment/ upgrade current equipment)	44.44% 16
Enacting a smoke free policy	44.44% 16
More maintenance (tree trimming, trash removal)	11.11% 4
Additional picnic tables/benches	19.44% 7
Lighting	2.78% 1
No other improvements needed	33.33% 12
Other (please specify)	8.33% 3
<b>Total Respondents: 36</b>	

### Q12 Please rate your happiness with the amenities offered at Natures Edge park (1 being unhappy and 5 being very happy)

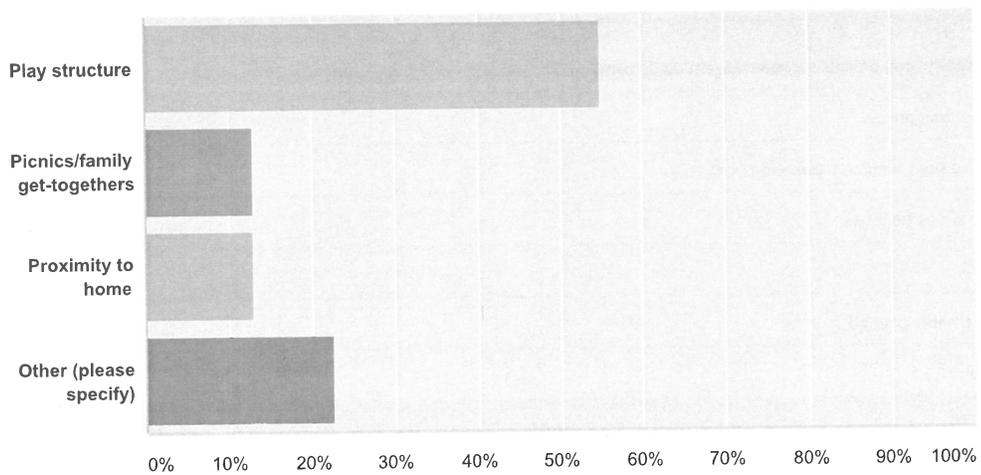
Answered: 27 Skipped: 44



Answer Choices	Responses
1	7.41% 2
2	3.70% 1
3	48.15% 13
4	22.22% 6
5	18.52% 5
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

### Q13 What brings you to Natures Edge park?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 40

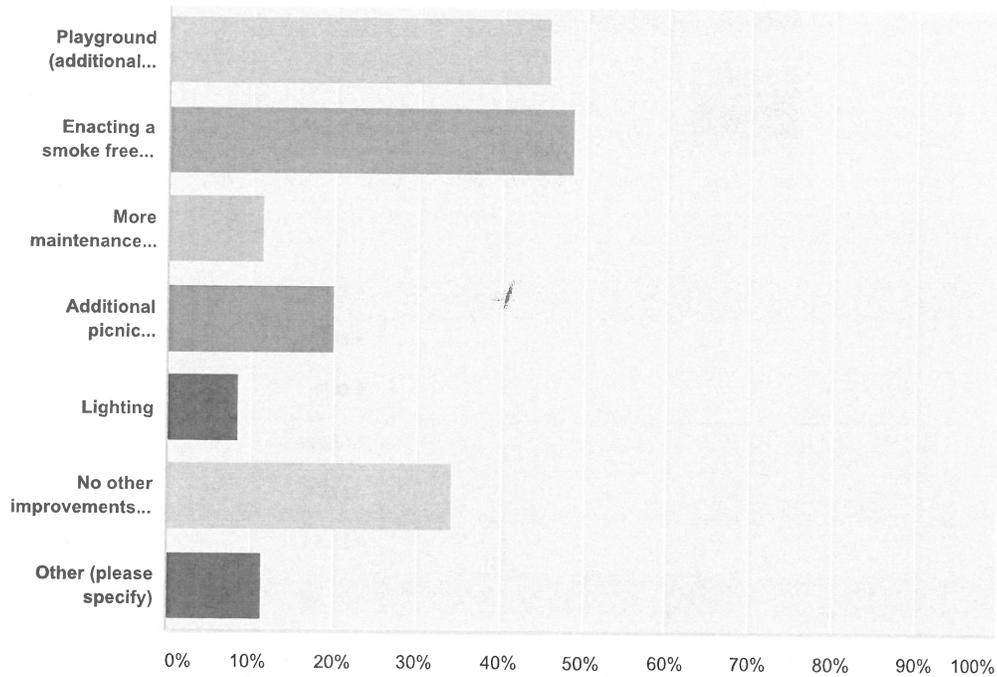


Answer Choices	Responses
Play structure	54.84% 17

Picnics/family get-togethers	12.90%	4
Proximity to home	12.90%	4
Other (please specify)	22.58%	7
<b>Total Respondents: 31</b>		

### Q14 What are the top three priorities for Natures Edge park?

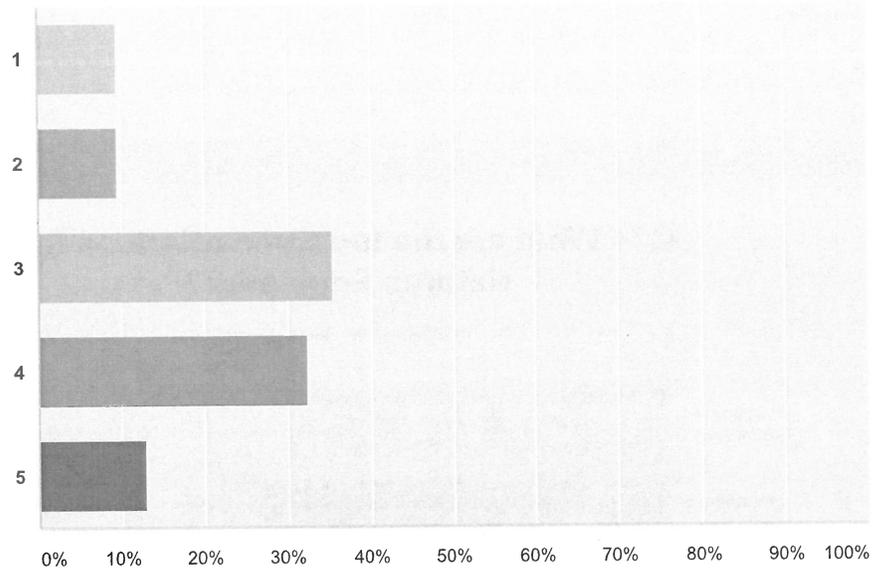
Answered: 35 Skipped: 36



Answer Choices	Responses
Playground (additional equipment/upgrade current equipment)	45.71% 16
Enacting a smoke free policy	48.57% 17
More maintenance (tree trimming/trash removal)	11.43% 4
Additional picnic tables/benches	20.00% 7
Lighting	8.57% 3
No other improvements needed	34.29% 12
Other (please specify)	11.43% 4
<b>Total Respondents: 35</b>	

### Q15 Please rate your happiness with the amenities offered at Rotary Riverside park (1 being unhappy and 5 being very happy)

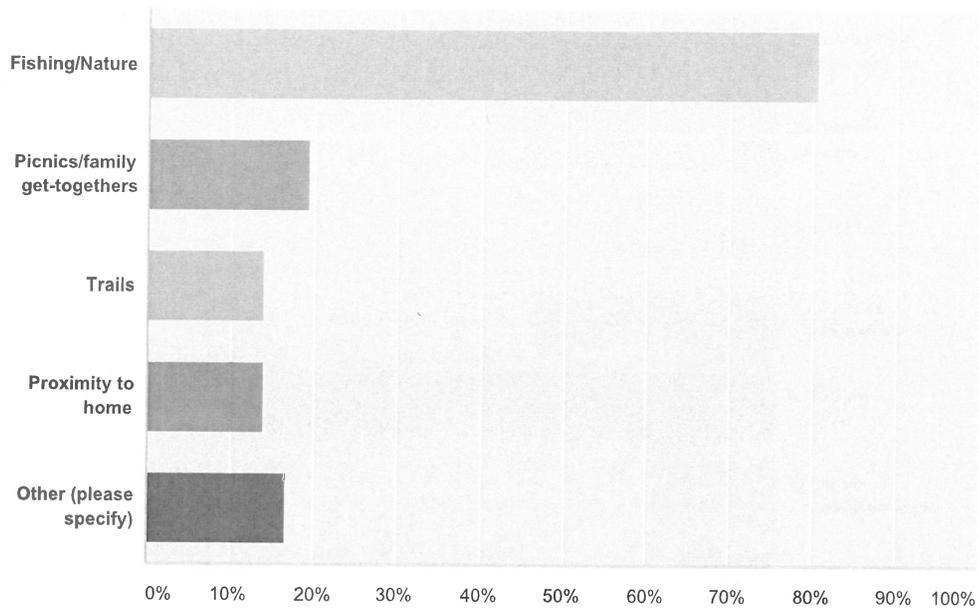
Answered: 31 Skipped: 40



Answer Choices	Responses
1	9.68% 3
2	9.68% 3
3	35.48% 11
4	32.26% 10
5	12.90% 4
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

**Q16 What brings you to Rotary Riverside park?**

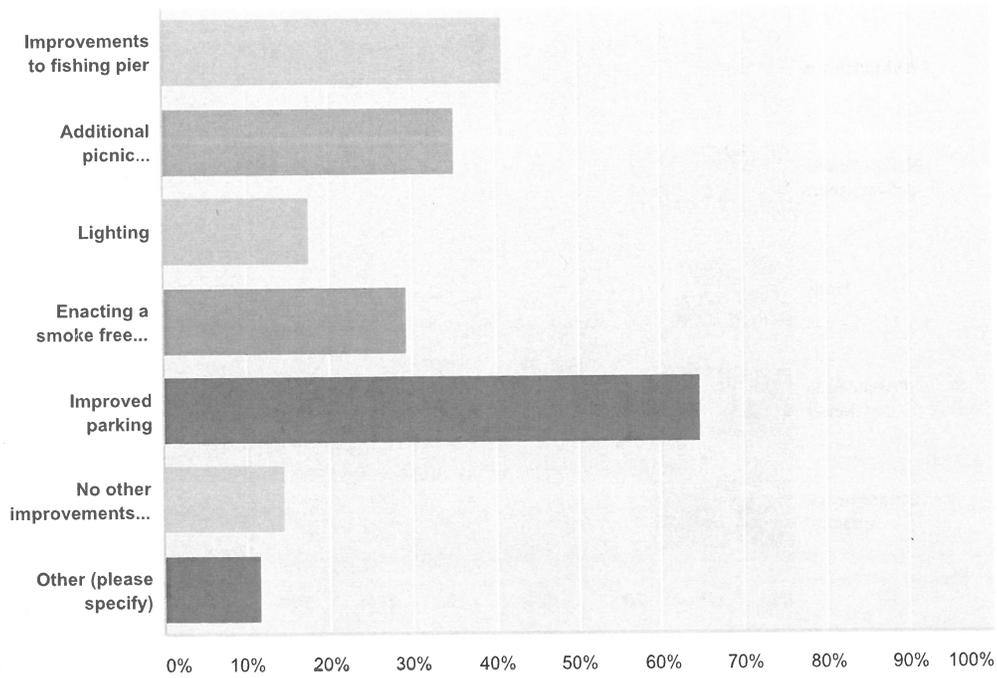
Answered: 36 Skipped: 35



Answer Choices	Responses
Fishing/Nature	80.56% 29
Picnics/family get-togethers	19.44% 7
Trails	13.89% 5
Proximity to home	13.89% 5
Other (please specify)	16.67% 6
<b>Total Respondents: 36</b>	

**Q17 What are the top three priorities for Rotary Riverside park?**

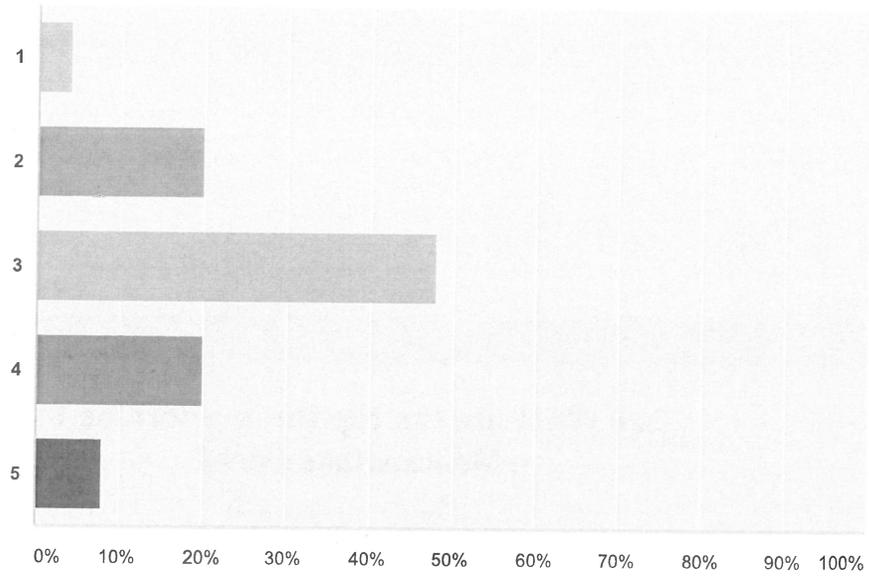
Answered: 34 Skipped: 37



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Improvements to fishing pier	41.18%	14
Additional picnic tables/benches	35.29%	12
Lighting	17.65%	6
Enacting a smoke free ordinance	29.41%	10
Improved parking	64.71%	22
No other improvements needed	14.71%	5
Other (please specify)	11.76%	4
<b>Total Respondents: 34</b>		

**Q18 Please rate your happiness with Meadowlake park (1 being unhappy and 5 being very happy)**

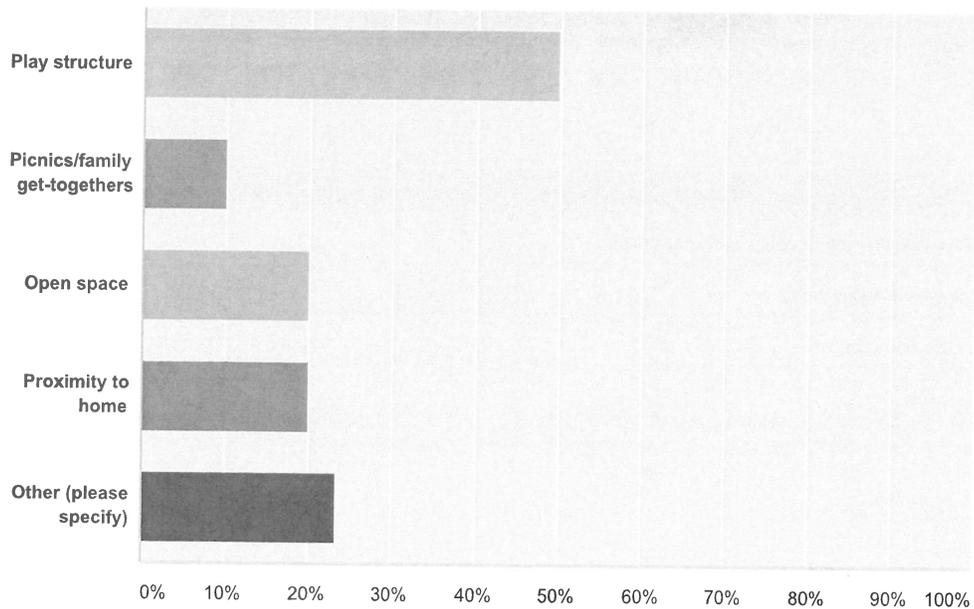
Answers: 25 Skipped: 46



Answer Choices	Responses
1	4.00% 1
2	20.00% 5
3	48.00% 12
4	20.00% 5
5	8.00% 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

**Q19 What brings you to Meadowlake park?**

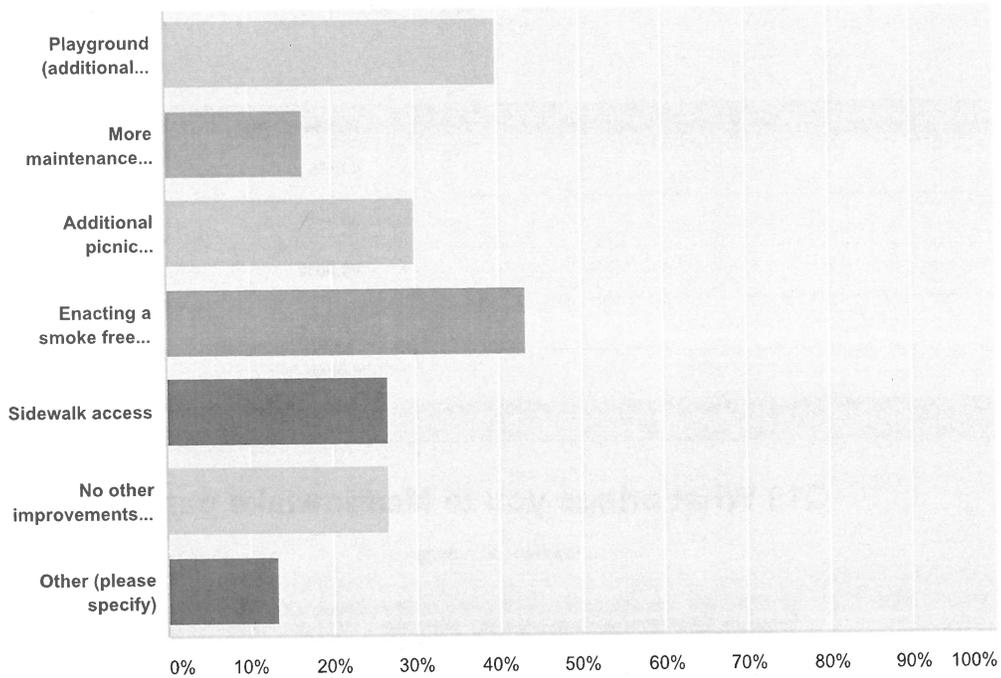
Answered: 30 Skipped: 41



Answer Choices	Responses	
Play structure	50.00%	15
Picnics/family get-togethers	10.00%	3
Open space	20.00%	6
Proximity to home	20.00%	6
Other (please specify)	23.33%	7
<b>Total Respondents: 30</b>		

### Q20 What are the top three priorities for Meadowlake park?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 41



Answer Choices	Responses	
Playground (additional equipment/upgrade current equipment)	40.00%	12
More maintenance (tree trimming, trash removal)	16.67%	5
Additional picnic tables/benches	30.00%	9
Enacting a smoke free policy	43.33%	13
Sidewalk access	26.67%	8
No other improvements needed	26.67%	8
Other (please specify)	13.33%	4
<b>Total Respondents: 30</b>		

## SURVEY COMMENTS ADDITIONAL RESPONSES

### 4. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO WATAB CREEK?

- the area is great for taking family photos by the river and near the bridge.
- Tennis court

### 5. WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR WATAB CREEK PARK?

- need more garbage cans
- fishing access
- Ice skating rink
- Remove so called art work. Mill junk
- Splash pad
- REMOVE THAT AWFUL ART IN THE PARK
- Restroom by pool needs updating
- I have teenagers and this park ends up being the central hang out for them. It would be nice to see more things that are targeted to the slightly older youth in the Sartell area. Bigger Pool (possibly like Foley Pool with a cost to the public to use).

### 7. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SARTELL VETERANS PARK?

- I never go to this park so it's hard to rate it.
- Nothing - don't use this park
- nothing
- View of the river

### 8. WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR SARTELL VETERANS PARK?

- need more garbage cans
- Parking? Needs a more accessible parking arrangement
- Remove mill junk. This is a Veterans Park
- Crosswalk to Watab park to make it safer to use both parks
- Keep this pretty good fishing location accessible and easy to use for fishing purposes
- Better view of the river

### 10. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SABRE OAKS PARK?

- I never go to this park but it looks nice in the picture.
- Have never been there.
- Don't visit
- Never visited this park
- Don't go there

### 11. WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR SABRE OAKS PARK?

- more shaded areas



- need more garbage cans
- Don't know

### **13. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO NATURES EDGE PARK?**

- I don't visit this park.
- Never Been to this Park
- Never visited
- Have never visited this park
- do not use this park
- Don't go there

### **14. WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR NATURES EDGE PARK?**

- shade or play equipment
- need more garbage cans
- Never visited

### **16. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO ROTARY RIVERSIDE PARK?**

- I've been here with my kids once. There isn't a whole lot to do for children.
- Never Been to this Park
- too far out of the way to attend
- Never visited
- View the river
- View of the river

### **17. WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR ROTARY RIVERSIDE PARK?**

- need more garbage cans
- Never visited
- Fishing pier needs to be out further if possible. to the left of the pier is pretty much unfishable with the river current
- Possibly a playground for children to play on?

### **19. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MEADOWLAKE PARK?**

- Never Been to this Park
- Never visited
- Have never visited this park
- not used
- Don't go there
- I've not seen any swinging benches, nor do I see them in the photo...would be nice to have them.



## **20. WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR MEADOWLAKE PARK?**

- grass/sprinkler system
- need more garbage cans
- Never visited
- Maintenance of the grounds and a couple more mature trees to offer shade would be nice. Seems like a forgotten stepchild.

## **21. PLEASE SHARE ANY FINAL IDEAS ON HOW THE PARKS MENTIONED IN THIS SURVEY CAN BE IMPROVED AND ENJOYED EVEN MORE.**

- Please plant trees to shade the playground areas.
- Believe the neighborhood parks should be smoke-free
- I feel that a splash pad needs to be added to Sartell, surrounding areas have them and are a huge hit. For the size of this community it is sad that we do not have our own and need to go to other communities to enjoy them.
- needs to be garbage cans along the trails to decrease the garbage that is thrown (this is throughout the city)
- Do we need all these parks? Seems excessive
- New Park Shelter in Watab.
- Add a splash pad to one of the parks in Sartell
- Can we please get a park in the Savannah oaks addition?
- Please take advantage of all these green spaces by planting pollinator friendly plant species when possible. You have the opportunity to help out pollinator species which are in decline, so please keep planting and planting more vegetation which helps pollinators and wildlife habitat.
- I would like to see more Gazebos at more parks :)
- Update watab shelter as was planned a few years back. It is the best park in our area!!
- Add a swimming pool for older kids/
- Improved trails at Watab park would be appreciated, possibly another disc golf course?
- Most of the Parks in the Sartell area are ALL targeted between the ages of 2-10. Only problem is we need to start providing activities, areas, sports to the teenage group. By providing free or low cost activities this will eliminate our teenagers of Sartell to stay out of trouble and possibly not climb on closed bridges or do other activities that could cause harm to the area or people!
- I love that Sartell has so many parks. I think the parks with wading pools are the most attractive to my family, but we also wish there was more river access associated with our parks.
- I don't visit any of the parks in Sartell unless some is hosting an event at one of them. Meadow lake is in my neighborhood and I take grandchildren there to swing, but that's about all that's of

