

## **Firehouse Mini Park Play Area Renovation – Engagement 1 2024**

An in-person public engagement event was held for Firehouse Mini Park Play Area Renovation at Byrd Barr Place on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The event was held from 10am till noon and around twenty-five attended it. The attendees were walked through the project introduction boards and given an opportunity to present their ideas on play equipment themes and types. Many inputs were collected from the event that day, in addition to which, an online survey was also released a few days later. Few un-homed park users were also interacted with informally during the engagement period. The online survey received 41 responses and 90% of the participants were from the First Hill neighborhood where the park is also situated. The following is a report on all the input received so far from the first public engagement process on this project including the in-person meeting, informal chats with park users, paper survey, and an online survey.

### **THE PARK PRESENCE**

Most of the neighbors and users love the park, its trees, its location, convenience, and enjoy the play equipment, especially the firetruck. Some feel like the park is underattended and feel unsafe at times because of drug usage. Several feel that the park could use an update with new ideas and improvements.

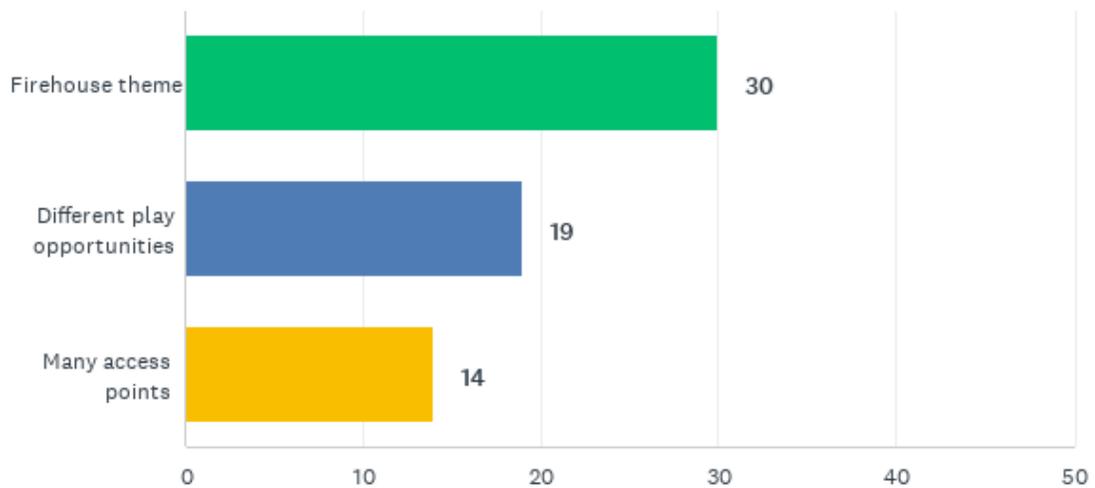
Most of the adult park users use it as a caregiver to watch and play with the children they are accompanying. Major activities that take place at the park include playing, strolling, resting, contemplating, having lunch/picnicking, interacting with trees, and engaging in nature-based outdoor activities such as yoga, tai chi, etc. Several un-homed individuals also use the park as a waiting area during daytime while they wait for their turn to receive services from the social security administration office that is right across the street.

Respondents really like the current firehouse theme and the firetruck play equipment. They like the different play opportunities that the play area provides for kids of different ages. People also like that this play area has multiple access points with different levels of challenge and multiple play routes. Few comments were also received where neighbors mentioned their love for interactive equipment like swings, monkey bar, and merry-go-round. Kids also love the open lawn area to run around freely. Un-homed individuals who use the park seemed to be hesitant to go around the play area for fear of getting hatred from parents and caretakers.

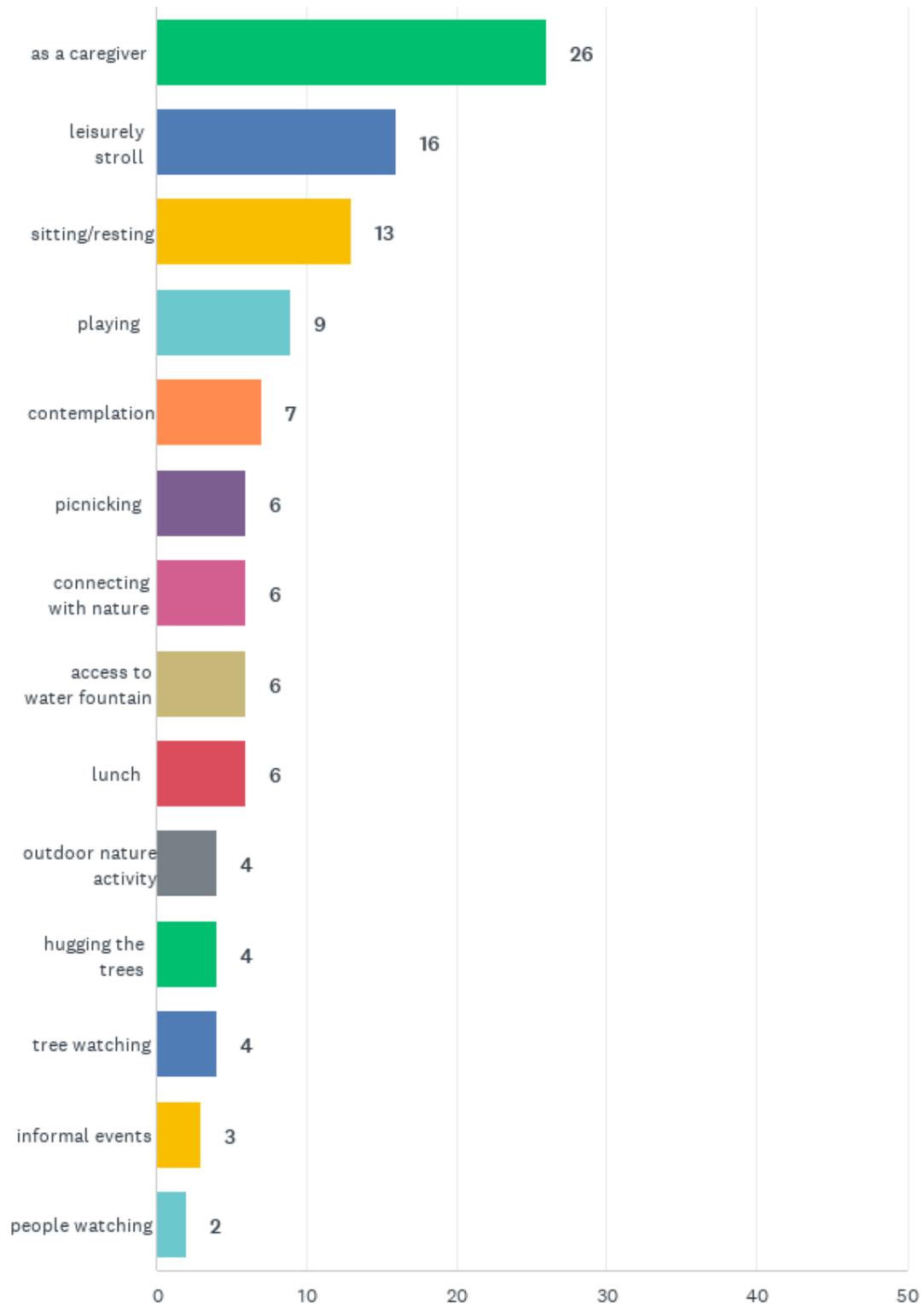
- Q – How do you currently feel about this mini park?



- Q – What do you like about the existing play equipment?



- Q – How do you currently use the park?



## FUTURE PARK

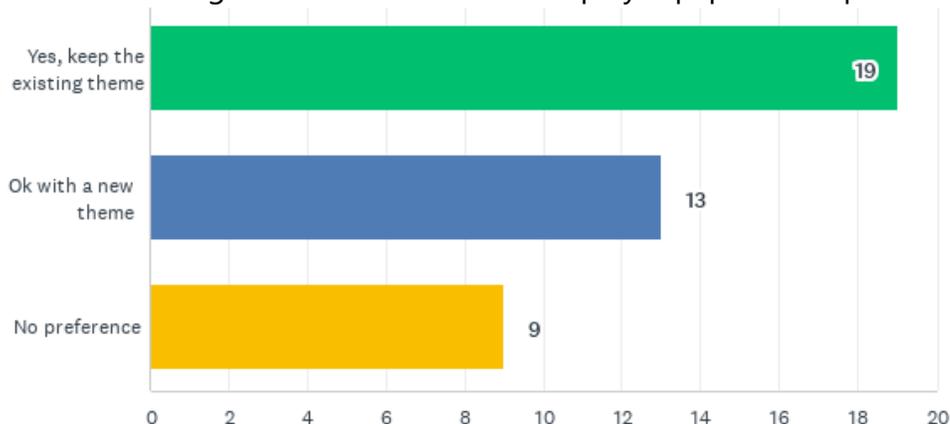
Majority of park users would like to have a nature-inspired theme for the new play area. Majority have also requested to continue having a firehouse theme with at least an element that represents a firetruck/firefighter. Several also want imaginative theme with zipline components.

The top six play equipment that people chose with given options are – Swings, Slides, Bridge, Climbing, Spinning, and Balance. Many users also requested more equipment for kids in lower age range i.e. 2-5.

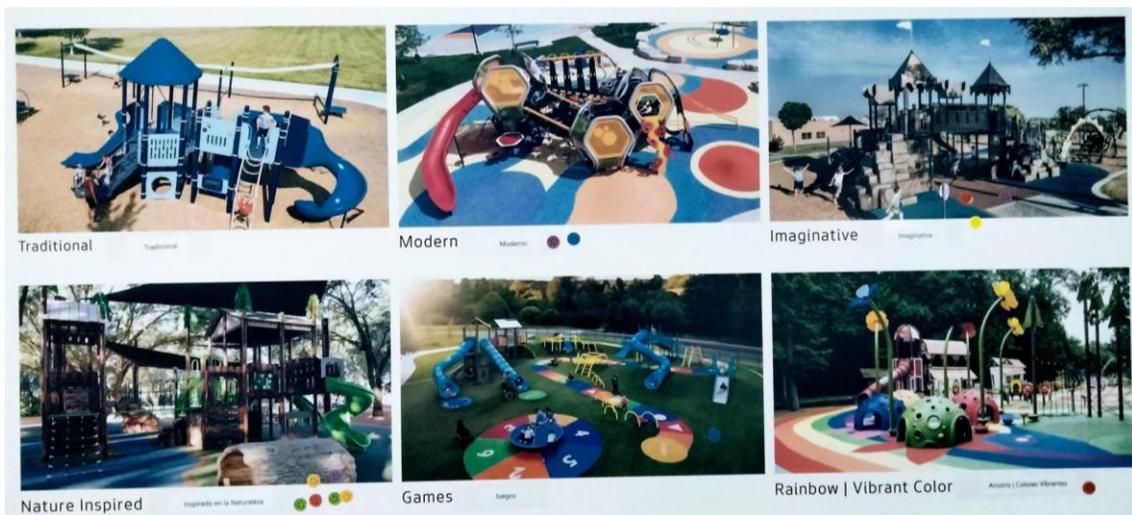
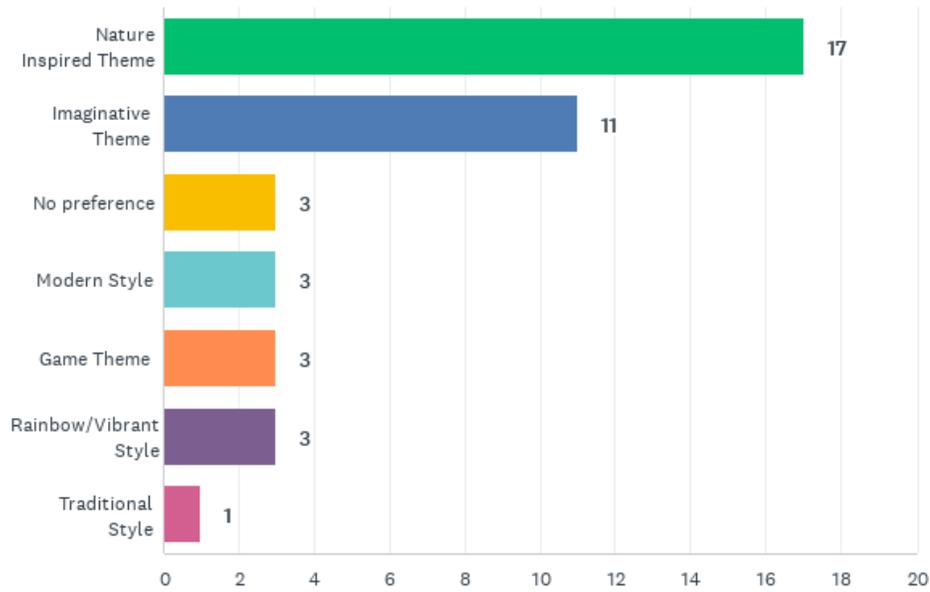
Park users really like the picnic benches and current retaining wall to use as seating. Many have also requested more seating in lawn space, a few requested a barbecue station. Some also requested more benches under trees and near play area to increase connectivity in the two spaces. One respondent has requested seating arrangement that encourages conversations between parents/caretakers/neighbors. Some concerns were also raised around tree sap dropping on benches.

When asked for any additional ideas for park elements, the top 3 ideas presented by park users are Climbable Creatures, Games painted on paving, and Clubhouse for tots. There was a suggestion as well to have logs, boulders, sticks, and sun-dials as part of the nature-themed play area. Few respondents also mentioned their desire to have teen and adult play equipment so that all ages people can involve with the park. Some of the additional comments received reflect park users' desire to activate the east side of the park along with some picnic seating options. People also mentioned their desire to have more variety of play equipment. One attendee at the first public engagement event revealed their concern on shrubs on east side of the park getting cut down as it maintains privacy for their home.

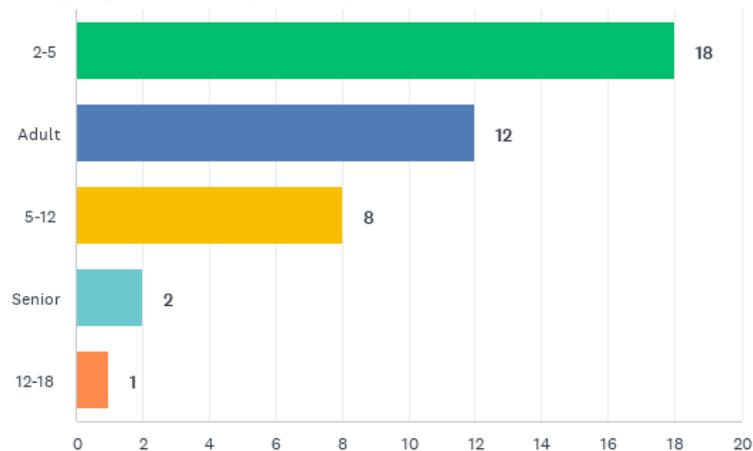
- Q – Is the existing Firehouse theme for the play equipment important to you?



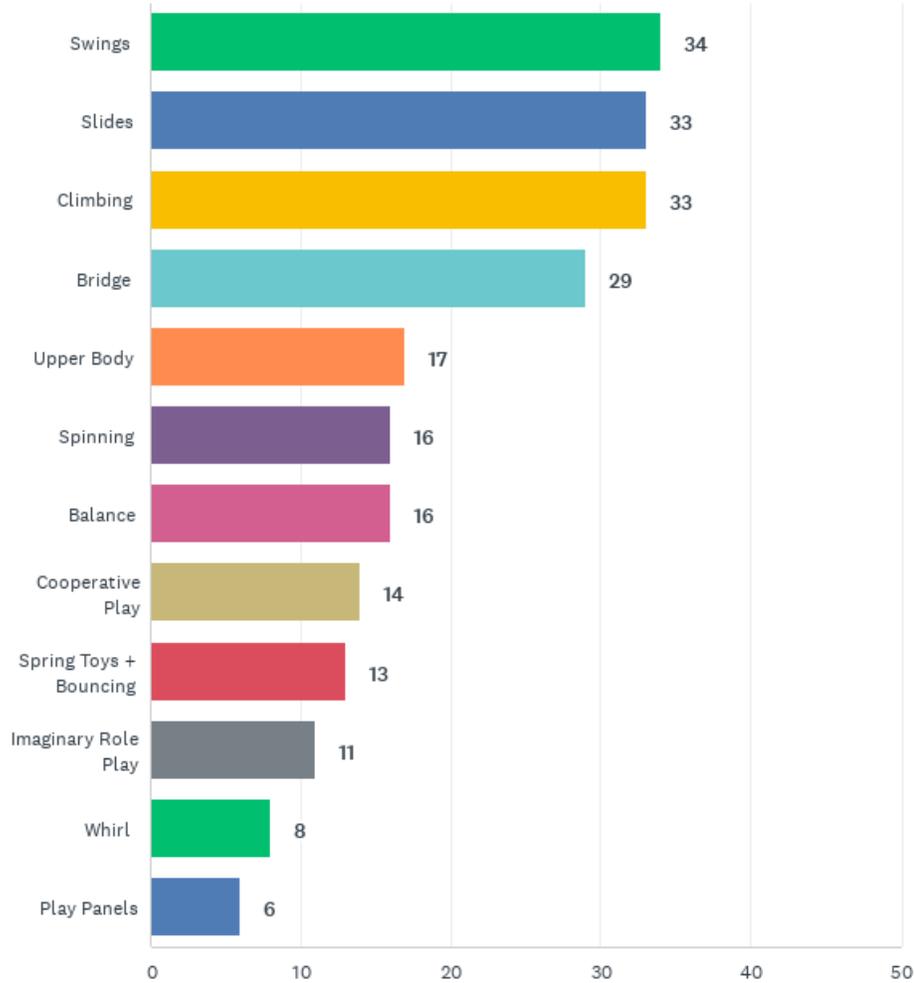
- Q – What play equipment theme would you prefer?



- Q – What age group are you or your child part of?



- Q – Please select your top six most desired types of play equipment.



WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SEE? ¿Qué te gustaría ver la más?

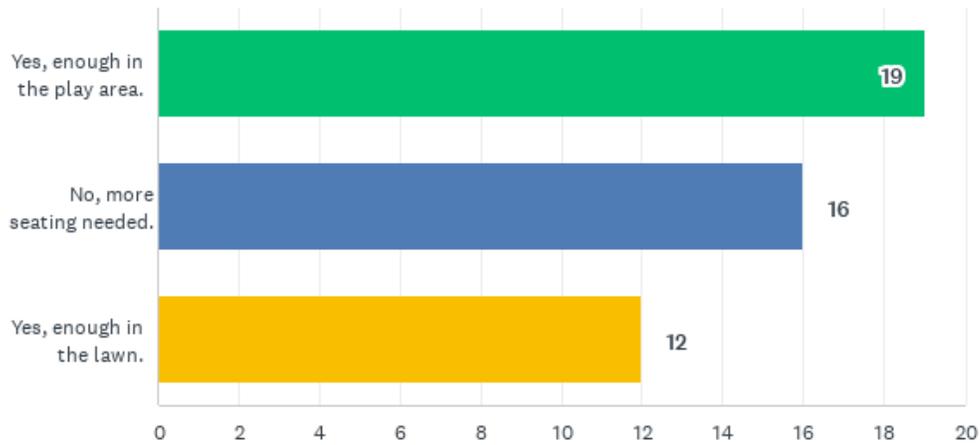
ADD DOTS TO YOUR TOP 6 CHOICES. Añade un sticker en sus seis elecciones preferidas.

Slides Slides  
Swings Swings  
Climbing Climbing  
Play Panels Play Panels  
Spinning Spinning  
Whirl Whirl  
Balance Balance  
Imaginary Role Play Imaginary Role Play  
Spring Toys + Bouncing Spring Toys + Bouncing  
Upper Body Upper Body  
Bridge Bridge  
Cooperative Play Cooperative Play

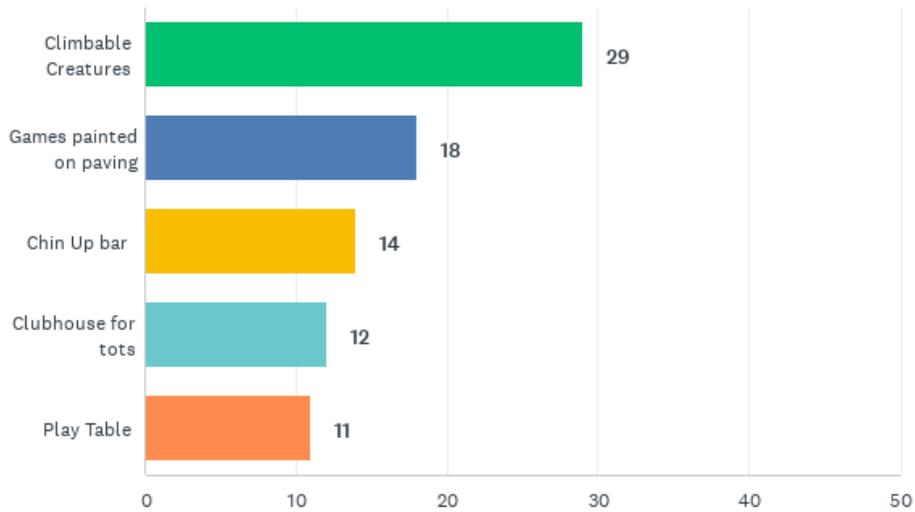
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- Q – Is there enough seating within the park?



- Q – Other potential ideas for the park/play area.



A word cloud of playground-related terms in various shades of green. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape. The largest words are 'trees', 'zipline', 'adult-equipment', and 'firetruck'. Other prominent words include 'play-vehicle', 'plants', 'lights', 'bathroom', and 'round'. Smaller words include 'sand-pit', 'shade', 'sticks', 'foursquare', 'pink', 'purple', 'seating', 'climbing', 'web-climbing', 'slides', 'sundials', 'wings', 'grill', 'picnic', 'musical', 'fairy-houses', 'excavator', 'dump-truck', 'shrubs', 'water-fountain', 'logs', 'boulders', and 'merry-go'.

sand-pit shade  
play-vehicle sticks foursquare  
pink trees  
fairy-houses plants purple seating  
musical bike-loop climbing  
picnic zipline slides web-climbing  
grill wings sundials adult-equipment  
excavator dump-truck lights shrubs boulders  
firetruck water-fountain logs  
merry-go bathroom  
round