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I. Background

The City of Tempe reinitiated the process of gathering input for planned improvements to the southeast portion of Waggoner Park that sought initial input in May 2022. Improvements include new city playground equipment with rubberized surfacing, a new ramada, accessible walkways, new lighting and trees.

Two public meetings were held to gather feedback on the proposed playground improvements for Waggoner Park:

- From 9 to 11 a.m. on Feb. 3 at Waggoner Park with 42 participants
- From 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5 virtually on Zoom with 5 participants. The meeting was recorded and placed online with 30 views.

Additionally, a survey was available online at tempe.gov/Forum from Feb 3 - 19, 2024. This survey received a total of 122 visitors and 78 responses.

II. Outreach

Direct Mailer

A direct mailer was sent to residents near Waggoner Park. The boundaries were Elliot Road to the north, Warner Road to the south, Kyrene Road to the east, and McClintock Drive to the west. The direct mailer included a brief overview of the project and details on how to attend the public meeting and provide comments.

Emails

A notification email was sent to Tempe Forum subscribers, neighborhood contacts, relevant Boards and Commissions and previous participants in Waggoner Park outreach inviting them to attend the meeting or to comment online

Yard Signs

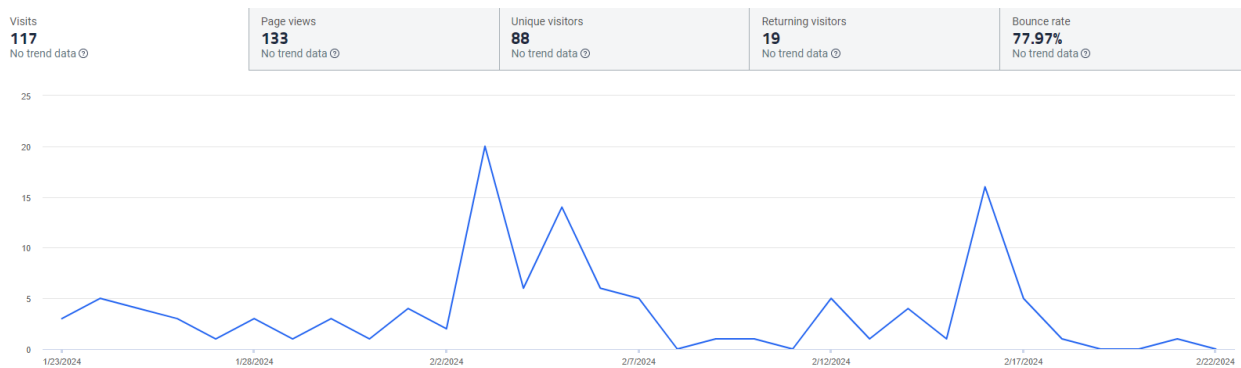
Yard signs with meeting and comment information were placed around Waggoner Park East and Waggoner Park West

Project Webpage

The project [webpage](#) was updated continuously and included information about the project, the date and access information for the public meeting and online comment information. From Jan. 23 – Feb. 22, the website had 133 views.

Top Sources:

- Direct
- Google
- Tempe Forum
- Mailchimp
- Spikes
 - Feb 3 for the public meeting and Feb 16 for the survey reminder



Social Media, Eblasts and Press Release



1/25/24 – Public meeting announcement

- Impressions: 55 | Engagements: 0

1/31/24 – Public meeting reminder

- Impressions: 41 | Engagements: 0

2/13/24 – Survey reminder

- Impressions: 106 | Engagements: 1



1/24/24 – Public meeting announcement

- 173 emails sent, 78% open rate, 20% click rate, 27 clicks

2/10/24 – Public meeting reminder

- 172 emails sent, 69% open rate, 9.2% click rate, 11 clicks

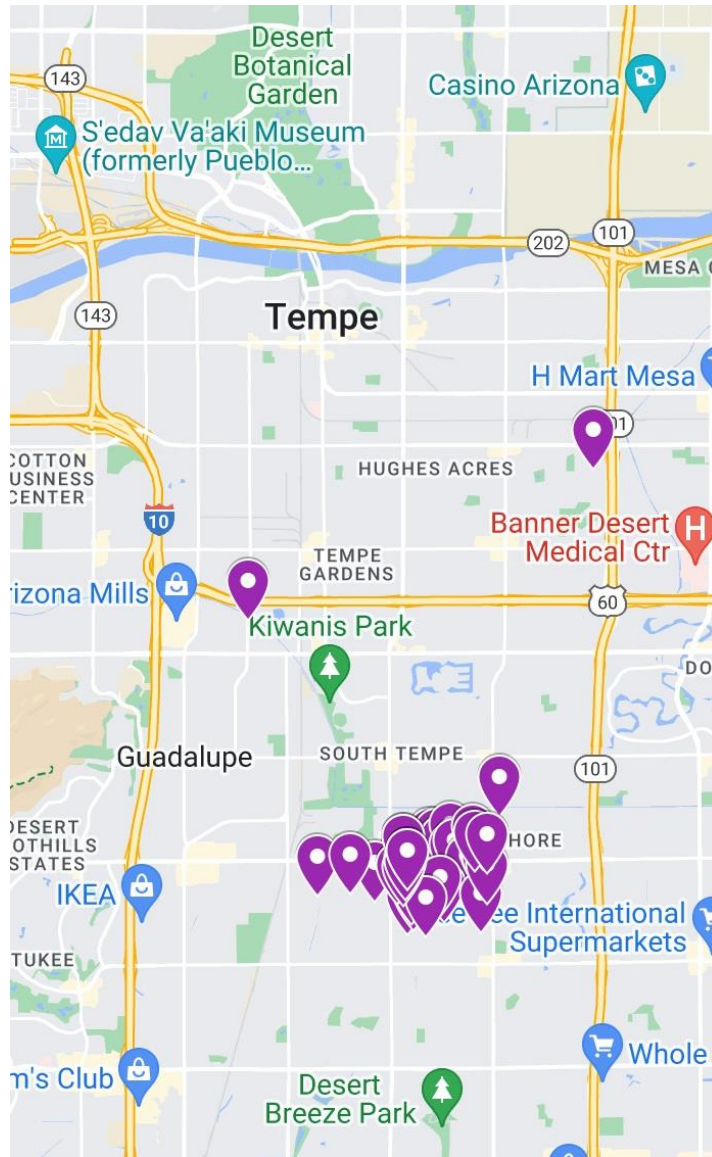
2/16/24 – Survey reminder

- 168 emails sent, 71.4% open rate, 35% click rate, 42 clicks

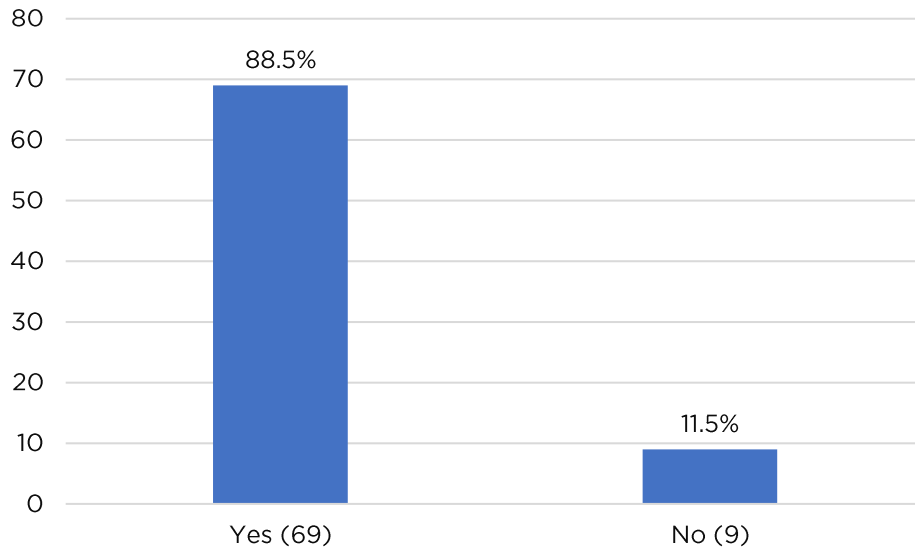
III. Survey Results

The survey was available online at tempe.gov/Forum from Feb. 3 - 19, 2024 to gather feedback on proposed park improvements for Waggoner Park.

54 respondents provided an address with approximately 93% in Tempe.

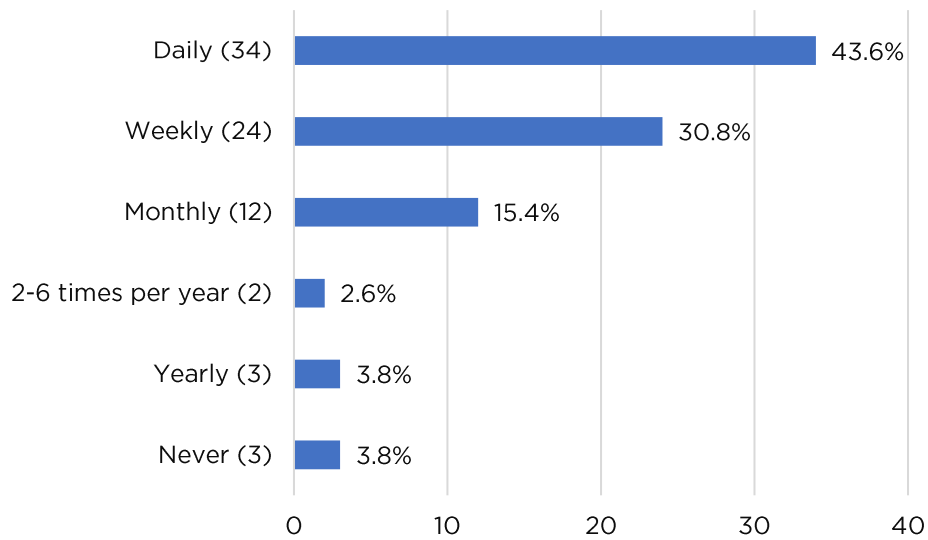


1. Do you live within 1/2 a mile of Waggoner Park?



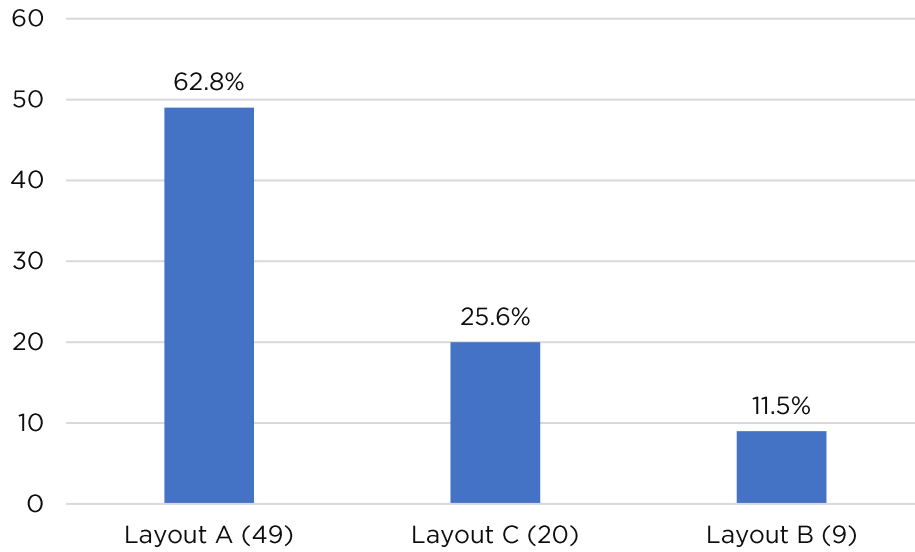
Responses: 78

2. How often do you visit Waggoner Park?



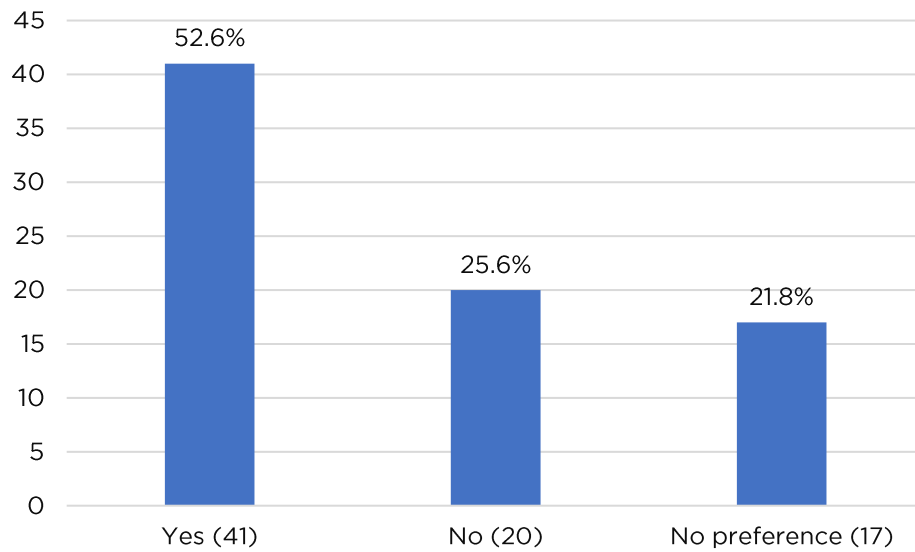
Responses: 78

3. Which of the 3 playground equipment layouts and styles do you most prefer?



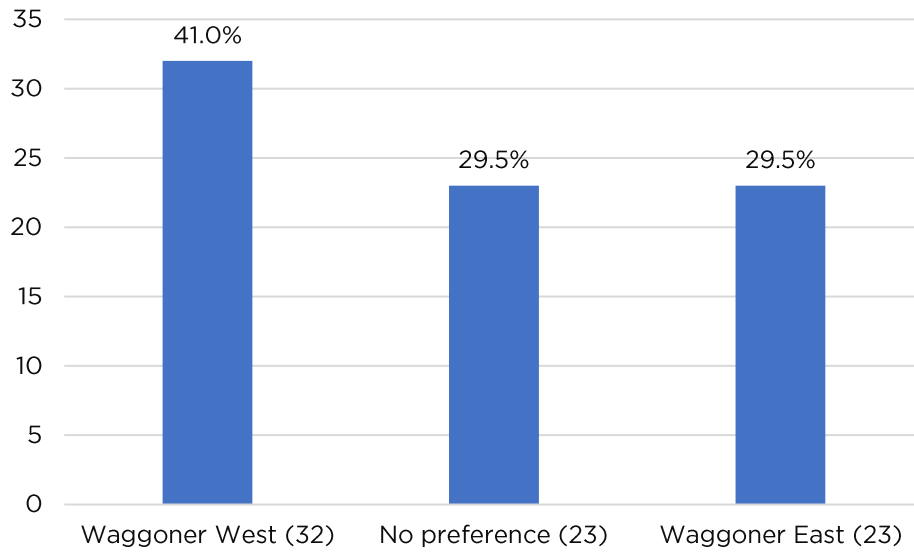
Responses: 78

4. The playground will receive new accessible rubber surfacing ground material. Are you in favor of keeping a section of sand in the playground for digging and play?



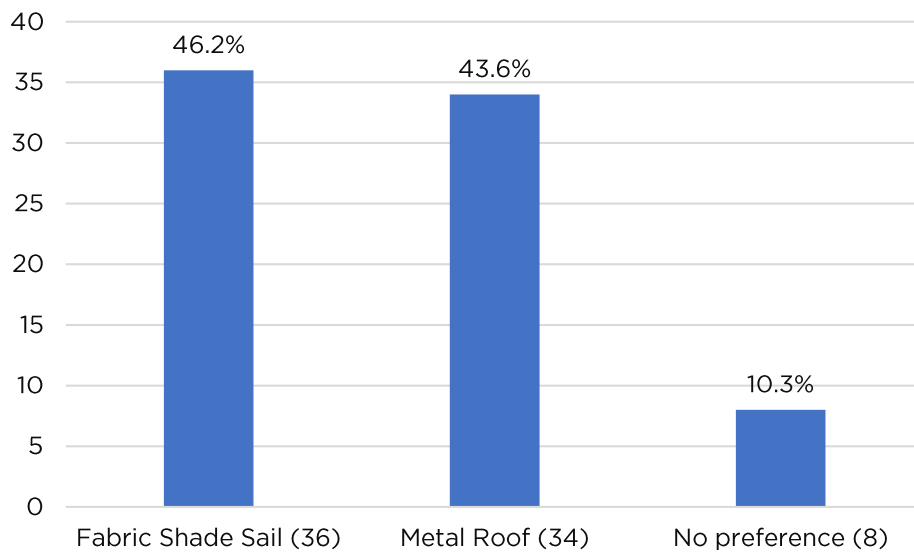
Responses: 78

5. The community voted for adding fitness station(s) in the previous outreach. Would you prefer the fitness station(s) be located at Waggoner East near the playground or Waggoner West?



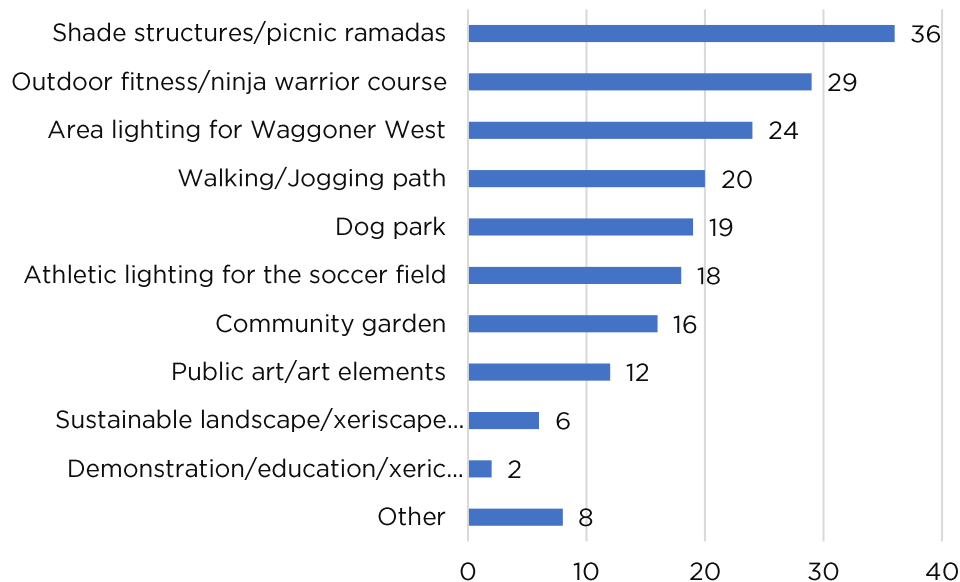
Responses: 78

6. Do you prefer the metal roof canopy or fabric roof canopy structure?



Responses: 78

7. If in the future funding were available for an additional amenity expansion at Waggoner west, which of the below are you most in favor of adding? Select up to 3.



Responses: 76

Other comments:

- More Trees
- pickelball court
- PICKLEBALL COURTS
- Provide fences for the school grounds please!!!
- Public restrooms
- Public restrooms.
- Restrooms
- tennis courts

8. Do you have any additional comments?

1. absolutely no fences!
2. As someone who lives in the neighborhood and child goes to the school, safety and fun for kids is the most important aspect. Having lived in the neighborhood for 4 years now, I can confidently say the primary use of the park is by the school age children who attend and that should be the primary focus audience for any upgrades at this time.
3. Definitely get rid of the sand. If I still had small children I wouldn't want them to play in it. It quickly becomes dirty. I've seen cats using it as a litter box. I rarely see kids actually playing with the sand other than kicking it up into the air and into other kids clothes. It gets in the kids shoes and socks when using the swings and other playground equipment. It's a mess that adds no value.
4. Definitely need a combo of adult and youth equipment should be balanced.
5. Excited to see this is finally back on track after being delayed by the Kyrene School District.

6. For the metal vs fabric roof my vote is the one that is most economical. The fabric will have to be replaced so is that taken into account?
7. I approve of the suggested changes to our Waggoner Parks, a good start. Now we need to be sure that Kyrene school district never gets control of our beloved park.
8. I chose option A, the problem is that the shade structure does not cover the equipment. For many months of the year the sun heats up equipment and makes it too hot for the children to play. An example is Estrada Park, the equipment is unusable during warm sunny weather, in Arizona that is most of the time. The addition of fitness equipment at Waggoner East will encourage adults to be mingling with school children during school hours, not a good idea since most of my neighbors voted against fencing the park.
9. I support fencing or securing the school and Waggoner East if there is a playground at Waggoner West
10. I would add a zipline feature to layout A and monkey bars to layout A.
11. I'm not in the neighborhood but I have two kids at Waggoner. I hope the new ramada doesn't necessitate the removal of any trees.
12. In favor of park improvements but don't wish any fencing, bright lighting, or elements that might negatively affect our privacy as neighbors who live close to the park. I feel we do need more seating areas for family gatherings.
13. like zip line added anyway
14. No dog park
15. No grills or cooking allowed in the Ramada please. It only creates more maintenance, hazards and warming stations for homeless (I have seen this firsthand in my City position).
16. No outdoor lighting please
17. Please add pickleball courts so that residents of all ages can enjoy.
18. Please do NOT put fitness equipment near the playground area at Waggoner Park East. Since the majority of people in my neighborhood were opposed to a fence around the park for the children's safety, the least we can do for the school is to NOT encourage adults to hang out at the park during school hours! I live 1/2 of a block from this park, my grown children attended Waggoner, my grandkids currently attend and I worked there for 15 years. It is all of our responsibility to safe guard children from predators, this is a reality.
19. Please include bucket swings for smaller/younger children.
20. Please place shade structure over the main climbing structure, not over empty space as shown in the rendering. Thank you!
21. Prioritize healthy maintenance of existing grass and trees. Provide consistent watering, fertilizing, mowing, pruning, and weed removal for an enjoyable park experience. Deploy park rangers to more important city crime reduction versus dog leash monitoring.
22. Shameful how the city is not providing adequate safety for the school children. Allow fencing!!
23. Solar structures (PV) are also good for more shade!
24. Stop over thinking it and spending so much money. The main parts of a park should be grass and trees and some places to sit and lighting for safety.

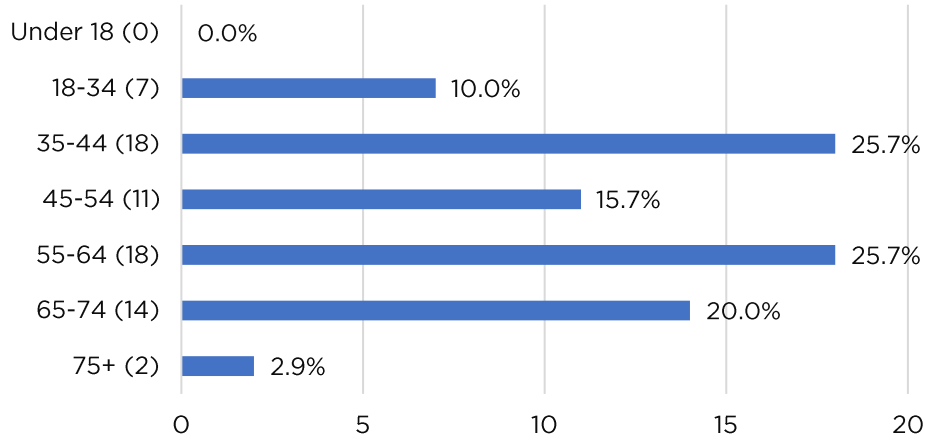
Tempe wants to spend all this money and yet, they struggle to water these parks so that the grass is not dead with all sorts of stickers. Any exercise stations (which typically get little to no use) should be on the west, not taking up area where it is mostly young kids on the east.

25. Thank you
26. Thank you for listening to the community and not fencing the park. The process seemed very hidden and would result in a barren wasteland, as most of the Kyrene District land has become, instead of an inviting and vigorous park.
27. Thank you for seeking public input! This will be a great update!
28. Thank you for some great options!
29. Thanks for listening to the community regarding the fence and additional input.
30. YES!! We have lived 2 doors down from Waggoner Park ~ 25 years and I can't say it enough..... the trees are NOT getting water!! I mentioned it to the man in charge during a neighborhood meeting last fall who assured me they were... but they are not!! The trees around the grounds provide infrastructure that will be costly to replace. The trees need water... they do not have drip system. For the past 1-2 years (?maybe more), no one is turning on the irrigation for the grass/trees at the school. Someone used to turn it on same schedule as the neighborhood (generally every 2-4 weeks), but no longer. If we are talking about improving the area, then PLEASE be good stewards of what is already there and ensure the mature landscape gets the water it needs to survive.
Thank you.

IV. Demographics

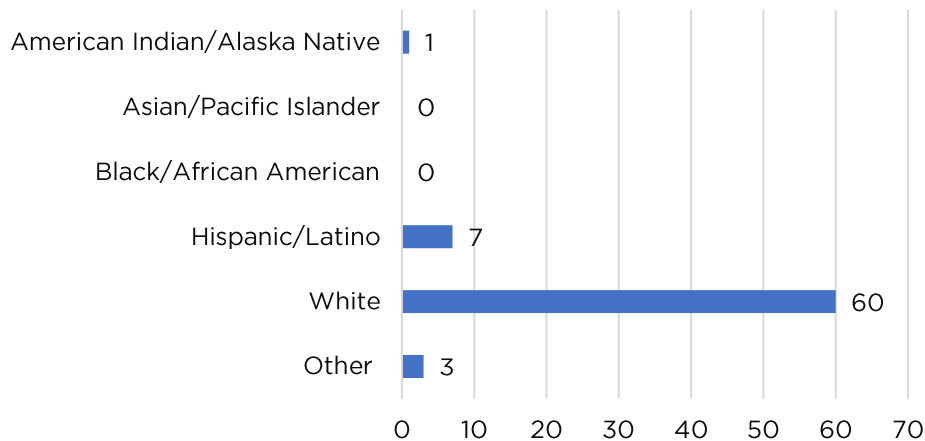
The City of Tempe wants to better understand how well it is serving community members. Collecting demographic data allows the city to effectively plan and distribute its programs and investments. The collection of data provides a more precise picture of current Tempe residents and businesses. Providing this information is highly encouraged and helpful to the city, but it is not mandatory.

Age



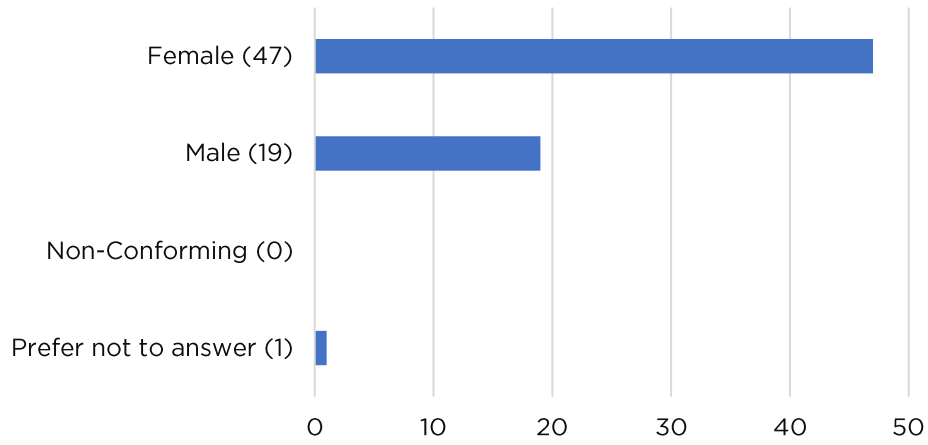
Responses: 70

Race



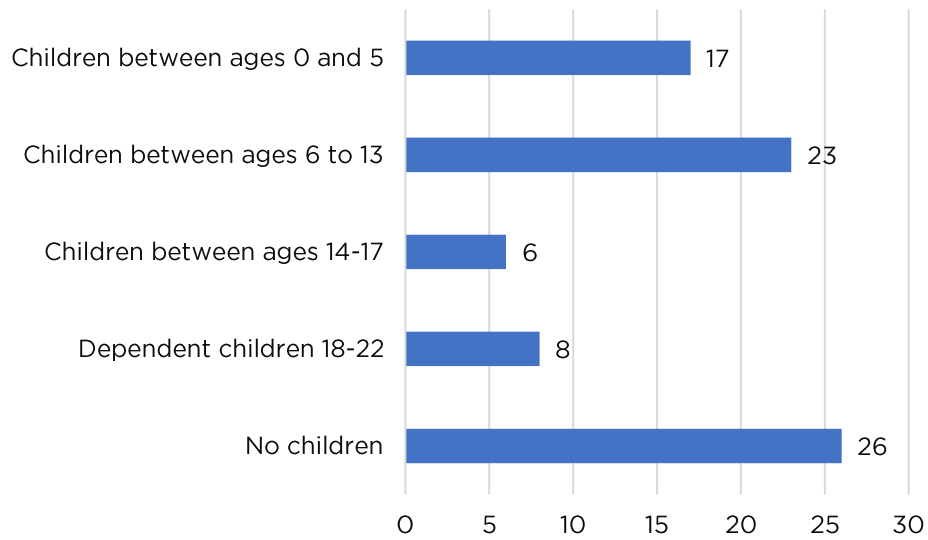
Responses: 66

Gender



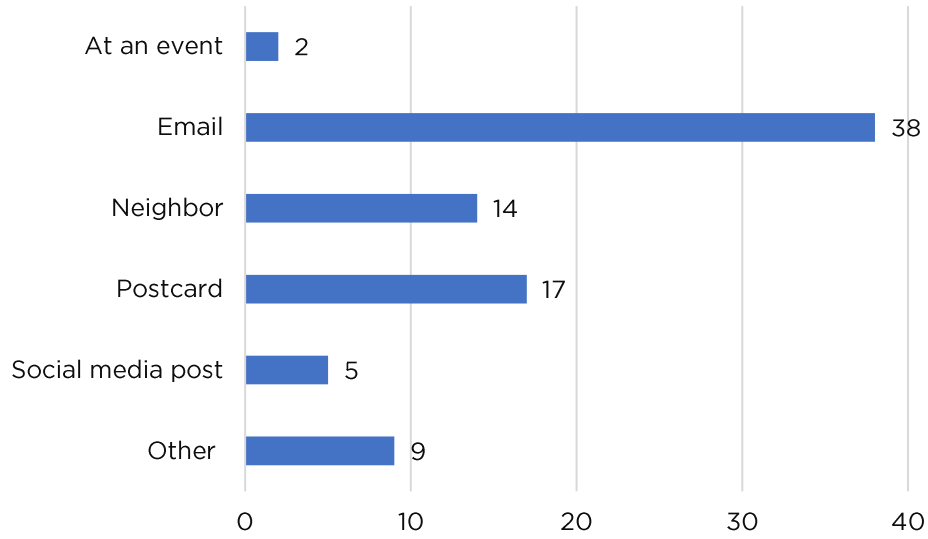
Responses: 67

Do children in the following age groups live in Tempe with you? Select all that apply.



Responses: 69

How did you hear about this survey? Check all that apply.



Responses: 69

Other comments:

- city website
- Friend
- Neighborhood meeting and signs at park
- Park signs
- Reservation website
- sign
- Sign at park
- Signs at waggoner