

# Clark Park Aquatics Facility Public Input Summary



December 2018

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The design concept for an aquatic facility at Clark Park is currently funded in the city's Capital Improvement Program budget, as part of the Parks Improvement Plan. The project is in the initial outreach phase and no funds are currently budgeted for construction.

Public meetings to collect feedback on what type of aquatic facility area neighbors prefer in Clark Park. were held on Wednesday, Nov. 28 and Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018. Input was taken from Nov. 28 - Dec. 16, 2018. Residents within a 2-mile radius of Clark Park were invited to participate in the discussion regarding the future use of the pool area as well as how that may impact other park uses, such as the community garden.

### OUTREACH

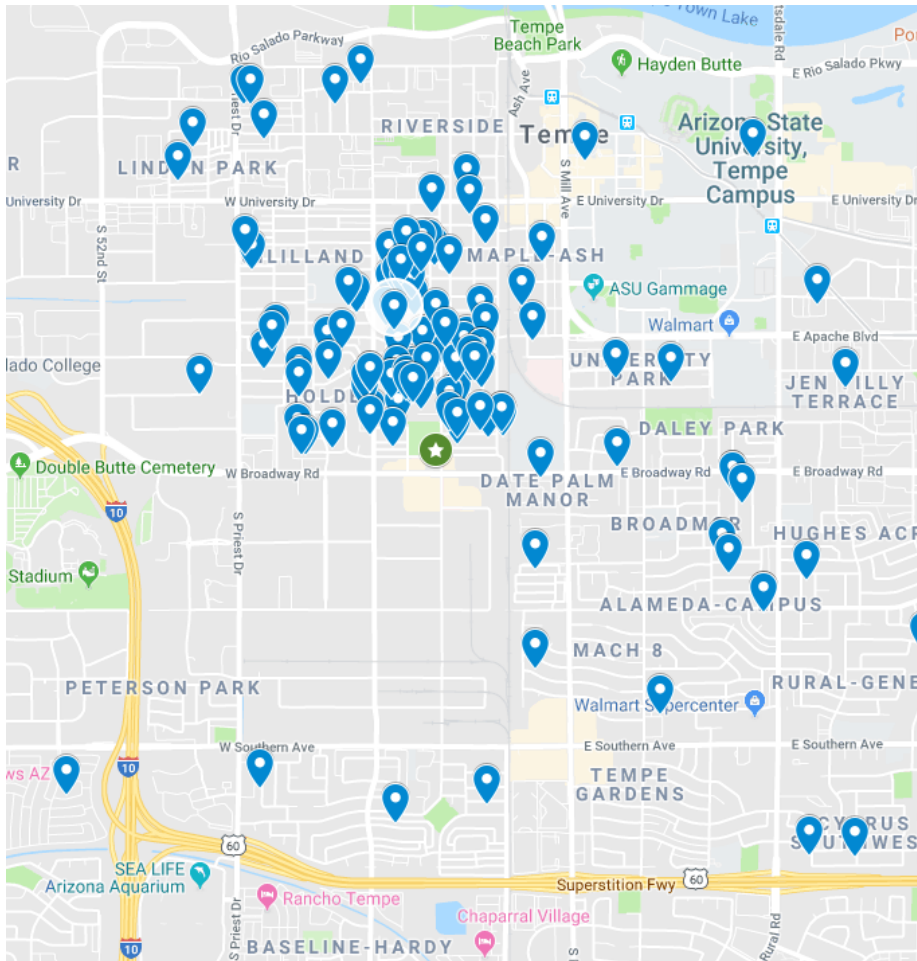
- Project website
- Meeting posted on online calendar
- Email to associations in project area
- Signs posted at Clark Park
- 11/14 postcard mailing to 15,558 households for meeting
- 11/20 Nextdoor public meetings and online comment post; 902 impressions
- 12/3 postcard mailing to 15,558 households with comment reminder
- 12/4 Nextdoor comment reminder post; 652 impressions

### MEETINGS & SURVEYS

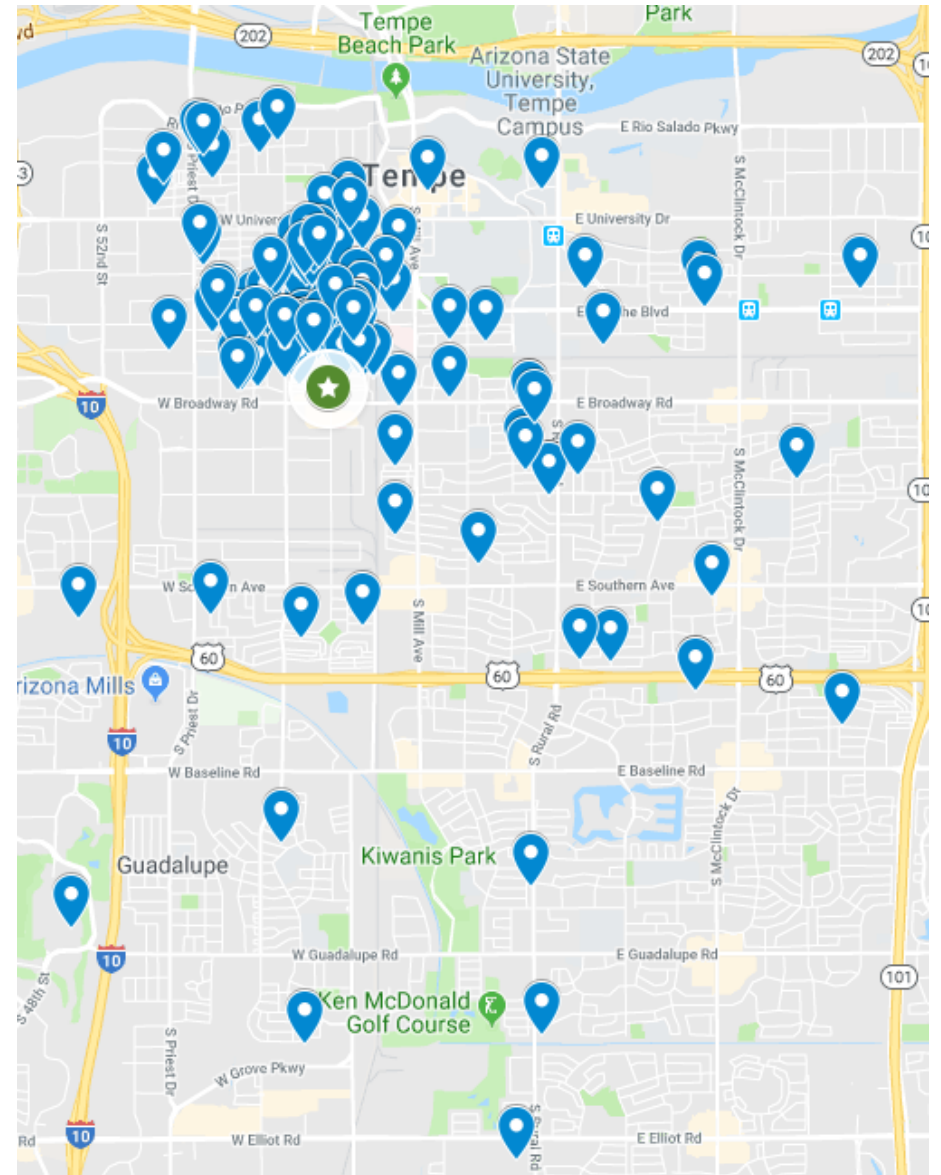
- 28 attendees at Nov. 28 meeting
- 26 attendees at Dec. 1 meeting
- Surveys distributed at public meetings
- Survey available online at Tempe Forum from Nov. 28 - Dec. 16, 2018
- 152 total surveys received, 41 at the meetings and 111 online.

# MAPS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Respondents within 2-mile radius of Clark Park

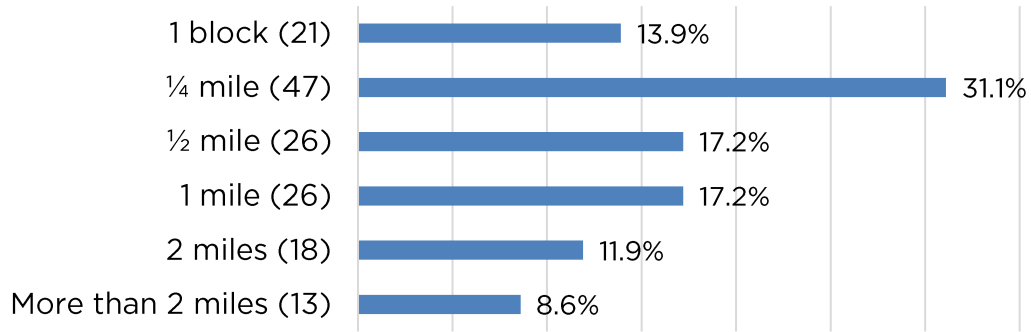


All respondents



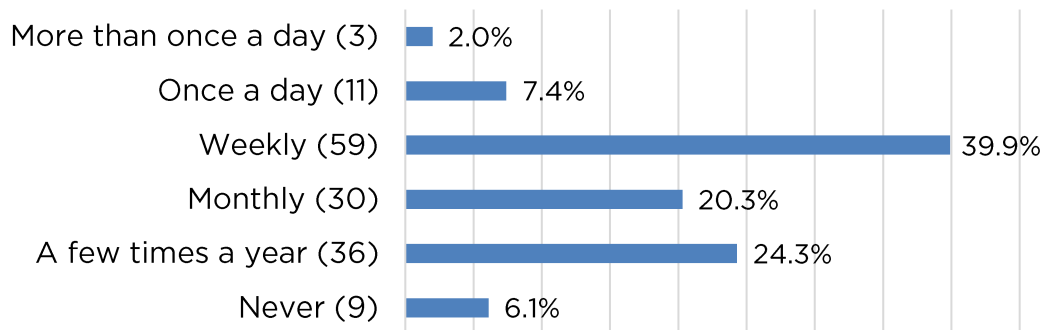
# SURVEY RESULTS

## 1. How close is your residence to Clark Park?



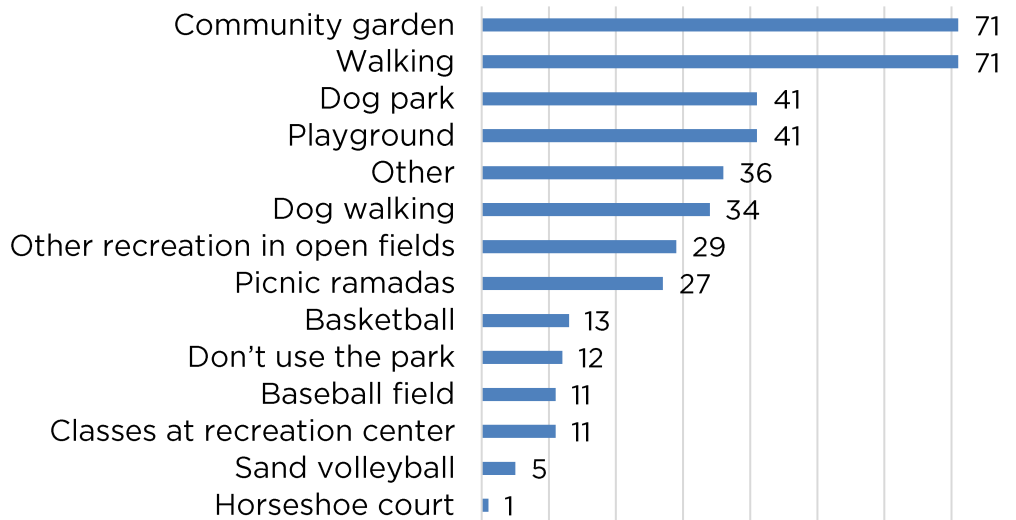
Total responses: 151

## 2. How often do you currently visit Clark Park?



Total responses: 148

## 3. What amenities do you currently use at Clark Park? Check all that apply.



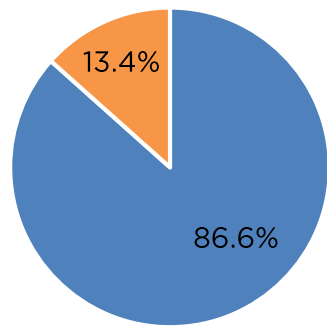
Other:

Farmers market (27)  
 Would use pool if built (3)  
 Running (2)  
 Yoga in the park (2)

Would be nice to have  
 fruit trees in park! (1)  
 Ride my bicycle through  
 park (1)

Riding bikes with kids (1)  
 Produce box pickup (1)  
 Cat walking (1)

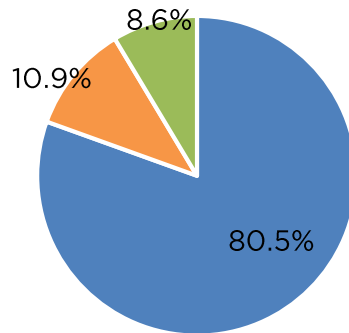
4. Would you like to see an aquatics facility at Clark Park?



■ Yes (129) ■ No (20)

Total responses: 149

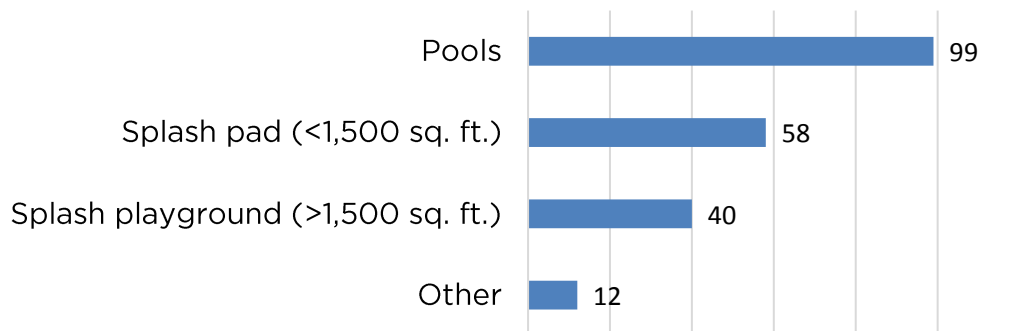
5. If yes, what kind?



■ Pool (103) ■ Splash playground (14) ■ Splash pad (11)

Total responses: 128

6. What types of aquatic facilities have you visited in the last two years? Check all that apply.



Other:

None (3)

Big Surf (1)

Kiwanis Rec Center (1)

Gilbert Jr. High Pool (1)

Hamilton Pool (1)

Nozomi Pool (1)

Community rooms at pools (1)

Rivers and lakes (1)

Ponds, i.e. Hallman (1)

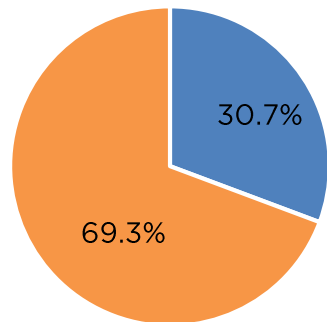
Pools (1)

Waterfront (1)

7. The following amenities and services are frequently available at aquatic facilities. Please rank in order of importance the top three (3) you would like to see available at Clark Park:

- Most important*  
 Public swimming (drop-in)  
 Shade  
 Lap swimming  
 Swimming lessons  
 Aquatic fitness classes  
 Splash pads at neighborhood parks  
 A picnic or grass area  
 Community room for parties, classes, training, etc.  
 Spray elements such as fountains and misters  
 Competitive water team sports (swim team, polo, dive team, etc.)  
 Concession stand  
 Other  
*Least important*

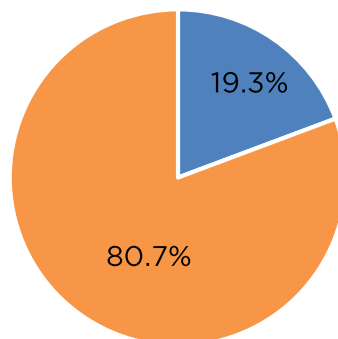
8. Do you have access to a private pool facility?



■ Yes (46) ■ No (104)

Total responses: 150

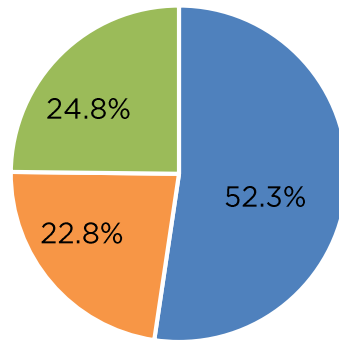
9. Do you have a pool at your residence?



■ Yes (29) ■ No (121)

Total responses: 150

10. Currently your park sign states that the park is open from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. Are you in favor of changing the posted park hours to 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.?



■ Yes (78) ■ No (34) ■ No opinion (37)

Total responses

11. Additional comments

Yes responses to an aquatic facility that chose a pool:

1. Having grown up in a neighborhood that had a community pool that was similar to the former Clark Park Pool--I know how much of an impact a community pool can have in terms of building a sense of community. I really hope that the City moves forward with bringing back the Clark Park Pool, as this will be an invaluable asset to our community. Here are a couple questions I have: (1) What steps do we need to take as a community to encourage the City to prioritize building the pool sooner than the estimated timeline provided from staff? (2) What avenues can we explore to help aid or lower the estimated costs for building the pool? Can we look into a public-private partnership? Or how about naming rights? Thank you for making the effort to hold two public meetings in our neighborhood. Thank you also for allowing us to provide feedback online. I look forward to following-up and attending future meetings regarding this subject.
2. 6am-12am isn't much time. We swim at Kiwanis pool, and my son takes lessons there. it's nice there are open hours after work. I wonder if lessons could continue on after the classes they have at Kiwanis, more advanced? Or diving? Something a little different. However I don't imagine going to the pool if it's very expensive. I'd probably pay \$5 to get in. I think Kiwanis is \$3. A city of tempe summer membership would be great. We currently go to the farmers market, but preferred it on Saturday. It would be nice to have the pool and the garden. I'm not sure if a vote for one eliminates the other. But my son and I love to swim. It would be great to have a beautiful new family friendly pool with splash pads and concessions! At the beautiful park.
3. In favor of pool or splash pad

4. Our use of Clark Park in the distant past was for my children, primarily, to enjoy swimming in summer. Later my daughter was on Tempe High swim team, briefly. Then, I started going alone to water aerobics. Only reason for going there anymore is for the Community Garden Market (which is less accessible at night).
5. Would like to see a Community Garden planned in with a pool at the park. The footprint of a Community Garden could be smaller yet still provide the same amount of growth space. I would strongly encourage the city to consult with Community Garden Leadership on design/location if the garden needed to be moved to incorporate a pool.
6. I would really like to see a neighborhood pool at Clark Park as opposed to a splash pad. It does not need to be a large complex to serve our needs.
7. No one I know has a pool. Certainly not for miles around. It would be fantastic to have a well-maintained pool nearby that offered areas for adults as well as kids!
8. A pool would be a great asset at Clark Park. It has been missed since it closed. It is a great place to learn to swim, meet your neighbors at open swim or water fitness class, etc.
9. I don't care about the hours. There is no reason for me to visit Clark Park - until we have a pool.
10. Pool, with shade, chairs, cool deck.
11. Strongly prefer pool over splash pad. A pool will serve ALL AGES and will have a longer life. Please keep the community garden- it is a strong themed in our neighborhood! A community room will be a wonderful asset.
12. We would love to see Tempe better co-coordinate all of the great swimming facilities so there is always a pool open for fitness, swimming year round. Kiwanis should be closed in Aug or Sept for renovations - not December and January when people may want to swim
13. When Clark Park was removed it destroyed the community. Pool with handicap dap hoist
14. We can afford a pool with all of the revenue from destroying the downtown with high rises. That is the least we can do to help mitigate the negative effects on the neighborhood.
15. A neighborhood pool would benefit all ages for this water facility deprived area.
16. I would love to see an aquatic facility at this location. It is a great way for all generations to get exercise. Also providing quality swim lessons is so important!!!!
17. I think that a pool is a wonderful idea, and an aquatic program for over 50 is a great idea. Especially if it were offered for free for those of us who can't afford to pay for aquatic lessons.
18. Having a community pool would keep Tempe unique and a constantly in demand community.
19. Currently the new armed guards have helped in stemming criminal activity there. But it still takes place more often that it should.

20. The basketball court gets a lot of use, the ability for a street fair style event is great with the Clark Park food cart and craft fair event in cooler months, I participated in the community garden for a year but wasn't able to keep up with it so I haven't been involved since. A significant reason I moved in to the neighborhood and bought a house where I did was because the Clark Park Pool was full and looked beautiful just down the street. I believe it was drained the following summer and closed, seemingly for good, soon after that. If a pool were to return to the park it would add value to the community and be great for LOCAL KIDS, not a lot of swimming opportunities in Tempe Town Lake.
21. My children and my neighbors children learned to swim at the old Clark Park pool. ALL children need a place to learn how to swim in order to keep them safe around water. Child drownings occur every summer in the Phoenix area and swimming classes in neighborhood parks are the best way to prevent these tragedies. An adjacent splash pad would be a welcome addition for the toddlers, but learning to swim in a pool should be the priority.
22. I attended the forum on 12/1 and agreed with the majority that we want a multiuse pool AND to keep the community garden. Also hope we can convince the Council to move water facility at Clark Park up on the project priority list as it would serve the whole NW quadrant of Tempe.
23. We found it very unfortunate when the Clark Park pool was shut down and filled in with the "community" garden that is NOT open to the community, as it is locked and coded. We used the pool regularly since 1982 (my parents previously owned our house). Open green space is very important to us, please stop chopping up our park!
24. The Tempe High swim team could use the pool, as I believe they did in the past, rather than being bussed somewhere else (what I meant by "other" above. Employment for high school students during summer break. The problem with that in the past is that the pools was only open to the public during summer break. The pool should be open, at a minimum roughly April/May through October. With SOTA high energy efficiency and new technologies, heating the pool in an environmentally responsible manner should be no problem. With that in mind, the pool could be open all year. Many low income families live nearby without access to pools and more importantly low cost or free swimming lessons for the kids (for example, I believe we have section 8 housing right across the street from Clark Park to the south). Partner with local pool company(s) to reduce cost. Sponsorships like the TCA (Northern Trust). This can be a showcase for energy efficient technologies. Back east, many public pools have evening summer (in our case early spring or late fall due to our climate) dances (great because our local pool employed my rock band). Bring in local bands. Different styles for different age groups. It would be nice if we had completed sidewalks on Roosevelt between 13th and Broadway to make it safer, especially for the elderly and disabled, to walk to and from the pool.
25. If a pool is put back at Clark Park, Tempe High Swim team can once again have their own pool to practice at.



26. As a High School Coach, having a pool in this location solves many current issues involving sharing a facility for swim practices, as well as holding swim meets. We struggle to recruit swimmers because of the location of our current facility, and we often recruit athletes with little or no aquatics background. This would help in all of these areas and would be a great addition to the neighborhood.
27. I think the timing should stay midnight, maybe just the pool closing earlier. But in the summer when its hot night is the prime time for adults to get out and walk their dogs, so its really important to me to feel like i can be in the park late without issue.
28. Provide lush landscape, increase trees and shade elements
29. I think a swimming facility would be an incredible addition to the park, neighborhood, and community. A couple critical notes: - \$15M estimate for building costs is high. Please refine the plans, scope, and needs of this addition. I think the building costs can come down severely. - Redefine what a "public swimming pool" is. It's 2018 and we look for this to support the future. Look to new apartment complexes, urban living, and other forward looking community complexes on how they create a community space. Consider bringing in several designers and planners to help. I think a pool with several booths and rooms for concession stands and other functional uses would be great. Malls are failing and becoming community centers where people can hang out. This is where community space needs to head as well. Highly functional, accessible, and ultimately, a timeless addition to make our community thrive. As Tempe, especially Clark Park area, grows to more urban sprawl - we need to grow with it. Lead the way!
30. Our 18 year old learned how to swim at Clark Park. Our 2 youngest kids unfortunately missed that opportunity even though we lived right across the street for several of the years the pool was closed. And go figure...it took them longer to become strong swimmers Bring back the pool so no other generations of kids don't miss out on having a pool in their neighborhoods. Swimming lessons are a priceless necessity for our AZ youth!
31. When I first moved to Tempe, 12 years ago, my daughter and I used the Clark pool a couple of times a week during the summer. It was great, it was simple, it served every purpose a public pool should serve and then you closed it. Now I'm reading that it will cost \$15 million dollars and \$800k a year to operate a new pool! Why? Why is it that government feels the need to overdo? Why does it feel that those in charge of my tax dollars have no regard for the work and energy I put in to earning those tax dollars? I'd love to see a pool return to Clark, however lets first do away with the private security nonsense and then provide a reasonable budget.
32. Water slide at new pool would be highly desired amenity.
33. A private pool is exclusionary for this income bracket. A splash pad facility would better suit 85282-3 where kids actually live.
34. There should be restrooms there as well. Kids need access to restrooms, especially when potty training.

35. I strongly believe that North and West Tempe need new aquatic facilities. If Clark Park is not the best place for this, then look at Jaycee Park or along the Rio. The aquatics center should be situated where it can serve the most residents; be easily accessible by public transit; and imbedded in a recreation center that supports other recreational opportunities and services. I would model the facility on Foothills Rec Center in Glendale, Rhodes Aquatics Complex in Mesa, or Pecos Pool in Phoenix, all of which have entry for only \$1 - \$2 and have numerous features to engage families. The Kiwanis pool admission is far too expensive and as such caters to families who already have funds (and possibly a pool of their own.) Escalante is more reasonable, but its high usage points to the need for more community aquatic facilities. When Tempe took out the beach park splash pad in favor of more special events and large parties they made the park basically useless to families - no playground, no recreation activities besides boating, and no public play spaces. Our downtown and "river front" beach area caters only to those over 21, and as a Tempe resident with small children I find this ridiculous. I hope the master plan takes effect, but until then I'd love to see Tempe with more family-friendly parks, streets, and amenities... like public pools!
36. Having grown up as an elite competitive synchronized swimmer, it is really unfortunate to not have access to a pool in my neighborhood. The closest facility would be Mona Plummer at ASU, however they do not allow non-ASU students to swim. You cannot even pay to swim there. If we had a pool at Clark Park, I would even be interested in possibly teaching synchronized swimming lessons to both youth and adults. Tempe has never had a club synchronized swimming team so I think that could be an awesome thing to add to our community!

Yes responses to an aquatic facility that chose a splash pad:

1. Being smart with our water use could make this park an example of reasonable water use in urban parks. Splash pads and wading pools use much less water than a pool and don't require paid lifeguards. Some of the splash pad elements could be turned on by the users so they don't run constantly, then they turn off automatically at a certain time. Anodizing misters that are on the ground are much healthier than overhead misters for us to breathe. Overhead misters evaporate above our heads and drop the minerals down for us to breathe, plus the cooling effect happens above our heads. Mistifiers on the ground provide a cooling zone where our bodies are and leave the minerals on the ground and not in our lungs (FYI). Around the splash pads should be lots of shade, both natural and engineered shade in combination. But please no big blue fabric shade structures! We need and would appreciate an artful approach to design in our public parks. This would include the shade structures as well as the splash/misting pads. And the gathering spaces around these elements. I think it's important to also consider this park as the Holdeman Neighborhoods Park as well since there is not one in our area. All the open space in Holdeman is school or church property. Thanks!

2. In favor of all options of aquatics, pool and splash pads needing qualified support. The rec center facility needs to be renovated regardless of water amenity. I strongly support keeping the community garden it is a year round use amenity. A water-feature amenity could be good. Parking and traffic need to be considered carefully.

Yes responses to an aquatic facility that chose a splash playground:

1. Interested in how the homeless population situation will be addressed (trash, feces, fighting) this close to a family area.
2. Restrooms at rec center need work. Keep community garden. Would like to see a pool rather than a splash pad. Would like the possibility of the rec center being incorporated into the pool house it is in dire need of the upgrades and doing one larger building rather than waiting and building a second building would save money in the long run.
3. No more urban camping and park drug use! Want a "cloud" 2.0. Park safety and security is still a very large concern for us. Not just after dark but during the day. The homeless population does not make us feel safe to bring our kids here very often and its uncomfortable.
4. We use to go to Clark on a routine schedule but the tables and bathrooms have been taken over by the homeless
5. Security is helping
6. I regret the loss of Tempe Beach Park's splash playground. As the mother of a young child I would like to see a similar water playground to the one that was at Tempe Beach Park. I'd like to see multiple water features: slides, splash pool, fountains. I prefer the features at Esquer Park to the new fancy "Cloud" at Kiwanis. Esquer has water cannons and dump buckets. Its much more interactive. "The Cloud" doesn't offer much we couldn't get from the yard sprinkler at home. We don't need high-tech, just a place to PLAY. I'd like a destination worth heading to for a family on a budget.
7. I live the community garden and have learned so much from the people that use and maintain it. The classes related to gardening that connect the community.

No responses to an aquatic facility

1. Soon we will be experiencing water shortages in Arizona and we must do what we can to preserve what is left. We have to be responsible and to add a pool that is only utilized a few months out of the year would be irresponsible. Also any type of water feature I am not in favor of. With the growth that our council is allowing we must plan ahead on where are we gonna get the water. Please do not add any type of water feature to the park.
2. Please don't remove or downsize the garden. There is a group of 15 people that work at Rec(?) that love their boxes and would be so sad if they went away. This garden is beautiful and its for the people!

3. I really love the community garden at Clark Park. I live in an apartment and wouldn't be able to grow flowers and vegetables if it weren't for the community garden. It has been a wonderful way for me to meet my neighbors and it is a peaceful refuge. There aren't other community gardens in the area and I would love to see this one continue to grow and thrive. If the City does decide to go ahead with an aquatics facility, I hope that there will be a way to accommodate the garden as well.
4. My husband and I would prefer that the city enlarge the community garden, have gardening classes so more produce can be sold in the market. Children and adults who do not eat fresh produce, herbs, etc. need to learn how to grow their own food and about the eco-system including the important role of bees in growing food.
5. This community garden is serving the community and other communities. There are not a lot of options for community gardening in this part of the valley and its such a great resource and learning environment.
6. #1 New Bathrooms
7. I would be happy to see a community pool or splash pad added only if the community garden and farmer's market are allowed to stay. They have a been a great addition to our neighborhood in the past few years and I'd hate to see them moved or discontinued.
8. I'd rather not have a pool at all. I live right across the street from the Park and its noisy enough with the cheering when there are baseball games. They go late and I can't get to sleep until everyone leaves and its quiet. Plus all the cars parking in the hood. There has to be enough parking provided at the park to accommodate all the people going to a pool. Stop encroaching on our homes in the neighborhood.
9. we don't need a new pool. where are the water conservationalists at? have you seen lake powell or the colorado river levels dipping in this climate? please use the money for something else, like plants that belong in the desert. give money to the community garden so we can have a better farmer's market. anything but a pool that will just collect problems and our money.
10. Why is the budget for a public pool at 15 million for construction alone? This would be great, but it seems as though there are ways to create a community pool for less than 15 mil.
11. I really only go for the community garden that me and my coworkers share and it is absolutely wonderful! I have access to water on my own end and don't see a need for a swimming pool.
12. I would like to be able to see the City develop a plan that considers not just the benefits an aquatics facility would bring to the community, but how the community garden can contribute to empowering and strengthening the community. I feel that the current plan assumes an aquatics facility of some sort is the best option, without considering other alternatives to bring the community together by providing a service and giving residents of all ages and ability levels a place to gather.

13. This is fiscally irresponsible. It failed in 2008 and money was poured into converting it to a community garden which provides the same sense of community and growth for a fraction of the cost. I understand a promise was made but this was over a decade ago. Tempe is a new city and a pretty unique one if that. Spending that kind of money on a pool or splash pad with so many other pools and pads within the city is just a waste of tax payers dollars. This is not recession proof and could be a waste again... i want to add in that I am a 26 years old who has purchased his first home in this community and will have to live the longest with this choice. Thank you for reading my post.
14. Please keep the community garden. Not against a splash pad but would hate to leave the garden.