



PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2021

I. Background

The City of Tempe works to offer opportunities for play, shaded spaces, and comfort in our neighborhood parks. Towards that effort, up to two ramadas, new lake edge treatment, trees and new irrigation improvements are planned for Selleh Park. If there is not a majority support, in the form of written or online responses, for the addition of a picnic ramada, the city will explore additional shade in the park.

II. Outreach

Several methods were used to provide information to the public regarding the project, meeting and opportunities for input.

- Two direct mail postcards were sent to 1440 households in the project area, Broadway Road to Southern Ave., Price Road to McClintock Dr. The first with meeting and survey information and the second as a reminder to provide comments.
- Email notification to neighborhood and homeowners' association contacts inviting them to attend the meeting or to comment online and share with their neighborhoods,
- Email notification to relevant Boards and Commissions inviting them to attend the meeting or to comment online.
- An open house was held on Oct. 19 at Selleh Park with approximately 25 attendees and a virtual public meeting was held, also on Oct. 19 with 5 attendees.
A recording of the virtual meeting was made available online.
- The topic was posted on the project website for input from Oct. 19 through Nov. 2, 2021.
- Project website was available.

Below is a summary of digital outreach that provided information to the public regarding the meeting, project and opportunities for input:

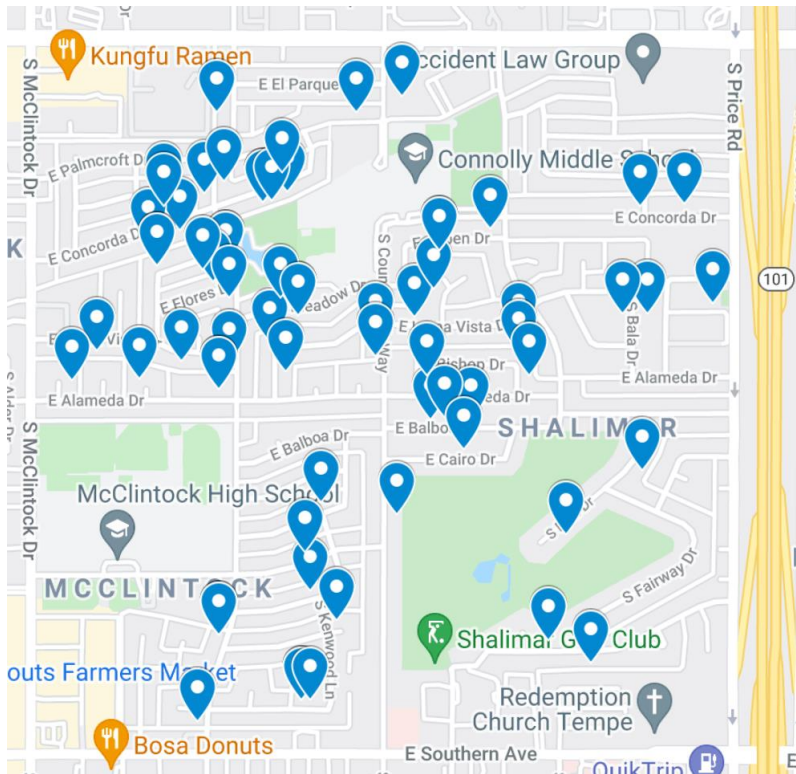
NEXTDOOR

10/18/21 – public meeting. Impressions: 59

10/29/21 – online input reminder. Impressions: 106

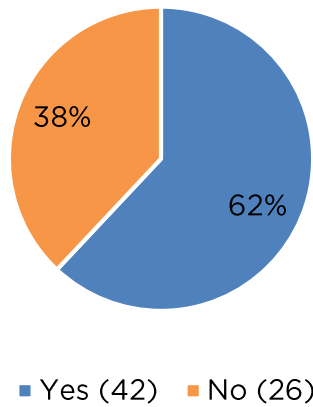
III. Survey Responses

Map:



Total responses: 70

1. Do you support the addition of picnic ramada(s) in Selleh Park?



Total responses: 68

Why or Why Not?

“Yes” Responses:

1. But not on the location chosen. What will it really benefit people that use the park consistently. Please maintain and confirm the security.
2. Currently too restrictive for larger gatherings.
3. I live in the neighborhood and would love to have more spaces in the park for shade and picnic tables.

4. If you have one, you ought to have 3 ---- one will just cause people to be angry when they find the only one already occupied. Ramada will offer more places for those who can't picnic on a blanket sitting on the ground.
5. It is so nice to have a place for people to be outdoors.
6. It would be nice to have a spot to be in the shade
7. It'll be nice to have a place to families to gather. The only concern people are having is homeless gathering and camping out under the ramadas. As a mother with young children I sometimes don't feel safe in the park when there are homeless. My husband and I are both ER nurses so we commonly interact with homeless at work but it makes me very uncomfortable when anyone approaches me with my 1 year and 2 year old children asking for money. The homeless situation is out of control on the Broadway off ramp and they wander into our park/neighborhood. Our concern is if homeless camp out more in the park it will look disgusting with overflowing trash like the Broadway off ramp.
8. More shade!
9. Need for shade in this park now pines have gone.
10. Of the many improvements to the park since we've been here, the addition of shade and seating have been some of the nicest. I'd love to see that trend continue and increase the usability of the space year-round
11. One near the playground. My home has a view of the park and I prefer that the new Ramada is not build close to houses.
12. Outdoor shaded gathering space for families would be a welcome addition.
13. Please see my comments at the end.
14. Provide shade and a place to gather with shade
15. Shade and improvements make the park more friendly and useful year round.
16. Shade is important
17. Shade makes the eating/picnicing in the park very appealing. I actually prefer one smaller ramada. I do not at all favor one on the hilltop as that will be too conspicuous and really change the character of the park for the worst.
18. Shaded area for residents would be nice for parties or resting after a nice walk
19. The bigger ramada would allow for family gathering with 2 tables. The smaller one doesn't have enough seating with only one table.
20. The current picnic tables don't offer much shade
21. The more community space the better!
22. The park could use a couple of ramadas since there are currently none.
23. The park has a large number of families and people using the park for dinners, picnics, birthday parties, etc. A ramada near the children's play area would be wonderful. It is always busy. Another might be on the western or northern area of the park. Again a high number of gatherings.
24. The park has gained use as a general purpose gathering point. I like the idea of a ramada, but I prefer a small one. The downside is that it will take away from the green space. The upside is that a ramada would offer a covered gathering place to enjoy a meal and some degree of privacy for friends and family.
25. We need to distribute the living space for the homeless. Ramadas provide excellent shelter, especially in the hot summer when shade is needed the most.

The duck pond provides opportunity to bathe which is really not getting leveraged since shade is lacking.

26. We seem to always need places to gather in the shade in Tempe with the heat and sun.
27. While there are great trees in the park, a lot of the tables (especially by the playground) are not often in shade. A ramada would make it easier and more enjoyable to use the park for picnics and such
28. Will make our park more versatile - shade from sun
29. Would love more shaded areas to sit and hang out at the park

“No” Responses:

1. Because homeless people will live under it.
2. Current seating isn't often used and additional isn't needed.
3. Don't feel a need for more. Don't favor large "party" ramada.
4. I believe the park is too small and too intimate for a ramada. In addition, there is enough shade in the park already with a sufficient number of tables, given the size of the park. If the reason is inclement weather then I would answer that this is Arizona. Chances of weather problems are rather small. We are 50 year residents of Tempe and have used the park many, many times. In the past, the improvements have been just that, improvements. A ramada would detract from the park's overall environment. I respectfully request you drop the project. Thank you.
5. I do not want covered patios for homeless people to gather!!!! This park is too small for ramadas!!!
6. I like it as it is. Quiet is ideal.
7. I only support a fishing Ramada with benches but no picnic benches ... a smaller sized one; also a smaller size one. There is limited space at Selleh and don't want play space taken away for this. Also have seen issues with homeless overusing Ramadas at other parks (there all day so Ramada not available to other park users). If we end up with a Ramadas(s), can it just be a fishing Ramada and a shaded resting area along the walkway. Our picnic areas are rarely all utilized so we don't need more picnic areas. As opposed to Ramadas, please add trees to existing picnic areas (ones that grow at least at a medium pace)
8. I prefer green open space- trees, bushes. Ramadas take up too much space and there are enough people there already. I especially do not want a Ramada in location A or B. Fishing Ramada sounds awful - it disturbs me to see people fishing, and I rarely do there. I walk by several times a week. The birds and turtles would be upset by development, fishing, and any concrete. Location A used to have grasses and there were more birds then. Birds nest in the big trees near the walkway at the end of the park- near location A. If there has to be a Ramada, just have one small one in area c or D.
9. I would like a small Ramada for fishing maybe, but I feel a large Ramada, along with the restrooms in Selleh Park, will attract homeless. I've seen their camps take up entire covered areas for days.
10. I would prefer adding more trees for shade, than ramadas. We already have a lot of families using what tables that are here now. I don't want to encourage

overnight campers. We don't have that many fish in the pond to require a fishing ramada.

11. I've lived in the area 40 years. My kids grew up playing at the 'Duck Pond.' My grandkids play there & enjoy the new equipment. The picnic tables—most of them filled shaded by trees—are rarely used even in good weather. I'd like to see the old pine trees replaced.
12. My family and I have lived down the street from Selleh for years and seeing the changes over the past 4-5yrs have been hit or miss. The recent additions, namely the exercise area, concrete extension from the playground, and these proposed ramadas are moving farther from what makes Selleh special, the pond and wildlife. Adding a ramada anywhere in Selleh takes away from the landscape and from the walkable/playable areas of the park, especially when flooded. Selleh has migratory species, which for such a small park is incredible, and this proposal will limit their space as well. We have just lost the four hilltop trees, which has been a hard hit to many of us that have seen them everyday for years. Please don't add insult to injury and take away more of this amazing place just for another place to eat. My family and I are at the park most days, and rarely are even half of the picnic benches filled; there's simply no need for more. Once we pave over all of what makes Selleh great, we'll never get it back.*I'm only choosing options on the rest of the survey in the unfortunate event that this ramada goes forward.
13. My favorite parts of the park are the wildlife and the mature trees, a ramada would take away space from both. This park is a unique oasis that most community parks are not able to replicate. I like that the park caters to many people, there is a great playground, a large basketball court that can host multiple games, an outdoor workout area, a scenic walking path around the pond, and green space for walking dogs and spreading out (yoga, mediation, photography, art, football, soccer, tag, dog events, etc). The green spaces are interspersed with mature shade trees that I hope we keep investing in. This park, as is, is really a great shared place for kids, adults, and pets. Rather than add another ramada, I would prefer to cover existing picnic tables, especially the ones in the back of the park where people can gather and play ball or let their kids play on the gym. Creating new ramadas is taking away from the usage of the park for those people who do not gather, but use the park in other ways. Additionally, more picnic tables/ramadas means more garbage to take care of. Ultimately, I want to reinforce the special oasis that Selleh Park is with the beautiful mature trees and abundant wildlife.
14. No, give us more park space, there is no need for more ramadas. Unfortunately what's been seen at other parks in the area is that ramadas get occupied by the homeless community.
15. One, I think they take up too much space in a park setting and disturb the natural habitat and ecosystems already established. Two, all ramadas at other parks seem to be a dumping place for trash buildup. They don't seem to be cleaned or maintained and they look trashy (lack of a better word). Three, homeless people use them for shelter and there tends to be drug paraphernalia left lying around. I am all for creating wonderful shelters for the homeless. From the experience of walking Selleh Park every day for years, I've

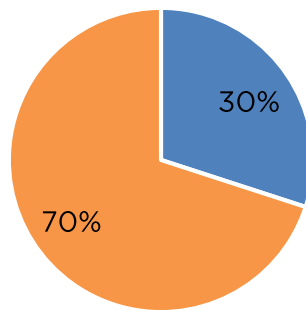
personally cleaned up after people sleeping on the kids' playground and have called the police numerous times to come pick up paraphernalia I wasn't willing to handle. Selleh Park is a beautiful environment and an amazing wildlife habitat. I would prefer to see the area become a certified wildlife habitat preserve and keep it natural, safe, healthy, beautiful, and clean for those who love the park.

16. Prefer a fishing ramada
17. Prefer having a more natural space with shade provided by trees. There are already plenty of tables for picnicking in the park.
18. Prefer no more man made structures and want more trees and flora. I do not support any ramada options
19. Selleh is already a well shaded and well maintained park. My family spent our Easter at Selleh and everyone was pleasantly surprised at how much shade was available. Added Ramadas are unnecessary and would only encourage homeless populations to gather close to Curry Elementary. I am strongly against adding any Ramadas as there is no benefit. I would love to see more floating islands in the lake, as well as more pine trees replaced from the ones that were recently removed on the hill. Thank you for your consideration in keeping Selleh a safe park.
20. Selleh Park had plenty of shade and Ramadas are completely unnecessary. I fear if they are added it will encourage vagrants/homeless to sleep there. This would not be a positive change for our neighborhood or Curry School population.
21. The park provides plenty of shade for the benches as it is. Planting more trees would be of greater use for long term shade.
22. The Ramada would be used by the homeless and unfortunately they also use the area as a bathroom. This would make the park less attractive for families to enjoy the park. Therefore, I am not in favor of a Ramada in the park.
23. They are too big for our little pond. a smaller shade structure would be more appropriate. I looked at the examples. Next to our special pond would ruin the views that we enjoy. someplace else in the park would be better. I love the pollinator gardens, and the improved path, dog bag stations, and bathrooms. I'm worried that you don't understand the beauty of this small park. Being able to see the pain unobstructed by structures is what makes it so special.
24. This is not the kind of park that attracts large groups or activities that require a Ramada. We have lots of shade and enough tables. I would like to see more native plant species to encourage more wildlife to visit the park and make it home. The natural beauty and wildlife is what attracts people to the park. Not more industrial looking items. More trees please, and please leave the edge of the pond natural. Please keep the botany and creatures first and the people will enjoy that the most.
25. We have had neighborhood meetings discussing ramadas at Selleh Park, and most people were not in favor. There is plenty of shade provided at Selleh Park from all of the trees we have. It is a pretty small park and there really isn't a logical place to put a structure like a ramada. Any flat open space we have should be left that way for people to play on. We also don't want to encourage the homeless to set up camp.

26. While the idea of more shade is very appealing, I think a Ramada would detract from the more natural landscape views that make Selleh Park so special. Perhaps near the playground it would make sense to accommodate waiting parents, but I also wonder about the large pigeon population and how a ramada might encourage roosting and require a lot of upkeep to keep it free of their litter.

Did not respond “yes” or “no”

1. What about shade sails? Would that discourage homeless? They couldn't hide as much.
2. If there is support from the neighborhood, Selleh Park can receive one 24' x 34' ramada or two 20' x 20' ramadas. Would you prefer one large or two smaller ramadas?

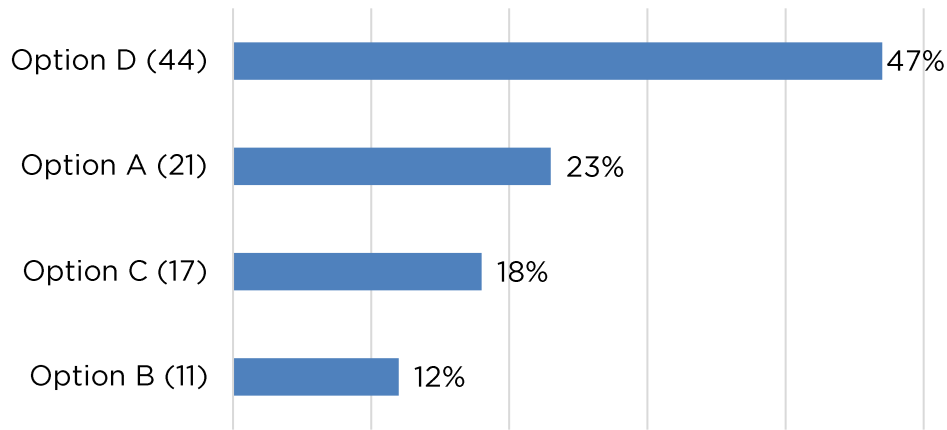


■ One 24' x 34' (16) ■ Two 20' x 20' (38)

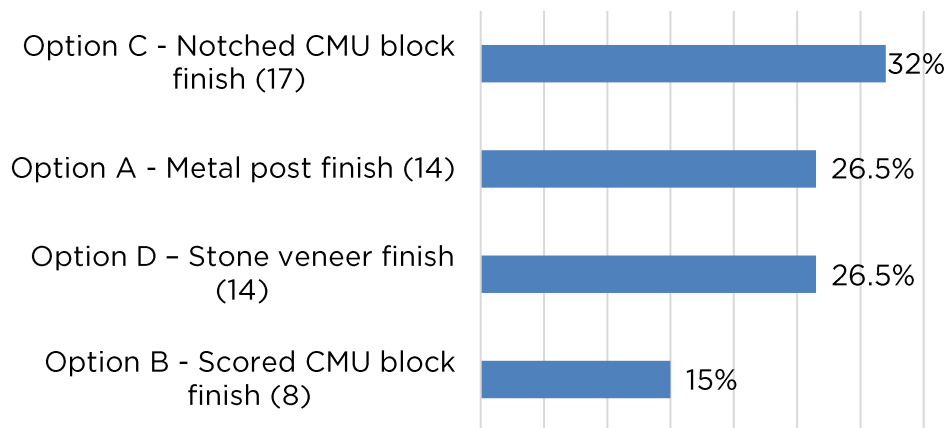
Total responses: 54

3. Please choose your TWO (2) favorite ramada locations from the four options shown on the map:



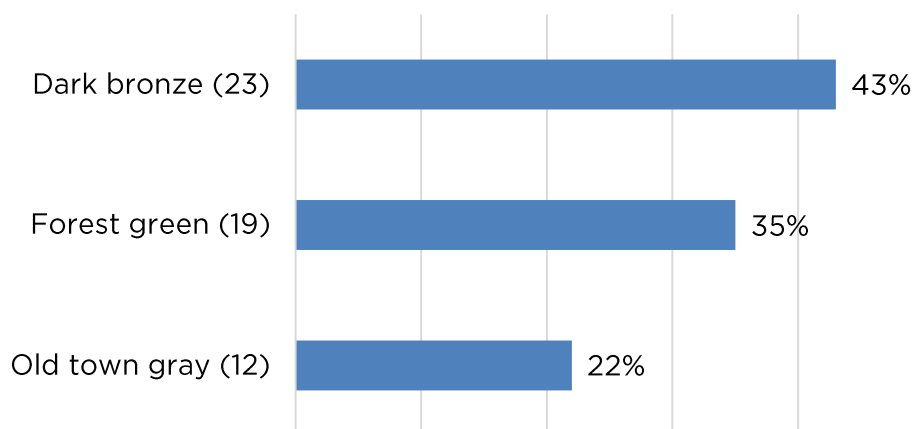


4. If there is support from the neighborhood, the picnic ramada will have a metal hip roof. Which column material do you prefer?



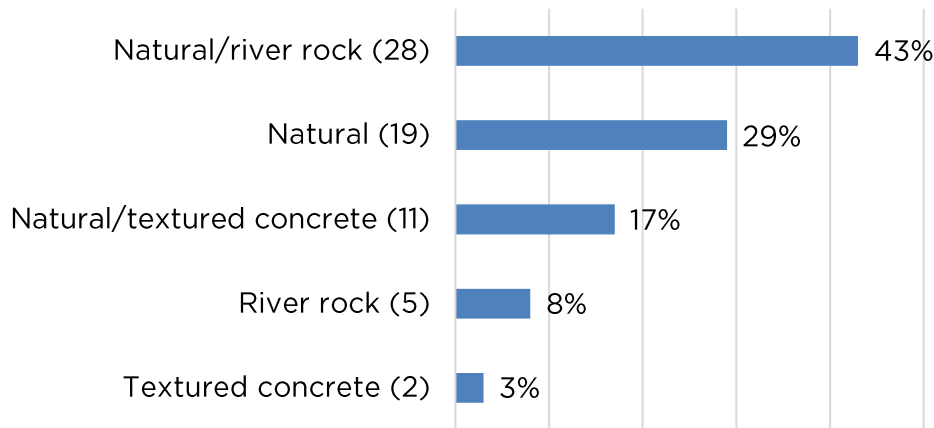
Total responses: 53

5. Which color do you prefer for the ramada roof?



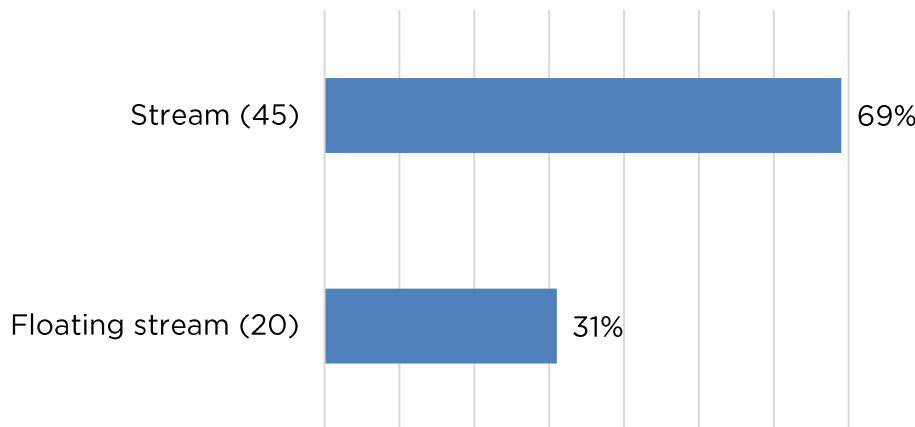
Total responses: 54

6. This project will also restore the lake edge at Selleh Park. Please choose your preferred lake edge treatment from the options shown:



Total responses: 65

7. If funding allows, which water feature would you prefer installed at the lake?

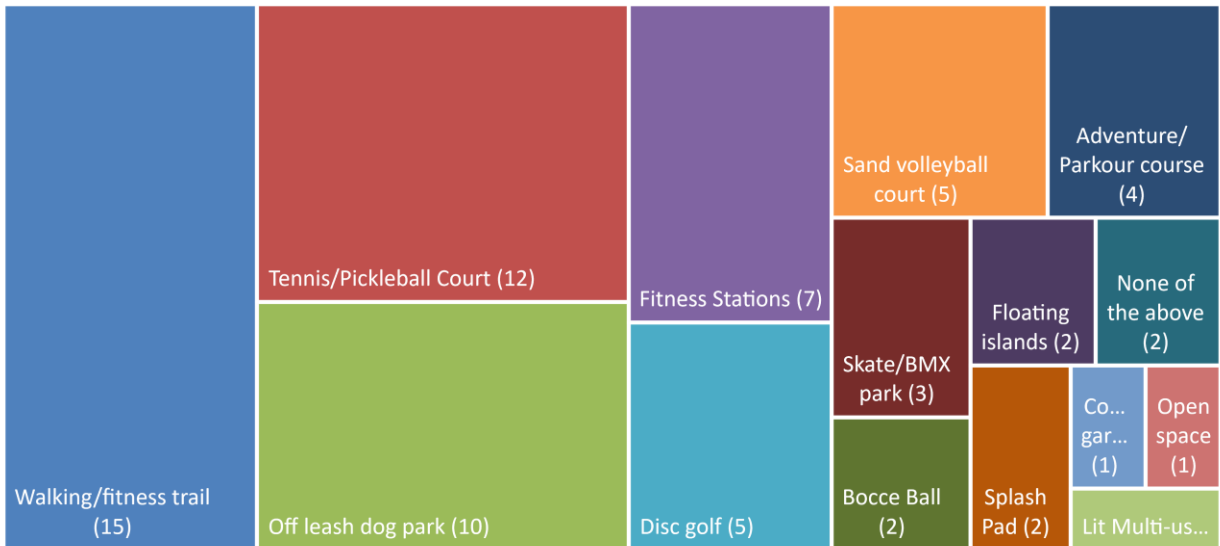


Total responses: 65

8. In the future, Selleh Park could be eligible for enhanced amenities which would increase the recreational value of a park. The number, type, and size of amenities will be determined by size of park, cost of amenity, and fit. Examples could include, *but are not limited to*:

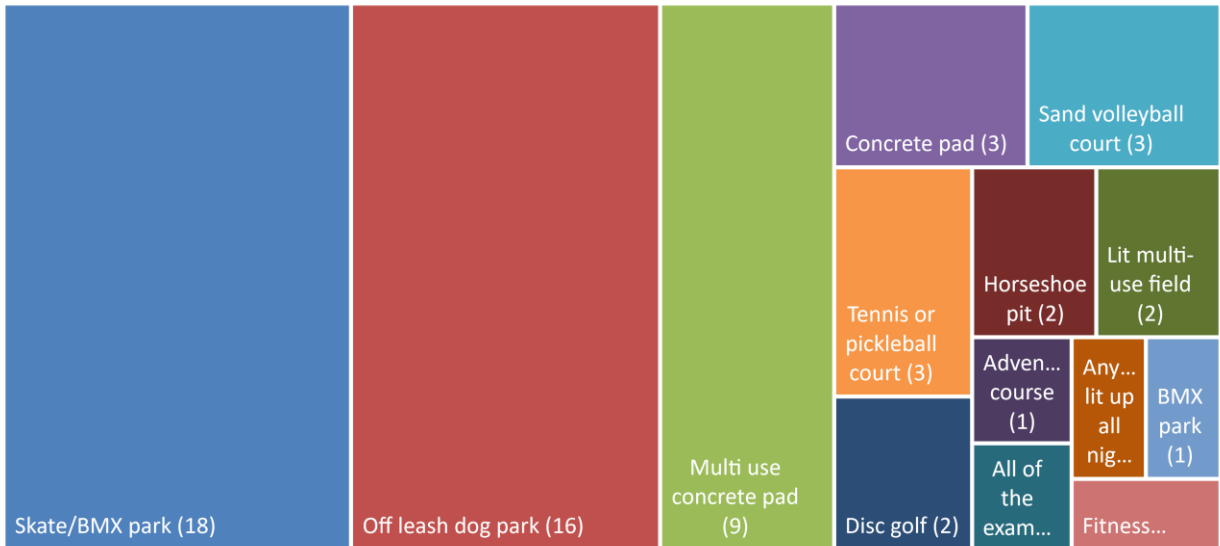
- Off leash area (dog park)
- Skate or BMX park
- Sand volleyball court
- Bocce ball/corn hole
- Adventure/Parkour Course
- Horseshoe pit
- Disc golf
- Walking/fitness trail
- Fitness Stations
- Multi-use concrete pad
- Lit multi-use field
- Tennis Court
- Pickleball Court
- Other _____

Please select the enhanced amenity you would most like to see in Selleh Park:



- clean the park benches - trees replaced
- Selleh is not large enough for these - disk golf / walking trail are the least invasive

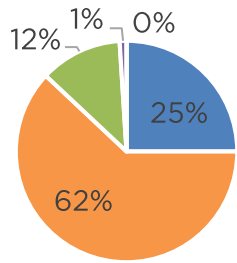
Please select the enhanced amenity you would least like to see in Selleh Park:



- Selleh is not large enough for these - Off leash dog park, skate park are the most invasive
- Something with a lot of lights as my home backs up to the park

9. Our objective is to provide clean, safe, and friendly parks. Please rate how we are doing on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 means very dissatisfied and 5 means very satisfied.

Cleanliness of Selleh Park



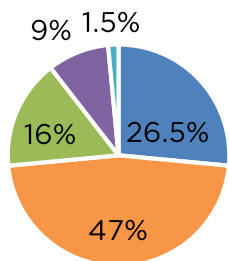
- Very Satisfied (17)
- Satisfied (43)
- No opinion/neutral (8)
- Dissatisfied (1)
- Very dissatisfied (0)

Total responses: 69

Comments on cleanliness:

1. The standing water and flooding
2. Overall I think the park stays clean, but there are times it seems as if it is not being maintained. The bushes around the water get very high and dense and that makes it difficult to see if there is anyone around you.
3. we've not walked the park since Covid -- not sure how well it's been maintained
4. We need to get the house less into homes
5. Dog poop, plastics, and general detritus is all too often strewn around the park.

Safety of Selleh Park



- Very Satisfied (18)
- Satisfied (32)
- No opinion/neutral (11)
- Dissatisfied (6)
- Very dissatisfied (1)

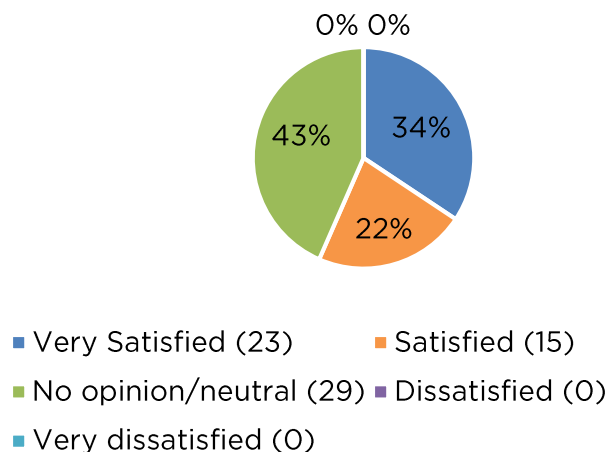
Total responses: 68

Comments on safety:

1. Overall the park seems safe. There are times when high schoolers or much older kids seem to take over the playground area, and that equipment is not meant for them. People are afraid to say anything.
2. providing more amenities might bring over-crowding or loitering; safety could become an issue, so hope the city has people who are dedicated to parks
3. Please get the homeless out of our parks (and alleyways). Very disturbing and concerning, especially since I feel extremely unsafe and my home has been burglarized.

4. We need homes for the houseless, and mobile health units to assist those who need services. They deserve to have this help.
5. Homeless and disreputable people seen around the park. Want to ensure safety of children. Recently a person was arrested for sex crimes in our neighborhood. Action needs to be taken against loitering.
6. More police patrol after school hours and late at night.
7. Lighting around the park is very limited
8. If a Ramada is added my one concern is that the park could become more attractive to the Tempe homeless population, similar to Clark Park. I urge the city to continue to expand services to this population so that they can be guided to shelter options other than parks

Friendliness of the park staff



Total responses: 67

Comments on friendliness:

1. in all our years in the area, we've seen city employees there perhaps 1 or 2 times
2. Landscaping people not always friendly.
3. Never met them
4. They are efficient-haven't interacted with them.

10. Additional Comments

1. A Ramada at the top of the hill would be a particular loss, as this hilltop is a unique feature within the park. I'd much rather see trees planted to replace those taken out.
2. Both stream and floating stream would be amazing!
3. Glad to hear you will be doing something for water quality. It gets scummy sometimes. Also the current sprinklers waste water, which runs down Los Feliz to Alameda sometimes! Whatever you plant should be native and not use much water. Adding big trees where the pines were would be good. Do not trim trees during nesting season please. Bushes by the lake are used by birds and their babies. Herons will stop coming if there is too much disruption and too many people. Dog walkers, main users of the park, generally pick up after their dogs, but I do not want a dog park. Keep my address invisible please.
4. How about a water fountain? I feel fine with what's there, it's small.
5. I am looking forward to improvements to the flooding problems. The irrigation sometimes takes 10-12 days to dry up on the north side of the park along the alley. Important to me: maintenance of covered playground area, paths, basketball court and fitness area.
6. I am only for the fishing Ramada and I wouldn't want it too large. Definitely no Ramada in the hill area!!! And the other Ramada areas would take up useable

grass space (aside from homeless hangout). If they just end up doing another Ramada than only the one nearest the playground might work but make it small and no picnic tables ... just seating. For the lake edge, I would like all natural (no rock or fake edge). Also please keep all the living trees and make sure we have the same amount of bush vegetation around the pond (maybe replace non native with native; please add button bush to the lake edge). I would love either of the two waterfall/streambed options; floating might be less expensive so possibly more feasible. Both would be very nice and be a huge enhancement to the park habitat and beauty. Other notes. Get trees back on pine tree hill. Get more trees around seating areas. Make sure we keep the same number of those log posts around the pond ... love those and they have endured the weather well. Great for extra seating and people use them for exercise too. Also there is a private wildlife habitat kind of at the north area of the pond near the bench nearest the electrical boxes; the vegetation kind of isolated it so that the ducks can live there. Hoping that is kept. When you go to sprinkler irrigation and less flood, please fix the turf as it is very uneven. Also fix the drainage. Please make sure to enhance the turf area by the playground so it can be utilized for frisbee or similar play activities. We also have some issues with burr. Please add MORE floating islands ... they are inexpensive (less than \$1000 for a 5x5 island) and very limited maintenance!!! They can all be planted with Yerba Mensa and blue rush which are both native (and are thriving on the other islands). No dog park !!! No room at Selleh

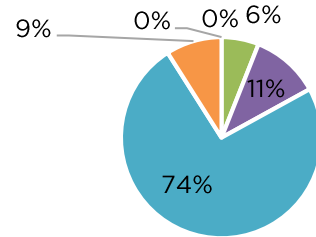
7. I attended the in-person meeting on Oct. 19, but would like to add two suggestions: Put one small ramada at option D, by the play area and restroom where there is the most use. Rather than two small ones, use the extra money to include a table or two or benches inside the ramada. Also, it wouldn't be useful for fishing having one where there needs to be some quiet. Thank you so much for all this.
8. I love the improvements that have been made to the park in recent years, especially the native plants. I believe that future improvements should build on this, providing a space for nature-play for both children and adults (and a space where pollinators like to visit). More hardscape would only detract from this beautiful space. Thank you for providing the opportunity for input.
9. I love this park, I bought my home because of this park. Please add more botanical species and beautiful trees and keep it natural.
10. I love this park, I love the pond, it is not a lake. I love the diffident birds it attracts. I love to see the smaller herons visit. I love that we can see it all of the way around. A better edge would help the birds to get into and out of the pond. I think the playground it very nice, but sadly my child is an adult, we used to Kiwanis covered playground when she was little. I live to take pictures at the park, and walk my dog.
11. I love this park.
12. I support the suggested ramadas for this park and appreciate City of Tempe investing in the parks!
13. I watch this park being built over the years it has been a great addition to the area. Lately it has bloomed thanks to many interested helpers.
14. I wish they had put in another small toddler size play structure instead of the "instrument" structure. Big kids and toddlers on one play structure don't mesh well.
15. I would like to see more trees planted on the hilltop.
16. I would love to have a Splash Pad added for summertime heat relief. The kids would LOVE this and would bring even more families to this park on hot summer evenings!

17. It would be extremely unfortunate to move from investing in the natural aspects of the park - trees, landscaping, the pond - to add sometimes/seasonal use installations of which there are already several.
18. It's great that the City of Tempe is spending money on outdoor projects. We definitely need more shade areas, including structures and trees.
19. keep log fencing (on east side of pond) trees by tables
20. Kids would love a zip-line added to the park! Please add more trees to the hill top area.
21. Maybe instead of a ramada at the large picnic area we could look at doing an umbrella structure like some neighborhoods have done. Also, I would like to see trees put back up on the hill not a ramada. Changing to more sprinkles and less flood irrigation would be great. So many times when the flood irrigation comes through many areas of the park are completely unusable.
22. More large trees needed for shade. Shade cloth for the 4 tables by the playground leave all existing stump barriers as placed leave foliage plants around pond for animals to hide and burrow replace trees that have died or been cut down post an irrigation schedule reserve ramadas either water feature is a bonus to the pond
23. Natural outdoor spaces are a real draw. A floating log in the pond would be a lovely and attractive interest item for residents and for turtles. (Pond Gnome has done an amazing feature at Greenlife by Shamus O'Leary. In addition, designing waterfowl sleeping and nesting areas away from the picnic benches would enhance the cleanliness and charm of Sellah Park.
24. Park staff should minimize driving on grass.
25. Please consider a splash pad!
26. Please consider a splash pad. The splash pad at McClintock High has weird hours which is not helpful for parents with little ones.
27. Please don't put a ramada on top of the hill. It is such a special place (even without the trees, although we certainly mourn their loss), the kids love to play games on top of the hill and lay up there and look at the clouds. I would love if we could plant some more trees up there instead, even if we had to do some fundraising to purchase some more mature trees to give us a head start in recouping our loss. I know our family would definitely contribute money towards that! But a ramada would make that space less idyllic, and would affect the scenery around the park with a ramada at such a high vantage point.
28. Sellah has always been a little hidden park -- known to the school families & the close neighbors -- but not much further afield. It's not large, so needs to be "improved" very carefully ----- do not overwhelm the size of the park's footprint. Too many ramadas could draw so many people the park itself will be negatively affected.
29. The park has become a much more enhanced place to exercise, for families to bring their children to the playground, and much more inclusive. Thank you Tempe for helping the community at large to make improvements in indigenous plantings, new trees, the children's playground, and the floating islands. I also see far more people using the basketball court. All good.
30. The park is an important addition to our neighborhood where one can get a brief sense of nature and its creatures. I would like to see it retain those qualities.
31. the park staff are always very efficient and kind
32. There seems to be a problem with the watering system/irrigation. I walk every morning and it seems the park is flooded every few days. Hard to walk on the grass as it is. I do like the up and down of the park. Much better than a totally flat park.

33. This is a great park! Many people love this park. I talk with a variety of people at the park regularly and without exception they really appreciate this park especially the trees, pond and the wildlife.

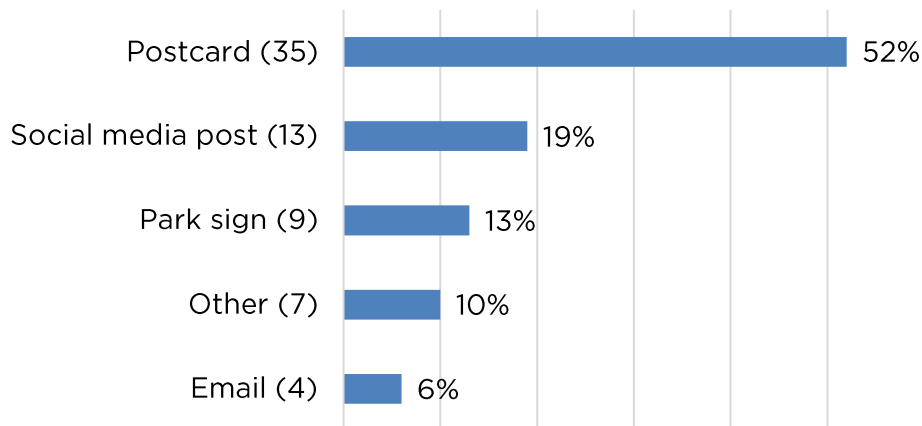
11. The following question is voluntary. If you choose to respond, please mark all that apply:

Race/Ethnicity:



- American Indian/Alaskan Native (1)
- African American/Black (0)
- Asian/Pacific Islander (1)
- Hispanic/Latino (2)
- White (49)
- Other (1)

12. How did you find out about the Selleh Park project?



Total responses: 68