

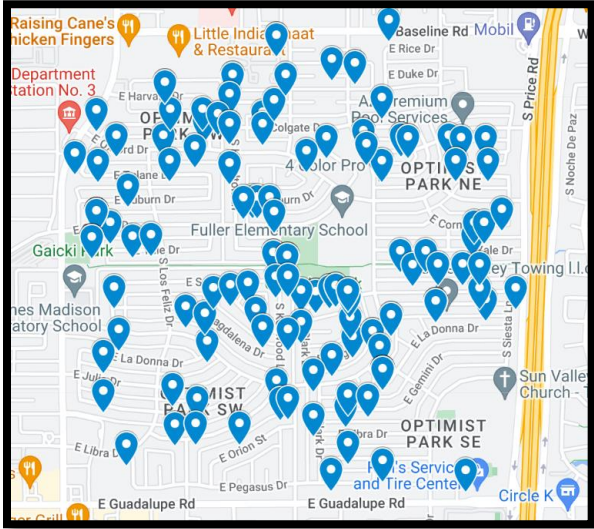
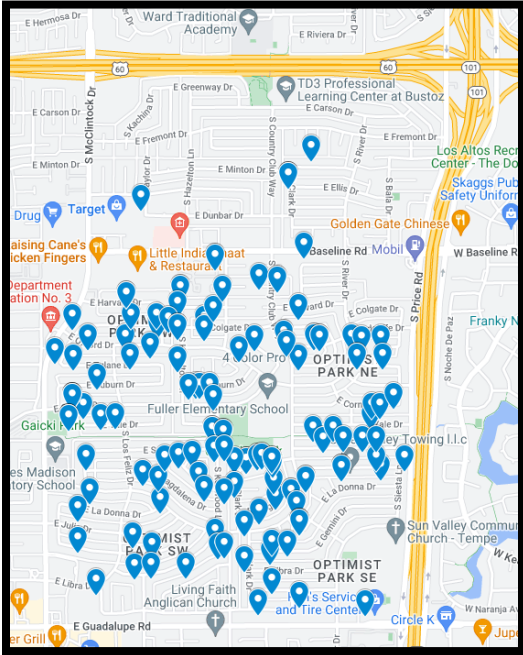


## PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

### Overview

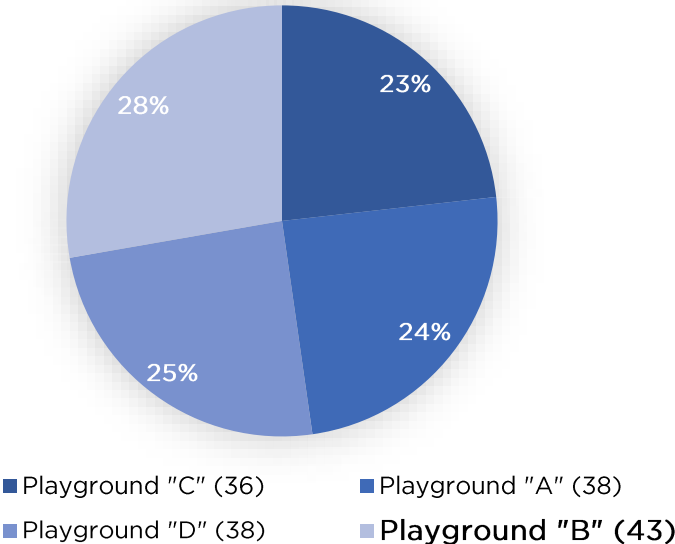
A public meeting was held on September 13, 2022, for feedback on planned improvements for Optimist Park. Residents in the area of Baseline Rd. to Guadalupe Rd., McClintock Rd. to Price Rd. (2713 households) were invited to participate in the process via postcard. Notices were posted to Nextdoor to 1,541 households directing residents to both the meeting and the website. Residents were asked to provide input on playground equipment layout, playground color palette, and shade structure locations. Surveys were available at the meetings and online from September 13 through September 27, 2022. A total of 160 survey responses were received: 40 at the meeting and 120 online, 2 from outside the project area.

### Map of Survey Respondents

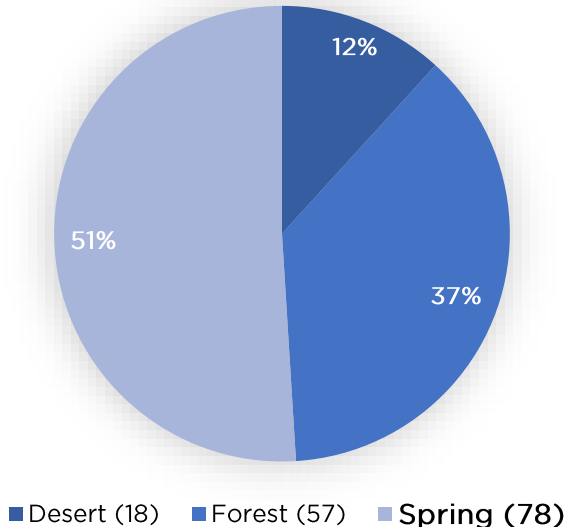


**Survey Results**

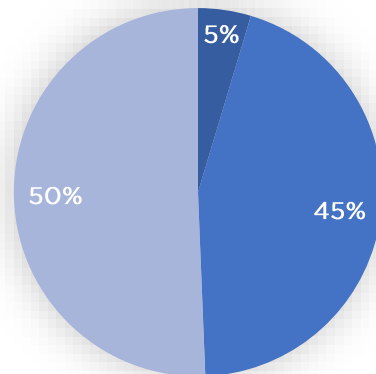
1. Which play structure design and playground equipment layout incorporating these choices do you prefer?



2. Which nature-themed color palette do you prefer for the playground equipment, including the fitness stations?



3. Two shade structures will be installed. Choose your top 2 of 3 locations for a shade structure.



- Over the swings (11)
- Over the 2-5 play structure (106)
- Over the 5-12 play structure (120)

#### Additional Comments

1. Chose C because of the ground level spinner. Monkey bars are a must.
2. Dog park plan and design. Basketball court. More water fountains.
3. Restrooms would be a wonderful addition.
4. Restrooms would be awesome.
5. Less sand is best.
6. Add frisbee golf holes.
7. I would love to see a backstop for baseball/ kickball with a couple of benches. It would be such a great addition for the kids to organize their own pick-up games or for team practices.
8. Backstop.
9. We would love for a dog park to be added!
10. It would be nice to have a paved path from the walking path to the playground. More swings at the playground would be wonderful. Thank you for your work on this project. Ben.
11. Only one of the layouts visually showed shade structures. It would have been helpful to show them on each layout options. The second round survey was not found at City of Tempe site. It would be helpful for users who did not have access to [tempe.gov/ParkUpdates](http://tempe.gov/ParkUpdates).
12. Can you put in a basketball court too? Fuller does not give public access and their isn't a public one near us for a few miles.
13. Will we see the different color palettes for the chosen playground or just have to hope the color looks good?
14. Shade covering over the swings and tire swings on the playground.
15. Would love a shade structure over all areas so it can be utilized all year round in the AZ sun.

16. Excited!
17. Thank you!
18. Park in General: I would like to see desert landscaping used on the banked areas of the park. The current water shortages call for more low water usage landscaping. I see that there are areas where grass does not grow!!
19. I don't agree with two Ramadas. The one by the playground is plenty. I think it is very rude to build a second one so close to a house.
20. It was difficult to choose, as only one pic showed a shade structure. I do favor having a workout area near the El Paso trail, but I couldn't understand what all the equipment proposed was for. I ended up selecting Option D because it had the two age groups separated. And had a workout area. But any option that had areas for differing ages to play harmoniously, with shade, and a separate workout area near the trail would be a good result in my opinion. I currently have no kids of my own under 18, but I remember those days living near Scudder Park and working to get a grant to update that equipment to no avail. What's good for kids is good for the neighborhood. Plus, I do use the trail and walk in the park. I am glad for all these changes the city of Tempe is pursuing to enhance our neighborhoods.
21. It would be so great to have shade over the benches for the parents sitting and watching their kids. Some may be shaded by trees, but others are not. I was also not able to choose two locations for the shade structure on the survey. I would prefer shades over both play structures rather than the swings.
22. Can only choose one option under question 6. If able to choose as indicated, would put shade over the play structures.
23. More items for kids to play on the better. It gets too hot to just play in the sand.
24. Thanks.
25. Try to salvage any of the existing (but safe-for-use) park equipment, sand, etc.
26. We are in Arizona. The whole play ground should be shaded.
27. Less sand and light material for temperature please.
28. LOVE THIS.
29. The 2 shade structures should go over the 2 play structures. Thank you for putting on this lovely event!
30. Can't vote for two shade options, so my other choice is the 2-5 play structure. Also thank you for keeping a sand area.
31. Love to have shade over all play equipment. Monkey bars and spinning structures would be great.
32. Shade over play structures not swings. Minimal sand and not near water fountain.
33. Add basketball courts.
34. It is disappointing that this park will not include a basketball court. Older kids need places to hang out and be active, too. Very disappointed that my kids are "aged out" of this park by this design. The fitness equipment is generally unused in every park I have ever spent time in.

35. Shade is the biggest problem at the playground currently. While there are benches there is never more than half of one in the shade. Shaded parental seating is my number one priority for the renovation.
36. It would be wonderful if there were a portapotty or bathroom of some sort. And are there going to be drinking fountains installed as well?
37. Thank you for making our parks a priority.
38. Work out areas are rarely used regardless of votes by community members, it's similar to the treadmill that's used as a clothes rack.
39. Our household has a kiddo requesting the track ride (zip line).
40. I will leave the decisions related to the playground to the young families that will be using this amenity. I am disappointed that there does not appear to be any improvements that are intended to serve other users of the park, such as teens and older adults. I wish the plan were more inclusive of all park users.
41. The tire swing we currently have at Optimist park is always one of the busiest items I see used when at the park with the kids. Please consider adding one!!
42. The tire swing we currently have at Optimist park is always one of the busiest items I see used when at the park with the kids. Please consider adding one!!
43. The tire swing currently at Optimist park is my child's favorite play item. Please consider adding one!!
44. The tire swing currently at Optimist park is my child's favorite play item. Please consider adding one!!
45. I chose configuration "A" but also think "B" would be ok. Both appear to have the largest sand areas which I think is very important for play. I think it would also be important that the sand area be shaded, either by shade structure or strategically placed trees.
46. One other comment regarding the work out areas adjacent to the El Paso Easement. As compared to one workout area, I hope that you have planned for multiple workout stations along the Lazy Walk (El Paso Pipeline Easement). These would clearly have to all be in the Optimist Park area and not in the alley ways. But, multiple workout stations along the park allow multiple people to use the stations as they walk. As you walk along the Lazy Walk in the park you could easily have 4 to 6 workout stations each with a different workout. Again, I now have four cents in comments.
47. I would caution have too many mechanical play items. Having worked, now retired, in the parks area for over 20 years when new these more interactive pieces of equipment were very functional. But they were hard and costly to maintain. When broken parts, if available, were hard to source and procure. It's nice to see an overdue update to the parks. But from a maintenance perspective, keep the facilities simple and they will be less costly to maintain.
48. Less sand the better; one small area for kids preferably under shade. Benches to sit on should also be in shaded area.
49. The people in the neighborhood don't want ramadas. And, why are you removing the sand? Kids want sand. There are better things to be spending the money on. Quit "improving" a great park.

50. Keep the sand. No ramadas. The city says people want them. I'd like to see those votes because nobody we know wants the ramadas. A little transparency is needed.
51. What is Tempe going to keep homeless from living in the ramadas?
52. Thank you for including adult/community exercise equipment.
53. I voted for Layout A because it has a lot of swings, a bridge, monkey bars and climbing, a slide that a baby could use assisted, decent big kid slides, and a nice see saw and music feature. My main concern is that with the 2-5 not being separate from the 5-12, that it will get too crowded and the big kids will run the little kids over. If there could be a little more separation between them? Or different ways to access them besides just the bridge? Also, a spinner is cool but I would like to see less of that and add a track ride, boulder climber, or web climber? I love the tree look and colors. Keep in mind lighter greens are better for slides or anything you have to sit on so it doesn't get hot, and darker greens better for the accents.
54. Though I agree with the idea to promote more physical activity in the community, I urge you to reconsider the building of the fitness stations at Optimist Park (and other local parks). I do not believe this is a good use of money on park improvements. Outdoor fitness equipment are hardly used in a consistent matter when installed in public parks. This study shows (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28169574/>) that "Only 2.7% of adult park users used the fitness equipment over 100 hours of observation across 3 seasons." It is also a bad idea to build fitness equipment uncovered. This severely limits the usage of the equipment to only late fall through early spring. In compassion, the playground equipment is used much less during the summer times but is still accessible in early mornings due to the shade structures. If facilitating physical activity for adults in the community is the goal of the fitness equipment, I strongly encourage the parks department (and or city) to reconsider spending this kind of money on other avenues that would be used more frequently. I love Optimist Park (and other Tempe parks) and would hate to see brand new equipment being built and not used by the community.
55. We live directly opposite the playground equipment and quite off sit out on our front porch and watch the kids play at the park. We also take our grandkids there at times. My big issue is the amount of sand that is in the park. In my opinion, I feel that at least half of the park area should be covered with sand. By the way, the two sand diggers are useless. You will see kids using them for about 1 minute, and then go away and dig in the sand themselves, making trenches, building castles and burying their feet. I will send you a picture yesterday of four kids that were digging in the sand together, and I believe one of them was an 11 to 12 year old. The sand attracts kids of all ages and allows them to use their imagination. All four of your designs have very little sand, except the Plan A which appears to have at least 1/2 of the full playground under sand. If need be, I would be very willing to generate a petition and take it over to all the parents with their kids and ask them how much sand they would like. The small little sand

areas on most of your plans appear to be just trying to pacify the comments that were brought up at the first meeting. As I said before, I feel that at least 50% of the entire playground area should be sand. My wife and I were out of town when you had the second meeting so we missed it, but seeing what happens at the park and what is used, it would be a shame not to have a lot of sand area (at least 50%) which would be one of the full sections. Our kids are grown and our grandkids will be older by the time these improvements are complete, so we don't have a personal interest, but we are trying to look out for the kids of the future and allowing them to use their creativity and get their hands dirty. Yesterday I went over to the park to talk to some of the parents and one mom stated that she hated the sand because her kids were always in it, and her kids loved playing in it, so she would want lots of sand and she just hoses them off when they get home. My two cents and I would be happy to start to talk to all the parents at the park if it would help in getting one of the full sections in the park to be all sand. You can do away with the diggers and it would be great to simply give them a lift up lid container where there was couple of plastic shovels and pails.