



23rd and Eads St Park Renovation Project

Engagement #1 Summary : May 20 – June 7, 2024



**ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA**

Parks & Recreation

Who Participated?

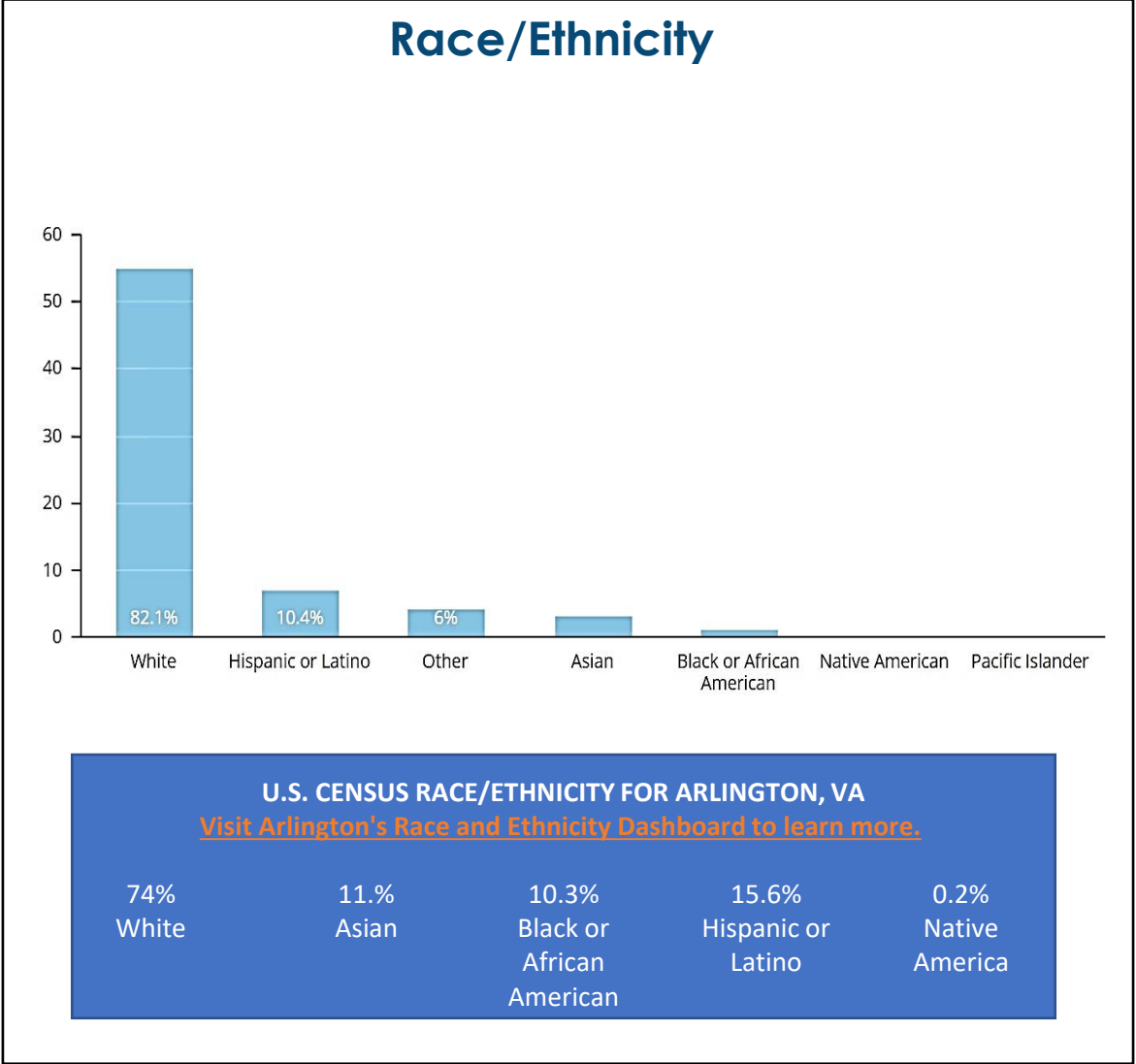
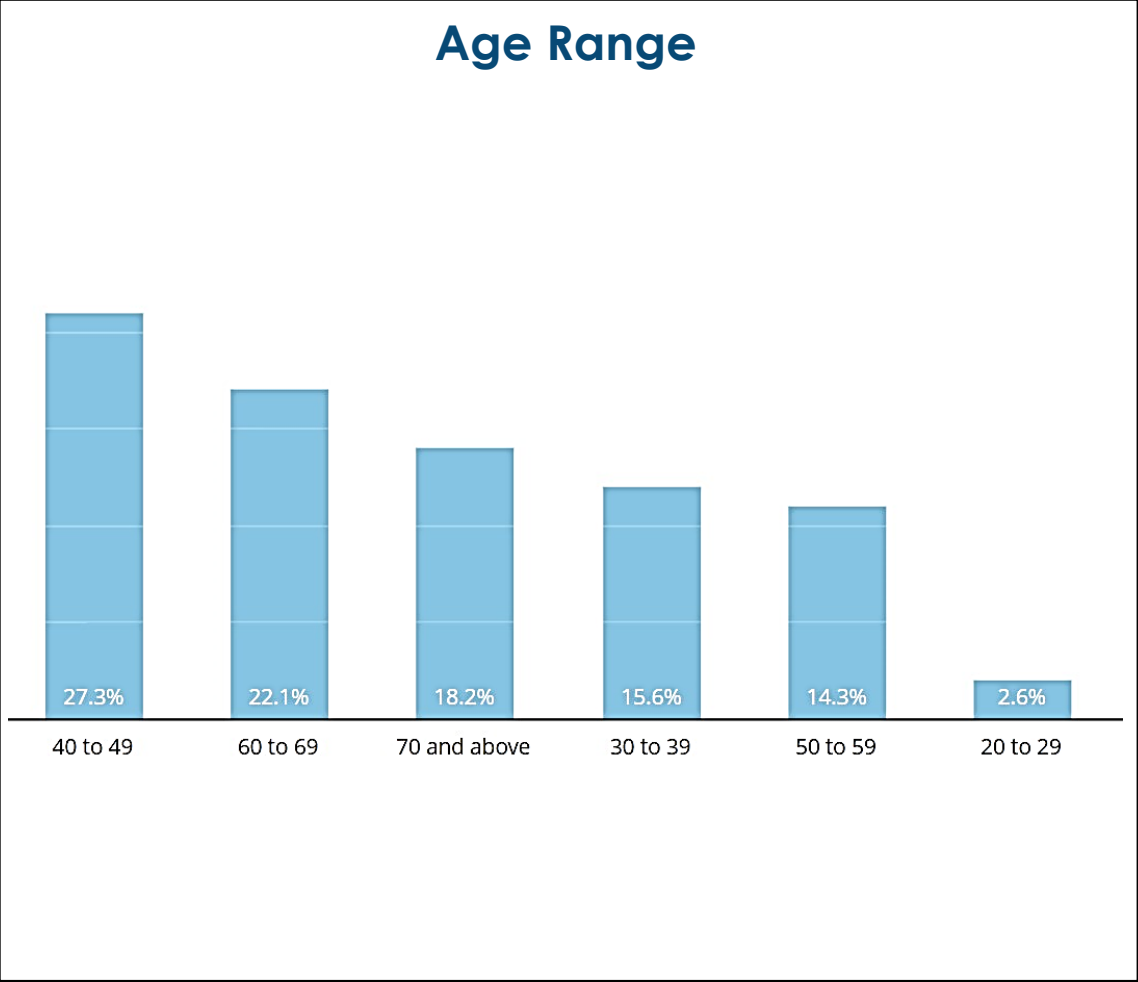


ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

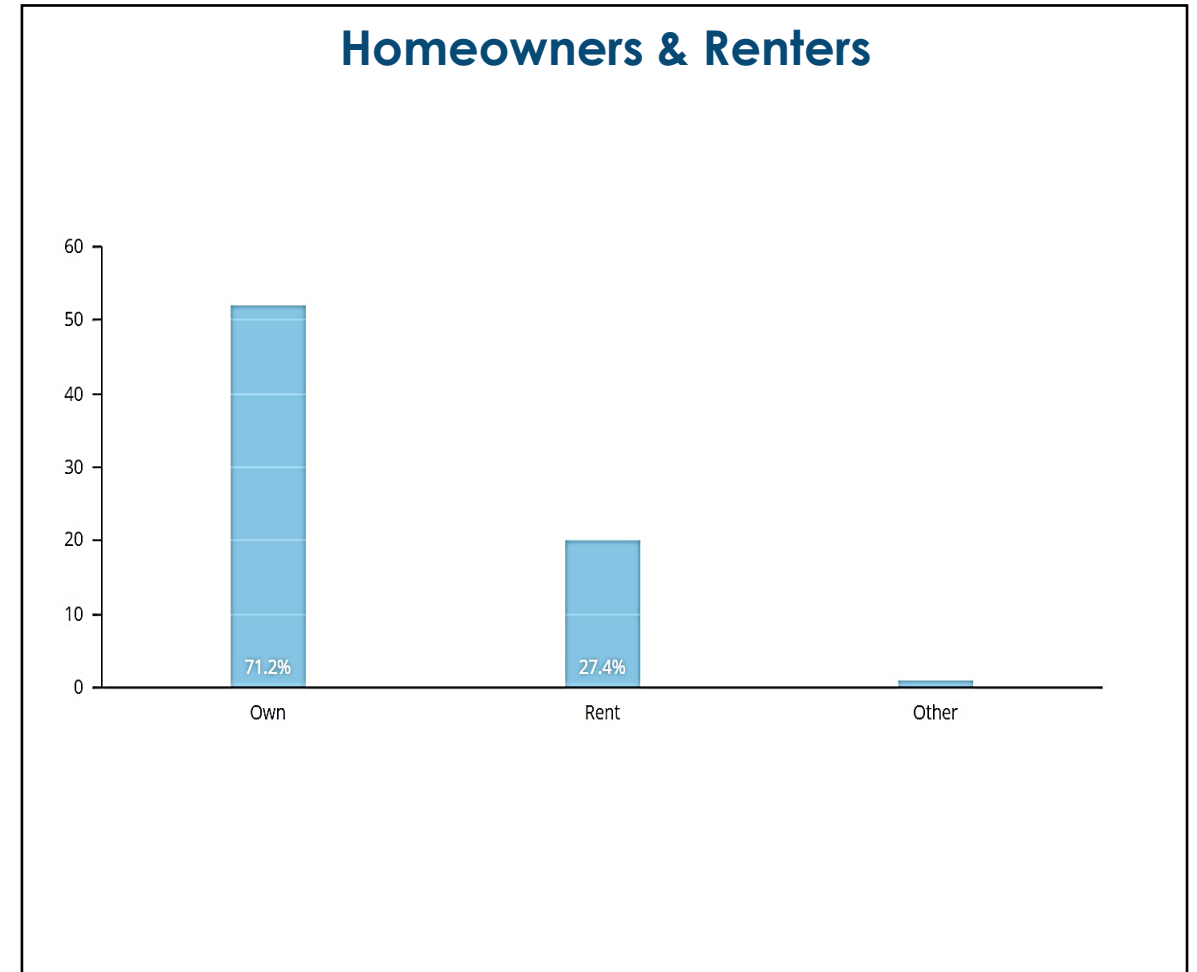
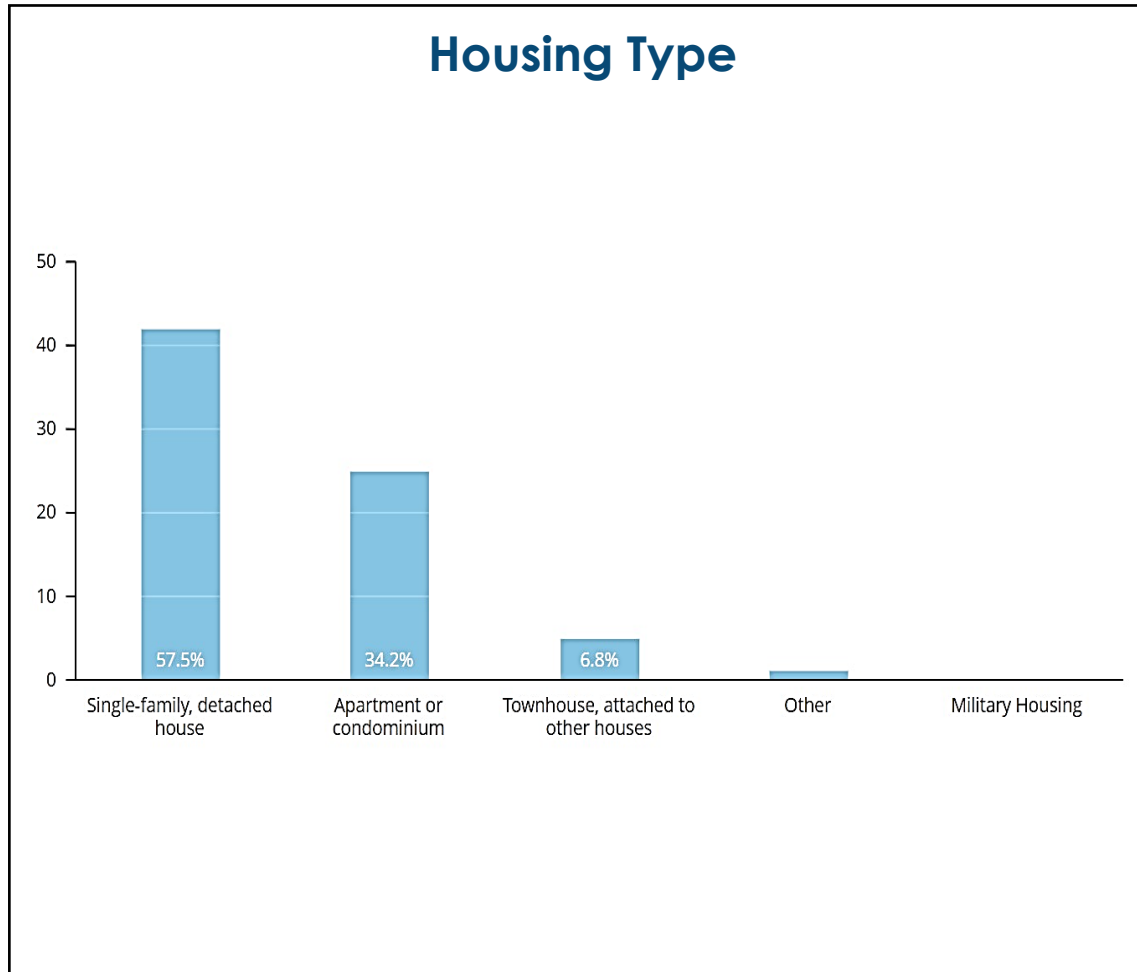
88 Online Survey Responses

*Through these responses,
we received **195 comments***

Who Participated



Who Participated



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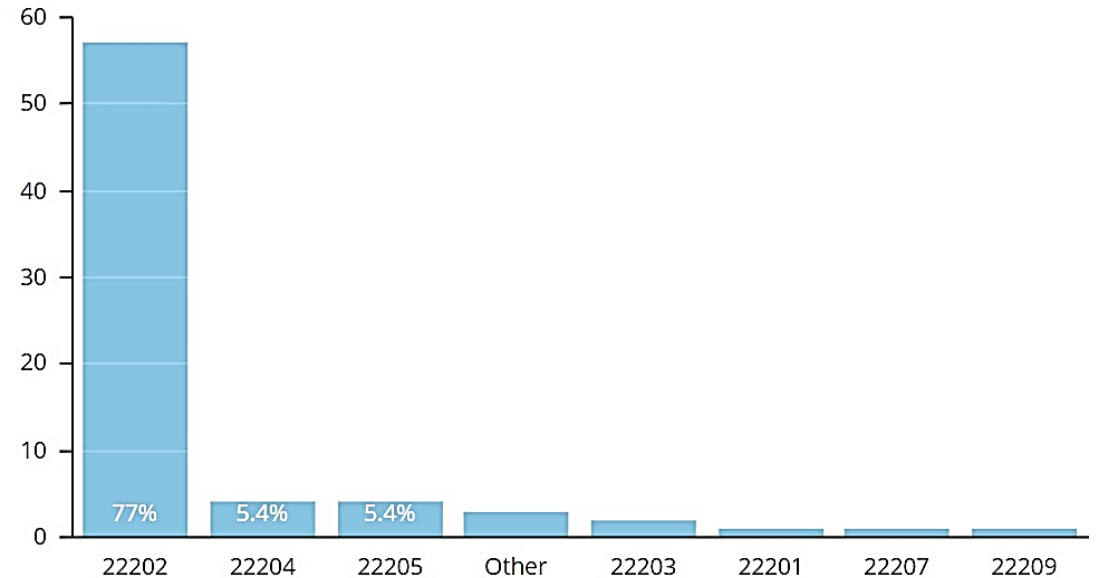
Neighborhoods

In total, the project team heard from respondents located in **16 out of 62** Arlington civic associations.

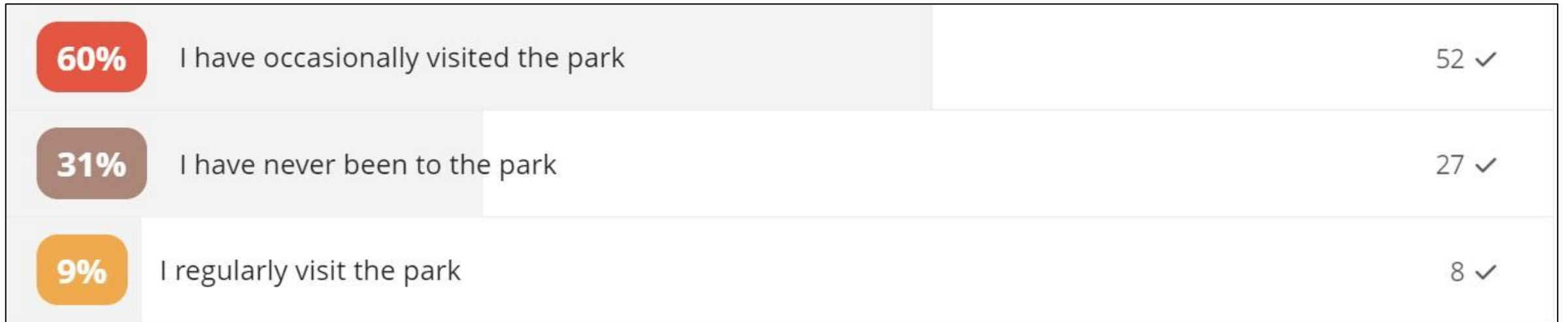
Top Neighborhood Responses

- Aurora Highlands (35%)
- Crystal City (23%)
- Arlington Ridge (19%)
- Penrose (3%)
- Rock Springs (3%)

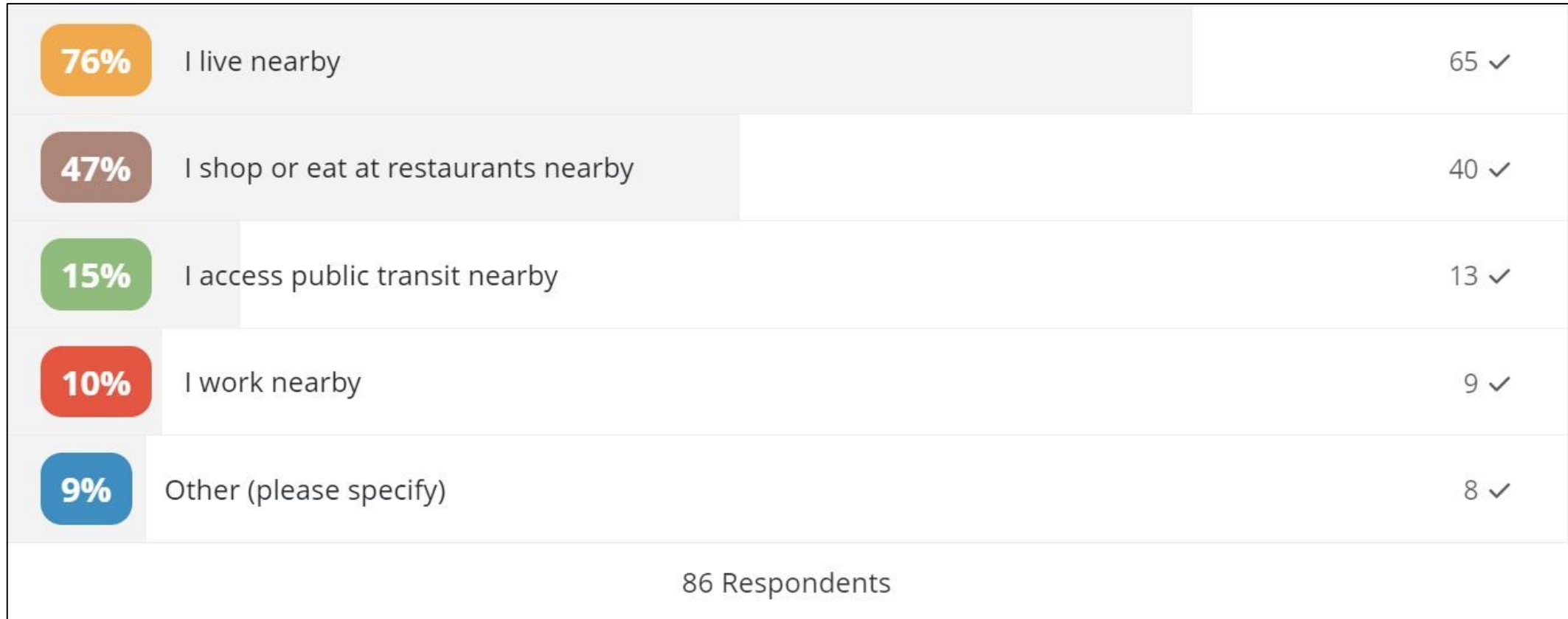
Zip Code



How would you describe your current use of the park?



What draws you to the area?



Which park draft concept design do you like the most?

51 respondents

45%

Concept 1

CONCEPTUAL PARK DESIGNS - CONCEPT 1

Concept 1

A. Podium bench with planter
 B. Trellis with seating (Potential Lighting)
 C. Fixed seating/Furnishings
 D. Concrete

14

43%

Concept 3

CONCEPTUAL PARK DESIGNS - CONCEPT 3

Concept 3

A. Permeable wood pavers
 B. Seating islands/tree benches
 C. Metal screen panels
 D. Fixed seating/Furnishing

16

12%

Concept 2

CONCEPTUAL PARK DESIGNS - CONCEPT 2

Concept 2

A. Podium bench with planter
 B. Fixed seating/Bar Top stools/Furnishing
 C. Permeable wood pavers
 D. Metal screen panels

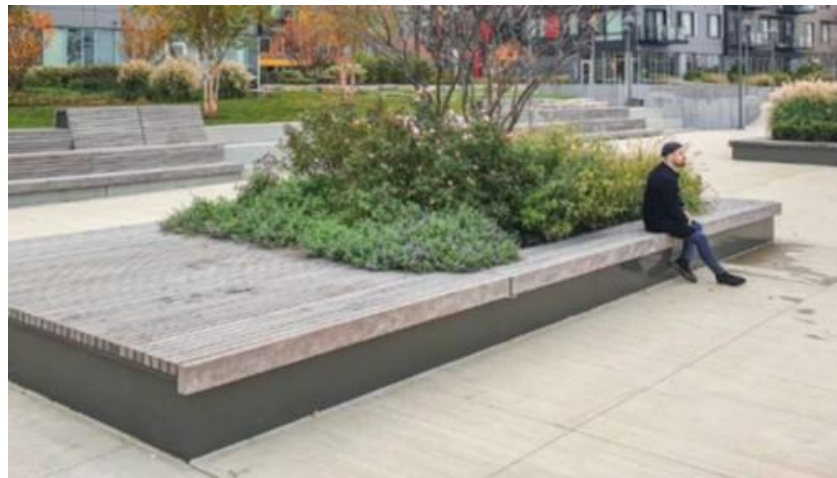
15

Which of these specialty seating options do you like? Select all that apply.

71 respondents

52%

Angular wood podium with a tree planter island



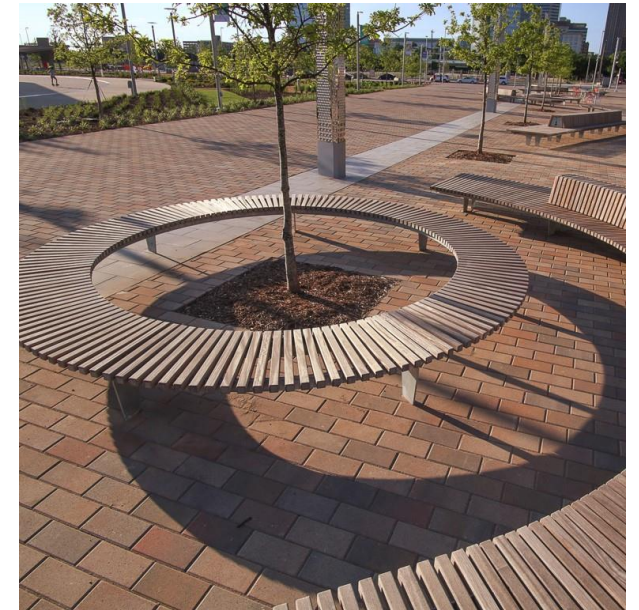
37%

Geometric Benches



35%

Circular tree planter benches



Which of these types of fixed seating do you like: Square, Circular, Picnic, or High Tables with Bar Stools? Select all that apply.

72 Respondents

42% Square



42% Picnic Tables



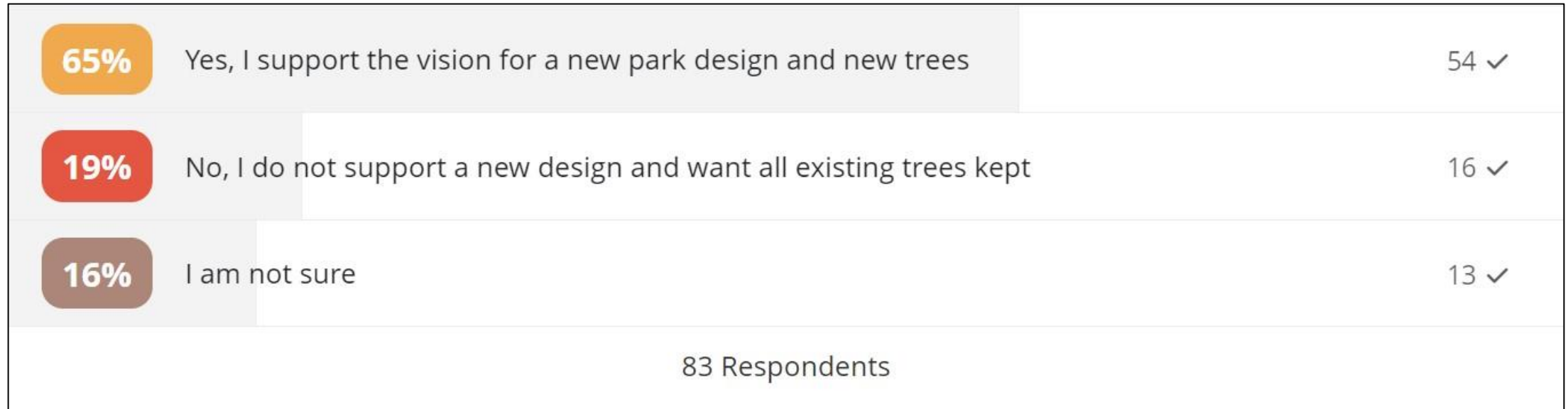
35% High Tables with Bar Stools



32% Circular



Do you support a newly redesigned park with the removal of the non-native and invasive Amur maple trees?



How would you like to use the park in the future?

Below are some of the themes we heard from the open-ended comments.

Theme	Prioritize space for resting, eating, and relaxing	This is “not a park” and money is better spent elsewhere	Maximize shade and screened areas	Plant trees and incorporate biophilia	Miscellaneous
Summary	<p>A core theme heard from respondents was the desire for this park to become a space for rest, relaxation, and small gatherings. Potential uses suggested were quick snacks, taking food from a nearby restaurant and eating, small gatherings with friends, or resting after shopping in the area.</p>	<p>Over a dozen commenters indicated their belief that they do not think of this space as a park and worry about the money being spent on its renovation. The common sentiment among these comments was to spend the money on other County projects, or to plant trees and add green space to the current park.</p>	<p>Respondents noted the need for shade-covered furniture so that users can enjoy the space in hotter months. Between tree cover, shade structures and screens, commenters hope the space can accommodate these needs.</p>	<p>Community members noted that this park sits in a dense urban area, and to the extent possible existing concrete and hardscape should be removed and replaced with trees and green space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some comments highlighted the need for improved maintenance (trash collection, lighting, cleanliness, etc.). A few community members requested the installation of signage indicating that the site is a park, as well as historical information for the area. Safety concerns were raised as a key consideration for the park's future management.

A full list of this question's comments is linked [here](#)

If future funding is received, do you support adding lighting to the site?



Do you support renaming this park from "23rd Street South and South Eads Street Park?"



If you selected "Yes" to the previous question, please share any potential park names and an explanation as to why the name is appropriate

Below are some of the themes we heard from the open-ended comments.

Theme	Restaurant Row Park	23rd Street Park / 23rd Street Plaza	Keep the current name	Firehouse Park / Volunteer Firemen's Park	Zavarella Music Park
Summary	Community members' most common suggestion was "Restaurant Row" to call out the park's proximity to numerous local restaurants and its most common use.	Another common response was either 23 rd Street Park or 23 rd Street Plaza. Commenters noted these options simplify the current name of "23 rd Street South and South Eads Street Park" while still signifying where it sits geographically.	A few comments asked that the current name remain the same, as it specifies exactly where the park sits and avoids a lengthy or costly renaming process.	A couple of community members asked that the park be renamed to signify the location of the old volunteer fire house that served the area for many years.	Another suggestion was (Tony) Zavarella Music Park to reflect an old music store that sat on the corner of 23 rd Street South and South Eads Street. The store was a fixture in the local community.

Did we miss anything?

Below are the top themes that we heard from the open-ended comments in descending order of relevant comments.

Theme	Not a park, waste of money	Signage and educational materials	Seating options with back support	Lighting alternatives	Accessibility
Summary	A dozen respondents reiterated their perspective that this space does not constitute a “park,” and other projects within the County should take priority.	A few commenters were not aware that this site is considered an official DPR park. They suggested treating the park as the entryway to the 23 rd Street Business District with signage. One comment requested a new Aurora Hills sign as well.	A couple of community members stated that specialized benches can be uncomfortable to sit on for more than a few minutes. They requested that all benches have back support to encourage use for long periods of time.	Two comments asked the project to consider integrated lighting in the seating at the park, rather than festoon or hung lights. This could help improve lighting without contributing to light pollution.	Between the site's current condition and the draft concepts, a community member requested that accessibility be further considered to ensure equal access and use of the park.

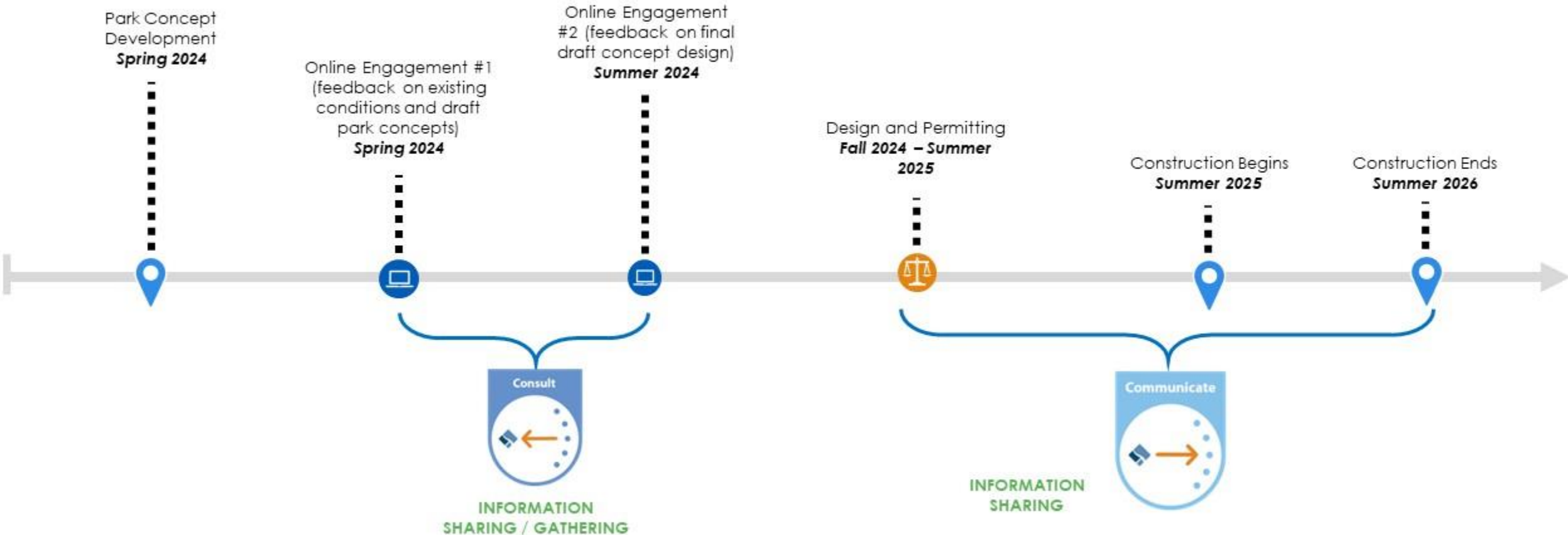
A full list of this question’s comments is linked [here](#)

23rd and Eads Park Renovation Project

Origin:

Funding: Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Staff Contact: [Jeanette Ankoma-Sey](mailto:jancoma-sey@arlingtonva.us)
jancoma-sey@arlingtonva.us



Online Feedback
 (e.g. questionnaire, feedback form, etc.)



In-Person Engagement and Pop-Ups
 (e.g. community meeting, roundtable, tabling, walking/bus tour, deliberative dialogue, etc.)



Virtual Meeting
 (e.g., TEAMS, TEAMS live, Zoom, etc.)



County Board Engagement
 (e.g. public hearing, Board work session, open door Monday, commission meeting, etc.)



Key Milestone