



Monroe Park Playground Renovation Project

Engagement #1 Summary : January 3, 2024 – January 31, 2024



**ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA**

Parks & Recreation

Who Participated?

193 Participants



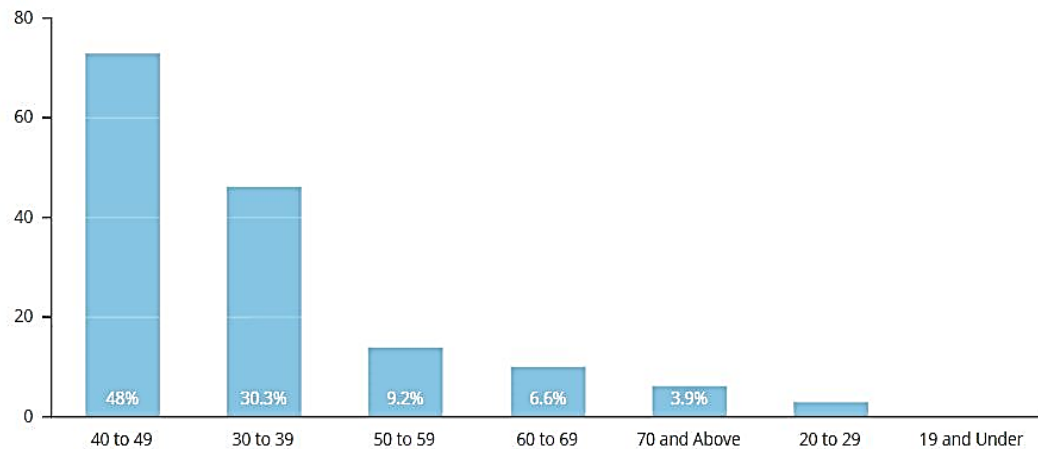
ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

193 Online Feedback Form Responses

Through these responses, we received 200 comments

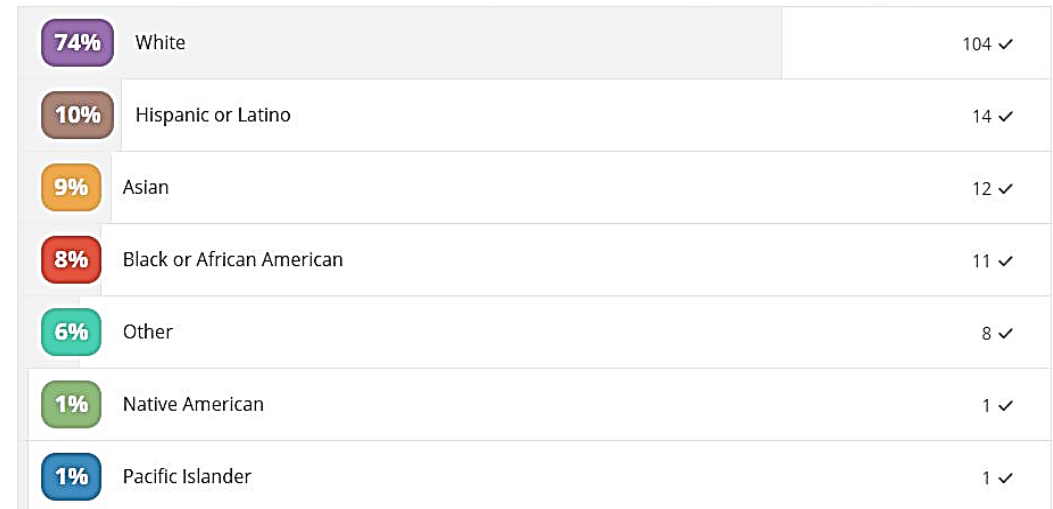
Who Participated: Online

Age Range



Race/Ethnicity

Which of the following describes your race or ethnicity? Select all that apply.

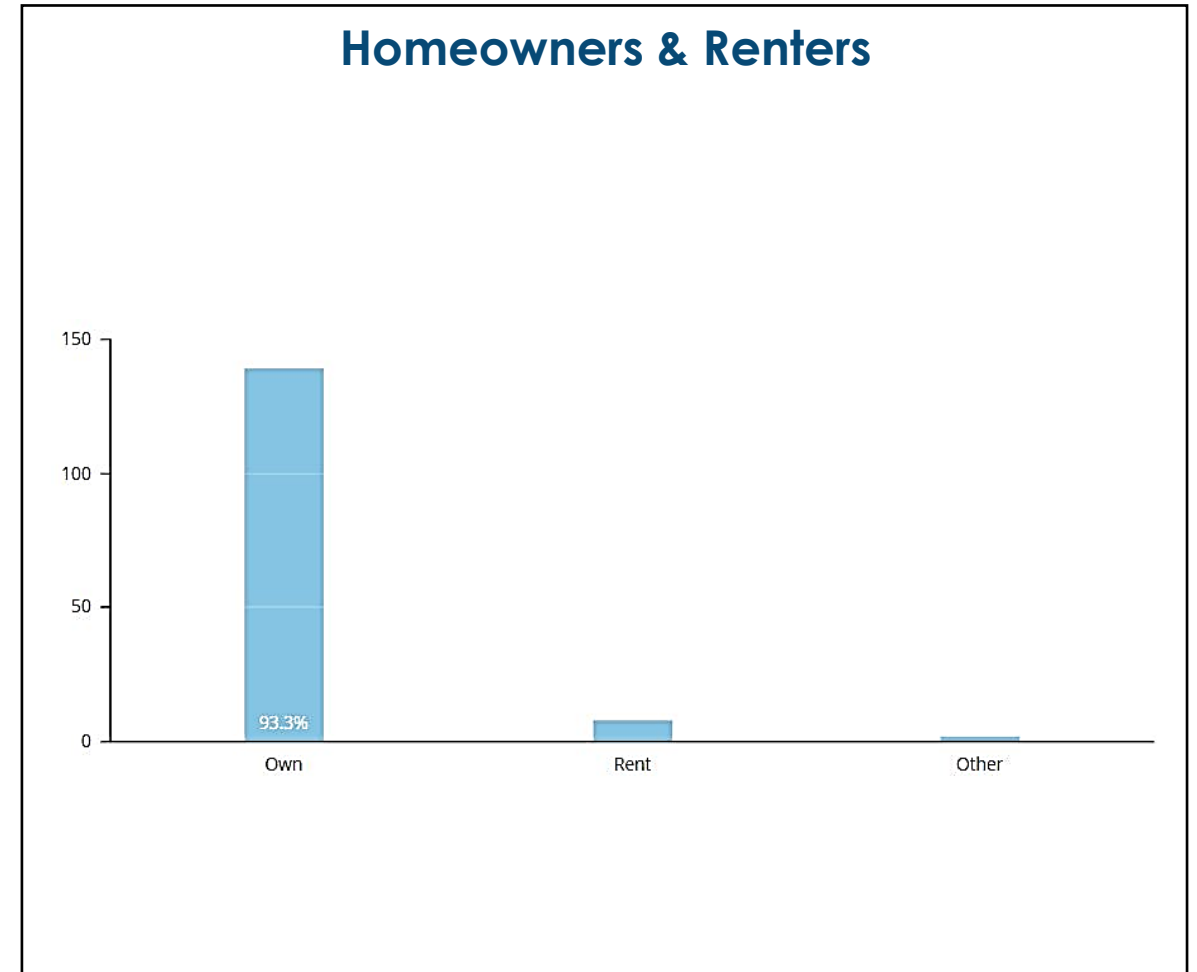
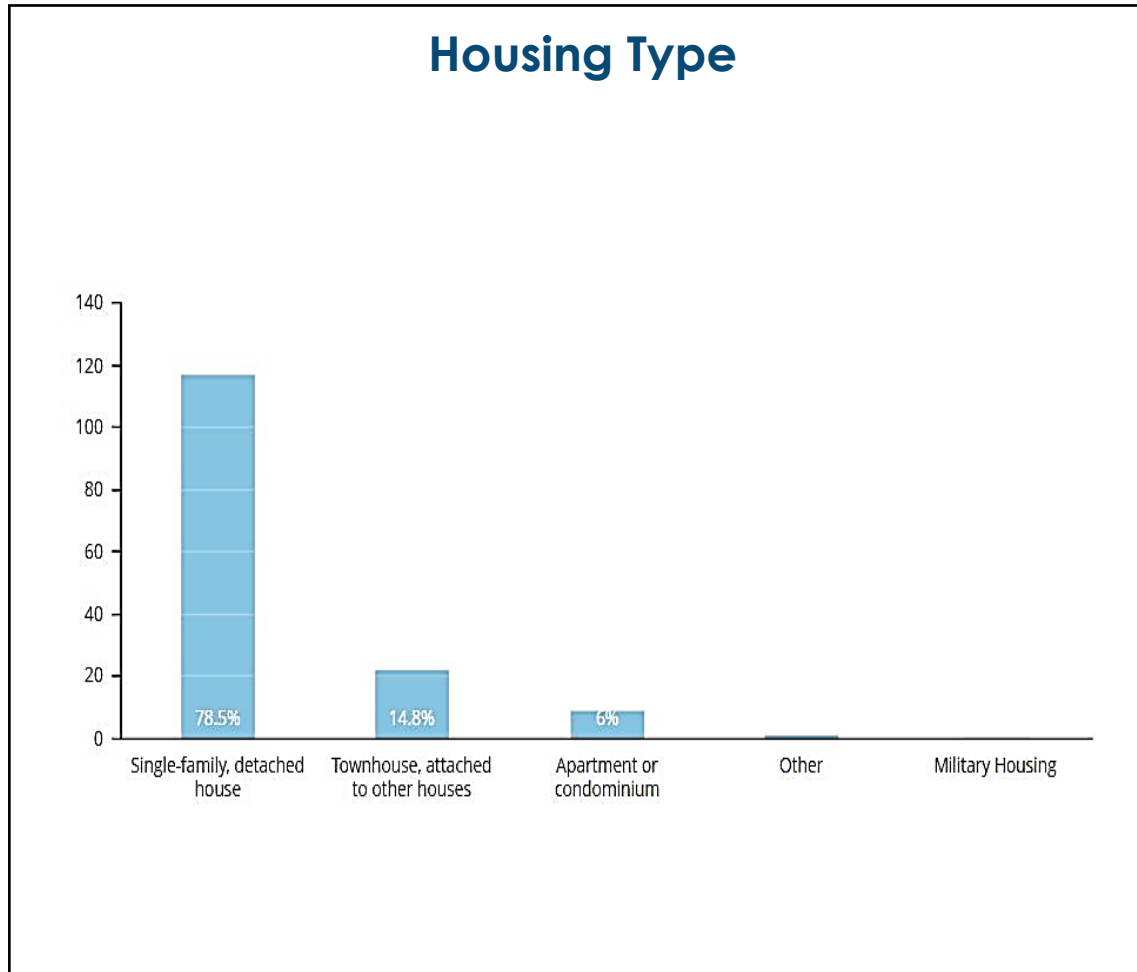


141 Respondents

U.S. CENSUS RACE/ETHNICITY FOR ARLINGTON, VA
[Visit Arlington's Race and Ethnicity Dashboard to learn more.](#)

74%	10.3%	15.6%	11.1%	0.1%
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Pacific Islander

Who Participated: Online



Who Participated: Online

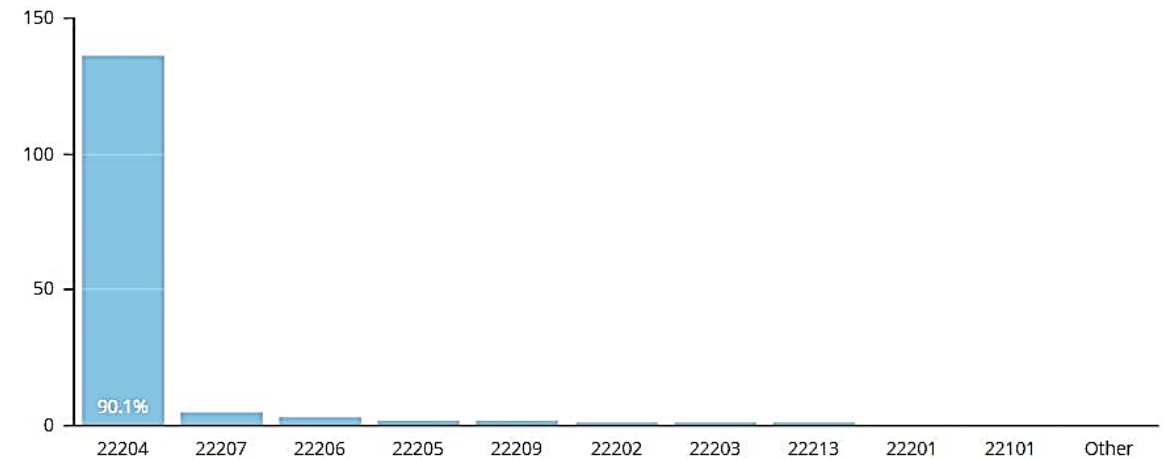
Neighborhoods

In total, the project team heard from respondents located in **20 out of 62** Arlington civic associations.

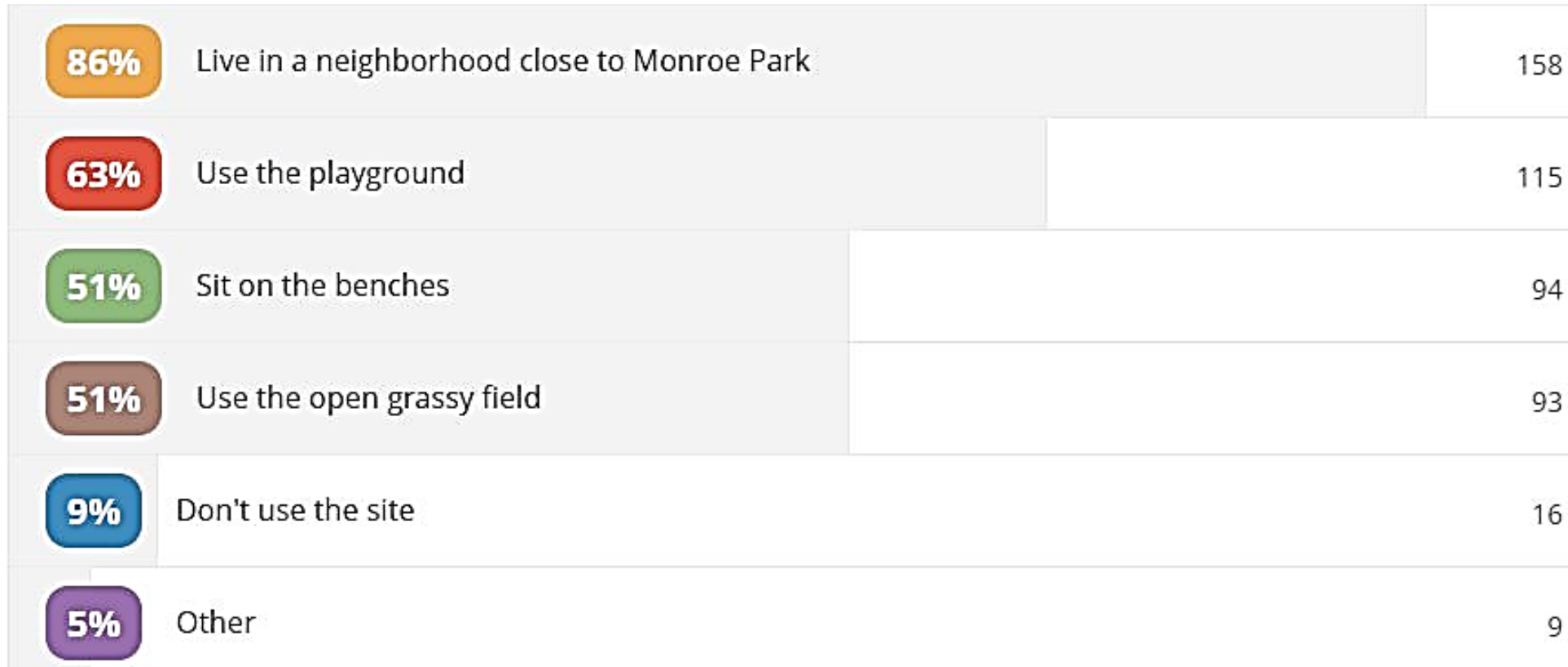
Top Neighborhood Responses

- Douglas Park (75%)
- Alcova Heights (6%)
- Barcroft (3%)

Zip Code



How do you or your family members currently use or relate to Monroe Park? (select all that apply)



Rate the existing play features at Monroe Park Playground

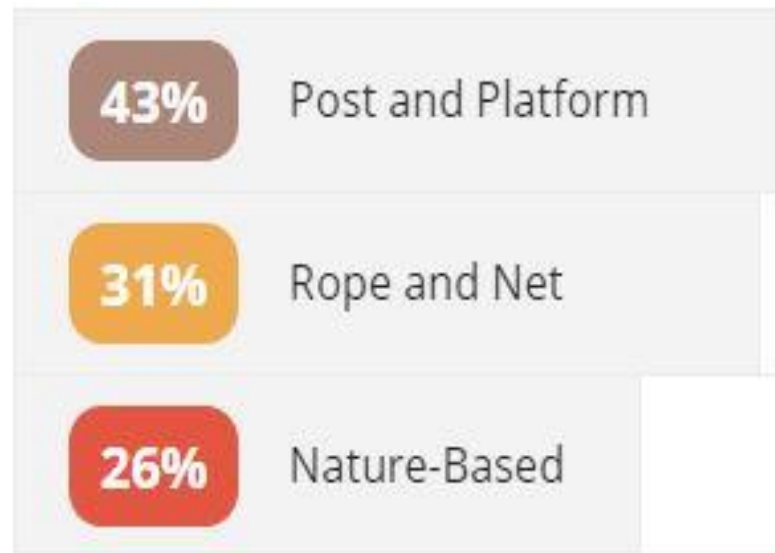
Please rate the following existing play features at Monroe Park Playground on a scale of 1-5 (1 being "I do not like it at all" and 5 being "I love it!")

	1	2	3	4	5
Swing set	11% 1	16% 2	31% 3	22% 4	19% 5
Slide	20% 1	25% 2	28% 3	14% 4	13% 5
Sand Pit	39% 1	20% 2	21% 3	10% 4	10% 5
Open Field	5% 1	15% 2	30% 3	26% 4	24% 5
General Play Equipment	22% 1	27% 2	33% 3	10% 4	8% 5

What days and times do you typically visit Monroe Park? (select all that apply)

	Sunrise to 8 a.m.	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Mondays	4% Sunrise to 8 a.m.	14% 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	13% 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	33% 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	36% 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Tuesdays	4% Sunrise to 8 a.m.	13% 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	12% 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	34% 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	38% 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Wednesdays	3% Sunrise to 8 a.m.	13% 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	13% 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	35% 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	37% 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Thursdays	3% Sunrise to 8 a.m.	11% 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	13% 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	33% 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	40% 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Fridays	3% Sunrise to 8 a.m.	12% 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	12% 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	33% 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	40% 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturdays	1% Sunrise to 8 a.m.	28% 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	26% 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	31% 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	13% 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Sundays	2% Sunrise to 8 a.m.	29% 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	26% 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	32% 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	11% 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Which of these three types of play equipment do you prefer?



Are there any new play structures or features that you would like to see in the playground?

Open-ended comments were quantified by tagging each of the 115 comments with the topic themes mentioned

In the 115 comments provided for potential new play structures or features, several suggestions have emerged. The top themes are below:

Theme	Desire Play Equipment for Older Children (5-12 years old)	Climbing Structures	Slide
Comments (#)	28 responses	22 responses	16 responses
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many respondents stated that they would like additional play options at Monroe Park for children over the age of 5. Some responses noted that neighborhood kids tend to outgrow the Monroe Park playground quickly and have no future use for the space. A few comments suggested two distinct play areas at Monroe Park: one for ages 2-5, and one for ages 5-12. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several commenters support the installation of climbing structures for children's use. These structures could benefit both 2-5-year-old children and older users. A few respondents suggested that climbing options like monkey bars, climbing walls, spider climbers, and arches should be considered at Monroe Park. Examples cited for comparable Arlington parks' climbing structures include Jennie Dean Park and Quincy Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some community members responded that a taller and longer slide would benefit the playground. Responses varied on the preferred style of slide. A few respondents preferred tunnel slides, another response asked for a looping slide.

Are there any new play structures or features that you would like to see in the playground? (cont.)

Open-ended comments were quantified by tagging each of the 115 comments with the topic themes mentioned

Theme	Swings	Open Space and Grass Hill	Accessibility
Comments (#)	15 responses	9 responses	7 responses
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents voiced support for additional swing options at Monroe Park. The current swing set has two traditional belt swings and two bucket swings. Suggestions for more belt swings were submitted, as they allow use across young children, older children, and adults. One commenter requested that the swing heights be lowered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several commenters noted that the open space and hill at Monroe Park makes it a unique place. They stated that open space and the grassy hill should be prioritized and well-maintained. One comment asked for a slightly steeper slope for sledding in the winter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A portion of the feedback showed concerns about inaccessible playground equipment currently at Monroe Park. These responses explained that the park is very difficult for disabled community members or mobility-challenged users to access. One suggestion was to add railings along pathways to help improve accessibility so that all visitors can enjoy Monroe Park.

Did we miss anything? Please use the space below to share any additional thoughts that were not captured in your answers above.

Open-ended comments were quantified by tagging each of the 70 comments with the topic themes mentioned. The most common themes can be found below.

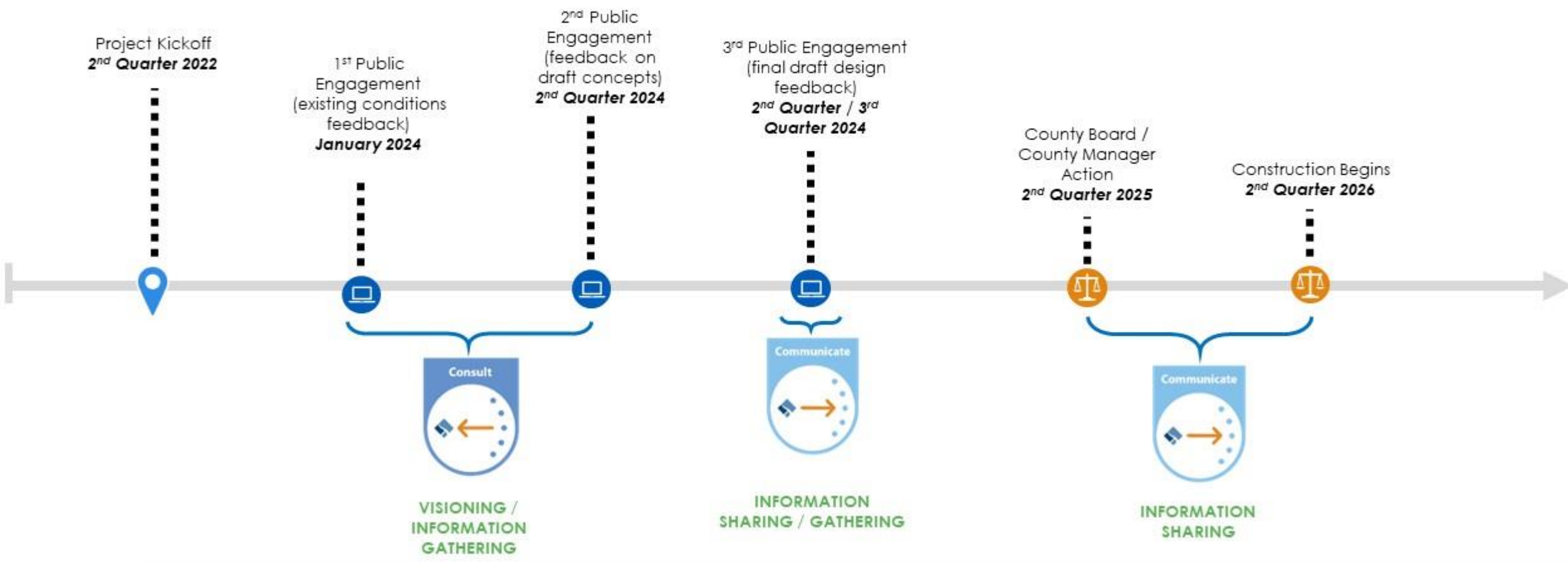
Theme	Prioritize Shading and Tree Cover	Picnic Tables and Seating Options	Sand Pit	Maintain Open Space	Other
Comments (#)	12 responses	12 responses	8 responses	6 responses	
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several comments highlighted the desire to maximize shading and tree cover at Monroe Park. Responses generally like the open space available at Monroe Park, but users lack protection from the sun during warmer months. Suggestions were mixed between planting more trees at Monroe Park and building a shading structure like Chestnut Hill Park or Jennie Dean Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondents stated that Monroe Park lacks well-maintained picnic tables or benches for park visitors to use. Prioritizing additional seating with shade options overhead or nearby was a key aspect of these comments. One suggestion was to install benches with a more durable material that can handle a mixture of weather conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most commenters expressed a dislike of the existing sand pit (see Slide 7); however, a few respondents did think the sand pit is unique to Monroe Park. Several responses stated that the sand is a difficult surface for children to play on, and it also requires clean-up. One commenter stated that the sand pit also has wasps in and around the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several comments prefer maintaining open green space at Monroe Park. Uses such as kicking a ball during warmer months and sledding in winter months were noted. One commenter added that the open space allows for community members to coalesce for gatherings or celebrations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few comments requested a slightly inclined path around the park for children to ride bikes. A couple of comments asked about the location/availability of restrooms at Monroe Park. One commenter expressed concern over the playground's closure during construction.



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

Monroe Park Playground Renovation Project

Origin: Parks Maintenance Capital Project
 Funding: Capital Improvement Plan
 Staff Contact: Juan Du
 Jdu@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**