

Fairmont Park

ENGAGEMENT REPORT | April 2025



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Project Background

Fairmont Park was selected for improvements in the following areas:

- North End Beautification: Creating a more welcoming and cohesive entrance into the north side of the park.
- Park-wide Safety Enhancements: Improving safety and security throughout the park.
- Basketball Court Upgrade: The current half-court will be expanded and potentially relocated.
- Public Art: Including an enhanced entrance to the park from McClelland Trail.



About The Park

Located in the Sugar House neighborhood of District 7, Fairmont Park is a 27-acre park that is well-loved by the surrounding community. Recently, Salt Lake City Public Lands began efforts to enhance the park's north entrance and improve safety & security. Community members and select stakeholders had the opportunity to share their knowledge by participating in a community engagement event, responding to an online survey, and interacting at pop-up events to help the design team establish the purpose and program of the park. Next, the design team will develop concepts for the park's configuration and present them to community members and stakeholders for feedback.



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Engagement By The Numbers

403 Comments on the online survey

268 Online survey responses

49 Comments collected at community engagement event

32 Community engagement event attendees signed in

20 Signs posted around the neighborhood

16 Individual stakeholders

3 Social media posts

2 Sugar House Community Council meetings

2 Pop-up events



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Forms of Engagement: Social Media





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Join us!

How can we make Fairmont Park more enjoyable? Share your values and vision with the design team! Your feedback will impact the future of this park.

 Join us at: **Forest Dale Golf Course Clubhouse**

 **Thurs. 3/6 4 - 7pm**

 [Learn more](#)

[gobondparks.com/
FairmontPark](http://gobondparks.com/FairmontPark)



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Forms of Engagement: Yard Signs



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Forms of Engagement: Stakeholders

Who participated?

Fairmont Aquatic Center

Friends of Fairmont Park

Salt Lake City Park Rangers

Trails & Natural Lands

Simpson Ave Residents

Sugar House Boys & Girls Club

Sugar House Community Council

YouthCity Fairmont Park

What was asked?

- How does your organization currently use the park? How can the park better serve your organization?
- What is missing from the park experience?
- Do you consider the park to be a safe and welcoming place?
- What do you think about the recent improvements to the park?

What were stakeholders' priorities?

- Enhance safety and security
- Improve accessibility and inclusivity
- Foster community engagement
- Promote environmental sustainability
- Upgrade facilities and infrastructure
- Optimize parking and traffic management



Forms of Engagement: Open House

Who participated?

Thirty-two community members attended the first of three Community Engagement Events at the Forest Dale Golf Club on Thursday, March 6th. Attendees were guided through boards explaining the park's current configuration and usage, voted on desired improvements, and asked to share thoughts and experiences by placing flags on a large map of Fairmont Park.

What were community members' priorities?

- Improve facilities for Boys & Girls Club, skatepark, sports courts, and play areas
- Host more community events like sports tournaments, fitness events, markets, and seasonal gatherings
- Expand natural areas with more native and pollinator plants
- Enhance infrastructure, such as park entrances, street crossings, and bike storage
- Improve safety in restrooms and at skatepark
- Concerns about unhoused individuals and light & noise around Simpson Ave



Forms of Engagement: Open House



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Forms of Engagement: Open House



Forms of Engagement: Online Survey

Information

Available by scanning QR code on yard signs or flyers, or by visiting gobondparks.com/fairmontpark

The survey was available 2/25 – 3/24 and 268 responses were collected.

Who Participated?

61% of respondents live in the same zip code as Fairmont Park

84106 84105
84109
84108 84115



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What did we ask?

The first online survey was designed to find out how visitors are currently using the park, their perception of safety in the park, how they might like to use the park in the future, and which forms of public art they desire.

Fairmont Park today

How close to Fairmont Park do you live?

How often do you currently visit?

When was the last time you visited?

How do you most often arrive at Fairmont Park?

Which of the following describes how you would like to use Fairmont Park?

Which of the following amenities have you used in the past year?

Fairmont Park in the future

How do you want to experience nature?

How do you want to play?

How do you want to unwind?

Which general improvements would you like to see?

Safety & security

In general, what is your perception of safety in Fairmont Park?

Which area of the park feels the most safe to you?

Which area of the park feels the least safe to you?

What would make you feel more safe when visiting Fairmont Park?

Are there any reasons you choose not to visit?

Public Art

What type of public art would you like to see?

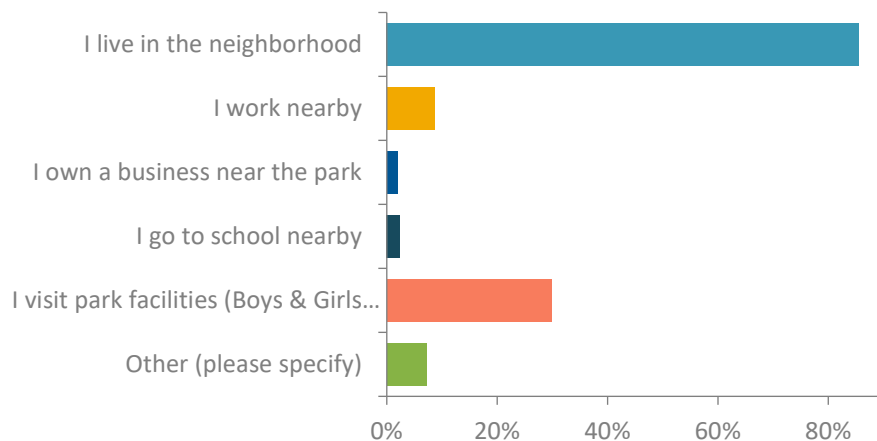
What kind of impact do you want from public art?

What themes or subjects would you prefer the public art to represent?

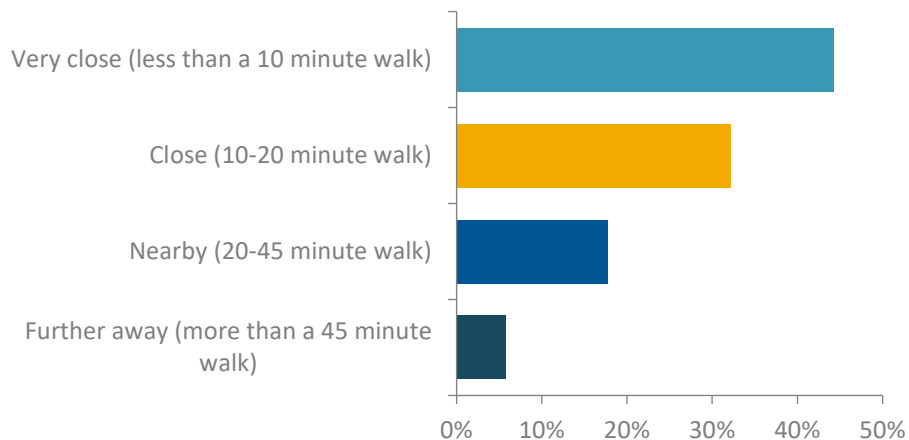




What is your relationship to Fairmont Park?



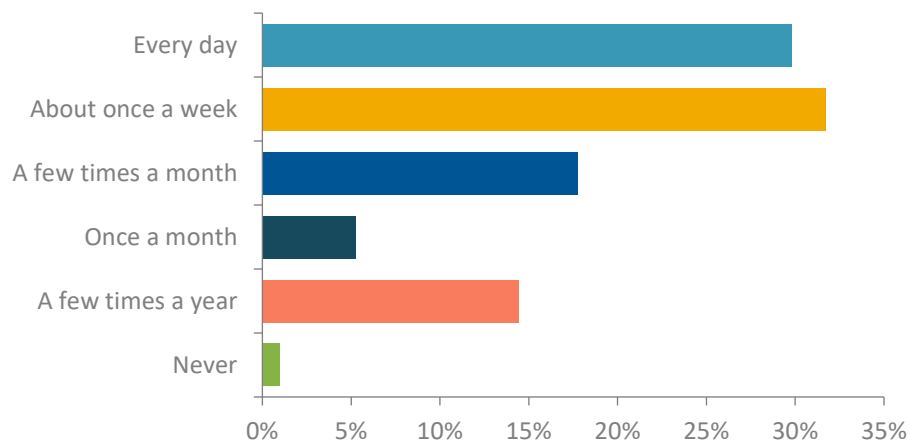
How close to Fairmont Park do you live?



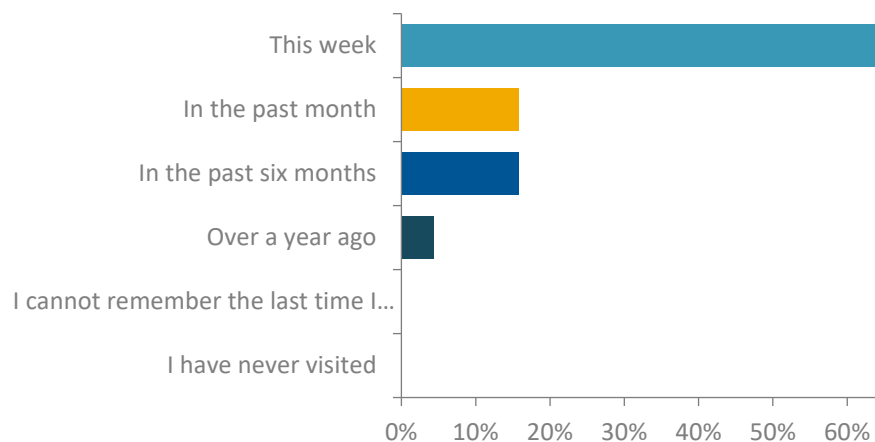
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How often do you currently visit Fairmont Park?



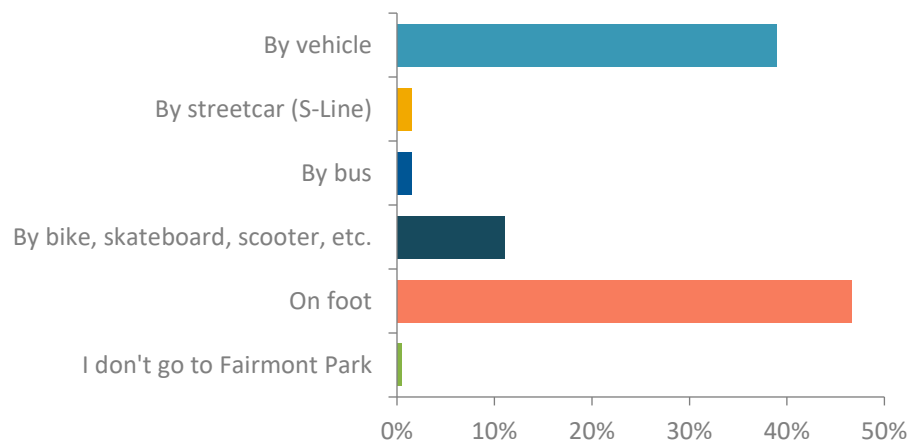
When was the last time you visited Fairmont Park?



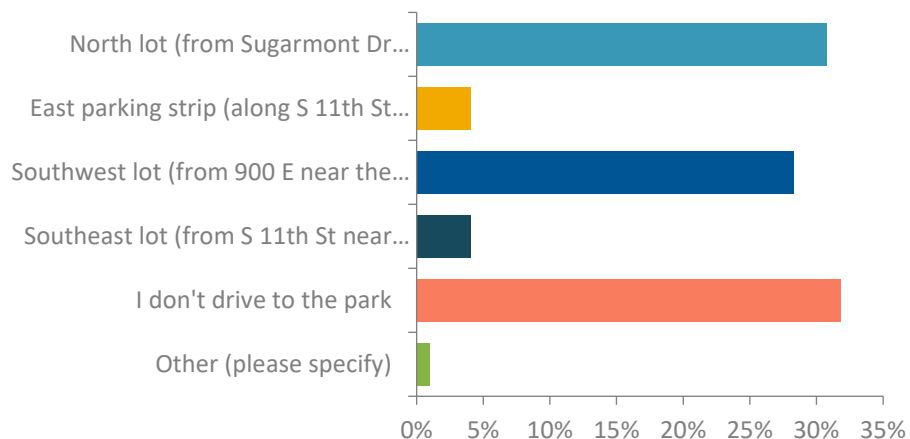
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How do you most often arrive at Fairmont Park?



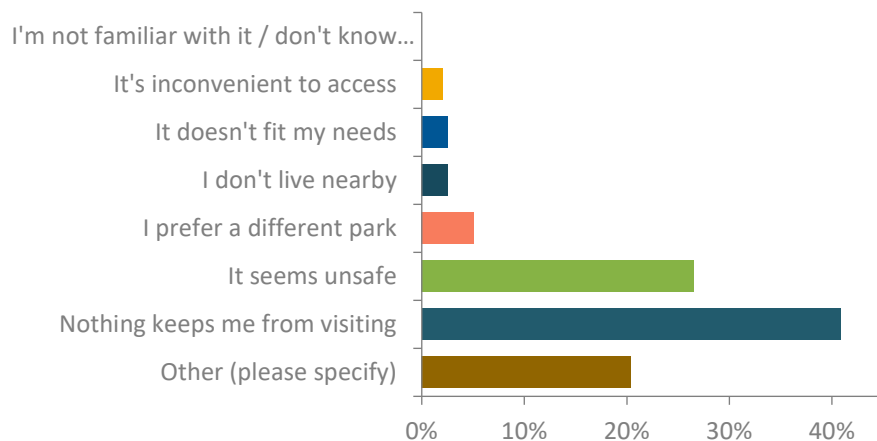
If you drive to Fairmont Park, where do you park your vehicle?



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Are there any reasons you choose not to visit Fairmont Park?



Other (Safety Concerns): Many comments mention a high population of people experiencing homelessness, which contributes to feelings of unsafety, harassment, and littering. Specific areas like playgrounds and pavilions are highlighted as problematic.

Other (Park Maintenance): Issues such as closed restrooms, trash on the ground, duck feces on sidewalks, and graffiti are common complaints.

Other (Recreational Facilities): Some comments express dissatisfaction with the availability and condition of pickleball courts, sand volleyball courts, and dog parks.

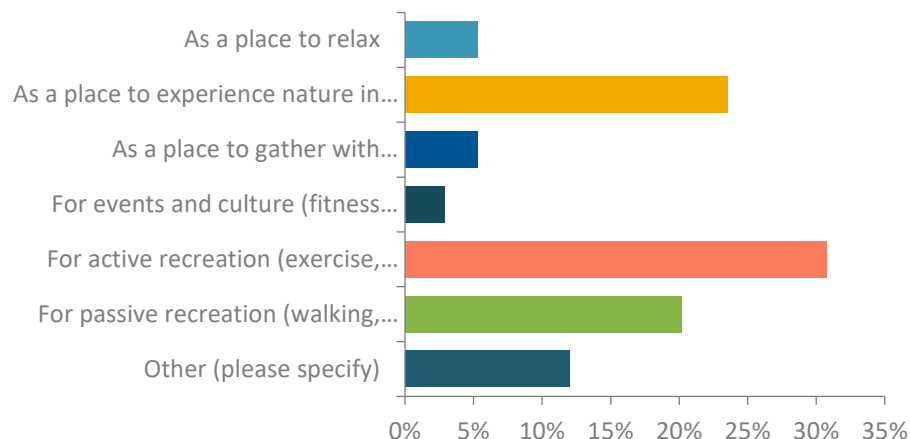
Other (General Discontent): A few comments indicate a lack of attraction or draw to the park, with some people preferring other parks or feeling that nothing currently motivates them to visit.



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Which of the following describes how you would like to use Fairmont Park?



Other (More Recreation): There is a desire for additional recreational options, such as expanding the golf course, more places to fish, and holding more events in the park.

Other (Dogs): Most respondents mention their dogs- playing fetch off-leash, running and walking with dogs, and using the existing dog park.

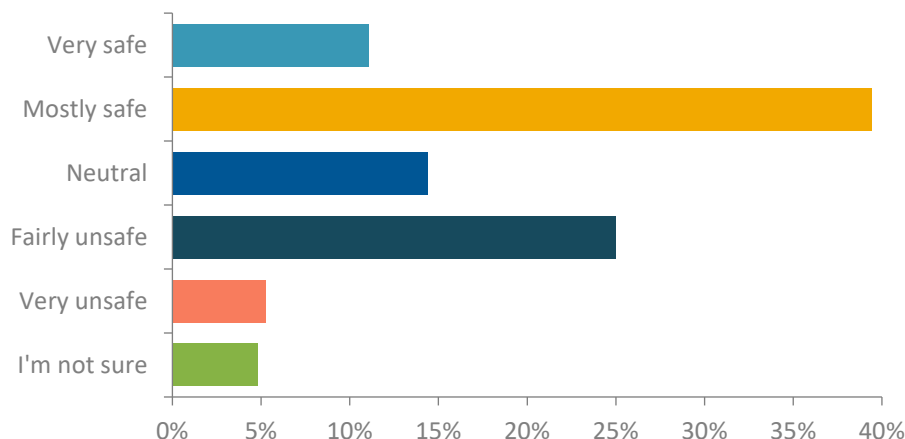
Other (Community Activities): Some comments appreciate the existing community and family-oriented activities, like kids' soccer and the community center, and express a wish for more, such as an arts market.



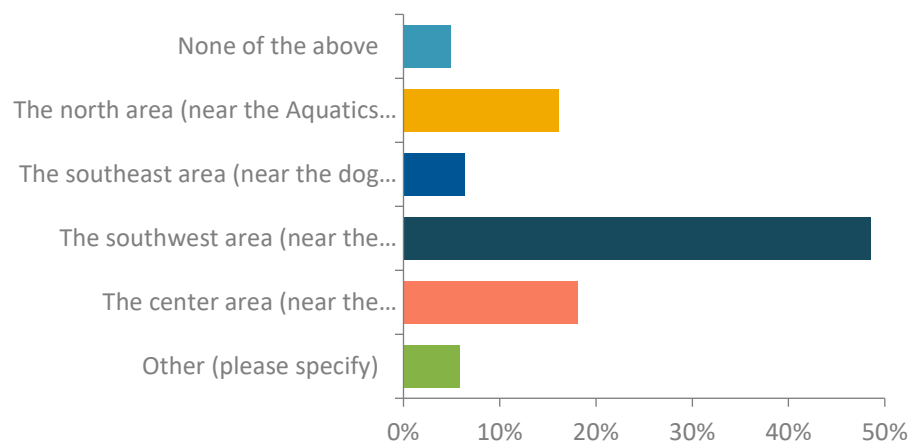
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In general, what is your perception of safety in Fairmont Park?



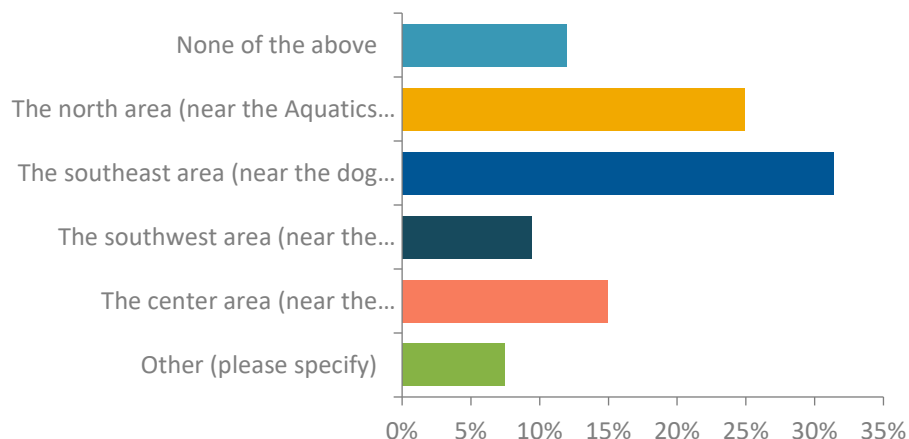
Which area of the park feels the most safe to you?



Some respondents feel safe in all areas of the park, while others don't feel safe anywhere due to the time of day or the types of people in the park.

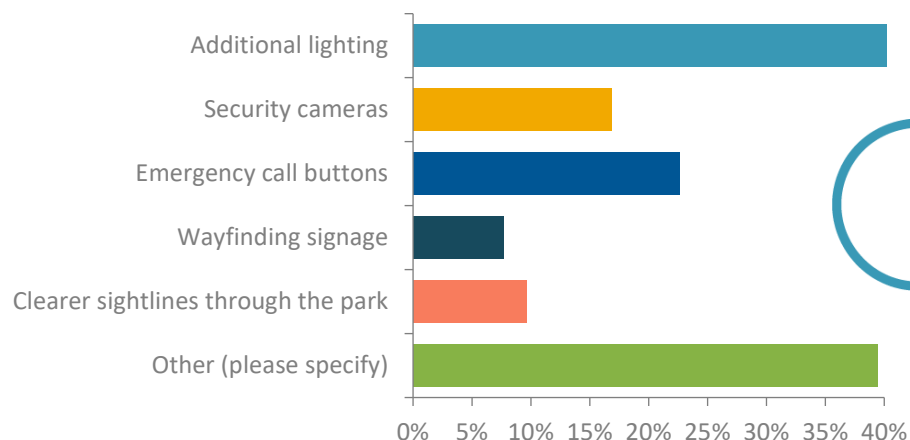


Which area of the park feels the least safe to you?



While some people feel safe overall, others express concerns about specific areas, such as behind the Aquatic Center and around pavilions. The presence of people experiencing homelessness is a common reason why visitors may feel unease in the park.

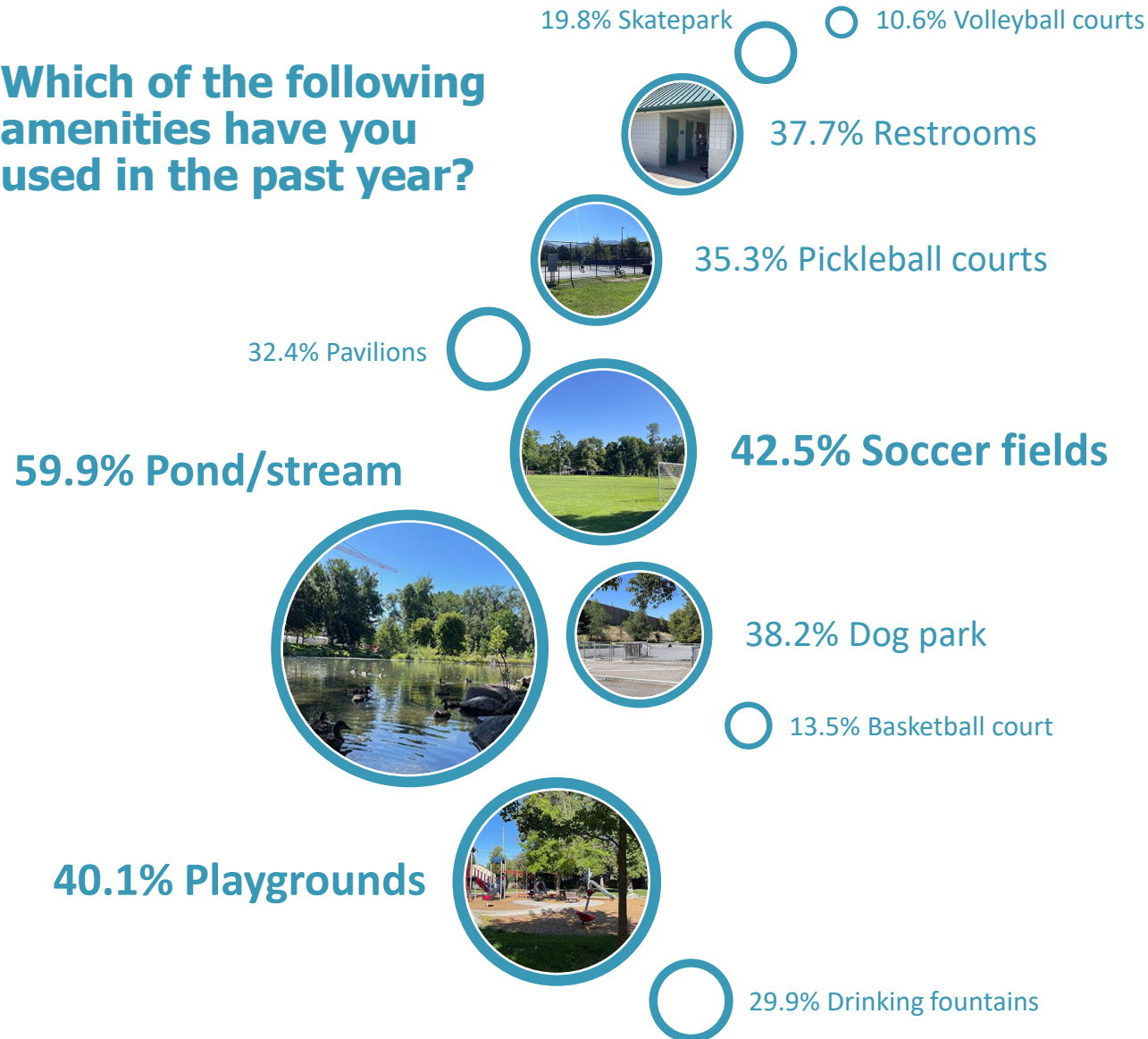
What would make you feel more safe when visiting Fairmont Park?



Comments reflect a desire for increased safety measures in the park, with many suggesting more police patrols, better enforcement of the park's no-camping law, and more lighting.



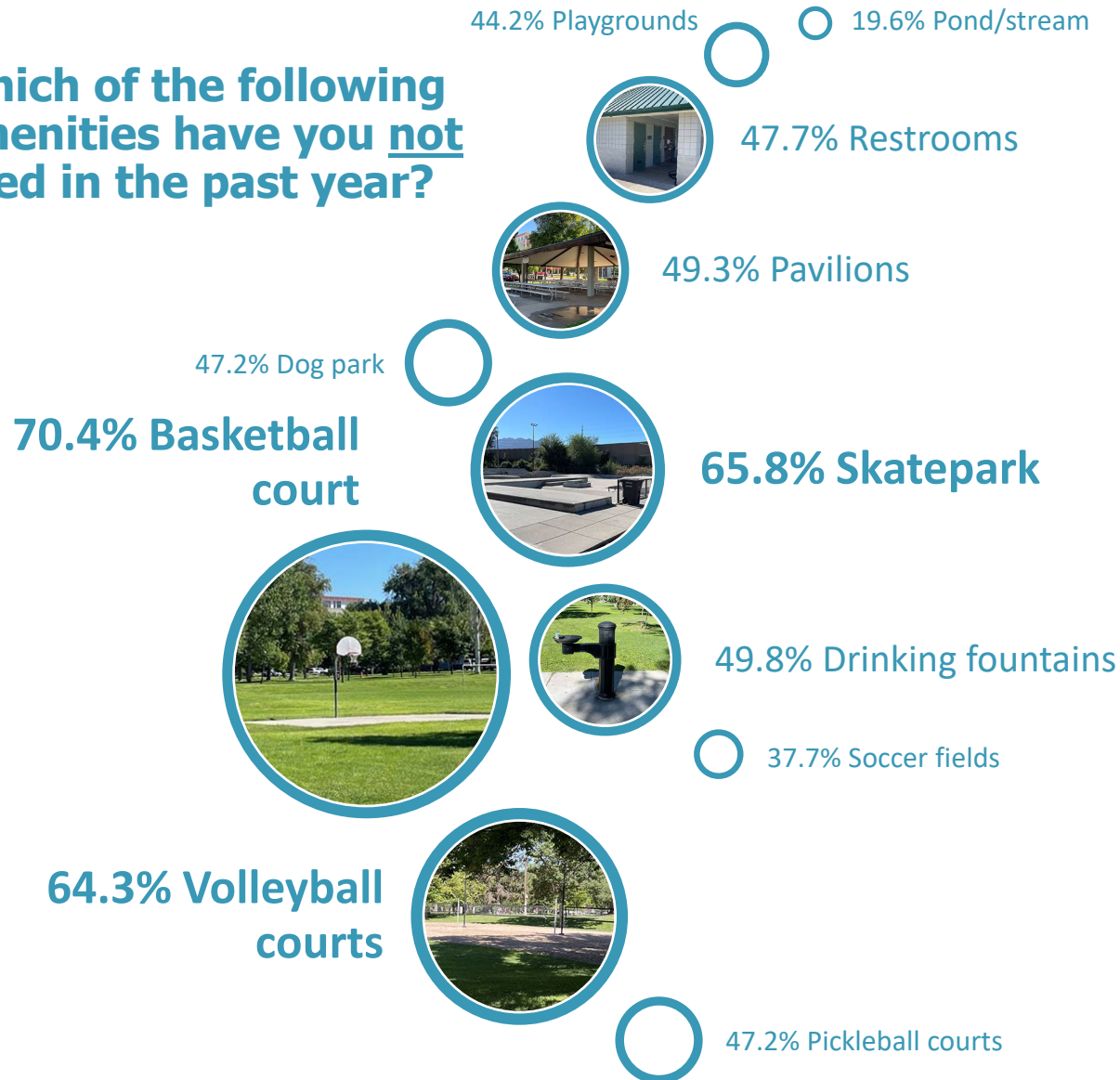
Which of the following amenities have you used in the past year?



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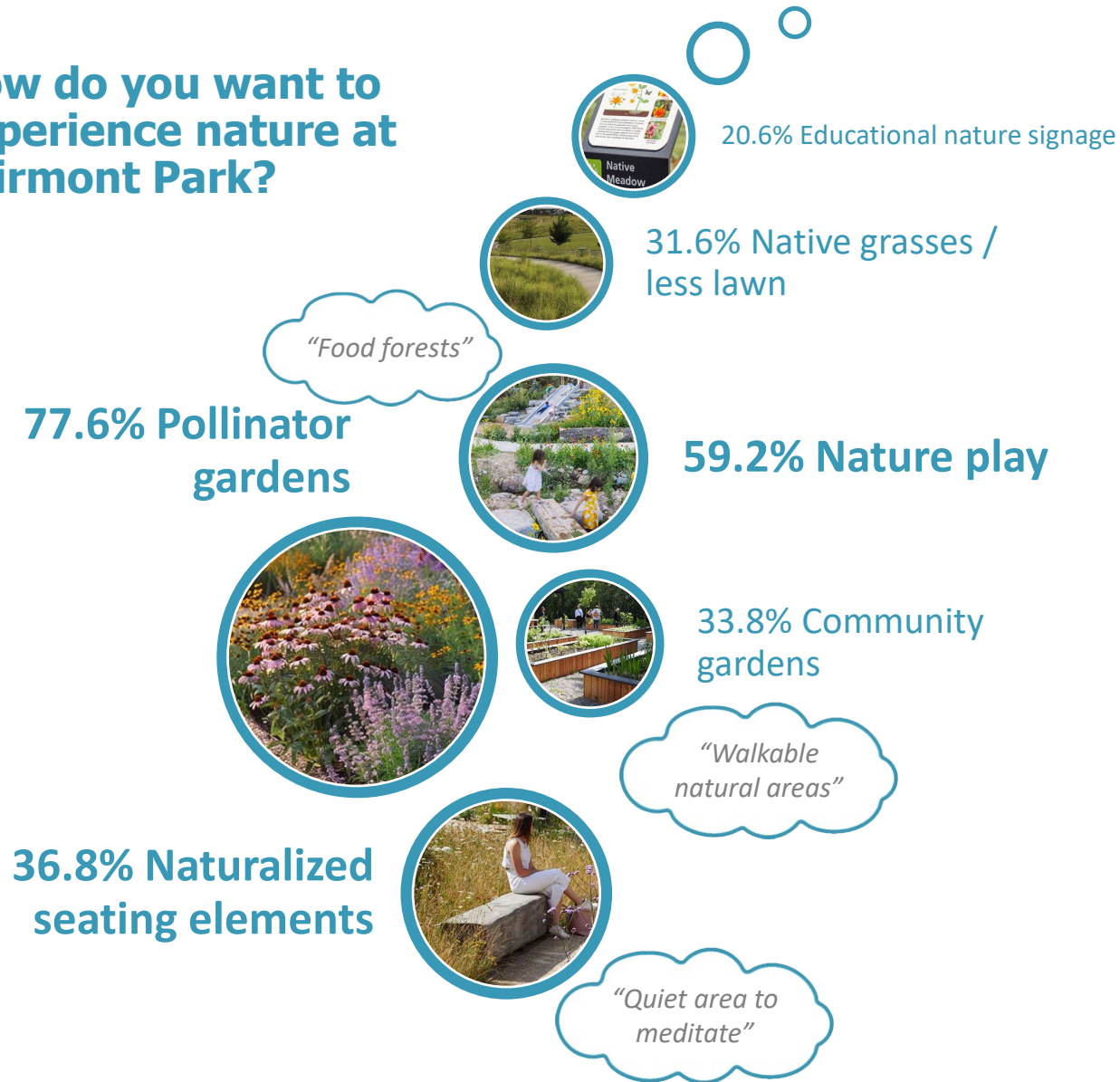
Which of the following amenities have you not used in the past year?



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How do you want to experience nature at Fairmont Park?



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How do you want to play at Fairmont Park?

17.6% Ping pong

14.4% Slackline poles



27.0% Disc golf / frisbee golf



27.5% Accessible / inclusive play

20.3% Tennis courts

54.1% Climbing / bouldering



47.7% Exercise stations / outdoor gym



"Theater for performances"



38.7% Undulating sidewalk for skating / cycling

"More pickleball courts please"

15.8% Corn hole

43.7% Obstacle course



"Splash pad"

"Beginner skateboard area"

22.1% Interactive music elements



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How do you want to unwind at Fairmont Park?

70.7% Soft paths for strolling / jogging

"Sunshade over playground"

46.2% Bicycle loop

"More skatepark"

18.2% Barbeque / picnic

21.3% Interact with art

56.9% Garden rooms

36.4% More and different places to sit

"Walking paths without bikes"



Which general improvements would you like to see at Fairmont Park?

68.0% Additional lighting

"Safer entrances. The crosswalk on Sugarmont Drive feels unsafe."

33.3% Improved accessibility

"Add EV chargers"

"Lights at the basketball court"



20.9% Wayfinding signage



26.7% Bicycle repair station



33.9% Bike racks



27.6% More visible park entrance



"I would like to see the dog park more cleaned up with mulch to keep it from getting so muddy."



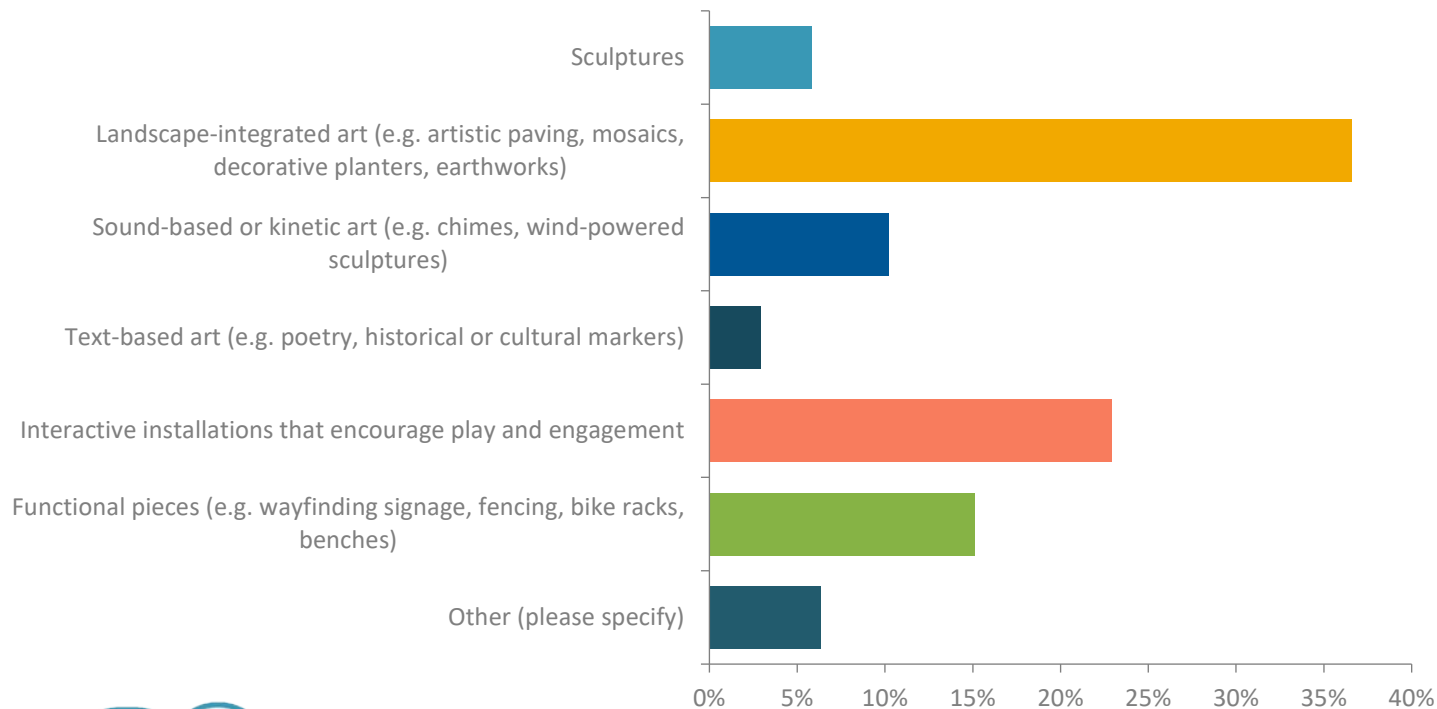
"A snack station to buy drinks or treats. It would also be a great headquarters for the Park Patrol."



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Funding has been set aside for public art in Fairmont Park. What type of public art would you like to see in the park?



"Functional art that you can do workouts/ stretching/ weights"

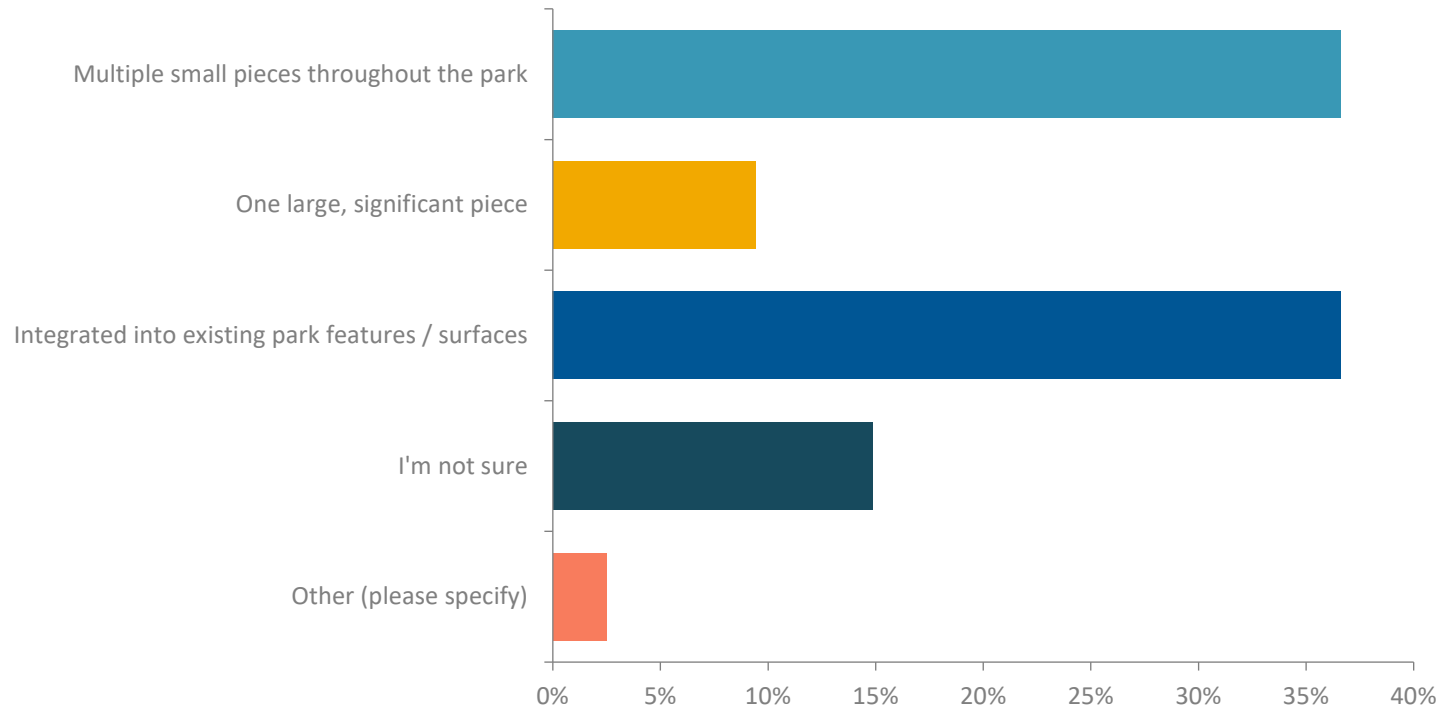
"Art on bathrooms"



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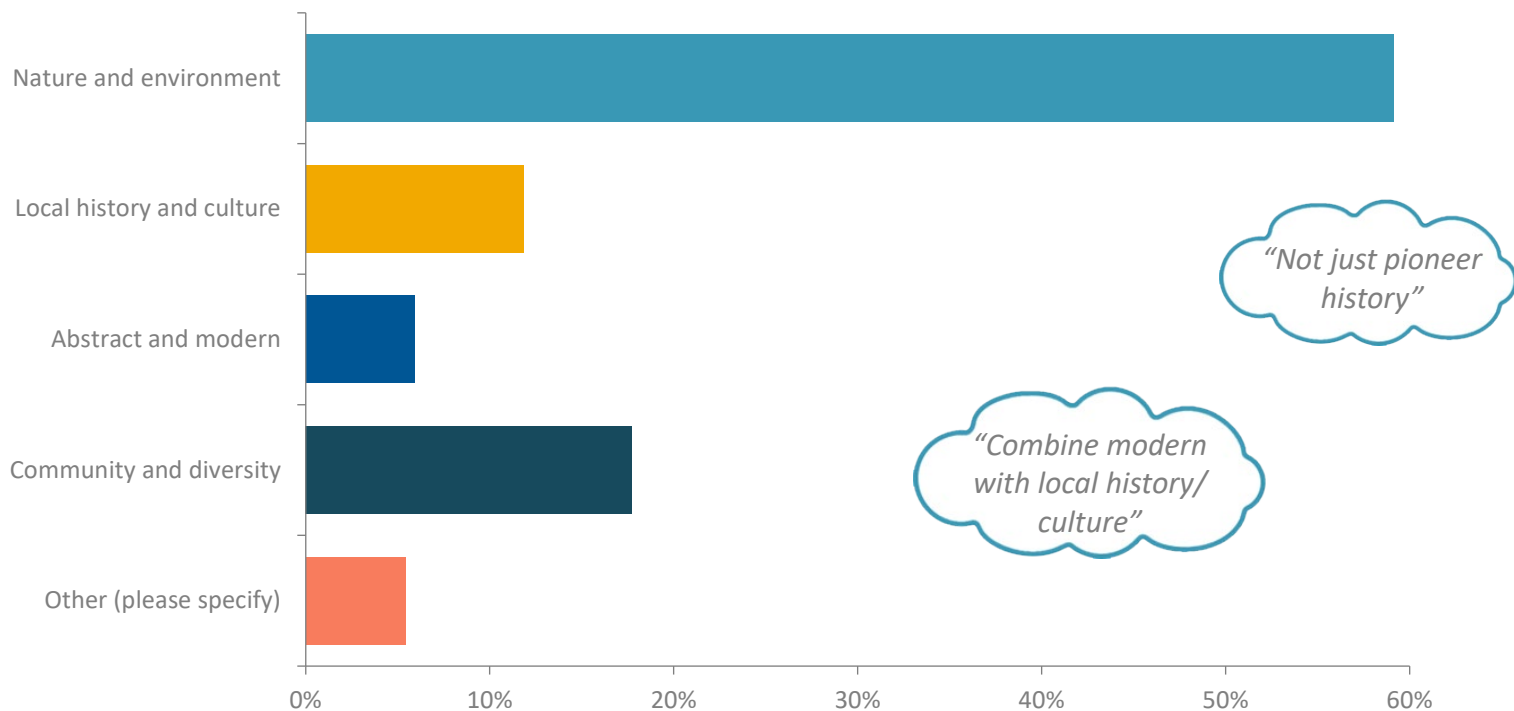


What kind of impact do you want from public art?





What themes or subjects would you prefer the public art to represent?



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Population & Demographics

61% of survey respondents live in the same zip code as Fairmont Park, which implies that it is largely used as a neighborhood park for residents of the Sugar House neighborhood.

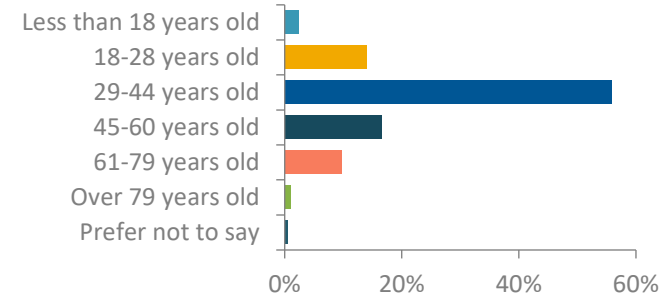
The average age of a Sugar House resident is 35 years old. Approximately 56% of survey respondents were millennials between 29 and 44 years old.

Sugar House residents are 50% female and 50% male, while survey respondents were 55% female and 38% male, with 6% preferring not to disclose and 1% preferring to self-describe.

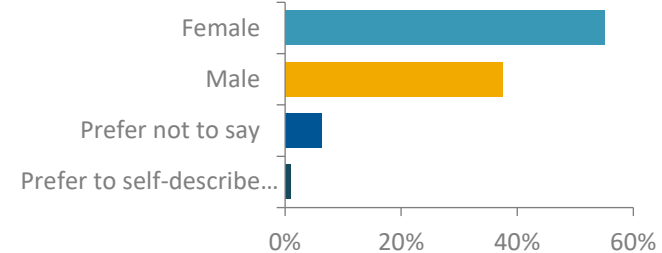
Approximately 89% of Sugar House residents are white. Approximately 84% of survey respondents were white, while 5% responded Latin(x) or Hispanic, 2% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 1% Native American or Indigenous.

Source: United States Census Bureau American Community Survey

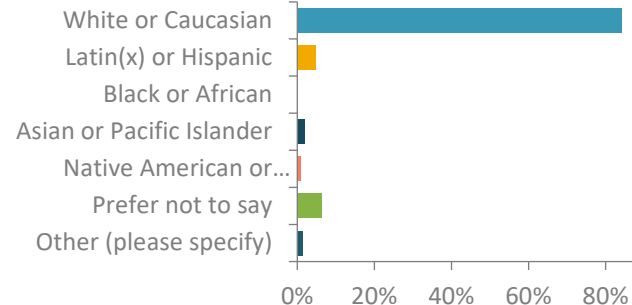
How old are you?



What is your gender?



What is your race and/or ethnicity?



Please provide any additional comments or feedback that would be good for the design team to hear.



Comments About Safety

*The foot crossing on the S line has no corresponding street crossing on Sugarhouse street (near the boys and girls club) making **getting to park by foot unsafe**. I would like to see a raised crosswalk installed there.*

*I love Fairmont Park and think **lighting will improve safety***

*I know many families that choose **Sugarhouse Park over Fairmont because it feels safer**, especially in the late afternoon and evening.*

*I'm not sure why the glass recycling is directly in front of the entrance of the park, but **there is constantly shattered glass on the ground**, which makes it dangerous for my dog and small children*

I use the park almost every day, usually just walking the loop after work. I generally find it to be a safe park.

*I think biggest issues are **restroom facilities**, the **fire pit area** on the northeast corner, and then obviously the **old tennis courts** on the northwest corner.*

*That campfire area tucked behind the aquatic center needs be replaced with something that **draws engagement and activity**.*



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Please provide any additional comments or feedback that would be good for the design team to hear.

Comments About Dogs

*I think having **off leash hours** would be a helpful way to allow people to exercise their dogs while allowing a time and space for others to enjoy the park as well.*

I'd just like to see fewer off leash dogs outside of the designated off leash area

*Please **divide the dog park into two sections**, small dog and a puppy and large dog to make for safer play*

*the **dog park in this area is very poorly maintained** and is basically **a mud pit** most of the year.*

I wish the whole park was off leash dog friendly.

*There is **a dedicated dog park** yet **50% of the dogs walking around the park are off leash** roaming around and not well trained*

*A constant source of frustration for my family is the amount of dogs that are off leash. **No one uses the dog park.***

***Fairmont is beloved by dog owners**, ensuring that continues to be a critical resource for us is a top priority.*

I've never had a single issue with off leash dogs at the park because I believe the community wants to keep this privilege.

*There are a lot of dogs at fairmont which is awesome and special but I understand they can mess up the grass so **a dedicated field for fetch and play with signage** that explicitly says which would be the ticket.*



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Please provide any additional comments or feedback that would be good for the design team to hear.

Comments About Sports

More sand volleyball courts with better quality sand!

For such a populated area, this is one of the main parts of the salt lake valley **without a tennis court** nearby. It would absolutely be a hit if the fairmont courts were revived!

make **sand on volleyball courts** smoother by adding new sand or grinding up existing sand

create **full-count basketball** courts with nice lines

More pickleball courts please and seating.
Thank you!

More pickleball courts.

I'd love to see a **turf field** for soccer and other sports!

It's such a great place for **Pickleball Courts**. **The city needs more.** Fairmont already has the step up on other parks with the 6 courts but there's always a line. You could go up to 12 courts. So much space for it. Would be amazing!!!

Salt Lake City needs a VeloSolutions **pump track**. It would be very well used!

Please I beg, **extend the basketball court and add lights**. my friends and I use the basketball courts very often. Also, if trees were integrated into the surrounding scenery, the **shade** would be very appreciated.



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Please provide any additional comments or feedback that would be good for the design team to hear.



Comments About Play

We would Love to see a **splash pad**

We need more awesome places for kids to play and get energy out!
Would love **a place for kids to bike**, or interesting things to interact with.

I would love to see a few new things at the park that is catered to older kids/ adults

I think an **outdoor swimming pool** would be an amazing use of funds given the increasing temperatures in summer. A season pass would be purchased by many residents.

The park should be for everyone but it would be good to **separate the kids playgrounds** from places where people would congregate for long periods of time / sleep / do drugs. The pool is not convenient for families with kids as there is no set schedules. A **splash pad** would be great.

1. Frisbee Golf course (even just a small one just to practice at), as long as it won't intrude on the soccer fields. 2. A climbing/ bouldering area would be very cool. 3. A skateboarding/ biking pump track would also be neat.

I know a lot of people are hoping for a **public outdoor pool**.



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Please provide any additional comments or feedback that would be good for the design team to hear.



Comments About **Nature & Art**

I would love to see **a community garden!!** Like the one at sugar house park - which is full and there are many more people that would love that opportunity.

More trees, more, trees, **more trees** are needed to dampen the highway noise.

Please consider planting **edible fruit trees**

More trees and enhancement of the natural beauty. More platforms for fishing

It would also be cool if we could **include different types of art**, so we would have kinetic/interactive art, artistic sidewalks and gardens, historic signs and poetry, etc.

Do some **food gardens** and **natural meadows!**

I love Fairmont Park as it is, but am happy to see improvements that are focused on **creating more native habitat**. I also love the idea of functional art. Preserve the mix use nature of the park because it is a wonderful third space that lots of people use! Thanks for your hard work!

More **native plantings** would attract more **birds!**

I love **murals and nature spaces**. I hope that all mature trees will be respected and remain in place in this process.



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Please provide any additional comments or feedback that would be good for the design team to hear.



Comments About Skateboarding

*It would be really great to **add to the skatepark** and make it more accessible for **less advanced skaters & those who want to learn**. Right now it is pretty steep and technical*

*I think a section could be added to the skatepark as a **beginner friendly area** for new skaters to work on basic tricks. This not only keeps them out of the way of the more advanced skaters on the kickers and bowls, but **encourages those experienced skaters to help newer skaters**.*

*The park lacks a flat bar and the end of the box behind the quarter pipe ends into dirt. It would be a big benefit for the kids and families to **add smaller obstacles that are more beginner friendly** and adding **additional seating** for parents and skaters.*

*Build a wall to **separate the skatepark from the walking path**. The skaters are using the walkway as an extension to the skatepark making it dangerous to walk.*

*I've never once seen anyone use the larger bowls at the skate park. Would **more skating features/half pipe** be better used than those huge bowls?*



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Please provide any additional comments or feedback that would be good for the design team to hear.

General Comments

The boys & girls Club really needs better facilities.

it would be great if there were more social activities encouraged at the park and art to engage with.

*It's been great to see constant occupants of the soccer fields, pickleball courts, volleyball courts, playgrounds, and dog park. Even more casual goers who picnic. **Open space to recreate how you want is lovely.***

People are weird about unhoused folks, but I'm not sure it's based on actual interactions.

Replace the pavillions with summer only covers that can be removed

*We need **overhead misting areas** that visitors can walk through in hot summer. A place to **meditate or exercise with yoga.***

the vehicular entrance to the south parking lot is too narrow and it is often very difficult for a cars to exit onto 9th East and enter from 9th E at the same time.

My ideal improvements would be a dedicated jogging/ biking loop ... more events, and "third spaces" for hanging out for free in different weather.

Workers responsible for clean up.

*I'm sure largest issues will be getting **good connectivity between the northeast and northwest corners.***

*I would like to see **entire area along sugarmount to be added to park.** Especially since the area has become densely populated*



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Trends in Survey Comments

The word **dog** was mentioned **113** times in online survey comments. Dog owners generally want more space for dogs to run off-leash, while other visitors are afraid to have their children or smaller dogs in the presence of off-leash dogs.

What does this mean?

Dogs and their owners are one of the largest user groups of Fairmont Park. Having more space for dogs to get their energy out and promote socialization with other dogs and their owners is a core desire of this community.

The need for more dog-friendly amenities may be addressed through design, such as dividing the dog park into areas for large vs. small dogs, expanding the limits of the dog park, moving the dog park, or improving the surfacing of the existing dog park to ensure it doesn't become muddy. It is important to note that although many survey respondents prefer natural grass surfacing for their dogs, grass will not survive regular trampling in a dog park.

A policy-based solution may be to adopt designated off-leash dog hours which do not conflict with other park uses. Off-leash hours may be a compromise between dog owners and those who are not as comfortable around dogs.



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Trends in Survey Comments

The word **safe** was mentioned **62** times, most often regarding the lack of feeling safe due to the presence of illicit activity and unhoused individuals. However, park safety is a polarizing subject among survey respondents with many respondents not feeling threatened when they visit the park.

What does this mean?

While many community members feel safe in Fairmont Park, it is important to understand why some guests feel unsafe and to figure out how they can feel more at ease in the park. Safety may be addressed directly by adding more lights, installing security cameras, or increasing patrol of the park. Passive safety measures play a critical role in public parks but may be less visible initially. They include opening sight lines through the park so visitors can better view their surroundings or simply by improving the park's programming until it becomes more of an attraction to surrounding communities. Feelings of safety are often the result of having more people around.

The comments received highlight a need for both immediate and long-term safety solutions. Immediate measures can help deter potential issues and provide a sense of security, while long-term, passive safety measures can foster a vibrant community presence. By encouraging more visitors to use the park, we can create a lively atmosphere where everyone feels safe and welcome. Our goal is to ensure that Fairmont Park remains a cherished space for all members of the community, promoting both safety and inclusivity.



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Trends in Survey Comments

The word **homeless** was mentioned **56** times. Comments received were regarding trash, graffiti, illicit activity, restroom misuse, and general discomfort.

What does this mean?

Many comments received indicated feelings of discomfort and unsafety around people experiencing homelessness. It is important to recognize that homelessness and safety are two different concerns that don't always overlap. While some of these concerns can be addressed through maintenance, lack of available and affordable housing is greater than Fairmont Park. The goal of the Fairmont Park project is to create a safe and vibrant space for everyone, regardless of housing status.

Homelessness is a complex issue that affects many communities, and it is crucial to approach it with empathy and understanding. People experiencing homelessness are often vulnerable and in need of support rather than suspicion. By fostering a sense of community and inclusivity, we can create a park environment where everyone feels safe and respected. This includes implementing regular maintenance and security measures, as well as providing resources and support for those in need. Encouraging park users to engage in positive interactions and show kindness can help bridge the gap between housed and unhoused individuals, making Fairmont Park a truly welcoming space for all.



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Trends in Survey Comments

The word **skate** was mentioned **51** times. The skateboarding community is aligned in their vision of a skatepark that is larger, more beginner-friendly, and free of hazards such as cracks and unpaved areas.

What does this mean?

Skateboarders are advocating for a well-designed space that accommodates both novices and experienced skaters. Their goal is to ensure the skatepark is safe, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone. They emphasize the importance of a smooth, well-maintained surface to prevent injuries and enhance the overall skating experience.

Suggestions were made for modern features and smaller obstacles for beginners. By creating a welcoming environment, the skatepark can become a vibrant hub for the community, encouraging more people to take up skateboarding and fostering a sense of camaraderie and learning among skaters of all skill levels.



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Trends in Survey Comments

The word **love** was mentioned **33** times.

What does this mean?

People love Fairmont Park! Survey respondents expressed a deep appreciation for the park's diverse amenities and natural beauty. Many people highlighted the park's large lawn areas, old-growth trees, fishing pond, and natural stream, which provide a peaceful environment for relaxation and passive recreation such as walking, jogging, and people-watching.

The playgrounds, community buildings, and sports courts, were praised for offering a range of activities that cater to different interests. The skatepark and pickleball courts in particular were noted as popular spots that attract people from the neighborhood and beyond.

Many dog owners responded that they and their dog love Fairmont Park, with many commenting that they love the open space for their dog to run and play fetch. They're excited by the community forming around dog-owners. Be sure to check out the Fairmont Park Yappy Hour on Thursday, June 12th!



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What are the priorities?

1. Safety and Security

- Respondent Concerns: Population of unhoused individuals, illicit activity, and off-leash dogs.
- Design Team Suggestions: Assess lighting needs, encourage more eyes on the park, and communicate with Park Rangers to ensure park rules are enforced.

2. Dog-Friendly Features

- Respondent Concerns: Muddy dog park, off-leash dogs outside designated areas.
- Design Team Suggestions: Explore enhancements to dog park and off-leash hours.

3. Amenities and Facilities

- Respondent Concerns: Lack of available restrooms, deficient amenities and the desire for new ways to recreate.
- Design Team Suggestions: Study restroom availability, quantity, and location; understand which amenities may be improved or added.

4. Maintenance and Cleanliness

- Respondent Concerns: Cleanliness of restroom facilities, litter, and general upkeep.
- Design Team Suggestions: Improved maintenance of facilities, more trash bins, and regular cleaning.



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What are the priorities?

5. Community Engagement and Activities

- Respondent Concerns: Lack of community events and activities.
- Design Team Suggestions: Work with the city and community to host more events and elevate spaces for gatherings.

6. Accessibility and Connectivity

- Respondent Concerns: Difficult access points and poor connectivity within the park.
- Design Team Suggestions: Improve entrances, add wayfinding signage, and separate paths for walking and cycling.

7. Environmental and Natural Elements

- Respondent Concerns: Few naturalized elements and calming tertiary spaces.
- Design Team Suggestions: Explore incorporating native areas, pollinator gardens, soft paths and meditative zones, and food-based areas such as food forests and community gardens.

8. Public Art and Aesthetics

- Respondent Concerns: Need for more engaging and functional art.
- Design Team Suggestions: Installation of sculptures, interactive art, and landscape-integrated art to enhance the park's aesthetics.



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What's Next?

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first round of community engagement! Visit gobondparks.com/FairmontPark for project updates.

March

Engagement

Community members and stakeholders voiced their desires, concerns, and local knowledge of Fairmont Park to the design team through interviews, an online survey, and a community engagement event.

April

Summary

The design team examined the dialogue from eight stakeholder groups and 403 comments from the first online survey to develop the first Engagement Summary Report.

July

Concept Alternatives

The results of the public engagement efforts will be synthesized into conceptual designs for the park's future. Per bond funding, priorities will include north end improvements, safety & security, basketball court upgrade, and public art.



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