



WEST CASE ROAD PARK DESIGN

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

February 16, 2022
Prepared by MKSK



SUMMARY

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department acquired the OSU Agriculture Extension Sheep Farm at 2425 West Case Road for a new community park at the end of 2019. The 58-acre site will become one of the major greenspaces in northwest Columbus. The parkland has a wide range of possibilities—from play areas to hiking to nature observation to special programming—all within a short walk of more than 6,000 residents.

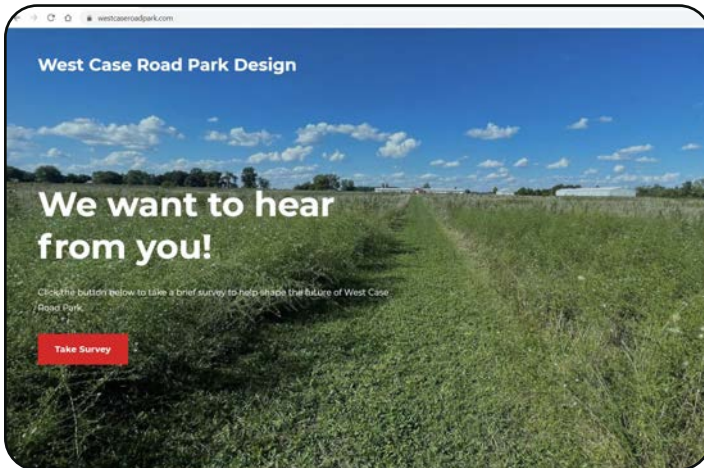
Community engagement and feedback is a critical component of the planning and design process for West Case Road Park. The department and the planning team focused on taking input from as many residents and stakeholders as possible. This included stakeholder roundtables, a project website, a public walking tour and a public survey. Through these methods, **more than 1,171 people have engaged with this project**. The following is a breakdown of the community engagement:

- **1,412 unique website visitors**
- **5 neighborhood and stakeholder groups**
- **60 public walking tour attendees**
- **1,104 survey respondents**

This report summarizes the results from the community engagement process.

PROJECT WEBSITE AND PROMOTION

A project website was created to serve as a repository of information about the West Case Road Park Design project to promote opportunities for public engagement and to host updates about the project to inform the general public. Additionally, to reach the widest possible audience for the online survey and public walking tour, several promotion strategies were utilized, including social media posts and events, email newsletters, the placement of yard signs on-site and in the northwest Columbus area, and the distribution of flyers to adjacent residential developments.



STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLES

The planning team met with several key stakeholders to gather their input and to identify challenges and opportunities related to the park design. The stakeholders included representatives from Misty Meadows neighborhood, Trotters Chase Condominiums, Bethel Village Condominiums, Friends of the Historic Sheep Farm and Daniel Wright Elementary School. The following is a summary of the key takeaways from these conversations:

- A connection from West Case Road Park to Carriage Place Community Center is necessary and feasible.
- Connections to the park are also important from the adjacent neighborhoods and residential communities.
- Efforts should be made to preserve and repurpose the homestead and barn.
- There is an opportunity to develop a regional river-to-river connection that spans from the Olentangy River to the Scioto River.
- Any active recreation uses should be located closer to West Case Road.
- Carriage Place Community Center is outdated, and the programming does not serve certain segments of the community, especially the older adult population.

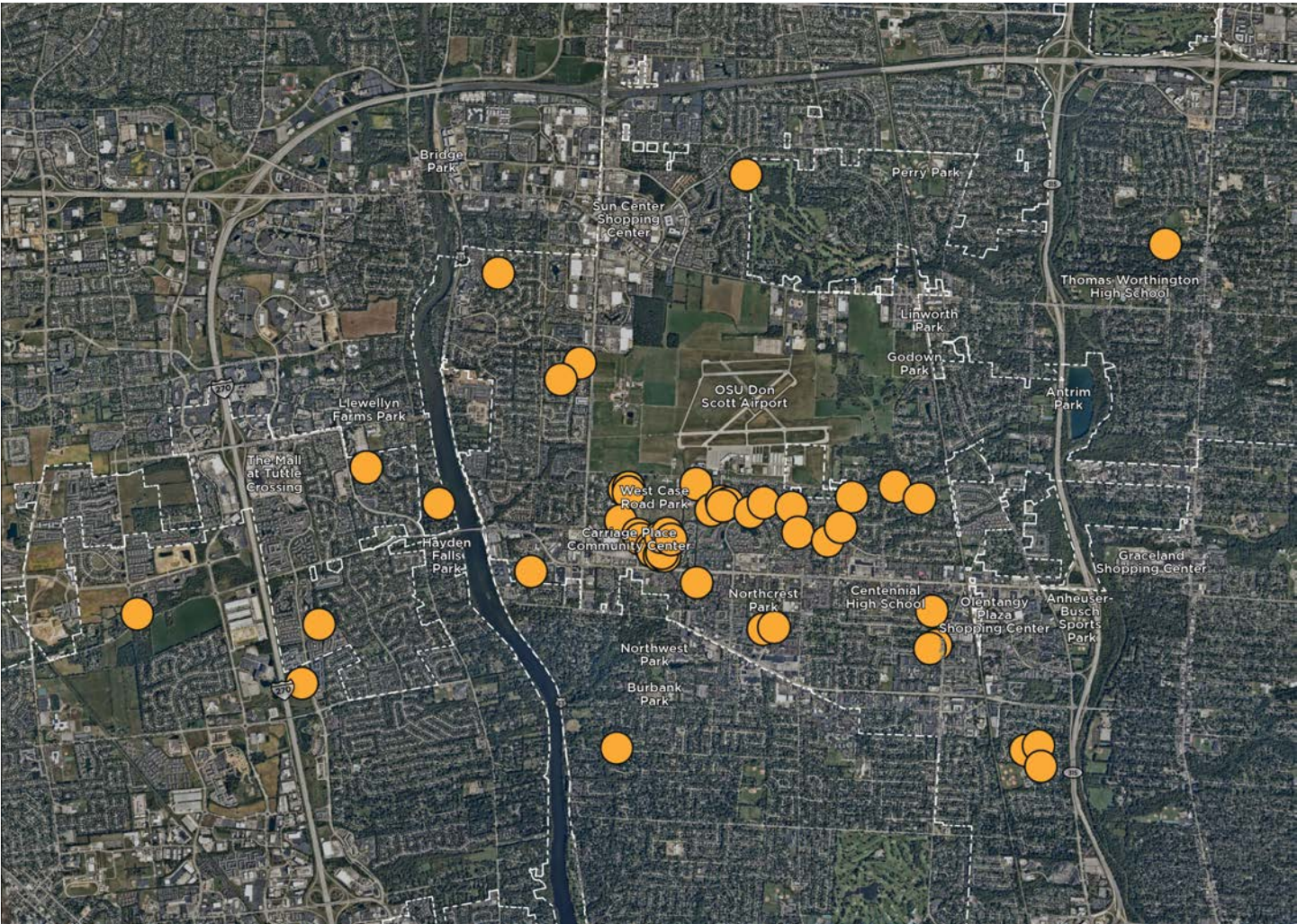
PUBLIC WALKING TOUR

On Oct. 16, 2021, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., the planning team hosted a public walking tour at the West Case Road Park site to encourage people to visit the site, allow them to meet with the planning team and to have them complete some activities to learn more about their vision for the site. The activity stations included: (1) welcome, (2) park opportunities, (3) desired activities, (4) other parks visited, and (5) building tours. More than 60 people attended the public walking tour. The results from the activity stations are summarized on the following pages.

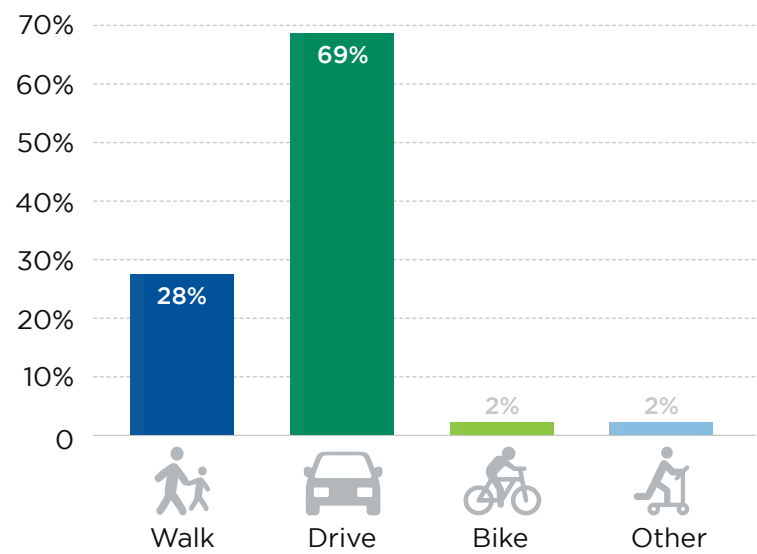


PUBLIC WALKING TOUR

Where do you live? (n = 49)



How did you get to the park today? (n = 51)



The majority of walking tour attendees live in northwest Columbus and arrived to the event by driving or walking.

PUBLIC WALKING TOUR

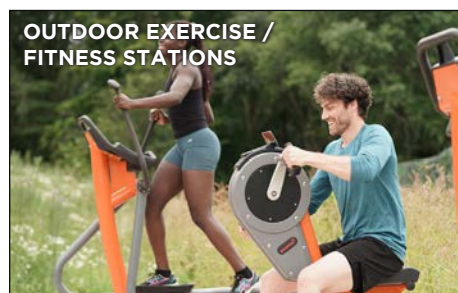
What are the opportunities for West Case Road Park? (n = 54)



Major Themes:

- Enjoy and want to preserve the natural feel of the park
- Desire for more walking and biking paths and safe connections to the park
- Interest in community gardens at the park
- Interest in a library location at the park
- Interest in farmers markets at the park

Which 3 active park components are you most likely to use? (n = 54)



11%



20%



17%



32%



24%



56%



93%

Top 3 Components:

- Cultural Gathering Facility (50)
- Group Education Areas (30)
- Play Structures (17)

PUBLIC WALKING TOUR

Which 3 passive park components are you most likely to use? (n = 61)



PICNIC GROVE

12%



NATURAL WALKING PATH

69%



COMMUNITY GARDEN

46%



NATIVE MEADOW

74%



PAVED WALKING PATH

31%



NATURE OBSERVATION/
CONSERVATION AREA

41%



SHELTER

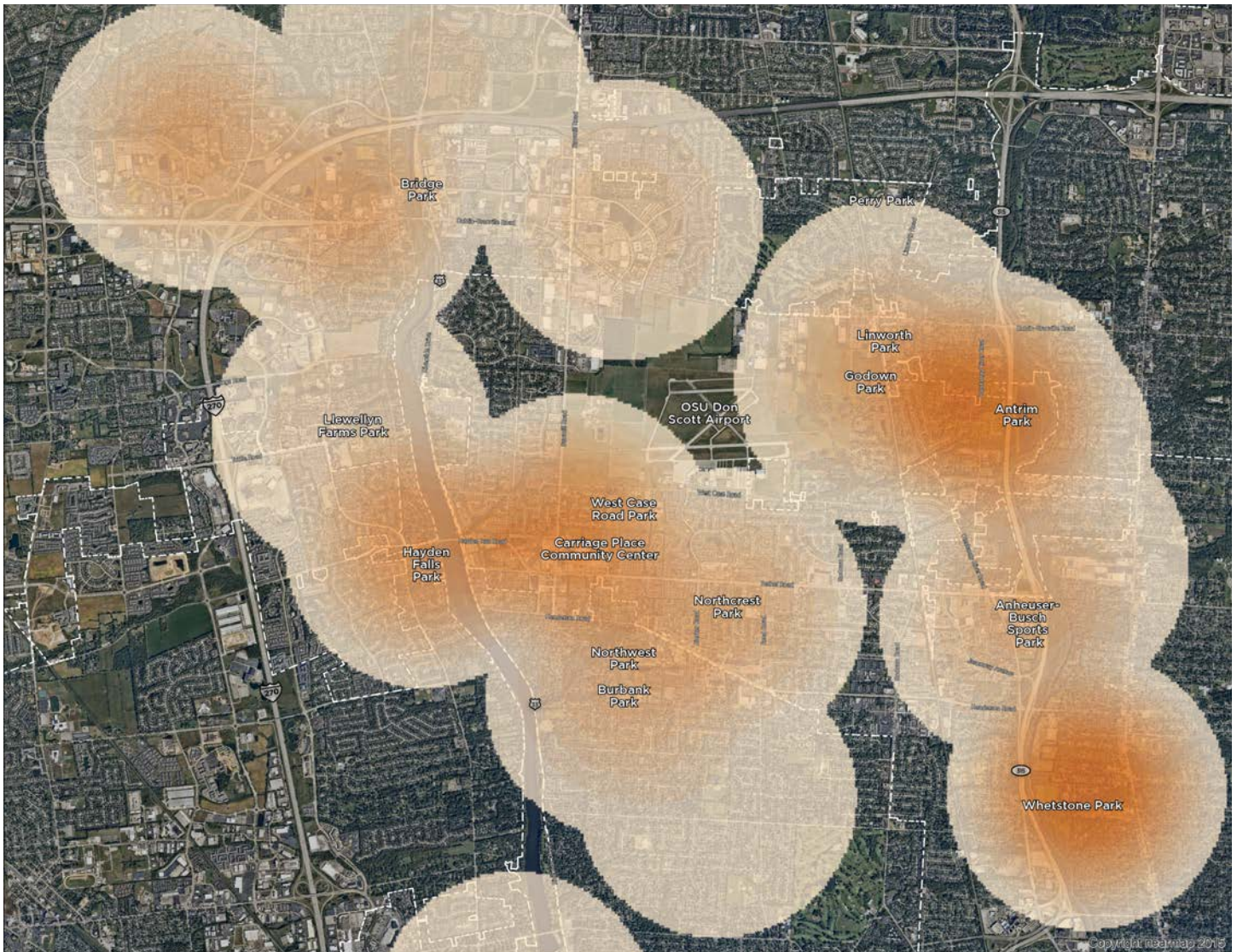
26%

Top 3 Components:

- Native Meadow (45)
- Natural Walking Path (42)
- Community Garden (28)

PUBLIC WALKING TOUR

What nearby parks do you visit regularly? (n = 177)



Top Parks Visited:

- Whetstone Park
- Antrim Park
- Highbanks Metro Park
- Carriage Place Park
- Hayden Falls Park

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

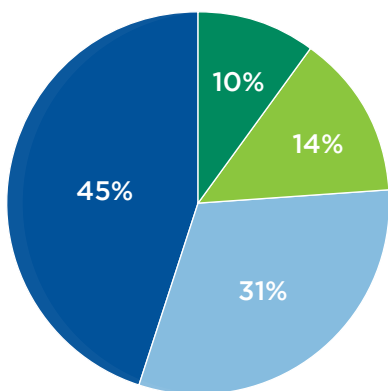
In order to reach the widest possible audience, an online public survey was created and promoted. The survey was live from Sept. 16 – Oct. 31, 2021. The survey was promoted through yard signs around the site and surrounding areas, flyers to the adjacent residential communities, the department's social media channels and email newsletters, and through the project website.

In total 1,104 people filled out the survey, which includes 13 people who filled out a paper version of the survey at the Public Walking Tour held on Oct. 16, 2021, at the park. The following pages summarize the results from the survey.

1. Are you familiar with West Case Road Park, 2425 West Case Road, owned by Columbus Recreation and Parks Department? (n = 1,104)



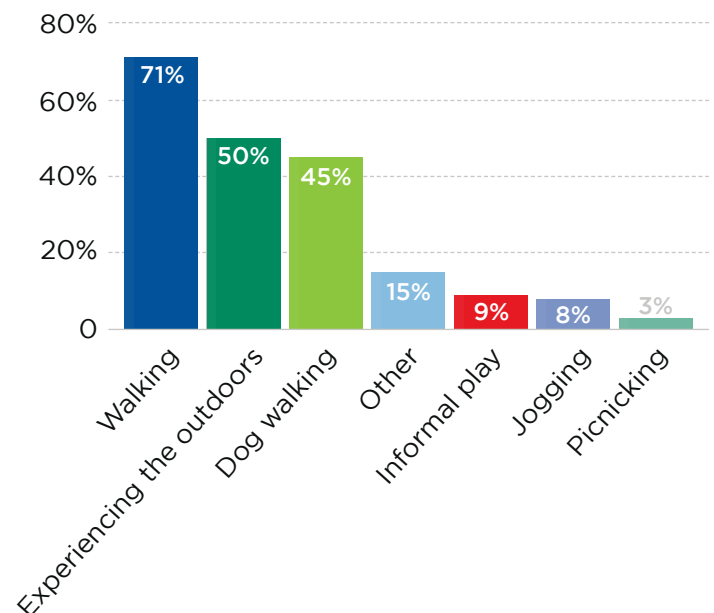
2. How often do members of your household currently visit West Case Road Park? (n = 816)



- Daily or almost daily
- Once a week or more
- 1-2 times per month
- Have not visited

The majority of survey respondents are **familiar with West Case Road Park** and have visited the park.

3. If your household has visited, how do you currently use the park? Select all that apply. (n = 509)

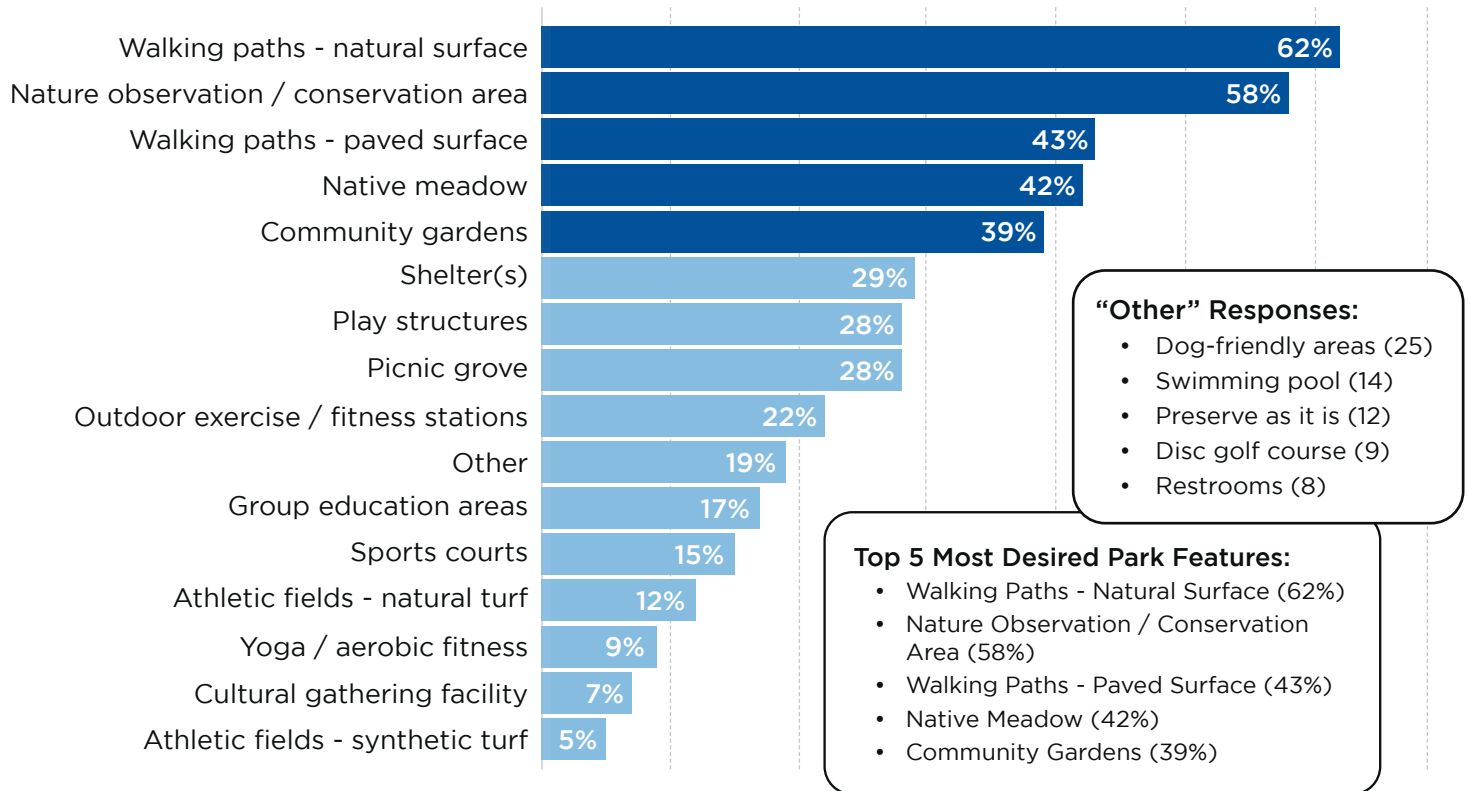


“Other” Responses:

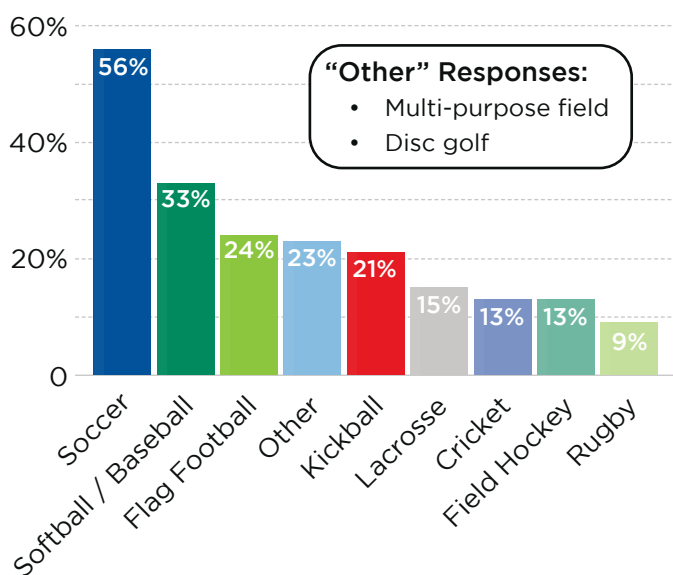
- Bird watching (37)
- Nature observation (9)
- Cross country skiing (4)
- Visual arts, photography (4)

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

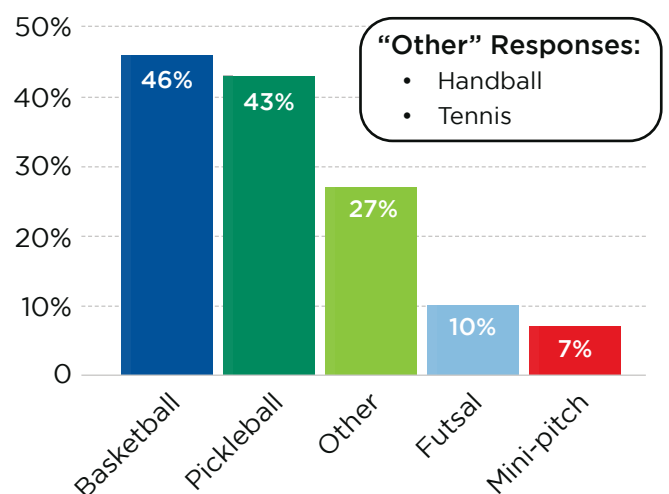
4. Please select up to 5 park features your household would most like to see at the new West Case Road Park. (n = 946)



5. If you selected “Athletic Fields” in your response to Q4, please specify the type of use. (n = 203)

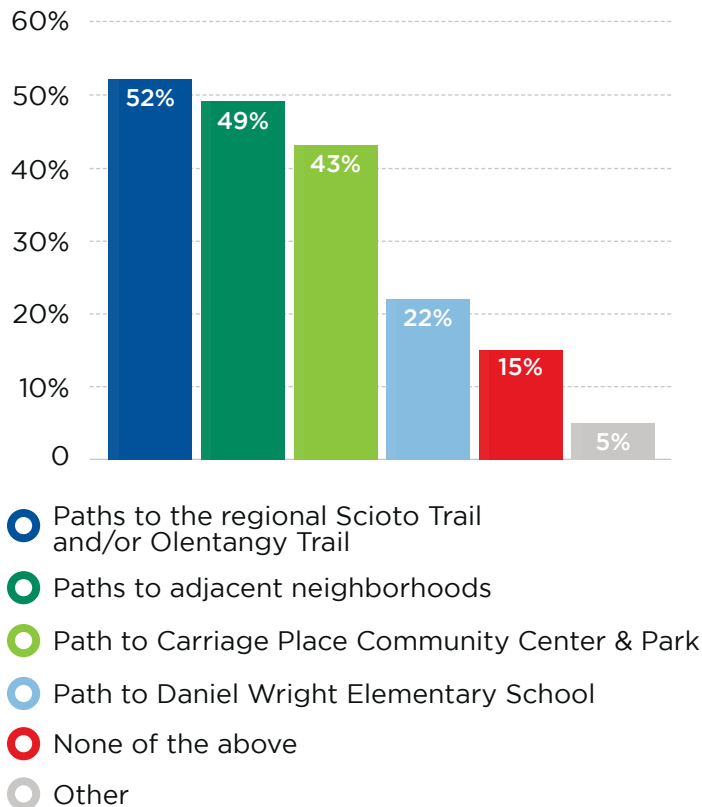


6. If you selected “Sports Courts” in your response to Q4, please specify the type of use. (n = 218)

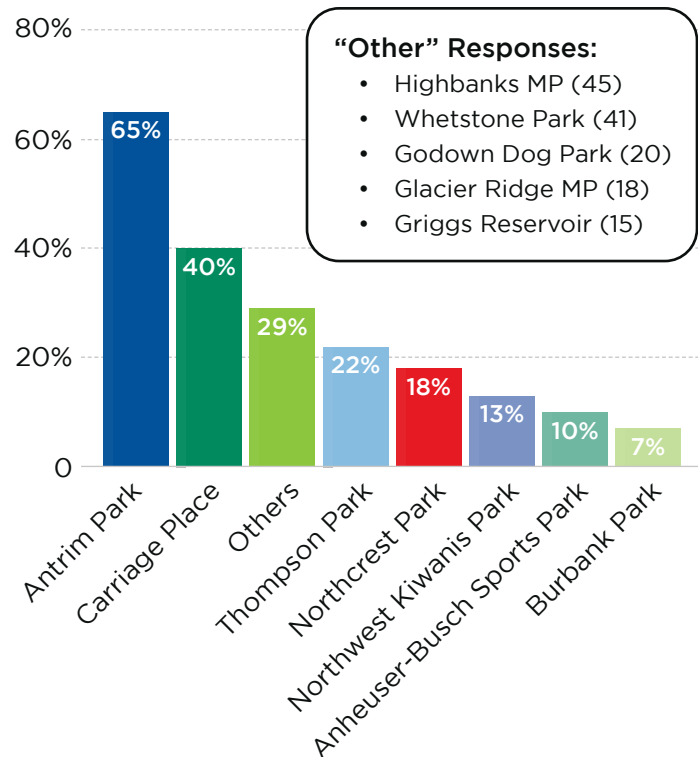


PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

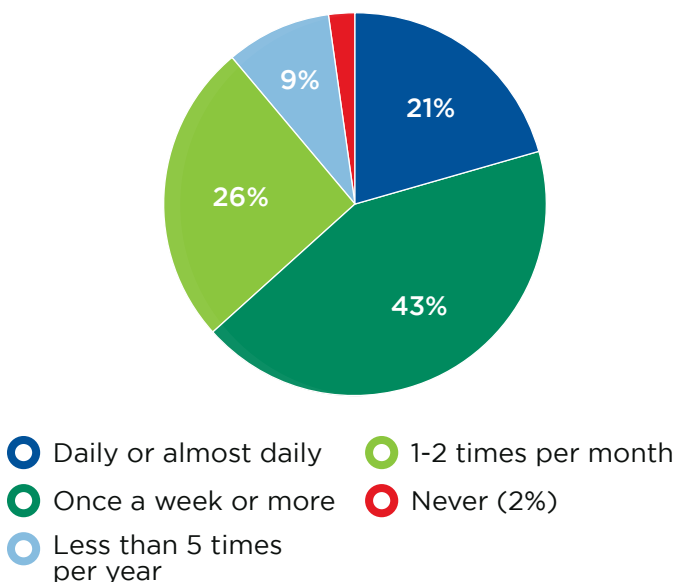
7. Which of the following connections to West Case Road Park would be important to your household? Select all that apply. (n = 946)



9. Which of the following nearby parks or recreation facilities do you visit on a regular basis? (n = 873)



8. How often do members of your household visit nearby parks? (n = 937)



10. Do you have any suggestions for a name for this park?* (n = 315)

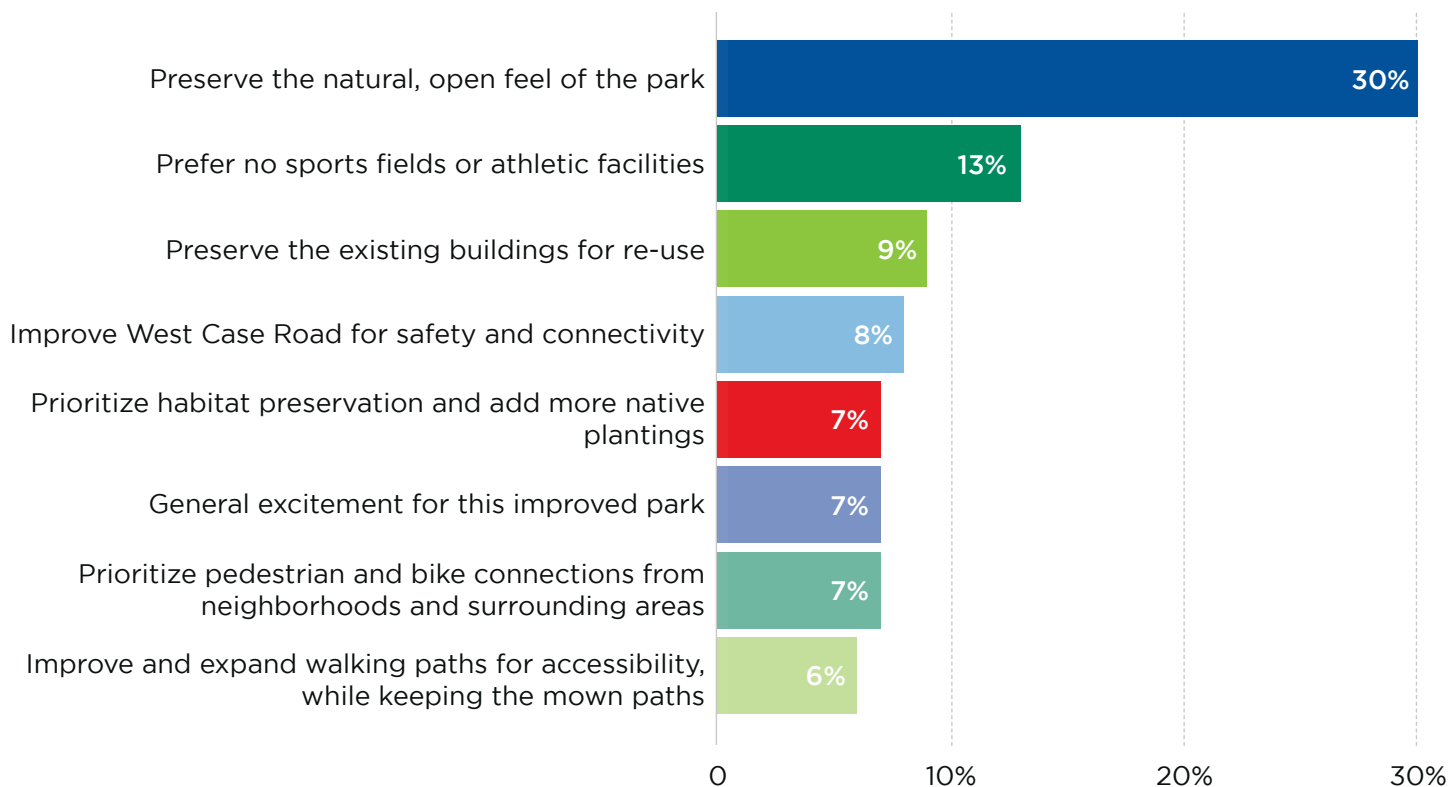
Top 6 Name Suggestions:

- West Case Road Park or a similar variation (17%)
- Historic Sheep Farm Park or a similar variation (16%)
- A name that reflects the aviation history of the area (7%)
- Northwest Community Park or a similar variation (5%)
- A name that references the Lane Family, who built the homestead (4%)
- A name that reflects the indigenous history of the area (4%)

* This question was open-ended. The responses were assigned themes, and the percentage indicates the percentage of question respondents whose answer aligned with the theme.

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

11. What additional thoughts or comments would you like to share about West Case Road Park?* (n = 410)



“Create connectivity and safe routes to parks. East-west connections continue to be challenging including paths to Metro Parks.”

“This site, the fields to the north as well as the airport are used by rare Upland Sandpipers and other grassland birds. **It would be great to preserve this habitat.**”

“I really hope you can **preserve the existing buildings** to be utilized for the community. Repurpose the house for education, community class area, rental space etc.”

“The **pandemic has taught us that we need more covered outdoor places** to gather that have options to open windows and doors. It needs to be connected to Carriage Place as an extension of the awesome rec center.”

“This space is full of birds, pollinators, small critters and would be **best left as natural as possible.**”

“I love the **natural feel to the park** along with the paths and variety of birds that can be seen. **The park is serene and a great place to unwind** with my dogs.”

* This question was open-ended. The responses were assigned themes, and the percentage indicates the percentage of question respondents whose answer aligned with the theme. Only themes with a percentage > 5% are shown.

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

12. Does your household live within the City of Columbus boundaries? (n = 915)

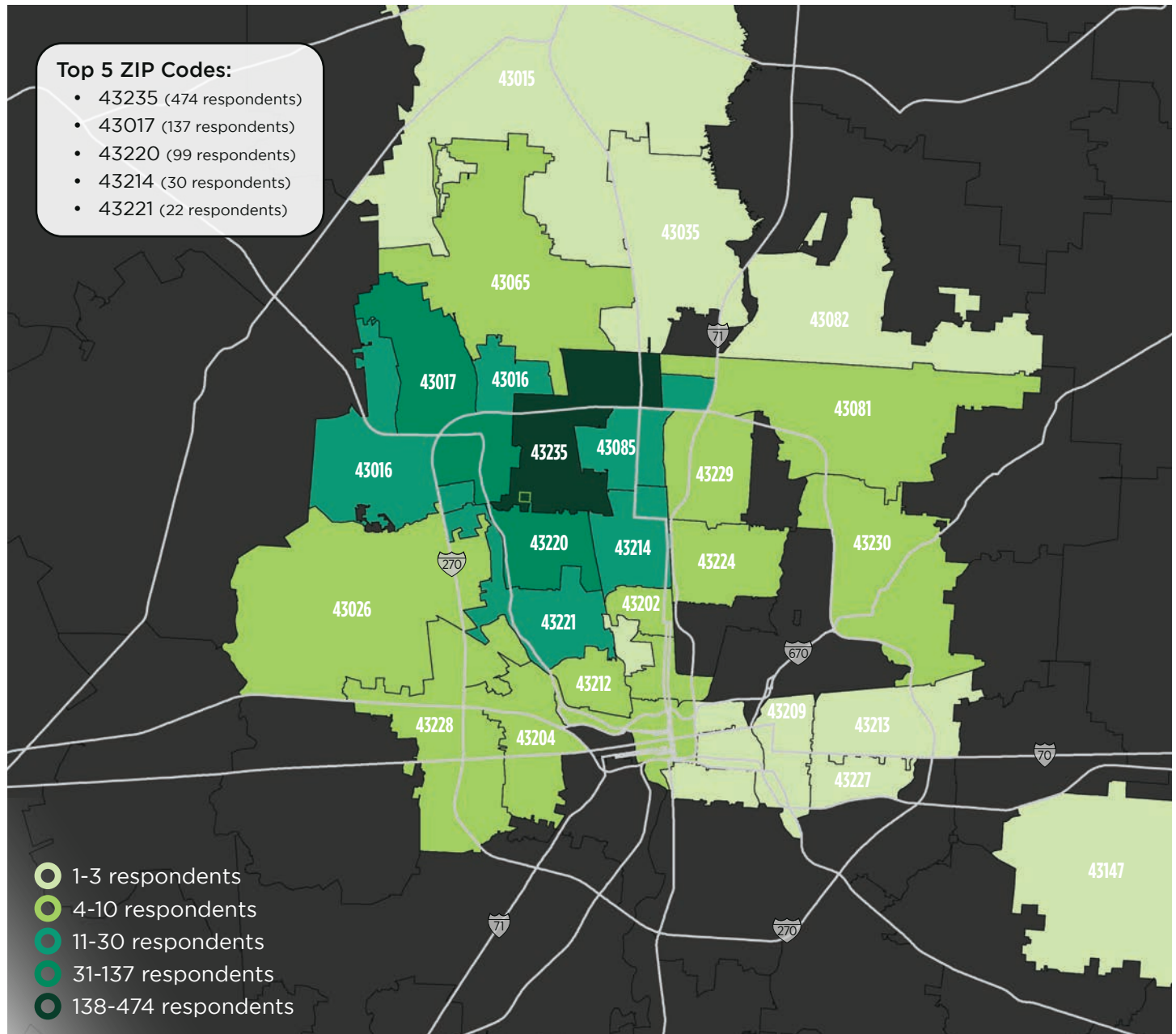
92%

Yes

8%

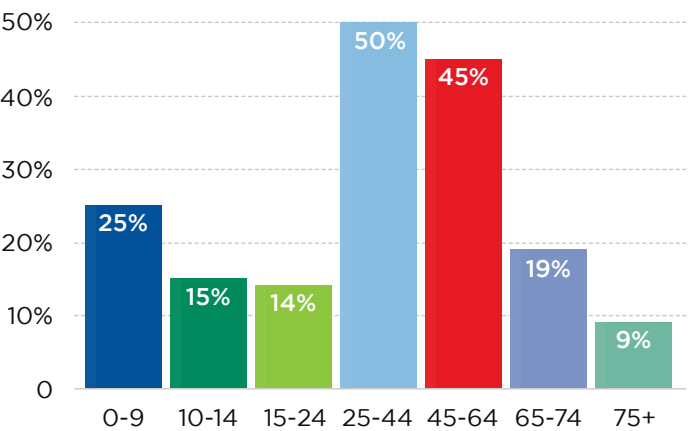
No

13. In what ZIP code do you live? (n = 910)

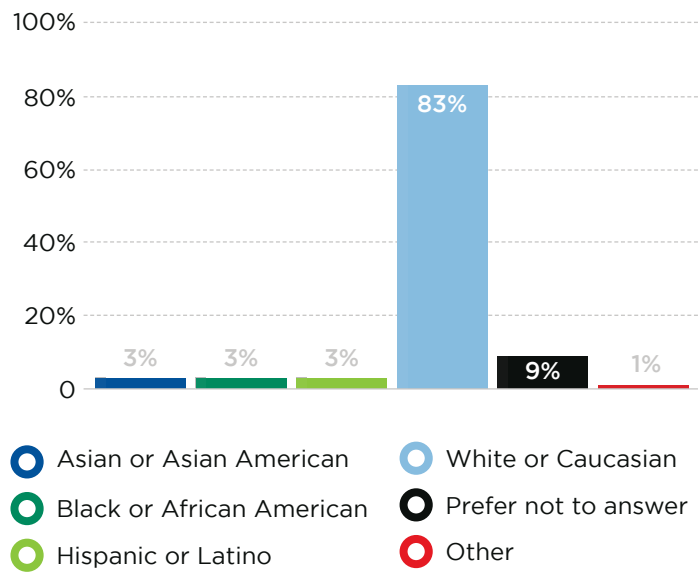


PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

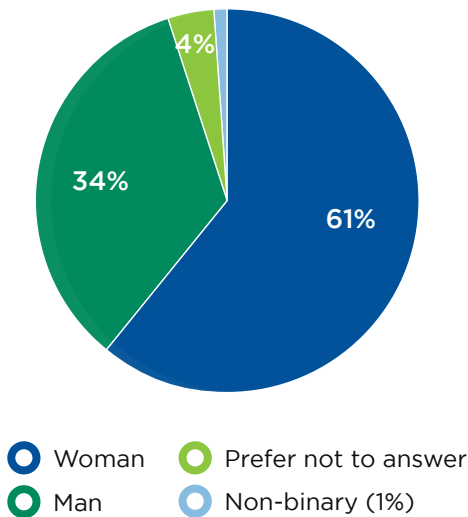
14. Please select the age categories of all household members who would visit the new West Case Road Park. Include yourself and select all that apply. (n = 910)



16. Please select your race/ethnic background. (n = 899)



15. Please select your gender. (n = 910)



17. What is your approximate annual household income? (n = 831)

