



**ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA**

Parks & Recreation

Walter Reed Outdoor Court Project

Engagement #1 Summary : Feb. 7, 2023 - Feb. 28, 2023

April 1, 2023



Who Participated?

1,309 Participants

1,136



ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

**1,136 Online
Feedback Form Responses**

*Through these responses, we
received 1,396 comments*

173



OPEN HOUSE

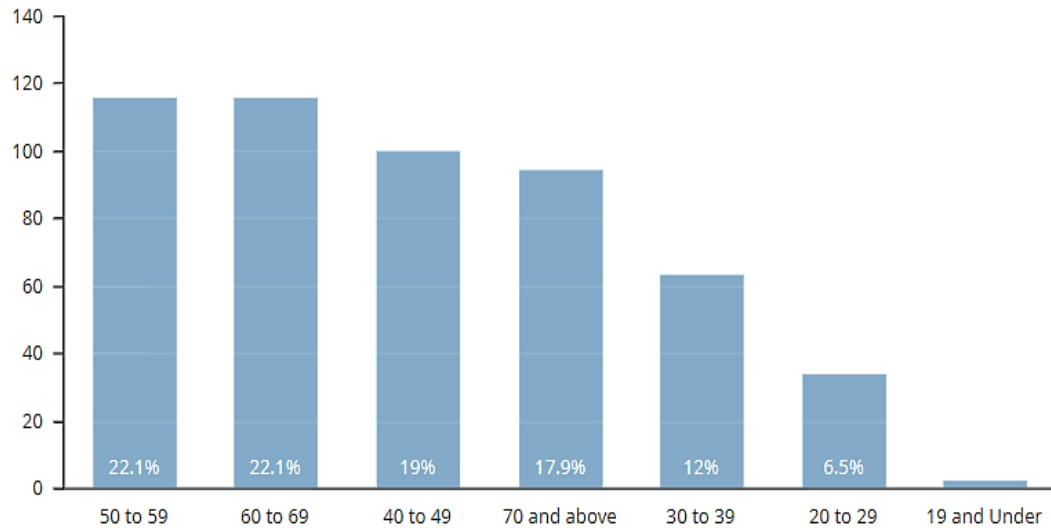
**173 Open house
attendees**

*439 comments received
at 7 different stations*

Who Participated: Online

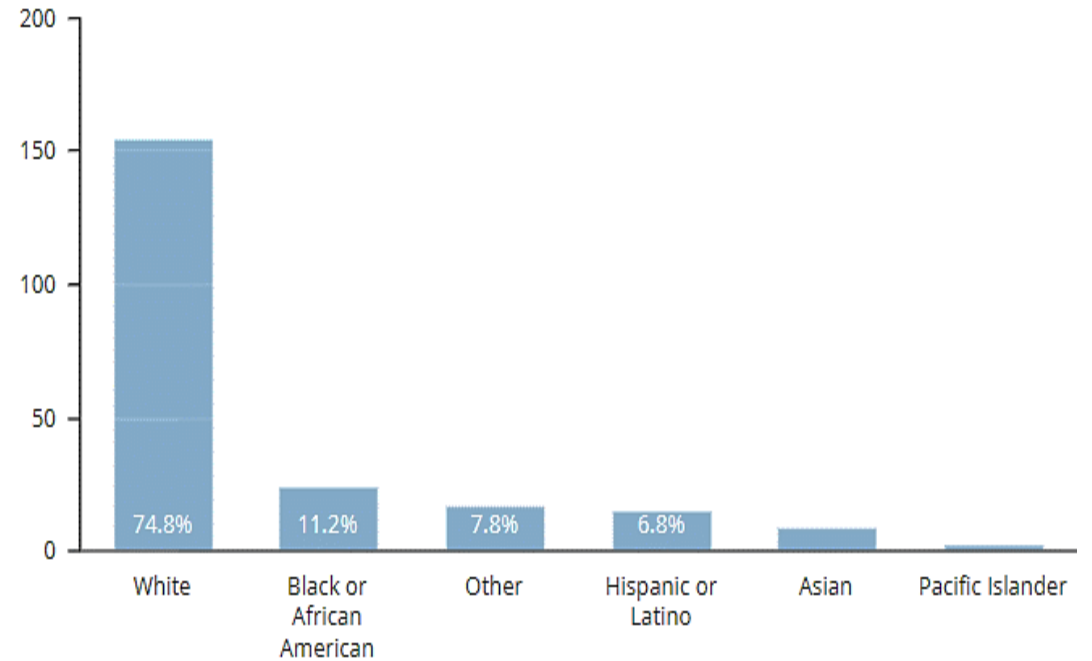
Age Range

523 Respondents



Race/Ethnicity

218 Respondents

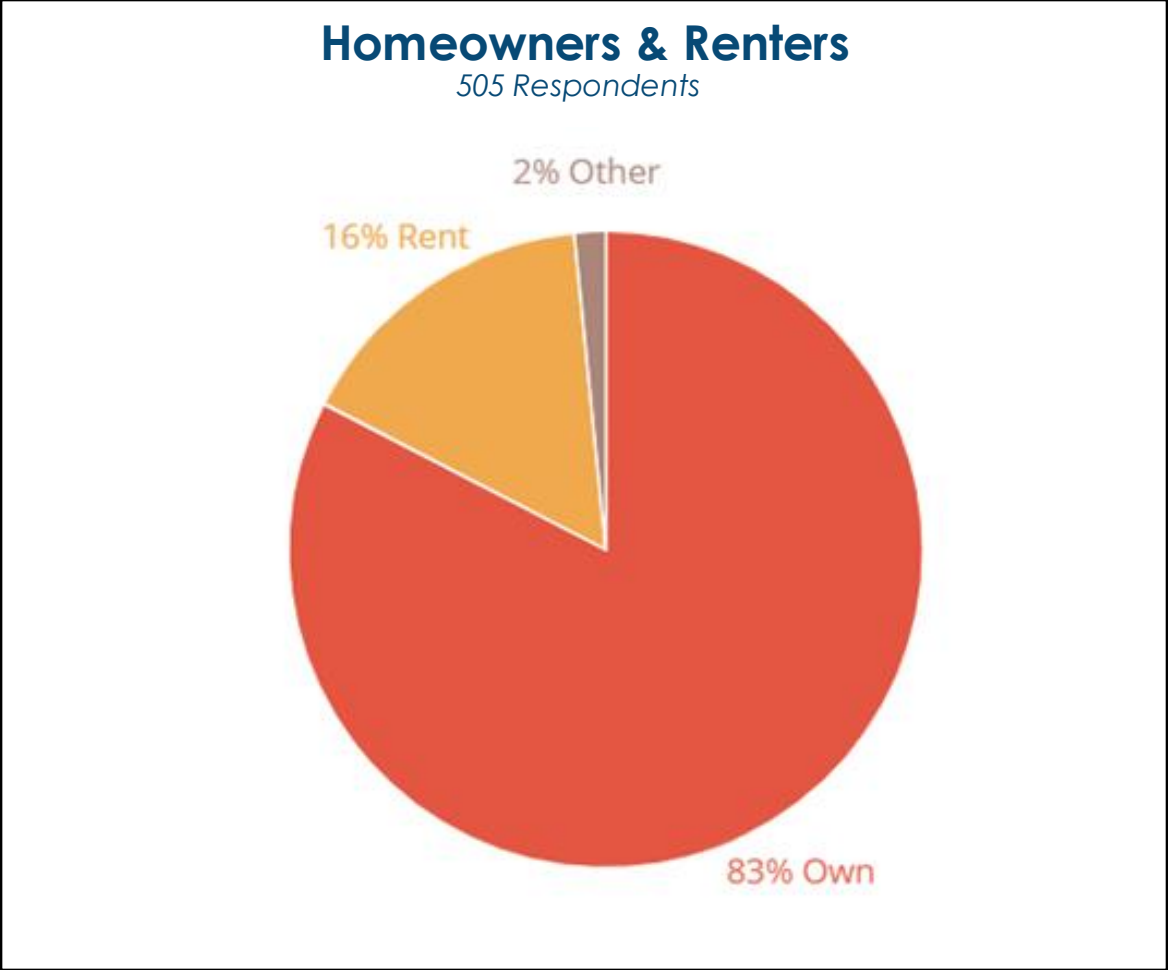
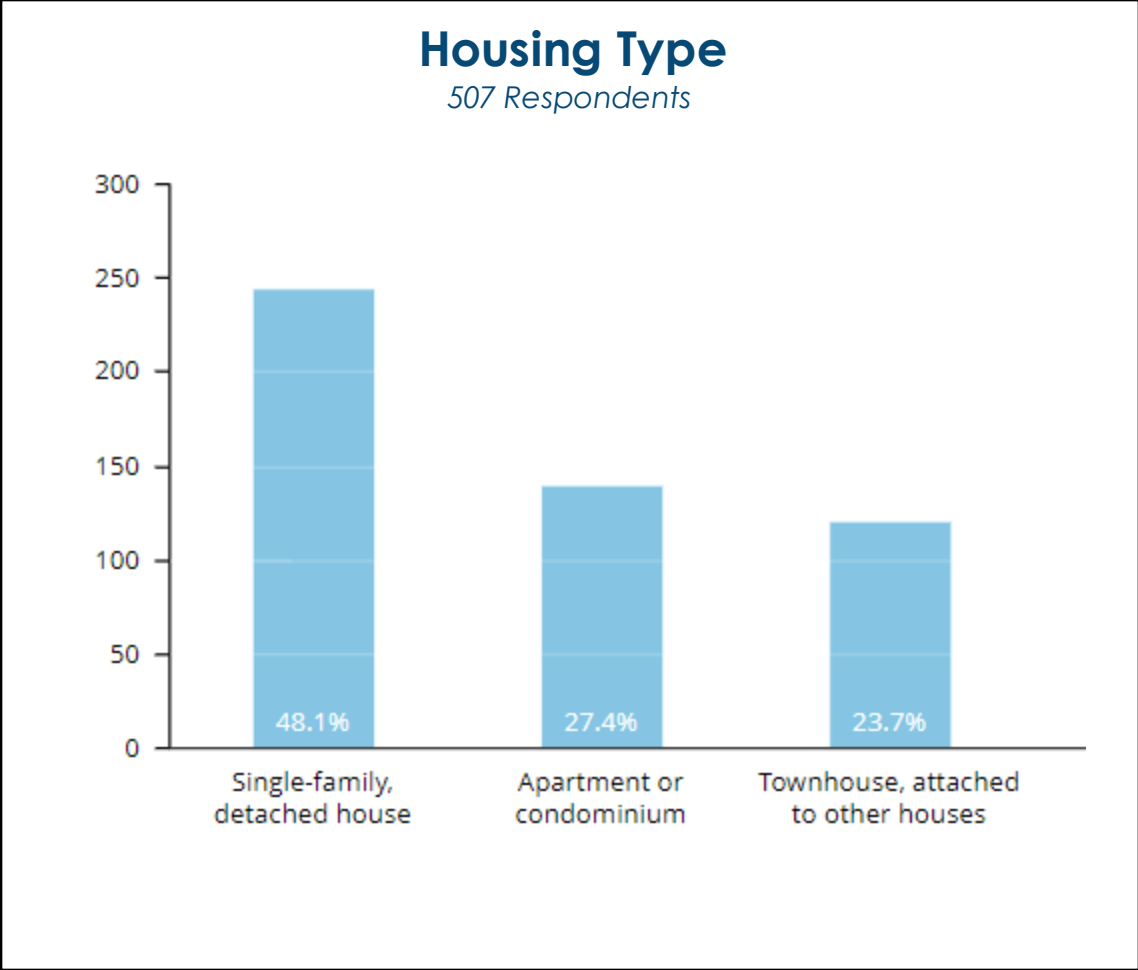


U.S. CENSUS RACE/ETHNICITY FOR ARLINGTON, VA

[Visit Arlington's Race and Ethnicity Dashboard to learn more.](#)

74%	10.3%	15.6%	11%	0.1%
White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Pacific Islander

Who Participated: Online



Who Participated: Online

Neighborhoods

480 Respondents

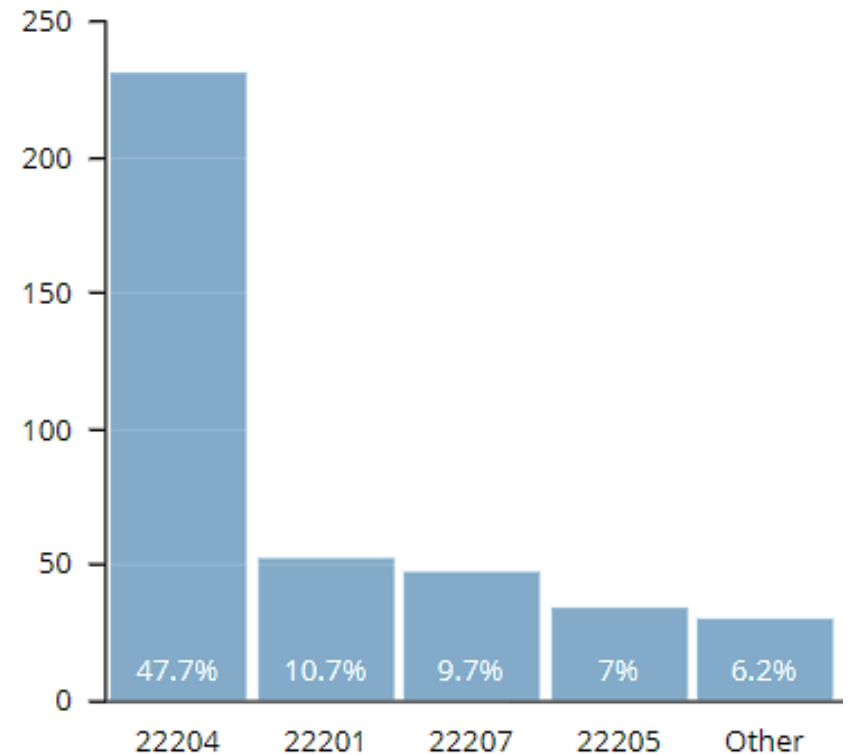
In total, the project team heard from respondents located in **58 out of 62** Arlington civic associations.

Top Neighborhood Responses

- Columbia Heights (18%)
- Douglas park (9%)
- I do not live in Arlington (6%)
- Arlington Heights (5%)
- Ballston-Virginia Square (4%)

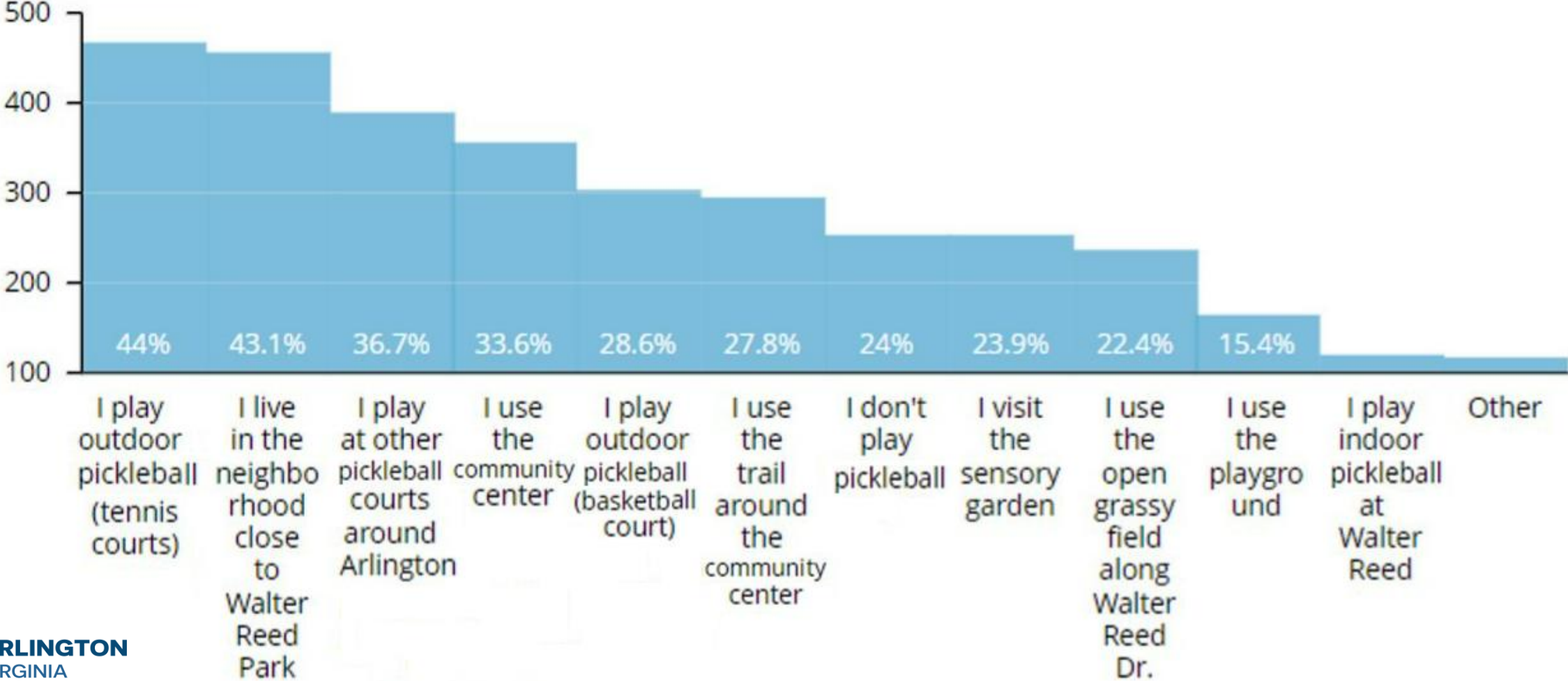
Zip Code

480 Respondents



How would you describe your current relationship with Walter Reed Community Center and Park? (select all that apply)

1,059 Respondents



PARKS & RECREATION
ONLINE FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITY



ARLINGTON VIRGINIA
Parks & Recreation

Translate

Walter Reed Pickleball Project - Engagement #1

The Walter Reed tennis courts will be undergoing conversion to a dedicated pickleball court facility. This decision was based on community feedback and a cost-benefit assessment within the Arlington Outdoor Courts Assessment Project. Before we plan any improvements, we need your input. Help us better understand how the current facility is working and how it can better serve you. Please share your feedback on the new pickleball court facility before the design process begins!



Currently, the tennis court area is striped with six pickleball courts and the basketball court with three. The tennis court area will be converted into nine dedicated pickleball courts. The County is committed to incorporating sound reduction measures as part of this project. The basketball court will be converted back to its original use.

The scope for the pickleball court project includes:

Project Feedback

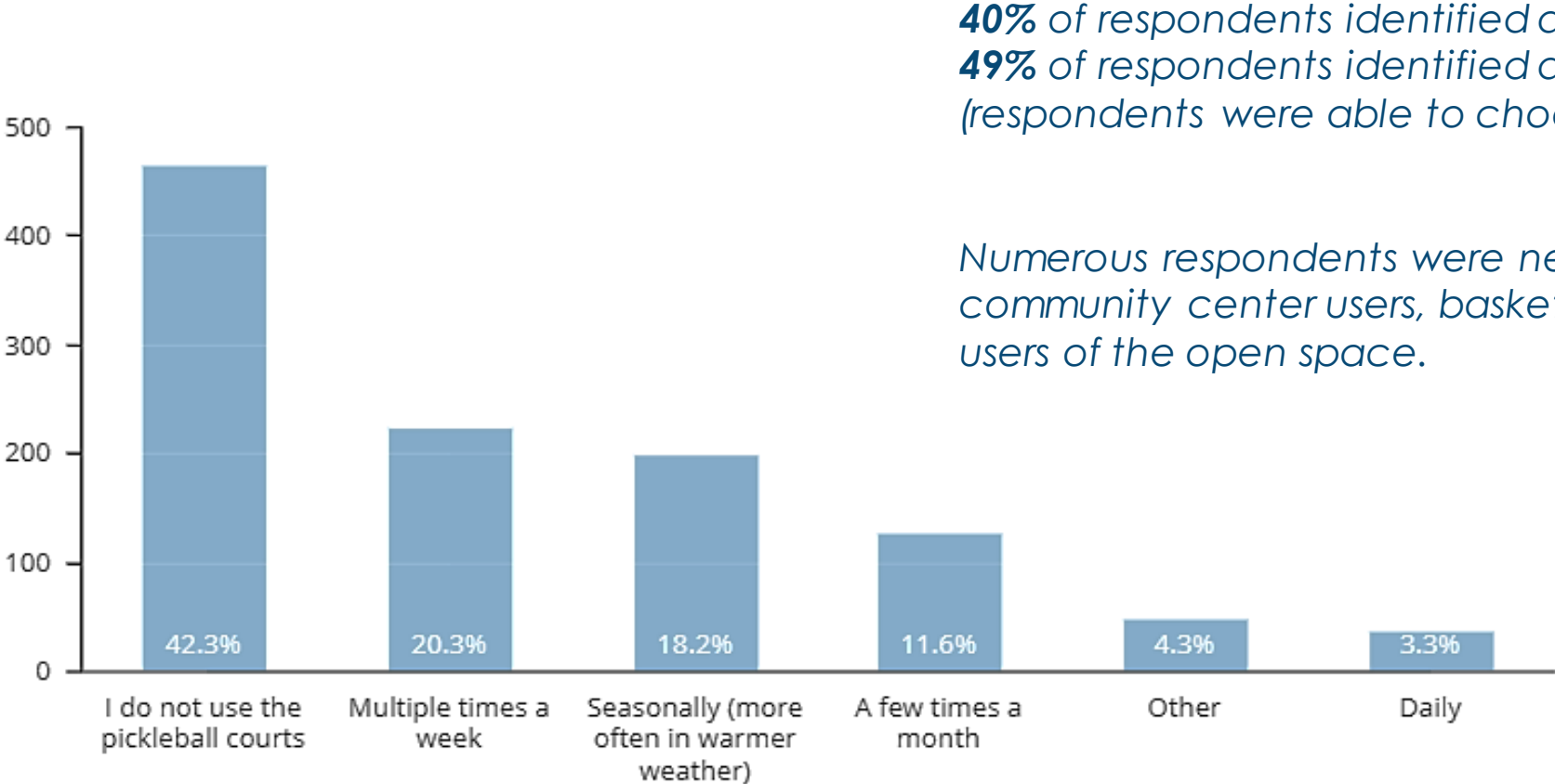
Online Questionnaire

[Raw data is located here](#)



How often do you use the Walter Reed outdoor pickleball courts? (Click all that apply)

Respondents: 1,094

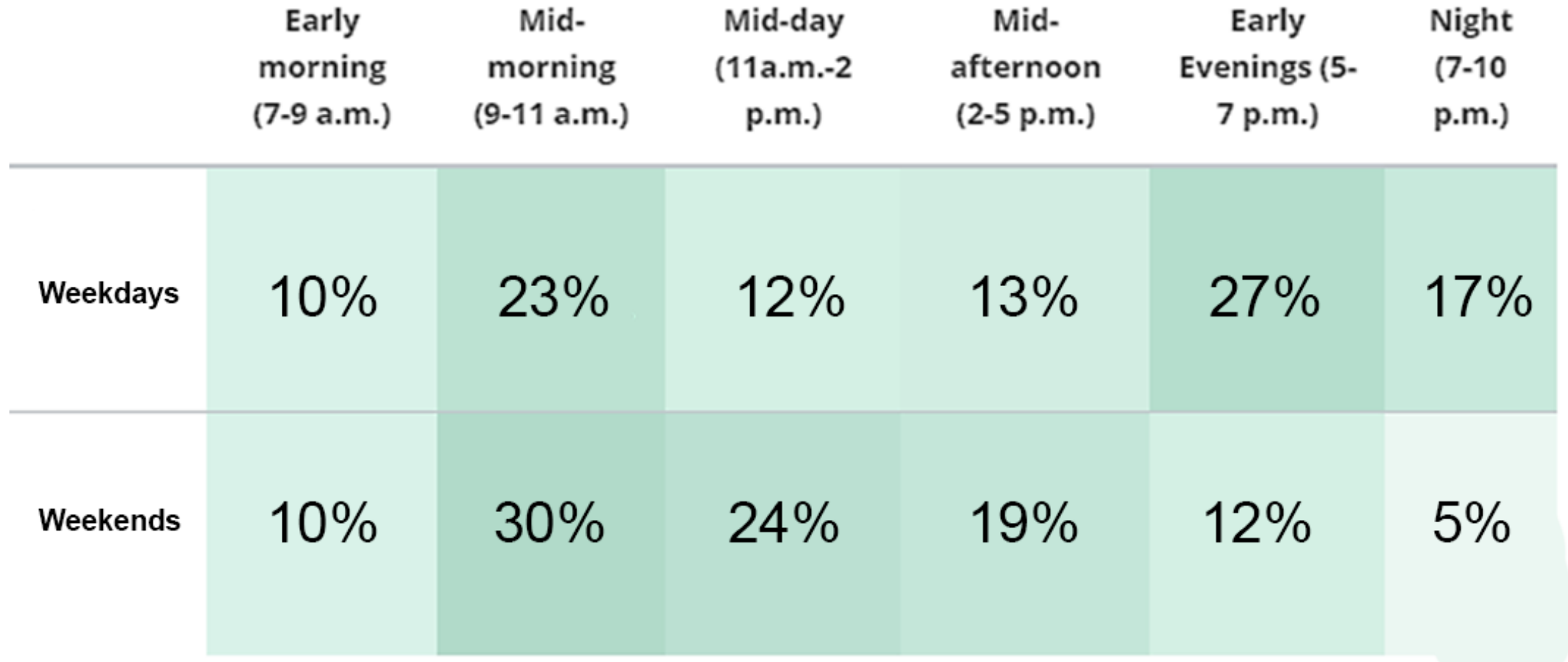


*40% of respondents identified as neighbors
49% of respondents identified as people who play pickleball
(respondents were able to choose both)*

Numerous respondents were neighbors, playground users, community center users, basketball and tennis players, and users of the open space.

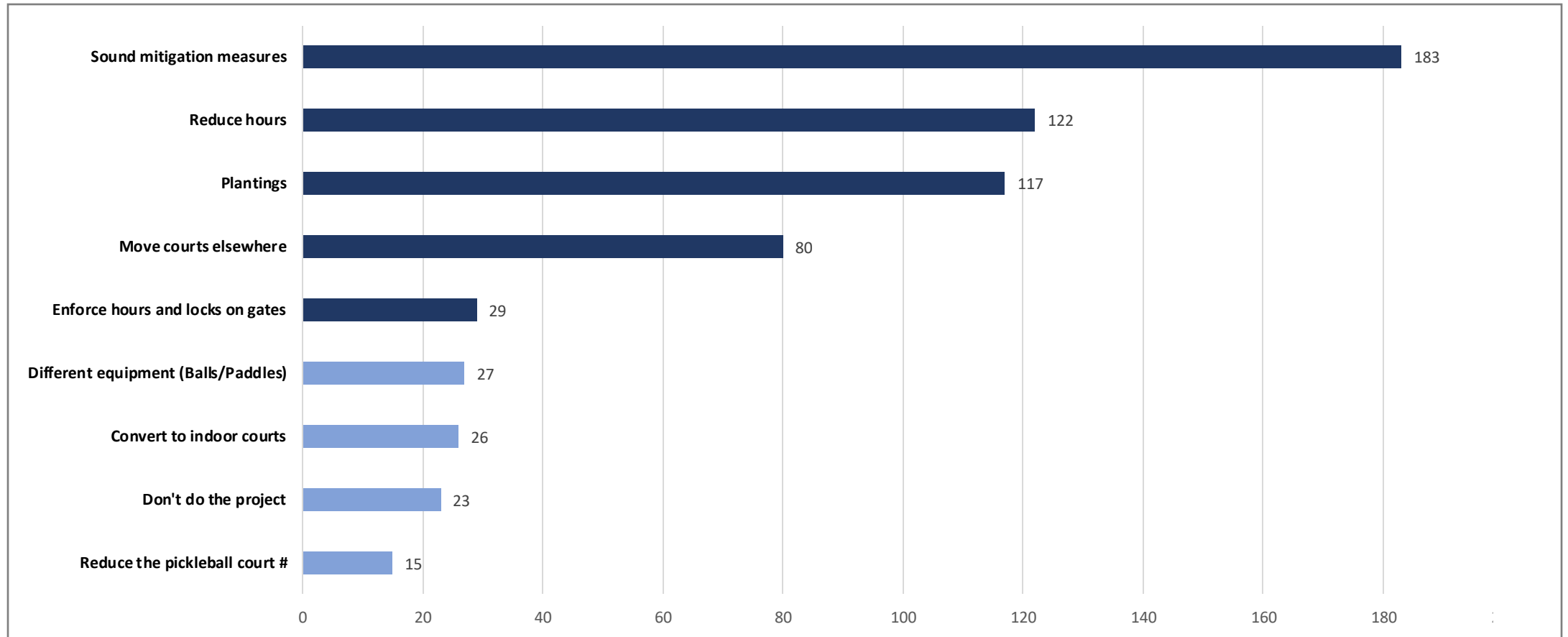
When do you typically play outdoor pickleball at Walter Reed? (Click all that apply)

Respondents: 893



Noise is a concern associated with pickleball play. The County is committed to incorporating sound reduction measures as part of this project. What are some creative ideas to consider?

608 Open-ended comments were quantified by tagging each comment with the topics mentioned

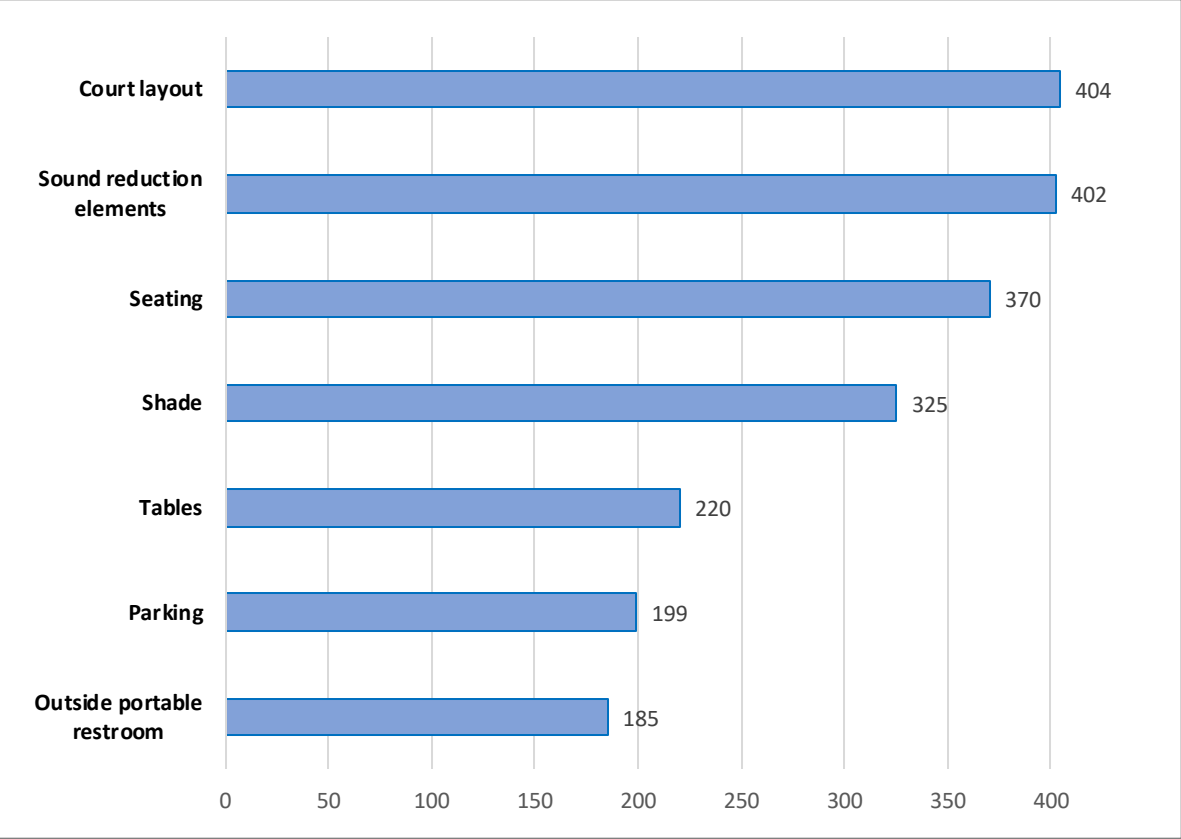


(Continued) Noise is a concern associated with pickleball play. The County is committed to incorporating sound reduction measures as part of this project. What are some creative ideas to consider?

Theme	Sound Mitigation Measures	Reduce Hours	Plantings	Move Courts Elsewhere	Enforce hours and or locks on the gates
Mentions	183	122	117	80	29
Summary	<p>The most popular sound mitigation measures noted were solid walls, padding, higher walls, and other acoustical dampening materials around the court.</p> <p>Additionally, comments noted items such as sound walls made from cinder blocks, earthen berms with plantings, shade structures, and completely enclosing the courts to make them indoor courts.</p>	<p>Respondents commented on the need to reduce hours as a key way of mitigating noise as part of this project. Of particular concern is noise from early morning and late night play.</p> <p>Comments also suggested that having days off or rotating days off across pickleball courts in the county would be welcomed. Federal Holidays and Arlington Public School holidays were also noted as days that would be preferred to let neighbors have a break from the play at this site.</p>	<p>Many commentors suggest using vegetation to absorb noise from the pickleball courts.</p> <p>Some ideas include planting trees, evergreen shrubs, and dense shrubbery around the perimeter of the courts.</p> <p>Others suggest using hedges or climbing plants along the fence line. Several comments focused on the importance of native plantings between the courts and residential areas. Suggestions also include using vegetation creatively, such as creating a "shrub wall" or using plants that can serve as a public art.</p>	<p>Over these 80 comments, approximately 2/3 of the comments suggested moving the pickleball courts elsewhere in the County and 1/3 of the comments suggested moving the courts further from the homes in Walter Reed Park.</p> <p>Numerous locations were suggested elsewhere in the County to move the courts such as North Arlington as well as to nonresidential areas such as Long Bridge Park, Jennie Dean, or Barcroft.</p>	<p>Several suggestions were provided to simply enforce the hours that are already in place.</p> <p>Comments suggested security cameras, staff at the courts, locks on the gates, timed lights, and clear written rules for players to abide by.</p>

Which of the following are your top three priorities for the outdoor pickleball facility?

Out of 899 responses, court layout, sound reduction elements, and seating came up as top priorities.



Number and location of courts: Commenters expressed varying opinions on the number of courts needed and where they should be located. Some suggested fewer courts, while others called for as many as possible. Concerns were expressed about too many pickleball courts packed together, play level separation, placing the courts too close to the homes, and about preserving green space.

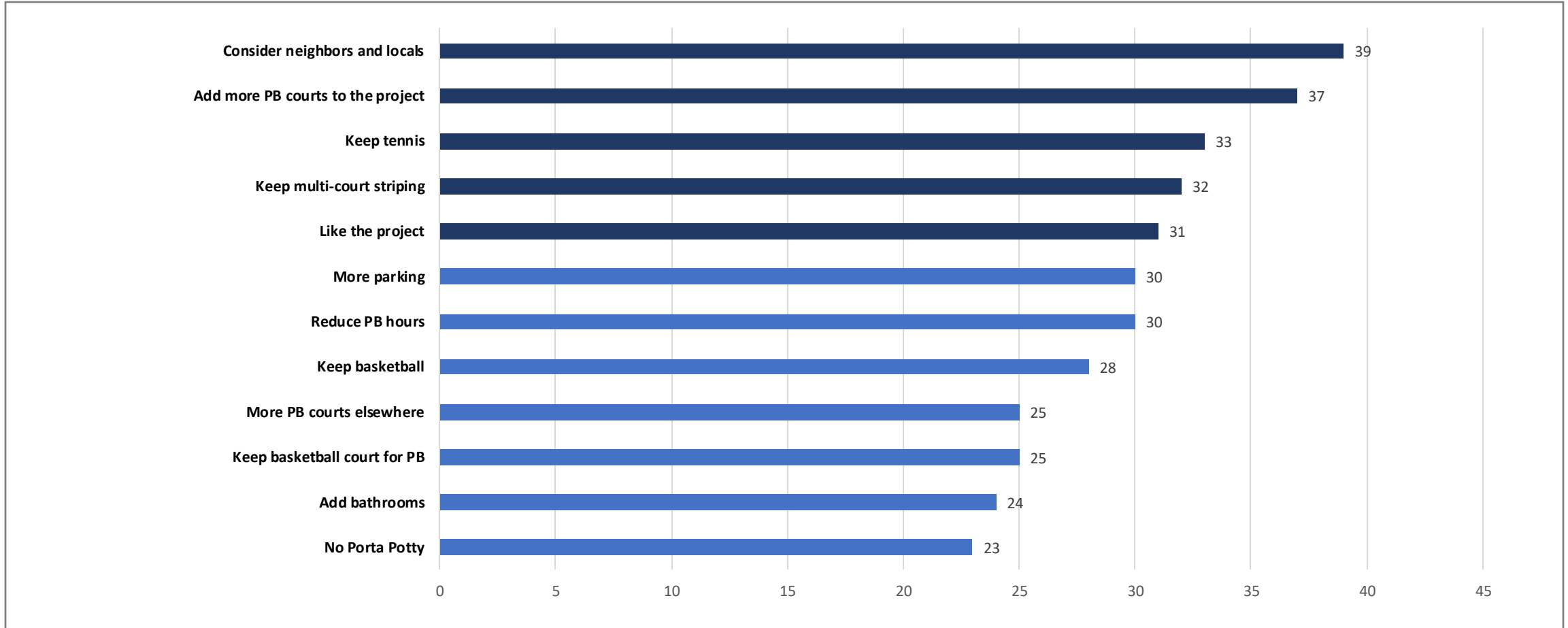
Noise and disturbance: Several commenters raised concerns about the noise created by pickleball games and the impact on nearby residential neighborhoods. Suggestions to address this issue include sound barriers, limiting hours of play, using quieter equipment, no leaf blowers, and rules for Bluetooth speakers.

Access to restrooms: Many commenters expressed concern over the use of portable restrooms and the need for access to existing, permanent restrooms during outdoor court hours.

Additional concerns were raised about traffic, player behavior, access to water, and noise reduction aesthetics.

Is there anything else you would like to share that wasn't captured previously to help make this project a success for players and the community?

324 Open-ended comments were quantified by tagging each comment with the topics mentioned



(Continued) Is there anything else you would like to share that wasn't captured previously to help make this project a success for players and the community?

Theme	Add more pickleball courts to the project	Consider neighbors and locals	Bathrooms and noise	Who pays vs. who play and move courts elsewhere	Keep tennis and basketball
Mentions	37	39	43	53	58
Summary	<p>Many respondents expressed support for the project, with a desire for more courts and faster implementation.</p> <p>However, concerns were also raised about the reduction of green space and the impact on other activities such as basketball and tennis. There were calls for more parking and more indoor court hours as well.</p>	<p>The community has expressed concerns about the impact of the project on the surrounding neighborhoods, with a focus on noise and the need for acoustical dampening fencing.</p> <p>Residents have also requested that the project be moved away from homes, and that a noise study and impact study be conducted. In addition, there have been requests for shade structures and plantings to be added to the project to mitigate the visual impact.</p>	<p>Access to bathrooms was also a major concern, with many respondents requesting that porta potties not be used and instead advocating for the use of existing restrooms or the addition of permanent restrooms.</p> <p>Rules around music or sound were also mentioned, with a request for better communication to players and staff to monitor and enforce court hours.</p>	<p>Numerous comments noted players coming from outside the county. Suggestions were made to give priority to locals first through reservations, fees, or other enforcement mechanisms. Neighbors voiced similar concerns associated with out of County players taking up parking.</p> <p>Other comments asked that the courts be move were provided to move the courts to other parks in North Arlington as well as to nonresidential areas such as Long Bridge Park, Jennie Dean, or Barcroft.</p>	<p>Tennis and basketball players noted a desire to not have all tennis courts or the basketball court be converted to pickleball use.</p> <p>Frequent comments asked to keep one tennis court here and basketball asked to not have pickleball dominate the courts. Even with stated hours for basketball, players find it hard to play due to pickleball demand.</p>



Open House: 2.16.23 Walter Reed Community Center Project Feedback

Walter Reed Outdoor Pickleball Court Project OPEN HOUSE
 Thursday, February 16, 2023
 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The Walter Reed tennis courts will be undergoing conversion to a dedicated pickleball court facility. This decision was based on community feedback and a court score assessment within the Arlington Outdoor Courts Assessment Project. Before we plan any improvements, we need your input. Help us better understand how the current facility is working and how it can better serve you. Please share your feedback on the new pickleball court facility before the design process begins!

Thank you for joining us tonight!

- Visit stations
- Ask questions
- Listen and be open to each other
- Share feedback and creative ideas
- Talk with staff and/or other attendees
- If you have questions, please ask staff

Break-out Stations

- Pickleball Courts - Layout
- Pickleball Courts - Amenities
- Sound Reduction Measures
- Trees and Landscaping
- Parking, Access and Circulation
- Additional Feedback

Project Scope

- 9 dedicated pickleball courts
- Sound reduction measures
- Seating and shade
- Pathways
- ADA scores improvements
- Stormwater management
- Signage
- Landscaping
- Basketball court restyling

Next steps

Input at this open house will be combined with input from the online questionnaire. An engagement report and raw data from both opportunities will be posted online to share back the community input. Community input is being used to inform concept designs that will be shared with the community for further feedback during two future engagement periods. This is the first of several engagement opportunities for this project.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO TAKE THE ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE
 QR VISIT: <https://publicinput.com/12106>
 The questionnaire closes on Feb. 28, 2023

PARKING, ACCESS AND CIRCULATION CONSIDERATIONS

TREES AND LANDSCAPING CONSIDERATIONS

SOUND REDUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

PICKLEBALL COURT AMM... CONSIDERATIONS

CONSIDERATIONS

Open House Comments: Top Five Topics

Comments: 439

Theme	Noise Reduction	Project Location	Operations	Basketball Court	Multi-use Courts/ Room for Other Activities
Mentions	62	56	52	39	31
Summary	<p>Similar to the online responses, noise mitigation measures ranked as the most mentioned topic during the in-person open house.</p> <p>Solutions included installation of a noise attenuation structure, having less courts, or enclosing the courts in a bubble.</p> <p>Many suggested conducting a sound study to help inform solutions.</p>	<p>Participants suggested moving the project to a different site— claiming that Walter Reed is too close to neighbor's houses and may not allow for impacts of more density including limited parking and access to an indoor restroom during permitted play hours.</p> <p>Suggestions for other locations included Long Bridge, Aurora Hills, Barcroft, VA Highlands, Minor Hill, Febrey-Lathorp House, Quincy Park, or one of APS' courts.</p> <p>Several respondents also suggested using indoor courts.</p>	<p>Other noise reduction measures included operational changes such as reduced pickleball hours, locked gates, active site supervision, and enforcement of the noise ordinance.</p> <p>Some suggested that signage with rules outlining limited play time and a code of conduct.</p>	<p>Comments related to the basketball court were split.</p> <p>About half of the comments related to the basketball court specifically suggested that it remain lined for pickleball, claiming that it's a popular court amongst players.</p> <p>The other half specifically called for the basketball court to be relined to be reverted to a dedicated basketball court. Some mentioned an equity issue for kids not being able to play anymore.</p>	<p>Comments suggested one or more of the existing courts should remain multi-use allowing for flexibility and versatility.</p> <p>A few comments expressed wanting to keep tennis as an option and ask that the courts be lighted allowing enough time for other sports/ activities to be played.</p>

Open House Comments by Station

<i>Station</i>	Court Layout	Court Amenities	Sound Reduction
<i>Summary</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider north – south orientation • Allow for more space between courts • Allow for more space from the baseline • Consider fencing around the courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add lights to basketball and tennis courts • Add shade, seating, a water fountain, waiting spaces, and automated external defibrillators • Determine a permanent restroom solution—especially during hours where play is permitted • Consider a court enclosure • Add signage with rules and a code of conduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a sound study • Consider installing a sound barrier (e.g., noise attenuation, a wall, etc.) • Consider less courts • Consider limited hours, locked gates, and site monitoring • Use landscaping as a buffer • Stack sound mitigation measures

Open House Comments by Station (Continued)

<i>Station</i>	Trees and Landscaping	Parking, Access, and Circulation
<i>Summary</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep existing trees• Incorporate greenery in the sound barrier (e.g., green wall, landscaping, etc.)• Preserve existing green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parking is limited and congested• Concern over people parking in front of neighbors' driveways• Consider underground parking under the courts• Mixed responses about moving parking closer or further away from 16th street

Pop-up Engagement Columbia Pike Farmers Market

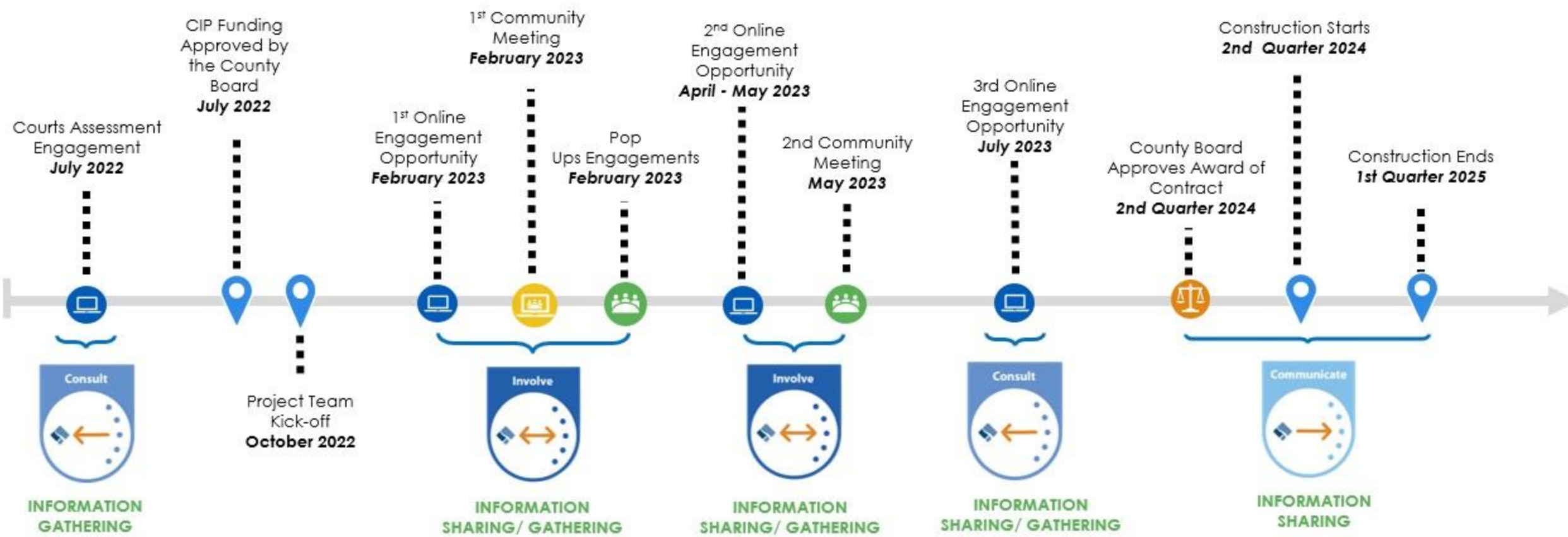
February 26, 2023



- Staff discussed the project's background
- Public Feedback:
 - Keep the 'character' of the park
 - Address noise concerns
 - Is the number of courts (9) set in stone?
 - Learned about the project for the first time

Walter Reed Outdoor Pickleball Court Project

Origin: Public Spaces Master Plan – Action Step 1.4.3 And Courts Assessment
Funding: FY 23-32 Capital Improvement Plan
Staff Contact: Bernadette Grullon (Bgrullon@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**