



Bolm District Park Vision Plan

Community Engagement Round 2: Design Concepts

Engagement and Input Summary

April 12, 2024

About the Project

The City of Austin, Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) has engaged Halff Associates to provide vision planning and design services for Bolm District Park, an undeveloped district park of approximately 68.1 acres, located along the Colorado River at 6700 Bolm Road. The primary goal of the planning project is to develop a visionary framework to guide the future development of the park, its programming, facilities, features, general layout, funding requirements and potential implementation strategy through a study of PARC goals, site and area context analysis and a robust public engagement process. Community engagement includes three touchpoints, or rounds of engagement, including the introduction of the project, Vision Plan design concept options, and the recommended Vision Plan. Results from this effort shall be used as a roadmap for the future park development, park programming, business operations and management. The Vision Plan will also be used as a promotional tool to generate public interest, support and funding for future parkland development and partnerships.

Engagement Approach and Details

Round #2 of community engagement efforts began in January 2024. Outreach efforts included a variety of tactics to raise awareness, share information about input received in engagement Round #1, and invite people to participate in engagement opportunities. These tactics included multiple email notifications, targeted emails and phone outreach to stakeholders, social media posts, updates to the project webpage, posting of project fliers at nearby libraries and schools, and meeting notifications to local residents via Nextdoor. Yard signs promoting the project were placed along Highway 183 near Bolm District Park. In-person presentations were made to community groups including PODER, La Raza Roundtable and Austin Ridge Riders. In addition, approximately 15,000 Community Meeting #2 event invitation postcards were mailed via Every Door Direct Mail four weeks prior to the meeting to the homes of residents living within a two-mile area of Bolm Park. Project outreach materials included information in English and Spanish, as well as a QR code and link for the project webpage, which included project details and meeting registration links.

A virtual Community Meeting was held via Zoom on February 13, 2024. The meeting was open to all and was conducted in both English and Spanish. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- inform the community about the project process and engagement efforts;
- share feedback gathered from the community during Round 1;
- present two preliminary conceptual plans for the park;
- encourage participation in the Round 2 online survey; and
- share information about next steps.

During the meeting, the project team shared details about the project, Round #1 public input and the two preliminary concept plans. Interactive polling was used to gauge initial reactions to

the concept plans. Participants made comments via the chat feature and the project team addressed questions. Participants were provided the online survey link and were encouraged to complete the survey and share it with others in the community. Presentation materials and the meeting recording are available on the project website at: www.austintexas.gov/bolmpark

The Round #2 project survey was launched on February 13, 2024 and closed on March 24, 2024. It included (13) questions which gathered feedback on how well the preliminary concept plans achieve community values, what people like best about the concepts, the level of importance of certain facilities, and other preferences related to elements of the concept plans. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to respond to demographic questions to help identify whether outreach efforts were connecting effectively with the diverse community. Feedback from the survey is included in the “survey responses” section.

In addition to the online engagement opportunities, four Pop-Up events were conducted at various locations in the community. These events served as an opportunity to engage residents in an informal way and provide project information, paper surveys in English and Spanish, and links to the online survey. Events ranged from one to four hours and included a Spanish Speaking team member.

Participation Summary

The table below includes the times, dates, locations and summary of number of participants at the various Round #2 engagement opportunities. The survey demographics section of this report summarizes responses from survey participants who chose to provide that information.

Event / Activity Type	Date & Time	Location	Number of Participants
Community Meeting (virtual)	February 13, 2024 6:00-7:15p.m.	Zoom (online)	69
Pop-Up Event	February 14, 2024 2:30-3:30p.m.	Allison Elementary School	44
Pop-Up Event	February 24, 2024 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.	George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center	180
Pop-Up Event	February 28, 2024 10-11a.m.	Southwest Key Programs	49
Pop-Up Event	March 19, 2024 5:30-7:30p.m.	Cepeda Branch Library	5
Round #2 Survey	February 13 – March 24, 2024	Online	982

Input Summary

The survey for Community Engagement Round #2 asked respondents to provide feedback on the two preliminary concept plans. Each concept plan was described in a short paragraph, accompanied by an illustrative image showing proposed uses and potential layout of these features in the park.

Concept A

This concept arranges a hub of active uses near the 183 frontage road, while situating more passive uses closer to the Colorado River. Trails meander through the park, seamlessly connecting all activities without the need for internal roadways. The primary design focus is on enhancing connectivity through the trail system, minimizing vehicular access within the park's interior.

Concept B

In this concept, there is a significant separation between active and passive uses. Like Concept 1, the expansive lawn is positioned near the Colorado River, while a sizable off-leash dog park is situated closer to neighboring areas for increased walkability. A park roadway descends into the park, offering broader vehicular access to various parts of the park. The central design principle here emphasizes a more pronounced distinction between active and passive uses, coupled with increased vehicular accessibility throughout the park.

Survey participants were asked to rate how well the concept plan achieves the community values established during Round #1, and which of the active, passive, natural/environmental and arts/cultural activities they would prioritize.

The survey then asked participants to indicate the importance of specific facilities (i.e. bike skills/terrain park, skate park) and sport courts (i.e. tennis, basketball). They were also asked to indicate how they might use a multi-use sports field and which types of social games and interpretive signage they would prefer. Lastly, they were asked to indicate if any activity or feature was missing and if they would like to provide any additional feedback.

The large number of survey participants and comments provided is reflective of the effective mobilization by several groups/organizations of their networks to express support of certain activities in the park, specifically biking, skating and tennis. Not all survey respondents answered geographic and demographic questions. However, data received indicates that a large percent of respondents live beyond the typical area served by an Austin district park (two miles). To help ensure that the project team has insight into the priorities of respondents who self-identified as living within two miles of the park, further analysis was done to look at answers from those respondents. These insights are captured in the "High-level Take-aways" table below. Full detail from all respondents is available in the survey response section of the report. All input gathered in this engagement process, along with PARD's long range planning recommendations, are utilized in the development of the Bolm Park Vision Plan.

High-Level Take-aways from Community Engagement Round #2 Input		
Topic Area	All Respondents	Respondents living within 2 miles or less
Concept Plan A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of respondents and above agreed that the plan aligns with the community values articulated for the park. The highest prioritized activities were “Trails” (52%), “Bike Park” (33%), “Sports Courts” (33%), “Skate Park” (29%) and “Riverbank Restoration” (28%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 62% of respondents and above agreed that the plan aligns with the community values articulated for the park. The highest prioritized activities were “Trails” (52%), “Riverbank Restoration” (36%), “Playground areas” (29%), “Skate Park” (27%) and “Bike Park” (26%).
Concept Plan B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57% of respondents and above agreed that the plan aligns with the community values articulated for the park. The highest prioritized activities were “Trails” (55%), “Sports Courts” (36%), “Bike Park” (35%), “Riverbank Restoration” (29%) and “Skate Park” (24%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% of respondents and above agreed that the plan aligns with the community values articulated for the park. The highest prioritized activities were “Trails” (64%), “Riverbank Restoration” (43%), “Bike Park” (30%), “Open Space for free, unprogrammed play” (29%), and “Playground areas” (28%).
Importance of Specific Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facilities that ranked highest as “Very Important” were “Bike skills/terrain park” (32%) and “Single-track mountain bike trails” (26%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facilities that ranked highest as “Very Important” were “Bike skills/terrain park” (28%) and “Skate park” (21%).
Importance of Sports Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sport court types that ranked highest as “Very Important” were “Tennis” (33%) and “Pickleball” (21%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sport court types that ranked highest as “Very Important” were “Pickleball” (16%) and “Basketball” (16%).
Multi-use Sports Field Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer that had the highest response was “I would not utilize a multi-use sports field” (45%), followed by “Soccer” (32%) and “Small community events/performances” (26%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer that had the highest response was “I would not utilize a multi-use sports field” (41%), followed by “Soccer” (33%) and “Small community events/performances” (31%).
Social Games Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer that had the highest response was “Ping pong/table tennis” (51%) followed by “Cornhole” (44%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer that had the highest response was “Ping pong/table tennis” (53%) followed by “Cornhole” (45%).
Interpretive Exhibits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer that had the highest response was “Natural History” (86%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer that had the highest response was “Natural History” (89%).

Survey Responses

The online survey received 2,850 views, had 982 participants, and 643 comments to open ended questions. The charts and tables below represent the input received from all respondents to the survey. The project website provides a link to the report of comments received to the open comment questions.

How far do you live from the site?
(947 responses)

Less than ¼ mile	Percent of Responses
Less than ¼ mile	13%
Between ¼ to ½ mile	3%
Between ½ mile to 1 mile	4%
Between 1 to 2 miles	11%
More than 2 miles	69%

What is your zip code?
(636 Responses)

Zip Code	# of Responses
78702	42
78704	40
78721	26
78723	35
78725	63
78731	21
78744	21
Additional Zip Codes	5000 , 20817, 37919, 60007, 72712, 73753, 74066, 75270, 76063, 76574, 77002, 77009, 78133, 78154, 78207, 78219, 78259, 78288, 78602, 78612, 78613, 78617, 78620, 78626, 78628, 78633, 78634, 78640, 78641, 78642, 78652, 78653, 78654, 78660, 78664, 78665, 78669, 78676, 78681, 78701, 78703, 78705, 78712, 78713, 78717, 78721, 78722, 78724, 78725, 78726, 78727, 78729, 78730, 78732, 78733, 78735, 78736, 78737, 78738, 78739, 78741, 78742, 78745, 78746, 78747, 78748, 78749, 78750, 78751, 78752, 78753, 78754, 78756, 78757, 78758, 78759, 78767, 78840, 87571

How well does Concept A achieve the community values listed below?
(718 responses)

	Aligns with value	Partial alignment	Unsure	Does not align with value
Provide a variety of active, passive, natural, and cultural experiences and activities for a multi-generational and multi-cultural community.	67%	21%	6%	6%
Preserve, enhance, and celebrate the parks existing natural features to allow park users to connect with nature.	65%	21%	7%	6%
Support accessibility to and within the park.	68%	17%	11%	4%
Develop the park as an environment that is safe respectful and inviting to all.	73%	17%	7%	4%

Out of the list below, which 4 or 5 should be prioritized in Concept A?
(697 responses)

Type of Activities	Percent of Responses
Trails	52%
Bike park	33%
Sports courts (tennis, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	33%
Skate park	29%
Riverbank restoration	28%
Personal water sports access (canoe, kayak, etc.)	23%
Nature/adventure play	21%
Open space for free, unprogrammed play	20%
Playground areas	20%
Wildflower meadows	19%
Dogs off-leash area	13%
Splash pad	12%
Birding/nature viewing	11%
Sports fields (soccer, football, baseball, etc.)	11%
Public art	10%
Pavilions/picnicking	8%
Community garden	7%
Food and beverage	7%
Event space	6%

Type of Activities	Percent of Responses
Rain collection	5%
Social games (horseshoes, cornhole, washers, etc.)	5%
Fishing	5%
Community meeting space (indoor)	3%
Outdoor classroom	2%
Historic exhibits	2%
Demonstration garden	1%
Structured/educational programming	1%
Other	5%
Other responses included: Larger portion of park dedicated to bike park/bike trails; Bike trails incorporated throughout park; A range of bike park amenities and trail types; Velodrome; Skate park; Roller-skating ribbon; Roller derby track; Tennis courts; Pickleball Courts; Fully accessible/all abilities park; Family-friendly spaces; Spaces for kids and adults to hike/walk in natural environment; Shade, restrooms, water fountains; Focus on river, nature, wetland and wildlife; Green corridor next to the river maintained for local wildlife; Open space; Overnight camping; Roller or ball hockey; Parking serve as barrier between park and roads; Trees to protect privacy of neighboring homes; Don't put pavilion/music venue near neighboring homes; Importance of access from transit and sidewalks; Important to focus on needs of local residents; Do a few things great rather than a bunch of things halfway.	

How well does Concept B achieve the community values listed below?
(421 responses)

	Aligns with value	Partial alignment	Unsure	Does not align with value
Provide a variety of active, passive, natural, and cultural experiences and activities for a multi-generational and multi-cultural community.	62%	27%	7%	5%
Preserve, enhance, and celebrate the parks existing natural features to allow park users to connect with nature.	57%	27%	9%	7%
Support accessibility to and within the park.	59%	24%	12%	4%
Develop the park as an environment that is safe respectful and inviting to all.	62%	21%	11%	6%

Out of the list below, which 4 or 5 should be prioritized in Concept B?
(414 responses)

Type of Activities	Percent of Responses
Trails	55%
Sports courts (tennis, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	36%
Bike park	35%
Riverbank restoration	29%
Skate park	24%
Personal water sports access (canoe, kayak, etc.)	22%
Nature/adventure play	22%
Open space for free, unprogrammed play	21%
Playground areas	21%
Wildflower meadows	17%
Birding/nature viewing	13%
Sports fields (soccer, football, baseball, etc.)	13%
Dogs off-leash area	12%
Splash pad	10%
Pavilions/picnicking	9%
Public art	8%
Rain collection	7%
Food and beverage	7%
Community garden	6%
Social games (horseshoes, cornhole, washers, etc.)	6%
Fishing	6%
Event space	4%
Outdoor classroom	2%
Historic exhibits	2%
Community meeting space (indoor)	2%
Structured/educational programming	1%
Demonstration garden	0%
Other	4%
Other responses included: Bike park as primary focus; More bike park/bike trails/bike park amenities suitable for all skill levels; Bike trails incorporated throughout park; Skate park; Separate bike park amenities for young children; Fully accessible/all abilities park; Parking near kayak launch ramp; Natural areas and open space; Camping; Outdoor learning environments and fitness; On-leash pet area safe for children; Roller-skating ribbon; Roller derby track (shaded/covered); Enough parking; Concern over water recreation safety; Preference for road in middle; Concern over road in middle; Off-leash dog area; Trees to reduce noise and air	

Type of Activities	Percent of Responses
pollution from Hwy. 183; Spaces for kids, sports and passive recreation; Trees, native grasses and plants; Tennis courts; Pickleball Courts; Great lawn for outdoor movies; Birding and fishing; Canoe/Kayak access.	

How important is it for the following facilities to be included in Bolm District Park?
(414 Responses)

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
Single-track mountain bike trails	26%	27%	15%	8%	23%
Bike skills/terrain park	32%	20%	16%	7%	24%
Pump track	24%	19%	18%	10%	28%
Skate park	23%	16%	19%	11%	31%

How important is it for the following sports courts to be included in Bolm District Park?
(432 Responses)

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all
Tennis	33%	13%	15%	11%	28%
Pickleball	21%	24%	15%	9%	31%
Basketball	13%	31%	24%	8%	24%
Volleyball	6%	18%	31%	15%	30%
Sand Volleyball	10%	27%	26%	12%	25%
Futsal / Minipitch soccer	12%	21%	26%	11%	30%
Roller Derby/Skating	13%	13%	24%	14%	36%

If there were a multi-use sports field at Bolm District Park, how would you use it? Select all that apply.
(384 Responses)

Type of Activities	Percent of Responses
I would not utilize a multi-use sports field	45%
Soccer	32%
Small community events/performances	26%
Football	10%

Type of Activities	Percent of Responses
Baseball/softball	10%
Other	9%
Other responses included: Frisbee; Skateboarding; Mountain bike skills clinic; Disc golf; Workout space; Basketball; Adult agility playscape; Bike park; Dog park; Fitness equipment; Roller derby; Grass volleyball; Rugby; Tennis; Space to run/play; Sprinting; Pickleball.	

If there were a social games at Bolm District Park, which would you use? Select all that apply.
(284 Responses)

Type of Activities	Percent of Responses
Ping pong / table tennis	51%
Cornhole	44%
Bocce	35%
Horseshoes	30%
Washers	19%
Other	12%
Other responses included: Stake, skateboarding; Bike park; Velodrome; Shuffleboard; Chess; BioBlitz gatherings; Giant chess board; tic tac toe; Dominos; Checkers; Tennis.	

If there were interpretive exhibits or signs that told stories about Bolm District Park, what stories would you like to see told? Select all that apply.
(318 Responses)

Type of Exhibits	Percent of Responses
Natural history	86%
Early inhabitants	61%
Industrial use	24%
Other	3%
Other responses included: Flora and fauna	

Is there an activity or feature missing in the concept plans that should be included?

(36 Responses)

Responses included the following topics:

- Central focus on bike amenities
- Skate trails
- Separate amenities that make up a bike park (pump zone, jump zone, skills zone)
- Fully accessible playground
- More connectivity from the north
- Velodrome
- Picnic area/Picnic near river
- Roller skating / inline skating / wheelchair skate ribbon
- No roads through the middle of the park.
- Place parking on the perimeter of the park to avoid loss of limited green space.
- Change shape of maintenance building from a square to a rectangle and place it along the western perimeter of the park so it can serve as a sound buffer
- Focus on nature and a place where one can go and meditate without watching out for off leash dogs or bikers
- Yoga/meditation gardens
- Focus on the natural aspects of a river ecosystem and the riparian riverfront
- Hiking trail along river
- Adult exercise equipment/agility area
- "Early inhabitants" selected only if it is informed by indigenous people. Not interested in settler history
- Water fountains
- Tennis and pickleball courts
- Pollinator gardens and contemplative green space

Do you have any additional feedback about these concept plans

(68 Responses)

Responses included the following topics:

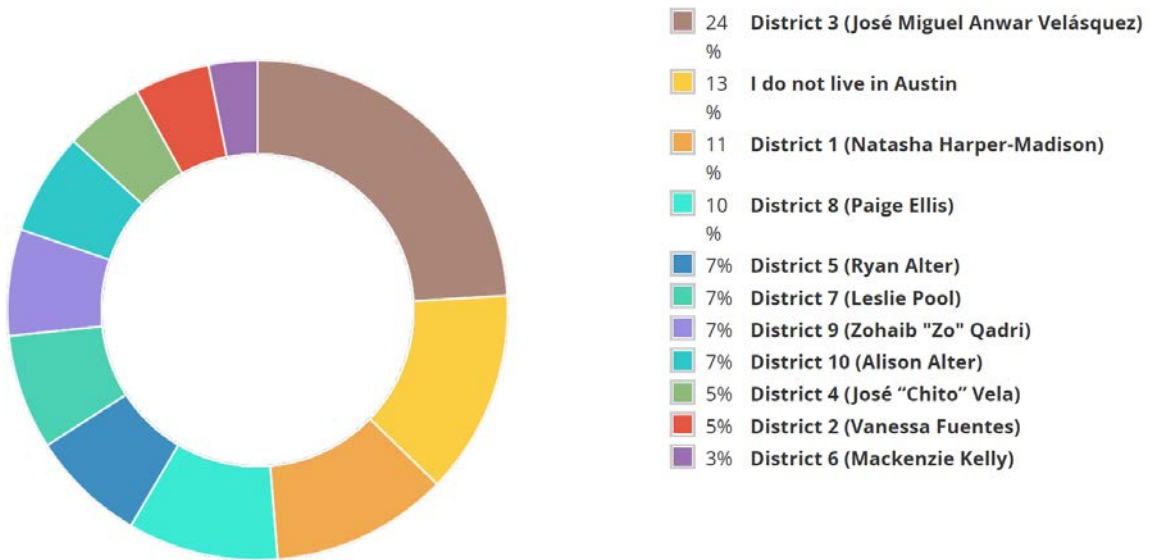
- Bike park
- Mountain biking
- Too much parking
- Integrated linear skate paths
- Prioritize bicycle trails, nature, wildflower meadows, community gardens, and accessible open space
- Skateboarders
- Skatepark
- Skate ribbon and rink/roller derby track
- Trail connectivity (i.e. South Walnut Creek, Montopolis Bridge)
- Focus on just a couple of things, not providing everything
- Make park fully accessible
- Velodrome
- No stage or amplified music

- Focus on east side families and children
- Exercise equipment and open fields for play
- No road through middle of park
- Parking in perimeter
- Build the pavilion / event stage away from the houses in Knollwood
- Focus this park around trails and the waterfront/outdoor activities that connect people with nature
- Have more open, natural space with trails than a zillion activities that people rarely use
- Present concepts of how the maintenance facility will be screened from the highway and from the neighbors. That is the more immediate project and the project that will have the biggest impact on the neighborhood until this conceptual park is funded.
- Kayak entry doesn't make much sense unless you can drive up to it
- Don't dedicate too much space to car parking / do have bike facilities and ensure that trees are preserved so there are shaded areas
- Add a third soccer field at minimum
- More tennis and pickleball courts
- Check out the Gathering Place in Tulsa, OK for inspiration
- Don't skimp on parking
- Bike storage along river
- If there are many small children in neighborhood, do a splash pad, otherwise, do not do it.
- Focus on the natural aspects of a river ecosystem and the riparian riverfront.
- Preserve some natural environments

Survey Demographics

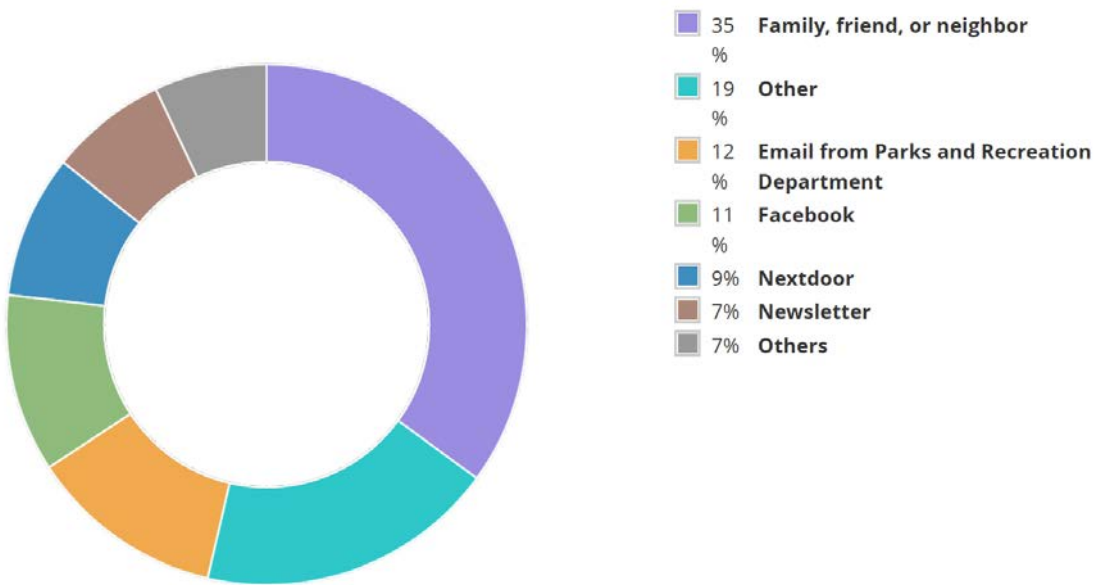
The Austin Parks and Recreation Department asks for the following information in order to help identify whether we are connecting to our diverse community effectively.

What City Council District do you live in?



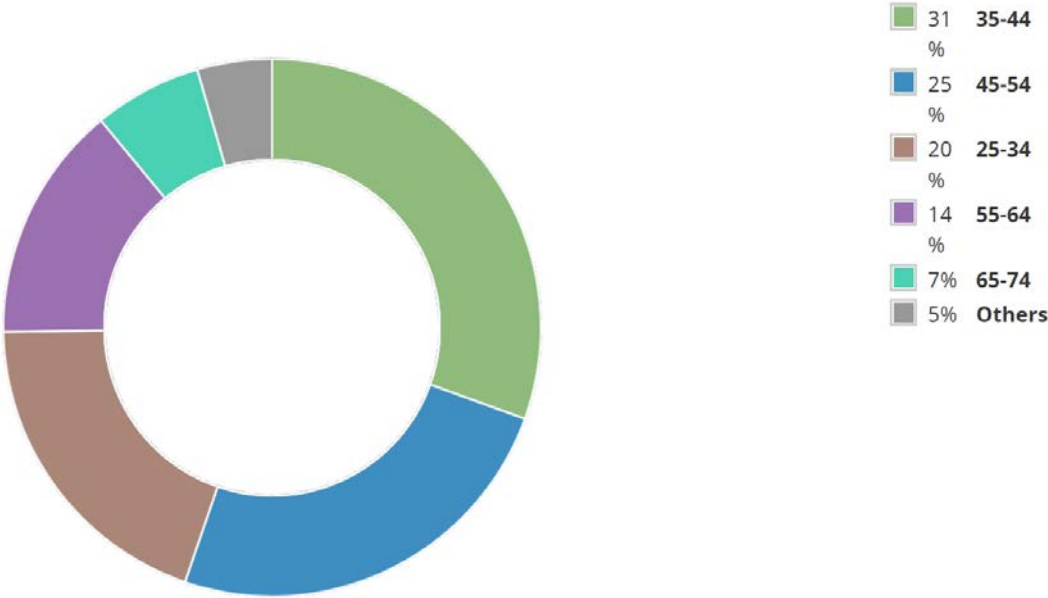
349 respondents

How did you hear about the project?



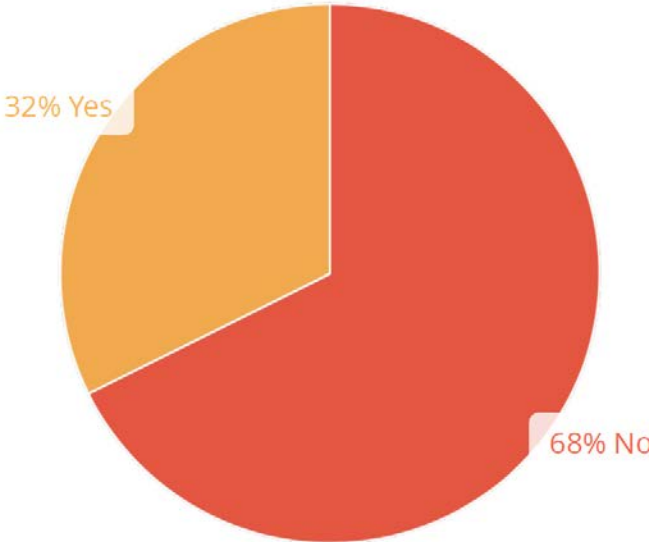
371 respondents

What is your age range?



400 respondents

Do you have children under the age of 18 who live with you?



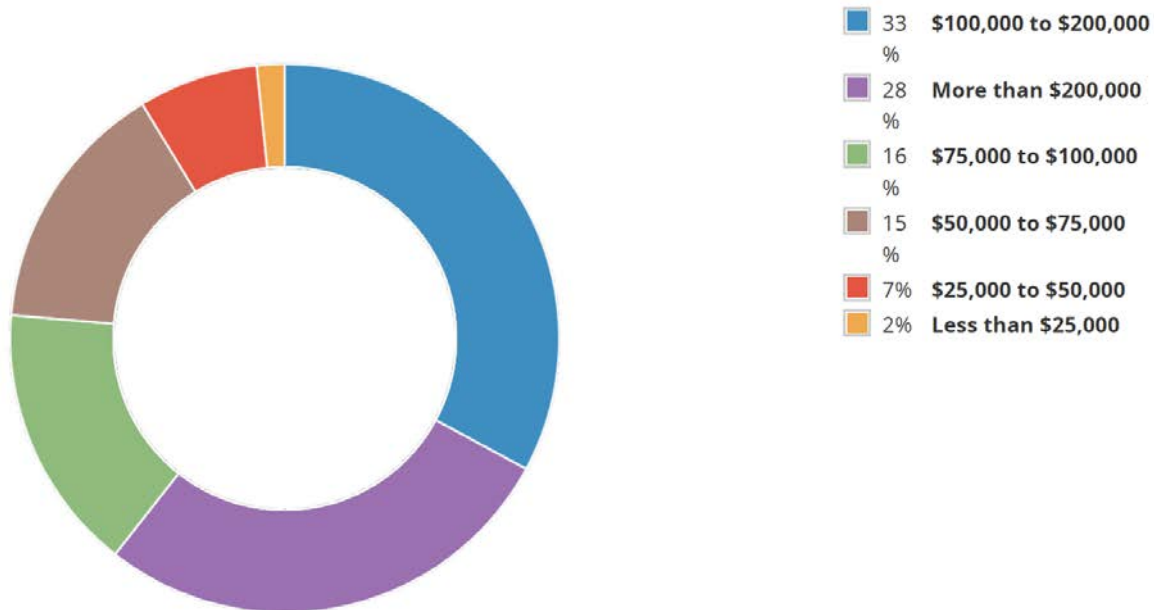
399 respondents

What is your race/ethnicity?

71%	White	234 ✓
16%	Hispanic or Latinx	52 ✓
9%	Asian or Asian American	28 ✓
6%	Black or African-American	19 ✓
3%	Race or ethnicity not listed. I identify as:	10 ✓
1%	American Indian or Alaska Native	4 ✓
0%	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1 ✓

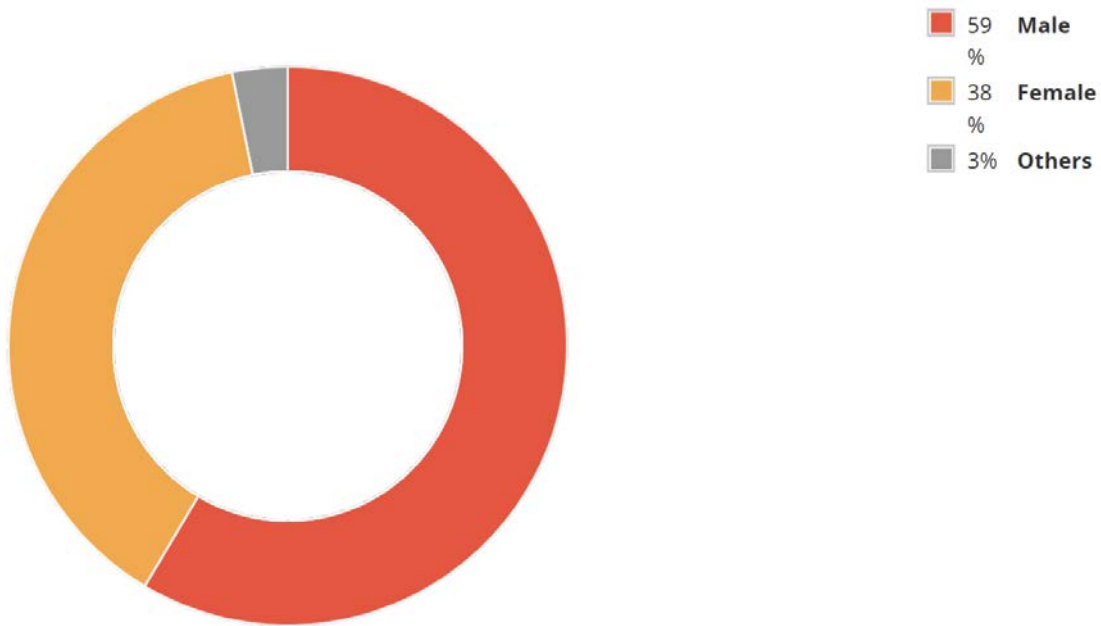
328 Respondents

What is your annual household income?



368 respondents

What is your gender?



374 respondents

What language is spoken at home?

96%	English	372 ✓
8%	Spanish	32 ✓
3%	Other	10 ✓
2%	Prefer not to say	7 ✓
1%	Chinese (Mandarin)	4 ✓
1%	Chinese (Cantonese)	2 ✓
0%	French	1 ✓
0%	Arabic	0 ✓
0%	Korean	0 ✓
0%	Vietnamese	0 ✓

389 Respondents