Sennott Park Community Survey: Results and Analysis

Cambridge CDD / January 4, 2021
Outreach
Signs, Flyers, and Social Media
Response

376 responses
To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Based on your experience, what currently works well in the park?

• Park users enjoy the basic amenity of open space in a dense neighborhood. The park -and the field specifically- are appreciated for the variety of simultaneous uses the design and size allows. During COVID-19, people use the space more than they typically would for picnics, meetups with friends and family, relaxing alone, or exercising.

• Some people note enjoying the improved path, seating, and plantings along Broadway.

• Several park users expressed valuing the large oak tree between the Broadway path and field.
Based on your experience, what currently works well in the park?
(Continued)

• 20% of respondents mention the variety of uses and activities
• 27% mention the sheer size of the park, and the uncommon open field
• The two most mentioned features are the field (32%) and the playground (20%)

Quotes
• "It's a big open space that can provide lots of activities for different people"
• "I think the current mix of spaces, including the basketball courts, water play area and playground (even though I personally don't use them much) provide age appropriate spaces. Seeing the many generations use the area at once is delightful."
• "There are lots of different spaces for different uses by people of different ages. "
Is there anything that you think should be introduced or improved in the park?

• Most of the comments talk about standard maintenance, not significant design changes.
  o The condition of the field is by far the most commented-on element, though many are aware of the City’s attempts to improve it over the years and realize the popularity of the space make it challenging to maintain.
• There are several recommended improvements to the playground, including adding more swings, adding natural play features, softening the protective surfaces, adding more seating, and generally updating equipment that users feel is outdated.
• The water feature was mentioned several times, and the most common recommendation was increased shade in that area.
• People really enjoy the improvements to the Broadway edge, and would like to see similar improvements to the Harvard St and Norfolk St edges.
• There is a clothing donation bin along the Harvard St path entrance that is regularly overflowing. A notable portion of respondents highlighted the maintenance of this box as one of their primary concerns.
Is there anything that you think should be introduced or improved in the park?
(Continued)

• The two most mentioned features that respondents thought should be improved are the field (21%) and the playground (14%).
• 21% of respondents would like to see improved/increased seating
• 15% would like to have improved/increased shade

Quotes
• "Maybe have a porta potty there all the time especially during coronavirus when people have to hang out outside. Sometimes the grass is a little sparse in areas but I'm not sure how to rectify that because people use it so much."
• "There are frequently holes and ditches in the middle of the field that make it a bit dangerous for playing sports on."
• "Maybe more seating around the edges?"
• "More seating. Maintain and increase shade trees where possible. Maybe a section of the field that could be used for outdoor exercise classes."