

June - July | 2013

## Summit Avenue “Tot Lot” Survey Results

City of Providence Parks Department &  
Summit Neighborhood Association

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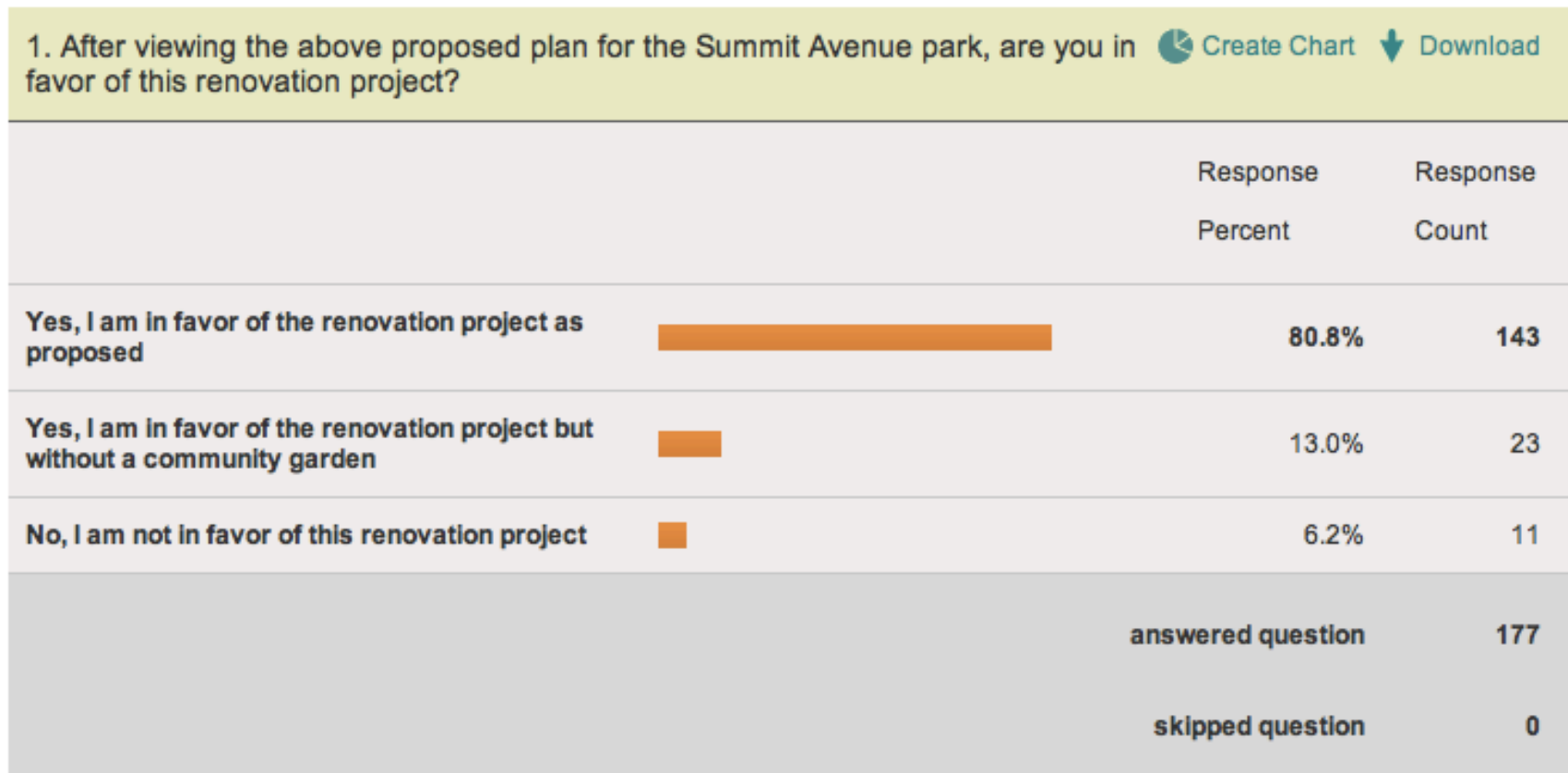
## Summary

The community survey sponsored by the City of Providence Parks Department and the Summit Neighborhood Association regarding the renovation of the “Tot Lot” park at the corner of Summit and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues ran for four weeks, from June 13<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup> 2013.

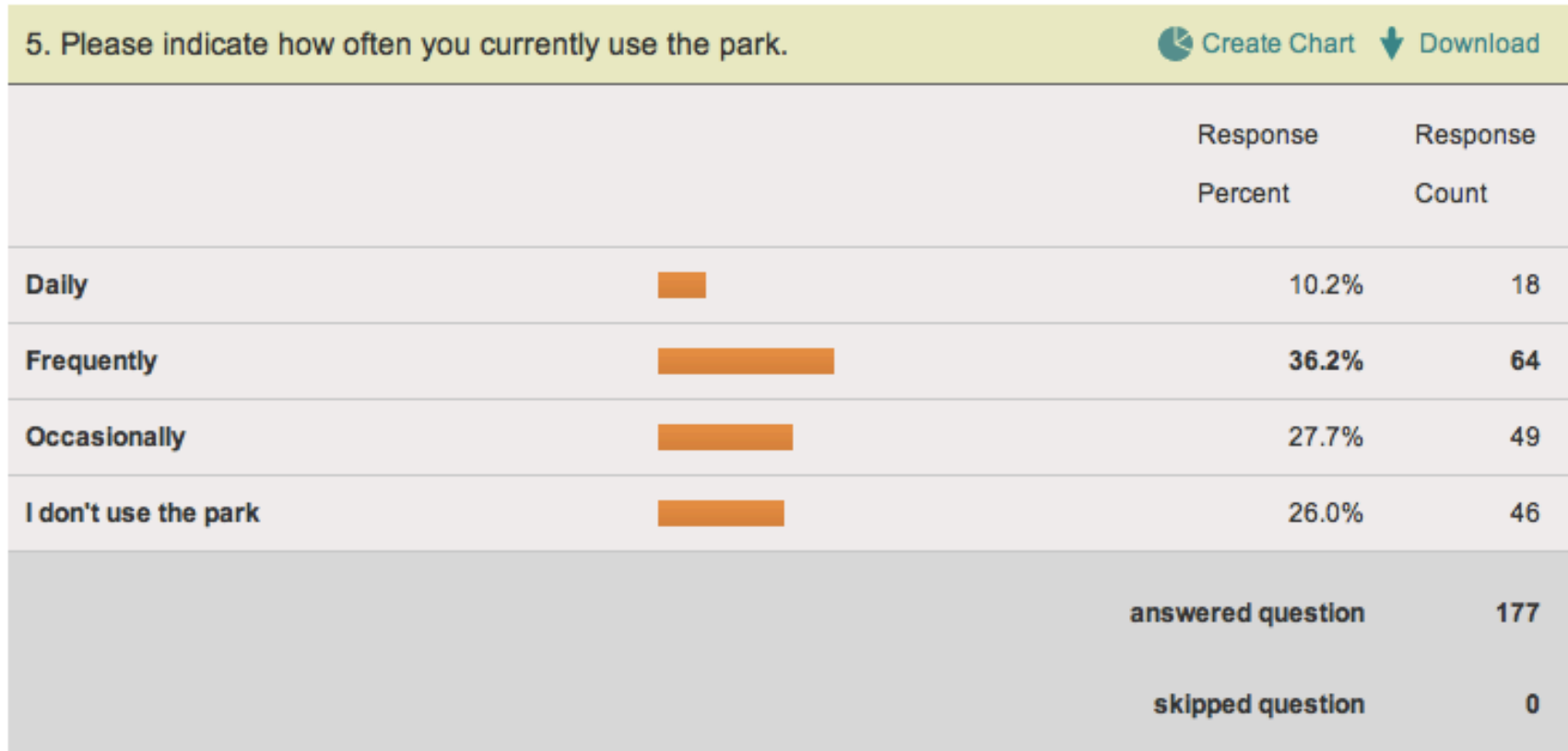
The survey was completed by 177 respondents and results show that a large majority (nearly 81%) of community members are in favor of the park renovation that includes a community garden. In fact, 71 people (43% of all respondents) indicated interest in a garden plot, which is already many more requests than are currently allocated in the renovation.

Of respondents, 74% indicate that they use the park at least occasionally with the highest response being “frequent” users. However, many respondents who don’t currently use the park indicated they would use the park more often after the renovation. In fact, 41.2% of all respondents said they would use the park “much more often,” while only 11.9% of respondents indicated they would use the park less often or not at all after the renovation.

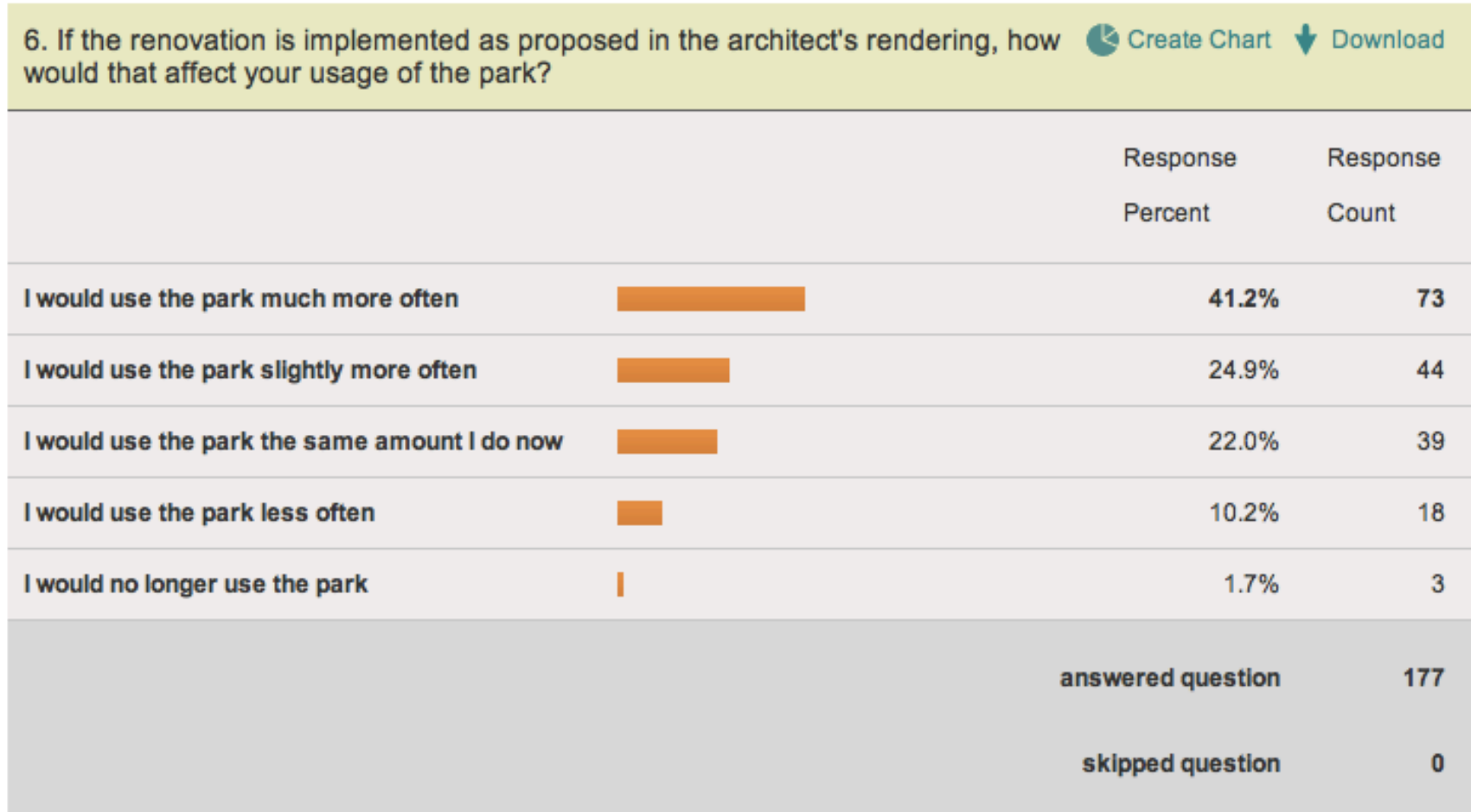
## In Favor/Opposed Response Chart



## Current Park Usage Response Chart



## Park Usage Change Response Chart



## General Comments from Respondents in Favor of Proposed Plan

1. I "used to" use the park when our kids were little. I would certainly be interested in the park again if there were community gardens! Beautiful!!!
2. The shade makes a big different for frequency of summer usage!
3. My wife and I are expecting our first child. The renovated park will be great.
4. The accumulated discarded plastic toys in the park are an eyesore and make the park look like a children's junkyard. I'd like to see that removed.
5. I applaud your efforts!
6. Great idea! This allows for a community garden and still keeps an enormous area for children to run in the field. It's a great balance!
7. For Question 6, I marked "slightly more often," but if I had a garden plot, this would probably be "much more often."
8. I think the community garden is a wonderful idea, as is the renovation of this park. I live about a block from the park and walk by it daily (I have a dog) and I am disgusted with the amount of dirty, nasty, plastic toys littering the park. The park has been overtaken by parents and families of young children, but this is a park for all of us! I'd love to see the addition of a dog friendly park (or dog park!) in Summit (it would have been awesome if this was added to this plan, but I understand it's a small space and we need to consider the safety of children) but maybe that can be the next project. Great work SNA!
9. This is a great idea, and I think that a well-kept community garden would be a lovely addition to a refurbished play area!
10. I would be very interested in the community garden. The nearest garden is Sessions St which has a waiting list of at least 30. I'm sure many people in the neighborhood would benefit from a community garden as most yards are quite small. Also, I think with a renovated park it may be time to get rid of all the plastic toys that people leave and not allow people to leave their discards in the future. It gives the park the look of an untidy and uncared for back yard. Just a thought...
11. It looks beautiful. Though I am not a gardener myself, I truly hope that we can make it possible for more people live in the city to grow more of their own food.
12. Great idea! Very excited about opening up the use of that great space!
13. I have been a member of the Mt hope community garden sence its birth some 15 -20 years ago. it would add alot of benefit our community here.
14. My husband and I do not have children, so all this time we did not think we could use the Summit park, since it seemed geared only for families with children--a wonderful thing, but not directly useful for us. The

- inclusion of other utilities (like gardening plots!) is lovely and would help us integrate in the neighborhood we've now lived in for a year, but have yet to become part of.
15. When my kids were younger we would often visit the park and it was lovely. Sadly it has lost much of its visual appeal since they cut down the large shade tree and with the accumulation of toy cast-offs. A new park must have shade and a policy to prevent people from dumping their unwanted toys.
  16. I am a Mount Hope resident.. I would fully support the creation of a community garden in the Camp Street vicinity. The current community garden on Jenkins St. full to capacity.
  17. The community garden is a great idea!
  18. I garden in a community garden, (this is my 14th season) so it is wonderful to see 40 new plots being added to the neighborhood.
  19. Our children are grown so we don't use the park, (but likely would for the community garden aspect) but I am HUGELY supportive of green and sustainable initiatives that can better the greater and local environment, and especially educate families and children of the importance of such.
  20. I am a backyard beekeeper living on Summit. Bees old be a good addition to this plan. I know someone who has been gathering city support for beehives in public gardens if you need help. Also I would suggest you allow lots for flower picking gardens... Man is not fed by food alone, flowers you are encouraged to pick for your home are wonderful uses of space. I would participate in such a project.
  21. I would use the park more if I had a garden plot. And if I do not have a garden plot - the park improvements would look better in the neighborhood.
  22. Please keep in mind children's safety and an area where they would feel free to roam around without restrictions - thank you for your consideration.
  23. I appreciate this survey immensely. A neighbor who is clearly opposed to the redevelopment and inclusion of the community gardens put up his own survey online, but it was clearly slanted in a certain direction according to the outcomes he desired to obtain. I hope that the results of that survey are discarded. I also hope that directions of how to access this survey are posted directly at the tot lot, with the weblink. This will be the only way to access a true slice of the people who use the Tot Lot each day.
  24. Could soccer goals be added in the field area? This would be great for kids!
  25. I don't have kids, so I just enjoy seeing them playing when I walk past.
  26. Please consider my idea regarding a section of it for dogs. The new gate will ensure no mingling between dogs and children. This space is not being to used to benefit everyone and it's not really fair, considering families already have one playground available to them.
  27. This is wonderful! I like the idea of a mixed use space. I was initially worried that the garden plots would take up too much space, but the location and overall size requirements don't seem to diminish the rest of the space. It's a great design. Also, I'm pumped they're removing the sand - it's basically a giant litter box for cats. The rest of the suggested changes sound pragmatic as well.



28. I might use the park more often, because it would be nicer looking, shadier, more attractive. The times I use it now are when our granddaughter comes to visit (every year or two, from France). Sometimes my husband and I go for walks near the park, and if it's more attractive and shadier we might stop there to rest. I enjoy watching children play! I think the idea of the trike beltway is brilliant! We'll have to see how well it goes over with the kids, though.
29. I came to the park quite often when my kids were toddlers and we did appreciate the large green space. I love the idea of a trike path - hopefully it will be sizable enough for slightly older kids as well?
30. Good idea to incorporate a community garden, assuming people will use it.
31. In theory I think the community garden is a great idea but in practice I worry it won't work too well-- we'll see. I am optimistic but I hope the committee gives some thought to how to resolve disagreement if the gardeners and wee people / parents don't always agree about usage and "best practices."
32. The more community gardens we can add in this city, the better for families and for kids. And how wonderful for small children to see gardens coming alive.
33. Remember some garbage cans too please. Looks great!
34. I don't have kids so none of the kid stuff interests me. But I would consider a garden plot if the children were kept under control and an appropriate barrier/fence was between the play areas and the gardens.
35. I love that the renovations include creating a more toddler-friendly play structure and removing all of the sand from under the swings and play structures. This is a fabulous idea! I would love to own a plot in the community garden and think it would be great to have kids see first-hand how to grow their own fruits and vegetables.
36. This is fabulous!
37. Please put more picnic spots in the park. We have so few places to picnic on the East Side.
38. Exposing kids to growing green space is GREAT. We have a small small garden in our small small yard but our toddler LOVES it. Just go do me a favor - clean out all the crap toys! What's with providence playgrounds being a dumping ground for crap your kid doesn't like anymore/broken junk? PLEASE RENOVATE MORRIS TOT LOT NEXT! Those big cement benches in the back are wretched.
39. I think it would be nice to have the tot lot handicap accessible and have at least one disability swing put in. It's important to try to include everyone.
40. please remove every norway maple and other invasive that is currently growing in the park as part of the project. this is an opportunity to do so. norways are an environmental scourge in the area and we shouldn't be intimidated by people who aren't educated about invasives.
41. Looks beautiful, especially love the trike path!
42. Thank you to all of the people who have put much effort into this project. It's great to have an active neighborhood community. If we could just get a handle on crime, our quality of life would be that much better.

43. My kids are now grown, but I spent many long hours in this park as a young parent, and I have fond memories of it. It is as vital a part of our neighborhood today as it was when I used it, and it deserves the city's attention. Though I am agnostic about the garden plots, I think the plan as a whole is nicely done and will be appreciated by folks with younger children. I especially like the arched signs at the entrances. I hope that the shade sails are durable and will not become an eyesore when the project is done and more years pass. We do tend to renovate better than we maintain.
44. Gardens are a great community builder--I love the idea!
45. I am very interested in joining this community garden and would be willing to help with its creation as needed.
46. I have a small child, and frequently visit the park, both to meet friends and just to play. I do not want a garden plot for myself, but I think more garden plots in the city/neighborhood would be a good thing, and I would welcome the opening up of the park to adults without kids! It shouldn't just be a kids/families only zone. We need more community gathering places that welcome and invite all our community members!
47. Session's St garden has >5 yr wt list; we need to find a better way to distribute plots than they have! The more people who have an opportunity to plant, the more buy in the neighborhood will have.
48. This is a great idea and I can't wait for it to happen.
49. The community gardens would enhance the public use of public land and not detract from recreational use.
50. Please see above my comments about what I think should be changed.
51. I am excited to have shade, I don't go there when its hot because there is no shade.
52. At my advanced age, I visit the park when I have small children visiting. I am aware of the other opinions about the changes, and I think this proposal is marvelously correct.
53. I'm a little concerned about "shade sails" - How much wind will they withstand? Who will repair them if they get damaged by a windstorm? How will gardeners be chosen for the plots? I think they should be limited to SNA contributing members. Is there a contract one must sign to get a plot? Posted rules?
54. How would the water get distributed to individual garden plots? Would the farthest plots simply have to utilize buckets from the hydrant? The closer the water source to the individual plots, the easier to upkeep and, therefore the more likely that they will continue to be kept up in a visually pleasing manner.
55. I think anything that gets people gardening is good. So many people don't have space where they live. Kids and gardeners can share the space. It's good for the kids to see people growing food, too. Love the trike route.
56. Community garden all the way! I live in the summit neighborhood, do not have a backyard and have to use containers to garden in my driveway.
57. we used it a lot when children were young.
58. Will anything be done to insure water and rotting vegetables or not properly tended plots don't draw vermin and create problems for adjacent neighbors?

59. The current situation with abandoned toys is out of control, but I do like having some trikes and sand toys available for my child. Could extras be sold (or given in exchange for a voluntary contribution) to make money for further improvements?
60. Looks Great! I have a small garden, so that's why I wouldn't use it, but i would if I needed too! Can we put a limit on the amount of plastic play pieces brought into the park?
61. Very exciting to see some progress on this!
62. That is, I would use it much more often if I happened to be lucky enough to get a garden plot! I think it's a great design that makes much better use of the space available. The shade trees and picnic area will be terrific. How will trash be handled to keep things clean and safe? If there will be barrels, please include one for recycling of bottles and cans.
63. I don't presently have children, so I am very much in favor of adding a community garden so that I can take advantage of this park as well. My understanding is that the neighborhood must also raise some money in order to complete the project. I am a professional fundraiser for the Wheeler School (currently the Director of Annual Giving) and would be happy to volunteer some time to helping out with fundraising efforts if needed.
64. It looks so great! Don't be deterred by the negativity of some of the Summit community. They seem to criticize everything--at least on the listserve. :) Community gardens are a great addition to parks!
65. I think that community gardens are quite desirable. They, like keeping chickens in back yards, will help keep property values in a manageable range for people like us, and thus keep the neighborhood from becoming more gentrified and upper-class. Also, the ability to grow one's own food will become more and more important as the economy continues to collapse.
66. If I had a garden plot I would love to use the park more often; my kids have aged out of the park, but still enjoy it
67. I don't use the park now since I don't have children, and it appears there's no other reason to go there at the moment. If it's made into a more multi-purpose space, I'll definitely use it more! Also, more seating with backs, perhaps around the perimeter of the grassy areas, please. It would be nice to have a place to come read a book. In some ways, I think about parks as public living rooms, as well, where all can come to enjoy some leisure and fresh air. With seating only near the active play areas, it isn't welcoming to child-free neighbors. (Same goes for Lippitt Park - there's seating for parents watching children, and there's backless seating around the Fountain, but not many comfortable spaces otherwise.)
68. Right now, I don't use the park because I don't have small children, and I feel unwelcome. It is also an unsightly mess with all the beat-up toys everywhere. Making this a park for ALL residents of the neighborhood, not just for ones with small children, would be a fairer use of taxpayer dollars. Also, I am a gardener and would enjoy having space to plant things.

## Suggested Changes From Respondents in Favor of Proposed Plan

1. Community bulletin board for posting information about local events. Does the plan make it more feasible to have movie screenings or concerts in the park like they do at other east side parks?
2. This is more of a question - will the garden plots against the fence or under trees be overly shaded?
3. Be sure there is a clear marker (fencing) between the children's area and gardening. Might also want to make clear rules about children in the gardening area being supervised by an adult. Personally I would have appreciated more space between the gardens and the children's play area.
4. fencing around the tot lot--traffic is too fast and dangerous on Hope and Blackstone!
5. Somewhat selfishly, I would want more community plots! I am not in favor of replacing the sand under the play structure with fibre mulch. Adding one or two free-standing, permanent park grills to the lawn area, or perhaps a picnic table or two, would be really nice.
6. Is there a way to shade the swings? It looks like it will still be in a sunny area. I think having the garden plots will encourage more civic engagement among neighbors. I live just off of Pidge, so am wondering if I would be able to get a plot since I am not technically in the neighborhood. I come here 2-3 times a week or more with my toddler.
7. A bike rack to lock your bike to when gardening. The picket fence height is high. Does the garden face south?
8. Rain water collection barrels for watering; possibly to include water captured from the shade sails over the play areas. Have either gravity fed hoses and/or watering cans available.
9. Looks great.
10. The only thing that jumps out at me would be to provide additional access points for water for the community garden if at all possible. Just one in the middle of a 130' stretch of plots seems like it would be inadequate and require a lot of hoses.
11. With 40 plots, you might consider a few raised beds for the elderly or people with special needs. This will make your garden that much more inclusive and reflective of your neighborhood and its needs. Also, when considering some of the beautification aspects of the park, consider enlisting the help of local scouts who are looking for Eagle Scout projects. This would, once again, incorporate another aspect of your community and bring a local feeling of ownership to the project and the neighborhood. Examples of projects might be benches, pergolas, a wash basin for harvested veggies, bird houses, an information board, picnic tables, etc. Younger scout troops or youth groups might even decide to adopt the park for their community service clean ups. Too many children are missing out on the experience of gardening. What a great example and opportunity you will be providing by incorporating a community garden into your park renovation project.

12. I'm unsure of how the spaces will be kept safe from the curiosity of the kids. It would be great to have the kids participate in some way - workshops, etc. But also to keep the plots safe for growing.
13. I would remove the four closest to the field - it looks like it is encroaching on the play area. It might be better to have the fence to the right more.
14. The green space in the back should be fenced off and made into a dog park. Why do parents have two playgrounds to choose from (Tot Lot and Lippitt Park's) and dog owners have nowhere safe to go? Also, enforcement needs to be in place to rid the park of all the broken and discarded toys. It's disgusting and makes the whole area look like a junkyard.
15. I wonder if a picket fence and a sign to mark the entrance are necessary. Is there some other way to create a protection for the garden without literally fencing it off. And as there are multiple entries into this area of the park do we really need an entrance arch with sign?
16. I just want to make sure there seems to be a demand for these garden plots, as Brown Street Park and MLK School both now have plots as well.
17. How about a compost pile? Park also need recycling container(s).
18. Please consider changing the location of the gate - it is very difficult to open and close it with a stroller or child coming down or going up the hill right in front of the gate. Flatten the earth there or change the location, please. A Lost and Found box would be useful. How about a community bulletin board?
19. Only a question: Is it in the best spot for sun?
20. Compost area
21. Not sure this is accurate, but I remember lots of Norway maples bordering the community garden site. Hoping there is adequate sun and also some sort of plan to deal with root toxins and overgrowth in these awful trees. (and I am not one to call trees awful!)
22. Fewer garden plots
23. I think this looks great, and I love the shade sail idea!
24. Fewer, larger plots: 30 at most.
25. looks good
26. I suggest you include a narrow walk space at both ends of the garden plots, 1 between the picket fence and the southerly row of plots, and 1 walk space (18-24") on the N side of the northerly row of plots. PLEASE ensure that all mulch, both organic and fiber mulch, are non scented, have no smell, and that any organic mulch be undyed. Many of us have allergies to scents and dyes. Thank you for taking this into consideration. Try to be sure it is included as part of the contract with whomever supplies these materials.
27. will there be baby swings in either the new 6 swing swingset or the toddler friendly area?
28. None. It's awesome.
29. Very nice design. I do think there should be a couple of benches facing the big playing field. Often kids play over there, and it's nice for parents to have a place to sit. Also, I'm not in favor of replacing the sand under

- the current structure with mulch. Kids love sand and play in it contentedly for hours. Please don't reduce the sand to a tiny little box like at Humboldt.
30. The existing play structure is a bit worn out and needs repairs: the big slide looks like it is coming off, and there is metal that is sharp where it is becoming detached
  31. I would like most, if not all, of the plastic toy graveyard to find a new home in the recycling bin!
  32. Bocce court
  33. more benches
  34. I Don't see "trike Path" in drawing.
  35. The community garden plots are much too close to the playground equipment. The current plan is a recipe for constant conflict between play equipment users and gardeners. Why not move the playground equipment to the lawn area?
  36. I would like to see a place for Bicycles. Many people and kids ride their bikes to the park and there is no place to park them. I want to encourage the use of Bicycles in Providence.
  37. Will the community garden have a fence around it that separates it from the rest of the park? I think that is important.
  38. I have a plot elsewhere or would be interested. I manage the sessions at community garden and we have 45+ on the wait list who might want this instead. I think your plots are too small. I'd suggest fewer and larger plots. I'd be happy to talk further. [kate@greencircledesign.net](mailto:kate@greencircledesign.net)
  39. love the trike route - could make it go around perimeter of entire park? add sign for old/broken toys? maybe a bin that could be emptied?
  40. More benches, water fountain, trash & recycling receptacles, community compost bin, community bulletin boards.
  41. Please include signage for no dogs and if applicable no smoking, locate trash cans away from fence so they do not get filled with dog poop as dog walkers passby, taller fence
  42. I currently have just about that much space for veggies on my own plot. But I enjoy looking at what others do with theirs.
  43. I don't care either way as long as there are enough places in the park for my son to play

## General Comments from Respondents Not in Favor of a Community Garden

1. I work at the farmer's market, and get my produce there.
2. Consider a garden at Lippitt.
3. I'm not in favor, but if the garden is installed I believe it should (1) be smaller, (2) give families with children priority in the lottery for spaces, and (3) have 20 plots of berry bushes for the park users to share (blackberry, raspberries, etc). Since this is being sold as something that will benefit children, the garden and it's rules should reflect that. I've talked to 9th street park users, who live near session street, and say they don't use the session street park because it's too small and their children don't benefit from the garden at all.
4. Please, please no garden. We live in a very residential area (i.e. this is not NYC or Boston) with many opportunities for personal gardens. Safe play space, however, is hard to come by. PLEASE preserve the tot lot as a kid-centric space that is not mixed-use and pitting kids v. gardeners.
5. Please don't treat the 9th street tot-lot like it's an underutilized space that is open for re-purposing. If the park had extra space to spare and/or was not busy, this could make sense. However, since it is heavily utilized and it doesn't make sense to even open the discussion for making it smaller. Many people who use this park choose this neighborhood because of the parks. People who love gardening didn't choose this neighborhood because that was their top priority. It isn't fair to allow people who want the garden to be able to use a fundraising effort to take away some of this very important space for their hobby. Finally, I wish you weren't taking the easy way out -- it would be amazing if you were working towards a garden in large place like Lippitt park or other underutilized spaces in the area.
6. Use sand as much as possible. Lippitt park has mulch and is less welcoming. The park is the right size for children. Could you move the garden in other place?. Lippitt park has much more space.
7. I am a grandparent now and my grandchildren are elsewhere. But were I still the parent of young children I would be horrified about having all those adults without child accompaniment wandering around the playground as if they belonged there. and as a grandparent I would worry bringing my grandchildren to such a park. I also wonder, have you and the city considered the extra liability you incur for anything that may occur? PS. I bet there are people who are against the idea who will demand a plot if it is approved. Question 2 should be only for those who support the gardens.
8. It's a great park and my son has spent countless hours there. I am personally not in favor of the garden but if there is a lot of demand for it then it would be okay as long as it is put where it is shown in the drawing.
9. Please renovate the park, and please start a group of "Friends of the Park" but DO NOT rent out a public park to private gardening.

10. I would like to know what type of toddler play structure will be added to the playground. Will parents of toddlers have any say in this? The play structure that went into Lippett Park was such a poor choice, it would be nice to have the parents involved in choosing a good structure. Also, will the trike route go all the way around? It looks U-shaped...would make more sense if the kids could continue around.
11. I don't have small children but I do have friends with children who use the park. I'd like to see more open space for free play.
12. The shrubs there in the front bloom and are nice part of the park
13. My use of the park really would depend on the quality of the play structures and the amount of open space. I really feel it is difficult to make a judgment on how much space the garden will take up on a drawing. People really need to see it marked off in the park to get a more informed visual so they can make a more informed decision.
14. Please include nice looking signs announcing fines for dog feces and dogs off leashes.

### **Suggested Changes From Respondents Not in Favor of a Community Garden**

1. I think there are other open spaces more conducive to it like Lippitt or Humboldt Park.
2. WHY I OPPOSE THE GARDEN: (1) it is already too small as it is. It is a very busy park and on a nice Saturday every inch of the park is used (2) toddlers need space to run where they won't be bumping heads with each other and this is the only fenced in, dog free park in the area (3) gardens don't really benefit toddlers as much as they benefit older kids (4) common sense says this should really be in the much larger Lippitt Park (5) the toddlers do benefit from the mulberry tree that will be cut back. SUGGESTIONS: (1) Make the sand box much bigger. I'm typically there with 6 kids working on the same sand castle with two parents. (2) add additional tighter side-rails on the existing play structure (3) Put the new play structures and new swings in the space where the garden would have been installed. This would optimize the park space and make the field much bigger (4) if you do go forward with the garden, consider the suggestions I placed in question 3.
3. The gardens by Sessions Street take away from the park and are not accessible to all only to those who have a plot.
4. Lippitt Park is a better location for a community garden.
5. The park is busy in the afternoons and weekends; not a good idea to lose space. Please use SAND NO MULCH. THE KIDS ENJOY THE SAND SO MUCH.
6. I think the garden takes away from space for kids to run and play. A better location for the garden would be at Lippitt Park.



7. The 9th street park and tot-lot concept is very successful for families with toddlers. The park sees a lot of use, and our 2 year old son enjoys the sand box, play ground, open field and the toys. It would be good to freshen up the landscaping, but I don't see the need for a substantial renovation. I think that the housing density is low enough that we don't really need community gardens. If there really is a big demand, can we get room for them in Lippitt park? In the 9th street park, I think that carving out garden space from the end of the lawn area makes more sense than making using the side area, because it would make more square and efficient use of area. I'd like to hear some justification from the supporters of the community garden.
8. I would prefer the space be left for our children to have to play rather than a community garden... Especially if Lippitt Park is an option for a community garden which is much larger and right down the street. Please leave the Tot Lot for the kids, our tots!
9. Not big enough and its a park for children. People need to use their own property f gardens.
10. Just kid-only space please
11. Please, please no garden. We live in a very residential area (i.e. this is not NYC or Boston) with many opportunities for personal gardens. Safe play space, however, is hard to come by. PLEASE preserve the tot lot as a kid-centric space that is not mixed-use and pitting kids v. gardeners. Less sand at the tot lot would be awesome. That rubber mulch would be great. The equipment needs rehabbing and more shade would be great, too. An area to try bike riding for kids may be nice.
12. I think the garden would bring many unwanted bugs and animals. I would like more shade and tables.
13. I think there is little enough safe space for children to play without introducing a set of gardens that gardeners will be defensive about. There is plenty of institutionally owned greenspace in the neighborhood that should be donated to the purposes of community garden. But please leave the children to play in peace without burdening their parents with the need for greater vigilance concerning adults in the area without children.
14. It would take away from play area, which I think would be too bad. Having said that, if you have to have a garden I like where they put it because it puts the garden in a little-used part of the current park, not taking away any of the big grassy area that is currently in the western half of the park.
15. It is not a community garden. A community garden is one in which everyone works together and then shares the produce. This is renting out land for neighbors to garden, and takes away space that is sorely needed for kids. People are not going to want kids running in their gardens, and kids are not going to understand that they can't go over and pick a strawberry. This is the ONLY park in the area where kids can run free (fenced). I would hate to have that spoiled.
16. People in the east side have enough yard/lawn space if they wanted to grow a garden
17. It's not something my family would ever use so I'd rather see more open green space for all to enjoy.
18. I don't feel this is an appropriate place for a community garden...there has to be other space in providence that would be more appropriate for this rather than a children's playground. Leave the space for the kids.

19. It was a battle to get this park made into a tot lot in the first place. (Miriam Hospital had wanted to make it a parking lot) Let's leave it a tot lot for kids. Find another place for a community garden.
20. I have concerns regarding additional "creature" activity near where children play. Also, even 'organic' fertilizers contain harmful ingredients and I don't think that would be safe for the children.
21. children in this neighborhood have very few green spaces this park is very active but this effort could greatly improve the condition of the park. I like the idea of a community garden in the neighborhood but would prefer it in a different place that would not take over well used space We are part of fox point community garden which has brought great character to the area and many accessible gardens without wait list the demand should support this effort
22. I would like to keep the open green space because it is a great place for kids to run. I would like the play structures to be upgraded though and really like the idea of a toddler specific structure.
23. Fill that space with trees and/or flowers...Community gardens I have heard cause many headaches and are an eyesore in the winter and late fall...The only way I would support a community garden is if it was used for students at Hope, MLK School, or some of the other public schools near by.

### **General Comments From Respondents Opposed to the Entire Project**

1. I think that this is a dramatic shift in how the park was originally intended to be used - the removal of space that is used for play will be limited. It seems like better choices can be made in terms of where and how a community garden is placed in our neighborhood.
2. I would use it the same amount only because we live within 3 blocks. But, it would be discouraging to have the park as planned with the tiny sand box and constantly having to keep my child's hands out of the picket fence and out of someone's garden plot. At least he'll be able to swing without having to give it up for other babies.
3. Why not just locate the community garden at Lippitt or somewhere else with more space? If it was there, I would want a plot!
4. I might be in favor of some renovation without the community garden, but I'd like to know more about how it would impact usage.
5. I am for community gardens. Just not in a park with limited square footage and already high use.
6. I am very opposed to a community garden in the tot lot.
7. I haven't used the park since my daughter became around 8 years old. I think the park needs to have a small fenced dog run. A dog run or dog park would be a great community feature for people who don't have small children and don't want to garden. I would be okay with losing the community garden to get a dog run.

## Suggested Changes From Respondents Opposed to the Entire Project

1. This play area is not appropriate nor big enough for a community garden. My primary concern is one of safety--I do not want strangers without children coming into that close of contact with small children. The large, open and fenced space this playground offers is unique for preschool-aged children. I think it should be preserved as is with some minor repairs to the black and red play structure. There are so few safe outdoor spaces that are dedicated to children--please don't take this one away from them.
2. children and gardeners do not mix well and the children deserve the space.
3. Many children utilize this park on a daily basis and we already have limited green and safe play spaces. There are other areas in the area that could easily be utilized as a community garden including lots on Camp Street that are currently underutilized.
4. There is simply not enough space on busy days to lose the best part of a 1/4 of the lot to a garden. Further, if you frequent the tot lot, you'll see that children being children has resulted in broken toys and broken fence sections - although it's important for parents to teach their children the value of gardens, property, etc., my experience has been that many parents leave their children relatively unattended and unwatched while in this park - or at least, not carefully watched. I believe this will likely result in conflict between the gardeners and the families when inevitably there is property damage. However, the idea of minimizing the sand box (which also currently serves as a toilet for most of the neighborhood cats), introducing wood chips like Lippitt is a great idea. I'd further like to see replacement of the concrete surfaces with something a little more knee and hand friendly - our son has left the park with numerous scrapes from tripping on the concrete surfaces - is it possible to have them be rubberized treads? Finally, there was originally an idea to have a bicycle track - that would be wonderful as there isn't really a safe area locally for children to try out bikes or scooters.
5. The park is fully utilized as is. With the exception of upkeep and landscaping, there is little reason to change so much. Larger parks that do not cater to toddlers would be better suited for community gardens. The kids love the large sandbox, and I know my son would hate to see that go.
6. I would like the garden to be in Lippitt Park. My toddler can reach his hands into tiny spaces and loves to de-leaf a plant. He can reach through the picket fence into our neighbor's yard and de-leaf their plants. Changes I would like to see is a MUCH larger sand box. This is a hot commodity and the plans have too small of a sand box. I like the addition of more swings considering at the moment there is only 1 (ONE) swing for my child at this park. This is a baby park, there should be more than 1 baby swing.
7. None. Park is great as is...spend money on sidewalks so kids don't have to ride in the road
8. This park is not big enough for a community garden. The garden will be smack up against the park, not at all removed. If there were more space, I would not object, but this park is simply not big enough. Too add insult

to injury, community gardens attract a lot of mosquitoes b/c there is inevitably standing water. I don't need my kids around any more mosquitoes than they already are exposed to.

9. We are a young family without a real yard. We rely on parks like this as a place for our child to safely play and get physical exercise. I've always felt really lucky that we have this cute little park near our home. As it is, it is a very kid-friendly space, with swing gates at every entrance to keep kids from running into the street and limited traffic through the park. Community garden plots seem like a great idea on the surface, but in reality will only be used during the very short New England growing season. The plan calls for a large number of tiny plots crammed into a small space. These plots are enough for a fun weekend hobby, but they cannot feed a family. At the end of the day, the park is just too small to accommodate everyone's needs. If anything, I could understand setting up a smaller zone as a "pilot study" to see if interest is really sustained. But in the mean time, I can't see funding a full renovation when many of the roads in the Summit neighborhood are barely passable.
10. The park is of limited size as is. By taking a section of the park and giving it to a select few for use, lottery or otherwise, the garden would rob the greater neighborhood of this already limited resource. The garden should be located in Lippit Park where ample space is underutilized.