Washington Park North Boathouse Area Community Survey #1: Survey Summary

- Online survey via Survey Monkey
- Survey open January 24, 2021 - February 17, 2021
- Response total: 730 started survey

Q1. What Denver park do you typically visit/ what is your go-to park? (open ended) (n=708)

Approximately 70% of respondents wrote in Washington Park (or Wash Park) as their go-to park. Approximately 2% wrote in Harvard Gulch Park, 2% City Park, 1% Platt Park, and 1% Cheesman Park.

Others listed were Central Park, Observatory Park, Paco Sanchez Park, Crestmoor Park, Dailey Park, Cook Park, Eisenhower Park, and others.

Q2. What is your favorite activity, characteristic, or element in the park you selected above? (open ended) (n=704)

Themes (overall - not divided by the park they chose prior)

- Walking
- Biking
- Paths and trails
- Running
- The playground (old and new were mentioned in Washington Park) + kid play areas
- Clean and safe
• Open space
• Water, the lake
• Trees
• Dog walking
• Bird watching
• Volleyball
• Proximity to home
• Sense of community
• Size (large park)
• Fishing
• The gardens
• Renting bikes and paddle boats
• Picnics
• Ziplines

Representative Quotes

• The park is big and has a wide path for walking/rolling. Big beautiful trees.
• Everything. The running trail, the road for biking and walking, yoga in the beautiful boat house, the rec center.
• Walking with our kids and dogs, use of playground equipment, riding our bikes as a family
• Walking/jogging the perimeter trail every morning and seeing lots of my neighbors doing the same.
• It has some nice lakes, and it has a good trail around it.
• Playgrounds and room to spread out and picnic, as well as the bike/walk paths.
• Variety - playgrounds, walking path, tennis courts this park has something for everyone
• Lots of safe play with easy sight lines for parents where kids of all ages can play. There are lots of shaded benches and picnic areas and a large water feature. We go all the time.
• The large sections where cars are not allowed to drive, and the various water features
Q3. What is your favorite activity, characteristic, or element in Washington Park? (open-ended) (n=692)

Themes

- Walking/running paths
- Nature and the open feeling of the park
  - Lakes
  - Trees
  - Grass
  - Wildlife
  - Garden/flowers
  - Water
- Old playground
- Bicycling/bike lanes
- Pump Track
- Community
- Tennis courts
- Picnic areas
- Birdwatching
- Boathouse
- Renting paddleboats or bikes
- Recreation Center
- Space for sports/volleyball
- Accessibility

Representative Quotes

- The park is big and has a wide path for walking/rolling. Big beautiful trees.
- Walking with our kids and dogs, use of playground equipment, riding our bikes as a family, picnicking, reading in hammocks.
- All of the trees and flowers make the space very serene, along with the lake.
- Walking/jogging the perimeter trail every morning and seeing lots of my neighbors doing the same. Also spending time at the playground with the grandchildren. Playground is getting crowded however.
- All of the features at the mid park playground are great. Especially the pump track and jack and Jill hill.
- I actually miss the old playground area for it's simplify and use for younger aged children. I just use the park for walks now and periodic playground time. The current playground requires a large amount of skills set as well as parent assistance. The new wash park playground is best suited for kids 7-10
- New playground is great! Enjoy walking around the lakes. So much space to walk, bike, scooter. Fun to rent boats at Smith Lake and buy ice cream.
Q4 What is something missing from Washington Park that you think people would love to have? Select all that apply or get creative and add your own! (n=715)

What is something missing from Washington Park that you think people would love to have? Select all that apply or get creative and add your own!

Other:

Themes

- Slackline areas/slackline poles
- Larger/improved recreation center
- Playground for younger kids
• Outdoor pool
• Dog Park/off leash areas
• Skate Park/skateboard rink/skate or scooter tracks
• Vendors/coffee/food trucks
• Pickleball
• Events/farmers markets/jazz in the park
• Nothing (don’t add anything)
• Better restrooms
• More nature, meadows, native landscape, flowers, appreciation for sustainability
• Picnic areas/seating to eat/drink/picnic

Representative Quotes

• Play area for young children (current playground is designed for older kids, 4 and up. Also we need a n off leash dog park in the neighborhood
• The newer playground on the south side is great for children under 8. We desperately need a playground for 8-13. The rec center is too small. They need to use the employee office space for exercise. Dog park.
• More unique play structures, like a skate park or interactive playground, ie Paco Sánchez park - zip line, water feature, climbing structure
• Younger kids bike park area. It could be more rugged or just little humps to go over. A younger kids play structure would be nice, as the one currently at the park is often so busy and taken over by big kids.
• A playground for older kids. The playground that was redone is for younger kids mainly. Swings are too small.
• I would love a rotating permit to local coffee shops to use the boathouse on mornings or afternoons!
• Nothing missing- already too many people- don’t attract more
• Small outdoor cafe during warm months so that people can gather and relax like European parks
Q5. What characteristics do you find most valuable about the project area (zoomed map below)? Select all that apply. (n=715)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Boathouse</td>
<td>58.04%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trees</td>
<td>63.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake and shore trails</td>
<td>61.82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Ditch</td>
<td>27.83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>12.31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picknicking</td>
<td>25.31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity in the area</td>
<td>26.57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>11.61%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other:

**Themes**

- Access to the lake
- View over the lake
- Access to the recreation center
- Walking proximity to neighborhood
- Good area to meet up with people or picnic
- The creek/water
- Historical relevance
- Things wanted:
  - Slackline poles
  - Playground
  - A maze for kids/other play area ideas
  - Bathroom
  - Water feature
  - Performances

**Representative Quotes**

- *This is one of few areas where one can sit and enjoy the view over the lake. It would be nice if this is kept in this way. It is also a real crossroads for coming and going, as well as a critically important historic part of the park with Smith Ditch and the Boathouse.*

- *All ages but I’ve talked to miss the second playground there. The one playground on the diagonal is to limited for the bigger kids, and not enough activities for the youngest children. PS we’d love to see a maze with the kids could scoot in and out and run around and tire themselves!*

- *Please, please do not destroy the historic boat house and ditch.*
- A safer better kids playground to replace what was there before
- need a play area, including for older kids. The kids are now mountain biking over the mulch and ramps.
- Activate the boathouse in some capacity, perhaps a food court
- Rec center - but suggest a coordinated update for more desirable amenities/access
- Good potential for a gazebo type gathering place that overlooks the lake. Perhaps room for musical and other performances in the summer.

Q6. Please pick your favorite idea for potential "Gathering" additions in the project area for Washington Park. See graphic above for images. (n=685)

Q7. Please pick your favorite idea for potential "Seating" additions in the project area for Washington Park. See graphic above for images. (n=692)
Q8. Please pick your favorite idea for potential "Playful" additions in the project area for Washington Park. See graphic above for images. (n=688)

![Playful Additions Graph]

Q9. Please pick your favorite idea for potential "Iconic" additions in the project area for Washington Park. See graphic above for images.

![Iconic Additions Graph]
Q10. We want to make sure this project area complements other activities/areas in the park (such as the Boathouse, Diagonal Play area, Basketball Courts, etc.). What should we avoid adding to prevent duplication of activities or needs? (n=421)

Themes

- A play area for older kids (don’t forget the toddlers)
- A play area for little kids (the current isn’t good for teens)
- Volleyball
- Sandboxes or bark
- A water feature (already have water in park)
- Statues
- A permitted area
- High skilled climbing (already elsewhere in park)
- Cement or plastic (keep the green)
- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts
- Bike track or pump track (already have one in other area)
- A large playground
- Team sports
- Grills
- Parking
- Pavement
- Dog Park
- Wooden structures (splinters)
- Something that draws large crowds in (already too busy)
- Open space (don’t leave empty)

Representative Quotes

- The Boathouse has enough hardscape and needles softer natural area for interaction with grass, trees, and not commercial area. It is an abuse of space given to parking bicycles etc. in the areal.
- The existing playground is amazing. I don’t think you need another kid focused space, but peripheral kid activity isn’t bad. Put in a skate park.
- The busiest thing at the park is the playground, another is needed. Items for younger children/baby swings/ toddler slide are missing - they were present before the playground reconstruction started.
- Do not add another playground for young children. Older children need a place to go and have fun that is age appropriate.
- recently the playground was updated, it would be nice to focus on more adult activities
- No Playground, there’s already one in the park. Have an attraction for adults. The surrounding area is mostly adults with no kids.
Q11. Is there anything else we should know as we work on this project? (n=397)

Themes

- Look at demographics of area – many with no children
- Can the rec center be updated with this money? An outdoor pool?
- Teenager activities
- Dog park
- No dog park
- Recycling bins
- Slackline
- Keep existing features where possible
- Honor the nature and water already there, less urban
- Younger kids play space
- Interactive play space
- Climbing area
- Shade and trees
- Pickleball
- Splash pad or water feature or pop fountains
- A place to eat/drink/gather
- Bathroom
- All ages fun
- Don’t do anything until park’s “problems” fixed
- No more parking
- Add parking
- More performances
- No performances
- Connection to the recreation center

Representative Quotes

- Adjoining neighborhoods are already stressed by holiday and event crowds, parking and traffic. PLEASE don’t add performance venues that would make this even worse!
- There are a growing number of families in the area. It would be great to have more space to bring people end kids together to enjoy the outdoors
- We have often spoken with friends about what would make the park even better snd the idea of using European parks as a guide always comes up, where you can take a walk and then stop off for a cocktail or snack and continue to enjoy the views and ambiance of the park.
- Items for youngest learner’s disappeared during the last reconstruction, please bring some back. A skate/bike park area like at the current playground but for older kids or single use and a water feature/splash pad are desperately needed.
- Keep simple space: e.g. small scaled music performances such as string quartet; jazz group. Would enjoy these events in addition to long standing Summer Sunday city band “on the grass “ concerts. Bring your own chair if group performs inside boat house while audience sits on a plaza hard scape in the project area as defined now.
• The city ditch needs to be incorporated into the playground as an interactive feature. Make it accessible to kids and parents much like the city ditch plaque area. Include steps to water edge and seating and picnicking nearby. The playground area shown should shift more to the east to create a ditch themed playground and use the lawn north of the rec center more effectively for casual picnicking. Add more large tree planting.

• Washington Park is so great because the lakes the grass and the paths have a natural feel. Please no dog parks or concerts or more more more. It’s the best place for play, nature and quiet. I hope you leave it alone and simply update the boat house.

• The purpose of city parks is to provide open space for urban dwellers to rejuvenate themselves in nature’s beauty. Please don’t start building things and “improving” on nature. Good maintenance and the re-opening of the rec center and perhaps building a small playground in the project area would be sufficient.

• Would love to see some of the new equipment give a nod to the original wooden castle that was there before. It was our favorite and we were very sad to see it go.

DEMOGRAPHICS – optional
Q12. What is your home zip code? (n=677)

57% of respondents live in 80209 and 23% live in 80210 (surrounding Washington Park). Other common zip codes came from 80218 (2%), 80223 (2%), 80222 (1%), and 80220 (1%)

Q13. How old are you? (n=685)

How old are you?

- 14.89%
- 19.27%
- 37.52%
- 8.91%
- 9.64%
- 2.48%
- 1.02%

Under 7 years old | 8 - 11 years old | 12 - 14 years old | 15 - 17 years old | 18 - 34 years old | 35 - 44 years old | 45 - 54 years old | 55 - 64 years old | 65 - 74 years old | 75 years or older | Prefer not to say
Q14. What is your gender identity? (n=683)

What is your gender identity?

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<td>Female</td>
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<td>Prefer to self-describe</td>
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Q15. How do you identify your race and/or ethnicity (select all that apply) (n=673)

How do you identify your race and/or ethnicity (select all that apply):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>White or Caucasian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
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<td>Asian or Asian American</td>
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<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
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<td>Native Hawaiian or other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer not to share</td>
<td>8.92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other race/ethnicity</td>
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