



Gunston Playground Renovation Project

Engagement #1 Summary : September 28, 2023 - October 19, 2023



**ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA**

Parks & Recreation

Who Participated?

109 Participants

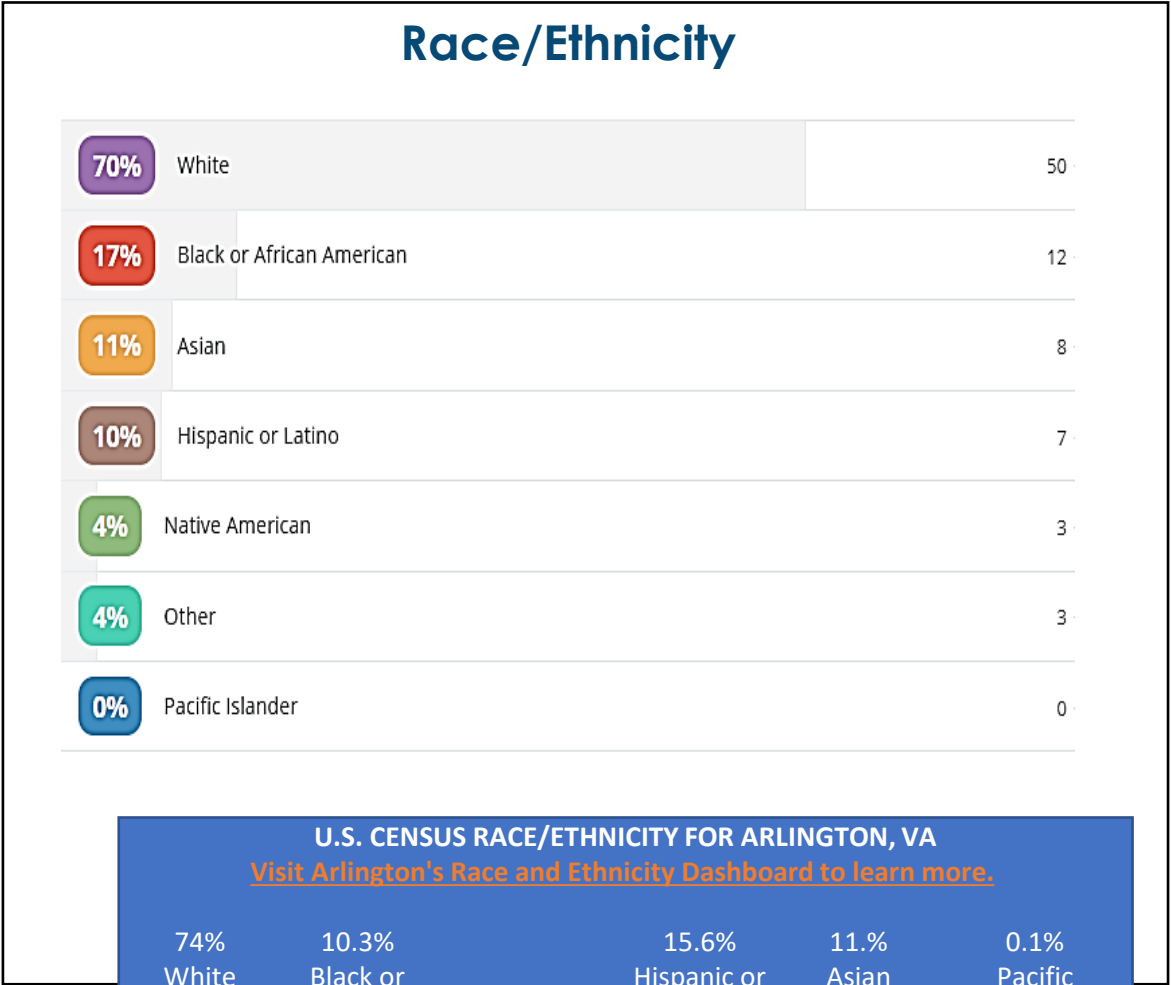
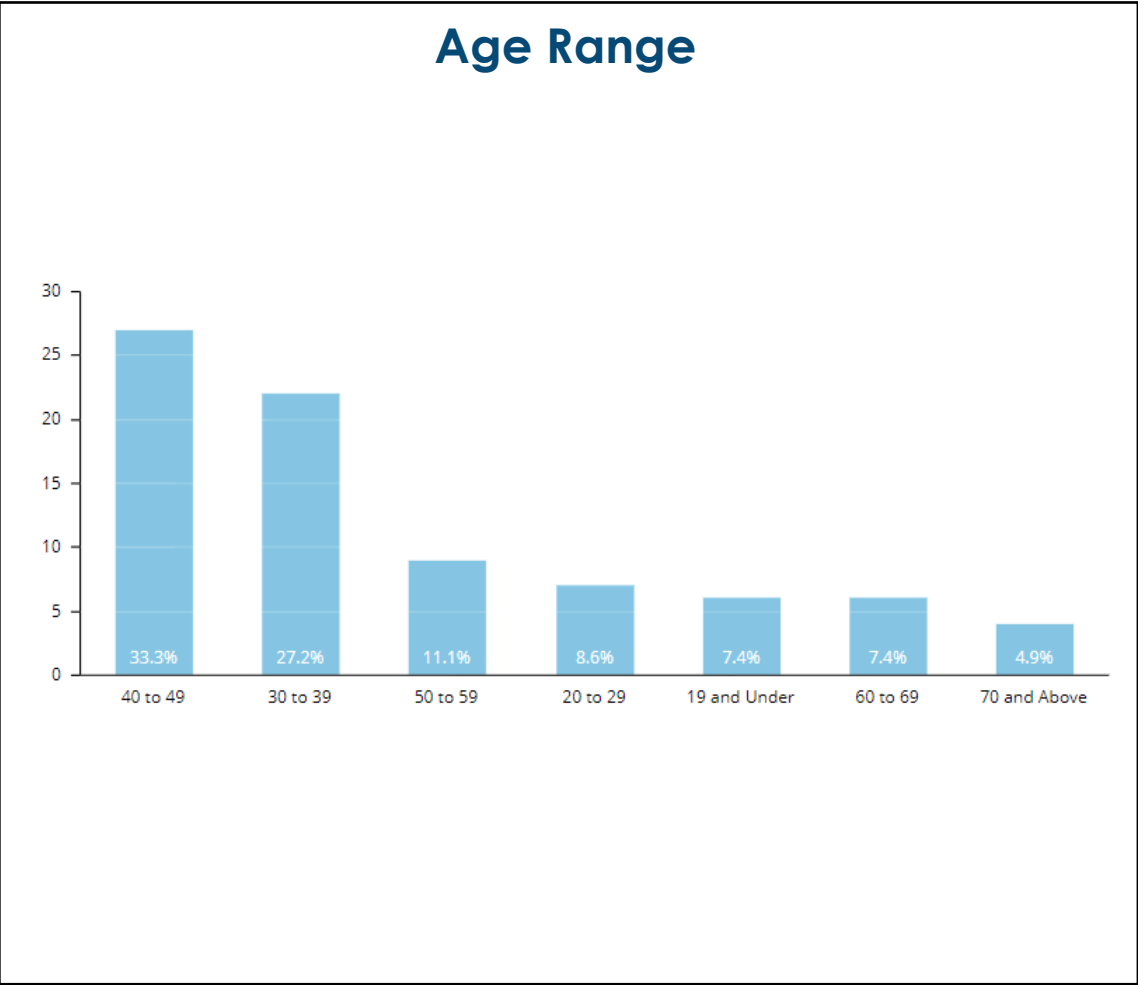


ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

109 Online Feedback Form Responses

Through these responses, we received 124 comments

Who Participated: Online

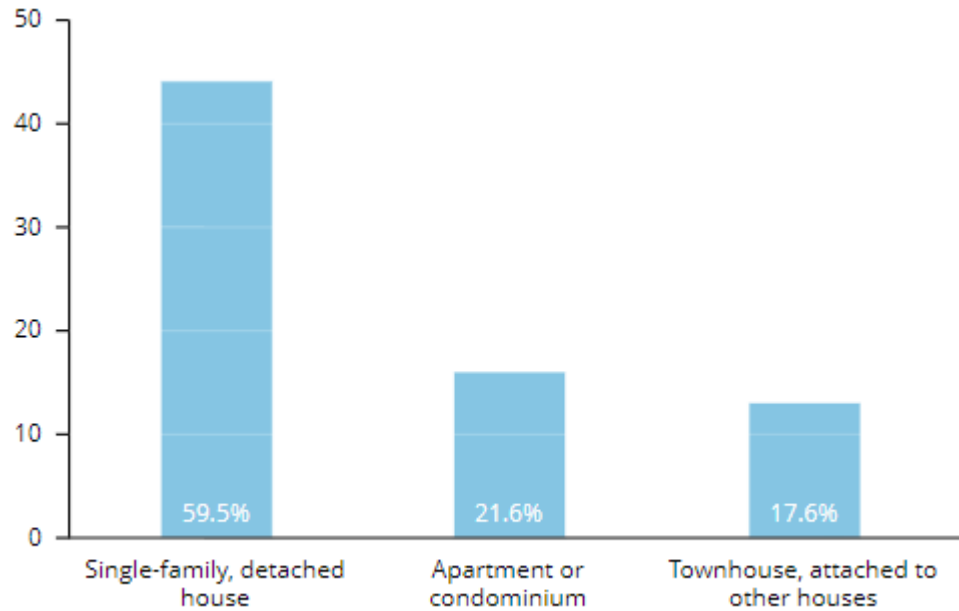


U.S. CENSUS RACE/ETHNICITY FOR ARLINGTON, VA
[Visit Arlington's Race and Ethnicity Dashboard to learn more.](#)

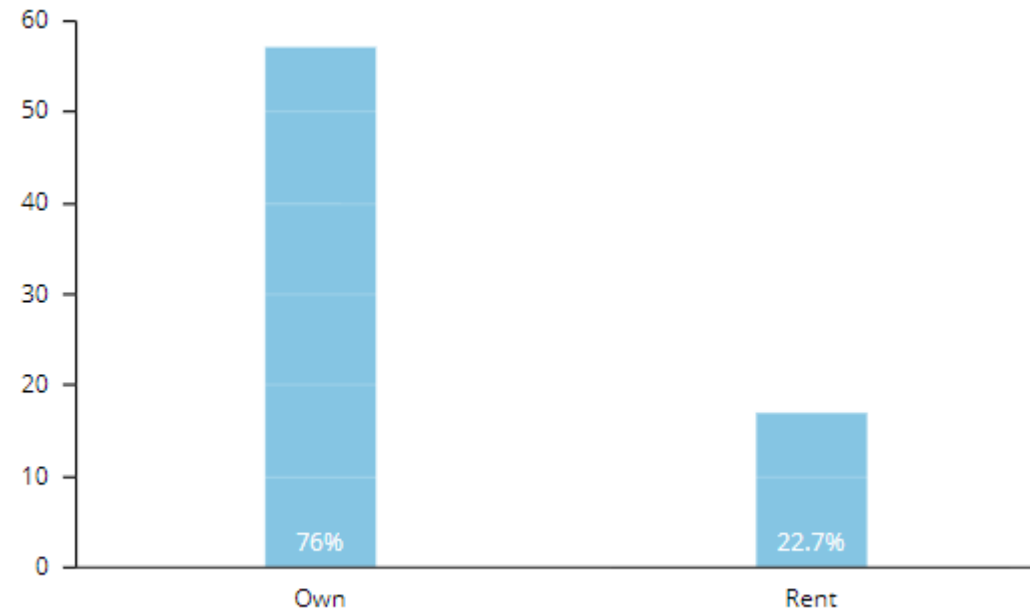
74% White	10.3% Black or African American	15.6% Hispanic or Latino	11.% Asian	0.1% Pacific Islander
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Who Participated: Online

Housing Type



Homeowners & Renters



Who Participated: Online

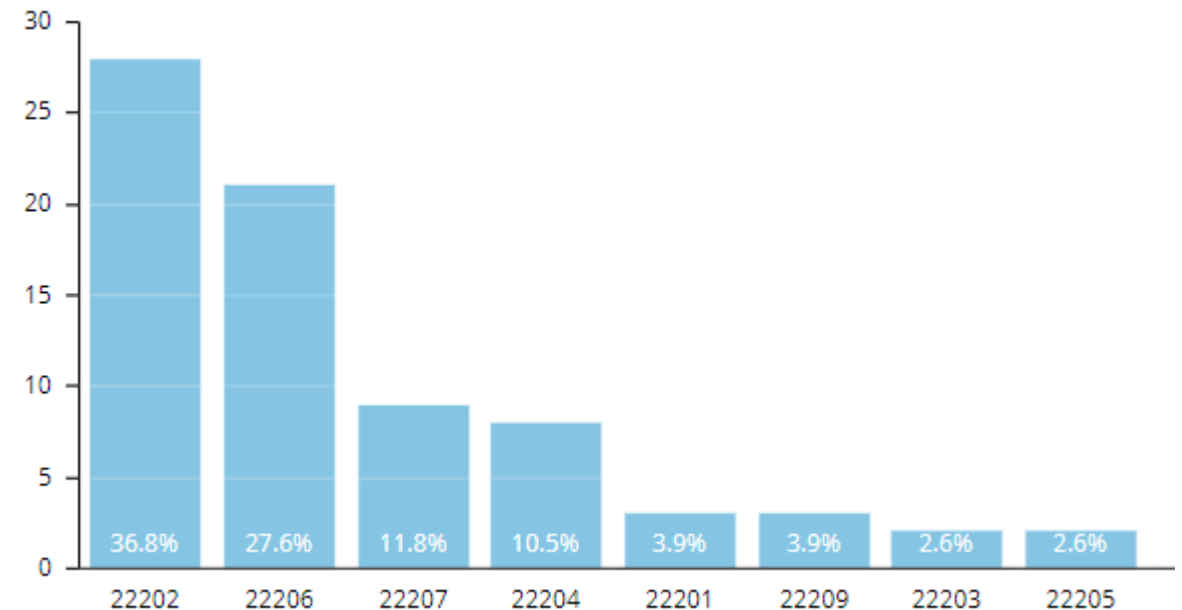
Neighborhoods

In total, the project team heard from respondents located in **23 out of 62 Arlington civic associations.**

Top Neighborhood Responses

- Arlington Ridge (28%)
- Aurora Highlands (17%)
- Long Branch Creek (12%)
- Douglas Park (4%)
- Arlington Mill (2%)

Zip Code



How do you currently use or relate to Gunston Playground? (select all that apply)

65%	I live in a neighborhood close by	70 ✓
38%	I use the playground	41 ✓
31%	I play on the sports fields	33 ✓
15%	I use the picnic shelter	16 ✓
13%	I am a parent of a student at Gunston Middle School	14 ✓
13%	Other	14 ✓
9%	I don't use the site	10 ✓
1%	I am a student of Gunston Middle School	1 ✓

On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate the layouts of Concept 1 and Concept 2? (1 being "I do not like it at all" and 5 being "I love it!")

	1	2	3	4	5	Unsure
Please select one	9%	13%	26%	22%	25%	4%
	1	2	3	4	5	Unsure


89 respondents

If you selected anywhere from 1 to 2 or "unsure" for concept 1, please share why:

Open-ended comments were quantified by tagging each of the 32 comments with the topic themes mentioned

In the 32 comments provided for the playground design, several concerns and suggestions have emerged. There is a notable focus on environmental factors, including concerns about water drainage, heat retention, and the removal of trees for amenities. The top themes are below:

Theme	Environmental Concerns	Playground Layout and Design	Recreational Features	Shelter and Seating	Other Comments
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water drainage and heat retention issues.• The impact of tree removal for amenities.• The need for shade to protect children from the sun.• Preferences for greenscape over hardscape and concrete.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggestions for better separation between play areas and other features like the basketball court.• Requests for clearer design renderings.• Questions about the location of drinking fountains and bathrooms.• Concerns about the excessive use of hardscape versus greenscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calls for additional swings and climbing structures.• Suggestions for incorporating pickleball facilities.• Desires for better visibility, lighting, and security.• Preferences for specific aspects of Concept 1, including play equipment and seating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggestions for a centrally located shelter/seating area.• Desires for more seating options for parents.• Interest in retaining certain elements from the existing playground.• Preferences for play structures, seating spaces, and the location of the bioretention pond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations for swings designed for older children.• Preferences for full shade in the shade structure.



On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate the layouts of Concept 2 and Concept 2? (1 being "I do not like it at all" and 5 being "I love it!")

	1	2	3	4	5	Unsure
Please select one	9%	14%	17%	21%	35%	3%
	1	2	3	4	5	Unsure

86 respondents

If you selected anywhere from 1 to 2 or "unsure" for concept 2, please share why:

Open-ended comments were quantified by tagging each of the 36 comments with the topic themes mentioned

Theme	Natural Elements and Sustainability	Playground Layout and Design	Visibility and Safety	Amenities and Facilities
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preference for natural shading through more trees rather than man-made structures.• Concerns about heat-trapping and water-shedding hardscape.• Desire for minimal impervious surfaces and an increase in green space.• Calls to keep or increase the current amount of trees, especially for shade.• Requests to minimize the addition of concrete and other hardscape materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mixed opinions on the spacing and layout of different play areas for various age groups.• Suggestions for more transparent and open play equipment for visibility.• Preference for larger play structures over smaller ones.• Call for more diverse play options like pickleball.• Requests for play structures that encourage climbing and swinging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns about too many transitions from cement to rubber to wood, which could affect safety.• Importance of visibility for caregivers to easily monitor children in different play areas.• Requests for equipment orientation to allow children to observe the playground and decide their next activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desire for more benches, slides, and seating areas.• Lack of essential facilities like water fountains and bathrooms.• Questions about the necessity of features like stroller parking and shrubs.

Did we miss anything? Please use the space below to share any additional thoughts that were not captured in your answers above.

Open-ended comments were quantified by tagging each of the 44 comments with the topic themes mentioned

Theme	Safety and Health Concerns	Aesthetics and Environmental Concerns:	Playground Features and Equipment:	Accessibility and Connectivity:
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Concerns about sun exposure causing skin cancer and eye damage in children.Excessive sun exposure is avoidable; trees offer needed shade.Trees also reduce heat-related illnesses, especially important as children have more trouble regulating temperature.Feedback on preserving existing trees to ensure the equipment doesn't become too hot to touch.Concern noted about possible water in play structures potentially attracting small animals.Need for "no dogs", "no smoking", and "drug-free zone" signs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preference for more natural features such as water fountains, trees, and wooden seating.Arlington's move towards concrete and asphalt contradicts its biophilic claim.A request for designs that match the traditional aesthetics of the neighborhood.A strong desire for more trees in the play area and to shade playgrounds.Disapproval of excessive concrete in playground designs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preference for play structures in concept 1 for 5-12 age range.Suggestion for monkey bars, taller equipment, slides, swings, and spinning items.Mention of the need for adaptive play features for inclusivity.Consideration for older kids (middle schoolers) who might use the playground.Request for a water fountain, and retaining the toy digger in the sandbox.Preference for sculptural benches and benches with backs.Desire for a diverse play experience, including climbing structures, tall slides, and "ninja style" concepts.Request for ground-level renderings and accessible structures for kids with disabilities.Appreciation for the absence of a sand feature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Feedback on unnecessary fencing and its impact on space.Request for bike racks and stroller parking.Desire for paths suitable for kids to use scooters.