



AT THE EDGE OF THE CITY AND
THE HEART OF EVERYTHING

Parks and Public Spaces Committee Community Input Sessions Survey Report

Introduction: The Parks subcommittee of the Parks and Public Spaces Committee Survey recently performed an inventory of all Shorewood parks to provide a comparison of the current state to what is currently listed in the [Comprehensive Parks Plan](#) (created in 2015). The subcommittee was interested in hearing from the community about additional features they’d like to see in our parks system. To do this, the volunteer subcommittee mobilized and hosted informational sessions covering the existing inventory and asked the community about what else they’d like to see. The “listening sessions” were planned at the following dates and times to accommodate each parks space while being mindful of the volunteer subcommittees’ personal/professional calendars and commitments:

Input Sessions calendar

Park	Location for input session	Date	Time
Atwater	Atwater Park, <i>near letter sculpture</i>	Wed., June 29, 2022	6:30 – 7:30 pm
Nature Preserve	Shorewood Village Center	Wed., July 13, 2022	6:30 – 7:30 pm
River Park & Humble Park	River Park - <i>pavilion</i>	Wed., August 3, 2022	6:30 – 7:30 pm
Hubbard Park	Hubbard Park - <i>near concert area stage</i>	Wed., August 17 th	6:30 – 7:30 pm

Method: Figure 1 is the announcement shared in the Village Manager’s Memo, which was included from

Community Input Opportunity: Shorewood Parks

Are you a frequent visitor to Parks spaces in Shorewood? Do you have ideas about how they can be improved based on features you've seen in other parks? If so, we invite you to attend our community input sessions focusing on Shorewood Parks.



The sessions will be hosted by a volunteer group made up of members of our Parks and Public Spaces (Parks Subcommittee) at the following dates, times and locations:

Atwater - Atwater Park (near Plensa sculpture), Wednesday, June 29 at 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Nature Preserve - Village Hall Court Room*, Wednesday, July 13 at 6:30 - 7:30 pm
River Park & Humble Park - River Park Pavilion, Wednesday, August 3 at 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Hubbard Park - Hubbard Park concert area, Wednesday, August 17 at 6:30 - 7:30 pm

*The Nature Preserve terrain is not reliable/safe for a group meeting, so this will be held inside a Village facility.

At these sessions, the team will also share a bit of history from the Comprehensive Parks Plan update in 2015 that identified what features/amenities should be in each park. At the end of the sessions, the attendees will have the opportunity to fill out a survey for that specific park to let the Village of Shorewood know what is most important to them!

July 7 to August 17, 2022 to promote this initiative. Attendance was strong in the Nature Preserve input session, with 7 attendees. The only other session to have attendees was the Atwater Park input session.

In addition, a web form was created to facilitate additional feedback. The intended rationale was to provide the survey at the end of each informational session so responses collected were from those that had attended and received the information from subcommittee members on the analysis performed. However, feedback from the community

Figure 1

through a Village Trustee informed the subcommittee members and Village staff alike

to open the survey to anyone who'd like to comment. Additionally, as events occurred, they were deleted from the announcement to avoid confusion. An additional enhancement to the data collection after the survey was released was posting a QR code in each of the parks so users could be made aware of this opportunity. An example of the announcement and locations of their placement are below in Figure 2 and Table 1.

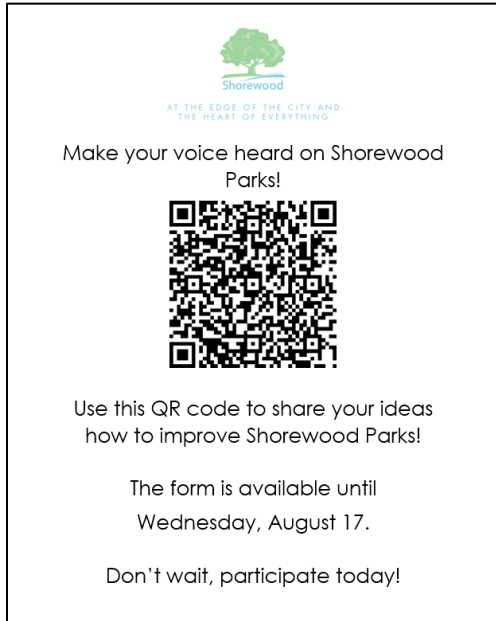


Figure 2

Park	Location(s)	Quantity
Nature Preserve	By the sign	1
Atwater Park	Playground and Beach gate entrance	2
Humble Park	On the post next to bench	1
Triangle Park	Street sign post at the point of triangle	1
Hubbard Park	Near the Beer Garden	1
River Park	Near concession/bathrooms	1
Spector Park	Bulletin board	1

Table 1

Results:

Input sessions:

Atwater Beach:

The only two sessions to have attendance were the Atwater Park and Nature Preserve input sessions. Attendees in the Atwater Park input session were primarily concerned with the bathrooms and safety of the beach. The bathrooms are often out of commission during the summer because beach goers use the facilities to wash off their feet, and the sand clogs the drains. Attendees felt that adding a footwash station closer to the beach would alleviate this issue.

Attendees also felt that the jetties that protect the beach and shoreline are in great disrepair. There are sharp metal poles that stick out under water which could injure swimmers. Additionally, people often try to climb on to the jetties which are unstable.

Other notes from the attendees: there is a gap where the ramp to the beach is, which may make it hard for people with limited mobility to access the boardwalk, there is rust on the newly installed water fountain, benches are different colors, neighbors on either side of the beach have concerns about trespassing—perhaps better signage would be appreciated, and more umbrellas for lifeguards would improve their ability to monitor the beach.

Other desires: potable water by the beach to avoid dehydration, surf cams, and enhance signage about dogs on the beach.

Nature Preserve:

The Nature Preserve input session had many suggestions and improvements requested. The attendees felt it was important to maintain the “wild” character of the nature preserve. To do this, more formal trails may help people avoid trampling native plant species. Additionally, more work needs to be done to remove invasive species and to avoid bluff erosion.

Access to the lakeshore is limited, and people create dangerous solutions to access it. A more formal way to access the beach may avoid injury and enhance the experience for visitors. Additionally, installation of a bench by the water may enhance the experience.

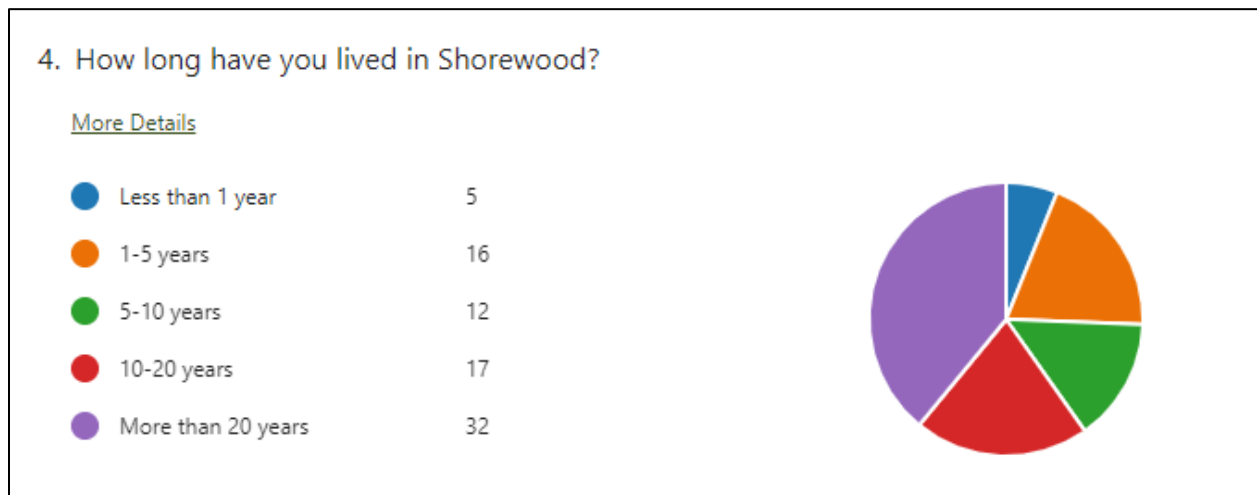
An inventory of trees and the creation of a nature plan would help maintain the bluff as well as remove invasive species encroaching in the preserve. Additionally, the placement of woodchips down the slope has helped maintain the integrity of the trail, and placement of those annually is required.

Attendees also felt that repair of the existing amphitheater and encouraging the use of it by students and other groups would help encourage residents and other visitors to be aware of nature and enjoy Shorewood.

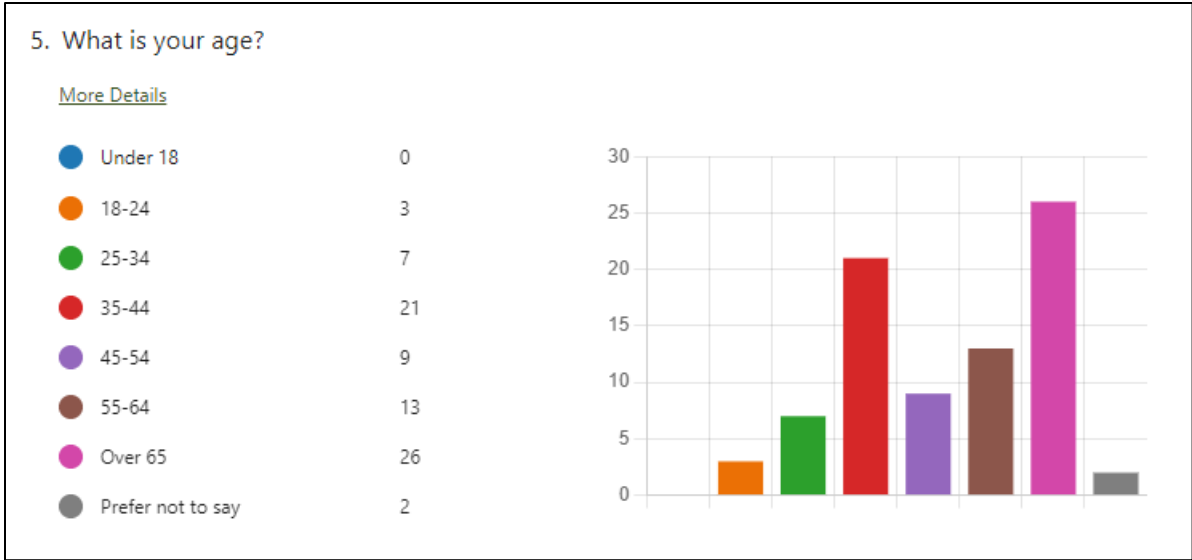
Form collection:

Over 80 responses were collected via a Microsoft Form (similar to Survey Monkey) to allow easy accessibility for the community and low administrative burden to Village staff compiling the results. To guide the Village’s future polling/survey methods, simple demographics were collected.

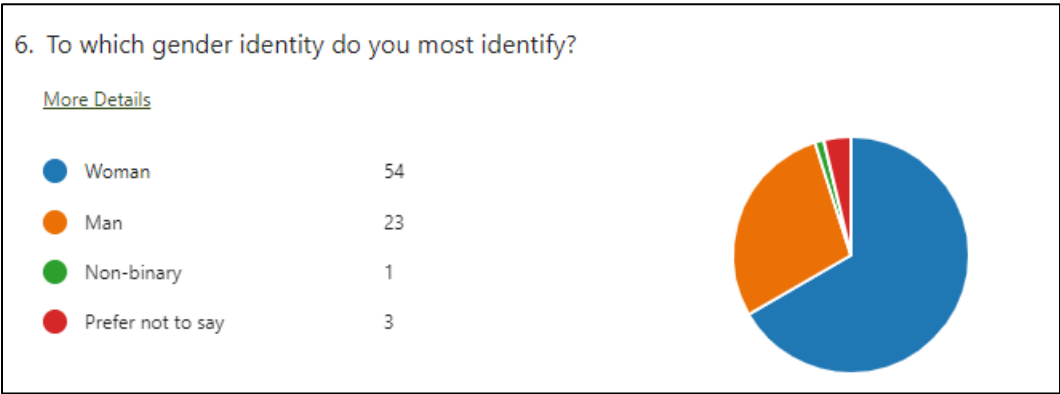
The majority of respondents have lived in Shorewood at least 10 years (60%), with 15% living here between 5 and 10 years, 20% one to five years, and 5% less than one year.



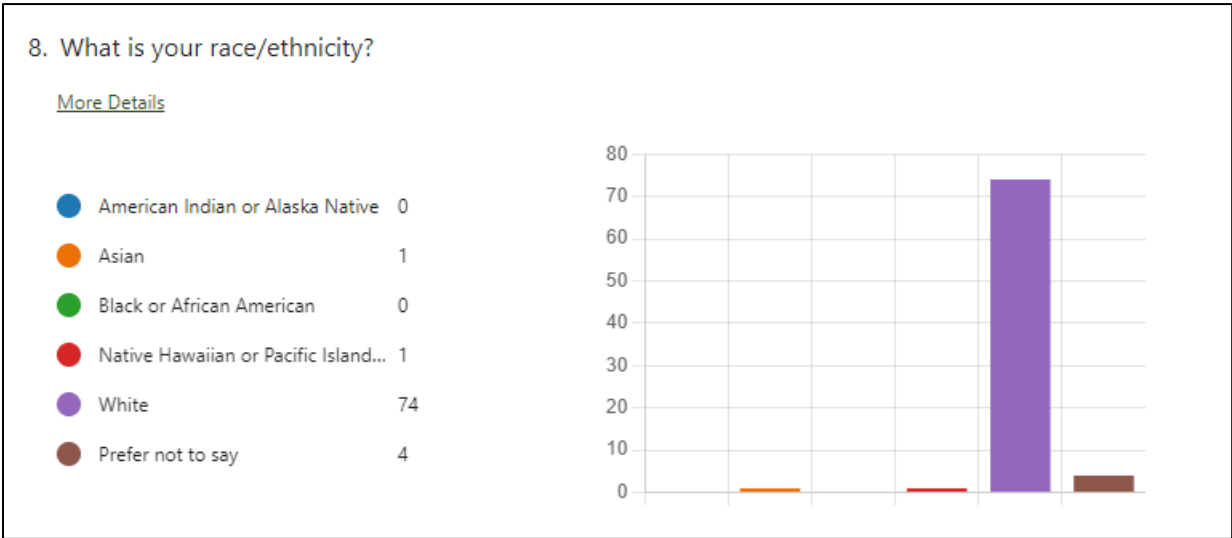
Nearly 33% of respondents were over 65 years old, 27% were between 35 and 44, 16% were 55 to 64 years old, 11% are between 45 and 54, and 13% were younger than 35.



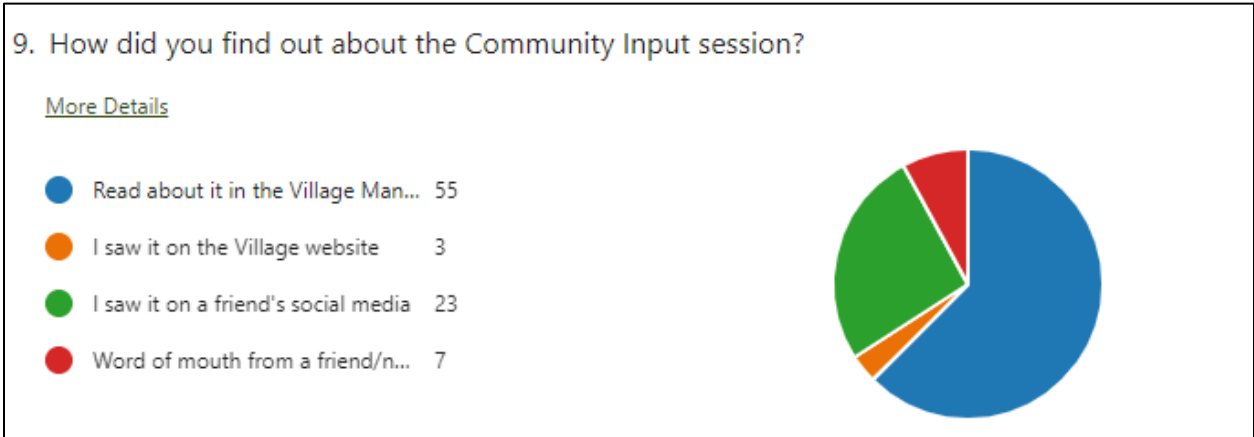
Sixty-seven percent of the respondents identified as woman/female, 28% identified as man/male, 1% were non-binary, and 4% preferred not to respond to this question.



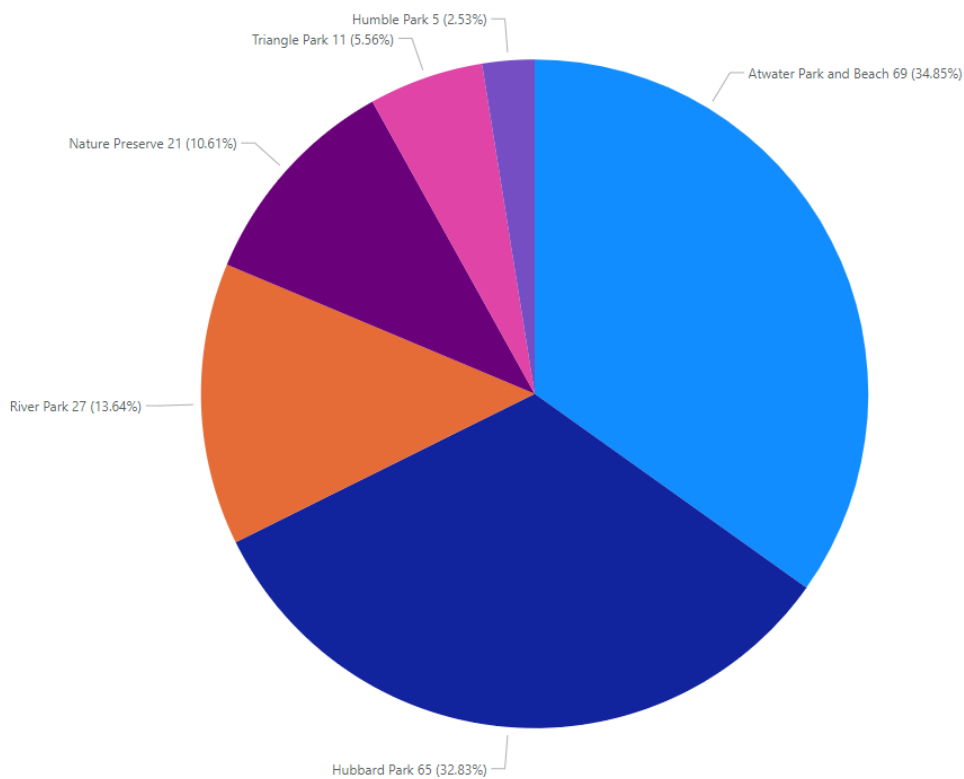
Ninety-three percent of respondents identified as White, 1% identified as Asian, 1% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 5% preferred not to respond to the question.



The Village Manager’s Memo was a critical engagement tactic as 63% of respondents indicated this as the way they found out about the sessions and survey.

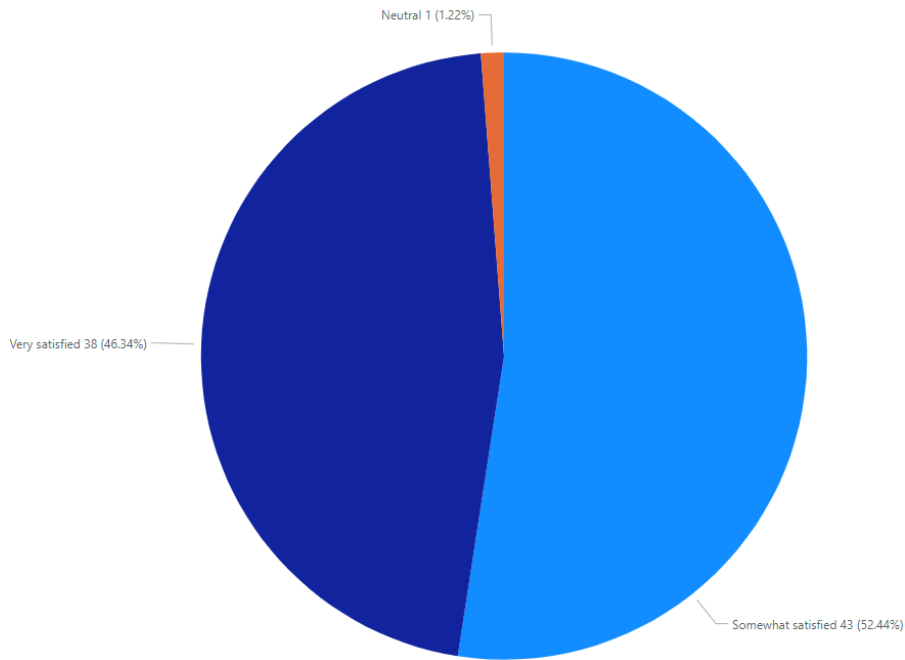


Survey takers also described the parks they visit the most:



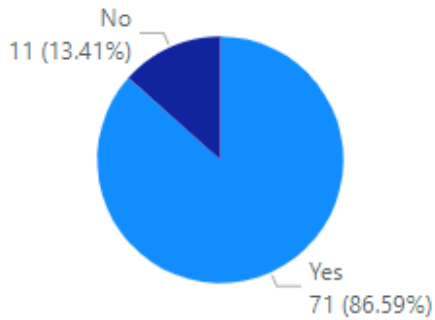
A summary of the results can be found below:

Generally, survey respondents were happy with Shorewood parks: no one was dissatisfied 46% were very satisfied and 52% were somewhat satisfied

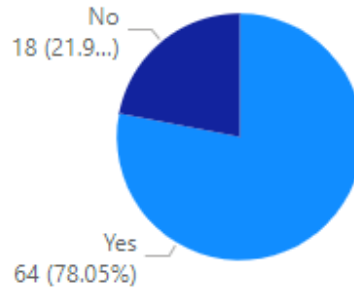


A majority also felt that Shorewood had enough active and passive recreation opportunities:

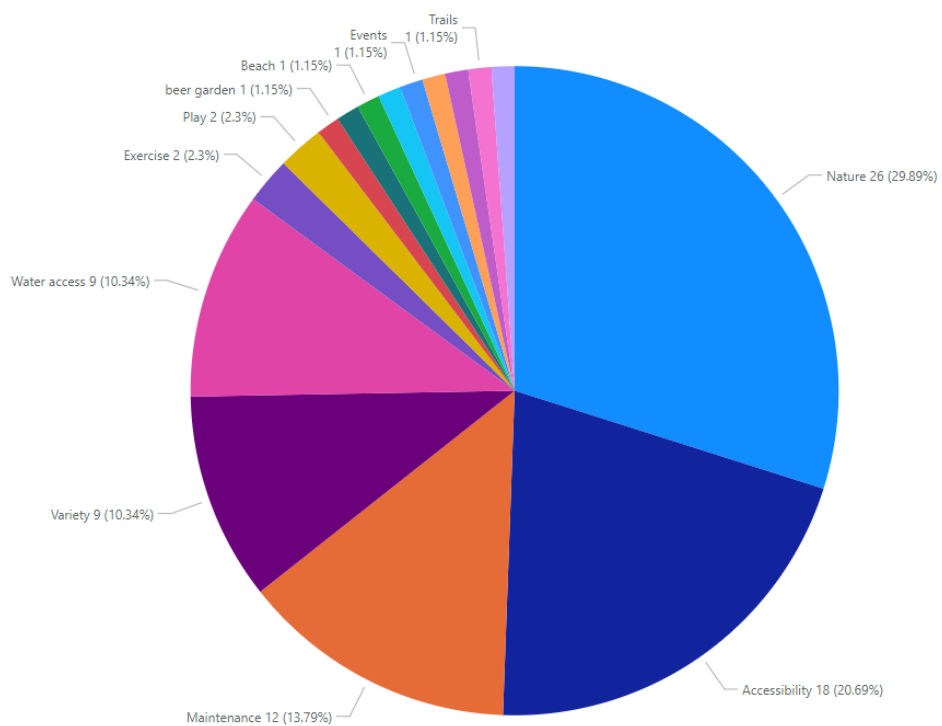
Do you think Shorewood has enough public "active recreation" amenities?



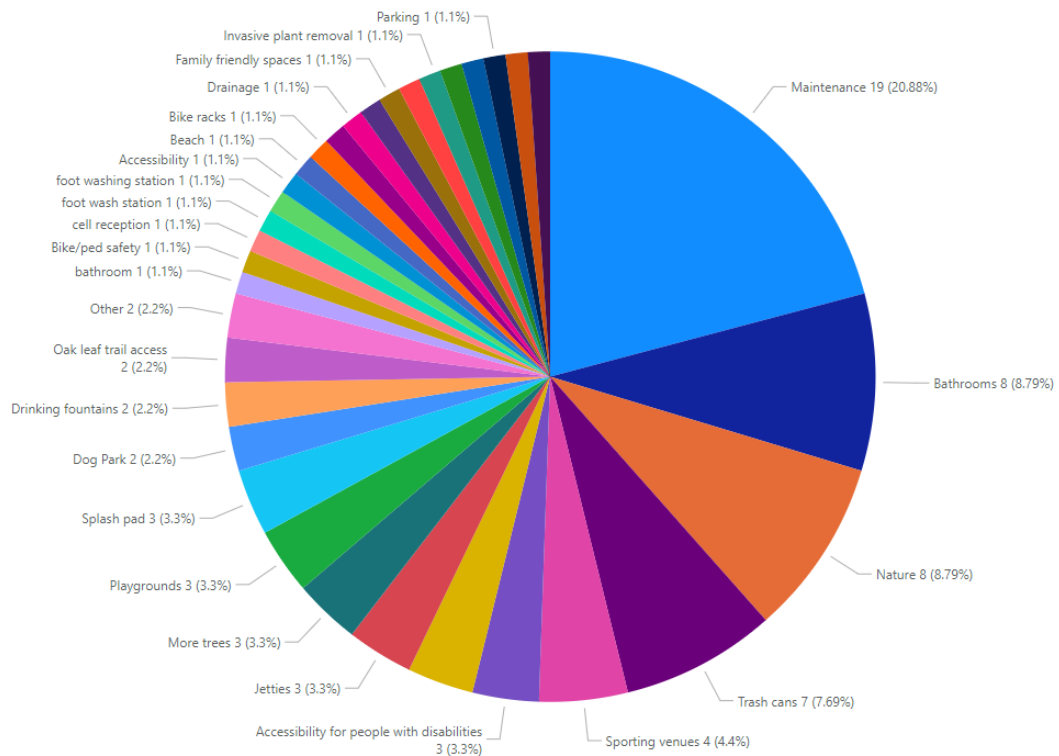
Do you think Shorewood has enough public "passive recreation" amenities?



The following chats were responses that people could type in freely. Those responses were summarized into categories to more easily digest the information. The respondents listed what they liked best about Shorewood, which is summarized below:



Respondents had a variety of opinions on what can be improved; with a plurality of responses saying that maintenance can be improved, bathroom facilities added or improved, maintaining the integrity of the tree canopy, and removing invasive species (i.e. nature) and adding/improving trash cans and trash removal.



The form also asked people what they think is most needed within parks. The plurality felt that trash and enhanced maintenance, and improving/protecting access to Lake Michigan was the most important.

