



PUBLIC MEETING REPORT

November 14, 2015

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

The Parks and Recreation Department held a Public Meeting on November 14, 2015 at Emma Long Metropolitan Park to share project information and collect input from the surrounding community and park users. The meeting was an informal open house with a short presentation. During the presentation, the project team shared information on the history, amenities and constraints, and planning process for the Vision Plan. Attendees were able to visit five stations outlining specific areas in need of improvement - Boat Ramp and Water Access; Central Lawn, Swimming and Day Use Area; Circulation, Tent and RV Camping Use Area; and Infrastructure, Utilities and Operations.



The objective of the meeting was to collect input from the community on existing conditions and future preferences. Attendees were able to share input on boards at the five different stations or take an online survey. The project team also asked attendees to sign up to participate in future focus groups if interested. All input collected through November 30, 2015 is included in this report.

SUMMARY OF INPUT COLLECTED

The survey was conducted online through Survey Monkey and was available from November 14 to November 30. Ninety responses were collected with over 270 additional comments from respondents. The survey included questions which asked respondents to share how they use the park, issues and problems with the park, desired amenities, and how they envision the park in 50 years. Highlights of the survey responses are below and full results of the survey are provided at the end of this report.

- 24 Attendees (recorded on the sign in sheet)
- 81 Comments collected at 5 different stations
- 90 Survey Responses

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The majority of the respondents indicated they use Emma Long Metropolitan Park a few times per year. 18% responded they use the park weekly.
 - 64% of respondents indicated they use the park for part of the day
 - The three top responses regarding how respondents use the park are: to walk, hike, or run (68%); to walk their dogs (46%); and to relax, read, and enjoy being outdoors.
 - Over half of the respondents indicated the park is overcrowded. The next most frequent responses indicated problems with lack of parking and lack of maintenance
 - The top five requested amenities include: more trails and walking paths, more trash cans, more shaded seating areas, water fountains, and more restrooms and showers
 - The top three qualities respondents look for when camping are: shade and trees, near the water, and a quiet secluded site.
 - The most frequently requested amenity for RV camping is online reservations
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- 81% of respondents indicated they would like to see nature focused programming for visitors
- The most frequently selected goal for the park is improved infrastructure
- 78% of respondents indicated they would like trail maps provided at the park
- The most frequently noted concerns for access to the park referred to the lack of parking availability and that parking is disorganized.

Both the open ended questions from the survey and the comment collection exercise at the meeting yielded a wealth of additional input on issues and ideas for improving the park. All comments from both are included at the end of this report. A summary of the major recurring themes is below.

- The park is overcrowded leading to illegal parking and excess trash along City Park Road, and problems for residents in adjacent neighborhoods
- Better parking layout and flow within the park is needed
- There were several requests for bike lanes along City Park Road
- There is a desire to keep park natural and not over developed or changed drastically
- Sticker burrs are a problem in the grassy areas
- There is a desire to see basic infrastructure (water, electrical, etc.) upgraded and existing amenities (restrooms, boat docks, etc.) improved
- A camping reservation system is wanted, many suggested online
- Many people are interested in a Friends of the Park type option with annual passes or discounts
- There is interest in the police/lake patrol located here with a presence in the park and along City Park Road
- There were several comments on boat traffic noise and lack of following boating rules



PUBLIC MEETING STATION COMMENTS

BOAT RAMP AND WATER ACCESS AREA

1. Add quiet fishing area on southeast side of the truck/trailer parking lot
2. Please follow Dark Skies guidelines for any new lighting
3. Need signs advising of lake driving rules (drive down right side, etc.)
4. Please add a quiet fishing area/fishing pier
5. Need public outreach to boat rental business re; driving rules on lake (drive on right)
6. Improve signaling & car counts to advise people of park status (full or not) well before entry gate
7. Need to upgrade and expand entry roads and intersection of City Park Rd. and Pearce Rd. nearest park entry
8. Money Ideas – Boat Taxis/Tours
 - a. City Park to Tom Miller Dam and Mansfield
 - b. Lady Bird Lake – Red Bud to S. 1ST
9. Swim Dock, Beach and Ramp improvements
 - a. Replace splintered boards/exposed nails, add new cleats to tie boats, provide bumpers to protect boats
 - b. Regrade approach area to sand beach to capture drainage and dog waste before it reaches sand
 - c. Prefer steeper boat ramps since it is a constant level lake

CENTRAL LAWN, SWIMMING AND DAY USE AREA

1. Buoys along THR “No wake Zone” for the length of the park
 2. The stickers would keep me from having kid friendly family gatherings
 3. I think shade should be added to the central lawn
 4. Life guard during the weekends
 5. Offer annual memberships- “Friends of the Park” for unlimited access; even better if it can be tax-deductible b/c donation
 6. Austin lake patrol station here rather than Walsh Landing
 7. First aid station
 8. Annual pass at discount for neighborhood people. I won’t pay \$8 every time to come
 9. Online reservation for camping and RV spots
 10. Add signage for boating rules on lake (drive on right)
 11. Use buried curb stones for striping in parking lot(s).
 12. Improve grass areas (irrigation, weed/pest control, etc.)
 - a. Improve parking areas (lane marking, flow control)
 - b. Improve swim/beach area (hydrilla control, buffers)
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CIRCULATION, TENT AND RV CAMPING USE AREA

1. Tree trimming is needed on a more regular basis. Dangerous/liability issue if damage occurs to RV.
2. "Critters" often prowl through the trash at night, spreading garbage across park area. Sealed/closed trash and recycling.
3. Park is wired for 50-AMP but main feed needs upgrade
4. Trash pickup is very inefficient
 - a. New canisters and recycling would decrease need for daily service
5. Access to RV/camping area is inefficient especially with trailers
6. Pavement in RV area is cracked, huge potholes, very difficult for driving or biking
7. Reservations will have a drastic change on both revenue and who uses the RV camping
8. People will only pay for weekend days, not 2 days ahead. This will potentially decrease RV revenue by 1/2
 - a. Keeping a certain % available for local residents as first come, first serve (FCFS). Keep parks local for RV campers
9. Potential Round-a-bout at intersection of day use area, boat ramp parking and central lawn entry

INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES, AND OPERATIONS

1. RV camping roads, RV sites, Trash and recycling
 2. Pavement in RV area too dangerous for bikes/scooters due to potholes
 3. Maintenance: After heavy summer weekends, trash pick-up along City Park Road would be helpful. It is excessive. So far only neighbors clean up.
 4. Safety: Provide better signage at the "Y" to direct entrants to the park; not surrounding neighborhood.
 5. Safety: Processing entrants at the Pearce Rd./City Park Rd. "Y" backs up traffic into City Park Road. Solution: Move processing deeper into park, off of public road. Use turkey creek trail parking for those people waiting for entrance.
 6. Safety: Entrants waiting to enter park on busy days choose to park alongside City Park Road and Pearce Road. They keep their engines running on dry grass which causes fire hazards. If these people could be pooled at Turkey Creek parking lot, they could be monitored better.
 7. Please make sure the water/waste water and electric infrastructure is a top priority - extremely important to fund this.
 8. Flatten cedar areas on top of hill – consider wastewater field of lines covered with mulch. Leaving all trees as is done with adjacent plant effluent.
 9. Playground
 - a. I second that a playground is needed.
 10. More and better camping facilities and restrooms.
 - a. Kayak rental
 - b. Playgrounds both in and outside of PARD area (City Park area has no play facilities for children)
 - c. Summer camp/programs for kids. Even on PARD basis such as craft activities, bike rentals, organized sports
 - d. Get rid of sticker burrs
 - e. Attract new concession area with year-round reasons to visit the park – not just holiday weekends
 11. Remove burrs from grass lawn area
 12. Safety: Provide clear signage in English and Spanish to NOT SWIM outside of buoys. Some swimmers attempt to cross the lake!
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13. Safety: Free swim lessons on the weekends would be great! I could help organize [REDACTED]

OVERALL PARK AERIAL

1. Please Improve Roadways:
 - a. Visibility problems due to overgrown shrubs, grasses, trees
 - b. Potholes
2. Improve shoulders; add shoulders along City Park Rd. into park
3. Fees based on usage for this park at least to get the \$5+ million needed to work on Emma Long's infrastructure.
4. Please resume "Breakfast in the Park" with ACPNA neighborhood. Sorely missed!
5. Please trim back limbs and shrubs that impede visibility on Pearce Rd. and on Oak Shores
6. Create entry waiting area off road when park entry is closed until a vehicle exits the park
7. Create a round-a-bout for intersection Pearce and City Park south. It will help slow traffic and turn around when park is full
8. Add permanent Monument Sign at Park Entry to indicate if park is full or not. (Electronic message board)

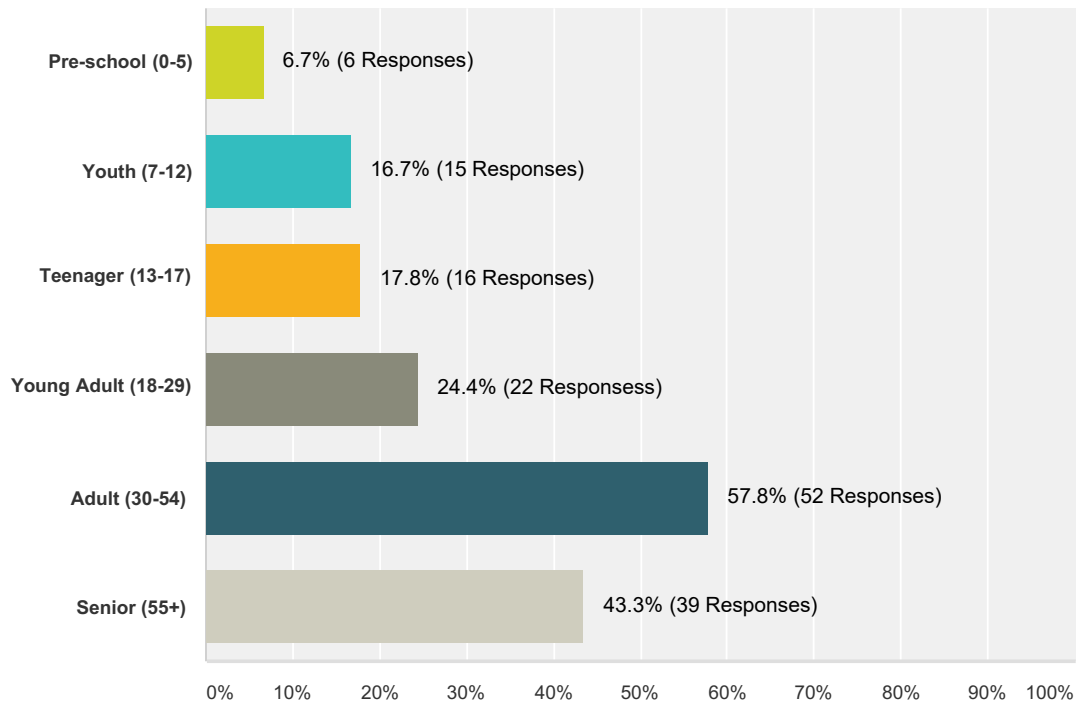
GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Why aren't there fees for the motor cross area
 2. Why isn't there a Friends or Conservancy Group to support the park
 3. Should we focus on safety issues first
 4. Seems like 1.1 million will run out fast
 5. Neighbors concerned with ingress/egress. Would like a focus group for this topic
 6. Safety issue of people parking cars on street
 7. Does City have control of park? Federally mandated
 8. Is there pressure to change use of park (development etc.)
 9. Past ideas – lake police headquarters might be moved to park (at one point but moved somewhere else)
 10. Advertising this as an off leash dog park – can we be involved before any decisions are made
 11. Asked how we can learn about volunteer days
 12. Concerned about Turkey Creek erosion because it is a great trail and is very well used, but want to raise money or charge a fee to use
 13. Dark Skies – can we follow it
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SURVEY 1 RESULTS

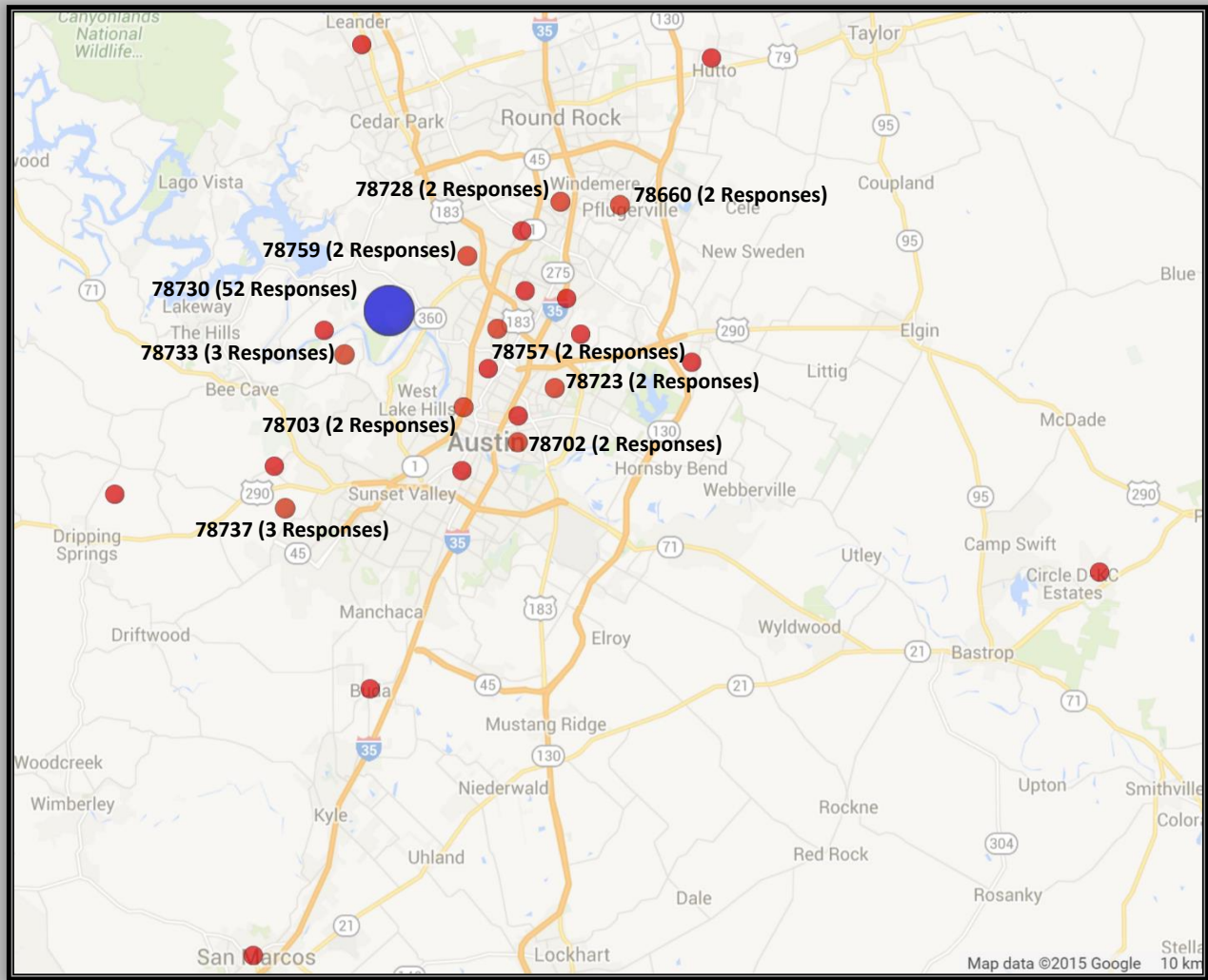
Q1 Please choose the ages of all members in your household. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 90 Skipped: 0



Q2 What is your zip code?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 0

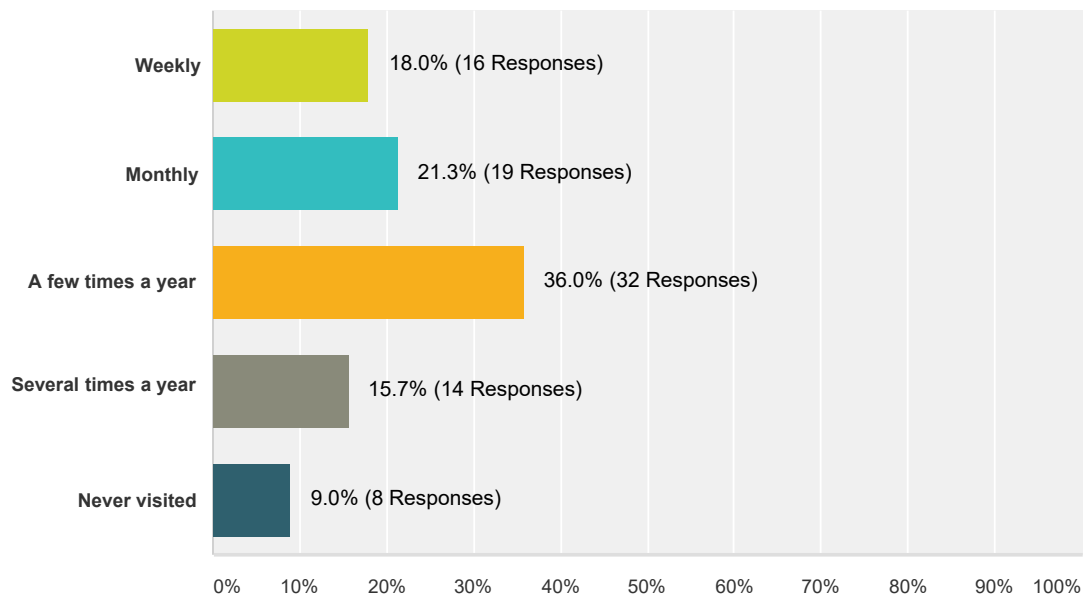


All zip codes with more than one response are shown and labeled on the map. Zip codes with one response are shown on the map and listed below. The following zip codes are not represented on the map due to size constraints: 77449 (Katy), 78626 (Georgetown) and 76086 (Weatherford), which all had one response each.

Zip Code	# of Responses	Zip Code	# of Responses	Zip Code	# of Responses
78730	52	76086	1	78704	1
78733	3	77449	1	78722	1
78737	3	78610	1	78727	1
78660	2	78620	1	78732	1
78702	2	78626	1	78736	1
78703	2	78634	1	78753	1
78723	2	78641	1	78754	1
78728	2	78653	1	78756	1
78757	2	78659	1	78758	1
78759	2	78666	1		

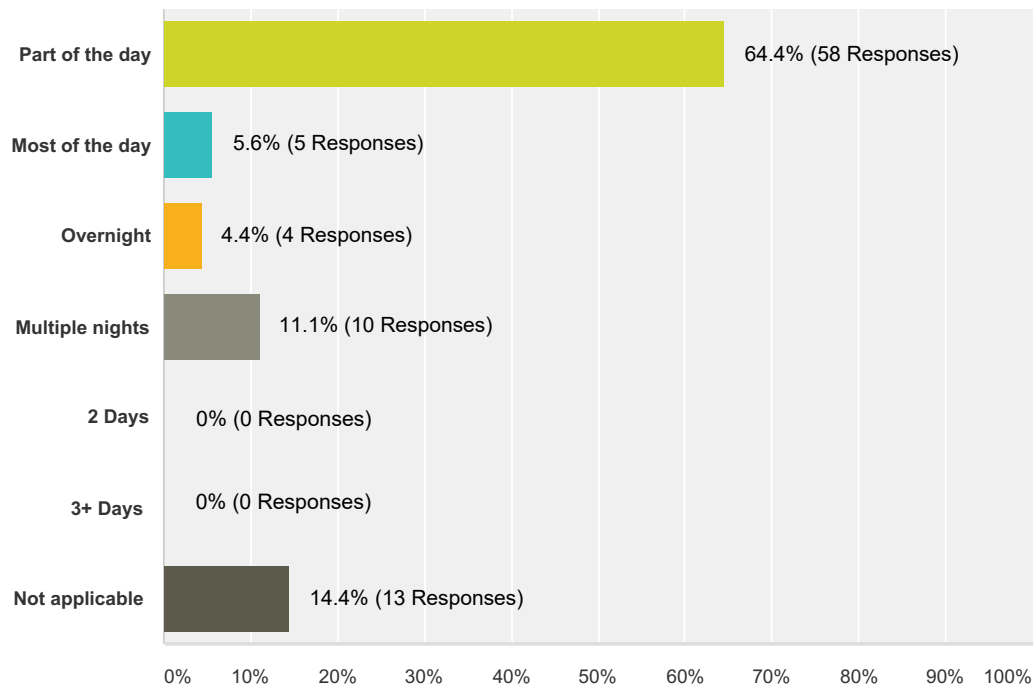
Q3 How often do you visit Emma Long Park?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 1



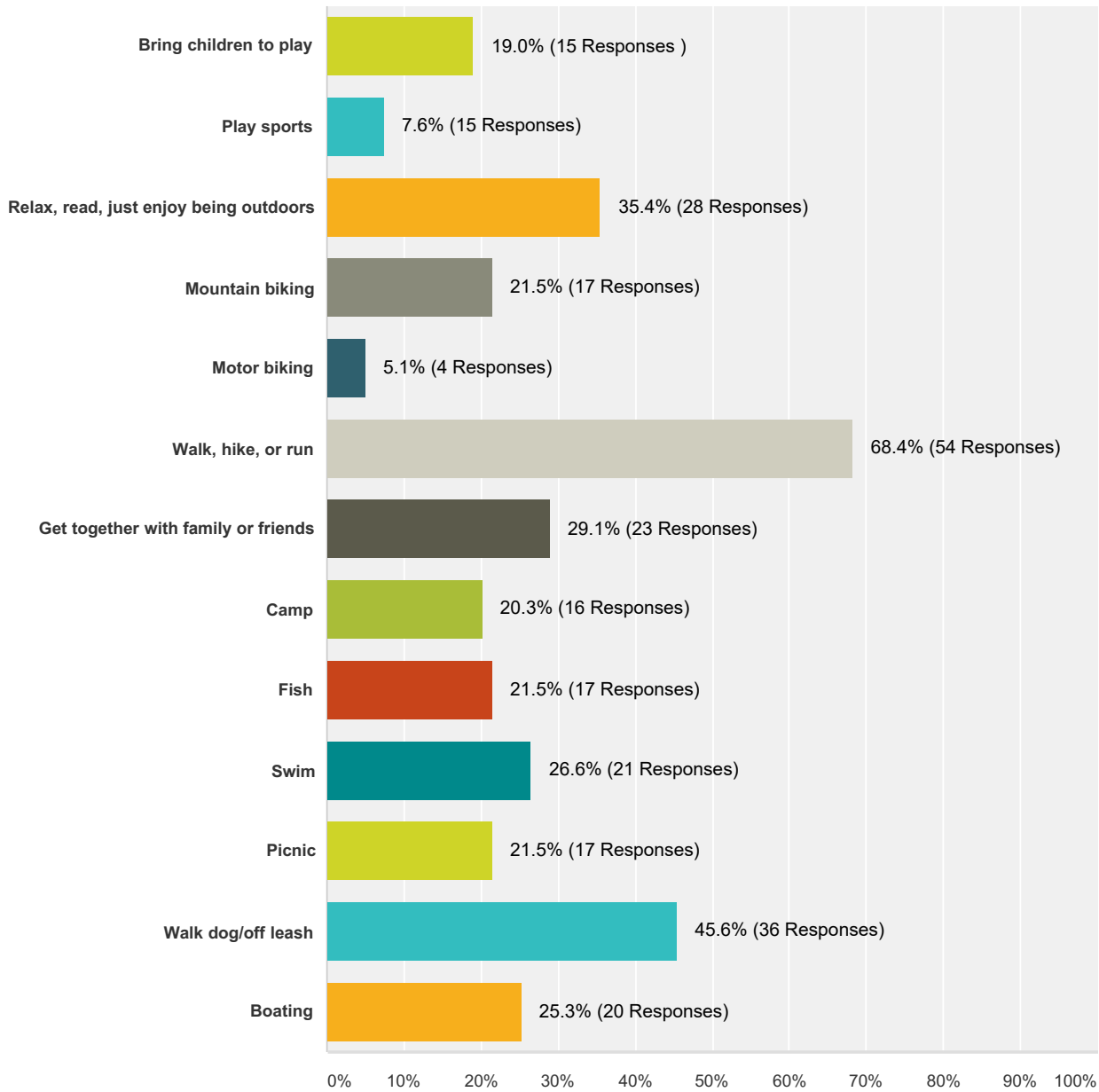
Q4 How much time do you typically spend at Emma Long Park?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 0



Q5 What do you typically do at Emma Long Park? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 79 Skipped: 11

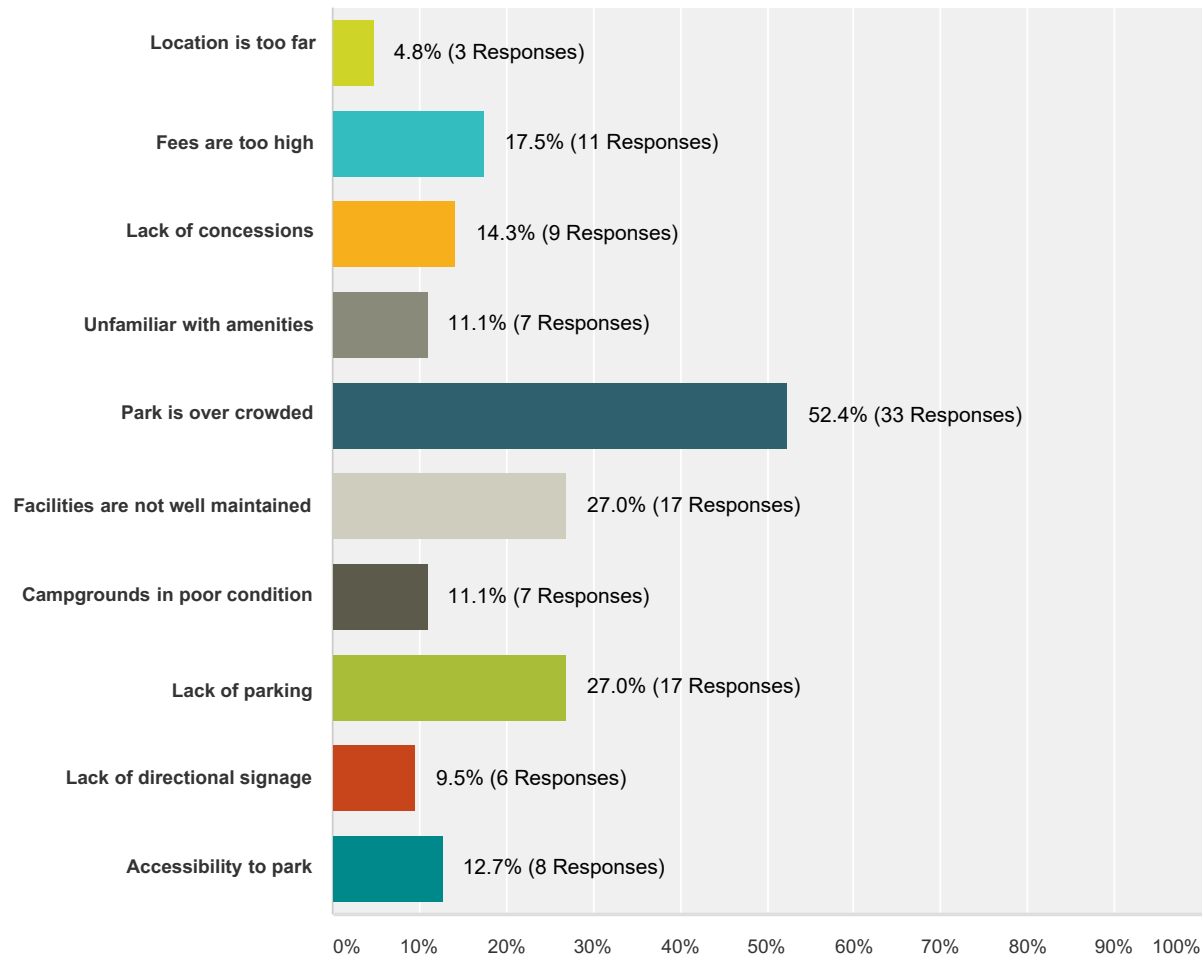


Q5 'Other' Responses

#	Other (please specify)
1	Archery
2	Geocache
3	Geocaching
4	walk trails
5	Scout overnights
6	bird watching
7	kayaking
8	go by boat. may stop in to visit friends visiting the park.
9	Occasionally meet up there for surf/wakeboard events

Q6 Are there any specific issues or problems that prevent you from using Emma Long Park? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 63 Skipped: 27

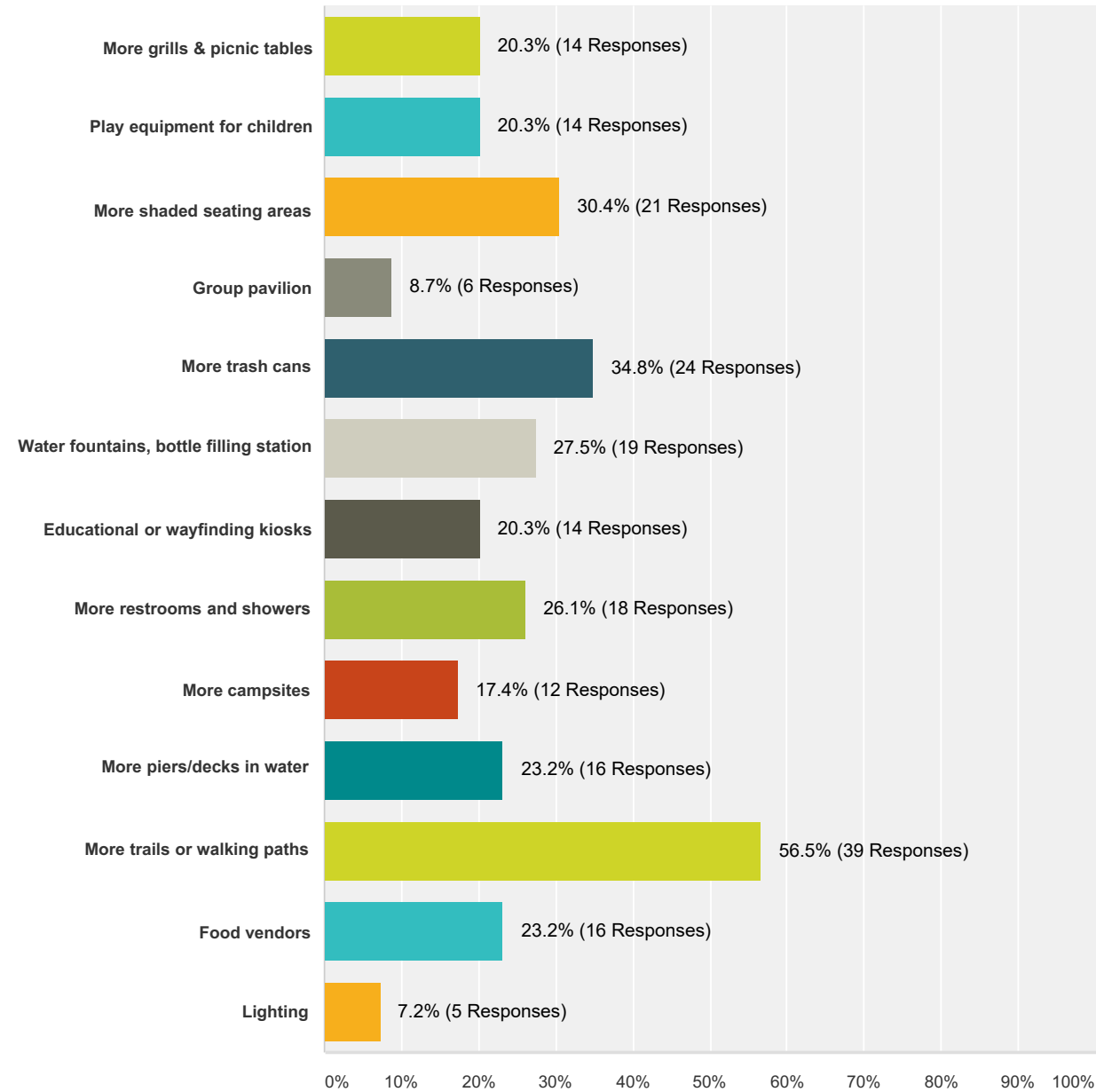


Q6 'Other' Responses

#	Other (please specify)
1	No one answers the phone. Online camp site reservations would be very helpful.
2	No reservation for camping
3	Restroom by the Turkey Creek off leash trail. A port-a-potty would be fine.
4	stickers in the grass - no tent camping waterfront - not enough shade trees - gate locked at night - need yearly pass for frequent visitors (or friends of park pass,etc)
5	To many people in the park and people still park illegally outside and walk in. If capacity then do not allow entry. Drunk people.
6	Fire ants and sticker burrs
7	I like the park
8	constant roaring of highspeedjetskis and motorboats
9	Need nice clean bathrooms; would like to feel that park is staffed with people who will keep us safe and be helpful to visitors
10	Campgrounds were a tad overgrown in Sept. but we did get a lot of rain.
11	Holiday weekends are really crowded
12	you can't make reservations, so planning is hard
13	Lots of fire ants, shells that cut on beach, not enough day use area, not much to do with kids.
14	Lack of online reservations
15	Lack of bike lanes on City Park going in and out of park
16	Boat Docks need maintenance and bumper-gaurds on bottom edges and sides so a boat can safely dock to load or unload. More picnic tables in area by boat ramp furthest to left.
17	Boat launch parking is my biggest problem, esp cars parking in trailer spots.
18	turned into Mexico City
19	I live in the neighborhood and the daily fee is high for as much as I use the park. I wish there was an annual use pass. There are too many sticker burrs for my dog to enjoy so I take him to the off-leash park at Turkey Creek. I avoid the park on the summer weekends because it is too crowded (unless we are camping)
20	homeless living in park
21	lack of bike lanes--this safety feature is needed
22	Balcones Canyonlands Preserve closing grandfathered trails.
23	Sticker burrs
24	I don't have an issue with signage, but we live close to the park, and people are always getting lost on their way to the park. They turn left at the Motorcycle Trails because they see a large sign that says Emma Long park on it. There is a smaller sign further up the road that says the park is straight ahead, but it is small and hidden by a tree.
25	My issue is the backup of traffic onto City Park Road and Pearce Road, and the trash that is left behind by cars that have illegally parked outside of the park.
26	lack of shade
27	No reservation to camping
28	Grass burrs!

Q7 What amenities could be added to or included that would improve the overall experience visiting Emma Long Park?(Select all that apply)

Answered: 69 Skipped: 21

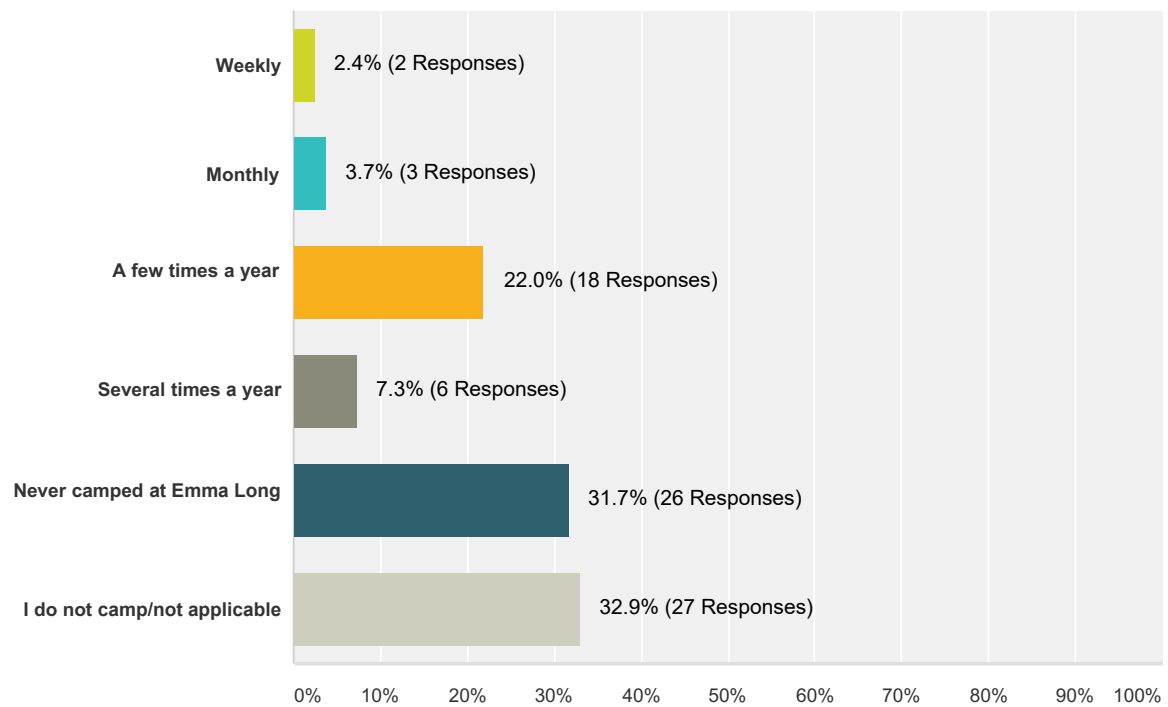


Q7 'Other' Responses

#	Other (please specify)
1	Dog park (off leash)
2	headquarters for Lake Austin Patrol and other City Staff
3	Half of the utility sites electric outlets don't work
4	online reservation
5	More police presence
6	I like the park
7	pier, pier, boat noise regs, pier, pier, boat hours/speed rules
8	more signs; more staff at front gate
9	no lighting, please, no lighting
10	Improved and larger swimming area, splash park, park ranger activities
11	a place along the shoreline for canoe & kayak portage. A place for the Austin Lake Patrol to dock their boats so they can better serve the west half of Lake Austin.
12	.
13	nothing
14	disc golf course
15	http://www.twicetheice.com/inquiry/become-an-owner
16	A disk golf course
17	On-line reservation system for camping.
18	Enjoy most the undeveloped, wild parts of park
19	more pedestrian paths and bike paths
20	kayak rentals
21	Better signage at entrance of park at the Y at City Park Rd. and Pearce Rd.
22	More parking
23	Bike laned
24	Less People

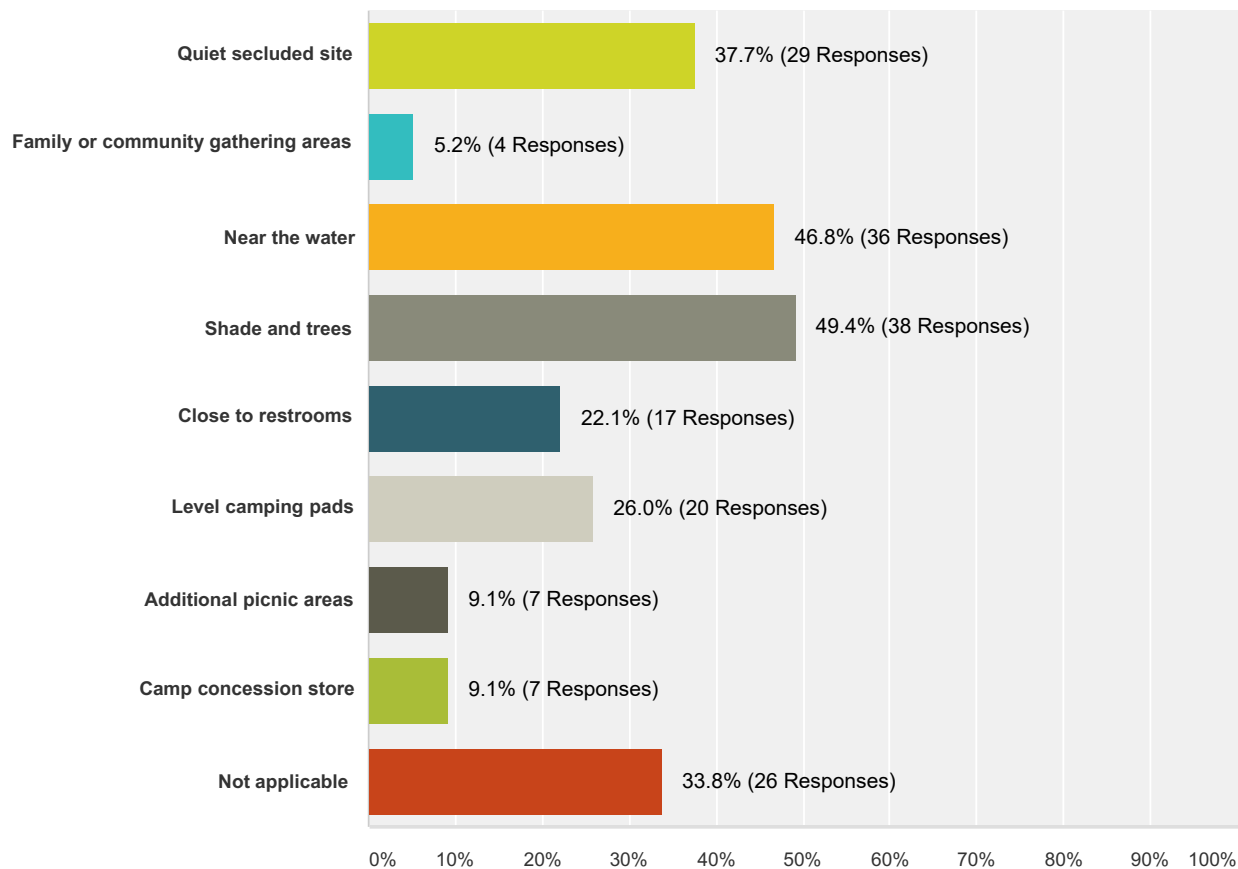
Q8 How often do you camp at Emma Long Park?

Answered: 82 Skipped: 8



Q9 What qualities are you most looking for when camping? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 77 Skipped: 13

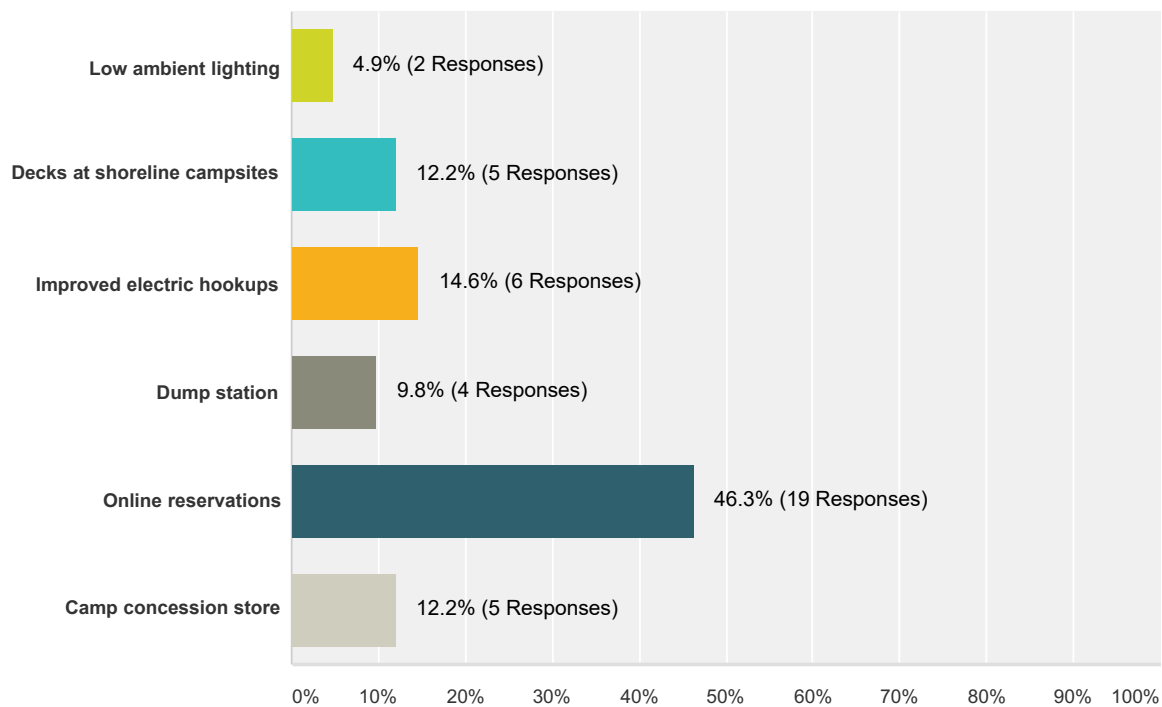


Q9 'Other' Responses

#	Other (please specify)
1	drinking water supply
2	Electric outlets
3	the ability to reserve my site in advance
4	tent camping by water without RVs
5	Reservable to austin residents only
6	no motor boats or jetskis screaming past, pier
7	30 Amp waterfront utility sites
8	Feel of nature
9	On-line reservations, showers nearby
10	Bike lanes

Q10 What RV camping amenities could Emma Long Park add to or include that would improve your camping experience?(Select all that apply)

Answered: 41 Skipped: 49

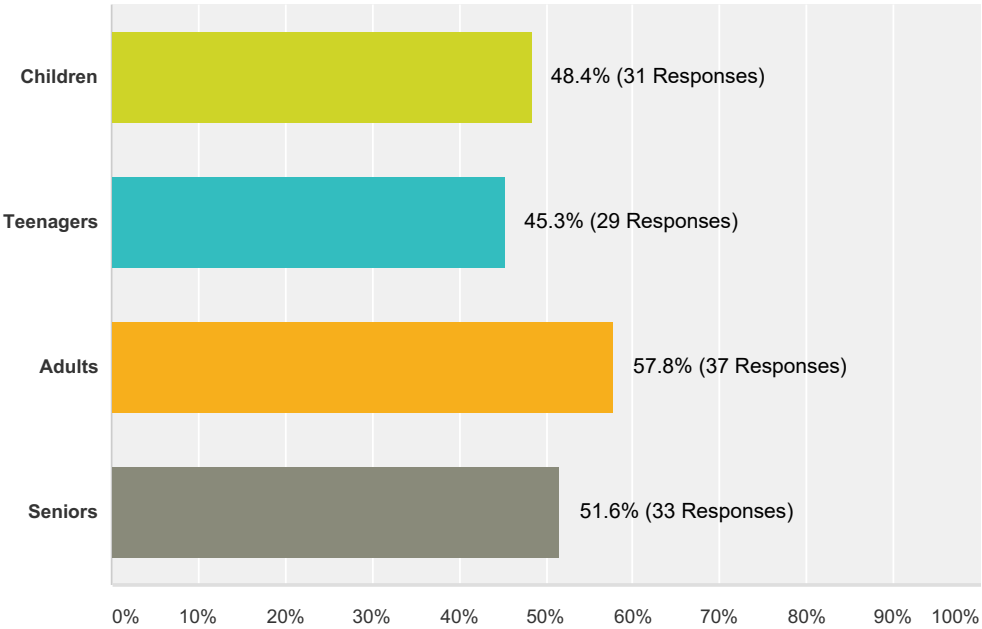


Q10 'Other' Responses

#	Other (please specify)
1	relocate the RV camping to the boat launching end of the park
2	And impoverished electric hookups
3	ability to reserve spots ahead of time - first come first serve is hard to plan around
4	More shoreline sites (dont have to be so huge) and a restroom. Waterfront sites that DONT cater to big rigs.
5	Less is more
6	pier; noise/speed rules for boats and jetskis
7	NOTE -- survey didn't allow multiple answers here, but all of the above are important
8	Larger level pads for setting the RV on, sewer connections at each site
9	would only let me choose one
10	Easier access and a store
11	more electrical hookups
12	on-line reservations
13	I go camping to be in the dark. I don't like night lighting.
14	Bike lanes
15	Also. Online reservations. Question 10 only accepts one selection

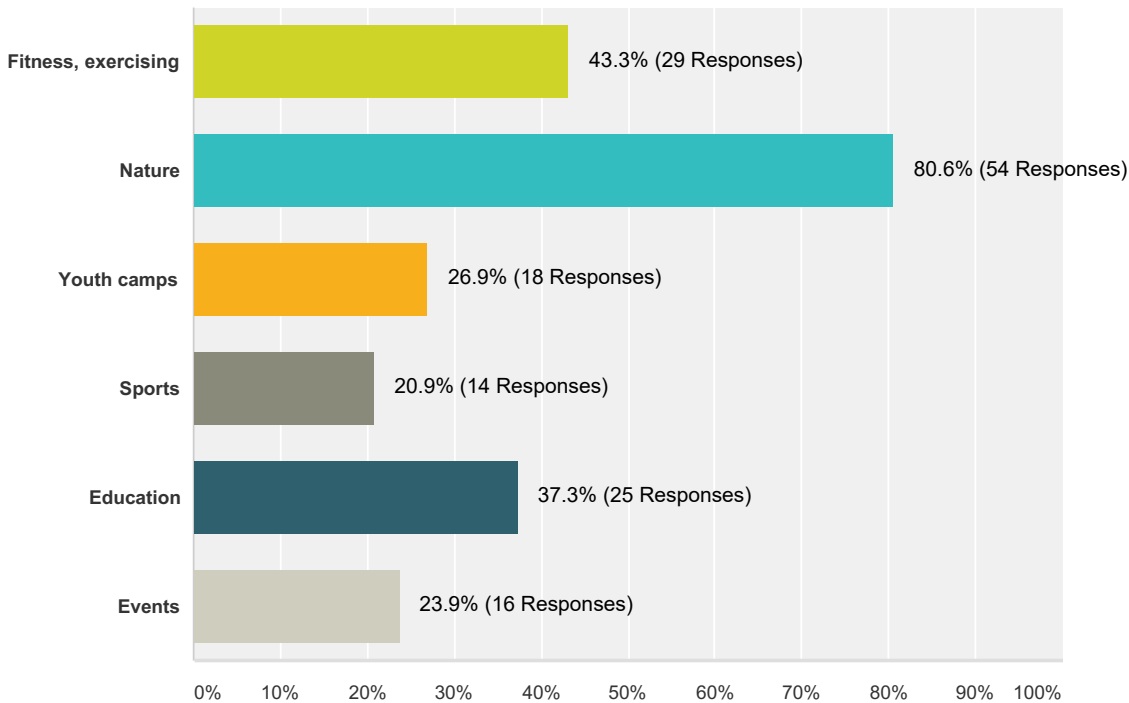
Q11 For what age groups would you like to see Emma Long Park include programs and amenities? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 64 Skipped: 26



Q12 What types of programs would you like to see Emma Long Park offer to visitors?
(Select all that apply)

Answered: 67 Skipped: 23

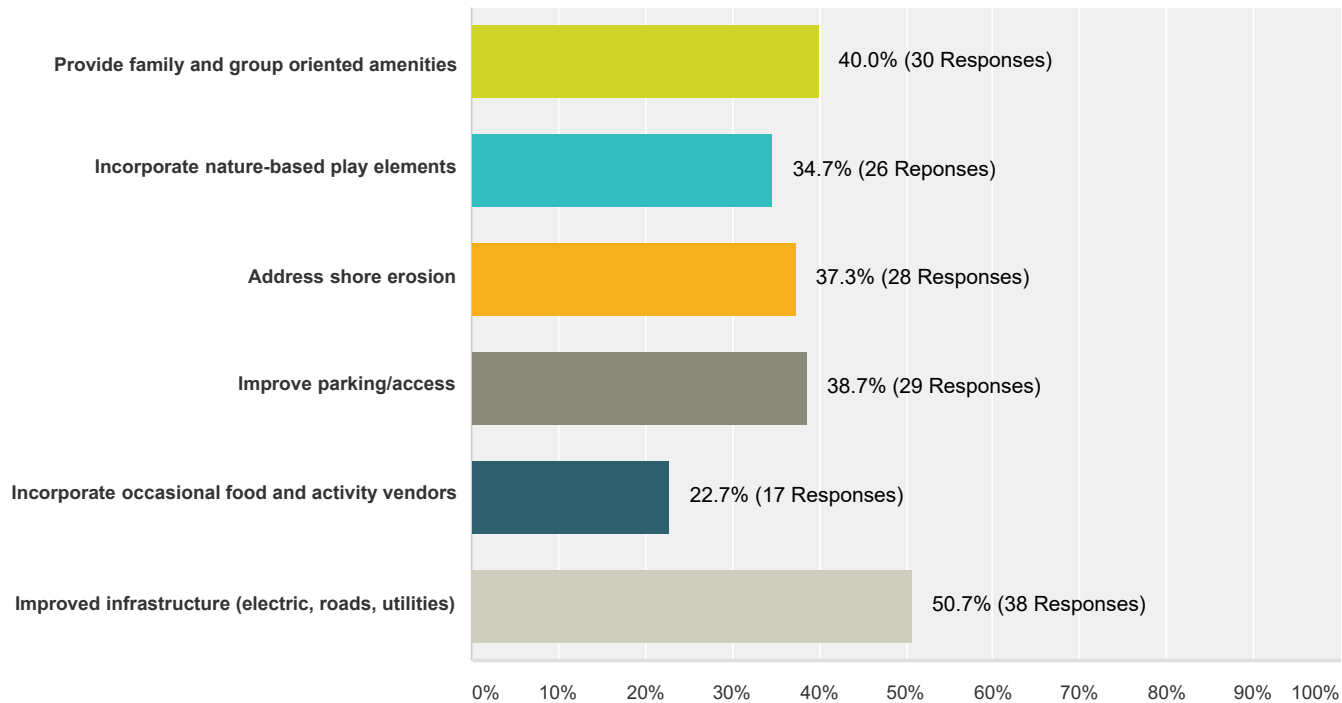


Q12 'Other' Responses

#	Other (please specify)
1	no amplified music, but community events would be nice since this is the designated neighborhood parkland for most of the surrounding neighborhoods
2	Concerts in the park. Concessions. Discounts for local neighbors
3	usable fishing & kids fishing lessons
4	Basic Boater/Jet Ski lake etiquette and lake laws/safety course
5	Archery
6	The park should remain a quiet place where people can enjoy nature, not some noisy over built downtown park.
7	Motorcycle competitions
8	conservation
9	Motocycle trials competitions
10	I don't need programs. I like just swimming and playing.

Q13 What do you believe are the most important goals for Emma Long Park? (Select your top three choices)

Answered: 75 Skipped: 15



Q13 'Other' Responses

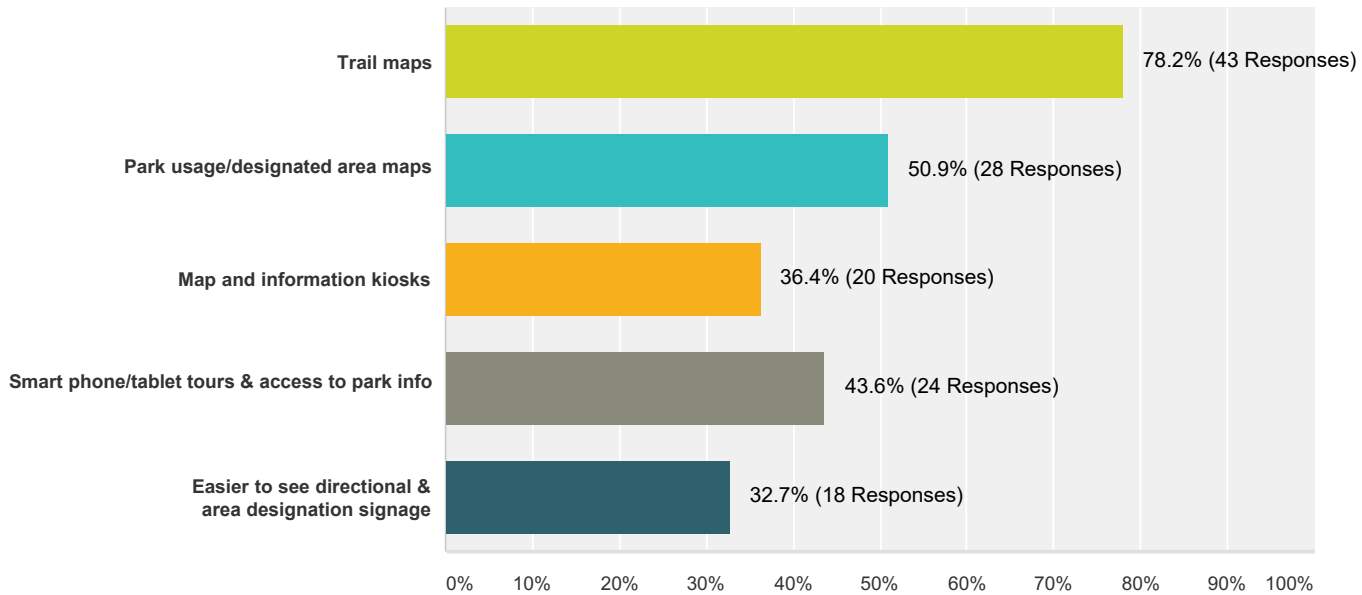
#	Other (please specify)
1	for City Staff to embrace this parkland in planning and implementing a vision and improvements
2	Provide outdoor space, preserve wildlife, help stop climate change
3	to provide an online camping reservation system
4	not making too many changes that the park loses it's special appeal - keep the changes simple etc.
5	Ban wake surfing on the lake!
6	piers; noise/speed rules for jetskis and motorboats.
7	Improved boat launch/dock/parking area
8	There should be an electronic sign at 2222 stating the vacancy conditions and its controlled from the guard shack.
9	Maintain & improve the natural bueaty of the whole park.
10	Motorcycling
11	improve all of city park road-from 2222 to Pearce w/bike lanes
12	Keep existing trails open, protect grandfathered access

Q13 'Other' Responses, Continued

13	<p>Access - Ingress and egress is a hot topic. During peak seasons, traffic backs up onto CPR and Pearce Rd. The safety issues include hot engines running on dry grass (drought intensifies this issue), cars park illegally along City roads (City Park Rd.) and County roads (Pearce Rd.) and Park road (City Park Rd.) which confuses efforts to control the problems because too many intensities are involved and pass along responsibility to the other, young children are left unattended to run back and forth between the parked cars, excessive (EXCESSIVE!) trash is left along CPR and Pearce Rd. Park staff is not picking up the trash which leaves the cleanup to local neighbors. The processing of cars attempting to enter the park is occurring at the wrong location. It is currently being processed at the Y on City Park Road and Pearce. The Y is being blocked to traffic instead of using the Y as the turnaround loop. Large trucks, trailers and RVs attempt to TURN AROUND IN THE STREET instead of getting to use the Y as the turnaround. More importantly, this location isn't safe at all even if the Y was being used as a turnaround. All the previously mentioned problems are occurring on public roads and should be handled ONLY ON PARK ROADS INSIDE THE PARK. The process to allow people to enter should be occurring inside the park, possibly by the Turkey Creek parking lot. This allows public roads to not get congested. If there isn't adequate space inside the park to process these entrants, then funds should be used to create a space to receive and process people wanting to enter the park. Any overflow (people who cannot enter the full park) should be directed to LEAVE the area and not be allowed to park alongside public roads for the day.</p>
14	No in and out for day use.
15	improve swimming area: docks, bottom, more trees
16	Get rid of grass burrs
17	Control parking outside park blocking traffic

Q14 What types of signage or wayfinding features would improve your experience at Emma Long Park? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 55 Skipped: 35

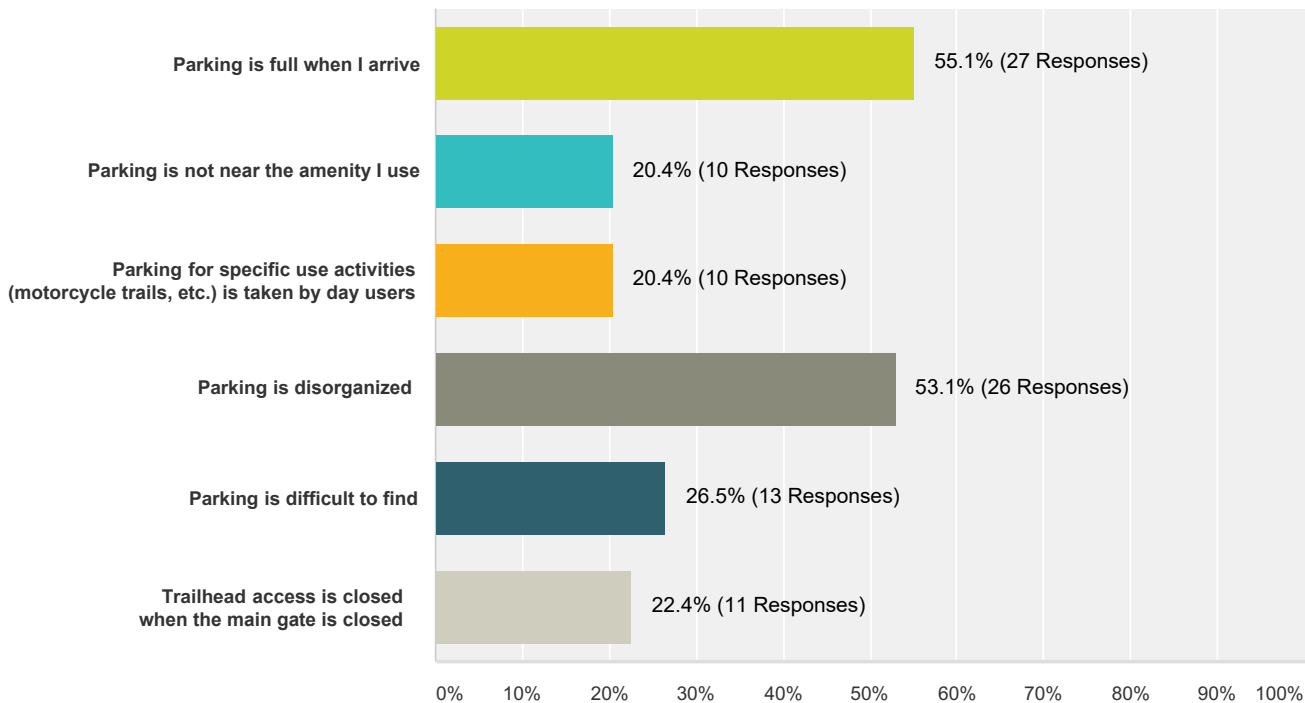


Q14 'Other' Responses

#	Other (please specify)
1	include the lakeside hiking trail in the boundary for parkland planning and improvements!!! don't keep it tucked behind the "RVs only beyond this point" area. Move the RV area and include the lakeside trail in a natural camping area side of the park.
2	Enforce no parking signs
3	More trail markers (especially where trail gets hard to discern)
4	fishing areas; fishing piers; tennis courts
5	see other #13
6	Update the boat ramp signage to inform boaters of the lake safety rules
7	Near entrance, show location of all parking
8	Entrance signs, especially at the Y at City Park Road and Pearce Road.
9	Better signage when park is full
10	Signs at 2222 about parking overcrowding

Q15 What are your concerns regarding access to the park? (Select all apply)

Answered: 49 Skipped: 41

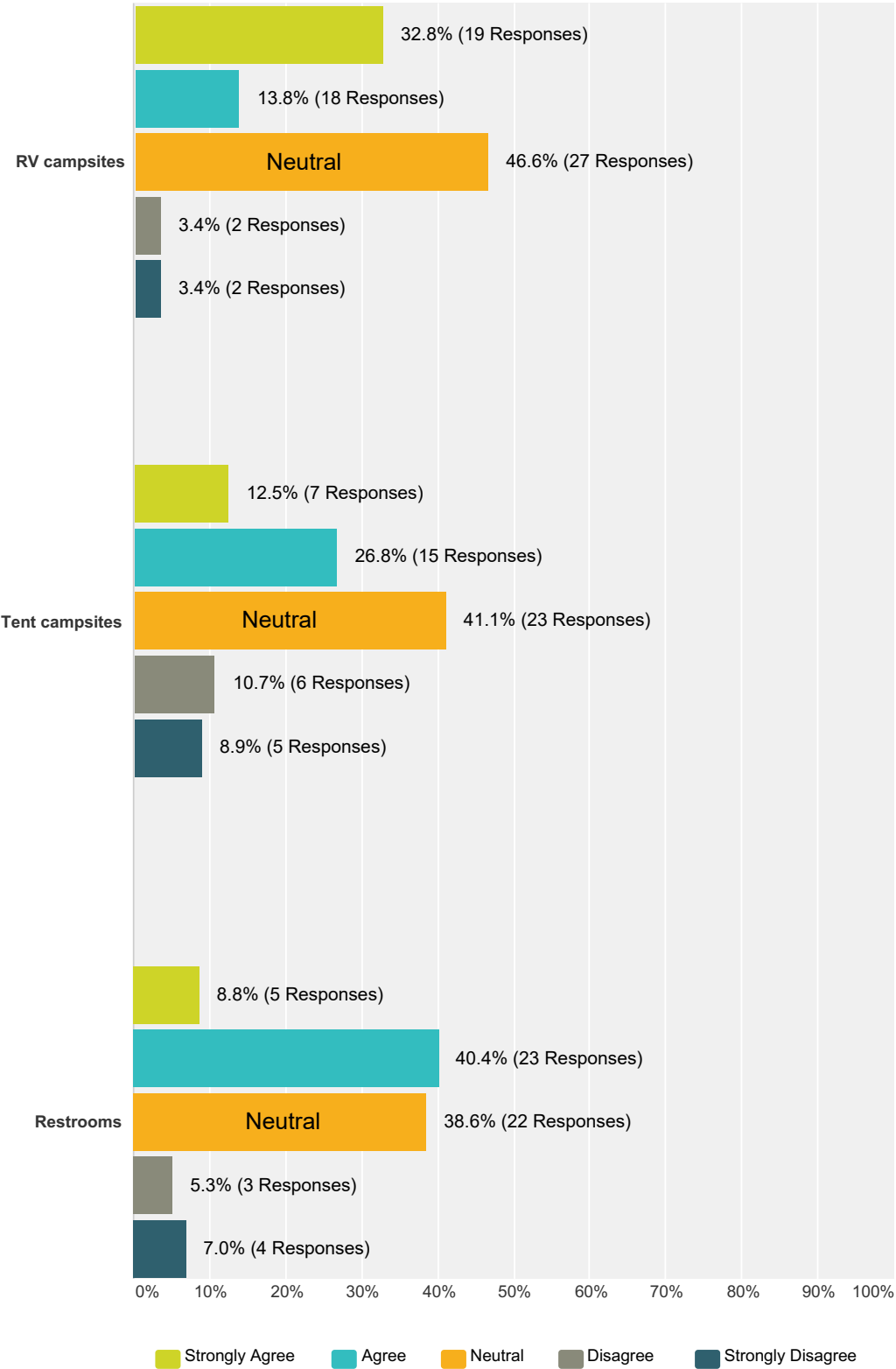


Q15 'Other' Responses

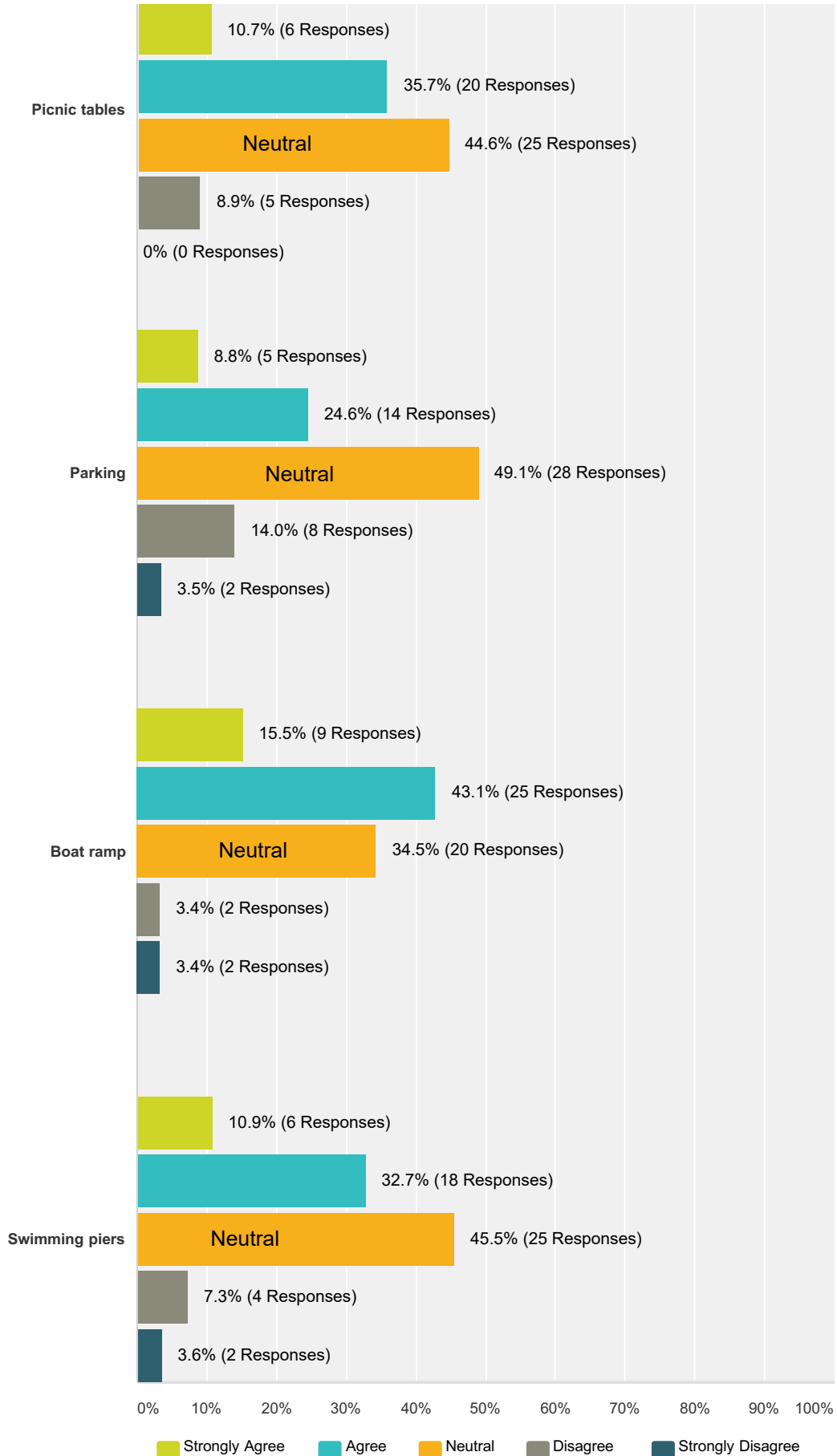
#	Other (please specify)
1	no safe non-vehicular access. Parking is often maxed out Memorial Day to Labor Day, preventing nearby residents from accessing the park.
2	trash and pedestrians on the street leading to the full park are a nuisance to neighbors - can't launch boat when parking is full. maybe sell separate trailer pass and parking in that area is only for trailers.
3	Parking enforcement including police presence to cut back on drunkenness and trash
4	Restroom facility at turkey creek trailhead, parking lot surace
5	parking nearer fishing areas; playgrounds for little kids
6	When park is 'full' people still park along the road and walk-in, boat trailer parking is very difficult at times
7	No secured parking for bicycles for those of us who cycle there.
8	Boat docks need upgrades and maintenance
9	Traffic congestion occurring on public roads instead of park roads inside the park. Lack of policing of trash, illegal parking and pedestrian traffic on the public road. Visually cluttered signage at the Y instead of one, neat, clear sign with arrows pointing to the right to the park instead of allowing park traffic to accidentally wander into neighborhoods. Park employees giving confusing directions and instructions to entrants and allowing them to hang out outside of the park gate instead of bringing them into the park to receive and process. The problem is being dumped on the neighboring communities instead of he processing occurring within the park and the park absorbing the consequences.
10	In out and access, except camping, should be restricted. This would prevent people parking outside of park.
11	Overflow parking on city park road
12	Park is dangerous because of overcrowding

Q16 Please share your opinion on specific use locations within Emma Long Park. For example, if you feel the RV camping area is located in an ideal place, indicate your agreement. If you think tent camping is not located in an ideal place, indicate your disagreement

Answered: 60 Skipped: 30



Q16 Continued



Q17 What memories do you have of Emma Long Park that are meaningful to you?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 46

#	Responses
1	Camping and spending time with family.
2	40+ years. Too many to describe here.
3	Our dog is never happier than when she is running the trails at Emma Long. Dogs to play with, water to swim in, and lots of room to stretch her legs. She thinks it's fantastic!
4	Camping lake side with my kids and wife
5	Fishing with my dad.
6	Lots!
7	Camping and fishing with friends and family
8	Had some amazing carp fishing adventures at Emma. Will always hold a special place in my heart.
9	Lots of overnight fishing sessions.
10	I have been swimming there since I was a small child. All the hikes I've taken w/ friends, family and my dogs.
11	throwing huge parties there for special occasions
12	Swimming, fishing and hiking
13	Playing in the sand and water with my kids, jumping off the swim area piers, finally doing the entire circuit of turkey creek trail, playing in the waterfalls, picking up pecans in the fall, birthday parties, many many more
14	Several gatherings there and lots of hiking. I have camped there a few times.
15	Hikes in the woods, swimming with friends, picnics with family.
16	a trip I took there as a teen (part of a group), the unfortunate noise when trying to fish. I'd dish there more if it were feasible. Horrid memories of noisy boats/jetskis.
17	Camping with scouts
18	Hanging out with lots of friends on major holiday weekends just relaxing, eating great food and listening to music and stories, and boating
19	NA
20	It was cool being across the lake from The Pier!!
21	birthday parties, overnight group camping, boating
22	Swimming and enjoying Lake Austin.
23	Tall large trees on the river
24	My family moved to Austin in 1960 and the first place we went camping for a week was at Emma Long Park. Swimming, fishing, running around the park and watching people use the ski ramp that use to be on the lake.
25	None
26	Motorcycling
27	hate the parking
28	Meeting friends/boating
29	Great place to take picnic, enjoy the park and lake and Lake Austin. Kids love playing in the sandy area left of boat of furthestmost boat ramp
30	too many to list. I launch my boat. I run the trails. I mountain bike.

Q17 Continued

31	First discovered park thru friends 52 years ago. We all fell in love with the water and hills and came up from Houston every other weekend. We purchased a house on lake 35 years ago. The family all live here now and love it.
32	My son is 4 years old & for every one of his birthday we have camped at Emma Long (& will continue this tradition) I also taught my rescue dog not to be afraid of the water at Emma Long.
33	Hiking away from camping area to discover hawk nests, fossils, wildflowers, listening for GCWarblers, sitting on ledge high above the river, enjoying serenity of nature. Enjoying many lovely spots along a full Turkey Creek before it was overrun by dogs.
34	We have three generations of motorcycle riders using the park. It is disturbing to see the constant attacks to close grandfathered trails.
35	Love the sandy lake.
36	Running in Emma Long Park 20+ yrs ago
37	Breakfasts in the park with the ACPNA (Austin City Park Neighborhood Association) neighborhood for 2 decades until the past few years. Great info from parks staff, police, fire, boating, etc. , and neighbors brought treats to share.
38	Many pleasant hikes.
39	Boating by it for over 30 years and enjoying the beauty of the large trees, attractive shoreline and seeing the swimmers enjoying themselves.
40	Walking dogs on the Turkey Creek Trail. So many families and hikers of all ages and abilities.
41	loved taking my children there and now I'm taking grandchildren
42	We used to have great work retreats there in the 80s. It was not as crowded, but the park was still beautiful.
43	Peaceful trails until over-run by large dogs in Turkey Creek

Q18 How do you see Emma Long Park in 50 years?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 44

#	Responses
1	Hopefully better than it is today.
2	More land, longer trails, more entrances to trails. More wildlife
3	hopefully about the same. quiet place for families.
4	Gone
5	Hopefully how it was in the early 2000's
6	Hopefully no grass carp
7	With an online reservation system
8	Concerned about the grass carp population competing with other fish.
9	pretty much the same with improved traffic flow.
10	Hopefully still a quiet place to be in nature w/ your loved ones. A haven for the Golden Cheek Warblers. A place where my grandkids can take their children for a walk in the woods and talk about how this is what Travis county looked like when their ancestors settled here 200 years ago. Not an overcrowded parking lot.
11	hopefully just the same as I see it today with very little changed, except infrastructure changes to support it.
12	Make sure that with Austin growth, the park does not loose what it makes it unique.
13	Overcrowded
14	under tremendous pressure from population growth, the last wild place in Austin. Would like it to have modern water, sewer, restroom and camping facilities, but stay as close to natural as possible. (Similar to a federal park.). If necessary, restrict access to Austin residents on the busiest days or charge a differential, like other cities and counties do.
15	Preserve it. The lake front can't handle many more people so improving background infrastructure will just create a bigger jam up on the lake front.
16	Natural oasis.
17	no longer fishable, trash along the shore and in shallow water, fewer families spending the day there.
18	As a well-maintained park with open space and with woods, as well as waterfront and picnicking. All amenities are clean and updated and sufficient to meet capacity demands.
19	Available for my children and their children.
20	Similar to how it is now, but with the facilities and infrastructure maintained better. I would like to see a 'Friends of Emma Long Park' group started to raise funds for park improvements and maintenance, Concrete Pads at RV Sites, gravel areas stabilized through the use of gravel pave or similar product to keep the ruts/holes out, tree maintenance plan in place so each year trees are planted so as the larger ones reach the end of their life other trees are already established nearby to take their place, canoe/paddle board/current popular water activity rentals available, families and friends gathering to relax, eat, and play. Mooring buoys along the RV camping and a portion of the day use area that include solar lights at night, and no hydrilla along the shore, improved roads through the RV camping area, with more overflow RV parking, police to enforce the no parking signs at the boat ramps, more trails for hiking/motorcycle riding, a fire break between the park and adjacent neighborhoods. An interactive nature trail, and other educational signage about the history of the park, Emma Long, and her vision for the land she dedicated.
21	Unchanged
22	I hope it is a LOT like it is today. It is OK if we just take care of the landscape so people can come and enjoy nature
23	Hopefully the same! It is the only public park that provides overnight camping access to Lake Austin. And really any type of meaningful public access to Lake Austin. The other small day park is very primitive.
24	As well maintained, enjoyable and have unique activities to do like Town Lake.

Q18 Continued

25	more campsites rv & tent, neater better taken care of
26	Unfortunately , the park will probably be over built with too much concrete, buildings and too many bright lights that will prevent us from seeing the stars at night. Try to keep the park 'country' and not 'city'. No ferries wheels or roller coasters are needed. Plant more gardens with native plants like the Ladybird Wildflower Center or the Zilker Nature Center.
27	Over crowded and not kept up.
28	Motorcycling
29	hopefully the same quiet place
30	Hopefully green and beautiful. Not over-used.
31	Crowded
32	Hopefully about the same.
33	Two crowded and beaten down. A need to preserve the water and hills to keep the beauty. I believe a limited number of people should be allowed in on weekends.
34	A beautiful treasure on Lake Austin.
35	Hopefully not much different than today - providing access to the great outdoors, with low maintenance amenities. I don't think it needs concessions or food trucks. Let folks remember how to have picnics and campouts.
36	Almost as it is now. Long lines at the gate and the rest of the park generally blocked from public access.
37	Hopefully much cleaner and nicer. Newer bathrooms no electrical wires everywhere
38	I hope it will have a new water treatment facility. Major need here. This jewel of a park needs to be a protected priority. I hope it will still be here for all of Austin residents to enjoy time at the lake, in nature, the history of the area, and the peace and beauty here. It truly is a spiritual oasis in Austin.
39	Better parking and better grounds
40	Staying the same, with the exception of safety and signage improvements, and maintenance improvements.
41	Please keep it natural, just enhance the experience.
42	overcrowded and overused. It will probably need to be expanded, developing more of the shoreline to accommodate more people
43	TOO CROWDED
44	Crowded
45	More trails for people and dogs. Limit Turkey Creek Trail to people only
46	Maintained

Q19 What other comments regarding your vision for Emma Long Park would you like to share?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 42

#	Responses
1	Please consider designating a dog park as it will attract many visitor that would not normally visit the park. There are very few in town today.
2	This park is in the middle (half way of the 21 miles) of Lake Austin. It should be the hub for APD Lake Austin Patrol and other City Staff (AWU, Code, PARD, Planning, WPD) who need access to the lake. There could be boat docks and maintenance barn located at Emma Long to help share resources, reduce maintenance costs, and improve time/efficiency. Bring in drinking water from nearby city lines and decommission the water treatment plants. Solve the wastewater problem, and remove the huge waste dumpsters stored near the boat ramps. Add a gas station and Torchy's Taco stand to provide concessions revenue and amenities for boaters and park users.
3	i would like to see some safety and security improvements made. car burglaries are way too high. also keeping drunk folks in check would be nice
4	More tent camping next to the lake
5	Keep it how it is. Don't let more people in. Don't try to turn mad profits. Just let people hang out in privacy to swim, fish and camp.
6	I just feel a void between the park goers and the park is self. Also it is my understanding that u are limited to a consecutive month stay and I personally know someone who stayed for over 6 months and the dude was not very nice.
7	Online reservation system
8	Online reservations would be great. More waterfront camping would also be a benefit.
9	Online reservations would make planning overnights so much easier. People could come from out of town without worry.
10	I would really like to see more trails and leash free areas. Turkey Creek has erosion problems due to it's high usage and desperately needs a chem-toilet. Please don't let the pressure of Austin's rapid growth urbanize the park. Maintain habitat for the nonhuman inhabitants too. My family really appreciates all the wildlife we see there.
11	fix up the volleyball courts.. The nets are terrible and the sand is full of rocks and stickers. No one can play volleyball in those conditions. Please offer yearly pass for neighbors, maybe only valid during the weekday or something. I live nearby and would come to the park more - if I just had a sticker on my car and didnt have to pay each time to come and go
12	Both, the Archery Park, the Turkey Creek Dog Park area and the Motorcycle Park feel threatened by the ever tendency of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserved to expand, kick out citizens, and revoke the compromise made that these parks recreational uses would remain grandfathered.
13	Add an Olympic Archery field that can be used for competitions in Austin. Austin is a central location for all of Texas. Visitor competitors will bring more money to Austin.
14	Get it off the general treasury or make it possible to raise funds that stay in the park. I'd like to see it be a place that has something to do year round, and not just on holiday weekends. (Kayak or similar rentals in off season?). Would also like to see waterfront day use facilities that can be reserved online for parties, family gatherings and such, (Waterfront and near waterfront sites with picnic table, grill, shade structure), by the day and by the hour so you don't have to take up a site from early morning on that you only really need starting at 3pm.
15	There is a lot of the park not on the water that is underutilized.
16	Well, if it had fishing piers or good shore access where there weren't so much noise, I'd sure go there more. The boats/jetskis are like horseflies at a picnic
17	I would love to see a program for "Friends of the Park" -- so that people living in the area could pay a yearly fee and have unlimited access during the year. Years ago, residents could show their address on a utility bill and get in at no charge. We would be glad to have Friends of the Park cleanup days, etc. URGENT NEED NOW IS TO TRIM BACK TREES AND SHRUBS ALONG PEARCE ROAD AND OAK SHORES TO REGAIN VISIBILITY ON THESE WINDING ROADS. ALSO, NEED TO SWEEP OFF THE GRAVEL THAT HAS WASHED OUT ONTO THESE ROADS.

Q19 Continued

18	Make the parking lot at check in nicer. More parking. Maybe a sign a mile back to say, 'almost there' or something.
19	The park is one of Austin's treasures where anyone can come to relax, explore, celebrate, eat, and play.
20	Limit use capacity
21	While every park has a list of wish list improvements, this is a very special park- it has lots of acreage, beautiful scenery, very close by for Austin residents, and lengthy shore access to Lake Austin directly. It's a great park!
22	Make it as attractive as Town Lake.
23	Don't give it away to some corporation to run or trade it to some other entity for land elsewhere.
24	Need more supervision by law enforcement. City Park Road is turning into a trash dump.
25	More Motorcycling
26	Hopefully it does become an issue to the natural surroundings and does not affect the neighboring community
27	n/a
28	Seems like its one of the only parks that charges fees. Should be kept up better as it should be paying its own way.
29	Please preserve a large part of the park for nature.
30	too many vehicles on the walking trails (trail network along the ridge, not turkey creek). The chain along the access at CP road not keeping motorcycles out. road surface at the boat ramp is OK now, but was bad last year. Paving or smoothing would be helpful.
31	I believe this park which was City Park when first came here. It is the most beautiful place in Texas.
32	I feel this park is a true gem in the parks system & it just needs a little updating. I also like that the camping area is not full of lights at night. I don't think food vendors are a good idea except for maybe 1-2 local food trucks per weekend. I think supporting local food trucks is a great idea vs. having a concession stand. Ski Shores restaurant offers plenty in that regards.
33	Please keep in mind "the tragedy of the commons". There have to be some restrictions on use or else the resource is destroyed.
34	The city should improve all of City Park Rd...beginning at 2222 to Pearce with designated bike lanes...they are needed for safety for cyclists and walkers alike
35	Would like to see more trash pick up all along City Park Road!
36	The Emma Long Park was put into the preserve in order to start the preserve quickly. Now that the preserve has more land than it needs, the public parks should be removed from the preserve to allow public use.
37	You should not be allowed to return to the park if you leave. You should have to pay again. Only tent and RV campers should be allowed to leave and return with no added fee.
38	Thank you for including the neighbors in this planning process. I wish we could find \$5 million dollars to help with this plan. Does anyone on the board ever write applications for grants for City Park?
39	Our family loves City Park and its amenities. It is a beautiful place and one of the last "natural" places to exist along Lake Austin. We hope it continues to exist and host families looking for the lake experience. I do want to see the imposition on neighboring communities to be resolved (illegally parked cars, excessive trash, roads blocked, pedestrians walking illegally in public streets, unattended children wandering around the public roads, inadequate instruction and processing from park employees.
40	Please don't overthink it, Emma Long should still feel like a retreat from the mayhem.
41	Charge per person for day use. No in and out for day use. Spend the money on the City Park Road surface.
42	I miss the dock that used to be in the deep part of the swimming area, between the two piers. I appreciate you bringing in new sand for the beach every so often.
43	Designated bike lanes on city park road
44	I live in the neighborhood, so I would really like to see access limited. I think that limiting in-out access would be useful. The park loses \$\$\$ because most people are parking on the street and riding in with someone that is already in the park. The only in-out access should be for camping.
45	Wonderful natural land!!! Thank you. Let's keep it that way for future generations.
46	Bike lane needed
47	Move Lake Police to park to be close to overcrowding of people and busy boat launch