

**EWING TOWNSHIP**  
**COMPLETELY INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND**  
**Community Survey Results**  
**REPORT**

**Total Survey Responses: 314**

Survey Period: December 2, 2025 – January 1, 2026

Prepared for:  
**Ewing Township Department of Recreation & Community Affairs**  
Green Acres Program Application

Prepared by:  
Matt Isaac  
212-404-1721  
Resource Development Network, LLC  
1/21/26

## **SUMMARY / FINDINGS**

Ewing Township's Completely Inclusive Playground Community Survey gathered input from community members to inform the design and development of a new completely inclusive playground adjacent to the Ewing Senior and Community Center. The survey was conducted as part of the public engagement process for the Green Acres Program application. The community survey results demonstrate overwhelming support for the Completely Inclusive Playground project and provide clear guidance for design priorities.

### **Key Findings**

#### **Strong Overall Community Support:**

- 80.6% of respondents rated the inclusive playground as "Extremely important" or "Very important"
- Support is even stronger among families with children (86.8%) and households with disabilities (84.9%)
- 84.7% rated the proposed location next to the Community Center as "Excellent" or "Good"
- 90.4% consider wheelchair-accessible surfacing "Extremely" or "Very important"

#### **Demographics:**

- 314 survey responses received through 1/11/26
- 121 respondents (38.5%) have children under 18 in their household
- 93 respondents (29.6%) have a household member with a disability
- Largest age group: 65+ (35.7%), followed by 35-44 (21.3%)

#### **Strong Support for Key Design Priorities:**

- Regular maintenance and cleanliness (93.6% high importance)
- Wheelchair-accessible surfaces (90.4% high importance)
- Accessible ramps to elevated structures (79.6% high importance)
- Safety features including clear sight lines and security fencing (95.0% and 91.7% high importance)
- Quiet/sensory retreat areas (66.9% high importance; 76.3% among disability households)

#### **Highly Desired Features:**

- Varied climbing opportunities (100% support)
- Balance and coordination equipment (96.6% support)
- Multiple swing types including accessible options (96.6% support)
- Inclusive spinner/merry-go-round (89.8% support)
- Sensory panels and interactive elements (86.4% support)
- Music and sensory play elements (81.4% support)
- Among color scheme preferences, the strongest response was for high-contrast color schemes (38.3%)

**Key Safety Considerations for Playground Design (from 71 open-ended responses):**

- Safe, cushioned surfacing (14 mentions)
- Secure fencing/enclosure to prevent children from reaching parking areas (15 mentions)
- Traffic and parking lot safety (15 mentions)
- Clear sight lines for caregiver supervision (14 mentions)
- Security measures and stranger awareness (12 mentions)
- Adequate lighting for evening use (10 mentions)

**Location-Specific Input (from 45 open-ended responses):**

- Strong support for Community Center location due to restroom access and parking
- Requests for accessibility features exceeding ADA minimums
- Interest in walkability/bike access improvements to the site
- Questions about restroom availability during non-Community Center hours
- Some concerns about Senior Center and playground interaction

**Ongoing Engagement**

With 59 respondents expressing interest in volunteering or future input sessions, there is opportunity for continued community engagement throughout the design and construction process.

**These survey results provide a strong foundation for developing a completely inclusive playground that will serve all members of the Ewing Township community.**

## SECTION 1: ALL RESPONDENTS (n=314)

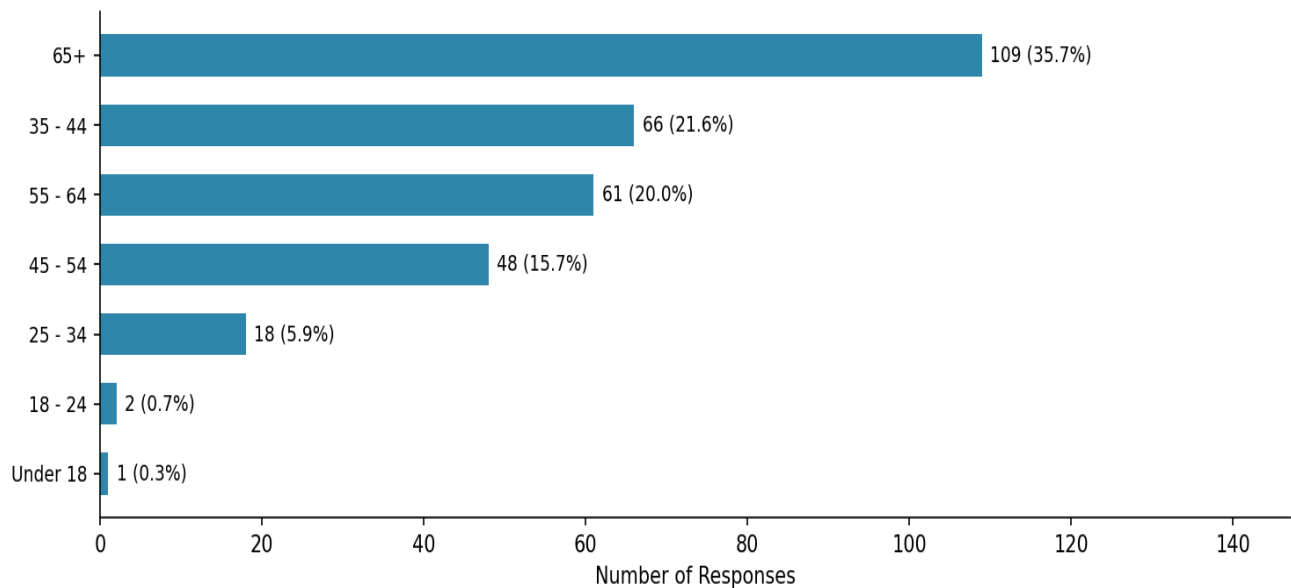
### 1.1 Respondent Demographics

Understanding who has participated in the survey helps contextualize the feedback received and ensures the playground design reflects diverse community perspectives.

#### Age Distribution

Survey respondents represent all age groups, with strong representation from residents age 65 and older, likely reflecting engagement from the adjacent Senior Center community.

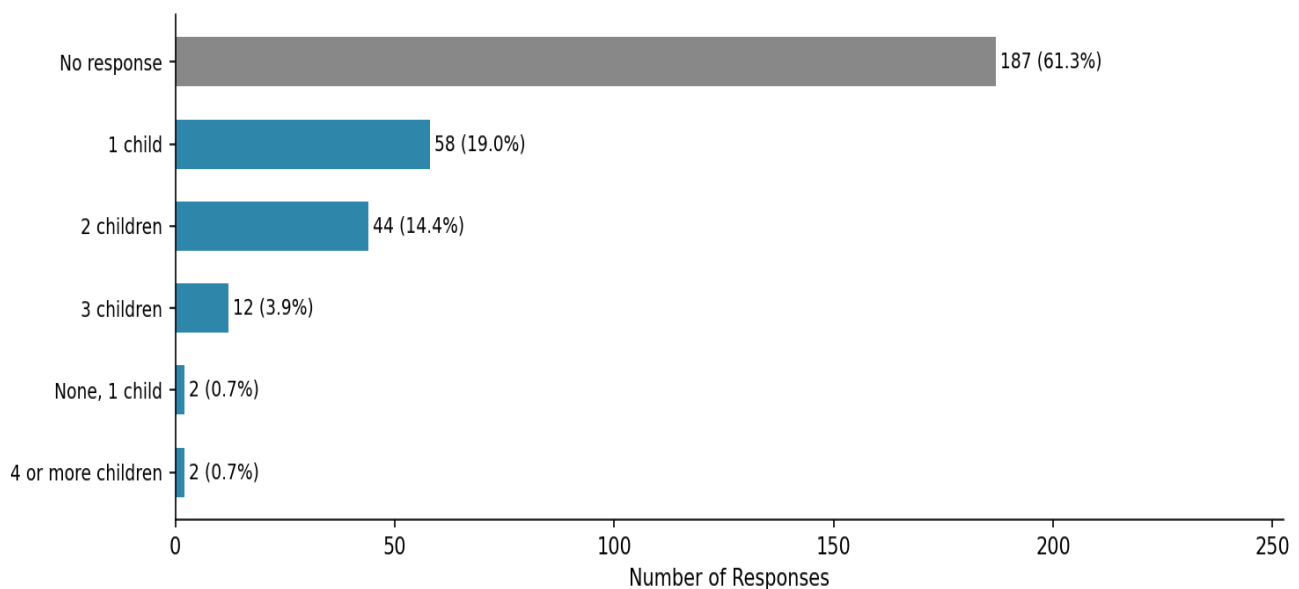
Age Distribution of Survey Respondents



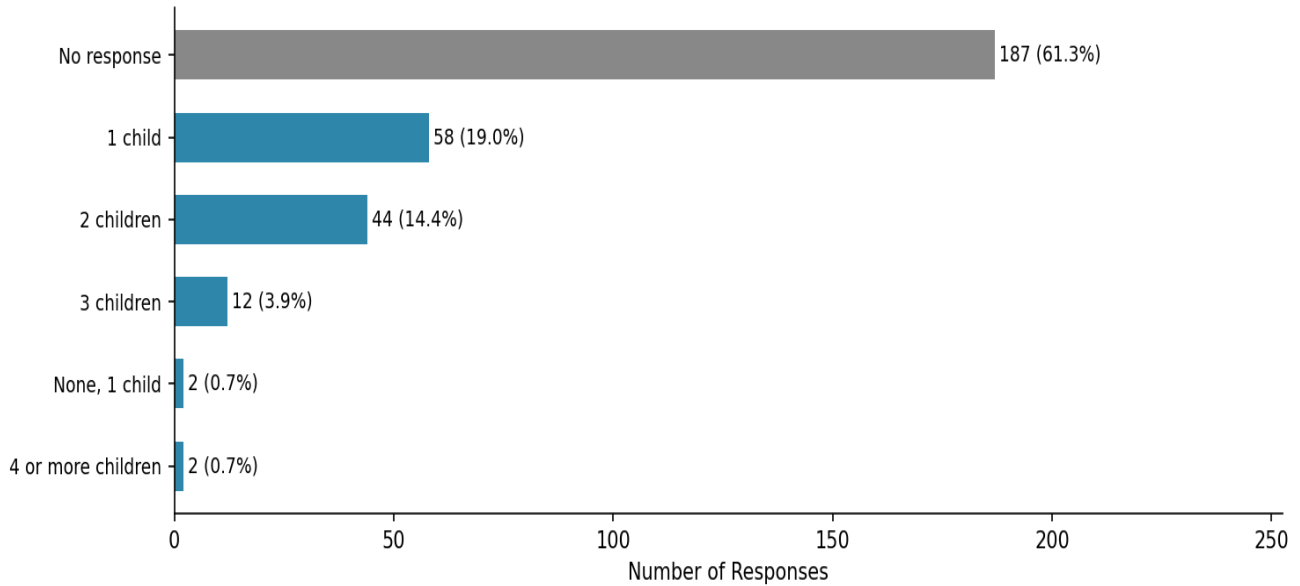
#### Children in Household

Over one-third of respondents (38.5%) have children under 18 living in their household, providing direct perspective from families who will use the playground.

Number of Children in Household



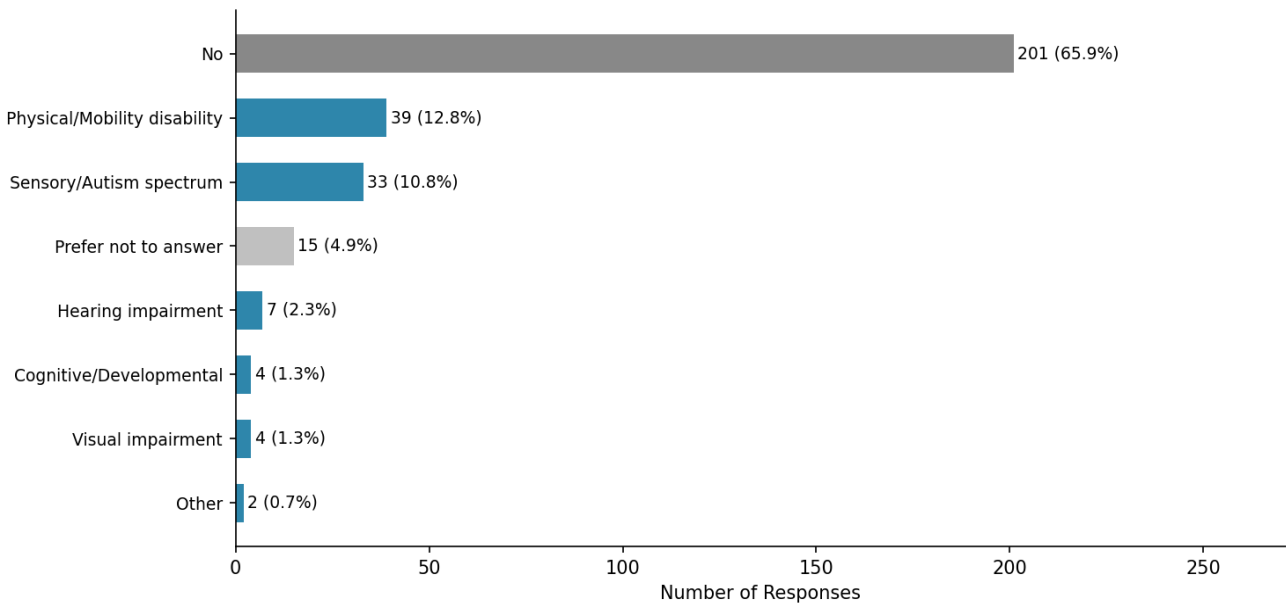
### Number of Children in Household



### Disability Status

Nearly one-third of respondents (29.6%) reported having a household member with a disability or who uses assistive devices. This substantial representation ensures the inclusive design elements reflect actual community needs.

### Disability Status in Household

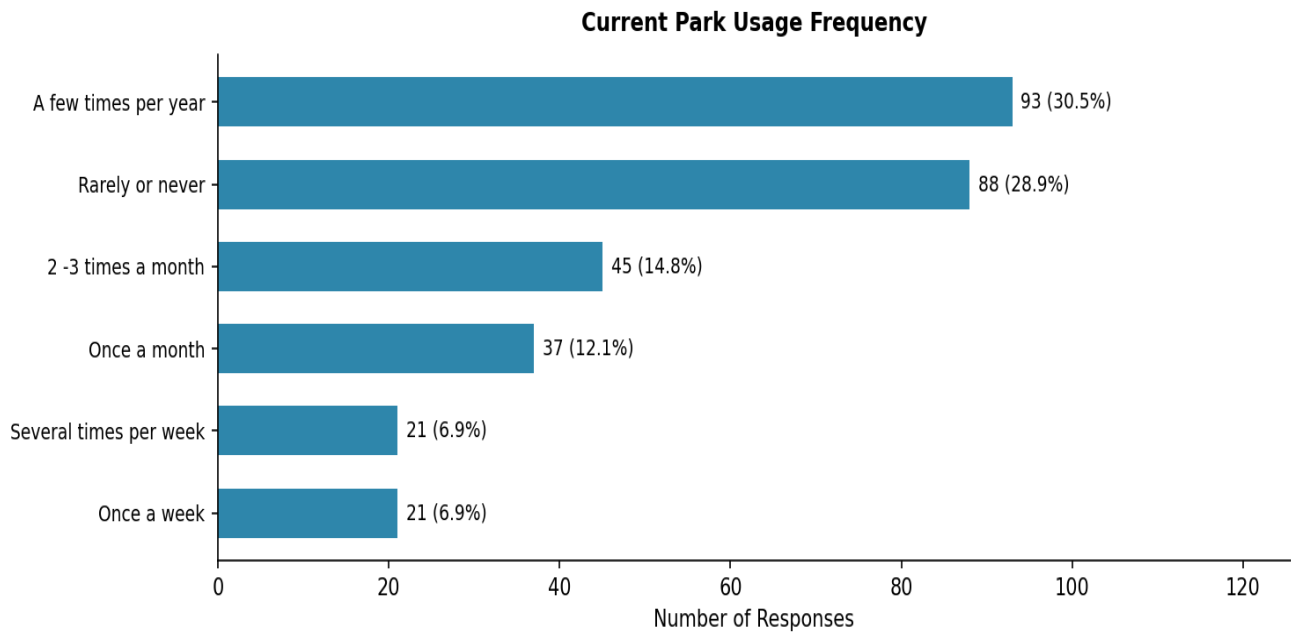


Among those reporting disabilities, the most common types include:

- Physical/Mobility disabilities: 39 respondents
- Sensory processing/Autism spectrum: 37 respondents
- Cognitive/Developmental disabilities: 17 respondents
- Hearing impairment: 14 respondents
- Visual impairment: 7 respondents

## 1.2 Current Park Usage

Understanding current park usage patterns provides context for how the new playground may serve community needs.

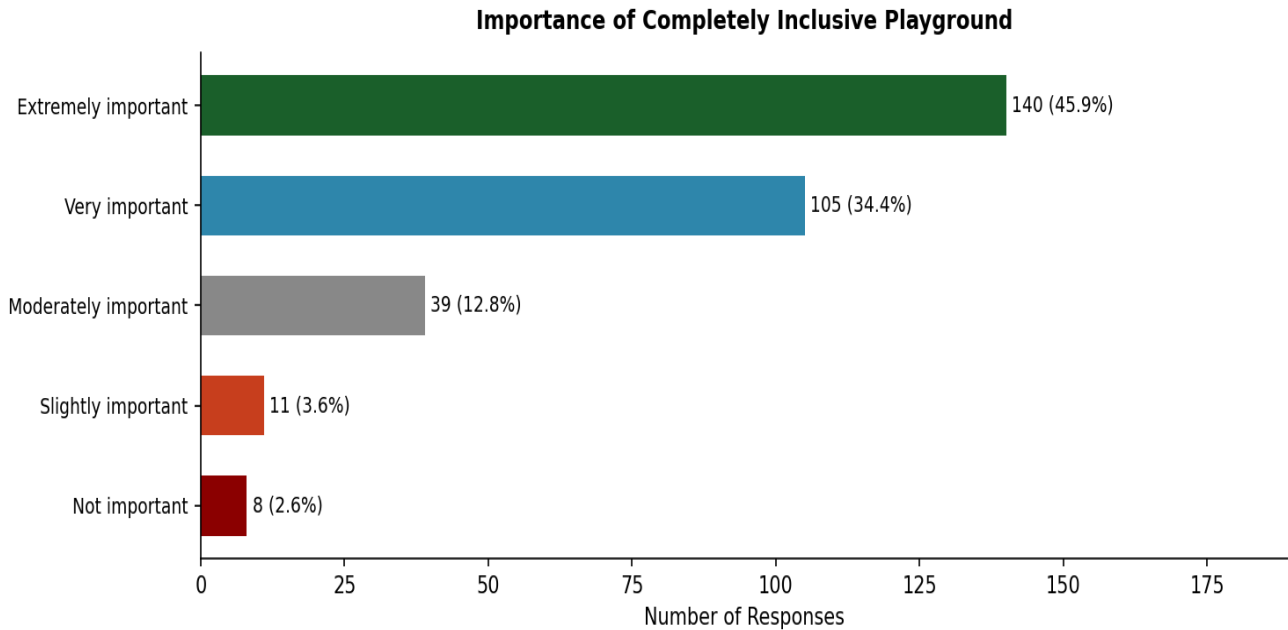


Current park usage varies significantly across the community. The new inclusive playground has potential to increase park visitation by providing accessible, inclusive play opportunities that may not currently exist in the township.

### 1.3 Project Support and Location

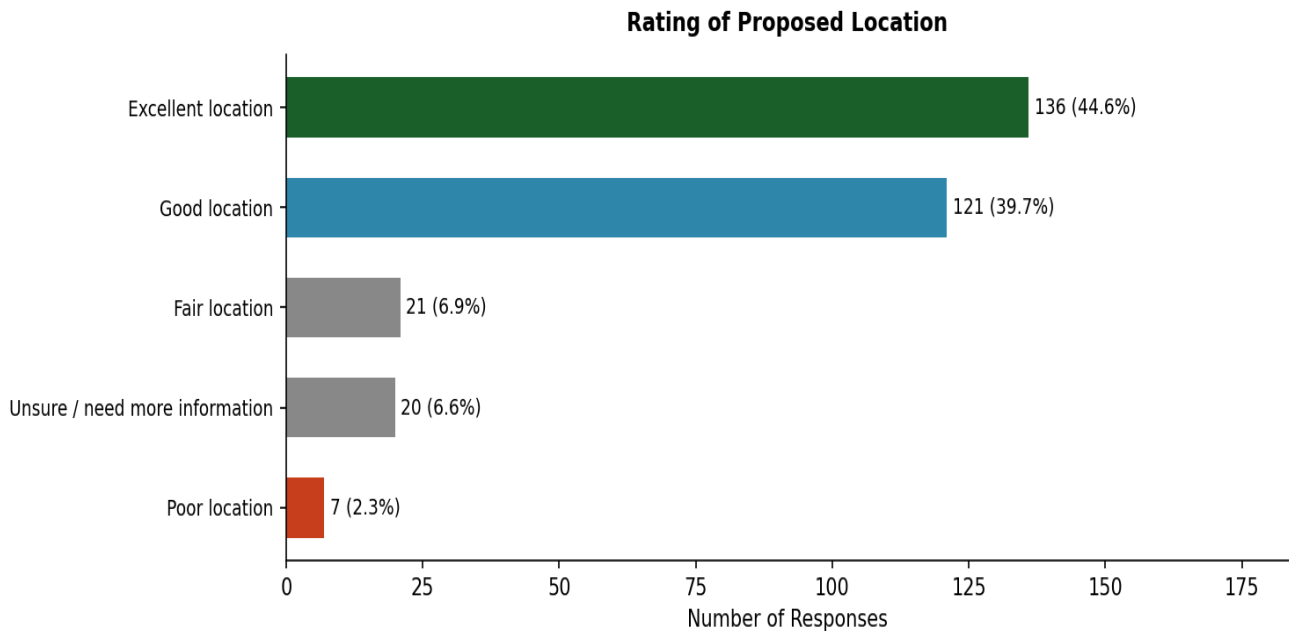
#### Importance of Inclusive Playground

Community support for the inclusive playground project is overwhelming, with over 80% rating it as "Extremely important" or "Very important."



#### Location Rating

The proposed location adjacent to the new Ewing Senior and Community Center received strong approval, with 84.7% rating it as "Excellent" or "Good."



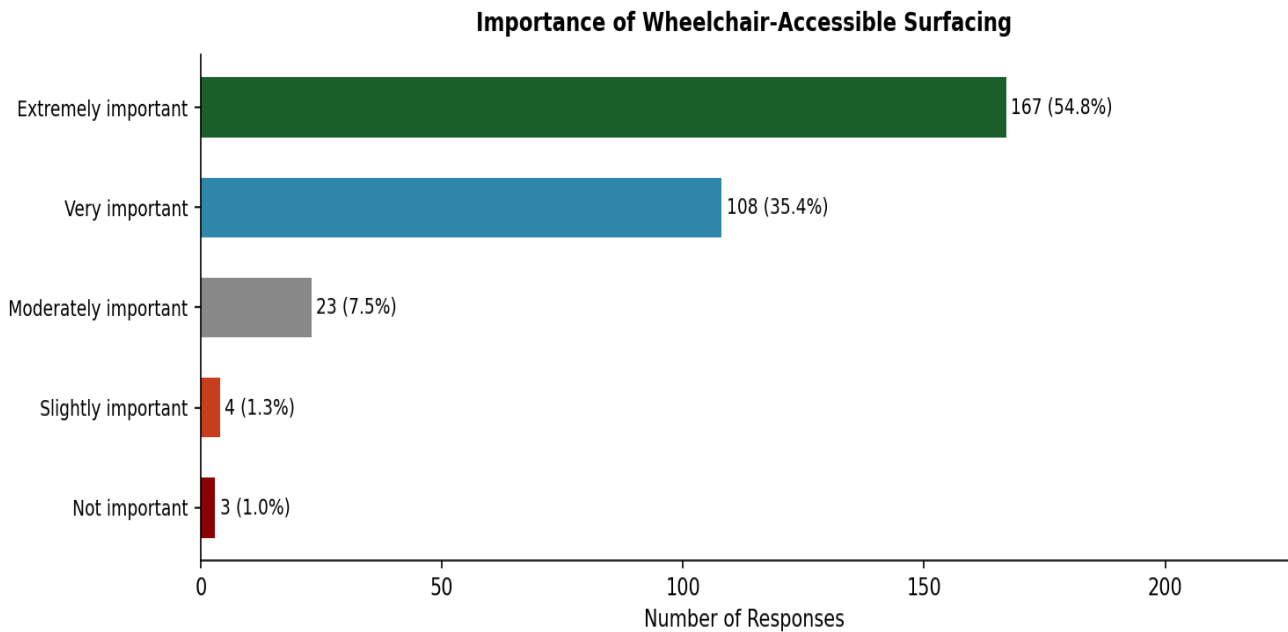
## Perceived Benefits of Location

Respondents identified numerous benefits of the Community Center location: Key benefits include access to restrooms, visibility and natural surveillance, parking availability, and the intergenerational connection opportunities with the Senior Center.

## 1.4 Surfacing and Accessibility

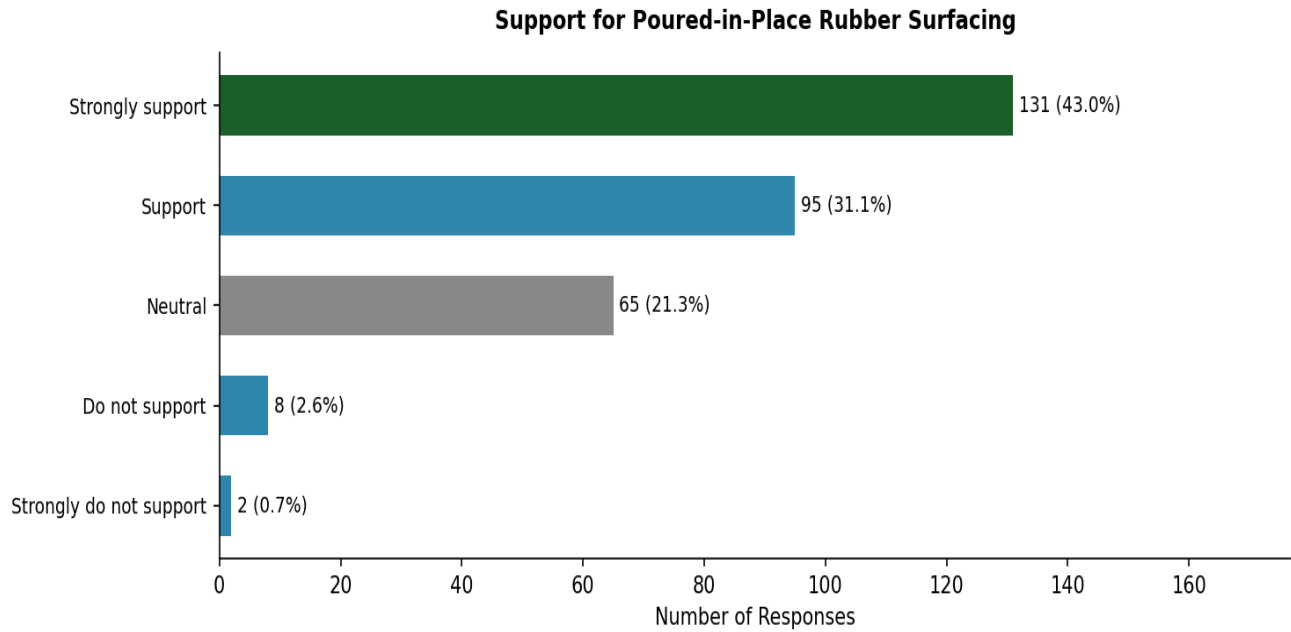
### Wheelchair Accessibility

An overwhelming 90.4% of respondents rated wheelchair-accessible playground surfacing as "Extremely important" or "Very important," demonstrating strong community commitment to inclusive design.



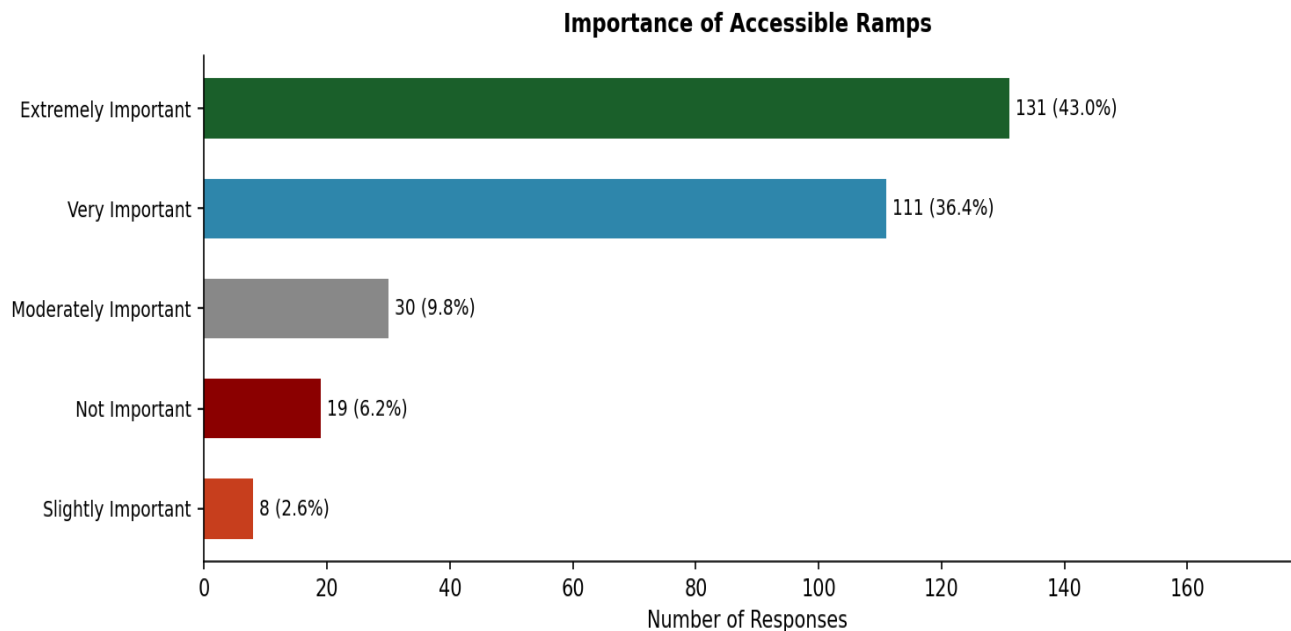
## Rubber Surfacing Support

Poured-in-place rubber surfacing, which provides both accessibility and safety benefits, received 77.4% support or strong support from respondents.



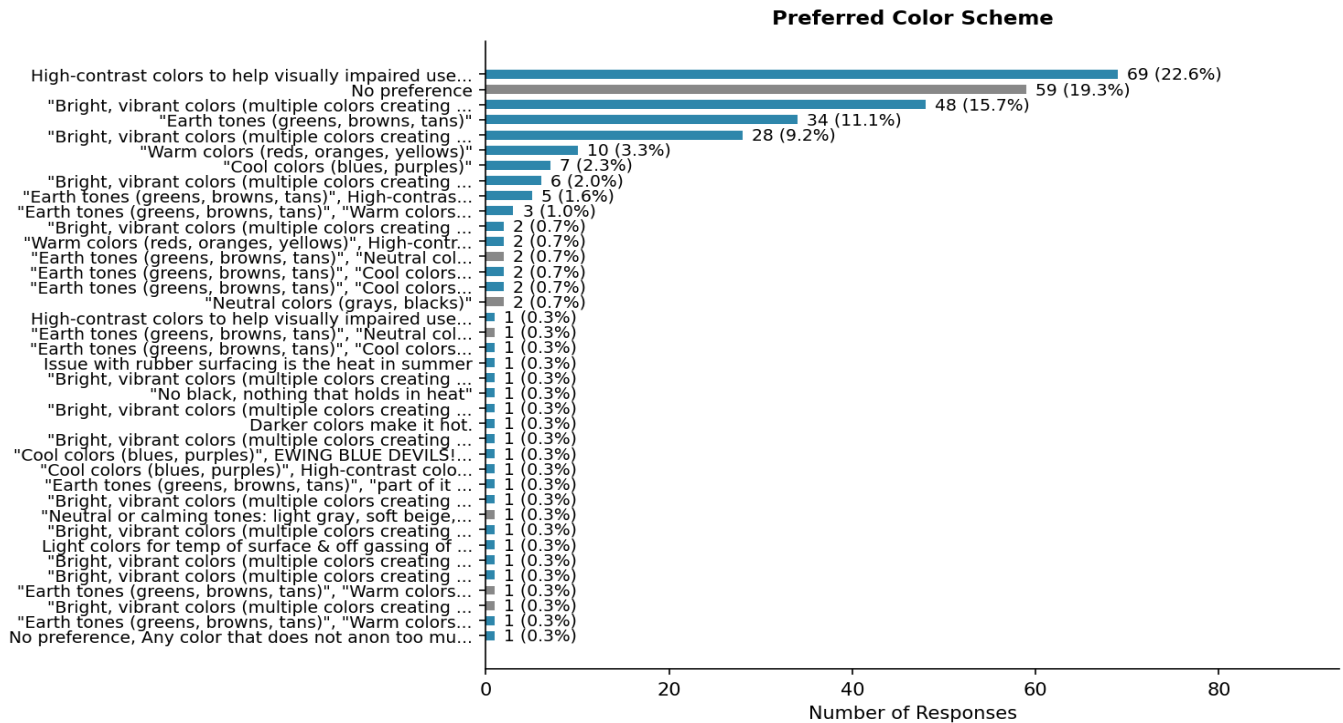
## Accessible Ramps

Accessible ramps to all elevated play structures received similarly high support, with 79.6% rating this feature as "Extremely important" or "Very important."



## Color Scheme Preferences

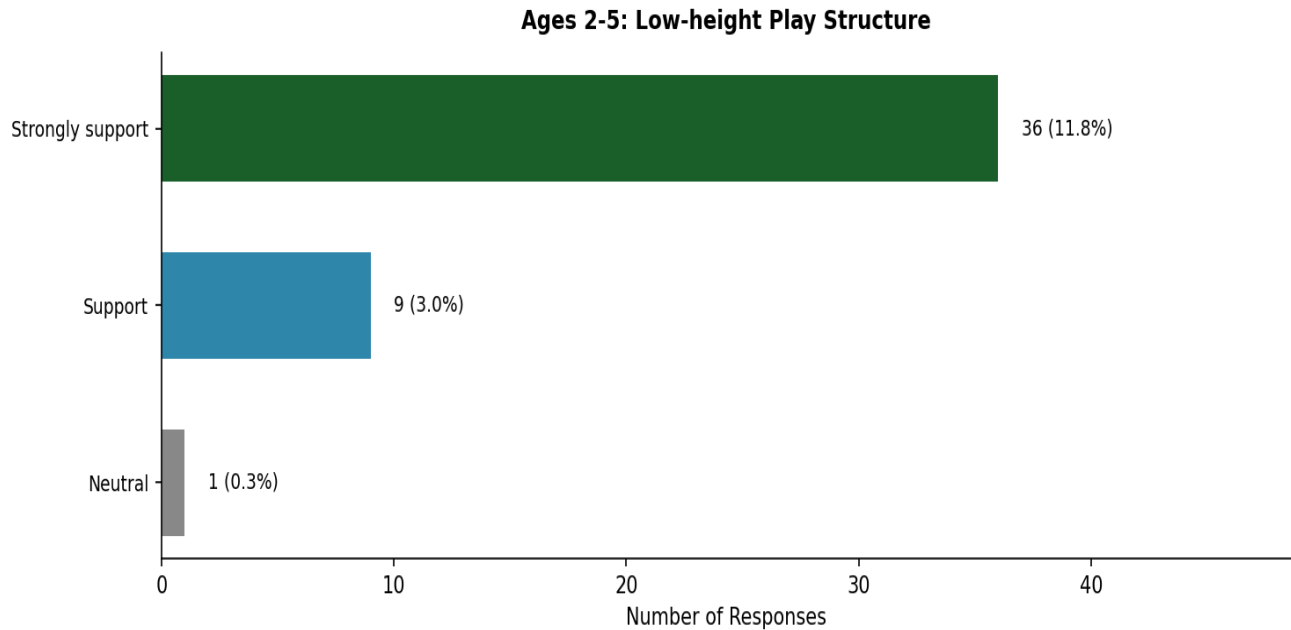
Respondents showed preference for high-contrast colors that aid children with visual impairments, followed by bright, vibrant colors.



## 1.5 Equipment Preferences

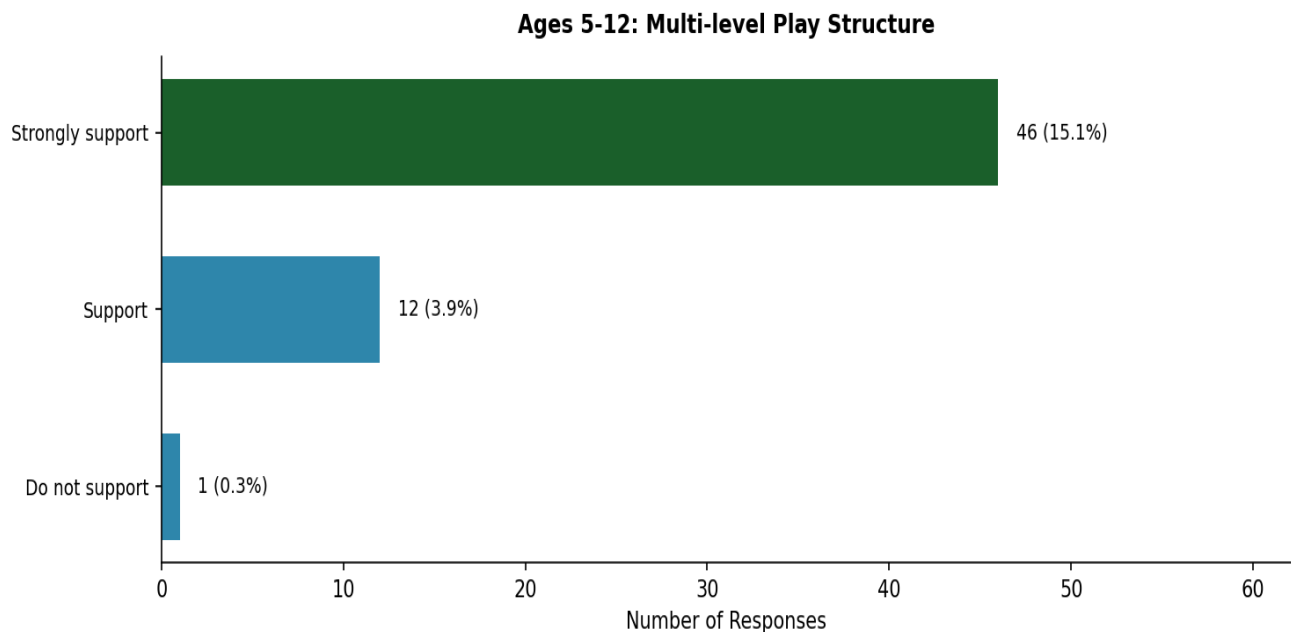
### Age 2-5 Play Area

All proposed equipment types for the toddler area received strong support, with particularly high ratings for low-height play structures and accessible ground-level elements.



### Age 5-12 Play Area

Equipment for older children also received broad support, with inclusive spinners, multiple swing types, and climbing elements among the top-rated features.



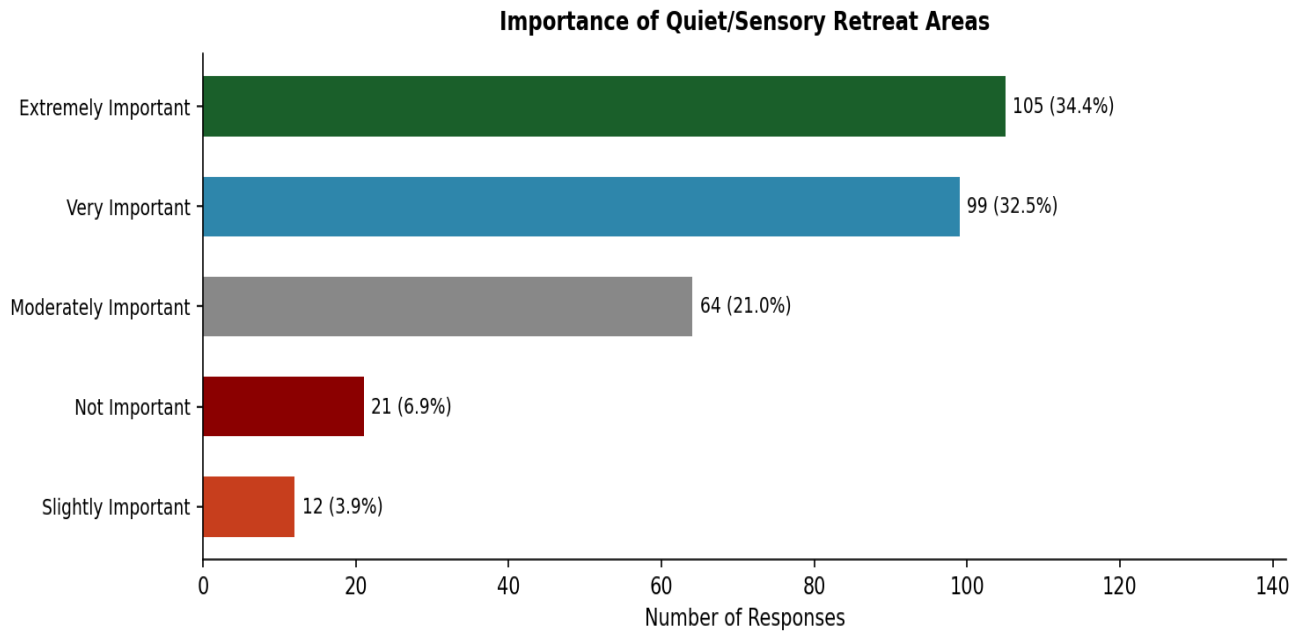
Additional equipment suggestions from respondents include:

- Zip lines (multiple requests)
- Themed play structures (treehouses, vehicles, etc.)
- Splash pad/water features
- Basketball court or open field space
- Adaptive monkey bars
- Little free library for parents and children



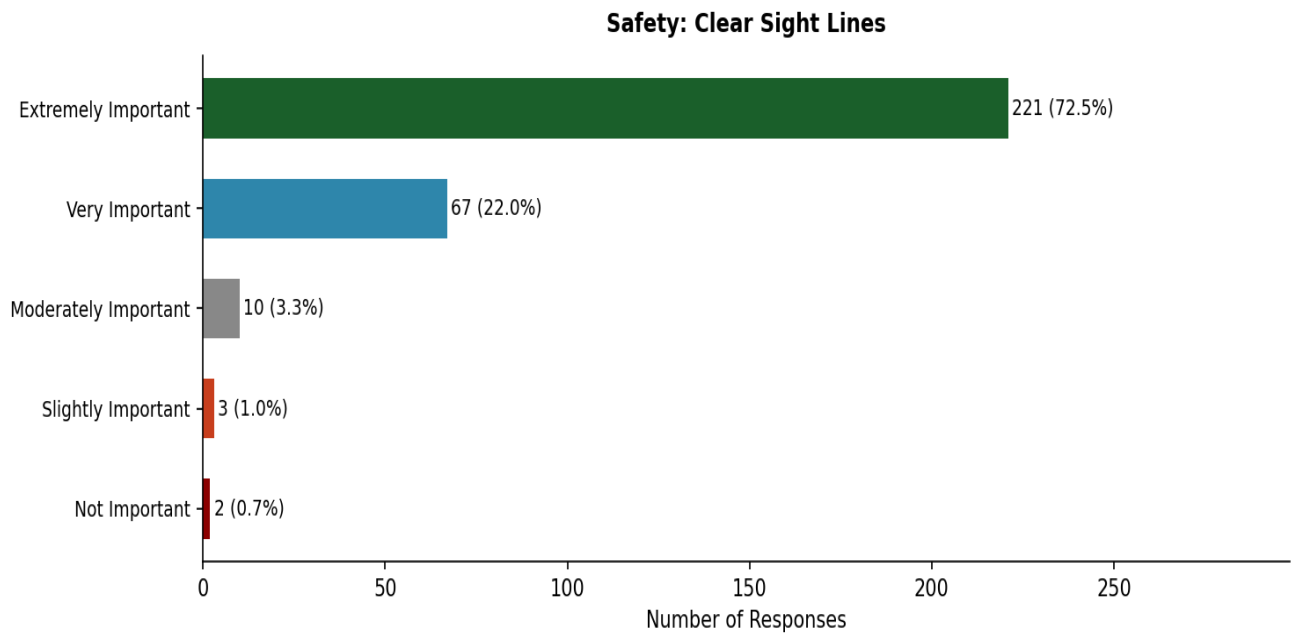
## Quiet/Sensory Retreat Areas

Quiet areas where children can withdraw when overstimulated are particularly important for children with sensory processing differences. Overall, 66.9% rated these areas as "Extremely" or "Very important."



## 1.7 Safety and Maintenance

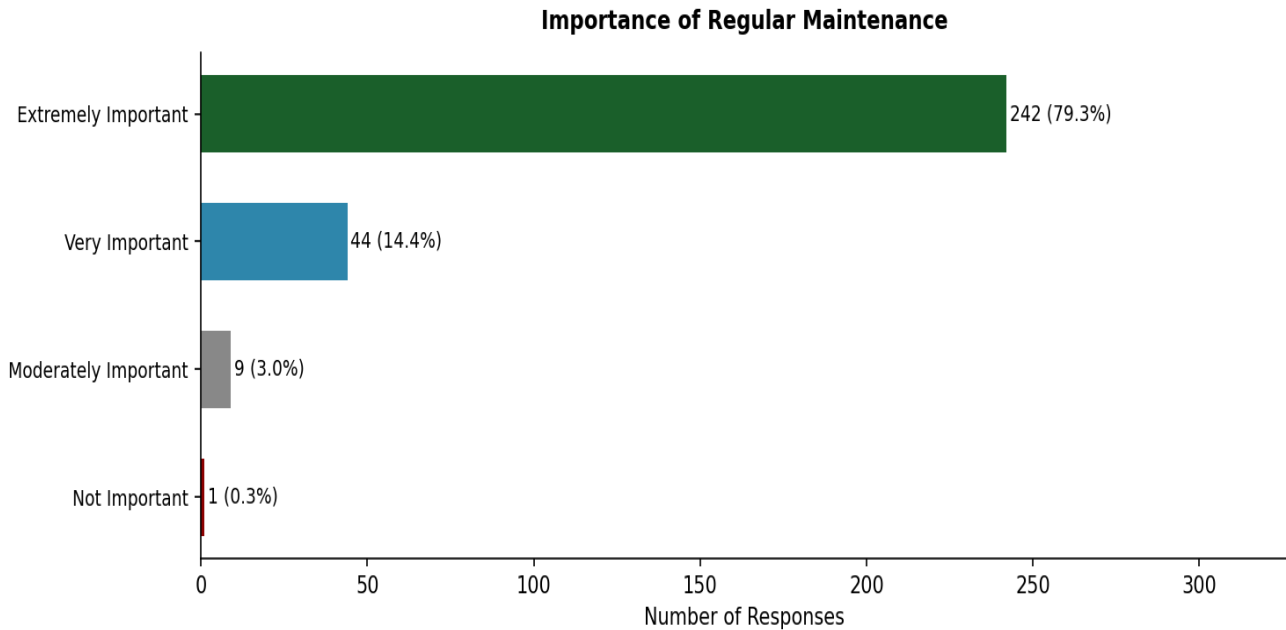
Safety features and regular maintenance received the highest importance ratings of any survey category.



All safety features received high importance ratings, with security fencing to prevent children from entering parking areas and clear sight lines for caregiver supervision rated highest.

## Maintenance

Regular maintenance and cleanliness was rated as "Extremely important" by 248 respondents (79.0%), the highest rating of any single survey item. Combined with "Very important" responses, 93.6% consider maintenance a high priority.



## Open-Ended Safety Concerns

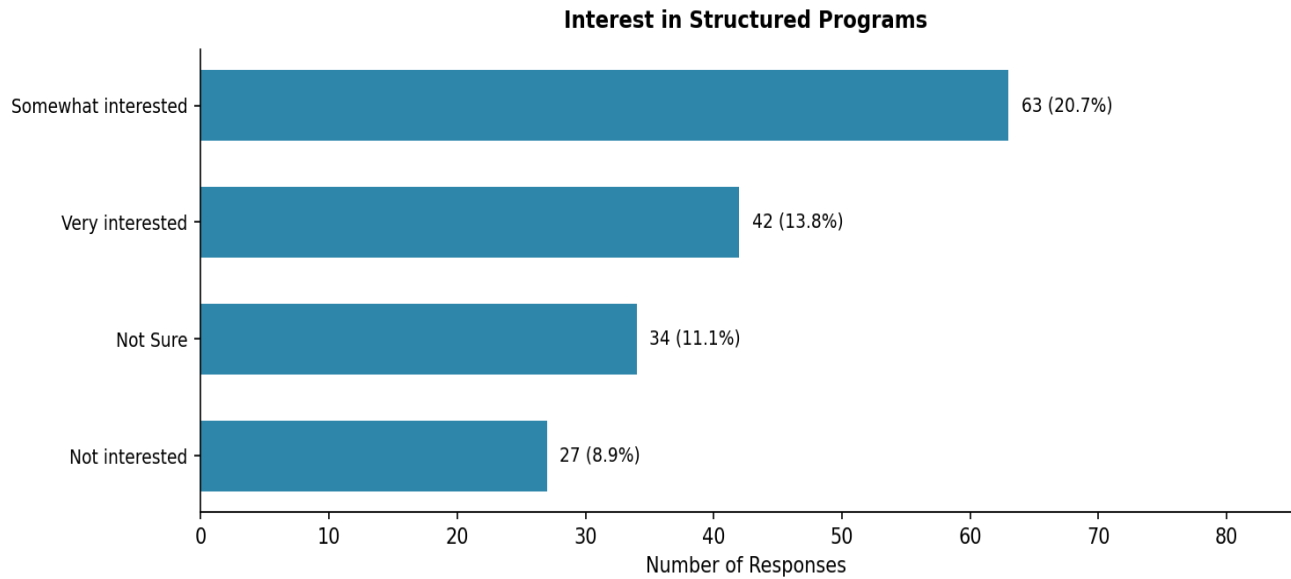
71 respondents provided detailed safety concerns for the playground design. The most frequently mentioned themes were:

- Secure fencing to prevent children from accessing parking areas or roads (15 mentions)
- Traffic and parking lot safety considerations (15 mentions)
- Safe, cushioned surfacing to prevent injuries from falls (14 mentions)
- Clear sight lines enabling caregivers to supervise children (14 mentions)
- Cleanliness and regular maintenance (12 mentions)
- Security measures and awareness of strangers (12 mentions)
- Adequate lighting for safe evening use (10 mentions)
- Age-appropriate separation of play areas (7 mentions)

## 1.8 Programming and Community Engagement

### Interest in Structured Programs

A majority of respondents expressed interest in structured playground programs such as supervised play sessions, adaptive recreation programs, and special events.



### Volunteer Interest

59 respondents (19.3%) indicated interest in volunteering or participating in future community input sessions about the playground, demonstrating ongoing community engagement potential.

## **SECTION 2: HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN (n=121)**

This section focuses on responses from the 121 households (38.5% of total) with children under 18, who represent primary users of the playground facility.

### **2.1 Demographics**

Among households with children:

- 58 households (49.2%) have 1 child
- 44 households (37.3%) have 2 children
- 12 households (10.2%) have 3 children
- 4 households (3.4%) have 4 or more children

### **2.2 Project Support**

Households with children show even stronger support for the inclusive playground project compared to overall respondents:

- 86.8% rated the project "Extremely important" or "Very important" (vs. 80.6% overall)
- 86.8% rated the location as "Excellent" or "Good" (vs. 84.7% overall)

### **2.3 Park Usage**

Households with children report more frequent park usage than the overall population, with higher percentages visiting weekly or multiple times per week.

### **2.4 Key Priorities for Families with Children**

Based on survey responses from households with children, the following priorities have emerged:

#### **Equipment Priorities:**

- Age-appropriate separation between 2-5 and 5-12 areas
- Multiple swing types including traditional, bucket, and expression swings
- Climbing elements and balance equipment
- Music and sensory play elements

#### **Safety Priorities:**

- Security fencing preventing access to parking areas
- Clear sight lines for supervision
- Adequate lighting for extended play hours
- Safe, cushioned surfacing

#### **Amenity Priorities:**

- Accessible restrooms with family/assisted-use facilities
- Shade structures (both natural and built)
- Seating for caregivers positioned for supervision
- Drinking fountains at accessible heights

## **SECTION 3: HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABILITIES (n=93)**

This section focuses on responses from the 93 households (29.6% of total) that include a member with a disability or who uses assistive devices. Their perspectives are essential for ensuring truly inclusive design.

### **3.1 Disability Types Represented**

Respondents reported various disability types, with many households experiencing multiple disabilities:

- Physical/Mobility disabilities: 39 respondents (42.9%)
- Sensory processing/Autism spectrum: 37 respondents (40.7%)
- Cognitive/Developmental disabilities: 17 respondents (18.7%)
- Hearing impairment: 14 respondents (15.4%)
- Visual impairment: 7 respondents (7.7%)

### **3.2 Project Support**

Households with disabilities show strong support for the project:

- 84.9% rated the project "Extremely important" or "Very important"
- 81.7% rated the location as "Excellent" or "Good"

### **3.3 Quiet/Sensory Areas - Critical Priority**

Quiet/sensory retreat areas received significantly higher importance ratings from households with disabilities compared to the overall population:

- 76.3% of disability households rated quiet areas as "Extremely" or "Very important"
- This compares to 66.9% among all respondents

### **3.4 Key Priorities from Disability Community**

Based on survey responses and open-ended feedback from households with disabilities, the following priorities have been identified:

#### **Accessibility Features:**

- Wheelchair-accessible surfaces throughout
- Ramps to all elevated play structures
- Transfer platforms for children using mobility devices
- Wide pathways accommodating wheelchairs and strollers
- Accessible parking spaces close to playground entrance

#### **Sensory Considerations:**

- Quiet/sensory retreat areas (highest priority)
- Sensory play panels and interactive elements
- Music and sound elements
- High-contrast colors for visual impairment
- Varied textures and tactile experiences

**Inclusive Equipment:**

- Wheelchair-accessible swings
- Inclusive spinners with wheelchair platforms
- Ground-level play options
- Adaptive equipment for various ability levels

**Support Features:**

- Family/assisted-use restrooms
- Shade for temperature-sensitive individuals
- Secure fencing (particularly important for children who may wander)
- Clear signage including visual symbols

**3.5 Open-Ended Feedback Themes**

Respondents from households with disabilities shared valuable insights:

*"This is very exciting especially as a mother with a young son who was just diagnosed with autism!"*

*"Families of differently abled children want to teach their kids to navigate the world... This opportunity opens the eyes of community members about the needs of others."*

*"My child has high sensory needs when it comes to what occupational therapists call 'heavy work' - pushing, pulling, jumping... high resistance/pressure activities."*