

“3rd Street Park” Engagement Report

Prepared July 2023

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Methodology

The City of Proctor Parks and Recreation Committee directed Essentia Health staff to collect input via a public survey and other engagement efforts. To prioritize input from the direct neighborhood, direct mailings with paper copies of the survey were distributed to households in the neighborhood; an online survey was also distributed via the community Facebook group, “Residents of Proctor, MN”, with notice placed in the local newspaper, The Proctor Journal. Special outreach was conducted to adjacent property owners as well.

For purposes of rallying the neighborhood around the project, the Parks and Recreation Committee directed engagement efforts to take place when weather became warm. In turn, engagement efforts took place during May 2023 and June 2023.



Figure 1. Community members participate in an in-person input event at 3rd Street Park on June 13, 2023.

Overview

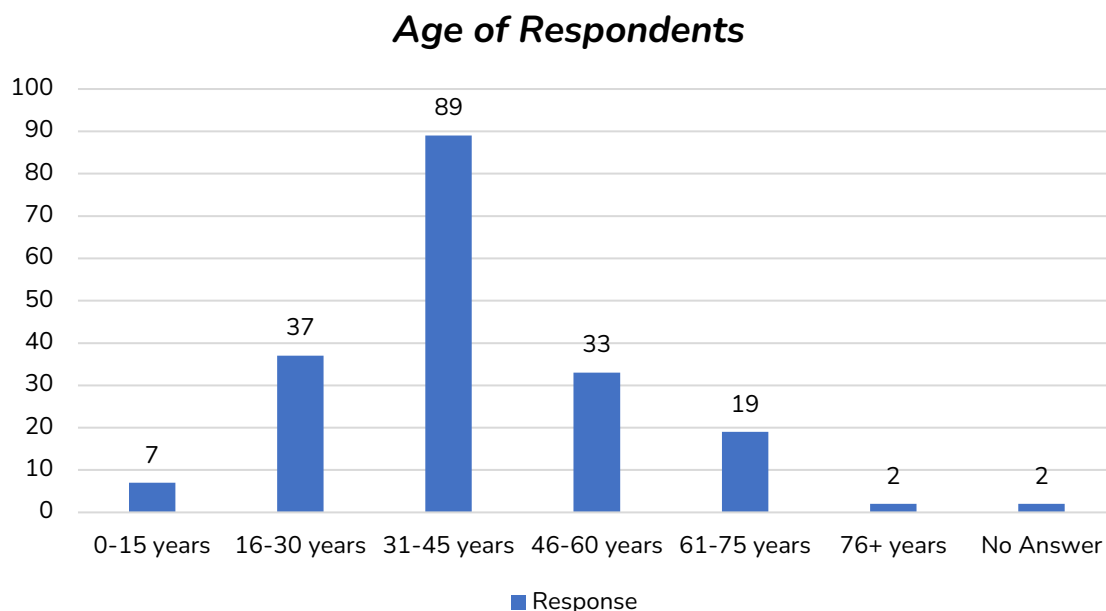
Engagement efforts yielded 189 survey responses, 5 neighbor interviews, and participation of 21 community members during an in-person input event. Social media comments were also harvested.

The following highlights results of each of these engagement exercises. Full results for each engagement method are available in the Appendices.

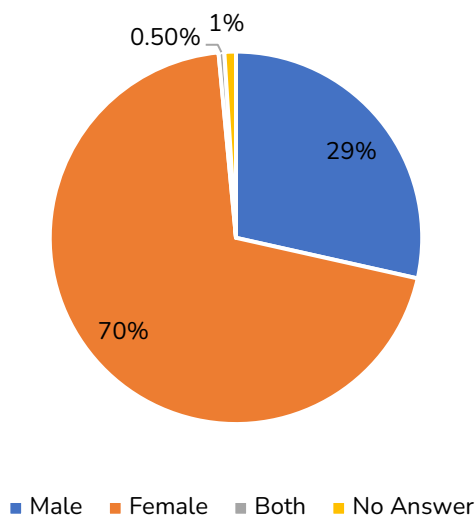
- Survey respondents most frequently identified a desire for a basketball court, splash pad, playground, pickleball, and green space.
- Survey respondents from the direct neighborhood identified a desire for a basketball court, splash pad, benches/seating, and green space.
- Neighbor interviews revealed a desire to maintain the intended use as a multi-use paved space with basketball hoops, but with higher fencing, benches, and a portable restroom. There were negative feelings toward a playground, community garden, and splash pad.
- The in-person input event supported the idea to maintain current use as a basketball court and a multi-use paved space; the attendees also supported the addition of benches.
- Social media comments also revealed a desire to maintain the current facilities, especially the basketball court. A splash pad was also suggested, but it came with pushback from others about our climate.

Survey Results (All Responses)

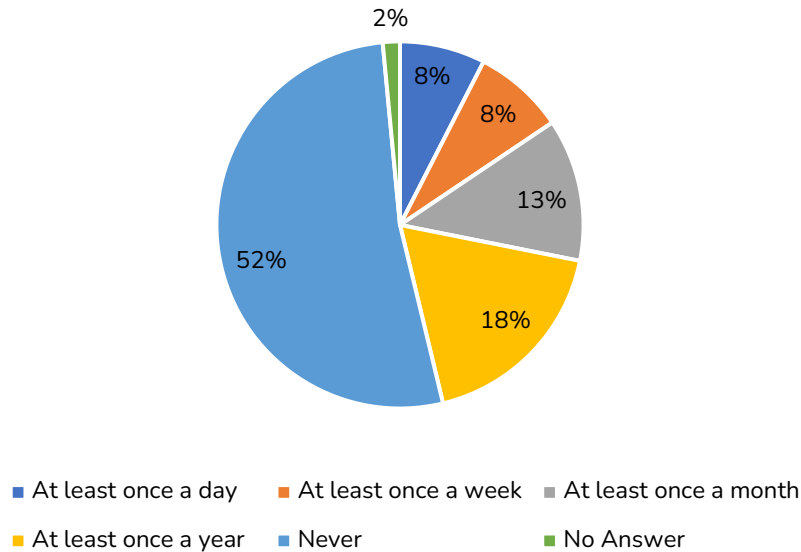
The City of Proctor and Essentia Health administered a survey about “3rd Street Park” to community members from May 12, 2023, to June 16, 2023. The survey was primarily delivered online, but direct outreach through paper mailings of the survey was completed for residents in the neighborhood directly around “3rd Street Park”. The survey was promoted on the “Residents of Proctor, MN” Facebook group and through an article in The Proctor Journal. The survey collected 189 responses.



Gender of Respondents



Respondents' Frequency of Visits to "3rd Street Park"



What “attractions” would get you and/or your family to visit the park on a regular basis?

The following list categorizes the responses submitted, from most frequent to least frequent. Frequency of each category is noted in parentheses.

- Basketball Court (64)
- Splash Pad (34)
- Playground (27)
- Pickleball (21)
- Green Space/Grass (21)
- Tennis (19)
- Benches/Seating (19)
- Dog Park/Fetch with Dog (14)
- Pavement Maintenance (12)
- Skate Park (11)
- Picnic Tables (11)
- Flowers/Garden (9)
- Bike Park/Power Wheels (9)
- Trees (8)
- Walking/Running Track (8)
- Fenced-in (7)
- Roller Hockey/Roller Skating (6)

- Pavilion/Shade (6)
- Pool (5)
- Community Garden (4)
- Lights (4)
- Playground (Older Kids - Swings, Climbing Wall, etc.) (3)
- Playground (Toddlers) (3)
- Wiffle Ball (3)
- Water Feature/Fountain (3)
- Farmers Market/Food Trucks (3)
- Open Space (3)
- Water Fountain (3)
- Ice Rink (No Pucks/Sticks) (3)
- Concert Stage/Amphitheater (2)
- Soccer Nets (2)
- R/C Park (2)
- Volleyball (Sand) (2)
- Sandbox (1)
- Washroom (1)
- Lake Superior Pavement Painting (1)
- Exercise Equipment (1)
- Trash Cans (1)
- Wall Ball (1)
- Kickball (1)
- Football (1)
- Movies (1)
- Exercise Classes (1)
- Badminton (1)
- Ladder Ball (1)
- Batting Cage (1)
- Pay Phone (1)
- Butterfly Sanctuary (1)
- Kids Discovery Center (1)
- GoKarts (1)
- Hopscotch/Four Square (1)
- Dog Timeshare (1)
- Art (Sculptures/Murals) (1)

- Futsal Court (1)
- Gaga Ball Pit (1)
- Grills (1)
- Ski Trail (1)

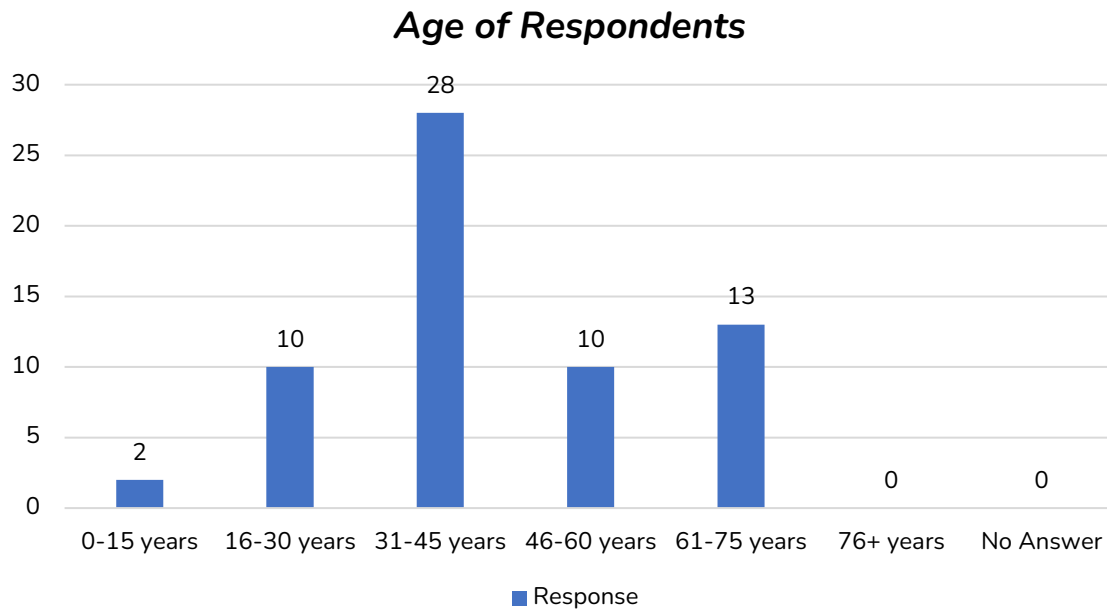
What concerns do you have about development of the park that we need to keep in mind?

The following list categorizes the responses submitted, in no order.

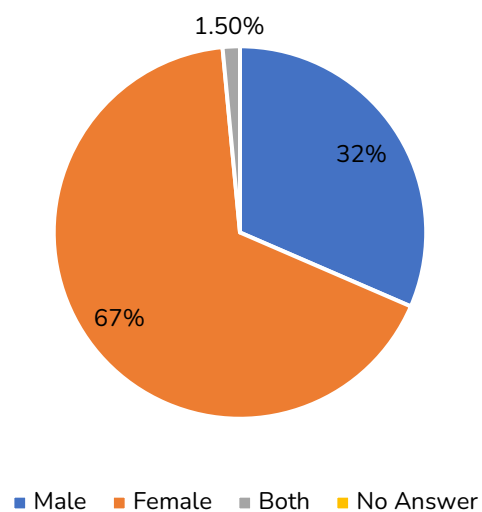
- Night Use (closed 10pm to 8am, communicate with signage, curfew enforcement)
- Cleanliness (garbage cans)
- Containment of Kids/Dogs/Balls (high fences would help)
- Keep Basketball Courts
- Lighting (well-lit for safety but not nuisance to neighbors, on-demand lighting)
- Maintenance
- No Dog Park (not enough space, dog parks should be located in more remote land on edge of town)
- No Playground (available elsewhere)
- No Skate Park
- Noise/Foul Language
- Nuisance to Neighbors (balls landing in adjacent yards)
- Parking
- Safety (keep it open for security reasons, patrolling/supervision/surveillance, attracting vandalism/harassment/drug use to neighborhood)
- Traffic/Street Safety

Survey Results (Neighborhood)

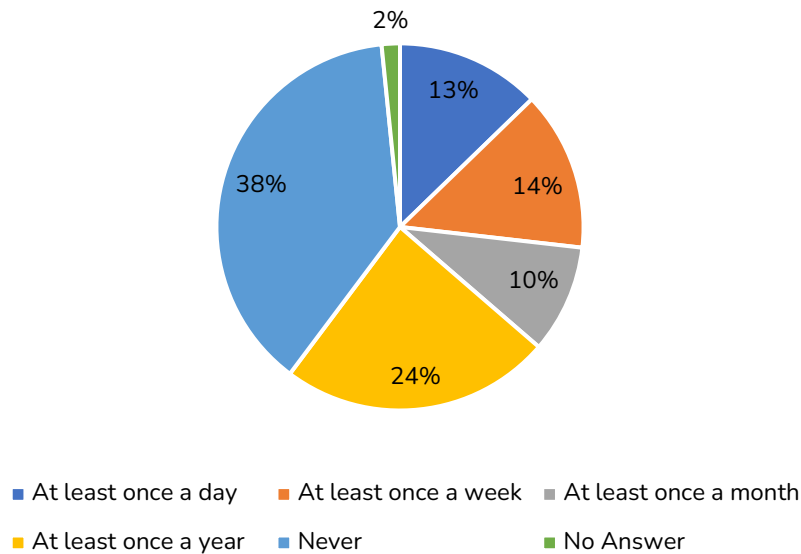
The following are survey results from those who identified residence in the neighborhood surrounding “3rd Street Park”. This geographic subset gathered 63 responses.



Gender of Respondents



Respondents' Frequency of Visits to "3rd Street Park"



What “attractions” would get you and/or your family to visit the park on a regular basis?

The following list categorizes the responses submitted, from most frequent to least frequent. Frequency of each category is noted in parentheses.

- Basketball Court (25)
- Splash Pad (12)
- Benches/Seating (11)
- Green Space/Grass (9)
- Playground (8)
- Tennis (6)
- Dog Park/Fetch with Dog (6)
- Bike Park/Power Wheels (6)
- Pavement Maintenance (5)
- Fenced-in (5)
- Picnic Tables (4)
- Trees (4)
- Skate Park (3)
- Roller Hockey/Roller Skating (3)
- Water Feature/Fountain (3)
- Pickleball (2)
- Flowers/Garden (2)

- Walking/Running Track (2)
- Lights (2)
- Pavilion/Shade (1)
- Pool (1)
- Farmers Market/Food Trucks (1)
- Water Fountain (1)
- Ice Rink (No Pucks/Sticks) (1)
- Soccer Nets (1)
- R/C Park (1)
- Volleyball (Sand) (1)
- Sandbox (1)
- Lake Superior Pavement Painting (1)
- Exercise Equipment (1)
- Wall Ball (1)
- Kickball (1)
- Football (1)
- Movies (1)
- Exercise Classes (1)
- Badminton (1)
- Batting Cage (1)
- Hopscotch/Four Square (1)
- Dog Timeshare (1)

Neighbor Interviews Summary

Direct neighbors of the park were contacted in May 2023 and June 2023 to engage in interviews about “3rd Street Park”. Five neighbors reached out and were interviewed. A summary of these conversations is included below.

General comments:

- Currently used for basketball, baseball, wiffle ball, football, riding bikes, volleyball, roller hockey, training dogs (back when fences could fully close)
- Great place to learn how to ride a bike
- Gets a lot of use by kids and parents of all ages, but especially for teens and older kids; some people bring their dogs too
- Some people use the park in the middle of the night and play loud music
- Park users who need to restroom usually leave and go to Kwik Trip
- Little to no use during winter
- City does not clear sidewalks adjacent to the park during winter
- City has been responsive about garbage can placement
- Ongoing maintenance issues with the asphalt and fencing
- Neighbors usually perform maintenance (mowing grass, picking up garbage)
- Has problems with balls going into neighboring yards

Desires:

- Would like to see current use (multi-purpose paved space) maintained but updated – new pavement, new fence, new lighting
- Higher fencing to keep balls in play area
- Benches for parents/grandparents to rest while kids play
- Portable restroom
- Repainted court lines for basketball and baseball/wiffleball/kickball
- Solid wall for individual tennis or racquetball practice
- Sports equipment (basketball hoops, soccer net, skateboard ramp, ball holder)
- Bike racks
- Signs instructing people to not climb on trees or fences
- Dog poop bags
- Small dog park might be an option, but probably not enough room

Concerns:

- Would like to see current use (multi-purpose paved space) maintained
- Do not make it a playground (plenty at other parks in the area)

- Do not make it a community garden
- Do not make it a splash pad
- Park use in the middle of the night
- Park users drinking and smoking
- Maintenance and cleanliness

In-Person Input Results

An in-person input opportunity took place at “3rd Street Park” on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 5:30pm to 7:00pm. 21 community members, all of whom lived in the direct neighborhood, were in attendance. The event was hosted by Essentia Health, and representatives from the City of Proctor Parks & Recreation Committee were present.

What would attract you and/or your household to visit this space regularly?

(Attendees were each given two votes to support some ideas. The categories that received votes and the number of votes received are in parentheses.)

- Leave as is, but “modernize” infrastructure (7)
- Benches (5)
- Keep basketball courts (2)
- Mixture of lawn and pavement or other ground surface (1)
- Color – Art, flowers, mural (1)
- Pickleball (1)
- Tennis (1)
- Kickball/baseball lines (1)
- Higher fence (0)
- Dampen sounds? (0)
- Curfew and enforcement – Signage (0)
- Tree maintenance (0)
- Painted course/track for riding bikes (0)
- Southwest corner developed for younger kids (0)
- Lower basketball hoop (0)
- Shade structure or pavilion (0)
- Keep it open for security reasons (0)
- Green space (0)
- Something for teens (0)
- Better lighting – lighting on demand (0)
- Portable washroom (0)
- Leave opening in fence for vehicle access – possibility for food truck, farmers market (0)
- Garbage cans (0)
- Cage to hold recreational balls (0)
- Water fountain (0)

What concerns do you have about any future use of this space?

- No enclosed building/structure (for safety and security reasons)
- Public safety (Police patrol, cameras?, lighting)
- People after dark
- Not a dog park
- Litter
- Keep it mowed/weeded/maintained – Provide instructions on a sign to report maintenance issues?
- Graffiti
- Not a skate park
- On-site first-aid station would be nice

Social Media Comments Summary

Engagement for the project took place in May 2023 and June 2023, and the public survey was promoted on the City of Proctor's Facebook page and the "Residents of Proctor, MN" Facebook group. A summary of the comments left on applicable posts is documented below, presented in order of topic frequency.

- Leave it as is/update current facilities/basketball court (17)
- Splash pad (6) – Note pushback from others due to climate
- Portable restrooms (3)
- Benches/Picnic Tables (3)
- Dog park (3) – Note pushback from others due to dog poop issues
- Pickleball court (3)
- Skatepark (3)
- Build homes (2)
- Ice rink in winter (2)
- Tennis court (2)
- Playground (2)
- Green space (2)
- Community pool (2)
- Comments on Essentia Health involvement (2)
- Higher fencing (1)
- Trees (1)
- Add lighting (1)
- Outside workout equipment (1)
- Public chicken ranch (1) – Note pushback from others due to cleanliness
- Stage for events (1)
- Event space (1)
- Art space (1)
- Pavilion (1)
- Lake Superior painted on pavement (1)
- Flowers (1)