

Article 1.

Community Playground Survey Results

The Playground Committee reached out to the community to understand the importance of the playground to families in Kirkwood, how the playground is used during the summer months, how often and how satisfied the community is with the playground. The committee also wanted to learn about the ages of the youth who visited the playground during the summer of 2019. And, the committee wanted to hear what playground features were most important.

On December 18 the survey was sent to over 1,000 email addresses in Kirkwood and by the time the survey closed on January 3, 2020, close to 200 responses had been received. Here is what was learned. 44% or 83 reported that they visit the playground during the summer months with close to 50% visiting five or more times over the summer. They spend thirty minutes or more at each visit. 66% of the parents watch or play with their children while at the playground. As for satisfaction with the playground, 91% are satisfied or better with the play area and 94% report that the playground is safe for their children.

The ages of the children visiting the playground during the summer are represented in the following table:

Answer Choices	Number of Children	Percent of Responses
0 – 2 years of age	20	25%
3 – 5 years of age	40	51%
6 – 9 years of age	47	59%
10 – 12 years of age	22	28%
Over 12 years of age	11	14%
Total	142	

The reason that 71% or 82 of the responses do not use the playground is because they no longer have young children. However, these individuals did complete the survey and provide their perspective on what features are of interest and made suggestions as to what could be added in a new design to make the playground more interesting. The suggestions included a distinct focus on features for older kids such as a climbing web and some balance features. Others suggested that a playground is not necessary in Kirkwood because the natural surroundings provide many opportunities.

The play space features that were ranked as being the most important include a play structure, a swing set, a slide, a jungle gym, a seesaw and a rope climbing spider web. There was also interest in a merry-go-round, chin up bars and spring riders. There were several questions which were open ended, and the comments and suggestions are useful for the committee as we move forward with this initiative. Many of these comments have been published as Frequently Asked Questions which have been posted on www.kmpud.com Follow this link to be directed to these.

The survey met the objectives that the committee wanted to achieve. We learned that the playground is important to the community and that it is used during the summer months. Knowing the ages that visit

the playground is useful in selecting the right features. We also learned that 24% would consider a donation to the reimagined playground and another 36% responded that perhaps they might contribute. Ten homeowners also volunteered to work with the committee and their support and help is very much appreciated! Many thanks to those who found the time to complete the survey. The future of the playground space is really in the hands of the entire community.

Please follow the link to view the survey results. Link to survey once posted?

Article 2

Community Outreach on the Playground Continues

On Saturday, January 18, several members of the Playground Committee met with a group of close to 30 homeowners and their children to review the survey results and to discuss a redesign of the playground area. The two-hour conversation was very constructive. We learned that smaller features constructed from natural materials were preferred. In addition, there was strong support for the community to help with the project. An architect was present, and she contributed substantively to the discussion. Another volunteer offered her experience with grant writing to help fund the new features. There was a healthy exchange of ideas. Please look for notices about future community meetings on this initiative and join us for the next conversation.