

Raymond Park Renovation

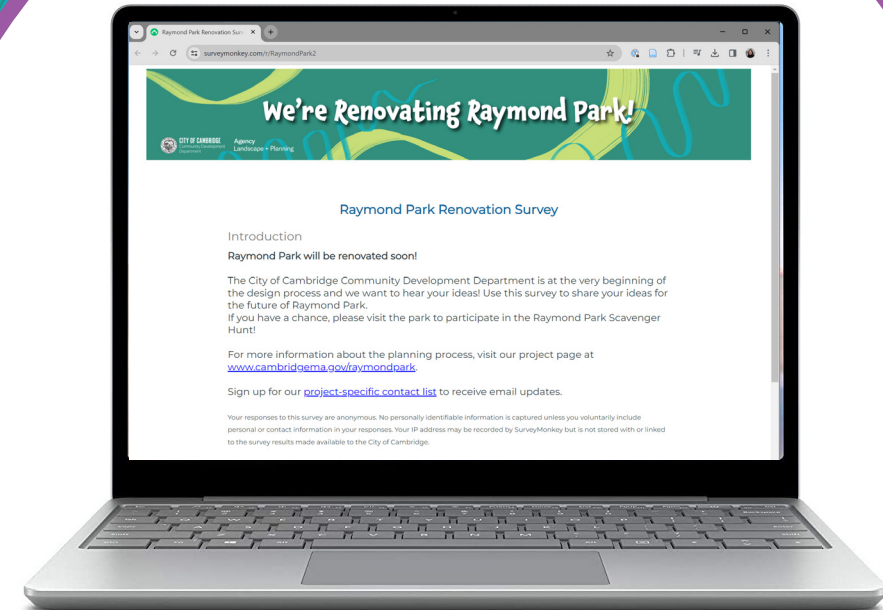
Community Engagement Wave #1 Summary



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Community Development
Department

Agency
Landscape + Planning

Thank you for sharing your voices with us!



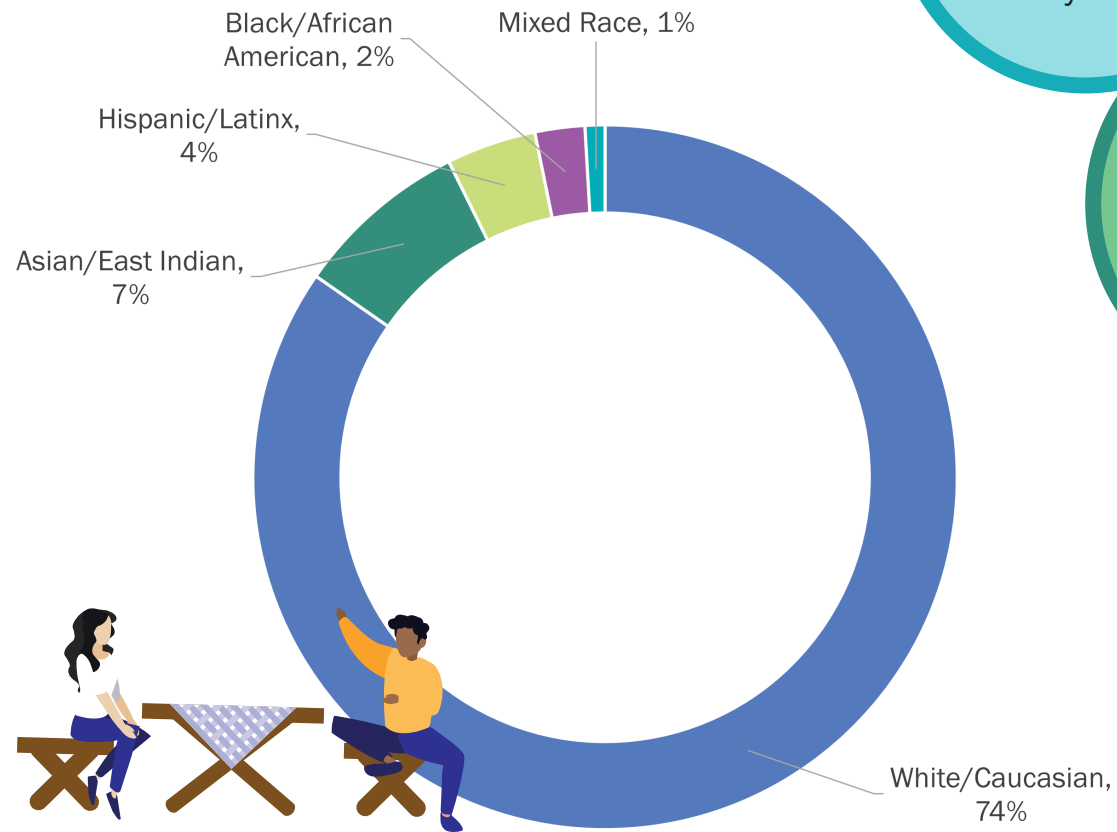
39
scavenger hunt
participants!

291
survey responses!

We heard from...



RACE



The racial demographics of survey respondents was not reflective of the neighborhoods surrounding Raymond Park. Black/African American and Asian/East Indian are under-represented.



61% of survey respondents identify as women, 27% identify as men

67% of survey respondents are parents or caretakers

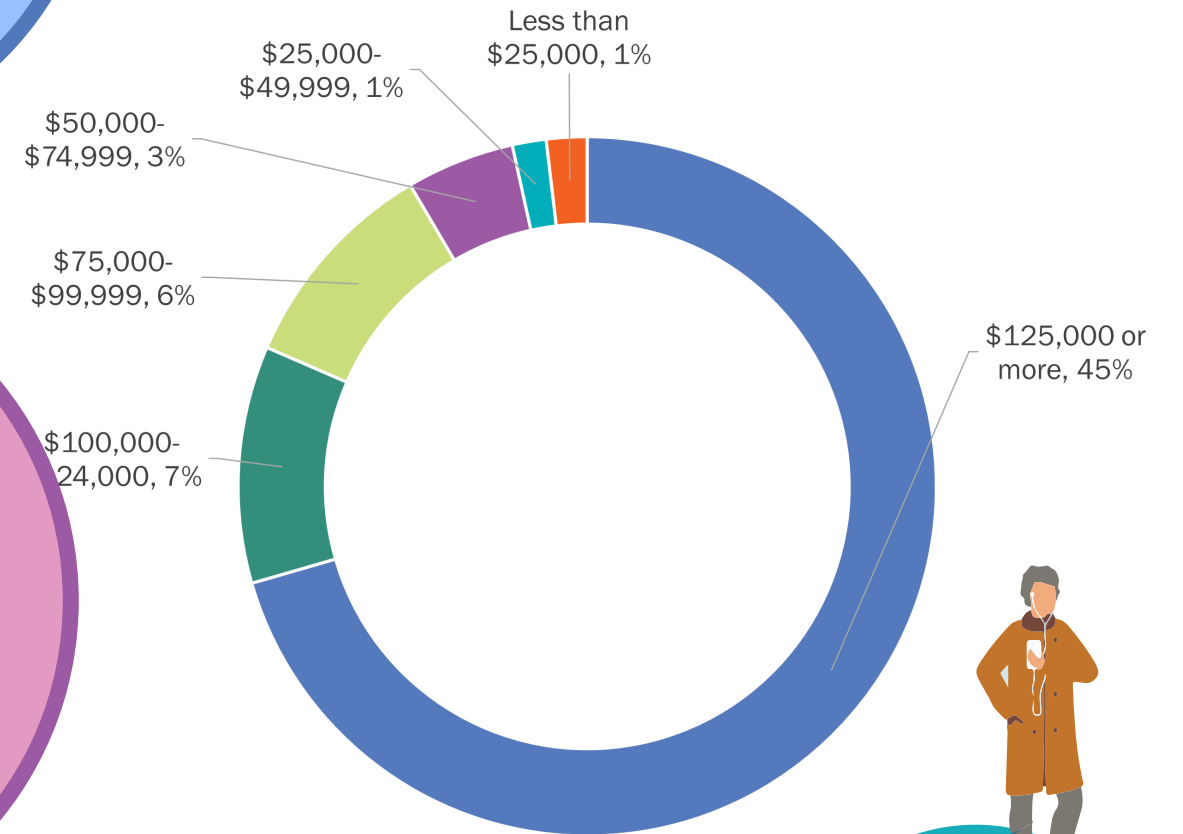
70% of survey respondents own their own home, 22% rent

51% of survey respondents are engaged in active recreation

Survey respondents and scavenger hunt participants came from a broad range of ages



ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY INCOME



Those with an annual family/household income under \$100,000 were under-represented in the survey relative to the City of Cambridge.

34% of survey respondents are dog owners/dog walkers



Raymond is a beloved community gathering spot where neighbors meet up regularly and form bonds, particularly over their children and dogs

52%

said using the **playground** is one of their favorite things to do at Raymond



There's a desire to improve the park but not lose what makes it special!

20%

said **off-leash dog hours** is their favorite thing about Raymond



The playground is the **#1** favorite thing about Raymond Park!



"Don't take the character out of the park. It is so at home in the neighborhood"

"Be sure nothing in the new design in any way makes the park less open, less welcoming."

"It's hard to imagine how to improve on a practically perfect space."

"I love that it is multi-use. I love the location right in the middle of a residential area. I love that it brings together the community for events. I love the openness and the trees."



The mature trees and big, green open space are cherished within the tight, densely populated blocks of Neighborhood Nine

59%

said **enjoying the trees & plants** is one of their favorite things to do at Raymond

21%

said the **size & open space** is their favorite thing about Raymond

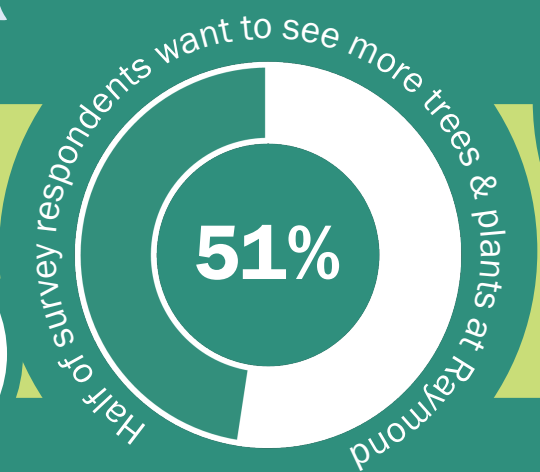


About 40% of the trees at Raymond Park are Green Ash. Cambridge City Arborist David Lefcourt would like to diversify the tree species and interplant different species around the Green Ash trees, which are susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer infestations.

Enjoying trees and plants is the #1 favorite thing to do at Raymond!

“There are nice shady spots but we welcome more trees for people and birds.”

“Add more trees please”



“I would love to have more native plants and trees, because I believe that it allows city children, the opportunity to grow up in nature.”

Some expressed concern that tree canopy needs long term maintenance and stewardship

The playground is noted for being well-shaded and particularly great for young children and toddlers

I wish... "I could climb a tree"

I wish... "it had a balance beam"

Scavenger hunt participants shared many wishes for the playground!

I wish... "The monkey bars were higher off the ground"

"The shady playground is a wonderful gathering spot for young and old"



I wish... "I could play on more structures"

"I want to dig and swing"

I wish... "the slide was taller"



"Currently [the playground] caters towards very young toddlers and it is not interesting for older elementary aged children"

There's a need for more adventurous activities for older kids



People who like that the playground is great for toddlers



People who want the playground to better serve older kids

"Playground is currently suited for toddlers."

People are passionate about the distinct activities at Raymond: off-leash dog hours, community garden, micro soccer and other sports

“The dog owners who meet every morning before 9:00 am to let their dogs play, form a tight knit community of wonderful people!”



There is a desire for some buffers between dogs and other uses of the park

“Community connection for kids, people who exercise together, yoga, concerts, dog friends in the morning, kids’ sports.”



“It’s a community hub. All our children’s friends gather there to play after school and on the weekends. Our kids play Microsoccer in the spring and fall. We all love being there.”



“More responsible dog ownership. Still periodically find dog poop in the lawn where kids play and tumble, where kids play soccer, etc.”



“Shared spaces where the children can play, dogs can be off leash before 9am”

“I really love the community garden even though I’ve never had a plot there”



“Put fence around kiddie playground to keep kids in and dogs out”



There are several unique & iconic elements that people love about Raymond Park

What makes Raymond Park special?

“Gorgeous sunsets. The shade in the summer over the playground. The beloved train. The soccer goals. The hill between the playing fields and the playground. The basketball court for bike-riding and scootering.”



“The train! My toddlers were obsessed, and even now as 5-7 year olds they still play on it.”



“So much to love! I take our dog there daily during lunch, but I love the lights in the trees during the holidays.”

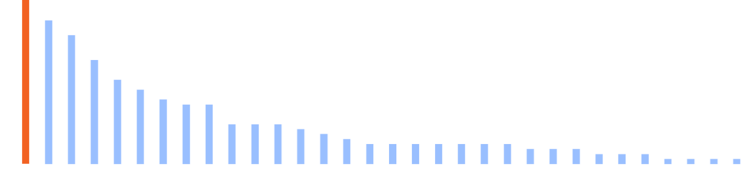
What makes Raymond Park special?

“Activities like caroling, and the movie nights. Seeing the little kids play soccer. Watching early morning exercisers.”



Addressing drainage issues in the field is the **#1** change people want to see at Raymond

- #1 Fix drainage issues/field conditions
- #2 Updated and more accessible playground
- #3 More trees & plants
- #4 More regulations around dog use



If you could change one thing about Raymond Park what would it be?

Other requested improvements included public bathrooms, better fencing, and water fountains

Many attribute the strong community feel of Raymond Park to its size, location, and diversity of activities & spaces for people of all ages



“It’s a fun place to gather and get to know neighbors. It’s in a residential area and for many of us without yards, this is where our kids grow up playing.”



“It is the cross roads of the neighborhood drawing folks from all directions. I meet so many people there.”



“The proximity of various activity areas so people with different interests or life phases (basketball, dog play, garden, sitting benches, little kid playground, big climbing tree next to the garden) can share the same space and appreciate each other.”



Even more activities were requested including...

Pickleball

Tennis

Fitness Equipment

Splash Pad

Baseball

Ice Skating