

Maple Park Master Plan Questionnaire Results

There was a total of 29 questionnaires collected by Altamanu over the period from June 18th, 2007 (the first community meeting) to the deadline of July 20th. Some respondents completed questionnaires at the first and second community meetings while others completed questionnaires that were available on the Park District website. The purpose of the questionnaire was to provide a vehicle to give input into the planning process for those who could not attend the community meetings and an additional vehicle for meeting attendees to provide comments.

Question 1 – What are the number, age, and gender of your household members?

Survey Respondent #	Women	Age(s)	Men	Age(s)	Children	Age(s)
1	1	47	1	46		
2			2	53, 20	1	13+
3	1	53	1	58		
4	1	40+	1	40+		
5	1	50	1	50	2	13+, 13+
6	1	68	1	70		
7	1	44	1	47	1	5-12 years
8	1	?	1	?	2	6-10 years
9	1	47	1	50	2	13+, 5-12 years
10	1	68	1	64		
11	1	34	1	36	3	1-5 years, <1,<1
12	3	55, 26, 28	1	55	1	3-5 years
13	1	46	1	46	3	5-12 years, 13+,13+
14	1	45	1	44		
15	1	70	1	70		
16	1	50	1	50		
17	2	41, ?	3	42, ?, ?	3	3-5, 5-12, 13+ years
18	1	39	1	39	2	1-2, 5-12 years
19			2	53, 21		
20	1	65				
21	2	53, 20	1	63	1	16
22	1	50	1	39	2	5-12, 5-12 years
23	1	38	1	43	2	1-2, 1-2 years
24	1	46	1	47	3	13+, 13+, 13+
25	1	54	1	69	1	5-12 years
26	1	31	1	31	2	1-2, 3-5 years

27	1	40	1	40	2	5-12, 5-12 years
28	1	43	1	49	1	3-5 years
29	2	?, ?				

Question 2 – How many years have you resided in the Village of Oak Park?

	less than one year	1-5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	more than 20 years
Total	0	2	3	6	18

Question 3 – How often do you use Maple Park?

Survey #	more than once a week	once a week	2-3 times a month	once per month	less than once per month
Total	9	2	3	2	12

Playground Section

- A. 10 respondents selected: “The existing playground is enjoyable as is and only needs minor restorations (e.g. replacement of rotting steps making it more handicap accessible, more woodchips in areas, etc.)”
- B. 13 respondents selected: “The vegetation within the playground is too dense and should be trimmed for purpose of better visibility into the park”
- C. 14 respondents selected: “The playground is too dark at night and needs more lighting”
- D. 5 respondents selected: “The existing playground is outdated and unsafe
- E. 8 respondents selected: “The existing playground should be taken down and a completely new playground should be built”
- F. 8 respondents selected: “The existing playground should stay but another, smaller playground should be built in closer vicinity to the baseball diamonds

Questionnaire Comments Made in Regards to Playground

- Needs a completely encircling walkway or walkways (N and S)
- I believe a large amount of funding should go towards the playground and surrounding area for seating

- Homeless guys sleep there (I'm sorry for them) Teens party at night (especially during summer)
- The playground is regularly used by teens and others for early morning drinking and drug use. As long as it remains hidden behind a hill this will probably continue - no matter how often the shrubs get trimmed or the lights get brightened this has continued to happen for 18 years.
- What about a water fountain next to the playground? More sand in sandbox.
- Too difficult to keep eye on children (especially with two toddlers) with tunnels, different levels, walls, bushes, etc. * Open exit into Harlem right by park is a big concern for me!

Restroom and Storage Station Section

- A. 6 respondents selected: "The existing restroom and storage facility is fine as is and needs only minor rehabilitation"
- B. 11 respondents selected: "The existing restroom and storage facility should be more easily accessible from either end of the park"

Questionnaire Comments Made in Regards to Restroom and Storage Station

- Not sure minor rehabilitation but exterior seems more acceptable than interior
- Dangerous. Needs to be made safer for all concerned. More lighting!
- Restroom should be renovated and enlarged
- Needs more stalls
- New restrooms
- Should consider relocating (180°) washroom access
- A lot of people (males) urinate on the park trees instead of using the public restrooms. Proper signage may address this issue!
- Homeless guys sleep in bushes behind there. Again - no problem but didn't know if you guys were aware.
- It doesn't appear open or safe and I have only seen truck drivers use it. The T-Ball boys pee in the bushes.

New Shelter Section

- A. **8** respondents selected: “A new shelter located at the northern half of Maple Park would provide more seating, a roofed picnic area, and better opportunity for more recreational activities”
- B. **4** respondents selected: “A completely new shelter is unnecessary – rather, more seating should be placed in the vicinity of the existing restroom and storage facility”

Questionnaire Comments Made in Regards to New Shelter

- More picnic areas would be nice
- More seating definitely needed at north end. Not sure about the building.
- Additional seating should be placed by the playground and in shaded areas.
- We tend to have folks sleeping in this end of the park overnight in good weather - I have even seen folks engaged in sexual intercourse (yes, really). Be aware of this whatever you decide.
- What about near the playground and soccer field. Seems really far away from anything at North End.
- I am not convinced that a shelter is necessary
- Doesn't seem necessary and often invites people from outside of Oak Park to hold family reunions or large picnics. This takes up much needed recreational space
- Neither a shelter or more seating is necessary.

Northern End – The Passive Zone Section

- A. **5** respondents selected: “The northern end of the park should be kept as a passive space and not allow any recreation”
- B. **12** respondents selected: “It should be kept as a passive space but allow for pick up sports games and practices”

- C. **2** respondents selected: “The bird feeder should be moved to provide another practice space”
- D. **3** respondents selected: “It should be an active zone rather than a passive zone and reformed into a more recreational landscape
- E. **5** respondents selected: “The many memorial trees should neither be removed or moved
- F. **9** respondents selected: “In order to create a larger recreational space, it would be okay for the memorial trees to be moved to another location within the park

Questionnaire Comments Made in Regards to Northern End – The Passive Zone

- The doggie park could be built on the north end
- My interest would be to devote an area for a dog recreation area
- South end needs a buffer between the gas station, Roosevelt, + Harlem.
- More passive the better for the entire park. This is a nice quiet area (except for baseball) - let's keep it that way
- Move the concrete piece of "artwork" at the north end somewhere else, or at least turn it around so it doesn't face Harlem.
- Seems the space is not adequately used and there could be these activities

Baseball, Pee-Wee Soccer, Tennis Section

- A. **4** respondents selected: “There is a need for more pee-wee soccer and t-ball fields”
- B. **7** respondents selected: “Do not add new fields, just improve what we have”
- C. **2** respondents selected: “Another diamond should be added to the southeast end of the park”
- D. **7** respondents selected: “A pee-wee soccer field should be added to the south end of the park as both the t-ball diamond and pee-wee soccer could fit”
- E. **6** respondents selected: “The tennis courts are used frequently”
- F. **5** respondents selected: “The tennis courts are used rarely”
- G. **2** respondents selected: “None of the tennis courts should be removed”

- H. 12 respondents selected: "It would be alright to remove one tennis court in order to create space for a path connecting the southern and northern halves of the park"

Questionnaire Comments Made in Regards to Baseball, Pee-Wee Soccer, Tennis

- Invest in improving the condition of the other tennis courts that remain
- Very uncommon for all 3 tennis courts to be filled at the same time. Removal of one for a safety path would have minimal impact to tennis players.
- Baseball is loud and crowded but at least it's only 3 months out of the year. Tennis is fine - if you have to move it to the south end fine, but keep 3 courts
- We don't use diamonds so have no opinion. We do like tennis courts near the existing playgrounds
- The empty and unused basketball and tennis courts should be converted to batting cages. River Forest and Forest Park both have these already. There is a need for better baseball facilities.

Pathways Section

- A. 5 respondents selected: "Currently, the system of paths is adequate"
- B. 12 respondents selected: "Currently, the system of paths is inadequate"
- C. 17 respondents selected: "A path should be added along the eastern edge of the park so that pedestrians do not have to walk on the street"
- D. 12 respondents selected: "The park needs continuity in pathways from the south end to the north end"
- E. 12 respondents selected: "The park's pathways need to be more handicap accessible"

Questionnaire Comments Made in Regards to Pathways

- Dirt and mud on paths to bus
- Currently, no access for wheelchairs to traverse along the east side of the tennis court
- How about a jogging or walking path around the park area.

- No Paths - it's a park, not a sidewalk

- We don't need a path along the fence, but let's move the bushes along the east side of the tennis courts and put a sidewalk there instead.

- Narrow Maple Ave. at the tennis courts to provide pedestrian path, slow vehicular traffic, and ease pedestrian crossing to playground.

Dog Park Section

21 in favor of a dog park

8 not in favor of a dog park

Questionnaire Comments Made in Regards to Dog Park

Survey Respondent #	Positive Comments	Negative Comments	Other Comments
1	Need more space for people whose recreation includes their dog	Don't get rid of Ridgeland dog park if you put one in Maple	
2	Dogs and dog owners in south Oak Park would have a place to exercise dogs		
3	Socializing with animals and people should be like the one on Circle Ave.		
4	Many dogs in the community! Great idea for a dog park. I would use Maple Park more often.		I believe this dog park is not only a great idea, but a needed addition to this side of Oak Park
5	Please - we need a dog park in Oak Park. The small dog run at Ridgeland is not sufficient		

6	A permanent dog park would be useful	Dog owners must be mindful of their pets - areas could be overused	
7	Helps create sense of community - neighbors hang out there together. Keeps dog owners in OP - not Forest Park.	Could be a noise issue for the neighbors if users don't adhere to the rules	
8	It needs to be monitored & clean but would be wonderful!		
9	Safe place to take your dog. Socialization of dogs prevents bad tempered dogs.		
10	Positive - give people a place to meet with pets	The dog park is very bad. Its hours are horrible, it is expensive compared to Forest Park	
12	Positive - opportunity for legal off leash area with proper amenities!	Negative - Space is narrow - many other uses for park especially involving kids who would need educating regarding proper behavior around dogs	
15	Useful, necessary joint exercise of dogs and dog owners		
16	Can help keep undesirable elements out of the Park enhancing public safety. Provides a dog exercise facility accessible to the southern park of Oak Park.		

17		1. Local residents have a yard to let their dogs run 2. Spend money (tax dollars) on humans children and adults. Open space is a luxury to us.	Dog Parks are smelly and residents of the park do not need additional noise from barking dogs. PS - I have two dogs and love them but they are dogs!
19		Brings too many people - the beauty of this area is very little crime, quiet during the day. Dogs would bring out-of-towners also like Forest Park Dog Park does	
21		Most of the people who bring their dogs to here are from Chicago and other places - My main opposition to a dog park is due to the fact that we have been underused by our own community and thus under "protected" by our police dept. No matter what rules and regs you put into place for a dog park - who will be there to enforce them? Don't expect the users to "self-police" - it won't happen. I'm sure we will hear dogs at 5 AM and 11PM - plus all those folks with dogs and not cleaning up after themselves - No Thanks (and I have 2 dogs)	
22	In favor as long as it's not taking up green space. Put it on the old tennis courts.		
23	Positive - a rare amenity to park	Negative - dog poop/smell	

	community - to dog owner something to visit		
24	I believe that greater use of the park equals more safety for users. Dog owners would increase use of the parks. My experience with the permitted dog park system is that the owners are very responsible and represent residents that may not use the parks for other purposes.		
26		Dog park very close in Forest Park and village should combine use at closely located ACL dog park	
27		It is a waste of tax dollars. Paying someone to monitor them is more of a waste.	
28		Negative: noise, more parking congestion, potential hazard to small children, decrease property values. No positives.	Village should purchase vacant property east of post office on Garfield and develop for dog park

New Programs & Facilities Section

- A. **19** respondents selected: “Replace chain-link fence along Harlem with either an ornamental fence or a fence that projects a positive image of Oak Park and the community”
- B. **15** respondents selected: “Add a multi-use trail around the entire site, or part of the site, for jogging, running, walking, etc.”
- C. **2** respondents selected: “Provide more recreational activities to teenagers”
- D. Comments Regarding Rec Activities for Teens

- Yes! Unstructured activities designed to stop kids from trolling the streets. Too structured and teenagers will reject.
- Organized sports for teens such as walking, jogging, basketball
- No - teens that come just get high.
- Flood areas in the winter for public ice skating like the old days
- E. **4** respondents selected: "Add a sand volleyball court"
- F. **16** respondents selected: "A buffer of gingko trees along the edge of Harlem Ave."
- G. **9** respondents selected: "More seating areas within Maple Park"
- H. **16** respondents selected: "Remove old concrete pads that were used for basketball and tennis"
- I. **13** respondents selected: "Quiet areas are important. Enlarge the quiet landscaped zones for strolling, seating, and picnics."

Questionnaire Comments Made in Regards to New Programs & Facilities

- Dog Park!
- I just feel that given its location, Maple Park doesn't lend itself to landscaped areas - too many undesirable people with access.
- Desperately need something to present Oak Park to the community. Sign. Design Something!
- Stop storing obsolete park equipment in open view on basketball pad. Get rid of that cement cone - that is not art and looks like debris from the Mohr Co. in that location. Was that someone's idea of a joke?
- (Sand Volleyball) courts would be great! (At least 2)
- Add Dog Park facility
- More/ any seating by t-ball fields
- Convert concrete pads to batting cages

Results to "What do you like and dislike most about Maple Park? Are there any other amenities or changes you would like to see in Maple Park? Please list below."

Survey Respondent #	Likes	Dislikes	Other Amenities
3			More security at night - better litter control of garbage - mud paths filled in, take down hills that cause mud on paths - take down playground or mounds that blocks vision to Harlem bus stop
4			Brick and Wrought Iron Fence, more lighting at night
5			Dog Park
9	I like that it's there	However I don't think it's very inviting for older adults	
12	Like: good proportions for younger kids Opportunity for dog park = off leash dog exercise area	Dislike: limited parking - proximity to Harlem	
13		The "art" at the north end is nonsensical.	Keep fence along Harlem economical and don't use buffer of Ginko, at least not the ones that drop the smelly fruit!
15	Size, quiet and passive away.		Move ornamental plantings
16	It's beautiful. It's a real surprise to find it tucked into that corner of the village. I am very much in favor of adding a dog park.		
17	The trees are	Dislike noise - we	The playground should be

	beautiful - we need to add more trees to the park.	desperately need a buffer between the park and Harlem Ave. Separate the gas station from the park. Public urination is common.	updated and expanded - swings, chair swings for adults. Offering additional play opportunities will bring people to the park.
18	Great shaded playground!		The playground needs some swings. There needs to be a better way to cross the park north-south without going through the tennis courts or walking in the street. Some kind of pathway would be helpful.
19		<p>Not enough garbage cans - on weekends lots of out-of-towners use it to picnic, which is okay I guess but garbage always overflows and it's a mess. 1. South end - a better fence next to gas station. It gets pretty crappy. 2. No more ball fields - I'm surprised no kids have gotten run over with the amount of kids darting in and out of all the parking and cars going too fast.</p> <p>Keep this park as quiet as possible. Again, that's the beauty of it. Now that we have customers of the Roosevelt Rd. business' (Salerno's) taking up the whole first block (1140-1188 Maple) it's getting worse and worse.</p>	

20		<p>Before redoing Maple Park for the residents to use - The far south end of Maple is used as a parking lot for employees of the restaurant at Harlem and Maple and customers. Residents can't even park in front of their own houses. Parking restrictions have to be implemented by the Village of Oak Park.</p>	
21	<p>I like - the beautiful flowering trees - appropriate use of land and facilities by consumers - the open space - living across the street from it.</p>	<p>I dislike - the playground being used inappropriately at all hours - the honking horns and car alarms during t-ball season and on weekends - huge family picnics and barbeques on weekends by non-residents and the garbage left behind - people who drive their vehicles through the park grass during winter and spring - trying to get the police to respond to noise complaints</p>	<p>How about a sign with hours of use? A drinking fountain? More garbage cans - they overflow so often - More benches? - More use by members of our community - not just people from Berywn + Chicago. All the other parks got new signs - not us.</p>

22		I hate the concrete "sculpture" at the north end. It's ugly - it looks like some left over roadwork materials. Can it be painted? Or at least turned to face the park, rather than Harlem.	
23			What about a jumping fountain like at Wicker Park in Chicago! Kids love it! Adults love it.
24	Like- Green space, T-ball fields, Trees	Dislike- washroom building, parking difficulties	
26	Pros- close proximity to my home	Cons- safety (Harlem, visibility)	Splash Pad
27	The visibility of Harlem and the gas station are what I dislike most	The traffic flow is alarming and dangerous. Maple Avenue has become an alternative to impatient drivers who want to go around Harlem traffic. It is a miracle that no children have been hit by cars speeding by the baseball fields.	A tall hedge around the parks would enclose it well. A natural barrier (eco friendly) would be money well spent rather than an expensive fence.
28		Dislike: poor visibility and lighting at the playground encourages inappropriate use after dark.	