

Lions Park Survey

COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT

city of
golden 
valley

Contents

<i>Overview</i>	2
<i>2024 Community Input</i>	3
<i>2025 Community Input</i>	7
<i>2025 Community Input Key Insights and Takeaways</i>	11
<i>Appendix A: Social Media Reach And Engagement</i>	14
<i>Appendix B: Lions Park Public Safety Data</i>	14

2024 Survey Overview

The City hosted a *Chat With The Chief* community engagement meeting on April 15, 2024 at the Lions Park Shelter to hear neighborhood concerns regarding the shooting incident that took place at Lions Park on Sunday, April 7 at 4 am.

To promote the event, the City published a website news story and posted on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, and Nextdoor.

Social Media Outreach

The City posted information about the event on Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, and Nextdoor on April 12, 2024. See Appendix A for reach and engagement details.

Event Overview

Interim City Manager Noah Schuchman, Mayor Roslyn Harmon, Parks and Recreation Director Janelle Crossfield, Police Chief Virgil Green, Community Connections and Outreach Specialist Airrion Williams, and Councilmember Maurice Harris were present to moderate, answer questions, and solicit feedback.

Chief Green began the meeting by giving an overview of the shooting incident at Lions Park, stating that this was an isolated incident and assuring that the community is still safe. Green explained that the City is considering adding cameras to Lions Park and there will be more dedicated park patrols. Police vehicles will also be temporarily parked in the lot to deter potential crime.

Crossfield then solicited community input regarding tennis court wind screens and LED lighting at the parking lot and trails in Lions Park.

2024 Key Insights and Takeaways

Safety & Crime Prevention

- Enhance cameras, lighting, signage, and resource allocation for park security
- Top community priorities:
 - Pole cameras and surveillance (most supported)
 - Motion-detecting lights, replace what is broken, and phased lighting upgrades approaches

Park Infrastructure

- Tennis court wind screens – majority prefer raised in 2024 (62%)
- Lighting upgrades – prefer parking lot and trail lighting in 2025 (95%)

Community Engagement

- Involve residents through advisory boards, ambassadors, or beginning neighborhood night watch again

Communication

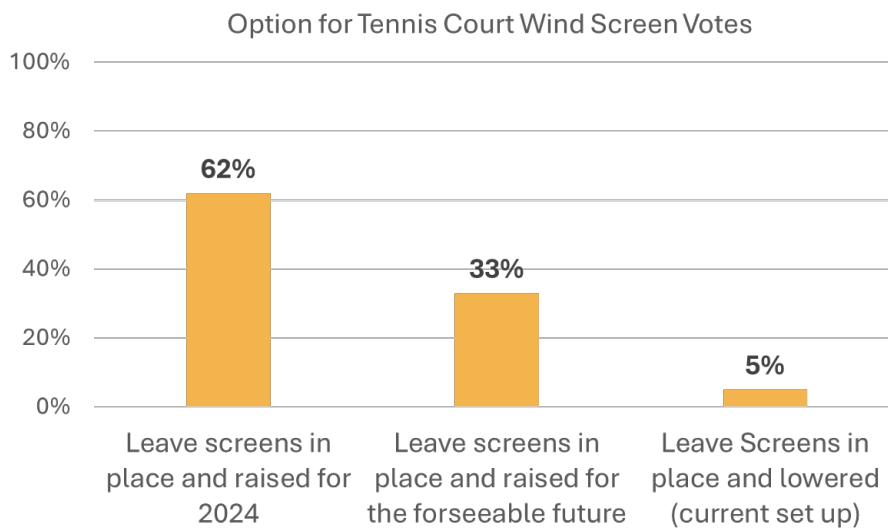
- Ensure clear, consistent communication on park and safety updates

2024 Community Input

Tennis Court Wind Screen Votes

Based on responses, the most preferred option is *Leave screens in place and raised for 2024* and the least preferred option is *Leave screens in place and lowered (current set up)*.

Options	Votes
Leave screens in place and lowered (current set up)	1
Leave screens in place and raised for 2024	13
Leave screens in place and raised for the foreseeable future	7

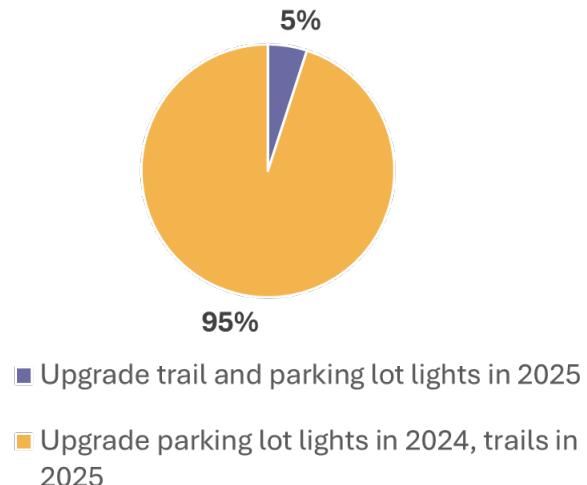


Trail And Parking Lot Lights

Based on responses, the most preferred option is *Upgrade parking lot lights in 2024, trails in 2025*, and the least preferred option is *Upgrade trail and parking lot lights in 2025*.

Options	Votes
Upgrade trail and parking lot lights in 2025	1
Upgrade parking lot lights in 2024, trails in 2025	20

Option for Trail and Parking Lot Lights



Post-It Comments

Comments were provided on Post-It notes, which gave other attendees the opportunity to express their support for specific comments.

Comments	Supporters
Gates/chains around entrance and exit of parking lots	2
Motion detecting lights	
Keep existing lights, but make sure they work	
Staff should gather input from community in advance near Garden Park and Ridgeway	
Keep the trail lighting with old-fashioned light fixtures to be mindful of the resale value for the houses	
No bright lights	3
Remove screens	4
Pole camera	6
Can citizens be utilized more? Example: advisory boards and community resource groups	2
Change neighborhood watch participants to neighborhood ambassadors	
Surveillance drones	2
Can these changes be made at Brookview, too?	
Big sign that says "we are watching"	
Keep trail lighting on back trail dim	
Do we need very large police cruisers? Could that money be used for more staff, cameras, etc?	
Signs about 10 pm closing and signs to encourage people to report violators	
Remember that we are and our children are in fact not all white and we belong here	
There appears to be a need for a safe place for youth at night. There used to be a midnight basketball program. What can be done to offer better alternatives to public parks?	

Common Themes

- Security and Surveillance—10 mentions
- Lighting and Visibility—7 mentions
- Community Involvement—5 mentions

Verbal Questions And Comments

These comments were provided verbally by the community.

Questions/Comments
How are we going to continue to be a welcoming community amidst public safety concerns?
Is this a trend?
Do we have to change the lighting?
Glass needs to be replace on park lamps.
Signs out front with time when the park closes.
Who owns the wind screens and can they be taken down?
Is this a one and done situation or will people return to commit crime again?
Will there be police presence at all parks in GV?
What can community do?
How can people receive regular communication?
When will we get back up to full staffing?
What happened to the Neighborhood Watch?

These comments were themed into three main themes: Public Safety and Crime Prevention, Community Engagement and Communication, and Park Infrastructure and Maintenance.

Public Safety and Crime Prevention	Community Engagement and Communication	Park Infrastructure and Maintenance
1. Is this a trend?	1. How are we going to continue to be a welcoming community amidst public safety concerns?	1. Do we have to change the lighting?
2. Is this a one and done situation or will people return to commit crime again?	2. What can the community do?	2. Glass needs to replace on park lamps.
3. Will there be police presence at all parks in GV?	3. How can people receive regular communication?	3. Signs out front with time when the park closes.
4. What happened to the Neighborhood Watch?		4. Who owns the wind screens and can they be taken down?

2025 Survey Overview

To gather additional input on community safety concerns following the April 7, 2024 shooting incident at Lions Park (see page 3), the City of Golden Valley conducted a check-in survey with questions about park usage and safety perceptions.

The survey was active throughout January 2025 and drew 144 responses.

To promote the event, the City published a website news story and posted on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, and Nextdoor.

Social Media Outreach

The City posted information about the event on Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, and Nextdoor on January 6, 2025. See Appendix A for reach and engagement details.

2025 Key Insights and Takeaways

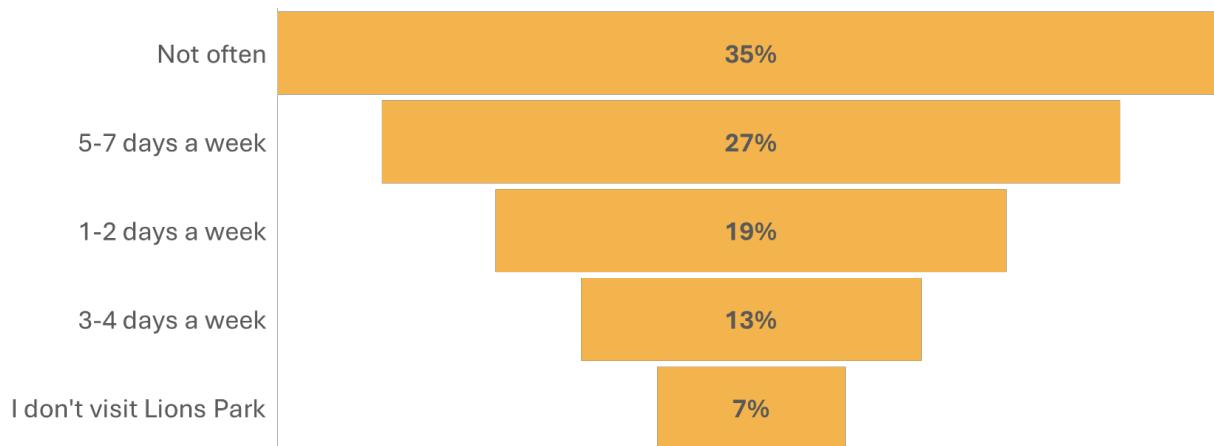
- **Usage Patterns:**
 - **Frequency of Visits:** About 35% of respondents visit the park infrequently, while 27% visit 5-7 days a week.
 - **Primary Activities:** A majority (56%) use the park for walking and jogging, followed by 15% who use it for sports.
- **Distance to the Park:**
 - Most (74%) respondents live within a 10-minute walk to Lions Park.
- **Preferences for Park Features:**
 - A majority (72%) prefer keeping the tennis wind screens in place and lowered as they currently are.
- **Safety Perception:**
 - **General Safety:** Largely, 90% of respondents feel safe at the park. See Appendix B for a breakdown of public safety calls for service (CFS) to Lions Park.
- **Safety Enhancements:**
 - **Cameras:** 88% of respondents indicated the addition of cameras would increase their sense of safety.
 - **Security:** 75% replied “Yes” to installing cameras, while 88% believe installing security cameras at the park shelter would enhance safety.
 - **Police Patrols:** 65% of respondents expressed support for more dedicated police patrols, with 92% agreeing additional patrols would significantly improve their sense of security (“more safe”).
- **“Safety Concerns at Night” and “Lighting Improvements”** (besides “Positive Comments”) were largely top areas of focus for people leaving comments, having 27 mentions (without adding the 10 positive comments).

2025 Community Input

Data Breakdown

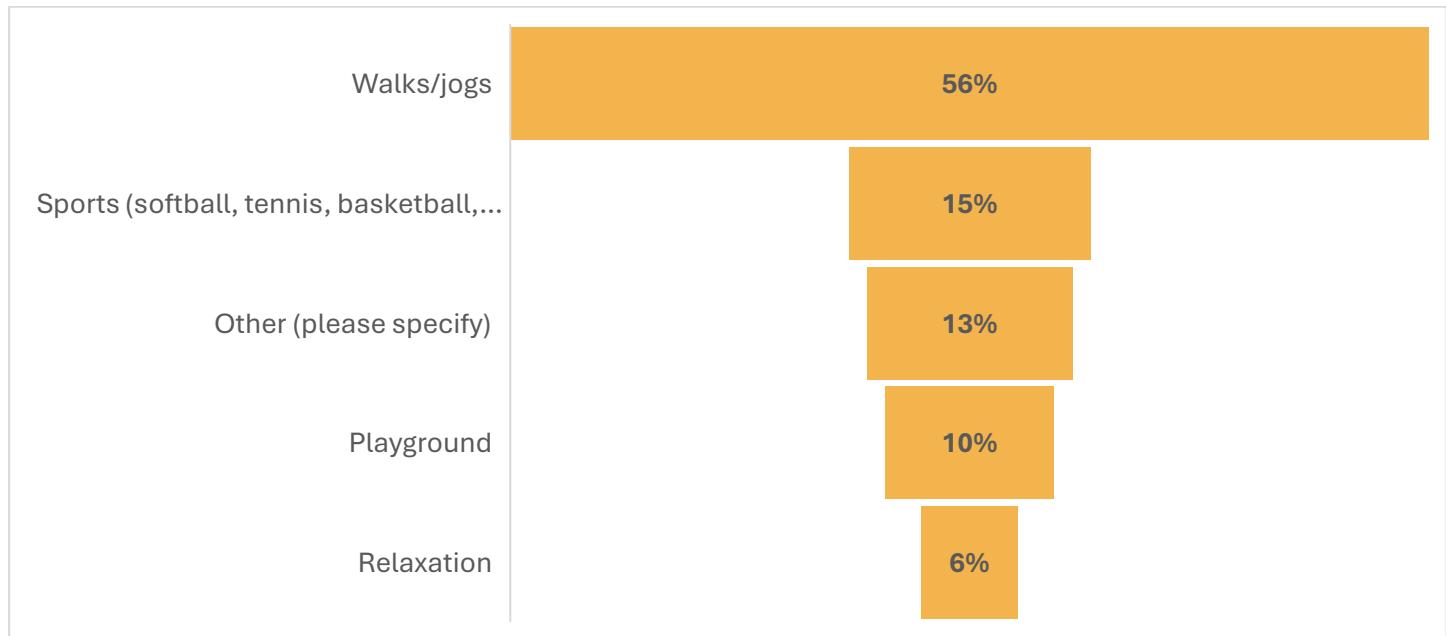
How Often Do You Visit Lions Park?

About 50 people, equal to 35% of the total (144) respondents, mentioned not often, with 27% following at 5-7 days a week (39 respondents).



How Do You Use Lions Park?

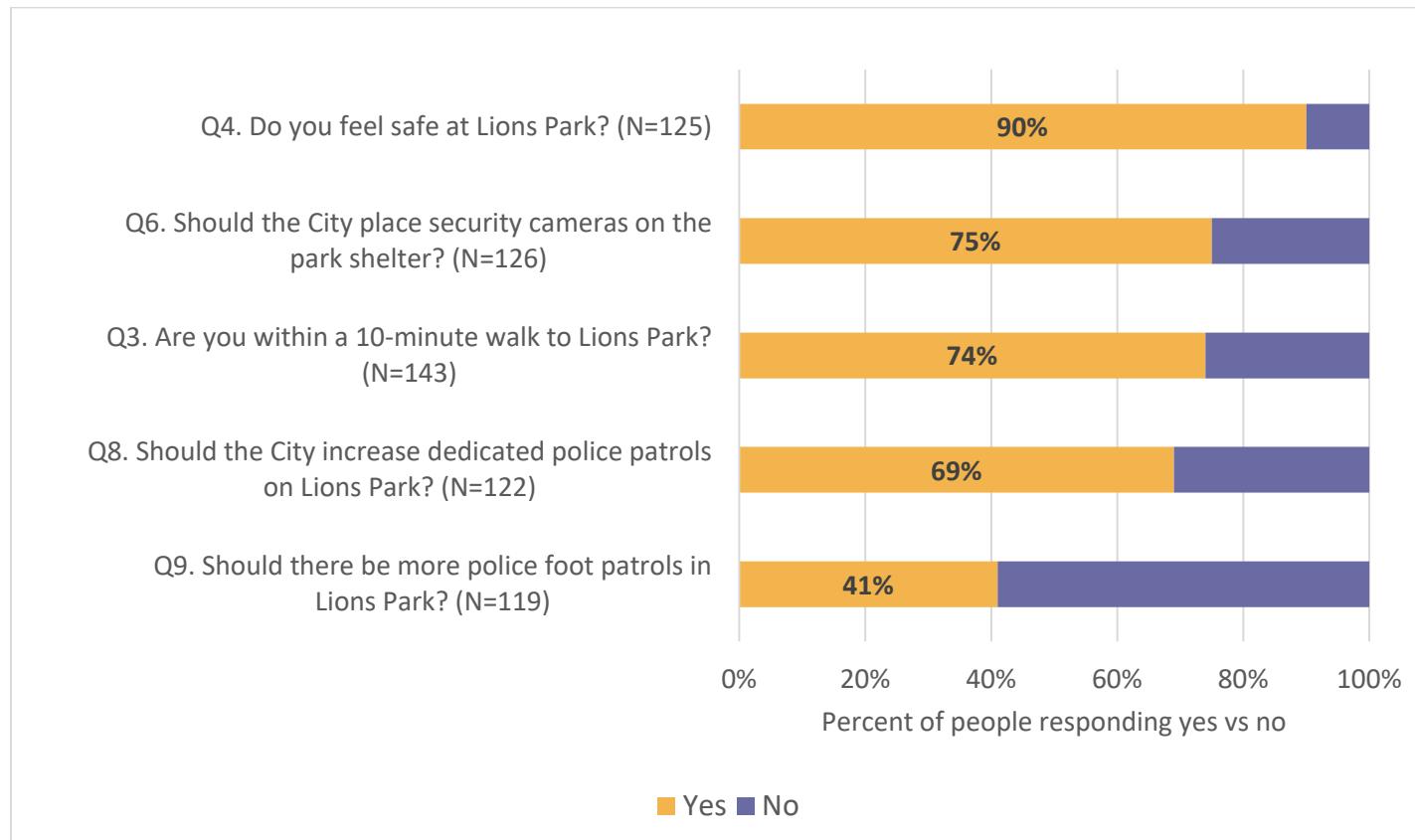
A total of 76 people, or 56%, said they use the park for walks and jogs, followed by nearly 15% of people using it for sports (20 respondents).



Safety And Security “Yes Or No” Questions

Respondents were asked to answer “Yes or No” to questions about perceptions of safety and security in the park.

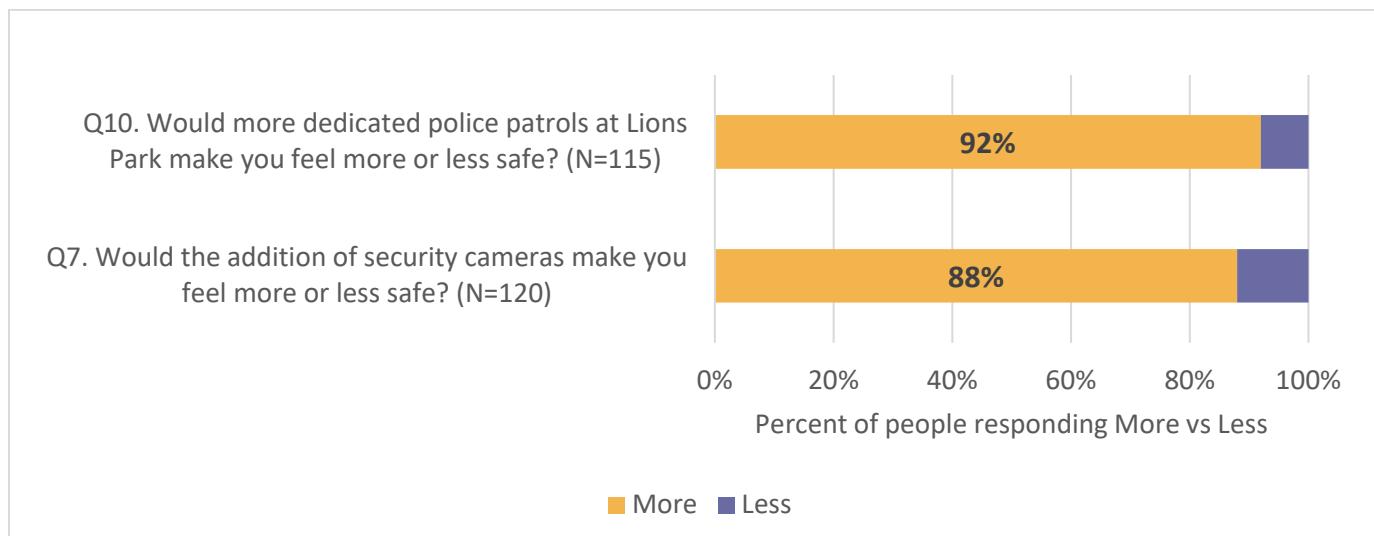
- Most respondents (90%) say they feel safe while in the park (113 individuals).
- Most respondents (nearly 75%) think the City should place security cameras on the park shelter (94 individuals).
- Most respondents (74%) are a 10-minute walk to Lions Park (105 individuals).
- Slightly fewer respondents (69%) want dedicated police patrols (84 individuals).



Safety And Security “More or Less” Questions

These results display answers to two “More or Less” questions, specifically if people thought more dedicated police patrols at Lions Park would make one feel more or less safe, or if the addition of security cameras would make one feel more or less safe.

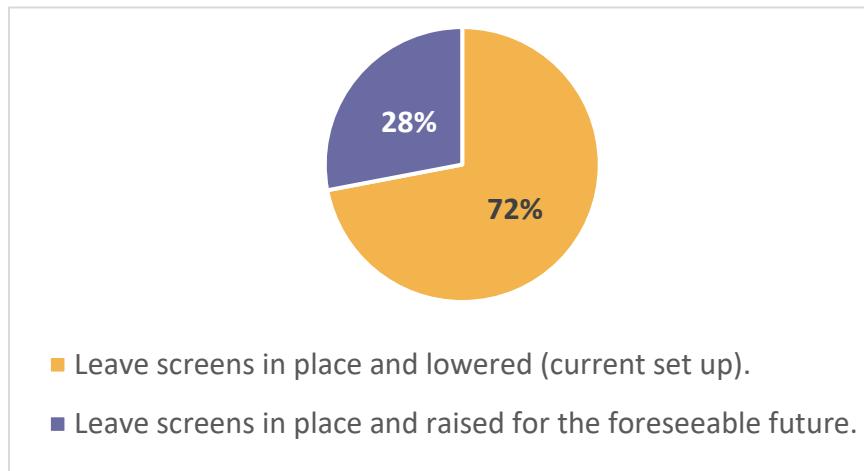
- More than 90% of people said more dedicated police patrols would make them feel more safe (106 individuals).
- Close to 90% of respondents said the addition of cameras would make them feel more safe (106 individuals).



Wind Screen Action Planning

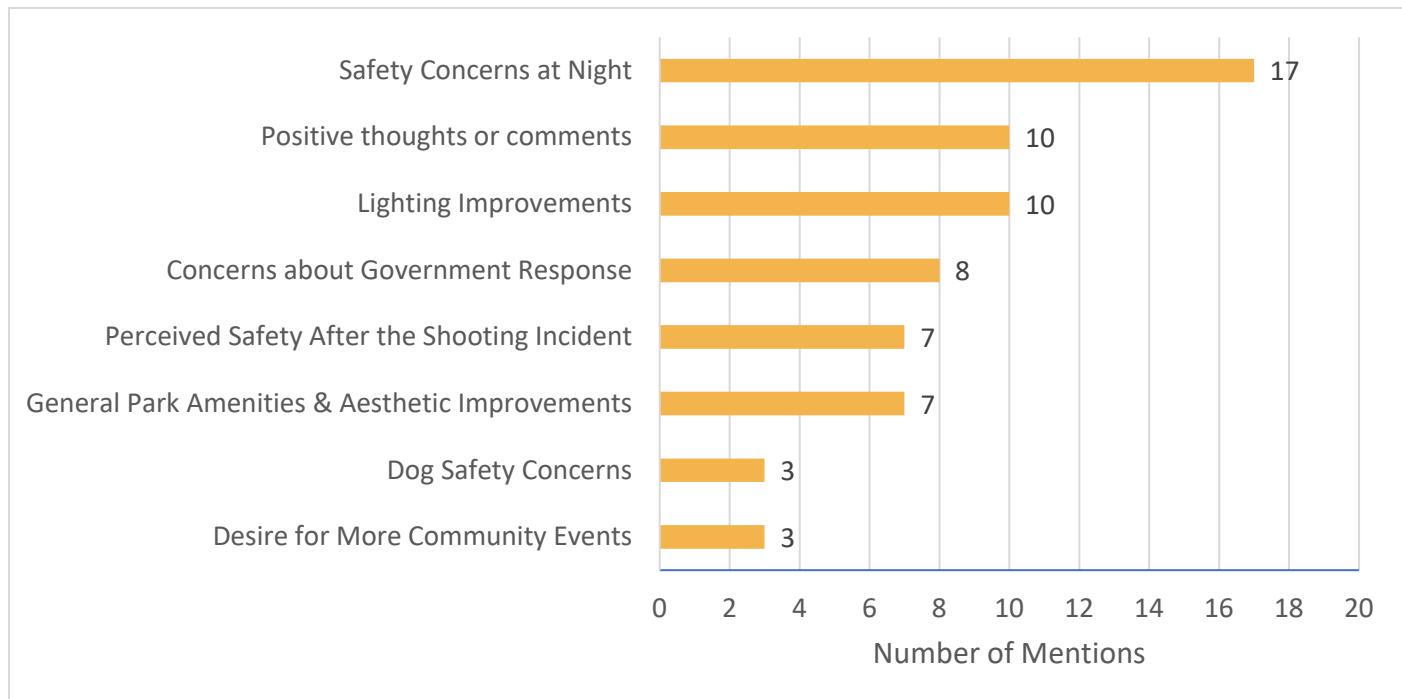
“Wind screens on the courts provide more stabilized conditions for tennis players. Neighbors of the park have expressed concern about the privacy these screens can create for people to gather at night. While removing the screens would provide for greater visibility, it would also create a less desirable playing space for tennis players.”

- Most respondents (72%, or 84 individuals) preferred the option “*Leave screens in place and lowered (current set up)*” versus the option “*Leave screens in place and raised for the foreseeable future*”).



Open-Ended Common Themes For "Comments" Section

Comments were provided at the end of the survey as open-ended responses. The mentions by each respondent, whether two topics or one, or even three, were put into the following themes.



Appendix A

Social Media Reach And Engagement

Reach = Number of people who saw the post

Engagement = Number of people who interacted with the post

Jan 6, 2024					
Platform	Reach	Engagement	Likes/Reactions	Shares/Retweets	Comments
Facebook	1,236	221	9	5	0
Twitter/X	N/A	N/A	0	0	0
Instagram	384	2	2	0	0

Appendix B

Lions Park Public Safety Data

The table below shares the top three most frequent call types Lions Park has had in the last five years.

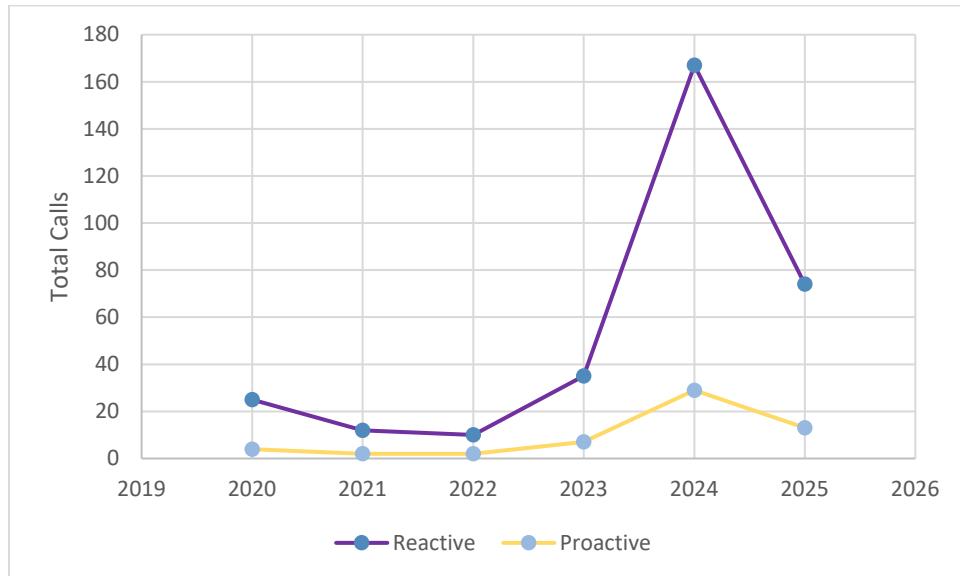
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total	Row Labels	Description
1	2	2	29	123	68	225	SPOT CHECKING	PROACTIVE* - Officer choosing to drive through to check area
			5	32	2	39	DIRECTED PATROL	PROACTIVE - Officer requested by supervisor to drive through to check area
11	2			3	2	18	SUSPICIOUS ACT	REACTIVE* - Citizen-initiated call of observed behavior

*Proactive: Officer-initiated calls to prevent crime before it happens or reduce the consequence of the crime. These include, but are not limited to, officers driving through the area periodically throughout the day, checking a park after it has closed, performing safety inspections on equipment/buildings, and traffic stops.

*Reactive: Calls for service that are most often citizen-initiated reports of a crime or incident after it occurs. These calls are dispatched to officers after citizens call 911 or the non-emergency line.

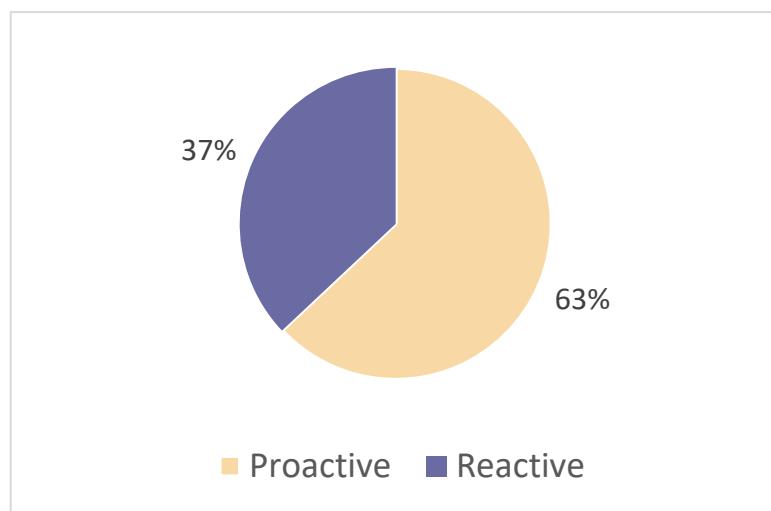
Lions Park Calls for Service

The line graph below displays the changes between years for Reactive and Proactive calls, sharing 2024 showed the highest incline compared to any year before dropping down for 2025 for both types of calls.



Five Year Total Calls for Service at GV Parks

This pie chart illustrates a breakdown of calls for service in all parks in Golden Valley over the past five years, highlighting the safety of parks in the city. With 63% of calls categorized as proactive and only 37% as reactive, it demonstrates that the majority of interactions are preventative in nature, indicating a strong commitment to maintaining park safety and addressing potential issues before they escalate. This ratio suggests that the city's parks are being effectively monitored and cared for, fostering a safer environment for all visitors.



Type of Call:	5-Year Total
Proactive	1441
Reactive	833

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