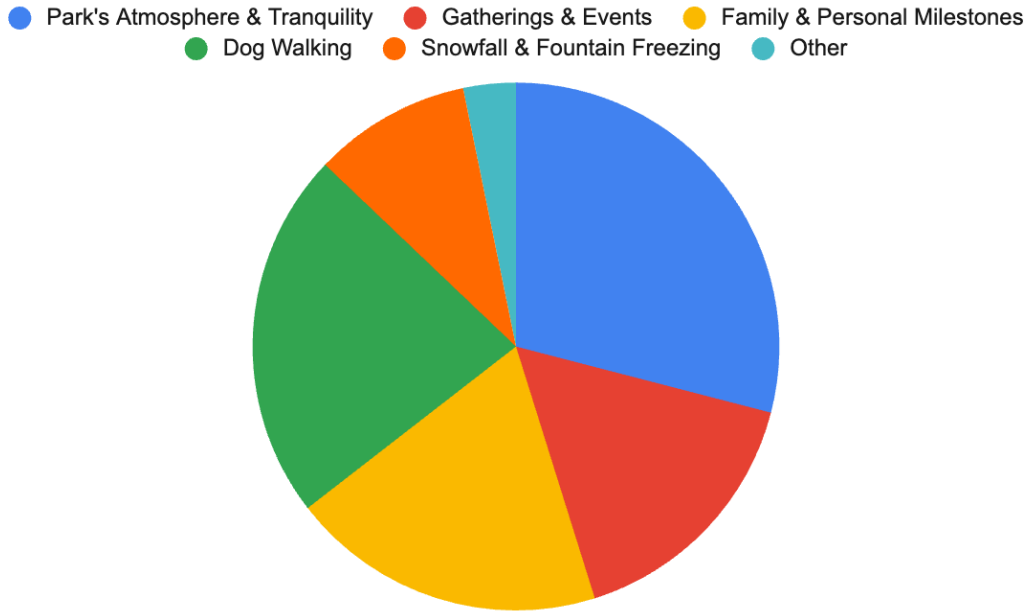
ALLAN PARK SURVEY - FINAL RESULTS

82 Responses • January/February 2026 • Distribution: Park signage, Conservancy email and social media, neighborhood association social media and email

Please share a memorable moment you have spent in Allan Park.



Park Atmosphere & Tranquility

I have the great fortune to live right across the street and love the calming effect of the plants and fountain in our neighborhood.
Walking around the nice greenspace
Reading a book in summer
Taking a break on my walk home from work and just admiring the fountain while getting some rest.
It made us want to live in this neighborhood.
Sitting on the bench and listening to the fountain and the birds.
Just observing its beauty on a regular basis
I've sat on the bench near the fountain many times. It's the perfect quiet place for reflection

Dog Walking

Training my dog to be calm out in public, by sitting on the benches by the fountain

Walking my dog through the park almost every day for three years
Discovering this “pocket park” walking the dog
It was a hot day for my little weenies and they took a little cool off plunge in the fountain.
My girlfriend and I walk our dog here everyday. I throw the ball as high as possible and he has the best time ever.
Every morning before the sunrises I walk my dog, listen to the birds and the fountain, touch the rosemary and breathe deeply. How blessed am I to have this small patch of nature in my neighborhood
I often walk dogs here and sit on the beach to reflect for a moment before continuing! Sitting on the bench with my senior dog, listening to the fountain, getting vitamin d, and just enjoying the nature around me.

Family & Personal Milestones

Watching my child admire the beautiful flowers and learn their names.
We took our wedding photos in Allan Park in the hopes that one day we’d be neighborhood residents - and now we are!
Sharing the beauty of the fountain at night with my grandchild.
My daughter loves to run around the fountain while we watch on a bench.
My husband and I took family photos in this park when we first moved to the neighborhood and brought home our puppy 5 years ago - we have these photos hanging in our home to this day!
I live a block away and my 7 year old son has gained some independence to walk on his own. His favorite walk is to Allen Park to read on the benches. I love that I get to have the memory of his quiet reading in the beautiful garden.

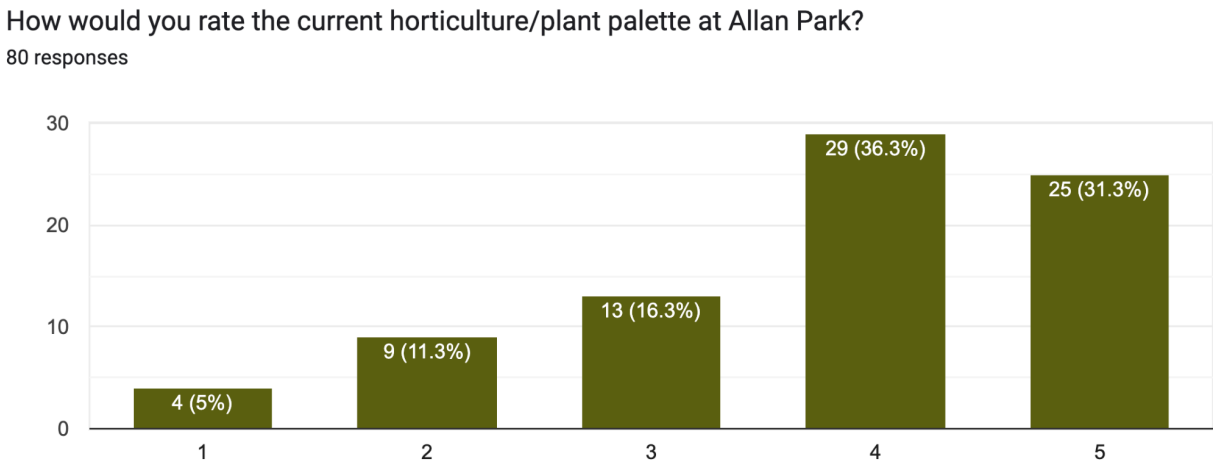
Gatherings & Events

When the historical marker that my wife helped write was dedicated by Mayor Riley there!
Favorite memory was when we had concerts and neighborhood gatherings with music, food trucks etc
Hanging with neighbors and friends while Dallas Baker played tunes
i regularly have picnics in this park
The concerts in the park

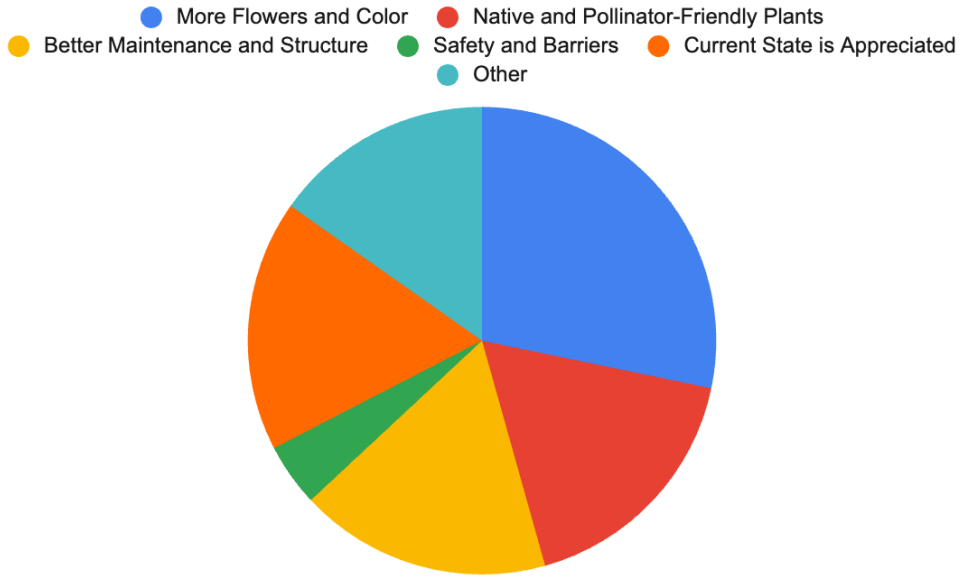
Snowfall & Fountain Freezing

Snowball fight with our boys when we had that incredible snowfall!
Last winter when the fountain froze over during the snow and I saw a couple get engaged here.
When it snowed in 2018 and 2025 and the fountain froze! So wild!

PARK FEEDBACK



What changes, if any, would you like to see in the plant palette at Allan Park. (Open ended.)



Comments by Category (note, some comments may fall into multiple categories)

Better Maintenance & Structure

Maybe some sea grass along the Ashley boundary to keep leaves from clogging the drains.
Needs to look more like the American park bw King and Meeting- well kept, polished
Plant some mini clover on the bare grass areas.
Kept up better

Allan Park is very pretty in the spring and summer but it’s pretty sad when everything dies off in the winter.
Maybe some more plants that maintain appearance through winter
Right now everything just seems a little overgrown and not as well maintained - I would love to see some plants that add structure to the pack where needed and see some pops of color throughout the seasons. It is such a special park and should command the attention it deserves.
Clean the benches, more plantings

I think there could be more plantings on the Glenwood side of the park since I don’t think that grassy area gets much use.

More Flowers & Color

More seasonal color. A food/herb garden would be fun - in Chicago at Millenium Park they integrate into landscape. Think cherry tomatoes for pops of red and rosemary as perennials
more flowers
More flowers
better plants and more color around the fountain
More color year round
More plants more color.
More fragrant flowers
More flowers
Seasonal rotation
Hydrangeas
Its February, so im sure they'll be back, but more flowers. Prettier bushes.
I would love to see more color and wild flowers.
Would love to see more flowers, more colors!

More plants
The more plants and trees the better!

Native & Pollinator Friendly

It would be nice to have almost exclusively native plants.
we were sorry to see the small red flowers that attract hummingbirds go - perhaps more native plants to attract hummingbirds and other local birds
I think it would be interesting to see more natives, medicinal plants and possibly fruit trees.
it's beautiful as is, but possibly more native plants/pollinators would be great
More native plants and pollinators (Bee balm feeds butterflies and hummingbirds) would love to see a rain garden too!
pollinators!
I like the current plants. How about an area focused on pollinators or plants like milkweed to attract butterflies?
more pollinator friendly plants specific to local pollinators

Safety & Barriers

Left of the fountain is great Fountain area could be more robust (as it has been in the past) Right side of the fountain needs the most attention Consider low shrubs on the Ashley side to create a barrier to traffic to keep kids safe Grass- green space
I love the wildflowers in the summer and it could be nice to have some flowers between the sidewalk and Ashley road as a sort of barrier. Cars can go pretty fast right there so it could be a nice deterrent for dogs and kids to go into the road.

No Changes Needed

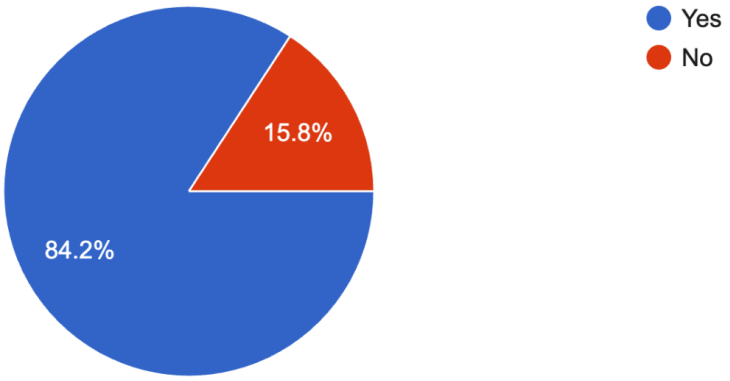
None
None. I like the current greenery.
I think it’s lovely
Honestly, I think it is in pretty good shape.
None, it’s exceptional
I love the native plant species and the corresponding education that you all share on social media. That is where I learned about the Japanese river oat (which may not be native…).
No changes
None needed

Other

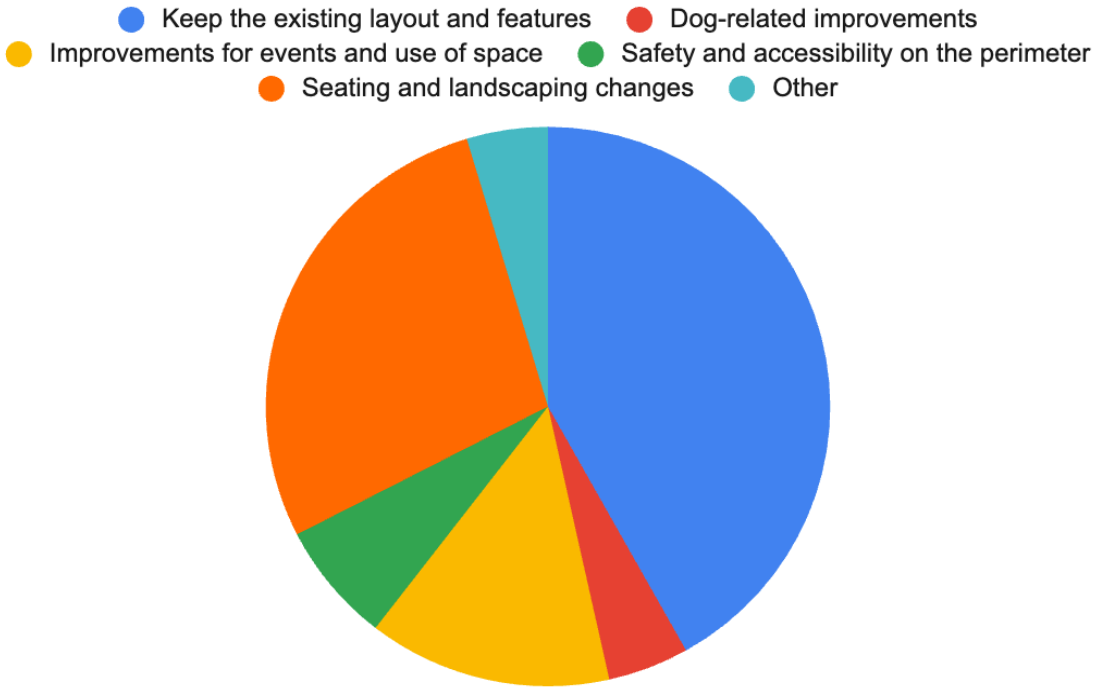
Bring back the pineapples
Re-introduce live music / picnic in the park.
Add in a dog water fountain. But I do love the old water fountain as well.

Does the current layout of Allan Park maximize your ability to use the space?

76 responses



What changes, if any, would you make to the <u>layout</u> of Allan Park? (Open Ended)



Keep Existing Layout & Features

None. We love it!
None (9)
It’s so wonderful as is it’s hard to imagine otherwise but I’d be open to ideas.
None. It's not a playground yes kids still enjoy. It's exactly what it was meant to be.
I think at its core it’s great, I think most people like how quiet it is over here and I personally like to come here to unplug and relax. I think the pathways and fountain are in a great position and hope that wouldn’t change.
Keep the strong tree canopy. It’s very cool in the summer time by the fountain.
none it's lovely and a nice size
I usually walk through on my way home from Hampton Park so wouldn't change a thing but am open to the changes that neighbors suggest!
Nothing, I love the benches by the fountain and the shade provided by the trees during the summer
None, I think the layout is wonderful and perfect in the surrounding residential context

Seating & Landscape Changes

a little more grass/smaller planting area on the two main triangles by Ashley Ave and Glenwood
I don’t like the fountain in the middle
adding a rain garden to one of the corners (if possible)
If the grassy areas were a bit more maintained, would be a lovely picnic space!
More seating?
trash and recycling, hide fountain pumps, more landscaping and benches
Looks like a sandlot so not terribly inviting except for the water fountain. Needs more to make it something you just pass through.
Benches in grassy areas
Maybe add like a picnic table on the Ashley side.
I would probably plant more on the grassy area on the Glenwood side

Less tall bushy areas towards the center - blocks the view of the beautiful fountain and kind of takes away from it - I would make the plantings lower towards the center and pick areas on the perimeter for more low bushes if desired. I think there's a lot of good inspiration to draw from some of the smaller neighborhood parks in Europe such as those in Paris.

Two more benches. One for each of the grass areas.

Improvements for Events

The big fountain in the middle is limiting when we do community events there. It's a real divide in the park. - not optimal

It would be nice to have an area where a food trick, concert or outdoor movie could easily be staged.

Would love to see more seating and better use for events

More paths for movement

I have been to several events at the park (when they used to have them) and the layout isn't ideal for music or anything visual as it is cut up. There is also not a clear area for grass play as the plants pop up in several different spots.

Neighborhood get together a would be fun

Safety and Accessibility on Perimeter

a hedge/plant obstruction along Ashley Ave that could help to keep kids/dogs from running into busy street

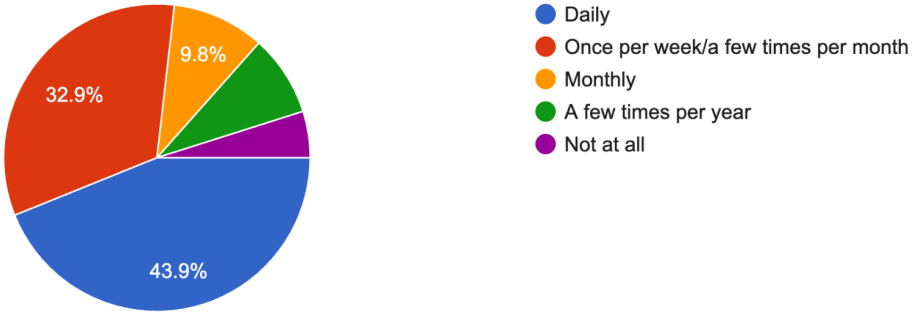
Definitely keep the lawn at the west end for events. Also would be good to have planted barrier or even a low fence along Ashley to help to protect/corral children and pets when in that end of the park.

Walking path along perimeter

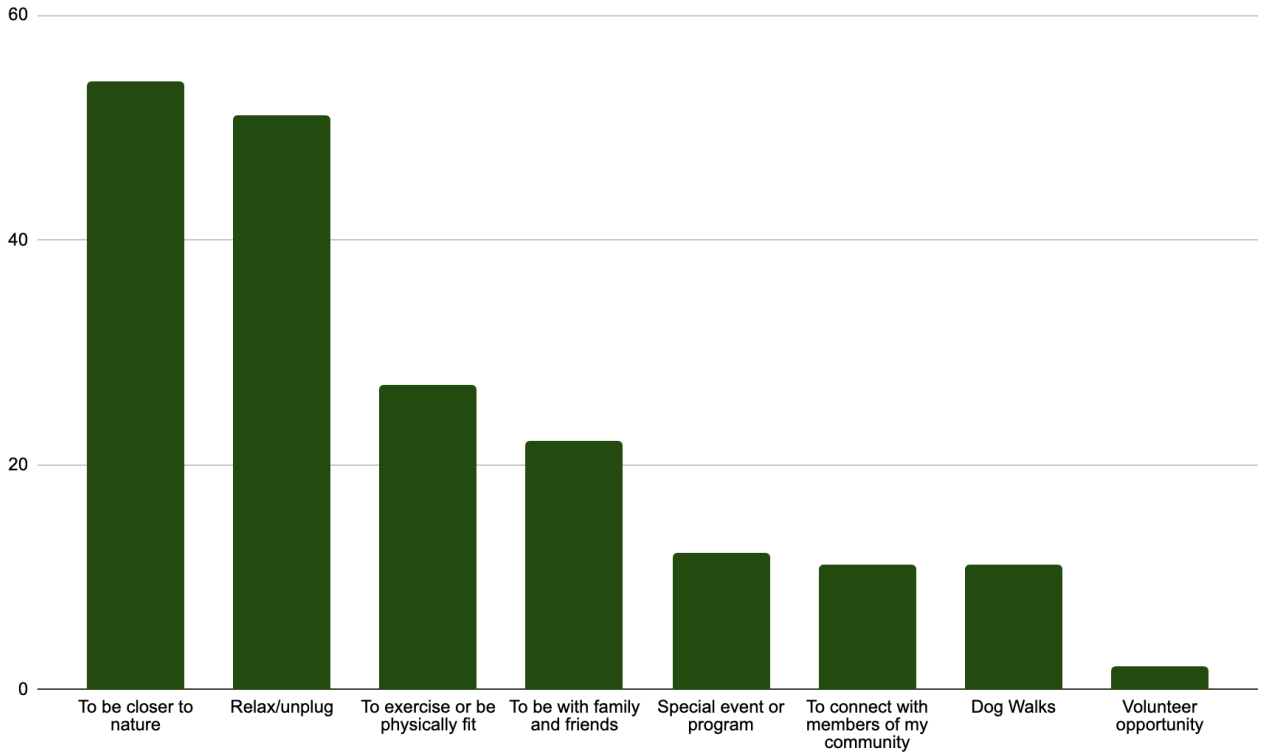
BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS/PARK USAGE

How often do you visit Allan Park?

82 responses

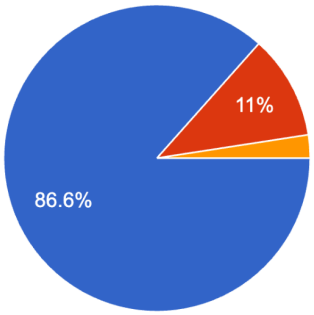


What is (are) the top reason(s) you visit Allan Park? (Check all that apply.)



Where do you live in relation to Allan Park?

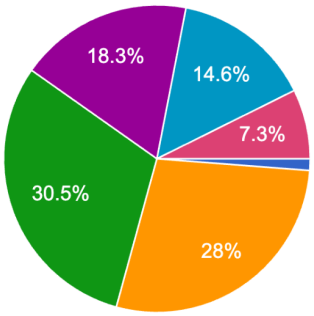
82 responses



- Within 10 minutes, walking
- Within 10 minutes, driving
- Downtown area
- Greater Charleston
- Out of town

How old are you?

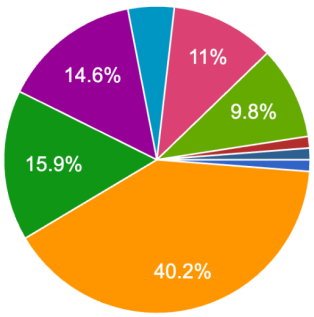
82 responses



- Under 18 years old
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

What best describes your current life stage.

82 responses



- I am in high school or younger
- I am in college
- I am working and have no children
- I am working and have preschool age…
- I am working and have elementary ag…
- I am working and have middle or high…
- I am working and no longer have child…
- I am retired