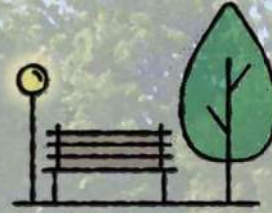


# HAMLET PARK

## HILLSDALE, NY

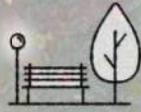


# COMMUNITY MEETING No. 1

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2020



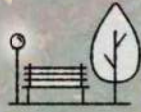
**HAMLET PARK**  
HILLSDALE, NY



# “A REVISIONING OF THE PARK”







## **AGENDA**

- INTRODUCTIONS
- PROJECT BACKGROUND/HISTORY
- DESIGN PROCESS (WORK PLAN)
  - INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT
  - COMMUNITY INPUT - SURVEY & MEETING NO. 1
  - PRELIMINARY MASTER PLANNING
  - COMMUNITY INPUT - MEETING NO. 2
  - MASTER PLAN REFINEMENT
  - PRESENTATION OF MASTER PLAN
- KEY ISSUES AND ITEMS
- PUBLIC INPUT
  - SURVEY RESULTS
  - QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
- NEXT STEPS





## PROJECT GOAL

*TO REVITALIZE THE PARK - AS IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY AND CENTRAL TO HILLSDALE'S CONTINUED PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.*

## OUR OBJECTIVE

*TO PRODUCE A MASTER PLAN FOR OUR HAMLET PARK THAT REFLECTS THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR HILLSDALE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE.*

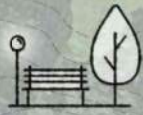
## DESIGN CRITERIA

- RECREATIONAL ENHANCEMENT
- NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION
- REGIONAL PLANNING
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- PUBLIC ACCESS
- HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



# HAMLET PARK

HILLSDALE, NY



NYS ROUTE 23

VETERAN'S  
MEMORIAL

COLUMBIA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
SUBSTATION

HILLSDALE  
GOLF

PROPERTY LINE

GRAVEL  
PARKING

PLAYGROUND

GRAVEL  
PARKING

RECREATION AREA

MAPLE STREET

NYS ROUTE 22

O'S HILLSDALE

SOFTBALL FIELD

BASKETBALL  
COURT

PROPERTY EASEMENT

**Hillsdale**  
EST. 1788

THE  
*Chazen*  
COMPANIES<sup>®</sup>

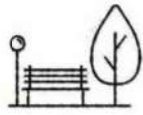
OCTOBER 24, 2020

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**



# HAMLET PARK

HILLSDALE, NY



SITE PANORAMA



EXISTING LOWER GRAVEL PARKING AREA ALONG MAPLE STREET



EXISTING LIGHTED BASKETBALL COURT



EXISTING SOFTBALL FIELD



EXISTING PLAYGROUND AREA



EXISTING PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ALONG ROUTE 23



EXISTING VETERAN'S MEMORIAL AREA



EXISTING 5-POINT INTERSECTION AT MAPLE STREET

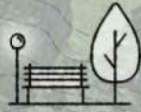


EXISTING UPPER GRAVEL PARKING AREA ALONG ROUTE 23



# HAMLET PARK

## HILLSDALE, NY

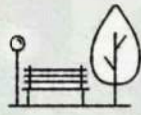


**Hillsdale**  
EST. 1788

THE  
**Chazen**  
COMPANIES

OCTOBER 24, 2020  
**SITE ANALYSIS**



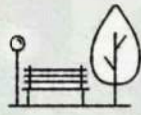


## STRATEGIC DESIGN ELEMENTS

- COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- WAYFINDING & VISIBILITY
- ACCESSIBILITY/UNIVERSAL DESIGN
- DESIGN DIVERSITY
- RELATIONSHIP TO GRANT FUNDING
- STEWARDSHIP & MAINTENANCE



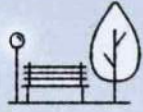
# HAMLET PARK HILLSDALE, NY



## KEY DESIGN TOPICS

- PARK PROGRAMMING
  - PLAYGROUND AREA
  - VETERAN'S MEMORIAL
  - BASKETBALL COURT
  - PARKING/CIRCULATION
- WAYFINDING & VISIBILITY
- PRIORITIZING PARK ELEMENTS
- CONNECTING THE PARK
- MAPLE STREET





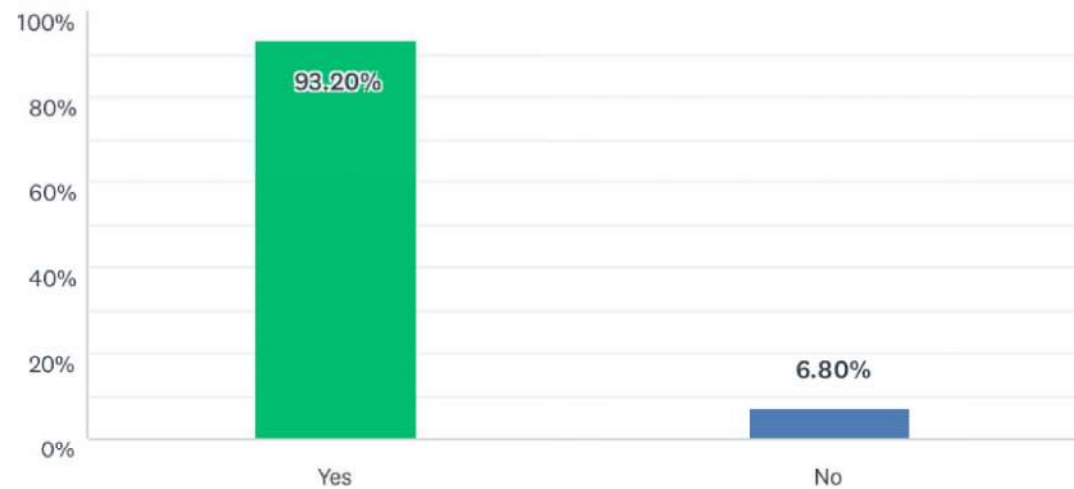
## **SURVEY RESULTS**

**OVER 200  
RESPONSES!!!**



Q1 Are you familiar with Hamlet Park?

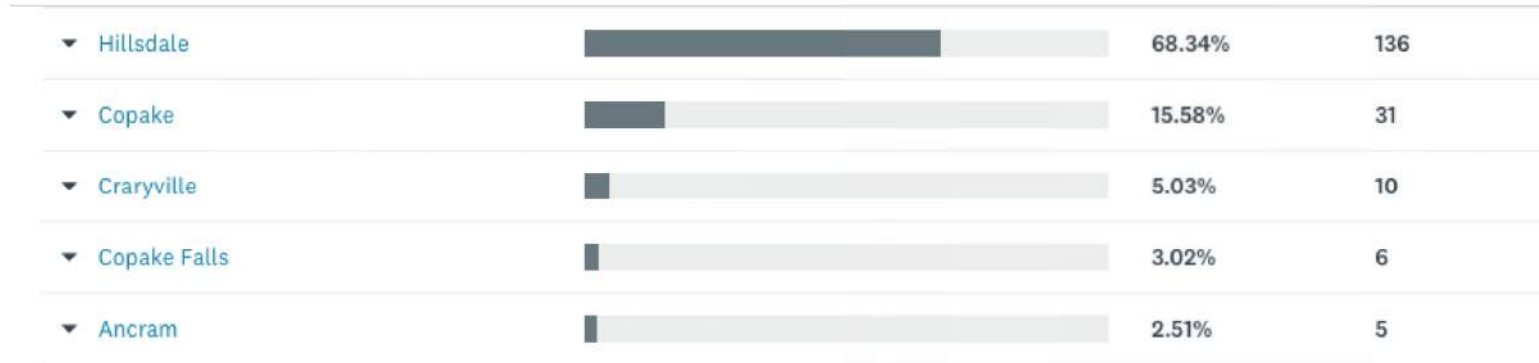
Answered: 206   Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	93.20%	192
No	6.80%	14
Total Respondents: 206		



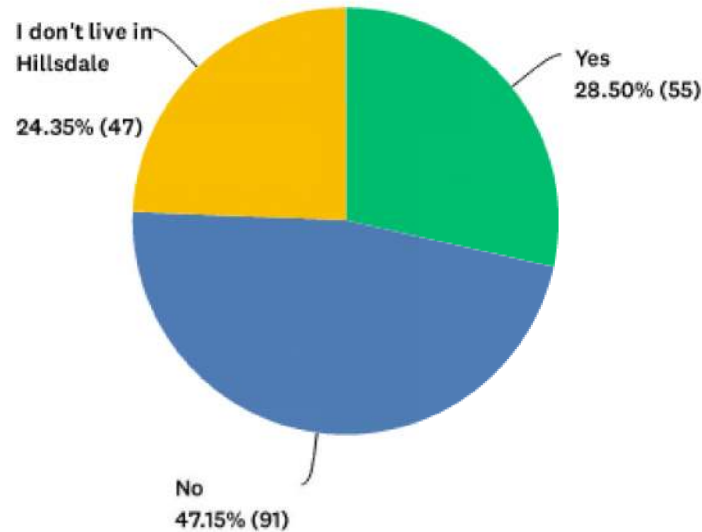
## Q2 In what Town do you live?





### Q3 If you live in Hillsdale, do you live within walking distance to the park?

Answered: 193 Skipped: 15

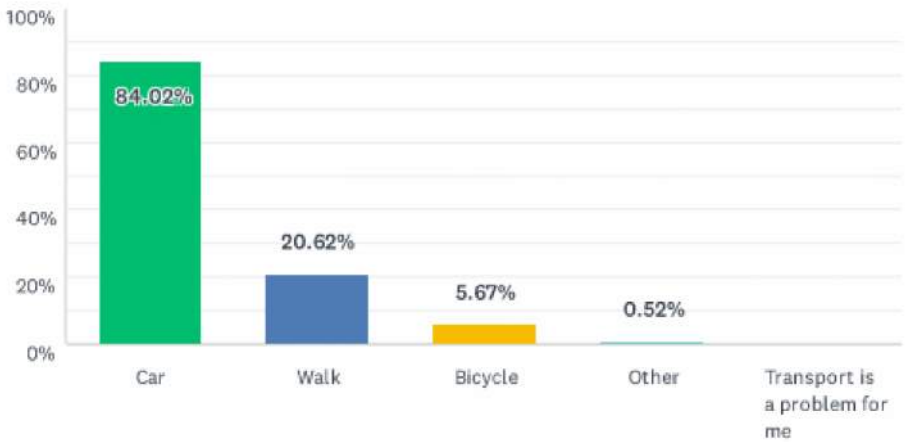


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	28.50%	55
No	47.15%	91
I don't live in Hillsdale	24.35%	47
TOTAL		193



Q4 How do you typically get to the park?

Answered: 194   Skipped: 14

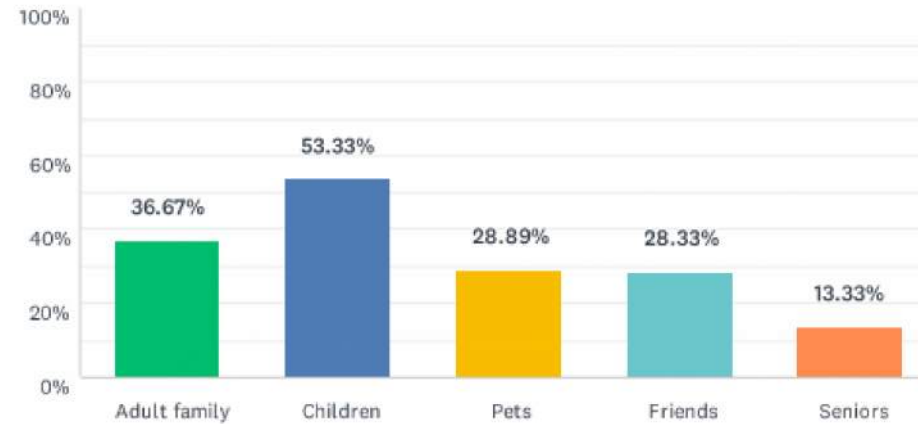


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Car	84.02%	163
Walk	20.62%	40
Bicycle	5.67%	11
Other	0.52%	1
Transport is a problem for me	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 194		



## Q5 Who comes to the park with you?

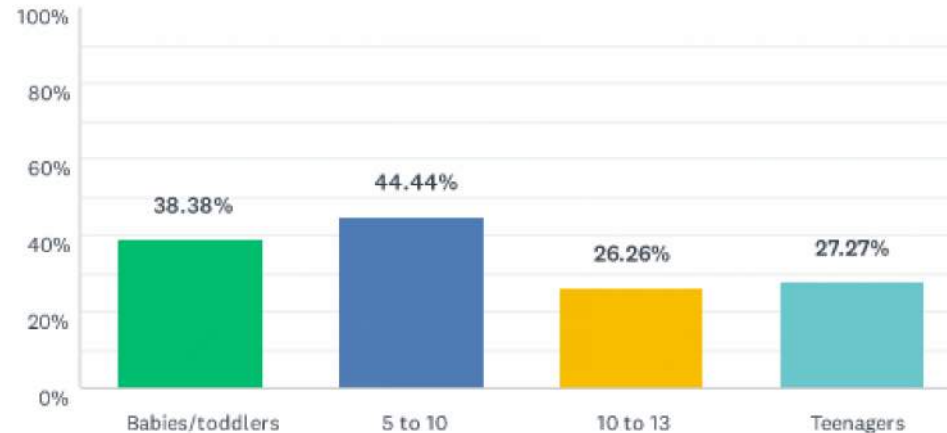
Answered: 180 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Adult family	36.67%	66
Children	53.33%	96
Pets	28.89%	52
Friends	28.33%	51
Seniors	13.33%	24
Total Respondents: 180		

## Q6 What ages are your children that you bring/use the park?

Answered: 99 Skipped: 109



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Babies/toddlers	38.38%	38
5 to 10	44.44%	44
10 to 13	26.26%	26
Teenagers	27.27%	27
Total Respondents: 99		



## Q7 What time of day do you like to go to the park?

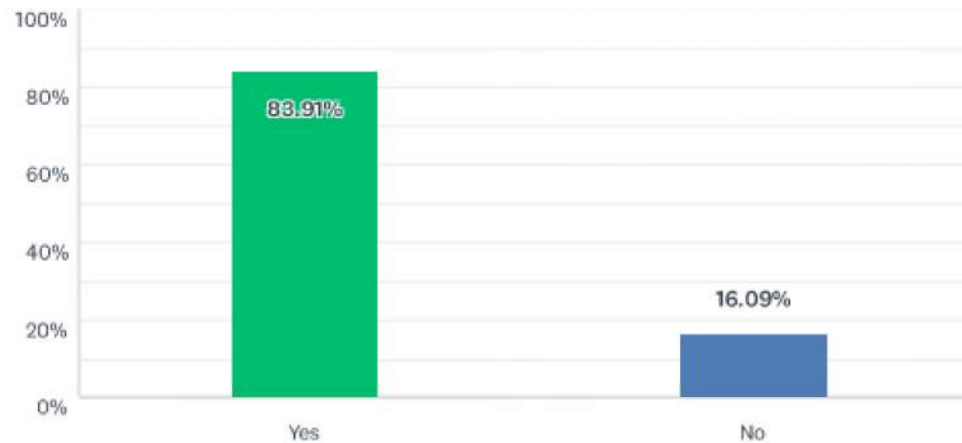
Answered: 172 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Morning	40.12%	69
Lunch	25.58%	44
Afternoon	80.23%	138
Night	10.47%	18
Total Respondents: 172		

Q8 Would you use Hamlet Park during the winter if facilities were provided?

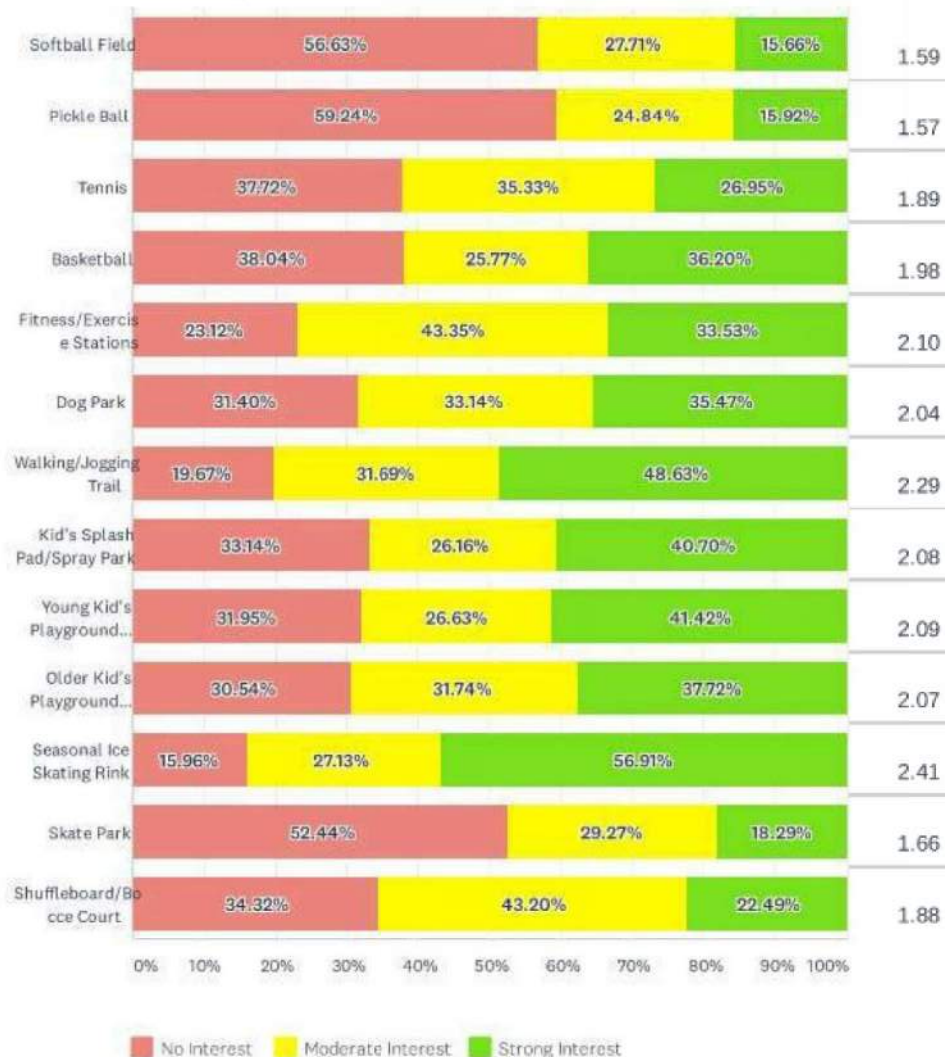
Answered: 174 Skipped: 34



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.91%	146
No	16.09%	28
Total Respondents: 174		



## Q9 What active recreation activities would you like to see at the park?

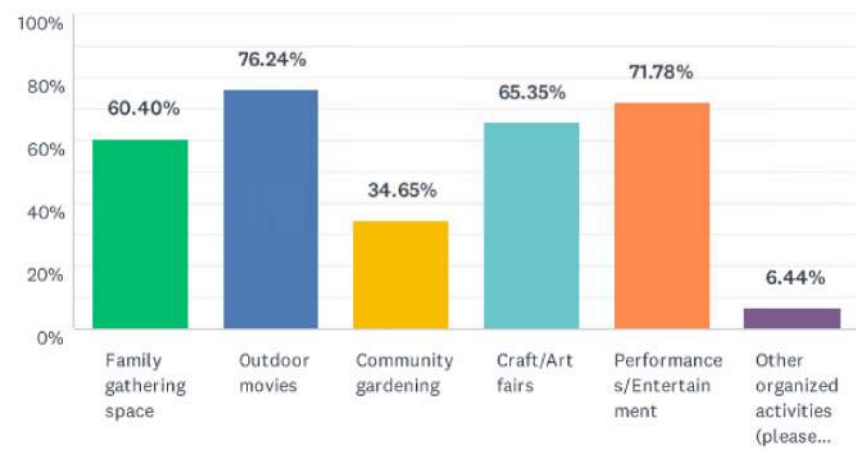


### OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

- Trout Fishing
- Cross Country Ski Trail
- Band Shell, Movie Screen
- Tetherball, Parcour
- Corn Hole in the summer and Fall! Ice Skating!!!!
- Picnic tables and covered picnic area
- Swimming Pool
- do not use space for this purpose since we already have multiple parks in area for this purpose
- Set up for outside movies, theatre or music
- Signs identifying trees and plant life if planted
- How about a small amphitheater so local kids/bands could perform
- some place to sit quietly and read or visit w/a friend
- a general place to gather with movable tables and chairs
- Little League
- Roller rink in off season ice rink
- Stage for weekly summer concerts maybe one night a week
- Consider transportation options to the park — many hillsdale residents can't access the park or hamlet businesses because they don't have a car.
- Sunday or Friday night food trucks
- Basketball and ice skating!
- Picnic tables, flower gardens, bathrooms
- The play equip is ample. or two. A nice swing set that adults might enjoy as well. Keep it simple, yet do it well!
- Swings.
- Swings other than those for babies
- Swimming Pool
- Frisbee
- Music forum

Q10 What passive recreation activities would you like to see?

Answered: 202 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Family gathering space	60.40%	122
Outdoor movies	76.24%	154
Community gardening	34.65%	70
Craft/Art fairs	65.35%	132
Performances/Entertainment	71.78%	145
Other organized activities (please specify)	6.44%	13
Total Respondents: 202		

OTHER ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES (PLEASE SPECIFY)

Space should be developed smartly with housing, shops, parking, trees, etc.

Food trucks or a food stand like Bistro Box

Food carts

The park is right around the corner from Coldwater Street. I would be wary of certain events that attract noise and will disturb residents. I think the park should be meant as a quiet peaceful gathering space, not an event space.

Holiday events

Sports for kids

Solitary place to read and relax.

I

Hi

meeting place for a community walking/hiking group to rail trail, etc....like a mileage club.....

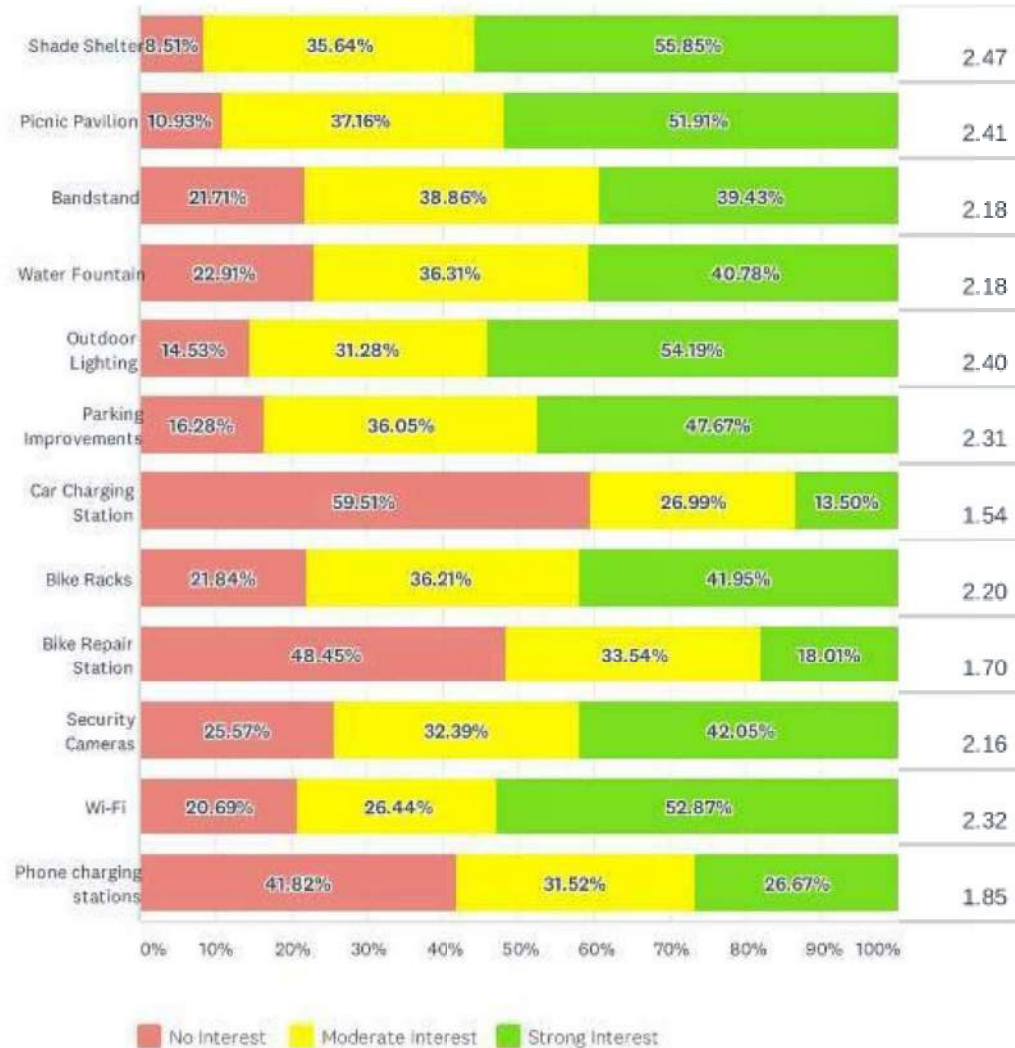
Community Sales

Playground for kids like we had when we were young

Pumpkin Festival, Flea Market, ArtsWalk, concerts



### Q11 What amenities would you like to see in the park?



#### OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

restrooms

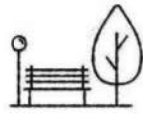
If water fountain means drinking fountain I don't think that is necessary, but if water fountain means a water feature or fountain in the park I think that would be lovely! Would add some fantastic charm to the park.

Garbage cans

Phone charging if a wind powered station is provided only

Port a potty

Sculptures integrated into the landscape/garden design. A food service area like the bistro box in Great Barrington



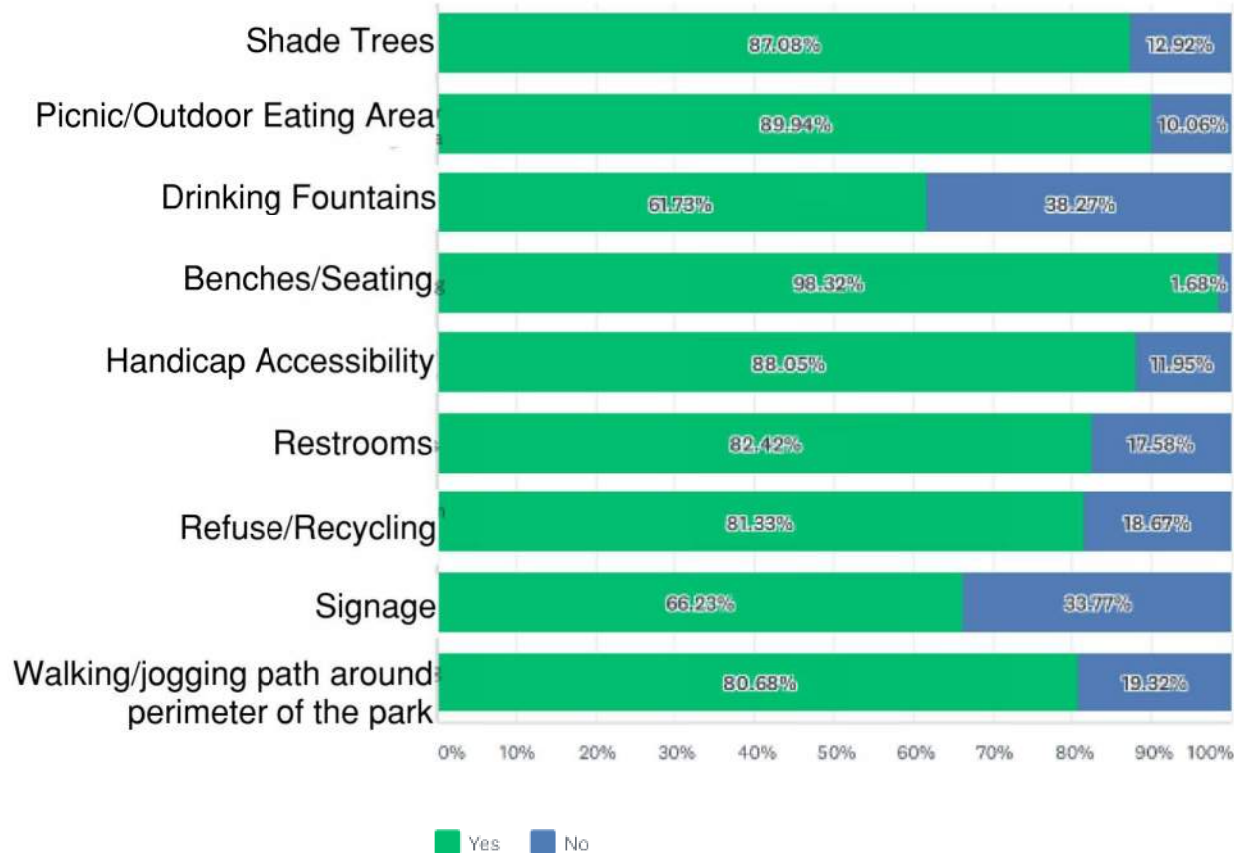
Q12 List five of your top activities or amenities that you would like to see at the park:

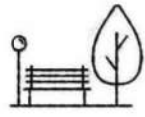




Q13 Please indicate which facility/park improvements are needed?

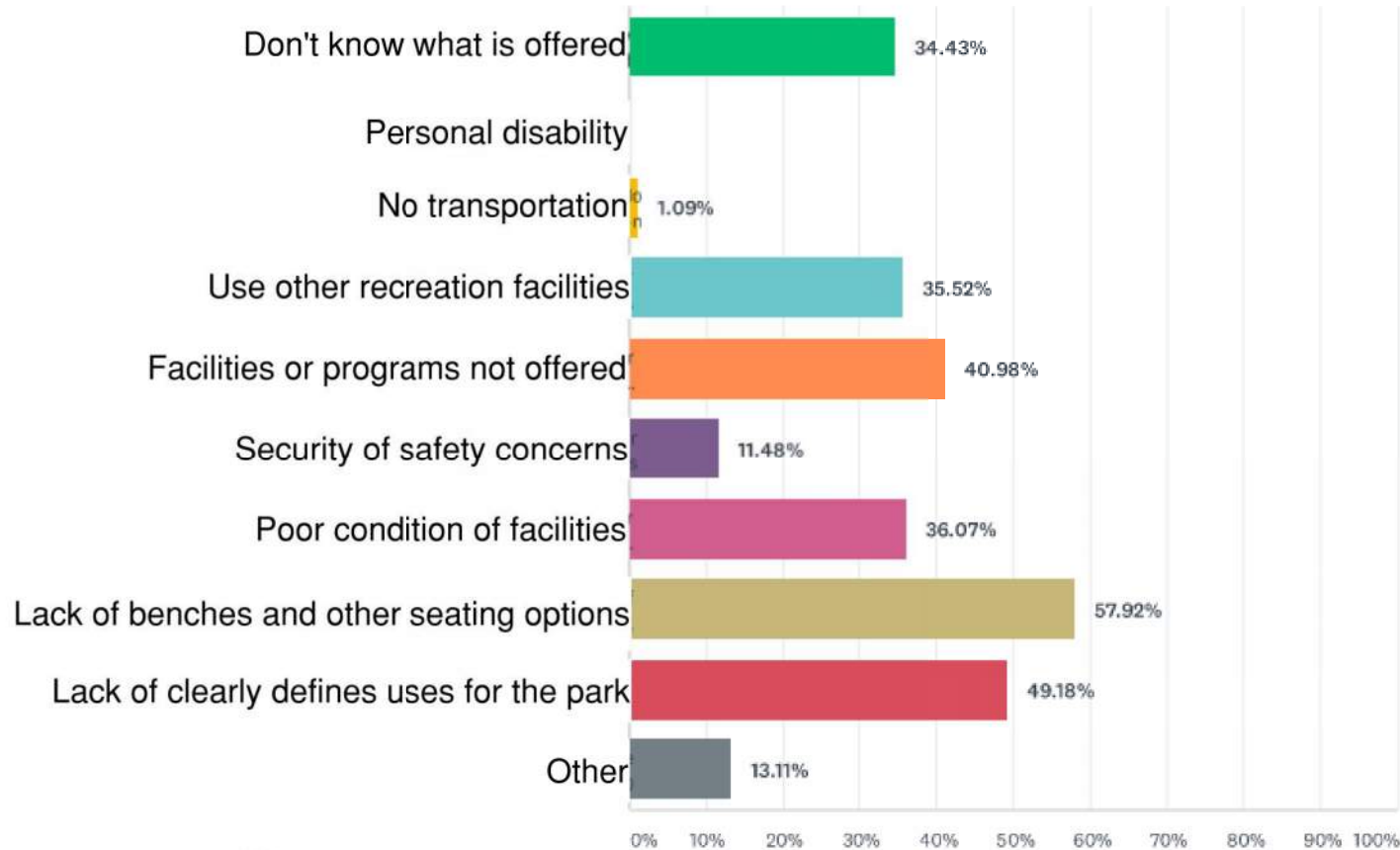
Answered: 196 Skipped: 12





Q14 Please check ALL the reasons that keep you from using Hamlet Park more often.

Answered: 183 Skipped: 25





## Q15 Provide any additional comments for how to improve Hamlet Park?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 158

Lots of bushes, small trees, perennials, mulched areas for an attractive look, which is missing now. Probably mixed in with the path surrounding the perimeter would be good. It would be nice if the walking area was measured eg., if you went around 4=X it would be a mile.

Thank you for doing this! We just moved here and love every bit of the town. It would be so wonderful to improve the park for the whole community!

Love this, lots of good ideas for renovating the park. Thank you.

Keep it simple and old fashioned like Hillsdale. Don't overdo it with too many offerings. Offer benches, place to play and enjoy others is a great idea. Trails are nice. Do not commercialize.

Interested in a beautifully landscaped place to walk, sit, visit, exercise and have community events

Why does this survey make me think that the committee wants the hamlet park needs to become toyland? This used to be a ballfield (called Memorial Field) and it was for a different town that no longer exists. It has lived out its purpose. Fortunately, the town found a way to use the Roberts Farm very smartly - now the Roe Jan Park. It is used for most of the activities you want to squeeze into a much smaller space. And has much more to offer and is a real destination for our community. We also have the Copake Park and the Taconic Hills school for youngsters. Please try to think about how we can use the old field in a way that will be good for the next generation of this town. Transfer your interesting recreational ideas to the place where there's more room for them. And leave this poor field alone or just plant some trees or develop it in a new way.

Be more inviting Clearly defined entrance Specific identity given

Please do not offer Wi-Fi to the majority of citizens who will encourage this amenity. Wi-Fi is dangerous to our health and especially the health of children. I believe this information will gradually be recognized by society and require dismantling of many systems that are now in place. Please get professional advice if this is considered.

ICE SKATING

Let it be unique and not like all other towns.

It needs a sense of containment; right now it looks like a vacant lot. Fencing or a low wall where people could sit. The parking on the Rte 23 side is dangerous and a waste of space; the parking on the east edge is inadequate if there is anything actually happening in the park.

Good luck to you. It is a poorly used space and could be a great asset to the town, to both children and seniors.

Please fix flooring on basketball court.

This space could be such a focus for community activities. I'm glad to see the Committee addressing it. Thanks!

Please just make it beautiful. The town is looking so much nicer and it would be wonderful if the park was made nicer as well.

I only hope we never lose this park and some life is brought back to it!

This park could be the center of our town. The main attraction point once we connect the rail trail to Hillsdale. We need to have a welcoming park where the community can gather. Right now it looks ugly, dirty, and scary. And it looks like a bunch of abandoned sport courts. This should not be a sports park because we have the school close by and everyone can access its amenities there. I suggest focusing on a clean design that keeps the New England style of our town. But make it low maintenance too because we don't have money or a lot of resources in Hillsdale. Also focus on cyclists is important because of the rail trail. If we provide bike racks, water fountains, and resting areas then those folks come and spend money in our businesses. We keep seeing an increased cyclist community upstate.

French Park in Egremont should be a model for this park. French Park has a great multifaceted playground, a very nice shaded ADA picnic structure, two tennis courts, restrooms, etc. The existing baseball/softball field is underutilized as interest in both sports have waned over last few decades. This area should be repurposed to make the Hamlet Park

## Q15 Provide any additional comments for how to improve Hamlet Park?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 158

Incorporating environmental friendly elements. Solar power, water conservation, bee and bird friendly plantings.

While I don't live close enough, I do work very close by and would use it daily if it were a bit more user friendly. Excited!

A nice, large playground for young children is paramount.

More events such as pumpkin fest to draw entire community together more. Bring attention to everyone getting along and getting past unnecessary political drama.

Transportation, transportation, transportation! In addition to ways for people to get there from far away, infrastructure around hillsdale needs to be improved for residents who live within walking distance but not really. Defined sidewalks, better signage, etc.

Not too many kids in our town anymore so changing it is a good idea. The other park offers everything else that we need like picnic tables, swings, and walking trails.

Keep it weeded. Every time I take my kids to the playground I pull weeds and pick up litter.

Please improve it and not get rid of it.

Incorporate Town owned Sheriff Station as Community use building.

Taking away a playground and adding useless, equipment chased away many community members from going to the park.

If improved and a building added, this may be a good outdoor venue for kids birthday parties.

I really think having a playground for all ages, some kind of water splash/spray, water fountains, pavilion for parties, grilling/picnic area and bathrooms would be awesome.

Please get some swings for older children

We love going to the playground and we use it multiple times a week but more kid equipment is a must and not just toddler friendly bigger kid friendly

I love being able to take my daughter to the park. The only thing for us to do there is go to the playground for a bit. I would love to have more to do there. I think the outdoor performances and movie nights would really help build community, and bring people together (post covid of course). Thinking about how the space can be utilized in terms of community building and having opportunity to gather right in Hillsdale would be really great.

Purchase log cabin thereby enlarging park and making main entrance off of Rt 22 opposite the Diner. (Close off Maple). Allow you to bring the park towards the intersection, allowing for greater visibility. Would allow you to move parking lot nearer Rt 22. Do not disturb the Veterans Memorial - would be a huge mistake! Please, no gazebos or building structures other than a restroom.

Thank you for doing this!

Flowers and plants and trees would be so nice. The grounds are overgrown and weedy. There are many low maintenance ways to maintain landscape year round

Make this space a community gathering place. Have activities planned for families to participate in. Food truck Friday's with music, tennis wall, improve the playground, mini golf course would be awesome!

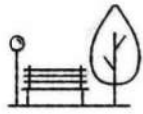
Fix the intersection and get rid of the Gas station.

Please clarify how to walk there from Anthony Street. For example, my teens could hang in the park while my husband I get a drink at the Hillsdale House.

The Roe Jan Park already has a 'fitness area' for adults and yet a very limited playground for children. If there is a budget to improve the Hamlet Park, please keep the spirit as one for the FAMILIES of Hillsdale with equipment and activities for children, not just adults. Thank you!

If the facilities were improved and restrooms are available, families would use it more





## Q15 Provide any additional comments for how to improve Hamlet Park?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 158

In addition to the park, perhaps once covid ends, there could a rec group that organizes either bus trips to locations or activities/trips for youth.....theatre, hiking areas, etc.....

A gazebo

Thanks so much for the survey and taking this on - so glad the town board is thinking about this. Our town is special and the park space is a unique opportunity. A few comments. 1. Based on this survey it sounds like you have already made up your minds to make the park some kind of recreational graveyard - a model that has failed in so many communities. That worries us! 2. Please think bigger and put everything on table. We can't imagine what will work in the hamlet park without considering what we have and what works in our other park half a mile away. For example, our community already has a spacious park for outdoor activities. Though it can also be improved, there are excellent trails, picnic tables, shelters, exercise equipment in one park. Don't repeat them in hamlet and charge taxpayers twice or make us choose. 3. We love the playground for younger kids but wish it was at the RJP with one playground for all kids (seems silly to have them separate and we don't need two playgrounds). 4. Yes. We would be disappointed to see the town board make the hamlet park become a recreation graveyard with expensive equipment for town to maintain. 5. Designer should consider connecting both parking lots - creating one lot running that runs behind the vets memorial through the playground to the existing lot on Maple (moving the playground to a better spot in park or to RJP. 6. The space should be used creatively as an award-winning landscaped park OR - even better - used to create density and mixed use. A blend is possible. 7. Hope there will be more opportunities to participate - a survey is nice but not terribly effective. Schedule a couple public forums on zoom or postpone until we can meet. This is so important and we need to hear and engage each other. Also, update us and promote in newsletter. Community needs to see and weigh in on the future iterations of the work and the process.

I see it used a lot more now since Covid. Parents and toddlers and young folks (15bor 16) in the late afternoon.

Thanks for doing this. The park has been neglected for the past couple of years.

Beautify the area with perennial plantings and flowering trees

More community events. We use to have someone in charge of organizing sports leagues for kids and adults and conduct playground. It would be nice to have the town hire someone to be put in charge of it.

Thank you for working to improve the park, it's been sadly neglected!

Close maple street and reclaim some of that space. Expand the parking lot on 23 instead. Connect it more to the business part of town through 23 so more people get food at crossroads and then go to the park. Make it so there are multiple spaces in the park where you can discover things and have different experiences. You shouldn't just see the whole park at once - that is a field not a park.

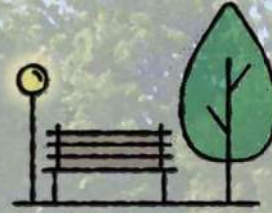
## PROJECT SCHEDULE

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	9/6	September	9/13	9/20	9/27	10/4	October	10/11	10/18	10/25	11/1	November	11/8	11/15	11/22	11/29	12/6
1	HILLSDALE HAMLET PARK	68 days	Tue 9/8/20	Tue 12/8/20																	
2	PROJECT INITIATION	9 days	Tue 9/8/20	Fri 9/18/20																	
3	KICK-OFF MEETING AND SITE VISIT	0 days	Tue 9/8/20	Tue 9/8/20																	
4	SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	9 days	Tue 9/8/20	Fri 9/18/20																	
5	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	27 days	Mon 9/21/20	Sat 10/24/20																	
6	DEVELOPMENT OF WEB-BASED SURVEY	5 days	Mon 9/21/20	Fri 9/25/20																	
7	ONLINE SURVEY PERIOD	17 days	Wed 9/30/20	Wed 10/21/20																	
8	PREPARATION FOR PUBLIC MEETING	10 days	Mon 10/12/20	Fri 10/23/20																	
9	ANNUAL PUMPKIN FESTIVAL	0 days	Sat 10/10/20	Sat 10/10/20																	
10	PUBLIC MEETING NO. 1	0 days	Sat 10/24/20	Sat 10/24/20																	
11	MASTER PLANNING AND COST ESTIMATING	30 days	Wed 10/28/20	Tue 12/8/20																	
12	PREPARE DRAFT SCHEMATIC MASTER PLAN/ESTIMATE	15 days	Wed 10/28/20	Tue 11/17/20																	
13	REVIEW OF DRAFT PLAN AND PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE	5 days	Wed 11/18/20	Tue 11/24/20																	
14	PUBLIC MEETING NO. 2	0 days	Thu 11/26/20	Thu 11/26/20																	
15	PREPARATION OF REVISED MASTER PLAN AND ESTIMATE	7 days	Fri 11/27/20	Mon 12/7/20																	
16	PRESENTATION OF FINAL MASTER PLAN TO TOWN BOARD	0 days	Tue 12/8/20	Tue 12/8/20																	



# HAMLET PARK

## HILLSDALE, NY



# THANK YOU!