

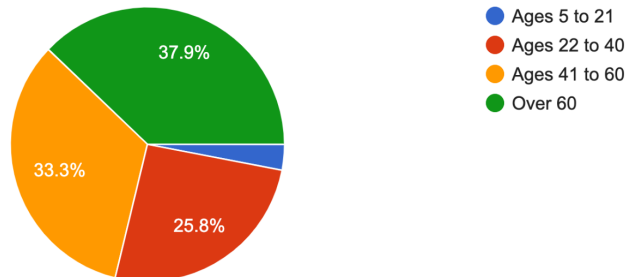
# Town of Empire - Minton Park Survey Results

## September 15, 2023

### Participant Demographic Raw Data:

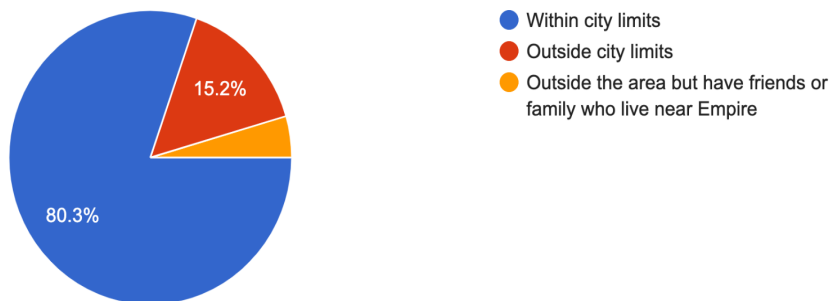
Basic Demographic Information: Your age range is...

66 responses



I live...

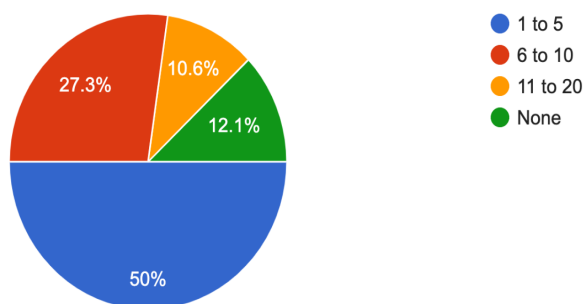
66 responses



### Current Park Usage Raw Data:

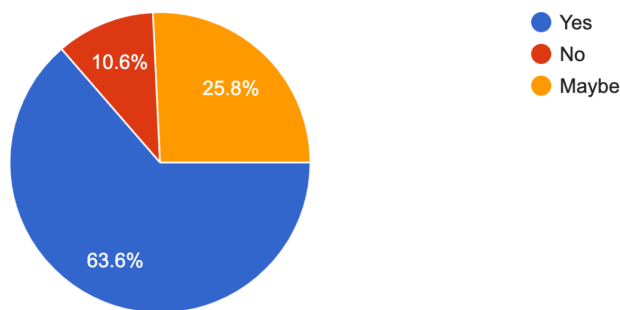
How many days per month on average do you use at least one of the Minton Park features?

66 responses



## Would a bathroom at Minton Park encourage you to visit the park more frequently?

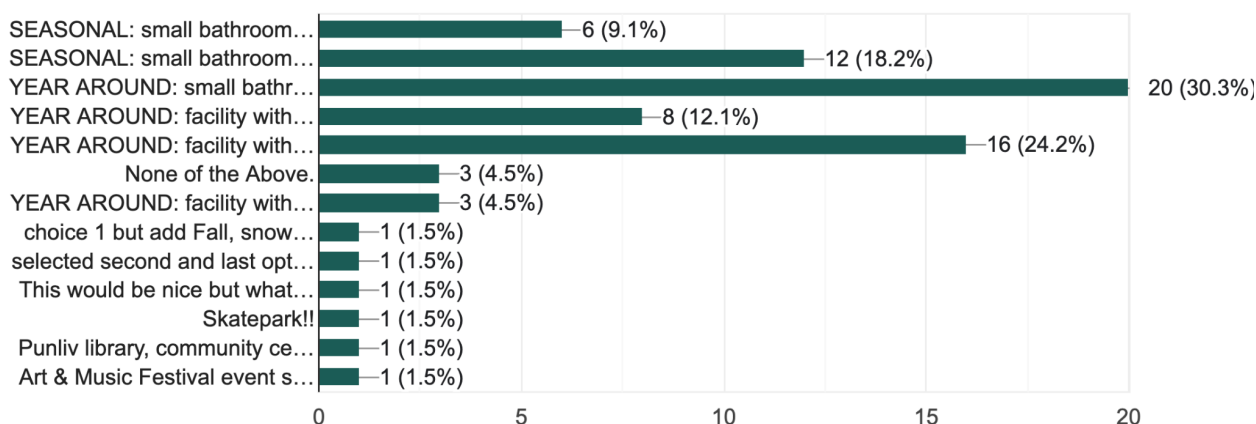
66 responses



## Type of Bathroom Preferred Raw Data:

If we had adequate funding for all of the following options, which ONE would you choose as a goal for Minton Park? Assume every option has an ADA compliant bathroom stall.

66 responses



## If money were no barrier, what else would you like to see at Minton Park (unedited responses)?

1. Wildlife viewing station
2. enclose west end and half of the north and south sides of the pavilion
3. monitor facilities by video camera ... to minimize vandalism
4. Dark Skies compliant nighttime lighting
5. preserve the glacial moraines that the border the park (elk have three choices for east west
6. travel across Bard Creek Rd: along the south bank of W, Fork Clear Cr. and across the land fill  
across the glacial moraine along the ridge behind Sparks' and crossing Bard Creel Rd north of Romine's place.)  
Crossing the moraine is the most direct route and is used > 10 times/yr)
7. cemetery: clean up, landscape, survey, map, and GPR scan it for unmarked graves
8. create ordinance or resolution controlling use of drones in the park, and town
9. build a foot bridge from S, Daily street across W. Fork of Clear Creek, connecting to a new trail up to the park
10. Same trail to have a branch up to the new Open Space area on the plateau east of town
11. Restrict use of the Open Space to ADA compliant and foot traffic
12. Bring baseball games back to the ball field
13. create and plant flower beds (using varieties unattractive or attractive to wildlife?) outside fence behind home plate
14. create lake where we are now dumping fill

15. stabilize steep eroding slope at NW corner of cemetery
16. add another Public Works employee for snow removal
17. winter winds are channeled W → E across the park, and can be quite fierce (I've been slammed against the ball field fence) ... snow drifts will accumulate ... collect wind speed data and design structures to withstand wind ... put doors on east sides of structures
18. Design structures to include plenty of large windows ... the beautiful scenery will enhance the experience in the facility (google "Hurricane Proof window glass" ...)
19. Create a Public Works position "Park Host" (like the national park's "Campground Hosts")?
20. amphitheater for concerts,
21. A launch platform for Space X
22. Concert halls and meeting gathering buildings
23. Security cameras, water at the dog park
24. Amphitheater for concerts and events like concerts
25. Golf course
26. Event capabilities for entertainment and groups camping like the jeep club. Have a promotion/marketing person to organize.
27. Remove all the asphalt that has been put down on the way to the park, at the roundabout and by the dog park. We need our old beautiful dirt roads back.
28. Dog wash station
29. Removal of Mount Rotomill and a fishing pond
30. Wedding friendly outdoor space for more revenue opportunities. Perhaps a small multi-use amphitheater with screen projection for outdoor movie nights and local band performances.
31. Summer upkeep to look more presentable and event-functional options to host outdoor weddings for out of towners to attract more revenue for town
32. skateboard park for the youngins
33. Frisbee Golf, Archery range
34. Replace basketball hoop nets and level hoops regularly. Maybe have a trail around it that you can walk or jog.
35. Amphitheater to attract concerts
36. increase the size of the dog park, use of ball fields?
37. the asphalt GONE permanently
38. more swings and RV hook ups
39. A stage for bands in the ball field.
40. A volleyball court
41. A skate park for the kids.
42. Recreational programming
43. Pickelball
44. Ball Placer clean up
45. Walking paths with art installations
46. paved parking area larger
47. A band stand for events
48. refurbish the ball field
49. music stage/venue

## **ANALYZED DATA**

### **Demographics of Survey Respondents:**

The 66 total respondents during the month of August, 2023, represented a broad cross-section of ages, with 37.9% from the over age 60 group, 33.3% between the ages of 41 and 59, 25.8% were in the age 22 to 40 bracket and 2 respondents reported being between the ages of 5 and 21.

Geographically, 80.3% of respondents live within the town limits of Empire. An additional 15.2% reported residing outside of town limits, with the remaining respondents living outside the area but who report using the park while visiting friends or family who live in town.

#### **Current Minton Park Usage:**

Features: Four of the 66 respondents (6.1%) report using NONE of the park features listed in the survey. The features listed ranged from a minimum of 9 clicks indicating usage (horseshoe pit) to 44 clicks for the Pavillion. Respondents could select more than one option. Results are as follows:

Feature	Raw Count (percentage of respondents)
Pavillion	44 (66.7%)
Dog Park	41 (62.1%)
Playground	35 (53%)
Open Field	32 (48.5%)
Cemetery	29 (43.9%)
Ball Fields	25 (37.9%)
Basketball Courts	22 (33.3%)
Horseshoe Pits	9 (13.6%)

Frequency: When reporting on the average number of days per month respondents “use at least one of the Minton Park features,” exactly half of the respondents indicated visiting the park 1 to 5 times per month. 27.3% visit an average of 6 to 10 times per month and an additional 10.6% visit 11 to 20 times. Only 12.1% of respondents report never using any of the Minton Park features. The present options for recreation at the park appear to be well used, and continuing efforts to maintain these features are justified.

#### **Would a bathroom at Minton Park encourage you to visit the park more frequently?**

A full 63.6% of the 66 total respondents reported they would visit the park more if the restrooms were restored. An additional 25.8% indicated that restrooms would maybe encourage them to head to the park more. Only 10.6% said the presence of bathrooms would not get them to visit the park more frequently. A clear majority of respondents view the absence of bathrooms as a deterrent from their use and enjoyment of Minton Park.

#### **Type of Bathroom Facility:**

While non-bathroom responses (skatepark, library, festival etc) were recorded in the “other” type of ADA compliant bathroom option, a total of 19 respondents (the survey results separated this choice into 2 different lines in the final chart) selected the “YEAR AROUND: facility with bathrooms, kitchen/concession area, large open indoor space for events (entire facility would be ADA compliant, allowing for better accessibility for possible meetings and events)” option, representing the most popular selection. The next most popular selection was “SEASONAL: small bathrooms with a few stalls, working water and sewer in the summer” with a total number of 12 respondents. These two options are almost entirely opposite of each other, one being a permanent year around structure complete with concession and meeting areas and the other being seasonal with working water and sewer.

The 3rd and 4th most-selected options follow the same pattern, with 8 respondents choosing the more permanent “YEAR AROUND: facility with bathrooms and kitchen/concession area for Park events” option and 6 selecting the most inexpensive “SEASONAL: small bathrooms that need to be pumped out continually (summer only)” option. Finally, three respondents selected the “none of the above” options.

#### **Other desired features if money were no barrier:**

A total of 50 “other” features were suggested, ranging from wildlife viewing stations to a full venue amphitheater. The responses are categorized as follows:

##### **1. Seasonal recreation:**

The most often suggested category to expand if money were no issue is seasonal, outdoor day recreational features. Six respondents suggested variations of walking trails, with a focus on art and wildlife viewing. Four respondents mentioned expanding the size and use of the ball field for more recreational programming

##### **2. Entertainment:**

The second most popular feature, with 9 respondents suggesting similar venues, was to create an outdoor bandstand/amphitheater venue space for music, weddings and movie nights.

##### **3. Protection of park assets:**

Several respondents suggested methods to protect the assets from vandalism and extreme winds and winter weather, continual problems at Minton Park. From installing cameras and dark skies-compliant night lighting to enclosing sides of the Pavillian, creating east-facing doors and gathering wind speed data, our residents value maintaining current park features and planning any future additions to address these concerns.

##### **4. Conservation of natural resources:**

Residents also value preserving the glacial moraines that surround the Empire valley and Minton Park as well as maintaining land for wildlife who depend on the area for crossing. It is clear citizens want to protect nature in all future park planning.

In addition, these features were mentioned once each:

- Dog wash station
- Water at dog park
- Make dog park bigger
- Regulate drone usage with an ordinance
- Continue work on Cemetery
- More parking
- Space X launch pad
- Golf course
- Archery range
- Pickleball
- Volleyball
- Frisbee golf
- Maintain basketball hoops more regularly
- More swings
- More RV hook-ups
- Flower beds behind home plate on fence, research flower that attract/detract wildlife

##### **5. Unanticipated findings:**

Eight respondents mentioned the ball placer and asphalt millings stored there in their open-ended comments. The ball placer is adjacent to Minton Park, but not considered a viable town asset until that area completes the 20-year process dictated by BLM and other agencies of reclamation steps required before any further recreational development may occur. Three respondents suggested cleaning up the area, and two mentioned creating a lake or fishing pond. Five respondents mentioned the asphalt millings as a concern, all requesting they be completely removed from the area.

## STAFF CONCLUSIONS:

Over the past several years, members of the Empire community have requested bathroom facilities at Minton Park during Public Comment at Board of Trustee meetings. The present facilities have been deemed environmentally unsafe and replacing them may be costly, so the primary purpose of the survey was to establish a local vision for the next 20 years for Minton Park, including to establish support for maintenance and/or expansion of bathrooms and other features that may enhance usage of the park in the immediate future and for years to come.


Clearly, Minton Park is valued by the citizens of the Empire Valley and beyond. Google maps shows visitors also value the park and it is rated presently at 4.7 out of 5 stars as a “hidden gem” for travelers. Each feature is used and if money were no object, residents envision expanding the park into the future with a range of creative suggestions.

Staff have concluded the following from the results of this survey:

1. Minton Park is valued by residents and visitors, and a new bathroom facility is supported by a clear majority of survey respondents.
2. The results of the type of ADA compliant bathroom options were unclear. Therefore, further research into the community’s preferences for each option is recommended.
3. All present features at the park are utilized and require regular maintenance; future options range from the very simple, inexpensive to the very complex, expensive and need strategic investigation.
4. The Town of Empire would greatly benefit by the formation of a formal Parks Advisory Committee for the creation of the Parks Master Plan that would strategically incorporate priorities from the Comprehensive Master Plan to envision how all of the Town’s parks and recreational assets should be best improved and supported into the next two decades.
5. Initial outside grant funds may be pursued to complete a project needs assessment for the entire Parks Department, which may include creating an advisory committee and developing the Parks Master Plan.
6. When considering previous public comment and the results of this survey, the first priority may be to solve the complex bathroom facility problem at Minton Park.
7. 2024 Town Budget funds may be allocated for:
  - as a match for any outside funding for the initial parks planning,
  - as a match to study the environmental impacts of removing present bathroom facilities and the costs of any future ADA compliant restroom facility options,
  - support for town staff to do grant management and planning, and
  - support for any activities needed by the park advisory committee.

## DOCUMENTATION:

Link to raw data spreadsheet:

 Minton Park Survey - Town of Empire, CO (Responses)

Link to google forms survey results:

<https://forms.gle/ieKPCPRiWhhBcbpQ9>