

# Survey Results: Recreation

 Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of the City of Newton to the FlashVote community for Newton, KS.

**These FlashVote results are shared with local officials**

## 464

**Total Participants**

362 of 591 initially invited (61%)  
102 others

Margin of error: ± 5%

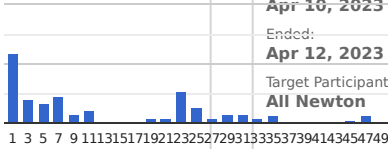
Applied Filter:

**Locals only**

Participants for filter:

**339**

**Response Time (hours)**



Started: **Apr 10, 2023 11:10am CDT**

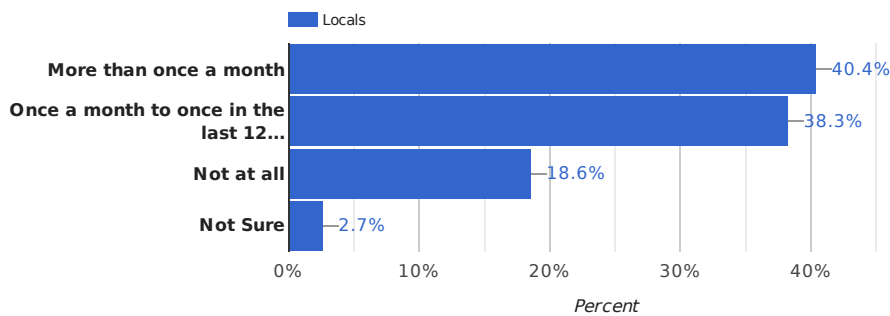
Ended: **Apr 12, 2023 11:12am CDT**

Target Participants: **All Newton**

**Q1** In the last 12 months, about how often have you visited a City park or recreation facility in Newton?

(339 responses by )

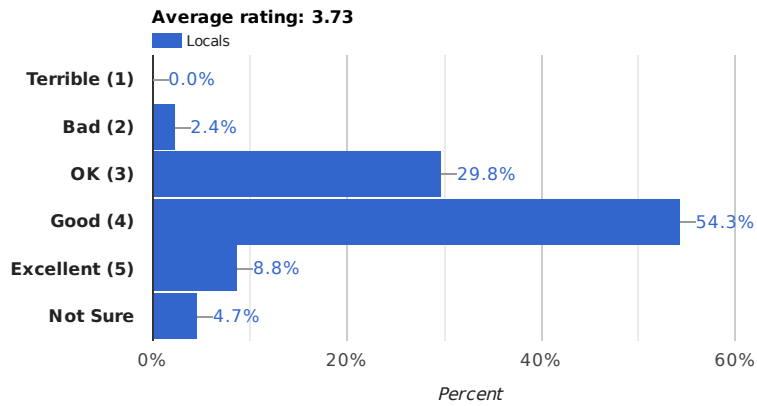
Options	Locals (339)
More than once a month	40.4% (137)
Once a month to once in the last 12 months	38.3% (130)
Not at all	18.6% (63)
Not Sure	2.7% (9)



**Q2** How would you rate the overall quality of Newton parks (maintained by the City) and recreational facilities (maintained by the Newton Recreation Commission)?

(339 responses by )

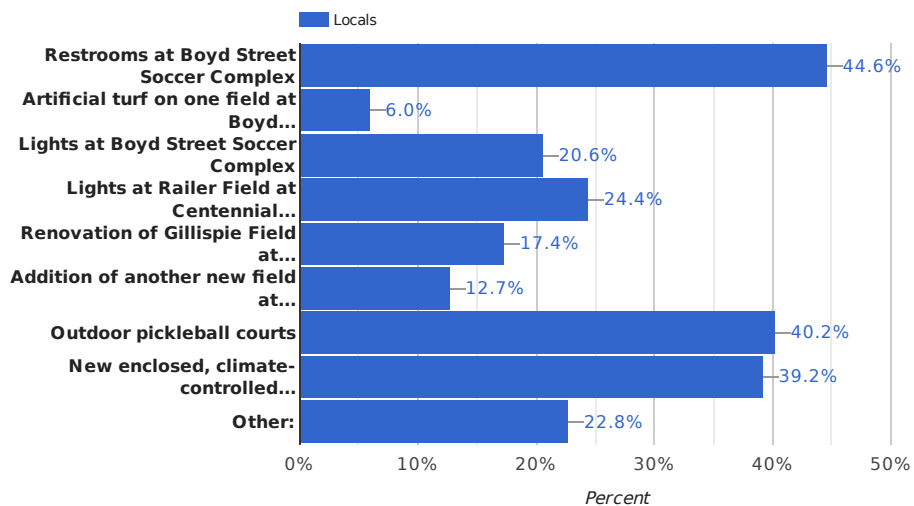
Options	Locals (339)
Terrible (1)	0.0% (0)
Bad (2)	2.4% (8)
OK (3)	29.8% (101)
Good (4)	54.3% (184)
Excellent (5)	8.8% (30)
Not Sure	4.7% (16)



**Q3** Which of the following, if any, would be the most valuable things for the Newton Recreation Commission to add? (You can choose up to FOUR, if any)

(316 responses by )

Options	Locals (316)
Restrooms at Boyd Street Soccer Complex	44.6% (141)
Artificial turf on one field at Boyd Street Soccer Complex	6.0% (19)
Lights at Boyd Street Soccer Complex	20.6% (65)
Lights at Railer Field at Centennial Park	24.4% (77)
Renovation of Gillispie Field at Centennial Park	17.4% (55)
Addition of another new field at Centennial Park	12.7% (40)
Outdoor pickleball courts	40.2% (127)
New enclosed, climate-controlled shelter at Athletic Park	39.2% (124)
Other:	22.8% (72)



improve softball concession clean facility add lights  
 equipment tennis  
 bicycle standsure disc path use need maintenance  
 athletic centennial better newton  
 trees field park dog golf unlocked  
 creek cost playground court bike trail  
 play sand baseball money  
 please splash tax restroom walking bathroom  
 payers anything another existing turf indoor

Improve the facilities overall. New bathrooms at athletic park and install bathrooms at other parks

Lights are Centennial Dog Park

Restrooms at Quail Creek Park

Another disc golf course

cleaner NRC

improvements without raising taxes

Create a working cohesive relationship with the YMCA.

I have no opinion on this. I don't use these facilities.

How about a half court basketball court at plum Brook Park

More tennis courts

The only facility I visit (once a week) is the small dog park (not listed). I'm pleased with it

More bicycle related activities, conveniences paths

Expansion of the bike/walking paths to connect more of newton.

I would suggest a comprehensive long range plan.

I have no use for any of these things.

Outdoor adult workout equipment, lights along river walking

Speed limit signs on Sand Creek bike path, why don't Newtonians use bicycle bells/horns?

Lower the taxes

Unlocked, public access, flat fields for play without organized sport at Centennial.

Lights on the Sand Creek path

Update/add restrooms at all parks with sports.

Nothing

Parking at Boyd Street Soccer Complex

With the financial status our country is in , you should STOP ALL THIS FRIVOLOUS SPENDING.

Bathrooms unlocked at all parks

Several more splash pads. Our summer's are long and hot and people need safe ways to cool down.

More Playground equipment at Centennial Park

Would love to see 8 more disc golf baskets at the Centennial course!

Bathrooms at the dog park

Restrooms at Quail Creek Park.

Something BESIDES Baseball

Swings and other play equipment at Roosevelt park

More bike paths please.

None

Not sure, just a Walker, Cent Park looks great! People who use facilities need to choose. Thanks

Walking path in Newton south, preferably in and around Fox Ridge Golf Course area.

Don't add anything you provide too much now

Add shelter houses to all parks

Clean up the park by Santa fe

Smoke free playgrounds

Swings/small child friendly e at all parks, covered equipment at all parks. The metal gets too hot.

make more children's playgrounds sand-free (like the northeast playground at Athletic Park)

Just redo bathrooms at athletic park

Public restrooms along north Newton trail.

Better maintenance at rec center. Floors are dirty, locker rooms dirty. Carpeting in locker rms dir

Better playground equipment and quit selling parks for Dillons and library.

Walking trails/Pathways at some of the parks. Like Bethel Trails.

Fishing spots

Complete renovation of all playground equipment - eliminate sand in the playground areas.

I haven't been so I can't say

Centralized Concession stands at centennial park

replace the tennis courts at Centennial Park

Cut back with cost going up.

Dedicated fastpitch softball field for the Newton Railer Girl's Softball Team

Stop spending money

Restroom at dog park,

Bathroom dog park

Add more trees. Take better care of existing trees...pruning and mulching.

Clean up Themium park . It's a trashy mess and the student have recess there . No trash cans

Upgrade existing park bathrooms

More disc golf holes at centinnial

Grandchild used pool and playgrounds. Please keep them up while doing new things.

More trees at centennial park for shade for spectators

Turf at Klein-Scott baseball field!

Saving tax payers money

1. update the Athletic Park tennis court surfaces and nets. Convert one court to Pickleball.

Splash Park on east side at Rosevelt Park

Anything that doesn't cost the tax payers more money !!

Need some outside racquetball courts

Not sure

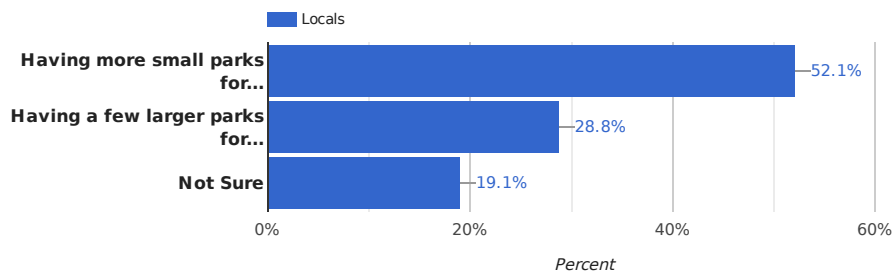
Work with the City to improve bicycle access and encourage bike usage

fences around playgrounds to keep children safe

#### Q4 Which overall approach do you think would be most valuable for the community?

(330 responses by )

Options	Locals (330)
Having more small parks for neighborhoods throughout the city (with small playgrounds or just green space)	52.1% (172)
Having a few larger parks for everyone with larger scale features (sports fields, courts, bigger playgrounds, etc.)	28.8% (95)
Not Sure	19.1% (63)



#### Q5 Any other comments or suggestions about improving parks and recreation in Newton?

(102 responses by )

maintain well think playground space people  
appreciate need soccer field trail facility  
make like newton town good around  
update nice rec park use city improve  
along year walk better bike great love sand  
sport community path play keep  
place light see trees area creek time even  
neighborhood kid

There are some parks in this community that are not used or rarely used. Focus our finances on parks that are being used and make them nicer.

No new taxes please.

More splash parks

Not at this time

Overall I think Newton parks are great

Sidewalks and bike paths to ALL parks

It would be nice to have a swimsuit wringer in the ladies locker room at the Rec center so we wouldn't have to take home a very wet swimsuit

Expansion of bike paths/walking path

I'm thankful for a community of Newton's size has a dedicated NRC and Park departments. I believe they both provide beneficial services on limited budgets and personnel.

Take some time to benchmark other communities. If a long range plan is in place it's not obvious to the community. Growth appears to be southward - and we have an opportunity to have parks be part of that growth

Need park space in which we can fly out drones.

We love the parks!

For a small market town, Newton does a good job with the limited funding

It would be nice if they would be cleaned a bit more regularly. The amount of trash laying around at the parks is getting really bad. I wish more people would take pride in the parks because we have great parks! I do wish that there were adult workout equipment pieces at parks so I could exercise while my child plays. I also wish that there were lights along the river walking path so that could be used when it is dark out. That gets dark so quickly. I actually really appreciate the parks that we do have. I would also love to see an accessible playground built at some point.

Planting trees for shade would be nice. More splash parks would also be nice

There are books written on this subject: urban planning and city green spaces, even pocket parks and how they bring communities together. [ Example: Garvin, Alexander. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space: A 21st Century Agenda ISBN 1-884829-54-6]

Sidewalks at Sand Creek are great.

Keep adding to the bike path options.

More accessibility for play areas for kids of all ages to kick balls, shoot hoops, etc AND be regularly patrolled to keep away drug users

Better litter pick up along Sand Creek trail.

Well maintained parks within walking distance are a must for community wellbeing!

Bathrooms are always locked & inaccessible.

Would love to see more indoor facilities that the rec commission can utilize for more youth and adult programs/sports

Just general upkeep of current parks. Caperland park sometimes has graffiti on the playground equipment.

Cut the budget, stop the unnecessary spending , do not cater to illegal emigrants in any faction, only spend finances on necessity status bases. Thank you we the people would appreciate the restraint, it is our money not yours.

A park for year-round play would be nice. Climate controlled play area for days when it's too hot or cold to play outside!

Having recreation areas with bathrooms helps you "make a day" of it at a park.

More splash pads.

The playgrounds are getting old and falling apart especially the heavily used ones.

Great job

Add shade wherever you can to all parks.

A big, well kept dog park at the south end of Newton.

Let's keep the ones we have up, clean, neat, and safe. I feel it important and benefits everyone to have pleasant green spaces to experience. North Newton has a great path with a hidden park north of Bethel. It's a great place to walk or ride through, and even picnic in seclusion.

Spend less and provide less

I walk daily and want to commend the parks dept on the great job they do, have even seen them stop their vehicles to pick up litter. Very responsive to any issues too. Bravo workers!

Fix bridge on walking path near Bethel College. It is reinforced for vehicles but is a falling hazard.

Maintain and clean what is currently in Newton

Block parties

Not sure what programs they have, but something to bring more awareness or educational opportunities for physical fitness

I think both small neighborhood parks are beneficial with maybe one bigger park with more amenities.

I'd love to see more trash pickup along the Sand Creek Trail. But generally, I'm really pleased with the quality of the parks and rec facilities in Newton.

Should give the employees bigger raises because we all know you as a council makes more and do alot less

Station/body weight workout trail

Public notice on how to use the shelters. Updating Athletic & Themian park's tennis courts Do we need horseshoe pits?

Parks should be a place for children to play outdoors, families to enjoy time together, and residents of all ages to relax and reconnect with nature. I'm concerned about too much emphasis being placed on athletic facilities when they only serve a specific segment of the population.

Generally doing a good job

Take better care of what we have!

We need a soccer complex!

Look at other towns, Andover\maze, how they have improved do what they do

Some more walking trails at Camp Hawk.

Updating park restrooms with better lights, paint.

This is a great opportunity to bring people together and have talented kids play more sports and have a better environment because I really don't like to see more people living our community. Let's not make them think that we are not capable of doing this anymore. Let's compete with all the communities everywhere once and for all let's make newton greater place to live. let's do it all together. don't let anything stop us for our kids future S.T

Please restock the sand creek. Focus on hiking and outdoor activities away from the sports.

I would prefer to have a combination of a couple of larger parks with team sports fields AND a have smaller parks throughout all of the communities. I think we currently have a nice combination.

The playgrounds need a complete update and renovation - get rid of the sand and add more modern features. This will attract young families to Newton.

Baseball / Softball doesn't seem to be as popular anymore. Not like it was when I was a kid. I remember seeing games at Washington park every night.

More high quality multi age baseball fields to be able to accommodate tournaments. Similar to genesis in Wichita. Centralized concessions with fields encircling the concessions/restrooms.

Baseball and softball complex to compete with every other town half the size of Newton....if you build it they will come. Also, miniature golf would be a game changer.

Upgrade and expand NRC facility

Pick a few parks and make them great

Definitely feel like having more smaller parks in various sections of the city to make parks more accessible for people and families with limited transportation would be a good option when it comes to improving parks in Newton

I sure appreciate what we have!

Add shuffleboard courts at various park locations.

The Rec centers process for reserving fields and hosting tournaments leaves a lot to be desired. With more new fields, there is a need to improve efficiency to better support the youth athletes of Newton.

I think adding a mountain bike / BMX park would be a great addition. I think with some dirt work and features Centennial, the trees along the bike path, and the area around the disc golf course in that area would have potential.

Develop Roosevelt park into a more inviting space. Perfect place for pickleball!

Rec center in newton needs to be separate from the city. Sink or swim if rec enter fails let the ymca take over stop the government bleeding

I wish Newton would invest more in landscaping. Full, healthy shrubs and flower beds would really help our community look like we have some pride and care about our appearance.

Better baths and showers at camp hawk, love camping there

Artificial turf baseball field.

I favor a combination of small neighborhood parks and several larger parks and amenities scattered around the community.

Please Kim clean up theme park the middle schools have to use it for recess and it's got trash and unnecessary mess everywhere it needs to be updated

It would be nice to have more bicycle trails.

Keep upgrading Newton Recreation Center as it is the only year-round facility the city provides.

Improve all sports facilities so major tournaments can be held here to bring in more outside revenue. Newton has missed out on these opportunities for years, while communities around us are profiting from it.

I greatly appreciate our parks service. I love our combination of Big Parks (Athletic, Centennial) and small (Washington, Ash, Roosevelt). I think Thermian could use some love, however.

You already have a good balance of small and large parks.

Trees are needed at centennial.

Sculpture would add a lot even if it is someone playing baseball. A play feature with chimes for children and adults. A larger than life chess set with moveable pieces. Native plants over finicky annuals needing lots of water.

The bike trail by Sand Creek Station golf course needs to be connected to the bike trail by Athletic Park/Sand Creek. This would flow more bike riders into the Athletic Park area and increase usage.

It might be time to begin replacing playground play structures. Have noticed cracks in plastic slides and ride on items.

Having law enforcement make the parks a regular part of their patrol during high usage times and during night time routes to check for vandalism & break ins.

Extend bike path and mow along side walk on SW 14th. Connect to bike path

The current mix of big parks (Centennial and Athletic) at the ends of the Sand Creek Trail along with smaller neighborhood parks is nice. The trail is awesome and promptly maintained. Roosevelt Park could use something (pickleball and a parking lot). Veazy Park has great potential with its location along the trail and the creek.

I like the idea of small neighborhood parks with playground equipment. I don't think we need "green space" defined as just empty, grassy areas (no trees, park benches, etc) in neighborhoods.

More restrooms at the parks. Even just one stall like what is at the sprinkler park.

The flowers are pretty and nice to have but since the city seems to be in a money crunch why not cut back on planting so many. We have to cut back why can't the city?

A BMX track like the Park City one would be awesome here

Purchase land of East side of First Presbyterian church, 900 Columbus, for a large neighborhood park.

I think we are doing pretty good. Parks are well taken care of.

maintain repair tennis courts a Roosevelt and Themian parks

We appreciate what we have. The Boyd fields are a big, big deal for our family as we are there multiple days of the week. Having bathrooms and lights there is our #1 request by far.

Plenty of benches for older citizens to rest while visiting. Gardens!

Splash pads at various neighborhood locations.

I'd like to see some natural areas to enjoy birds and other nature

Although not directly related to recreation in parks, increasing trees and shade in parking lots would make those areas more inviting for people walking and biking around town, going shopping. I greatly appreciate the parks and green spaces we do have in Newton, although most of my exercise comes from biking and walking around town- so I like to imagine all of the town as a park

So many of Newton's parks are just vacant lots with ball fields. There should be at least one park with landscaping and art that is a pleasant place to walk, meet friends, sit and enjoy being outside.

I appreciate our parks! How about a kids splash park North of the railroad tracks? Maybe Roosevelt Park?

Lights at Railer field!!!!



Taking all shade out at some playgrounds renders them practically unusable. Some of these had trees years ago and now there is no shade. Plastic and sun are not friends to little people. This might be the reason some of the parks are not used much.

I would love to see a natural playground built in Newton. Google "splash pad walk through at lake bylesby" and there is a short video of that park to serve as an example. The idea is more dirt, sand, wood, stones, and water to play with instead of the traditional plastic playground equipment. I would also like to see fences around playgrounds. The park can be stressful for parents with multiple kids, especially if you have a runner and a baby. This is especially important for autistic children that elope (run off) and have no sense of danger. A fence would help keep kids safe and help parents enjoy the park as well.

I believe the number of parks is sufficient at this time. Keeping all available parks maintained and play equipment in great shape is my preference.

[Additional survey reports](#)