

Survey Results: Park Renovation

[Survey Info](#) - This survey was sent on behalf of the City of Keene to the FlashVote community for Keene, NH.

These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

273

Total Participants

253 of 416 initially invited (61%)
20 others
Margin of error: ± 6%

Applied Filter:
Locals only

Participants for filter:
235

Response Time (hours)



Started:
Sep 13, 2023 11:06am EDT

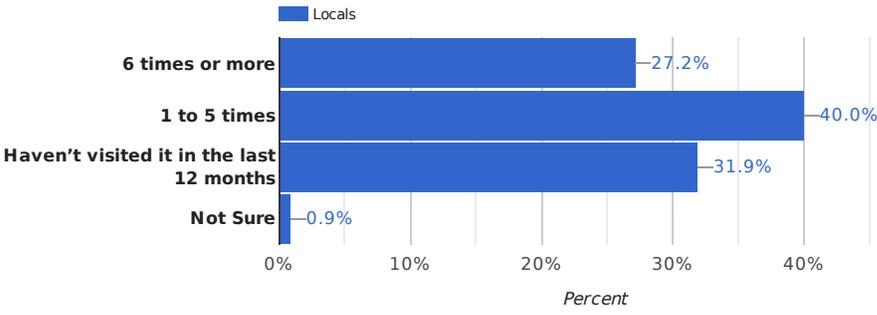
Ended:
Sep 15, 2023 11:04am EDT

Target Participants:
All Keene

Q1 Robin Hood Park is located on Reservoir Street and has a pool, fishing pond, hiking trails, playground equipment and sports facilities.

In the last 12 months, about how often have you visited Robin Hood Park?
(235 responses by)

Options	Locals (235)
6 times or more	27.2% (64)
1 to 5 times	40.0% (94)
Haven't visited it in the last 12 months	31.9% (75)
Not Sure	0.9% (2)



Options	Percent
6 times or more	27.2%
1 to 5 times	40.0%
Haven't visited it in the last 12 months	31.9%
Not Sure	0.9%

Q2 The City of Keene is considering options to modernize and improve Robin Hood Park to meet the current and future needs of residents.

Which of the following possible improvements would be most important to you, if any? (You can choose up to FIVE, if any)
(215 responses by)

Options	Locals (215)
Upgrade the playground equipment	38.1% (82)
Add a splash pad with water features	34.9% (75)
Upgrade the pool	50.7% (109)
Add more parking	27.0% (58)

An additional trash barrel near picnic area, trailhead map of hiking paths.

ADA access to trails. COmmunity garden. Implement regular ongoing maintenance re facilities.

Close the pool

Trail maintenance, blazes and accurate map

Discourage loitering in cars in parking area

Make use of the amphitheater again.

Upgrade amphitheater

Ampitheatre

Upgrade trails and signage, make more accessible for mobility challenges

Until this city has moved to house all homeless people, there should be NO improvements done.

Can we get a place in Keene to Roller Skate please?

Upgrade the Amphitheater

Landscaping

Offer shuttle to Wheelock and minimize the cost of upgrading

mitigate water/mud on walking trails; seating near water / along trail

let more watch the sunset from the round "ampitheater" space. More benches and rubbish bins

Winter ice skating rink

No vDo absolutely nothing

Improve hiking trails, stairs. Highlight and improve amphitheater, create scenic overlook to view

None. Price inflation is too high.

Upgrade the path around the pond

Add speed bumps along the Robin Hood lane damn to slow traffic down driving through the park.

pedestrian walkways that allow walkers to be safe from traffic and connect to sidewalks into town

only upgrade what exists, no new expenses with future maintenance expenses

Concentrate on the pool area. The playground is fine. Keep the park looking natural.

Place a splash pad in the area being discussed by Ashuelot st

Improve the trails

If possible keep basketball court separate from tennis court, at least 2 tennis/pickleball courts

Ask users and those with children to increase activity, exercise and healthy options for our youth.

It is unsafe for residents to be in the Park. Make it safe before renovating

Maintaining what is there. Fix the big stone wall and stairs properly. Drudge the pond and fix dam.

Hiking trail maintenance

Rebuild the side of the pool that is braced with old tired tires. New bathrooms.

Let's not get carried away with making so many changes that it loses that remote, in-nature feel.

No renovation needed

Trail Signage

Targeted/specific night lighting. NOT BRIGHT!

Q3 Which ONE of the following best describes your overall preference for investments to improve Robin Hood Park?

(225 responses by)

speed bumps and one way pattern to slow drivers in park area and no parking on dam

just maintaining what is there

Improvements/updates to what is there across the board

Please do what is needed to maintain, but a minimal cost to tax payers of the city. Thank you.

It needs to be safe first. Why spend the money if noone feels safe enough to utilize

Trail maps and improvements

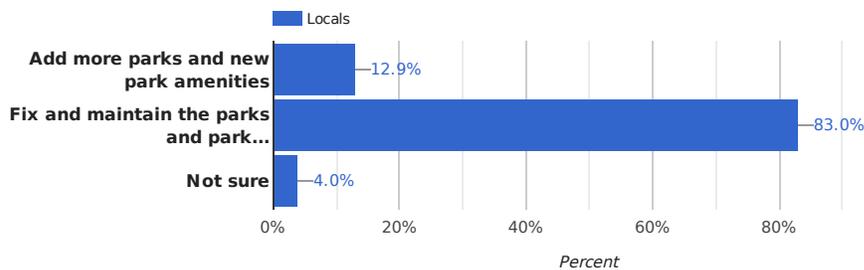
Pool..bathrooms..no splash pad. No pick up. Who is going to need picking up.?

Costs and inflation are a big issue. Keene NH among the most costly places to live in the country!

Q4 Which overall approach to Keene parks do you think would be most valuable for the community?

(224 responses by)

Options	Locals (224)
Add more parks and new park amenities	12.9% (29)
Fix and maintain the parks and park amenities we have	83.0% (186)
Not sure	4.0% (9)



Q5 Any other comments or suggestions about improving Robin Hood Park or other parks in Keene?

(86 responses by)

water trail great wheelock time space tennis
important improve thank keep playground
please also pool need safe upgrade
resident add use enjoy city
courts make park access see
place tree well hood robin area new east
maintain keene like nature people live
bike consider maintenance issue community better

Need to keep cost down for those who pay property tax!

Improvements should be made with the long term in mind so that you don't have to make improvements again in 20 years. The time horizon should be extended as much as possible so we don't keep paying for things like this.

i live across the street. pls fix the playground, but it doesnt need to be replaced. the tennis courts are a safety hazard, and i'd be fine with new pickleball/tennis courts, with a few extra parking spaces, but not an entire parking lot as discussed. i love the idea of making the access road from water street one way only, and fixing up maybe some parallel parking along side where everyone parks anyway. what's wrong with the ampitheater? it seems fine. we do need a pool in east keene, so while my kids dont swim there anymore, it was one of the reasons why we moved to this neighborhood. also, fix the stairs that lead from the playground up to the road that were completely ignored when you rebuild the dam... ridic. and unsafe. and people still use them but it's silly that stairs were not installed.

With the parks being popular with the residents and a place that visitors go to for tournaments, fairs and activities I believe it is important to keep them maintained.

Would love to see improved drainage in playground area as well as a walkway down the hill from parking and pavilion to playground - it gets slick in winter with ice. Also would love chairs at the pool deck.

Again, not important right now. Keene taxes are too high - please stop spending money

Leave some open natural green space in the parks rather than converting everything to an athletic field or other use. And fix or replace the pool at Robin Hood.

This is long overdue---to improve and renovate. It is a beautiful place

Make sure each park has a balance between more populated/group/play areas, with quieter, less busy, more natural areas

Maintaining and upgrading all parks is important. Also care for the Amphitheater. East side access for swimming and swimming lessons is critical.

NEW POOL!

Parks need to be kept free from overnight use. "Tents" set up in parks makes them less appealing to use. I live near Robin Hood park and do not always feel safe walking the trails past people sleeping in tents in the woods.

Very excited to see Patricia T. Russell Park come together! I most appreciate the amount of greenspace at Robin Hood Park, and would hate to sacrifice it for other amenities. I would like to see the amenities we have programmed for more use (ex. Gaggera pit tournament, live music, increased pool hours/weeks open).

Start with the Parks Department. Ask why are the parks in Keene deteriorating? Do they doing any proactive upkeep/maintenance or just reactive. Are there grants the city is missing out on? For \$1.5 million you could most likely build some sort of indoor facility which isn't necessary and \$5 million for an overhaul?? I'd recommend closing the pool. Get together volunteers and sponsors and organize a community project.

I ask that you consider equity and access for those the furthest from opportunity in your decisions.

More ability to bike to parks / connected into the rail trail network. Better bike infrastructure means less needed space for car parking!

Add baby swings and shaded areas for the littlest ones.

I love the pool at Robin Hood Park and used during this very hot summer. I think the slash pad is a fabulous idea!

Be v thoughtful, careful with RHP's rich natural setting. Many trees & 'wild' terrain offer a place of escape, renewal, & relaxation for stressed folks. In reconfiguring an environ, impulsive construction may wreak devastation. With a Climate in crisis, green space is more valuable than ever. No need to manicure the place or sculpt every last 'parcel'.

Would love a playground at Ashuelot River Park and parking/boat launch/white water park(?!) Save the shade at the Robin Hood pool. Bathroom upgrades seem like the first thing to improve.

No. T.Y. for asking for my input.

The east deserves a pool. Pickles all is too loud.

It would be cool to see more disc golf courses

Having utilized parks in other communities. Upgrades in Keene are important to have them stay safe and relevant in people's lives

Improved trail maps (also QR codes to access online PDFs of maps), some better toddler playgrounds/play areas, designated off leash dog areas

If anything, some light trail maintenance could be useful at Robin Hood Park. I don't use the facilities besides the trails, so I may not be a good person to review the facilities. I like that there is a playground, bathrooms, pool, and tennis courts, but I don't use them. The picnic area and bathrooms are pretty dreary, but functional. Not very inviting. I mostly walk the trails in this park, which are a great resource very close to downtown.

Convert some of the tennis courts to pickle ball, dog friendly areas..

Would like to maintain the natural character of RHP. Upgrade pool, traffic and accessibility in and around the park.

Need to have trails that are more accessible for people with mobility issues (e.g. boardwalk or other surfaces that allow people with balance and mobility issues to use them) to keep aging residents active.

Replace the pool with a splash pad. Spruce up the other park amenities to ensure they are accessible.

Keep the pool the same size. Do not add turnarounds as they use valuable space and are only used twice a day. Keep the existing pool house as the plumbing was just upgraded. A small splash pad could be added if there is space. Consider Pavillion near grilling area.

Your priorities, as usual, are skewed.

Please help us remove invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and oriental bittersweet which is threatening to crowd out our native plants.

I walk to Robin Hood Park at least once a week. I would love to see improvements, as noted, and I thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.

Robin Hoods charm is in the Natural beauty, trees, streams etc. Yes a good playground and covered area are important, but don't knock down every tree to accomplish this. I don't have small children here any more, but I enjoyed the park for over 60 years as is!

The bathrooms really need to be unlocked unless we are closing parks for the season. If the park is open to the public, bathrooms should be open to the public.

Robin Hood is a forgotten resource and a hidden gem. Thanks for getting feedback to improve this important park!

I would love to see the amphitheater used again. For movies and for party spaces for kids. It is so beautiful up there.

I think it is critically important to repair/upgrade the pool. It is especially important for those who don't have access to other pools or can't afford memberships to the Y to learn about water safety and how to swim. When Robin Hood was closed in 2022, Wheelock Pool was very overcrowded. It's insane to think that one public pool is adequate for a city of 23,000+ residents.

Thank you for all your hard work

How about giving us taxpayers a break and stop spending money for a while!

Centrally invest more heavily in one park and facilitate easier visitation

More parking near baseball fields at Wheelock park and maybe more or larger bleachers

Please consider upgrades for those WITHOUT cars. Getting there on foot or by bike from Beaver St/Roxbury St reveals sub-standard access paths. I have found ways, but I'm able-bodied on 2 feet and 2 wheels. Improvements for pedestrians and cyclists to get there AND linger can def be improved. Another simple suggestion - NO IDLING signs. In the winter time, I see folks having lunch in their cars/trucks w/ their with their engines running. That's a drag for ALL of us.

Please keep toddlers and kids with disabilities in mind with the playground design. Robin Hood is not accessible!

Please don't cut down trees unless absolutely necessary. Adding a pollinator garden and native plants would be. Great. You could contact Fassett Farms in Guilford for native plant design. The East side of Keene needs a pool!

In regards to Robin Hood park: a pool will be used by all residents but a splash pad will only be used by children of a certain age. A covered year round area to sit and enjoy the view of the lake would be used by all residents. It could encompass a fishing dock, too, where the water is deep. Is it possible to move the bathrooms to a more visible spot with better lighting and safety? Can they be moved closer to the road? It would be nice if you kept the swings. Teenagers who can't drive yet might use them, besides young children.

New pickleball courts are needed, outdoor and INDOOR

Thank you

Stop spending money except to pay off debt. Price inflation is too high for now. I need a new roof, but materials are three times what they should be, so it can't happen. Time to tighten the belt.

Look into the water park in the town of Ypsilanti Michigan. Impressive! Look at the work being done in Oswego, Ny, also impressive and inspiring

In general, more public dog bag dispensers and trash cans would be great. Also more bicycle racks at parks and downtown. Thank you for all you do to make our city beautiful!

Keene's East Side needs to be valued as much as other neighborhoods

As a resident of West Keene, my preference is to maintain aspects of Wheelock Park. Some additional facilities would be nice. Renovations to existing seating, eating areas.

We need another community pool.

Put police substations at parks to add to community safety. I don't feel safe in many of them.

Restore the pond. Work in the woods on the hill north of the Amphitheater to clear fallen trees and contain the stream that flows into the pond within its banks. Over the years the runoff in that area has created a delta in the pond! Pull the fallen trees out of the pond. Dredge some of the silt that has accumulated on the east bank of the pond causing new vegetation to grow IN the pond.

In improving the playground I hope that there are features for kids with mobility issues so that they can also enjoy the playground.

Post signs and take other measures, such as increased police patrols, to keep vagrants and vagabonds out of Keene's parks, in order to keep our citizens safe.

We need to preserve and use the facilities we have in the park. The health of the reservoir needs to be addressed. This would include improving the run off from Water St. that promotes additional plant growth in the pond and eastern bank as well as the trees that then fall into the pond. For the entire project, tree removal should be limited/avoided especially if for additional parking. All the sidewalks need to be connected to sidewalks coming into the park along Water and Roxbury St. with well marked cross walks to support and encourage walkers accessing the park and trails. If the city adds a pick up loop - it needs to be a "no idle zone". Parking in the park should also be posted as a "idle zone". These suggestions are most supportive for promoting a healthy environment consistent with George Wheelock's vision for the Robin Hood area. The plan needs to embrace a vision for a safe and accessible place for families and people of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

Well maintained parks are essential. Outdoor sport and play areas open to all support our community's health and wellness. Importantly, these spaces also provide areas for both group celebration and individual enjoyment.

Community pools are vital and should be best possible. Just pools, not slides, dive tanks, etc. Otherwise, keep as natural as possible, don't force recreation equipment. Permanent pickleball and tennis courts are likely inappropriate due to noise levels; they belong in school and industrial areas. Paved areas should be pervious design for good drainage. Parking areas can be multi-use: basketball, food truck parking, even temporary pickleball ! Future meetings on the issue should be afterschool or on weekends when more people are available.

The natural elements of Robin Hood and Wheelock parks make them outstanding areas for recreation and relaxation. Please do not ruin their value with too many upgrades and accommodations for special interests. Wheelock Park is headed in that direction. Keep Robin Hood improvements within the same footprint as the current manmade structures.

Make it neat and clean. Stop the crazy spending!

Robin Hood Park should definitely be upgraded to make it even more wonderful. It is a very special place in Keene and it would be great to keep it that way for generations to come.

Our taxes are insanely high. I'm opposed to any unnecessary improvements that will continue to raise our taxes.

It is important for the swimming pools to be maintained on both sides of town. I understand the the property off of Ashuelot st is being considered for a natural play area. A splash pad there is appropriate

Pool is definitely needed

Make them more attractive for people to use.

Please don't put food trucks there. That's not what it's for. More trash cans would be nice.

The restrooms need to be open and available and the water fountains/stations should be fully functional. Ideally, all the parks would be a NON-SMOKING zone for the health and well-being of all....a true healthy green space area.

Upkeep of tennis courts

Am most interested in extending system of trails/sidewalks/bicycle travel through the city. This is a great town to live in because of its walkability - appreciate anything we can do to extend access to parks and areas of interest to those without a car or to get there without a car. Thank you.

Please do something about the influx of drug users in Robinhood and surrounding area.

Parks are critical to the residents

Park renovations must depend on how they are to be funded. Both property taxes and rents are sky high.

The general lawlessness is spreading throughout the City and present at the parks that are infrequently monitored. Clean up the city first!

I am for upgrades but I also want to see a comprehensive maintenance plan. With Wheelock, new and improved Patricia Russell park soon to be Robin Hood and many of the other spaces it's a concern that things won't be kept up. Mountain bikes are a concern especially in Robin Hood. There is rare/endangered plants and they make their own trails and get full rein on Robin Hood and goose pond. It's great to have this available here but some respect between nature and other recreationalist needs to be considered. Homeless and trash on the trails and park. Beaver falls in disarray. I have concerns that your department is stretched to thin to handle the amenities and upkeep.

FOR THE SPRING OF 2024 AT KNIGHT STREET COURTS, PERMANENT PICKLEBALL LINES SHOULD BE PAINTED ON THE EXISTING TENNIS COURTS. ADDING PICKLEBALL COURTS TO ROBIN HOOD IN 2027 IS A NO BRAINER.

The park still has a water drainage issue along the lower field

Yes..dreadful maintenance. Fund the parks and rec. Cemetery has much better maintenance...why?

Maintain what we have while improvements are under way!

Please consider adding permanent pickleball lines to the Knight Street, Robinhood and Wheelock Park tennis courts in the interim. Thank you.

How is this going to be paid for? Taxes are way too high! Keene politicians are not addressing this big issue! NH and Keene property expense issue! Budget mismanaged!

Our economy sucks right now. We should focus on maintaining current facilities and not adding new.

In general, I believe this should happen in small steps - and NOT a huge park overhaul. Let's see how well the new Pat Russel Park and upcoming Keene Skate Park serves the neighborhood/East Keene. Add "sports" attractions/activities to those areas maybe? Keep Robin Hood as a mostly natural park/habitat and don't lure lots of people to participate in activities already provided elsewhere. If the pool has an age/maintenance issue - correct that. Replace. DO NOT TAKE DOWN UNNECESSARY TREES. Sure, trim and thin trees based on health via an arborist's advice/study. Keep pavement and accessed areas (paths/road/lots) minimal. Indeed, you need to increase use... but it is easy to overbuild, overspend! "If you build it, they will come" cannot be the guide/imperative. It could be a huge waste and/or misappropriated support/use. Good luck. Don't ruin what is already a precious part of East Keene. Improvements are necessary. Thx.

[Additional survey reports](#)