



City of Rancho Cucamonga | Garcia Park Field Lighting Project

Community Engagement Summary

Introduction

Garcia Park, located in Rancho Cucamonga's Lower Etiwanda Neighborhood Landscape District at 13150 Garcia Drive, has served as a valued community space for more than 15 years. Named after Captain Joseph Garcia, the five-acre park remains a hub for recreation and neighborhood connection. To further enhance its usability, particularly during the evening hours, the City of Rancho Cucamonga (City) is exploring the potential installation of sports field lighting using dark sky-compliant fixtures. Field lighting emerged as a potential project in this area several years ago since the City received requests from the community for options to play sports during evening hours. These lights are designed to reduce glare and minimize light pollution, balancing extended field use with respect for nearby homes and the surrounding environment.

The City initiated a community engagement effort from June 30 through July 31 to gather input on the proposed lighting and any associated concerns. Garcia Park, home to a baseball and softball field that also accommodates soccer and football, is situated within a neighborhood district that includes approximately 2,750 households. While a preliminary LED lighting study has been conducted, the City is committed to ensuring that community voices shape the future of this project—and any future park improvements.

To support this effort, a dedicated project website was launched, informational mailers were distributed, and a range of engagement opportunities were provided, including a community survey, two in-person pop-ups, and an online workshop.¹ This feedback, along with all other input, is being considered as part of the City's broader evaluation process.

This summary outlines the feedback received and highlights the community's perspectives on the proposed lighting and the broader vision for Garcia Park.

Engagement Materials

To promote awareness and participation, a residential mailer was distributed to 2,750 households in the Landscape Maintenance District 9 (LMD9) area where the park is located, providing information about the project and upcoming events. The mailer included a QR code linking to the community survey. Targeted Nextdoor posts were used to advertise the virtual workshop, survey, and pop-up events to LMD9 residents. Additionally, T-signs featuring a QR code linking to the survey and an informative project webpage were displayed throughout the park for two weeks and during pop-up events to encourage engagement and feedback.

¹ In addition, as of October 15, 2025, an online petition opposing the lighting proposal had begun circulating, gathering 45 signatures.



Pop up Summary

The City of Rancho Cucamonga hosted two community pop-up events at Garcia Park to present the proposed sports field lighting project and gather resident feedback. The first event took place on Saturday, July 12, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and the second on Monday, July 21, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. At both events, community members had the opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and share their thoughts either in person or via the online survey. Attendees were also invited to participate in the upcoming virtual community meeting.

Each event featured a project information booth that included display boards with renderings of the proposed lighting installation, survey postcards, and printed surveys for on-site use. Attendance at the pop-ups ranged from approximately 30-50 participants per event, with many engaged conversations taking place throughout. Most visitors were residents living within a quarter-mile of Garcia Park, though some attendees came from other parts of Rancho Cucamonga.

Feedback received during these events was generally mixed. Some residents expressed enthusiasm about the potential park enhancements and increased usability during evening hours. Others raised concerns, primarily related to possible increases in noise due to extended park use and limited parking availability if the lighting were to attract more visitors. City staff were on hand to discuss these concerns directly and encouraged all attendees to share their input through the online survey to ensure their voices were included in the decision-making process.

Community Meeting Summary

On the evening of Wednesday, July 23, project staff from the City of Rancho Cucamonga and their partnering teams held a public meeting to discuss the Garcia Park Field Lighting Project. The meeting was promoted through a residential mailer distributed to approximately 2,750 households within a ¼-mile radius of the park. In addition, City staff engaged with community members during two pop-up events held at the park earlier in July, inviting them to attend the upcoming meeting. During the session, a virtual presentation was shared outlining the proposed sports field lighting installation and potential future park amenities. A recording of the presentation is available on the [project website](#).

Survey Summary

The survey was active from June 24 through July 30 on the City's Community Engagement Hub website. A total of 908 responses were received, including 61 written responses. The survey aimed to gather feedback from residents and park users about the lighting proposal, current park usage, and future improvement preferences. The following is a summary of feedback. A full survey report can be found in the Appendix.

A significant majority (82%) of respondents identified as residents living near Garcia Park, and nearly half (45%) reported using the park for general recreation, such as walking or picnicking. Respondents also commonly used the park for walking or jogging (75%), dog walking (59%), and playground use (54%), while 46% indicated they participate in sports activities at the park.



When asked about the potential benefits of installing sports field lighting, 72% of respondents noted increased opportunities for evening sports and 74% improved safety and visibility. Additionally, 60% saw value in expanded youth sports access, and 56% supported the potential for more community event activities. However, 13% of respondents selected "none of the above," indicating some opposition or skepticism regarding the proposed improvements. Comments reflected a mix of enthusiasm for improved safety and usability and concerns about neighborhood impact, such as increased noise, reduced opportunities for local families to utilize the sports fields, potential tax increases and parking demand.

The survey also explored community priorities for future enhancements beyond lighting. Respondents were asked to prioritize future improvements from a list but were also invited to suggest other enhancement ideas. Most respondents expressed strong interest in adding shade structures over play areas (71%) and increasing tree and flower planting to support shade and pollinators (64%). Other top suggestions included upgrading playground equipment, creating more gathering spaces, and installing dugout shelters for additional shade.

Overall, the survey responses reveal community values for thoughtful park enhancements, especially those that balance increased use with preservation of safety, comfort, and natural features.

A summary of all survey responses can be found in the Appendix.



Appendix A. Survey Report

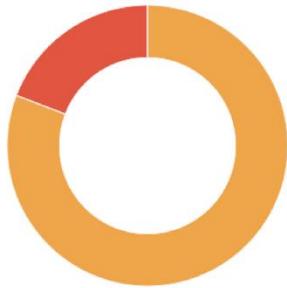
Background

The Garcia Park Field Lighting Project survey was conducted from June 24 to July 30, 2025, and gathered a total of 908 responses, including 61 written comments. The purpose of the survey was to collect feedback from residents and park users regarding the proposed field lighting installation, current park usage, and potential future improvements.

The survey was accessible via the project webpage on the City's Parks and Recreation website. A QR code was also included on a mailed project flyer distributed to 2,750 households within a quarter-mile radius of the park. Additional QR codes were made available at t-signs and during two pop-up events hosted at Garcia Park in July.

Summary of Results

1. Do you live approximately 1/4 mile from Garcia Park?



Out of 73 respondents:

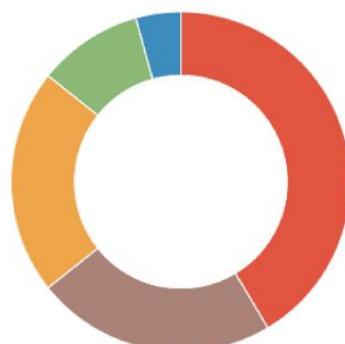
- 81% indicated they live within a 1/4 mile radius of the park
- 19% do not live within this range

2. Which of the following best describes your connection to Garcia Park?

Most of those who took the survey (82%) are residents who live near the park. Others claim to use the park for recreation (45%), representing a sports league or team that uses the park (11%), are visiting from outside the neighborhood (10%), or "Other" (1%).

3. How often do you visit Garcia Park?

- A few times a week: 41%
- A few times a month: 23%
- Daily: 21%
- Rarely: 10%
- Never: 4%



70 respondents



4. How do you currently use Garcia Park?

A total of 68 respondents answered this question. Survey takers tended to use the park for walking or jogging (75%), while others used the park for dog walking (59%), using the playground (54%), playing sports (46%), attend or use the picnic areas for a private event (24%), or “Other” (6%).

5. Were you aware of the proposed sports field lighting installation before receiving this survey?

Of the total 69 responses from this question, 68% were not previously aware of the project, while only 32% were previously aware of the proposed lighting installation.

6. What benefits do you see in adding lighting to the sports field at Garcia Park?

Those who took the survey could select all that apply, and results show that the top three benefits include increased safety and visibility (74%), more opportunities for evening sports activities (72%), expanded access for youth sports (60%), and more opportunities for community event activities (56%). Some respondents selected “none of the above” (13%), and the rest chose “Other,” where they wrote in a response to specify (7%).

7. Do you have any other thoughts, concerns, or suggestions regarding the proposed lighting installation?

Mixed feedback was received for the open-ended question for thoughts, concerns, or suggestions regarding the proposed lighting installation. The survey reflected a number of comments about the lighting project, where a number of respondents expressed strong or general support for the installation. Below is a summary of key themes:

- **Improved safety and visibility**
 - Lighting deters unwanted or illegal behavior
 - Safer evening activities
 - Better visibility at night, especially for kids and families
- **Community use and access**
 - Allows for extended use of the park during evening hours
 - Supports sports, exercise, walking, and family activities
 - Improves park amenities overall

Others expressed strong opposition or concerns, largely centered around the impacts to the neighborhood. Common themes are summarized below:

- **Noise, traffic, and parking**
 - Increased vehicle and foot traffic, especially during evening sports events
 - Lack of sufficient parking—overflow into residential streets
 - Concerns about speeding, littering, and crowding on game days
- **Neighborhood Disruption**
 - Fear that the park will no longer feel like a quiet, residential space
 - Loss of spontaneous family or pet activities due to field reservations



- Concerns that the park will become a “rental venue” for outside teams
- **Lighting Impacts**
 - Light pollution into nearby homes
 - Visual and environmental impact
 - Concerns about duration and brightness of lights
- **Cost, Equity, and Transparency**
 - Questions about who pays for lighting and ongoing energy/maintenance
 - Fears of increased taxes or HOA fees for residents
 - Desire for transparency on how funds are allocated
 - Calls for community votes before making changes

Some direct comments from the survey are below:

- “We want to keep the tranquility of our neighborhood, but lighting is definitely an issue”
- “I am in agreement with installing lights in the baseball field and in the park in general. It would be more efficient if it is solar-powered, and it would be safer for people’s visibility in the evening”
- “The concern is that if more games will be played during the evening, that might take away the time my family and other families share the field to play baseball, soccer, football and other activities as there is no other grass area. We would have to go to another park rather than the one we have been going to for years”
- “Sounds like a good idea but who will pay for the electricity”
- “I am concerned about noise and parking. Often, parking overflows to my street when these events happen and often, trash is left on the street. You should add more parking space if you’re expanding access and events”
- “It sounds like a good idea. I appreciate that the City is acknowledging concerns about light pollution, and is being proactive by planning to install the right type of lighting”
- “There is not enough parking space to be adding sports events here...”

8. Looking ahead, what types of future park improvements would you most like to see based on your experience and use of Garcia Park?

In terms of possible future park improvements, survey respondents generally liked all the ideas that were suggested. Some improvements were rated higher than others, however, and the ratings are as follows:

- Add shade structure over play areas: **71%**
- Plant more trees and flowers to add shade and support pollinators: **64%**
- Upgrade playground equipment: **50%**
- Install dugout shelters to provide shade over the dugouts: **38%**
- Create additional communal gathering spaces with improved bench seating: **38%**
- Replace dead or removed trees: **29%**
- Replenish existing planters: **26%**
- Other: **17%**