

RBP Survey 2015

User comments by category

Highlighted comments:

“I don't feel safe anymore when we go to the park, the park district has not made it accessible to be in the park, not clean, no security present and to use the park district facilities it very expensive, the park need a lot of improvement and a total Reconnection with the community and the residents. Also more programs for the senior population in the area and special needs community accessibility.”

“The entire park could use a serious overall of outdoor benches, beach game equipment, outdoor security, meditation places, and better, wider walking paths. It's could be more colorful, get some local artists to work with you on both the exterior grounds and interior of the park. Where are our opportunity to rent cabanas and lounge chaises like other beaches on the north shore? Can we have a few movies in the park, concerts and intentional programs that would attract community residents? A labyrinth to walk on would be awesome as well.”

“Rainbow beach is an beautiful park that isn't being utilized to it's full potential... The space, privacy, and beach is an ideal place for many summer activities for the youth... Yet instead, it is dangerous in the summer months due to irresponsible adults overtaking the park with overly parked cars of weed smoking, drinking, violence, ect...”

Comments by category:

- *Fitness programs offered*
 - The[y] need to offer more fitness programs like step Aerobics, cycling exercise. The potentials are there but [its] visibility is lacking.
 - I would use the workout room with the [exercise] machines if it was open so that working people could use it, like until 9pm some nights.
- *Kids' programs offered*
 - Family Events to encourage healthy eating with food demonstrations to interested families with their children
 - need better play areas
 - more family oriented activities more programs/events
- *Adult programs offered*
 - There should be more activities for adults. Yoga etc.
 - Need senior [activities].
 - There are no classes for adults like yoga.
 - More senior citizen programs such as knitting, crochet and chair exercises
 - Early access to the gym to walk for seniors.
 - Physical activities with supervision for sixty (60years and above)
 - Art and Dance classes
- *Space for activities*
- *Accessibility*
 - It's difficult to access the park except by driving in from the south. Biking through the park is also a challenge because of poor and non-connecting paths, sand dunes, flooding, lack of curb cuts, etc
 - Barriers to entering and leaving park.
 - Just want to enjoy a clean safe park. Don't like the parking meters.

- Parking meters need to be removed. What happened to the "open, FREE and clear" concept? Why do we need them when Calumet Park doesn't?
- I also have a general issue with paying for parking at the park since my taxes already pay for the park then I have to pay again to use it.
- Also, for those who do not have a car, the distance is too far for seniors to walk. Accessibility for senior is poor.
- I would use the workout room with the [exercise] machines if it was open so that working people could use it, like until 9pm some nights.
- Lack of biking access and rack parking storage keeps me from using the park
- the [traffic] light to the entrance from 79th Street need to be fixed for leaving the park- it is too long.
- Fewer barriers!
- *Safety*
 - I'd like to see better, more visible security, the grounds kept up better, especially holes in the ground filled in (I've nearly twisted my ankle in them),
 - Walking path need mile markers and better lighting. There also needs to be more police on the paths.
 - I have lived on the edge of Rainbow Park for thirty years. We no longer feel safe walking in the park. People allow their dogs to run unleashed. They don't pick up their droppings! There should be signage for dog owners re: these laws. There isn't sufficient lighting at the entrance on 79th and Southshore. It's pitch black in the evening.
 - I have to walk through the grass with my dogs where there's always a lot of broken glass
 - I am concerned about safety.
- *Presence/responsiveness of security*
 - I never see security when they're needed, like when people are driving their cars all over the walking paths
 - I mostly use the beach in the summer and walkway during the off season. It is appalling how visitors leave the beach and parking lot after it closes. I believe that there should be a fine for littering and a police office present during the time the park is open for security.
 - Safety is a concern since officers aren't seen very often and staff are in the building most times. The time it takes police to drive all the way in from the one entry point is unnerving.
 - Parking lots turn into party zones in the summer - people getting high and drinking and loud music. It doesn't seem like police or security do anything about this.
 - Needs more security
- *Responsiveness/friendliness of staff*
- *Condition of restrooms in bath house (seasonal)*
 - Restrooms usually smell and needs walls cleaned and painted, beach house. Replace hand dryers with automatic ones.
- *Condition of restrooms in field house*
- *Condition of landscaping*
 - The bushes need trimming, the weeds need to be pulled and the sidewalk need to be swept. Some new trees need to be planted.
 - The evergreen garden near Cheltenham Place needs to have all the invasive trees and shrubs removed. It could be a beautiful spot but the landscapers don't seem to know what they're doing or else they just don't care.
 - Litter is sometimes a problem. Bushes near walking paths need to be trimmed, as they threaten to poke passing folks in the eye, or scratch a face
- *Condition of walking paths*
 - The park needs better light along the walkways

- Walking paths are in poor condition and flood.
- The path all along the front of beach by the sea wall needs to be repaired and resurfaced.
- All of the walkways / paths should be re-paved. In the winter, a BETTER job of plowing / salting the paths / walkways. Better drainage so the paths and walkways don't flood so much when it rains
- *Condition of signage*
 - The signage is not extensive; visitors might not know where to find things.
 - I'd like to see signs identifying the trees and birds, and other local inhabitants.
- *Cleanliness of park*
 - Rainbow beach is not very well taken care of by the Park district especially on the 75th street side. The sand is just piled up all in the street. The area were the buses turned around need to be cleaned of all the sand and trash
 - I also don't like the amount of trash and debris around the ground.
 - I would like a cleaner park, plenty of trash cans and someone frequently making sure trash is picked up and disposed.
 - Cleaner sand.
 - Cleanup could be better. Lots of bottles under bushes that never get cleaned up.
- *General condition of the park*
 - The upkeep needs improvement and repairs. The bathrooms are usually not accessible, as well as the use of the water fountains!
 - Fencing on lakeside of field house needs replacing. Drainage needs improvement from parking lot to lake. Wheel chair ramp needs replacing and remove old one from area or remove all together
 - Replace wooden benches with wrought iron ones.
 - the blue brick handball building is deteriorating and ugly
 - I would like to see the beach maintained better. it has been many time that I walk along the beach and see things that I would prefer not seeing in the morning such as bottles, bones, dog feces, paper, plastic bags, etc. The sand truck come every morning but it does not go along the edge of the water where there should be some type of cleanup after the previous evening usage.
- *Dogs*
 - I like to bring my dogs there, but it's scary because I'm afraid they'll get cut feet. Additionally, I don't understand why I can't bring my dogs onto the far north end of the beach where people never go. I like to walk them by the lake, and I always clean up after them, but even when we're the only ones on the beach, I've been shooed away from there by lifeguards.
 - I would use it more for dog walks if there was less broken glass everywhere and if there was a section of beach where I'm allowed to walk with my dogs. They like to wade in the lake.
- *Partnerships*
 - ETHOS would like to have someone from Rainbow's Advisory Council attend ETHOS mtgs
- *Communication*
 - Rainbow Beach is a beautiful park and facility; however, it [is] not being utilize[d] or promot[ed] enough. Due to the space provided, I don't see where the current leadership is marketing it well
 - I never know of any events happening there..
 - There is need for residents awareness about how to get involved.

Is there anything preventing you from using the park?

- Overcrowded and crime
- Sometimes the weather.
- Nothing
- No.
- NO
- Needs more security
- None
- Biking access and rack parking storage .
- Safety!
- No
- I am concerned about safety.
- Dogs unleashed.
- distance.
- I live far away
- There needs to be enforcement of park rules
- Security is the biggest factor, just feeling safe!
- Security. Paths are [too] dark. Dogs
- My family and I feel unsafe at the beach because of the people and also roaming dogs or unleashed dogs. The lack of some interesting activities prevent us from using the beach more (beach volleyball, outdoor exercise classes, etc.)
- Programs offered, cleanliness and safety
- Lack of information regarding upcoming activities at the park.
- I just need to get out more and see what the park has to offer
- Rainbow Beach is heavy in gang activity. Little to know security is offered by the park district to ensure families are safe while utilizing the park.
- Distance
- no
- It feels too isolated during morning and evening hours, actually most of the times. When it is use, it is often with a lot of young people who are not using it for good purposes.
- Lack of advertising
- Poor connectivity makes me visit it less often.
- No, it's just not appealing, the tennis courts are okay, otherwise nothing exciting about going to Rainbow Beach. No activities like jazz in the park, movies in the park, concerts, plays, dancing, adults programs. I live across the street from the park and I have to go to others parks in the city for these activities.
- Not really

Improvements?

- Again, more security, signage, safe bike trails, senior presence in the park with more activity (jazz concerts, vegetable sustainable gardens for the seniors and young people to learn about gardening). Farmer's Market on Wednesday and not Sunday, when people are at Church. More Movies in the park, Classes on bird watching, artist day etc.
- more access points and staff outside
- Biking access and rack parking storage
- Community vegetable gardening, part of the Farmers Market circuit

- I'd like to see a permanent soccer field and a limited access pollinator garden. I'd like to see additional playground equipment like what is behind South Shore High School.
- Separate lanes/paths for bikers and runner