

Chapter Three: Needs Assessment

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Background

This chapter documents the Washington Park District's apparent issues and needs at the time of this study. With this data, the planning team determined the types and quantities of facilities that are needed to satisfy the stated goals of the Recreation Department. The apparent issues and needs were identified during two days of stakeholder meetings with leadership from around the community as well as an online user survey advertised through social media and available at the Recreation Facility. This information was woven together with the analysis of the level of service data, service area maps, demographic characteristics and local trends.

Research

National Recreation Trends

The following data was derived from statistically valid surveys facilitated by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association with the Physical Activity Council and The Outdoor Foundation and will help inform the planning team's recommendations.

The Physical Activity Council (PAC) is a partnership of six major trade organizations in U.S. sports, fitness, and leisure activities. These organizations are the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), the National Golf Foundation (NGF), Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), the International Health, Racquet, and Sports Club Association (IHRSA), the Tennis Industry Association (TIA), the United States Tennis Association (USTA), and Snowsports Industries America (SIA).

The PAC produces an annual Sport, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report providing information on participation, inactivity, spending, aspirational participation, and projections. The 2017 report compiled and analyzed 24,134 online responses. These surveys were then weighted against the total national population of 296,251,344 ages 6 and older from the data collected in 2016. The following variables were used: gender, age, income, household size, region, population density, and panel join date. Other research incorporated in this chapter references the Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report, created by the Outdoor Foundation, in association with the Outdoor Industry Association. This annual report tracks American outdoor recreation trends with a focus on youth, diversity, and the future of the outdoors.

Sports and Fitness Participation

Leisure activity has fluctuated over the past six years with 2016 showing an overall increase in total activity but a decrease in the number or both active and casual participants. The majority of Americans prefer participating in fitness sports followed by outdoor sports, individual sports, team sports, water sports, racquet sports, and winter sports. Among these categories, participation rates in fitness, outdoor, racquet,





team and winter sports have increased over the past year. Individual and water sport participation decreased in 2016.

Activity participation is measured by core participation and growth. Core participants are defined as those who participate in a sport or activity on a regular basis. Based on core participation, the top ten activities in 2016 defined by the number of participants, are:

- Walking for Fitness (50+ times/year): 73.4M
- Hiking (1+ times/year): 42.1M
- Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights) (50+ times/year): 33.3M
- Treadmill (50+ times/year): 28.4M
- Camping within 1/4 mile of vehicle/home (1+ times/year): 26.5M
- Running/Jogging (50+ times/year): 25.6M
- Stretching/flexibility training/warm up/cool down/mobility (50+ times/year): 24.0M
- Weight/Resistance Machines (50+ times/year): 21.4M
- Wildlife Viewing more than 1/4 mile from Home/Vehicle (1+ times/year): 20.7M
- Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface) (26+ times/year): 19.1M

In addition to referencing the current most popular activities by measuring core participation, The Overview Report also lists the growth of activities over one-, three- and five-year periods. These predictions can be used to recognize ongoing recreation trends and predict future areas of growth. The top ten core growth activities over the past three years are:

- Stand Up Paddling (18.2%)
- Adventure Racing (17.4%)
- Mixed Martial Arts for Competition (17.2%)
- Cardio Tennis (11.5%)
- Squash (9.7%)
- Trail Running (8.1%)
- Boardsailing/Windsurfing (7.7%)
- Hiking (Day) (7.1%)
- Boxing for Competition (6.6%)
- Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering) (6.4%)

As evidenced by the above lists of activities, outdoor fitness-related activities are currently a popular form of recreation with four of the ten activities falling into this category based on the number of participants. Aerobics activities are also popular with three of the top ten items listed in this category. Growth trends, however, indicate a different, more diverse trend. The largest growth is occurring in individual sports (four activities in the top ten) with racquet sports, outdoor activities, and water sports each having two activities in the top ten growing activities.

These trends reveal that active people are increasingly looking for non-traditional health and recreation experiences that offer a fun physical, emotional and mental experience. While the largest amount of growth is being seen in less traditional sectors, class-based group fitness and exercise programs remain strong and are expected to grow in popularity, albeit at slower rates.

While many Americans enjoy watching team sports, both in-person and on television, they are increasingly disinterested in participating in them for their fitness needs. Ultimate frisbee and touch football had the largest decrease in participation over the past three years while other team sports including basketball, soccer, softball, wrestling, volleyball, and track and field are also declining. While team sports participation is declining as a whole, a few team sports are growing: rugby, roller hockey, and lacrosse.

Racquet sports such as squash, tennis, cardio tennis, and pickleball have maintained popularity over the last three years. Pickleball, in particular, is a trend to watch, as it has been growing in popularity in the recreation industry but was overtaken in 2016 by cardio tennis in growth and had nearly equal participation.

The above findings are confirmed by the Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends for 2017 which conducts an annual international survey among practitioners in the commercial, clinical, community and corporate fitness industries. In their predictions for 2017, the majority of activities in the top ten and the top 20 could be described as fitness related, while other trends can be classified as outdoor sports or technology. 17 of the top 20 trends reported remained from the previous year but worksite health promotion, smartphone exercise apps, and outcomes measured all moved out of the top 20 trends for 2018. The top ten trends for 2017 are:

- High-intensity interval training (HIIT uses short bursts of high-intensity exercise followed by short recoveries)
- Group training (motivational, instructor lead classes of five or more people)
- Wearable technology (activity trackers, smart watches, heart rate monitors, GPS trackers, and smart eyeglasses)
- Body weight training (uses minimal equipment for cost savings)
- Strength training (common but limited to using weights, strength training is often incorporated into comprehensive exercise routines)
- Educated, certified, and experienced fitness professionals (training by third-party accredited exercise professionals)
- Yoga (utilizes a series of specific bodily postures for health and relaxation)
- Personal training (services provided by professionals with proper education, training, and credentials)
- Fitness programs for older adults (older, retired adults are increasingly healthier than previous generations and interested in participating in safe, age-appropriate exercise)
- Functional Fitness (uses strength training to improve balance, coordination, force, power, and endurance as applies to one's daily functions)

Outdoor Sports and Participation

According to the Outdoor Foundation 2017 Topline Report, almost half the U.S. population (48.6%) participated in one or more outdoor sport or activity. These 144 million people went on a reported total of 11 billion outings over the course of the year. While these numbers reflect an overall increase in participation, the total number of outings declined as individuals went on fewer outings each. Compared to previous years, outdoor sports participation has increased. The largest increase last year compared to all other outdoor sports has been in BMX biking while stand up paddling has had the most growth over the last three years. Running, jogging, and trail running has continued to be the most popular activity by participation for several years.

Across all age groups, running, jogging and trail running remained the top form of outdoor outings by both participation rates and frequency. Bicycling and fishing were also among the top five activities for all ages. The most popular activities for youth (age 6-24) determined by participation rates were:

- Running, jogging, and trail running (25.3% or 20.3M)
- Bicycling (road, mountain, and BMX) (22.6% or 18.2M)
- Fishing (fresh, salt, and fly)(19.5% or 15.6M)
- Camping (car, backyard, and RV) (19.0% or 15.3M)
- Hiking (15.5% or 12.5M)

The favorite activities for adults, based on the frequency of participation, were running, jogging and trail running, bicycling, fishing, skateboarding, and camping. For adults (age 25+), the most popular activities by participation rates were:

- Running, jogging, and trail running (14.8% or 32.0M)
- Fishing (fresh, salt, and fly)(14.6% or 31.5M)
- Hiking (13.7% or 29.7M)
- Bicycling (road, mountain, and BMX) (12.8% or 27.7M)
- Camping (car, backyard, and RV) (11.7% or 25.2M)

The top five favorite adult activities based on the frequency of participation were running, jogging, and trail running, bicycling, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing.

Three-year growth trends indicated that the following ten activities have seen increasing participation and will likely continue to provide opportunities to engage more people in the future:

- Stand up paddling
- BMX bicycling
- Skiing (cross-country)
- Adventure racing
- Kayak fishing
- Board sailing/windsurfing
- Trail Running\
- Triathlon (traditional/road)
- Hiking (day)
- Climbing (traditional/ice/mountaineering)

Three-year trends also identified ten activities with declining participation in the last three years. In order of largest to smallest decrease, they are:

- Birdwatching more than 1/4 mile from Home/Vehicle
- Running/Jogging
- Snowshoeing
- Wakeboarding
- Rafting
- Camping within 1/4 mile from Vehicle/Home
- Bicycling (road/paved surface)
- Wildlife viewing more than 1/4 mile from Home/Vehicle
- Scuba Diving
- Canoeing

Engaging Inactives

An “inactive” person is defined by the Physical Activity Council as one who does not participate in any of the sports/activities covered in the PAC Overview Report. In the past year, 8.1 million Americans or 27.5% of the population, were inactive. This reflects an increase in activity from last year with 0.2 million people becoming active. By age group, 6-12 year-olds are the most active and activity among 13-17 year-olds has risen to nearly the same levels. Of the eight age groups, only 35-44 year-olds saw a decrease in the percent of the active population from 2015 to 2016. Americans over 65 have the largest rates of inactivity, reflecting the trend that people generally become less active as they age.

In order to understand how to engage inactives in sports and activities, the PAC survey lists “aspirational” activities that inactives are interested in participating in. For all age groups under 65, camping is within the top three aspirational activities. Swimming for fitness and bicycling are also listed in the top ten for every age group and both are within the top five activities for all groups over the age of 12.

For inactives 6-12, other activities of interest focus on team sports such as football, soccer and team swimming. As Americans age, interest in outdoor sports such as hiking, fishing, and backpacking grows

as does working out with weights and machines. Adults 65 and older list bird watching/wildlife viewing followed by fishing as their top aspirational activities. Hiking and camping are also within the top ten activities for this age group resulting in four of the ten items focused on outdoor activities for seniors.

Active adults, as well as inactive, are interested in social programs and sports leagues as well as active recreation. Active Network recommends the following activities for adult recreation programs:

- Sports - Broomball, Inner Tube Water Polo, Pickleball, Wallyball
- Exercise - Zumba Gold, Dance Buffet, Kettlebells, Outdoor FitnessTechnology - Beginner's Guide to iPad, Social Media, Digital Photography
- Entertainment - Karaoke, Improv, Murder Mystery Dinners, Speed Dating, Wii for Seniors
- Art - Cooking, Drawing/Painting, Jewelry Making, Mixed Media Arts, Pottery, Quilting
- Professional/Other - Languages, Estate Planning, Self-Publishing, Brain Fitness, Voice-Overs, Memoirs

Many agencies are "branding" their active adult programs for younger populations than the traditional senior. Two local examples include Schaumburg Park District's *Club 55* and *50 Plus!* at the Champaign Park District.

Illinois Recreation Trends

Data from the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is used to compare Park District Data to other recreation providers in the state of Illinois.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared as a five-year document by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to maintain Illinois' eligibility to participate in the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program). Its purpose is to "evaluate the outdoor recreation needs of Illinois citizens and determine how best to meet those needs". The state's natural resources, recreational lands, facilities, and socioeconomic factors are considered in this vision document.

A major finding in the 2015-2019 SCORP is the state's long-standing deficit of outdoor recreation lands and facilities. While Illinois has not been able to achieve the per capita equivalent of other states with more lands and fewer people, park and recreation agencies throughout the state consistently plan for and achieve a high level of excellence with the recreation opportunities they provide to their communities.

Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory

There are more than 1.5 million acres of outdoor recreation land in Illinois ranging from federal and state lands to schools and private commercial lands. Municipal agencies, which include park and recreation departments, park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts, and county-level park departments, provide a total of 350,915 acres of park sites. They also own 195,753 acres of natural areas and lease/manage another 15,612 acres of open space.

The state itself offers 470,000 acres of open space throughout the state, primarily handled by the IDNR. State lands include parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas and recreation areas to name a few. Federal lands include the 280,000 acre Shawnee National Forest and seven National Wildlife Refuges sites throughout the state. Other providers include schools, non-profits and private entities that provide unique outdoor recreation opportunities for the people of Illinois. The lands managed by these providers were not included in the SCORP.

Based on the 2015 Illinois Community Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory, there are approximately 347.08 acres and 17.9 park sites on average per community throughout the state. Typically, park districts provide more acreage and park sites than city/village recreation agencies.

Top trends across the state are pickleball, disc golf, and splash pads. The increasing popularity of pickleball is in response to aging populations found in all communities across the state, while the popularity of splash pads is in response to the financial constraints of outdoor swimming pool renovations. The popularity of disc golf demonstrates a growing preference for alternative outdoor recreation activities. Footgolf is another example of an alternative outdoor recreation activity that has increased as golf course owners look for new uses for their assets.

Top Activities

The top activities identified by the IDNR community-wide survey were pleasure walking and observing wildlife/bird watching. Picnicking, using a playground, on-road bicycling, and swimming at outdoor pools were also among the most prevalent activities for Illinois residents. Activities with lower participation numbers include lacrosse, pickleball, snowmobiling, trapping, in-line skating, sailing, and cross-country skiing. Reasons for some sports having lower participation rates may include smaller interest groups, lack of an available facility, or that the trend is still growing, like pickleball.

According to the survey, city parks or county preserves are used most for visiting an amphitheater or band shell, softball/baseball, lacrosse, soccer, and mountain biking. State parks are used most for tent camping, vehicle camping, hiking, motor boating, and water skiing. Federal lakes or forests are primarily used for sailing, water skiing, and motor boating. Hunting is the most prevalent reason residents visit private areas for recreation.

Attitudes About Outdoor Recreation

Respondents were asked to rate the various factors they considered to be important when making decisions about engaging in outdoor recreation opportunities. Top contributing factors to respondent's decisions to participate in outdoor recreation activities include exercise/health, experience nature, have fun, and spend time with family and friends.

Survey respondents indicated that the primary role of parks and recreation facilities for Illinois communities should be to preserve open space. Other primary roles include making the community more desirable, improving fitness, enhancing a sense of place, and increasing property values. Most (56.3%) respondents believe that local, state and federal open space and recreation agencies are underfunded. The top two priorities for providers in the state are the operation and maintenance of existing park facilities and long-term planning and management. The most important items in terms of park and open space development are recreational facility variety, followed closely by camping, trails, fishing, and boating facilities. Regional and community trails are also important to approximately 80% of respondents.

Outdoor Recreation Priorities

Priorities identified by the IDNR are listed in the 2015-2019 State of Illinois SCORP as:

- Healthy people and communities
- Access to outdoor recreation
- Natural resource stewardship
- Conservation education
- Cooperative partnerships

Local Trends

Trend information was derived from the Environmental Science Research Institute (ESRI) Sports and Leisure Market Potential Report.

This data is based on national inclination to use various products and services, applied to the local demographic composition of the Washington Park District. Usage data was collected by Growth for Knowledge Mediamark Research and Intelligence, LLC. (GfK MRI) in a national survey that was representative of U.S. households. Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the relative likelihood of the adults in specific areas to exhibit certain consumer behaviors or purchasing patterns compared to the U.S. population as a whole. An MPI of 100 represents the U.S. average while numbers under 100 indicate a lower than average representation and numbers above 100 represent a higher than average representation

Based on projected population, the top ten recreational activities Washington Park District residents will participate in are:

- Walking for exercise (3,205)
- Attending sports events (2,283)
- Swimming (2,189)
- Fishing (fresh water) (1,702)
- Jogging / running (1,649)
- Hiking (1,579)
- Bicycling (road) (1,359)
- Bowling (1,322)
- Weight lifting (1,265)
- Basketball (986)

The number of MPIs over 100 for Washington Park District is typical of what the planning team typically finds in the Chicagoland region. Having 22 activities that score over 100 speaks to an active community which bodes well for future program expansion. With activities split between indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities, there are several areas in which the District can grow its parks and facilities.

Sports and Leisure Market Potential

*Participation in the last 12 months

Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of Adults/HHs	Percent	MPI
Participated in Frisbee	658	5.5%	133
Participated in golf	1,239	10.4%	121
Participated in bicycling (road)	1,359	11.4%	119
Participated in boating (power)	725	6.1%	119
Participated in target shooting	611	5.1%	118
Participated in ping pong	529	4.5%	118
Participated in bowling	1,322	11.1%	115
Attend sports events	2,283	19.2%	114
Participated in swimming	2,189	18.4%	114
Participated in canoeing/kayaking	880	7.4%	113
Participated in walking for exercise	3,205	27.0%	111
Participated in hiking	1,579	13.3%	110
Participated in softball	356	3.0%	109
Participated in football	561	4.7%	108
Participated in skiing (downhill)	384	3.2%	108
Participated in jogging/running	1,649	13.9%	107
Participated in weight lifting	1,265	10.7%	102
Participated in volleyball	398	3.4%	102
Participated in Pilates	338	2.8%	102
Participated in basketball	986	8.3%	101
Participated in aerobics	939	7.9%	101
Participated in ice skating	354	3.0%	100
Participated in bicycling (mountain)	470	4.0%	97
Participated in baseball	551	4.6%	96
Participated in backpacking	408	3.4%	96
Participated in horseback riding	249	2.1%	93
Participated in soccer	450	3.8%	92
Participated in yoga	836	7.0%	86
Participated in Zumba	376	3.2%	85
Participated in tennis	328	2.8%	79
Participated in rock climbing	133	1.1%	66

Demographic Analysis

The demographic analysis has implications for the services provided to residents by the Washington Park District. Some of these include the following areas:

- The community is dominated by family households indicating a need to target family unit needs for programs and facilities, not just targeting the individual program user.
- There is a good balance of age ranges trending towards aging-in-place. This indicates opportunities for cross-generational activities as well as a growing active adult and senior market.
- Continuing growth of minority populations indicates opportunities to provide unique cultural offerings and the potential need for additional support services.

Needs Input Phase

Stakeholder Meetings

Focus groups were held with various interested stakeholders and Park District staff members. In addition, an online survey was distributed as a way of supplementing the focus groups.


The planning team conducted 5 Stakeholder Meetings held on November 13, 2018 consisting of representatives from the City of Washington, Athletic Groups, Community Groups, Local Schools, and the Trail Club. The team also attended the Rotary Club Meeting held on the same day. Participants were invited to these meeting by the Washington Park District and the Rotary Club Meeting was open to the public.

No presumptions or pre-conceived notions of outcome had been formulated prior to the meetings or shared with participants. Open, honest conversation was sought in response to the following focus questions:

- What are the best features of the Park District?
- What are the drawbacks of the Park District?
- Are there underserved age groups currently?
- What trends or features are missing from the system?
- What do you see elsewhere that is not present within your system?
- As community leaders, what is your vision for the Park District over the next five years?
- What planning efforts/projects are you working on?
- What projects would make sense to collaborate on?
- Are there any policy level discussions that we [the Park District] could assist with?

Participants were also encouraged to provide additional comments and suggestions beyond the scope of the focus questions. Meeting notes and attendance lists were taken for each group and have been included in their entirety in the appendix.





Stakeholders are largely satisfied with their relationships with the Park District.

Key Stakeholder Meeting Takeaways

Common threads and repeated elements emerged from the discussion and became the basis of initial priorities and helped to shape the questions for the user input survey. Categorized key takeaways included the following:

District-wide Strategies

- Every stakeholder group expressed satisfaction with their relationships with the Park District.
- Most stakeholders agree that the Park District provides a good variety of options to serve all age groups
 - Additional options may be needed for teens and seniors
- Community group stakeholders believe that the District should do more to advertise existing parks, facilities, programs, and accomplishments
- Multiple groups suggested a need for more volunteer labor

Recreation Programs

- Enrollment is strong for programs and other community activities with the exception of travel teams which are increasing.
- Stakeholders observed that Wednesday nights have the lowest participation
- One group suggested an expansion of events such as acquiring festival space
- The School District group strongly supports collaboration opportunities to introduce new programs for extracurricular education and intramural sports

Existing Parks and Facilities

- Several groups believe there is a need for better restroom and concession facilities.
- Other suggestions for improving existing amenities include:
 - Adding sports field lighting
 - Improving trail wayfinding and route signage
- Multiple groups expressed interest in adding green and native elements to the parks
 - Consider integrating stormwater basins with park land
 - Provide nature focused activities

New Parks and Facilities

- No single new amenity was suggested by multiple stakeholders. Individuals suggested adding:
 - Sports courts and fields in an indoor recreation center
 - More baseball/softball fields
 - Pickleball courts
 - A skatepark
 - A mountain bike park
 - Additional parking

Trails

- Multiple stakeholders commented that the recent trail system expansion is beneficial
- Multiple stakeholders would like to continue to expand the system considering connecting to regional systems, connecting to neighboring municipality's trails, and adding shared road opportunities.

Community Input - User Survey

A web-based survey was conducted to understand the community's perception of the Washington Park District and identify the resident's top priorities. The survey was advertised on the District's social media pages and hardcopy versions of the survey were also made available at the Park District Administrative office for those without computer access.

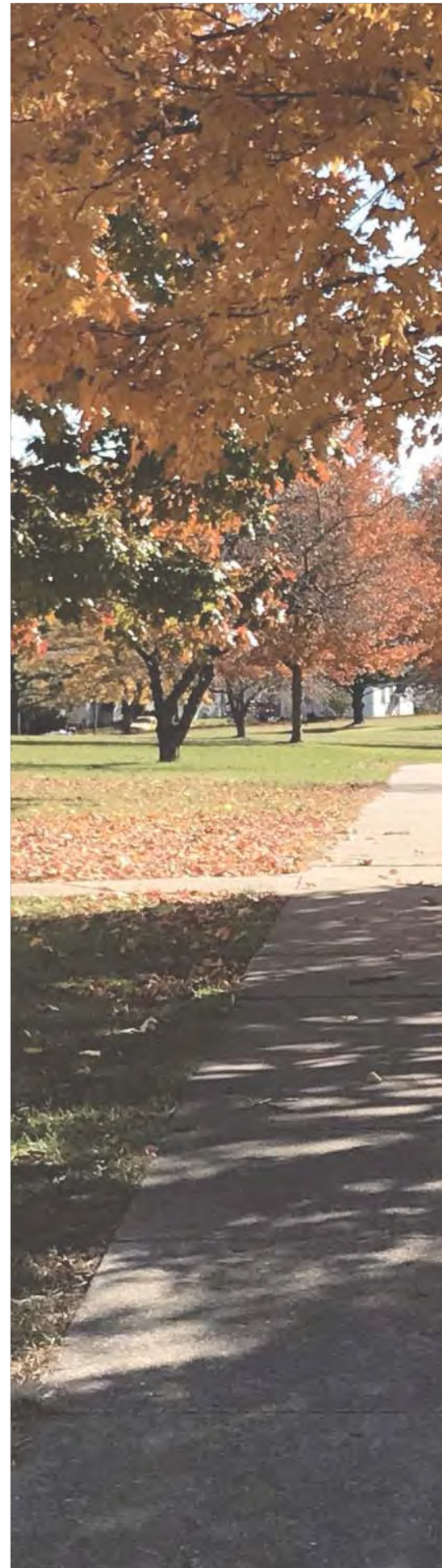
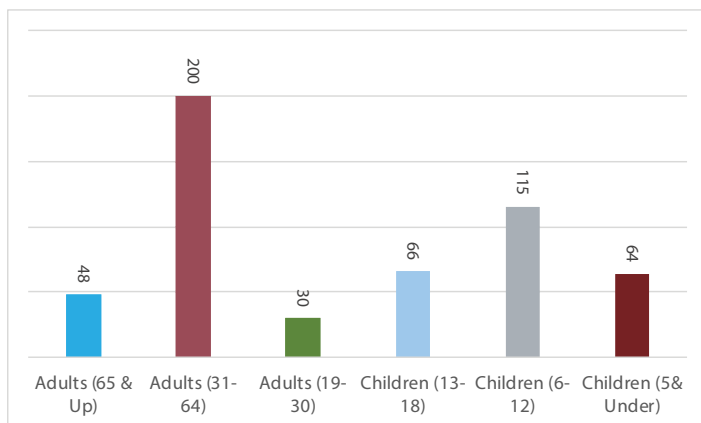
The Community Survey questions and results are located on the following page and can be found in their entirety in the Appendix. The survey consisted of nine multiple choice and ranking questions with open responses opportunities. In total, 329 people completed the survey either online, or by submitting a paper copy to the Park District. The purpose of this survey was to supplement the in-person stakeholder meetings and reach a larger community group. The survey was available to the public but limited access to one response per IP address. It did not produce statistically valid results.

Survey Demographics

Participants were asked to provide the number of people within each age range within their household to assist in making sure all age groups were accounted for. A broad range of ages were recorded, providing further confidence in the results. Of those, the largest population represented was adults between ages 31-64, followed by children between the ages of 6-12. Despite the large population of senior aged 65+ reported by ESRI data, this group was the second lowest represented age group in the online survey. It may be necessary to conduct further outreach to residents within and approaching this age range.

The following graph shows the total number of people in each age group reported in the online survey. Additional results can be found on the following pages under question 9.

Population by Age Group Reported in Online Survey





Survey Toplines

Common threads and repeated elements emerged from the survey and have been noted below without prioritization. Categorized key topline included the following:

- 42% of respondents indicated that they visited WPD parks once per week or more.
- Participants were the most satisfied with Harry LaHood Park. About 50% of those who visited report no changes needed and 0% felt the need for major improvements.
- Respondents were the least satisfied with Recreation Facility Park.
- Grant Park was the least visited by survey participants, 90% did not visit in the last 12 months.
- The most popular use of Park District Resources is to update existing park amenities (44% of respondents) and to develop parks that have no amenities (34% of respondents)
- When averaged, the five park amenities that were ranked as the most important were: sled hill, Recreation Facility improvements/renovations, improved parking, indoor court/gym space and multi-purpose trails.
- Despite very few residents reporting being unsatisfied with the Park District programs, none had participation above 50%.
- When averaged, survey participants were more interested in attending festivals and events than other programs.
- Over 50% of participants fully support further developing and expanding multi-purpose recreation trails.
- Almost 80% of respondents prefer to digital communications including e-mail (39%), social media (25%), and website posts (15%)

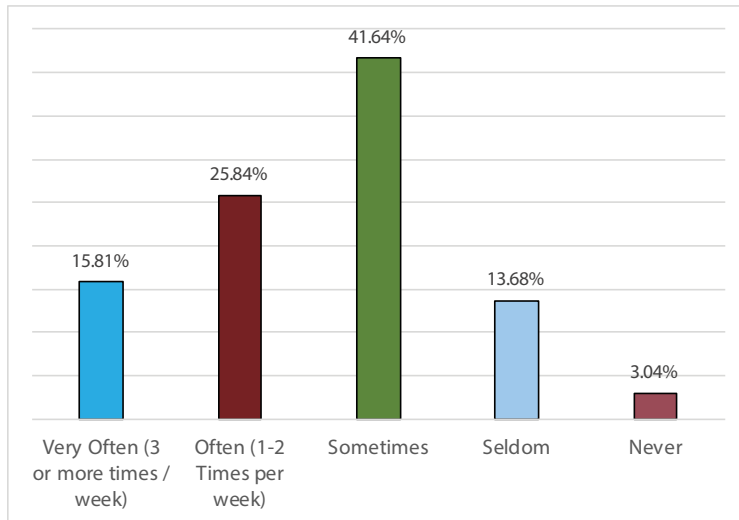
Survey Common Comments

Common threads were also found among the open response comments left by participants. The most frequently heard comments without prioritization were:

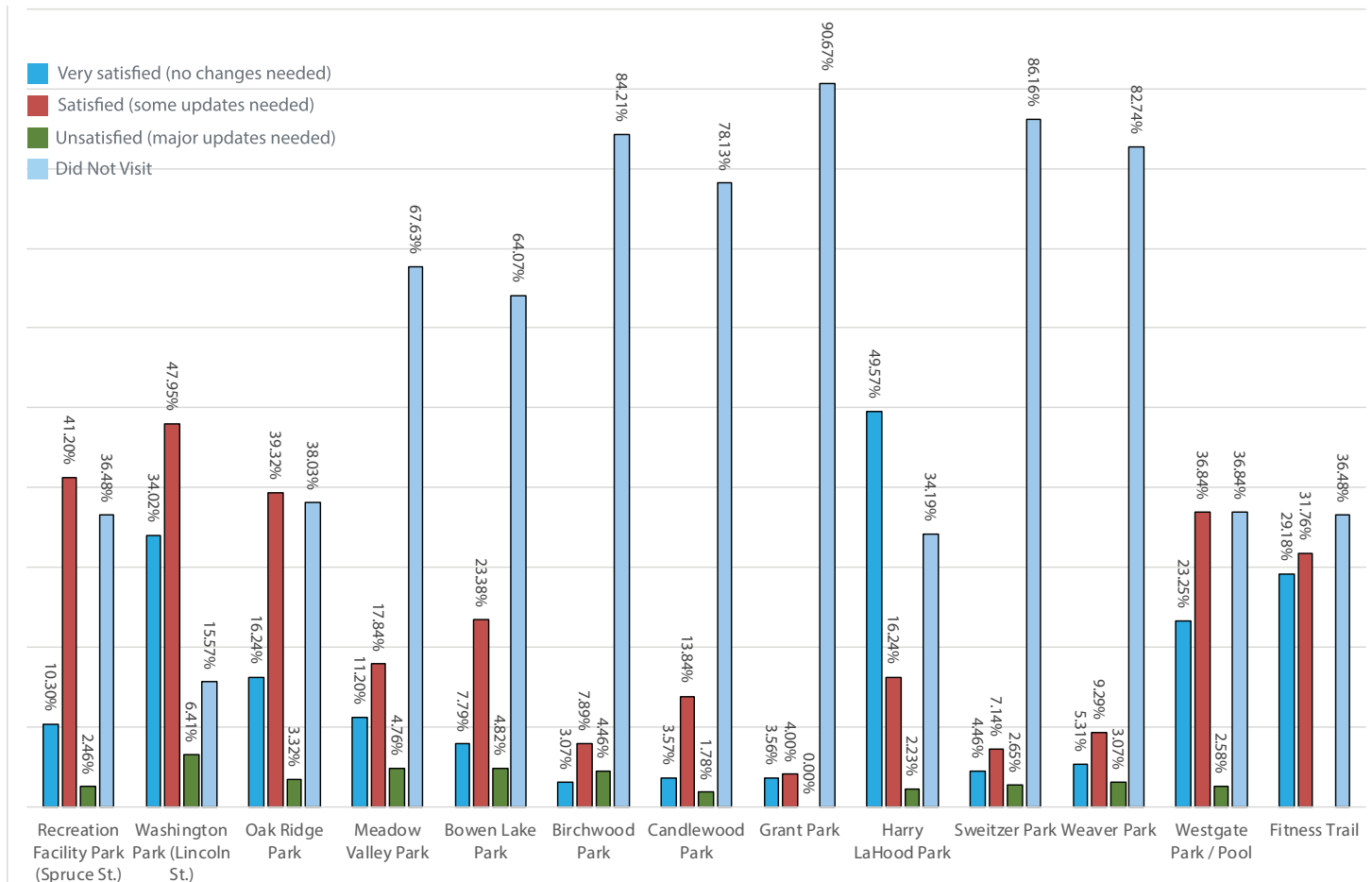
- There is a need for more restrooms and better maintenance of existing restroom facilities
- Continue to expand and improve the trail system
- There is a need for indoor courts and fields, consider indoor turf
- General park and facility maintenance should be a priority

Survey Responses

1. On average, how often do you visit a Washington Park District Facility



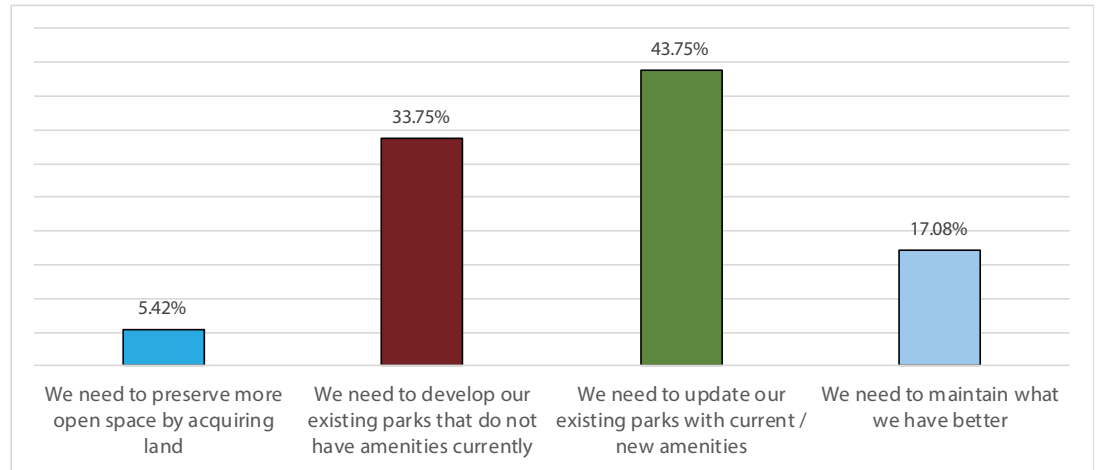
2. Which Washington Park District Facilities have you or your family visited in the last 12 months and how satisfied were you with the facilities?



Comments:

Participants expressed desire for new restroom buildings in certain parks, keeping existing restroom buildings cleaner, making parking improvements and improved access at Oak Ridge Park. They also expressed concern over the condition of the deck at Bowen Lake, expressed desire for new trail connections, upkeep/repair of existing trails, and noted need for new or replacement play equipment for specific parks (notably Westgate Park, Birchwood Park, and Candlewood Park.)

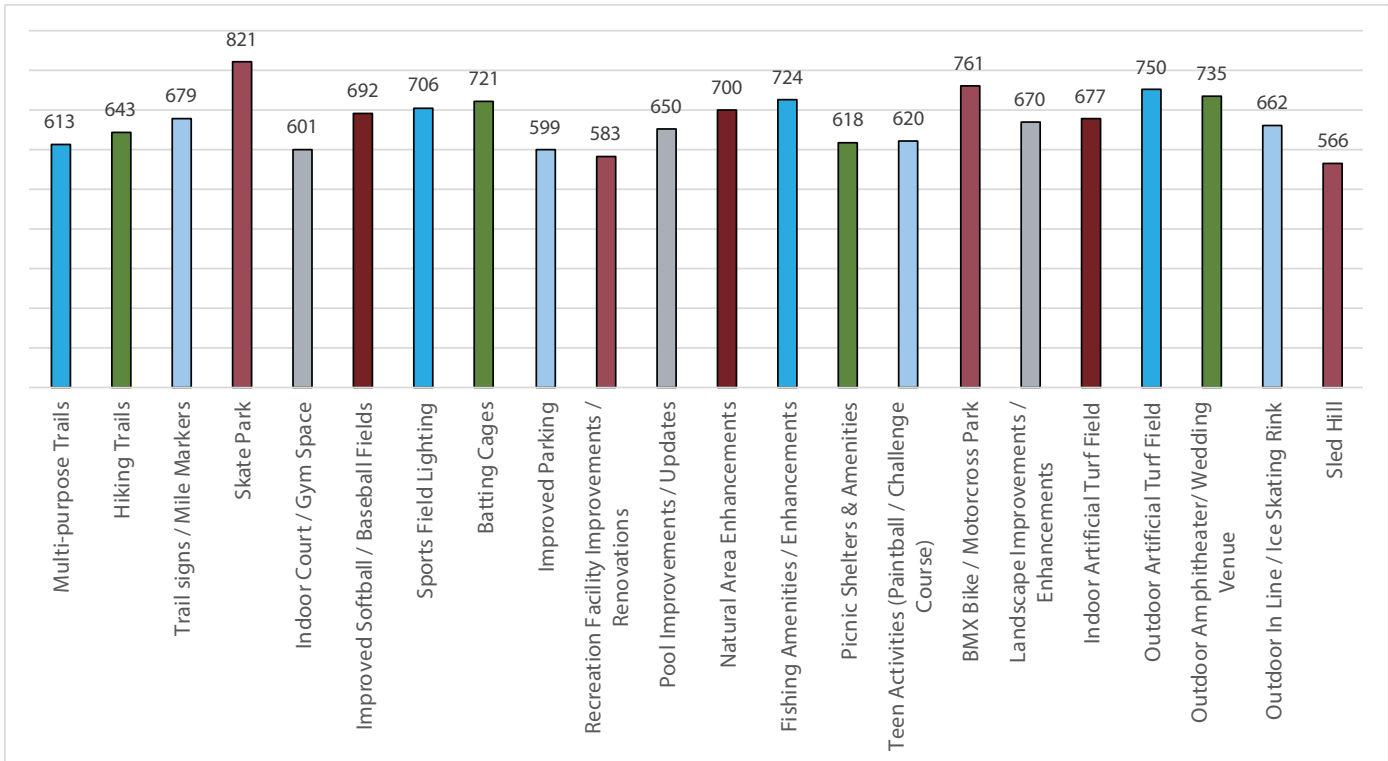
3. Which of the following most closely describes your opinion about park development (presume that no new sources of revenue are sought)?



Comments:

Participants echoed desires for new restroom buildings at and new or replacement equipment at various parks. The addition of indoor practices courts/fields was noted repeatedly as well as general park upkeep while maintaining existing amenities

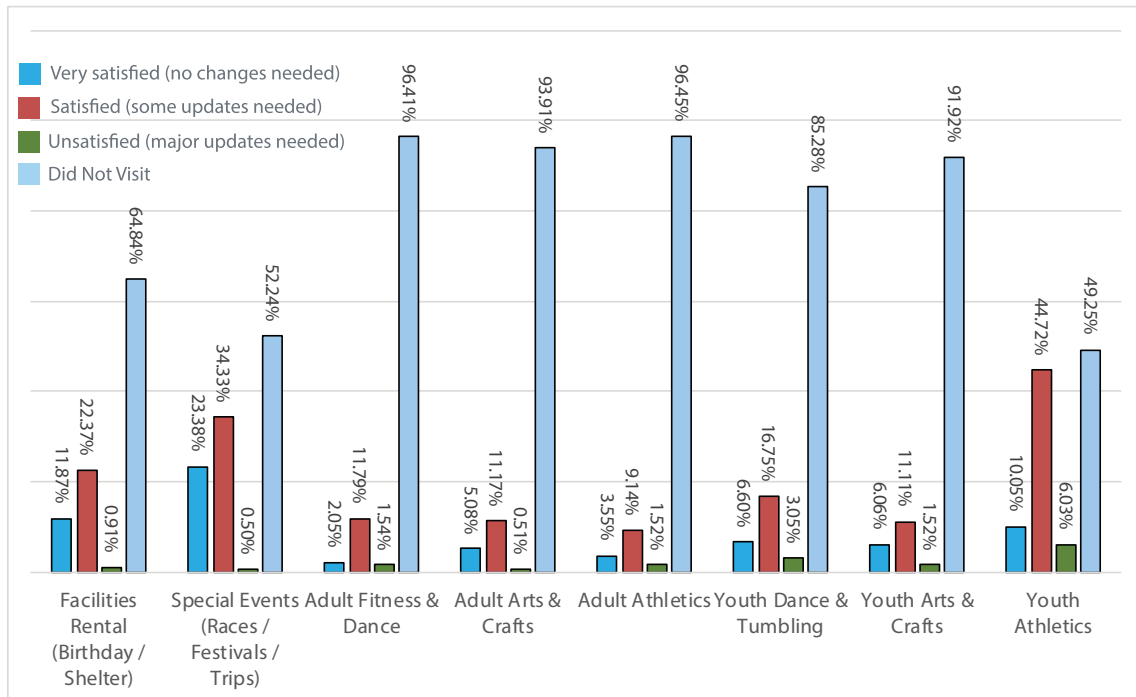
4. On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being most important, please tell us how important the following potential improvements to facilities would be to you and your family? The ranked importance for each improvements was determined by averaging the ranked scores where the lowest number indicates the most important improvements.



Comments:

Participants noted desire for indoor facilities/turf fields multiple times and general park maintenance/upkeep mentioned frequently as well. Various new amenities were suggested such as: pickleball courts, batting cages, and an ice rink, among others.

5. In what recreation programs have you or your family participated over the last 12 months and how satisfied were you with the program?

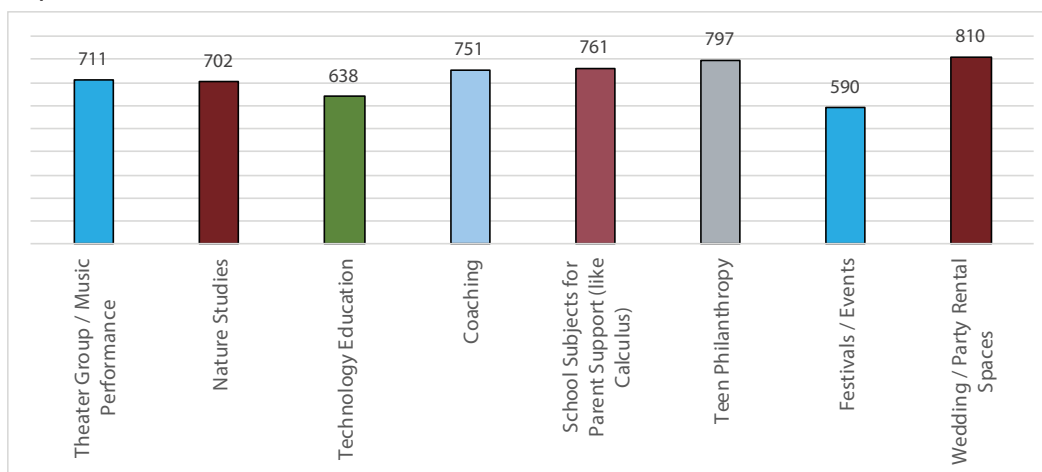


Comments:

Participants note utilizing other local town's youth sports & activity offerings, a need for incentivizing/compensating youth coaches, cost of various programs, and current offerings not aligning with family schedules for reasons why programs are not currently being utilized.

6. On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being most interested, please tell us how interested you and your family would be in the following potential programs.

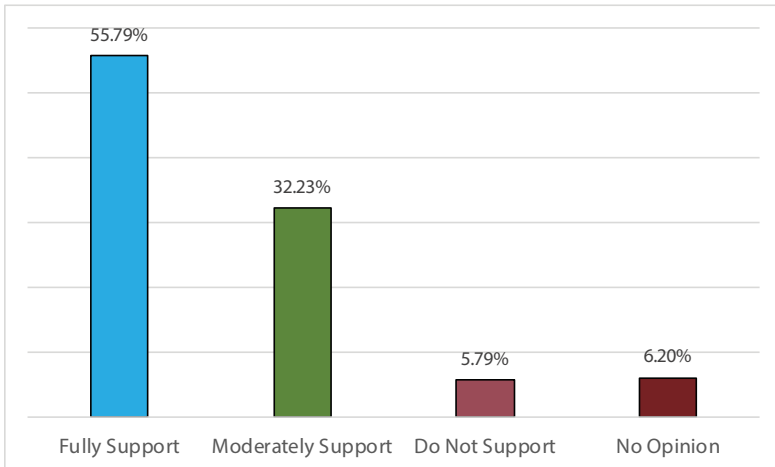
The ranked importance for each improvements was determined by averaging the ranked scores where the lowest number indicates the most important improvements.



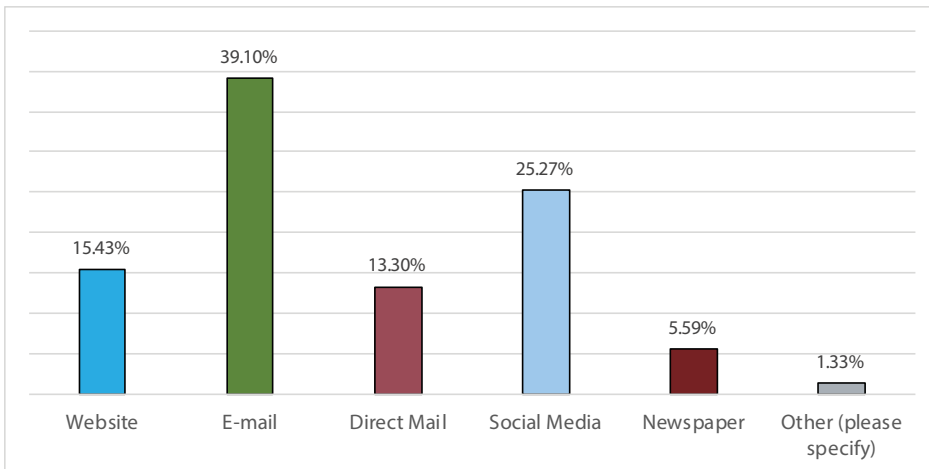
Comments:

Participants note desire for outdoor music/festival venue and for various social gathering opportunities.

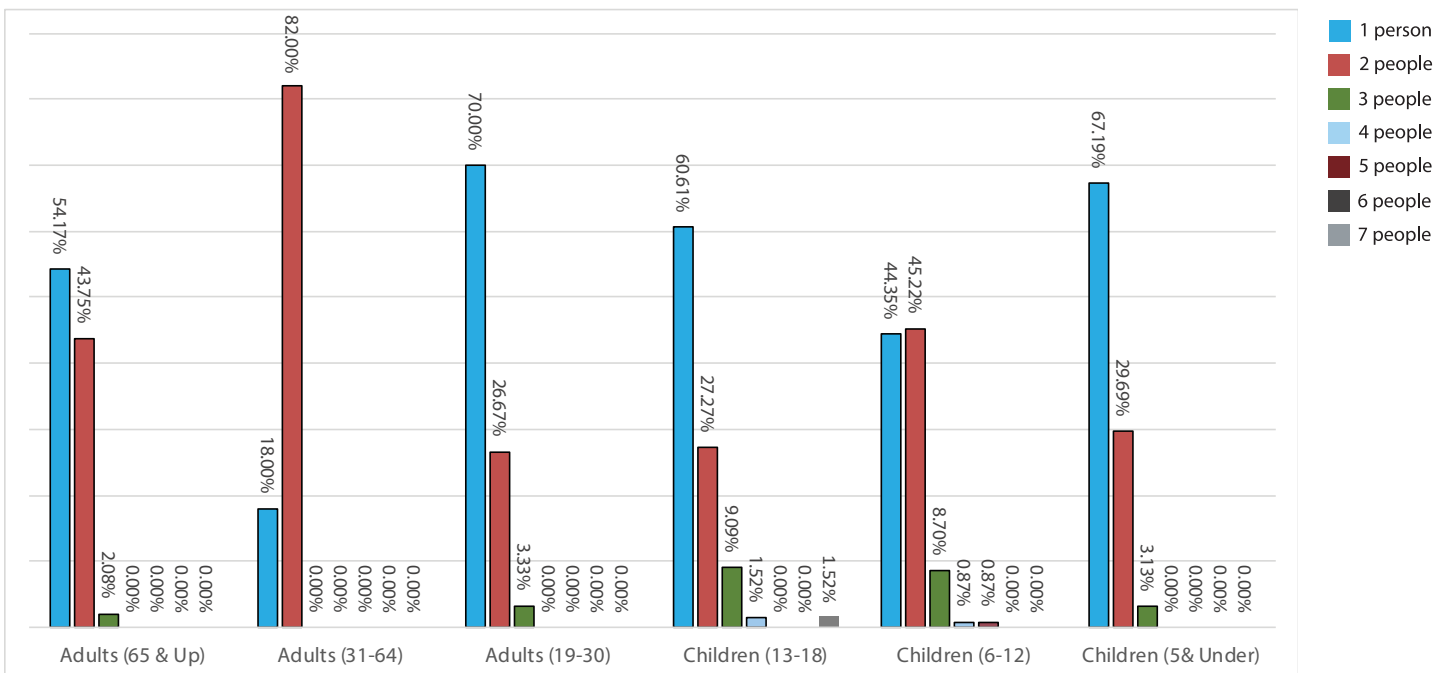
7. Would you support the further development of interconnected multi-purpose recreation trails throughout the district and potential regional trail connections?



8. What is the best way for the Washington Park District to communicate with you?



9. Please help us to make sure we have heard from everyone by indicating the number of each age group in your household (optional):



Community User Survey Template

The Washington Park District is updating their Systemwide Comprehensive Plan to re-evaluate all of their parks and facilities and make recommendations for priorities moving into the future. Your input about what is important to you and your family is critical to the success of the process. Please take just a few minutes to answer the following questions to the best of your ability and return your completed survey to the Washington Park District at 105 S. Spruce St.

You may also complete a survey online by visiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WPDCompPlanUpdate2019>
The survey will remain available until December 23, 2018. Thanks in advance for your time and thoughtful answers.

1. On average, how often do you visit a Washington Park District Facility?

Very Often (3 or more times / week)	Often (1-2 Times per week)	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Which Washington Park District Facilities have you or your family visited in the last 12 months and how satisfied were you with the facilities?

	Very satisfied (no changes needed)	Satisfied (some updates needed)	Unsatisfied (major updates needed)	Did Not Visit
Recreation Facility Park (Spruce St.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Washington Park (Lincoln St.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Oak Ridge Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meadow Valley Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bowen Lake Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Birchwood Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candlewood Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grant Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harry LaHood Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sweitzer Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weaver Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Westgate Park / Pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fitness Trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other / Comments:

3. Which of the following most closely describes your opinion about park development (presume that no new sources of revenue are sought)?

We need to preserve more open space by acquiring land	We need to develop our existing parks that do not have amenities currently	We need to update our existing parks with current / new amenities	We need to maintain what we have better
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being most important, please tell us how important the following potential improvements to facilities would be to you and your family:

	1	2	3	4	5
Multi-purpose Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hiking Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trail signs / Mile Markers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skate Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor Court / Gym Space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved Softball / Baseball Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports Field Lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Batting Cages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved Parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Facility Improvements / Renovations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pool Improvements / Updates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural Area Enhancements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing Amenities / Enhancements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 4. (Continued)

	1	2	3	4	5
Picnic Shelters & Amenities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen Activities (Paint ball / Challenge Course)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BMX Bike / Motocross Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Landscape Improvements / Enhancements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor Artificial Turf Field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Artificial Turf Field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Amphitheater / Wedding Venue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor In Line / Ice Skating Rink	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other / Comments:					

5. In what existing recreation programs have you or your family participated over the last 12 months and how satisfied were you with the program?

	Very satisfied (no changes needed)	Satisfied (some updates needed)	Unsatisfied (major updates needed)	Did Not Visit
Facilities Rental (Birthday / Shelter)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special Events (Races / Festivals / Trips)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Fitness & Dance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Arts & Crafts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Athletics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Dance & Tumbling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Arts & Crafts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Athletics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other / Comments:				

6. On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the most interested, please tell us how interested you and your family would be in the following potential programs:

	1	2	3	4	5
Theater Group/ Music Performance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature Studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technology Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coaching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School Subjects for Parent Support (like Calculus)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen Philanthropy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Festivals / Events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wedding / Party Rental Spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other / Comments:					

7. Would you support the further development of interconnected multi-purpose recreation trails throughout the district and potential regional trail connections?

Fully Support	Moderately Support	Do Not Support	No Opinion
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. What is the best way for the Washington Park District to communicate with you?

Website	Email	Direct Mail	Social Media	Newspaper	Other (specify)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

9. Please help us to make sure we have heard from everyone by indicating the number of each age group in your household (optional):

Adults (65 & Up)	Adults (31-64)	Adults (19-30)	Children (13-18)	Children (6-12)	Children (5 & Under)