



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2027-'31



BARRIE PARK



CHENEY MANSION



OAK PARK CONSERVATORY

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Chris Wollmuth, President

Jake Worley-Hood, Vice President

Ade Onayemi, Treasurer

Kassie Porreca, Secretary

Sandy Lentz, Commissioner

Principal Staff

Jan Arnold, Executive Director

Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations

Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation

Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement

Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Properties and Planning

Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture and Conservatory Operations

Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources

Mike Baiardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities

Nelson Acevedo, Director of Parks and Facilities

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HISTORY OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT	4
2027-2031 OVERVIEW	6
PURPOSE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	6
SELECTION AND ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS	7
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING SOURCES	7
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENDITURES BY TYPE	9
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE	10
PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES BY LOCATION	11
SCHEDULE OF SITE MASTER PLANS AND IMPROVEMENTS	12
PARK AND CENTER IMPROVEMENTS	
ANDERSEN PARK AND CENTER	14
AUSTIN GARDENS	16
BARRIE PARK AND CENTER	17
CARROLL PARK AND CENTER	19
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER	21
CHENEY MANSION	22
DOLE CENTER	24
EUCLID SQUARE PARK	25
FIELD PARK AND CENTER	26
FOX PARK AND CENTER	27
GYMANSTICS AND RECREATION CENTER	28
HEDGES ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER	29
LINDBERG PARK	30
LONGFELLOW PARK AND CENTER	32
MAPLE PARK	34
MILLS PARK AND PLEASANT HOME	35
OAK PARK CONSERVATORY	37
RANDOLPH PARK	39
REHM PARK AND POOL	40
RIDGELAND COMMON RECREATION COMPLEX	42
SCOVILLE PARK	45
STEVENSON PARK AND CENTER	46
TAYLOR PARK	48
WENONAH PARK	49
NON-SITE SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS	50
APPENDIX	
COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN	52
2023 COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY FINDINGS	219
PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE	316

HISTORY OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

The Park District of Oak Park has had a long and proud history of acquiring and developing green space and offering recreation opportunities for the residents of Oak Park. Established in 1912, the five elected commissioners who made up the first Park Board purchased the land now known as Scoville Park for \$135,637. This park, designed by Jens Jensen, an internationally renowned landscape architect, remains the “Village Green” today having been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior on November 21, 2002. It is the site of the World War I monument unveiled on November 11, 1925, in the presence of General C.G. Dawes, Vice-President of the United States.

Most of the land now owned by the Park District of Oak Park was purchased during the first two decades of the Park District’s existence. The main use of this property was for passive recreational activities. A conservatory was erected in 1929, supplying flowers for the community flower beds as well as hosting seasonal flower shows, which are still held today. The Oak Park Conservatory was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior on March 8, 2005.

In 1918, a “Small Parks Commission” was appointed by the Village Board to ensure that Oak Park children had a place to “enjoy and practice organized outdoor sports.” They became the Oak Park Playground Board in 1920, and began to levy a tax in 1921, to “equip, construct, and maintain playgrounds.” This Board went on to purchase land for playgrounds and eventually built neighborhood centers, named after prominent children’s authors, where organized recreation programs were provided. At the National Recreation Congress in October 1926, Oak Park won national recognition for programs such as the “Boys’ Playground Band”, a “Shelter House Design Contest” won by Oak Parker John S. Van Bergen, “Murals Contest”, “Junior Art Museum”, “Library on Wheels”, as well as playground landscaping and beautification. Mr. Van Bergen designed many of the neighborhood recreation centers built by the Playground Commission.

In 1939, the Park District bought the property now known as Mills Park from the Herbert Mills Family. Historic Pleasant Home, designated as a historic landmark in 1972, is located on this property. In 1947, the Henry W. Austin Family donated Austin Gardens to the Park District. Sometimes referred to as “the secret garden”, this beautiful park has been home to Festival Theatre since 1975, the Midwest’s oldest professional theatre devoted to outdoor performances of the classics. Cheney House (now known as Cheney Mansion) was presented as a gift to the Park District in 1975, although it remained the private residence of Elizabeth Cheney until her death in 1985. Cheney Mansion was designed by Charles E. White, Jr. in 1913, and boasts many handsome reception rooms, six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and separate servants’ quarters. The two acres of beautifully-landscaped grounds also include a coach house and greenhouse.

For many years the Park District and Village Playground Commission operated side-by-side in serving the recreation needs of Oak Park residents when, in 1980, a new intergovernmental agreement merged the Recreation Department with the Park District. In 1990, the Park District became the sole provider of government-sponsored parks and recreation in Oak Park. At that time, the Park District assumed the operation and maintenance of the Village-owned recreation centers.

The voters of Oak Park successfully passed a referendum in April 2005, providing much needed funding to “Renew Our Parks,” and provide clear stewardship of the parks and recreation service for the residents of the Village. In 2006, the Village transferred the titles of five of the seven recreation centers to the Park District and a 99-year use lease for the two remaining centers has been established due to underground water reservoirs located on these properties. Master plans have been completed for all of the parks, and major renovation projects have been completed or are in progress.

THE 2027-2031 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is the fifteenth update of the original 2005-2010 CIP. The CIP is a five-year projection of planned improvements to the District's parks and facilities. The CIP provides a blueprint for spending priorities over a five-year period. The CIP is updated annually to ensure funding is available for needed capital improvements throughout the District during the next five years. No actual expenditures are made until they are included in the annual budget, which is reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners. Therefore, based on updated needs and priorities, the CIP is being updated on an annual basis.

The public has had ongoing opportunities for input on capital improvements through the site master plan processes. The public is also invited to provide comment at the beginning of every Board meeting and at the annual Public Hearing held before the budget is approved, or by contacting staff and Board members throughout the year. This CIP is made available to the public on the Park District web site, www.pdop.org, along with other planning, budgeting, and capital improvement information.

PURPOSE OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Continued investment in our parks and facilities is critical to the District's mission, which states, "In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities." Developing a long-range vision for park and recreation programs and services in our community has allowed the Park District of Oak Park to continue to provide the many individual, community, economic, and environmental benefits that enhance the quality of life and make our community a great place to work and play.

Capital items included in the CIP are projects that have a monetary value of at least \$5,000 with a useful life of at least three years. Examples of capital projects include construction, remodeling, purchase of parks, park fixtures, buildings, and vehicles, as well as related planning and engineering costs.

Appropriations for capital improvement items lapse at the end of the fiscal year but are re-budgeted and re-appropriated as needed until the project is completed or changed. The operating and maintenance costs for capital assets, once complete, are funded through the operating budget.

SELECTION AND ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital projects are developed through an extensive site planning process with input from many stakeholders including the community, user groups, other government entities and partners, staff, and the Board of Commissioners. A balanced approach to improvements in the District is used that takes into consideration a) the previous schedule of when the master plan was completed, b) the last time improvements were completed at a facility, c) location of the park in the community, attempting to ensure residents feel something is happening in their neighborhood geographically (south, central and north), d) grant opportunities, e) funding available compared to scope and size of project, f) staff resources, g) highest demand-greatest need determined the order of the projects, and h) scores that parks receive as part of the Park Report completed by staff on an annual basis.

Equipment and smaller scale capital projects may be submitted by Park District staff for review and consideration by the Executive Director and Board of Commissioners. Staff and Board meetings are held to discuss all projects, with the projects prioritized based on the District's mission, vision and values, department goals, and available funding. When requests exceed available funding in a given year, adjustments are made to scope, scheduling, or additional funding is sought. The effect of capital improvements on operating expenses is always an important consideration.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING SOURCES

The District has been improving its parks and facilities through various revenue sources; some of which include property taxes, grants, debt, and proceeds from fees and charges. Sources of revenue are identified property tax, grants, debt, or operating fund transfers from the Corporate, Recreation and/or Special Facilities Funds.

	<i>2025 Actual</i>	<i>2026 Estimate</i>	<i>2027 Projected</i>	<i>2028 Projected</i>	<i>2029 Projected</i>	<i>2030 Projected</i>	<i>2031 Projected</i>
Intergovernmental	\$80,208	\$637,500	\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Donations	\$0	\$475,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Property Tax Contribution	\$1,671,443	\$1,744,987	\$1,818,276	\$1,872,824	\$1,929,009	\$1,986,879	\$2,046,486
Operating Funds' Transfers	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Total Revenue	\$4,251,651	\$5,857,487	\$4,818,276	\$5,172,824	\$4,929,009	\$4,986,879	\$5,046,486

Property Tax

The 2005 referendum increase of 25 cents per \$100 in equalized assessed valuation in property taxes was split between operational needs and capital projects. Annually, the amount of property tax transferred to the capital projects fund is adjusted according to the increase in property tax revenue. For fiscal year 2026 the tax increase is 4.2%, so the property tax transfer for capital projects will also increase 4.2% to \$1,818,276. The 2027-2031 CIP assumes a 3% increase each year from 2028 – 2031.

Grants

The District has been fortunate to have received over \$12.5 million in grants from several sources over the last 16 years. The District has received one (1) grant for \$2.1m from PARC, eleven (11) grants totaling over \$4m from the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have been awarded to the District, three (3) grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for \$4.875m, and three (3) grants from Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for \$2.5 million at Austin Gardens, Carroll, and the CRC. The OSLAD grant is available for the purpose of acquiring, developing, and/or rehabilitating lands for public outdoor recreation purposes and requires a matching contribution from the Park District. The District has identified Longfellow Park as an OSLAD project for 2026. The District does not recognize revenue from grants until the award has been finalized and earned.

Debt Issues

The Board authorized issuing \$30 million in alternative revenue source general obligation bonds for major capital improvements in the District. The source of the alternative revenue to pay the debt service on these bonds will be the portion of the 2005 tax levy referendum proceeds dedicated for capital projects.

The District issued the bonds over three years in increments of \$10 million each. The bonds were for improvements at the Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex, Gymnastics and Recreation Center, and John Hedges Administrative Center. The first of the three planned \$10 million bond issues was sold on October 20, 2011, through a competitive sale monitored by the District's financial advisor, Speer Financial. The second \$10 million bond issue was sold on March 15, 2012, through a competitive sale. The third \$10 million bond issue was sold on February 21, 2013, through a competitive sale. In 2019 and 2020, all three bond series were successfully refunded for a total savings of approximately \$3 million. In 2021, the Park District also issued a \$6 million debt certificate to maintain the CIP schedule in the wake of the revenue impacts from COVID-19.

Operating Budget Transfer

Operating revenues generated mainly by non-tax sources are transferred to the capital improvement fund to accelerate the pace of capital improvements. These transfers are based on the District's fund balance policy which in part, states there to be a minimum fund balance for operational funds with amounts over the minimum transferred to the CIP for capital improvements.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

Expenditures or projects are identified by location and type. Types of expenditures are specific to improvements such as, vehicle and technology improvements, studies and surveys, and/or master plan improvements. Some allocations represent best estimates of what a specific item, such as a replacement fire alarm system, will cost. Such cost estimates are made based on estimates provided from the site master plans and are updated based on current construction costs adjusted for inflation.

	<i>2025 Actual</i>	<i>2026 Estimate</i>	<i>2027 Projected</i>	<i>2028 Projected</i>	<i>2029 Projected</i>	<i>2030 Projected</i>	<i>2031 Projected</i>
Surveys and Planning	\$11,450	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$105,000	\$300,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Non-site specific	\$291,654	\$50,000	\$275,000	\$775,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Community Recreation Center	\$160,371	\$526,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$100,000	\$70,000	\$260,000
Vehicle/Tech/Equipment	\$129,486	\$191,000	\$375,000	\$395,000	\$365,000	\$182,000	\$210,000
Park/Master Improvements	\$4,984,559	\$8,390,209	\$4,400,000	\$1,965,000	\$2,705,000	\$4,135,000	\$4,330,000
Total Expenses	\$5,577,520	\$9,232,209	\$5,195,000	\$3,310,000	\$3,520,000	\$4,487,000	\$4,900,000

Surveys/Studies

From time-to-time the District undertakes large scale planning projects including the Comprehensive Master Plan and studies related to facility acquisition or development. Each park also has an individual master plan that is reviewed every 10 years.

Vehicle, Equipment, and Technology Replacement

This category includes replacement of District vans and trucks as well as the Zamboni, water trailer, wood chipper, tractor, and other mobile equipment. Also, this category includes technology improvements ranging from server replacements, networking equipment, and fiber line projects. See the appendix for a schedule of vehicle replacement.

Master Plan Improvements

Once site master plans have been approved, improvements based on these are labeled as master plan improvements. Generally, master plan improvements are not undertaken totally in one year based on the dollar cost. However, with successful grant applications, several parks have had substantial improvements towards completion of site master plans.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE

The District's Fund Balance Policy requires the Capital Projects Fund to not have a negative fund balance. The following chart shows the actual, estimated, and projected fund balance for the Capital Projects Fund for this CIP.

	<i>2025 Actual</i>	<i>2026 Estimate</i>	<i>2027 Projected</i>	<i>2028 Projected</i>	<i>2029 Projected</i>	<i>2030 Projected</i>	<i>2031 Projected</i>
Total Revenue	\$4,251,651	\$5,857,487	\$4,818,276	\$5,172,824	\$4,929,009	\$4,986,879	\$5,046,486
Total Expenses	\$5,577,520	\$9,232,209	\$5,195,000	\$3,310,000	\$3,520,000	\$4,487,000	\$4,900,000
<i>Net</i>	<i>(\$1,325,869)</i>	<i>(\$3,374,723)</i>	<i>(\$376,724)</i>	<i>\$1,862,824</i>	<i>\$1,409,009</i>	<i>\$499,879</i>	<i>\$146,486</i>
Fund Balance	\$4,277,910	\$903,187	\$526,463	\$2,389,287	\$3,798,296	\$4,298,175	\$4,444,661

PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES BY LOCATION

<i>2026-2031 Capital Improvement Plan by Park</i>						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Andersen Park & Center		\$ 150,000				\$ 250,000
Austin Gardens	\$ 20,000		\$ 75,000	\$ 25,000		
Barrie Park & Center		\$ 400,000				
Carroll Park & Center		\$ 100,000				
Elizabeth F. Cheney Mansion	\$ 736,617	\$ 150,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,000
Dole Center	\$ 50,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 75,000
Euclid Square Park			\$ 400,000	\$ 150,000		
Field Park & Center	\$ 4,582,156		\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000		
Fox Park & Center					\$ 600,000	
Gymnastic and Recreation Center		\$ 15,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 40,000
John L. Hedges Admin Center		\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000			
Lindberg Park		\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000		
Longfellow Park & Center	\$ 2,296,436			\$ 35,000		
Maple Park	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000			
Mills Park				\$ 20,000		
Oak Park Conservatory	\$ 350,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000
*Pleasant Home	\$ 40,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Rehm Park					\$ 100,000	
Rehm Pool	\$ 50,000	\$ 550,000	100,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	\$ 100,000	\$ 235,000	\$ 235,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 735,000	\$ 3,000,000
Scoville Park			\$ 50,000			\$ 400,000
Stevenson Park & Center		\$ 550,000		\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000	
Taylor Park					\$ 1,500,000	
Wenonah Park						
Randolph Park	\$ 15,000					\$ 250,000
Non Site Specific	\$ 50,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Community Recreation Center	\$ 526,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 260,000
Vehicles/Technology/Repairs/Nonsite	\$ 191,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 395,000	\$ 365,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 210,000
Surveys and Planning	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Project Costs	\$ 9,232,209	\$ 5,195,000	\$ 3,310,000	\$ 3,520,000	\$ 4,487,000	\$ 4,900,000

*Non-site specific includes the Park District's portion of School District 97 turf field replacements

SCHEDULE OF SITE MASTER PLANS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Park District sets high standards when designing and constructing park renovation projects to ensure that all parks receive needed improvements and are safe for the public to use. To maintain the highest standard, the Park District promotes and seeks competitive Requests for Proposals from qualified professional consultants and competitive bids from qualified contractors.

Site Master Plans have been prepared for 18 District parks. Implementation of plans began in 2006, with Andersen Park and continues throughout this Capital Improvement Plan. Through public awareness, focus group meetings, community meetings, and online questionnaires, the planning process allows everyone in the community an opportunity to suggest what improvements are to be made to park sites and facilities. The public is also invited to provide comment at the beginning of every Board meeting and by contacting staff and Board members.

Park master plans are reviewed with the community and updated every 10 years.

The following explains the core guidelines when planning for a major capital park improvement project:

- A Request for Proposals is released to professional consultants for professional park planning services. Consultants typically include Landscape Architects, Architects, and/or Civil Engineers.
- Once a professional consultant is selected, Park District staff will meet with the consultant to introduce and discuss general site conditions and concerns and provide pertinent information from previous studies.
- Between two and six focus group meetings are held. Those typically invited to these meetings, depending on the park location, include Park District staff and representatives from the Park District Citizen Committee, the Village or Oak Park (administration, engineering, planning, fire, and police), Oak Park School Districts, Park District sports affiliates, business associations, universal access commission, WSSRA, FOPCON, and more.
- Three to four community meetings, in conjunction with online questionnaires, are held. During these meetings, conceptual or schematic designs are discussed and refined into a final site master plan. These meetings allow the public to have active involvement in the planning process. Park District staff meets with the consultant before and after each community meeting to ensure all suggestions or recommendations are discussed and the consultant's work is progressing to an acceptable level.
- The Park Board reviews a final site master plan for approval and adoption.
- The Park District then submits a Request for Bids to hire a qualified contractor to construct the proposed improvements. Due to the cost of certain improvements, some park projects need to be phased over time.
- The Park Board reviews the bids from a qualified contractor and approves the hiring/contracting of the contractor.
- Construction begins and is monitored by the Park District Superintendent of Parks and Planning.

Park District of Oak Park Proposed Timing for Master Plan Reviews

<u>Plan Created</u>	<u>Plan Reviewed</u>	<u>Tentative Next Review</u>
Conservatory (2008)	2016	2026
Rehm Park (2008)	2016	2026
Euclid (2009)	2016	2026
Mills (2008)	2017	2027
Taylor (2009)	2017	2027
Scoville (2010)	2018	2027
Lindberg (2010)	2018	2028
Wenonah (2009)	2018	2028
Randolph (2009)	2018	2028
Stevenson (2011)	2021	2029
Maple (2007)	2022	2029
Fox (2006)	2023	2030
Longfellow (2006)	2023	2030
Rehm Pool (2023)	2023	2031
Carroll (2005)	2024	2031
Austin Gardens (2005)	2024	2032
Field (2006)	2025	2032
Andersen (2005)	2025	2034
Barrie (2015)	2025	2034
Cheney (2009)	2025	2034

Andersen Park and Center

1.3 acres at Hayes & Division

History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Hans Christian Andersen and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. The play equipment was previously renovated in 1985.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Andersen Park was completed in January 2006, and updated in 2014. Initial improvements were completed in September 2006. These improvements included: new playground equipment, splash pad, roll hill, walkways, drinking fountain, bicycle rack, security lighting, replacement fencing, woven willow dome, interpretive signage, landscaping, and decorative paved seating areas. In 2006, Andersen Center improvements were also made including roof repair and lock and door replacement. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008, which replaced the circa 1965 system. The new system allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Replacement park benches were installed in 2008. Center improvements in 2010, made the restrooms accessible when no staff is present, and addressed small-scale maintenance needs (e.g., painting, tuck pointing, tile replacement). In 2011, a new exterior accessible restroom was constructed for the Center. There were aesthetic and deferred maintenance improvements completed at Andersen Center in 2018, including a new roof and interior upgrades. In 2025 outdoor fitness equipment was added, as well as shade, the playground was replaced and improvements were made to the splash pad.



Current Features

This small neighborhood park currently features a multi-purpose field, playground, a splash pad, roll hill, walkways, fitness equipment, and shading.

Future Improvements

In 2027 plans are to add an ADA accessible door and ramp to the Center, as well as a cistern for the splash pad. Upgrades to the center are planned for 2031.

Andersen Park and Center – Continued

1.3 acres at Hayes & Division

Benefits

The ramp and door will advance the District's ADA transition plan, and the cistern will save on water used for toilet flushing and irrigation. The center will be passed its useful life in 2031 and due for upgrades.

<i>Andersen Park & Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvement	-	150,000	-	-	-	250,000
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	150,000	-	-	-	250,000

Austin Gardens

3.64 acres at Ontario & Forest

History

Henry W. Austin, Jr. donated the land for Austin Gardens to the Park District in 1947, on the condition that it remains a public park bearing the Austin family name. The District officially received ownership of the property upon the death of Mrs. Austin in 1954. The park includes a wildflower woodland habitat first planted in 1970, by members of the League of Women Voters, as well as pathways and hundreds of trees. Since 1975, Austin Gardens has been used as a performance space by the Oak Park Festival Theatre. A Trust for Austin Gardens is held by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation and has a value of close to \$500,000. Proceeds of the trust can be used for extraordinary maintenance and recreation activities.



Past Improvements

The site master plan for Austin Gardens was completed in 2005, and updated in 2016. Construction of improvements began in October 2007, and included: path improvements, new benches, landscaping, trash receptacles, fencing, electrical upgrades, lighting, and an irrigation system for the wildflower area. A multi-purpose Environmental Education Center, discovery garden, and other improvements such as walkways, landscaping, and signage were completed in 2016.

Current Features

The park includes a wildflower woodland habitat first planted in 1970, by members of the League of Women Voters, as well as walkways, a drinking fountain, hundreds of trees and an area for a Festival Theatre stage. The Environmental Education Center provides educational opportunity for residents and will be used for day camp programs. The discovery garden is a natural habit that utilizes rainwater to help irrigate the park. The signage creates additional educational components and the mile markers will be used by walkers for fitness tracking.

Future Improvements

A solar flower is planned for 2028, and siding upkeep planned for 2029.

<i>Austin Gardens</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	20,000	-	75,000	25,000	-	-
	20,000	-	75,000	25,000	-	-

Barrie Park and Center

History

The 0.9 acre site at the southwest corner of Lombard and Garfield was acquired in 1932, and named for the children's author James Barrie. It includes a center originally designed by Arthur B. Maiworm. The adjacent 3.3 acre park was acquired in 1965, and had been the site of a manufactured gas plant from 1893-1931. Soil contamination was discovered in 1999, and remediation was undertaken through a coordinated effort by the Park District, Village of Oak Park, ComEd, and Nicor. Cleanup and restoration took place from 2001-2005. Barrie Center is located on top of a Village underground potable water tank. A master plan was created for Barrie Park in 2015, which includes future upgrades to the playground, sled hill, and the addition of a natural play area.

Past Improvements

Improvements to Barrie Park, done through the remediation project and completed in 2005, included: new ball fields and a multi-use sport field with irrigation, a sled hill, walkways, playground equipment, and patio. Near the center, improvements included a new tot lot, sport courts, and an accessible ramp. Other improvements in both locations included benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, landscaping and lighting. In 2006, improvements to Barrie Center included roof repair, lock and door replacement, and creation of storage spaces to secure equipment. In 2007, these center improvements were completed. In March 2008, improvements included making the restrooms ADA accessible and creating both interior and exterior access, upgrading restroom fixtures, upgrading ventilation systems, creating a customer service kiosk, replacing railings, improving common areas, and reorganizing office workspace. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008, which replaced the system installed in 1965. The new system allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Improvements were made again in 2023 to the playgrounds, ball fields, sports courts, and a new picnic area and pickleball courts were added in 2023 and 2024.

Current Features

Current features include restrooms at Barrie Center, a multi-purpose field, a soccer field, one baseball field, a sport courts facility (for basketball, volleyball, tennis and inline hockey), three age-appropriate playground areas (2 at Barrie Park and 1 at Barrie Center), a sled hill with a storage area for utilities and maintenance equipment built into the base, and drinking fountains. Barrie Park athletic fields are irrigated.

4.22 acres at Lombard & Garfield



Barrie Park and Center – Continued

4.22 acres at Lombard & Garfield

Future Improvements

For 2027 the District is planning to add a futsal court and pickleball surfaces, a pull up bar to the outdoor fitness equipment, and shading for the baseball fields..

Benefits

These improvements will complete the recommend master plan improvements. The District is also applying for an OSLAD grant to help fund this project.

<i>Barrie Park & Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvement	-	400,000	-	-	-	-
	-	400,000	-	-	-	-

Carroll Park and Center

2.48 acres at Kenilworth & Fillmore

History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Lewis Carroll and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. The northern part of Kenilworth Street was vacated by the Village in 1960, to expand the park and connect it to the Lincoln School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Carroll Park was completed in December 2005, and updated in 2014, with the cooperation of Elementary School District 97; initial improvements were completed in September 2007. These improvements included: new playground equipment, a drinking fountain, walkways, landscaping, and additional security lighting. In coordination with the Village of Oak Park, the Kenilworth cul-de-sac was rotated 90 degrees to the southwest to gain more play space. In 2007, Carroll Center improvements were also made including roof repair and lock and door replacement. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008, which allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Two properties adjacent to Carroll Center were purchased on Kenilworth Avenue and turned into added green space for this park in 2008 and 2009. Center improvements in 2010, made the restrooms accessible when no staff is present and addressed small-scale maintenance needs (e.g., painting, tuck pointing, tile replacement). In 2014, Master plan improvements to ball field and spectator areas including west side walkways were completed to create a continuous walking path. Additionally, an education classroom area was installed east of the Recreation Center. The ball field improvements included new backstops, diamond and multi-purpose field grading, player and spectator areas improvements that include covered player benches, spectator seating, signage and bike racks. In 2019, the Park District began construction of an addition to the Carroll Center. The addition is to add space for preschool and afterschool as well as provide the largest individual room in the District's portfolio. The addition was constructed with capital funds from the District as well as a grant of \$577,800 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to construct the building as passive design. The facility will now generate more energy than it uses. It has six geothermal wells, solar panels, triple-pane windows, a rain garden and extensive insulation to create our most energy efficient building. Additionally, the playground was renovated to include swings, play structure and forever lawn surfacing. In 2019 the District purchased the property adjacent to Carroll Park with OSLAD funds and created open green space to expand the park.

Current Features

Current features include a baseball field, a multi-purpose field, playground for 2-5 year olds, drinking fountain, baggo stations, benches, and restrooms in Carroll Center.



Carroll Park and Center – Continued

2.48 acres at Kenilworth & Fillmore

Future Improvements

For 2027 the District is planning to replace some siding panels on the building.

<i>Carroll Park & Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvement	-	100,000	-	-	-	-
Park Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	100,000	-	-	-	-

Community Recreation Center

History

Land for the CRC was acquired in 2019, by donation from the Parks Foundation, the property at 229 Madison Street will allow the District to fulfill a recommendation for an indoor recreation center as outlined in the 2015-2024 Comprehensive Master Plan. Construction began in March of 2022 and was completed in May 2023. The facility was constructed without the need for referendum or tax increase, being funded primarily by donations through the Parks Foundation as well as grants through the state of Illinois and Illinois Clean Energy Foundation.

Current Features

The CRC currently features an indoor walking track, gymnasium space, a play zone, community rooms, e-sports room, and a fitness center. The facility was constructed as a net zero energy use building, generating all of its required electricity with onsite rooftop solar panels.

Past Improvements

Additional solar was added in 2026 to advance the facility to its net zero energy use goals.

Future Improvements

The District budgets annually for the fitness equipment lease. Additionally in 2029 the District will be purchasing new weight training equipment and resurfacing flooring in the gymnasium. In 2031 the flooring in the fitness center is planned to be upgraded.



<i>Community Recreation Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvements	526,000	70,000	70,000	100,000	70,000	260,000

Cheney Mansion

2.20 acres at Euclid & Ontario

History

Cheney Mansion was designed in 1913, by Charles E. White, Jr. for the Sharpe family. It has six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, many reception rooms, a ballroom, coach house, and greenhouse on two acres of landscaped grounds. It was purchased in 1922, by Andrew and Mary Dole and inherited by their niece, Elizabeth Cheney, who deeded it to the Park District in 1975. The Park District took ownership of the property in 1985. It was designated an Oak Park Landmark by the Village of Oak Park in 2004. Cheney Mansion is currently used for Park District programs such as cooking classes, special events, and as a rental facility for the public. The mission of Cheney Mansion is “to provide a unique venue for recreation programs, special activities, and community events for the enjoyment of Oak Park residents and is a distinctive locale for private meetings and celebrations.”



Past Improvements

The boiler and external walkway pavers were replaced in 2006. Major renovations were made in 2007, in preparation for the 2007 Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society’s Designer Showcase House. Improvements included: roof and gutter replacement, tuck pointing of chimney and exterior elevations, repair of the exterior stucco, and exterior painting. Interior renovations included: a remodeled kitchen, replacement kitchen hood vent, fire alarm upgrade, and interior finishes to all rooms. A new wooden fence was erected on the east end of the property and the wrought iron fence surrounding the Mansion was repaired and restored. Improvements were made to the coach house to make it a better rental property and lead paint was removed from the fire escape staircase. In fall 2009, a site plan was developed for the grounds surrounding Cheney Mansion which focused on improving accessibility to the first floor. This plan was updated in 2016. A feasibility study, to fully assess the condition of the Cheney Greenhouse, was completed in 2010. Master plan improvements began in the late fall of 2011, and concluded in spring 2012. Improvements included main entry identifying signage, main entry sidewalk improvements, an accessible walkway with improved landscaping from the main entry to the house solarium, a new south garden access walkway leading to the back patio area, and a new walkway to the north garden area. In 2013, through a generous donation, the waterfall garden on the south of the property was restored. In 2014, the greenhouse was restored and made into a functional space to be used as part of rentals on the property. In 2020, the entrance off the alley was widened to better accommodate catering vehicles.

Current Features

Current features include a historic home, coach house, and decorative gardens around each. The home and grounds are used for Park District programs and private rentals. In 2026 a geothermal system was added to reduce utility consumption at the home.

Cheney Mansion – Continued

2.20 acres at Euclid & Ontario

Future Improvements

For 2027 the District is budgeting for window painting. In 2028 the District is planning to extend the geothermal system to the third floor of the mansion.

<i>Cheney Mansion</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	736,617	150,000	250,000	35,000	50,000	40,000
	736,617	150,000	250,000	35,000	50,000	40,000

Dole Center

History

Dole Learning Center was built in 1926, and donated to the Village of Oak Park in 1939, by Andrew and Mary Dole, who also owned Cheney Mansion. The Village used it as a library branch for several decades and added recreational programming in the late 1970s. Dole Center underwent a major renovation in 2002, which made the building ADA accessible. In addition to the Village, the Oak Park Library, and the Park District occupied parts of Dole Center through an intergovernmental agreement and all three entities contributed to a sinking fund for the utility costs, janitorial services, and maintenance of the building. The Park District purchased Dole Center from the Village of Oak Park in 2019.

Building at Augusta & Cuyler



Past Improvements

In 2006, a partition was built on the third floor to create a sound barrier between two dance studios. In 2017, security cameras were upgraded to increase the safety of this facility.

Current Features

This property has offices, restrooms, and a drinking fountains. There are also classroom spaces for seniors and fitness programming.

Future Improvements

The District is planning to replace the HVAC system at Dole in 2027. If it is within budget, the District will install a geothermal system, however if that is cost prohibitive the District will replace the traditional system currently operating at the facility. In 2030 the District will replace the roof and insulation at Dole.

<i>Dole Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvements	50,000	650,000	50,000	75,000	500,000	75,000

Euclid Square Park

2.81 acres at Fillmore & Euclid

History

Acquired in 1929, the park was originally called New South Park, or Park #9, but was subsequently named after the adjacent street.

Past Improvements

The tennis courts were replaced in 1979, and resealed in 2008. The playground equipment was replaced in 1998. A site master plan was created in 2009, and updated in 2017. The site master plan process for Euclid Square began in 2009, resulting in recommended improvements separated into three phases. Completed in spring 2011, master plan improvements focused on complete renovation of the ballfield and the southwest corner of the park. New walkways on the southern half of the park, landscaping, a bicycle rack, drinking fountain, and benches are also part of this project. The Park District received a \$100,000 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant for the ballfield improvements. In 2017, improvements included a continuous walking path, new playground with rubberized surface, new tennis courts and fencing, rain garden and small sled hill. \$400,000 of the project was funded through the OSLAD grant program.



Current Features

Current features include an age-appropriate playground area, a baseball field, a multi-purpose field, four tennis/pickleball courts, soccer field, and drinking fountain.

Future Improvements

The District plans to install an exterior restroom at Euclid in 2028 as called for in the 2017 master plan update. Tennis court surface replacement is scheduled for 2029.

<i>Euclid Square Park</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvement	-	-	400,000	150,000	-	-

Field Park and Center

3.39 acres at Division & Woodbine

History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Eugene Field and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. Woodbine Avenue between Berkshire and Division was vacated by the Village in 1960, to expand the park and connect it to the Mann School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Past Improvements

The Field Park site master plan was completed in May 2006 with School District 97's cooperation. Improvements began in August 2007 and finished in April 2008, partially funded by a \$399,000 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant. Upgrades included new playground equipment, bocce court, splash pad, shelter, walkways, expanded baseball and soccer fields, a new vehicular drop-off, irrigation trunk, benches, drinking fountains, bike racks, and extensive landscaping with new trees. In 2007, Field Center received roof repairs and door and lock replacements. A fire alarm upgrade in 2008 enabled constant detection and direct alerts to emergency agencies. In 2010, restrooms were made accessible when staff are absent, and minor repairs were completed. A new exterior accessible restroom was built in 2011. In 2013, irrigation was added to sports fields. The District reviewed the master plan with the community in 2014. An underground cistern was installed in 2017 to capture and reuse splash pad water for irrigation. In 2018, the playground surface was replaced, and a natural planting area was added.



Current Features

Current features include two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, a bocce court, shelter, seating area with benches and chess tables, walkways, two baseball fields, a multi-purpose field, drinking fountain, native planting area, and restrooms in Field Center. In 2026 the District will complete replacement of the original Field Center with a new facility that includes unique features such as rammed earth construction and will have special features to house the District's performing arts programs. The playground is also scheduled for replacement later in 2026.

Future Improvements

Sports field improvements and shade structures are planned for 2028 and 2029.

<i>Field Park & Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvement	3,582,156	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvement	1,000,000	-	100,000	50,000	-	-
	3,582,156	-	100,000	50,000	-	-

Fox Park and Center

1.54 acres at Oak Park & Jackson

History

Acquired in 1922, the park is named after William H. Fox, who served on the Park Board of Commissioners from 1919-1925. It includes a recreation center built in 1966.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Fox Park was completed in January 2007, and updated in 2014. Center improvements completed in 2008, included: making the restrooms ADA accessible and creating both interior and exterior access, upgrading restroom fixtures, upgrading ventilation systems, replacing railings, remodeling the kitchen and activity space, adding storage space, creating a customer service kiosk, improving common areas, and reorganizing office workspace. Master plan improvements to the north end of the park, completed in spring 2009, included new playground equipment, restored splash pad area with added accessibility, a ramp to gain access to the restrooms, a new north entranceway to the center, a walkway all the way around the center, and a renovated entryway plaza on the south side of the center with additional seating. Other improvements included benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, landscaping, and lighting. The “sunken area” was brought up to grade in order to accommodate these features and create accessibility. In 2011, the windows for the center were replaced. Ballfield improvements were made to the backstops, player and spectator areas, and seating during 2014. Additionally, bench seating was added to the perimeter of the park, shaded seating at the sand play area, and irrigation was installed for the sports field. In 2016, the retaining walls and entry steps were renovated to match existing with new walls, structure, railings and copings.



Current Features

Current features include two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, baseball field, multi-purpose field, drinking fountains, seating with benches and chess tables.

Future Improvements

The playground and playground surface are scheduled for replacement in 2030.

<i>Fox Park & Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvement	-	-	-	-	600,000	-
Building Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	600,000	-

Gymnastics and Recreation Center

0.6 acres (26,505 sq. ft.) at Lake & Humphrey

History

Acquired in 2011, for \$980,000, the 25 Lake Street property was previously owned by Aldi, Inc., the grocery chain. The Park District Board approved building a gymnastics facility, which resulted in the current gymnastics center moving out of its location at 218 Madison Street in 2013.

Past Improvements

In early 2012, the existing building operated by Aldi, Inc. was demolished. Construction for the new facility started in fall 2012, and was completed in 2013. The Parks Foundation purchased a sculpture in 2017, which was installed in 2017, named Blue Woman in the Twilight. In 2024 the District replaced flooring at the GRC as well as upgraded the lights in the sign to LED bulbs.



Current Features

The Gymnastics and Recreation Center includes expanded gym floor space and equipment, a studio room, two multi-use rooms, staff offices, restrooms, spectator viewing areas, and parking with a drop-off zone.

Future Improvements

Carpet replacement for the spring floor is planned for 2027. Solar power is planned for 2028, and rooftop HVAC unit replacement is planned for 2029.

<i>Gymnastics and Recreation Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvement		15,000	125,000	500,000	25,000	40,000

Hedges Administrative Center

0.34 acres (22,180 sq. ft.) at Madison & Harvey

History

Acquired in 1986, 218 Madison was built in the 1930s, and formerly housed an automobile dealership. In 2001, the building, which housed administrative offices, program registration, the buildings and grounds headquarters (including vehicle storage) and the District's Gymnastics Center, was named after John L. Hedges, Park District Executive Director from 1980 to 2000.

Past Improvements

Renovations made from 2001 to 2006, reorganized office workspaces, converted storage space into offices, streamlined the customer service and registration area, converted lighting fixtures to energy-saving models, and replaced roof trusses in the Gymnastics Center. A Facility Improvement Study conducted in 2006, focused on improvements to the existing facilities on a short-term (1 to 3 years) basis with an emphasis on the Buildings and Grounds and Gymnastics Center. The Study identified needed structural repairs such as replacement of roof trusses, reconstruction of the basement ceiling, masonry repair, ventilation system replacement, and roofing replacement. The District was actively pursuing the relocation of one or all of the following: Administrative offices, the Gymnastics, and/or the Buildings & Grounds functions. In 2011, the Park District purchased the 25 Lake Street property with the Board approving moving the gymnastics program to it. An architectural firm was hired for validating the cost of moving gymnastics to 25 Lake Street, expanding Building and Grounds, and renovating Administration at 218 Madison. In 2013, the gymnastics programs were relocated to the new Gymnastics and Recreation Center. In 2015, the District completed a redevelopment of both the Buildings and Grounds space as well as the Administrative area. These improvements provide buildings and grounds the work space needed and brought the entire building up current code.



Current Features

This facility is used for Park District Administrative offices and Buildings and Grounds.

Future Improvements

Additional solar panels are planned for 2027, and office carpeting replacement for 2028.

<i>Admin Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvement	-	200,000	50,000	-	-	-

Lindberg Park

13.9 acres at Marion & Le Moyne

History

Acquired in 1925, this park was originally called “Green Fields” but was subsequently named after Gustav A. Lindberg, the first Superintendent of Parks at the Park District of Oak Park. The land had previously been used as a refuse dump. In 1972, the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation established the Presidential Walk in Lindberg Park with the planting of 17 sugar maples, one for each of the 17 former Village of Oak Park Presidents. This tradition continues with a new tree planted as each village president ends their term in office. One of the ballfields is named for Merritt Lovett, a former Park Board Commissioner.

Past Improvements

In the late 1990’s, the gardens were restored to their original layout as designed in the 1930’s by Mr. Lindberg. This project was a joint effort between the Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest and the Park District of Oak Park with funding from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The original design had included water gardens and roses transplanted from gardens dismantled after Chicago’s Century of Progress World’s Fair in 1934. Other improvements completed in 2000, included: remodeling the comfort station and concession stand, resurfacing the tennis courts, installing irrigation under the fields, and replacing 120 trees. The tennis courts were resealed in 2009. A site master plan for Lindberg was completed in fall 2010, and updated in 2018. Identifiable needs included adding paths on the north and east sides to complete a walkway around the park, replacing backstops and fencing, improving security lighting, renewing the comfort station, improving field drainage, and adding “health-walk” medallions around the park. In 2014, with the help of a \$400,000 OSLAD grant, the District was able to complete improvements to the sports fields, added a picnic shelter and new playground, and improved the tennis courts and walkways. In 2015, landscaping work on the west side of the Trial Gardens took place to create a wonderful wildlife refuge. In 2024 the District resurfaced the tennis courts.



Current Features

The park features a comfort station with restrooms, an age appropriate playground area, two baseball fields, two multi-purpose fields, three tennis courts, picnic pavilion, a native prairie plant garden, and a drinking fountain. Lindberg Park athletic fields are irrigated.

Lindberg Park – Continued

13.9 acres at Marion & Le Moyne

Future Improvements

Sports field improvements are planned for 2027 and 2028, with shade also added in 2028. Playground replacement is planned for 2029.

<i>Lindberg Park</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvement	-	50,000	100,000	200,000	-	-

Longfellow Park and Center

2.62 acres at Ridgeland & Jackson

History

Acquired in 1920, the park was named after the American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The recreation center was built in 1966, in the same style as Fox Center.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Longfellow Park was completed in February 2007. Center improvements completed in 2008, included: making the restrooms ADA accessible and creating both interior and exterior access, installing an elevator, upgrading restroom fixtures and ventilation systems, creating a viewing area for the upper level program room, creating a customer service kiosk, improving common areas, and reorganizing office workspace. In 2008, replacement of the Center's air conditioning system was also completed. In 2011, the windows were replaced in the Center.



Park master plan improvements constructed in 2008, included new accessible and creative playground equipment, a new splash pad, a ramp to gain access to the restrooms, a new north entranceway to the center, a walkway around the center, and a renovated entryway plaza on the south side of the center with additional seating. Other improvements included benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, landscaping, and lighting. The “sunken area” north of the center was filled in and a new full-sized basketball court with spectator area was installed. The play areas were relocated from the northwest corner of the park to a more central location allowing for parental monitoring of both the playground and the ball field. Sand volleyball courts were relocated to Rehm Park. At the southeast corner of the park, a brick ballfield plaza was created and a drinking fountain and bicycle rack were added. A significant percentage of this project was funded through grant dollars. Irrigation was installed on the sports fields in 2013. In 2014, improvements were made to the ball field and spectator areas. In 2016, the entry retaining walls and ADA ramps were re-built & a new roof was installed to allow for the addition of solar panels in 2017, and 2018. In 2016, a cistern was installed to collect water from the splash pad and repurpose that water for the irrigation of the sports fields.

Current Features

Current features include a playground area, a splash pad, one baseball field, one multi-purpose field, one basketball court, walkways, seating with benches and chess tables, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, and restrooms in Longfellow Center. The Center is now accessible via a new elevator on the north side of the building. An above ground cistern was installed to capture water from the splash pad and rain water and treat that for use for irrigation and 30 solar panels. In 2026 the District is replacing the tennis courts with pickleball courts, adding a sensory garden and replacing the playgrounds and surfaces.

Longfellow Park and Center – Continued

2.62 acres at Ridgeland & Jackson

Future Improvements

The basketball courts will be resurfaced in 2029.

<i>Longfellow Park & Center</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvement	2,296,436	-	-	35,000	-	-
	2,296,436	-	-	35,000	-	-

6.98 acres at Harlem & Lexington

Maple Park

History

Acquired in 1921, the linear park was formerly railroad property.

It was originally called Park #6 or Perennial Gardens for the formal plantings installed there, but was later renamed for the adjacent Maple Street. A comfort station was built in the center of the park around 1960. Renovations in the early 1980s added new landscaping and curving walkways. The playground equipment was replaced in 1998.

Past Improvements

The tennis courts were resurfaced in 2002. Ballfield backstops were renovated and safety cages were added in 2005, when the infields were realigned. Many trees have been replaced in Maple Park in recent years. The master plan was completed in November 2007. Initial master plan improvements, starting in the summer 2010, and finishing in spring 2011, included: removal of the three tennis courts and one old basketball court in the center of the park. Two new lighted tennis courts were located on the south end of the park. The vacated land in the center was landscaped as an open meadow, and a new continuous walkway was created along the east side of the park to fully connect the north and south ends. An off leash dog area was installed. The District completed improvements including: a new playground, climbing boulders, new picnic shelter, additional walkways to provide a continuous walking path, as well as improvements to the two ball field to include new backstops, fencing, diamond and multi-purpose field grading, player and spectator areas with new player benches, signage, resurfaced tennis courts including pickle ball stripes, and bike racks in 2016. Improvements to the comfort station originally slated for 2014, occurred in 2016. In 2017, the park was renovated to include a picnic pavilion, updated ballfields with amenities, walking loop, and new playground with rubberized surface.



Current Features

Current features include a comfort station with restrooms, two age-appropriate playground areas, two baseball fields, two multi-purpose fields, two lighted tennis/pickle ball courts, picnic pavilion walkways, seating, drinking fountain, climbing boulders, and bicycle racks. In 2026 the tennis courts will be resurfaced.

Future Improvements

In 2027 a guardrail will be added along the west side of the park, and in 2028 major improvements are planned for the dog park including a regrade and new surface.

Maple Park	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvement	150,000	150,000	200,000	-	-	-

Mills Park and Pleasant Home (“John Farson House”)

History

Acquired in 1939, the historic John Farson House, known as “Pleasant Home”, is a National Historic Landmark designed in 1897, by architect George W. Maher. Outbuildings on the attendant grounds were subsequently razed and Mills Park has been maintained as open space for many years. Pleasant Home was used for decades as a community center and is now also rented out to the public for events. The Pleasant Home Foundation offices are located in the home. The organizations provide daily tours (free on Fridays) and educational programming for the community.

Past Improvements

Major projects from 1939 to 1990 included: rebuilding of two front porch plaster medallions, restoration of one of Maher’s urns, remodeling of the restrooms, replacement of some windows, removal and replacement of front walkway and steps, and on-going exterior painting and roof repair. A comprehensive existing conditions report on the home was conducted in 2002, and subsequent restoration and repair has included: rebuilding the entire roof structure and most gutter systems, restoration of the library and great hall fireplace, restoration of the front fence entry, addition of an accessible lift at the west elevation, repair of the living room fireplace, front door, sun porch door and threshold, and boiler room mold abatement. In 2005, the restoration of the front entry fence was completed with the support of the Rotary Club of Oak Park and River Forest. In spring 2009, masonry repair was completed on all four sides of the house and also the chimneys. In late 2009, the interior walls of the first floor rooms were painted to their original colors. The development of a site master plan for Mills Park began in late 2008, and was updated in 2017. Identifiable needs included: renovation of fencing, ADA-accessible walkways through the park, natural discovery areas, and landscaping.

Restoration of the ornamental steel fencing along the east and north sides of the park and the creation of two new entryways into the park were completed in 2011. The Park District had applied for a \$300,000 grant from the Illinois State Museum Department for the fence renovation; however the application was denied. In 2011, the boiler system and fire alarm at Pleasant Home were replaced. Master plan improvements in 2011/2012 included: new entryways into the park and various walkways through the park, allowing pedestrian access to the east, west, and north sides of the park. The Park District applied for and was awarded a \$400,000 State of Illinois OSLAD grant to help fund these improvements, which complete the site master plan. Additionally in 2011, lead remediation was completed around the perimeter of the Pleasant Home. There were also improvements to the lower level restrooms in the Pleasant Home. In 2016, the 2nd and 3rd floor were renovated with refurbished floors, plaster repairs, painting, and plumbing work. In 2018, the roof was returned to a clay tile roof and the two front door stained glass panels were restored with help from the Pleasant Home Foundation. In 2022, geothermal air conditioning was added to the home.

4.43 acres at Pleasant & Home



Mills Park and Pleasant Home - Continued

4.43 acres at Pleasant & Home

Current Features

The open grounds of the park surround the historic home. Air conditioning powered by a high efficiency geothermal system was added to the home in 2022.

Future Improvements

An ADA accessible bathroom will be added in 2027. Ceiling repairs are planned for 2028 and a new driveway in 2029.

<i>Mills Park and Pleasant Home</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvements	-	-	-	20,000	-	-
Building Improvements	40,000	400,000	180,000	80,000	25,000	25,000
	40,000	400,000	180,000	100,000	25,000	25,000

Oak Park Conservatory

0.80 acres at Garfield & East

History

The Conservatory began as a community effort in 1914, to provide a place to house exotic plants that residents collected during their travels abroad. The present Edwardian-style glass structure, built in 1929, houses a botanical collection of more than 3,000 plants, some of which date back to the Conservatory's founding. Over the years, the building fell into neglect. In 1970, a drive to preserve this unique resource began. In 1986, the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory (FOPCON) was incorporated to provide fundraising, educational programs, and other volunteer supports. In June of 2000, the Conservatory Center addition was opened to provide expanded space and facilities for educational programming, operations and public events. In 2004, the Oak Park Conservatory was designated an Oak Park Landmark, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.



Past Improvements

In 2002, a major lead abatement project was completed in the Fern Room with the assistance of grants from the FOPCON and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Grant Program. In 2006 and 2007, lead abatement was accomplished in the Desert Room and the East Growing House. Additional upgrades were made to the East Growing House to improve growing conditions including: new mechanical vent controls, a modern heating system, a retractable shade device, environmental controls, and new rolling benches for more efficient use of growing space. FOPCON provided \$12,000 in grant funds towards the cost of the shade device. Glazing work in the historical entrance was also completed. A back-up generator was installed in 2007. Exterior doors were replaced in March 2008. Improvements, similar to those in the East Growing House, were completed for the West Growing House in 2009. Improvements to the Tropical House, including lead abatement and other upgrades were completed in 2011. A site master plan for the Conservatory site was completed in 2009 and updated in 2017. Initial site master plan improvements were completed in 2011, with construction of a new outdoor garden, named in memory of Herbert M. Rubinstein, a long-time Conservatory supporter and volunteer. Significant donations were received from the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory, private donors, and the Rubinstein family to fund the garden project. In 2012, the boiler system at the Conservatory was completely replaced and the dryvit walls were repaired. In 2013, the window in the tropical room were repaired to provide a proper seal. Improvements to the Garfield entrance including a new nature playground area named Elsie Jacobson, a founder of the Friends. This work was funded heavily by the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory totaling \$210,000. Also in 2015, the north base walls of the Conservatory were redone as well as the main entrance to the Conservatory. In 2016, ventilation and heating system upgrades to the Fern and Desert Rooms were completed as well as environmental automation control upgrades for the all greenhouses. In 2018-2019, the Conservatory had solar and water harvesting systems added with a \$100,000 grant from Green Mountain Sun Energy. In 2024 the District made repairs to the northside vestibule, the discovery garden fence, and the vents in the desert room.

Oak Park Conservatory - Continued

0.80 acres at Garfield & East

Current Features

The facility has three display rooms for the public, two growing houses, one meeting room, administrative offices for the Conservatory and Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory staff, decorative outdoor garden, and a children's discovery garden.

Future Improvements

Boiler replacements are planned for 2026, and window glazing for the Conservatory is planned for 2027.

<i>Oak Park Conservatory</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvement	350,000	800,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	50,000

Randolph Park

0.16 acres at Randolph & Grove

History

The parcel occupied by Randolph Park and the adjacent open parcel to the east at Randolph and Oak Park Avenue were acquired by Village of Oak Park in 1924. Randolph Tot Lot was conveyed to the Park District in 2006, and the property to the east was transferred in 2009, doubling the size of the park. This land and other similar strips along Randolph Street were set aside for rail stations along the “Dummy line railroad” into Chicago that was never developed. It is a small neighborhood playground for children under eight years old with play equipment, a sand feature, berm, and water fountain.

Past Improvements

The playground equipment was last replaced in 1991. A site master plan for Randolph Park, including the land east of the alley, was completed in 2009, and updated in 2018, with \$400,000 allocated for master plan improvements in 2010. These improvements included: replacement of the playground equipment, benches, and trash receptacles. The adjacent District-owned parcel to the east of the playground received improvements to create a passive area with benches, chess tables and landscaping. The alley also received upgrades to create a link between the two sides of the park. A donation was received from the adjacent apartment owner to fund the ornamental fencing and gates near their property. In 2020, the Park District installed its first outdoor fitness pieces. Also minor improvements were made to the west side by adding man-made mounds, friendship swing, and a cozy dome.



Current Features

Current features include one age-appropriate playground area, a passive area, seating with benches and chess tables, a drinking fountain, a bicycle rack, and outdoor fitness equipment.

Future Improvements

Repairs to the gate are planned for 2026, no further improvements are planned through 2031.

<i>Randolph Park</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvements	15,000	-	-	-	-	-

Rehm Park and Pool

6.51 acres at Garfield & East

History

Acquired in 1913, Rehm Park was originally called “South Park” but was subsequently renamed after Colonel Arthur D. Rehm, a member of the Park District’s first Board of Commissioners and its second Board President. The original park was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen’s design remains. The play train has been at Rehm playground since at least 1960. An outdoor pool was constructed in 1966, and quickly became a regional destination. While remediation was taking place at Barrie Park in 2001, Rehm hosted the “Temporary Barrie Center” double-wide trailer north of the diving well.



Past Improvements

Playground equipment was replaced in 2002, as part of the Barrie Park remediation agreement with ComEd. In 1996, pool repairs included renovation of all decks and piping, creation of a zero-edge entry, addition of a wading pool and sand play, and improvements to concessions. Additional pool repairs in 1999-2000, included replacement of the sand filter equipment and lockers. Minor gutter repair was undertaken in 2006. A site master plan for Rehm Park was completed in 2008. The stairs to the platform diving boards were repaired in 2009. In 2009, two competitive play sand volleyball courts were constructed, replacing two courts previously located in Longfellow Park. In 2010, the pool filter system was replaced, new shade structures, and a burglar/fire alarm were installed. Master plan improvements started in 2011, with a total of \$250,000 allocated for improvements. Improvements included a revised play train foundation and track, a new train storage tunnel, playground surfacing, walkways, fencing and landscaping. A pool master plan was being completed in 2014. A complete park renovation was completed again in 2021 as an OSLAD project.

Current Features

Current features include a pool with three changing spaces, zero depth entry, two water slides, a lily pad crossing and a current channel, two sand volleyball courts, two age-appropriate playground areas, a self-propelled play riding train, two tennis courts, a multi-purpose field, gaga pit, and parking lot.

Rehm Park and Pool – Continued

6.51 acres at Garfield & East

Future Improvements

Plans for 2027 include boiler and concrete work and a new play structure for the main pool. Gutters and ADA stairs on the north side of the pool are planned for 2029. Court repairs are planned for Rehm Park in 2030.

<i>Rehm Park & Pool</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvement	-	-	-	-	100,000	-
Pool Improvements	50,000	550,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	200,000
	50,000	550,000	100,000	1,000,000	300,000	200,000

Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex

6.06 acres at Ridgeland & Lake

History

Acquired in 1912, from Charles B. Scoville, the site was known as the “Old Cricket Grounds”. In 1914, the site was doubled with the acquisition of a former public service company storage yard to the west between Elmwood and Scoville. Ridgeland Common was named for the adjacent street and was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen’s design remains. In 1923, toboggan slides and a skating pond were built. In 1929, a memorial to the Spanish American War was erected at the behest of veterans and in 1936, comfort stations were built. The pool, building, and outdoor ice rink were constructed in 1962, with the pool soon used as a cooling tower for the ice rink making these two features necessarily operate in opposite seasons. A roof was built over the ice rink in 1965, and the District’s first lighted baseball fields were installed to the west of the rink which now has irrigation systems. Two basketball courts, a handball court, and sled hill were also built along the railroad tracks at this time. In 1982, the rink was fully enclosed and heated, the front entrance was moved to its current location, and the pool filters were replaced. In 2007, the ice arena was renamed after Paul Hruby, long-time hockey coach and mentor to many Oak Park skaters. In the 1980s, the east baseball field was named in recognition of Vince Dirks, long-term president of the Oak Park Youth Baseball Association at that time. The multi-purpose room was named after Fred L. Comstock, a Park Commissioner in the 1930s. Ridgeland Common is the Park District’s flagship facility.



In 2007, an Existing Conditions Study was completed, including a comprehensive physical evaluation of the site and analysis of all mechanical, structural, architectural, and civil/yard piping systems. The Study concluded that Ridgeland Common was physically and functionally obsolete, requiring extensive renovation within five years that would cost over \$9 million, and no longer met the community’s modern space programming needs. In late 2007, several of the ice rink’s 242 cooling pipes failed and were repaired at a cost of nearly \$70,000, delaying the opening of the rink.

Completed in 2008, a site master planning process for Ridgeland Common, established consensus on components that would be included in the redesigned Ridgeland Common Park, including a permanent dog park on the site and moving the building to the west side of the park to take advantage of the Village-owned parking garage located on OPRF High School property. The process also left the District with many unanswered questions due to the projected cost of a renovation. Out of the three site plans developed, the projected cost of the least expensive plan was \$38 million, which was not obtainable without a voter-supported referendum. This plan called for a new facility similar in function to the current 6.06 acre park site and facility while taking into consideration today’s design standards and meeting all regulatory compliance requirements such as ADA and codes. It also corrected the currently undersized ice arena and the sled hill was to be removed.

Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex – Continued

6.06 acres at Ridgeland & Lake

In November 2011, Nagle Hartray Architecture was hired to design the renovation for the facility. Construction improvements started early 2013, and were completed by June 2014. This process included the demolition of the facility, excluding the roof and associated support structure. The facility opened in 2014, with a full sized ice rink, new administrative space, two multipurpose rooms, four locker rooms, and all new pool and rink mechanicals.

Past Improvements

In 1985, the original ice refrigeration system was replaced. Major pool renovations were completed in 1996, including deck and pipe replacement, zero edge entry to the wading pool, and spray feature addition. During construction, an evaporative condenser was used for one ice rink season and still remains on the upper deck. In 2000, ADA accessible bathrooms were built, office spaces were reconfigured, and hockey locker rooms were added to reduce wear and tear on the other locker rooms. The main pool pump was replaced in 2002, and the motor was rebuilt. In 2006, a temporary dog park was created beside the train tracks adjacent to the sled hill and the parking lot and staging area west of the Hruby Ice Arena was resurfaced. In 2007, improvements to the flooring, air conditioning, storage, and paint in the Comstock Room were completed and the indoor soccer artificial turf used on the rink in the summer was replaced. In 2013, the old Ridgeland Common was demolished, except for the roof, which was salvaged as part of the new Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex. In 2014, the RCRC was opened to the community including a full sized ice rink, new administrative space, two multipurpose rooms, four locker rooms, and all new pool mechanicals. A 256 kW solar array was added to the facility in two phases from 2017 and 2019 through the solar lease agreement with Realgy Energy.

Current Features

Current features include a pool and ice arena, two multipurpose rooms, administrative areas including registration, four locker rooms for hockey and swimming, one lighted multi-purpose field with two baseball fields, batting cages, dog park, and parking lot.

Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex – Continued

6.06 acres at Ridgeland & Lake

Future Improvements

Planned repairs for 2027-2029 include flooring, mechanical, and concrete work. 2027-2030 also include chiller compressor circuit replacements. Dog park improvements and planned for 2029, and replacement of the pool is scheduled to begin in 2031.

<i>Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Building Improvements	100,000	235,000	235,000	335,000	735,000	3,000,000

Scoville Park

3.98 acres at Oak Park & Lake

History

Acquired in 1913, Scoville Park was named after Charles B. Scoville, the previous owner of the land and an advocate for the creation of the Park District. It was the first park built after the creation of the Park District in 1912. It serves as a village green with the installation of a “Liberty” flag pole in 1915, a World War I monument dedicated by the Vice President of the United States in 1925, and bronze marker noting the location of the home of Joseph Kettlestrings, the first white settler in Oak Park. Scoville Park was originally designed by Jens Jensen and is one of the parks that retain the most of Jensen’s design. The southeast corner features a replica of a fountain originally designed by sculptor Richard Bock and architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The play equipment was last replaced in 1991. In partnership with the Village of Oak Park and the Library, Grove Avenue was vacated in 2001 and a new plaza was constructed adjacent to the park. Scoville Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.



Past Improvements

A bust of Percy Julian, a world-renowned chemist, humanitarian, and Oak Park resident, was installed in 2003, to celebrate his life and contributions. The tennis courts was resurfaced in 2005 and resealed in 2008. New benches were installed in 2007. The World War I memorial was fully restored in 2009/2010, at a cost of \$320,000. The comfort station doors were replaced in 2010. A site master plan for Scoville Park was developed in 2010 and updated in 2018. Identifiable needs included renovating the southeastern entry plaza and area near the library entrance, improving the walkways and planters, creating a formal plaza area around the WWI memorial, evaluating possibilities for the performing stage, and replacing the playground equipment. Master plan improvements began in 2012, with the assistance of a Park and Recreation Activity Grant in the amount of \$1.6 million. These improvements completed the site master plan developed in 2010, which included updated entryways, tennis courts, plantings, and a permanent bandstand. In 2019, additional perennial plantings were added to the Lake Street planting bed as well as two game tables between the library and Scoville Park.

Current Features

Current features include a comfort station with restrooms, an age-appropriate playground area, three tennis courts, drinking fountain and an open space used for summer concerts and events.

Future Improvements

Statue cleaning is planned for 2028, and playground replacement in 2031.

Scoville Park	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvements	-	-	50,000	-	-	400,000

Stevenson Park and Center

History

Stevenson Park was acquired by the Village of Oak Park in 1916, and named after author Robert Louis Stevenson. The Park District entered into a 99-year lease agreement with the Village in 2006, rather than purchasing the property outright, because the park contains two underground water reservoirs. The center was built in 1965. The second water reservoir was installed in the eastern part of the park in 2002. Other park features include a baseball diamond, multi-purpose field, and a skateboard activity area.

Past Improvements

The play centers were relocated and renovated, and fencing, lighting, and landscaping were renovated in 2003. A skate park and three half basketball courts were built on top of the new reservoir in 2004.

Improvements to the ballfield made in 2007, included improved drainage and new walkways leading to the field for improved ADA accessibility. Stevenson Center was renovated in 2007, to replace electrical and plumbing systems, replace restroom fixtures, replace lower level windows, provide functional and secure staff office areas, and improve the overall condition of this recreation center. A teen center opened in the lower level of the center in early 2008, and later closed in 2014, and was replaced by a preschool play area. The District pursued but did not receive Community Development Block Grant funding in 2008. The skate park received new ramp equipment in 2009. In 2011, security cameras were installed and the windows were replaced in the Center. In 2014, the Village had to complete improvements to the underground water reservoir. An intergovernmental agreement was struck to replace the field turf at that time as well as providing for the District's installation of irrigation and expanding the fence on the north side of the field. In 2017, the roof was replaced as well as the boiler. In 2019, the Park District applied for an OSLAD grant to replace the playground, add a kickwall, table tennis and game tables as well as improving the entrance to the Park and creating a walking loop. This work was completed and the park reopened in spring of 2020.

Current Features

Current features include a baseball field, one multi-purpose field, two age-appropriate playground areas, a skate park, three half basketball courts, and a facility with restrooms, an indoor playground, and a multi-purpose room for various Park District programs.



Stevenson Park and Center - Continued

Future Improvements

Plans for 2027 include paintings for the basketball court and an outdoor toilet. Sports field improvements are planned for 2029, and lights and ballfield restoration is planned for 2030.

<i>Stevenson Park & Center</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvements	-	550,000	-	100,000	300,000	-
Building Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	550,000	-	100,000	300,000	-

Taylor Park

11.75 acres at Ridgeland & Division

History

Acquired in 1914, Taylor Park was originally called “North Park” but was subsequently named after the first President of the Park Board of Commissioners, Henry A. Taylor. Taylor Park was designed by Jens Jensen and still retains some of Jensen’s original design. The park sits on the edge of a moraine from the remains of what was once glacial Lake Chicago.



Past Improvements

Taylor Park was identified as a potential site for a dog park during the 2006, Dog Park Site Master Plan process. The comfort station windows were replaced in 2007. The site master plan process was completed in 2008, and updated in 2017. Master plan improvements, completed in 2011, included: replacement/expansion of the existing playground with ADA accessible equipment, tennis courts replacement, installation of an open air shelter and new walkways in the interior of the park, and the establishment of a wetland-bioswale area to resolve drainage problems within the park site. New park landscaping was also added. In 2010, the District successfully received a State of Illinois Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$400,000 to help fund these improvements. In 2014, the District installed irrigation for the playing surfaces. A new drainage system was installed with a donation from AYSO in 2017. The District also extended the Fen area to help with drainage and added native plantings to the area.

Current Features

The park currently features a comfort station with restrooms, six lighted tennis courts, a multi-purpose field, a soccer field, one age-appropriate playground area, a sled hill, and one group picnic area. Taylor Park is irrigated.

Future Improvements

Replacement of the playground and sports courts are planned for 2030.

<i>Taylor Park</i>	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	1,500,000	-

Wenonah Park

0.12 acres at Harrison & Wenonah

History

This playground was acquired in 1962 and is named for the adjacent street.

Past Improvements

The playground equipment was last replaced in 1991. A site master plan was created in 2009, and reviewed in 2018. Construction of the improvements started in fall 2009, and was completed in spring 2010. Recent improvements included replacement of the playground equipment, installation of resilient rubber surfacing, new benches, walkway, drinking fountain, trash receptacle, ornamental fencing, and landscaping. In 2020, the Park District removed the sand box and installed swings as well as created man-made mounds for the children to enjoy.



Current Features

Current features include an age-appropriate playground area, seating with benches and a chess table, and a drinking fountain for people and dogs.

Future Improvements

No future improvements are planned.

Wenonah Park	Projected 2026	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-

Non-Site Specific Improvements

The Park District plans for a number of non-site specific capital expenditures. These non-site or expenditures that occur in several parks or at several facilities include urban forestry management, technology improvements, and vehicle replacement. Urban forestry, per the District's Environmental Policy, states that one of the Park District's primary goals is to manage our trees by maintaining, preserving, conserving, and improving the existing tree population in our parks. The District recognizes the immense value of its trees, which provide residents and visitors to our village with beauty, shade, cooling and enhanced air quality, as well as reduction of storm water run-off, and atmospheric carbon dioxide.

District vehicles are replaced according to the schedule included in Appendix E. The schedule reflects the useful life of each vehicle and a replacement plan designed to minimize excessive maintenance costs by replacing vehicles in a timely manner. Technology and any capital equipment replacements are included in this line item.

The District's policy is to review all master plans every 10 years and many of the District's master plans are reaching that age. The line also includes any smaller ADA improvements to locations that are not seeing master plan improvements. The District's current Comprehensive Strategic Master Plan (CSMP) runs from 2025-2029 so the District is budgeting for a community survey again in 2028 with a new CSMP developed in 2029.

The non-site specific is for projects that do not fall into an existing category in the CIP. In 2028, the increase is for the District's portion of turf replacements at Irving, Brooks, and Julian schools. The 2027 increase is for major repairs at the District's storage facility at 947 Ridgeland.

<i>Non-Site Specific</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Non Site Specific	50,000	275,000	775,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Vehicles/Technology/Repairs	191,000	375,000	395,000	365,000	182,000	210,000
Surveys and Planning	75,000	75,000	105,000	300,000	50,000	50,000
	316,000	725,000	1,275,000	715,000	282,000	310,000

APPENDIX

OUR
PARKS,
ARTS,
SPORTS,
HISTORY,
OUR
FUTURE.



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

2025 – 2029
Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan

(this page is intentionally left blank)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
A Message from the Project Team	5
Acknowledgements	6
Executive Summary	7
THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK	8
District Overview	9
District Demographics	11
Plan Development	12
ENGAGEMENT	13
Plan Engagement Overview	14
Priority Goals	17
Priority Goals Overview	18
Quality Infrastructure Management	19
Staff Excellence	28
Organizational Excellence	31
Customer & Community Focus	36
Financial Strength	44
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	49
APPENDICES	
<i>Appendix A: Engagement Summary</i>	
<i>Appendix B: Financial Sustainability Strategy and Analysis</i>	
<i>Appendix C: Implementation Plan</i>	
<i>Appendix D: Marketing Audit</i>	
<i>Appendix E: Parks Assessments</i>	
<i>Appendix F: Provider Network & Inventory Summary</i>	

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION | A MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT TEAM

Dear Residents,

We are pleased to present the 2025-2029 Comprehensive and Strategic Master Plan, a thorough roadmap that will guide the Park District over the next five years. This plan represents the culmination of a year-long process of review, analysis, and collaboration, ensuring that it reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

Developed in collaboration with residents, stakeholders, partners, Board members, and staff, the plan incorporates feedback collected through open houses, focus groups, surveys, and other engagement opportunities. It also includes a detailed analysis of financial, operational, structural, and programmatic data, all of which informed the priorities and strategies outlined in this document.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to this process. Your participation and insights were instrumental in shaping a shared vision for the future of the Park District of Oak Park. This Master Plan not only identifies key priorities but also lays out actionable strategies to achieve our goals.

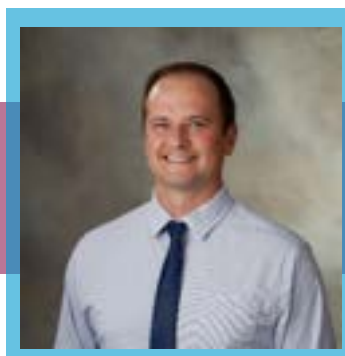
We look forward to bringing this vision to life and working together to serve the residents of Oak Park.

Sincerely,

The Project Team



Jan Arnold
Executive Director



Chris Lindgren
*Deputy Director of Properties &
Planning*



Mitch Bowlin
Director of Business Operations

INTRODUCTION | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PARK DISTRICT BOARD COMMISSIONERS

Kassie Porreca, *President*

Jake Worley-Hood, *Vice President*

Sandy Lentz, *Secretary*

David Wick, *Treasurer*

Chris Wollmuth, *Commissioner*

PARK DISTRICT PROJECT TEAM

Jan Arnold, *Executive Director*

Chris Lindgren, *Deputy Director of Properties & Planning*

Mitch Bowlin, *Director of Business Operations*

THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK COMMUNITY

A special thanks to the dedicated members of the Park District of Oak Park community who contributed their time, energy, and perspectives in efforts to inform this plan. All community feedback received throughout the process has been summarized and included as an appendix to this report.

THE CONSULTING TEAM



CivicBrand



INTRODUCTION | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Park District of Oak Park has a rich and prolific history of providing quality parks and recreation services to the residents of Oak Park as well as guests. The 2025-2029 Comprehensive and Strategic Master Plan is a roadmap designed to guide the District's over the next five years and is rooted in the principles of engagement, fiscal responsibility, and stewardship.

This Plan is the result of an inclusive and transparent process that combined robust community and staff input and collaboration, and data-driven analysis. It provides a framework to optimize parks, facilities, and recreation services while aligning with the District's mission to enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.

The 2025-2029 Comprehensive and Strategic Master Plan was developed and built upon the following pillars.



The District's Organizational Priorities were re-enforced throughout the process and serve as the umbrella under which all recommended actions were developed. These Priorities include *Financial Strength, Quality Infrastructure Management, Staff Excellence, Organizational Excellence, and Customer & Community Focus*.

As a living document, the 2025-2029 Comprehensive and Strategic Master Plan will serve as both a guide and benchmark for progress, empowering the Park District of Oak Park to continue to move forward with purpose and adaptability. Together with residents, the District continues in its efforts to create and sustain park and recreational spaces and services that connect, inspire, and enrich the lives of those it serves.

THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK



THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK | DISTRICT OVERVIEW

The Park District of Oak Park serves the recreational needs of the 53,000+ residents of Oak Park, providing nearly 8,000 recreation programs and special events annually. Since 1912, high-quality programs and well-maintained parks and facilities have dependably met residents' diverse leisure, wellness, childcare, and other needs and helped to enhance the quality of life.

The District is governed by a Board of five elected commissioners, who serve four-year terms without pay. The Board acts as the legislative and policy-making body of the District in operation, improvement, and planning of its parks, facilities, and recreation programs including:

- Seven neighborhood recreation centers at: Stevenson, Andersen, Barrie, Carroll, Field, Fox, and Longfellow
- 18 parks totaling 84 acres of parkland with playgrounds, restrooms, courts, etc.
- Dole Center which is home to the District's Active Adult programming
- Three historic properties: Cheney Mansion, Pleasant Home, and Oak Park Conservatory
- Two outdoor swimming pools: Rehm and Ridgeland Common
- One indoor, year-round ice rink: Paul Hruby Ice Arena at Ridgeland Common
- One Gymnastics & Recreation Center
- One Environmental Education Center at Austin Gardens
- One Community Recreation Center (CRC) with indoor track, gymnasium, fitness center, Esports Lounge, multipurpose and community rooms, and a playzone



THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK | DISTRICT OVERVIEW

MISSION

In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.

VISION

We strive for excellence in serving the well-being and recreation needs of our diverse community through a collaborative, innovative, and sustainable approach.

VALUES

Community Engagement

We will actively work to foster ongoing dialogue, relationships, collaborations, and partnerships with and within the community.

Responsible Leadership

We will maintain a high performing, engaged, and accountable organization.

Integrity

We will adhere to moral, honest, and ethical principles with a focus on accessibility, inclusion, and transparency.

Innovation

We will continuously try new methods and ideas, adapt services according to trends, and continually improve processes.

Sustainability

We will thrive through renewal, maintenance, and stewardship in all aspects of operation.

Inclusivity

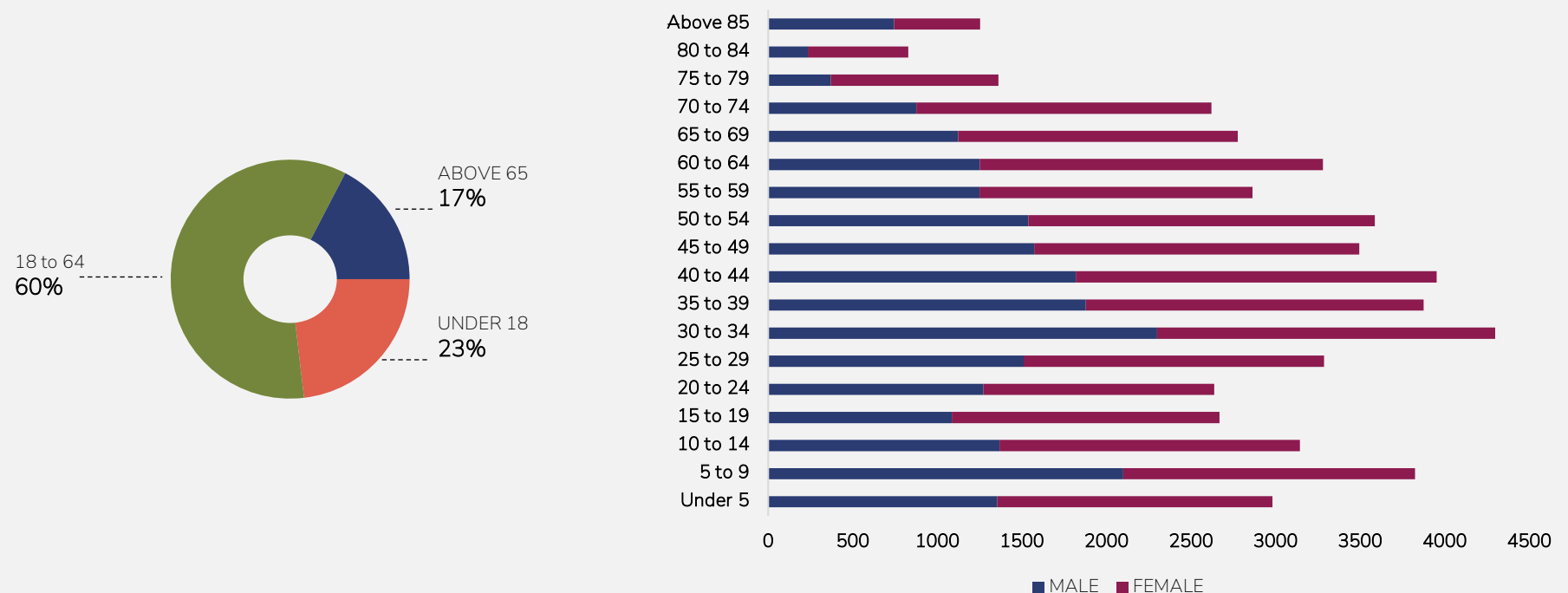
We will actively and intentionally value multiple layers of human characteristics and view such differences as strengths, while striving for equity among all identities to be authentic, feel safe and be respected in our programs, parks, and facilities.

THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK | DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE & ETHNICITY



AGE DISTRIBUTION



THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK | PLAN DEVELOPMENT

In today's fast-changing society, it is crucial for quality-of-life organizations like the Park District of Oak Park to remain responsive to issues that impact internal operations and community service. This adaptability is crucial for the continuance of relevance and maintaining public trust.

The District's recognition of current realities and key issues provides it with opportunities to strategically align its fundamental work with internal and external developments leading to greater effectiveness.

The Comprehensive and Strategic Master Plan process prioritized consideration of dynamic social, economic, and environmental changes and anticipated impacts. These factors played a crucial role in all aspects of the process, from discussions and evaluations to the development of the 2025-2029 Comprehensive and Strategic Master Plan's design.

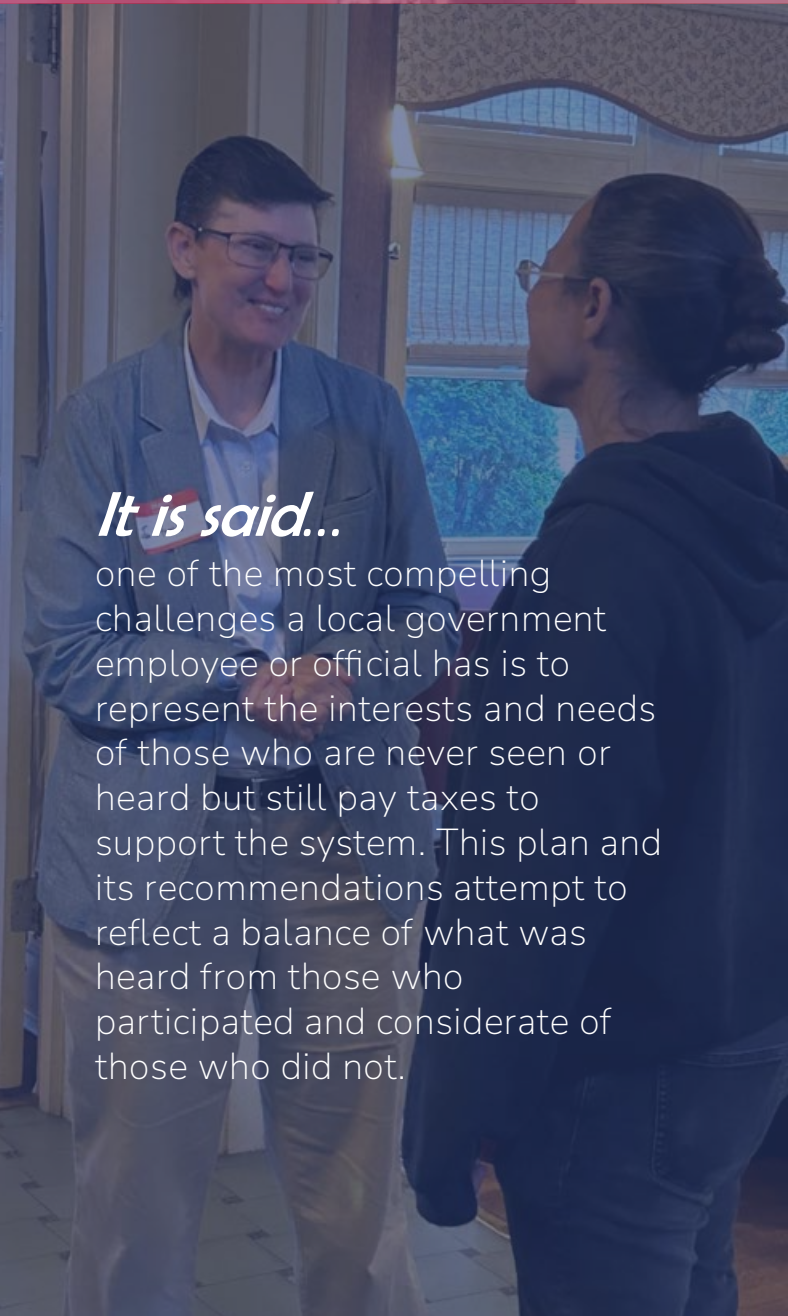
Themes emerged throughout the process by way of observation and community feedback, representing the District's Organizational Priorities as identified at right. Resident needs and preferences, and the District's organizational and financial health underpin each priority, and the subsequent recommended actions included in the Plan.



Park District of Oak Park's
Organizational Priorities

ENGAGEMENT





It is said...

one of the most compelling challenges a local government employee or official has is to represent the interests and needs of those who are never seen or heard but still pay taxes to support the system. This plan and its recommendations attempt to reflect a balance of what was heard from those who participated and considerate of those who did not.

Engagement is a basic expectation in a democratic society and has become a commonplace exercise in planning, particularly at local levels. It attempts to foster transparency and to include as many perspectives as possible.

Engaging the community, District Board and staff through a variety of methods was a way to surface varying and representative opinions to guide the planning process – and not simply a means to collect and count votes. Deliberate and discerning evaluation and analysis of what was “heard, learned, and observed” ultimately helped in defining and re-affirming the District’s priorities – those areas of focus where, if the Park District of Oak Park invests its time and attention, will have broad impacts across the community at large.

Engagement included a variety of methods and tools that were used to build relationships and create advocates for the District.

Engagement efforts were designed to generate enthusiasm from a variety of residents about what the District hopes to achieve as the result of the planning effort.

Engagement efforts targeted internal and external stakeholders and were conducted with a principal interest in informing the Comprehensive and Strategic Master Plan.

ENGAGEMENT | ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The Park District of Oak Park engaged in a comprehensive engagement effort targeting internal and external stakeholders to inform the development of the District's Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan.

The following key engagements below highlight the efforts conducted as part of this process.



NOTE: Full results can be found in Appendix A: Engagement Summary and Appendix F: Providers Network & Inventory Summary.

ENGAGEMENT | ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Staff and Board Planning Sessions

Separate planning sessions were held for both Staff and the Park Board of Commissioners to learn about the planning process as well as undergo a series of analyses and concentrated discussions on their perspectives about the District.

Community Focus Group Meetings

Five community focus groups consisting of small groups of select stakeholders gathered for concentrated discussions on their perspectives about the District through a series of structured questions.

Community Meeting

This gathering included general information about the planning process and provided opportunities to collect resident and customer feedback by way of a series of interactive stations.

Service Provider Luncheon

Community organizations were invited to gather to better understand the scope and breadth of the District's and each others' services to collectively work towards more efficient and effective service delivery.

Online Survey

As part of the Community Meeting, an online survey was provided to visitors that gathered information about their current and desired engagement with District parks, facilities, and services.

Virtual Engagement Room

This online engagement simulated the in-person Community Meeting experience and consisted of eight interactive stations meant to further dissect key themes discovered during prior engagement efforts.

Community Pop-Ups

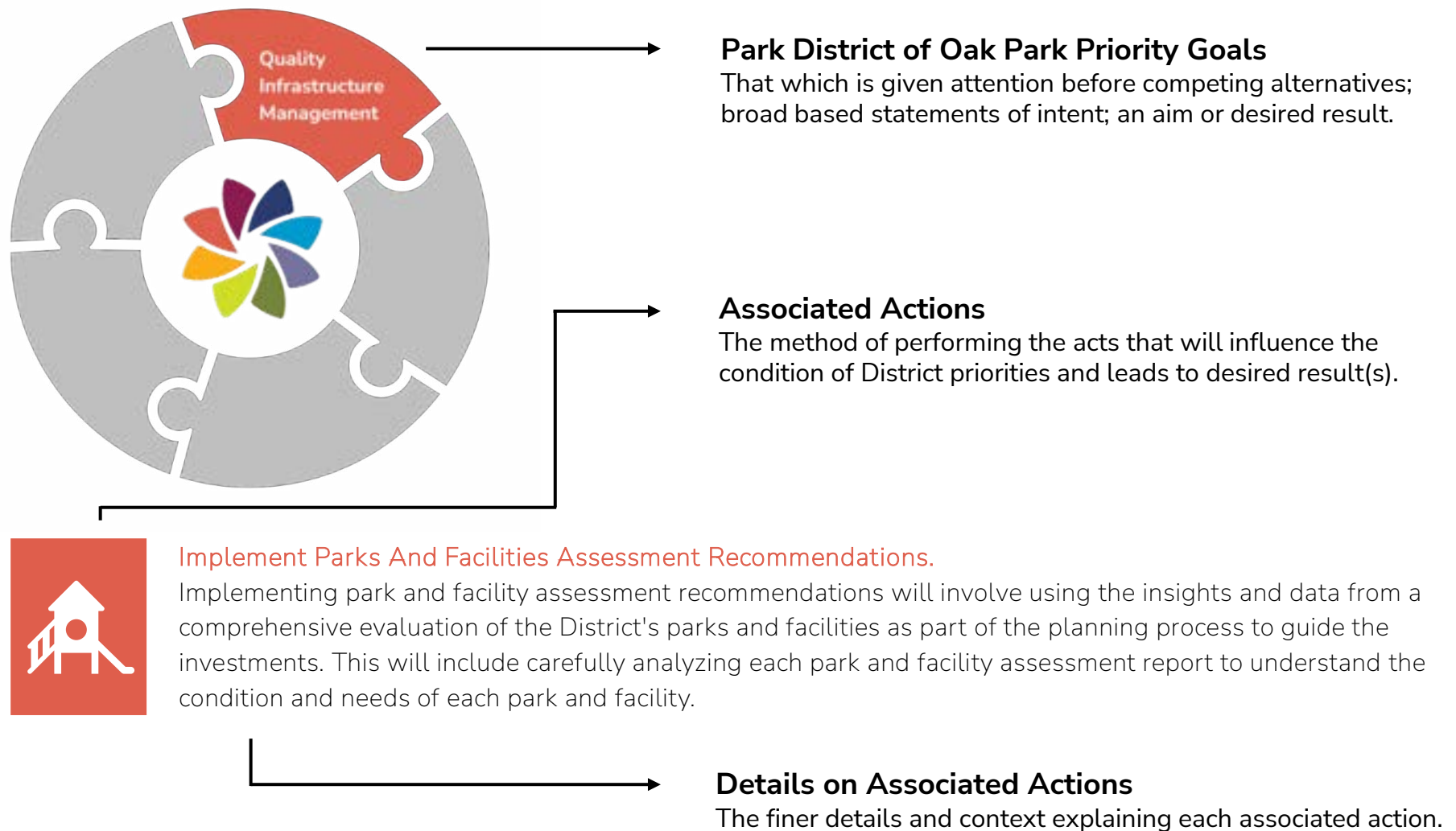
In order to meet the community where they were at, pop-up engagement opportunities were held at various locations throughout Oak Park and consisted of boards that prompted visitors to answer two short close-ended questions.

PRIORITY GOALS



PRIORITY GOALS | OVERVIEW

The following pages in this section detail the District's Priority Goals and Associated Actions. The graphic below serves as an example of how these goals and actions are structured and defined in the Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan.



PARKS & FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Quality park and recreation infrastructure has become much more than a convenience - it is a necessity for thriving communities. By prioritizing infrastructure improvements, public park and recreation organizations can deliver exceptional value and create lasting and impactful legacies.

The District's commitment to quality infrastructure management means prioritizing the maintenance, repair, and strategic improvement of its parks and facilities. This includes ensuring that all physical assets, from playgrounds to sports fields to recreation centers are safe, functional, and sustainable.

Recommended actions resulting from the process (included on the following pages as well as in the District's Implementation Plan) intend to influence the following intended outcomes.

- 1. Safety and Accessibility:** The District will continue to properly maintain infrastructure reducing risk and ensuring that parks and facilities are accessible.
- 2. Maximization of Community Enjoyment:** The District will continue to properly maintain parks and amenities offering the community safe, enjoyable spaces for both passive and active recreation.
- 3. Preservation of Property Values:** The District will continue to invest in infrastructure protecting the value of assets and extending their lifespan.
- 4. Supporting Sustainability:** The District will continue to make certain that quality infrastructure management focuses on both financial and environmental sustainability.
- 5. Preparing for Future Needs:** The District will continue to anticipate future opportunities, ensuring infrastructure can accommodate changing community needs and preferences.



PARKS & FACILITIES ASSESSMENTS

The evaluation of the District's parks, amenities and outdoor recreation facilities as part of the planning process involved collecting data on the condition, functionality, usage, and accessibility of these important community assets to define their current state and condition and identify opportunities for improvement.

Site investigations and assessments on each of the District's parks and facilities produced updated data and inventory sheets for each site (example included on page 20) with the complete assessment report included as Appendix E).

This process included assessments of athletic fields, sport courts, play areas, turf, trails, and all outdoor recreational facilities. Additionally, support amenities such as parking lots, restrooms, and site furniture, as well as tree canopy, lawn quality and landscape features were included in the site assessments.

Ultimately, the parks and facilities assessment becomes a vital tool for ensuring the Park District of Oak Park maintains and continues to improve the quality, accessibility, and relevance of these critical quality of life assets.



PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Mini Parks (Service Area – 0.25 miles)

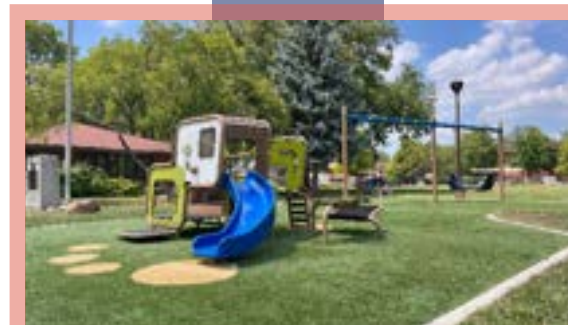
Provide walkable, drop-in recreation opportunities. Appropriate elements in these parks include playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating. These parks are located in residential areas, and their service areas do not include residents who must cross a planning area boundary to access the park. These parks typically serve residents within a 0.25-mile walkable distance. 0.5 acres of Mini Park open space is desired per 1,000 residents.

Neighborhood Parks (Service Area – 0.5 miles)

Provide places for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces. Elements in these parks often include playgrounds, picnic areas, and sports fields. Neighborhood Parks are located in residential areas and typically serve residents within a 0.5-mile walkable distance. 2 acres of Neighborhood Park open space is desired per 1,000 residents.

Community Parks (Service Area – 1 miles)

Focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. Elements in these parks often serve the community as gathering places and provide general athletics. Such elements include playgrounds, pavilions, trails and path systems, and multiple sport courts and fields. Community Parks are viewed as destinations and typically require travel by automobile for programmed recreation. Community Parks typically serve residents within a 1 mile distance. 7.5 acres of Community Park open space is desired per 1,000 residents.



PRIORITY GOALS | QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

Regional Parks (Service Area – 2 miles)

Provide region-wide recreation needs. These spaces may have recreation activities such as swimming and boating and include larger sport complexes or large natural areas. Regional Parks typically serve residents within a 2 mile distance, though they are enjoyed by surrounding communities as well. There is no established level of service standard for Regional Parks.

Designated Natural Areas (Service Area – 2 miles)

Defined as conservation and wildlife areas. These areas are designed to preserve ecosystems and habitats. Designated Natural Areas typically serve residents within a 2 mile distance, and while there are not established level of service standards, these sites protect natural features and add value to the community.

Special Use Parks (Service Area – 2 miles)

Provide community-wide recreation needs. These parks are designed as single-use recreation spaces that include amenities such as memorials, sculptures, historic buildings, and railways. Special Use Parks typically serve residents within a 2 mile distance. There is no established level of service standard for Special Use Parks.

Undeveloped Parks (Service Area – None)

Not currently developed with amenities. In the District park system, they provide public open space with lawn and tree canopy. There is no established service area or level of service standard for Undeveloped Parks.



PRIORITY GOALS | QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

Level of Service (LOS) was created by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to be used as a standard evaluation of park type and acreage across all jurisdictions. These data are a basis for evaluating acreage per population based on the park classification, or park type.

The following charts incorporate a population of 53,359 comparing it to the NRPA standard of 10 acres per 1,000 population. Each park type has a unique goal that when compiled together makes up the LOS. These charts analyze the Park District of Oak Park's park assets in terms of acreage.

NOTE: This analysis does not suggest that the Park District of Oak Park's park acreage aligns with state and national standards as the District is landlocked; rather, it intends to provide a comparison between the District's park asset load and breadth with that of state and national standards.

PARKS: 2024 Inventory- Outdoor Facilities						NRPA Park Metrics		2024 Facility Standards			
Park Type	PDOP Facilities	Oak Park Schools	Total Facilities & Schools	Quantity	Current Level of Service based upon the population		Based upon the median no. of residents per facility		Recommended	Meet Standard Need Exists Surplus	Additional Facilities/Amenities needed
Total Park acres	82.58	11.64	94.22	Acre(s)	1.77	1000	10.6	1000	566	Need Exists	-471 Acre(s)
OUTDOOR AMENITIES											
Picnic Shelters/Areas	9		9	Site(s)	1.00	5,929	1	7000	8	Surplus	1 Site(s)
Multipurpose Fields (Full=1, Half=0.5)	13	5.78	18.78	Field(s)	1.00	2,841	1	4070	13	Surplus	6 Field(s)
Diamond Fields	14	11.65	25.65	Field(s)	1.00	2,080	1	3675	15	Surplus	11 Field(s)
Basketball Courts (Full=1, Half=0.5)	5.5		5.5	Court(s)	1.00	9,702	1	8363	6	Need Exists	-1 Court(s)
Tennis Courts (Lit&Unit)	12	1.5	13.5	Court(s)	1.00	3,953	1	5865	9	Surplus	4 Court(s)
Pickleball Court	6		6	Court(s)	1.00	8,893	1	10500	5	Surplus	1 Court(s)
Volleyball Court	2		2	Court(s)	1.00	26,680	1	26612	2	Meets Standard	0 Court(s)
Combined Court (Tennis/Pickleball/Ice rink)	10		10	Court(s)	1.00	5,336	1	12972	4	Surplus	6 Court(s)
Playgrounds	16	9	25	Site(s)	1.00	2,134	1	3707	14	Surplus	11 Site(s)
Off Leash Dog Parks	2		2	Site(s)	1.00	26,680	1	55135	1	Surplus	1 Site(s)
Skateboards Areas	1		1	Site(s)	1.00	52,080	1	60904	1	Meets Standard	0 Site(s)
Bikeways/Bike Lanes (Miles)	4.5		4.5	Mile(s)	0.08	1,000	0.04	1000	2	Surplus	2 Miles(s)
Walking and Biking Trails (Miles)	7.13		7.13	Mile(s)	0.13	1,000	0.25	1000	13	Need Exists	-6 Miles(s)
Spraypads	4		4	Site(s)	1.00	13,340	1	54100	1	Surplus	3 Site(s)
Outdoor Pool	2		2	Site(s)	1.00	26,680	1	46353	1	Surplus	1 Site(s)
Fitness Station	2		2	Site(s)	1.00	26,680	1	35000	2	Meets Standard	0 Site(s)
Population estimates - 2022 ACS, 5 Year Estimates											
											53,359

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS



Implement Parks And Facilities Assessment Recommendations.

Implementing park and facility assessment recommendations will involve using the insights and data from a comprehensive evaluation of the District's parks and facilities as part of the planning process to guide the investments. This will include carefully analyzing each park and facility assessment report to understand the condition and needs of each park and facility.



Develop a Climate Action Plan.

The development of a Climate Action Plan should include operations and facilities electrification strategies. Replacing fossil-fuel-powered equipment, vehicles, and HVAC systems with electric alternatives, utilizing renewable energy sources where possible and continuing to prioritize energy audits are among plan initiatives expected to limit environmental impacts, lower operating costs, and create healthier and more sustainable built environments.



Continued Development of an Asset Management Plan.

The continued development of the District's asset management plan will position the District to tell the story of where future capital and annual maintenance and operation funds should be allocated to bring the system up to satisfactory levels. Having the data and information included in this plan will be critical to directing appropriate funding levels to care for parks and other physical assets in the District's system.



Strengthen the Capital Investment Policy.

Expanding upon the District's Capital Investment Policy will involve establishing a framework to guide the prioritization, funding, and implementation of long-term infrastructure and development projects. This will position the District to continue to invest in critical infrastructure and guide investments that align with organizational values.

PRIORITY GOALS | QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT



Implement Dog Park Enhancements and Education.

Dog park enhancements and education are expected to improve the user experience, promote responsible pet ownership, and increase community engagement by way of the continued growth of pet ownership in communities across the country. This can include facility upgrades, better waste management practices, added amenities, and workshops and programs leading to more responsible pet ownership and care.



Continue to Focus on the Customer Experience in Park Spaces.

As part of each 10-year park master plan, continue to commit to considering the user's experience when planning and improving park spaces fostering positive connections with public spaces and places. Examples of this include consideration of comfortability (shade) in areas that may lack tree canopy or seating in areas that may be considered heavily used or prompt serenity.



Explore Passive Recreation Opportunities.

Emphasizing passive recreation opportunities involves continued consideration of spaces and experiences that allow visitors to engage with park environments in a relaxed, low-impact way. Passive recreation enhances well-being, fosters connection with nature, and makes parks accessible to a broader audience. Areas such as trails and walking paths are widely considered the most sought-after park amenities across the country.



Continued Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Continued compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) includes the District's ongoing commitment to meeting and exceeding standards. This includes ongoing assurance that all new design and construction of facilities and park assets meets the Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC) requirements and sustained implementation of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. [ADA outreach survey information can be found in Appendix A: Engagement Summary.]



Continue to Adhere to and Update the District's Historic Property Management Plan.

The District should continue to adhere to and update its existing Historic Property Management Plan which guides the operations and maintenance practices for the District's three historic and cultural properties: Oak Park Conservatory, Pleasant Home, and Cheney Mansion.

“I love the parks around here! It's clear many other folks feel the same way. And to see people out enjoying the day greatly improves my own!”

Community member comment received from a virtual engagement room survey.

PRIORITY GOALS | STAFF EXCELLENCE

Cultivating a team of highly skilled, motivated, and committed individuals who consistently deliver high-quality work and embody the Park District of Oak Park's value of responsible leadership.

Staff excellence encompasses professional development, collaboration, adaptive leadership, and a shared dedication to continuous improvement.

The foundation of the District's continued success lies in the performance and commitment of the professional staff who each day ensure that parks and recreation services meet or exceed expectations, directly impacting the District's success and reputation.

Recommended actions resulting from the process (included on the following pages as well as in the District's Implementation Plan) intend to influence the following intended outcomes.



1. **Enhancing Team Morale:** The District will continue to foster a culture of excellence which fosters pride, recognition, and shared purpose, leading to increased motivation and job satisfaction.
2. **Delivering Superior Services:** The District will continue to pursue excellence in staff performance which will translate to better outcomes for residents and the broader the community.
3. **Adaptability and Innovation:** The District will continue its commitment to excellence focused on learning and creative problem-solving, making the District resilient and forward-thinking.
4. **Attracting and Retaining Talent:** The District will continue to support staff development and create an environment where top talent wants to stay and grow.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS



Define Professional Development Opportunities and Guidelines.

Providing a menu of educational resources, including workshops, seminars, conferences, online courses, and certifications relevant to professional roles and career aspirations, and establishing parameters for participation is expected to help the District in efforts to retain top talent, enable succession, and foster a supportive work environment. Content can include topical areas most relevant to today's park and recreation systems such as inclusion practices, ADA requirements and compliance, sustainability practices, financial and business acumen, and others.



Analyze the Effectiveness of Communication Efforts.

Continually evaluating the effectiveness of current communication efforts through various methods, including surveys, focus groups, and interviews, will allow the District to gain insights into internal communication preferences, challenges, and areas for improvement.



Strengthen Employee Recruitment and Hiring Process and Diversify Workforce.

The commitment the District has made to hire a full-time Recruitment Coordinator, underscores its interests in strengthening the recruitment and hiring process. Continuing to identify positions that are commonly difficult to fill, expanding recruitment channels, and streamlining the hiring process so that it is user friendly and minimizes obstacles and barriers will further the District's interests in galvanizing its workforce. Additionally, a focus on diversifying the employee base will require an approach that aligns with the District's values and considers community demographics. Using the District's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Framework (as referenced on page 38), design postings with DEI references and language and consider broadening recruitment efforts beyond existing practices.

“[PDOP] provides indoor and outdoor places for community members. The facilities are well maintained by courteous and helpful staff.”

Community member comment received from a virtual engagement room survey.

PRIORITY GOALS | ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

A commitment to organizational excellence refers to achieving and maintaining the highest standards for operations, programming, and engagement. It means being a model of efficiency, innovation, and service delivery, while upholding a commitment to environmental stewardship, inclusivity, and fiscal responsibility.

Recommended actions resulting from the process (included on the following pages as well as in the District's Implementation Plan) intend to influence the following intended outcomes.

1. **Community Impact:** The District will continue to create meaningful recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all residents.
2. **Trust and Credibility:** The District will continue to ensure transparency and accountability, ensuring that taxpayers and stakeholders see their resources managed effectively.
3. **Sustainability:** The District will continue to prioritize resource conservation, innovative design, and thoughtful planning, the district preserves natural and financial resources for future generations.
4. **Strength and Resilience:** The District will continue to foster a culture of excellence inspires staff to strive for their best, resulting in better programs, services, and overall community engagement.
5. **Leading in Parks and Recreation Systems Management:** The District will continue in its commitment to excellence positioning itself as a leader in the field, influencing other organizations and inspiring partnerships that amplify impact.



PRIORITY GOALS | ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Park District works to be a leader among park and recreation agencies throughout the country. By voluntarily submitting itself to various accreditation and awards processes, the community and staff can be assured that the Park District meets or exceeds current industry standards and has processes in place to best serve the Oak Park community.



National Gold Medal Award Finalist/Winner (2015) *National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)*
for parks and recreation management excellence



National Accreditation *Commission for Accreditation of Park & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)*
for overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community



Distinguished Agency Accreditation *Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD)*
for providing outstanding parks and recreation services to their community



Outstanding Park or Facility Award *Illinois Parks & Recreation Association (IPRA)*
for outstanding and unique achievement in design and development of the CRC



Platinum International Aquatic Safety Award *Ellis & Associates (E&A)*
for aquatics safety; top 10% worldwide



Golden Guard & Outstanding Responder Award *E&A*
for lifeguarding performance



Best Green Practices Award *IAPD*
for work in CRC's construction and sustainability as a net zero facility



Emerald Award *Illinois Green Alliance*
for outstanding green building achievements



Champions of Change Award *IPRA*
for unique and exemplary DEI practices



Distinguished Budget Award *Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)*
for preparation of budget documents of the highest quality; 13 straight years



Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (2023) *GFOA*
for annual comprehensive financial reporting

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS



Consider Future Application for the National Gold Medal Award.

The District is encouraged to consider future application for the National Gold Medal Award which honors public park and recreation agencies and state park systems throughout the United States and armed forces recreation programs worldwide. This award is given annually to systems which demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices.



Maintain National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) designation.

The District is encouraged to maintain its National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) designation. CAPRA is an operational management system intended to improve infrastructures, increase efficiency in all activities; and a way to demonstrate accountability to communities served.



Maintain Illinois Distinguished Agency Accreditation.

The Illinois Distinguished Accreditation program's purpose is to improve the delivery of recreation services to the residents of Illinois through a voluntary comprehensive evaluation process. The desired result is to improve the quality of life for Illinois residents and to recognize those agencies that provide this quality service. Ongoing completion of this program furthers the District's commitment to provide exceptional park and recreation services to its residents.



Technological Improvements.

Improved technologies can help streamline operations, enhance service delivery, and make District services more accessible to a broader audience. Examples include advanced registration systems and platforms that have improved customer centric capabilities and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to can enhance the customer experience as well as improve operations (use as a research assistant, data analyzer, etc.).



Continue to Identify New Partnership Opportunities.

The District will continue to benefit from considering additional partnership opportunities as mechanisms to best use resources, reduce or eliminate duplication, and ways to enhance the community's "Continuum of Park and Recreation Service". Areas of focus may include youth service opportunities, outdoor recreation, facility management, and health and wellness. [Appendix F provides details regarding the Providers Network Luncheon held as part of the planning process that includes an inventory of current and prospective partners.]



Continued Evaluation of Existing Partner Agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), and Joint Use Agreements (JUAs).

Well planned and managed partnerships have provided the District with enhanced innovations and have led to bridging markets, cooperative capital development and improvements, and collaborative service delivery. These agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), and Joint Use Agreements (JUAs) should continue to be evaluated annually with reviews of the scope and management of the relationship, roles and responsibilities, milestones, terms, and financial arrangements including reciprocity.



Evaluate Performance Effectiveness.

Performance measures are essential tools for assessing the effectiveness and success of services, parks and facilities, and overall operations. These metrics will assist the District track progress, identify areas for improvement, and demonstrate accountability to stakeholders, including residents, the Board, and various funding bodies. These also allow the District to continue to update its existing performance dashboard allowing for transparency in reporting.

“The Park District is one of our favorite things about living in Oak Park! Thanks!”

Community member comment received during the Community Meeting on May 15, 2024

PRIORITY GOALS | CUSTOMER & COMMUNITY FOCUS

The Park District of Oak Park embodies that of a community and customer-focused organization that understands the needs, preferences, and well-being of its residents.

For the District this involves listening to residents, fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment where people feel valued and engaged, and considering the provision and facilitation of park and recreation services that responsibly address community needs and interests.

Recommended actions resulting from the process (included on the following pages as well as in the District's Implementation Plan) intend to influence the following intended outcomes.

1. **Strengthen Community Connections:** The District will continue to focus on building trust and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents.
2. **Increase Recreation Program/Service Success:** The District will continue to design and deliver services while considering and appreciating community input leading to higher satisfaction and engagement.
3. **Promote Inclusivity and Access:** The District will continue to be customer-focused ensuring that diverse voices are heard and that offerings are accessible and welcoming to all.
4. **Drive Continuous Improvement:** The District will continue to solicit feedback from the community providing valuable insights that will help refine service and innovate new solutions.
5. **Build Loyalty and Advocacy:** The District will continue in its efforts to make residents feel valued and thus, likely to support the District through increased participation, volunteering, and ongoing advocacy.



MARKETING AUDIT

A Marketing Audit, conducted by CivicBrand, evaluated the District's current efforts to reach residents not currently engaged in Park District services.

It analyzed the first two stages of the marketing funnel (pictured right), awareness and consideration. The Awareness stage is focused on generating awareness of District offerings through various channels, including social media, local events, and community partnerships. The Consideration stage aims to convert awareness into action with targeted messaging on the District's unique features and benefits, as well as education about its service offerings, in order to motivate non-users to become users.

NOTE: The complete Marketing Audit is available as Appendix D.



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Marketing Improvements and Enhancements

Marketing - Awareness Stage

- There is opportunity to expand and grow interest amongst residents who do not have young children in the event the District were to place a more focused effort on the provision of adult centric programs and services (*see page 38 recommendation*).
- Evaluate the channels you post on along with opportunities for cross promotion with other organizations to expand the District's reach.
- Explore creative strategies to make your social media content more engaging by focusing on a mix of storytelling, interactive elements, and visuals.



Continue 5-Year Community Survey.

Ongoing design and distribution of a 5-Year Community Survey will provide the District with important resident insights and perspectives as they relate to customer satisfaction as well as opportunities for improvement.

Considerations as informed by the Marketing Audit conducted as part of the planning process relating to survey design include but are not limited to the following:

- Look to increase respondents that indicate “Strongly Agree” on the “thinking about the Park District social media, how strongly do you agree or disagree that the posts are...” question in future surveys.
- Favorability remains high, but the amount of “Very Favorable” responses and the average rating has decreased since 2019, which aligns with national trends. This is something to keep an eye on to ensure it doesn’t become a downward trend.



Continued Website ADA Compliance.

The District should continue its website compliance with the ADA to be accessible, operable, perceivable, and understandable to people with disabilities. The District should continually meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standard, the District can comply with this set of internationally recognized standards to ensure that its digital content is accessible to all users.



Continue Community Outreach.

The planning effort served as a foundation from which to continue efforts to keep the community engaged and apprised of the happenings of the District. Scheduling touch points such as presentations at local service club functions, hosting and planning quarterly public gatherings (at various locations throughout the community and times of day), distributing annual satisfaction surveys, facilitating contests on social media, and other innovative ways to keep the community engaged will help keep the District stay top of mind and offer various platforms from which people can connect with the organization. This should also include consideration of multi-lingual communication methods.



Define a Service Philosophy for Older (Active) Adults.

Serving the District's older adult population is currently done under the umbrella of "Active Adult" defined as anyone 50 years of age and older. There are three distinctive older adult demographics – active older adults, passive older adults, and the elderly over the age of 50. These all require different and diverse approaches to service design and delivery. This may be a service enhancement consideration of the District moving forward.



Explore Options for Family and Adult Programming.

Given the demands of family life, working parents, adults without children, and a need for activity to support mental and physical health, the District should consider specialized classes, events, and workshops that are offered during non-working hours (between 5 and 8 pm) that are designed for families with young children (under the age of 8), and for adults who do not either have children or whose children are no longer dependent.



Maintain an Understanding of Local Public Health Indicators.

Maintaining an understanding of local public health indicators is important for the District to effectively respond to community health needs and enhance the overall well-being of residents. Public health indicators provide valuable insights into the state of health in Oak Park, influencing decisions on recreation service development and facility enhancements (e.g., outdoor fitness equipment). By staying informed, the District will continue to play a critical role in promoting healthy lifestyles and contributing to community resilience.



Identify Constraints and Barriers to Access.

Identifying constraints and barriers that could hinder access to District programs involves a comprehensive assessment of factors like geographical location, financial limitations, transportation options, scheduling conflicts, language barriers, and social and/or cultural considerations. By pinpointing these obstacles, a clearer picture emerges of the difficulties community members encounter in utilizing District services. This insight can then inform the development of focused strategies and initiatives to overcome or eliminate these barriers, ensuring that District services are accessible and inclusive to all individuals, irrespective of their circumstances.



Continue the collaboration with West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA).

As a founding member of the West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA), the District's continued collaboration with WSSRA speaks to its importance as an avenue for connection so that special recreation programs remain accessible and available for Oak Park residents and that reasonable modifications to support inclusive participation in District services by people with disabilities remain available at locations throughout the community [ADA outreach survey information can be found in Appendix A: Engagement Summary].



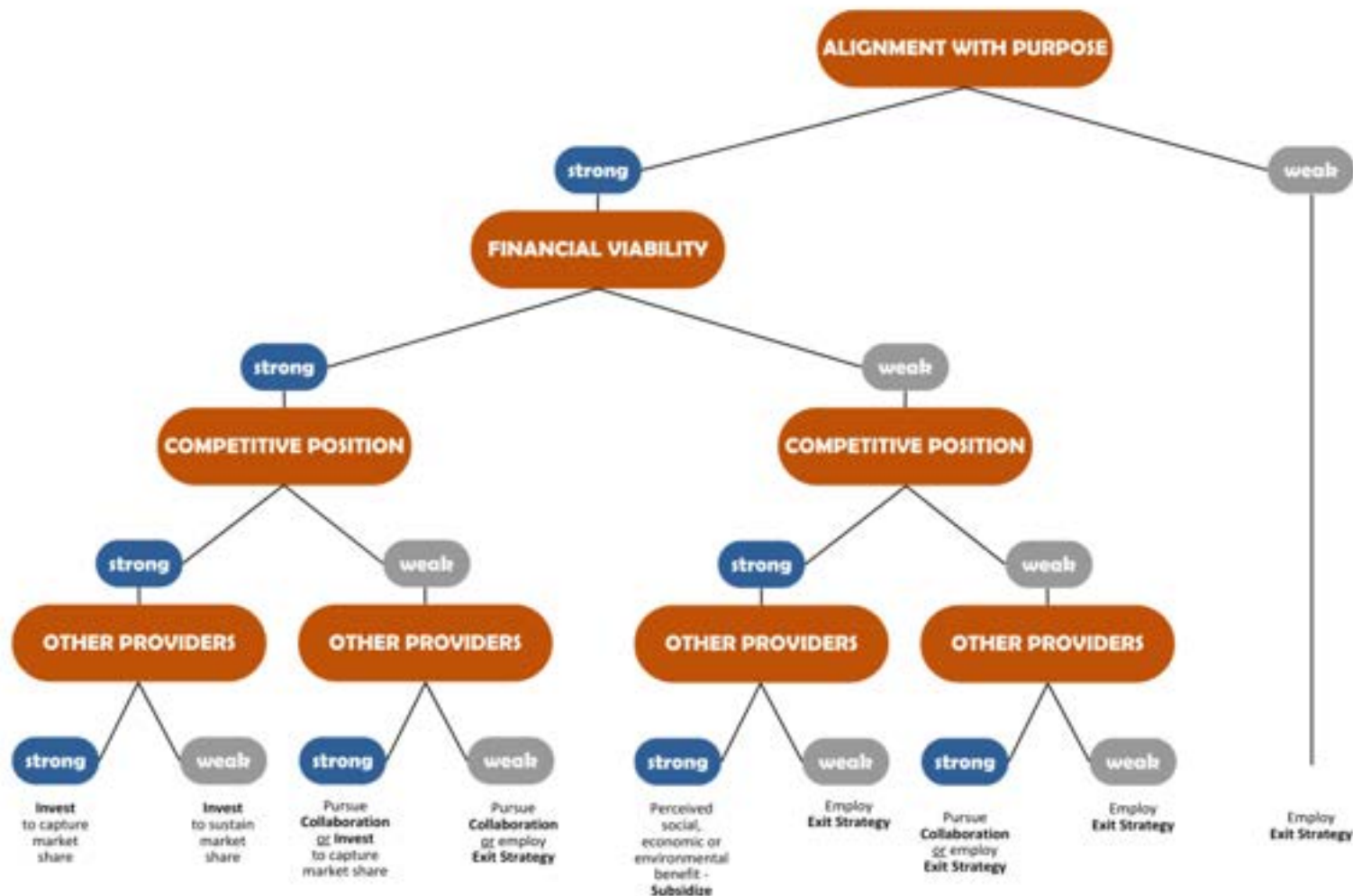
Apply a Recreation Services Analysis.

A service analysis includes a thoughtful review and evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of services such as activities, courses, classes, events, and rentals. Analysis results ultimately provide recommended service delivery strategies which can include either continued investment in the service, collaboration, or divestment. The analysis considers each service's relevance and alignment with purpose; its market position; consideration of other providers which offer similar and like services; and its financial viability. This extraordinarily valuable method was introduced to the recreation staff as part of the process by way of two workshops and intends to help staff analyze their service inventory, best define their service "lane", and reduce duplication of services which can fragment limited resources.

[Service Analysis Decision Making Tree on pg. 41]

Apply a Recreation Services Analysis (cont).

SERVICE ANALYSIS DECISION MAKING TREE

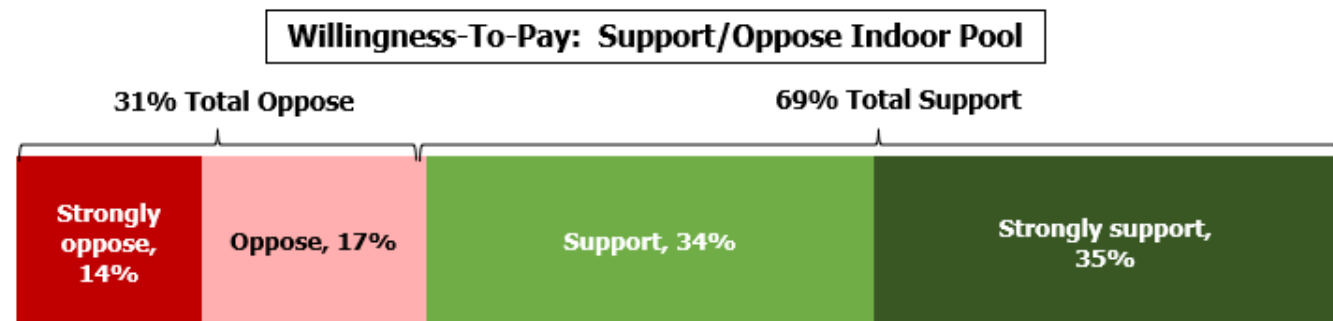


80% All Rights Reserved.

Present a Pool Referendum to Residents.

A community survey conducted by the District in 2023 included a question specific to resident support for a property tax increase to help pay for the cost of an indoor community pool. As a result, 69 percent of respondents expressed support for a new pool (see image below). In addition, there was also an expressed interest from those who engaged in community pop-up engagements during the planning process (73 percent of respondents suggested support for a referendum).

It is recommended in response that the District prepare and present a referendum to residents to determine their willingness to invest their tax dollars towards the construction of a new indoor pool as well as understand that there will be programmatic fees and charges assessed for admission and recreation services intended to cover the operations and maintenance of this new asset. In preparation of the referendum and to balance the District's commitment to addressing the community's interests while ensuring fiscal responsibility, it is recommended that a thoughtful and informed feasibility study leading to solid estimates for construction (including compounding based upon the anticipated year of construction) be conducted that will inform the tax increase that residents can expect. The study should consider the design, construction and ongoing operations and maintenance of a three-bodied pool lap, fun/open play and therapy) allowing the District to serve a broad portion of the greater Oak Park community providing various activities for varied markets.



[Source: 2023 Community Survey for the Park District of Oak Park]

“I appreciate all that you do to make Oak Park such a wonderful place to call home.”

Community member comment received during the Community Meeting on May 15, 2024

PRIORITY GOALS | FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Exhibiting financial strength and being a fiscally responsible organization means using resources wisely, balancing expenses with revenues, and planning strategically to ensure long-term sustainability.

For the Park District of Oak Park, financial strength is about delivering high-quality parks and recreation services while maintaining accountability to taxpayers and stakeholders and continuing to be good stewards of taxpayer resources.

Recommended actions resulting from the process (included on the following pages as well as in the District's Implementation Plan) intend to influence the following intended outcomes.

- 1. Sustaining High-Quality Services:** The District will continue to ensure that it will maintain and improve parks and facilities over time without compromising quality.
- 2. Building Trust with Stakeholders:** The District will continue to be responsible fiscal stewards demonstrating transparency and accountability and fostering trust among residents.
- 3. Enabling Stability and Smart Growth:** The District will continue to maintain a strong financial position allowing investments in future projects, the ability to adapt to changing community needs and preferences and to seize new opportunities.
- 4. Preparing for Uncertainties:** The District will continue to maintain a solid financial foundation providing a safety net to weather unexpected challenges, such as economic downturns or natural disasters.
- 5. Ensuring Fair and Just Use of Resources:** The District will continue to be financially responsible ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent equitably, benefiting the entire community.
- 6. Attracting Funding and Partnerships:** The District will continue to build upon its reputation for financial responsibility leading to increased grant opportunities, sponsorships, and collaborations with other organizations.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

This Plan's scope of work extended beyond a conventional comprehensive master planning effort to evaluate the costs of doing business so that there is a solid understanding of how taxpayer dollars are being spent and invested so that future financial decision making continues to be as informed as possible.

Overview and Philosophy

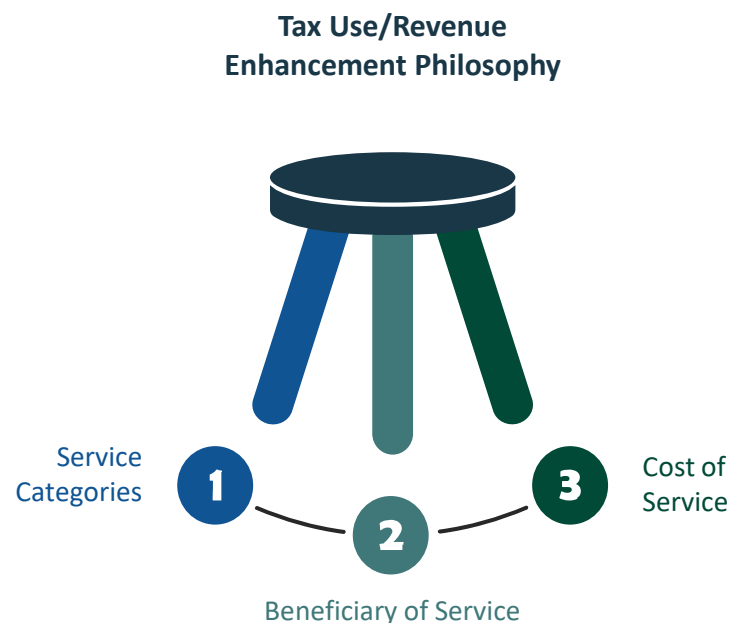
High-performing park and recreation agencies seek out and embrace responsible financial and service management practices. They actively understand the cost of doing business, identify cost savings, seek out partnerships that have reciprocal benefits, divest of services that do not align with mission or waste resources, and generate revenues when and where appropriate to reinvest in important and often underfunded services, maintain infrastructure, and relieve pressure on taxpayer resources. Ultimately, they possess a financial sustainability philosophy that provides a foundation from which all investment and spending decisions, and funding strategies are built.

Designing the PDOP Financial Sustainability Strategy

The Financial Sustainability Three-legged Stool illustration builds on the philosophy of Parks and Reconomics© - how parks and recreation organizations manage their finite financial resources.

PDOP embraced this charge and the exercise of creating a financial sustainability strategy for its parks and recreation services by following these principal steps (as illustrated in the graphic to the right).

NOTE: Full details on the Financial Sustainability Strategy are available as Appendix B.



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS



Update the Current Cost Recovery Policy for Board Approval.

The current cost recovery policy should be updated to reflect the new Tax Use and Revenue Generation Strategy (*see Appendix B*) created as part of the planning process. This will include review and approval of the Board of Commissioners.



Continue to Pursue Alternative Funding Sources.

The District should continue to actively pursue alternative funding sources beyond traditional revenue streams, such as grants, donations, and other innovative funding mechanisms. This approach will reflect the District's commitment to diversifying its financial resources and maximizing opportunities.



Evaluate Contractor "Splits".

Current contractors who work with the District to provide various services receive what are referred to as "splits" (e.g., 60/40 split with 60 percent of revenues going to the contractor while the remaining 40 percent goes to the District). These "splits" may not always be favorable to the District and therefore, taxpayers. It is recommended that this practice be evaluated and possibly discontinued. Each type of activity inherently belongs to a service area or category which has an assigned cost recovery goal. These goals should dictate pricing and therefore "splits" moving forward.



Conduct Annual Cost of Service Analysis Updates.

It is recommended that the District update and re-analyze its cost of service annually to ensure that ground is gained in terms of meeting cost recovery goals. This exercise will also allow the District to begin benchmarking against past performance rather than comparing itself with other organizations (which can be misleading given many do not account for all costs (direct and indirect) of doing business). These updates should consider capital expenditures in order to reflect complete cost of service.



Conduct a Review of the Tax Use and Revenue Generation Strategy.

The recommended Tax Use and Revenue Generation Strategy should be reviewed annually, and subsidy (tax dollar) investment goals should be analyzed and updated at least every two to three years or more frequently as necessary.



Implement Strategic Pricing.

An online Pricing Worksheet has been made available to staff as a tool to assist in pricing services based upon current cost of service while using the default principal method for establishing services fees, cost recovery pricing (defined as determining a fee based on established cost recovery goals). Other pricing methods may be utilized by the District, however, any strategy or method used will ultimately require that cost recovery goals and expectations be met per the District's Tax Use and Revenue Generation Strategy. Alternative pricing methods may include market, competitive, penetration, differential and bundling pricing that can be effective options based upon market behavior, economic principles like the law of supply and demand and ability to pay, the presence and characteristics of other service providers, and various other relevant considerations.



Reevaluate Success Metrics.

Success metrics should be reviewed and used as a means to reevaluate whether each service is compliant with established cost recovery goals (as indicated on the Tax Use and Revenue Generation Strategy) as well as other efficiencies and intended outcomes. Examples of success metrics include those listed below.

- Financial Viability: a service must meet its minimum tax dollar investment/ cost recovery goal as noted on the Tax Use and Revenue Generation Strategy Continuum.
- Operational Efficiency: services should meet 75% or more of capacity or realize a minimum increase of 10% usage during each service cycle to ensure efficiency of resource investment.
- Participant/Customer Satisfaction: overall participant satisfaction must meet a minimum of 85% satisfaction or higher.
- Participant/Customer Impact: alignment with service goals – impact on social connections, increases in activity levels, impacts on quality of life, school performance, etc.

“When I hear ‘Park District of Oak Park’, I immediately think of sustainability – economically, historical, and environmental.”

Community member comment received from a Community Focus Group Meeting on May 15, 2024

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation is the actionable part of the overall Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan. The resulting Implementation Plan included as an appendix to the Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan and is designed as a management tool for ease of use and as a method of simplifying recommendations. The Implementation Plan is essential for the Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan to come to life for several key reasons, some of which include:

- **CLARITY OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**
It outlines specific actions that will be taken within a defined timeframe. This clarity helps ensure that everyone involved understands what needs to be done and why.
- **RESOURCE ALLOCATION:**
It helps in allocating resources effectively. By identifying the actions, timelines, and responsibilities, the Implementation Plan allows the District to allocate resources such as budget, human resources, and other resources in a targeted and efficient manner.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY:**
It assigns clear responsibilities to individuals or teams for each action item. This accountability ensures that actions are completed on time and to the expected standards.
- **MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**
It provides a basis for monitoring progress and evaluating the success of the plan. Regular reviews against the action plan allow for adjustments to be made if circumstances change or if certain actions are not achieving the desired outcomes.
- **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT:**
It promotes a culture of continuous improvement. Through regular updates and revisions based on feedback and changing circumstances, the District can adapt and evolve to meet new challenges and opportunities.

The Implementation Plan includes 37 recommended actionable steps resulting from the comprehensive planning effort that staff are encouraged to execute to impact and improve District operations and service to community.

NOTE: The Implementation Plan worksheet tool is available as Appendix C and should be reviewed and updated annually as it is not intended as a static plan given dynamic economic, social, and environmental change.

HELPFUL TIPS



MAINTAIN AWARENESS

Maintaining awareness of the District's commitment to the Implementation Plan amongst all staff is critical to success – and this must go beyond an occasional speech, an annual meeting, or sending the occasional email. After spending months crafting the Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan and its priorities and recommended actions, it is important that the same commitment, drive, and passion that carried through plan development is continued into implementation, execution, and monitoring progress.



GENERATE AND KEEP MOMENTUM

It is essential to reinforce action when it is taken. Regular, consistent review of effort is needed to provide feedback, take corrective action, hold staff accountable, and keep the Park District of Oak Park on course.



MONITORING AND KEEPING SCORE

Monitoring the implementation of the plan is important for several reasons.

First, it helps ensure that work is progressing, and the District is assessing whether it is accomplishing desired outcomes. Second, monitoring provides the opportunity to communicate progress, both internally and externally. Third, it identifies where problems and opportunities lie and what has changed allowing for corrective actions including adjustment or setting a new course. Most importantly, monitoring demonstrates a commitment to the plan and translating the planning effort into tangible reality rather than it become an occasional academic exercise.

OUR

PARKS,

ARTS,

SPORTS,

HISTORY,

OUR

FUTURE.



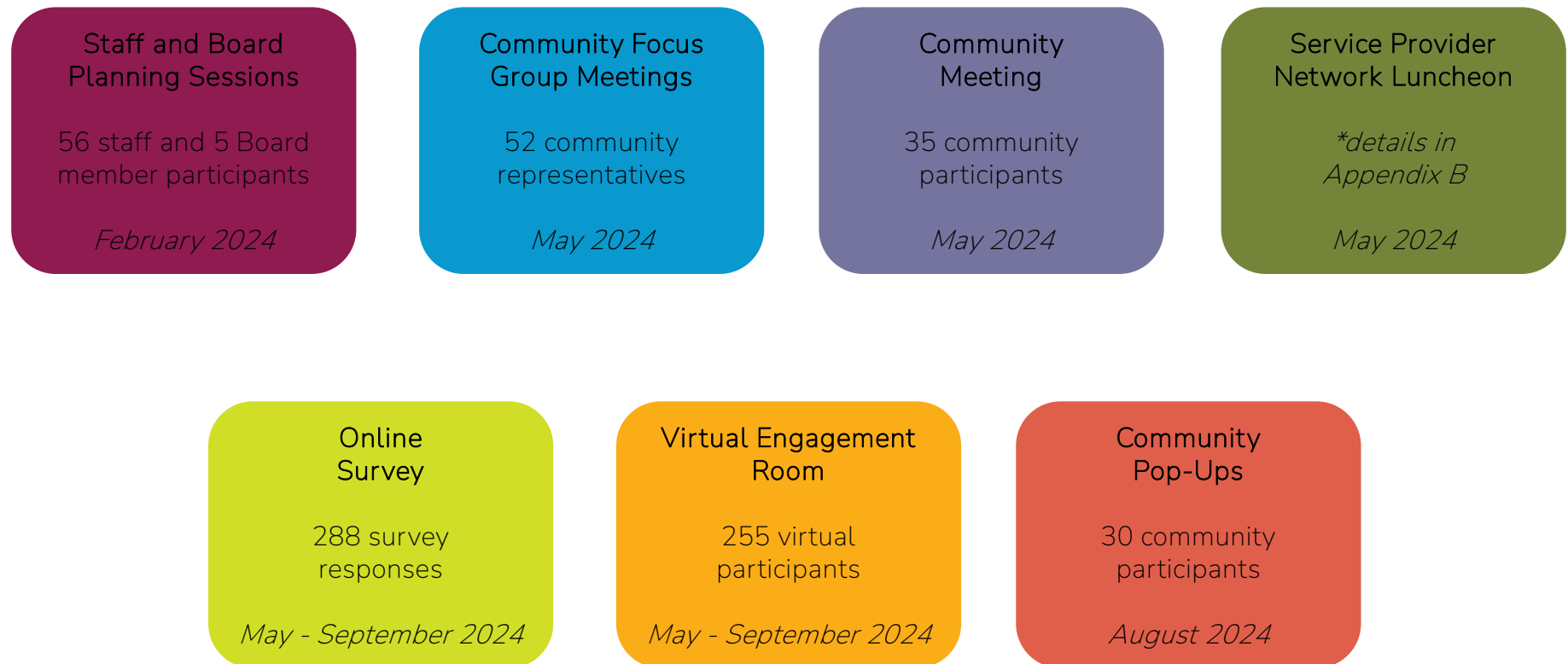
PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

APPENDIX A ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



APPENDIX A | ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The Park District of Oak Park engaged in a comprehensive engagement effort targeting internal and external stakeholders to inform the development of the District's Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan. The Engagement Summary report offers a high-level overview, and the responses from these engagements, of what was heard and learned throughout the process.

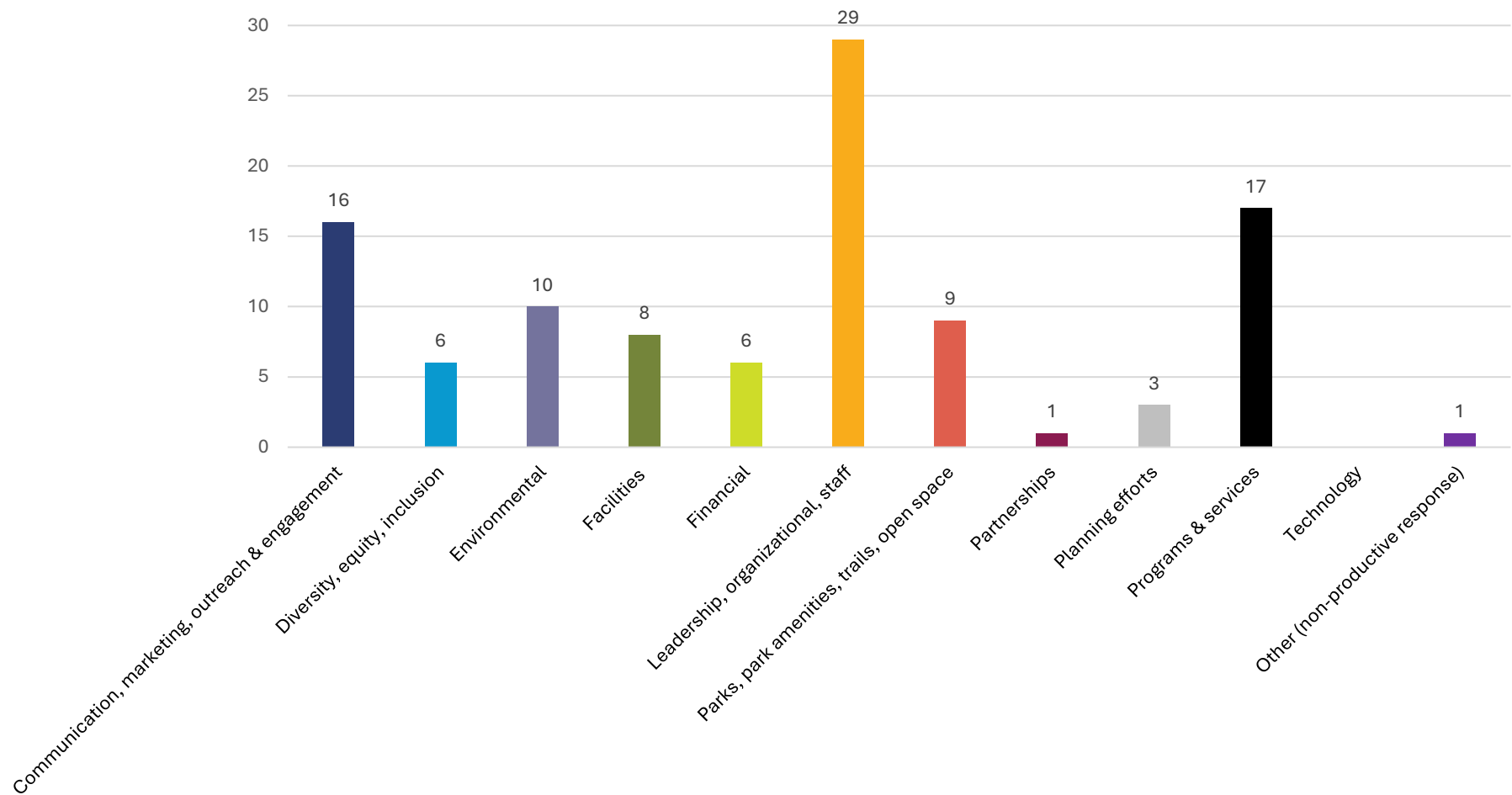


APPENDIX A | STAFF & BOARD PLANNING SESSION #1 - SURVEY SUMMARY

The Staff and Park Board of Commissioners planning sessions were held on February 14 and 15, 2024.

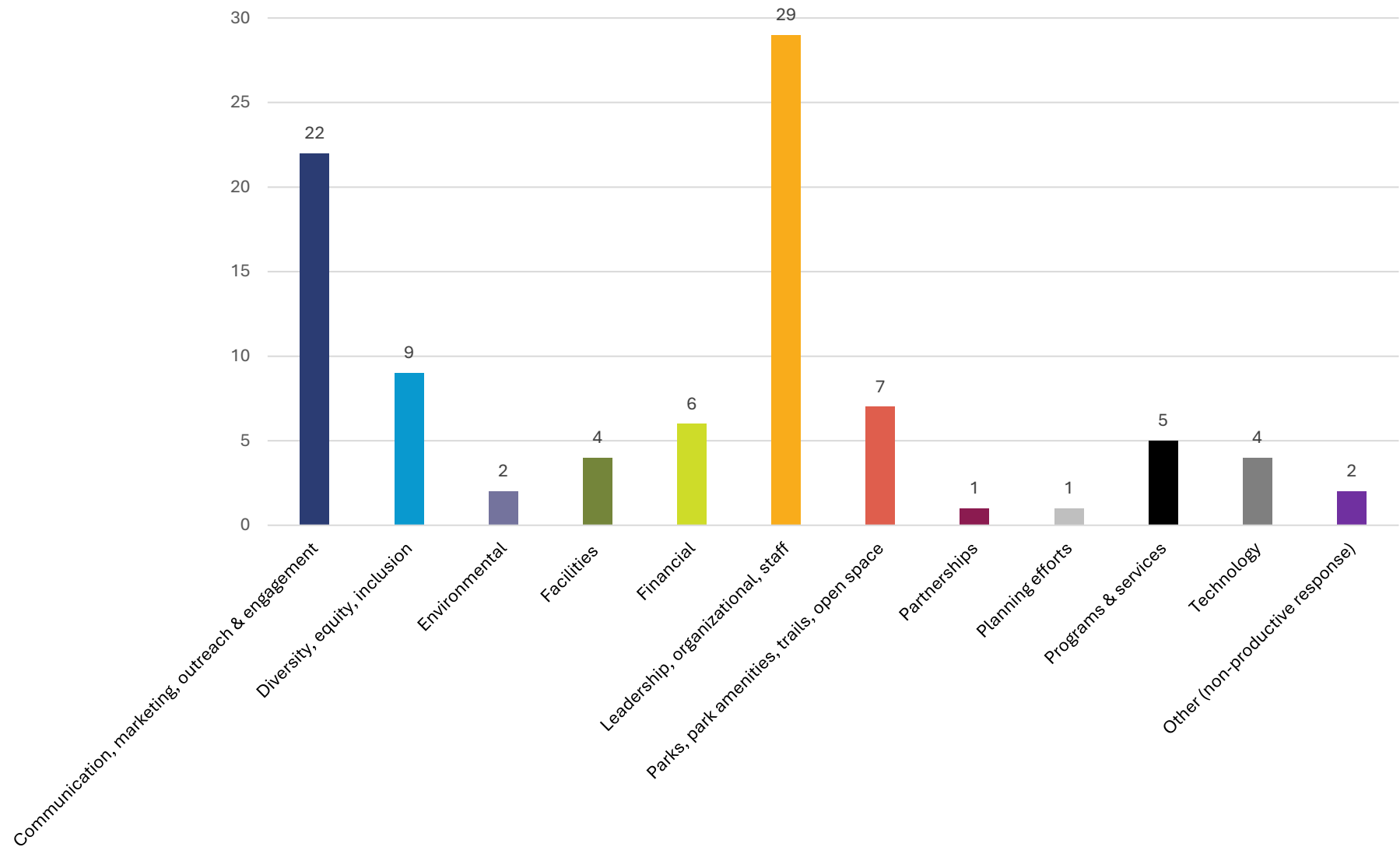
The Planning Sessions had 61 total participants (56 staff and 5 Board).

1) What do you believe is important for the Park District of Oak Park to keep/retain as it currently works well and benefits the organization and community?



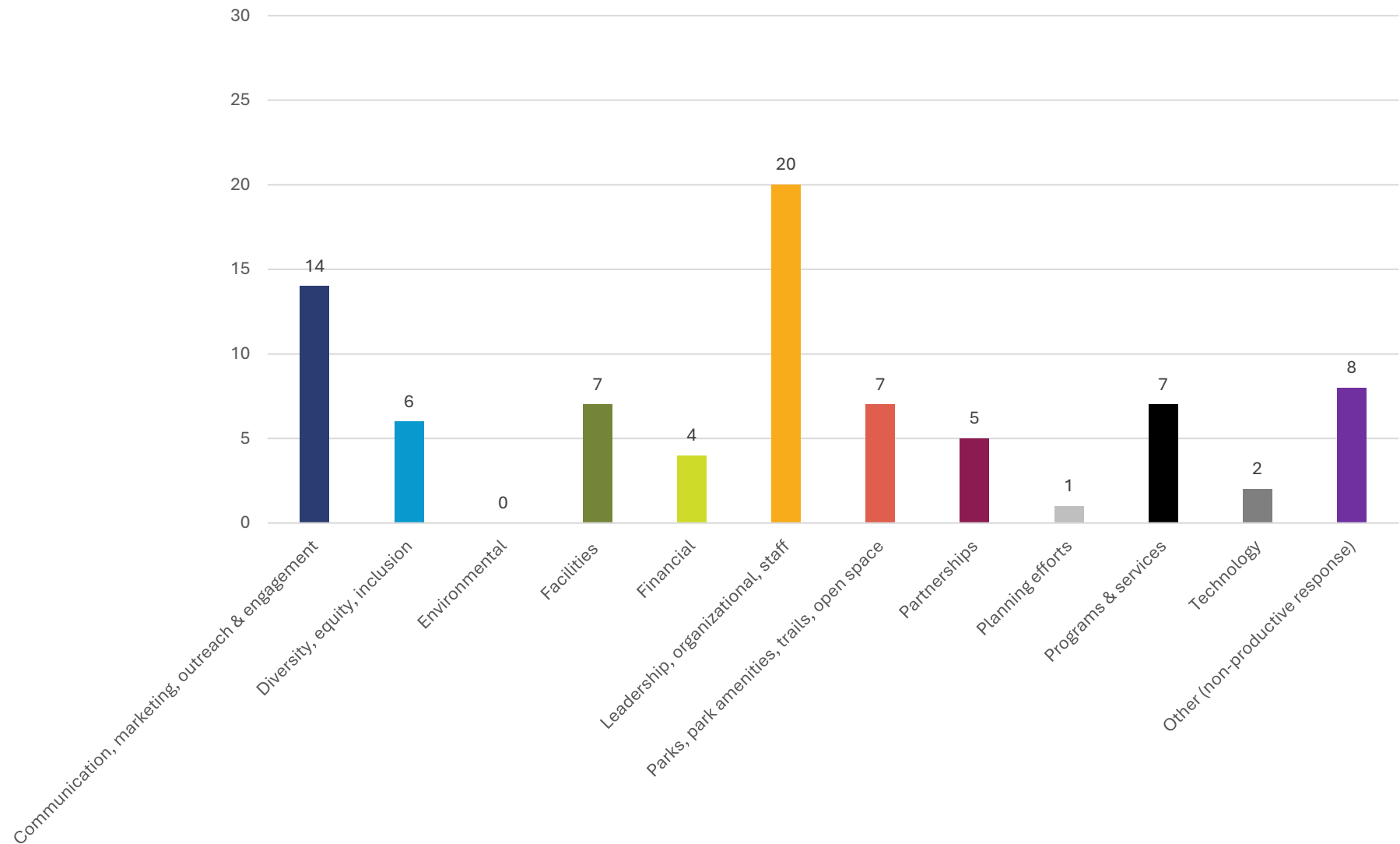
APPENDIX A | STAFF & BOARD PLANNING SESSION #1 - SURVEY SUMMARY

2) What do you believe is important for the Park District of Oak Park to change so that it improves processes, district culture, and/or service to community?

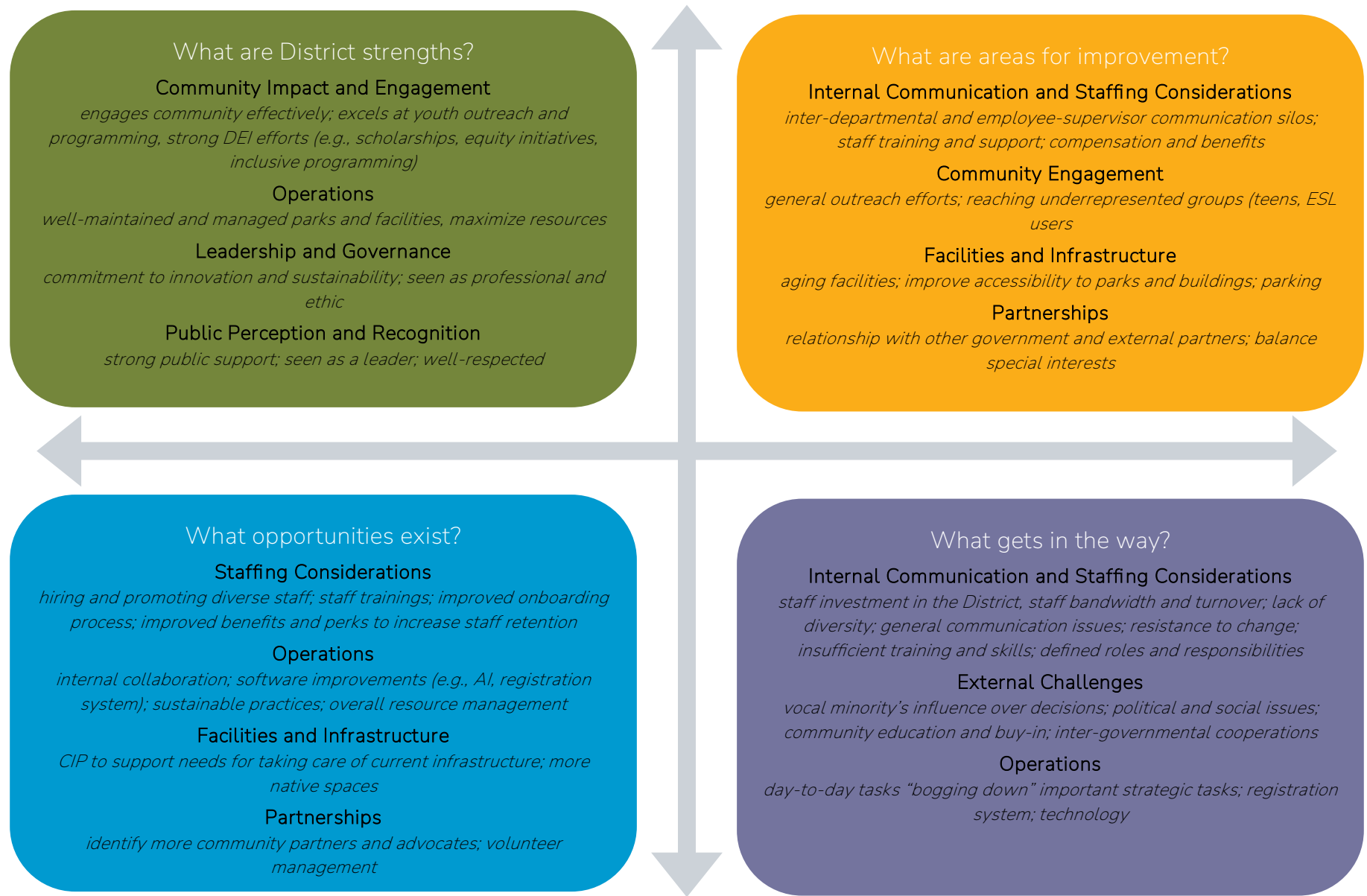


APPENDIX A | STAFF & BOARD PLANNING SESSION #1 - SURVEY SUMMARY

3) What is it you believe is missing that would make the Park District of Oak Park even better than it is?



APPENDIX A | STAFF & BOARD PLANNING SESSION #1 - SWOT SUMMARY



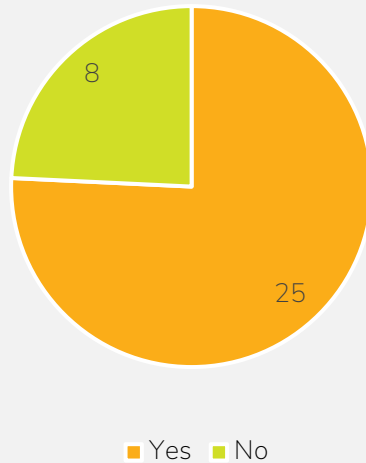
Five (5) Community focus groups consisting of small groups of select stakeholders gathered for concentrated discussions on their perspectives about the District through a series of structured questions. The five focus groups were: Not for Profit Leaders, Affiliate/Sports, Business Leaders, Government Leaders, and Community Leaders.

When you hear “Park District of Oak Park” what immediately comes to mind?



APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS

Do you use services offered by the District? If so, what services? If not, why?



- Yes**
- 11 Facilities
Most frequent: Community Recreation Center
 - 6 Parks, park amenities, open space, trails
 - 8 Recreation programs and services
Most frequent: Youth programs

- No**
- 1 Accessibility
 - 1 Communication, marketing, outreach
 - 1 Partnerships
 - 2 Policies
 - 2 Registration system
 - 1 Other

In what ways can the District influence and/or impact these issues?

Top Five Ways



*Communication,
Marketing, Outreach*



*Recreation Programs
& Services*



Partnerships



Affordability



Facilities & Amenities

APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS

What do you believe will be the most important community wide issues the greater Oak Park area will face in the next 3-5 years?

Key Themes

- Economy
 - Affordable Housing and Cost of Living: The rising cost of living and lack of affordable housing are major concerns.
 - Taxes: Rising taxes and the impact on long-term residency was a repeat theme. This includes general funding of the District.
- Changing Demographics
 - Aging Population: As the community's older population growing, there's concerns about accessibility and services that cater to this population.
 - Overpopulation: The growth in schools and multi-family housing contribute to these concerns.
 - Broadened Diversity: Accommodating and reaching the diverse families moving to the Oak Park community, including migrants, was mentioned multiple times.
- Environmental and Sustainability
 - Environmental: Climate change and environmental sustainability is an important key theme that was mentioned.
 - Land Use and Preservation: Some mention the District's preservation of green spaces and responsible land use is a crucial issue.

How should the District invest resources (incl: taxpayer dollars) given competing interests and demands?



Maintenance and Utilization of Parks and Facilities

- Focus group members put the highest value on the District investing resources into the maintenance and utilization of its parks, park amenities, open spaces, trails, and facilities.

APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUPS

Other Popular Themes Included



Partnerships

- Collaboratively work with community partners to maximize collective resources and efforts.



Communication, Marketing, Outreach

- Invest in efforts to more effectively market services and gather community input.



Community Impact

- Invest in areas that will have the greatest and broadest impact to the community.

What barriers (if any) prevent people from participating in park and recreation services currently offered by the District?

Top Five Barriers



Communication, Marketing, Outreach



Recreation Programs & Services



Affordability



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion



Transportation

What opportunities do you believe exist for the District to partner with other community organizations?

- 3 Community focused
- 2 Current partnerships
- 1 Hospitals
- 5 Intergovernmental
- 2 General partnerships

- 3 Human services (e.g., health, food, housing)
- 2 Overall willingness
- 1 School District
- 1 Other (non-productive)

APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING

The Community Meeting was held on the evening of May 15 at the Cheney Mansion inviting the community to learn about the planning effort. It also provided a variety of stations at which attendees could share their opinions and perspectives in response to questions that will help inform the process.

STATION 1



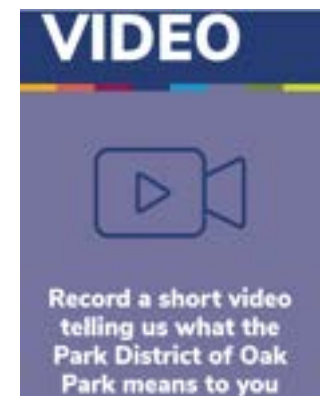
STATION 2



STATION 3



STATION 4



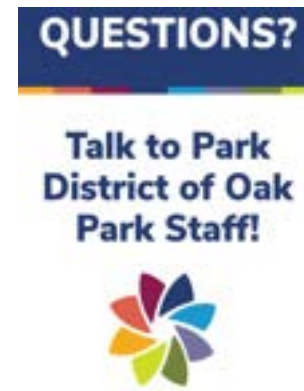
STATION 5



STATION 6



STATION 7



EXTRA



APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - DEMOGRAPHICS

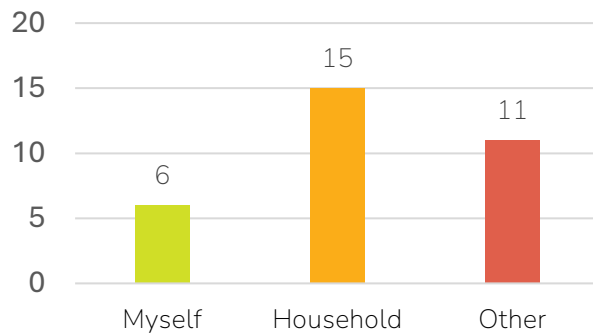
Serving as a subconsultant on the process to help conduct community engagement efforts, CivicBrand was present at the Community Meeting for general support efforts and to gather some basic demographic information from visitors.

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

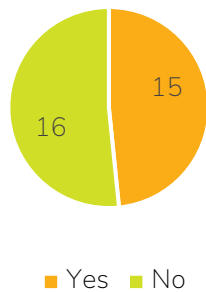
Notes: This station consisted of three closed response questions, The station received 31 total submissions.



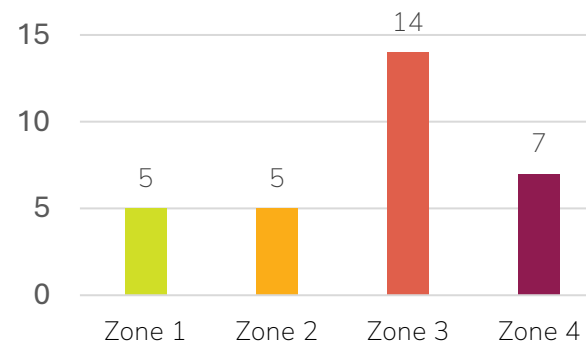
Who do you represent?



Do you want to receive project updates?



Which zone do you live in?



APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - PICK TWO

Station 1 at the Community Meeting prompted visitors with this “Pick Two” activity.

WHICH TWO ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

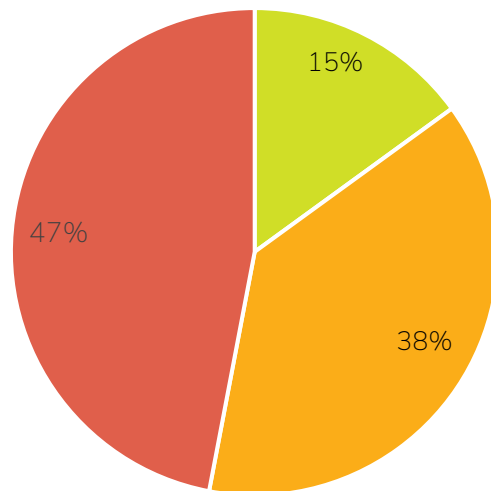
Add More Services

(increase # of parks, facilities, recreation programs)

High Quality Services

(quality parks, facilities, recreation programs)

Avoid Increasing Taxes & Fees



- High Quality Services
- Avoid Increasing Fees & Taxes
- Add More Services



APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - FUTURE YOU

Station 2 at the Community Meeting had a board that prompted visitors to ask themselves one question and use Post-It Notes to post their answers.

Imagine it's the year 2050, what do you need to tell staff?

This question received 35 total submissions.

Key Themes



Maintenance and Infrastructure

- There is a strong desire for the District to focus on maintaining all existing parks and facilities equitably.
- Visitors also mention wanting safer paths and greater access to parks.



Environmental Sustainability

- Planting native species and creating habitats for wildlife to adapt to climate change is of utmost importance.
- Adding more natural aesthetic water features (e.g., ponds, fountains) is a secondary request.



Affordability

- Visitors want the cost of programs to stay affordable, ensuring equity across all residents.
- Concern over tax increases was also heard, with a preference for the District to explore other funding options first.



Park Amenities

- Top requests for park amenities include limiting the conversion of all racquet-sport courts to pickleball courts, improved features to dog parks, and adding more water fountains and trash cans.



Indoor Swimming Pool

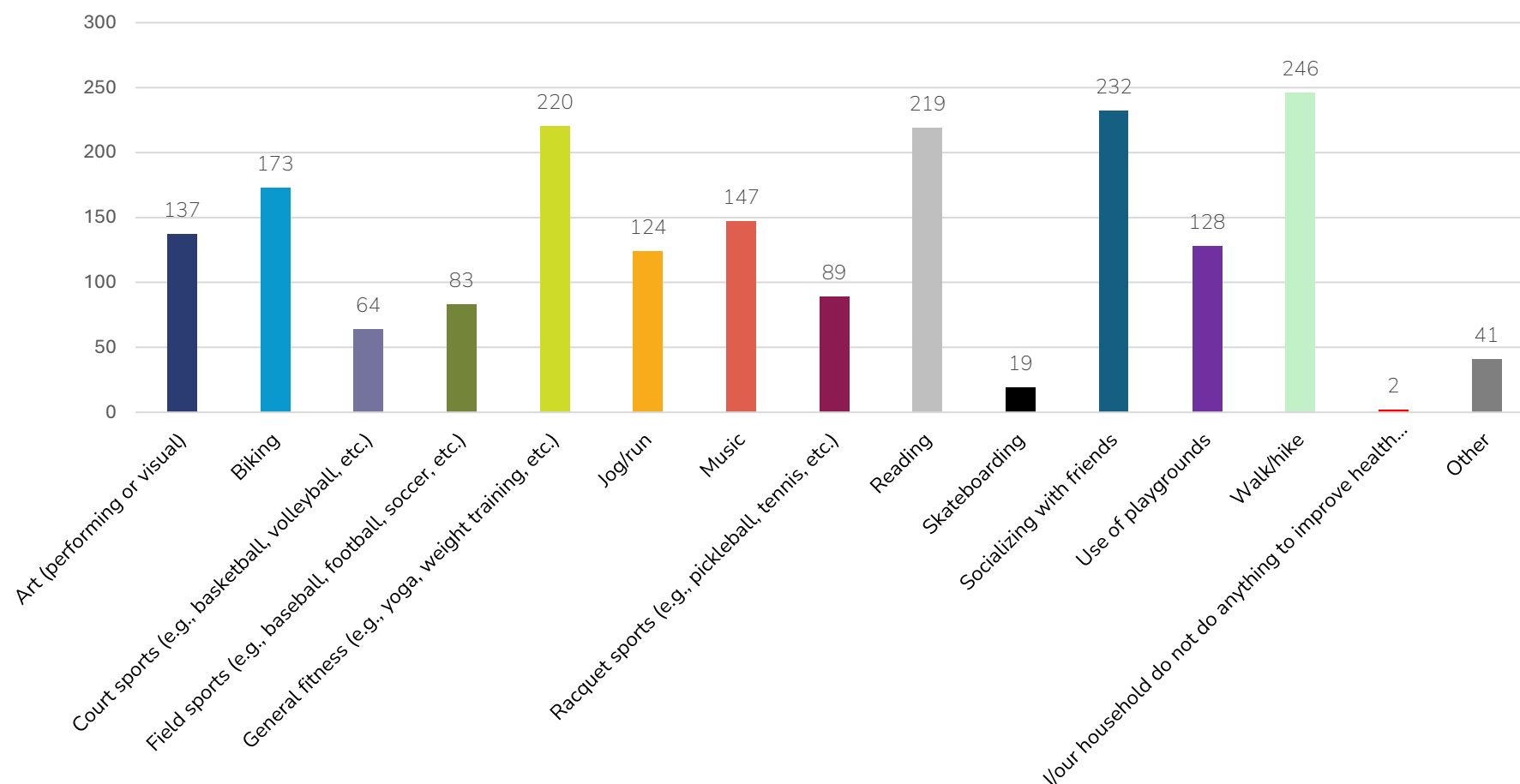
- There are mixed opinions about the possibility of building an indoor pool.
- Those in favor argue that a year-round pool is a necessity for the community.
- Those opposed argue against the expenses incurred by the District.

APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - SURVEY

Station 3 at the Community Meeting had QR code that prompted visitors to complete a survey. Note that the survey was open from May 15 to September 2.

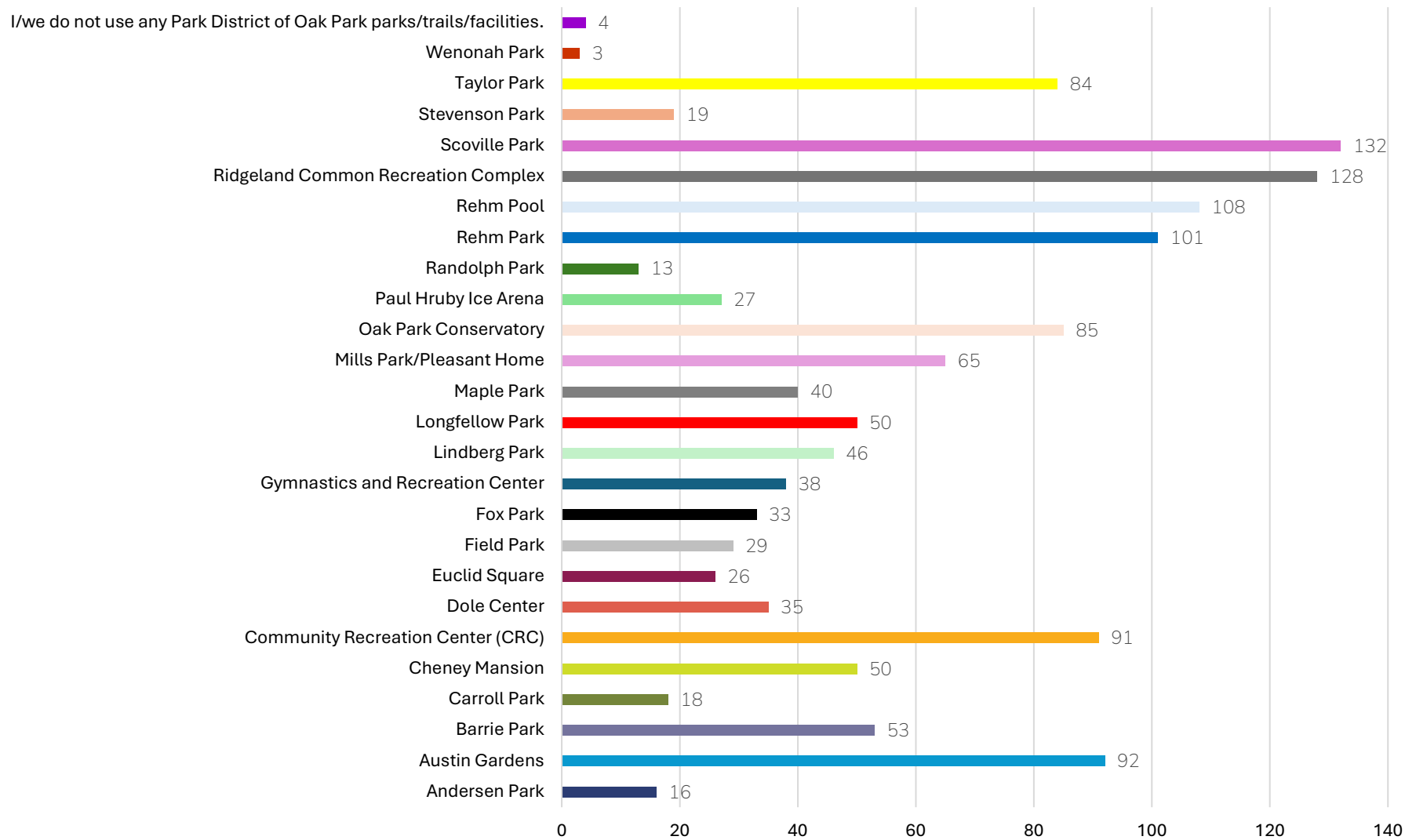
The survey had 288 total submissions.

1) What activities do you/members of your household do to improve health and general well-being? Select all that apply.



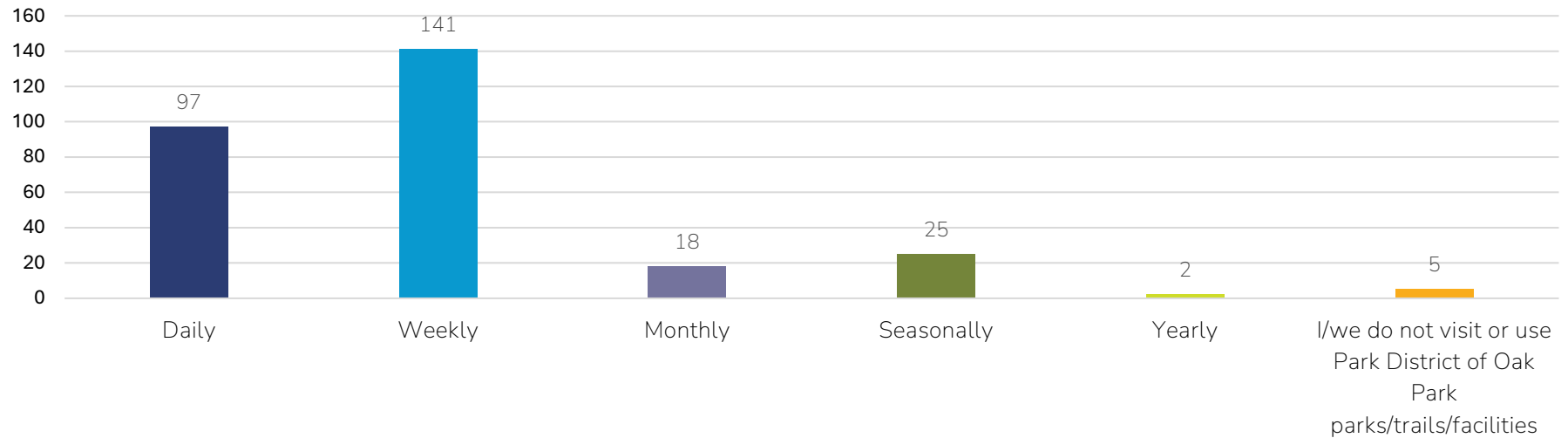
APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - SURVEY

2) What Park District of Oak Park park/trail/facility do you/members of your household use most often? Select all that apply.

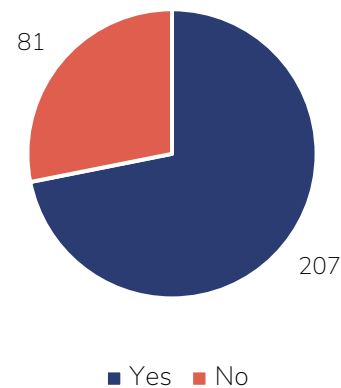


APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - SURVEY

3) How often do you/members of your household use Park District of Oak Park parks/trails/facilities?



4) Do you/members of your household use parks/trails/facilities NOT managed by the Park District of Oak Park?



APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - SURVEY

5) If yes, what/which park(s)/trail(s)/facility(ies) NOT managed by the Park District of Oak Park do you use?

This question received 207 total submissions.

BY SPECIFIC PARK/TRAIL/FACILITY

(3 or more responses)

84	Thatcher Woods <i>(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)</i>
21	Columbus Park <i>(Chicago Park District)</i>
15	Salt Creek Woods <i>(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)</i>
12	Illinois Prairie Path
12	Morton Arboretum
12	West Cook YMCA
9	Miller Meadow <i>(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)</i>
8	Des Plaines River Trail <i>(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)</i>
8	Waterfall Glen <i>(Forest Preserve District of DuPage County)</i>
7	Tennis and Fitness Centre of Oak Park & River Forest
6	Pav YMCA
5	Fitness Formula Clubs
5	Lakefront Trail <i>(Chicago Park District)</i>
4	Millenium Park <i>(Chicago Park District)</i>
4	Palos Trail <i>(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)</i>
3	Austin Town Hall Park <i>(Chicago Park District)</i>
3	Grant Park <i>(Chicago Park District)</i>
3	Hatha Yoga
3	Loyola Center for Fitness
3	Trailside Museum <i>(Forest Preserve District of Cook County)</i>

BY PROVIDER

(3 or more responses)

157	Forest Preserve District of Cook County
59	Chicago Park District
18	Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
14	Park District of Forest Park
12	Illinois Prairie Path
12	Morton Arboretum
12	River Forest Park District
12	West Cook YMCA
7	Tennis and Fitness Centre of Oak Park & River Forest
6	Pav YMCA
5	Fitness Formula Clubs
4	Berwyn Park District
3	Hatha Yoga
3	Loyola Center for Fitness

GENERALIZED ANSWERS

(answers that were non-descript; 3 or more responses)

20	forest preserves
12	trails
11	park districts
7	parks
6	gyms
4	playgrounds
3	golf

APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - SURVEY

6) What would encourage you to use Park District of Oak Park parks/trails/facilities more than you currently do?

This question received 215 total submissions.

KEY THEMES



Safety & Accessibility

Safer and more accessible paths to parks was the top request.



Facilities & Amenities

Top requests include improved fitness equipment, bathrooms, seating, and water fountains



Recreation Programs & Services

A request for a general increase in programming that's flexible for families and working adults.



Affordability

Lower fees for programs, especially for certain demographics, and free days for residents to facilities.



Dog Park Improvements

Requests include better off-leash areas and separation of space for small and large dogs.



Environmental

Suggestions include more green spaces with native plants, butterfly gardens, and increased tree canopy.



Cultural and Community Events

High value in providing events to bring community together. Suggestion for improved promotion to spread awareness.



Park Maintenance

Overall improvement to maintenance of parks.



Sports Facilities

More facilities that support sports including racquet sports (e.g., pickleball, tennis, badminton), basketball courts, and indoor turf.



Teen Spaces

More engaging and safe spaces dedicated for teens.

APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - SURVEY

7) What should the Park District of Oak Park prioritize in order to improve the overall health and well-being of the greater Oak Park community?

This question received 288 total submissions.



Safety

- Residents want to ensure parks are safe and secure, especially for children.
- Safer and more accessible paths to parks.



Financial Considerations

- A major priority is the affordability of programs and services.
- Two other concerns are taxes and future decisions that could increase the District and residents' financial obligations.



Park Maintenance

- The District can improve their dedication to maintenance in parks to provide cleaner and safer environments.



Recreation Programs and Services

- An expansion of offerings for health, fitness, and nature programs targeting seniors and working adults was a top request.



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

- The District can prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion in programs and services, particularly for youth and those with disabilities.



Partnerships

- Several respondents indicated greater collaborations with governmental entities and private businesses could optimize overall resources.

APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - SURVEY

8) Is there anything else you would like to share?

This question received 78 total submissions.

Key Themes

- Praise and Gratitude
 - The most mentioned key theme was the general positive feedback for the District, its services, facilities and amenities.
- Indoor Pool
 - The potential addition of a year-round indoor pool continued to be a point of discussion in these additional comments.
- Recreation Programs and Services
 - There is frustration over the online registration system and registering for popular programs (e.g., summer camps) due to limited availability.
 - Additionally, there were some requests for expansion of high-demand activities.
- Additional Facilities and Amenities
 - Respondents are seeking additional fitness equipment and outdoor fitness options.
 - Desired park amenities include upgraded paths, playground updates, lighted volleyball courts, and parking.
- Affordability
 - Concerns about the cost of District programs and services was received, especially for families with multiple children participating.

APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - ACCESSIBILITY

Serving as a subconsultant on the process to update the District’s Transition Plan, the WT Group Accessibility Practice was present at the Community Meeting at Station 6; additionally, they hosted a separate community engagement event on the afternoon of May 15, 2024, from 1:00-3:30 pm. Their community engagement goal was to hear from the individuals, family members, friends, caretakers, and others directly associated with disabilities on a daily basis through these engagements and also through an administered District-wide online survey.

SURVEY RESULTS

Notes: This survey was not statistically valid and reliable. The survey received 6 total submissions. There was not a minimum number of responses, nor did the District suggest one.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Do you have a disability or live with someone who has a disability?		Gender	Number of Responses	Zip Code(s)	Number of Responses	Age Range	Total of Respondents
	Number of Responses	Male	2 (40%)	60302	4 (80%)	Under 18	0
Yes	5 (83.3%)	Female	3 (60%)	60304	1 (20%)	18-24	0
No	1 (16.7%)					25-34	0
						35-44	1 (20%)
						45-54	2 (40%)
						55-64	2 (40%)
						65+	0
						No response	0

SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT

Have you visited a Park District of Oak Park park, trail, or facility within the last year?		Most Visited Park			Park	Score of Accessibility	Parks Accessibility Rating			
	Number of Responses	Rank	Park	Number of Responses			1	2	3	N/A
Yes	5 (100%)	1 st	Rehm Park & Pool	5 (50%)	Rehm Park & Pool	86.7%	0%	30%	70%	0%
No	0 (0%)	2 nd (tie)	Taylor Park, Barrie Park, Euclid Square, Fox Park, Longfellow Park	1 (10%)	Taylor Park	100%	1 = not accessible, 2 = somewhat accessible, 3 = accessible.			
					Barrie Park	100%				
					Euclid Square	100%				
					Fox	67.7%				
					Longfellow Park	100%				

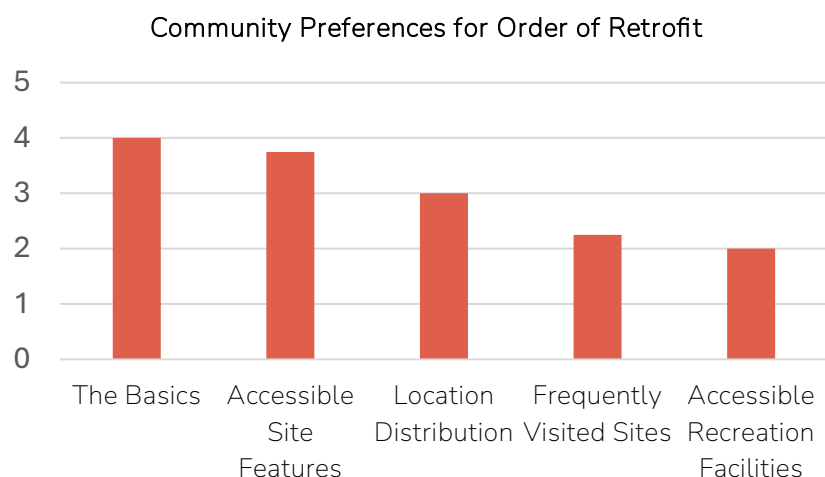
APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - ACCESSIBILITY

Most Visited Facility		
Rank	Park	Number of Responses
1 st	Community Recreation Center	2 (40%)
2 nd (tie)	Cherry Mansion, Gymnastics and Recreation Center	1 (20%)

Facility	Score of Accessibility
Community Recreation Center	100%
Cheney Mansion	67.7%
Gymnastics and Recreation Center	100%

Facility Accessibility Rating			
1	2	3	N/A
0%	25%	75%	0%
<i>1 = not accessible, 2 = somewhat accessible, 3 = accessible.</i>			

TRENDS FOR BARRIER



75% want to start with the basics first (i.e., parking, entries, and restrooms).

50% want accessible park features phased second (trails, exercise equipment, sports fields, shelters).

100% want location distribution phased third (i.e., accessibility upgrades spread across the District equally and not clustered in one area).

50% want the most frequently visited sites phased fourth (i.e., address access at the most used sites before addressing the least used sites).

50% want accessible recreation facilities phased fifth.

Barriers	Number of Mentions
Playground	0
Park equipment	0
Program-related	2
Restroom	1
Parking, accessible route, and safety	0

APPENDIX A | VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT ROOM

CivicBrand administered a virtual engagement room to simulate the in-person Community Meeting experience. It was open from May 15 to September 2, 2024. The District promoted this through their traditional channels including e-news, social media, flyers in parks, and through the help of governmental partners (e.g., Library, Township, Village, etc.) The activity consisted of eight interactive stations meant to further dissect key themes discovered during prior engagement efforts. All activities in each of the virtual engagement room stations were optional.

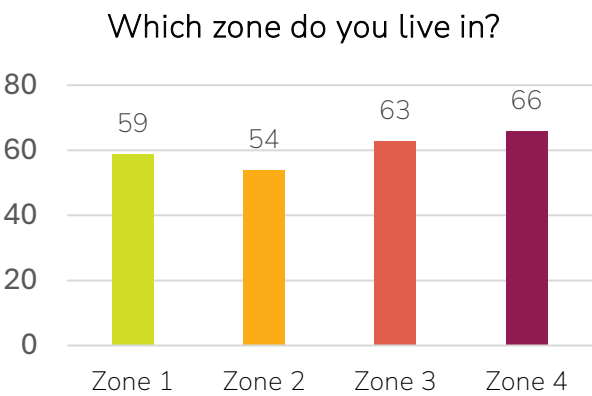
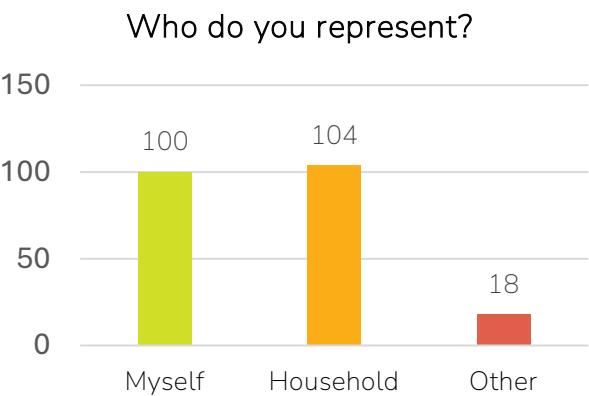


STATION 1 – WHAT IS THE PLAN?

This station consisted of a short slideshow, similar to what was shown at the Community Meeting.

STATION 2 – TELL US ABOUT YOU.

This station consisted of two short demographic questions. The station received 255 total submissions.



APPENDIX A | VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT ROOM

STATION 3 – WHICH TWO ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

This station consisted of one checkbox question where users picked two of three choices. The station received 307 total submissions.

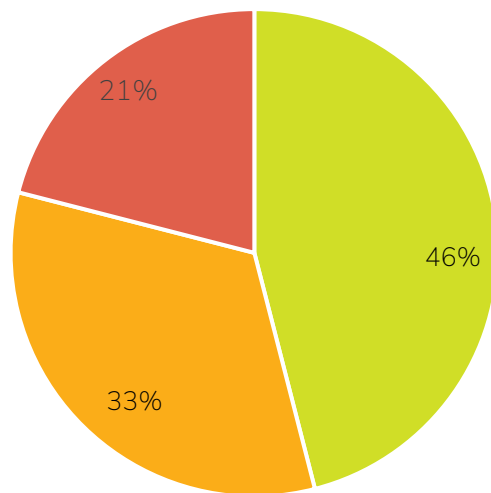
Add More Services

(increase # of parks, facilities, recreation programs)

High Quality Services

(quality parks, facilities, recreation programs)

Avoid Increasing Taxes & Fees



- High Quality Services
- Avoid Increasing Fees & Taxes
- Add More Services

STATION 4 – PARKS IN THE FUTURE

This station consisted of one open response question, The station received 182 total submissions.

You are a Park District of Oak Park resident in the year 2050. What would you tell the Park District of Oak Park staff and board that they need to hear as they plan for the future?

Key Themes Across the Responses



Indoor Swimming Pool

- A repeated request for an indoor pool, often tied to year-round availability and improved conditions compared to the YMCA's basement pool.
- Many respondents prioritize a spacious, well-ventilated, and naturally lit pool, with some expressing a willingness to pay higher taxes for its development.

APPENDIX A | VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT ROOM



Quality of Programs

- Several pointed out dissatisfaction with the quality of programs, particularly regarding staff training and program management.
- There were also calls for better advertising and a focus on program quality rather than just expanding the quantity.



Integration and Coordination

- Some respondents expressed concerns about the inefficiency of separate taxing bodies (e.g., the Park District, city government, school district) and called for better integration to reduce taxes and improve service coordination.



Senior and Youth Programming

- A growing senior population was mentioned, with calls for more senior-focused activities and facilities.
- More structured activities and spaces for youth, especially teens, who need spaces to socialize and develop independence away from screens.



Cultural and Community Events

- Respondents desire to see continued support for cultural and community events such as concerts, movies, and festivals.
- Some asked for structured pickup sports and more diverse programming to attract broader participation.



Green Space and Parks

- A strong emphasis on maintaining and increasing green spaces, with calls to preserve and enhance current parks.
- Suggestions include planting more trees for shade, using eco-friendly designs (like prairie grass), and improving park equipment, especially for children.



Sustainability and Environmentally Friendly Practices

- Strong support for sustainable practices, including the use of native plants, green energy, and environmental education.
- Specific requests included reducing plastic use in playgrounds and ensuring environmentally responsible park management.

APPENDIX A | VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT ROOM



Improving Facilities

- Requests included separate weight rooms for heavier lifting, improved locker rooms, and features like saunas and hot tubs.
- Some noted a desire for more public restrooms, bike lanes, and water fountains to support outdoor activities.



Concerns About Taxes

- High taxes were a recurrent concern, with some calling for careful spending.
- Some respondents specifically noted that, while they support park development and strong services, it must be balanced with maintaining fiscal responsibility.



Coordination and Future Planning

- Respondents frequently mentioned the need to plan long-term and the importance of preservation for future generations.
- Others urged collaboration between different local bodies to ensure better services without unnecessary financial burdens.

STATION 5 – SHORT SURVEY

This station consisted of a link to the Community Meeting survey referenced earlier in this Summary.

STATION 6 – RECORD A VIDEO

This station prompted users to record a video/audio of themselves answering one question. The station received 7 total submissions.

What does the Park District of Oak Park mean to you?



APPENDIX A | VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT ROOM

STATION 7 – YOUR PARK EXPERIENCE

This station consisted of three open response questions. The station received 23 total submissions.

Key Themes and Highlights



1) *Swimming Pools*

High value is placed on swimming facilities, with a specific emphasis on improving lap swim times and conditions.



2) *Playgrounds and Trails*

Strong appreciation for playgrounds and walking trails, indicating a demand for well-maintained and engaging recreational areas.



3) *Maintenance and Safety*

A notable concern across responses is the need for better maintenance and enhanced safety measures in parks.



4) *Events & Facilities*

Interest in hosting more community events and enhancing facilities to serve diverse needs better.

Overall, respondents are focused on maintaining and improving essential amenities, ensuring safety, and enhancing the overall quality of park facilities and experiences.

Frequently Mentioned Responses

Which park would you like to share your thoughts on?

- Rehm Park: Frequently mentioned, often in relation to the pool.
- Ridgeland Commons: Noted for its athletic fields, ice rink, and dog park.
- Mills Park: Mentioned for its green space and natural setting.
- Barrie Park: Recognized for its hill and stairs.

What outdoor amenities do you utilize the most when you go to this park?

- Swimming Pools: Many highlight the importance of the swimming pools, particularly at Rehm and Ridgeland Commons.
- Playgrounds: Playgrounds are mentioned as valuable for children across several parks.
- Walking Paths and Trails: These are commonly appreciated, especially in parks like Scoville and Austin Gardens.
- Fields and Courts: Soccer fields, baseball fields, and pickleball courts are mentioned, especially in Ridgeland Commons.

APPENDIX A | VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT ROOM

What would make your visit to the park a better experience?

- Maintenance and Upkeep: There are several calls for improved maintenance of equipment, clean facilities, and overall park cleanliness.
- Safety Concerns: Requests for better safety measures, including improved crossing safety and better monitoring of park rules.
- Amenities and Features: Suggestions for adding or improving amenities such as bike racks, shade, dog parks, and additional seating.
- Accessibility: Requests for better access to facilities, including more bike racks and improved pathways.

STATION 8 – ACCESSIBILITY IN YOUR PARKS & FACILITIES

This station consisted of two open response questions. The station received 23 total submissions.

What barriers have you encountered when using Park District of Oak Park sites and facilities?

Key Barriers

- Facility Maintenance and Cleanliness:
 - Bathrooms: Many respondents mentioned issues with cleanliness and availability of bathrooms. Complaints include dirty or out-of-service bathrooms, and the need for bathrooms to remain open during trail walks or bike rides.
 - Broken Equipment: Concerns about broken or poorly maintained equipment at parks.
- Accessibility and Inclusion:
 - Physical Accessibility: Issues with facilities not being user-friendly for people with physical disabilities, such as problems with door push buttons and elevator access.
 - Program Accessibility: Difficulty in accessing skating lessons and lack of effective inclusion for diverse children in programs. Some responses highlighted a perceived lack of understanding and support for neurodiverse and non-traditional children in park programs.
- Reservation and Registration Issues:
 - Cancellation Process: Frustration with the need to cancel reservations only by phone during business hours, which is inconvenient for busy individuals. Additionally, there are concerns about cancellation fees, particularly when canceling far in advance.
 - Registration Barriers: Problems with the timing and process of registration for programs, with some feeling that registration only twice a year is cumbersome.

APPENDIX A | VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT ROOM

- Program Quality and Staff Competence:
 - Staff Training: Some respondents found staff to be poorly trained, particularly in handling diverse needs and providing a stimulating experience for children.
 - Program Organization: Concerns about the organization and quality of park district programs, with some describing them as poorly managed or inadequate.
- Facility Access and Availability:
 - Pool Hours: Limited pool hours were noted as a barrier.
 - Community Center Rentals: Restrictions on renting community centers were mentioned as a problem.
 - Transportation and Accessibility: Difficulty accessing facilities, particularly for those without a car or bike.
- Cost and Pricing:
 - Membership Costs: Some respondents find the cost of memberships, such as for Rehm Pool, to be too high.
 - Program Fees: High pricing and fast-filling programs create barriers for some users.
- Miscellaneous Issues:
 - Website Search Engine: Difficulty using the park district website's search engine to find class schedules.
 - Dog Restrictions: Annoyance over not being able to bring dogs onto turf fields.

Standout Issues



Bathroom Cleanliness and Availability

This was a recurring issue across responses, highlighting a significant area for improvement.



Accessibility Challenges

Both physical and programmatic accessibility issues were frequently mentioned, pointing to a need for more inclusive practices and facilities.



Registration and Cancellation Difficulties

The need for more flexible registration and cancellation processes stands out as a key barrier.



Transportation Problems

Difficulty accessing facilities without a car or bike, combined with the suggestion for shuttles, indicates a need for improved transportation options.

APPENDIX A | VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT ROOM

What amenities are the most important to you when you use the Park District of Oak Park sites and facilities?

Key Amenities Highlighted

- Cleanliness and Maintenance:
 - Clean Bathrooms: Consistently cited as crucial, especially for families with young children. Clean bathrooms were highlighted across many responses as a top priority.
 - Clean Facilities: General cleanliness of parks and facilities is highly valued, including clean playgrounds and equipment.
- Restroom Facilities:
 - Separate Locker Rooms: Requests for separate locker rooms for men and women were noted.
 - Water Fountains/Bottle Fillers: Availability of water fountains and bottle fillers is important to respondents.
- Recreational Facilities:
 - Playground Equipment: Mentioned frequently, with a preference for equipment that is safe and engaging for children.
 - Sports Facilities: Soccer fields, baseball courts, and ice rinks are valued. There is also interest in having public skate times available during weeknights.
 - Ice Time: Availability of ice time for skating was specifically noted.
- Accessibility and Convenience:
 - Proximity & Multi-Use Space: The ability to engage multiple age groups in one setting, and their proximity, is appreciated.
 - Accessibility Features: Need for features that accommodate various needs, including accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Additional Features:
 - Benches and Shade: Importance of benches in shaded areas for parents and guardians.
 - Gazebos for Parties: Availability of structures like gazebos for social gatherings and birthday parties.
 - Safety and Security: Emphasis on the importance of a safe environment and secure facilities.
- Operational Aspects:
 - Hours of Operation: Flexibility and extended hours are important to users.
 - Professional Staff: Friendly and professional staff are valued for a positive experience.
- Amenities for Specific Needs:
 - Charging Access: Availability of charging stations for devices.
 - Vending Options: Interest in vending machines where appropriate.

APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY POP UPS

In order to meet the community where they were at, CivicBrand held pop up engagement opportunities on August 3 and 4, 2024 around various Oak Park locations. These engagements consisted of boards that prompted visitors to answer two short close-ended questions, share their thoughts via a Post-It Note activity, and had a QR code to complete the online survey.



Aug 3	Location
9:00-10:00am	Buzz Café
10:30-11:30am	Community Rec Center
1:00-2:00pm	Taylor Tennis Courts
2:30-3:30pm	Rehm Playground
3:30-4:30pm	Rehm Pool

Aug 4	Location
9:00-10:00am	Lindberg Park
10:30-11:30am	Fairgrounds Coffee
1:00-2:00pm	Longfellow Playground
2:00-3:00pm	Ridgeland Pool
5:00-7:00pm	Summer Concert (Scoville Park)



Resident	Number of Responses
Yes	28 (93.3%)
No	2 (6.7%)

Would you support a referendum to build a new indoor pool that would mean an increase in taxes as well as fees to use the facility?

	Number of Responses
Yes	22 (73.3%)
No	8 (26.7%)



APPENDIX B FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY



APPENDIX B | FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

BENEFICIARY OF SERVICE

The development of categories which include services that are alike in "purpose" is important when it comes to justifiable and equitable allocation of subsidy, cost recovery levels, and assignment of budget and general ledger lines to account for a category’s fiscal performance. The benefits of this type of approach are two-fold:

1. It is inefficient for the District to determine cost recovery expectations by each individual service including facility, activity, or event
2. Categorizing by “type of service” or “likeness of service” discourages attempts to determine fees and charges (and therefore cost recovery decisions) based upon special interests, age-based services, or individual values.

Service Categories are listed in order from those perceived to be Common Good Services (#1) to those seen as providing a more Exclusive Benefit (#11).

Common Good Services or cause and purpose driven services intend to impact social, economic, and environmental issues and needs and align with the fundamental purpose and mission of the District. Typically, there are no like services provided by the non-profit/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) or private sectors.

Exclusive Benefit Services or specialized services, intend to serve personal interests. Typically, there is competition with the non-profit/ Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and private sectors which offer like services.

Common Good Services (justification for greater subsidy investment)

- Community building
- Provides accessibility to marginalized/under-represented populations
- Broad appeal to a wide audience
- Services contribute to greater equity, cultural awareness, and make EVERYONE’s life better

Exclusive Benefit Services (justification for greater cost recovery expectations)

- Individualized, special interest
- Requires higher competency/ability level to participate
- Specialized activities
- Individualized services are often accessible outside of the parks and recreation system

APPENDIX B | FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

SERVICE CATEGORIES

1. **Open Access Activities:** Self-directed activity that does not include supervision or oversight by staff and/or volunteers. *Examples:* parks, playgrounds, splash pads, outdoor sports courts, walking paths
2. **Community Events:** Large-scale annual events that appeal to a large portion of the community regardless of age, skill/ability, family composition, etc. *Examples:* summer movies/concerts, Fall Fest
3. **Drop-in Activities:** Self-directed activities that do not require instruction but do require supervision or oversight by staff or volunteers. *Examples:* Cubhouse indoor playground, public skate, public swim, CRC walking track, fitness studio, open gymnasium, dog parks, historic home tours, Rehm trains
4. **Beginner/Introductory Activities:** Classes, clinics, workshops, beginner leagues, and instructor-led activities designed specifically to learn a skill. *Examples:* tennis, ice skating (Snowplow Sam – Basic 1), hockey (Mini/Mighty Cub 1-2), gymnastics (Gym Kids – Beginner 1), aquatics (Swim School), skateboarding, youth sports leagues, beginner martial arts, and performing arts
5. **Enrichment/Education Activities:** Classes, workshops, and instructor-led activities focused on education and fostering healthy lifestyles and development. *Examples:* fitness, nature, arts, gardening, camps, early childhood and afterschool programs
6. **Special Events:** Events designed to appeal to a specific target market and/or interest. *Examples:* Egg Dash & Scramble, Frank Lloyd Wright Races, holiday-themed programs, special events at historic properties, Uncorked, Kids Fest, My Dolly & Me Skate, ice show, Nutcracker dance recital

APPENDIX B | FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

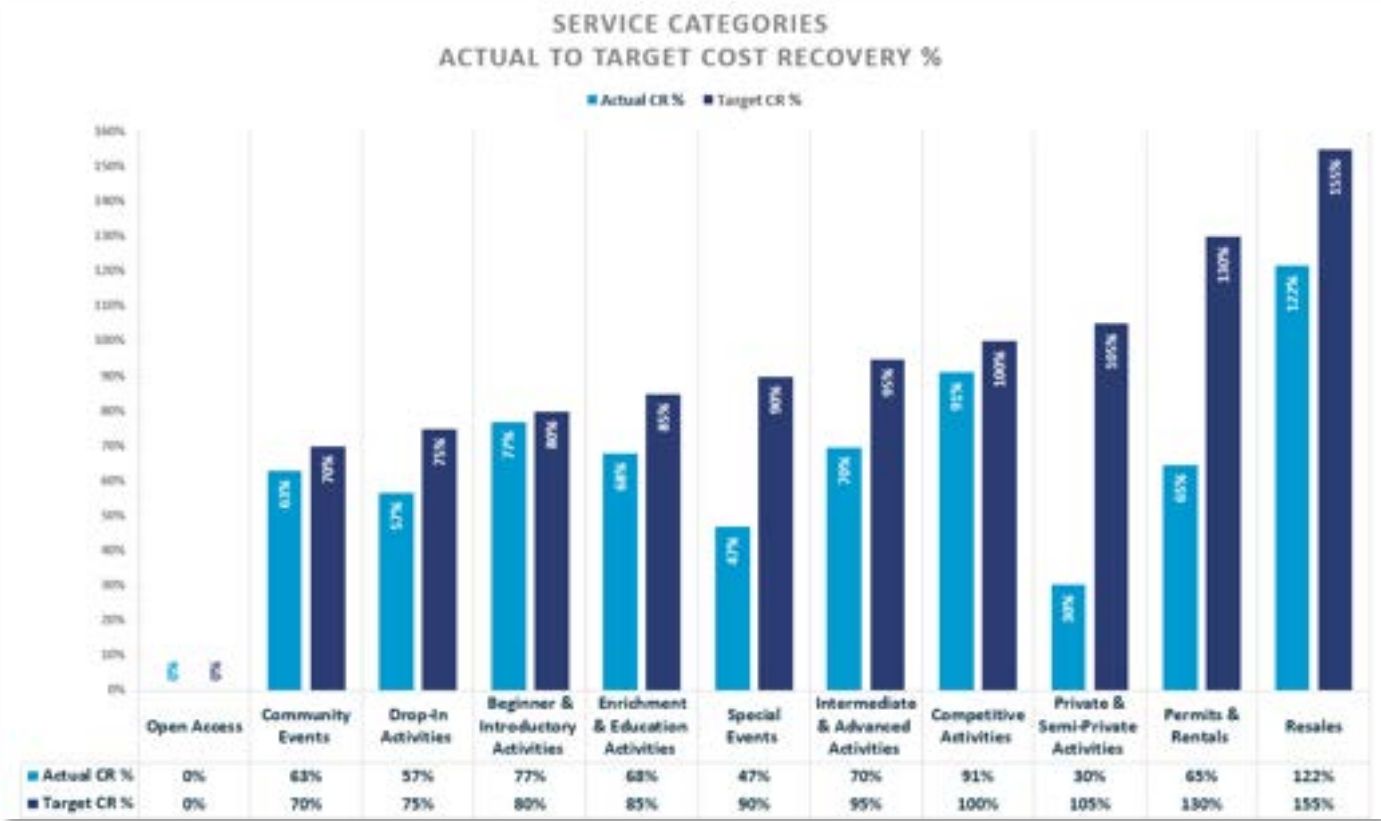
SERVICE CATEGORIES, CONT.

7. **Intermediate/Advanced Activities:** Specialized classes and clinics led by an instructor designed to advance or master a skill. *Examples:* skating (Basic 2-6 – Freestyle 1-6); hockey (Mighty Cub 3-Power Skating), aquatics (Stroke School), gymnastics classes (all prerequisite classes), adult tennis, and ballet II classes for youth and adults
8. **Competitive Activities:** Leagues and teams where scores are kept, or performance is judged. *Examples:* adult softball/soccer/volleyball leagues; synchronized skating, Ice Bears, swim team, gymnastics team
9. **Private/Semi-private Activities:** Individual or small group classes, clinics, and workshops designed to meet unique and/or niche interests. *Examples:* skating, guitar, dance lessons, quick sketch garden design, book/esports clubs
10. **Permits & Rentals:** Space and facility reservations for private use by an individual or group. *Examples:* park permits, ice rink rentals, room and property rentals, birthday party rentals, sports field rentals
11. **Resales:** Consumable and non-consumable goods and services available for purchase. *Examples:* vending, skate sharpening, GRC Pro Shop, Conservatory Gift Shop items, Plants Market sales

APPENDIX B | FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

COST-OF-SERVICE ANALYSIS

Completion of an operational cost-of-service analysis allowed the Park District of Oak Park to undcost-of-servicet of doing business, ultimately revealing each service’s cost recovery and subsidy investment level. Operational revenues (fees and charges, sponsorships, grants, donations), direct costs (expenses associated with the delivery of a service; without the service, the cost would not exist) and indirect costs (expenses that would exist with or without the provision of any one service) that the District provided were captured and attributed to all services as part of this work, providing several insights that would inform the design and development of the District’s Tax Use/Revenue Generation Strategy. *NOTE: Capital expenses, which are a large portion of the District’s total budget, were not included as they do not relate to the cost-of-service delivery.*



APPENDIX B | FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

COST-OF-SERVICE ANALYSIS, CONT.

Process

The consulting team worked closely with the PDOP team to ensure all expenses and services were identified, and to develop meaningful divisions, facility, and park areas to facilitate the appropriate attribution of expenses to services. The result is a clear picture of the total cost-of-service guiding the development of cost recovery/subsidy investment goals.

Results

Results of the analysis provide a comprehensive review of fiscal year 2023, encompassing January 1 – December 31, 2023. The full results from the analysis and interactive features are available in the Cost-of-Service Results excel file provided separately. Selected results from the analysis are included below.

Summary of Results by Service Category

Service Category	Revenue	Expenses				Subsidy	Cost Recovery Results			
	Total Revenue	Direct - Service	Direct - Facility	Indirect	Total Expense	Subsidy Amount	Cost Recovery %	Cost Recovery Goal (Min)	Cost Recovery Goal (Max)	Variance From Goal (Mid)
Community Events	\$ 73,041	\$ 74,732	\$ 153	\$ 41,034	\$ 115,919	\$ 42,877	63%	65%	75%	⬆️ -7%
Drop-In Activities	\$ 1,807,202	\$ 1,024,074	\$ 1,037,265	\$ 1,129,518	\$ 3,190,857	\$ 1,383,655	57%	70%	80%	⬆️ -18%
Beginner & Introductory Activities	\$ 2,619,649	\$ 1,862,991	\$ 336,526	\$ 1,205,233	\$ 3,404,750	\$ 785,100	77%	75%	85%	⬆️ -3%
Enrichment & Education Activities	\$ 2,927,975	\$ 1,698,328	\$ 1,083,030	\$ 1,524,055	\$ 4,305,413	\$ 1,377,437	68%	80%	90%	⬆️ -17%
Special Events	\$ 159,967	\$ 172,279	\$ 48,013	\$ 120,710	\$ 341,002	\$ 181,034	47%	85%	95%	⬇️ -43%
Intermediate & Advanced Activities	\$ 493,974	\$ 286,265	\$ 172,226	\$ 251,232	\$ 709,722	\$ 215,748	70%	90%	100%	⬆️ -25%
Competitive Activities	\$ 674,421	\$ 408,206	\$ 70,138	\$ 262,111	\$ 740,455	\$ 66,034	91%	95%	105%	⬆️ -9%
Private & Semi-Private Activities	\$ 10,502	\$ 16,982	\$ 5,456	\$ 12,294	\$ 34,732	\$ 24,230	30%	100%	110%	⬇️ -75%
Permits & Rentals	\$ 909,083	\$ 275,286	\$ 633,339	\$ 497,884	\$ 1,406,509	\$ 497,426	65%	125%	135%	⬇️ -65%
Resales	\$ 111,024	\$ 58,513	\$ 433	\$ 32,300	\$ 91,246	\$ (19,778)	122%	150%	160%	⬇️ -33%
Total by Service Category	\$ 9,786,839	\$ 5,877,657	\$ 3,386,578	\$ 5,076,369	\$ 14,340,605	\$ 4,553,765	68%			
Open Access	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,023,024	\$ 560,569	\$ 1,583,593	\$ 1,583,593	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	\$ 9,786,839	\$ 5,877,657	\$ 4,409,602	\$ 5,636,939	\$ 15,924,198	\$ 6,137,358	61%			

APPENDIX B | FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

COST-OF-SERVICE ANALYSIS, CONT.

Summary of Results by Service Area

Service Area	Revenue	Expenses				Subsidy	Cost Recovery Results			
	Total Revenue	Direct - Service	Direct - Facility	Indirect	Total Expense	Subsidy Amount	Cost Recovery %	Cost Recovery Goal (Min)	Cost Recovery Goal (Max)	Variance From Goal (Mid)
Adult Sports	\$ 162,392	\$ 103,544	\$ 13,606	\$ 64,193	\$ 181,343	\$ 18,951	90%			
Youth Sports	\$ 1,032,342	\$ 745,455	\$ 53,230	\$ 437,642	\$ 1,236,327	\$ 203,986	84%			
Active Adults	\$ 31,231	\$ 78,434	\$ 167,587	\$ 134,808	\$ 380,830	\$ 349,599	8%			
Aquatics	\$ 296,620	\$ 171,470	\$ 42,736	\$ 117,375	\$ 331,582	\$ 34,962	89%			
Adult Programs	\$ 57,891	\$ 41,111	\$ 31,122	\$ 39,580	\$ 111,812	\$ 53,921	52%			
Early Childhood	\$ 337,122	\$ 271,295	\$ 161,432	\$ 237,115	\$ 669,842	\$ 332,721	50%			
Youth & Teen Programs	\$ 882,306	\$ 234,192	\$ 375,418	\$ 334,038	\$ 943,648	\$ 61,343	93%			
Camps & After School Programs	\$ 1,424,519	\$ 957,583	\$ 416,295	\$ 752,821	\$ 2,126,699	\$ 702,181	67%			
Events	\$ 144,751	\$ 213,520	\$ 17,980	\$ 126,852	\$ 358,352	\$ 213,602	40%			
Fine Arts	\$ 270,857	\$ 410,231	\$ 71,774	\$ 264,116	\$ 746,121	\$ 475,264	36%			
Nature and Adventure	\$ 317,980	\$ 201,356	\$ 32,377	\$ 128,075	\$ 361,808	\$ 43,829	88%			
Fitness Pass	\$ 70,344	\$ 170,065	\$ 26,316	\$ 107,608	\$ 303,988	\$ 233,644	23%			
Gymnastics	\$ 1,202,284	\$ 700,737	\$ 107,938	\$ 443,116	\$ 1,251,792	\$ 49,508	96%			
Ice Programs	\$ 1,151,346	\$ 528,946	\$ 435,413	\$ 528,424	\$ 1,492,783	\$ 341,436	77%			
Birthday Party Rentals	\$ 81,658	\$ 48,910	\$ 46,971	\$ 52,538	\$ 148,419	\$ 66,761	55%			
Rentals	\$ 252,702	\$ 35,780	\$ 115,275	\$ 82,771	\$ 233,827	\$ (18,875)	108%			
PACT Rentals	\$ 105,598	\$ 10,135	\$ 247,280	\$ 141,052	\$ 398,467	\$ 292,869	27%			
CRC Admissions	\$ 575,325	\$ 161,308	\$ 271,583	\$ 237,204	\$ 670,095	\$ 94,770	86%			
Pool Admissions	\$ 855,261	\$ 533,244	\$ 531,805	\$ 583,597	\$ 1,648,647	\$ 793,386	52%			
Historic Properties	\$ 534,312	\$ 260,340	\$ 220,438	\$ 263,444	\$ 744,222	\$ 209,910	72%			
Total by Service Area	\$ 9,786,839	\$ 5,877,657	\$ 3,386,578	\$ 5,076,369	\$ 14,340,605	\$ 4,553,765	68%			
Open Access	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,023,024	\$ 560,569	\$ 1,583,593	\$ 1,583,593	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	\$ 9,786,839	\$ 5,877,657	\$ 4,409,602	\$ 5,636,939	\$ 15,924,198	\$ 6,137,358	61%			

APPENDIX B | FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

COST-OF-SERVICE ANALYSIS, CONT.

Expense Insights

Expense insights provide context and a greater understanding of how the district spends its operational budget. Results below detail the District and category breakdown.

Expense Insights by Department

Department Summary	Amount	% of Total
Administration	\$ 3,812,586.85	23.94%
Conservatory	\$ 417,750.90	2.62%
Maintenance	\$ 2,897,533.69	18.20%
Risk Management	\$ 357,464.28	2.24%
Rec Admin	\$ 1,138,821.87	7.15%
Communications & Marketing	\$ 437,630.90	2.75%
Fitness & Martial Arts	\$ 205,321.40	1.29%
Youth Sports	\$ 631,420.12	3.97%
Adult Sports	\$ 66,776.12	0.42%
CRC	\$ 307,151.78	1.93%
Customer Service	\$ 304,948.22	1.91%
Community Programs	\$ 1,131,131.96	7.10%
Fine Arts	\$ 369,089.68	2.32%
Early Childhood	\$ 182,141.53	1.14%
Museum Admin	\$ 12,927.57	0.08%
Special Rec Admin	\$ 43,437.59	0.27%
Pool/Rink Admin	\$ 365,222.37	2.29%
Aquatics	\$ 642,929.17	4.04%
Ice Rink	\$ 467,514.32	2.94%
Gymnastics	\$ 685,669.19	4.31%
Pool/Rink/Gymnastics Maint	\$ 1,042,605.43	6.55%
Cheney	\$ 356,340.34	2.24%
Pleasant Home	\$ 47,782.42	0.30%
Total District	\$ 15,924,197.70	100.00%

Expense Insights by Category

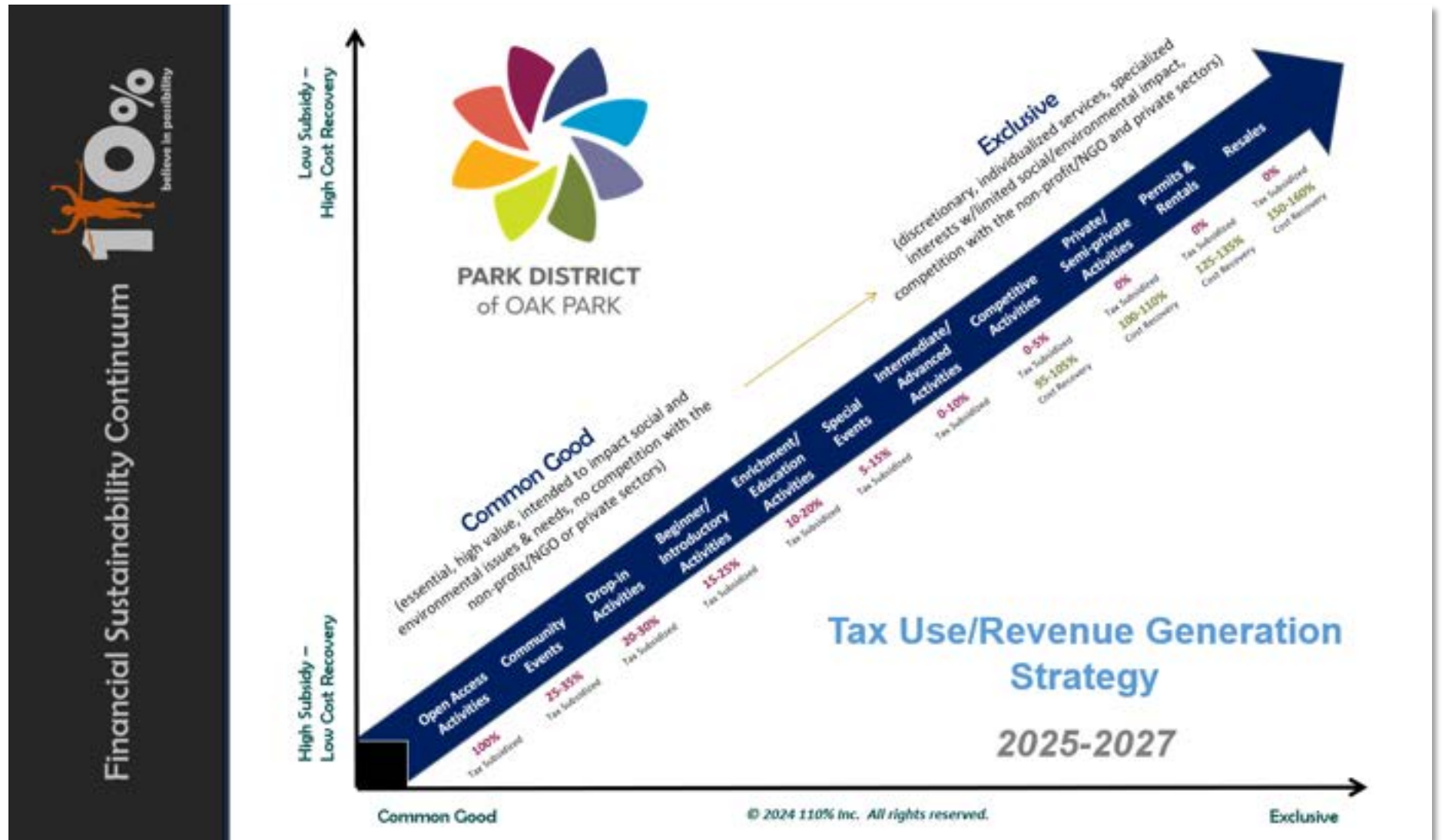
Expense Category Summary	Amount	% of Total
Personnel	\$ 10,522,489.13	66.08%
Admin	\$ 1,525,931.07	9.58%
O&M	\$ 3,119,935.50	19.59%
Utilities	\$ 755,842.00	4.75%
Total District	\$ 15,924,197.70	100.00%

APPENDIX B | FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

TAX USE/REVENUE GENERATION STRATEGY

PDOP's Tax Use/Revenue Generation Continuum presents the degree to which financial resources will be spent and expenses will be recovered and managed. This strategy shifts from one which suggests that all services should be provided at no or low cost for everyone to an equitable philosophy where subsidy allocation decisions are based upon "beneficiary of service". In this conceptualization, each type of service has a set of specific characteristics that provide a rationale for who should pay (e.g., taxpayers, the individual, or both) and to what degree. Ultimately, this aligns subsidy allocation, cost recovery goals and expectations with beneficiary of service. The three-year Tax/Use Revenue Generation Continuum includes the District's Service Categories and cost recovery goals and expectations. The continuum, shown on the next page, is a graphic representation of the District's tax use and revenue enhancement strategy and philosophy.

APPENDIX B | FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY



APPENDIX C | IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Note: Below is a screenshot of the Implementation Plan; the fully accessible Excel version of the Implementation Plan has been provided to staff.

Park District of Oak Park Implementation Plan						
QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT						
	Recommended Actions	Prioritization	Resource Requirement	Staff Lead/Team	Timeline	Complete?
	Improve Parks and Facilities Assessment Recommendations					
	Develop a Capital Action Plan					
	Continual Development of an Asset Management Plan					
	Strengthen the Capital Investment Process					
	Develop Park Subcommittees and Education					
	Continue to Focus on the Capitalized Experience in Park System					
	Explore Private Recreation Opportunities					
	Continued Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)					
	Continue to Address and Address the Capital's Historic Preservation Plan					
STAFF EXCELLENCE						
	Recommended Actions	Prioritization	Resource Requirement	Staff Lead/Team	Timeline	Complete?
	Define Professional Development Opportunities and Outcomes					
	Analyze the Effectiveness of Communication Plans					
	Strengthen Employee Recruitment and Hiring Process and Diversity Initiatives					
ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE						
	Recommended Actions	Prioritization	Resource Requirement	Staff Lead/Team	Timeline	Complete?
	Consider Future Application for the National Gold Medal Award					
	Maintain National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) designation					
	Maintain Illinois Professional Agency Accreditation					
	Technology & Equipment					
	Continued to Identify New Partnership Opportunities					
	Continued Evaluation of Existing Partner Agreements, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), and Joint Use Agreements (JUAs)					
	Evaluate Performance & Resources					
RECREATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT						
	Recommended Actions	Prioritization	Resource Requirement	Staff Lead/Team	Timeline	Complete?
	Marketing Improvements and Enhancements					
	Continue to Use Community Survey					
	Continued to Study ADA Compliance					
	Continue Community Outreach					
	Define a Service Philosophy for Older Adults					
	Explore Options for Family and Working Adult Programming					
	Maintain an understanding of Local Public Health Initiatives					
	Identify Constraints and Barriers to Success					
	Continue the collaboration with West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA)					
	Identify a Recreation Services Analysis					
	Present a Paid Referral to Residents					
FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE						
	Recommended Actions	Prioritization	Resource Requirement	Staff Lead/Team	Timeline	Complete?
	Update the Current Cost Recovery Policy for Board Approval					
	Continue to pursue alternative funding sources					
	Evaluate Contracting System					
	Conduct Annual Cost of Service Analysis Update					
	Conduct a Review of the Fee Use and Revenue Generation Strategy					
	Implement Strategic Pricing					
	Reevaluate Success Metrics					

APPENDIX D

COMMUNITY MARKETING AUDIT

OUR
PARKS,
OUR
FUTURE.



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

May 15th
6:30–7:30pm

Cheney Mansion
220 N Euclid Ave

OurParksOurFuture.com

*Free childcare
will be provided
for ages 3+*





BRAND & MARKETING DOCUMENTS

BRAND GUIDELINES



Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex (RCRC): Uncommon Fun for Everyone

This message helps to solidify the RCRC brand as a unique facility that caters not only to hardcore hockey enthusiasts, but also to a first-time skater. It also helps to overcome the unique challenge of being incorrectly referred to as “Ridgeland Commons.”

Cheney Mansion: Where Happily Ever After Begins

This message reflects that at Cheney Mansion, a couple can live the fairy tale wedding they always wanted.

Oak Park Conservatory: Journey Worlds Away in Your Back Yard

This message is a call to action that appeals to an audience's curiosity, sense of adventure and desire for fun. It is not only designed to impart a sense of proximity and convenience, but also to convey the sense of outdoor adventure.



Park District branding is clearly defined and consistently well-executed and recognizable in the community. However PDOP should explore updating branding to include new facilities like the CRC and GRC.

BRAND GUIDELINES



Telephone Etiquette

Some of us spend a little bit of time on the phone and others, a great deal of time. It doesn't matter. Anyone who transacts business on the telephone for the Park District of Oak Park plays a critical role in our organization's success. The person on the other end of the phone is developing an image, an impression of our agency by the way we handle their telephone call. We want that image to be positive and to reflect that we are accessible and helpful. Remember, our brand personality is described as simultaneously playful and friendly, yet responsible and resourceful. We want to reflect that personality on the telephone. At the end of the call we want the caller to say that the Park District of Oak Park provides quality customer service.



Great consideration of how customer experience affects the brand. There is opportunity to amplify this message/philosophy beyond the telephone to all staff/patron interactions.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT

MARKETING PLAN

CHANNEL	TACTIC	DETAILS
DIGITAL	Website	- Host and manage four websites: pdop.org, cheneymansion.com, pleasanthomeop.com, oakparkconservatory.org - Collect stakeholder input to guide the development of new pdop.org website, to including the following: - Community Surveys and focus groups - Park District Citizen Committee - Staff review and feedback - Industry best practices - Ongoing updates to ensure content is informative, engaging, and current
	Social Media	- Manage four social media pages: - Facebook: parkdistrictofoakpark - Twitter: parkdistioakpark - Instagram: parkdistioakpark and oakparkconservatory - LinkedIn: XXX - PDOP Social media channels are used for advertising upcoming events and programs, communicating immediate information, posting photos from recent events, highlighting staff, sharing partner news, and more. - All content within our social media accounts is archived through Social Archive as required by law.

DIGITAL, can't	Electronic Newsletters	- Constant Contact is our enews letter provider - Content for the general enews is comprised of program marketing, District news, park projects/renovations, and staff highlights. - Each program area distributes a dedicated monthly e-newsletter to current and past program participants sharing news, events, and programming - Email lists are comprised of past program participants and pass holders and updated quarterly
	REACH Screens	- TV monitors located inside RCRC, GRC, and the Oak Park Conservatory - Available to promote PDOP programs, events, schedules, and park district news
	RCRC Marquee	- Located at corner of Lake & Ridgeland at the RCRC facility - Advertises upcoming community events with details including dates
	On-Hold Message	- Features special events and programs - Updated 4/x year (quarterly): January, April, August, November - Coordinates loosely with E-News
	Advertising	- The PDOP uses paid social media advertising on Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, Tik Tok - The PDOP advertises in Wedding Wire, Here's Comes the Guide, and the Knot for Cheney Mansion, Pleasant Home, and Oak Park Conservatory. - The PDOP uses google ads as needed for larger initiatives - Additional print and digital advertising is included in the plan for FLW Races.



Channels and tactics are clearly defined.
Be sure to update the LinkedIn information in the next marketing plan.

MARKETING PLAN



Convenience - The term 'convenience' is a nebulous one which describes a number of perceived benefits including location, price, and ease of registration. Overall, convenience was rated as the most important differentiator for PDOP compared to competing opportunities for recreational activities. PDOP will continue to provide convenience, so the brand should more frequently promote it. For instance, the notion of convenience could be captured by the tagline used in subsequent marketing communication materials.



Convenience is identified as a core component of the brand. However some have expressed frustration with the inconvenience of the registration system, Amilia (refer to website section). Evaluate Amilia's cost/benefits to the PDOP brand and registration convenience.

RECOMMENDATIONS: BRAND AND MARKETING DOCUMENTS



- Given that convenience is a core component of the PDOP brand, evaluate use of Amilia and its registration convenience for cost/benefits to the PDOP brand and/or consider ways in which marketing/communications can help to ease the frustration of Amilia users, e.g., tutorials, refreshers, cheat sheets for customer service to distribute, etc.



SURVEYS

2024 SURVEY



12. Have you seen any social media posts from the Park District of Oak Park?



Responses to this question indicate that social posts are reaching slightly less than half of your intended audience. It could be worth evaluating the channels you post on along with opportunities for cross promotion with other organizations.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT

2024 SURVEY

13. Thinking about the Park District social media, how strongly do you agree or disagree that the posts are...



	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Responses
Helpful					
Count	3	4	48	44	99
Row %	3.0%	4.0%	48.5%	44.4%	
Engaging					
Count	2	10	59	27	98
Row %	2.0%	10.2%	60.2%	27.6%	
Informative					
Count	2	2	47	47	98
Row %	2.0%	2.0%	48.0%	48.0%	
Interesting					
Count	2	6	62	28	98
Row %	2.0%	6.1%	63.3%	28.6%	
Totals					
Total Responses					99



Even though responses to this question lean positive, look for opportunities to be more creative on social media so that your content is more engaging and interesting. Look to increase respondents that indicate "Strongly Agree" on this question in future surveys.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT

2023 SURVEY

31. Thinking about the Park District website, how strongly do you agree or disagree that the website is...

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Responses
Helpful Count Row %	2 4.9%	1 2.4%	23 56.1%	15 36.6%	41
Engaging Count Row %	2 4.9%	7 17.1%	21 51.2%	11 26.8%	41
Informative Count Row %	2 4.9%	3 7.3%	19 46.3%	17 41.5%	41
Interesting Count Row %	1 2.4%	8 19.5%	20 48.8%	12 29.3%	41
Easy to use Count Row %	3 7.3%	14 34.1%	16 39.0%	8 19.5%	41
Up to date Count Row %	2 4.9%	5 12.2%	20 48.8%	14 34.1%	41
Totals Total					41



Responses to this question are most mixed on "Easy to use". This aligns with other feedback received on the website. Look for ways to improve the user experience and consider additional research to better understand specific elements of frustration.



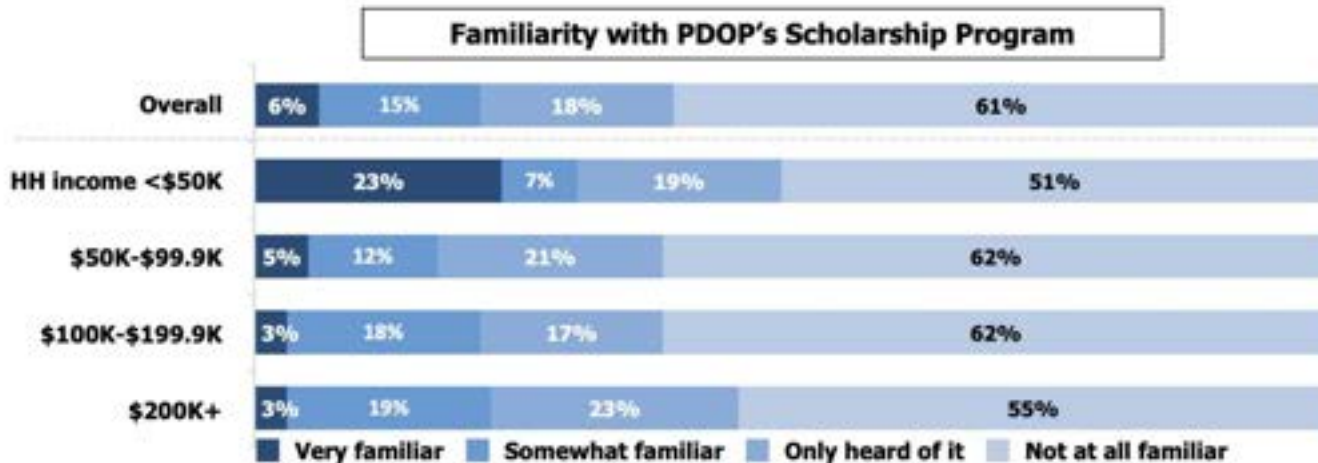
The oldest and most long-term Oak Park residents are more likely to get their PDOP information from local newspapers/websites. Social media sites are referenced most often by PDOP program participants and adults under age 55.

	Overall	Most Likely to Cite as a Source
Local newspaper (print/online)	21%	- North region (32%) - Ages 65+ (41%) - Homeowners (27%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (40%)
PDOP social media	14%	- Under age 55 (17%, vs. 8% of those over 55) - Lived in Oak Park <25 yrs. (18%, vs. 4% of 25+ year residents) - HH income \$50K-\$99K (25%) - PDOP program participants (20%, vs. 5% of non-participants)

2024 SURVEY

Overall, one in five respondents (21%) said they are familiar with the District's scholarship program for lower-income households. However, much of this awareness is "soft".

- Only 6% are "very familiar", and more than twice as many are "somewhat familiar" (15%). Another one in five (18%) have only heard about these scholarships, nothing more. And the rest – a majority at 61% – are not at all aware.
- While awareness tends to be highest among those most eligible for these scholarships (lower-income respondents), at least half of this income group (51%) are still not at all familiar with this opportunity. Awareness is also lowest among:
 - Those with children (66% "not at all familiar", vs. 61% overall)
 - Non-PDOP program participants (74%)
 - Residents who moved to Oak Park <5 years ago (68%) or 15-24 years ago (69%)
 - Those under age 35 (81%) along with residents aged 65+ (66%).
- The 2019 survey tested awareness as a "yes/no" question, with 39% "yes" and 61% "no" results (no change vs. 2023).

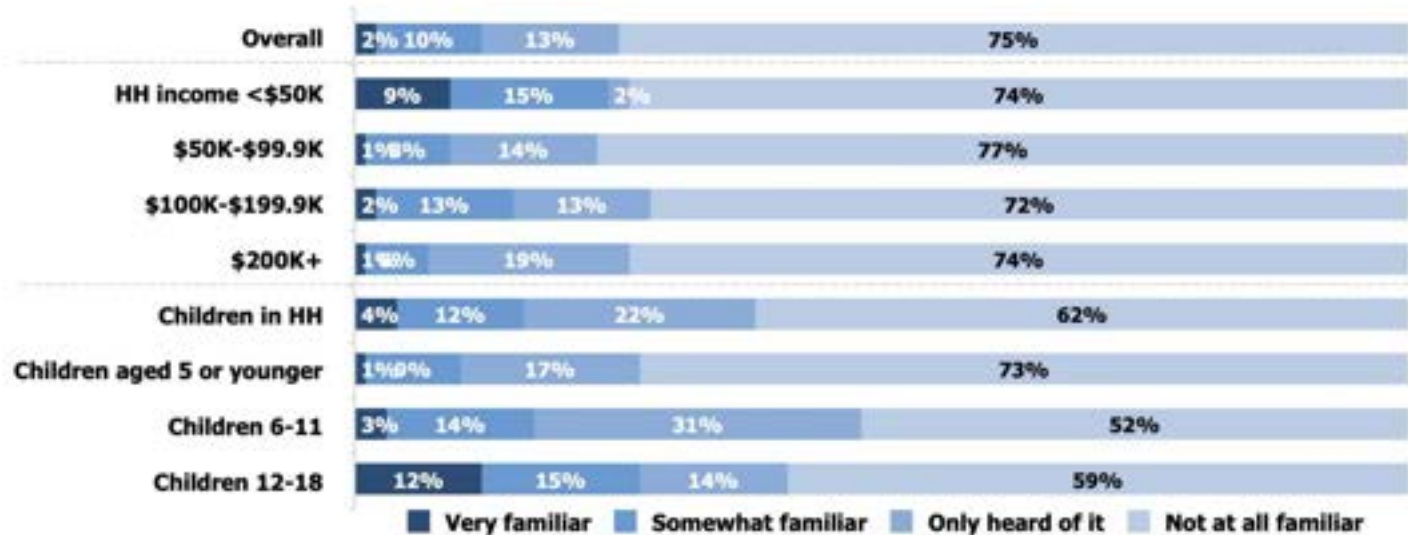


2024 SURVEY

Awareness is even lower with the PDOP's Childcare Discount Program (CDM) to assist lower-income residents with school-aged children (up to age 14) with the cost of full-day camps and afterschool programs.

- Similar to the PDOP scholarship program, the lowest income residents tend to be more familiar with the CDM assistance. However, three out of four remain completely unfamiliar (similar to the overall response).
- Those with children likewise remain mostly unfamiliar, despite slightly higher awareness among those with children ages 6+ (and especially those with teenagers – some of whom may have recently benefited from the CDM).

Familiarity with PDOP's Childcare Discount Membership (CDM) Program



2024 SURVEY



Awareness of the PDOPs scholarships and CDM discounts remains relatively low.

- Overall, about one in five are either “very” (6%) or “somewhat” familiar (15%) with the District’s scholarship pool which provides financial assistance available to lower-income households.
 - The good news is that those most likely to qualify (reporting household incomes under \$50K) tend to be the most aware of this opportunity (23% “very” familiar, vs. 6% overall). Still, just over half of these lower income residents (51%) have never heard of these scholarships.
- Similarly, only 12% are “very” (2%) or “somewhat” familiar (10%) with the District’s CDM offering for lower income residents with children in Kindergarten through age 14. Three in four overall (75%) have never heard of this program.
 - Residents with children ages 12 to 14 tend to be more aware (12% “very” familiar, vs. 2% overall) – possibly because they have taken advantage of CDM in the past or currently. However, 59% of these households remain not at all aware of this assistance.



Future marketing efforts could focus on increasing awareness of PDOP scholarships and CDM discounts. Over half of lower income residents have never heard of these opportunities.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT

2024 SURVEY

Respondents unaware of the PDOP's scholarship and/or CDM programs most often would seek additional information from the District website (especially those already in PDOP programs), with a general web search a close second option (especially among younger adults).

- Hispanic residents would be more likely to call the PDOP for more information, while African Americans report a greater likelihood of looking to print materials (program guide, District flyers) compared to the average.



Make scholarship/CDM program information easy to find on the website.

2024 SURVEY

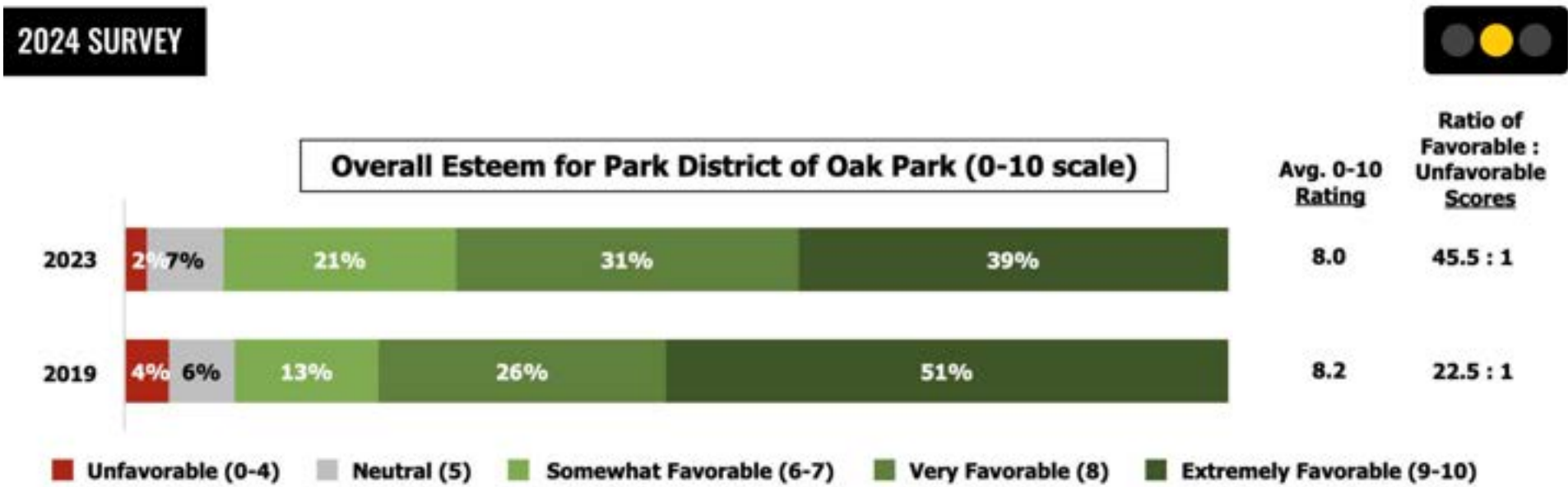


Among the few (2%) who report no visits to PDOP parks or facilities in the past year, the top reason continues to be not having young children at home (continuing a perception that the District focuses on children and young families and is less relevant to older adults).

- The rest usually attribute their non-usage to a lack of interest, health issues/limitations, and a lack of time (mentioned far less often now than in 2019).
- Similarly, non-users now appear to be more familiar with PDOP parks and facilities (given the big drop in lack of awareness in 2019).



There is opportunity to grow interest amongst residents without young children. Consider a focus on marketing “non-children” activities more to this audience.



RECOMMENDATIONS: SURVEYS



- Look to increase respondents that indicate “Strongly Agree” on the “thinking about the Park District social media, how strongly do you agree or disagree that the posts are...” question in future surveys.
- Favorability remains high, but the amount of “Very Favorable” responses and the average rating has decreased since 2019. This is something to keep an eye on to ensure it doesn’t become a downward trend.





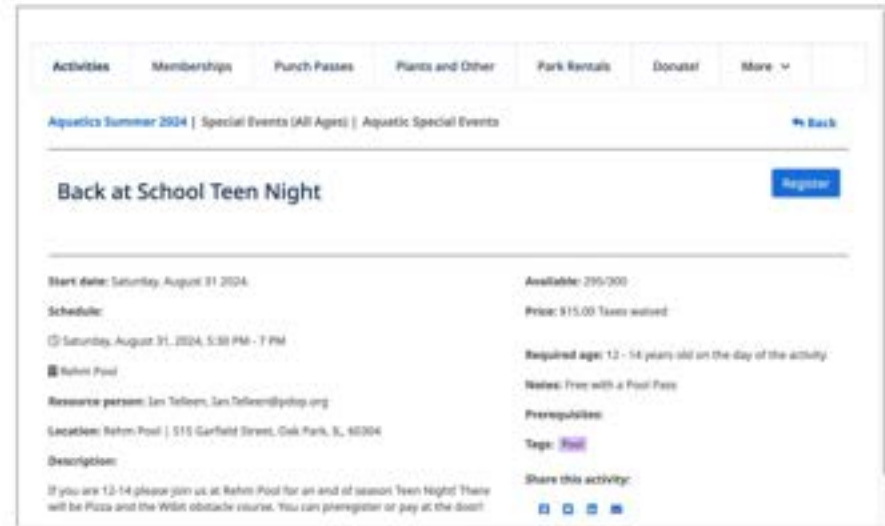
WEBSITE

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT



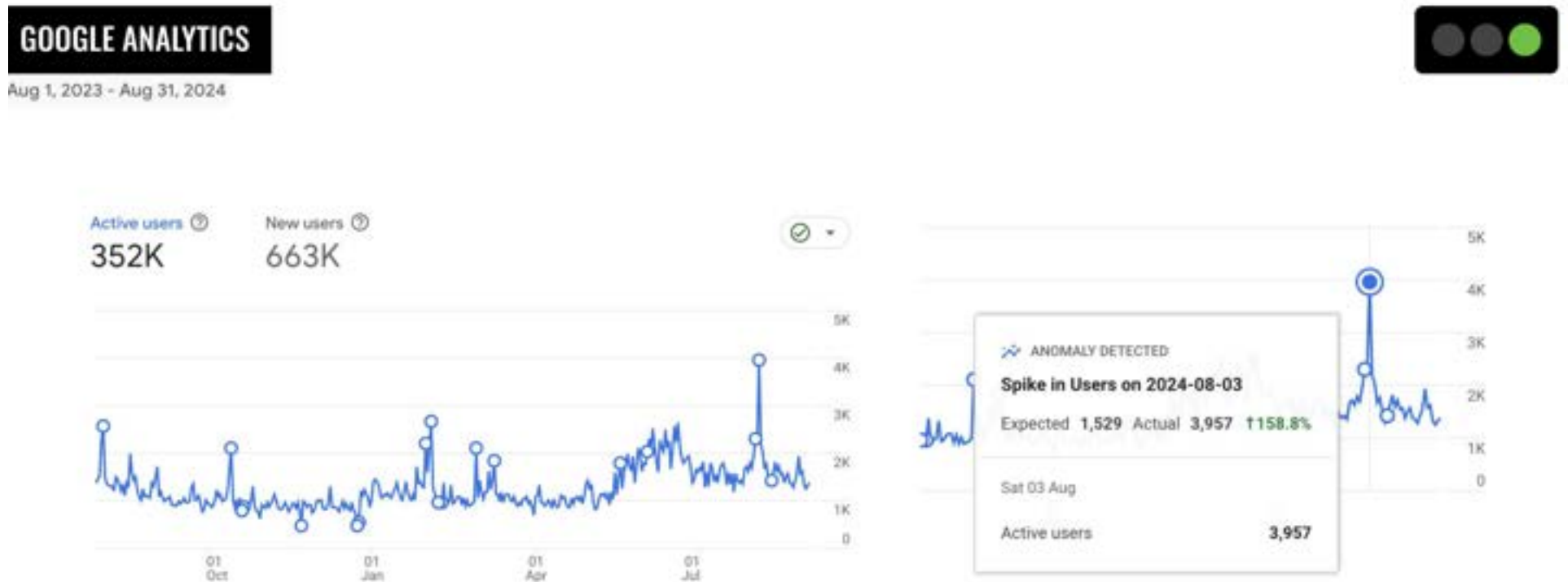
There is an opportunity to add "Adult" to the "Age-Based Interests" column in the nav under programs, if you do choose to expand on programs/marketing for adults (especially those without children).

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT



Almost one in four respondents from the 2024 survey mentioned difficulties and stress when registering for programs. Anecdotal comments received by the team back up this data. Evaluate your registration process and Amilia capabilities.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT



There have been 352K users on the site during the reporting period. Traffic sees a large uptick heading into the summer. There was a large spike in early August – that was a result of registration for Fall/Winter programming and FLW Early Bird registration.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT

GOOGLE ANALYTICS

Aug 1, 2023 - Aug 31, 2024



First user prim...Channel Group) +		Total users	New users	Returning users	Average engagement time per active user	Engaged sessions per active user	Event count All events +	Key events All events +	User key event rate All events +
Total		352,682 100% of total	662,597 100% of total	101,275 100% of total	3m 02s Avg 0%	1.64 Avg 0%	8,528,129 100% of total	8,254.00 100% of total	1.77% Avg 0%
1	Organic Search	206,678	403,355	65,346	3m 06s	1.71	4,964,275	84.00	0.03%
2	Direct	126,792	224,469	33,882	3m 01s	1.65	3,219,976	7,285.00	4.38%
3	Referral	10,256	17,338	2,215	3m 50s	1.23	252,942	848.00	6.24%
4	Organic Social	8,201	16,021	503	37s	0.66	60,033	16.00	0.17%
5	Email	411	674	94	1m 49s	1.11	6,750	16.00	2.43%
6	Display	286	571	31	27s	0.70	2,790	0.00	0%
7	Unassigned	59	113	13	1m 39s	1.17	766	0.00	0%
8	Paid Social	41	51	6	58s	0.83	555	4.00	2.44%
9	Organic Video	2	3	0	3m 10s	1.50	34	1.00	50%
10	Organic Shopping	1	2	0	57s	2.00	8	0.00	0%



This is sources of traffic sorted by the amount of new users they bring. Organic Search brings the highest amount of both new users and engaged sessions to the site.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT

GOOGLE ANALYTICS
 Aug 1, 2023 - Aug 31, 2024

First user default channel group	New users	Total revenue	Transactions
Total	662,597 100% of total	\$1,348,971.73 100% of total	8,092 100% of total
1 Direct	224,469	\$1,214,589.01	7,133
2 Referral	17,338	\$115,909.14	839
3 Organic Search	403,355	\$16,345.91	84
4 Email	674	\$1,321.67	15
5 Organic Social	16,021	\$373.00	16
6 Organic Video	3	\$243.00	1
7 Paid Social	51	\$190.00	4
8 Display	571	\$0.00	0
9 Organic Shopping	2	\$0.00	0
10 Unassigned	113	\$0.00	0



In terms of total revenue, Direct Traffic brings in the most money overall. An individual new user that came via Direct Traffic was worth \$5.41. However, a new user that came via Referral traffic (website visits that come from a link on another site) was worth \$6.67. A new user that came via Organic search was worth about 4 cents.

NOTE: Revenue data begins in May 2024 and does not reflect the full reporting period.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT

GOOGLE ANALYTICS

Aug 1, 2023 - Aug 31, 2024

Page title and screen class +

↓ Views

Active users

Views per active user

Average engagement time per active user

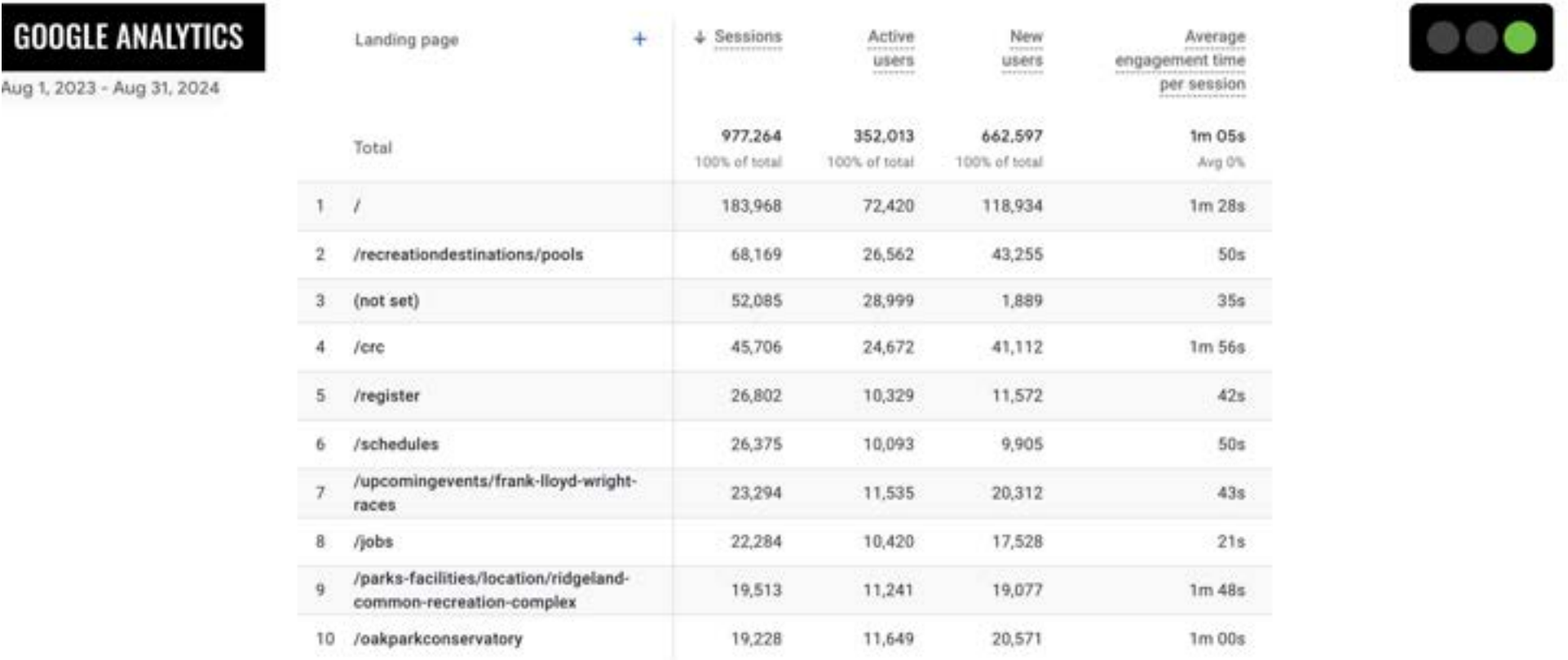
Event count All events +

Total	3,381,915 100% of total	352,013 100% of total	9.61 Avg 0%	3m 02s Avg 0%	8,528,129 100% of total
1 Park District of Oak Park	316,015	80,286	3.94	1m 08s	964,061
2 Schedules - Park District of Oak Park	167,074	40,183	4.16	2m 15s	411,548
3 Pools - Park District of Oak Park	148,819	31,320	4.75	1m 53s	402,631
4 Register for Programs - Park District of Oak Park	124,534	25,474	4.89	49s	308,089
5 Search Results for "" - Park District of Oak Park	120,424	18,068	6.67	55s	188,218
6 Community Recreation Center - Park District of Oak Park	90,776	29,529	3.07	54s	280,033
7 Programs - Park District of Oak Park	88,002	27,650	3.18	46s	202,439
8 (not set)	56,683	1,256	45.13	12m 56s	60,567
9 CRC - Membership & Registration - Park District of Oak Park	54,485	17,273	3.15	2m 12s	134,335
10 Jobs - Park District of Oak Park	52,820	15,569	3.39	41s	134,191



This shows your top pages for the reporting period by views. The homepage receives the most views, followed by the schedules page, pools page, and registration page. Continue to monitor these pages for changes over time.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT



This shows your top landing pages for the reporting period. Most users land on the homepage, but the pools page continues to be a big driver of traffic. Continue to monitor these pages for changes over time.

RECOMMENDATIONS: WEBSITE



- There is an opportunity to add “Adult” to the “Age-Based Interests” column in the nav under programs, if you do choose to expand on programs/marketing for adults (especially those without children).
- Almost one in four respondents from the 2024 survey mentioned difficulties and stress when registering for programs. Anecdotal comments received by the team back up this data. Evaluate the convenience of the registration process and use of Amilia to determine cost/benefits to the PDOP brand, and/or consider ways in which marketing/communications can help to ease the frustration of Amilia users, e.g., tutorials, refreshers, cheat sheets for customer service to distribute, etc.
- Look for ways to improve the user experience of the website.
- Make scholarship/CDM program information easy to find on the website.



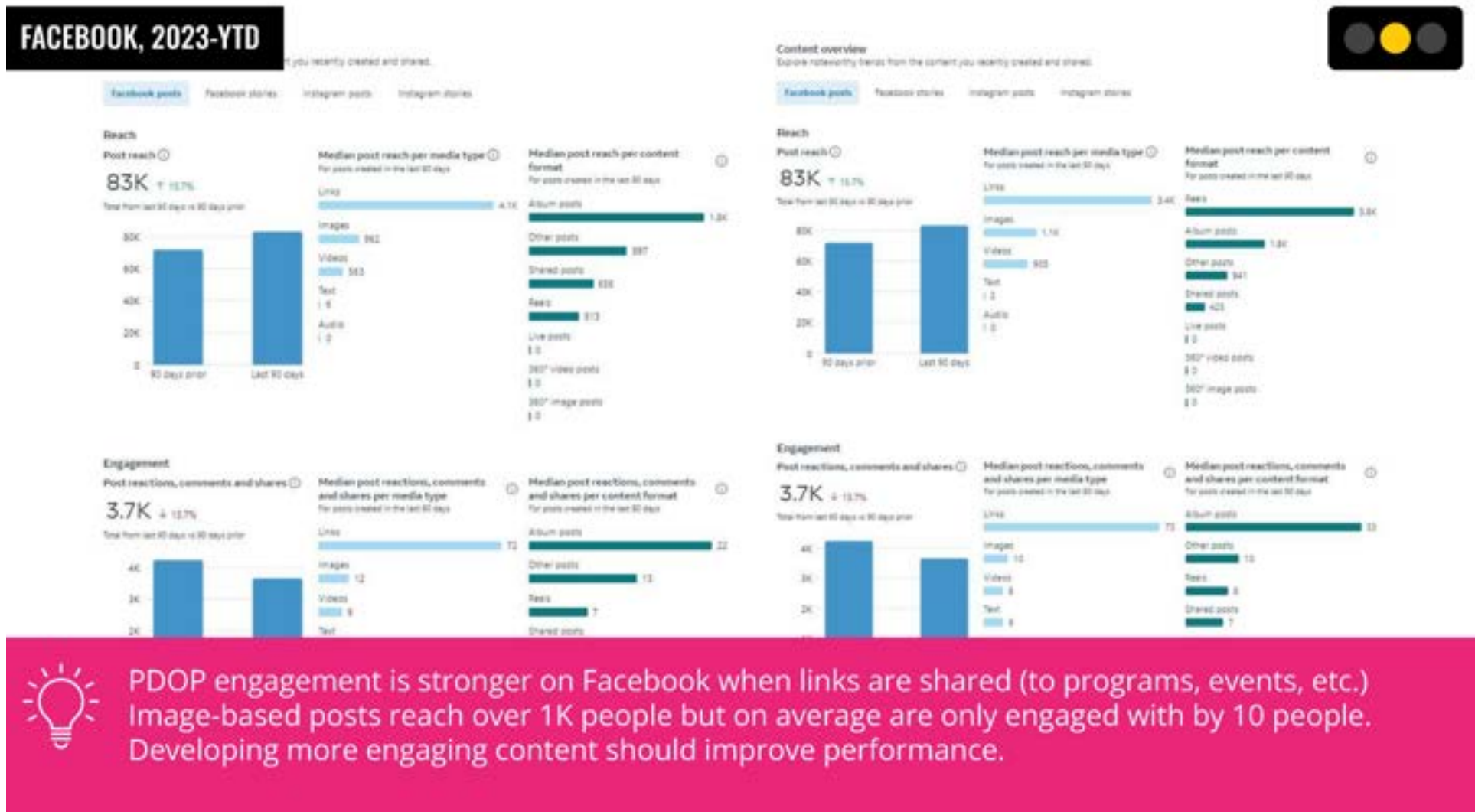
SOCIAL MEDIA

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT



PDOP posts on Instagram several times a week and has over 4,000 followers. The last 9 posts have received an average of 40 likes and 1.2 comments per post. Though PDOP focuses more on Reach over Engagement, because Engagement is directly tied to appearing in a user's feed (and therefore reach), developing more engaging content should improve reach and overall performance.

APPENDIX D | MARKETING AUDIT



RECOMMENDATIONS: SOCIAL MEDIA



- Evaluate the channels you post on along with opportunities for cross promotion with other organizations to expand your reach.
- Explore creative strategies to expand reach and make your social media content more engaging by focusing on a mix of storytelling, interactive elements, and visuals. For example:
 - Leverage User-Generated Content (UGC) by encouraging PDOP visitors to share their own photos and experiences using a specific hashtag, and feature this content on your social media channels.
 - Use tools like Instagram Stories, Facebook polls, and live Q&A sessions to actively engage with your audience. Share behind-the-scenes looks at park operations, staff stories, and special events preparation.
 - Create and share short, visually appealing videos that highlight events, activities, and facilities. For example, a quick 30-second tour of a new playground, or a fun time-lapse of a community event, can grab attention more effectively than static images.
 - Partner with local influencers, businesses, or community leaders to help spread the word about park district events and initiatives.
 - Incorporate humor or light-hearted content where appropriate. Funny park-related memes, playful challenges, or quirky facts about the parks can capture attention and make your content more shareable.



OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED



The below items were reviewed as part of the audit process but did not result in specific issues or recommendations.

- Email Newsletters
- Signage & Print Collateral
- Marketing Campaigns

APPENDIX E

PARKS ASSESSMENTS



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

PARKS AND FACILITY EVALUATION

As part of the Comprehensive Planning process, it is essential to assess all Park District properties and document their current conditions creating an overview to serve as a valuable benchmark for setting and measuring progress toward future goals and strategies.

Over the spring and summer of 2024, all the exterior park space was visually inspected to capture the condition of each park. Since the previous plan, the Park District has yearly review of park conditions, continued high quality of maintenance ,and implemented improvements at several parks.

- As a densely populated park district with limited field space, turf maintenance will be an ongoing issue. Bringing maintenance in house has improved turf quality. The District should continue to review usage rates and rotation of fields to further improve quality. Opportunities to add irrigation, drainage or artificial turf sites will also help with heavily used fields.
- Drinking fountains containing bottle fillers have been a successful addition to parks. Consider bottle fillers at all future drinking fountain renovations.
- As playgrounds age, poured in place surfacing should be continually reviewed and surface cleaning and repaired to help with longevity where playground equipment is in good condition.
- As playgrounds are renovated, artificial turf has been identified as the preferred play surfacing and should be considered in budgeting for future improvements.
- Many fabric shades have been added to the dugouts at baseball fields throughout the Park District. This has been a well received improvement and should added at for all remaining dugouts as funds become available.

The following pages compile essential background information and evaluation data for each park. A detailed review of specific amenities at each park, and observations regarding the condition of these facilities are included as well.

Each open space has been assigned a set of evaluation scores based on the amenities and features, contributing to an overall park rating. These scores were derived from a comprehensive evaluation of the specific amenities on the park sites. The parks were evaluated Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor. The rubric for these criteria is noted below. The scoring system operates on a scale of one hundred points. Additional notes regarding the open spaces and facilities are derived from the consultant team's evaluations. No interior facility space was included in this report.

- Excellent: New or like new condition with no or few issues present
- Good: Operable condition but some wear may be present
- Fair: Wear and some damage may be present but not impacting operation or use. Park Amenities may be nearing the end of their useful life and merits future review.
- Poor: Extensive wear was present or impacting use. Park Amenities may be at or beyond their useful life and should be considered for replacement.

APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Andersen Park

824 Hayes Avenue • 1.3 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
C

EVALUATION	SCORE CARD	Playground	Field	Pathways	Restrooms	Drinking Fountain	Seating	Lighting	Signage	Other	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	60	69	70	63	60	85	80	70			70

Year Acquired: 1916
PIN #: 16-05-305-001



Andersen Park was named after children's author Hans Christian Andersen. The park features a soccer field, a playground and splash pad. The Andersen Center, the park community center, was designed by John S. Van Bergen and includes restrooms and indoor recreation space. The master plan for Andersen Park was updated in 2016.



Site Programming

- After school club activities
- Summer & learning camps
- Adventure weeks
- Soccer

Natural Features

- Rain gardens
- Open green space
- Shade trees
- Chess Scholars

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Pavers at seating area near playground have settled and some grass and weeds are present
- Pavement along accessible route has some cracking and movement at entry

Site Amenities

- Ornamental Fencing is rusting in some locations

Recommendations

- Monitor cracked pavement for impacts to accessibility and consider replacing when needed
- Replace or reinstall existing pavers at playground to improve accessibility
- Consider installing accessible path to soccer field bleachers
- Playground is reaching the end of its useful life and replacement is scheduled for 2025

Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2014	Soccer Field	
2		Bleachers	Fair
-		Fencing	Fair
	2006	Playground	
2		Main Structure	Fair
4		Swings - (2 set, 2 seat)	Good
-		Surfacing - eir	Good
2		Shade Structures	Good
-		Pavement - concrete pavers	Fair
-		Pavement - pavers	Poor
-		Drainage	Good
-		Fencing - aluminum fence	Fair
4	2008	Benches - w/o arms	Good
		Trails	
-		Pavement - concrete	Fair
4		Benches - w/o arms	Fair
1		Blue Racks - w/ 60's	Poor
		Other amenities	
5		Light Pole - 40' tall steel	Good
1	2011	Restrooms - in building, 40 gender	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Fair
-		Plantings	Good
3		Picnic Tables	Fair
1		Drinking Fountain - 2 fountains - concrete	Good
-		Fencing - chain link fence	Poor
4		Signage	Good
4		Litter Receptacles	Good
1		Splash Pad	Good



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Austin Gardens

167 Forest Avenue • 3.64 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
A

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Public Circulation	Public Access	Public Use	Public Safety	Public Health	Public Beauty	Public Comfort	Public Convenience	Public Connectivity	Public Cultural	Public Economic	Public Environmental	Public Social	Public Total Score
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	85	75	85	60	76					

Year Acquired: 1947
PIN #: 15-07-120-016



Austin Gardens is known for "The Secret Garden" with its secluded location. The lush woodland vegetation and mature trees shield Austin gardens from urban life, creating a cherished sanctuary for nearby residents and visitors with 285 trees. The garden features include raingardens, bioswales, and stormwater harvesting systems. Additionally, the site is an arboretum with an interpretive signs. The master plan for Austin Gardens was last updated in 2016.



Site Programming

- Nature areas guided tours
- After school club activities
- Special events/ Workshops
- Nature camps
- Preschool camps
- Outdoor Festival Theater

Natural Features

- Ornamental woodland plantings
- Arboretum
- Native wildflower garden
- Open green space
- Learning gardens

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Some historic pavers have settled at entries

Site Amenities

- Benches need to be stained, some benches do not have companion seating
- Interpretive signs are showing wear

Recommendations

- Existing poles are aging and may need replacement
- Address readability of interpretive signs

Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2011	Trails	
14		Benches - with arms	Good
9	2016	Bike Racks - 1 circular (2-in)	Good
-		Fencing - custom fencing	Good
5		Litter Receptacles	Good
-		Pavement	Good
-		Pavers	Fair
-		Aggregate Path	Fair
		Other Amenities	
-		Fencing - metal fence at the periphery	Good
-		Plantings	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Good
3		Picnic Tables	Good
4		Signages - interpretive	Good
2	2016	Drinking fountain - 2 fountains at building	Good
1	2016	Restrooms - in building, all gender	Good
16		Light poles	Good
-		Lawn	Fair
1/2	2016	Shelter - attached to building	Good

2013 - DSLAD Grant



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Barrie Park

1011 South Lombard Avenue • 4.22 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
A

EVALUATION	SCORE	CARD	TOILET	CURB	LANDSCAPE	PLAYGROUND	FIELD	SOCCER	BASEBALL	FOOTBALL	SEATING	DRINKING	RESTROOMS	SHED	TRAIL	OTHER	TOTAL	SCORE
	85	86	97	96	95	98	98	99	94									

Year Acquired: 1932
PIN #: 16-17-312-001, 16-17-311-033



Barrie Park features a nature playground and a tot lot. It was named for the children's author James Barrie. The sport courts include two half basketball courts and six pickleball courts. A master plan was created for Barrie Park in 2015, and was completed in 2023-2024, including upgrades to the playground, sled hill, and the addition of the natural play area.



Site Programming

- Pickleball classes
- Learning camps
- Traditional day camps
- After school programs
- Baseball games
- Soccer games
- Football games

Natural Features

- Sled hill
- Nature playground area
- Berms
- Rain gardens

Site Analysis

- Active Recreation
- New nature play log steppers are adjacent to concrete paving

Site Amenities

- Seating at ballfield is older style that does not match new benches throughout park



Recommendations

- Park Renovated in 2023 with additional court color coat surfacing completed in 2024, baseball field and soccer field were not updated and should be considered for the addition of drainage to the ballfield.
- Provide shaded seating areas
- Provide shade at Baseball dugouts

Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
-	2005	Ball Field	
-		Backstop	Good
-		Bases	Good
2		Bleachers	Good
2		Dug Out	Good
-		Fencing	Good
-		Infield	Good
-		Pavement	Good
2		Player Benches	Good
-		Irrigation	Good
2		Storage Boxes	Good
-		Soccer Field	
-		Turf	Good
2		Soccer Goals	Good
2 Half	2005	Basketball Courts	
2		Basketball Hoops	Good
-		Pavement	Good
6	2019	Pickleball Courts	
	2023-24	Color Coating	Excellent
		Fencing - Chainlink	Good
6		Netting/Posts, Equip.	Good
		Pavement	Good
	2023	Tot Lot	
1		2-5 Play Structure	Excellent
11		Independent Pieces	Excellent
1		Drinking Fountain	Excellent
-		Drainage	Excellent
-		Fencing	Excellent
-		Pavement	Excellent
	2024	Nature Playground	
50+		Log Steppers	Excellent
15		Rock Seating	Excellent
5		Logs	Excellent
1		Kompan Log House	Excellent
-		Surfacing - mulch	Excellent
-		Curb	Excellent

Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2024	Playground	
1		2-5 Play Structure	Excellent
2		5-12 Play Structure	Excellent
12		Independent Pieces	Excellent
4		Swings	Excellent
2		Drinking Fountain	Excellent
-		Drainage	Excellent
-		Surfacing - Turf	Excellent
1		Picnic Tables	Excellent
-		Fencing	Excellent
-		Pavement	Excellent
-		Pavement	Good
	2023	Sledging Hill	
-		Lawn/Grass	Poor
-		Pavement	Good
		Trails	
7		Bike Racks	Excellent
1		Bike Fix it Station	Excellent
17		Benches	Good
1		Drinking Fountain	Good
33		Light Poles	Fair
9		Litter Receptacles	Good
		Other Amenities	
-		Plantings	Excellent
-		Tree Canopy	Excellent
8		Fitness Equipment	Excellent
1		Restrooms	Good
3		Picnic Tables	Excellent
1		Signage	Excellent



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Carroll Park

1125 South Kenilworth Avenue - 2.68 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
B

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	73	80	75	83	85	77	90	73	80
Medical	General	Lab/Imaging	Pharmacy	Referrals and Pathways	Performance Review	Spice	Goaling Areas	Barriers	Driving Factors

Carroll Park is equipped with a tot lot and a playground which is shared with Lincoln Elementary School. The park is named after children's author Lewis Carroll. This park also features two half basketball courts, a soccer field and the Carroll Center, an indoor recreation center. The Discovery Area includes stone seating and a log area for nature play. Carroll Parks master plan was most recently updated in 2014.



Property Line

Scale: 1" = 250'-0"



Site Programming

- Traditional day camps
- Extended camp
- Baseball games
- After school daycare
- Preschool classes
- Tween and teen camps

Natural Features

- Open lawn space
- Planted areas
- Discovery area
- Rain garden

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Soccer field is heavily used
- The artificial turf at the Tot Lot swings has worn out in some locations

Recommendations

- Repair artificial turf at the swings.

Year Acquired: 1916
PIN #: 16-18-329-021, 16-18-321-007, 16-18-321-004, 16-18-321-005



Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
-	2015	Ball Field	
-	2016	Backstop	Good
-		Bases	Good
2		Bleachers	Good
2	2014	Dug Out -shades	Good
-		Fencing	Good
-		Turf	Fair
8		Bike Racks - 40 Capacity	Good
-		Infield	Good
-		Pavement	Good
2		Player Benches	Good
2		Shade Structures	Excellent
-	2014	Soccer Field	
-		Lawn	Fair
-	2018	Tot Lot	
1		2-5 Play Structure	Good
1		Independent Pieces (group setting)	Good
3		Swings - 2 new, 1 friendship swings	Fair
2		Benches - 2 w/ back and arm, 1 w/ back	Good
1	2007	Drinking Fountain - 1 new w/ better flow	Fair
1		Litter Receptacles	Good
1		Pavement	Good
-		Drainage	Good
-		Surfacing - 200	Fair

2019 - Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant

2020 - OSLAD Grant



Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2015	Discovery Area	
16		Natural Rock Seating	Excellent
-		Lawn	Fair
		Nature Play Area	
-		Surfacing - saw	Good
13		Horizontal Logs	Good
16		Log Steppers	Good
		Other Amenities	
1		Restrooms - 1 male (1 stall)	Good
1		Bike Racks - 1 row (1 set)	Fair
10	2009	Light Poles	Good
4		Litter Receptacles	Good
-		Plantings	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Good



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Cheney Mansion

220 North Euclid Avenue • 2.2 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
A

EVALUATION	SCORE CARD	Trail	Open Space	Play	Recreation	Other Amenities	Plantings	Tree Canopy	Fencing	Entrance(s)	Signage	Picnic Table	Planter	Other	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	93	97	89	N/A	N/A	93						93

Year Acquired: 1985

PIN #: 16-07-213-001, 16-07-213-002, 16-07-213-003, 16-07-213-004, 16-07-213-005



Cheney Mansion is a historic building, formally a home, and now used for Park District programming and as a rental space for special events including weddings. The site is home to a variety of plants providing a lush garden look with walks and seating for the public to enjoy. The Cheney Mansion master plan was most recently updated in 2012.



Site Programming

- Picnic areas
- Cooking classes
- Special events/weddings
- Rentable space, both indoor and outdoor
- Historic tours

Natural Features

- Deciduous and evergreen trees
- Woodland walk
- Open lawn space
- Perennial gardens

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Some benches are not on an accessible route

Recommendations

- Turf in excellent condition at time of visit, expansion of irrigation could help with turf maintenance during busy rental season
- Provide gravel accessible route to the raised garden beds



Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
7	2006	Trails	
		Benches	Good
		• 1 recycled plastic w/ arms	
		• 2 wooden w/ 2 arms	
		• 1 wrought iron	
		• 1 w/ back near garden area	
		• 2 chairs w/ arms	
-		Pavement	Good
		• concrete path, brick paving, concrete	
-		Other Amenities	
-		Plantings	Excellent
-		Tree Canopy	Excellent
-		Fencing	Excellent
		• wooden made ornamental iron	
-		Entrance(s)	Excellent
-		Signage	Excellent
-		Picnic Table	Good
10		Planters	Fair
		• wooden planters variety of sizes	



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Oak Park Conservatory

615 Garfield Street - 0.8 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
A

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL SCORE
Score	N/A	N/A	93	94	92	88	N/A	N/A	92								

The Oak Park Conservatory is a designated Oak Park Landmark that was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. The Conservatory consists of three garden showrooms, two outdoor garden and a gift shop. 20,000 plants are grown from seeds and are planted at public parks and sites throughout the village. The master plan for the Oak Park Conservatory was last updated in 2017.



Site Programming

- Docent-led tours
- Camps
- Annual plant sales
- Markets
- Indoor and outdoor rental space for celebrations
- Nature and gardening classes
- Hands on workshops
- Lectures
- Story times

Natural Features

- Rain Garden
- Flower wall
- Planter boxes

Site Analysis

Site Amenities

- Discovery garden tunnel needs attention.
- Brick along the tunnel is not intact with concrete.
- Pergola is aging

Recommendations

- Repair tunnel pump and bricks in discovery garden.
- Consider preventative maintenance on pergola to extend life

Year Acquired: 1914
PIN #: 16-18-436-001



Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
-	2015	Entry	
-		Pavement	Good
-		Plantings	Excellent
-		Stairs	Good
6		Bike Racks - 3 circular	Excellent
-	2015	Discovery Garden	
1		Down facing bells	Good
1		Up facing flowers	Good
1		Play dome	Good
-		Fencing - ornamental white vinyl	Good
5		Benches - 3 w/ back and arm	Good
3		Planters - 2 box planters, 1 rectangular	Good
-	2011	Garden Area	
-		Pavement	Good
-		Wood Trellis	Fair
-		Water Fountain	Fair
-		Fencing - black metal	Good
-		Flower Wall	Good
7		Benches - 3 w/ back and arm, 3 w/ back and arm	Fair
-		Other Amenities	
-		Restrooms - inside building	Good
-		Plantings	Good
5		Bike Racks - circular	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Good

2002 - Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Grant



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Euclid Square Park

705 Fillmore Street • 2.81 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
B

EVALUATION	SCORE CARD
82	82
74	74
72	72
96	96
87	87
74	74
N/A	N/A
86	86
82	82

Euclid Square Park features a baseball field, tennis and pickleball courts. Other amenities include pedestrian trails, a 2-5 year old playground, seating areas, soccer field, and rain gardens. The Euclid Square Park master plan was most recently updated in 2017 with renovations of the courts, playground, trails and drinking fountain.



Property Line: ---

Scale: 1" = 100'-0"

0 50 100 150

Site Programming

- Tennis & pickleball games
- Baseball games
- Youth soccer games

Natural Features

- Rain Gardens
- Mounds
- Sled Hill
- Shade Trees

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Poured in place (PIP) surfacing at playground shows dirt from heavy use, but in good condition; only cracking noted at tree areas

Site Amenities

- Site amenities are generally in good to excellent shape

Recommendations

- Consider cleaning and providing preventative maintenance to prolong life of PIP surfacing
- At tennis/pickleball courts, address cracking, spalling of color coat and low spots where water collects

Year Acquired: 1929
PIN #: 16-18-423-001



Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2011	Ball Field	
1		Backstop	Good
-		Bases	Good
2		Bleachers	Good
2		Dug Out	Good
-		Fencing	Good
-		Infield	Good
-		Pavement	Good
2		Player Benches	Good
2		Shade Structures	Good
4	2017	Tennis and Pickleball Courts	
		Color Coating	Fair
-		Fencing	Good
4		Netting, Post, Equip.	Good
-		Pavement	Fair
1		Storage Box	Good
	2019	Multipurpose Field	
		Turf	Good

2017 - DCEO Grant

2017 - OSLAD Grant



Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2017	Playground	
1		2-5 Play Structure	Good
7		Independent Pieces - 1 wooden, 3 mounts, 1 spinner	Good
4		Swings - 2 steel, 1 cast, 1 aluminum	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 1 w/ bottle filler (no cup dispenser)	Good
1		Liter Receptacles	Good
-		Drainage	Good
-		Surfacing -w/	Good
7		Benches - 3 w/ arms, 1 w/ back and arms	Good
-		Entrance	Good
1		Picnic Tables	Good
-		Fencing	Good
-w/		Pavement	Good
	2017	Trails	
14		Benches - 4 w/ arms, 3 w/back and arms	Good
-		Pavement	Good
-		Seat Wall	Good
		Other Amenities	
14		Bike Racks - 10 corner, 2 w/ 1, 2 w/ 2 (2 w/ 4)	Excellent Good
-	2018	Plantings	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Good
-		Restrooms	
6		Light Pole	Fair
7		Liter receptacles	Good
2	2017	Drinking Fountains - 1 w/ bottle filler	Good

APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Field Park

935 Woodbine Avenue • 3.39 Acres

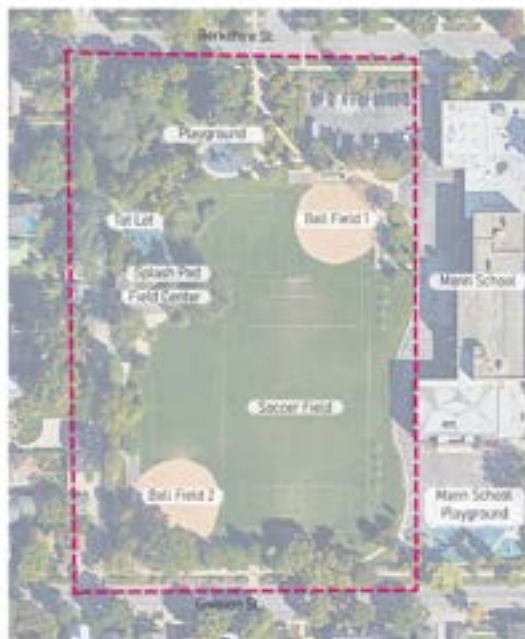
OVERALL
PARK GRADE
B

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	TOILETS	COURT	LANDSCAPE	PLAYGROUND	FIELD	SOCCER	DRIVE	SPACES	SEATING	AREAS	RESTROOMS	DRINKING	FOUNTAIN	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	79	68	85	87	82	94	87	83						

Year Acquired: 1916
PIN #: 16-06-123-012



Field Park features a playground, tot lot, splash pad, walking paths, shelter and restrooms. Athletic amenities include two ball fields and a soccer field. The park also has nature play features and berms. The park is named after children's author Eugene Field. The last master plan was developed in 2014.



Recommendations

- Playground is reaching the end of its useful life, replace in next 1-3 years
- Clean drainage under playground 1
- Consider preventative maintenance on PIP surfacing to extend life until play equipment is replaced
- Crack repair and sealcoat parking lot



Site Programming

- Baseball and softball games
- Rentable gazebo
- Field center
- Soccer games
- After school daycare
- Summer camps

Natural Features

- Open lawn space
- Planted areas
- Nature play

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Appears water may be slow to infiltrate PIP surfacing
- The fences have chipped paint
- Asphalt pavement crack in the parking area

Site Amenities

- Playground is 16 years old and many pieces are showing wear
- Picnic tables are showing wear

Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
2	2008	Ball Fields	
2		Backstop	Good
-		Bases	Good
4		Bleachers	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 2 fountains, 1 hose	Good
2		Dug Out	Good
-		Fencing	Fair
-		Infield	Good
-		Pavement	Fair
4		Player Benches	Fair/Good
-		Turf	Excellent
2	2008	Soccer Field	
-		Goals	Good
-		Turf	Fair
1	2008	Playground	
1		Main Structure - 8' and up play structure	Good/Fair
2		Independent Pieces - 2 single spinners	Good
1		Swings - 1 free swing	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - attached to building, 1 hose	Good
-		Drainage	Poor
-	2018	Surfacing - w/	Good
-	2008	Splash Pad	
Multi		Ground Sprayers	Good

2006 - OSLAD Grant
Intergovernmental Agreement with School District 97



Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
		Tot Lot	
1		Main Structure - no structure	Fair
3		Independent Pieces - 2 single spinners, 1 top spinner	Good
4		Swings - 2 belt swings, 2 free swings	Good
-		Drainage	Fair
-		Surfacing	Good
		Trails	
16		Benches - 12 w/ backrest, 4 w/ no backrest or arms	Good
9		Bike Racks - 2 w/ wheels, 4 w/ no wheels (fixed)	Good
		Other Amenities	
374+ ADA		Parking Lot	Fair
-	2018	Plantings	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Good
-	2013	Irrigation	Good
9		Light Poles	Fair
1	2008	Shelter	Fair
2		Picnic Tables	Fair
7		Signage	Good
8		Litter Receptacles	Good
1	2018	Restrooms - 10 building, all gender	Good



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Fox Park

624 South Oak Park Avenue - 1.54 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
C

[illegible]

Year Acquired: 1922
PIN #: 16-18-208-016, 16-18-208-015



Fox Park is named after William H. Fox, who served on the Park Board of Commissioners. The park features a playground and a tot lot with sand play area. The park also includes a splash pad, a soccer field and a ball field. The master plan for Fox Park was most recently updated in 2014.



Recommendations

- Playground is reaching its useful life, replace in next 2-4 years
- During renovation, consider a buffer space between sand play and PIP rubber surface
- Consider preventative maintenance on PIP surfacing to extend life until play equipment is replaced



Site Programming

- Adventure day trips
- Baseball and softball games
- Soccer games
- Dance camp
- After school programs

Natural Features

- Shade trees
- Lawn area

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- 5-12 playground surfacing is showing wear
- Dugout is holding water runoff from field
- The net climber and play panels on the playground are damaged

Site Amenities

- Picnic tables are showing wear

Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2014	Ball Field	
1		Backstop	Good
-		Bases	Good
2		Bleachers	Good
-		Fencing	Good
2		Dug Out-shaded	Fair
2		Shade structure	Excellent
-		Infield	Good
-		Pavement	Good
2		Player Benches	Good
		Soccer Field	
-		Turf	Excellent
	2009	Playground	
1		2-5 Play Structure	Good
1		5-12 Play Structure	Fair
4		Independent Pieces - 1 leg and 2 hand-diggers	Good
4		Swings - 3 sets, 2 hrs	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - w/ bottle filler, 7.5 gals	Good
1		Shade Structure	Good
-		Drainage	Good
-		Fencing	Good
-		Pavement	Good
2		Entrance(s)	Good
-		Surfacing - mulch	Fair
-		Sand Area	Fair
1	2009	Splashpad - w/ water sprayer, 200 gals	Good

Amenities

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
		Other Amenities	
12		Benches - 1 each bench at picnic, 11 each bench at entry	Good
	2009	Plantings	Fair
		Tree Canopy	Good
1	2009	Drinking Fountain - 1 each, 1 existing, 1 new, 1 existing	Good
2		Bike Racks - none (2 req.)	Good
4		Litter Receptacles	Good
-	2008	Restrooms - 1 each, all gender neutral	Good
-		Pavement - none	Fair
-		Pavement - none	Good
2		Picnic Table - 1 each	Fair
11		Light Poles	Fair



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Lindberg Park

1151 N Marion St - 13.90 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
B

EVALUATION	SCORE	CARD
History	94	
Counts	73	
Analysis	71	
Results	83	
Playgrounds	85	
Public and	76	
Highways	88	
Private Green	82	
Spots	85	
Seating Areas		
Barbecues		
Drinking		
Fountain		
TOTAL SCORE		

Lindberg Park was named after the first Superintendent of Parks at the Park District, Gustav A. Lindberg. The park features two ball fields, three tennis courts, and three soccer fields. There is also a shelter area, restroom building, a playground, natural play area, walking paths and a large prairie planting garden area. The gardens were restored in the 1990's to the 1930's design. The tennis courts were renovated in 2024. The master plan for Lindberg Park was most recently updated in 2018.



Site Programming

- Soccer and football camp
- Soccer games
- Baseball games
- Shelter rental

Natural Features

- Open lawn space
- Native plantings
- Deciduous and evergreen trees



Recommendations

- Patch PIP or replace surface to extend life of the playground and clean drainage
- Replace asphalt paths
- Add shades to dugouts
- Consider adding mulch around natural play area and signage to engage kids in the space

Site Analysis

Active Recreation.

- The asphalt walkways have significant cracking
- The soccer goals are bent and have broken netting
- It is not apparent that the natural play area is for play
- Playground panels are worn and need to be replaced

Site Amenities

- Chainlink fencing coating is wearing at playground
- Bleacher seating is worn
- No shades at dumpsters

Year Acquired: 1925
PIN #: 14-06-108-001



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2015	Ball Fields	
2		Backstop	Good
-		Bases	Good
22		Bike Racks - (Smaller Ones)	Excellent
8		Bleachers	Good
4		Dug Out	Fair
-		Fencing	Good
-		Infield	Good
-		Pavement	Good
4		Player Benches	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 2 Boats, 1 Hose	Good
2		Storage Boxes	Good
		Soccer Field	
6		Goals	Fair
-		Turf/Lawn	Fair
3	2024	Tennis Courts	
-	2024	Color Coating	Excellent
-		Fencing	Good
1		Gates	Good
3		Netting and Posts	Excellent
-	2024	Pavement	Excellent
1		Practice Board	Excellent
	2015	Shelter Area	
1		Shelter	Good
6		Picnic Tables	Good
-		Nature Play Area	
3		Independent Play	Good
5		Loo Pieces	Fair

2012 - OSLAD Grant



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2014	Playground	
1		2-5 Play Structure	Good
2		Independent Play + 1 top tunnel, 1 ball tubes	Good
1		Play Panels - woods	Fair
2		Swings + 2 net swings	Good
2		Benches	Fair
-		Drainage	Good
-		Fencing charcoal, PVC coated	Good
2		Gates	Good
-		Playground Surfacing	Poor
		Other Amenities	
-	2014	Asphalt Pavement	Poor
-		Concrete Pavement	Good
15		Benches + 2 w/ back no arms, 3 w/ back & arms, 2 w/ back and arms	Fair/Good
12		Bike Racks - wood	Excellent
1		Drinking Fountain + 1 Box, 1 Stone Floor - Attached to Building	Good
-	2000	Irrigation	Good
-		Lawn	Fair
25		Light Poles	Good
12		Litter Receptacles	Good
3	2000	Restroom Building + 1 w/ gender housing	Good
4		Signs	Good
1		Solar Charging Station	Good
-	2015	Plantings - mostly native	Fair
-		Tree Canopy	Excellent



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Longfellow Park

610 S Ridgeland Ave - 2.62 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
D

EVALUATION SCORE CARD
39
47
65
68
63
61
86
85
68

Longfellow Park, named after American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, has a large playground area, small splash pad next to the playground, two lighted tennis courts that also act as an outdoor ice rink in winter, a soccer field, a basketball court, softball field and indoor recreation center. Many elements are beyond their useful life and the park is ready for a major renovation. The Lindberge Park master plan was last completed in 2023.



Recommendations

- Replace or repair tennis court pavement, fencing, and fence gates
- Renovate playground with all new surfacing and equipment including both 2-5 year old and 5-12 year old areas
- Renovate the basketball court
- Add nature/sensory spaces for all ages
- Implementation of the master plan and park improvements is scheduled for 2025-2027



Site Programming

- Soccer camps
- educational camps and full day camps
- Soccer games
- Baseball and softball games
- After school programs

Natural Features

- Open lawn space
- Deciduous and evergreen trees
- Planters and beds with perennials

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- The tennis fence coating is wearing, fence is bent, gate drags on the ground, and is hard to open/close
- The tennis court pavement has drainage issues, cracks, and no color coat
- The basketball court surfacing is cracking
- The ADA swing is missing the belt
- The playground has broken and missing pieces as well as cracked and torn surfacing

Site Amenities

- The interpretive signs at the playground are sun faded and chipping

Year Acquired: 1920
PIN #: 16-17-108-002, 16-17-108-003



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2014	Ball Field	
1		Backstop	Good
-		Bases	Good
2		Bleachers	Good
1		Drinking Fountain 1 Bench, 1 Drinking Fount	Good
2		Dug Out	Fair
-		Fencing	Good
-		Infield	Fair
-		Outfield Turf	Good
-		Pavement	Good
2		Player Benches	Good
2		Shade Structures	Good
Full	2008	Basketball Court	
2		Player Benches	Good
-		Color Coating	Fair
-		Fencing	Good
-		Gates	Fair
2		Basketball Hoop	Fair
-		Pavement	Fair
2	2008	Tennis Courts	
2		Benches	Fair
1		Bleachers	Fair
-		Color Coating	None
-		Fencing	Poor
2		Gates	Fair
2		Lighting	Good
2		Netting and Posts	Fair
1		Pavement	Poor
		Soccer Field	
2		Goals	Fair
-		Turf/Lawn	Good

2008 - OSLAD Grant



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2009	Playground	
1		2-5 Play Structure	Fair
1		5-12 Play Structure	Good
3		Independent Play - 1 Sand Table, 1 Sand Digging, 1 Shower	Fair
5		Play Panels - 2 Music, 1 Ball Kick, 1 Soft Language, 1 Chair Board	Fair
4		Swings - 2 set, 1 ADA, 1 set	Fair
4		Benches	Good
-		Drainage	Fair
-		Fencing	Good
-		Pavement	Fair
-		Playground Surfacing	Fair
-		Sand Area	Fair
2		Shade Structure	Fair
1	2009	Splash Pad - 1 Wheel, 4 Ground Sprinklers	Fair
		Other Amenities	
-		Concrete Pavement	Good
2		Benches	Fair
1		Bike Fix-It Station	Fair
2		Bike Racks - (1 long 1 row)	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 1 Hand, 1 Long Drink, 1 Bottle Filler	Good
1		Game Table	Fair
16		Light Poles	Good
9		Litter Receptacles	
3	2008	Restroom Building	Good
		Signs	Fair
4		Planters	Fair
-	2016	Cistern	Good
-	2013	Irrigation	Good
-		Plantings	Fair
-		Tree Canopy	Excellent



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Maple Park

1105 S Maple Ave - 6.98 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
B

EVALUATION SCORE CARD
100%
70
82
83
92
86
76
95
67
81

Year Acquired: 1921
PIN #: 16-18-308-002



Maple Park, formerly railroad property, features ball fields, a dog park, a shelter area, a restroom building, a playground, a natural rock play area, two tennis courts, walking paths and lawn space with berms. The park was originally called Perennial Gardens for the formal plantings, but later named for the adjacent street. Maple Park is the third largest park in Oak Park at 6.98 acres. The most recent master plan was completed in 2013.



Site Programming

- T-Ball League
- Shelter rental
- Summer camps - flag football
- Baseball and softball games

Natural Features

- Open lawn space
- Deciduous and evergreen trees
- Berms
- Planted areas

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- The tennis courts surfacing is cracking and water is ponding
- Chainlink Fencing along Hartens is wearing from salt spray and age

See Amenities

- One of the players benches is bent
- Light poles are rusting

Recommendations

- Replace the fencing on the west side of the park along Harlem Avenue
- Completely renovate the tennis courts to address low spots/drainage, and cracks
- Master plan to be revisited in 2025



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
2	2016	Ball Fields	
2		Backstop	Excellent
-		Bases	Good
14		Bike Racks - (smaller 11' x 6')	Excellent
5		Bleachers	Good
4		Dug Out	Good
-		Fencing	Good
-		Infield	Good
-		Turf	Good
-		Pavement	Good
4		Player Benches	Fair
4		Shade Structures	Good
2		Storage Boxes	Good
2	2011	Tennis/Pickleball Courts	
-	2016	Color Coating	Fair
1		Drinking Fountain - (10' x 6')	Poor
-		Fencing	Fair
2		Netting and Posts	Fair
-		Pavement	Fair
1		Practice Board	Good
-		Windscreen	Good
4		Sports Lighting	Good
	2017	Shelter Area	
1		Shelter	Good
2		Game Tables	Good
2		Picnic Tables	Good
	2011	Dog Park	
3		Benches	Good
2	2011	Dog Play Pieces - (10' High, 11' x 6' Square)	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - (20' x 6', 10' High)	Good
-		Fencing and Gates	Good
-		Pavement	Good
7		Seating - (concrete cylinders)	Fair
-		Gravel	Fair

2014 - CSLAD Grant

AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
-	2016	Playground	
1		2-12 Play Structure	Good
2		Independent Play - spinner and rocker	Good
2		Swings - no swings	Good
-		Drainage	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 1 bowl, 1 water filter, attached to building	Good
-		Fencing	Good
2		Litter Receptacles	Good
-		Pavement	Good
-	2017	Surfacing - no	Good
-	2016	Play Structures	
3		Independent Play	Good
-		Surfacing	Good
-		Pavement	Good
		Other Amenities	
7		Bike Racks - 1 case (5 rack) 5 (rack) 2 (rack)	Fair/Good
37		Benches - 1 w/ back & arms, 4 w/ arms no back, 1 no back no arms, 1 w/ back, 4 w/ back, 4 middle arm, 4 w/ back & middle arm, 4 full enclosure	Fair/Good
-		Fencing-chainlink Fencing- Ornamental	Poor/ Good
2	2016	Restroom Building - 1 w/ gender rooms	Good
15		Light Poles	Fair
13		Litter Receptacles	Good
-		Plantings	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Good



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Mills Park

217 Home Avenue • 4.43 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
B

EVALUATION	100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%
SCORE CARD	N/A	N/A	N/A	81	95	68	N/A	80	80		

Mills Park features a nature discovery area, a meadow, trails with interpretive signs and historic Pleasant Home. Pleasant Home is a National Historic Landmark designed by George Maher in the prairie style and built in 1897. It is open for tours. There are 51 shade trees, 86 ornamental trees and 7 heritage oak trees planted throughout the park. Mills Park master plan was most recently updated in 2017.



Site Analysis

Site Amenities

- At the hammer head end of the driveway where the concrete path meets, there is ponding water
- The concrete curb is cracked and broken.
- Gravel paths have washed out in places.

Site Programming

- Nature Walks
- Tours and educational programming
- Weddings
- Nature discovery area
- Shade trees
- Ornamental trees
- Heritage oak trees

Natural Features

- Nature discovery area
- Shade trees
- Ornamental trees
- Heritage oak trees

Recommendations

- Repair or replace the driveway concrete to address drainage issues
- Renovate gravel circulation path
- Master plan to be reviewed in 2027, consider nature/discovery area replacement at same time

Year Acquired: 1939
PIN #: 16-07-309-003, 16-07-309-022, 16-07-309-033



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2011	Trails	
14		Benches - w/ arms and back	Good
2		Benches - w/o arms and back	Poor
6		Benches Around Tree - circular	Fair
13		Concrete Seating	Fair
2		Bike Racks - 1 long (5 ft x 3)	Fair
21		Light Poles	Good
1		Drinking Fountains - 2 drink, 1 long hand	Good
-		Fencing - aluminum	Fair
-	2011	Fencing and Gates - ornamental	Good
9		Litter Receptacles	Good
-	2011	Concrete Path	Good
-		Gravel Path	Poor
		Other Amenities	
-	2011	Plantings	Excellent
-	2011	Tree Canopy	Good
5		Signages	Good

2011 - QSLAD Grant

2020 - Illinois State Museum Department Grant



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Randolph Park

301 South Oak Park Avenue • 0.32 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
C

EVALUATION	SCORE	CARD	Category	Score
Trail	N/A	N/A	74	78
Playground	N/A	N/A	78	80
Walking Area	N/A	N/A	78	N/A
Drinking Fountain	N/A	N/A	77	77

Year Acquired: 2004
PIN #: 16-07-320-001



Randolph Park features a tot lot with a train themed main structure along with a plaza with seating, walking paths and fitness stations. The park land was originally set aside for rail stations along the "Dummy line railroad" that was never built and is split in two east-west by an alley. The master plan for Randolph Park was most recently updated in 2018.



Recommendations

- Repair/repaint or replace the fencing
- Replace damaged bench

Natural Features

- Shade trees
- Lawn areas

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Some play equipment and surfacing is looking worn, mounds and frog added in 2019 are in great shape

Site Amenities

- Game table chairs are all cracked
- One bench appears damaged from fire



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
-	2010	Trails	
-		Pavement	Fair
-	2010	Tot Lot	
2		2-5 Structure	Fair
-		Independent pieces	Good
2		Tot Swings	Fair
1		Friendship Swing	Good
7	2010	Benches	Good
1	2010	Game table	Fair
1		Drinking fountain	Fair
-		Pavement	Good
-	2010	Surfacing	Fair
-		Drainage	Good
1	2010	Picnic Table	Fair
-		Lawn	Fair
-		Fencing	Fair
-	2020	Fitness Stations	
4		Fitness equipment	Good
-	2020	Surfacing	Fair
-		Other Amenities	
10		Benches	Good
-		Fencing	Fair
2		Light Poles	Fair
2		Litter Receptacles	Good
-		Plantings	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Fair
1		Bike Racks	Fair



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Rehm Park

515 Garfield Street - 6.51 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
B

EVALUATION	SCORE CARD
82	82
70	70
85	85
86	86
80	80
77	77
85	85
80	80
80	80

Rehm Park was named after the Park District's second Board of Commissioners President, Colonel Arthur D. Rehm. The park features Rehm Pool with zero depth entry, seven 50-meter lanes, a one meter diving board, two drop slides and a kiddie wading pool. The park includes a kiddie train, gazebo, a soccer field, two sand volleyball courts, two tennis courts and a playground. The master plan was most recently updated in 2016.



Scale: 1" = 150'-0"



Site Programming

- Sand Volleyball leagues
- Swimming lessons
- Special events
- Gazebo Rental
- Summer camps
- Soccer games

Natural Features

- Shade trees
- Nature discovery area
- Turt/lawn areas



Year Acquired: 1912

PN# - 14-05-43-000 14-05-43-002 14-05-43-003 14-05-43-004 14-05-43-005 14-05-43-007 14-05-43-008



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
2	2009	Sand Volleyball Court	
2		Netting, posts, equip.	Fair
-		Sand	Fair
3		Benches - each arm	Fair
-		Curb	Fair
2	2020	Tennis/Pickleball Courts	
-		Color Coating	Good
-		Fencing	Good
2		Netting, Posts, Equip	Good
-		Pavement	Good
-	2021	Soccer Field	
-		Turf/Lawn	Fair
		Playground	
1		2-5 Play Structure	Good
1		5-12 Play Structure	Good
2		Ziplines - 1 tandem, 1 solo	Good
2		Independent pieces - 100lb max capacity, 1000 lb max	Good
7		Swings - 2 top, 2 high 1 w/ strap and 1 w/le straps, 3 back, 1 giraffe swing	Good
9		Benches - 2 w/ back, 2 w/ back and arms, 4 w/le back and arms	Good
1		Picnic Tables	Fair
-		Playground Surfacing - mulch	Good
		Drinking Fountain - 1 classic, 1 bottle filler	Good
1	2016	Gazebo	Good
4	2021	Picnic Tables	Good
		Game Area	
1 Set		BYO Bags	Good
1		Gaga Ball Pit	Good
1		Ping Pong Table	Good
-		Pavement	Good
		Trails	
16		Bike Racks - 1000 (2 Axle) 4-poster (2 axle)	Good
-		Pavement	Good
14		Benches - 4 w/ back no arms, 2 w/ arms & back, 4 w/le back & 100lb	

2020 - OSLAD Grant

AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
		Other Amenities	
43-3 ADA		Parking Lot	Fair
4		Game Tables	Good
16		Light Poles	Fair
10		Litter Receptacles	Good
1		Restrooms - 1 A-1 Senior Rest	Good
-		Plantings	Fair
-		Tree Canopy	Good
-		Log Area	Fair
-	2001	Train Track & Tunnel	Good

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Playground was recently renovated and tennis courts added, older playground at top of hill still utilizes PIP surfacing

Site Amenities

- The edging between the landscape and rock play is not needed

Recommendations

- Consider providing seating area at tennis courts
- Replace asphalt at pool maintenance entry
- Remove extra edging at rock play



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Ridgeland Common Park

100 Lake Street • 6.06 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
A

EVALUATION	SCORE CARD	TOILET	COURT	LAWN	PLAYGROUND	FIELD	WATER	TRAIL	DOG	SEEN	SWIMMING	RESTROOM	DRINKING	FRONTAGE	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	90	82	97	86	90	95	93	90							90

Year Acquired: 1913
PIN #: 16-07-227-001, 16-07-228-001



Ridgeland Common Park was named after the adjacent street and is the Park District's flagship facility. The park features Ridgeland Pool with permanent swim lanes, sun deck, two diving boards and a kiddie pool. The park includes an artificial turf, multipurpose field, two ball fields, batting cages, and a dog park. Facility was updated in 2014 based on the 2008 masterplan



Site Analysis

Site Amenities

- The parking lot paving has cracks observed
- Some standing water was noted near building foundation (it had rained within the previous 12 hours of site visit)

Recommendations

- Crack repair or resurfacing of the parking lot should be budgeted

Site Programming

- Swimming lessons
- Special events
- Summer camps
- Soccer leagues and games
- Ice Skating
- Baseball and softball games

Natural Features

- Shade trees
- Plantings
- Turf/lawn areas

AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
-	2014	Soccer Field	
-		Turf - Artificial Turf	Excellent
4		Goals	Good
2	2014	Ball Fields	
2		Backstop	Excellent
-		Bases	Excellent
11		Bike Racks - (smaller 2 each)	Excellent
8		Bleachers - 6 long, 2 short	Good
4		Dug Out	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 1 fixed, 1 bottle filler	Excellent
-		Fencing	Good
-		Infield - Artificial Turf	Excellent
-		Turf - Artificial Turf	Excellent
-		Pavement	Good
8		Player Benches - 4 short, 4 long	Good
4		Shade Structures	Good
3		Storage Boxes	Good
1		Score Board	Excellent
2		Batting Cages	Excellent
-	2014	Dog Park	
6		Benches - 4 w/ arms and back	Good
6		Dog Play Pieces - 3 small jumps, 1 tunnel with tunnel, 1 dog ramp, 1 jump-bounce beam	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 2 fountains, 1 dog bowl	Good
-		Fencing and Gates	Excellent
-		Pavement	Good
3		Shade Structures - Metal	Good
-		Gravel	Good
-		Trails	
-		Pavement	Good
14		Benches - 2 w/ arms & back, 4 w/ no arms no back - 8 dog benches around trail	Good



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
20-2		Other Amenities	
ADA		Parking Lot	Fair
1		Bike Fix-it Station	Excellent
12		Bike Racks - (smaller 2 each)	Excellent
1		Game Tables - (smaller 2 each)	Excellent
1		Drinking Fountain - 1 fixed	Good
10		Litter Receptacles	Good
3		Restrooms - All Gender Rooms attached to building	Good
-		Plantings	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Good
3		Parking Lot Lights	Good
14		Light Poles - (smaller 2 each)	Excellent
7	2011	Field Lights - 4 six foot, 3 four foot	Excellent



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Scoville Park

800 Lake Street - 3.98 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
B

EVALUATION	SCORE CARD
100%	73
90%	N/A
80%	73
70%	78
60%	69
50%	80
40%	88
30%	83
20%	81

Year Acquired: 1912
PIN #: 14-07-123-000



Scoville park is adjacent to the Oak Park Public Library and gets a great deal of visitors each day. The park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 because of its World War I monument located in the Peace Plaza. Scoville Park also features three tennis courts, a tot lot, restrooms, and an outdoor stage area. The master plan for Scoville Park was updated in 2018.



Site Programming

- Family entertainment
- School group recess

Natural Features

- Lawn
- Deciduous and evergreen trees
- Ornamental plants and trees
- Woodland plantings

Recommendations

- Repair playground equipment piece that is not attached to post
- Repair worn areas of artificial turf
- Master plan to be reviewed in 2027

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Some of the artificial turf is showing wear at the playground
- Sand is very low in the sand area

Site Amenities

- The park has plenty of seating throughout
- The main playground equipment has 2 black metal seat pieces that are not attached to the

AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
3	2003	Tennis Court	
-	2024	Color coating	Fair
-		Fencing - black vinyl coating	Excellent
4		Light Poles	Good
-		Pavement	Fair
2		Entrances	Good
3		Netting, Posts, Equip.	Good
	2012	Tot Lot	
1		2-5 structure	Fair
1		Independent Pieces - see note	Good
4		Swings - 2 fixed, 1 glider	Good
6		Benches - 3 w/ly back and arms, 3 w/ly back and arms	Good
1		Drinking Fountain	Good
-		Sand Area	Fair
-		Drainage	Good
-		Fencing - black wrought iron fence	Good
-		Pavement	Good
2		Entrance(s)	Good
-	2019	Surfacing - art	Good
		Trails	
83		Benches	Good
6		Bike racks - Circular (2 ea.)	Good
3		Drinking fountain - 1 w/ly back and backbar - 1 heavy concrete fountain - 1 fixed	Good
13		Litter receptacles	Good
-		Pavement	Excellent
		Other Amenities	
-	2012	Stage Area	Good
2		Signage	Good
1	Reopened 2010	WWI Memorial	Good
1		Flagpole	Good
20		Light poles - LED with pole banners	Excellent
2	2010	Restrooms - 1 women and 1 men	Good
-	2019	Planting	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Good

2011 - PARC Grant



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Stevenson Park

49 Lake Street - 3.3 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
C

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	
History	55
Counts	70
Analysis	
Results	69
Recommendations	
Quality and Reliability	86
Relative System Score	75
Spice	
Scoring Areas	69
Sub-scores	55
Summary	
Final Score	63
TOTAL SCORE	70

Stevenson Park features a playground with adjacent games, three half basketball courts, a ball field and a skate park. The park is also home to two underground water reservoirs that are managed by the Village of Oak Park and limit uses over the reservoirs. Stevenson Center includes indoor play, multipurpose rooms and restrooms. The master plan for Stevenson Park was most recently updated in 2018.



Property Line: -----

Scale: 1" = 150'-0"

0 37 75 150 225

Site Programming

- Baseball/Softball Games - Ultimate frisbee league/
- Basketball games camp
- Soccer games
- Skateboarding

Site Analysis

Active Recreation.

- Plantings in front of the building are overgrown
- The skate park and basketball pavement have low spots
- The backstop chainlink is worn and is missing paint

Site Amenities

- Benches made of metal are rusting
- Drinking fountain is rusty, missing paint, and not draining
- Skate park pieces need repairing, some bolts are missing/loose

Natural Features

- Open Lawn Area
- Planted Areas
- Ornamental Trees and Shrubs
- Bioswale

Recommendations

- Replace or repair skate park pieces
- Replace metal benches that are rusting
- Repaint fencing at skate park
- Resurface low spots at skate park and basketball courts.
- Restripe basketball courts
- Improve aesthetics of basketball and skate park area

Year Acquired: On 99-year lease with Village of Oak Park from 2006
PIN #: 16-06-127-000



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2007	Ball Field	
1		Backstop	Fair
-		Bases	Good
2		Bleachers	Fair
-		Fencing	Good
-		Turf	Good
-		Infield	Good
-	2014	Irrigation	Good
-		Pavement	Good
2		Player Benches	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 2 benches	Good
3	2004	Half Basketball Courts	
-		Color coating	Fair
-		Fencing	Fair
3		Basketball Hoops	Fair
-		Pavement	Fair
2		Gate	Good
	2020	Playground	
2		Main structure	Good
3		Independent Pieces - 1 see saw, 2 surf rounds	Good
10		Swings - 4 seats x 1 set, 3 A&K	Good
4		Benches - along walk in the middle	Good
8		Bike rack - Double (2x4)	Good
-		Drainage	Good
-		Fencing	Good
-		Pavement	Excellent
-		Surfacing - art	Good
	2020	Game Area	
2	2020	Game Table	Good
1	2020	Ping Pong Table	Good
	2020	Soccer Field	
1		Kick Wall - 20x20	Good
-		Turf	Good

2019 - OSLAD Grant



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
	2004	Skate Park	
1		Picnic Tables	Good
10		Skate Pieces	Good
-		Fencing	Good
1		Gate	Fair
-		Pavement	Fair
3		Lockers	Fair
2		Planter	Good
1		Benches	Fair
		Other Amenities	
-		Plantings	Good
-		Tree Canopy	Good
1		Drinking Fountain <i>- Dog Area, South Field, Northside</i>	Fair
10		Bike racks - <i>(Circular Driv)</i>	Good
8		Litter Receptacles	Good
1		Restrooms - <i>Area Party</i>	Fair
-	2007	Restrooms - <i>Woods</i>	-
-	2020	Pavement/Walking Loop	Good



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Taylor Park

West Division Street - 11.75 Acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE
B

EVALUATION	SCORE CARD
13	100
70	100
82	100
86	100
90	100
80	100
95	100
93	100
84	100

Taylor Park was originally named "North Park" but was changed to be named after the first President of the Park Board of Commissioners, Henry A. Taylor. The park features a playground, six tennis courts, shelter, picnic areas, restrooms, and athletic fields. The park also includes trails, sledding hill, native plantings, turf mounds and native lowland area that visitors can walk across. The master plan for Taylor Park was recently updated in 2017.



Site Programming

- Tennis camp and tennis lessons
- Pickleball
- Adult tennis league
- Shelter Rental
- Patio Rental
- Sledding
- Fitness Classes
- Soccer games/practice

Natural Features

- Sled Hill
- Native Planting
- Berms
- Turf
- Wetlands

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- No swings are present for 5-12 year age group.

Site Amenities

- Bleachers are worn and are uneven
- Picnic tables are chipped or broken.



Year Acquired: 1914
PIN #: 14-04-230-001



AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
6	2011	Tennis Court	
-	2023	Color coating	Excellent
-		Fencing	Good
-		Pavement	Excellent
6		Netting, Posts, Equip.	Excellent
6		Gate	Good
3		Storage Boxes	Good
8		Sports Lighting	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 1 stone, 1 baller float, 1 dog bowl	Good
	2011	Playground	
1		Main structure	Fair
6		Independent Pieces - 4 large rocks, 1 small rock, see note	Good
2		Swings - 1 basket	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 1 stone	Good
-		Drainage	Fair
-		Pavement	Good
-		Lawn	Good
-		Surfacing	Poor
		Trails	
1		Solar Charging Stations	Good
		Picnic Patio	
5		Tables	Good
2		Grills	Poor
-		Pavement	Poor
1 Set		BYO Bags	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 1 stone, 1 dog bowl	Good
		Shelter Area	
1	2011	Shelter	Good
6		Picnic Tables	Fair
		Soccer Field	
5		Bleachers	Poor
-		Lawn	Fair
-	2014	Irrigation	Good
-	2017	Drainage System	Good

2010 - CSLAD Grant

AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
		Other Amenities	
24		Benches - 6 with Back & Arms, 3 w/ Back No Arms, 15 w/ Back and Arms	Good
-	2001	Plantings	Fair
-		Tree Canopy	Good
-		Pavement	Poor
4		Bike racks - 4 Wheel (2 w/)	Fair
11		Litter Receptacles	Good
12		Light Pole	12
2	2007	Restrooms - 10 Gender Specific	Good



APPENDIX E | PARKS ASSESSMENTS

Wenonah Park

844 Wenonah Avenue • 0.12 Acres

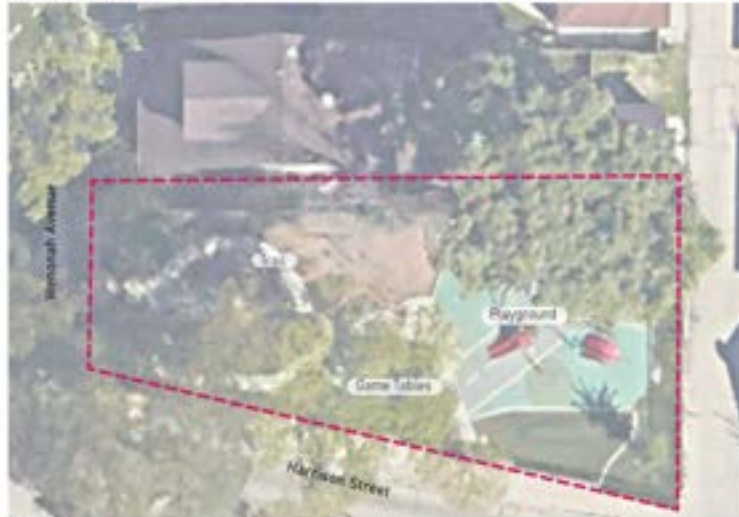
OVERALL
PARK GRADE
D

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Overall	Playground	Game Tables	Seating	Drinking Fountain	Surfacing	Signage	Lighting	Security	Other	Total Score
	N/A	N/A	68	71	62	72	N/A	74	69		

Year Acquired: 1962
PIN #: 16-18-129-018



Wenonah Park is the Park District's smallest park. It features a car and truck themed playground for children. It also includes a small walking loop, seating and game tables. The Wenonah Park master plan was most recently updated in 2018.



Recommendations

- Add mulch at concrete turtle where concrete paving is exposed
- Consider preventative maintenance on PIP surfacing to extend life until play equipment is replaced
- Continue to plant along wood fence

Site Programming

- Children's traffic safety

Natural Features

- Shade trees

Site Analysis

Active Recreation

- Poured-in-place (PIP) play surfacing is worn and damaged.
- Planting areas are sparse.
- Fence on north side is falling.

Site Amenities

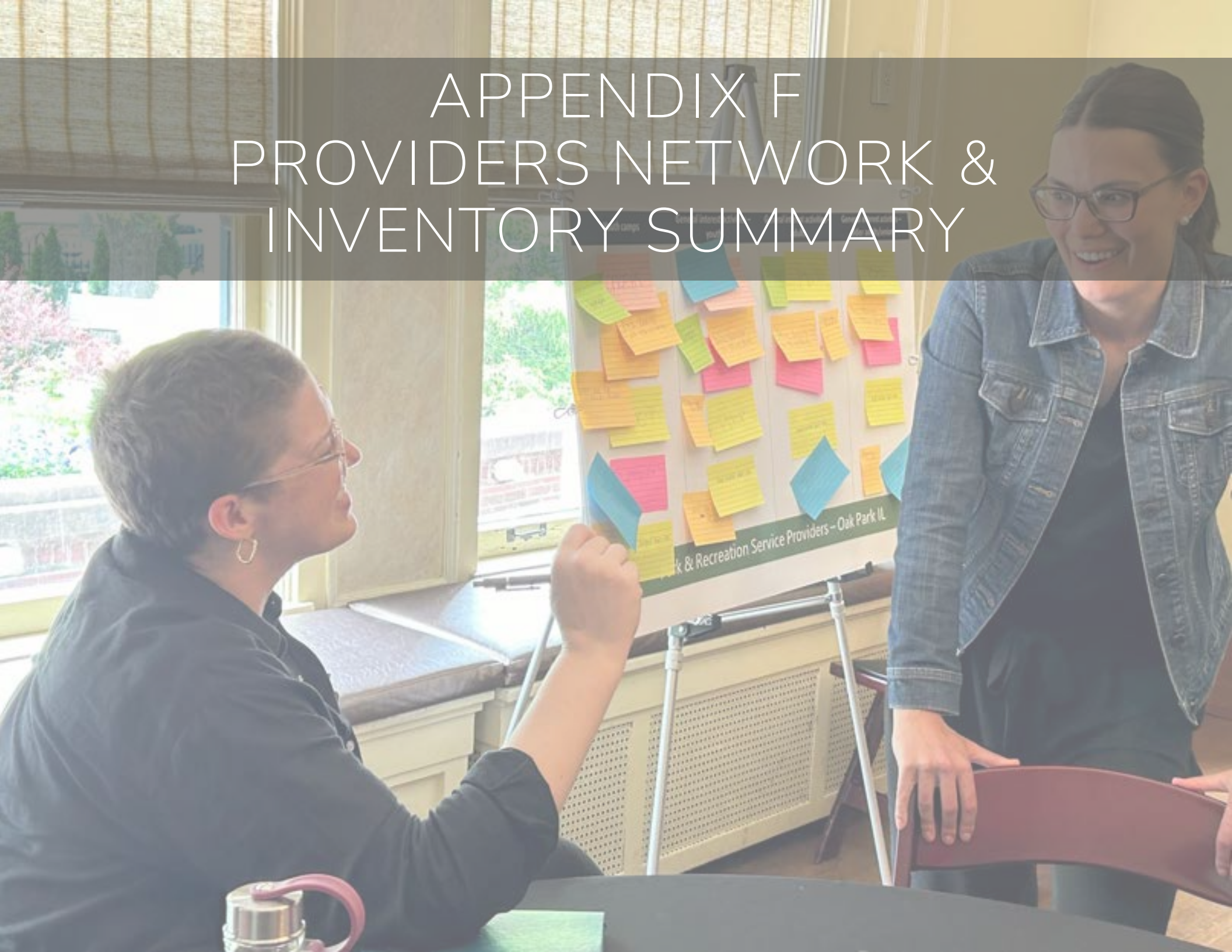
- The game table is worn and chipped.
- Educational signs are showing UV degradation

AMENITIES

QTY	INSTALL YEAR	AMENITY	CONDITION
-	2010	Playground	
-		2-5 structure	Good
3		Independent Pieces - turtle, table, table	Good
2	2020	Swings - 12 ft	Good
1	2020	Play Mounds	Good
2		Benches - 2 w/ back and arms	Good
1		Drinking Fountain - 1 dog bowl	Good
-		Drainage	Good
-	2010	Fencing	Good
-		Pavement	Good
1		Entrance/Gate	Fair
1		Litter receptacle	Good
-	2010	Surfacing - 1 dog bowl, 1 dog bowl	Fair
-		Other Amenities	
-	2010	Plantings	Fair
-		Tree Canopy	Good
-		Fencing	Poor
1		Game Tables	Fair
3		Signage	Good
1		Bike Racks - 1 w/ storage	Good
-		Pavement	Good
2	2010	Drinking Fountain - 1 dog bowl, 1 dog bowl	Fair
1		Litter Receptacle	Good



APPENDIX F PROVIDERS NETWORK & INVENTORY SUMMARY



APPENDIX F | PROVIDERS NETWORK & INVENTORY OVERVIEW

On Thursday, May 16, 2024, 110% presented the “*Parks & Recreation Service Providers Network and Inventory*” as part of the Park District of Oak Park’s *Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan* project. The recreation and leisure industry service providers of Oak Park were invited to be part of this unique opportunity that included an interactive discussion to understand what services are provided in the community and how the District and all providers can work together for the greater good.

Providers were provided with the following items to expect from the workshop:

- Network with other Oak Park service providers.
- Share the types of services each organization offers to the community.
- Learn what services other organizations are providing to the community.
- Consider opportunities that may exist for organizations to partner with others in the community.

Not including District staff, 14 individuals representing 12 various recreation and leisure industry service providers attended the workshop. The gathering began with an introduction of the workshop and its place as part of the District’s *Comprehensive & Strategic Master Plan* project. Then a brief educational overview of the types of sectors serving the recreation and leisure industry, service analysis and the MacMillian Matrix, and information on effective partnerships was covered.

During the workshop, attendees were prompted to scan a QR code, leading to the Parks & Recreation Providers Inventory survey, to answer a series of questions aimed to gather more information about each provider and a self-assessment of their services.

Lastly, attendees were provided with two interactive activities before the workshop closed. The first activity had attendees use Post-It Notes to represent their organizations and the types of services they offer on a large board presented to the group at large. Then each provider was asked to identify a prospective partner in the attendance and have a structured conversation to begin exploring a partnership.

This Parks & Recreation Providers Network and Inventory Summary shares important information that was used to structure the workshop, as well as sharing the results from the gathering’s Parks & Recreation Providers Inventory survey.

APPENDIX F | INFORMATION ON PARTNERSHIPS

WHAT'S A PARTNERSHIP?

The term “partnership” has become a bit of a buzzword over the past few decades and encompasses a variety of relationships such as *strategic alliances*, *cooperative ventures*, and *collaborations*. Whatever the term used, a partnership revolves around achieving mutually beneficial outcomes for all parties.

It seems as though a partnership would be irresistible. However, the reality is that some organizations view joining hands with a “partner” as a potential threat to their territory (or silo), image, or bottom line. Yet, in today’s competitive landscape and ever-changing markets, a thoughtfully constructed and managed partnership can be a powerful asset.

Partnerships represent advantageous collaborations that position participating organization(s) to efficiently utilize resources leading to cost effective and efficient service delivery. They facilitate the bridging of markets, reduce duplication of services and fragmentation of resources, and foster cooperative capital development and/or improvements.



APPENDIX F | INFORMATION ON PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

#1 Reciprocal benefit... seek organizations that have something your organization desires, and vice versa. The expectation of reciprocal benefit is a must when preventing one organization from simply becoming a granting body to another. Identifying the value of the contributions brought forth from all participating organizations helps ensure that there is equal value and benefit to each all. *For any governmental organization, receiving fair and just value on behalf of taxpayers in return for any resource investment and commitment must be paramount.*

#2 Don't settle... any alliance should be beneficial to your organization and, by extension, to your community and taxpayers. This can be in terms of a positive impact on the bottom line, an enhanced image, or some other benefit. If no such advantages exist, reconsider the partnership.

#3 Think long-term... partnerships are strategic relationships designed to benefit all involved for a minimum of three to five years. Evaluate potential partners based upon their potential long-term contributions. Partnerships should be strategic with sustained mutual benefits.

#4 Relationships are key... recognize partnerships are essentially business relationships, and the individuals involved can make or break the collaboration.

#5 Shy away from those with a questionable reputation... it is important to research any prospective partners. Are they credible and honest in their dealings with others? Assess their reputation, service quality, and standards. If their values are not in sync with your organization, reconsider the partnership.

#6 Are your eyes on the same ball... potential partners share the same or similar fundamental purpose (mission). Aligning mission and purpose is crucial for the success of the partnership.

APPENDIX F | INFORMATION ON PARTNERSHIPS

A CONTINUUM OF SERVICE – GETTING STARTED

Given the competitive landscape in the park and recreation and leisure services market, strategically crafted partnerships serve as powerful tools to optimize resources, foster collaborative competition, and achieve cost-effective service delivery.

To set the stage for the future of partnerships in your community and ensure a seamless *Continuum of Service* within the leisure services market in your community or region, consider initiating what we refer to as a *Partner Network*.

What is a Partner Network?

A *Partner Network* is a platform that brings together service providers together with the goal of reducing service duplication, promoting effective partnerships, and helping organizations define their service lanes. The first step involves creating a comprehensive inventory of existing and potential partners. This should include the organization's name, location, primary contact with email, sector classification, and mission/purpose of the organization.

Once the inventory is ready, consider hosting a *Providers Network* gathering. The primary objective is to introduce the concept of a collaborative network of park and recreation/leisure service providers. This forum encourages engagement and discussion with a focus on “how we can work together for the greater good.” Creating a greater understanding of the spectrum of providers and Continuum of Service in your community and region, and intentionally identifying current services and providers, you establish a robust platform for future collaboration. Key focus areas for the initial gathering:

- Service Provider Types: the types and number of service providers within each sector (public, non-profit/NGO, private, social enterprise).
- Competitive Landscape Analysis: Analyze the competitive landscape by identifying organizations that compete for similar markets to those of your organization.
- Collaborative Opportunities: Identify organizations interested in pursuing collaborative efforts through partnerships, grounded in reciprocity for the efficient and effective use of resources.

APPENDIX F | INFORMATION ON PARTNERSHIPS

CREATING MOMENTUM

Once potential partners have been identified, whether through a Partner Network or other means, it's time to make contact. Initiate a meeting to discuss the possibility of collaboration.

The initial meeting is arguably the most important moment in any partnership. While a meeting does not bind either party to a commitment, it serves as a logical starting point for the conversation. This is the moment to establish the foundation for a productive future relationship and to uncover any potential obstacles or challenges. The primary goal of this initial conversation is to assess whether the partnership holds value for both your organization and theirs.

CREATING A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

As you get closer to finalizing a deal with a potential partner, the following list outlines key tasks to navigate discussions, deliberations, and the negotiation of a partnership agreement.

- ❑ Schedule one or more meetings with the potential partner to establish the foundation for an agreement.
- ❑ Discuss the future vision, or “big picture” to align both parties’ interests with their respective goals for the next year, 3-5 years, and beyond.
- ❑ Identify any potential challenges and obstacles that may arise during the partnership and strategize on how to address them.
- ❑ Create a draft agreement that includes the following parameters and ensure mutual agreement:
 - Scope and management details of the partnership
 - Defined goals and objectives
 - Explicit roles and responsibilities of all partners, including decision-making authority
 - Detailed obligations of all partners
 - Milestones with identified accomplishment dates
 - Term of the agreement, avoiding indefinite commitments and incorporating periodic review periods
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) encompassing financial and strategic aspects, tangible and intangible.
 - Financial arrangements with specified contributions, distributions, and terms
 - Termination clause in the event of poor performance, unforeseen circumstances, etc.
- ❑ Establish an agenda for formal negotiation, ensuring every aspect is documented in writing. Under no circumstance should there be a “handshake agreement.”

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

The pages that follow are the results from the workshop's Providers Inventory survey. Attendees were asked to answer a series of questions aimed to gather more information about each provider and a self-assessment of their services. The questions from the survey are shown below.

- 1. Organization Name*
- 2. Organization Address*
- 3. Organization Contact Name*
- 4. Organization Contact Title*
- 5. Organization Contact Email*
- 6. Organization Contact Phone*
- 7. To which sector does your organization belong?*
- 8. Please list your organization's mission/purpose.*
- 9. Please select the service(s) provided by your organization. (list of choices)*
- 10. Who are your organization's target market(s)/primary customers?*
- 11. Does competition for the target market(s) listed above exist from other organizations?*
- 12. What organization(s) do you consider to be competitors?*
- 13. To what degree does competition exist? (on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 = low degree and 5 = high degree)*
- 14. Please select your organization's funding sources. (list of choices)*
- 15. Does competition exist for funding?*
- 16. To what degree does competition exist for the same funding source? (on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 = low degree and 5 = high degree)*
- 17. Recognizing that a partnership requires a reciprocal benefit for all organizations involved, do you believe opportunities exist for organizations to partner in order to reduce duplication of service and most responsibly use finite resources?*
- 18. Please list your organization's current partnership(s).*
- 19. What organization(s) comes to mind as potential partners?*
- 20. What would be the reciprocal benefit(s) to your organization and to these potential partner organization(s)?*

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

Organization Name:	Organization Address:	Organization Contact Name:	Organization Contact Title:
By Discovery LLC	44 Lake St, Oak Park	Jocelyne Adkins	Founder, Program Director & Lead Educator
CAST Water Safety Foundation	7628 Madison St, Forest Park	Anna Biggins	Co-Director
Collaboration for Early Childhood	171 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park	Mary Reynolds	Executive Director
Norridge Park District	4631 N Overhill Ave, Norridge	Annemarie Flaherty	Executive Director
North Riverside Parks & Recreation	2401 Des Plaines Ave, North Riverside	Colleen Broderick	Director
Oak Park Education Foundation	260 Madison St, Oak Park	Latonia Baker	Executive Director
Oak Park Township	105 S. Oak Park Ave	Dominique Hickman; Megan Traficano	Assistant Director Youth and Family; Director of Youth and Family Services
Oak Park and River Forest High School	201 N. Scoville Ave, Oak Park	Nicole Ebsen	Athletic Director
Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	1010 Madison St, Oak Park	Corinne Neal	Managing Director
Park District of Forest Park	7501 Harrison St, Forest Park	Jackie Iovinelli	Executive Director
River Forest Park District	401 Thatcher Ave, River Forest	Michael Sletten	Executive Director
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	2915 Maple St, Franklin Park	Marianne Birko	Executive Director

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

Organization Name:	Organization Contact Email:	Organization Contact Phone:	To which sector does your organization belong?
By Discovery LLC	jocelyne.adkins@bydiscovery.org	773 802-4142	Private
CAST Water Safety Foundation	anna@castwatersafety.org	708-508-2662	NPO/NGO
Collaboration for Early Childhood	MReynolds@collab4kids.org	708-613-6122	NPO/NGO
Norridge Park District	Annemarie@norridgepk.com	708-457-1244	Public
North Riverside Parks & Recreation	Cbroderick@northriverside-il.org	708-442-5515	Public
Oak Park Education Foundation	Lbaker@opef.org	708-524-3023	NPO/NGO
Oak Park Township	Dhickman@oakparktownship.org; Mtraficano11@gmail.com	708-359-1198; 708-445-2727	Public
Oak Park and River Forest High School	Nebsen@oprfs.org	708-434-3000	Public
Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	Corinne@ovationacademy.org	708-222-7564	Private
Park District of Forest Park	jjovinelli@pdofpstaff.org	708-366-7500	Public
River Forest Park District	Msletten@rfparks.com	708-890-1092	Public
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	marianneb@wssra.net	847-455-2100	NPO/NGO

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

Organization Name:	Please list your organization's mission/purpose (if no mission, why is it the organization exists?).
By Discovery LLC	By Discovery's mission is to provide K-5 students opportunities for exploration and growth through afterschool art enrichment and project based learning.
CAST Water Safety Foundation	Create safer swimmers sooner & educate families that drowning is the leading cause of death for children 1-4 and it doesn't have to be. Together we can make a difference.
Collaboration for Early Childhood	The Collaboration for Early Childhood is a community-driven organization that cultivates the development of the whole child, birth to age five, by engaging families, local organizations, early childhood educators, caregivers, and health providers to create equitable, nurturing, and interconnected systems of support.
Norridge Park District	Parks & Recreation facilities and services
North Riverside Parks & Recreation	To offer parks, recreation programs and special events to participants
Oak Park Education Foundation	To bring innovation and inspiring hands on STEAM educational experiences that foster a life long love of learning in D97 and the Oak Park community.
Oak Park Township	To provide human and social services to the community of Oak Park.
Oak Park and River Forest High School	To educate the students of Oak Park and River Forest in secondary education.
Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	Ovation Academy offers performing arts training and opportunities for all ages.
Park District of Forest Park	Park district-parks and recreation services.
River Forest Park District	The provide recreation and community opportunity for the residents of RF.
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	Provide Superior Year-round recreation programs for all person's with disabilities who live within our 12 partner communities. WSSRA will provide: outreach support, safe transportation options, trained supportive staff and offer unique program opportunities that support the individual with the disability and their opportunity to have fun!

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

Organization Name:	Please select from the list below the service(s) provided by your organization.
By Discovery LLC	Visual Arts; Youth Camps; Childcare
CAST Water Safety Foundation	Aquatics;
Collaboration for Early Childhood	Other - Coordinated Intake (helping families learn about and access resources, including those offered by the Park District); developmental and hearing/vision screening (including on-site in PDOP early childhood programs); parent/caregivers workshops and leadership development; professional development for early childhood educators; community-wide special events (i.e. Early Childhood Resource Fair);
Norridge Park District	Adult Sports; Afterschool; Aquatics ;Childcare; Facility Rentals; Fitness; General Interest Activities - Adult; General Interest Activities – Older Adults/Seniors; General Interest Activities - Youth; Outdoor Recreation; Performing Arts; Special Events; Visual Arts; Youth Camps; Youth Sports
North Riverside Parks & Recreation	Adult Sports; Facility Rentals; Fitness; General Interest Activities - Adult; General Interest Activities – Older Adults/Seniors; General Interest Activities - Youth; Special Events; Youth Camps; Youth Sports
Oak Park Education Foundation	Afterschool; General Interest Activities - Youth; Youth Camps; Other - STEAM / STEM education
Oak Park Township	Facility Rentals; General Interest Activities – Older Adults/Seniors; General Interest Activities - Youth Other - Mental Health Counseling, scholarships, General assistance, Emergency Assistance, Hygiene Products, groups etc
Oak Park and River Forest High School	Afterschool; Aquatics; Environmental Education; Facility Rentals; Fitness; General Interest Activities - Youth; Outdoor Recreation; Performing Arts; Special Events; Visual Arts; Youth Camps; Youth Sports
Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	Performing Arts; Youth Camps; Afterschool
Park District of Forest Park	Adult Sports; Afterschool; Aquatics; Childcare; Environmental Education; Facility Rentals; Fitness; General Interest Activities - Adult; General Interest Activities – Older Adults/Seniors; General Interest Activities - Youth; Outdoor Recreation; Performing Arts; Special Events; Visual Arts; Youth Camps; Youth Sports
River Forest Park District	Adult Sports; Environmental Education; Fitness; General Interest Activities - Adult; Facility Rentals; General Interest Activities - Youth; Outdoor Recreation; Performing Arts; Special Events; Youth Camps; Youth Sports; General Interest Activities – Older Adults/Seniors
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	Adult Sports; Afterschool; Aquatics; Childcare; Environmental Education; Fitness; General Interest Activities - Adult; General Interest Activities – Older Adults/Seniors; General Interest Activities - Youth; Outdoor Recreation; Performing Arts; Special Events; Visual Arts; Youth Camps; Youth Sports Other - A variety of opportunities for social engagement

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

Organization Name:	Who are your organization's target market(s)/primary customer(s)?	Does competition for the target market(s) listed above exist from other organizations?
By Discovery LLC	Parents of elementary school children	Yes
CAST Water Safety Foundation	Families with children ages 1-4, families with children who have special needs, families with children who have not yet learned to swim & self rescue by ages 5/6	Yes
Collaboration for Early Childhood	Families from the prenatal period until a child enters kindergarten; early childhood care and education professionals, pediatric providers, early intervention service providers, etc.--the constellation of professionals who work with young children and their families	No
Norridge Park District	Residents. Non-residents in the neighboring areas.	Yes
North Riverside Parks & Recreation	North Riverside residents	Yes
Oak Park Education Foundation	District 97 staff and students, Oak Park families.	Yes
Oak Park Township	All residents of Oak Park-all ages	Yes
Oak Park and River Forest High School	9-12 grade students K-12 students	Yes
Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	1) Youth k-12 interested in singing, dancing, and acting. 2) Minimal adult programming for same. 3) Teens for volunteer/staff positions. 4) Audiences - community members who like musical theater	Yes
Park District of Forest Park	All ages.	Yes
River Forest Park District	River Forest residents	Yes
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	All persons with disabilities any age and ability	Yes

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

Organization Name:	What organizations do you consider to be competitors?	To what degree does competition exist?
By Discovery LLC	Afterschool Enrichment Programs & summer camps	2
CAST Water Safety Foundation	Big box swim schools	3
Collaboration for Early Childhood	We're absolutely all about coordination of our work and partnership/collaboration. If there are ways we can offer value (ie adding an early childhood angle to an existing event), we are delighted to do it!	1
Norridge Park District	Private Indoor Swim Facility. High School feeder teams. Private soccer leagues.	3
North Riverside Parks & Recreation	Neighboring Recreation Departments and Park Districts, YMCA, schools, private providers	4
Oak Park Education Foundation	PDOP, STEAM Academy, local small youth education organizations such as Slowfire, Summer enrichment camps,	3
Oak Park Township	Schools, Libraries, Parks, Village, Non Profits in the community that provide services to youth, families and seniors in particular, private sector private practice groups, etc.	2
Oak Park and River Forest High School	Private High Schools	4
Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	Actors Garden, BAMtheatre, Academy of movement and dance, Maywood Fine Arts, school-based theater and dance programs, choirs, oak park village players, many Chicago area theaters	5
Park District of Forest Park	Fitness clubs, private day cares, unfortunately other government entities in town, library, school and village,	4
River Forest Park District	River Forest Community Center, D90 PTO's, Dominican University, Concordia University, local commercial program operators, surrounding park districts	3
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	Opportt	2

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

Organization Name:	Please select from the list below your organization's funding sources.	Does competition exist for funding?	To what degree does competition exist for the same funding sources?
By Discovery LLC	Fees & Charges;	Yes	2
CAST Water Safety Foundation	Donations; Fees & Charges	No	1
Collaboration for Early Childhood	Fees & Charges; Grants; Donations Other - not directly a taxing body, but revenue largely comes from Oak Park taxing bodies, including the Park District	Yes	4
Norridge Park District	Taxes; Grants; Donations; Sponsorships; Fees & Charges	Yes	3
North Riverside Parks & Recreation	Taxes; Grants; Donations; Sponsorships; Fees & Charges	Yes	5
Oak Park Education Foundation	Grants; Donations; Fees & Charges; Sponsorships	Yes	4
Oak Park Township	Taxes; Grants; Donations	Yes	5
Oak Park and River Forest High School	Taxes; Grants; Donations; Sponsorships; Fees & Charges	Yes	4
Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	Fees & Charges Other - ticket sales	Yes	5
Park District of Forest Park	Taxes; Grants; Donations; Fees & Charges	Yes	2
River Forest Park District	Taxes; Grants; Donations; Sponsorships; Fees & Charges	Yes	1
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	Taxes; Grants; Donations; Sponsorships; Fees & Charges	Yes	3

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

Organization Name:	Do you believe opportunities exist for organizations to partner?	Please list your organization's current partnership(s)?
By Discovery LLC	Yes	None at this time, however open to the opportunity...
CAST Water Safety Foundation	Yes	Other drowning nonprofits, local pools that share pool space with us, local businesses who hand out our educational materials...really anyone who works with children ages 1-4 who's willing to share information & educations
Collaboration for Early Childhood	Yes	Park District of Oak Park, Oak Park Public Library, Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Elementary School District 97, Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200, Basically all early childhood education and care programs in Oak Park and River Forest, SO MANY MORE, like too hard for me to list here, and we are so grateful: https://collab4kids.org/partners-supporters/
Norridge Park District	Yes	School District.
North Riverside Parks & Recreation	Yes	Riverside Recreation Department, Brookfield Recreation Department, Westchester Park District, YMCA, Local schools
Oak Park Education Foundation	Yes	Concordia University- nursing and health sciences, D97, By Discovery
Oak Park Township	Yes	Libraries, park district, schools and police departments, IL Department on Aging, River Forest public entities, some non-profits in the community
Oak Park and River Forest High School	Yes	PDOP, Triton College, D97, D90, Concordia, Dominican, Riverside Brookfield HS
Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	Yes	Madison Street theater (our nonprofit host venue), Oak Park Arms (rehearsal space), Bravo (Brooks middle school theater program), Cast (Julian theater program), Lincoln Elementary School PTO, Maywood Fine Arts, Oak Park Library
Park District of Forest Park	Yes	Village, library and school at a minimum.
River Forest Park District	Yes	PDOP sharing program guide space & joint programming, Dominican University joint programming.
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	Yes	PDOP, All WSSRA partners, too many to describe

APPENDIX F | PROVIDER INVENTORY SURVEY RESULTS

Organization Name:	What organization(s) comes to mind as potential partners?	What would be the reciprocal benefit(s) to your organization and to these potential partner organization(s)?
By Discovery LLC	Open to possibilities	Share resources, spaces, encourage growth
CAST Water Safety Foundation	Preschools, park district pools & programs that works with young children	We provide free water safety education, help families make strategic plans for being around water.
Collaboration for Early Childhood	Anyone serving families of young children, anyone interested in supporting young children and their families and the professionals who work with them!	A major goal for us is to get the word out to families about resources and supports available, so a broad community network helps us do that. I think we can offer ways to include young children in things in creative ways
Norridge Park District	Village. High School. Salvation Army. Swim School.	Reduced expenses, increased participation, facility space, increased awareness of organizations by the community, reduced calendar conflicts
North Riverside Parks & Recreation	Additional neighboring park districts and recreation departments	Offering additional programs, sharing resources
Oak Park Education Foundation	PDOP	Space use, some financial resources
Oak Park Township	Churches, Hospital (social workers), Thrive Counseling Center, Village of Oak Park	Connecting with families that are in need of additional support surrounding mental health, space use, some financial resources
Oak Park and River Forest High School	Specific feeder systems for local athletes who will feed into the high school	Athletic spaces
Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	Anyone with available rehearsal space	Theater programming in exchange for space
Park District of Forest Park	Regional park districts, local theater groups	Offering more services that we cannot do because of space and or instructors.
River Forest Park District	Triniy HS	Shared space & staff to create a better opportunity
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	Private sector opportunities	WSSRA participants benefit

COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

DECEMBER 2023

aQity Research & Insights

Evanston, IL

Table of Contents

SECTIONS	PAGE
Research Methods	3
Sample Demographics	4
Executive Summary	6
Detailed Findings:	
I. Overall Opinions, Strengths/Improvements Sought, and Perceived Value of PDOP	17
II. Assessment of PDOP's Six Core Values	31
III. PDOP Park/Facility Usage and Satisfaction	37
IV. Usage and Satisfaction with new Community Rec Center (CRC)	50
V. Willingness-to-Pay: Indoor Pool	57
VI. Awareness of PDOP's Financial Assistance Programs	66
VII. PDOP Program Participation and Satisfaction	70
VIII. Sources of PDOP Information	77
IX. Final Comments/Suggestions	86
Appendix	90
Sample postcard invitation for survey recruitment	91
Survey Topline Results (questionnaire with overall frequency of responses)	92

Research Methods

- These findings are based on responses from n=558 residents within the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP), exceeding the target sample of n=500 respondents.
- Data collection took place between September 23rd and November 13th, 2023.
- Invitation postcards for the online survey or printed mail questionnaires (with prepaid return envelope) were sent to a random sample of PDOP residents. Both mailings offered three options (with instructions) for their response. Follow-up email reminders (supplied by the District) were also sent to non-respondents. Across the three response options:
 - n=436 completed the survey online
 - n=122 completed a printed survey (sent and returned by USPS)
 - n=0 opted for a phone survey/interview.
- The random sample of n=558 residents was weighted to match US Census data for Oak Park by region, age, gender, race and ethnicity, homeowner vs. renter status, and percentage of households with children. Assuming no sample bias, the margin of error is +/- 4.1% (at the 95% confidence level)*.
- Throughout the report, statistically meaningful differences (at the 95% confidence level) are identified. If responses from a demographic group are not reported, this means that the response from that segment was generally in line with the overall result.
- When available, results from the 2019 PDOP community survey are included for trending comparisons.

Respondent Sample Demographics (self-reported)

Gender*

Male	44%
Female	53%
Prefer to self-describe	3%

Age*

Under 35	21%
35-44	21%
45-54	20%
55-64	16%
65+	22%
<i>Mean (average): 50.6 years old</i>	

Children in Household*

Yes	29%
No	71%

Length of Residence in Park District of Oak Park

Less than 5 years	35%
5-14 years	20%
15-24 years	18%
25+ years	27%
<i>Mean (average): 16.6 years</i>	

Race* (multiple responses)

White/Caucasian	67%
Asian	7%
Black/African American	22%
Hispanic/Latino/Spanish	8%
Other	2%

Home Ownership*

Homeowner	60%
Renter	40%

Regional Distribution of Respondents*

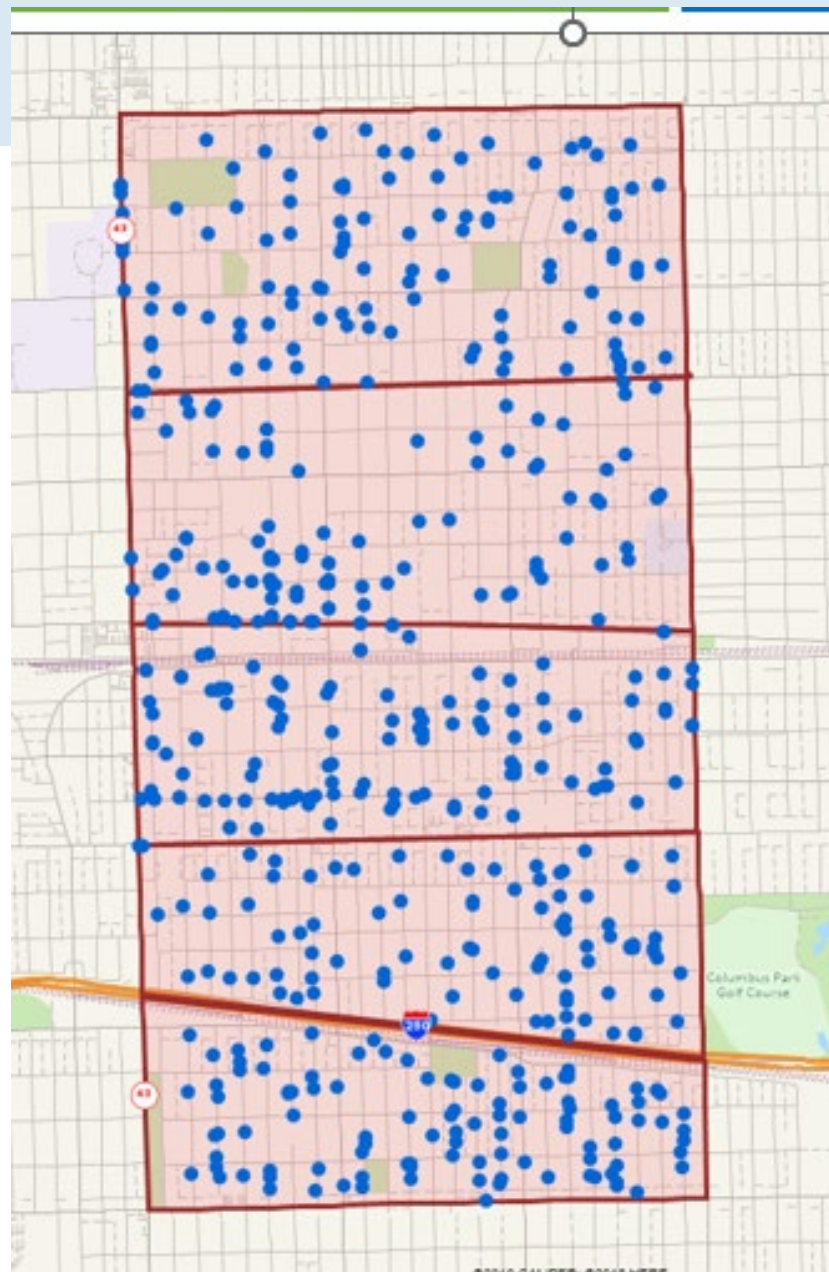
**North
(19%)**

**N-Central
(20%)**

**Central
(27%)**

**S-Central
(17%)**

**South
(17%)**



Executive Summary

The PDOP maintains very favorable esteem and value ratings from residents since 2019.

- The District's average esteem rating (measuring overall opinion on a 0-10 scale) is 8.0, virtually identical to its 8.2 average score in 2019 (no statistically meaningful difference). <pg. 18>
- Overall, 91% have a favorable opinion of the District (scores of 6 or higher), including 39% who hold the PDOP in highest regard (scores of 9 and 10).
 - There is a slight downward shift from these "highest regard" scores (51% in 2019), to more "very" and "somewhat" favorable ratings (scores of 6-8) in 2023.
 - However, the percent who have negative opinions have likewise dropped (from 4% in 2019 to 2% currently). In fact, the PDOP's ratio of favorable-to-unfavorable ratings is greater than 45:1 (very positive).
- The strong scores are consistent across all regions and subgroups, with Oak Park residents of 25+ years giving the lowest scores (7.7 average – still very favorable).
 - The PDOP's ratings are significantly higher than 2022 benchmarks statewide (6.8 average) and from nearby suburban park agencies (5.9)*. <pg. 19>
- On average, respondents estimate that 9.5% of their property taxes go to the PDOP, more than double the District's actual 4.6% share. <pp. 28-30 >
 - When informed that the District receives this 4.6% of one's property taxes and asked to rate its value given the programs, parks, facilities and services provided, residents give a very strong 8.0 average value rating (on a 0-10 scale).
 - This is the same average score reported in the 2019 survey, and far exceeds benchmark ratings statewide (5.9) and from neighboring suburbs* (5.1).
 - Even those giving lower than average scores (men, residents in the South region) still give strong value ratings (averaging 7.3 or higher).

Respondents cite the quality/variety of programs, and the number/condition of local parks and playgrounds as top PDOP strengths.

- When asked (in an open-ended format) to identify the District's strengths or what they like most about the PDOP, the top response include: <pp. 20-23>
- The programs, activities, and/or events that the District offers (cited by nearly half – 48%). Most often these responses include
 - The range of activities offered across all age groups (tied as the #1 strength at 24% of respondents)
 - The quality of these programs in general, especially sports and fitness
 - Strong youth programming/options, as well as summer camps in particular
 - Good variety of community events.
 - Just over one in three (35%) also cite the District parks and playgrounds as a top strength, especially:
 - The high level of maintenance and upkeep of the parks (also #1 at 24%)
 - The overall quality of parks and open space
 - The number and variety of local parks
 - Quality playgrounds and play equipment.
 - PDOP facilities and buildings rank a distant third (cited by 18% of respondents), most often:
 - The outdoor pools
 - The new Community Rec Center (CRC)
 - Good facilities in general.
 - Nearly as many (14%) include the District administration, management, and/or staff as a top strength, usually the level of communication and outreach (6%).
 - About one in ten most value the location and proximity/accessibility of PDOP locations (11%), and half as many cite the affordable costs/fees (5%).

There is less consensus when respondents are asked about dislikes or needed improvements from the PDOP.

- Over a third (36%) were unable to offer any suggestions or weaknesses for the PDOP, including 15% who said there is nothing they dislike at all. Among the remaining respondents:
 - One in four offered suggestions for improved District administration/management/staff (23%), usually concerning difficulties and stress when registering for programs (e.g., issues with the online platform/process, frustration when options fill up quickly). A few others also mention:
 - A need for more/better outreach and communication from the District (updates, initiatives, plans, etc.)
 - Perceptions of unnecessary spending (e.g., fast/hasty replacements of new improvements at specific parks)
 - Concerns about the quality or engagement with program instructors, coaches, District staff, etc.
 - Nearly as many (21%) offer suggestions for facilities, most often:
 - More or improved sports facilities (sports fields, courts, etc.)
 - Longer seasons or hours for specific facilities (usually the pools)
 - A need/desire for an indoor pool to provide year-round swimming (3%).
 - Park suggestions come from 12% overall (mostly concerns about safety), followed by program complaints (11%, usually requests for more adult options, both for seniors and/or adults without children).
 - The top responses are rounded out by comments regarding PDOP's costs and fees (again, usually for the pools or specific programs/events), mentioned by about one in ten.

<pp. 24-
27>

Among the PDOP's six core values, residents feel that Community Engagement, Inclusivity, and Integrity are most important.

- A majority (52%+) rank each of these among the top three core values for the District: <pp. 32-34>
 - Community Engagement (57% top three), especially important to Hispanic/Latino residents and current/recent PDOP program participants. This was the #1 most important value to nearly a quarter of residents.
 - Integrity (53%), especially important to middle-aged residents (45 to 54).
 - Inclusivity (52%), especially for residents of color, relatively newer Oak Park residents, and non-participants in PDOP programs.
- The remaining three are still deemed important to about a third of residents:
 - Responsible Leadership (38%) ranks higher among residents ages 45-54, along with African Americans and recent PDOP program participants.
 - Sustainability (38%), especially among younger adults ages 35 to 44 (regardless of race/ethnicity).
 - Innovation (30%) ranked lowest overall but tends to be included more often among Asian adults and those with children ages 5 and under.
- The PDOP's performance on each core value is rated very strong, especially on the "top tier" options in terms of importance (Community Engagement, Inclusivity, and Integrity). <pp. 35-36>

Virtually all residents report visiting a PDOP park or facility in the past year and are very satisfied with those experiences.

- Overall, 98% report that someone in their household has been to a District location in the past 12 months (up from 92% in the 2019 survey). <pp. 38-40, 42-44>
- Nearly two-thirds (65%) report visiting Scoville Park during that time, and about half have been to:
 - Austin Gardens (47%)
 - Oak Park Conservatory (47%)
 - Rehm Park (44%)
 - Taylor Park (40%)
- About a third have been to:
 - Barrie Center/Park (33%)
 - Mills Park (32%)
 - Ridgeland Common Rec Complex (31%) and/or pool (29%)
 - Rehm Pool (31%)
 - Lindberg Park (30%)
 - Longfellow Center/Park (29%)
- Most often, residents use these locations for personal health and fitness, and/or because of their convenience and proximity to where they live. Others appreciate the availability of open space and natural settings, as well as safe places for children. <pg. 41>
- Satisfaction scores (on a 0-10 scale) remain very strong across District parks and facilities (despite being slightly lower vs. 2019 ratings). The highest scores go to: <pp. 45-48>
 - The overall experience, cleanliness/upkeep, and safety at these locations (8.3 average for each)
 - Accessibility (8.2 average)
 - Service provided by PDOP staff (7.9)
- No group is dissatisfied with any attribute; all average scores of 7.3 or higher. The top complaints are scattered, most often focusing on a lack of parking across various facilities, limited bathroom access (often locked/unavailable), homeless people in specific parks, suggestions for friendlier service from staff, and general upkeep.

Consistent with the 2019 survey, non-usage is usually due to not having young children.

About a third (32%) have been inside the new CRC, and those familiar with the facility are very satisfied across the board.

- In other words, non-visitors continue to perceive the PDOP as more focused on children and young families. <pg. 49>
 - This reflects some of the open-ended feedback cited earlier as well.
- This 32% includes self-reported members (13%) and recent non-member users (8%) who tend to live closest to the CRC (South and S-Central regions). The remaining 11% have toured but not used the facility and tend between ages 55-64. <pg. 51>
- Another 38% have seen the new facility but not yet been inside, and 19% have heard about the CRC but not driven past it. The remaining 11% remain unaware (especially those under age 35, renters, Asian residents, and the North region).
- Those familiar enough with the CRC to offer an opinion give high satisfaction scores (averaging 7.1 on a 0-10 scale), especially self-reported members (8.3) and non-member users (7.7). Those who have only seen or heard about the CRC tend to give more neutral ratings (no strong opinions yet). <pg. 52>
 - The few who are less satisfied mostly cite the lack of an indoor pool, small workout space at the CRC, and/or the fees.
- Still, at least 90% of those aware of the CRC agree that it: <pp. 53-56>
 - Is welcoming of everyone (97%)
 - Makes Oak Park more attractive (95%) and helps property values (93%)
 - Represents a good value (92%)
 - Is inclusive and serves the diversity of Oak Park (92%) and meets the community's needs (90%) – though residents in the South region and residents aged 45-54 are less likely to agree with these statements.
- Nearly as many (87%) feel the CRC's programs and activities are innovative (with slightly less agreement – 78% – among self-reported members). Residents in the South and those aged 45-54 are less likely to feel that the CRC meets their recreation/fitness needs (roughly 60% agree, vs. 79% overall).

Respondents express a willingness to pay a property tax increase for an indoor pool facility.

- Survey respondents were informed that building an indoor pool (including open swim, 25-yard lap lanes, and a separate warm water therapy pool) would require passage of a referendum which would increase annual property taxes by \$90 per year for a median-valued home of \$400,000. <pp. 58-59>
- Based on this description, residents express support by just over a 2:1 margin (69% vs. 31% opposed).
 - Overall, 35% are “strong” supporters, vs. 14% who are “strongly” opposed.
 - Support is especially strong among younger adults (under 35), renters, women, newer Oak Park residents, and those in the Central region.
 - Older residents (ages 65+), men, and households in the South region tend to be more divided with smaller margins of support (roughly 53% to 56% in favor vs. 44% to 47% opposed).
- Supporters give several reasons for their support, most often: <pp. 60-62>
 - A desire for year-round swimming (28%) or general need/interest (18%)
 - The tax increase is reasonable (15%)
 - Conditional support depending on facility hours, availability of adult/lap swimming, etc. (12%)
 - Health and fitness benefits (11%)
 - Overall asset and improvement for Oak Park (10%).
- Among opponents, their top reasons driving their opposition are: <pp. 63-65>
 - Perceived lack of need in general (30%)
 - Opposition to further increasing taxes that are already deemed high (25%)
 - Existing indoor pool options which are available (16%)
 - The OPRF High School is pursuing an indoor pool at the same time (10%).

Awareness of the PDOPs scholarships and CDM discounts remains relatively low.

- Overall, about one in five are either “very” (6%) or “somewhat” familiar (15%) with the District’s scholarship pool which provides financial assistance available to lower-income households. <pg. 67>
 - The good news is that those most likely to qualify (reporting household incomes under \$50K) tend to be the most aware of this opportunity (23% “very” familiar, vs. 6% overall). Still, just over half of these lower income residents (51%) have never heard of these scholarships.
- Similarly, only 12% are “very” (2%) or “somewhat” familiar (10%) with the District’s CDM offering for lower income residents with children in Kindergarten through age 14. Three in four overall (75%) have never heard of this program. <pg. 68>
 - Residents with children ages 12 to 14 tend to be more aware (12% “very” familiar, vs. 2% overall) – possibly because they have taken advantage of CDM in the past or currently. However, 59% of these households remain not at all aware of this assistance.

Residents report recent participation in several PDOP programs and events, with very strong satisfaction overall.

- Reinforcing the District’s programming as a top strength, most respondents report household participation during the past year in a variety of programs and events. <pg. 71-74>
 - Top **programs** focus on youth activities (sports, summer camp, skating, gymnastics) and adult options (fitness/wellness, sports, performing arts).
 - The top **events** include summer concerts, Movies in the Park, and Fall Fest.
- Satisfaction is very strong for each (average 8.3 for both on a 0-10 scale). The few dissatisfied scores are attributed mostly to program instructors/leaders/coaches, etc., and/or registration challenges.
- Ideas for programming opportunities tend to center around more for adults, especially fitness/yoga offerings, arts and crafts, and social events (e.g., get-togethers, game nights, music/entertainment options). <pg. 75-76>

As in 2019, residents mostly rely on the Village's FYI Newsletter and the PDOP printed program guide when seeking Park District information.

- Three in five (60%) cite both the printed program guide and the Village FYI newsletter as primary sources for PDOP information. <pp. 78-81>
- Another 46% now mention the District's e-newsletter as a top source – significantly higher than the 2019 response (21%). The e-newsletter tends to be mentioned most often by younger adults (ages 35-44), households with children, and Asian and African American residents.
- Nearly as many go to the PDOP website when seeking information (41%), and roughly a third cite flyers at District locations along with fence banners at these sites. <pg. 84>
 - The website is mentioned most often by adults under age 55, along with Hispanic/Latino adults. Nearly half of website users visit the site at least once a month (48%), while the rest mostly access it once every six months (35%).
 - Flyers and fence banners tend to be mentioned by the youngest adults (under 35), renters and newer Oak Park residents, and the South region.
- While 60% report using the printed program guide, fewer than half as many (27%) refer to the digital version on the PDOP website. Younger residents tend to prefer the digital version (under age 55), while those favoring the printed version tend to be slightly older (ages 45 to 64). <pp. 78-80>
 - In a separate question, most (59%) prefer continuing to receive the printed mailed version of the program guide. Both the youngest (under 35) and oldest (65+) residents prefer the printed guide, along with women and lower-income households. <pg. 85>
 - Conversely, 41% would rather receive an emailed link to updated digital guides with the option of picking up a hard copy at a PDOP location (especially men, those aged 35-64, and households earning \$200K+).

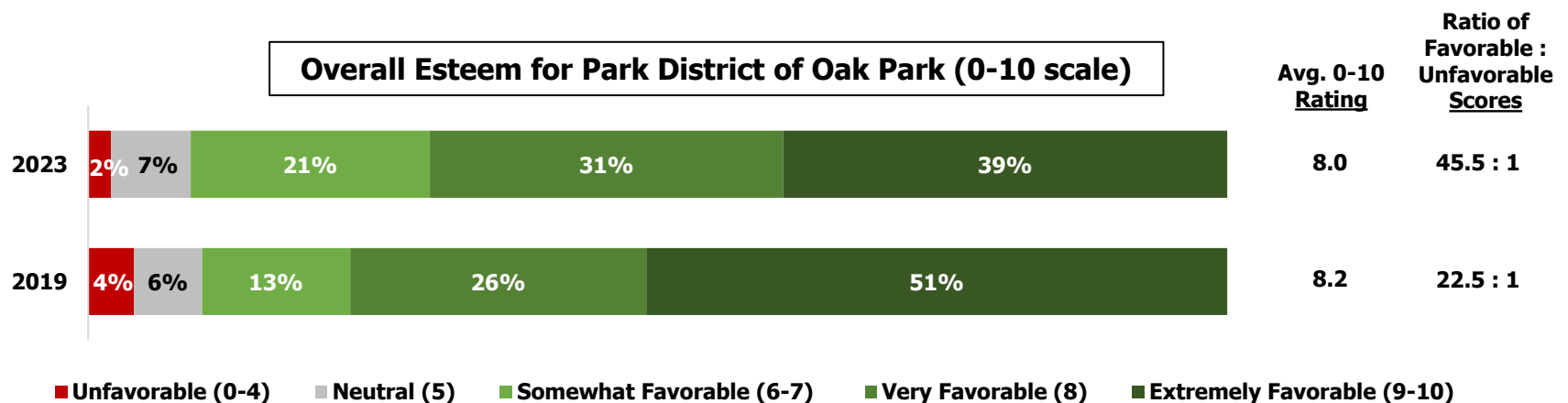
Only one in three respondents offer final comments or suggestions.

- This final survey feedback is very scattered, with most suggestions centered on: *<pp. 87-89>*
- Management/Administrative requests (13%) – most often extending the hours or seasons at specific locations (usually the pools), more parking, increased safety/staff presence, better communication, reduced spending, and/or easier program registration (2% to 3% each).
 - Park and facility issues (12%) – usually suggestions for amenities (e.g., benches, fitness stations, improved play equipment), better landscaping, more natural areas and sustainable practices, and more dog parks or off-leash areas.
 - Programs and activities (7%), usually more options for adults along with a wider range of age groups (1% to 2% each).

I. Overall Opinions, Strengths/Improvements Sought, and Perceived Value of PDOP

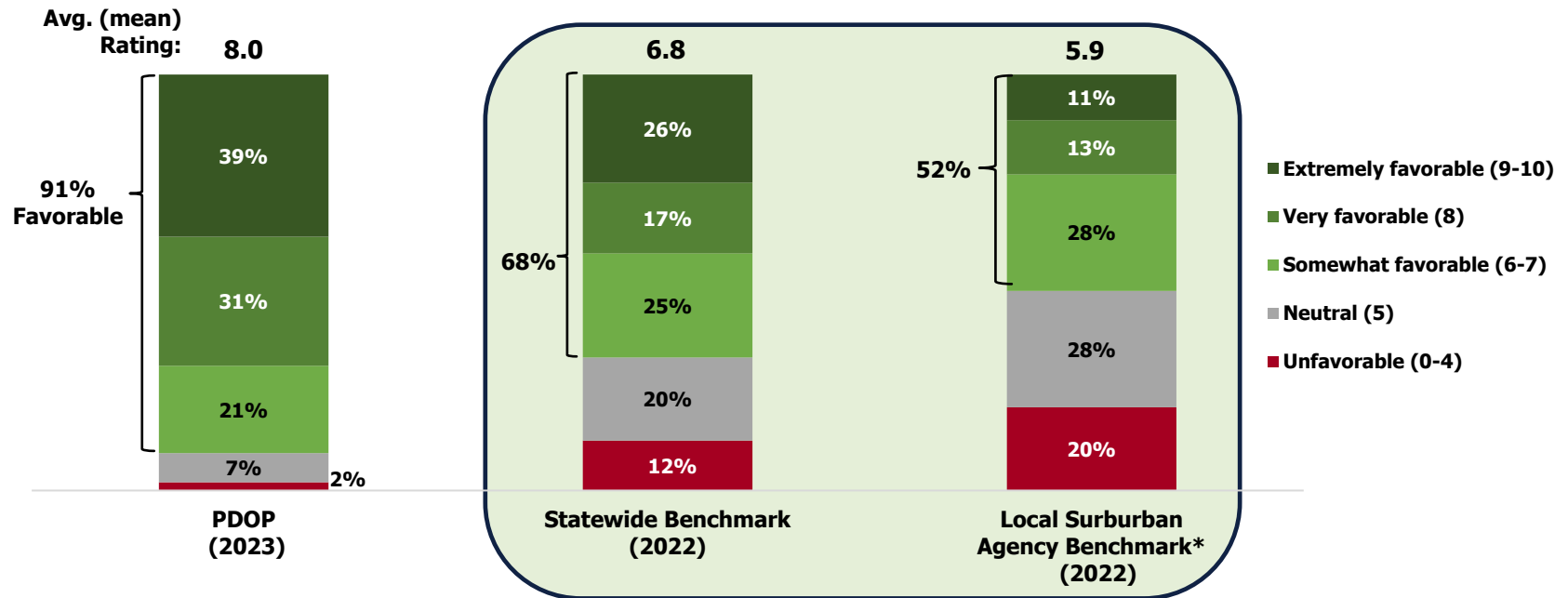
Nine out of ten residents (91%) continue to have a favorable overall opinion about the Park District of Oak Park, based on esteem ratings using a 0-10 scale. Only 2% rate the District unfavorably, and the remaining 7% are neutral (no strong opinion either way).

- Resident ratings are generally consistent with the 2019 survey results, despite a shift from “extremely favorable” scores (9+ on a 0-10 scale) to “very favorable” and “somewhat favorable” ratings. As a result, the overall average rating has dropped slightly (from 8.2 in 2019 to 8.0 currently).
- That said, these ratings are still overwhelmingly positive, and are significantly higher than statewide and regional benchmarks (see next page).
- In addition, these favorable scores are generally consistent across all subgroups and regions. The biggest differences (not statistically significant) are:
 - Slightly higher scores in the North region (8.3) and among Asian households (8.8, n=31 cases)
 - Slightly lower ratings from Oak Park residents of 25+ years (7.7 – still very favorable).



As reported, the PDOP's esteem ratings outperform statewide and local agency benchmarks from 2022. This general pattern is consistent with the 2019 survey findings (when the PDOP's average esteem rating was also a full point higher than the statewide average).

Benchmark Comparisons: Overall Esteem Ratings



Q2. Please rate your overall opinion of the Park District of Oak Park. (0=completely dislike, 5=neutral, 10=highest regard).

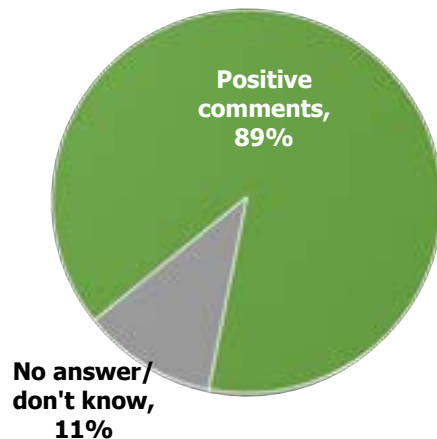
* 2022 benchmark comparisons with neighboring agencies include Berwyn, Cicero, Elmwood Park, Forest Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, North Riverside, River Forest, River Grove, and Riverside.

When asked in an open-ended format what they like most about the PDOP, most residents cite the programs and events (mentioned by 48%, usually the variety and quality of options, especially sports/fitness activities).

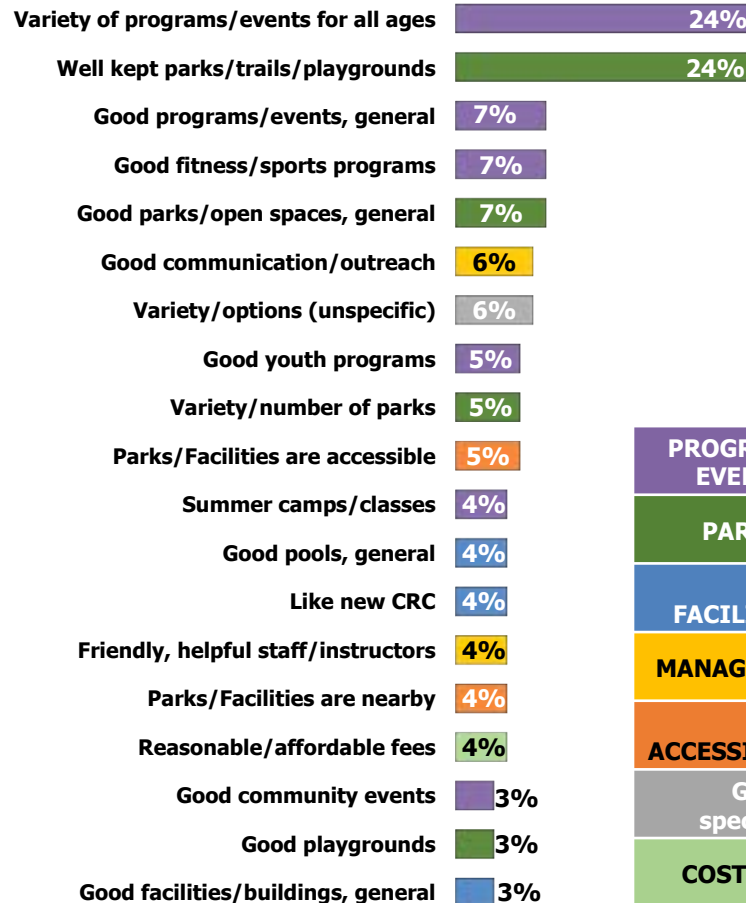
- Over a third (35% total) cite something about the parks and open spaces, usually their level of maintenance/cleanliness, overall quality, and the number of local parks.
- A number of other strengths are cited (e.g., facilities, management and staff), only less often.

What do you like most/ strengths about the PDOP

(top multiple open-ended responses, n=558)



Most Frequent Responses



**PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/
EVENTS = 48% Total**

PARKS = 35% Total

**BUILDINGS/
FACILITIES = 18% Total**

MANAGEMENT = 14% Total

**LOCATION/
ACCESSIBILITY = 11% Total**

**GENERAL (Non-
specific) = 7% Total**

COST/FEES = 5% Total

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Likes/Strengths

Programs/Activities/Events (TOTAL NET = 48%)

"Multitude of programs for seniors, adults, children. Individual events and facilities are also great."

"Variety of classes. The crafting for adults. Family cooking classes, teen cooking camps!"

"I think the Park District clearly puts a lot of effort into our various park programs. I love that we have such a diversity of programs offered, that there are special events, classes for both adults and children."

"Wide variety of activities offered, well funded programs and knowledgeable staff."

"We like the extensive offered programs and their overall quality. We especially like the gymnastics and ice skating ones that are really good. We like also the different events that are organized by the PDOP (like) Fall Fest, etc."

"Amazing array of camps and services!"

"The offerings are excellent and plentiful for all ages of residents."

"The park district continues to provide a variety of programming for different members of our community. They adjust programming to keep it relevant and are receptive to community feedback. I love the focus on building community in everything they do. We LOVE the park district."

"Wonderful diversity of programs supporting residents of all ages for very affordable prices."

"I appreciate the wide range of activities for multiple age groups."

"Making very good use of our limited space and resources to offer high quality recreational programs."

"The new role where someone is planning interesting things to do and activities for adults."

Parks/Playgrounds/Trails (TOTAL NET=35%)

"Our village has diverse, numerous parks that are well-maintained and provide sufficient opportunities to sit and rest. Even those parks with few trees or grassy areas have a touch of nature, e.g., wildflowers that attract pollinators."

"I visit Taylor Park frequently and it is so close to home and is kept up so well. The grass is mowed, and I like the walking path."

"Very well-maintained parks, beautiful landscaping and ground, clean parks. Lots of parks throughout town; can always walk to a park."

"Number and quality of parks, so many within walking distance. Very well maintained."

"Clean, safe, properly maintained, beautifully curated and decorated."

"Allows green space in areas of Oak Park and does a fair job of maintaining that space."

"Accessible, they have up kept the parks. They are mostly clean; things seem to be repaired in a timely manner."

"Beauty of the parks -- the field houses & playgrounds."

"I like the parks - both play spaces and green spaces."

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Likes/Strengths (cont'd)

Buildings/Facilities (TOTAL NET=18%)

"The new CRC and the walking track."

"Conservatory is wonderful and has a great Storytime."

"I love the CRC and that they provided badminton time in their gyms. Pickleball and tennis are everywhere."

"Both pool facilities The maintenance of all the parks, and tennis courts The collaboration with the high school for field space The CRC."

"It has something for everyone. The parking, pools, tennis courts, children's playgrounds, etc."

"Pools and CRC are great."

"Tennis courts, Cheney Mansion, parks, Oak Park Conservatory."

"Clean facilities and well maintained."

"Good quality facilities and special recognition of effort to maintain ice on outdoor rinks despite poor weather."

"Clean facilities and well maintained."

"I like that you can rent the centers for parties."

"'Uncorked' garden parties at the Conservatory; opportunity to rent beautiful venues like Cheney Mansion (as needed)."

PDOP Managements/Staff/Admin (TOTAL NET=14%)

"Communication, good facilities, priced to allow access by all."

"Communication and mail pieces are good."

"The coaches are amazing."

"Great variety of programs run by competent people. Never bored!"

"They work hard to provide resources to the residents, even with limited green space."

"Park District of Oak Park does a good job communicating activities and events in a timely manner via electronic media (e-mail, social media, print etc.)."

"I have enjoyed the fantastic day trips to new places. The staff is always nice and helpful."

"They listen to the community and bring new activities...providing plenty options for leisure and fun."

"Activities for all ages -- family oriented -- most are reasonably priced -- organized catalogue."

"Diversity and thoughtfulness of staff. Nature and arts programming."

"Great caliber of instructors for fitness classes."

"Staff at clubhouse and how engaged they are with kids."

Location/Accessibility (TOTAL NET=11%)

"I like that there are parks scattered throughout the Village."

"There are a few parks spread across the village that I have access to. Each one has its own unique feature to it, adding to the variety of each park."

"The many parks, large and small."

"The variety of the parks. It's great and the fact there are so many. I've visited many on my bicycle."

"Location. Most within walking distance of my residence."

"I can walk to Scoville Park."

"The parks are easily accessible and kept clean, open to all residents. Even parents from beyond Oak Park's borders can bring their children to play."

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Likes/Strengths (cont'd)

General non-specific comments (TOTAL NET=7%)

"Overall, I think we have an excellent park district."

"Well maintained and serviced."

"Options and interests."

"I like that the Oak Park Park District exists and strives to cater to the needs and interests of Oak Parkers."

"Great variety for all ages."

"PDOP offers a variety of services and offerings."

Cost/Fees (TOTAL NET=5%)

"The diversity of programs, the affordability of programs."

"Quality programs for residents of all ages at an affordable price."

"I really like that residents can use the indoor track for free."

"The amount of any given park available and free toddler programs."

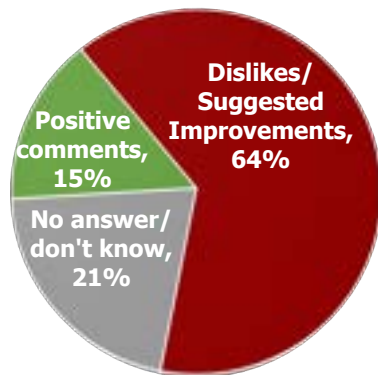
"Offers a lot of programs and childcare options at an affordable price."

Respondents had a more difficult time identifying something they dislike or would like to see improved by the PDOP. Over a third (36%) could not think of anything (including 15% who said there is nothing they dislike).

- The specific dislikes were very scattered, with the program registration process/website cited most often by 8% overall (usually because programs fill too quickly, or the platform is cumbersome). Almost as many (7%) feel that program and membership fees are too high. The remaining responses are mentioned by fewer than 5% each.
- The feedback on PDOP facilities is varied (e.g., general improvements, longer pool hours/season, larger fitness area at CRC, lack of an indoor pool).
- Most park-related comments concern safety, or more amenities (bathroom access, benches, lighting). Many program suggestions focus on more adult options and scheduling outside of work hours (more evening, weekend programs).

What do you dislike/want improved by the PDOP

(top multiple open-ended responses, n=558)



Most Frequent Responses

Difficulty with program registration	8%
Lower costs/program fees, general	7%
More, better outreach, communication	4%
More, better sport fields, courts	4%
More/longer hours	4%
Too much spending/waste (costly/unecessary improvements)	4%
More adult programs	4%
Enforce rules more	3%
Issues with instructors, program leaders, staff	3%
Park safety	3%
Need an indoor pool	3%

MANAGEMENT = 23% Total

BUILDINGS/FACILITIES = 21% Total

PARKS = 12% Total

PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS = 11% Total

COST/FEES = 9% Total

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Dislikes/Improvements Sought

PDOP Managements/Staff/Admin (TOTAL NET=23%)

"Enrollment feels very competitive, we don't always get into the classes we put on our wish list."

"The registration process for anything children-related is extremely frustrating and the spots are very limited."

"Registration is very stressful. Doesn't seem like enough spots available for events and programs."

"Mad scramble to get one of the few spots for certain sports. Registering for classes are very difficult for older (me) individuals who are not familiar with online registration. Would rather call a telephone number & talk to a real person!"

"I really dislike the Amilia registration system as the replacement for the previous Mind Body system. The Amilia system was very frustrating when it was first rolled out. It is still confusing to me when I register for a drop-in Nia class using my 10 pack of classes. The website is very hard to navigate."

"Please improve the online signup system for summer camps. The system has crashed in the past due to interest/demand."

"Sign up process and competitiveness of it."

"Registration can be tough. System times out when trying to get summer camps and you get shut out of programs."

"Prefer more advertising of events."

"Lack of communication around programs and coordinators of programs. Lack of response to email and voice mails. Lack of communication with the public – e.g., their handling of the floors at Pleasant Home was atrocious."

"Not enough communication with lap swimmers, the most dedicated and enthusiastic users of the pool. One result was a bad redesign of the Ridgeland women's locker room, replacing a simple central spot to sit while changing with an insufficient number of private changing cubbies."

"It could do a better job of outreach to ALL Oak Parkers."

"I was disappointed about the way communication was shared signing up for gymnastics in the fall. We are new to Oak Park and enrolled for one week of summer gymnastics camp. When it came for fall registration, we did not know that that one week counted as having been enrolled in gymnastics 'summer camp' and that we were eligible for early fall enrollment. There was no email explaining that the one week we had participated in counted. As a result, we enrolled with the rest of OP and of course didn't get into any of the fall programming. My kids were heartbroken. I was really disappointed that no email was shared explaining that we would have qualified to enroll early."

"Sometimes it feels like maintenance and/or improvements aren't planned out well. They build then sometimes remove or replace it a few years later."

"I think the Park District is too quick to replace park equipment rather than doing the more fiscally responsible thing of repairing and refurbishing."

"In my opinion, many construction projects, improvements and maintenance efforts appear wasteful and much of it unnecessary."

"Spends too much money, we keep building new buildings, updating parks with state of art equipment that is not needed."

"Stop re-doing parks when play equipment is just fine! If stuff is good enough to donate, it's good enough to keep."

"Ticket people who litter."

"Please enforce people to pickup after their dog."

"Sometimes dogs are not on a leash."

"I wish the lifeguards at the community pools did a better job of enforcing pool rules, specifically enforcing proper use of lap lanes."

"Class quality is very dependent on instructors and some of them aren't great. I would say my satisfaction with classes has been 50%. I just don't feel confident when signing up that I will be satisfied with any given class."

"My nine-year-old took a week-long class during the summer and the program and counselors weren't that good."

"Administrative staff falls down on the job sometimes. Team sport prices too high."

"Staffing - serious staffing issues. I understand how difficult staffing is these days, but it has always been an issue with the park district. Pay more!

Devote more resources to your employees."

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Dislikes/Improvements Sought

Buildings/Facilities (TOTAL NET=21%)

"Some of the tennis courts are in bad shape. The pickle ball courts could be repaved. More dedicated pickle ball courts."

"Lack of outdoor basketball courts."

"They did not provide the proper court lines for badminton. We are making do with pickleball court lines. I encourage them to look at Wheeling Park District's CRC and how they allot time in their gyms for sports including badminton. They must make about \$200 on a Monday night \$5 drop-in badminton utilizing 6 courts. Utilizing a system like that would encourage more players to use the gyms and bring in revenue for the CRC."

"Projects done without expert input, e.g., Barrie pickleball courts."

"Should have more basketball hoops. Couldn't tennis courts do double duty?"

"I'm disappointed that the newly developed CRC did not take into consideration that there is not enough large classroom space for the fitness classes, such as Nia. What a disappointment that such a beautiful new facility can't be used and thus those classes will still be shunted to too-small spaces in older buildings."

"CRC is a very nice facility but...the space allocated to the workout area, where most users go, is unbelievably small! Why have a huge skating rink and small rooms for other programs?"

"Lack of bathroom access at many of the parks."

"Bathrooms are often locked in fall, winter, spring with no porta potty options. This is hard with young kids needing to use the bathroom."

"The only issue I have with the park district is the pool schedule during the summers. It seems ridiculous for the pools to close as early as they do, and have limited schedules during certain times of the year. The memberships are not cheap and to limit how late they stay open really impacts how much we are able to utilize the pool pass outside of weekends. It would be great to be able to have the pools open until 8 or 9 PM so that families could take kids after work and dinner."

"I'd like to see longer hours at the pools, and better functionality for booking fields and understanding when fields are open and when they're reserved or in use. Also, we have friends and family members with mobility challenges, I think many of the facilities need to be more accessible, specifically parking."

"Oak Park needs an indoor pool that offer swim lessons and activities for youth and adults alike. The only other reasonable option is the YMCA. I however, have to drive all the way to Triton college for classes."

"Needs an indoor pool for lap swimming."

"In a community of this size with the taxes that are paid, that there is not a year-round aquatic facility for pool activities, programs, and free swim for residents is a disgrace."

"Indoor pool please! Also, we are not nearly where surrounding communities are on the number of available and dedicated pickleball courts. No dog parks in northeast Oak Park."

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Dislikes/Improvements Sought (cont'd)

Parks/Playgrounds/Trails (TOTAL NET=12%)

"I live near Maple Park. Need to secure it; there's no reason to have a west gate that's right off Harlem which is a busy street. That gate should be locked or removed. We need to be safe: What if a child runs into Harlem Avenue, or (it's an) easy exit if someone abducts a child."

"The parks are not regularly monitored after dark. There are frequent gatherings of loud teenagers. We tried talking with them but it was unsuccessful."

"Have some police presence at certain parks. The ones on Lake street closer to Austin."

"Lighting could be better in smaller parks."

"Homeless people who sleep there. They should have someplace else to go."

"Could use bathrooms on the premises. I miss the old sledding hill. Would like more walking paths and intermittent exercise apparatus for seniors."

"Bathrooms in the parks would be great, especially when the park hosts sports."

"Litter seems to be an issue in some parks. However, I understand there's limited resources for frequent trash sweeps."

"I dislike the lack of upkeep at the south end of town. I live a block from Barrie Park and the basketball and pickleball courts are in terrible shape. The green and grassy area surrounding it is always overgrown, you can barely walk on the narrow sidewalk, and it's unsafe with traffic passing so close by."

Programs/Activities/Events (TOTAL NET=11%)

"If the adult programming could be made more available on evenings and weekends, that would make it more accessible to those of us who work 9 to 5."

"More events for single adults."

"Offer more evening adult classes for those who of us who are not yet retired."

"It needs more 'maker' classes for active adults, like 3-D printing, laser cutting/etching, etc. It seems that (current) maker classes are oriented to kids."

"I wish there were more sports camps during the summer and throughout the year. Chicago Edge runs very good ones, but those run by the park district tend to be very basic, and seem like they're run by random high schoolers, not people more engaged in the sport and education of kids."

"Used to have overnight travel like to Starved Rock; need to start offering again. Need to offer in-person Tai Chi; why did this stop?"

"More senior programming."

Cost/Fees (TOTAL NET=9%)

"It charges too much for certain programs. The prices for pool general admission and pool passes are outrageously high, even for residents. The Park District of Oak Park absolutely should look into finding ways to bring down the costs for residents, because there are other communities that structure their pool admission prices that way."

"As a parent of young children, I was surprised at having to pay for activities for children under two or for parents for activities like the Santa Trolley."

"For residents, outside of a season pool pass, the cost is prohibitive."

"Swimming pool access is expensive if you only go occasionally."

"The classes are overpriced for what the level of instruction given. My child has not walked away from a class saying, 'I really improved.'"

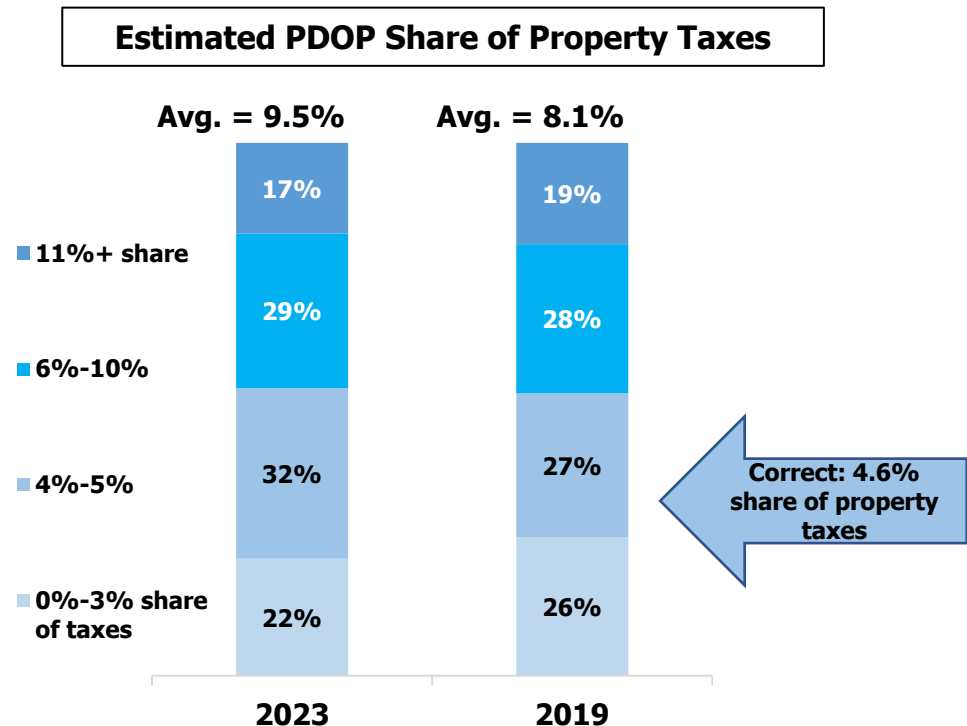
"Administrative fee is charged when you request a refund for an event."

"Some of the programs are expensive. Though worth it, we can't afford to do extra in Oak Park."

"Sometimes prices are too high for residents, like the cost of a single entry to the pool."

On average, residents estimate the PDOP's share of local property taxes to be double the actual percentage (average estimate of 9.5% share, vs. actual 4.6% share of property tax revenues).

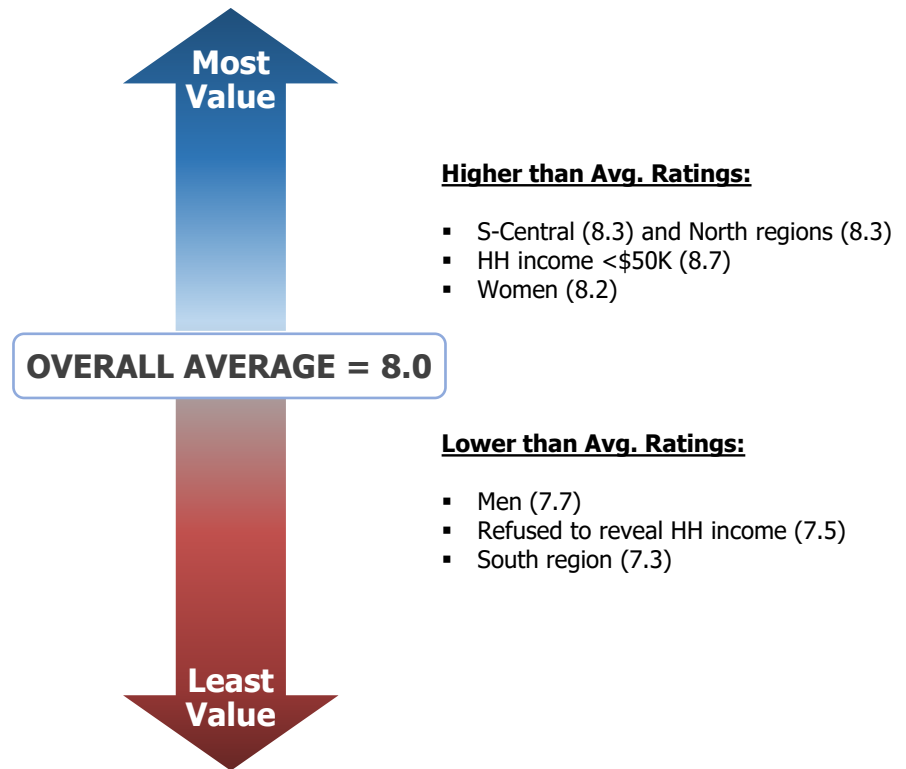
- This average is up very slightly from 2019 estimates (8.1% overage), mostly due to fewer giving estimates under 4%.
- Nearly one in five adults (17%) gave estimates of over ten percent going to the District (similar to 19% in 2019). The highest estimates tend to come from:
 - Residents in the North-Central region (13.8% average estimate, vs. 9.5% overall)
 - Homeowners (10.6% average estimate)
 - African American adults (15.4% average estimate).
- Those giving lower than average estimates (but still well above the District's actual 4.6% share of property taxes) include:
 - Residents in the South region (8.0% average estimate)
 - Renters (7.6% average estimate)
 - Asian and white adults (6.3% and 7.5% average estimates, respectively).



When informed that the PDOP represents 4.6% of one's property taxes, residents continue to rate it a "great" value overall (average 0-10 score of 8.0, identical to 2019 results).

- As in 2019, at least four out of five residents (82%) rate the District at least a "good" value, including just over half (51%) rating it an "excellent" value (scores of 9+ on the 0-10 value scale).
- By comparison, only 5% rate the District a poor value, and the remaining 13% feel it is an "average" value overall.
- Furthermore, all subgroups feel the PDOP represents a good-to-great value overall. No segment gives average value ratings below a 7.3 (on the 0-10 scale).

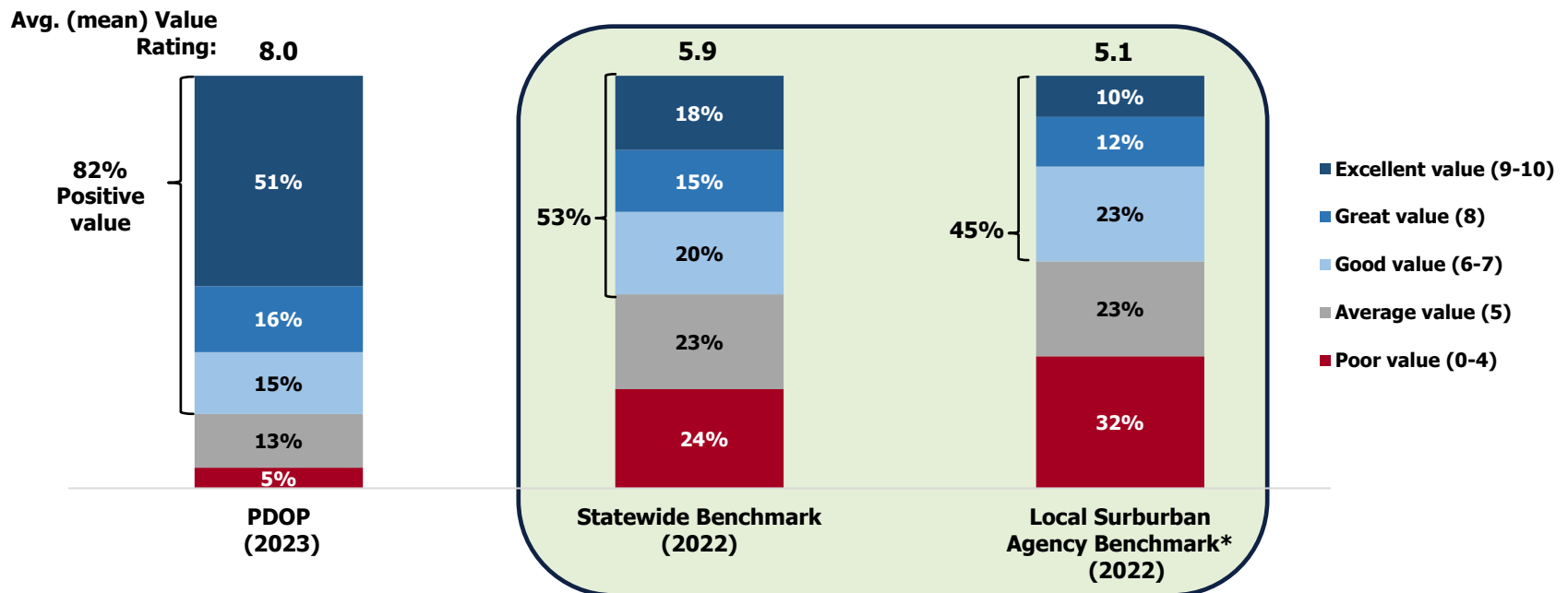
Significant Differences: PDOP's Perceived Value Relative to District's Share of Property Taxes



Q24. About 4.6% of your property taxes goes to the Park District of Oak Park. Thinking about the programs, parks, facilities, and services that the Park District provides, please rate the overall value that it represents given its share of property taxes. (0=poor value, 5=average value, 10=excellent value)

The PDOP's strong value ratings far surpass the statewide and local suburban benchmarks for park agencies – especially the percentage who rate the PDOP an “excellent” overall value.

Benchmark Comparisons: Overall Value Ratings



Q24. About 4.6% of your property taxes goes to the Park District of Oak Park. Thinking about the programs, parks, facilities, and services that the Park District provides, please rate the overall value that it represents given its share of property taxes. (0=poor value, 5=average value, 10=excellent value)

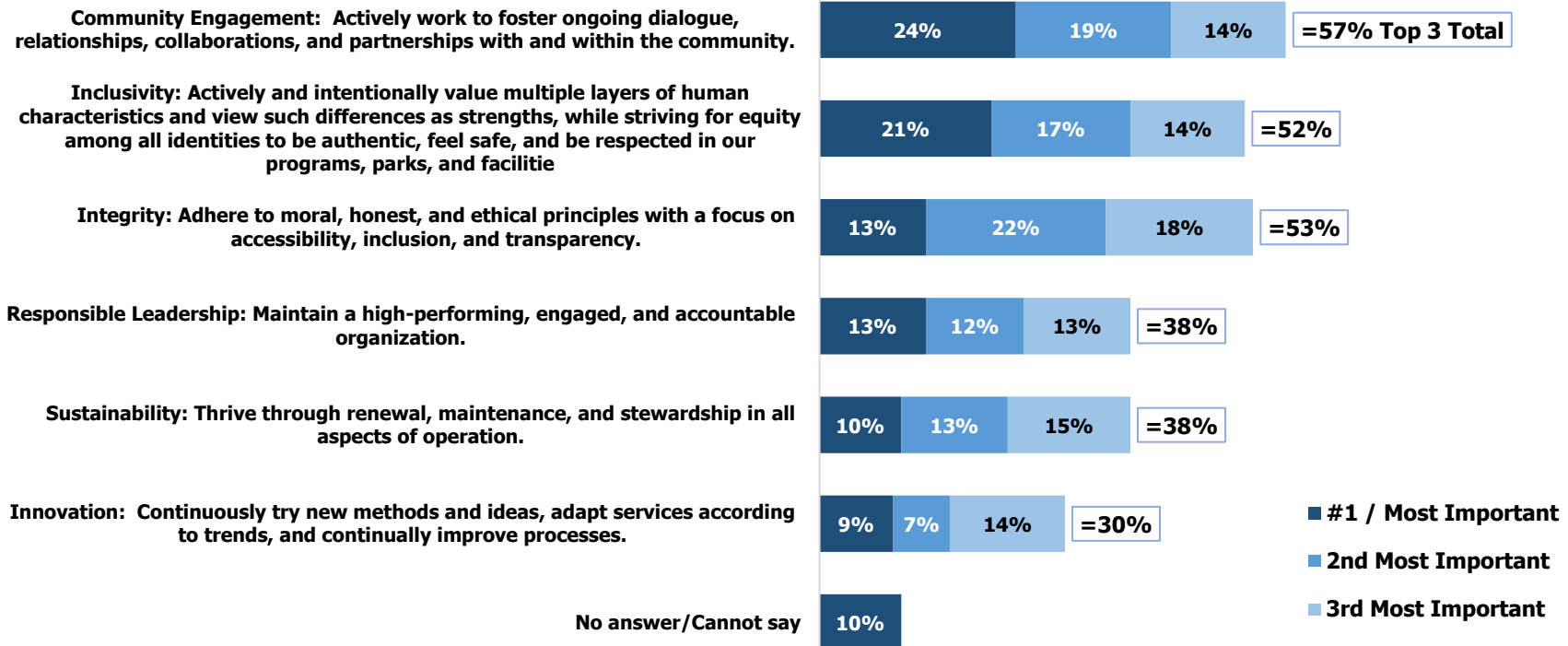
* 2022 benchmark comparisons with neighboring agencies include Berwyn, Cicero, Elmwood Park, Forest Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, North Riverside, River Forest, River Grove, and Riverside. The 2022 benchmark survey tested value ratings at a 5% share of property taxes.

II. Assessment of PDOP's Six Core Values

Six core values for the PDOP were shown to respondents, who were asked to rank them in order of importance (with #1 being the top priority). The top three core values clearly include “community engagement” followed closely by “inclusivity” and “integrity”.

- Note that while “inclusivity” and “integrity” receive virtually identical “top three” responses, the former is deemed more important based on a clear advantage of “#1” rankings.
- The three remaining core values receive fewer #1 and “top three” scores, with at least three in ten residents including them among the Top 3 most important. The remaining 10% choose not to provide a ranking.

Perceived Importance: PDOP Core Values



Among the three “top tier” core values, the most recent residents and Hispanic/Latino adults tend to include both “community engagement” and “inclusivity” among their top priorities. Those placing the highest priority on “integrity” tend to be slightly older.

- Note that “community engagement” tends to be most important (ranked #1) among the lowest income households, but the most affluent residents (incomes of \$200K+) disproportionately include it among their “top three” (meaning it tends to rank as their #2 or #3 priority).

Significant Differences: Top Tier PDOP Core Values

	#1 Most Important	Top 3 Most Important
Community Engagement	<u>24% Overall</u> - Hispanic/Latino adults (38%, n=46), and white adults (28%) - HH income <\$50K (37%) - PDOP program participants (30%, vs. 14% of non-participants)	<u>57% Overall</u> - Hispanic/Latino adults (86%, n=46) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (63%) - HH income \$200K+ (65%) - PDOP program participants (65%, vs. 46% of non-participants) - CRC members (74%, vs. 56% of non-members)
Inclusivity	<u>21% Overall</u> - North region (36%) - Hispanic/Latino adults (43%, n=46), Asian adults (40%), African Americans (31%) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (34%) - Non-PDOP program participants (28%, vs. 16% of participants)	<u>52% Overall</u> - Ages 35-44 (66%) - Hispanic/Latino adults (73%, n=46) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (60%), 5-14 yrs. (73%) - Have children ages 6-11 (64%)
Integrity	<u>13% Overall</u> - South (25%) - Ages 45+ (16%, vs. 5% of 35- to 44-year olds) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (18%)	<u>53% Overall</u> - Ages 45-54 (67%) - African American adults (59%), white adults (57%) - Non-CRC members (56%, vs. 38% of members)

For the remaining core values, middle aged residents (45 to 54), African Americans and recent PDOP program participants tend to place higher priority on “responsible leadership”, while “sustainability” is especially important to younger adults across several races.

- Asian residents and CRC members tend to rank innovation as their #1 priority, and those with children aged 5 and under include it in their Top 3.

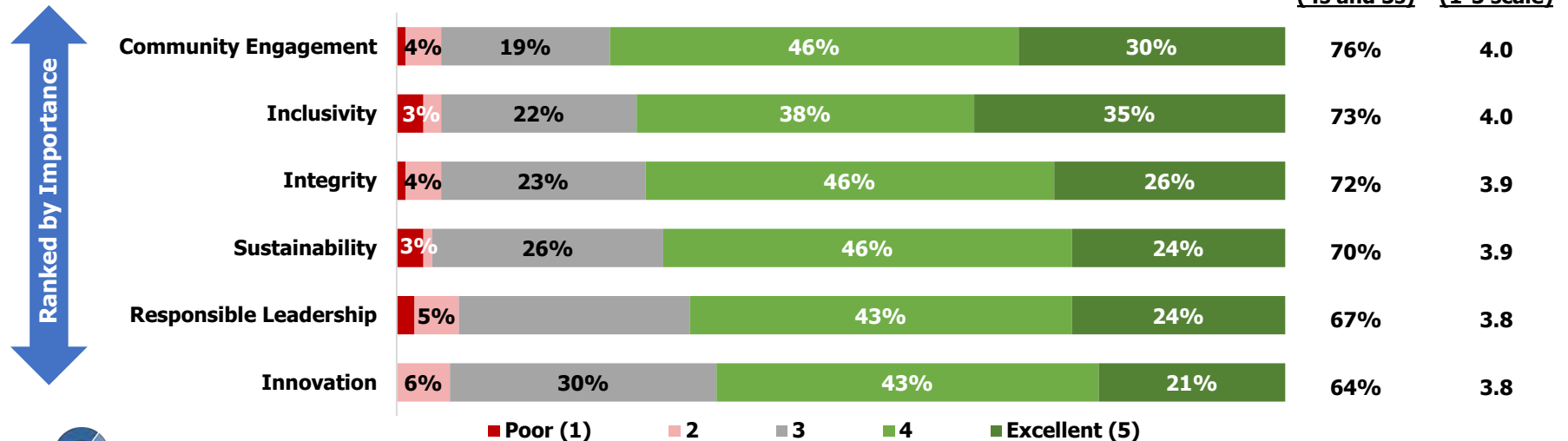
Significant Differences: Top Tier PDOP Core Values

	#1 Most Important	Top 3 Most Important
Responsible Leadership	<u>13% Overall</u> - N-Central region (25%) - Ages 45-54 (23%) - African Americans (23%) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (20%), 15-24 yrs. (28%) - PDOP program participants (18%, vs. 11% of non-participants)	<u>38% Overall</u> - Men (46%, vs. 33% of women) - Ages 45-54 (51%) - African Americans (50%) - HH income \$50K-\$99K (49%) - PDOP program participants (48%, vs. 24% of non-participants)
Sustainability	<u>10% Overall</u> - Ages 35-44 (19%) - White adults (13%)	<u>37% Overall</u> - Under age 35 (46%), 35-44 (53%) - Asian adults (73%), Hispanic/Latino adults (42%) and white adults (42%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (49%)
Innovation	<u>9% Overall</u> - Asian adults (16%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (16%) - CRC members (20%, vs. 7% of non-members)	<u>30% Overall</u> - Have children ages 5 and under (42%)
No answer/Can't say	<u>10% Overall</u> - Ages 55-64 (16%), 65+ (22%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (24%)	< no statistically meaningful differences >

When asked to assess the PDOP's performance on these six core values, the District receives consistently strong scores with at least 64% giving positive scores (4s and 5s on a 1-5 scale). Note that it receives the most "excellent" ratings for "inclusivity".

- None of these are considered weaknesses or concerns among residents, as no more than 7% overall rate the District poorly (scores of 1 or 2). The average 1-5 ratings are also all very strong (between 3.8 and 4.0)
- The table on the next page shows that there are relatively few significant differences in these ratings, meaning all groups and regions feel the PDOP is strong in each area.
 - In general, younger residents and lower-income households tend to be more favorable toward the District across most attributes. Slightly lower than average (still positive) scores are most likely to come from those earning over \$100K, and ages 45-54 (especially on "responsible leadership" and "sustainability").
 - Note that Hispanic/Latino adults tend to give slightly lower ratings for "community engagement", a core value that this segment feels is more important than average (an opportunity for the District to address).

Assessment of PDOP's Performance on Core Values (1-5 scale)



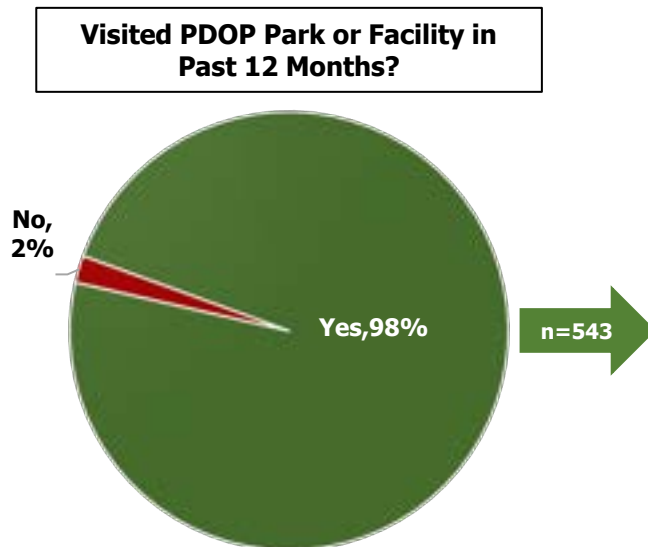
Significant Differences: Assessment of PDOP's Performance on Core Values (average 1-5 ratings)

	Lower than Average	Higher than Average
Community Engagement (avg. = 4.0)	- South region (3.7) - Hispanic/Latino adults (3.7) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (3.8)	- N-Central (4.2) and Central regions (4.1) - Under age 35 (4.2) - Asian adults (4.4) - HH income <\$50K (4.3)
Inclusivity (avg. = 4.0)	- Non-CRC members (4.0)	- CRC members (4.2)
Integrity (avg. = 3.9)	- Hispanic/Latino adults (3.6) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (3.8)	- Asian adults (4.3) - HH income <\$50K (4.3)
Sustainability (avg. = 3.9)	- Ages 45-54 (3.6) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (3.7)	- Under age 35 (4.1) - HH income <\$50K (4.2)
Responsible Leadership (avg. = 3.8)	- Ages 55-64 (3.6)	- Under age 35 (4.2)
Innovation (avg. = 3.8)	- HH income \$100K+ (3.6)	- HH income <\$100K (4.1)

III. PDOP Park/Facility Usage and Satisfaction

As in the 2019 survey, virtually all residents report visiting a PDOP park or facility in the past year (98%, up from 92% four years ago).

- Among recent visitors, Scoville Park remains the top destination (cited by roughly two out of three respondents). Nearly half have also visited the Oak Park Conservatory, Austin Gardens, and Rehm Park.
- At the time of this survey, one in four (25%) report visiting the new CRC which opened in mid-2023.



PDOP Parks (NET 94%)	
Scoville Park	65%
Austin Gardens	47%
Rehm Park	44%
Taylor Park	40%
Barrie Center/Park	33%
Mills Park	32%
Lindberg Park	30%
Longfellow Center/Park	29%
Maple Park	23%
Fox Center/Park	19%
Field Center/Park	19%
Euclid Square Park	18%
Stevenson Center/Park	18%
Andersen Center/Park	12%
Carroll Center/Park	11%
Randolph Park	7%
Wenonah Park	2%

PDOP Facilities (NET 82%)	
Oak Park Conservatory	47%
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	31%
Rehm Pool	31%
Ridgeland Common Pool	29%
Pleasant Home	25%
Community Recreation Center	24%
Elizabeth F Cheney Mansion	22%
Gymnastics and Recreation Center	17%
Dole Center	15%
Paul Hruby Ice Arena	12%
Austin Gardens Education Center	8%

Looking at the top visited (self-reported) PDOP parks in the past year and where these visitors live, it becomes clear that most are heavily used by “neighbors”, with only a couple of sites attracting residents District-wide.

- For example, Scoville Park and Austin Gardens draw disproportionately from the N-Central region (relative to the percent of the population in this area).
- The same is true for Rehm Park which draws the largest numbers from the S-Central and South regions.
 - While the N-Central area accounts for 20% of the overall population, only 12% of Rehm Park visitors come from that area.
- This pattern of drawing large numbers from proximate neighborhoods is consistent across most of the top PDOP parks visited, with two exceptions. Both Stevenson Park/Center and Wenonah Park tend to draw more evenly from throughout the District (no statistically meaningful differences).

<u>PDOP Parks</u>	<i>n</i>	Region				
		North	N Central	Central	S Central	South
Overall (row) % of Respondents	558	19%	20%	27%	17%	16%
Scoville Park	358	18%	25%	25%	15%	16%
Austin Gardens	273	18%	28%	29%	13%	12%
Rehm Park	257	16%	12%	18%	26%	27%
Taylor Park	254	32%	27%	12%	13%	16%
Mills Park	140	7%	18%	47%	19%	9%
Barrie Center/Park	175	9%	11%	17%	26%	37%
Lindberg Park	188	41%	15%	18%	11%	14%
Longfellow Center/Park	162	9%	19%	16%	35%	21%
Maple Park	147	10%	8%	15%	26%	41%
Fox Center/Park	121	10%	18%	15%	42%	15%
Field Center/Park	110	47%	25%	6%	9%	13%
Euclid Square Park	118	11%	7%	20%	29%	33%
Stevenson Center/Park	118	16%	30%	26%	15%	14%
Andersen Center/Park	78	38%	37%	3%	13%	10%
Carroll Center/Park	83	14%	6%	7%	31%	42%
Randolph Park	41	3%	9%	68%	8%	13%
Wenonah Park	18	10%	17%	26%	27%	20%

○ = statistically higher regional response

Comparing the regional “draws” for PDOP facilities, this regional pattern is less evident as residents from throughout Oak Park tend to report recent visits to most facilities.

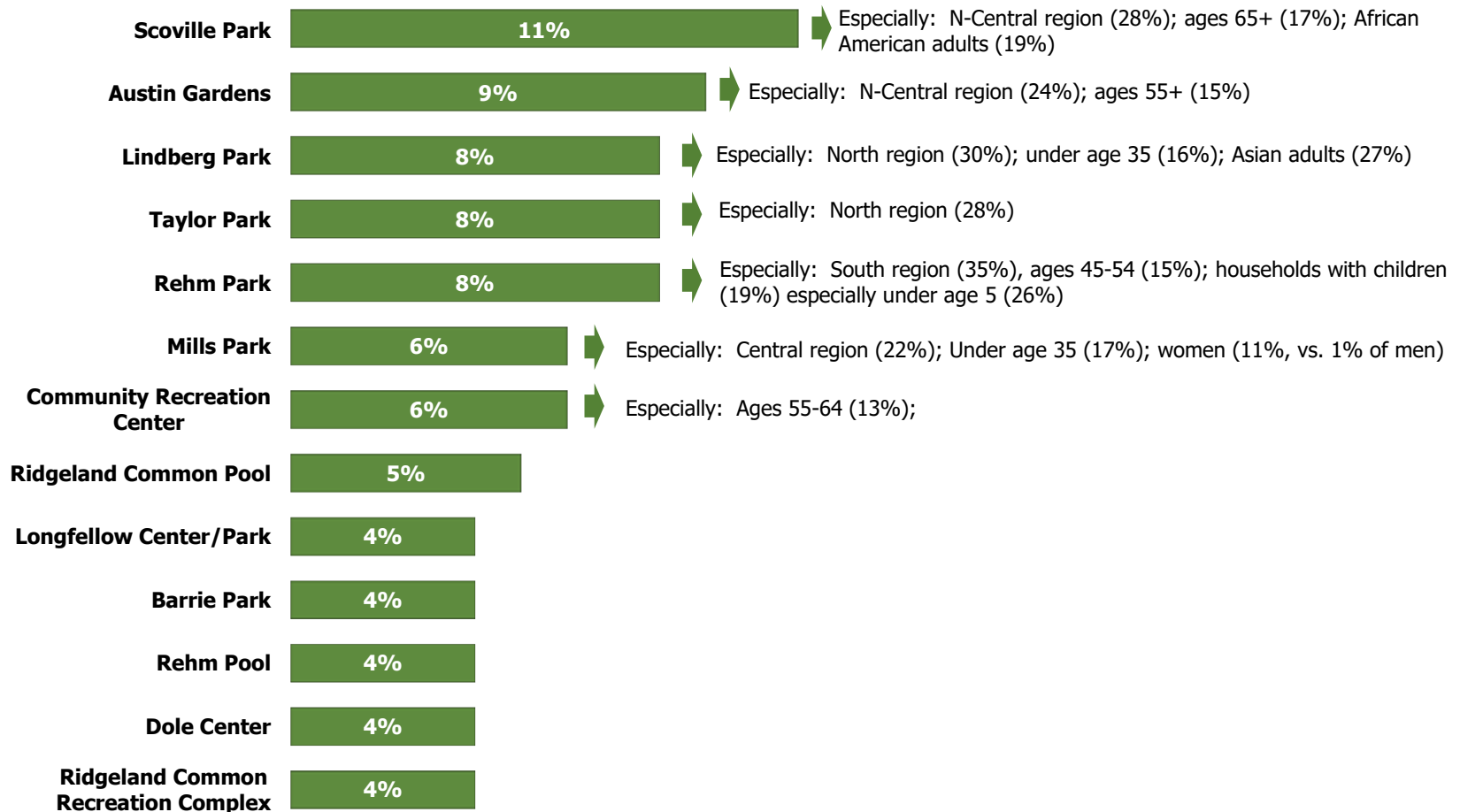
➤ The few statistically significant regional differences indicate that:

- Ridgeland Pool tends to attract N-central residents
- Pleasant Home tends to draw visitors from the Central region
- Dole Center is visited most often by those in the North region.

<u>PDOP Facilities</u>	<i>n</i>	Region				
		North	N Central	Central	S Central	South
Overall (row) % of Respondents	558	19%	20%	27%	17%	16%
Oak Park Conservatory	276	14%	23%	28%	21%	14%
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	176	23%	27%	18%	19%	13%
Rehm Pool	194	16%	16%	22%	24%	23%
Ridgeland Common Pool	173	22%	29%	18%	18%	13%
Pleasant Home	136	10%	24%	43%	12%	10%
Community Recreation Center	151	21%	13%	20%	26%	20%
Elizabeth F Cheney Mansion	159	13%	29%	25%	23%	10%
Gymnastics and Recreation Center	108	26%	21%	17%	18%	18%
Dole Center	116	33%	22%	13%	22%	11%
Paul Hruby Ice Arena	75	23%	12%	25%	16%	24%
Austin Gardens Education Center	45	12%	20%	47%	7%	13%

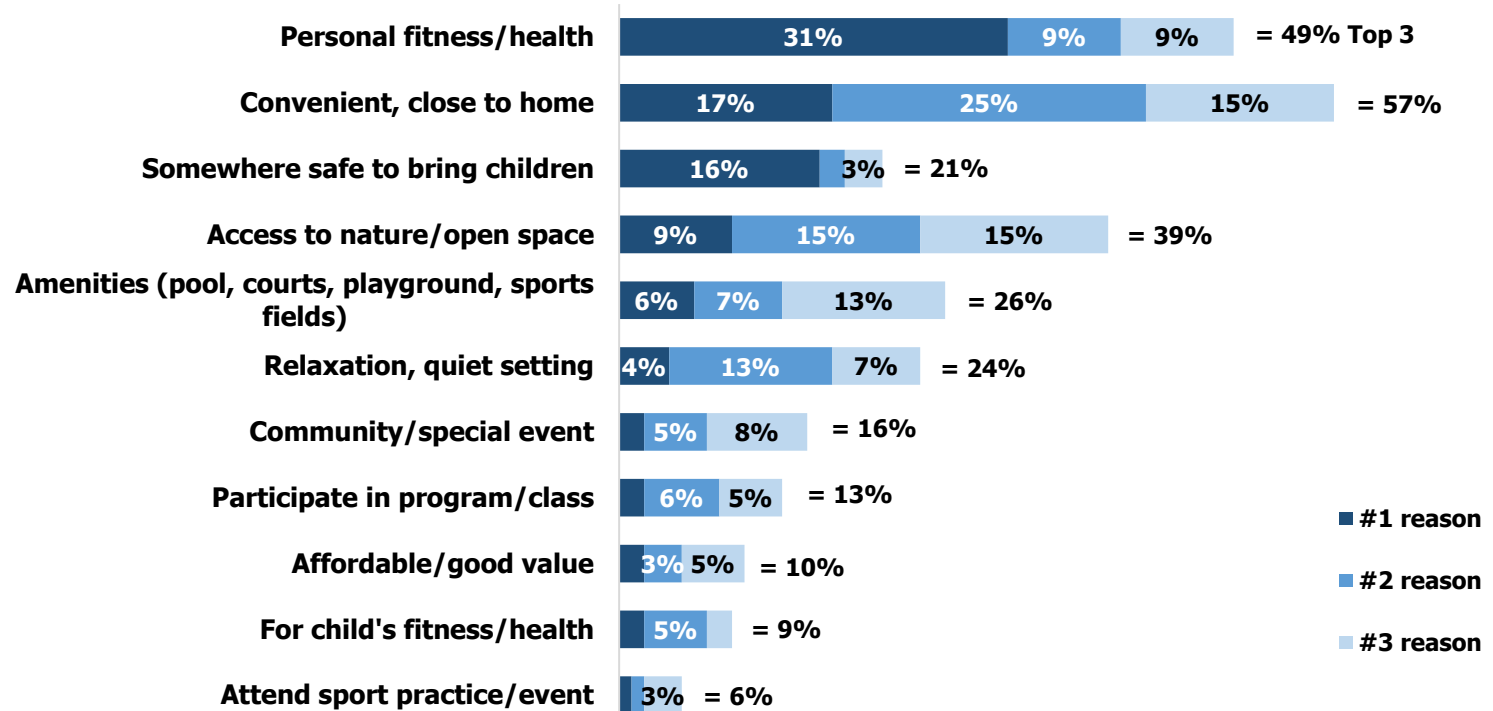
 = statistically higher regional response

Roughly one in ten respondents report that Scoville Park and Austin Gardens are their most visited PDOP locations (especially older residents and those in the N-Central region). Lindberg Park and Mills Park tend to attract younger adults most often.

Most Visited PDOP Parks/Playgrounds/Facilities Visited in Past Year


The #1 reason for visiting a PDOP location is for personal health and fitness, with convenience and proximity a strong secondary reason. Those with children tend to cite safety as the top reason, while the broader population rank enjoying natural setting among their top reasons.

Most Visited PDOP Parks/Playgrounds/Facilities Visited in Past Year



Renters, and those without children tend to use District locations for their personal health and fitness, and out of convenience/proximity to where they live. The relatively few differences among those citing “convenience/proximity” indicate ample options and locations throughout Oak Park.

- As reported, those with children tend to use the PDOP for safe locations and activities. This is especially true for those in the North and South regions, along with men and higher-income households.

Significant Differences: Top Reasons for Using PDOP Parks/Facilities

	#1 Reason	Top 3 Reasons
Personal fitness/health	<u>31% Overall</u> - N-Central (41%) - Under age 35 (42%) - Renters (41%, vs. 24% of homeowners) - No children in household (38%, vs. 13% of those with children)	<u>49% Overall</u> - North (58%), N-Central (58%), and S-Central regions (57%) - Under age 35 (60%), 55-64 (59%) - Renters (59%, vs. 42% of homeowners) - CRC members (73%, vs. 46% of non-members) - No children in household (58%, vs. 27% of those with children)
Convenient, close to home	<u>17% Overall</u> - HH income <\$50K (36%) - No children in household (20%, vs. 10% of those with children)	<u>57% Overall</u> - Renters (65%, vs. 51% of homeowners) - No children in household (61%, vs. 47% of those with children)
Somewhere safe to bring children	<u>16% Overall</u> - North (22%) and South regions (28%) - Ages 35-44 (29%), 45-54 (23%) - Homeowners (23%, vs. 5% of renters) - Men (21%, vs. 12% of women) - Lived in Oak Park <25 yrs. (20%) - HH income \$200K+ (27%) - PDOP program participants (23%) - Have children in household (40%), especially under age 5 (54%)	<u>21% Overall</u> - North (30%) and South regions (32%) - Ages 35-44 (42%), 45-54 (28%) - Homeowners (32%, vs. 5% of renters) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (37%) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (25%), \$200K+ (37%) - PDOP program participants (30%, vs. 9% of non-participants) - Have children in HH (55%), especially under age 5 (77%)

Younger adults, the Central region, and those without children especially go for the relaxed/quiet settings of PDOP parks, while non-white residents (especially Hispanic/Latino adults) appreciate the value that the District represents (along with CRC members)

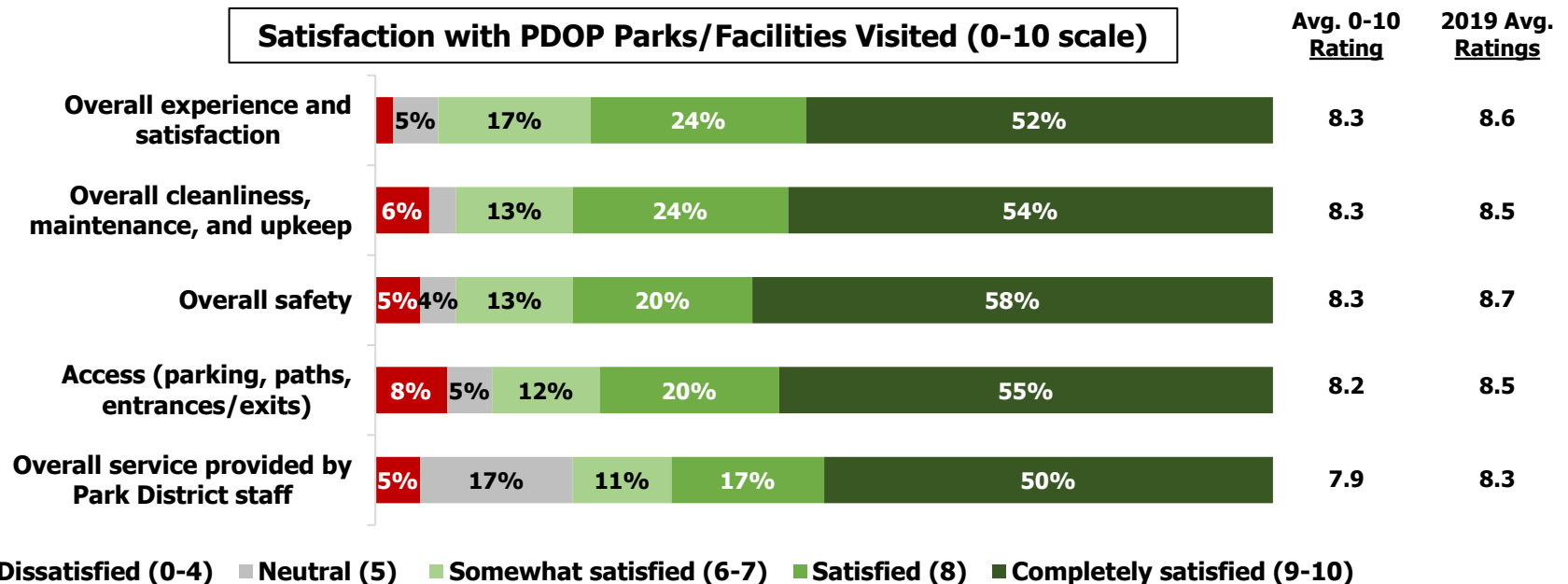
- The remaining top reasons had relatively few differences due to the smaller number of cases/responses.

Significant Differences: Top Reasons for Using PDOP Parks/Facilities (cont'd)
--

	#1 Reason	Top 3 Reasons
Relaxation, quiet setting	<u>4% Overall</u> - Central region (10%) - Under age 35 (8%) - Non-CRC members (5%) - No children in HH (5%, vs. 1% of those with children)	<u>24% Overall</u> - Central region (34%) - Under age 35 (46%) - Renters (33%, vs. 18% of homeowners) - White residents (28%) - HH income \$50K-\$99K (35%) - Non-PDOP program participants (34%, vs. 17% of participants) - Non-CRC members (27%, vs. 5% of members) - No children in HH (30%, vs. 9% of those with children)
Community/ special event	<u>2% Overall</u> < no statistically meaningful differences >	<u>16% Overall</u> - N-Central (22%) and Central regions (22%) - Ages 55+ (21%) - African American adults (26%) - HH income <\$50K (27%) - PDOP program participants (16%, vs. 6% of non-participants)
Participate in program/class	<u>2% Overall</u> < no statistically meaningful differences >	<u>13% Overall</u> - Ages 45-54 (18%) - Women (17%, vs. 8% of men) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (25%), 15-24 yrs. (18%) - PDOP program participants (18%)
Affordable, good value	<u>2% Overall</u> - Ages 55-64 (7%) - Non-whites (8%, vs. 1% of white adults) - PDOP program participants (4%, vs. 1% of non-participants)	<u>10% Overall</u> - S-Central (15% and South regions (14%) - Hispanic/Latino adults (28%) - PDOP program participants (15%, vs. 4% of non-participants) - CRC members (22%, vs. 8% of non-members)

PDOP park and facility users continue to be very satisfied with their overall experience at these locations, and with all attributes – especially overall cleanliness and safety. These scores remain very strong despite slight declines since the 2019 survey.

- Consistently, 67% or more users remain satisfied with each attribute, including a majority (50%+) who are “completely satisfied” (scores of 9+ on a 0-10 scale).
 - Note that fewer than one in ten users are dissatisfied with any of the attributes tested.
- The average 0-10 ratings (7.9 or higher) are very strong as well. Comparing these averages by subgroups, no segment is dissatisfied. The lowest average score (7.3 from those in the South region on overall access) is still positive.



Consistently, higher scores tend to come from the North and Central regions, with Asian adults especially satisfied with overall accessibility and staff service.

➤ Lower-income residents also tend to be more satisfied than average.

	Lower than Avg. Ratings	Higher than Avg. Ratings
Overall experience (8.3)	<i>< no statistically meaningful differences ></i>	
Overall cleanliness, maintenance, and upkeep (8.3)	- South region (7.7) - Ages 45-54 (8.0) - Men (8.0) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (7.9)	- Central region (8.7) - Ages 65+ (8.6) - Women (8.6) - HH income <\$50K (9.4) - PDOP program participants (8.7, vs. 8.1 of non-participants)
Overall safety (8.3)	- South region (7.6) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (8.1)	- North (8.8) and Central (8.6) regions - HH income <\$50K (9.1)
Overall access - parking, paths, entrances/exits (8.2)	- South region (7.3) - Hispanic adults(7.6) - HH income \$50K+ (8.1)	- North (8.6), Central (8.5), and S-Central (8.4) regions - Asian adults (9.3) - HH income <\$50K (9.2)
Level of service provided by park district staff (7.9)	- White adults (7.8) - HH income \$100K+ (7.6)	- Asian adults (9.0) - HH income <\$50K (9.0)

Residents giving lower satisfaction scores (6 or below) cite a wide range of concerns, mostly centered around limited parking, presence of homeless people at the parks, suggestions for staff (friendlier service, more supervision), and cleanliness (e.g., litter, dog droppings).

Reasons for Dissatisfaction with PDOP Parks or Facilities (multiple responses, n=100 respondents)

General, unspecific

n=41 responses

Limited parking (n=4); bathrooms locked/not accessible (n=3); (n=2 each: Drug use at parks; homeless people; need more pickleball courts; unsafe traffic/crossings nearby; costs/fees too high; need more programs/variety; longer pool hours; lack of staff; staff service issues) (n=1 each: Upgrade splash pad; more tot lots; more trees; lifeguards should enforce rules; more natural landscapes; too much litter; dirty facilities; tennis courts too busy; better dog control/leashed; safety concerns; more shade at dog parks; more benches at dog parks; more basketball courts; more/variety play equipment; more sustainable practices)

Maple Park

13

Homeless people (n=6); (n=2 each: Unsafe; too much litter); (n=1 each: Lack of tree trimming; unsafe traffic; unruly adults)

Rehm Pool

8

Lack of parking (n=3); more supervision/enforcing rules from lifeguards (n=2); (n=1 each: more lap swimming hours; better umbrella benches; not well-maintained)

Austin Gardens

7

Too much dog poop (n=2); cracked sidewalk (n=2); (n=1 each: too many dogs; homeless people; lack of parking)

Scoville Park

7

Homeless people (n=3); (n=1 each: loud teenagers; dog poop; litter; "woke-agendized" park)

Ridgeland Common

6

(n=1 each: Remove gate barriers for walkers; rude desk staff; more dog park shade; too much spending on field improvements; fitness equipment is old; lack of parking)

Ridgeland Pool

6

Lack of parking (n=4); (n=1 each: ducks in the pool; poor facility management)

CRC

6

Nicer staff (n=2); (n=1 each: behavior of children using CRC; lack of staff supervision; competes with private fitness clubs; better running track)

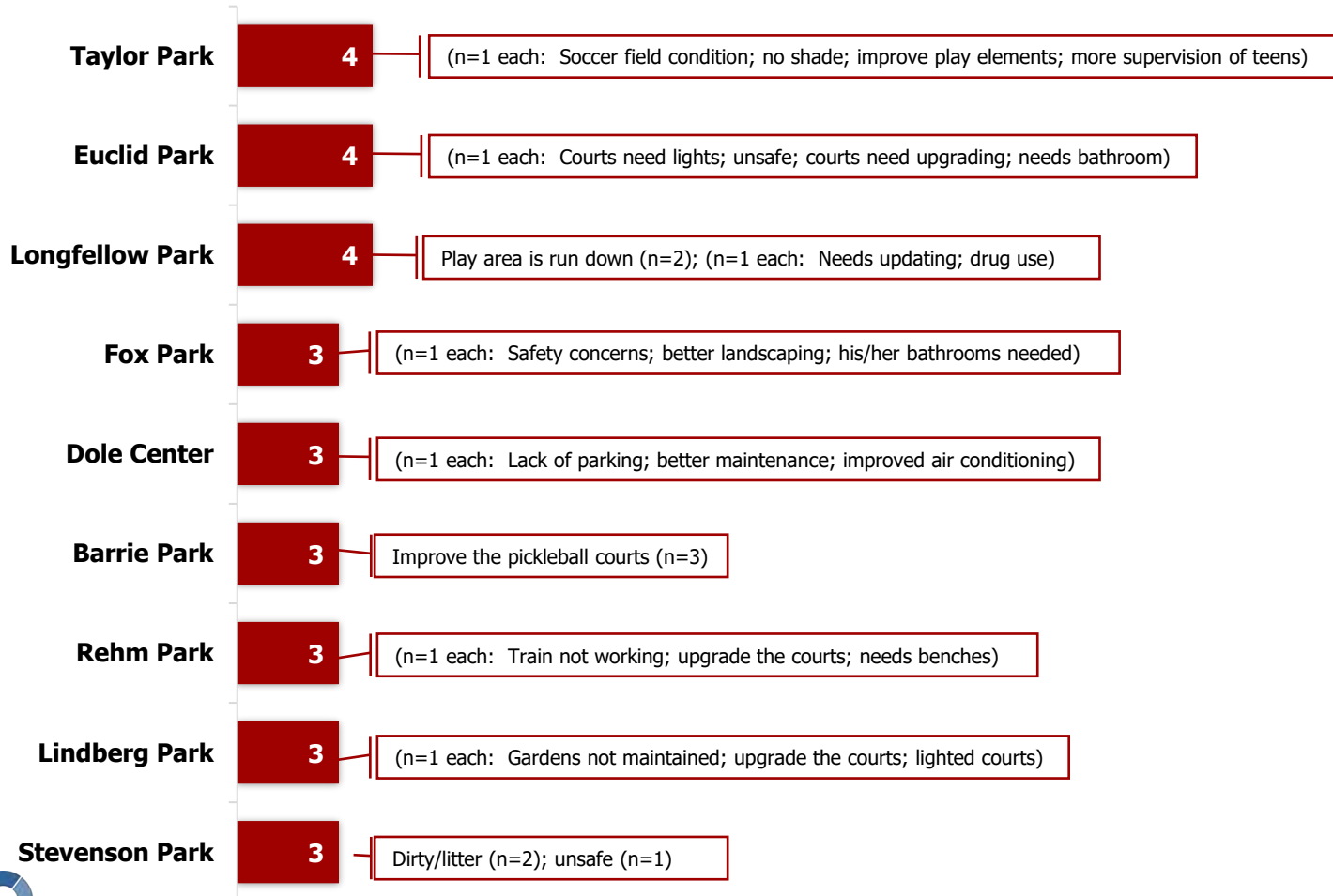
Mills Park

6

Homeless people (n=2); (n=1 each: general dislike; dog pool; safety concerns; needs benches)

Feedback regarding dissatisfaction for additional PDOP parks/facilities (cited by at least n=3 to 4 respondents each) are listed below. All others were mentioned less often (n=2 or fewer).

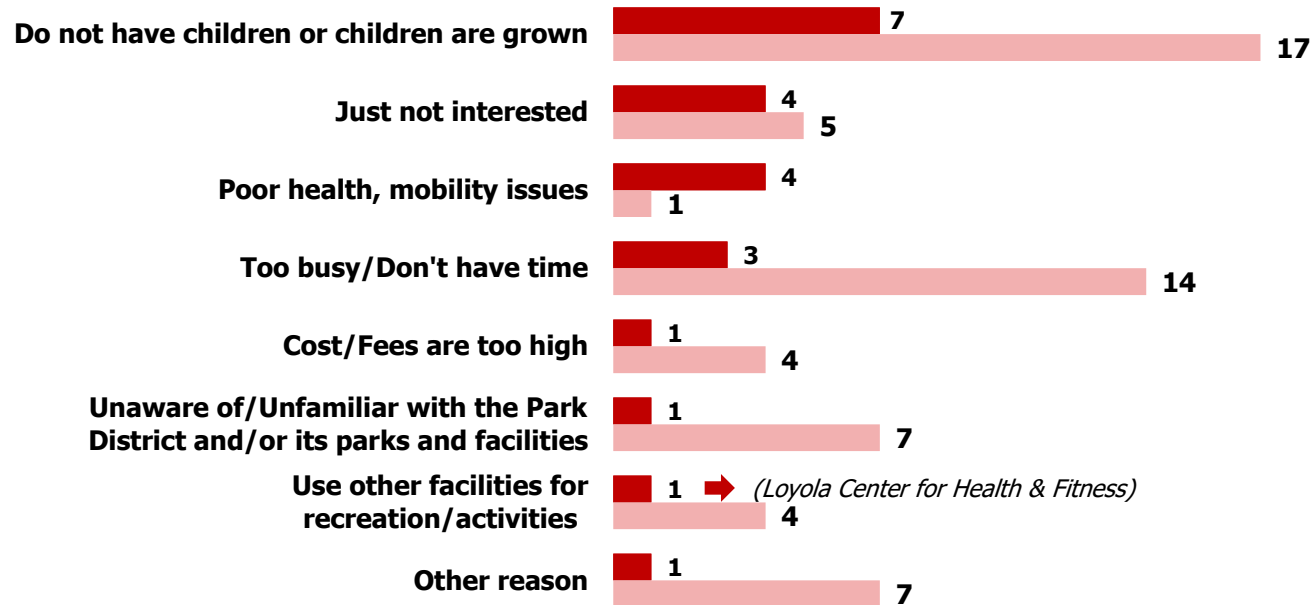
**Reasons for Dissatisfaction with PDOP Parks or Facilities – cont'd
(multiple responses, n=100 respondents)**



Among the few (2%) who report no visits to PDOP parks or facilities in the past year, the top reason continues to be not having young children at home (continuing a perception that the District focuses on children and young families and is less relevant to older adults).

- The rest usually attribute their non-usage to a lack of interest, health issues/limitations, and a lack of time (mentioned far less often now than in 2019).
- Similarly, non-users now appear to be more familiar with PDOP parks and facilities (given the big drop in lack of awareness in 2019).

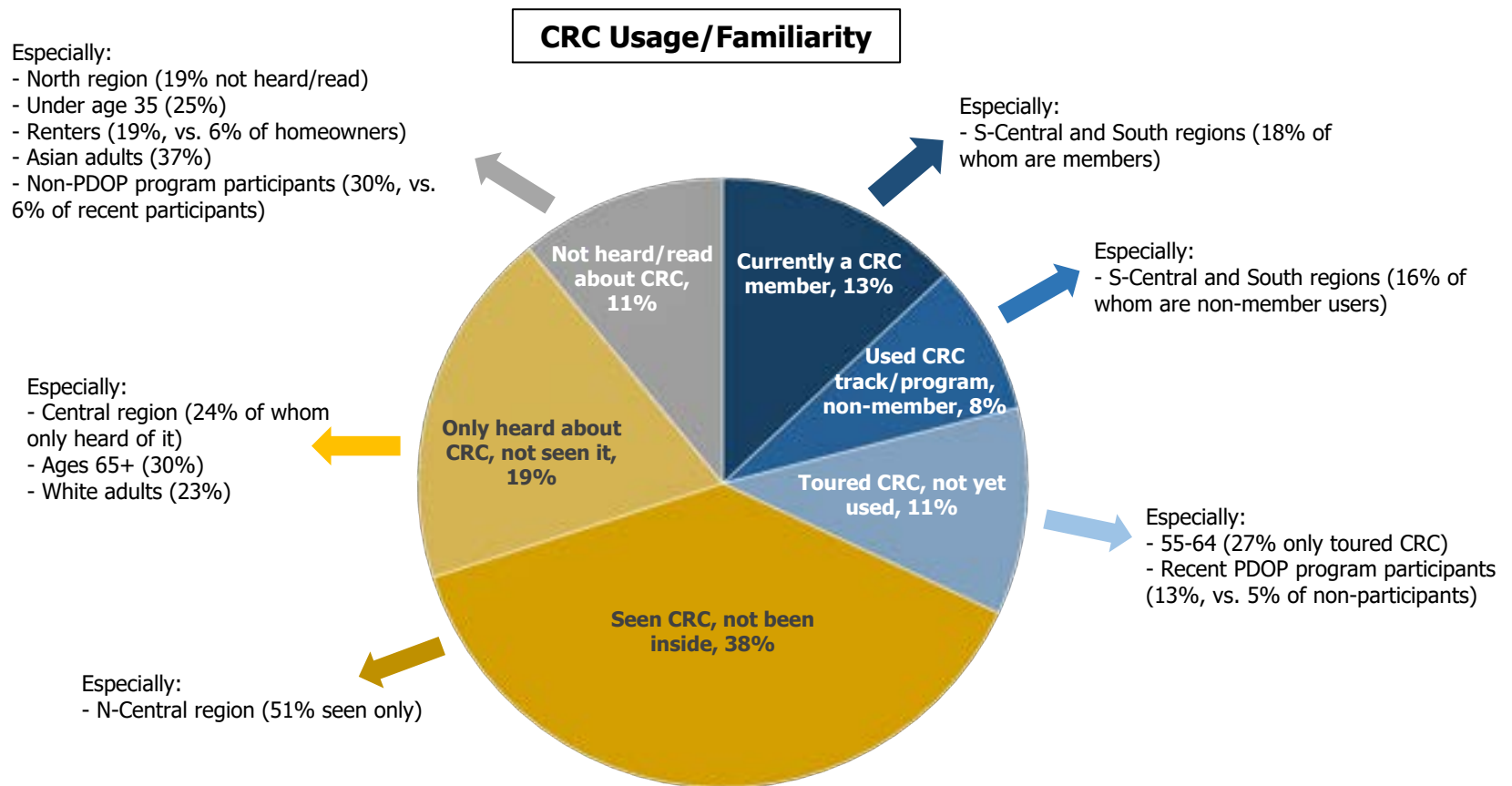
Reasons for Non-PDOP Park/Facility Usage (multiple responses, n=15 non-visitors in 2023, responses shown in absolute n)



IV. Usage and Satisfaction with New Community Recreation Center (CRC)

Overall, nearly a third (32%) of residents report visiting the new CRC, including 13% who are current members, and 8% who have used the facility as non-members. The remaining 11% have visited or toured the CRC, but not yet used it.

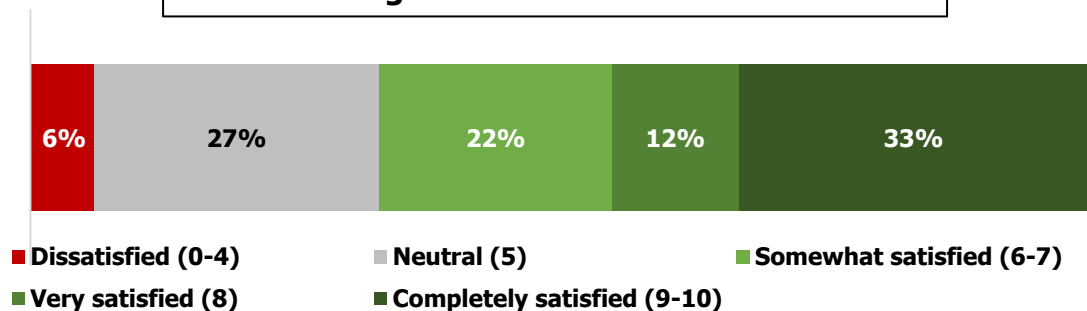
- Most of the non-visitors are familiar with the facility, with a plurality (38%) having seen it. Currently, only 11% are unaware of the CRC. Most of the differences are regional (with highest usage among households in the S-Central and South regions). The youngest adults, renters, and Asian residents tend to be unfamiliar with the facility.



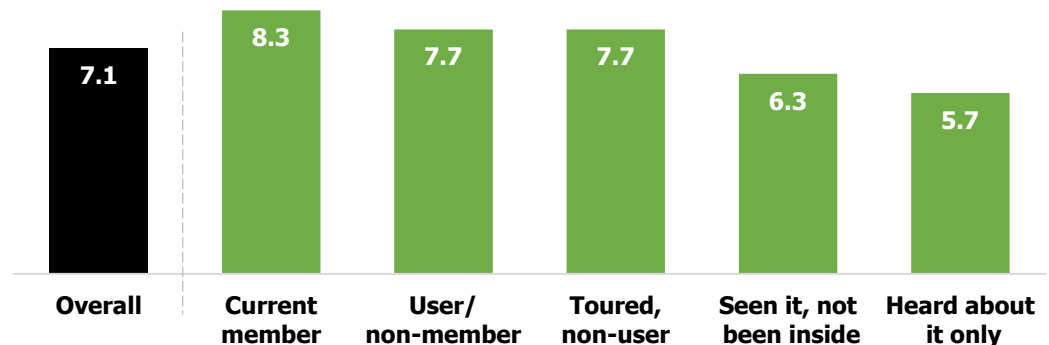
Those who are at least familiar with the new CRC facility express strong satisfaction overall. Two-thirds (67%) are satisfied, including 33% who are completely satisfied. Only 6% give negative feedback, and the remaining 27% are neutral (probably least familiar).

- The average satisfaction score (on the 0-10 scale) is a very positive 7.1.
- The highest satisfaction ratings come from recent CRC users (especially members), followed by those who have visited the facility but not yet used it.
- Residents who have only heard about the facility tend to give more neutral ratings (no strong opinions either way).
- Demographically and regionally, satisfaction with the CRC is consistent.
- **Clearly, direct experience with the CRC has the biggest impact on one's overall satisfaction with the facility and its amenities.**

**Satisfaction with CRC (0-10 scale, n=328):
Average Satisfaction Score = 7.1**



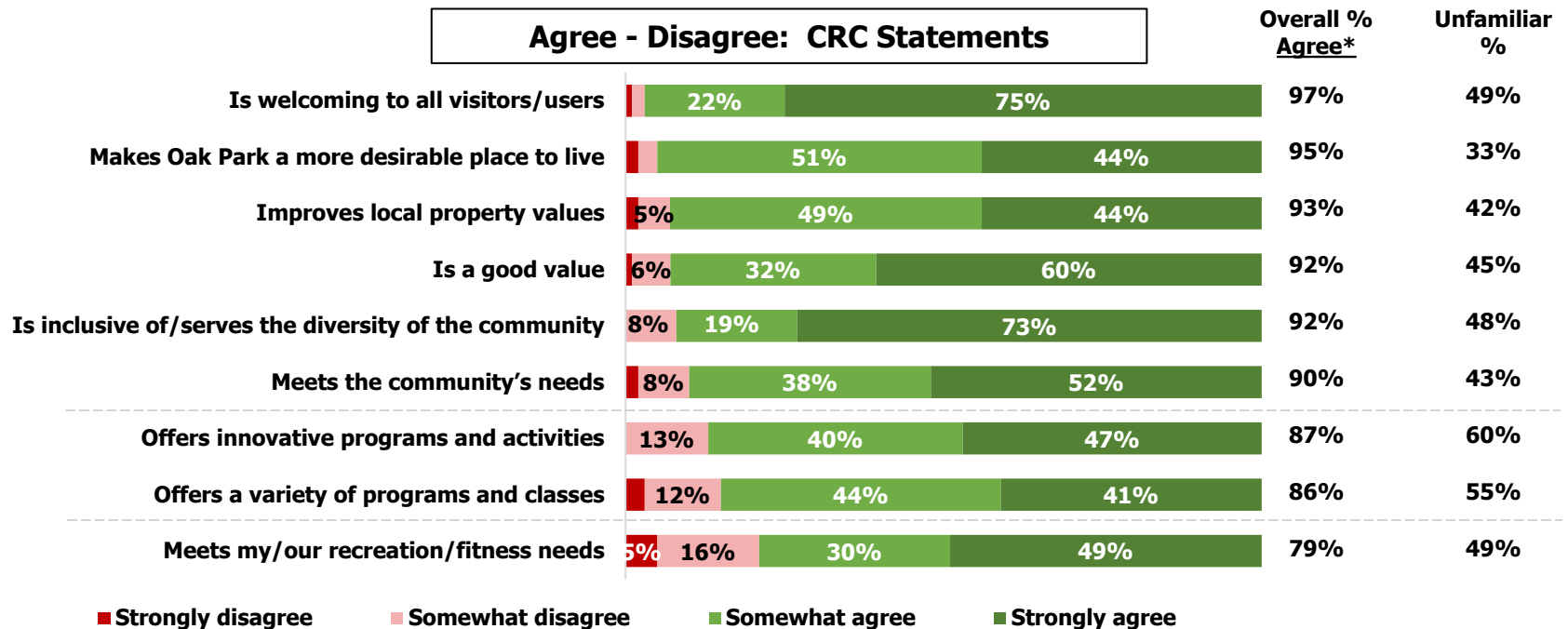
Average Satisfaction Rating by CRC Usage/Familiarity



Q13. [IF FAMILIAR WITH CRC = n=328] Please indicate your overall opinion of the new Community Recreation Center CRC rating your satisfaction on a scale from 0 (completely dissatisfied) through 10 (completely satisfied), with 5 a neutral score.

When testing statements about the benefits and impact of the new CRC, many respondents (33% to 60% of those familiar with the facility) were unable to express an opinion. The rest represent a strong consensus in agreement with most statements.

- Two statements especially stand out with over 73% who “strongly agree” that the CRC is welcoming to all, and is inclusive of and serves the diverse needs of the community.
- Between 14% and 21% disagree that the facility offers the variety of programs that they seek or meets their needs. Most often, these respondents report interest in or a need for an indoor pool, larger workout area, and/or lower fees (see page 56).



Q14. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the new CRC. If you are not familiar enough to rate any item, simply select "Unfamiliar". The new Community Recreation Center/CRC:

* Among those familiar enough to give a response.

NOTE: values <4% are not shown. Overall agree % may be adjusted due to rounding.

Among the statements garnering the most overall agreement, close to one in four residents in the South region and adults ages 45-54 disagree that the CRC is “inclusive” and/or “meets the community’s needs”.

Significant Differences: CRC Agree/Disagree Statements

	Most Likely to Disagree	Most Likely to Agree
Is welcoming to all visitors/users	(3% overall) <i>< no differences, 95%+ of all subgroups agree ></i>	(97% overall) - Renters (100%, vs. 95% of homeowners)
Makes Oak Park a more desirable place to live	(5% overall) - Lived in Oak Park 15-24 yrs. (15%) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (12%)	(95% overall) - Lived in Oak Park < 15 yrs. (98%)
Improves local property values	(7% overall) - Ages 65+ (15%)	(93% overall) - Under age 35 (100%) - HH income <\$50K (100%)
Is a good value	(8% overall) - Ages 65+ (19%) - Non-members (10%)	(92% overall) - Ages 35-54 (96%) - CRC members (99%)
Is inclusive of/serves the diversity of the community	(8% overall) - South region (20%) - Ages 45-54 (24%) - Non-members (12%)	(92% overall) - North (97%), Central (97%), and S-Central regions (96%) - Under age 45 (99%) - CRC members (100%)
Meets the community’s needs	(10% overall) - South region (24%) - Ages 45-54 (24%) - White adults (13%) - Non-members (13%)	(90% overall) - Central (96%) and S-Central regions (95%) - African Americans (97%) - CRC members (100%)

The remaining statements likewise tend to generate strongest agreement among households in the Central and S-Central regions. However, some key exceptions emerge among these statements.

- **Current CRC members are more likely to disagree that the facility offers innovative programs and activities.** Likewise, residents in the North region and adults aged 35-44 tend to feel this way, and also disagree that the CRC offers a variety of programs/classes.
- Similarly, significant numbers (28% to 40%) of respondents in the South, ages 45-54, and white adults indicate that the CRC does **not** meet their recreation or fitness needs.

Significant Differences: CRC Agree/Disagree Statements (cont'd)

	Most Likely to Disagree	Most Likely to Agree
Offers innovative programs and activities	(13% overall) - North region (29%) - Ages 35-44 (24%) - CRC members (22%)	(87% overall) - S-Central (95%) and South regions (94%) - Ages 55-64 (98%) - Non-members (93%)
Offers a variety of programs and classes	(14% overall) - North region (33%) - Ages 35-44 (30%)	(86% overall) - Central (96%) and S-Central regions (90%) - Under age 35 (94%), 45-64 (93%)
Meets my/our recreation and fitness needs	(21% overall) - South region (39%) - Ages 45-54 (40%) - White residents (28%) - CRC non-members (29%)	(79% overall) - S-Central region (88%) - Ages 55-64 (91%) - Asian residents (96%) - CRC members (95%)

Respondents who disagreed with any of the CRC statements were asked to explain their answer. Most often, they cite a lack of an indoor pool, a relatively small workout/weight room at the CRC, costs and fees, and/or a lack of program variety as their top complaints.

- Most of these comments come from those that feel the current facility is not meeting their needs or offering a variety of innovative programs or activities/classes.

CRC Statements: Top Reasons for Disagreement

Sample Verbatims



"It's got a gym; that's not super innovative. Maybe when an indoor pool shows up, I'll change my answer."

"Community needs an affordable indoor pool; not happening here nor at the high school."

"An indoor pool would have been really great to include. I know it's a larger community issue and also being considered for the high school."

"Very disappointed with the fitness studio; too small, no ventilation, no sunshades. I get overheated, and there are no fans."

"The size of the workout area is way too small; this is where most users are! Please consider reallocating space even though difficult now that building is finished. Very impressive place otherwise."

"Tighter spaces than I'd prefer to work out in."

"It is not inclusive if everything costs money even if you are a resident."

"I didn't see any classes that would be of interest and/or weren't associated with additional costs beyond a membership fee."

"I don't think this one place increased my property value."

"Most desirable places to live have a rec center; not sure it improves local property values."

"It was an unnecessary expense as there are many athletic facilities in the area (I belong to one of them)."

"Some staff members are just not enforcing rules or are not friendly."

"The staff did not have customer service skills."

"It competes with the YMCA, FFC, other smaller gyms; important contributors to our community."

"It doesn't open early enough in the morning for my husband."

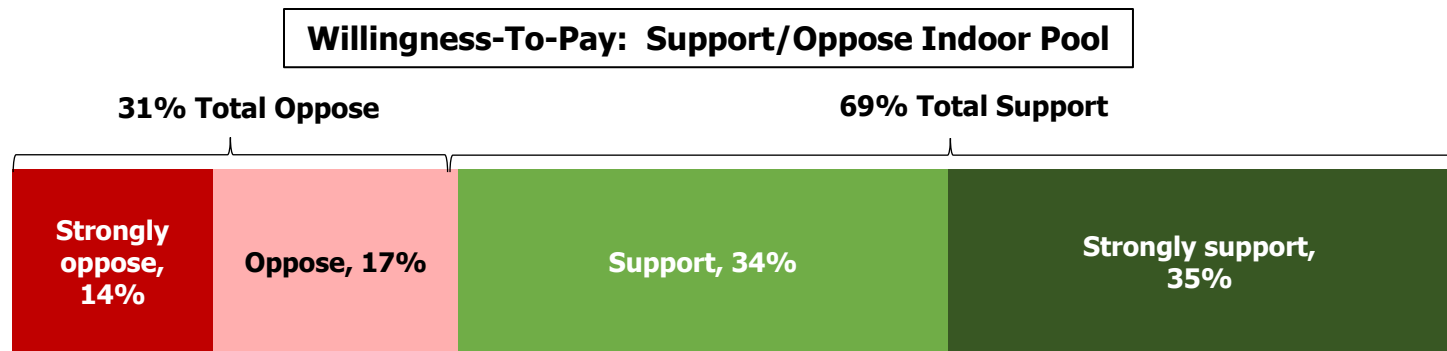
V. Willingness-to-Pay Question: Indoor Pool

By a 2:1 margin, residents express support for a property tax increase to help pay for the cost of an indoor community pool. In fact, slightly more respondents strongly support a new indoor pool (35%) vs. all opponents combined (31% total for strongly+not strongly opposed).

- Overall, the strongest support tends to come from younger and “newer” residents to Oak Park, as well as households in the Central region (see next page). Women and renters also tend to be more willing to pay for a new indoor pool facility (more so than men and/or homeowners).
- Opposition to a new indoor pool tends to increase with age and length of residence in Oak Park (especially ages 65+ and 25+ year local residents). Those in the South region and men are also among the most opposed.

That said, none of these segments express majority opposition for an indoor pool; they are simply more evenly divided. For example:

- 56% of those in the South are supportive, vs. 44% opposed (compared to 31% opposed overall – see next page)
- 57% of those who lived in Oak Park for at least 25 years are supportive, vs. 43% opposed
- 53% of residents aged 65+ are supportive, vs. 47% opposed
- 56% of men are supportive, vs. 44% opposed



Q27. Oak Park residents have asked for an indoor community pool with amenities including open swim sessions, swimming lessons, 25-yard lap lanes, and a separate warm-water therapy pool. The cost to add this pool (and amenities) would require a voter-approved property tax increase of (on average) about \$90 per year for a median-valued home of about \$400,000. Knowing it would result in higher property taxes, would you oppose or support this property tax referendum to pay for an indoor pool? (Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.)

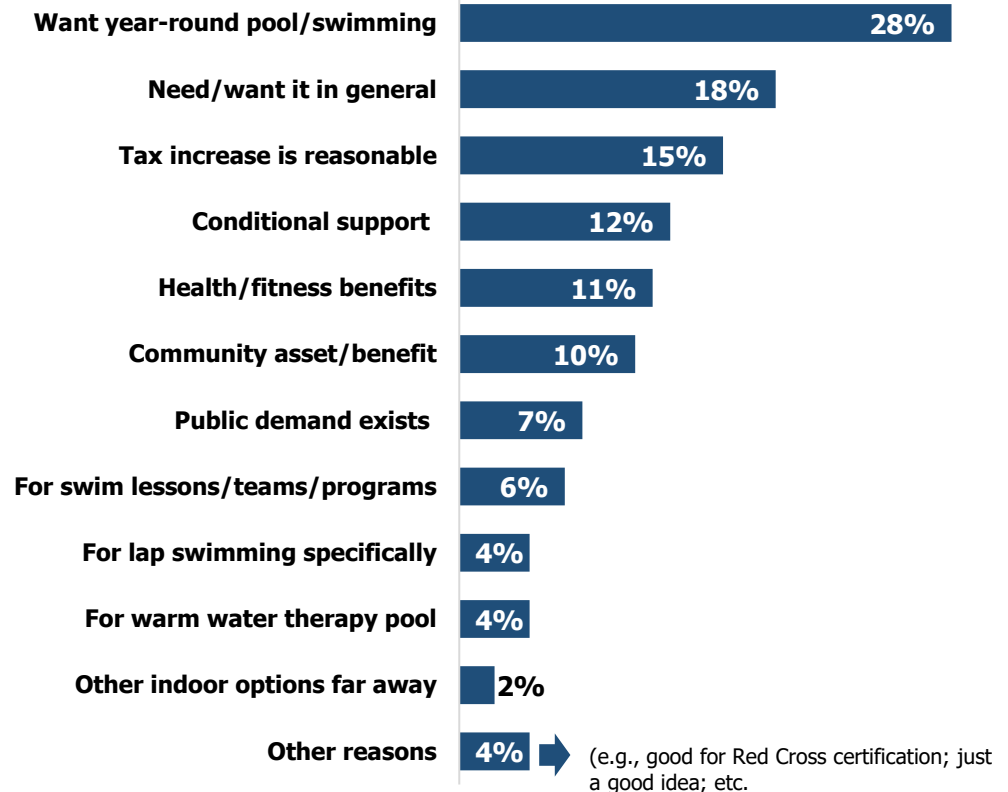
Significant Support/Opposition Differences: Willingness-to-Pay for New Indoor Pool

	Most Likely to Be Opposed		Most Likely to Support	
Indoor Pool (open swim sessions, swimming lessons, 25- yard lap lanes, separate warm-water therapy pool)	<u>Overall Opposed (31%)</u>		<u>Overall Support (69%)</u>	
	- South region (44%) - Ages 55-64 (37%), 65+ (47%) - Homeowners (38%) - Men (44%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (43%)		- Central region (78%) - Under age 35 (90%) - Renters (80%) - Women (79%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (79%), 15-24 yrs. (77%)	
	<u>Strongly Opposed (14%)</u>	<u>Opposed (17%)</u>	<u>Support (34%)</u>	<u>Strongly Support (35%)</u>
	- South region (30%) - Ages 65+ (21%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (22%)	- Ages 65+ (27%) - Men (25%) - Homeowners (23%)	- Under age 35 (51%) - Lived in Oak Park 15-24 yrs. (54%)	- Central region (47%) - Ages 35-44 (42%) - Lived in Oak Park <15 yrs. (43%)

When supporters are asked (in an open-ended format) why they favor a property tax increase to pay for an indoor pool, the top reasons reflect a personal interest or likely usage of the facility, followed by 15% who feel this facility would be worth the proposed tax increase.

- Twelve percent express support but said it depends on certain factors, most often:
 - If there is still a partnership or collaborative opportunity with OPRF HSD200 on an indoor pool
 - If a new facility would offer sufficient hours for swimming (e.g., lap swimming during evenings)
 - If pool memberships and/or water therapy programs are affordable.
- Others seek the health and fitness benefits that an indoor pool would bring (keeping people active – 11%), as well the benefit that the facility would bring to the community in general (10%).
- Examples of the reasons for supporting this proposed facility are on the following pages.

**Reasons for Supporting Indoor Pool
(top open-ended multiple responses, n=287)**



Sample Verbatims: Top Reasons for Referendum Support

Want year-round pool/swimming (28%)

"We need to have access to a pool year-round. Swimming is a necessary life skill for all."

"Access to year-round swimming is good for all age groups. I couldn't understand, why we couldn't get an indoor pool at the CRC?"

"Everyone in my family swims and there are no local options for open swim opens, or laps, in winter."

"Because we would like to be able to swim year-round. It is excellent exercise."

"I think it would be great to have a year-round pool facility for the community and the additional cost would be well worth it to me."

"There is a lot of poor weather in Oak Park so it would be great to have a swimming option for those seasons."

"Swimming is a great thing to learn and great exercise even for those with injuries or older folks. We need this in winter."

Need/want an indoor pool/would use it (18%)

"I live in a seniors building, and the pool would be nice for us to use."

"It is a needed and a necessary resource for a variety of populations. I currently drive 30 minutes for pool exercise recommended by my doctor."

"It supports a community need. I would use it for lap swim. Reasonable cost for the community benefit."

"Oak Park doesn't currently have an affordable indoor aquatic venue."

"I would use the amenities that this referendum supports, and I value having a place where everyone in the community can go to seek out affordable fitness activities."

Tax increase/cost is reasonable (15%)

"I think \$90 is a very reasonable price for such a desirable amenity."

"This cost is significantly less than the price of a membership to a private gym with pool access. It would be a good value. There are also limited private gyms with pools in Oak Park (only two that I am aware of). Plus, the outdoor swim season here is short and cannot be lengthened despite warmer, longer summers because of lack of lifeguard availability when school is in session."

"If the projected tax increase is correct, it is not unreasonable. I think the proposed pool would be well used."

"It would clearly be useful. We have to pay more to go into indoor private pool in winter. We would go probably more to a swimming pool in winter if there was an indoor community pool."

"It's much better than paying high rates at gyms that offer same. Also, another great selling point of Oak Park living."

Sample Verbatims: Top Reasons for Referendum Support (cont'd)

Conditional support (12%)

"Access to swimming is important to all; at the same time, collaboration with the school districts, specifically School District 200, should be considered."

"I would only support it if the Park District worked with the high school to create one solution."

"The High School and Park District should have collaborated on this."

"An indoor pool would be nice, but maybe the Park District can work with District 200 to make their new facilities available to the public."

"I would want it to go specifically to a pool that has moderate, not top of the line features. Every time this town does something, we go for the most expensive. We don't need to build the most amazing state of the art space. We need a space to teach the life skill of swimming to all members of the community. Something safe, sustainable, and built for the size of the anticipated use. I'd want WSSRA to have space in the pool weekly for their programs as well."

"Great option for families. But the cost for lessons should be reasonable, considering our property taxes would already paying for the facility."

"If it has the ability to lap swim, year-round swim lessons, and year-round open swim for kids was AFFORDABLE, in the same spirit as the very affordable CRC membership, I would support it."

"If it benefits the community then it might be worth it."

"If there were senior water classes that I could afford, I would support it."

"I would like to swim laps--ideally in the evening. Could we put roofs on the existing pools instead of building a 3rd pool?"

"\$90 is fine. But also depends on how much is the extra cost for membership for this pool."

Health/fitness benefits (11%)

"It would provide an additionally convenient sport facility to promote health and well-being of all age groups especially during long winter seasons."

"I think an indoor pool could be a tremendous add to the community, particularly for those for whom being able to swim makes the difference between keeping active vs. staying at home."

"Can help keep kids active, even in cold winter days."

"Swimming is an activity that anyone can engage in, from young children to seniors, and is a life skill. It affords socialization, fitness and exercise to all."

"Swimming is great exercise for all ages and a good life skill."

"This would be a valuable resource for health of older adults."

Community asset/benefit (10%)

"An indoor pool would be an excellent amenity for our community."

"Will provide increased scope of community services and help to maintain/raise property values."

"I see value in it for some residents, and I can see how it would enhance Oak Park's offerings as a community."

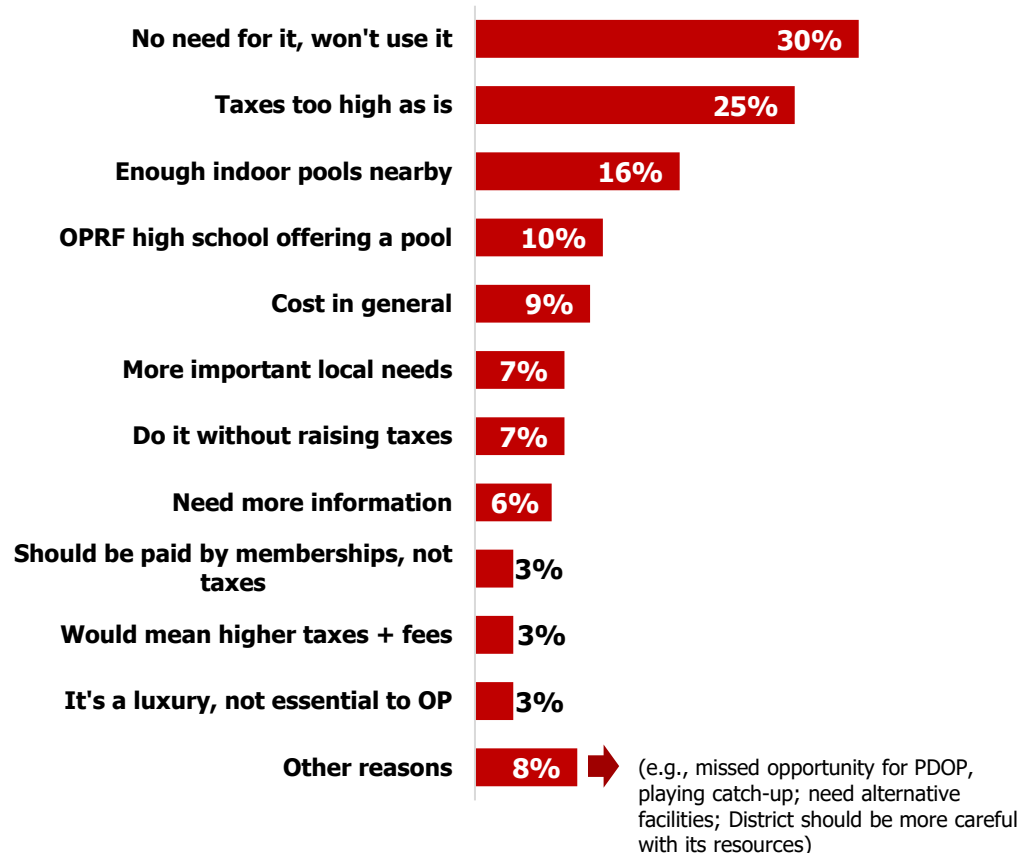
"Pool is an excellent and high value amenity."

"Indoor pool seems pretty basic for the parks department. This seems like a better use of money vs. the gymnastics center and hockey rink. Also, better than the \$100 million dollar school pool currently being proposed."

The top reasons among opponents of a possible property tax referendum for an indoor pool are not convinced that one is needed (with some citing existing indoor pools nearby) and/or that property taxes are high enough already and they do not want to pay more.

- These top three reasons account for a clear majority of anti-referendum/indoor pool reasons. Another 10% are opposed because they report that the high school is pursuing an indoor pool (and therefore the PDOP doesn't need one as well).
- Sample verbatim reasons from opponents are provided on the next few pages.

**Reasons for Opposing Indoor Pool
(top open-ended multiple responses, n=174)**



Sample Verbatims: Top Reasons for Referendum Opposition

No need for it/Won't use it (30%)

"I wouldn't use it and pools are a luxury."

"It does not seem overly important to me. The kids can swim in the summer. If adults want a pool, they can join a fitness club."

"I would not use this, there are several pools available already. I do not want to increase my already high taxes."

"Pool only appeals to small percentage of users, are expensive and redundant to summer pools. Repurpose ice rink to a workout facility while you are at it."

"Where I grew up, the community used the high school pool. I belong to Loyola Health Club and have no need for a community indoor pool."

"For 90 dollars per year, the swimmers could join a gym with a pool... And the rest of us could spend the same amount of money on something more valuable to ourselves like holiday programming and seasonal events at lower/no cost."

"That's another \$180 for our house, not to mention however much the High School pool will cost us. We would not use this pool. If Oak Park residents want a pool that would be used by a limited number of folks, let them pay for a private pool/swim club."

"I do not think that we would use an indoor pool. We would rather more funds be put into bettering the outdoor pools for the summer. The two pools we have often feel dangerous because of how crowded they are."

"Only because no one in my family would use it so it would be an additional expense for us with no added value."

Taxes too high already (25%)

"I think our tax burden is quite high already. An indoor pool sounds nice but not essential."

"We are already paying too much in property taxes. Not everyone is a swimmer. I'm a runner and there aren't any running paths or even water stations and I'm not complaining or making demands. I adapt."

"Taxpayers are being forced out of Oak Park."

"Can lead to a tax increase considering that Oak Park has already high taxes."

"Oak Park taxes are too high. We have to start learning to do without."

"At the rate taxes are going, it feels unlikely that our kids will be able to afford to live here."

"My taxes have more than doubled in 20 years. I will not vote for anything that increases my property taxes."

"Retired on a fixed income -- Oak Park property taxes are too high."

Enough indoor pools nearby (16%)

"YMCA has a pool and programs."

"Other options available nearby for year-round swimming. Our family would also not use it."

"We have two pools already and 2 high school pools plus the YMCA; that's enough water."

"There are other indoor pools on Oak Park, available for use beyond summertime."

"We have Rehm and Ridgeland pools as well as LFFC and Loyola Center for fitness availability for swimmers."

"If you need that, join a health club. There are plenty around here running promotions right now. Taxes are brutal enough in Oak Park."

"Investing in a pool for three months-a-year doesn't make sense; county taxes are already rising. We have enough pools for the population of Oak Park."

Sample Verbatims: Top Reasons for Referendum Opposition (cont'd)

OPRF High School pursuing a pool (10%)

"If the high school is building a pool using taxpayer money, it should be available to the community. We don't need to spend more on another pool."
"I oppose it because I think the Park District could have worked with the high school to share an indoor pool. Put a roof over Ridgeland Pool."
"I would never use it, but a community our size/position should have an indoor pool. Why not use the HS new pool?"
"Oak Park already raised our taxes for the High School pool; that can be used for community on weekends or when not in use by the school."
"Because the high school district is also proposing a new pool. This should be a combined project and including River Forest to share the facility. It would benefit everyone with a smaller tax burden. I am planning on selling my house at the beginning of the year because the tax burden is unsustainable."
"We already are paying for a mega pool at the high school with zero collaboration with the Park District. Now the Park District has to have its own parallel pool? Unbelievable."

Cost in general (9%)

"Don't know many details, but concerned about cost to access facility and amenities, on top of annual tax increase."
"High cost for limited use."
"The cost of maintaining and the overall maintenance and repairs after installation."

Other more important local needs/issues (7%)

"I think it's more important for any available land to go to sports fields for soccer and baseball or nature areas."
"If they're going to be indoor pools there need to be indoor tennis courts available as well."
"Not essential to the community—other needs rank higher."
"A lot of capital projects are on the horizon: a stand-alone police station that's 50 years overdue; the renovation of Village Hall."
"As much as I can see the use of an indoor community pool, it feels like there are other more important issues to tackle if we're talking about a property tax increase."

Do it without raising taxes (7%)

"Not a fan of big government. This pool should be from existing resources, not more taxes which are forever."
"I completely support the indoor community pool, but other park service spending should be cut (staff, studies, contracts) to support this. Why wasn't a pool part of the new fitness center on Madison?"
"Existing resources may be utilized to achieve this. Resources would be better allocated to enhancing existing services and creating new opportunities."

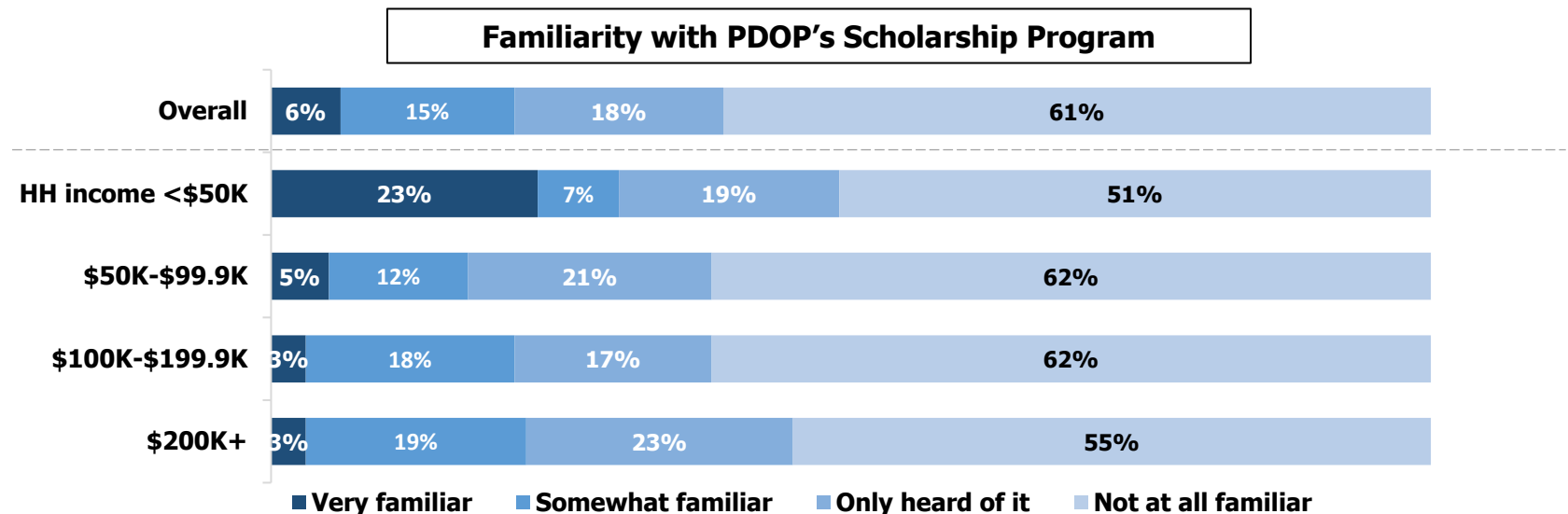
Need more information (6%)

"This would give us three swimming pools and based on current hours at Rehm/Ridgeland with lifeguards, I want to know when it would even be open to the public. Do not want to pay for something that we cannot sustain and keep open. Would need a promise and more details about the hours in which the facility would be open."
"Where would this be located? In another facility with no parking?"
"More information about it is needed."

VI. PDOP's Financial Assistance Programs

Overall, one in five respondents (21%) said they are familiar with the District's scholarship program for lower-income households. However, much of this awareness is "soft".

- Only 6% are "very familiar", and more than twice as many are "somewhat familiar" (15%). Another one in five (18%) have only heard about these scholarships, nothing more. And the rest – a majority at 61% – are not at all aware.
- While awareness tends to be highest among those most eligible for these scholarships (lower-income respondents), at least half of this income group (51%) are still not at all familiar with this opportunity. Awareness is also lowest among:
 - Those with children (66% "not at all familiar", vs. 61% overall)
 - Non-PDOP program participants (74%)
 - Residents who moved to Oak Park <5 years ago (68%) or 15-24 years ago (69%)
 - Those under age 35 (81%) along with residents aged 65+ (66%).
- The 2019 survey tested awareness as a "yes/no" question, with 39% "yes" and 61% "no" results (no change vs. 2023).

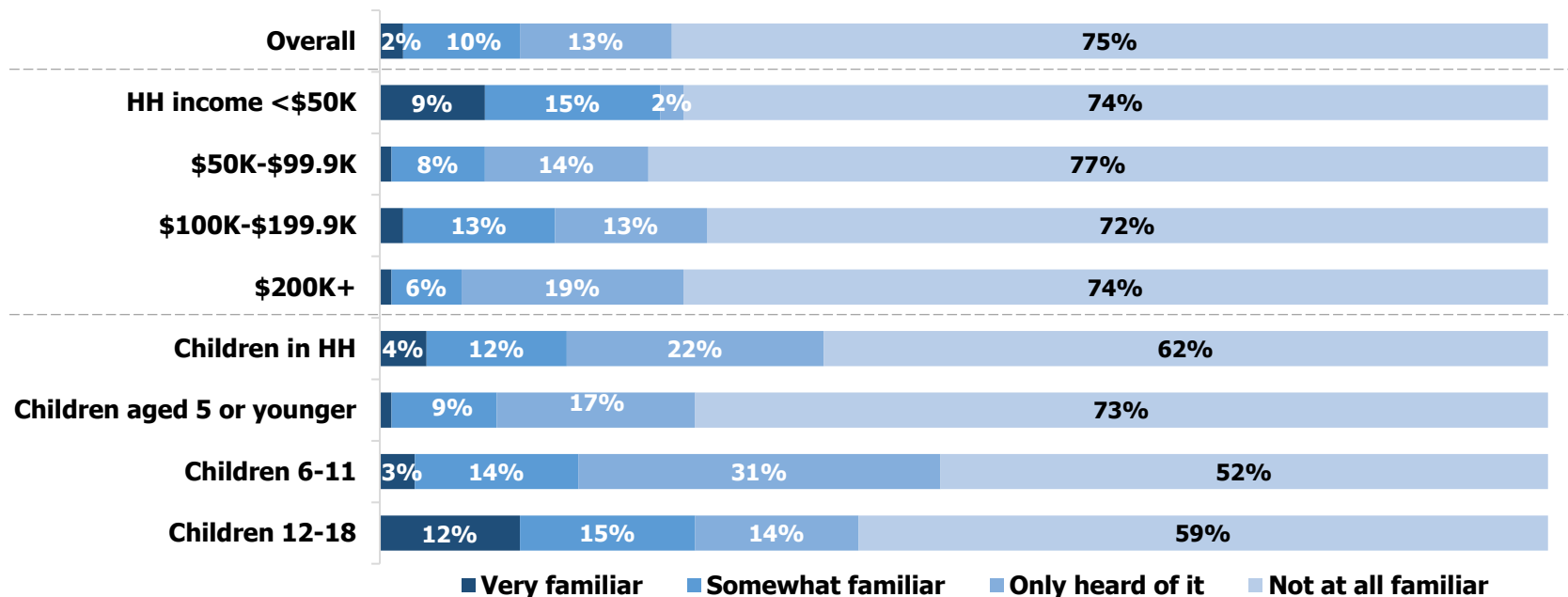


Q29. How familiar are you with the Park District's scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to low-income residents/families of all ages to make Park District programs and facilities available to all?

Awareness is even lower with the PDOP's Childcare Discount Program (CDM) to assist lower-income residents with school-aged children (up to age 14) with the cost of full-day camps and afterschool programs.

- Similar to the PDOP scholarship program, the lowest income residents tend to be more familiar with the CDM assistance. However, three out of four remain completely unfamiliar (similar to the overall response).
- Those with children likewise remain mostly unfamiliar, despite slightly higher awareness among those with children ages 6+ (and especially those with teenagers – some of whom may have recently benefited from the CDM).

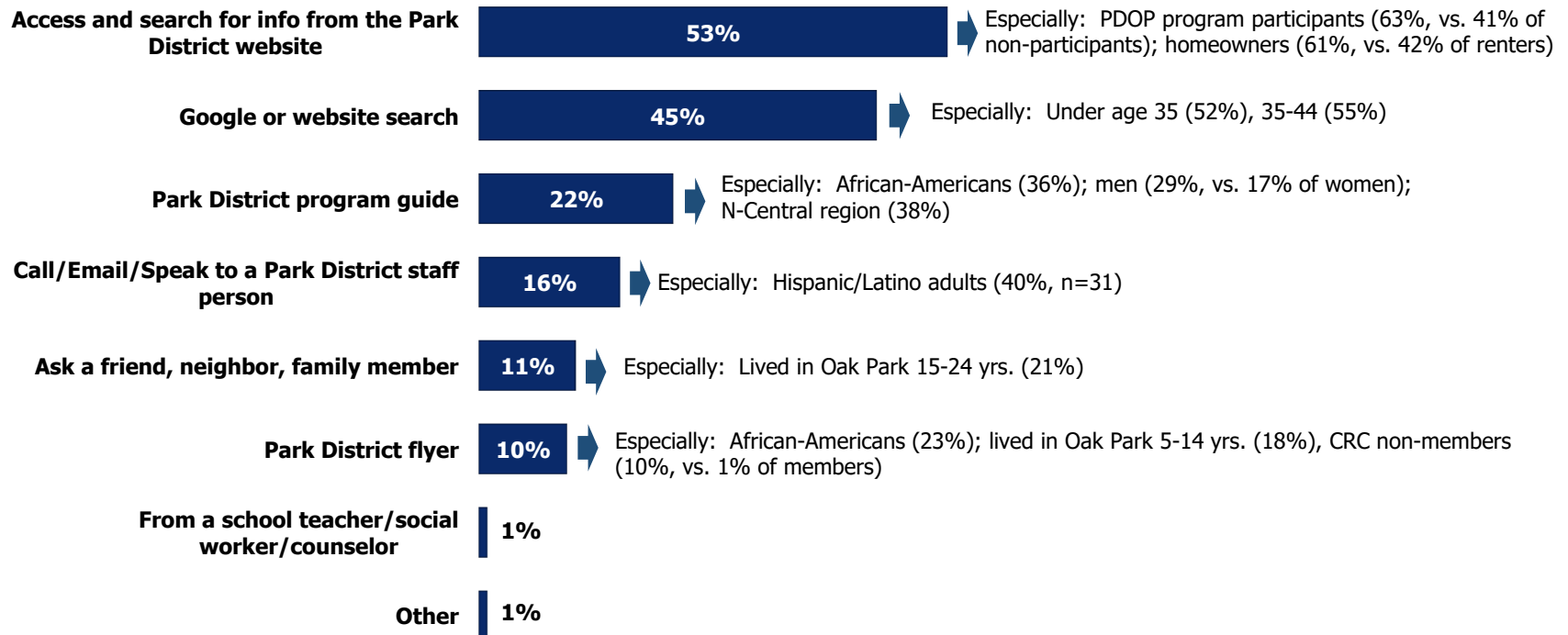
Familiarity with PDOP's Childcare Discount Membership (CDM) Program



Respondents unaware of the PDOP's scholarship and/or CDM programs most often would seek additional information from the District website (especially those already in PDOP programs), with a general web search a close second option (especially among younger adults).

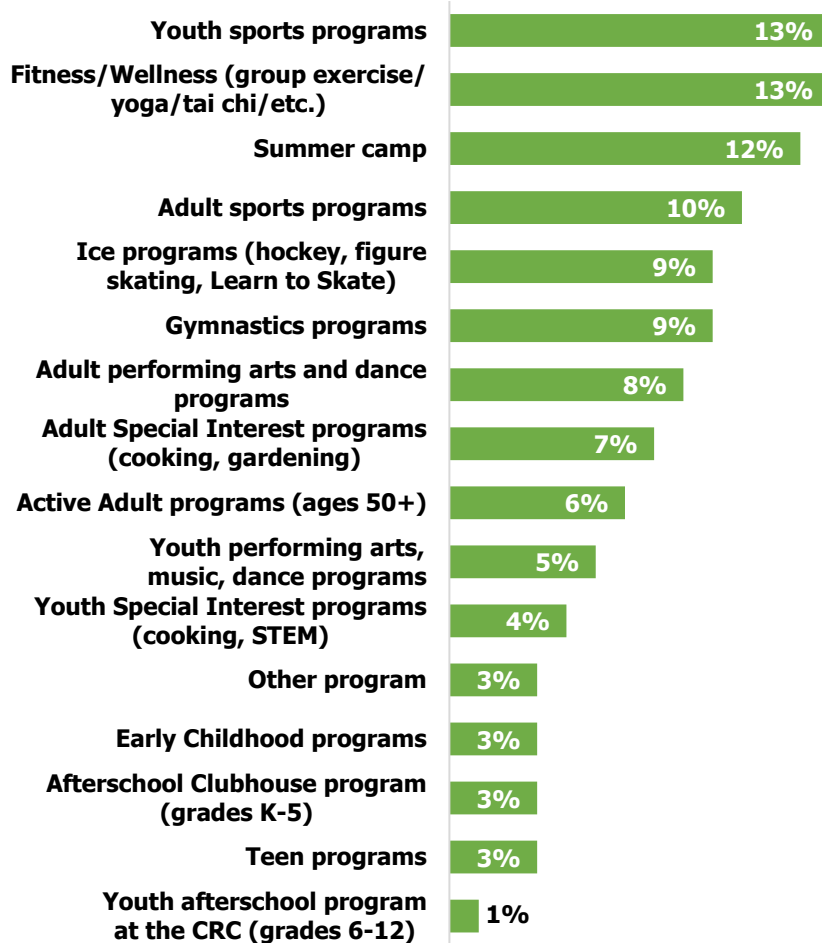
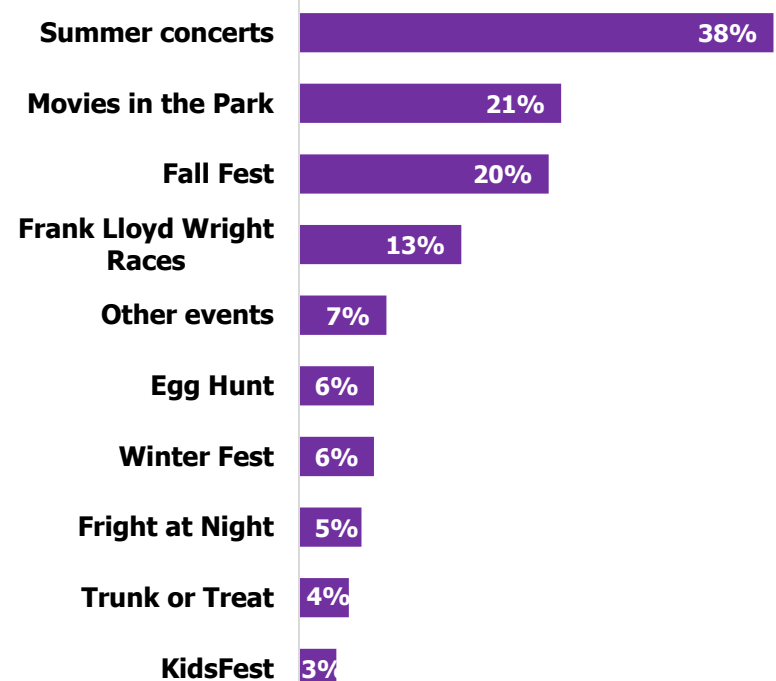
- Hispanic residents would be more likely to call the PDOP for more information, while African Americans report a greater likelihood of looking to print materials (program guide, District flyers) compared to the average.

PDOP's Financial Assistance Programs Information Sources



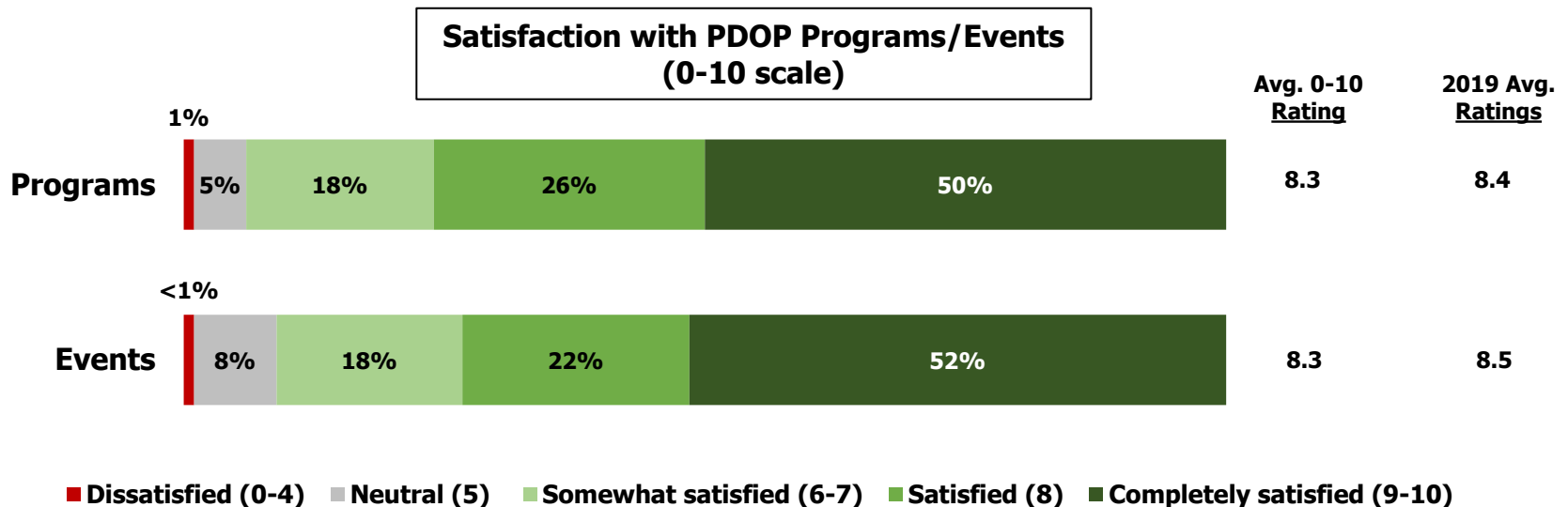
VII. PDOP Program Participation and Satisfaction

When asked about household participation in recent PDOP programs, summer concerts, movies in the park, and Fall Fest events are cited most often. At least one in ten households also participate in youth sports and summer camps, and adult fitness and sports programs

Program Participation (Past Year)

Event Attendance (Past Year)


Recent program participants are clearly satisfied with these activities. Overall, at least 94% are happy with the experiences (including roughly half – 50% to 52% -- who are “completely” satisfied, giving scores of 9+). Only 1% express dissatisfaction.

- The average ratings are likewise very strong, and statistically similar to the 2019 scores. In addition, they are consistent across all subgroups who give average scores of 7.5 or higher.
- Those most satisfied with PDOP programs are lower income households (9.2 average reporting incomes under \$50K) and residents with children ages 12-18 (8.7).
- The highest scores for District events tend to come from the oldest (8.6 from ages 65+), and again lower income residents (9.5 from those earning under \$50K).



Participants giving lower satisfaction scores (6 or below on a 0 through 10 scale) were asked to explain any issues or sources of dissatisfaction. Most often they cite concerns with the quality of the programs/instruction, difficult registration process, or music choices at events.

- A few other comments focus on program fees and/or cancelled offerings. The full set of responses are below and on the next page.

Verbatim Responses: Reasons for Lower PDOP Program Satisfaction Scores

Quality/Instruction Comments

"We have turned to private lessons for swim and dance/music because of the lack of quality of park district offerings."

"Took a beginning pottery class because the description emphasized the 'hand built' component of the class. When I attended the first class, it turned out the emphasis was on the wheel (which I did not need)."

"My children have not yet learned to swim."

"The Spanish music class for toddlers; there weren't enough participants, and the instructor didn't give a structured lesson."

"Each (gymnastics) lesson is alike, my kid gets bored and is losing interest. There could be more variety in the structure."

"Swim lessons for 0-36 months is very basic, and I wish there were an option more advanced than simple water introduction."

"Staffing at CRC. We did not do swimming lessons with PDOP because of low quality."

"Some of the events are lame."

"Wine tasting at Cheney was neutral."

Registration Issues/Challenges

"Gymnastics is difficult to get in."

"Grandchildren's sports programs; some programs are filled before they enroll."

"Active adult programs; I signed up, but I was unable to get an ID at Dole; the class was also full and I was put on a waiting list."

Music/Event Issues

"Concerts in park; far, far too loud. People running the sound are usually hard of hearing due to their role and they're hurting everyone else's hearing as a result."

"DJ at Fall Fest was awful. Better to have no one."

"The music is usually not really all that great."

"The Sunday night music in Scoville Park is pretty awful. Mostly just loud."

Verbatim Responses: Reasons for Lower PDOP Program Satisfaction Scores (cont'd)

Cost/Fees

"The swim lessons are expensive."

"Cost, availability."

Cancellations

"Lots of cancellations; otherwise, the programs meet my expectations. Nothing good or bad."

"Cooking and art for schools is out."

Other/Facility-related

"Spin class at the skating rink was in small classroom which isn't a good place, so it was poorly attended. Meanwhile, an enormous and expensive skating rink?"

"Just the pool; very cold. Very uncomfortable especially for little kids."

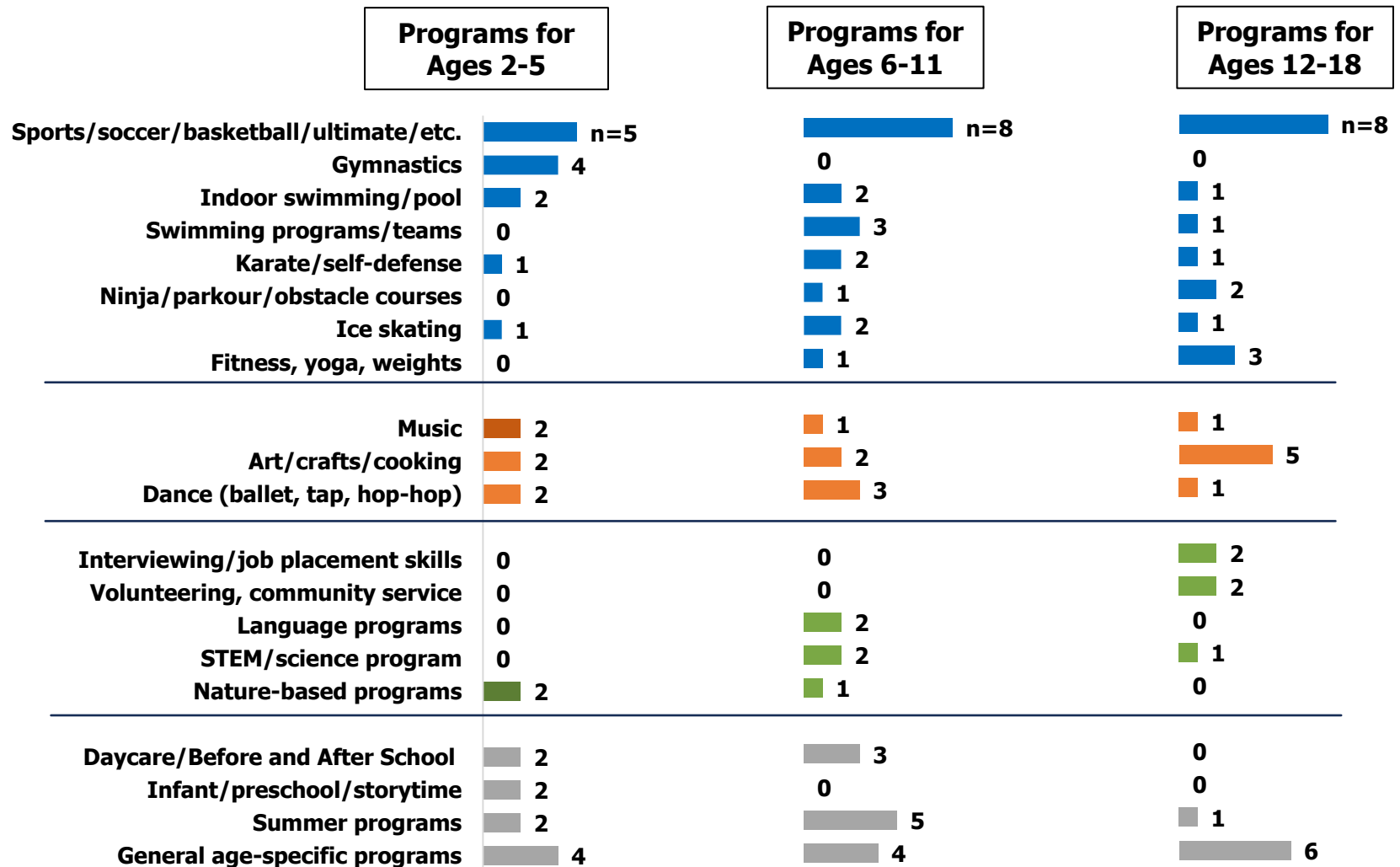
"CRC has more open time for juniors and kids that are under 10; I do not have as much access to the gym and game room."

"Fitness - scheduling issues and age of equipment."

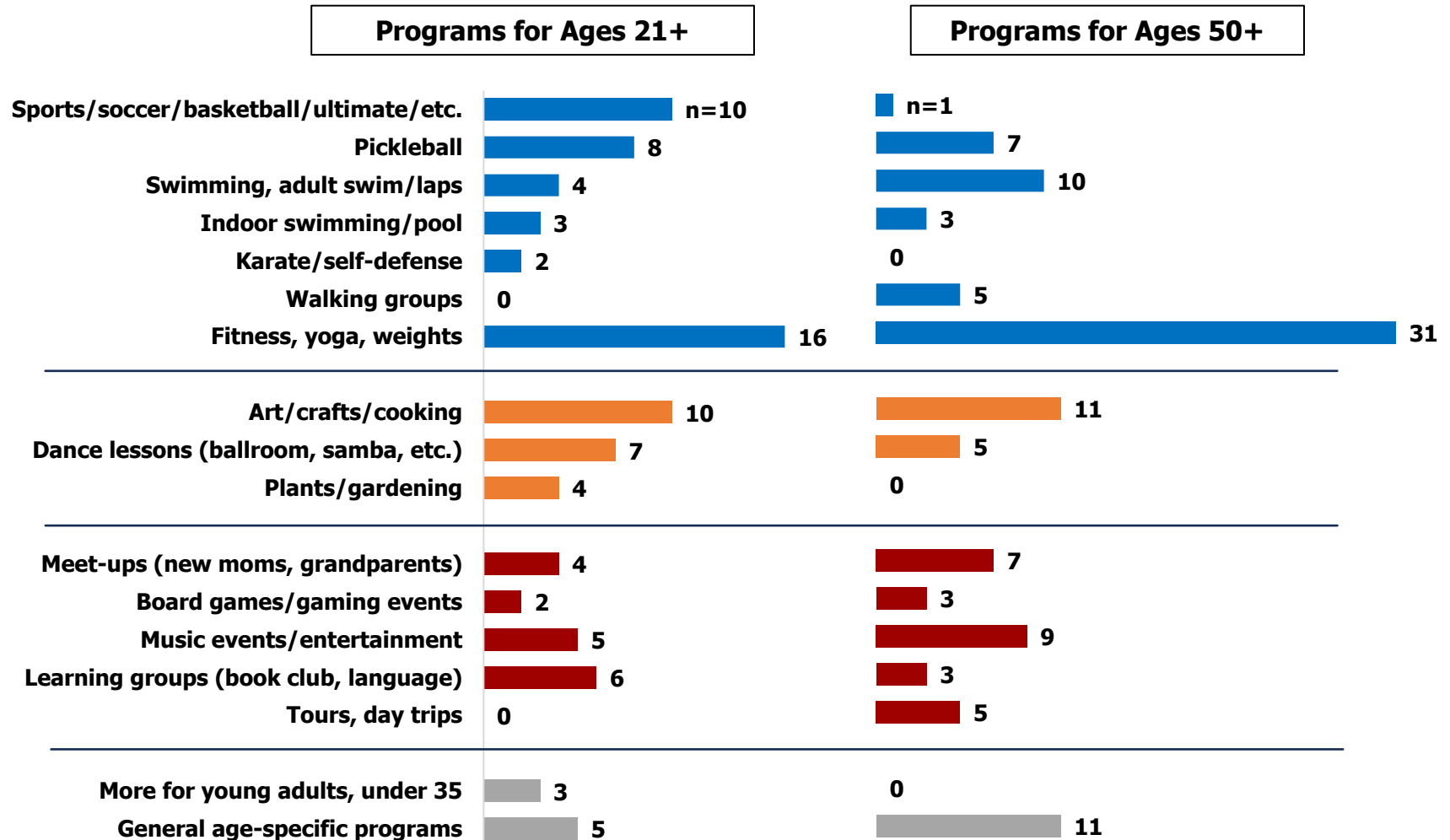
"Austin Gardens' Shakespeare in the Park: Keep divisive political propaganda out of it. It is true that Shakespeare has been re-interpreted in many ways over the centuries but when you push an agenda, expect to annoy people who have feelings that do not line up with yours. We don't need activists to preach to us any more than they already do in this left-wing town."

"Frank Lloyd Wright - need to do better job managing vehicle traffic on the day of race, and why no women's sizing in race shirts?"

When asked what programs residents want to see from the PDOP, most suggestions for youth programs focus on sports/athletics, followed by arts programming, and general activities specific to age group.



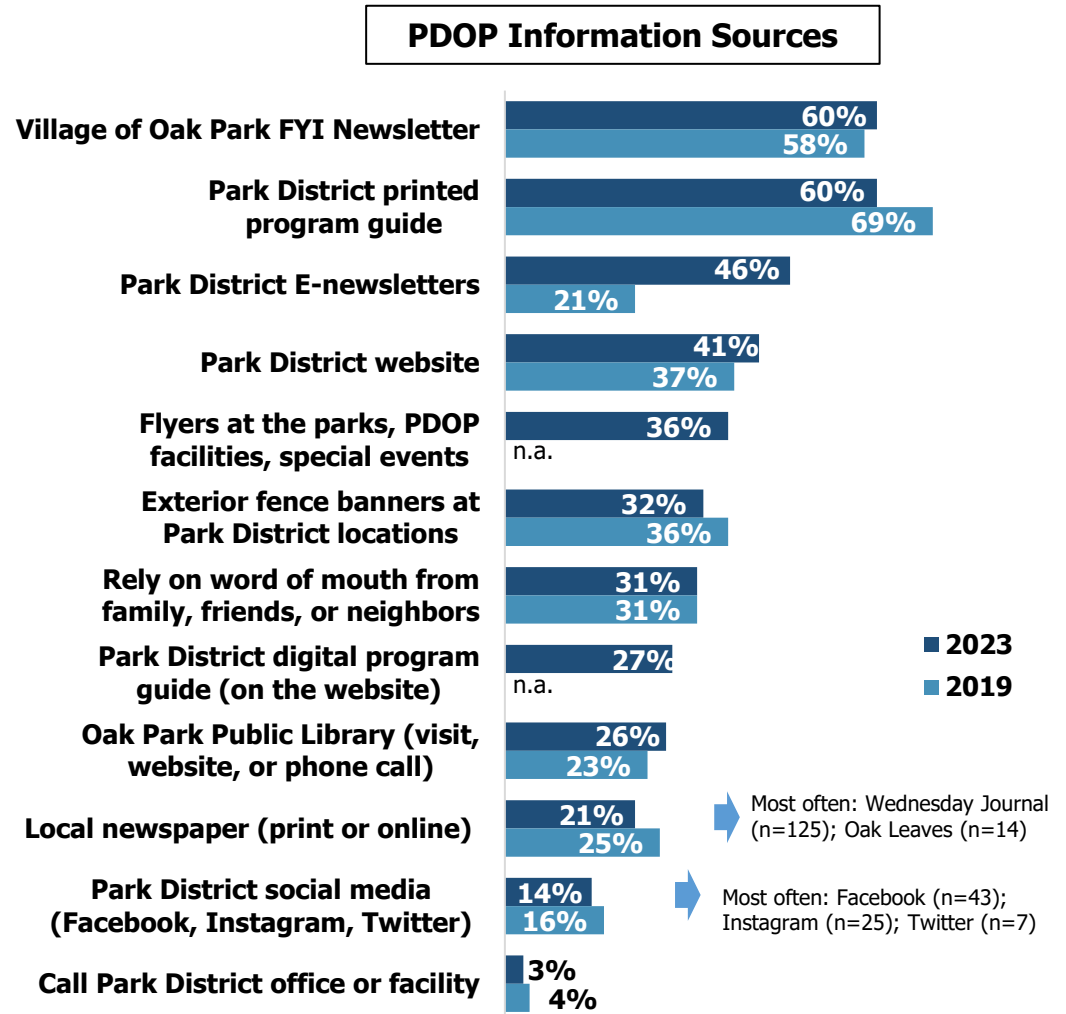
Suggestions for adult programs focus mostly on fitness activities and swimming (especially for those aged 50+) along with sports programs (almost exclusively for younger adults). Ideas for social events generate as much interest (or more) as arts and crafts activities.



VIII. Sources of Information

When seeking information about PDOP programs, events, facilities, etc., most residents continue to rely on the Village FYI Newsletter and the PDOP printed program guide.

- Usage of the printed guide is down slightly since 2019, but **reported usage of the PDOP's e-newsletter has more than doubled since then.**
- Otherwise, there is very little change in usage of other sources. About two in five cite the PDOP website as a source, and about half as many refer to the digital program guide vs. the printed version.
- Note that at least a third also rely on flyers and fence banners and PDOP parks and facilities for information.
- Word-of-mouth and the local library are each mentioned by at least one in five residents.
- Social media platforms continue to be mentioned less often.



Profiles of those most likely to use specific sources identify clear patterns. For example, the FYI newsletter may be a key source for less active PDOP users as it is used most by households without children (including both the youngest and oldest adults) and non-CRC members.

- By comparison, the PDOP program guide (printed and digital), e-newsletters, and the District website are heavily used by recent program participants, CRC members, and those with children. Note also that these sources are cited more often among somewhat newer Oak Park residents who moved here in the past 5 to 14 years.

	Overall	Most Likely to Cite as a Source
Village of Oak Park FYI Newsletter	60%	- N-Central region (69%) - Under age 35 (77%), 65+ (64%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (66%) - African American adults (65%), white adults (64%) - CRC non-members (62%, vs. 42% of members) - Households without children (65%, vs. 52% of those with children)
PDOP Printed program guide	60%	- South (85%), S-Central (66%) and North regions (67%) - Ages 45-64 (68%) - Homeowners (71%, vs. 43% of renters) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (77%) - CRC members (76%, vs. 58% of non-members) - Households with children (75%), especially under age 5 (77%)
PDOP e-newsletters	46%	- Ages 35-44 (57%) - Asian (59%) and African American adults (59%) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (70%) - PDOP program participants (57%, vs. 30% of non-participants) - Households with children (65%), especially ages 6-11 (70%)
Park District website	41%	- Under age 35 (48%), 35-44 (57%), 45-54 (45%) - Hispanic/Latino adults (62%) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (56%) - PDOP program participants (57%, vs. 26% of non-participants) - CRC members (55%, vs. 40% of non-members) - Households with children (58%), especially under age 5 (61%) or 6-11 (64%)

Flyers and signage at PDOP parks and facilities are mentioned most often by the youngest (under age 35) and newest residents (past five years), and renters far more than homeowners.

- The OPPL is also mentioned more often among the youngest residents and households of color (mostly Asian and African American adults).

	Overall	Most Likely to Cite as a Source
Flyers at parks, PDOP facilities, special events	36%	- South region (47%) - Under age 35 (59%) - Renters (45%, vs. 30% of homeowners) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (51%) - PDOP participants (45%, vs. 25% of non-participants) - Households with children (45%), especially under age 5 (56%)
Exterior fence banners	32%	- South region (42%) - Under age 35 (47%) - Renters (41%, vs. 27% of homeowners) - Men (42%, vs. 25% of women) - Asian adults (54%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (44%)
Word of mouth	31%	- South region (44%) - Under age 55 (38%) - Homeowners (37%, vs. 23% of renters) - HH income \$200K+ (45%) - PDOP program participants (37%, vs. 23% of non-participants)
PDOP Digital program guide (on website)	27%	- South region (57%) - Ages 45-54 (38%), under age 45 (32%) - White adults (32%) - PDOP program participants (39%, vs. 9% of non-participants) - Households with children (49%), especially under age 12 (52%)
Oak Park Public Library	26%	- Under age 35 (41%) - Asian (34%) and African American adults (33%, vs. 13% of Hispanics/Latinos)

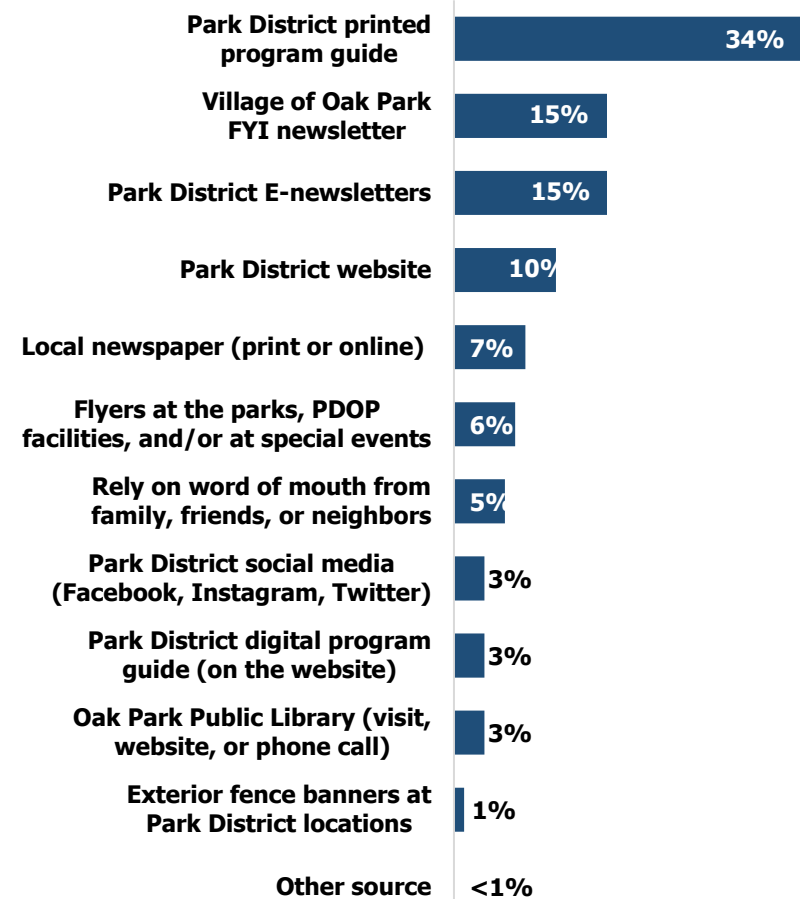
The oldest and most long-term Oak Park residents are more likely to get their PDOP information from local newspapers/websites. Social media sites are referenced most often by PDOP program participants and adults under age 55.

	Overall	Most Likely to Cite as a Source
Local newspaper (print/online)	21%	- North region (32%) - Ages 65+ (41%) - Homeowners (27%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (40%)
PDOP social media	14%	- Under age 55 (17%, vs. 8% of those over 55) - Lived in Oak Park <25 yrs. (18%, vs. 4% of 25+ year residents) - HH income \$50K-\$99K (25%) - PDOP program participants (20%, vs. 5% of non-participants)

In terms of their preferred or top source for PDOP information, the printed program guide clearly emerges as the #1 choice. Fewer than half as many cite the Village FYI Newsletter or PDOP e-newsletters as their top source.

- In fact, the printed program guide is the most preferred source among all groups except for:
 - Those under age 35, who slightly prefer the Village FYI newsletter (24%, vs. 21% for the printed guide)
 - Those reporting <\$50K in household income (26% most prefer the District's e-newsletters, vs. 16% the printed guide)
 - Those in the N-Central region who are as likely to also cite the District's e-newsletters as their top choice (28% for each).
- As shown on the next page, non-PDOP program participants and non-CRC members tend to prefer the FYI newsletter, along with those without children (consistent with findings on page 79).
- African American respondents tend to favor the District e-newsletters, while the oldest and most long- term residents favor print/digital newspapers.
- Renters, the youngest adults, and newest Oak Park residents continue to favor flyers at PDOP locations.

Preferred Source for PDOP Information



Significant Differences: Most Preferred Source of PDOP Information

	Overall	Most Likely to Cite as a Source
PDOP Printed program guide	34%	- South region (48%) - Ages 55-64 (47%)
Village of Oak Park FYI newsletter	15%	- North (20%), Central (19%) and S-Central regions (20%) - Under age 35 (24%) - White adults (18%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (24%) - Non-program participants (27%) and non-CRC members (16%) - No children in HH (18%, vs. 6% of those with children)
PDOP e-newsletters	15%	- N-Central region (28%) - Lived in Oak Park 15-24 yrs. (28%) - African Americans adults (25%) - PDOP program participants (19%, vs. 7% of non-participants)
Park District website	10%	- Ages 35-44 (19%) - Household income \$200K+ (16%) - PDOP Program participants (14%, vs. 4% of non-participants)
Local newspaper (print/digital)	7%	- Ages 65+ (13%) - Lived in Oak Park 15+ yrs. (10%) - No children in household (81%, vs. 3% of those with children)
Flyers at parks, PDOP facilities, special events	6%	- Central (12%) and South regions (12%) - Under age 35 (14%) - Renters (12%, vs. 2% of homeowners) - Men (8%, vs. 3% of women) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (10%) - PDOP program participants (9%, vs. 2% of non-participants)
Word of mouth	5%	- HH income <\$50K (15%)

Among those who report having visited the PDOP website for information (41% as reported on page 78), most access the site once a month (39%) or once every six months (35%). Only 9% report weekly (or more frequent) usage.

- In profiling the most frequent PDOP website users, weekly visitors tend to be:
 - Residents in the South region (25%, vs. 9% overall)
 - Ages 45-54 (22%)
 - White adults (14%)
 - Households with incomes of \$100K-\$199K (22%)
 - There are no meaningful differences between household with/without children, or PDOP program participants/non-participants.

- Those accessing the website at least monthly (39% overall) tend to include:
 - Ages 35-44 (52%)
 - Hispanic/Latino adults (65%) and African Americans (70%)
 - Newer residents, <5 years (47%) or 5-14 years (55%) in Oak Park
 - Households with income under \$50K (59%)
 - CRC members (61%, vs. 36% of non-members).

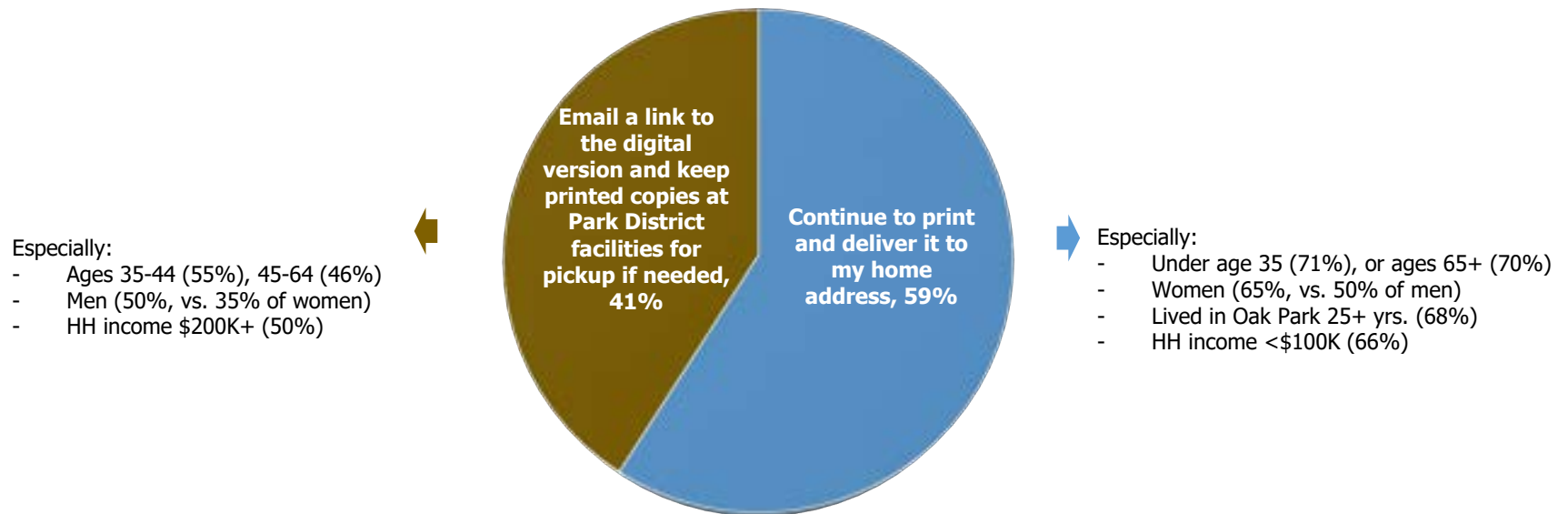
Frequency of Website Usage (n=226)



Given a choice between the printed vs. digital version of the PDOP program guide, a majority prefer to continue receiving the mailed brochure.

- Note that women, both the youngest and oldest Oak Park residents, and lower-income households tend to prefer the printed version by nearly a 2:1 margin (or higher) over the digital option.
- At least half of men, higher income residents, and ages 35-64 would favor a digital link via email.

Preference for Printed vs. Emailed Digital Link to PDOP Program Guide



IX. Final Comments/Suggestions

Only one-third (34%) of respondents offered final comments or suggestions for the District. Note that 5% are very satisfied and simply want the PDOP to continue what it is doing.

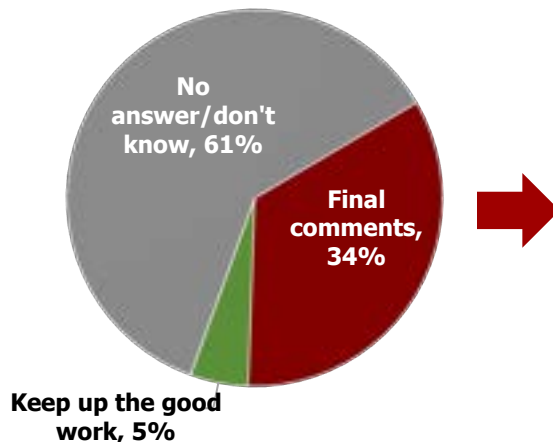
➤ The three top improvements concern:

- Management/admin suggestions, most often longer schedules or facility seasons – especially for the pools – along with more park safety, better communications, reduced spending/taxes, and improvements to the website and online registration platform
- Parks and facilities, especially more park amenities and improved landscaping
- Program options for a variety of age groups and types of activities (no consensus – see sample verbatims on the next few pages).

Final Comments/Suggestions?

(top multiple open-ended responses, n=558)

Most Frequent Responses



Management

13%

Most often: 3% access issue (longer/different schedules, more parking, etc.); 3% safety at PDOP sites; 2% more/better communications; 2% control spending/lower taxes; 2% easier registration process; 2% better website

Parks and facilities

12%

Most often: 3% more park amenities for fitness equipment/improved playgrounds/benches; 2% landscaping and natural areas; 2% more sustainable park practices; 2% more dog parks

Programs and activities

7%

Most often: 2% more for seniors; 1% for all other age groups (adults, teens, youth, preschool) and specific events (sports and non-sports programs, events – very scattered responses)

Sample Verbatims: Final Comments/Suggestions

Management/Admin Suggestions (TOTAL = 13%)

"More pool hours for members."

"Pool with adults-only hours on weekends and some weeknights!!!"

"Extend the lap swim season at Ridgeland! And DO NOT institute unisex bathrooms / locker room / shower facilities at Rehm!!"

"Better traffic safety and fencing around parks and playgrounds - particularly Rehm Park. Lack of a safety fence by a busy road is a danger."

"Better after-hours security."

"More police presence in parks."

"Provide better information about park improvement projects and why. Provide more information or at least try to provide more open swim hours for families at our existing pools. Stop spending money and placing too many things in small Southside parks. The Northside parks are much bigger."

"Please keep printing and delivering the program guides, including for summer camp. Then my kids can look at it too."

"Create a 'Please Deliver' list to condo buildings. We used to receive the yearly/seasonal printed guides; then they stopped coming."

"I need better info on what programs I may want to use."

"It's hard to stay in Oak Park due to taxes. 'Only' some amount of extra tax keeps adding to the burden. We don't NEED more and none of us 'deserves' anything. New does not equal better."

"Stop the pool mania. One pool crammed down the taxpayers' throats is enough."

"Maintain our taxes as-is and don't add extra burden. We already pay some of the highest property taxes in Illinois and it's ridiculous."

"Improve signup -- improve Amilia -- Amilia is impossible to navigate."

"Please make summer camp enrollment easier. I did everything right, logged in immediately at the exact time and couldn't get my child into camps. It should not be that difficult. I'll do whatever it takes, stand in a line in the pouring rain. I don't want the worry of not having summer camp covered next year. It was worrying from February throughout the summer trying to play the waitlist game. I'm a single working parent and cannot afford the stress on top of the cost."

"Improve registration for the PDOP and for classes. It currently takes forever to find one's classes and to find out how to register for them. Use terminology that is correct and user friendly. Poor locations and terminology on the website is a deterrent to registration and park district usage."

Parks and Facilities (TOTAL = 12%)

"Mills Park does not have public toilet facilities. All parks should have toilets available to the public. More park benches around town (like in Forest Park) would be nice for the elderly as well."

"Have park bathrooms stay open longer into year."

"We really miss an indoor soccer facility. The drive to Chicago Soccer on North Ave. is really long during rush hour."

"Austin Garden; the grass needs better care. Holes are in the grass that are dangerous."

"Cleaner floors at the karate facilities."

"Make sure to clear paths in winter at parks so it is safe to walk my dog."

"Open more dog parks and dog friend spaces."

"Increased off leash dog areas."

"More dedicated pickleball courts; maintenance of the Barrie Park courts is a disaster. Better maintenance of playgrounds. Kids love sand -- better maintenance of sand boxes."

"Better surfaces on tennis courts."

Sample Verbatims: Final Comments/Suggestions (cont'd)

Programs/Activities (TOTAL = 7%)

"Consider the needs of older Oak Parkers, not just young families and children."

"More programming for older adults."

"Offer more for seniors' activities during daytime."

"More programming south of I-290."

"Offer short classes for children at multiple locations throughout oak Park through the school year for children to participate in."

"More toddler events."

"More classes for children ages 2 and under."

"Orient less toward families. We are a married couple in their late 30s with no desire to have children."

"One-day classes with an expert, maybe bike maintenance or preparing your yard for winter, making a patio, beekeeping."

"I think there's a need for drop-in teen activities. Maybe that will happen at the CRC, but it would be nice to have something central and north."

"Beautiful plants/landscaping at parks, basketball courts, running track."

"Offer programs for the young adults from ages 17 to 21."

"More information/programs on sustainability and environment."

Appendix



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

**MAKE YOUR
VOICE HEARD!**





**PLEASE TAKE OUR QUICK SURVEY
TO SHARE YOUR OPINIONS:**

Website: www.arisurvey.com/s3/OP23
 Password: **XXXXXX**

See reverse side for more information.

Your feedback to our survey will help us better understand your needs and serve our community!

Whether or not you use our parks, facilities, or programs, your opinions are very important.

We request that an adult complete the anonymous 15-minute survey online in the next few days. Simply go to the website below (or scan the QR code) & enter your password.

www.arisurvey.com/s3/OP23

Password: **XXXXXX**



Your feedback is very valuable! Thank you for sharing.

aQity Research & Insights (an independent research firm) has been asked by the Park District of Oak Park to conduct this survey. If you have questions, please call 847-424-4171, x210.

aQity Research & Insights Inc.
1330-B Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201


2023 Community Survey

Based on n=558 cases

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not total (with differences of ±.1%)

1. How many years have you lived in Oak Park?

Less than 5 years	35%
5-14 years	20%
15-24 years	18%
25+ years	27%
<i>Mean</i>	<i>16.6 years</i>
<i>Median</i>	<i>12 years</i>


2. Please rate your overall opinion of the Park District of Oak Park.

Highest regard (9-10)	39%
Great (8)	31%
Good (6-7)	23%
Neutral (5)	7%
Poor (0-4)	2%
<i>Mean</i>	<i>8.0</i>

3. Please describe what you like most about the Park District of Oak Park, or what it does particularly well.

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

4. Please describe what you dislike about the Park District of Oak Park, or what it could do better.

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

5. What percent of your property taxes do you think goes to the Park District of Oak Park?

3% or less	22%
4-5% (ACTUAL: 4.6%)	32%
6-10%	29%
11%+	17%
<i>Mean</i>	<i>6.5%</i>
<i>Median</i>	<i>5%</i>

6. Which PDOP park/facility locations have you or a member of your household visited in the past two years?*

PARKS	94%	FACILITIES	101%
Scoville Park	65%	Oak Park Conservatory	47%
Austin Gardens	47%	Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	31%
Rahn Park	44%	Rahn Pool	31%
Taylor Park	40%	Ridgeland Common Pool	29%
Mills Park	32%	Pleasant Home	25%
Barrie Center/Park	33%	Community Recreation Center	24%
Lindberg Park	30%	Elizabeth F. Cheney Mansion	22%
Longfellow Center/Park	29%	Gymnastics and Recreation Center	17%
Maple Park	27%	Dole Center	15%
Fox Center/Park	19%	Paul Hruby Ice Arena	12%
Field Center/Park	19%		
Euclid Square Park	18%		
Stevenson Center/Park	18%		
Andersen Center/Park	12%		
Carroll Center/Park	11%		
Randolph Park	7%		
Wenonah Park	2%		
		Have not visited any parks/facilities	2%

7. Which one park or facility do you use most often?

Scoville Park	11%
Austin Gardens	9%
Lindberg Park	8%
Taylor Park	8%
Rahn Park	8%
Mills Park	6%
Community Recreation Center	6%
Ridgeland Common Pool	5%
Longfellow Center/Park	4%
Barrie Park	4%
Rahn Pool	4%
Dole Center	4%
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	4%
Oak Park Conservatory	2%
Carroll Center/Park	2%
Maple Park	2%
Paul Hruby Ice Arena	2%
Pleasant Home	2%
Gymnastics and Recreation Center	2%
Field Center/Park	2%

8. Thinking about the parks and facilities that you visited, rate your satisfaction with each of the following

Overall experience and satisfaction	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	52%
Very satisfied (8)	24%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	17%
Neutral (5)	5%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	2%
Mean	8.3
Overall cleanliness, maintenance, and upkeep	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	54%
Very satisfied (8)	24%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	13%
Neutral (5)	3%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	6%
Mean	8.3
Overall safety	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	58%
Very satisfied (8)	20%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	13%
Neutral (5)	4%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	5%
Mean	8.2
Access (parking, paths, entrances/exits)	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	55%
Very satisfied (8)	20%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	12%
Neutral (5)	5%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	8%
Mean	8.2
Overall service provided by Park District staff	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	50%
Very satisfied (8)	17%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	11%
Neutral (5)	17%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	5%
Mean	7.9

9. If you are dissatisfied with any facility or park, which one(s) and why?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

10. What are your top reasons for using PDOP parks and facilities?

	#1	Top 3
For my personal fitness/health	33%	52%
Convenient, close to home	19%	61%
Somewhere safe fun to bring my children	17%	23%
Access to nature, open space	10%	42%
Use amenities (pool, courts, playground, sport fields, etc.)	6%	28%
Relaxation, quiet setting	4%	25%
Affordable, good value	3%	11%
Attend a community/special event	2%	17%
Participate in program or class	2%	13%
For my child's/children's fitness/health	2%	10%
Attend a sporting practice/event	2%	6%
Option for childcare	1%	3%
Other reason	1%	4%

11. Which of the following reasons explain why you have not visited/used a Park District of Oak Park facility or park recently?

Too busy/Don't have time	53%
Do not have children or children are grown	46%
Just not interested – e.g., not very active	16%
Cost/Fees are too high	16%
Poor health, mobility issues	13%
Unaware of/Unfamiliar with the Park District and/or its parks and facilities	4%
Use other facilities for recreation/activities	2%
Other reason (please specify)	9%

12. As you may know, the PDOP recently opened its new Community Recreation Center (CRC) at 229 Madison Street. Which of the following best describes you?

I have not heard/read anything about the CRC	11%
I have heard about it, but do not know much	19%
I have seen it but have not yet been inside	38%
I took a tour/been inside but have not yet used the CRC	11%
I have used the CRC track or attended a program/activity, but am not yet a member	8%
I am currently a CRC member	13%

17. Which programs/events have you or a household member participated in?

PROGRAMS	52%	EVENTS	62%
Youth sports programs	13%	Summer concerts	38%
Fitness/Wellness programs (group exercise, yoga, tai chi, etc.)	13%	Movies in the Park	21%
Summer camp	12%	Fall Fest	20%
Adult sports programs	10%	Frank Lloyd Wright Races	13%
Ice programs (hockey, figure skating, Learn to Skate)	9%	Other events	7%
Gymnastics programs	9%	Egg Hunt	6%
Adult performing arts and dance programs	8%	Winter Fest	6%
Adult Special Interest programs (cooking, gardening)	7%	Fright at Night	5%
Active Adult programs (ages 50+)	6%	Trunk or Treat	4%
Youth performing arts, music, dance programs	5%	KidsFest	3%
Youth Special Interest programs (cooking, STEM)	4%		
Other program	3%		
Early Childhood programs	3%		
Afterschool Clubhouse program (grades K-5)	3%		
Teen programs	3%		
Youth afterschool program at the CRC (grades 6-12)	1%		
		Have not participated in any programs/events	24%

18. Thinking about the programs and events that you participated in, rate your satisfaction with each of the following.

PROGRAMS	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	49%
Very satisfied (8)	26%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	18%
Neutral (5)	5%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	1%
Mean	8.7
EVENTS	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	52%
Very satisfied (8)	22%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	18%
Neutral (5)	8%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	0%
Mean	8.7

13. Please indicate your overall opinion of the new Community Recreation Center/CRC.
(based on n=1,128 familiar with the CRC)

Completely satisfied (9-10)	33%
Very satisfied (8)	12%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	22%
Neutral (5)	27%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	6%
Not familiar enough to rate	53%
Mean	7.1

14. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the new CRC.
(% "agree" shown)

Is welcoming to all visitors/users	97%
Makes Oak Park a more desirable place to live	95%
Improves local property values	93%
Is a good value	92%
Is inclusive of/serves the diversity of the community	92%
Meets the community's needs	91%
Offers innovative programs and activities	87%
Offers a variety of programs and classes	86%
Meets my/our recreation/fitness needs	79%

15. Why do you disagree with the statement(s) about the CRC?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

16. How many total people live in your household?

1 (I live alone)	26%
2	39%
3-4	30%
5+	6%

16A-E. Do you have household members ages—

... 5 or younger?	13%
... 6-11?	13%
... 12-18?	10%
... 19-34?	25%
... 35-49?	36%
... 50+?	53%

19. If you are dissatisfied with any programs or events, which one(s) and why?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

23. Below, please list any specific programs or events that you'd like the Park District of Oak Park to offer.

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

24. About 4.6% of your property taxes goes to the Park District of Oak Park. Thinking about the programs, parks, facilities, and services that the Park District provides, please rate the overall value that it represents given its share of property taxes.

Excellent (9-10)	51%
Great (8)	16%
Good (6-7)	15%
Average (5)	13%
Poor (0-4)	5%
Mean	6.7

25. Please rank each core value in order of importance.

(Average ranking shown below—lower number = higher rating; more #1 responses)

Community Engagement	2.74
Integrity	2.93
Inclusivity	2.97
Responsible Leadership	3.45
Sustainability	3.65
Innovation	4.1

26. Rate how well the Park District is performing on each of those core values.

(1-25 shown below)

Community Engagement	76%
Inclusivity	73%
Integrity	73%
Sustainability	70%
Responsible Leadership	67%
Innovation	64%

27. Oak Park residents have asked for an indoor community pool with amenities including open swim sessions, swimming lessons, 25-yard lap lanes, and a separate warm-water therapy pool. The cost to add this pool (and amenities) would require a voter-approved property tax increase of (on average) about \$90 per year for a median-valued home of about \$400,000.

Knowing it would result in higher property taxes, would you oppose or support this property tax referendum to pay for an indoor pool?

SUPPORT	69%
Support strongly	35%
Support, not strongly	34%
OPPOSE	31%
Oppose, not strongly	17%
Oppose strongly	17%

28. What are the reasons why you support/oppose the referendums?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

40. In which ways do you learn about the Park District of Oak Park and its programs, parks, facilities, or services?

Village of Oak Park FYI newsletter	60%
Park District printed program guide	60%
Park District E-newsletters	46%
Park District website	41%
Flyers at the parks, PDOP facilities, and/or at special events	36%
Exterior fence banners at Park District locations	32%
Rely on word of mouth from family, friends, or neighbors	31%
Park District digital program guide (on the website)	27%
Oak Park Public Library (visit, website, or phone call)	26%
Local newspaper (print or online)	21%
Park District social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)	14%
Call Park District office or facility	3%
Other source	3%
None of the above	2%

41. What source of information do you use most often?

Park District printed program guide	34%
Village of Oak Park FYI newsletter	15%
Park District E-newsletters	15%
Park District website	10%
Local newspaper (print or online)	7%
Flyers at the parks, PDCP facilities, and/or at special events	6%
Rely on word of mouth from family, friends, or neighbors	5%
Park District social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) —	3%
Park District digital program guide (on the website)	3%
Oak Park Public Library (visit, website, or phone call)	3%
Exterior fence banners at Park District locations	1%
Other source	0%

42. How often do you go to/use the Park District website in general? (asked of n=226 who used website)

At least once a week	9%
At least once a month	39%
At least once every six months	35%
At least once a year	11%
Less than once a year	2%
Have never been to/used the website	3%

43. As you may know, the Park District now sends a program guide twice a year to all residents in Oak Park. It also has a digital version of the program guide on its website. Which option below do you prefer for receiving the program guide?

Continue to print and deliver it to my home address	59%
Email a link to the digital version and keep printed copies at Park District facilities for pickup if needed	41%

29. How familiar are you with the Park District's scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to low-income residents/families of all ages to make Park District programs and facilities available to all?

Very familiar	6%
Somewhat familiar	15%
Only heard of it	19%
Not at all familiar	61%

30. How familiar are you with the Park District's Childcare Discount Membership (CDM) program for lower-income residents with children in Kindergarten through age 14 to reduce the cost of full-day camps and afterschool programs?

Very familiar	2%
Somewhat familiar	10%
Only heard of it	13%
Not at all familiar	75%

31. If you wanted to learn more about these programs, where would you first go/look/ask for more information?

Access and search for info from the Park District website	53%
Google or website search	45%
Park District program guide	22%
Call/Email/Speak to a Park District staff person	16%
Ask a friend, neighbor, family member	11%
Park District flyer	10%
From a school teacher/social worker/counselor	1%
Other	1%

34. Aside from the topics already covered, what else can the Park District of Oak Park improve or do differently to serve your household better?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

35. In what year were you born?
(age shown below)

Under 35	21%
35-44	21%
45-54	20%
55-64	16%
Over 65	22%
Mean	50.6 years old
Median	49 years old

36. Please indicate the gender you identify with.

Male	44%
Female	52%
Prefer to self-identify	3%

37. Do you own or rent your current residence?

Own	60%
Rent	40%

38. Which of the following identifies your ethnicity?

White/Caucasian	67%
Black/African American	22%
Hispanic/Latino/Spanish	8%
Asian	7%
Other	2%

39. What was your total household income in 2022, before taxes?

Less than \$35,000	7%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	16%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	16%
\$200,000 or more	29%
Prefer not to answer	16%

PDOP Fleet Replacement Schedule

No.	Year	Model	Description	Dept.	License	Purchased	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
300	2016	F250	3/4 ton pickup	Conservatory	M206859	2016						
105	2005	F150 4WD	1/4 ton pickup	P&P	M147886	2004						
121	2005	Sprinter	Panel Van	Rec	M152523	2005						
214	2008	F250 lift gate	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M169640	2008						
213	2008	Dakota 4WD	½ ton pickup	P&P	M171169	2008						
215	2008	Dakota 4WD	1/2 ton pickup	P&P	M171170	2008						
272	2009	E350	Passenger/Cargo Van	Conservatory	M177831	2009			\$ 65,000			
217	2011	Grand Caravan	Minivan	Rec	M185750	2011						
210	2010	Ranger	¾ ton pickup	Special Facilities	M187644	2012						
209	2010	Ranger	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M187740	2012						
203	2012	E350	Cargo Van	P&P	M191684	2012			\$ 60,000			
335	2013	F250 Club Cab	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M194888	2013		\$ 70,000				
216	2011	F550	Lift Truck (CDL)	P&P	M184187	2010				\$ 125,000		
708	2016	5600 Bobcat	Utility Vehicle	P&P	NA	2010					\$ 100,000	
504	1998	F350	1 ton dump (chipper)	P&P	M103921	1998				\$ 80,000		
218	2011	F450	1 ton dump	P&P	M181171	2011				\$ 90,000		
211	2015	F250	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M991628	2015			\$ 70,000			
700	2011	S180 Bobcat	Skidsteer	P&P	NA	2011					\$ 32,000	
198	2015	Transit	Minivan	P&P	M205994	2016						\$ 50,000
200	2015	F250	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M213538	2017						
711	2001	5210 John Deere tractor	Tractor	P&P	NA	2000						
237	2005	Zamboni 520	Ice surfacer	Special Facilities	NA	2005		\$ 170,000				
212	2016	Nissan Frontier	¾ ton pickup	Special Facilities	M157314	2018						
202	2009	E350	15 passenger bus	Rec	M204478	2015						
422	2015	Carryall	Utility vehicle	P&P	NA	2015						
197	2023	Maverick	1/4 ton pickup	P&P	M236836	2023						
709	2021	UV34G Bobcat	Utility Vehicle	P&P	NA	2021						
131	2014	Zamboni 550	Ice surfacer	Special Facilities	NA	2014						
199	2015	NRR	Garbage Packer (CDL)	P&P	M202024	2015			\$ 150,000			
221	2021	Gator	Utility vehicle	Conservatory	NA	2021						
421	1992	2155 John Deere tractor	Tractor	P&P	NA	2025						
208	2023	Maverick	1/4 ton pickup	P&P	TBD	2023						
196	2023	Transit - EV	Minivan	P&P	TBD	2023						
933	2015	Toro 7200	Mower	P&P	NA	2015	\$ 75,000					
966	2007	Smithco	Ballfield Groomer	P&P	NA	2007						
963	2016	ABI Force	Ballfield Groomer	P&P	NA	2016		\$ 25,000				
TBD		Gravely	Electric Zero Turn Mower	P&P	NA	2025						
TBD		Maverick	1/4 ton pickup	P&P	TBD	2025						
934	2010	Toro 4300D	Mower	P&P	NA	2013				\$ 20,000		
930	2015	Toro Grand Stand	Mower	P&P	NA	2015						\$ 20,000
931	2015	Toro 6000	Mower	P&P	NA	2015						\$ 20,000
935	2013	John Deere Z925m	Mower	P&P	NA	2013						
938	2017	John Deere 652R	Mower	P&P	NA	2017						
929	2020	Toro 7200	Mower	P&P	NA	2020						
	2026	Maverick	1/4 ton pickup	P&P	NA	2026	\$ 33,000					
	2026	Maverick	1/4 ton pickup	Conservatory	NA	2026	\$ 33,000					
	2031	Maverick/EV										\$ 35,000
	2031	Maverick/EV										\$ 35,000
		Club Car Urban EV	EV					\$ 30,000				
		Club Car Urban EV	EV					\$ 30,000				
							\$ 141,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 345,000	\$ 315,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 160,000