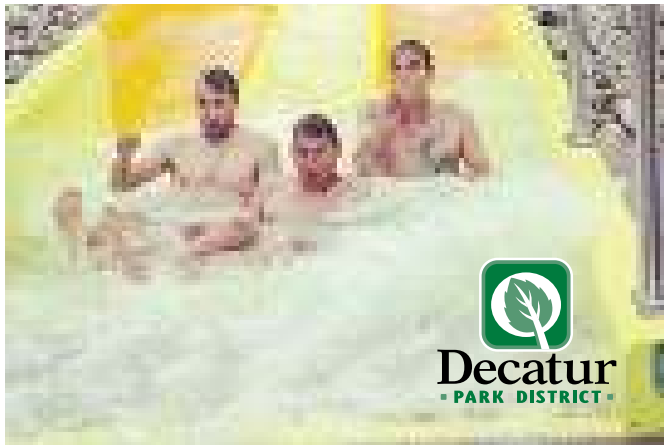


DECATUR PARK DISTRICT

Comprehensive Parks and Recreation 2022 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Printed 04.14.2022





“Our vision is to be a park district of excellence that enhances our community’s growth, prosperity, and quality of life.”



Decatur

▪ PARK DISTRICT ▪

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Wren's Gate, Becky Newton

Decatur Bike Plan Group

Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations

- o GM
- o OKO
- o FFNO
- o PCNO
- o GANO
- o WENA
- o Millikin Heights
- o Nelson/Lions/Clokey
- o Wabash Crossing Ray of Hope
- o HHNO
- o SIA
- o TPNA
- o NUA
- o Fans Field

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Decatur Park District Master Plan update will evaluate the current state of parks, facilities, and recreation programming for Decatur residents with the goal of facilitating the mission of the Park District for years to come. The focus of this Plan is to address the unique physical and social needs of the community and to identify actions necessary to maintain and improve community service, while also fostering environmental stewardship and optimizing financial performance where possible.

Through the planning process, key challenges unique to the Decatur community are identified and addressed, including:

- The Decatur Park District is especially land-rich, providing more than double the national standards for park acreage for a community of its size (excluding non-park facilities such as the Airport).
- The physical programming and facilities that currently exist were built for a population whose needs have evolved. The community now desires more focused athletic opportunities, interconnected trail systems, and quality indoor fitness activities and programming.
- Macon County is rated as one of the least-healthy counties in Illinois, with high rates of obesity and physical inactivity, statistics with the potential to be improved through access to parks and readily available recreation programming.

This Plan outlines the internal structure of the Park District including budgets and current partnerships. The Plan then provides an overview of community demographics along with an assessment of current programming offered. Inventory and analysis data is compiled for all Decatur parks, facilities, and trail systems. A community-wide survey was distributed to gain feedback and to measure future needs. This Plan includes a summary of survey response and of the public input process, including stakeholder interviews and public meetings.

Community needs are established based on inventory and public input. Needs are prioritized to establish Plan Goals and Objectives, with supporting Actions and funding strategies. The Plan establishes Actions through the “triple bottom line” approach to sustainability, including social, environmental, and economic perspectives.

Addressing sustainability from a social equity standpoint at the master plan level involves assessing the shifting demographics of the community and ensuring that the Park District provides diverse representation, appropriate programming, and relevant facilities for each of the neighborhoods served. Environmental sustainability requires assessing park properties, structures, and operational methods to incorporate lower maintenance native landscapes, improve the function of the park environments as habitat, assess existing structures for program suitability and reuse potential, and minimize energy and resource consumption. Finally, economic sustainability requires an assessment of the assets of the Park District to identify opportunities for improved financial performance, reduction of costs, and potential partnerships.



01

PARK DISTRICT VISION



PARK DISTRICT VISION

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1924 and serving a jurisdiction of over 46 square miles, the Decatur Park District (DPD) continues to be a driving force and recognized leader in making the community livable and sustainable for future generations. Decatur's population has undergone major shifts over the past decades, and the park system must continue to evolve to meet today's needs as well as those in the future. The Decatur Park System is a key element of Decatur's quality of life and place, making Decatur a more livable and competitive community by providing extensive recreational opportunities that support economic growth, employee recruitment and retention, and more healthy residents.

This Plan proposes a set of strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Park District for today, tomorrow, and beyond. The foremost challenge facing the Decatur Park District today includes management of a Park District rich in land with over 2,000 acres of park property, but lacking the robust population to adequately support such a wealth of green space. Decatur's rate of population loss has slowed from previous decades, but overall population continues to decline and median age has increased. Other significant issues are the high rates of both poverty and of life-threatening health conditions such as obesity and heart disease within the broader community. These statistics result in a need to continually assess the distribution of parks and programming to meet community needs. This must be prioritized while managing a Park District budget of which just over a third is supported by tax revenues, in comparison to similar communities in Illinois which are closer to 50% or even 80% tax-supported.

Despite these challenges, the Decatur Park District is dedicated to maintaining the high level of customer service that the community has come to expect. It can not be ignored that this Plan has been produced amidst a global pandemic, and the effects of Covid-19 are felt in many aspects of Park District operation. Some of these may be unfortunate effects, such as the cancellation of many programs and the delay of events and activities at such popular venues as the new Splash Cove Water Park and Devon Amphitheater. However, some of the pandemic-related effects have had surprising positive impacts on the

usage of parks and open space. Social distancing and work-from-home mandates have encouraged residents to pursue outdoor recreation activities such as golf and trail-related activities such as walking and cycling. The Park District has adopted a response of "We are here for you" to the Decatur community through the challenging past year and a half, and the community has responded.

Public survey response shows overwhelming support of the Park District's performance. The ability to remain flexible and provide recreation resources to the community despite numerous challenges has not gone unnoticed.

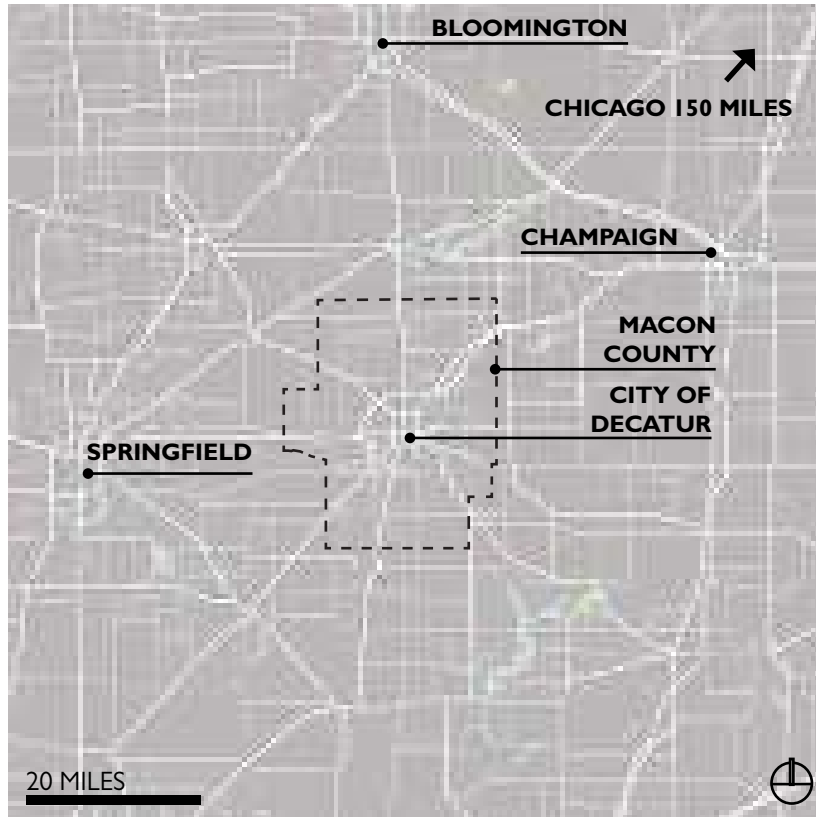
The Decatur Park District will continue to address ongoing demographic shifts in the community to ensure the most relevant, responsive and effective park system possible to meet the wants and needs of people.



Decatur Park District Mission Statement

The mission of the Decatur Park District is to enrich our community's quality of life, health & wellness, education, and economic vitality by providing outstanding parks, facilities, and recreational opportunities.

LOCATION MAP
Central Illinois Region



Decatur City Limits



It should be noted that the Park District boundary is coterminous with the City of Decatur boundary, which is ever-changing.

PARK DISTRICT VISION

PLAN PURPOSE

Illinois park districts are special purpose governmental units designed to be separate from municipalities, with their own elected officials, dedicated tax rates, and autonomy. The State of Illinois has embraced comprehensive planning as a tool to help make park districts more effective. All park districts in Illinois are required to update their strategic master plan at least every ten years to qualify for ongoing state funding and ensure they are responding to the needs of the residents they serve. This Master Plan update will address the physical and programming needs of Decatur residents and create a road map of specific actions necessary to improve operational efficiency and financial effectiveness.

The Plan will establish priorities to help address current issues facing the Park District, allowing flexibility to adapt to future challenges while maintaining a high level of customer service. The Park District is uniquely positioned with a wealth of resources, including land holdings of over 2000 acres, to help address community needs.



The Plan will help identify strategies to make the best use of these valuable resources, sustain the Park District in the areas that demonstrate excellence, identify areas of need, and develop partnerships to supplement those needs. The Plan will address the need to remain resilient in a changing world by considering smart growth and social equity as priorities. The vision is to be a Park District of excellence that enhances the community's growth, prosperity, and quality of life.

To fulfill the Park District's mission, the following core values and goals have been established:

Integrity: Execute duties ethically, with honesty and sincerity. Provide information readily to public, complete annual audits of financial records.

Sustainability: Maintain efficient and effective use of financial, human, and environmental resources to ensure the long-term viability of the District. Protect and manage natural resources, utilize Master Plan Updates to make decisions for the long-term good of the District and the community.

Service: Provide outstanding service to our entire community. Provide excellent customer service, communicate efficiently with public.

Partnering: Collaborate with citizens, governmental entities, and private businesses to maximize community resources. Encourage public input, strengthen partnerships to enhance cost savings.

Safety: Establish a safety awareness that is in the best interest of our visitors, employees, and facilities. Maintain accreditation, provide safe environments.

PLAN PROCESS

The process of preparing this master plan update began with an extensive process of data collection, surveys, interviews, public meetings, field inspections, and a comprehensive inventory and analysis of existing park facilities. The goal of these efforts was to inspect and document the condition of park facilities and ask the community directly what they feel is working and where improvements are necessary. An assessment of the District's physical facilities was performed in relationship to nationally recognized park standards to determine where the District is meeting, exceeding, or not meeting national standards. This assessment provided a sense of how the District is performing in terms of providing sufficient facilities and programs, as well as where the District might have more physical assets than the community can support financially.

The Master Plan establishes the following guiding principles that will address the challenges identified in the Needs Assessment and will provide a road map for addressing these needs and achieving the Mission of the Decatur Park District.

Social: The Decatur Park District will seek to provide an equitable distribution of high quality, accessible, and relevant parks and programming across all neighborhoods in the community.

Environmental: The Decatur Park District will seek to reduce resource consumption and improve the environmental performance and functional efficiency of all Park District facilities.

Economic: The Decatur Park District will improve the overall financial effectiveness of the system by focusing on core strengths, seeking partnerships, and improving facilities to reduce operating costs.

The Plan builds on these guiding principles to establish recommendations and specific actions for parks and programs based on the demographics of each neighborhood and the community as a whole.

The Master Plan inventory and analysis process included a physical inventory and assessment of each park. Each park was reviewed with internal operations staff to identify key issues, program needs, and opportunities for improvement. Patterns were identified where facilities were either particularly effective or struggling, and guiding principles were established for improving existing parks and locating new facilities.

The Plan includes an analysis of the demographic trends documented in the City of Decatur over the last ten years, and a broader assessment of those trends and how they affect park programming and recreational needs over the last thirty years since the population of Decatur began to decline and age. These trends were analyzed on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis and provide a sound rationale for establishing updated program recommendations for the residents living in each neighborhood now and in the coming years.

The needs assessment process included considerable community outreach, gathering information from the general public and community leaders through a series of public meetings, stakeholder interviews, small group workshops, and a community survey. The most common feedback received from the public survey in the 2013 Master Plan was a call to improve maintenance across the system, and the most requested program elements revolved around water play, pools, and water parks. The Park District is listening! Demonstrating an ability to respond and adapt to community feedback, the current survey response notes positive reviews of park maintenance and overwhelming support for new facilities such as the Splash Cove Waterpark.

Community leaders called for the Park District to continue its leadership in addressing the major issues facing Decatur through ongoing partnership opportunities to improve services, share and reduce costs, and make the City of Decatur more competitive by improving the quality of life for residents.

PARK DISTRICT VISION

Finally, an assessment and comparison of the existing parks and program facilities in each neighborhood was compared to widely-accepted national standards to establish a fair assessment of the Decatur Park District offerings on a community-wide and neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis.

Parallel with these efforts, an analysis of the demographics of the community was performed, and an analysis of how the community of Decatur has evolved over the last thirty years since the population peaked in the late 1970's. The goal of this effort was to determine Decatur's identity as a community today and understand how the community has changed over the years. Finally, an analysis and an outline of a broad range of trends in recreation were developed, which clearly identify impacts to park facilities and help explain why parks are used differently today than in the past. An analysis of the existing recreation programming followed, including sports, fitness, and arts, to determine patterns in usage and impact on facilities.

The data was then analyzed at the system level to create a set of guidelines for use by Park District staff in the long-term operation of the Park District. This plan provides strategies that are as effective today as they will be in five or eight years. Rather than presenting an improvement plan for each park, which would provide only a snapshot in time of the needs of each neighborhood, this plan outlines a set of strategies for use by Park District staff to make decisions today, and in the future, as each park is improved.

As outlined in the Master Plan Actions section, there are a number of overall strategies for addressing the broadest issues facing the Park District, including refining program/facility offerings to meet the current needs of a continually shifting community, and assessing the best long-term use for each property based on current patterns of use. The process, therefore, is ongoing. The Park District does not have the resources to implement all Action Items at once, so priorities must be established based on providing the most access and improvements for the most residents.



RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

Many other master planning efforts were referenced throughout the development of this Plan update. While not explicitly repeated within this document, these master plans have been adopted by the Park District Board and the actions and recommendations therein were considered as part of this Decatur Park District Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

- Nelson Park Master Plan, 2011
- ADA Transition Plan, 2018 Update
- Decatur Aquatics Study, Hunsaker, 2003
- Scovill Zoo Master Plan (updated currently in progress)
- Comprehensive Programming Performance Evaluation Report: Fiscal Years 2014-2021

In addition, other master plan efforts have been produced by Park District partners which were referenced in this Plan to help establish need and appropriate Action Items.

- City of Decatur Stormwater Master Plan, 2009
- Macon County Conservation District Master Plan, 2018
- Golf Vision 2030
- Midstate Soccer Club Vision 2020
- Decatur Urbanized Area Transportation Study (DUATS) Regional Bicycle Master Plan, 2020



PARK DISTRICT VISION

PARK DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2020, the Decatur Park District applied for, and received, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Gold Medal Grand Plaque Award for Class IV cities (population 30,001-75,000). This prestigious award demonstrates a standard excellence and responsiveness by the Park District. For the award application, a list of recent accomplishments which have positively impacted the community were required. The following projects were submitted:

A creative land exchange with Decatur Public Schools (DPS) resulted in the development of a new inner-city magnet school, expansion of the DPD soccer complex and a strategic relocation of our senior center. This exchange doubles the acreage available for soccer field development and repurposes the recently closed golf course club house to accommodate growing senior services.

The St. Louis Cardinals sponsored the DPD Redbird Rookies youth baseball and reading program for 200 children at no cost. There are 421 children in our free elementary basketball program and 307 participants in our free elementary volleyball program. We partner with Decatur Public Schools to offer a “July Try” summer sports camp serving 469 students at no cost.

The District has addressed food insecurity for 35 years by providing summer snacks and lunches at park district programs. Partnering with the State Board of Education, Boys & Girls Club, and public schools the District served 31,513 meals at 31 sites in 2019. Caterpillar Corporation and the University of Illinois enhanced meal time by providing STEM and nutritional programming.

An Economic Development Corporation (EDC) community perception survey clearly identified teens as the top group lacking sufficient entertainment opportunities. In response, Overlook Adventure Park was developed and provided creative opportunities for teen entertainment. Features include: mini golf, batting cages, high-ropes course, eateries and Splash Cove Water Park. Attendance in 2019 for the attraction was nearly 40,000 with 37% being teens.

The EDC community survey identified “live music” as the top quality of life need. To address this need, the The Devon Amphitheater was developed in 2019. With 24 concerts, over 40,000 visitors, 50 part-time employees, offering internships and generating \$1M in revenue, the Devon Amphitheater project was identified by EDC as a “turning point in adding to Decatur’s competitive edge”.



Specific outcomes resulting from previous planning and development actions, listed by established guiding principles for the Plan, include:

Social Equity Accomplishments

- In partnership with Decatur Memorial Hospital (DMH), an outdoor fitness court and pavilion was developed that provides no-charge community health and wellness programs and offers monthly free health screenings.
- Partnering with DMH and the St. Louis Cardinals, the DPD provides the Redbird Rookies: a no-cost baseball/reading program serving 200 children. The Cardinals also constructed a new baseball/softball diamond in an inner-city park.
- The Scovill Sculpture Park has 250,000 visits annually and features a one-of-a-kind commissioned electronic sculpture named “The Learning Curve”.
- The Scovill Golf club house was repurposed into an active senior center, called The Scovill Activity Center, which serves 500 people monthly.
- Partnering with the Boys & Girls Club, the DPD has taught 240 swimming lessons at a drastically reduced rate.
- Nine indoor pickleball courts were added to the Decatur Indoor Sports Center in partnership with Millikin University.
- Working with the Village of Mt. Zion and the Village of Forsyth, development continues to connect the DPD’s hub and spoke trail system, which will add an additional 10-12 miles of trail in the next five years.
- The summer lunch program was expanded to 31 sites and serves 2,864 children weekly.
- In partnership with Decatur Public Schools and Boys and Girls Club, the DPD offers summer lunches and sports clinics.
- A Senior Olympics tournament was created with nine senior-focused recreation events and a medal ceremony.
- Partnering with the Southside Improvement Association and the African-American community, the DPD has offered family-friendly activities on six Sunday evenings in Mueller Park.
- Decatur Park District scholarships continue to uphold a philosophy that no child is turned away for financial reasons.

Environmental Accomplishments

- Annually, the DPD hosts six community cleanup days with 100+ participants from Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) and Millikin University.
- Through a \$25,000 grant from CN Railroad, 240 trees will be planted throughout Decatur’s parks.
- To improve storm water management and wildlife habitat, the DPD has reestablished native prairie grass in parks and a closed golf course which reduced mowing by 150 acres saving \$20,000 annually.
- An Ameren ‘Act On Energy’ grant enabled the DPD to incorporate LED lighting at all facilities.
- In partnership with the Beautify Decatur Coalition, a Litter Critter sculpture was created that educates the public about litter.
- Airport mowing was reduced by 140 acres by partnering with a local farmer to bale hay that feeds livestock while reducing District mowing costs by 20%.
- The DPD incorporated Zosia grass at the newly developed amphitheater, which reduced mowing and chemical use.
- Standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) are strictly adhered to at the Scovill Zoo as new educational and animal exhibits evolve.
- In 2019, the city was designated as Tree City USA in recognition of reforestation efforts.
- The Environmental Coalition volunteers twice annually, removing honeysuckle from Fairview Park.

PARK DISTRICT VISION

Economic Accomplishments

- To address the decline in golf participation, the Scovill Golf Course was shuttered and clubhouse repurposed to the new Senior and Special Recreation Association (SRA) programming center, saving the District an estimated \$100,000 annually. The repurposed Scovill Golf Course (now called Scovill Park West) provides land for free outdoor recreation including cyclocross, cross-country skiing, birding, walking/jogging and high school cross-country.
- A \$3M grant from the State of Illinois supported the development of the lazy river at Splash Cove.
- With \$413,000 in funding from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Public Museum Grant, the DPD has completed a new education pavilion and expanded bird aviary exhibit at Scovill Zoo.
- Five core city parks were upgraded in minority neighborhoods.
- The Junior Welfare Association \$40,000 grant funded a new playground at Overlook Adventure Park.
- The Rotary Club provided \$16,000 to build 'Rotary Notes': an interactive musical play structure.
- In cooperation with JJ Keegan Consulting, a golf survey helped identify player demographics and resulted in fee changes, new services, and improved marketing to enhance the golfer experience.
- Attracting United Airlines as Decatur's air service carrier creates additional traffic, increasing revenue for the airport and its car rentals and restaurant operator.
- The DPD closed the underutilized Big Creek Riding Center in exchange for 17 acres to expand Rotary Park.
- A \$60,000 gift from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation was utilized to purchase a new Park Police SUV.
- In the DPD horticulture department's state-of-the-art greenhouse, 80% of the flowers and plants used to landscape parks and facilities are grown, and additional revenues are earned through annual plant sales.
- The DPD received a \$490,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation to resurface Faries Park Road.

Neighborhood Park Improvement Accomplishments

- Through cooperation with Block-By-Block, a program that partners with a local real estate company, the DPD was able to improve curb appeal of homes surrounding neighborhood parks.
- Two new parks were developed as a result of a land exchange that allowed ADM to develop the Midwest Inland Port, a key to Decatur's economic future.
- The previous Master Plan identified walking trails as a high priority, with eight miles added in the last three years.
- The DPD repurposed four outdoor tennis courts into a 12-pickleball court complex reflecting community need.
- Three new neighborhood playgrounds are currently being installed.
- Renovated/updated parks and facilities were completed in five lower income neighborhoods, offering higher play value.

Funding Strategy Accomplishments

- Alternative non-tax revenue sources allow the District to be only 38% tax-supported, well below the national average.
- Community sponsorship/partnerships paid \$60,000 for an electronic message sign at Overlook Adventure Park, Splash Cove, & the Devon Amphitheater at Lakeshore Landing.
- The Scovill Zoo received a \$2M contribution for the train extension linking the Zoo with the Children's Museum of Illinois (not-for-profit partner).
- \$70,000 was raised in amphitheater sponsorships from various corporate entities across the community.
- \$35,000 is raised annually in sponsorship funds supporting the Midstate Cup Soccer Tournament drawing nearly 7,000 total players and spectators, generating an economic impact of over \$115,000.
- The Decatur Parks Foundation secured a \$250,000 donation for the Sculpture Park.
- Two annual Park Foundation events were held (Zoo-rific and Zoo Open) and raised nearly \$100,000 for Scovill Zoo.
- The DPD has completed construction of the Steven's Creek Bike Trail Phase 2B, and has begun property acquisition for phase 2A as part of the Illinois Transportation Improvement Program.

The following Action Items have been implemented since the 2013 Master Plan:

Removals of Outdated/Under-used Amenities

- Fairview Park: closure of the outdated pool and volleyball court
- Scovill and Nelson Parks: closure of under-performing golf courses
- Boiling Springs: restroom, concessions, bike racks, drinking fountain
- Upper Mound: softball diamond in the southeast corner
- Knights of Columbus: tennis courts, baseball field
- East Mound Park: baseball field
- Cresthaven Park: two tennis courts (conversion to pickleball)
- Garman Park: one tetherball
- Monroe Park: one tetherball, two tennis courts, lighting, drinking fountain
- Hess Park: two tennis courts
- Sunnyside Park: one basketball court, two tennis courts
- Oak Grove Park: 4 tetherball, one baseball field, lighting, tot lot, bike racks
- Garfield Park: one tetherball, two tennis courts, bike racks
- Torrence Park: one basketball court, bike racks
- Grant Park: restroom, concessions, tetherball, baseball diamond
- Jasper Park: baseball field
- Mueller Park: one baseball diamond
- Lions Park: restroom and concessions
- Galloway Park: concessions, baseball diamond
- Brush College #1: baseball field (backstop still up)
- Baker Woods: sand volleyball court
- Sinawik Park: one tennis court, bike racks



Improvements

- Coates Park: updated playground
- Cresthaven Park: tennis courts converted to pickleball
- Grant Park: addition of loop trail
- Upper Mound: new soccer field
- Decatur Soccer Complex: lighting to the northernmost two soccer fields, accessible path extension to access two of the soccer fields
- Boiling Springs Park: baseball diamond
- Cresthaven Park: six Pickleball courts, one pavilion, trail access
- Hess Park: one baseball field
- Graceland Baseball Complex: addition of an accessible trail linking baseball diamonds with parking lot
- Lincoln Park: updated playground
- Torrence Park: playground replacement
- Fairview Park: one shelter, tennis clubhouse, fitness park
- Kiwanis Park: addition of corn hole game and gaga-ball pit
- Brush College #1: half-court basketball
- Scovill Park Zoo: sculpture park
- South Shores Park: updated playground
- Coates Park: playground replacement
- Locke Park: basketball court, play area, pavilion, water fountain (new park accomplished through land exchange with school district and Johns Hill/Midstate Soccer)

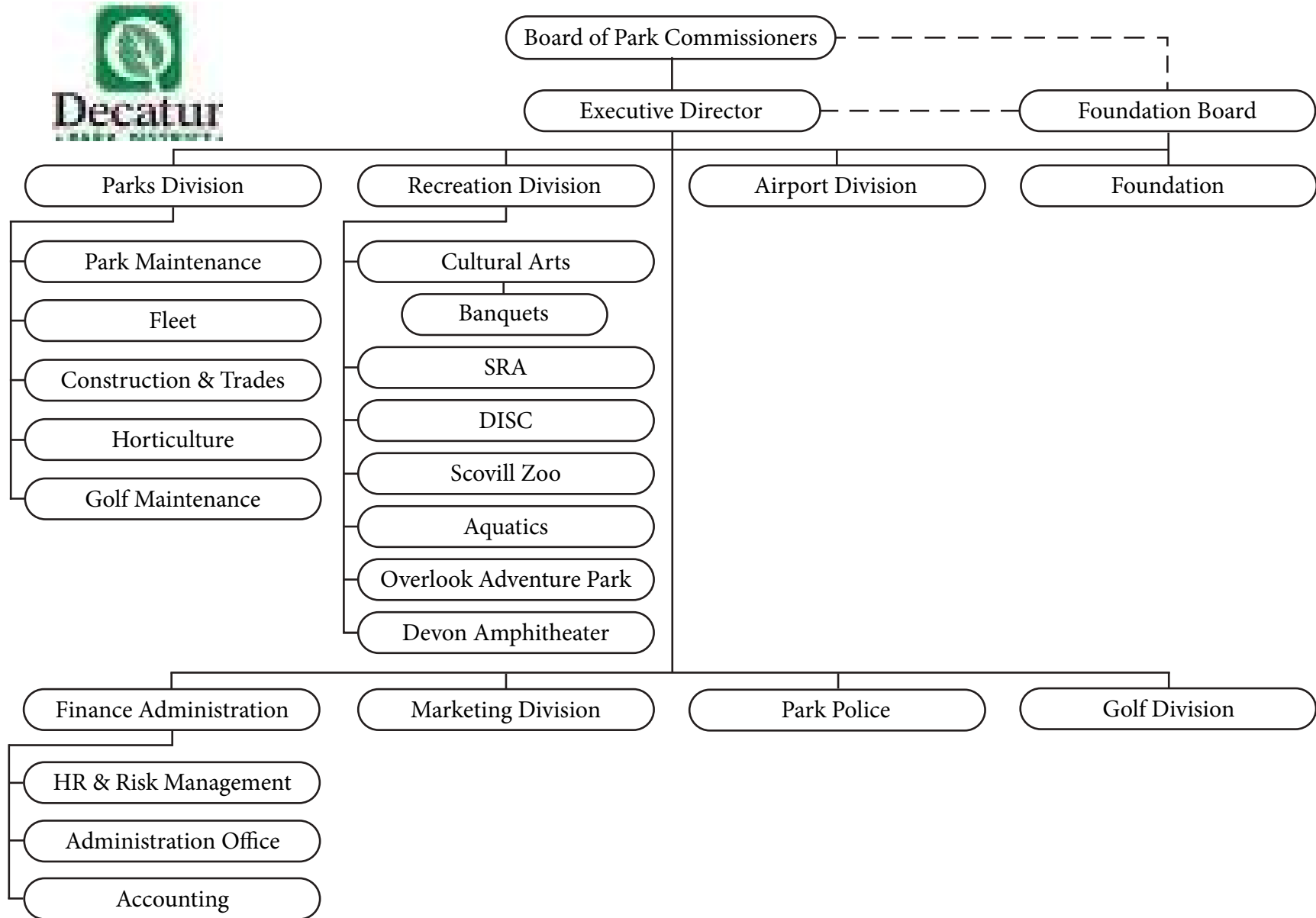
Improvements In Progress

- Cresthaven, Windsor Village, Holiday Hills North Neighborhoods: improved trail connections linking to the Stevens Creek Bikeway which will follow the Creek and cross under MacArthur Road
- Kiwanis Park: playground replacement
- Sinawik Park: addition of one tennis and four pickleball courts

PARK DISTRICT VISION

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

In 2019, the Park District had 109 full time (full-benefit/year-round) employees and 539 non-full-time (seasonal, part-time, contract) employees.



PARTNERSHIPS & ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

Successful partnerships between the Park District and other public and private organizations offer many opportunities for both sustaining and building upon community-serving parks and recreation facilities and programs. Not every provider of active and passive recreation could be listed in this document, but these providers fill an important community need and should be considered in future decision-making.

Current Partners

- Decatur Public Schools (DPS): provides the school lunch program within parks
- Millikin University: Decatur Indoor Sports Center (DISC) facility
- YMCA: recreation programming and indoor 8-lane pool
- Boys & Girls Club: youth programs
- Decatur Athletic Club: recreation programming, indoor/outdoor 4-lane pool
- City of Decatur: stormwater management, marina operations
- Macon County Conservation District: open space management
- Macon County Highway Department: provides road repair materials and engineering assistance
- Churches: volunteer organizations for youth programming and park maintenance
- Private sector: Local businesses, industries including ADM, Caterpillar, Tate & Lyle, Ameren: help fund programs
- Richland Community Center (RACC): art and choral programs
- Decatur Civic Center Theater: drama programs

Partnerships to Develop and Potential New Partners

- Limitless Decatur, through the Macon County Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
- Beautify Decatur
- Community Ambassadors
- Decatur in Bloom
- Inside Out program
- United Way: Debbie Bogle
- Community Foundation: Natalie Beck
- Decatur Memorial Hospital
- Macon County Health Department

Volunteers serve an critical role in Decatur. Passionate and dedicated volunteer groups in individual neighborhoods help with park security and maintenance and many Park District programs rely on the generosity of volunteers to run programs successfully. In 2019, the total number of hours worked by volunteers for the Park District totaled over 20,000 hours!

Current Volunteer Groups:

- Beautify Decatur
- Block By Block
- Audubon
- SONA (Sustain Our Natural Areas)
- Neighborhood Groups
 - GM
 - OKO
 - FFNO
 - PCNO
 - GANO
 - HHNO
 - SIA
 - TPNA
 - NUA
 - Fans Field
 - WENA
 - Millikin Heights
 - Nelson/Lions/Clokey
 - Wabash Crossing Ray of Hope

PARK DISTRICT VISION

CURRENT BUDGETS

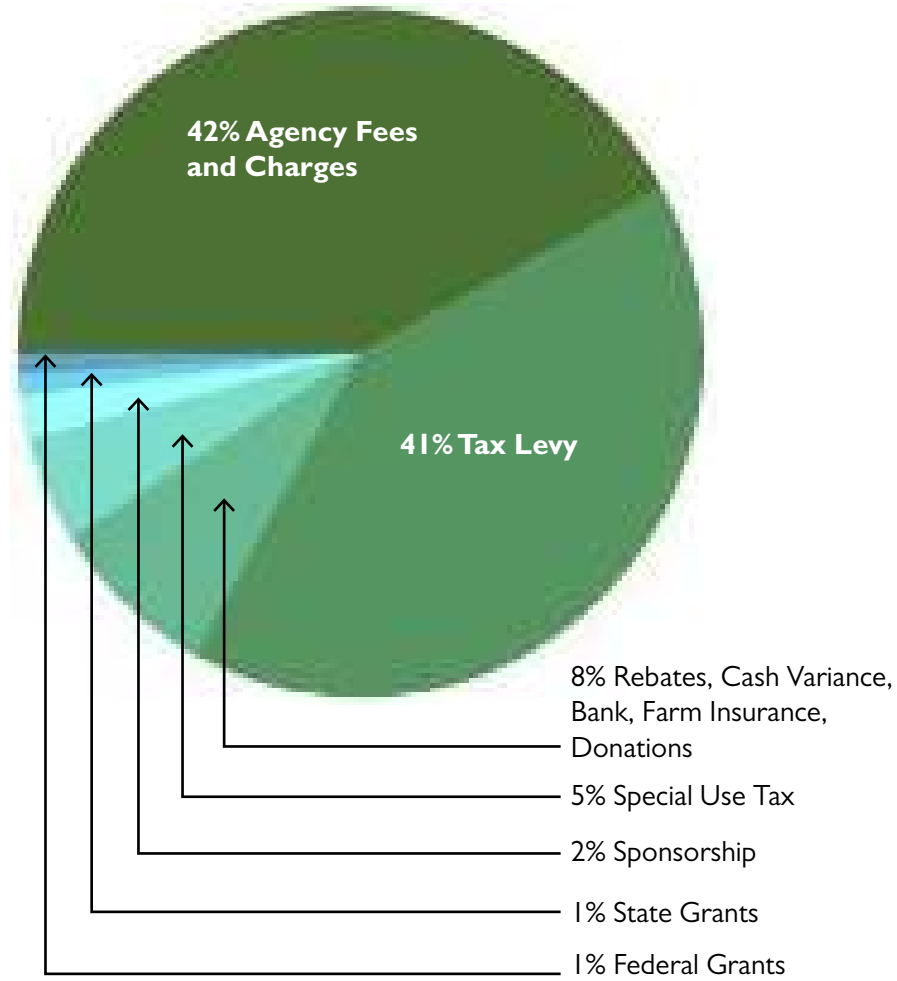
DECATUR PARK DISTRICT						
2021-2022 BUDGET SUMMARY						
ALL REVENUES, EXPENSES AND NET PROFIT/(LOSS)						
	ANTICIPATED		ANTICIPATED			
	REVENUE		EXPENSES			
FUNDS	2021-2022		2021-2022			
			NET			
			RESULTS			
	2021-2022		2021-2022			
ADMINISTRATIVE						
AUDIT	\$	41,572	\$	39,000	\$	2,572
IMRF/FICA	\$	836,029	\$	771,687	\$	64,342
LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$	1,075,154	\$	1,034,967	\$	40,187
POLICE	\$	212,637	\$	238,224	\$	(25,587)
WORKING CASH	\$	5,732	\$	100	\$	5,632
SELF-INSURED HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN	\$	60,332	\$	60,200	\$	132
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$	2,231,456	\$	2,144,178	\$	87,278
PARKS						
PARKS CORPORATE	\$	2,162,255	\$	2,262,292	\$	(100,037)
PAVING & LIGHTING	\$	43,198	\$	43,198	\$	-
MOWING	\$	599	\$	-	\$	599
REHABILITATION & DEVELOPMENT	\$	39,560	\$	38,989	\$	571
TOTAL PARKS	\$	2,245,612	\$	2,344,479	\$	(98,867)
NELSON PARK FUND	\$	1,642,185	\$	1,640,439	\$	1,746
LAKEFRONT/CHANDLER FUND	\$	10,693	\$	10,693	\$	-
GOLF COURSE FUND	\$	1,695,555	\$	1,652,957	\$	42,598
DECATUR INDOOR SPORTS CENTER	\$	951,182	\$	951,182	\$	-
SCOVILL ZOO (MUSEUM)	\$	1,319,674	\$	1,319,674	\$	-
SCOVILL ZOO TRUST FUND	\$	985	\$	985	\$	-
SCOVILL ZOO/DOG PARK TRUST FUND	\$	7,935	\$	7,935	\$	-
SCOVILL ZOO/ZOO TRUST FUND 2	\$	180	\$	2,000	\$	(1,820)
AIRPORT CORPORATE	\$	3,631,629	\$	2,061,127	\$	1,570,502
RECREATION	\$	1,929,022	\$	1,896,953	\$	32,069
TENNIS	\$	24,128	\$	24,128	\$	-
SRA	\$	363,340	\$	300,734	\$	62,606
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS	\$	16,053,576	\$	14,357,464	\$	1,696,112

CURRENT BUDGETS

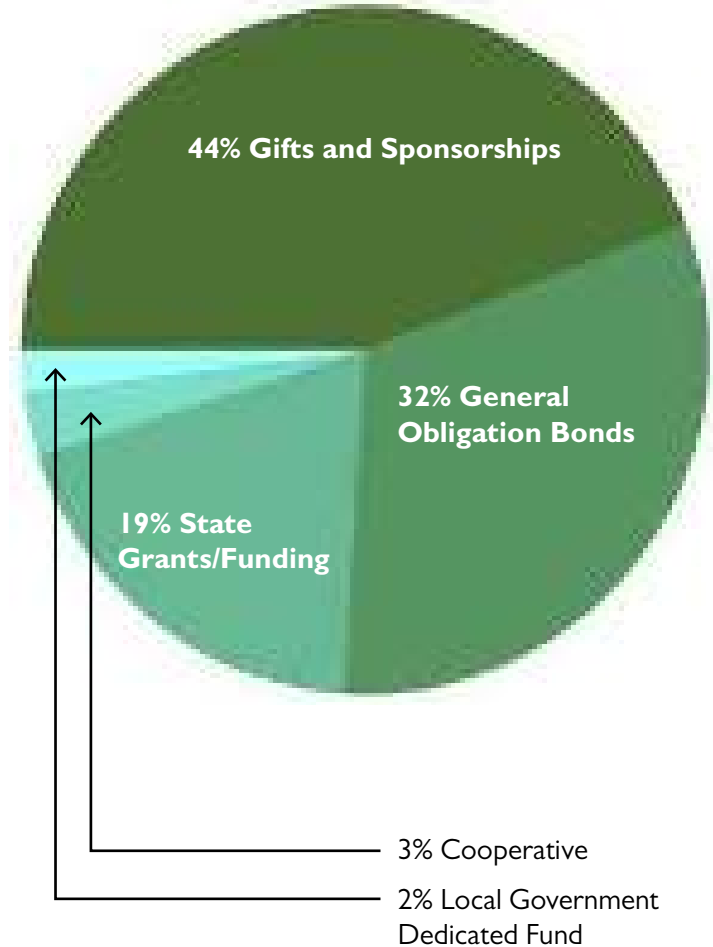
The following data was gathered for the fiscal year 2019.

Total non-tax revenues were	\$ 6,338,950
Total operating expenditures were	\$11,635,716
Total capital budget was	\$27,053,127

The following revenue sources covered total operating expenditures, by percentage:



The following revenue sources covered total capital construction and acquisition expenditures, by percentage:



CHAPTER I SUMMARY

The Decatur Park System is a key element of Decatur’s quality of life and place, making the city a more livable and competitive community by providing extensive recreational opportunities that support economic growth, employee recruitment and retention, and more healthy residents. Chapter I provides an overview of the purpose of this Plan in addressing the unique challenges faced by the Decatur community. The chapter also provides Park District background data and celebrates the District’s many recent accomplishments.

02

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



MARKET AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

The following report summarizes the preliminary findings and analysis from data sets that have been reviewed and tabulated. While 2020 Census data is slowly being released, any meaningful analysis is likely to be possible only after the study is completed, thus the main data source for this analysis is the 2010 US Census and associated projections for current year. 2020 Census data updates will be included in this Plan as an Appendix when data becomes available.

Population

- The 2020 census counted 70,522 residents in Decatur, a decline of about 5,649 residents in the last ten years. In 2010, the population was 76,171.
- The population declined by roughly 0.7% annually in this last decade.
- The 2026 projection for the population in the city is 68,549 a continued decline of 0.5% annually between 2020 to 2026.
- The total daytime population is estimated at 78,469, larger than the total resident population, 46.6% are workers and employees and 53.4% are residents.
- The population is split between 47.1% male and 52.9% female.
- The median age has been trending upward and is 40.7, compared to U.S. median age of 38.5.

Households

- The household count in Decatur has declined from 32,360 in 2010 to 30,918 in the 2021, a decline of 0.45% annually, consistent with population decline.
- The five-year projected number of households is 29,792 in 2026, a continued decline of 0.75% annually from the 2021 total, also consistent with projected population trends.
- Average household size is currently 2.19, compared to 2.23 in 2010.

Income

- In 2021 the median household income is \$42,903 in Decatur, compared to \$64,730 for all U.S. households. Median household income is projected to be \$46,162 in five years, compared to \$72,932 for all U.S. households.
- In 2021 the average household income is \$58,734 in Decatur, compared to \$90,054 for all U.S. households. Average household income is projected to be \$64,988 in five years, compared to \$103,679 for all U.S. households.
- In 2021 the per capita income is \$25,484 in Decatur, compared to the U.S. per capita income of \$34,136. The per capita income is projected to be \$28,300 in five years, compared to \$39,378 for all U.S. households.

Ethnicity

- Racial diversity is slowly increasing in Decatur.
- Persons of Hispanic descent represent 2.8% of the population compared to 18.8% of the U.S. population.
- African-Americans represent 25.4% of Decatur's population, compared to 13.4% of the U.S. population.
- The Diversity Index, which measures the probability that two people from the same area will be from different race/ethnic groups, is 50.3% in Decatur, compared to 65.1% for the entire U.S.

The tables on the following pages summarize this demographic data.

Demographic Data

Table 1. City of Decatur Demographic Summary Market Area

Indicator	2018	2019	2020
Population	76,171	76,153	68,549
Households	32,985	30,038	27,792
Families	19,800	17,706	15,225
Average Household Size	2.25	2.51	2.51
Owner Occupied Housing Units	21,294	20,007	18,542
Renter Occupied Housing Units	11,691	10,031	9,250
Median Age	38.0	40.7	41.4
Households with Children Under 18	6,538	6,151	5,721
Hispanic Population of Total	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
African-American Population of Total	22.2%	22.7%	22.2%
White Population of Total	74.5%	72.9%	74.5%
Median Household Income		\$42,303	\$46,182
Average Household Income		\$58,724	\$64,588
Per Capita Income		\$35,494	\$28,300
Median Disposable Income		\$35,400	
Average Disposable Income		\$45,942	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 Census of Population, Housing, and Economic Characteristics, 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Table 2. Trend Comparison, Annual Growth 2013-2020

Indicator	Decatur	Illinois	USA
Population	+0.67%	+0.15%	2.72%
Households	+0.74%	+0.09%	2.73%
Families	+0.65%	+0.10%	2.04%
Home Owner Rate	+0.37%	1.17%	2.01%
Median Household Income	1.40%	2.23%	2.41%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census of Population, Housing, and Economic Characteristics, 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Table 3. City of Decatur Day Time Population

2021 Total Daytime Population	75,088
Male	38,538
Female	36,550

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 Census of Population, Housing, and Economic Characteristics, 2021 ACS 1-Year Estimates

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

There has been a constant decline in population, households and residential units over the last 10 years. This indicates an aging population and implies a lack of opportunity for the younger generations to stay or to move to Decatur.

Table 4. City of Decatur Population by Generation

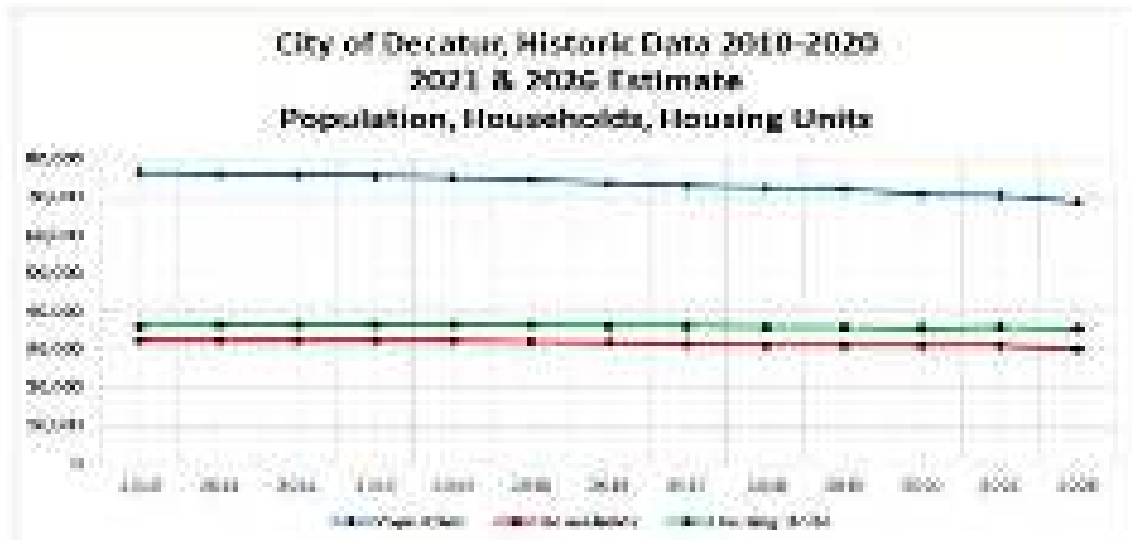
Generation	2021	2026
Generation Alpha: Population (Born 2013 to 2016)	4.5%	10.6%
Generation Z: Population (Born 1995 to 2012)	22.4%	22.5%
Millennial: Population (Born 1981 to 1994)	27.8%	21.5%
Generation X: Population (Born 1965 to 1980)	17.0%	17.0%
Baby Boomer: Population (Born 1946 to 1964)	26.1%	21.5%
Silent & Greatest: Senior Citizen: Population (Born 1925/Earlier)	4.1%	6.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Census, 2019 ACS, 2021 Census, 2021 and 2026

Table 5. City of Decatur, General Trends 2010-2026

Year	Population	Households	Housing Units
2010	75,171	28,223	16,122
2015	74,295	27,875	16,321
2020	73,522	26,912	15,445
2023	73,120	26,918	15,524
2026 Estimate	72,540	25,792	15,112

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Census, 2019 ACS, 2021 Census, 2021 and 2026



Household Income

- Households with an income of \$100,000 or more account for only 14.7% of all households. This share is estimated to grow only marginally to 17.1% by 2026.
- The income bracket with the largest share of households is <\$15,000 in Decatur, accounting for 19.8% of all households, closely followed by the \$50,000-\$74,999 income bracket accounting for 17.1% of all households.
- Almost 40% of all households have an annual income of less than \$35,000.
- Close to 50% of households have a disposable income of less than \$35,000, 22.9% have a disposable income of less than \$15,000, which represents the largest share of households in Decatur.

Table 5. City of Decatur - Household Income by Income Bracket

Year	2021	2024	2024 Disposable Income
Total Households	30,918	29,752	30,518
< \$15,000	19.8%	18.4%	22.9%
\$15,000-\$24,999	9.3%	9.4%	11.7%
\$25,000-\$34,999	11.3%	10.2%	14.5%
\$35,000-\$44,999	14.5%	15.4%	16.4%
\$45,000-\$54,999	11.1%	11.7%	13.4%
\$55,000-\$74,999	10.0%	12.2%	7.4%
\$75,000-\$94,999	11.2%	17.3%	5.0%
\$95,000-\$149,999	2.5%	2.8%	1.1%
\$150,000 or greater	2.8%	2.8%	1.1%
Median Household Income	\$43,000	\$42,000	\$41,500
Average Household Income	\$54,025	\$54,000	\$49,489
Per Capita Income	\$35,481	\$38,300	

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022 Census, 2017-2019 American Community Survey, 2021 Census, 2024

Household Spending - Key Findings

Tables 7 and 8 show household budget spending in categories demonstrating the market potential for entertainment, leisure, recreation and restaurants. In all categories, the spending is clearly below the national average. Reasons for this are the overall lower household income but also the lower cost of living in Decatur compared to larger metro areas such as Chicago.

By far the largest budget item is spending for “Housing”, occupying more than 30% of the total household spending budget. Transportation, Food, Pensions and Social Security are the next largest budget items with 12.1%, 11.9% and 10.2% respectively.

Dining Out and Entertainment account for 4.9% and 4.3% of household spending. That translates into an annual \$148.9 million in spending potential for both categories combined.

Households in Decatur are most likely to spend money especially for admission to sporting events and tickets to theatre/operas/concerts. Less likely is spending for parks and museums and recreational lessons. The item with the largest spending budget is membership fees for social/recreation/health clubs.

The spending potential index (SPI) compares the likelihood of a household spending money in a certain category to the national average of 100. The top two categories for budget spending are highlighted in green on Table 8.

Item	Average Spent per HH	Total HH Spending	SPI
Entertainment, Recreation Fees, and Admissions	\$188.56	\$13,525,954	61
Tickets to Theatre/Opera/Concerts	\$61.26	\$4,564,744	68
Tickets to Movies	\$65.24	\$4,803,641	62
Tickets to Parks or Museums	\$20.12	\$1,502,600	61
Admission to Sporting Events, and trips	\$40.47	\$3,052,825	61
Fees for Participants, Sports, and trips	\$11.25	\$830,075	62
Fees for Recreational Lessons	\$80.61	\$6,000,829	56
Membership Fees for Social/Recreation/Health Clubs	\$145.94	\$10,895,357	62

Table B. City of Decatur - Household Spending – Budget Spending

Item	Average Spend per HH	Total HH Spending	Percent of Total	NPI
Total Expenditures	\$21,988,081	\$2,465,485,568	100.0%	67
Food	\$2,167.19	\$191,553,421	7.8%	63
Food at Home (Groceries)	\$2,616.88	\$119,667,197	7.3%	63
Food Away From Home (Dining Out)	\$2,120.26	\$77,961,624	4.9%	62
Alcohol Beverages	\$400.46	\$12,976,000	0.5%	64
Housing	\$16,091.01	\$409,373,075	16.6%	66
Shelter	\$12,906.26	\$385,184,559	15.6%	66
Utilities, Fuel and Public Services	\$3,500.79	\$108,208,522	4.4%	72
Household Operations	\$1,707.00	\$43,510,347	1.7%	66
Housekeeping Supplies	\$243.42	\$16,799,390	0.7%	70
Household Furnishings and Equipment	\$1,482.12	\$45,811,740	1.9%	68
Apparel and Services	\$1,441.25	\$44,852,209	1.8%	67
Transportation	\$8,322.33	\$195,018,184	7.9%	70
Travel	\$1,542.34	\$47,508,740	1.9%	64
Health Care	\$4,128.08	\$127,008,554	5.2%	71
Entertainment and Recreation	\$2,210.77	\$118,253,326	4.8%	68
Personal Care Products & Services	\$202.38	\$19,451,367	0.8%	68
Education	\$1,129.46	\$41,881,719	1.7%	68
Medical Services	\$693.73	\$15,369,301	0.6%	71
Medical Equipment/Supplies Cost Inpatient/Office (in-kind)	\$3,585.44	\$41,261,247	1.7%	66
Life/Other Insurance	\$381.00	\$11,377,379	0.5%	70
Pensions and Social Security	\$5,933.24	\$164,524,449	6.7%	65

Source: 2012 and 2013 Consumer Expenditure Survey, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, BEA

Housing Summary - Key Findings

Currently, 54.7% of the 35,524 housing units in the area are owner occupied; 32.5% are renter occupied; and 12.8% are vacant. Currently, in the U.S., 56.4% of the housing units in the area are owner occupied; 32.3% are renter occupied; and 11.3% are vacant. In 2010, there were 36,150 housing units in the area: 56.4% owner occupied, 33.1% renter occupied, and 10.5% vacant. The annual rate of change in housing units since 2010 is -0.87%. Median home value in the area is \$94,89, compared to a median home value of \$235,127 for the U.S. In five years, median value is projected to change by roughly 1.8% annually to \$128,937. The Housing Affordability Index (HAI) is 232.

The HAI measures the financial ability of a typical household to purchase an existing home in an area. A HAI of 100 represents an area that on average has sufficient household income to qualify for a loan on a home valued at the median home price. An index greater than 100 suggests homes are easily afforded by the average area resident. A HAI less than 100 suggests that homes are less affordable. The housing affordability index is not applicable in areas with no households or in predominantly rental markets. Home value estimates cover owner-occupied homes only.

In Decatur, detached single unit residential structures are the dominant type in housing units with 73.8% of all housing units.

The most common multi-family residential structures in Decatur are housing structures with 50 or more residential units, almost 5% of all units, followed by residential structures with 5 to 9 units, accounting for 4.8% of all residential units in Decatur. Midsize residential structures with 2 to 19 units account for roughly 13.8 % of all housing units. This indicates that Decatur, while dominantly a single-family home community, includes a few higher-density residential structures on the upper end of the scale but lacks medium sized residential structures.

Most housing units in Decatur (52%) were built before 1960. Since 2000, there were only marginal additions to the housing stock, accounting for a little less than 6% of all existing housing units in Decatur. This indicates a declining number of population and households.

In general, housing costs are the largest segment of a household budget. There are two main factors that influence the percentage of household income allocated for rent and mortgage. First, the market demand, supply and interest rates all influence cost, and second, overall household income. The lower the household income is, the higher the percentage that will go to pay for housing, especially when there are not many housing options available to the lower income groups. Other factors that influence costs include the type and size of housing available for rent or sale.

Available data for Decatur indicates that most renter households (46.5%) use more than 30% of household income for rent payments, 25% use 50% or more of household income for rent payments. 40% of owner households use up to 30% or less of household income for mortgage payments, roughly 5% use 50 or more of household income for mortgage payments. It is concerning that 25% of renter households spend 50% or more of annual household income on rent payments indicating that those households are in financial distress.

Table 5. City of Decatur – Housing Types and Age

Type of Housing Units	
Total Housing Units	45,443
2 Detached Unit in Structure	75.28%
2 Attached Unit in Structure	1.44%
2 Units in Structure	1.00%
3 or 4 Units in Structure	3.24%
5 or 9 Units in Structure	4.00%
20 or 49 Unit in Structure	1.13%
50 or 99 Unit in Structure	1.13%
50 or More Units in Structure	4.86%
Mobile Homes	2.51%
Boat/RV/Trailer	0.08%
Age of Housing Units	
Housing Units Built in 2010 or later	0.08%
Housing Units Built in 2000-2009	1.76%
Housing Units Built in 2000-2009	4.72%
Housing Units Built in 1990-1999	4.86%
Housing Units Built in 1980-1989	6.55%
Housing Units Built in 1970-1979	16.30%
Housing Units Built in 1960-1969	23.00%
Housing Units Built in 1950-1959	21.76%
Housing Units Built in 1940-1949	10.20%
Housing Units Built in 1939 or earlier	20.40%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Research, Community Housing Data (CHD) 2008

Table 10: City of Decatur – Housing Rent & Mortgage Cost	
Renter Households	32.9%
Minimum Gross Rent	\$239
Average Gross Rent	\$731
Gross Rent: 10% of Household Income	4.16%
Gross Rent: 10-14.9% of Household Income	7.65%
Gross Rent: 15-19.9% of Household Income	10.80%
Gross Rent: 20-24.9% of Household Income	11.00%
Gross Rent: 25-29.9% of Household Income	11.20%
Gross Rent: 30-34.9% of Household Income	7.66%
Gross Rent: 35-39.9% of Household Income	6.59%
Gross Rent: 40-49.9% of Household Income	3.66%
Gross Rent: 50%+ of Household Income	25.46%
Owner Households with a Mortgage	54.7%
Mortgage: Monthly Costs < 15% Income	8.83%
Mortgage: Monthly Costs 15-19.9% Income	13.90%
Mortgage: Monthly Costs 20-24.9% Income	8.24%
Mortgage: Monthly Costs 25-29.9% Income	7.13%
Mortgage: Monthly Costs 30-34.9% Income	4.70%
Mortgage: Monthly Costs 35-39.9% Income	2.40%
Mortgage: Monthly Costs 40-49.9% Income	2.04%
Mortgage: Monthly Costs 50-59.9% Income	1.60%
Mortgage: Monthly Costs 60%+ Income	6.44%
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019, BEA	

Employment - Key Findings

The service industry sector employs the largest share of Decatur's population, 45% followed by manufacturing with 15% and retail trade with 13%.

White collar occupations account for the most employment with 55%, blue collar occupations account for 26% of Decatur's employed residents.

Education - Key Findings

Roughly 30% of Decatur's population aged 25 or older have an associate degree or higher education level.

Place of Work & Commute Summary - Key Findings

5% of the employed population in Decatur is working from home. The vast majority (83%) uses a car to commute to work. 10% carpools, 2% use public transportation. More than half (52%) of Decatur's employed population works within a 15-minute commute time. 36% of the employed population commutes between 15 and 30 minutes to work. 9% of the employed population commutes between 30 and 60 minutes to work. Only 3% of the employed population commutes 60 or more minutes to work.

The data tables on the following pages summarize the employment, education, place of work and commute data.



Table 11: City of Decatur - Employment			
2020 Civilian Population (2019 to 2020 Annual Change)		55,127	
Employed		38,176	
Unemployed (Unemployment Rate)		11.3%	
2021 Employed by Industry		2021 Employed by Occupation	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0.0%	White Collar	59.80%
Construction	4.9%	Management, Business, and Financial Operations	15.7%
Manufacturing	15.3%	Professional	21.4%
Wholesale Trade	2.0%	Sales	2.4%
Retail Trade	13.0%	Administrative Support	11.5%
Transportation and Utilities	8.0%	Services	19.1%
Information	2.0%	Blue Collar	29.8%
Financial Activities and Real Estate	4.0%	Production	2.7%
Services	48.2%	Transportation and Material Moving	3.0%
Public Administration	4.0%	Food and Beverage	2.1%
		Transportation and Material Moving	11.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2020 Census, 2021 Census, 2021 Census, 2021 Census, 2021 Census, 2021 Census

Table 12: City of Decatur - Population Age 25+ by Educational Attainment	
Total	18,888
Less than High School	2.7%
High School Graduate, No Diploma	3.0%
High School Graduate	26.8%
GED/Alternative Credential	7.4%
Some College, No Degree	23.7%
Associate Degree	8.0%
Bachelor's Degree	17.8%
Graduate/Professional Degree	7.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2020 Census, 2021 Census, 2021 Census, 2021 Census, 2021 Census

Table 11. City of Decatur - Place of Work, Mode of Transportation and Commute Time

Place of Work		Percent	
worked in Suburban Decatur Residence		11.40%	
worked in Suburban Decatur County of Residence		7.97%	
worked Outside State of Residence		0.40%	
worked at Home		3.22%	
Mode of Transportation		Commute Time	
Drive Alone to Work	32.50%	Commute: <5 minutes	4.55%
Carpooled	9.00%	Commute: 5-9 minutes	13.20%
Took Public Transportation	1.84%	Commute: 10-14 minutes	21.70%
Took a Shared Taxi/ly Cab	1.75%	Commute: 15-19 minutes	23.94%
Took a Subway or Elevated	0.68%	Commute: 20-24 minutes	29.40%
Took a Taxicab/Uber/Lyft	0.24%	Commute: 25-29 minutes	1.85%
Bicycled	0.17%	Commute: 30-34 minutes	5.15%
Walked	0.10%	Commute: 35-39 minutes	11.25%
Other Modes of Transportation	0.81%	Commute: 40-44 minutes	1.17%
		Commute: 45-49 minutes	4.05%
		Commute: 50-59 minutes	2.24%
City Time Population			
Total City Time Population		78,429	
Workers		45.0%	
Residents		33.4%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013-2017, Decatur, Georgia, 2017

RECREATION PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS

The ‘Demand Potential by Propensity to Participate’ is based on the socio-economic characteristics of households in the market area and their tendencies to use various products and services. While this approach estimates sports and activity participation, it also estimates potential event (e.g., culture, concert) attendance. However it covers adults only – age 18 and above. The table indicates that participation in selected sports and activities in Decatur are mostly close to or above the national averages with the exception of soccer and attending a country music concert.

Table 14. City of Decatur – Propensity to Participate

Sport	Number of HH	Percent of Total	NFI	Associated Facility
Aerobics	3,482	6.2%	86	Sports/Rec Center, Gym
Basketball	2,071	3.7%	91	Sports/Rec Center, Field, Stadium
Basketball (indoor)	4,904	8.7%	100	Sports/Rec Center, Gym
Baseball (professional)	2,107	3.8%	86	None
Baseball (recreational)	2,967	5.3%	81	Parks
Boating	2,106	3.8%	90	Marina/Boat Ramp
Boxing	2,912	5.2%	99	Sports/Rec Center
Card playing/pooling	2,259	4.0%	91	Marina/Boat Ramp
Fishing	6,412	11.3%	104	Marina/Boat Ramp
Football	2,351	4.2%	97	Sports/Rec Center, Field, Stadium
Friskies	2,052	3.7%	95	Park
Golf	2,384	4.3%	96	Sports/Rec Center, Golf Course
Hiking	5,305	9.4%	77	Trails
Horseback Riding	1,705	3.0%	100	Trails, Barns etc.
Ice Skating	1,997	3.6%	96	Sports/Rec Center
Amusement/entertainment	5,264	9.4%	76	Trails, Parks
Autos	1,740	3.1%	84	Sports/Rec Center
Body Pump	1,775	3.2%	91	Sports/Rec Center
Soccer	1,975	3.5%	81	Sports/Rec Center, Field, Stadium
Softball	1,706	3.0%	100	Sports/Rec Center, Field, Stadium
Swimming	7,176	12.7%	80	Aquatic Center, Pools
Tennis	1,527	2.7%	76	Sports/Rec Center, Court
Volleyball	1,905	3.4%	94	Sports/Rec Center, Court
Walking for exercise	12,130	21.4%	95	Trails, Parks
Weightlifting	4,574	8.2%	84	Sports/Rec Center
Yoga	3,400	6.1%	75	Sports/Rec Center
Zumba	1,482	2.6%	80	Sports/Rec Center

Source: City of Decatur, 2016. Data provided by the City of Decatur, 2016.

Sports - Key Findings

Sports with the highest likelihood of participation compared to the national average are softball, fishing, basketball and horseback riding. Sports with the highest number of participating households are walking for exercise, swimming fishing and running/jogging.

Activities - Key Findings

Leisure activities with the highest likelihood of participation compared to the national average include playing bingo, attending a county music concert, bird-watching and visiting a state/county fair. Leisure activities with the highest number of households participating are dining out, going to the beach, attending a sports event and visiting a state/county fair.

The following table lists leisure and sports categories and three columns and related facilities. The three columns are the number of participants in that market area, the percentage that comprises of the market area and the Market Potential Index (MPI). The MPI is a national ranking approach where 112 would mean that the area has 12% more participants than the US norm of 100 while an 88 would mean that the area has a 12% lower participation in that activity.

Table 15. City of Decatur – Propensity to Participate

Leisure Activity	Number of 181	Percent of Total	MPI	Related Facility
Attend sports events	3,533	13.7%	85	Sports Rec Center, Event Center, Stadium
Attend an adult/recreational course	3,532	13.7%	85	Community Center, Cultural Center
Visited an Aquarium	2,433	9.3%	77	Zoo, Aquarium
Wanted art galleries	2,409	9.3%	80	Museum, Gallery, Cultural Center
Wanted to boat	2,206	8.6%	79	Aquatic Center, Pools
Played billiards/pool	2,200	8.6%	75	Community Center
Played bingo	2,657	10.2%	111	Community Center
Did bird watching	2,407	9.3%	109	Park, Nature Preserve
Attended dance performances	2,150	8.2%	88	Theater, Amphitheater, Event Center
Dined out	26,000	98.6%	87	Restaurant, Event Center
Went to sports	1,504	5.7%	87	Park
Attended state/country fairs	2,533	9.6%	101	Fair Center
Wanted museum	6,000	22.6%	72	Museum, Gallery, Cultural Center
Attended classical music/choir performances	1,044	3.9%	85	Community Center, Cultural Center, Event Center
Attended country music concert	2,874	10.9%	107	Community Center, Cultural Center, Event Center, Amphitheater
Attended rock music concert	4,430	16.6%	85	Community Center, Cultural Center, Event Center, Amphitheater
Wanted live theater	2,000	7.6%	79	Theater, Amphitheater, Event Center, Cultural Center
Visited an indoor water park	1,731	6.5%	81	Aquatic Center, Pools
Wanted to zoo	8,427	31.5%	88	Zoo, Aquarium
Wanted to go to the movies	1,807	6.8%	85	Theater

Source: Q4 2016, 2016-2017 Recreation Survey, 2017, 2017, 2017.

It's important to note that higher and lower, are just that, higher and lower. Meaning, if there are enough people in the category to make it succeed, it doesn't matter that the area is above or below the US norm for participation in that category. However, it is a useful way to better understand the culture of an area. For example, these markets have high MPIs for fishing, camping, and canoeing/kayaking, imply that this is an outdoors oriented culture.

RECREATION PROGRAM STATISTICS

This chapter evaluates the performance of the Decatur Park District's current recreation program offerings utilizing usage data supplied by the Park District, identifies a strategy for assessing the performance of each program on an ongoing basis, and outlines a set of long-term goals for the Recreation Department of the Decatur Park District.

A Comprehensive Programming Performance Evaluation report for fiscal years 2014-21 was completed in early 2022. The results were analyzed for this chapter. As in past Evaluation Reports, programs are divided into the following five categories: The Arts, Fitness, Golf, Sports and Recreation, and Special Recreation Association (SRA). In each of these categories, programs are evaluated based on cost recovery level, planned hours annually, capacity, participation, and revenue.



An analysis based on data gathered from the recreation department will help determine which programs are functioning as intended, which programs could be modified, and how all District programming can continue to meet the community's needs into the future.

The cost recovery philosophy of the Decatur Park District is such that programs are not run with the expectation of financial profit. This section evaluates cost recovery not as a measure of program success, but to evaluate if programs are operating at their intended levels and to ensure that subsidized and low cost recovery programs are balanced by programs with high levels of cost recovery.

All District programs fall into one of the following four cost recovery levels:

- BASIC PUBLIC - Fully Subsidized, 0% Cost Recovery
- COMMUNITY 1 - 1-49% Cost Recovery
- COMMUNITY 2 - 50-99% Cost Recovery
- SPECIALIZED - 100% Cost Recovery or Greater

The 'Basic Public' level programs include events such as community festivals and outdoor concerts, where it is not feasible to exclude participants. 'Community Level 1' is an embellishment of a basic service, and includes such programs as swim lessons, SRA, and senior programs. 'Community Level 2' includes programs where users contribute the full cost of providing the program. Youth sport programs and camps typically fall into this category. The 'Specialized' level includes programs where users contribute in excess of actual costs of providing the program. Programs such as day camps and the majority of adult programming operate at this level, and are intended to offset the other cost recovery level programs.

The Arts

The majority of the DPD's Arts programs would be classified as performing arts. The District utilizes the DISC and the Poage Arts and Recreation Center (PARC) for dance, theater, and similar classes and rents the Civic Center Theater downtown for Dance Recital, Perform!, BOSS, and Chorale. Arts programs aim for a Community 2 level of cost recovery, with the exception of community wide arts events, which are intended to operate at the Basic Public level.

Total Programs: 55 (5 more than during FY 19-20)

Participation: 6,767 in FY 20-21 still a slight downward trend from FY 19-20 (8,463 similar to FY 14-15) however this has to been seen in light of pandemic related restrictions and hesitancy by the population to participate especially in indoor programming.

Total Annual Program Hours: increased by 8.6% (FY 19-20 vs 20-21)

Cost/Revenue: Despite the low participation due to the pandemic revenues still exceed costs by 173% or \$20,145 in FY 20-21. While on a smaller \$ amount this is a continuation of revenue exceeding costs. Revenue from fees/charges declined from a high of \$163,263 in pre-pandemic FY 18-19 to \$5,159 in FY 20-21 similar to participation figures. Sponsorship and donations declined sharply between FY 17-18 (\$22,971) and FY 18-19 (\$9,237) but recovered by 48% in FY 19-20 (\$17,804) and remain at \$16,150 in FY 20-21. Noteworthy is that revenue from sponsorship and donations was higher than the revenue from fees and charges in FY 20-21.

Fitness

The majority of the DPD's fitness programs are run through the Decatur Indoor Sports Center (DISC). The DPD increased membership prices at the DISC, but as part of this new membership price, DISC members were able to participate in fitness classes free of charge. Financial data from the fitness classes were not included in this report due to the strategic DISC membership price policy. There are also a variety of senior programs offered, falling under the Basic Public level.

Total Program Hours: 472 (577 less than during FY 19-20) Pre-pandemic FY averages were 882 program hours

Participation: 2,217 in FY 20-21 down from 5,296 in FY 19-20 (Pre-pandemic FY averages were 4,680)

Golf

Decatur currently operates two golf courses: Hickory Point and Red Tail Run. An indoor simulated driving range and putting practice course is located in the DISC. With the exception of Golf Demo Days, which operates at a Basic Public level, golf programs aim for Community 2 level cost recovery for youth programs and Specialized level for adult programs.

Total Programs: 11 (unchanged from FY 19-20). Programs increased in number constantly since FY 13-14 (8)

Participation: 140 in FY 20-21 down from FY 19-20 (282). Overall, the number of rounds of golf played has likely increased – golf is an activity that can be played individually and outdoors, it is part of a set of outdoor activities (exercise walking, bicycle riding, hiking, etc.) that saw an increase in participation during the pandemic.

Total Annual Program Hours: were 114 (same as in FY 19-20). Similar to the number of programs hours increased in number constantly since FY 13-14 (74)

Cost/Revenue: Despite the low participation in programs offered due to the pandemic, revenues still exceed costs by 104% or \$1,046 in FY 20-21. While at a smaller \$ amount this is a continuation of revenue exceeding costs. Revenue from fees/charges declined from a high of \$12,740 in FY 19-20 to \$2,050 in FY 20-21 similar to program participation figures.

Sports and Recreation

The DPD's sports and recreation programs are held throughout the city in many different parks. Official DPD sport programming locations are shown on page 36. Adult sports/recreation programs aim for the Specialized cost recovery level. Children's programs fall under the Community 2 level. Exceptions are swim lessons and senior programming, which fall under the Community 1 level.

Total Programs: 69 (12 more than during FY 19-20). Programs decreased in number slightly since the high of 83 in FY 16-17

Participation: 8,763 in FY 20-21 a substantial increase from FY 19-20 (6,622), almost recovering to the pre-pandemic level of FY 18-19 with 9,743 program participants.

Total Annual Program Hours: increased by 29% (FY 19-20 vs FY 20-21) Program hours decreased since FY 16-17. The increase shows the effort by the DPD to provide the population with additional options to stay active during the pandemic but also reflects a growing demand in a post-pandemic time.

Cost/Revenue: Despite the lower participation due to the pandemic, revenues still exceed costs by 29% or \$172,633 in FY 20-21. While on a smaller \$ amount this is a continuation of revenue exceeding costs. Revenue from fees/charges declined from a high of \$965,126 in pre-pandemic FY 17-18. Sponsorship and donations declined sharply between FY 18-19 (\$96,958) and FY 20-21 (\$26,335). In general, the decline in sponsorships and donations can be attributed to the economic hardships related to the pandemic.

Special Recreation Association

During FY 20-21 the DPD did not provide any special recreation programs. This is likely due the pandemic, the lack of demand and possible staffing shortages. The SRA program provides recreation opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. SRA also runs a camp at South Shores School and at Spare Time Lanes for bowling. SRA programs are intended to operate at a Community 1 level.

Total Programs: 82 in FY 19-20 (3 more than in FY 18-19). Program numbers have been on a consistent level in number constantly since FY 14-15.

Participation: 1,881 in FY 19-20 down from FY 18-19 (1,890). FY 14-15 had the highest program participation with 2,045.

Total Annual Program Hours: were 324 and remained the same since FY 14-15

Cost/Revenue: The special recreation programming has remained relatively constant in number, hours and participants; thus, revenue has remained the same. Overall, it increased slightly to \$25,712 in FY 19-20 year over year since FY 16-17. Due to the nature of those programs and the special needs of the participants, costs exceed revenues by about 34% or \$ 13,547 in FY 19-20. The loss occurring is constantly declining in small increments since FY 16-17.



Zoo Programming

The zoo provides a family-friendly, budget conscious option to engage in outdoor activities and education. It has become even more an important staple for families to visit especially during the last two years of the COVID pandemic, despite initial closures and capacity limitations.

Total Programs: 53 (down from 73 during FY 19-20). Programs increased in number until the high of 75 in FY 18-19

Participation: 4,760 in FY 20-21 a decrease from FY 19-20 (6,152), consistent with reduction in programs and hours during the same period of time.

Total Annual Program Hours: decreased by 44% (FY 19-20 vs FY 20-21). There was a notable increase in total program hours between FY 17-18 and FY 18-19, from 523 to 1,223.

Cost/Revenue: Despite the lower participation due to the pandemic, revenues still exceed costs by far 286% or \$ 13,250 in FY 20-21. While on a smaller \$ amount, this is a continuation of revenue exceeding costs, revenue from fees/charges declined from a high of \$23,274 in pre-pandemic FY 18-19. There is no sponsorship and donations revenue, however both could be an option to generate additional revenue in the future.



Covid Related Trends

Americans took up outdoor activities in significant numbers during the pandemic. Among the biggest gainers were running, cycling and hiking. Walking, running and hiking were widely considered the safest activities in which to participate. Especially urban populations flocked to outdoor activities – in particular running, bicycling, hiking, bird watching and camping. Outdoor activities were/are a cost-effective antidote during pandemic restrictions that served as the social fabric to bring kids, families and communities together safely, while usual activities with that purpose were not available.

Among the five activity segments (team, fitness, outdoor, individual and racquet) outdoor saw the lowest impact due to COVID, with a decline by 34%, team sports were hardest hit at nearly 69 % decline followed by racquet at 55%.

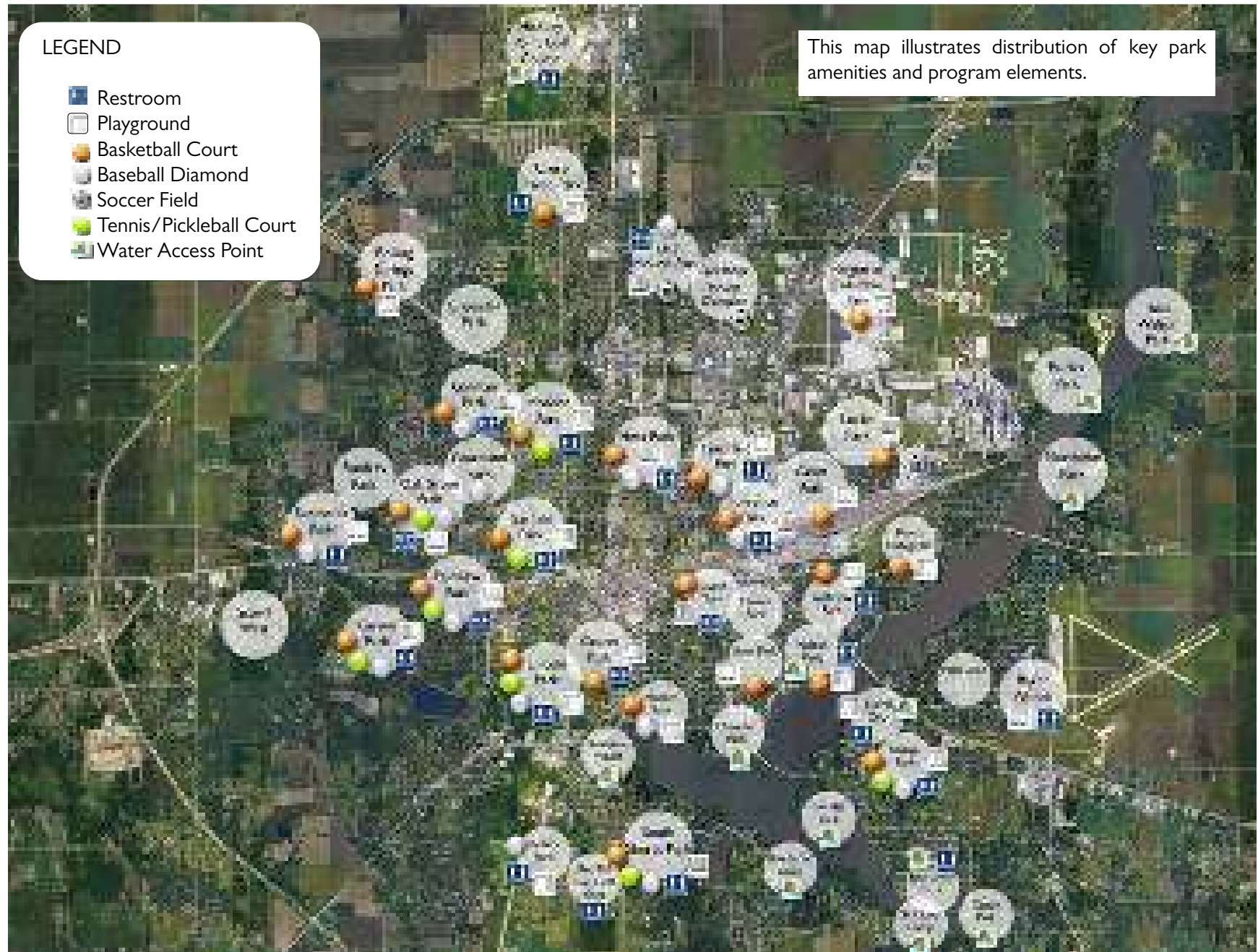
How people spend their free time during the pandemic was largely motivated by what was available to do close to home and alone or with others in their household.

Average outdoor activity groups size pre- pandemic: 5.61 now down to 1.85. Traveled 2 miles or less for outdoor activities pre-pandemic: 10.8%, now 49.9%.

Those who participated in an outdoor activity for the first time alone did so close to home and chose an activity with a low barrier to entry (e.g., walking, running, biking, hiking, etc.). More than 60% of those who started or resumed walking, bicycling, fishing, or running/jogging intend to continue once restrictions lift. A lack of information about where to go, how to participate, and whom to participate with can be a barrier to trying new or continue with outdoor activities. Providing this kind of information could keep participants engaged and attract others.

Sources: NSGA, SFIA, MFA

RECREATION DISTRIBUTION



PROGRAM EVALUATION STRATEGY

While there is no set formula to determine the success of a Park District program, there are a number of factors which must be considered to help make informed decisions about program modifications. The following factors may serve as a guideline to review programs now and in the future:

- Cost Recovery
- Percent Capacity
- Participation Numbers
- Revenue

When a program demonstrates low numbers or percentages in any of these four categories, it suggests a need for further evaluation. The following questions may then be considered:

- Does the program have significant historical or cultural significance?
- Is the program serving an under-served population?
- Is the program trending up or down nationally?
- Does the program help fight obesity in participants who would otherwise not be physically active?
- Is the program valuable to seniors who might otherwise not be physically active?

Once consideration has been made of these factors, if the program is determined to be valuable to Decatur residents, then other options must be reviewed:

- Explore partnerships with private/public entities to share costs.
- Evaluate if minor modifications could be made to eliminate costs.
- Assess if program is resource intensive, and if multiple programs could be combined to reduce costs.
- Evaluate if expanding program to provide increased access would increase participation.
- Evaluate if fees could be increased.

Other Programs

Senior Programs: currently senior luncheons and events are located at the Scovill Activity Center. There is also a County Senior Citizens building and program. The County does some recreation programming but focuses primarily on social services. Two of the most popular programs for seniors are golf and the volunteer program at Scovill Zoo.

SRA activities: KC Hall, Millikin University (Special Olympics), DISC

Arts: Decatur Area Arts Council and Gallery 510 handle visual arts programming

DISC Summer Day Camp: is a high, if not the highest, of DPD's cost recovery programs in addition to Winter and Spring Break camps held at the DISC. This camp also heavily utilizes Kiwanis Park and Splash Cove in the summer.

Parks and Playgrounds/Summer Lunch Program: this program is 76 years old with some major changes in the summer of 2012

Nature programming: through the Macon County Conservation District. They have their own facilities.

CONCLUSIONS

The Arts

The majority of current programs are operating according to expected levels of cost recovery. The five baseline programs/events attracted roughly 3,900 participants/attendance in fiscal year (FY) 20-21. Overall, there were five more programs available in FY 20-21 than in the previous FY. The decline in participation is due to pandemic restrictions and capacity limitations, but is expected to recover to or even above pre-pandemic levels. This data indicates that art/theater programs could be expanded in the post-pandemic times adding indoor and outdoor events with some programming focused on the growing senior population and young professionals, making Decatur more attractive to move to while improving the quality of life for residents. The PARC is in the northwest corner of Decatur, and many residents lack access. A second art center either centrally located or on the eastern edge of town would better serve the community on Decatur's east side.

Fitness

As expected, fitness classes/programming and participation were significantly impacted by the pandemic in FY 20 and the programming hours experienced a steep decline. Furthermore, because of a nominal DISC price increase that allowed members to participate in fitness classes without additional changes to the participation tracking process, financial data is not included in the comprehensive programming evaluation report. Following the DISC membership price change, fitness participation and programming increased pre-pandemic by 26.6% and 18.9%, respectively. Fitness programs, as a whole, are successful in Decatur and will recover with Covid subsiding and restrictions being lifted.

Because of the very nature of trend-fitness classes (Zumba is an example), multi-purpose, adaptable classroom space at the DISC is critical. Both dance and fitness classes ranked high on the survey list to support the expansion of the DISC's current classroom facilities. A second facility with flexible fitness program space in the eastern part of town would allow more access to all Decatur residents.

Golf Programming

The current golf programs are operating at their intended cost recovery levels. Golf programming is separate from recreational golfing activities, lessons, and other special programs in support of individual golfing activities. The programs operating at 'Community 1' or 'Community 2' level are specialized clinics and advanced youth golf. Golf participation was declining nationally, but recovered, as it was one of the safer activities during the pandemic (outdoors/individual/social distancing). This provides an opportunity to introduce the new or returning participants to the golf programming. It continues to be a popular activity for seniors. Taking Decatur's high senior population into account, consideration should be given to keep golf programs accessible to active seniors.



Sports and Recreation

Sports and Recreation programs currently offered are operating at their intended cost recovery levels and have actually been creating surpluses.

While participation and revenue declined during the pandemic, it appears the sports and recreation programming is recovering in terms of participation and revenue, 32% and 13% respectively, compared to FY 19-20. During the pandemic, participants change over to walking (for exercise), running, cycling and hiking and to a certain extent golf with a low entry barrier in terms of equipment cost and experience. It is easy for those participants to switch back to Park District programming that increased in FY 20-21 compared to FY 19-20.

Decatur has approximately 48 baseball diamonds, and softball is shown with census data to be consistently popular in Decatur. Participation data shows that soccer experiences higher participation and that participation is projected to grow, while baseball is experiencing declining numbers. This data suggests that multi-purpose fields, suitable for soccer and upcoming sports like lacrosse, would be utilized more than baseball diamonds. Baseball fields do not need to be removed entirely, but do not need formal infields. A baseball backstop located at the corner of a multi-use play field allows open space to be used by many sports, not just baseball. When renewing or creating new multi-use fields, consideration should be given to artificial turf. While it has a higher cost up front, it requires less maintenance and can extend the out outdoor use season.

Senior Programs

There are more seniors in Decatur than ever before, but those seniors are not typically interested in traditional passive activities. Seniors looking for social interaction and companionship type activities are most frequently using the services of the Decatur Macon County Senior Center, which still offers activities that meet those needs.

The Decatur Park District has shown success with health and wellness type activities that bring seniors to park facilities to interact. Today's "young" seniors are active at the DISC, play golf, volunteer at Scovill Zoo, and enjoy the new Stevens Creek Trail. Additions could be made in the Arts programming to meet the needs and interests of that growing segment of the population.

Trails were one of the most desired program elements desired in the community survey. Considering that high numbers of seniors respond to these types of surveys, this suggests that walking activities are a high priority to this age group. Perimeter trails with distance markers and benches at regular intervals would help meet the needs of this growing sector of the population. Playgrounds adjacent to these trails are also important features, as seniors often enjoy spending time with their grandchildren outdoors.

Special Recreation Association

While there hasn't been any activity or programming in FY 20-21 due to the pandemic, the Special Recreation Association (SRA) provides a valuable service for Decatur residents, and serves the population at appropriate levels. The number of programs and participation rates have been fairly consistent since FY 14-15. While the program's revenue is lower than its costs, the gap between costs and revenue has been stable with the exception of FY 16-17. Possible opportunities in closing that gap might be found in increasing sponsorship or through encouraging donations/monetary gifts in kind.

CHAPTER II SUMMARY

Decatur’s population has undergone major shifts over the past decades, and the Park District must continue to evolve to meet today’s needs as well as those in the future. The District will continue to address ongoing demographic shifts in the community to ensure the most relevant, responsive and effective park system possible to meet the wants and needs of people.

This chapter reviews community demographics and Park District program statistics to help make informed future recommendations.

03

PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY / ASSESSMENT



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to assess the current content and distribution of Decatur parks and analyze how effectively those parks serve their neighborhoods. This information will be used in later chapters to analyze how effectively those parks serve their neighborhoods. The intent of the analysis is to provide a clear evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses within the existing recreational options the Decatur Park District has to offer its citizens. The inventory is based on information provided by City staff and site inspections carried out by Edgewater Resources as part of the planning process. Site inspections took place in-person at each park over multiple site visits in March-April of 2021.

The Decatur Park District has been divided into roughly one square mile study areas based on geographic and transportation boundaries. These study areas, or “neighborhoods”, may contain multiple smaller neighborhoods as recognized by Decatur residents. Population, median age, median income, and households with young children estimates for each neighborhood have been established using projected 2020 Census data and ESRI Business Analyst data.

Within the Park District boundary, there are no typical pocket parks, but thirty-two (32) neighborhood parks (two of which are primarily boating access sites), four (4) community-wide parks, eight (8) natural resource areas, four (4) sports complexes, two (2) golf courses, and eleven (11) special use facilities.

ACCESSIBILITY RATING

The site inventory for each park includes an accessibility rating. This numerical ranking will help prioritize which parks should be first to receive accessibility improvements in terms of new paving, modified furniture, or replacement of structures. The following checklist was referenced during the inventory process, to ensure these park elements are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

- Parking area
- Path of travel from parking, street, or sidewalk to recreation area or facility
- Site furniture, water fountains, and other conveniences along path of travel
- Walking surfaces and play surfacing
- Signage at entrance
- Use areas such as ball fields and passive areas (Able to be used by person with disability? Designed to encourage and maximize interaction?)

The accessibility rating of each park was then assigned using the following ranking system:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

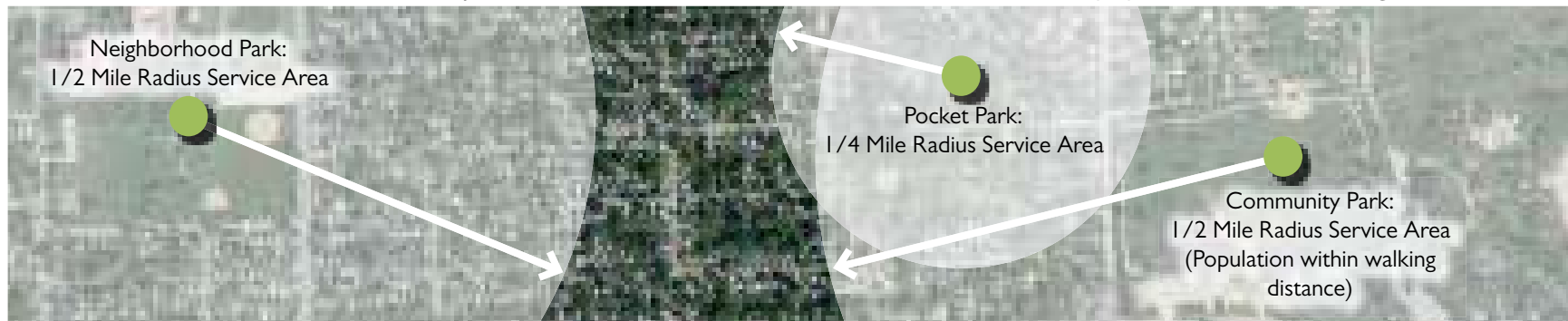
NRPA GUIDELINES

Pocket Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park
Address needs of neighborhoods with limited recreation	Basic unit of park system: Focus of neighborhood	Serves community-wide recreation needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 acre per 1000 population • Serves ¼ mile radius • Up to 1 acre in size • Linked to neighborhood trails and walks • No parking or restroom facilities • Area served should be uninterrupted by non-residential roads or physical barriers, easily walkable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 acres per 1000 population • Serves ½ mile radius • 5-10 acres in size • Linked to neighborhood trails and walks • No permanent restrooms • Area served should be uninterrupted by non-residential roads or physical barriers as much as possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-8 acres per 1000 population • Serves up to 3 mile radius, 2 or more neighborhoods • 30-50 acres in size • Linked to regional trails • Permanent restroom facilities and concessions where appropriate • Served by arterials and collectors • Area served may be interrupted by arterial or collector streets

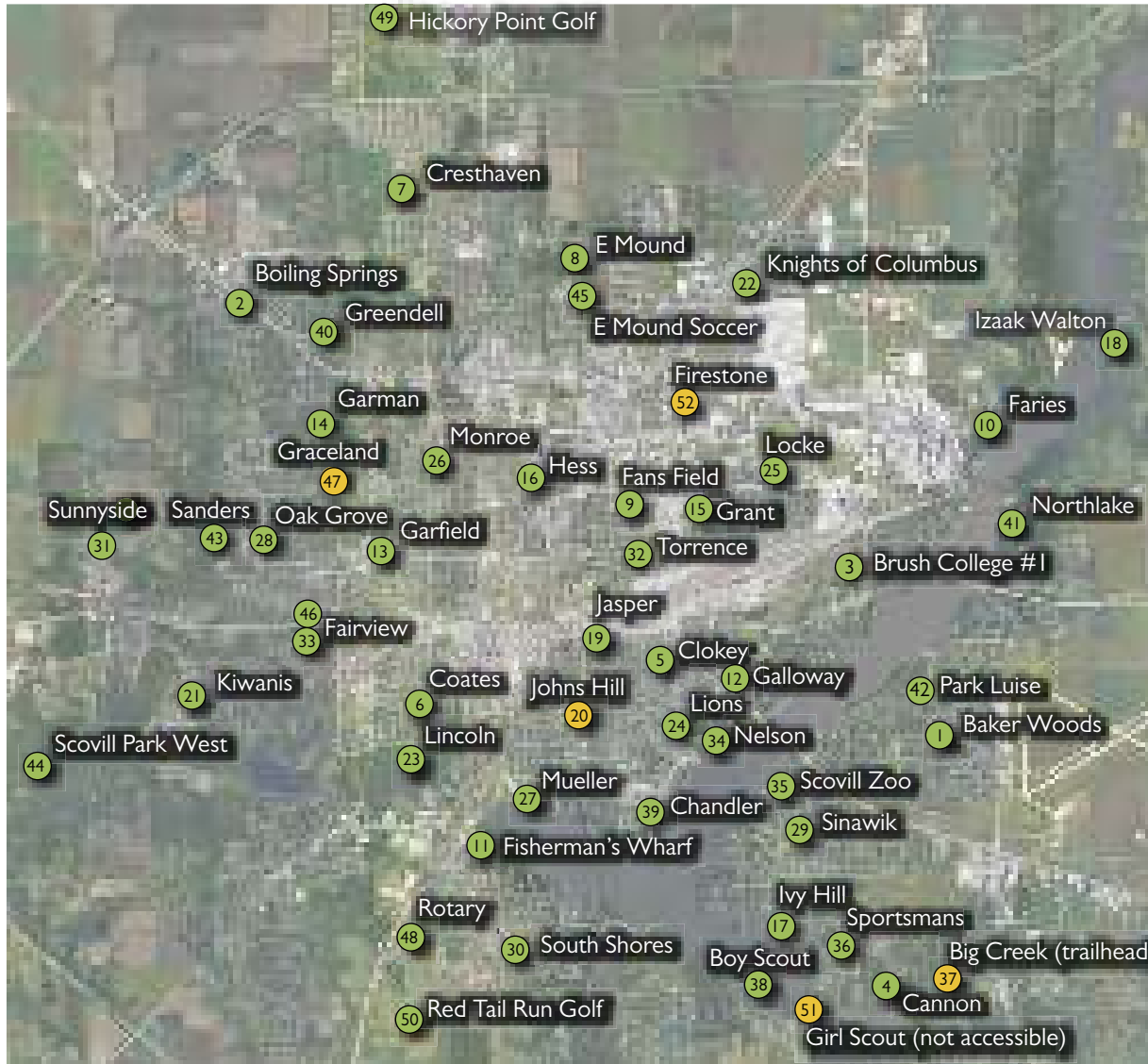
While very few Decatur neighborhoods would not meet the NRPA minimum guidelines, many others would far exceed those guidelines. The following pages will identify which Decatur neighborhoods are appropriately served by existing parks and programming, and which neighborhoods are over-served, under-served, or would benefit from park consolidation or relocation.

Existing Parks: Sample Diagram

In this chapter each neighborhood is shown in aerial view with neighborhood borders outlined in red. Green dots represent parks. Blue dots represent schools. Translucent circles demonstrate population served, based on park type. While Community Parks technically have a service area of 3 mile radius, they will be shown with a 1/2 mile radius to demonstrate population within walking distance.


























OVERALL PARK MAP



AMENITY LEGEND

Each park inventory page includes symbols for key amenities provided at that park*. The legend of symbols is as shown below:

-  RESTROOM
-  PAVILION
-  CONCESSIONS
-  EVENT FACILITY
-  PLAYGROUND
-  PARKING
-  DRINKING FOUNTAIN
-  TRAILS
-  BIKE TRAILS
-  DOG FRIENDLY (on leash)
-  SWIMMING
-  SPRAY PAD
-  SLEDDING HILL
-  KAYAK LAUNCH
-  GOLF
-  DISC GOLF
-  SOCCER
-  BASKETBALL
-  FOOTBALL
-  TENNIS
-  PICKLEBALL
-  VOLLEYBALL
-  BASE/SOFT/T-BALL

*Note that the 'restroom' symbol represents a restroom within park boundary but does not include porta-potties or temporary restrooms. The 'parking' symbol represents parking provides specifically for that park. The 'trail' symbol represents designated trails but does not include City sidewalks.

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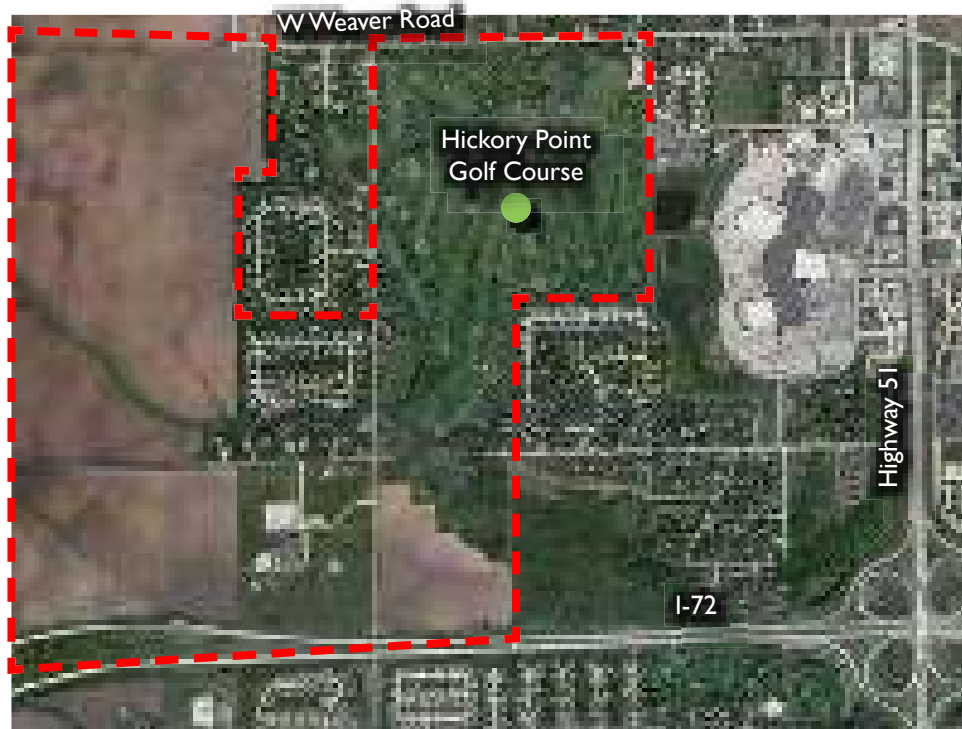
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HICKORY POINT NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



PARK INVENTORY

Hickory Point Golf Course

Location: 727 W. Weaver Road

Park Type: Special Use Facility

Size: 180 acres

Accessibility Rating: 3

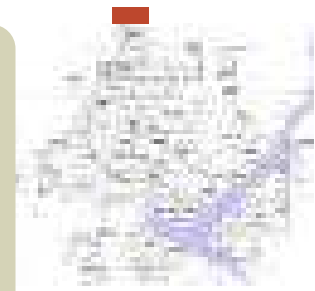
Programming: Junior Golf, Certified FootGolf course, yoga classes in pavilion

Amenities: pavilion, parties, events, meetings, restroom, concessions, 2 ponds, river/creek access, driving range with lighting, 6 hole short course, new mixed pin locations, foot golf, Princess Ball, Trees on Tees, banquet facility

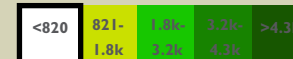


NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

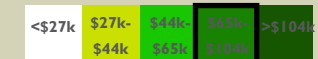
Area: 1.33 Square Miles
 Boundary: Agricultural fields to the west, I-72 to the south, Highway 51 to the east, and W Weaver Road to the north.



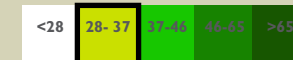
Population Density per Square Mile



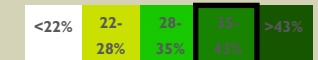
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK ASSESSMENT

The Hickory Point Golf Course (A, B) occupies a majority of this neighborhood. Aside from the southwest neighborhood, the residential neighborhoods surrounding the golf course are outside of Decatur city limits.

Designed by leading golf course architect Larry Packard, Hickory Point features a driving range with lighting for night use, and a six-hole short course for beginning and youth golfers. Hickory Point Golf Course has hosted the PGA of America Junior Golf Series, Cleveland Golf High School Girls Invitational, Decatur High School Boys Invitational, Plantation Tour Junior Series, NCAA Division III National Golf Championships for Women, Illinois Women’s Golf Association’s Senior Open and the Decatur Junior Open. Hickory Point is the site of the IHSA Class IIA Girls’ State Golf Tournament and the High School Cross-country State meet.

The golf course clubhouse and pavilion can be rented for banquets, weddings, and other large events. The Decatur Park District utilizes the pavilion for yoga classes and large outdoor events. The golf course is centrally located to residents of its surrounding neighborhood, but as a specialty park, it provides a limited range of recreation opportunities to the neighborhood.



CONCLUSIONS

Although golf is the only recreational activity provided by Hickory Point, the facility fulfills a larger need for a golf course in the northern portion of the Decatur Park District. Parks with playgrounds and athletic fields within adjacent Forsyth fulfill recreation needs for younger children and non-golfers. Programming within the pavilion could be expanded. Existing trail connect the Golf Course to Forsyth residential neighborhoods and other parks to the north and east, and a planned trail connection will one day link this trail to the Stevens Creek Trail to the south.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Multi-use trail connections to link future extension of Stevens Creek Bikeway to existing trails within Forsyth.
- Additional small restroom on the course.
- Electric vehicle charging stations.
- Consider a “Top Golf” simulator with refreshments type experience for additional “stay and play” visitor opportunities and to attract others to the game.



CRESTHAVEN, WINDSOR VILLAGE, HOLIDAY HILLS NORTH NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.91 Square Miles
 Boundary: The area has an irregular border, bound by natural areas and agricultural fields to the west, I-72 to the north, W Mound Road to the south, and Highway 51 (north of E Ash Avenue) and a rail line (south of E Ash Avenue) to the east.



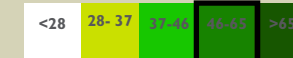
Population Density per Square Mile



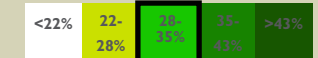
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Cresthaven Park

Location: 660 W. Arthur Court
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 83.7 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 4

Amenities: One basketball court, 6 pickleball courts, benches, 2 pavilions, 5 picnic tables, restrooms, concessions, woodland, drinking fountain, parking, passive area, open space, play equipment, trail access



PARK ASSESSMENT

This densely populated neighborhood is bisected by Stevens Creek and its associated natural corridor. It has one centrally located park, Cresthaven (A and B), which serves a large portion of the neighborhood within a 1/2 mile radius. The park is oversized based on national standards and much of its acreage consists of natural areas that are not actively programmed, but these natural areas require minimal maintenance.

The park is divided roughly in half by Stevens Creek, and there are plans to connect this park to the Stevens Creek Trail. The park is in good condition and is well used by its adjacent neighbors. Flooding is an issue in the area due to its close proximity to Stevens Creek.

Cresthaven has newer tennis courts with lights and a shade structure, and the playground, pickleball courts, and restroom pavilion have been updated since the last previous Master Plan.



CONCLUSIONS

Cresthaven Park currently serves its population effectively. For the relatively large population of people age 65-84 in the neighborhood, the park will be even more useful with the completion of phase two of the Stevens Creek Bikeway. The northern portion of the Holiday Hills neighborhood would benefit from better connections to this park and the future trail, although this neighborhood is served by private parks. Further study would determine if some of the open space within Cresthaven Park could serve as stormwater detention to help control seasonal flooding.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Completion of improved trail connection linking to the Stevens Creek Bikeway, currently in progress.
- Additional parking near pickleball courts.
- Basketball court surface updates.
- Cresthaven sign is outdated.



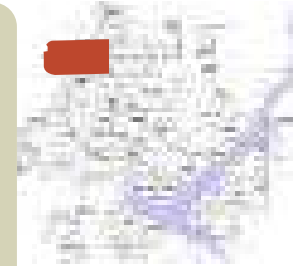
BOILING SPRINGS, SIMS/WOODBRIDGE, MONTGOMERY HILLS, GREENDELL NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.84 Square Miles
 Boundary: W Mound Road to the north, N MacArthur Drive to the east, W Pershing Road to the south, natural areas to the west.



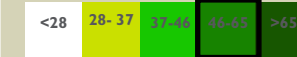
Population Density per Square Mile



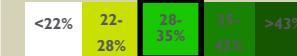
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Boiling Springs Park

Location: 2166 W. Ridell Ave.
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 3.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: One basketball court, picnic tables, shelter, play equipment, open space, baseball diamond



Greendell Park

Location: 31 N. Green Oak Dr.
 Park Type: Nature Area

Size: 8.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 3

Amenities: Bike trails, woodland, nature trails, parking



PARK ASSESSMENT

This moderately dense neighborhood contains only one park with formal recreation programming but is bisected by a natural area with a trailhead linking to the Stevens Creek Bikeway. The eastern and northern portions of the neighborhood exceed a 1/2 mile walking distance to the park. However, the majority of the neighborhood is within 1/2 mile of the greenway, which has multiple access points. The park acreage for this neighborhood is in line with national standards. Parsons Elementary School is on the eastern border of this neighborhood.

Boiling Springs Park (A) is bordered on the north by railroad tracks and Highway 121, which limits access to neighbors from the north. The park serves the smaller neighborhood to the south, by which it is surrounded on its remaining three sides. There is significant traffic noise within the park due to its close proximity to the highway, but the park is in generally good condition. The pavilion would benefit from updates, it is the one element of the park in poor condition. The restroom/concession building has been removed since previous Plan.

Greendell Park (B) is a linear natural area with a small parking area, bike fix-it station, and trailhead on the popular Stevens Creek Bikeway. Most of the space is wooded, but the park space along the public roads is mown turf, which has no formal programming. Pershing Early Learning Center is 1/4 mile southeast across Pershing Road.



CONCLUSIONS

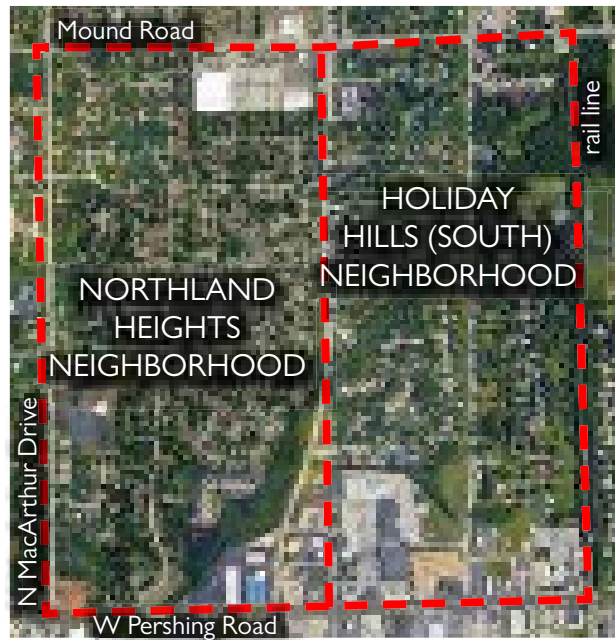
The parks in this neighborhood are not oversized based on the populations they serve, but over half of the space in Boiling Springs Park is dedicated to a baseball field. This neighborhood may be better served by transitioning this field to other uses. Some of the baseball field could be planted with low maintenance plants other than turf. Greendell Park currently has large areas of mown turf that could also be transitioned to lower maintenance native grasses and prairie plantings. Dedicating a portion of open space for flood detention would also make sense, since upstream neighborhoods in this area are prone to flooding. The Sims/Woodridge and Montgomery Hills neighborhoods are currently under-served by parks, so the addition of a pocket park of 0.5 acres would benefit this neighborhood.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Boiling Springs: Parking lot resurfacing, basketball court improvements, baseball surface updates, new playground, loop walking path.
- Greendell Park: Expansion of trailhead parking, parking lot resurfacing.
- Boiling Springs and Greendell signs are outdated.

NORTHLAND HEIGHTS, HOLIDAY HILLS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

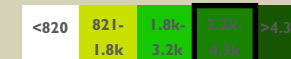


NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.21 Square Miles
 Boundary: W and E Mound Road to the north, N MacArthur Drive to the west, W Pershing Road to the south, rail line to the east.



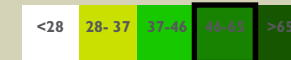
Population Density per Square Mile



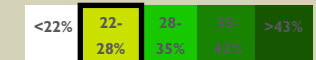
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

No Parks

PARK ASSESSMENT

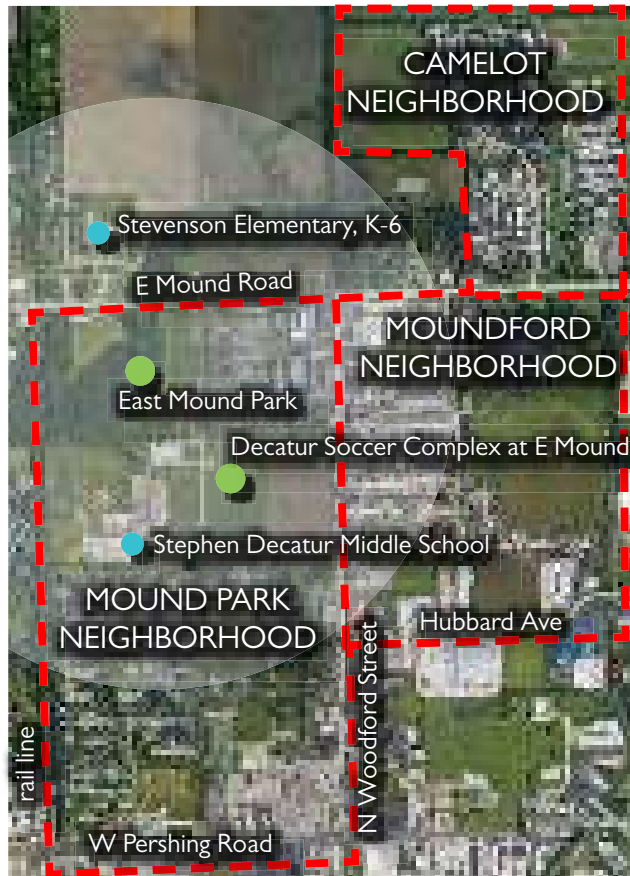
These neighborhoods do not currently have any Park District parks, but they are included in this study regardless, so as to evaluate all neighborhoods equally. Based on national standards, this moderately dense neighborhood would be best served with roughly six acres of park space. It currently has no public parks; however, the Holiday Hills neighborhood has private park space and East Mound Park is adjacent to the northeast corner. This park is on the opposite side of abandoned rail lines that create a boundary to that park. In the Northland Heights neighborhood, residents use school parks and Cresthaven Park.

CONCLUSIONS

Due to abundance of park land already managed by the Decatur Park District, it is not a current recommendation to add a neighborhood park in this area, since abundant alternative open space is available nearby. It would be recommended to identify non-motorized connections from these neighborhoods to other parks. Further study would determine if this neighborhood could take advantage of its proximity to the abandoned rail line for use as a rails to trails corridor. Three of the roads bordering these neighborhoods including East Mound, MacArthur, and Pershing, and MLK Boulevard which runs North/South through Holiday Hills South have been identified for priority roadways for separated bike paths in the Bike Decatur Master Plan.

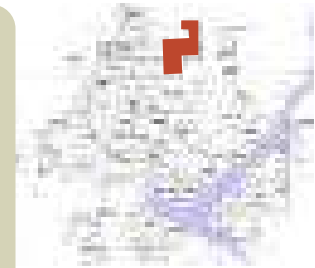
CAMELOT, MOUND PARK, MOUNDFORD NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.99 Square Miles
 Boundary: Rail line to the west, W Pershing Road to the south, E Mound Road to the north. N Woodford Street (south of Hubbard Avenue) and a creek (north of Hubbard Avenue) to the east. An irregular boundary to the north includes the Camelot neighborhood.



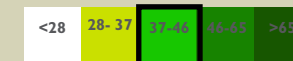
Population Density per Square Mile



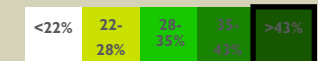
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Decatur Soccer Complex at East Mound

Location: 3705 N. Educational Park Lane Size: 19.0 acres
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park Accessibility Rating: 3

Programming: Soccer Programming

Amenities: Benches, 5 lighted soccer fields



East Mound Park

Location: 3690 N. Educational Park Lane
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 39.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: Benches, pavilion, picnic, restrooms, concessions, woodland, multiple football/soccer fields, drinking fountain, nature trails, passive area, play area, open space



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood contains a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial uses. The neighborhood has adequate park space by acreage, but the location of East Mound in the northwest corner of the neighborhood limits walking or biking access to a majority of the neighborhood’s residents.

East Mound Park (A) is bound by Stephen Decatur Middle School on the south and abandoned rail lines to the west. East Mound Road forms the northern border. There is an affordable housing apartment complex to the east of the park, but access from this complex is limited by chain link fencing. Stevenson Accelerated Elementary School is one block to the north. Heritage Fields apartments (supportive independent living for clients of Heritage Behavioral Health Center) are directly south of Stephen Decatur Middle School.

The Decatur Soccer Complex (B) is located east of the Middle School and is used as a soccer complex for Mid-State Soccer Club. This park is one of only two in Decatur with official soccer programming (South Shores is the other).

A newer restroom structure, concession, and small parking area has been added since the previous Master Plan.



CONCLUSIONS

The Decatur Soccer Complex serves an important role in the greater Decatur community, and its fields are fully utilized and therefore appropriately sized. East Mound Park, however, has large areas of mown turf that are not fully utilized as sports fields. Some of this area could be transitioned to less maintenance-intensive plantings. This neighborhood has a relatively large number of residents age 14 and under. Both parks would better serve their neighborhoods if multiple trail and sidewalk connections were available to access the parks from all directions. The Park District now owns the farmland to the east of the Middle School, this property was leased from the school at the time of the previous Plan. Decatur currently has only natural turf soccer fields, and if an Open Space grant was secured in the future, the agricultural field east of the Soccer Complex would be an ideal location for an artificial turf field.

This neighborhood has a high percentage of households with young children, and a low median income. The soccer complex would be an ideal candidate for a free wi-fi pilot project in the park.

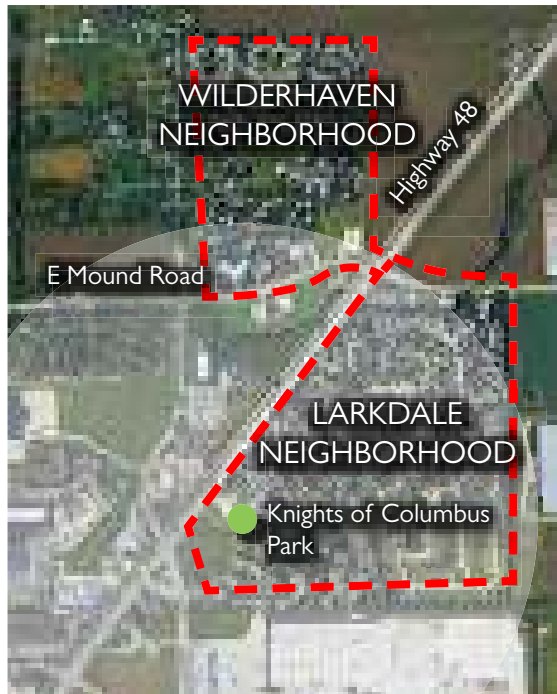
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- New paved parking lot to east or south of main complex.
- Playground updates.
- Consider the addition of artificial turf field.
- Consider inflatable dome for multi-season and multi-sport use.



WILDERHAVEN, LARKDALE NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.36 Square Miles
 Boundary: This area includes neighborhoods at the northwest and southeast intersection of E Mound Road and Highway 48.



Population Density per Square Mile



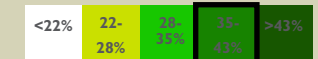
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Knights of Columbus Park

Location: 3455 N. Pipit Drive
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 7 ares
 Accessibility Rating: I

Amenities: One basketball court, shelter, drinking fountain, parking, open space, passive area, play area



PARK ASSESSMENT

These two densely populated neighborhoods are actually separated by Highway 48, but because of proximity and small size are considered part of one overall area for this study. The Wilderhaven neighborhood has its own central open space, but lacks any formal park or park programming. The neighborhood is within one mile of its nearest park, but a busy intersection at Highway 48 makes park access difficult.

Knights of Columbus Park (A and B) mainly serves the somewhat isolated Larkdale neighborhood. The park used to serve as a summer lunch program site for Decatur Public Schools, but is currently not heavily used.

This neighborhood appears in the Decatur's stormwater management plan as the area of #1 priority needing flood control, due to periodic flooding of the nearby creek which divides the Wilderhaven and Larkdale neighborhoods.

CONCLUSIONS

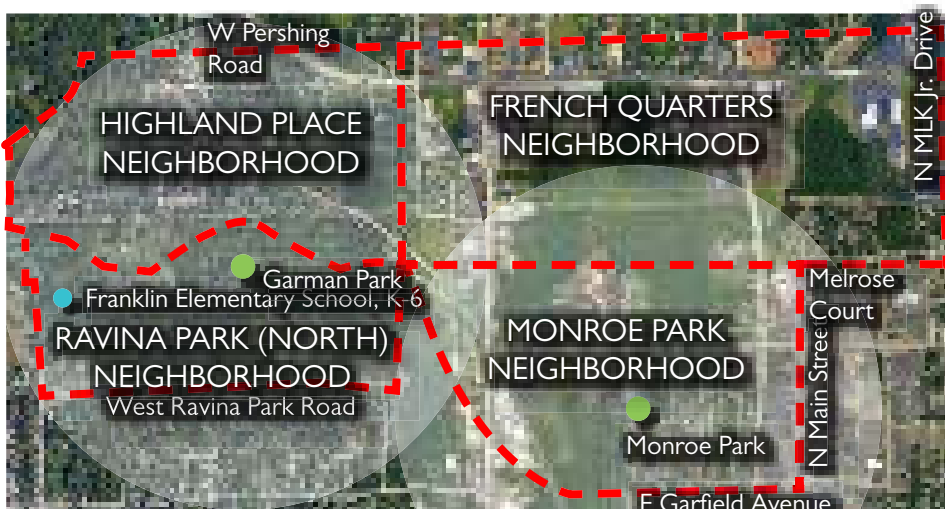
Knights of Columbus Park serves its population but is under-utilized. The park's open space may better serve the neighborhood with alternate uses such as a native planting area and stormwater bioretention facility that would alleviate flooding from homes in the adjacent neighborhood during extreme events.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Playground updates/replacement.
- Sign is outdated.

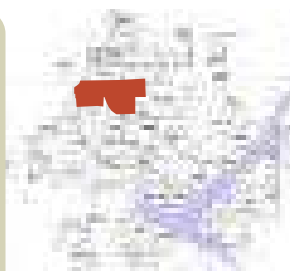


NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.36 Square Miles
 Boundary: W Pershing Road to the north, Stevens Creek natural area to the west, W Ravina Park Road and E Garfield Avenue to the south, N Main Street (south of Melrose Court) and N MLK Jr. Drive (north of Melrose Court) to the east.



Population Density per Square Mile



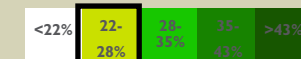
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Garman Park

Location: 1380 W. Ravina Ave
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 60.5 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: 2 basketball courts, 2 tetherball, one baseball field, bike racks, pavilion, picnic tables, restroom, woodland, drinking fountain, parking, passive space, play area, open space, mountain bike trails, community gardens



Monroe Park

Location: 502 W. Harrison Ave
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 5.5 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 3

Amenities: One half-basketball court, one tetherball, picnic tables, restrooms, concessions, open space, play area



PARK ASSESSMENT

This diverse neighborhood contains high and moderate density neighborhoods, extensive natural areas, a shopping center, and Decatur Memorial Hospital. The area also contains two parks, centrally located such that the majority of the neighborhood is within 1/2 mile of a park. The parks themselves far exceed national guidelines for acreage.

Garman Park (A) is bounded on the east and west by natural areas and on the north and south by residential neighborhoods. Franklin Elementary School is adjacent to the west. The entry to the park and the parking lot are in poor condition, but the park itself and its natural areas are in good condition and are well used by the neighborhood. There is demand in this park for a BMX track.

Monroe Park (B) is bound by North Monroe Street on the west, a busy thoroughfare. There is a vacant retirement home to the east and residential neighborhoods to the south. Decatur Memorial Hospital is north of the park. Because of neighboring uses, there are many eyes on the park, and vandalism hasn't been as much an issue here as in other Decatur parks. North Monroe Street represents a safety issue for young children if not properly supervised. The pavilion is used for the neighborhood's summer lunch program.



CONCLUSIONS

Garman Park is oversized for its intended population, but because much of the park is a drainage swale and wooded natural area, it does not require extensive maintenance. Open areas in Garman could serve as stormwater bioretention to help alleviate flooding problems in the neighborhood directly south.

Monroe Park is appropriately sized for the neighborhood that it serves. Because the park has multi-purpose fields and not dedicated baseball fields, its open spaces work for a variety of uses. This park would be an ideal location for a small splash park, as plumbing infrastructure already exists.

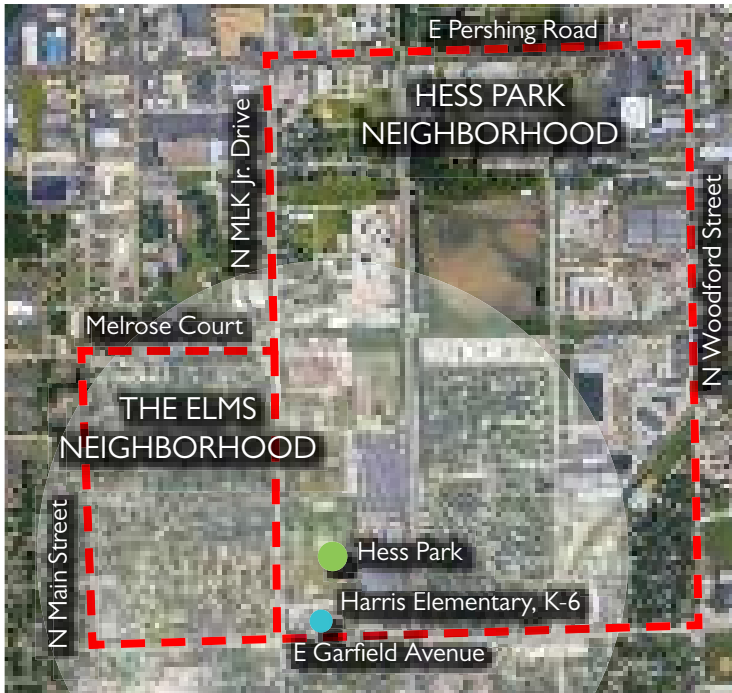
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Garman: Removal of small easternmost baseball diamond, general parking lot improvements, addition of a crushed stone trail connecting the existing parking lot to existing bike trails, addition of a loop trail for walkers, and possible expansion and improvements of the existing community gardens, updated playground, mountain bike trail updates.
- Monroe: Updated pavilion, two updated basketball courts, and a loop walking trail around the park, updated playground.
- Garman Park has outdated sign.



THE ELMS, HESS PARK NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.92 Square Miles
 Boundary: E Garfield Avenue to the south, N Main Street (south of Melrose Court) and N MLK Jr. Drive (north of Melrose Court) to the west, N Woodford Street to the west, Melrose Court (west of N MLK Jr. Drive) and E Pershing Road (east of N MLK Jr. Drive) to the north.



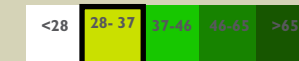
Population Density per Square Mile



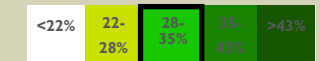
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Hess Park

Location: 2170 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 23.5 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 3

Amenities: 2 basketball courts, 6 baseball fields, softball, lighting, benches, trails, bike racks, pavilion, picnic tables, restrooms, concessions, drinking fountain, parking, open space, play area, spray park



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood contains a combination of densely populated residential, commercial, and industrial areas. Hess Park (A and B) is centrally located within the southern, residential section of the neighborhood, placing the majority of residents within 1/2 mile of the park. Although the neighborhood has only one park, Hess Park far exceeds national standards for acreage.

Hess Park is on the public bus route and is adjacent to William Harris Learning Academy (Alternative Education) and the Special Education Teaching Assistant Program (SEAP) facility. Residential homes border the park on the west, and industrial/commercial uses border the park to the east and north. Renovations within last 15 years include replacement of the tennis court with a new basketball court, replacement of the old basketball court with a spray park, an asphalt trail addition to the northern edge of park, new restrooms between two northern ball diamonds, paved loop trail, and new concession stand. Hess Park is one of five parks that support official Park District baseball programming. The Redbird Rookies youth baseball league offers baseball to low income children. This program is sponsored by St. Louis Cardinals Care, which provides the team with uniforms, equipment, mentoring and other resources. The program recently built a new baseball diamond in this park.



CONCLUSIONS

Hess Park is oversized based on national standards, but as long as District baseball/softball leagues continue to utilize all five baseball fields, the park is serving its population effectively. This neighborhood has a relatively high number of residents age 65+, so this park would better serve its neighbors with distance markers, benches, and shade along its loop trail. The park would provide a more pleasant walking experience if the adjacent industrial activities were screened with strategic grading and planting. Neighbors have expressed a desire to re-establish a Yellow Hat after school program in this park with volunteers from the neighborhood to encourage participation and provide better representation of minorities in leadership positions.

This neighborhood has a relatively high percentage of households with young children, and a low median income. Hess would be an ideal candidate for a free wi-fi pilot project in the park.

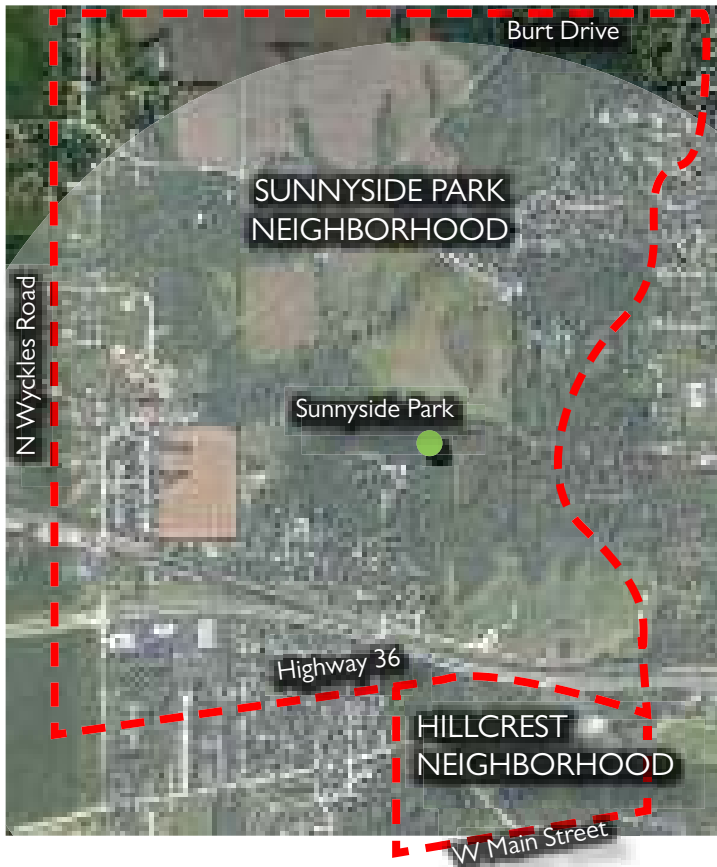
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Re-lamping of the light system on the largest baseball diamond.
- Play structure updates.
- Hess Park has outdated sign.
- Update baseball infield and improve drainage and playability on large field
- Resurface basketball courts
- Consider relocating pavilion or construction of a roadway to allow better pavilion access.



SUNNYSIDE PARK, HILLCREST NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 2.6 Square Miles
 Boundary: Highway 36 on the south, N Wyckles Road to the west, Burt Drive to the north, and the Stevens Creek natural corridor to the east. Hillcrest Neighborhood is bounded by N Sunnyside Road to the west, N Moffet Lane to the east, and W Main Street to the south.



Population Density per Square Mile



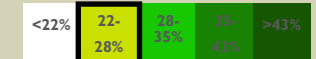
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Sunnyside Park

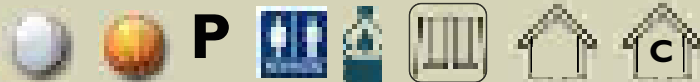
Location: 1590 N. Sunnyside Road

Size: 40 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: 2 lit baseball diamonds, one unlit baseball diamond, one basketball court, parking, concessions stand, restrooms, picnic shelter, drinking fountain, playground



PARK ASSESSMENT

Sunnyside Park (A and B) is centrally located in this primarily rural residential neighborhood. There is no network of sidewalks within the neighborhood that are linked to the park, but because of the lower density population, it can be assumed that most visitors arrive by car, and a one-mile radius may be used to determine ease of access. Using this radius, the majority of homes within the neighborhood are within a five minute drive of the park.

The park is mainly used by high school and college level baseball league play. An effective partnership with the Commodores Baseball club and the Decatur Park District helps keep this facility well-used through the summer months. The park is roughly square in shape, with woodland in the northeast corner and along the north and east borders, and is adjacent to single family homes on the west (across Sunnyside Road) and south borders. The portion of park not covered by woodland is in the shape of an “L”. The long portion of the “L” is primarily play fields and the bottom portion of the “L” is primarily overflow parking and unprogrammed open space.

The park is in fair condition overall. The location is fairly isolated, and much of the park is screened from view from surrounding homes and from North Sunnyside Road. The park is used primarily during summer months, and entry gates are locked throughout the winter. Sunnyside is only 1/2 mile from the Stevens Creek Bikeway, but there are currently

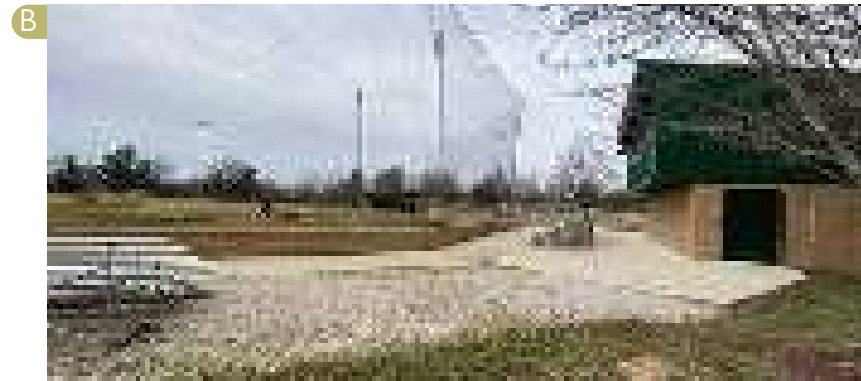
no trails that connect the park to the trail. The entry drive is in poor condition. The existing pavilion and playground are in poor condition and have outlived their useful life. The two northernmost baseball diamonds face each other and do not have adequate outfield space, creating a safety hazard.

CONCLUSIONS

National standards indicate a park of 7 acres minimum would be required to best serve this neighborhood. Sunnyside is the only park in this neighborhood of over two square miles, and therefore it makes sense that the park exceeds minimum size requirements. However, at 40 acres, consideration should be given to alternative programming or alternate uses in portions of the park. Sunnyside is no longer sized appropriately or programmed adequately to meet the neighborhood’s needs. Portions of this park are not suitable for recreational use and could be considered for transfer to another entity.

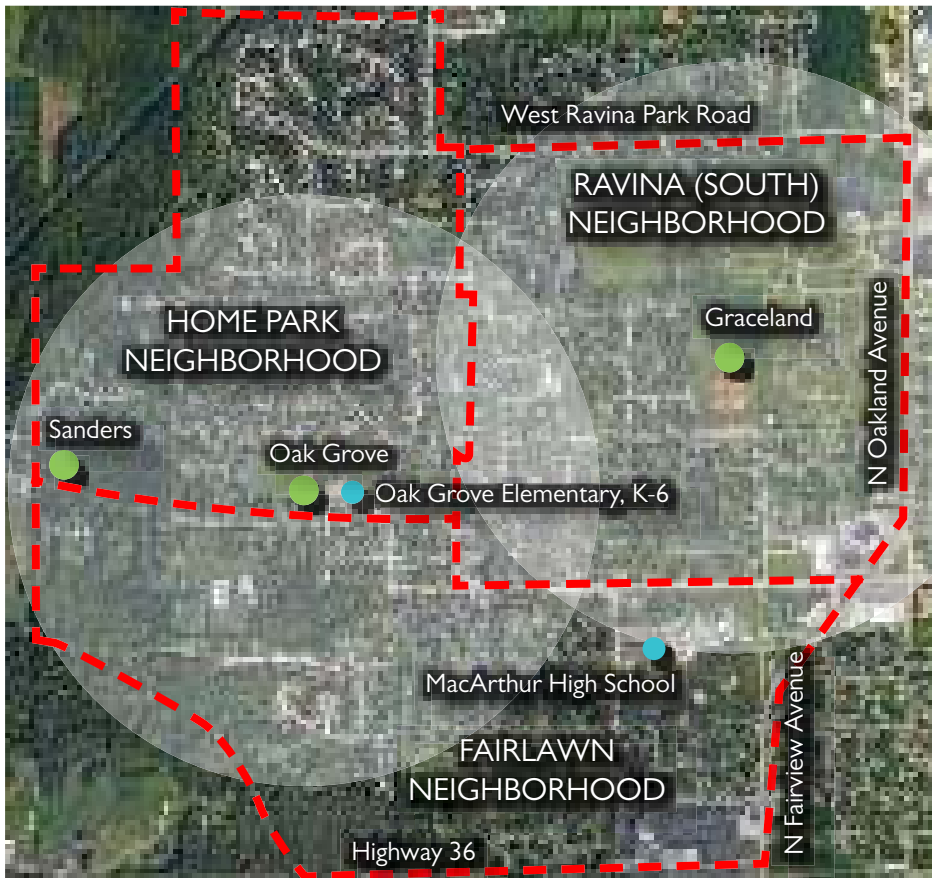
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Upgrades to the middle baseball diamond, remove and replace existing pavilion and playground. Addition of fitness trail loop, addition of trails to improve neighborhood access, and general parking lot improvements.
- Trail connections.
- Sunnyside has outdated sign.



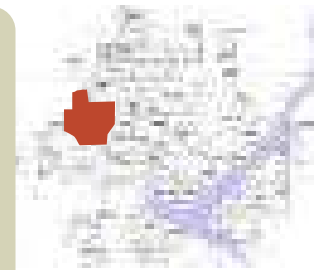
HOME PARK, RAVINA SOUTH, FAIRLAWN NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.30 Square Miles
 Boundary: Stevens Creek forms the entire western and a portion of the northern boundaries, W Ravina Park Road forms the remainder of the northern boundary, Highway 36 to the south, N Fairview Avenue and N Oakland Ave to the east.



Population Density per Square Mile



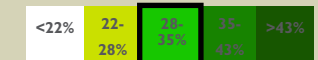
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Sanders Park

Location: 1475 N. Florian Ave
 Park Type: Nature Park

Size: 14.5 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 1

Amenities: Woodland

Graceland Park

Location: 1400 W. Division St. Size: 14.0 acres
 Park Type: Sports Complex Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: Four Baseball Fields, Softball



Oak Grove Park

Location: 2230 W. Center St. Size: 10.0 acres
 Park Type: Neighborhood Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: 2 basketball courts, one tetherball, 2 tennis courts, one baseball field, benches, pavilion, picnic tables, restrooms, concessions, drinking fountain, parking, play area, open space



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood contains one neighborhood park, one natural area, and one sports park that hosts Park District programming but is not owned by the District. The majority of homes in the neighborhood are within 1/2 mile of a park. Park acreage exceeds national standards. The neighborhood is primarily residential and also contains two cemeteries and various retail districts. Douglas MacArthur High School is in the southern portion of this neighborhood.

Oak Grove Park (A) is adjacent to the former Oak Grove Elementary School, currently under demolition. The park is surrounded on all sides by well-populated residential neighborhoods. Vandalism is not as much of an issue here as in other Decatur parks because of the surveillance of neighboring homes. The current tennis courts are in poor condition and the tetherball is no longer used. The restrooms in the pavilion are in very poor condition. This park has a recently updated accessible playground.

Sanders natural area (B) is adjacent to a Stevens Creek Bikeway trailhead, but has no formal programming. There is a historic marker in an open space at the southwest corner, and the remainder of space is wooded.

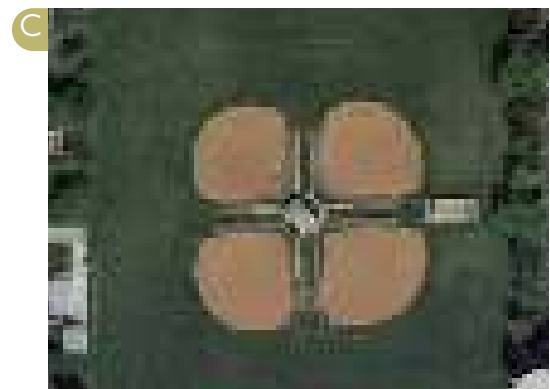
Graceland Ball Complex (C) is a site of official District baseball programming and is appropriately sized for this use. This property was inherited as a lease from a donor foundation.

CONCLUSIONS

The parks in this neighborhood are appropriately sized for the population they serve. Sanders Park would be a potential location for a nature loop trail with benches for passive walking activities. A trail through the park could continue east along West Cushing Street, connecting neighbors to the west with Oak Grove School. In both Sanders and Oak Grove, open space could possibly be used for stormwater detention, to help alleviate flood issues in neighborhoods to the north. Funds to maintain the Graceland facility are limited, and there is potential to shift baseball programming to Hess Park and/or South Shores Park. With the removal of Oak Grove School at Oak Grove, the park's programming and layout could be re-envisioned.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Oak Grove: Basketball court updates, tennis court removal, and updates to the two baseball diamonds, replace playground, loop trail around park. Potential revised plan incorporating school removal. Park has outdated sign.
- Graceland: Parking lot, concessions, and restroom upgrades. Consider if other parks in the District could serve baseball programming needs, and if so, explore revisiting lease agreement.



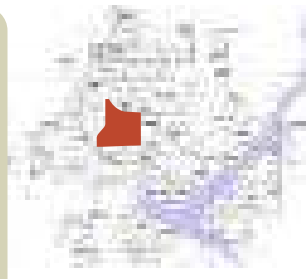
POOLE, G.M. SQUARE, GARFIELD, OLD KING'S ORCHARD NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

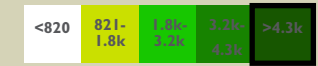


NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

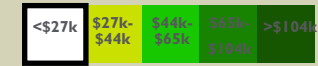
Area: 1.32 Square Miles
 Boundary: E Garfield Street and rail lines to the north, N Main Street to the east, W Fairview Avenue and W Oakland Avenue to the west, W Eldorado Street to the south.



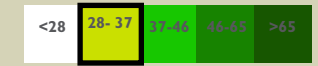
Population Density per Square Mile



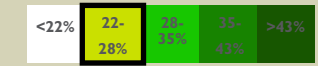
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Garfield Park

Location: 1055 W. Grand Ave
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 6.6 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: 3 basketball courts, 2 tetherball, pavilion, picnic tables, restrooms, concessions run by neighborhood volunteers, parking, play area, open space



PARK ASSESSMENT

This densely populated Decatur neighborhood is currently underserved by park space. Garfield Park (A and B) is within 1/2 mile of a majority of the neighborhood, but the eastern neighborhoods are outside of the 1/2 mile walking radius. However, these residents do have access to the downtown Central Business District, Old King's Orchard Community Center, Grace United Methodist Church's open space, and Central Park. The GM Square neighborhood frequently uses Monroe Park to the north.

Garfield Park is located adjacent to the former Durfee Magnet School which closed in 2019, and is surrounded by well-populated neighborhoods on all four sides. There is a high level of local involvement in this park, and the concession stand is run independently by a group of retired local residents. The pavilion is a brick structure in fair condition and summer lunch programs are held here. The Actions Chapter of this document considers options for renovation/removal of this school and replacement with alternate uses.

Garfield has experienced problems with improper park use. The basketball courts are sheltered from the street and have little neighborhood supervision, which does not discourage inappropriate behavior. There are sidewalks to individual amenities within the park, but they do not connect.



CONCLUSIONS

More surveillance from neighbors will help reduce improper behavior within the park. The park would also benefit from a loop trail and network of sidewalks, bringing more users through the entire park and increasing the sense of security. A developer is currently considering the former Durfee School for development as mixed-use housing. It is recommended that the Park District consider adjusting the size of Garfield Park to help support that project, as it would help spur community growth and could increase and improve park use for the remaining park.

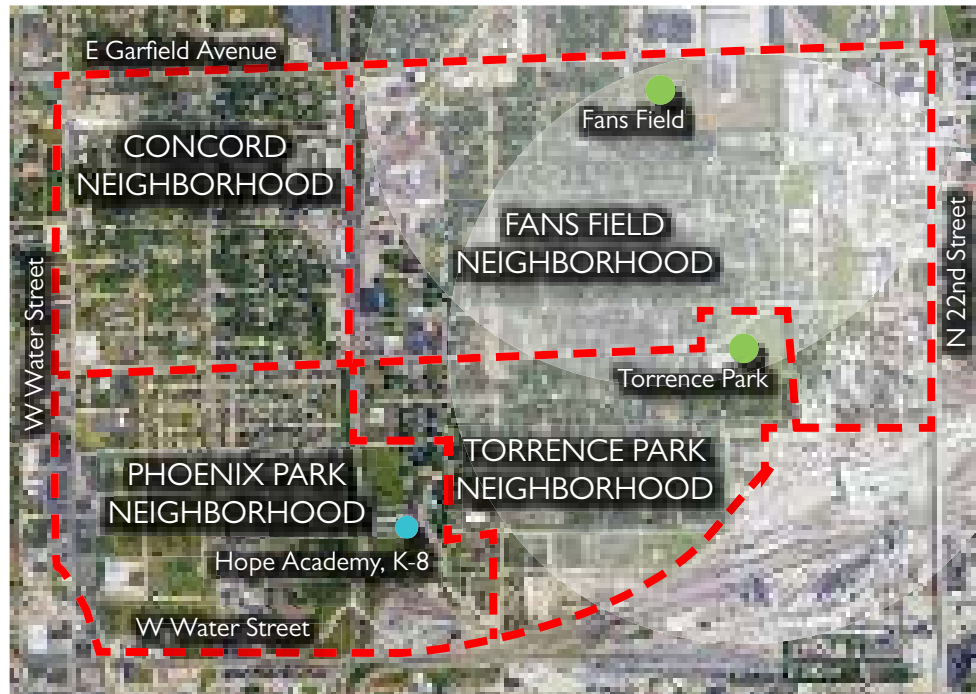
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- The entire park is poised to be re-imagined if the school building is renovated or removed.
- Pavilion infrastructure updates, updated electrical systems (for outdoor community events).
- Removal of south parking, removal of basketball court and horseshoe pit, removal of one tennis court, removal of the baseball diamond.
- Accessible restroom updates to conform to ADA standards.
- Addition of two basketball courts along West Grand Avenue.
- Loop walking trail around park, new playground.
- Consider spray pad.
- Garfield has an outdated sign.



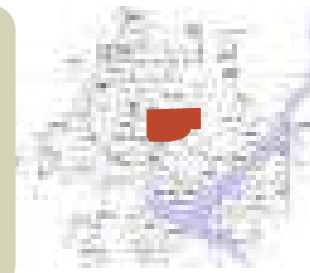
CONCORD, FANS FIELD, PHOENIX PARK, TORRENCE PARK NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.36 Square Miles
 Boundary: E Garfield Avenue to the north, W Water Street to the west, N 22nd Street to the east, ADM rail to the south



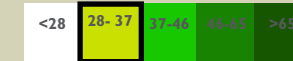
Population Density per Square Mile



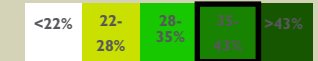
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Torrence Park

Location: 1655 E. Grand Ave.
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 18.9 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: One basketball court, 3 tetherball, one lit baseball field, pavilion, picnic tables, restroom, concessions, drinking fountain, fireplace, parking, play area, open space



Fans Field Park

Location: 1840 N. Woodford St.
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 8.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: One basketball court, one lit baseball field, benches, pavilion, picnic tables, restrooms, concessions, drinking fountain, parking, play area, open space



PARK ASSESSMENT

As in many Decatur neighborhoods, this area has an overabundance of park acreage, but the parks are not evenly distributed throughout the neighborhood and many of the existing amenities are not fully utilized.

In Torrence Park (A), frequent visitors include ADM employees who visit the park for lunch breaks. Hope Academy, a K-8 Magnet School is about 1/2 mile to the southwest of this park. The parking lot and restroom are in poor condition but the park has a historic brick pavilion with picnic tables and a newly installed accessible walkway from parking.

Fans Field (B) was once a popular destination for neighborhood baseball league games. The park still has a lit baseball field with bleachers, concessions, a restroom, and a large parking lot; but the park is not currently serving its neighborhood. There are high crime levels in the surrounding area. This park is no longer a site where official District baseball games are held and yet most of the space in the park is devoted to baseball.



CONCLUSIONS

Torrence Park is dramatically oversized for its current use. The park would better serve its users with a loop trail and possible repurposing of ball fields.

Fans Field would benefit from improvements to its baseball diamond, which would attract more league games. Also suggested is the relocation of the play structure to a space between the parking lot and baseball diamond, where children could be supervised by parents attending baseball games.

This neighborhood has a high percentage of households with young children, and a low median income. Both Torrence and Fans Field would be ideal candidates for a free wi-fi pilot project in the park.

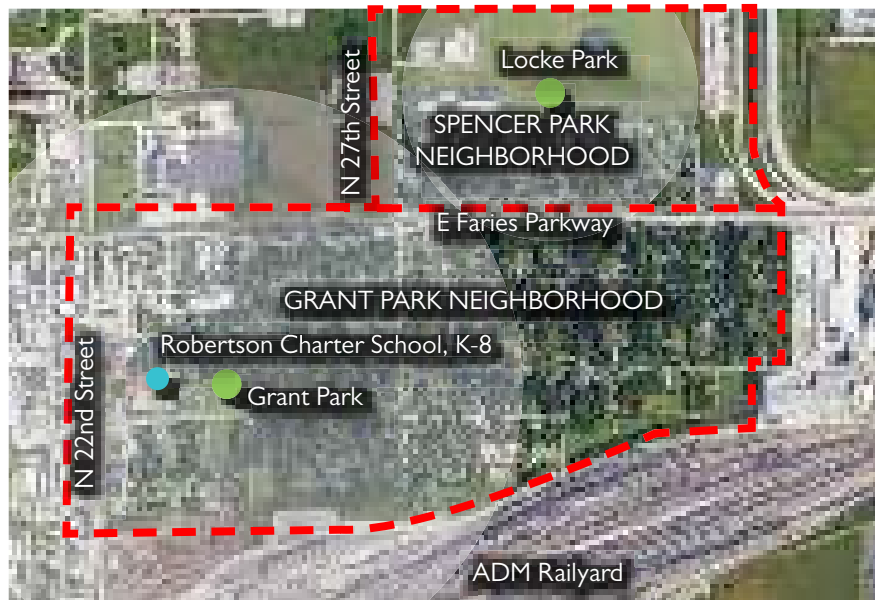
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Torrence: Removal of north baseball diamond, upgrades to parking lot and remaining baseball diamond, upgrades to pavilion and restroom, and the addition of a crushed stone loop trail.
- Fans Field: Reduction in size of the parking lot and upgrades to the baseball infrastructure and lighting. Due to lower usage, this park is lower on the priority list for upgrades to concessions, restrooms, and play structure. New basketball court.
- Torrence and Fans Field have outdated signs.



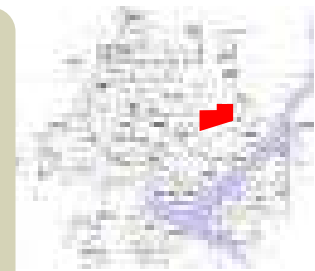
SPENCER PARK, GRANT PARK NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.65 Square Miles
 Boundary: Highway 121/N22nd Street on the west, ADM heavy rail yard facility to the south and east, irregular northern border defined by East Faries Parkway to the west of N 27th Street and DHM and farm facilities to the east of N 27th Street.



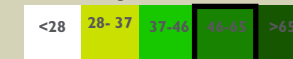
Population Density per Square Mile



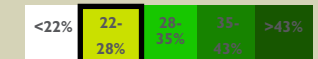
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Grant Park

Location: 2309 E. Geddes Ave.

Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.5 acres

Accessibility Rating: 4

Amenities: Pavilion, playground, parking (shared with school), full size basketball court, baseball backstop, drinking fountain, picnic tables, non-ADA perimeter walk



Locke Park

Location: 2110 N. 31st St.

Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 7.5 acres

Accessibility Rating: 4

Amenities: Basketball court, play area, pavilion, water fountain



PARK ASSESSMENT

Although the Grant Park neighborhood exceeds park acreage minimums suggested by national guidelines, the parks in this neighborhood in recent years were no longer serving the purpose for which they were originally designed. The neighborhood once contained three parks, but as the neighborhood has evolved over time, many of the neighborhood residents were no longer within walking distance of a park. Spencer Park was once surrounded on the east and west by well occupied neighborhoods, and Spencer School to the south. Over time, the population declined significantly and the neighborhood to the east no longer exists. The property was purchased and rail lines constructed to the east of this park, and the school was closed. Both Spencer and Brush College #2 were located at the extreme edges of residential neighborhoods. Industrial and rail activities adjacent to these parks were not compatible with recreation. These parks experienced high levels of vandalism due to lack of surveillance.

In early 2013, in an excellent example of transferring underutilized park spaces for community benefit, Spencer Park and Brush College #2 were sold to ADM, which has facilities adjacent to both parks. The funds from the acquisition of these parks were used to create two new parks more centrally located within the areas they serve. In the Spencer Park neighborhood, Locke Park (A), named in honor of Park District Board member Judy Locke, was opened in 2016 and developed adjacent to and in partnership with the Decatur Memorial Hospital facility, which frequently experiences vandalism.

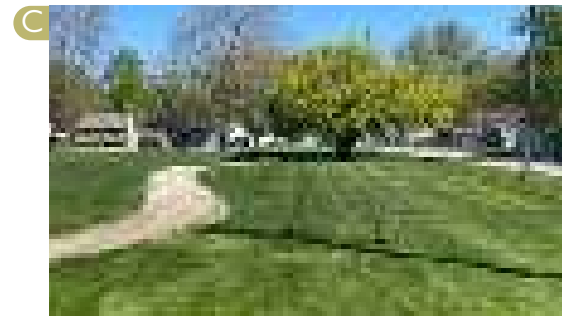
Grant Park (B and C) is surrounded by occupied homes on three sides, and adjacent to Robertson Charter School to the west, Grant Park is well used and experiences less vandalism than other parks in the area. The park is appropriately sized for its population. The park's condition is good overall and the loop trail provides walking access, but the Grant Park concession stand is outdated and is no longer operational.

CONCLUSIONS

The new Locke Park provide significantly improved facilities for this neighborhood. Grant Park functions adequately, but updating the layout of this park and updating the concession and restroom facility to more closely serve current needs would better serve this neighborhood.

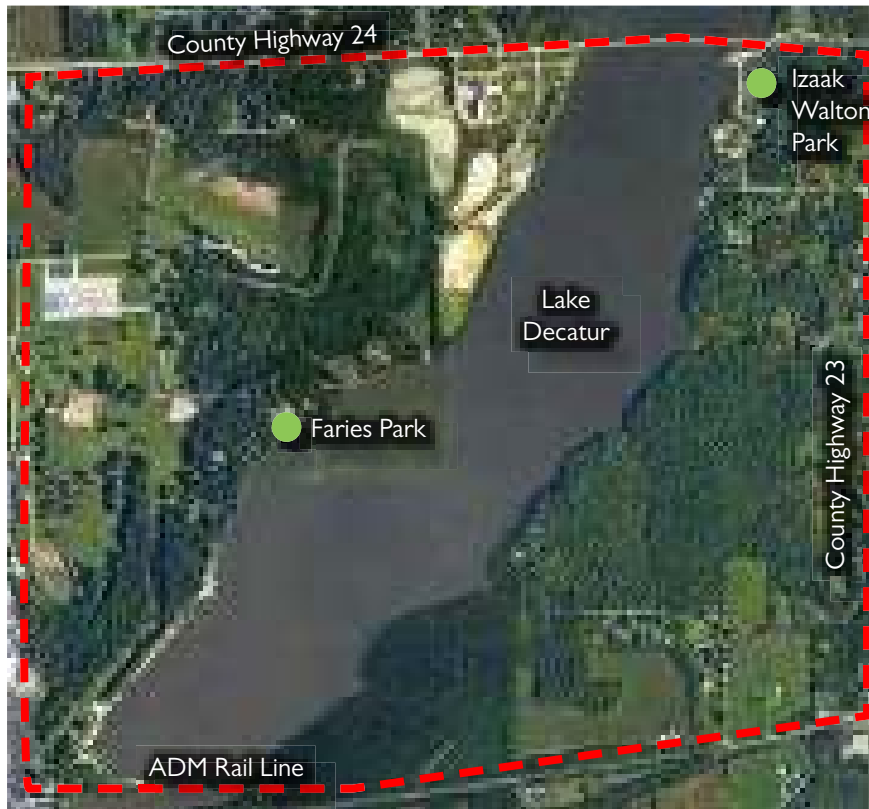
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Grant Park: Playground updates, restroom and concession updates, drinking fountain update.
- Grant Park has an outdated sign.



FARIES PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 2.10 Square Miles including lake
 Boundary: ADM plant to the west, County Highway 24 to the north, County Highway 23 to the east, ADM rail lines and bridge to the south.



Population Density per Square Mile



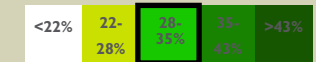
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Faries Park

Location: 235 I N. Faries Park
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 7.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: I

Amenities: Waterfront access, passive space



Izaak Walton Park

Location: 3057 N. Sangamon Road
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 5.7 acres
 Accessibility Rating: I

Amenities: Waterfront access



PARK ASSESSMENT

This primarily rural neighborhood contains two unique parks. Typical park size and distribution recommendations don't apply to this neighborhood, as it is bisected by Lake Decatur and is minimally populated. The ADM potable water treatment plant borders Faries Park to the north.

Both Faries Park (A) and Izaak Walton (B) are waterfront parks, with fishing and boat launch opportunities and water views. Faries is heavily wooded and used primarily for the boat launch and as a lunch spot for ADM employees. The park is adjacent to ADM open space and partially wooded property containing the Decatur Gun Club. Proximity to the ADM plant increases the popularity of the waterfront picnic tables when employees visit over the lunch hour.

CONCLUSIONS

Izaak Walton is a little used park, due mainly to its remote location. There are no typical park amenities within the space, such as sports facilities or restrooms. The park is used seasonally for RV parking. The park is not well marked, and the division of public/private space within the park is unclear. The park does have a historic park cabin structure near the south end, but does not offer any interpretive or regulatory signage to signal if the structure is open to the public.

These parks do not offer a variety of recreational opportunities, but they do not serve a large population within their neighborhood, and are therefore appropriately sized. Faries boat launch would benefit from the addition of a fully accessible kayak launch. Izaak Walton would benefit from improved signage to indicate the public use areas of the park.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Routine maintenance and road improvements. Faries Park Roadway is in dire need of resurfacing. Both parks would benefit from kayak launch.



SCOVILL (OLD GOLF COURSE) NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

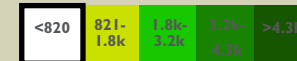


NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.01 Square Miles
 Boundary: W Main Street to the north, Sangamon River to the south, S Wyckles Road to the west, and wastewater treatment plant to the east.



Population Density per Square Mile



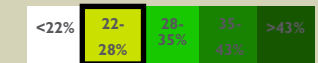
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Scovill Park West and Scovill Activity Center

Location: 3909 W. Main St. Size: 120.0 acres
 Park Type: Natural area, event facility Accessibility Rating: 3

Amenities: Pond, clubhouse, banquet facility



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood is dominated by the old Scovill Golf Course property, now retitled Scovill Park West. The remainder of the neighborhood is primarily woodland and is sparsely populated. This site is a rare Oak Savanna landscape.

A member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, Scovill was first designed by Tom Bendelow, and then redesigned in 1991 by nationally renowned architect, Dick Nugent.

The golf course clubhouse, Scovill Activity Center, continues to be rented for banquets, weddings, and other events. The DPD currently utilizes the space for events and training sessions. It also houses all Senior and Special Recreation Association (SRA) activities.



Photo taken prior to Golf Course closure

CONCLUSIONS

The former golf course property is centrally located to residents of its surrounding neighborhood, and there are multiple opportunities for park redevelopment to best serve the neighborhood and the community.

The neighborhood would benefit from a trail connection between the property and the existing Conservation District trail, less than a mile to the southeast, which connects to the existing Stevens Creek Bikeway. Programming of the clubhouse could be expanded. Current programming offered includes arts programs, activities for seniors, and SRA programming.

Other recreational opportunities that would make best use of the open space and natural character of the park should be considered at Scovill West, including the possibility of mountain biking trails and a bicycle pump track.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs: Master Plan for the property would help identify opportunities for how this property could best serve residents. The Actions Chapter of this document explores more options.



Example of Oak Savanna Landscape

WEST END NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

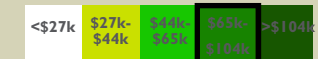
Area: 0.51 Square Miles
 Boundary: Highway 36 to the north, N Moffet Lane to the west, N Fairview Avenue to the east, W Main Street to the south.



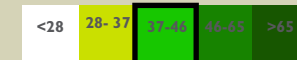
Population Density per Square Mile



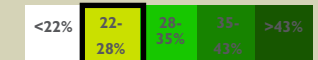
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Fairview Park

Location: 1455 W. Fairview Park Drive Size: 19.08 acres
 Park Type: Community Park Accessibility Rating: 3

Amenities: One basketball court, 9 tennis courts, tennis clubhouse, one baseball field, benches, tot lot, dog park, biking/walking trails, running events, bike racks, pavilion, picnic tables, 4 shelters, 3 restrooms, concessions, pond, woodland, drinking fountain, fireplace, nature trail, parking, passive area, play area, open space, fishing, skate park, fitness park



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood is home to Fairview, a large community park, located such that the entire area is within 1 mile of the park. Fairview (A, B), is one of Decatur's most highly programmed and popular community parks. This park is one of the most popular for families with young children. Dennis Elementary School is located one block to the south of Fairview Park.

Besides having abundant amenities, Fairview Park also has natural areas of historic importance and trails connecting to the Rock Springs Conservation area. The Fairview Aquatic Center once had the only public pool in Decatur, but closed in 2019. The only official District tennis programming is held in this park. A concern of community members regarding Fairview's trails is their relative isolation, discouraging some users who feel uncomfortable with the seclusion of the trails.

CONCLUSIONS

Fairview Park is a good example of a park that is effectively serving its community. The park has abundant amenities and trail connections. The Park District has submitted an OSLAD grant application for

a fitness challenge course in this park. This park would be a good candidate for invasive plant management education and pilot projects in conjunction with the local Audubon Group. The park would also be an ideal location for unique and high-demand recreation amenities such as a bicycle pump-track.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- New playground.
- Accessible rubber fall surface for the playground.
- Infrastructure upgrades at the main pavilion (including more efficient lighting and electrical system upgrades).
- Addition of a maintenance/storage building.
- Skate park updates.
- Renovations/replacement of pavilion II.
- Tennis court lighting.
- Tennis complex needs complete resurfacing/construction of new courts.
- Updates to basketball court at the far west end of the park.
- Trailhead parking improvements.
- Repurposing of the old ice rink building.
- Development of park Master Plan.



WEST END SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.84 Square Miles
 Boundary: W Main Street to the north, N Moffet Lane to the west, N Fairview Avenue to the east, natural areas to the south.



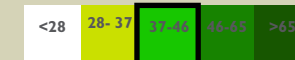
Population Density per Square Mile



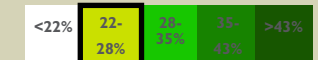
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Kiwanis Park

Location: 455 S. Redwood Lane
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 22.5 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 3

Amenities: One basketball court, 2 tetherball, 2 tennis courts, one baseball field, lighting, benches, tot lot, bike racks, biking/walking trail, pavilion, picnic tables, restrooms, concessions, woodland, drinking fountain, parking, open space, passive area, play area, corn hole, gaga ball pit.



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood is home Kiwanis Park, a park located such that the entire neighborhood is within 1 mile of the park. Kiwanis Park (A, B), is a popular and heavily used park. This park has a playground and gaga ball pit and is popular with families with young children.

Kiwanis Park has abundant amenities and is well used by its neighbors. The park far exceeds national size standards, but is currently serving its neighborhood appropriately. The park is connected to the trail system that leads to the Rock Springs Conservation area and to the Stevens Creek Bike Trail. Park District day camp programs are held here. The park has drainage issues and holds standing water seasonally.

CONCLUSIONS

Kiwanis park is a good example of a park that is effectively serving its community. The park has abundant amenities and trail connections.

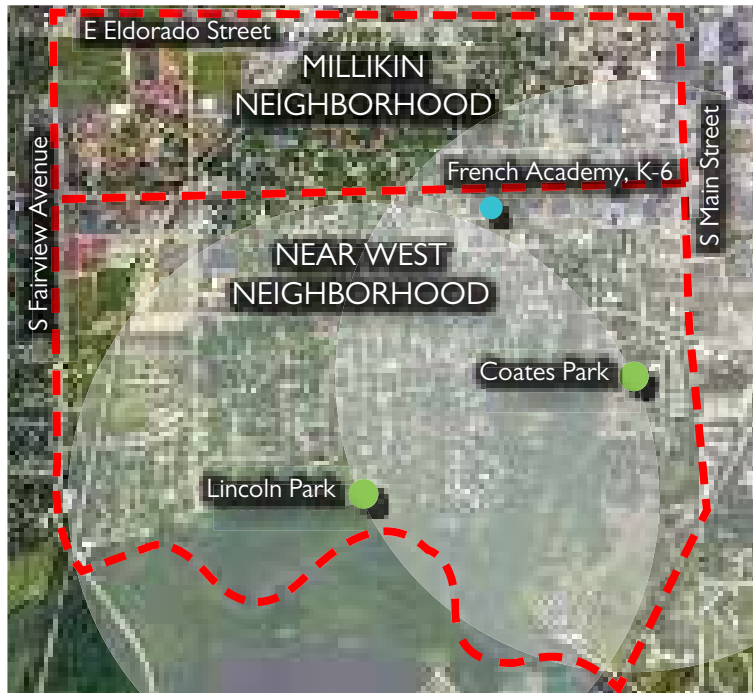
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Minor upgrades including general pavilion, restroom, and infrastructure upgrades.
- Basketball court and south parking lot improvements.
- Playground replacement is in progress.
- Re-lamping of baseball diamond.
- Replace basketball court.



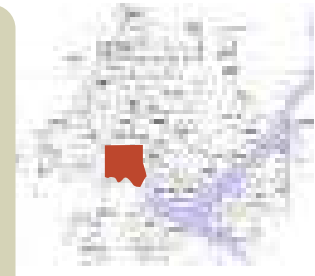
MILLIKIN, NEAR WEST NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

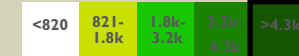


NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.08 Square Miles
 Boundary: E Eldorado Street to the north, S Fairview Avenue to the west, S Main Street to the east, natural area to the south.



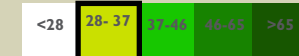
Population Density per Square Mile



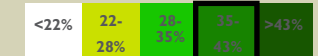
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Coates Park

Location: 550 S. Greenwood Ave.

Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 5.5 acres

Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: One basketball court, one tetherball, benches, pavilion, picnic tables, restrooms, drinking fountain, parking, open space, playground equipment, sledding hill (informal), meeting space



Lincoln Park

Location: 936 W. Lincoln Park Drive

Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 99.0 acres

Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: One basketball court, one tetherball, 2 tennis courts, one baseball field, biking/walking trails, picnic tables, pavilion, restroom, woodland, drinking fountain, parking, passive area, open space, play area



PARK ASSESSMENT

The majority of this neighborhood is within 1/2 mile of public open space, if the Millikin University campus is included. Parks here are well distributed and centrally located, but park acreage exceeds national guidelines, nearly by a factor of 10.

Coates Park (A) is appropriately sized for a small neighborhood park. The park is adjacent to well-maintained high density housing, and the park is well used. Mary W French School is located about 1/2 mile northwest of the park. Neighborhood meetings are currently held in the Coates Park building as well as summer camps. The park used to be a location for the Public School summer lunch program. The community building is used by various community groups including the NAACP. Nearby is the easement for the “Hell’s Hollow” trail, which will connect the park to Lincoln Park.

Lincoln Park (B) is a very large park at 99 acres. The park includes natural areas along either side of the Sangamon River but its large size is not indicative of the population it serves. Well-populated neighborhoods border Lincoln to the north, and the park has high quality amenities and a nearly mile-long riverfront trail that is planned to connect to Coates Park. But the park’s amenities are not fully utilized and there is a perception that the park is not safe. This is in part due to the fact that much of the park is hidden from view of nearby homes, either by grading or by wooded areas. Lincoln does have a recently updated playground. Coates has been identified by neighborhood groups as



a park that could support more Park District programming, such as volleyball or community engagement programs.

CONCLUSIONS

Coates Park has no formal ball fields, but meets the needs of its surrounding neighborhood. To improve pedestrian access to Coates Park, the crosswalk at Decatur and Church Streets needs safety improvements. Lincoln Park contains primarily passive recreation space, with river access and abundant woodland, but does not have a high number of park users. If partnerships are possible to improve overall use of this park while preserving trail connections, alternate uses should be considered. Increased trail connections would benefit this park.

This neighborhood has a high percentage of households with young children, and a low median income. Coates would be an ideal candidate for a free wi-fi pilot project in the park.

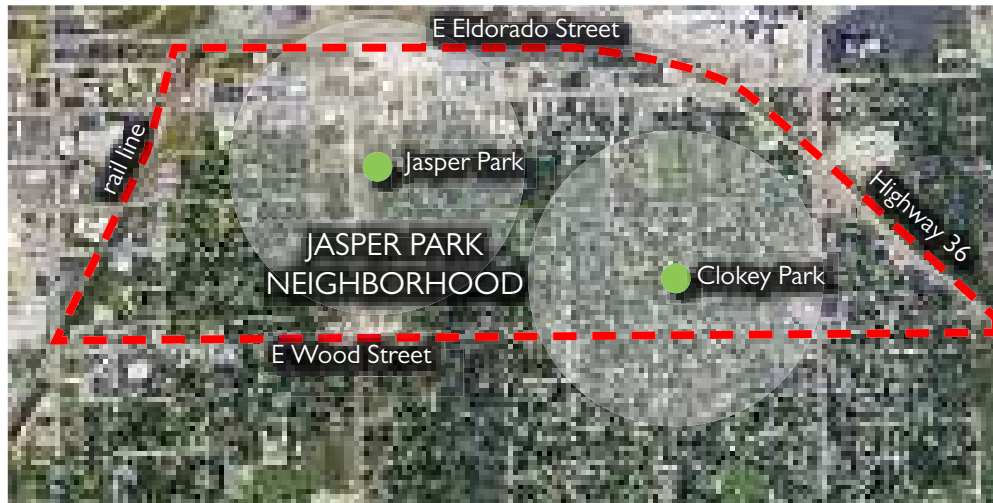
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Coates: Parking lot resurfacing and drop-off area by pavilion, accessibility updates to the park building, upgrades to the basketball court and drinking fountain.
- Lincoln: New open air pavilion, upgrades to the basketball court and tennis courts. Consider alternate uses for the underutilized open space within this park.
- Coates has transitional sign, Lincoln has outdated sign.



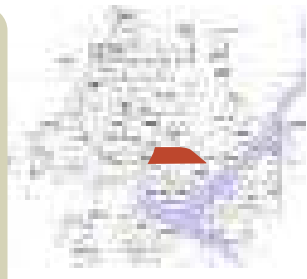
JASPER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

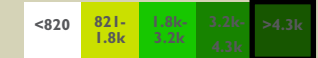


NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.48 Square Miles
 Boundary: E Eldorado Street to the north, Highway 36 to the east, rail lines to the west, E Wood Street to the south.



Population Density per Square Mile



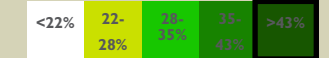
Median Age



Median Income



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Jasper Park

Location: 1220 E. William Street
 Park Type: Pocket Park

Size: 1.5 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: One basketball, 2 tetherball, benches, picnic tables, shelter, restrooms, drinking fountain, passive area, play area, open space



Clokey Park

Location: 101 N. 19th St.
 Park Type: Pocket Park

Size: 2.8 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 1

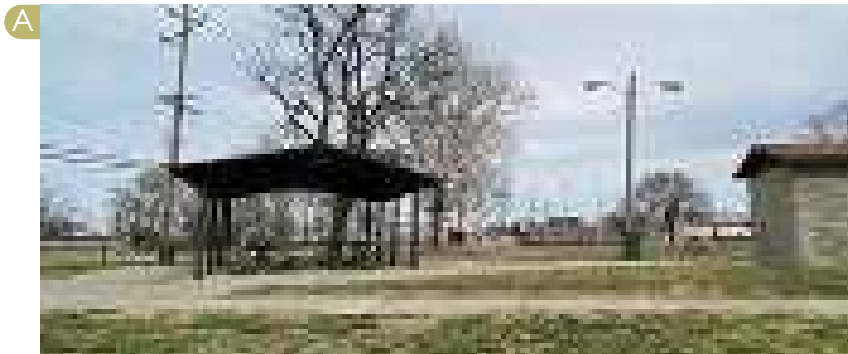
Amenities: Open Space

PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood has an adequate number of parks and their sizes and central locations are appropriate. However, the parks in this densely populated neighborhood are reported to have many challenges.

Through the public input process, Jasper Park (A) was not generally considered to be a safe park for children and young families. There is a need for a playground and for sports opportunities in this neighborhood, but vandalism is a rampant problem (the chain link fence around the play area was once stolen) and Jasper Park is often used for illicit activity. Neighbors have expressed a desire to use this park more frequently, and would visit at night if the park had lighting. However, when the park was lit at night there were even higher levels of improper park use. Many homes adjacent to the park are abandoned, leading to a lack of community surveillance on the park.

Clokey Park (B) is a unique “boulevard” style park, occupying two city blocks and bounded by historic brick streets. The park contains primarily mown turf and mature shade trees. The narrow brick streets provide minimal parking. Clokey Park is mainly visited by neighbors walking from their homes and parking is not needed. The park once had basketball courts, but improper use and a lack of security led to the courts’ removal.



CONCLUSIONS

In the short term, Jasper Park could benefit from a vandalism hotline, providing park users with an anonymous way to report crime. Broad scale changes are necessary, however, to bring dramatic change to this park. A partnership with local schools or churches with youth participating in park clean-up and other activities would bring positive activity to the park and create a sense of ownership for kids in the neighborhood. Jasper Park is 1-1/4 miles from Nelson Park, and improved bike routes are proposed as high priority in the Bike Decatur Plan from this neighborhood to Nelson Park. If access to Nelson Park is an option for residents of this neighborhood, an option for consideration is transfer of ownership of Jasper Park to another use.

This neighborhood has a high percentage of households with young children, and a low median income. Clokey may be an ideal candidate for a free wi-fi pilot project in the park, if additional seating options were provided for students to use the park for this purpose.

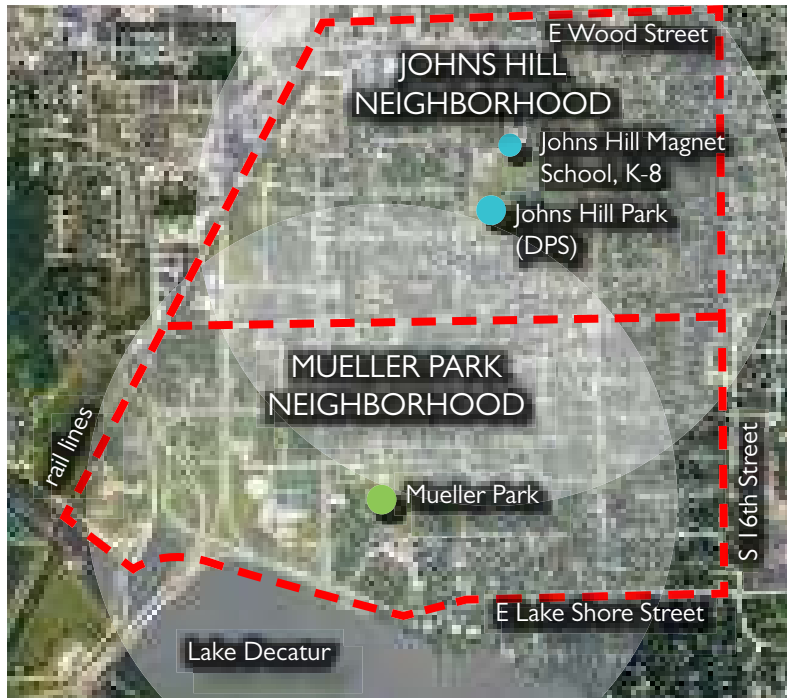
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Jasper Park: Consider transfer of ownership. If park stays, it requires basic infrastructure improvements, replace basketball court, replace playground.
- Jasper has no sign, Clokey has an outdated sign.



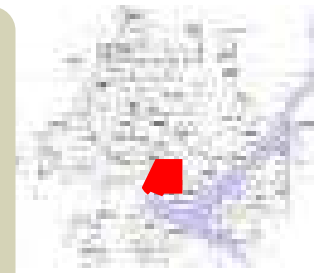
JOHN'S HILL, MUELLER PARK NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.90 Square Miles
 Boundary: E Wood Street to the north, S 16th Street to the east, rail lines to the west, Lake Decatur and E Lake Shore Drive to the south.



Population Density per Square Mile



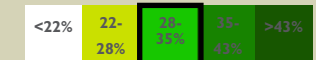
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Mueller Park

Location: 745 E. Riverside Ave.

Size: 39.0 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Accessibility Rating: 2

Programming: Administrative offices

Amenities: One basketball, one baseball, pavilion, picnic tables, restroom, concessions, drinking fountain, fireplace, parking, open space, play area



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood has two centrally located neighborhood parks. The neighborhood has no pocket parks, but due to the location of the two existing parks, the majority of residents are within 1/2 mile of at least one park. The size of these parks far exceeds national guidelines. This neighborhood has a high number of children aged 18 and under, compared to other Decatur neighborhoods.

Johns Hill Park (A), which has transferred ownership to the Decatur Public School District since the previous Plan, is the highest point in Decatur. Its adjacent neighborhood has been experiencing decline over the past decade. There are many foreclosed and abandoned homes in the area. One empty school building on site is slated for demolition. Johns Hill Magnet K-8 School, also located on site, is a successful educational facility. The park was sold in recent years and a new baseball complex was constructed. Senior lunch and dinner programs once held in Johns Hill are now offered at the former Scovill Golf Course facility.

The neighborhood surrounding Mueller Park (B) faces many of the same problems as the Johns Hill neighborhood, and recent improvements to Mueller's playground and pavilion bring more visitors to the park, increasing the sense of security. This park still faces vandalism issues, but because it is adjacent to the Decatur Park District Administration Office, there are eyes on the park during daytime hours. The investment made in Mueller's facilities attracts many young families here. The pavilion/restroom facility is a historically significant WPA building, and is in good condition. The summer lunch program is held here.

CONCLUSIONS

Both parks, with their recent updates, are currently serving their neighborhoods.

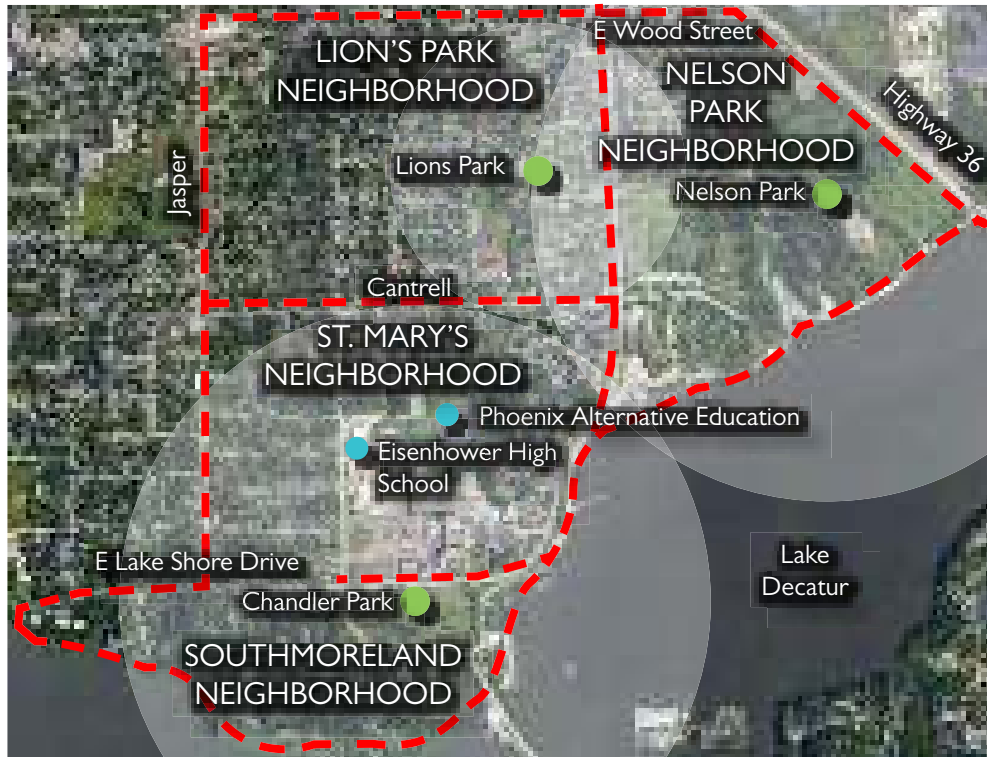
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Upgrades to Mueller parking lot, provide picnic tables in open areas, replace playground.
- Mueller has outdated sign.



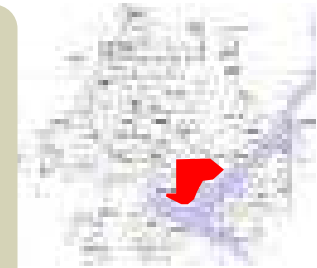
LION'S PARK, NELSON PARK, ST. MARY'S, SOUTHMORELAND NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

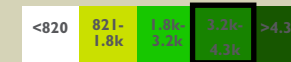


NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.00 Square Miles
 Boundary: S 16th Street on the west. To the north: E Wood Street east of 16th and E Lake Shore Drive west of 16th. Highway 36 to the northeast, Lake Decatur on the south and south-east.



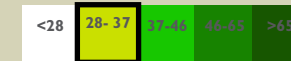
Population Density per Square Mile



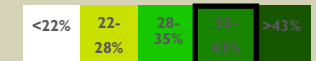
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Nelson Park

Location: 2475 E. Pavilion Drive Size: 187.0 acres
 Park Type: Community Park Accessibility Rating: 3

Amenities: Waterfront, benches, disc golf, dog park, walking/biking trails, bike rentals, running events, 3 pavilions, picnic tables, drinking fountains, fireplace, open space, passive space, play area, parking, boating, paddleboard and peddleboat seasonal rentals sand beach, concerts and events at the Devon, Splash Cove, Overlook Adventure Park, Beach House restaurant, Pier 36 Marina



Chandler Park

Location: 1510 S. Lake Front Road Size: 17.5 acres
 Park Type: Nature Area Accessibility Rating: 1

Amenities: passive area, lakefront access



Lions Park

Location: 2040 E. Lawrence Street Size: 2.5 acres
 Park Type: Pocket Park Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: 2 half basketball courts, tetherball, pavilion, picnic tables, drinking fountain, play area, open space



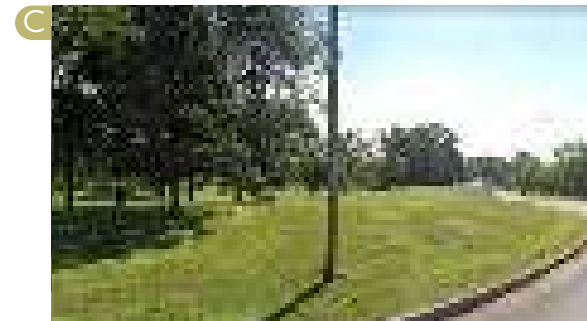
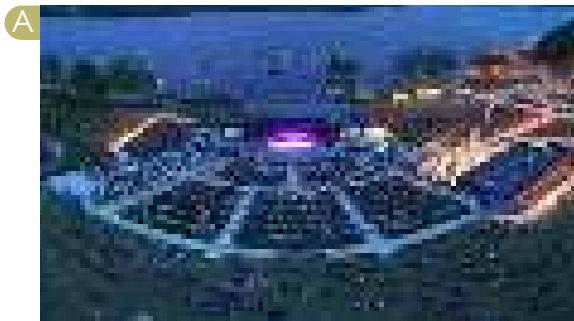
PARK ASSESSMENT

This densely populated neighborhood is well served by three parks with three different use types. The majority of this neighborhood's population is within walking distance of a park. Dwight D. Eisenhower High School and Phoenix Academy are both in this neighborhood.

Nelson Park (A) is a Community Park, and serves more than one neighborhood and has a higher level of amenities than a typical Neighborhood Park. Nelson Park is the most visited lakefront park in the Decatur Park District, and therefore has been the focus for many recent capital improvements, such as Lakeshore Landing, Pier 36 Marina, Splash Cover Water Park, the Devon Amphitheater, and Overlook Adventure Park. Refer to the 2011 Nelson Park Master Plan for all planned improvements in this park.

Lions Park (B) functions as a pocket park. It exceeds size guidelines, but its size does not keep the park from functioning as intended. The park is not considered safe by some residents because of improper use. Dog owners frequent Lions Park to let their pets run off-leash.

Chandler Park (C) is classified as a Nature Area and consists mainly of unprogrammed open space. The park contains many mature trees, but does not serve its purpose: it contains large expanses of mown turf which does not improve diversity or serve as wildlife habitat, and requires a high level of maintenance. The park serves as an occasional short cut for people who park at the hospital and walk to the waterfront (for events such as 4th of July fireworks), but there are no trails in the park. The park's most important feature is its waterfront location, but that access is not currently being maximized.



CONCLUSIONS

Nelson Park has seen many recent improvements that are well-received in the community. There are opportunities in this park to build on the success of the Pier 36 Marina to enhance public access to the Lake Decatur waterfront. It should also be noted that the park is adjacent to a neighborhood that experiences seasonal flooding. The area is listed as #2 on the priority list for flood control measures. Nelson Park contains adequate open space to make it an ideal location for stormwater control measures, such as a retention pond or bioswale.

Lions Park is a good candidate for a perimeter trail, which would give neighbors a place to exercise and increase proper park use, in turn encouraging dog owners to respect leash laws.

Chandler Park is used very sparsely and is an ideal candidate for alternate programming, assuming that waterfront access is a feature of any future park improvements.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Lions Park: Replacement of the aging pavilion, new basketball court. Addition of loop trail.
- Nelson and Chandler: Refer to Nelson Park Master Plan.
- Lions has outdated sign. Chandler has no sign.

GALLOWAY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.44 Square Miles
 Boundary: Highway 36 and Lake Decatur on the south and west, wooded area on the east, ADM plant and rail yard to the north.



Population Density per Square Mile



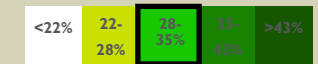
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Galloway Park

Location: 271 S. 26th St.

Size: 10.0 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: Restroom, pavilion with fireplace and picnic tables, drinking fountain, on street parking, playground, basketball court



PARK ASSESSMENT

Galloway Park (A and B) is a successful neighborhood park in that it exceeds minimum standards for size and is located within walking distance from most homes within the densely populated neighborhood.

The park is adjacent to Highway 36 along the south end of park, single family homes along the north and a portion of the west side, and a utility lift station on the east border. The amenities in the park are located mainly within the northern half. The southern portion contains an informal baseball field and unprogrammed open space. Highway 36 is visible from the park. A buffer of woodland separates the park from the highway, but highway traffic can be heard from most places within the park.

The park is in fair condition. The pavilion is located near several mature trees and is the centerpiece of the park. Vandalism has been an issue in this park. The park contains a historic stone marker in tribute of James H. Galloway, an original member of the Decatur Park Board in 1924. The play structure is in good condition, but is not ADA compliant. The park is less than half a mile from Lake Decatur, but has no direct access to the waterfront.

Parking, which consists of angled spaces off East Wood Street, is adequate but in poor condition.



CONCLUSIONS

Galloway Park's large size and central location are not indicative of the neighborhood that it serves. Based on minimum national standards, a park of 3 acres would be adequate to serve this neighborhood. At 10 acres, Galloway is oversized and the more isolated southern portion of the park is not fully utilized. Reducing the size of this park and focusing resources in the northern half would better serve the neighborhood. Galloway would be an ideal location for a loop walking path.

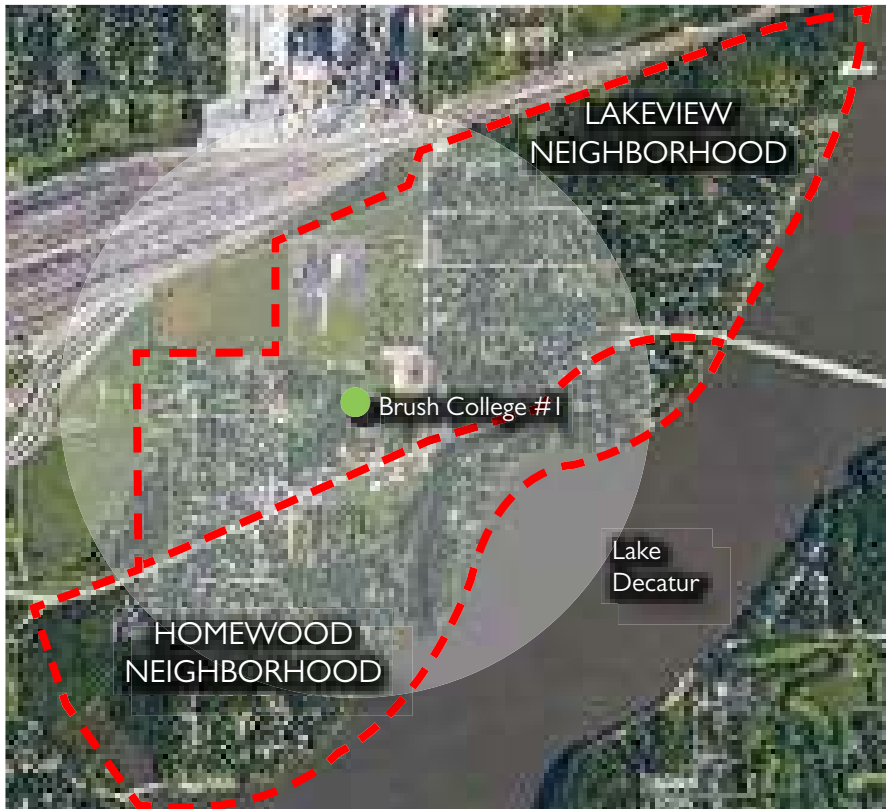
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Upgrading the parking lot, pavilion and restroom, and removal of the baseball diamond and lights. Move basketball court closer to the street and parking. Loop walking path around park. Replace playground.
- New park lighting.
- Galloway has no sign.



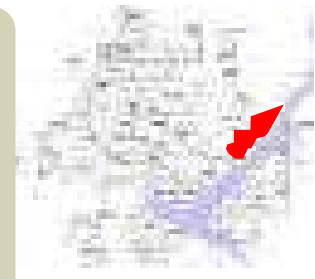
LAKEVIEW, HOMEWOOD NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.90 Square Miles
 Boundary: Lake Decatur on the southeast, wooded area on the west, ADM plant and rail yard to the north.



Population Density per Square Mile



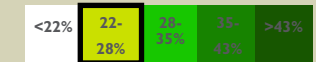
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Brush College #1

Location: 585 N. Brush College Road
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 12.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: Adjacent to Brush College School which closed in 2013, baseball backstop still in place with fenced field, one half-basketball court, parking, play equipment, open space



PARK ASSESSMENT

Brush College #1 (A and B) is centrally located with the majority of neighbors within walking distance. However, Highway 105 to the south and County Highway 1 both act as barriers for walkers and bikers, so the park is not heavily used. The park is adjacent to the former Brush College School and a small but well used commercial area is directly across County Highway 1. In the near future, this park will be transferred to National Foodworks per agreement.

CONCLUSIONS

No improvements are recommended for this park as ownership will soon be transferred and all park equipment removed. It should be noted that the Lakeview and Homewood Neighborhoods will no longer have a neighborhood park when this park is removed. Allowing the site to be used as unprogrammed open space with non-motorized trail connections to other parks and greenspaces should be considered.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- None



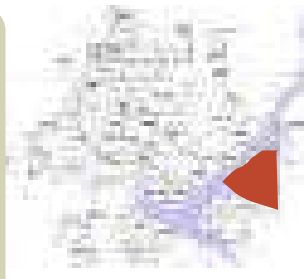
BAYVIEW, COUNTRY MANOR, LAKERIDGE, BAKER WOODS NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.66 Square Miles
 Boundary: N Country Club Road to the north, S Airport Road to the east, Highway 36 to the south, Lake Decatur to the northeast.



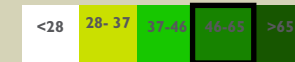
Population Density per Square Mile



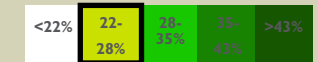
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Park Luise

Location: 525 S. 44th
 Park Type: Nature Area

Size: 23.2 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: Woodland, nature trails, parking

T P

Baker Woods

Location: 4455 E. Cantrell St.
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 5.4 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: pavilion, restrooms, concession stand, pond, drinking fountain, nature trail, passive area, play area, open space, playground



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood is directly adjacent to the Decatur airport and is relatively low density. The area has one formal park and one nature area, both located centrally within the neighborhood. Although the park has adequate acreage based on national standards, the southwestern corner of the neighborhood is not within walking distance of a park.

Baker Woods Park (A) is adjacent to Jefferson Middle School. Baum Elementary School is 1/2 mile to the west. The park is in good condition and has views of natural wooded areas and a pond. The park is sized appropriately but amenities in the park are too far from the school to be used by the youngest children during recess. Children who live south of the school have no direct access to the school, and they cut through private property in order to walk to school.

Park Luise (B) is a natural area south of the Country Club of Decatur. The park consists primarily of a gravel parking lot and gravel walking trail.

CONCLUSIONS

These parks are sized appropriately for this neighborhood and serve their neighborhoods adequately. But both would benefit from further connectivity to other parks, through trails and bike paths. Highest priority for trails would be a connection to the school from neighborhoods to the south and west.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Baker Woods: Pavilion and play structure upgrades. Potential for walking path through wooded areas.
- Park Luise: Funds are recommended for parking expansion and paving, as well as for trail signage.
- Baker Woods and Park Luise have outdated signs.



SHOREWOOD, COUNTRY CLUB, NORTH FORK NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

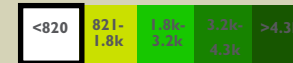


NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.56 Square Miles
 Boundary: Lake Decatur to the west, Northlake Park to the north, Excelsior School Road to the east, N Country Club road and the airport to the south.



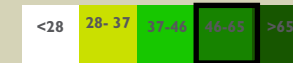
Population Density per Square Mile



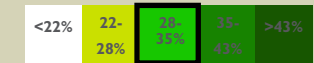
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Northlake Park

Location: 1295 N. Country Club Road
 Park Type: Community Park

Size: 24.4 acres
 Accessibility Rating: I

Programming: None, no signage for public access

Amenities: Waterfront, woodland



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood east of Lake Decatur is much lower density than many other Decatur neighborhoods. Much of the area is woodland, cemetery property, or property of the Country Club of Decatur. Due to the nature of the neighborhood, most people do not walk to local parks but drive instead, allowing for a one mile park radius rather than 1/2 mile. Considering this, the majority of the neighborhood is within close proximity to a park. The neighborhood far exceeds national standards for acreage.

The area has just one park at the far north, Northlake (A), which is used primarily by the archery club. The park is closed to the general public. There is no access or signage.

CONCLUSIONS

This neighborhood currently has no public park space. There are parks to the north and to the south within 2 miles, but residents of this neighborhood most likely drive to get to parks with programmed recreation. Because of the rural nature of this neighborhood, the lack of programming is not a problem, but the area would benefit from a trail that connected the parks to the north and south. A trail system would provide a way to meet the needs of this neighborhood's population, many of which are in the 65-84 age range.

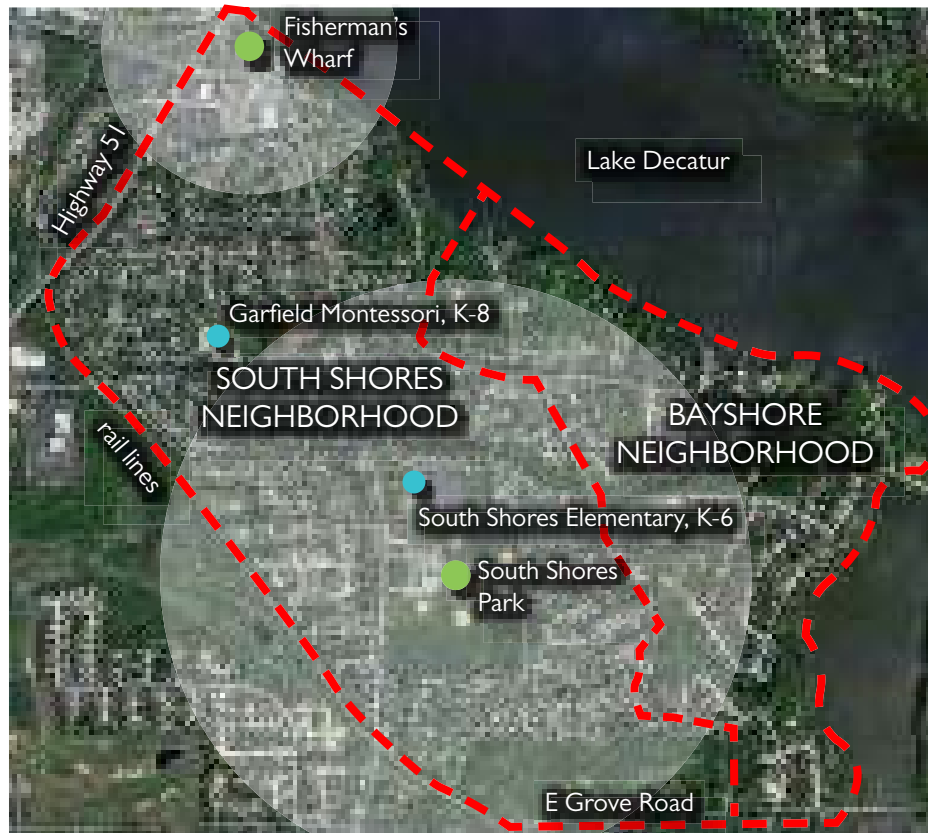
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Northlake has no sign.



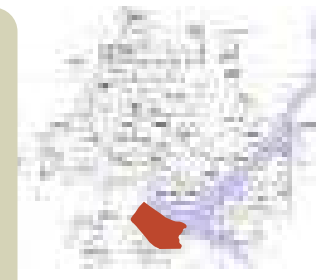
SOUTH SHORES, BAYSHORE NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

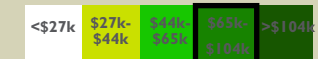
Area: 1.20 Square Miles
 Boundary: Lake Decatur and connected bodies of water on the north and east, Highway 51 to the northwest, rail lines to the southwest, E Grove Road to the south.



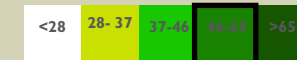
Population Density per Square Mile



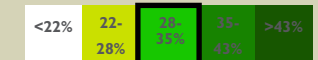
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Fisherman's Wharf

Location: 1590 S. Franklin St. Frontage Road
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 1

Amenities: Lakefront, parking area, accessible fishing dock, historic landmark (plaque)

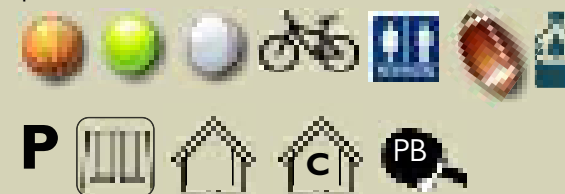


South Shores Park

Location: 2545 Phillips Drive
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 25.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: One basketball court, 2 tetherball, 2 tennis/pickleball courts, 5 baseball, lacrosse, bike rack, pavilion, picnic tables, restrooms, concessions, 10 football fields, drinking fountains, parking, passive area, play area, open space



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood contains just one minimally used pocket park: Fisherman’s Wharf (A); but centrally located South Shores Neighborhood Park (B) puts most of the neighborhood within 1/2 mile of a park.

Fisherman’s Wharf (A) is used primarily for fishing. There are views of the Highway 51 Bridge and Lake Decatur from this park. The park has very little in terms of neighborhood surveillance, resulting in inappropriate park use, litter, and a perceived lack of security. The park does have a handicap accessible dock for fishing. The park is sized appropriately for its intended use.

South Shores Park (B) is adjacent to South Shores Elementary. Garfield Montessori, a K-8 school is about 1 mile to the northwest. The park is large based on national standards, but also functions as a sports complex so it would not be considered oversized. The park is one of five parks with official District baseball programming. The southeast corner of the park contains a poorly configured parking lot and a unique Cypress Knee “creek” (C) which is a unique feature requiring protection.

CONCLUSIONS

Other than routine maintenance, these two parks are functioning as intended and are currently meeting the needs of their park users.

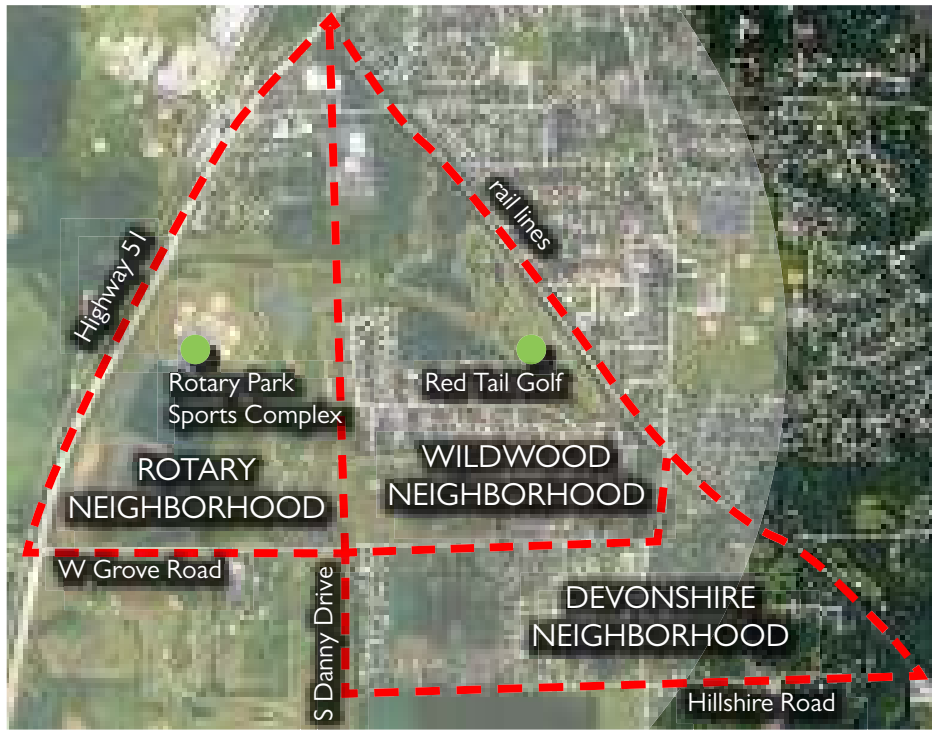
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Fisherman’s Wharf: Repave the parking lot and install a new sea wall along the entire bank between the bridge and the fishing dock. The Nelson Park Master Plan identifies this park as the possible site of a new boat launch. The park would also benefit from a fully accessible kayak launch.
- South Shores Park: Upgrades to the restroom and pavilion, general infrastructure upgrades, walking trail.
- Explore use patterns at South Shores to determine feasibility of installing lights on the Rodney T Miller baseball diamond and the pickleball courts.
- Fisherman’s Wharf and South Shores have no signs.



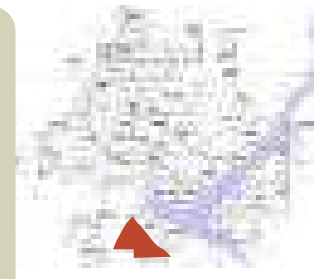
ROTARY, WILDWOOD, DEVONSHIRE NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 0.51 Square Miles
 Boundary: Highway 51 to the west, rail lines to the northeast, W Grove Road to the south (west of S Danny Drive), Hillshire Road to the south (east of S Danny Drive).



Population Density per Square Mile



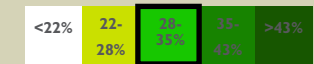
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Rotary Park

Location: 2450 S. Rt. 51
 Park Type: Sports Complex

Size: 25.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 4

Amenities: 4 sand volleyball courts, 5 lit softball fields, adult softball, adult beach volleyball, kickball, benches, pavilion, picnic tables, one shelter, restrooms, concessions, 2 drinking fountains, parking, play area, lacrosse



Red Tail Run Golf Club

Location: 520 W. Grove Road
 Park Type: Golf Course

Size: 215.0 acres
 Accessibility Rating: 2

Programming: Junior golf

Amenities: 2 shelters, 2 restrooms, concessions, 3 ponds, Junior to Championship tee locations, First Tee Learning Center, Golf Academy programming, driving range with double tees



PARK ASSESSMENT

These neighborhoods on the southern edge of Decatur's city limits are much less dense than its more centrally located neighborhoods. Because of this, residents tend to drive to parks, rather than walking. Rotary Park (A) is the neighborhood park for this area, and because most visitors arrive by car, its radius of use is one mile. The majority of the neighborhood is within the park's radius, approximately a five minute drive. Rail Tail Run (B) is a golf course and not a typical park, it therefore has no access radius, as it serves the entire District.

Rotary Park is a newer park with high quality amenities. The park's focus is softball, but also has volleyball courts and a playground. The park is popular with families with young children. The fields here are all highly utilized. The land adjacent to the park is currently owned by local developers. The entry drive to this park has no clear signage to indicate that this is a public park.

Red Tail Run (B) Golf Club has a course designed by PGA Hall of Famer Raymond Floyd. This is a course for players of all skill levels. Red Tail is the site of the IHSA Class IA Girls' State Golf Tournament.

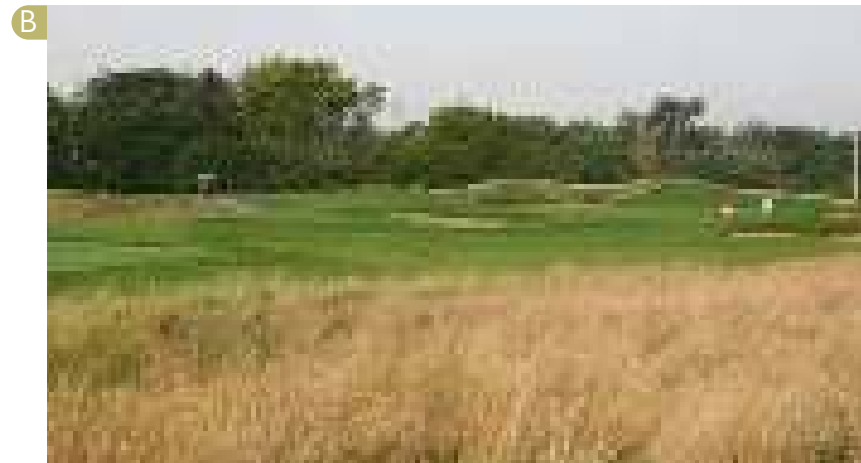


CONCLUSIONS

Rotary is a popular park. Its size is appropriate because it serves as a sports complex. The park would benefit from trail connections to other parks and natural areas. A trail connection on the east side of Rotary, crossing the golf course and connecting the neighborhoods to the east would benefit the neighborhood. Further study should determine how Red Tail Run can best meet the needs of Decatur residents, many of which are 65+ and whose major social and fitness activity is golf.

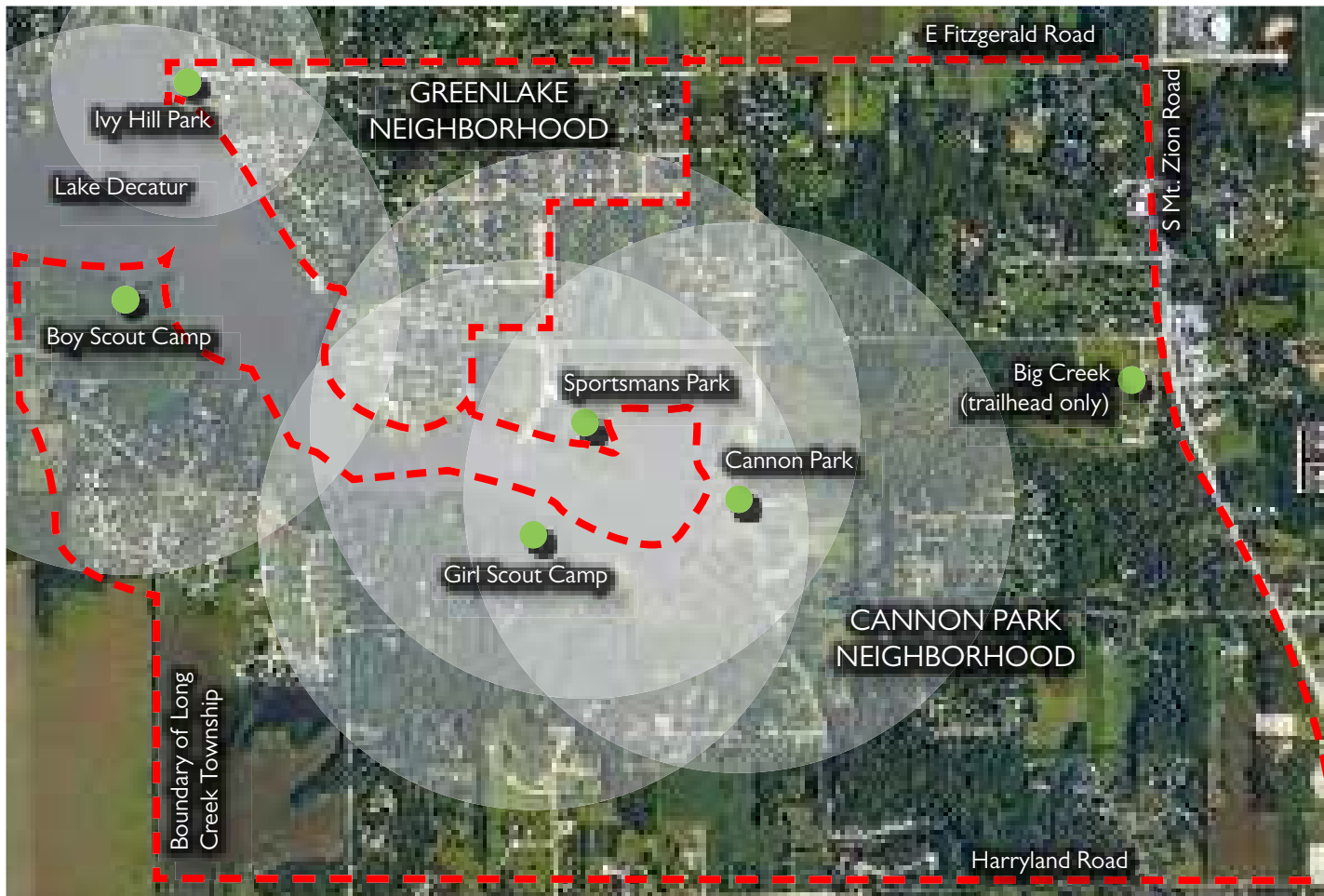
Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Rotary Park: Trail connections to the northern portion if additional parcel is acquired, expand concession stand. New water fountain and foot shower. Consider turf on fields for increased playability.
- Red Tail Run's clubhouse would be ideal location for enhanced tree planting, perhaps to create space for outdoor events.
- Rotary Park has non-standard park signage that is difficult to read.



GREENLAKE, CANNON PARK NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



PARK INVENTORY

Ivy Hill
 Location: 2403 S. Lostbridge Road Size: 2.0 acres
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park Accessibility Rating: 1

Amenities: Lake front, picnic tables, parking lot




Sportsmans Park
 Location: 3417 E. Lost Bridge Road Size: 28.3 acres
 Park Type: Community Park Accessibility Rating: 2


Amenities: Waterfront, benches, picnic table, one shelter, pond, parking, passive area, plant demonstration building, DPD greenhouse, pier, boat launch, fishing







Canon Park
 Location: 3125 S. Baltimore Ave. Size: 2.8 acres
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park Accessibility Rating: 1

Amenities: Picnic tables, parking, passive area, fishing



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS


Area: 1.59 Square Miles
 Boundary: E Fitzgerald Road to the north, S Mt. Zion Road to the east, Harryland Road to the south, Lake Decatur and Long Creek Township boundary to the west.



Population Density per Square Mile					Median Income				
<820	821-1.8k	1.8k-2.7k	2.7k-4.3k	>4.3k	<\$27k	\$27k-\$44k	\$44k-\$65k	\$65k-\$104k	>\$104k
Median Age					Households with Kids <18				
<28	28-37	37-46	46-65	>65	<22%	22-28%	28-35%	35-43%	>43%


Boy Scout Camp
 Location: 2735 E South Shores Dr. Size: 24.5 acres
 Park Type: Community Park Accessibility Rating: 1

Amenities: Lake front, woodland



Girl Scout Camp
 Location: 3622 E Harryland Dr. Size: 57.0 acres
 Park Type: Community Park Accessibility Rating: 1

Amenities: Lake front, woodland



GREENLAKE, CANNON PARK NEIGHBORHOODS

PARK ASSESSMENT

These low-density neighborhood in Decatur’s southeast corner are rural in nature, and their parks are primarily focused on the Lake Decatur waterfront. The area has an abundance of park space, including one pocket park, one neighborhood park, one community park, two natural areas, and a trailhead at the now-closed equestrian center. By national standards, this area far exceeds park minimums for size and number. Because of the waterfront location of most of these parks, the population within 1/2 mile of Lake Decatur is generally within walking distance of a park. However, residents not located near the waterfront have reduced walking/biking access to these parks. The neighborhood has a relatively high number of residents age 65+.

Ivy Hill Park (A) is bordered by East Lost Bridge Road and future bike trail to the east, a single family home to the north, and Lake Decatur to the west and south. The hilly park has rolling lawn with shade trees, and expansive views of the lake and is one of very few public access points on the east side of Lake Decatur. The park is used primarily by fishermen, but the boat launch is difficult to use because the lake is very shallow in this area. There is no formal programming in this park and the open space is seldom used.

Sportsman’s Park (B) is bordered by East Lost Bridge Road to the north, a handful of single family homes to the west, and Lake Decatur to the south and east. The park is home to the Schaub Floral Display center, which includes the DPD greenhouses. Besides this educational facility, the park mainly contains passive recreation space and access to the waterfront. The park is a popular hangout for teens from the surrounding area. Amenities within the park are in good condition. The pavilion extending out into the water has a good view of Boy Scout Park on the other side.



PARK ASSESSMENT, continued

Canon Park (C) functions as a small passive recreation park with access to the waterfront. The park shares its southern border with a single family home, but is surrounded on all other sides by Lake Decatur or woodland. The park is popular with fishermen. Canon Park is difficult to access on foot because of its remote location and most visitors arrive by car. A bike path along Baltimore Road has begun and will increase accessibility to the park. The park does have a small parking lot close to water access, although there is no actual trail connection.



GREENLAKE, CANNON PARK NEIGHBORHOODS

PARK ASSESSMENT, continued

Girl Scout Camp (D), as the name suggests, was once used as a Girl Scout camp, but no longer serves this purpose. This park consists primarily of mature hardwood forest with no formal park programming. This park is bordered to the west by a low density, heavily wooded neighborhood of single family homes. To the south and east, the park is bordered by woodland and Lake Decatur forms the northern border. There is actually no public access to the park except by boat. A new entry road off East Skyline Drive is proposed, which would be a gravel drive and possibly follow the overhead utility easement. Further study will determine if the grading and drainage patterns here make the drive feasible. The park does have one existing trail and old Girl Scout sleeping shelters on the waterfront, which now serve as picnic shelters. The park is known for its excellent bird watching.

Boy Scout Camp (E), like the previous park, no longer serves the purpose that its name implies. The official Boy Scout camp for the area has moved south to an alternate location. This park is bordered on the west and south by large, heavily wooded single family lots. Lake Decatur forms the northern and eastern borders. The site is primarily mature hardwood forest. Its primary use is for picnickers arriving by boat. Besides the one gated entry path to the west, Boy Scout Camp is only accessible by boat. The park has had issues with improper use. Because of its isolation, groups occasionally arrive by boat and have parties on the shore, leaving piles of litter behind.



View of Boy Scout Camp across water

CONCLUSIONS

The parks in this neighborhood are primarily passive-recreation based and lake oriented, appropriate for an area with abundant shoreline. These parks provide more public lake access than most neighborhoods, but due to their location at the far southeast corner of Decatur, the parks are not readily accessible to many residents. An expanded trail network would increase access to all of these parks. When natural areas are included, the parks far exceed national acreage guidelines.

Ivy Hill is not a highly used park, and would better serve users with a boat/kayak launch that is one stop on a “water trail” of waterfront destinations. The park is oversized for the purpose that it serves, and would be a candidate for alternate uses or partial land transfer, as long as public water access was preserved. The Lost Bridge Road bike trail extension will increase access to this park.

Sportsman’s Park would also benefit from an extension of the Lost Bridge Road bike trail, increasing access to the park. The park itself is oversized based on national standards, but if classified as a community park, it serves more than just its one neighborhood and is therefore appropriately sized. As a popular teen destination, this park would benefit from the addition of programming appropriate for that age group.

Canon Park serves its purpose as a small waterfront access park. Trail connectivity and a kayak launch would make this park accessible to more people. The extension of a branch of the Lost Bridge Road bike trail would reduce the isolation of this park. This park would be a good candidate for a planting transition from mown turf to native grasses and other low maintenance plantings.

Girl Scout Camp would better serve its population if it was more connected to other parks. Traditional trails and canoe/kayak “water trails” in this park would increase access. This park is directly south of Sportsmans Park (across the lake) and a connection between the two parks across the water would be a unique feature to the City of Decatur. With increased access, the park could best serve its population with loop trails for runners and pavilions and restrooms for picnickers. As this park is under-used and not actively programmed and without any park amenities, transfer of ownership of this park should be an option for consideration.

Boy Scout Camp is more isolated than Girl Scout Camp. Where Girl Scout Camp could be developed as a woodland park with trails and picnic facilities, the general consensus of Park District leaders is that Boy Scout Camp should be left to nature. The park could serve as a stop on a “water trail”, but does not need formal amenities that would encourage improper use. A simple loop trail would provide passive recreation without detracting from the natural setting of this park.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Canon Park parking improvements and addition of a picnic pavilion.
- Sportsman’s Park: New pavilion.
- Ivy Hill: updated picnic tables.
- Both Sportsman’s and Canon Park would benefit from a fully accessible kayak launch.
- Ivy Hill has outdated sign. Sportsman has transitional sign. Canon has outdated sign. Boy Scout and Girl Scout Camps have no signs at all.

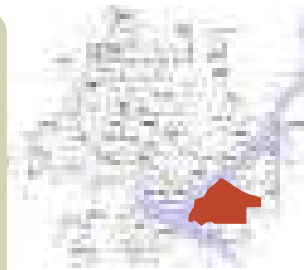
SCOVILL GARDENS, LOST BRIDGE, MUFFLEY NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICS

Area: 1.37 Square Miles
 Boundary: Highway 36 to the north, County Highway 7 and S Albany Street to the east, E Fitzgerald Road to the south, Lake Decatur forms the western and a portion of the southern boundary.



Population Density per Square Mile



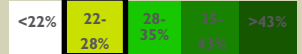
Median Income



Median Age



Households with Kids <18



PARK INVENTORY

Scovill Park: Zoo and Gardens

Location: 2435 E. Scovill Zoo Place Size: 80.0 acres
 Park Type: Community Park Accessibility Rating: 3

Amenities: Waterfront, benches, picnic tables, restrooms, concessions, woodland, drinking fountain, nature trails, parking, passive area, playground, sculpture park, Scovill house, gazebo, botanical garden, fishing. Zoo events include Boo at the Zoo, Zoo Buddies Camp, PJ Party with Santa, Parents Afternoon Out, arts programs



Sinawik Park

Location: 1715 S. 32nd St. Size: 15.0 acres
 Park Type: Neighborhood Park Accessibility Rating: 2

Amenities: One basketball court, 2 tetherball, 4 pickleball and one tennis court, 4 baseball fields, softball, pavilion, picnic tables, restrooms, concessions, drinking fountain, parking, play area, open space



PARK ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood is home to the Scovill Zoo and Gardens (A), one of the most popular parks in the Decatur Park District. This neighborhood is primarily moderate density residential. Lake Decatur forms a large percentage of the neighborhood's boundary, but much of that edge is private property with no public waterfront access. Sinawik Park (B) and E. J. Muffley Elementary School are centrally located in the neighborhood, but roughly a third of the neighborhood's population is farther than 1/2 mile from one of these parks. The size of the parks far exceeds national standards. This neighborhood has a relatively high number of children age 14 and under, and seniors age 65+. Both parks are extremely popular with families with young children.

Scovill Gardens is a passive park area adjacent to Scovill Zoo. There is no active sport programming within the park, and much of its acreage is unprogrammed open space. The park has attractive views of Lake Decatur, and weddings are sometimes held in the gazebo near the zoo entrance. The park is frequently visited by school children, and there is a trail connecting the zoo to nearby E. J. Muffley Elementary. The senior volunteer program at the zoo is one of the most popular senior activity programs in Decatur. Planned future improvements are outlined in the Scovill Zoo Master Plan.

Sinawik Park is adjacent to E. J. Muffley Elementary school, and is one of Decatur's parks that supports official baseball league programming. The park is surrounded on four sides by well-populated residential homes. The park is in good condition. The northwest corner of the park is under study to modify the intersection layout in order to make a safer connection to the zoo for walking field trips. The only bus stop within walking distance of the Zoo is located here. The neighborhood adjacent to the park is prone to flooding, and the area is rated #3 priority in the Decatur's Stormwater Management Plan for areas requiring flood control.

CONCLUSIONS

Both Scovill and Sinawik Park currently serve their populations. They are both large parks but not inappropriately sized based on their use patterns. Scovill improvements are outlined in the Zoo Master Plan.

Further study would determine if all four of Sinawik's baseball fields are fully utilized or if one or more fields would better serve the community through conversion to alternative uses. Alternatively, if a portion of the park is not needed for sports programming, land could be used for stormwater bioretention facilities to alleviate seasonal flooding. One option would be to move the northeast baseball diamond into the southwest corner of the park. Then the northwest corner of the park could serve as stormwater detention. Sinawik is a prime candidate for a perimeter loop trail with benches and shade. Both parks would benefit from trail connections to parks to the south along Lost Bridge Road.

Capital Improvement Funding Needs:

- Sinawik: Upgrades for parking lot paving, play structure, pavilion, restrooms, and baseball diamonds. Update tennis courts and basketball courts. Park would benefit from a loop walking trail and better pedestrian connections to the Zoo.
- Sinawik has outdated sign.



FACILITY INVENTORY

1. Administrative Office

Location: 620 E. Riverside Ave.

Park District offices and meeting space

2. Beach House Restaurant

Location: 2301 S. Lake Front Road

Restaurant at Pier 36 Marina in Nelson Park

3. Decatur Airport

Location: 790 S. Airport Road

1890 acre airport facility with ground level terminal building of 24,000 sq. ft. housing airline and car rental counters, baggage claim area, and administrative offices

4. Decatur Indoor Sports Center (DISC)

Location: 1295 W Wood Street

Basketball, volleyball, pickleball, baseball/softball, soccer, futsal, rock climbing, fitness classes, Silver Sneakers, spin, bootcamp, yoga, dance, tumbling, cheer, bubble ball, Nerf battles, parents night out, Santa Shuffle, parties, events, meetings, banquets

5. Scovill Activity Center

Location: 3915 W Main Street

Arts programs, senior programming and SRA programming

6. Overlook Adventure Mini-Golf

Location: 2501 E Nelson Park Rd

Mini-golf course in Nelson Park

7. Poage Arts and Recreation Center

2020 N. Oakland Avenue

Art parties, dance and drama programming

8. Schaub Floaral Display Center, Greenhouse & Garden

Location: 3415 E. Lost Bridge Road

Floral displays

9. Scovill House

Location: 2390 E. Scovill Zoo Place

Events, banquets, parties

10. Devon Amphitheater

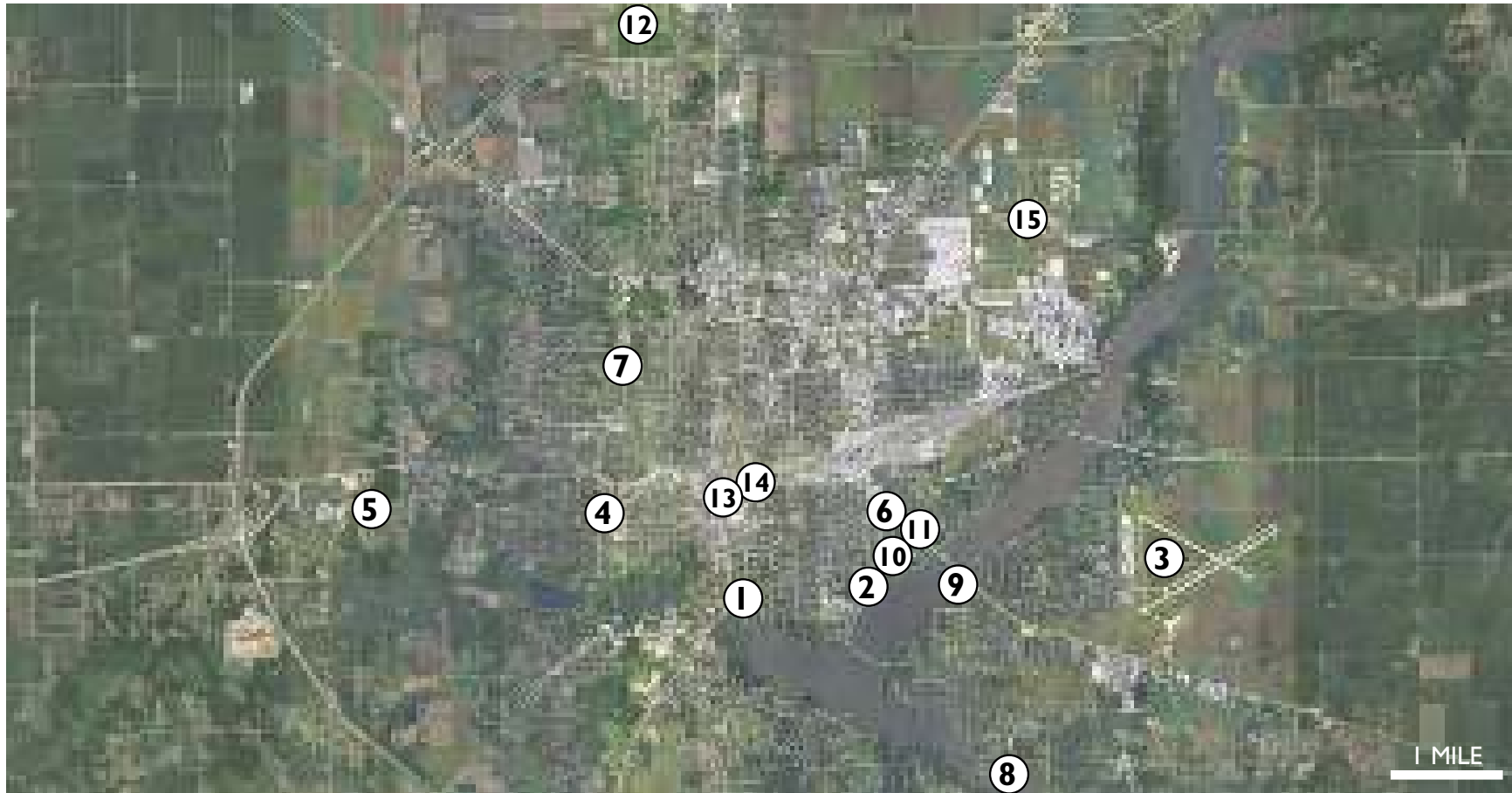
Location: 2686 E. Cantrell Street

Concerts, events

11. Splash Cove Aquatic Center

Location: 2521 E Nelson Park Rd

Water park



NON-DPD FACILITIES THAT HOUSE DPD PROGRAMS

12. Swartz Pavilion

Location: 727 Weaver Road

Parties, events, meetings, banquets

13. Decatur Civic Center Theater

Location: 1 Gary K Anderson Plaza

Drama programming, plays

14. Knights of Columbus Hall (KC Hall)

Location: 520 E North Street

Special Rec Association (game/movie nights, bingo, etc)

15. Richland Community College

Location: 1 East College Park Drive

Arts programs, Chorale concerts

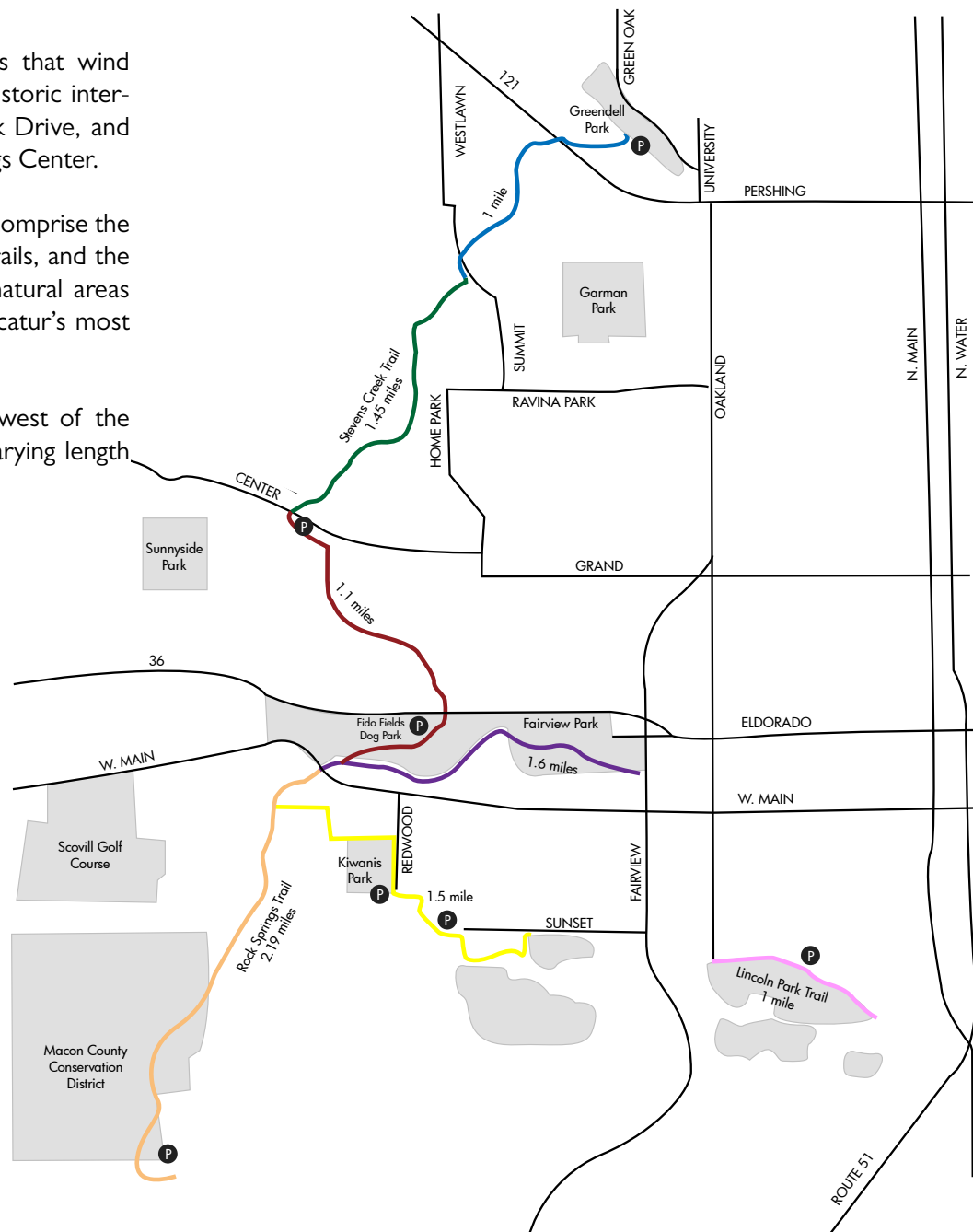
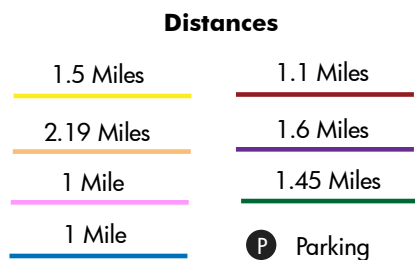
PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY / ASSESSMENT

DECATUR PARK DISTRICT TRAIL SYSTEM

Decatur's existing trail system includes paved pathways that wind through Fairview Park, cross Stevens Creek, trace the historic inter-urban railway, wrap around Kiwanis Park to Lincoln Park Drive, and end at Macon County Conservation District's Rock Springs Center.

The map to the right shows the many trail segments that comprise the Steven's Creek Trail, the Rock Springs Trail, connector trails, and the Lincoln Park Trail. These trails not only link significant natural areas and community parks, they also connect to many of Decatur's most populated neighborhoods.

The Macon County Conservation District to the southwest of the Decatur Park District contains nine additional trails of varying length and difficulty.



REGIONAL BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

The Decatur Bicycle Plan, or “Bike Decatur”, was completed in July 2021 by the Decatur Urbanized Area Transportation Study (DUATS), the regional transportation planning entity for the Decatur Urbanized Area.

This purpose is to develop a unified areawide plan to make the Decatur region a model Bicycle Friendly Community. This Plan was often referenced in the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as many of the goals and action items of both plans overlap.

Plans such as the figure below help to identify high-priority bicycle connections by illustrating trails with locations of existing schools. Safe pathways to schools is a high priority goal of Bike Decatur.

Regional Bicycle Master Plan, July 2021
 Figure I.5: Parks and Schools



Figure 3.1: Proposed Network Map

The Proposed Network Map shown above illustrates existing bike pathways and proposes the highest-priority future pathways based on the DUATS team’s extensive public outreach and research. By working with the Bike Decatur team and incorporating many of the trail development priorities, the Goals, Objectives, and Action Items of this Plan could be adjusted to ensure the long-term recommendations are compatible.

CHAPTER III SUMMARY

This chapter inventories parks and recreation facilities under the jurisdiction of the Decatur Park District, and also lists other recreation providers, including schools, county facilities, and private facilities. Trails both local and regional are also documented, as they are an important piece of the overall recreation opportunities that currently serve the community.

04

PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT



PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

This section outlines a comprehensive review of the Decatur Park System from the perspective of the users, obtained through the community survey, stakeholder interviews, and public meetings.

The predominant themes that emerged from this process included the following: organize and harness the energy of volunteers, activate waterfront with mix of uses, increase rental housing options to attract and retain young people, continue to expand trail systems, consider a Conservation District, add splash pads, consider transportation as key to increasing program involvement, connect trail loop around Basin 2, complete Fairview Park Master Plan and include options for Scovill Park West, analyze how to access available grant money for programs.

Stakeholder Interviews

The Park District and planning team conducted extensive interviews with a wide range of community leaders and partner organizations with an interest in the Park District facilities. The goal of these interviews was to obtain feedback on how the Park District can improve services, expand partnerships, and build on existing successes.

Interviews were held with the following organizations, with main point of emphasis listed (detailed comments to be included in Appendix):

- DPD Board
 - Community outreach is key, include neighborhood leaders in future Park District planning.
- DPD Staff
 - Focus on what we do best, and look to partnerships to complement our services to help balance funding challenges.
- Park District Foundation
 - Expand on partnerships with local business leaders and Millikin University, consider creative uses for existing facilities.
- City Council
 - Consider best use for Scovill Park West, non-motorized connections between parks are key.
- City Manager
 - Prioritize improvements that align with Bike Plan.
- City Planning & Development
 - Non-motorized connections between parks are important.

- Decatur Public Schools
 - Consider teen activities in parks, including free wi-fi.
- Chamber of Commerce
 - Mix of housing types, including waterfront and rental housing, will help attract new residents.
- Economic Development Corporation of Macon County
 - Consider Decatur as a port for transportation to attract business and new residents, waterfront is key!
- Boys & Girls Club
 - Barrier to low-income kids is lack of child care for parents, thus relying on older kids to care for younger ones.
- Beautify Decatur
 - Litter removal and management is key to our image.
- Decatur Block by Block and Decatur in Bloom
 - Young, local leaders should be recognized and celebrated.
- Juneteenth Group
 - Kids in urban neighborhoods need leadership from people who live in their neighborhoods, representation is key!
- Children’s Museum
 - Safe and convenient transportation is important.
- Scovill Zoo
 - Providing affordable and equitable access to activities and programs is top priority.
- Golf Staff
 - Golf has done well in past year, but there is need to recruit more golfers in general and young golfers specifically.
- Millikin University
 - Focus on areas that attract residents: health care, employment, education, recreation.
- Tate & Lyle
 - Focus on young leaders and partnerships for success.
- Pickleball
 - Provide year-round and evening use and rental equipment.
- Audubon
 - Focus on preservation and education at Fairview and Scovill.
- SONA (Save Our Natural Areas)
 - Scovill is a rare Oak-Savanna habitat, consider restoration.
- Bike Decatur
 - Priority is to link Nelson/Fairview/Scovill Park West
- Neighborhood Groups
 - Let us help! Volunteers may be the single most important partner to the Park District.

Public Meetings

A public meeting was held as a visioning session in April of 2021 and another as an open house in August of 2021 to share inventory and feedback gathered. The meetings were held at the Hickory Point Golf Course Clubhouse and at Nelson Park respectively, and were sparsely attended, possibly due to Covid concerns.

Without exception, all the stakeholders contacted shared positive experience with the Decatur Park District and their optimism for the future. Many have ideas for how to build on this success and helped identify needs that still exist in the community. The word cloud on this page is a graphic tool to help summarize priorities. The larger the word, the more often we heard that topic.

The graphics on the following pages summarize the feedback gathered through the public input process.



“Top Five” suggested priorities*

- Activate waterfront with mixed-use, keep edge open to public. Build on success of Nelson Park’s Lakeshore Landing. Include rentals to attract young people and families.
- Celebrate diversity and inclusion. Representation: give kids role models who they can relate to, who live in their neighborhoods.
- Harness the energy of volunteers, many people are already doing so much for the parks! Identify community leaders (neighborhood ambassadors), create a database for communication and consider how to support these people.
- Last decade has been about big moves (Nelson Park), now consider a shift to building on and improving what we already have
- Pursue grants for programming, they often go unused.
- Improvements in the more urban parks (Jasper, Clokey, Lions)
- Decatur Bike Plan
- TRAILS! All types of trails: walking, cycling, water trails
- Splash pads in key locations
- Transportation would get more kids to programs
- E-sports
- Consider need for Conservation District to manage the Park District’s natural areas

* Stakeholders were asked for their Top Five priorities, the list above includes a summary of all priorities mentioned, hence there are more than five.

specific projects mentioned

- Fairview Park Master Plan
- Complete trail around Basin 2, to connect Nelson, Zoo, Children’s Museum, Waterpark
- Scovill Park West (previously golf course) Plan, either develop as natural area (rare Oak Savanna) or possibly mix of uses, activity center, connect to existing trails
- Safe trail connection to Splash Cove so kids can get there by bike
- Offer free wi-fi and shaded seating areas in parks for students
- Garfield Park needs improvements, consider housing and park space
- Audubon Hill at Fairview
- Look to grants for invasive plant management in all parks with natural areas
- Programs for police and youth to work together
- Crosswalk improvements and walking tail at Coates Park
- South Shores needs lights for pickleball courts
- Provide disc golf rental equipment
- Provide fun evening programs for young adults like glow mini-golf
- Consider interactive art (partnership with Children’s Museum) in parks
- More water rentals like paddleboats, paddle boards, kayaks at Pier 36 Marina in Nelson Park
- Bike rentals at key trailheads
- Focus beautification and litter removal at City entries first
- Link Fairview/Scovill/Nelson with safe bike path
- Pump track and mountain bike trail
- More restrooms at golf courses and indoor golf simulator facility
- Bring back Yellow Hat program in Hess or Fairview
- Indoor competition pool
- Nelson Park go-karts
- Safe bike lanes on White’s Bridge at North Country Club
- Clean Energy

what you love

- Summer lunch program
- Yellow Hats program
- Devon Amphitheater
- The Park District as a “public service provider”
- Splash Cove
- Waterfront at Nelson

opportunities

- 1000+ job openings in April 2021: range from hospitality jobs at \$16k/year to manufacturing jobs at \$83k/year
- Bike Decatur Plan is under development
- Population decline is slowing

challenges

- 45 parks, 5 sports complexes, 2 golf courses, 11 facilities, 2000+ acres but Decatur’s population would typically support a Park District of half that size, when compared to national standards, and only 1/3 of Park District operating budget comes from taxes.
- Population declining, but slower than before! If population falls below 70k, funding could be reduced. The 2020 Census shows population of 70,522.
- Decatur households below poverty level in 2019 were at 20.7%, 10.2% higher than national average.
- Increase in minimum wage will cost Park District from \$175-200k in revenue, how to balance this?
- Not as many quality child care options for second shift workers, which means older siblings are baby sitting and not participating in evening programs.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The aQity Research Group gathered data as part of the community needs assessment process for this Decatur Park District Comprehensive Master Plan update. Data collection was between July 12 and September 9, 2021. The printed survey and/or postcard invitations for the online survey option were sent by USPS to a random sample of over 18,000 Decatur households. Outreach to a variety of organizations throughout the City was also made to encourage their members and constituents who received a survey invitation to participate. All mailings included options to complete the survey by mail, online, or phone.

This respondent sample was weighted to match updated US Census data for Decatur (by region, gender, age, ethnicity, and percentage of households with children). Assuming no sample bias, the margin of error is +/- 4.0% (at the 95% confidence level).

Overall Opinions

On a zero through ten rating scale, the DPD averages a very positive score of 7.2, which matches the statewide benchmark for all Illinois agencies as well as overall esteem for the Macon County Conservation District.

- The DPD's score is significantly higher than overall opinion of the City of Decatur and Macon County Government (both receiving neutral scores on average), and School District #61 (slightly negative ratings).

The ratio of favorable to unfavorable opinions of the Park District is 7:1.

- Three in four (77%) give positive ratings, including 36% who are completely satisfied with the District (scores of 9+ on a 0-10 scale).
- Still, one in nine residents (11%) give negative ratings.

These strong scores for the District tend to come from all regions and segments, with SW region giving the highest ratings on average (7.7) and NE region giving the lowest (6.7 – still favorable).

The DPD is Considered a "Good" Overall Value

When informed that 38% of the DPD's overall budget comes from property taxes, residents rate its value a 6.3 on average on a 0-10 scale (considered "good").

- Three in five (60%) rate it a "good" to "excellent" value, vs. 21% who feel it is a poor value. The remaining 19% give neutral/average ratings overall.
- Higher ratings come from SW region and women, while lower (still positive) value scores come from men, the NE and SE regions, and non-white residents.

In a separate question, residents estimate that 25% of the DPD's budget is funded by property taxes.

Overall Opinions: Perceived Strengths and Weaknesses

When asked what they like most about the Decatur Park District and what represents its strengths, nearly nine in ten offered a response, most often its parks and trails (cited by 48%, especially their level of maintenance/upkeep, good walking and biking trails, and the number or variety of parks).

Nearly as many (38%) cite DPD facilities as a top positive, usually Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Splash Cove Waterpark, Scovill Zoo and Park, and the golf courses.

One in four (25%) most like the programs and events, especially the variety of activities, youth programming in particular, and special events.

DPD Parks/Trails are Considered its Biggest Strengths, Followed by Facilities and Programs/Events

One in Five Could Not Identify Any Weaknesses or Improvement Needs for the District

In a separate open-ended question, 22% were either unfamiliar with any concerns or needs regarding the DPD (17%) or said there is nothing they dislike at all (5%). The rest most often suggested:

- Administrative improvements (41%), most often better communications and outreach, more equitable opportunities/resources through the community, increased security at parks/facilities, and consistent enforcement of policies.
 - Overall, 4% volunteered that the District should sell some of its land (e.g., pro-development responses, lakefront property specifically).
- Parks/Trails improvements (28%), mostly better maintenance, more trails/connectivity, more or upgraded playgrounds, etc.
- Facilities (23%), usually more pools, better maintenance, more golf courses.
- Programming and events (19%), especially for youth and community events.

Only 8% cite fees or costs as a negative or needed improvement.

Recent Visits to Facilities and Parks

A majority of respondents said that they or someone in their household have been to or visited:

- Fairview Park (75% -- visited most often for its trails, proximity to one’s home, variety of activities, pond, and pavilions).
- Nelson Park (61% - usually for variety of activities/features, proximity, lakefront).
- Scovill Zoo and Park (57% -- usually as a great destination for children/families, great zoo/animal viewing, train, friendly staff).
- Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater (55% -- cited for great events and artists, atmosphere/location, clean and well-maintained).

Nearly half have also used the trail connecting Fairview Park and Rock Springs Park (47% -- most often considered scenic, close to residents, well-maintained).

- Other parks, trails, and/or facilities are cited by about a third (32%) of respondents or fewer.
- DPD nature areas receive the lowest levels of self-reported usage (8% for Big Creek Park, fewer for remaining locations).

Overall, 90% of Respondents Report Visits to DPD Parks, Trails, Facilities or Nature Areas in the Past 18 Months

Covid-19 Has Resulted in More Visits to Some DPD Locations, Fewer Visitors to Others

Satisfaction with Recent Facility/Park Visits and Usage

About a third (35%) report using or visiting specific Park District destinations more frequently since the COVID-19 pandemic started about eighteen months ago, usually parks (especially Fairview, Nelson, Scovill Park West) and trails (Fairview Park to Rock Springs Park or to Greendell Park, Nelson Trail).

Nearly as many (30% overall) report fewer visits to DPD destinations during that time frame, not surprisingly mostly to facilities such as Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Beach House Restaurant, DISC, Scovill Zoo and Park, and Overlook Adventure Park.

Recent Users/Visitors Continue to be Extremely Satisfied with These Facilities and Parks

When recent visitors to DPD parks, trails, nature areas and facilities rate their satisfaction with these locations, at least four out of five are satisfied with the:

- Overall experience (82% satisfied, including 42% completely satisfied).
- Cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep of these locations (80%, including 39% completely satisfied).
- Overall accessibility including parking, paths and entrances (82%, including 39% complete satisfied).

Separately 88% of residents feel “very” (37%) or “somewhat” safe (51%) visiting DPD parks and facilities.

Any specific concerns or complaints – usually at the most visited locations -- mostly center around:

- Need for greater cleanliness and upkeep (litter, goose droppings, bathrooms).
- Safety concerns (especially on trails, paths).

Interest and Unmet Needs: Specific Outdoor Facility/ Amenities Assessment

A clear majority express an interest or need for walking and biking trails (78%), with at least a third also expressing interest or need in:

- Outdoor performance venue (45%)
- Outdoor pool (38%)
- Watersport rentals, such as kayaks and paddle boats (38%)
- Playgrounds (36%)

The next tier of outdoor facilities (based on demand) include:

- Adventure park activities (31%)
- Electric go-karts (30%)
- Golf (28%)
- Outdoor ice rink during the winter (27%)

Most of the top priorities, especially trails, golf, performance venue, playgrounds and adventure park activities, are already seen as sufficiently available relative to their levels of demand.

The improvements representing a “gap” (meaning relatively higher demand that is not being met) include outdoor pool, watersport rentals, electric go-carts, or an outdoor ice rink.

- The remaining items tested register lower levels of interest or demand (e.g., off-road ATV course, outdoor turf fields, outdoor basketball courts).

When asked which facilities should represent top priorities for the DPD, trails again emerges as the #1 selection, followed by playgrounds, outdoor pool, performance venue, and watersport rentals.

Interest and Unmet Needs: Specific Indoor Facility/ Amenities Assessment

From a separate list of indoor facilities or amenities, just over half (53%) express a need or interest in an indoor fitness and sports center. Roughly a third also voice interest or need for:

- Rental space for private events (34%)
- An Arts Center (31%)
- Senior Activity Center (29%)

An indoor ice rink is of interest to 24% overall, and an eSports facility generates interest among 15%.

Most of these indoor facilities or improvements represent more of a “gap” between the level of demand vs. the availability of these amenities currently.

- Just under half of those interested in an indoor fitness and sports center feel their need/demand is mostly or completely being met (44%). However, the data suggests that residents who express a need for an indoor fitness and sports center tend to live in the SE region, so distance from DISC may be their biggest issue.
- Of the remaining indoor facilities tested, the “gap” is biggest among those interested in rental space, an arts center, or a senior activity center (suggesting a lack of awareness among these existing opportunities).

In terms of top priorities, indoor fitness/sports facility still ranks #1. A facility for competitive eSports is least important.

Those Offering Suggested Programming Ideas Tend to Focus on Physical Activities Across All Ages

Program Ideas, Preferred DPD Communications Sources, and Foundation Awareness

Overall, 29% gave suggestions or ideas for age-specific programming, with active and physical activities as the top recommendation across virtually all ages and populations.

Outdoor recreational options tend to be focused more among younger residents (pre-teens and teens), while arts and music programs tend to emerge more often among older adults.

The DPD Website is the “Go-To” Source for District Information, Followed by Word-of-Mouth

When seeking information about the Park District and its programs, parks, facilities or offerings, at least half rely on the DPD website (59%) or information from friends, family, neighbors, etc. (50%).

- Social media ranked third at 40%, and Facebook is by far the most preferred platform (favored at least five times more often over Instagram, YouTube, or Twitter).
- The remaining sources include the printed DPD activity guide (30%), the print or online versions of the Herald & Review (23%), information posted at DPD facilities (21%), local television (21%) or by calling the DPD office or its facilities (20%).



Word Cloud above represents comments from open-ended responses.

CHAPTER IV SUMMARY

A variety of methods were employed to gain input on the successes, needs, and deficiencies of the Decatur Park District. Meeting notes and individual comments will be documented in the Appendix of this document. The needs that emerged as most prevalent through the public input process are discussed in the following chapter.

05

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



INTRODUCTION

Decatur is a city facing many demographic challenges. It is one of the cities in Illinois with the fastest population and has high percentages of seniors over age 65, residents living in poverty, and free lunch eligible children. Macon County also has high rates of obesity and physical inactivity when compared to state and national standards. This demonstrates a critical need for access to parks, open space, and recreation opportunities. The Decatur Park District is uniquely positioned to meet that need. The Herald & Review stated, “the Decatur Park District improves our quality of life and makes it easier to attract employers and employees and fuel the economy.” Excellence is validated through the NRPA Gold Medal Grand Plaque Award for Class IV cities and accreditation from Illinois Distinguished Agency, AZA (Zoo), FAA (Airport) and PDRMA (Risk Management).

The national average for Park District general fund tax support is 59.3% while DPD is currently positioned at 38%. There is exceptional community support from sponsorships, corporate partnerships, admissions, programs and philanthropy resulting in an extraordinary non-tax recovery rate of 62%. Gifts and sponsorships made up 44% of capital revenues. The Howard G. Buffett Foundation has donated \$7M over the last 3 years for projects to improve quality of life for residents.

Primary Challenge to Address

- Balance reality of 38% tax supported and 2,000+ acres of land. How to maintain services with declining population.
- DISC and Zoo losing revenue.
- Balance minimum wage issue.
- Decatur has approximately 20% poverty level, 10% higher than national average. How to reach the most vulnerable?
- Keep young professionals in town, almost 2000 people age 29 and younger commute to work in Decatur every day but live elsewhere. Lack of housing options/rentals.
- Lack of childcare for 2nd shift workers keeps older kids from attending programs, they are babysitting younger siblings.
- Scholarships for the DISC are available at 90% discounted rates, but this option is not widely used, why?
- Public schools are not attracting young families to transplant.
- Lack of rentals and mixed-use housing requires young professionals to live in neighboring communities.

These issues include the fact that Macon County has one of the highest levels of childhood obesity in the State of Illinois, a life expectancy for both men and women that is two years less than the Illinois average, and incidences of heart disease, infant mortality, teen pregnancy, and cancer that are all measurably higher than the State of Illinois average. Finally, with increasing numbers of school children eligible for free lunch programs, broader economic realities and their impact on demand for higher cost programs must be considered.

These statistics are a call to action for the Park District, which is ideally suited to take a leadership role in providing access to free or low cost health and fitness opportunities.

NRPA RECREATION STANDARDS

The Decatur Park District exceeds the national average of 10.1 acres of park land per 1,000 residents by providing 28.5 acres per 1,000. A majority of Decatur residents live within a ½ mile of any neighborhood or community park. In addition to an accessible park system, unique park amenities include an AZA accredited zoo, regional airport, 1,100 acres of farmland, nationally recognized cultural arts programming, regionally recognized amphitheater and the newly developed 1,000-person capacity waterpark.

But quantity of parkland is not an adequate measurement of a successful park system. Amenities, programming, facilities, efficiency of layout, and ease of access are more accurate measures of a park’s relevance in the community. NRPA guidelines are therefore used in this chapter not as a recommendation, but as a baseline comparison.

The NRPA’s rule-of-thumb minimum guideline for park acreage is 10 acres per 1,000 population and the average statewide supply of community outdoor recreation lands in Illinois is 11.35 acres per 1,000 population. This includes park district and municipal lands, which primarily serve community-based recreation needs. This statewide average is the number that IDNR utilizes during the review and rating of an agency’s grant application, unless the agency has formally adopted a separate standard or included the standard in a current comprehensive plan.

To measure Decatur’s parklands against these state and national standards, first population estimates were determined and then minimum park guidelines were established for each neighborhood. These standards were established as suggested minimums to meet the recreation needs of most populations. These park guidelines are followed in order to provide a high quality of life for Decatur residents, but also to ensure that the Decatur Park District remains eligible for the maximum grant funding available.

When total park acreage within a neighborhood falls below the minimum guidelines, it is an indication that the population is not within walking or short driving distance of park, and is therefore under-served by parks and open space. When total park acreage within a neighborhood far exceeds minimum guidelines, as in the case of Decatur, it is generally an indication that the population is over-served by parks. In this case one might expect to see park facilities that are used infrequently, experience vandalism, and are not able to be adequately maintained by Park District Staff. These are recurring themes heard in public and stakeholder outreach. The following overall comparison helps to explain why that is the case in many Decatur parks.

Total Decatur Park District acres: 3,864 (including airport)
 Developed for parks and recreation purposes: 2010 acres
 Designated open space undeveloped land: 1,913 acres
 Preservation land with no management: 136 acres

NRPA Guidelines Suggest for Neighborhood Parks:
 2 acres per 1,000 population
 141 acres for population of 70,522

Actual:
 594.45 acres

420% higher than suggested minimums

NRPA Guidelines Suggest for Community Parks:
 6.5 acres per 1,000 population
 458 acres for population of 70,522

Actual:
 804.24 acres

176% higher than suggested minimums

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

RECREATION FACILITY STANDARDS

The existing and future recreation needs of the Decatur Park District were examined in comparison to state and national standards for key activities. The following table compares the recommended number of facilities per population for the City of Decatur (estimated at 70,522) with the existing facilities available and illustrates any current or projected deficiencies.

2022 RECREATION STANDARDS AND DEFICIENCIES
CITY POPULATION: 70,522

FACILITY	NATIONAL STANDARDS	ILLINOIS AVERAGE	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES	EXISTING FACILITIES	FACILITY DEFICIENCIES
BASKETBALL COURT	1 Per 5,000	.38 Per 1,000	14	32	-18
TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURT	1 Per 2,000	.87 Per 1,000	35	25	10
VOLLEYBALL COURT	1 Per 5,000	.19 Per 1,000	14	5	9
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD	1 Per 5,000	.74 Per 1,000	14	44	-30
FOOTBALL FIELD	1 Per 20,000		4	0	4
TRACK	1 Per 20,000		4	0	4
SOCCER FIELD	1 Per 10,000	.21 Per 1,000	7	12	-5
SLEDDING AREA	As Available			1	
PLAY EQUIPMENT	1 Per 3,000	.78 Per 1,000	24	33	-9
ICE RINK (OUTDOOR)	1 Per 20,000		4	0	4
SWIMMING POOL	1 Per 60,000	0.48 Per 1,000	1	1	0
SWIMMING BEACH	As Available			0	
BOAT LAUNCH/RIVER/CREEK ACCESS	As Available			9	
PICNIC SHELTER	N/A	.83 Per 1,000	59	40	19
HIKING PATHS (MILES)	N/A	.59 Per 1,000	42		
FISHING PIERS AND DOCKS	N/A	.17 Per 1,000	12		

The chart suggests an over-abundance of basketball courts and baseball/softball fields. The chart also indicates facilities that may be lacking in a community, in this case the most prominent would be tennis and pickleball courts, and volleyball courts. Football fields and track use may be met with school facilities. The chart also indicates potential need for an ice rink and a lap pool, as the only swimming opportunity currently available is at the water park. However, this need may also be met by program offerings at Splash Cove Water Park or other recreation providers such as the YMCA.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT NEEDS

Through dozens of stakeholder listening sessions, individual phone calls, zoom meetings, and public meetings and online survey, a wide range of needs were expressed. These tend to fall into major categories as listed below.

Trails for hiking and cycling

Activities for seniors

REPRESENTATION of a diverse community, at all levels

Stormwater management

Organization of Volunteer Network

Need new revenue-generating activities at existing facilities

Improved park maintenance

Mixed-use waterfront development

Additional Facilities Requested

- Competition/lap pool
- Splash pads in more neighborhood parks
- Watersport rentals, such as kayaks and paddle boats
- Electric Go Karts
- Outdoor ice rink during the winter
- Esports

STORMWATER NEEDS

The following is a list of drainage problem areas/neighborhoods as identified by the City of Decatur, and the parks within close proximity to those areas which could potentially serve as stormwater detention basins to help control flooding.

TOP PRIORITY DRAINAGE PROBLEM AREAS:

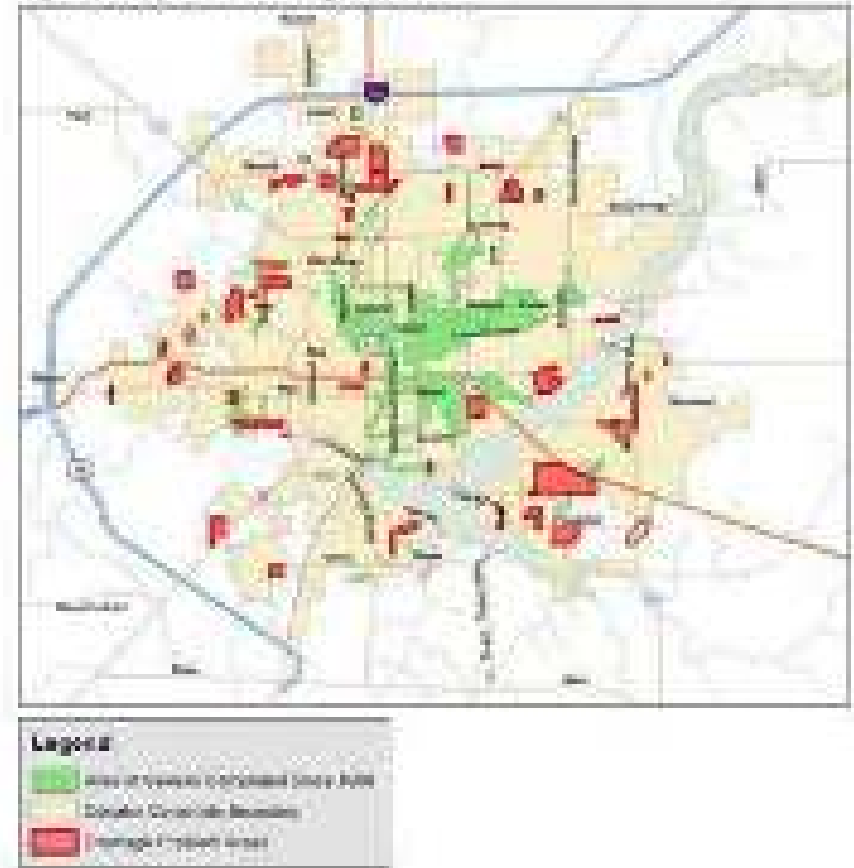
- Meadowlark Subdivision - Knights of Columbus Park
- Nelson - Nelson Park
- 32nd and Fulton - Sinawik Park
- Southampton and Buckingham - Cresthaven Park

OTHER DRAINAGE PROBLEM AREAS:

- Cherry and Rainwater, Ivy Hill Park
- Constant View and Warren, Cresthaven Park
- Delmar and Woodale, Fairview and Kiwanis Parks
- Dennis and Kenwood, Garman Park
- Franzy and point bluff ditch, South Shores Park
- Garfield Ave, Graceland Park
- Lake Beach Addition, maybe Brush College Park
- Marietta Street, Garfield Park
- Phillips Dr, South Shores Park
- Ramsey & Foster, Oak Grove Park, possibly Sanders Park
- Richland and Cornell, Sunnyside Park
- Yorktown Court, Baker Woods, and Park Luise

Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan
City of Decatur, Georgia

Figure 50-1 City of Decatur Drainage Problem Areas



CONNECTIVITY NEEDS

High priority trail connections as determined by the Macon County Conservation District Master Plan include expanded trails to the east of Rock Springs Conservation Area to Scovill Park West. Acquisition opportunities should be considered that provide access to conservation areas for portions of the County with limited access to recreation and open space. High priority bicycle connections as determined by the Decatur Bike Plan are shown with the dotted lines below.

Regional Bicycle Master Plan, July 2021

Figure 5.2: Bicycle Network Priority Implementation



ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The following parks were identified in the 2012 ADA Transition Plan to be the highest priority for improvements, including site amenity improvements, addition of accessible routes (AR), and parking updates.

- Baker Woods – paving repairs, repair slopes for playground, facility updates, wheelchair accessible bathroom
- Clokey – parking and sidewalk updates, facility updates
- Cresthaven – parking updates, facility updates
- Decatur Soccer Complex – correct parking slope, other parking updates, facility updates
- East Mound – paving and facility updates
- East Mound Soccer Complex – AR, facility updates
- Fairview – parking updates, AR, pavilion improvement, facility updates
- Fisherman’s Wharf – AR updates
- Galloway – parking and sidewalk updates
- Garfield – facility updates
- Garman – paving, AR, facility updates
- Hess – accessible parking and surface completed, AR and facility updates
- Hickory Point – facility updates
- Ivy Hill – minor site furniture upgrades
- Izaak Walton – AR, minor site furniture upgrades
- Jasper – AR, facility updates
- Kiwanis – paving updates, facility updates, AR
- Lincoln – paving, AR, facility updates
- Monroe – paving, AR, facility updates
- Mueller – parking, walkway, and facility updates
- Nelson – parking, AR, stairs, pavilion, signage, restaurant and mini golf demolished
- Red Tail Run Golf – site furniture and restrooms updates, parking
- Rotary – parking and sidewalk updates, playground update, facility updates
- Scovill Zoo – paving updates, stairs, facility updates
- Sinawik – parking improvements complete, AR, facility updates
- South Shores – parking updates complete, AR, facility
- Sportsman’s – parking, boat launch updates, AR, facility updates, signage
- Sunnyside – paving and facility updates
- Torrence – parking and facility

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

DEMAND AND ECONOMICS

For the previous Master Plan, MFA completed a review of long-term participation trends in US and Illinois sports with a focus on six key factors:

- Lifelong sports participation
- Popular sports activities
- Gender neutral sports
- An economically driven desire to develop multi-activity facilities
- The need to keep people active year round
- The need for facilities near where people live

Based on the updated data gathered, three sets of facilities are identified that should be available to Decatur residents. The first set should be available on the neighborhood level, the second on a community level (three to five geographically dispersed locations across the DPD territory), and the third with two to three locations across the community.

Key Facilities:

Neighborhood

- Multi-generational playgrounds
- Trails for walking, running, bicycling and blading

Community (three to five locations District-wide)

- Indoor cultural activity space – classrooms and performance practice spaces
- Outdoor multi-sport fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, and other field sports

District-wide (two to three locations within the District)

- Pool facilities
- Central Fieldhouse with two or more turf fields
- Tennis courts/Pickleball courts



The Shift from Land to Facilities

The principal characteristic of most park systems is that they are major landowners within communities. This is especially true in Decatur, where the District's landholdings exceed the national standard by more than double what would be expected for a population of its service area. Land ownership (more acreage) was the aspirational measure when the Decatur Park District reached its apex of population in the 1970s. In the more than 50 years since, recreation and society have undergone tremendous changes. These changes, hard to detect as they were happening but fully clear today, have fundamentally changed what parks and recreation mean to the Decatur population. The aspirational focus now, whether one is in economic development trying to positively present the community or a resident looking for a place to recreate is no longer acreage. Rather, facilities make recreational activities possible.

The Privatization of Recreation

As in elementary and secondary education, where there are charter and private schools and as well as home schooling, a shift has occurred towards privatization in parks and recreation. Some of the ways this has occurred include the proliferation of playgrounds and swing sets in backyards, and private golf courses, gyms and health clubs targeting different market segments. There is a debate as to whether public recreation should recede in response or strive to match offerings. Since the private sector offerings thrive in the existence of market demand, public recreation should respond as well.



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Long-Term Trends Changing Parks and Recreation

The following 25 long-term trends are reshaping recreational needs in Decatur and across the US. After each trend, one or more sports facility recreation responses are suggested. The Actions section of this Master Plan responds to the top ten trends that apply to each neighborhood in the District's service area.

1. The decline of children as the dominant market force in parks and recreation. As youth age cohorts are a smaller percentage of the population, and fewer households have children, park programming needs to focus on broader multi-generational activities to be responsive to the Decatur community.

2. Rise of adult participation in sports activities and rise of all-hours recreation

- Facilities and programs are needed for adults of all ages
- Facilities need to be operated to accommodate the schedule of working adults
- One or more indoor Fieldhouse facilities with work-out equipment and sports courts should be open 24/7 in a town with three-shift workers in factories and hospitals

3. Perception of reduced safety in public areas

- Concentrating neighborhood activities in one park
- More “defensible” space designs, which engender a sense of personal security
- Lighting
- Monitoring systems
- Eyes on the park

4. Rise of adults engaging in trail sports

- Safe trails needed in neighborhoods
- Trails need to be linked together to provide distance capacity for biking and runners, as well as supporting alternative transportation/commuting
- Trail distance markers needed to facilitate benchmarking and motivation
- Post and maintain good maps, not everyone carries GPS or has good mental GPS

5. Rise of work-out clubs

- Add work-out facilities – either free outdoor systems or pay-to-play indoor equipment facilities
- Determine whether local for-profits are willing to join the District on a management contract – as long as they keep the facilities affordable and are not “partnering” simply to shift people to their own private facilities
- Add adult and senior playgrounds that enable exercise – a national trend
- Provide trails leading to and from indoor facilities



6. Rise of semi-pro youth recreation

- Rent space in the indoor and outdoor facilities to privately run speed and agility camp programs, or have DPD run them

7. Rise of soccer and other field sports

- Add fields where needed
- Consider a top-notch tournament facility for its economic impact

8. Rise of personal benchmarking

- Incorporate technology into new paths and structures that give people feedback on what they have done and how well they are doing
- Create a DPD app that shows facility location and availability

9. Rise of day care for children

- Be sure there are well maintained, quality destination playgrounds in areas likely to have a good deal of child day care (both formal and informal). This is especially true for areas where it is likely that there are informal day care arrangements, since people who watch a half a dozen kids informally are not likely to have legally-required play equipment.

10. Rise of day care for seniors

- Playgrounds and walking paths for seniors with plenty of benches

11. More working women

- More evening and weekend programs targeted at women – plus one during the day for shift workers

12. More working mothers

- Places for kids to wait for parents after programs
- More full-day programs for children during summer months – including ones in the regional indoor facilities proposed

13. Increase in seniors due to longer lives

- Seek out program support from groups that share an interest in helping seniors “age in place”, which allows seniors to live as independently as possible at home for as long as possible
- Pools are excellent for seniors in general, but especially so for the many seniors who have chronic ailments of many kinds -- from arthritis to auto-immune diseases -- as water allows freer motion while it carries some of the weight

14. Market segmentation of seniors

- Depending on definitions, seniors fall into three or four categories as they become progressively less able. Recognize this by providing targeted programs based on ability.

15. Far more senior housing

- Be cognizant of senior housing complexes that hold large numbers of seniors and partner with management to provide programs
- If senior residences have pools, offer to run pool fitness programs if insurance issues can be overcome and you can bring in other seniors from the neighborhood

16. Rise of medical post-injury or operative rehab

- Indoor and outdoor spaces for people doing or continuing personal rehab, including trails and outdoor adult “playgrounds,” encouraging stretching and exercise, and fostering development of social networking among people on similar rehab trajectories
- Provide indoor and outdoor pools to support those in rehab, those with chronic illnesses, and seniors
- Many neighborhoods do not have sidewalks or at least good continuous ones – these should be an early priority

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

17. Rise of lifelong sports

- Promote track and cross country sports in high school programs to get people off to a good start in life; start bicycle teams if there aren't any
- Develop, encourage and market walking clubs for adults and seniors as if they were a team sport

18. Rise of year-round individual and team sports

- Provide indoor facilities to continue practices and games through the cold weather months
- Consider setting up centralized practice facilities/training parks for team sports

19. Rise of social sports

- Zumba, Pilates and other similar activities can be offered in indoor facilities

20. Rise of many specialty sports

- Many of the less popular sports such as lacrosse, field hockey, and rugby can be accommodated on fields in the summer and at indoor fieldhouses with turf in the winter
- Other sports, like volleyball, yoga, and gymnastics, can be accommodated in fieldhouses with mats on hard surfaces year-round
- Some sports, like cricket, handball, and pickleball, require specialty facilities that are justified in areas with high demand or are provided in the private sports facilities market

21. Rise of women's sports/the new athleticism of women

- Women are doing everything men have done. Whether it's by providing more restrooms or an awareness of a desire for a higher level of personal safety, meet the needs/take down the barriers.
- Find a centrally located park in a perceptually safe area with diamonds that would work well for softball as a home for a women's/mixed softball league. Target downtown businesses to form teams.



22. The rise of personal athleticism in general

- Be sure trails are well marked for distance
- Become an informal clearinghouse for personal trainers and nutritionists – let them advertise on your website if they have an appropriate certification (determine whether or not you want to be able to weed out bad ones)

23. Multiculturalism - the demand for respect for others' cultures

- The two largest minority groups, Hispanic and African-American, have different levels of participation in some sports. Neither golfs as much as Caucasians. Some Hispanic sub-groups have higher baseball participation and others have higher soccer participation. The origin of Decatur's Hispanic population suggests soccer is more prevalent. African-Americans have a higher than typical interest in basketball and football.
- Cultural programs should be respectful of all participants

24. Declines in household size

- Adequate parking is needed at community- and District-wide facilities, from pools to trailheads, as arriving cars will typically contain small parties of one to three
- Marketing and programming need to be well-targeted toward individual participation

25. "Programmed Society"

- Pushing deeper into online registration and record-keeping right down to a "My DPD Fitness Program" for individuals will be rewarding. Since many households do not have digital or internet access, a paper system can still be used.
- Use existing, widely distributed community assets like schools and libraries to help get people in programs. The cultural side of DPD may have a lot of common programming interest with libraries.



CHAPTER V SUMMARY

Through public input and comparisons to national standards, this chapter establishes and prioritizes needs that will be addressed by the goals and objectives of the next chapter.

06

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION

To meet the Community Needs established in the previous chapter, broad goals have been developed and will provide a framework for proposed Action Items later in this Plan. To determine priorities, community needs are assessed and measured against statewide recreations goals established by the 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). These priorities include:

- Health and Wellness
- Access to Parks and Recreation
- Natural Resources and Conservation Management
- Funding and Economic Development

From this starting point, values that fulfill the Park District’s mission will be expanded upon into specific goals and objectives. Those values include:

Integrity

Sustainability

Service

Partnering

Safety



PARK DISTRICT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To fulfill the mission to enrich the community's quality of life, health & wellness, education, and economic vitality by providing outstanding parks, facilities, and recreational opportunities, the Decatur Park District has established the following goals:

Integrity: Execute duties ethically, with honesty and sincerity.

- Maintain a transparent, open-door policy in meeting with and responding to questions and concerns from the community.
- Promptly fulfill requests for public information as dictated by Illinois statute.
- Complete an annual independent audit of the District's financial records and internal controls by a certified public accounting firm.

Sustainability: Maintain efficient and effective use of financial, human, and environmental resources to ensure the long-term viability of the District.

- Protect, manage, and conserve natural resources and active recreation areas.
- Utilize the Master Plan to guide decision-making for the long-term success of the Park District.
- Develop alternative revenue-generating options and pursue new funding sources.
- Support employee career growth and education to cultivate a knowledgeable, capable, motivated staff.

Service: Provide outstanding service to our entire community.

- Treat internal and external customers with dignity and respect.
- Establish District-wide customer service standards for all programs, facilities, and staff.
- Develop and facilitate user-friendly, integrated customer transactions across the District.
- Design and maintain communications that are comprehensive, timely, and easily accessible.

Partnering: Collaborate with citizens, governmental entities, and private businesses to maximize community resources.

- Seek and strengthen partnerships and sponsorships to increase revenue, realize cost-savings, and enhance facilities and services.
- Engage businesses and individuals across the community to support the Decatur Park District and Decatur Parks Foundation through monetary and volunteer support.
- Encourage open dialogue and community support through information sharing and input into major projects and decisions.

Safety: Establish a safety awareness that is in the best interest of all visitors, employees, and facilities.

- Maintain a Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation.
- Regularly inspect parks and facilities to ensure a safe environment.
- Educate and train staff in safety techniques, programs, and procedures as recommended by PDRMA and other accrediting bodies.
- Establish and maintain effective cyber-security policies, procedures and protocols for equipment and software, updating as required.
- Provide a safe, secure visitor experience with support from our park police division.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To address the established broad goals and fulfill the mission of the Park District, seven objectives have been developed. The objectives provide a framework to maintain the integrity and high level of service that residents have come to expect from the Park District, while addressing sustainability on multiple levels: social, environmental, and economic. The objectives recognize that one area of sustainability can not be successful without a healthy balance of all three.

OBJECTIVE: Explore Potential Partnerships

Maintain programming and offer higher quality amenities than might otherwise be possible at the lowest cost to the community.

OBJECTIVE: Improve Facilities

Make improvements to existing parks and facilities to reduce long term operational expenses.

OBJECTIVE: Generate Revenue / Increase Taxable Values

Leverage the underutilized land resources that far exceed the needs of the Park District for the current and projected population of the City of Decatur.

OBJECTIVE: Streamline Facility Operations

Identify underutilized facilities that are either leased or otherwise suitable for transfer to another entity. Consider all options including closing, selling, or decommissioning these underutilized facilities.



OBJECTIVE: Evaluate User Fees

Evaluate all user fees for programming and facility use, considering both the actual cost to deliver the service or amenity and the local and regional market. While some program elements are aimed at youth, seniors, or low-income residents and should be free or subsidized, other programs should charge market rates, or nearly so, with special discount programs utilized to address the needs of seniors or low income residents.

OBJECTIVE: Evaluate Program Performance

Assess program performance and participation to determine which may be waning in popularity and could be phased out in favor of programs with higher participation rates.

OBJECTIVE: Reassess Tax Structure

While the Park District is justifiably proud of its historic ability to operate on a much lower percentage of tax revenues than most other districts within the State of Illinois, there may come a time when an increase in taxes is the only viable alternative to maintain high levels of service to meet the Park District's mission core goals.



CHAPTER VI SUMMARY

The following are the overarching values that help to establish goals for the future of the entire Decatur Park District system. For the purposes of establishing a strategy to implement these goals and meet the Park District's mission, these goals are consolidated in this chapter and related objectives are outlined.

Integrity - Sustainability - Service - Partnering - Safety

07

MASTER PLAN ACTIONS



MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of the mission of the Decatur Park District is providing high quality customer service to meet the health and wellness needs of the people of Decatur. Challenges include serving a declining population (although rate of decline has slowed) with an increasing median age and an increasing number of low-income families. Similar communities competing for visitors and new residents have Park Districts that are funded 80% by tax revenues, while the average Park District in Illinois is funded around 50% by tax revenues. The Decatur Park District, on the other hand, receives only around 35% of its funding through normal tax revenues, with all other revenues generated through fees, partnerships, leases, venue rentals, and revenue generating programs such as golf, Pier 36 Marina, Splash Cove, The Devon, Mini-Golf, etc.

The Decatur Park District has done a very good job of providing high quality service over the years while maintaining taxes as low as possible and minimizing rate increases and program impacts. This has come at a cost, however, with the community indicating concern over the quality of maintenance and a desire for additional improvements in many parks. With inflation on the rise, including rapidly increasing fuel costs and the impacts of the rising minimum wage, the Park District is facing the ongoing need to take action to maintain sound finances long into the future. Community feedback on this topic suggests that the Park District should strive to: “sustain what we have, do what we do best, and partner with those who provide complimentary services”. Social equity and smart growth are priorities to consider before taking any actions.

The Park District has been very forthcoming over the years about the reality of the financial structure of the district, and in order to address existing and future financial demands, the Park District has established the following objectives with the community through extensive public outreach in prior planning efforts for the Nelson Park Master Plan and 2014 Park System Master Plan, and can be considered options for meeting community goals. These options remain relevant today and were reviewed and reestablished with the community during this planning effort. The options are organized by priority, with highest preference, as indicated by the community, listed first.

OPTIONS:

- 1. Explore Potential Partnerships**
- 2. Improve Facilities**
- 3. Generate Revenue / Increase Taxable Values**
- 4. Streamline Facility Operations**
- 5. Evaluate User Fees**
- 6. Evaluate Program Performance**
- 7. Reassess Tax Structure**

EXPLORE POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering to share costs is one of the best ways to maintain programming and offer higher quality amenities than might otherwise be possible at the lowest cost to the community. Existing and potential partners include:

- Decatur Public Schools: Lunch Program Within Parks
- Millikin University: DISC facility
- YMCA: Recreation Programming and Indoor Pool
- Boys & Girls Club: Youth Programs
- Decatur Athletic Club: Recreation Programming, Indoor/Outdoor Pool
- City of Decatur: Stormwater Management, Marina Operations
- Macon County Conservation District: Open Space Management
- Macon County Highway Department: provides road repair materials and engineering assistance
- Churches: Volunteer Organizations for Youth Programming and Park Maintenance
- Private sector: Local businesses, industries including ADM, Caterpillar, Tate & Lyle, Ameren: help fund programs
- Richland Community Center (RACC): art and choral programs
- Decatur Civic Center Theater: drama programs

While one of the best examples of this approach is the partnership between the Park District and Millikin University at the DISC, there is no guarantee that this partnership will not need to change over time for a variety of reasons. For example, the recent pandemic has contributed to a yearly deficit of approximately \$250,000 per year, and Millikin has indicated a need for more program space within the facility that is currently used by the Park District.

Park District staff will continue to monitor budgets on a yearly basis to ensure investments in facilities and programming remain relevant to the community of users and financially responsible. Specific actions for the DISC will include:

- Reviewing the rate structure in comparison with other local non-profit facilities providing indoor fitness and recreation to confirm the existing rate structure is responsive to the local market. It is not the Park District’s intent to change rate structures at this time, but if efficient methods of determining visitor residence are determined, it is an option for future consideration.
- If the ongoing budget shortfall continues, Park District staff will explore if it is possible to provide the same level of programming in another new or renovated existing facility and define all relevant construction and long-term operational expenses to determine if a change of location is beneficial.

MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

Partnerships with other non-profit community organizations and volunteer organizations that should be considered in such areas as the following:

Green Infrastructure

With an abundance of underutilized land resources, the Park District will explore opportunities to collaborate with the City of Decatur in the development of more sustainable and less expensive stormwater management systems such as bioswales and stormwater quality ponds. These features could be constructed within existing underutilized areas within the park system and create an extensive network of habitat features while potentially reducing the cost of infrastructure to the community. Park District maintenance for these areas would be reduced and/or covered by the City of Decatur. Other potential partners include Beautify Decatur and Decatur in Bloom.

Senior Programming

The Park District will explore opportunities to expand collaboration with the County or other agencies offering senior services to improve the efficiency of operations, share facilities and vehicles, and improve customer service. Potential partners include Decatur Memorial Hospital and the Macon County Health Department.

Swim Programming

The Park District will continue to assess the growing need for lap swim and competition swim opportunities to address the need expressed by the community. Decatur currently has an 8-lane outdoor lap pool at Splash Cove, the YMCA has an 8-lane indoor pool, and the Decatur Athletic Club has a 4-lane outdoor lap pool. The Country Club of Decatur offers a leisure pool to members. While the DPD has no immediate plans to add a new pool facility, existing operational hours at Splash Cove should be evaluated to determine if additional competitive swim time could be made available. Partnerships with the YMCA for competitive swim continue to be essential to provide for this recreational need in the community.

Yellow Hats / Volunteers

Many residents of Decatur have fond memories of the Yellow Hat after school programs, and there are many volunteers living within the neighborhoods they serve and are known and trusted by the residents who most need help. This group maintains a presence in approximately 9 parks, but participation is low. Many parents no longer feel comfortable sending their young children to parks without parental supervision. However, the need for this program was mentioned multiple times in the public input process. The Park District will consider additional support for a small number of existing neighborhood volunteers and organizations with a proven track record on a trial basis to see if they can offer significant benefit to those neighborhoods most in need at minimal cost. Get community leaders involved who live in those neighborhoods, the citizens who are speaking up that they want need this service. Potential partners include Limitless Decatur (through the Macon County Economic Development Corporation), Community Ambassadors, United Way, and the Community Foundation.

Marina Expansion

The marina market analysis completed as part of the Nelson Park Master Plan and subsequent studies have indicated that there is significant unmet demand for high quality boat slips on Lake Decatur. As proven by the success of Pier 36 Marina (which has a significant waiting list at close to regional market rates), and supported by the dredging of Lake Decatur, the quality of boating on Lake Decatur is significantly improved. Recreational boating demand has soared during the pandemic, with every high-quality facility on Lake Shelbyville and many more across the region full with waiting lists. Partnering with a private marina developer is recommended to construct additional high quality slips under a license agreement to the Park District.

IMPROVE FACILITIES

The principle behind this strategy is to make improvements to existing parks and facilities to reduce long term operational expenses. In most cases, this approach is completely compatible with long term environmental sustainability in addition to being an economically viable strategy. While a sound approach, the challenge is funding the initial improvements necessary to reduce costs over time. The Park District will explore and assess the following strategies:

Conversion of Underutilized Turf to Native Planting

Traditional mown turf requires significant maintenance in terms of mowing, fertilizer, irrigation, and weed control, whereas native prairie planting requires far less maintenance and chemical inputs once established. There are extensive habitat benefits to conversion of turf to native prairie ecosystems. Turfgrass monoculture provides essentially no habitat value compared to the very diverse habitat for pollinators, native species, and migratory birds. Once established, native prairie ecosystems require no irrigation or chemical fertilizers, and generally require mowing only once or twice yearly for weed control.

Energy Efficiency Improvements

Improving the energy efficiency of the existing buildings owned by the Park District can have significant cost savings over time, in addition to greatly reducing the Park Districts’ carbon footprint. Increasing insulation, replacing low performance windows, and installing modern high efficiency heating and cooling systems and energy star appliances are proven strategies, along with replacement of incandescent bulbs with LED lighting.

These strategies should be incorporated into any building renovation, and of course implemented as part of the basic design of any new structures. New structures should also incorporate LEED building strategies such as passive solar, operable windows, shading, green roofs, and geothermal where appropriate.

Renewable Energy Generation / Battery Storage

Solar energy is now the cheapest form of energy generation in the United States and can be implemented at a small scale across nearly any structure within the Park District system. When incorporated with readily available battery storage systems, buildings can be taken 75% to 100% off the grid. The associated energy cost savings repay the cost of the equipment and installation usually within ten to fifteen years, allowing the system to be revenue positive over the remaining ten to fifteen years of the thirty year lifespan of the system. This means the systems pay for themselves and then generate additional free energy for more than a decade.

Conversion to Electric Vehicles

The future of mobility is electric, and we are rapidly approaching a tipping point. Nearly every major vehicle manufacturer has announced plans to convert to fully electrified vehicle fleets over the next ten to fifteen years, so this strategy will be implemented soon whether or not the Park District chooses to take a proactive stance. The reason for converting now is that the operating and maintenance cost of electric vehicles is significantly lower than traditional internal combustion engine vehicles, and fuel costs will only continue to rise. The Park District vehicle fleet is ideally suited for conversion to electric vehicles, as they can be charged in house overnight using available and affordable Level 2 charging infrastructure. With only about twenty moving parts in the electric vehicle drive train, compared to around 2,000 moving parts in a traditional internal combustion engine/transmission drive train, the maintenance costs of EVs are approximately 70% lower than ICE vehicles.

One final advantage of the sustainable design improvements outlined above to consider is that many are likely good candidates for grant funding, which would help offset the up-front costs.

MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

GENERATE REVENUE / INCREASE TAXABLE VALUES

The most significant potential source of new revenues for the Park District can be found by leveraging the underutilized land resources that far exceed the needs of the Park District for the current and projected population of the City of Decatur. The key to this strategy is to focus on a small number of key parcels that have the potential to make a much larger contribution to the economic vitality of Decatur rather than a wholesale reduction of parkland to arbitrarily meet the NRPA standard of around 1,000 acres or about 50% of the current parkland acreage.

As outlined earlier in this plan, there are hundreds of unfilled available jobs in the City of Decatur representing an enormous potential economic impact that does not exist due to challenges in recruiting young professionals to Decatur. Conversations with local businesses, realtors, and the Chamber of Commerce suggest that there are two key factors behind this challenge, including the perception of the public schools and the lack of available housing of the type young professionals are looking for.

Mixed-Use Waterfront Development

The Decatur Park District is in the unique position to facilitate the development of a very different type of mixed-use waterfront housing that does not exist anywhere on Lake Decatur today, while maintaining 100% public access to the waterfront. This type of housing is a more dense and compact multi-family product that is located within walking distance to the lake, surrounding trails, and key employment centers such as the hospital, or entertainment and recreational facilities such as the marinas, restaurants, or the Devon Amphitheater. The Nelson Park Master Plan outlines a number of mixed-use waterfront neighborhoods, including Chandler Cove, Pier 36, and the Marina Promenade. These proposed developments were developed through an extensive community outreach process and approved by the Park District and City Council as a key strategy to attract young professionals to the community who would be less likely to be concerned about schools, but currently have very few housing options of the type they are looking for.

The Park District will explore a renewed effort to implement the proposed Chandler Cove development as the highest priority land development partnership, to be developed in parallel with development of a new high quality marina facility. The Park District should consider all options for facilitating an appropriate mixed-use development, up to and including the potential sale of a portion of the Chandler Park property rather than the lease only option previously considered.

The benefits to development of a project like this go beyond converting unused parkland into a neighborhood that attracts young professionals. The project has potential for generation of significant tax revenues that will benefit the City, schools, and Park District, as well as ease employee recruitment and retention for key local employers, all without giving up any public access to the waterfront.

Marina Improvements

The second highest priority should be working with the City of Decatur in the conversion of the existing boat club marina system into a modern, safe, accessible, and code compliant marina facility on par with the new facilities found at Pier 36 and the facilities found on Lake Shelbyville. Lake Decatur is one of the most important natural amenities in the community, and the amenity with the highest potential to attract people to the community. As documented in the Nelson Park Master Plan, the existing boat clubs are visually unappealing and block extensive portions of the lakefront from residents. Further, they do not generate anything close to the revenue in compensation to the community appropriate to the privatization of the waterfront they represent.

We recognize that there are several hundred boaters who appreciate the low cost access to the Lake, however there are nearly 75,000 residents of Decatur who are not being fairly compensated for the privatization of their park and lake by a small number of boaters who are not maintaining their facilities to any current codes and safety standards. It is also important to note that since these facilities do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the leases they hold are illegal and in violation of the Illinois Environmental Barriers Act, which states that no governmental entity of the State of Illinois shall enter into a contractual agreement with any entity that discriminates against people with disabilities.

Conversion of the existing boat clubs to a modern marina system will improve the visual character of Nelson Park, expand public access to the waterfront, expand boating opportunities to everyone, and generate significant income and economic activity for the Park District and City of Decatur. Following the pandemic, recreational boating demand is at an all time high, presenting an excellent opportunity to expand public access to Lake Decatur by providing safe, code compliant, and accessible boating infrastructure.

Future Opportunities

There will be other opportunities and proposals in the future where private sector investors or other community partners request consideration of the sale or transfer of all or part of a Park District property. It is important to note that while the Park District has many properties that could potentially be converted to some other type of use, we recommend that the Park District consider each development proposal on its merits and avoid accepting proposals that do not provide an overall positive benefit to the community. The first consideration should be whether or not there is sufficient parkland available within the park or in another nearby park to ensure that NRPA standards for neighborhood access and distribution are maintained. Converting a park to some other use and leaving a neighborhood without adequate recreational opportunities should be avoided.

The second consideration is will the proposed development benefit the community more in terms of job creation, housing opportunities, and/or tax revenue generation than it currently does as a park space. Finally, the financial value to the Park District in terms of lease or land sale revenues should be sufficient to justify the permanent loss of that land resource. The value of land changes over time based on economic conditions and market demand forces, and the Park District should leverage its ability to hold land for long periods of time until market values justify a potential land transfer.

MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

STREAMLINE FACILITY OPERATIONS

This strategy suggests identifying underutilized facilities that are either leased or otherwise suitable for closure, sale, decommissioning, or transfer to another entity.

Graceland Baseball Facility

The Graceland Baseball Facility is operated under lease from the Graceland Cemetery and will soon require a significant capital investment to maintain its four baseball fields. While these fields see regular use, they are not critical to the overall provision of baseball facilities by the Decatur Park District. Other more highly developed facilities such as Rotary Park offer higher quality facilities in sufficient quantity to serve the demand for baseball. Parks such as Sinawik have adequate open space that could be developed as an additional baseball diamond if programming supports additional fields. The Park District will explore the long term benefits and costs of maintaining this facility, which will soon require a major investment in park infrastructure on land not owned by the Park District versus allowing the facility to revert to its owner and relocating this program to another existing park.

Oak Grove Park

Oak Grove Park is located adjacent to another Decatur Public School facility that is closing. Conversion and upgrading of the facilities to a high-quality park will require significant investment, and the property is far larger than is necessary to serve the local neighborhood. Given the proximity to other Park District facilities and the cost of renovation, the Park District will explore the sale or conversion of a portion of this property to facilitate the community investment by the private sector.

Fairview Park

While Fairview Park remains very popular and well used, it also has several facilities that are underutilized such as the former pool facilities. Following the very successful and ongoing transformation of Nelson Park into a major regional attraction, we recommend that a similar master plan for Fairview Park be undertaken to make the most of this historic park. This master plan should include extensive community involvement and consider the relationship of Fairview Park to adjacent public lands including the Conservation District property to the southwest and Scovill Park West. As these properties are already connected, there is significant potential to greatly expand the use of these facilities and overall value to the community.

Scovill Park West

Scovill Park West, formerly Scovill Golf Course, at 120 acres is currently underutilized. Due to the requirements of the donation of the property to the Park District, this park must remain in public use or revert to the original owner. The Park District will explore improving Scovill Park West through better integration with adjacent Conservation District land and Fairview Park through improved bike and walking trails and other programming elements. Introduction of low cost amenities like mountain biking trails could expand the use of the park, link it to Fairview and other parks, and lead to other passive recreational activities.

Development Options (more than one may be appropriate):

- Keep clubhouse facility, move more senior and arts programs to this building, expand upon event space for weddings, parties, and meetings. Consider esports.
- Develop property as Activity Park with a mountain bike track, hiking/horse/x-country ski trails. 4 season, possibly with rentals.
- Develop overall Master Plan as an extension of Fairview Park with trail connections.
- Jeep/motorbike trails.
- Gift to Conservation District to restore Oak Savannah, low impact trails only. Morton Arboretum in Chicago could serve as inspiration, with children's garden and educational opportunities.

Potential Outdoor Programming at Scovill West:

- Artificial tubing (Tubby by Neveplast)
- Tactical laser tag
- Paddle sports
- Inflatable obstacle course on water/pond
- Adventure games (AR – augmented reality)
- Toboggans
- Zorb downhill – bubble ball with participant inside rolling down hill
- Rock climbing – structures with various heights
- Nature playground
- Tree houses with nets to connect other tree houses
- Ninja course and/or NFL type fitness playground
- Four wheeling/motor cross trails
- Disc golf course
- Mountain bike trails (connect to rock springs bike trail)
- Pump tracks
- Cyclo-cross (bike racing)
- Sledding hill
- Fitness trail
- Running paths
- Cross country
- Zip line
- Roller glide (suspended rails with harnesses)
- Bocce ball
- Bags (cornhole)
- Croquet
- Shuffle board
- Pickle ball

Potential Indoor Programming at Scovill Activity Center:

- Laser tag
- Virtual Reality
- Egaming
- Escape rooms
- Senior activities
- Special Recreation Association activities
- Banquet center (in-house catering or let other restaurants cater)
- Dances
- Cards
- Water colors
- Exercise
- Billiards
- Table tennis
- Golf simulators
- Special events
- Tumbling
- Birthday parties
- Bubble Balls



MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

EVALUATE USER FEES

User fees should always consider both the actual cost to deliver the service or amenity and the local and regional market. While some program elements are aimed at youth, seniors, or low-income residents and should be free or subsidized, other programs should charge market rates, or nearly so, with special discount programs utilized to address the needs of seniors or low income residents.

Three good examples of program offerings that should charge market rates and achieve at minimum full cost recovery include the DISC, golf, and the marina slips. As noted above, fees for the DISC at minimum should be on par with other non-profit facilities such as the YMCA.

The golf program is enjoying a resurgence following the pandemic, and the two courses are generating a sufficient number of rounds to provide high quality, well maintained courses that are well used without being overrun. Investment in these two courses should continue, with expansion of other revenue generating opportunities such as venue rentals continuing.

The slip rates for the Pier 36 Marina should be increased every year simply to keep up with inflation and ensure that there are sufficient funds to maintain the facilities to the current high standards. Due to the waiting list, we suggest further incremental increases in slip fees until they achieve parity with other regional facilities on Lake Shelbyville. As this facility has proven, there is a market for high-quality well-maintained slips in Decatur, and the existing boat clubs should be replaced with new facilities of similar quality that not only pay for themselves but have the potential to generate additional revenues to supplement needs in other areas of the Park District.

A comparison of DISC user rates and other recreation providers is shown below, with data gathered in October of 2021.

	Student		Adult		Family		Senior		Senior Couple	
	Month	Annual	Month	Annual	Month	Annual	Month	Annual	Month	Annual
DISC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42.25	\$ 489.00	\$ 58.25	\$ 681.00	\$ 30.50	\$ 348.00	\$ 43.50	\$ 504.00
YMCA (8 lane indoor pool)	\$ 33.00	\$ 396.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 588.00	\$ 69.00	\$ 828.00	\$ 41.00	\$ 492.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 660.00
DAC (4 lane indoor/outdoor pool)	\$ 47.50	\$ 570.00	\$ 97.00	\$ 1,164.00	\$ 107.00	\$ 1,284.00	\$ 44.00	\$ 528.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 804.00

EVALUATE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Cutting programs is not a popular option within the community, however there are occasionally times when cutting a program may be the only viable alternative. There are currently no programs that are obvious candidates for ending, however the Park District will continue to monitor participation and programming each year to ensure programming resources are being efficiently invested in the community.

REASSESS TAX STRUCTURE

While the Park District is justifiably proud of its historic ability to operate on a much lower percentage of tax revenues than most other districts within the State of Illinois, there may come a time when an increase in taxes is the only viable alternative to all of the other options outlined above. Engagement with the community in this and past planning efforts suggest that most residents would prefer the Park District pursue all of the other strategies outlined above before raising taxes. This is perhaps most clearly shown by the community’s support for development of mixed-use housing within Chandler Park in the Nelson Park Master Plan. When offered the choice between raising taxes and fees and converting a rarely used park space into residential uses, the community clearly preferred generating new revenues through new marinas and development over increased taxes.

There are cases where increasing taxes is the only viable option, and we do recommend increasing the zoo tax to address persistent budget shortfalls at the zoo.

MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS

District-Wide Actions		
ACTION & POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES		
1	Get People Back in Parks: free wi-fi in key parks. Select which parks will get wifi on a trial basis, using criteria such as likely need for wifi services unavailable at home, park usage, presence of facilities capable of housing equipment, and equity across the City. Potential parks for pilot project include those in neighborhoods with low median income and high numbers of young children, such as East Mound Soccer Complex, Hess, Torrence, Fans Field, Clokey and Coates.	GP2, PS11, 12
2	Trail Connections: Nelson/Fairview/Scovill Park West connection, Basin 2 loop trail	GP1D, 1E, 1G, 1H
3	Blueway trails with kayak launches at Izaak Walton, Fairies, Nelson, Fisherman's Wharf, Ivy Hill, Sportsman, Cannon with ADA launches and boat rentals at key locations.	GP1D, 1E, 1G, 1H
4	Update park signs and site furniture to park standard (4 per year, as example). Cresthaven, Boiling Springs, Greendell, East Mound, Knights of Columbus, Garman, Hess, Sunnyside, Garfield, Torrence, Fans Field, Grant, Coates, Lincoln, Jasper, Clokey, Mueller, Lions, Chandler, Galloway, Baker Woods, Park Luise, Fisherman's Wharf, South Shores, Rotary, Ivy Hill, Canon, Sportsmans, Sinawik	GR, RF

Phased Park Improvement Actions		
ACTION & POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES		
1	Replace restroom structures on regular schedule as funding is available, suggested 1 per year: Hickory Point, Graceland (if kept), Garfield, Torrence, Fans Field (lower priority), Grant, Kiwanis, Galloway, South Shores, Sinawik	GP1A
2	Replace/update playgrounds on regular schedule as funding is available, suggested 1 per year: Boiling Springs, East Mound, Knights of Columbus, Garman, Monroe, Hess, Sunnyside, Oak Grove, Garfield, Fans Field (lower priority), Grant, Fairview, Jasper, Galloway, Baker Woods, Sinawik	GP1A, 1B, 2
3	Regular cycle of park improvement with loop walking trail around park, like at Grant Park (1 per year). Boiling Springs, Garman, Monroe, Sunnyside, Oak Grove, Garfield, Torrence, Lions, Galloway, South Shores, Sinawik	GP1A, 1D, 1E

Programming-Specific Actions		
ACTION & POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES		
1	Expand soccer programs	GR5, GR6
2	Expand senior programming	GR5, GR6, GR7
3	Evaluate existing operational hours at Splash Cove to determine if additional competitive swim time could be made available.	GR5
4	Add Go Kart track at Overlook Adventure Park to support existing entertainment opportunities.	GR5
5	Consider suitable parks for addition of mountain bike course, potentially at Scovill West.	GP1A, 1B, 2
6	Identify appropriate indoor Park District facilities to house esports gaming rooms.	GR5

Park-specific Actions		
ACTION & POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES		
1	Spray pads: potentially at Fairview (could work as a successful replacement for pool, requiring no lifeguards or regular staffing and reusing restroom/shower facility and pump room)	GP1A, 1B,2
2	Hickory Point Golf: trail connection to Stevens Creek (in progress), new small restroom, golf simulator with refreshments, EV charging stations	GP1D, 1E, 1G, 1H
3	Cresthaven: trail connection to Stevens Creek (in progress), additional parking, court resurfacing, stormwater detention	GP1D, 1E, 1G, 1H
4	Boiling Springs: transition to stormwater detention, parking resurfacing, court resurfacing, new playground, loop path	GP 1A, 1B
5	Greendell: parking expansion and resurfacing	GP 1A, 1B
6	East Mound: new parking lot, playground updates, turf field addition, researcch cost return on inflatable dome	GP 1A, 1B
7	Knights of Columbus: playground updates, stormwater detention	GP 1A, 1B, RS
8	Garman: removal of baseball diamond, parking resurfacing, trail connecting park to nearby trails, loop trail, playground updates, mountain bike trail updates	GP 1A, 1B
9	Monroe: update pavilion, court resurfacing, loop trail, playground updates	GP 1A, 1B
10	Hess: baseball diamond relamping, playground updates, grading and drainage improvements, court resurfacing, pavilion relocation?	GP 1A, 1B
11	Sunnyside: baseball updates, remove and replace pavilion, new playground, loop trail, trail connections, parking resurfacing	GP 1A, 1B
12	Oak Grove: court resurfacing, remove tennis, loop trail, new playground, baseball updates (if Graceland fields are closed). Consider new overall park plan to re-envision use and layout without school.	GP 1A, 1B
13	Garfield: pavilion updates, removal of south parking, addition of basketball courts, bathroom update, new playground, loop trail. Coordinate with potential developers to support mixed-use development adjacent to park.	GP 1A, 1B
14	Torrence: parking resurfacing, removal of baseball, stormwater detention?, pavilion and bathroom updates, loop trail	GP 1A, 1B, RS
15	Fans Field: baseball updates, lighting, concession update, restroom update. New playground. New basketball court.	GP 1A, 1B
16	Grant: new drinking fountain, bathroom updates	GP 1A, 1B

MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

Park-specific Actions		
ACTION & POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES		
17	Fairies: roadway resurfacing, kayak launch	GP IA, IB, IC
18	Izaak Walton: kayak launch	GP IA, IB, IC
19	Fairview: destination playground, skate park updates, tennis updates and lighting, pavilion updates, basketball court resurfacing, trailhead parking improvements, repurposing of old ice rink building, spray pad	GP IA, IB
20	Kiwanis: bathroom updates, pavilion updates, court and parking resurfacing, baseball relamping	GP IA, IB
21	Coates: parking and court resurfacing, new drinking fountain	GP IA, IB
22	Lincoln: new pavilion, court resurfacing. Consider reuse of underutilized open space within park (trails to remain).	GP IA, IB
23	Jasper: court resurfacing, new playground, basic infrastructure	GP IA, IB
24	Mueller: parking resurfacing	GP IA, IB
25	Lions: new pavilion, loop trail	GP IA, IB
26	Galloway: parking resurfacing, pavilion and bathroom updates, removal of baseball, stormwater detention. New playground and loop trail. Lighting upgrade	GP IA, IB, RS
27	Baker Woods: pavilion and playground updates	GP IA, IB
28	Park Luise: parking expansion	GP IA, IB
29	Fisherman's Wharf: kayak launch, parking resurfacing, new sea wall	GP IA, IB, IC
30	South Shores: restroom and pavilion updates, loop trail	GP IA, IB
31	Rotary: trail connections	GP IA, IB
32	Red Tail Run Golf: tree planting	GR, RF
33	Ivy Hill: updated picnic tables	GP IA, IB
34	Canon: picnic pavilion, kayak launch	GP IA, IB, IC
35	Sportsmans: pavilion, ADA kayak launch	GP IA, IB, IC
36	Sinawik: parking resurfacing, pavilion and bathroom updates, court resurfacing, loop trail, connection to zoo, stormwater detention	GP IA, IB, RS
37	Nelson Park: stormwater detention	RS

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Park, facility, and program improvements will occur as funds and opportunities evolve. Assistance will be solicited from all available sources and will include both physical and financial support. The Park District will utilize a wide range of funding tools to implement the Action Items contained in this Plan. The following list compiles a comprehensive list of funding sources as referenced in the previous Action Item charts. This list will continue to evolve over time and can be adjusted to meet Park District needs into the future.

Grant and Philanthropy Programs (GP)

- I. Illinois Department of Natural Resources funding:
 - A. Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program. Along with item B, below, these programs are Illinois’ primary source of funding to assist local units of government in the acquisition and development of land for public parks and open space. These programs provide funding assistance up to 50% of approved project costs. Maximum grant awards are currently limited to \$750,000 for acquisition projects, while development/restoration projects are limited to \$400,000.
 - B. Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program. Same awards as Item A, above.
 - C. Boating Access Area Development Program. Provides assistance to local government agencies for the acquisition, construction, expansion or rehabilitation of public boat and canoe access areas. The program provides up to 100% of approved project construction costs and 90% of approved land acquisition costs up to \$200,000 per project annually.

- D. Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program assists units of local government acquire, construct and rehabilitate public, non-motorized bicycle paths and directly related support facilities. Financial assistance up to 50% of approved project costs is available. There is no limit for funding assistance for acquisition projects, but development project funding is limited to a maximum grant of \$200,000 per annual request.
 - E. Recreational Trails Program (ATP) provides up to 80% federal funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails to federal, state and local government agencies and not-for-profit organizations.
 - F. Local Government Snowmobile Grant Program assists local units of government acquire, develop and rehabilitate locally maintained trails and areas for public snowmobiling.
 - G. Off-Highway Vehicle Program (OHV) provides up 100% reimbursement to government agencies, not-for-profit organizations and individuals to acquire, develop, operate and maintain land for off-highway vehicle parks and trails that are open and accessible to the public.
 - H. Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), managed by the Illinois Department of Transportation, funds recreation facilities such as bicycle trails, hiking trails and greenways, signing and other related items that have a current or past transportation function.
- 2. Special gifts, contributions, or scholarships from local citizens or organizations supportive of recreational programs.
 - 3. Park and Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program (PARC Grant). Supports capital facilities consisting of buildings, structures, and land for park, recreation purposes or land for open space or natural areas. PARC Grant projects may include indoor recreational facilities.

MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

Generate Revenue (GR)

4. Improve/update facilities, such as the waterfront TIF (Tax Increment Financing) District, to attract more use, increase efficiency, increase taxable values.
5. Create revenue-generating amenities/programming at existing facilities, such as boat rentals, public activities (i.e., performing arts events with entry fees), additional recreation classes/camps with entry fees.
6. Increase current program/facility fees for more popular programs.
7. Increase Taxes:
 - A. General Obligation bond issues, supported by the community for special projects.
 - B. Special millage, also subject to voter approval, for major programs such as waterfront development.
8. Consider strategic private development opportunities to increase tax base.

Reallocate Existing Funds (RF)

9. Community Development Block Grant funds eligible for capital expenditure, or other federal funds that may become available.
10. General fund appropriations for projects that can be phased in predictable increments.

Partner to Share Costs (PS)

11. Partner with non-profit groups, schools, St. Joseph Charter Township and other neighboring Townships, Berrien County, and other area municipalities
12. Private and non-profit park sponsorships (Adopt-a-Park programs).

Reduce Services (RS)

13. Green infrastructure programs to reduce maintenance (native grasses vs. turf), reduce energy costs, etc.
14. Cut under-performing programs.

Operations / Policy Change (OP)

This category covers action items that do not require direct funding, but instead would involve a change a modification of current department operations plans or updates/revisions to current local policy, and/or ordinances.

POTENTIAL RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Three specific program elements are recommended as an appropriate fit for Decatur’s demographics and to meet the needs expressed through the community outreach process. Those were the addition of a Go Kart track at Overlook Adventure Park, park improvements to support mountain biking, and use of existing facilities to support online esports.

Go Kart Racing

To build upon the success of the mini-golf course and ropes course within Nelson Park’s Overlook Adventure Park, consideration should be given to the addition of a 1,000 linear foot Go Kart track with a covered shade structure, lighting, and a pit area. Typical Go Kart facilities contain 18 cars. There is opportunity for themeing of cars to coordinate with other facilities within the Park District, much as the mini-golf supports the Scovill Zoo theme. The minimum space required would be around one acre. Coaster style elevated tracks and on-track visitor areas can be used to maximize space.

Options

- Thrill/speed racing style track, kids/family track, or a blend
 - The operating system can allow one track to be used for multiple speeds of races.
- Ground level or elevated
 - Elevated tracks attract more customers, more expensive
- Tire or plastic barrier system
 - Plastic system – less mosquitoes, less space, cleaner look
 - Vary on shock absorbency and price

Other Considerations

- Track area
- Go Kart fleet size
- Occupancy rate of track
- Session time
- Hourly capacity of track
- Operators required for track
- Reversibility of driving direction (creates more variety in track)
- Lighting
- Surface material (asphalt, concrete)



MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a potential sport to bring to Scovill Park West. There are multiple types of mountain biking opportunities including the following:

Trail Riding

Trail Riding is the most basic, and therefore most common, form of mountain biking (MTB). Generally seen as the “introduction” to other forms of riding, trail riding is simply taking a bike on a non-purpose-built trail, for example hiking paths. Trail Riding can be done on any kind of mountain bike, even the cheapest bikes without suspension. Other common MTB types include hardtails (bikes with suspension on the front wheel only) and full suspension bikes.

Cross Country

Cross Country, or XC, is very similar to trail riding but more demanding on all fronts. Cross Country biking can take place exclusively on natural trails, man-made trails, or consist of a hybrid of the two. Obstacles and jumps are commonplace in XC runs, and runs often will be multiple laps over the predetermined routes. XC is generally considered to be the most famous discipline of mountain biking as it is often televised, and is even an Olympic sport.

XC bikes generally are lower in weight, with smooth shifting gears and a primary focus on rolling efficiency and pedaling as opposed to technical terrain handling. This is due to the fact that the majority of the distance covered will be under the power of the rider. Full suspension or hardtail bikes are usually preferred here.



Downhill

Downhill riding is, as the name implies, where riders start at the top of a mountain and ride to the bottom of the trail with the fastest time winning. As the focus is on the descent, racers often get up to the top via a ski lift, or some other form of travel other than the bike itself. As gravity is doing a considerable amount of the work, speeds can excel 50 mph (80 kph) and include large jumps at the bottom.

For this type of riding, the strongest bikes are needed to tackle the roughest and steepest trails of MTB. Essentially motocross bikes without the motor, Downhill bikes have heavy, durable frames and full suspension with considerable lengths of travel. Large, low pressure tires are used for heightened grip, and the geometry of the bike is altered, with the seat below the handlebars to increase comfort and control going downhill. Downhill racing is arguably the most dangerous, yet most exciting form of mountain biking.

All-Mountain/Enduro

All-Mountain biking is essentially a hybrid of Downhill and Cross-Country riding. This type of biking combines the endurance riding of XC, but with an emphasis on downhill sections. All-Mountain is also referred to as Enduro racing, which is a motorsport term that refers to the uphill sections being untimed with the timed portions being the downhill legs. This, however, is still a massive endurance challenge as the racer is still required to ride up the intense uphill segments.

Enduro riders will tend to choose the more downhill oriented full suspension bikes, but hybrids are also a commonplace. Emphasis is also put on lightweight, yet durable choices. All-Mountain biking is a complete test of both rider and bike.

Free Ride

Free Ride is a form of riding that is much less focused on time trials or speed than those previously mentioned. In Free Ride style runs, the emphasis is on skill, creativity and technical expertise of the rider. Often instead of a predetermined route, a broader area and a set of rules and guidelines will be set, with the rider attempting to complete a run with tricks and flair. Under the broad category of Free Riding sit other subcategories such as Slopestyle, where tricks are performed on preset purpose-built tracks, or Dirt Jumping, where natural tracks are augmented with man-made jumps.

Due to the departure from the precision riding of the other forms of MTB, Free Ride bikes are generally very simple bikes that are less damage prone and to lessen the chance of injury. They are also very light and easily manipulated in the air, akin to a BMX trick bike.

Bike Packing/Off-Road Touring

Bike packing, or off-road touring, is the process of taking a bike on very long-distance runs. Generally, this is done with simple, non-suspended bikes as the suspension can sap energy from the rider. The bike will be laden with gear and supplies, as well as the often-added creature comfort like drink carriers and panniers. In these rides, a wide range of terrain can be covered and one to multiple nights can be spent on any given trip.

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Existing Mountain Bike Trail Systems

Trail networks with the highest rider count are located in or near urban areas, for example the Farmdale Reservoir in Peoria with a count of 2,905 riders.

Other factors contributing to a higher rider count are:

- having a mix of easy, moderate, and expert-level trails that open the trail system up to a much wider range of riders for example the Wildlife Prairie Park trails in Peoria with 21 Green trails, 22 Blue trails, 4 Black trails and 7 Gravel/access roads
- the park/trail system managed by a local MTB club or association for example Kickapoo State Recreation Area in Danville (2,297)
- a designation as an IMBA Hall of Fame Epic Ride

There is only one dedicated MTB park or bike/skill park in central Illinois, the PAMBA Bike Park in Peoria. Horace B. Garman Park is an existing trail system in Decatur which is compatible for mountain biking. 1/3 of surveyed trail users used the trail for mountain biking. The trails are green and blue on difficulty level. The total length is 4 miles, total descent is 4,764 feet, and rider count is 38.

Most trail systems do not offer dedicated MTB trails. Riders have to share the trails with hikers, runners or horseback riders. The vast majority of trail systems are free to use and on public land such as municipal parks, state parks, national forests and parks and some local preserves.

MFA analyzed 18 trail systems in Central Illinois. The following table summarizes the findings.

Table 17. Existing Mountain Bike Trail Systems - Summary	
Region	Central Illinois
Number of Trail Systems	18
Average Number of Trails by Use	
Mountain Bike	15
Hiking	14
Trail Running	14
Average Number of Trails by MTB Difficulty	
Green	5
Blue	7
Black	1
Diamond	0
Access/Gravel Road	2
General Statistics	
Average Length (Miles)	11
Average Decent (ft)	1,460
Average Rider Count	1,018
<i>Sources: Individual Facilities/Parks, Trailforks, MFA</i>	

Other key characteristics are:

- The average mountain biker takes 2 mountain bike specific overnight trips.
- The average mountain bike trip lasted 2.7 to 3 nights.
- Mountain bikers travel 566 miles on an average trip. Half of trips are 250 miles or less from home.
- Per person per day spending is \$200, per person per trip spending is \$830.
- Lodging and restaurants have the largest share of the trip budget.
- The top mountain bike travel months are May, June, and September.
- The most popular accommodations campgrounds, hotels, and with friend/relatives.

- 45% go MTB 2-3 times per week, on average 2.6 times per week.
- Most MTBs participated in trail riding.
- 26% participated in competitions, of those 55% competed in Enduro racing.
- Preferred types of MTB trails are cross country single track, all mountain trail and downhill/gravity trails.
- Top non-MTB are hiking, camping, running/jogging/cross country, kayaking/canoeing and swimming.

The table below summarizes information gathered from three different mountain biking surveys.

Table 18. Survey Overview

Survey	Singletracks/IMBA	Vital MTB	CAMBA
Year	2014 & 2016	2019 & 2020	2020
Survey Type	Online	Online	Intercept
Male/Female MTBs	87%/13%	96%/4%	66%/33%
With/Without Children	38%/62%	35%/65%	N/A
Largest Age Group Participating	35-60/60%	30-49/56%	35-55/56%
Education: College or higher	77%	59%	89%
HH Income \$100K+	51%	43%	61%
Largest Non-MTB Activity	Hiking 26%	Hiking 54%	Hiking 37%
Average Length of Stay (Days)	2.7	N/A	3
Average Spending per Day per Person	\$155	N/A	\$201
Preferred Accommodations	Tent Camping	N/A	Cabin/Airbnb

Source: Singletracks/IMBA, Vital MTB, CAMBA, MFA

MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

E-Sports

This is a potential program activity to bring to the DISC.

Esports (or electronic sports, e-sports, or eSports) is a form of competition using video games. Esports often takes the form of organized, multi-player video game competitions, particularly between professional players, individually or as teams.

Esports are growing rapidly, in both, revenues and participation according to a Reuters article (02/2019):

- Revenues of global Esports are estimated to be \$1.1 billion in 2019, up 27 percent from 2018.
- Revenues from advertising, sponsorship and media rights account for 82 percent - or \$897 million of total revenues.
- North America will generate \$409 million of Esports revenues in 2019, the most of any region, Newzoo's report found. China will generate 19 percent and South Korea 6 percent, with the rest of the world comprising the remaining 38 percent.
- Total audience - comprised of both enthusiasts and occasional viewers - is expected to grow by 15 percent to 454 million in 2019.

Esports, or professional video gaming, have experienced a surge in both mainstream popularity and funding in recent years. From the organization of official tournaments with millions of dollars in prize money to the development of full-fledged esports leagues, it has recently become clear that there is a blossoming and largely untapped market in the esports scene. As global esports revenue soars and the industry continues to grow, more attention is being put into understanding both the scene itself and the market that is growing around it.

This report offers a brief introduction to the recent growth of esports. By explaining what esports are at their most basic level, exploring its audience, and taking note of trends in growth and revenue streams, it aims to present an informed first look at this growing industry. When looking into this very young and fast-paced industry, it's vital to understand both where it comes from and where it's projected to go. By studying the available research on the esports scene, this chapter seeks to answer some preliminary questions about what gives this field its potential.



What are Esports?

Short for ‘electronic sports’, esports are most commonly defined as “professional-level competitive gaming in an organized format with a specific goal and prize.” This includes both officially sponsored tournaments such as Epic Games’ Fortnite World Cup, and structured esports leagues such as Blizzard Entertainment’s Overwatch League. Though amateur and community leagues and tournaments are also popular, they are not included in this discussion for the sake of clarity.

The history of esports can be traced back to 1980, when Atari hosted the Space Invaders Championship. The event, won by game designer Rebecca Heineman, attracted over ten thousand participants across the United States. More recently, tournament esports picked up speed in the twenty-first century, with many developers hosting official tournaments. Additionally, two major titles have created full-fledged leagues, following the model of major league sports. The League of Legends Champion Series (LCS) was established in 2013, with equivalent League of Legends leagues later established in Europe, South Korea, and China. The Overwatch League (OWL), meanwhile, was established in 2018.

Both leagues were noted as landmarks in the development of esports as an industry, due to the shift towards a more cohesive structure.

Most esports are played on computers, though both console and mobile games have potential for development. Mobile esports have particular potential in Asia, due to mobile games’ popularity in China.

A large variety of games, covering a myriad of genres, are represented in the esports scene. Popular genres, and games within those genres, include:

- Battle Royale: Fortnite (Epic Games), PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds (PUBG Corporation)
- First-Person Shooter (FPS): Overwatch (Blizzard Entertainment), Counter-Strike: Global Offensive (Hidden Path Entertainment and Valve Corporation)
- Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA): League of Legends (Riot Games), Dota 2 (Valve Corporation)
- Real-Time Strategy: StarCraft (Blizzard Entertainment)
- Fighting: Street Fighter V (Capcom), Super Smash Bros. (Bandai Namco Studios and Nintendo)
- Sports: Rocket League (Psyonix), FIFA (Electronic Arts)

Other major titles have seen investment in their esports scenes. Activision Blizzard is currently developing a league for the Call of Duty franchise. The Call of Duty League (CDL) is slated to launch in 2020, with city-based teams confirmed for Atlanta, Dallas, Los Angeles, Minnesota, New York, Paris, and Toronto. Meanwhile, both the NFL and the NBA have expressed interest in developing their esports equivalents in the Madden and NBA 2K series.

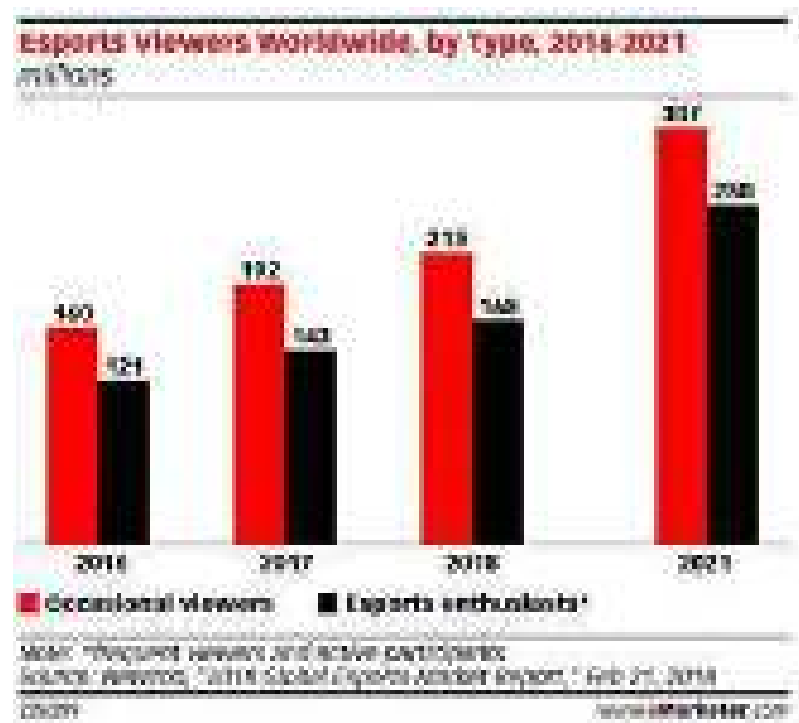


MASTER PLAN ACTIONS

The popularity of many esports titles, especially Fortnite and PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG), has launched esports into the mainstream. Continuing media coverage on major networks such as ESPN has enabled new audiences to learn more about the world of professional gaming and the opportunities involved. That coverage, combined with the movement from tournament-based esports with prize money to organized leagues with player salaries, has attracted attention from sponsors and investors. As esports organizes, so does its legitimacy as a budding industry.

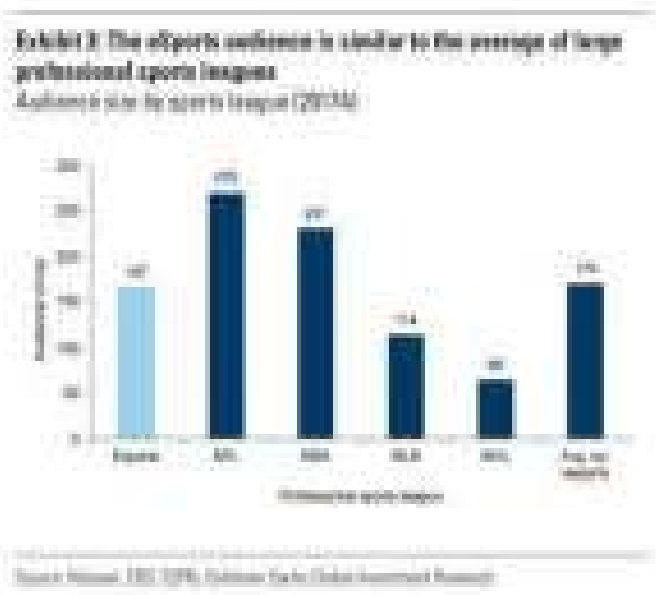
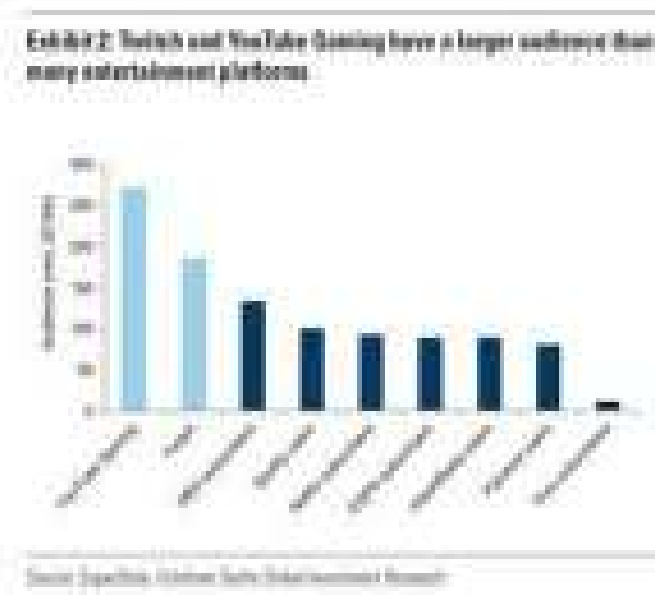
Audiences and Demographics

Following current viewership trends, the total esports audience is projected to grow to 453.8 million in 2019, before expanding on to 557 million viewers by 2021. This audience represents about twenty percent of the total online gaming population, which is estimated at 2.2 billion players worldwide. Of this audience, an estimated 201.2 million describe themselves as 'esports enthusiasts,' or people who watch esports events more than once a month. These esports enthusiasts are most prevalent in the viewer bases of China, the United States, Brazil, and South Korea. Emerging esports markets have also been noted in Latin America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. With these numbers, esports' global monthly audience exceeds those of both the MLB and the NHL.



The vast majority of the current esports audience is young – an estimated 79% of it is made up of people under the age of thirty-five. Both professional esports players and their audiences are also overwhelmingly male. Though women make up an estimated 45% of gamers, they account for less than five percent of professional players, largely due to harassment and the male-dominated culture surrounding video games. Recent efforts have been made to make the scene more welcoming for women in the field, including highlighting women who work in esports and organizing female-specific tournaments in several games.

Esports are primarily streamed online, with Twitch, YouTube Gaming and Mixer all providing outlets. Chinese audiences tend to view esports on Douya, Huya, and Weibo. Recently, networks such as ABC, ESPN, and Disney have all started to broadcast esports events, though none yet do so regularly enough to replace the primarily online broadcast. This provides a unique challenge to advertisers, as esports’ young, tech-savvy, and fast-paced audience leans towards the use of online ad-blockers.



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As esports gain popularity in the mainstream, its audience has begun to take interest in seeing events live instead of behind the computer screen. To that end, several venues devoted specifically to esports have popped up around the world. These venues appear in the form of dedicated esports bars, such as Guildhall in Burbank, California, and esports-specific arenas such as the Allied Esports Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. As live esports are still a fairly new endeavor, many events are still hosted in pre-existing venues, such as the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre in Atlanta, Georgia.

As established esports leagues continue to grow, many of them are committed to the idea of geolocation – moving to their home cities and playing on a home-and-away schedule similar to that of traditional sports. In 2020, the Overwatch League will become the first esports league to geolocate, with the LCS and the in-development Call of Duty League looking to follow suit. The first in the Overwatch League's case, some teams will play in existing venues – the Washington Justice, for instance, will play their home games in concert venue The Anthem. Others, such as the Philadelphia Fusion, will play in dedicated arenas. The Fusion's parent company, Comcast, has committed \$50 million to the Fusion Arena, a 60,000 square foot building devoted to esports events and slated to open by the Overwatch League's 2021 season. The league's inaugural season was in 2018 with 12 teams. Just the following year in 2019, it expanded to 20 teams.

Comcast's commitment to the Fusion Arena lines up with Philadelphia's efforts to become a major esports city. Between heavy investments, efforts from city-wide esports networks such as N3rd Street Gamers, and a flourishing collegiate esports scene, Philadelphia has taken major steps to becoming the premier esports location in the United States.

Across the world, other cities have followed suit. The previously mentioned Hangzhou, China, boasts an official esports stadium established by LGD Gaming. They also provide a home to an esports-themed hotel, an esports academy, and a hospital that specializes in esports-related injuries. As esports continues to grow as an industry, cities like Philadelphia and Hangzhou are clamoring to be at the front of the line to give that industry a home.

Esports is breaking into the collegiate level with the NACE (The National Association of Collegiate Esports). There are 151 colleges in the NACE, and that number is expected to grow rapidly. These colleges mostly offer scholarships that typically range from \$5000-\$8000, but as esports grows that number is only expected to go up. Harrisburg University became the first university to offer full rides to its students after winning ESPN's inaugural Collegiate Esports Championship in May of 2019.

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Key Venue Findings

- The main difference between Esports arenas are whether they host the public for casual gaming, or if they are strictly for spectating professionals. Many of the arenas do both. The ones that are more likely to pop up in your local town host casual gaming for the public. There are arenas solely for professional teams, such as the Fusion Arena, which are more likely to be in big urban areas. Colleges however, are building them left and right and forming their own teams.
- The hours of casual gaming are similar at most of the esports arenas except those arenas that are meant for just spectating.
- The amount of gaming equipment varies, but a common standard is that gaming computers outnumber the consoles by about 2 to 1.
- Virtual Reality is available at some venues, just starting to come into others, and completely absent at some venues.

Industry Growth and Trends

Total esports revenue amounted to 805 million dollars in 2018, and growth is expected to continue on at an impressive rate. 2019 is projected to be esports' first billion-dollar year, with projected global revenues amounting to 1.1 billion dollars with a year-to-year growth rate of +26.7 percent. North American and Chinese markets currently make up the largest share of global revenue.

Currently capturing 82 percent of the total market, the majority of esports revenue comes from brand investments. Brand support for the esports scene has almost tripled since 2015, with investments making up an estimated 897 million dollars of revenue in 2019. Big-name brands are beginning to recognize the potential in esports' young audience, and they hope to reach these audiences by sponsoring esports leagues. Geico, Nissan, and AXE all sponsor the LCS, while Coca-Cola, Bud Light, and Toyota are among the Overwatch League's sponsors.

Historically, esports lags behind traditional sports leagues in terms of monetization. A general disorganization of the esports scene,

combined with the number of titles competing with each other, tends to contribute to a lack of focus. With the development of the LCS and the Overwatch League, as well as officially-sponsored tournaments, esports is finally beginning to trend towards a more cohesive vision. Monetization efforts include merchandising, live events, and all-access passes designed to improve the at-home viewing experience. The continuing growth of esports leagues has also opened up gates for sponsorships and media rights as monetization channels.

Currently, the largest esport ranked by viewership is League of Legends, but the largest esport in terms of prize money available is Dota 2. Notably, the prize pool for the 2017 Dota 2 International tournament was \$23 million, with only \$1.6 million contributed by the game's developer and the rest raised through crowd funding. This trend is in line with the notion that fans of esports both have and are willing to spend the disposable income for esports that they enjoy.

Esports analytics and research organization NewZoo predicts that total global esports revenues will hit \$1.8 billion by 2022. By then, the Asia-Pacific region will likely capture the largest market share, with both Europe and the United States trailing closely behind. Esports growth in Latin America continues to lag due to issues with Internet stability, but the scenes in Brazil and Mexico are both expected to grow significantly. Though brand investment will continue to make up the largest portion of this revenue, media rights make up the world's fastest-growing esports revenue stream, and are expected to take up more of the share moving forward.

Outside of more official channels, esports has seen a boom in investment at more individual levels. Since 2013, there has been \$3.3 billion of venture capital investment in esports startups. Of that, particular investment interest comes from China, where esports continue to gain both legitimacy and financial backing. North America, for its part, has seen an increased celebrity investment and interest in esports organizations. Rapper Drake currently serves as co-owner of 100 Thieves, while former NBA player Kevin Garnett recently put his

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backing behind Triumph Esports. Beyond providing a new and more secure source of funding, celebrity investment also works to propel esports into the mainstream by attracting fans of those celebrities to the scene.

Recently, both esports and traditional sports have started taking cues from each other in terms of bringing in new fans. In the esports world, betting and fantasy leagues are picking up speed. Besides providing evidence of traditional sports models gaining popularity, both of these practices also provide potential new sources of revenue. In turn, 2017 saw both the NFL and the NBA announce plans to formalize their esports efforts. With both leagues putting effort and investment into Madden and NBA 2K esports, respectively, the gap between traditional sports and esports continues to close. This not only serves to help esports gain legitimacy, but gives traditional sports further access to a young fan base that may not be as interested normally.

Perhaps the largest obstacle to esports' growth at the moment is how young the industry is. Both the LCS and the Overwatch League were credited as game-changers for esports by Goldman Sachs, as both mark a new era of organized, salary-based esports. However, many big brands want more experience and proof of success before they become willing to commit to esports as a whole. Fortunately, as the industry continues to organize and develop, market researchers have been able to develop new metrics for recognizing return on investments. As other major titles follow in the footsteps of the LCS and the Overwatch League, these researchers predict that prominent games will also establish leagues of their own, while smaller titles continue to host tournaments. Overall, esports' rapid rate of growth is projected to continue on at a sustainable rate. The promise of future development, plus the sight of other brands diving into the industry, makes esports an appealing investment.

This trend is in line with the notion that fans of esports both have and are willing to spend the disposable income for esports that they enjoy.

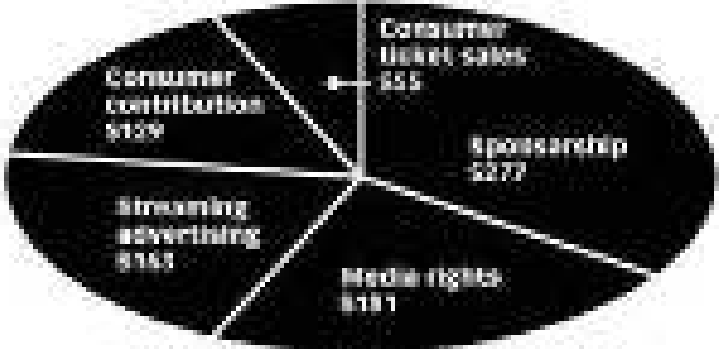
Esports analytics and research organization NewZoo predicts that total global esports revenues will hit \$1.8 billion by 2022. By then, the Asia-Pacific region will likely capture the largest market share, with both Europe and the United States trailing closely behind. Esports growth in Latin America continues to lag due to issues with Internet stability, but the scenes in Brazil and Mexico are both expected to grow significantly. Though brand investment will continue to make up the largest portion of this revenue, media rights make up the world's fastest-growing esports revenue stream, and are expected to take up more of the share moving forward.

Outside of more official channels, esports has seen a boom in investment at more individual levels. Since 2013, there has been \$3.3 billion of venture capital investment in esports startups. Of that, particular investment interest comes from China, where esports continue to gain both legitimacy and financial backing. North America, for its part, has seen an increased celebrity investment and interest in esports organizations. Rapper Drake currently serves as co-owner of 100 Thieves, while former NBA player Kevin Garnett recently put his backing behind Triumph Esports. Beyond providing a new and more secure source of funding, celebrity investment also works to propel esports into the mainstream by attracting fans of those celebrities to the scene.

Recently, both esports and traditional sports have started taking cues from each other in terms of bringing in new fans. In the esports world, betting and fantasy leagues are picking up speed. Besides providing evidence of traditional sports models gaining popularity, both of these practices also provide potential new sources of revenue. In turn, 2017 saw both the NFL and the NBA announce plans to formalize their esports efforts. With both leagues putting effort and investment into Madden and NBA 2K esports, respectively, the gap between traditional sports and esports continues to close. This not only serves to help esports gain legitimacy, but gives traditional sports further access to a young fan base that may not be as interested normally.

Perhaps the largest obstacle to esports' growth at the moment is how young the industry is. Both the LCS and the Overwatch League were credited as game-changers for esports by Goldman Sachs, as both mark a new era of organized, salary-based esports. However, many big brands want more experience and proof of success before they become willing to commit to esports as a whole. Fortunately, as the industry continues to organize and develop, market researchers have been able to develop new metrics for recognizing return on investments. As other major titles follow in the footsteps of the LCS and the Overwatch League, these researchers predict that prominent games will also establish leagues of their own, while smaller titles continue to host tournaments. Overall, esports' rapid rate of growth is projected to continue on at a sustainable rate. The promise of future development, plus the sight of other brands diving into the industry, makes esports an appealing investment.

Esports Revenue Worldwide, by Segment, 2018
in \$ million



Total esports revenue: \$800 million

Source: PwC, "Sports Industry 2018 in Perspective" Sep 26, 2018
2018

www.pwc.com



CHAPTER VII SUMMARY

This chapter addresses the broad needs identified earlier in this document by assigning specific Action Items for parks, facilities, and recreation programming, and also for long-term strategies for management of park resources and revenue sources.

APPENDIX



PARK MATRIX

Parks	Acreage	Lake Front	Pond	Woodland	River/Creek Access	Public Garden	Community Garden	Nature Trail	Bike/Walk Trail	Passive Area	Pavilions/Shelters	Restrooms	Drinking Fountain	Concession Stand	Fireplace	Basketball court	Volleyball	Tetherball	Tennis Courts	Ball Diamond	Lighted Ball Diamond	Skate Park	Soccer Field	Lighted Soccer Field	Horseshoe Pits	Disc Golf Course	Dog Park	Swimming Pool	Spray Pad	Playground Equipment	Tot Lot	Open Space Play	Pickleball Courts	Type of Park	Address	Phone Number	Public Parks																			
SPORTS COMPLEXES																																																								
Decatur Soccer Complex - East Mound	19																					2	2												SC	3705 N. Educational Park Lane																				
Fairview Tennis Complex	5											1	1						9																SC	1640 W. Monument Hill Dr.	421-7432																			
Firestone Football Complex	1.5																																	SC	2571 IL. Rte. 121 (22nd St.)																					
Graceland Ball Complex	10											1		1							4													SC	1400 W. Division St.																					
Rotary Park	25										1	1	2	1			4				5								1				SC	2450 S. Rt. 51																						
Totals Sports Complexes	60.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	4	0	9	4	5	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																
GOLF COURSES																																																								
Hickory Point Golf Course	180		2		1						1	1		1																					GC	727 W. Weaver Road	421-7444																			
Red Tail Run Golf Club by Raymond Floyd	215		3								2	2		1																				GC	520 W. Grove Road	422-2211																				
Totals Golf Courses	395	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																	
Grand Total	1854.19	11	9	16	9	0	1	3	10	14	40	35	34	21	5	32	5	24	25	32	12	1	10	2	6	1	2	1	1	1	30	3	28																							
FACILITIES																																																								
Administrative Office																																						620 E. Riverside Ave.	422-5911																	
Beach House Restaurant																																					2301 S. Lake Front Road	422-7202																		
Decatur Airport	1890																																			790 S. Airport Road	428-2423																			
Decatur Indoor Sports Center																																				1295 W. Wood	429-3472																			
Scovill Activity Center																																				3909 W. Main St.	421-7436																			
Overlook Adventure Mini Golf																																																								
Poage Arts and Recreation Center																																						2020 N. Oakland Ave.	421-6648																	
Schaub Floral Display Center, Greenhouse & Garden																																					3415 E. Lost Bridge Road	421-7550																		
Scovill House																																					2390 E. Scovill Zoo Place	421-7435																		
The Devon Amphitheater																																					2686 E. Cantrell Street	422-5911																		
Splash Cove Aquatic Center																																																								

POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS MATRIX

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

During the process of prioritizing parks that need capital improvements, the Decatur Park District may determine the need for renovation/repairs of facilities after consulting the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Useful Life Criteria for Outdoor Recreation Facilities.

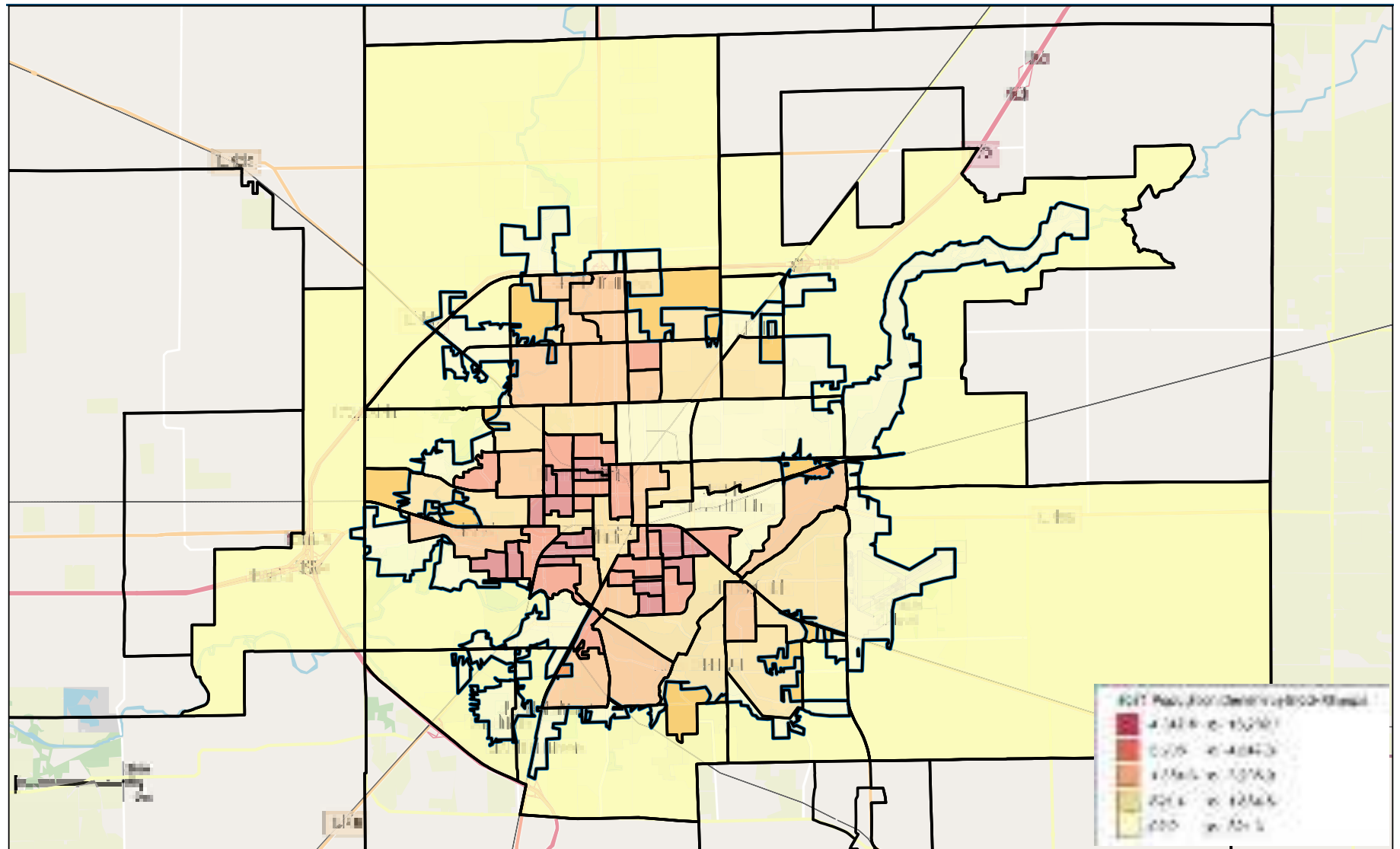
One of the criteria for selecting parks to be submitted for OSLAD grant funding should be that the proposed park development/redevelopment project include multiple recreation facilities rather than a request for grant funding for a singular or one-dimensional project.

	REMOVE										MODIFY			UPDATE / UPGRADE										EXPAND				ADD																																
	Basketball Diamond	Basketball Court	Concessions	Horseshoe Pit	Parking Area	Pavilion	Private Drive	Restroom	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Drainage - Create Bioswale	Playground - Relocate	Structure - Repurpose	Basketball Diamond	Basketball Court	Concessions	Electrical System	Infrastructure - General	Lighting - Parking Lot	Park Building (ADA)	Parking Lot Paving	Pavilion	Playground	Private Drive / Drop-off Area	Restroom	Skate Park	Trail Surface	Community Garden	Parking Lot	Trailhead	Basketball Court	Benches	Boat Launch	Concessions	Lighting - Ball Fields	Lighting - General	Parking	Pavilion	Playground	Playground Fall Surface - ADA	Restrooms	Restrooms - Portable	Roof on Park Building	Seawall	Signage - Trail	Soccer Field	Storage / Maintenance Facility	Tennis Court	Trail - Loop for Walkers	Trail - Connection to Regional	Water Source									
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS																																																												
Baker Woods Estate								X	X													X	X																																					
Boiling Springs	X		X				X							X							X	X																																						
Brush College #1																																																												
Cannon																																																												
Clokey																																																												
Coates														X						X	X			X																																				
Cresthaven																						X																																						
East Mound	X																																																											
Fans Field				X							X		X	X	X											X																																		
Faries																																																												
Fisherman's Wharf																																																												
Galloway	X																					X																																						
Garfield	X	X		X	X			X																		X	X		X																															
Garman	X																																																											
Grant						X																		X																																				
Hess																																																												
Ivy Hill																																																												
Izaak Walton																																																												
Jasper																																																												
Johns Hill	X		X				X																																																					
Kiwanis														X																																														
Knights of Columbus																																																												
Lincoln														X	X																																													
Lions						X																																																						
Monroe																																																												
Mueller																																																												
Northlake Park																																																												
Oak Grove								X					X	X																																														
Sinawik													X																																															
South Shores																																																												
Sunnyside													X																																															
Torrence	X						X						X																																															



2021 Population Density per Square Mile by Block Group

Decatur, IL

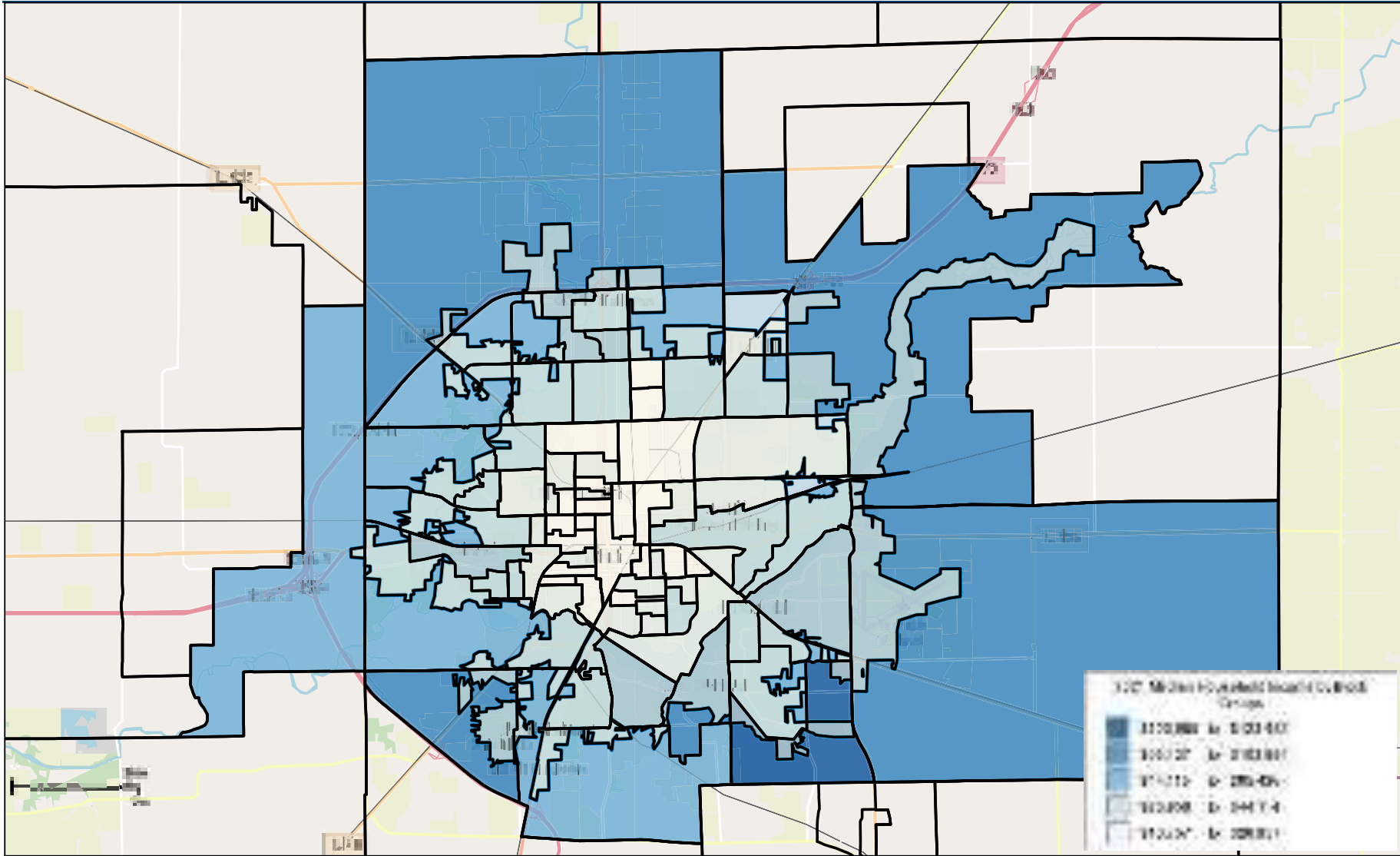


September 17, 2021



2021 Median Household Income By Block Groups

Decatur, IL

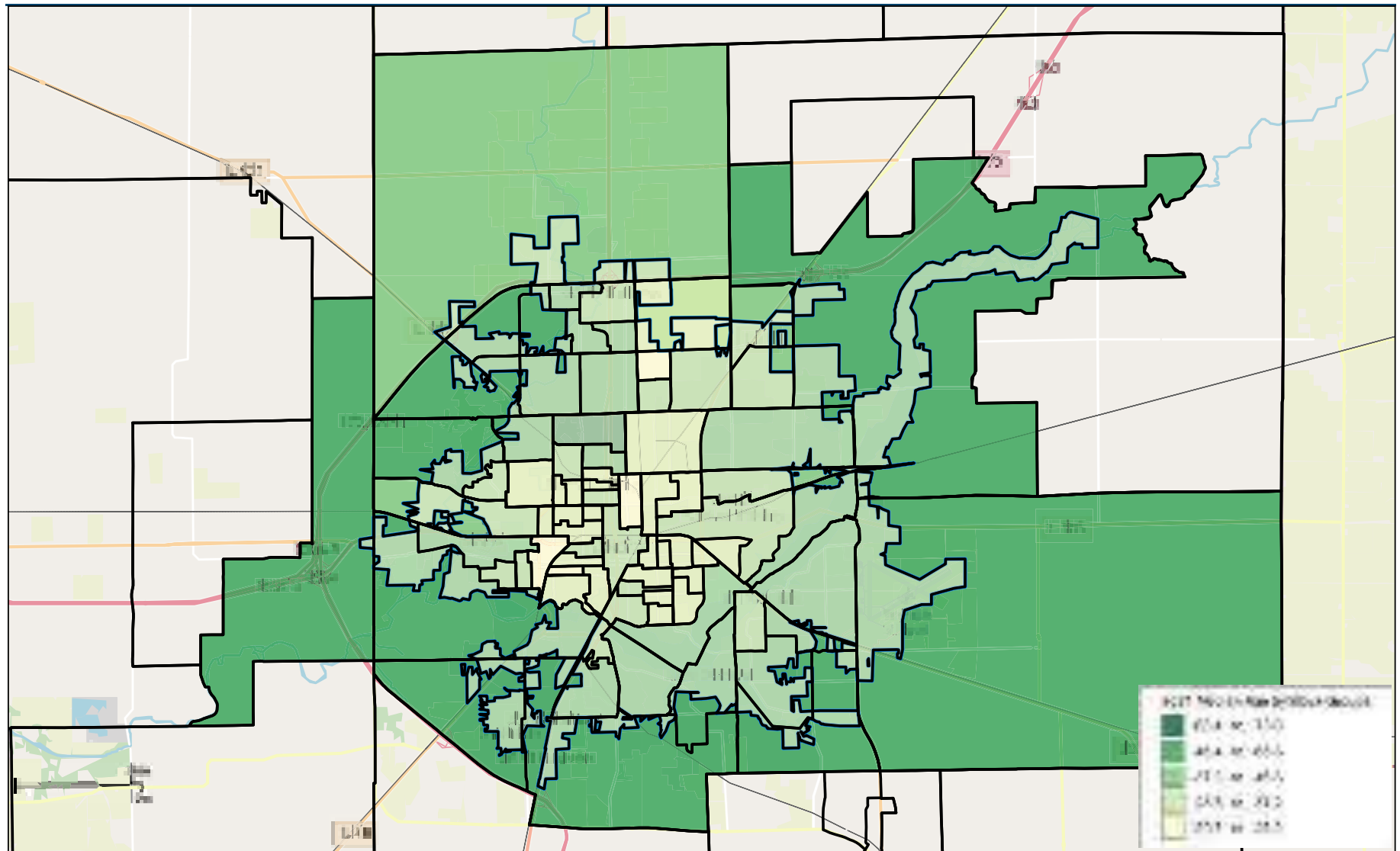


September 17, 2021



2021 Median Age by Block Group

Decatur, IL

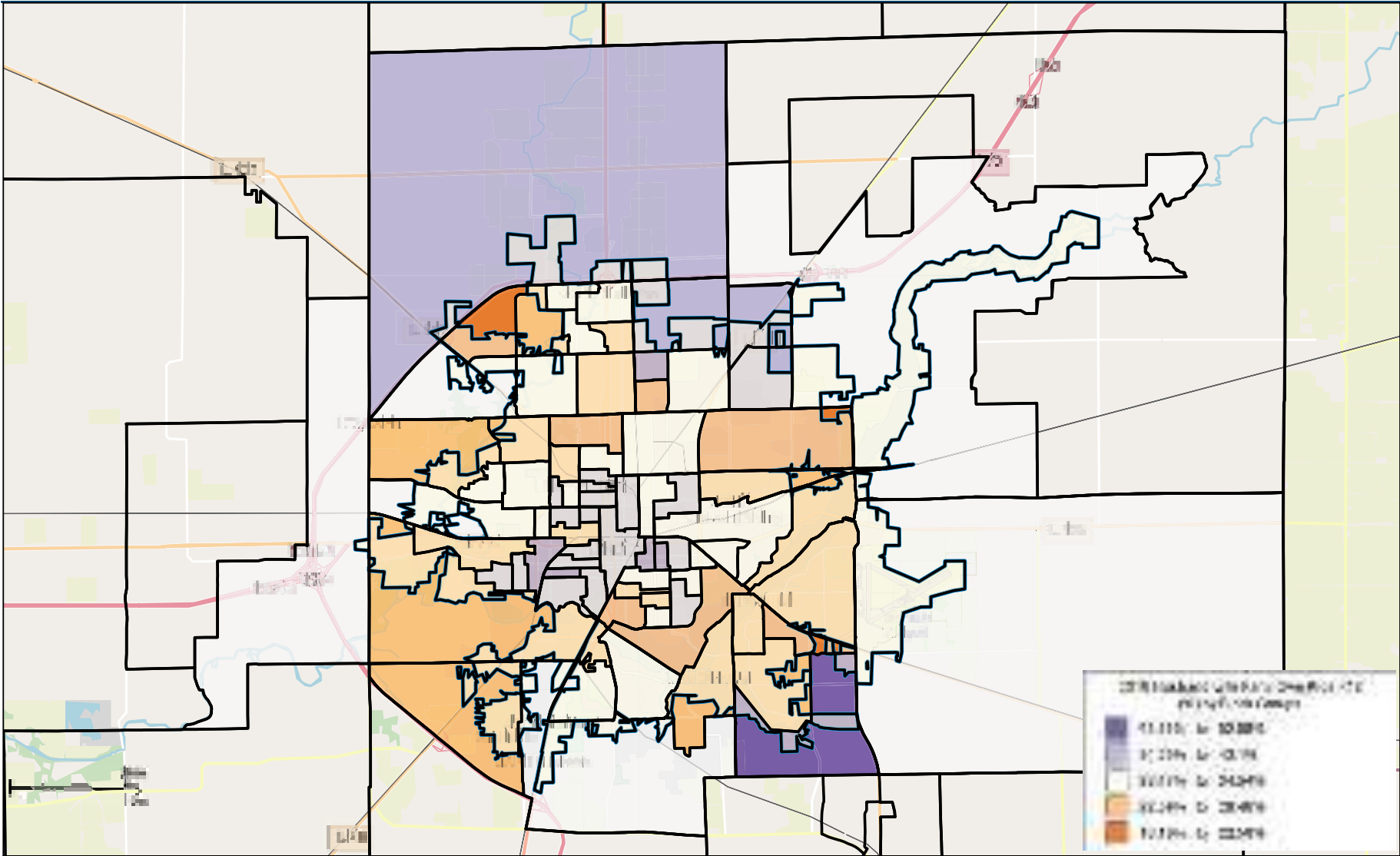


September 17, 2021



2010 Family Households with Kids <18 Years by Block Groups

Decatur, IL



September 17, 2021

RECREATION PARTICIPATION DATA

City of Decatur, Illinois - Estimated Sports Participation by Population by Age Group 2026

Aerobic Exercising						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	26.4%	48.8%	24.8%
7-11	3,968	2.5%	99	26	48	25
12-17	4,605	4.9%	226	60	110	56
18-24	6,739	8.4%	566	149	276	140
25-34	7,808	16.4%	1,281	338	625	318
35-44	8,385	18.6%	1,560	412	761	387
45-54	7,486	17.0%	1,273	336	621	316
55-64	7,836	14.7%	1,152	304	562	286
65-74	8,330	14.2%	1,183	312	577	293
75+	7,725	3.5%	270	71	132	67
Total	62,882		7,609	2,009	3,713	1,887
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				82.26		
Total Annual Participation Days				631,203		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Baseball						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	19.3%	48.7%	32.0%
7-11	3,968	24.1%	956	185	466	306
12-17	4,605	21.7%	999	193	487	320
18-24	6,739	12.0%	809	156	394	259
25-34	7,808	16.3%	1,273	246	620	407
35-44	8,385	15.1%	1,266	244	617	405
45-54	7,486	5.7%	427	82	208	137
55-64	7,836	3.3%	259	50	126	83
65-74	8,330	1.6%	133	26	65	43
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882	24.1%	956	1,181	2,981	1,959
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				161		
Average Annual Days of Participation				23.99		
Total Annual Participation Days				150,726		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

RECREATION PARTICIPATION DATA

Basketball						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	18.5%	53.5%	28.0%
7-11	3,968	14.1%	559	104	299	157
12-17	4,605	21.6%	995	184	532	279
18-24	6,739	17.6%	1,186	219	635	332
25-34	7,808	18.9%	1,476	273	790	413
35-44	8,385	15.8%	1,325	245	709	371
45-54	7,486	8.0%	599	111	320	168
55-64	7,836	3.8%	298	55	159	83
65-74	8,330	0.8%	67	12	36	19
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		6,504	1,203	3,480	1,821
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				97		
Average Annual Days of Participation				27.02		
Total Annual Participation Days				178,353		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Boating (Motor)						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	29.2%	37.8%	33.0%
7-11	3,968	8.6%	341	100	129	113
12-17	4,605	7.3%	336	98	127	111
18-24	6,739	9.4%	633	185	239	209
25-34	7,808	13.1%	1,023	299	387	338
35-44	8,385	15.4%	1,291	377	488	426
45-54	7,486	14.0%	1,048	306	396	346
55-64	7,836	17.4%	1,363	398	515	450
65-74	8,330	12.4%	1,033	302	390	341
75+	7,725	2.4%	185	54	70	61
Total	62,882		7,255	2,118	2,742	2,394
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				14.23		
Total Annual Participation Days				103,695		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Bicycle Riding						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	11.1%	37.3%	51.6%
7-11	3,968	13.4%	532	59	198	274
12-17	4,605	12.0%	553	61	206	285
18-24	6,739	7.7%	519	58	194	268
25-34	7,808	12.0%	937	104	349	483
35-44	8,385	12.0%	1,006	112	375	519
45-54	7,486	15.9%	1,190	132	444	614
55-64	7,836	16.8%	1,316	146	491	679
65-74	8,330	8.3%	691	77	258	357
75+	7,725	1.8%	139	15	52	72
Total	62,882		6,884	764	2,568	3,552
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				161		
Average Annual Days of Participation				47.4		
Total Annual Participation Days				333,921		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Bowling						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	9.4%	43.1%	47.5%
7-11	3,968	7.6%	302	28	130	143
12-17	4,605	9.4%	433	41	187	206
18-24	6,739	14.1%	950	89	410	451
25-34	7,808	20.8%	1,624	153	700	771
35-44	8,385	14.9%	1,249	117	538	593
45-54	7,486	13.3%	996	94	429	473
55-64	7,836	12.3%	964	91	415	458
65-74	8,330	6.6%	550	52	237	261
75+	7,725	1.0%	77	7	33	37
Total	62,882		7,145	672	3,079	3,394
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				10.13		
Total Annual Participation Days				72,701		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

RECREATION PARTICIPATION DATA

Canoeing						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	12.8%	26.4%	60.8%
7-11	3,968	10.2%	405	52	107	246
12-17	4,605	12.3%	566	73	150	344
18-24	6,739	14.9%	1,004	129	265	610
25-34	7,808	17.8%	1,390	178	367	845
35-44	8,385	14.4%	1,207	155	319	734
45-54	7,486	12.7%	951	122	251	578
55-64	7,836	12.0%	940	120	248	572
65-74	8,330	5.8%	483	62	128	294
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		6,947	889	1,834	4,224
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				4.1		
Total Annual Participation Days				28,614		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Fishing (Fresh Water)						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	21.9%	46.2%	31.9%
7-11	3,968	7.7%	306	67	141	97
12-17	4,605	7.2%	332	73	153	106
18-24	6,739	7.1%	478	105	221	153
25-34	7,808	13.5%	1,054	231	487	336
35-44	8,385	12.6%	1,057	231	488	337
45-54	7,486	17.4%	1,303	285	602	416
55-64	7,836	20.4%	1,599	350	739	510
65-74	8,330	11.3%	941	206	435	300
75+	7,725	2.8%	216	47	100	69
Total	62,882		7,285	1,595	3,366	2,324
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				12.41		
Total Annual Participation Days				91,205		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Exercise Walking						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	34.2%	39.7%	26.1%
7-11	3,968	2.3%	91	31	36	24
12-17	4,605	3.7%	170	58	68	44
18-24	6,739	6.1%	411	141	163	107
25-34	7,808	13.1%	1,023	350	406	267
35-44	8,385	12.9%	1,082	370	429	282
45-54	7,486	17.7%	1,325	453	526	346
55-64	7,836	20.4%	1,599	547	635	417
65-74	8,330	18.8%	1,566	536	622	409
75+	7,725	4.9%	379	129	150	99
Total	62,882		7,645	2,615	3,035	1,995
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				97		
Average Annual Days of Participation				94.81		
Total Annual Participation Days				734,028		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Football (Flag)						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	16.7%	59.2%	24.1%
7-11	3,968	25.4%	1,008	168	597	243
12-17	4,605	22.4%	1,032	172	611	249
18-24	6,739	14.3%	964	161	570	232
25-34	7,808	18.9%	1,476	246	874	356
35-44	8,385	9.4%	788	132	467	190
45-54	7,486	7.0%	524	88	310	126
55-64	7,836	2.6%	204	34	121	49
65-74	8,330	0.0%	0	0	0	0
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		5,995	1,001	3,549	1,445
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				97		
Average Annual Days of Participation				20.98		
Total Annual Participation Days				127,799		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

RECREATION PARTICIPATION DATA

Football (Tackle)						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	36.6%	48.9%	14.5%
7-11	3,968	15.4%	611	224	299	89
12-17	4,605	39.6%	1,824	667	892	264
18-24	6,739	16.4%	1,105	405	540	160
25-34	7,808	13.5%	1,054	386	515	153
35-44	8,385	11.3%	948	347	463	137
45-54	7,486	3.0%	225	82	110	33
55-64	7,836	0.7%	55	20	27	8
65-74	8,330	0.0%	0	0	0	0
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		5,821	2,130	2,846	844
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				31.07		
Total Annual Participation Days				181,856		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA

Golf						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	12.6%	45.0%	42.4%
7-11	3,968	4.7%	186	23	84	79
12-17	4,605	4.9%	226	28	102	96
18-24	6,739	6.7%	452	57	203	191
25-34	7,808	14.7%	1,148	145	516	487
35-44	8,385	13.6%	1,140	144	513	484
45-54	7,486	15.4%	1,153	145	519	489
55-64	7,836	19.5%	1,528	193	688	648
65-74	8,330	15.5%	1,291	163	581	547
75+	7,725	5.0%	386	49	174	164
Total	62,882		7,510	946	3,380	3,184
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				20.09		
Total Annual Participation Days				151,525		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA

Football (Touch)						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	6.0%	37.8%	56.2%
7-11	3,968	19.4%	770	46	291	433
12-17	4,605	23.8%	1,096	66	414	616
18-24	6,739	13.2%	890	53	336	500
25-34	7,808	21.1%	1,647	99	623	926
35-44	8,385	12.1%	1,015	61	384	570
45-54	7,486	7.3%	546	33	207	307
55-64	7,836	2.5%	196	12	74	110
65-74	8,330	0.6%	50	3	19	28
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		6,210	373	2,347	3,490
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				12.97		
Total Annual Participation Days				81,377		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA

Kayaking						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	30.1%	33.8%	36.0%
7-11	3,968	6.4%	254	76	86	91
12-17	4,605	11.0%	507	152	171	182
18-24	6,739	12.1%	815	245	276	294
25-34	7,808	18.0%	1,405	423	475	506
35-44	8,385	15.3%	1,283	386	434	462
45-54	7,486	15.1%	1,130	340	382	407
55-64	7,836	13.7%	1,074	323	363	386
65-74	8,330	7.3%	608	183	206	219
75+	7,725	1.1%	85	26	29	31
Total	62,882		7,161	2,156	2,421	2,578
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				7.88		
Total Annual Participation Days				56,685		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA

RECREATION PARTICIPATION DATA

Lacrosse						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	3.8%	54.0%	42.2%
7-11	3,968	17.7%	702	27	379	296
12-17	4,605	36.2%	1,667	63	900	703
18-24	6,739	16.5%	1,112	42	600	469
25-34	7,808	13.4%	1,046	40	565	442
35-44	8,385	6.4%	537	20	290	226
45-54	7,486	6.1%	457	17	247	193
55-64	7,836	1.8%	141	5	76	60
65-74	8,330	0.0%	0	0	0	0
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		5,662	215	3,057	2,389
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				13.22		
Total Annual Participation Days				75,703		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Mountain Biking						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	4.9%	42.4%	52.6%
7-11	3,968	7.6%	302	15	128	159
12-17	4,605	13.1%	603	30	256	317
18-24	6,739	8.4%	566	28	240	298
25-34	7,808	22.2%	1,733	85	735	912
35-44	8,385	21.4%	1,794	88	761	944
45-54	7,486	15.5%	1,160	57	492	610
55-64	7,836	6.3%	494	24	209	260
65-74	8,330	5.4%	450	22	191	237
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		7,102	348	3,011	3,736
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				8.6		
Total Annual Participation Days				61,359		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Martial Arts						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	10.8%	63.5%	25.6%
7-11	3,968	19.2%	762	82	484	195
12-17	4,605	14.5%	668	72	424	171
18-24	6,739	13.6%	917	99	582	235
25-34	7,808	20.6%	1,608	174	1,021	412
35-44	8,385	16.0%	1,342	145	852	343
45-54	7,486	8.0%	599	65	380	153
55-64	7,836	6.3%	494	53	313	126
65-74	8,330	1.8%	150	16	95	38
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		6,539	706	4,152	1,674
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				97		
Average Annual Days of Participation				40.65		
Total Annual Participation Days				269,727		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Paintball						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	14.0%	41.7%	44.3%
7-11	3,968	9.0%	357	50	149	158
12-17	4,605	30.1%	1,386	194	578	614
18-24	6,739	16.2%	1,092	153	455	484
25-34	7,808	22.6%	1,765	247	736	782
35-44	8,385	10.5%	880	123	367	390
45-54	7,486	7.4%	554	78	231	245
55-64	7,836	3.1%	243	34	101	108
65-74	8,330	1.1%	92	13	38	41
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		6,368	892	2,656	2,821
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				8.15		
Total Annual Participation Days				52,166		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

RECREATION PARTICIPATION DATA

Pickleball						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	4.7%	62.5%	32.9%
7-11	3,968	6.8%	270	13	169	89
12-17	4,605	14.7%	677	32	423	223
18-24	6,739	12.8%	863	41	539	284
25-34	7,808	15.0%	1,171	55	732	385
35-44	8,385	12.5%	1,048	49	655	345
45-54	7,486	6.7%	502	24	313	165
55-64	7,836	11.7%	917	43	573	302
65-74	8,330	14.7%	1,225	58	765	403
75+	7,725	5.0%	386	18	241	127
Total	62,882		7,058	332	4,411	2,322
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				13.05		
Total Annual Participation Days				92,525		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Running/Jogging						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	20.1%	44.8%	35.1%
7-11	3,968	5.4%	214	43	96	75
12-17	4,605	10.7%	493	99	221	173
18-24	6,739	13.7%	923	186	414	324
25-34	7,808	24.6%	1,921	386	861	674
35-44	8,385	17.7%	1,484	298	665	521
45-54	7,486	14.1%	1,056	212	473	370
55-64	7,836	9.0%	705	142	316	248
65-74	8,330	4.0%	333	67	149	117
75+	7,725	0.7%	54	11	24	19
Total	62,882		7,183	1,444	3,218	2,521
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				68.39		
Total Annual Participation Days				495,669		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Pilates						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	37.2%	24.5%	38.3%
7-11	3,968	0.9%	36	13	9	14
12-17	4,605	3.8%	175	65	43	67
18-24	6,739	10.5%	708	263	173	271
25-34	7,808	25.4%	1,983	738	486	760
35-44	8,385	18.2%	1,526	568	374	584
45-54	7,486	15.0%	1,123	418	275	430
55-64	7,836	14.4%	1,128	420	276	432
65-74	8,330	9.4%	783	291	192	300
75+	7,725	2.4%	185	69	45	71
Total	62,882		7,647	2,845	1,874	2,929
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				0		
Average Annual Days of Participation				41.44		
Total Annual Participation Days				316,904		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Skateboarding						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	21.1%	28.4%	50.5%
7-11	3,968	19.3%	766	162	217	387
12-17	4,605	30.0%	1,382	291	392	698
18-24	6,739	31.1%	2,096	442	595	1,058
25-34	7,808	18.7%	1,460	308	415	737
35-44	8,385	6.8%	570	120	162	288
45-54	7,486	2.9%	217	46	62	110
55-64	7,836	1.3%	102	21	29	51
65-74	8,330	0.0%	0	0	0	0
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		6,592	1,391	1,872	3,329
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				32		
Average Annual Days of Participation				14.82		
Total Annual Participation Days				98,177		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

RECREATION PARTICIPATION DATA

Soccer						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	18.2%	50.9%	30.9%
7-11	3,968	27.0%	1,071	195	545	331
12-17	4,605	24.4%	1,124	204	572	347
18-24	6,739	15.4%	1,038	189	528	321
25-34	7,808	19.3%	1,507	274	767	466
35-44	8,385	9.0%	755	137	384	233
45-54	7,486	3.1%	232	42	118	72
55-64	7,836	1.5%	118	21	60	36
65-74	8,330	0.3%	25	5	13	8
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		5,869	1,068	2,987	1,814
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				161		
Average Annual Days of Participation				23.31		
Total Annual Participation Days				140,563		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Swimming						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	7.4%	33.4%	59.2%
7-11	3,968	13.1%	520	38	174	308
12-17	4,605	13.6%	626	46	209	371
18-24	6,739	8.7%	586	43	196	347
25-34	7,808	10.9%	851	63	284	504
35-44	8,385	12.1%	1,015	75	339	601
45-54	7,486	12.9%	966	71	323	572
55-64	7,836	14.5%	1,136	84	379	673
65-74	8,330	11.6%	966	72	323	572
75+	7,725	2.6%	201	15	67	119
Total	62,882		6,867	508	2,294	4,065
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				37.16		
Total Annual Participation Days				257,577		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Softball						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	17.7%	47.8%	34.5%
7-11	3,968	16.0%	635	112	303	219
12-17	4,605	22.0%	1,013	179	484	350
18-24	6,739	8.6%	580	103	277	200
25-34	7,808	14.7%	1,148	203	549	396
35-44	8,385	13.9%	1,166	206	557	402
45-54	7,486	12.5%	936	166	447	323
55-64	7,836	9.2%	721	128	345	249
65-74	8,330	3.1%	258	46	123	89
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		6,456	1,143	3,086	2,227
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				97		
Average Annual Days of Participation				20.14		
Total Annual Participation Days				131,966		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Table Tennis						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	15.6%	53.4%	31.0%
7-11	3,968	8.2%	325	51	174	101
12-17	4,605	12.6%	580	91	310	180
18-24	6,739	17.2%	1,159	181	619	359
25-34	7,808	19.2%	1,499	234	801	465
35-44	8,385	12.9%	1,082	169	578	335
45-54	7,486	12.6%	943	147	504	292
55-64	7,836	8.9%	697	109	372	216
65-74	8,330	6.6%	550	86	294	170
75+	7,725	1.9%	147	23	78	46
Total	62,882		6,983	1,089	3,729	2,165
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				9.49		
Total Annual Participation Days				66,878		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

RECREATION PARTICIPATION DATA

Tennis						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	16.2%	70.8%	13.0%
7-11	3,968	7.3%	290	47	205	38
12-17	4,605	13.6%	626	101	443	81
18-24	6,739	12.3%	829	134	587	108
25-34	7,808	19.8%	1,546	250	1,095	201
35-44	8,385	15.2%	1,275	206	902	166
45-54	7,486	13.5%	1,011	164	716	131
55-64	7,836	9.7%	760	123	538	99
65-74	8,330	6.8%	566	92	401	74
75+	7,725	1.8%	139	23	98	18
Total	62,882		7,042	1,141	4,985	915
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				16.55		
Total Annual Participation Days				117,605		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Weightlifting						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	28.3%	51.2%	20.5%
7-11	3,968	0.8%	32	9	16	7
12-17	4,605	5.7%	262	74	134	54
18-24	6,739	10.4%	701	198	359	144
25-34	7,808	19.8%	1,546	438	792	317
35-44	8,385	18.0%	1,509	427	773	309
45-54	7,486	18.4%	1,377	390	705	282
55-64	7,836	13.4%	1,050	297	538	215
65-74	8,330	11.0%	916	259	469	188
75+	7,725	2.5%	193	55	99	40
Total	62,882		7,587	2,147	3,885	1,555
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				0		
Average Annual Days of Participation				86.96		
Total Annual Participation Days				659,787		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Volleyball						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	45.0%	33.5%	21.5%
7-11	3,968	13.0%	516	232	173	111
12-17	4,605	25.6%	1,179	530	395	253
18-24	6,739	16.8%	1,132	509	379	243
25-34	7,808	20.5%	1,601	720	536	344
35-44	8,385	10.8%	906	408	303	195
45-54	7,486	8.1%	606	273	203	130
55-64	7,836	4.9%	384	173	129	83
65-74	8,330	0.3%	25	11	8	5
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		6,348	2,857	2,127	1,365
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				23.44		
Total Annual Participation Days				150,318		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Work Out At Club/Gym/Fitness Studio						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	31.9%	43.8%	24.2%
7-11	3,968	1.0%	40	13	17	10
12-17	4,605	5.2%	239	76	105	58
18-24	6,739	11.6%	782	249	342	189
25-34	7,808	20.8%	1,624	518	711	393
35-44	8,385	15.8%	1,325	423	580	321
45-54	7,486	15.6%	1,168	373	512	283
55-64	7,836	13.3%	1,042	332	456	252
65-74	8,330	13.2%	1,100	351	482	266
75+	7,725	3.4%	263	84	115	64
Total	62,882		7,582	2,419	3,321	1,835
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				0		
Average Annual Days of Participation				89.62		
Total Annual Participation Days				679,496		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

RECREATION PARTICIPATION DATA

Wrestling						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	14.5%	38.1%	47.4%
7-11	3,968	18.3%	726	105	277	344
12-17	4,605	28.7%	1,322	192	504	626
18-24	6,739	17.6%	1,186	172	452	562
25-34	7,808	20.0%	1,562	226	595	740
35-44	8,385	8.1%	679	98	259	322
45-54	7,486	5.0%	374	54	143	177
55-64	7,836	2.2%	172	25	66	82
65-74	8,330	0.0%	0	0	0	0
75+	7,725	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	62,882		6,021	873	2,294	2,854
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				15.49		
Total Annual Participation Days				94,269		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Did Not Participate						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
7-11	3,968	8.0%	317	0	0	0
12-17	4,605	9.1%	419	0	0	0
18-24	6,739	10.1%	681	0	0	0
25-34	7,808	11.6%	906	0	0	0
35-44	8,385	12.3%	1,031	0	0	0
45-54	7,486	15.0%	1,123	0	0	0
55-64	7,836	15.0%	1,175	0	0	0
65-74	8,330	13.5%	1,125	0	0	0
75+	7,725	5.5%	425	0	0	0
Total	62,882		7,202	0	0	0
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				64		
Average Annual Days of Participation				0		
Total Annual Participation Days				0		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

Yoga						
Age Group	Total Pop	Participation		Frequency		
		by Age Group		Frequent	Occasional	Infrequent
		%	#	27.7%	43.1%	15.4%
7-11	3,968	3.1%	123	34	53	19
12-17	4,605	9.1%	419	116	181	65
18-24	6,739	10.1%	681	189	293	105
25-34	7,808	11.6%	906	251	390	139
35-44	8,385	12.3%	1,031	286	445	159
45-54	7,486	15.0%	1,123	311	484	173
55-64	7,836	15.0%	1,175	326	507	181
65-74	8,330	13.5%	1,125	312	485	173
75+	7,725	5.5%	425	118	183	65
Total	62,882		7,008	1,941	3,020	1,079
Factor for Children Aged 3 to 6				0		
Average Annual Days of Participation				32.26		
Total Annual Participation Days				226,062		
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, ESRI BIS forecasts for 2026, NSGA, MFA						

The notes below summarize all feedback received through the public input process via public meeting notes and comments, emails, phonecalls, and through interviews with targeted stakeholder groups.

Big Themes and Needs We Heard

Organize and harness the energy of volunteers, activate waterfront with mix of uses, consider rental housing to attract and retain young people, add trails, consider Conservation District, add splash pads, consider transportation to increase recreation participation, complete trail loop around Basin 2, develop Fairview Park Master Plan, create vision for future of Scovill Park West, money is out there for programming: figure out how to utilize it.

Stakeholder Group Feedback

DPD Board

Stacey Young, Chris Harrison, Kristin White, Bob Brilley, Matt Whitehead, Jack Kenny

Community outreach is critical, make sure to reach as many people as possible for input. Inner-city parks are priority. Splash pad instead of pool. Neighborhood parks and community leaders are key. Master Plan for Fairview like Nelson had. Focus on new residents and young people, pre-kid. Transportation and connection between parks and activities. Walking paths and soccer.

DPD Staff

Airport, Police, Marketing (Karalee), Foundation and Sponsorship (Jill), DISC (Jamie), Finance (Kristin), Operations (Clay), Director (Bill)

First airshow in 25 years this August. 5 police officers with 125 years experience. Parks with police concern: Lions, Nelson, Fairview. Biggest issue cannabis, drinking, vandalism, mini-bikes. Need better measurement of free activities. Advertising banquet facilities. Pull together all rental facilities under one umbrella? Measures success on engagement and revenue generation. Ask for community feedback more often. Staffing is huge challenge. Consider: Shift focus from new stuff to maintaining and refreshing what we already have. Scovill as activity center? Long-term financial stability: impact of minimum wage increase could be \$175-200k/year. Census will likely tick under 70k which reduces funding. Think about trails and outdoor fitness, not new huge projects. Consider uses for Garfield.

Economic Development Corporation

Nicole Bateman, President

Think of Decatur as a port: airport, trains, highway. Business attraction and retention. Stem population decline. Marketing and promotion to overcome misconceptions and the, 'it's good enough for Decatur' attitude. Lakefront activity is key. Devon is great. Need mixed-use live/play/work. Community ambassadors. Neighborhood revitalization. Housing needed for young people, rentals needed.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

Audubon

Melody Arnold and Margaret Evans

Fairview Park for focused projects like Audubon Hill. Could connect to existing bike trails. Scovill as conservation area. Native plants, invasive removal. Grant available for honeysuckle removal, success at Lincoln Park. Girl Scout and Boy Scout Camp, Sportsman Park could be part of kayak trail. Macon County has Conservation District. Use technology to educate.

Neighborhood Groups

Joyce Keller, United Neighbors OKO; Brad Berry, CONO; Jason Butterick, Clokey Park; Sue Lawson and Sue Barnhart, GM; Francie Johnson, Fans Field; Jason Pealer, GANO; Kenneth Laundra, Torrence

Let us help! Jasper has challenges, neighborhoods want to take over Clokey, bike trails through neighborhoods. Coates park could use more programming such as volleyball and programs with police/fire for youth (what to do when pulled over, for example).

Pickleball

Pegger Fisher, Paul Carlton

Cresthaven needs parking, Southshores needs lights. Year-round and multi-purpose use. Disc golf rental equipment needed.

Wren's Gate

Becky Newton

Natural areas require management. Baseball consolidation has been good. Neighborhood parks important. Connect Scovill to system as conservation area. Consider Conservation District overlay. There is need for forestry department.

Children's Museum

Abby Koester, CEO and interim president

Zoo needs efficient and affordable transportation, closest bus stop is Muffley School. Free Thursdays could be free shuttle days? Soccer, various classes and programs could get kids back in parks. Art/imaginative play pieces, partnership with Arts Council. More young professional activities like Mini-golf glow night. Loop around Basin 2 would be great, not safe for pedestrians now. Waterfront development is key.

Chamber of Commerce and Brinkoetter Real Estate

Tom Brinkoetter, Mirinda Rothrock

Lake homes sell fast after dredging. Focus on school district improvements to compete with people who move to Mt Zion and Forsyth for schools. Need housing rentals! Parks are great recruitment tool. Loves Devon. Opportunity for marina with boat rentals. Consider sale of leftover pieces of lakefront property to existing homeowners to get that land back on tax roll.

Decatur Block by Block and Decatur in Bloom

Ellen Hearn

Loves Devon, bike trails, Splash Cove. Bike rentals at trailheads. DPD needs volunteer database. GS Camp could be sold for development to support parks. Splash pads instead of pools. Play areas need shade and wifi. Trails need water, litter for dogs and recycle bins. Consider Friends of Park group. Consider a Volunteer Recognition Night at the Devon. Consider young leaders, school require service points. Consider partnerships with local employers. Clokey Park needs firepit and benches, tetherball. Program pricing is too low for non-residents.

Beautify Decatur

Jill Davis and Susan Avery

Litter removal is key to image. Main entries into town should be focus. They have very active social media presence. Focus on lakefront with food trucks, shops, pop up stores, rentals, boat rides.

Millikin University

Jim Reynolds, President

DPD is vibrant and supportive presence. Focus on items that attract residents: health care, employment, education, recreation. Durfee/Garfield could be connected to Millikin, could be rentals or senior housing. Need incentives to get young people to live here. Bike trails are great.

City Council/Biking Community

Chuck Kuhle

Expand urban bike lanes. Consider sale of Scovill for development if that supports PDP long-term goals. Need bike path to water park. Basin 2 loop would be great.

Conservation

Kristin Ragusa

Need Conservation District. Scovill as conservation area: Oak Savannah is very rare.

Tate & Lyle

Jennifer Walker, Global Community Relations

Focus on partnerships, coordination of volunteer groups. Young professionals groups. How to recruit young people and keep them here. Accessibility for all families. School programs, lunch, and transportation. Diversity and inclusion

Bike Decatur

Greg Crowe, City Planning and Development; Cordaryl Patrick (Pat), City Director of Community Development; Cheryl Sharp and Katie Shackelford, Lochmueller Group Transportation; Tim Gustafson and Cody McChane, Epstein Construction

Partnerships with neighborhood groups, City/DPD turn over some programming/maintenance to these groups. People have energy and time but not all the skills or funding, need assistance. Link Fairview/Scovill/Nelson as priority. Focus on larger parks to attract and keep people here. Invest in major connectors but start small to gain momentum. City can help with grant funding. Consider Friends of Park groups. Conservation District. Pump tracks and mt bike trails. Loop around basin 2.

Golf Program

Ben Irwin, Andy Potts, Greg Foley, Brett Oxley

Would be nice to have enclosed facility at Red Tail for rentals/events. Junior program is solid. Over 29k rounds last year at Red Tail and about 25k at Hickory. Need to get new golfers and get existing golfers out more. Encourage new golfers not to keep score. Foot golf is not helping bring people to sport. Stay and Play packages are good. They need resources to maintain high standards that impress visitors from Chicago (low rates for the quality). Need more restrooms, Tesla charging stations, golf simulator with food and alcohol.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

Park District Foundation
Brian Byers

Foundation would like more involvement in appointing DPD Board and helping with leadership transition plan. ADM has made huge investments, zero emissions within 5 years. Scovill should be year-round park, e-gaming and digital rec, Dennis Lab School? Partner with Millikin, 100s of kids do low tech farm and agri-business camp.

City Manager
Scot Wrighton

Focus on bike plan. Great job with big parks, more priority on small parks. Clean up little scrap properties around lake. GIS team tracks every parcel. Development adjacencies. Garfield/Oak Grove/Old King George neighborhood

Boys & Girls Club
Shamika Bond

Need more programs for young ladies such as dance and ballet. Current barriers to kids playing in parks are lack of childcare for littles during second shift (evenings), transportation, temptations of screens. Wi-fi in parks with comfy seating would get kids out and help with school work! Juneteenth collab with DPD has been very successful, example of how to make partnership work successfully. Need improved communication on how local groups can rent parks and facilities.

Juneteenth Group
Tat (Terrence Anthony Taylor)

To get minority kids more active, they need leadership that looks like them. Bring back a Yellow Hats program in key parks like Hess or Fairview, they serve a large number of kids in walking distance. Park rangers should be older teens who are “cool” and fun and attract the younger kids. Keep it simple, make it safe and fun. Provide food and equipment. To get the word out, may need local leaders to go door to door. South Side Sundays were very successful. Volunteer network, or phone tree would be very valuable.

Decatur Public Schools
Denise Swarthout, Chief Communications Officer

DPD offers lunch in summer 6 days/week to offset school lunch program. This is district-wide and they delivery 2 meals/day to homes! Their biggest challenge is expanding access and communication. Priorities for parks should include basketball courts (this gives teen boys something to do), free wi-fi with shaded seating for online school work (they provide ipads to students but many have poor wi-fi), safe bike routes to school. She will share the Decatur Bike Plan with her people.

Greenwood Area Neighborhood Org (GANO)
Jason Pealer, President

Coates Park is their neighborhood park, they would like a walking path in the green space, basketball court updates and sand volleyball. He suggested programs where police work with youth on things like ‘what to do when pulled over’. To improve access they need a safer crosswalk at Decatur and Church Streets.

Public Visioning Session, 4/21/21

Notes on priorities: Bike trails, connections, identify which are the underused parks, could transfer ownership

Current and Potential Partners

- Limitless Decatur, through EDC
- Beautify Decatur
- Community Ambassadors
- Grow Decatur (no longer around?)
- Block by Block
- Decatur in Bloom
- Inside Out program
- United Way: Debbie Bogle
- Community Foundation: Natalie Beck

Accomplishments

- 2020 Class IV NRPA Gold Medal Award
- Nelson Park: Overlook Adventure Park, Splash Cove
- Lakeshore Landing
- Devon G Buffett Amphitheater
- ADA Plan
- Scovill Sculpture Park
- Soccer lights
- Eagle exhibit at Zoo
- Grant Park loop trail

Public Meeting to Review Input to Date, 8/2/21

See public response to interactive boards, following pages.

Draft Plan Public Presentation, 3/29/22

Notes: for Scovill Park West, use Morton Arboretum in Chicago as inspiration. No mow doesn't mean no maintenance! Consider invasive plant management. Ziplining as potential activity in Scovill Park West.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

PRIORITIES
(place a green sticker by your favorites, a red sticker by any that you don't agree with)

- 1. Encourage use of existing city-owned trails to connect or extend trails and create a network for common users. Provide resources for these people.
- 2. Add more water features and splash pads that keep children safe and fun to play. Encourage splash pads for young people and families.
- 3. Provide a variety of trails including cycling, water trails.
- 4. Consider use of Conservation District to manage the Park District's natural areas.
- 5. Support park in City of Decatur, consider fees for additional outdoor pool.
- 6. Encourage use of existing outdoor water features to create splash pads.
- 7. Encourage grant funding programming. Help other programs.
- 8. Encourage grant funding for trail expansion.
- 9. Encourage use of existing splash pads to create splash pads.
- 10. Encourage use of existing splash pads to create splash pads.
- 11. Encourage use of existing splash pads to create splash pads.
- 12. Encourage use of existing splash pads to create splash pads.
- 13. Encourage use of existing splash pads to create splash pads.
- 14. Encourage use of existing splash pads to create splash pads.
- 15. Encourage use of existing splash pads to create splash pads.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

SPECIFIC PROJECTS MENTIONED

- Enhance Park House Plaza
- Complete the second Earth Day concert at Nelson Zoo, Children's Museum, Westpark
- South Park House Plaza, which could open up more space from Oak Street and provide a mix of uses, including dog park and space for parking lots
- Some small improvements at South Park, such as dog park, bike racks, etc.
- Other improvements at various other parks, including the stadium
- Gravel Park in west of downtown, possibly toward old parking lot
- Fabulous Hill at Fairview
- Look to grant for environmental management of all parks with natural areas
- Programs for police and youth to work together
- Crosswalk, improvements and walking path at Cooper Park
- South of downtown, possibly for parking lots
- Preserve the golf course in park
- Preserve an existing structure in park, possibly historic building
- Create an inter-city partnership with Children's Museum, etc.
- More water fountains for toddlers, toddlers, playground at Nelson Marina
- Bike rentals on the beach
- Remove bike racks and their removal at Children's
- Update various other facilities with bike racks
- More trails and more amenities
- More trails and amenities at various other parks
- Bring back the new Hill program at Nelson Fairview

add your own:

Water pool
Nelson Park go-karts
Bicycle racks on Vinland bridge
at north Country Club
Solar Energy
Go-Green

WHAT YOU LOVE

Summer youth program
Yellow flag program
Events throughout
The Park District our "public works people"

add your own:

Go Green
restoration of Nelson

CHALLENGES

- 45 parks, 5 sports complexes, 2 golf courses, 11 libraries, 200+ acres of land. Decatur's population would typically support a 2/3 of full this size, which compared to national standards
- Only 1/3 of Decatur's operating budget comes from users
- Population declining, forecasted by 2030, if population falls below 730,000, funding could be reduced. In 2019, population was 70,746.
- Decatur households below poverty level in 2019 were at 20.7%, 11.2% higher than national average.
- Increase in crime and safety issues at Park District from 2017-2018 are on track
- More training, quality child care options for second shift workers, which means additional government funding and not just up to the government

add your own:

PUBLIC SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS

We're currently halfway to our goal of 500 survey responses. At this point, results show that District Park District ranks high across ratings from residents (consistent with statewide benchmark for all State of Illinois park districts).



Top Strengths and Improvement Opportunities (Open-ended feedback)



Most reports very positive experiences at local parks & trails and District District reported a good value.



Nearly 9 out of 10 local residents at District Park District park use facilities.



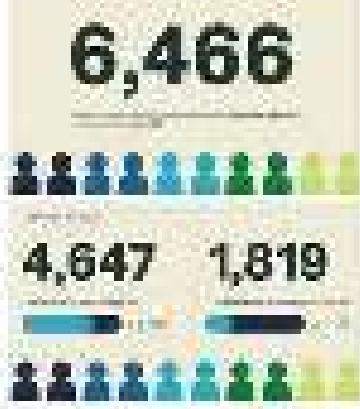
MARKET RESEARCH SUMMARY

ACTYRES: The process of gathering information from people and using it to make decisions about the future.

Category	Item	Rating	Notes
Parks & Recreation	Trail Maintenance	High	Consistent with benchmark
	Program Diversity	Medium	Needs improvement
	Staff Availability	Low	Major concern
	Facility Condition	High	Well-maintained
	Program Quality	Medium	Good but needs more
	Staff Training	Low	Needs development
	Program Cost	Medium	Reasonable
	Staff Safety	High	Well-protected
	Program Access	Medium	Some barriers
	Staff Turnover	Low	Retention issues
Program Innovation	Medium	Needs fresh ideas	
Community & Events	Event Frequency	High	Regular events
	Event Quality	Medium	Good but needs more
	Event Diversity	Low	Limited variety
	Event Staffing	Low	Needs more staff
	Event Cost	Medium	Reasonable
	Event Access	Medium	Some barriers
	Event Marketing	Low	Needs promotion
	Event Safety	High	Well-protected
	Event Innovation	Medium	Needs fresh ideas
	Event Staff Training	Low	Needs development



Visuals: The District Park District displays a variety of parks and trails, including trails, and other recreational facilities. The District Park District is a great place to visit.



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COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR THE DECATUR PARK DISTRICT

OCTOBER, 2021

aQity Research & Insights

Evanston, IL





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Research Methods

- These findings are based on a random sample of n=402 Decatur households.
- Data collection was between July 12 and September 9, 2021. The printed survey and/or postcard invitations for the online survey option were sent by USPS to a random sample of over 18,000 Decatur households. Outreach to a variety of organizations throughout the City was also made to encourage their members and constituents who received a survey invitation to participate. All mailings included options to complete the survey by mail, online, or phone.



- A copy of the questionnaire is provided in the Appendix.
- This respondent sample was weighted to match updated US Census data for Decatur (by region, gender, age, ethnicity, and percentage of households with children). Assuming no sample bias, the margin of error is +/- 4.0% (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 response.

Methods: Sample Demographics

Gender*

Male	48%
Female	52%
Prefer to self-describe	< 1%

Age*

< 35	19%
35-44	18%
45-54	15%
55-64	19%
65+	29%
<i>Mean (years)</i>	<i>53</i>

Children in Household*

Yes	30%
No	70%

Length of Residence in Decatur

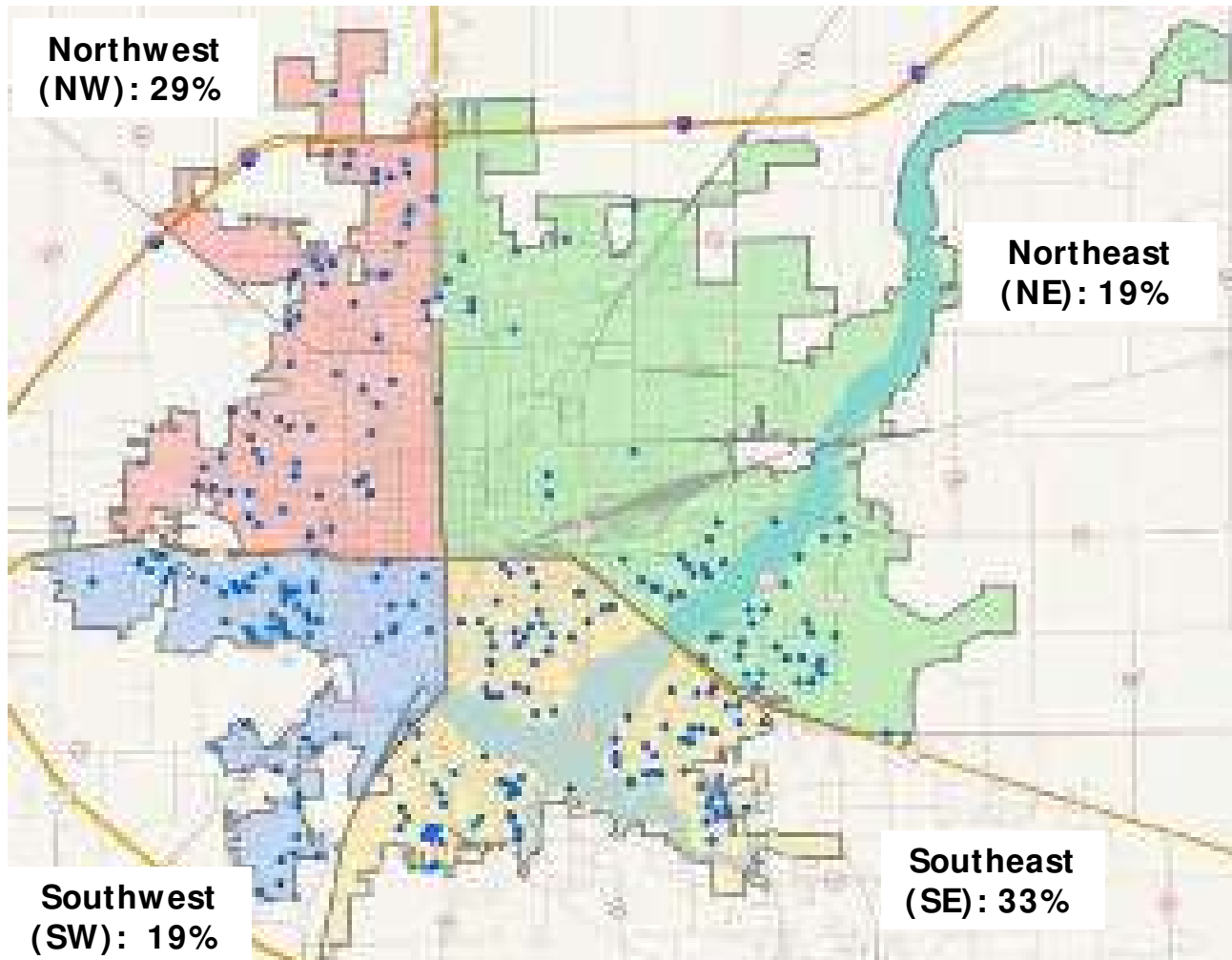
< 5 yrs.	10%
5-9 yrs.	9%
10-19 yrs.	15%
20-29 yrs.	12%
30+ yrs.	54%
<i>Mean (years)</i>	<i>33</i>

Ethnicity*

White/Caucasian	78%
Hispanic	3%
Asian	1%
Black/ African American	16%
Other	2%

* Weighted to 2019 Census data.

Methods: Sample Demographics *



Executive Summary: Key Findings

Overall Opinions

Residents Hold the DPD in Very Positive Overall Esteem

- On a zero through ten rating scale, the DPD averages a very positive score of 7.2, which matches the statewide benchmark for all Illinois agencies as well as overall esteem for the Macon County Conservation District. *< pg. 15 >*
 - The DPD's score is significantly higher than overall opinion of the City of Decatur and Macon County Government (both receiving neutral scores on average), and School District # 61 (slightly negative ratings).
- The ratio of favorable to unfavorable opinions of the Park District is 7:1.
 - Three in four (77%) give positive ratings, including 36% who are completely satisfied with the District (scores of 9+ on a 0-10 scale).
 - Still, one in nine residents (11%) give negative ratings.
- These strong scores for the District tend to come from all regions and segments, with SW giving the highest ratings on average (7.7) and NE region giving the lowest (6.7 – still favorable). *< pg. 16 >*

Similarly, the District is Considered a “Good” Overall Value

- When informed that 38% of the DPD's overall budget comes from property taxes, residents rate it's value a 6.3 on average on a 0-10 scale (considered “good”). *< pp. 31-32 >*
 - Three in five (60%) rate it a “good” to “excellent” value, vs. 21% who feel it is a poor value. The remaining 19% give neutral/average ratings overall.
 - Higher ratings come from SW region and women, while lower (still positive) value scores come from men, the NE and SE regions, and non-white residents.
- In a separate question, residents estimate that 25% of the DPDs budget is funded by property taxes. *< pg. 30 >*

Overall Opinions: Perceived Strengths and Weaknesses (open-ended)

DPD Parks/ Trails are Considered its Biggest Strengths, Followed by Facilities and Programs/ Events

- When asked what they like most about the Decatur Park District and what represents its strengths, nearly nine in ten offered a response, most often its parks and trails (cited by 48%, especially their level of maintenance/upkeep, good walking and biking trails, and the number or variety of parks). *< pp. 17-22 >*
- Nearly as many (38%) cite DPD facilities as a top positive, usually Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Splash Cove Waterpark, Scovill Zoo and Park, and the golf courses.
- One in four (25%) most like the programs and events, especially the variety of activities, youth programming in particular, and special events.

One in Five Could Not Identify Any Weaknesses or Improvement Needs for the District

- In a separate open-ended question, 22% were either unfamiliar with any concerns or needs regarding the DPD (17%) or said there is nothing they dislike at all (5%). The rest most often suggested: *< pp. 23-29 >*
 - Administrative improvements (41%), most often better communications and outreach, more equitable opportunities/resources through the community, increased security at parks/facilities, and consistent enforcement of policies.
 - Overall, 4% volunteered that the District should sell some of its land (e.g., pro-development responses, lakefront property specifically).
 - Parks/Trails improvements (28%), mostly better maintenance, more trails/connectivity, more or upgraded playgrounds, etc.
 - Facilities (23%), usually more pools, better maintenance, more golf courses
 - Programming and events (19%), especially for youth and community events.
- Only 8% cite fees or costs as a negative or needed improvement.

Recent Visits to Facilities and Parks

Overall, 90% of Respondents Report Visits to DPD Parks, Trails, Facilities or Nature Areas in the Past 18 Months

- A majority of respondents said that they or someone in their household have been to or visited:
 - Fairview Park (75% -- visited most often for its trails, proximity to one's home, variety of activities, pond, and pavilions)
 - Nelson Park (61% - usually for variety of activities/features, proximity, lakefront)
 - Scovill Zoo and Park (57% -- usually as a great destination for children/families, great zoo/animal viewing, train, friendly staff)
 - Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater (55% -- cited for great events and artists, atmosphere/location, clean and well-maintained).

- Nearly half have also use the trail connecting Fairview Park and Rock Springs Park (47% -- most often considered scenic, close to residents, well-maintained).
 - Other parks, trails, and/or facilities are cited by about a third (32%) of respondents or fewer.
 - DPD nature areas receive the lowest levels of self-reported usage (8% for Big Creek Park, fewer for remaining locations).

< pp. 34-39 and 44-47 >

Satisfaction with Recent Facility/ Park Visits and Usage

COVID-19 Has Resulted in More Visits to Some DPD Locations, Fewer Visitors to Others

- About a third (35%) report using or visiting specific Park District destinations more frequently since the COVID-19 pandemic started about eighteen months ago, usually parks (especially Fairview, Nelson, Scovill Park West) and trails (Fairview Park to Rock Springs Park or to Greendell Park, Nelson Trail). *< pp. 48-50 >*
- Nearly as many (30% overall) report fewer visits to DPD destinations during that timeframe, not surprisingly mostly to facilities such as Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Beach House Restaurant, DISC, Scovill Zoo and Park, and Overlook Adventure Park.

Recent Users/ Visitors Continue to be Extremely Satisfied with These Facilities and Parks

- When recent visitors to DPD parks, trails, nature areas and facilities rate their satisfaction with these locations, at least four out of five are satisfied with the: *< pp. 40-41 >*
 - Overall experience (82% satisfied, including 42% completely satisfied)
 - Cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep of these locations (80%, including 39% completely satisfied)
 - Overall accessibility including parking, paths and entrances (82%, including 39% complete satisfied).
- Separately 88% of residents feel “very” (37%) or “somewhat” safe (51%) visiting DPD parks and facilities. *< pg. 43 >*
- Any specific concerns or complaints – usually at the most visited locations -- mostly center around: *< pg. 42 >*
 - Need for greater cleanliness and upkeep (litter, goose droppings, bathrooms)
 - Safety concerns (especially on trails, paths)

Interest and Unmet Needs: Specific Outdoor Facility/ Amenities Assessment

From a List of Outdoor Improvements/ Amenities, Trails Are By Far The Top Priority

- A clear majority express an interest or need for walking and biking trails (78%), with at least a third also expressing interest or need in:
 - Outdoor performance venue (45%)
 - Outdoor pool (38%)
 - Watersport rentals, such as kayaks and paddle boats (38%)
 - Playgrounds (36%).
- The next tier of outdoor facilities (based on demand) include:
 - Adventure park activities (31%)
 - Electric go-karts (30%)
 - Golf (28%)
 - Outdoor ice rink during the winter (27%)
- Most of the top priorities, especially trails, golf, performance venue, playgrounds and adventure park activities, are already seen as sufficiently available relative to their levels of demand.
- The improvements representing a “gap” (meaning relatively higher demand that is not being met) include outdoor pool, watersport rentals, electric go-carts, or an outdoor ice rink.
 - The remaining items tested register lower levels of interest or demand (e.g., off-road ATV course, outdoor turf fields, outdoor basketball courts).
- When asked which facilities should represent top priorities for the DPD, trails again emerges as the # 1 selection, followed by playgrounds, outdoor pool, performance venue, and watersport rentals.

< pp. 53-55 >

< pg. 56 >

< pp. 57-59 >

Interest and Unmet Needs: Specific Indoor Facility/ Amenities Assessment

Residents Are More Divided on Which Indoor Improvements/ Amenities Are Top Priorities

- From a separate list of indoor facilities or amenities, just over half (53%) express a need or interest in an indoor fitness and sports center. Roughly a third also voice interest or need for: *< pp. 61-62 >*
 - Rental space for private events (34%)
 - An arts center (31%)
 - Senior Activity Center (29%)
- An indoor ice rink is of interest to 24% overall, and an eSports facility generates interest among 15%.
- Most of these indoor facilities or improvements represent more of a “gap” between the level of demand vs. the availability of these amenities currently. *< pg. 63 >*
 - Just under half of those interested in an indoor fitness and sports center feel their need/demand is mostly or completely being met (44%). However, the data suggests that residents who express a need for an indoor fitness and sports center tend to live in the SE region, so distance from DISC may be their biggest issue.
 - Of the remaining indoor facilities tested, the “gap” is biggest among those interested in rental space, an arts center, or a senior activity center (suggesting a lack of awareness among these existing opportunities).
- In terms of top priorities, indoor fitness/sports facility still ranks # 1. A facility for competitive eSports is least important. *< pp. 64-65 >*

Program Ideas, Preferred DPD Communications Sources, and Foundation Awareness

Those Offering Suggested Programming Ideas Tend to Focus on Physical Activities Across All Ages

- Overall, 29% gave suggestions or ideas for age-specific programming, with active and physical activities as the top recommendation across virtually all ages and populations.
- Outdoor recreational options tend to be focused more among younger residents (pre-teens and teens), while arts and music programs tend to emerge more often among older adults.

< pp. 67-68 >

The DPD Website is the “Go-To” Source for District Information, Followed by Word-of-Mouth

- When seeking information about the Park District and its programs, parks, facilities or offerings, at least half rely on the DPD website (59%) or information from friends, family, neighbors, etc. (50%).
 - Social media ranked third at 40%, and Facebook is by far the most preferred platform (favored at least five times more often over Instagram, YouTube, or Twitter).
 - The remaining sources include the printed DPD activity guide (30%), the print or online versions of the Herald & Review (23%), information posted at DPD facilities (21%), local television (21%) or by calling the DPD office or its facilities (20%).

< pp. 70-75 >

Awareness of the Decatur Parks Foundation Remains Low

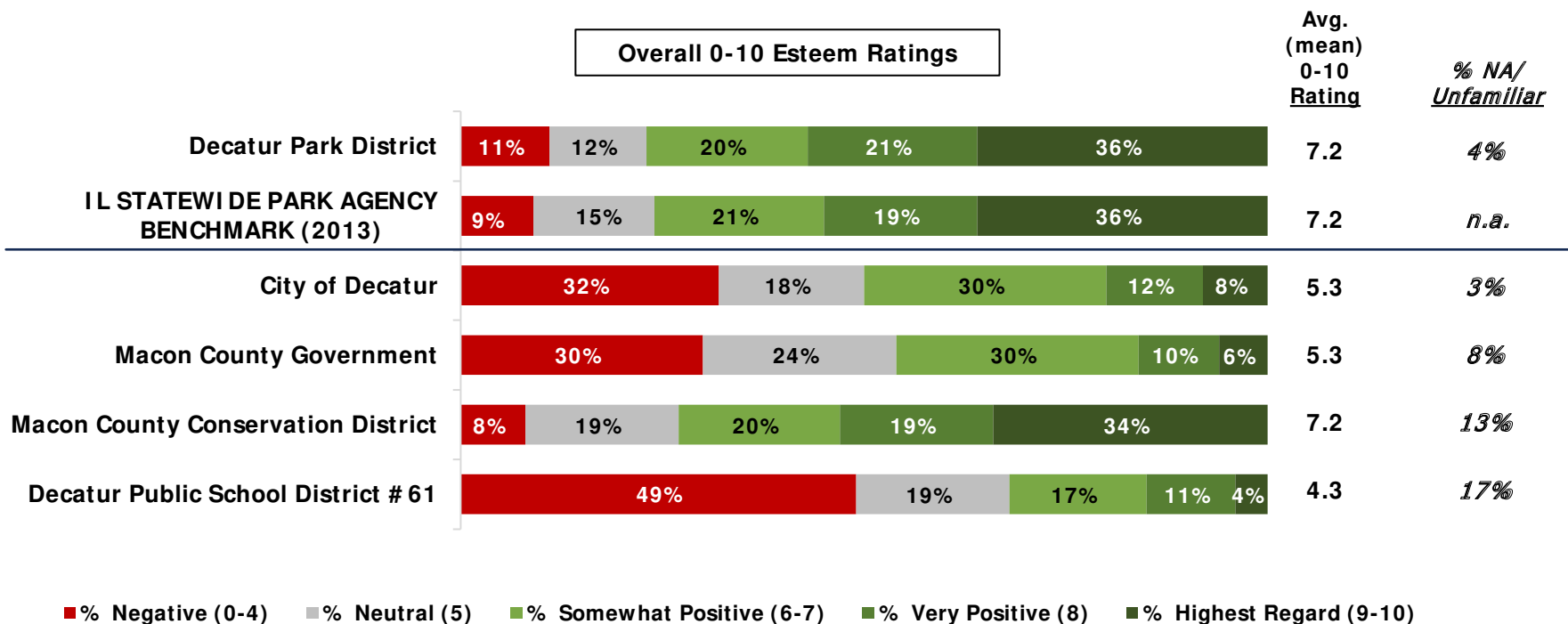
- One in four respondents (25%) report being familiar with the Foundation, but most of this awareness is “soft” (21% “somewhat” familiar, vs. only 4% “very” familiar).
- Nearly half (45%) are “not at all familiar”, and another 30% are “not very familiar” (totally 75% overall).

< pg. 77 >

I. Overall Opinions

The Decatur Park District receives one of the highest overall ratings among public agencies, with a majority (77%) giving it favorable scores overall.

- On a 0-10 scale, its average 7.2 rating is considered very positive and is in line with overall esteem scores for the Macon County Conservation District (along with a statewide benchmark of all parks agencies conducted in 2013). The DPD's ratio of favorable-to-unfavorable ratings is 7:1.
- By comparison, residents give the City of Decatur and the Macon County Government neutral ratings overall, each averaging 5.3 on a 0-10 scale, with a favorable-to-unfavorable ratio of about 1.5:1. Residents are least satisfied with the school district (49% giving negative ratings, vs. 31% hold it in positive regard).



Ratings for local agencies differ most by age and region, with SW region and adults ages 65+ tending to give higher than average scores.

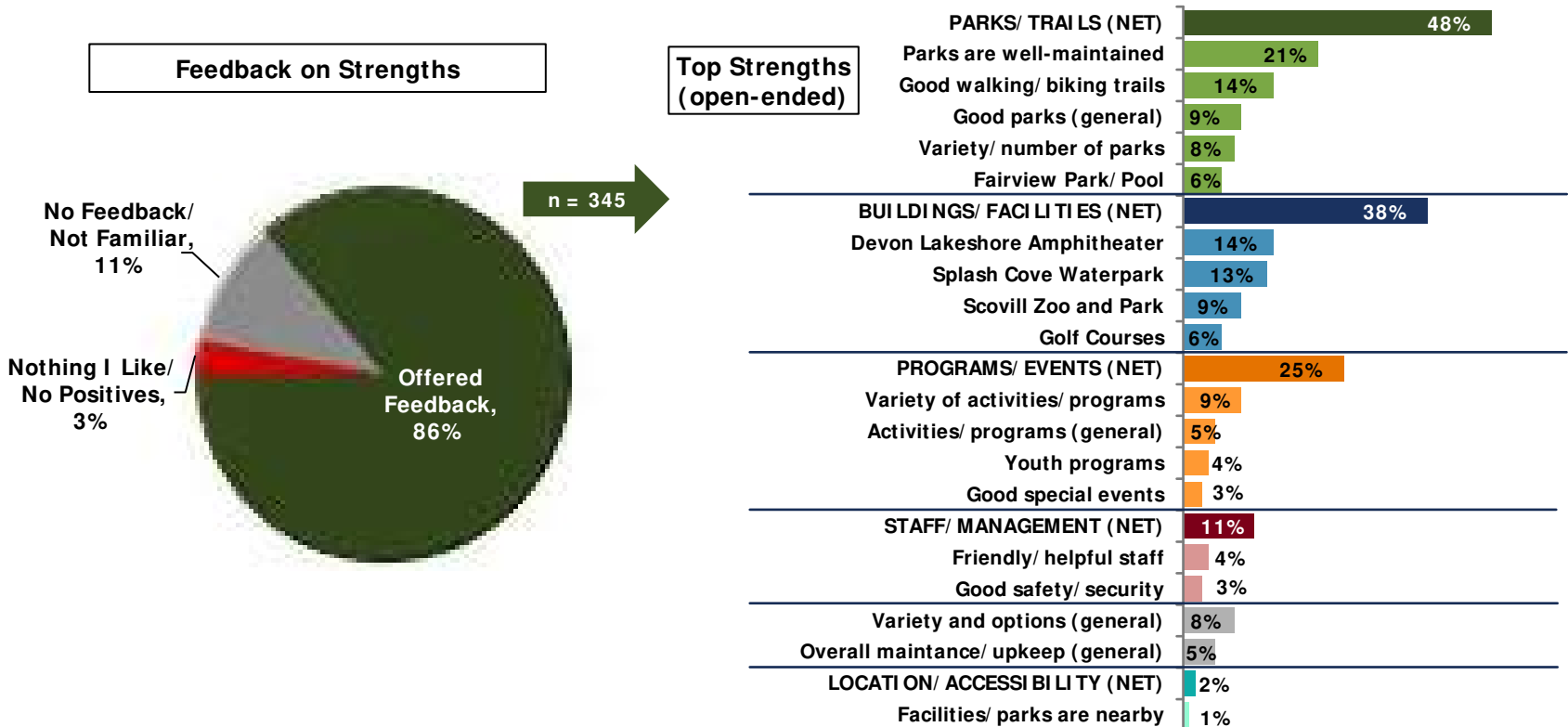
- Conversely, residents in the NE region are more likely to give lower than average ratings (except for NW residents giving lower scores to School District # 61), as do those ages 35-44.
- Still, even the groups giving the lowest ratings to the Decatur Park District and Macon County Conservation District continue to hold them in favorable regard (averaging 6.3 or higher on a 0-10 scale).

Differences by Subgroups: Overall Esteem Ratings

	Overall Avg. Rating (0-10)	Lower Esteem	Higher Esteem
Decatur Park District	7.2	- NE region (6.7)	- SW region (7.7)
City of Decatur	5.3	- Ages 35-44 (4.5) - NE region (4.9)	- Ages 65+ (6.0) - SW region (5.9)
Macon County Government	5.3	- Ages 35-44 (4.5)	- Ages 65+ (6.1)
Macon County Conservation District	7.2	- Non-white residents (6.4) - Households with children (6.7) - NE region (6.6)	- White residents (7.5) - Households without children (7.4) - SW region (7.7)
Decatur Public School District # 61	4.3	- Ages 35-44 (3.6), 55-64 (3.9) - White residents (4.1) - NW region (3.6)	- Ages 65+ (5.1) - African American residents (6.0) - SW (4.7) and SE (4.8) regions

In an open-ended format, nearly nine out of ten residents offered positive feedback with most citing the DPD's parks/ trails, followed by programs and events.

- Most often, the Park District parks and trails are cited as the top strength (48%), especially the maintenance and upkeep of these assets and the good walking/biking trails.
- This is followed closely by comments about facilities (38%, most often the Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Splash Cove Waterpark, and Scovill Zoo), followed by District programming and events (25%, usually the variety of these offerings).



Q3. What do you like most about the Decatur Park District, or what does it do particularly well? (top multiple open-ended responses)
 "NET" responses show the total % offering single or multiple responses (things they like most) within each capitalized topic heading.

Sample Verbatims: Strengths

Parks/ Trails (48%):

"Walking and biking paths, tennis courts, beautiful old pavilions. Rock garden at Nelson and Garden at Scovill Park."

"Lots of places to walk they are generally clean and have nice trees, flowers and places to have picnics. The Frisbee golf course is fun. The airport is somewhat convenient for flights."

"The walking/biking trails are what we use most frequently; we would encourage the expansion of these trails to make them more accessible."

"Provides good parks with good activities going on in the parks."

"I like the new playground in South Shore Park. Walking around lake Decatur."

"Great parks and great maintenance."

"Fairview & Lakeside areas always clean and taken care of."

"Lots of green areas at Fairview and Nelson Parks. Overlook Adventure Park is very nice."

"I'm really not too familiar with everything about the park district, but I like how the district keeps the grass mowed regularly and recently I like how a couple of issues in our park were addressed in a timely manner."

"Preserving the large beautiful parks. Amazing use of land for the community."

"There are several parks throughout town that make a safe, fun, and clean place that children can access and use."

"That it continues to establish and provide wonderful outdoor spaces for our community to enjoy."

"I love the green spaces."

"Something for everyone. Lots of recreation but also lots of wildlife areas for hiking etc. Devon & lakefront great."

"it's parks and walking trails- wild areas".

"Like the walking/bike trails at Fairview Park."

"I liked being in the parks. I volunteered with Special Olympics at Hickory Point golf & RedTail activities. I was with Big Brothers Big Sisters and had my little in the park learning to play golf at Scovill Park. My great-granddaughters and my Little were taken walking in Nelson Park, in Fairview Park and bike riding in Mueller Park. I took them regularly to the zoo and Children's museum. We used the pool in Fairview Park. I loved the concerts downtown and on the lakefront. The new Devon is great."

"Scovill garden sculptures & the beautiful flowers & the bike path at Fairview. The Devon Theater is a gem & the pool."

"They keep the parks nice and clean."

"Well maintained and sophisticated Park system."

"Many great areas for walking with and training my dogs. Open short grass areas are perfect for foundation tracking and search/rescue training. While some parks have walking paths that are paved, others have grass paths. Generally, the parks are well maintained."

"I enjoy how it has tried to make parks better in the recent future."

"Sustaining the extensive local park system and historic park sites like Fairview and Nelson."

"Keeping the parks clean and safe".

"Love how lucky we are to have so many parks, that our parks are kept up and that our park board is always looking to improve them and add other opportunities."

"There are many parks around the city and are pretty well maintained."

Sample Verbatims: Strengths (cont'd)

Buildings/ Facilities (38%):

"The range of amenities is nice (e.g., zoo, putt-putt, parks, airport)."

"Current options for recreation in town like two-disc golf courses, water park, etc."

"I think there are good options in regard to the amenities. I think we just need more staffing to keep parks clean."

"Offers first-class facilities."

"Decatur Park District makes Decatur seem like a REAL CITY; 'the place to be'. When we had children, we always had them in summer swim classes -- also, drama, dance, golf, tennis . . . I'm probably forgetting everything! Now, we have such nice facilities -- the parks and gardens, the Devon, Splash Cove. Decatur Park District really makes Decatur look like a 'happening place!'"

"I like The Devon the most. They have a lot of great entertainment coming in."

"Devon Amphitheater, water park, 'beach' by Beach house."

"They do maintain their golf courses well! Really enjoy the Devon also!"

"Splash cove, overlook adventure park, the Devon are all wonderful additions to Decatur. They are all clean and seem well maintained and ran. We love having them so close to home."

"Splash Cove is a great facility. Zoo is another! We live by Park Luise and appreciate the care it gets though it is a small park. Fairview and Nelson are beautiful. The Devon has made summer in Decatur fun!"

"I like the Decatur zoo. I love the new water park. It's a wonderful addition to our city. Our family loves the Devon. Our parks are great."

"I like the fitness center, the Devon and all the plants and flowers around town. I love the number of parks and greenspaces."

"The DISC and golf course."

"The Decatur golf courses (all though just two) are great but moving forward need to remember when it comes to pricing that this is Decatur and other courses such as Moweaqua are only minutes away."

"The district does an excellent job maintaining their facilities and seem to look into the future with their programs."

"Keep facilities clean and maintained. Continue to improve the zoo."

"I like how the Decatur Park District has constructed new areas where residents of Decatur can gather to enjoy entertainment, play sports and ride in an amusement park. I haven't been to the many of the new sites, but I would like to stop by to have a good time."

"I enjoy playing pickle ball at the local courts around town."

"The zoo is by far the best thing the park district offers."

"Devon facility is a gem. Fun atmosphere entire family can enjoy. Zoo is well run. Playground at zoo usually feels safe for activity to take grandchildren to."

"DPD has excellent parks and facilities and does it's best to keep them clean and attractive. I feel DPD is one of Decatur's greatest assets."

"I like the variety of programs that are offered as well as the facilities, I am glad to see there have been upgrades done to some of the older facilities. The neighborhood parks are great as well!!"

"Takes care of its facilities."

"The Zoo!"

Sample Verbatims: Strengths (cont'd)

Programs/ Events (25%):

"Variety of programs, efforts to address equity and inclusion in events and programs, collaboration with other entities and organizations."

"I have always thought the Decatur Park District (DPD) does a really good job providing activities for children. Our three children and resident grandchildren, were always using park facilities and programs, from swimming lessons to soccer."

"My two nieces were in the dance program and the program seemed to be well run."

"Love the classes for the kids and the special events they have for the holidays. Also, we use to attend the day camp and the kids loved it there."

"Attempts to provide activities that are current & multi-cultural."

"The park district does really great programming. They are wonderful at developing family events for all ages and offering unique experiences."

"All the family friendly activities, programs, and facilities. I almost always find friendly, courteous staff. There is almost always something to encompass every age group. The facilities are always clean and well maintained."

"Having things for the younger and older people."

"Hosting the muni band concerts in Central and Nelson parks and the July 4th fireworks."

"I enjoyed the Christmas tree festival at Hickory Point Golf course last year."

"Trying to provide activities that residents can participate in."

"Variety of possible activities."

"Gives the citizens an opportunity to participate in sports."

"Good at bring People together. Brings events to the local area."

"Leisure activities, concerts."

"DPD is responsive to all age groups I appreciate all you have done for our Pickleball Community."

"I enjoy the Forever Fit Classes for 55 and over seniors. I also love Traci Hewitt the instructor because she truly cares for the seniors and other members in all the different programs. I also love the indoor track but wish they were able to have air conditioner there, but I enjoy walking 3 miles a day if I can. I have used the weight room as well and enjoy the variety of machines."

"Senior luncheons and trips."

"We like the large number of recreational opportunities available through Decatur parks."

"I like the variety of programs that are offered as well as the facilities, I am glad to see there have been upgrades done to some of the older facilities. The neighborhood parks are great as well!!"

"Offering fitness classes and Toddler Time/Family Time at Splash Cove."

"Organize events and try to get the public and communities involved provide activities for people to do."

"My children grew up in Decatur and I liked the performing arts programs, the swim lessons and Fairview pool, the cooperative sport programs and lessons."

"I really like all the events the park district does."

"Seem to look into the future with their programs."

"I appreciate that in the last few years the DPD has used some research and out of the box thinking to bring new projects/programs to Decatur."

"I like that there is an effort to develop attractions that enhance the quality of life of Decatur residents and also that will attract patronage from the public outside of Decatur as additional revenue."

"The parks and recreational opportunities are second to none given the size of the Decatur."

Sample Verbatims: Strengths (cont'd)

Staff/ Management (11%):

"Employees well trained and cordial. Parks well maintained and provide variety of experiences."

"Given all constraints, forward thinking and proactive with development of activities and entertainment opportunities."

"Selecting the leadership that makes efforts to ensure that visitors/members are respected and safe."

"We appreciate all the communication (fliers, emails, website, mailings) about all the programs (there's a wide range, a little something for everyone) that are available. Employees seem to truly care about the community and want to strive for the best."

"Decatur Park District seems to continually strive to do better for the community, their message is well broadcast to the people of Decatur. The way that they quickly modified the rules at the waterpark and worked hard to make it safe for everyone is commendable. The array of entertainment offerings at the Devon is fantastic and the venue is well run and taken care of. I love Fairview Park and the bike path."

"They use tax dollars wisely and do a great job of providing a wide variety of options to enrich & engage the community. They are a standout in terms of amenities and services when compared to other districts in Illinois with similar population size, tax base and median household income."

"Lake patrol does an excellent job to help residents. They do need to keep the loading docks in better shape. Park district has a wide variety of classes."

"Responsible use of funding, offers various experiences."

"They provide good jobs and wages."

"Well ran, very positive organization."

"Very impressed with staff."

"Good employees, staff. Zoo is great."

"Great zoo and zoo staff. Zoo is always clean and staff is knowledgeable and friendly. Always ready to answer questions and any specific needs. Zoo is accessible for special needs. Very proud of our zoo."

"They have become better at looking at what people want to do and changing with the times. The main parks always look nice. They do their best to repair what the jerks tear up."

Location/ Availability (4%):

"The availability of the DISC."

"Plenty of parking spaces. Lots of large Pavilions for people to their Bar-B-Ques + Parties."

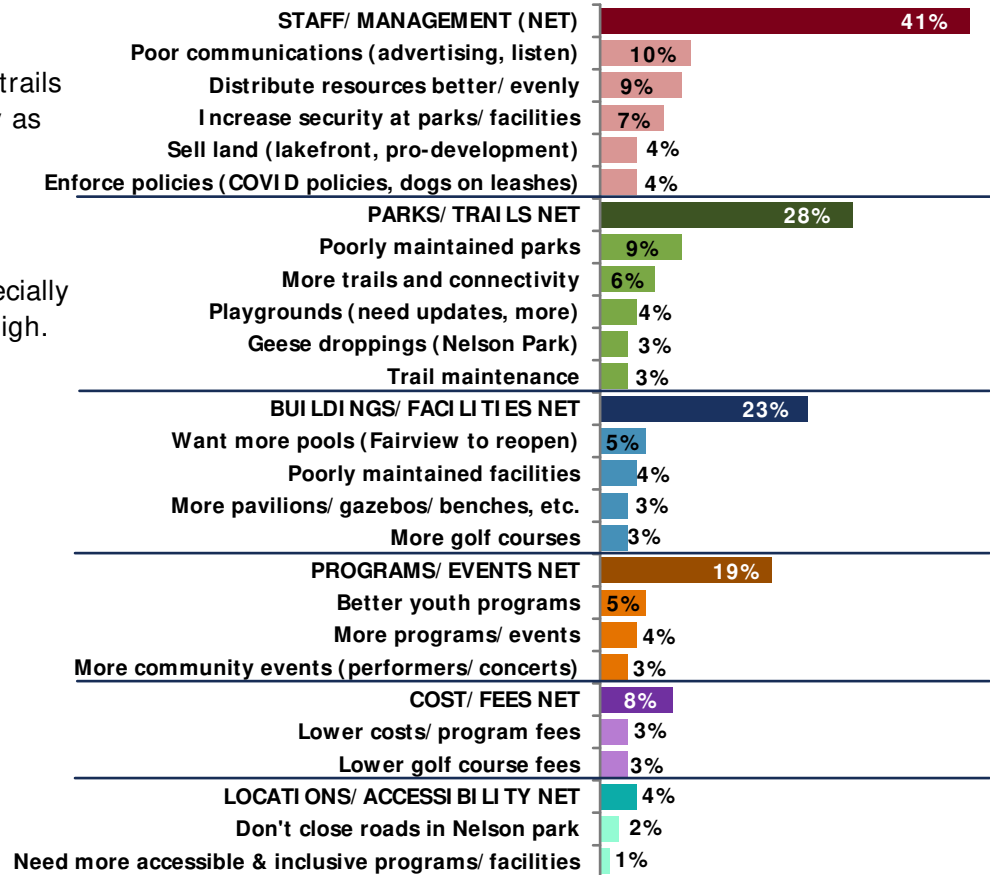
"Easy accessibility to outdoor spaces in all neighborhoods."

"Clean -- beautiful -- well available."

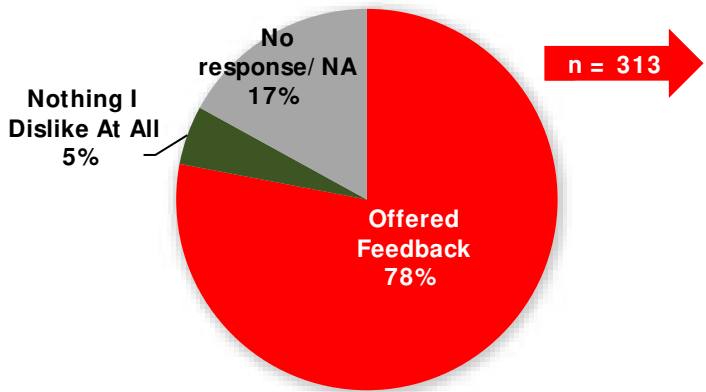
In an open-ended format, about one in five (22%) could not offer any dislikes or improvements they want to see (including 5% who said there is nothing they dislike).

- The biggest opportunities are administrative and management suggestions (41%), most often more communication, greater equity of resources, and ensuring safety.
- One in four (28%) made suggestions for parks and trails (better maintenance, more connectivity), and nearly as many (23%) offer facility improvements (e.g., more pools, better maintenance, etc.)
- One in five (19%) suggest programming ideas, especially for youth. Only 8% overall feel costs/fees are too high.

Top Weaknesses/ Improvement Opportunities (open-ended)



Weaknesses/ Improvements Sought



Q4. What do you think the Decatur Park District could do better or improve most? (top multiple open-ended responses)
 "NET" responses show the total % offering single or multiple responses (things they dislike most) within each capitalized topic heading.

The image below shows a word cloud of the key phrases and terms used from verbatim comments regarding issues and suggested improvements for the DPD.

- Examples of actual verbatim responses are provided on the next few pages.



Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/ Improvements

Staff/ Management (41%):

"Reduce the number of vandalism in the parks, increase patrols add officers if needed."

"When we go to the Devon, we like to park in the dog park lot and walk down the hill to the Devon. I would like it if they had some police presence when the shows are over, and people are walking to their cars in that lot as it is fairly dark and deserted at night."

"Cameras in the park for safety and to prevent vandalism. People need to feel safe in the park...maybe more of a park police presence in certain parks - especially when people are coming from out of town for a baseball game, for example."

"Need to keep gangs out of parks -- need something to discourage them from gathering in the parks."

"Provide a more visible security presence at all facilities to provide a deterrent against, or rapid de-escalation of, fights or other violent actions, such as what occurred at the Splash Cove Waterpark."

"Get the neighborhood parks up and running; quit spending money on larger projects."

"Open Fairview Park -- don't let it sit. We need it!"

"Continue to support the inner-city parks. Add programming to these facilities."

"More playgrounds for children in different areas of town."

"DEVELOP THE LAKFRONT! Allow more businesses to locate in Nelson Park Marina area. Casual restaurants, shops etc. Severely under utilized in my opinion."

"Unused land should be traded off for viable, active convertible parcels."

"Sell off some of the massive property holdings to fund additional activities."

"Downsize on the number of neighborhood parks that is oversees. Unfortunately, these parks are not utilized for their original purpose. By having fewer parks, valuable resources could be used to upgrade and 'police' the remaining parks."

"Better fiscal responsibility. Absolutely ridiculous salaries and benefits, all on the taxpayers back..."

"The park district should not be about economic development first and foremost, that should be the city's priority. Building extravagant facilities costing tens of millions of district taxpayers' dollars is misguided economic action at best. These types of facilities would not (were not) be built by private business because they are not economically viable. No profit or even the hope of breaking even. The shortfall will be paid with tax dollars that would be better spent on free youth activities in our neighborhood parks. More Yellow Hats, better staffing and security equals better Decatur not grandiose facilities."

"Stop the politics and act like a park district. Listen to the voices of constituents."

"Perhaps more advertisement for things on the radio or web? Maybe brochure or pamphlet they could have at events that had other things going on."

"Paying to the taxpayers likes and dislikes when undertaking projects effecting the public."

"Reach out to residents in the city to inform them about the park district and how the district is functioning as a whole."

"Serve the people instead of their friends and family."

"Be a district of all people and not just one political agenda. Politics should have NOTHING to do with their mission but clearly that is not the case."

"I think that overall, customer service could be better."

"Your web site is really bad and hard to navigate."

"When covid shutdowns began, they were going to have an option for Decatur public school families to experience Schools Out Day Camp. This seemed absurd at the time, kids couldn't be at school due to COVID, but they could pay the park district to convene at the disc. This was so irresponsible of the park district and an absolute grab for money."

Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/ Improvements (cont'd)

Parks/ Trails (28%):

"Extend the bike trail at Fairview park."

"Install a bike trail along Lost Bridge Road from Route 121 to Lake Shore Drive. Riding a bike on Lost Bridge Road is very dangerous. Connecting to the Mt Zion bike trail at Lost Bridge and Baltimore would increase the use of both trails."

"A walking / bike path at Nelson Park and more Bike paths on the east side of Decatur."

"Expansion of biking & hiking trails please."

"Again, my perspective is the bike trail. Since it runs along Stevens Creek there are some places that flood after extensive rain (and that's probably on MCCC land anyway). There is probably not much to be done about that. However, there are couple of low-lying spots (just past the rail tunnel off Greendell, and just past the pipeline past Center) that flood readily even with a little rain. I'm no landscape engineer, but I would think some redirection of water flow or drainage in those two places would greatly improve the situation. Also, the short section in Fairview between 'the Bikini Tree' and where the trail goes under the road is very rough on a bike."

"The cracks on the bike trail in Fairview park."

"Too many playgrounds have been stripped of equipment, such as swings, merry-go-rounds, tetter-totters, for children and adults. Vast many properties are not being maintained well and other properties are not being utilized, i.e. the former Scovill Golf Course. It is a shame that the regional parks I remember from the 1960's have been stripped and are now under-utilized."

"Graffiti is starting to be a problem in Decatur area parks."

"Our family loved to walk around the Nelson park waterfront but now is not walk friendly with the waterfowl and their droppings."

"Too many geese at Lake Decatur. Not able to walk at this location. More safely lit walking trails."

"Clean up all the duck and geese poop in Nelson park."

"More playground/equipment in smaller neighborhood parks for children."

"Preserve native species of trees and preserve green spaces. Preserve the buildings better. All the beautiful sumac trees along 36 in Nelson were cut down and now invasive species are taking over there. This is bad for birds and animals that use the trees for food as well as much less attractive"

"As a conservationist, I am biased, but I would love to see more conservation efforts. Work towards keeping our green spaces healthy and valuable. Many volunteer groups would likely be great partners with valuable resources."

"Better plan for upkeep and maintenance of parks and facilities."

"Plant more trees."

"Probably more flowers beds with lots of Colors. Other than that, the parks here are wonderful."

"Better picnic areas with covers, grills to cook on, playgrounds like Scovill Park."

"Stop trying to make Decatur parks into something like in Chicago or some big city. We are Decatur, just give use CLEAN, SAFE parks and we will be happy."

"Clean up the lake area and get rid of the geese and ducks that cause a huge mess."

"I would specifically like Lakeshore Drive near Nelson Park to be open and the geese to be gone. I would like more walking/bike paths. (Paved)"

"Put playground equipment in Nelson park for kids."

"Playground equipment for kids to play on."

"More community gardens where produce and flowers can be grown in the parks by volunteers around the city is something I would like to see."

Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/ Improvements (cont'd)

Buildings/ Facilities (23%):

- "Enclosed pool for year-round swimming -- should not have closed the golf courses."*
- "Provide more swimming space for all of our residents. Not everyone can afford or are able to attend the only swimming area our community provides. We have a pretty large low-income population that would be grateful for a regular 'plain ole' swimming pool. As stewards of the community, we must be diligent in maintaining inclusion for our diverse population."*
- "Kept the swimming pools. Have more activities at the parks."*
- "One swimming pool and two golf courses is very limited for Decatur."*
- "A public swimming pool needs to reopen."*
- "Children need a public swimming pool and places to engage. Shame on you for taking that away."*
- "I wish it would maintain the pool facilities at Fairview Park."*
- "Tore up 2 nice golf courses, now I spend \$ in other towns."*
- "Open Scovill Golf course back up."*
- "Allocate more resources to public golf courses. Sell unused parks to developers or neighborhoods."*
- "We need the par 3 golf courses - that we used to have - Should not have closed Faries Golf Course."*
- "Kids need a turf football & lacrosse field."*
- "More pickleball courts! And some improvements on the existing ones. Shelter, backboards for example."*
- "Separate men's and women's toilets Mueller Park."*
- "Open the park bathrooms during the day !!! Playgrounds are for children and children need to use the restrooms. They are not good at 'holding it' until they can go to a bathroom."*
- "Not many have restrooms that are open at all or open most of the year. They close/lock restrooms and/or don't have any."*
- "More flights out of the airport. Upgrade the Commodore Decatur Yacht Pavilion.."*
- "Get more business at the airport."*
- "Before closing golf courses or building new ones, put it up for a public vote or find someone that knows something about how to run a business ... so where are all the full hotels/motels from Chicago/St Louis people coming here to golf on our new course ??? Instead of the normal 'tax & spend' mentality ... try lowering prices before closing..."*
- "They need to take better care of all the boat launch facilities. The price to register my boat keeps going up and the ramps continue to go down."*
- "It would be nice if the Beach House restaurant could/would stay open later."*
- "Nelson park needs to be cleaned up especially the pavilions. Splash Cove is a joke. Nelson golf course and Scovill golf course were beautiful facilities that are just being let go. Fairview park is also falling into ruin and both pools should have been fixed and remained open. Older people do not want to use Splash Cove and there are no more alternatives. The west end is dying, and it is due in large part to these closings. We were supposed to have a scenic entrance to Decatur from the airport (which Nelson Golf course was). Splash Cove is anything but. Also, S Lake Shore Dr by the Devon needs to be reopened!!!"*
- "Have swimming ???? pools again."*

Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/ Improvements (cont'd)

Programs/ Events (19%):

"Youth baseball/softball needs better management and communication."

"I remember when we were kids having summer and after school programs where the park district offered arts and crafts and sporting games for the youth. This is something I would like to see my taxes go towards instead of some politicians pet projects or misappropriation."

"Put in attractions to draw out young people to the parks & off the streets. Give them something to do not get in trouble."

"I wish they had more programs for kids to be involved in."

"Do more kids programs."

"I would love to see more collaboration with other events going on in town, or other nonprofits doing similar things. Instead of competing for an audience why don't we combine resources and make something really wonderful."

"Develop Swim teams for competition with surrounding communities. Have Ski shows on Lake Decatur for the public to observe."

"Bring back paddleboard, yoga at beach house."

"Continue to find family friendly activities to add that can bring people to Decatur."

"Be nice to see more classes and opportunities for the family."

"Have more activities for seniors."

"Do more for senior people over 60 years old."

"Programs for elderly."

"Keep bringing name acts to town."

"I would like to see the Festival of Trees again at Hickory Point Golf Course. Maybe more family activities like this would be good."

Costs/ Fees (8%):

"Not everyone in Decatur can afford to attend all of the Devon programs."

"Lower cost for activities"

"Have more inexpensive events."

"The DISC day camps are tremendously overpriced. We're paying for our kids to sit and eat in a hallway. The DISC membership is also very high. I switched to Planet Fitness for half the cost, and their membership includes more updates equipment and tanning beds."

"Lower rates at the golf courses. I usually drive way out of town to golf because it's just too expensive to use the courses here. Offer inexpensive golf lessons to children, or others young adults who may otherwise NEVER have the opportunity to learn.. Offer something, ANYTHING. It is entirely unfair to punish children for their parent's inability to afford most of the outdoor recreation opportunities. Since so many families are below the poverty line here, raising prices only reduces your revenues because too many can't afford to partake. Why else do you think so many golf leagues have ended and so many courses have been closed?"

"Lower golf rates (all). Contact other areas and pay attention on what they are doing."

Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/ Improvements (cont'd)

Location/ Availability (4%):

"Our daughter is a special needs adult and could always roll into or crawl into the zero-depth pool on her own. Now the zero depth pools are just for small children. The lazy river does not have a zero-depth entry. I would like to meet with the planners and engineers to see what they had in mind for her. She has loved the water for years and now is not able to enter on her own and in her own time. When the water is cold, she does not want to be dropped right into cold water. The manager has been very kind and understanding but with no solution. We will try again as we love the water."

"Designate a park or parks with ADA accommodations and inclusive friendly for special needs and/or disabled children"

"need to make sure that there is sufficient parking for the busy times"

"I would love to see them find a way to offer classes in an off-site location on the east end of town. A 25-minute drive 1 way to the Disc is a deterrent for our family to register for classes."

"Provide more pedestrian access to the Lake and install fishing piers for handicap accessibility."

"Don't allow the few people who are well known in the community to be able to close half a park and the roads just because they don't want the public close to their homes!"

"Re-open the road through Nelson Park"

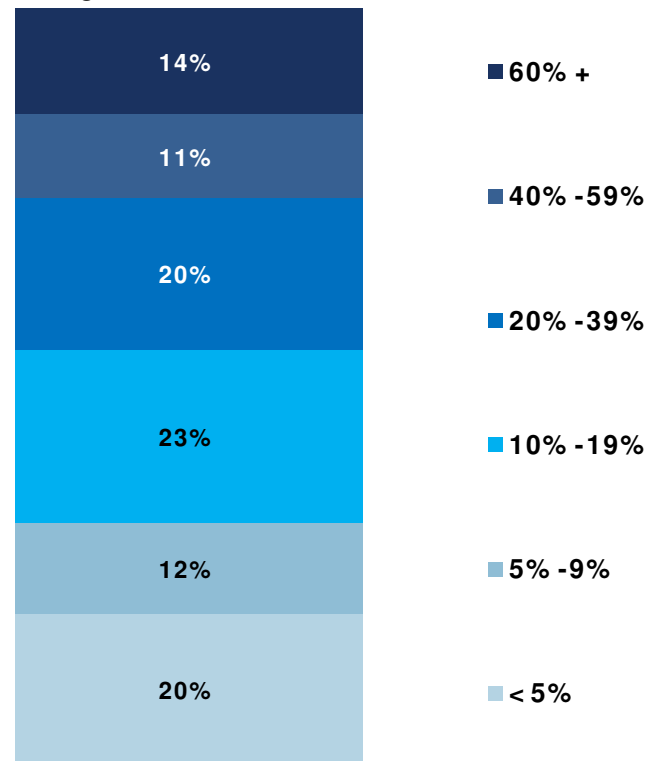
"Repair the Nelson Park thoroughfare that was closed years ago for no reason."

Residents generally underestimate the portion of the DPD's overall budget that comes from tax revenues. On average, they believe that 25% is property tax-funded, below the actual 38% .

- On average, those estimating the highest share of the budget coming from property taxes (closer to the actual level) tend to be:
 - White residents (estimating 28% of the budget on average coming from property taxes, vs. a 14% average estimate from African American residents)
 - Long-term residents who have lived in Decatur 30+ years (29% average estimate), vs. an average 17% response from the newest residents who moved to Decatur in the past 5 years.

Estimated % of DPD Budget Funded Through Property Taxes (n= 369)

Avg. Estimate = 25%

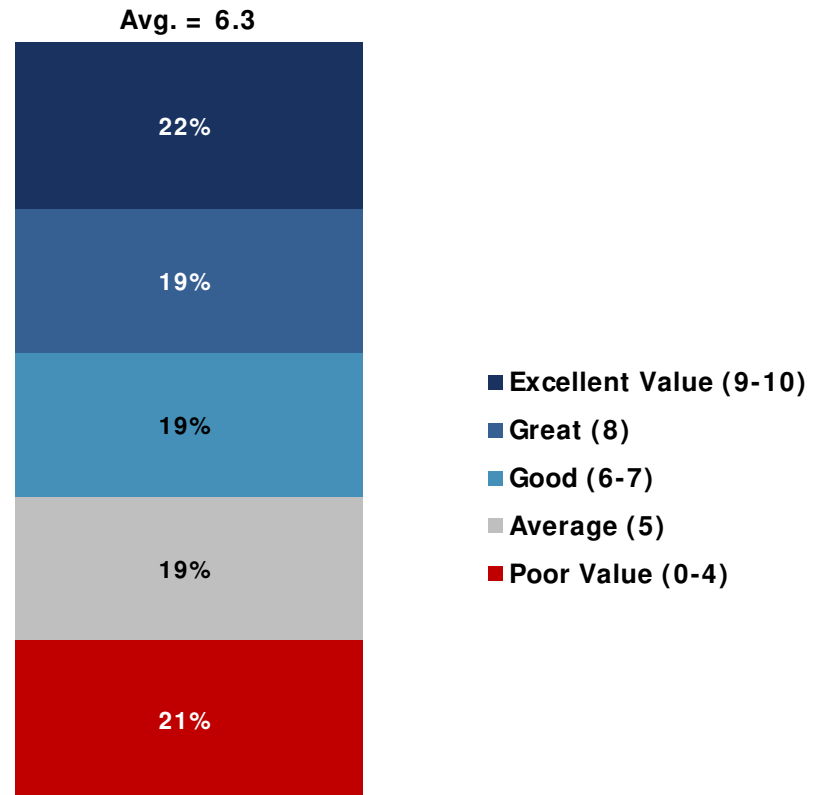


Q5. What percent of the Decatur Park District budget do you believe is funded through your property taxes? Please provide your best estimate.

When informed that 38% of the Park District’s overall budget comes from local property taxes (meaning the rest comes from other sources), residents rate the DPD’s overall value favorably.

- On a 0-10 scale, a majority (60%) feel the District represents at least a good value, including 22% who say it is an excellent value.
- Still, one in five (21%) consider it a poor value. About as many (19%) say it represents “average” value (midpoint score of ‘5’ on a 0-10 scale).

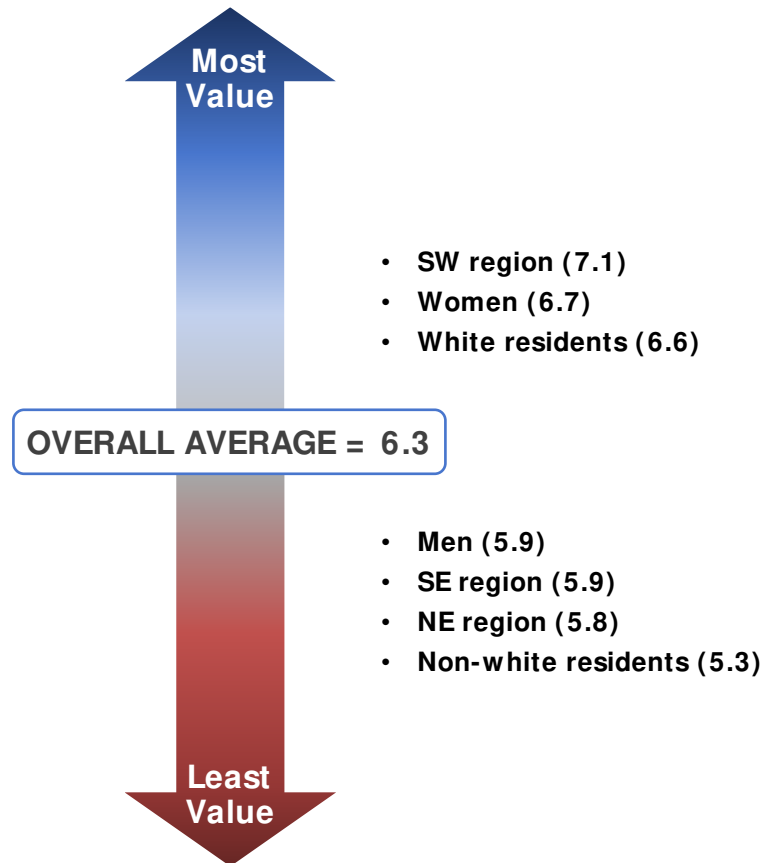
Value of Decatur Park District



When rating the DPD's overall value, residents divide mostly by region, followed by gender and race.

- As in earlier findings, those in the SW region tend to give the most favorable scores (highest value ratings), while residents in the east regions tend to give lower (though still positive) ratings.
- Higher value ratings also come more from women and white residents. Still, men and non-white adults rate the DPD's overall value at least average (5.3 or higher on a 0-10 scale).

Significant Differences: Value of Property Taxes to DPD



Q21. About 38% of the Decatur Park District budget comes from local property taxes. Given the programs, parks, facilities, and services provided by the Park District, please rate the overall value that the Park District provides to you. (0-10 scale)

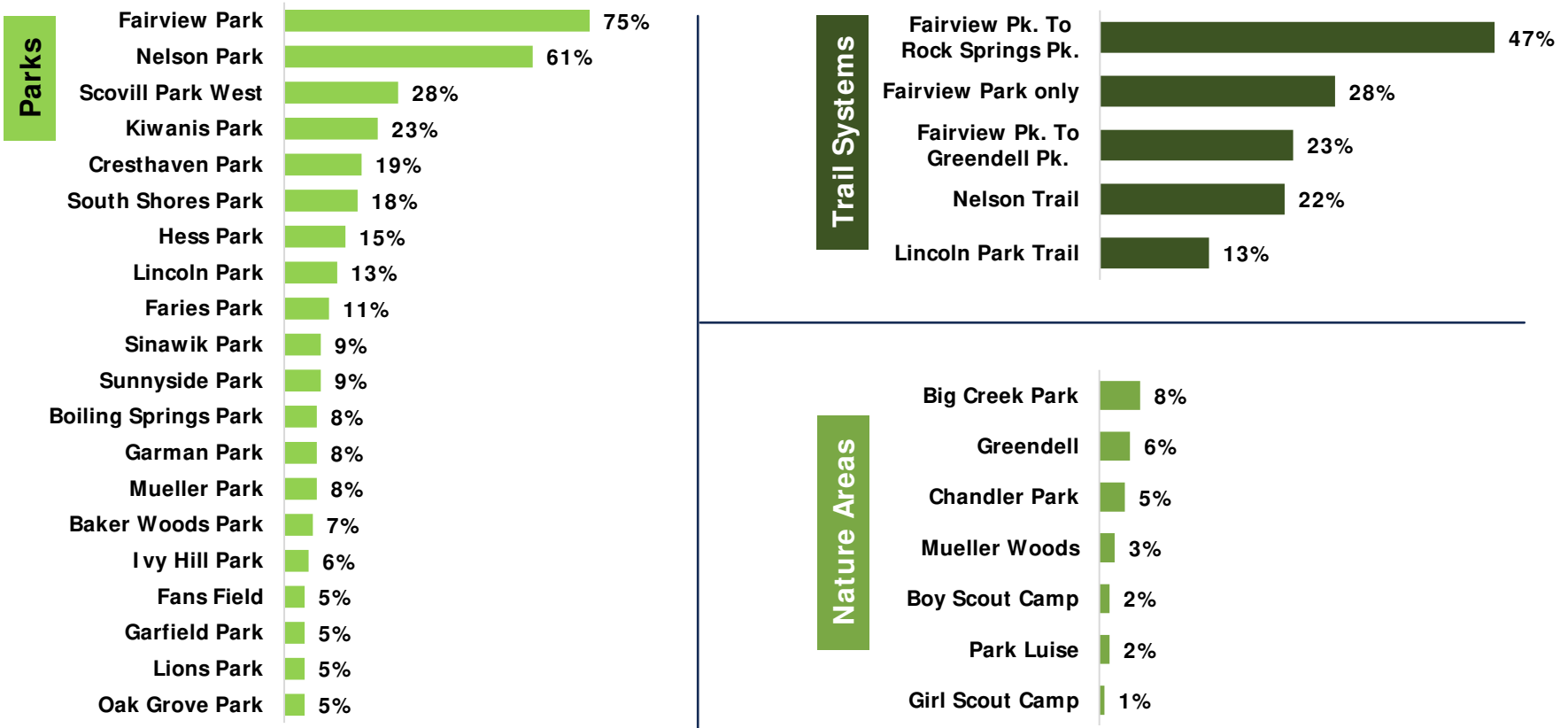
II. DPD Facility and Park Usage



Among agency parks, most residents report going to Fairview and Nelson Parks in the past 18 months; Scovill Park West ranked a distant third. Among trails, the Fairview Park to Rock Springs Park route is by far the most widely used.

- DPD nature areas generated relatively lower levels of self-reported usage in the past 18 months.

DPD Parks/ Nature Areas/ Trails Household Visited in Past 18 Months (self-reported top responses)



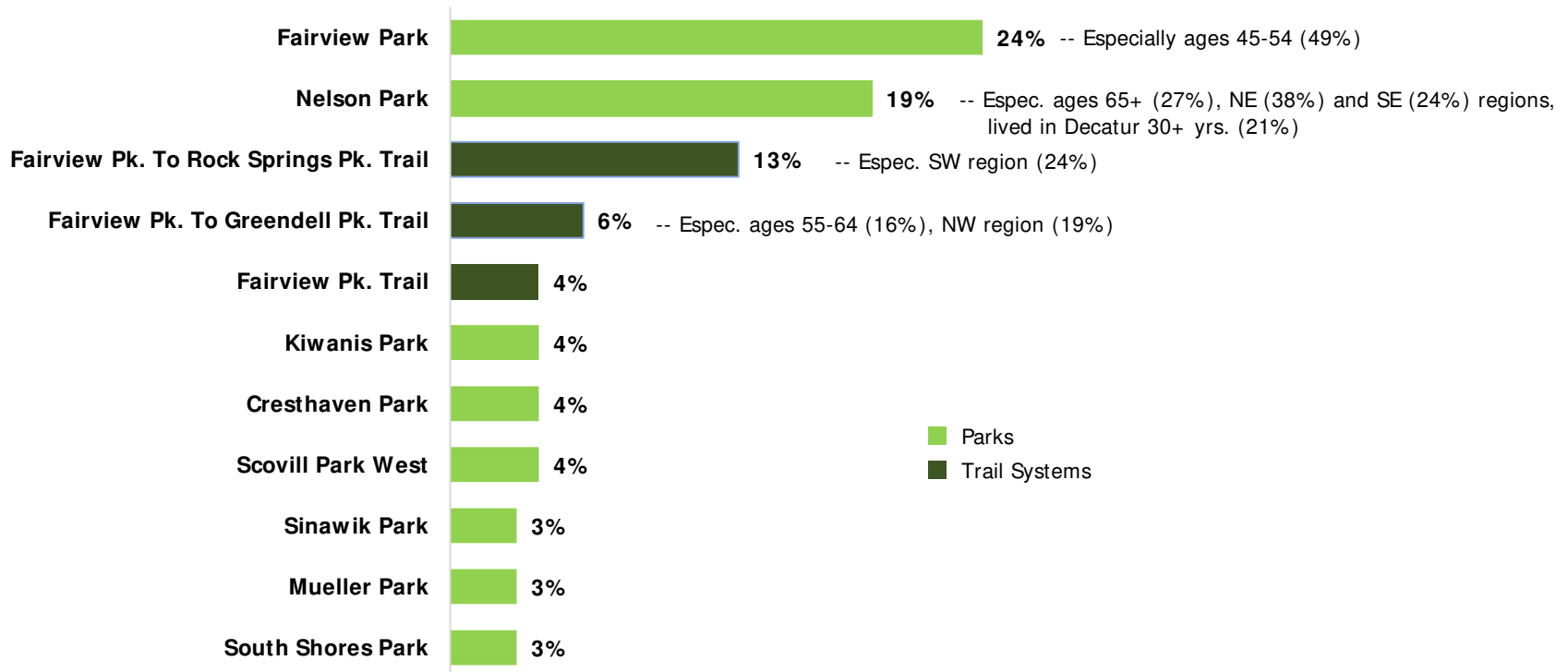
Q6. Please indicate the Park District parks, nature areas, and trails you or a household member visited in the last 18 months.



When asked which of these destinations they use most often, Fairview and Nelson Parks remain the top choices, followed by trails between Fairview Park and either Rock Springs Park or Greendell Park.

- Note that many of the parks and trails have the highest self-reported usage among adults ages 45 or older.

**DPD Park/ Nature Area/ Trail Used Most Often
(n= 334)**



■ Parks
■ Trail Systems

Q7. Please select the park, nature area, or trail above that you use most often.

NOTE: All others below 3% are not shown.



The table below shows the regional “draws” for key parks. Nelson Park and Scovill Park West attract visitors from all regions (matching the geographic distribution of all visitors), while Fairview Park and its trails attract SW residents disproportionately.

- Similarly, most of those using Ivy Hill, Big Creek, and Sinawik Parks live in the SE region. Roughly half of Nelson Trail and South Shores Park visitors also come from the SE.
- Cresthaven Park, and those using the trail connecting Fairview Park and Greendell Park are more likely to live in the NW.
- None of the remaining regional differences are statistically meaningful.

	Region					
	Total n of cases	NE	NW	SE	SW	
Overall (row) % of Park Users/ Visitors by Region (n= 386)	(386)	19%	29%	33%	19%	= 100%
Fairview Park	(251)	16%	31%	28%	25%	= 100%
Nelson Park	(223)	22%	22%	37%	19%	= 100%
Fairview Pk. to Rock Springs Pk. Trail	(167)	13%	30%	30%	27%	= 100%
Scovill Park West	(101)	21%	16%	36%	27%	= 100%
Fairview Park Trail	(92)	15%	28%	28%	29%	= 100%
Nelson Trail	(74)	21%	17%	47%	15%	= 100%
South Shores Park	(73)	22%	10%	49%	19%	= 100%
Fairview Pk. to Greendell Pk. Trail	(72)	6%	47%	19%	28%	= 100%
Kiwanis Park	(69)	12%	17%	17%	54%	= 100%
Cresthaven Park	(58)	14%	59%	17%	10%	= 100%
Sinawik Park	(43)	23%	4%	64%	9%	= 100%
Faries Park	(40)	34%	28%	30%	8%	= 100%
Hess Park	(40)	25%	16%	44%	15%	= 100%
Lincoln Park Trail	(36)	11%	29%	21%	39%	= 100%
Big Creek Park	(35)	19%	13%	59%	9%	= 100%
Ivy Hill Park	(31)	-	6%	74%	20%	= 100%

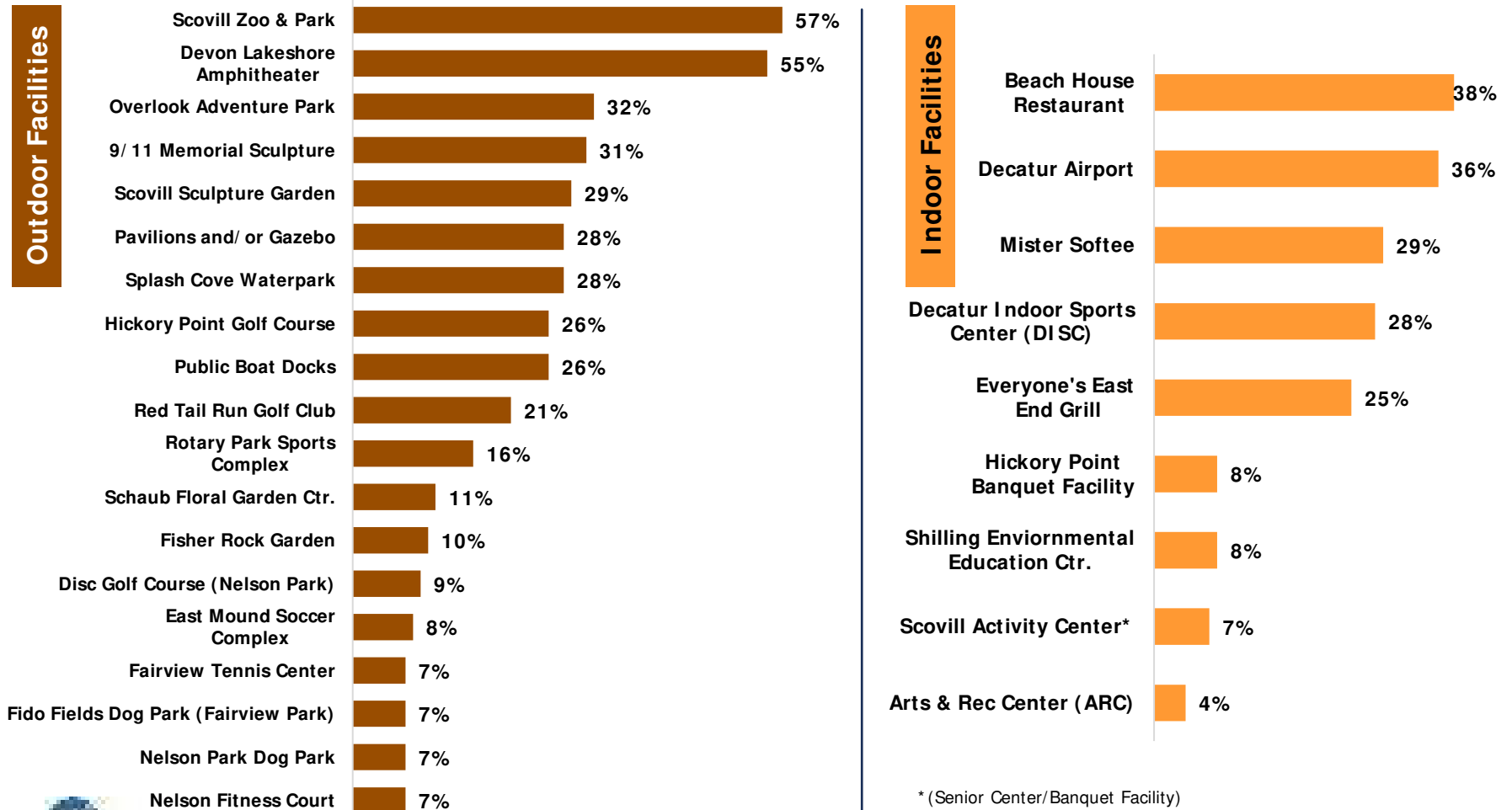
○ = Higher than average response by region (95% level)



Q6. Please indicate the Park District parks, nature areas, and trails you or any household member visited in the last 18 months.
NOTE: Parks with <30 unweighted cases are not shown

Among DPD facilities, Scovill Zoo and Park and the Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater have been used/ visited by most residents in the past 18 months (followed by Overlook Adventure Park). At least one in four used DPD food outlets, the Airport, and DI SC.

DPD Facilities Household Visited in Past 18 Months (self-reported top responses)

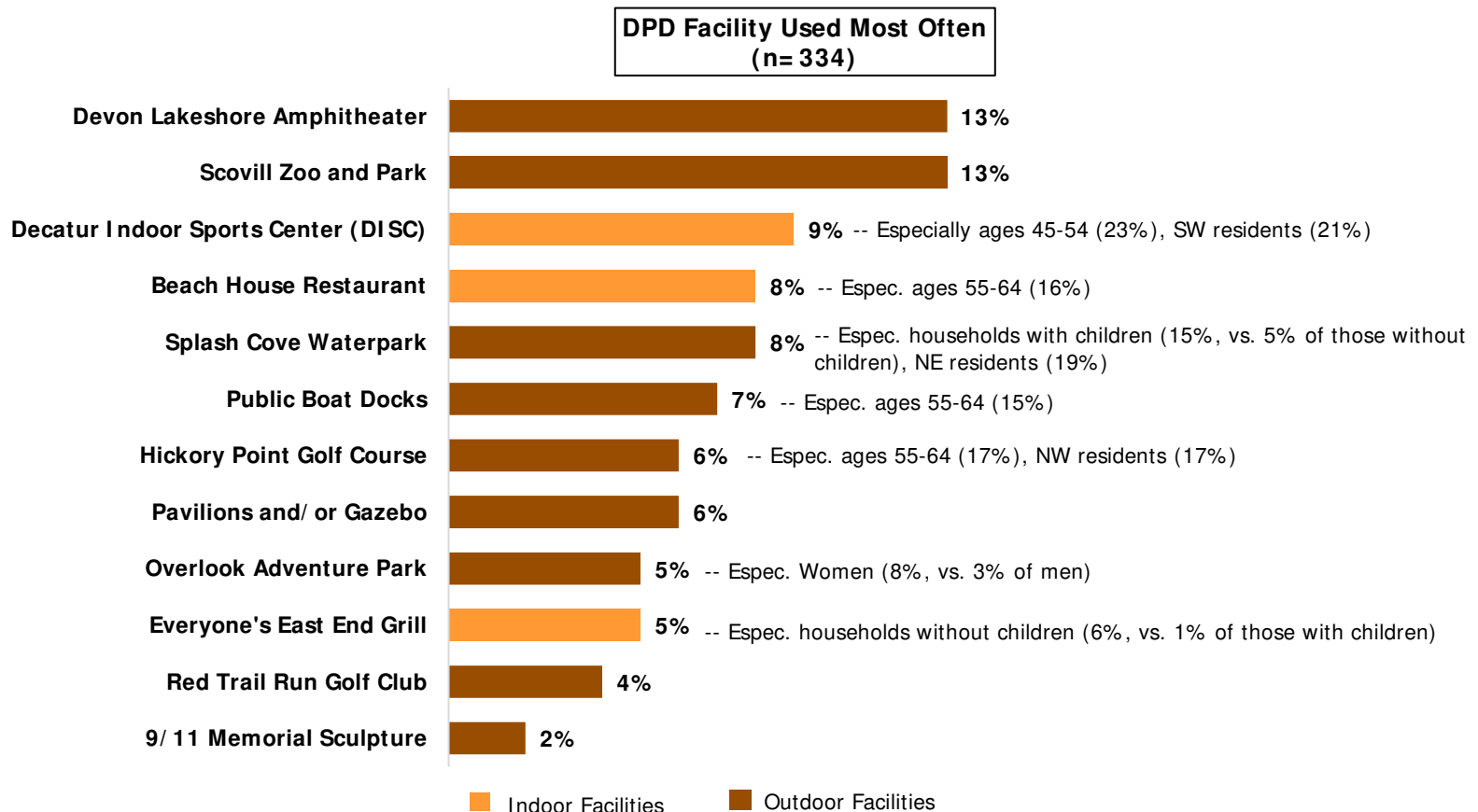


*(Senior Center/Banquet Facility)

Q8. Below, please indicate which Decatur Park District outdoor and/or indoor facilities you or any household member have visited in the last 18 months. NOTE: All others below 4% are not shown.

Residents offer a wide range of DPD facilities that they visited most often. The top responses were again Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater and Scovill Zoo and Park, with consistent responses (relatively equal level of response from all subgroups).

- DISC ranked third overall, especially from SW residents and adults ages 45-54.
- Slightly older residents (ages 55-64) were most likely to report visiting Beach House Restaurant most often.



Q9. Please select the indoor or outdoor facility above that you use most often.

NOTE: All others below 2% are not shown.

The DPD facilities tested tend to attract residents from all neighborhoods (generally in line with the overall regional distribution of park and facility users).

- The only differences are for Everyone's East End Grill (which tends to draw NE residents) and Schaub Floral Garden Center (disproportionately SW households).

	Region					
	Total n of cases	NE	NW	SE	SW	
Overall (row) % of Facility Users/ Visitors by region (n= 386)	(386)	19%	29%	33%	19%	= 100%
Scovill Zoo & Park	(204)	21%	24%	37%	18%	= 100%
Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater	(202)	22%	30%	31%	17%	= 100%
Decatur Airport	(148)	23%	21%	39%	17%	= 100%
Beach House Restaurant	(136)	19%	25%	30%	26%	= 100%
Scovill Sculpture Garden	(122)	15%	29%	34%	22%	= 100%
9/ 11 Memorial Sculpture	(121)	21%	21%	37%	21%	= 100%
Everyone's East End Grill	(121)	28%	16%	40%	16%	= 100%
Overlook Adventure Park	(114)	23%	24%	33%	20%	= 100%
Pavilions and/ or Gazebo	(103)	15%	32%	32%	21%	= 100%
Mister Softee	(103)	24%	22%	32%	22%	= 100%
Public Boat Docks	(93)	22%	26%	38%	14%	= 100%
Hickory Point Golf Course	(89)	15%	34%	35%	16%	= 100%
DI SC	(87)	13%	23%	32%	32%	= 100%
Splash Cove Waterpark	(86)	26%	22%	36%	16%	= 100%
Red Tail Run Golf Club	(82)	16%	27%	41%	16%	= 100%
Rotary Park Sports Complex	(52)	9%	26%	38%	27%	= 100%
Schaub Floral Garden Center	(49)	15%	17%	34%	34%	= 100%
Fisher Rock Garden	(38)	12%	26%	29%	33%	= 100%
Disc Golf Course (Nelson Park)	(34)	23%	17%	35%	25%	= 100%
Shilling Environ. Education Cntr.	(30)	15%	11%	51%	23%	= 100%

○ = Higher than average response by region (95% level)

Q8. Please indicate the Park District outdoor and/or indoor facilities you or any household member visited in the last 18 months.
NOTE: Facilities with <30 unweighted cases are not shown

At least 80% of recent DPD facility and parks visitors are satisfied with the overall experience, level of cleanliness, and accessibility of these locations.

- About two out of five (39%+) are completely satisfied with these attributes. By comparison, no more than 11% are dissatisfied (though 'cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep' receive the highest negative ratings).



■ % Dissatisfied (0-4) ■ % Neutral (5) ■ % Somewhat Satisfied (6-7) ■ % Very Satisfied (8) ■ % Completely Satisfied (9-10)

All subgroups give positive ratings to DPD parks and facilities across these attributes.

- Older adults and residents in the SW region are consistently most satisfied, while younger respondents and those in the NE tend to be slightly less satisfied than average. Otherwise, there are no other meaningful differences across these attributes.

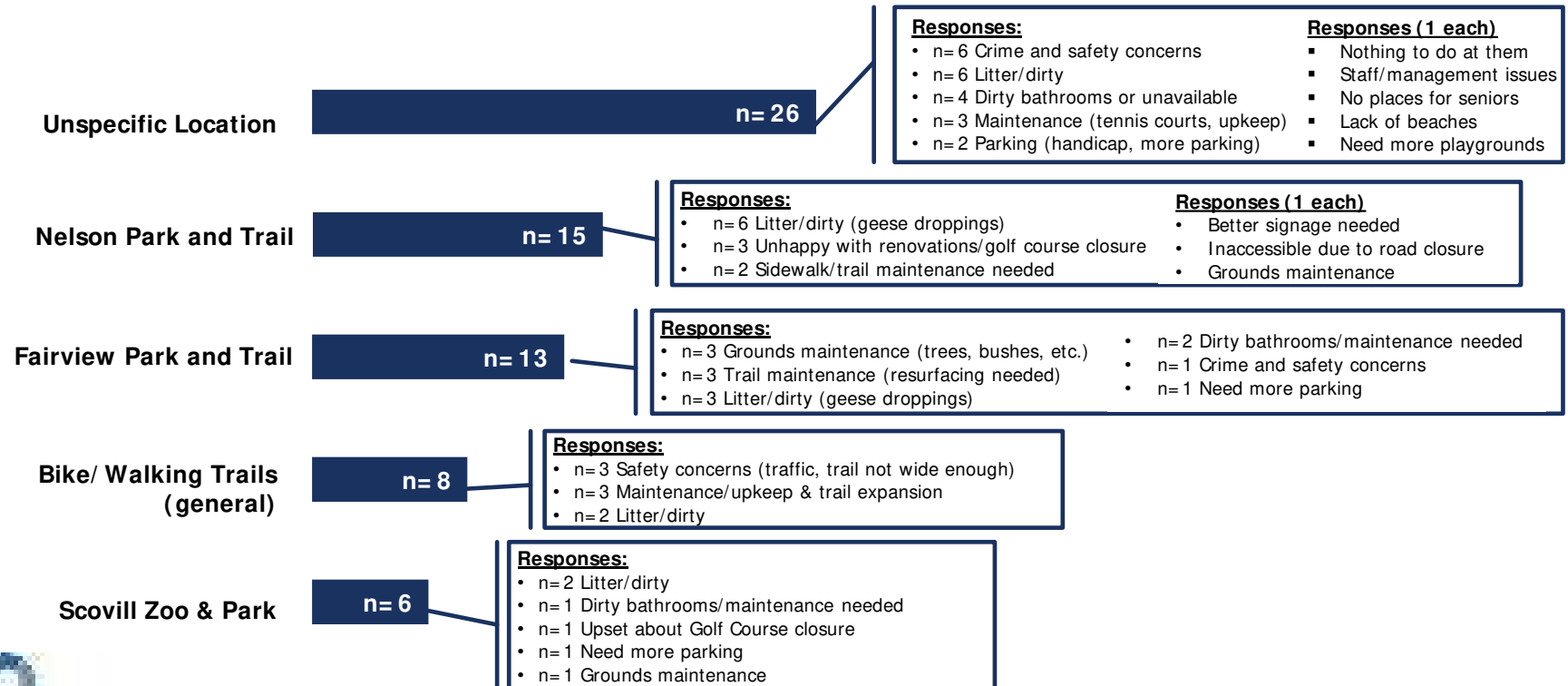
Differences by Subgroups: Satisfaction with Facilities/ Parks

	Overall Avg. Rating (0-10)	Lower Satisfaction	Higher Satisfaction
Overall Experience	7.7	- Ages 45-54 (7.2) - NE (7.3) and NW (7.5) regions	- Ages 65+ (7.9) - SW region (8.3)
Overall Cleanliness, Maintenance and Upkeep	7.4	- Ages 35-44 (6.8), 45-54 (6.8)	- Ages 55-64 (7.8), 65+ (8.0)
Overall access (parking, paths, entrances/ exits)	7.7	- Households with children (7.1) - NE region (7.2)	- Households without children (7.9) - SW region (8.4)

Residents who are less satisfied (22% or n= 89 giving ratings of “6” or lower on a 0-10 scale on any attribute) cite a wide range of specific issues and concerns.

- Most comments are not specific to any facility or park/trail, and cover a wide range of general concerns (most often personal safety, litter, lack of clean bathrooms, general upkeep, etc.)
- Nelson Park and trail along Fairview Park and trails received the most complaints (as the most visited destinations). Most of these concern a few residents citing lack of cleanliness (litter, goose droppings), a need for more maintenance.

**Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Parks, Nature areas, Trails, Outdoor or Indoor Facilities
(top responses, unweighted n of cases)**

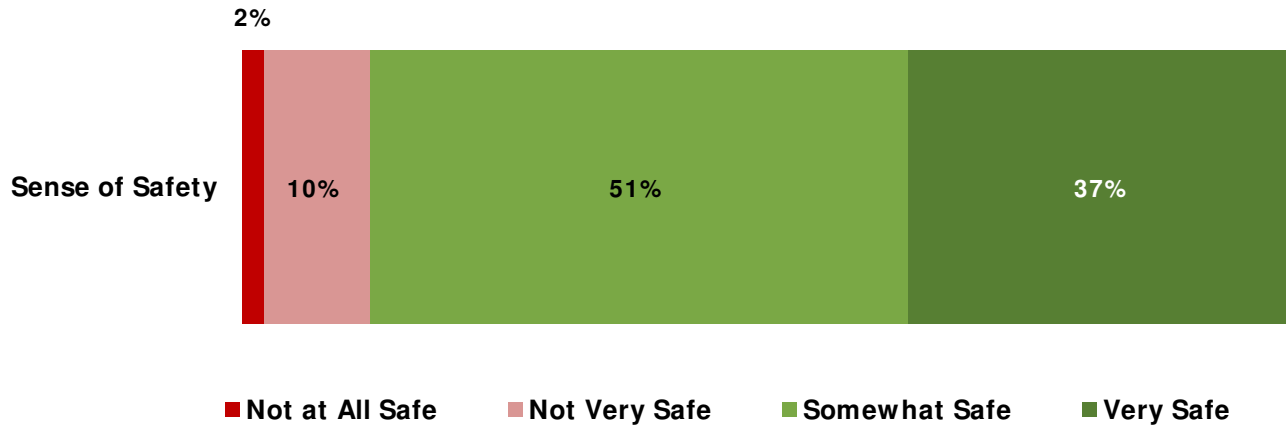


Q11. If you were dissatisfied with any park, nature area, trail, outdoor or indoor facility please indicate which one(s) and why. (open-ended, multiple responses) NOTE: All other locations below n=6 are not shown.

In a separate question, the vast majority of residents report feeling at least somewhat safe when visiting DPD parks and facilities overall.

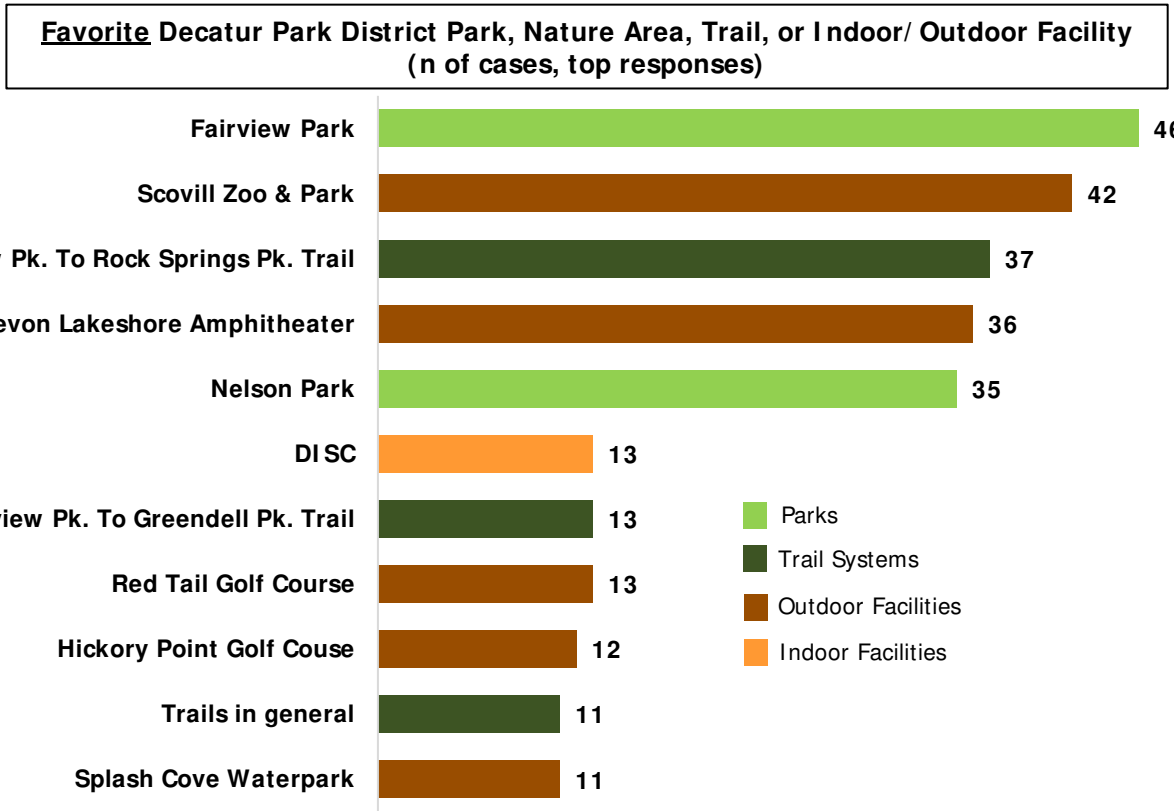
- Nearly 9 out of 10 residents (88%) feel either “very” (37%) or “somewhat” safe (51%) at DPD locations.
- By comparison, 12% overall express at least some safety concerns.
- These overall responses are consistent across all regions and subgroups, meaning that the vast majority (at least 82%+) feel at least somewhat safe.

**Sense of Safety at Decatur Park District Parks or Facilities
(n= 371)**



Separate from citing the DPD assets that they use or visit most often, residents give a wide range of favorite DPD destinations or assets, most often focusing on Fairview and Nelson Parks, the Fairview to Rock Springs Park trail, Scovill Zoo and Park, and Devon Amphitheater.

- A second tier of top destinations mostly include outdoor facilities (including both golf courses, DISC, and additional trails).
- Specific reasons for selecting the most-mentioned sites as their favorite destinations/facilities are on the next three pages.



NOTE: All other parks/ facilities/ trails etc. were cited by n= 9 or fewer overall (not shown)

Top Reasons for Most Frequently cited “Favorite” Destinations

Reasons: Fairview Park as Favorite Destination (total n= 46)

Trails	n= 12
Close by, nearby location	n= 8
Variety of activities	n= 7
Pond	n= 7
Pavilions	n= 6
Well-maintained, clean	n= 5
Size (large)	n= 4
Open space	n= 4
Quiet, peaceful	n= 4
Number/Size of trees, shade	n= 4
Dog park	n= 3
History, lots of memories there	n= 3
Pool	n= 2
Outdoor concerts	n= 2

Reasons: Scovill Zoo & Park as Favorite Destination (total n= 42)

Great for kids, families	n= 17
Great zoo, enjoy the animals	n= 13
Train	n= 8
Friendly staff, well managed	n= 6
Variety of activities	n= 4
Something for all ages	n= 4
Playground	n= 3
Safe	n= 3
Reasonable cost	n= 2
Well-maintained, clean	n= 2
Carousel	n= 2
Sculpture garden	n= 2

Reasons: Fairview Pk. To Rock Springs Pk. Trail as Favorite Destination (total n= 37)

Like it in general	n= 8
Close by, nearby location	n= 8
Well-maintained, clean	n= 7
Accessible	n= 7
Pretty	n= 5
Quiet, not overcrowded	n= 4
Long trail, good distance	n= 3
Great for biking	n= 3
Safe	n= 2
Great views	n= 2
Hilly	n= 2

Top Reasons for Most Frequently cited “Favorite” Destinations (cont’d)

Reasons: Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater as Favorite Destination (total n= 36)

Great events, artists	n= 122
Great atmosphere, location	n= 8
Well-maintained, clean	n= 6
Great venue, facility	n= 6
Good/Friendly staff, management	n= 5
Safe	n= 2
Easy parking	n= 2
Good crowds, attendance	n= 2
Reasonable cost	n= 2

Reasons: Nelson Park as Favorite Destination (total n= 35)

Variety of activities	n= 9
Close by, nearby location	n= 9
Lakefront	n= 7
Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater	n= 5
Nice views	n= 2
Pretty, scenic	n= 2
Boating nearby	n= 2
Dining nearby	n= 2

Reasons: DI SC as Favorite Destination (total n= 13)

Comprehensive, has what I need	n= 4
Track	n= 3
Good/Friendly staff	n= 2
Only facility like this around	n= 2
Nice views	n= 2
Pretty, scenic	n= 2
Boating nearby	n= 2
Dining nearby	n= 2

Top Reasons for Most Frequently cited “Favorite” Destinations (cont’d)

Reasons: Fairview Pk. To Greendell Pk. Trail as Favorite Destination (total n= 13)

Pretty	n= 4
Like it in general	n= 2
Close by, nearby location	n= 2
Well-maintained, clean	n= 2

Reasons: Red Tail GC as Favorite Destination (total n= 13)

Close by, nearby location	n= 5
Good course, layout, skill level	n= 4
Good/Friendly staff	n= 2
Well-maintained, clean	n= 2
Like it in general	n= 2

Reasons: Hickory Point GC as Favorite Destination (total n= 12)

Close by, nearby location	n= 4
Well-maintained, clean	n= 4
Good/Friendly staff	n= 4
Good course, layout, skill level	n= 3
Like it in general	n= 3

Reasons: Trails in general as Favorite Destination (total n= 11)

Good for biking	n= 3
Good for families	n= 2
Good for exercise	n= 2
Safe	n= 2
Smooth trails, well-maintained	n= 2

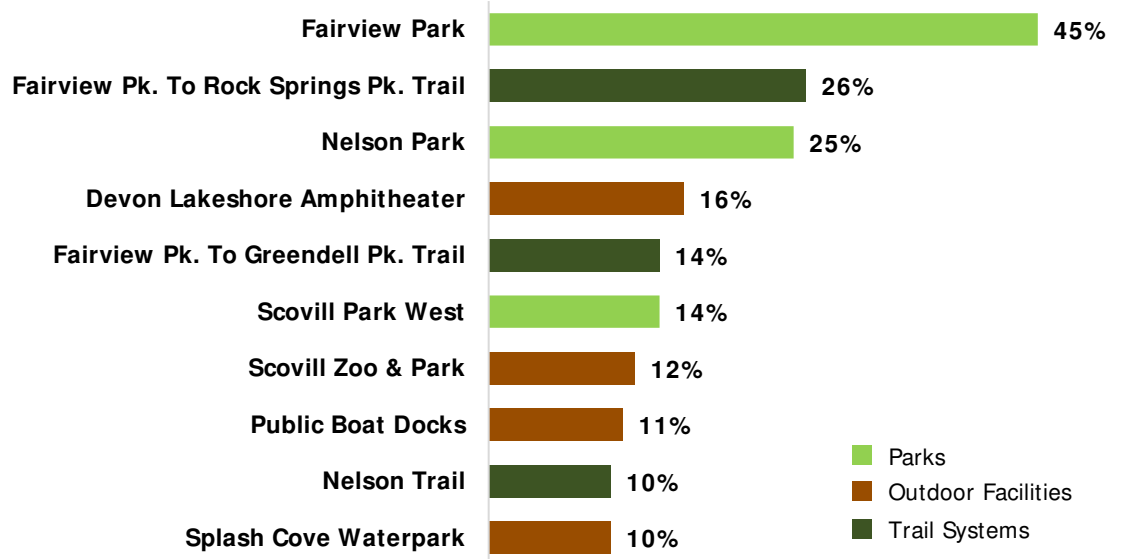
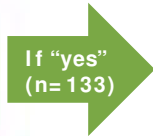
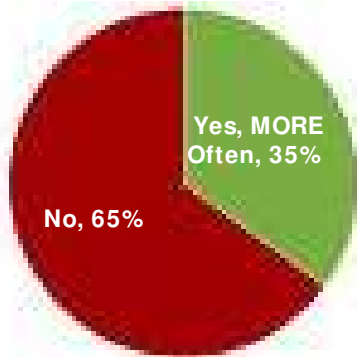
Reasons: Splash Cove Waterpark as Favorite Destination (total n= 11)

Great for kids, families	n= 4
Good, like it in general	n= 3
Good/Friendly staff	n= 2
Variety of activities	n= 2

Roughly a third (35%) report increased usage of DPD assets in the past 18 months, especially Fairview Park, the trail connecting Fairview and Rock Springs Parks, and Nelson Park.

- Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater is the only DPD facility that ranks among the top six properties reported to have increased usage in the previous 18 months.

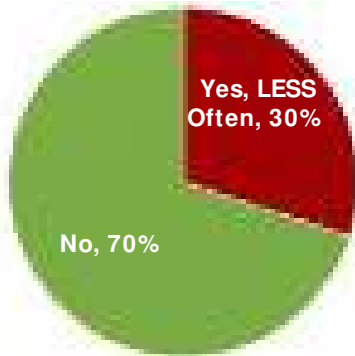
DPD Parks/ Nature Areas/ Trails/ Indoor/ Outdoor Facilities Visited More Often in Past 18 Months Due To COVID (self-reported top responses)



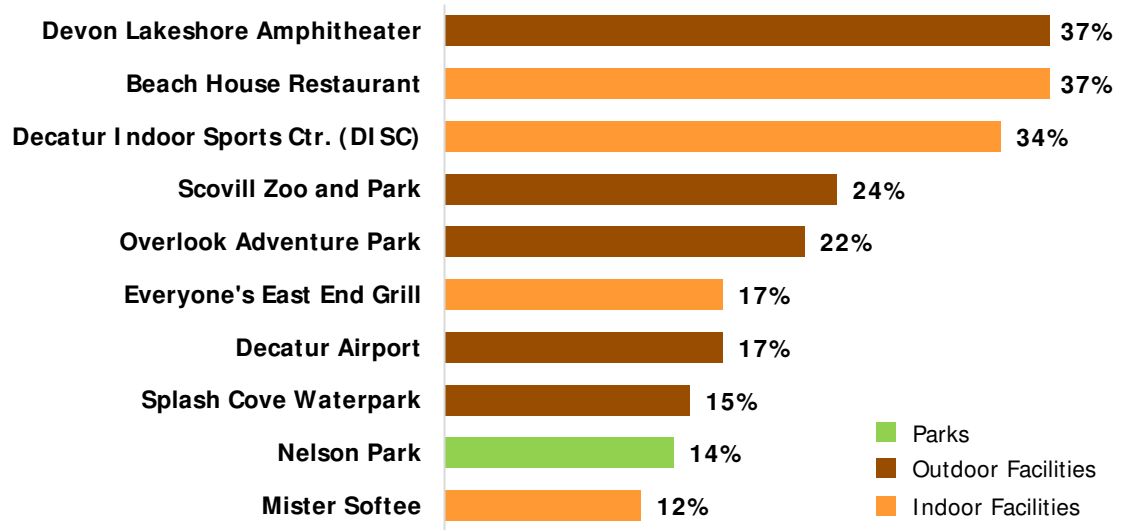
Nearly as many (30%) report fewer visits to DPD locations in the past 18 months, especially to District facilities. This is clearly related to safety concerns, health-related policies, and reduced availability during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Among those reporting a drop in their usage, at least a third report fewer visits to the Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, Beach House Restaurant, and DISC.
- Scovill Park and Zoo and Overlook Adventure Park round out the top five locations with lower self-reported usage.

DPD Parks/ Nature Areas/ Trails/ Indoor/ Outdoor Facilities Visited Less Often in Past 18 Months Due To COVID (self-reported top responses)



If "yes"
(n= 107)



In general, women tend to report more frequent visits to DPD parks and facilities in the past 18 months (more so than men).

- Those reporting fewer visits recently due to COVID tend to be white residents.

Differences by Subgroups: More or Less DPD Visits/ Usage in Past 18 Months

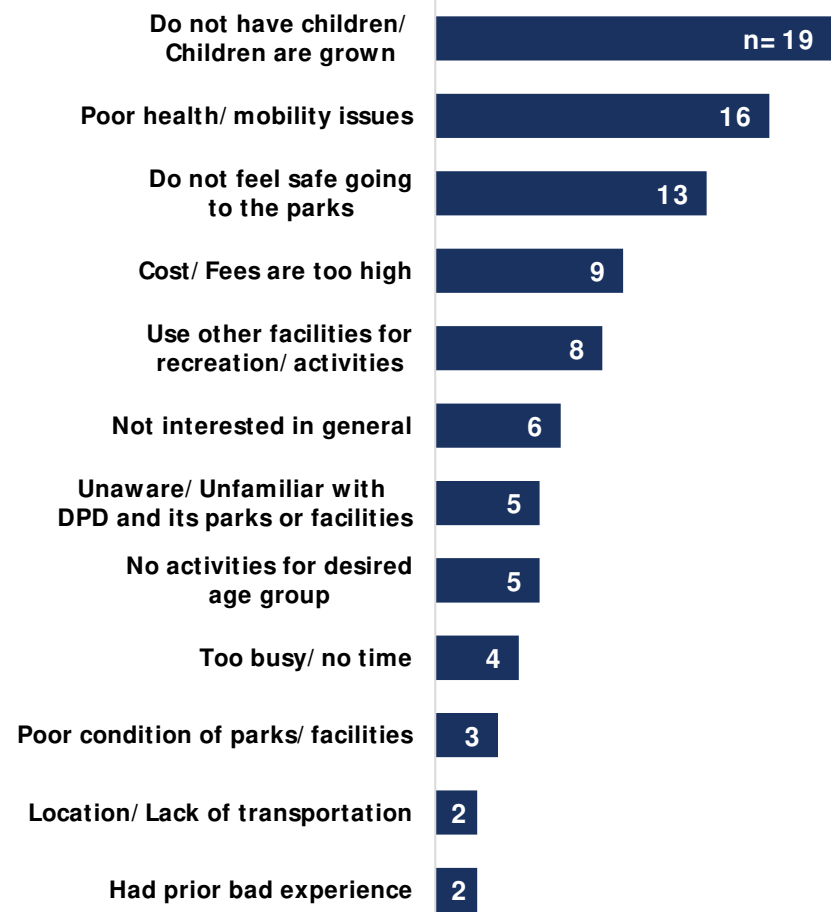
	Most Likely Reported By:
Yes, Visited MORE Often (35% overall)	- Women (42% vs. 30% of men)

	Most Likely Reported By:
Yes, Visited LESS Often (30% overall)	- White residents (32% , vs. 19% of non-white residents)

Overall, roughly 12% have not visited or used a DPD park, facility, trail or nature area in the past 18 months. Their top reasons are that they do not have any children under age 18 in their household, or they have physical or health issues.

- Note that n= 13 non-users/non-visitors cite safety concerns at the parks, even though the vast majority of recent users/visitors (88% overall) feel somewhat or very safe.
- Fewer than n= 10 gave other reasons for not visiting, including lack of interest. Among these less frequent reasons:
 - Nine residents cite that the costs or fees associated with using some of these amenities/facilities is a barrier.
 - About as many (n= 8) go elsewhere for recreation and activities.
 - Others cite a lack of interest and/or a lack of time.

Top Reasons for Non-Usage/ Non-Visits to DPD Parks and Facilities (n= 47)

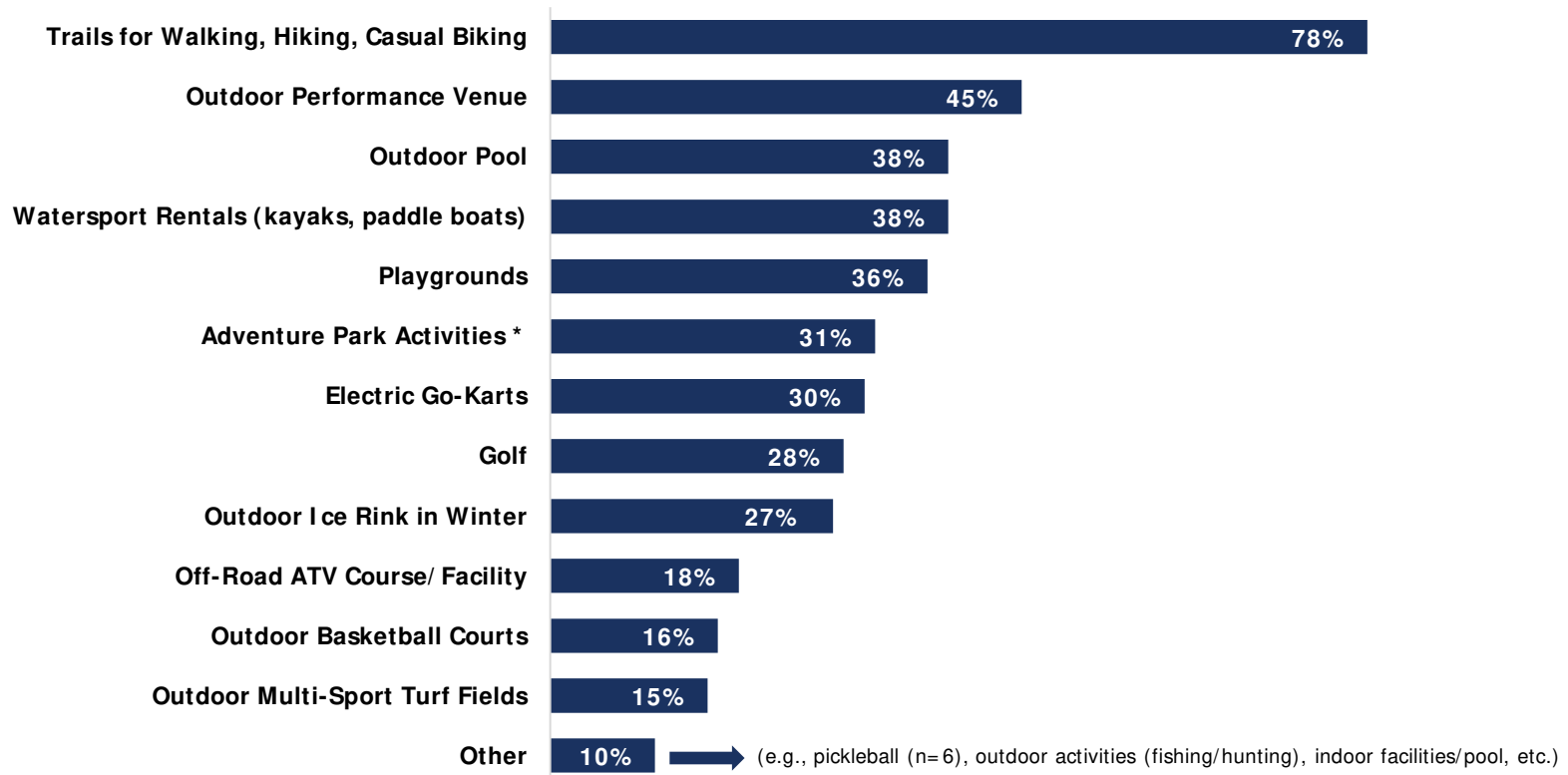


III. Levels of Interest and Unmet Needs: Outdoor Amenities/Facilities

From a list of outdoor amenities, most residents express strongest demand or interest in trails, followed by an outdoor performance venue, pools, watersport rentals, and playgrounds.

- At least one in four (27%+) are also interested in adventure park activities, electric go-karts, golf, and/or outdoor ice rinks.

**Outdoor Amenities/ Facilities of Interest/ Need Among Residents (% "Yes")
(n= 373)**



* Activities include ropes courses, repelling, climbing, zip lines, etc.

Q16A. Please indicate if you or any household member uses or has a need or interest in the following outdoor park amenities or facilities.

In general, women tend to express greater interest than men across many of these outdoor facilities, as do younger adults.

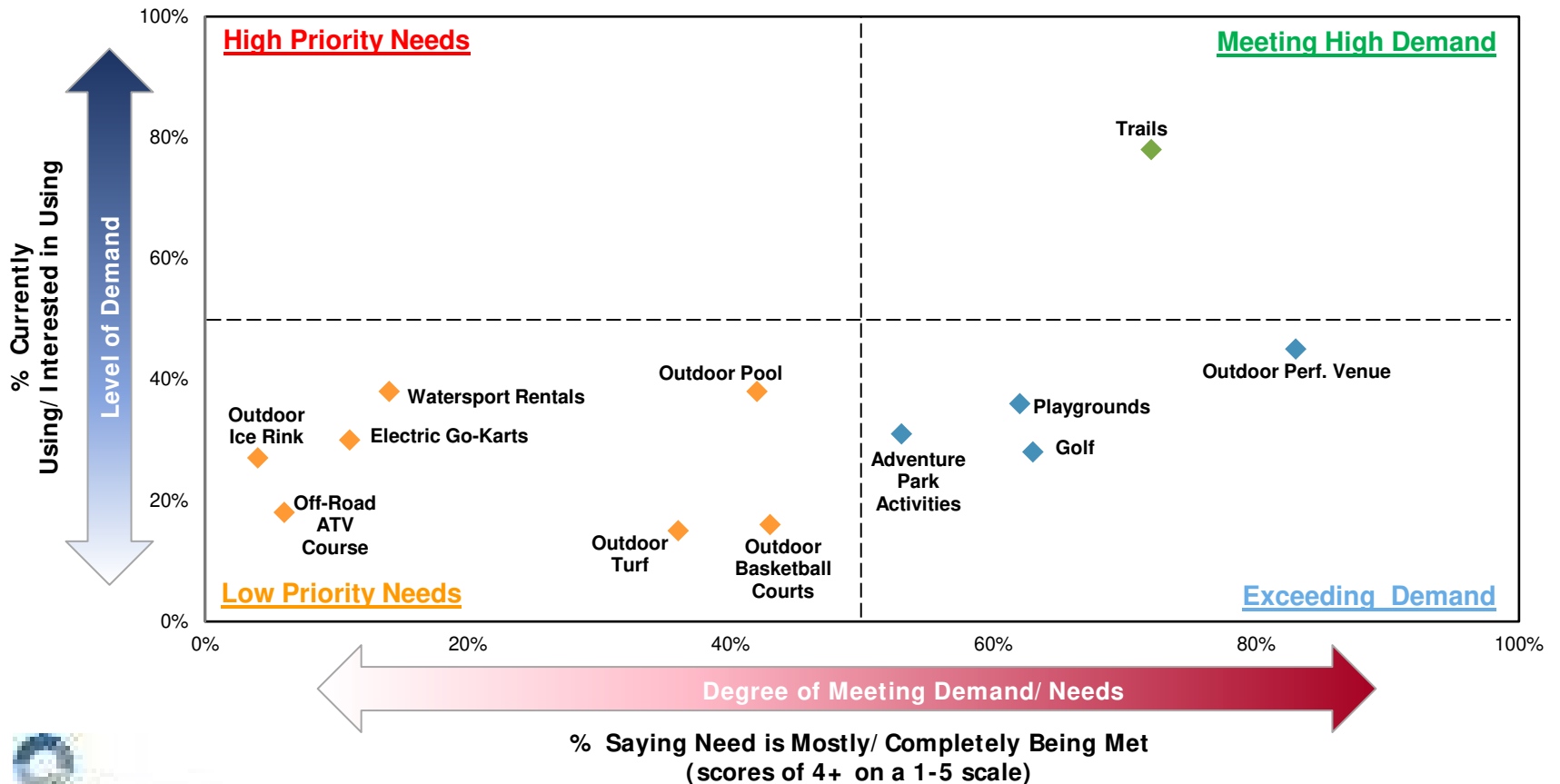
	Overall (n= 373)	Most Likely to Express Interest/ Need/ Use
Trails for Walking, Hiking, Casual Biking	78%	- Under age 35 (87%), 55-64 (89%)
Outdoor Performance Venue	45%	- Women (56%, vs. 34% of men) - White residents (47%, vs. 37% of non-white residents)
Outdoor Pool	38%	- Women (49%, vs. 27% of men) - Under age 35 (52%), 35-44 (54%)
Watersport Rentals (kayak, paddle boats)	38%	- Women (45%, vs. 32% of men) - Ages 35-44 (50%)
Playgrounds	36%	- SE region (45%) - Households with children (60%, vs 25% of those without children) - Under age 35 (55%), 35-44 (53%)
Adventure Park Activities	31%	- Households with children (48%, vs. 24% of those without children)
Electric Go-Karts	30%	- Under age 35 (43%), 35-44 (45%) - SE (37%) and NE (37%) regions - Households with children (43%, vs. 24% of those without children)
Golf	28%	- Under age 35 (39%)
Outdoor Ice Rink in Winter	27%	- Ages 35-44 (35%), 45-54 (45%) - Households with children (37%, vs 22% of those without children)

Need/ Interest for Outdoor facilities (cont'd)

	Overall (n= 373)	Most Likely to Express Interest/ Need/ Use
Off-Road ATV Course/ Facility	18%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SE region (25%) - Under age 35 (30%), 35-44 (25%) - Renters (38%, vs. 15% of homeowners) - Men (24%, vs. 11% of women)
Outdoor Basketball Courts	16%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NE region (24%) - Households with children (29%, vs. 10% of those without children)
Outdoor Multi-Sport Turf Fields	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NE region (28%) - Households with children (26%, vs. 10% of those without children)

Quadrant analysis shows that the amenities in highest demand – trails and an outdoor performance venue – are already seen as mostly or completely available to those interested (highest degree of “meeting” or “exceeding” demand on the horizontal axis).

- Playgrounds, golf, and adventure park activities also appear to be meeting their current levels of demand.
- The biggest “gaps” that represent opportunities for the District include an outdoor pool, watersport rentals, electric go-karts, and (with lower demand) an off-road ATV course or facility.

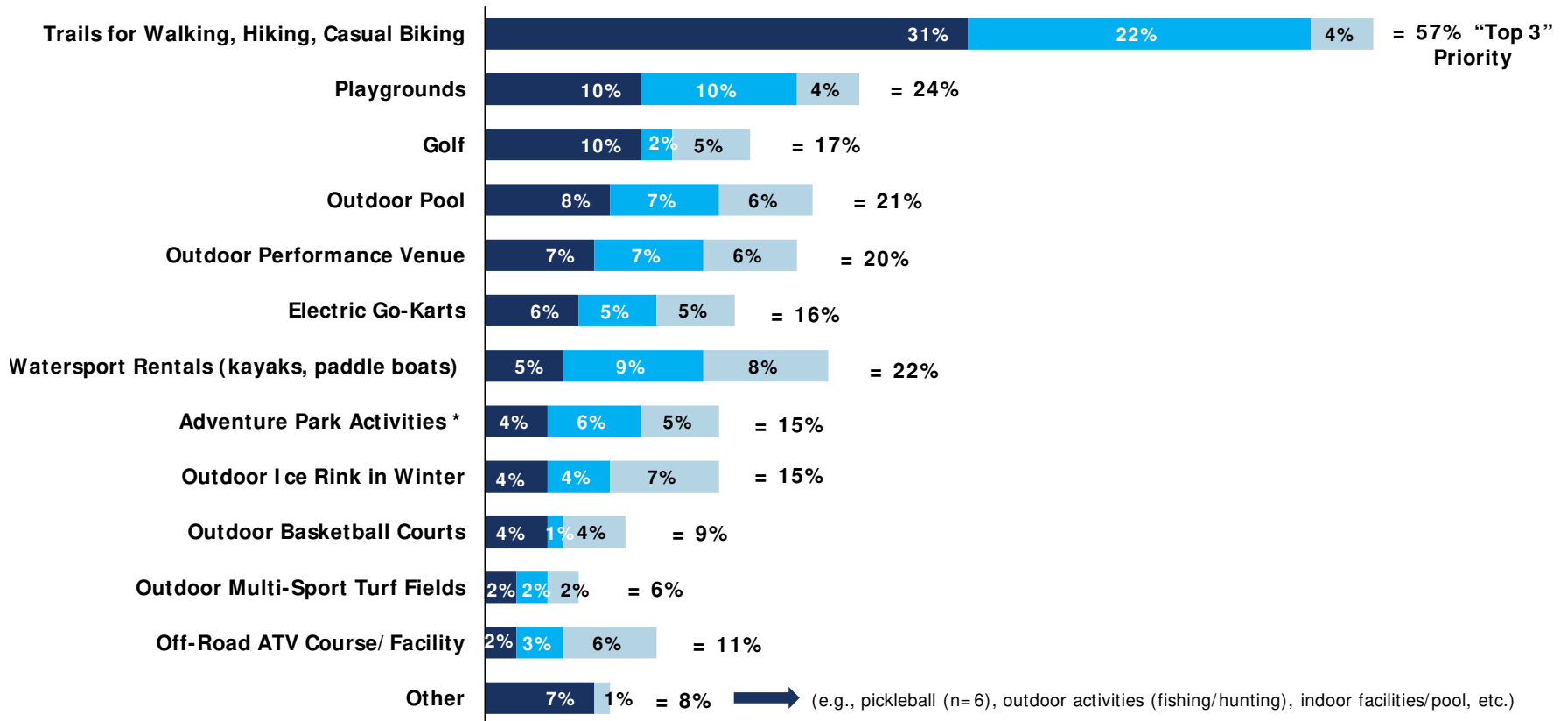




As a follow-up question, when asked to identify the single top priority for the DPD, trails remain the # 1 response, but more/ better playgrounds moves into second place

- When ranking their top 3 priorities, at least one in five also include an outdoor pool, outdoor performance venue, and watersport rentals.

Top Priority For DPD To Provide/ Add/ Improve: Outdoor Amenities/ Facilities (n= 344)



* Activities include ropes courses, repelling, climbing, zip lines, etc.

Q17. Please rank your top three outdoor recreational opportunities that you think should be priorities for the Decatur Park District to provide, add or improve.



Men, adults ages 55-64, and African Americans are among the most likely to include trails as one of their top priorities, while younger adults and those in the SE region tend to include playgrounds as a top need.

- Women are disproportionately most interested in watersport rentals and/or outdoor pools. Older residents tend to favor an outdoor performance venue, and golf.

Differences by Subgroups: Top Priorities

	Top 3 Ranking	Most Likely to Include as Top 3 Priority
Trails for Walking, Hiking, Casual Biking	57%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men (65%, vs. 50% of women) - SW region (70%) - Ages 55-64 (78%) - African American residents (64% of 19 cases) - Households without children (65%, vs. 40% of those with children)
Playgrounds	24%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SE region (31%) - Households with children (45%, vs 14% of those without children) - Under age 35 (38%), 35-44 (37%)
Watersport Rentals (kayak, paddle boats)	22%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women (30%, vs. 15% of men) - SW region (36%) - Households without children (26%, vs. 14% of those with children)
Outdoor Pool	21%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women (30%, vs. 13% of men)
Outdoor Performance Venue	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 55+ (26%) - Households without children (24%, vs 10% of those with children)
Golf	17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 65+ (24%) - White residents (19%, vs. 9% of non-white residents) - NW region (22%)
Electric Go-Karts	16%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 35-54 (25%) - Households with children (27%, vs 11% of those without children)
Adventure Park Activities	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NW region (25%) - Renters (34%, vs. 12% of homeowners)

Top Priorities: Outdoor Amenities/ Facilities (cont'd)

Differences by Subgroups: Top Priorities

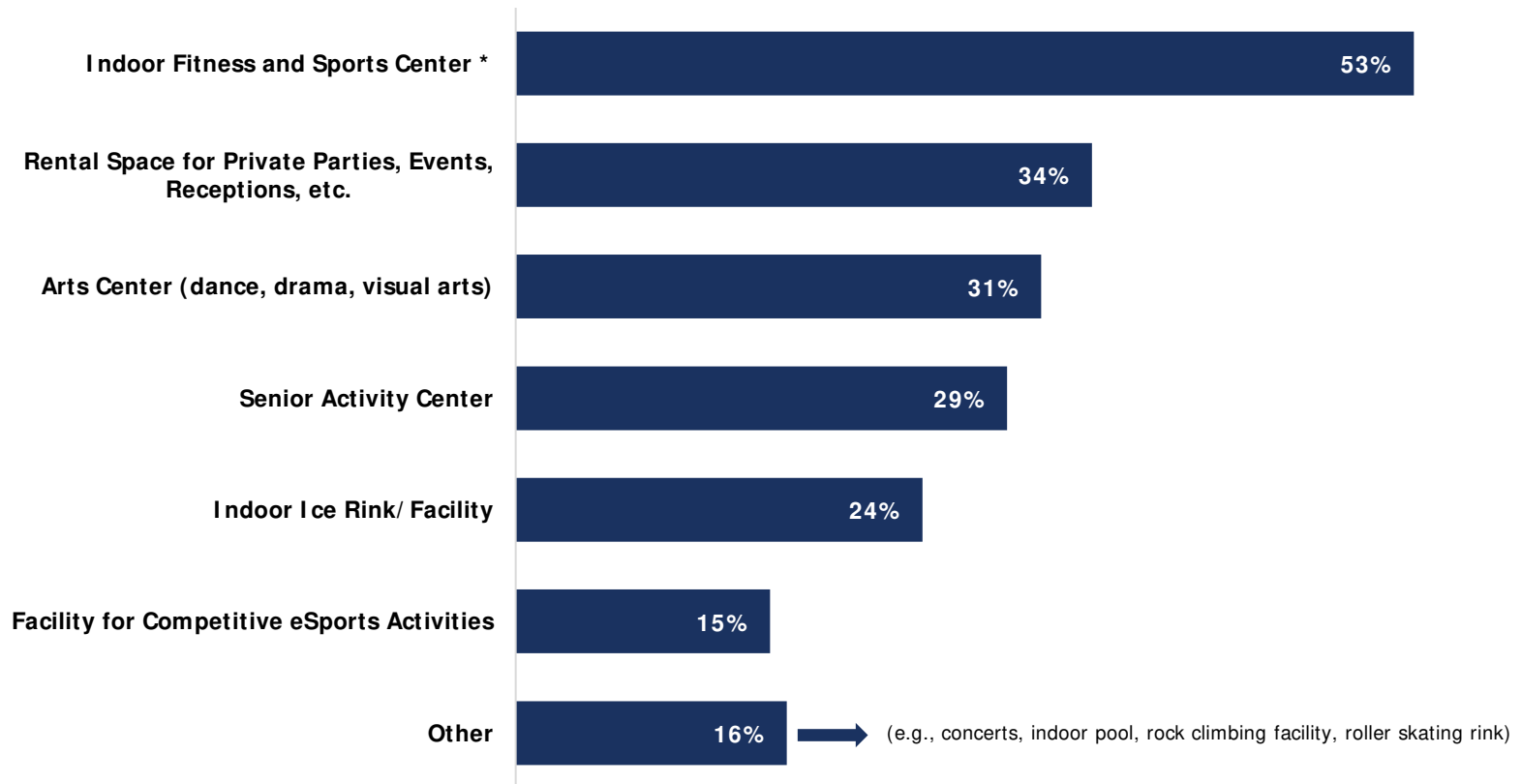
	Top 3 Ranking	Most Likely to Include as Top 3 Priority
Outdoor Ice Rink in Winter	15%	- Ages 35-54 (25%) - White residents (18%, vs. 8% of non-white residents)
Off-Road ATV Course/ Facility	11%	- Ages 35-54 (25%)
Outdoor Basketball Courts	9%	- NE region (18%) - Renters (25%, vs. 7% of homeowners) - Households with children (15%, vs 5% of those without children)
Outdoor Multi-Sport Turf Fields	6%	< no significant differences >

IV. Levels of Interest and Unmet Needs: Indoor Amenities/Facilities

In a similar question about indoor facilities, most express demand for an indoor fitness or sports center (cited by 53% overall). Roughly a third are also interested in rental space for events, an arts center, or a senior activity center.

- An indoor ice rink is of interest to one out of four residents, and 15% express interest in a competitive eSports facility.

**Indoor Amenities/ Facilities of Interest/ Need Among Residents (% “Yes”)
(n= 325)**



*(group fitness class/program facility)

Q18A. Please indicate if you or any household member uses or has a need or interest in the following indoor amenities of facilities.

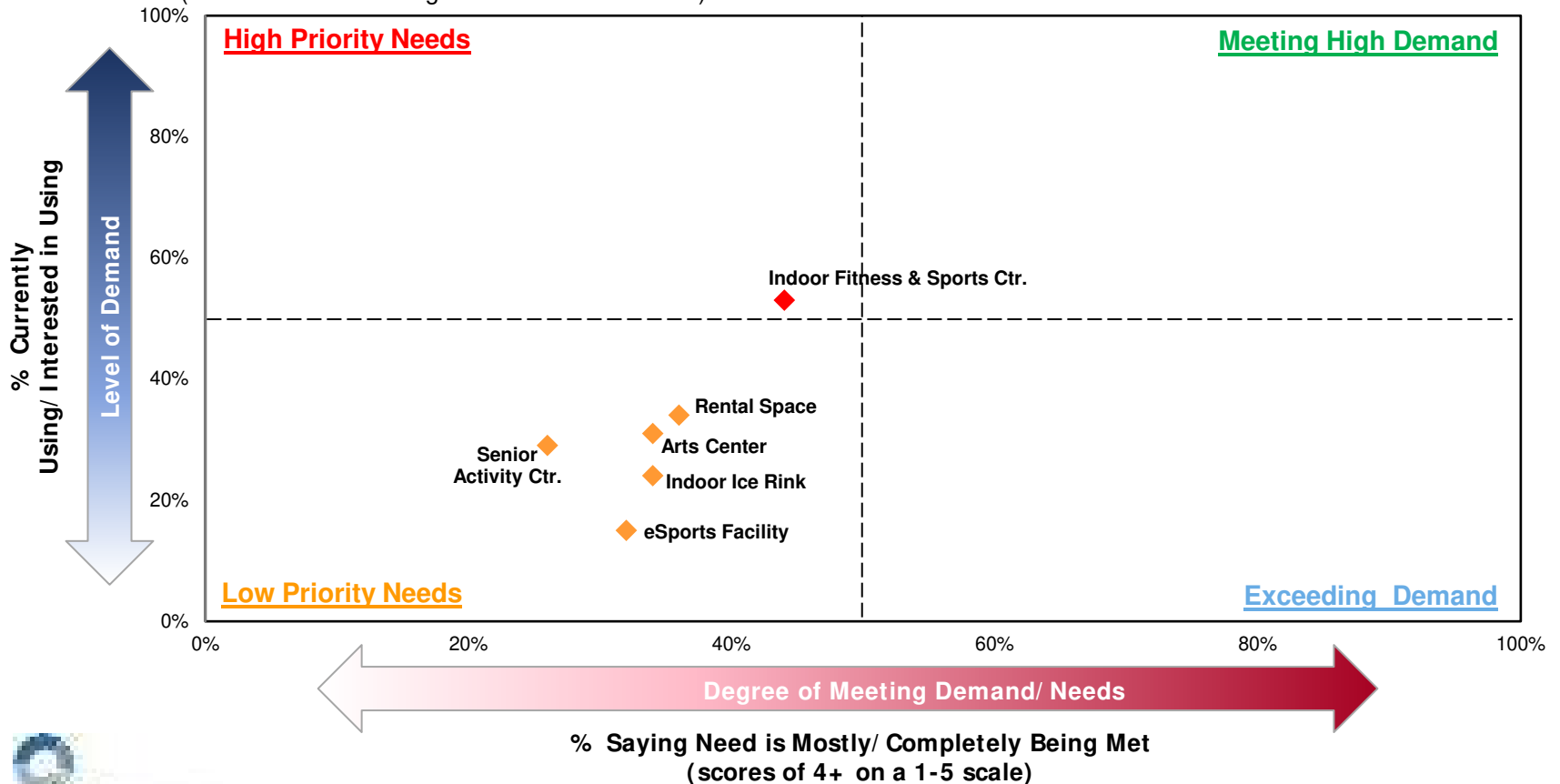
Those expressing the most interest in an indoor fitness/ sports center tend to live in the SE region. Women are among the most interested in rental spaces and an arts center.

- Not surprisingly, the oldest adults (ages 65+) tend to express the greatest demand for a senior activity center, along with African Americans. (Note that African Americans also tend to be interested in a competitive eSports facility.)
- Men and adults ages 45-54 voice the highest levels of interest in an indoor ice rink.

	Overall (n= 325)	Most Likely to Express Interest/ Need/ Use
Indoor Fitness and Sports Center	53%	- SE region (66%)
Rental Space for Private Parties, Events, Receptions, etc.	34%	- Women (41%, vs. 28% of men)
Arts Center (dance, drama, visual arts)	31%	- Women (40%, vs. 23% of men)
Senior Activity Center	29%	- Ages 65+ (69%) - Households without children (38%, vs. 11% of those with children) - African American residents (53%)
Indoor Ice Rink/ Facility	24%	- Men (30%, vs. 19% of women) - Ages 45-54 (43%) - White residents (29%, vs. 12% of non-white residents) - NW region (36%)
Facility for Competitive eSports Activities	15%	- African American residents (45% of 18 cases)

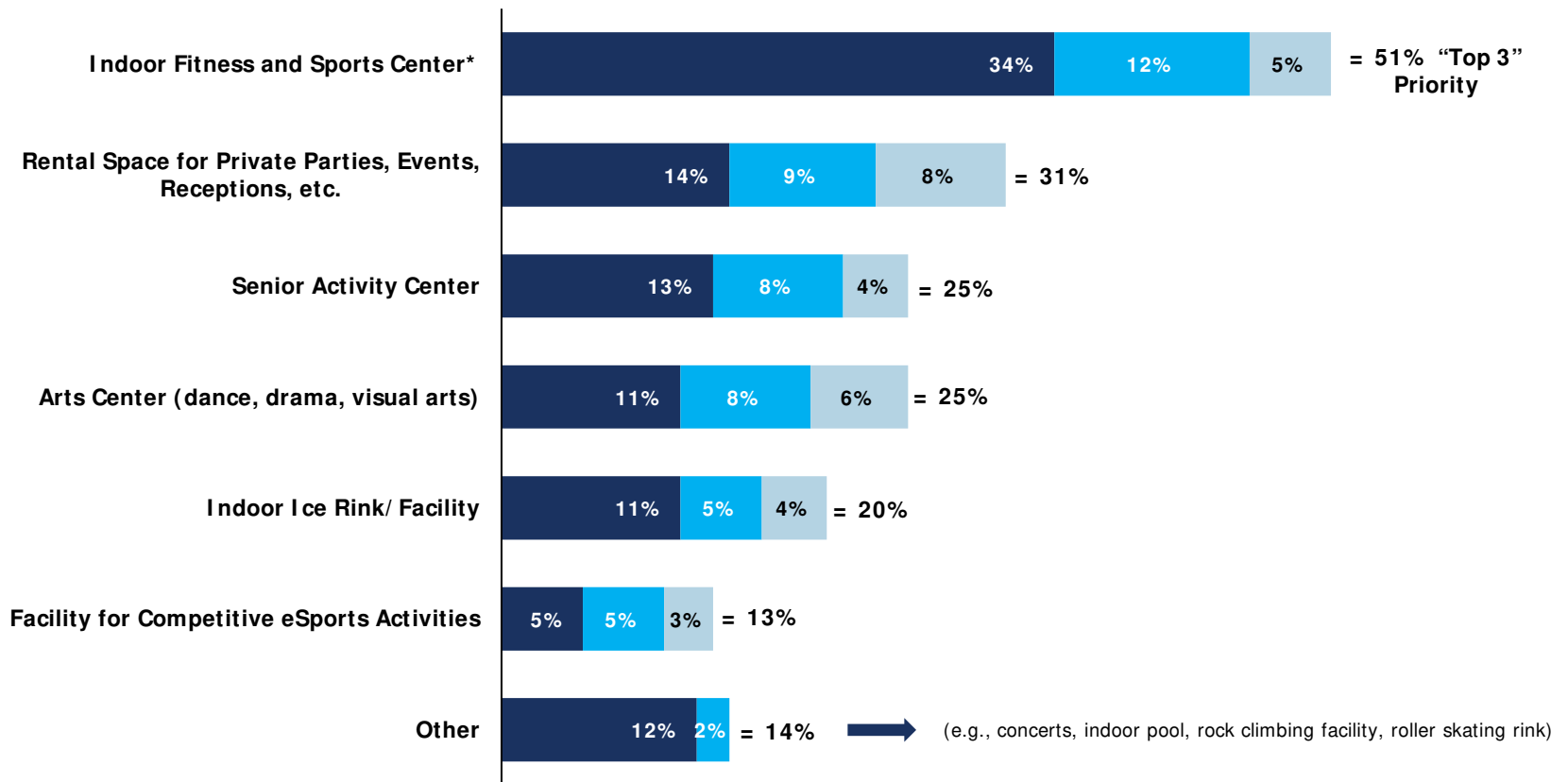
Quadrant analysis shows opportunities for the DPD to deliver on many of these indoor amenities, with the biggest “gap” for an indoor fitness/ sports facility.

- However, this type of facility also receives the highest response that demand is already being met (on the horizontal scale). Given that interest is highest in the SE region, this “gap” may reflect proximity issues more than need for a new facility.
- The remaining indoor options that represent the biggest opportunities are rental space, arts centers, and senior activity centers (which receive the highest levels of demand).



As a follow-up question, when asked to identify the single top priority for the DPD, an indoor fitness/ sports center remains the # 1 choice. Most of the others are cited by 20% to 31% of residents.

Top Priority For DPD To Provide/ Add/ Improve: Indoor Amenities/ Facilities
(n= 305)



*(group fitness class/program facility)

Q19. Please rank your top three indoor recreational opportunities that you think should be priorities for the Decatur Park District to provide, add or improve.

Again, residents in the SE region tend to express the highest need for indoor fitness/ sports center.

- Younger adults (ages 35-44) are most interested in rental space for events.
- Women and the oldest residents place the highest priority for a senior activity center, and women would also most like to see an arts center (more so than men).

Differences by Subgroups: Top Priorities

	Top 3 Ranking	Most Likely to Include as Top 3 Priority
Indoor Fitness and Sports Center	51%	- SE region (58%)
Rental Space for Private Parties, Events, Receptions, etc.	31%	- Ages 35-44 (40%)
Senior Activity Center	25%	- Women (33%, vs. 17% of men) - Ages 65+ (63%) - Households without children (33%, vs. 9% of those with children)
Arts Center (dance, drama, visual arts)	25%	- Women (33%, vs. 17% of men)
Indoor Ice Rink/ Facility	20%	- Ages 45-54 (43%) - White residents (25%, vs. 5% of non-white residents) - NW region (32%)
Facility for Competitive eSports Activities	13%	- Households with children (21%, vs. 8% of those without children) - African American residents (39% of 18 cases)

V. Programming Needs by Age Group

Overall, 29% (n= 117) respondents offered programming suggestions for specific age groups.

- The top responses for each age group are shown below. Active or physical activities to be the top suggestion across the board, with arts programs and outdoor recreation activities usually close behind.

Age Group Programming Needs	Most Frequent Suggestions (unweighted n of cases)
Special Recreation (n= 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible facilities/playgrounds (n= 4) ▪ Programs (general) (n= 2) ▪ Reduced fees (n= 2) ▪ Other (wheelchair accessible activities) (n= 4)
Toddler/ Preschool (n= 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active activities (swim, dance, play, etc.) (n= 5) ▪ After work/weekend options (n= 3) ▪ Outdoor recreation (nature/outdoor activities) (n= 3) ▪ Reduce fees (n= 2) ▪ Preschool (n= 1)
Youth (ages 5-10) (n= 28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active activities (swim, dance, sports, etc.) (n= 9) ▪ After school programs, evening, weekend activities (n= 5) ▪ Arts (crafts) (n= 4) ▪ STEM, science, educational programs (n= 4) ▪ Outdoor recreation (nature/outdoor activities) (n= 3) ▪ Other (zoo buddies, park activities, music, yellow hat) (n= 5)
Middle School (ages 11-14) (n= 34)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active activities (swim, sports, bowling, running, etc.) (n= 15) ▪ Arts (crafts) (n= 5) ▪ Outdoor recreation (fishing, camping) (n= 5) ▪ Social activities (teen center) (n= 3) ▪ STEM, science, educational/afterschool programs (n= 5) ▪ Other (general more programs, yellow hat) (n= 4)
Older teens (ages 15-18) (n= 32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active activities (baseball, swim, biking, sports, etc.) (n= 16) ▪ Outdoor recreation (fishing, camping) (n= 4) ▪ Arts (crafts) (n= 2) ▪ Social activities (teen center) (n= 2) ▪ Volunteer programs (n= 2) ▪ Music classes (n= 2) ▪ Other (gardening, general activities, CPR classes) (n= 6)

Q20. Please describe any other specific program(s) or event(s) that you would like the Decatur Park District to offer for each group (multiple responses).

Active and physical activities are also the top choice for adult programming, along with arts and music programs.

Age Group Programming Needs	Most Frequent Suggestions (unweighted n of cases)
Young Adults (ages 19-29): (n= 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active activities (swim, sports, dance, etc.) (n= 13) ▪ Outdoor recreation (fishing) (n= 2) ▪ Other (1 response each: music, arts, education, wine/beer tasting, gardening, social activities) (n= 8)
Adults (ages 30-49) (n= 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active activities (dance, tennis, golf, etc.) (n= 12) ▪ Nights out (movies, wine and paint) (n= 5) ▪ Volunteer opportunities (n= 2) ▪ Other (1 response each: education, music, games, social activities) (n= 5)
Adults (ages 50-64) (n= 25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active activities (pickleball, swim, dance, exercise classes, etc.) (n= 17) ▪ Music performances/shows (n= 2) ▪ Other (1 response each: education, book club, art, lake activities, accessible activities)
Adults (ages 65+) (n= 45)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active activities (exercise/yoga classes, pickleball, biking, etc.) (n= 27) ▪ Arts (craft) (n= 4) ▪ Day trips (n= 4) ▪ Outdoor recreation (n= 3) ▪ Social activities (n= 2) ▪ Games/bingo (n= 2) ▪ Accessible programs (n= 1), more programs in general (n= 4)
Other Special Events/ Activities (n= 31)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active activities (exercise classes, sports, etc.) (n= 9) ▪ Outdoor recreation (environmental education n= 1) (n= 3) ▪ Adventure parks/activities (n= 2) ▪ Music performances/shows (n= 5) ▪ Festivals/fairs (n= 3) ▪ Dog related activities (indoor dog park, agility) (n= 2) ▪ Other (1 response each: games, casino, social activities, senior center) (n= 9)

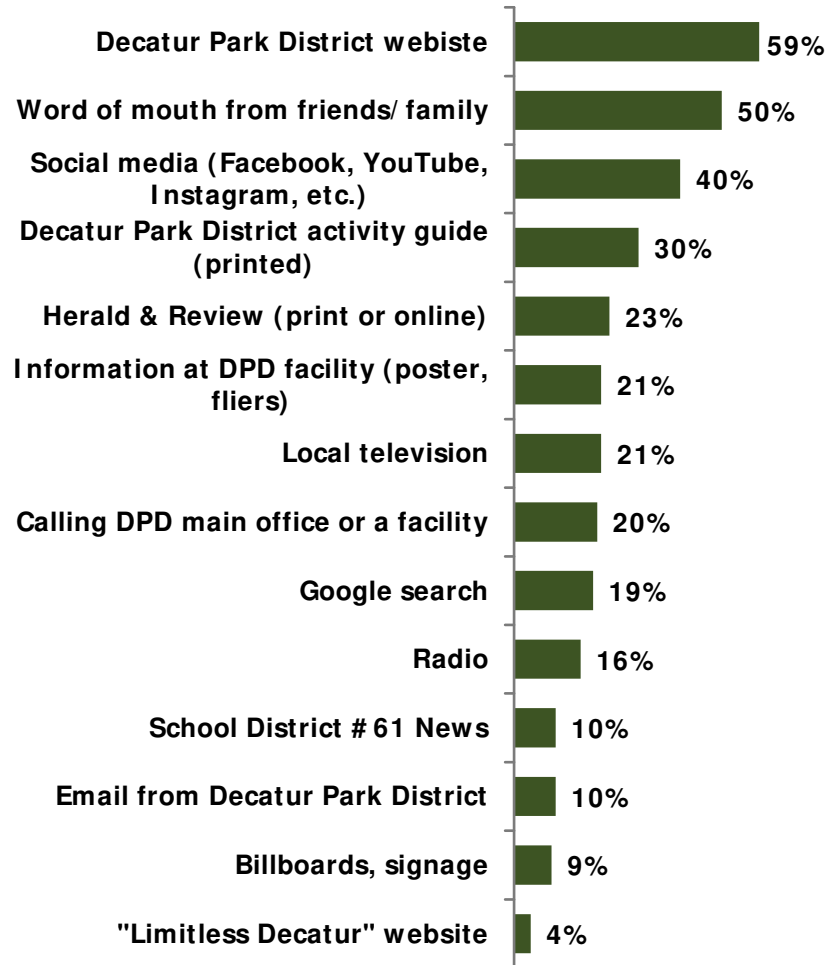
Q20. Please describe any other specific program(s) or event(s) that you would like the Decatur Park District to offer for each group (multiple responses).

VI. Information Sources

Local residents rely on multiple sources for DPD information, most often the District website, word of mouth, and/ or social media.

- Roughly a third refer to the printed activity guide that the DPD provides.
- Various mass media sources were mentioned including the Herald & Review (23%), followed by local television (21%) or radio stations (16%).

Most Used Current Sources for DPD Information (n= 369)



Significant Differences by Information Sources (multiple responses)

Source of Information	Mentioned most often by...
Decatur Park District Website (59% overall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women (67%, vs. 51% of men) - Ages 45-54 (71%), 55-64 (66%) - Lived in Decatur < 5 yrs. (77%)
Word of Mouth (50%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 65+ (63%) - Lived in Decatur < 5 yrs. (71%) or 30+ yrs. (56%)
Social Media - Facebook, YouTube, Instagram (40%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women (51%, vs. 29% of men) - Under age 55 (49%) - White residents (45%) - SW region (56%)
Decatur Park District printed activity guide (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women (35%, vs. 23% of men) - SW (44%) and SE region (36%) - Lived in Decatur 20-29 yrs. (39%)
Herald & Review print or online (23%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 65+ (39%)
Information at DPD facility (21%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under age 35 (35%), 65+ (24%) - African American residents (46%) - NE (28%) and SE regions (28%) - Lived in Decatur 20-29 yrs. (36%) - Renters (45%, vs. 18% of homeowners)
Local television (21%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 65+ (38%) - Lived in Decatur 30+ yrs. (27%)
Calling DPD office/ facility (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NE region (29%) - African American residents (54%) - Lived in Decatur 30+ yrs. (27%)
Google Search (19%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White residents (23%) - Lived in Decatur < 5 yrs. (42%)

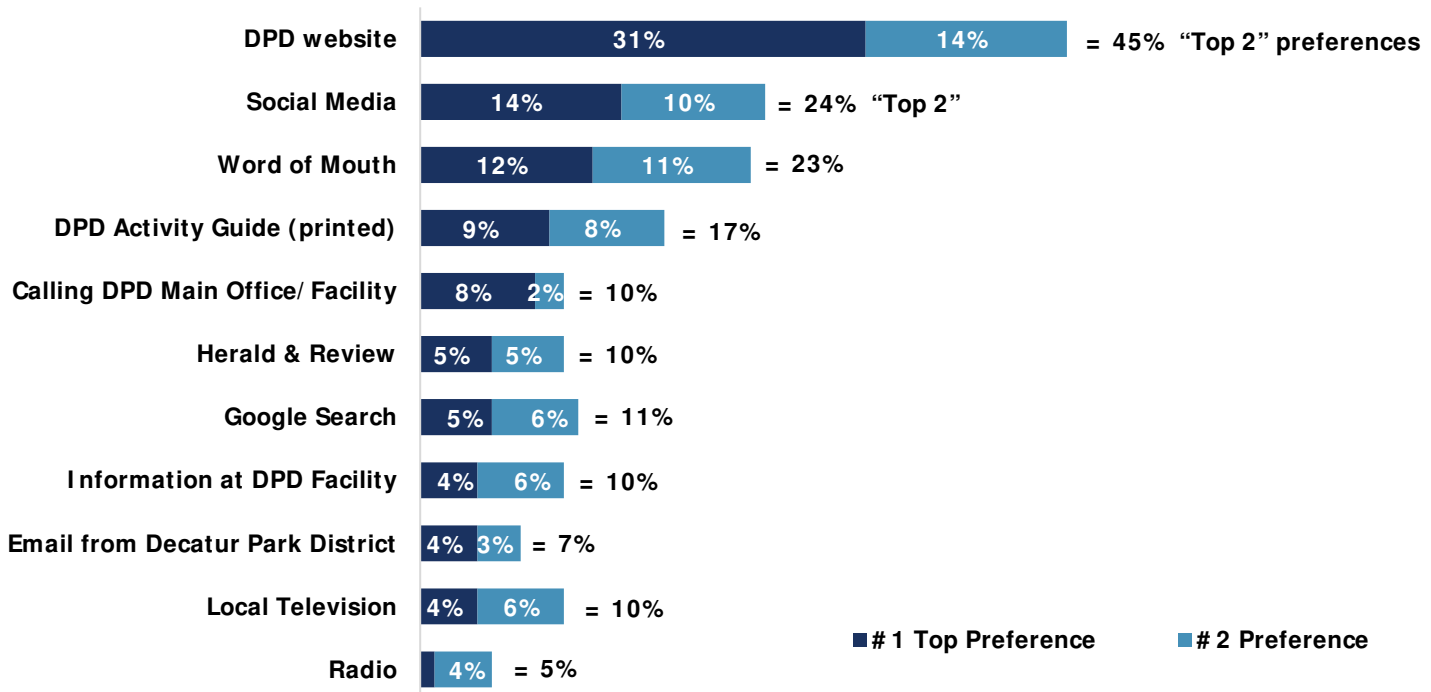
Significant Differences by Information Sources (multiple responses) - cont'd

Source of Information	Mentioned most often by...
Radio (16% overall)	<i>< no statistically meaningful differences ></i>
School District # 61 News (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women (13%, vs. 6% of men) - Under age 35 (19%) - Non-white residents (27%, vs. 5% of white adults) - Households with children (18%, vs. 6% of those without children) - NE (15%) and SE regions (15%) - Renters (23%, vs. 8% of homeowners) - Lived in Decatur 20-29 yrs. (24%)
Email from Decatur Park District (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 65+ (13%) - SW region (16%) - Lived in Decatur 10-19 yrs. (19%)
Billboards, Signage (9%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 45-54 (14%) - Renters (24%, vs. 7% of homeowners)
“Limitless Decatur” website (4%)	<i>< no statistically meaningful differences ></i>

When asked for their two most preferred sources of DPD information, residents offer a wide range of options, but the DPD website clearly remains the # 1 choice.

- Social media options rank a distant second, followed closely by word of mouth from family/friends/neighbors/etc.
- Just under one in five (17%) include the printed activity guide from the DPD, and the remaining sources are each cited by about one in ten residents (or fewer).

Top Two Preferred Sources of DPD Information



Q24. Please indicate your first and second preferred sources of information.
 (NOTE: Responses under 3% are not shown), and remaining sources registering under 5% overall are likewise not shown.

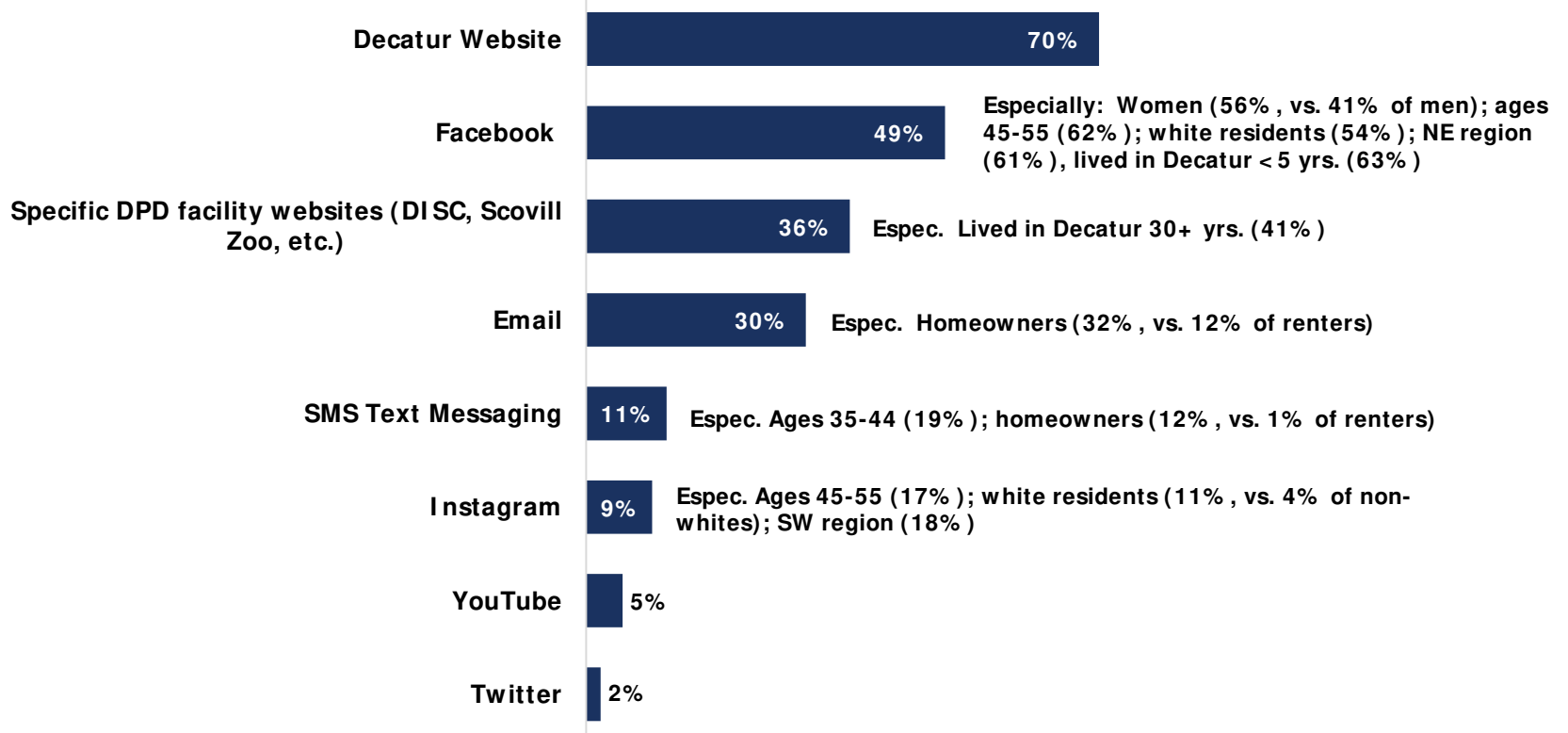
Significant Differences: Top 2 Preferred DPD Information Sources

Information Sources	% # 1 Preference	% Top 2 Preferences
Decatur Park District Website	<p>31% Overall</p> <p>< no meaningful differences ></p>	<p>45% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 45-54 (59%) - White residents (50%) - NW region (54%) - Lived in Decatur <5 yrs. (64%)
Social Media	<p>14% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women (19%, vs. 10% of men) - Ages 35-54 (23%) - White residents (17%, vs. 4% of non-white residents) 	<p>24% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under age 55 (33%) - White residents (28%) - SW region (38%)
Word of Mouth	<p>12% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men (17%, vs. 7% of women) - White residents (13%, vs. 9% of non-white residents) - NW region (19%) 	<p>23% Overall</p> <p>< no meaningful differences ></p>
DPD Activity Guide	<p>9% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lived in Decatur 30+ yrs. (13%) 	<p>17% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NE (25%) and SE regions (22%) - Lived in Decatur 30+ yrs. (20%)
Calling Decatur Park District Office/ Facility	<p>8% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - African American residents (30%) - Households with children (15%, vs. 4% of those without children) - Renters (21%, vs. 6% of homeowners) 	<p>10% Overall</p> <p>< no meaningful differences ></p>
Herald & Review	<p>5% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 65+ (14%) 	<p>10% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 65+ (23%) - Homeowners (11%, vs. 1% of renters)
Google Search	<p>5% Overall</p> <p>< no meaningful differences ></p>	<p>11% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 55-64 (21%) - Households without children (15%) - NW region (16%)
Local Television	<p>4% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 65+ (8%) 	<p>10% Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ages 65+ (19%)

Digital information sources that are preferred most are the DPD websites (and websites for specific facilities) along with Facebook (much more popular than the other social media platforms tested).

- The main DPD website tends to be the top digital source among all segments consistently (no meaningful differences)
- Facebook (and Instagram) tend to be preferred by 45- to 55-year-old adults and white residents.

Preferred Digital Sources for DPD Information (n= 347, multiple responses)



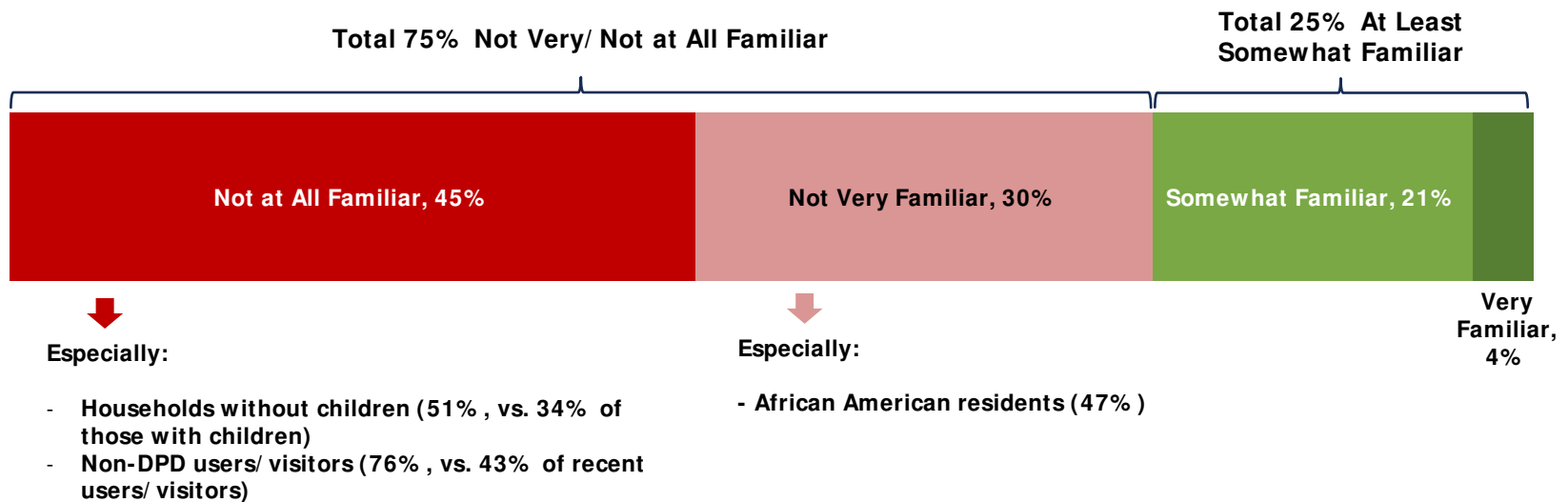
Q25. As Decatur Park District information and interactions have become more "virtual" in the past year, which digital or internet options are you most likely to use for Park District information going forward? Please select all that apply.

VII. Awareness of Decatur Parks Foundation

One in four residents report being at least somewhat familiar with the Decatur Parks Foundation (though only 4% are “very familiar”). Nearly half overall (45%) report being not at all familiar.

- These overall percentages were generally consistent across all subgroups. The only statistically meaningful differences are among those who are “not at all” vs. “not very” familiar.

Differences by Subgroups: More or Less DPD Visits/ Usage in Past 18 Months

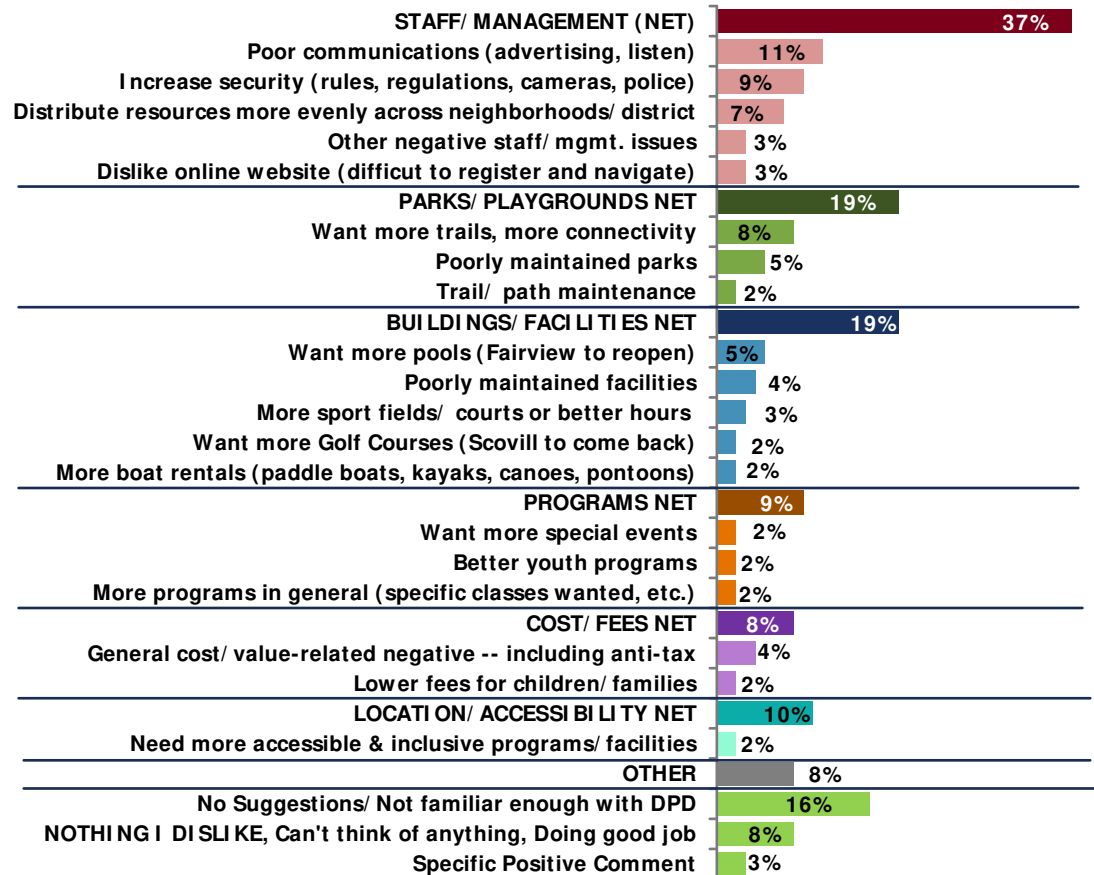


VIII. Final Suggestions/Priorities for DPD

In a final open-ended question, residents were asked to identify one thing that the DPD could do to best serve them or their household going forward.

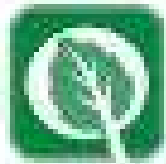
- Most often, 37% give administrative suggestions, most often more or better communications, ensuring security, and making sure that park and recreational opportunities are available throughout all areas.
- One in five (19%) cite something about parks or trails (mostly more trails and connectivity, or better maintained parks).
- Similarly, 19% had facility-related requests spread across multiple suggestions (most often more pools, better maintenance, more access to sports amenities, etc.).
- Additionally, 8% of the respondents suggested more specific (“Other”) suggestions including a campground, hunting opportunity, public riding stable, or educational offerings.

**Top Request/ Priority for DPD
(multiple open-ended responses, n= 270)**



Appendices: Postcard Invitation
Topline Report and Questionnaire
Map of Households Receiving Invitations

Addressed to you personally
 1198 Sherman Avenue
 Decatur, GA 30030



Decatur
 - PARK DISTRICT -

Take Our Survey &
 Make Your Voice Heard!

[Last Name] Household
 or Current Resident
 (Address 1)
 (Address 2)
 (City/State/Zip)

The Decatur Park District wants to hear from YOU!

You are invited to take a brief, confidential online survey for The Decatur Park District. Your feedback will help the Park District better understand how it can serve you better.

Whether you use the Park District facilities and parks, or not, this is your opportunity to share your opinion and be heard!

Your household was randomly selected from all households in the District, and the feedback you provide is completely anonymous and will be grouped with responses from other households.

We will email an alert to your household with a few minutes of computer time to complete the online survey in the next few days. The alert will give you a computer and internet IP information. Simply go to the alert or email and visit the following password which is also used to create your "password":

Survey Website
 Password:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/442UPU
 = P888

Your opinions are very important! Thank you for sharing them.

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Denver Park & Recreation Department Survey

Initial Topline Results

For more complete details on the survey, visit the survey results at:

1. How satisfied are you with the current Park & Rec services you receive from the Department? (Please select a response and then indicate how satisfied you are with the service.)

Overall Satisfaction (%)

Very satisfied	10%
Satisfied	10
Neutral	50
Dissatisfied	10
Very dissatisfied	10
Total	100%

2. Have you ever reported a problem with the following park facilities? (Select all that apply. If you did not report a problem with any facility, select "no problem reported.")

Facilities Reported (%)

Playgrounds	
Extremely Satisfied	2%
Very Satisfied	11
Satisfied	25
Neutral	21
Dissatisfied	11
Very Dissatisfied	29
Total	100%
Walking/Biking Paths	
Extremely Satisfied	0%
Very Satisfied	11
Satisfied	25
Neutral	21
Dissatisfied	26
Very Dissatisfied	17
Total	100%
Other Facilities	
Extremely Satisfied	0%
Very Satisfied	0%
Satisfied	0%
Neutral	0%
Dissatisfied	0%
Very Dissatisfied	0%
Total	0%

Source: Denver Park & Recreation Department Survey

2. How satisfied are you with the current Park & Rec services you receive from the Department? (Please select a response and then indicate how satisfied you are with the service.)	
Very satisfied	10%
Satisfied	10
Neutral	50
Dissatisfied	10
Very dissatisfied	10
Total	100%
3. Have you ever reported a problem with the following park facilities? (Select all that apply. If you did not report a problem with any facility, select "no problem reported.")	
Playgrounds	
Extremely Satisfied	2%
Very Satisfied	11
Satisfied	25
Neutral	21
Dissatisfied	11
Very Dissatisfied	29
Total	100%
Walking/Biking Paths	
Extremely Satisfied	0%
Very Satisfied	11
Satisfied	25
Neutral	21
Dissatisfied	26
Very Dissatisfied	17
Total	100%

3. What concerns you most about the Denver Park District, in what ways do you think we do it best?

Issue: No sample

Issue: No sample

4. In what way do you think we do it best about the Denver Park District, in what ways do you think we need to improve?

Issue: No sample

Issue: No sample

5. What is your overall opinion about the Denver Park District? (Please select a response and then indicate how satisfied you are with the service.)

Overall Satisfaction (%)

Very satisfied	10%
Satisfied	10
Neutral	50
Dissatisfied	10
Very dissatisfied	10
Total	100%

Appendix 1: Survey Results by Question

15. Have you considered alternative early nature areas that address or reduce the negative impact of urban sprawl only?
 No
 Yes

16. What type of early nature areas best address your needs?
 Open space (e.g. park)

17. Where are your needs?
 Suburban/urban edge area

18. Are there any specific parks, trails, green spaces, or other areas that address your needs?
 No
 Yes

19. If you have considered park or green spaces or parks you visited, how often do you visit?
 Never
 Rarely
 Often

Frequency of visit (last 12 months)	
Frequency of visit (last 12 months)	
Never	2%
Rarely	10%
Often	88%
Frequency of visit (last 12 months)	
Never	2%
Rarely	10%
Often	88%
Frequency of visit (last 12 months)	
Never	2%
Rarely	10%
Often	88%
Frequency of visit (last 12 months)	
Never	2%
Rarely	10%
Often	88%

Appendix 2: Survey Results by Response

20. How often do you visit the park or green space you visited?
 Never
 Rarely
 Often

21. How often do you visit the park or green space you visited?
 Never
 Rarely
 Often

Frequency of visit (last 12 months)	
Frequency of visit (last 12 months)	
Never	2%
Rarely	10%
Often	88%
Frequency of visit (last 12 months)	
Never	2%
Rarely	10%
Often	88%
Frequency of visit (last 12 months)	
Never	2%
Rarely	10%
Often	88%

22. If you have visited a park or green space, what type of park or green space did you visit?
 Park
 Green space

Type of park or green space	
Type of park or green space	
Park	90%
Green space	10%
Type of park or green space	
Park	90%
Green space	10%
Type of park or green space	
Park	90%
Green space	10%
Type of park or green space	
Park	90%
Green space	10%
Type of park or green space	
Park	90%
Green space	10%

Appendix 1: 2016-17 Survey Results (Cont.)

66A. Please indicate if you or any household member who lives with you in
 response to the following questions, your responses do not have to

Household type (n = 27)	
Travels for walking, driving, or road biking	93%
Outdoor performance events	41%
- outdoor sports	93%
- outdoor recreation, e.g., public lands	93%
- playgrounds	93%
- mountain bike activities (e.g., trails, parks, tubing)	100%
- climbing, rock wall	93%
- snow sports	93%
- golf	93%
- fishing or ice fishing	93%
- off road or snowmobiling	93%
- outdoor recreational events	93%
- outdoor recreation (e.g., trails)	93%
Notes: values may not equal 100% due to rounding	93%

66B. Do you walk or bike to work outside the work location or attend an
 education-related activity provided by the Park District or school district?

A. Transportation mode	
Completely not at all	93%
Slightly not at all	0%
Average	0%
Slightly more at all	0%
Completely more at all	0%
Mean	0%
B. Frequency of use	
Completely not at all	93%
Slightly not at all	0%
Average	0%
Slightly more at all	0%
Completely more at all	0%
Mean	0%
C. Staff benefits	
Completely not at all	93%
Slightly not at all	0%
Average	0%
Slightly more at all	0%
Completely more at all	0%
Mean	0%

Appendix 2: 2016-17 Survey Results (Cont.)

67. Park district provides good recreation facilities	
Completely not at all	0%
Slightly not at all	0%
Average	0%
Slightly more at all	0%
Completely more at all	0%
Mean	0%
68. District provides good recreation facilities	
Completely not at all	0%
Slightly not at all	0%
Average	0%
Slightly more at all	0%
Completely more at all	0%
Mean	0%
69. District provides good recreation facilities	
Completely not at all	0%
Slightly not at all	0%
Average	0%
Slightly more at all	0%
Completely more at all	0%
Mean	0%
70. District provides good recreation facilities	
Completely not at all	0%
Slightly not at all	0%
Average	0%
Slightly more at all	0%
Completely more at all	0%
Mean	0%
71. District provides good recreation facilities	
Completely not at all	0%
Slightly not at all	0%
Average	0%
Slightly more at all	0%
Completely more at all	0%
Mean	0%
72. District provides good recreation facilities	
Completely not at all	0%
Slightly not at all	0%
Average	0%
Slightly more at all	0%
Completely more at all	0%
Mean	0%

Appendix 1: Survey Results - Demographics

I. Age Group	
Age group 18-24	1%
Age group 25-34	1%
Age group 35-44	2%
Age group 45-54	1%
Age group 55-64	2%
Age group 65+	93%

II. Sex	
Female	97%
Male	3%

III. Education	
High school or less	1%
Some college	1%
College graduate	98%

Appendix 2: Survey Results - Attitudes

10. Would you be willing to have a Denver-based company invest in your neighborhood? (Selecting "probably not" or "not at all" indicates that you do not want to have a Denver-based company invest in your neighborhood.)

Overall response	
Probably yes	97%
Probably not	0%
Not sure	3%
Probably not	0%
Not at all	0%

11. Overall, how satisfied are you with the way your neighborhood is being managed? (Selecting "not at all" or "not satisfied" indicates that you are not satisfied with the way your neighborhood is being managed.)

Overall response	
Very satisfied	97%
Satisfied	0%
Not very satisfied	0%
Not at all satisfied	0%

12. Please rank the top five reasons for your neighborhood's success (or lack thereof) in the Park Creek neighborhood. (Selecting "not applicable" indicates that you do not have a reason for your neighborhood's success or lack thereof.)

Reason	1st	2nd	3rd
Great location and easy to access (great transit, parking, etc.)	97%	97%	97%
Great location for parks, recreation, shopping, restaurants, etc.	0%	1%	1%
Great location for transit	1%	1%	1%
Great location for shopping	0%	0%	0%
Great location for recreation, shopping, etc.	1%	1%	1%
Great location for shopping, recreation, etc.	0%	0%	0%
Other	0%	1%	1%

13. Please rank the top five reasons for your neighborhood's success (or lack thereof) in the Park Creek neighborhood. (Selecting "not applicable" indicates that you do not have a reason for your neighborhood's success or lack thereof.)

97%

97%

97%

14. Please rank the top five reasons for your neighborhood's success (or lack thereof) in the Park Creek neighborhood. (Selecting "not applicable" indicates that you do not have a reason for your neighborhood's success or lack thereof.)

Reason	1st	2nd	3rd
Great location and easy to access (great transit, parking, etc.)	97%	97%	97%
Great location for parks, recreation, shopping, etc.	0%	0%	0%
Great location for transit	1%	1%	1%
Great location for shopping	0%	0%	0%
Great location for recreation, shopping, etc.	1%	1%	1%
Great location for shopping, recreation, etc.	0%	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%	0%

Report Date: 08/20/2018 10:58:33 AM

11. What are your top sources of information about food insecurity?
(Select up to 5)

Source of Information	Count	Percentage
News stories about food issues	178	43%
Social media, online newsletters, etc. (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)	161	39%
Word of mouth from family, friends, neighbors	151	37%
Because their children are hungry, etc. (school)	147	36%
Getting the Greater Food Bank flyer, seeing others use it at location	146	36%
Seeing it on an newspaper or on another newspaper	127	31%
Seeing it on TV	122	30%
Information at food bank (brochure, etc.)	119	29%
Community leaders (pastor, etc.)	118	29%
Local television	117	29%
Seeing it on radio	116	28%
At church, synagogue	115	28%
"Amber Wheeler" website	112	27%
Seeing it on radio (other)	111	27%
Other	108	26%

(Based on 407 survey responses)

12. Do Greater Food Bank flyers inform you and other about food insecurity?
(Select all that apply)

Response	Count	Percentage
Yes, a lot	154	38%
Yes, a little	147	36%
Some, but not a lot	139	34%
Not at all	107	26%
Other	106	26%
Don't know	99	24%
Other	98	24%

(Based on 407 survey responses)

13. What are other ways you learn about food insecurity?
(Select all that apply)

Other Way	Count	Percentage
Community meetings	100	25%
Other	95	23%
Other	90	22%
Other	85	21%
Other	80	20%

Report Date: 08/20/2018 10:58:33 AM

14. How often do you visit the Greater Food Bank website?
(Select all that apply)

Frequency	Count	Percentage
Very familiar	146	36%
Familiar	131	32%
Not very familiar	117	29%
Not at all familiar	113	28%

DEMOGRAPHICS

15. What is your age?
(Select one)

Age Group	Count	Percentage
18-24	14	3%
25-34	18	4%
35-44	110	27%
45-54	147	36%
55-64	117	29%
65+	102	25%

16. What is your gender?
(Select one)

Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	146	36%
Female	161	39%

17. How many children do you have?
(Select one)

Number of Children	Count	Percentage
0	146	36%
1	131	32%
2	117	29%
3+	113	28%



2019-2020 Survey of Food Bank Needs

11. Do you have any food bank needs that are not met?

Food bank needs not met

Yes	No
100	0

12. Has your organization's needs changed since the survey?

Has your organization's needs changed since the survey?

Yes	No
100	0

13. Which of the following are the most important needs?

Most important needs

Item	Percentage
Food	100
Shelter	0
Job training	0
Financial counseling	0
Other	0

2021 Denver Park District Community Survey

1. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

never

2. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

	Last 12 Months				Past 6 Months				Past 3 Months				Total
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
1-10 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-20 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21-30 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31-40 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41-50 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
51-60 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61-70 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
71-80 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
81-90 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
91-100 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

4. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

5. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

6. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All of the time 2. Most of the time 3. Some of the time 4. Not at all | <p>Public Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All of the time 2. Most of the time 3. Some of the time 4. Not at all | <p>Public Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All of the time 2. Most of the time 3. Some of the time 4. Not at all |
|--|---|--|

7. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

8. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Community Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All of the time 2. Most of the time 3. Some of the time 4. Not at all | <p>Community Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All of the time 2. Most of the time 3. Some of the time 4. Not at all |
|--|--|

9. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

10. How many times did you visit the Denver Park District website in the past 12 months? (Please check all that apply.)

29. Please rate your **overall** satisfaction with the following park, water park, trails, and facilities that you have recently visited, using a 0 to 5 scale:

	Overall Satisfaction					Facilities					Overall Condition				
	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4
Overall park experience:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilities (amenities, concessions, and seating):	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall facility condition (walkways, restrooms, etc.):	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. If you were dissatisfied with any park, water park, trails, or facility, please indicate what you'd like to see:

31. Please list other parks, water parks, trails, and facilities in San Diego you've recently visited:

32. Are there any other parks, water parks, trails, or facilities in San Diego you'd like to see that you haven't visited recently? If so, please describe them below and provide a brief description of your idea.

11/10/2019 12:12 PM
 Name: [Redacted]
 Email: [Redacted]

11/10/2019 12:12 PM
 City: [Redacted]

33. Are there any other parks, water parks, trails, or facilities in San Diego you'd like to see that you haven't visited recently? If so, please describe them below and provide a brief description of your idea.

11/10/2019 12:12 PM
 Name: [Redacted]
 Email: [Redacted]

11/10/2019 12:12 PM
 City: [Redacted]

34. If you've visited any water park, please rate your satisfaction with the following water park, using a 0 to 5 scale:

- Not at all satisfied
- Satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Extremely satisfied
- Not satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Extremely dissatisfied
- Not satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Extremely dissatisfied
- Not satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Extremely dissatisfied

PLEASE PRINT: NAME, PHONE NUMBER, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS

35. Please provide details of your water park visit, including the name of the park, the date, and the time of day.

Name of park: _____ Date: _____ Time of day: _____

	Overall Satisfaction		Facilities					Overall Condition				
	0	1	0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4
Overall park experience:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilities (amenities, concessions, and seating):	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall facility condition (walkways, restrooms, etc.):	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water park equipment:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water park staff:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water park safety:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water park cleanliness:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water park overall:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water park value:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water park location:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water park accessibility:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water park overall:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

36. Using the scales in this question, please rate the following items based on your overall satisfaction with the water park.

11/10/2019 12:12 PM
 Name: [Redacted]
 Email: [Redacted]

10. Please provide a list of your top five most valued services for students provided by the following **school** (circle in bubble):

There are 12 bubbles above where you will indicate which are the services you provided to the Park District in your office position.

	How well (bubble) does a Apprentice do?		If "Yes" your team/department continues to provide this service and supports it with a 5.0 rating				
			NOOTER				
			1	2	3	4	5
A. Specialized (or specialized) support services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
B. Class (class) and classroom (classroom) Management (classroom) Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
C. Attendance and absence (attendance) Management (attendance) Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
D. Classroom (classroom) Management (classroom) Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
E. Classroom (classroom) Management (classroom) Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
F. Classroom (classroom) Management (classroom) Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
G. Classroom (classroom) Management (classroom) Support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

11. Being the most a student is being a **high** quality student, please check all items of the **top three** **most** **responsible** **responsibilities** for you that **most** **emphasize** in the Park District in practice, all or repeat:

It is mostly _____ It is mostly _____ It is mostly _____

12. Which **school** **services** are **most** **valued** **programs** or **services** that you think the **most** **valued** **services** **to** **provide** **most** **valued** **services**?

Specialized services (special services)	
Specialized services (special services)	
Youth programs (ages 5-18)	
Middle school programs (ages 11-14)	
Senior high programs (ages 15-18)	
College and career programs (ages 18-24)	
Adult programs (ages 18-24)	
Adult programs (ages 25-34)	
Adult (ages 35+) services	
Other programs or special services	

13. About 100 people provide Park District in Adult Career Program program to you. Please list programs, books, or skills that are provided by the Park District, and the **most** **valued** **services** **to** **provide** **most** **valued** **services**?

Adult Career				Adult Career				Adult Career				Number
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Please check all that you feel are **most** **valued** **services** **to** **provide** **most** **valued** **services**?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1	2	3	4

15. When you need information about our **most** **valued** **services** **to** **provide** **most** **valued** **services**, how do you get the information? Please check all that apply:

- A. **Specialized** (or **specialized**) support services
- B. **Class** (class) and **classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- C. **Attendance** and **absence** (attendance) **Management** (attendance) **Support**
- D. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- E. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- F. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- G. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- H. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- I. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- J. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- K. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- L. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- M. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- N. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- O. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**

16. Using the list of items in the question above, please check the letters of your **most** **valued** **services** **to** **provide** **most** **valued** **services**?

It is mostly _____ It is mostly _____

17. How do you find **most** **valued** **services** **to** **provide** **most** **valued** **services**?

- A. **Specialized** (or **specialized**) support services
- B. **Class** (class) and **classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- C. **Attendance** and **absence** (attendance) **Management** (attendance) **Support**
- D. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- E. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- F. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- G. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- H. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- I. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**
- J. **Classroom** (classroom) **Management** (classroom) **Support**

Please continue to the next page

11. How long have you been in the UK? (If you are a citizen of the UK, please tick 'born in the UK') (Please type in years)

12. How long have you been in the UK for the purpose of your current job? (Please type in years)

Less than 1 year
 1 to 5 years
 6 to 10 years
 More than 10 years

13. How long have you been in the UK for the purpose of your current job? (Please type in years)

14. How long have you been in the UK for the purpose of your current job? (Please type in years)

15. How long have you been in the UK for the purpose of your current job? (Please type in years)

Less than 1 year
 1 to 5 years
 6 to 10 years
 More than 10 years

16. How long have you been in the UK for the purpose of your current job? (Please type in years)

17. How long have you been in the UK for the purpose of your current job? (Please type in years)

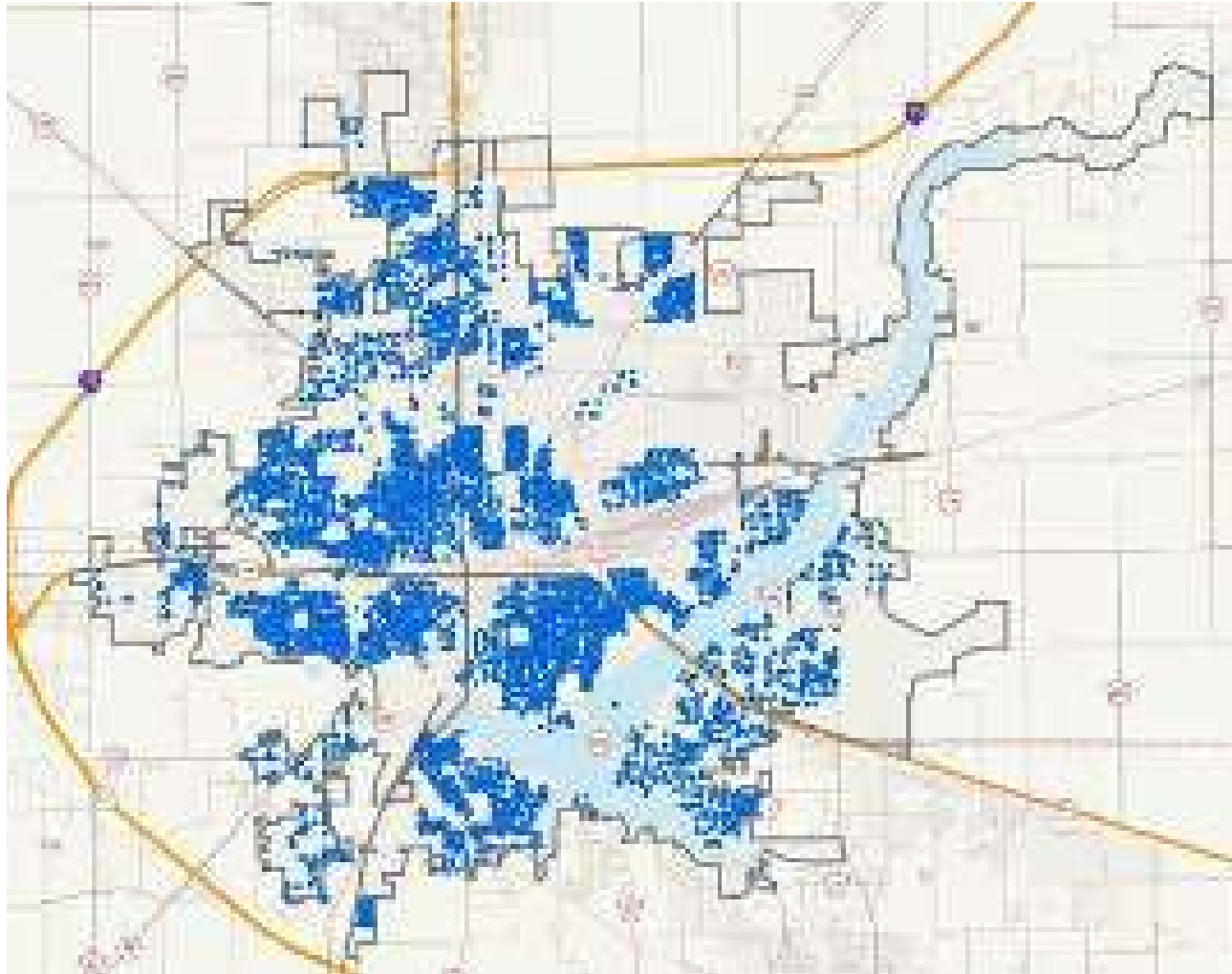
18. How long have you been in the UK for the purpose of your current job? (Please type in years)

19. How long have you been in the UK for the purpose of your current job? (Please type in years)

20. How long have you been in the UK for the purpose of your current job? (Please type in years)

- Less than 1 year
- 1 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- More than 10 years

Thank you very much for completing our survey!





Decatur
▪ PARK DISTRICT ▪