



2022/2023

# Parks & Recreation Master Plan





# Acknowledgments.

## Mayor

Frank Whitfield

## City Council

<b>Michael J. Lotko III</b>	Clerk of Council	<b>Kenny Oswald</b>	Council Member, Ward 4
<b>Victor F. Stewart III</b>	President	<b>Diane Simmons</b>	Council Member, Ward 5
<b>Thomas G. Callahan</b>	Majority Leader	<b>Donna Mitchell</b>	Council Member, Ward 6
<b>Andrew C. G. Lipian</b>	Council Member, Ward 1	<b>Jack W. Cerra</b>	Council Member, Ward 7
<b>Brenda K. Davis</b>	Council Member, Ward 2	<b>Phillip Tollett</b>	Council at Large
<b>Maurice Corbin III</b>	Council Member, Ward 3	<b>Chad Schneider</b>	Council at Large

## Parks and Recreation Board

<b>Sam Battle</b>	Chairperson	<b>Gina Kilgore</b>
<b>John Hammond</b>	Vice Chairperson	<b>Stacey Francis</b>
<b>Tami White-Martinak</b>	Secretary	<b>Maggie Lieux</b>
<b>Carrie Reardon</b>	Parks and Recreation Director	

## Consultant Team

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<b>Darrell Douglas</b>	Landscape Architect	Project No. 20103
<b>Lynda Gates</b>	Administrative Assistant	December, 2022



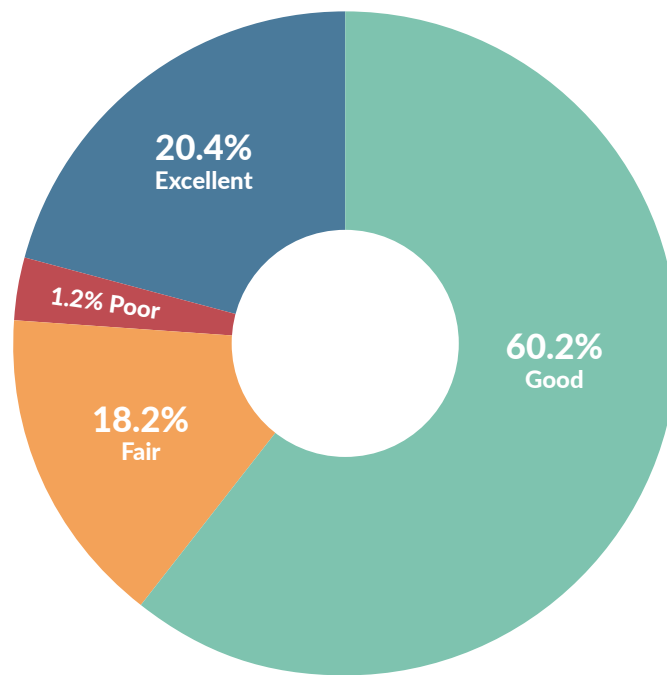




# Executive Summary



## Condition of Parks



## What The Citizens Told Us.

### Open House

The public engagement for this update started with an Open House at the South Park Recreation Center on October 12, 2020. Over 100 people attended this Open House for which Mayor Whitfield provided an introduction, Mr. Patrick Hoagland of Brandstetter Carroll provided an overview of the Master Plan Update process, and then the residents in attendance visited several

stations around the perimeter walls of the Recreation Center with stations for various parks and potential improvements. The results can be found in Chapter 2.

### Survey

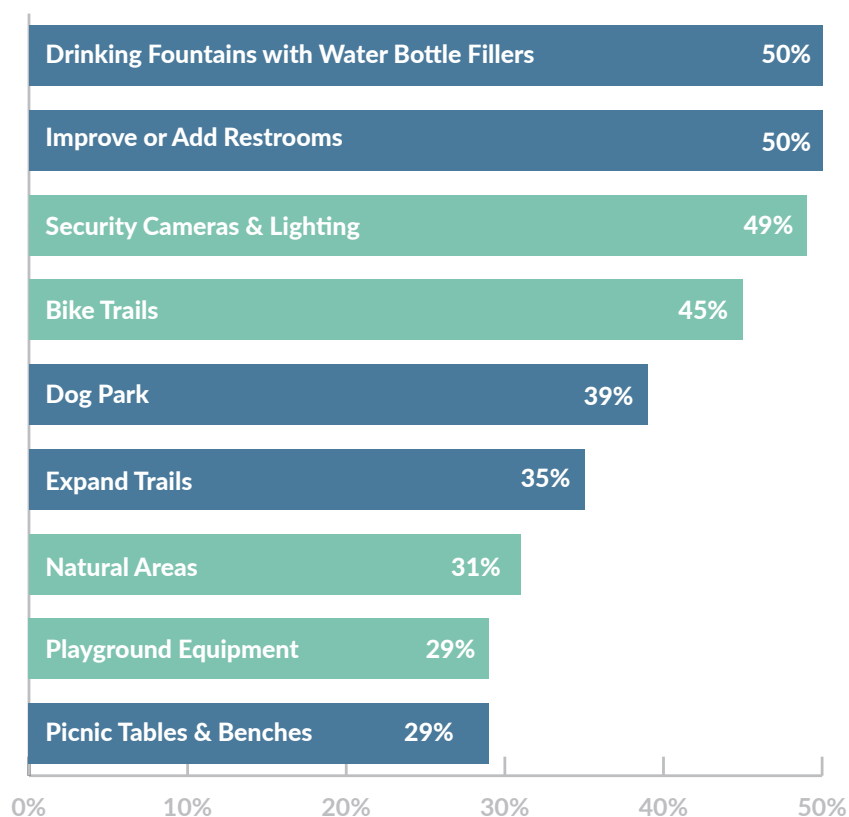
A new survey was prepared to provide input from residents as a follow-up to the one that was included in the 2016 Master Plan. Several of the questions were very similar so that the results can be compared. A web-based and handout survey were prepared, distributed, and completed in the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021.

*A total of 853 responses were provided.*

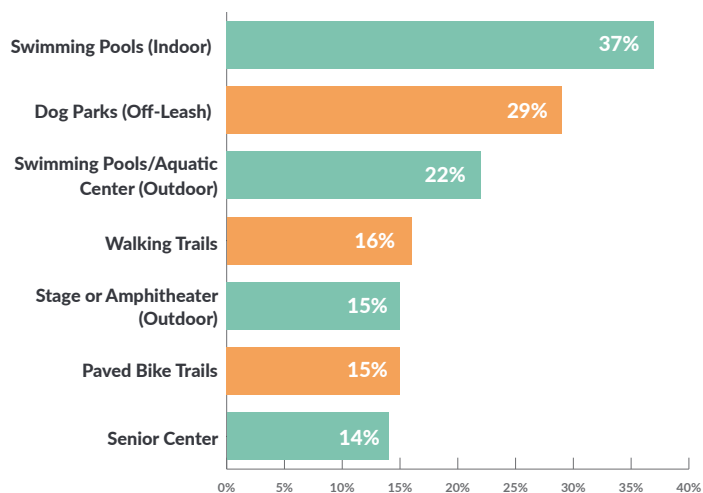
This section of text provides a summary of the results of that survey. A more detailed summary is included in Chapter 3 and the full results are included in Appendix B.



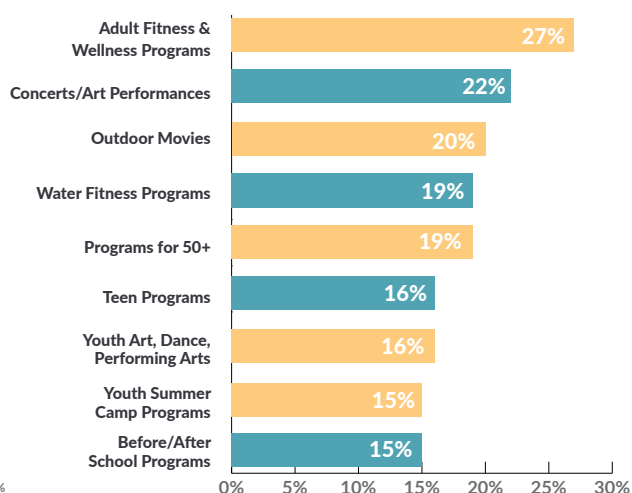
## Updates To Existing Parks



## Unmet Facility Needs



## Unmet Program Needs



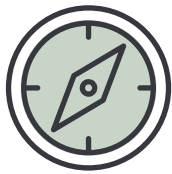




# Mind Mixer Online Engagement.

The Consultants also had an Online Engagement Platform which was hosted through Mind Mixer. This received **1,156 page views** and had **60 participants overall**.

## Top 6 Favorite Programs



**21%**

Youth  
Discovery  
Camps &  
Programs



**20%**

Youth Sports  
& Camps



**20%**

Special Events  
& Parades



**16%**

Senior  
Programs



**12%**

Adult  
Sports



**12%**

Adult  
Fitness

### Improvements to the Parks and Recreation System

Respondents were asked if they had a magic wand, what one thing would they change to improve parks and recreation in Elyria.

- Access To Parks From Neighborhoods
- Indoor Pools
- Bring Back Pre-Pandemic Programs
- Higher Level Of Athletic Programs
- Year-Round Ice And Studio Ice
- Extended Use Of The Ice Rink
- Skate Parks

### Parks and Facilities Improvements

The respondents were asked to identify the improvements they would like to see to the parks and facilities.

- Community Gardens
- Drop-In Classes
- Dog Parks
- Outdoor Play for Kids
- All Season Ice Rink
- Indoor Pool for Swim Team and Lessons
- Playgrounds and Spray Grounds
- Large Picnic Pavilion
- Smaller Shelters

### Trails and Natural Areas

Respondents were asked to identify how they would like to see improved trails and natural areas in the city.

- Better and more trails and natural areas
- More trash containers
- Paved paths connecting parks to neighborhoods
- Better and accessible trails





# Parks Plan For Equity.

The goal of this Master Plan Update is to move towards equity among the various quadrants of the City of Elyria. It is not intended that the facilities and programs offered be the same in each quadrant of the community, but there would be a variety of facilities and opportunities in each area with several unique or larger facilities. These would then be supplemented by the neighborhood parks and other parks throughout the community to provide close to home opportunities for residents.

The recommendations to accomplish the equitable distribution of facilities throughout the city include the following major existing and proposed components at each of the Community Parks.

## 1. East Park

- Recreation Center
- Modern Outdoor Family Aquatic Center
- Large Playground, Walking Trails

## 2. North Park

- Ice Rink
- Baseball Themed Splash Pad
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Playground

## 3. West Park

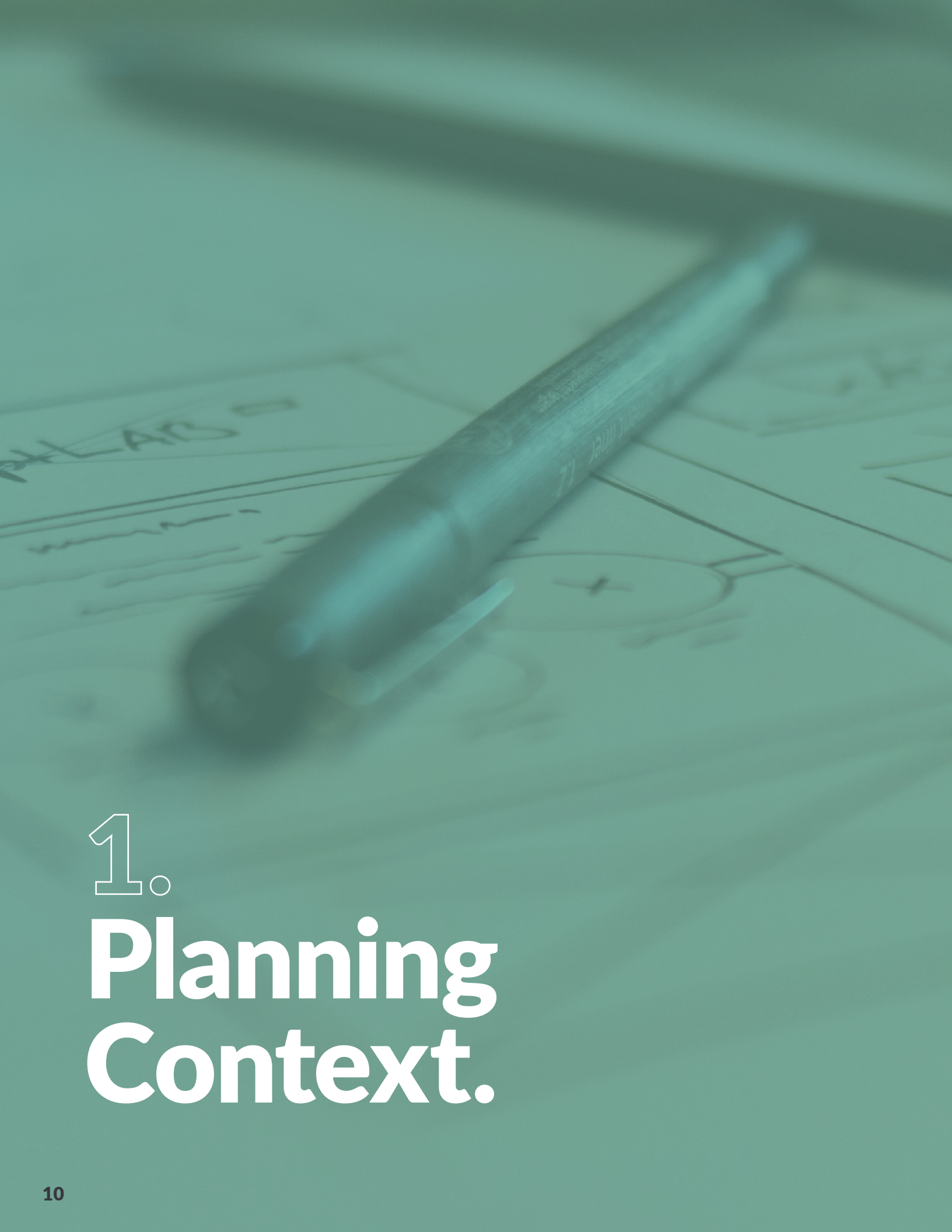
- Recreation Center
- Splash Pad

- Perimeter Walking Trails
- Pickleball Courts
- Skate Park
- Large All-Access Playground
- Oakwood Community Center to provide a wide variety of recreational, social, and cultural activities

## 4. South Park

- The largest of the Recreation Centers
- Splashpad
- Walking Trails
- Picnic Areas
- Large Multi-Purpose Field

These major facilities, in conjunction with those offered at Cascade Park, Hilltop Park, and Elywood Forest provide an equitable distribution of facilities and access to unique facilities throughout the City of Elyria.



# 1. Planning Context.



# 1.1 Introduction

The last Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Elyria was completed in October of 2016. The recommendations from this Master Plan were used to guide the Capital Improvements that were included through funding from Issue 6. The goal of this Master Plan update process is to evaluate the accomplishments which resulted from the 2016 plan and the funding of Issue 6, document the changes which have happened since 2016, and to provide additional public engagement to lead the next several years of Capital Improvements and improvements to delivery of services.



## Some of the **key priorities** from the 2016 Master Plan.

*These are not listed in any order of Priority.*

- 
- |  |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| • Upgrades To Existing Parks                     | • New Outdoor Family Aquatic Center | • Additional Gymnasium Space And Indoor Courts |
| • New Walking And Biking Trails And Connectivity | • Indoor Pool                       | • Fitness Programs                             |
| • New Programs For Teens And Seniors             | • Land For Parks And Open Space     | • Community Events And Concerts                |
| • Upgrade Athletic Fields                        | • New Community Centers             | • Dog Parks                                    |
| • Splash Pads                                    | • New Outdoor Parks And Facilities  | • Online Registration                          |

# Changes Since The Master Plan Was Completed In 2016.

*Some of those key elements include*

- The passage of Issue 6 provided, approximately, \$1 million dollars per year for Capital Improvements for parks
- Youth Football no longer uses the Academy Court site
- Little Leagues Have Consolidated
- Redevelopment of Cascade Park by Lorain County Metro Parks
- Growth of Women's Hockey in Elyria
- Oakwood School has been acquired to be used as a Community Center
- Growth continues in the western portion of the City
- The schools have been redeveloped and some sites have been vacated which previously provided park playground facilities
- Brandstetter Carroll Inc. prepared an Outdoor Family Aquatic Center Feasibility Study in 2018



## 1.2

## Park Upgrades Since 2016.

Some of the key accomplishments which have been achieved since the completion of the 2016 Master Plan are listed below.

- Splash Pads installed at South and West Parks
- New playgrounds at East, South, North, Hilltop, Abbe Road, Bell Avenue, and Washington Village Parks
- Outdoor trails installed at South and East Parks and funding secured for trails at West Park
- Restroom installed at East Park
- New Recreation Center flooring at East and West Parks
- Ice rink upgrades including building improvements, ice rink compressor, and locker rooms
- Wi-Fi and security cameras installation at South, East, West, and North Parks
- New/upgraded outdoor basketball courts at East, South, Abbe Road Park and Washington Village Park
- Pickleball and tennis court installation/upgrade at South and Hilltop Parks
- Re-surfaced parking lots at East, South, West, North, Hilltop, and Washington Village Parks
- New shelter/restroom upgrade and a Dog Park at Hilltop Park
- Other projects include a new Maintenance Complex, vehicles, online registration, and the new fountain and plaza in Ely Square





## 1.3

## Major Projects Yet to be Completed.

The following are some of those key elements which were discussed in the 2016 plan that have not yet been accomplished.

- 
- An Outdoor Family Aquatic Center at East Park
  - Splashpad installation at North Park
  - Pool demolitions at North and East Parks
  - Recreation Center expansion for more program space, and field expansion at South Park
  - Addition and upgrade of basketball courts at East, Academy Court, and Hilltop Parks
  - An amphitheater for community performances
  - A Women's Locker Room at North Park
  - New playground at West Park.
  - Trail installation at West Park and Finwood. (West Park trail to be constructed in 2023).
  - Restrooms and a shelter for groups at Finwood
  - Ely Square irrigation upgrade

It should be noted that a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant has been awarded to the City for the installation of a perimeter walking trail, pickleball courts, and a restroom building at West Park.

## 1.

Issue 6

## 2.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

## 3.

Grants

## 4.

ARPA Funds

## 5.

Sponsorship & Naming Rights

## 6.

Private Foundations

## 1.4

## How to Fund Priority Projects.

There are a variety of methods and combinations which could be used for the implementation of those projects that are not yet completed.



# Projects Completed

## Community Parks

### East Park

- Paved Walkways
- Restroom Building
- New Playground
- New Shelter (Out To Bid)
- Resurfaced Parking
- East Park Tree Analysis
- New Basketball Goals & Resurfaced Court
- Security Cameras
- Wi-Fi Hotspots

### South Park

- New Splash Pad
- Replace Playgrounds
- New Trail
- Upgrade Tennis Court And Fencing
- Repaved Main Entry Road
- Repaved Parking
- Pool Demolition
- Landscaping
- Security Cameras
- Wi-Fi Hotspots
- New Maintenance/Storage Garage
- Perimeter Trail In Progress

### West Park

- New Splash Pad
- Recreation Center Renovations
- Repaved Parking Lots
- Restroom/Shelter Building At Splash Pad
- Soccer Field
- Drainage Improvements
- Pool Demolition

- Landscaping
- Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Security Cameras
- Acquired Oakwood School Grounds

### North Park

- New Playground (December 2022)
- Ice Rink Building Improvements
- Ice Rink Compressor
- Ice Rink New Locker Rooms
- Resurfaced Paving At Entry And Half Of Parking Lot At Rink Entry
- Security Cameras
- Wi-Fi Hotspots

## Parks & Rec. Dept.

- New Parks & Rec Maintenance Complex
- Implement Online Registration
- New Vehicles (Trucks, Plows, Mowers, Etc.)
- Upgraded Concrete At Various Parks

## Neighborhood Parks

### Hilltop Park

- New Playground
- Resurfaced Parking
- Pickleball Courts
- Dog Park (In Progress)
- Upgrade Tennis Courts - Fencing And Surfacing
- Replaced Shelters
- Upgraded Restroom
- Upgraded Basketball Courts

## Mini Parks

### Abbe Road Park

- New Playground (November 2022)
- New Basketball Court & Goals

### Washington Village Park

- New Playground
- Basketball - Replaced Goals And Resurfaced Court
- Paved Parking

## Special Use Parks

### Ely Square

- New Fountain And Plaza

### Finwood Estate

- Upgrade Home HVAC



# Projects To Be Completed

## Community Parks

### East Park

- Rec Center Hvac (In Progress)
- Family Aquatic Center
- Pool Demolition
- Pickleball
- Rec Center Sidewalks
- Second Basketball Court
- Replace Outdoor Fitness

### South Park

- T- Ball Field
- Multi-Purpose Fields
- West Picnic Shelter
- West Restroom And Utilities
- Replace Tennis Lighting
- Expand Rec Center

### West Park

- Softball Field Lighting Replacement
- New Playground
- Perimeter Trail-Funding Secured
- Restroom -Funding Secured
- Pickleball - Funding Secured
- Pave Spectator Areas
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- New Hvac (In Progress)

### North Park

- Splash Pad
- Pool Demolition
- Female Locker Rooms (In Progress)

## Parks & Rec. Dept.

- Ada Accessibility Assessment Signage And Branding
- City-Wide Trail Improvements
- New Pocket Parks/Neighborhood Parks Amphitheater/Band Stand

## Neighborhood Parks

### Academy Court

- Soccer Complex
- Parking
- Perimeter Trail
- Basketball Court
- Drinking Fountains
- Shelters
- Walkways
- Utilities
- Restroom

### Hilltop Park

- Security Cameras
- Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Walkways

## Mini Parks

### Abbe Road Park

- Walkways

### Bell Ave. Tot Lot

- New Playground (November 2022)
- Landscaping
- Walkways

### Washington Village Park

- Walkways

## Special Use Parks

### Ely Square

- Irrigation Expansion/Upgrade

### Finwood Estate

- Restroom/Shelter With Utilities
- Boardwalk At Wetland
- Widen Entry Road
- Overlook
- Perimeter Trail - 1.1 Miles
- Develop Burns Road Area - Picnic Area

## Nature Parks/ Open Space

### Black River Audubon Park

- Gazebo
- Overlook
- Signage
- Landscaping

### Finwood Forest

- New Footbridges
- Trail Upgrades



# 1.5 Benchmarking



One way to measure the status of a parks and recreation department is to compare to similar agencies throughout the state and nation. This analysis compares figures from the City of Elyria to city agencies throughout Ohio with population between 25,000 and 75,000 residents and that also have provided their figures in the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics program. This program also allows a comparison to over 1,000 agencies throughout the nation. The following table summarizes the comparisons, and the narrative provides highlights for Elyria compared to the benchmark communities.

## 1.6 Parkland Information

- Elyria provides about 60% acres of parkland than the benchmark communities.
- Elyria provides less than half of the acres of parkland per 1,000 population.
- Each park in Elyria must serve nearly double the number of residents.

## 1.7 Trails

- Elyria provides about 15% of miles of trails.

## 1.8 Operating Budget

- The overall budget, amount from non-tax revenue (fees), and cost recovery are considerably less.
- The operating expense per-person in Elyria is half the benchmark communities, but the expenditure per acres is higher.

The budget in relation to the overall city budget is only 6% compared to 21% of other communities.

## 1.9 Staffing

Given the needs of the community coming off the COVID-19 pandemic related to physical, mental, and public health, The Parks and Recreation Department should play a key role in helping to address these needs. In order to meet those needs, adequate and efficient staffing is critical to meet this growing need.

The recommendation is to streamline the operations by having staff that are focused in three domains: programs, maintenance, and outreach. There should be supervisors that provide leadership and oversight to these three work streams as well as adequate support and implementation staffing to execute the Master Plan. The implementers of this staff can include a mix of full-time, part-time, seasonal, volunteers, and community partners as staff to implement the Master Plan.

In discussions with community members and the parks board there was consistent feedback requesting law enforcement be a visible presence at our parks to ensure safety and security of the residents. The recommendation is to utilize Elyria Police Department Auxiliary officers, for paid assignment, of parks during peak usage times and during special events. This would allow them to be available for other assignments when parks are being less utilized.

- Elyria has a similar amount of overall department staff, but half the amount of staff when compared to the full time equivalent staff (FTE) per 1,000 population.
- Elyria has half of the amount of staff for operations and maintenance.

## 1.10 Capital Spending

Elyria spends less on capital improvements than the other communities and only about 60% of the amount per person. (\$19 vs \$31)

Benchmark	Elyria	Benchmark	National
<b>PARKLAND INFORMATION</b>			
Acreage of Parkland	260.3	427.0	N/A
Acreage of Parkland per 1,000 Pop.	4.9	11.0	10.8
Population per Park	3,312	1,880	2,323
Parkland as a % of Jurisdiction	2.0%	3.1%	N/A
Percent of Acreage Developed	60%	74%	N/A
<b>TRAILS</b>			
Trail Miles Managed or Maintained	2	15	15
Trail Miles per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.	0.1	0.88	N/A
Trail Miles per 10,000 Pop.	0.4	3.8	N/A
<b>OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
Operating Expenditures (Annual)	\$2,278,000	\$3,143,336	\$5,500,000
Non-Tax Revenue (Annual)	\$505,563	\$1,173,400	N/A
Cost Recovery	22%	37%	25%
Operating Expenditures per Capita	\$43	\$86	\$95
Operating Expenditures per Acre	\$8,751	\$6,356	\$7,388
Operating Exp. per Developed Acre	\$14,706	\$9,947	N/A
Non-Tax Revenue per Capita	\$10	\$34	\$22
Operating Exp. as % of Juris. Budget	6%	21%	N/A
<b>STAFFING (FTE = Full Time Equivalent)</b>			
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees	33.5	32.0	51.5
FTE per 10,000 Population	6.3	12.0	8.9
Acres of Parkland per FTE	7.8	13.3	N/A
Developed Acres of Parkland per FTE	4.6	9.9	N/A
FTE for Operations/Maintenance	8.3	16.6	
Operating Expenditures per FTE	\$68,000	\$79,433	\$105,484
<b>CAPITAL BUDGET</b>			
Capital Park Budget for Next 5-Years	TBD	\$4,848,000	\$10,000,000
Capital Budget per Year	\$1,000,000	\$1,226,221	N/A
Capital Expenditures per Capita	\$19	\$31	N/A

1. Figures obtained from City of Elyria. Population estimates provided by Esri.

2. Based on Median Values (or averages) of 14 agencies with populations between 25,000 and 75,000 in Ohio.

3. NRPA National medians obtained from 2023 Agency Performance Review.

A photograph of a public engagement event. A man in a light blue button-down shirt and glasses, wearing a white face mask, stands and speaks into a microphone. In the foreground, a man in a red t-shirt with 'PROPERTY OF LYRIA PARKS & RECREATION' and a blue face mask sits with his arms crossed. To the left, a woman in a white shirt and blue face mask is also visible. A sign in the background reads 'PLEASE MAINTAIN 6 FT DISTANCE'.

## 2. Public Engagement.



## The public engagement started with an Open House at the South Park Recreation Center on October 12, 2020. Over 100 people attended.

Mayor Whitfield provided an introduction and Mr. Patrick Hoagland, of Brandstetter Carroll, provided an overview of the Master Plan Update process.

Then the residents in attendance visited several stations for the various parks and potential improvements. For each park, they were asked to list their favorite facilities, what is the most fun, and what should be improved.

In addition to each of the individual park suggestions, there were also stations for various programming and design ideas, including: virtual programming ideas, programming and activity ideas, bike trail and pump track, a City Dog Park, and inclusive/multi ability playground equipment.



## Some key recommendations for the parks & facilities.

### Abbe Road Park

- Better Signage
- Better Parking
- Drainage Improvements

### Academy Circle Park

- Park With A Playground
- Basketball Court
- Improved Signage

### Bell Avenue Tot Lot

- Better Landscaping
- More Picnic Tables
- Signage For Age Limits

### Black River Audubon Park

- Small Picnic Shelter
- Benches

### East Park:

- Open New Restrooms
- Family Aquatic Center
- After-School Activities
- More Accessible Restrooms & Drinking Fountains

- Lighting On Trail
- Skate Park
- Water Stations With Bottle Fillers
- Better Air Conditioning In The Recreation Center
- Dog Park
- Tennis Courts
- Art Classes

### Ely Square

- Better Place For Performances
- Activities For The Elderly

### Finwood Estate

- Improve Hiking Trails
- Dog Park
- Drinking Fountains Near The Restrooms
- Basketball Court
- Outdoor Stage
- Restroom Improvements

### North Park

- Provide Special Nights at the Pool
- Update Pool
- Enclose The Rink Building
- Better Security & Lighting
- Improve The Swim Team Through Marketing
- Improve Open Swim Times

### South Park

- Upgrade The Splash Pad
- Restrooms
- Bring The Swimming Pool Back
- More Police Patrols
- League Sports
- Improve The Walking Trails (In Progress)
- Benches Along Walking Path
- Community History Program

### Washington Village Park

- Better Signage
- Basketball Court

### West Park

- All-Access Playground
- Paved Trail Around The Park
- Improve Exercise Programs
- Evening Programs
- Upgrade The Skate Park
- Bring Back The Pool & Baseball
- More Security & Lighting
- Outdoor Performing Arts Stage
- Football Field
- Re-Open The Soccer Fields

### Programming

- Education About Local Nature Parks & Educational Opportunities
- Programs For Seniors On Use Of Technology
- History Of Elyria
- Line Dancing
- Family Ancestry & History
- More Guided Trails & Nature Programs
- Computer Classes & Technology Classes
- Outdoor Archery
- Chair Yoga
- Use Schools For Social Services
- Partner With Youth Sports Organizations To Run Programs
- Transportation For The Programs
- Nature & Botanical Programs
- Lacrosse Program
- Photography Classes
- Mentoring Of Students With Seniors
- Franklin Community Center
- Net Basketball
- Senior Recreation
- Art Classes
- Yoga
- Gardening & Environmental Programs For Youth
- Concerts
- More Summer Concerts In Ely Square

- More Senior Recreation & Social Events
- Youth Growth/Skills (I.e. Cooking & Carpentry)
- Performance Space
- Lunch Group Meetings
- Competitive Swimming
- T-Ball On The South Side
- Gardening
- Activities For All Ages
- Education To Prevent & Reduce Obesity, Diabetes, & Hypertension
- After School & Gym Access For Teens
- Dog Obedience Classes
- Pickleball
- Senior Programs (I.e. Volleyball, Line Dancing, Cultural Field Trips, Trips To Pro Ball Games, & More)
- Educational Programming Like LCCC

## Other Potential New Facilities

### 1. Bike Trail & Pump Track

There were several very positive comments about this potential topic.

*Additional Suggestions:*

- Water Stations (On Bike Trail)
- Areas For Different Age Groups (At East Park)
- Provide Bike Rental Locations Near The Trails
- Connect All The Parks

### 2. South Elyria Pocket Park Engagement

The city, Leaders of Today, Lorain County Public Health hosted an event on August 27, 2022 at the proposed pocket park location at 15th Street and West Avenue to engage the community on desired improvements for this new park. Approximately 175 people participated in the engagement. The results can be found in Appendix D.

### 3. City Dog Park

There were several positive suggestions for dog parks and locations included downtown, South or West Parks, at East near the Recreation Center, and Hilltop Park and other locations. There were discussions for areas for large and small dogs.

### 4. Inclusive/Multi-Ability Playground Equipment

There was positive support for this.

*Some Suggestions:*

- More Wheelchair Accessible Swings & Playgrounds
- Interactive Activities
- Playgrounds in the Neighborhoods
- Safety Measures to Prevent Injury

### 5. Stakeholder Meetings

A series of Stakeholder meetings were held in September of 2021 which included representatives of the city Administration, Parks and Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Board, Council Members, CDBG Office, and others. The results of these meetings is included in Appendix C. These meetings provided background and recommendations which are represented in the recommendations of this Master Plan Update.





# 3. Surveys

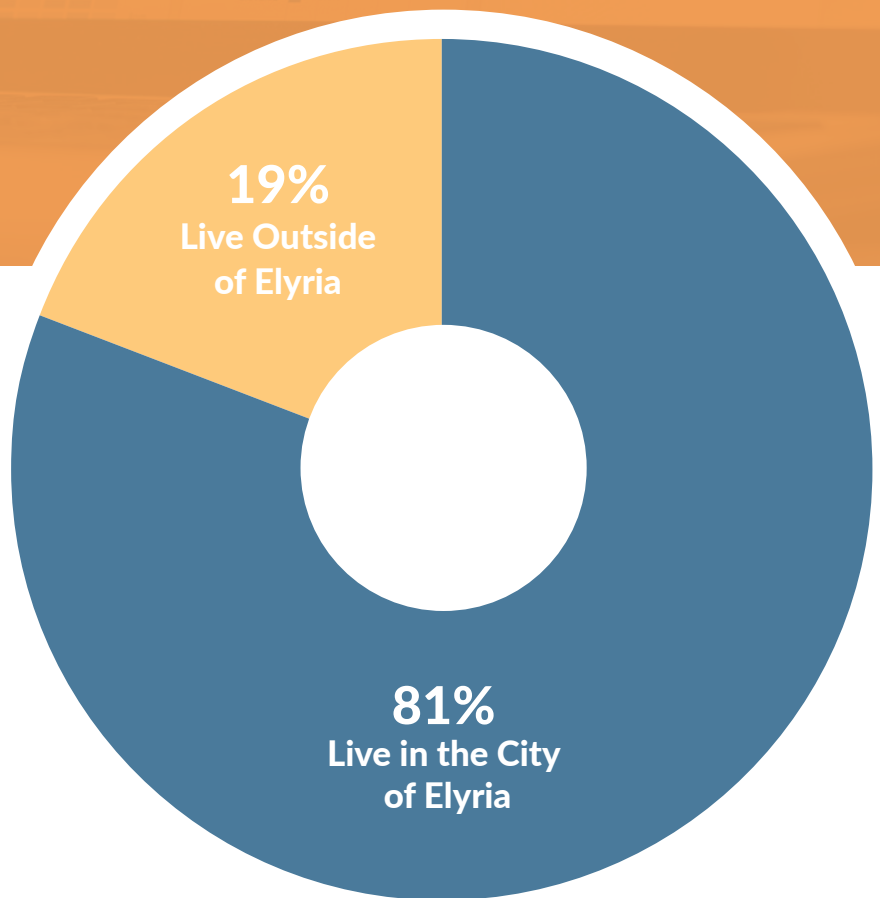
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## 3.1

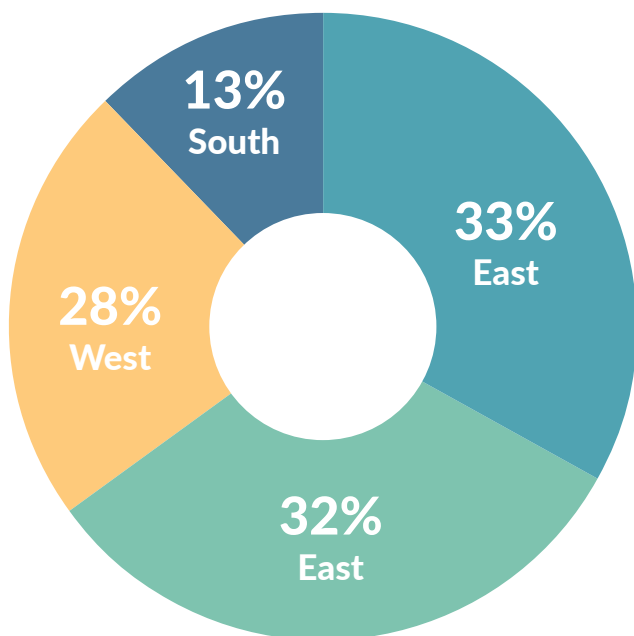
### Participant Location

Of the surveys, 81% of the respondents lived in the City of Elyria with approximately 33% living closest to East Park, 32% closest to North Park, 23% closest to West Park, and 12% closest to South Park.

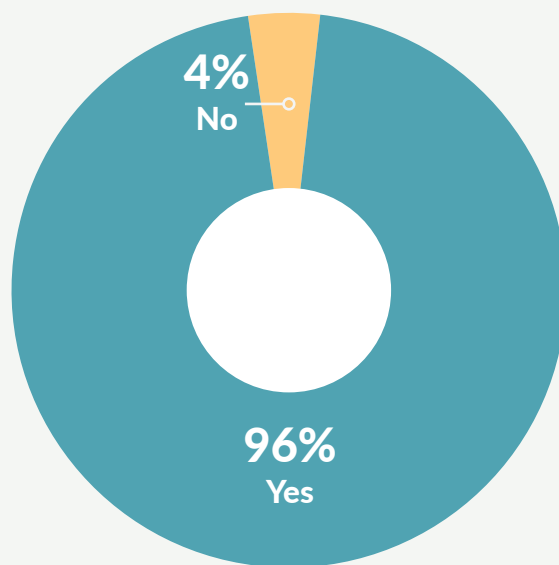


Participant Location

**Figure 3.1:**  
Closest Park to Respondents



**Figure 3.2:**  
Elyria Parks Visitation  
(Within The Past 2 Years)



### 3.2 Park Visitation

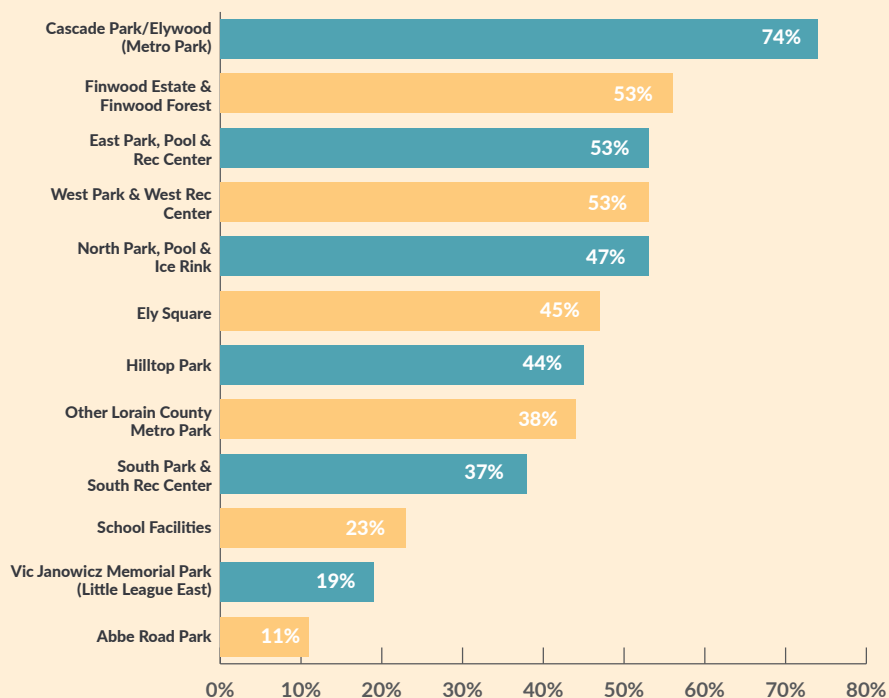
Of those respondents, 96 stated that they have visited a park in the City of Elyria in the two years.

### 3.3 Parks and Facilities Visited

Figure 3.3 summarizes the results of the question asking which park people visited the most.

The parks with more facilities were visited by most people with Cascade Park and Elywood the highest at 74%, followed by the Finwood Estate and Finwood Forest at 56%, East Park Pool and Recreation Center at 53%, West Park and West Recreation Center at 53%, and North Park Pool and Ice Rink at 53%.

**Figure 3.3**



### 3.4

## Frequency of Park Visitation

When asked how often they visited the parks in Elyria, it was noted that almost 58% visited parks 20 or more visits in the last year which states that people have been visiting parks at a high degree.

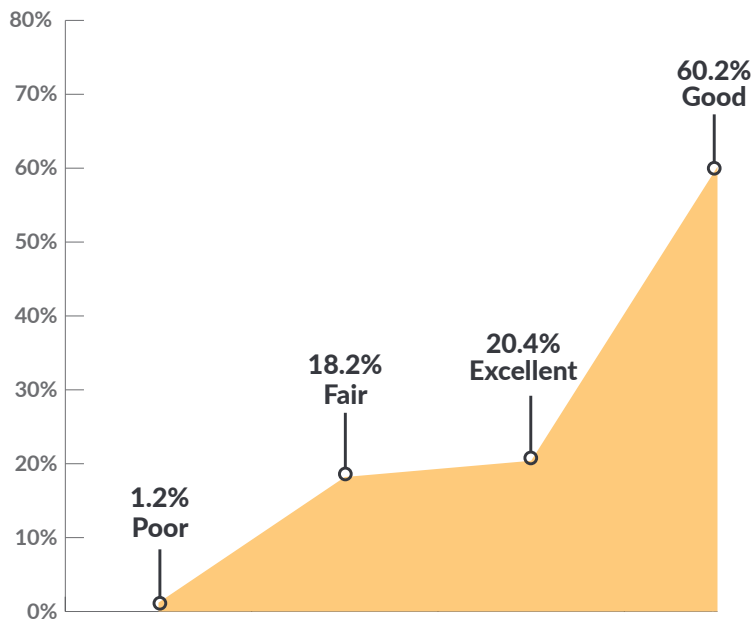
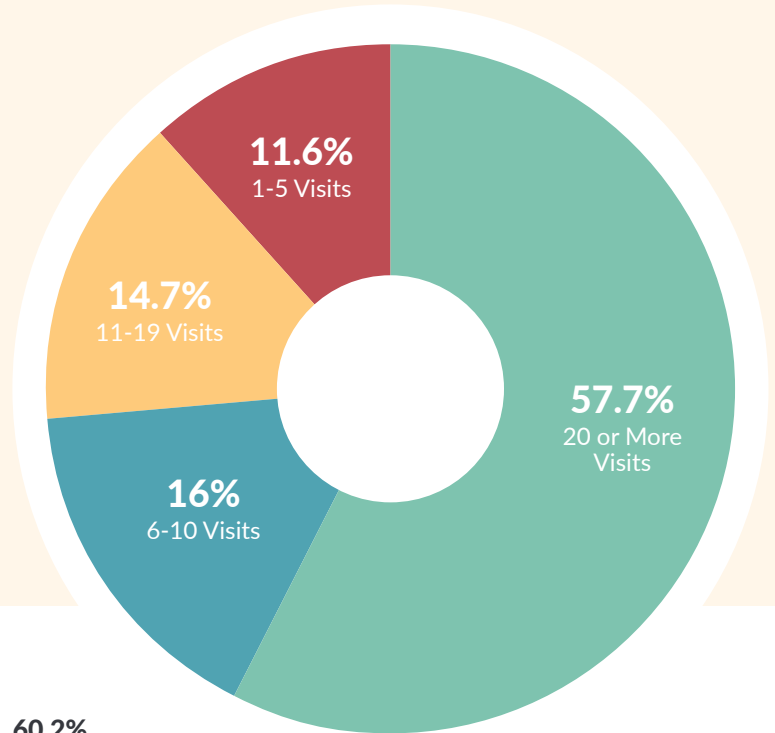


Figure 3.5

### 3.5

## Park Condition

Residents were asked to rate the condition of the existing parks. They rated as follows: 20% rated they were in Excellent Condition, 60% in Good Condition, 18% in Fair Condition, and 1% in Poor Condition. This is shown on Figure 3.5.

### 3.6

## Program Participation

Figure 3.6 identifies that 66.5% of the respondents stated that they have participated in programs offered by the City of Elyria in the last two years. Figure 3.7 identifies those programs which people stated they used the most with the highest ones including Swim Lessons at 31%, Youth Soccer at 24%, Youth Basketball at 21%, Safety Town at 16%, Ice Skating Lessons at 15%, and Youth Volleyball at 20%.

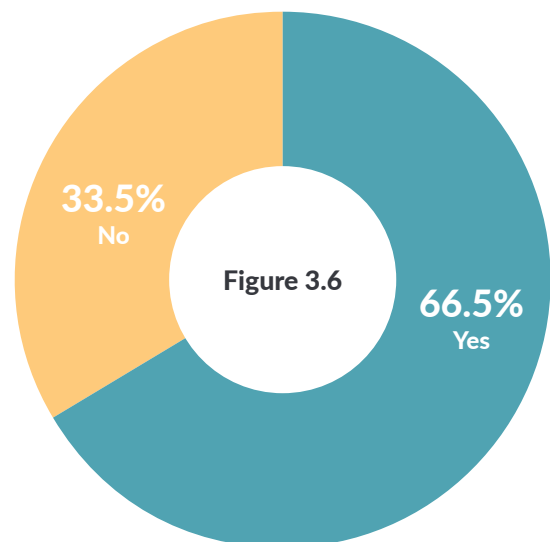
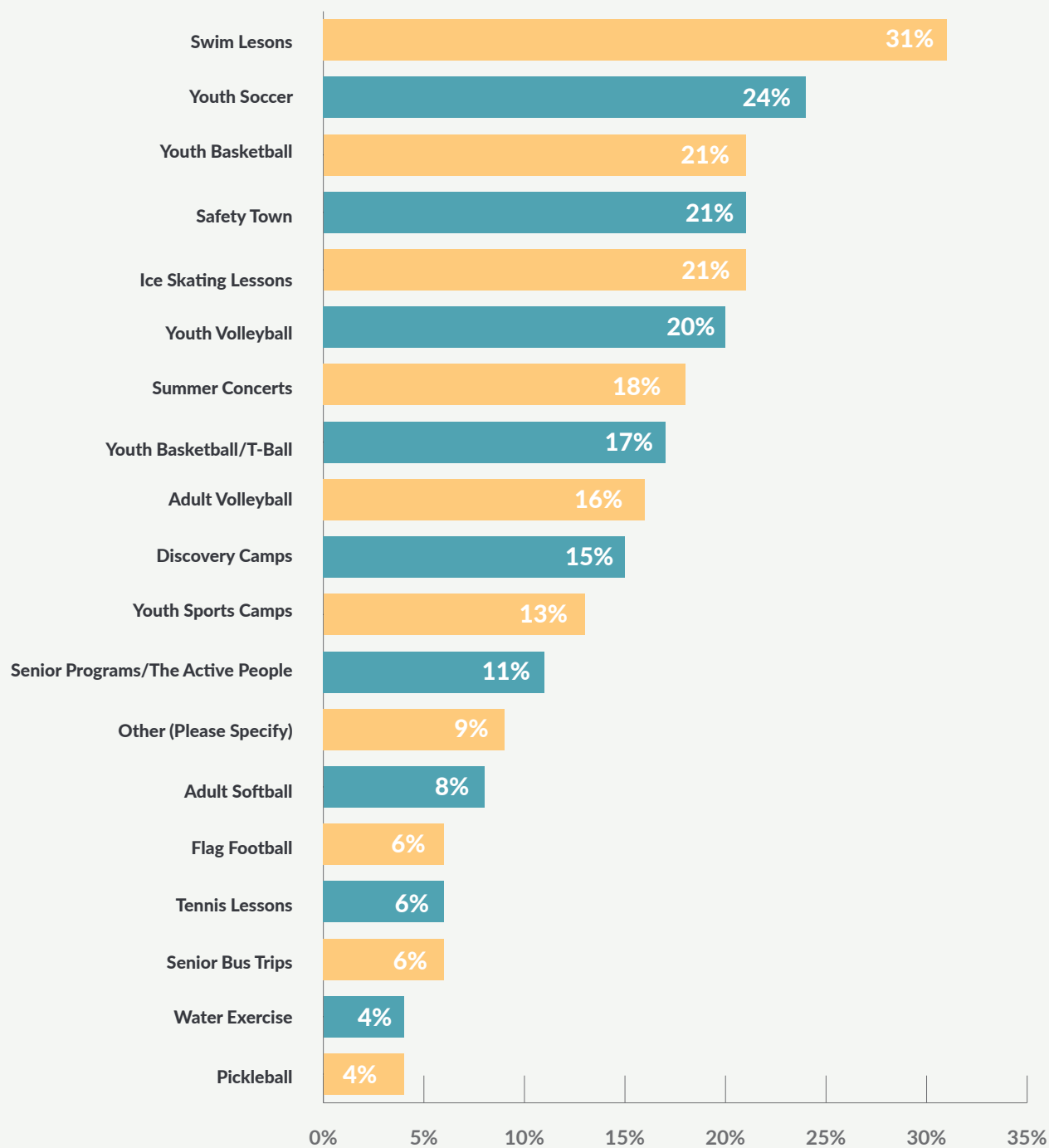


Figure 3.7: Programs Used







### 3.6: Quality of Programs

Figure 3.8 identifies the respondents rating of the quality of those programs offered with 45.7% indicating they are Excellent, 44.7% indicating Good, generally indicating satisfaction with the current level of programming.

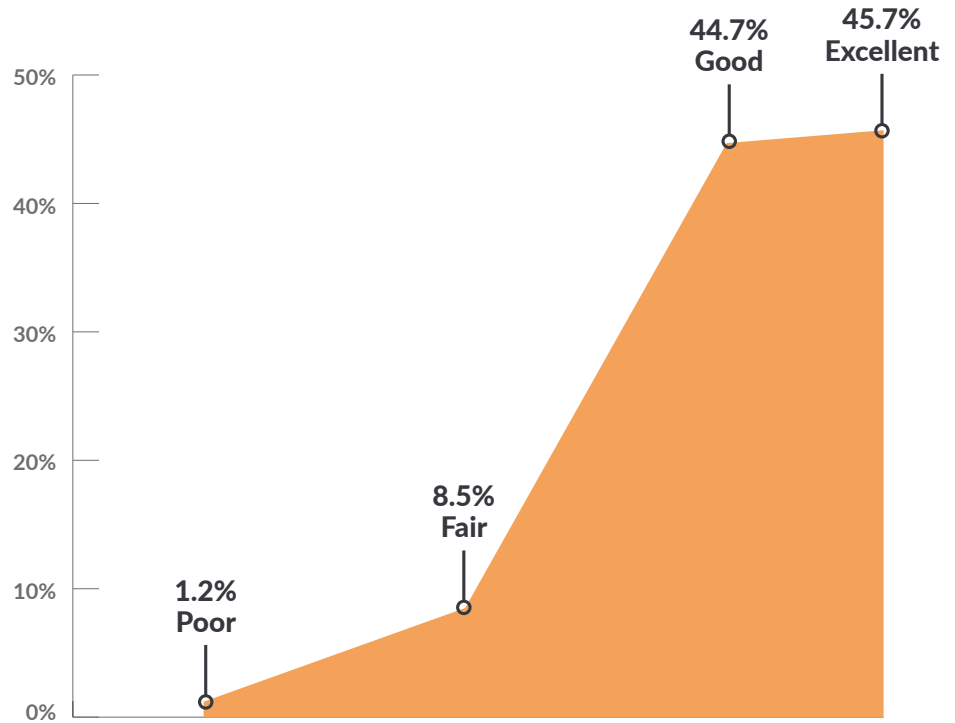
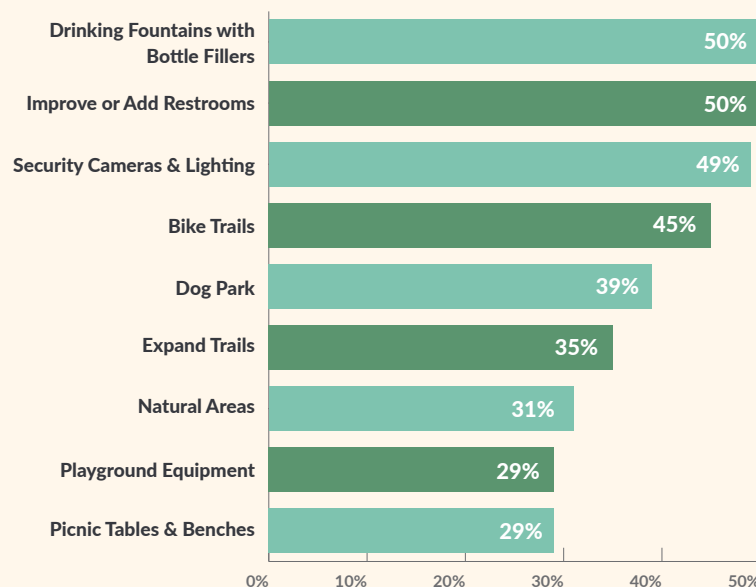


Figure 3.8

### 3.7 Facility Needs

Figure 3.9 summarizes the results of a question which asked respondents to identify those facilities needing upgrades at existing parks with the highest being: Drinking Fountains with Bottle Fillers at 50%, Improve and Add Restrooms at 50%, Security Cameras and Lighting at 49%, Bike Trails at 45%, Dog Parks at 39%, Expand Trails at 35%, and others as indicated in the table.

Figure 3.9: Upgrades to Existing Parks - Top Responses

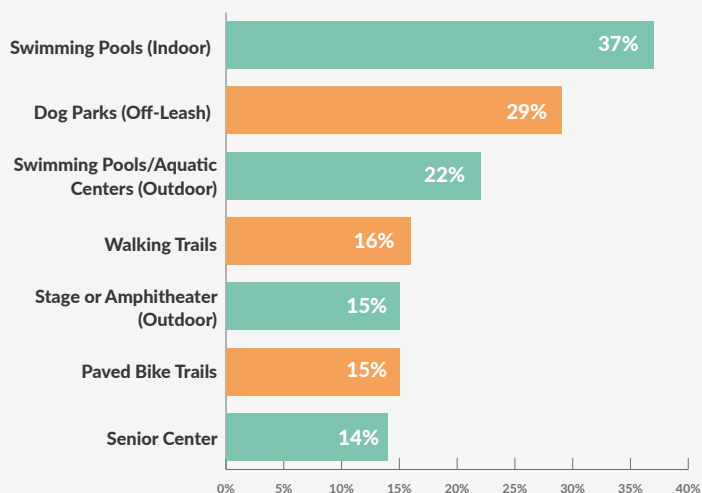


## 3.8

## Unmet Facility Needs

Respondents were asked to identify those facilities which are not currently meeting their needs and were allowed to select up to four. Indoor Swimming Pool was indicated by 37% of the respondents, Dog Parks at 29%, Outdoor Swimming Pools and Aquatic Centers at 22%, Trails for Walking at 16%, Stage or Amphitheater at 15%, Paved Bike Trails at 15%, Senior Center at 14%, and other items as shown on Figure 3.10.

Figure 3.10.



## 3.10

## Reasons for Not Using Park Facilities and Programs

Respondents were asked to identify those reasons that keep them from using the parks' facilities and programs more often.

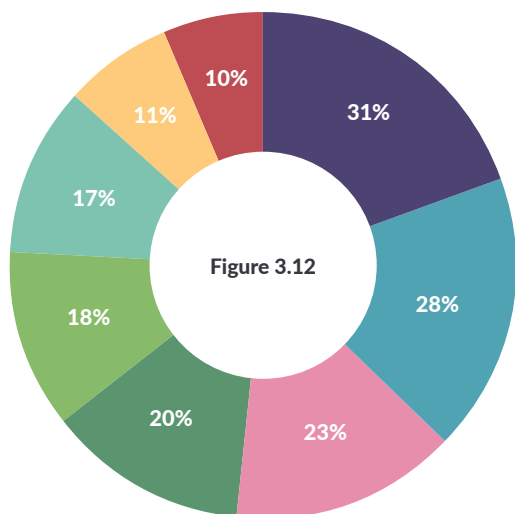


Figure 3.12

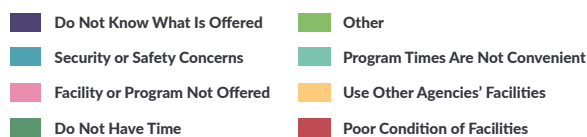
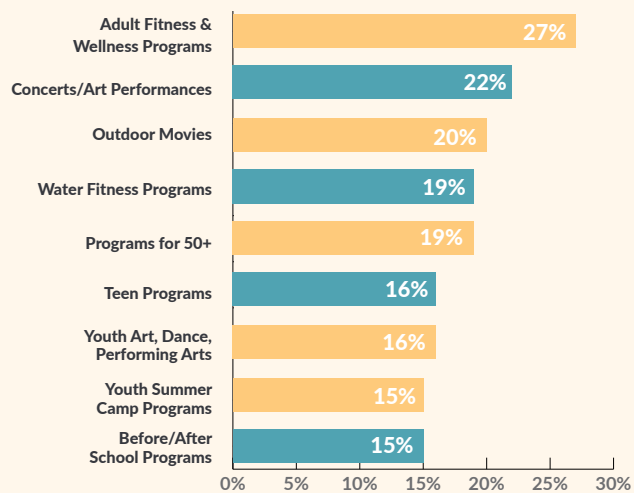


Figure 3.11: Unmet Program Needs



## 3.9

## Unmet Program Needs

Respondents were asked to identify the types of programs that their needs are not currently being met and were allowed to select up to four.

## 3.11

# Preferred Method to Learn of Activities

Respondents were asked to identify how they would most like to learn about programs, facilities, and special events in the Community.

Social Networking and Email Notifications were at the top of the list with 65%, followed by the City of Elyria Website at 57% and Parks and Recreation Flyers at 44%. Other potential methods included School communications, Newspaper, and others. These are identified in Figure 3.13.

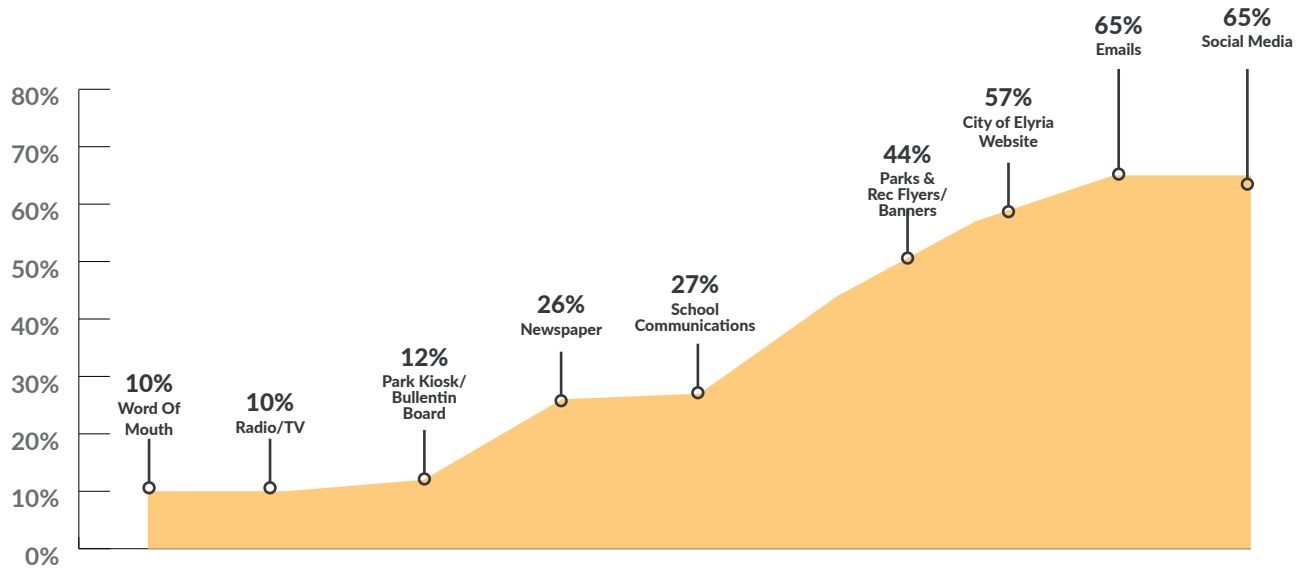


Figure 3.13: Preferred Method to Learn of Activities



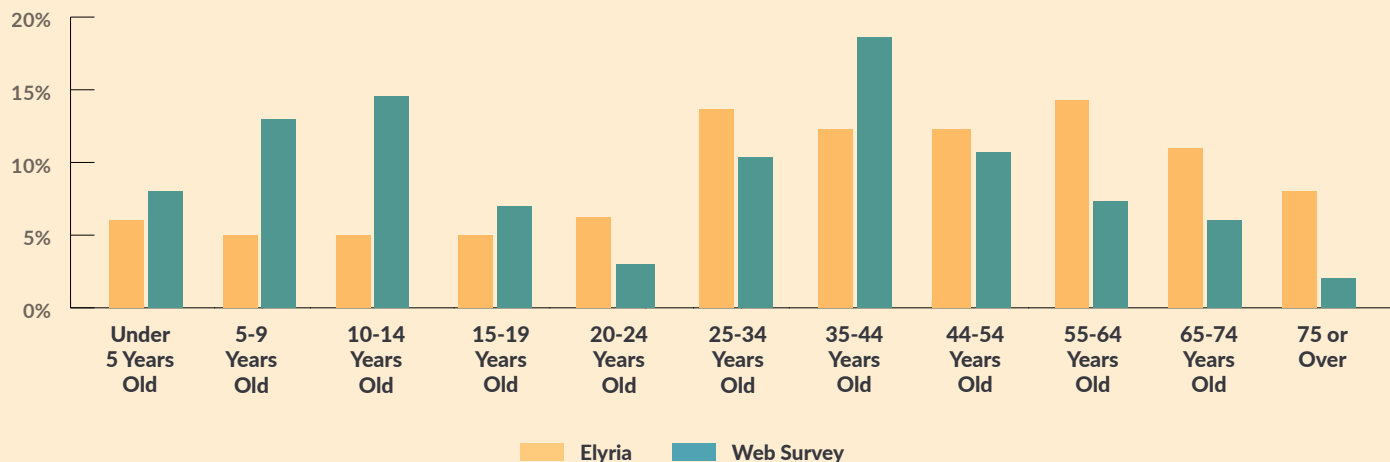
## 3.12

# Survey Demographics

Figure 3.14 illustrates a comparison of the age of the household members of those responding households as compared to the actual census data for the City of Elyria. Figure 3.14 illustrates the City of Elyria census information in yellow and the web survey respondents in blue. This table generally shows an over-representation for families with children and 35 to 44 year-olds and under-representation for the 25 to 34 year-olds, and those 45 and older.



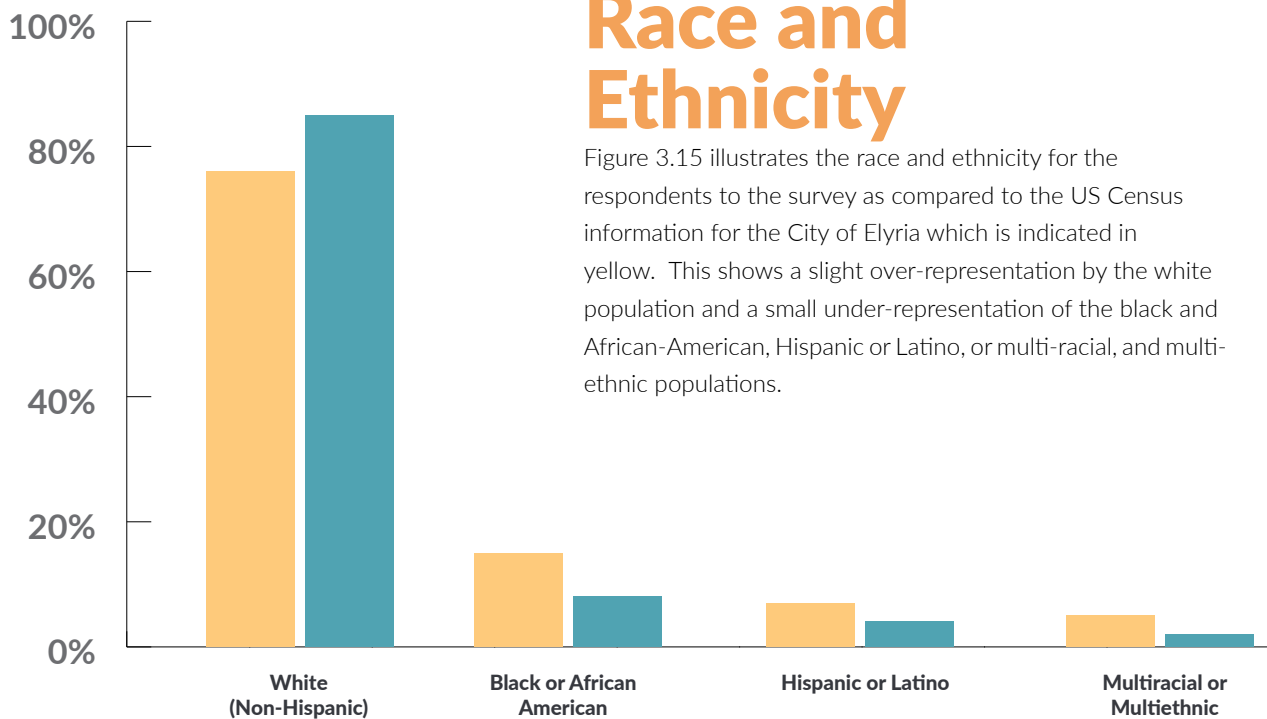
**Figure 3.14:**  
Survey Demographics - Age of Household Members



3.13

## Race and Ethnicity

Figure 3.15 illustrates the race and ethnicity for the respondents to the survey as compared to the US Census information for the City of Elyria which is indicated in yellow. This shows a slight over-representation by the white population and a small under-representation of the black and African-American, Hispanic or Latino, or multi-racial, and multi-ethnic populations.



**Figure 3.15: Race & Ethnicity**

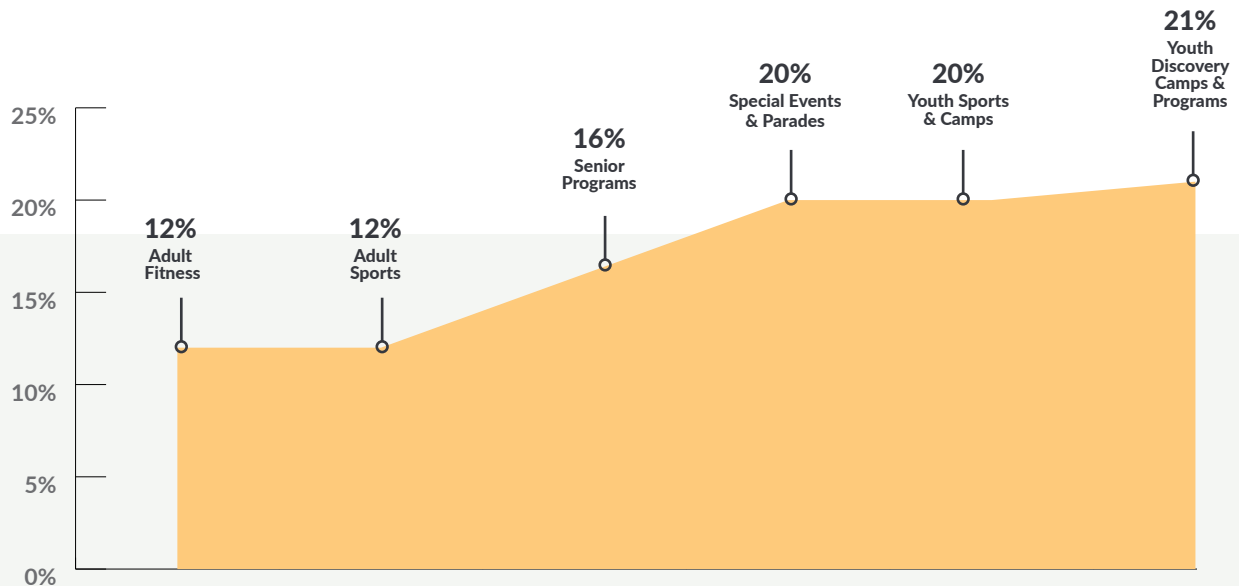
Elyria Web Survey



### 3.14

## Mind Mixer Online Engagement

The Consultants also had an Online Engagement Platform which was hosted through Mind Mixer. **This received 1,156 page views and had 60 participants overall.**



### 3.14.1

## Favorite Programs

Participants were asked to identify those program types that are their most favorite with the top one being the Youth Discovery Camps and Programs at 21%, Youth Sports and Camps at 20%, Special Events and Parades at 20%, Senior Programs at 16%, Adult Sports at 12%, and Adult Fitness at 12%.

## 3.14.2

## Improvements to the Parks and Recreation System

Respondents were asked if they had a magic wand, what one thing would they change to improve Parks and Recreation in Elyria. The following are some of the key suggestions.

1. Access To Parks From Neighborhoods
2. Indoor Pools
3. Bring Back The Programs
4. Higher Level Of Athletic Programs
5. Year-Round Ice And Studio Ice
6. Extended Use Of The Ice Rink
7. Skate Parks



## 3.14.3

## Parks and Facilities Improvements

The respondents were asked to identify the improvements they would like to see to the parks and facilities and the following were noted.

1. Community Gardens
2. Drop-In Classes
3. Dog Parks
4. Outdoor Play For Kids
5. All Season Ice Rink
6. Indoor Pool For Swim Team And Lessons
7. Playgrounds And Spray Grounds
8. Large Picnic Pavilion
9. Smaller Shelters



## 3.14.4

## Trails and Natural Areas

Respondents were asked to identify how they would like to see improved trails and natural areas in the city, following are the comments.

1. Better And More Trails And Natural Areas
2. More Trash Containers
3. Paved Paths Connecting Parks To Neighborhoods
4. Better And Accessible Trails



4.

# Recommended Improvements



## 4.1

# Parks Plan for Equity.

This Chapter of the Master Plan Update identifies those recommended projects that will continue toward accomplishing the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives of the 2016 Master Plan.

The goal is to move towards equity among the various quadrants of the City of Elyria. It is not intended that the facilities and programs offered be the same in each quadrant of the community, but there should be a variety of facilities and opportunities in each area with several unique or larger facilities.

These would then be supplemented by the neighborhood parks and other parks throughout the community to provide close to home opportunities for residents.

The recommendations to accomplish the equitable distribution of facilities throughout the city include the following major components at each of the Community Parks.

## East Park

- Recreation Center
- Modern Outdoor Family Aquatic Center
- Large Playground, Walking Trails

## North Park

- Ice Rink
- New Splash Pad
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Playground

## West Park

- Recreation Center
- Splash Pad
- Perimeter Walking Trails
- Pickleball Courts
- Adult Softball Fields
- Soccer Complex
- Skate Park
- Large All-Access Playground
- Oakwood Community Center To Provide A Wide Variety Of Recreational, Social, And Cultural Activities

## South Park

- The Largest Of The Recreation Centers
- Splash Pad
- Walking Trails
- Picnic Areas
- Tennis Courts
- Large Multi-Purpose Fields
- Baseball Fields

These major facilities, in conjunction with those offered at Cascade Park and Elywood Forest and those at Hilltop Park, provide an equitable distribution of facilities and access to unique facilities throughout the City of Elyria.



Figure 4.1: Modern Outdoor Family Aquatic Center



## 4.2 Individual Park Recommendations

### 4.2.1 East Park (Figure 4.2)

The main new attraction to be included at East Park would be a modern Outdoor Family Aquatic Center with features as identified in Figure 4.1.

The potential features are shown on Figure 4.1 and illustrated are large slides, climbing walls, water play features, along with zero depth access and other amenities. The reasoning behind the selection of East Park for the implementation of the Family Aquatic Center are the following:

- It has the largest population within a 10 minute walk or 5 minute drive of all of the regional parks.
- When all four pools were in operation, it had the largest attendance by far.
- South and West Parks have new splash Pads and there is little room to expand the North Park Pool to provide the needed features to attract the type of attendance this could attract.



(Figure 4.2) East Park Concept 1



Figure 4.3: East Park Concept 2



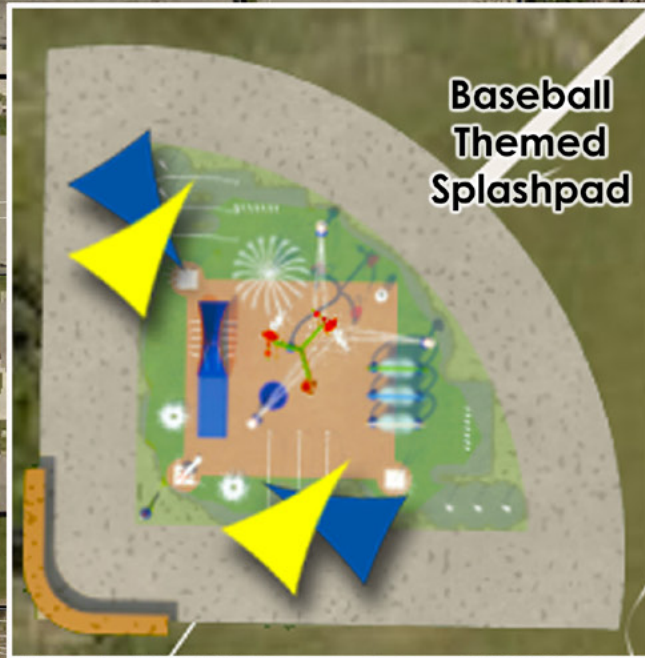
## Major Recommendations

The budget and operations cost of four pools originally, and then two pools in recent years, is not sustainable. The goal for a long period of time has been to have **one large Family Aquatic Center** that would appeal to all residents of the City. This will be more sustainable and manageable for the City to operate and with the right design and operations, could recuperate its operating costs. **Figures 4.2 and 4.3 provide alternative locations** for the development of this Family Aquatic Center. One location would be where the pool is currently located. The parking lot, on the north side of the Recreation Center, would need to be expanded to accommodate this facility.

The other option is to place the Aquatic Center on the south side of the Recreation Center, which would require additional parking and also relocation of the basketball courts to the location of the current pool. There is more room for the development of the Aquatic Center on the south side of the Recreation Center than on the north side. Either of these concepts will work and Consultants recommend keeping the aquatic facility to the north side of the recreation center to take advantage of the existing utility access. Other proposed features include four pickleball courts and a second basketball court.



# North Park



## 4.2.2 North Park (Figure 4.4)

Renovations have recently taken place at the North Park Ice Rink. Another factor to be considered for North Park is that the playground is currently in the process of being replaced and upgraded.

There is very little room to expand the existing pool, and Little League North has consolidated with the other Little Leagues so the fields are not used as much as they once were. Therefore, the recommendation is to continue the upgrading of the playgrounds and the ice rink, and develop a new baseball themed splash pad.



Figure 4.4: North Park Concept Plan





Figure 4.5: South Park Concept Plan





## 4.2.3 South Park

(Figure 4.5)

South Park currently has the largest Recreation Center with two gym floors in the city, as well as a relatively new splash pad, and new walking trails that were completed in 2021. In addition, the tennis courts have been renovated.

The recommendations for this park are to add an additional ball field near the current field with a paved parking lot and picnic shelter in this area to expand the picnicking opportunities. Another recommendation is to develop the large open field in the southeast corner of the park and where youth football previously took place and use this area for the development of two high quality multi-purpose athletic fields. Ideally, if funding is available, these would be artificial turf fields which would provide a unique facility for this area of the community.





Figure 4.6: West  
Park Concept Plan



#### 4.2.4

### West Park

(Figure 4.6)

West Park is currently the major hub for adult softball and has the C.R. Hoagland Recreation Center within the site. The current Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant will allow for the development of a perimeter walking trail, four pickleball courts, and a new restroom building. The park also has a recently completed splash pad and picnic shelter adjacent to the skate park. The City's recent acquisition of Oakwood School allows tremendous opportunity to convert this facility to a true Community Center which offers social, cultural, educational, and senior programs with dedicated space (rather than shared space) in the gymnasiums as this is where the current programs are located. This is a tremendous opportunity for the city and for the west side of the community.

Other recommendations for this park include the development of an all-access large playground to serve the western portion of the community and the addition of a second basketball court.



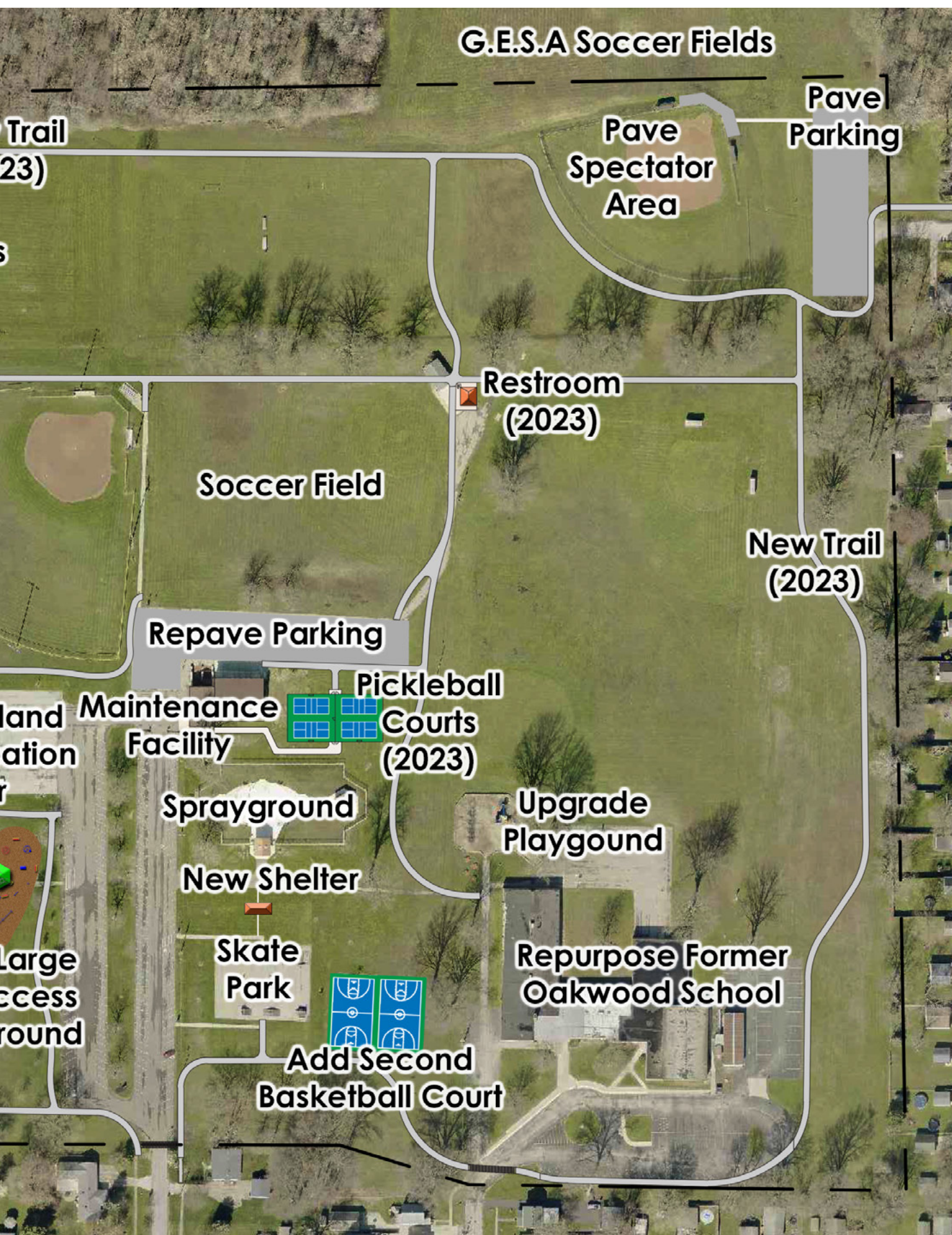








Figure 4.7: **Academy Court Concept**





## 4.2.5

# Other Park Improvements

The proposed improvements for the neighborhood parks, mini-parks, and special use parks are listed in Table 4.1. The majority of the improvements have been brought forward from the 2016 Master Plan and the costs updated.

One new potential park is located at the corner of West Avenue and 15th Street and adjacent to the Elyria Public Library South Branch. The total site is 0.16 acres. This location could serve as a small neighborhood gathering place with a picnic shelter and plaza space. The space could also support programs offered at the adjacent library.

On Saturday, August 27th, Leaders of Today, Lorain County Public Health, and City of Elyria hosted the South Elyria Pocket Park Community Kick-off at 1504 West Avenue, Elyria, Ohio. The event served as a temporary demonstration to engage residents on the needs and desired park improvements shown by the initial survey. The event totaled approximately 175 people and additional data was collected during the event and via door-to-door to gain insight on desired permanent park improvements. The results of this engagement can be found in Appendix D.



## 4.3

# Capital Project Costs

Table 4.1 itemizes all the proposed recommendations at the existing parks going forward. As stated earlier, these could be funded through a variety of sources including Issue 6, ARPA Funds, State Capital Funds, grants, foundations, sponsorships, and other funding opportunities.

Table 4.1

Park Type/ Park Name		Time Frame (Years)			Total
Costs include 10% Contingency and 12% for design, engineering, testing, bidding, etc.					
Community Parks		0-2	3-5	6-10	
East Park					
1 New Family Aquatic Center With Splash Pad			\$6,765,000		\$6,765,000
2 Recreation Center Renovation		\$584,000			\$584,000
3 Paved Walkways Around Rec Center (All Access)			\$20,000		\$20,000
4 Recreation Center Electric Upgrade				\$117,000	\$117,000
5 New Parking For Pool			\$221,000		\$221,000
6 Pool Demolition			\$123,000		\$123,000
7 Landscaping			\$62,000		\$62,000
8 New Basketball Court			\$62,000		\$62,000
9 Pickleball Courts			\$148,000		\$148,000
10 Relocate Outdoor Fitness Equipment			\$37,000		\$37,000
11 Bike Racks			4,000		4,000
Project Total		\$584,000	\$7,442,000	\$117,000	\$8,143,000



Park Type/ Park Name		Time Frame (Years)			Total
Costs include 10% Contingency and 12% for design, engineering, testing, bidding, etc.		0-2	3-5	6-10	
North Park					
1	Enclose The Ice Rink (Walls, HVAC, Insulation)			\$3,813,000	\$3,813,000
2	New Womens' Hockey Locker Room	\$246,000			\$246,000
3	Baseball Themed Splash Pad		\$615,000		\$615,000
4	Pool Demolition		\$74,000		\$74,000
5	Landscaping		\$43,000		\$43,000
6	Upgrade Ball Diamonds/Dugouts		\$246,000		\$246,000
7	Walkways (All Access)	\$8,000			\$8,000
Project Total		\$254,000	\$978,000	\$3,813,000	\$5,045,000
South Park					
1	Restroom/Shelter Building (In West Area)			\$277,000	\$277,000
2	Sewer Service To New Restroom/Shelter			\$62,000	\$62,000
3	Sewer Manholes			\$10,000	\$10,000
4	Electric Service To New Shelter			\$43,000	\$43,000
5	Water Service To New Shelter/Restroom			\$43,000	\$43,000
6	Shelter In West Area	\$123,000			\$123,000
7	Expand Rec Center - Program Space		\$1,107,000		\$1,107,000
8	Replace Tennis Lighting	\$123,000			\$123,000
9	Outdoor Fitness Equipment			\$74,000	\$74,000
10	Rectangular Fields (Grading/Seeding)		\$394,000		\$394,000
11	Future Artificial Turf For Fields			\$2,460,000	\$2,460,000
12	Western Parking Lot	\$46,000			\$46,000
13	Walkways (All Access)	\$24,000			\$24,000
Project Total		\$316,000	\$1,501,000	\$2,969,000	\$4,786,000
West Park					
1	Softball Fields Lighting Replacement		\$984,000		\$984,000
2	New Large, All-Access Playground Near Rec Center		\$984,000		\$984,000
3	New Smaller Playground Near Oakwood School	\$185,000			\$185,000
4	Pave Spectator Areas At Ball Fields	\$148,000			\$148,000
5	Repave South Parking	\$252,000			\$252,000
6	Outdoor Fitness Equipment			\$74,000	\$74,000
7	New Shelter Between Skate Park And Splash Pad	\$74,000			\$74,000
8	Landscaping		\$62,000		\$62,000
9	Second Basketball Court		\$62,000		\$62,000
10	Walkways (All Access)	\$120,000			\$120,000
11	New Pole Barn For Storage			\$185,000	\$185,000
Project Total		\$779,000	\$1,477,000	\$259,000	\$2,515,000

Park Type/ Park Name	Time Frame (Years)			Total
Neighborhood Parks				
Costs include 10% Contingency and 12% for design, engineering, testing, bidding, etc.	0-2	3-5	6-10	
Academy Court Park				
1 Restroom Building	\$277,000			\$277,000
2 New Playground		\$185,000		\$185,000
3 Earthwork And Drainage	\$277,000			\$277,000
4 Surface Preparation And Seeding	\$100,000			\$100,000
5 Soccer Goals	\$15,000			\$15,000
6 Parking	\$295,000			\$295,000
7 Shelter			\$98,000	\$98,000
8 Landscaping			\$31,000	\$31,000
9 Perimeter Trail (All-Purpose) - 0.40 Miles X 8' Wide	\$139,000			\$139,000
10 Electric Service - Transformer And Meter	\$18,000			\$18,000
11 Electric Line	\$12,000			\$12,000
12 Sewer Service	\$7,000			\$7,000
13 Storm Drainage	\$62,00			\$62,00
14 Security Cameras	\$12,00			\$12,00
15 Drinking Fountain With Bottle Filler And Spigots	\$9,000			\$9,000
16 Water Service	\$7,000			\$7,000
17 Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$7,000			\$7,000
18 Bike Rack On Concrete Pad	\$2,000			\$2,000
Project Total	\$1,239,000	\$185,000	\$129,000	\$1,553,000

<b>Hilltop Park</b>				
1 Landscaping			\$62,000	\$62,00
2 Walkways (All Access-To Shelters, Basketball, Playground, 2 Tennis Courts)	\$24,000			\$98 \$24,000 4,000
3 Security Cameras		\$12,000		\$12,000
4 Drinking Fountains With Spigots & Bottle Filler	\$17,000			\$17,000
5 Wi-Fi Hotspots		\$7,000		
6 Bike Racks	\$2,000			\$2,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>	<b>\$19,000</b>	<b>\$62,000</b>	<b>\$124,000</b>

Park Type/ Park Name		Time Frame (Years)			Total
Costs include 10% Contingency and 12% for design, engineering, testing, bidding, etc.		0-2	3-5	6-10	
<b>Mini Parks</b>					
<b>Abbe Road Park</b>					
1 Walkways (All Access)	\$56,000				\$56,000
2 Parking Improvements				\$7,000	
3 Landscaping				\$6,000	\$6,000
4 Water Service			\$10,000		\$10,000
5 Drinking Fountains With Spigots & Bottle Filler			\$9,000		\$9,000
6 Bike Racks			\$2,000		\$2,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	
<b>Bell Avenue Tot Lot</b>					
1 Landscaping				12,000	\$12,000
2 Walkways (All Access)	\$16,000				\$16,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	
<b>Washington Village Park</b>					
1 Landscaping				\$25,000	\$25,000
2 Walkways (All Access)	\$20,000				\$20,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	
<b>West Ave. At 15th Street Mini-Park</b>					
1 Plaza Area	\$7,000				\$7,000
2 Small Playground	\$98,000				\$98,000
3 Picnic Shelter	\$92,000				\$92,000
4 Replace Sidewalks	\$20,000				\$20,000
5 Neighborhood Selected Feature	\$62,000				\$62,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$279,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$279,000</b>	
<b>Westway Garden Park</b>					
1 Demolish Existing Playground, Shelter, Benches			\$7,000		\$7,000
2 Reestablish Natural Area.			\$7,000		\$7,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	

Park Type/ Park Name	Time Frame (Years)			Total
Costs include 10% Contingency and 12% for design, engineering, testing, bidding, etc.				
Special Use Parks	0-2	3-5	6-10	
Ely Square				
1 Plaza Improvements	\$246,000			
2 Irrigation Expansion	\$92,000			
Project Total	\$338,000	\$0	\$0	\$338,000

<b>Finwood Estate</b>				
1 Restroom/Shelter Building With Utilities		\$369,000		\$369,000
2 Boardwalk At Wetland			\$461,000	\$461,000
3 Perimeter Trail (All-Purpose) - 1.1 Miles			\$44,000	\$44,000
4 Widen The Entry Road			\$26,000	\$26,000
5 Overlook			\$25,000	\$25,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$556,000</b>	<b>\$925,000</b>

<b>Burns Road Area</b>				
1 Picnic Shelter With Utilities			\$98,000	\$98,000
2 Paved Trail (6' Wide)			\$120,000	\$120,000
3 Mulch Trail			\$37,000	\$37,000
4 Overlook			\$18,000	\$18,000
5 Parking			\$15,000	\$15,000
6 Steps			\$10,000	\$10,000
7 Signage			\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

<b>Nature Parks/Open Space</b>				
<b>Black River Audubon Park</b>				
1 Gazebo			\$37,000	\$37,000
2 Overlook			\$31,000	\$31,000
3 Selective Clearing			\$6,000	\$6,000
4 Signage			\$2,000	\$2,000
5 Native Landscaping			\$18,000	\$18,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$94,000</b>	<b>\$94,000</b>

Park Type/ Park Name		Time Frame (Years)			Total
Costs include 10% Contingency and 12% for design, engineering, testing, bidding, etc.		0-2	3-5	6-10	
Nature Parks/Open Space					
Finwood Forest					
1 New Bridge				\$246,000	\$246,000
2 New Bridge At Hilltop				\$125,000	\$125,000
3 Paved Trail And Grading				\$92,000	\$92,000
4 Steps				\$6,000	\$6,000
5 Ramp To Bowl Amphitheater Area				\$18,000	\$18,000
6 Rustic Amphitheater With Grading				\$37,000	\$37,000
7 Small Footbridge/Culvert				\$25,000	\$25,000
Project Total		\$0	\$0	\$547,000	\$547,000
Other Improvements					
Parks and Recreation Department					
1 Ada Accessibility Assessment		\$25,000			\$25,000
2 Signage For Wayfinding At All Parks		\$50,000			\$50,000
3 Citywide Trail Improvements (Annual Budget Amount \$100,000)		\$200,000	\$300,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
Project Total		\$275,000	\$300,000	\$500,000	\$1,075,000
Total (All Projects)		\$4,239,000	\$12,306,000	\$9,446,000	\$25,991,000



## Estimate Disclosures

This Estimate excludes escalation. Current market conditions make it extremely difficult to forecast into the future. The last twelve months saw a rapid increase in construction pricing. Going forward, we believe those increases will be hard to maintain and eventually pricing will increase at a more historic rate. Unfortunately, we don't know when that will occur. To further complicate issues, there are material shortages. Obtaining all of these materials will take an extended period of time thus increasing the time frame for the project and the possibility of increased escalation.





5.

# Program Recommendations

# 5.1

## Current Programs

The city offers a very wide variety of programs for residents of all ages. The programs will vary based upon need, suggestions, attendance, popularity, and trends. Listed below are several of the programs offered in 2022.

The City offers a variety of recreational level sports programs, including:

### The City Offers A Variety Of Recreational Level Sports Programs:

- Youth Soccer (Spring, Summer And Fall)
- Flag Football
- Youth Tennis Lessons
- Volleyball Skills Clinic
- And Junior Volleyball League
- Archery
- Ice Skating Lessons
- Adult Softball
- Adult Volleyball
- Smart Start Basketball And Skills Clinic
- Youth Basketball Leagues
- Youth T-Ball And Baseball

### Summer Camp Programs:

- Cheerleading
- Volleyball
- Basketball

### Summer Camps Offered:

- Stem Camp
- Get Set And Get Fit
- Around The World
- Spirit Camp
- Elyria Firefighters Basketball Camp
- Carnival Camp

### Middle School Camps

- Science Week
- Music Week
- Sports Week
- Art Week
- Nature Week

### Swimming Programs Include:

- Swim Lessons
- Parent & Tot Open Swim
- Swim Teams
- Water Walking
- Lap Swim

### Senior Activities/The Active People Programs:

- Chair Yoga
- Modified Volleyball
- Cards
- Walking
- Pickleball
- Line Dancing
- Strength Training
- Bus Trips
- Luncheons
- Themed Parties

### Other Programs:

- Art In The Park Classes
- Computer Classes
- Safety Town

### Special Events:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Candlelight Vigils In Ely Square
- Lorain County Beautification Day
- Memorial Day Parade
- Summer Reading
- Summer Concerts
- Flag Day
- July 4th Fireworks
- Taste Of South
- Parks Golf Classic
- Chalk The Walk
- Third Thursdays
- Bike With The Mayor
- Pops Concert
- Apple Festival
- Fall Festival
- Halloween Parade
- Festival Of Lights
- Holiday At Finwood





## 5.2

# Programs to be Added in 2023

The Parks and Recreation Staff utilized the public engagement, participant comments, and their expertise to provide the following lists of programs to offer in 2023 and beyond.

- E-Sports Leagues
- E-Sports Open Play
- Teen Nights
- Skate with Santa at North Park Ice Arena
- DJ Skate at North Park Ice Arena
- Craft Classes
- Crochet Class
- Additional TAP program times
- Access Training
- After School Open Recreation - adding locations
- Basketball Open Gym - Adults and Youth
- Family Open Gym
- Adult Basketball Leagues

## 5.3

# Potential Programs to be Offered

- Music Lessons
- Mommy and Me Classes
- Art Classes:  
Pottery, Watercolor, Canvas Painting, Drawing
- Dog Obedience Classes at Hilltop Dog Park
- Health and Wellness Classes
- Community Garden



# Appendix A.

## Parks and Recreation Open House

October 12, 2020

The following area the responses to sheets on the walls at South Recreation center among various topics. Participants wrote their comments on sticky-note paper and placed them on the sheets. Numbers in () indicate the number of multiple responses of this item.



## Parks

### Abbe Road Park

#### 1. Improve?

- Bigger Sign – People Do Not Know It Is There
- Parking Lot Off Of Abbe Road
- Better Signage To Park
- Muddy When Wet

### Academy Circle Park

#### 2. Improve?

- Playground
- Basketball Court
- Need Playground
- Visibility – Signage To Show Where

### Bell Ave Tot Lot

#### 1. Favorite?

- Easy Access For Kids

#### 2. Improve?

- Posted Signs For Age Limits
- 2 Picnic Tables
- Better Plants And Landscape

### Black River Audubon Park

#### 1. Favorite?

- Dawn Redwood Tree

#### 2. Fun?

- Hiking

#### 3. Improve?

- Small Picnic Shelter
- Need More Benches
- Small Picnic Area (2)

### East Park

#### 1. Favorite?

- Pool (3)
- Bus Trips To Ball Games
- New Trails
- Basketball Program
- The Urban Forest (3)
- Youth Basketball Program
- Youth Baseball League
- Trails Are Great! (8)
- Pickleball (2)
- Pool
- Swim Lessons (3)
- Line Dancing (6)
- Tai Chi

- Potluck Lunches
  - Bus Trips
  - Senior Workout Exercise
  - Walking
  - Tap (The Active People)
  - Shuffleboard
  - Corn Hole
  - Playground (3)
  - Basketball Court (2)
- #### 2. Fun?
- Playground
  - Pool (5)
  - Swim Lessons (2)
  - Gardening
  - Line Dancing
- #### 3. Improve?
- Open Restrooms
  - Family Aquatic Center
  - Please Don't Add Splash Pad
  - Reinstall Hoops At Basketball Court
  - After-School Activities
  - Better And More Accessible Restrooms And Drinking Fountain



- Bathrooms (3)
- Light The Trail
- Security And Lighting
- Skateboard Park
- Water Stations With Bottle Fillers And Benches On Trail
- Air Conditioning
- Restrooms In Back Of Rec Center
- Dog Park
- Tennis Courts
- Kids Sports
- Baseball Field And Basketball Court
- Art Classes At East

## Ely Square

### 1. Favorite?

- Trees, Fountain, Concerts
- Enjoy Concerts
- New Fountain
- Concerts And Fountain
- Concerts (9)
- Concerts, Festivals
- Love Veterans' Memorial
- Music

### 2. Fun?

- Summer Concerts Are Great
- Fishing Derby – One Per Year In Fountain
- Concerts
- Apple Festival
- Labor Day Weekend Concerts
- Cleveland Pops

### 3. Improve?

- Need A Better Place For Performances
- More Activities For The Elderly
- Get The Ely Square Fountain Done
- It Is Too Solemn Of A Place

## Finwood Estate

### 1. Favorite?

- Santa
- Holiday Lights (11)
- Great Place- Keep Up The Good Work
- Inside The Estate
- Trails (3)

### 2. Fun

- Senior Bus Trip At Christmas

### 3. Improve

- Parking
- Trail For Hiking
- Pave Lot
- Separate Exit During Holiday Festival
- Walking Trails
- Museum, Educational Programming (Purpose/ Background Of The House)
- Update Christmas Lights
- Reopen Finwood

## Hilltop Park

### 1. Favorite?

- Close To River – Woods
- Great Bike Trail
- Basketball Courts
- Baseball Field
- Some Walking
- Trails

### 2. Fun?

- Older Kids' Playground
- Tennis Courts
- Offering A Day Program For Kids

### 3. Improve?

- Connect Hilltop And Finwood
- Hiking Trails
- Dog Park (3)
- Need Water At Bathrooms
- Basketball Court
- Add Outdoor Stage
- Trails
- Tennis Courts Are Hard To

Use When Private Teacher Is Giving Lessons

- Open Restrooms
- Improve Restrooms (4)

## North Park

### 1. Favorite?

- Picnic Area
- Ice Rink
- Skating Lessons (2)
- Open Skate (2)
- Ice Skating
- Family Skate
- 270 Families Play Hockey
- Only Ice Rink In Lorain County (2)
- Easter Egg Hunt (2)
- Pool (2)
- Swim Lessons – So Important So Close To Lake Erie

### 2. Improve?

- Special Nights At Pool – Like At Ice Rink
- Pool (2)
- Close The Rink In
- Security And Lighting
- Pool
- Ice Rink
- Improve Swim Team With Marketing
- Improve Open Swim Times – Evenly Spaced And After Business Hours

## South Park

### 1. Favorite?

- Gym
- Art Class
- Community Room Accessibility (2)
- Splash Pad And Playground – Thank You!
- Senior Group Activities (3)
- Basketball Program
- Best Shade In Town
- Basketball Clinic
- Line Dance
- Walking (2)

- Gym For Parties
- Size Of Gyms, Air Conditioning

## 2. Fun?

- I Come With A Telescope To Stargaze
- Senior Activities
- Old Fashion Craft Days
- Pools
- Baseball

## 3. Improve?

- Splash Pad Restrooms
- Bring Our Swimming Pool Back
- Better Police Patrols
- Have More League Sports
- Walking Trails
- Benches Along New Walking Path
- Community Historical Program
- Walking Path With Security

## Washington Village Park

### 1. Favorite?

- New Playground Equipment – Thank You!!

### 2. Improve?

- Promote The Location
- Basketball Court

## West Park

### 1. Favorite?

- Senior Programs – Yoga, Line Dancing (2)
- Soccer Fields
- Fireworks 4th Of July (6)
- Splash Pad
- Adult Softball
- Walking (2)
- Skate Park
- Volleyball

### 2. Fun?

- H2O Park
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Splash Zone

- Line Dance – Walking
- TAP – Yoga
- Adult Softball

### 3. Improve?

- Expand Playground – Tire Swing
- Paved Trail Around Perimeter
- Improve Exercise
- Exercise Program
- Evening Programs
- Skate Park
- Bring Back Pool And Baseball
- More Security And Lighting
- Outdoor Performing Arts Stage
- Football
- Bring Back League Sports For Youth And The Pool
- Splash Pad Is Great, But Kids Need A Pool To Learn To Swim, Otherwise Swimming In The River
- Reopen Soccer Fields





# Programing

## Virtual Programming Ideas

- Learning About Local Nature (Plants And Animals) In Our Own Parks! Pick Up Kits To Save \$\$
- Programs For Seniors On How To's Of Virtual Use
- History Of Elyria
- Line Dancing Would Work Virtually
- I Am Not Techy And Wish I Could Do Better –
- How To Do Family Tree History
- I Can't Do Virtual Stuff

## Programming/Activity Ideas

- More Guided Trail Programs, Nature Programs
- Learn To Use Computer Classes
- Don't Get Rid Of The Senior Programs
- Outdoor Archery Arena
- Chair Yoga
- Use Closed Schools To Provide Social Service Satellites Sites
- Partner With Youth Sports Organizations To Run Programs – Basketball, Baseball, Ice Hockey, Etc.
- Transportation For

## Programs

- More Nature/Botanical Programs
- Lacrosse
- Use Facilities To Run Weekend Events In Partnership With Outside (Non-Government) Organizations – E.g. 3 On 3 Basketball Competition
- Photography Class For Adults
- Mentoring Students – Seniors And Kids
- Franklin Community Center
- Running Programs
- Midnight Basketball
- Senior Rec
- Art Class
- Yoga
- Gardening And Environmental Programs For Youth
- Concerts
- More LGBTQ Free Programs For All Ages
- Bring Back All Past Programs And Activities
- Summer Concerts At Ely Square; Thursday And Sunday Evenings
- Senior Recreation And Social Events
- Youth Growth/Skills Such As Cooking And Carpentry
- Like Some Cities That Do A Musician's Concert In Places In The Area Like Second Tuesday Or 3rd Thursdays
- Need Performance Space In Elyria
- Stick And Puck
- Out To Lunch With A Group
- Competitive Swimming
- T-Ball South Side
- Gardening
- Exercise
- We Need Activities For All Ages To Participate In All Parts Of Elyria
- Education To Prevent/Reduce Obesity, Diabetes, And Hypertension
- After-School And Weekend Gym Access For Teens
- Affordable Art Classes
- Dog Obedience Classes
- Pickle Ball
- Senior Programs
- Senior Volleyball
- Line Dancing
- Corn Hole
- Cultural Field Trips
- Trips To Pro Ball Games
- Educational Programming Like Lccc



# Other Potential New Facilities



**Bike Trail/Pump Track** Should this be a new park, or added to an existing Park? What would make this cool and/or worthwhile?

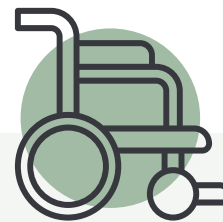
- Great idea – bike track
- Bike trails
- Water station
- Bike racks with tools
- Definitely bike trail
- A bike trail loop for sport riding
- Include areas for different age groups
- Yes! Just make sure there is safety
- East Rec Center
- More lights
- Add at West Park
- Keep senior population in mind – Bike rental location
- Connect all parks
- Spend the money keep in mainstream
- Added to existing parks



## City Dog Park

Where should a dog park be? What should it include? Why do you think it is needed?

- Small areas throughout
- City
- Downtown (2)
- South or West – Big and small dog park; large enough to be worth it
- Dogs need exercise off-leash
- Would love this!
- Paper or plastic bags
- Water fountain for dogs
- Seems that either South or West Parks might have space. Or East Rec in field close to Prospect School
- East Rec Center
- Absolutely!
- Different areas for active dogs vs. older or less active dogs
- Dog park at south with poop bags available
- Clean up stations and supplies to encourage users to keep the park clean
- We need one
- Hilltop Park or East Rec
- Hilltop
- YES!
- We don't have one. It would be a great idea.
- Pet ownership has increased – yards are smaller or non-existent

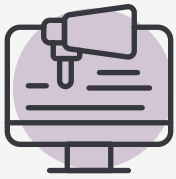


## Inclusive/Multi-Ability Playground/Equipment

Where do you see these updates happening? Why do you believe this is needed? What options would you like to see?

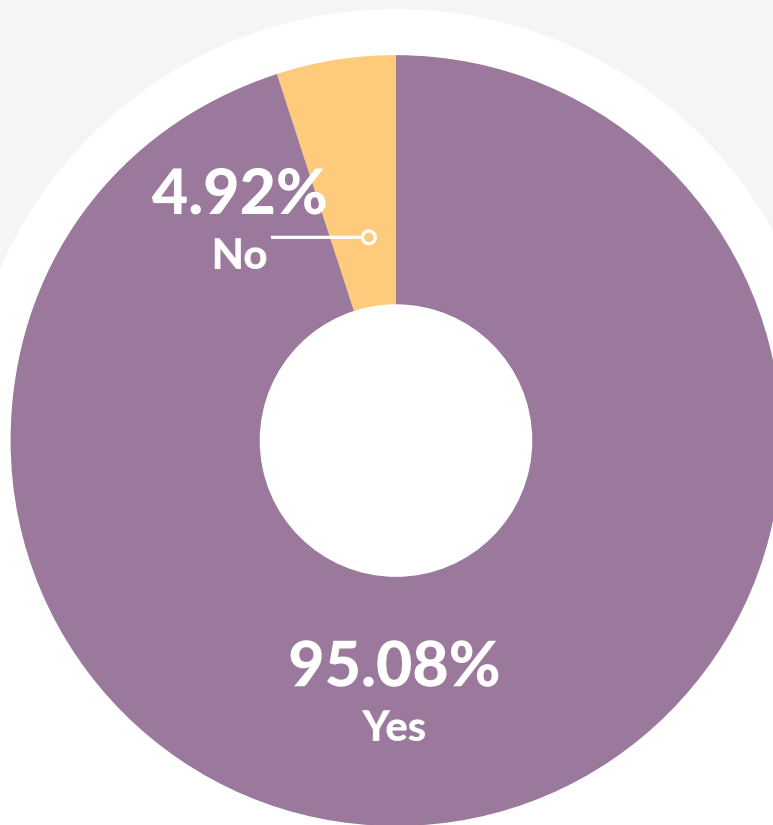
- More wheelchair accessible swings and playgrounds
- Wheelchair swings
- Interactive activities for those with disabilities
- Provide playground in neighborhoods – small playgrounds, etc.
- Let kids play ball with the lights on
- Safety measures to prevent injury
- Definite need.





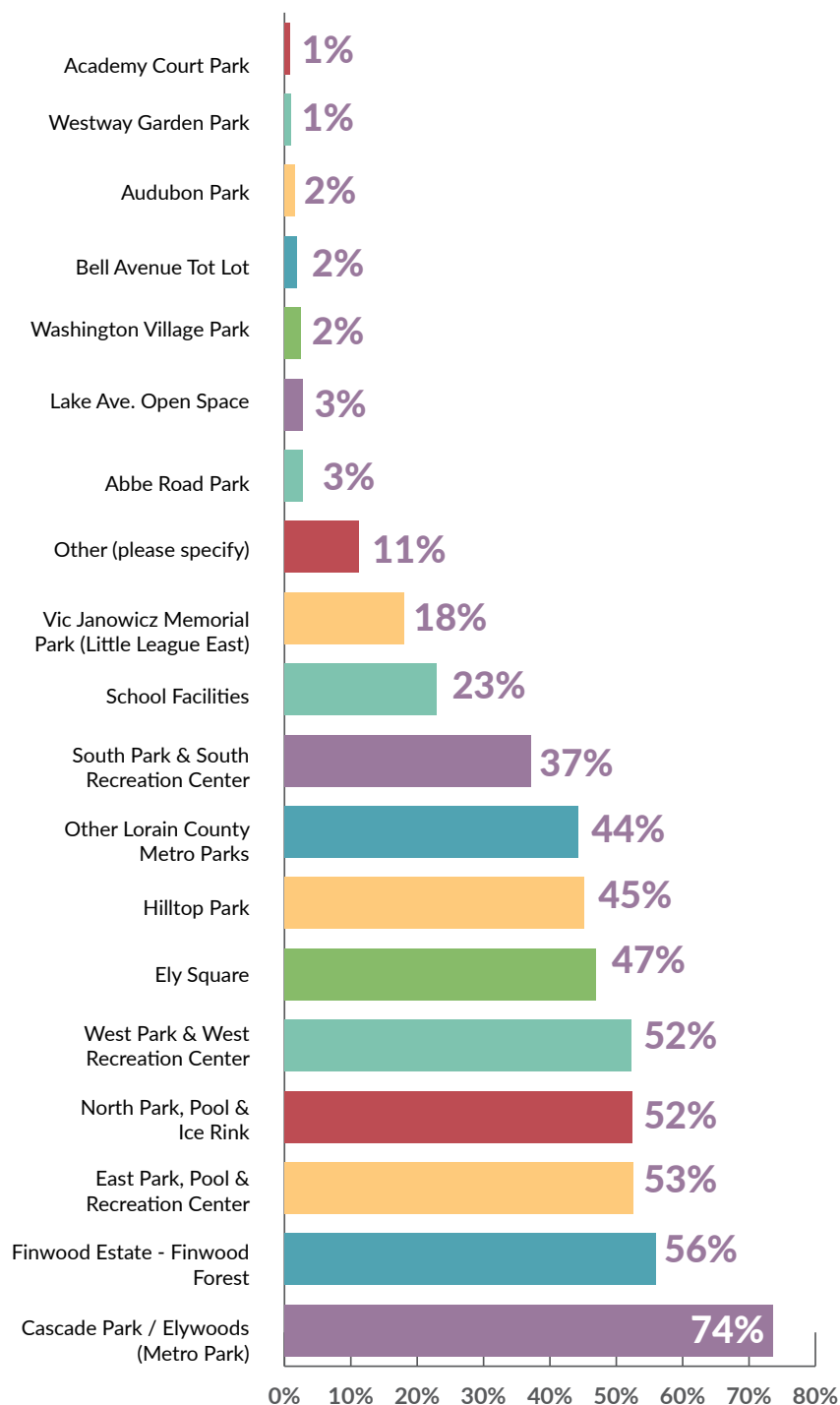
## Appendix B.

# Web Survey Results



**Q1** Have you (or those who live with you) visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by the City of Elyria in the past 2 years?

Answered: 853 | Skipped: 0

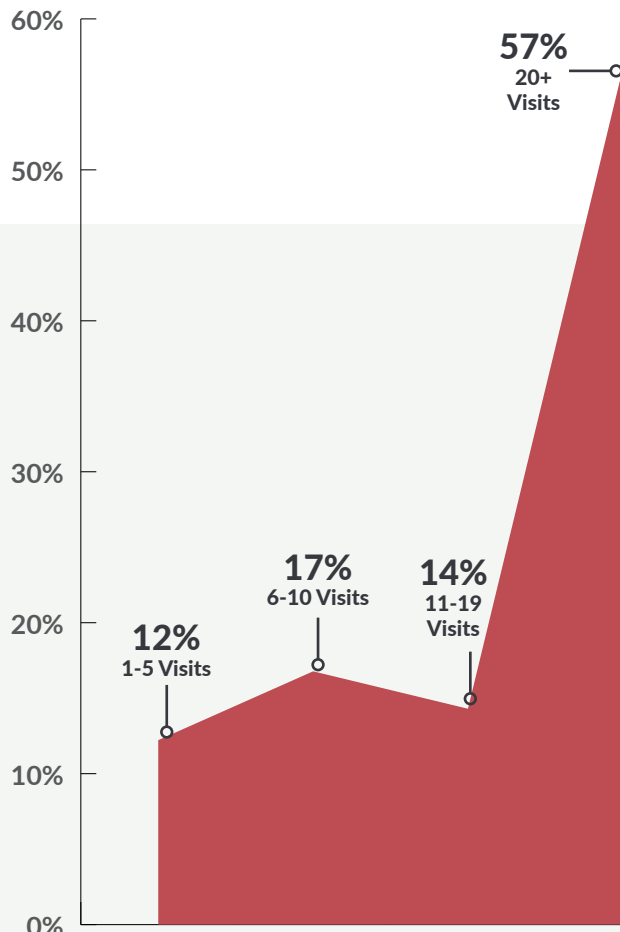


**Q2** Which of the following parks and recreation facilities have you or people that live with you visited in the past 2 years?

**Answered: 772 | Skipped: 81**

### Q3 Which of these parks do you live closest to?

Answered: 754 | Skipped: 99



### Q4

Please indicate how often you or people that live with you visited parks in Elyria within the past 2 years.

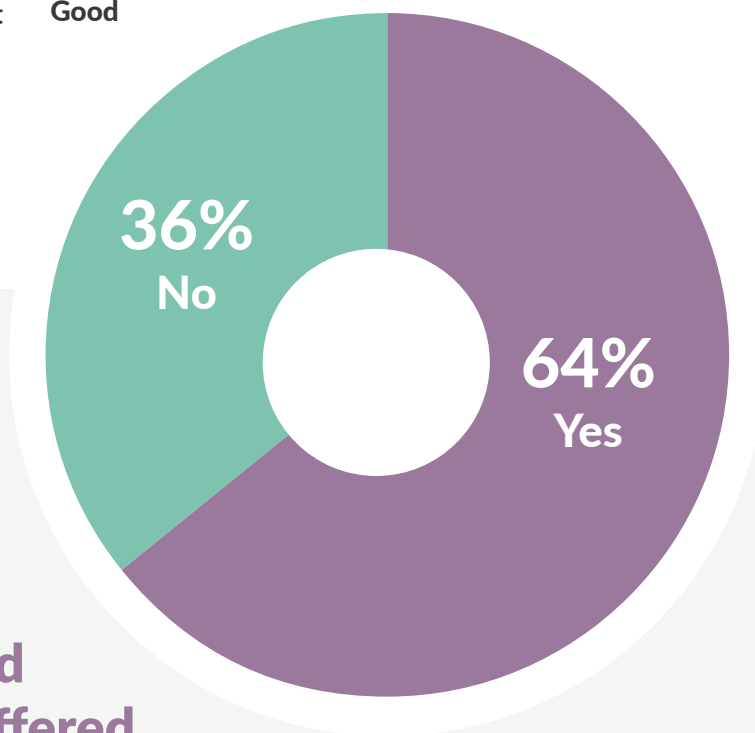
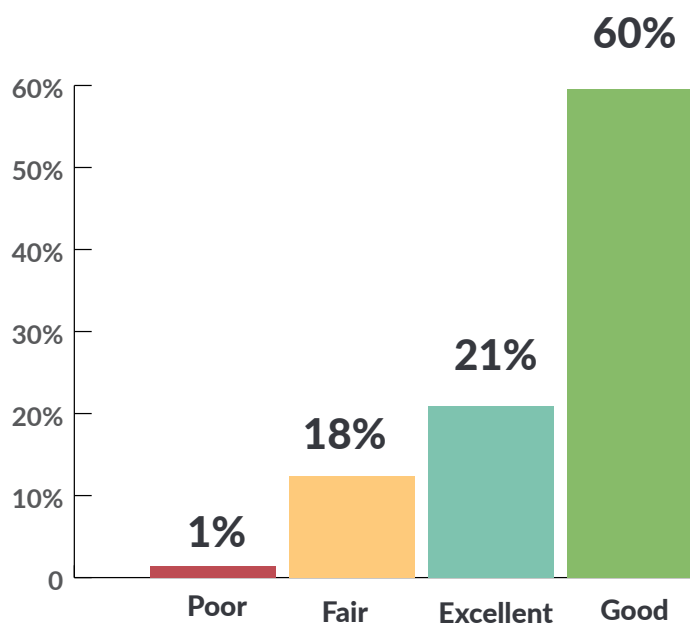
Answered: 769 | Skipped: 84



Q5

How would you rate the physical condition of the parks and recreation facilities you have visited in Elyria?

Answered: 769 | Skipped: 84



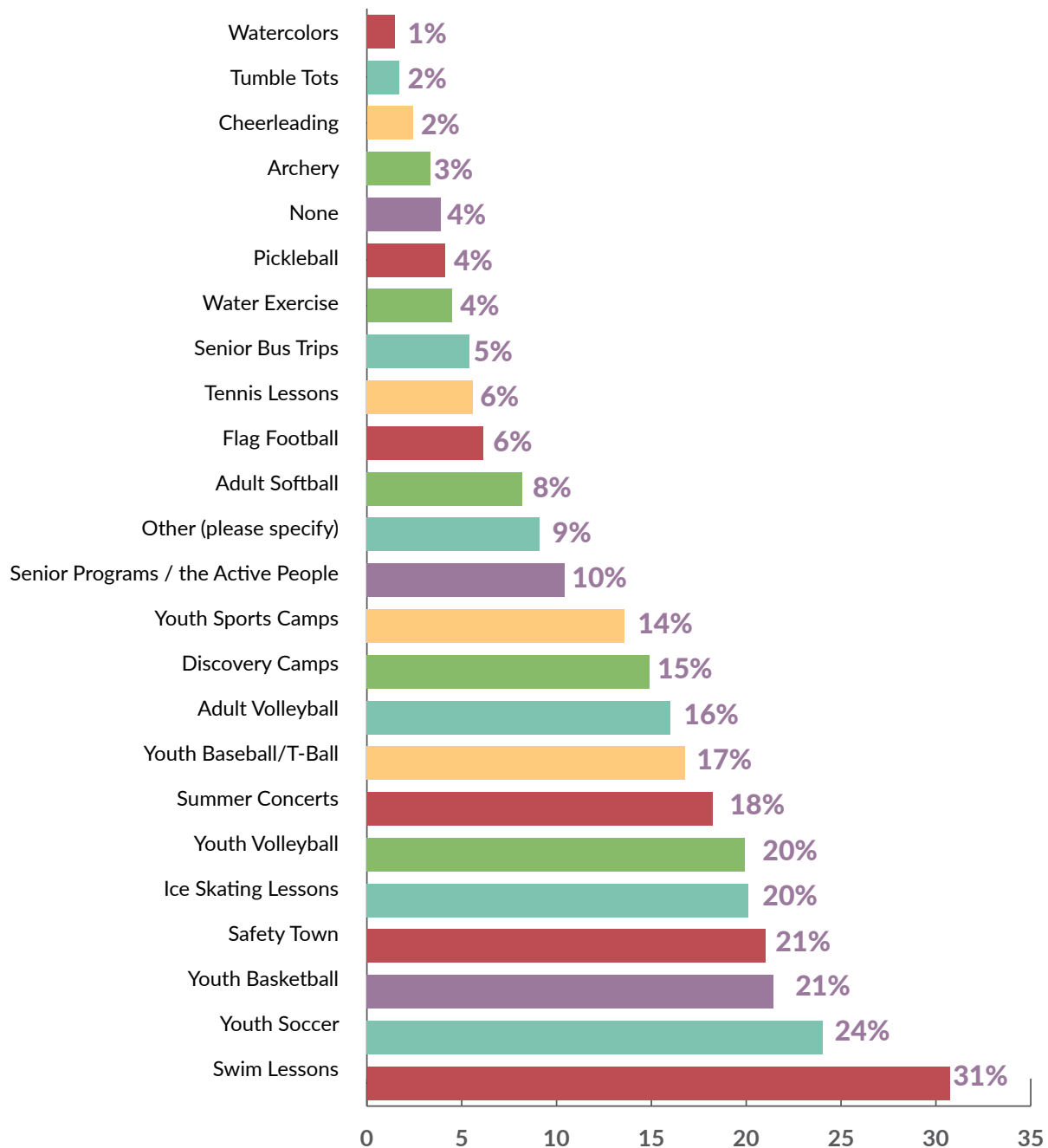
Q6

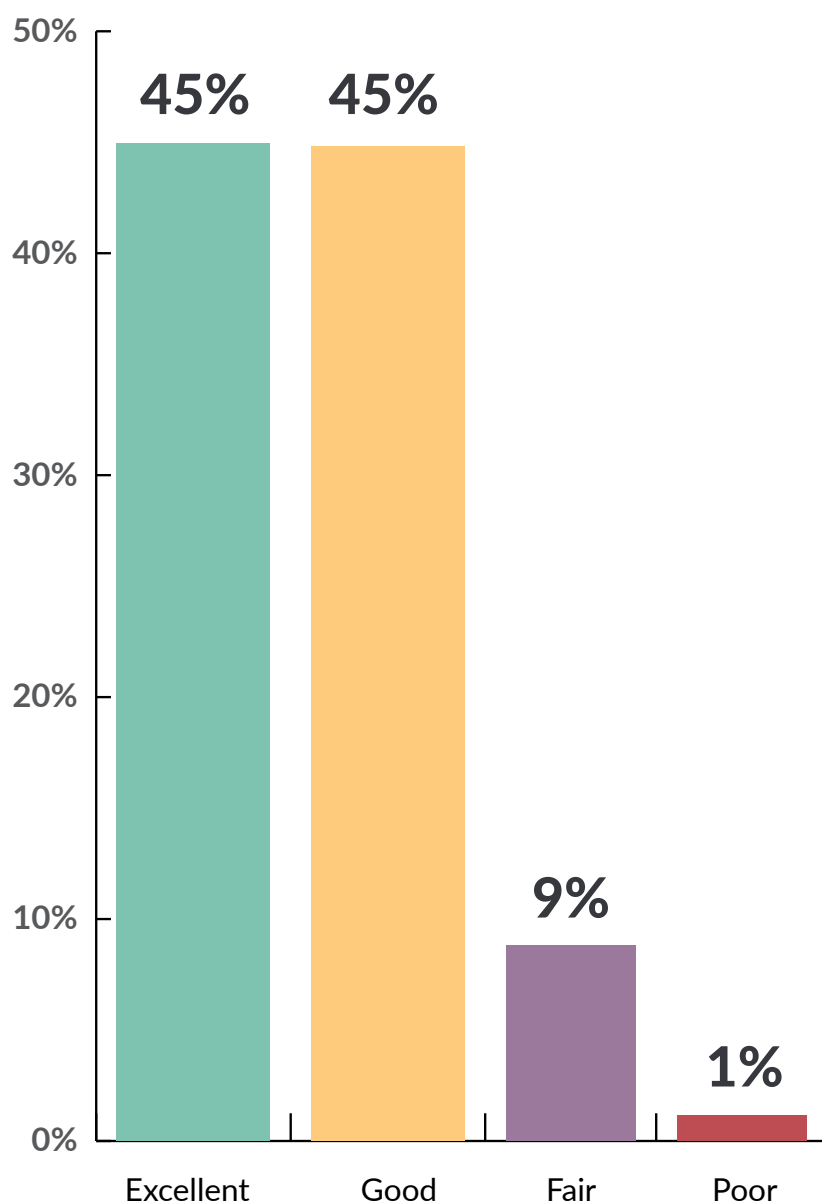
Have you or (or those who live with you) used recreation programs offered by the City of Elyria in the past 2 years?

Answered: 791 | Skipped: 62

## Q7 Please check ALL current City of Elyria sponsored PROGRAMS you or a member of your household attended in the past 2 years.

Answered: 537 | Skipped: 316





**Q8** How would you rate the quality of programs in which you or family members participated?

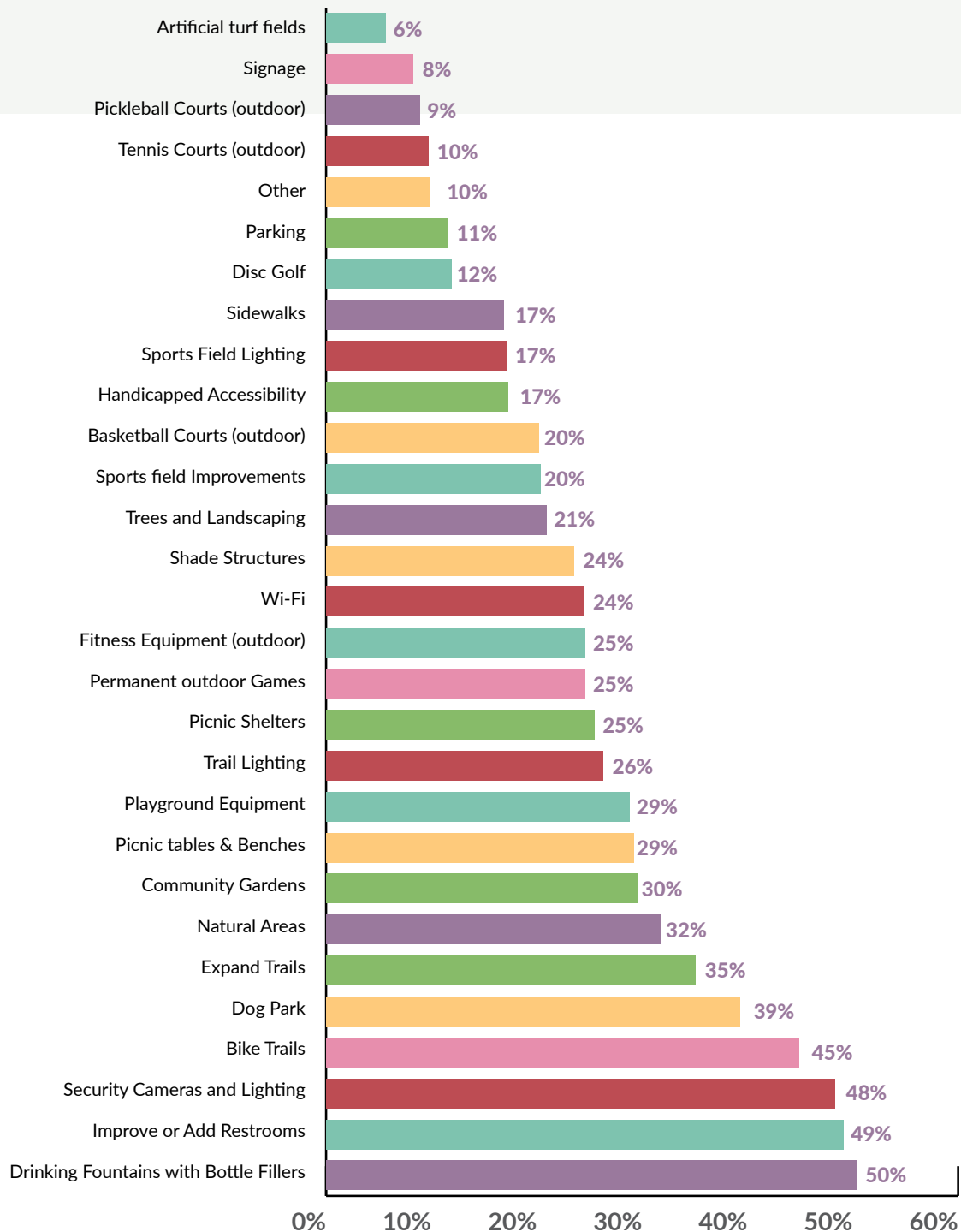
Answered: 625 | Skipped: 228



Q10

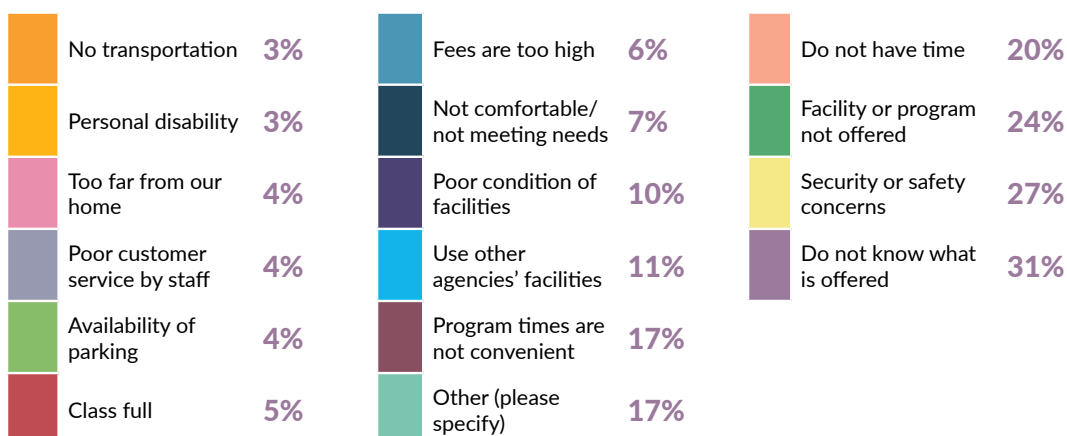
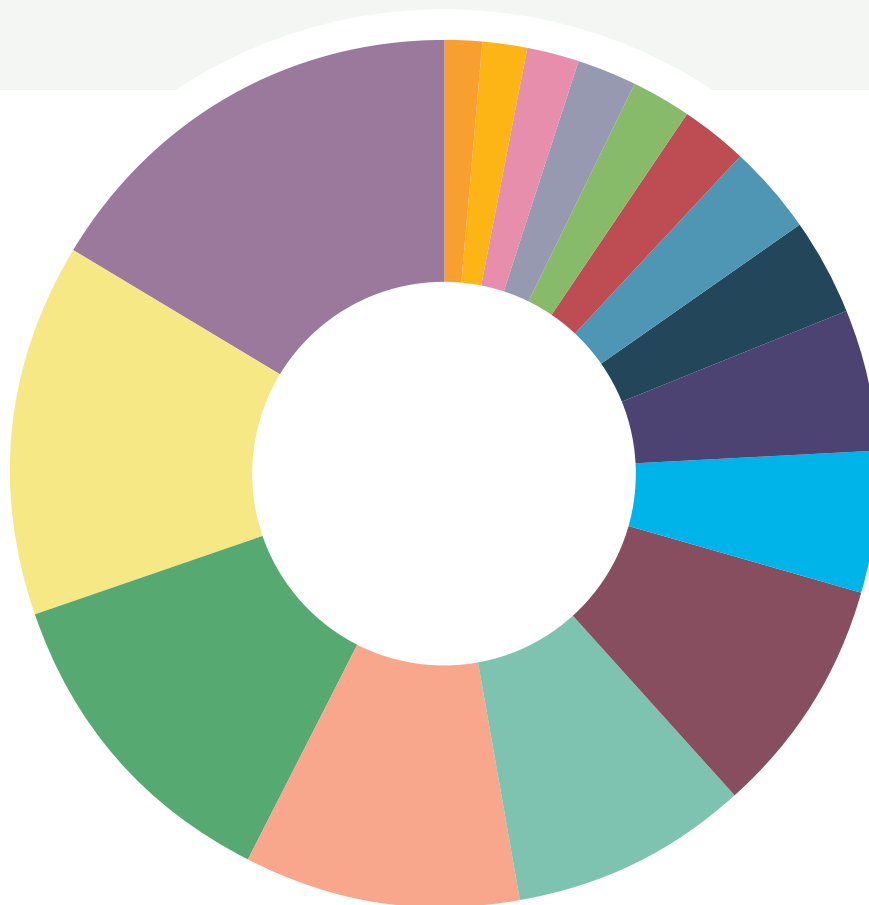
## Please check all of the UPGRADES you would like to see at existing parks in Elyria.

Answered: 688 | Skipped: 165



# Q11 Please check ALL the reasons that keep you (or those who live with you) from using parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and events of Elyria Parks and Recreation more often.

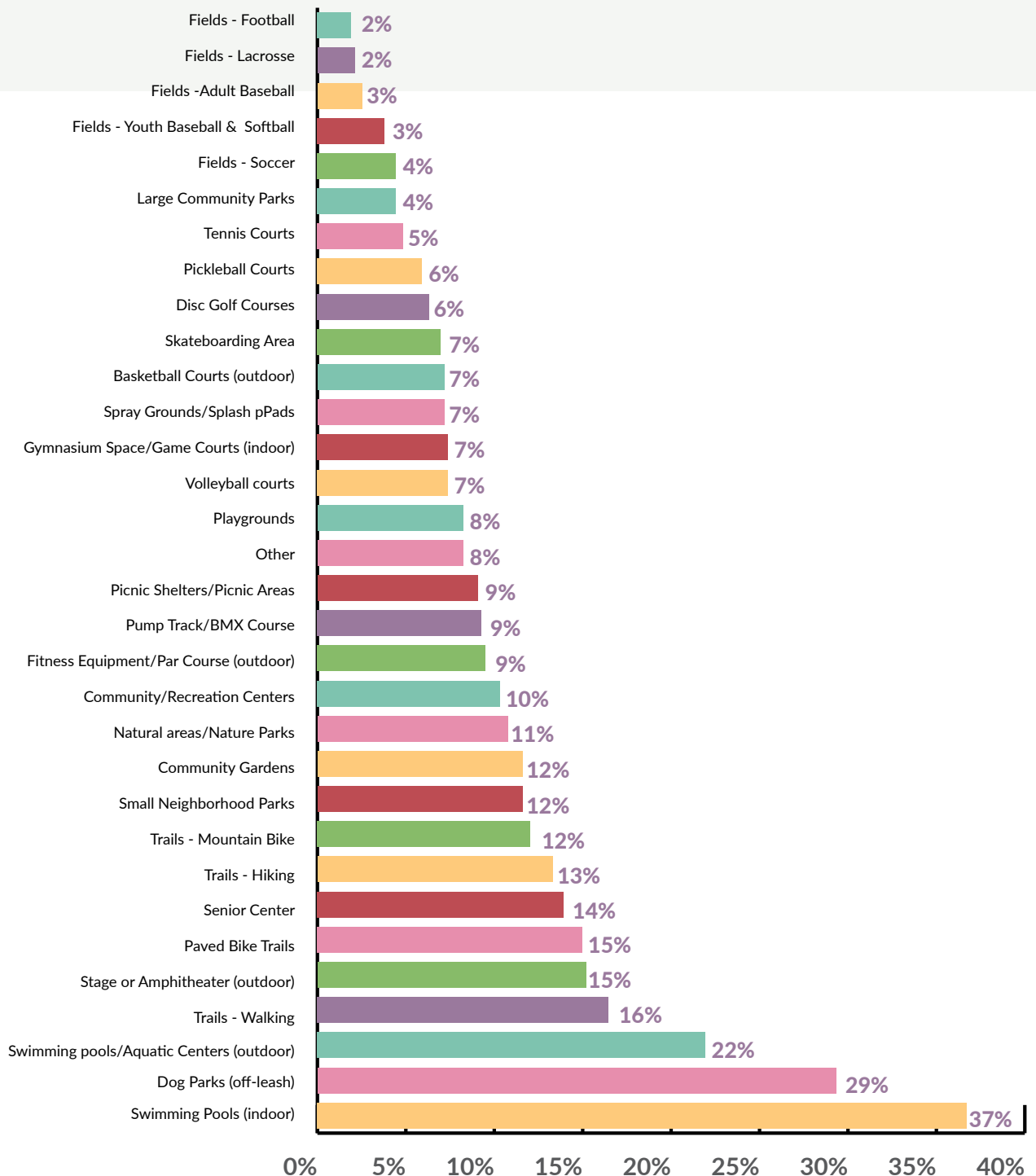
Answered: 488 | Skipped: 365



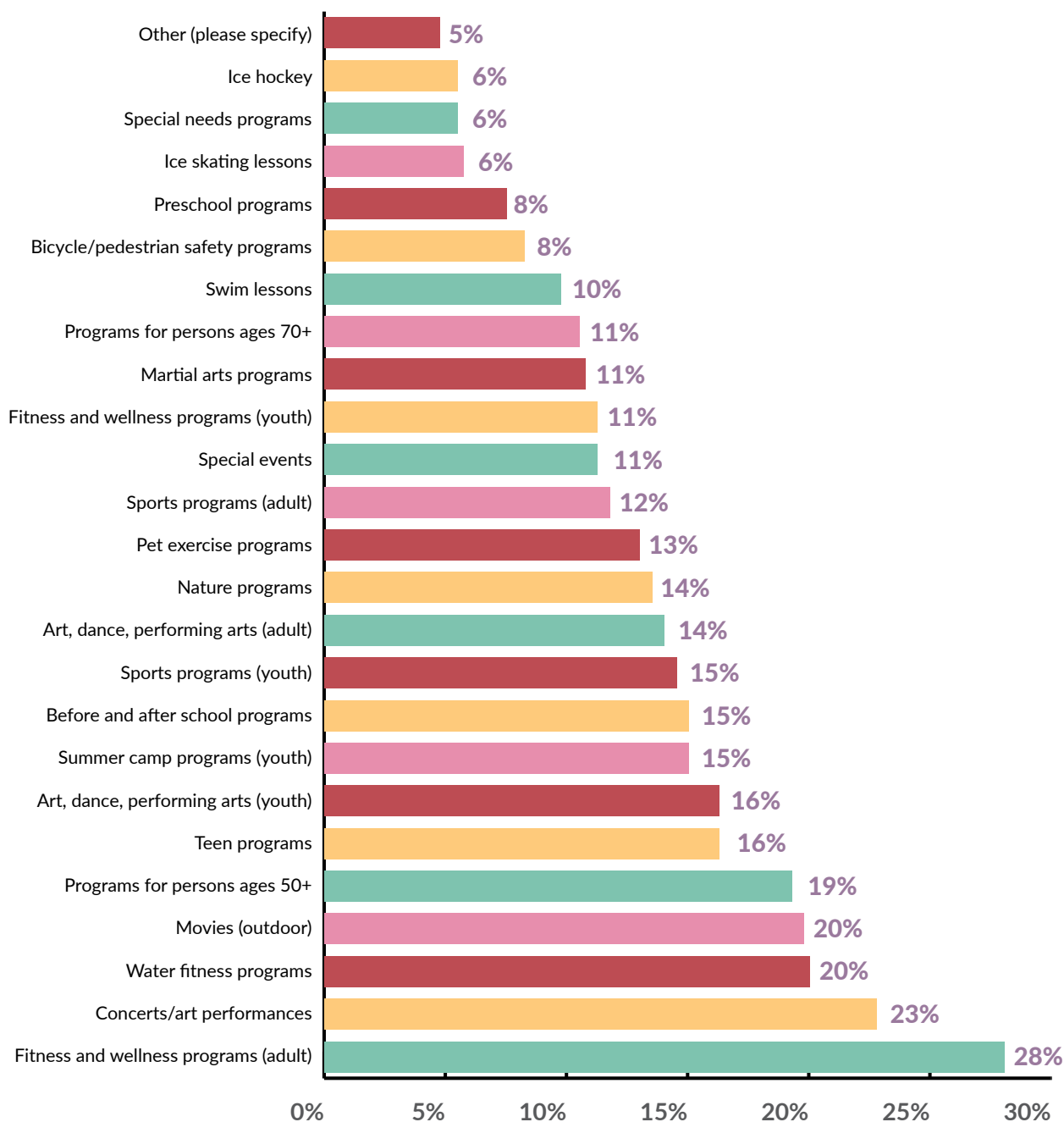
Q12

Please select the **FACILITIES** that are **NOT** meeting your needs in the region.  
(Select up to **FOUR** options)

Answered: 474 | Skipped: 379







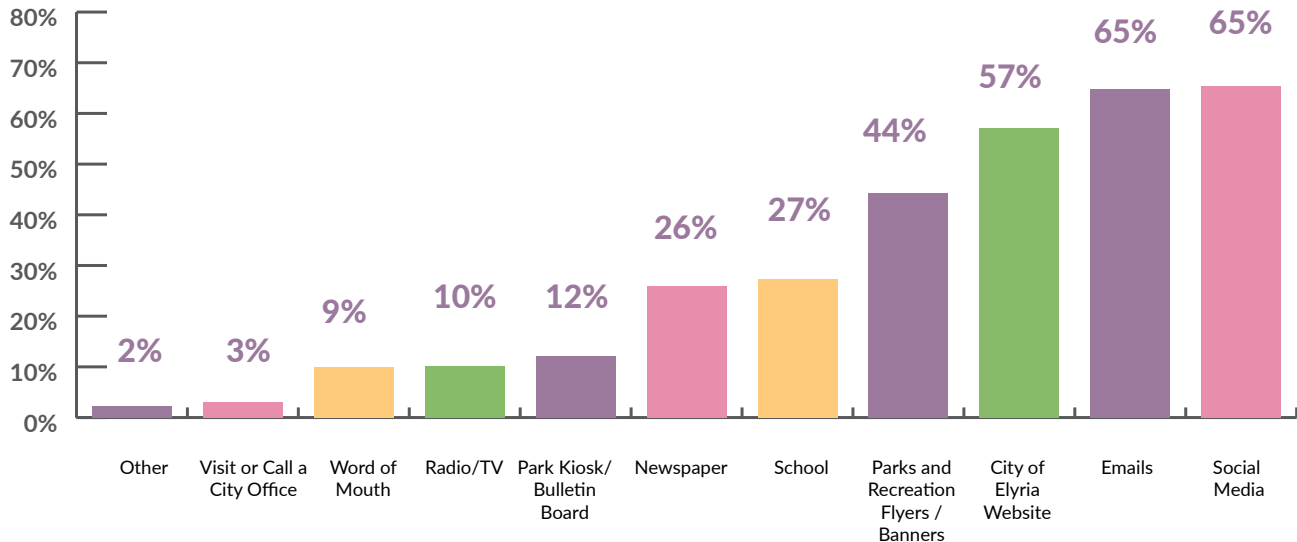
Q13

Please select the PROGRAMS that are NOT meeting your needs in the region (Select up to FOUR options).

Answered: 399 | Skipped: 454

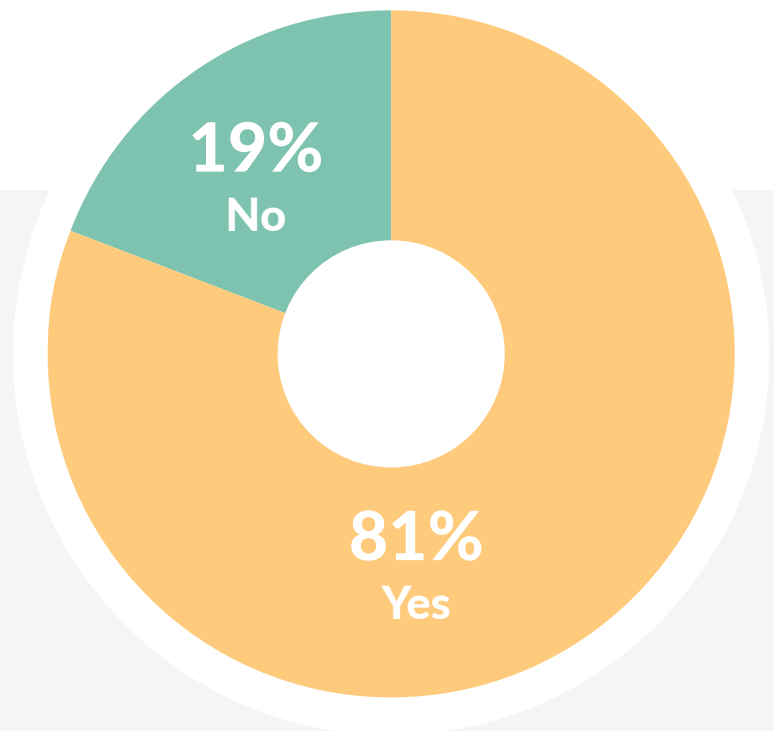
## Q14 How would you like to hear about Elyria's programs and special events?

Answered: 675 Skipped: 178



## Q15 Do you live in the City of Elyria?

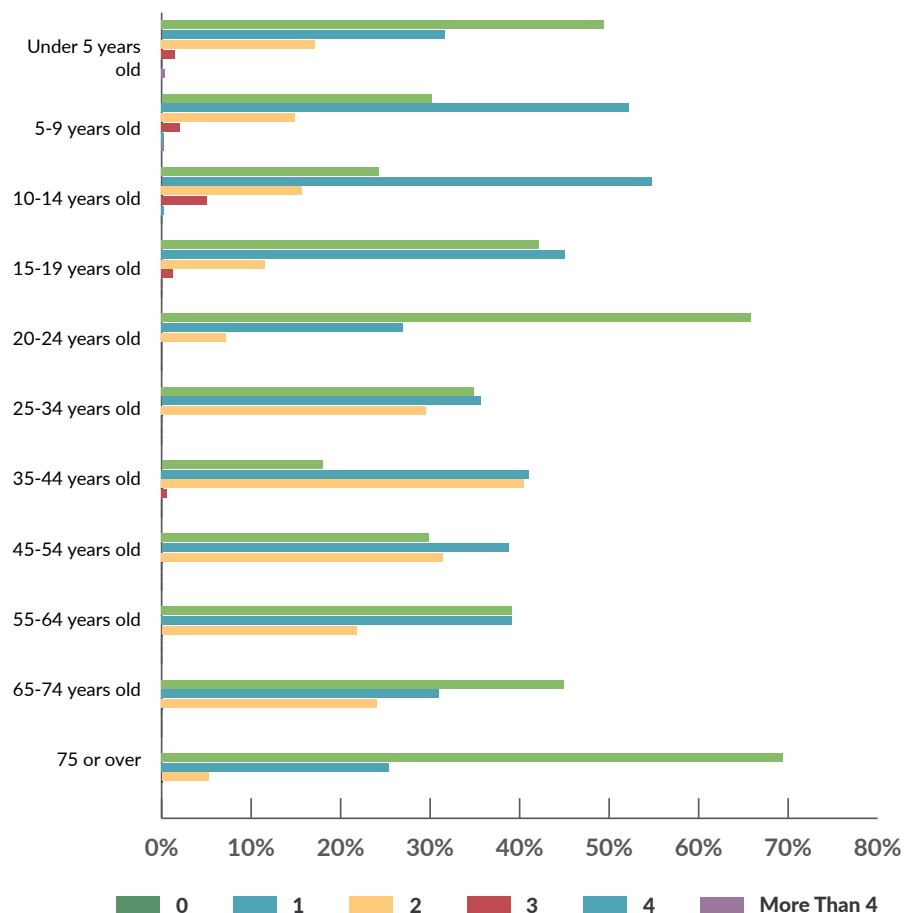
Answered: 700 | Skipped: 153



Q16

## Counting yourself, how many people in your household are of the following ages?

Answered: 688 | Skipped: 165

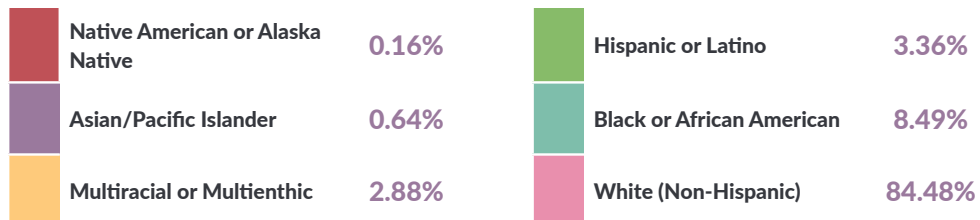
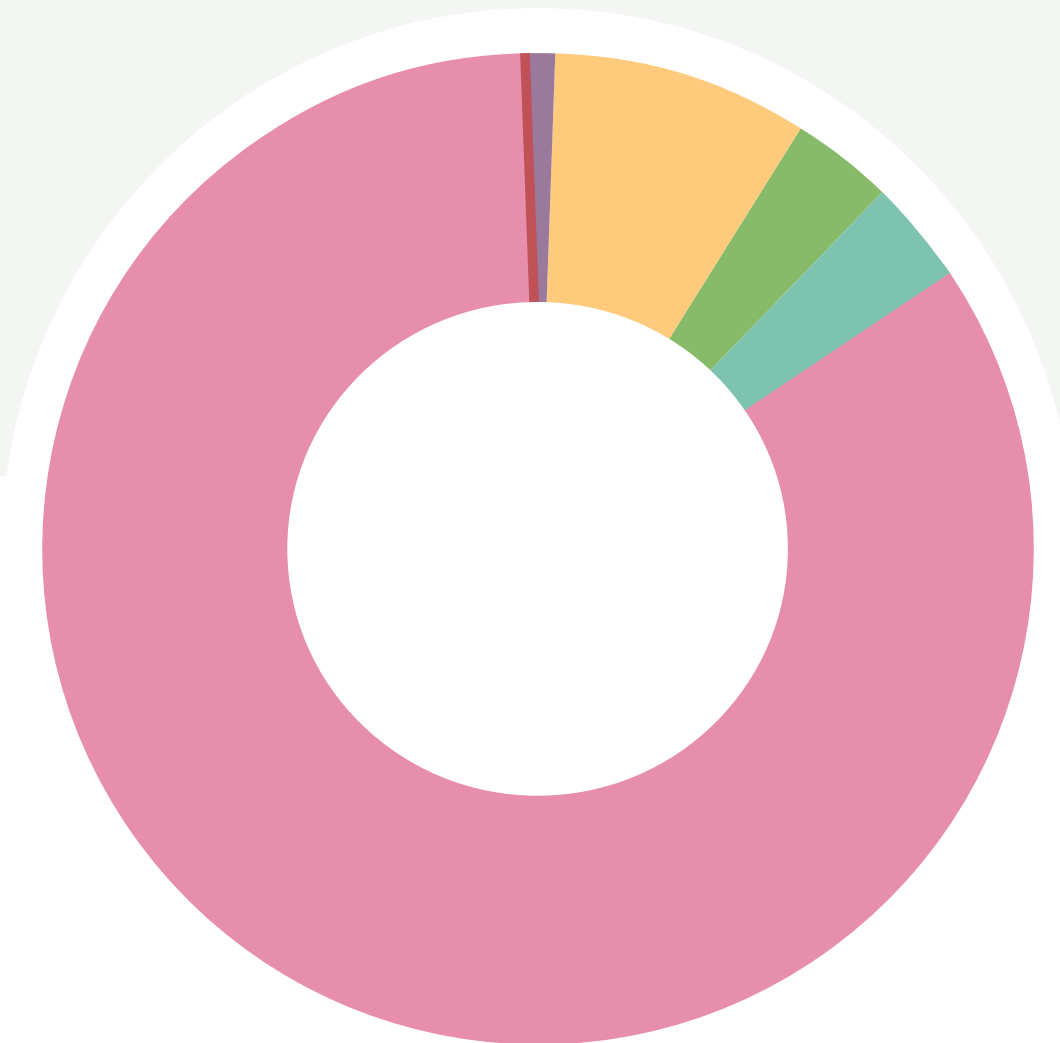


Household Members						
	0	1	2	3	4	5+
Under 5 years old	49.44%	31.60%	17.10%	1.49%	0.00%	0.37%
5-9 years old	30.15%	52.24%	14.93%	2.09%	0.30%	0.30%
10-14 years old	24.26%	54.73%	15.68%	5.03%	0.30%	0.00%
15-19 years old	42.15%	45.04%	11.57%	1.24%	0%	0.00%
20-24 years old	65.87%	26.95%	7.19%	0.00%	0%	0.00%
25-34 years old	34.87%	35.63%	29.50%	0.00%	0%	0.00%
35-44 years old	17.98%	41.01%	40.45%	0.56%	0.00%	0.00%
45-54 years old	29.84%	38.76%	31.40%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
55-64 years old	39.11%	39.11%	21.78%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
65-74 years old	44.92%	31.02%	24.06%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
75 or over	69.40%	25.37%	5.22%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%



## Q17 What is your race or ethnicity? (Optional)

Answered: 625 Skipped: 228





# Appendix C. Stakeholders Meeting Summary

*December 10, 2020*  
Stakeholders Meeting  
Elyria Parks Master Plan  
Project No. 20103

**Present:** Parks and Recreation  
Board as a Stakeholder  
Group Patrick D. Hoagland,  
Brandstetter Carroll Inc.





**1. From your perspective as a Community Leader, what do you perceive as the largest unmet needs for Parks and Recreation Services in Elyria?**

- Money
- The lack of programs
- Direction from the Administration
- Indoor swimming pool
- Indoor fitness equipment
- Trails with benches
- Some people do not feel safe on the south side
- The basics such as restrooms and water in the park
- Accessibility to parks from sidewalks as people need to walk in the streets
- A place to eat at South Park

**2. What questions would you like to see answered through this Master Plan process?**

- True information from a cross section of Elyria
- Hearing from the “Aging Baby Boomers”
- How do we do things together with other departments
- Jump on the trends – What is hot?
- What are our priorities?
- What do the citizens want?
- More focus on activities and programs
- How do we do more public relations and promotion?
- Why do people not use some of our parks and programs more? What is the root cause of people not using our parks and programs?
- What should we do to get people to go outside and use our trails and programs?
- How to take advantage of the activities that are offered such as the Thursday Concerts

**3. What are the strengths of the Parks and Recreation Department?**

- The scenery
- Safe feeling in the parks
- The walking in Cascade Park
- Locations throughout town, north, south, east, and west
- The recreation centers
- The parks are assets to the City
- The Adult Softball Program
- The number of recreation centers for the size of the City
- The kids on their bikes at West

**4. What are the weaknesses of the Parks and Recreation Department?**

- Lack of places to eat at east, south, and west
- Lack of staffing
- The need to maintain the cemetery as well as the parks
- Lack of funding
- The need for more marketing and advertising and no staff resources to accomplish these things
- Need to reach younger families to let them know what is available
- Need more events

**5. Pretend it is 2030 and you are extremely pleased with what the City of Elyria and the Parks and Recreation Department have accomplished over the last 10 years. What has happened to result in this success? What is your vision for the future of Parks and Recreation Services in Elyria?**

- People feel comfortable in the parks all over the City
- Pools are upgraded
- Teach all kids to swim
- The swim teams compete against other teams from other towns rather than just among themselves – may need a bus for transportation
- The Recreation Centers are expanded with Dance Rooms, Cardio, Craft Space, etc. This would allow hosting other programs
- A Quilting Room and Community Room
- Successful use of Oakwood School for a variety of activities
- More neighborhood parks
- Better partnership with the schools to use the taxpayer’s funds wisely
- Continuation of the Summer Camps
- An indoor aquatic center in partnership with local hospitals and other providers
- A central large community center
- Money to maintain the parks and any new facilities
- An increase in the operating budget
- A levy that is specific for Parks and Recreation funding
- Bring back Midnight Basketball and other similar types of programs that will attract teens and young adults

# Appendix D.

## South Elyria Pocket Park Survey Feedback Summary

### Project Background

On Saturday, August 27th Leaders of Today, Lorain County Public Health, and City of Elyria hosted the South Elyria Pocket Park Community Kick-Off at 1504 West Ave. Elyria, OH. The event served as a temporary demonstration to engage residents on the needs and desired park improvements shown by the initial survey. The event totaled approximately **175 people** and additional data was collected during the event and via door-to-door to gain insight on desired permanent park improvements.

### Survey Summary

Between the survey data collected through door-to-door engagement as well as at the temporary demonstration event, it can be concluded that there is a strong need and interest from Elyria residents to establish the implementation of a new, permanent pocket park in South Elyria.

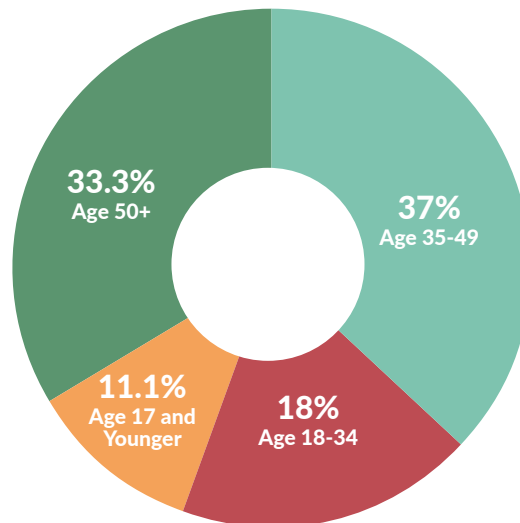
Leaders of Today, Lorain County Public Health, and The City of Elyria will work collaboratively to use this detailed feedback data to select the attributes that will make up the permanent pocket park in attempts to benefit Elyria residents and to satisfy this feedback to the fullest extent.

## Quick Facts

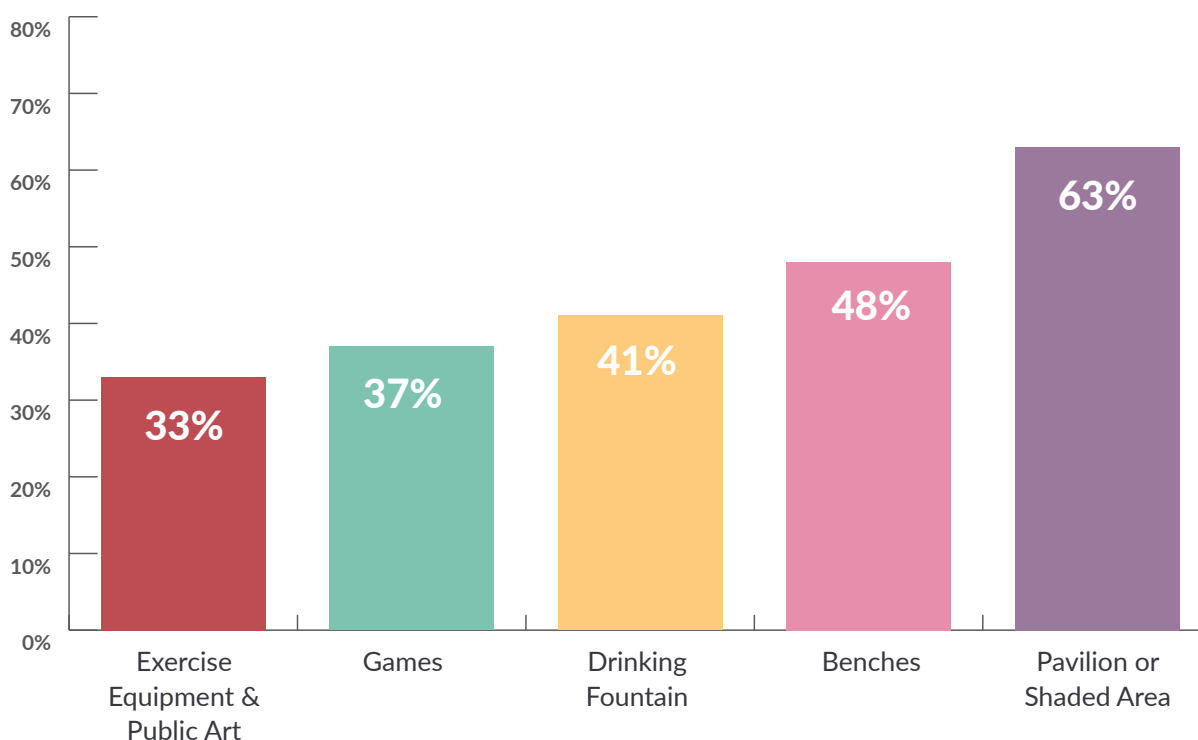
### South Elyria Perception Survey

1. 27 total survey responses
2. 82% (22) indicated they lived or have lived in South Elyria
3. When asked "What do you (or did you) like most about living in South Elyria?" most respondents indicated because of: "People", "Community", or "Culture"
4. When asked "What is missing in South Elyria?" most respondents indicated: "Youth Programming", "Trees", "Art", or "Community Involvement"

What Is Your Age?

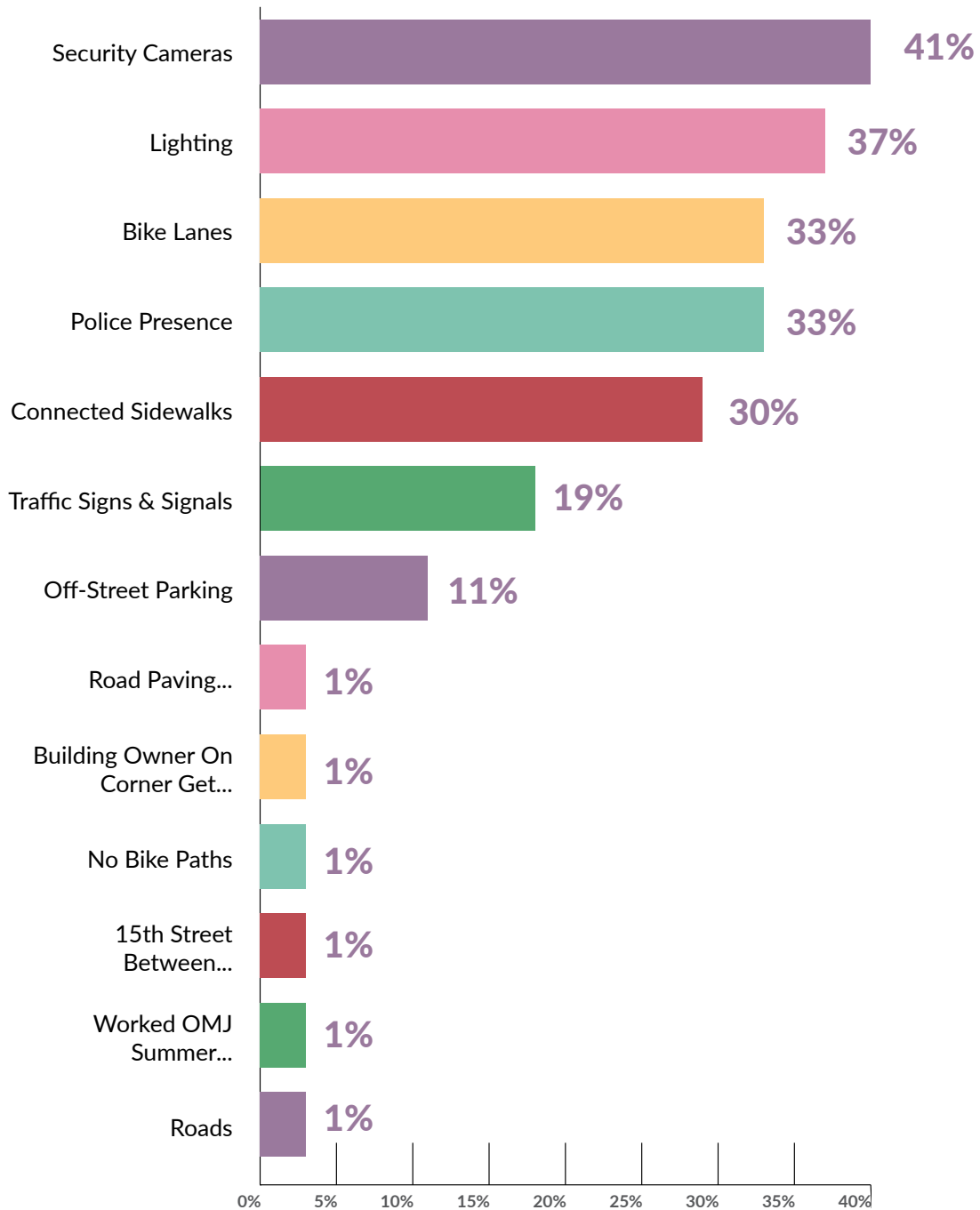


## When asked "What equipment would you like to see at the permanent pocket park?"

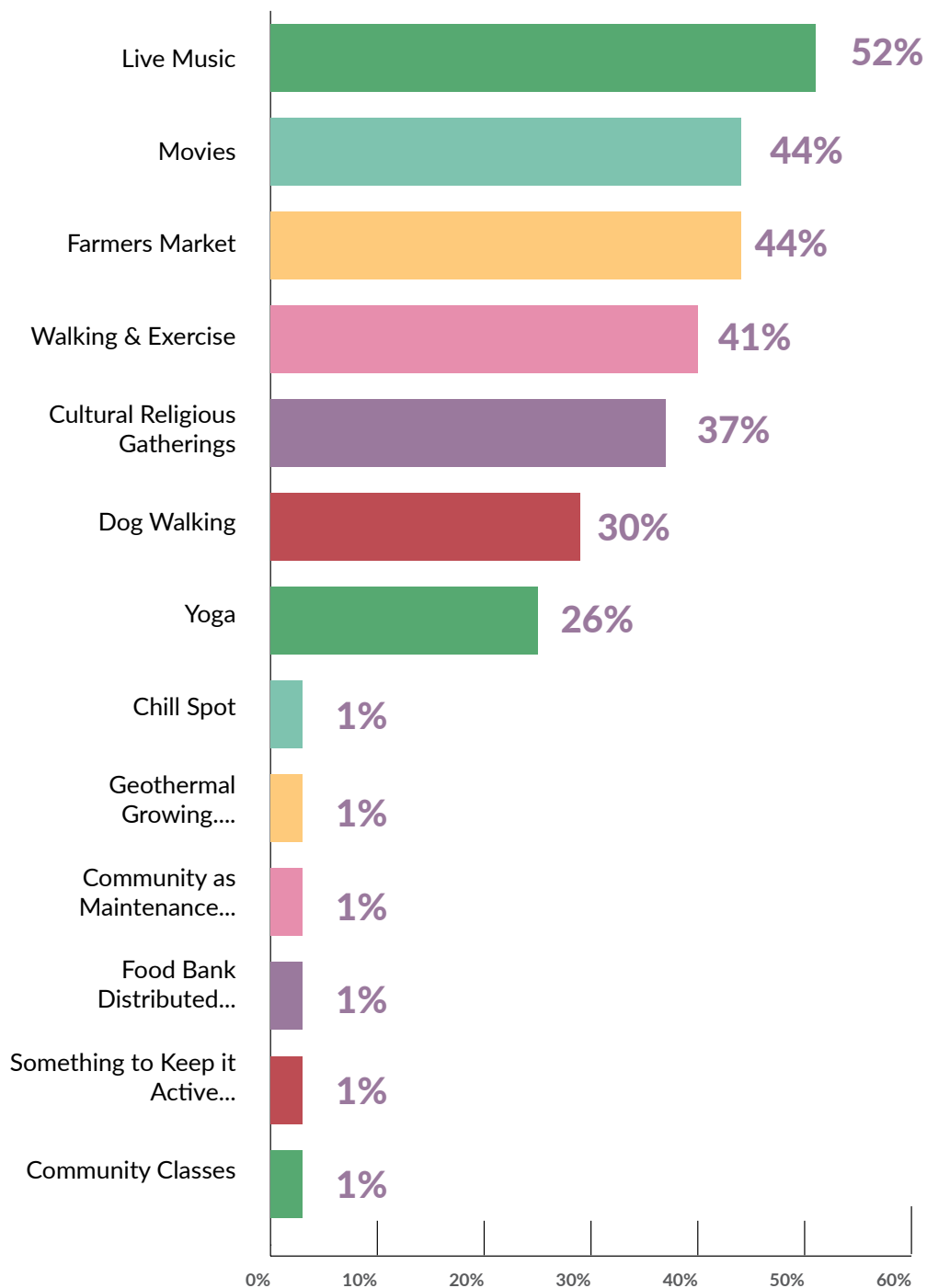




## What improvements should be prioritized in South Elyria?

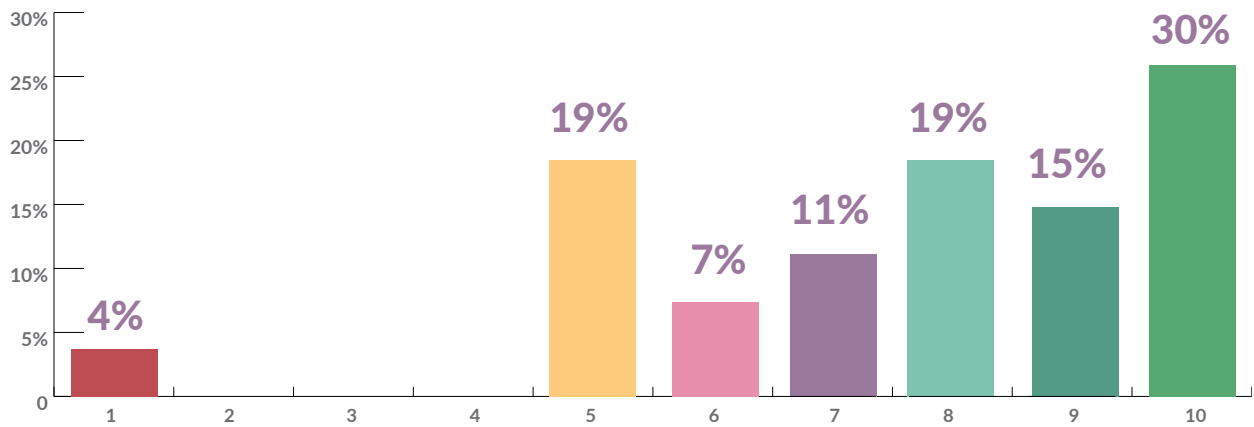


## What uses of the pocket park would you like to see?



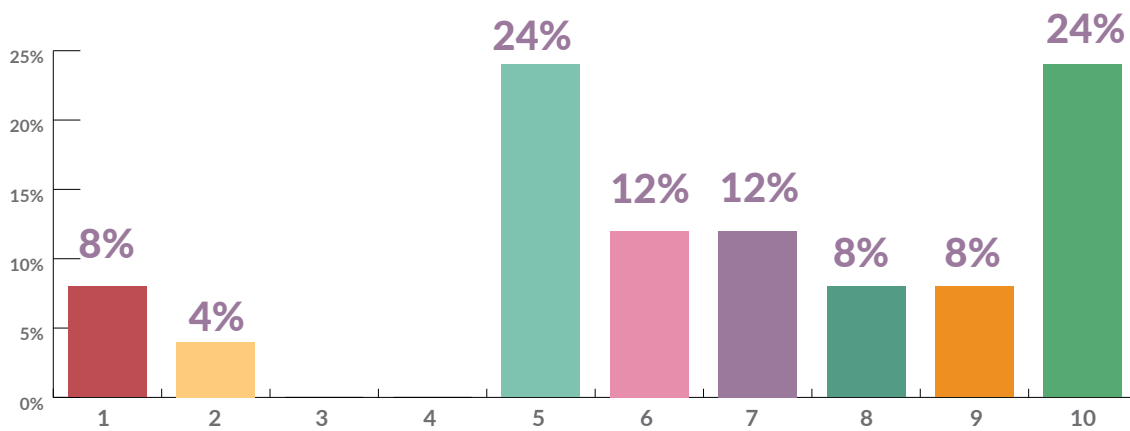
## How safe do you feel living in South Elyria?

Scale from 1 (unsafe) to 10 (safe).



## How would you rate the outreach on process so far?

Scale from 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent).





## Quick Facts

### LOT Community Solutions Think Tank

From Nov 2021- April 2022 Leaders of Today conducted a survey to gather input on the needs and desires of the South Elyria community about the construction of a pocket park. To the right are the major findings of the survey from **118 respondents**.

1. 71 total respondents where 60% either live, work, or visit South Elyria.
2. The ages of respondents ranged from 19 yrs to 61+ years old. The majority of respondents were 61+ years old.
3. We found that the majority of people want a play area for children, an area to walk, benches, a shaded pavilion, and open green space.
4. Some potential programming the community wants to see is walking/exercising, active play areas for children, and a fresh farmers market in conjunction with the community garden.



## LCPH data

### Walkability and Park Access Maps

During the Think Tank, students met with representatives from Lorain County Public Health where they discussed walkability and park access in South Elyria. While South Elyria is walkable, park access (within a 10 minute walk) is limited.

South Rec is nearby, but without proper crosswalks it is unsafe for people to walk to the park which may be the only option due to lack of transportation.

### Walk Audit findings

Students conducted a walk audit of the empty lot on the corner of 15th Street and West Avenue and recorded the following.

1. Cracks in the sidewalk cause potential tripping hazards.
2. Unlevel and narrow sidewalks causing people to walk on the streets.
3. No pedestrian signals at crosswalks.
4. Distracted drivers
5. Lack of street lights
6. Not enough natural shade or tree canopies and no benches/places to rest



2022/2023

# Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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