



# COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

**Bartlett Park District**

Adopted April 28, 2026



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## Project Team

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*Programs and Services*

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# Introduction

Since the last comprehensive planning effort, much has changed within the Bartlett Park District. This plan was developed to address these changes and provide an updated vision for the future.

## Introduction

The Bartlett Park District’s Comprehensive Master Plan serves as a guiding framework for parks, facilities, programs, and services that inspire the community to discover the extraordinary, dream what is possible, and create memorable experiences. This Master Plan reflects a thoughtful planning process undertaken to assess current conditions, engage stakeholders, and respond to evolving community needs. The resulting plan establishes a clear vision and strategic direction for the District for the next five years, from 2026 through 2030, ensuring that resources are aligned with community priorities and long-term sustainability.

## Purpose

- Assess existing parks, facilities, and programs
- Determine community opinion on services and facilities

- Identify park, facility, and program needs
- Define strategic and measurable goals and objectives
- Provide an action plan to implement strategies over the next five years

## Planning Process

The comprehensive planning process encompasses four key phases: Analyze, Connect, Envision & Prioritize, and Implement. This master plan is the result of the first three phases and is meant to inform and guide the final phase, Implement.

The planning process began in April of 2025 with an in-depth inventory and analysis of the Bartlett Park District’s parks and open space, indoor facilities, and community context. During the Connect Phase, the Board of Commissioners, staff, stakeholders, and community shared their opinions about the District’s parks, facilities, programs, and needs.

Upon completion of the Analyze and Connect Phases, the planning team met to develop alternative strategies. Input from the Board of Commissioners and staff prioritized and incorporated these strategies into a cohesive action plan to be implemented over the next five years.

## How to Use the Plan

This Comprehensive Plan will be used by the Bartlett Park District as a guide to implement action items over the next five years. The Action Plan should be thought of as a “working list” that will need to be evaluated and updated annually.

This plan is meant to be flexible and fluid and may be adjusted based on funding, facility, or programmatic needs.

# STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT



**analyze**

## Chapter One

*Analyze: Inventory & Analysis*

Chapter One provides a detailed inventory of parkland, open space, District facilities, schools, and relevant adjacent land uses. Park assets are quantified by standards, size, location, and amenities.



**implement**

## Chapter Four

*Implement: Action Plan*

Chapter Four outlines the highest priority strategies into a five-year Action Plan with a 10-year outlook. The Action Plan designates when strategies will occur and how to accomplish them.



**connect**

## Chapter Two

*Connect: Community Engagement*

Chapter Two includes national, state, and local parks and recreation trends. It also includes summaries of the community survey, stakeholder interviews, community and staff workshops, and Board of Commissioners discussion.



**appendix**

## Chapter Five

*Appendix*

The appendix is a supplementary document that contains the Illinois Department of Natural Resources useful life criteria, Bartlett zoning map, facility assessment, program assessment, the focus questions asked at the various workshops during the Connect Phase, the graphs and results from the community survey, and the draft strategies.



**envision & prioritize**

## Chapter Three

*Envision & Prioritize: Alternate and Preferred Strategies*

Chapter Three outlines the needs that arose during the Analyze and Connect Phases. It provides the background of those needs, synthesizing the results from the previous phases into justification and background for future action items and the strategies to achieve them.



# District Profile

The Bartlett Park District service area covers approximately 17.66 square miles and serves a population of approximately 42,000 people. Located in DuPage, Cook, and Kane Counties, the Park District maintains 638.35 acres of open space.

## Geographic Profile

The 17.66-square mile District is located in DuPage, Cook, and Kane Counties, and is approximately 35 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. It lies in the Hanover and Wayne Townships and is bordered by Elgin and Streamwood to the north; Wayne and Carol Stream to the south; Elgin and South Elgin to the west; and Hanover Park to the east. The Bartlett Park District serves the Village of Bartlett and parts of the surrounding communities of Elgin, Streamwood, Hanover Park, South Elgin, and Wayne.

## Organizational Structure

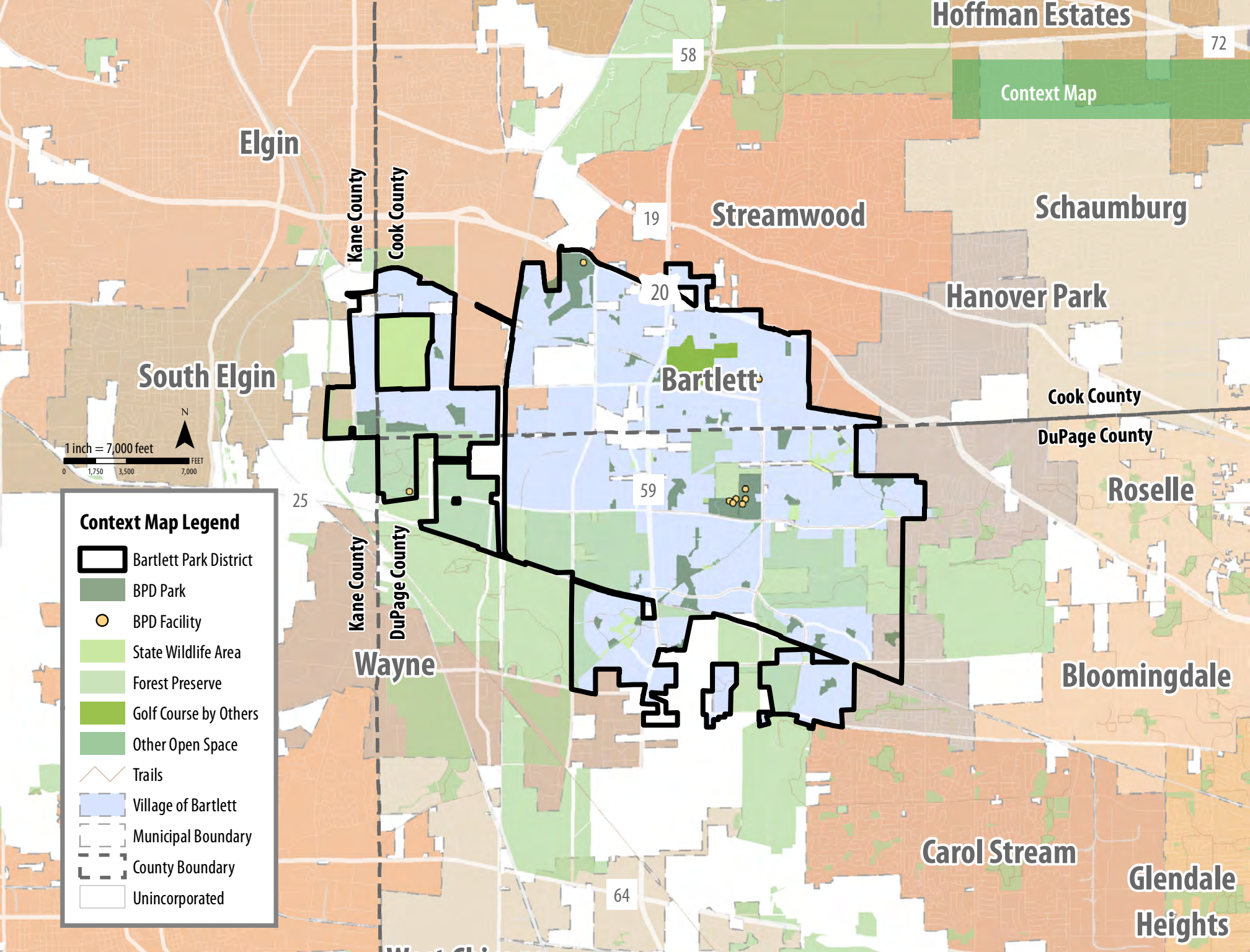
The Board is made up of seven Park Commissioners elected at-large on a nonpartisan basis for six-year terms. The Board holds policy-making and legislative authority and is responsible for adopting ordinances and resolutions, approving the budget, appointing ad hoc committees, establishing policies, and hiring the Park District's Executive Director. The Executive Director implements the Board's policies and ordinances, oversees the Park District's daily operations, and appoints department heads.

The Bartlett Park District is organized into five departments: Special Facilities, Business Services, Parks and Planning, Recreation, and Villa Olivia. Each department is led by a Superintendent who oversees the managers within that department.

## Related Plans

Planning documents and other reports that relate to the Bartlett Park District's Comprehensive Master Plan were reviewed for information and guidelines relevant to the master plan goals and objectives. The following documents were reviewed as part of the planning process:

- Bartlett Comprehensive Plan 2015
- ADA Transition Plan 2022
- Facilities Assessment 2022
- Community Survey 2023



Hoffman Estates

72

Context Map

Elgin

Kane County  
Cook County

Streamwood

Schaumburg

19

Hanover Park

South Elgin

20

Bartlett

Cook County



25

DuPage County

Roselle

59

**Context Map Legend**

- Bartlett Park District
- BPD Park
- BPD Facility
- State Wildlife Area
- Forest Preserve
- Golf Course by Others
- Other Open Space
- Trails
- Village of Bartlett
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- Unincorporated

Kane County  
DuPage County

Wayne

Bloomingdale

64

Carol Stream

Glendale  
Heights





*Analyze: Inventory & Analysis*

# CHAPTER ONE



# Overview

The Analyze: Inventory & Analysis chapter provides a description and illustration of the existing conditions of the Bartlett Park District, showing a basic understanding of the District's assets and programs.

This chapter documents the inventory and analysis accomplished during the Analyze Phase of the comprehensive master planning process. This phase describes the context in which the Bartlett Park District (BPD) operates, the recreation services they provide, and the patrons that utilize parks, facilities, and programs.

The following chapter defines the community's demographic context and provides detailed maps of the District that identify parks, trails, and other relevant land uses. It also includes the Level of Service analysis for parks and facilities, comparing the District's total acreage of parks and open space to local, state, and national benchmarks. A distribution mapping analysis of the geographic location of parks is also found in this chapter.

This information provides insight into how the District compares to state and national benchmarks in terms of parks, open space, facilities, and amenities.

## Chapter Outline

- Demographics
- Existing Conditions
- Asset Inventory
  - Park Classifications
  - Park & Open Space Inventory Matrix
- Level of Service Analysis
  - Acreage
  - Distribution
  - Mini Park Distribution Analysis
  - Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis
  - Community Park Distribution Analysis
  - Overall Park Distribution Analysis
  - Special Demographic Group Analysis
  - Amenity Benchmarks
  - SCORP Amenity Needs Assessment

- Park Metrics Amenity Needs Assessment
- Square Footage Indoor Facility Matrix
- Facility Assessment
- Program Assessment

# Aerial Map

**Aerial Map Legend**

1 inch = 4,000 feet

	Bartlett Park District		State Wildlife Area
	BPD Park		Forest Preserve
	BPD Facility		Park by Others
			Golf Course by Others

- Villa Olivia Golf, Ski, Event Facility
- Windy Oaks Park
- Peregrine Park
- Walnut Corner
- Villa Olivia
- Riley's Run Park
- Kjar Park
- Blue Heron Park
- Grasslands Development
- Bartlett Hills Golf Course
- 379 Lela Lane
- Firefighter's Park
- Schoppe Park
- Bartlett Park
- Log Cabin
- Leiseburg Park
- Newport Park
- Majestic Oaks Park
- Kermit's Corner
- Nature Ridge Park
- Ponds of Olde
- Bartlett Estate
- Theodore J. Lewis Park
- Wayne Grove Forest Preserve
- Glen A. Koehler Athletic Fields
- Bartlett Point West Lot
- James "Pat" Philip State Park
- Hidden Oaks Park
- Auburn Hills Park
- Beaver Pond Park
- Green Meadows Park
- Rita K. Fletcher Park
- Apple Orchard Golf Course
- Apple Orchard Greenway
- Sunrise Park
- Apple Orchard Park
- Marianne Cordell Park
- Centennial Playground
- Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve
- Struckman Basin
- Humbracht Park
- Prairieview Park
- Schick Park
- Camelot on Mayfair
- Schrader Park
- Ancient Oaks Park
- Fairview Park
- Happy Trails Park
- Huntington Meadows
- Sunset Park
- Hilltop Park
- Hawk View Park
- Rotary Park
- West Branch Lower Reserve County Forest Preserve
- Tallgrass Park
- Trails End Park

# Demographics

The demographics review utilized the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) Business Analyst Online (BAO) software to gather up-to-date demographics data necessary to gain an understanding of the District and its context.

## Summary

According to 2025 estimates, the Bartlett Park District has a population of 42,323. Total population from 2020 indicates that the population is shrinking, and will continue to do so into 2030. The projected 2030 population is 41,669. Bartlett Park District’s annual population loss (-1.55%) exceeds the state’s annual population loss of -0.15%. Overall, the nation is seeing a positive growth rate of 0.71% annually.

## Population

There are 15,212 households within the District. According to the U.S. Census, a household “includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.” Of these households, 76.78% (11,680) are families. Families are defined as a household in which one or more people are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. The average household size is 2.76. This is a minor decrease from 2020 (2.86) and is projected to decrease marginally by 2030 to 2.70.

## Age Distribution

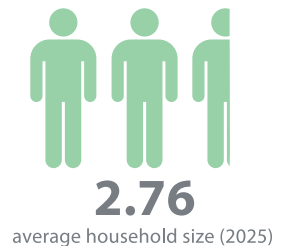
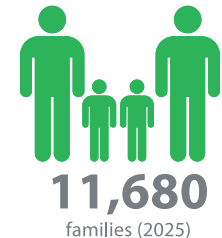
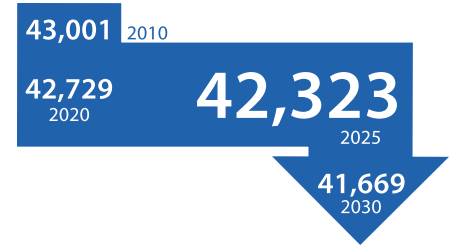
With a median age of 41.5, the population is generally young. According to 2025 estimates, 39.4% of the population is in the 25-54 age range and is expected to stay constant into 2030 (39.5%). The largest change between 2025 and 2030 is estimated to be in the 65+ age group with a 2.7% increase, which indicates that residents are choosing to age in place.

## Race and Ethnicity

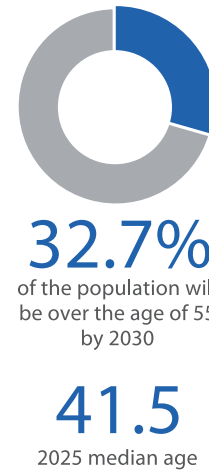
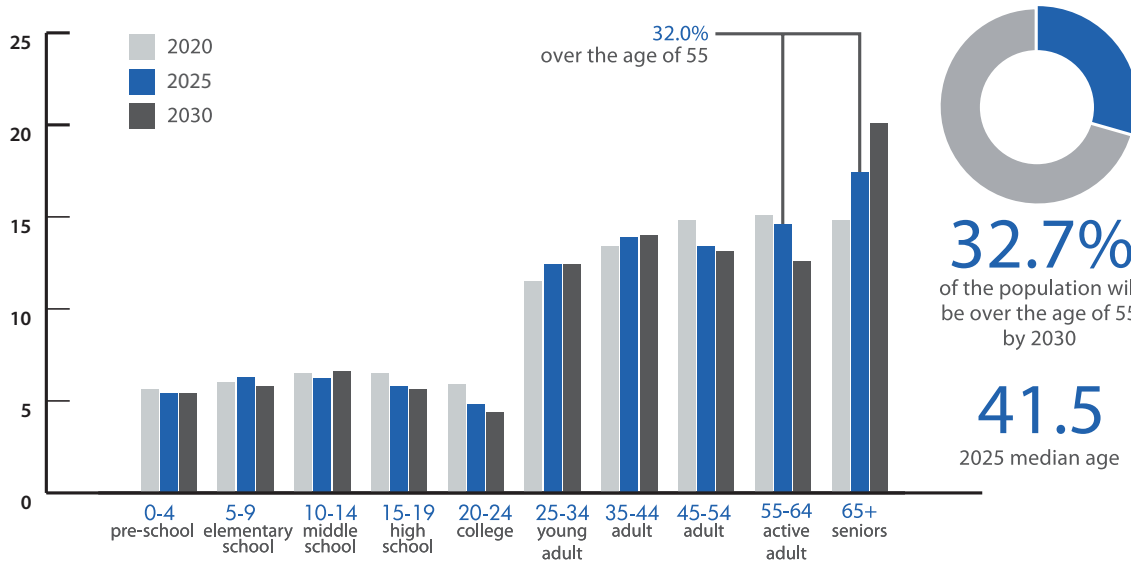
According to Esri, the Bartlett Park District has a diversity index of 67. The Diversity Index captures the racial and ethnic diversity of a geographic area in a single number, 0 to 100, and allows for efficient analysis of diversity throughout the U.S. The Diversity Index is “the likelihood that two persons, selected at random from the same area, would belong to a different ethnic group.” According to demographic estimates, 63.0% of Park District residents indicate their race as White, resulting in a low Diversity Index. The second largest group identifies as “Asian” at 18.0%, followed by “Two or More Races” at 9.4%, followed by “Some Other Race” at 6.0%, “Black” at 2.9%, “American Indian Alone” at 0.6%, and finally “Pacific Islander Alone” at 0.1%.

Separately, 15.2% of the population identifies their ethnicity as Hispanic. Race and ethnicity are considered two different concepts and are measured separately. The U.S. Census Bureau defines race as “a person’s self-identification with one or more social groups.” Meanwhile, ethnicity “determines whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not...Hispanics report as any race.”

## TOTAL POPULATION



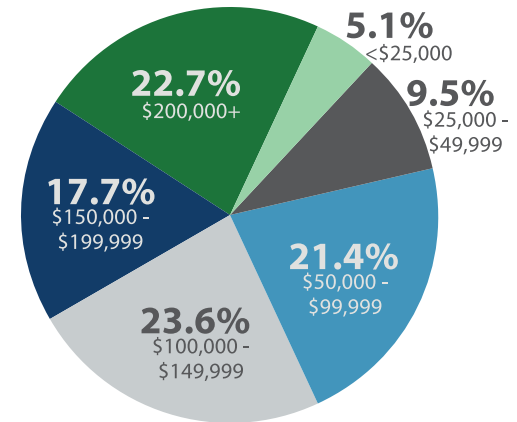
# AGE DISTRIBUTION



# Income

The median household income for Bartlett Park District is higher than the state and the national median. It is expected that median household income in the Park District will increase at a rate of 1.9% per year, which is lower than the projected state and national rates (2.28% and 2.41%, respectively), but the median income itself will remain above the state and national median in 2030. Three percent of the Park District's population falls below the federal poverty level, which is updated on an annual basis.

# INCOME DISTRIBUTION



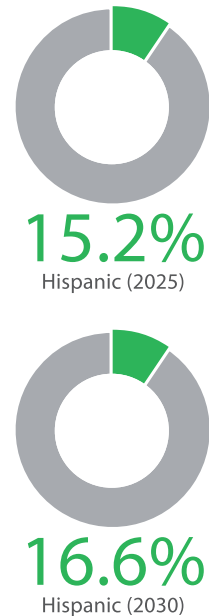
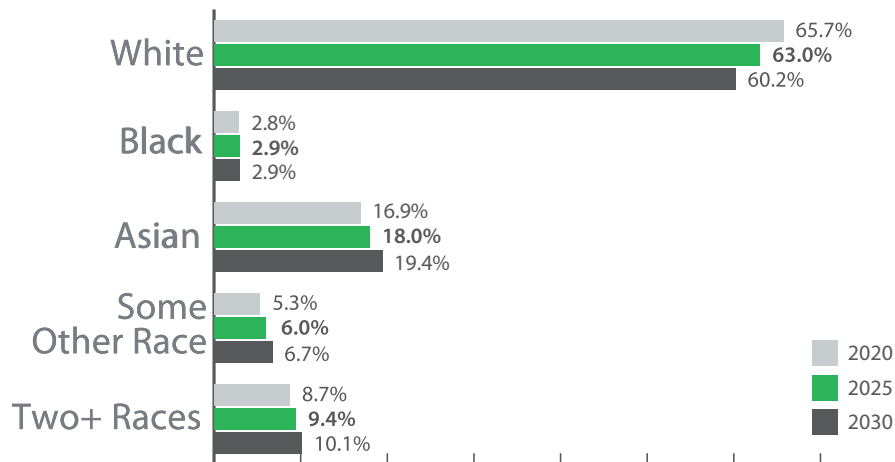
**\$128,191**  
2025 BPD median HH income

**\$149,844**  
2025 BPD average HH income

**\$81,702**  
2025 state median HH income

**\$82,920**  
2025 national median HH income

# RACE / ETHNICITY



\* American Indian Alone: 0.6%  
\*\* Pacific Islander Alone: 0.1%

# Existing Conditions

The first step in the comprehensive planning process is to understand the Park District's surroundings and the existing conditions of the District's assets including land use, open space, and trails.

## Land Use

The Park District is predominantly characterized by residential land uses at a range of densities. Most neighborhoods consist of single-family homes, with low- and medium-density multi-family residences concentrated primarily in the northwest area near Villa Olivia. Small commercial and retail areas are distributed throughout the community, with the largest commercial node located at the intersection of Stearns Road and Route 59. Additional commercial clusters are found at Bartlett Road and Devon Avenue, Lake Street and Naperville Road, and Army Trail Road and Route 59. A major industrial area occupies the west-central portion of the District, situated north of Stearns Road, east of the Canadian National Railroad, and south of Bartlett Road.

In addition to residential development, open space and public lands represent the second most significant land use within the District. Various agencies and organizations contribute to the provision of open space for Bartlett Park District residents.

## Open Space Providers

The Park District is one of several providers of open space and outdoor recreation within the community. The Forest Preserve Districts and State (IDNR) offer regional active and passive recreation opportunities while preserving and conserving significant open space resources. School districts also contribute outdoor recreation opportunities through facilities located on school properties, and private organizations provide pay-to-play recreational spaces such as golf courses. In total, four public agencies offer open space opportunities within the Park District, encompassing approximately 3,430 acres.

### Public Open Space

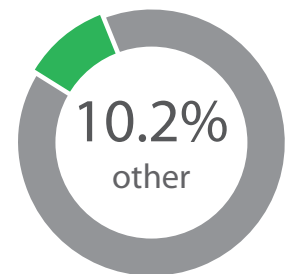
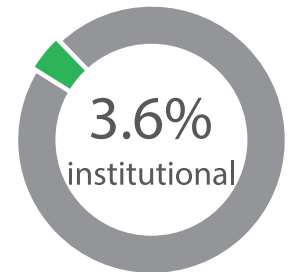
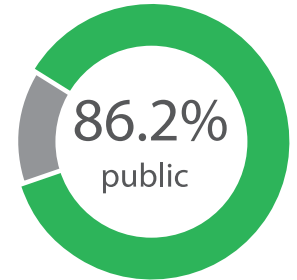
*Park District, Forest Preserves, State (IDNR) and Federal Lands*  
There are 638.35 acres of Park District open space and 2,467 acres of Forest Preserves within the District.

### Institutional Open Space

*School Districts, Colleges / Universities*  
School District U-46 provides, owns, and manages almost 130 acres of open space at various school sites.

### Other Open Space

*Other Recreational Facilities, Cemeteries, Golf Courses*  
The Bartlett Hills Golf Course totals 143 acres of open space and ComEd owns and manages more than 224 acres of open space.










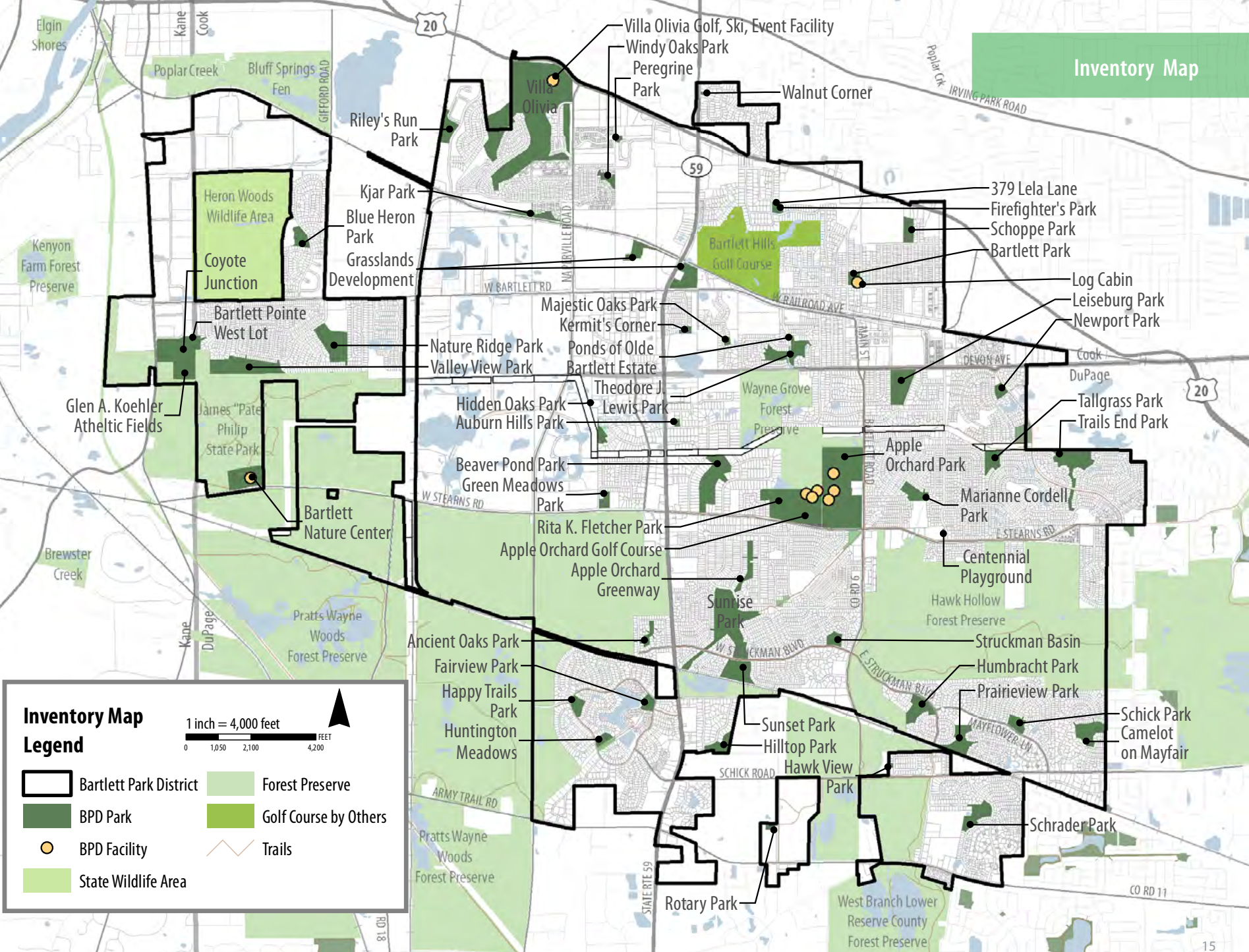
# Inventory Map

**Inventory Map Legend**

1 inch = 4,000 feet

0 1,050 2,100 4,200 FEET

-  Bartlett Park District
-  Forest Preserve
-  BPD Park
-  Golf Course by Others
-  BPD Facility
-  Trails
-  State Wildlife Area





# Asset Inventory

As a part of the planning process, the Planning Team referenced the guidelines outlined by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines Manual.

NRPA recommends creating a park classification system to serve as a guide for organizing an agency's parks. Park, Recreation, and Greenway Classification Guidelines are expressions of the amount of land a community determines should constitute the minimum acreage and development criteria for different classifications or types of parks, open space, and greenways.

Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, School-Park, Community Park, Large Urban Park, and Sports Complexes are the six classifications for parks recognized by the NRPA. Commonly, School-Parks are included in the Neighborhood Park category and Large Urban Parks and Sports Complexes are included in the Community Park category.

These categories are based on size, function, and use. Mini Parks are the smallest size and most limited in function and use while Community Parks

are typically the largest parks of a system and serve a variety of functions for the community. Other open space categories recognized by the NRPA are Natural Areas, Trails, Corridors or Linear Parks, and Special Use. Undeveloped Parks and Parcels are sites not yet developed for meaningful public access. This category is recognized for planning purposes but is not an NRPA designated category.

These classifications are vital to a comprehensive Level of Service analysis. In the park and open space matrix on the following pages, amenities were quantified to understand the District's total recreational offerings. The numbers in red text indicate an amenity is beyond its useful life, per the IDNR Useful Life Criteria (found in the Appendix). The District's indoor space was also categorized by the type of facility and/or programming. The facility matrix follows the park and open space matrix.

## Active Parks

In addition to these park classifications, NRPA provides additional recommendations based on type of park use. Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks are considered Active Parks due to the variety and types of recreation amenities they typically provide. These Active Parks are designed to meet day-to-day resident recreation needs compared to the other park types which are more specialized or have more limited functions.

These classifications are vital to a comprehensive Level of Service analysis. In the park and open space matrix on the following pages, amenities were quantified to understand the Park District's total recreational offerings.

# PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

<i>Classification</i>	<i>General Description</i>	<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Size Criteria</i>	<i>Bartlett Park District Parks and Facilities</i>
Mini Park (M)	Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. Appropriate elements in these parks include playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating. These parks usually do not include parking and are used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than 0.25 mile distance in a residential setting.	0.5-4.0 acres	Auburn Hills Park, Coyote Junction, Firefighter's Park, Hawk View Park, Kermit's Korner, Majestic Oaks Park, Peregrine Park, Rotary Park, Walnut Corner
Neighborhood Park (N)	Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces. Elements in these parks often include playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and courts, and trail systems. Neighborhood Parks serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.	0.25 to 0.5 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	4.0 to 10.0 acres	Ancient Oaks Park, Beaver Pond Park, Blue Heron Park, Camelot on Mayfair, Centennial Playground, Fairview Park, Green Meadows Park, Happy Trails Park, Hidden Oaks Park, Hilltop Park, Humbracht Park, Huntington Meadows, Kjar Park, Marianne Cordell Park, Newport Park, Prairieview Park, Schick Park, Schoppe Park, Schrader Park, Struckman Basin, Tallgrass Park, Theodore J. Lewis Park, Valley View Park, Windy Oaks Park
Community Park (C)	Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs serve a broader purpose than the Neighborhood Park. These parks preserve unique landscapes and often serve the community as gathering places and general athletics locations. Elements in these parks include playgrounds, pavilions, trails and path systems, and multiple sport courts and fields. These parks may also preserve unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 0.5 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 10 acres.	Apple Orchard Community Park, Bartlett Park, Glen A. Koehler Athletic Fields, Leiseberg Park, Nature Ridge Park, Riley's Run Park, Rita K. Fletcher Park, Sunrise Park, Trails End Park
Special Use	Special use facilities focus on meeting specialized community-wide needs. These spaces include indoor and outdoor areas and are designed for limited recreation or operational activities. Examples include golf courses, nature centers, and museums.	No applicable standard.	Variable, depending on desired amenity.	Apple Orchard Golf Course, Bartlett Nature Center, Villa Olivia
Trails, Corridors, and Linear Parks	These spaces effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment. Development typically includes a path system and may have supplemental recreation development such as shelters and furnishings.	Resource availability and opportunity.	No applicable standard.	Apple Orchard Greenway, Bartlett Trail
Undeveloped Park	Lands owned by the agency, but not yet developed with any amenities to provide meaningful access to the site such as trails, seating areas, and other passive and active recreation amenities.	No applicable standard.	Variable.	Grasslands Development - Parcel 196, Sunset Park
Undeveloped Parcel	Lands owned by the agency, will remain undeveloped to provide passive recreation.	No applicable standard.	Variable.	379 Lela Lane, Bartlett Pointe West Lot, Grasslands Development - Parcel 198, Ponds of Olde Bartlett Estate Lot 38, Schoppe Park North

# Park & Open Space Matrix

ACREAGE		TRAILS					INDOOR FACILITIES				DAY USE AMENITIES					SPORTS COURTS AND AMENITIES							
Acreage - Own	Acreage - Lease / Manage	Regional Trail Access	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretive Trails	Indoor Program / Support Facility	Restrooms (X – Permanent, P – Portable)	Concessions	Maintenance / Storage	Fitness Stations	Dog Park	Picnic Amenities	Picnic Shelter	Sand Play Area	Playground	Basketball	Volleyball Court	Pickleball	Tennis Court	Baseball	Softball	Tee ball

## PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Mini Parks																								
Auburn Hills Park	0.94												X			1								
Coyote Junction	2.80		X	0.20									X			1								
Firefighter's Park	2.01												X			1								
Hawk View Park	0.50												X	1		1								
Kermit's Korner	1.61												X			1								
Majestic Oaks Park	1.00			0.03									X	1		1								
Peregrine Park	1.12			0.06									X			1								
Rotary Park	0.63												X			1								
Walnut Corner	0.33												X			1								
Mini Park Acreage	<b>10.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>															1							
	<b>10.94</b>																							

Neighborhood Parks																								
Ancient Oaks Park	3.54			0.30									X		1	1	1							
Beaver Pond Park	20.95	2.72	X	0.90				P					X	1										
Blue Heron Park	6.13			0.32				P					X	1		1								
Camelot on Mayfair	11.21			0.32									X			1								
Centennial Playground		0.10														1								
Fairview Park	4.00												X			1								
Green Meadows Park	3.43												X			1								
Happy Trails Park	4.50												X	1		1								
Hidden Oaks Park	3.00			0.19									X			1								
Hilltop Park	7.07												X			1								
Humbracht Park	10.67												X	1		1								
Huntington Meadows	3.20																							
Kjar Park	5.56												X			1								
Marianne Cordell Park	7.25												X				2							
Newport Park	3.10												X			1	1							
Prairieview Park	11.80																						1	
Schick Park	5.23												X			1								
Schoppe Park	6.00												X			1								
Schrader Park	10.70												X			1								1
Struckman Basin	4.00																							
Tallgrass Park	7.00												X			1								
Theodore J. Lewis Park	13.31												X			1								1
Valley View Park	25.00		X	0.10									X			1								
Windy Oaks Park	4.42												X			1								
Neighborhood Park Acreage	<b>181.07</b>	<b>2.82</b>																						
	<b>183.89</b>																							



# Park & Open Space Matrix

	ACREAGE		TRAILS					INDOOR FACILITIES				DAY USE AMENITIES					SPORTS COURTS AND AMENITIES						
	Acreage - Own	Acreage - Lease / Manage	Regional Trail Access	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretive Trails	Indoor Program / Support Facility	Restrooms (X – Permanent, P – Portable)	Concessions	Maintenance / Storage	Fitness Stations	Dog Park	Picnic Amenities	Picnic Shelter	Sand Play Area	Playground	Basketball	Volleyball Court	Pickleball	Tennis Court	Baseball	Softball

## PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

### Community Parks

Apple Orchard Community Park	73.87		X	1.50				X	P		X			X	2	1	1							4	
Barracuda Bay Water Park								X	X	X						1	1								
Bartlett Community Center								X	X	X							1								
Bartlett Skate Park																									
O'Brien Woods Interpretive Trail			X	0.42			1.0																		
Bartlett Park	3.90			0.17				X	P		X			X	1	1	1								
Glen A. Koehler Athletic Fields		32.00	X	0.25					X/P	X			X	1										3	
Leiseberg Park	12.00			0.26					P				X	1	1	1				2				1	
Nature Ridge Park	19.29			0.12																					1
Riley's Run Park	8.00			0.50					P		3	2	X	2		1	1			1					
Rita K. Fletcher Park	19.46	1.80	X	0.14				X	P	X			X	1		1	6		2	2				1	
Sunrise Park	43.30		X	0.48	X				P				X	1		1	2								
Trails End Park	19.20			0.30					P				X			1	1						1		
Community Park Acreage	199.02	33.80																							
	232.82																								
	391.03	36.62																							
<b>TOTAL PARK &amp; OPEN SPACE HOLDINGS</b>	<b>427.65</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>6.56</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	

SPORTS COURTS AND AMENITIES										WATER-BASED AND WINTER AMENITIES					NATURAL FEATURES			LAWN GAME AMENITIES					OTHER							
Football/Lacrosse	Soccer	Multipurpose Synthetic Turf Field	Running Track	Golf Putting Green	Golf Course (holes)	Disc Golf (holes)	ZipLine	Skate Park	Fishing Dock / Outcrop	Ski Hill	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Splash Pad	Swimming Pool	Creek / River / Open Water	Detention or Retention*	Natural Area	Community Gardens	Bag Toss	Bocce	Game Tables	Gaga Ball	Horseshoe Pit	Shuffleboard	On-Street Parking <small>**Indicates parking facility is not maintained by Park District</small>	Parking Lot <small>**Indicates parking facility is not maintained by Park District</small>	Sports Lighting	Irrigation	Drinking Fountain	Park Identification Signage



	6						1				X						0.40									X	X	X	3	X	
			1									X	X												X		X		1	X	
								1					X												X		X			X	
														X	1.15	17.00									X**	X**				X	
1																									X**	X**	X	X	1	X	
	2										X	X			X	0.75	1.62								X	X			1	X	
																	5.50								X**					X	
	1														X	0.88	2.30								X				1	X	
						18	1		1						X	2.00	2.00								X				2	X	
																	8.00									X				2	X

1	19	0	1	1	0	18	3	3	3	0	0	2	3	2	13	59.79	84.90	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	6	13	2	4	16	46
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# Park & Open Space Matrix

	ACREAGE		TRAILS					INDOOR FACILITIES				DAY USE AMENITIES					SPORTS COURTS AND AMENITIES						
	Acreage - Own	Acreage - Lease / Manage	Regional Trail Access	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretive Trails	Indoor Program / Support Facility	Restrooms (X – Permanent, P – Portable)	Concessions	Maintenance / Storage	Fitness Stations	Dog Park	Picnic Amenities	Picnic Shelter	Sand Play Area	Playground	Basketball	Volleyball Court	Pickleball	Tennis Court	Baseball	Softball

## OTHER BPD OPEN SPACE & FACILITIES

### Special Use

Apple Orchard Golf Course	24.00			2.68				X/P	X	X			X												
Bartlett Nature Center			X	4.5			X	X	X					1											
Villa Olivia	138.60						X	X/P	X	X			X												
Special Use Acreage	<b>162.60</b>	<b>0.00</b>																							
	<b>162.60</b>																								

### Trails, Corridors, and Linear Parks / Greenways

Apple Orchard Greenway	8.00																								
Bartlett Trail			X	17.00																					
Trail, Corridor and Linear Park Acreage	<b>8.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>																							
	<b>8.00</b>																								

### Undeveloped Park

Grasslands Development – Parcel 196	10.00		X																						
Sunset Park	12.85																								
Undeveloped Park Acreage	<b>22.85</b>	<b>0.00</b>																							
	<b>22.85</b>																								

### Undeveloped Parcel

379 Lela Lane	0.48																								
Bartlett Pointe West Lot	0.36																								
Grasslands Development – Parcel 198	11.00		X																						
Ponds of Olde Bartlett Estate Lot 38	0.41																								
Schoppe Park North	5.00																								
Undeveloped Parcel Acreage	<b>17.25</b>	<b>0.00</b>																							
	<b>17.25</b>																								

**601.73 36.62**

<b>TOTAL BPD HOLDINGS</b>	<b>638.35</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>
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### BEYOND USEFUL LIFE

#### AMENITIES AT CURRENT STANDARDS

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0
6	15	3	8	3	2	37	14	4	22	15	0	2	5	0	3	3					

All text in red indicates an amenity is beyond its useful life per IPRA-Park and Natural Resource Management Section's Recommendation

SPORTS COURTS AND AMENITIES									WATER-BASED AND WINTER AMENITIES					NATURAL FEATURES				LAWN GAME AMENITIES					OTHER							
Football/Lacrosse	Soccer	Multipurpose Synthetic Turf Field	Running Track	Golf Putting Green	Golf Course (holes)	Disc Golf (holes)	Zip Line	Skate Park	Fishing Dock / Outcrop	Ski Hill	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Splash Pad	Swimming Pool	Creek / River / Open Water	Detention or Retention*	Natural Area	Community Gardens	Bag Toss	Bocce	Game Tables	Gaga Ball	Horseshoe Pit	Shuffleboard	On-Street Parking <small>**indicates parking facility is not maintained by Park District</small>	Parking Lot <small>**indicates parking facility is not maintained by Park District</small>	Sports Lighting	Irrigation	Drinking Fountain	Park Identification Signage

				1	9										X	1.00	2.30									X		X	1	X
																						1				X			1	X
					18					X		X			X	4.00										X	X	X		X

																															X
																															X

																	2.30														X
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---

																		10.50													

<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>64.79</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>52</b>
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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	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>64.79</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>52</b>

# Level of Service Analysis

This Level of Service analysis evaluates how well the District’s parks, facilities, and amenities are serving the current needs of the community.

The development of a Level of Service standard for parks and recreation began in the 1980s with the development of Levels of Service for other infrastructure such as water, stormwater drainage, sewer systems, and transportation. These benchmarks provide agency officials with the ability to respond to growing communities, evolving demographics, and changing needs. However, it is important to note that these benchmarks are not strict rules that all communities should follow. These Level of Service benchmarks are simply another gauge for agencies to use when determining future needs and services.

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the Level of Service is a quantification of the park and recreation delivery philosophy and policy of a community. Its basic utility is in meeting a legal and/or economic requirement of quality service and equity. As a basic rule, a Level of Service benchmark should:

1. Be practical and achievable
2. Provide for an equitable allocation of park and recreation resources throughout a community; there should be equal opportunity access for all citizens
3. Reflect the real-time demand of the citizens for park and recreation opportunities

There are four different Level of Service measurements that help a community understand how equitable and comprehensive their current park and recreation offerings are. These are:

1. **Acreage:**
  - A calculation of the minimum number of land required to provide all of the recreation activities and facilities required to support such activities.
2. **Distribution:**
  - An evaluation of how equitable park and open space sites are placed throughout the community, as well as how accessible existing sites are to residents.
3. **Amenities:**
  - A calculation of the minimum number of amenities and facilities required to meet state and/or national averages.
4. **Square Footage:**
  - A calculation of the minimum indoor square footage required to provide all of the recreation programs and services.





Level of Service guidelines are developed by state and national agencies, including the NRPA. Historically, a Level of Service analysis has been limited to total park and open space acreage alone and did not include distribution, amenities, or indoor square footage. The national standard for acreage Level of Service was 10 acres per 1,000 population, but as park and recreation planning developed, professionals saw the need to develop a more comprehensive benchmarking tool that could be adjusted for, and specific to, each community.

Because one size does not fit all, the NRPA recommends using community-specific benchmarks. Park Metrics is the NRPA's online management tool for public park and recreation agencies to supplement to the NRPA standards that have guided land acquisition and development for the past 55 years. Through this tool, agencies have the ability to compare themselves to others based on factors such as total population, operating budget, full-time technical equivalent employees, and services provided. Now, agencies can plan and benchmark with more applicable data than national averages.

Park Metrics has thousands of data points and more than 1,000 completed profiles. It is now the largest and most comprehensive collection of detailed municipal, county, state, and special district data. As more agencies add their data to the database, trends and patterns begin to emerge that help agencies plan and benchmark.

The following Level of Service analyses reference national NRPA standards, Park Metrics benchmarks, and local and regional-specific standards set by the State of Illinois and the Planning Team.

# Acreege

Acreege Level of Service benchmarks are calculations of the recommended amount of land required to provide all of the recreation activities and facilities required to support them.

The NRPA's population ratio method (acres / 1,000 population) emphasizes the direct relationship between recreation spaces and people and is the most common method of estimating an agency's Level of Service for parkland and open space. In addition to the baseline of 10 acres / 1,000 population used in this analysis, Park Metrics benchmarks are also used to understand how the Bartlett Park District compares to agencies of similar population size.

Based on the NRPA benchmark of 10 acres per 1,000 population, 423.23 acres of Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park space is recommended for the Bartlett Park District. The table to the right designates these park assets as "Active Recreation Areas." With 427.65 acres of active recreation area, the Bartlett Park District is just above this benchmark. The District currently has a Level of Service of 10.10 acres per 1,000 population, which is slightly higher than the NRPA recommended 10 acres per 1,000 population.

In addition to the provided 427.65 acres of active recreation space, Bartlett Park District also has three Special Use properties, two Trail, Corridors, and Linear Parks/Greenways, two Undeveloped Parks, and two Undeveloped Parcels with a total acreage of 210.70 bringing the total open space acreage to 638.35 acres. Overall, the Bartlett Park District remains above the national benchmark.

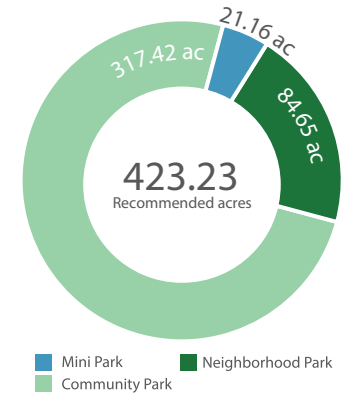
When including all of these properties, the Park District has an overall Level of Service of 14.14 acres per 1,000 population.

The Park Metrics database was referenced to understand how the Bartlett Park District compares to 16 agencies across the Midwest with population sizes between 40,000 and 45,000. Park Metrics provided information on the following Level of Service benchmarks:

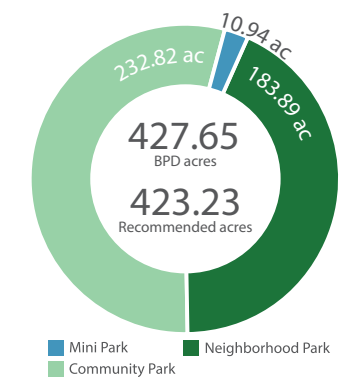
- Total Number of Parks
- Total Acres Maintained
- Acres of Parks per 1,000 Residents

The Bartlett Park District owns and/or maintains 54 park and open space sites that total 638.35 acres. This is higher than the reported median of 19.5 parks and higher than the median of 522.0 total acres maintained for the 16 comparable agencies as reported by Park Metrics.

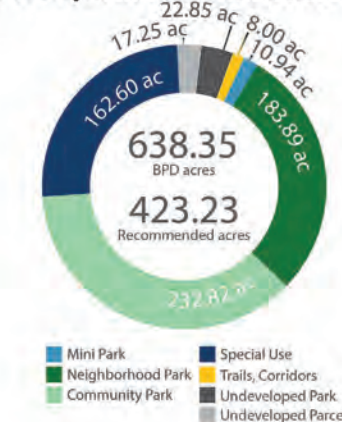
## NRPA Recommended Acreege



## BPD Active Recreation Acreege



## BPD Department-Owned Acreege



## Park Metrics Benchmarks - Parks and Open Spaces

40,000 - 45,000 population

16 agencies, Midwest

Benchmark	Park Metrics Median	BPD
Total number of properties maintained	19.5	54
Total acres maintained	522.0	638.35
Acres of parks per 1,000 residents	12.1	15.1

## Level of Service Analysis: 10 acres / 1,000 population

### OWNED / LEASED ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS

Classification	BPD Acreage (Total)	BPD Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	NRPA Recommended Acreage	NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (%)
Mini Park	10.94	0.26	21.16	0.50	-10.22	51.70%
Neighborhood Park	183.89	4.34	84.65	2.00	99.24	217.25%
Community Park	232.82	5.50	317.42	7.50	-84.60	73.35%
<b>Total Active Recreation Areas</b>	<b>427.65</b>	<b>10.10</b>	<b>423.23</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>4.42</b>	<b>101.04%</b>

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 42,323

### ALL BPD MANAGED OPEN SPACE

Classification	BPD Acreage (Total)	BPD Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	NRPA Recommended Acreage	NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (%)
Mini Park	10.94	0.26	21.16	0.50	-10.22	51.70%
Neighborhood Park	183.89	4.34	84.65	2.00	99.24	217.25%
Community Park	232.82	5.50	317.42	7.50	-84.60	73.35%
Natural Areas	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
Special Use	162.60	3.84	0.00	0.00	162.60	N/A
Greenways	8.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	8.00	N/A
Undeveloped	40.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
<b>Total BPD Open Space</b>	<b>638.35</b>	<b>14.14</b>	<b>423.23</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>175.02</b>	<b>150.83%</b>

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 42,323

### ALL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Classification	BPD Acreage (Total)	BPD Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	NRPA Recommended Acreage	NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (%)
BPD Total Parks & Open Space	638.35	14.14	423.23	10.00	215.12	150.83%
School Open Space	187.27	4.42	0.00	0.00	187.27	N/A
Forest Preserve Open Space	6100.99	144.15	0.00	0.00	6100.99	N/A
<b>Total Public Open Space</b>	<b>6926.61</b>	<b>162.71</b>	<b>423.23</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>6503.38</b>	<b>1636.61%</b>

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 42,323

# Distribution

Planning areas are used to analyze park distribution, land acquisition, and park facility redevelopment needs. Planning areas are delineated by major pedestrian barriers, including major roads or highways, railroad corridors, and extreme natural features.

The location and geographic distribution of the parks themselves can offer an indication of how well an agency is serving its residents. Understanding where parks are located in relation to residential development determines who is under-resourced. This analysis may reveal the need for acquisition, to expand service, or may reveal that the District is serving the residents well and should focus on maintaining or updating existing assets.

## Methodology

In the Bartlett Park District, arterial roads and a railroad serve as the main pedestrian barriers. These barriers resulted in 21 planning areas.

A service area, illustrated in the following maps with an orange halo, was created around each individual park. The shape of each service area is determined by analyzing the existing road and sidewalk infrastructure to identify the actual route and distance one has to travel to access the park. The size of the service area is dependent upon the park classification and is either a quarter, half, or one mile per NRPA recommendations.

The table on page 17 notes the various recommended service area distances for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks. Planning area boundaries are considered barriers to safe or comfortable pedestrian access, and Mini and Neighborhood Parks are considered

walk-to or walkable destinations. Service area buffers for Mini and Neighborhood Parks are truncated to the planning area boundaries in which the park is located. For Community Parks, the boundaries were not truncated because these parks are seen as drive-to destinations.

Finally, overlaying service areas reveal which areas are most and least served by the existing park system. The orange service area buffers overlap to form a gradient that illustrates the degree to which residents are served. The most served areas are illustrated by the dark orange, while the least served areas are illustrated by the lack of orange. Residents who fall within the darker or opaque orange areas are served by multiple parks and their amenities. Demographics for each planning area and service area further inform the Level of Service analysis.

## Planning Area Explanation

Demographics for each planning area and service area further inform the Level of Service analysis. Estimates at smaller geographic scales may, however, produce minor variations relative to the District-wide population. Planning area populations are projections of the most recent U.S. Census information used by Esri. When the Analyze Phase was being performed, Esri was using 2020 Census data. The Planning Team took these populations into consideration when developing strategies and the Action Plan during the Envision and Prioritize Phases.

PA*	2025 Total Population	2030 Total Population
1	1,061	1,031
2	4,471	4,642
3	2,307	2,255
4	1,367	1,364
5	1,045	1,103
6	0	0
7	1,083	1,052
8	263	254
9	2,486	2,404
10	874	845
11	3,453	3,472
12	3,066	2,994
13	1,351	1,309
14	7,243	7,045
15	4,786	4,637
16	4,868	4,714
17	355	354
18	164	163
19	205	204
20	1,769	1,720
21	108	105

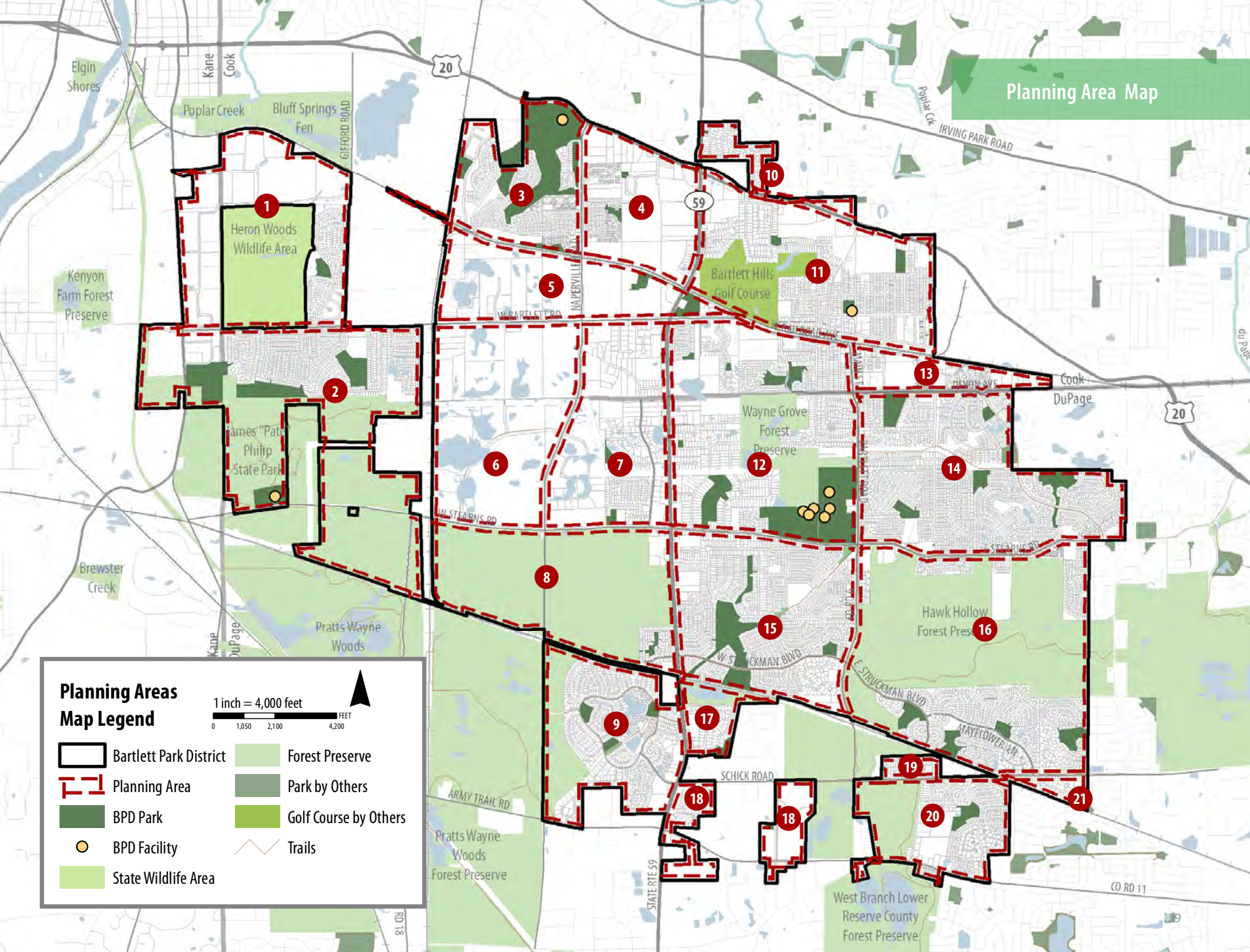
\*Planning Area

# Planning Area Map

**Planning Areas Map Legend**

1 inch = 4,000 feet

Bartlett Park District  
 Planning Area  
 BPD Park  
 BPD Facility  
 State Wildlife Area  
 Forest Preserve  
 Park by Others  
 Golf Course by Others  
 Trails



# Mini Park Distribution Analysis

Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. Appropriate elements in these parks include playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating opportunities.

The purpose of the Mini Park Distribution Analysis is to determine which planning areas are under-resourced by the District's existing Mini Park land holdings. Currently, the District has nine Mini Park assets, totaling 10.94 acres.

## The Mini Park service area map illustrates a 0.25-mile service radius (shown in orange) around each existing Mini Park.

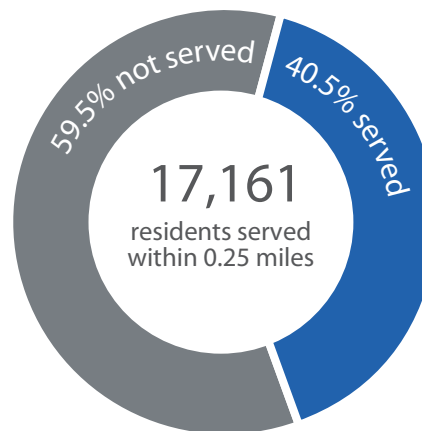
The map to the right illustrates the 0.25-mile service area reach for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks. Neighborhood and Community Parks serve the function of a Mini Park for those residents within a 0.25-mile distance from the park. According to NRPA's Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, Mini Park service areas do not include residents who must cross a planning area boundary to reach the parks. Service areas are truncated at all planning area boundaries.

Planning Area 16 is best served with 3,004 residents within a 0.25-mile area. The number of residents with park access within the planning area is important, but knowing which planning areas have the highest total population without access allows the Planning Team to prioritize based on need. The planning areas with the most residents not served are Planning Areas 2, 11, 12, 14, and 15 with over 2,000 residents without access to a park within a quarter mile of their home.

Overall, 40.5% of the Bartlett Park District's population has access to a park asset within 0.25-mile walking distance. This is slightly lower than the median Mini Park Distribution Level of Service of 44.8% within the Planning Team's database.

Although Planning Areas 2, 11, and 12 have the highest percentage of residents who are not currently served, those areas may still have access to open space and amenities provided by others.

Planning Area 5 is experiencing growth with new development underway, and the number of underserved residents is expected to decline over the next five years.



PA*	Population Served	% Served	Population Not Served
1	902	85.0%	159
2	1,932	43.2%	2,539
3	1,002	43.4%	1,305
4	1,013	74.1%	354
5	0	0.0%	1,045
6	0	0.0%	0
7	245	22.6%	838
8	263	100.0%	0
9	1,577	63.4%	909
10	164	18.8%	710
11	1,242	36.0%	2,211
12	1,052	34.3%	2,014
13	0	0.0%	1,351
14	2,658	36.7%	4,585
15	1,093	22.8%	3,693
16	3,004	61.7%	1,862
17	166	46.8%	189
18	0	0.0%	164
19	176	85.9%	29
20	672	38.0%	1,097
21	0	0.0%	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,161</b>	<b>40.5%</b>	<b>25,162</b>

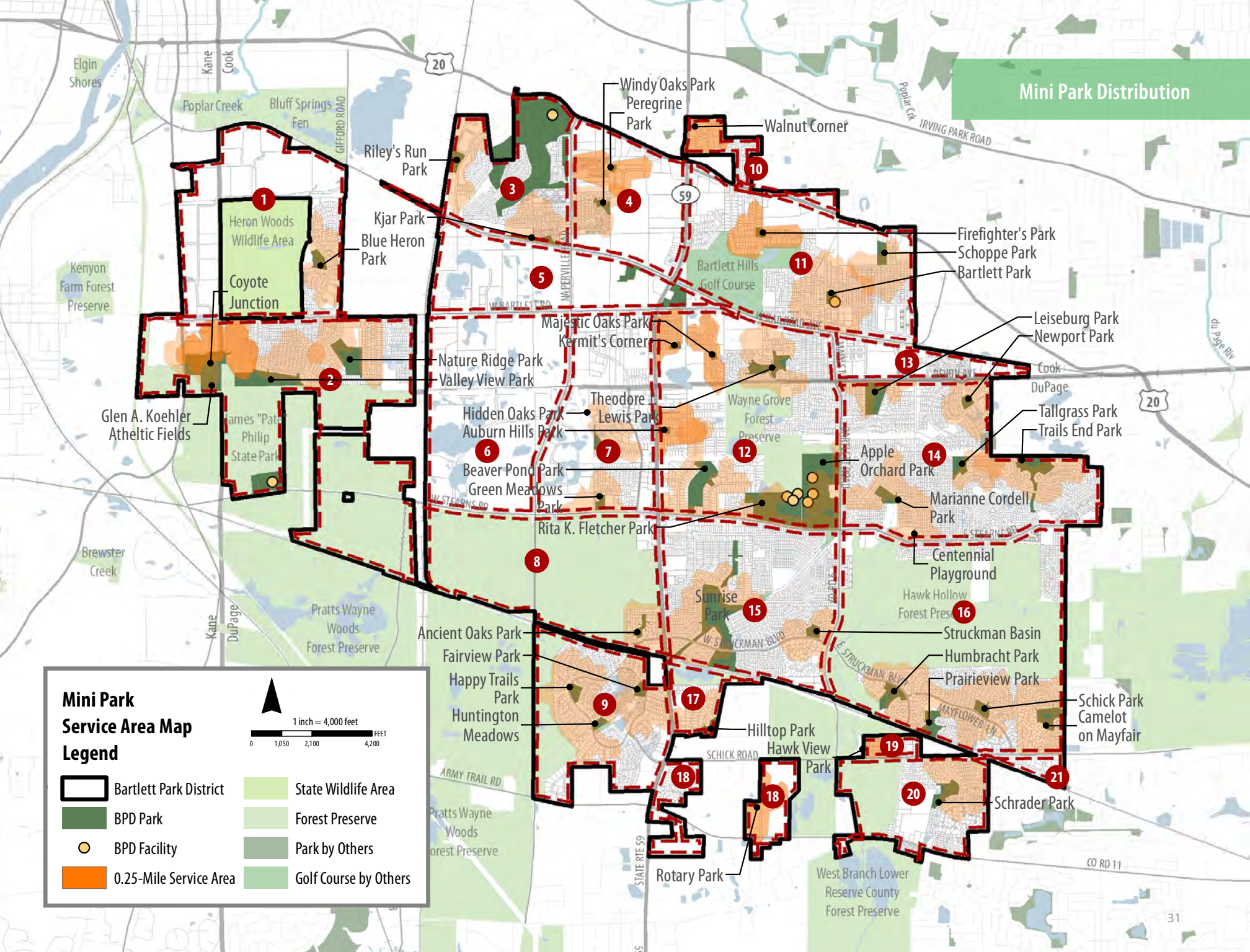
\*Planning Area

# Mini Park Distribution

**Mini Park Service Area Map Legend**

- Bartlett Park District
- State Wildlife Area
- BPD Park
- Forest Preserve
- BPD Facility
- Park by Others
- 0.25-Mile Service Area
- Golf Course by Others

1 inch = 4,000 feet  
 0 1,050 2,100 4,200 FEET



# Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis

Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces.

The purpose of the Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis is to determine which planning areas are under-resourced by the District's existing Neighborhood Park land holdings. Currently, the Bartlett Park District has 24 Neighborhood Parks that total 183.89 acres.

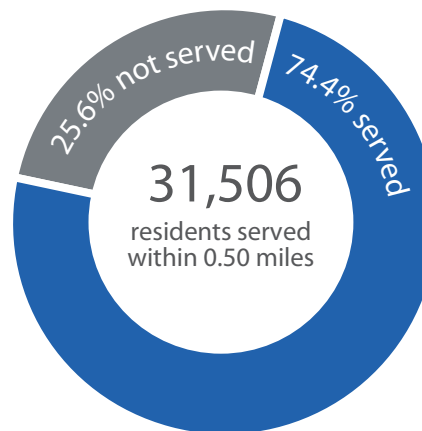
## The Neighborhood Park service area map illustrates a 0.50-mile service radius (shown in orange) around each existing Neighborhood Park.

This plan also illustrates a 0.5-mile service area for Community Parks, as these parks can serve the function of a Neighborhood Park for residents within a 0.5-mile distance from the park. According to NRPA's Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, Neighborhood Park service areas do not include residents who must cross a planning area boundary to reach the parks. Service areas are truncated to all planning area boundaries.

Planning Areas 1, 8, and 17 are the only planning areas with 100% of the residents served within a 0.5-mile distance. Planning Areas 2, 15, and 16 serve the most residents with Planning Area 2 serving 3,754, Planning Area 15 serving 3,577, and Planning Area 16 serving 3,654. However, Planning Areas 5, 6, 10, 13, 18, 19, and 21 have the highest need, with no residents served by a Neighborhood Park asset. The table to the right compares the population served to the population not served.

Overall, 74.4% of the Bartlett Park District's population has access to a park asset within 0.5-mile walking distance. This is considerably higher than the median Neighborhood Park Distribution Level of Service of 53.0% within the Planning Team's database.

Park District residents with access may be served by other public sources and private services. When considering all public open space, it is likely that some residents in unserved Planning Areas have access to public spaces provided by others, especially public school properties which can be comparable in size and amenity offering.



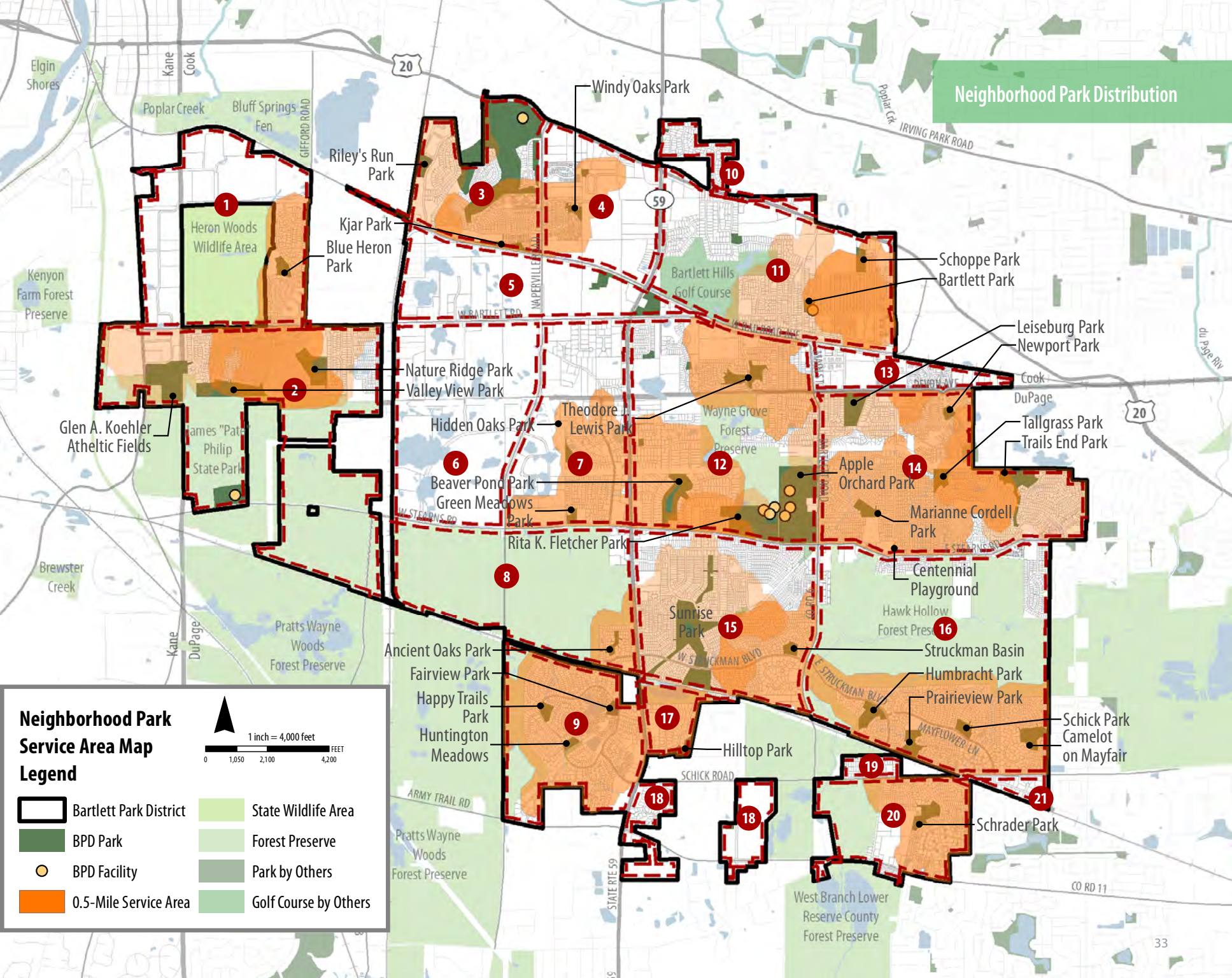
PA*	Population Served	% Served	Population Not Served
1	1,061	100.0%	0
2	3,754	84.0%	717
3	1,735	75.2%	572
4	931	68.1%	436
5	0	0.0%	1,045
6	0	0.0%	0
7	629	58.1%	454
8	263	100.0%	0
9	2,188	88.0%	298
10	0	0.0%	874
11	2,497	72.3%	956
12	2,060	67.2%	1,006
13	0	0.0%	1,351
14	7,114	98.2%	129
15	3,577	74.7%	1,209
16	3,654	75.1%	1,212
17	355	100.0%	0
18	0	0.0%	164
19	0	0.0%	205
20	1,688	95.4%	81
21	0	0.0%	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,506</b>	<b>74.4%</b>	<b>10,817</b>

\*Planning Area

# Neighborhood Park Distribution

**Neighborhood Park Service Area Map Legend**

- Bartlett Park District
- State Wildlife Area
- BPD Park
- Forest Preserve
- BPD Facility
- Park by Others
- 0.5-Mile Service Area
- Golf Course by Others



# Community Park Distribution Analysis

Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These parks may preserve unique landscapes and often serve as event and recreational team sport spaces.

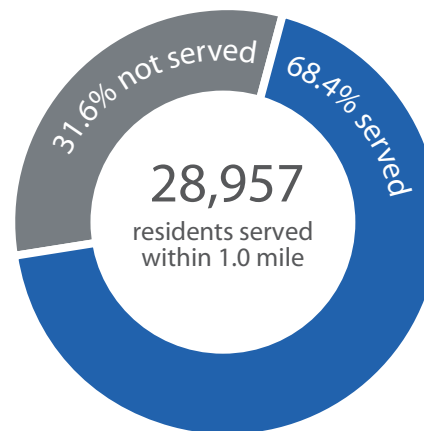
The purpose of the Community Park Distribution Analysis is to determine the location of gaps in Community Park service area coverage. Currently, Bartlett Park District has nine Community Parks, totaling 232.82 acres.

**The Community Park service area map illustrates a 1.0-mile service radius (shown in orange) around each existing Community Park.**

Unlike Mini and Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks are considered drive-to recreation destinations, and service areas are not limited to the boundary of the planning area in which they are located. These drive-to destinations can cover multiple planning areas and are often community destinations for Park District residents. Additionally, it is common for residents living outside the Park District boundary to also utilize Community Parks.

Overall, 68.4% of the District has access to a Community Park asset within a 1.0-mile drive from where they live. The largest gaps exist in the southeast and central portions of the Park District. The Bartlett Park District's Community Park Level of Service is slightly lower than the median 69.3% found in the Planning Team's database.

Park District residents with access may also be served by other public sources and private providers. When considering all public open space, it is likely that some residents in unserved Planning Areas have access to public spaces provided by other entities; however, the broad and specialized services offered in Community Parks are unlikely to be comparable to those provided by others.



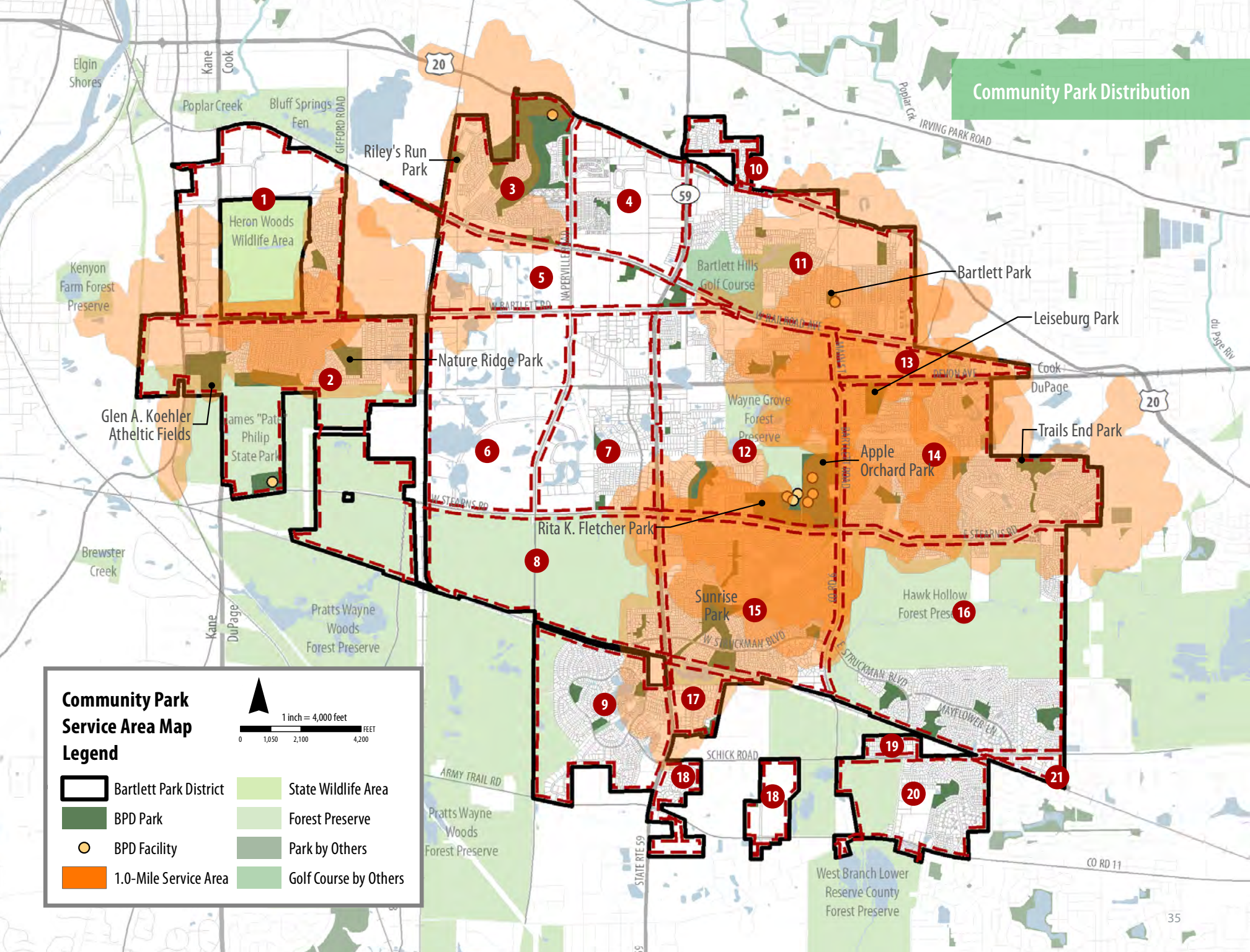
PA*	Population Served	% Served	Population Not Served
1	1,061	100.0%	0
2	4,459	99.7%	12
3	2,120	91.9%	187
4	0	0.0%	1,367
5	770	73.7%	275
6	0	0.0%	0
7	83	7.7%	1,000
8	263	100.0%	0
9	560	22.5%	1,926
10	526	60.2%	348
11	2,701	78.2%	752
12	2,085	68.0%	981
13	1,351	100.0%	0
14	7,243	100.0%	0
15	4,778	99.8%	8
16	602	12.4%	4,264
17	355	100.0%	0
18	0	0.0%	164
19	0	0.0%	205
20	0	0.0%	1,769
21	0	0.0%	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,957</b>	<b>68.4%</b>	<b>13,366</b>

\*Planning Area

# Community Park Distribution

**Community Park Service Area Map Legend**

	Bartlett Park District		State Wildlife Area
	BPD Park		Forest Preserve
	BPD Facility		Park by Others
	1.0-Mile Service Area		Golf Course by Others



# Overall Park Distribution Analysis

The Overall Service Area Analysis illustrates the District-wide service for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park assets combined.

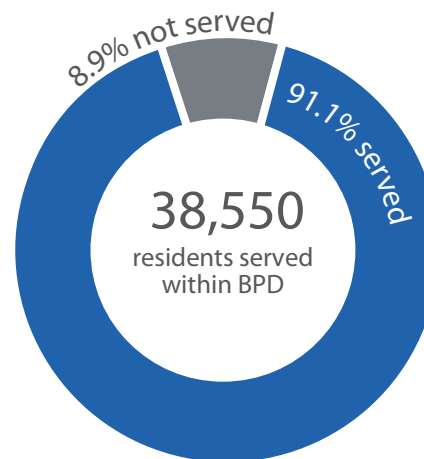
The purpose of the Overall Park Distribution Analysis is to develop a District-wide understanding of the location, distribution, and Level of Service of all Active Parks (Mini, Neighborhood, and Community).

**The overall service area map illustrates the service areas for all Mini (0.25-mile), Neighborhood (0.5-mile), and Community (1.0-mile) Parks.**

Per NRPA guidelines, the Mini and Neighborhood service areas are truncated to the boundaries of the individual planning areas in which they reside. Community Parks are considered drive-to destinations and their service areas are not truncated to the planning area boundaries.

The Overall Level of Service for the Bartlett Park District is 91.1%, which is just above the median 90.9% Overall Level of Service found in the Planning Team’s database.

Park District residents with access may be served by other public sources and private services. Other service for Mini and Neighborhood Parks are likely available but due to high existing coverage it is not likely to impact overall percentage served.











PA*	Population Served	% Served	Population Not Served
1	1,061	100.0%	0
2	4,459	99.7%	12
3	2,268	98.3%	39
4	1,013	74.1%	354
5	770	73.7%	275
6	0	0.0%	0
7	629	58.1%	454
8	263	100.0%	0
9	2,188	88.2%	298
10	690	78.9%	184
11	2,755	79.8%	698
12	2,599	84.8%	467
13	1,351	100.0%	0
14	7,243	100.0%	0
15	4,786	100.0%	0
16	4,256	87.5%	610
17	355	100.0%	0
18	0	0.0%	164
19	176	85.9%	29
20	1,688	95.4%	81
21	0	0.0%	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,550</b>	<b>91.1%</b>	<b>3,773</b>

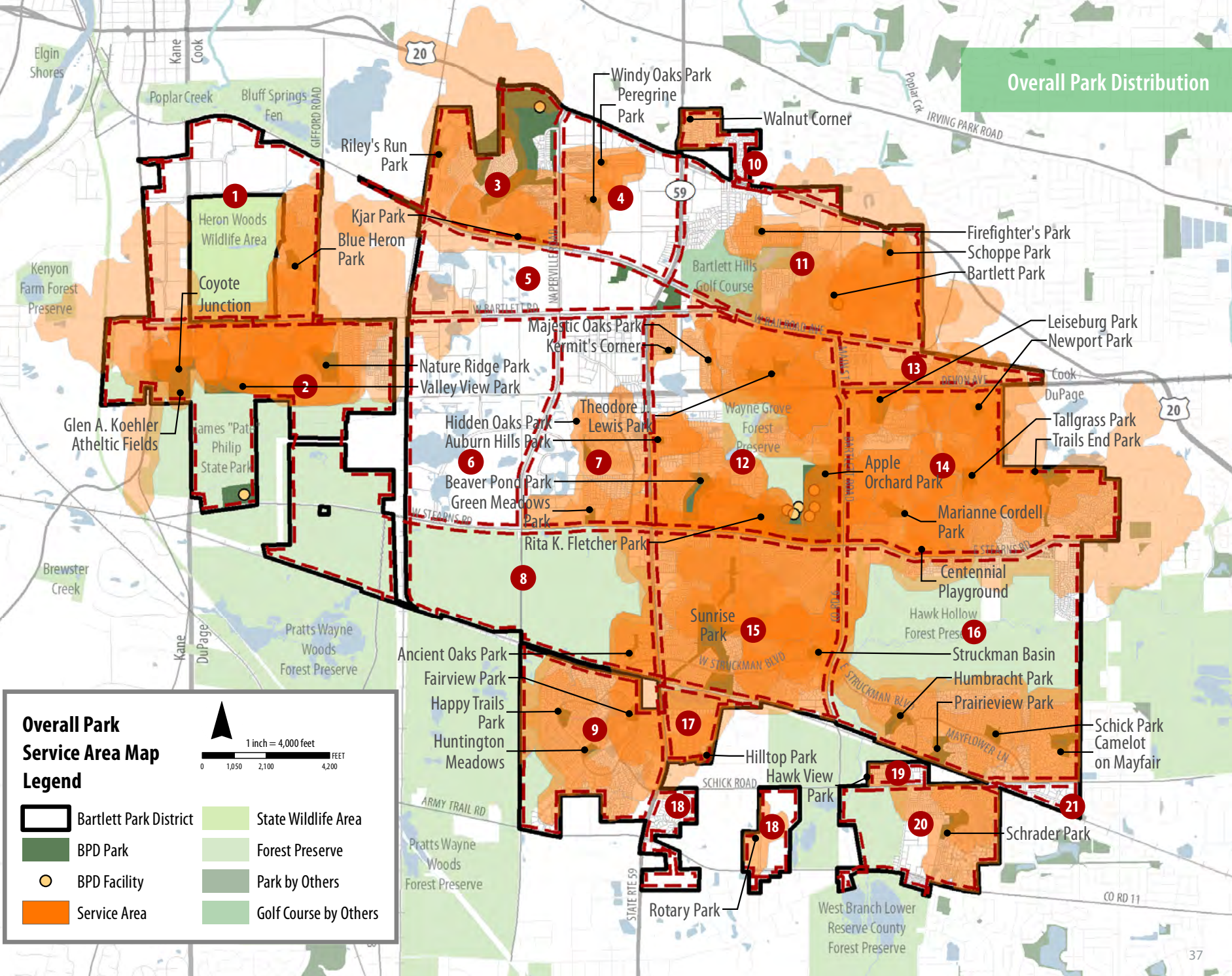
\*Planning Area

# Overall Park Distribution

**Overall Park Service Area Map Legend**

	Bartlett Park District		State Wildlife Area
	BPD Park		Forest Preserve
	BPD Facility		Park by Others
	Service Area		Golf Course by Others

Scale: 1 inch = 4,000 feet  
 0 1,050 2,100 4,200 FEET



# Special Demographic Groups

The Planning Team also took a deeper look at more specific demographic groups overlaid with the 0.5-mile service area map to see how well these groups are served by current Bartlett Park District park assets.

The four demographic groups analyzed are the Hispanic population, Asian population, households with one or more persons with a disability, and households falling under the poverty level. The maps on the right show the concentration of these populations with the 0.5-mile service area overlaid to illustrate the Level of Service coverage.

## Hispanic Population

Bartlett Park District's Hispanic population is concentrated from 6.10% all the way up to 47.27% of each planning area's population. The most concentrated populations live in the north portions of the Park District in Planning Areas 1, 5, and 10. When the Neighborhood Park Level of Service is overlaid onto this map, it can be seen that the east side of Planning Area 1 is served by park assets. The Hispanic population in Planning Areas 5 and 10 are the most under-served by parks.

## Asian Population

Bartlett Park District's Asian population is spread evenly throughout majority of the District. The most concentrated populations live in the south and west portions of the Park District in Planning Areas 2, 18, 19, and 21. When the Neighborhood Park Level of Service is overlaid onto this map, it can be seen that Planning Area 2 is the only one served by park assets. The Asian population in Planning Areas 18, 19 and 21 are the most under-served by parks.

## Households with a Disability

Of the 15,212 households within the Bartlett Park District boundary, 20.5% (3,117 households) include at least one member with a disability. The U.S. Census Bureau defines disability broadly as "difficulty with one of the following six basic areas of function: ambulation, cognition, hearing, independent living, self-care, and vision." Only one Planning Area does not contain at least one household with a disability, and only two Planning Areas contain a less than 10% concentration of households with a disability. The concentration is spread across the remaining Planning Areas, which all have a concentration of 15% or more. The highest concentration of the disabled population lives in Planning Area 12 with 33.71% of the households there containing at least one disabled person. Planning Area 14 is very well-served by park assets.

## Households Below the Poverty Level

Bartlett Park District has a total poverty rate of three percent. The concentration of poverty within the individual planning areas ranges from 0.0% up to 13.68%. Planning Area 10 has the highest concentration of households under the poverty level (13.68%). Planning Area 7 also has a relatively high rate (11.53%). Looking at the concentration map with the service area overlaid, it is evident that Planning Area 10 has the highest need for park assets.

## Combined Special Demographics Population

When all four concentration maps are overlaid, it becomes clear that there is a heavy concentration of these special demographic groups in Planning Areas 1 and 10. The existing 0.5-mile service area only covers a part of Planning Area 1 and the heaviest un-served concentration is in Planning Area 10.

# Hispanic Population Concentration

**Hispanic Population Map Legend**

Bartlett Park District

Planning Areas

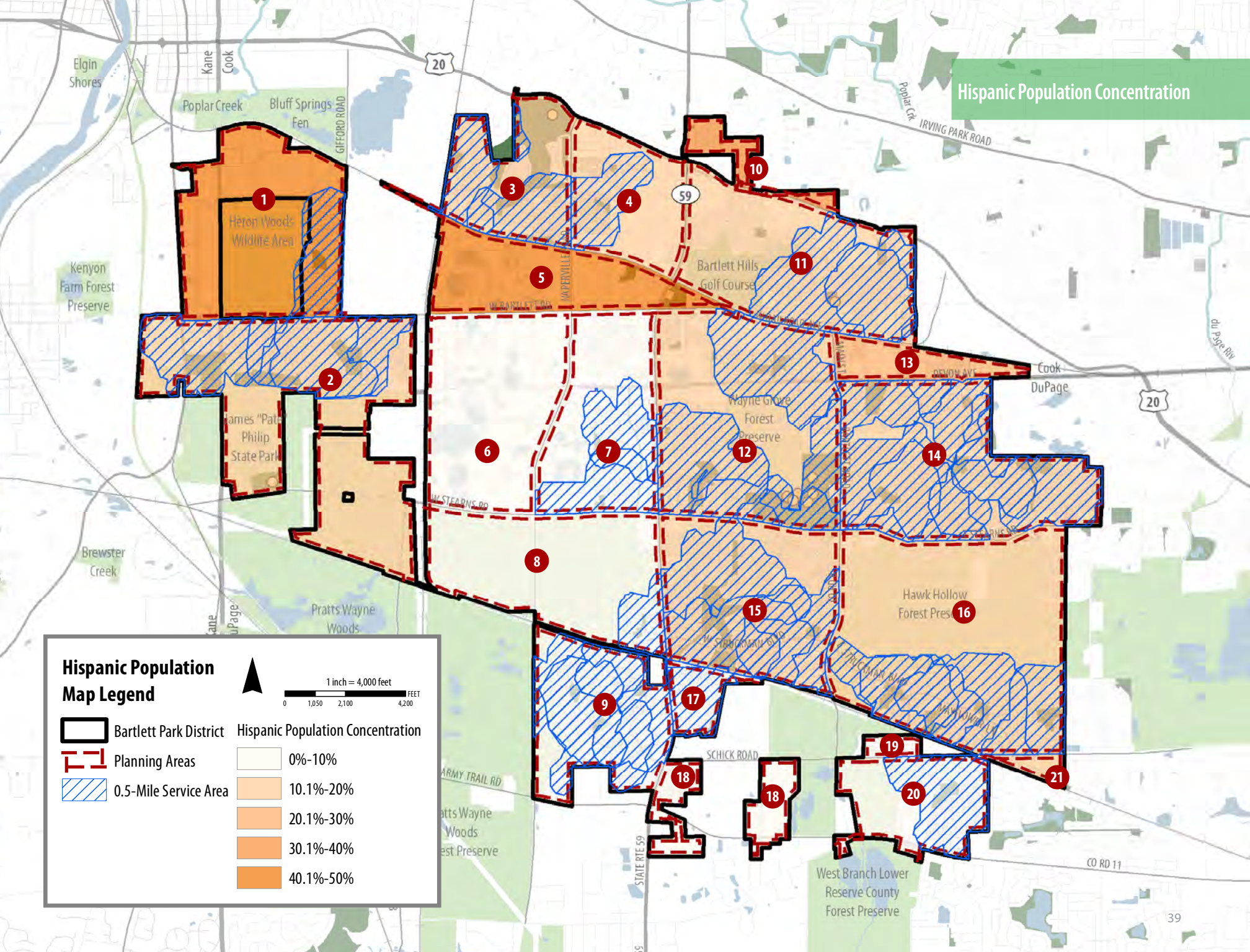
0.5-Mile Service Area

**Hispanic Population Concentration**

	0%-10%
	10.1%-20%
	20.1%-30%
	30.1%-40%
	40.1%-50%


1 inch = 4,000 feet


0 1,050 2,100 4,200 FEET




# Asian Population Concentration

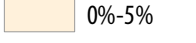
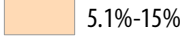
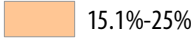
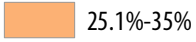
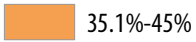
**Asian Population Map Legend**

 Bartlett Park District

 Planning Areas

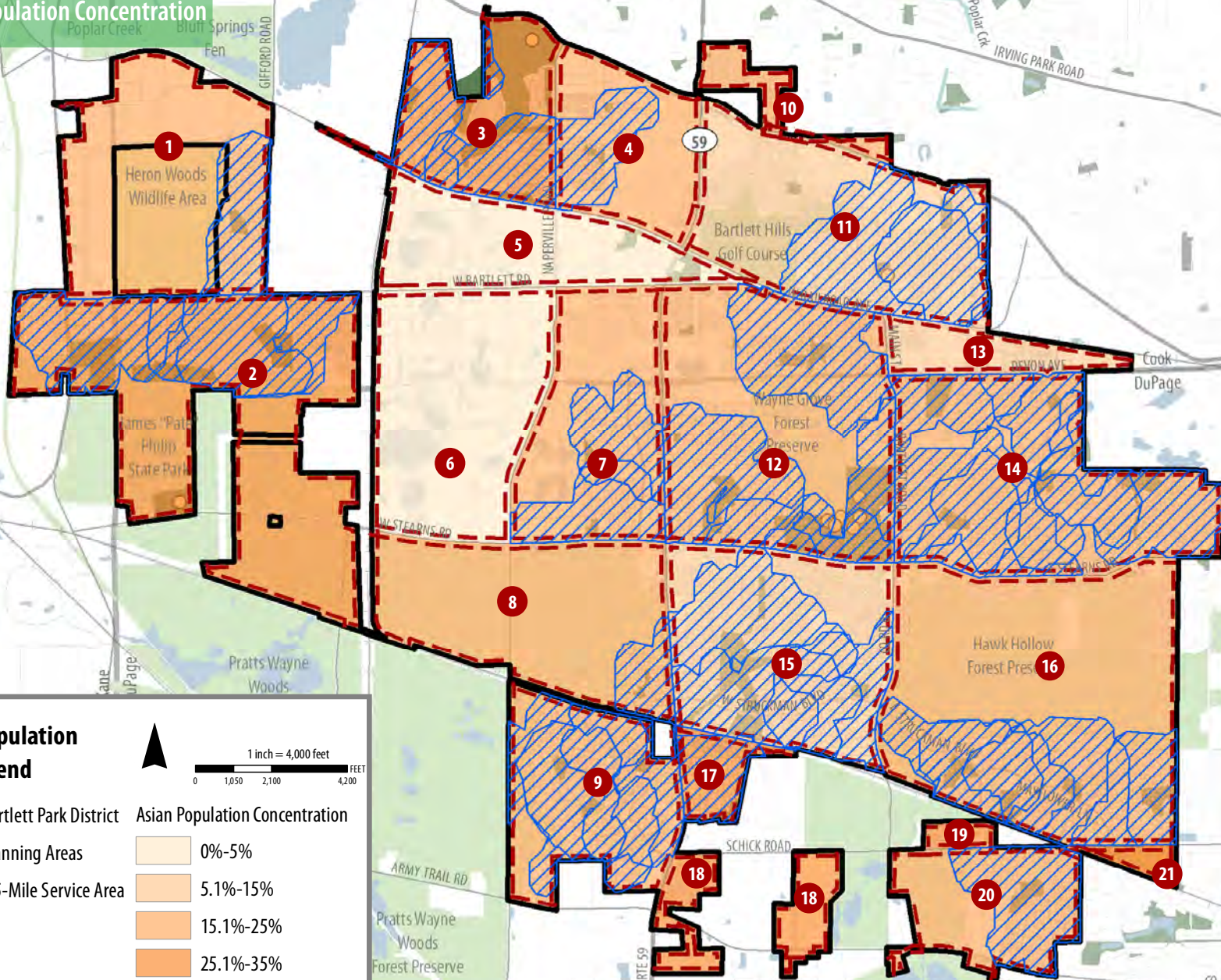
 0.5-Mile Service Area

**Asian Population Concentration**

	0%-5%
	5.1%-15%
	15.1%-25%
	25.1%-35%
	35.1%-45%

Scale: 1 inch = 4,000 feet

0 1,050 2,100 4,200 FEET



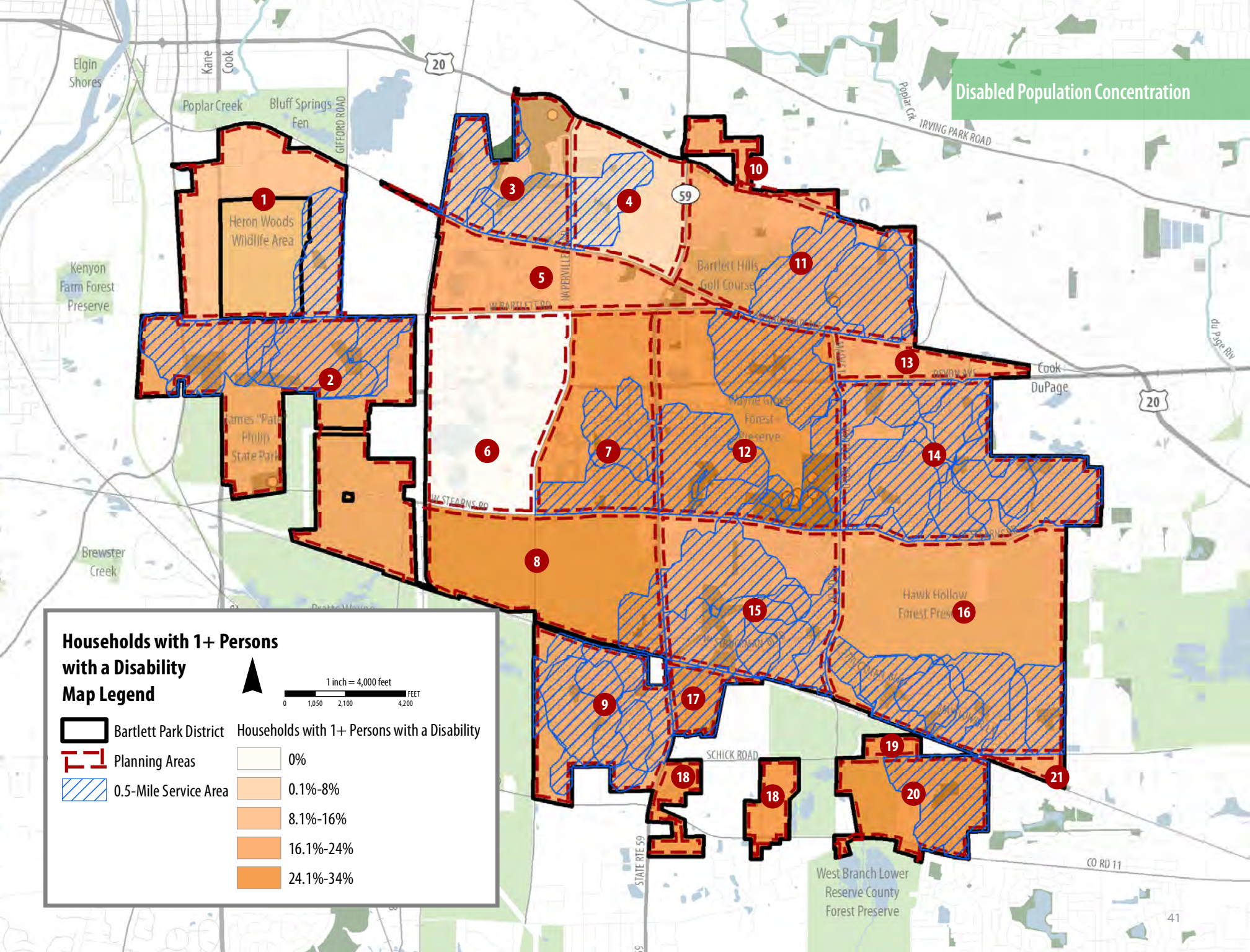
# Disabled Population Concentration

**Households with 1+ Persons with a Disability**  
**Map Legend**

Bartlett Park District  
 Planning Areas  
 0.5-Mile Service Area


Households with 1+ Persons with a Disability  
 0%  
 0.1%-8%  
 8.1%-16%  
 16.1%-24%  
 24.1%-34%






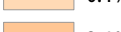


1 inch = 4,000 feet  
 0 1,050 2,100 4,200 FEET

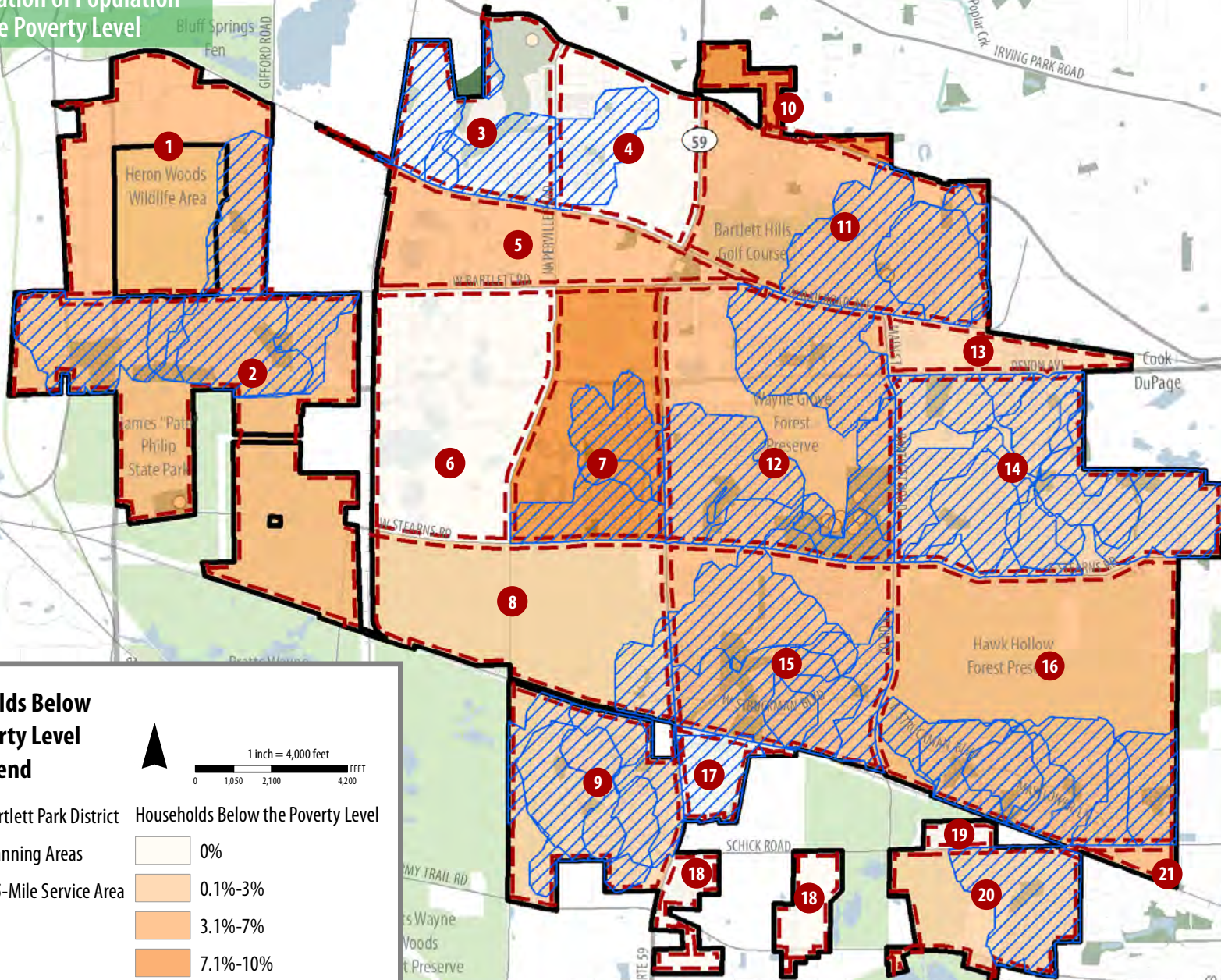


# Concentration of Population Below the Poverty Level

**Households Below the Poverty Level**  
**Map Legend**


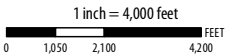
 1 inch = 4,000 feet  
 0 1,050 2,100 4,200 FEET










 Bartlett Park District	<b>Households Below the Poverty Level</b>	 0%
 Planning Areas		 0.1%-3%
 0.5-Mile Service Area		 3.1%-7%
		 7.1%-10%
		 10.1%-14%

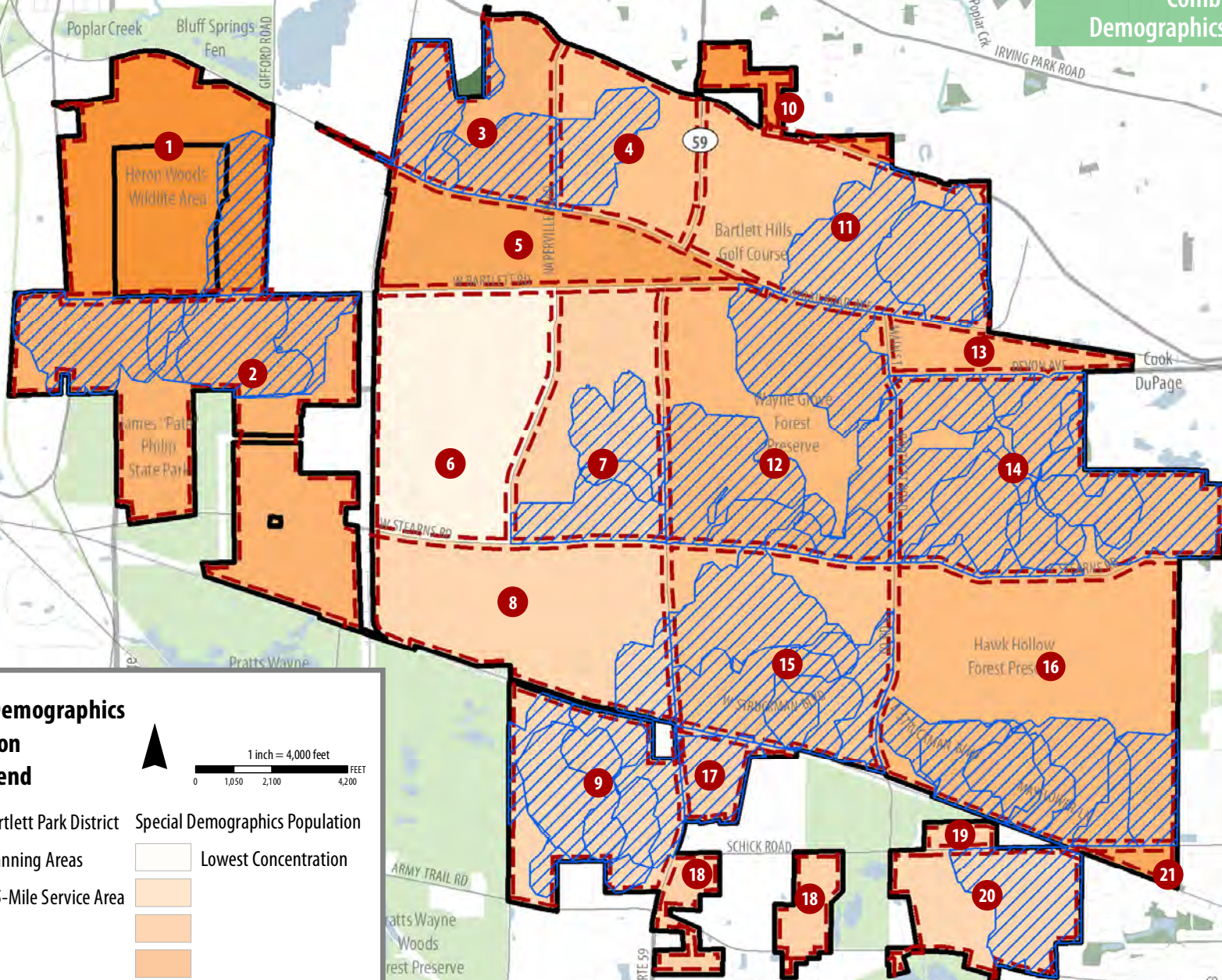


# Combined Special Demographics Population

**Special Demographics Population Map Legend**

	Bartlett Park District		Special Demographics Population
	Planning Areas		Lowest Concentration
	0.5-Mile Service Area		
			
			
			Highest Concentration



# Amenity Benchmarks

In addition to park acreage and distribution, another measure of Level of Service is the total recreation amenities available to residents. These benchmarks come from the Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics.

## SCORP Comparison

Based on the Illinois SCORP, the Bartlett Park District meets or exceeds the recommended number of amenities for 15 of the 33 amenities outlined in the chart to the right (excluding non-priority items and pickleball). Amenities that meet or exceed the benchmark are identified by black or green text in the “Above / Below” column.

Items with red text noted in the “Above / Below” column are below the state benchmark. The five amenities furthest below the benchmark, according to the comparison against SCORP averages are:

- Fishing Pier / Docks / Access: -16.3
- Tennis Courts: -15.7
- Horseshoe Pits: -9.2
- Volleyball Courts: -7.2
- Baseball Fields: -7.0

Amenities that are not geographically feasible for the Park District were not reviewed as part of the analysis. These included Marina Slips, Swimming Beaches, Off Road Vehicle Trails, Cross Country Trails, Snowmobile Trails, and Ski Trails. Meeting the recommendations for some of the other amenities noted on the left may not be a priority for the Park District if they do not align with the community need.

Focusing on items that are relevant to the character and service role of the Bartlett Park District, several amenities represent potential priorities for future consideration. These land-based and community-oriented amenities align more directly with the District’s recreation framework.

Applicable amenities include:

- Fishing Pier / Docks / Access: -16.4
- Tennis Courts: -15.7
- Volleyball Courts: -7.2
- Baseball fields: -7.0

These amenities may warrant further evaluation in alignment with community needs, available space, and long-term planning objectives.

# SCORP Amenity Needs Analysis

## Existing Population 2025

ISD = Insufficient Data

	Bartlett Park District			Illinois Facility Average		Above/Below Benchmark	Ranking
	Existing # of Facilities (total)	Existing # of Facilities at current standards	Existing # of Facilities per 1,000 population	Total # of Facilities needed to meet IL Average	IL Average # of Facilities per 1,000 population	Above/Below Benchmark	Highest to Lowest Need
<b>WATER-BASED FACILITIES</b>							
Fishing Pier / Docks / Access	3	3	0.07	17.3	0.41	-14.3	2
Boat Launch Ramps / Access	0	0	0.00	5.1	0.12	-5.1	7
Canoe only access areas	0	0	0.00	1.6	0.04	-1.6	13
Marina Slips							
Swimming Pools	2	2	0.05	1.2	0.03	0.8	25
Swimming Beaches (linear ft.)							
Spray Grounds / Splash Pads	3	3	0.07	1.2	0.03	1.8	27
<b>TRAILS</b>							
Multi-Use Trails (Miles)	30.74	30.74	0.73	6.9	0.16	23.8	33
Hiking Trails							
Bicycle Trails	0	0	0.00	4.3	0.10	-4.3	8
Horseback Trails							
Physical Fitness Trails (Stations)	3	3	0.07	9.3	0.22	-6.3	6
Nature / Interpretive Trails (Miles)	1	1	0.02	2.3	0.05	-1.3	14
Off-road Vehicle Trails							
Cross-Country Trails*							
Snowmobile Trails							
Ski Trails**							
<b>DAY USE FACILITIES</b>							
Dog Parks	2	2	0.05	0.3	0.01	1.7	26
Picnic Shelters	16	14	0.33	8.7	0.21	5.3	31
Playgrounds	37	22	0.52	17.1	0.40	4.9	30
Interpretive Centers	1	1	0.02	0.4	0.01	0.6	21
<b>SPORTS COURTS AND FACILITIES</b>							
Basketball Courts	15	15	0.35	10.6	0.25	4.4	29
Volleyball Courts	0	0	0.00	7.2	0.17	-7.2	5
Pickleball Courts	2	2	0.05	ISD	ISD	ISD	
Tennis Courts	5	5	0.12	20.7	0.49	-15.7	1
Baseball Fields	1	0	0.00	11.0	0.26	-11.0	3
Softball Fields	11	3	0.07	5.9	0.14	-2.9	9
Football Fields	1	1	0.02	2.3	0.05	-1.3	15
Soccer Fields	19	19	0.45	7.5	0.18	11.5	32
Field Hockey	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	17
Running Tracks (outdoor)	0	0	0.00	2.1	0.05	-2.1	10
Golf Driving Range	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	17
Golf Course (9-Hole Course)	1	1	0.02	0.2	0.01	0.8	24
Golf Course (18-Hole Course)	1	1	0.02	0.3	0.01	0.7	22
Frisbee Golf	1	1	0.02	0.3	0.01	0.7	23
Skate Park	3	3	0.07	0.7	0.02	2.3	28
Ice Rinks	0	0	0.00	1.7	0.04	-1.7	12
Bocce Court	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	17
Horseshoe Pits	1	1	0.02	10.2	0.24	-9.2	4
Shuffleboard courts	0	0	0.00	1.9	0.05	-1.9	11
Archery Ranges***	1	1	0.02	0.8	0.02	0.2	20
Rifle Pistol Ranges	0	0	0.00	0.4	0.01	-0.4	16

\*Pertains to cross-country running trails and does not include existing walking trails  
 \*\*Pertains to cross-country skiing and does not include the winter sports facility operated by the Park District  
 \*\*\*Target range is located at the Bartlett Nature Center

## Park Metrics Comparison

In addition to the SCORP averages, the Planning Team referenced NRPA's Park Metrics to identify how Bartlett compares to other agencies in the Midwest states with populations between 40,000 and 45,000. Park Metrics provided information about the total population per amenity for 20 different recreation outdoor amenity types for the 16 agencies within this population range.

The table on the right compares the total number of District-owned and managed facilities to agencies with similar populations.

Because Park Metrics are a collection of self-reported data rather than a recommendation of number of amenities, this benchmark compares the District to averages without prioritizing specific amenities. While these benchmarks provide numerical comparisons between the Bartlett Park District and other recreation providers, they are not considered recommendations. Not all recreation amenities are appropriate or feasible for every community. Each amenity noted as above or below the benchmark should be considered in conjunction with local context such as actual usage records and community input to determine if meeting these benchmarks is in alignment with community interests.

## Park Metrics Amenity Needs Analysis

### Existing Population 2025

Bartlett Park District			Park Metrics Facility Median	Above/Below Benchmark	Ranking
Existing # of Facilities (total)	Existing # of Facilities at current standards	Existing # of Facilities per population	Total # of Facilities needed to meet Park Metrics median	Above/Below Benchmark	Highest to Lowest Need

#### OUTDOOR DAY USE FACILITIES

Playgrounds	37	22	0.52	13.6	8.4	18
Fitness Zones/Exercise Stations	3	3	0.07	1.4	1.6	15
Dog Park	2	2	0.05	1.4	0.6	14
Skate Park	3	3	0.07	1.0	2.0	17
Golf Course - 18-holes	1	1	0.02	1.0	0.0	11
Golf Course - 9-holes	1	1	0.02	1.0	0.0	13
Driving Range Stations	0	0	0.00	1.0	-1.0	8
Disc Golf Course	1	1	0.02	1.0	0.0	10
Ice Rink	0	0	0.00	1.0	-1.0	7
Community Gardens	0	0	0.00	4.0	-4.0	3
Swimming Pools	2	2	0.05	2.0	0.0	12
Splashpads	3	3	0.07	1.1	1.9	16

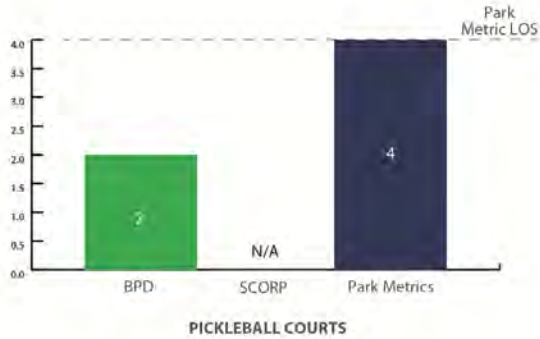
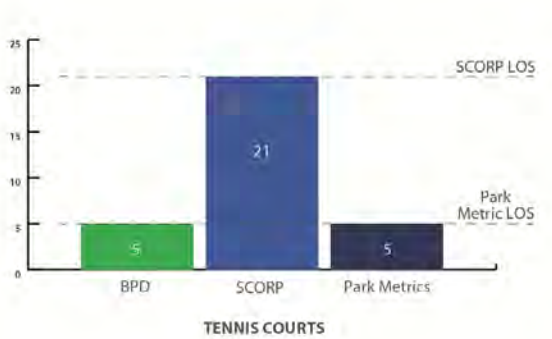
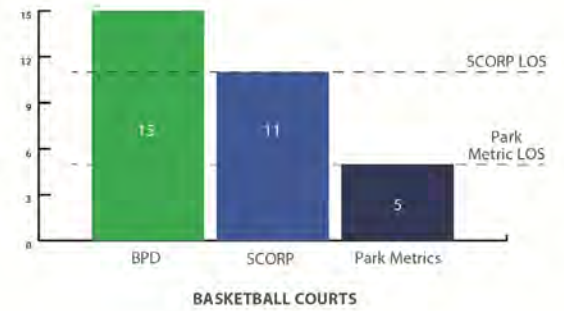
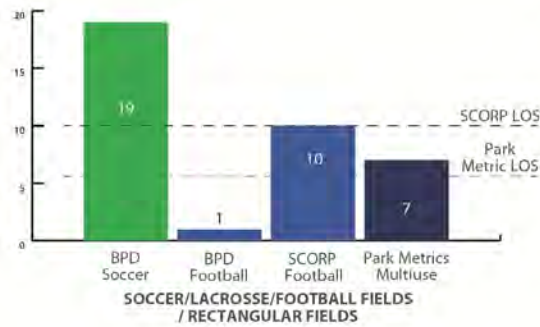
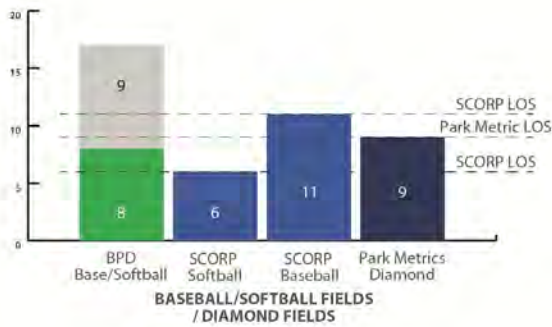
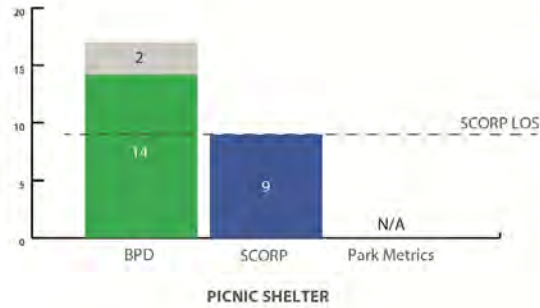
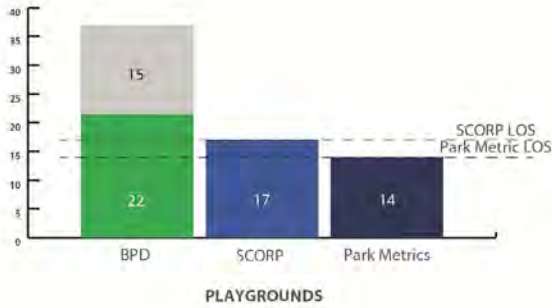
#### OUTDOOR SPORTS COURTS AND FACILITIES

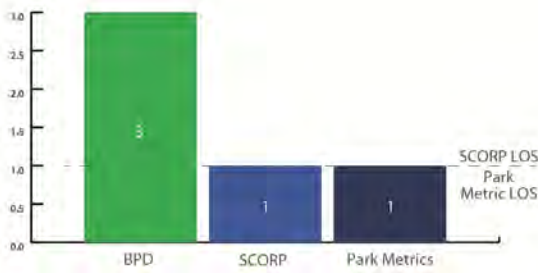
Basketball Courts	15	15	0.35	4.5	10.5	19
Pickleball Courts	2	2	0.05	4.0	-2.0	4
Tennis Courts	5	5	0.12	5.1	-0.1	9
Multiuse Courts - Tennis/Pickleball	0	0	0.00	4.0	-4.0	2
Volleyball Courts	0	0	0.00	1.9	-1.9	5
Diamond Fields - Softball/Baseball	12	3	0.07	9.1	-6.1	1
Rectangular Fields - Soccer/Lacrosse/Football	20	20	0.47	7.4	12.6	20
Synthetic Rectangular Fields	0	0	0.00	1.1	-1.1	6

#### INDOOR FACILITIES

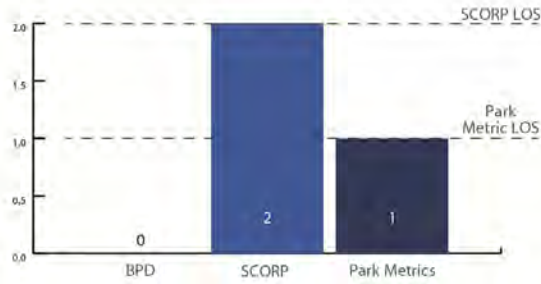
Recreation Centers	0	0	0.00	1.0	-1.0	5
Community Centers	1	1	0.02	1.0	0.0	7
Senior Centers	0	0	0.00	1.0	-1.0	3
Teen Centers	0	0	0.00	1.0	-1.0	2
Stadiums	0	0	0.00	1.0	-1.0	3
Indoor Ice Rink	0	0	0.00	0.9	-0.9	6
Performance Amphitheater	0	0	0.00	1.1	-1.1	1
Nature Centers	1	1	0.02	1.0	0.0	8

# SCORP - Park Metrics Key Comparison Graphics - Amenity Level of Service

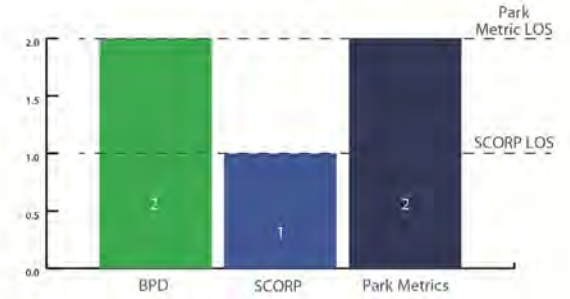




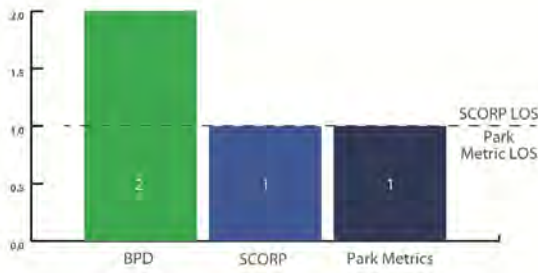
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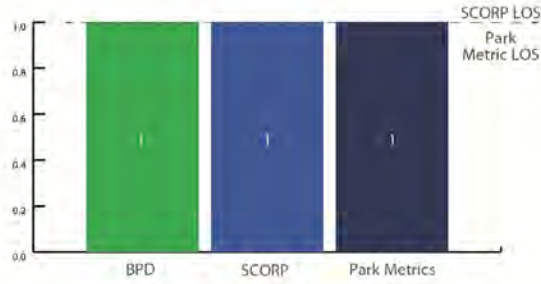
ICE RINK



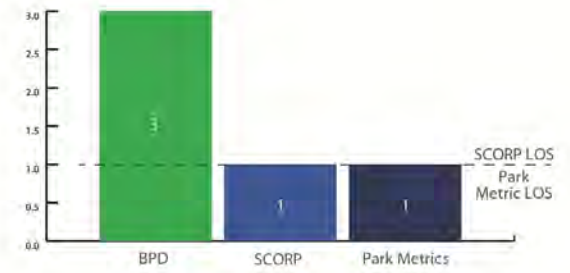
SWIMMING POOL



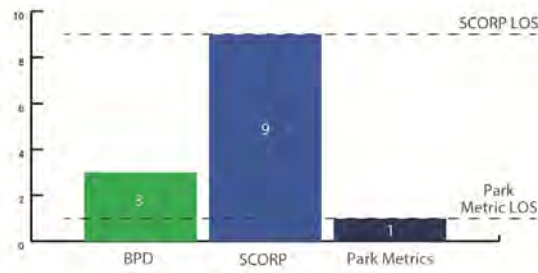
DOG PARKS



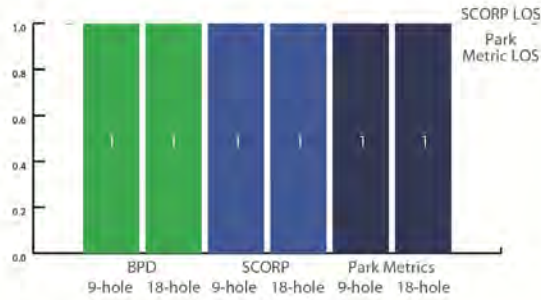
DISC GOLF COURSE



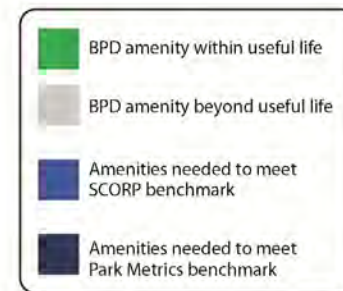
SKATE PARK



FITNESS/EXERCISE STATIONS



GOLF COURSE





DONALD SCHRADÉ GYMNASIUM

694 W. STEARNS RD.

# Facility Assessment

This assessment includes an analysis of the Park District’s facilities and indoor spaces. It includes an assessment of 9 of the Districts key locations, benchmarks of available amounts and types of indoor spaces, and an inventory of every District facility.

## Introduction

Williams Architects was commissioned to conduct facilities assessments and initial program analysis of Bartlett Park District indoor and outdoor facilities. This report is prepared as an appendix to the Plan. The following facilities were reviewed.

- Apple Orchard Golf Clubhouse
- Barracuda Bay Water Park
- Bartlett Community Center (*The Oak Room & Program Rooms; LIFECENTER; Splash Central Indoor Aquatic Center; Athletics; Arts & Crafts; Preschool; Lobby/Offices; Building Exterior*)
- Bartlett Nature Center
- Log Cabin
- Parks Maintenance Facilities
- Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium
- Thomas C. White Administration Building
- Villa Olivia Golf, Ski, and Event Venue

Recommendations for these facilities are located in Chapter 3. The full architectural report including facility photos is located in the Appendix.

## Information Utilized

This facility assessment was completed via visual observation by the architect team and information provided by Park District staff. The descriptions and observations of each location represent the conditions at the time of the site visits. No testing, commissioning, or exploratory investigation was conducted.

### Apple Orchard Golf Clubhouse

#### 692 W. Stearns Road

Apple Orchard Golf Course, a nine hole, par three, public course, has been a community staple since Apple Orchard Country Club was repurposed by the Park District in the early 1980’s. Located next to Apple Orchard Community Park, it was designed

as a family-friendly, accessible course. Its simple clubhouse, built in 1996, serves mainly as a check-in point and refreshment stand.

## Observations

Apple Orchard Golf Clubhouse is in good condition and has been well maintained. Interior finishes, including flooring and paint, were updated in 2024. The restrooms are not ADA compliant due to age. The building envelope is in good condition, with no visible deficiencies. The only equipment due for replacement is the water heater, which is scheduled for upgrade. The exterior façade would benefit from cosmetic and architectural enhancements to improve curb appeal and attract more patrons.

The existing service counter is oversized and underutilized, as the Park District offers prepackaged food and beverages— potentially eliminating the need for warming equipment behind the counter. Additionally, outdoor seating is minimal and underused. The current walking path from the final hole leads directly to the parking lot, allowing patrons to bypass the clubhouse entirely.

## **Barracuda Bay Water Park**

### **620 W. Stearns Road**

Barracuda Bay Water Park, formerly Bartlett Aquatic Center, has served as a popular seasonal destination for families in the community. A major renovation in 2013–2014 transformed the facility with an expansion that introduced a zip line, a lazy river, body and tube slides, a plunge pool, spraypad, and an enhanced sand play area. In 2024 -2025 the bathhouse received interior upgrades such as paint, lockers, and two new family changing bathrooms. Maintenance may be required due to normal usage. The Park District is currently exploring a master plan update with Williams Architects to address many of the observations listed below.

### **Observations**

The facility has been well maintained. However, the overall aesthetic of the facility is dated and would benefit from an updated design redefining the facilities branding and identity. The original white body flume slide is due for replacement, and shade is lacking at the concessions area and the top of the slide tower platforms, impacting lifeguard comfort. The railings on the stair tower are in poor condition and need replacement. The zero-depth leisure pool features an aging mushroom water feature that is due for replacement.

Operational concerns identified by the Park District include limitations with the concession stand window, which is not conducive to efficient service or accepting outside deliveries. The bridge surface

gets hot and uncomfortable to walk on. The sand play area is aged and oversized. Trees are currently providing shade to this area; however, they are unhealthy and will need to be removed soon. Sand showers are in poor condition. Rental offerings are minimal, with no dedicated party rentals available on the pool deck. The splash pad is in good condition, however it is lacking features for young children and toddlers. Lastly, there are areas of pool deck that have settled around the main pool and lazy river.

## **Bartlett Community Center**

### **700 S. Bartlett Road**

Built in 2000, Bartlett Community Center is a well-maintained, multi-use facility featuring an event space (the Oak Room), indoor aquatic center (Splash Central), fitness center (**LIFECENTER**), gymnasium, preschool, and offices. While the overall condition of the building is very good, the mechanical systems have reached the end of their life cycle as outlined in the Facility Condition Assessment by FQC. The Park District is currently implementing a replacement strategy.

### **Observations**

#### The Oak Room & Program Rooms

The Oak Room is aged and would benefit from a full interior renovation. Stage curtains and room dividers are in fair to poor condition. Blackout blinds are needed on the doors to accommodate performances. The adjacent kitchen and its equipment are functional but in need of an interior update, including replacement of the damaged counter top. Access to the sound booth is currently limited to a ladder from inside the kitchen, which presents functional and safety concerns.

Some program rooms could be converted from carpet to flooring to meet the increasing demand from the dance and group fitness programs. A continuous storage area behind the program rooms provides generous and convenient storage space.

### LIFECENTER

Locker rooms are in need of renovation to meet current ADA accessibility standards. The Park District has reported issues with low hot water pressure in the showers farthest from the mechanical source. Existing saunas are outdated and in need of replacement or removal. Changing areas within the locker rooms are underutilized. The personal training room and adjacent offices are currently used for storage and are not functioning as originally intended. The membership sign-up area lacks sufficient privacy for discussions involving personal health history. The control desk is oversized relative to its use.

### Splash Central Indoor Aquatic Center

Pool equipment has reached the end of its useful service life, with frequent leaks and failures, and is due for replacement. The spa is in poor condition and leaking, with deteriorating tile and interior finishes in both the spa and pool. Lockers and showers are not ADA compliant. Family changing room doors auto-lock and must be unlocked by staff for each user posing a strain on staff. Door hardware to the natatorium is corroded and needs replacement, and the operable door to the spa area is in poor condition. The adjacent lobby/ viewing area is underutilized. Railings and bleachers are corroded and rusting. The mechanical room lacks an emergency shower. Fireproofing from the roof deck frequently falls into the mechanical space due to weight drops in the fitness center above.

### Athletics

The gymnasium is well-utilized for programming and occasional rentals, and includes ample adjacent storage. The walking track above remains a popular amenity for members. The original bleachers are worn and due for replacement. Ceiling paint is peeling and, in some cases, falling onto the court below, creating potential safety and maintenance concerns.

### Party Place

The Party Room is functional but in need of an interior update. There is potential to expand the space with a connected outdoor patio, which would enhance its flexibility and create a stronger connection to the adjacent Barracuda Bay Water Park—ultimately improving its appeal for rentals and events. The adjacent lobby is a large space that is underutilized.

### Arts & Crafts / Preschool

The preschool and arts spaces are well utilized and support a range of youth programming and rentals. The Arts & Crafts Room is popular and frequently used but would benefit from an interior update to enhance its appearance and functionality. Program Room 6 includes a child-sized restroom and provides flexible space for programming; however, the existing desk could be removed to better optimize the layout. Due to frequent bathroom accidents, it is recommended that the carpet be replaced with a more durable, cleanable flooring material. The preschool wing is spacious and includes dedicated restrooms and offices, but the finishes are dated and the entire area would benefit from a comprehensive interior update.

### Lobby / Offices

The lobby and office areas are functional but present opportunities for improved layout, operations, wayfinding signage, and aesthetics. The current guest services desk is located behind

patrons as they enter, creating a disjointed customer service experience. Forms and registration materials are positioned far from the desk, resulting in inefficiencies for both staff and visitors. The guest services desk would benefit from a raised or standing height option to improve staff comfort and engagement. Visually and acoustically, the lobby is dated and would benefit from an interior update and enhanced sound control. Offices function well overall, with no major concerns reported by the Park District.

### Building Exterior

The exterior of the facility is generally functional but has areas in need of improvement. Visibility of building signage is limited due to overgrown trees, reducing wayfinding effectiveness from the road. Gutters and downspouts are in poor condition and should be replaced to maintain proper drainage and prevent water damage. The exterior needs to be repainted and maintained.

## **Bartlett Nature Center**

### **2054 W. Stearns Road**

Bartlett Nature Center is operated by Bartlett Park District under a three-way partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. The building itself is owned by IDNR, and the Park District has limited authority to make structural or permanent changes to the building, which poses challenges for long-term planning and investment. The facility serves as a Welcome Center for visitors to the James “Pate” Philip State Park and hosts environmental programs, rentals, and community events.

### **Observations**

Bartlett Nature Center is in good condition but has several key spaces with specific needs for improvement. The building has limited signage

and visibility from the road is difficult to find. The presence of the Park District is not apparent from the building exterior. The auditorium, while recently re-carpeted, has outdated AV equipment and lacks modular, mobile furniture to support flexible programming and rentals. The multi-purpose room, occasionally used for programs and rentals, would benefit from the installation of an operable partition to allow simultaneous uses and enhance rental flexibility. The animal display area currently houses reptiles and amphibians in temporary enclosures with exposed lighting elements that pose a safety risk. Lastly, the classroom, used for environmental education, is dated and requires an interior upgrade and new room divider.

## **Log Cabin**

### **102 N. Eastern Avenue**

The Log Cabin serves primarily as a rental facility for private events, gatherings, and community functions. It is well-utilized by the public; however, the building faces several operational, aesthetic, and infrastructural challenges that limit its functionality and long-term viability without strategic investment.

### **Observations**

The Log Cabin is in fair to poor condition. The main room lacks designated storage for tables and chairs, resulting in a cluttered appearance and reduced flexibility. Interior finishes are dated, and the bathrooms are not ADA accessible due to age. The basement, though not a public area, is hard to access, poorly lit, and experiences significant water intrusion and visible gaps in the foundation walls—making it unusable for storage and difficult for staff and maintenance. The Park District identified that the mechanical systems are due for replacement. Additionally, the building's exterior is deteriorating and in need of major repairs to preserve its appearance and integrity.

## Parks Maintenance Facility

### 690 W. Stearns Road

Bartlett Park District's Park Maintenance Facilities serve as the operational hub for grounds keeping, repairs, equipment storage, and general upkeep of District parks and amenities. The facilities include the Main Park Maintenance Building and a separate Golf Maintenance Building.

Both buildings have undergone minor upgrades and additions over the years but now face significant functional, safety, and spatial deficiencies that impact day-to-day operations and staff wellbeing.

#### Observations

The Main Building is in poor condition and suffers from persistent roof leaks, poor flashing, visible gaps in the envelope, and deteriorating gutters. Interior spaces are cramped, with insufficient office and locker room space, especially for female employees. Ventilation issues, outdated finishes, and failing mechanical systems further hinder daily operations. The wood shop lacks a dust collection system, and vehicle exhaust contributes to poor air quality. The Golf Maintenance Building is also in poor condition, fertilizer storage is unsafe due to inadequate ventilation. The shower is outdated and not ADA compliant. The sink is not properly vented to the building exterior. Overall, both facilities exhibit significant wear, including deteriorated siding and compromised areas of the exterior envelope, with visible openings to the outside that pose maintenance and energy efficiency concerns.

## Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium

### 694 W. Stearns Road

Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium is a multi-use indoor athletic facility primarily serving as a rental and recreation space for community sports activities. The facility was built onto the original bathhouse locker rooms in the early 1980's. In 2002, the gymnasium was named in honor of former Park District Commissioner Donald H. Schrade. The gym also serves as overflow storage for adjacent Park District Administration Building. In 2014, Bartlett Park District received a grant and the funding was allocated for renovations to Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium, including improvements to the gymnasium itself, the addition of an elevator, and second multipurpose room, ADA doors, and the renovation of the original multi-purpose room, lobby, and bathrooms.

#### Observations

The building is in very good condition and well maintained. The building is difficult to locate due to its limited street presence and lack of wayfinding signage. The space suffers from poor acoustics due to the absence of sound treatment. While the restrooms have been recently upgraded for accessibility, storage remains a major concern—there is no dedicated storage for the gym. Mechanically, rooftop HVAC equipment is due for replacement as indicated by the Park District and FQC's report. Roof flashing issues have led to water stains on interior walls. Programmatically, the facility is underutilized during the day, with most activity occurring during evening rentals.

## Thomas C. White Administration Building

### 696 W. Stearns Road

The TC White Administration Building primarily serves Bartlett Park District administrative staff. The building was originally the Apple Orchard Country Club restaurant and club house. Public access to the facility is limited, with most interactions occurring during official board meetings, bid openings, or scheduled staff meetings in the Board Room. The building has recently undergone some mechanical system upgrades but still presents a number of challenges related to functionality, accessibility, and modernization that should be addressed through long-term planning.

#### Observations

The building is in fair condition. The facility's building envelope shows signs of age and inefficiency. The roof condition is uncertain and may require further evaluation. The chimney is no longer functional and is currently boarded over. Original single-pane windows contribute to poor thermal performance, making it difficult to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. The exterior finishes appear dated, and gutters and downspouts discharge directly onto sidewalks, creating potential safety issues during wet or icy conditions. Accessibility issues are present at building approaches and walkways.

Inside, the building's worn finishes and furnishings impact the overall appearance. Mechanical systems were replaced in 2025 and are currently functioning well as indicated by the Park District. Staffing growth has outpaced the available office space, with the current open-plan and cubicle configuration creating challenges for roles requiring privacy. Storage is not currently an issue, with overflow needs accommodated in the adjacent Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium. The Board Room is used approximately four times per month, and underutilized.

## **Villa Olivia Golf, Ski, and Event Venue**

### **1401 W. Lake Street**

Villa Olivia began as a private estate in the early 1900s, with a golf course added in the 1920s. The Corrado family purchased the property in 1966 and expanded it in 1975 with a ski hill and banquet restaurant. In 2010, Bartlett Park District voters approved a bond referendum to purchase and renovate the facility. By 2012, major upgrades were completed, including event space, kitchen, and ski lodge improvements, establishing Villa Olivia as a year-round public destination.

### **Observations**

The building is in fair condition and well maintained. The original flat roof over the Pro Shop is leaking and requires full replacement, while the Crystal Room roof shows signs of potential ice damming, leading to interior water damage. All windows throughout the facility are original and inefficient, and the ballroom exterior façade is visibly deteriorating. Some sloped roofs lack gutters, causing water to pool near foundations. HVAC systems are aging, though the boilers (replaced in 2015) remain functional. The sprinkler system is operational but lacks complete coverage in the Crystal Room bump-outs. Interior spaces including bathrooms, the bar, and Pro Shop are dated and in need of a design refresh. Ruby Room is used for overflow storage due to a lack of dedicated event storage. Storage constraints are evident throughout, with tables and chairs often stored inappropriately in functional areas.

The ski lodge is active in winter and turns into a storage zone during the off-season. Ski rentals are in high demand, though space constraints limit equipment capacity. Bathrooms are dated and not ADA compliant. Strong ski sales were reported last season, and a new sales display board is planned. The ski hill doubles as summer golf terrain, with no drainage issues reported. However, tow ropes are challenging for children to use. Across the facility, storage is a recurring issue, with overflow areas used inefficiently and lacking consolidation.



# Square Footage

Square Footage Level of Service benchmarks are calculations of the minimum amount of space recommended to provide for the indoor recreation activities offered by the Park District. It also includes considerations for specific facilities to support specific programs and activities.

Level of Service (LOS) guidelines for indoor space are less established than the guidelines for park and open space, but the Planning Team utilizes a Chicagoland benchmark of two square feet per person with one and one-half square feet consisting of indoor classroom-based or active recreation space and one-half square foot consisting of indoor aquatics.

NRPA does not collect square footage data for indoor facilities, so the Planning Team relies solely on the Chicagoland benchmarking for indoor recreation facility comparisons.

Bartlett Park District has a total of 189,286 square feet of recreational space, 6,228 square feet of aquatics space, and 33,122 square feet of maintenance and support space. This totals up to over 228,000 square feet of indoor space. According to the indoor recreational space square footage LOS, the District has an indoor Level of Service of 4.62, which is much higher than the local benchmark of 2.0.

## Level of Service Analysis: Chicagoland Benchmark

### INDOOR RECREATION SPACE

Classification	BPD Square Feet (Total)	BPD Existing Level of Service (SF / population)	Recommended Square Footage	Recommended Level of Service (SF / population)	Square Footage deficiency / surplus (SF)
Indoor Recreational Space	189286.0	4.47	63484.50	1.50	125801.50
Indoor Aquatics	6228.00	0.15	21161.50	0.50	-14933.50
<b>Total Square Feet</b>	<b>195514.00</b>	<b>4.62</b>	<b>84646.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>110868.00</b>

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 42,323

## Park Metrics Comparison

NRPA'S Park Metrics also records data for interior spaces, however the Bartlett Park District does not provide two of the common types of indoor recreation spaces offered by other similarly sized communities despite maintaining a greater quantity of facilities and square footage as the reporting agencies. The two areas where the Park District does not meet common responsibilities are indoor swim facilities/water parks and indoor performing arts.

## Park Metrics Benchmarks - Facilities

40,000 - 45,000 population

16 agencies, Midwest

Benchmark	Park Metrics Median	BPD
Total number of operated buildings	7.0	9 (facilities toured)
Square footage of operated buildings	94775.0	228626.0

## Park Metrics Benchmarks - Facility Types Offered

40,000 - 45,000 population

16 agencies, Midwest

Benchmark	BPD (Y/N)
Park sites	Y
Indoor facilities	Y
Indoor swim facilities/water parks	N
Outdoor swim facilities/water parks	Y
Indoor performing arts center	N
Recreation programming and services	Y
Conduct jurisdiction-wide special events	Y
Golf courses	Y

# Indoor Facility Matrix

	SQUARE FOOTAGE	RESTROOMS			ADMIN			ACTIVITY ROOMS						RECREATION AND FITNESS						OTHER			AQUATICS		
		Men's / Women's Restrooms	Single User Restrooms	Locker Rooms	Reception Desk	Conference	Office	Kitchen	Concessions	Banquet / Community	Classroom / Multipurpose	Art Room	Teen Room	Auditorium	Gymnasium	Indoor Turf	Fitness / Weight Room	Indoor Activity Courts	Dance	Storage	General	Greenhouse	Maintenance	Bodies of Water	Aquatic Features (Slides, Spray Pad, Etc)

## INDOOR FACILITIES

### Recreation & Fitness Programming

Bartlett Community Center	131,450	10	8	2	2	2	22	1	1	3	11	1	-	1	3	-	1	2	2	7	7	-	3	-	-	-
<i>Indoor Aquatics</i>	16,654	2	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	2	1
Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium	11,301	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
Bartlett Nature Center (not Included IDNR)	8,560	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-
Log Cabin	2,600	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Recreation &amp; Fitness Programming</b>	<b>153,911</b>																									

### Single-Use

Apple Orchard Golf Clubhouse	1,120	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Villa Olivia Golf, Ski, and Event Venue	26,975	4	1	1	2	-	7	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	4	-	5	-	-	-
Thomas C. White Administration Building	7,280	2	-	-	1	1	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Single-Use</b>	<b>35,375</b>																									

### Aquatics

Barracuda Bay Water Park	6,228	4	2	2	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	3	6	3	
<b>Aquatics</b>	<b>6,228</b>																									

### Maintenance

Maintenance Buildings (Garage & Storage)	11,495	2	-	2	1	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	4	-	-	-
Villa Olivia Accessory Buildings	21,617	-	4	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	7	-	-	-
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>33,112</b>																									

<b>TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE</b>	<b>228,626</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
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# Recreation Assessment

This assessment includes an analysis of the Bartlett Park District’s program and service offerings. The report offers a detailed perspective of recreation programs and events and helps to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for future program direction.

## Introduction

The Bartlett Park District (District) Recreation Assessment reviews the District’s recreation program and service offerings through a series of individual analyses. BerryDunn reviewed the results of these analyses from a global perspective by assessing what the District is offering, who it is reaching, and what the community has shared. This assessment offers detailed insight into the District’s recreation program and service offerings; helps identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for future program direction; and assists with identifying program categories, programming gaps, and future program considerations.

BerryDunn reviewed various reports and data for this effort, including the District’s seasonal program guides and website as well as participation data from the registration software and staff. Internal staff meetings also yielded beneficial insight.

**What are you offering?**



**Who are you reaching?**



**What did the community say?**



**Informs  
future  
direction**

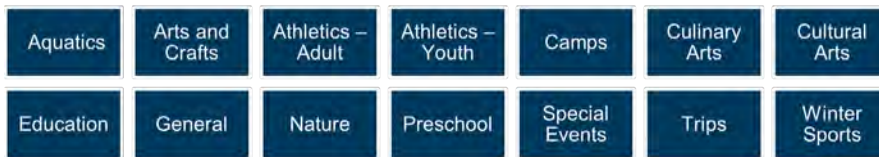


## Program and Service Offerings

The District provides a variety of recreational activities to help realize its mission: **We Create Fun by providing exceptional parks, programs, and facilities for our community.** The activities take the form of programs and services, which several service format mechanisms provide. This section provides an overview of the District’s service menu.

### Programs

Recreation programs refer to structured activities offered for a specific time frame. The District categorizes its recreation program menu across the following 14 program categories:



### Services

In addition to the key programs and activities, the District facilitates community recreational services, such as facility rentals, memberships, and drop-in activities. Facility rental locations include the Bartlett Community Center, where a gymnasium, a banquet room, an aquatic center, and multipurpose rooms can be rented for various private activities. Villa Olivia’s event spaces can host from 30 to 300 guests. The Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium is also available for rent. Outdoor rental locations include a log cabin, gazebo, pavilions, shelters, athletic fields, Barracuda Bay Water Park, and the Bartlett Nature Center has rooms, spaces, a shelter, and Woods Interpretive Trail (a registered Boy Scout camp site area).

Memberships for the **LIFECENTER** Health and Fitness Club can be purchased on an annual basis; track passes, racquetball punch passes, and wallyball punch passes are also available. Seasonal golf membership passes are available at the nine-hole Apple Orchard Golf Course; daily rounds can be played there and at the District’s 18-hole golf course at Villa Olivia. Services like birthday parties, personal training, health coaching, and nutrition counseling also support community recreation.

## Program Inventory

To gain a baseline understanding of registration-based programs, this recreation assessment starts by comparing District program offerings to other national park and recreation agencies. Though no two agencies or districts are alike, this comparison helps identify any service gaps.

The list below illustrates program categories most commonly found at agencies throughout the country. In matching the District’s inventory against this list, 88.1% of programs are represented. For benchmarking purposes, comparison agencies typically average 65.9%, which is significantly lower than the District. The programs highlighted in purple represent those not currently offered by the District.

When reviewing the inventory, it is important to acknowledge that the District offers programs unique to its facilities and community, such as skiing and snowboarding, which are not a part of this baseline comparison list. The program categories highlighted in **purple** represent opportunities for program menu expansion if aligned with community needs.

Active Adult	General Interest	Running/Walking
Aquatics	Golf	<b>Seniors</b>
Arts	Gymnastics/Tumbling	Special/Community Events
Before/After School	<b>Historical Programs</b>	Specialty Camps
<b>Biking</b>	Homeschool	Sports
Birthday Party Services	Horseback Riding	STEM/STEAM
Cooking	<b>Ice Skating/Hockey</b>	Summer Camp (Daylong)
Dance	Language Arts	Sustainability/Green
Day/School Break Camps	Martial Arts	Teen
<b>E-Sports</b>	Music	Tennis
Early Childhood	Open Gym	Theatre/Acting
Environmental/Nature	Outdoor Adventure	Therapeutic Recreation
Extreme Sports	Pets	Trips
Fitness	Preschool	Wellness

## Program Distribution

Understanding how the District’s enrollment-based program menu is distributed across its key program areas helps identify the extent of programming within each area to the whole. Figure 1 illustrates the percentage breakdown of offerings across key program categories. Aquatics, youth athletics, cultural arts, camps, and nature represent a majority of programming (81.3%).

Figure 1: 2024 Enrollment-Based Program Distribution

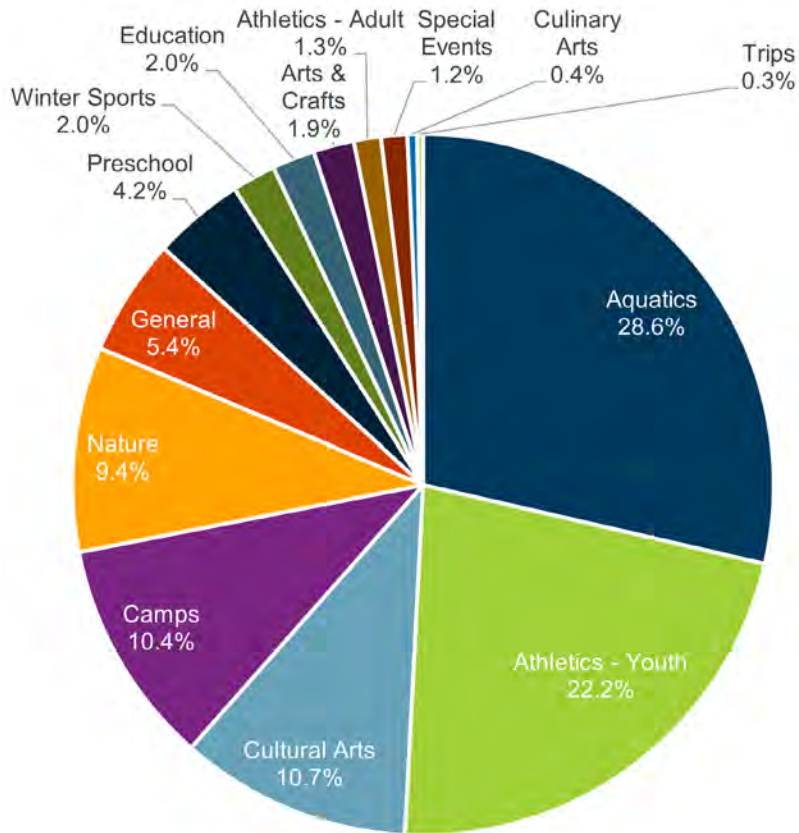
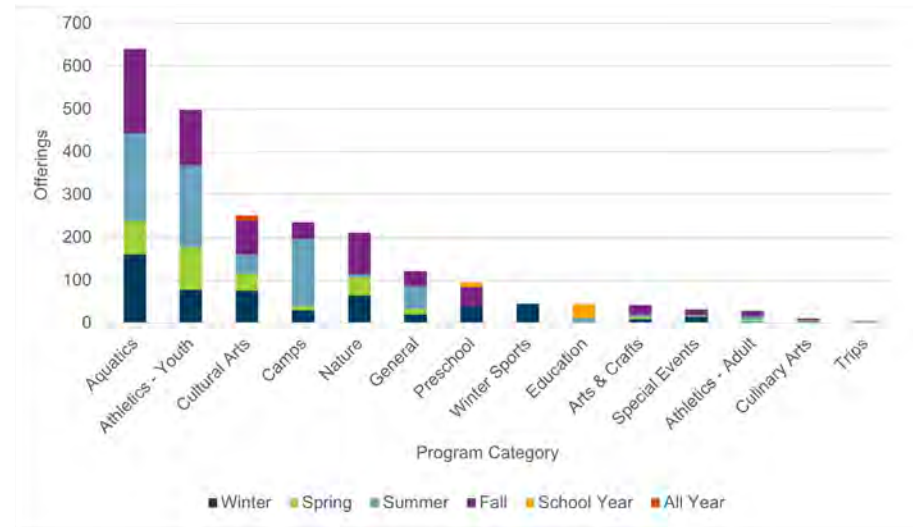


Figure 2: Total Programs Offered in 2024 by Type and Season



Aquatics and youth athletics offered the largest quantities of programs (640 and 498, respectively). Conversely, the area with the lowest program offerings was trips (6). The summer season represented the greatest number of program offerings (690), closely followed by fall (678). The winter season offered 545 programs, and the spring season offered 291.

When analyzing program distribution, it is important to consider the findings with other analysis components and performance factors, such as age segmentation and participation levels, for a more complete understanding of reach and program execution effort.

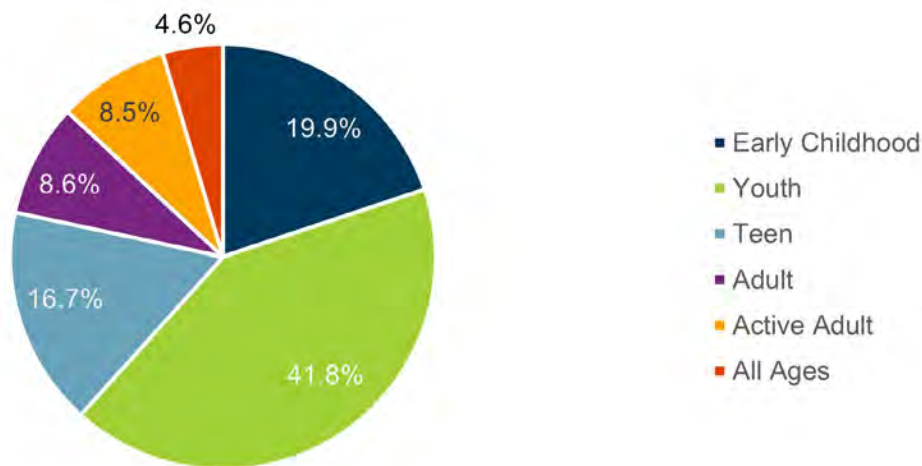
## Age Segmentation

The age segment analysis reviews the distribution of program offerings according to age segments serviced. For the purposes of this assessment, BerryDunn delineated age categories according to the following structure:

- Early Childhood, 0 – 5 years
- Youth, 6 – 12 years
- Teen, 13 – 17 years
- Adult, 18 – 49 years
- Active Adult 50+ years
- All Ages

Using the District’s registration software data, BerryDunn assessed the number of registration-based program opportunities geared toward particular age groups, according to the District’s minimum and maximum age designations assigned in the software for each activity. If a program section spanned clearly across two age categories (e.g., ages 8 – 14), BerryDunn counted that section once in the youth category and once in the teen category. Figure 3 displays the District’s 2024 program menu’s percentage of registration-based programs offered according to each age segment.

Figure 3: Program Menu Age Segmentation, 2024

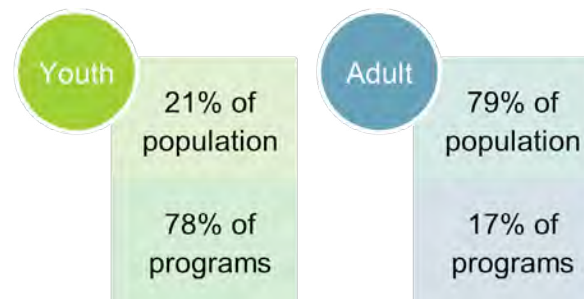


More than a third (41.8%) of programming is available for youth ages 6 – 12 years, followed by 19.9% for early childhood and 16.7% for teen. The adult and active adult segments were nearly identical at 8.6% and 8.5%, followed by all ages programs at 4.6%.

The teen, adult, and active adults age categories were observed to be “spillover” recreation categories rather than those that were specifically programmed. For example, several program age requirements spanned from age 9 to 14, and many of the classes listed 99 years as the maximum age. Specifically, only 13 of the active adult programs were explicitly assigned with the minimum age of 50—the other 463 programs (97%) include the “and up” designation. While this approach to registration helps participants feel welcome, it could be beneficial for programming staff to monitor each program’s primary target markets internally. If **primary** target age ranges were used, Figure 3 results would be remarkably different.

The age segmentation analysis is one helpful method to review District programming related to community demographics. Demographic data can be helpful to consider how programming efforts align with the community’s makeup. The adjacent comparison of the community’s population and enrollment-based program offerings in Figure 4 demonstrates two key age segments’ relationships between the population percentage and the percentage of programs offered; the youth segment includes ages 0 – 19, and the adult segment represents those 20 years and older.

Figure 4: Population vs. Program Menu



Most (78%) of the District’s enrollment-based programs are designed for youth ages 0 – 19, while the youth age segment represents 21% of the community’s population. Adults make up 79% of the population, while 17% of enrollment-based programs are designed for this age segment. Most park and recreation agencies across the country offer a higher percentage of youth programming (often between 60% and 75%) despite the youth population typically being significantly smaller. The program menu’s age segmentation does not need to mirror the community’s age demographic segmentation exactly; however, an ongoing goal can be to balance the menu to reflect community makeup.

### Therapeutic Recreation

The District is a member of the Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA), an agency that provides recreational opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. Participants can participate in NWSRA-led programs or obtain the support of an inclusion aide in any District program.

### Financial Assistance

The Bartlett Parks Foundation offers financial aid to families experiencing financial difficulties, so family members can participate in recreational activities at a reduced cost. An application and financial circumstance documentation must be submitted for financial assistance consideration. The application is available online through the District’s website.

## Program and Service Participation

In addition to assessing the menu of programs and services offered, it is helpful to gauge program performance. The extent of participation can be measured by enrollment, cancellation rates, waitlists, participant reach, memberships, drop-in participation, and facility use and rentals.

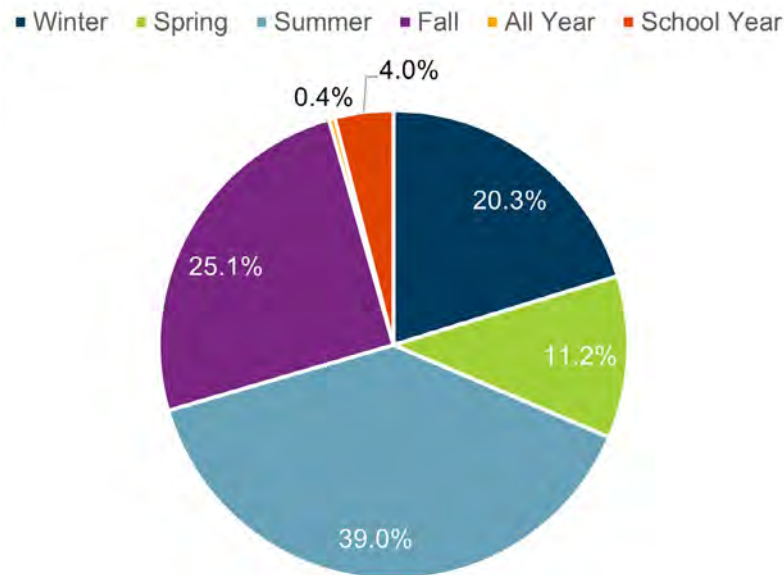
### Enrollment

Total enrollment, or the number of participants who registered for District registration-based programs, was 15,494 in 2024. This section reviews total enrollment by season and residency, enrollment trends over time, and a concentrated review of youth athletics participation.

### Enrollment by Season

More than one-third (39%) of 2024 participation in enrollment-based activities occurred in the summer season, as depicted in Figure 5.

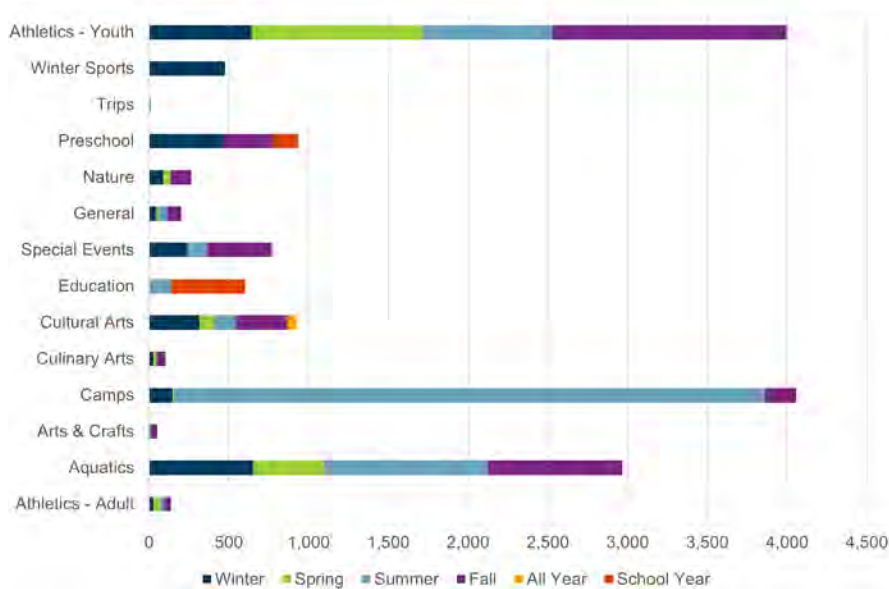
Figure 5: Seasonal Enrollment



One-fourth (25.1%) of enrollees participated in the fall season, 20.3% participated in the winter, and 11.2% participated in the spring. Smaller portions of registrants participated in school-year or all-year program seasons (4.0% and 0.4%, respectively).

Figure 6 depicts the breakdown of enrollments by program type and season.

Figure 6: Total Enrollment by Type and Season



The District can use this data to identify any opportunities for development or enhancement. For example, spring had the lowest quantity of enrollments in swim lessons, yet it is the season leading into an aquatics-heavy time of the year. Perhaps additional advertising for pre-summer swim lessons could be beneficial.

**Enrollment by Residency**

A park district’s primary market is its residents (taxpayers). Exploring participation data for residency can monitor whether the District is reaching its intended primary market. Figure 7 depicts enrollments into District programs based on residency in 2024.

Most participants were residents (83%) in 2024. Figure 8 depicts total enrollment by program type and residency.

Figure 7: Enrollee Residency

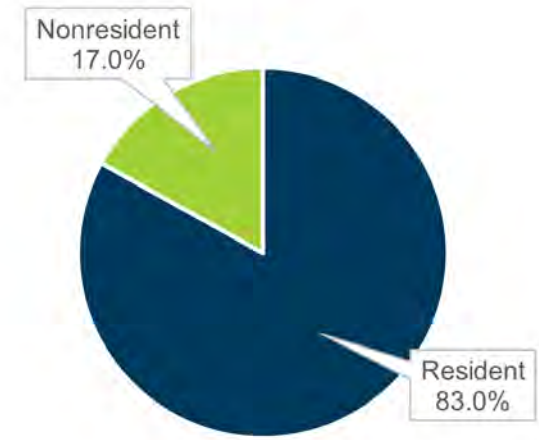
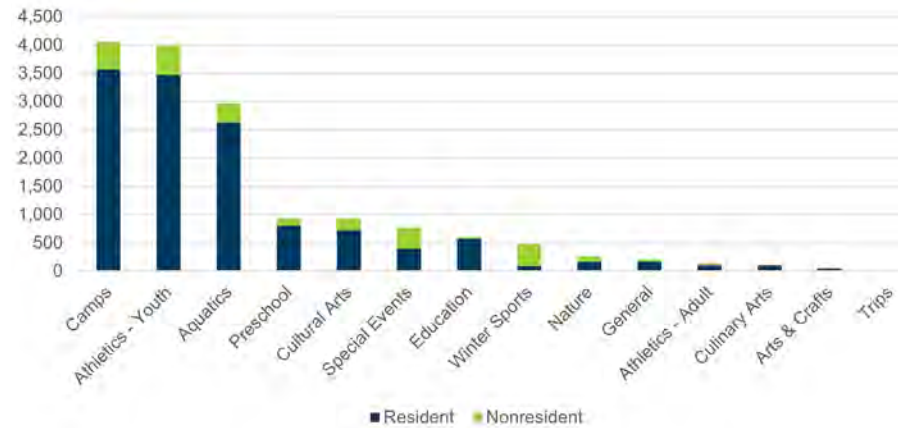


Figure 8: Total Enrollment by Type and Residency



Total enrollment was the highest for camps in 2024 (4,057), which was followed by youth athletics (3,995) and aquatics (2,966).

Winter sports attracted more nonresident (384) than resident enrollees (91). Special events were evenly split between residents (403) and nonresidents (368). The other program types all experience a majority of resident enrollment or total resident enrollment.

### Recreation Department Enrollment Trends

Enrollment data presented thus far has represented all enrollment into registration-based experiences with the District. The Recreation Department has tracked its enrollment for 18 years, as depicted in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Recreation Department Enrollment Trends

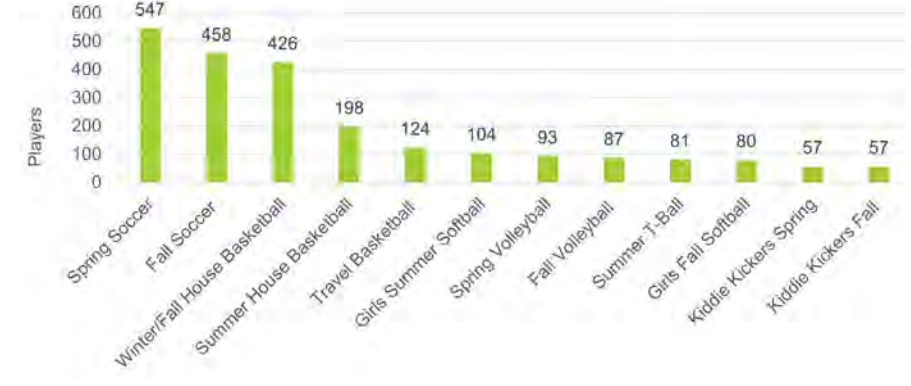


Recreation Department enrollment peaked at 12,895 participants in 2011. The 2020 dip in participation aligns with nationwide historical participation data due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic rebound has been strong, 2024's 12,159 enrollment total has not yet matched the 2011 participation high from more than a decade ago.

### Youth Athletics Participation

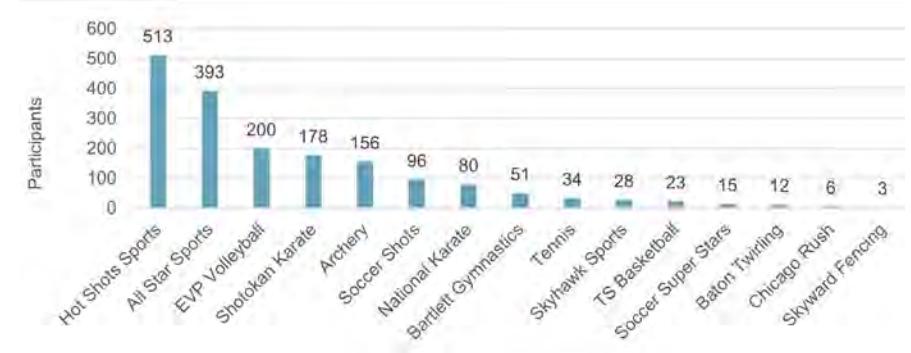
The youth athletics program type encompasses a variety of sport activities. To understand the breakdown of youth athletics participation, BerryDunn extracted youth league and youth instructional sport data in Figures 10 and 11.

Figure 10: Youth Athletic League Participation



Spring and fall soccer had the highest enrollment totals of all youth athletic leagues (547 and 458 players, respectively), followed by winter/fall house basketball (426 players).

Figure 11: Youth Instructional Sports Participation

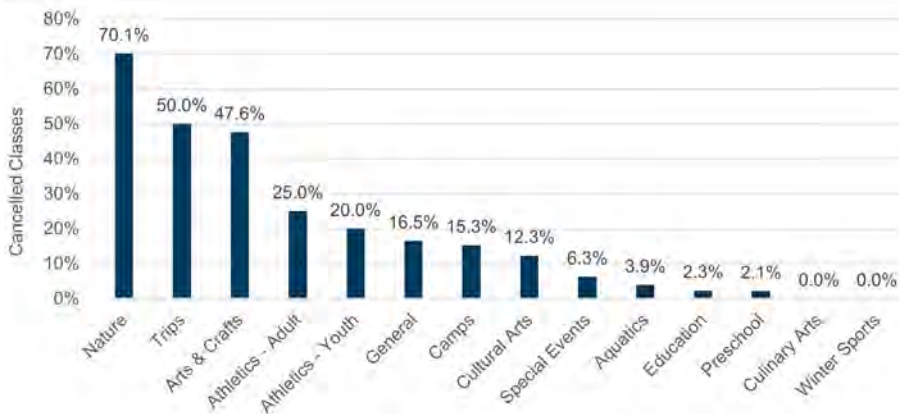


Hot Shots Sports and All Star Sports led the way in youth instructional sports participation with 513 and 393 participants, respectively.

### Cancellation Rates

The difference between the number of programs offered and the number of programs held results in the cancellation rate. A higher rate will generally indicate one of two things: either 1) the programming team has been charged with trying new, innovative programs that have not been successful yet, or 2) the programs being offered simply are not meeting community needs. The first scenario requires patience and perseverance to allow time for exploration and to bolster communication efforts. The second scenario requires research to understand what factors contributed to the program cancellations (e.g., instructor performance, child aged out, or other barriers such as time, day, or transportation). Typically, the target range of a “desirable” cancellation rate is between 10% and 20%, with 12% – 15% being most ideal. Any rate higher than 20% indicates staff are doing a significant amount of work preparing for and marketing programs that do not run. Figure 12 depicts the number of programs offered compared to the number of programs that actually ran (i.e., cancellation rate) in 2024.

Figure 12: 2024 Cancellation Rates by Category



Four of the program areas had cancellation rates over 20% in 2024: nature (70.1%), trips (50%), arts & crafts (47.6%), and adult athletics (25%). These program areas are worth researching to determine why the cancellation rate is so high and subsequently develop strategies to reduce this rate. Similarly, researching why some cancellation rates are low can also be beneficial. Upon initial investigation, staff felt the cancellation rates were high due to the low number of programs offered in these areas as well as weather-dependent programs.

### Waitlists

When District staff members add program codes into the registration software, they must enter a maximum number of registrants. When more participant interest is generated than spots available, a waitlist can be formed. Typically, the goal of recreation staff is to enroll as many participants off the waitlist as possible—to secure the participation and revenue of everyone who has expressed interest. In some cases, space can be created in programs by increasing the number of instructors or sections of that program.

The District does not maintain waitlist counts between seasons due to the way it manages waitlist enrollment. If the registrant is selected to join the activity, they are immediately enrolled; if they are not, they are refunded. In both instances, the participant is removed from the waitlist status.

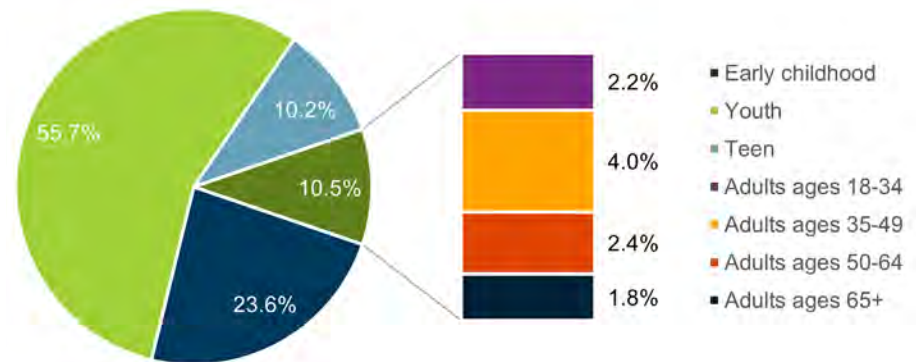
Because of the lost revenue potential and the opportunity to measure the unmet need, the District should consider enabling an internal tracking system to monitor the extent of waitlisted participants who are denied access to programs. The data compiled can guide future resource allocation of where additional sessions or expanded programming may be most impactful.

### Participant Reach

#### Ages

Figure 13 represents the breakdown of 2024 participants in enrollment-based activities by age; each participant is represented once.

Figure 13: 2024 Participant Ages

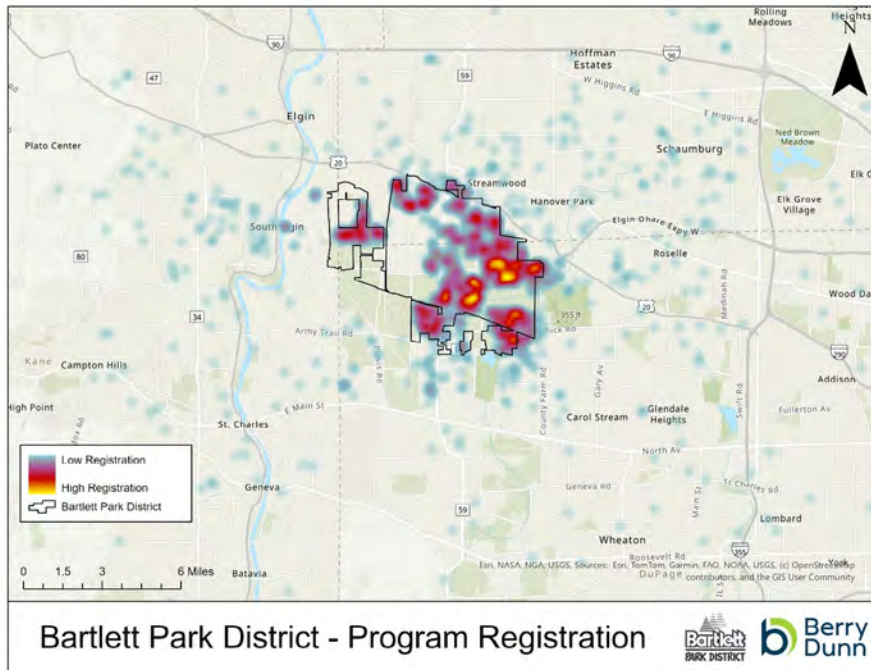


Most (89.5%) of the participants were youth. Comparing participant age data to the program menu's offerings data, 17% of programs offered were available for adult participation yet 10.5% of participants were adults in 2024. While this statistic does not represent the number of adults the District reaches through memberships, drop-in activities, or rentals, it does indicate an opportunity for growth. It is important to note that senior and teen services are offered through the two townships (Hanover and Wayne) that serve the community. BerryDunn does not recommend duplicating services; however, it is recommended that the District review ways to offset the services currently provided by the townships. When the participant age data is compared to the District's full population data, the District reached approximately 6.5% of its youth residents and 0.8% of its adult residents in 2024.

### Geography

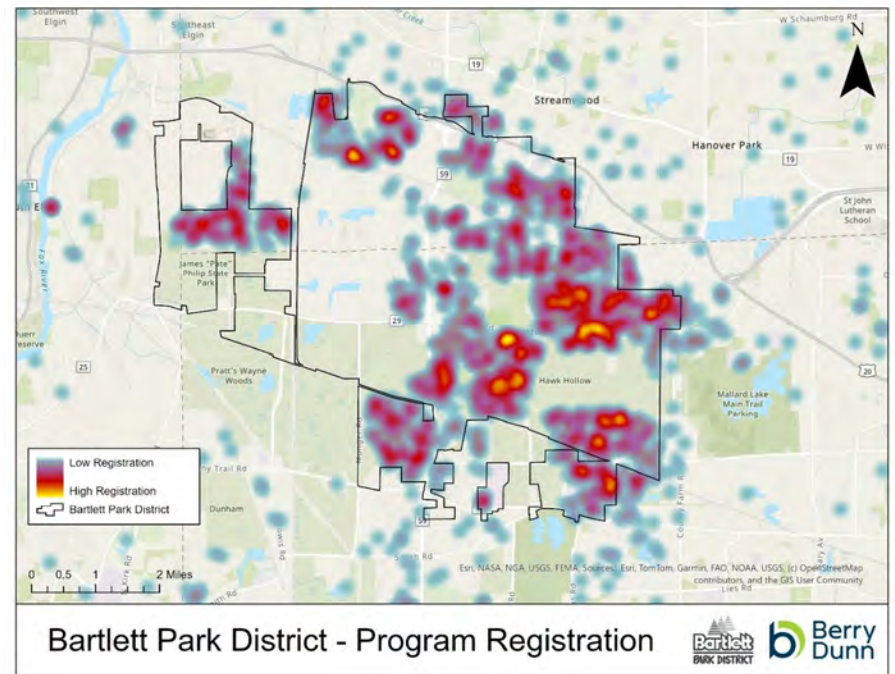
To help illustrate the geographic reach of the District's programs, the consulting team used geographic information systems (GIS) to create a series of heat maps that depict 2024 participant households. Figures 14 and 15 represent the total reach of 2024 registrants regionally and locally.

Figure 14: 2024 Regional Reach



These heat maps represent unique participants, meaning they recorded the participant's household location only once—regardless of the number of programs that person participated in throughout 2024. The yellow color represents the highest concentration of participant households, whereas blue is the lowest concentration. Blue circles in areas of high population density might be an opportunity to target new participants. The District's reach extended well beyond its boundaries, from Compton Hills to the west and Wood Dale to the east.

Figure 15: 2024 Local Reach

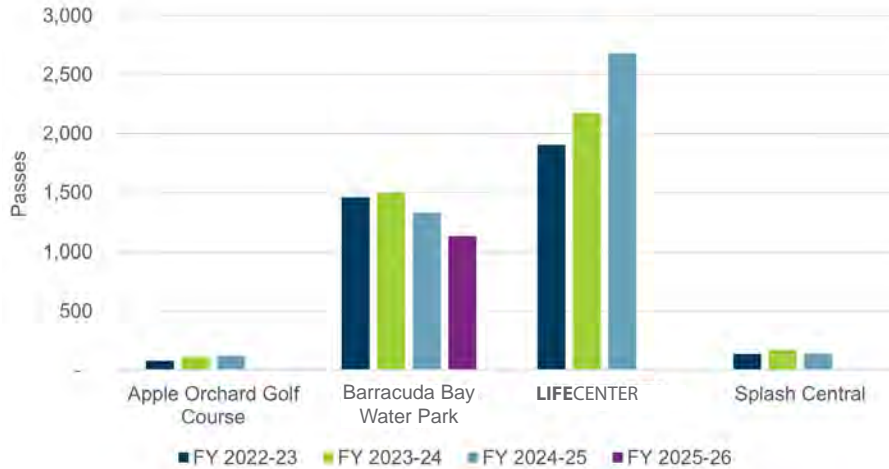


Blue circles—or no circles—in areas of high population density might be an opportunity to target new participants.

## Memberships

The District sells memberships to Apple Orchard Golf Course (nine-hole course), Barracuda Bay Water Park (outdoor swimming), **LIFECENTER** (fitness and wellness), and Splash Central (Indoor Aquatic Center). Figure 16 depicts membership pass sale trends for the last four fiscal years.

Figure 16: Membership Pass Sales Trends

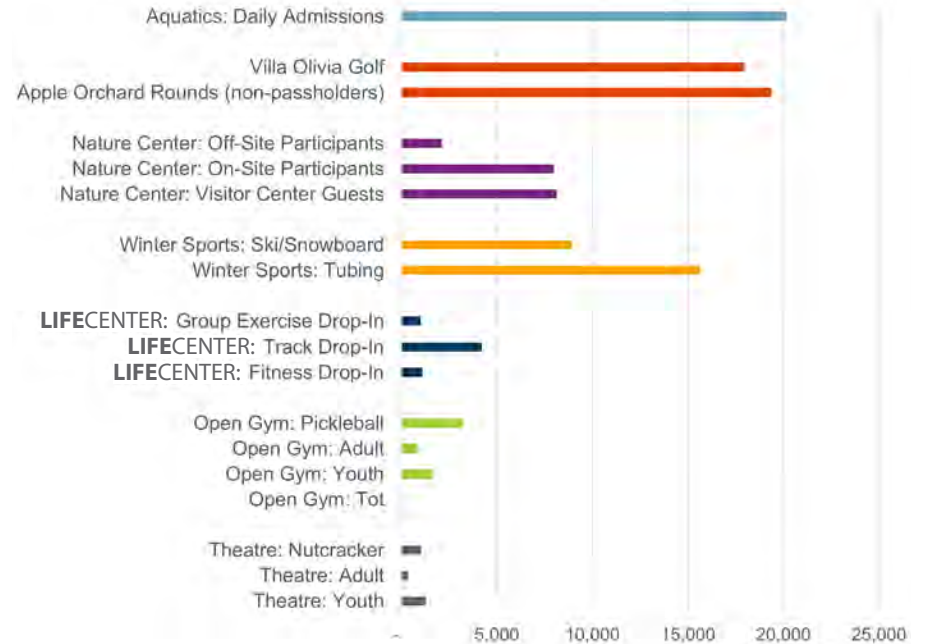


While membership sales have hovered between 135 and 170 at Splash Central, they have steadily declined from 1,498 to 1,131 memberships at Barracuda Bay Water Park. Conversely, Apple Orchard Golf Course has experienced a steady increase from 81 to 125 memberships, and **LIFECENTER** has grown by 41% from 1,907 to 2,681 memberships in the last three years.

## Drop-In Participation

Participation can also be measured by the quantity of users who visit a facility for a one-time purpose. Drop-in visits do not require registration but may require payment (depending on location); the payment secures a daily pass or ticket for admission. Figure 17 depicts the drop-in or ticketed participation for a variety of experiences throughout the District.

Figure 17: Drop-In/Ticketed Participation



With activities like tubing, golf, and aquatics experiencing drop-in participation of 15,000 participants or more per year, this means of participation is clearly an important service delivery method for the District.

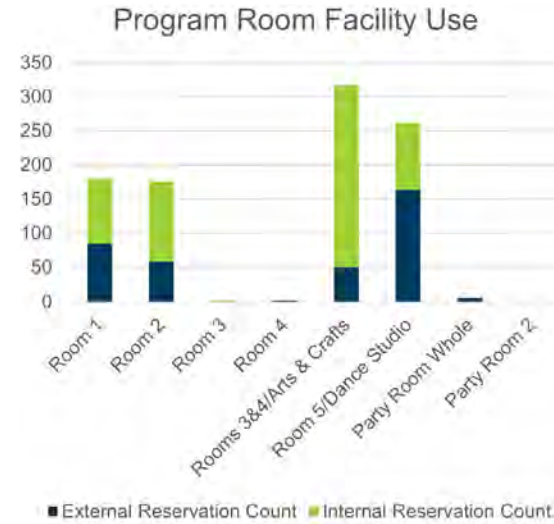
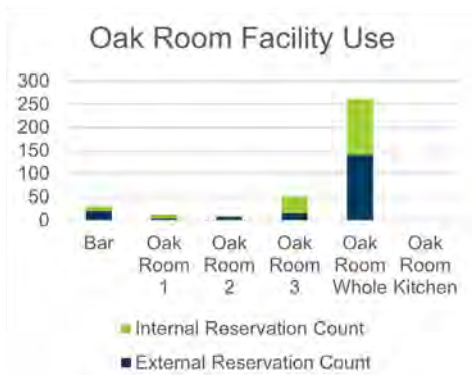
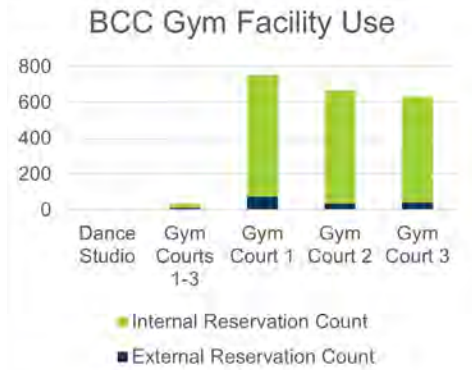
## Facility Use and Rentals

The District has numerous facilities and spaces available for rent, offering social gathering locations throughout the community. Facility use is tracked by the number of internal and external reservations. Internal reservations are typically for enrollment-based program use, and external reservations are typically paid rental experiences. The data in this section can be used to determine if the current use of the space equates to the District’s desired “highest and best use” of the amenity.

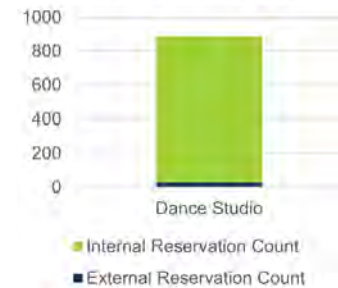
### Bartlett Community Center

The images in Figure 18 illustrate that the courts at Bartlett Community Center’s gymnasium and dance room are primarily used for internal programming than external reservations. The Oak Room, program rooms, Party Place, Splash Central, and arts & crafts room are used both internally and externally. Splash Central is used for swim lessons.

Figure 18: Bartlett Community Center Rooms Usage



### Dance Facility Use



### Splash Central Facility Use

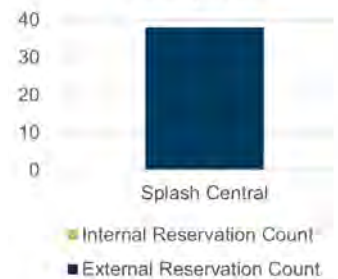


Figure 18: Bartlett Community Center Rooms Usage Continued

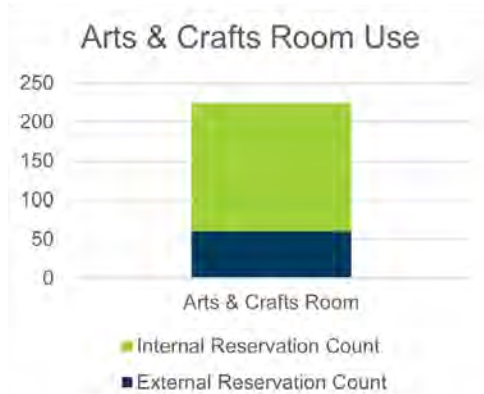


Figure 19 illustrates use data for other facilities throughout the District, including the Barracuda Bay Water Park, the Bartlett Nature Center, the Log Cabin, Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium, and the shelters and gazebo. While most facility use is split between internal and external reservations, the Log Cabin is mostly used by external renters.

Figure 19: Other District Facility Use

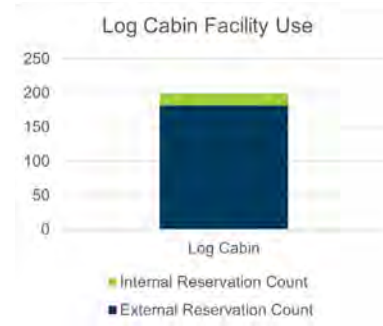
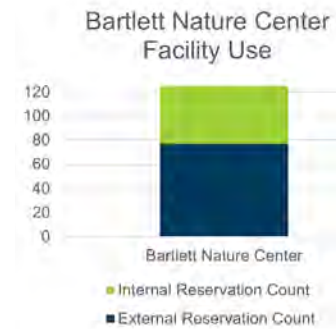


Figure 19: Other District Facility Use Continued

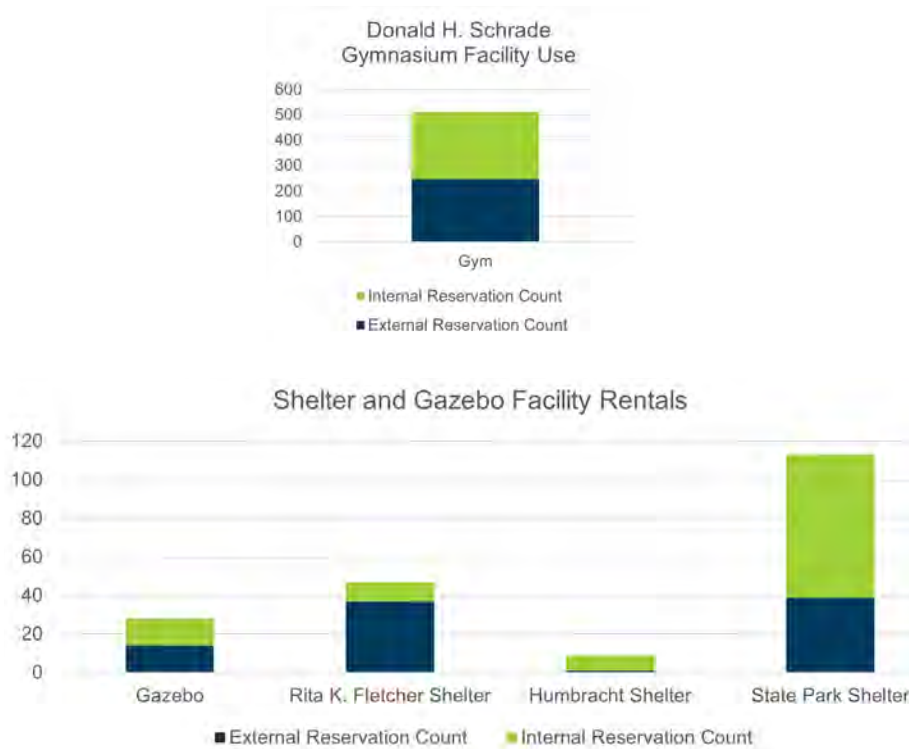
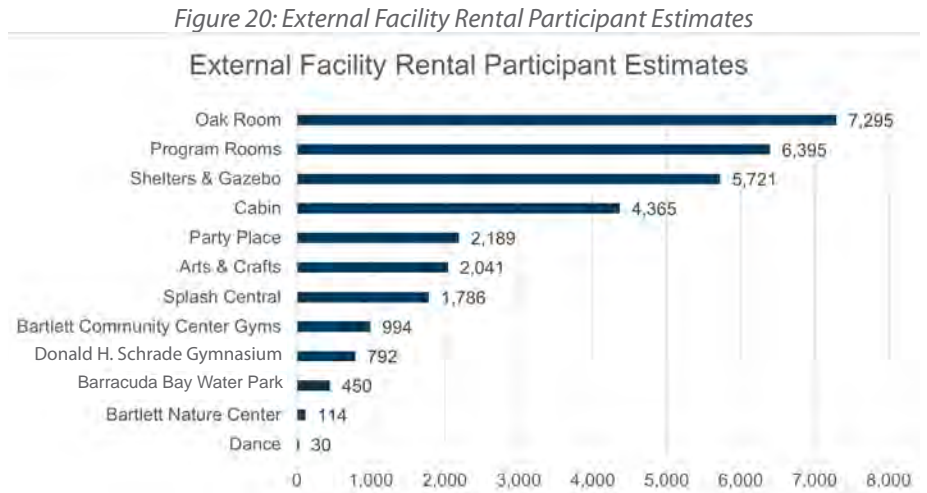


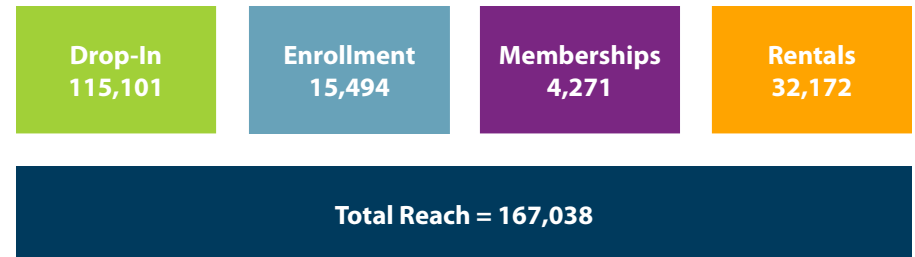
Figure 20 captures estimated participation rates for external renters of various spaces.



Of the 32,172 estimated rental headcounts, the Oak Room, program rooms, and shelters and gazebo reached the largest quantity of participants.

**Total Reach**

In summary, the District can celebrate its known total reach of at least 167,038 participants in 2024. This includes drop-in, enrollment, membership, and rental participation. The unknown reach includes park users, special event participants, sporting event spectators, and facility visitors.



## Staff Feedback

BerryDunn met with District programming staff to learn what they felt were a range of valuable strengths as well as improvement opportunities for programming efforts.

### Strengths

Staff highlighted several thriving program areas. Camps, for example, continue to be extremely popular, often filling up within minutes of registration opening. Additional camp spots were added this summer to accommodate demand. Swim lessons, swim team, free programs, pickleball, travel basketball, Family Fun Nights, and ski/snowboard lessons were all cited as areas experiencing notable growth and participation. The dance program recently shifted operational approaches, resulting in a positive shift in dynamics and participation.

### Opportunities

Conversely, District staff acknowledged that some program areas are plateauing or declining. Adult programs, despite efforts to diversify offerings, are frequently canceled due to low enrollment. Nature programs face challenges attracting participants, particularly when fees are involved, as many attendees are accustomed to free offerings. Laser tag has struggled to gain traction, largely due to competition from private industry and staffing difficulties, while teen programming also faces engagement issues. Classes like dog obedience and magic have experienced inconsistent enrollment.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was indoor space and facility constraints. Dance classes, for instance, are limited by the availability of suitable rooms, and archery programs require labor-intensive setup and takedown, with minimal staff support. Some programs are held in spaces not ideally suited for their activities. The need for additional gym space was emphasized, particularly for basketball and pickleball—especially in winter. Swim lessons and team could expand, but the pool size is static. Well and irrigation issues at Villa Olivia also impact golf and winter sport success.

Decision-making around program offerings is largely driven by recreation managers who propose new ideas and rely on a central coordinator to allocate space. The group indicated that more targeted communication and planning among staff could improve the program planning process, with suggestions for regular strategy sessions and more focused conversations about program performance.

Evaluation of programs varies. Although some program areas use surveys and Net Promoter Scores, others use a Program Recap Form. There is no formalized District process for gathering and acting on feedback. Cost recovery expectations vary, with some programs exceeding targets and others given more flexibility, especially when a program is new.

The customer experience, particularly regarding registration and access to programs, was identified as an area for improvement. The registration process could be streamlined with features like autofill and easier navigation, while the phone system and website were described as sources of frustration for both staff and customers. Various point of sale systems are used throughout the District; while this has been a challenge in the past, staff feel the current combination seems to be working for them.

Staff felt that marketing support is limited, with programming staff often responsible for taking their own photos. The District's marketing team currently relies heavily on Facebook for outreach; staff felt this approach misses certain market segments. Suggestions for improvement included expanding to Instagram, implementing text alerts, and enhancing cross-marketing and website management. Of note, in 2025 funds were added to support a part-time photographer position.

Although the District benefits from arrangements with schools, local municipal entities, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, staff felt there was room to strengthen its partner relationships. Sponsorships are another area of opportunity, particularly with local businesses. Staff indicated a need for more consistent annual meetings and agreement reviews with community groups, as working with the volunteer groups can be challenging.

Staff expressed a strong need to upgrade aging facilities like the community center and repair amenities at the nature center. Staff also expressed a desire for more interdepartmental cooperation to achieve their goals.

The staff appeared to be a team that is responsive to community needs and committed to continuous improvement. While there are clear successes in youth programming and partnerships, challenges remain in space allocation, program evaluation, customer experience, and marketing. Addressing these areas can help strengthen programming, enhance customer satisfaction, and improve operational efficiency moving forward.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations summarize opportunities to strengthen District performance.

- Monitor program cancellation rates annually with a goal to keep rates between 12% and 15%
- Formalize the District's program evaluation process
- Strengthen relationships with partners and community groups
- Improve the program planning process by coordinating interdepartmental collaboration opportunities
- Review the room assignment process to more efficiently and strategically use indoor space
- Implement a waitlist tracking process to better understand supply and demand
- Add new programming based on community need and the program inventory (where aligned)
- Consider bilingual and cultural programs to support a growing and diversifying community
- Consider a district-wide life cycle analysis to understand the broader perspective rather than individual planning
- Work to include more adult programming in the annual menu of offerings:
  - Target specific age ranges within the overarching adult category; offer more programs for young adult, adult, active adult, and senior audiences
  - Work with the townships to review ways to offset their current service offerings
- Conduct in-depth facility analyses for the Barracuda Bay Water Park and Villa Olivia for strengthening opportunities







*Connect: Community Engagement*

# CHAPTER TWO





# Overview

The Connect: Community Engagement chapter documents trends in the recreation industry and specific input received from Bartlett Park District staff, stakeholders, and community members.

## Purpose

During the Connect: Community Engagement Phase of the master planning process, the Planning Team reviewed trends, facilitated stakeholder interviews, workshopped ideas with staff, and attended a pop-up event. A community survey was also distributed to a random sampling of households in the Park District to obtain statistically-valid results. In all, more than 400 residents, stakeholders, and staff participated in the community engagement. Residents also provided input via email.

The Planning Team also reviewed the statistically valid survey conducted by aQity Research and Insights in 2023.

The purpose for understanding park and recreation trends is to determine probable demands for certain services and amenities. Recreation trend reports compiled from nationally-recognized sources to explore inactivity and participation are documented in this chapter.

In order to increase participation, knowing the trends and interests of various users groups is crucial. Significant changes in specific activities (both increases and decreases) are summarized. Summaries of all engagement sessions follow the national, state, and local trends report.

The systematic approach to community engagement provided a multitude of avenues for residents to provide input on aspirations and needs while also defining problems and opportunities for the next five years.

## Chapter Outline

- Trends Review
  - National Trends
  - State Trends
  - Local Trends
- Community Survey
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Staff Workshop
- Pop-Up Event

# METHODOLOGY

## Review of Trends

### *National, State, and Local Trends*

National trends were derived from the 2025 Sports, Fitness, and Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report facilitated by The Sports & Fitness Industry association, a top national researcher in the sports and fitness industry as well as The Outdoor Foundation's Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report (2025). State trends were derived from the 2021-2025 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Esri's Business Analyst provided local recreation participation trends.

## Community Survey

### *Statistically-valid, District-wide survey*

Conducted by aQity Research & Insights in the fall of 2023, the community survey was distributed to a random sample of households from September 11<sup>th</sup> to October 16<sup>th</sup> in the Bartlett Park District. The goal for completion was 300 completed surveys, but a total of 352 households completed the survey. The results for this sample have a 95% level of confidence with a precision rate of at least +/-5.2%. The results of the survey are considered "statistically-valid".

## Stakeholder Interviews

### *Individual discussions with key stakeholders about parks, programs, and facilities*

Specific interest groups, or stakeholders, relevant to the District were invited to participate in small group interviews and meetings. These groups, facilitated independently of one another, were asked a series of questions about their goals, objectives, desires, and hopes for the next five years as well as their opinions on the current state of the District.

## Staff Workshops

### *Workshops with full-time staff members*

Staff provided input about their goals, objectives, desires, and hopes for the next five years as well as their opinions on the current state of the District in a workshop. All departments participated.

## Pop-Up Event

### *In-Person event to gather input from community members*

The Bartlett Park District offered a community pop-up event at Pack the Park: Schoppe Park. The Hitchcock Design Group (HDG) Planning Team staffed an informational booth to engage attendees and gather community input. Booth attendance was not tracked.

# National Trends

Derived from the statistically valid surveys facilitated by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association with the Physical Activity Council and The Outdoor Foundation, the following data will help inform the Planning Team’s recommendations.

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

The PAC produces an annual Sport, Fitness, & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report providing information on participation, inactivity, spending, aspirational participation and projections. The 2025 report compiled and analyzed 18,000 online interviews collected in 2024. These surveys were then weighted against a total population of 308,888,845 ages 6 and older. The following variables were used: gender, age, income, household size, region, and population density.

Other research incorporated in this chapter references the Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report, created by the Outdoor Industry Association and Outdoor Foundation. These partner organizations research and publish the annual topline report which tracks American outdoor recreation trends with a focus on youth, diversity, and the future of the outdoors.

In addition to these studies, this chapter references Active Network, a national software company that utilizes recreation data to study market trends.

## Sports and Fitness Participation

For the eleventh consecutive year, physical activity in the U.S. has increased, and for the first time since SFIA began tracking participation, the rate has reached 80%. This means about 247.1 million Americans participated in at least one activity during 2024. This is a 6.8% increase from 2019. Comparing participation rates from 2015 to 2024 shows the greatest percent of growth by participation in outdoor sports (10.2%). Fitness sports (6.9%), racquet sports (6.6%), team sports (5.2%), winter sports (2.1%), and water sports (2.1%) all also increased in participation over the last ten years. While categories have generally grown or maintained participation from year to year, individual sports and team sports had participation decreases in the 2019 - 2022 year ranges. Participation in both has been increasing since 2021-2022 and team sports has exceeded the 2015 trend, experiencing a lower overall decline compared to individual sports. Individual sports saw a greater decrease in participation that started prior to 2019 and 2024 levels are still below 2015 and 2019 numbers despite the last two years of growth. The trend of all seven categories’ participation increases since 2022 indicates a growing prioritization of physical activity and healthy lifestyles amongst Americans.





The data collected suggests that Americans are continuing to add high-calorie burning exercise and outdoor activities to their existing routines. The most popular activity category continues to be fitness sports followed by outdoor sports, individual sports, team sports, racquet sports, water sports, and winter sports.

Core participation is active or organized participation in a sport or activity on a regular basis which indicates commitment and dedication to an activity compared to casual or intermittent participation. Core participation in 2024 was the highest it has been in the last five years, indicating a healthy and growing sports and recreation industry. The number of core participants increased to over 170 million Americans in 2024. Based on core participation, the top ten activities in 2024 defined by core participation, were:

1. Walking for Fitness (50+ times / year), 76,316,000
2. Free Weights (Dumbbells / Hand Weights) (50+ times / year, 29,684,000
3. Running / Jogging (50+ times / year), 24,005,000
4. Weight / Resistance Machines (50+ times / year), 17,967,000
5. Hiking (Day) (8+ times / year), 16,966,000
6. Stationary Cycling (Recumbent / Upright), 16,689,000
7. Free Weights (Barbell) (50+ times / year, 14,996,000
8. Yoga (50+ times / year), 13,907,000
9. Elliptical Motion/Cross-Trainer (50+ times / year), 12,716,000
10. Bodyweight Exercise & Bodyweight Accessory-Assisted Training (Calisthenics) (50+ times / year), 11,804,000

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

Racquet sports had the largest growth from 2023 to 2024 at 9.4%, followed by team sports at 8.1%. Racquet sport growth can largely be attributed to unusually high growth in pickleball (45.8%) and tennis (8.0%). Pickleball continues to be the fastest growing sport for the fourth consecutive year with an estimated 19.8 million total participants. Growth trends in the team sports category included growth in 20 of the 24 included sports with a high growth rate in wrestling (8.6%). The top ten core growth activities over the past three years are:

1. Pickleball, 355.00%
2. Cardio Tennis, 29.10%
3. Rafting, 25.50%
4. Camping, 17.70%
5. Climbing (Sport/Boulder), 16.20%
6. Hiking (Day), 16.90%
7. Football (7-on-7), 15.60%
8. Kettlebells, 6.00%
9. Cardio Kickboxing, 10.90%
10. Trail Running, 9.40%

As evidenced by the above lists, 2024 participation was concentrated in the fitness activity category which included seven of the ten activities, and outdoor sports category (two of ten activities). The remaining one activity is classified into both the fitness activity and outdoor sports categories. Growth trend activities represented a more diverse group of categories. Activities from outdoor activities (4), racquet sports (2), fitness activities (2), water activities (1), and team sports (1) are all represented in the top ten core growth activities.

These trends reveal that active people are increasingly looking for nontraditional health and recreation options that offer a fun physical, emotional, and mental experience. While the largest amount of growth is being seen in less traditional sectors, many class-based group fitness and exercise programs, as well as health club-based activities and team sports have increased in popularity over the last three years.

Of the twenty-four Team Sports activities, twenty increased in total participation from 2023 to 2024, with wrestling increasing the most at 8.6%. Basketball, Football (flag), Football (tackle), Football (7-on 7), Gymnastics, Softball (slow-pitch), and Track and Field all also saw significant growth, over 7.0% in each activity in the last year.

15 of the 17 Individual Activities saw increased participation in 2023. Trail Running experienced the greatest total participation growth, 8.5%, followed by Roller Skating (2x2 wheels) (7.4%) and Roller Skating (inline wheels) (7.3%).

2023 - 2024 total participation increased in 14 of the 23 Outdoor Activities. The greatest increases were for Bicycling (BMX) (5.8%) and Climbing (Sport/Boulder) (5.1%).

Over the last year total participation in racquet sports increased dramatically with five of the seven included activities seeing growth. The majority of category growth can be attributed to pickleball which experienced a 45.8% increase in participation. In addition to the abnormally high pickleball growth, other racquet sports activities had growth rates consistent with other categories with the next highest being Tennis (8.0%) and Squash (6.4%).

13 of the 14 water activities saw an increase in total participation over the last year. The largest increases were in Stand Up Paddling (6.6%) followed by Surfing (5.9%).

Six of the nine winter sports increased in total participation from 2022 to 2023. The greatest growth was seen for snowboarding (9.3%), then Sledding/Saucer Riding/Snow Tubing (6.6%), and Snowmobiling (5.9%).

The Fitness Activities category is further divided into three subcategories: aerobic activities, conditioning activities, and strength activities. Aerobics is the largest subcategory with 14 activities, 12 of which increased participation from 2023-2024. The greatest increase was in Stationary Cycling (Group) (6.0%), followed by Running/Jogging (5.7%). Boot Camp Style Training, Swimming for Fitness, and Aquatic Exercise also all increased by over 4%. Four of the five Conditioning Activities have grown in the last year with the greatest increase in Yoga (9.9%), then Pilates Training (8.7%). The Strength Activities subcategory includes 4 activities which all increased in total participation. These are Kettlebells (7.7%) followed by Weight/Resistance Machines (4.8%), Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights) (4.4%), and Free Weights (Barbell) (4.1%).

Three-year growth trends indicated that the following activities saw steady or increasing participation from 2021 to 2023 among participating ages 6+ and are likely to continue to provide opportunities to engage more people in the future:

- Pickleball, 265.20%
- Alpine Touring, 125.40%
- Winter Fat Biking, 79.30%
- Snowboard Touring, 57.20%
- Snowshoeing, 42.70%
- Horseback Riding, 24.00%
- Pilates Training, 23.60%
- Ice Skating, 21.00%
- Golf (on/off-course), 21.20%
- Trail Running, 20.50%
- Volleyball (Court), 19.20%
- Swimming on a Team, 18.60%
- Barre, 17.70%
- Tai Chi, 17.20%
- Bicycling (BMX), 16.50%
- Bowling, 15.00%
- Snowboarding, 13.90%
- Gymnastics, 12.30%
- Softball (Fast-Pitch), 12.10%
- Skiing (Cross-Country), 19.40%
- Soccer (Outdoor), 12.50%
- Track and Field, 9.60%
- Squash, 11.70%
- Birdwatching, 11.20%
- Climbing (Sport/Boulder), 11.10%
- Wrestling, 10.30%
- Basketball, 10.20%
- Swimming for Fitness, 10.50%
- Rowing Machine, 10.40%
- Cheerleading, 9.90%
- Ice Hockey, 8.70%
- Cardio Kickboxing, 8.50%
- Football (7-on-7), 21.00%
- Baseball, 7.10%
- Kettlebells, 7.20%
- Camping, 7.50%
- Hunting (Bow), 7.50%

- Stair-Climbing Machine, 7.00%
- Football (Tackle), 8.00%
- Football (Flag), 5.90%
- Softball (Slow-Pitch), 6.10%
- Dance/Step/Choreographed Exercise, 6.20%
- Soccer (Outdoor), 12.50%
- Aquatic Exercise, 9.10%
- Racquetball, 9.10%
- Fishing (Saltwater), 9.00%
- Volleyball (Court), 19.20%
- Hiking (Day), 4.90%
- Free Weights (Barbell), 4.10%
- Treadmill, 2.30%
- Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights), 2.50%
- Wildlife Viewing, 3.40%

- Adventure Racing, -1.00%
- Bodyweight Exercise/Calisthenics, -0.20%
- Climbing (Indoor), -11.70%
- Archery, -4.50%
- Hunting (Handgun), -1.10%
- Camping (RV), -0.30%
- Shooting (Trap/Skeet), -0.70%
- Hunting (Shotgun), -0.70%
- Roller Skating (Inline Wheels), -3.10%

These same growth trends also indicate which activities have been trending down in participation:

- Roller Hockey, -12.30%
- MMA for Competition, -12.60%
- Cardio Tennis, -12.00%
- Boxing/MMA for Fitness, -11.00%
- Rugby, 10.00%
- Bowling, -10.00%
- Boardsailing/Windsurfing, -11.40%
- Canoeing, -8.80%
- Fishing (Fly), -8.20%
- Badminton, -7.20%
- Bicycling (Mountain/Non-Paved Surface), -6.80%
- Volleyball (Beach/Sand), -6.60%
- Target Shooting (Rifle), -4.70%
- Ultimate Frisbee, -4.70%
- Target Shooting (Handgun), -4.30%
- Weight/Resistance Machines, -3.90%
- Cross-Training Style Workouts, -3.80%
- Elliptical Motion/Cross-Trainer, -1.90%
- High Impact/Intensity Training, -0.80%
- Walking for Fitness, -1.60%
- Lacrosse, -4.50%

## Outdoor Sports & Participation

The Outdoor Industry Association is a collective of outdoor industry leaders which publishes an annual trends report. According to the most recent Outdoor Foundation Topline Report, published in 2025, over half the U.S. population (58.6%) participated in one or more outdoor sport or activity in 2024. A record number of people, 181.1 million, went on at least outdoor recreation outing over the course of the year. This represents an increase in participant base of about 32 million people, but frequency of individual participation is generally declining across the last thirteen years. 2025 recorded an average number of 65 outings per participant which is slightly higher than 2023, but still about 22 fewer outings than recorded in 2012. This overall trend of increasing overall participation but decreasing quantities of outings suggests a shift towards more casual participation.

Growth was most concentrated amongst the youth (6-12) and senior (65+) age groups (+5.6% and 7.4%) and participants identifying as black and Hispanic (12.8% and 11.8%). Households with incomes over \$100,000 also increased participation (10.7%), as did non-college educated high school graduates (11.2%).

The Outdoor Foundation Topline Report identified the most popular activities as walking for Fitness, 115M participants, and Hiking, 63M participants. The activities most likely to attract new participants included Hiking, Camping, Fishing, Bicycling, and Running and it was determined that people who are participating in longer duration activities such as camping and backpacking are most likely to engage in multiple outdoor activities.

## Engaging Inactives

An “inactive” person is defined by the Physical Activity Council as one who does not participate in any of the sports/activities covered in the PAC Overview Report. In 2024, 61.8 million (20%) Americans were inactive. This is the lowest inactivity has been since tracking began and the seventh consecutive year of inactivity decline. Inactivity went down for all eight age groups from 2024 to 2025 and inactivity at every age group was significantly lower in 2024 than it was in 2019, pre-pandemic. By age, the youngest groups, 6-12 and 13-17, recorded the greatest declines of over 10% each. While their overall activeness is increasing, Americans over 65 have the largest rate of inactivity, reflecting the trend that people generally become less active as they age.

In order to understand how to engage inactives in sports and activities, the PAC survey lists “aspirational” activities that inactives are interested in participating in. Aspirational activities are becoming more varied between age groups but swimming for fitness and camping made the top ten list for all age groups in 2024. Running / jogging made the list for all age groups except 55-64 and 65+. Working out with weights, working out using machines, or working out using weight resistance machines made the list for all age groups except 6-12. All age groups show interest in some outdoor activities such as hiking, or fishing, in addition to camping.

Active adults, as well as inactives, also tend to be interested in social programs and sports leagues as well as active recreation. Active Network recommends the following activities for adult recreation programs:

- Sports – Broomball, Inner Tube Water Polo, Pickleball, Wallyball
- Exercise – Beyond Zumba, Dance Buffet

(multiple styles of dance in a single program), Kettlebells, Outdoor Yoga, CrossFit

- Technology – Beginner’s Guide to iPad, Social Media, Digital Photography
- Entertainment – Karaoke, Improv, Murder Mystery Dinners, Speed Dating, Wii for Seniors
- Art – Cooking, Drawing/Painting, Jewelry Making, Mixed Media Arts, Pottery, Quilting
- Professional/Other – Languages, Estate Planning, Self-Publishing, finances
- Other - Life skills, Brain fitness, Writing, Backyard agriculture

Many agencies are “branding” their active adult programs for younger populations instead of the traditional seniors to encourage long-term participation.



# State Trends

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

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

The 2021-2025 SCORP identified Illinois' continued low ranking of per capita supply of outdoor recreation land and facilities compared to the rest of the nation. As a result, park and recreation agencies throughout Illinois consistently plan for and achieve a high level of excellence with the recreation opportunities they provide to their communities and land acquisition remains a high priority where possible.

## Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory

There are about 1.5 million acres of outdoor recreation land in Illinois, ranging from federal and state lands to schools and private commercial lands. Municipal agencies, which include park and recreation departments, park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts, and county-level park departments, provide an estimated total of 350,900 acres of parks. They also own 195,800 acres of natural areas and lease/manage another 15,600 acres of open space.

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

## Top Activities

Based on the 2020 Illinois Community Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory, the top five trends across the state by importance for activities to be made available to Illinois residents are pleasure walking, scenic drives, swimming in an outdoor pool, picnicking, and bicycling (road) as determined by the Illinois resident responses.

These results align with the reported preference for investment in trail development and maintenance and the high participation in trail activities such as pleasure walking and running/jogging which had the highest frequency for median participation/year among resident responses. The continued and increasing popularity in pickleball and wildlife/bird watching as well as the decreasing participation in many categories from the 2014 results is likely due to the aging populations in communities across the state.





According to the survey, municipal parks or county preserves are used as critical, close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities and provide a variety of activities for programming/events, sports, trail systems, and play. State parks are typically tourism destinations and are significant conservation sites mostly used for wildlife and water activities such as tent camping, vehicle camping, hiking, motor boating, and water skiing. Federal locations in Illinois consist mostly of water bodies and are primarily used for sailing, water skiing, and motor boating. Private recreation locations may offer a variety of activities such as athletic fields, walking tracks, playgrounds, campgrounds, and hunting areas.

The importance of providing outdoor recreation opportunities close to residents' homes or neighborhoods has continued to increase with most of the surveyed activities reported to be taking a more localized form. While this may be partially attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, previous surveys have also shown greater participation at localized locations for most activities.

### Funding Priorities

Public recreation providers identified their top funding priorities for two categories: Outdoor Recreation and conservation efforts and Facilities. For outdoor recreation and conservation, the top three priorities were "maintain existing parks/recreation areas," "provide environmental/conservation programs," and "develop/improve existing land/water open spaces." The top facility priorities were "inclusive/ADA programs/facilities," "community/regional parks," and "Neighborhood Parks."

### Attitudes about Outdoor Recreation

Respondents were asked to rate the various factors they considered to be important when making decisions about engaging in outdoor recreation opportunities. Top contributing factors to respondents' decisions to participate in outdoor recreation activities include "to have fun," "exercise/keep healthy," "spend time with family and friends," and "experience nature and/or the outdoors." Survey respondents indicated that "health and fitness," "area inclusion"/service for all people, and "quality of life and economic development" are important aspects of parks and recreation. Additionally, over 70% of residents agreed with the importance of all of the other resources listed in the survey including "maintenance," "health and fitness," "area inclusion" (access for all people), "quality of life and economic development," "trails and greenway development," "wildlife habitat protected and restored," "conservation education," "public access to lakes, rivers, and streams," and "land acquisition - outdoor rec." The top reported concerns regarding parks and recreation were "facilities are clean," "parking available," "increased accessibility," and "educational activities needed."

### Outdoor Recreation Priorities

Priorities identified by the IDNR are listed in the 2021-2025 State of Illinois SCORP as:

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

# Local Trends

Local recreation participation trend information was derived from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) Sports and Market Leisure Potential and Recreation Expenditures Report and applied to Bartlett Park District (BPD) boundaries.

This data is based on national propensities to use various products and services, applied to the local demographic composition of Bartlett Park District. Usage data was collected by Growth for Knowledge Mediamark Research and Intelligence, LLC (GfK MRI) in a national survey that was representative of U.S. households. Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the relative likelihood of the adults in the specified area to exhibit certain consumer behaviors or purchasing patterns compared to the U.S. population. An MPI of 100 represents the U.S. average.

Based on projected population, the top ten recreational activities Bartlett residents are most likely to participate in are:

1. Walking for Exercise (12,474 adults/households; 37.6% of total BPD population)
2. Hiking (7,203 adults/households; 21.7% of total BPD population)
3. Swimming (6,142 adults/households; 18.5% of total BPD population)
4. Weight Lifting (5,693 adults/households; 17.1% of total BPD population)
5. Bicycling (Road) (3,913 adults/households; 11.8% of total BPD population)
6. Jogging or Running (3,796 adults/households; 11.4% of total BPD population)
7. Cornhole (3,699 adults/households; 11.1% of total BPD population)

8. Yoga (3,644 adults/households; 11.0% of total BPD population)
9. Bowling (3,500 adults/households; 10.5% of total BPD population)
10. Fishing (Fresh Water) (3,312 adults/households; 10.0% of total BPD population)

The number of activities with an MPI over 100 is higher than the Planning Team typically finds, which speaks to a very active community. Most communities have scores over 100 for approximately 12-15 activities, but Bartlett Park District has 34 activities that score over 100. This bodes well for program expansion in the future, particularly in fitness and outdoor-related recreation activities.

Because the MPI indicates likely participation, these results indicate good potential for further expansion of both indoor and outdoor recreation activities, and there may be opportunities to grow some program areas in parks.





## Sports and Leisure Market Potential

Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of Adults/HHs	Percent	MPI
Participated in Pickleball Last 12 Months	1,592	4.8%	132
Participated in Spinning Last 12 Months	677	2.0%	123
Participated in Boating (Power) Last 12 Months	1,780	5.4%	122
Participated in Skiing (Downhill) Last 12 Months	1,102	3.3%	122
Participated in Paddleboarding Last 12 Months	1,041	3.1%	121
Participated in Golf Last 12 Months	3,205	9.7%	120
Participated in Snorkeling/Diving Last 12 Months	901	2.7%	120
Participated in Rowing (Indoor/Outdoor) Last 12 Months	713	2.1%	119
Participated in Bicycling (Road) Last 12 Months	3,913	11.8%	118
Participated in Cornhole Last 12 Months	3,699	11.1%	118
Participated in Hiking Last 12 Months	7,203	21.7%	118
Participated in Canoeing or Kayaking Last 12 Months	2,762	8.3%	116
Participated in Walking for Exercise Last 12 Months	12,474	37.6%	116
Participated in Pilates Last 12 Months	1,237	3.7%	115
Participated in Ping Pong Last 12 Months	1,524	4.6%	115
Participated in Yoga Last 12 Months	3,644	11.0%	115
Participated in Swimming Last 12 Months	6,142	18.5%	114
Participated in Marathon/Triathlon Last 12 Months	423	1.3%	113
Participated in Sailing Last 12 Months	434	1.3%	113
Participated in Bicycling (Mountain) Last 12 Months	1,179	3.5%	112
Participated in Weight Lifting Last 12 Months	5,693	17.1%	112
Participated in Jogging or Running Last 12 Months	3,796	11.4%	111
Participated in Aerobics Last 12 Months	2,733	8.2%	110
Participated in Ice Skating Last 12 Months	930	2.8%	110
Participated in Backpacking Last 12 Months	1,223	3.7%	109
Participated in Tennis Last 12 Months	1,282	3.9%	109
Participated in Bowling Last 12 Months	3,500	10.5%	107
Participated in Frisbee Last 12 Months	1,026	3.1%	107
Participated in Jet Skiing Last 12 Months	551	1.7%	105

## Sports and Leisure Market Potential continued

Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of Adults/HHs	Percent	MPI
Participated in Fishing (Fresh Water) Last 12 Months	3,312	10.0%	104
Participated in Horseback Riding Last 12 Months	687	2.1%	104
Participated in Soccer Last 12 Months	1,268	3.8%	102
Participated in Softball Last 12 Months	612	1.8%	102
Participated in Target Shooting Last 12 Months	1,558	4.7%	102



# Community Survey

aQity Research & Insights administered a statistically valid community survey for the Bartlett Park District during the fall of 2023 outside of the District’s Comprehensive Master Planning Process. However, the data collected from this survey was used to help inform the recreation needs of the community.

## Overview

aQity Research & Insights administered a statistically valid survey for the Bartlett Park District, Illinois from September 11-October 6, 2023. The purpose of the survey was to help determine park, facility and recreation priorities for the community.

## Methodology

aQity Research & Insights mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households throughout the Bartlett Park District. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online.

After the surveys were mailed, aQity Research & Insights followed up with residents to encourage participation. To prevent people who were not residents of the Bartlett Park District from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting their survey. aQity Research & Insights then matched the addresses entered

online with the addresses originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not included in the final database for this report.

The goal was to receive 300 completed surveys from households within the Bartlett Park District. This goal was exceeded, with 352 completed surveys collected. The overall results for the sample of 352 residents have a precision of at least +/-5.2% at the 95% confidence level.

The major findings of the survey are summarized in the following pages.

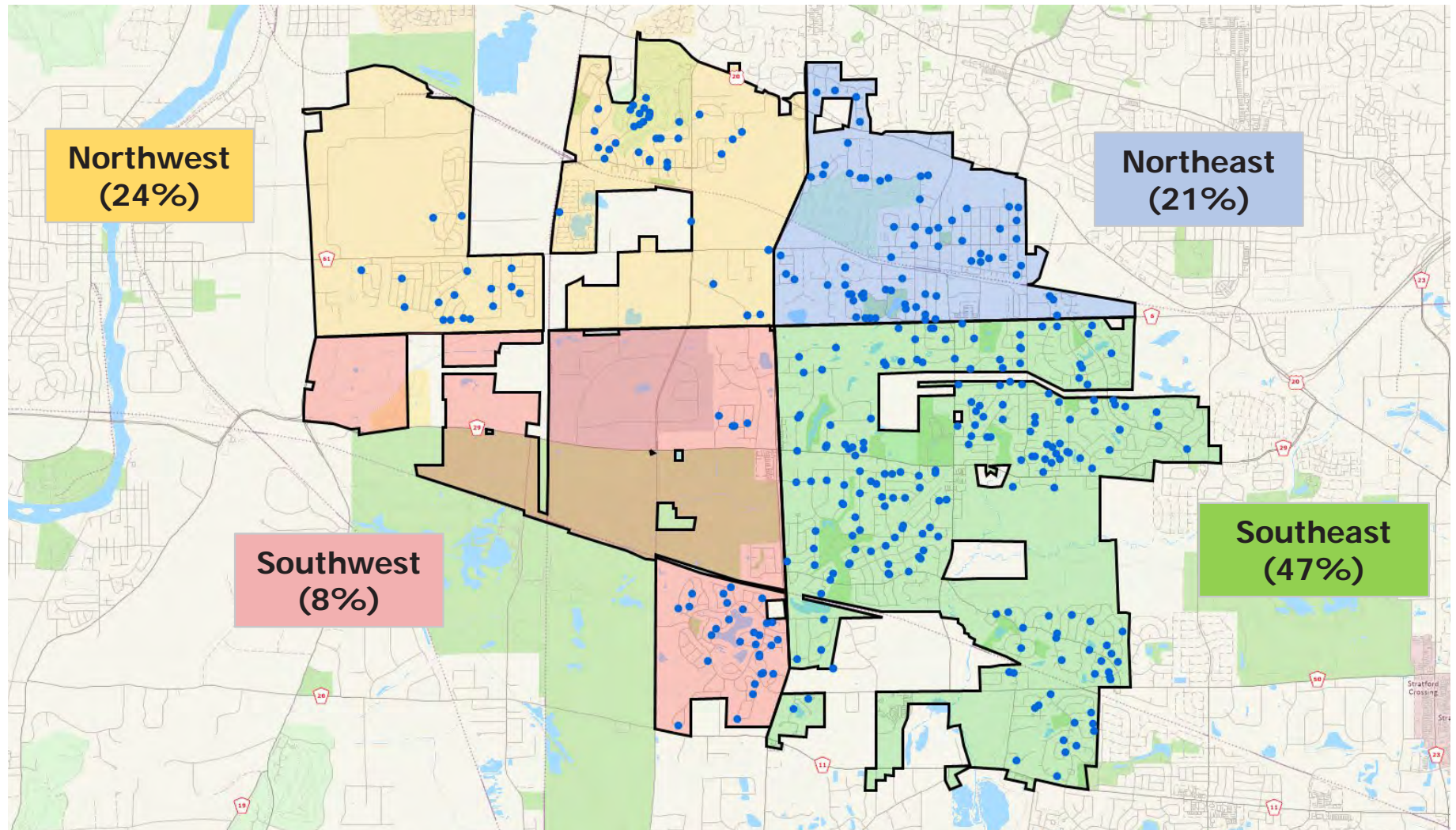
Some facility names have been changed as part of a District-wide re-branding effort since the statistically valid survey was prepared. The updated facility names are included below for reference:

- Rita K. Fletcher Park - formerly Apple Orchard West Park
- Barracuda Bay Water Park - formerly Bartlett Aquatic Center
- Villa Olivia Golf, Ski, and Event Venue - formerly Villa Olivia Golf/Ski/Banquet Facility
- Splash Central Indoor Aquatic Center - formerly Splash Central Indoor Pool
- Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium - formerly Schrader Gymnasium

## Regional Distribution of Respondents

### Key Takeaways

- The overall esteem for Bartlett Park District exceeds the state average (80% vs. 68%) but is ranked in the middle when compared to adjacent agencies
- 92% of respondents felt well represented in BPD offerings
- 94% of respondents have visited the parks in the past 12 months



## Visited a BPD Park or Facility in the Past 12 Months

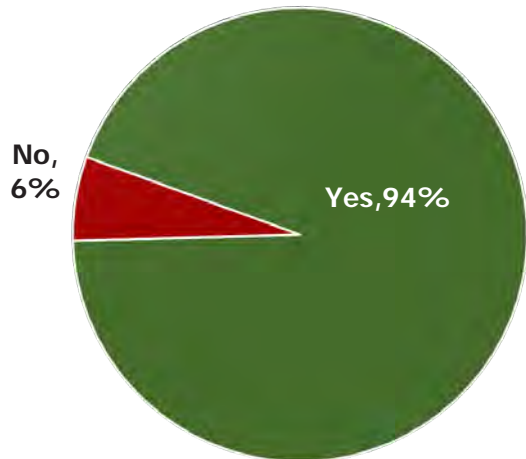
### Key Takeaways

The top three BPD strengths:

- Variety of programs
- Youth programs and events
- Good programs/events/general

The top three BPD weaknesses:

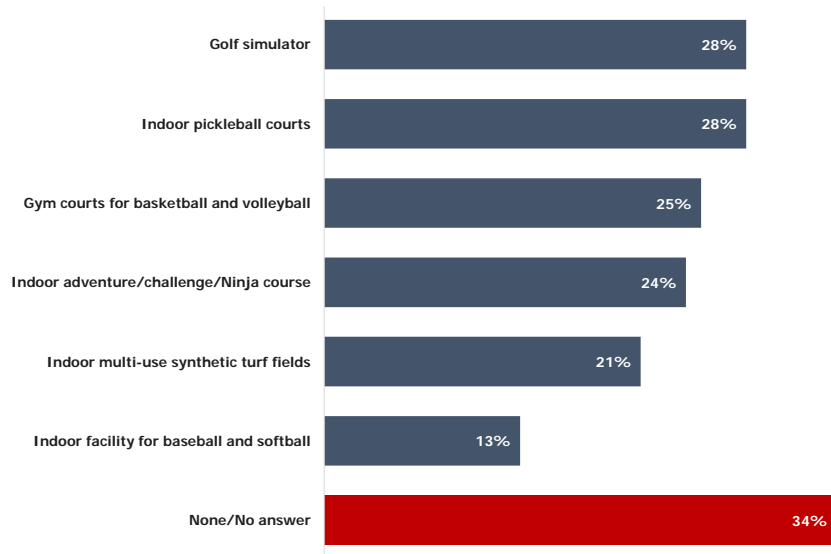
- More/better programs for adults
- Limited hours/want more hours
- Fitness Center/**LIFECENTER**



BPD Parks (NET 88%, n=352)	
Bartlett Park	48%
Apple Orchard Community Park	48%
Beaver Pond	27%
Apple Orchard West Park	27%
Leiseberg Park/Spray Playground	24%
Riley's Run Park/Dog Park	15%
Sunrise Park	13%
O'Brien Woods/Trail	11%
Tallgrass Park	11%
Nature Ridge Park	10%
Blue Heron Park/Spray Playground	8%
Schick Park	7%
Prairieview Park	7%
Humbracht Park	7%
Hawk View Park	6%
Happy Trails Park	6%
Firefighter's Park	5%

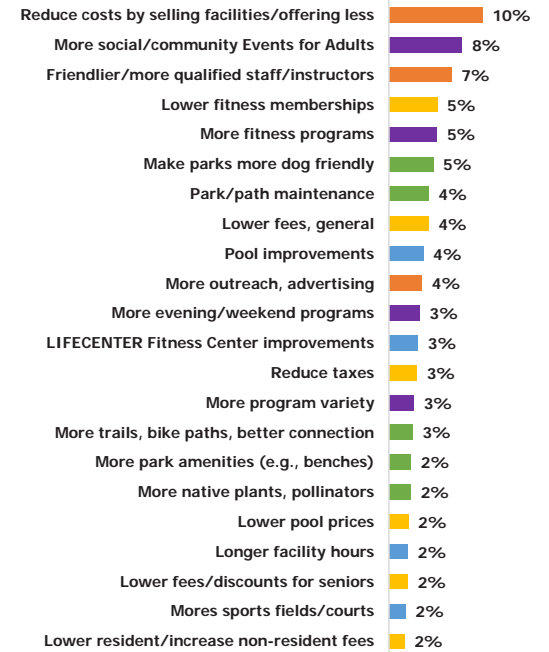
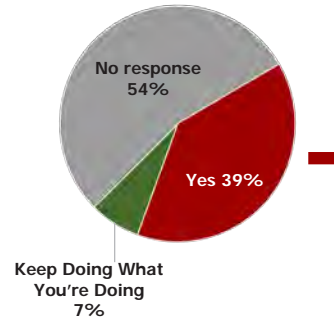
Fairview Park	5%
Schrader Park	5%
Trails End Park	5%
Hidden Oaks Park	4%
Newport Park	4%
Majestic Oaks Park	4%
BPD Facilities (NET 78%)	
Bartlett Community Center	56%
LIFECENTER Health/Fitness Club	34%
Outdoor Pool	34%
Villa Olivia Golf/Ski/Banquet Facility	29%
Splash Central Indoor Pool	28%
Apple Orchard Golf Course	25%
Bartlett Nature Center	24%
Oak Room Banquet Room	13%
Schrader Gymnasium	7%
Bartlett Skate Park	6%

## Indoor Facilities of Interest/Needed Among Residents

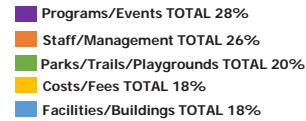
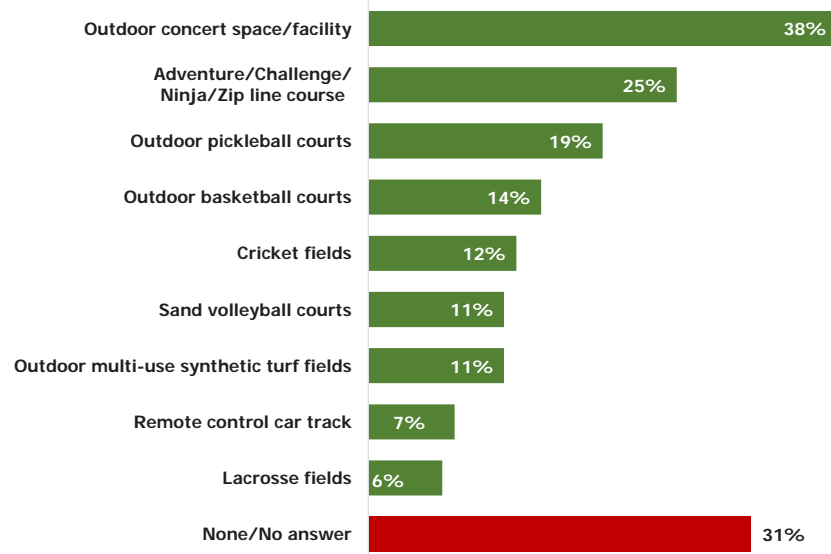


## Suggestions to Serve Households Better

Can BPD Better Serve Your Household?



## Outdoor Facilities of Interest/Needed Among Residents



# Stakeholder Input

## Methodology

A total of 19 stakeholders within the Bartlett Park District's community were invited to attend a virtual stakeholder interview. Six (6) total community stakeholders attended representing five (5) organizations.

The interview was held in two 45-minute sessions consisting of up to five (5) participants each. Each participant responded to a series of questions structured as a group discussion facilitated by the Hitchcock Design Group (HDG) Planning Team. Some questions were asked out of order, and not every question was covered in each group based on the constituent groups in attendance and time constraints. Responses were paraphrased, not quoted directly, and the notes reflect common themes or similar comments shared by multiple participants.

Following introductions (questions 1 and 2), the Planning Team provided an overview of the Comprehensive Master Plan process, goals of the plan, and schedule. The remainder of the meeting included discussion around the rest of the questions.

## Participants

- Chicago Rush Soccer Club
- Hanover Township
- Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA)
- Village of Bartlett
- Bartlett Public Library District

## Interview Questions:

1. Are you a resident within the Bartlett Park District jurisdictional boundaries? How long have you lived in Bartlett or the surrounding area?
2. What organization do you represent and how long have you been with them? Have you had past involvement or partnership with the Bartlett Park District?
3. In your experience working or coordinating with Bartlett Park District, what has worked well? What are some areas that could be improved?
4. How is your organization expecting to provide recreation over the next 5 years and how can Bartlett Park District be involved?
5. What service, facility, or amenity gaps do you feel exist in the region?
6. Are there any programs and/or events in which you are affiliated with that include the Bartlett Park District and are there improvements or additional resources needed?
7. In comparing recreation providers within the local region, what do you prefer about Bartlett Park District offerings and what do you prefer at other locations?
8. What programs do you currently participate in or have in the past that you feel are beneficial to the community? How could those be improved or expanded on?
9. What additional programs, perhaps some that you don't actively participate in, do you support, and feel would benefit the community as a whole?
10. Based on today's discussion, what do you think are the top priorities the Bartlett Park District should focus on for the next five years?
11. Do you see other opportunities for increased or added partnerships with the Bartlett Park District?

## General Comments

The list below summarizes the stakeholder responses. Responses are paraphrased rather than quoted directly, reflecting common themes and repeated comments across participants. Items that were mentioned by multiple participants are followed by a number in parentheses indicating how many stakeholders mentioned it.

### Facilities

- Improved facilities to allow Bartlett Park District to host multi-sport tournaments and community events (1)
- A new indoor, multi-sport facility to support year-round and winter training (3)
- Current indoor space is limited compared to nearby communities in terms of size, amenities, and overall quality (2)
- A new complex would attract visitors to Bartlett, supporting local businesses and the local economy (1)
- Additional artificial turf fields are a key priority (3)
- Additional lighting at fields is a key priority (2)
- Additional programming/rental space is needed (1)

### Field Expansion

- Additional fields with lights and artificial turf are needed to support expanded programming and community use (2)
- The growing population has increased demand for field space beyond current capacity (1)
- Bartlett Park District's existing fields fall short compared to neighboring communities in quantity, field quality, and supporting amenities (1)
- Rental fees for available fields are high, limiting accessibility for some groups (2)
- Prioritize expansion of multi-sport fields to support a wider variety of athletic opportunities and participation (2)

### Maintenance and Upkeep

- Proactively plan and budget for ongoing and preventive maintenance needs (2)
- Many previously planted trees have matured and now require regular trimming and care (1)
- Prioritize maintaining and improving existing facilities before pursuing new construction (2)
- Continue prioritizing maintenance of outdoor fields during colder months to extend seasonal use (2)
- Prioritize consistent upkeep of existing outdoor trails to preserve quality and safety (1)

### Programs

- Continue offering inclusive programs and services that support individuals with disabilities (1)
- Maintain dedicated space for programming and summer day camps to ensure consistent community access and engagement (1)
- More bilingual and cultural programs are needed to support a growing and diverse community (1)
- More programs and spaces for teens are needed (1)
- The costs of Park District rentals and programs is a possible barrier for community members (2)

### Accessibility

- Incorporate universal design principles into new and renovated playgrounds to ensure inclusive play opportunities for all (1)
- Prioritize designs that benefit individuals with disabilities while enhancing the overall experience for the entire Bartlett community (1)
- Improve accessible pathways and connections to outdoor fields and amenities to promote access for all users (1)

### Future Directions & Priorities

- Invest in improved staff training (2)
- Identify and sustain the programs and facilities that are most successful within the Park District (1)
- Enhance community awareness by promoting the Park District's strengths and available offerings (1)
- Ensure adequate staffing levels (1)

## Community Context

- Communication between the Park District and community partners is strong and effective (5)
- Relationships between the Park District and stakeholder groups are positive (4)
- The Park District frequently serves as a key partner in organizing and supporting large-scale community events (3)
- Issues are generally addressed in a timely manner (1)
- Bartlett Park District maintains an open, responsive, and collaborative approach with staff and community members (1)

## Partnerships between Agencies

- More agency partnership opportunities on programming would be beneficial to the community. The following ideas were suggested:
  - Puzzle night (1)
  - Adult day trips (1)
  - Teen nights (1)
  - Learning English – conversation (1)
- More maintenance partnerships needed – improvements to Koehler Fields and Ruzicka field mentioned (1)

## Prominent Recurring Themes

### Field Expansion

1. The Park District needs more artificial turf and lighted fields to meet growing demand and support year-round, multi-sport use. Existing fields are limited in number and quality compared to nearby communities (Elgin, Schaumburg, and Roselle mentioned), and high rental fees restrict access. Expanding field space will improve accessibility and strengthen recreational opportunities.

### Facilities

2. The Bartlett Park District needs improved facilities to expand programming and meet community demand. A new indoor, multi-sport complex with turf fields is a key priority to address limited indoor space, support year-round training, and host tournaments and events. The project would also attract visitors and boost the local economy. A future outdoor event space such as an amphitheater could support and facilitate these new program offerings.

### Maintenance and Upkeep

3. Planning and budgeting for ongoing maintenance is a priority to ensure long-term sustainability of its facilities and natural areas. Many existing trees have matured and now require regular trimming and care. Maintaining and improving current facilities should take precedence over new construction. Continued upkeep of outdoor fields and trails will help extend use, ensure safety, and maintain quality for the community.

### Programs/Events

4. More bilingual and cultural programs and events are needed to support a fast-growing and diverse population. More interagency partnerships could help service this need. The cost of Park District rentals and programs is seen as a barrier for community members to participate in recreational offerings.



# Staff Workshop

## Methodology

The Bartlett Park District hosted a staff workshop on July 22, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the TC White Administration Building. Employees of all departments were asked to attend and participate in the meeting and workshop. The meeting was facilitated by Planning Team consultants from Hitchcock Design Group (HDG). In total, 20 people attended the meeting and participated in the workshop.

Participants were given a notecard and asked to write down all their comments and suggestions for Bartlett Park District relating to parks and facilities. They then selected their top two to write down on sticky notes. HDG facilitated organizing the responses into categories. Throughout the organizational phase, participants were given the opportunity to share clarifications on their sticky notes, confirm categorizations, and adjust the name of each category. Once categories were finalized, participants were invited to vote on their favorite idea by placing a sticker on a category or individual sticky note idea within one of the categories. The following items are direct quotes of the information provided and have not been edited.

## Staff Workshop Results

### Adult Focus

- Adult content experiences
- Adult focus – more spa, steam sauna, hot soak pool, or sports – sand volleyball, drinks, music, food, pickleball

### Marketing & Website

- Better promotion of all parks and amenities
- Keep up with social media trends
- Enhance digital experience – mobile app, website upgrade
- Chat bot mobile app

### Safety

- Safety

### Programming

- Programs that promote social connections of all residents
- More community events/meet ups – small
- Create space for patrons with special need (sensory room)
- Keeping up with trends in sports and facilities

### Community Outreach

- Community survey
- Enhance communication and outreach
- Continue to seek community feedback
- Engaging community members and being responsive to changing needs
- Keeping needs and community in mind

### Sustainability

- Native plantings instead of some of our large green spaces
- Sustainability for current and new programs, facilities, parks
- Sustainability, recycling, cleanliness. Overall care and practice of upkeep and infrastructures create plans of work to follow

### Technology

- Technology
- Work order system (2)
- Improve registration and promotions/ advertising efforts
- Utilize current software to make online registration easier – purchase app.

### New Amenities

- Outdoor pickleball court
- More program space
- Indoor turf field
- More storage areas
- Music venue
- Space
- Outdoor turf
- Explore new amenities, indoor turf, expand aquatics, year-round multisport complex
- New structures, ideas, sports, programs, etc.
- Turf fields for year-round sport leagues
- Provide amenities. Bike rental, equipment rental. Make it easier for all to participate

### Infrastructure Maintenance

- Infrastructure
- Maintenance/updates of facilities and parks
- HVAC
- HVAC and BCC
- Update current amenities before adding new
- Updated facility
- Capital assets – replacing older items
- Updating facilities and infrastructure
- Upgrade aging facilities – HVAC
- Preventative maintenance and facility updates
- Infrastructure
- Preventative maintenance plan
- Update irrigation system and well before both hit end of life

### Procedures

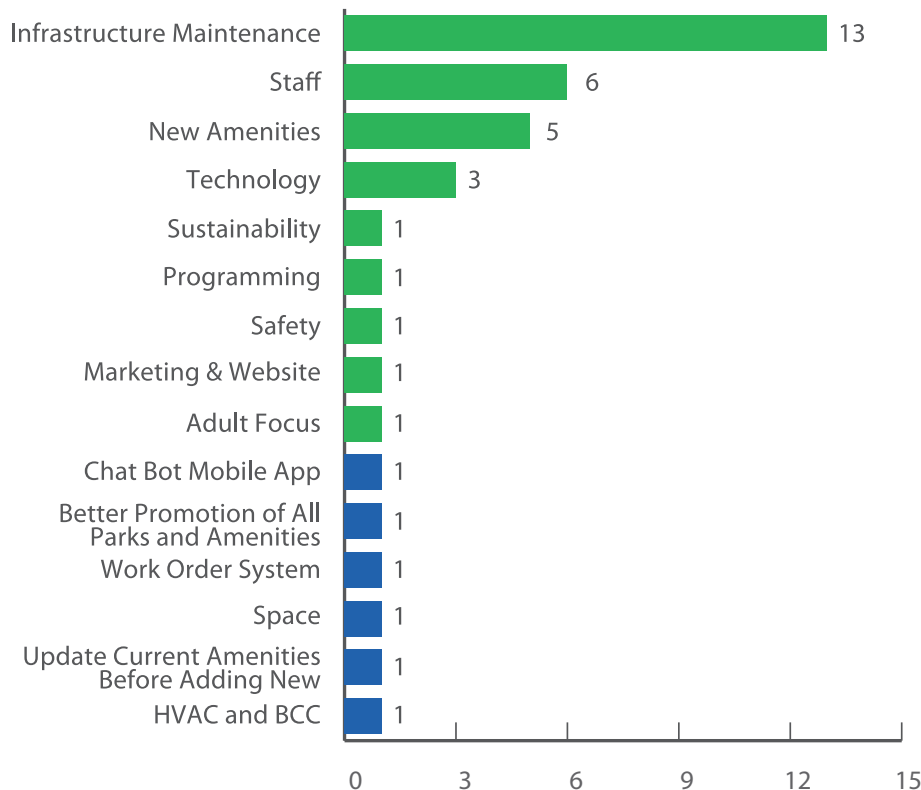
- Staff involvement when booking facility use

### Staff

- More staff to support growth
- Staff appreciation and retention
- Weekly meetings within each department
- Staff retention
- Evaluate staffing levels and contract if needed
- Staff consistency and adequate numbers
- Additional staff support to meet needs of community

### Staff Workshop Priority Categories

Category indicated in green and sub-category item indicated in blue. Number indicates total number of votes received.



# Pop-Up Event

## Methodology

The Bartlett Park District hosted a pop-up event on July 21, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Pack the Park: Schoppe Park. The event was advertised on the Park District website, Bartlett Park District Summer 2025 guide, and social media. Planning Team consultants from Hitchcock Design Group (HDG) operated a booth at the event to engage attendees and gather community input. Booth attendance was not tracked.

Participants interacted with three boards where they could respond to the question “What should the Bartlett Park District focus on for parks, facilities, programs and special events over the next 5-10 years?” by writing comments on the relevant board.

Attendees were also invited to share any comments or suggestions regarding the Bartlett Park District’s parks and facilities. The following items are direct quotes from participants on the comment boards and have not been altered.

## Pop-Up Event Results

### What should the agency focus on over the next five years, specific to parks?

- Dog park at Schoppe Park – we are densely populated with small yards
- Dog park and cat park
- Art program
- Put lights up at Apple Orchard Park for nighttime
- Two more pickleball courts
- Gaga ball pit
- More outdoor basketball courts

### What should the agency focus on over the next five years, specific to programs and special events?

- Polish story time in public library
- Youth advisory
- Splash pad
- Local water fountain
- Girls and boys flag football

### What should the agency focus on over the next five years, specific to facilities?

- Making the website less confusing
- More sports facilities
- Adding the Bartlett Springboard Diving Team to the Bartlett Barracudas and hosting one dive meet in the summer







*Envision & Prioritize:  
Alternative and Preferred Strategies*

# CHAPTER THREE





# BARTLETT COMMUNITY CENTER

## Overview

This Chapter documents the Envision & Prioritize: Alternative and Preferred Strategies phase of the comprehensive master planning process.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Envision & Prioritize Phase is to outline the needs that were identified during the Analyze and Connect Phases. This phase focuses on building upon the findings, data, and community input established through prior planning efforts and recent assessments to develop a series of preliminary strategies that guide future decision-making for the Bartlett Park District.

The project team conducted a visioning workshop to develop a series of goals and strategies to address the opportunities revealed during the Analyze and Connect phases. The strategies were then organized into primary objectives that relate back to the needs that were identified in the previous phases. Following the visioning workshop, the project team met with Park District staff members review and build upon the proposed strategies.

Staff then worked through an initial prioritization exercise to determine high, medium, and low priorities. Finally, the planning team met with both staff and the Park District Board of Commissioners to review the initial priorities and determine the most preferred action items to implement over the next five to ten years via the action plan outlined in chapter four.

The resulting preliminary strategies establish a framework for assessing future initiatives and prioritizing investments that support the District's goals, operational capacity, and the changing needs of the Bartlett community.

### Chapter Outline

This chapter is organized into three sections which include the objectives, supporting information, and corresponding strategies for each objective.

### Objectives

1. Update and maintain existing assets / refresh user experience
2. Update and maintain existing facilities to better meet operational and community needs
3. Pursue opportunities to expand maintenance operations
4. Expand existing offerings to better meet community needs and underserved age groups
5. Strengthen relationships with partners and community groups
6. Improve operations and explore new technology
7. Improve accessibility and belonging District-wide

### Justification:

Supporting justification is provided under each objective to document the rationale for the recommended strategies. These justifications are derived directly from the planning process.

### Justification and Reflect:

- **Statistically Valid Survey (SVS):** Conducted by aQity Research & Insights Inc., in 2023
- **Inventory/Analysis:** The planning team gathered park, amenity, facility, and program information including condition and location in order to identify gaps in the existing recreation service. The District's amenities were also benchmarked against state and national data to determine possible gaps in services.
- **Staff Workshop:** 20 District staff members from multiple departments participated in a visioning and prioritization workshop to determine their top priorities for BPD for the next five years.
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** The planning team conducted one-on-one small group interviews with up to five (5) participants each representing five (5) specific interest groups within the District. These discussions focused on the following: District strengths, areas for improvement, opportunities not currently offered, and long-term visioning for the District.
- **Community Event:** The planning team staffed a booth at the Pack the Park: Schoppe Park event on July 21, 2025. Event participants who visited the booth interacted with three boards providing written comments, and sharing input directly with planning team members. Younger participants could also record their thoughts via a coloring sheet.

### Strategies

Each objective is supported by strategies that identify recommended actions to achieve the stated objective. The strategies outlined in this plan are based on a synthesis of all data gathered throughout the planning process and are intended to advance the Park District's desired outcomes. Specifically, the strategies draw from the Analyze phase, including inventory and analysis, demographics, and trends, GIS inventory mapping, facility assessment, and recreation program assessment, as well as from the Connect phase, which incorporated community engagement, staff input, and Board guidance.

Each strategy falls into one of four categories:

- Facilities (F)
- Parks (P)
- Operations (O)
- Programs (PR)

### Strategies Legend

FACILITIES
PARKS
OPERATIONS
PROGRAMS

# OBJECTIVE 1: UPDATE AND MAINTAIN EXISTING ASSETS / REFRESH USER EXPERIENCE

## Justification

### Inventory and Analysis

- Facility Assessment: The facility assessment conducted by Williams Architects in conjunction with the Facility Condition Assessment Conducted by FQC highlights required systems and facility building components that require replacement. Staff confirmed several buildings have been updated or are planned to be replaced in the coming years.
- Facility Assessment: The facility assessment conducted by Williams Architects identifies ADA compliance issues in the buildings that should be addressed during the next building renovation.
- Facility Assessment: The facility assessment conducted by Williams Architects outlines buildings that are in good condition but require cosmetic updates.
- Parks Assessment: There are a number of amenities beyond their useful life as defined by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
  - Playgrounds - 15
  - Picnic shelters - 2
  - Diamond Fields - 9

### Connect

Statistically Valid Survey	Park Board of Commissioners	Staff Workshop	Pop-Up Event	Stakeholder Interviews	Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4% of residents noted “Better park/path maintenance” as a suggestion to serve households better. This ranked 7th with respondents.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure maintenance ranked #1 priority</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance and upkeep was a top priority for Municipal stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to useful life criteria recommendations from the IDNR</li> </ul>

## Strategies

PARKS FACILITIES

1. Develop district-wide plan for renovations of aging buildings. Renovations should be completed in conjunction with ADA compliance updates and include cohesive branding strategies.
2. District-Wide Short-Term Strategy - Prioritize a phased capital reinvestment plan to replace outdated building systems across all Park District Buildings.
3. District-Wide Long-Term Strategy - Establish lifecycle maintenance programs to reduce future deferred maintenance backlogs.
4. Prioritize a phased capital reinvestment plan to replace outdated park equipment, shelters, and athletic fields so that updates can be planned and budgeted for each year. In the following lists, the installation year of the amenity and park classification follow each park name.
  - a. Playground Updates (15 beyond useful life)
    - i. High priority A
      1. Schick Park (1999, neighborhood)
      2. Riley’s Run Park (2009, community)
      3. Leiseberg Park (2008, community)

# OBJECTIVE 1: UPDATE AND MAINTAIN EXISTING ASSETS / REFRESH USER EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

- ii. Medium priority B
  - 1. Peregrine Park (2001, mini)
  - 2. Fairview Park (2003, neighborhood)
  - 3. Green Meadows Park (2002, neighborhood)
  - 4. Happy Trails Park (1999, neighborhood)
  - 5. Hidden Oaks Park (1999, neighborhood)
- iii. Low priority C
  - 1. Auburn Hills Park (2008, mini)
  - 2. Coyote Junction Park (2007, mini)
  - 3. Hawk's View Park (2009, mini)
  - 4. Walnut Corner (2005, mini)
  - 5. Hilltop Park (2001, neighborhood)
- iv. Remaining parks – playgrounds currently within useful life
  - 1. Firefighter's Park (2024, mini)
  - 2. Kermit's Korner (2023, mini)
  - 3. Majestic Oaks Park (2011, mini)
  - 4. Rotary Park (2024, mini)
  - 5. Ancient Oaks Park (2012, neighborhood)
  - 6. Blue Heron Park (2011, neighborhood)
  - 7. Camelot on Mayfair (2022, neighborhood)
  - 8. Centennial Playground (2011, neighborhood)
  - 9. Humbracht Park (2017, neighborhood)
  - 10. Kjar Park (2011, neighborhood)
  - 11. Newport Park (2022, neighborhood)
  - 12. Schoppe Park (2024, neighborhood)
  - 13. Schrader Park (2013, neighborhood)
  - 14. Theodore J. Lewis Park (2012, neighborhood)
  - 15. Valley View Park (2019, neighborhood)
  - 16. Windy Oaks Park (2010, neighborhood)
  - 17. Apple Orchard Community Park (2023, community)
  - 18. Bartlett Park (2020, community)
  - 19. Rita K. Fletcher Park (2023, community)
  - 20. Sunrise Park (2025, community)
  - 21. Trails End Park (2019, community)
  - 22. Tallgrass Park (2015, neighborhood)

# OBJECTIVE 1: UPDATE AND MAINTAIN EXISTING ASSETS / REFRESH USER EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

- b. Shelter Updates (2 beyond useful life)
  - i. High Priority
    - 1. Happy Trails Park (1999, neighborhood)
  - ii. Medium Priority
    - 1. Apple Orchard Community Park (2000, community)
  - iii. Remaining parks – shelters within current useful life
    - 1. Hawk View Park (2009, mini)
    - 2. Majestic Oaks Park (2011, mini)
    - 3. Beaver Pond Park (2009, neighborhood)
    - 4. Blue Heron Park (2012, neighborhood)
    - 5. Humbracht Park (2006, neighborhood)
    - 6. Apple Orchard Community Park (2024, community)
    - 7. Leiseberg Park (2008, community)
    - 8. Riley’s Run Park (2009, community)
    - 9. Rita K. Fletcher Park (2010, community)
    - 10. Sunrise Park (2025, community)
- c. Athletic Fields and Courts Updates (9 diamond fields and 1 rectangular field beyond useful life)
  - i. High priority
    - 1. Trails End (1996 baseball, community)
    - 2. Apple Orchard Community Park (2000 softball, qty 3, community)
  - ii. Medium priority
    - 1. Glen A. Koehler Athletic Fields (2002 softball, qty 3, community) - leased
  - iii. Low priority
    - 1. Prairieview Park (softball, neighborhood)
    - 2. Glen A. Koehler Athletic Fields (football/lacrosse, community) - leased
    - 3. Leiseberg Park (softball, community)
  - iv. Remaining parks – fields and courts within useful life
    - Basketball:
      - 1. Walnut Corner (2024 basketball, mini)
      - 2. Ancient Oaks Park (2021 basketball, neighborhood)
      - 3. Marianne Cordell Park (basketball, neighborhood)
      - 4. Newport Park (2022 basketball, neighborhood)
      - 5. Riley’s Run Park (2009 basketball, community)
      - 6. Rita K. Fletcher Park (2024 basketball, community)
      - 7. Sunrise Park (2025 basketball, community)
      - 8. Trails End Park (2019 basketball, community)

# OBJECTIVE 1: UPDATE AND MAINTAIN EXISTING ASSETS / REFRESH USER EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Pickleball:

1. Rita K. Fletcher (2024 pickleball, community)

Tennis:

1. Leiseberg Park (2023 tennis, community)
2. Riley's Run Park (2009 tennis, community)
3. Rita K. Fletcher (2018 tennis, community)

Tee Ball:

1. Newport Park (tee ball, neighborhood)
2. Schrader Park (tee ball, neighborhood)
3. Theodore J. Lewis Park (tee ball, neighborhood)

Softball:

1. Nature Ridge Park (2021 softball, community)
2. Rita K. Fletcher Park (2022 softball, community)

Soccer:

1. Happy Trails Park (soccer, neighborhood)
2. Hilltop Park (soccer, neighborhood)
3. Humbracht Park (soccer, neighborhood)
4. Huntington Meadows (soccer, neighborhood)
5. Marianne Cordell Park (soccer, neighborhood)
6. Schick Park (soccer, neighborhood)
7. Struckman Basin (soccer, neighborhood)
8. Tallgrass Park (soccer neighborhood)
9. Apple Orchard Community Park (soccer, community)
10. Nature Ridge Park (soccer, community)
11. Rita K. Fletcher Park (soccer, community)

# OBJECTIVE 2: UPDATE AND MAINTAIN EXISTING FACILITIES TO BETTER MEET OPERATIONAL AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

## Justification

### Inventory and Analysis

- Facility Assessment: The facility assessment conducted by Williams Architects in conjunction with the Facility Condition Assessment Conducted by FQC highlights required systems and facility building components that require replacement. Staff confirmed several buildings have been updated or are planned to be replaced in the coming years.
- Facility Assessment: The facility assessment conducted by Williams Architects identifies ADA compliance issues in the buildings that should be addressed during the next building renovation.
- Facility Assessment: The facility assessment conducted by Williams Architects highlights buildings with programmable rooms that are underutilized and/or configured in a way that is limiting the program that can be provided in the room. The assessment also identifies buildings with limited and inefficient storage strategies.
- Facility Assessment: The facility assessment conducted by Williams Architects outlines buildings that are in good condition but require cosmetic updates.

## Strategies

1. Apple Orchard Golf Clubhouse
  - a. Long Term Strategy – Renovate and reduce size of the control desk to provide larger space for patrons to gather inside. Larger gathering space could potentially be used for programming or rentals.
  - b. Long Term Strategy – Create inviting outdoor patio for patrons to increase length of stay.
  - c. Long Term Strategy – Plan for ADA restroom upgrades to coincide with next interior renovation.
2. Barracuda Bay Water Park
  - a. Short Term Strategy - Continue to develop a rebranding approach that unifies the Barracuda Bay Water Park's theme and strengthens its ability to attract regional visitors with a water-park-like identity.
    - i. Murals, banners, updated interior fencing, exterior building updates that tie into the new theme.
  - b. Long Term Strategy - See BAC Conceptual Improvements Plan Study prepared by Williams Architects for proposed improvements.
  - c. Renovate and reduce size of sand play. Replace sand showers.
    - i. Add cabana rentals for increased revenue opportunities.
    - ii. Add party rental area for increased revenue opportunities.
    - iii. Increase size of concessions building and provide shade for patrons.
    - iv. Replace lap/ leisure pool.
    - v. Replace original white body flume slide. Add body flume slide to existing tower.
  - d. Long Term Strategy - Prepare grounds master plan to be implemented in conjunction with facility improvements
3. Bartlett Community Center (The Oak Room & Program Rooms; **LIFECENTER**; Splash Central; Athletics; Art & Preschool; Lobby/ Administration)
  - a. Short Term Strategy – Replace pool equipment, pool finishes, and features.
  - b. Short Term Strategy – Replace HVAC nearing end of life.
  - c. Long Term Strategy- Consider a comprehensive interior remodel and renovation, paired with refreshed branding, to enhance market competitiveness and meet evolving user expectations for a multigenerational facility.

# OBJECTIVE 2: UPDATE AND MAINTAIN EXISTING FACILITIES TO BETTER MEET OPERATIONAL AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

- d. Long Term Strategy – Review Lower Lobby, Racquet Ball Courts, Party Place, and Pool Viewing room layout for opportunities to maximize programmable space. Potential to introduce indoor play space that can be used for programming and as a rental opportunity.
- e. Long Term Strategy - Review Party Place layout and exterior connection to the BAC.
- f. Long Term Strategy – Review **LIFECENTER** to maximize fitness space and user experience and improve control.
- g. Long Term Strategy – Plan for ADA locker room upgrades to coincide with next interior renovation.
- h. Long Term Strategy - Prepare grounds master plan to be implemented in conjunction with facility improvements
- 4. Bartlett Nature Center
  - a. Short Term – Collaborate with partners to review the finalized agreement between IDNR, Forest Preserve of DuPage County, and Bartlett Park District.
  - b. Short Term Strategy - Research options and discuss with partners about enclosing multi-purpose room to expand rental and program offerings.
  - c. Short Term Strategy - Collaborate with partners to review mobile storage solutions for animal displays and interpretive materials.
  - d. Long term Strategy – Collaborate with partners to review staffing needs and address limitations posed by IDNR ownership to improve programming capability and efficiency of staff.
  - e. Short Term Strategy- Research options to improve signage, trail wayfinding, and branding to increase identity and visibility if allowable by partners.
  - f. Long Term Strategy – Collaborate with partners to redesign interior for improved flexibility, upgraded displays, and a refreshed user experience. Upgrade AV equipment, furnishings, and interpretive exhibits to modern standards.
  - g. Long Term Strategy – Potential to add additional educational staff and expanded programming to enhance community outreach and engagement.
- 5. Log Cabin
  - a. Long Term Strategy – Exterior and interior renovation to address deteriorating envelope while keeping historic cabin aesthetic.
  - b. Long Term Strategy – Addition for program storage.
- 6. Parks Maintenance Facilities
  - a. Short Term Strategy – Perform targeted interior building upgrades to increase workplace equity and meet current codes as identified in the Facility Assessment.
  - b. Long Term Strategy – Complete a full exterior and interior renovation to expand the maintenance buildings and improve operational efficiency. The project will maintain the existing building structure while providing a new exterior envelope to enhance durability and significantly improve energy efficiency. The site layout of material bins and vehicle storage will also be reviewed to strengthen security and increase the longevity of equipment.
    - i. Address limited office and staff support spaces.
    - ii. Address locker room inefficiencies and provide equitable facilities for female staff.
- 7. Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium
  - a. Short Term Strategy – Replace program room HVAC nearing end of life.
  - b. Short Term Strategy- Add exterior signage to provide street presence and clear wayfinding to the building.
  - c. Short Term Strategy – Review programming of gymnasium and program rooms. Consider adding daytime staff to facilitate additional daytime programs or rentals.
  - d. Long Term Strategy – Consider building addition for gymnasium storage outside of building electrical/ mechanical room.
- 8. Thomas C. White Administration Building
  - a. Short Term Strategy – Replace roof.
  - b. Short Term Strategy - Correct drainage issues at downspouts to direct water away from the building and sidewalks.
  - c. Short Term Strategy – Reassess board room configuration and programming to increase usage and operational value.

# OBJECTIVE 2: UPDATE AND MAINTAIN EXISTING FACILITIES TO BETTER MEET OPERATIONAL AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

- d. Long Term Strategy – Reassess administrative office and cubical layout.
- e. Long Term Strategy – Consider comprehensive envelope renovation to replace the building original components, such as windows, and improve energy efficiency.
- 9. Villa Olivia Golf, Ski, Event Venue
  - a. Short Term Strategy – Evaluate current building and program storage. Purge unused items and consolidate storage.
  - b. Short Term Strategy – Replace HVAC nearing end of life. Provide adequate sprinkler coverage in event rooms.
  - c. Short Term Strategy – Exterior repairs to improve degrading exteriors, roof, and gutter/ drainage issues.
  - d. Long Term Strategy – Conduct comprehensive analysis of the programming, operations and profitability of the golf, ski, and event functions.
    - i. The facility is heavily impacted by poor weather for golf and ski. Explore opportunities for non-weather dependent programming and amenities to improve profitability
    - ii. Consider a comprehensive interior renovation focused on elevating the overall hospitality experience for event guests, skiers, and golfers.
    - iii. Consider adding golf simulators, as indicated in the Community Survey, to provide additional revenue opportunities during poor weather.
    - iv. The ski rental storage area is currently at full capacity. During the summer, the space functions primarily as storage. Consider opportunities to repurpose the area for multi-purpose use rather than limiting it to seasonal operations.

# OBJECTIVE 3: PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

## Justification:

Connect					
Statistically Valid Survey	Park Board of Commissioners	Staff Workshop	Pop-Up Event	Stakeholder Interviews	Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4% of residents noted "Better park/path maintenance" as a suggestion to serve households better. This ranked 7th with respondents.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infrastructure maintenance ranked #1 priority</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance and upkeep was a top priority for Municipal stakeholders</li> </ul>	

## Strategies:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| OPERATIONS | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand and explore opportunities to contract work where current operations are limited               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Mowing operations (Expand)</li> <li>b. Playground loose fill surfacing (Expand)</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Expand and explore opportunities to contract work where current operations are limited               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Native area management (Expand)</li> <li>b. Regular playground audits (Explore)</li> <li>c. Custodial (Explore)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
| F          | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Short term strategy: Improve existing physical maintenance facility work environment (reference Objective 2.6)</li> <li>4. Long term strategy: Explore opportunities for a new central maintenance facility through master planning.</li> </ol>  |

# OBJECTIVE 4: EXPAND EXISTING OFFERINGS TO BETTER MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS AND UNDERSERVED AGE GROUPS

## Justification:

### Inventory and Analysis

- Benchmarking: BPD is below SCORP (state) and Park Metrics (national) benchmarks for the following amenities:
- Multi-use courts - tennis / pickleball by 4.0 courts according to Park Metrics (there are 0 in the community)
- Dedicated pickleball courts by 2.0 courts according to Park Metrics (there are 2 in the community)
- Dedicated tennis courts by 15.7 courts according to SCORP (there are 5 in the community)
- Volleyball courts by 7.2 courts according to SCORP (there are 0 in the community)
- Synthetic turf rectangular fields by 1.1 fields according to Park Metrics (there are 0 in the community)
- Performance amphitheater by 1.1 facility according to Park Metrics (there are 0 in the community)
- Teen centers by 1.0 facility according to Park Metrics (there are 0 in the community)

### Connect

Statistically Valid Survey	Park Board of Commissioners	Staff Workshop	Pop-Up Event	Stakeholder Interviews	Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9% open-ended responses wanted more/ better programs for adults; 8% of suggestions to serve households better = more social/ community events for adults</li> <li>• 19% of responses ranked pickleball as 3rd highest outdoor facility of interest</li> <li>• 11% of responses ranked synthetic turf as 7th highest outdoor facility of interest</li> <li>• 38% of responses ranked outdoor event space as highest outdoor facility of interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More pickleball needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult focus listed as a category - 1 vote received</li> <li>• New amenities voted as 3rd highest priority; outdoor pickleball noted once in category; artificial turf fields noted 4 times in category; outdoor music venue noted once in category</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional pickleball courts needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional adult programming mentioned in stakeholder interviews conducted as part of the Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan</li> <li>• Additional artificial turf fields were stated as a key priority in 3 groups</li> <li>• Opportunity for an event space and event planning partnerships were stated as a priority in 1 group</li> <li>• More bilingual and cultural program stated as a need</li> <li>• More programs and spaces for teens stated as a need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segmenting adult programs by age range helps target recreational interests by life stage</li> </ul>

# OBJECTIVE 4: EXPAND EXISTING OFFERINGS TO BETTER MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS AND UNDERSERVED AGE GROUPS

## Strategies:

PROGRAMS

1. Add new programming based on community need and the program inventory (where aligned)
2. Work to include more adult programming in the annual menu of offerings:
  - a. Target specific age ranges within the overarching adult category; offer more programs for young adult, adult, active adult, and senior audiences
  - b. Work with the Wayne and Hanover townships to review ways to supplement their current service offerings

PARKS

3. Perform feasibility study to add additional sport courts in key locations
  - a. Pickleball courts
  - b. Tennis courts
  - c. Volleyball courts
4. Perform cost and constraints analysis for amenities the community has expressed interest in:
  - a. Artificial turf fields
  - b. Outdoor event space
5. Explore opportunities to implement trending recreation amenities catering to teen and adult populations
  - a. Fitness courses
  - b. 40-yard dash
  - c. Electronic outdoor recreation equipment
6. Implement Tallgrass Park improvements
  - a. Fund Tallgrass Park with assistance from IDNR Grant Award
  - b. Design and engineer Tallgrass Park
  - c. Construct improvements

# OBJECTIVE 5: STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

## Justification:

Connect					
Statistically Valid Survey	Park Board of Commissioners	Staff Workshop	Pop-Up Event	Stakeholder Interviews	Best Practices
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities for increased partnerships mentioned 3 times in stakeholder interviews</li> </ul>	

## Strategies:

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| PR    | 1. Initiate quarterly, semi-annual, or annual planning meetings with municipal partners to support community-wide coordination, cooperation, and shared outcomes.   |
| F     | 2. Review the agreement with IDNR to clarify the Park District's responsibilities and role within the Nature Center (reference Objective 2.4.a).  |
| PARKS | 3. Review agreements with public and municipal partners to clarify maintenance responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Glen A. Koehler Athletic Fields</li> <li>b. Bike trails</li> <li>c. Utility easements</li> <li>d. U-46 schools</li> </ul> |
|       | 4. Evaluate existing or create new agreements with community groups to coordinate and prioritize scheduling and maintenance needs and responsibilities  |

# OBJECTIVE 6: IMPROVE OPERATIONS AND EXPLORE NEW TECHNOLOGY

**Justification:**

Connect					
Statistically Valid Survey	Park Board of Commissioners	Staff Workshop	Pop-Up Event	Stakeholder Interviews	Best Practices
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seasonal program planning occurs at the program area and departmental level.</li> <li>• Rooms assignments currently based on factors like program tenure, rather than anticipated class size.</li> <li>• Current waitlist process does not track the number of enrolled vs refunded participants.</li> <li>• There is an informal program evaluation process, depending on area</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration reduces silos &amp; promotes creativity/innovation</li> <li>• Efficiently managing space use increases capacity, and therefore participation and revenue</li> <li>• Waitlist tracking helps ensure proper supply/demand.</li> <li>• A formalized (not necessarily standardized) evaluation process helps create shared understanding &amp; accountability</li> </ul>

**Strategies:**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| PROGRAMS | 1. Monitor the room assignment process to more efficiently and strategically use indoor space                  |
|          | 2. Investigate a waitlist tracking process to better understand supply and demand                              |
|          | 3. Monitor program cancellation rates annually with a goal to keep rates between 12% and 15%                   |
|          | 4. Formalize the District's program evaluation process   |
|          | 5. Improve the program planning process by coordinating inter-departmental collaboration opportunities         |
|          | 6. Continue to evaluate a district-wide program life cycle analysis to understand the broader perspective      |
|          | 7. Explore and improve the work order system and implement across all Park District departments for uniformity |

# OBJECTIVE 7: IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND BELONGING DISTRICT-WIDE

## Justification:

### Inventory and Analysis

- Facility Assessment: The facility assessment conducted by Williams Architects identifies ADA compliance issues in the buildings that should be addressed during the next building renovation.
- Park Level of Service Analysis: There are park distribution gaps at the neighborhood community park levels in planning areas 4, 5, 7, and 21
- Benchmarking: BPD is below the national acreage benchmark for mini and community parks.

### Connect

Statistically Valid Survey	Park Board of Commissioners	Staff Workshop	Pop-Up Event	Stakeholder Interviews	Best Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey respondent race designations and Census data demonstrate a more diverse community.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for bilingual programs mentioned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentioned once in stakeholder interviews as a need and a potential partnership opportunity</li> </ul>	

## Strategies:

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| PR    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand bilingual and cultural programs to support a growing and diversifying community</li> <li>2. Short Term Strategy – Continue to implement the Park Districts ADA Transition Plan using the findings from the facility inventory. Prioritize high-traffic public facilities for accessibility improvements.</li> <li>3. Long Term Strategy - Plan for comprehensive upgrades that coincide with the future building renovations.</li> </ol>  |
| F     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Develop master plan for existing undeveloped parcels to reach underserved areas (2)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Grasslands Parcel 198 (planning area 5)</li> <li>b. Sunset Park (planning area 15)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>  |
| PARKS | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Develop master plans for key parks with high visitation rates and/or multiple amenities beyond useful life (3)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Explore grant funding opportunities for high priority renovations</li> <li>b. Align master plan implementation with specific park amenity replacements, large scale facility enhancements, and ADA transition plans                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Villa Olivia Golf, Ski, Event Venue (reference Objective 2.9.d.)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Develop design guidelines to foster belonging in future park renovations               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Signage</li> <li>b. Access (parking, circulation)</li> <li>c. Site furnishings</li> <li>d. Amenities</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |



BARTLETT  
CELEBRATING  
60 Years  
OF CREATING FUN  
PARK DISTRICT







*Implement: Action Plan*

# CHAPTER FOUR



# Action Plan

This chapter documents the Prioritize: Action Plan phase of the comprehensive master planning process.

## Purpose

This chapter outlines the steps and potential timeline for implementing the Comprehensive Master Plan strategies identified in the Envision phase as described in the previous chapter. They were further refined and finalized through workshops with the Bartlett Park District staff task force and Board of Commissioners to develop the action plan. The action plan will guide BPD in implementing the strategies over the next five to ten years and will be periodically re-evaluated and adjusted to reflect completed projects and the community's changing needs. The action plan is organized as follows:

- An at-a-glance Action Plan timeline with fiscal year divided into quarters (Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4) to provide a general idea of when each action item or step might start or stop within a given year

- A detailed summary of the action items, provided in a year-by-year list in chronological order from 2026/2027 to 2031.

Recurring items are strategic, ongoing reinvestments that preserve park assets, maintain safety and accessibility, and ensure consistent service levels throughout the community over time.

The action items are further organized within each year and color coded based on four overarching themes:

- Facilities
- Parks
- Operations
- Programs

The Bartlett Park District follows a May - April fiscal year.

OSLAD (Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development) grant candidates are projects identified in the master plan that align with the eligibility criteria and priorities of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources OSLAD program.

The long term action plan items include a number and letter combination that corresponds to the goals and strategies outlined in Chapter 1. The letter prefixes used throughout the Action Plan are as follows:

- F - Facilities
- P - Parks
- O - Policy and Operations
- PR - Programs and Events

## Year 1: 2026/2027

May June July <b>Quarter 1</b>	August September October <b>Quarter 2</b>	November December January <b>Quarter 3</b>	February March April <b>Quarter 4</b>
		Prioritize phased capital reinvestment plan to replace outdated park equipment	
Parks Maintenance Facilities: Perform minor renovation and bring up to current code compliance		Explore and improve the work order system and implement	
Implement Tallgrass Park improvements			
			Collaborate to review finalized agreement between IDNR, Forest Preserve of DuPage County, and Park District
	Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium: Replace program room HVAC		
Barracuda Bay Water Park: Continue to develop a rebranding approach			Villa Olivia: Evaluate current building and program storage
Bid and construct Schick Park			Develop district wide plan for renovations of aging buildings
Bid and construct Happy Trails Park			
	Initiate quarterly or semi-annual planning meetings with key community partners		Formalize the District's program evaluation process
Expand and explore opportunities to contract work where current operations are limited			

### Legend

Facilities

Parks

Operations

Programs

Grant Candidate

IMPLEMENT: ACTION PLAN

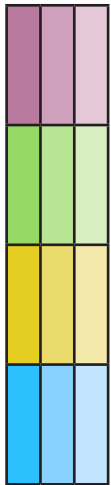
BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

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## Year 2: 2027/2028

	May June July <b>Quarter 1</b>	August September October <b>Quarter 2</b>	November December January <b>Quarter 3</b>	February March April <b>Quarter 4</b>
	Review agreements with public and municipal partners		Perform feasibility study to add additional sport courts	
			Explore opportunities to implement trending recreation amenities	
	Implement Tallgrass Park improvements (continued)			→
	Playground Updates: Group A			→
	Evaluate for OSLAD grant funding: Riley's Run	Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium: Add exterior signage	Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium: Review programming	
	Villa Olivia: Evaluate current building and program storage (continued)		Barracuda Bay Water Park: Prepare grounds master plan, including playground	→
	Prioritize phased capital reinvestment plan to replace outdated building systems			Thomas C. White Admin Building: Correct drainage issues at downspouts
			Bartlett Nature Center: Review mobile storage solutions	Bartlett Nature Center: Research options and discuss with partners about enclosing multi-purpose room
	Bartlett Community Center: Replace HVAC			→

### Legend



Facilities

Parks

Operations

Programs



Grant Candidate

## Year 3: 2028/2029

May June July <b>Quarter 1</b>	August September October <b>Quarter 2</b>	November December January <b>Quarter 3</b>	February March April <b>Quarter 4</b>
Develop master plan and evaluate for OSLAD grant funding for Grasslands Lot 198			
Develop design guidelines for future park renovations			
Implement Tallgrass Park improvements (continued)			
Playground Updates: Group A (continued)			
Evaluate for OSLAD grant funding: Leiseberg Park			
Barracuda Bay Water Park: Prepare grounds master plan, including playground (continued)			
Thomas C. White Admin Building: Replace roof	Thomas C. White Admin Building: Reassess board room configuration and programming		
Bartlett Nature Center: Improve signage, trail wayfinding, and branding			
Bartlett Community Center: Replace HVAC (continued)			
Investigate a waitlist tracking process			

### Legend

Facilities

Parks

Operations

Programs

Grant Candidate

## Year 4: 2029/2030

	May June July <b>Quarter 1</b>	August September October <b>Quarter 2</b>	November December January <b>Quarter 3</b>	February March April <b>Quarter 4</b>
Parks Maintenance Facilities: Implement long term strategies				
Athletic Fields and Courts Updates: Group A				
Playground Updates: Group B				→
Shelter Updates: Group A				
Villa Olivia: Replace HVAC				→
Improve existing physical maintenance facility work environment				
Bartlett Community Center: Replace pool equipment, pool finishes, and features				
Bartlett Community Center: Replace HVAC (continued)				→

### Legend



Facilities

Parks

Operations

Programs



Grant Candidate

## Year 5: 2030/2031

May June July <b>Quarter 1</b>	August September October <b>Quarter 2</b>	November December January <b>Quarter 3</b>	February March April <b>Quarter 4</b>
Develop master plans at Villa Olivia for amenities beyond useful life			
			Athletic Fields and Courts Update: Group B
Playground Updates: Group B (continued)			
Plan for upgrades that coincide with future building renovations			
Villa Olivia: Replace HVAC (continued)			
	Villa Olivia: Exterior repairs		
Log Cabin: Implement long term strategies			
Bartlett Community Center: Replace HVAC (continued)			
			Barracuda Bay Water Park: Implement long term strategies

**Legend**

- Facilities
- Parks
- Operations
- Programs
- ✦

Grant Candidate



# Fiscal Year 1

(May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027)

## FACILITIES

- Parks Maintenance Facilities: Perform minor renovation and bring up to current code compliance
- Barracuda Bay Water Park: Continue to develop a rebranding approach
- Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium: Replace program room HVAC
- Collaborate to review finalized agreement between IDNR, Forest Preserve of DuPage County, and Park District
- Villa Olivia: Evaluate current building & program storage
- Develop District-wide plan for renovations of aging buildings

## PARKS

- Implement Tallgrass Park improvements
- Bid and construct Schick Park improvements
- Bid and construct Happy Trails Park improvements
- Prioritize phased capital reinvestment plan to replace outdated playground equipment
- Explore and improve the work order system and implement

## OPERATIONS

- Expand and explore opportunities to contract work where current operations are limited

## PROGRAMS

- Initiate quarterly or semi-annual planning meetings with key community partners
- Formalize the District's program evaluation process

# Fiscal Year 2

(May 1, 2027 through April 30, 2028)

## FACILITIES

- Villa Olivia: Evaluate current building & program storage (continued from Year 1)
- Prioritize phased capital reinvestment plan to replace outdated building systems
- Bartlett Community Center: Replace HVAC
- Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium: Add exterior signage
- Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium: Review programming
- Bartlett Nature Center: Review mobile storage solutions
- Thomas C. White Admin Building: Correct drainage issues at downspouts
- Bartlett Nature Center: Research options and discuss with partners about enclosing multi-purpose room

## PARKS

- Implement Tallgrass Park improvements (continued from Year 1)
- Review agreements with public and municipal partners
- Playground Updates: Group A
- Apply for OSLAD grant funding: Riley's Run
- Perform feasibility study to add additional sport courts
- Explore opportunities to implement trending recreation amenities
- Barracuda Bay Water Park: Prepare grounds master plan, including playground

# Fiscal Year 3

(May 1, 2028 through April 30, 2029)

## FACILITIES

- Bartlett Community Center: Replace HVAC (continued from Year 2)
- Thomas C. White Admin Building: Replace roof
- Bartlett Nature Center: Improve signage, trail wayfinding, and branding
- Thomas C. White Admin Building: Reassess board room configuration and programming

## PARKS

- Implement Tallgrass Park improvements (continued from Year 2)
- Playground Updates: Group A (continued from Year 2)
- Barracuda Bay Water Park: Prepare grounds master plan, including playground (continued from Year 2)
- Develop master plan for Grasslands Lot 198
- Develop design guidelines for future park renovations
- Apply for OSLAD grant funding: Leiseberg Park

## PROGRAMS

- Investigate a waitlist tracking process

# Fiscal Year 4

(May 1, 2029 through April 30, 2030)

## FACILITIES

- Bartlett Community Center: Replace HVAC (continued from Year 3)
- Parks Maintenance Facilities: Implement long term strategies
- Villa Olivia: Replace HVAC
- Improve existing physical maintenance facility work environment
- Bartlett Community Center: Replace pool equipment, pool finishes, and features

## PARKS

- Athletic Fields and Courts Updates: Group A
- Playground Updates: Group B
- Shelter Updates: Group A

# Fiscal Year 5

(May 1, 2030 through April 30, 2031)

## FACILITIES

- Bartlett Community Center: Replace HVAC (continued from Year 4)
- Villa Olivia: Replace HVAC (continued from Year 4)
- Plan for upgrades that coincide with future building renovations
- Log Cabin: Implement long term strategies
- Villa Olivia: Exterior repairs
- Barracuda Bay Water Park: Implement long term strategies

## PARKS

- Playground Updates: Group B (continued from Year 4)
- Develop master plans at Villa Olivia for amenities beyond useful life
- Athletic Fields and Courts Update: Group B

# Fiscal Years 6+

## FACILITIES

- Barracuda Bay Water Park: Implement long term strategies (continued from Year 5)
- Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium: Implement long term strategies
- Villa Olivia: Implement long term strategies
- Thomas C. White Admin Building: Implement long term strategies
- Apple Orchard Clubhouse: Implement long term strategies
- Bartlett Nature Center: Implement long term strategies
- Bartlett Community Center: Implement long term strategies
- Explore new central maintenance facility through master planning

## PARKS

- Athletic Fields and Courts Update: Group B (continued from Year 5)
- Develop master plan for Sunset Park
- Perform cost and constraints analysis for artificial turf fields
- Playground Updates: Group C
- Perform cost and constraints analysis for outdoor event space
- Bartlett Community Center: Prepare grounds master plan, including preschool playground

*\* Long-term facility improvements will be evaluated and implemented based on available funding and will be addressed after 2036 as resources allow.*

# Recurring Items

## FACILITIES

- Establish life cycle maintenance programs
- Continue to implement the Park District's ADA Transition Plan

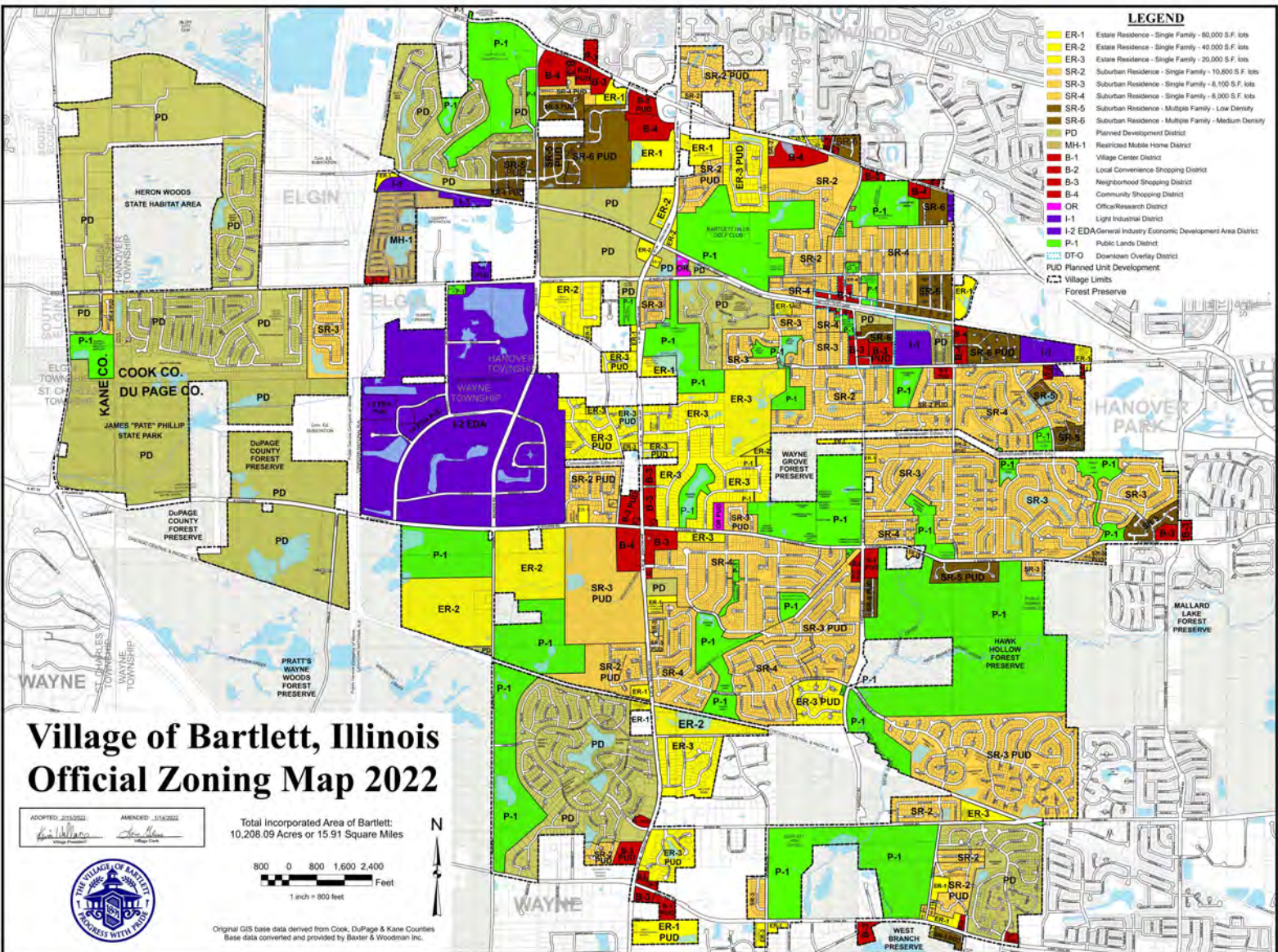
## PARKS

- Evaluate existing or new agreements with community groups

## PROGRAMS

- Add new programming based on community need
- Monitor the room assignment process
- Expand bilingual and cultural programs
- Work to include more adult programming
- Monitor program cancellation rates annually
- Improve the program planning process by interdepartmental collaboration opportunities
- Continue to evaluate district-wide program life cycle





**IDNR Grant Administration Division  
Per IPRA-Park & Natural Resource Management Section's Recommendations**

**USEFUL LIFE CRITERIA**

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>Expected useful life</u>	<u>Evaluation Criteria – Factor</u>
<u>BB/Softball fields</u>	8-10 years	# Games/week, # Practices/week Grass infields? Maintenance Procedure/Standards Is site used for multiple uses, soccer, football? Is space used for organized or programmed events? Spectator considerations – bleachers Concession stands
<u>BB/Softball Field Lighting</u>	20 years	Pole Type (wood, steel, concrete) Wiring type (aluminum, copper) HID or incandescent fixtures Existing FC vs. new standards Accepted grounding systems? Panel Capabilities/Technology Electrical Code compliance
<u>Soccer Fields</u>	8-10 years	Usage rating A/B/C/D # games/week, # weeks/year, time of year, age of user
<u>Irrigation system</u>	20 years	Irrigated Y/N Usage # games per week Drainage considerations Maintenance standards/levels Is site used for organized or programmed events? To what extent? Is site used for multiple uses? Softball, BB or football
<u>Tennis Courts</u>		Lighted Y/N (Use BB Criteria)
Resurface	12-15 years	Surface clay, asphalt, other
Total Renovation	20-25 years	Color coat/overlay/rebuild Frequency of color coating Location – high water table Fencing material/posts Preventive maintenance Location: Water table concerns Is site used for organized or programmed events? To what extent? Are courts used for making ice?
<u>Basket Ball Courts</u>		Same as tennis courts
Resurface	12-15 years	
Total Renovation	20-25 years	
<u>Volleyball Courts</u>		Sand / Grass? Lighted Y/N Borders Bleachers/spectator area
<u>Shuffleboard</u>		Same as tennis courts
Resurface	12-15 years	
Total Renovation	20-25 years	

<u>Picnic Shelters</u>	25 years	Support structures: masonry, steel, wood Roof type: metal, asphalt, shingle, slate, cedar shake Construction type: post & beam, frame Historical value and consideration Preventive maintenance record Is site used for organized or programmed events? To what extent?
<u>Playgrounds</u>	15 years metal 10 years plastic 8 – 12 years wood	Meet Standards? ASTM, CPSC, ADA Daily usage by intended user group Location: school, or neighborhood park Surfacing Material Preventive maintenance record Border construction material Location: retention area/water?
<u>Boat Launch Ramps</u>	15-20 years	Construction materials, gravel, concrete Location i.e. Lake Michigan Annual Usage Is facility fee generating? Region
<u>Fishing Piers &amp; Docks</u>	15-20 years	Original construction materials plastic, wood, aluminum Location i.e. Lake Michigan Annual volume/usage Winter removal and storage? Preventive maintenance record
<u>Swimming Pools</u> Bathhouse	25 years 25 years	Stand alone site? Heated for winter?
<u>Boathouse</u>	10-15 years	Attached to Community Center Y/N Mechanical room connected? ADA compliance Y/N Local Code compliance? Preventive Maintenance record Location i.e. Lake Michigan
<u>Restrooms</u>	Same as pools	Same as pools
<u>Parking Lots</u> Resurface Total Renovation	10-12 years 20-25 years	Gravel, asphalt or concrete Monthly volume and load use i.e. delivery trucks or garbage Spring use –heavy, moderate, light Seal coating frequency Preventive maintenance record Original construction design loads Location: flooding/water concerns Snow removal or salt use? Curbed or sheet drainage to edges
<u>Bike Paths</u>	Same as Parking lots	Same as Parking lots
<u>Interpretive Center</u>	Same as Bathhouse	Same as Bathhouse



COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

# FACILITY INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

2025 JULY 18



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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bartlett Park District in collaboration with Hitchcock Design Group is conducting a Comprehensive Master Plan for the District. Williams Architects was commissioned to conduct facilities assessments and initial program analysis of Bartlett Park District indoor and outdoor facilities. This report is prepared as an appendix to the Plan. The following facilities were reviewed.

- A. Apple Orchard Golf Clubhouse
- B. Barracuda Bay Water Park
- C. Bartlett Community Center  
*(The Oak Room & Program Rooms; **LIFECENTER**; Splash Central Indoor Aquatics Center; Athletics; Arts & Crafts; Preschool; Lobby/Offices; Building Exterior)*
- D. Bartlett Nature Center
- E. Log Cabin
- F. Parks Maintenance Facilities
- G. Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium
- H. Thomas C. White Administration Building
- I. Villa Olivia: Golf, Ski, and Event Venue

## II. ANALYSIS CRITERIA

The Williams Architects Team provided visual observation of the facilities with information gathered by the Park District with maintenance / operational input on each facility. The assessment describes the property at the time of the site visit. No testing, commissioning or exploratory investigation was conducted. More detailed observations can be found in Appendix B. The analysis is limited to architectural observation.

### A. APPLE ORCHARD GOLF CLUBHOUSE (692 W. STEARNS ROAD)

Apple Orchard Golf Course, a nine hole, par three, public course, has been a community staple since Apple Orchard Country Club was repurposed by the Park District in the early 1980's. Located next to Apple Orchard Community Park, it was designed as a family-friendly, accessible course. Its simple clubhouse, built in 1996, serves mainly as a check-in point and refreshment stand.

#### Observations

Apple Orchard Golf Clubhouse is in good condition and has been well maintained. Interior finishes, including flooring and paint, were updated in 2024. The restrooms are not ADA compliant due to age. The building envelope is in good condition, with no visible deficiencies. The only equipment due for replacement is the water heater, which is scheduled for upgrade. The exterior façade

would benefit from cosmetic and architectural enhancements to improve curb appeal and attract more patrons.

The existing service counter is oversized and underutilized, as the Park District offers pre-packaged food and beverages— potentially eliminating the need for warming equipment behind the counter. Additionally, outdoor seating is minimal and underused. The current walking path from the final hole leads directly to the parking lot, allowing patrons to bypass the clubhouse entirely.

#### Remedial Repair Recommendations

1. Upgrade restrooms to meet current ADA accessibility standards.
2. Exterior façade upgrades.

### **Aesthetic / Program Strategy Recommendations**

1. Reconfiguring and reducing the oversized service desk to create a larger interior gathering space.
2. Incorporate a cohesive branding identity that is reflected in the exterior and interior design.
3. Develop a welcoming outdoor seating area to encourage patrons to relax and extend their visit after golfing.
4. Evaluate the circulation from the final hole and consider relocating it or adjusting the path to ensure patrons pass by the clubhouse before reaching the parking lot, increasing engagement with clubhouse amenities.

## **B. BARRACUDA BAY WATER PARK (620 W. STEARNS ROAD)**

Barracuda Bay Water Park, formerly Bartlett Aquatic Center, has served as a popular seasonal destination for families in the community. A major renovation in 2013–2014 transformed the facility with an expansion that introduced a zip line, a lazy river, body and tube slides, a plunge pool, spraypad, and an enhanced sand play area. In 2024 -2025 the bathhouse received interior upgrades such as paint, lockers, and two new family changing bathrooms. Maintenance may be required due to normal usage. The Park District is currently exploring a master plan update with Williams Architects to address many of the observations listed below.

### **Observations**

Barracuda Bay Water Park is in good condition and has been well maintained. However, the overall aesthetic of the facility is dated and would benefit from an updated design redefining the facilities branding and identity. The original white body flume slide is due for replacement, and shade is lacking at the concessions area and the top of the slide tower platforms, impacting lifeguard comfort. The railings on the stair tower are in poor condition and need replacement. The zero-depth leisure pool features an aging mushroom water feature that is due for replacement.

Operational concerns identified by the Park District include limitations with the concession stand window, which is not conducive to efficient service or accepting outside deliveries. The bridge surface gets hot and uncomfortable to walk on. The sand play area is aged and oversized. Trees are currently providing shade to this area; however, they are

unhealthy and will need to be removed soon. Sand showers are in poor condition. Rental offerings are minimal, with no dedicated party rentals available on the pool deck. The splash pad is in good condition, however it is lacking features for young children and toddlers. Lastly, there are areas of pool deck that have settled around the main pool and lazy river.

### **Remedial Repair Recommendations**

1. Replace white body flume slide with a closed body flume slide.
2. Repair settled pool decks.
3. Replace sand showers.
4. Provide shade at concessions and on top of slide towers.

### **Aesthetic / Program Strategy Recommendations**

1. Re-brand the aquatic center providing new signage, color scheme, logo, interior fencing to provide refreshed appearance and regional draw.
2. Reduce size of sand play area and provide new features, shade, and showers.
3. Replace mushroom feature in zero depth leisure pool entry and provide additional play features for younger children.
4. Add party rental area adjacent to pool deck.
5. Add cabanas adjacent to pool deck.

## **C. BARTLETT COMMUNITY CENTER (700 S. BARTLETT ROAD)**

Built in 2000, Bartlett Community Center is a well-maintained, multi-use facility featuring an event space (the Oak Room), indoor aquatic center (Splash Central), fitness center (**LIFECENTER**), gymnasium, preschool, and offices. While the overall condition of the building is very good, the mechanical systems have reached the end of their life cycle as outlined in the Facility Condition Assessment by FQC. The Park District is currently implementing a replacement strategy.

### **Observations**

#### The Oak Room & Program Rooms

1. The Oak Room is aged and would benefit from a full interior renovation. Stage curtains and room dividers are in fair to poor condition. Blackout blinds are needed on the doors to accommodate performances. The adjacent kitchen and its equipment are functional

but in need of an interior update, including replacement of the damaged counter top. Access to the sound booth is currently limited to a ladder from inside the kitchen, which presents functional and safety concerns.

2. Some program rooms could be converted from carpet to flooring to meet the increasing demand from the dance and group fitness programs. A continuous storage area behind the program rooms provides generous and convenient storage space.

### LIFECENTER

1. Locker rooms are in need of renovation to meet current ADA accessibility standards. The Park District has reported issues with low hot water pressure in the showers farthest from the mechanical source. Existing saunas are outdated and in need of replacement or removal. Changing areas within the locker rooms are underutilized. The personal training room and adjacent offices are currently used for storage and are not functioning as originally intended. The membership sign-up area lacks sufficient privacy for discussions involving personal health history. The control desk is oversized relative to its use.

### Splash Central Indoor Aquatic Center

1. Pool equipment has reached the end of its useful service life, with frequent leaks and failures, and is due for replacement. The spa is in poor condition and leaking, with deteriorating tile and interior finishes in both the spa and pool. Lockers and showers are not ADA compliant. Family changing room doors auto-lock and must be unlocked by staff for each user posing a strain on staff. Door hardware to the natatorium is corroded and needs replacement, and the operable door to the spa area is in poor condition. The adjacent lobby/ viewing area is underutilized. Railings and bleachers are corroded and rusting. The mechanical room lacks an emergency shower. Fireproofing from the roof deck frequently falls into the mechanical space due to weight drops in the fitness center above.

### Athletics

1. The gymnasium is well-utilized for programming and occasional rentals, and includes ample adjacent storage. The walking track above remains a popular amenity for members. The original bleachers are worn

and due for replacement. Ceiling paint is peeling and, in some cases, falling onto the court below, creating potential safety and maintenance concerns.

### Party Place

1. The Party Room is functional but in need of an interior update. There is potential to expand the space with a connected outdoor patio, which would enhance its flexibility and create a stronger connection to the adjacent Bartlett Aquatic Center—ultimately improving its appeal for rentals and events. The adjacent lobby is a large space that is underutilized.

### Arts & Crafts / Preschool

1. The preschool and arts spaces are well-utilized and support a range of youth programming and rentals. The Arts & Crafts Room is popular and frequently used but would benefit from an interior update to enhance its appearance and functionality. Program Room 6 includes a child-sized restroom and provides flexible space for programming; however, the existing desk could be removed to better optimize the layout. Due to frequent bathroom accidents, it is recommended that the carpet be replaced with a more durable, cleanable flooring material. The preschool wing is spacious and includes dedicated restrooms and offices, but the finishes are dated and the entire area would benefit from a comprehensive interior update.

### Lobby / Offices

1. The lobby and office areas are functional but present opportunities for improved layout, operations, wayfinding signage, and aesthetics. The current guest services desk is located behind patrons as they enter, creating a disjointed customer service experience. Forms and registration materials are positioned far from the desk, resulting in inefficiencies for both staff and visitors. The guest services desk would benefit from a raised or standing-height option to improve staff comfort and engagement. Visually and acoustically, the lobby is dated and would benefit from an interior update and enhanced sound control. Offices function well overall, with no major concerns reported by the Park District.

### Building Exterior

1. The exterior of the facility is generally

functional but has areas in need of improvement. Visibility of building signage is limited due to overgrown trees, reducing way finding effectiveness from the road. Gutters and downspouts are in poor condition and should be replaced to maintain proper drainage and prevent water damage. Exterior needs to be repainted and maintained.

### **Remedial Repair Recommendations**

1. Mechanical & Systems Upgrades: Indoor Pool equipment, spa, showers, and HVAC systems in several areas require urgent repair or replacement.
2. Accessibility Improvements: ADA compliance across restrooms, locker rooms, and showers with future improvements.
3. Exterior Building Maintenance

### **Aesthetic / Program Strategy Recommendations**

1. Holistic interior update across all areas—especially fitness, aquatic, and program spaces.
2. Spatial Optimization: Reclaim underutilized areas such as the Program Room 6 and the aquatics viewing room; consolidate functions for better flow.
3. Focus on elevating finishes, amenities, and programming environments to match market expectations and boost competitiveness.

## **D. BARTLETT NATURE CENTER (2054 W. STEARNS ROAD)**

Bartlett Nature Center is operated by Bartlett Park District under a three way partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. The building itself is owned by IDNR, and the Park District has limited authority to make structural or permanent changes to the building, which poses challenges for long-term planning and investment. The facility serves as a Welcome Center for visitors to the James “Pate” Philip State Park and hosts environmental programs, rentals, and community events.

### **Observations**

Bartlett Nature Center is in good condition but has several key spaces with specific needs for improvement. The building has limited signage and visibility from the road is difficult to find. The presence of the Park District is not apparent from the building exterior. The auditorium, while recently

re-carpeted, has outdated AV equipment and lacks modular, mobile furniture to support flexible programming and rentals. The multi-purpose room, occasionally used for programs and rentals, would benefit from the installation of an operable partition to allow simultaneous uses and enhance rental flexibility. The animal display area currently houses reptiles and amphibians in temporary enclosures with exposed lighting elements that pose a safety risk. Lastly, the classroom, used for environmental education, is dated and requires an interior upgrade and new room divider.

### **Remedial Repair Recommendations**

1. Install safe animal exhibits to enhance visitor learning and safety.
2. Replace outdated AV equipment and update furniture throughout the building to support rentals and educational use.

### **Aesthetic/ Program Strategy Recommendations**

1. Redesign interior spaces to improve efficiency, flexibility, and program capacity, particularly in multi-purpose and classroom spaces.
2. Evaluate the need for a dedicated naturalist or educator to lead programming and increase outreach.
3. Identify opportunities to add flexible or hidden storage for materials and equipment.
4. Improve building signage and trail way finding.
5. Establish a stronger visual identity for the Park District within the Nature Center to clarify its role.

## **E. LOG CABIN (102 N. EASTERN AVENUE)**

The Log Cabin serves primarily as a rental facility for private events, gatherings, and community functions. It is well-utilized by the public; however, the building faces several operational, aesthetic, and infrastructural challenges that limit its functionality and long-term viability without strategic investment.

### **Observations**

The Log Cabin is in fair to poor condition. The main room lacks designated storage for tables and chairs, resulting in a cluttered appearance and reduced flexibility. Interior finishes are dated, and the bathrooms are not ADA accessible due to age. The basement, though not a public area, is hard to access, poorly lit, and experiences significant water

intrusion and visible gaps in the foundation walls—making it unusable for storage and difficult for staff and maintenance. The Park District identified that the mechanical systems are due for replacement. Additionally, the building’s exterior is deteriorating and in need of major repairs to preserve its appearance and integrity.

#### **Remedial Repair Recommendations**

1. Renovate bathrooms to meet ADA accessibility standards.
2. Address foundation leaks and seal gaps to prevent water intrusion and pest access.
3. Though not a public area, improve stair access and lighting in the basement to enhance safety for staff and maintenance of building’s mechanical equipment.
4. Proceed with planned mechanical system replacements.
5. Repair and update exterior siding, trim, and finishes to preserve character.

#### **Aesthetic / Program Strategy Recommendations**

1. Complete interior renovation including updated finishes, lighting, and furnishings.
2. Install a dedicated refrigerator to support rental functions.
3. Consider addition to provide designated storage for tables and chairs and accessible restrooms.

## **F. PARKS MAINTENANCE FACILITY (690 W. STEARNS ROAD)**

Bartlett Park District’s Park Maintenance Facilities serve as the operational hub for grounds keeping, repairs, equipment storage, and general upkeep of District parks and amenities. The facilities include the Main Park Maintenance Building and a separate Golf Maintenance Building.

Both buildings have undergone minor upgrades and additions over the years but now face significant functional, safety, and spatial deficiencies that impact day-to-day operations and staff wellbeing.

#### **Observations**

The Main Building is in poor condition and suffers from persistent roof leaks, poor flashing, visible gaps in the envelope, and deteriorating gutters.

Interior spaces are cramped, with insufficient office and locker room space, especially for female employees. Ventilation issues, outdated finishes, and failing mechanical systems further hinder daily operations. The wood shop lacks a dust collection system, and vehicle exhaust contributes to poor air quality. The Golf Maintenance Building is also in poor condition, fertilizer storage is unsafe due to inadequate ventilation. The shower is outdated and not ADA compliant. The sink is not properly vented to the building exterior. Overall, both facilities exhibit significant wear, including deteriorated siding and compromised areas of the exterior envelope, with visible openings to the outside that pose maintenance and energy efficiency concerns.

#### **Remedial Repair Recommendations**

1. Replace damaged gutters, downspouts, and roof flashing to resolve leaks and protect the building envelope.
2. Install proper dust collection and ventilation systems in the wood shop and vehicle service areas to improve air quality and safety.
3. Provide dedicated, ventilated fertilizer storage along with an emergency eyewash station and safety shower to meet code requirements.
4. Replace outdated mechanical systems approaching end of life.

#### **Aesthetic / Program Strategy Recommendations**

1. Expand and renovate locker rooms to better accommodate current staffing levels, including equitable facilities for female employees.
2. Update interior and exterior finishes to improve aesthetics and safety.
3. Improve site organization by securing outdoor material bins and reconfiguring storage layouts.
4. Evaluate the feasibility of full replacement of the Park Maintenance Buildings to enhance operational efficiency, safety, and long-term performance.

## **G. DONALD H. SCHRADE GYMNASIUM (694 W. STEARNS ROAD)**

Schrade Gymnasium is a multi-use indoor athletic facility primarily serving as a rental and recreation space for community sports activities. The facility was built onto the original bathhouse locker rooms in the early 1980's. In 2002, the gymnasium was named in honor of former Park District Commissioner Donald H. Schrade. The gym also serves as overflow storage for adjacent Park District Administration Building. In 2014, Bartlett Park District received a grant and the funding was allocated for renovations to Schrade Gymnasium, including improvements to the gymnasium itself, the addition of an elevator, and second multi-purpose room, ADA doors, and the renovation of the original multi-purpose room, lobby, and bathrooms.

### **Observations**

The building is in very good condition and well maintained. The building is difficult to locate due to its limited street presence and lack of way finding signage. The space suffers from poor acoustics due to the absence of sound treatment. While the restrooms have been recently upgraded for accessibility, storage remains a major concern—there is no dedicated storage for the gym. Mechanically, rooftop HVAC equipment is due for replacement as indicated by the Park District and FQC's report. Roof flashing issues have led to water stains on interior walls. Programmatically, the facility is underutilized during the day, with most activity occurring during evening rentals.

### **Remedial Repair Recommendations**

1. Proceed with planned HVAC equipment replacement.
2. Create proper storage solutions outside mechanical rooms.
3. Install acoustical control to improve user experience.
4. Address roof flashing issues to prevent further interior leaks.
5. Add a POS station for RecTrac and potential use for drop-in programming (ex. Open Pickleball).

### **Aesthetic / Program Strategy Recommendations**

1. Explore ways to increase day facility use and programming to enhance community value and return on facility investments.
2. Improve signage and way finding to address limited street presence.

## **H. THOMAS C. WHITE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (696 W. STEARNS ROAD)**

The TC White Administration Building primarily serves Bartlett Park District administrative staff. The building was originally the Apple Orchard Country Club restaurant and club house. Public access to the facility is limited, with most interactions occurring during official board meetings, bid openings, or scheduled staff meetings in the Board Room. The building has recently undergone some mechanical system upgrades but still presents a number of challenges related to functionality, accessibility, and modernization that should be addressed through long-term planning.

### **Observations**

The building is in fair condition. The facility's building envelope shows signs of age and inefficiency. The roof condition is uncertain and may require further evaluation. The chimney is no longer functional and is currently boarded over. Original single-pane windows contribute to poor thermal performance, making it difficult to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. The exterior finishes appear dated, and gutters and downspouts discharge directly onto sidewalks, creating potential safety issues during wet or icy conditions. Accessibility issues are present at building approaches and walkways.

Inside, the building's worn finishes and furnishings impact the overall appearance. Mechanical systems were replaced in 2025 and are currently functioning well as indicated by the Park District. Staffing growth has outpaced the available office space, with the current open-plan and cubicle configuration creating challenges for roles requiring privacy. Storage is not currently an issue, with overflow needs accommodated in the adjacent Schrade Gymnasium. The Board Room is used approximately four times per month, and underutilized.

### Remedial Repair Recommendations

1. Evaluate the condition of the roof and fireplace/chimney; remove fireplace/chimney if deemed nonessential.
2. Replace original single-pane windows for improved energy performance.
3. Update exterior finishes.
4. Reconfigure downspouts to redirect water away from pedestrian areas.
5. Upgrade walkways to meet accessibility standards.
6. Undertake interior finish upgrades to modernize workspaces.

### Aesthetic / Program Strategy Recommendations

1. Consider layout modifications to support recent staffing changes and improve privacy for sensitive work roles.
2. Explore opportunities to repurpose underutilized areas like the Board Room.
3. Maintain storage strategy using existing adjacent facilities.

## I. VILLA OLIVIA: GOLF, SKI, AND EVENT VENUE (1401 W. LAKE STREET)

Villa Olivia began as a private estate in the early 1900s, with golf course added in the 1920s. The Corrado family purchased the property in 1966 and expanded it in 1975 with a ski hill and banquet restaurant. In 2010, Bartlett Park District voters approved a bond referendum to purchase and renovate the facility. By 2012, major upgrades were completed, including event space, kitchen, and ski lodge improvements, establishing Villa Olivia as a year-round public destination.

### Observations

The building is in fair condition and well maintained. The original flat roof over the Pro Shop is leaking and requires full replacement, while the Crystal Room roof shows signs of potential ice damming, leading to interior water damage. All windows throughout the facility are original and inefficient, and the ballroom exterior façade is visibly deteriorating. Some sloped roofs lack gutters, causing water to pool near foundations. HVAC systems are aging, though the boilers (replaced in 2015) remain functional. The sprinkler

system is operational but lacks complete coverage in the Crystal Room bump-outs. Interior spaces including bathrooms, the bar, and Pro Shop are dated and in need of a design refresh. Ruby Room is used for overflow storage due to a lack of dedicated event storage. Storage constraints are evident throughout, with tables and chairs often stored inappropriately in functional areas.

The ski lodge is active in winter and turns into a storage zone during the off-season. Ski rentals are in high demand, though space constraints limit equipment capacity. Bathrooms are dated and not ADA compliant. Strong ski sales were reported last season, and a new sales display board is planned. The ski hill doubles as summer golf terrain, with no drainage issues reported. However, tow ropes are challenging for children to use. Across the facility, storage is a recurring issue, with overflow areas used inefficiently and lacking consolidation.

### Remedial Repair Recommendations

1. Fully replace the Pro Shop flat roof and assess Crystal Room roof for ice damming remediation.
2. Replace all original windows with energy-efficient units.
3. Restore and refresh deteriorating facades; add gutters and downspouts to sloped roofs.
4. Replace aging RTUs; ensure sprinkler coverage in all occupied spaces, especially Crystal Room bump-outs.
5. Address ADA accessibility in bathrooms and walkways.

### Aesthetic / Program Strategy Recommendations

1. Refresh interiors, including bathrooms, bar, golf club house and Pro Shop.
2. Evaluate reconfiguration of storage across the facility to consolidate overflow and improve organization.
3. Update or replace broken locker locks or consider a more user-friendly system.
4. Enhance winter operations by evaluating ski rental storage capacity and adding equipment if feasible.
5. Re-imagine golf club house and bar to enhance user experience.

# **APPENDIX A: PHOTO SUMMARY**

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# APPENDIX A: PHOTO SUMMARY

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<b>A. Apple Orchard Golf Clubhouse</b>	<b>12</b>
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# APPENDIX A: PHOTO SUMMARY

## A. APPLE ORCHARD GOLF CLUBHOUSE (692 W. STEARNS ROAD)



Oversized Service Desk



Toilet Rooms - ADA Compliance

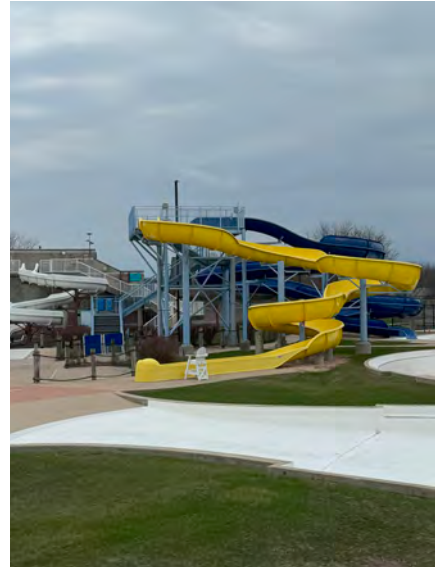
**B. BARRACUDA BAY WATER PARK (620 W. STEARNS ROAD)**



Inefficient Concession Operations



No Shade at Concession Deck



No Shade at Top of Towers



Aged Sand Play



Original Slide; Aged Railings



Bollards; Rope Net Fencing

**C. BARTLETT COMMUNITY CENTER (700 S. BARTLETT ROAD)**



Oak Room - Aged Stage, Screen, and Curtains



Oak Room - Dated Restrooms



Oak Room (Wing) - Program Room 1:  
Multi-purpose Room with Carpet



Oak Room - Sound Booth Access



Oak Room (Wing) - Program Rooms 3 & 4:  
Multi-purpose Room Built with Mirror and Dance  
Bars

### C. BARTLETT COMMUNITY CENTER (700 S. BARTLETT ROAD)



**LIFECENTER** - Oversized Control Desk



**LIFECENTER** - Underutilized Changing Stalls



**LIFECENTER** - Toilets



Splash Central - Peeling Pool Finish



Splash Central - Play Feature and Slides



Splash Central - Pool Deck Mats Covering Trench Drains

**C. BARTLETT COMMUNITY CENTER (700 S. BARTLETT ROAD)**



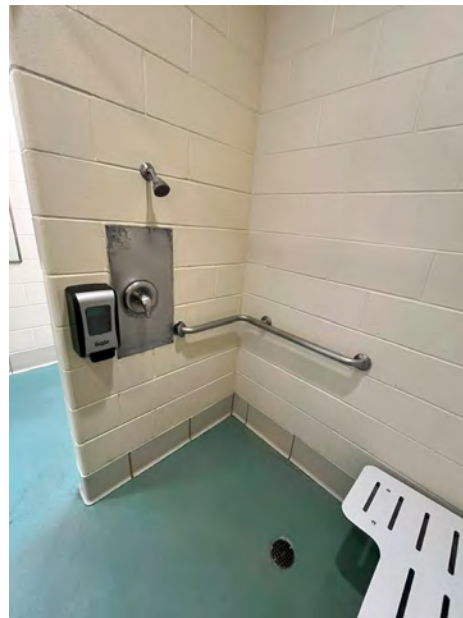
Splash Central -  
Broken Sliding Spa Door



Splash Central - Peeling Spa Finish



Splash Central - Rusted Railings



Splash Central -  
Showers ADA Compliance

### C. BARTLETT COMMUNITY CENTER (700 S. BARTLETT ROAD)



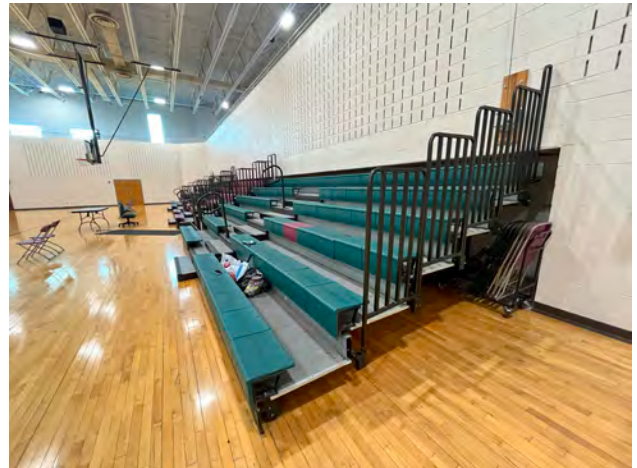
Splash Central - Underutilized Viewing Area



Party Place Rooms



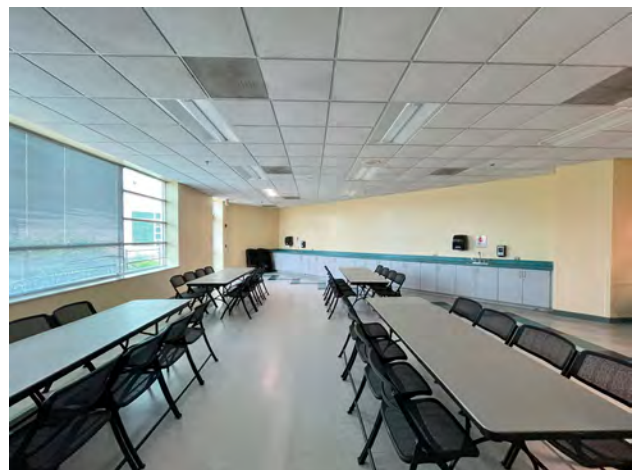
Gymnasium - Peeling Paint



Gymnasium - Bleachers

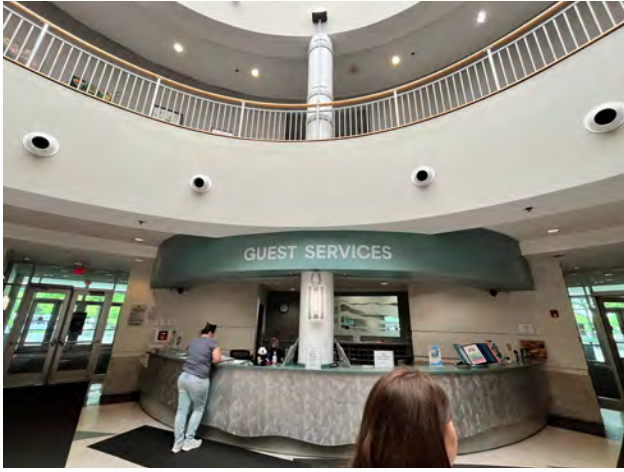


Program Room 6 - Carpet



Arts & Crafts Room

**C. BARTLETT COMMUNITY CENTER (700 S. BARTLETT ROAD)**



Lobby and Guest Services



Racquetball Courts and Lower Lobby

**D. BARTLETT NATURE CENTER (2054 W. STEARNS ROAD)**



Exterior - Limited Signage



Multi-purpose Room



Limited Storage



Temporary Exhibit Displays



Auditorium

**E. LOG CABIN (102 N. EASTERN AVENUE)**



Exterior



ADA Compliance



Compromised Envelope

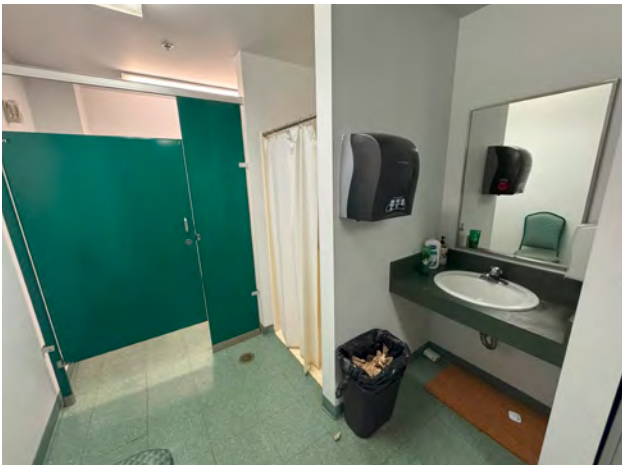
**F. PARKS MAINTENANCE FACILITY (690 W. STEARNS ROAD)**



Exterior in Poor Condition



Limited Office Space



Undersized Locker Facilities



ADA Compliance

## F. PARKS MAINTENANCE FACILITY (690 W. STEARNS ROAD)



Damaged Exterior



Golf - Damaged Interior Insulation

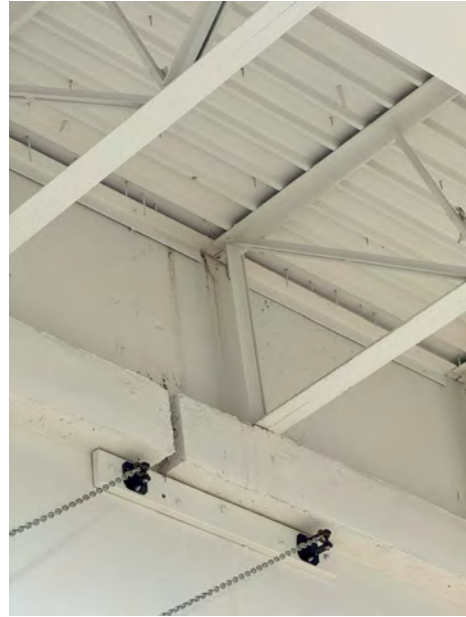


Golf - Non Compliance of Shower and Sink Plumbing Vent

**G. DONALD H. SCHRADE GYMNASIUM (694 W. STEARNS ROAD)**



Schrade Gymnasium



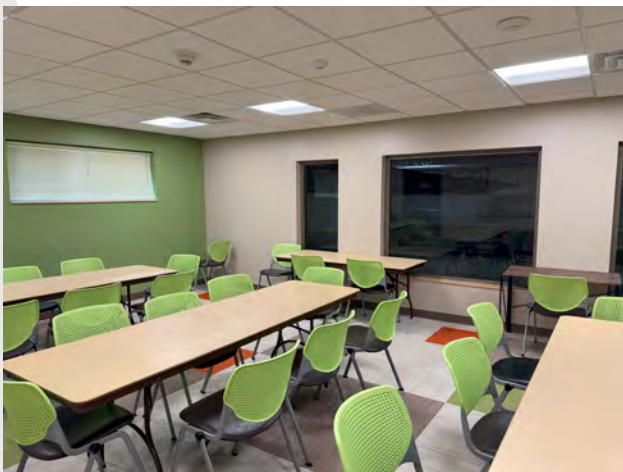
Flashing Failure



Updated Restrooms



Admin Storage



Updated Program Room

## H. THOMAS C. WHITE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (696 W. STEARNS ROAD)



Exterior Exhibits Significant Wear



Downspout Discharges Next to Building Foundation



Admin Offices



Downspout Discharges Next to Accessible Ramp and Pools on Sidewalk



Board Room with Boarded-up Fire Place

## I. VILLA OLIVIA: GOLF, SKI, AND EVENT VENUE (1401 W. LAKE STREET)



Water Staining on Stone from Rain



Service Counter



Ski Rental at Capacity



Underutilized Storage Areas



Lockers and Storage Off-season

**I. VILLA OLIVIA: GOLF, SKI, AND EVENT VENUE (1401 W. LAKE STREET)**



No Gutters at Slopped Roofs



Deteriorated Siding



No Gutters at Slopped Roofs



Water Ponding Near Foundation  
Due to Lack of Gutters



Water Damage on Interior Wall



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# Bartlett Park District

Recreation Assessment

Deliverable Version 3

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## 1.0 Introduction

The Bartlett Park District (District) Recreation Assessment reviews the District’s recreation program and service offerings through a series of individual analyses. BerryDunn reviewed the results of these analyses from a global perspective by assessing what the District is offering, who it is reaching, and what the community has shared. This assessment offers detailed insight into the District’s recreation program and service offerings; helps identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for future program direction; and assists with identifying program categories, programming gaps, and future program considerations.

BerryDunn reviewed various reports and data for this effort, including the District’s seasonal program guides and website as well as participation data from the registration software and staff. Internal staff meetings also yielded beneficial insight.

**What are you offering?**



**Who are you reaching?**



**What did the community say?**



## 2.0 Program and Service Offerings

The District provides a variety of recreational activities to help realize its mission: **We Create Fun by providing exceptional parks, programs, and facilities for our community.** The activities take the form of programs and services, which several service format mechanisms provide. This section provides an overview of the District's service menu.

### Programs

Recreation programs refer to structured activities offered for a specific time frame. The District categorizes its recreation program menu across the following 14 program categories:

Aquatics	Arts and Crafts	Athletics – Adult	Athletics – Youth	Camps	Culinary Arts	Cultural Arts
Education	General	Nature	Preschool	Special Events	Trips	Winter Sports

### Services

In addition to the key programs and activities, the District facilitates community recreational services, such as facility rentals, memberships, and drop-in activities. Facility rental locations include the Bartlett Community Center, where a gymnasium, a banquet room, an aquatic center, and multipurpose rooms can be rented for various private activities. Villa Olivia's event spaces can host from 30 to 300 guests. The Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium is also available for rent. Outdoor rental locations include a log cabin, gazebo, pavilions, shelters, athletic fields, Barracuda Bay Water Park, and the Bartlett Nature Center has rooms, spaces, a shelter, and Woods Interpretive Trail (a registered Boy Scout camp site area).

Memberships for the **LIFECENTER** Health and Fitness Club can be purchased on an annual basis; track passes, racquetball punch passes, and wallyball punch passes are also available. Seasonal golf membership passes are available at the nine-hole Apple Orchard Golf Course; daily rounds can be played there and at the District's 18-hole golf course at Villa Olivia. Services like birthday parties, personal training, health coaching, and nutrition counseling also support community recreation.

### Program Inventory

To gain a baseline understanding of registration-based programs, this recreation assessment starts by comparing District program offerings to other national park and recreation agencies. Though no two agencies or districts are alike, this comparison helps identify any service gaps.

The list below illustrates program categories most commonly found at agencies throughout the country. In matching the District's inventory against this list, 88.1% of programs are represented.

For benchmarking purposes, comparison agencies typically average 65.9%, which is significantly lower than the District. The programs highlighted in purple represent those not currently offered by the District.

Active Adult	General Interest	Running/Walking
Aquatics	Golf	Seniors
Arts	Gymnastics/Tumbling	Special/Community Events
Before/After school	Historical programs	Specialty Camps
Biking	Homeschool	Sports
Birthday Party Services	Horseback Riding	STEM/STEAM
Cooking	Ice Skating/Hockey	Summer Camp (Daylong)
Dance	Language Arts	Sustainability/Green
Day/School break camps	Martial arts	Teen
E-Sports	Music	Tennis
Early Childhood	Open Gym	Theatre/Acting
Environmental/Nature	Outdoor Adventure	Therapeutic Recreation
Extreme Sports	Pets	Trips
Fitness	Preschool	Wellness

When reviewing the inventory, it is important to acknowledge that the District offers programs unique to its facilities and community, such as skiing and snowboarding, which are not a part of this baseline comparison list. The program categories highlighted in purple represent opportunities for program menu expansion if aligned with community needs.

## Program Distribution

Understanding how the District's enrollment-based program menu is distributed across its key program areas helps identify the extent of programming within each area to the whole. Figure 1 illustrates the percentage breakdown of offerings across key program categories. Aquatics, youth athletics, cultural arts, camps, and nature represent a majority of programming (81.3%).

**Figure 1: 2024 Enrollment-Based Program Distribution**

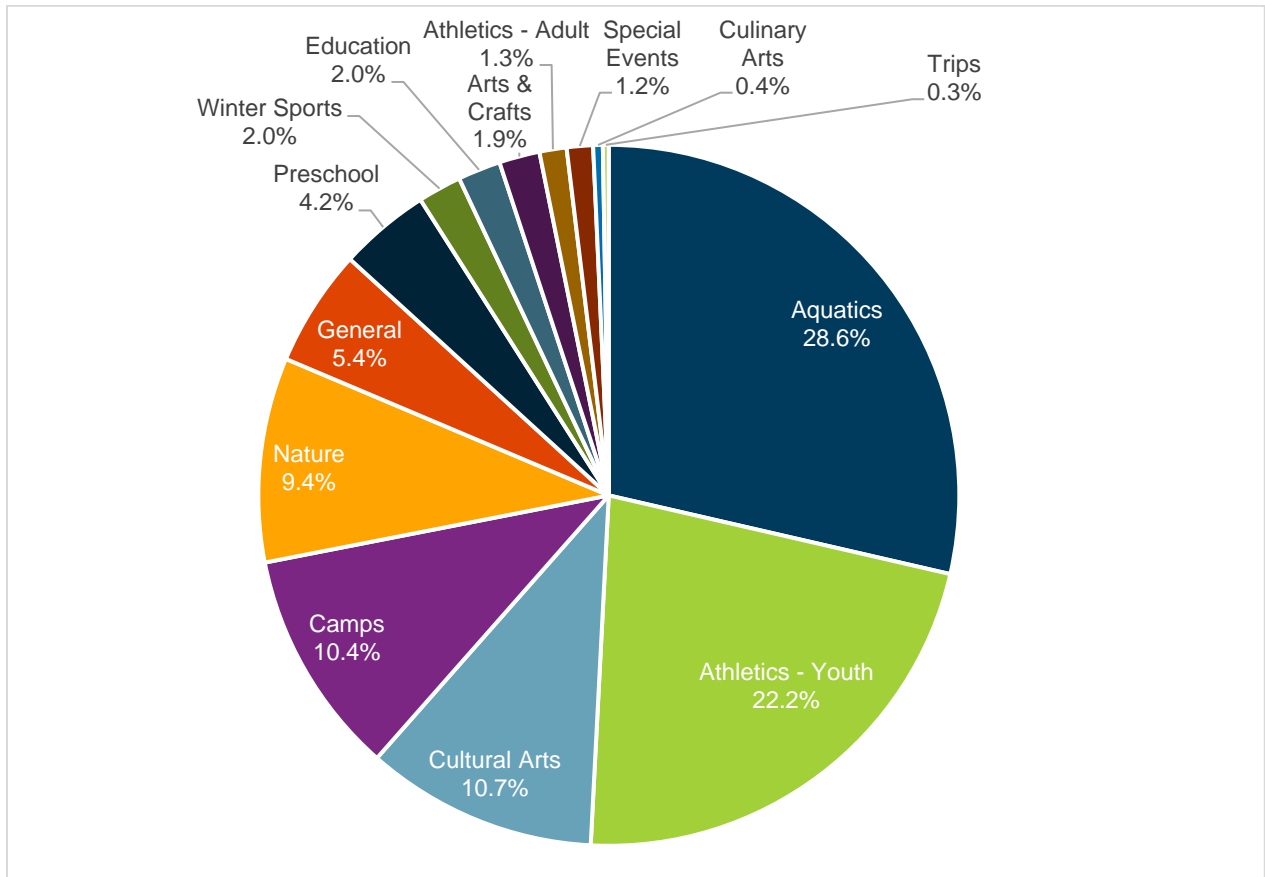
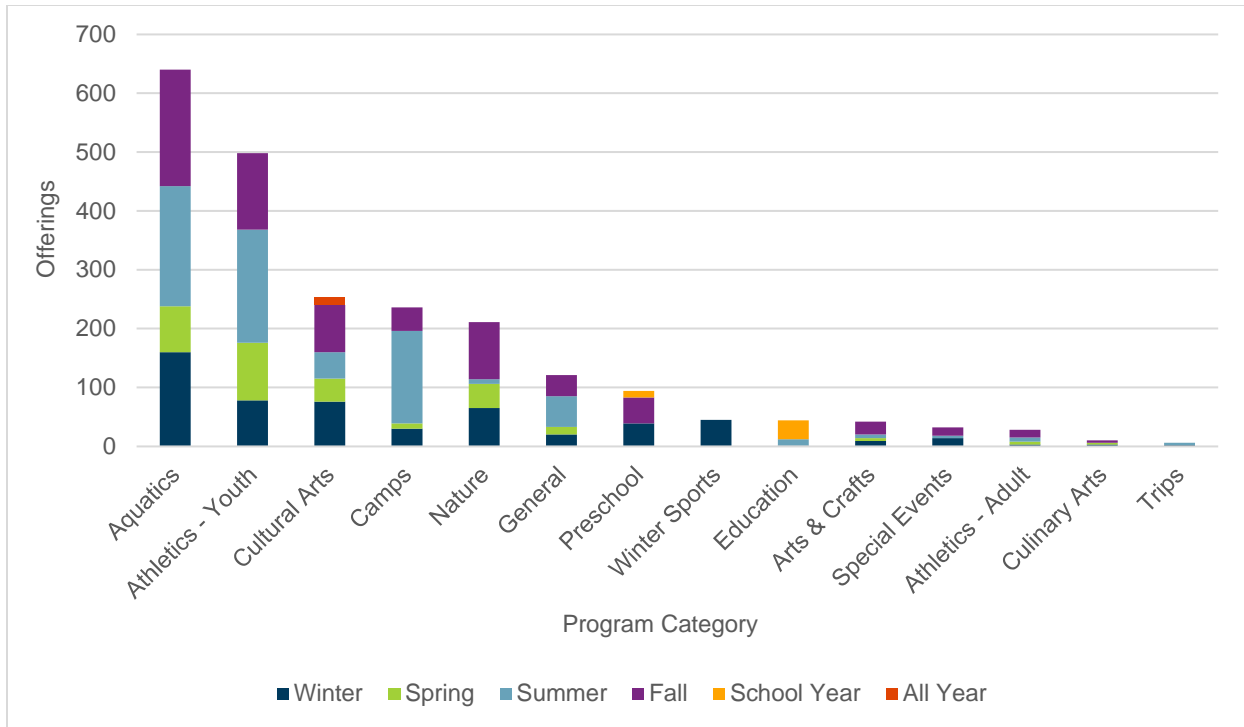


Figure 2 illustrates total programs offered in 2024 by program type and season.

**Figure 2: Total Programs Offered in 2024 by Type and Season**



Aquatics and youth athletics offered the largest quantities of programs (640 and 498, respectively). Conversely, the area with the lowest program offerings was trips (6). The summer season represented the greatest number of program offerings (690), closely followed by fall (678). The winter season offered 545 programs, and the spring season offered 291.

When analyzing program distribution, it is important to consider the findings with other analysis components and performance factors, such as age segmentation and participation levels, for a more complete understanding of reach and program execution effort.

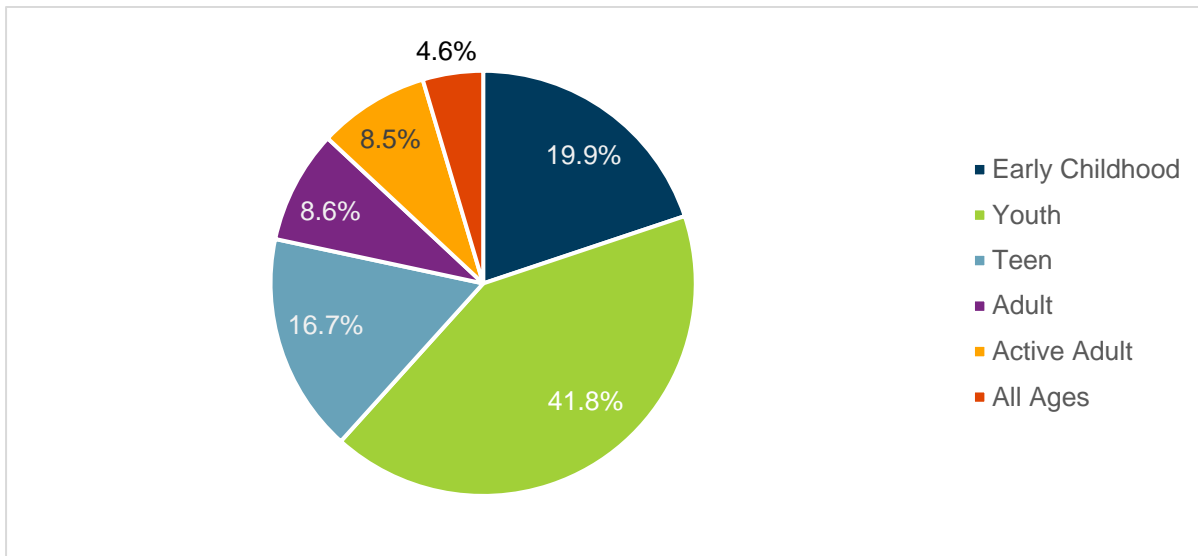
## Age Segmentation

The age segment analysis reviews the distribution of program offerings according to age segments serviced. For the purposes of this assessment, BerryDunn delineated age categories according to the following structure:

- Early Childhood, 0 – 5 years
- Youth, 6 – 12 years
- Teen, 13 – 17 years
- Adult, 18 – 49 years
- Active Adult 50+ years
- All Ages

Using the District's registration software data, BerryDunn assessed the number of registration-based program opportunities geared toward particular age groups, according to the District's minimum and maximum age designations assigned in the software for each activity. If a program section spanned clearly across two age categories (e.g., ages 8 – 14), BerryDunn counted that section once in the youth category and once in the teen category. Figure 3 displays the District's 2024 program menu's percentage of registration-based programs offered according to each age segment.

**Figure 3: Program Menu Age Segmentation, 2024**

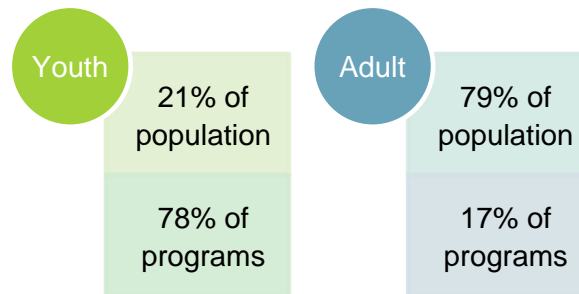


More than a third (41.8%) of programming is available for youth ages 6 – 12 years, followed by 19.9% for early childhood and 16.7% for teen. The adult and active adult segments were nearly identical at 8.6% and 8.5%, followed by all ages programs at 4.6%.

The teen, adult, and active adults age categories were observed to be “spillover” recreation categories rather than those that were specifically programmed. For example, several program age requirements spanned from age 9 to 14, and many of the classes listed 99 years as the maximum age. Specifically, only 13 of the active adult programs were explicitly assigned with the minimum age of 50—the other 463 programs (97%) include the “and up” designation. While this approach to registration helps participants feel welcome, it could be beneficial for programming staff to monitor each program’s **primary** target markets internally. If primary target age ranges were used, Figure 3 results would be remarkably different.

The age segmentation analysis is one helpful method to review District programming related to community demographics. Demographic data can be helpful to consider how programming efforts align with the community’s makeup. The adjacent comparison of the community’s population and enrollment-based program offerings in Figure 4 demonstrates two key age segments’ relationships between the population percentage and the percentage of programs offered; the youth segment includes ages 0 – 19, and the adult segment represents those 20 years and older.

**Figure 4: Population vs. Program Menu**



Most (78%) of the District’s enrollment-based programs are designed for youth ages 0 – 19, while the youth age segment represents 21% of the community’s population. Adults make up 79% of the population, while 17% of enrollment-based programs are designed for this age segment. Most park and recreation agencies across the country offer a higher percentage of youth programming (often between 60% and 75%) despite the youth population typically being significantly smaller. The program menu’s age segmentation does not need to mirror the community’s age demographic segmentation exactly; however, an ongoing goal can be to balance the menu to reflect community makeup.

## Therapeutic Recreation

The District is a member of the Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA), an agency that provides recreational opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. Participants can participate in NWSRA-led programs or obtain the support of an inclusion aide in any District program.

## Financial Assistance

The Bartlett Parks Foundation offers financial aid to families experiencing financial difficulties, so family members can participate in recreational activities at a reduced cost. An application and financial circumstance documentation must be submitted for financial assistance consideration. The application is available online through the District’s website.

## 3.0 Program and Service Participation

In addition to assessing the menu of programs and services offered, it is helpful to gauge program performance. The extent of participation can be measured by enrollment, cancellation rates, waitlists, participant reach, memberships, drop-in participation, and facility use and rentals.

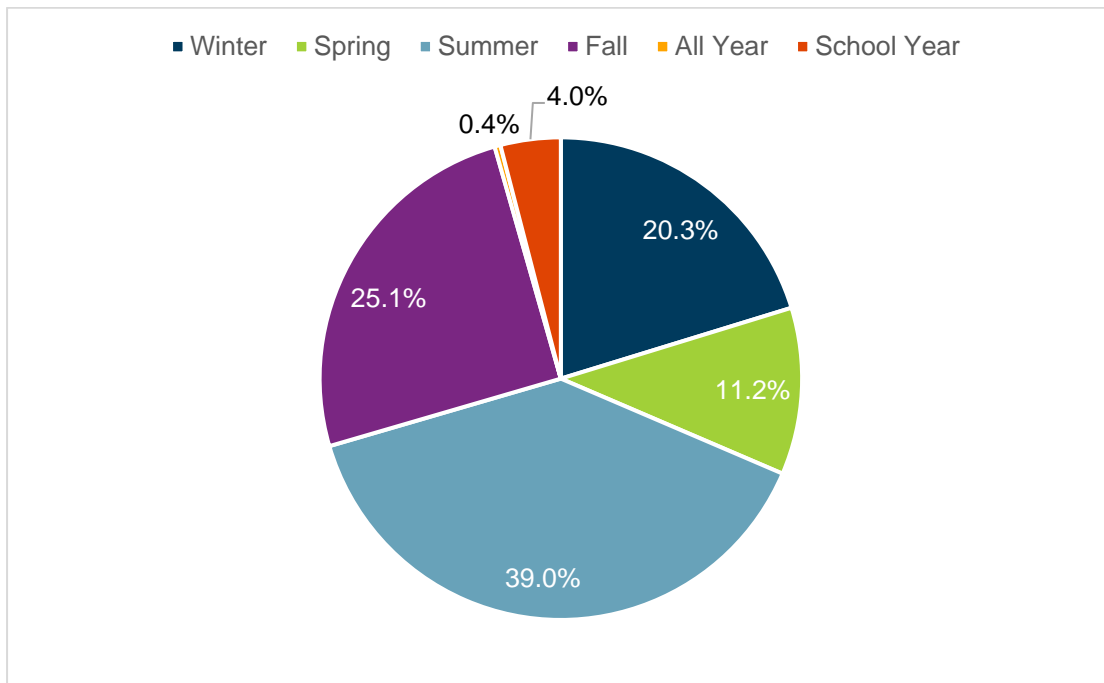
### Enrollment

Total enrollment, or the number of participants who registered for District registration-based programs, was 15,494 in 2024. This section reviews total enrollment by season and residency, enrollment trends over time, and a concentrated review of youth athletics participation.

#### Enrollment by Season

More than one-third (39%) of 2024 participation in enrollment-based activities occurred in the summer season, as depicted in Figure 5.

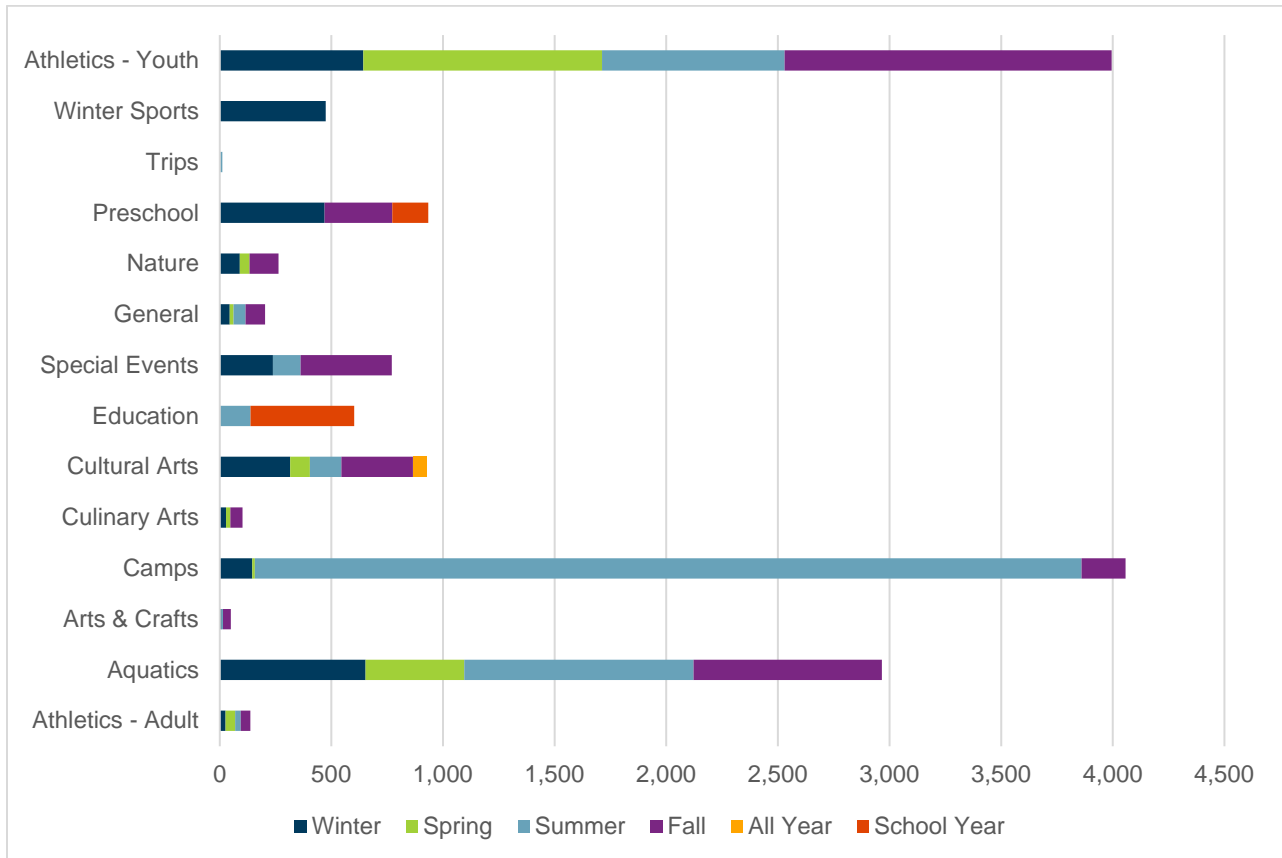
**Figure 5: Seasonal Enrollment**



One-fourth (25.1%) of enrollees participated in the fall season, 20.3% participated in the winter, and 11.2% participated in the spring. Smaller portions of registrants participated in school-year or all-year program seasons (4.0% and 0.4%, respectively).

Figure 6 depicts the breakdown of enrollments by program type and season.

**Figure 6: Total Enrollment by Type and Season**



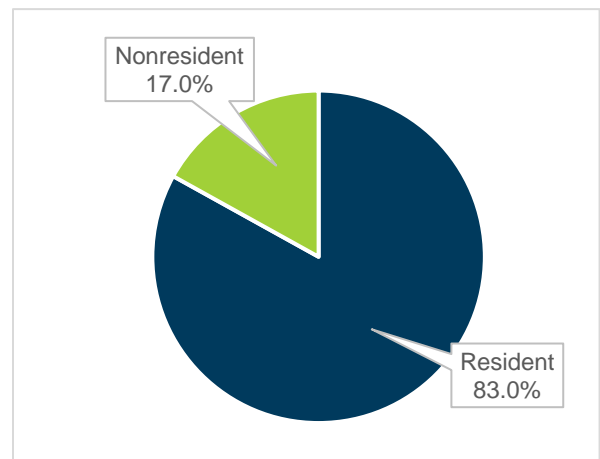
The District can use this data to identify any opportunities for development or enhancement. For example, spring had the lowest quantity of enrollments in swim lessons, yet it is the season leading into an aquatics-heavy time of the year. Perhaps additional advertising for pre-summer swim lessons could be beneficial.

### Enrollment by Residency

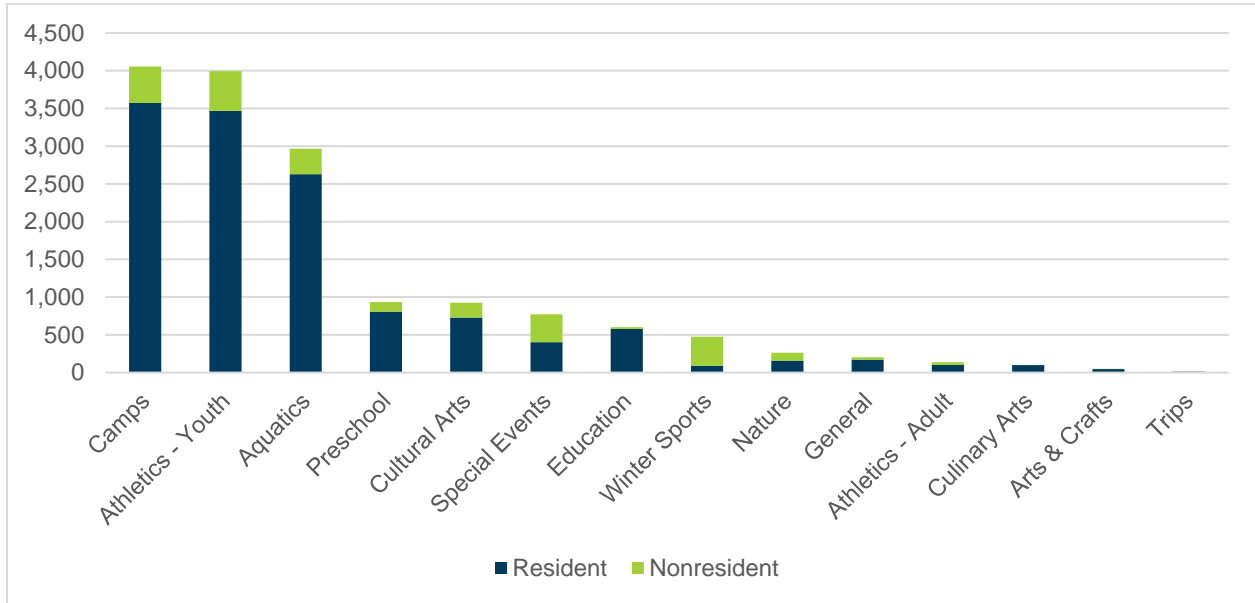
A park district’s primary market is its residents (taxpayers). Exploring participation data for residency can monitor whether the District is reaching its intended primary market. Figure 7 depicts enrollments into District programs based on residency in 2024.

Most participants were residents (83%) in 2024. Figure 8 depicts total enrollment by program type and residency.

**Figure 7: Enrollee Residency**



**Figure 8: Total Enrollment by Type and Residency**



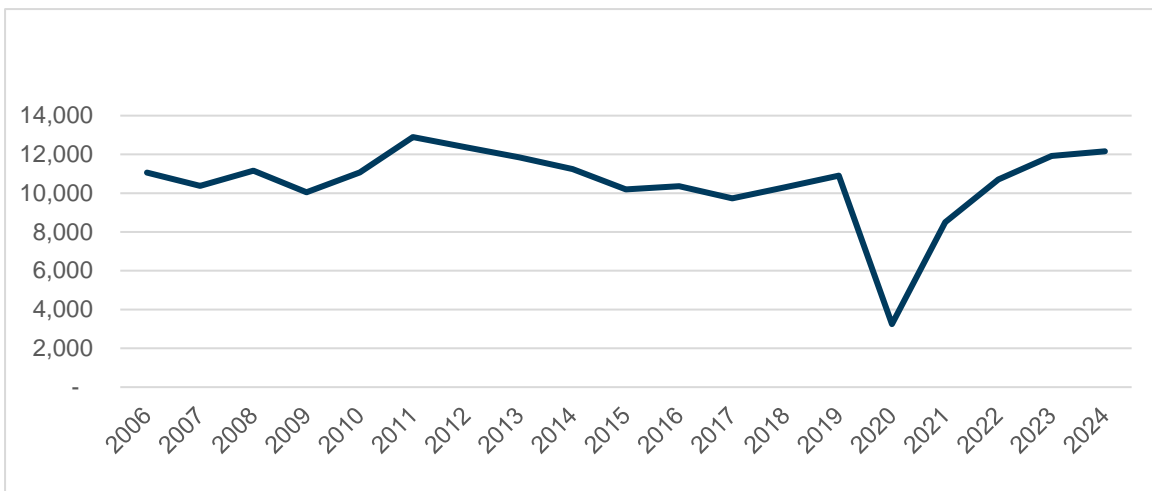
Total enrollment was the highest for camps in 2024 (4,057), which was followed by youth athletics (3,995) and aquatics (2,966).

Winter sports attracted more nonresident (384) than resident enrollees (91). Special events were evenly split between residents (403) and nonresidents (368). The other program types all experience a majority of resident enrollment or total resident enrollment.

### Recreation Department Enrollment Trends

Enrollment data presented thus far has represented all enrollment into registration-based experiences with the District. The Recreation Department has tracked its enrollment for 18 years, as depicted in Figure 9.

**Figure 9: Recreation Department Enrollment Trends**

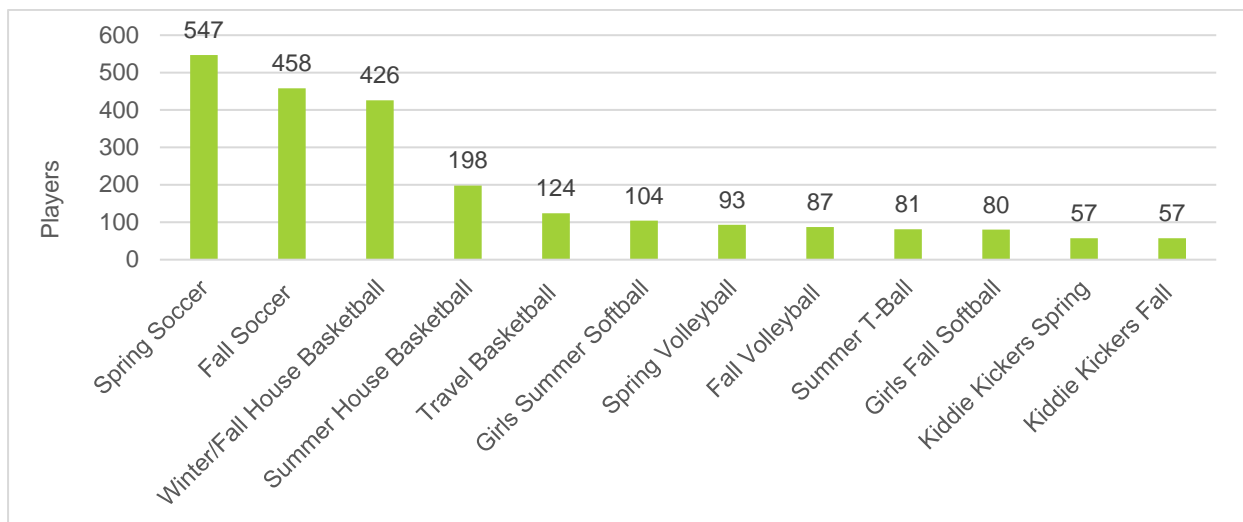


Recreation Department enrollment peaked at 12,895 participants in 2011. The 2020 dip in participation aligns with nationwide historical participation data due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic rebound has been strong, 2024’s 12,159 enrollment total has not yet matched the 2011 participation high from more than a decade ago.

### Youth Athletics Participation

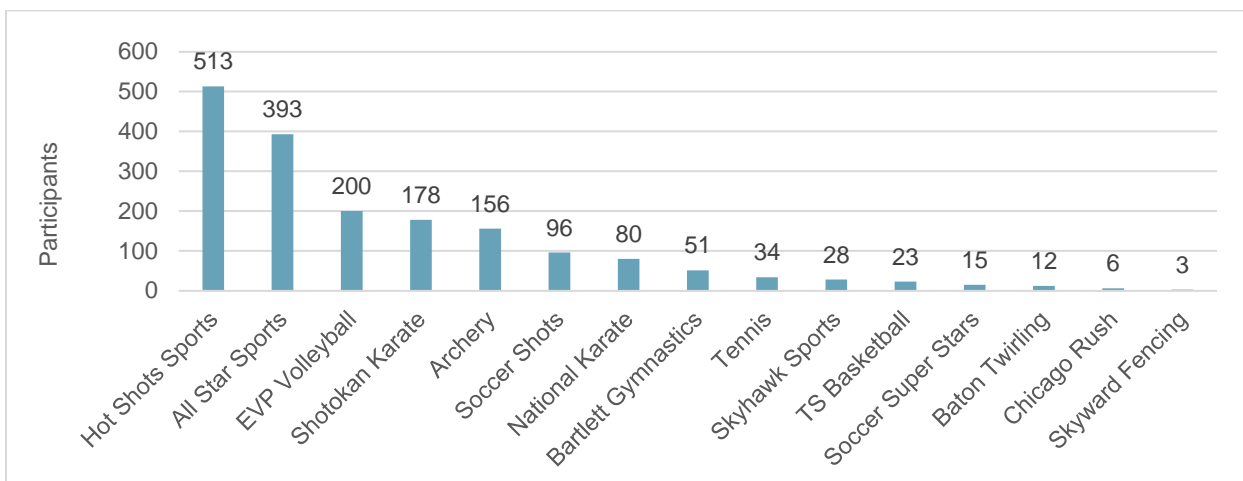
The youth athletics program type encompasses a variety of sport activities. To understand the breakdown of youth athletics participation, BerryDunn extracted youth league and youth instructional sport data in Figures 10 and 11.

**Figure 10: Youth Athletic League Participation**



Spring and fall soccer had the highest enrollment totals of all youth athletic leagues (547 and 458 players, respectively), followed by winter/fall house basketball (426 players).

**Figure 11: Youth Instructional Sports Participation**

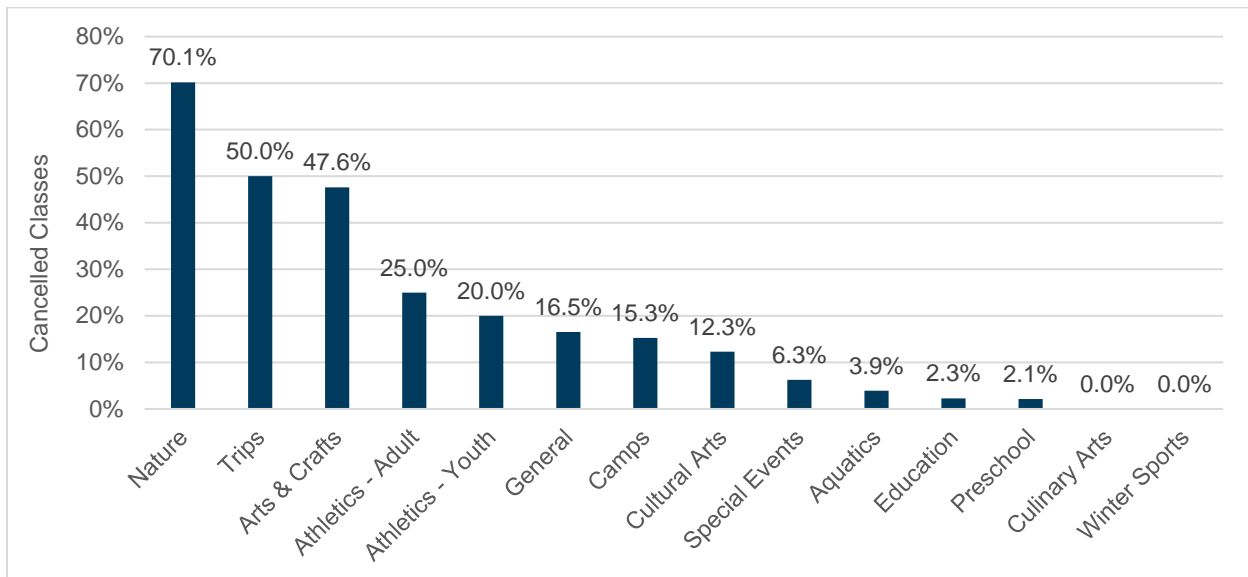


Hot Shots Sports and All Star Sports led the way in youth instructional sports participation with 513 and 393 participants, respectively.

## Cancellation Rates

The difference between the number of programs offered and the number of programs held results in the cancellation rate. A higher rate will generally indicate one of two things: either 1) the programming team has been charged with trying new, innovative programs that have not been successful yet, or 2) the programs being offered simply are not meeting community needs. The first scenario requires patience and perseverance to allow time for exploration and to bolster communication efforts. The second scenario requires research to understand what factors contributed to the program cancellations (e.g., instructor performance, child aged out, or other barriers such as time, day, or transportation). Typically, the target range of a “desirable” cancellation rate is between 10% and 20%, with 12% – 15% being most ideal. Any rate higher than 20% indicates staff are doing a significant amount of work preparing for and marketing programs that do not run. Figure 12 depicts the number of programs offered compared to the number of programs that actually ran (i.e., cancellation rate) in 2024.

**Figure 12: 2024 Cancellation Rates by Category**



Four of the program areas had cancellation rates over 20% in 2024: nature (70.1%), trips (50%), arts & crafts (47.6%), and adult athletics (25%). These program areas are worth researching to determine why the cancellation rate is so high and subsequently develop strategies to reduce this rate. Similarly, researching why some cancellation rates are low can also be beneficial. Upon initial investigation, staff felt the cancellation rates were high due to the low number of programs offered in these areas as well as weather-dependent programs.

## Waitlists

When District staff members add program codes into the registration software, they must enter a maximum number of registrants. When more participant interest is generated than spots

available, a waitlist can be formed. Typically, the goal of recreation staff is to enroll as many participants off the waitlist as possible—to secure the participation and revenue of everyone who has expressed interest. In some cases, space can be created in programs by increasing the number of instructors or sections of that program.

The District does not maintain waitlist counts between seasons due to the way it manages waitlist enrollment. If the registrant is selected to join the activity, they are immediately enrolled; if they are not, they are refunded. In both instances, the participant is removed from the waitlist status.

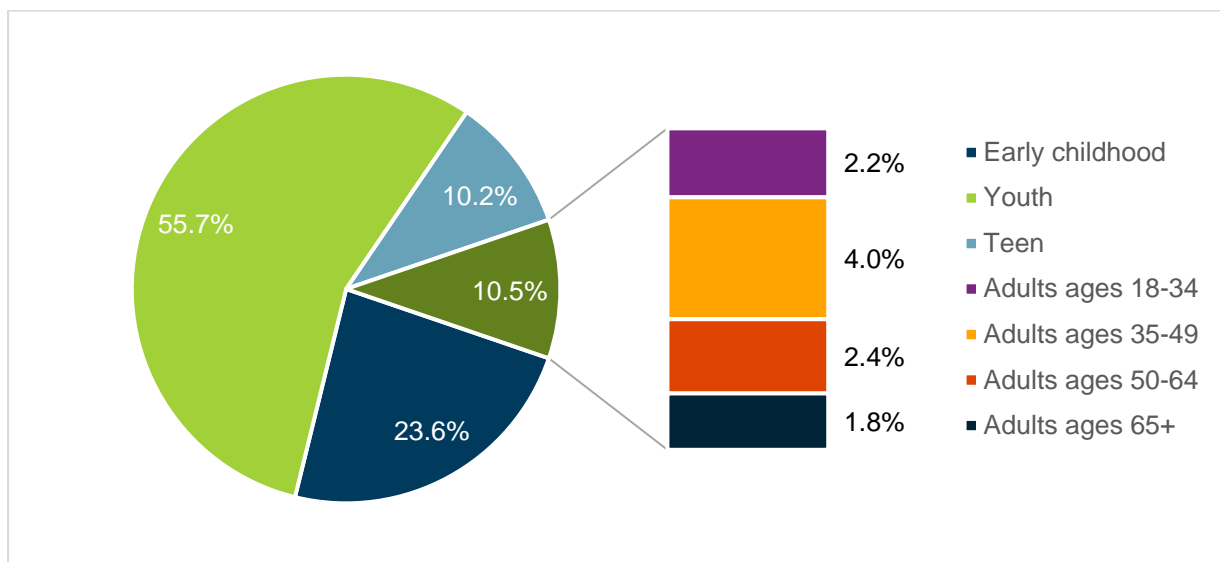
Because of the lost revenue potential and the opportunity to measure the unmet need, the District should consider enabling an internal tracking system to monitor the extent of waitlisted participants who are denied access to programs. The data compiled can guide future resource allocation of where additional sessions or expanded programming may be most impactful.

## Participant Reach

### Ages

Figure 13 represents the breakdown of 2024 participants in enrollment-based activities by age; each participant is represented once.

**Figure 13: 2024 Participant Ages**



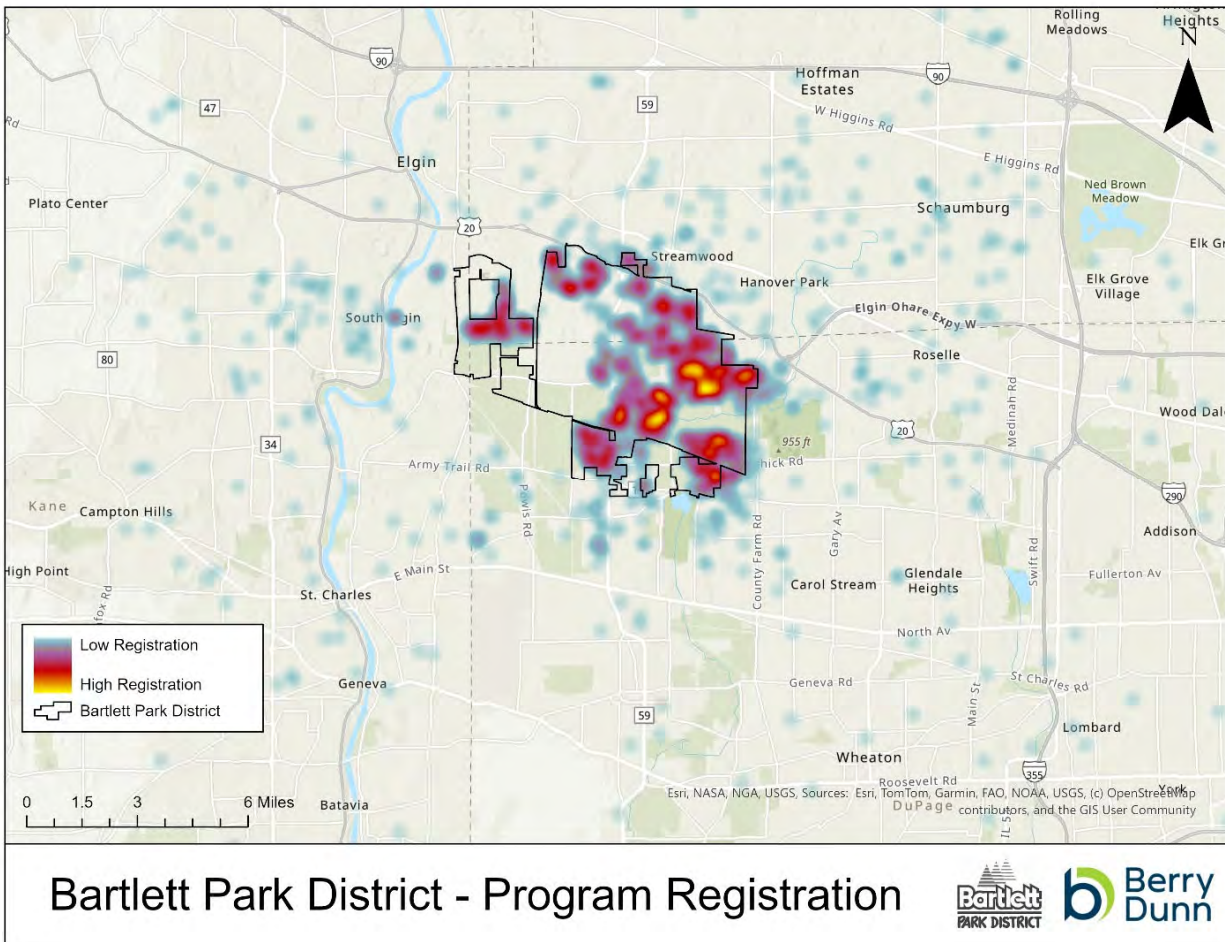
Most (89.5%) of the participants were youth. Comparing participant age data to the program menu’s offerings data, 17% of programs offered were available for adult participation yet 10.5% of participants were adults in 2024. While this statistic does not represent the number of adults the District reaches through memberships, drop-in activities, or rentals, it does indicate an opportunity for growth. It is important to note that senior and teen services are offered through the two townships (Hanover and Wayne) that serve the community. BerryDunn does not recommend duplicating services; however, it is recommended that the District review ways to offset the services currently provided by the townships. When the participant age data is

compared to the District’s full population data, the District reached approximately 6.5% of its youth residents and 0.8% of its adult residents in 2024.

## Geography

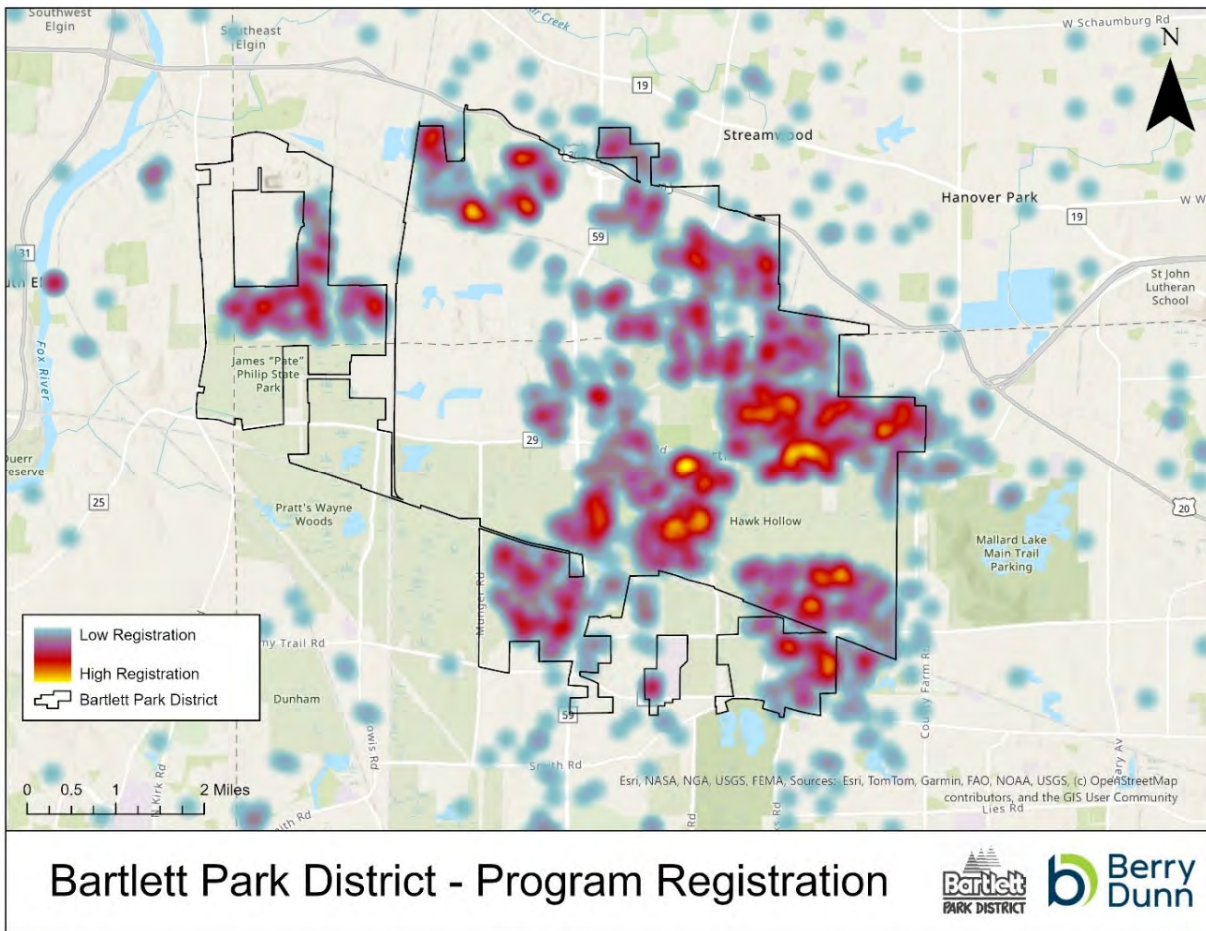
To help illustrate the geographic reach of the District’s programs, the consulting team used geographic information systems (GIS) to create a series of heat maps that depict 2024 participant households. Figures 14 and 15 represent the total reach of 2024 registrants regionally and locally.

**Figure 14: 2024 Regional Reach**



These heat maps represent unique participants, meaning they recorded the participant’s household location only once—regardless of the number of programs that person participated in throughout 2024. The yellow color represents the highest concentration of participant households, whereas blue is the lowest concentration. Blue circles in areas of high population density might be an opportunity to target new participants. The District’s reach extended well beyond its boundaries, from Compton Hills to the west and Wood Dale to the east.

Figure 15: 2024 Local Reach

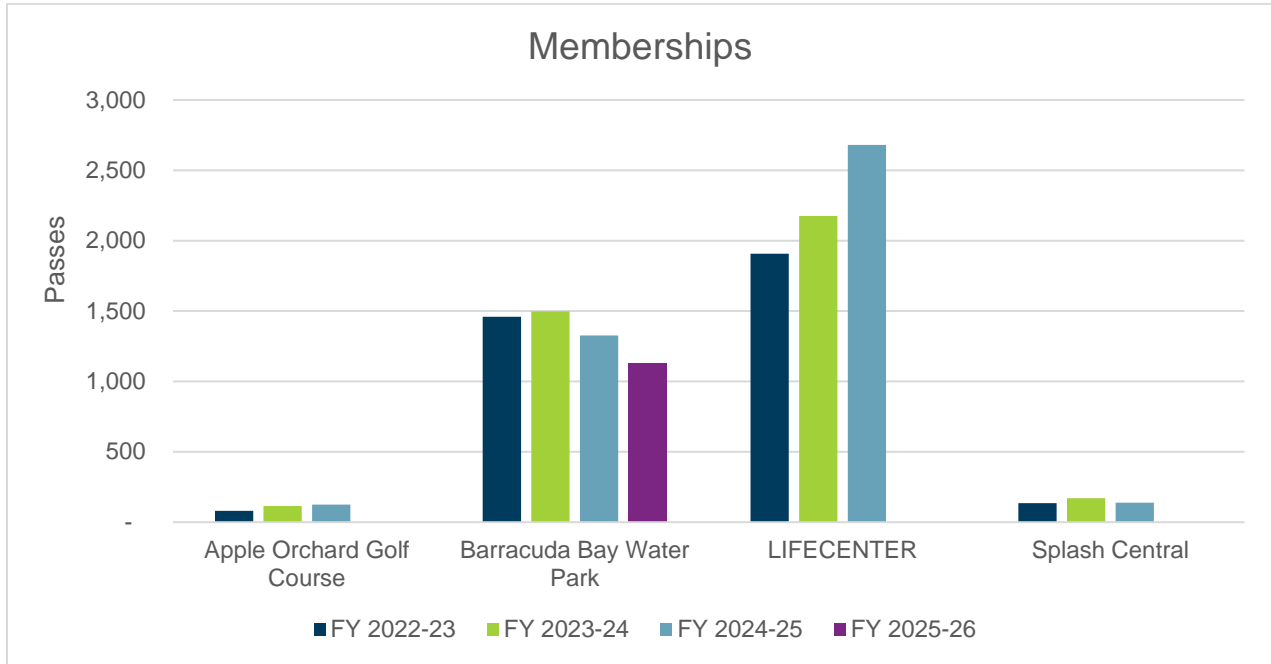


Blue circles—or no circles—in areas of high population density might be an opportunity to target new participants.

## Memberships

The District sells memberships to Apple Orchard Golf Course (nine-hole course), Bartlett Aquatic Center (outdoor swimming), **LIFECENTER** (fitness and wellness), and Splash Central Indoor Aquatic Center. Figure 16 depicts membership pass sale trends for the last four fiscal years.

Figure 16: Membership Pass Sales Trends

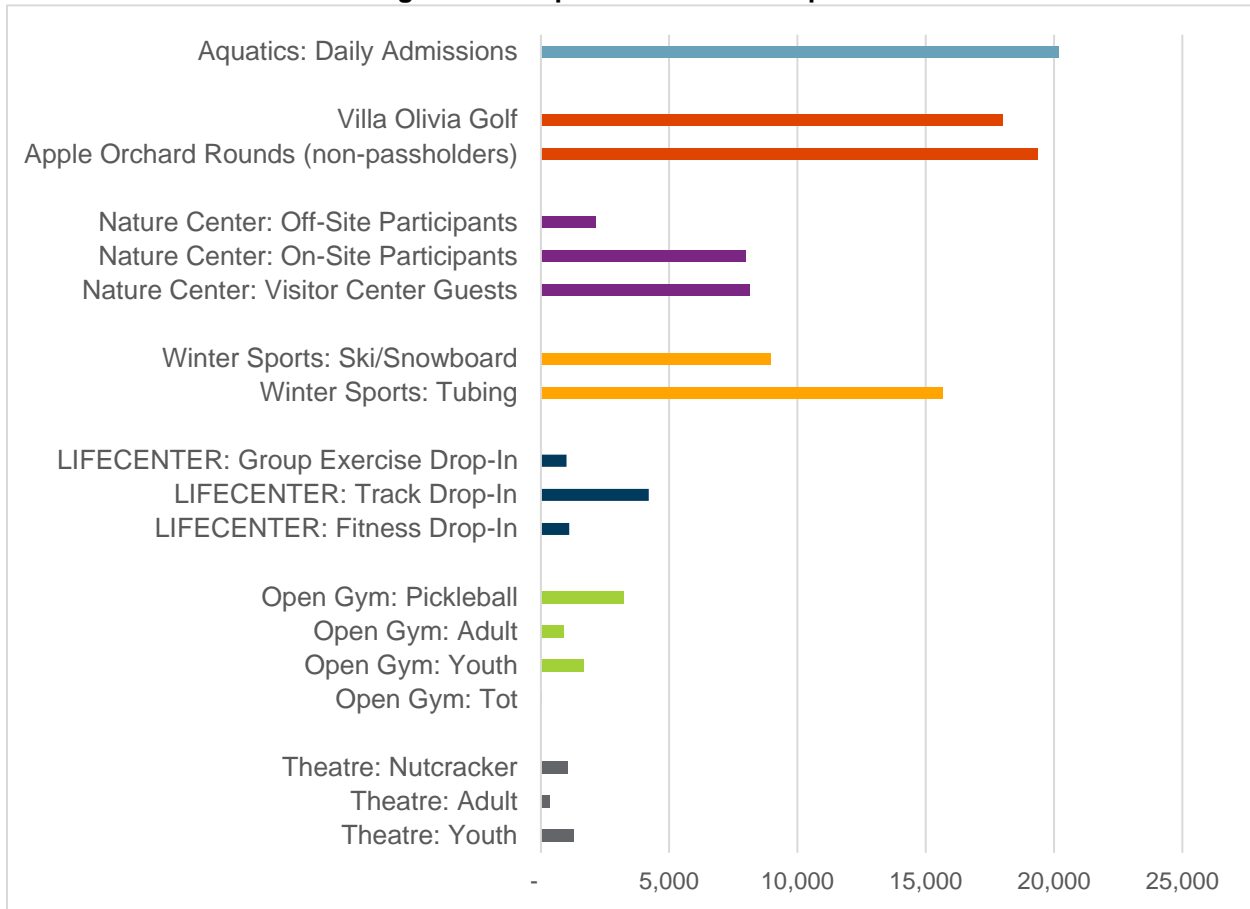


While membership sales have hovered between 135 and 170 at Splash Central, they have steadily declined from 1,498 to 1,131 memberships at Bartlett Aquatic Center. Conversely, Apple Orchard Golf Course has experienced a steady increase from 81 to 125 memberships, and LIFECENTER has grown by 41% from 1,907 to 2,681 memberships in the last three years.

## Drop-In Participation

Participation can also be measured by the quantity of users who visit a facility for a one-time purpose. Drop-in visits do not require registration but may require payment (depending on location); the payment secures a daily pass or ticket for admission. Figure 17 depicts the drop-in or ticketed participation for a variety of experiences throughout the District.

**Figure 17: Drop-In/Ticketed Participation**



With activities like tubing, golf, and aquatics experiencing drop-in participation of 15,000 participants or more per year, this means of participation is clearly an important service delivery method for the District.

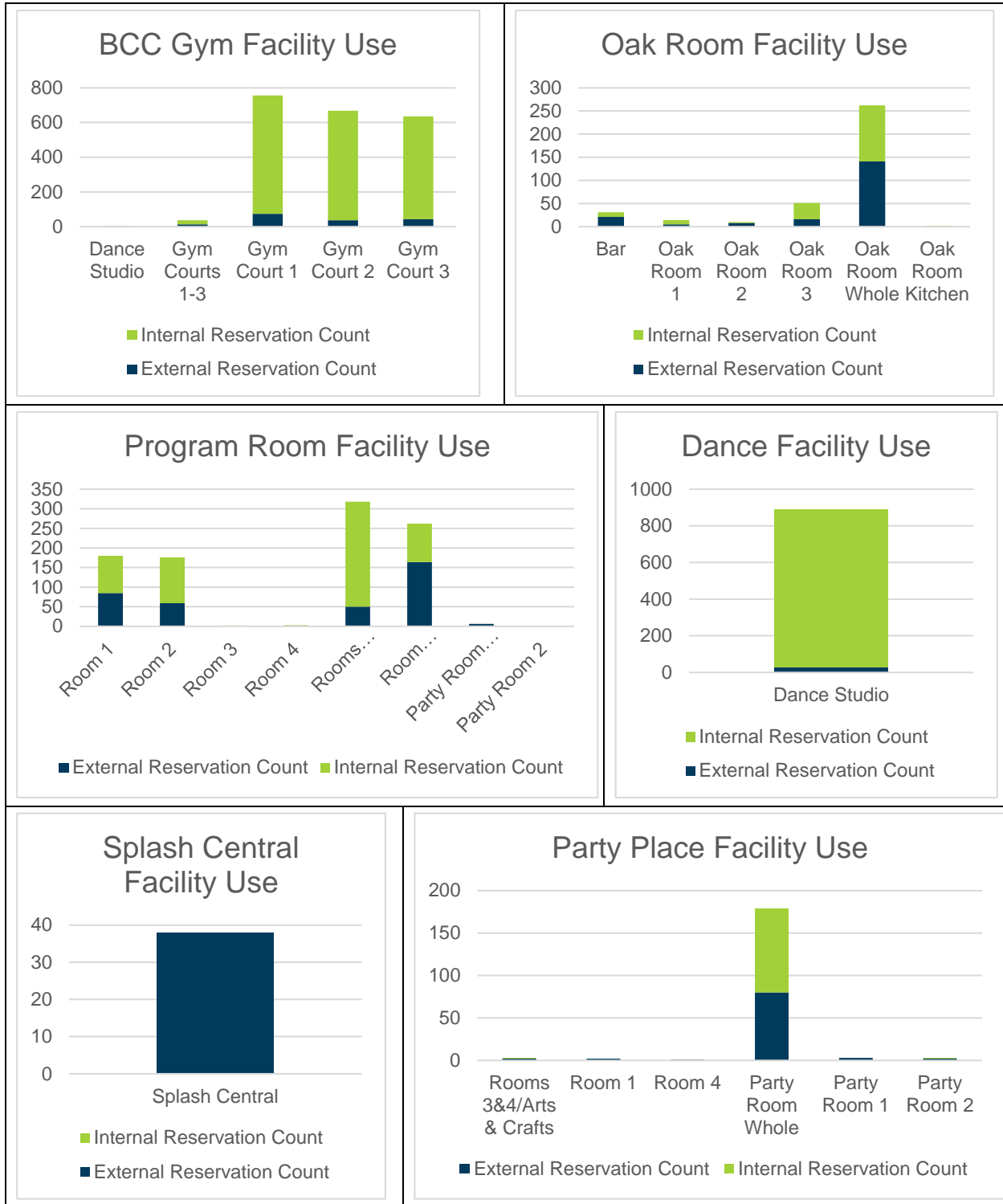
## Facility Use and Rentals

The District has numerous facilities and spaces available for rent, offering social gathering locations throughout the community. Facility use is tracked by the number of internal and external reservations. Internal reservations are typically for enrollment-based program use, and external reservations are typically paid rental experiences. The data in this section can be used to determine if the current use of the space equates to the District’s desired “highest and best use” of the amenity.

### Bartlett Community Center

The images in Figure 18 illustrate that the courts at Bartlett Community Center’s gymnasium and dance room are primarily used for internal programming than external reservations. The Oak Room, program rooms, Party Place, Splash Central, and arts & crafts room are used both internally and externally. Splash Central is used for swim lessons.

Figure 18: Bartlett Community Center Room Use



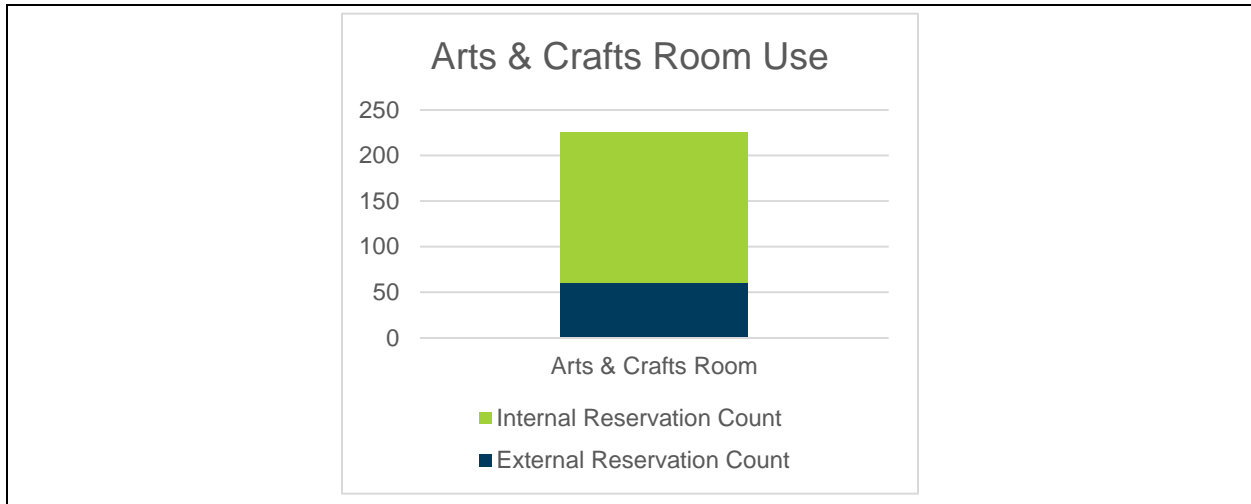
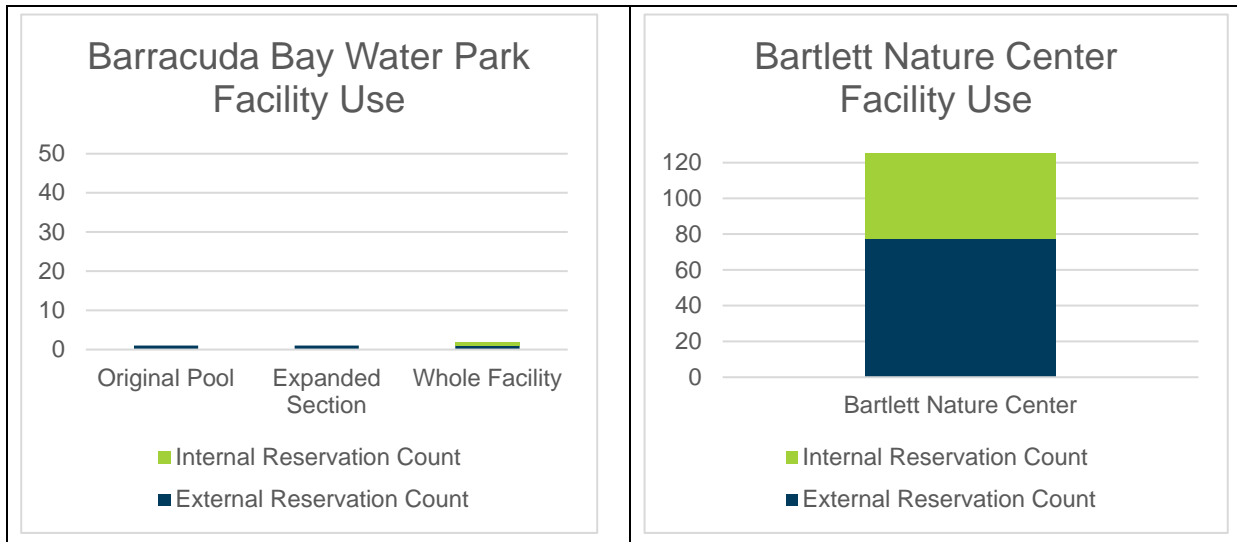


Figure 19 illustrates use data for other facilities throughout the District, including the Bartlett Aquatic Center, the Bartlett Nature Center, the Log Cabin, Donald H. Schrade Gymnasium, and the shelters and gazebo. While most facility use is split between internal and external reservations, the Log Cabin is mostly used by external renters.

**Figure 19: Other District Facility Use**



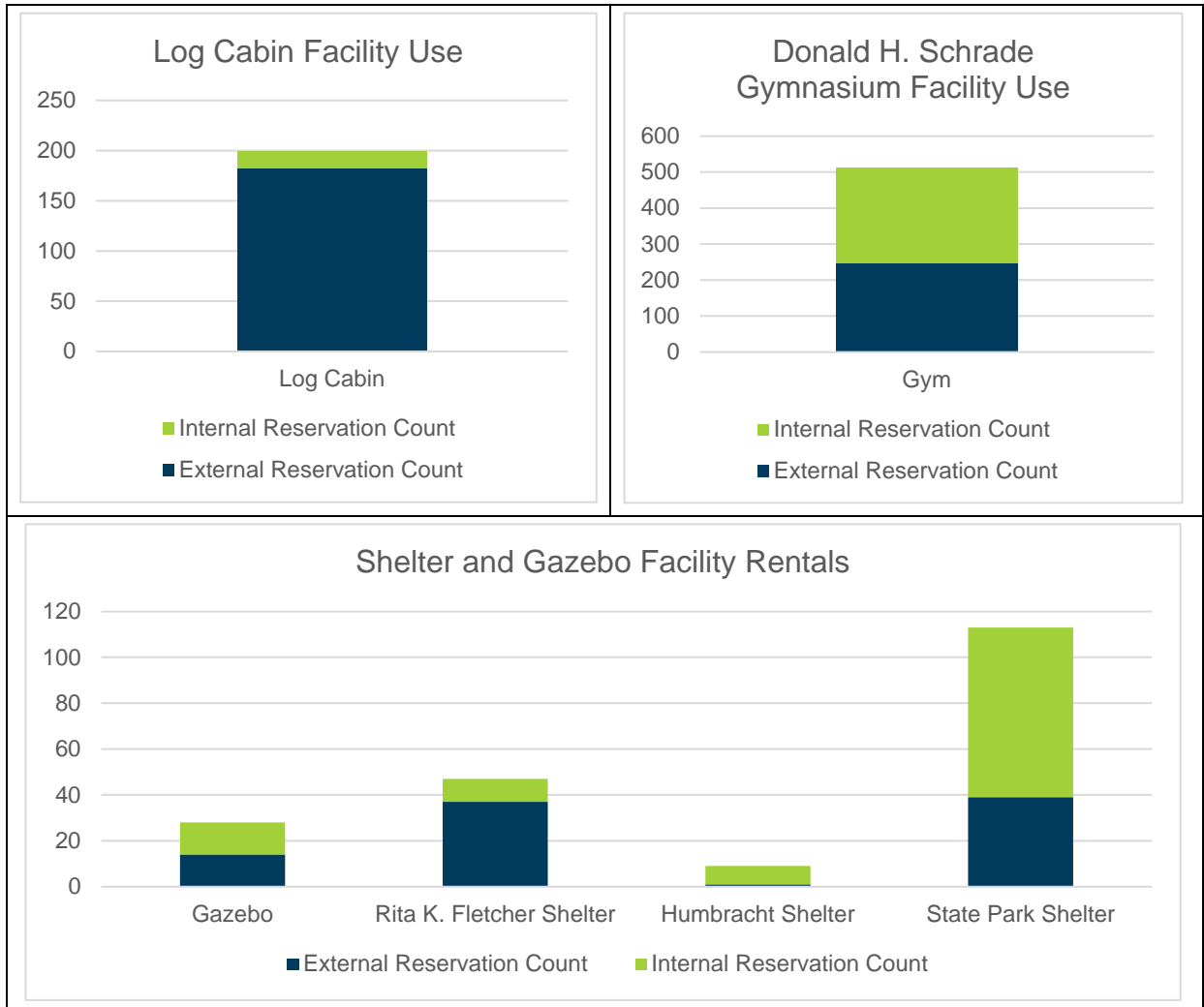
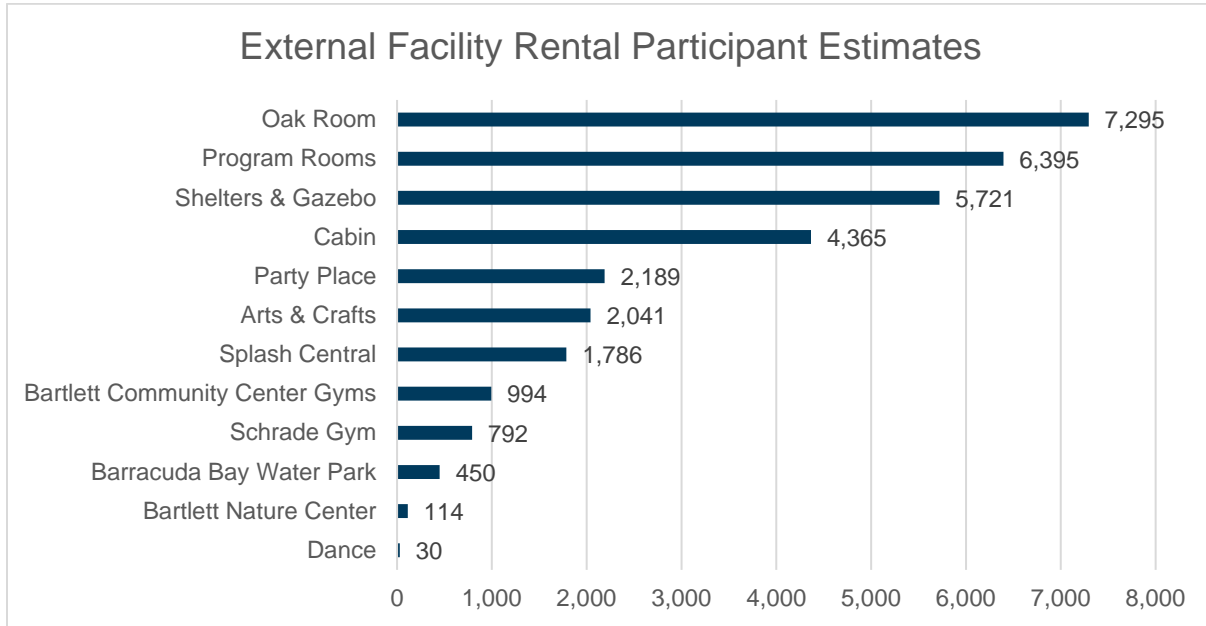


Figure 20 captures estimated participation rates for external renters of various spaces.

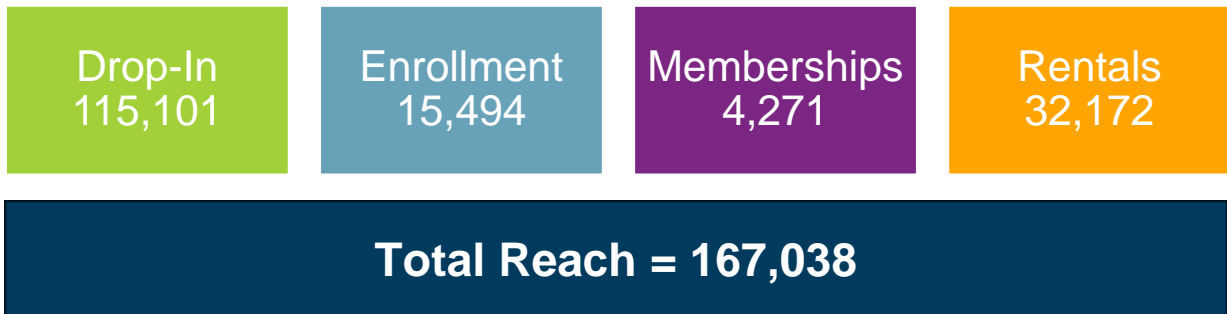
Figure 20: External Facility Rental Participant Estimates



Of the 32,172 estimated rental headcounts, the Oak Room, program rooms, and shelters and gazebo reached the largest quantity of participants.

### Total Reach

In summary, the District can celebrate its known total reach of at least 167,038 participants in 2024. This includes drop-in, enrollment, membership, and rental participation. The unknown reach includes park users, special event participants, sporting event spectators, and facility visitors.



## 4.0 Staff Feedback

BerryDunn met with District programming staff to learn what they felt were a range of valuable strengths as well as improvement opportunities for programming efforts.

### Strengths

Staff highlighted several thriving program areas. Camps, for example, continue to be extremely popular, often filling up within minutes of registration opening. Additional camp spots were added this summer to accommodate demand. Swim lessons, swim team, free programs, pickleball, travel basketball, Family Fun Nights, and ski/snowboard lessons were all cited as areas experiencing notable growth and participation. The dance program recently shifted operational approaches, resulting in a positive shift in dynamics and participation.

### Opportunities

Conversely, District staff acknowledged that some program areas are plateauing or declining. Adult programs, despite efforts to diversify offerings, are frequently canceled due to low enrollment. Nature programs face challenges attracting participants, particularly when fees are involved, as many attendees are accustomed to free offerings. Laser tag has struggled to gain traction, largely due to competition from private industry and staffing difficulties, while teen programming also faces engagement issues. Classes like dog obedience and magic have experienced inconsistent enrollment.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was indoor space and facility constraints. Dance classes, for instance, are limited by the availability of suitable rooms, and archery programs require labor-intensive setup and takedown, with minimal staff support. Some programs are held in spaces not ideally suited for their activities. The need for additional gym space was emphasized, particularly for basketball and pickleball—especially in winter. Swim lessons and team could expand, but the pool size is static. Well and irrigation issues at Villa Olivia also impact golf and winter sport success.

Decision-making around program offerings is largely driven by recreation managers who propose new ideas and rely on a central coordinator to allocate space. The group indicated that more targeted communication and planning among staff could improve the program planning process, with suggestions for regular strategy sessions and more focused conversations about program performance.

Evaluation of programs varies. Although some program areas use surveys and Net Promoter Scores, others use a Program Recap Form. There is no formalized District process for gathering and acting on feedback. Cost recovery expectations vary, with some programs exceeding targets and others given more flexibility, especially when a program is new.

The customer experience, particularly regarding registration and access to programs, was identified as an area for improvement. The registration process could be streamlined with features like autofill and easier navigation, while the phone system and website were described as sources of frustration for both staff and customers. Various point of sale systems are used

throughout the District; while this has been a challenge in the past, staff feel the current combination seems to be working for them.

Staff felt that marketing support is limited, with programming staff often responsible for taking their own photos. The District's marketing team currently relies heavily on Facebook for outreach; staff felt this approach misses certain market segments. Suggestions for improvement included expanding to Instagram, implementing text alerts, and enhancing cross-marketing and website management. Of note, in 2025 funds were added to support a part-time photographer position.

Although the District benefits from arrangements with schools, local municipal entities, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, staff felt there was room to strengthen its partner relationships. Sponsorships are another area of opportunity, particularly with local businesses. Staff indicated a need for more consistent annual meetings and agreement reviews with community groups, as working with the volunteer groups can be challenging.

Staff expressed a strong need to upgrade aging facilities like the community center and repair amenities at the nature center. Staff also expressed a desire for more interdepartmental cooperation to achieve their goals.

The staff appeared to be a team that is responsive to community needs and committed to continuous improvement. While there are clear successes in youth programming and partnerships, challenges remain in space allocation, program evaluation, customer experience, and marketing. Addressing these areas can help strengthen programming, enhance customer satisfaction, and improve operational efficiency moving forward.

## 5.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations summarize opportunities to strengthen District performance.

- Investigate the reason for the high cancellation rates in nature, trips, arts & crafts, and adult athletics, with a goal to get cancellation rates for these areas between 12% and 15%
- Formalize the District's program evaluation process
- Strengthen relationships with partners and community groups
- Improve the program planning process by coordinating interdepartmental collaboration opportunities
- Review the room assignment process to more efficiently and strategically use indoor space
- Implement a waitlist tracking process to better understand supply and demand
- Add new programming based on community need and the program inventory (where aligned)
- Consider bilingual and cultural programs to support a growing and diversifying community
- Consider a districtwide life cycle analysis to understand the broader perspective rather than individual planning
- Work to include more adult programming in the annual menu of offerings:
  - Target specific age ranges within the overarching adult category; offer more programs for young adult, adult, active adult, and senior audiences
  - Work with the townships to review ways to offset their current service offerings
- Conduct in-depth facility analyses for the Bartlett Aquatic Center and Villa Olivia for strengthening opportunities

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# COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR THE BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 2023

*aQity Research & Insights*

*Evanston, IL*

## Research Methods

- Survey findings based on responses from n=352 residents within the Bartlett Park District/BPD (exceeding target of n=300 respondents).
  
- Data collection: September 11<sup>th</sup> to October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
  
- Invitation postcards and printed mail questionnaires (with prepaid return envelope) were sent to a random sample of BPD residents, offering three response options:
  - n=252 completed the survey online
  - n=100 completed a printed survey (sent and returned by USPS)
  - n=0 opted for a phone survey/interview.
  
- The random sample of n=352 residents was weighted to match US Census data for Bartlett (by region, age, gender, race and ethnicity, and percentage of households with children).
  
- Maximum margin of error: +/- 5.2% (at the 95% confidence level).

## Respondent Sample Demographics (self-reported)

Gender*	
Male	49%
Female	51%
Prefer to self-describe	<1%

Age*	
Under 35	20%
35-44	16%
45-54	22%
55-64	20%
65+	22%
<i>Mean (average): 51 years old</i>	

Children in Household*	
Yes	38%
No	62%

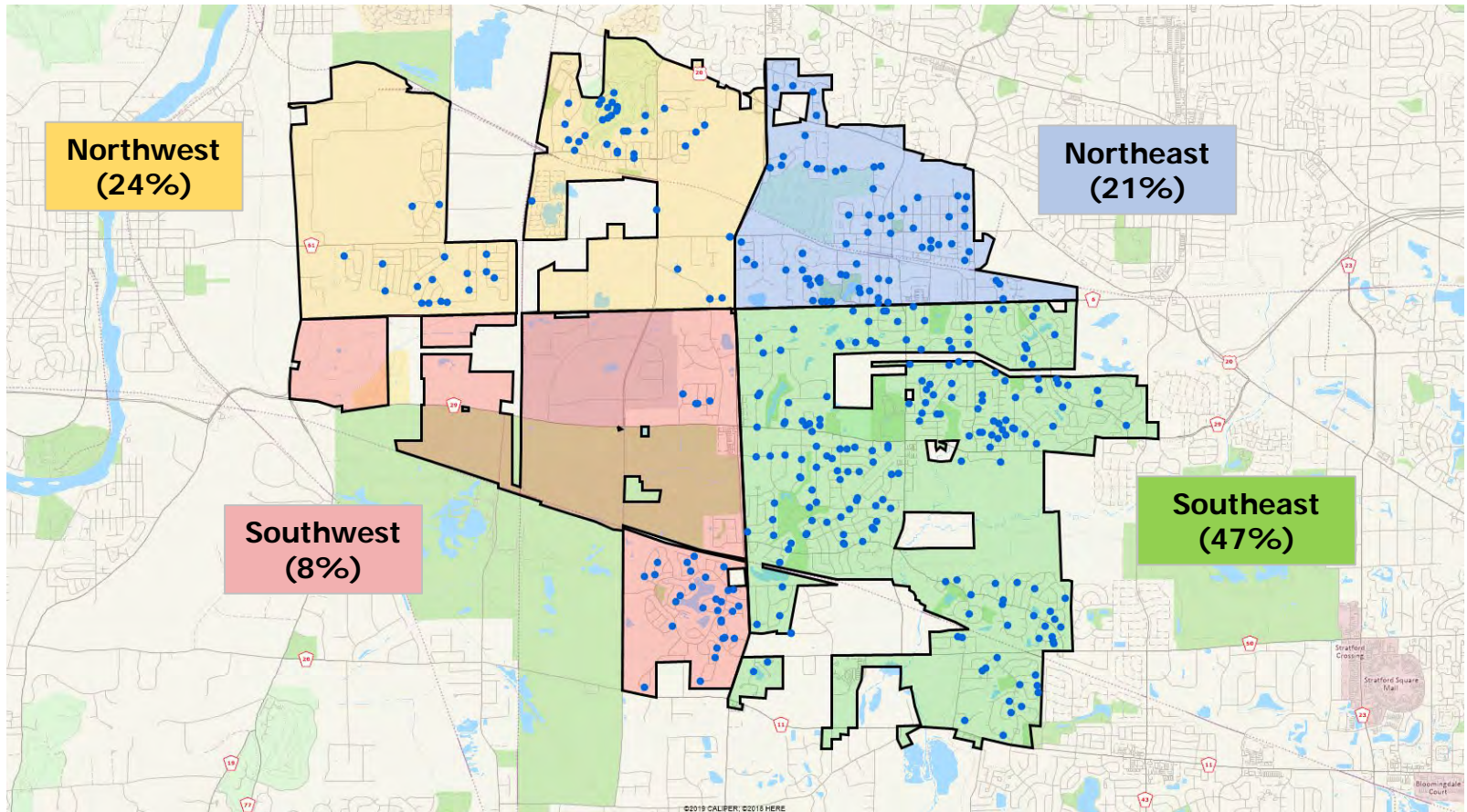
Length of Residence in Bartlett Park District	
Less than 5 years	18%
5-9 years	19%
10-19 years	17%
20-29 years	24%
30-39 years	17%
40+ yrs.	5%
<i>Mean (average): 17.9 years</i>	

Race* (multiple responses)	
White/Caucasian	65%
Hispanic/Latino	15%
Asian	20%
Black/African American	3%
Indian/East Indian	10%
Other	2%

Ethnicity*	
Hispanic/Latino	15%
Not Hispanic/Latino	85%

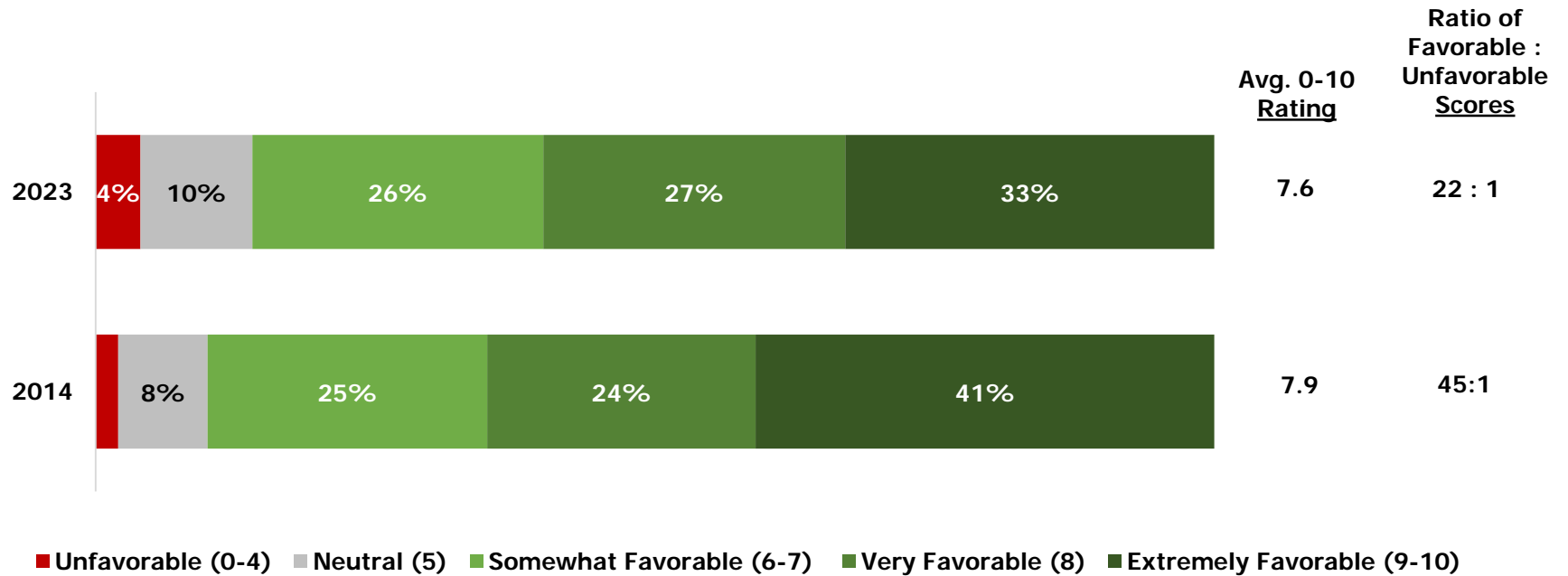
\*Weighted to 2020/2021 Census data.

## Regional Distribution of Respondents\*

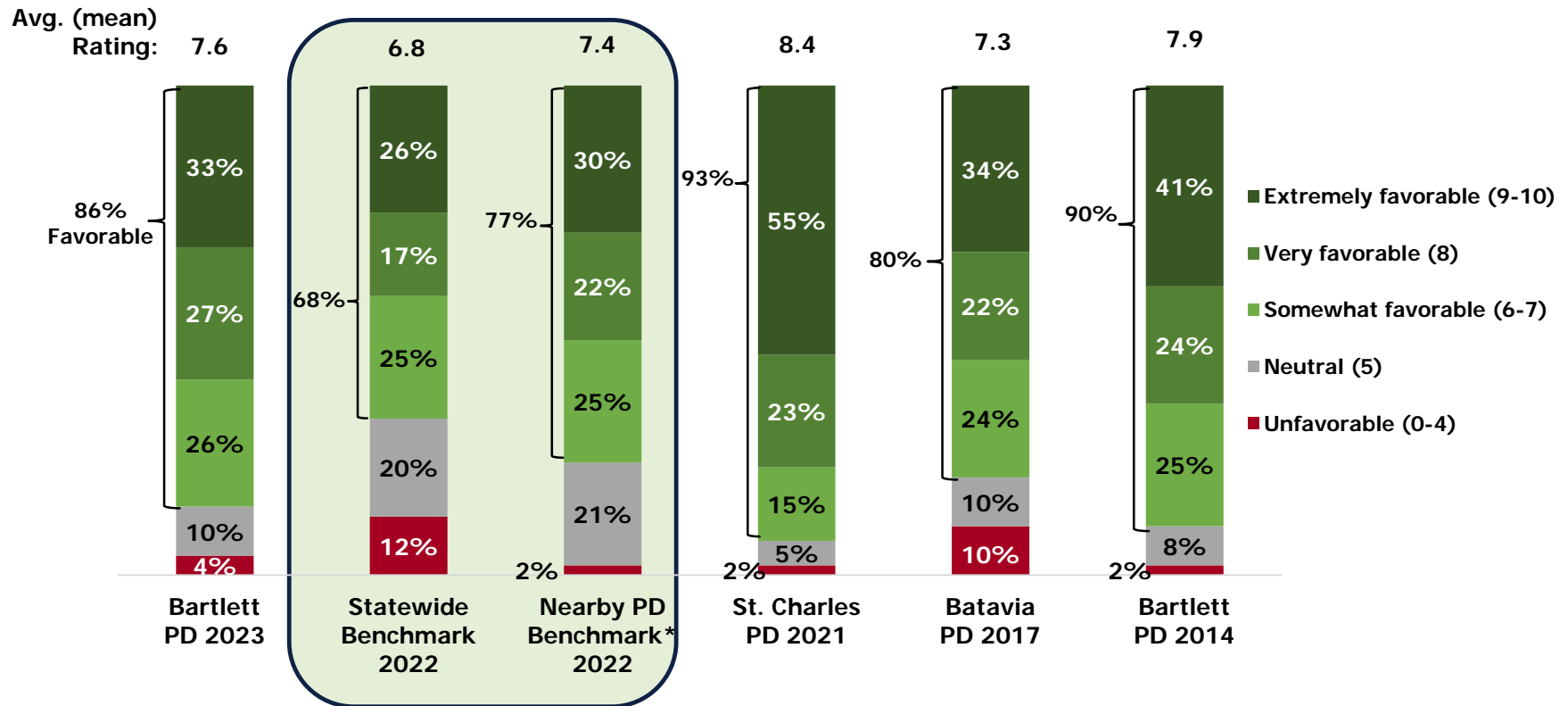


# Key Findings

**Overall Esteem for Bartlett Park District  
(0-10 scale)**



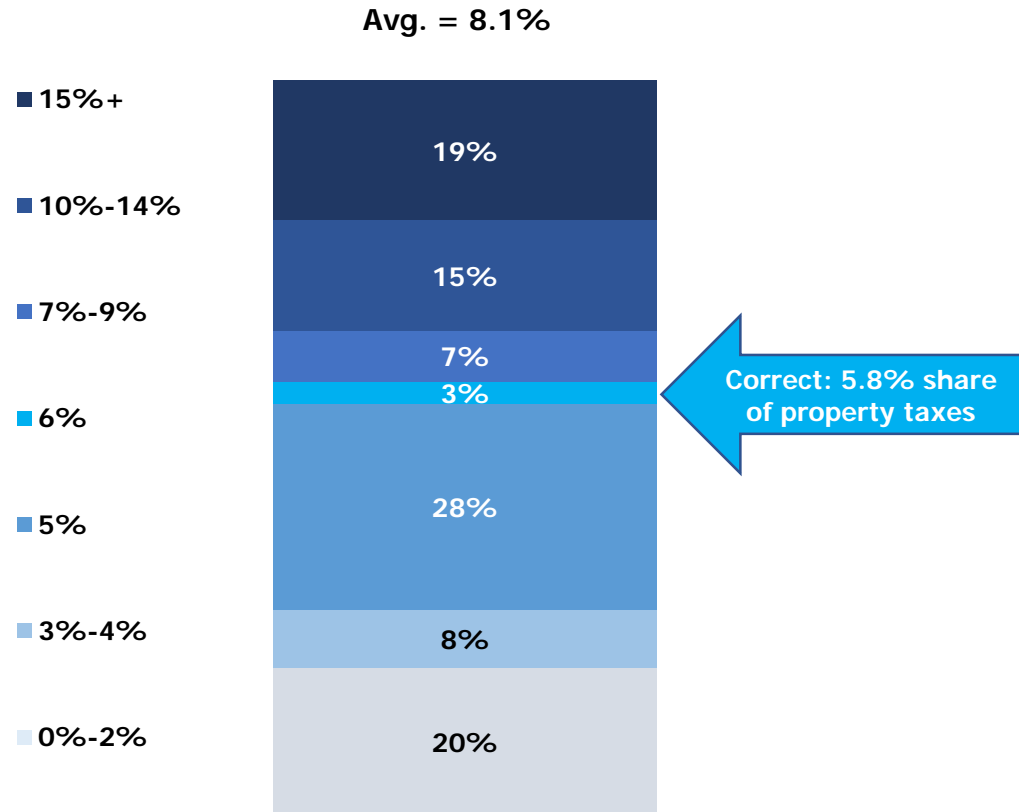
## Benchmark Comparisons: Overall Esteem Ratings



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

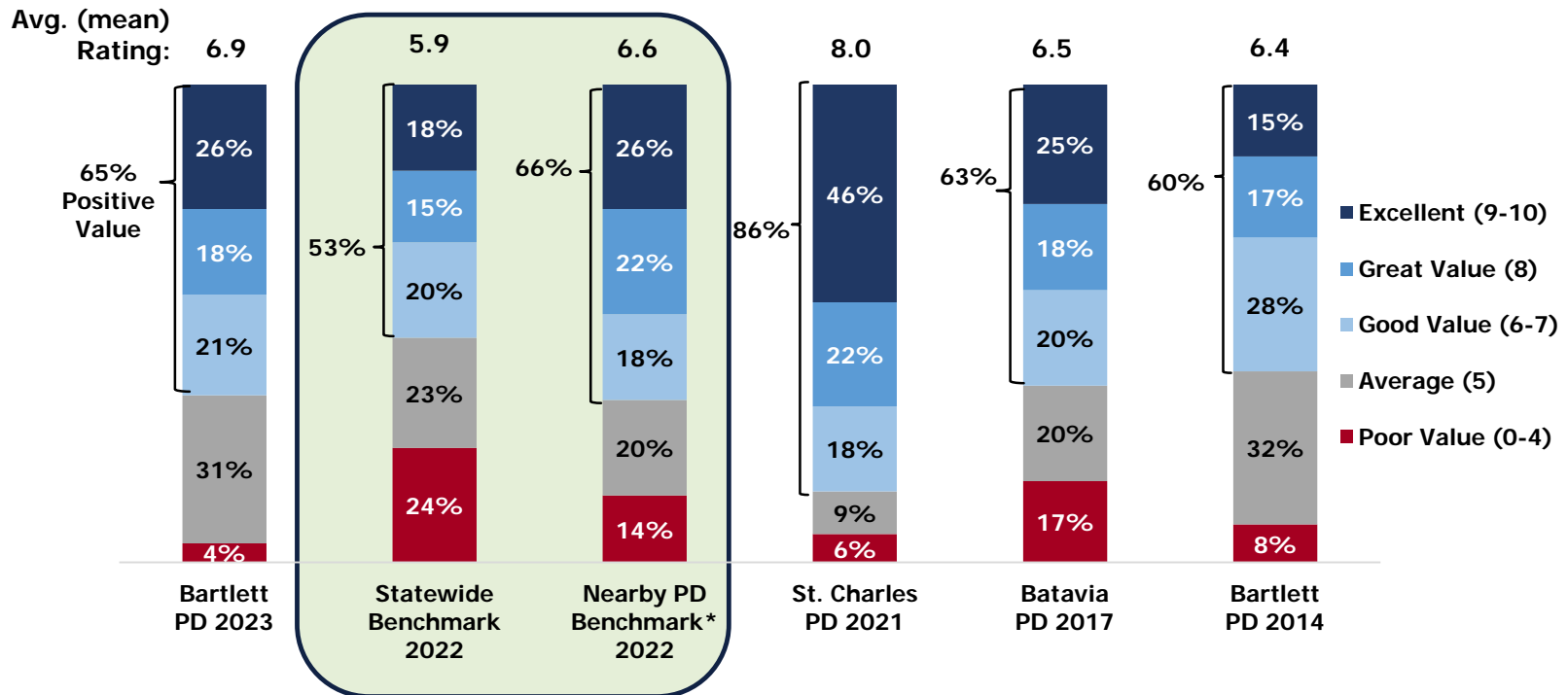
\* 2022 benchmark comparisons with neighboring agencies include Carol Stream, Hanover Park, Roselle, Schaumburg, South Elgin, St. Charles, Streamwood, and Wayne.

Estimated BPD Share of Property Taxes



## Benchmark Comparisons: Perceived Value Relative to Property Tax Share

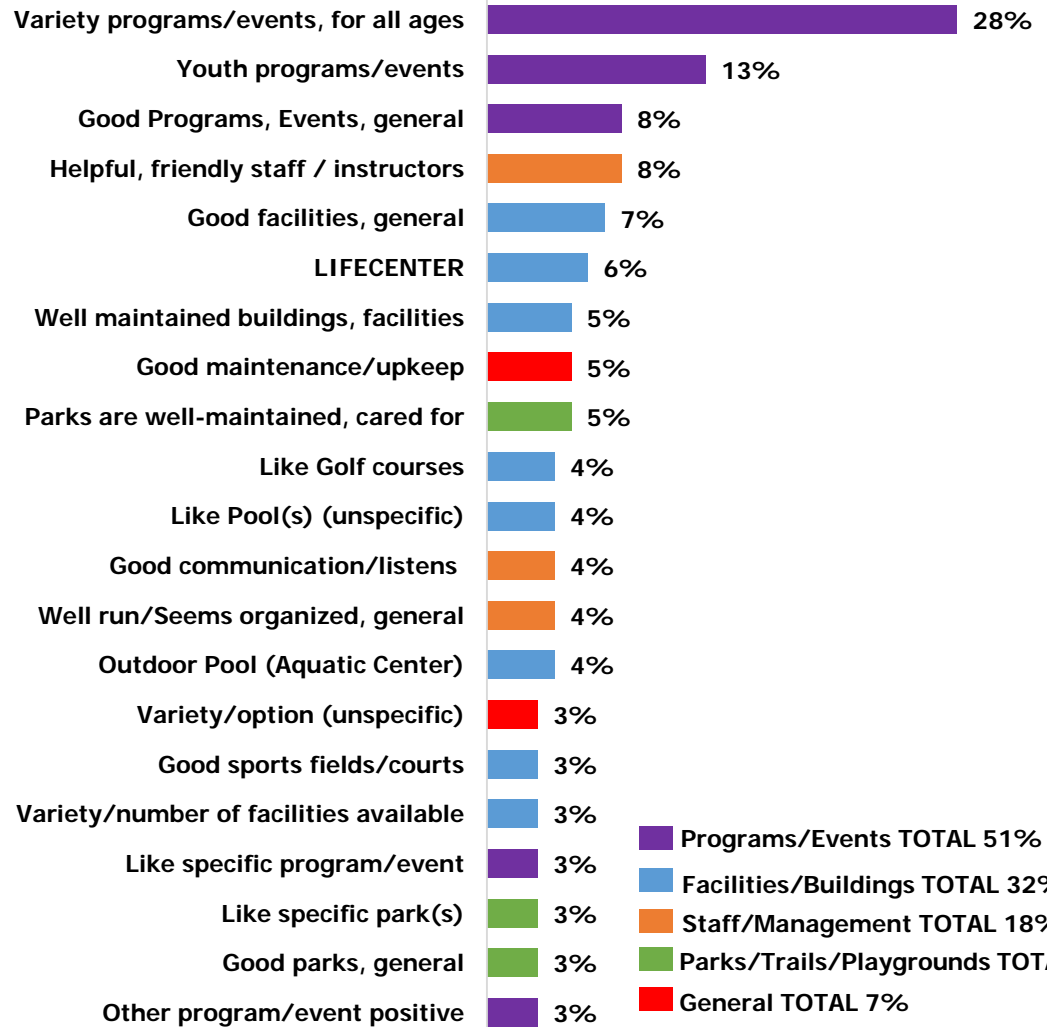
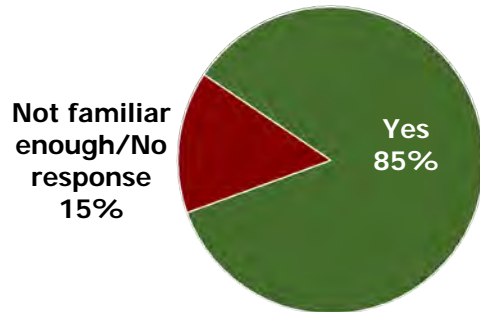
Q21. Approximately 5.8% of your property taxes goes to the Bartlett Park District. Thinking about the programs, parks, facilities, and services that the Park District provides, please rate the overall value that the Park District represents given its share of property taxes.



\* 2022 IAPD statewide survey tested a 5% share to park districts as the statewide average. Benchmark comparisons with communities close to Bartlett include Carol Stream, Hanover Park, Roselle, Schaumburg, South Elgin, St. Charles, Streamwood, and Wayne.. For the individual agency comparisons, St. Charles Park District was tested at 8% share of property taxes, and Batavia at 5.5%. The 2014 Bartlett survey tested value at a 4.5% share.

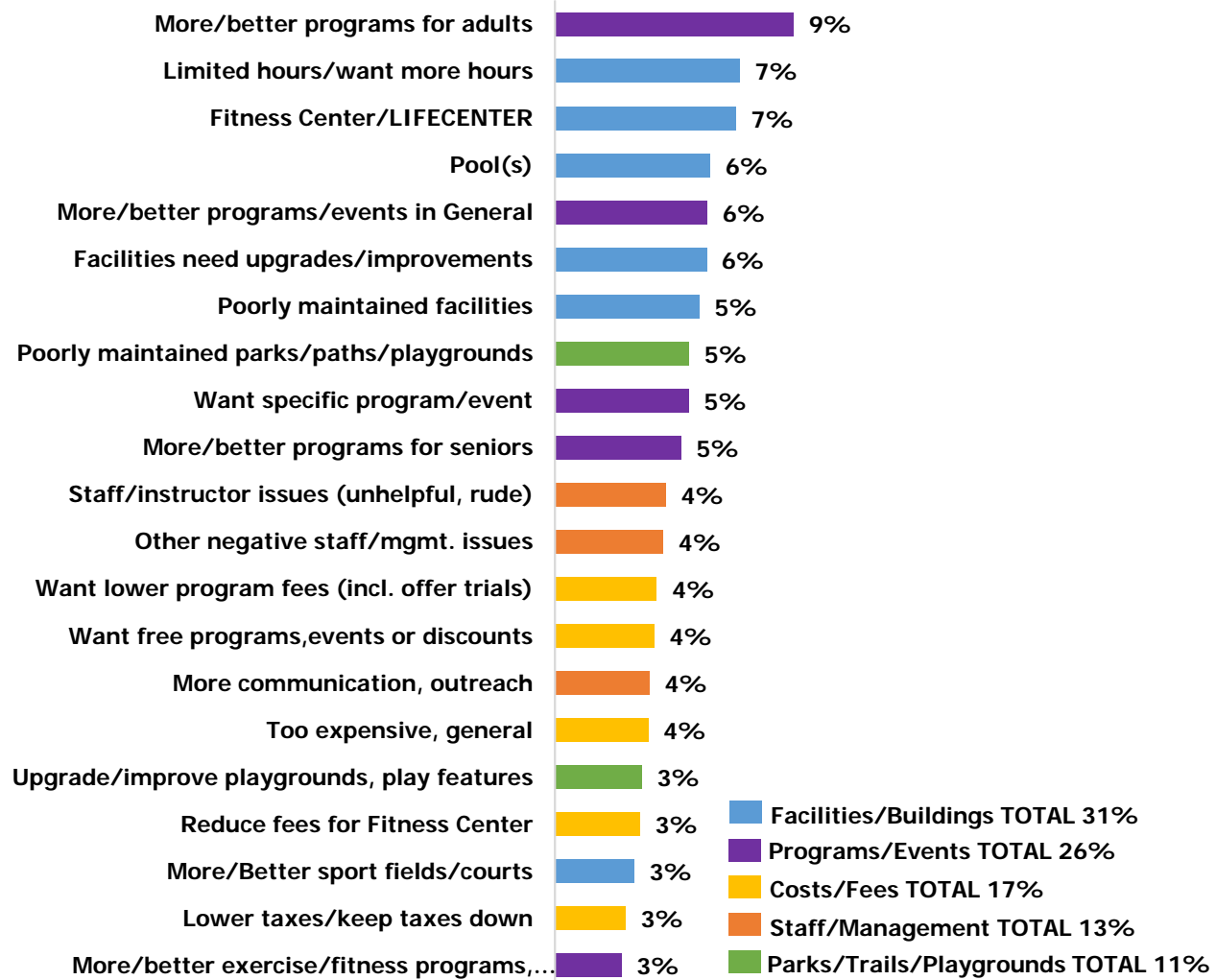
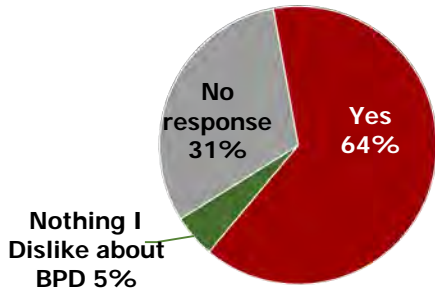
**BPD Strengths ( n=305, multiple open-ended responses)**

**Feedback on BPD Strengths?**



**BPD Weaknesses/Improvements Sought  
(n=252, multiple open-ended responses)**

**Feedback on BPD Weaknesses/Improvement Suggestions?**



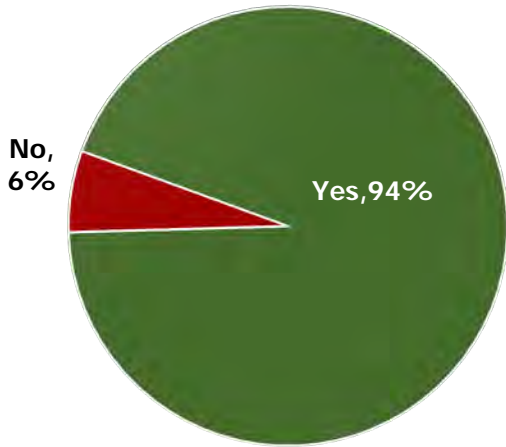
## Does Your Household Feel Properly Represented/Included Within BPD Offerings?

Yes, 92%

No, 8%

- Among those giving a reason for not feeling included (n=25), most attribute this to wanting more activities and programs for older adults/empty nesters/those without children (n=14).
- Only two respondents feel not represented or excluded due to special needs situations, and/or cultural differences (n=1 response each).

**Visited BPD Park or Facility in Past 12 Months? (n=352)**



BPD Parks (NET 88%, n=352)	
Bartlett Park	48%
Apple Orchard Community Park	48%
Beaver Pond	27%
Apple Orchard West Park	27%
Leiseberg Park/Spray Playground	24%
Riley's Run Park/Dog Park	15%
Sunrise Park	13%
O'Brien Woods/Trail	11%
Tallgrass Park	11%
Nature Ridge Park	10%
Blue Heron Park/Spray Playground	8%
Schick Park	7%
Prairieview Park	7%
Humbracht Park	7%
Hawk View Park	6%
Happy Trails Park	6%
Firefighter's Park	5%

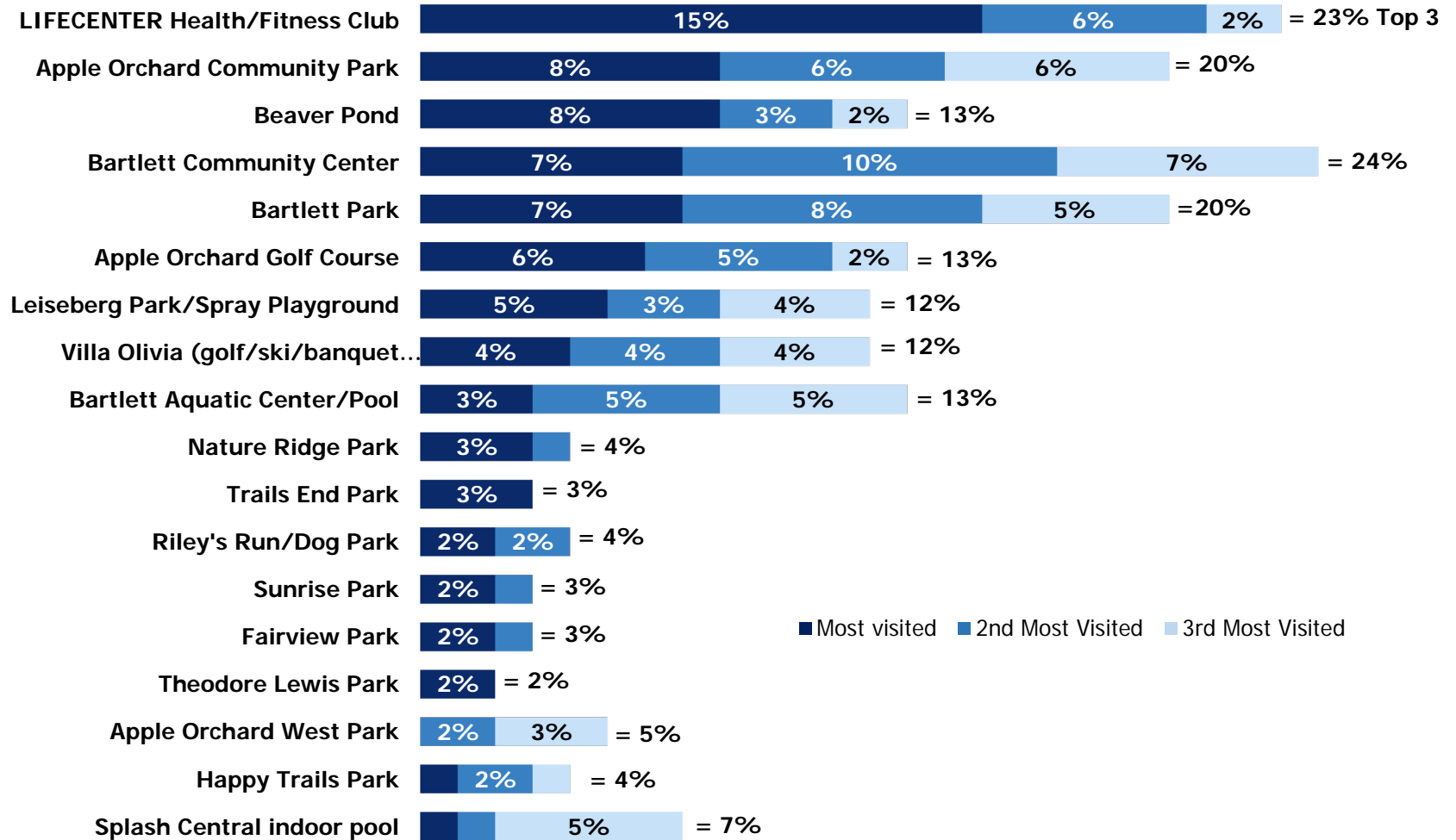
Fairview Park	5%
Schrader Park	5%
Trails End Park	5%
Hidden Oaks Park	4%
Newport Park	4%
Majestic Oaks Park	4%
BPD Facilities (NET 78%)	
Bartlett Community Center	56%
LIFECENTER Health/Fitness Club	34%
Bartlett Aquatic Center Outdoor Pool	34%
Villa Olivia Golf/Ski/Banquet Facility	29%
Splash Central Indoor Pool	28%
Apple Orchard Golf Course	25%
Bartlett Nature Center	24%
Oak Room Banquet Room	13%
Schrader Gymnasium	7%
Bartlett Skate Park	6%

## Regional Distribution of Self-Reported Usage of Top BPD Parks/Facilities

Bartlett Parks	n	Region			
		South East	South West	North East	North West
<b>Overall (row) % of Respondents</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>25%</b>
PARKS					
Bartlett Park	161	41%	5%	28%	27%
Apple Orchard Community Park	177	50%	10%	16%	24%
Beaver Pond	107	55%	7%	16%	21%
Apple Orchard West Park	81	37%	5%	16%	42%
Leiseberg Park/Spray Playground	93	35%	3%	44%	19%
Riley's Run Park/Dog Park	33	6%	8%	35%	52%
Sunrise Park	58	63%	14%	20%	3%
O'Brien Woods/Trail	40	38%	4%	52%	6%
Tallgrass Park	34	51%	5%	7%	36%
FACILITIES					
Bartlett Community Center	200	51%	11%	18%	20%
LIFECENTER Health/Fitness Club	120	52%	9%	19%	20%
Bartlett Aquatic Center Outdoor Pool	126	44%	10%	18%	28%
Villa Olivia Golf/Ski/Banquet Facility	95	46%	6%	10%	38%
Splash Central Indoor Pool	87	50%	7%	20%	24%
Apple Orchard Golf Course	93	52%	8%	21%	19%
Bartlett Nature Center	90	45%	10%	26%	19%
Oak Room Banquet Room	39	45%	1%	18%	35%
None of the Above	26	59%	12%	10%	18%

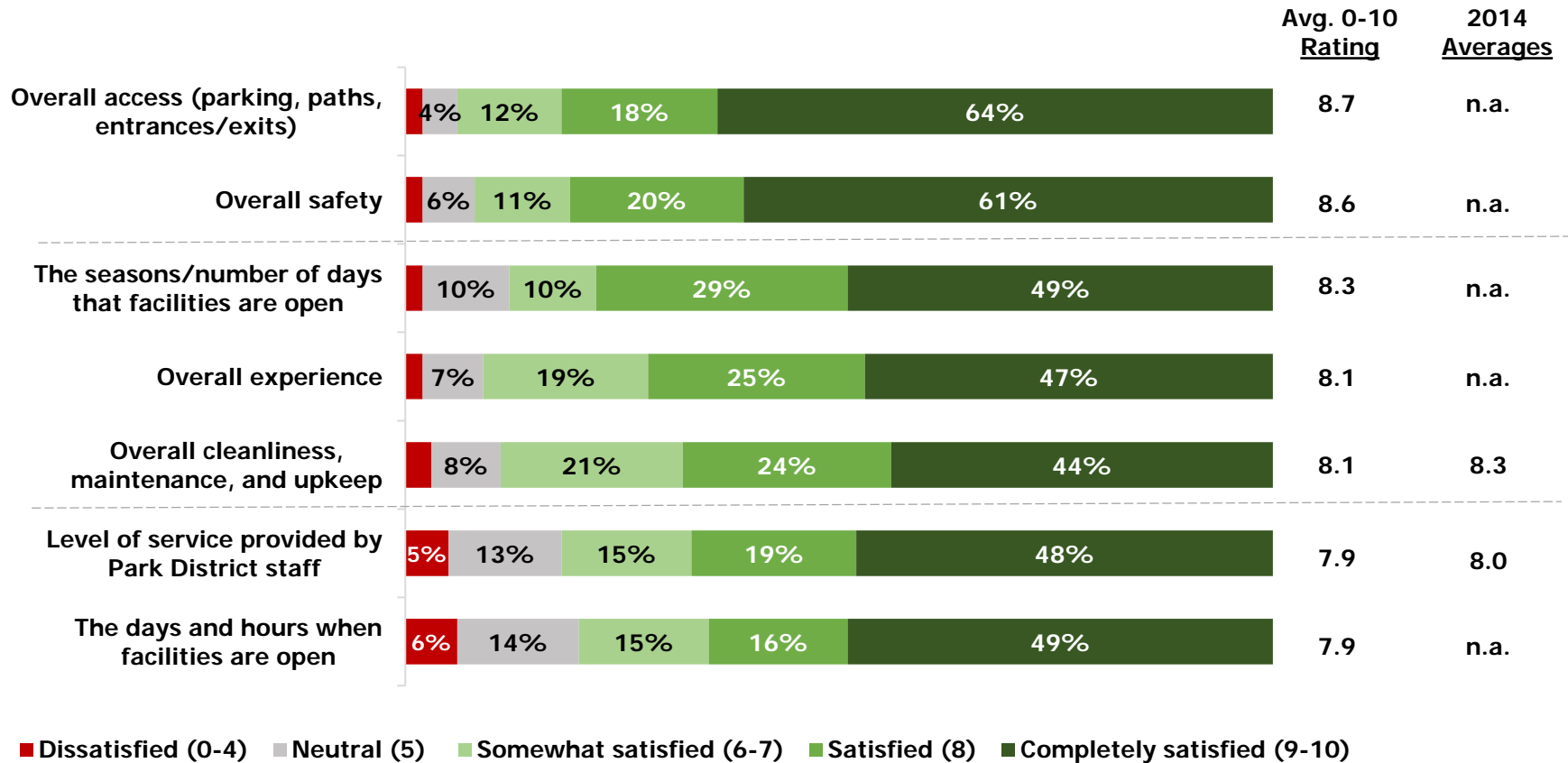
  = higher reported level of visits/usage vs. share of population

**Top 3 BPD Parks/Playgrounds/Facilities Visited in Past Year**



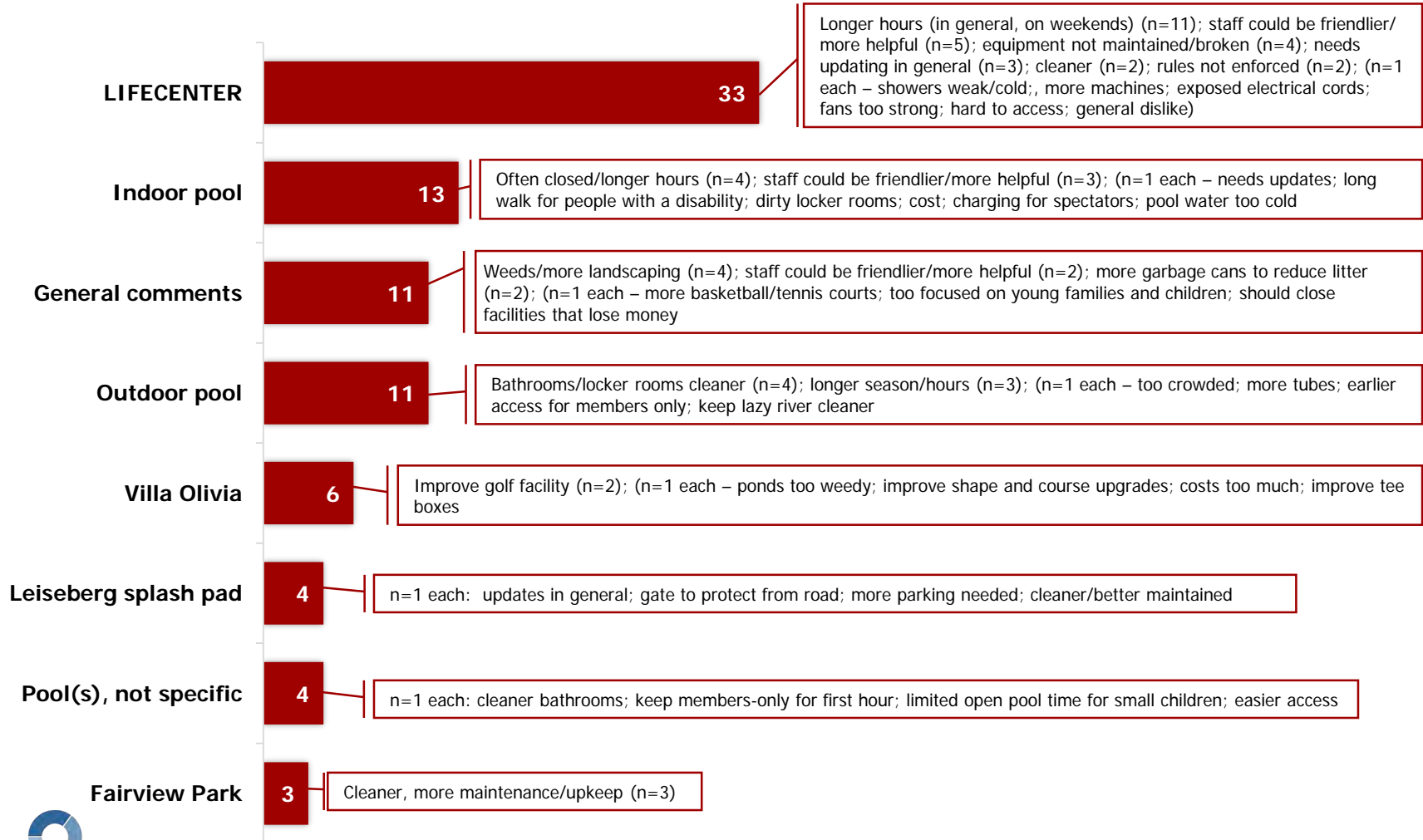
■ Most visited ■ 2nd Most Visited ■ 3rd Most Visited

Satisfaction with BPD Parks/Facilities Visited (0-10 scale)

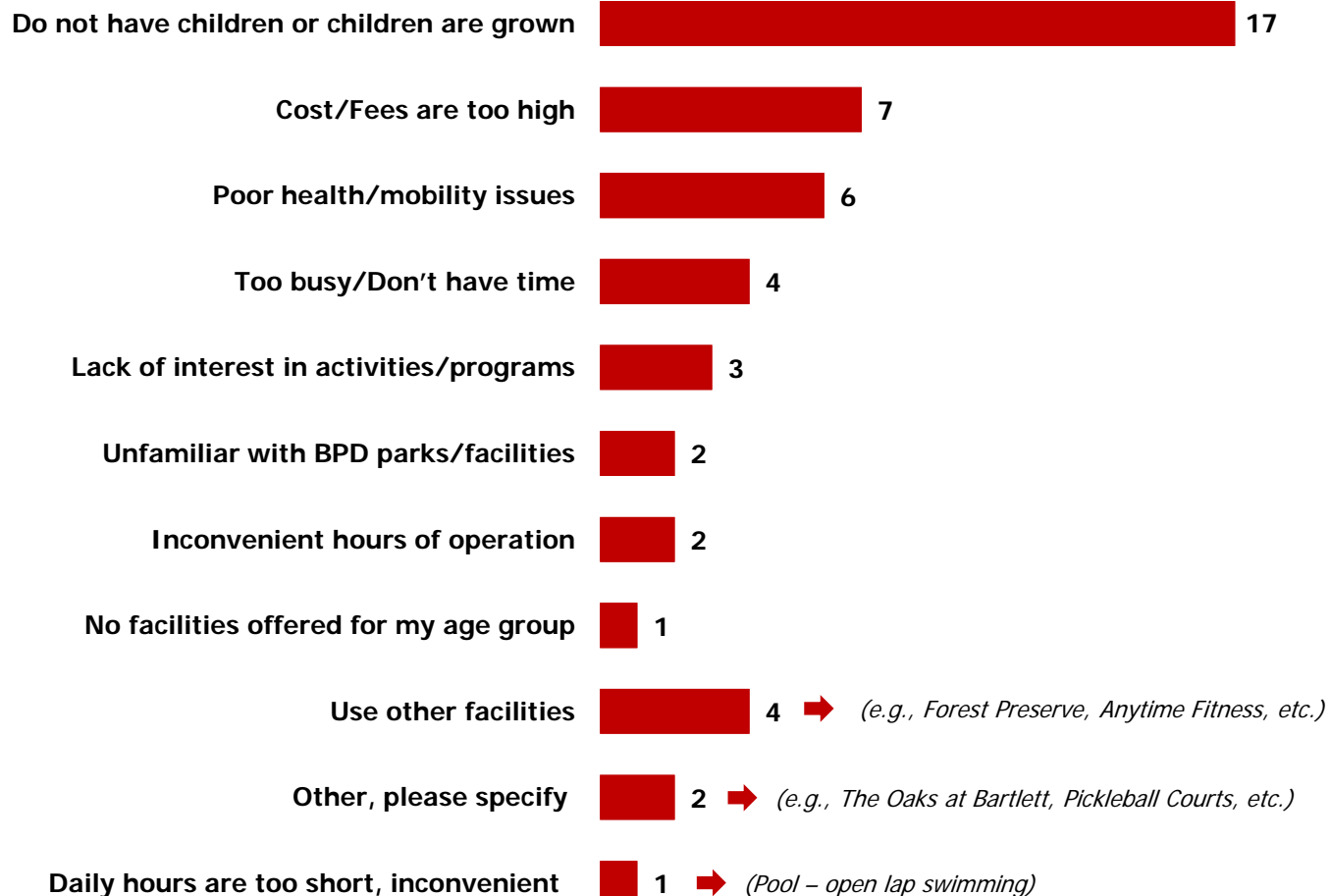


Q8. Thinking about those parks and facilities you recently visited, please rate your overall satisfaction with the following.  
 NOTE: values <4% are not shown.

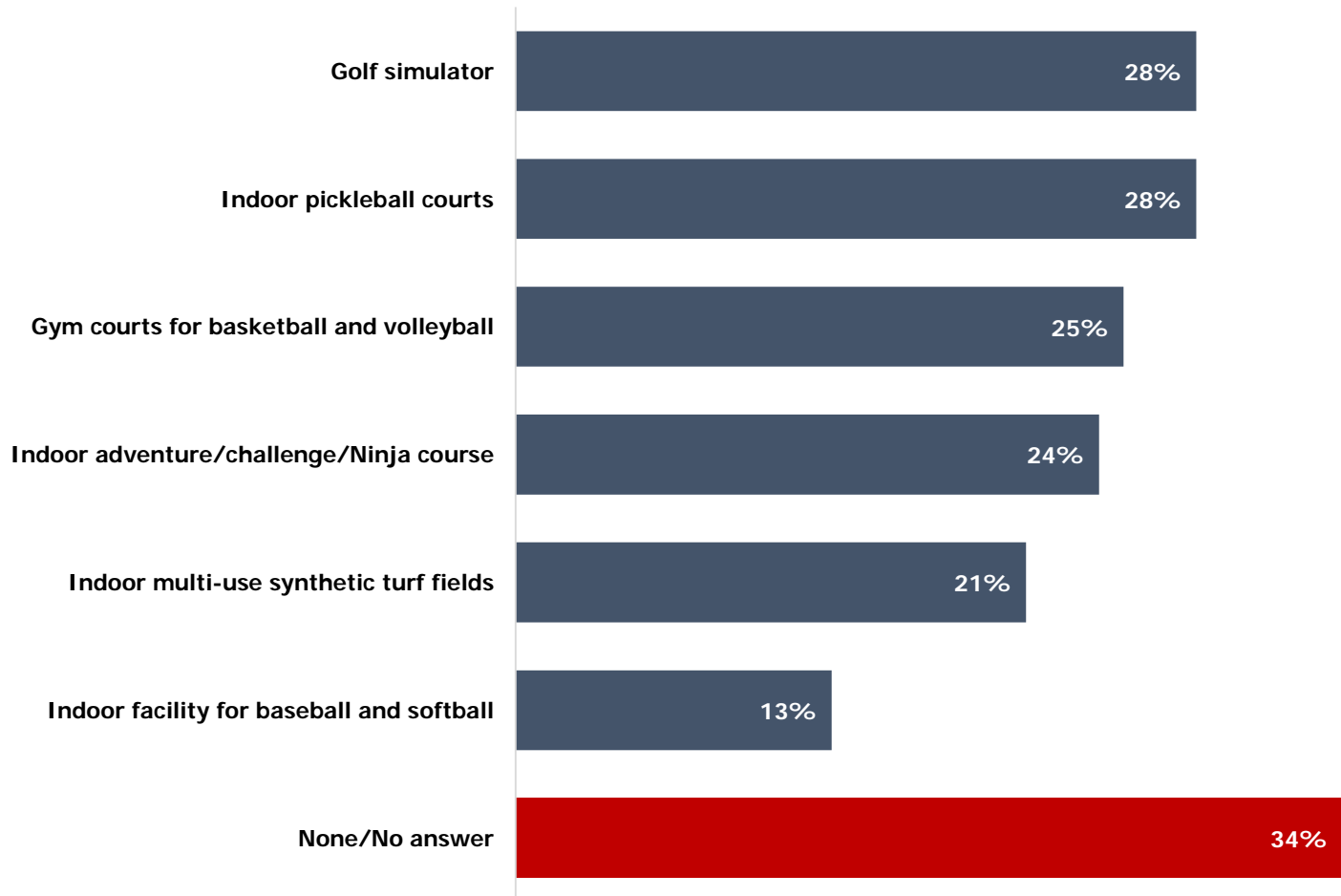
**Top Reasons for Dissatisfaction with BPD Parks or Facilities (n=79)**



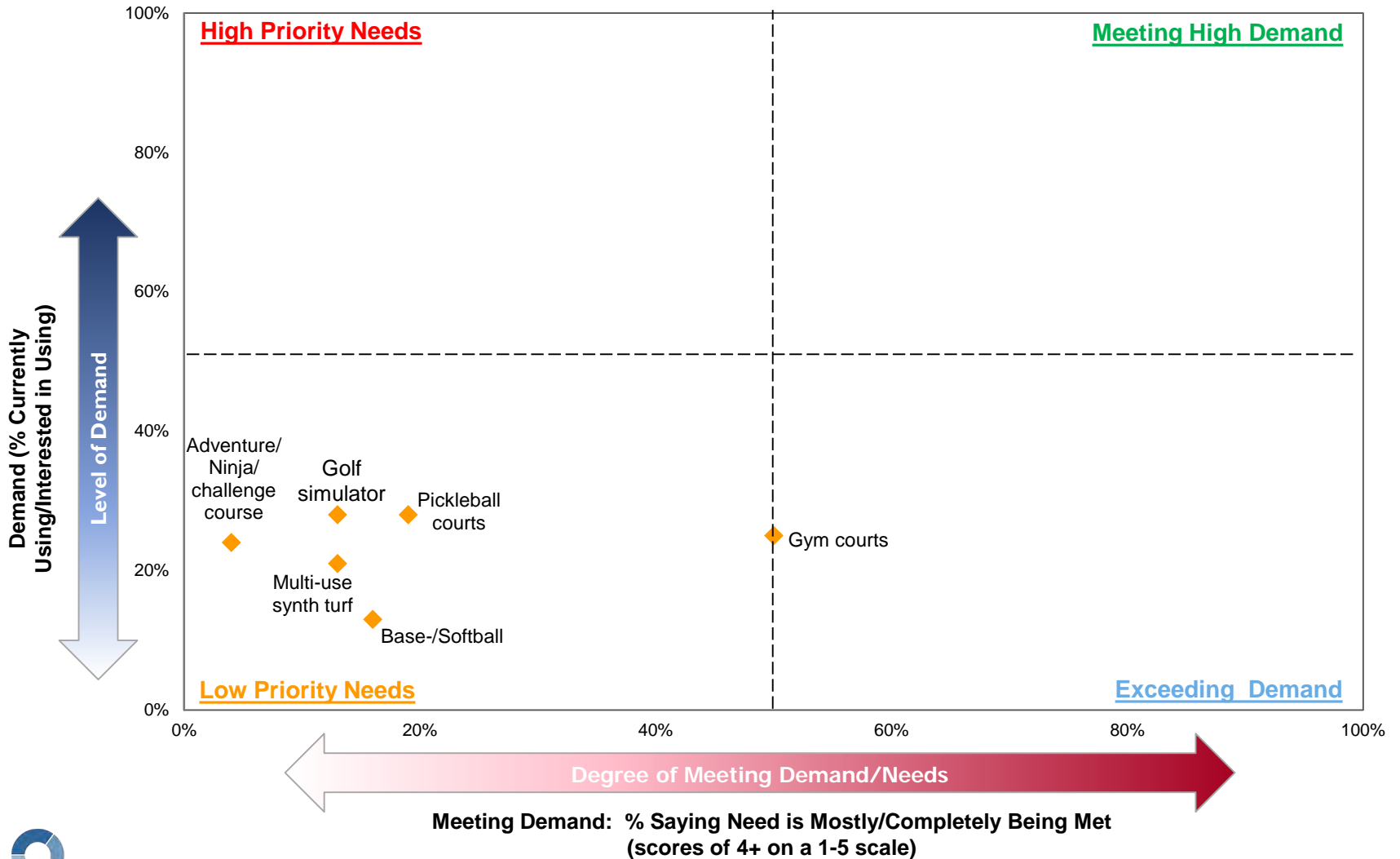
**Reasons for Non-BPD Park/Facility Usage (multiple responses, n=27 non-visitors, responses shown in absolute n)**



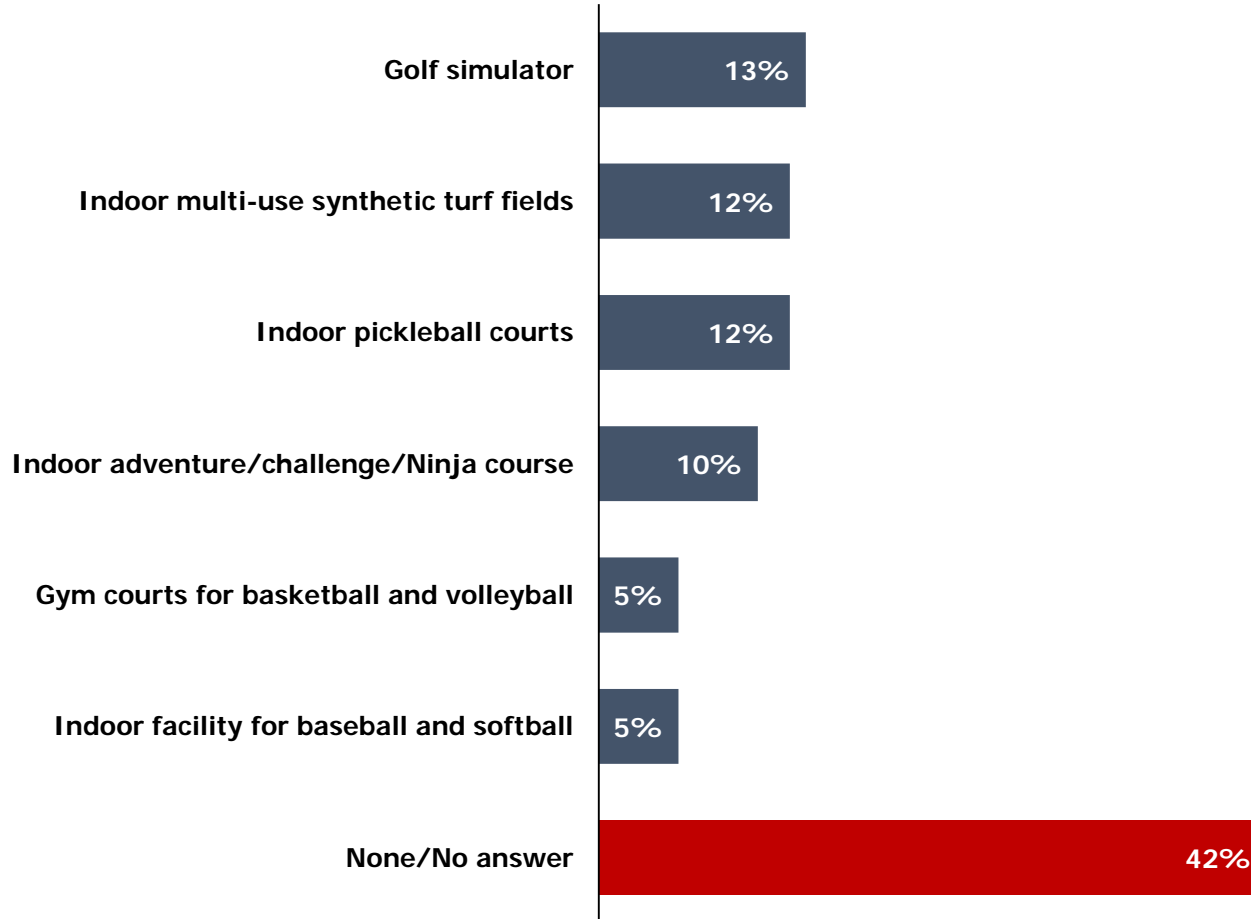
**Indoor Facilities of Interest/Needed  
Among Residents (% "Yes")**



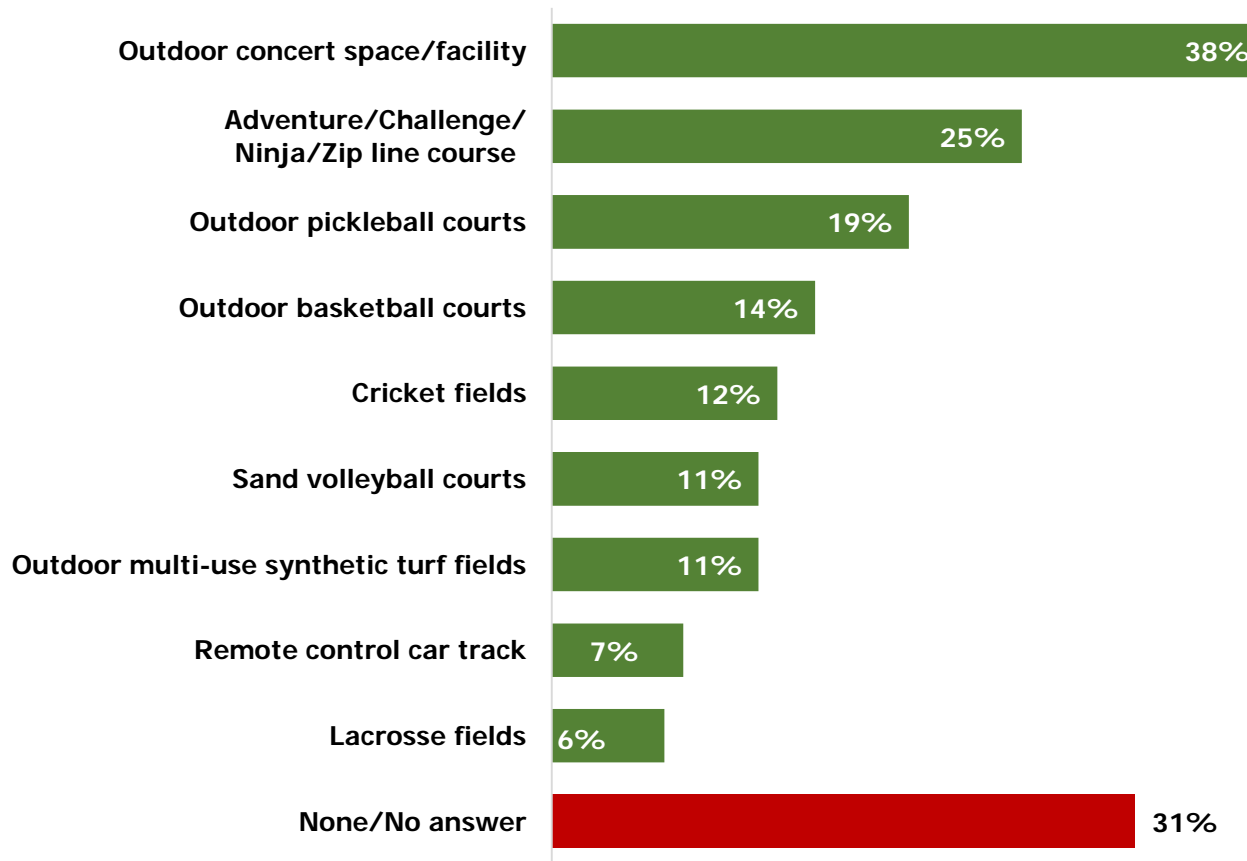
**Needs Assessment/"Gap" Analysis: Demand and Availability of Indoor Facilities**



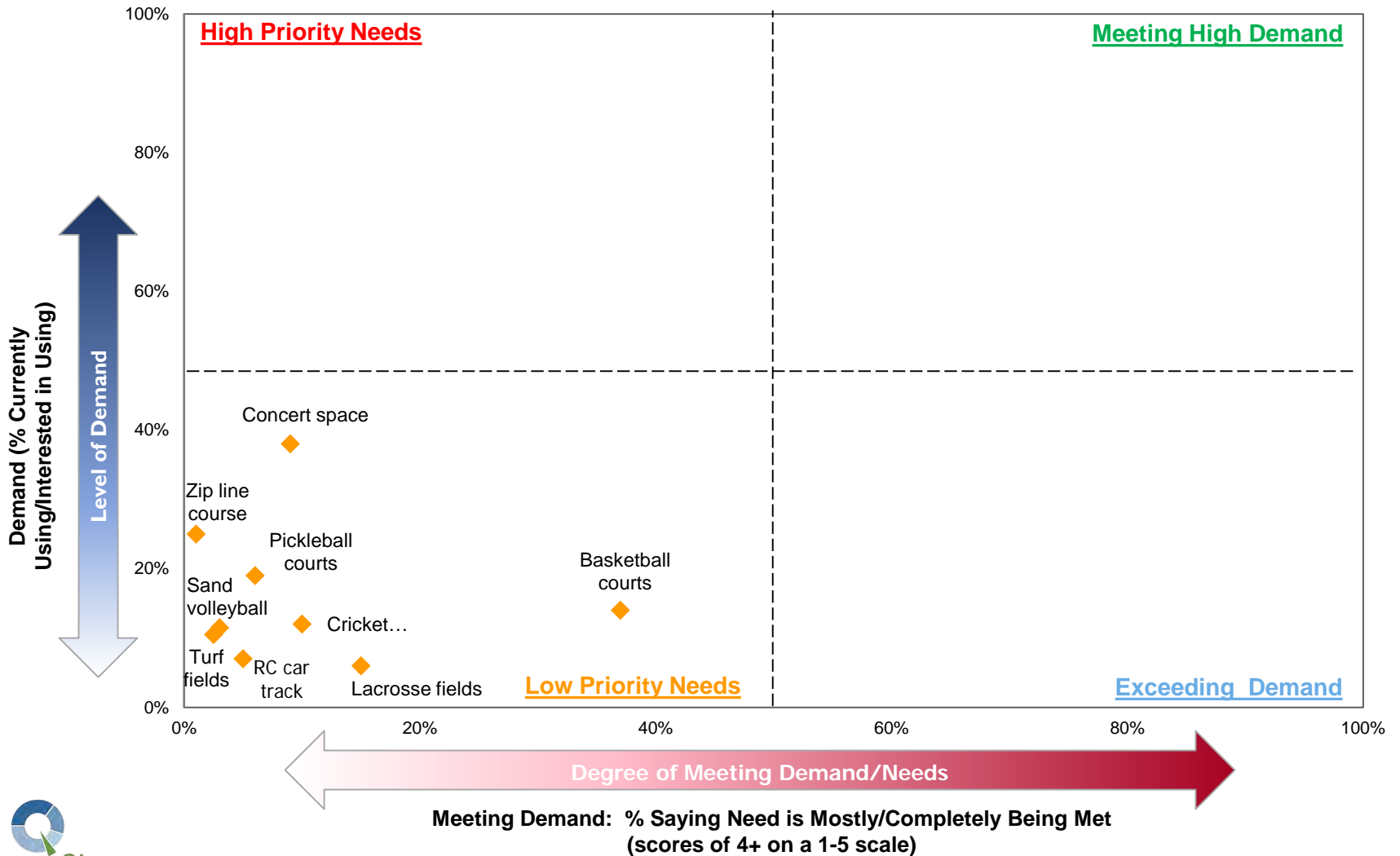
**Top Priority: Most Important Indoor Facility/Amenity For BPD To Provide/Expand/Improve (n=352)**



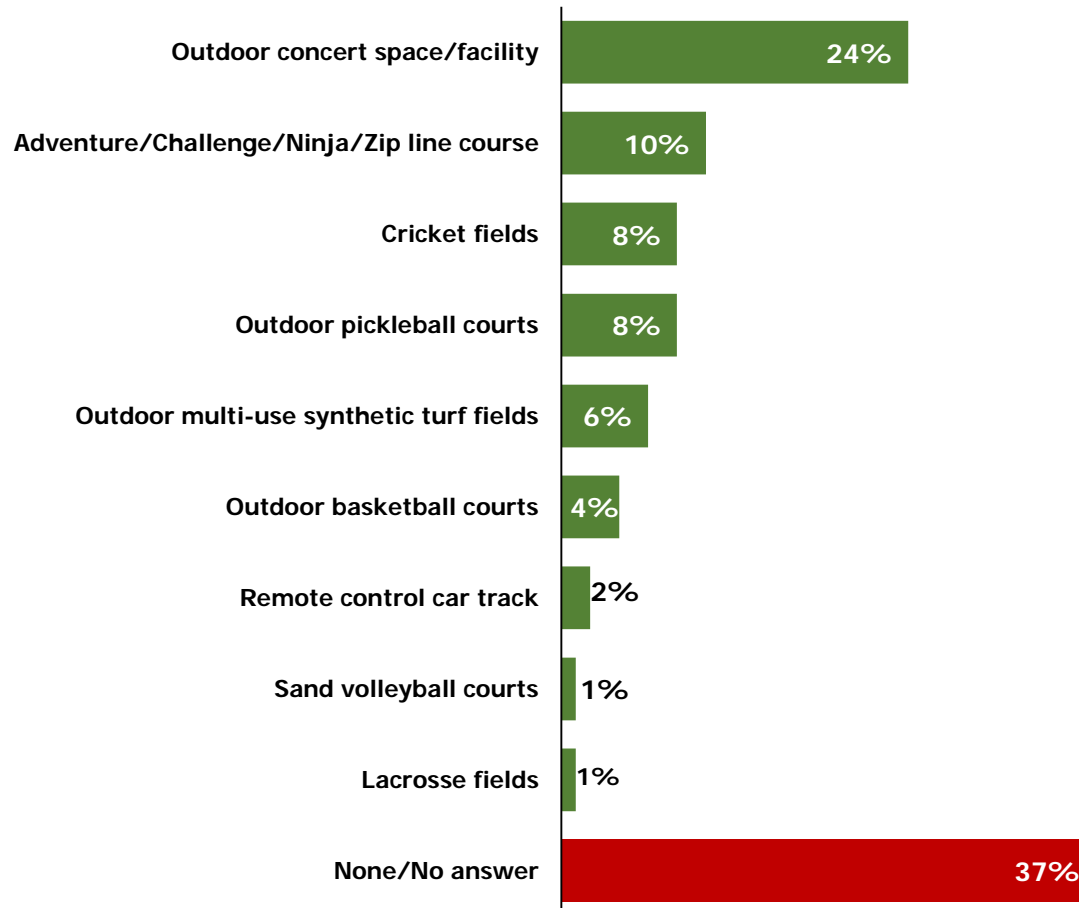
**Outdoor Facilities of Interest/Need  
Among Residents (% "Yes")**



# Needs Assessment/"Gap" Analysis: Demand and Availability of Outdoor Facilities

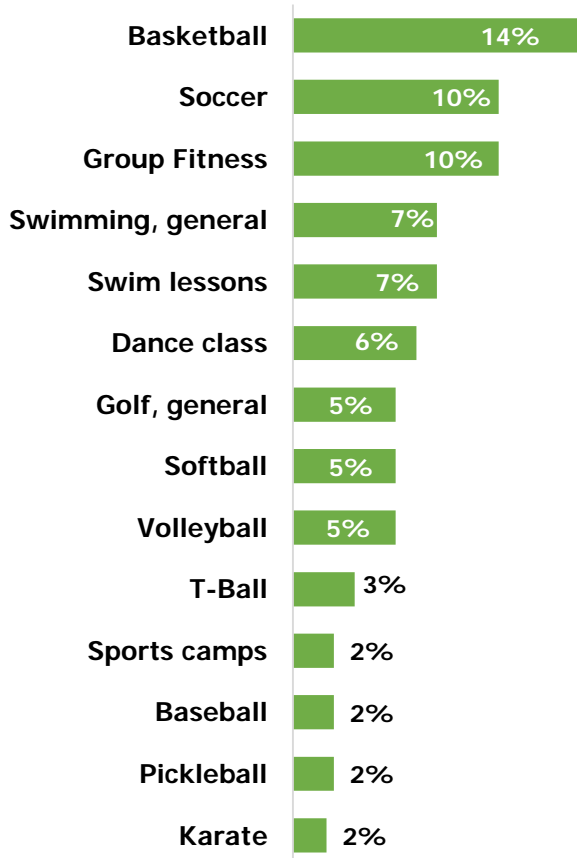


**Top Priority: Most Important Outdoor Facility/Amenity For BPD To Provide/Expand/Improve (n=352)**

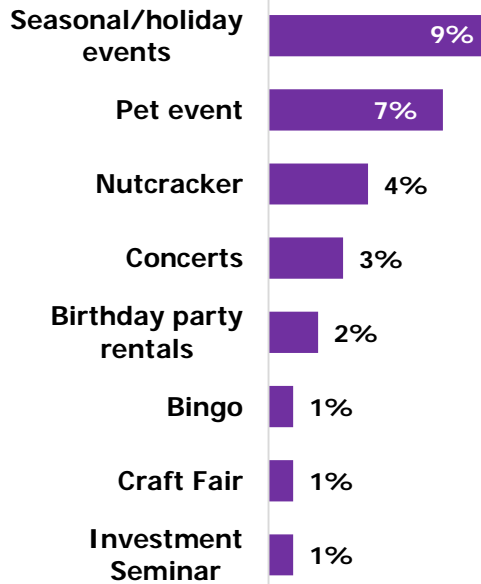


Self-Reported BPD Program/Event Participation (Past Year)

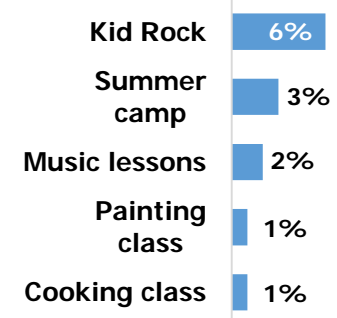
Top Fitness/Sports Program (Past Year)



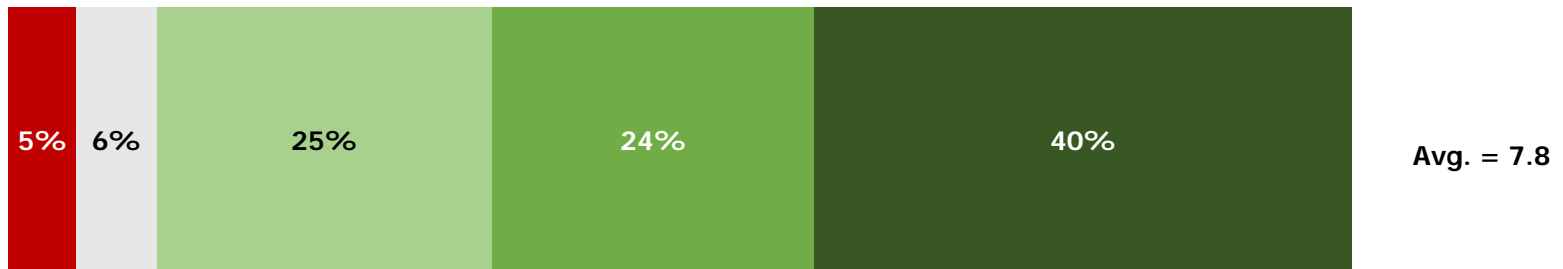
Top Events (Past Year)



Top Non-Fitness Program (Past Year)



### Satisfaction with BPD Programs/Events (0-10 scale, n=170)

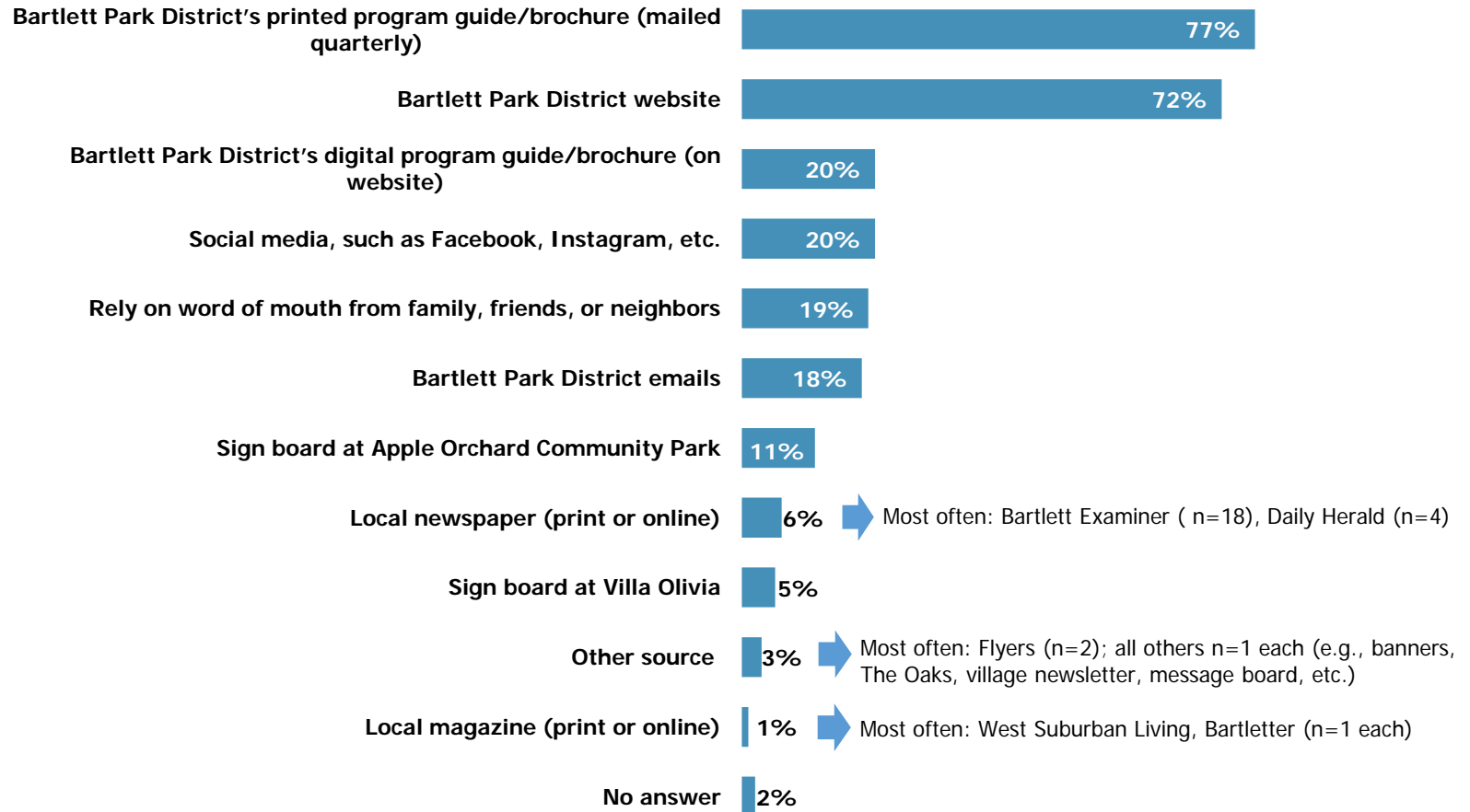


■ Dissatisfied (0-4) ■ Neutral (5) ■ Somewhat satisfied (6-7) ■ Satisfied (8) ■ Completely satisfied (9-10)

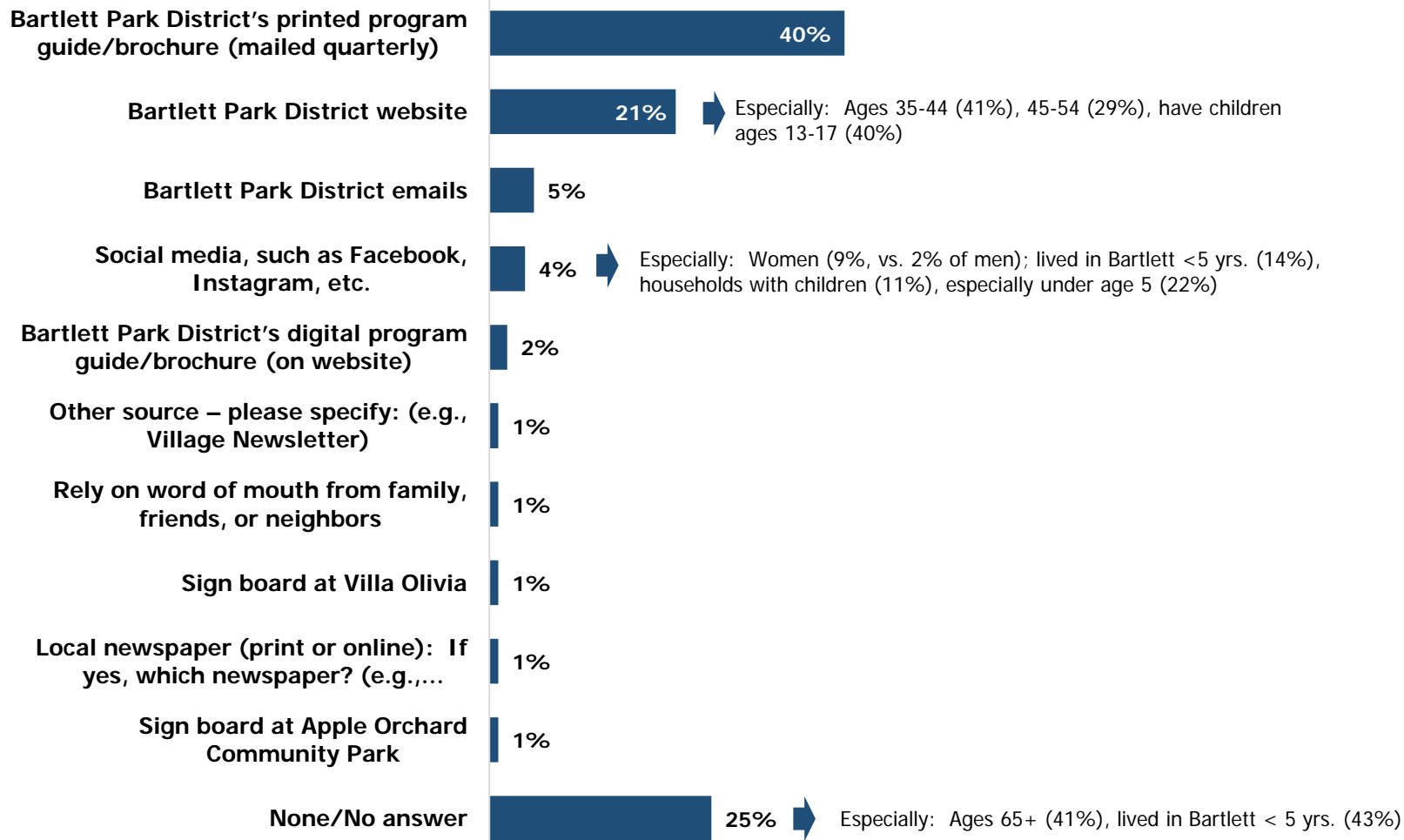
➤ Top reasons for lower satisfaction scores:

- Instructor/Leader/Staff comments (n=11)
- More/New programs sought (n=4)
- Hours/Scheduling constraints (n=4)
- Costs/Fees (n=1)

**BPD Information Sources**



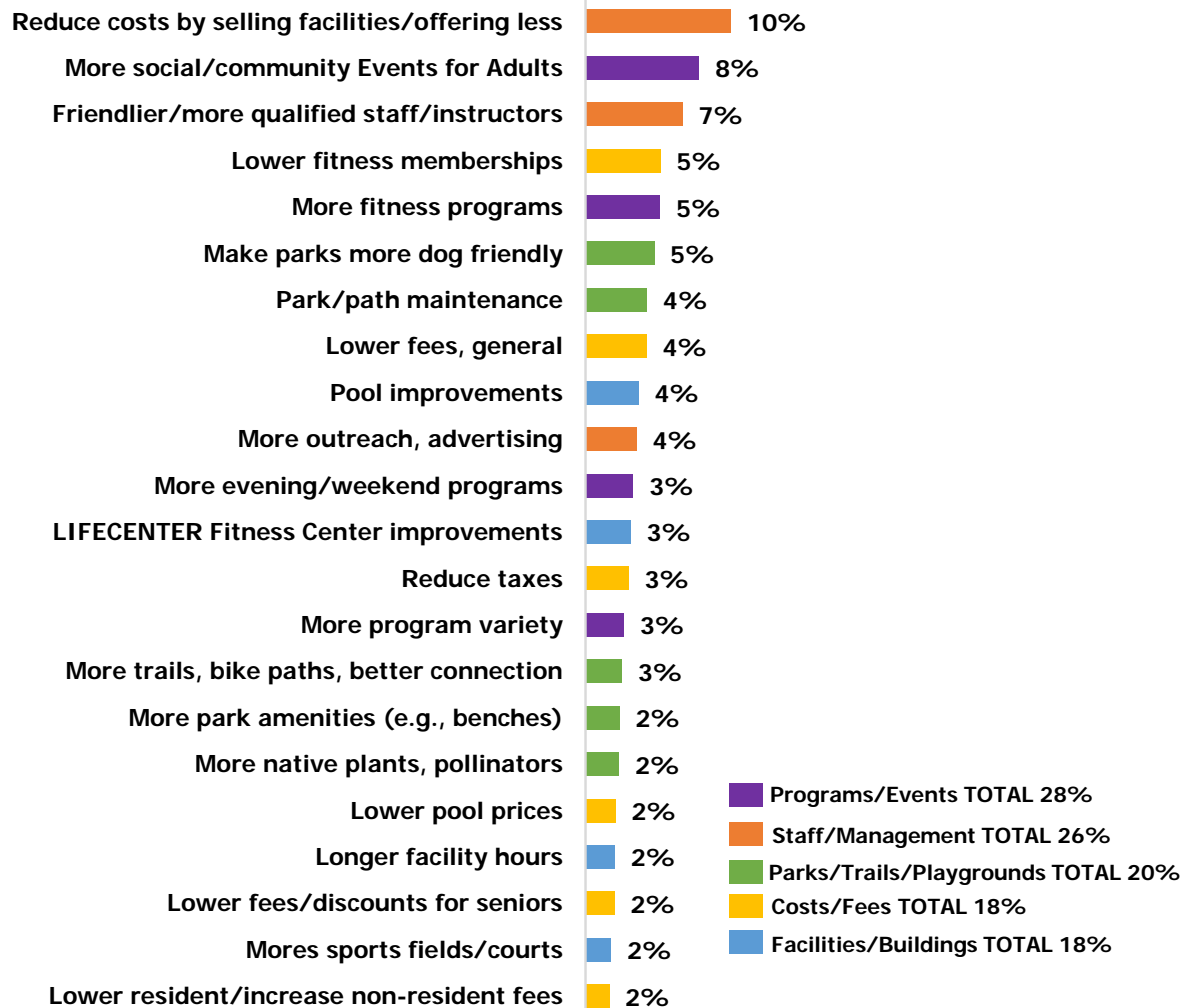
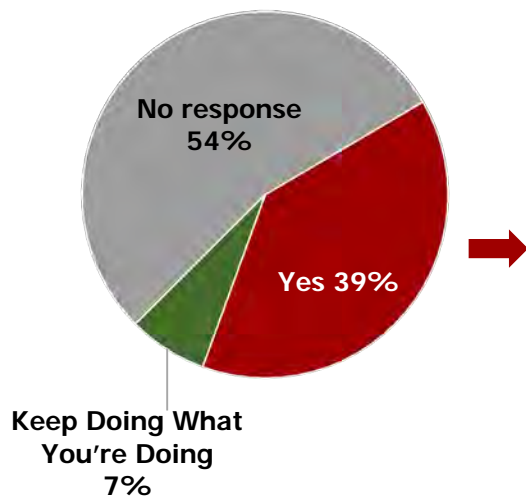
**Preferred Source for BPD Information**



Q25. Please select your most preferred source when seeking information about the Park District.

## Suggestions to Serve Households Better (multiple open-ended responses)

### Can BPD Better Serve Your Household?



# Questions / Discussions



## Stakeholder Interview Memorandum

**Date:** October 8, 2025  
**Time:** 9:45 AM and 10:30 AM  
**Location:** Virtual

**RE:** **Bartlett Park District Comprehensive Master Plan**  
Stakeholder Interviews

### Methodology

Stakeholders within the Bartlett Park District's community were invited to attend a virtual stakeholder interview. Six (6) total community stakeholders attended representing four (5) organizations.

The interview was held in two 45-minute sessions consisting of up to five (5) participants each. Each participant responded to a series of questions structured as a group discussion facilitated by the Hitchcock Design Group (HDG) planning team. Some questions were asked out of order, and not every question was covered in each group based on the constituent groups in attendance and time constraints. Responses were paraphrased, not quoted directly, and the notes reflect common themes or similar comments shared by multiple participants.

Following introductions (questions 1 and 2), the HDG planning team provided an overview of the Comprehensive Master Plan process, goals of the plan, and schedule. The remainder of the meeting included discussion around the remainder of the questions.

### Interview Questions

1. Are you a resident within the Bartlett Park District jurisdictional boundaries? How long have you lived in Bartlett or the surrounding area?
2. What organization do you represent and how long have you been with them? Have you had past involvement or partnership with the Bartlett Park District?
3. In your experience working or coordinating with Bartlett Park District, what has worked well? What are some areas that could be improved?
4. How is your organization expecting to provide recreation over the next 5 years and how can Bartlett Park District be involved?
5. What service, facility, or amenity gaps do you feel exist in the region?
6. Are there any programs and/or events in which you are affiliated with the Bartlett Park District and are there improvements or additional resources needed?
7. In comparing recreation providers within the local region, what do you prefer about Bartlett Park District offerings and what do you prefer at other locations?
8. What programs do you currently participate in or have in the past that you feel are beneficial to the community? How could those be improved or expanded on?
9. What additional programs, perhaps some that you don't actively participate in, do you support, and feel would benefit the community as a whole?
10. Based on today's discussion, what do you think are the top priorities the Bartlett Park District should focus on for the next five years?
11. Do you see other opportunities for increased or added partnerships with the Bartlett Park District?



## Participants

- Michael Cockroft, *Executive Director, Chicago Rush*
- Richard Simpson, *Director of Coaching, Chicago Rush*
- Tom Kuttenger, *Director of Community & Government Relations at Hanover Township*
- Rachel Hubsh, *Superintendent of Recreation at NWSRA*
- Tyler Isham, *Assistant Director of Public Works for Village of Bartlett*
- Mallory Knapp, *Assistant Director, Bartlett Library*

## General Comments

The list below summarizes the stakeholder responses. Responses are paraphrased rather than quoted directly, reflecting common themes and repeated comments across participants. Items that were mentioned by multiple participants are followed by a number in parentheses indicating how many stakeholders mentioned it.

1. Facilities
  - Improved facilities to allow BPD to host multi-sport tournaments and community events (1)
  - A new indoor, multi-sport facility to support year-round and winter training (3)
  - Current indoor space is limited compared to nearby communities in terms of size, amenities, and overall quality (2)
  - A new complex would attract visitors to Bartlett, supporting local businesses and the local economy (1)
  - Additional artificial turf fields are a key priority (3)
  - Additional lighting at fields is a key priority (2)
  - Additional programming/rental space is needed (1)
2. Field Expansion
  - Additional fields with lights and artificial turf are needed to support expanded programming and community use (2)
  - The growing population has increased demand for field space beyond current capacity (1)
  - BPD's existing fields fall short compared to neighboring communities in quantity, field quality, and supporting amenities (1)
  - Rental fees for available fields are high, limiting accessibility for some groups (2)
  - Prioritize expansion of multi-sport fields to support a wider variety of athletic opportunities and participation (2)
3. Maintenance and Upkeep
  - Proactively plan and budget for ongoing and preventive maintenance needs (2)
  - Many previously planted trees have matured and now require regular trimming and care (1)
  - Prioritize maintaining and improving existing facilities before pursuing new construction (2)
  - Continue prioritizing maintenance of outdoor fields during colder months to extend seasonal use (2)
  - Prioritize consistent upkeep of existing outdoor trails to preserve quality and safety (1)



4. Programs
  - Continue offering inclusive programs and services that support individuals with disabilities (1)
  - Maintain dedicated space for programming and summer day camps to ensure consistent community access and engagement (1)
  - More bilingual and cultural programs are needed to support a growing and diverse community (1)
  - More programs and spaces for teens are needed (1)
  - The costs of Park District rentals and programs is a possible barrier for community members (2)
5. Accessibility
  - Incorporate universal design principles into new and renovated playgrounds to ensure inclusive play opportunities for all (1)
  - Prioritize designs that benefit individuals with disabilities while enhancing the overall experience for the entire Bartlett community (1)
  - Improve accessible pathways and connections to outdoor fields and amenities to promote access for all users (1)
6. Future Directions & Priorities
  - Invest in improved staff training (2)
  - Identify and sustain the programs and facilities that are most successful within the Park District (1)
  - Enhance community awareness by promoting the Park District's strengths and available offerings (1)
  - Ensure adequate staffing levels (1)
7. Community Context
  - Communication between the Park District and community partners is strong and effective (5)
  - Relationships between the Park District and stakeholder groups are positive (4)
  - The Park District frequently serves as a key partner in organizing and supporting large-scale community events (3)
  - Issues are generally addressed in a timely manner (1)
  - BPD maintains an open, responsive, and collaborative approach with staff and community members (1)
8. Partnerships between agencies
  - More agency partnership opportunities on programming would be beneficial to the community. The following ideas were suggested:
    - Puzzle night (1)
    - Adult day trips (1)
    - Teen nights (1)
    - Learning English – conversation (1)
  - More maintenance partnerships needed – improvements to Koehler Fields and Ruzicka field mentioned (1)

#### **Prominent Recurring Themes**

1. Field Expansion: The Park District needs more artificial turf and lighted fields to meet growing demand and support year-round, multi-sport use. Existing fields are limited in number and quality compared to nearby communities (Elgin, Schaumburg, and Roselle mentioned), and high rental fees restrict access. Expanding field space will improve accessibility and strengthen recreational opportunities.



2. **Facilities:** The Bartlett Park District needs improved facilities to expand programming and meet community demand. A new indoor, multi-sport complex with turf fields is a key priority to address limited indoor space, support year-round training, and host tournaments and events. The project would also attract visitors and boost the local economy. A future outdoor event space such as an amphitheater could support and facilitate these new program offerings.
3. **Maintenance and Upkeep:** Planning and budgeting for ongoing maintenance is a priority to ensure long-term sustainability of its facilities and natural areas. Many existing trees have matured and now require regular trimming and care. Maintaining and improving current facilities should take precedence over new construction. Continued upkeep of outdoor fields, and trails will help extend use, ensure safety, and maintain quality for the community.
4. **Programs/events:** More bilingual and cultural programs and events are needed to support a fast growing and diverse population. More interagency partnerships could help service this need. The cost of Park District rentals and programs is seen as a barrier for community members to participate in recreational offerings.



## Memorandum

**Date:** July 22, 2025  
**Time:** 9:30 AM  
**Location:** TC White Administration Building

**RE:** **Bartlett Park District Comprehensive Master Plan**  
Staff Workshop

The Bartlett Park District hosted a staff workshop on July 22, 2025 at 9:00 AM at the TC White Administration Building. Employees of all departments were asked to attend and participate in the meeting and workshop. The meeting was facilitated by planning team consultants from Hitchcock Design Group (HDG). In total, 20 people attended the meeting and participated in the workshop, see attached sign-in sheet.

### **Items Discussed:**

HDG staff asked a series of focus questions to help staff answer the question “**What should the Bartlett Park District Focus on Over the Next 5 Years?**”

Participants were given a notecard and asked to write down all their comments and suggestions for Bartlett Park District relating to parks and facilities. They then selected their top two to write down on sticky notes. HDG facilitated organizing the responses into the following categories. Throughout the organizational phase, participants were given the opportunity to share clarifications on their sticky notes, confirm categorizations, and adjust the name of each category. The following items are direct quotes of the information provided and have not been edited.

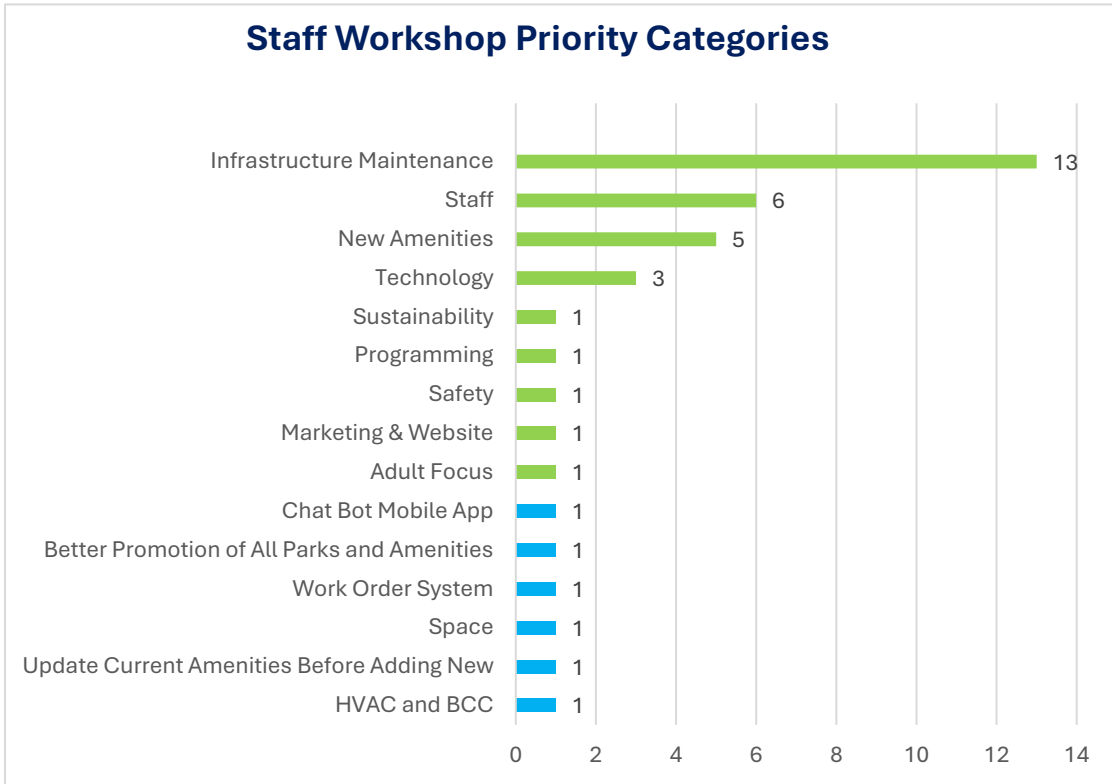
1. Adult Focus
  - a. Adult content experiences
  - b. Adult focus – more spa, steam sauna, hot soak pool, or sports – sand volleyball, drinks, music, food, pickleball
2. Marketing & Website
  - a. Better promotion of all parks and amenities
  - b. Keep up with social media trends
  - c. Enhance digital experience – mobile app, website upgrade
  - d. Chat bot mobile app
3. Safety
  - a. Safety
4. Programming
  - a. Programs that promote social connections of all residents
  - b. More community events/meet ups – small
  - c. Create space for patrons with special need (sensory room)
  - d. Keeping up with trends in sports and facilities
5. Community Outreach
  - a. Community survey
  - b. Enhance communication and outreach
  - c. Continue to seek community feedback
  - d. Engaging community members and being responsive to changing needs
  - e. Keeping needs and community in mind



6. Sustainability
  - a. Native plantings instead of some of our large green spaces
  - b. Sustainability for current and new programs, facilities, parks
  - c. Sustainability, recycling, cleanliness. Overall care and practice of upkeep and infrastructures create plans of work to follow
7. Technology
  - a. Technology
  - b. Work order system
  - c. Work order system
  - d. Improve registration and promotions/advertising efforts
  - e. Utilize current software to make online registration easier – purchase app.
8. New Amenities
  - a. Outdoor pickleball court
  - b. More program space
  - c. Indoor turf field
  - d. More storage areas
  - e. Music venue
  - f. Space
  - g. Outdoor turf
  - h. Explore new amenities, indoor turf, expand aquatics, year-round multi-sport complex
  - i. New structures, ideas, sports, programs, etc.
  - j. Turf fields for year-round sport leagues
  - k. Provide amenities. Bike rental, equipment rental. Make it easier for all to participate
9. Infrastructure Maintenance
  - a. Infrastructure
  - b. Maintenance/updates of facilities and parks
  - c. HVAC
  - d. HVAC and BCC
  - e. Update current amenities before adding new
  - f. Updated facility
  - g. Capital assets – replacing older items
  - h. Updating facilities and infrastructure
  - i. Upgrade aging facilities – HVAC
  - j. Preventative maintenance and facility updates
  - k. Infrastructure
  - l. Preventative maintenance plan
  - m. Update irrigation system and well before both hit end of life
10. Procedures
  - a. Staff involvement when booking facility use
11. Staff
  - a. More staff to support growth
  - b. Staff appreciation and retention
  - c. Weekly meetings within each department
  - d. Staff retention
  - e. Evaluate staffing levels and contract if needed
  - f. Staff consistency and adequate numbers
  - g. Additional staff support to meet needs of community



After the categories were established, participants were given 2 stickers to vote on the items most important to them. They could vote on a category (green) or an item within it (blue).





## Pop-Up Event Memorandum

**Dates:** July 21, 2025  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Location:** Schoppe Park

**RE:** **Bartlett Park District Comprehensive Master Plan**  
Pop-Up Event

The Bartlett Park District hosted a community pop-up event at Schoppe Park as part of their public engagement efforts. The event, Pack the Park, was held on Monday, July 21, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. At the event, the Hitchcock Design Group (HDG) planning team staffed an informational booth to engage attendees and gather community input. Booth attendance was not tracked.

### Whiteboard Comments

At the event, participants were invited to share their input by interacting with three display boards by writing comments directly on the boards, providing ideas and feedback to help guide the District's planning efforts. One of the following prompts were printed on the top of each board.

1. What should the agency focus on over the next five years, specific to **programs and special events**?
2. What should the agency focus on over the next five years, specific to **facilities**?
3. What should the agency focus on over the next five years, specific to **parks**?

The list of comments received on the boards and are included as written.

### Responses:

What should the agency focus on over the next five years, specific to programs and special events?

- Polish story time in public library
- Youth advisory
- Splash pad
- Local water fountain
- Girls and boys flag football

What should the agency focus on over the next five years, specific to facilities?

- Making the website less confusing
- More sports facilities
- Adding the Bartlett Springboard Diving Team to the Bartlett Barracudas and hosting one dive meet in the summer

What should the agency focus on over the next five years, specific to parks?

- Dog park at Schoppe Park – we are densely populated with small yards
- Dog park and cat park
- Art program
- Put lights up at Apple Orchard Park for nighttime



- Two more pickleball courts
- Gaga ball pit
- More outdoor basketball courts

