2024-210D

City of
Gainesville

2023

CITY OF GAINESVILLE PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS MASTER PLAN

Needs Assessment Update

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2024-210D

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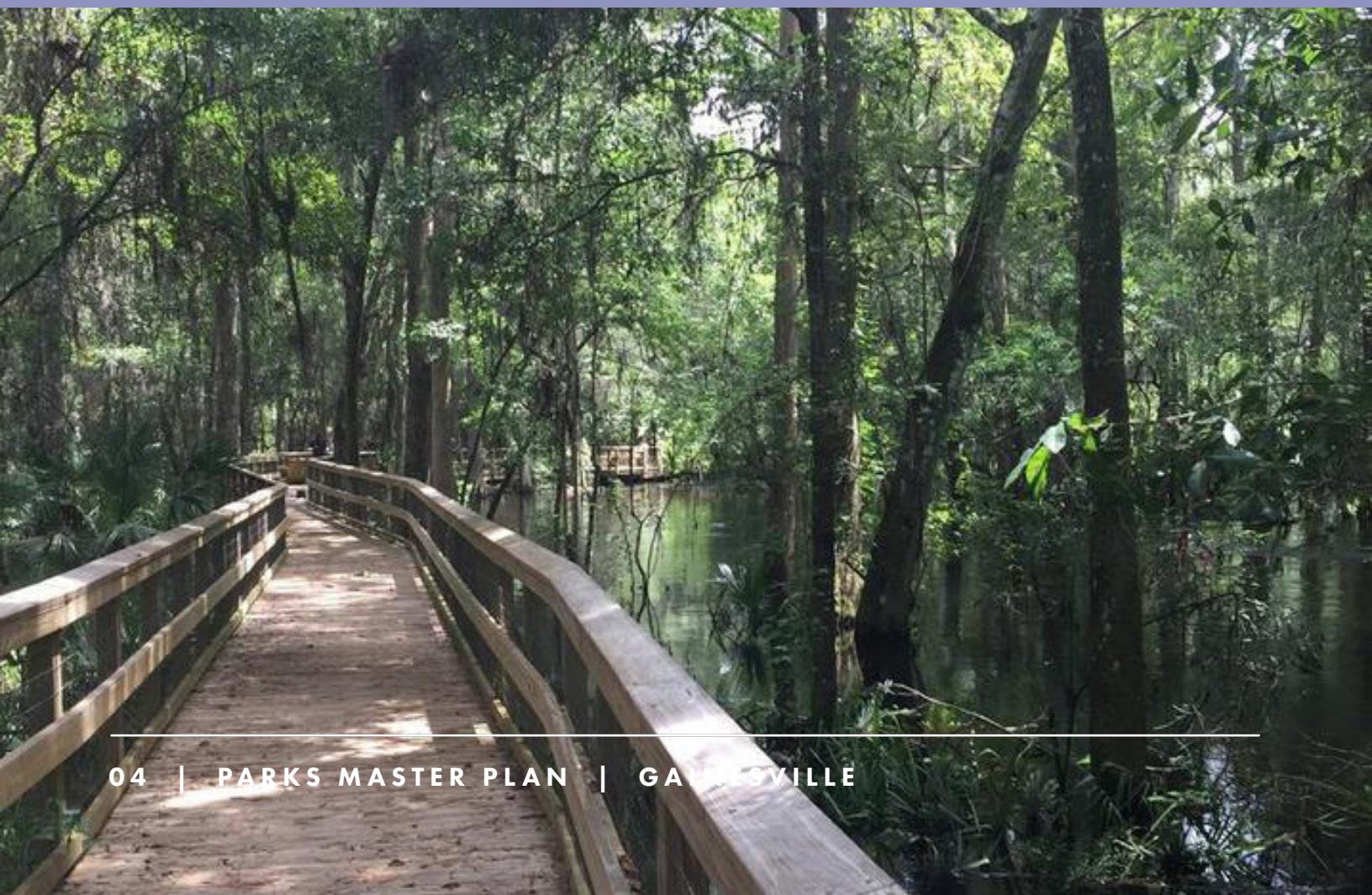
Chapter 0
Identify the Problems



0.1

Planning Together

Gainesville is a community that is evolving. As one of the best places to live in the United States, we are proud of our services and amenities. But progress requires great thought and care. Nothing is more important than preserving the special character of our city while continuing to look for ways to improve. We ask questions and listen to the answers, because the best way forward is planning together.

When it comes to Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA), we start in a good place. Each of our city's parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities, natural areas and cultural amenities has its own unique identity. These locations are often shaped by the neighborhoods that surround them. Although all are different, I can say with confidence that together they are greater than the sum of their parts. They are a way of life, a respite, and a place where memories are made for neighbors across the City of Gainesville.

This is why we have big dreams for the future of PRCA. The planning we do together will move those dreams forward. We intend to build a cultural arts center in east Gainesville and are doing a feasibility study. We have plans to reimagine the MLK Center and Citizens Field. We have the new Massey Park playground. It's the area's first "boundless" playground that enables access for children of all ages and abilities. The two-million dollar facility is funded through the Wild Spaces Public Places surtax, approved by Alachua County voters last November.

We conserve nature in the places where wildlife thrives. Miles of trails bring us close to our environment and show us our past. We have important historic and cultural sites like the Thomas Center, the Hippodrome Theater, the A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center, and Boulware Springs, the City's original water treatment plant. Annual events like the "Cane Boil and Fiddle Fest" don't only bring smiles, they also serve as a point of reference for just how far we've come.

As we've grown, we've learned a few things about ourselves. We've learned what needs to come next. This 2023 update will help us move together in the right direction.

Ms. Cynthia W. Curry - City of Gainesville City Manager

0.2

Plan Purpose

This 2023 plan must do more than simply update the 2012 plan—it must look at parks, recreation, and cultural affairs through a lens of equity, sustainability, and quality of life for all.

In 2012, the City of Gainesville developed a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan. Though in-depth and representative of the parks system ten years ago, this plan comes from a very different place in time from where we are now: the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs had recently been formed as a merger of multiple departments, and development in the city was just beginning to recover from the Great Recession.

Fast forward ten years, and many things have changed. The City's population has grown from 124,354 to 142,346; the nation has grown increasingly polarized, with a surge in racial tensions and consciousness; and the community has weathered many rounds of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of these significant changes, this 2023 plan must do more than simply update the 2012 plan—it must look at Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs through a lens of equity, sustainability, and quality of life for all.

In 2019, the Gainesville City Commission challenged all City departments to tackle the impacts of institutional and structural racism in the City's policies, programs, and decision-making. A direct outgrowth of the mandate is the development of Imagine GNV, the City's draft comprehensive plan. This plan makes marginalized communities of Gainesville its priority, actively identifying the existing disparities in services and engagement and stating desired outcomes for a more equitable, just community.

One such outcome is particularly important to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs: "All residents will have access to quality park space, facilities, recreation programs, and environmentally significant open space."

This 2023 update serves as a roadmap for identifying the needs and priorities that will help achieve this outcome of an equitable parks system, ensuring that all of Gainesville's residents benefit equally from Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs services.

[1]https://today.uconn.edu/2022/09/covid-rekindled-an-appreciation-of-nature-for-many/#

0.3

BACKGROUND

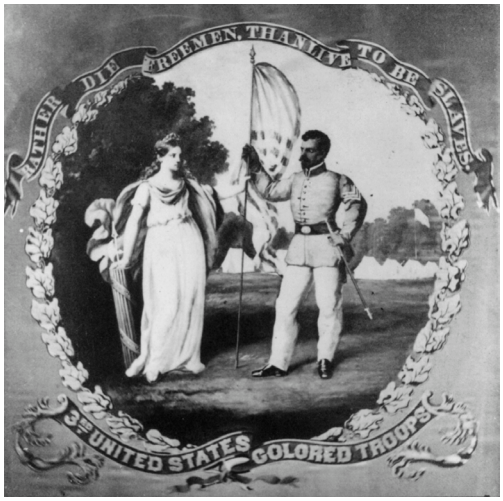
The history of the City of Gainesville parallels that of its neighboring cities, where the arrival of the railroad spurred development in the early 20th century, sparking a growth trend that has generally continued unabated (and above the American average) for over a century. During this time, African Americans have been integral to the City's growth and success, in spite of adversity.

Gainesville is located in Alachua County, and serves as a major cultural and commercial center for north-central Florida. Rich in fertile farmland and wildlife, Alachua County was originally home to many Native American tribes such as the Potano, who were associated with the Timucuan civilization of north Florida. Europeans—particularly the Spanish—plundered the area in the 1500s and 1600s, but did not establish any firm footholds, aside from a few missions that were later destroyed. The Spanish had difficulty controlling its large Florida territory, and eventually ceded it to the United States in 1821. Alachua County was officially formed shortly after in 1824. The Town of Gainesville was incorporated in 1869 and chartered in 1907.

During the Civil War, Gainesville was an important place for the Confederate Army and was the site of two battles. African Americans played in significant role in defeating the Confederate Army in the First Battle of Gainesville.

In the period of Reconstruction that followed, the city grew tremendously. People flooded into the Gainesville area, spurred by new railroad connections, thriving citrus and phosphate industries, and opportunities for African Americans. The Third United States Colored Infantry Regiment was deployed to Gainesville. The protection of African American United States soldiers made Alachua County a mecca for Black landownership and the possibility of racial uplift. African American men in Gainesville and much of the South registered to vote for the first time.

In the early 1900s, agriculture and phosphate started to wane, but a new economic engine was emerging: in 1905, Gainesville was selected as the site of the University of Florida (UF). By the 1930s, the university was the primary economic driver for the region, helping Gainesville weather the Depression better than many other communities in Florida.



Source: https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98506817/

The African American community continued to push for progress in the city. Lincoln High School was successfully founded in 1923 and gained state accreditation in 1926 under the guidance of Professor A. Quinn Jones as Principal.

Following World War II, Gainesville boomed from returning soldiers taking up residence in the warm climate of Florida and taking advantage of the GI Bill's education benefits. By 1970, the university had 23,000 students, and had established itself as a major institution of higher education in the country. This helped Gainesville itself grow in prominence, with its downtown becoming a major commercial and governmental service center in Florida.

In 1971, Neil Butler was elected the first Black mayor of Gainesville since the Reconstruction era. While Butler served in the commission, Gainesville received the national designation of an "All-American city."

Today, Gainesville is widely recognized as a great place to live. Most recently, in 2021, the survey company Niche.com ranked Gainesville as the best place to live in Florida, and number 38 nation-wide.

Growing Gainesville

As of 2020, the US Census counted 141,085 residents in the City of Gainesville, up from 124,354 people in 2010. This represents a growth of about 13.45% in 10 years, with an average annual growth rate of 1.27%. This growth is similar to that seen county-wide in the same period, in which the overall population grew by about 12% between 2010 and 2020.

With population growth has come new development. Large apartment communities have sprouted in and near downtown, largely housing members of the UF community. To serve the growing population, commercial growth has also been notable, particularly in the Archer Road corridor. Newer types of development are also taking root, such as the Flint Rock agri-hood that sports small lots to conserve open space.

Source: https://www.alligator.org/article/2022/02/gainesvilles-first-black-mayor-and-city-commissioner

Much of this new development has been focused on the wealthier parts of the city. East Gainesville, which has the highest percentage of African American population, in particular has lagged. Historically an area that has suffered from a lack of investment, the city's first true mixed-income neighborhood, Heartwood, took over 10 painstaking years of planning and fundraising to build. The community wants new investment, but exactly what type of development is most appropriate is unclear. For example, recent proposals for affordable housing in East Gainesville have met with resistance; conversely, there was also conflict over constructing luxury student apartments in areas that were historically black neighborhoods. As the city continues to grow and land development opportunities become scarcer, these conflicts are likely to grow too.

An Equitable, High-Quality Parks System of the Future

Parks and open spaces have a key role to play in the new intent and direction around investment

in Gainesville—one that is more equitable and intentional about serving the whole community. Disparities currently exist not just in the amount of parks spaces available in neighborhoods across the city, but in their quality. A major goal of this plan is to identify these disparities and prioritize addressing inequities so that every Gainesville resident, regardless of where and how they live, can access the beautiful natural resources and open spaces, and cultural amenities that make Gainesville such a special place.

Beyond increasing the amount of parks and improving their quality, recreation, nature and cultural/historical facilities themselves are an opportunity to better tell the story of Gainesville residents. Through intensive community engagement, thoughtful design, and intentional programming, parks can be the places where the diversity of cultures and heritages in Gainesville can be celebrated—particularly the stories of marginalized people, which are not currently done justice. It is an opportunity to recognize the culture of the Potano Native American people, and the later settlement of the area by the Seminoles. They can tell the unique story of the Gullahs, or "Black Seminoles," who sought refuge with the Seminoles, and the conflicts that arose between the Spanish, British, and new American settlers. The stories of struggle,

conflict, and violence continue past the Civil War as the African-American population grew in a community increasingly hostile to them. These are the stories that need to be told.

The power of parks and open spaces should not be underestimated. They are more than places for people to play sports, take a walk, or enjoy nature. They are critical infrastructure and essential building blocks of community, and can lead the way into Gainesville's more equitable future where everyone is welcome, and can see themselves reflected in its public spaces and programming.

0.4

Planning Process

The Gainesville Needs Assessment follows a two-step process, rooted in data and designed for adaptation and flexibility.

1

CHAPTER 1 - Context Analysis examines the existing conditions of both the City and the parks and recreation system within the City of Gainesville's existing challenges, opportunities, and vision. This focus includes a review of the previously completed Comprehensive Plan, the City of Gainesville's existing and projected demographics, and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) facilities.

2

CHAPTER 2 - Needs and Priorities Assessment identifies the gaps between the existing and desired conditions of the PRCA system. The process is based on a proven "triangulated" approach to identifying needs and priorities. It includes various anecdotal, qualitative, and quantitative methods to determine top priorities from different perspectives.

Planning Context
- Existing documents and plans review

Demographic Context
- Existing and projected demographics analysis

Parks System Context
- Parks and recreation facilities assessment

Anecdotal Methods:
- Park site evaluations

Quantitative Methods:
- Statistically Valid Survey
- On-line survey
- Level-of-Service Analysis

Qualitative Methods:
- City leader interviews
- Focus group interviews
- In-person public meetings

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Chapter 1

Context Analysis

1.1

Context Introduction

Recreation and parks systems occupy a unique and powerful space between the physical framework of a place and its people. In many cases, they are the public places citizens interact with most directly. And besides roadways, parks and recreation facilities are commonly a dominant proportion of a jurisdiction's publicly owned land.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs occupies a powerful place in Gainesville: parks and public places exist at the intersection of physical spaces and a sense of community and heritage. With the exception of roadways, parks and recreation facilities are one of the most dominant public spaces in the community—they are facilities that serve one of the broadest cross-sections of people, from kids in organized sports, to seniors attending programs, to the bicycle commuter on their way to work.

Because of their universality, parks spaces are an excellent opportunity to strengthen community, weaving the unique heritage of its people into the built and natural environment. In a growing, progressive city like Gainesville, understanding the context of the parks system is invaluable to planning for its impact in the city. This section looks at Gainesville's context in three ways:

- Planning Context: the plans, initiatives, and projects that are shaping the city, particularly the City's Draft Comprehensive Plan update, Imagine GNV
- Demographic Context: the characteristics of the existing and projected population of the community
- Parks System Context: the organization, programmatic, and physical condition of the city's parks, recreation, and cultural affairs system

PLANNED CONTEXT

DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

PARKS SYSTEM CONTEXT

1.2

The City of Gainesville's Planned Context

This section provides an overview of the City of Gainesville's planned context – recent plans completed for the City and the Department – and identifies specific elements from those documents that should be implemented, and others in progress to continue moving forward.

PLANS REVIEWED:

The City of Gainesville has a long history of planning, but its most recent steps reflect a significant shift in focus: from improving the status quo that benefits a portion of residents, to actively pursuing a more equitable future for the vast range of people who make up the community. Nothing is clearer in this focus than the City's draft Imagine GNV process, Comprehensive Plan update.

The draft Imagine GNV Plan dives into several essential components of community: education; arts, culture, and preservation; transportation and mobility; energy and conservation; health care access; economic opportunity and jobs; policies, planning, and participation; housing; and how we build. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs touches all these areas to different degrees. The following chart is an overview of each of these community components and includes examples of how parks and open spaces can play a role in furthering the desired outcomes of each.

Imagine GNV Topic	Key Outcomes	Potential Role of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs
Education	• Equitable access to equality public education • Increased transparency in decision-making regarding schools • Improved access to continued learning and training resources	• Working with the School Board of Alachua County to ensure equitable quality and quantity of recreation facilities/ access across schools, and enabling grounds to serve the surrounding community outside of school hours • Expanding trails to improve mobility and safe ways to access schools that don't require a car
Arts, Culture and Preservation	• All residents can experience arts as part of daily life • Programs to reflect a variety of cultural identities • Historic assets preserved based on community values	• Using parks as cultural and arts venues that are rooted in the surrounding community/ neighborhood • Increasing arts/cultural programming geared to a broader diversity of participants • Evaluating opportunities for community-prioritized sites to become part of the parks system and thus protected/ maintained
Transportation and Mobility	• All residents have access to reliable, affordable, safe transportation • All residents will become less reliant on cars • Gainesville will have no traffic-related deaths or severe injuries	• Expanding trails/greenways/ bikeways for active transportation • Planning major parks facilities in places that are accessible by transit (or can be in the future) • Expanding transportation to/ from programs, especially those geared to senior or kids • Making biking more accessible to people—programs for low-cost/no-cost bikes, free bicycle maintenance courses, etc.
Energy, Air, Water and Conservation	• Water, waste, and energy infrastructure will be modern, safe, and reliable across all neighborhoods • All residents enjoy a healthy, clean environment • The City will make progress on reducing its carbon footprint, adopt renewable energy sources, reduce landfill waste, and lead regional climate change efforts	• Preserving natural areas/ providing sustainable access to parks • Using parks as green infrastructure, particularly around stormwater treatment and retention/flood control • Designing parks with sustainability/resilience in mind (low maintenance native plants, etc.)

Imagine GNV Topic	Key Outcomes	Potential Role of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs
Energy, Air, Water and Conservation (Continue)		• Using parks as a way to implement the City's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) • Prioritizing acquisition of natural resources/sites in historically under-served neighborhoods that lack access to nature
Health Care Access	• All residents will have affordable and equitable access to medical care • All residents will have access to healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate food • All residents will have access to quality parks and recreation facilities	• Expanding of edible groves, edible landscapes, and community gardens in parks • Prioritizing trails/sidewalks and building safe walking paths within parks • Providing equitable parks spaces across the city
Economic Opportunity + Jobs	• All residents will be able to secure jobs with livable wages • Gainesville will attract, support, and grow businesses that contribute to an equitable economy • Small and minority business owners and entrepreneurs will have the resources to thrive	• Supporting programs with an eye towards workforce development/training • Using quality parks/open spaces as a way to attract/ retain businesses • Supporting minority and small businesses in the department's procurement process
Policies, Planning, and Participation	• All residents will have access and ability to understand City decisions in zoning, planning, and budgeting • All City policies, plans, and agreements are grounded in racial equity • City staff, leadership, and committees are representative of the population	• Providing a clear, transparent, accessible process for citizens to engage in parks and recreation planning decisions • Prioritizing policies and projects that improve equitable access to quality parks and open spaces • Hiring staff that represent the demographics of the community
Housing	• All residents will live in neighborhoods with diverse, abundant housing with easy access to jobs and services • Development does not displace and provides benefits for existing neighbors • All residents will have access to affordable, quality, and stable housing	• Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs' facilities will be present equitably in neighborhoods across the city • Parks can be used to help stabilize vulnerable neighborhoods and encourage additional investment

Imagine GNV Topic	Key Outcomes	Potential Role of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs
Housing	• Residents have fair and equitable housing opportunities free from discriminatory practices	• Underutilized parks could provide housing opportunities, where applicable and appropriate
How We Build	• All residents can enjoy living in equitable and complete communities • All residents live in healthy communities that promote physical, mental, and social wellbeing	• Quality parks and open spaces will be key components of all communities in the city • Parks and open spaces can provide physical places for healthy lifestyles, as places to exercise and connect with one another

OUR KEY OUTCOME:

For Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, the key outcome is Outcome 3 in the Health Care Access chapter:

"All residents will have access to quality park space, facilities, recreation programs, and environmentally significant open space"

The draft Imagine GNV Plan developed eight strategies in support of this outcome:

Imagine GNV Strategy
1. Consider the quantity, quality, and accessibility of existing parks in a neighborhood when prioritizing funding for the construction and maintenance of parks and amenities
2. Purchase additional lands or use City-owned property for new park development
3. Offer varied and affordable park programs for residents of all identities, and increase awareness of available programs and amenities
4. Incentivize private developers to contribute to park development
5. Establish open space and trail systems throughout the City, with a focus on locations where they are less accessible
6. Work with the Urban Forestry Management Plan + CRA to plant shade trees and street trees in neighborhoods that lack tree coverage
7. Conduct inclusive engagement that invites neighbors to participate in decision-making over parks
8. Update parks standards to consider user-centric indicators (e.g., satisfaction levels, parks access) to ensure that parks meet residents' needs

These eight strategies should be combined with nationally recognized best practices in parks and recreation planning to form the core future recommendations to achieve an equitable future of parks and open spaces.

1.3

The City of Gainesville's Demographic Context

The characteristics of the City of Gainesville's residents can provide important insights related to the potential role that Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) can play in improving the social, environmental, and economic quality of life of residents.

The draft Imagine GNV Plan, along with other recent planning initiatives in Gainesville, put people front and center. Within this context, it is essential to understand the demographics of the city: where we are now, and where we are projected to grow.

Population Change

Population and population change are two important demographics to consider in parks and recreation system planning. The larger the population growth, the more need there may be to expand parks and recreation services in the future.

Figure 1.3a
Total Population per District 2022 - 2032

Figure 1.3a demonstrates projected population growth for each of Gainesville's Commission Districts over the next 10 years. Despite growth trends for the past 20 years, the City is now projected to see slight population decline in all districts but one by 2032. Only District 3 is expected to grow, adding roughly 500 residents.

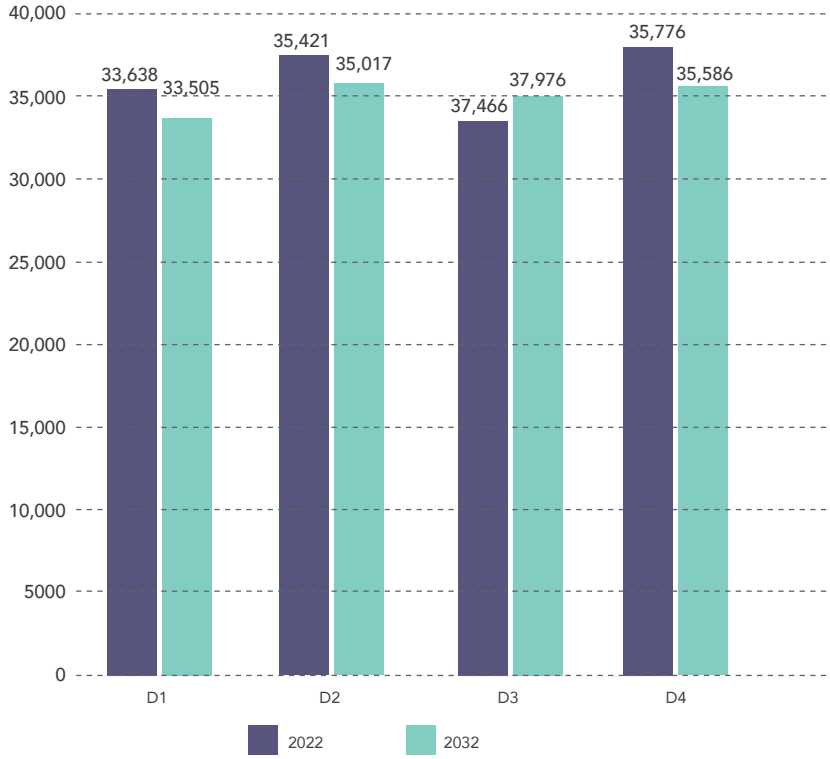
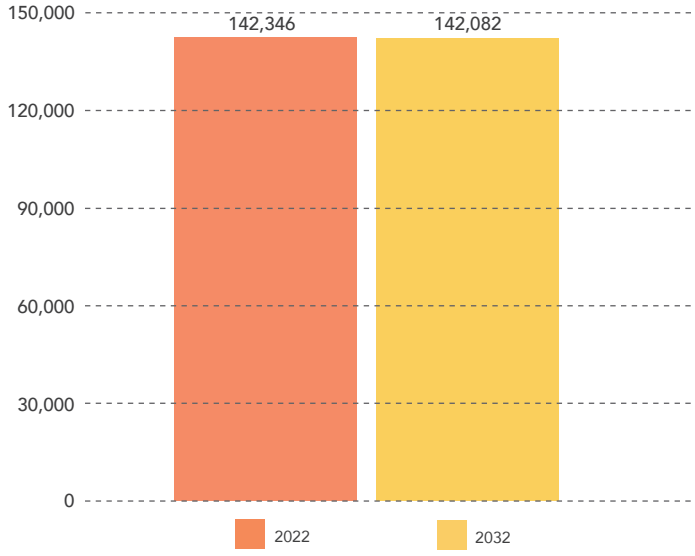


Figure 1.3b
Citywide Population 2022 - 2032

The citywide population is projected to be relatively stable for the next 10 years, potentially seeing a slight decrease of roughly 300 residents.



Implications to the 2022 Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan
Although the population is not projected to grow over the next decade, new parks, recreation facilities, and programming may be needed to maintain and improve the quality of life based on the growth that has occurred in recent years. These needs will be further explored in Chapter 2: Needs and Priorities Assessment.

Population Density

Population density typically influences how residents enjoy parks and recreation services. For example, areas with higher population densities have more residents living in a defined geographic area. This may create a larger demand on, and for parks, recreation, nature, and cultural/historical facilities, and programs.

Additionally, increased densities may suggest the presence of multi-family housing, such as apartment buildings or condominiums. Residents living in multi-family homes typically rely more on public parks to provide basic, close-to-home recreational opportunities such as playgrounds, lawns to play catch, community gardens, or open spaces to allow dogs to run around without a leash. These are some of the basic, every-day recreational activities that a family living in a single-family home may enjoy in their backyard.

Figure 1.3c
Population Density per Census Tract - 2022

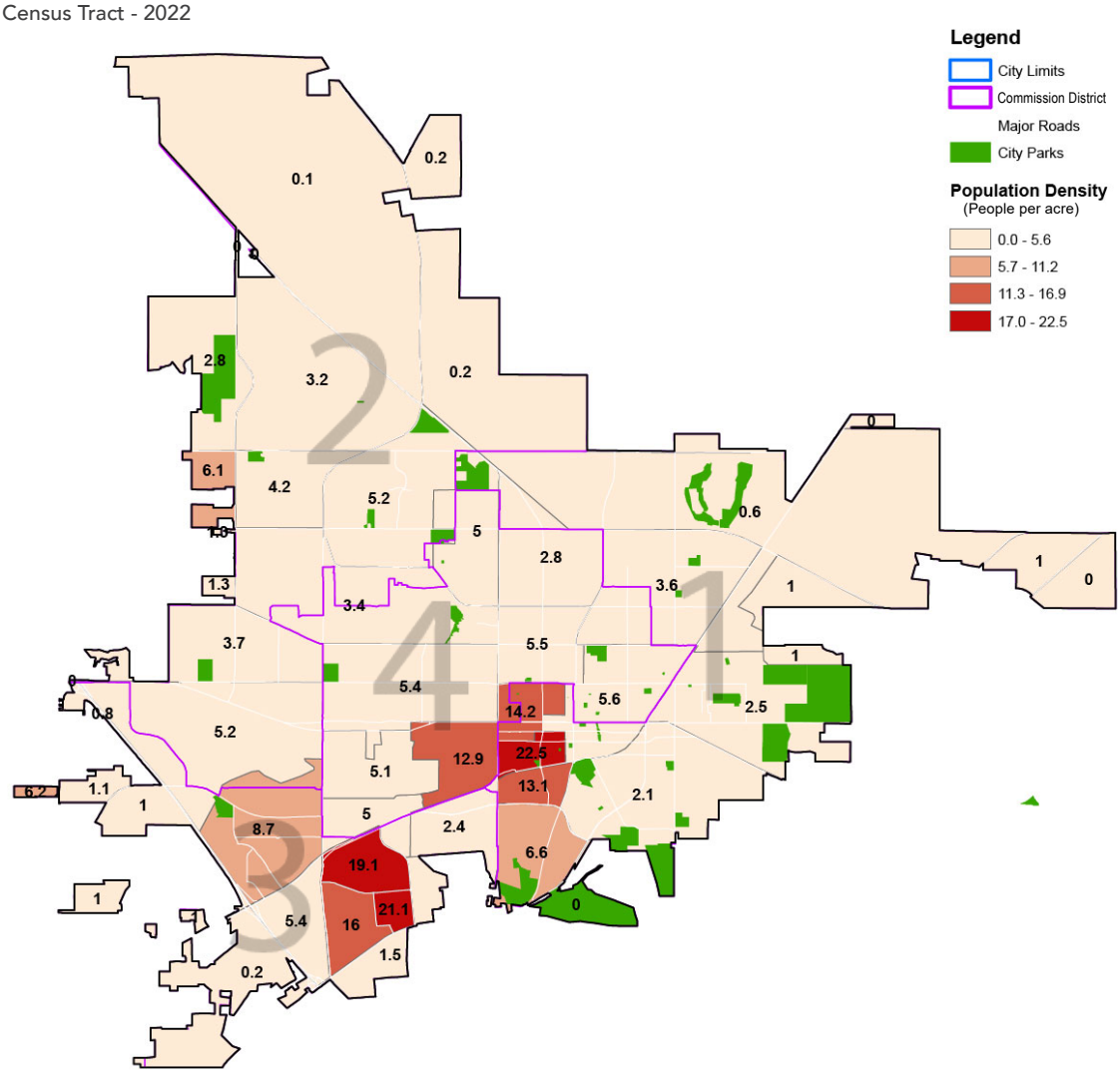


Figure 1.3c displays Population Density (people per acre) for each Census tract in the city. The highest densities are congregated in the southern-central areas of the city in Districts 1, 3, and 4. Many tracts with high densities (over 10 people per acre) do not contain any parks.

Figure 1.3d
Population Density per District 2022 - 2032 (Persons per Acre)

Figure 1.3d displays projected change in population density for each of Gainesville's Commission Districts over the next 10 years. Due to the projected slight population decline, density will remain mostly unchanged. Only District 3 is expected to increase in density, slightly.

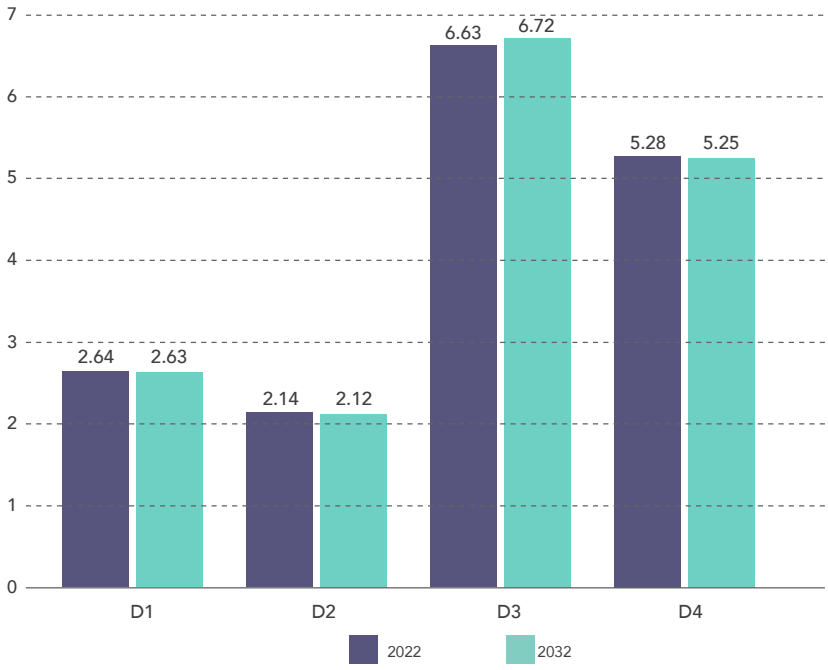
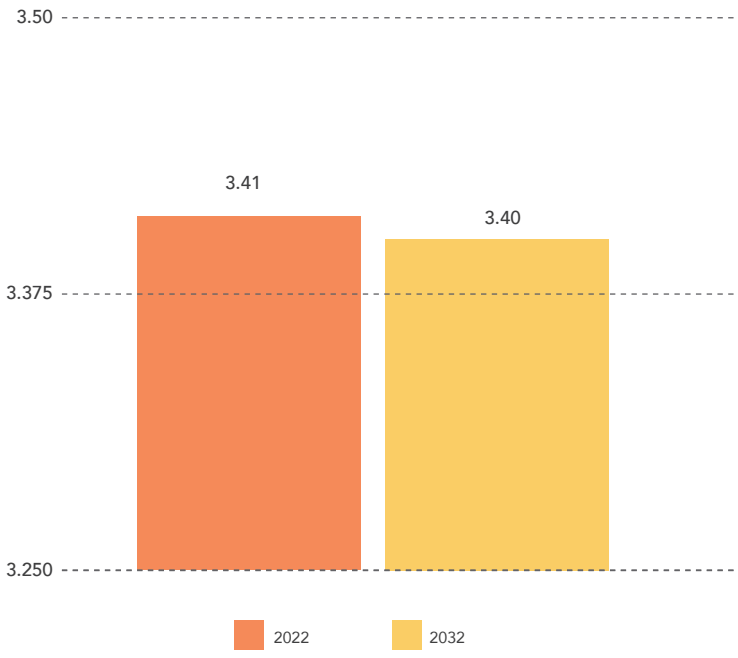


Figure 1.3e
Population Density Citywide 2022 - 2032 (Persons per Acre)

Given that the citywide population is projected to be relatively stable for the next 10 years, overall Population Density is expected to decrease only slightly from 3.41 people per acre to 3.40.



Implications to the 2022 Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan
Although the population density is not projected to grow over the next decade, new parks, recreation facilities, and programming may be needed to maintain and improve the quality of life based on the growth that has occurred in recent years. These needs will be further explored in Chapter 2: Needs and Priorities Assessment.

Age Distribution

The type of programs and recreation facilities that a community provides its residents is directly related to the age distribution of the community's population. For example, communities with a high concentration of residents ages 0-9 and 10–19, may have a higher need for youth activities such as before school or after school care programs and youth athletics. These communities may also require more playgrounds and athletic fields. Communities with a high concentration of residents ages 65 and older, on the other hand, may require more senior related activities, such as senior leisure programs, health related services, senior center space, and transportation services to transport seniors from activity to activity.

Figure 1.3f illustrates each commission district's age distribution for the years 2022 and 2032. The data suggest that over the next 10 years, the 65+ age group is expected to grow across all districts, while the 20-34 group is expected to decline slightly across all districts. The 35-64 group is expected to remain relatively stable across, as is the Under 20 group, although in District 4 the Under 20 group is expected to decline by over 3%.

Figure 1.3f
Age Distribution 2022-2032 (Percentage Per District)

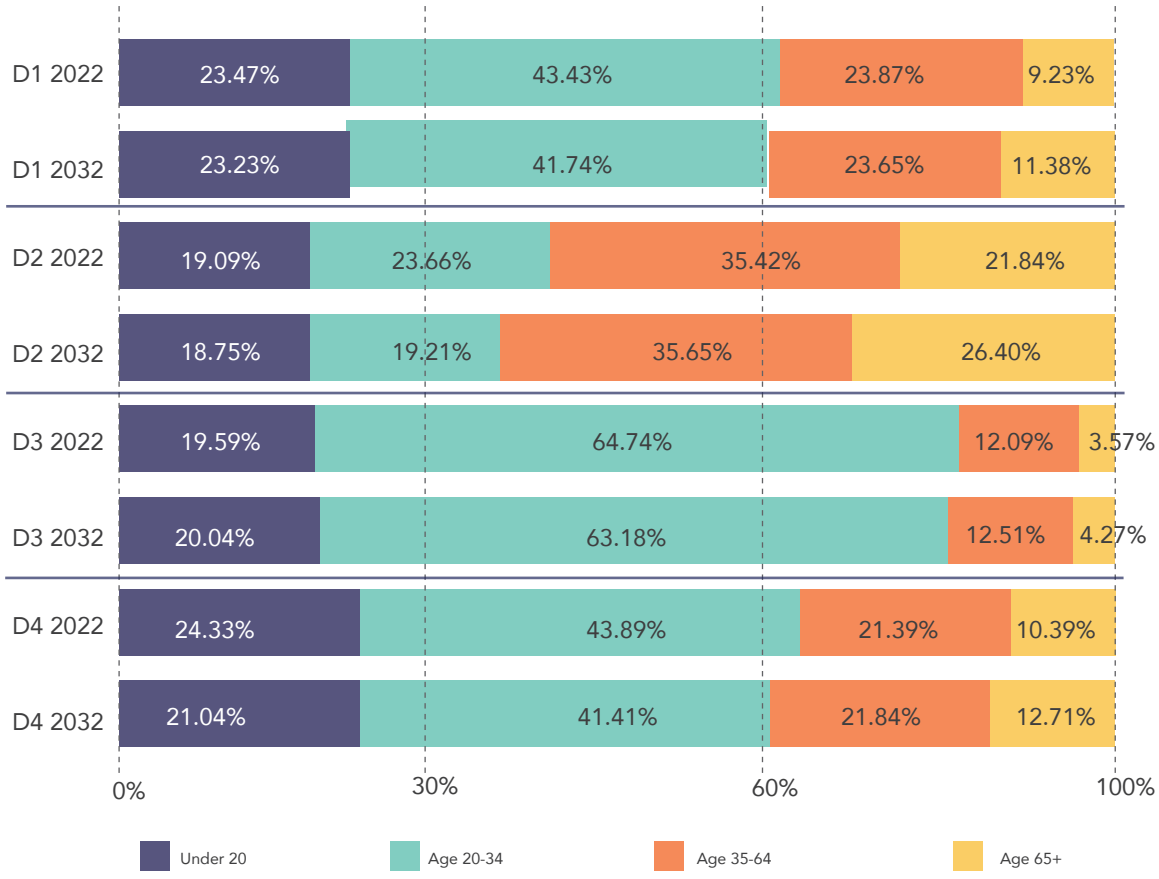


Figure 1.3g
Age Distribution 2022 - Ages 0-9

Figure 1.3g displays the percentage of residents age 0-9 for each Census tract in the city. The highest proportion is 18% in one tract in District 1 and one in District 3. Most tracts range from 5-15% although there are some tracts below 5%, particularly centered in southern District 4.

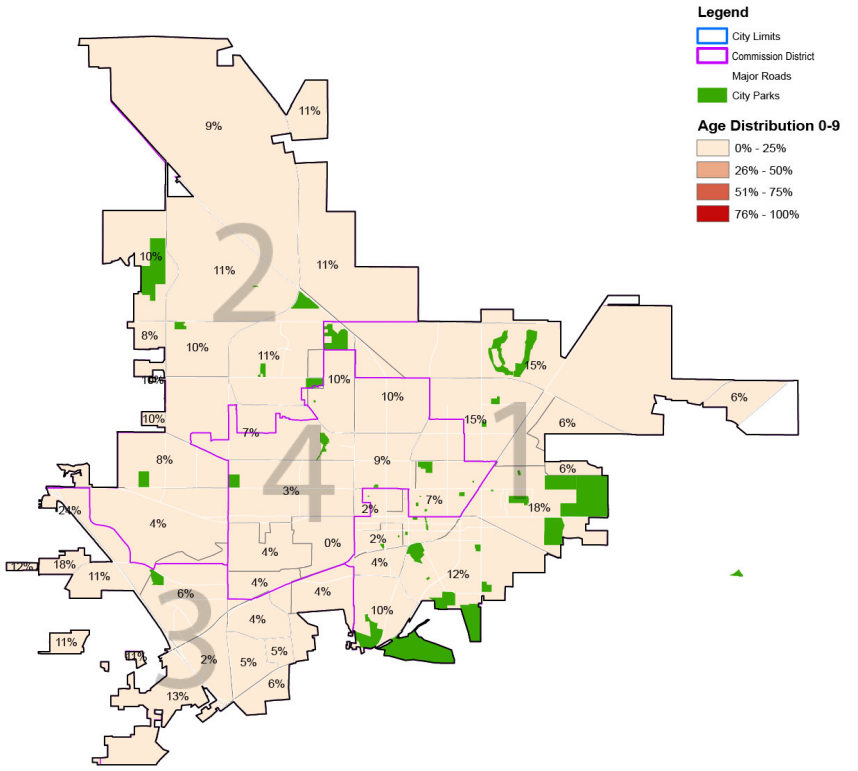


Figure 1.3h
Age Distribution 2022 - Age 10-19

Figure 1.3h displays the percentage of residents age 10-19 for each Census tract in the city. District 4 is notable for having the only tracts over 25%, with one at 50% and one at 39%. The majority of tracts are 10-20% across all the districts.

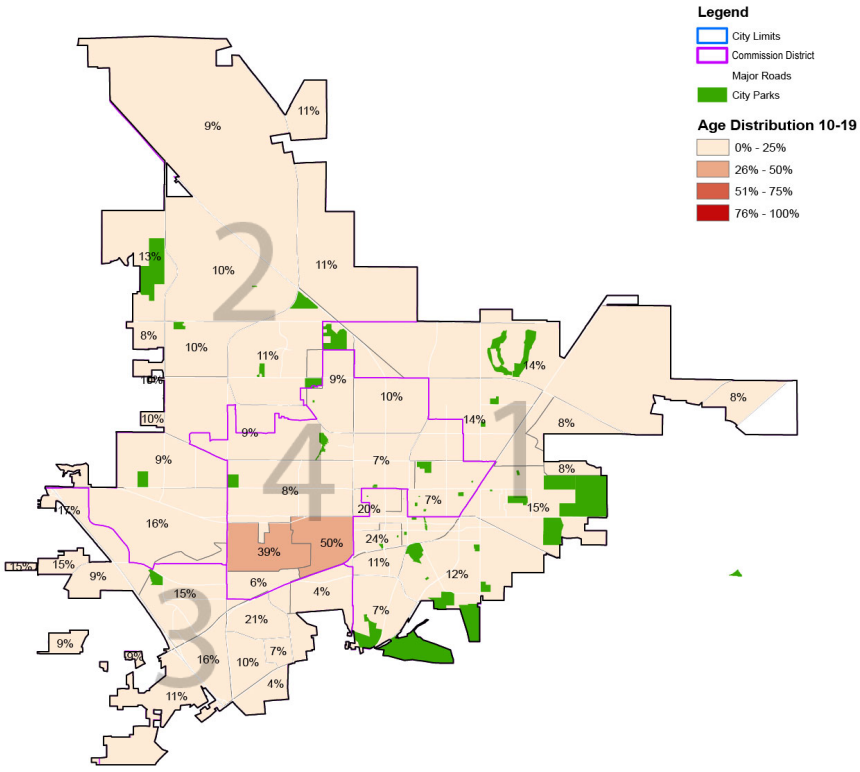


Figure 1.3i
Age Distribution 2022 - Age 20-34

Figure 1.3i displays the percentage of residents age 20-34 for each Census tract in the city. The highest proportions are congregated around UF in districts 1,3, and 4 with three tracts over 75%. Many tracts are also 51-75% in the same area. District 2 has the lowest proportions with all tracts below 25%.

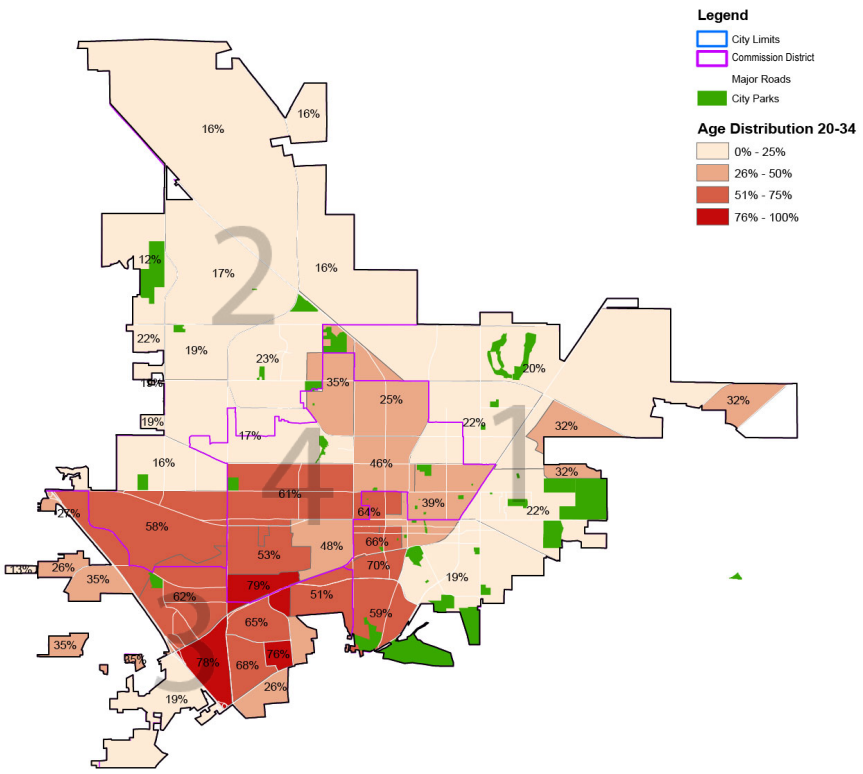


Figure 1.3j
Age Distribution 2022 - Age 35-54

Figure 1.3j displays the percentage of residents age 35-54 for each Census tract in the city. District 2 is notable for having multiple tracts over 25%. The majority of tracts are 10-20% across all the districts, while districts 3 and 4 both have tracts under 10%.

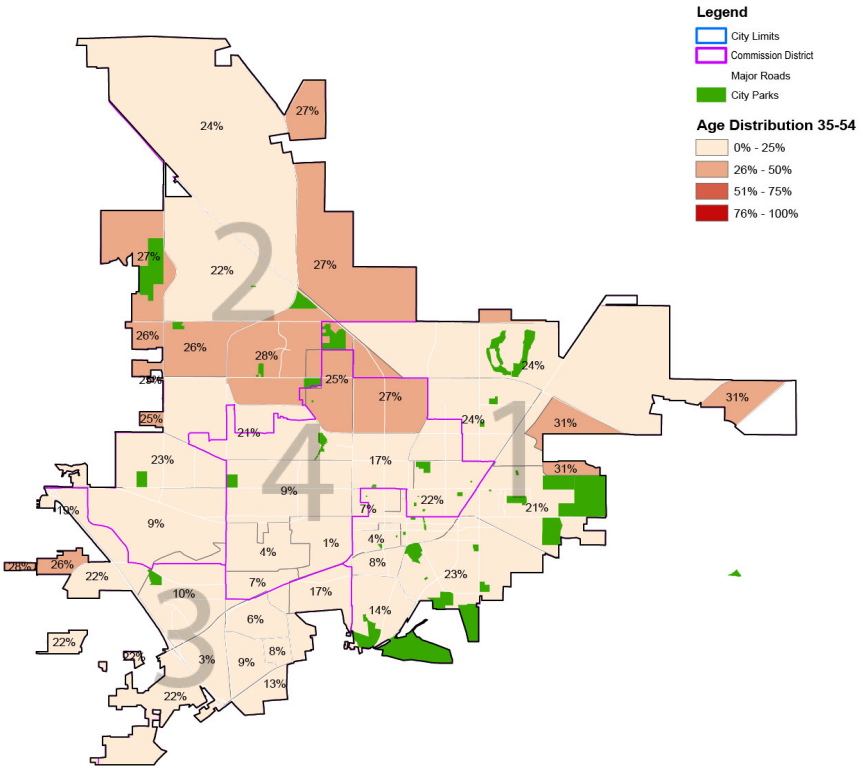


Figure 1.3k
Age Distribution 2022 - Age 55-74

Figure 1.3k displays the percentage of residents age 55-74 for each Census tract in the city. District 2 is notable for having the highest proportion (34%) and almost all tracts over 25%. Each district has at least one tract over 25%, although districts 3 and 4 both have numerous tracts under 10%.

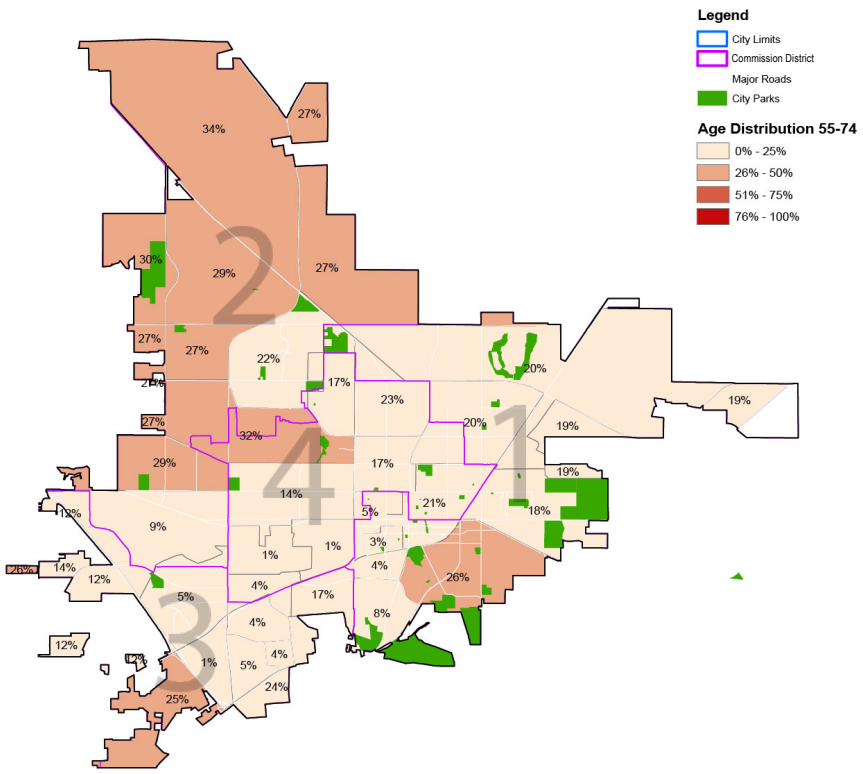
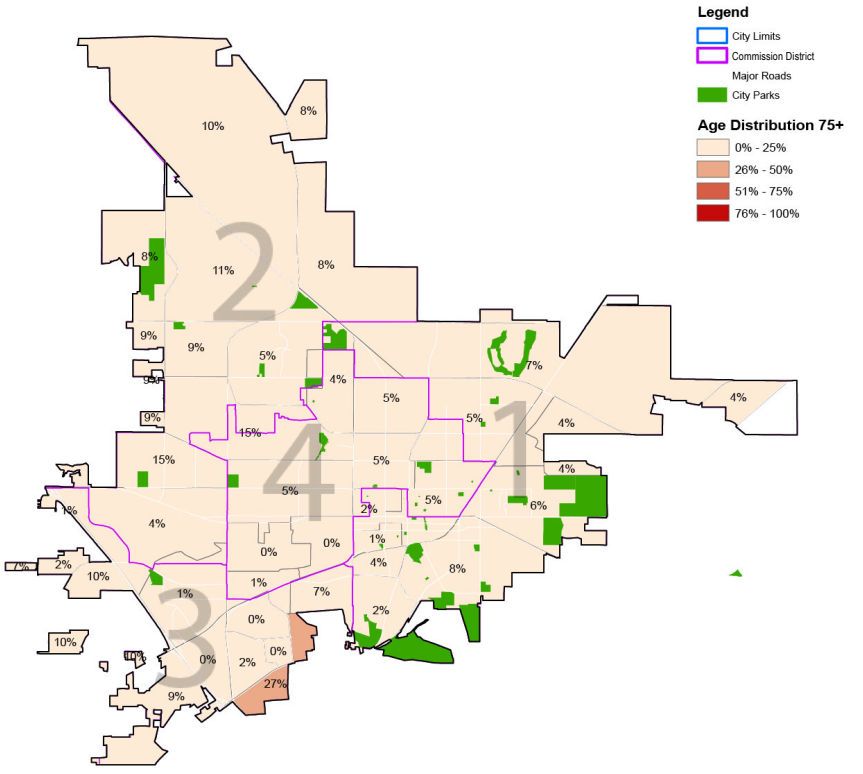


Figure 1.3l
Age Distribution 2022 - Age 75+

Figure 1.3l displays the percentage of residents age 75+ for each Census tract in the city. District 3 is notable for having the only tract over 25%, with one tract at 27%. The majority of tracts are 0-10% across all the districts.



Race and Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity can be an interesting indicator of recreation program and facility needs and desires. Various academic studies have shown that individuals' preferences towards specific park settings, activities, or amenities can vary by racial category.

For example, one study used surveys to study the preferences of 900 park users in a major City in the United States. The study reported that Asians showed a strong preference for scenic beauty, Whites expressed a stronger preference for trees and vegetation, and African Americans expressed a preference for cultural facilities and maintenance.[1] Another study found that African Americans and Hispanics participated more in sports, but less in activities that took place in remote areas or undeveloped facilities than Whites.[2]

As Figure 1.3m demonstrates, racial categories are projected to change slightly over the next 10 years, with the proportion of White residents decreasing across all geographies.

[1]Gobster, P.H. (2002). Managing urban parks for a racially and ethnically diverse clientele. Leisure Sciences, 24, 143 – 159.
[2]Dwyer, J.F. (1993). Outdoor recreation participation: An update on Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, and Asians in Illinois. In P. Gobster (Ed.), Managing urban and high-use recreation settings (pp. 1991-1211)

Figure 1.3m
Race Distribution 2022-2032 per District and Citywide

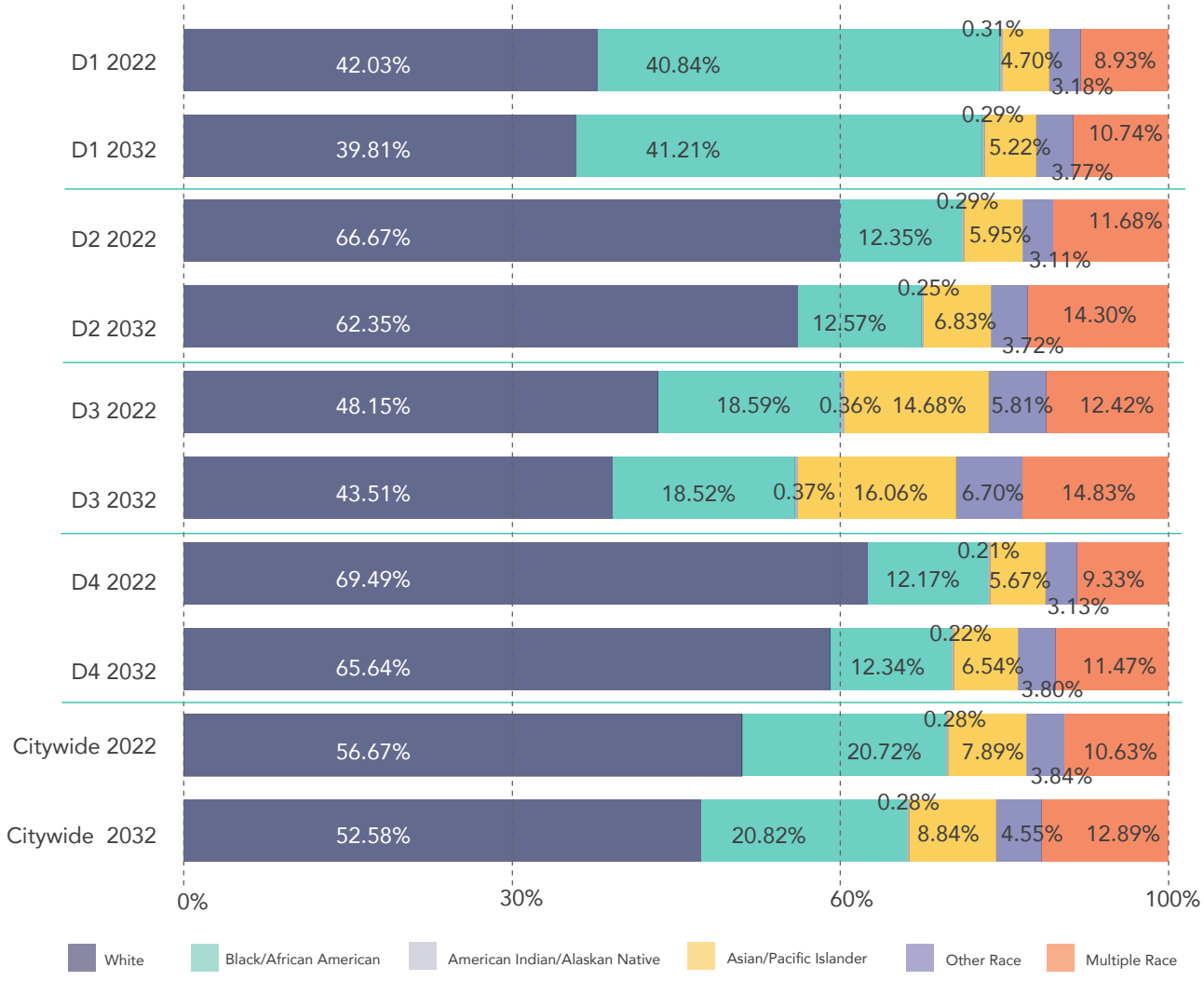


Figure 1.3n
Ethnicity Distribution 2022-2032 District and CItywide -

Figure 1.3n illustrates each commission district's ethnicity breakdown for residents who identify as Hispanic or Latino for the years 2022 and 2032, as well as citywide. All districts and the city are expected to see increases in the Hispanic/Latino percentage. The largest change is projected for District 3, with an increase of 1.9%.

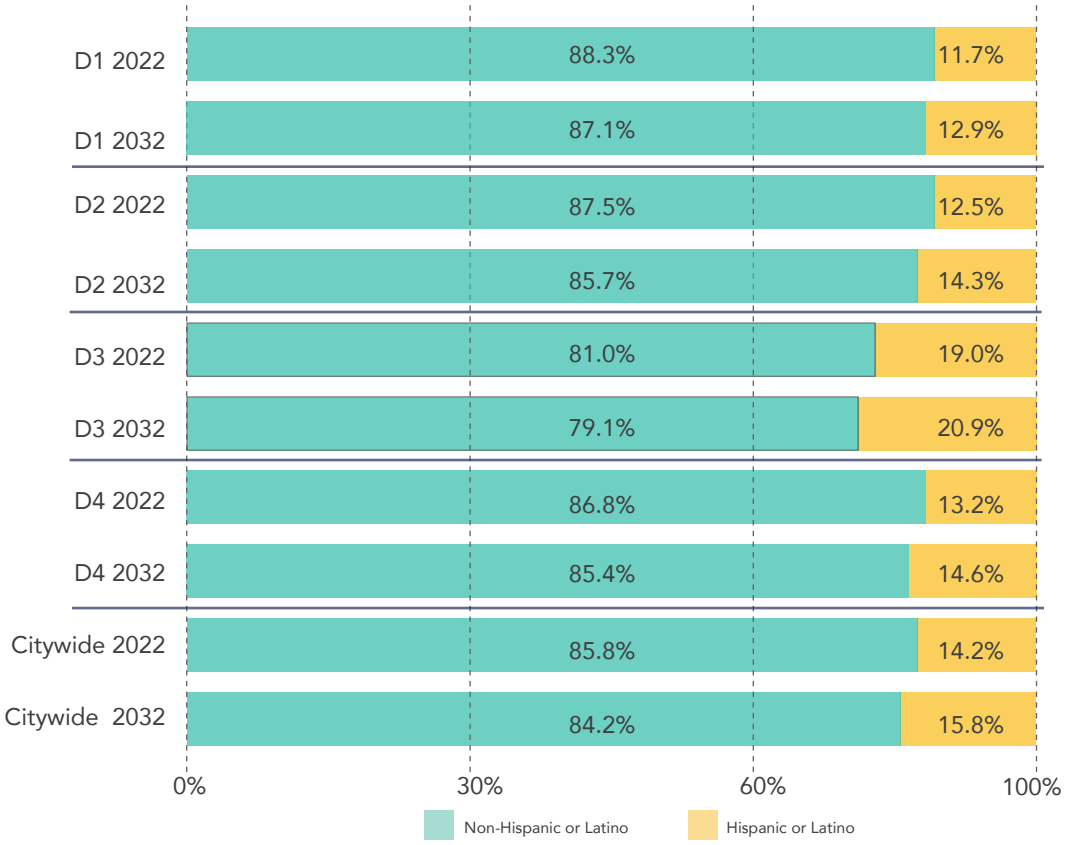


Figure 1.3o
Race and Ethnicity Distribution 2022 - 2 or More

Figure 1.3o displays the percentage of residents who identify as 2 more races for each Census tract in the city. All tracts are under 25%, with the majority of tracts 10-15% across all districts.

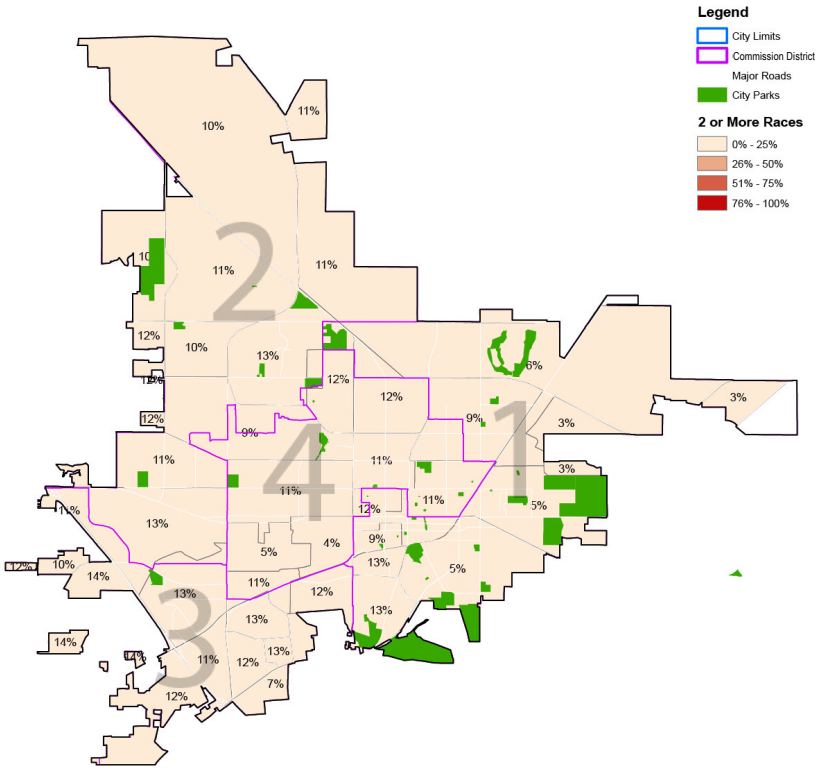


Figure 1.3p
Race and Ethnicity Distribution 2022 - American Indian

Figure 1.3p displays the percentage of residents who identify as American Indian for each Census tract in the city. Only two tracts, one in District 3 (1%) and one in District 4 (1%), have percentages above 0%.

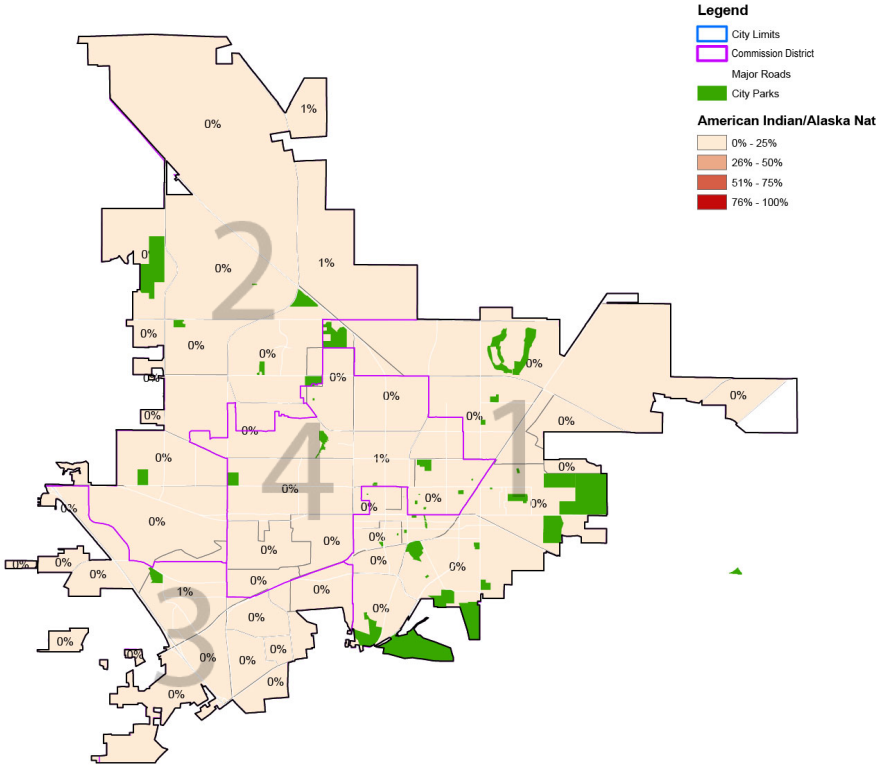


Figure 1.3q
Race and Ethnicity Distribution 2022 - Asian/Pacific Islander

Figure 1.3q displays the percentage of residents who identify as Asian/Pacific Islander for each Census tract in the city. One tract in District 3 is above 25%, and multiple tracts centered near UF have 10-15%. The majority of tracts in Districts 1 and 2 are under 10%.

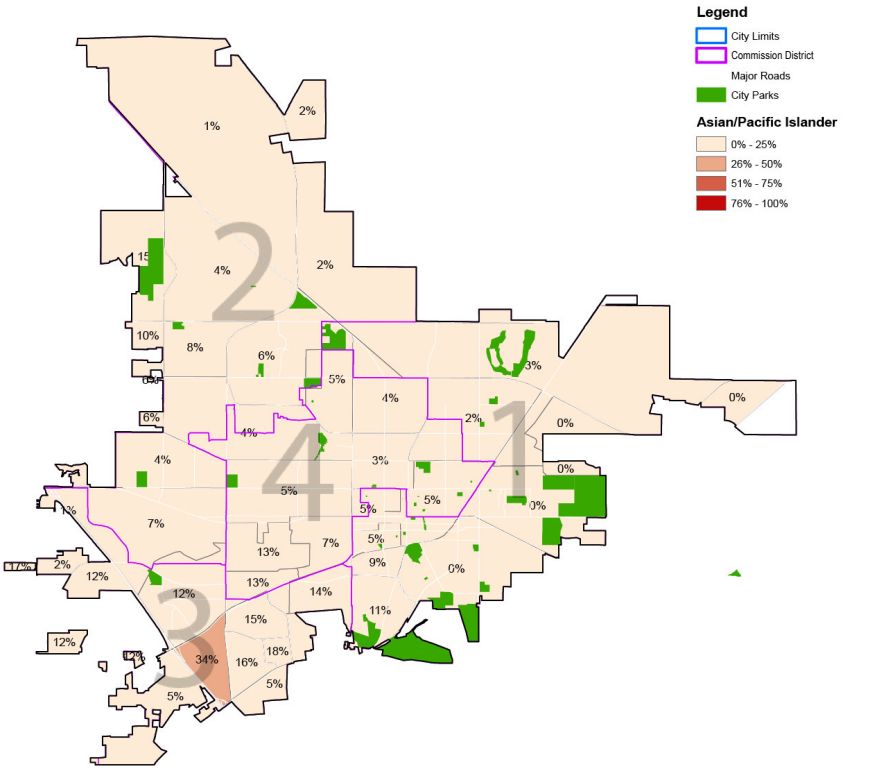


Figure 1.3r
Race and Ethnicity Distribution 2022 - White

Figure 1.3r displays the percentage of residents who identify as White for each Census tract in the city. Multiple tracts are over 75%, including in District 2, 3, and 4. Central District 4 has a cluster of tracts above 75% including the highest tract at 80%. District 1 includes the lowest percentages with most tracts under 50%.

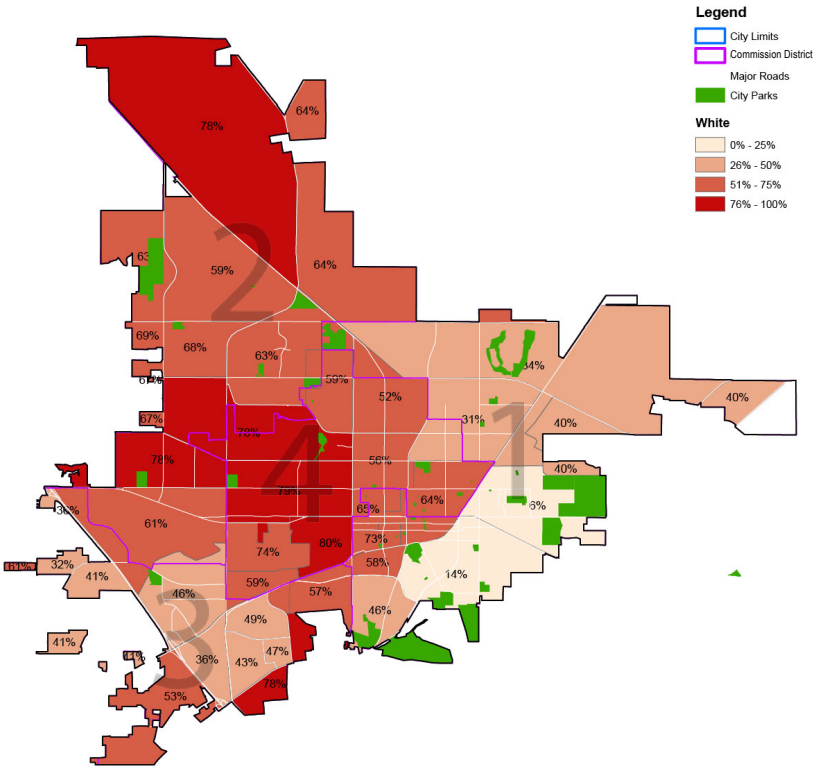


Figure 1.3s
Race and Ethnicity Distribution 2022 - Black/African American

Figure 1.3s displays the percentage of residents who identify as Black/African American for each Census tract in the city. The highest tracts are clustered in District 1, with two tracts over 75% (79% and 87%). District 3 also includes one tract at 50%, while remaining tracts are all under 25%.

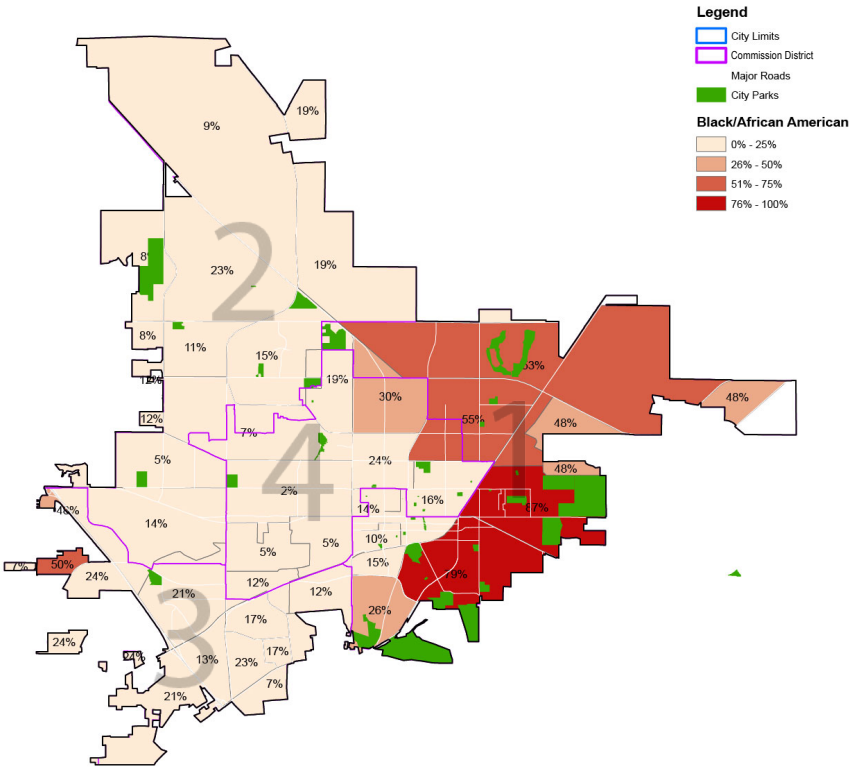


Figure 1.3t
Race and Ethnicity Distribution 2022 - Some Other Race

Figure 1.3t displays the percentage of residents who identify as Some Other Race for each Census tract in the city. All tracts are below 10%, with the highest tracts occurring in District 1 (8%) and District 3 (8%).

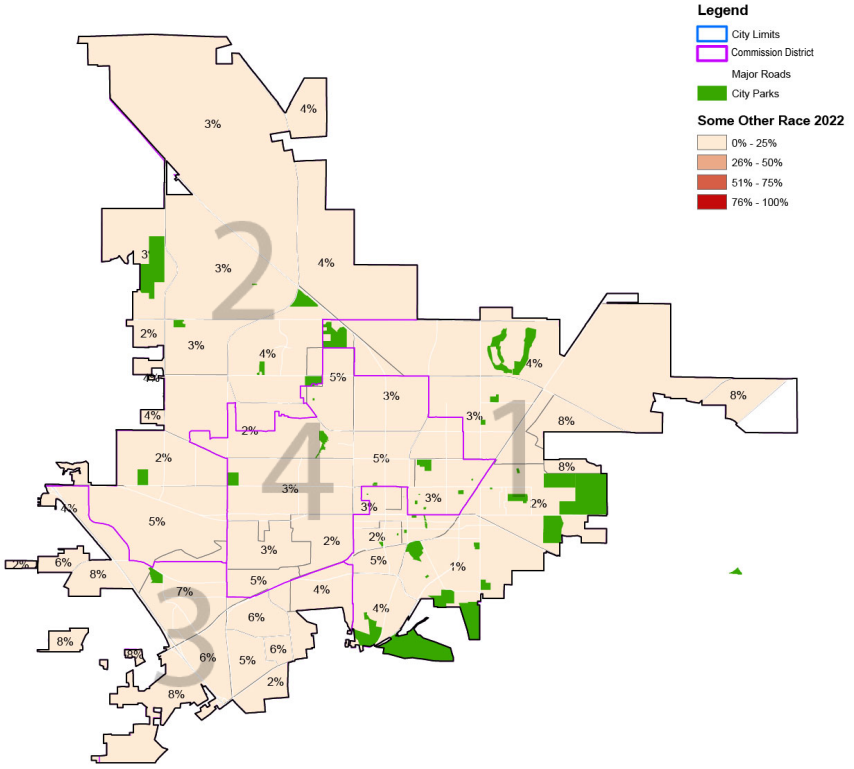
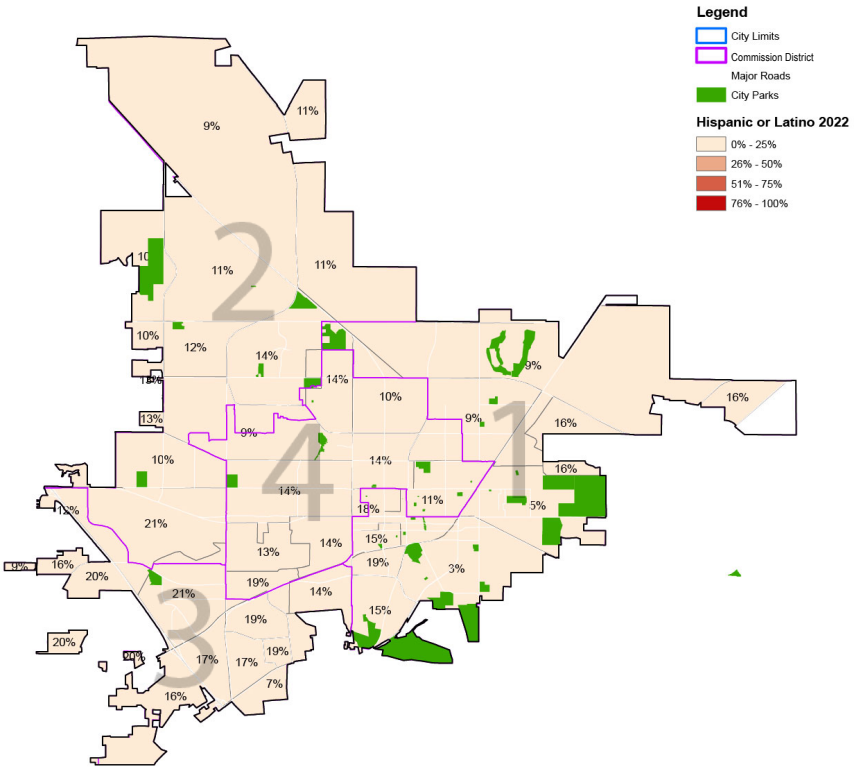


Figure 1.3u
Race and Ethnicity Distribution 2022 - Hispanic or Latino

Figure 1.3u displays the percentage of residents who identify as Hispanic or Latino for each Census tract in the city. All the tracts are below 25%, although multiple tracts in the southwest corner of the city in Districts 2 and 3 are 20-21%. The majority of tracts across the city range from 10-20%.



Household Income

Income levels provide a glimpse of the purchasing power of residents. Simply stated, the higher the household income, the greater the potential for residents to have disposable income to spend on paid leisure programs and activities. The lower the household income, the more residents may rely on affordable and/or free parks, recreation, and social programs and services.

Figure 1.3v illustrates each district's median household income for the years 2022 and 2032. The proportion of households making under $15,000, households making $15,000-$24,999, and households making $25,000-$34,999 are each expected to decline across all districts.

In District 1, households making above $35,000 are all expected to grow, with the $100,000-$149,999 and $150,000-$199,999 groups both expected to more than double.

In Districts 2 and 3, households making $35,000 to $99,999 are expected to decline, with only households making above $100,000 expected to increase.

In District 4, households making $35,000-$49,999 are expected to decline, while all households above $50,000 are expected to grow, with highest rates of growth for households above $100,000.

Figure 1.3v
Median Household Income 2022-2032

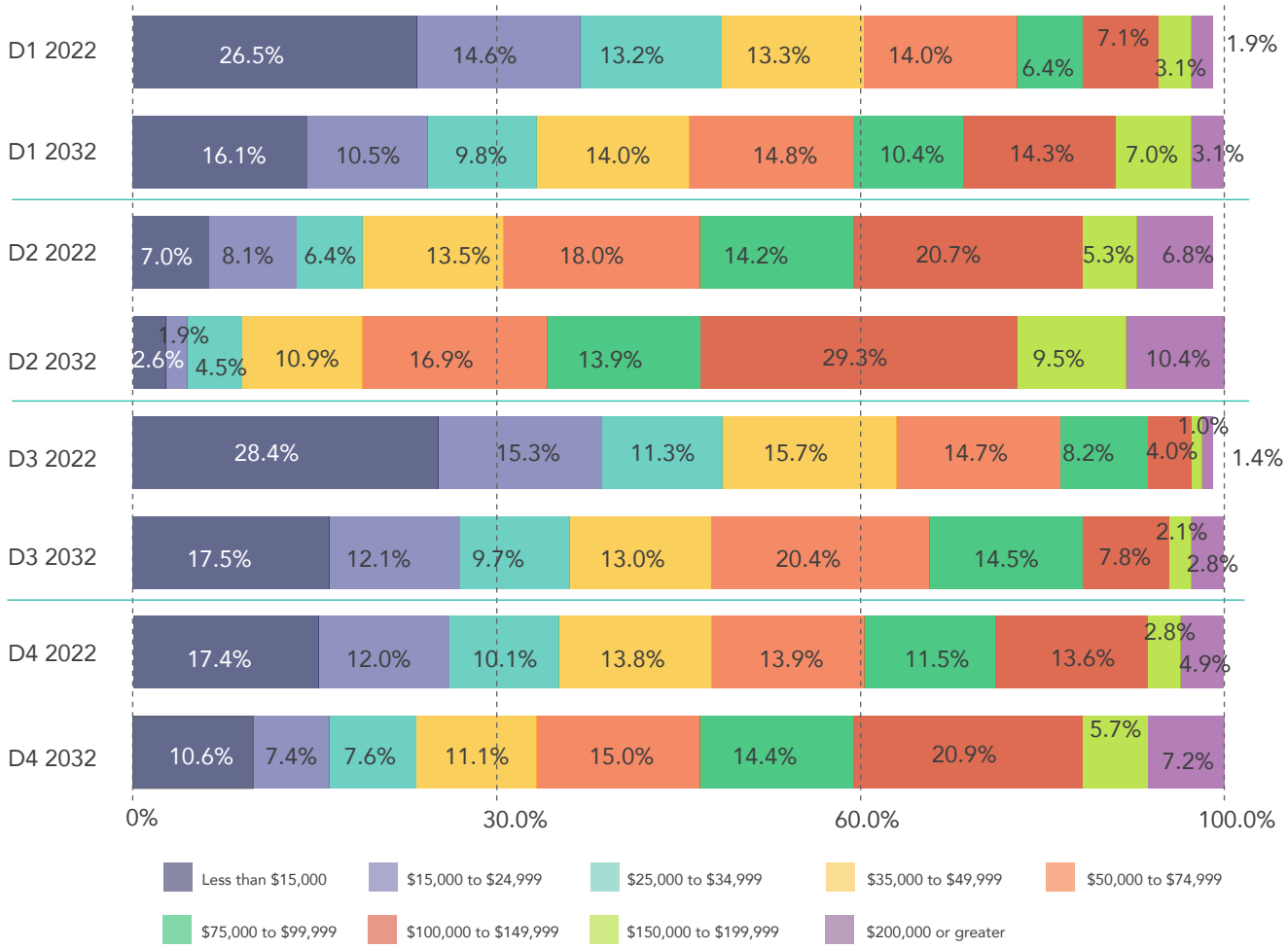
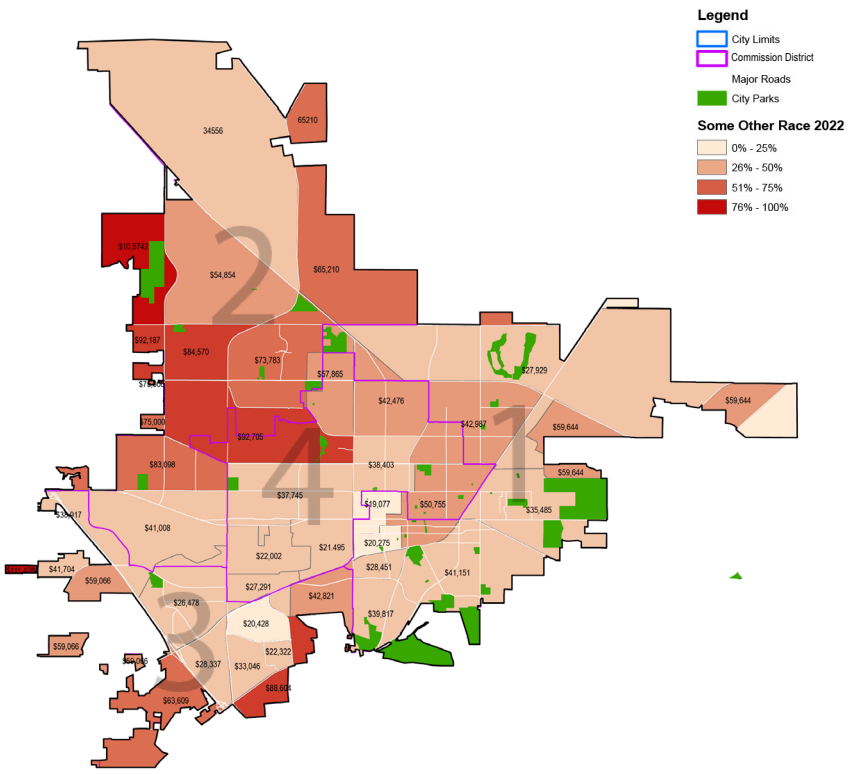


Figure 1.3w
Median Household Income 2022

Figure 1.3w displays the Median Household Income (MHI) for each Census tract in the city. The highest MHI is located in District 2 ($105,742) with Districts 2 and 4 generally having the highest MHI's in the city. The lowest MHI is located in District 1 ($19,077) with Districts 1,3, and 4 generally having the lowest MHI's in the city.



Summary of Demographic Context

Following is a summary of key findings from the demographic context analysis along with their relevance to the City of Gainesville's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Master Plan. These implications will be further explored in Chapter 2 - Needs and Priorities Assessment.

- **Population Growth** - Gainesville has seen a slight increase in growth in recent years. Over the next ten years however, the overall population is projected to decline by 264 residents. 3 out of the 4 districts are projected to decrease, the outlier being District 4. As the population shrinks, existing parks, recreation facilities, and programs should be able to maintain the quality of life that residents currently enjoy.

- **Population Density** - As the City's population only slightly decreases, the City's population density will decrease marginally. However, since potential park land is limited and in certain areas, at a premium, the City may have to be creative and collaborative as it seeks to provide additional park land.

- **Age Distribution** - While Gainesville's population is comprised of a range of ages, over the next 10 years, adults ages 20-34 will continue to be the dominant age group followed by ages 35-64. This suggests that parks may need to be flexible and provide a variety of multi-generational and multi-functional spaces, programs, and activities for residents of various ages, with an emphasis on young families and retirees. It may also be important to increase specific age-appropriate recreational facilities and programs in targeted parts of the city where a larger concentration of specific age groups live.

- **Race** - While Gainesville will continue to be a majority White population, the City's historic and actively shifting racial makeup suggests the need for the parks and recreation system to celebrate the diversity in the community. Planning and programming for PRCA's facilities that are flexible and provide recreation programs and activities for various races and ethnicities will be important. It will also be important to consider special events and programs throughout the year that continue to educate, foster, and strengthen the diversity of the community. These factors will be explored further in Chapter 2.

- **Household Income** - The City's range of incomes may suggest a need to provide programs and services that cater to a range of household incomes. Households with higher incomes may have a need for certain types of sports activities, such as lacrosse, soccer, golf, tennis, swimming; as well as leisure activities, such as cultural and performing art programs and events and dining out. Additionally, these residents may be able to support community parks organizations through financial contributions.

  Many of the residents and families with lower household incomes may rely on reduced cost/free services, such as youth development, after school activities, adult continuing education opportunities, and other social, recreational, cultural, or educational needs. These implications will be explored further in Chapter 2.

1.4

The City of Gainesville's Park System Context

The parks system context for the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan Update is focused on the Department's system of parks, recreation, cultural/historical and, nature facilities.

The following section provides an overview and assessment of this system, which will establish a foundation for the needs assessment and the development of future recommendations.

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Facilities

Existing Parks and Recreation System

The City of Gainesville's parks, recreation, and cultural system is currently comprised of 89 parks and facilities, totaling 3,378 acres. The system also includes approximately 198,557 square feet of indoor recreation and cultural space. Collectively, these facilities range from the A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center that provides residents with historical and cultural programming to Bo Diddley Plaza which provides residents with open space and host a variety of events.

Other public and private recreational resources are also located in and around the City of Gainesville. These include facilities provided by the Alachua County School District, Home Owner Associations, YMCA, and Boys & Girls Club. Since these are not open to the general public, they were not included in the analysis.

Figure 1.4a includes an inventory of the system while 1.4b maps the City's parks and recreation system.

CITY OF GAINESVILLE PARKS SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

89 Parks/ Facilities
3,378 Acres

39 Playgrounds

18 Basketball Courts

18 Tennis Courts

4 Dedicated Pickleball Courts

8 Multi-use Courts

9 Diamond Fields

10 Rectangle Fields

3 Outdoor Pools

198,557 sf
of Indoor recreation space

6 Cultural Facilities

5 Historical Spaces

2024-210D

Figure 1.4a
City of Gainesville Parks and Recreation Inventory

Park Name	Acres	Indoor Recreation Center Square Footage	Park Type/ Classification	Number of Indoor Facilities										
				Recreation Centers	Community Centers	Senior Centers	Nature Centers	Fitness Centers	Gyms	Stadiums	Arena	Performance Amphitheater	Art Gallery	Museum
29th Road Nature Park	5.7		Nature											
121 Property	60		Undeveloped											
Albert "Ray" Massey Park	26.90	13,668	Active	1										
Alfred A. Ring Park	20.74		Nature											
Andrew R. Mickle, Sr. Pool (at T.B. McPherson)	-	6,986	Other											
A.N.N.E. Park	1.00		Active											
A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center	0.23	1,876	Center		1							1	1	1
Barbara Higgins Park	0.60		Active											
Bivens Arm Nature Park	81.04		Nature											
Bo Diddley Community Plaza	1.65		Culture									1		
Boulware Springs Historic Water Works	-	2,528	Nature		1									
Boulware Springs Nature Park	106.63		Nature											
Broken Arrow Bluff Nature Park	11.02		Nature											
Cedar Grove Park	1.10		Active											
C.F. Franklin Memorial Park	1.10		Active											
Citizen's Field/Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Complex	-	19,432	Center/Active	1				1	1	1				
City Hall Plaza	-		Other											
City of Gainesville/Alachua County Senior Recreation Center	-	17,000	Other			1								
Clarence R. Kelly Recreation Center & Park	0.53	3,800	Center/Active	1										
Clear Lake Nature Park	14.56		Nature											
Cofrin Nature Park	30.34		Nature											
Colclough Pond Nature Park	4.95		Nature											
Cora P. Roberson Park	8.00		Active											
Depot Park	32.00		Active									1		
Dolliree Bowens Tot Lot	0.23		Active											
Duval Park	26.31		Nature											
Dwight H. Hunter Pool (at MLK Center)	-		Other											
Evergreen Cemetery	56.00		Culture											
Flatwoods Conservation Area	158.00		Nature											
Forest Park and Conservation Area	24.70		Active/Nature											
Fred Cone Park and Conservation Area/ Eastside Rec. Center	152.48	9,671	Active/Nature/Center	1										
Green Acres Park	76.00		Active											
Greentree Park	21.00		Active											
Gum Root Park	371.78		Nature											
H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool (at Albert "Ray" Massey)	-	1,100	Other	1										
Haisley Lynch Park	1.30		Active											
Hibiscus Park	0.52		Active											
Hidden Gem Park	0.63		Active											
Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park	78.21	2,580	Nature/Active				1							
Hull Road Conservation Area	-		Nature											
Ironwood Golf Course	134.00	9,499	Other											
John Mahon Nature Park	9.83		Nature											
Kiwanis Challenge Park	4.89		Active											

Number of Outdoor Facilities																					
Playgrounds	Tot lots	Community Gardens	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Diamond Fields: baseball - adult	Diamond Fields: baseball - youth	Diamond Fields: softball fields - adult	Diamond Fields: softball fields - youth	Diamond Fields: softball fields - tee ball	Skate Park	Dog Park	Rectangular Fields: Multi-purpose	Rectangular Fields: Multi-purpose Synthetic	Disc Golf Courses (18-Hole)	Golf Courses (18-Hole)	Splash Pads/ Spray Grounds	Swimming Pools (Outdoor Only)	Trails (miles)	Open Space	Track
																			0.1		
1			2	8		2	1	2	1	1	1										
1																			0.4		
																		1			
1			1																		
1																					
1																			2		
																			1.1		
1			1																		
			1								1		1								
																			0.4		
1		1	1																		
																			0.1		
1				1																	
1			1																0.3		
1																	1		0.9	1	
1																			0.2		
																	1	1			
																			0.2		
			1									1							0.7		
1		1	2										1						0.1		1
1																			0.4		
1																					
																			0.6		
																	1	1			
1																					
	1																				
1																			0.3	1	
																1					
																			0.1		
																			0.1		1

Figure 1.4a

City of Gainesville Parks and Recreation Inventory (Continued)

Park Name	Acres	Indoor Recreation Center Square Footage	Park Type/ Classification	Number of Indoor Facilities										
				Recreation Centers	Community Centers	Senior Centers	Nature Centers	Fitness Centers	Gyms	Stadiums	Arena	Performance Amphitheater	Art Gallery	Museum
Lincoln Park	35.00		Active											
Loblolly Woods Nature Park	160.69		Nature											
Loblolly Environmental Facility	-	5,033	Other											
Morningside Nature Center and Park	277.69	3,043	Nature				1							
Mother Lucille Perkins Tot Lot	0.17		Active											
Northside Park	47.00		Active											
NW 34th Street Conservation Area	-		Nature											
Oak Hill Park	0.30		Active											
Oakview Park and Center	2.50		Active/Center		1								1	
Old Post Office and Federal Courthouse	-	76,814	Culture									1		
Palm Point Nature Park	162.00		Nature											
Phoenix Neighborhood Playground	0.13		Active											
Pinkoson Property	8.67		Nature											
Pine Ridge Tot Lot	0.20		Active											
Four Creeks Preserve - City's portion	245.00		Nature											
Pleasant Park	0.98		Active											
Porters Community Center and Park	0.48	3,897	Active/Center		1									
Possum Creek Park	75.75		Active/Nature											
Reserve Park	4.34		Active											
Roper Park	1.50		Active											
Rosa B Williams/Center	-	2,028	Culture/Active		1							1	1	
San Felasco Park	189.90		Nature/Active											
Seminary Tot Lot	0.25		Active											
Smokey Bear Park	5.2		Active											
SE 8th and 9th Tot Lot (Tot Lot #2)	0.55		Active											
SW 5th Avenue Basin	7.60		Other											
Split Rock Conservation Area	241.03		Nature											
Springhill Park	4.40		Active											
Springtree Park	11.70		Nature/Active											
SR 26A Park	1.10		Nature											
Sugarfoot Prairie Conservation Area	195.03		Nature											
Sweetwater Branch Park	5.60		Active											
Sweetwater Wetlands Park	125.00		Nature											
T.B. McPherson Center and Park	15.00	5,688	Active/Center	1										
Tench Building	-	1,670	Culture										1	
Terwilliger Pond Conservation Area	24.83		Nature											
Thelma Boltin Center	-	8,828	Culture/Center		1							1		
Thomas Center and Grounds and Gardens	6.20		Culture		1							3		
Tom Petty Park	22.50		Active											
Tot Lot #4	-		Active											
Unity Park	3.00		Active											
Wilhelmina Johnson Resource Center and Sharmie Ffar Complex	0.50	3,429	Culture/Active		1									
Woodlawn Park	6.00		Active											
Total	3,378	198,557		6	8	1	2	1	1	1	0	9	4	1

Number of Outdoor Facilities																					
Playgrounds	Tot lots	Community Gardens	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Diamond Fields: baseball - adult	Diamond Fields: baseball - youth	Diamond Fields: softball fields - adult	Diamond Fields: softball fields - youth	Diamond Fields: softball fields - tee ball	Skate Park	Dog Park	Rectangular Fields: Multi-purpose	Rectangular Fields: Multi-purpose Synthetic	Disc Golf Courses (18-Hole)	Golf Courses (18-Hole)	Splash Pads/ Spray Grounds	Swimming Pools (Outdoor Only)	Trails (miles)	Open Space	Track
																			0.4		
																			2.1		
	1												1								
1				4	4										1				0.4		
1																					
1																					
																			0.1		
1																					
1																					
																			0.3		
1																					
1			1																		
1		1									1	1	1						0.1		
2		1																			
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1																			0.2		
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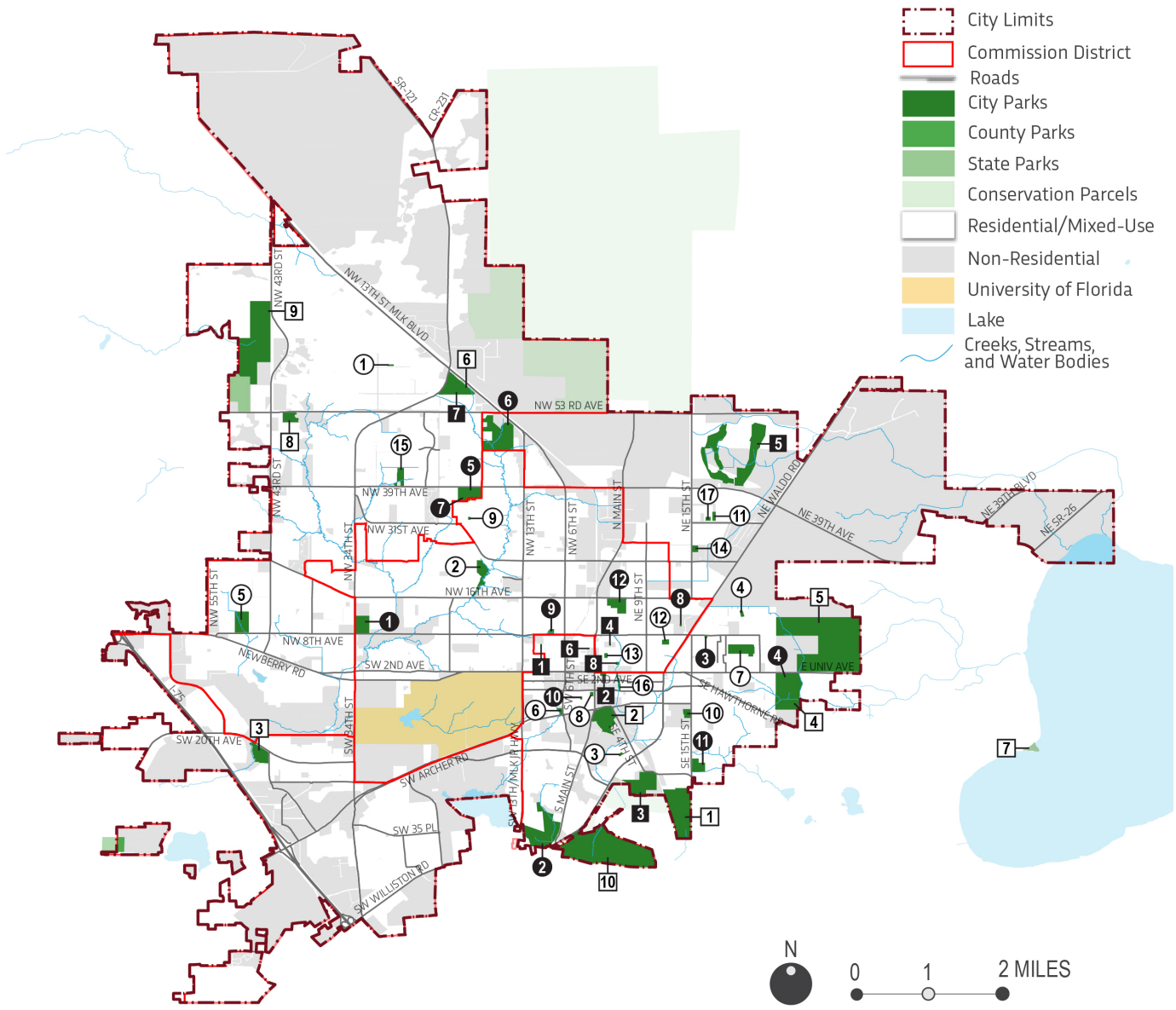
1			4	1					1	1			1						0.2		
		1																			
																				1	
1				4				1	1	1		1	1								
	1																				
1		1	1										1								
1																					
1			1										1								
36	5	6	18	17	4	2	1	3	3	3	3	4	8	0	1	1	3	3	17	3	2

Figure 1.4b
City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs System Inventory



Neighborhood Parks

1. A.N.N.E. Park
2. Alfred A. Ring Park
3. Barbara Higgins Park
4. Cedar Grove Park
5. Cofrin Nature Park
6. Cora Roberson Park
7. Duval Park
8. Haisley Lynch Park
9. Hidden Gem Park
10. Lincoln Park
11. NE 31st Ave Park
12. Reserve Park
13. Roper Park
14. Smokey Bear Park
15. Springtree Park
16. Sweetwater Branch Park
17. Unity Park

Community Parks

1. Albert "Ray" Massey Park (ARM) (and Cherry Pool)
2. Bivens Arm Nature Park
3. Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park
4. Eastside Community Center (and Playground)
5. Greentree Park
6. Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park & Nature Center
7. Kiwanis Challenge Park
8. Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center (and Hunter Pool)
9. Oakview Park (and Center)
10. Porters Community Center
11. TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park (and Mickle Pool)
12. Tom Petty Park

Regional Parks

1. Boulware Springs Nature Park
2. Depot Park
3. Forest Park
4. Fred Cone Park
5. Morningside Nature Center
6. Northside Park
7. Palm Point Nature Park
8. Possum Creek Park
9. San Felasco Park
10. Sweetwater Wetlands Park

Special Use Parks and Facilities

1. A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center
2. Bo Diddley Plaza
3. Evergreen Cemetery
4. Historic Thomas Center & Gardens
5. Ironwood Golf Course
6. Rosa B Williams/352 ArtSpace
7. Senior Recreation Center
8. Thelma Boltin Center

Park Site Evaluations

Research by park experts has shown that all successful parks and public spaces share common qualities:

- They are easily accessible
- They are comfortable and have an attractive image
- They allow users of all ages to engage in a variety of activities and allow people to gather and meet one another
- They are sustainable – meaning that they help meet existing needs while not compromising the needs of future generations

Considering these qualities, the City of Gainesville's parks were evaluated based on 6 categories and 35 sub-categories using Depot Park as a measuring stick for the rest of the PRCA system.

Parks and facilities were evaluated using a three-point scale for the condition category and five-point scale for the other categories:

Condition Category Scale:

1.0 Poor

2.0 Fair

3.0 Great

Category Scale:

1.0 Poor

3.0 Fair

5.0 Great

Figure 1.4c maps the results of this analysis and Figure 1.4d illustrates the results of this analysis.

ACCESS
Proximity, Access, and Linkages

- **Visibility from a distance**
  Can one easily see into the park?
- **Ease of walking to the park**
  Can someone walk directly into the park safely and easily?
- **Transit Access**
  Are there transit stops nearby within easy walking or biking distance?
- **Clarity of information/signage**
  Is there signage that identifies the park and/or signage that provides additional information for users?
- **ADA Compliance**
  Does the site generally appear to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws for accessibility?
- **Lighting**
  Is the park lighted appropriately for use at night? (if applicable)

COMFORT
Comfort and Image

- **First impression/overall attractiveness**
  Is the park attractive at first glance?
- **Feeling of safety**
  Does the park feel safe at the time of the visit?
- **Cleanliness/overall quality of maintenance (Exterior /Interior)**
  Is the park clean and free of litter?
- **Comfort of places to sit**
  Are there comfortable places to sit?
- **Protection from bad weather**
  Is there shelter in case of bad weather?
- **Evidence of management/stewardship (Exterior/ Interior)**
  Is there visual evidence of site management?
- **Ability to easily supervise and manage the park or facility (Interior)**
  How difficult is it to supervise the park and its facilities?
- **Condition and effectiveness of any equipment or operation systems**
  Is the equipment and/or operating system in good condition?
- **Branding**
  Does the park exhibit appropriate branding?

USE
Uses, Activities, and Sociability

- **Mix of uses/things to do**
  Is there a variety of things to do given the type of park?
- **Level of activity**
  How active is the park with visitors?
- **Sense of pride/ownership**
  Is there evidence of community pride in the park?
- **Programming flexibility**
  How flexible is the park in accommodating multiple uses?
- **Ability of facility to effectively support current organized programming**
  Is the site meeting the needs of organized programs?
- **Marketing or promotional efforts for the facility**
  Is the site being marketed effectively?

BUILDINGS
Buildings and Architecture

- **Image and aesthetics**
  Is the building attractive?
- **Clarity of entry and connection to the park**
  Is the building integrated into its surroundings?
- **Interior layout**
  Is the layout functional?
- **Interior finishes, furniture, and equipment**
  Are the furnishings and equipment inside the building of good condition and quality?
- **Functioning dimensions of spaces**
  Does the organization of space support the building's intended function?
- **Structural integrity**
  Is there any obvious need for structural repairs?
- **Building enclosure**
  Is there any obvious need for repairs to the building shell?
- **Building systems**
  Are all the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in working order?
- **Energy and sustainability**
  Is there evidence that the building is energy efficient?

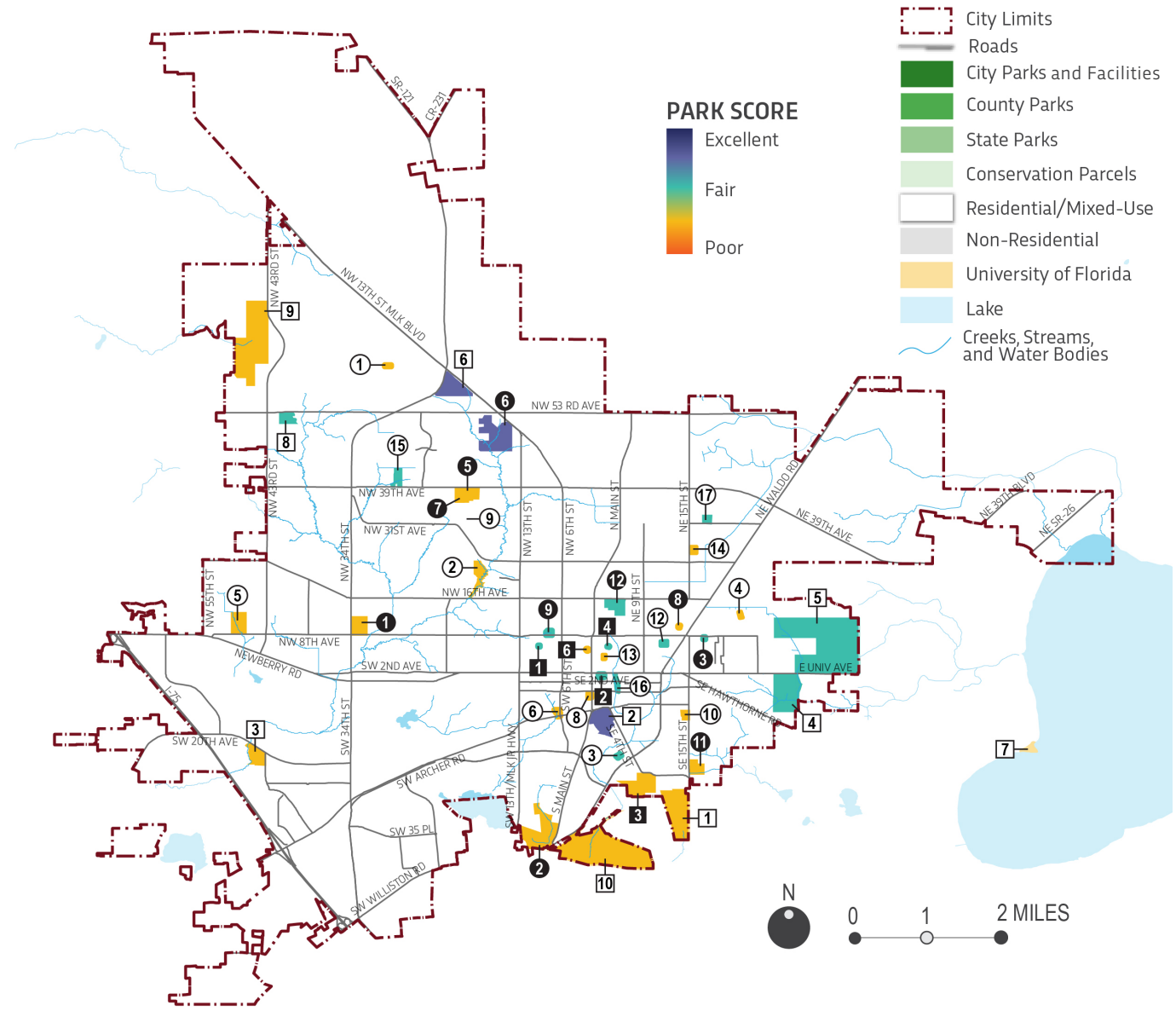
NRPA PILLARS
Health and Wellness, Conservation, Social Equity

- **Health and Wellness**
  Does the park promote a variety of health and wellness opportunities?
- **Conservation**
  Does the park promote conservation practices?
- **Social Equity**
  Does the park promote social equity?

CONDITION
Amenities, Furnishings, Landscape, and Hardscape

- **Site Structures/Amenities**
  What are the condition of the park's amenities?
- **Site Furnishings**
  What are the condition of the park's furnishings?
- **General Landscape/Hardscape**
  What are the condition of the park's landscape and hardscapes?

Figure 1.4c
City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs System Inventory



Neighborhood Parks

1. A.N.N.E. Park
2. Alfred Ring Park
3. Barbara Higgins Park
4. Cedar Grove Park
5. Cofrin Nature Park
6. Cora Roberson Park
7. Duval Park
8. Haisley Lynch Park
9. Hidden Gem Park
10. Lincoln Park
11. NE 31st Ave Park
12. Reserve Park
13. Roper Park
14. Smokey Bear Park
15. Springtree Park
16. Sweetwater Branch Park
17. Unity Park

Community Parks

1. Albert "Ray" Massey Park (ARM) (and Cherry Pool)
2. Bivens Arm Nature Park
3. Clarence R Kelly Community Center and Park
4. Eastside Community Center (and Playground)
5. Greentree Park
6. Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park & Nature Center
7. Kiwanis Challenge Park
8. Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center (and Hunter Pool)
9. Oakview Park (and Center)
10. Porters Community Center
11. TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park (And Mickle Pool)
12. Tom Petty Park

Regional Parks

1. Boulware Springs Nature Park
2. Depot Park
3. Forest Park
4. Fred Cone Park
5. Morningside Nature Center
6. Northside Park
7. Palm Point Nature Park
8. Possum Creek Park
9. San Felasco Park
10. Sweetwater Wetlands Park

Special Use Parks and Facilities

1. A Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center
2. Bo Diddley Plaza
3. Evergreen Cemetery
4. Historic Thomas Center & Gardens
5. Ironwood Golf Course
6. Rosa B Williams/352 ArtSpace
7. Senior Recreation Center
8. Thelma Boltin Center

Figure 1.4d
Park and Facility Site Evaluations Results

PARKNAME	CLASSIFICATION	TOTAL CONDITION SCORE	TOTAL PARK AVERAGES	PROXIMITY/ ACCESS/ LINKAGES	Visibility	Ease in Walking	Transit Access	Clarity of Signage	ADA Compliance	Lighting	COMFORT & IMAGE:	Overall Attractiveness	Feeling of Safety	Maintenance (Exterior)	Maintenance (Interior)	Comfort of Seating
TOTAL AVERAGES	**TOTAL AVERAGES**	**2.0**	**3.0**	**2.8**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**2.8**	**2.7**	**2.9**	**3.1**	**3.1**	**3.2**	**3.4**	**4.0**	**2.7**
A.N.N.E. PARK	Neighborhood Park	1.3	2.7	2.0	3	3	-	1	1	-	3.1	2	4	3	-	3
Alfred A. Ring Park	Neighborhood Park	1.6	2.7	2.0	2	2	-	2	2	-	2.6	3	2	3	-	2
Barbara Higgins Park	Neighborhood Park	2.7	3.3	3.5	3	4	-	4	3	-	3.7	4	3	4	-	4
Cedar Grove Park	Neighborhood Park	1.4	2.6	3.0	4	4	-	2	2	3	2.4	2	3	3	-	2
Cofrin Nature Park	Neighborhood Park	1.4	2.6	2.0	2	2	-	2	2	-	2.6	2	3	3	-	2
Cora Robertson Park	Neighborhood Park	2.1	2.7	2.6	3	3	-	2	2	3	2.8	3	3	3	-	2
Haisley Lynch Park	Neighborhood Park	2.1	2.3	2.5	3	3	-	2	2	-	2.1	3	1	3	-	2
Lincoln Park	Neighborhood Park	1.8	2.2	2.4	3	3	-	2	2	2	2.3	2	2	3	-	2
Reserve Park	Neighborhood Park	2.8	3.6	3.3	3	3	-	3	4	-	4.0	4	4	4	-	4
Roper Park	Neighborhood Park	2.3	2.8	3.4	5	5	-	2	3	2	2.7	3	3	3	-	3
Smokey Bear Park	Neighborhood Park	1.7	2.8	2.5	2	3	-	3	2	-	2.8	2	2	3	-	3
Springtree Park	Neighborhood Park	2.6	3.0	2.0	2	1	-	2	3	-	3.6	4	3	4	-	3
Sweetwater Branch Park	Neighborhood Park	2.7	3.6	3.3	-	2	-	4	4	-	3.7	4	4	4	-	3
Unity Park	Neighborhood Park	2.7	3.9	4.0	4	4	-	4	4	-	4.0	4	4	4	-	4
Albert "Ray" Massey Park (And Cherry Pool)	Community Parks	1.6	2.9	2.6	3	2	-	2	3	3	2.6	2	4	3	-	2
Bivens Arm Nature Park	Community Parks	2.1	2.7	2.3	-	2	-	3	2	-	3.0	3	3	3	-	3
Clarence R Kelly Community Center and Park	Community Parks	2.8	3.8	3.5	3	3	-	4	4	-	4.0	4	4	4	4	4
Greentree Park	Community Parks	1.9	2.9	2.8	3	3	3	3	3	2	2.9	3	3	3	-	2
Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center	Community Parks	2.7	4.1	3.3	2	3	-	4	4	-	4.4	5	4	4	5	3
Kiwanis Challenge Park	Community Parks	1.5	2.8	2.8	3	3	-	2	3	-	2.5	2	3	3	-	1
Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center (and Hunter Pool)	Community Parks	1.6	2.8	2.6	3	2	-	2	3	3	2.6	2	3	3	4	2
Oakview Park (and Center)	Community Parks	2.8	3.8	4.0	4	4	-	4	4	4	4.0	4	4	4	-	4
TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park (And Mickle Pool)	Community Parks	1.8	2.6	2.7	2	3	3	3	2	3	2.5	3	2	3	2	2
Tom Petty Park	Community Parks	2.0	3.1	3.0	3	3	-	4	2	-	3.0	3	4	4	-	3
Boulware Springs Nature Park	Regional Parks	1.5	2.6	2.5	3	3	2	2	2	3	2.9	3	3	3	-	3
Depot Park	Regional Parks	2.1	4.1	4.3	5	5	5	4	3	4	3.9	5	4	4	-	3
Forest Park	Regional Parks	1.6	2.4	2.2	3	2	-	2	2	2	2.3	2	3	2	-	2
Fred Cone Park and Eastide Community Center	Regional Parks	1.8	3.0	2.5	2	3	3	2	2	3	2.6	2	3	3	-	2
Morningside Nature Center	Regional Parks	2.2	3.1	2.5	-	2	2	3	3	-	3.4	4	4	4	-	3
Northside Park and Senior Center	Regional Parks	2.7	3.9	3.4	3	2	-	4	4	4	4.5	5	5	5	5	4
Palm Point Nature Park	Regional Parks	1.6	2.4	2.0	-	2	2	2	2	-	2.6	3	3	3	-	2
Possum Creek Park	Regional Parks	1.8	3.2	2.3	2	1	-	4	2	-	3.4	3	4	3	-	3
San Felasco Park	Regional Parks	1.8	2.6	2.0	1	2	1	4	2	-	2.8	3	2	3	-	3
Sweetwater Wetlands Park	Regional Parks	2.0	2.8	3.0	3	4	-	2	3	3	2.7	3	3	3	-	3
A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center	Special Use Parks	3.0	3.8	3.8	4	4	3	4	4	4	3.9	4	4	4	4	4
Bo Diddley Plaza	Special Use Parks	2.9	3.7	4.0	4	4	4	4	4	4	3.8	4	4	4	-	4
Evergreen Cementery	Special Use Parks	1.2	2.5	2.2	2	2	-	3	2	2	2.6	2	3	3	-	2
Thomas Center and Gardens	Special Use Parks	2.5	3.6	4.0	4	4	-	4	4	4	3.5	4	4	4	4	3

Stewardship (Exterior)	Stewardship (Interior)	Supervision Ability	Condition of Operating Systems	Branding	USES, ACTIVITIES, AND SOCIABILITY	Mixes of Uses	Level of Activity	Sense of Pride	Programming Flexibility	Current Organized Programming	Marketing	BUILDINGS AND ARCHITECTURE:	Image and Aesthetics	Connections to Park	Interior Layout	Interior Finishes	Functioning Dimensions	Structural Integrity	Building Enclosure	Building Systems	Energy and Sustainability	NRPA	Health and Wellness	Conservation	Social Equity
3.4	3.8	3.4	3.3	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	2.5	3.6	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.6	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.4	2.9
4	-	-	3	2	3.0	2	3	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	2	3	2
3	-	-	2	3	3.5	4	3	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	3	5	2
4	-	-	-	3	2.8	3	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3	3	3
3	-	-	-	2	2.3	2	2	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	2	3	2
4	-	-	3	2	3.3	3	3	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7	3	3	2
3	-	-	3	2	2.8	3	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	3	4	3
2	-	-	-	2	2.3	3	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7	2	4	2
3	-	-	2	2	2.0	2	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.0	2	2	2
4	-	-	4	4	3.5	4	4	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.7	4	3	4
3	-	-	-	2	2.3	2	2	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	2	3	2
3	-	-	3	2	3.0	3	4	3	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	3	4	3
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4	-	-	-	4	3.8	4	4	4	4	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.7	4	4	3
4	-	-	4	4	3.7	4	4	4	4	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.7	4	3	4
3	-	-	3	2	3.3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3.0	2	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	3.0	3	3	3
3	-	-	3	-	2.8	3	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	3	4	3
4	4	4	4	4	3.5	4	4	4	3	3	3	4.0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3.7	4	3	4
3	-	-	3	3	3.0	3	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7	3	3	2
4	5	5	5	4	3.8	4	4	4	4	3	4	4.9	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4.0	4	4	4
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4	4	4	4	4	3.2	4	3	4	3	3	2	4.0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3.0	3	3	3
3	2	3	3	2	2.7	3	2	3	3	3	2	2.6	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3.0	3	3	3
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4	-	-	4	3	3.8	4	4	4	4	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.7	4	4	3
3	-	-	3	2	3.0	3	3	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3	4	2
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4	4	4	4	3	3.3	4	4	4	2	2	4	4.0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4.0	-	4	4
4	-	-	4	3	3.3	3	4	4	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0	3	3	3
4	-	-	-	2	2.8	2	3	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	2	3	2
4	4	4	3	3	3.5	3	3	4	4	4	3	3.4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3.0	3	3	3

Park and Facility Evaluation Summary Findings

Based on the evaluation of the City of Gainesville's parks, recreation, and cultural/historic and nature system that uses the criteria previously described, it appears that the City's system scored at a fair condition, with an overall score of 3.0. The system displayed a variety of strengths and opportunities that the City should build on and improve wherever possible.

Proximity, Access, and Linkages

(+) STRENGTHS

- Most of the City's parks provide adequate visibility or clear site lines into the park. Cedar Grove Park, Roper Park, Unity Park, Oakview Park, Depot Park, A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center, Bo Diddley Plaza, Historic Thomas Center and Gardens, and Rosa B. Williams are examples of parks that provide clear visibility into the park from at least two to three sides of the park.

- While many of the City's parks are open from dawn to dusk and are not lit, others are open later in the night and are appropriately lit. Most of these parks have fixtures that contribute to the overall aesthetic of the park. Notable examples include Depot Park, Oakview Park, Northside Park, A Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center Bo Diddley Plaza, and Historic Thomas Center and Gardens.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES

- While some of the parks provide users the opportunity to safely and comfortably walk or bike to parks along sidewalks, bicycle facilities, or low traffic streets, many do not. Example corridors that the City should strive to emulate throughout the system are the pedestrian and bicycle facilities that lead to Roper Park and Depot Park. In certain instances, these sidewalks and/or multi-use trails leading to the parks or facilities are separated from the road by on-street parking or landscape buffers, which provide an opportunity to install shade trees, pedestrian lights, and where appropriate, amenities and furnishings to enhance the walking experience.

- While some of the City's parks appear to be overall accessible, the City should continue to improve ADA accessibility to park and park amenities to ensure that people with disabilities have equitable access to the City's park amenities.

- While many of City's parks contain signage and wayfinding, there is an opportunity to enhance signage in all of the City's parks and facilities. Additional signage opportunities that the City should consider include a park and facility location map, park amenity location map and amenity directional signage (depending on the size and complexity of the park), amenity signs, and educational interpretive signs.

Comfort and Image

(+) STRENGTHS

- The first impression and overall attractiveness of most of the City's parks is fair with a few being great. Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Depot Park, and Northside Park are parks that provide a great first impression and show a high degree of overall attractiveness. The positive first impression and overall attractiveness of these parks also translates into a feeling of safety and stewardship from park users.

- Most of the City's parks, and facilities exhibit good signs of overall cleanliness, quality of exterior maintenance, management, stewardship, and condition of operating systems with some exhibiting a higher degree than others. Notable examples include Barbara Higgins Park, Reserve Park, Springtree Park, Sweetwater Branch Park, Unity Park, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Oakview Park, Tom Petty Park, Depot Park, Morningside Nature Center, Northside Park, A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center, Bo Diddley Plaza, Historic Thomas Center and Gardens, and Rosa B Williams Center.

- Most of the interior spaces of City park buildings are well maintained, exhibit good signs of interior stewardship and can be easily supervised and managed due to an interior design that is configured to allow clear site lines to major amenities, entrances, and exits from a central location. All of the City's park buildings are good examples with the exception of the buildings at Albert Ray Massey Park and TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES

- While most of the City's parks and facilities give a fair to great first impression, overall attractiveness, cleanliness, quality of maintenance, management, and stewardship, there is an opportunity to improve the quality so it is consistent across the entire system. This includes addressing deferred maintenance, completing capital improvements, and re-master planning some of these parks. Parks that require attention

are A.N.N.E. Park, Cedar Grove Park, Cofrin Nature Park, Lincoln Park, Smokey Bear Park, Albert Ray Massey Park, Kiwanis Challenge Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center, Forest Park, Fred Cone Park, and Evergreen Cemetery.

- There is an opportunity to improve the appearance, comfort, and experience of outdoor sitting areas. The City should strive to incorporate a consistent variety and style of seating options in parks including movable tables and chairs, which allow users to customize their sitting experience. Parks that should be emulated are Barbara Higgins Park, Reserve Park, Unity Park, Clarence R Kelly Community Center and Park, Oakview Park, Northside Park, A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center, and Bo Diddley Plaza.

- Many of the City's parks do not contain shelters where park users can go to find refuge from Florida's inclement and at times unpredictable weather. The City should strive to incorporate more shelters and shade in parks including pavilions, shade structures for playgrounds, exercise stations, seating areas, and shade trees to enhance park user's experience and comfort. Good park examples include A.N.N.E Park, Barbara Higgins Park, Reserve Park, Smokey Bear Park, Springtree Park, Unity Park, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Oakview Park, Northside Park, and A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center.

- Some of the City's parks contain equipment and operating systems that are in good condition, however, others do not. The City should ensure that the equipment and operating systems in all of the City's parks are in good working condition. Good examples include Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center and Northside Park.

- Many of the City's parks have the potential to enhance their branding through the consistent use of high-quality materials, colors, textures, furnishings, signage, details, upkeep, and overall aesthetics. The City should continue to implement the park standards that it is implementing in recently improved parks. Parks that could use improvements include A.N.N.E Park, Cedar Grove Park, Cofrin Nature Park, Cora Robertson Park, Haisley Lynch Park, Lincoln Park, Roper Park, Smokey Bear Park, Albert Ray Massey Park, Kiwanis Challenge Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center, TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park, Tom Petty Park, Boulware Spring Nature Park, Forest Park, Fred Cone Park, Palm Point Nature Park, San Felasco Park, Sweetwater Branch Park, Evergreen Cemetery, and Rosa B Williams Center.

Uses, Activities, and Sociability

(+) STRENGTHS

- Most of City's parks provide a range of facilities and amenities for users of all ages, which leads to a high level of activity throughout the day and week. Good examples of parks that have a mix of uses and high levels of activity include Reserve Park, Sweetwater Branch Park, Unity Park, Albert Ray Massey Park, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center, Tom Petty Park, Depot Park, Northside Park, Possum Creek Park, and A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center.

- Many of the City's park and facilities exhibit a high degree of pride and ownership with no signs of litter, vandalism, or misuse. Many parks appear to be actively used and enjoy a high level of volunteerism, signs of care, and upkeep. Notable examples include A.N.N.E Park, Alfred A. Ring Park, Cofrin Nature Park, Reserve Park, Springtree Park, Sweetwater Branch Park, Unity Park, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Depot Park, Forest Park, Fred Cone Park, Northside Park, Possum Creek Park, A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center, Bo Diddley Plaza, Historic Thomas Center and Gardens, and Rosa B Williams.

- Many of the City's parks and facilities are adequately planned and spatially organized to facilitate organized programming due to the proper size, location of facilities, and amenities. Additionally, some of the parks provide an adequate opportunity for flexible use due to the presence of multi-purpose outdoor and indoor spaces. Sweetwater Branch Park, Unity Park, Depot Park, Forest Park, Fred Cone Park, Possum Creek Park, and Historic Thomas Center and Gardens are notable examples of parks that are both adequately planned and exhibit programming flexibility.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES

- While some of the City's Parks and Facilities use a variety of marketing and promotional tools to make residents aware of the park, its recreation facilities, activities, and programs, most do not. To the extent possible, the City should look to enhance marketing efforts using traditional, digital means, and even augmented reality. Notable examples that should be emulated included Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Depot Park, Northside Park, and A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center.

Buildings and Architecture

(+) STRENGTHS

- Most of the PRCA buildings have an adequate image and aesthetic through the use of appropriate proportions and materials, and contribute to the context of the park and surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, these buildings have good connections to the adjacent parks through adequate entry points, pleasant lobby space, and a good sense of arrival. Notable examples are the buildings at Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Oakview Park, Eastside Community Center at Fred Cone Park, Northside Park, and A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center.

- Most of the PRCA buildings have an adequate interior layout that is well-organized and has functioning dimensions. Notable examples are Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Oakview Park, Northside Park and Senior Center, and A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center.

- Most of the PRCA buildings have adequate interior finishes and buildings systems that are undamaged, well-maintained, in good operating condition, and aesthetically pleasing, and have shown evidence of energy efficient elements. Good examples are Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Oakview Park, Northside Park and Senior Center, and A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center.

- All of the PRCA buildings showed no visible evidence of loss of integrity of any structural members.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES

- While most of PRCA buildings scored fair or above in most of the evaluation categories, three of the buildings scored poorly and are candidates for significant improvements. These would include Albert Ray Massey Recreation Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center, TB McPherson Recreation Center, and Rosa B. Williams Center.

NRPA Pillars

(+) STRENGTHS

- Most of the PRCA's assets foster health and wellness with multiple and sustained activity opportunities, fitness equipment, trails, walking tracks, and hard courts. Notable examples to emulate include Reserve Park, Springtree Park, Sweetwater Branch Park, Unity Park, Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Depot Park, Fred Cone Park, Northside Park, and Possum Creek Park.

- Most of PRCA's active and nature parks exhibit adequate conservation with a high percentage of tree canopy, sustainable materials, erosion control, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), native landscaping, and environmental best practices. Notable examples include Alfred A. Ring Park, Cora Roberson Park, Haisley Lynch Park, Smokey Bear Park, Springtree Park, Sweetwater Branch Park, Bivens Arm Park, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park and Nature Center, Morningside Nature Center, Palm Point Nature Park, San Felasco Park, Sweetwater Wetlands Park, Depot Park, Fred Cone Park, Northside Park, Possum Creek Park, and A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center.

(-) OPPORTUNITIES

- While part of the PRCA's system's assets exhibit good social equity strategies such as availability and ease of access, ADA compliance, recreation opportunities for many different ages/abilities located in a racially, ethnically, and economically diverse areas, others do not. A.N.N.E Park, Alfred A. Ring Park, Cedar Grove Park, Cofrin Nature Park, Haisley Lynch Park, Lincoln Park, Roper Park, Greentree Park, Boulware Springs, Nature Park, Forest Park, Palm Point Nature Park, San Felasco Park, and Evergreen Cemetery could use improvements.

Park Condition

(-) OPPORTUNITIES

- While a few of the PRCA's system's assets contain facilities, amenities, furnishings, landscape, and hardscape that may not need improvements in the next 5 to 7 years, most may need improvements in the next 1 to 5 years. These parks include A.N.N.E Park, Alfred A. Ring Park, Cedar Grove Park, Cofrin Nature Park, Lincoln Park, Smokey Bear Park, Albert Ray Massey Park, Greentree Park, Kiwanis Challenge Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center, TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park, Boulware Springs Nature Park, Forest Park, Fred Cone Park, Palm Point Nature Park, Possum Creek Park, San Felasco Park, Evergreen Cemetery, and Rosa B Williams Center.

2024-210D

Chapter 2

NEEDS + PRIORITIES ASSESSMENT

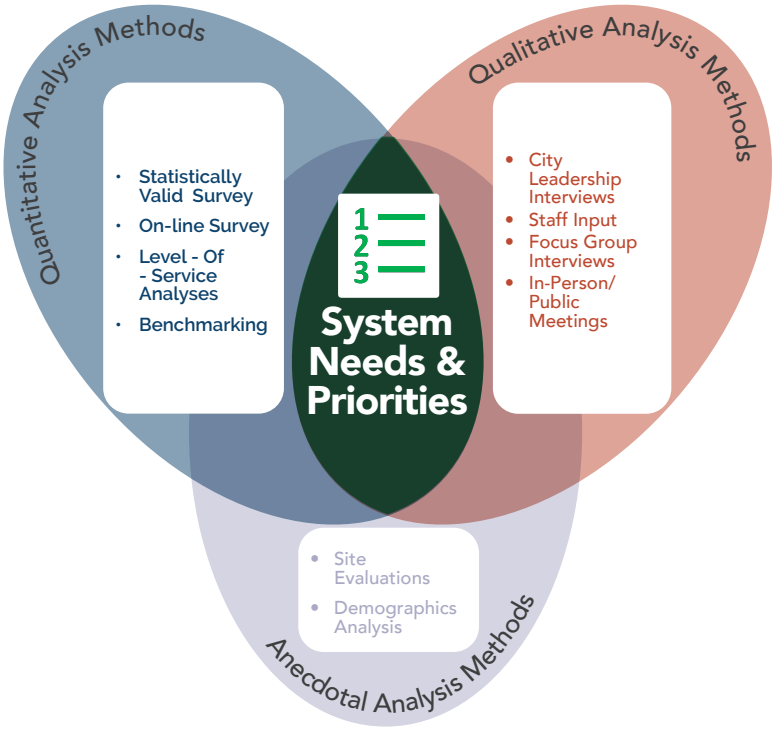
2.1

Overview of the Needs Assessment Process

The purpose of a Needs and Priorities Assessment is to determine the gaps between existing conditions and where we want to be in the future—specifically in terms of establishing an equitable parks, recreation, and cultural system.

A best practice is to use a "triangulated" approach to identifying needs, in which quantitative, qualitative, and anecdotal techniques are conducted. Findings from each of these techniques are then analyzed, with high priority needs typically "bubbling up" from multiple sources.

The City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Master Plan update used the following techniques to help identify major needs:



Quantitative Methods:

- Statistically Valid Survey
- On-line Survey
- Level-of-Service Analysis
- Benchmarking

Qualitative Methods:

- Community Meetings
- One-on-one Interviews + Focus Group Meetings

Anecdotal:

- Site Evaluations (Discussed in Section 2.4)
- Demographics (Discussed in Section 2.3)

2.2

Findings

Statistically-Valid Survey

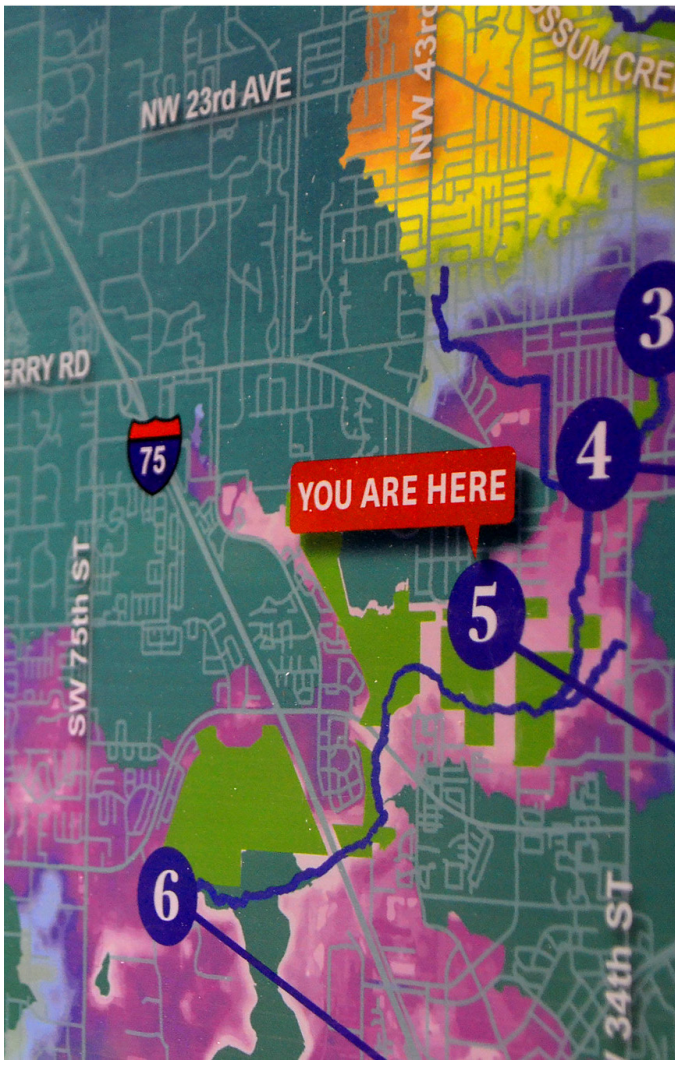
Overview

ETC Institute administered a Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Needs Assessment Survey for the City of Gainesville during the fall months of 2022.

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in the City of Gainesville. 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 at GainesvilleParksSurvey.org in English or Spanish.

After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up by sending text messages and mailing postcards to encourage participation. The text messages and postcards contained a link to the online version of the survey to make it easy for residents to complete the survey. To prevent people who were not residents of the City of Gainesville from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were 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 collect a minimum of 800 completed surveys from residents. The goal was exceeded with 806 completed surveys collected. The overall results for the sample of 806 households have a precision of at least +/3.4 at the 95% level of confidence.

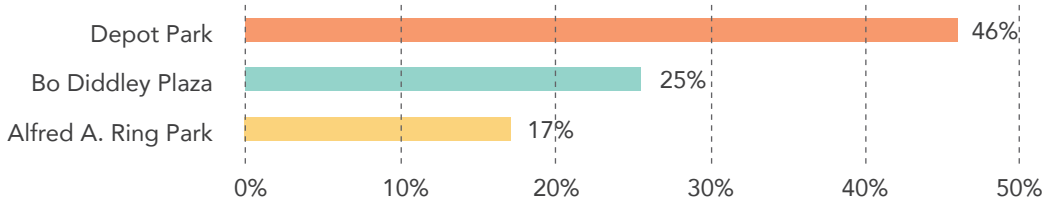


Parks and Recreation Facilities and Program Use

Use of Specific Parks, Facilities, and Trails. Respondents were asked if their household had used any of the 35 listed parks, facilities, and trail sites over the past year. The highest percentage of respondents (78%) had used Depot Park, followed by Bo Diddley Community Plaza (62%), and Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail (44%). Respondents were then asked to select the three locations their household visits most often. Depot Park (46%), Bo Diddley Community Plaza (25%), and Alfred A. Ring Park (17%) were the most often visited locations. Most respondents (82%) rated the overall physical condition of these sites as either good (58%) or excellent (24%).

Parks and Recreation Facilities Households Visit Most Often

by Top 10 displayed from percentage of respondents who responded "Yes"



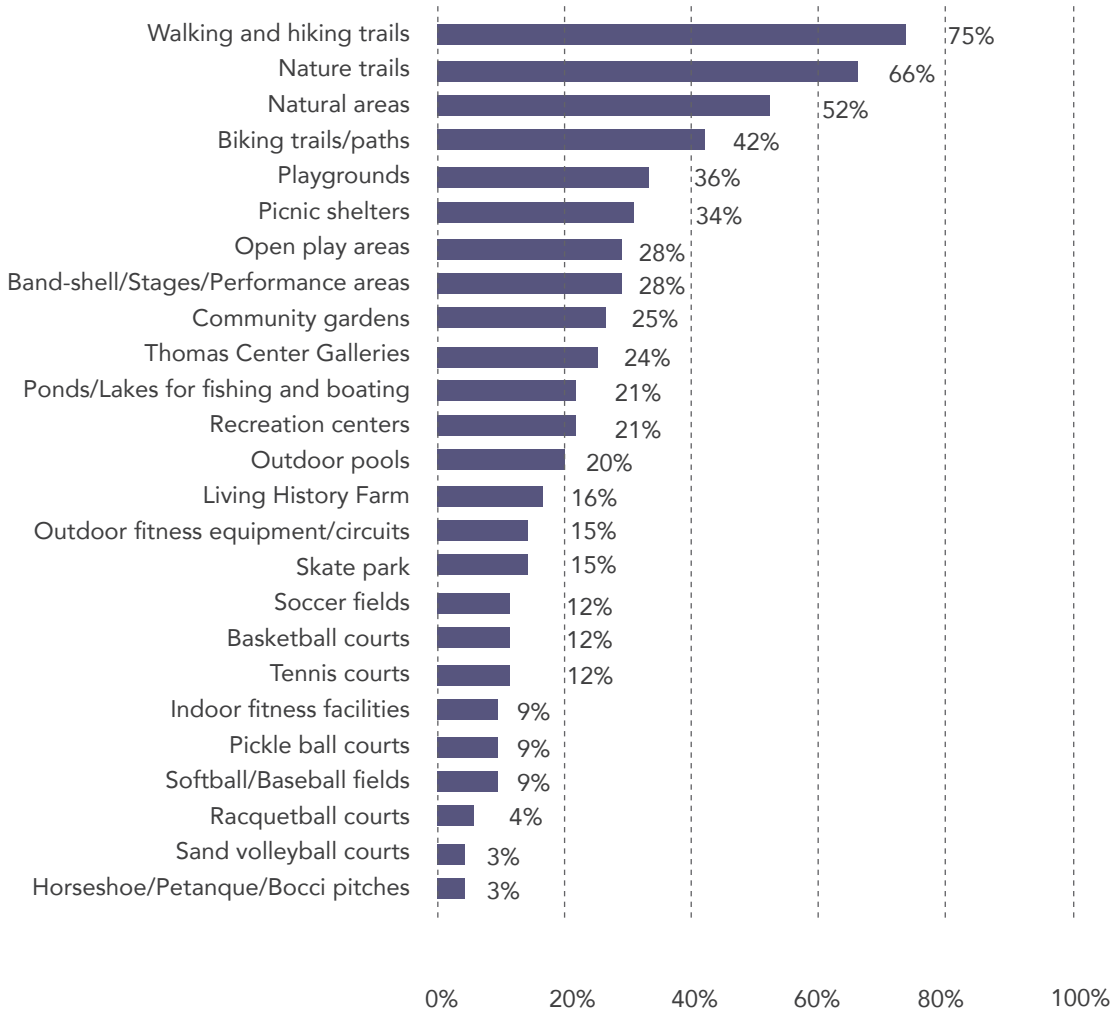
Rating Quality of Parks and Recreation Facilities

by percentage of respondents who responded "Yes"

Types of Sites Used. Respondents were asked to select all the types of sites their household had visited over the past year. The highest percentage of respondents (75%) used walking and hiking trails, followed by nature trails (66%), and natural areas (52%). Respondents most often use walking and hiking trails (53%), nature trails (39%), and biking trails/paths (22%).

Parks or Recreation Facilities Households Visited in the Last Year

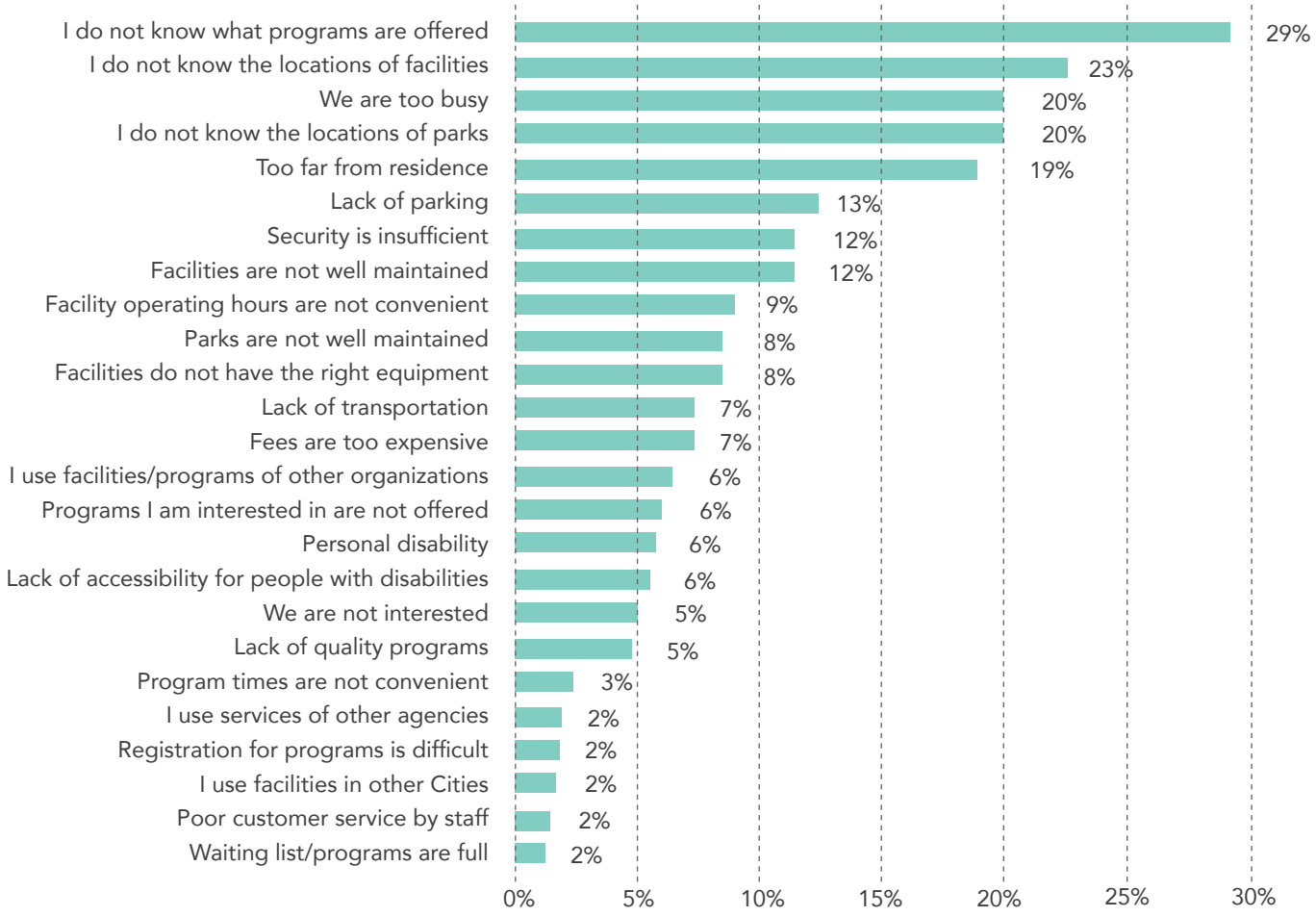
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



Barriers to Use. Respondents were asked to indicate the reasons why they didn't use City of Gainesville parks, trails, facilities, or programs/events more often. The highest number of respondents said they were not aware of what was being offered (29%), not aware of the locations of facilities (23%), busy schedules (20%), or not aware of the locations of parks (20%).

Barrier To Parks, Trails, Facilities Or Programs/Events Use In the Past Year

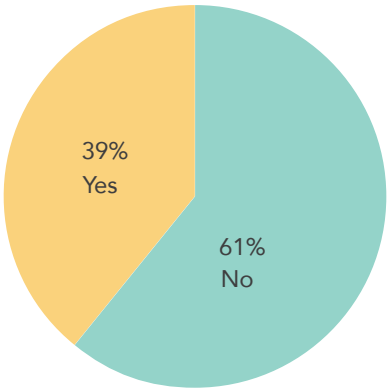
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



Recreation and Cultural Program Participation. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents said someone in their household had participated in recreation and cultural programs in the past year. Of those participating households, most (89%) rated the overall quality of programs as either good (50%) or excellent (39%). Respondents were then asked to rate their level of satisfaction with nine types of recreation programs or aspects of their experience. Respondents were most satisfied (rating either "satisfied" or "very satisfied") with special events (80%), cultural art programs (79%), and the overall quality of recreation programs (68%).

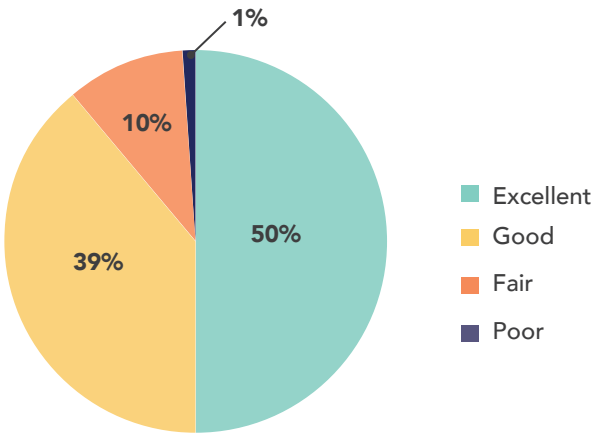
Have You Or Your Household Participated in Any Recreation Or Cultural Programs Provided By The City In the Past Year?

by percentage of respondents



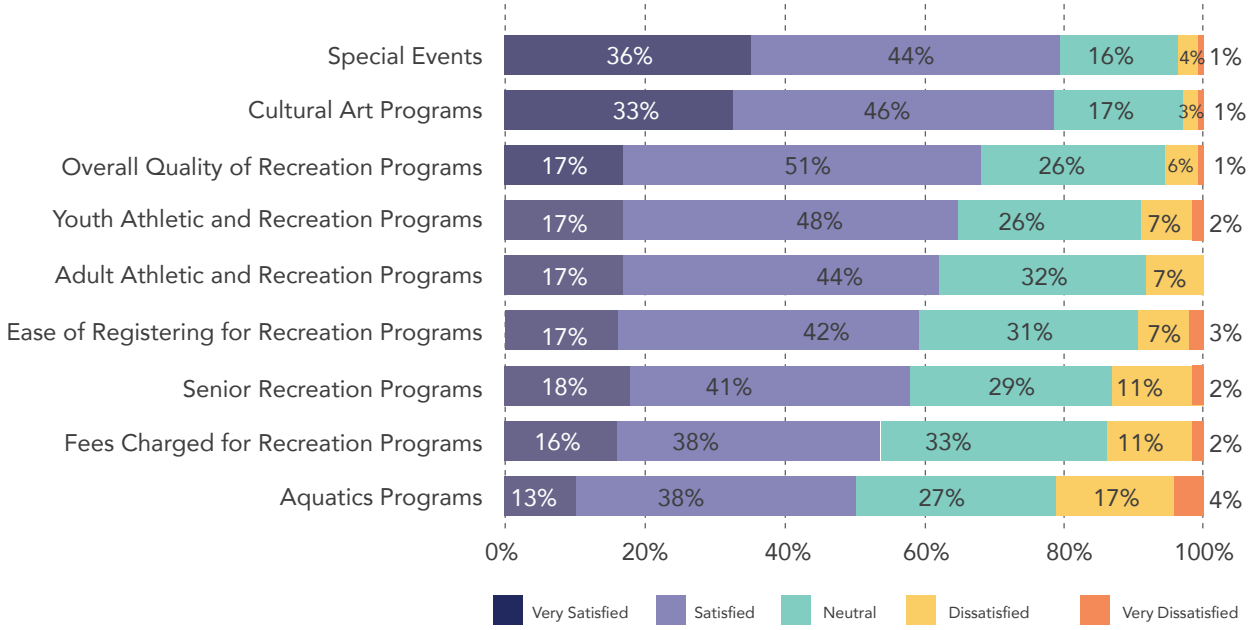
Overall, How Would You Rate The Quality Of the Programs That Were Participated In?

by percentage of respondents



Level of Satisfaction With Recreation and Cultural Programs

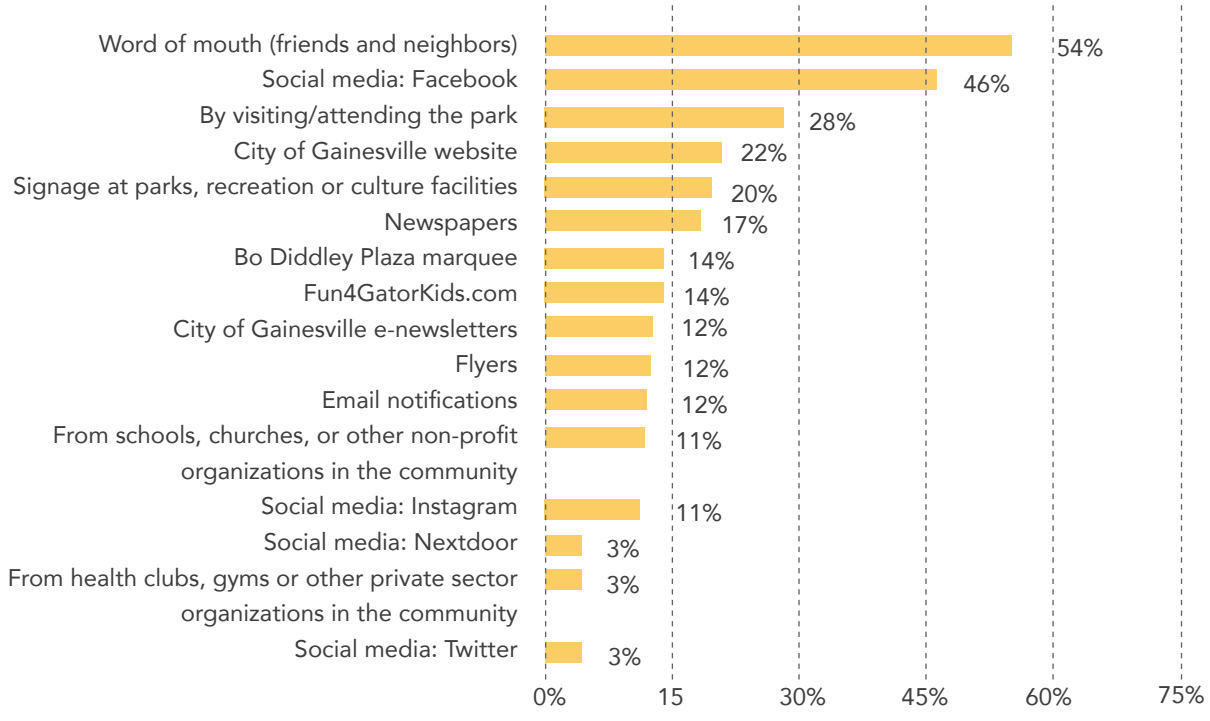
by percentage of respondents



Communication Methods. Respondents most often learned about recreation programs, activities, and special events via word of mouth (54%), Facebook (46%), or by visiting/attending the park (28%).

Ways Respondent Learn About Programs, Activities, and Special Events

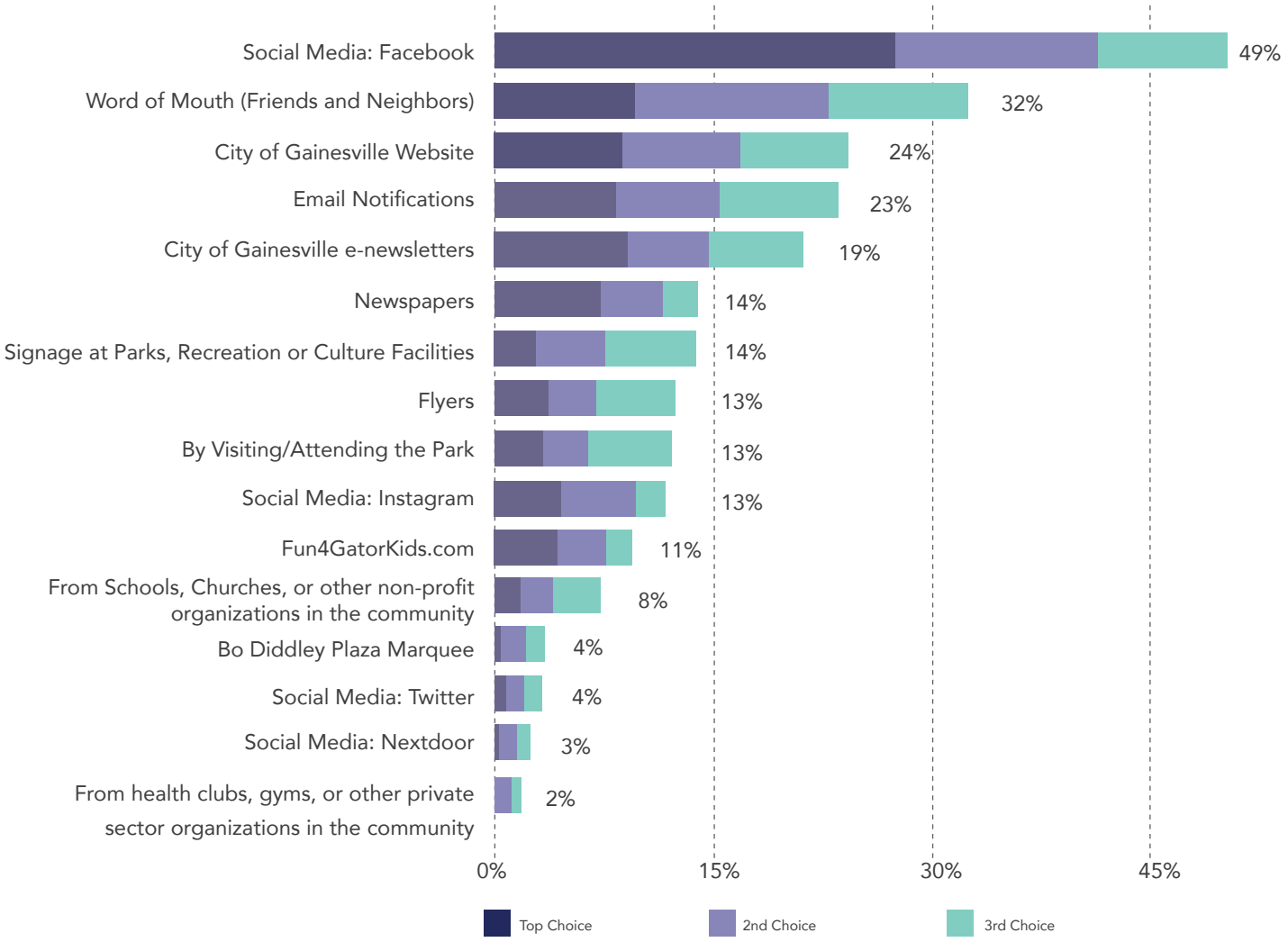
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



Respondents' most preferred sources for information are Facebook (49%), word of mouth (32%), or the City of Gainesville website (24%).

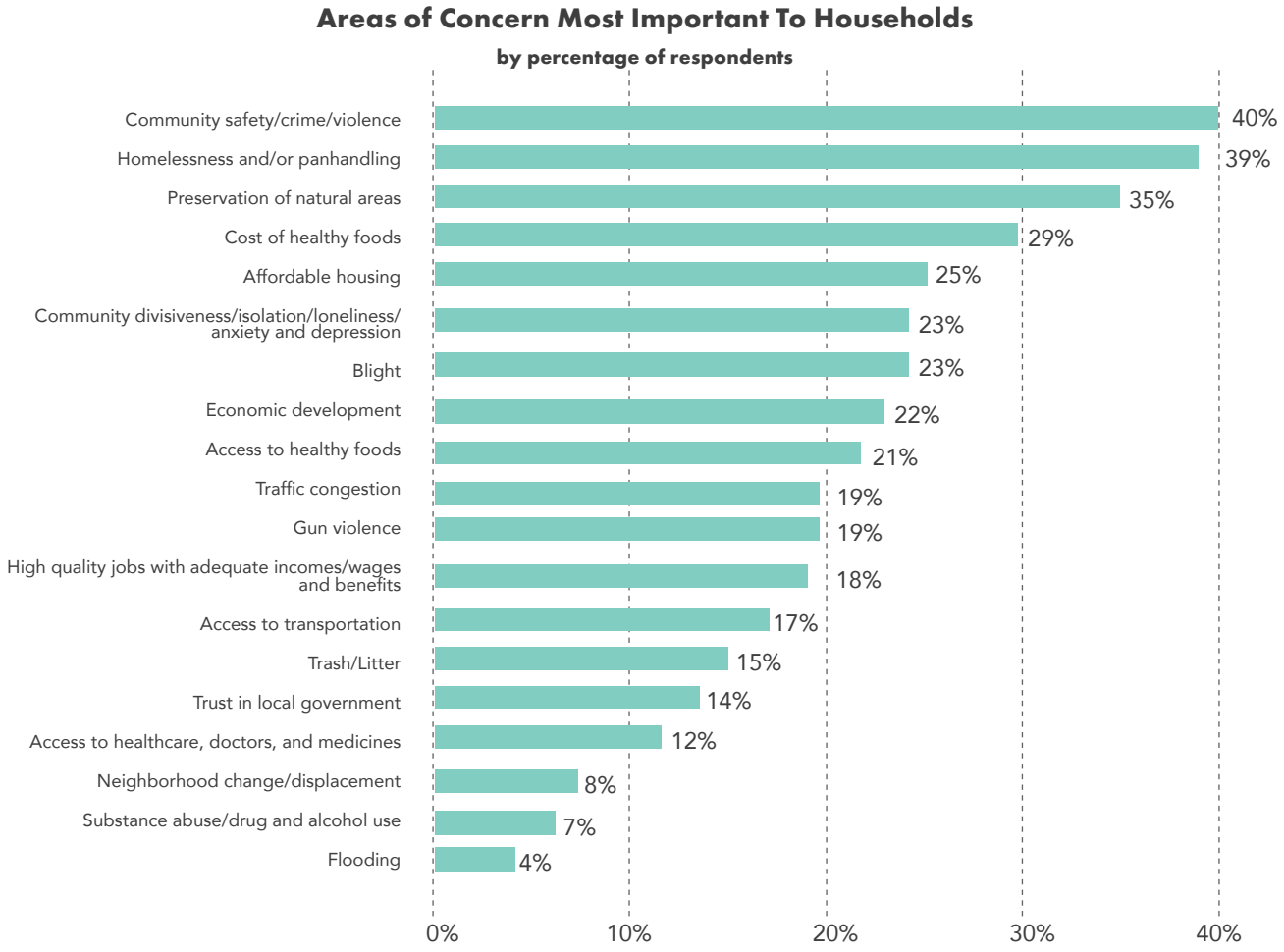
Preferred Methods of Learning About Programs, Activities, and Special Events

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top three choices



Community Improvements

Areas of Concern. Respondents were asked to select their top five areas of concern in the community and in their daily life. Community safety/crime/violence (40%), homelessness and/or panhandling (39%), and the preservation of natural areas (35%) were selected most often as top issues.

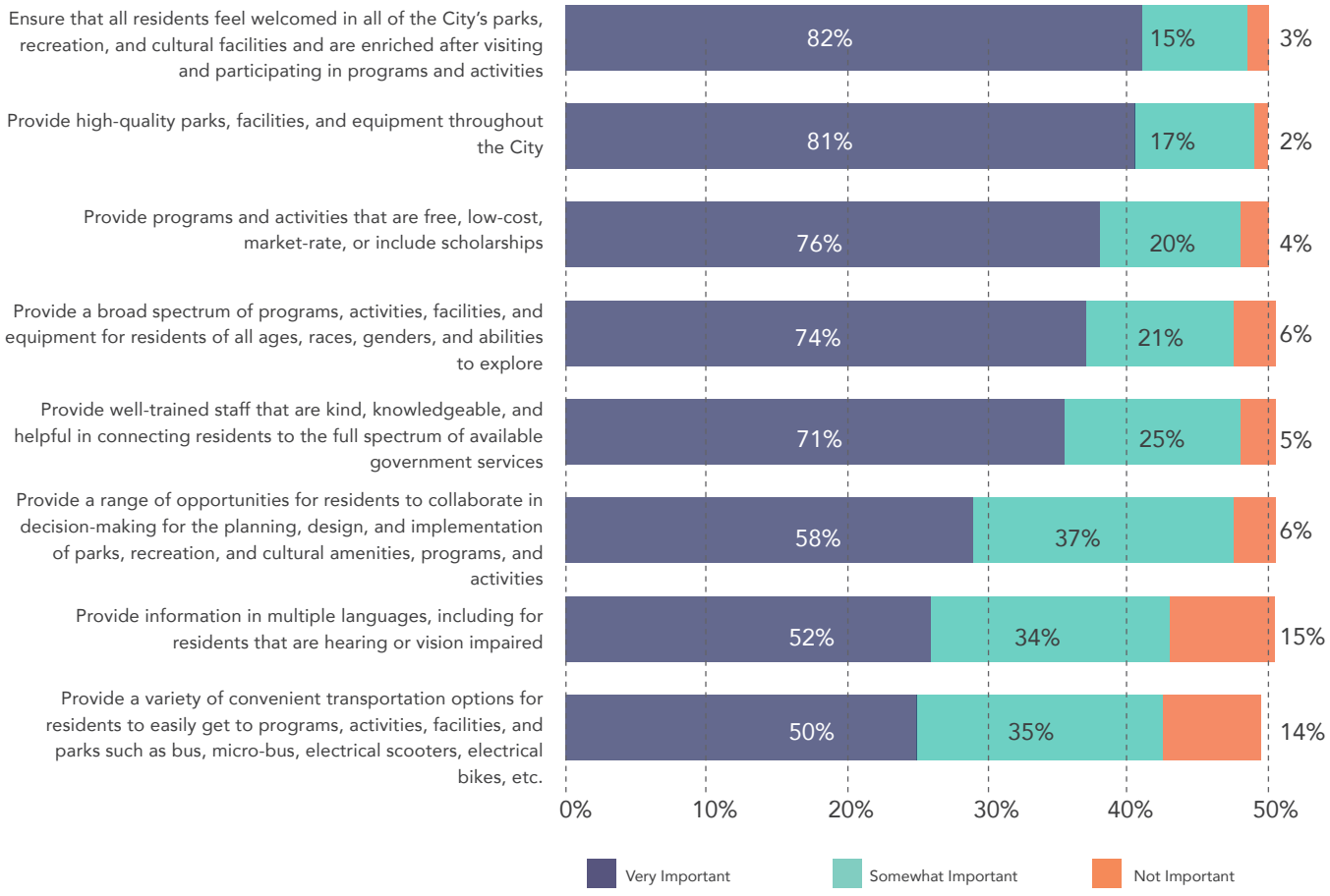


Addressing Inequalities. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 8 ways the department could help address racial, gender, and age inequities. Respondents thought it was most important to ensure that all residents feel welcome in all facilities and enriched after participating in programs and activities (82%), for the department to provide high-quality parks, facilities, and equipment throughout the city (81%), and for the department to provide programs and activities that are free/ low-cost/market-rate or include scholarships. Respondents were then asked to select the four items most important to their household. These were the four items selected most often:

- Provide a broad spectrum of programs, activities, facilities, and equipment for residents of all ages, races, genders, and abilities to experience (66%)
- Provide programs and activities that are free, low-cost, market-rate, or include scholarships (60%)
- Provide high-quality parks, facilities, and equipment throughout the city (51%)
- Provide well-trained staff that are kind, knowledgeable, and helpful in connecting residents to the full spectrum of available government services (41%)

Importance of How The Department Can Help Address Racial, Gender, and Age Inequities

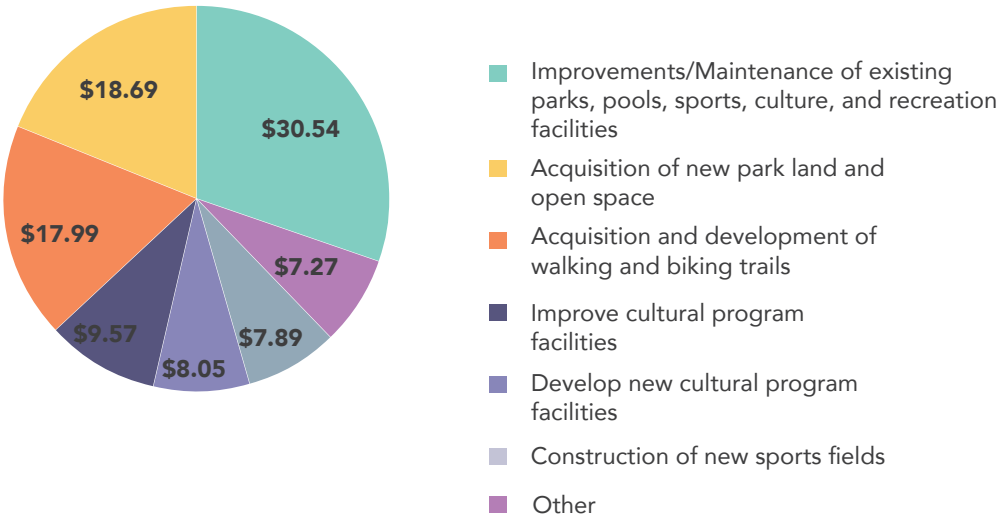
by percentage of respondents



Allocation of Funds. Respondents were asked to allocate a hypothetical $100 budget for parks and recreation improvements. The highest amount of funding on average ($30.54) went to improvements/maintenance of existing parks, pools, sports, cultural, and recreation facilities followed by $18.69 for the acquisition of new park land and open space and $17.99 for the acquisition and development of walking and biking trails.

With a Budget of $100, How Would Respondents Allocate Funds?

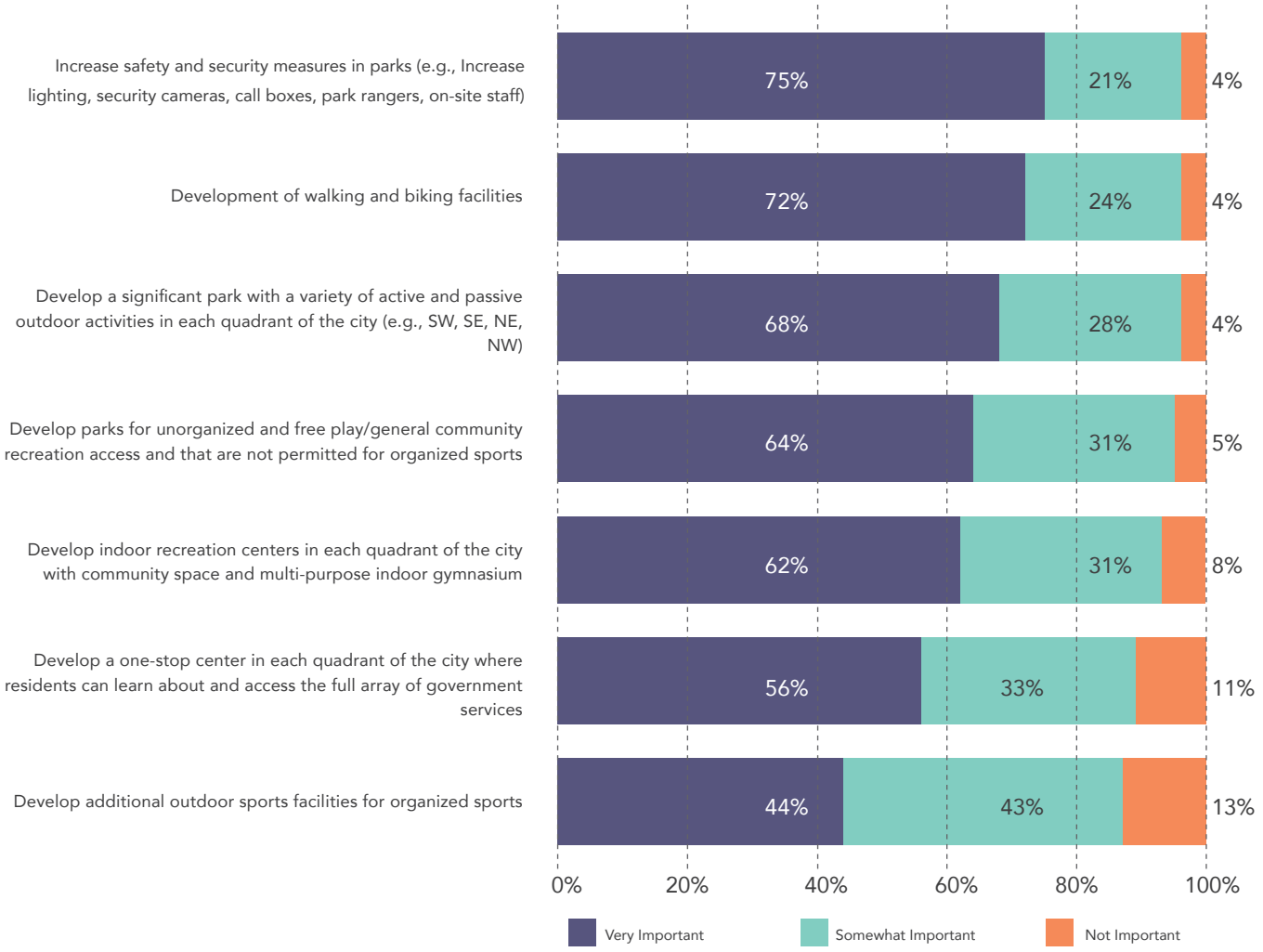
by average allocated per item



Support for Improvements. Respondents were provided a list of 7 potential actions to improve parks and recreation. Respondents were most supportive (selecting "very supportive") of increasing safety and security measures in parks (75%), developing walking and biking facilities (72%), and developing a significant park with a variety of active and passive outdoor activities in each quadrant of the city (68%).

Level of Support for Improvement Actions

by percentage of respondents

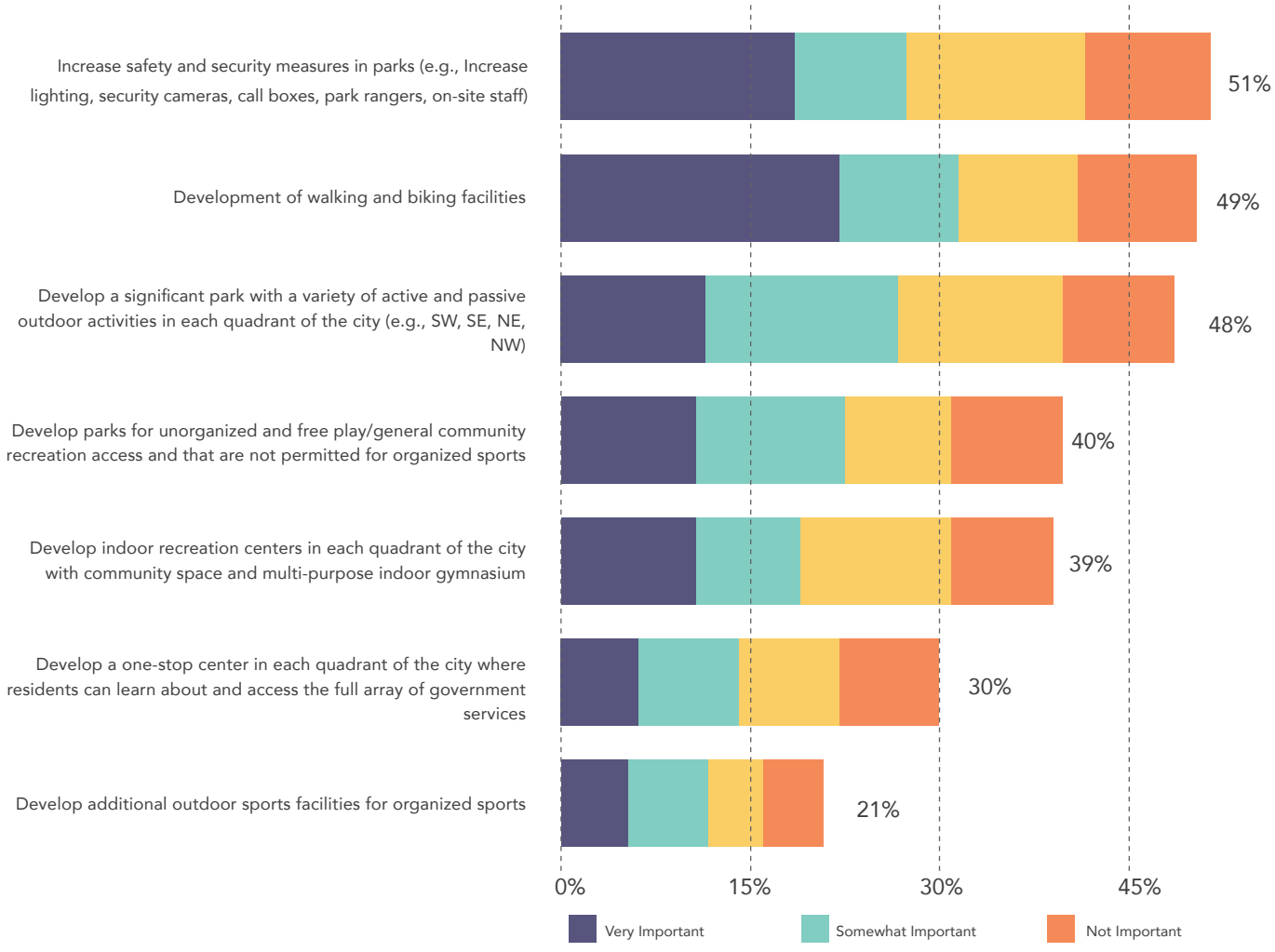


Respondents were also asked to select the four items most important to their household. These were the four items selected most often:

1. Increase safety and security in parks (51%)
2. Develop parks for unorganized and free play/general community recreation access that are not permitted for organized sports (49%)
3. Develop a significant park with a variety of active and passive outdoor activities in each quadrant of the city (48%)
4. Development of walking and biking facilities (40%)

Most Important Items to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices



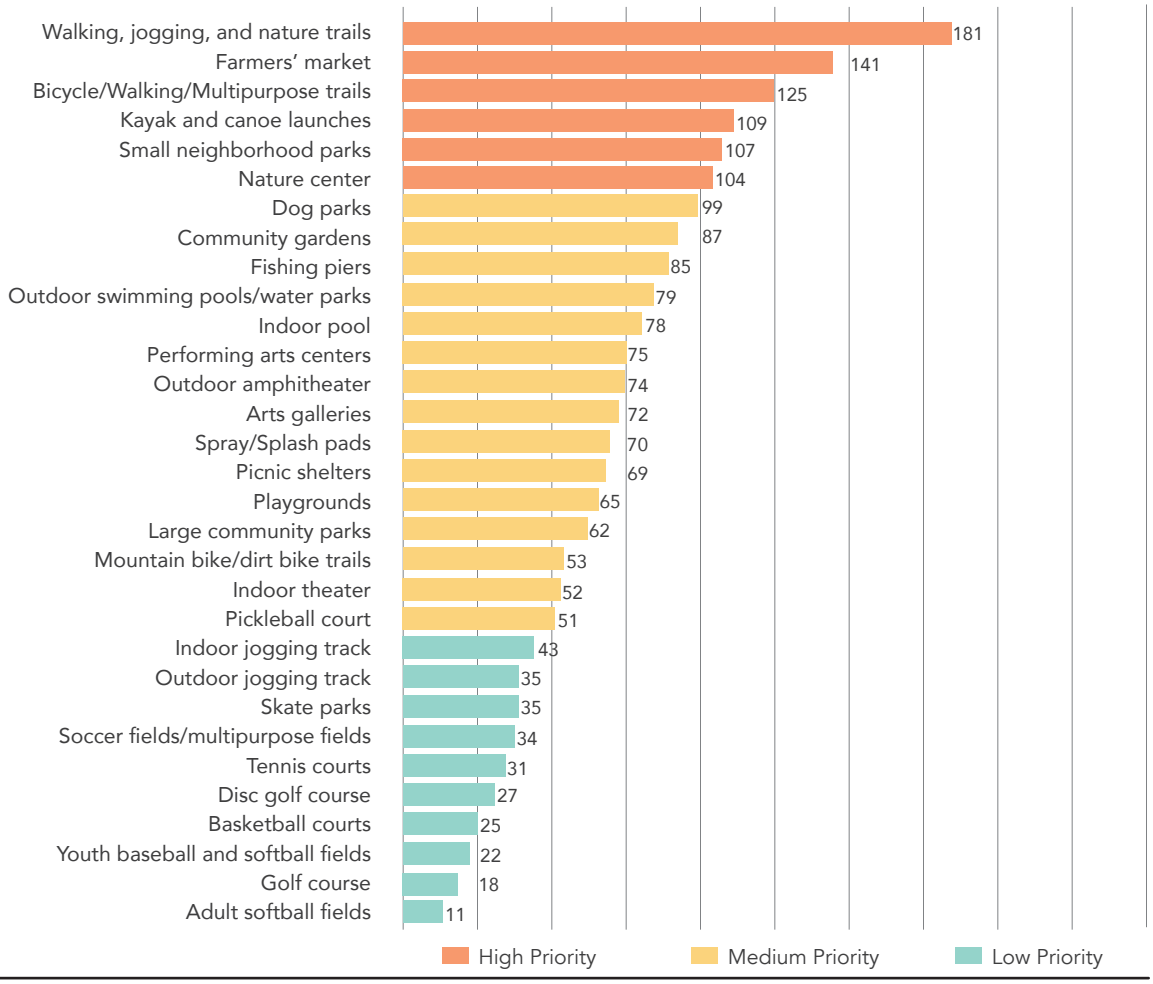
Facilities and Amenities Needs and Priorities

Priorities for Facility Investments The Priority investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on amenities/facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility/amenity.

Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following parks and recreation facilities/amenities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Walking, jogging, and nature trails (PIR=181)
- Farmers' market (PIR=141)
- Bicycle/walking/multipurpose trails (PIR=125)
- Kayak and canoe launches (PIR=109)
- Small neighborhood parks (PIR=107)
- Nature center (PIR=104)

The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 31 facilities/amenities assessed on the survey.

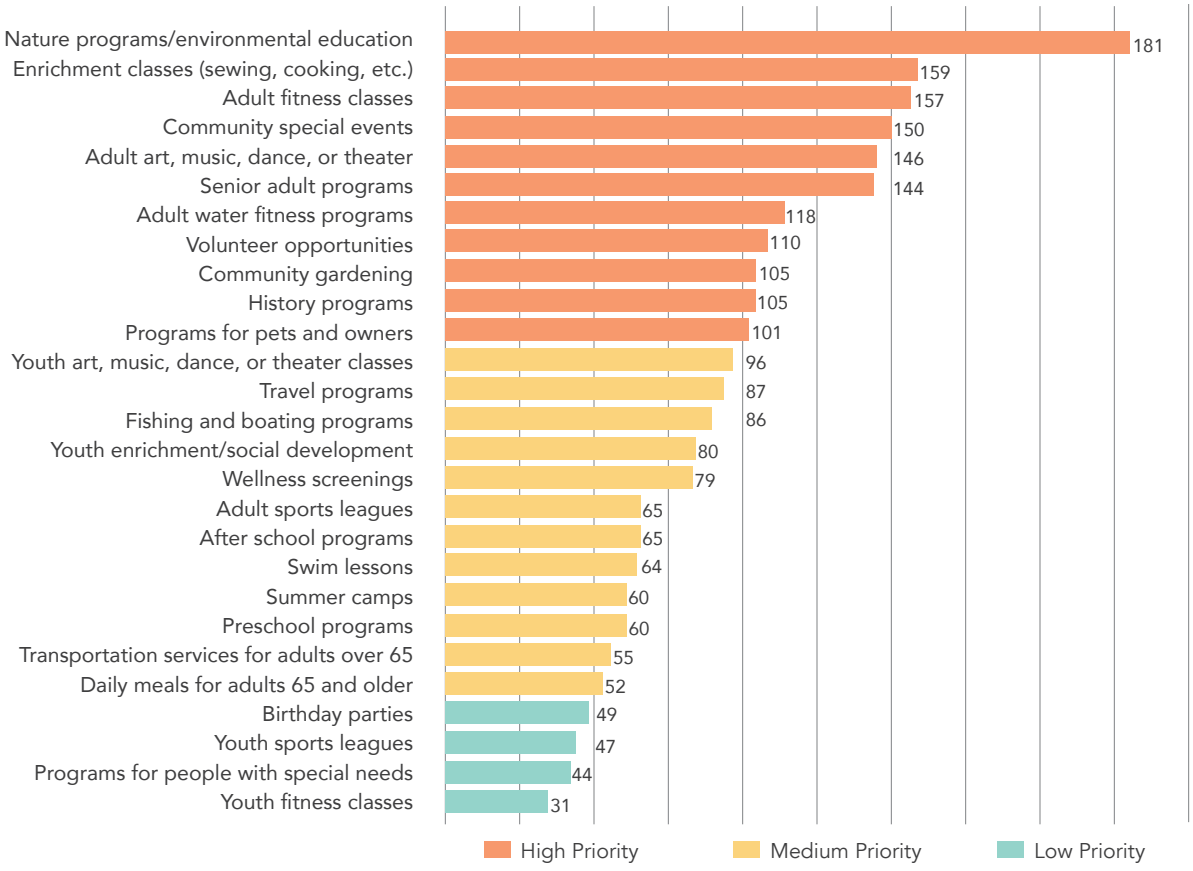


Recreation Program Needs and Priorities

Priorities for Program Investments Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following City of Gainesville programs were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Nature programs/environmental education (PIR=181)
- Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.) (PIR=159)
- Adult fitness classes (PIR=157)
- Community special events (PIR=150)
- Adult art, music, dance, or theater (PIR=146)
- Senior adult programs (PIR=144)
- Adult water fitness programs (PIR=118)
- Volunteer opportunities (PIR=110)
- Community gardening (PIR=105)
- History programs (PIR=105)
- Programs for pets and owners (PIR=101)

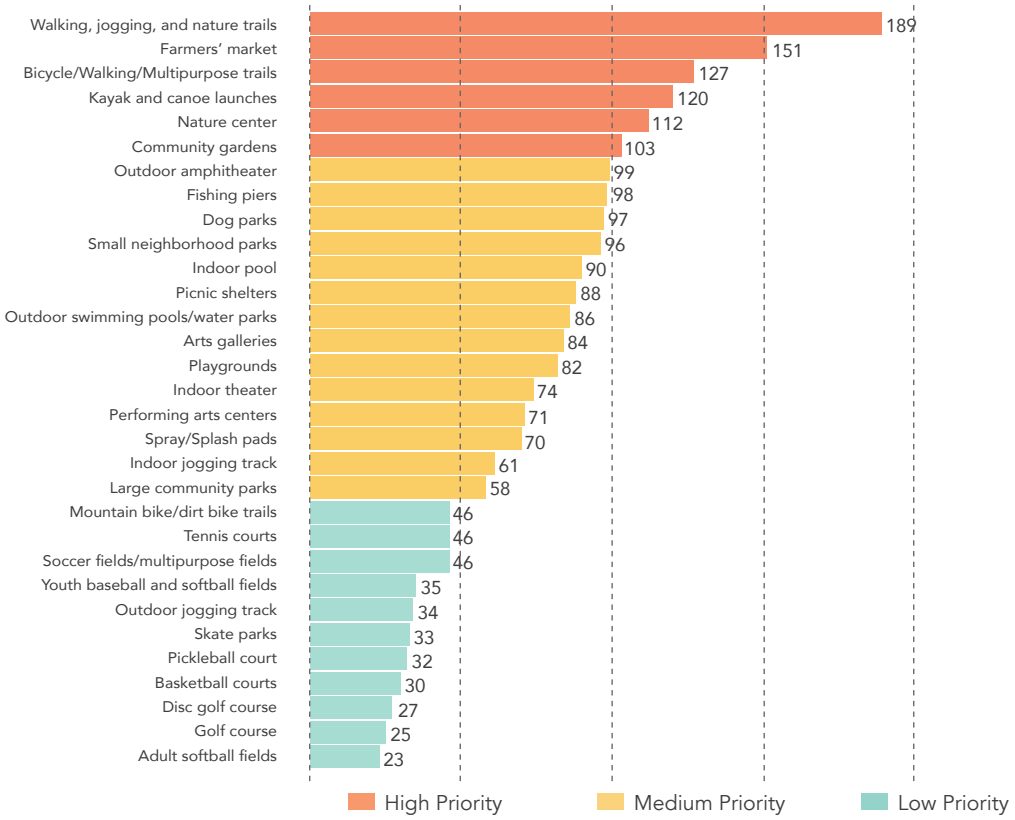
The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 27 programs assessed.



The following pages illustrated the facilities/ amenity and programs/activities PIR for each Commission District.

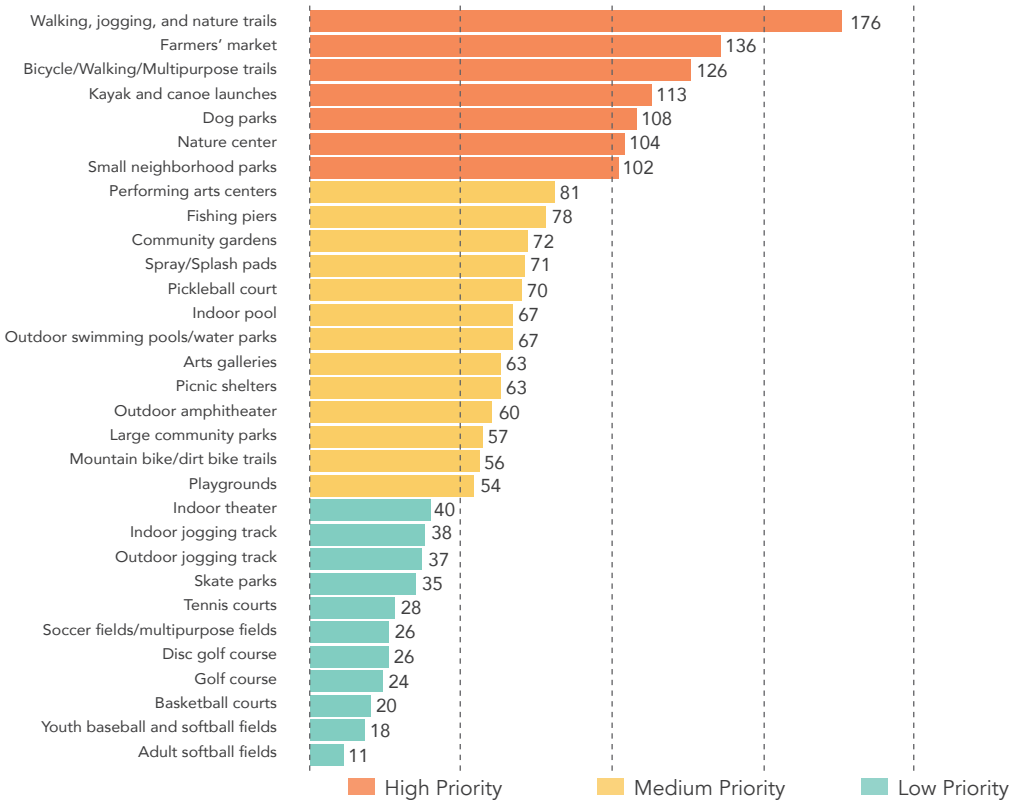
Priority Investment Rating for Facilities/Amenities - Commission District 1

by number of respondents



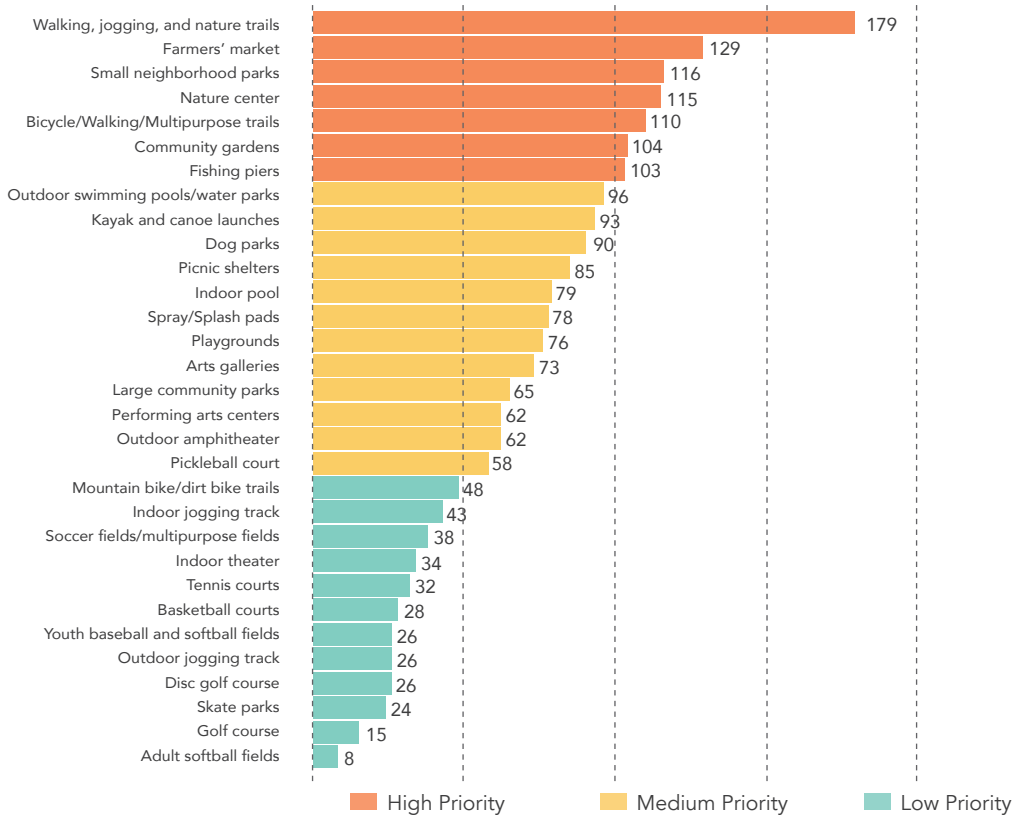
Priority Investment Rating for Facilities/Amenities - Commission District 2

by number of respondents



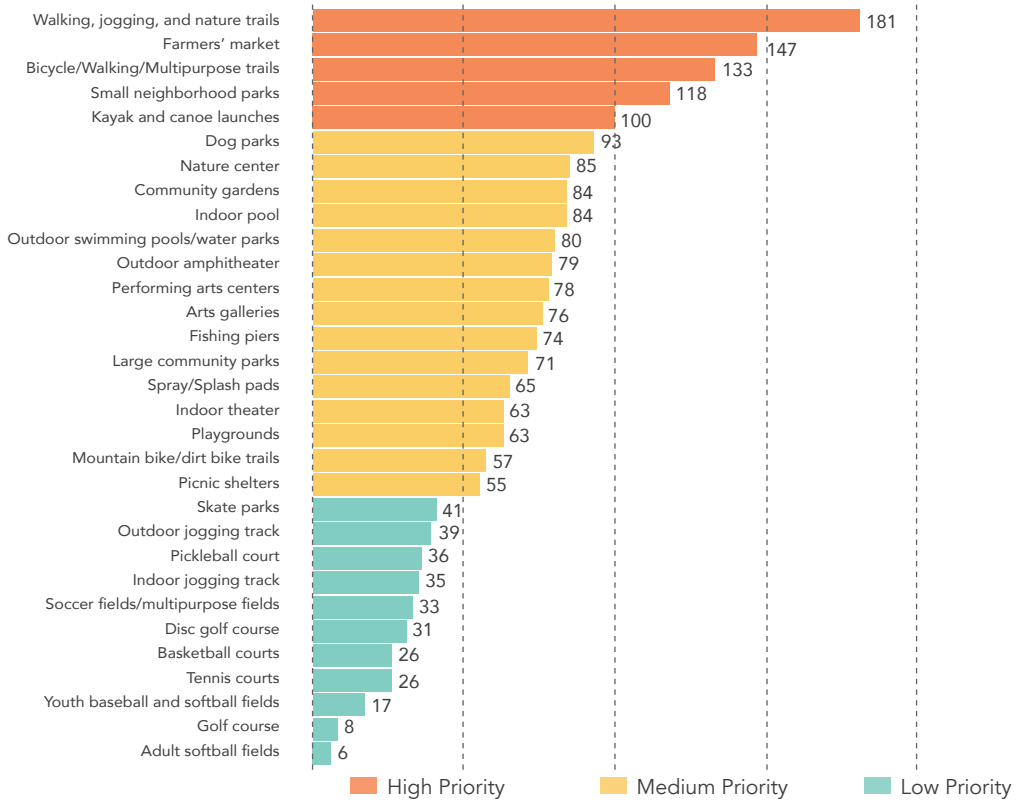
Priority Investment Rating for Facilities/Amenities - Commission District 3

by number of respondents



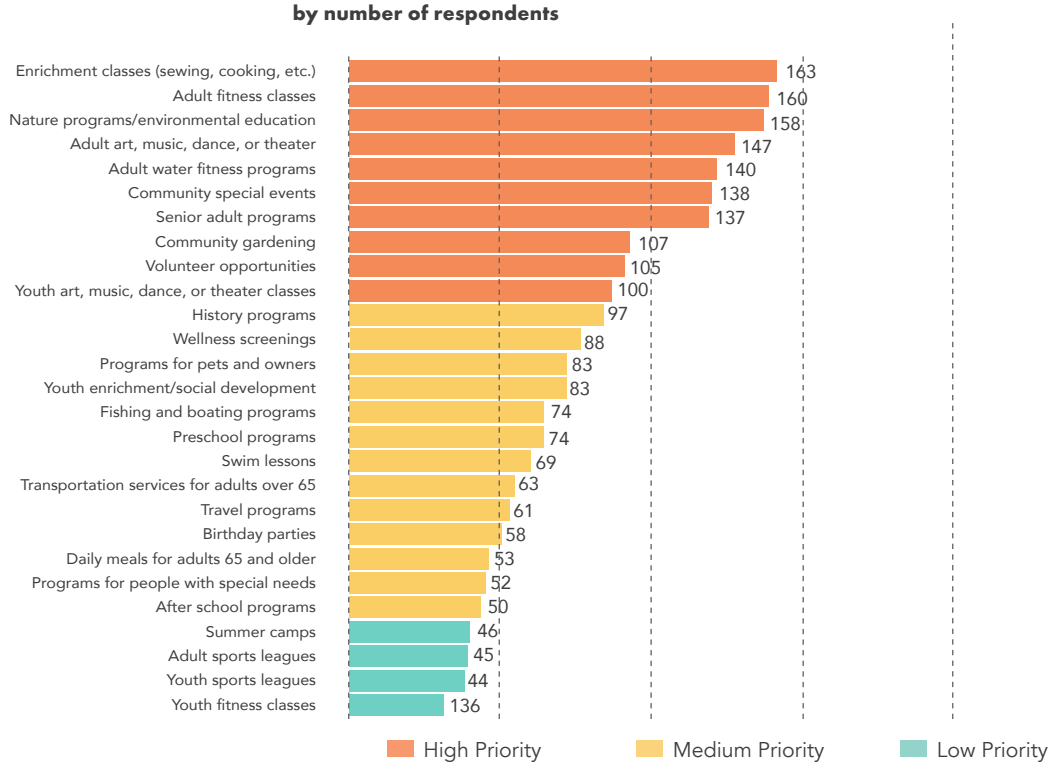
Priority Investment Rating for Facilities/Amenities - Commission District 4

by number of respondents



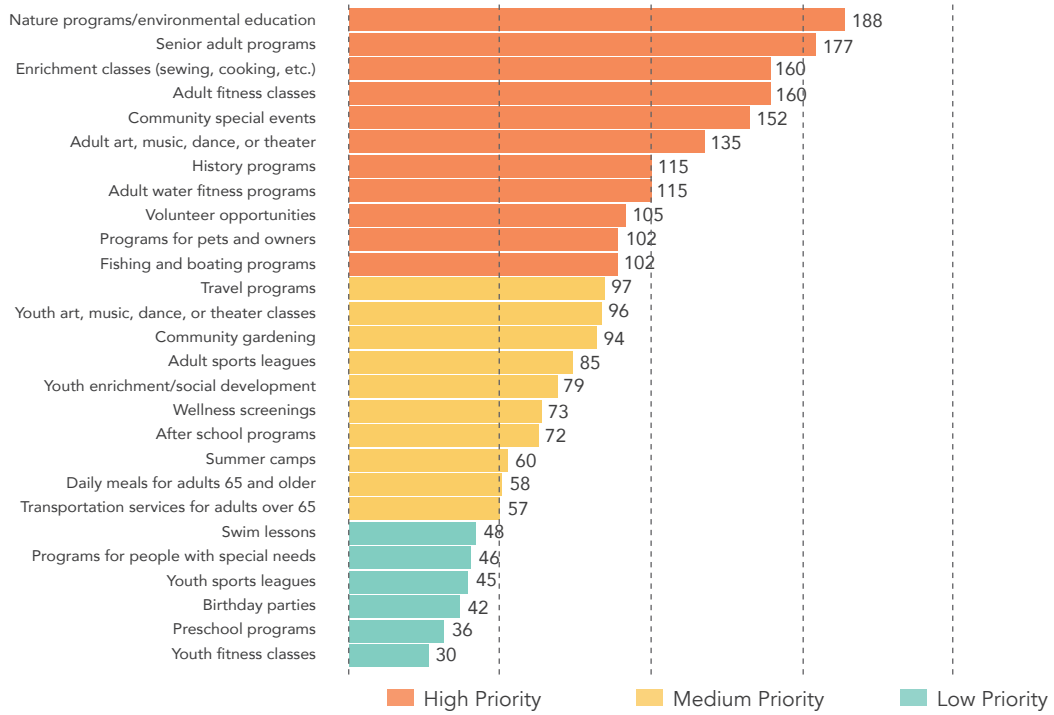
Priority Investment Rating for Programs - Commission District 1

by number of respondents



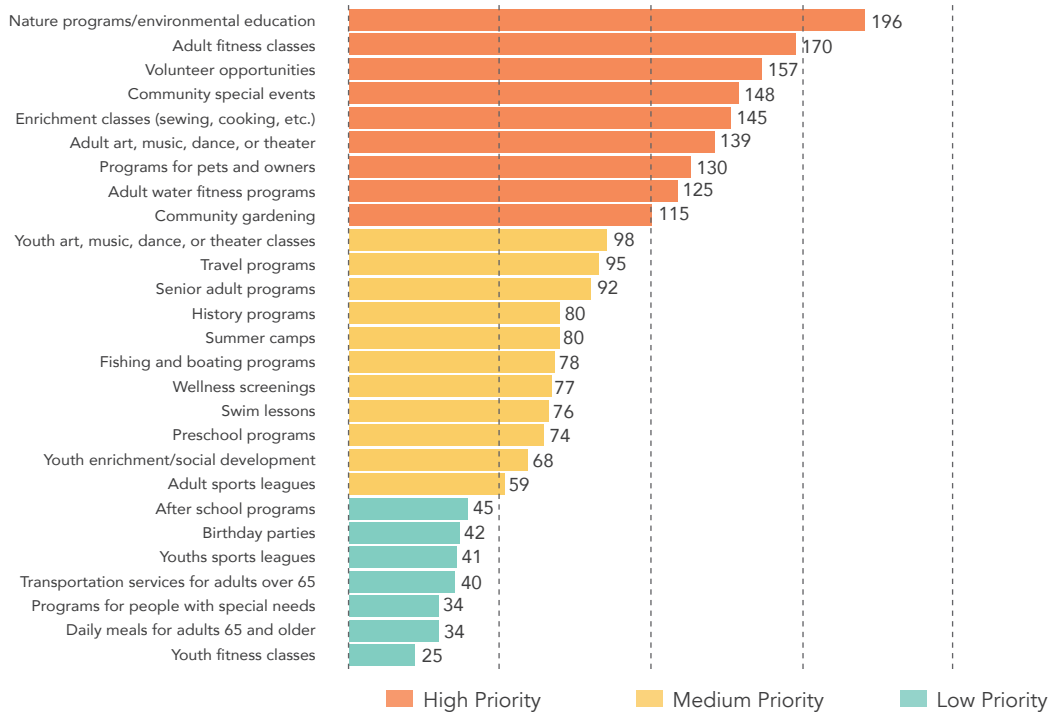
Priority Investment Rating for Programs - Commssion District 2

by number of respondents



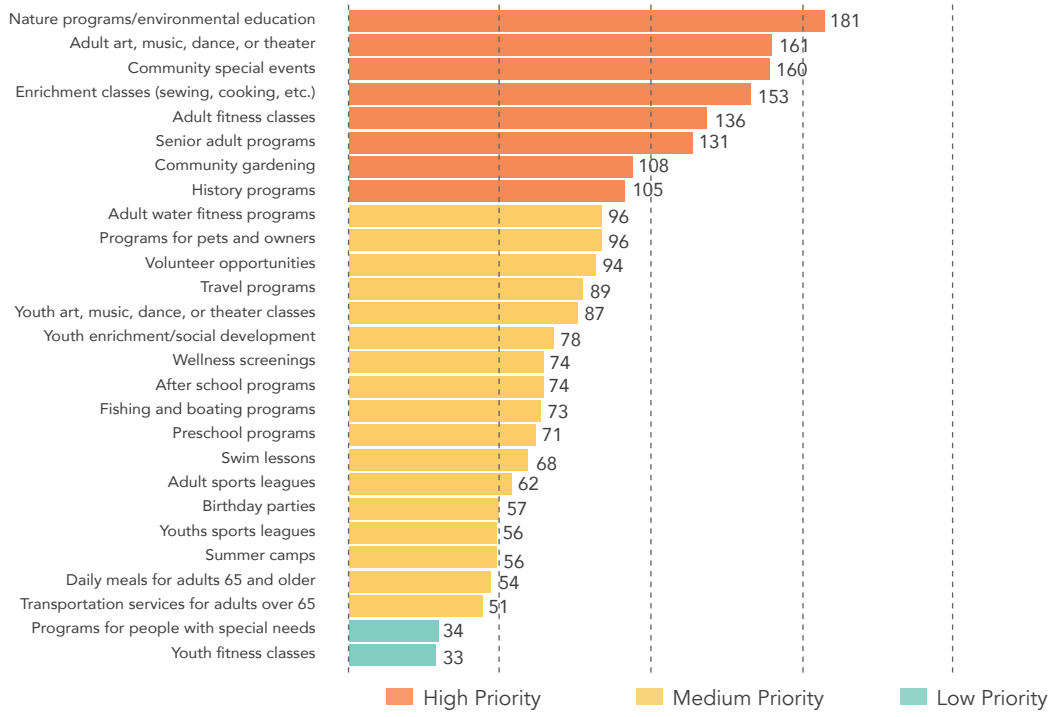
Priority Investment Rating for Programs - Commission District 3

by number of respondents



Priority Investment Rating for Programs - Commission District 4

by number of respondents



On-line Survey

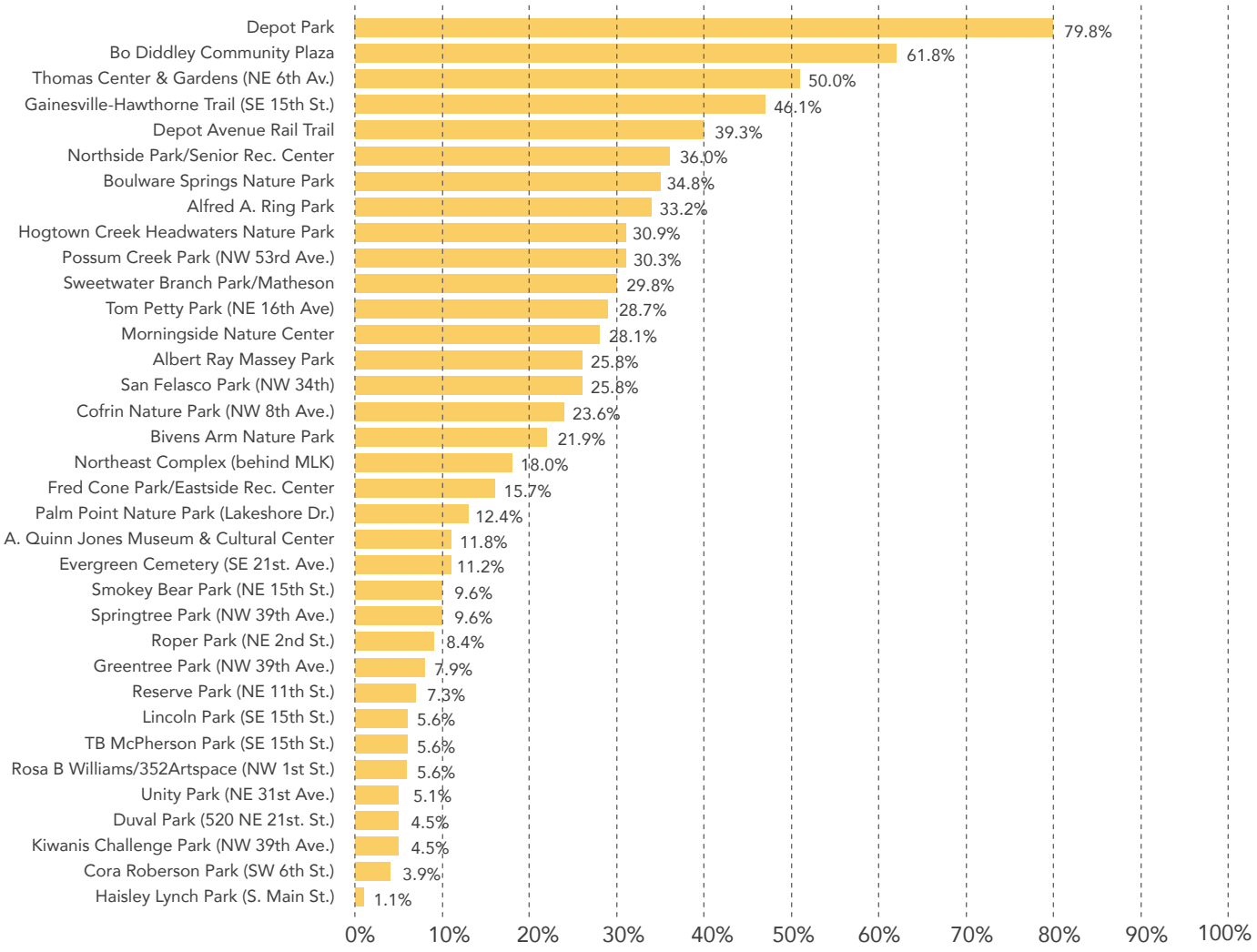
The Consultant Team hosted an online, 30-question survey during the months of December 2022 through February 2023. The survey was available in English an Spanish. A total of 183 people participated in the survey. The survey was based on the statistically-valid survey, but had some modifications to accommodate the on-line format. Following is a summary of findings from the online survey.

Parks and Recreation Facilities and Program Use

Use of Specific Parks, Facilities, and Trails. Respondents were asked if their household had used any of the 35 listed parks, facilities, and trail sites over the past year. The highest percentage of respondents (80%) had used Depot Park, followed by Bo Diddley Community Plaza (62%), and Thomas Center and Gardens (50%).

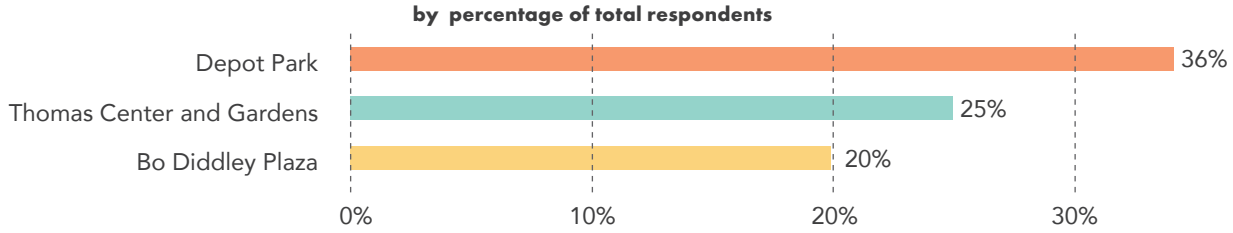
Which of the 35 Listed Parks, Facilities, and Trail Sites Have You Or Your Household Used Over the Past Year?

by percentage of respondents



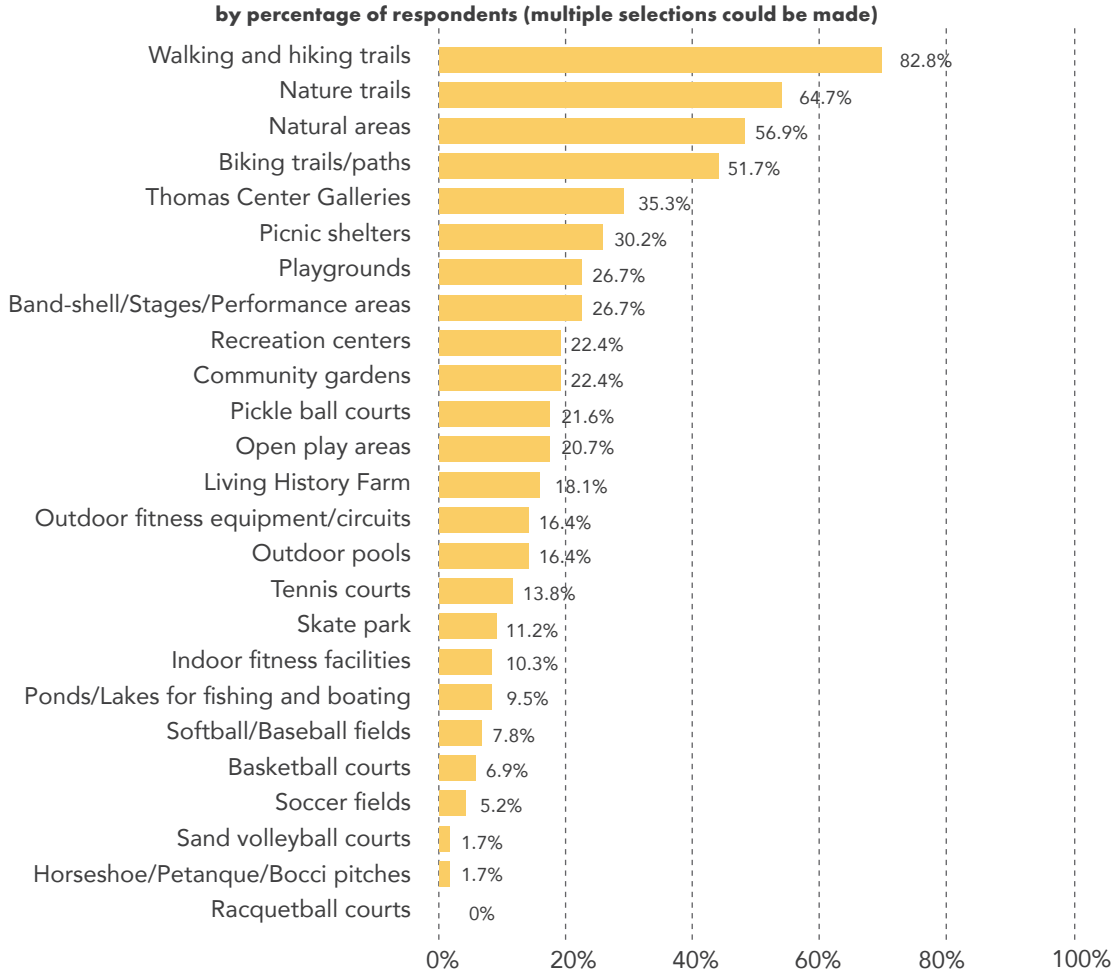
Respondents were then asked to select the three locations their household visits most often. Depot Park (36%), Thomas Center and Gardens (25%), and Bo Diddley Plaza (20%) were the most often visited locations. Most respondents (87%) rated the overall physical condition of these sites as either good (55%) or excellent (27%).

Top 3 Parks, Recreation or Cultural Sites Households Visit Most Often

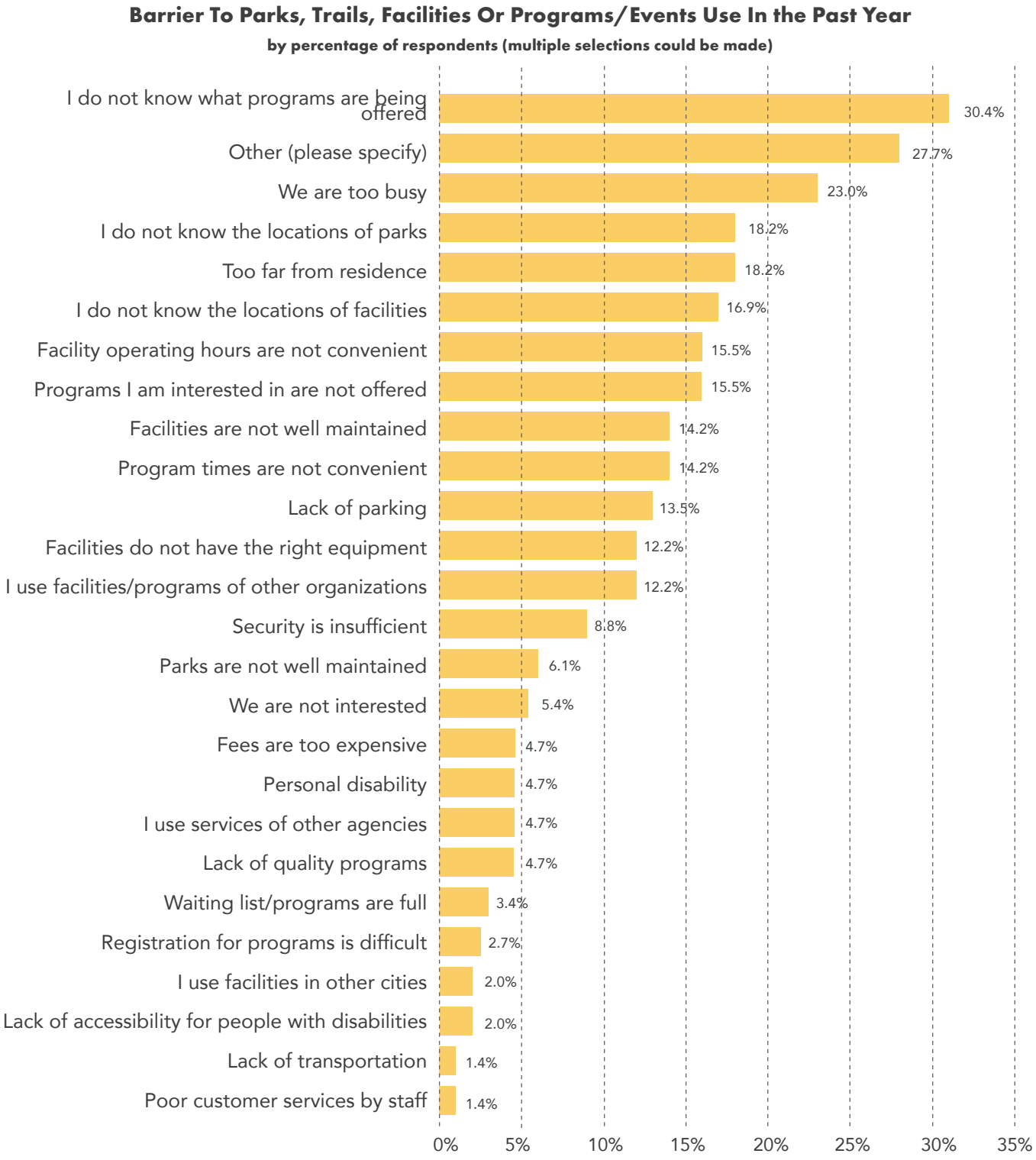


Types of Sites Used. Respondents were asked to select all the types of sites their household had visited over the past year. The highest percentage of respondents (83%) used walking and hiking trails, followed by nature trails (65%), and natural areas (57%). Respondents most often use walking and hiking trails (47%), nature trails (31%), and biking trails/paths (24%).

Types of Parks, Trails, or Recreation Facilities Households Visited in the Last Year



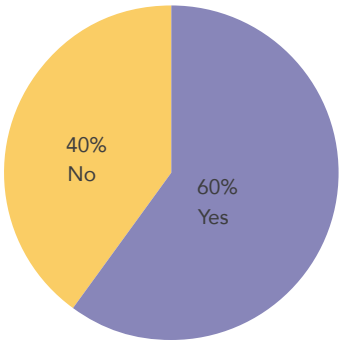
Barriers to Use. Respondents were asked to indicate the reasons why they didn't use City of Gainesville parks, trails, facilities, or programs/events more often. The highest number of respondents said they were not aware of what was being offered (30.4%), Other (27.7%), and we are too busy (23.0%).



Recreation and Cultural Program Participation. Sixty percent (60%) of respondents said someone in their household had participated in recreation and cultural programs in the past year. Of those participating households, most (88%) rated the overall quality of programs as either good (47%) or excellent (41%).

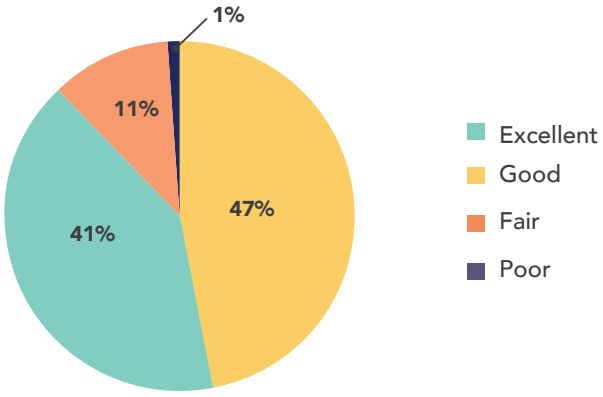
Have You Or Your Household Participated in Any Recreation Or Cultural Programs Provided By The City In the Past Year?

by percentage of respondents



Overall, How Would You Rate The Quality Of the Programs That Were Participated In?

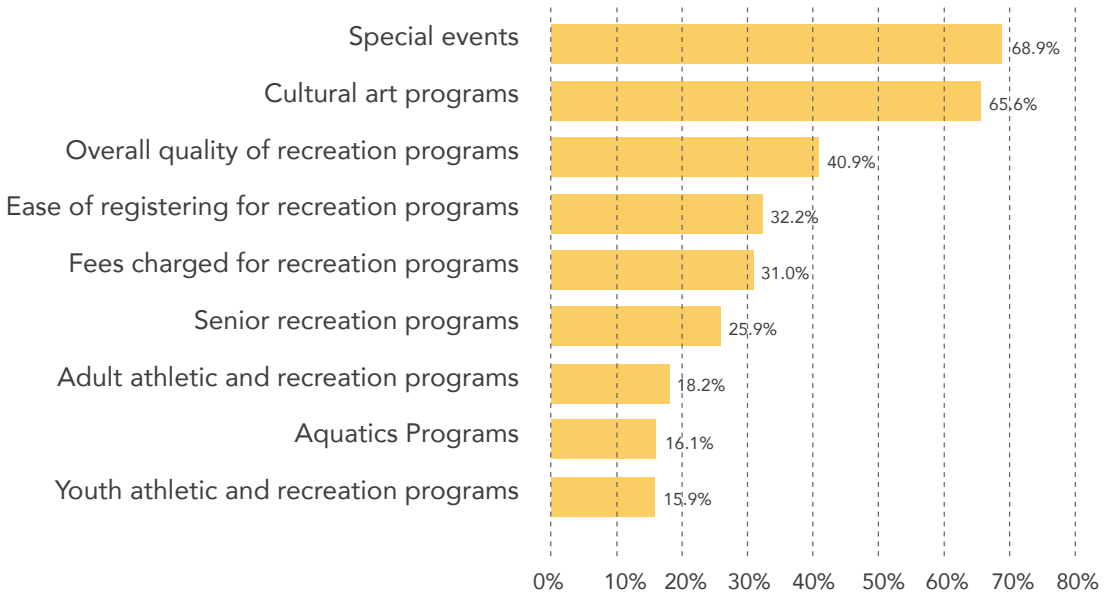
by percentage of respondents



Respondents were then asked to rate their level of satisfaction with nine types of recreation programs or aspects of their experience. Respondents were most satisfied (rating either "satisfied" or "very satisfied") with special events (69%), cultural art programs (65%), and the overall quality of recreation programs (40%).

Level of Satisfaction With Recreation and Cultural Programs

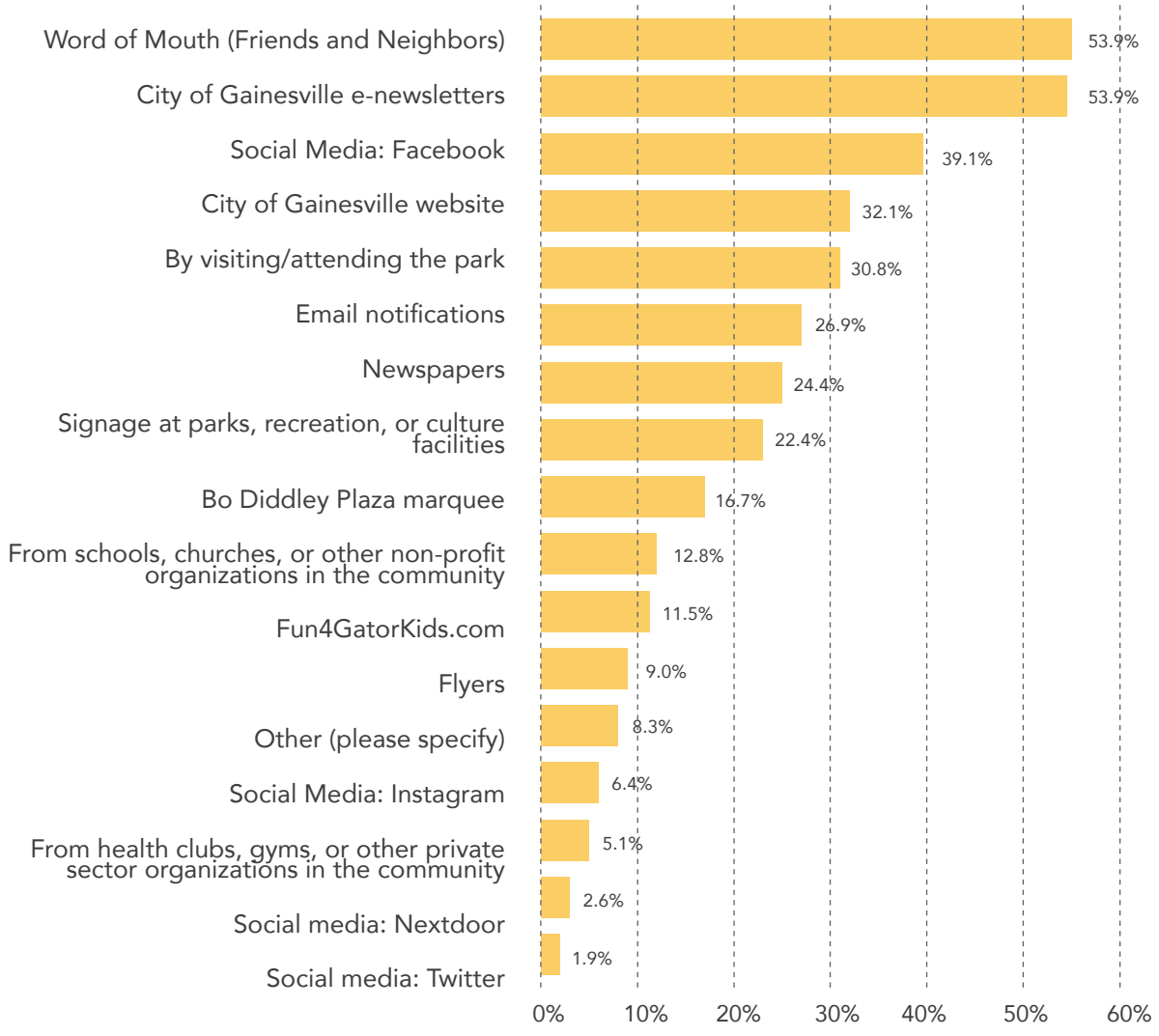
by percentage of respondents



Communication Methods. Respondents most often learned about recreation programs, activities, and special events via City of Gainesville e-newsletters (54%), Word of Mouth (54%), Social media: Facebook (39%), or by visiting City of Gainesville website (32%).

How Did You Learn About Programs, Activities and Special Events

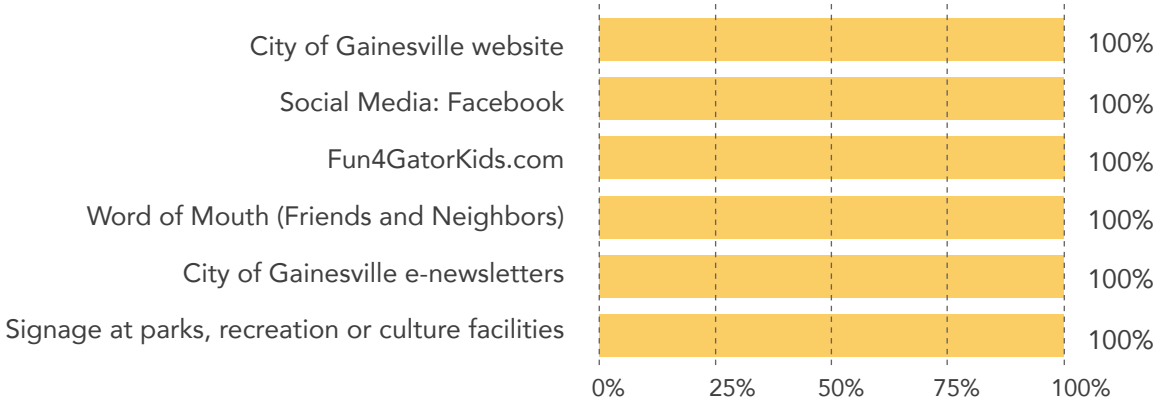
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



Respondents identified all sources as most preferred sources for information related to City of Gainesville Programs.

Preferred Ways of Learning About City of Gainesville Programs

by number of respondents

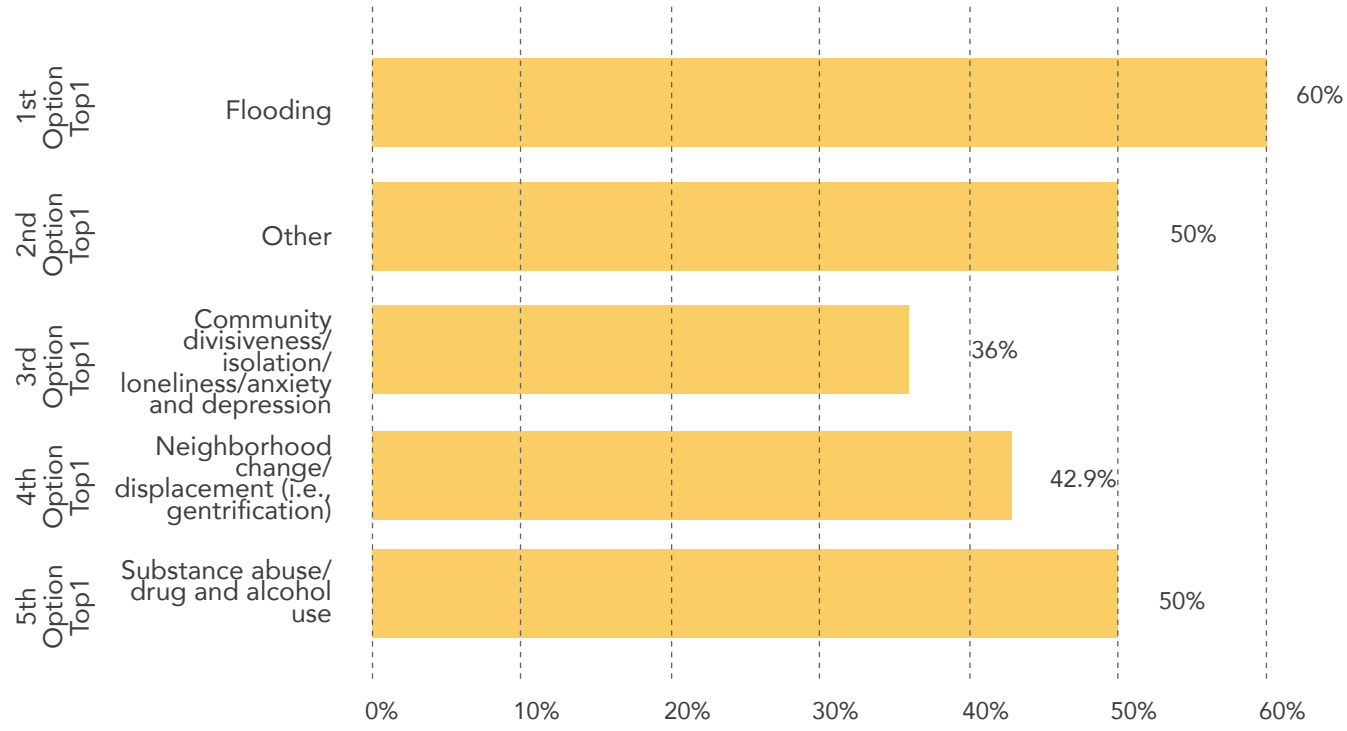


Community Improvements

Areas of Concern. Respondents were asked to select their top five areas of concern in the community and in their daily life. 1) Flooding, 2) Other, 3) Community divisiveness/isolation/ loneliness/anxiety and depression, 4) Neighborhood change/ displacement (i.e., gentrification), and 5) Substance abuse/ drug alcohol use.

Five Top Areas To Improve Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Changes

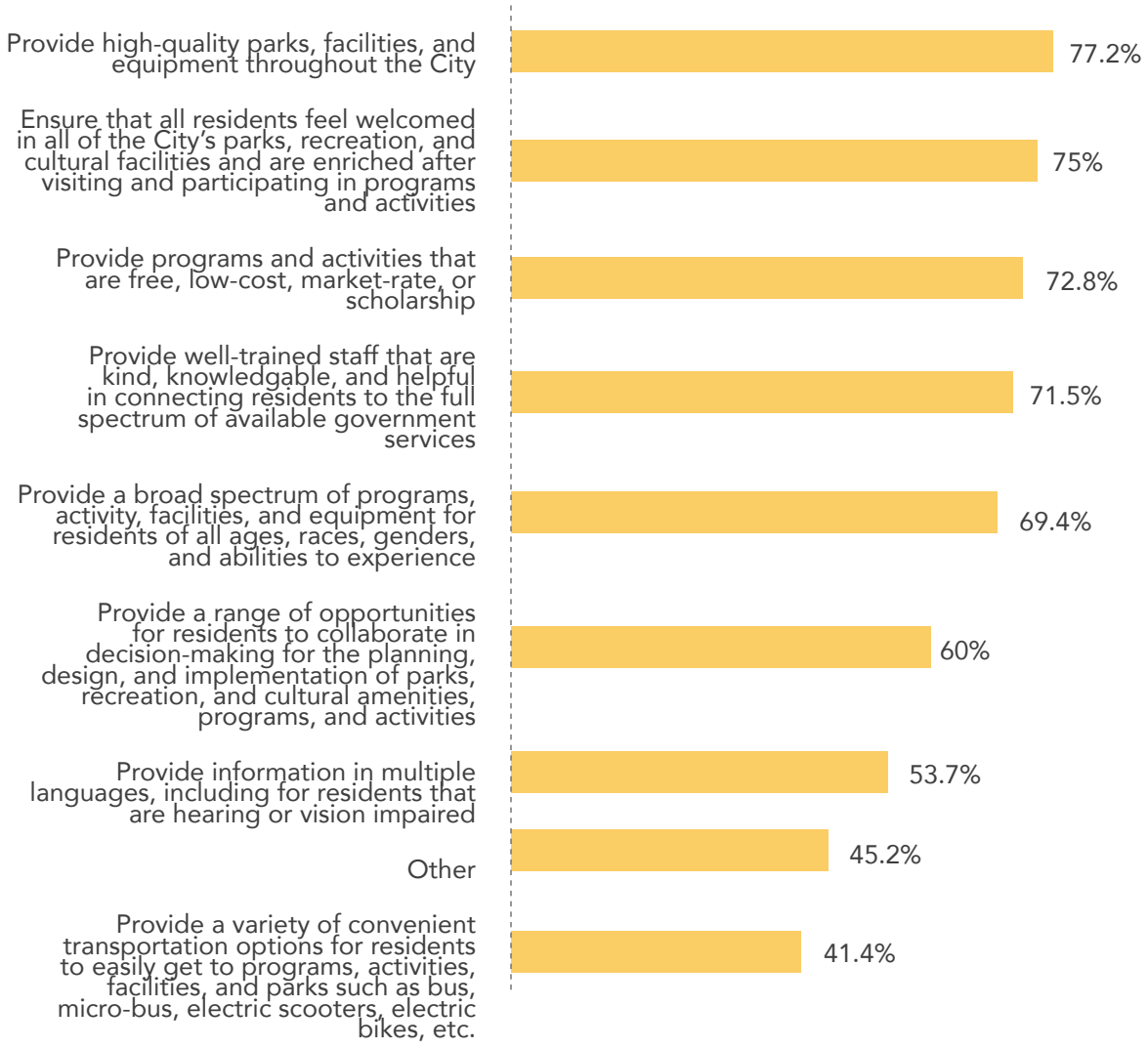
by percentage of respondents



Addressing Inequalities. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 8 ways the department could help address racial, gender, and age inequities. Respondents thought it was most important for the department to provide high-quality parks, facilities, and equipment throughout the city (77%), to ensure that all residents feel welcome in all facilities and enriched after participating in programs and activities (75%), and for the department to provide programs and activities that are free/low-cost/ market-rate or include scholarships (73%).

How Can Gainesville Address Racial, Gender, and Age Inequities

by percentage of respondents

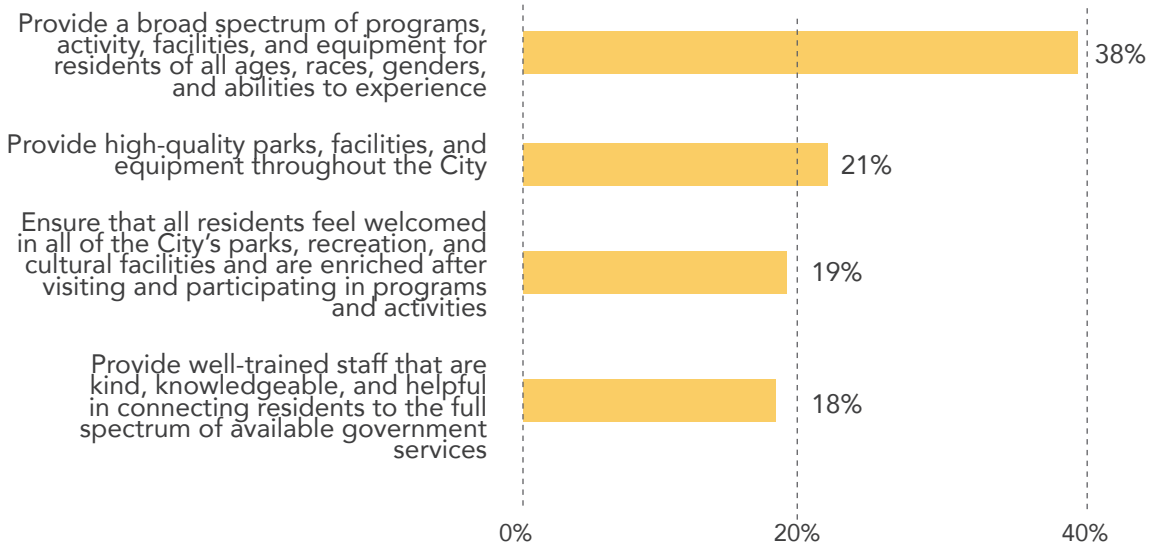


Respondents were then asked to select the four items most important to their household that would help address racial, gender, and age inequities. The four items selected most often were:

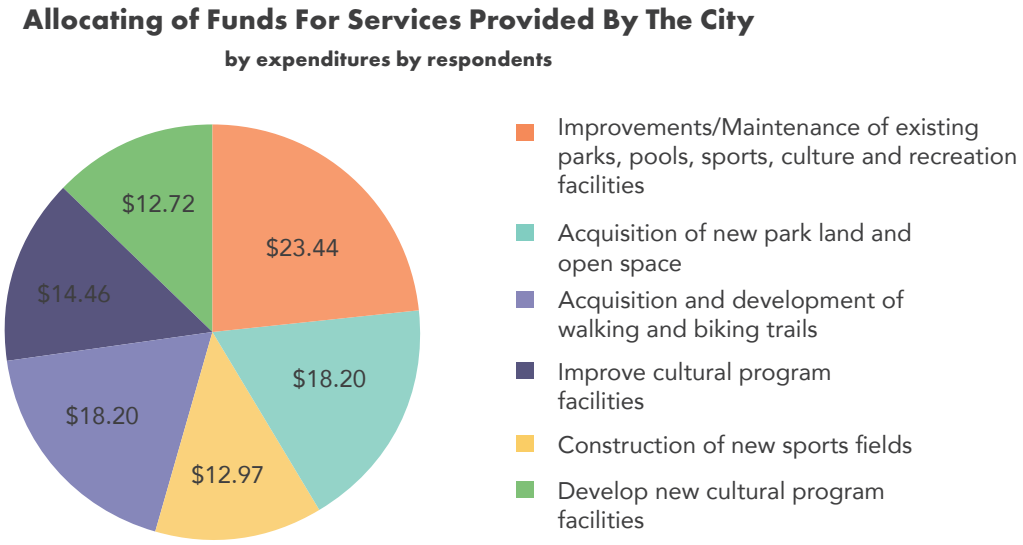
- Provide a broad spectrum of programs, activities, facilities, and equipment for residents of all ages, races, genders, and abilities to experience (38%)
- Provide high-quality parks, facilities, and equipment throughout the City (21%)
- Ensure that all residents feel welcomed in all of the City's parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and are enriched after visiting and participating in programs and activities (19%)
- Provide well-trained staff that are kind, knowledgeable, and helpful in connecting residents to the full spectrum of available government services (18%)

How Can Gainesville Address Racial, Gender and Age Inequities

by percentage of respondents



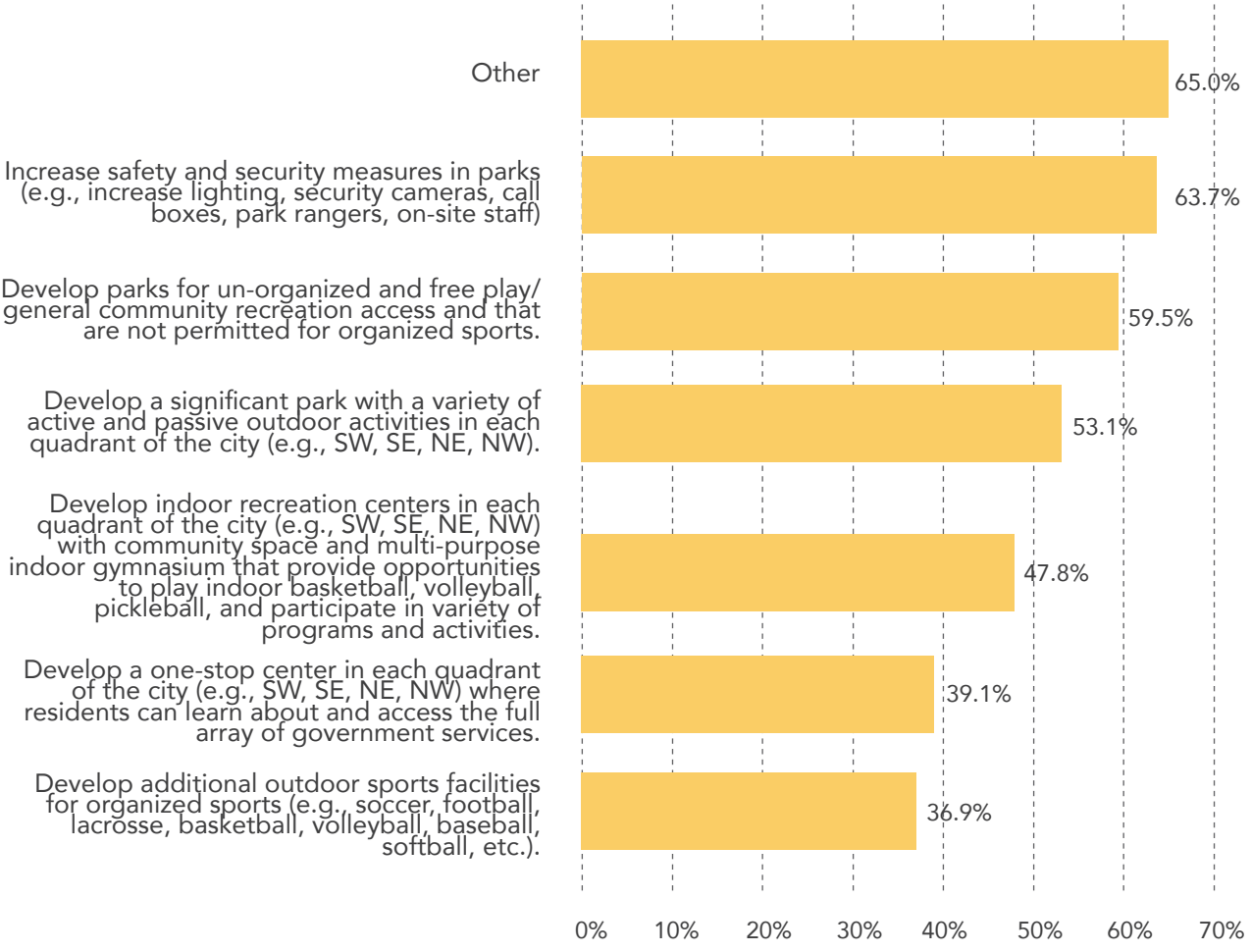
Allocation of Funds. Respondents were asked to allocate a hypothetical $100 budget for parks and recreation improvements. The highest amount of funding on average ($23.44) went to improvements/ maintenance of existing parks, pools, sports, cultural and recreation facilities, followed by $18.20 for the acquisition of new park land and open space, and $18.20 for the acquisition and development of walking and biking trails.



Support for Improvements. Respondents were provided a list of 7 potential actions to improve parks and recreation. Respondents were most supportive (selecting "very supportive") of Other (65%), increasing safety and security measures in parks (64%), and develop parks for un-organized and free play/general community recreation access and that are not permitted for organized sports (60%).

Level of Support With Actions To Improve Parks And Recreation System

by percentage of respondents

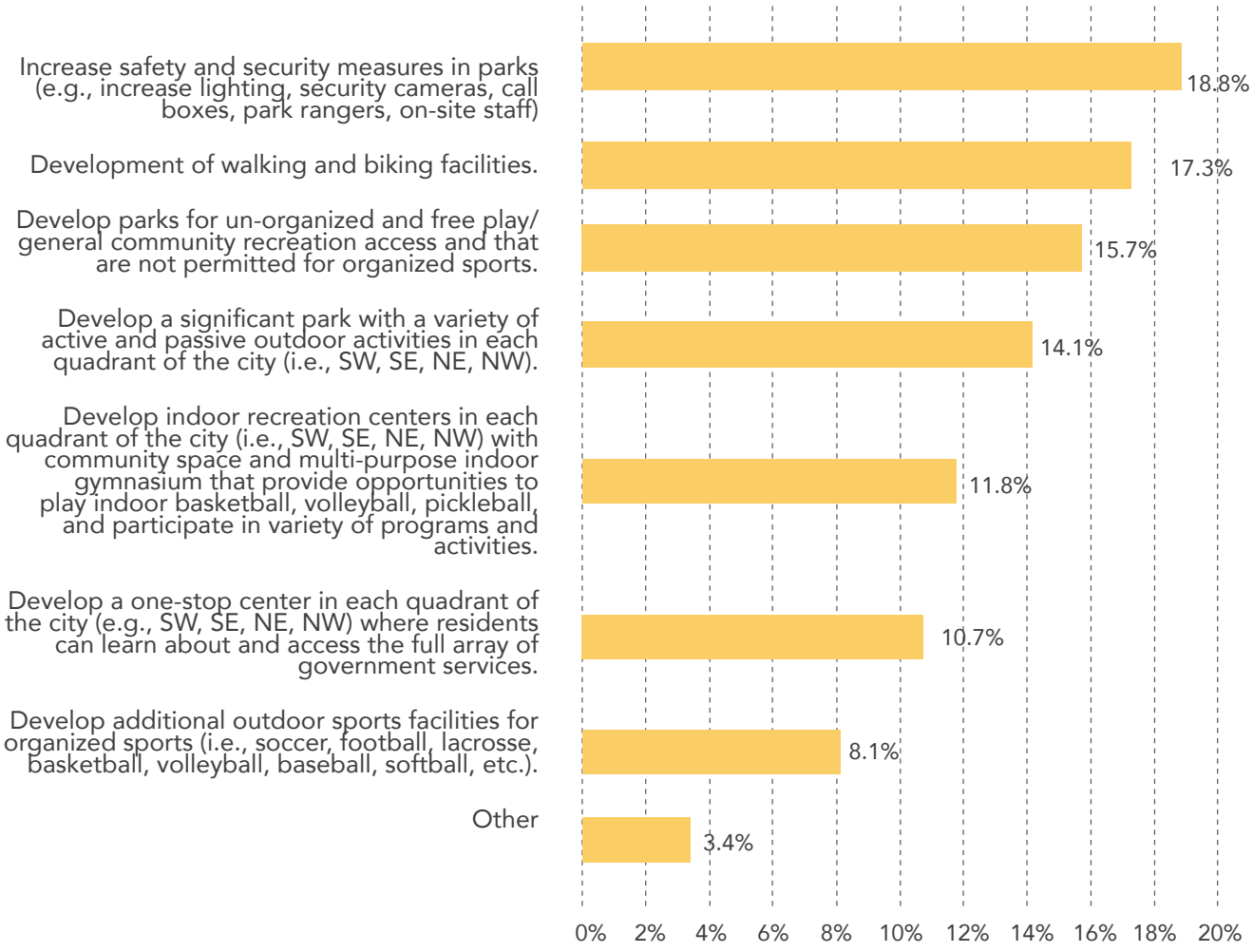


Respondents were also asked to select the four items most important to their household. These were the four items selected most often:

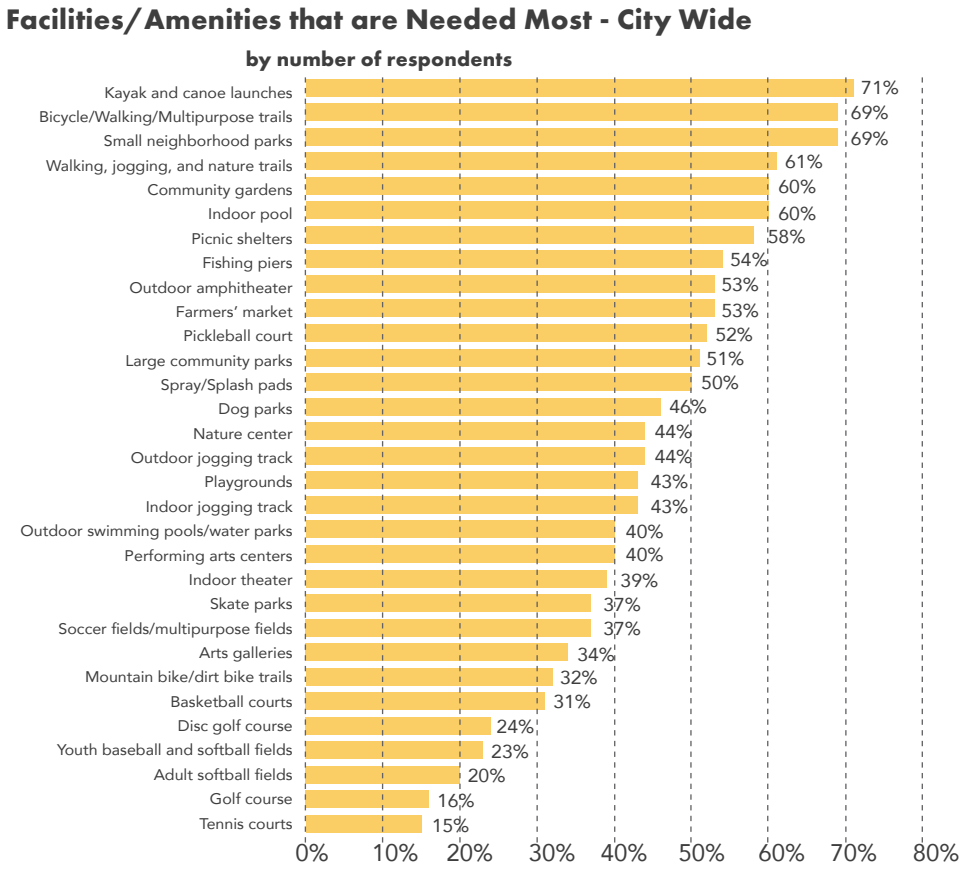
1. Increase safety and security measures in parks (e.g., increase lighting, security cameras, call boxes, park rangers, on-site staff) (19%)
2. Development of walking and biking facilities (18%)
3. Develop parks for un-organized and free play/general community recreation access and that are not permitted for organized sports (16%)
4. Develop a significant park with a variety of active and passive outdoor activities in each quadrant of the city (i.e., SW, SE, NE, NW) (14%)

Top Four Actions To Improve Parks And Recreation System

by percentage of respondents



Facility/Amenity Needs. Respondents were provided with a list of 31 parks and recreation facilities/amenities to select and identify which they believed were needed in the community. Following are the findings for the facilities/amenities that were identified as needed most:



Respondents were then asked to identify the four most important parks and recreation facilities/amenities. Following are the findings:

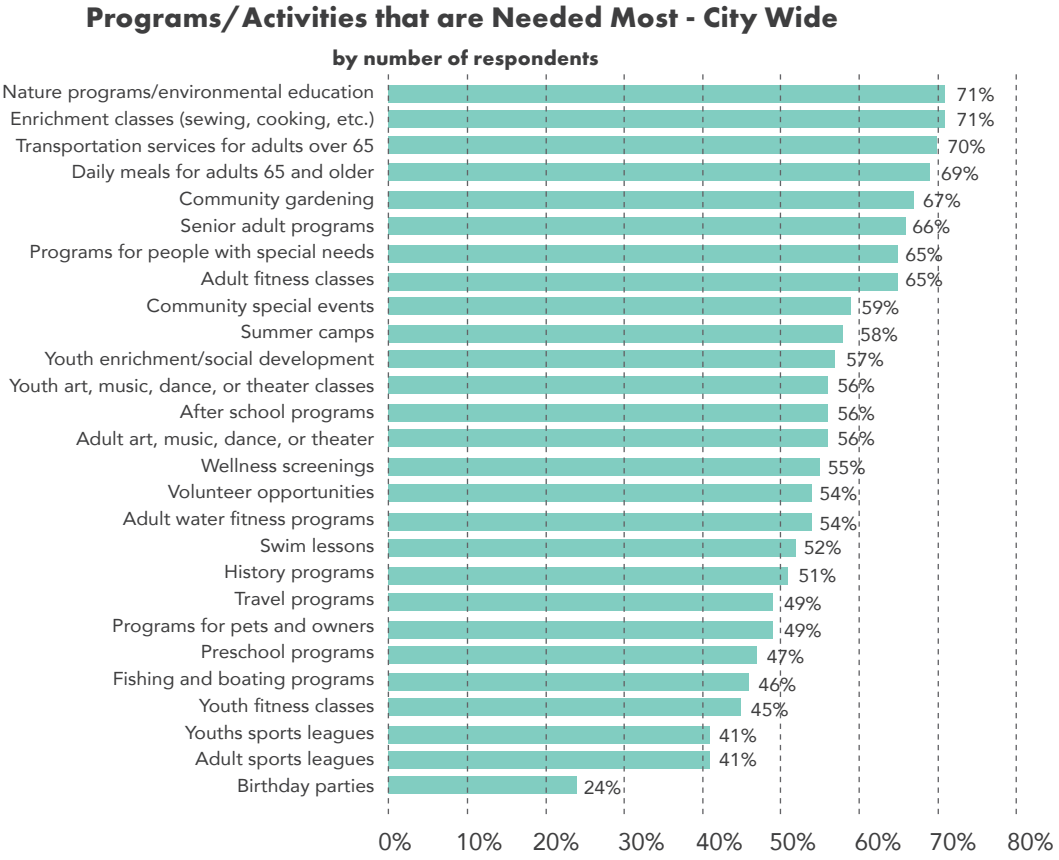
#1 Walking, jogging, and nature trails

#2 Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails

#3 Indoor pool

#4 Small neighborhood parks

Program/Activity Needs. Respondents were provided with a list of 27 programs and activities to select and identify which they believed were needed in the community. Following are the findings:



Respondents were then asked to identify the four most important parks and recreation programs/activities. Following are the findings:

#1 Nature programs/environmental education

#2 Youth art, music, dance, or theater classes

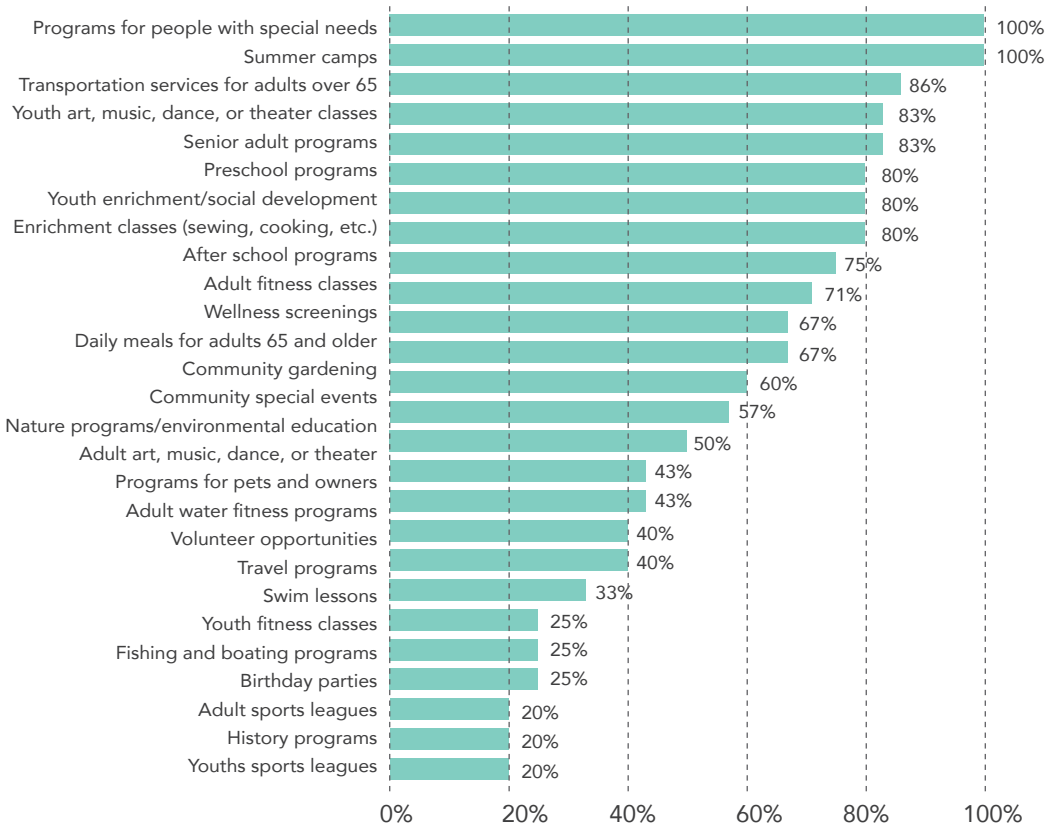
#3 Senior adult programs

#4 Adult fitness classes

Facility/Amenity and Program/Activity Needs Per Commission District. Respondents were asked at the beginning of the survey to identify which Commission District they lived in. These responses were then used to identify priority facility/amenity and program/activity needs per Commission District. Following are the findings:

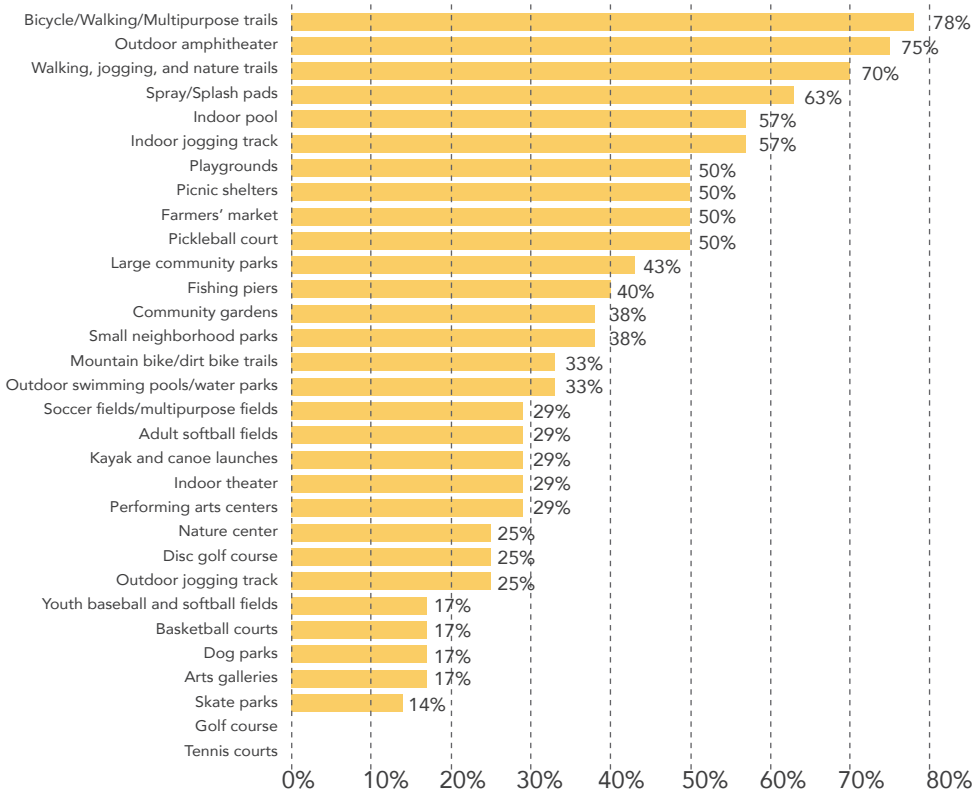
Programs/Activities that are Needed Most - District 1

by number of respondents



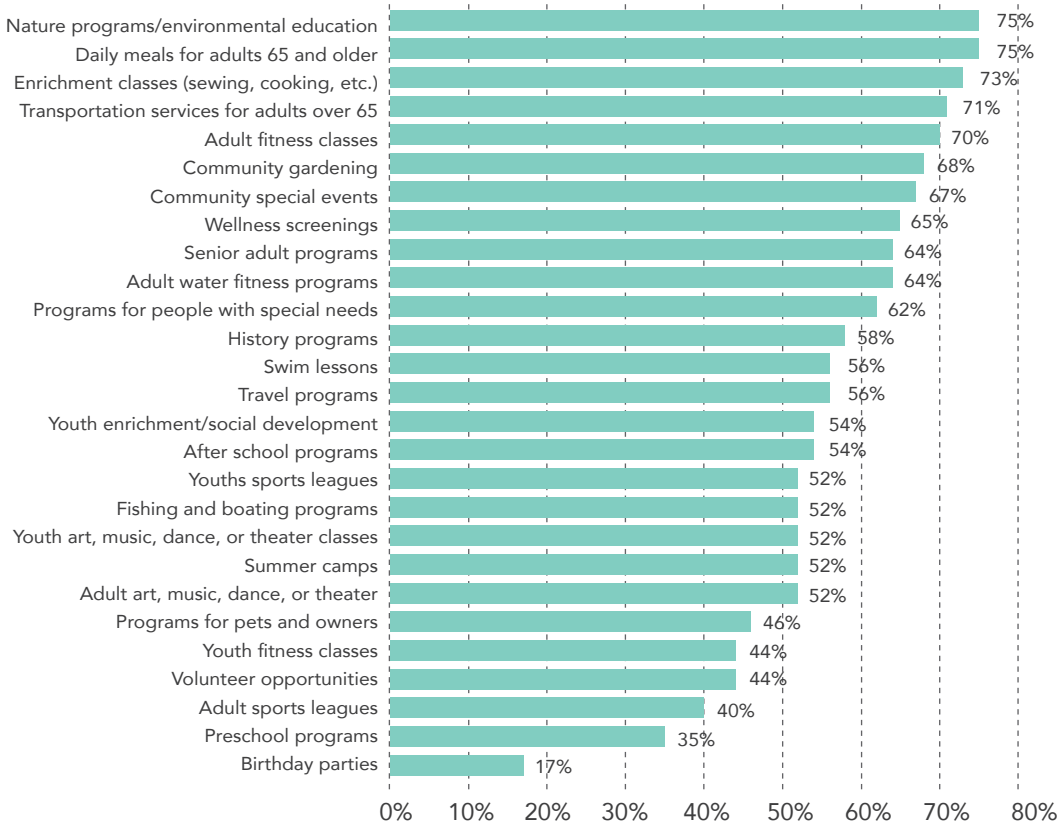
Facilities/Amenities that are Needed Most - District 1

by number of respondents



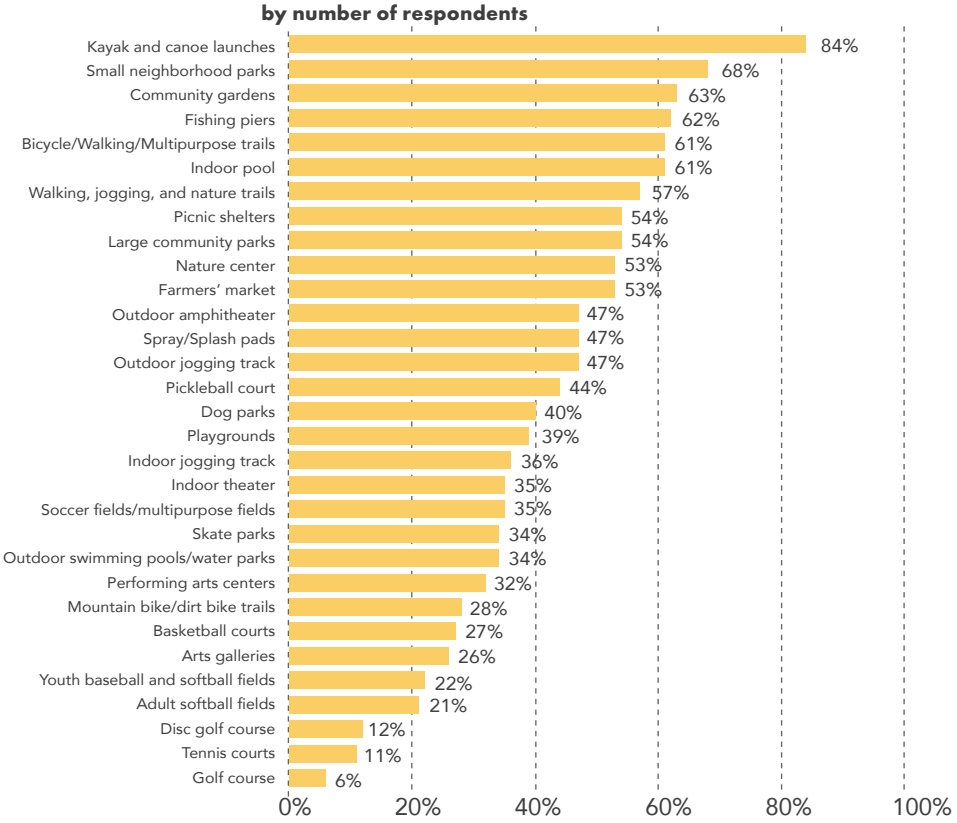
Programs/Activities that are Needed Most - Programs - District 2

by number of respondents



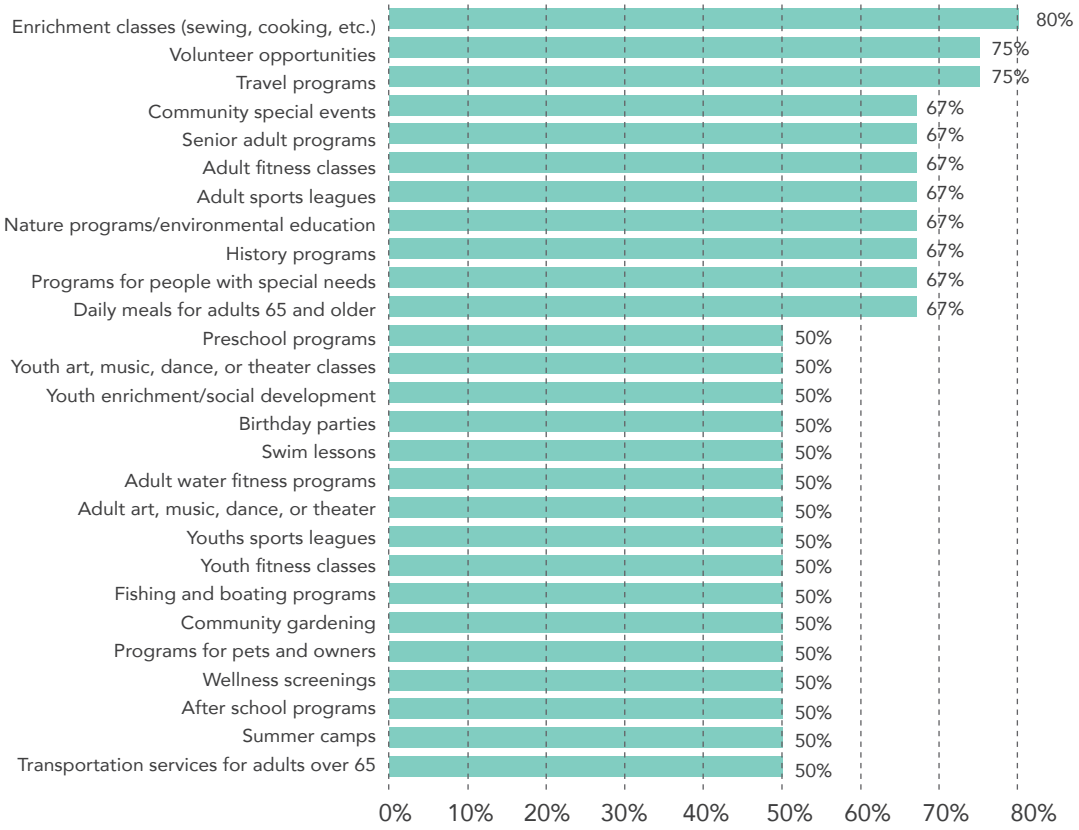
Facilities/Amenities that are Needed Most - District 2

by number of respondents



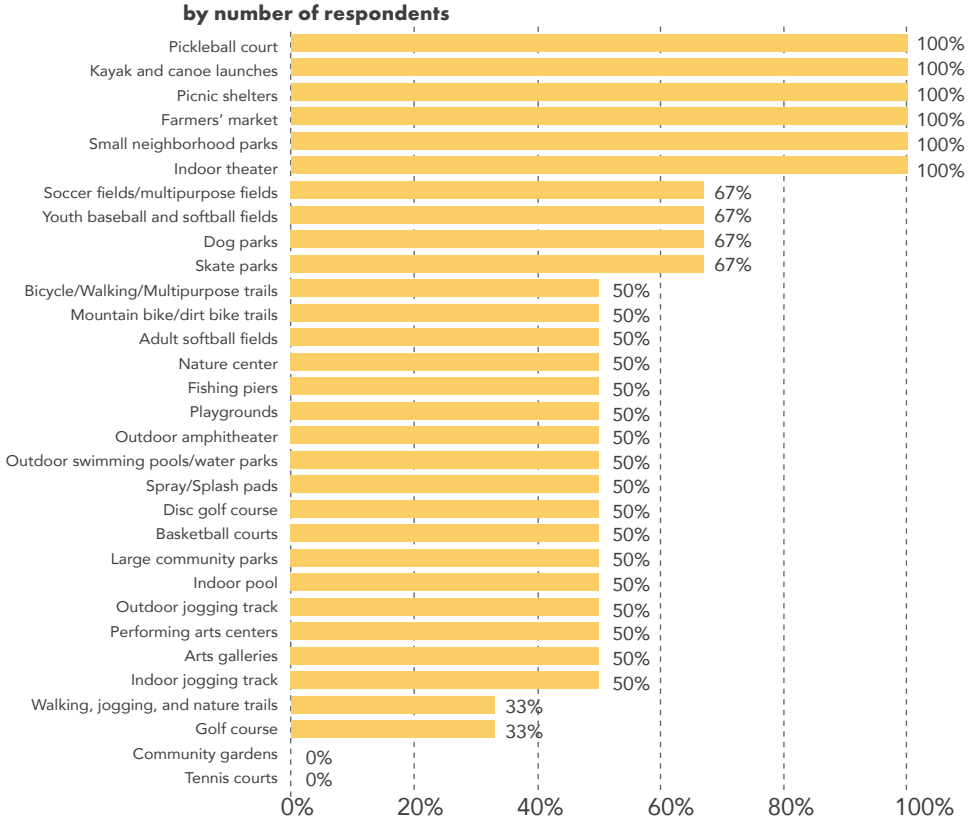
Programs/Activities that are Needed Most - District 3

by number of respondents



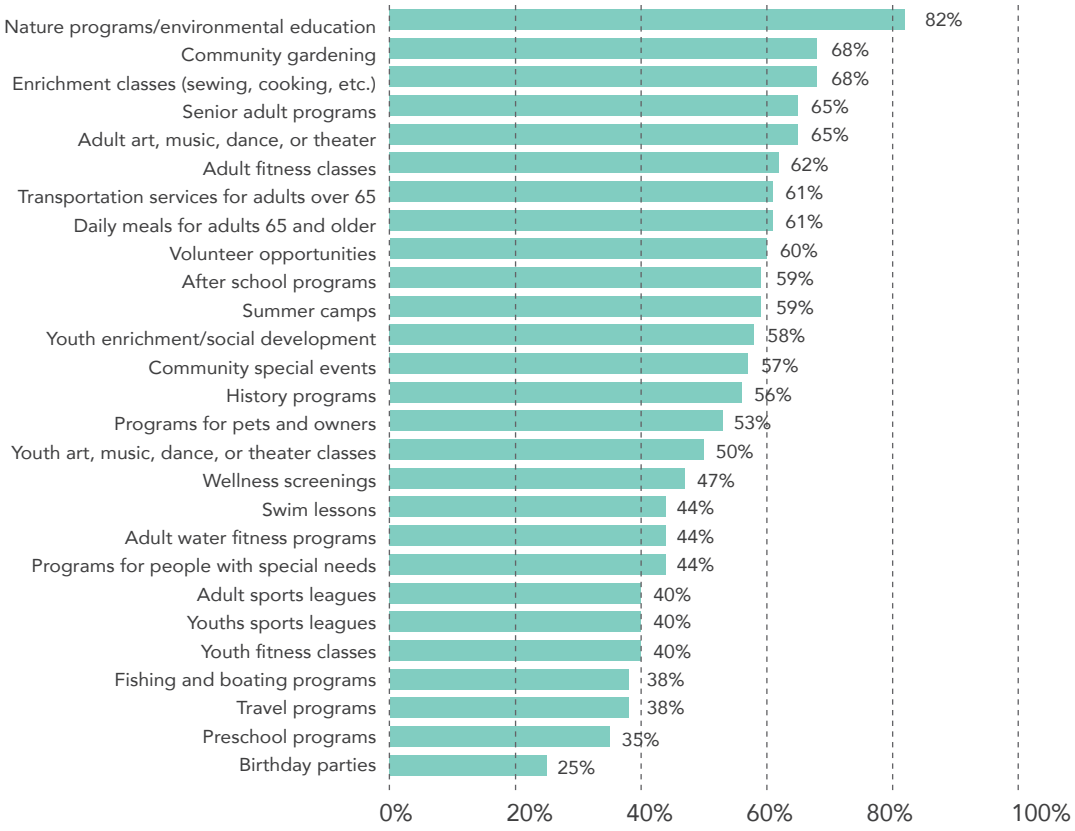
Facilities/Amenities that are Needed Most - District 3

by number of respondents



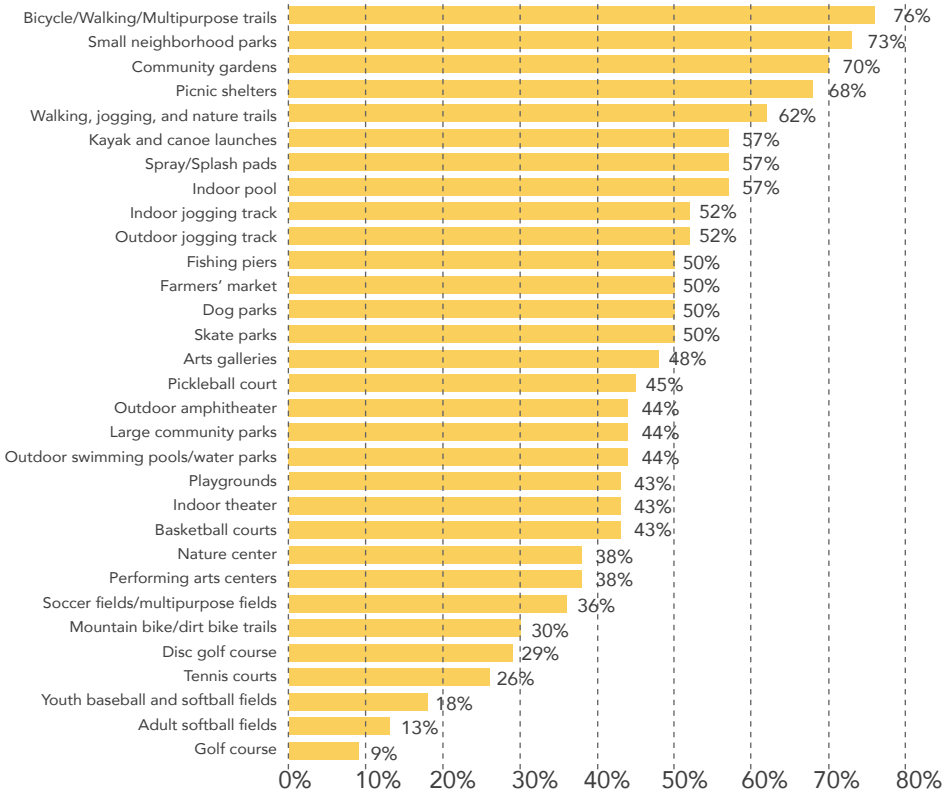
Programs/Activities that are Needed Most - District 4

by number of respondents



Facilities/Amenities that are Needed Most - District 4

by number of respondents



Additional Comments

Participants had opportunities for additional comments:

- It is important to maintain a level of staff to maintain all of our public recreation and cultural areas.
- I would like to see already developed sights with impermeable surfaces re purposed for any new facilities instead of cutting trees and taking away green spaces.
- Overall it seems like there are a lot of places that are underutilized, and some that I didn't know about. I also don't recognize the new names for some of the parks. Education and maintenance may be the most important factors.
- Please build a set of basic pull-up bar & parallel bars in each new park created. Thanks!
- Reach out beyond the I75 corridor to include the new growth into the programs in the city limits. Our city is dying.
- Pools! Less rigid lightning policy. Have slides and diving boards open. Do not close a pool in the summer. Indoor pool would be amazing.
- Play Tennis Gainesville needs leadership and website massive overhaul.
- Walking paths and trails!
- Sports fields and courts.
- Interesting playgrounds and parks that appeal to older children and teens.
- CoG's PRCA staff do a great job. Thank you!
- Considering safety in our neighborhoods, we need law enforcement of speeding/reckless driving.
- More funding, staffing, promotion for Morningside nature center. Use MNC to educate public on green space. Acquire more green space for public use.
- I really am looking forward to a festival site. Somewhere for the medieval Fair to be held each year that could possibly have permanent structure.
- Three senior provisions for improvement are separated paved bike trails, activities that promote mobility, strength, and socialization and educational programs.
- Maintain and improve our nature parks.
- More staff, more maintenance, more free parking before building more new facilities,
- There are many opportunities for the city to look to volunteers instead of expanding staff to accomplish its goals. Unfortunately the City chooses to formalize volunteers in the form of advisory boards and then seems to ignore their advice. There are so many ways we citizens could assist. The City may want to establish some type of volunteer center of its own.
- Need more nature programs for adults.
- More Pickleball courts and get the bums off the sidewalks begging for stuff!
- Please take action to build some really great Pickleball Courts. Thanks
- Thank you for the survey. This is the first time, I am aware of this survey. Wish there are more such opportunities that we can contribute to building a better GNV.
- An online or mailed method to get a Sweetwater Wetlands Park pass would be great. It is a burden for average people to be able to get down to the Thomas Center to buy one of these passes in person. It was extra weird to have to do this during a pandemic, but it is still inconvenient.
- Finish the projects you have in progress. Let the citizens know more about your projects. Answer your phones.
- The array of Parks and Recreational Activities is extremely impressive! Keep up the excellent work! We thank you for your efforts!

- You do a great job. I live in the NW so have a good lifestyle. It is critically important to provide safe stimulating collaborative experiences for low income children and adults via culture and outdoors.
- Work with other government agencies to improve and expand mutual community services. State, County, school board, library district, children's trust, airport authority, University of Florida and Santa Fe. Working together would allow for more efficient use of resources.
- Great job supporting Smooth Flava Dance. Same kind of support needed for the contra dances as the Gainesville Oldtime Dance Society tries to get up and running, again. Also, identify and support other community dancing in town. Maybe P&R could bring together a "dance advisory council" for brain-storming and sharing, etc.
- Maintain what you have, spend the money and take care of the folks who work the programs and pick up the trash. Parks without proper support become unsightly, dangerous and a waste of taxpayer resources.
- Partnerships with already existing spaces; back to basics to take care of what we already have; e.g. water sources for hydration; toilet paper; clean restrooms, no panhandlers/homeless/cigarette/marijuana smoking; routing police patrols to show a visible presence/deterrence to trouble-makers.
- Not much but can find fit adults. Taxes are inordinately high!
- Wild Spaces has helped bring back to life some tired, old parks. Please keep making these improvements so all GNV parks and facilities get a face lift. Thank you for your hard work.
- I love Gainesville and am proud to live here but we need to weigh our desire to be an attractive city with the reality of the funding we have. There are many good projects on the docket, but they all come at a cost and that cost usually falls on the people. So unless there are grants or funding that is not directly falling on the people let's ensure we're not hasty to make ourselves the next great American City, while hurting those that live, work and play in this city. Thank you!
- Lack of crosswalk or sidewalk from Possum Creek to Mile Run. I one time mentioned it to staff and they said it wasn't their problem as that 53rd is not a city street. But if it is a city park, and people nearly get hit all the time trying to cross, then shouldn't the parks department spend time working on a solution. And there is a GRU easement at the backside of MW 68th Ave to get to 4 Creeks preserve and then to San Felasco Park, this was mentioned as well but no traction. Additionally, parks need more benches placed on trails for persons with limited mobility to take more breaks. For Pools the lesson times are not convenient. Additionally, I would rather see a playground removed if it unsafe then left to still stand as is. Some of the older small playgrounds have poor equipment that just is sad. Please Coordinate with other agencies to work on connectivity and walkability to parks via easement such as GRU.
- Thank you for asking for input. Improvement of our soccer facilities and youth and competitive programs would bring value and growth to our city. It is something that is majorly lacking and has had our family considering a move from the city of Gainesville to an area with better soccer facilities. The sport is only growing and Gainesville's limited soccer facilities are atrocious.
- Not much in this survey, that I can discern, was focused on the enhancement and improvements to Downtown Gainesville, in particular (other than Bo Diddley Plaza). The Sweetwater Greenway proposals from the recent City efforts, offer a design, but bringing more services, retail, and civic

commons would be beneficial to help realize the potential. Depot Park & the South Main Street corridor has been a tremendous investment and serves as a springboard to further "inner city" improvements. The West side of town is simply highway sprawl and exurban congestion, and not appealing for a real sense of community, walled off, gated, and disconnected. The new sports stadium, et al, is siphoning energy as well as investment away from the core city district. Bring more of the efforts for cultural development East(ward)!

- I think, adding visible staff/security officers to Parks would be a good use of funds. Also providing additional parking or shuttle buses from a nearby convenient parking lot and there was no mention of recycling and trash bins clearly available.
- Get each small area of the city to join together and encourage community involvement in cleaning up neighborhood, finding fun things to keep kids busy, develop community gardens and nature areas that are walking distance
- We have enjoyed the new and updated parks.
- I see all the money from WSPP going everywhere, but almost none for nature parks. Morningside is in terrible shape. Old schoolhouse walls rotting (only one left of 5 built for African-American communities during depression); main building an outdated slum, bathrooms filthy and inadequate, no maintenance staff.
- The City keeps replacing playgrounds that are good and wasting money. Should be expanding existing playground area instead as many are already over capacity.
- Pickleball Courts are lacking and condition of MLK is in poor shape
- Keep listening
- More music performances in the west side parks and please keep up paving concrete trails next to playgrounds for relatives with limited mobility. The ones at Springtree and Green Acres are wonderful.
- Bring back the farmers' market in Bo Diddley Plaza.

City Leadership Interview Meetings

The Mayor, City Commissioners, and City Manager were provided with the opportunity to be interviewed during the months of August and October of 2022. Each interviewee was asked four questions associated with parks and recreation needs, broader city needs, priorities, and funding strategies. Following is a summary of findings from the interviews.

Parks and Recreation Needs

City leaders identified the following parks and recreation needs:

- Parks are held up as one of the best assets in Gainesville.
- City has done a great job in engaging the community for Wild Places, Public Spaces improvements, which all have been great. City needs to continue improvements.
- Continue pursuing the goal of providing a park for every resident within a 10-minute walk, especially in the SW.
- More and improved programming that is culturally representative of the diversity of the community and tells the story of the community.
- Facilitate partnerships with community members so they can participate in offering programming.
- Depot Park is the gold standard for parks in the City of Gainesville. The City should look to improve the quality, standards, aesthetics, durability, and equipment of parks throughout the parks system and provide a comparable space in each Commission District, especially in the SW.
    - Improve general upkeep of parks, which includes a long-term upkeep and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.
    - Improved safety in parks
    - Improved safe pedestrian and bicycle connections to parks
    - Improved accessibility at parks
    - Additional shade
    - Better lighting
    - Pool in SW
    - Skate Park in MLK
    - Additional athletic field capacity (soccer, baseball fields)
- More trail connectivity to connect all the parks.
- Additional resources to increase programming in parks, staff in parks to enhance services, provide more intentional programming and services, and bring more people together at parks.
    - Programming and events downtown through Cultural Affairs
    - Natural resource-based park and trail programming.
- Provide diverse activities, including additional Pickleball Courts.
- Provide rental equipment at parks such as bikes, basketballs, rackets, etc.
- Provide training on how to provide services to unhoused population and those with special needs.

Citywide Social, Economic, and Environmental Needs and/or Issues:

City leaders identified the following citywide social, economic, and environmental needs and/or issues:

- Racial equity
- Broad opportunity for programming in parks
    - Mentorship, guidance counseling, mental health, community paramedics, health check-up, food, tutoring, economic development

  - Affordability of park programming
  - Transportation to parks and programming
- Affordable housing
- Community safety
- Community trust
- High quality jobs
- Intergovernmental coordination
- Unhoused population
- Lack of opportunities for in-town residents in comparison to students.

Priorities

When asked about the top priorities, City Leaders identified the following priorities:

- Development of a significant Park in SW Gainesville (Including a pool).
- Park system and programming that is sensitive and reflective of the diversity of the community
- Lighting in Parks
- Improvement and upkeep in Parks

Funding

City leaders were mostly supportive of the following funding strategies:

- Parks Bond
- Sales Tax
- General Fund
- User fees
  - Variable rates for residents and non-residents based on ability to pay
- Enterprise Zone
- Capital Improvement Fund
- Park Impact Fees
- Grants
- Hotel/ Motel Tax
- Excise Tax

Focus Group Interview Summary

Focus Group interviews were completed during the months of September through November of 2022 and included the following organizations:

- City Manager's Office Representative with Oversight over the Departments of Sustainable Development, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, Transportation, and Housing
- Office of Equity and Inclusion
- Evergreen Cemetery Association of Gainesville
- Arts in Public Places Trust
- Nature Centers Commission

Each interviewee was asked four questions associated with parks and recreation needs, broader city needs, priorities, and funding strategies. Following is a summary of findings from the interviews.

Parks and Recreation Needs

Focus Group interviewees identified the following parks and recreation needs:

- The City currently has Level of Service (LOS) Targets and need to develop per capita Park Facility LOS Recommendations.
- City has a great parks and trails system that continues to be improved.
- Equitable investment of park funds throughout the parks system and in parks with a high utilization.
- Better Parks, which requires commitment from the City to other parks besides Depot Park. Need to improve Park conditions and install the correct facilities and amenities to increase utilization. Need:

General Park System Improvements:

- Sidewalks
- Universal accessibility in parks
- Pickleball Courts
- Youth programming
- More indoor gyms with elevated walking tracks and opportunities for additional programming
- Better awareness of programming

Evergreen Cemetery Association

- Arboretum with signage and wayfinding
- Columbarium
- Rehabilitation of Office Space and Bathrooms
- Signage and wayfinding from nearby trails and parks that make residents aware of the presence of the cemetery
- More historical and cultural cemetery-based programming
- Promotion of Birdwatching opportunities
- Policies to make the Cemetery a "Green Cemetery "

Arts in Public Places

- Updated Arts Master Plan
- City point person, funding, and implementation strategy for public art including allocating a certain percentage of capital project funds to go to public art – 1-2% of Wild Spaces/Public Places funding.
- Youth Art Programming
- Existing maintenance and funding of public art

Nature Centers Commission

- Staffing and resources for Natural Resource Management in natural and conservation areas such as controlled burns, mechanical burns, and other important management strategies; Creek and stream bank restoration.
- Staff training/continue education and better interagency coordination
- As development continues, include requirements for developers to set aside land for parks and conservation areas or that they build new parks.
- Use of native plants

Citywide Social, Economic, and Environmental Needs and/or Issues:

Focus Group interviewees identified the following citywide social, economic, and environmental needs and/or issues:

- Economic segregation and disparity in economic development opportunities between East and West Gainesville
- Affordable Housing
- Community safety
- Health and Wellness

Priorities

When asked about the top priorities, focus group interviewees identified the following priorities:

- Explore the role of parks in reducing economic and social disparity (e.g., providing parks close to housing, linked to transportation, health and wellness, and other city services opportunities.)
- Commit to parks and recreation and ensure that we are providing high-quality, equitable parks and programs that are desirable and financially accessible to the community.

Evergreen Cemetery Association

- Arboretum with signage and wayfinding
- Rehabilitation of Office Space with small conference room
- Columbarium

Arts in Public Places

- Ordinance granting funding for Arts in Public Places
- Update/Refine Arts Master Plan
- Implement Arts Master Plan including Arts Council

Nature Centers Commission

- Staffing and resources for Natural Resource Management
- Community outreach and education
- Improved access and quality of access and transforming parks to be a center piece in the community.

Funding

Focus group interviews were mostly supportive of the following funding strategies:

- Sales Tax, Wild Spaces/Public Places
- Legislation to raise impact fees.
- Parks Bond
- Parks District
- Excise Tax

District Public Meetings

Overview

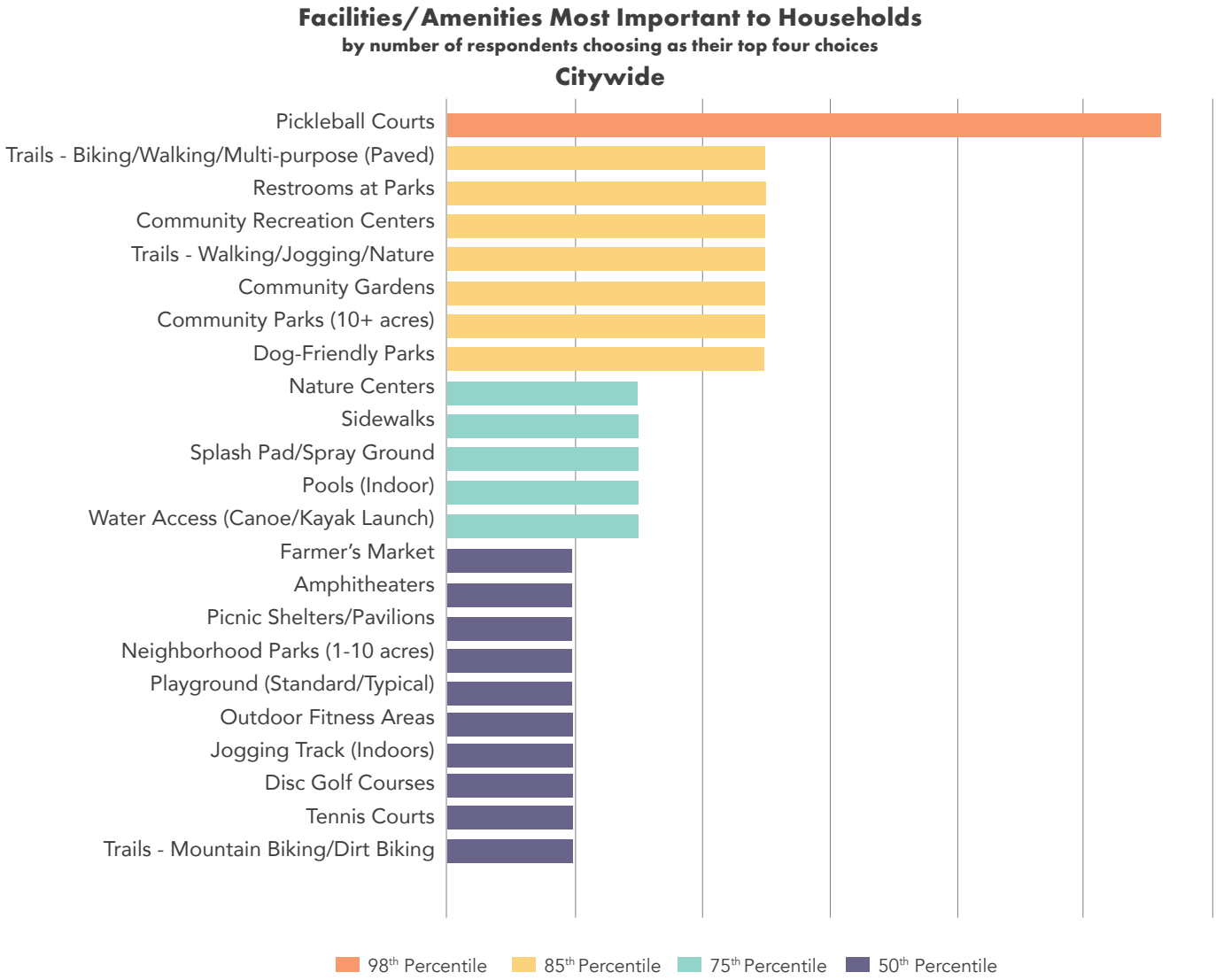
Seven public meetings were hosted by the City to gather resident input about parks, recreation, and cultural needs and priorities of residents:

- Monday, October 24, 2022 – District 1 | Clerence R. Kelly Center – 700 NE 8th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32641
- Tuesday, October 25, 2022 – District 2 | Senior Recreation Center/ Northside Park - 5701 NW 34th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32653
- Wednesday, October 26, 2022 – District 3 | Forest Park - 4501 SW 20th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32607
- Thursday, October 27, 2022 – District 4 | Albert "Ray" Massey Park - 1001 NW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32605
- Thursday, January 5, 2023 – District 1 | Duval Early Learning Center - 2106 NE 8th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32641
- Monday, January 9, 2023 – District 2 | Senior Recreation Center/ Northside Park - 5701 NW 34th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32653
- Tuesday, January 10, 2023 – District 3, 4 | A. Quinn Jones School - 1108 NW 7th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Over 80 participants attended to learn about the project and provide their input. Attendees participated in eight interactive exercises. Following is a description of the exercises and the findings per Commission District.

Facilities Priorities

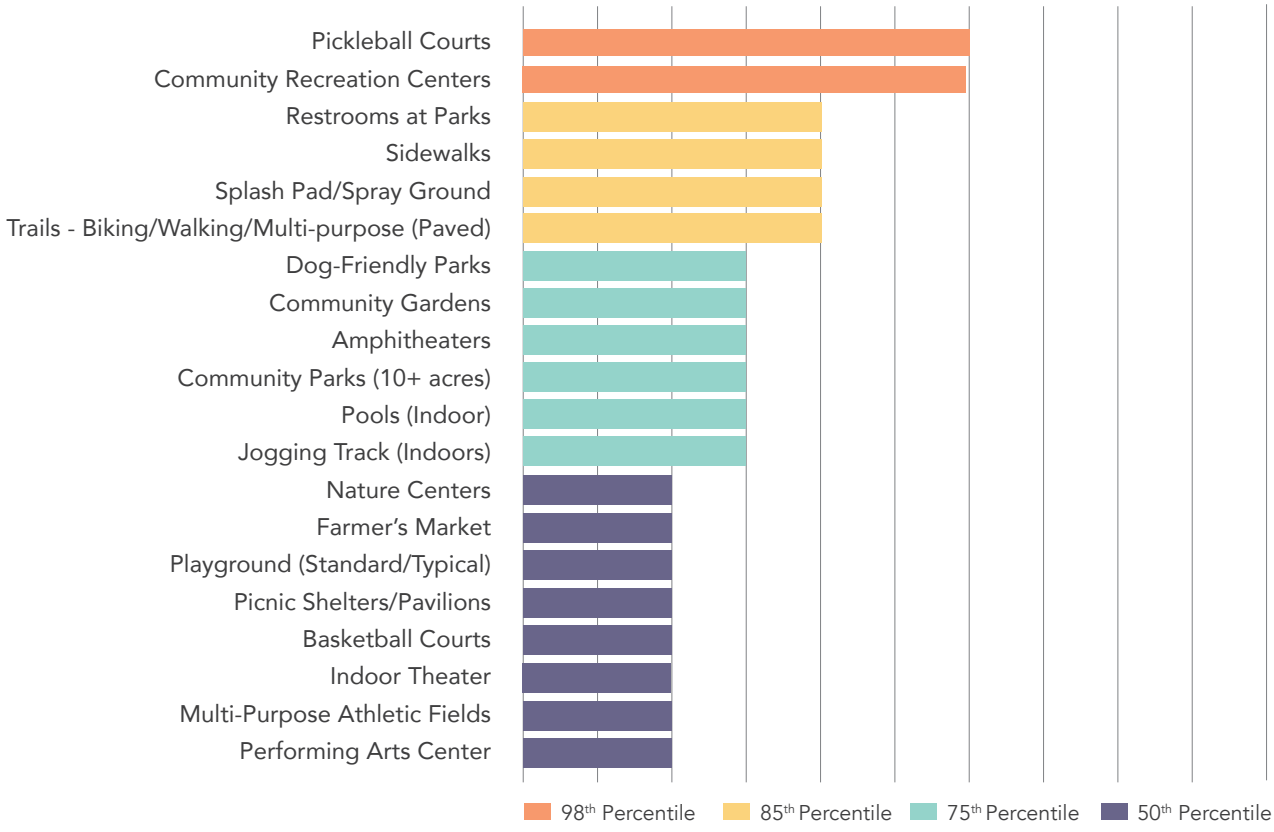
Based on a matrix with images and names of over 37 facilities and amenities, participants were asked to place a dot on the facilities and amenities that they believed were important, but not adequately provided in the city. Following are the findings citywide and per Commission District.



Facilities/Amenities Most Important to Households

by number of respondents choosing as their top four choices

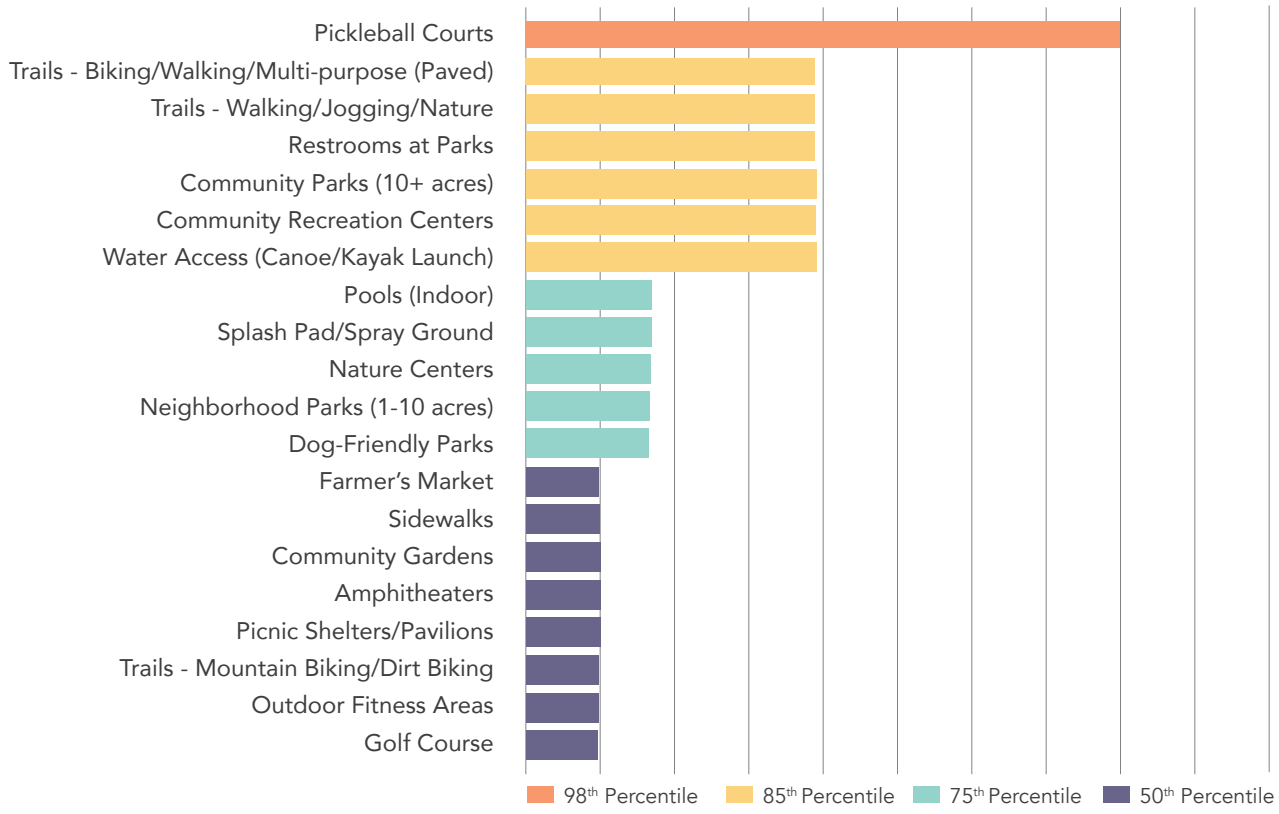
District 1



Facilities/Amenities Most Important to Households

by number of respondents choosing as their top four choices

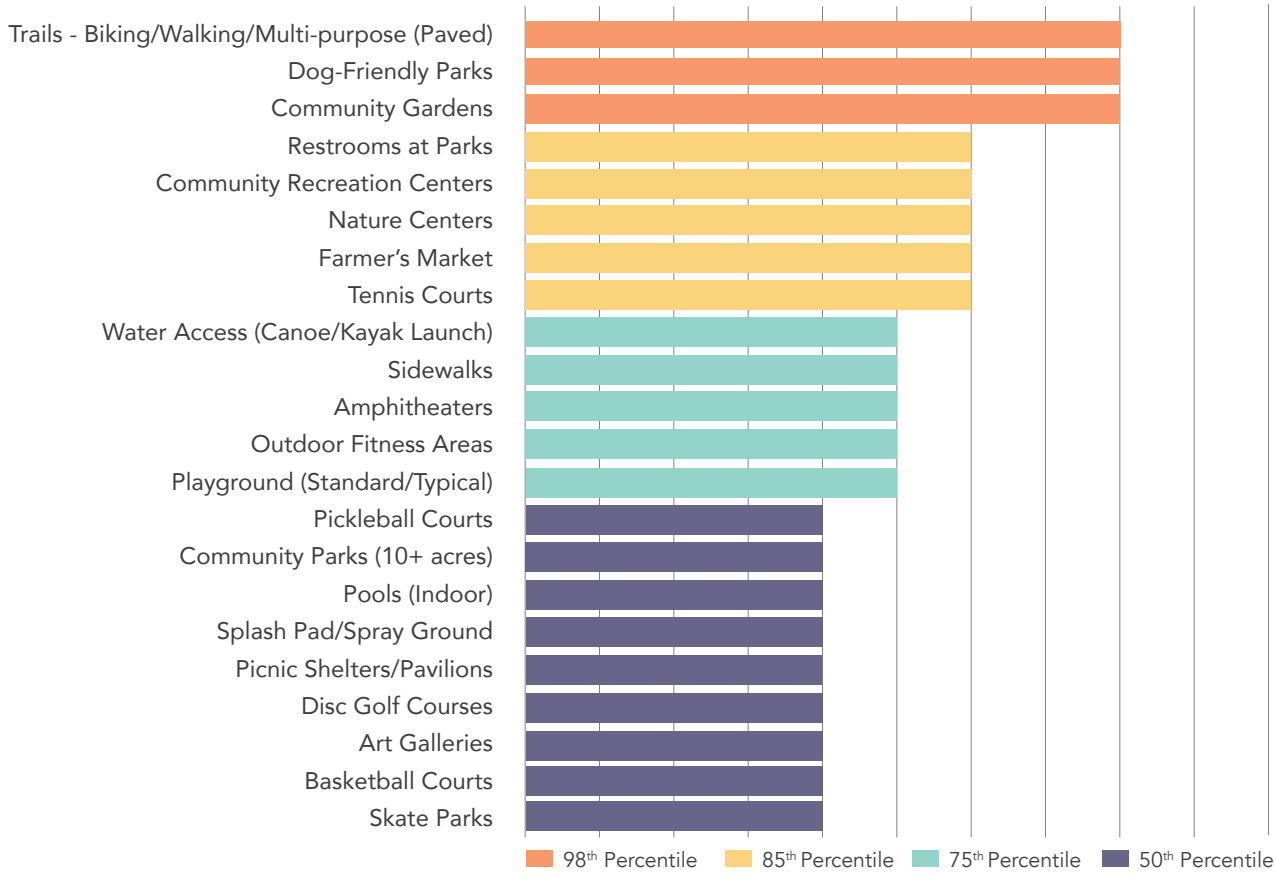
District 2



Facilities/Amenities Most Important to Households

by number of respondents choosing as their top four choices

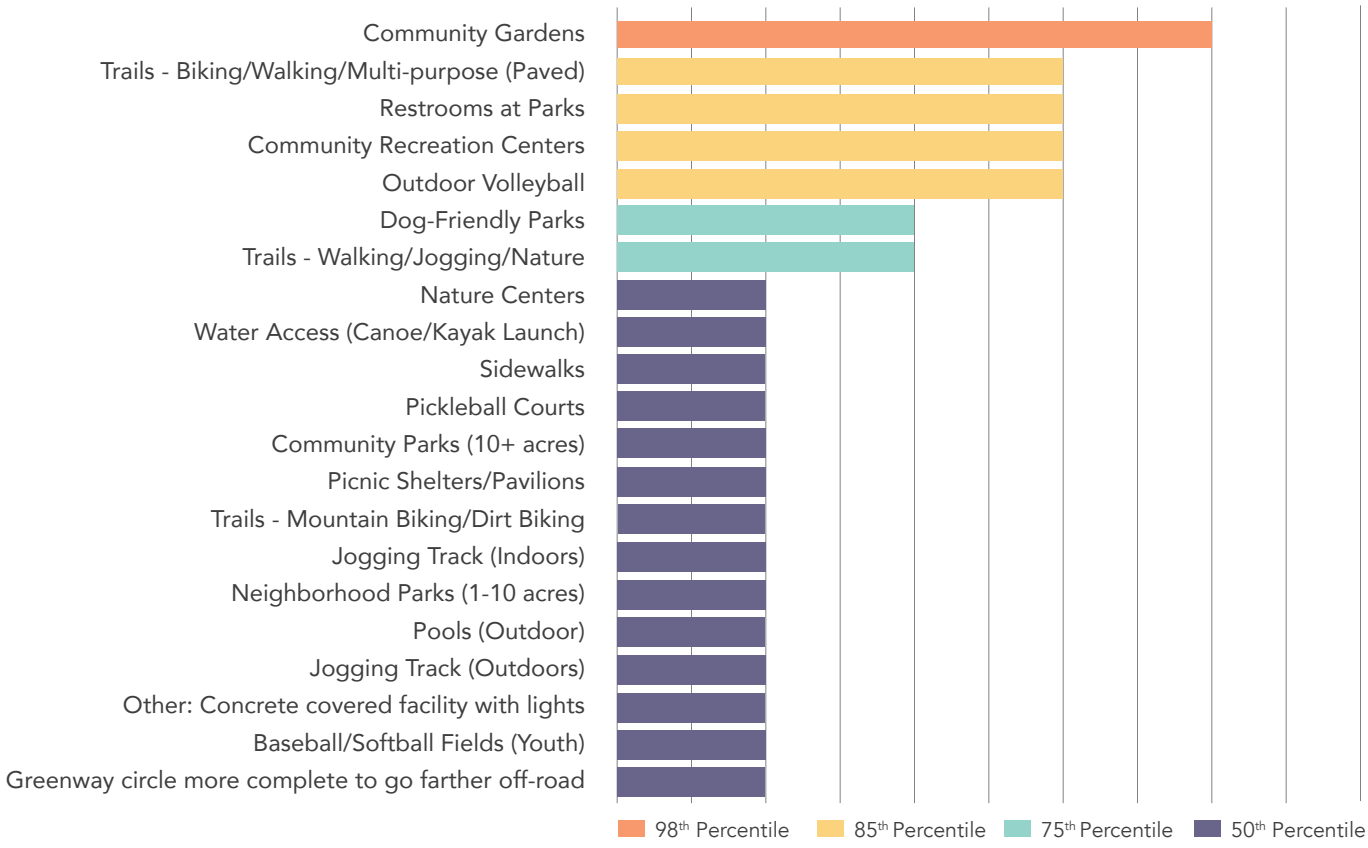
District 3



Facilities/Amenities Most Important to Households

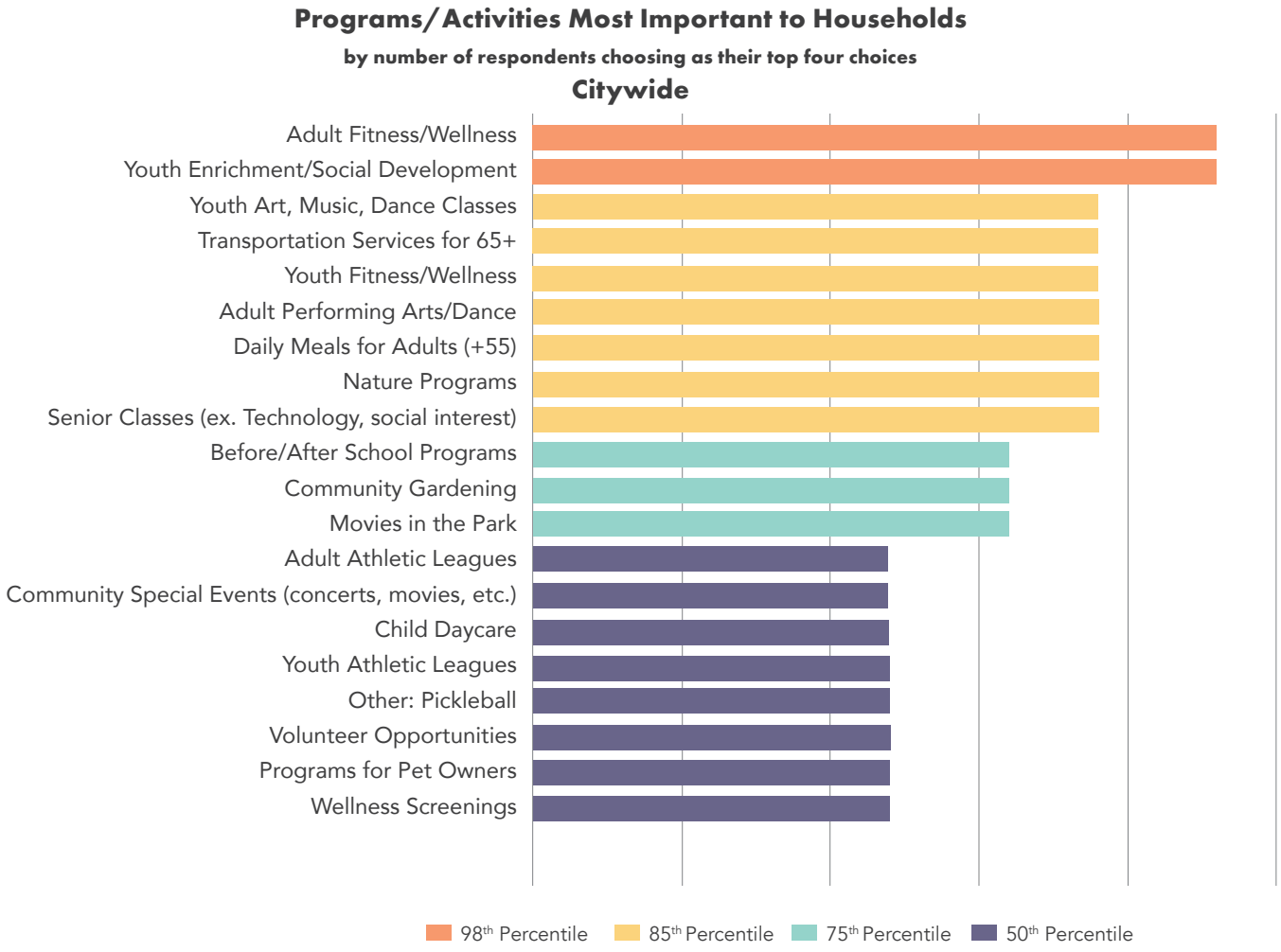
by number of respondents choosing as their top four choices

District 4



Program Priorities

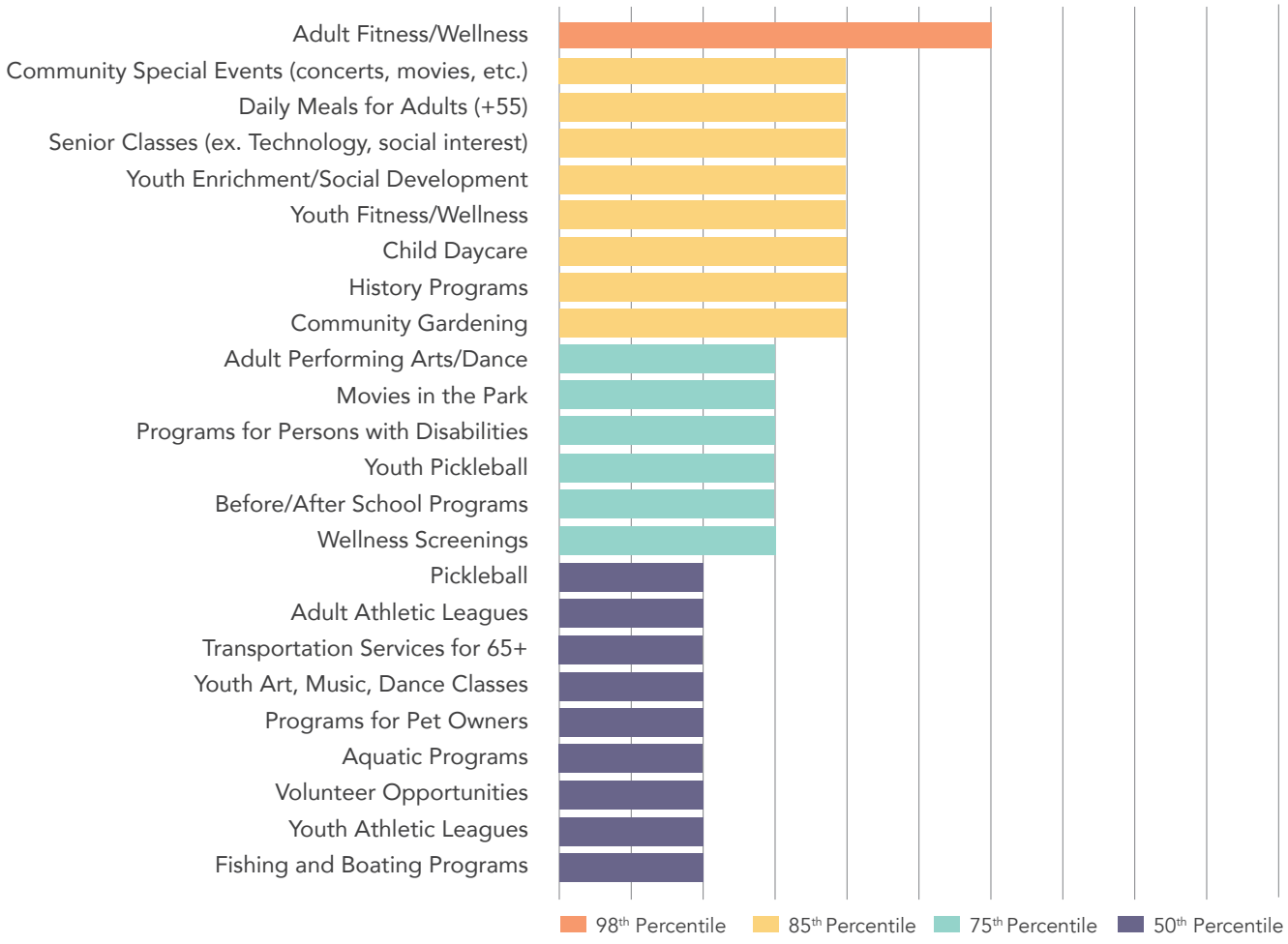
Based on a matrix with images and names of over 34 programs and activities, participants were asked to place a dot on the programs and activities that they believed were important, but not adequately provided in the city. Following are the findings citywide and per Commission District.



Programs/Activities Most Important to Households

by number of respondents choosing as their top four choices

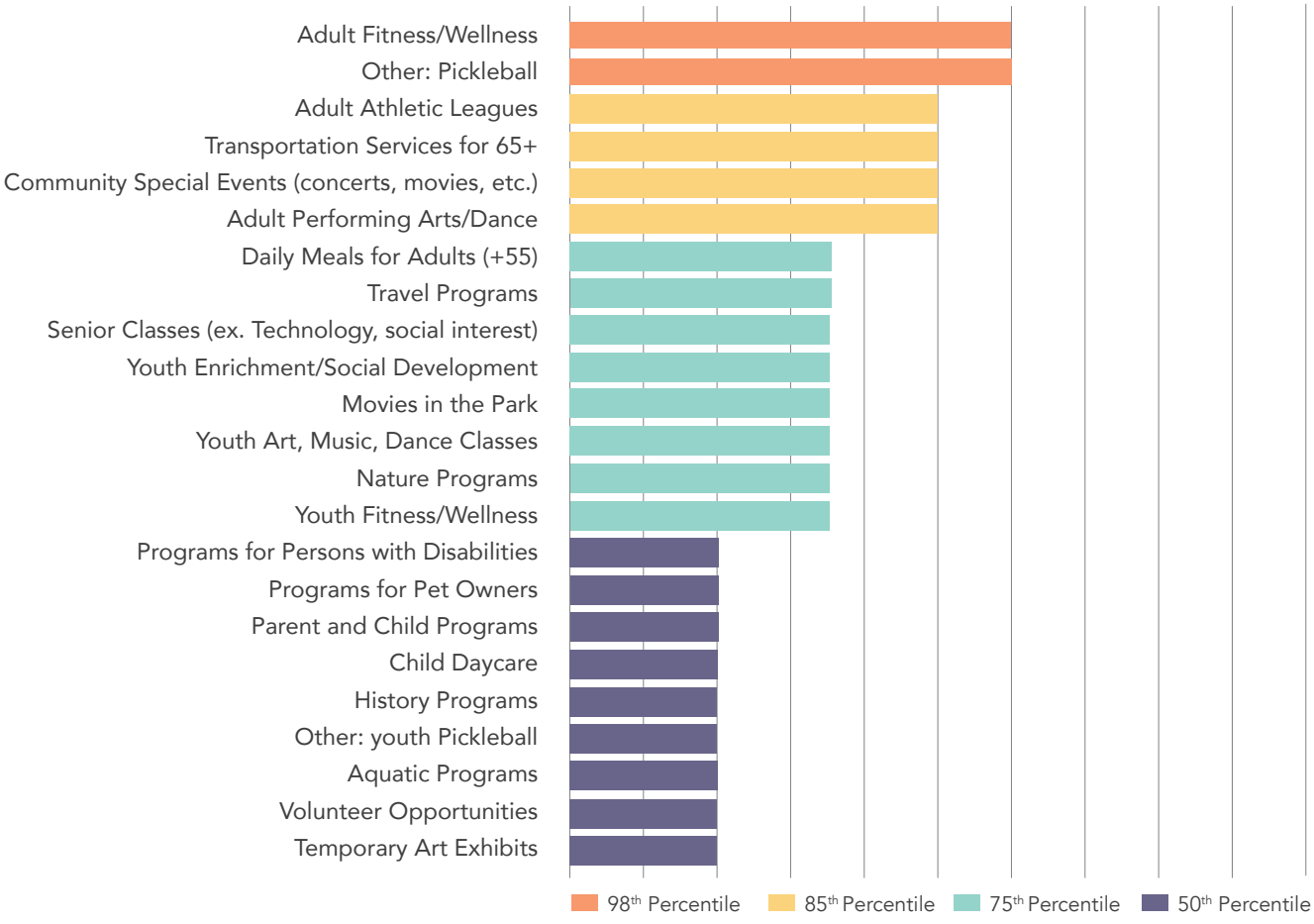
District 1



Programs/Activities Most Important to Households

by number of respondents choosing as their top four choices

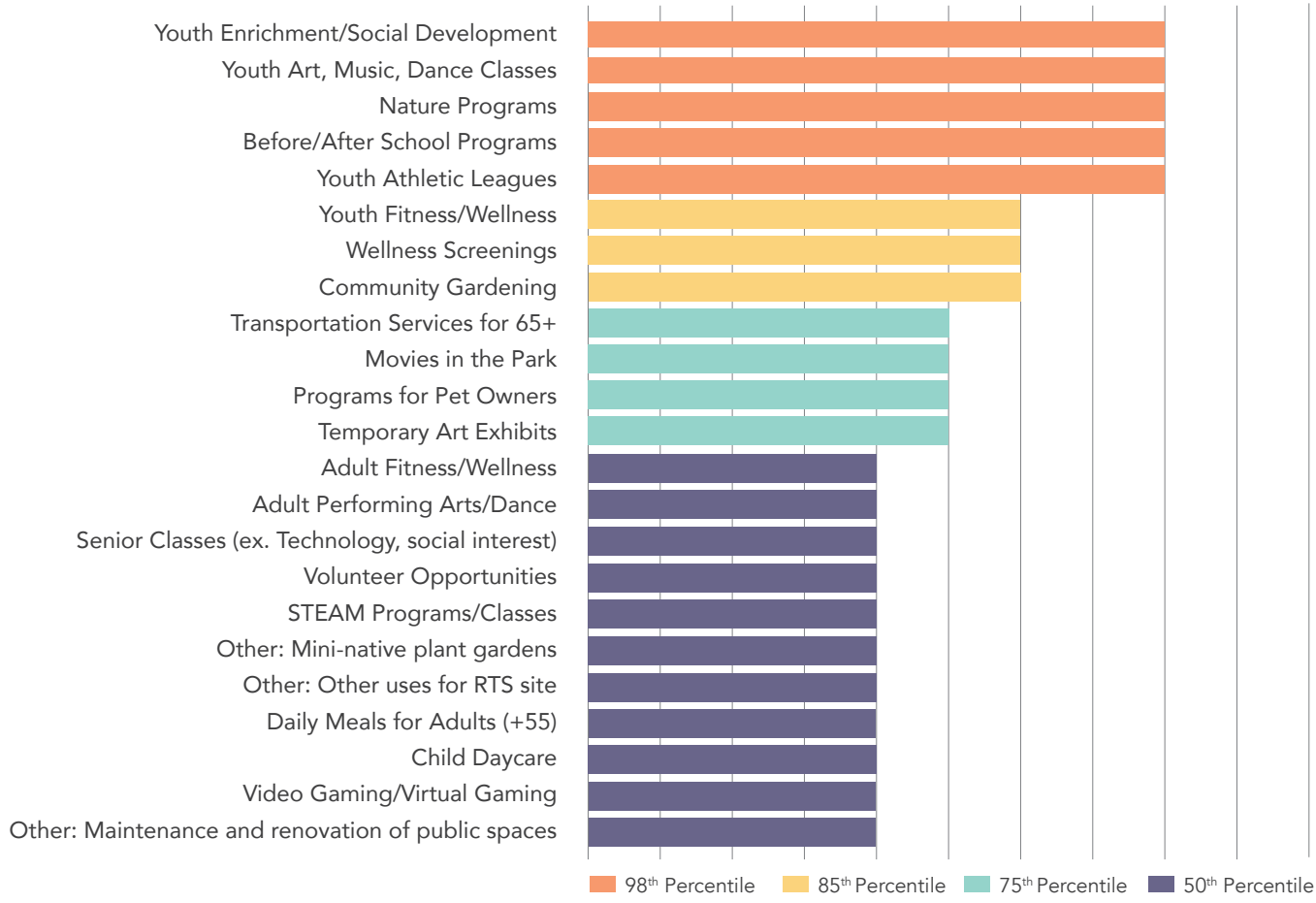
District 2



Programs/Activities Most Important to Households

by number of respondents choosing as their top four choices

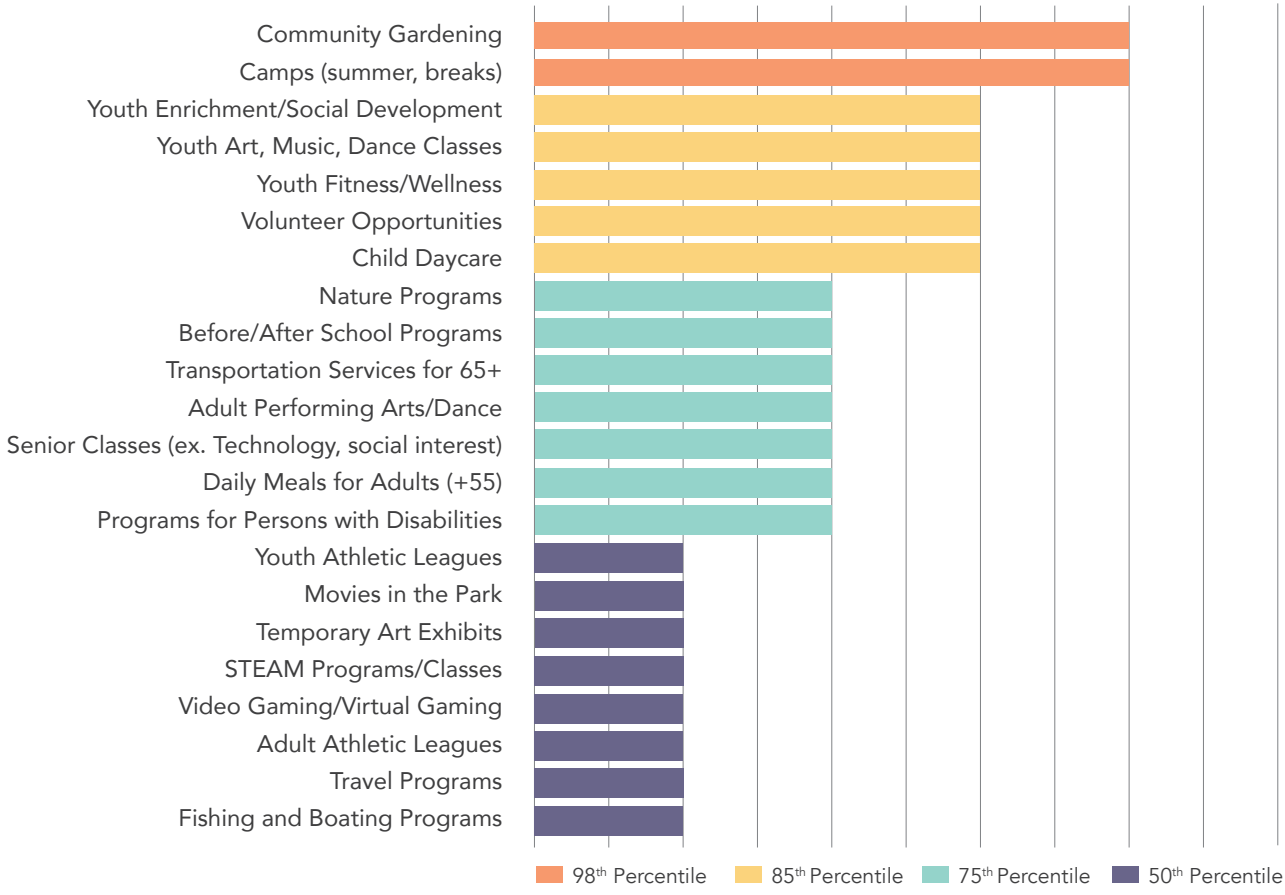
District 3



Programs/Activities Most Important to Households

by number of respondents choosing as their top four choices

District 4



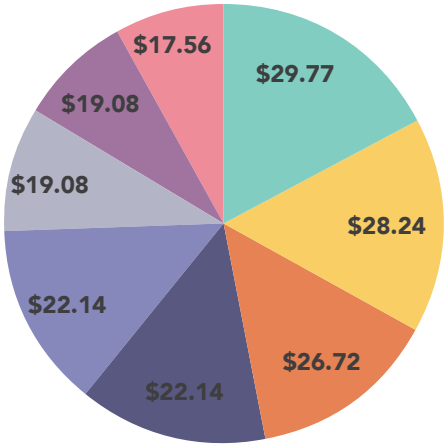
Allocation of Funds: Facilities

Respondents were asked to allocate a hypothetical $100 budget for parks and recreation improvements. The highest amount of funding city wide, on average, was $29.77 for improvements/ maintenance of existing parks, pools, sports, cultural, and recreation facilities followed by $28.24 for the development of new parks and recreation facilities and $26.72 for the acquisition and development of a new indoor recreation facility.

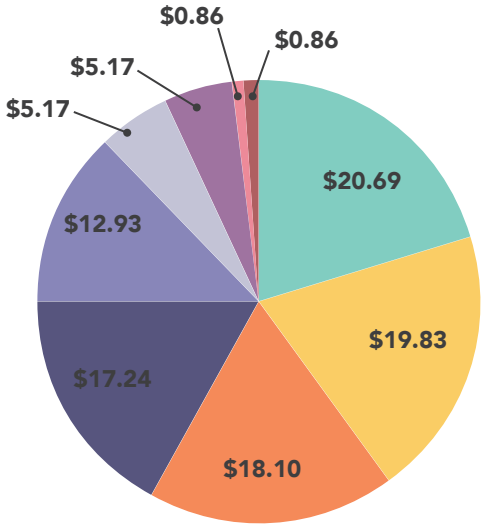
If You Had A Budget of $100 For Services Provided By the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department, How Would You Allocate the Funds Among the Categories Listed Below?

by percentage of respondents

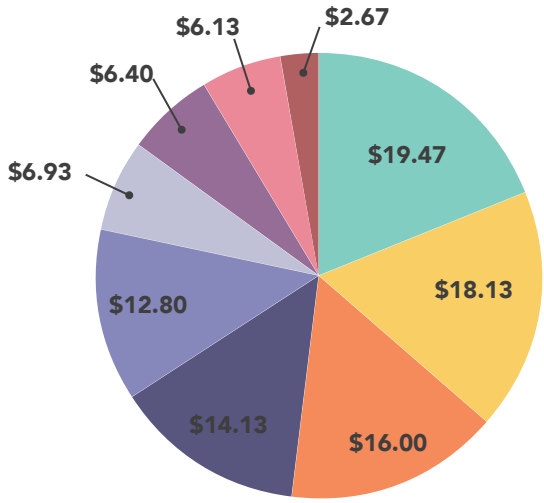
City Wide Total



District 1 Total

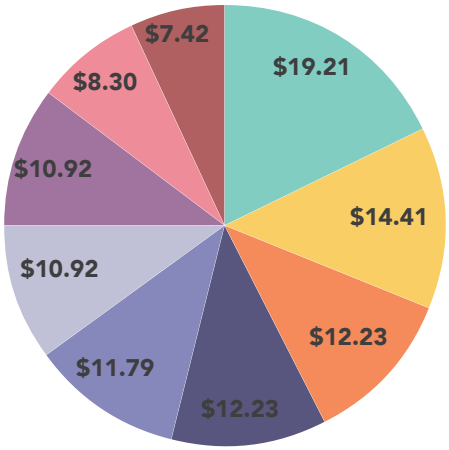


District 2 Total



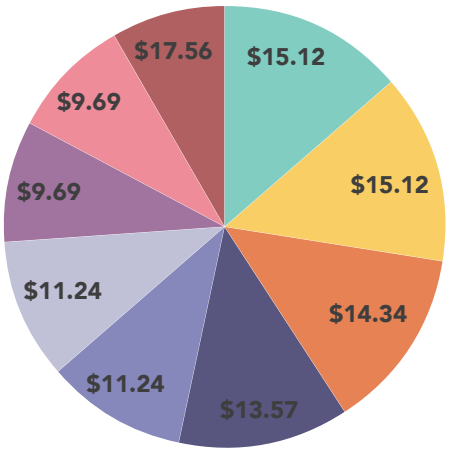
- Development of New Park Facilities (ex. athletic fields, playgrounds, restrooms, etc.) in Existing Parks
- Development of New Indoor Recreation Centers
- Improvements to Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Development of New Walking and Biking Facilities (paved and/or unpaved paths)
- Acquiring New Park Land
- Other
- Improvements to Existing Indoor Recreation Centers (ex. repairs, replacements, or renovations)
- Facilities
- Wildlife Corridors Linking Parks

District 3 Total



- Improvements to Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Development of New Walking and Biking Facilities (paved and/or unpaved paths)
- Development of New Park Facilities (ex. athletic fields, playgrounds, restrooms, etc.) in Existing Parks
- Acquiring New Park Land
- Improvements/maintenance to Existing Walking and Biking Facilities
- Other
- Senior Programming, Centers, Arts, and Wellness
- Development of New Indoor Recreation Centers
- Improvements to Existing Indoor Recreation Centers (ex. repairs, replacements, or renovations)

District 4 Total



- Improvements to Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Development of New Walking and Biking Facilities (paved and/or unpaved paths)
- Acquiring New Park Land
- Improvements/maintenance to Existing Walking and Biking Facilities
- Development of New Park Facilities (ex. athletic fields, playgrounds, restrooms, etc.) in Existing Parks
- Development of New Indoor Recreation Centers
- Other
- Senior Programming, Centers, Arts, and Wellness
- Improvements to Existing Indoor Recreation Centers (ex. repairs, replacements, or renovations)

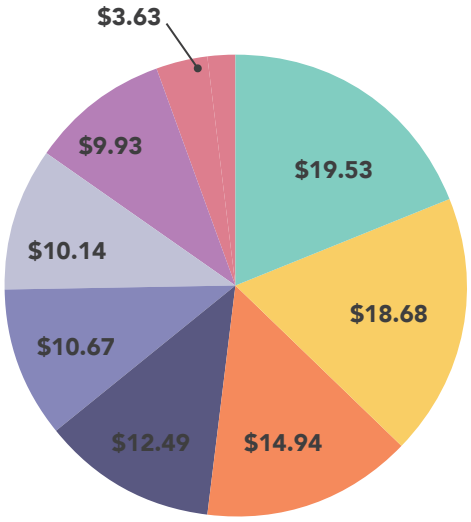
Allocation of Funds: Programs

Respondents were asked to allocate a hypothetical $100 budget for parks and recreation programs. The highest amount of funding, city wide, on average was $19.53 for additional adult athletic programs/leagues, followed by $18.86 for increased staff to improve maintenance of parks and facilities, and $14.94 for additional youth recreation programs and/or classes.

If You Had A Budget of $100 For Services Provided By the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department, How Would You Allocate the Funds Among the Categories Listed Below?

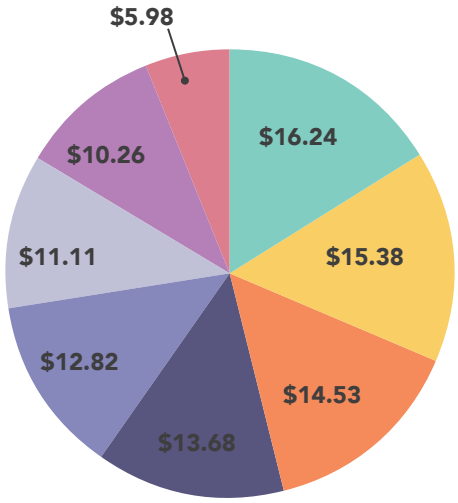
by percentage of respondents

City Wide Total



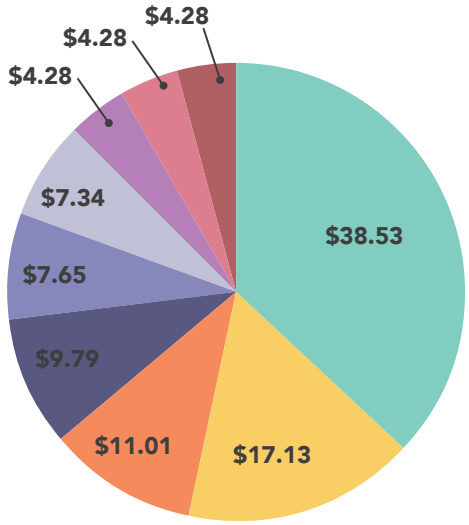
- Additional Adult Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Increase Staff to Improve Maintenance of Parks and Facilities (additional cleaning, mowing, tree trimming, etc.)
- Additional Youth Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Additional Youth Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Additional Adult Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Additional Senior Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Increase Frequency of Programs/Classes and/or Extend Hours of Programming
- Other

District 1 Total



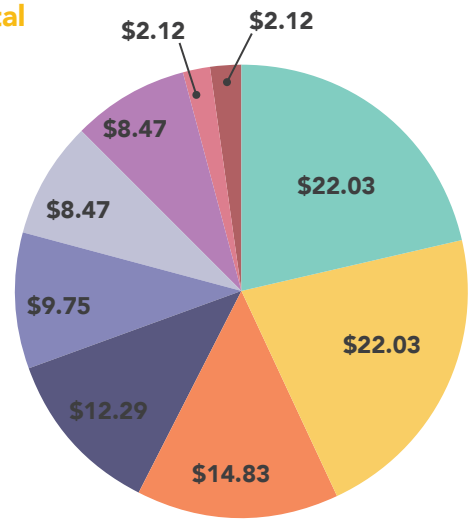
- Additional Youth Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Increase Staff to Improve Maintenance of Parks and Facilities (additional cleaning, mowing, tree trimming, etc.)
- Increase Frequency of Programs/Classes and/or Extend Hours of Programming
- Additional Adult Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Additional Youth Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Additional Adult Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Additional Senior Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Other

District 2 Total



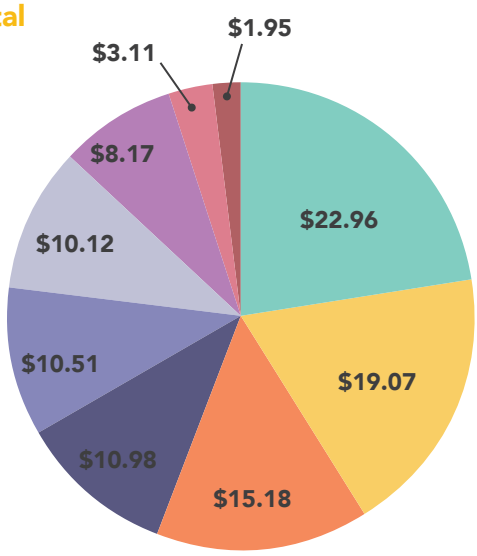
- Additional Adult Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Increase Staff to Improve Maintenance of Parks and Facilities (additional cleaning, mowing, tree trimming, etc.)
- Additional Senior Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Additional Adult Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Increase Frequency of Programs/Classes and/or Extend Hours of Programming
- Additional Youth Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Additional Youth Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Other
- Other - Programming for homeschool students, car transportation for impaired mobility, improve park safety, pickleball

District 3 Total



- Additional Youth Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Increase Staff to Improve Maintenance of Parks and Facilities (additional cleaning, mowing, tree trimming, etc.)
- Additional Youth Recreation Programs and/or Classes
- Additional Adult Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Increase Frequency of Programs/Classes and/or Extend Hours of Programming
- Additional Senior Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Additional Adult Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Other
- Other - Additional open centers for art making, business center for local artists

District 4 Total



- Additional Youth Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Increase Staff to Improve Maintenance of Parks and Facilities (additional cleaning, mowing, tree trimming, etc.)
- Additional Youth Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Increase Frequency of Programs/Classes and/or Extend Hours of Programming
- Additional Senior Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Additional Adult Recreation Programs and/or Classes (excluding athletics)
- Additional Adult Athletic Programs/Leagues
- Other
- Other - Additional open centers for artmaking, business center for local artists

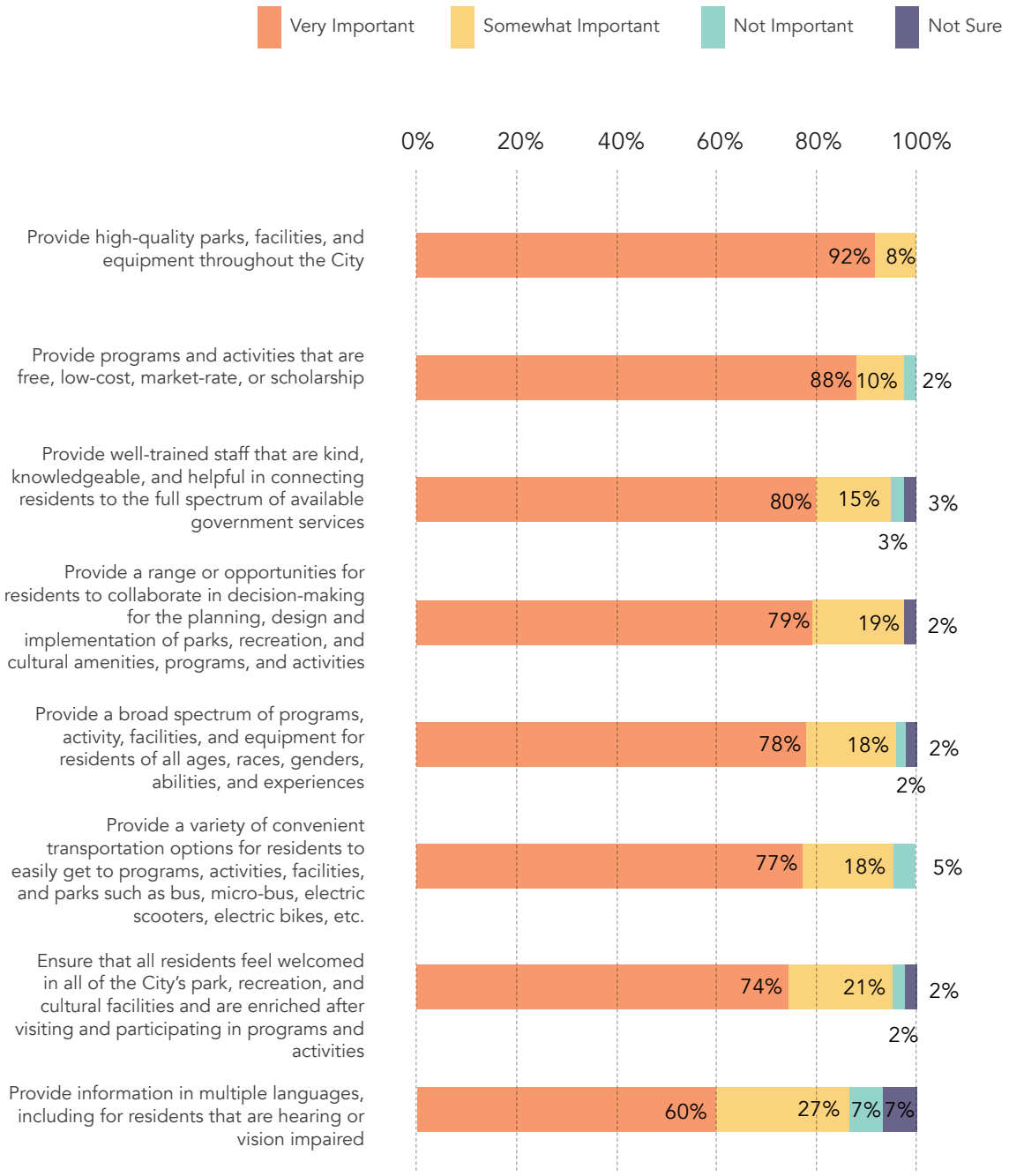
Equity Strategies

Participants were asked to rate the importance of various ways that the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department could help address racial, gender, and age inequities. They were provided a list of possible strategies and asked to place a dot on how important the strategies were to their household. If they felt that a strategy was missing from the list, they were instructed to add it to the "Others" box. Following are findings citywide and per Commission District.

Please rate the importance of the following ways that the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department can help address racial, gender, and age inequities

by number of respondents

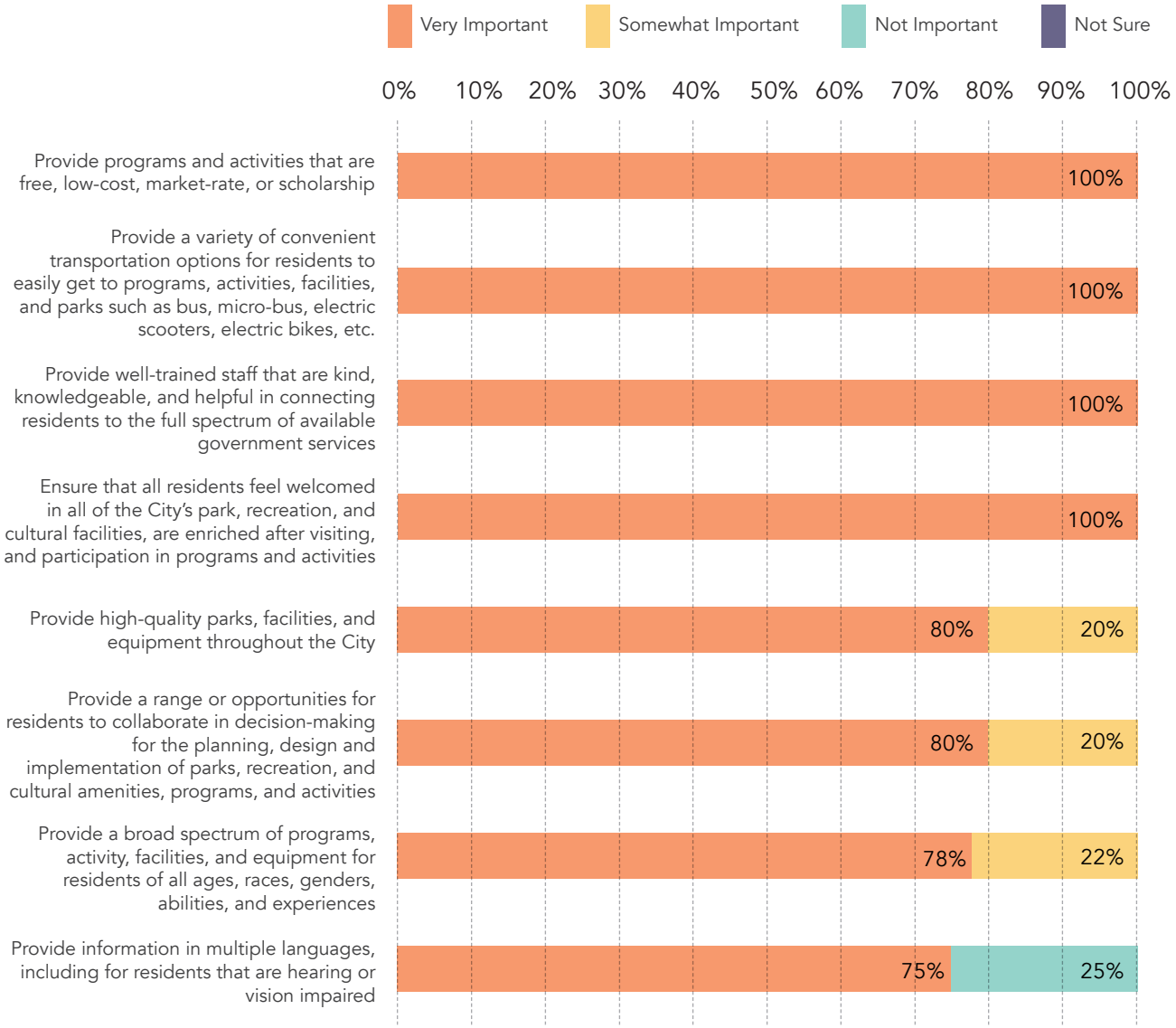
Citywide Results



Please rate the importance of the following ways that the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department can help address racial, gender, and age inequities

by number of respondents

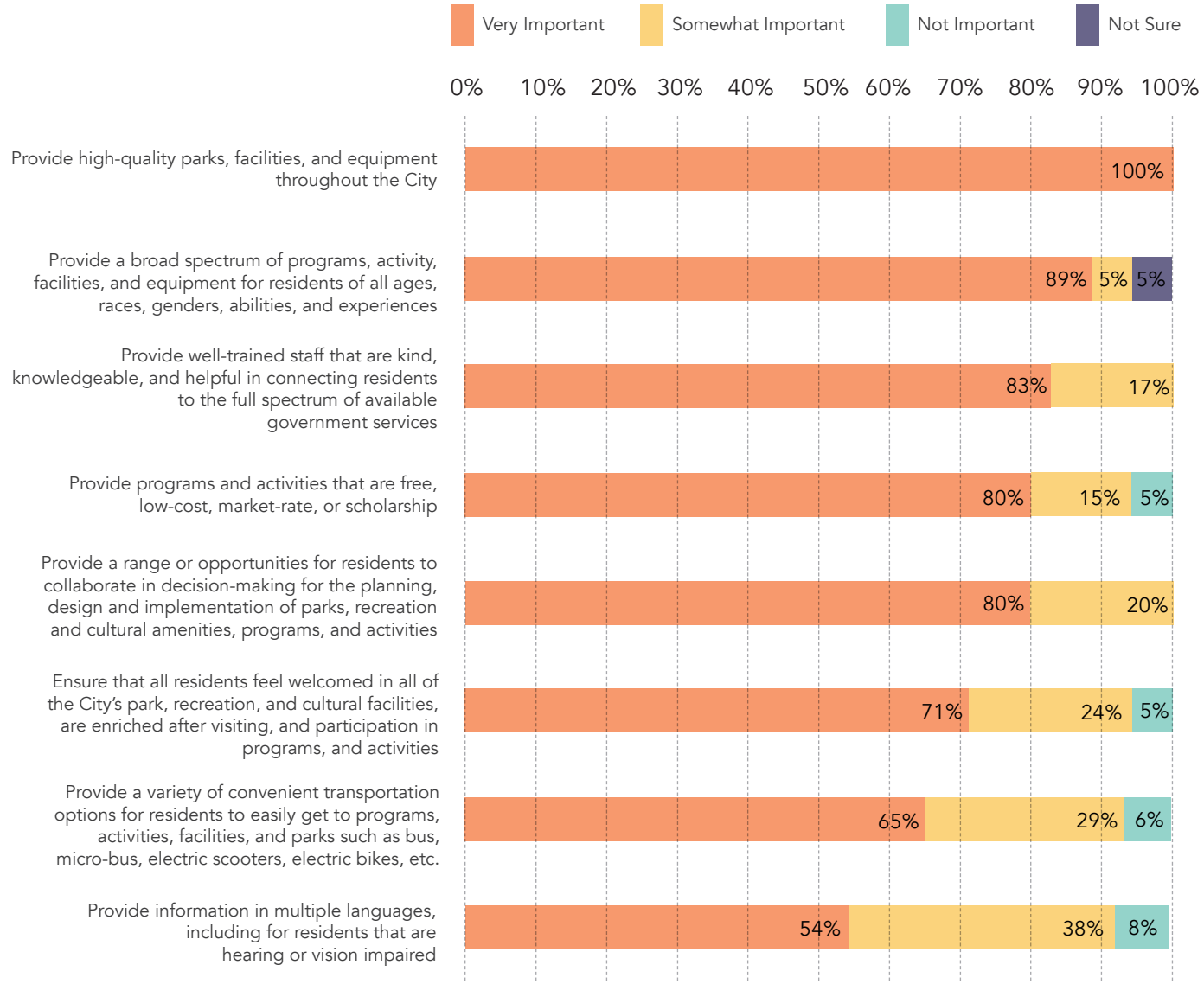
District 1 Meetings



Please rate the importance of the following ways that the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department can help address racial, gender, and age inequities

by number of respondents

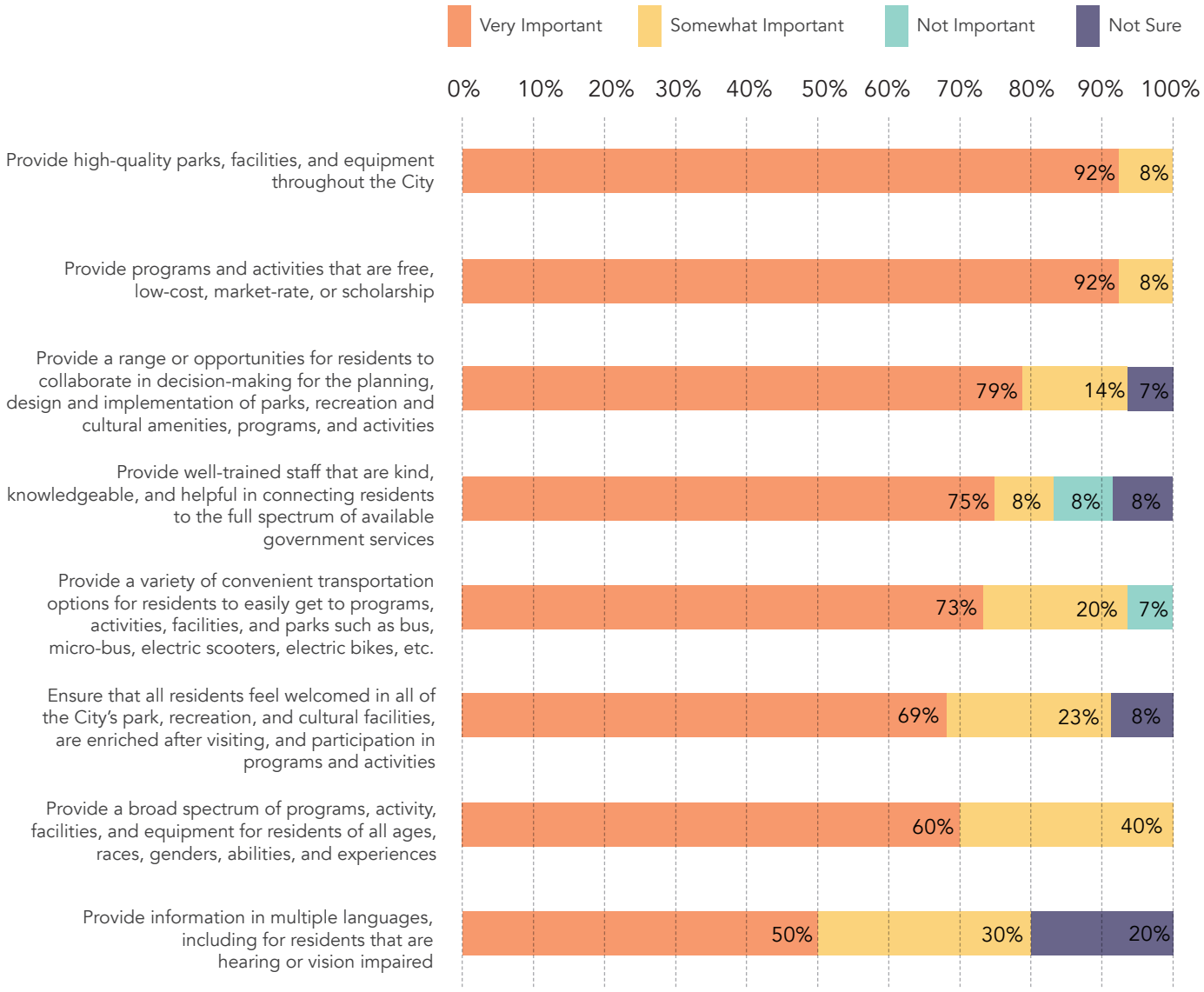
District 2 Meetings



Please rate the importance of the following ways that the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department can help address racial, gender, and age inequities

by number of respondents

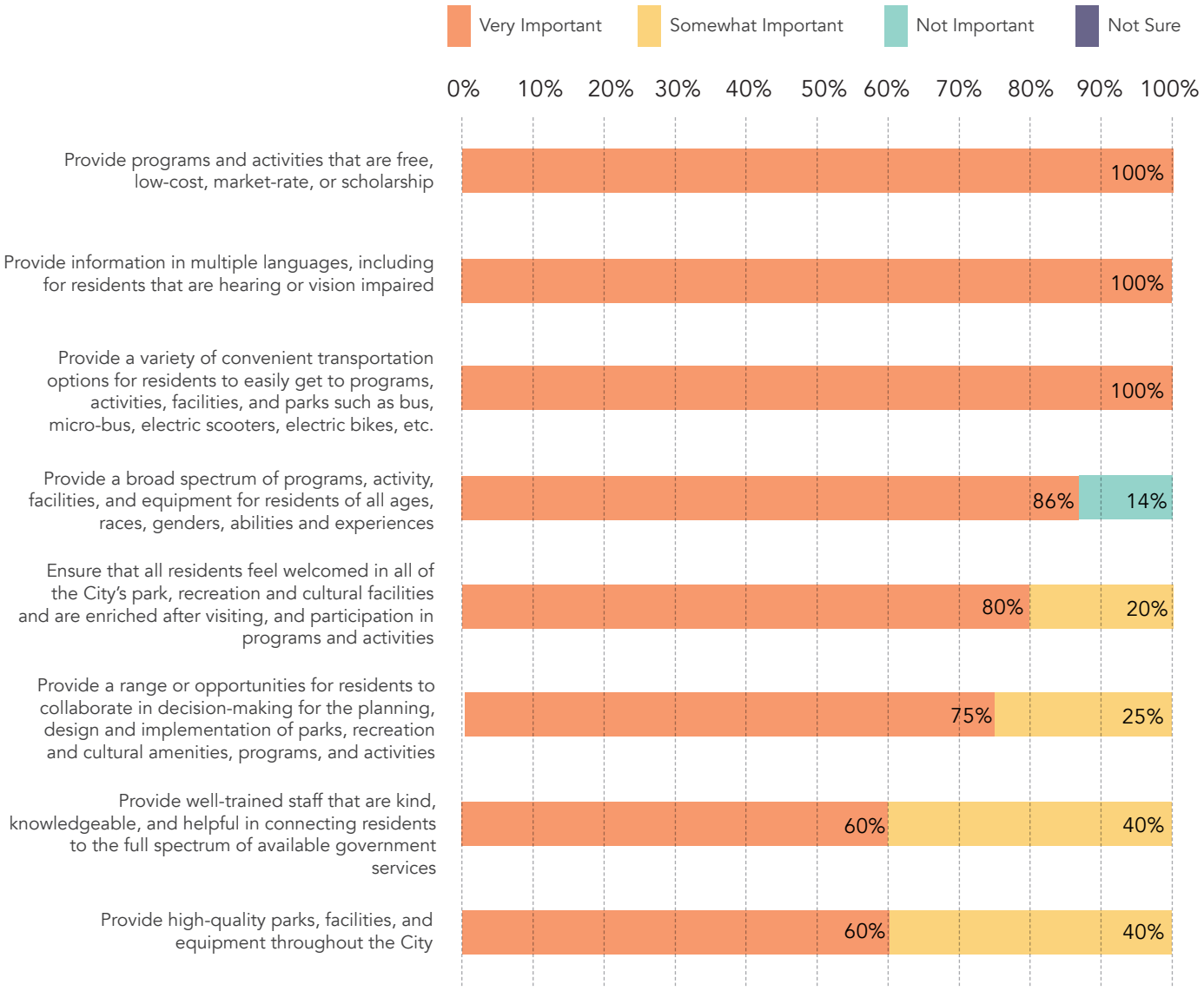
District 3 Meetings



Please rate the importance of the following ways that the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department can help address racial, gender, and age inequities

by number of respondents

District 4 Meetings



Facility Equity Exercise Comments

Participants were asked "In what parks and recreation centers do we need to do a better job?" and had opportunities for additional comments during the Public Meetings. These sessions identified which parks and recreation centers that the public find lacking:

- Make all parks ADA accessible
- Eastside Community Center Co-located w/ public library, underutilized resource
- Park needs staff and programming
- Library should be open on Sunday and have better internet
- Senior services, yoga classes and mental health
- Cora Roberson Park needs lighting
- A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center - needs more storage, free up 2nd bathroom
- Thelma Boltin Center preserve and save the entire building, historic site and significant in several ways
- Senior Recreation Center - better hours (open on weekends)

- Northside Park - make all dedicated Pickleball Courts with partial covered stadium seating, Only 4 pickleball courts in all of Gainesville
- Convert tennis courts to Pickleball and cover them
- Funding for covered courts could come from WSPP funds
- MLK - upgrade facility
- Tom Petty Park Pickleball permanent Courts
- Citizen Field - rebuild
- Bivens Arms Nature Park - Mobility challenges - please add a cart service.
- Albert "Ray" Massey Park - I would love to see a soccer complex come to 16th Avenue and between 13th/34th Street. Quality to Jonesville. Lots of Gainesville parents drive out to Jonesville multiple times per week
- Morningside Nature Center - need help walking there
- Senior center - needs more dedicated courts! Covered and/or indoor facilities
- Northside Park - More dedicated Pickleball Courts - covered
- Kiwanis Challenge Track needs to be re-surfaced
- A lot of folks use this track who have disabilities
- Cone park - model park!
- Covered Pickleball Courts courts at #3 with lights
- Forrest Park - dedicated Pickleball Courts since most seniors play
- Westside Park - Dedicated Pickleball Courts (currently bring own nets) since most seniors play
- Cofrin Park - better parking/access
- Albert Ray Massey Park - Pickleball Courts
- Bathrooms at Reserve, Unity

- Bathrooms next to Albert Ray Tennis Courts
- Bo Diddley Plaza
- Thomas Center
- TB McPherson Park
- Possum Creek Park
- Citizens Field - Major improvements needed
- Rosa B Williams - Improve it and make available regularly for afterschool programs
- Depot Park - Expand to RTS 10 acres for more youth facilities. Buy Stringfellow property beside the park for a full range of activities and gardens on the property as well as overflow parking
- Thelma Bolton Center

Participants were also asked "How and where can we improve transportation options?".We received the following responses:

- More Senior Programming - how can we communicate about it so people know? Transportation?
- More food options - higher quality grocery
- Fred Cone/East side community center - frequency of public transportation is limited by # of routes, especially weekends
- Adjacent to public library which makes it a "center" of sorts that could also benefit
- East side community center - arts and youth athletic programs
- More permanent PB courts
- Depot Park - insufficient parking, Large area to walk if somewhat unsteady (can service be provided?). Too many fire ants for sitting on ground. Not enough picnic tables, pizza truck is great though
- Morningside Nature Center - great park, great parking, hard to walk if unsteady
- More parking at Bo Diddley
- More Pickleball Courts (covered and throughout the city)
- Parking needed for smaller parks
- Parking at Depot Park
- Fred Cone Park and Sweetwater Branch - Accessibility to parks
- Expand private bus system to low SES areas
- Better bike and off-street access
- Parking at Split Rock
- Every park should have an RTS bus stop that should include benches and a covered area to protect from the sun and rain
- Every park should be accessible by bike/ pedestrian trails (off-road)

General Comments: What Else Is On Your Mind?

Participants had opportunities for additional comments during each Public Meeting:

- We need permanent Pickle Ball Courts - there are too many variables in sharing courts
- Bicycle deaths are a concern
- LGBTQ safety in the parks and public spaces for all ages

- Make spaces age friendly for young and old
- Youth Mental Health - having opportunities for youth to be able to express themselves and be with peers
- More public art events in east Gainesville VS downtown
- Subsidize makers spacers, quality incubator spaces
- Arts district that develops artists, dance studios
- Use of vacant spaces that are available for artists
- Extension of all trails north of NW 16th to 23rd Ave and further if possible
- Remove the "concrete" paths around Westside park
- Walk and easily bike to parks, which means way more parks
- Updating water pipes at Tennis Center
- Water fountains on the court, updated bathrooms, automated fixtures
- Sports complex should be first since it is being paid with tax dollars
- Have/create a volleyball team (sand/indoor)
- A.R.M. center needs to be redone to include a wood dance floor
- Add bathroom in parks
- Find something to unify the community (i.e., special events, 4th of July)
- Connectivity to parks and all the bike trails as much off-road as possible
- Encourage volunteerism with a group in exchange for something (i.e., prize, membership, incentive)
- Basketball court at Pine Ridge
- Community Garden at Green Acres park are full - need more
- Need more dedicated Pickleball Courts
- Movies in the park that are free. Use other parks aside from downtown
- Safety, monitor youth at parks for safety, not babysitting but monitoring and ask them to leave when necessary
- Senior activities, communication and transportation
- Use of churches, flyers, and door hangers to promote stuff (coordinate with pastors)
- How can we engage single mom's/parents who would enjoy programs, free does not always work
- Consider lighting at parks, especially walking areas at night and in the morning
- Archery
- If we can't offer it in the city, offer transportation to where the facilities/program exists
- Convert Tom Petty Park into permanent Pickleball and Tennis Courts
- Make sure the east side is getting new facilities like the west side
- Support east side education through additional resources

- Ban tobacco and vaping in parks
- Provide wireless internet in parks, especially parks with libraries
- Senior services on east side
- Ensure programming and staff to provide enhanced experience, including staff person at the park to help residents with questions or experiences
- Competition horseshoes, look at the park in Flagler County that has competition
- Explore simplify park classification
- Mixed courts provide a marginal experience leads to portable Pickleball nets which can easily be stolen and they're not as durable, perhaps double existing capacity, add lighted courts
- 10-year and under Tennis Courts are not used at West side park
- Consider hosting meeting at a church, located within the neighborhoods
- Programs that are free for disadvantaged children
- Teaching center sequence, casual, advanced, competitive
- Special needs for children and young adults, Only one program, need more

- Consider economic impact of Pickleball tournament, recognize and utilize the social value of Pickleball Courts, it's a welcoming culture and has positive interactions, and can help with youth development
- Support for City nature parks to protect wildlife, native plants, water quality, environmental services and public recreation
- Communicate among parks and facilities broadly, make websites easy to navigate and find
- Make bike lanes completely separate from auto traffic so I can commute to work from 16th Avenue to the VA
- Permanent site for Hoggetown Medieval Fair and Festival site
- Walking trails and Pickleball Courts
- Not enough staff to manage current parks, nature parks, facilities and lack funding to repair facilities
- Consider adding concessionaire as part of Pickleball Court facility
- Climate change and effect it can have on the danger of outdoors for youth and seniors
- Covered and lit Pickleball Courts at Forrest Park

Level of Service Analysis + Benchmarking

There are no industry standards or regulations regarding how communities should establish Levels of Service (LOS) for parks and recreation services. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) does not publish traditional population-based LOS standards such as park acres and facilities per 1,000 residents.

Instead, cities are encouraged to conduct community-wide needs assessments and benchmark themselves against other similar communities in order to establish their own LOS standards.

NRPA has developed its benchmarking website Park Metrics, "the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies" to help cities develop LOS metrics. City of Gainesville LOS findings were benchmarked against communities that have a similar population and population density as the City of Gainesville.

Five different LOS methods were used to determine how well the City's parks and recreation system is meeting residents' needs:

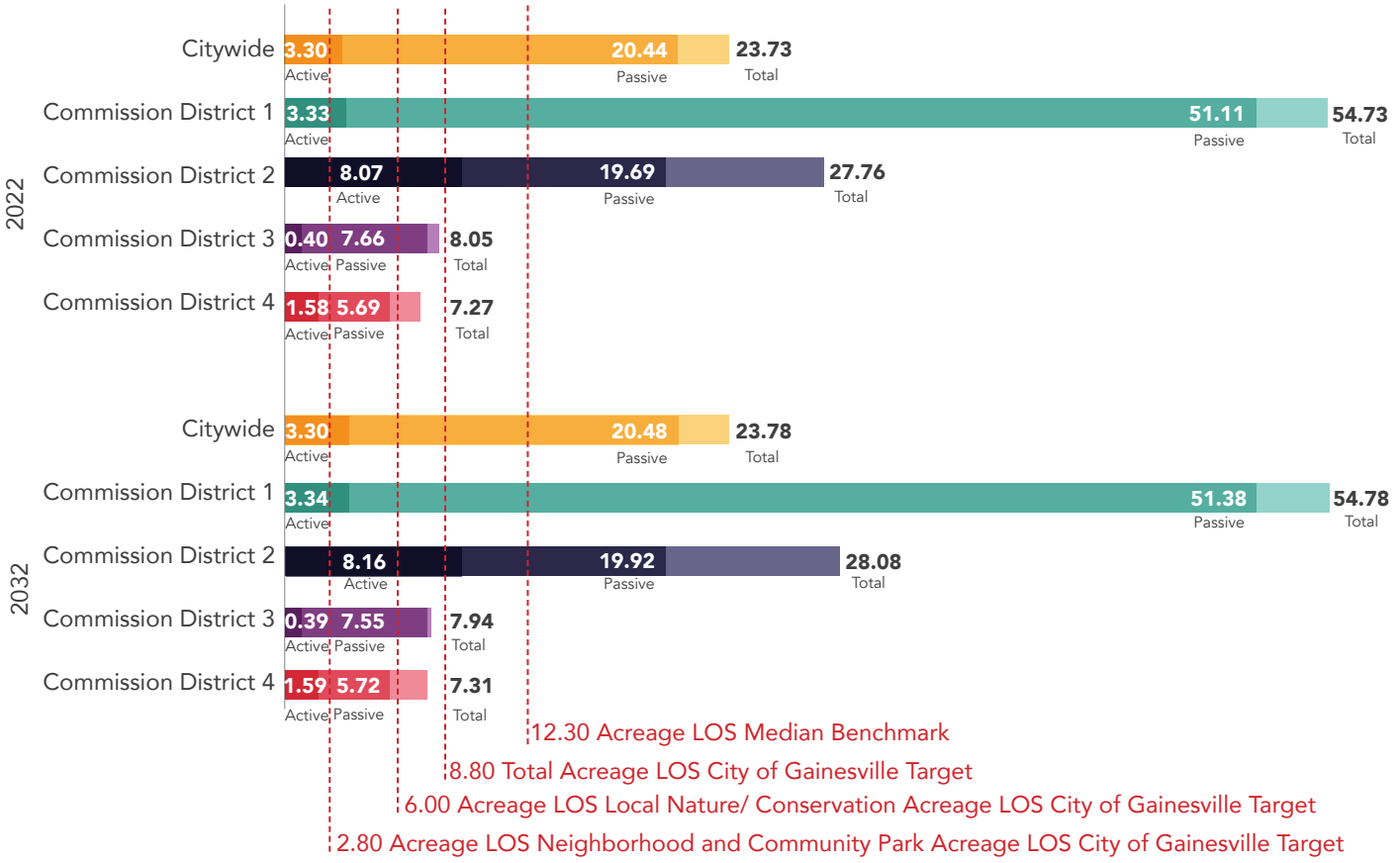
1. **Acreage LOS:** Measures the quantity of parkland acreage that is available per 1,000 residents.
2. **Indoor Recreation Center Square Footage LOS:** Measures the quantity of indoor recreation space available per resident.
3. **Facilities LOS:** Measures the number of recreation facilities available per capita.
4. **Access LOS:** Measures the geographic areas served by parks or recreation facilities.
5. **Capital Funding Per Capita:** Measure the amount of capital dollars spent on parks and recreation services per resident.

It is important to note that these LOS Analyses are just one tool for determining the community's needs. The findings alone may not be indicative of residents' needs and priorities. LOS analyses are based on the gross population of a community, not preferences or priorities based on unique community demographics, lifestyles, or values. The findings from the LOS analyses must be compared to the findings from the other needs assessment techniques in order to verify parks and recreation needs and priorities. Recommended LOS standards would be completed in a future phase.

Acreage LOS

Acreage LOS is measured by dividing the number of park acreage by 1,000 population. Park Acreage LOS was analyzed using PRCA's acreage inventory divided by the population estimates for the years 2022 and 2032. Figure 2.2a illustrates the findings from these analyses for total, passive, and active park land and compares the City's 2022 Acreage LOS to the City's target of 2.80 acres per 1,000 population for neighborhood and community park land, 6.00 acres per 1,000 population for local nature/ conservation park land, 8.80 acres per 1,000 population for total park land, and the NRPA median Acreage LOS benchmark of 12.30 for cities with a similar population and population density as the City of Gainesville.

Figure 2.2a
Acreage Level of Service Analysis



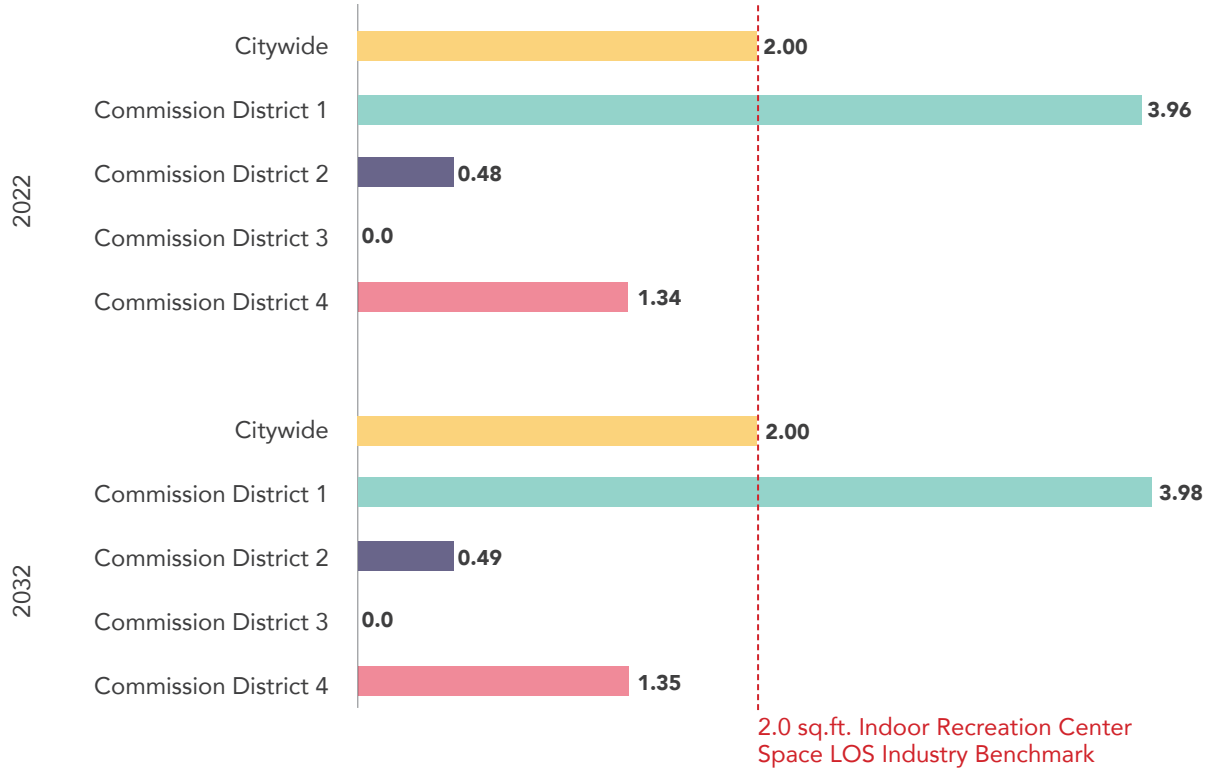
This analysis shows that the City of Gainesville's Total Acreage LOS in 2022 is 23.73 acres per 1,000 population, which is above the City's established target and the NRPA median. Commission District 1 has the highest Total Acreage LOS with 54.73 acres per 1,000 population while Commission Districts 3 and 4 have the least with 8.05 and 7.27 acres per 1,000 population respectively. Commission District 2 has 27.76 acres per 1,000 population. Active (Neighborhood and Community Park) Acreage LOS exceeds the City's target Citywide and in Districts 1 and 2. However, it is below the City's target in District's 3 and 4. District 4 is the only area where the Passive (Local Nature/ Conservation) Acreage LOS is below the City's target. Since the population is projected to decline slightly over the next 10 years, the Acreage LOS will change very little by 2032.To meet the City's expressed Total Acreage LOS Target by 2032, Commission District 3 would need 160 acres and Commission District 4 would need 180 acres.

Indoor Recreation Center Space LOS

Indoor Recreation Center Space LOS is measured by dividing the amount of indoor and community recreation center space available to residents by the number of residents in the City.

Industry guidelines suggest that communities with high quality indoor recreation services should have about 2.0 sq.ft. of interior recreation space per resident. Figure 2.2b illustrates the findings from this analysis considering the City of Gainesville's 2022 and 2032 population estimates.

Figure 2.2b
Indoor Recreation Center Space Level of Service Analysis



This analysis shows that the City of Gainesville's Indoor Recreation Center Space LOS in 2022 is 2.00 sq.ft. per capita, which is consistent with the industry benchmark. Commission District 1 has the highest Indoor Recreation Center Space LOS with 3.96 sq.ft. per capita while Commission Districts 3 and 2 have the lowest with 0.00 and 0.48 sq.ft. per capita respectively. Commission District 4 has 1.34 sq.ft per capita. Since the population is projected to decline slightly over the next 10 years, the Indoor Recreation Center Space LOS will change very little by 2032.

To meet the industry benchmark by 2032, Commission District 2 would need 53,034 indoor sq.ft, Commission District 3 would need 75,952 indoor sq.ft., and Commission District 4 would need 23,109 indoor sq.ft.

Facilities LOS

Facilities LOS is measured by dividing the number of residents by the number of parks and recreation facilities. The higher the number, the fewer facilities there are per resident, and the more of a need there may be for that particular recreation facility. The lower the number, the more facilities there are per resident, and the less of a need there may be for that particular recreation facility.

Population estimates for the years 2022 and 2032 were divided by the number of existing facilities to identify the Facilities LOS. The Median Facility LOS benchmarks were then used to calculate the need or surplus of facilities based on the projected 2032 population. Figure 2.2c illustrates the findings from this analysis.

Based on this analysis, it appears that the City may have a need for the following parks and recreation facilities. The quantity of facilities needed is identified as a negative number (-#):

City Wide

- Teen Center (-2)
- Stadium (-1)
- Playgrounds (-9)
- Basketball Courts (-1)
- Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball (-6)
- Diamond fields: baseball – youth (-11)
- Diamond fields: baseball – adult (-1)
- Diamond fields: softball – youth (-17)
- Diamond fields: softball – adult (-14)
- Rectangle fields: multi-purpose field (-10)
- Rectangle fields: football field (-3)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field - adult (-16)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field – youth (-22)
- Multipurpose synthetic field (-3)
- Regulation 18-hole golf course (-2)
- Aquatics centers (-2)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 50 meters (-2)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 25 meters (-2)
- Indoor separated diving well (-2)
- Splash Pad/ Sprayground (-9)
- Tennis courts (outdoor only) (-4)
- Pickleball (outdoor) (-6)
- Pickleball (indoor) (-9)
- Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (outdoor) (-3)
- Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (indoor) (-8)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (outdoor) (-4)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (indoor) (-2)

Commission District 1

- Senior Center (-1)
- Teen Center (-1)
- Stadium (-1)
- Arena (-1)
- Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball (-2)
- Diamond fields: baseball – youth (-3)
- Diamond fields: softball – youth (-4)
- Diamond fields: softball – adult (-4)
- Skate Park (-1)
- Rectangle fields: football field (-1)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field - adult (-4)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field – youth (-5)
- Multipurpose synthetic field (-1)
- Aquatics centers (-1)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 50 meters (-1)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 25 meters (-1)
- Indoor separated diving well (-1)
- Splash Pad/Sprayground (-2)
- Tennis courts (outdoor only) (-4)
- Pickleball (outdoor) (-3)
- Pickleball (indoor) (-2)
- Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (indoor) (-2)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (outdoor) (-1)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (indoor) (-1)

Commission District 2

- Recreation Center (-2)
- Stadium (-1)
- Arena (-1)
- Performance Amphitheaters (-1)
- Nature Centers (-1)
- Playgrounds (-3)
- Basketball Courts (-4)
- Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball (-2)
- Diamond fields: baseball – youth (-4)
- Diamond fields: baseball – adult (-1)
- Diamond fields: softball – youth (-4)
- Diamond fields: softball – adult (-1)
- Skate Park (-1)
- Rectangle fields: multi-purpose (natural turf) (-3)
- Rectangle fields: football field (-1)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field - adult (-4)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field – youth (-6)
- Multipurpose synthetic field (-1)
- Aquatics centers (-1)
- Swimming pool (outdoors) (-1)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 50 meters (-1)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 25 meters (-1)
- Indoor separated diving well (-1)
- Splash Pad/Sprayground (-4)
- Tennis courts (outdoor only) (-1)
- Pickleball (indoor) (-3)
- Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (outdoor) (-1)
- Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (indoor) (-2)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (outdoor) (-1)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (indoor) (-1)

Commission District 3

- Recreation Center (-2)
- Community Center (-1)
- Senior Center (-1)
- Teen Center (-1)
- Stadium (-1)
- Arena (-1)
- Performance Amphitheaters (-1)
- Nature Centers (-1)
- Playgrounds (-12)
- Community Gardens (-1)
- Basketball Courts (-5)
- Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball (-2)
- Diamond fields: baseball – youth (-4)
- Diamond fields: baseball – adult (-2)
- Diamond fields: softball – youth (-6)
- Diamond fields: softball – adult (-5)
- Skate Park (-1)
- Rectangle fields: multi-purpose (natural turf) (-6)
- Rectangle fields: football field (-1)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field - adult (-5)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field – youth (-6)
- Multipurpose synthetic field (-1)
- Aquatics centers (-1)
- Swimming pool (outdoors) (-1)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 50 meters (-1)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 25 meters (-1)
- Indoor separated diving well (-1)
- Splash Pad/ Sprayground (-4)
- Tennis courts (outdoor only) (-6)
- Pickleball (outdoor) (-3)
- Pickleball (indoor) (-3)
- Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (outdoor) (-1)
- Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (indoor) (-2)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (outdoor) (-1)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (indoor) (-1)

Figure 2.2c
Facilities Level of Service Analysis

	Facilities	City of Gainesville Facilities LOS (Population served per Facility)					NRPA Park Metrics
							Aggregated Benchmarks for Cities with a similar population and popula-tion density
		Citywide 2032	Commission District-1 2032	Commission District-2 2032	Commission District-3 2032	Commission District-4 2032	Median Facilities LOS
Indoor Facilities	Recreation Centers	23,680	11,168	-	-	11,862	33,640.7
	Community Centers	17,760	6,701	35,017	-	17,793	80,250.0
	Senior Centers	71,041	-	17,509	-	-	109,000.0
	Teen Centers	-	-	-	-	-	127,451.0
	Stadiums	142,082	-	-	-	35,586	103,000.0
	Arenas	-	-	-	-	-	81,987.8
	Performance Amphitheaters	47,361	11,168	-	-	-	71,748.7
	Nature Centers	71,041	16,752	-	-	-	103,000.0
	Gyms	142,082	-	-	-	35,586	-
Golf	Regulation 18-hole courses	142082	33503	-	-	-	51500.0
	Regulation 9-hole courses	-	-	-	-	-	-

Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus
Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark
Citywide 2032	CD1 2032	CD2 2032	CD3 2032	CD4 2032
2	3	-2	-2	2
6	5	1	-1	1
1	0	2	-1	0
-1	0	0	-1	0
0	0	0	-1	1
-2	0	0	-1	-1
1	3	0	-1	-1
1	2	0	-1	0
-	-	-	-	-
-2	1	-1	-1	-1
-	-	-	-	-

Commission District 4

- Senior Center (-1)
- Teen Center (-1)
- Stadium (-1)
- Arena (-1)
- Performance Amphitheaters (-1)
- Nature Centers (-1)
- Playgrounds (-6)
- Basketball Courts (-2)
- Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball (-2)
- Diamond fields: baseball – youth (-3)
- Diamond fields: softball – youth (-3)
- Diamond fields: softball – adult (-2)
- Dog Park (-1)
- Rectangle fields: multi-purpose (natural turf) (-2)
- Rectangle fields: football field (-1)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field – adult (-4)
- Rectangle fields: soccer field – youth (-6)
- Multipurpose synthetic field (-1)
- Aquatics centers (-1)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 50 meters (-1)
- Indoor competitive swimming pools: 25 meters (-1)
- Indoor separated diving well (-1)
- Pickleball (outdoor) (-3)
- Pickleball (indoor) (-3)
- Multiuse courts – Tennis, Pickleball (outdoor) (-1)
- Multiuse courts – Tennis, Pickleball (indoor) (-2)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (outdoor) (-1)
- Racquetball/handball/squash courts (indoor) (-1)

Figure 2.2c
Facilities Level of Service Analysis (Continued)

	Facilities	City of Gainesville Facilities LOS (Population served per Facility)					NRPA Park Metrics
							Aggregated Benchmarks for Cities with a similar population and popula-tion density
		Citywide 2032	Commission District-1 2032	Commission District-2 2032	Commission District-3 2032	Commission District-4 2032	Median Facilities LOS
Outdoor Facilities	Playgrounds	3,643	1,595	3,891	37,976	5,084	2,963
	Community gardens	23,680	11,168	35,017	-	17,793	64,362
	Basketball courts	7,893	2,577	35,017	37,976	11,862	7,519
	Multiuse courts -basketball, volleyball	-	-	-	-	-	25,490
	Diamond fields: baseball - youth	71,041	33,503	-	-	35,586	11,117
	Diamond fields: baseball - adult	47,361	33,503	-	-	17,793	37,342
	Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	47,361	33,503	-	-	17,793	7,208
	Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	47,361	-	-	-	11,862	8,538
	Skate park	47,361	-	-	-	11,862	80,761
	Dog park	47,361	33,503	35,017	37,976	-	58,412
	Rectangular fields: multi-purpose (natural turf)	14,208	6,701	17,509	-	11,862	7,301
	Rectangular fields: cricket field	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rectangular fields: field hockey field	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rectangular fields: football field	-	-	-	-	-	51,500
	Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	-	-	-	-	-	
	Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	-	-	-	-	-	8,898
	Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	-	-	-	-	-	6,743
	Overlay field	-	-	-	-	-	
	Multipurpose synthetic field	-	-	-	-	-	50,461
	Trail Miles Maintained	8,429	2,904	13,115	27,924	27,586	-

Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus
Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark
Citywide 2032	CD1 2032	CD2 2032	CD3 2032	CD4 2032
-9	10	-3	-11	-5
4	2	0	-1	1
-1	9	-4	-4	-2
-6	-1	-1	-2	-1
-11	-2	-3	-4	-2
-1	0	-1	-1	1
-17	-4	-5	-5	-3
-14	-4	-4	-5	-1
1	0	-1	-1	3
1	1	1	0	-1
-9	1	-3	-5	-2
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-3	0	-1	-1	-1
-	-	-	-	-
-16	-4	-4	-4	-4
-21	-5	-5	-6	-5
-	-	-	-	-
-3	0	-1	-1	-1
-	-	-	-	-

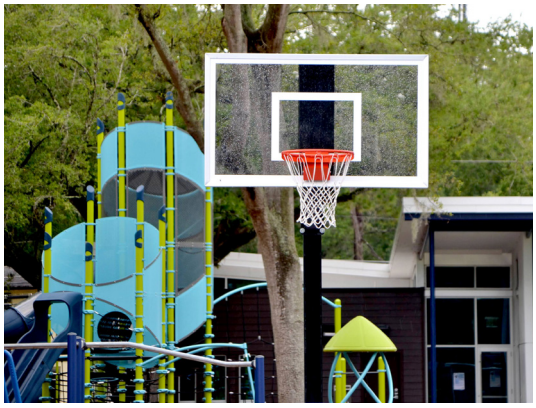


Figure 2.2c
Facilities Level of Service Analysis (Continued)

	Facilities	City of Gainesville Facilities LOS (Population served per Facility)					NRPA Park Metrics
							Aggregated Benchmarks for Cities with a similar population and popula-tion density
		Citywide 2032	Commission District-1 2032	Commission District-2 2032	Commission District-3 2032	Commission District-4 2032	Median Facilities LOS
Swimming/Aquatics	Aquatics centers	-	-	-	-	-	111,134
	Swimming pools (outdoor only)	23,680	16,752	-	-	8,897	51,614
	Indoor competitive swimming pools: 50 meters	-	-	-	-	-	100,922
	Indoor competitive swimming pools: 25 meters	-	-	-	-	-	100,922
	Indoor separated diving well	-	-	-	-	-	121,492
	Total indoor competitive swimming pools	-	-	-	-	-	
	Indoor pool designated exclusively for leisure (i.e. non-competitive)	-	-	-	-	-	
	Splash Pad/Sprayground	35,521	33,503	-	-	11,862	11,500
Racquet Sports	Tennis courts (outdoor only)	7,893	33,503	7,003	-	2,966	6,707
	Tennis courts (indoor)	-	-	-	-	-	
	Tennis courts (indoor only)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Pickleball (outdoor)	35,521	-	8,754	-	-	15,558.90
	Pickleball (indoor)	-	-	-	-	-	16,796
	Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (outdoor)	17,760	8,376	-	-	8,897	54,500
	Multiuse courts- Tennis, Pickleball (indoor)	-	-	-	-	-	19,470
	Racquetball/handball/squash courts (outdoor)	-	-	-	-	-	42,483
	Racquetball/handball/squash courts (indoor)	-	-	-	-	-	127,451

Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus	Need/ Surplus
Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark	Based on NRPA Median Benchmark
Citywide 2032	CD1 2032	CD2 2032	CD3 2032	CD4 2032
-1	0	0	-1	0
3	2	-1	-1	3
-1	0	0	-1	0
-1	0	0	-1	0
-1	0	0	-1	0
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-9	-2	-4	-4	-1
-3	-4	0	-6	7
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-6	-3	2	-3	-3
-8	-2	-2	-2	-2
6	4	-1	-1	4
-8	-2	-2	-2	-2
-3	0	-1	-1	-1
-1	0	0	-1	0

Access LOS

Access LOS measures the distance residents have to travel to access parks and recreation facilities. It is used to understand how park access varies between different neighborhoods in a city. Informed by industry best practices, the following distances were used to analyze Access LOS for the City's park system and key recreation facilities that were identified as potentially needed through the needs assessment process:

- All City Parks – ½ mile
- Neighborhood and Community Parks - ½ mile
- Community and Regional Parks – 2, 3 miles
- Community Centers – 2, 3 miles
- Adult Baseball/Softball Fields - 3 miles
- Amphitheater - 10 miles
- Basketball Courts - 3 miles
- Disc Golf Course - 10 miles
- Dog Parks - 10 miles
- Golf Course - 10 miles
- Gyms - 10 miles
- Indoor Recreation Centers - 3 miles
- Nature Centers - 10 miles
- Pickleball Courts - 3 miles
- Playgrounds - 1/2 mile
- Rectangle Multi-purpose Fields - 3 miles
- Skate Park - 10 miles
- Swimming Pools - 10 miles
- Tennis Courts - 3 miles
- Track and Fields - 10 miles
- Youth Baseball/Softball Fields - 3 miles

Figures 2.2e – 2.2y provide the results from this mapping analysis while Figure 2.2d provides a summary of these findings.

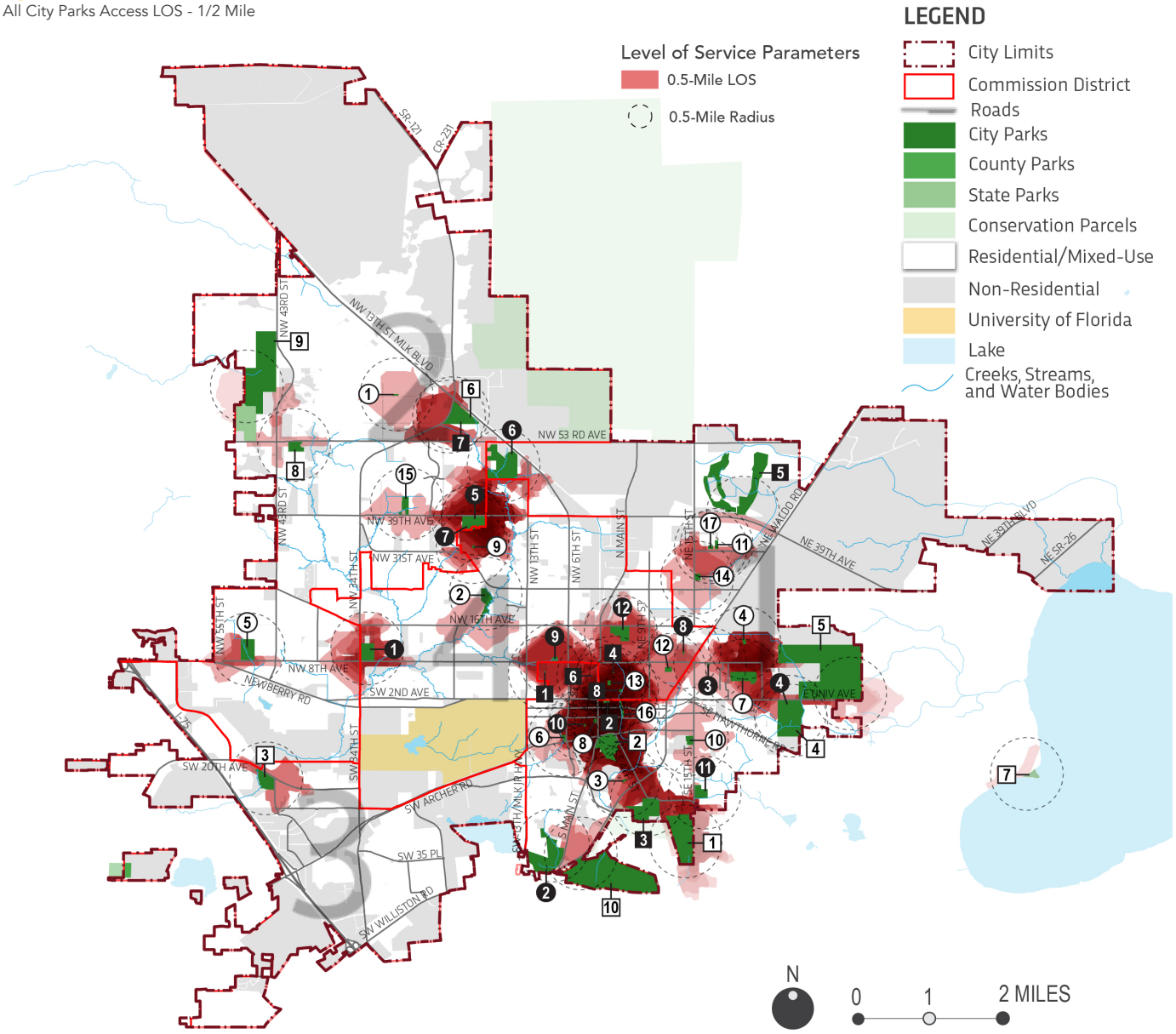
Figure 2.2d identifies the Commission Districts that have full or partial coverage based on the Access LOS distance and per park type and facility analyzed. Commission Districts 2 and 3 appear to have the least access to parks and facilities.

Figure 2.2d
Access LOS Analysis Summary

Park Type and Facilities Analyzed	½ Mile	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	10 Miles
All City Parks	◐ D1-4	-	-	-	-
Neighborhood and Community Parks	◐ D1-4	-	-	-	-
Community and Regional Parks	-	-	◐ D2,3	+	-
Community Centers	-	-	◐ D2,3	◐ D2,3	-
Adult Baseball/ Softball Fields	-	-	-	◐ D2,3	-
Amphitheater	-	-	-	◐ D2,3	-
Basketball Courts	-	-	-	-	+
Disc Golf Course	-	-	-	-	+
Dog Parks	-	-	-	-	+
Golf Course	-	-	-	-	+
Gyms	-	-	-	-	+
Indoor Recreation Centers	-	-	-	◐ D2,3	-
Nature Centers	-	-	-	-	+
Pickleball Courts	-	-	-	◐ D1-4	-
Playgrounds	◐ D1-4	◐ D1-4	-	-	-
Rectangle Multi-purpose Fields	-	-	-	◐ D2,3	-
Skate Park	-	-	-	-	+
Swimming Pools	-	-	-	◐ D2,3,4	-
Tennis Courts	-	-	-	◐ D2,3	-
Track and Fields	-	-	-	-	+
Youth Baseball/ Softball Fields	-	-	-	◐ D2,3	-

◐ Partial-Coverage + Full-Coverage

Figure 2.2e
All City Parks Access LOS - 1/2 Mile



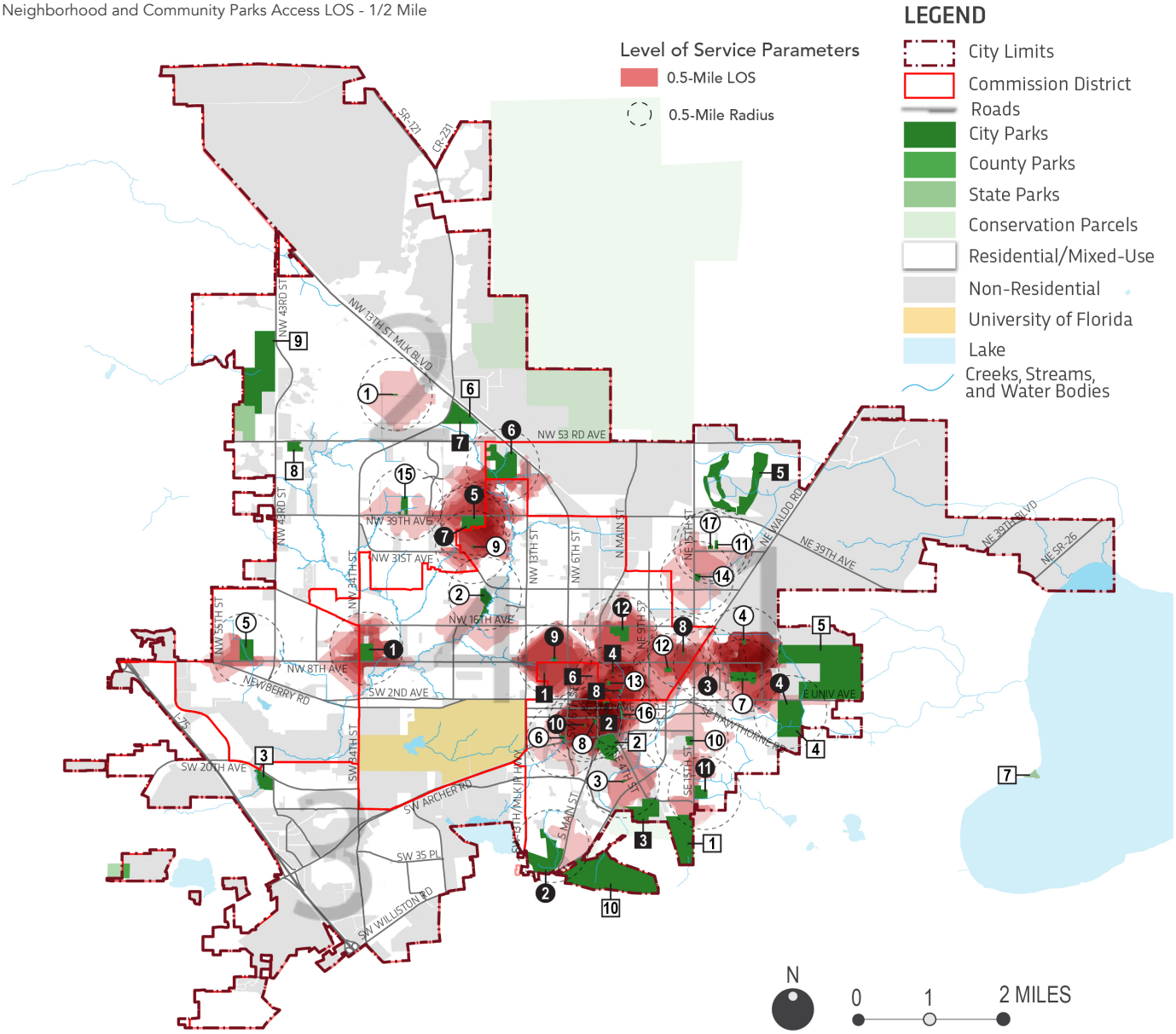
◯ Neighborhood Parks
1. A.N.N.E. Park
2. Alfred A. Ring Park
3. Barbara Higgins Park
4. Cedar Grove Park
5. Cofrin Nature Park
6. Cora Roberson Park
7. Duval Park
8. Haisley Lynch Park
9. Hidden Gem Park
10. Lincoln Park
11. NE 31st Ave Park
12. Reserve Park
13. Roper Park
14. Smokey Bear Park
15. Springtree Park
16. Sweetwater Branch Park
17. Unity Park

● Community Parks
1. Albert "Ray" Massey Park (ARM) (and Cherry Pool)
2. Bivens Arm Nature Park
3. Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park
4. Eastside Community Center (and Playground)
5. Greentree Park
6. Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park & Nature Center
7. Kiwanis Challenge Park
8. Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center (and Hunter Pool)
9. Oakview Park (and Center)
10. Porters Community Center
11. TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park (and Mickle Pool)
12. Tom Petty Park

□ Regional Parks
1. Boulware Springs Nature Park
2. Depot Park
3. Forest Park
4. Fred Cone Park
5. Morningside Nature Center
6. Northside Park
7. Palm Point Nature Park
8. Possum Creek Park
9. San Felasco Park
10. Sweetwater Wetlands Park

■ Special Use Parks and Facilities
1. A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center
2. Bo Diddley Plaza
3. Evergreen Cemetery
4. Historic Thomas Center & Gardens
5. Ironwood Golf Course
6. Rosa B Williams/352 ArtSpace
7. Senior Recreation Center
8. Thelma Boltin Center

Figure 2.2f
Neighborhood and Community Parks Access LOS - 1/2 Mile



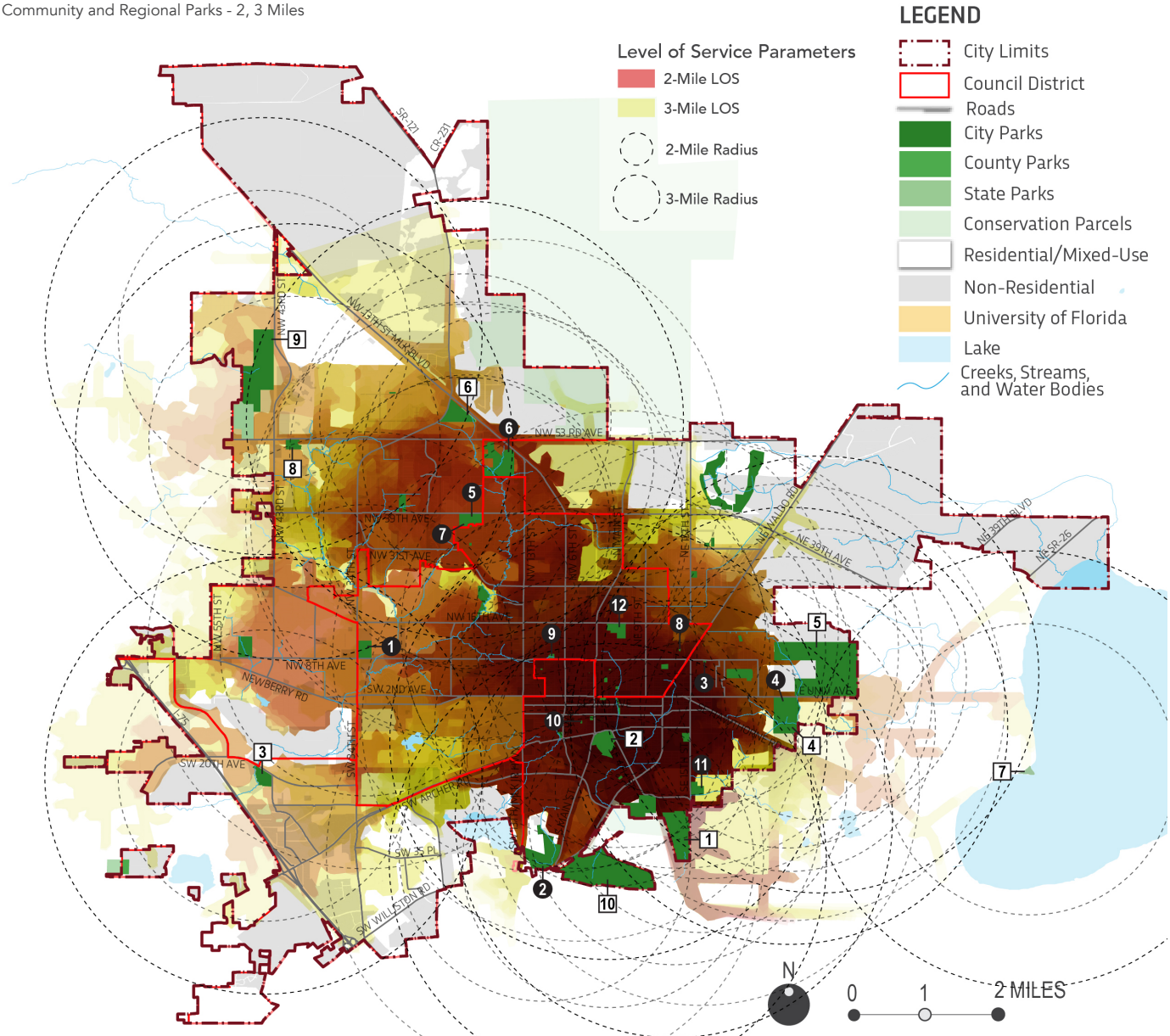
Neighborhood Parks
1. A.N.N.E. Park
2. Alfred A. Ring Park
3. Barbara Higgins Park
4. Cedar Grove Park
5. Cofrin Nature Park
6. Cora Roberson Park
7. Duval Park
8. Haisley Lynch Park
9. Hidden Gem Park
10. Lincoln Park
11. NE 31st Ave Park
12. Reserve Park
13. Roper Park
14. Smokey Bear Park
15. Springtree Park
16. Sweetwater Branch Park
17. Unity Park

Community Parks
1. Albert "Ray" Massey Park (ARM) (and Cherry Pool)
2. Bivens Arm Nature Park
3. Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park
4. Eastside Community Center (and Playground)
5. Greentree Park
6. Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park & Nature Center
7. Kiwanis Challenge Park
8. Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center (and Hunter Pool)
9. Oakview Park (and Center)
10. Porters Community Center
11. TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park (and Mickle Pool)
12. Tom Petty Park

Regional Parks
1. Boulware Springs Nature Park
2. Depot Park
3. Forest Park
4. Fred Cone Park
5. Morningside Nature Center
6. Northside Park
7. Palm Point Nature Park
8. Possum Creek Park
9. San Felasco Park
10. Sweetwater Wetlands Park

Special Use Parks and Facilities
1. A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center
2. Bo Diddley Plaza
3. Evergreen Cemetery
4. Historic Thomas Center & Gardens
5. Ironwood Golf Course
6. Rosa B Williams/352 ArtSpace
7. Senior Recreation Center
8. Thelma Boltin Center

Figure 2.2g
Community and Regional Parks - 2, 3 Miles



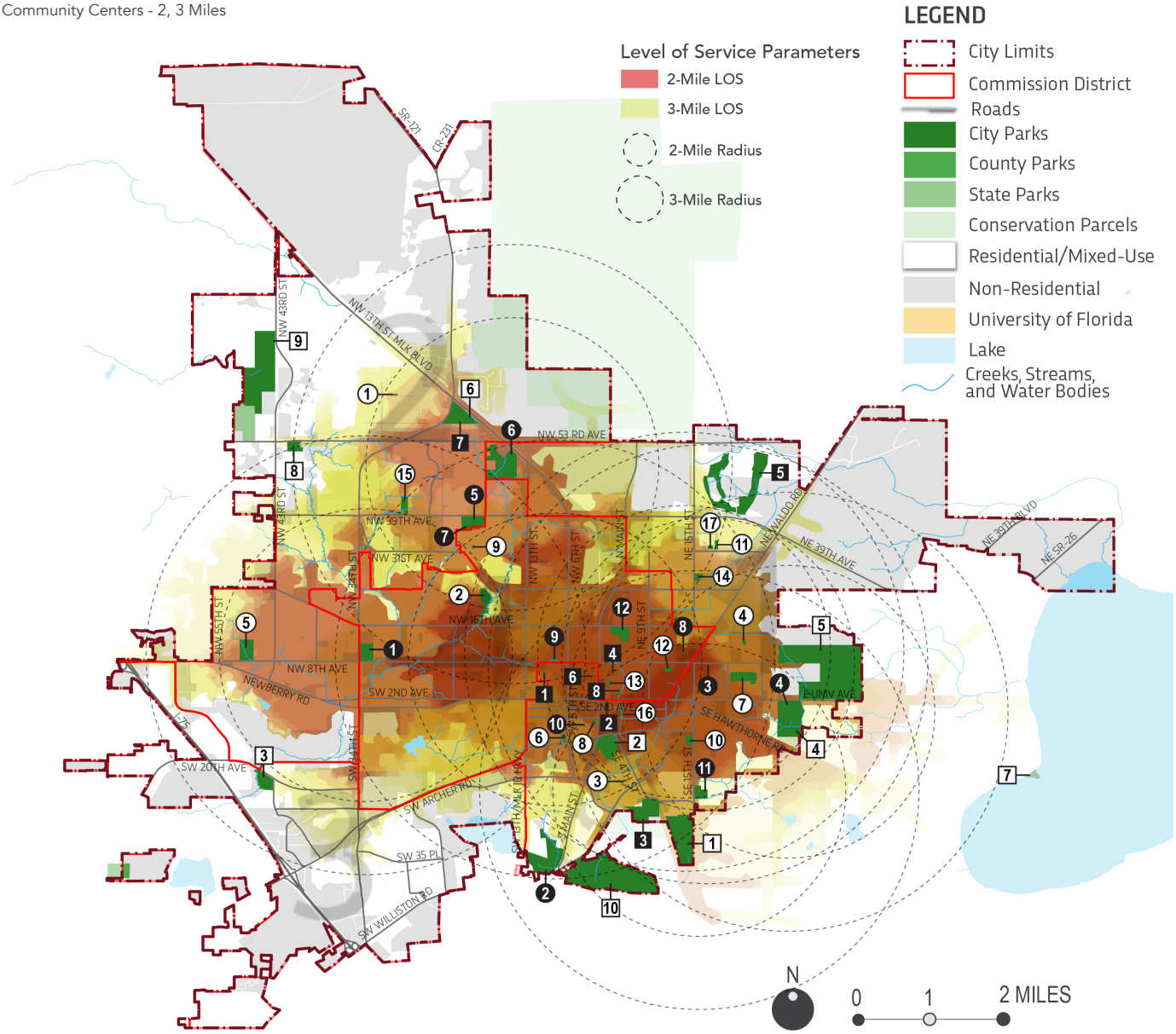
Neighborhood Parks
1. A.N.N.E. Park
2. Alfred Ring Park
3. Barbara Higgins Park
4. Cedar Grove Park
5. Cofrin Nature Park
6. Cora Roberson (Frmly Tumblin Creek)
7. Duval Park
8. Haisley Lynch Park
9. Hidden Gem Park
10. Lincoln Park
11. NE 31st Ave Park
12. Reserve Park
13. Roper Park
14. Smokey Bear Park
15. Springtree Park
16. Sweetwater Branch Park
17. Unity Park

Community Parks
1. Albert "Ray" Massey Park (ARM) (And Cherry Pool)
2. Bivens Arm Nature Park
3. Clarence R Kelly Community Center and Park
4. Eastside Community Center (And Playground)
5. Greentree Park
6. Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park & Nature Center
7. Kiwanis Challenge Park
8. Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center (and Hunter Pool)
9. Oakview Park (and Center)
10. Porters Community Center
11. TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park (And Mickel Pool)
12. Tom Petty Park (Frmly Northeast)

Regional Parks
1. Boulware Springs Nature Park
2. Depot Park
3. Forest Park
4. Fred Cone Park
5. Morningside Nature Center
6. Northside Park
7. Palm Point Nature Park
8. Possum Creek Park
9. San Felasco Park
10. Sweetwater Wetlands Park

Special Use Parks
1. A Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center
2. Bo Diddley Plaza
3. Evergreen Cemetery
4. Historic Thomas Center & Gardens
5. Ironwood Golf Course
6. Rosa B Williams/352 ArtSpace
7. Senior Recreation Center
8. Thelma Boltin Center

Figure 2.2h
Community Centers - 2, 3 Miles



Neighborhood Parks
1. A.N.N.E. Park
2. Alfred A. Ring Park
3. Barbara Higgins Park
4. Cedar Grove Park
5. Cofrin Nature Park
6. Cora Roberson Park
7. Duval Park
8. Haisley Lynch Park
9. Hidden Gem Park
10. Lincoln Park
11. NE 31st Ave Park
12. Reserve Park
13. Roper Park
14. Smokey Bear Park
15. Springtree Park
16. Sweetwater Branch Park
17. Unity Park

Community Parks
1. Albert "Ray" Massey Park (ARM) (and Cherry Pool)
2. Bivens Arm Nature Park
3. Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park
4. Eastside Community Center (and Playground)
5. Greentree Park
6. Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park & Nature Center
7. Kiwanis Challenge Park
8. Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center (and Hunter Pool)
9. Oakview Park (and Center)
10. Porters Community Center
11. TB McPherson Recreation Center and Park (and Mickle Pool)
12. Tom Petty Park

Regional Parks
1. Boulware Springs Nature Park
2. Depot Park
3. Forest Park
4. Fred Cone Park
5. Morningside Nature Center
6. Northside Park
7. Palm Point Nature Park
8. Possum Creek Park
9. San Felasco Park
10. Sweetwater Wetlands Park

Special Use Parks and Facilities
1. A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center
2. Bo Diddley Plaza
3. Evergreen Cemetery
4. Historic Thomas Center & Gardens
5. Ironwood Golf Course
6. Rosa B Williams/352 ArtSpace
7. Senior Recreation Center
8. Thelma Boltin Center

Figure 2.2i
Adult Baseball and Softball Fields - 3 Miles

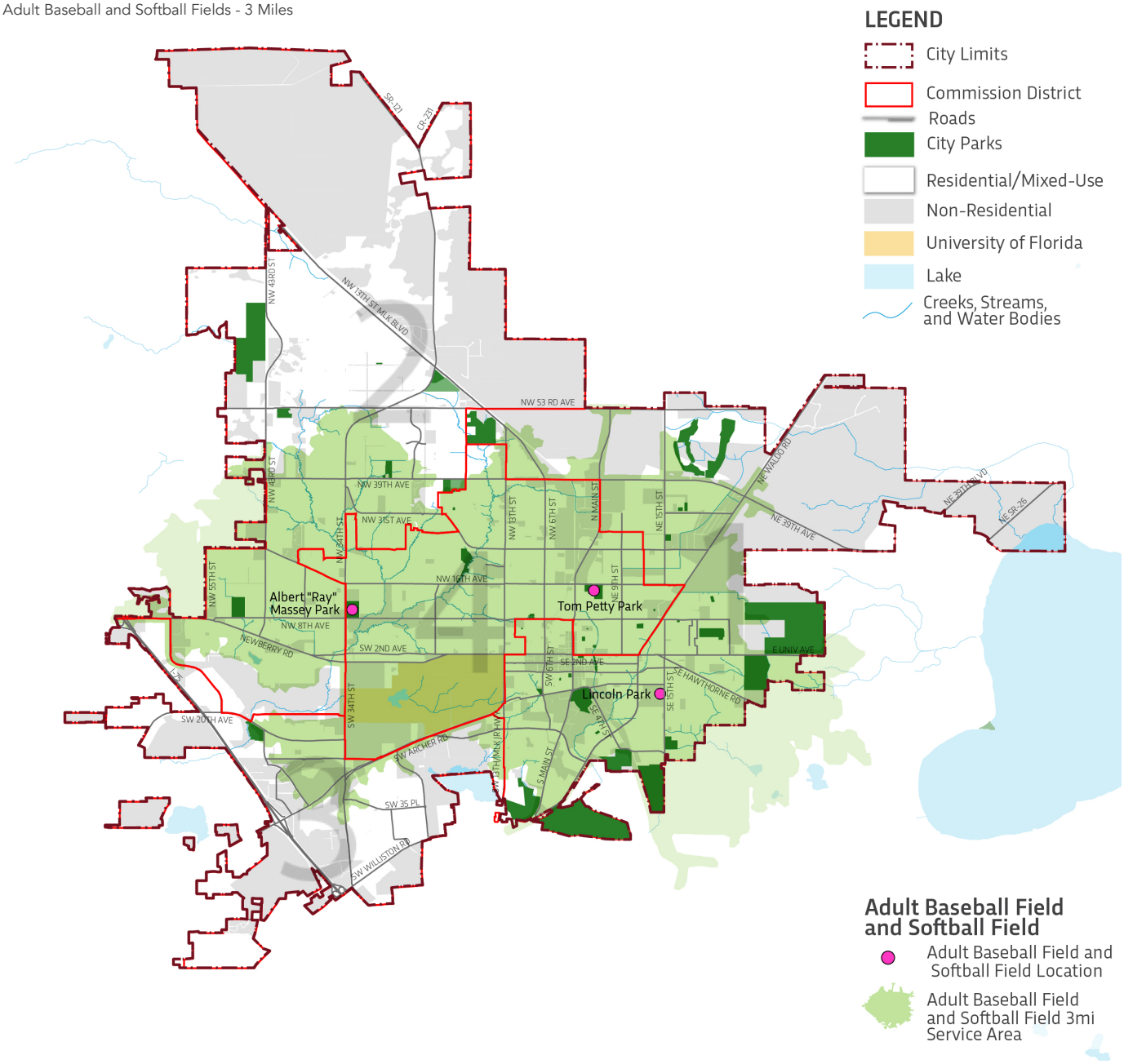


Figure 2.2j
Amphitheaters- 10 Miles

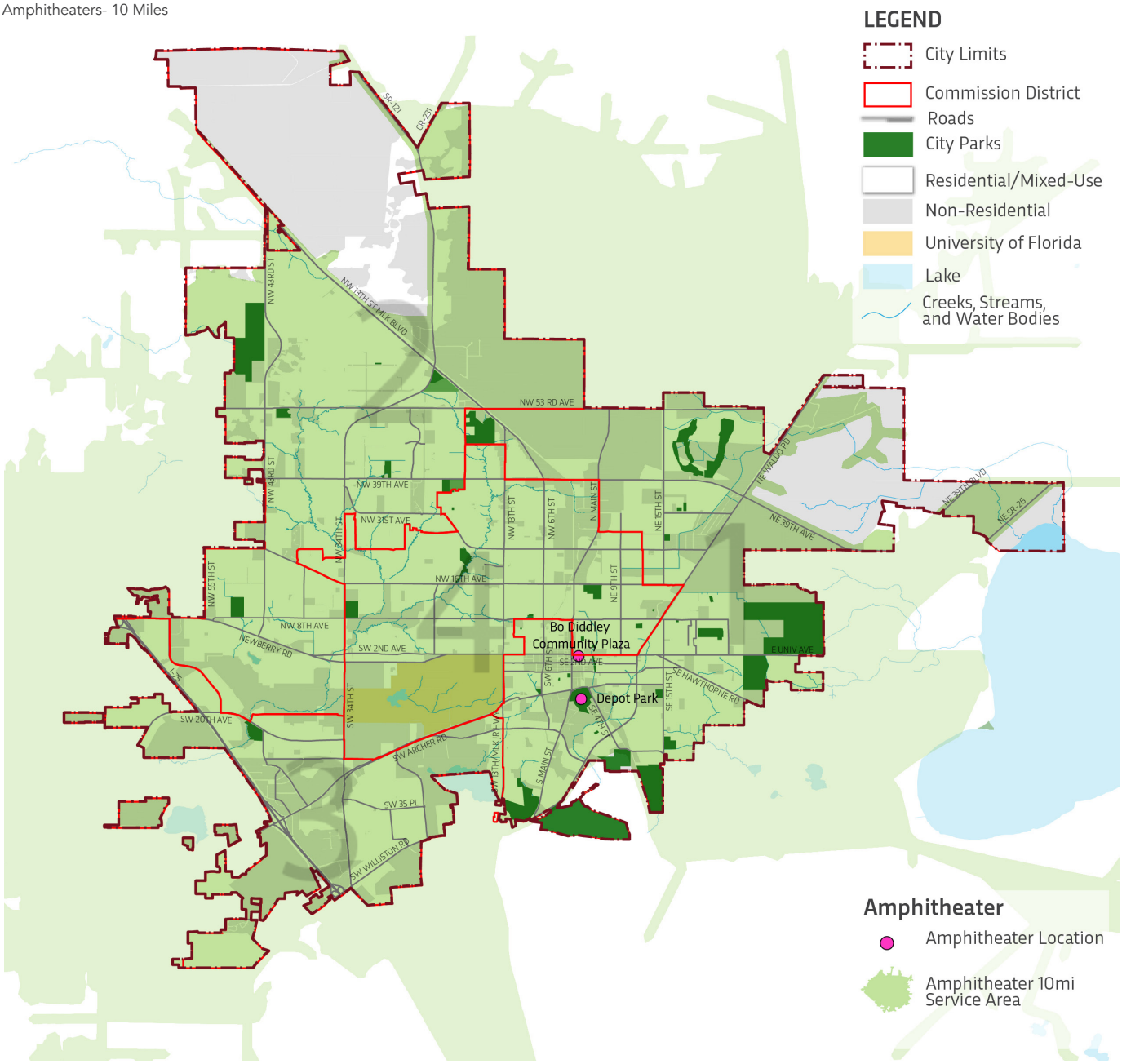


Figure 2.2k
Basketball Courts - 3 Miles

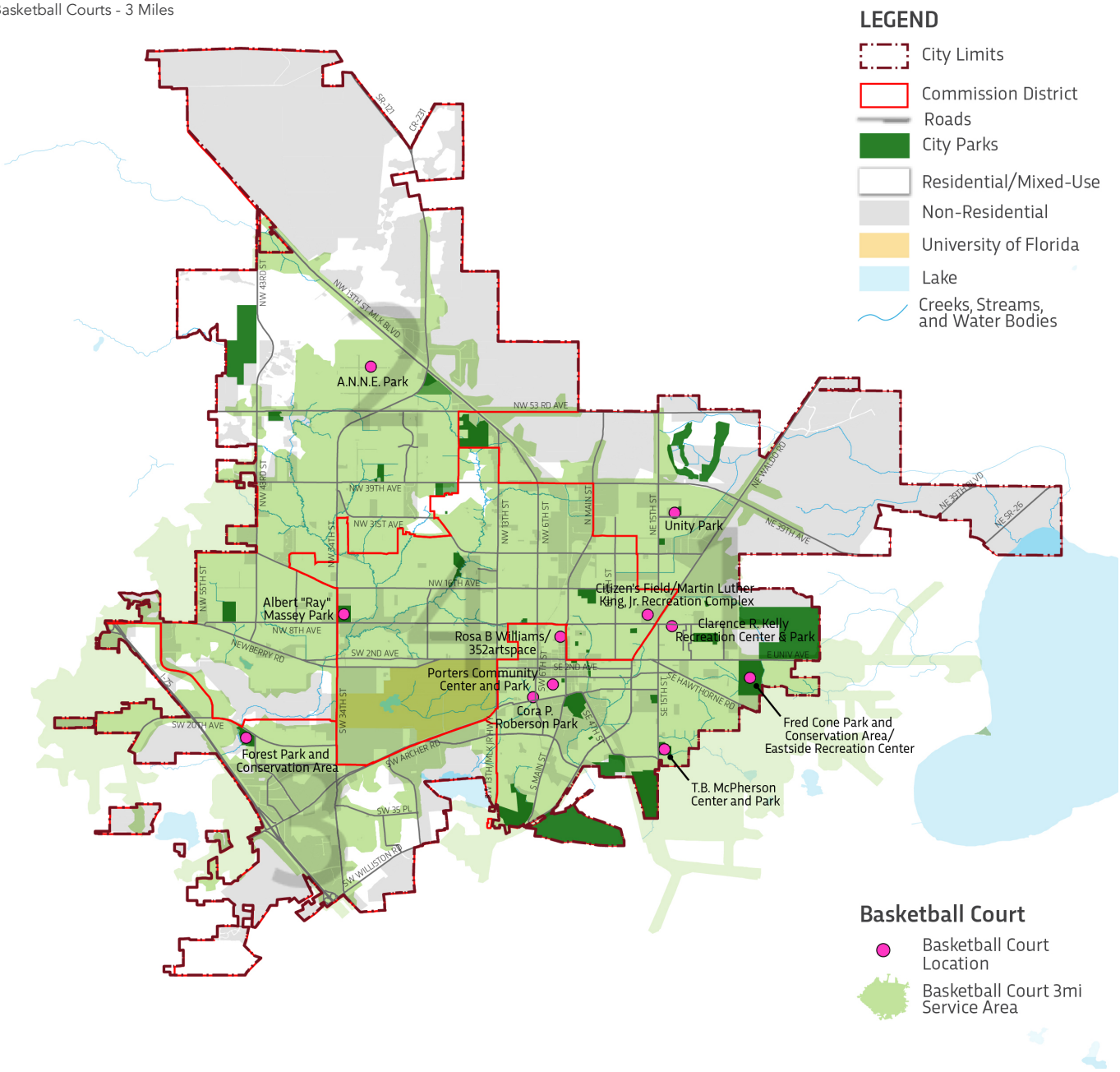


Figure 2.2l
Disc Golf Course - 10 Miles

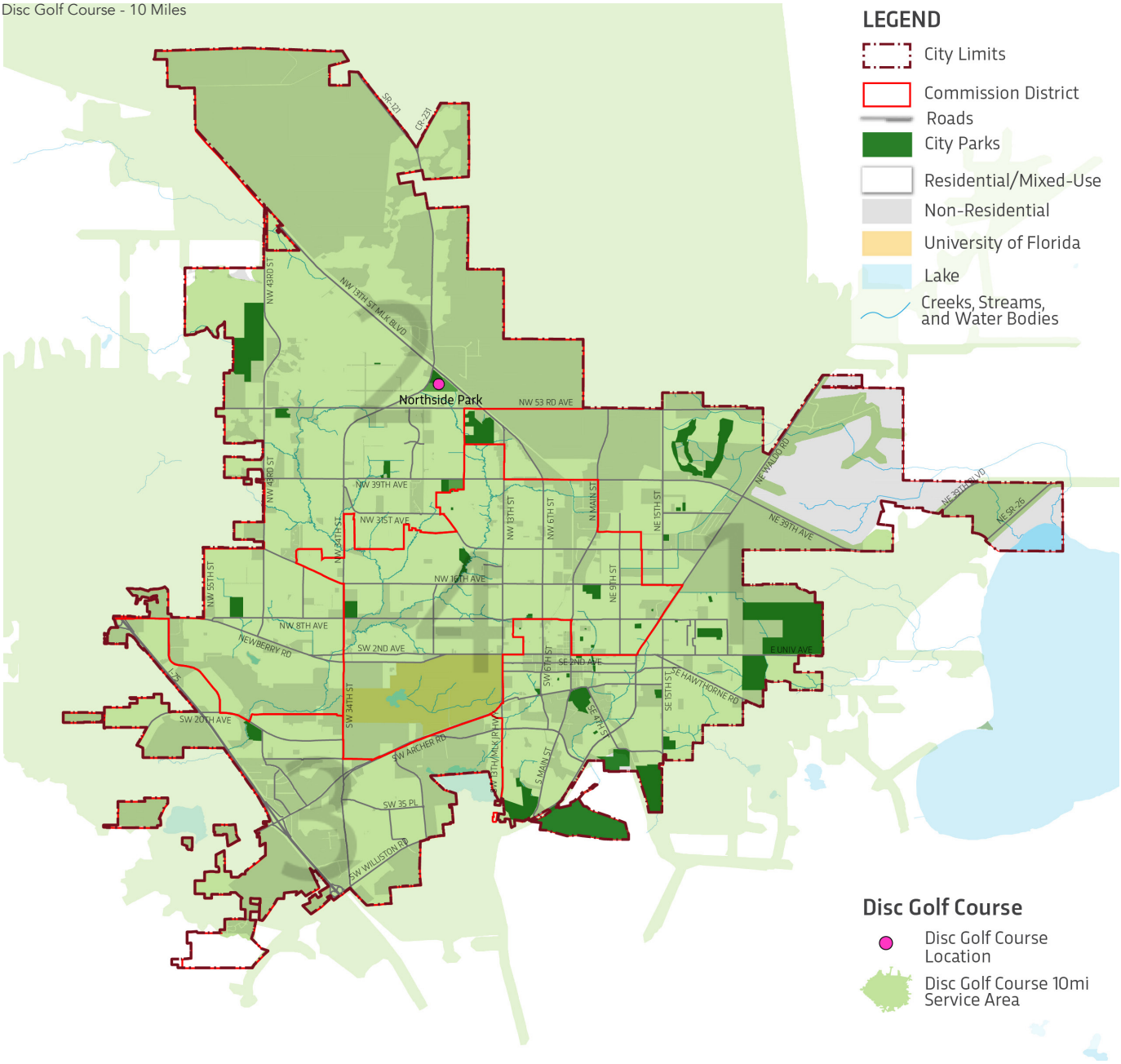


Figure 2.2m
Dog Parks - 10 Miles

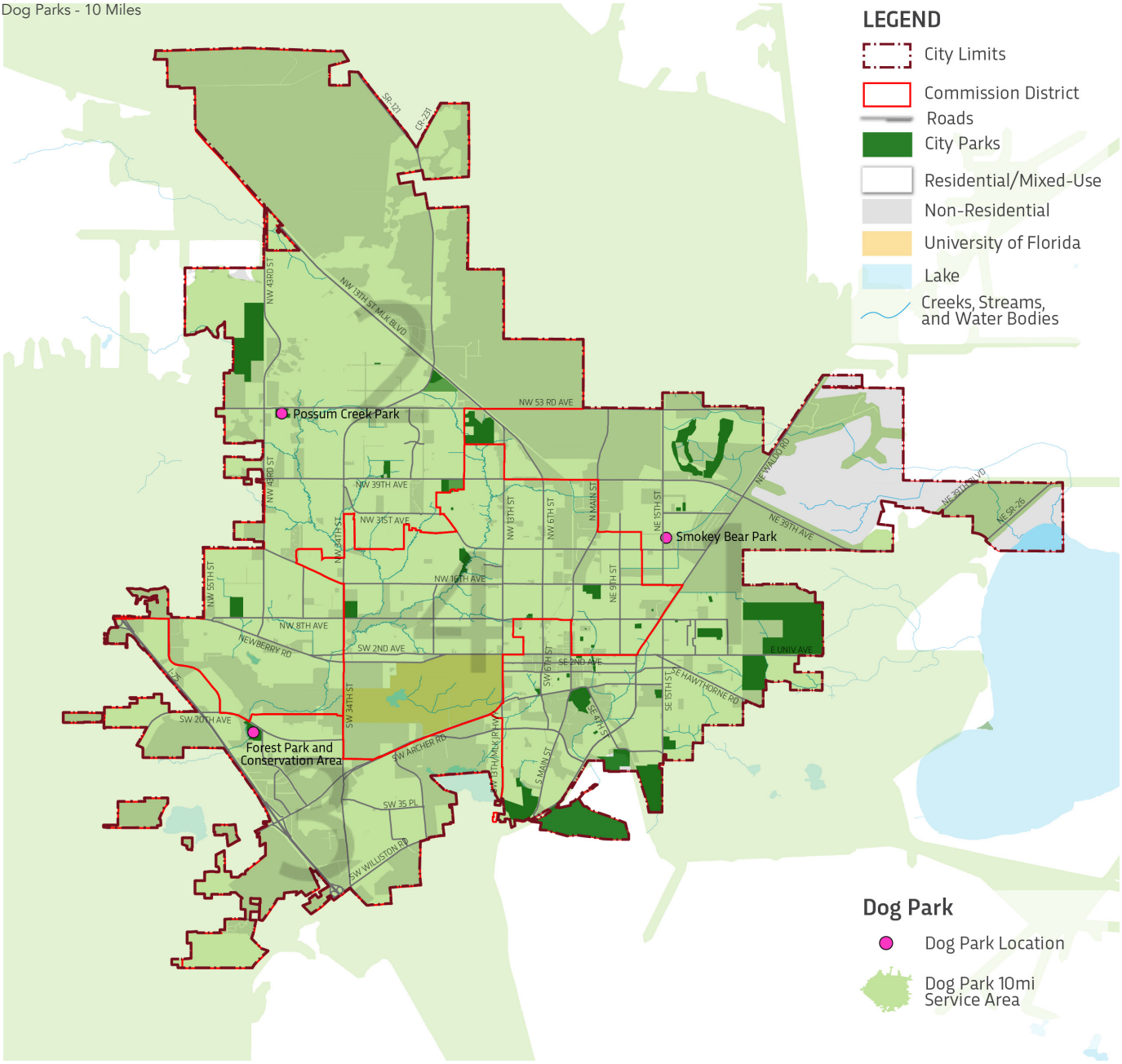


Figure 2.2n
Golf Course - 10 Miles

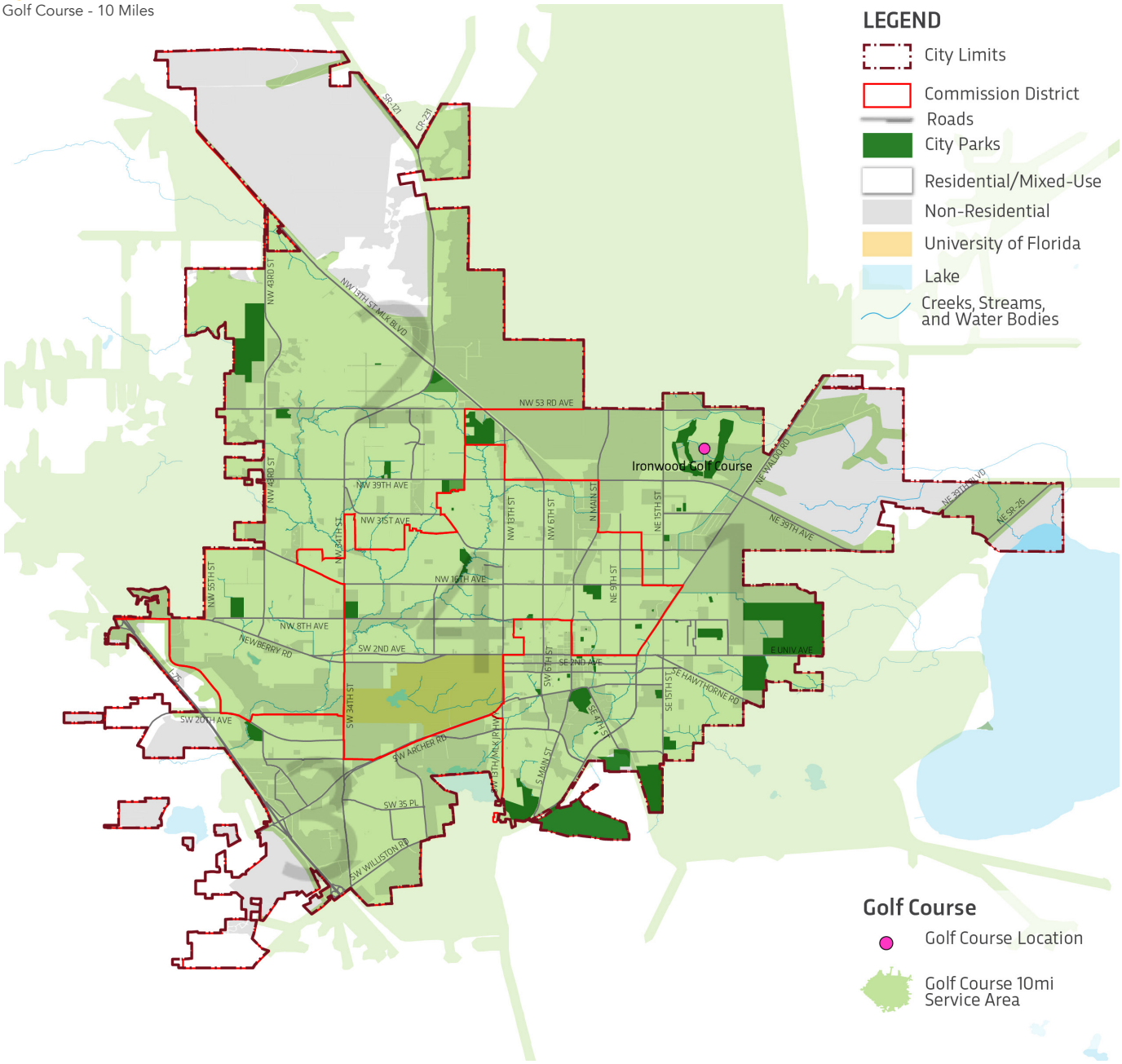


Figure 2.2o
Gyms - 10 Miles

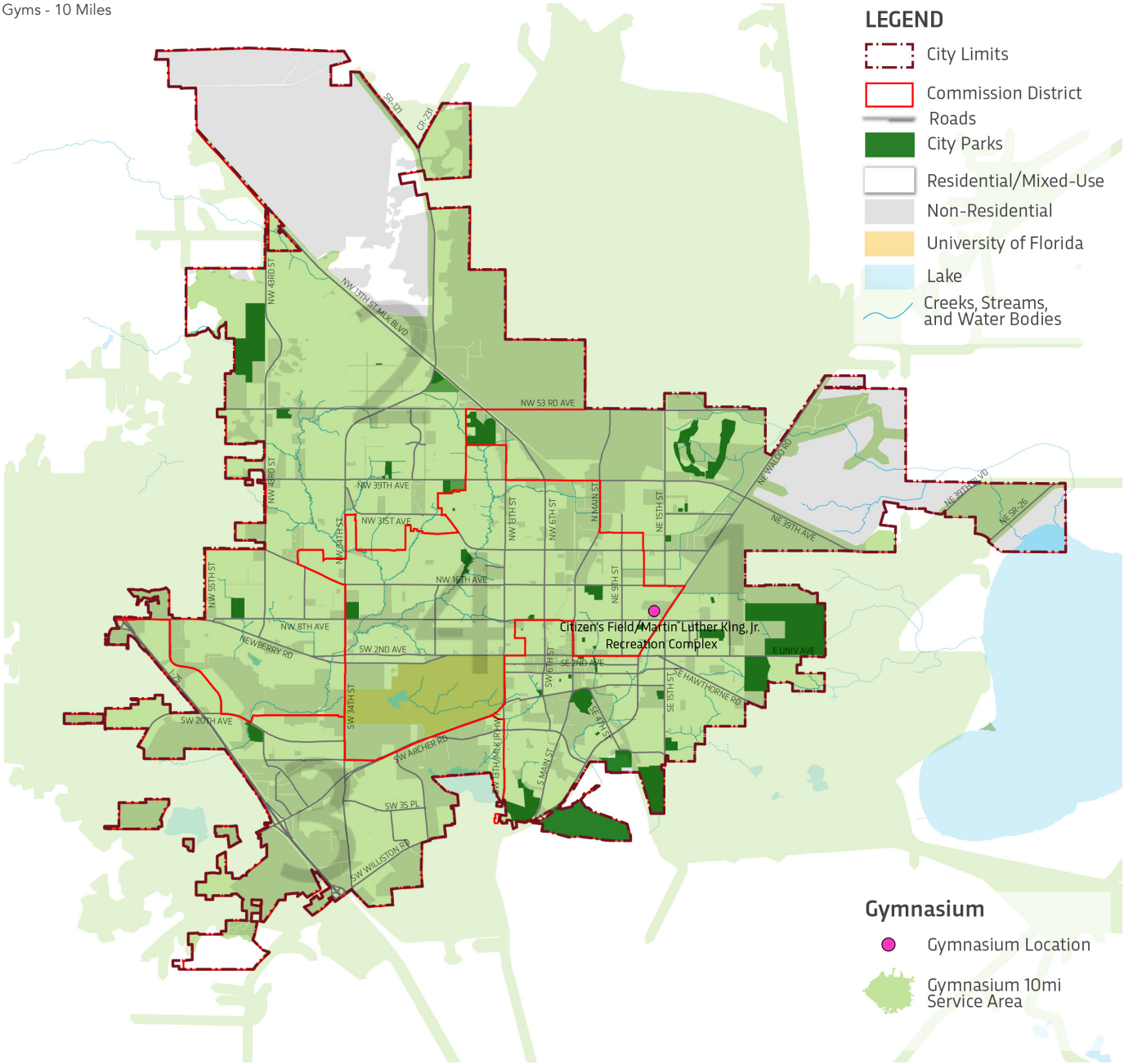


Figure 2.2p
Indoor Recreation Centers - 3 Miles

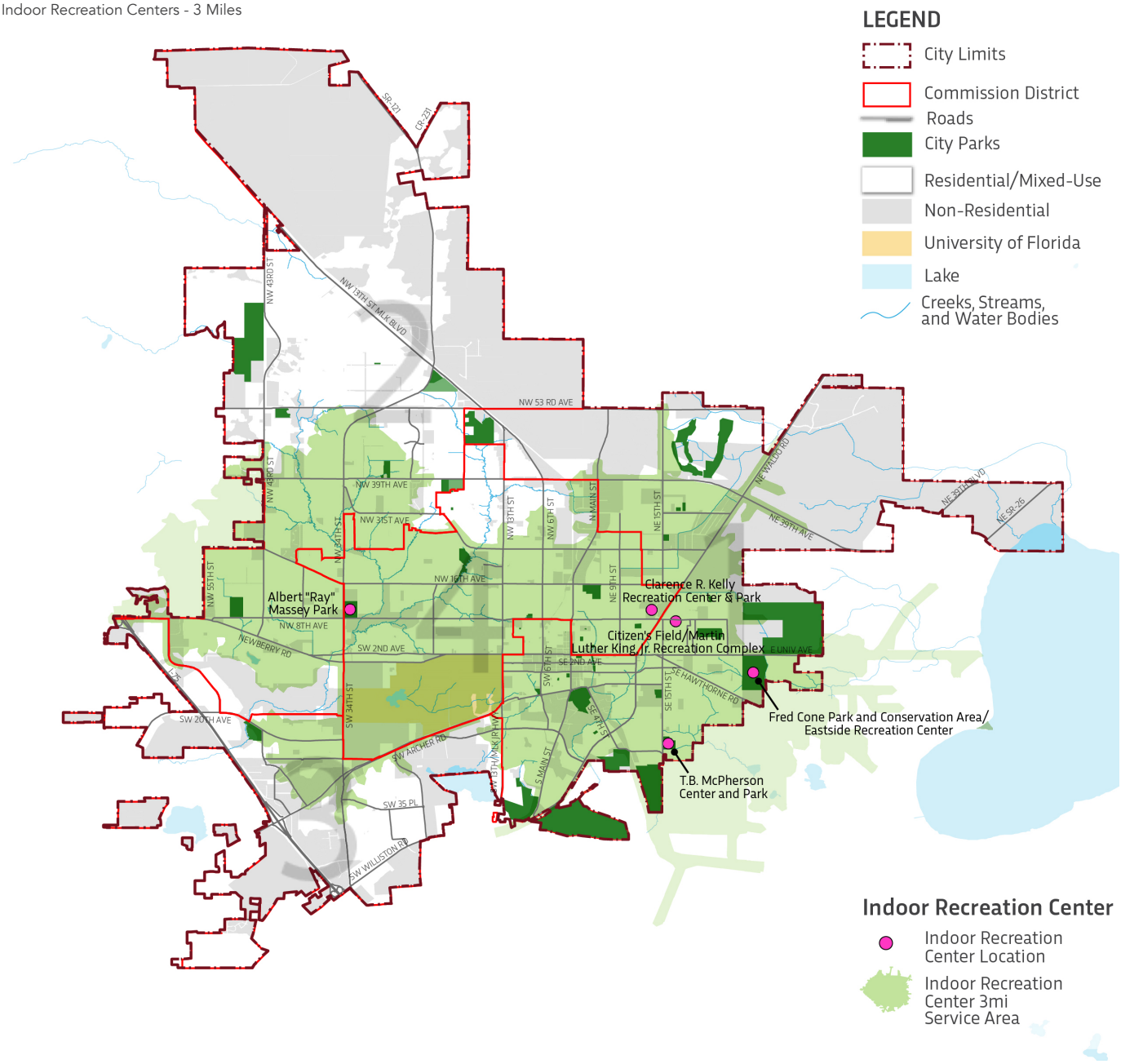


Figure 2.2q
Nature Centers - 10 Miles

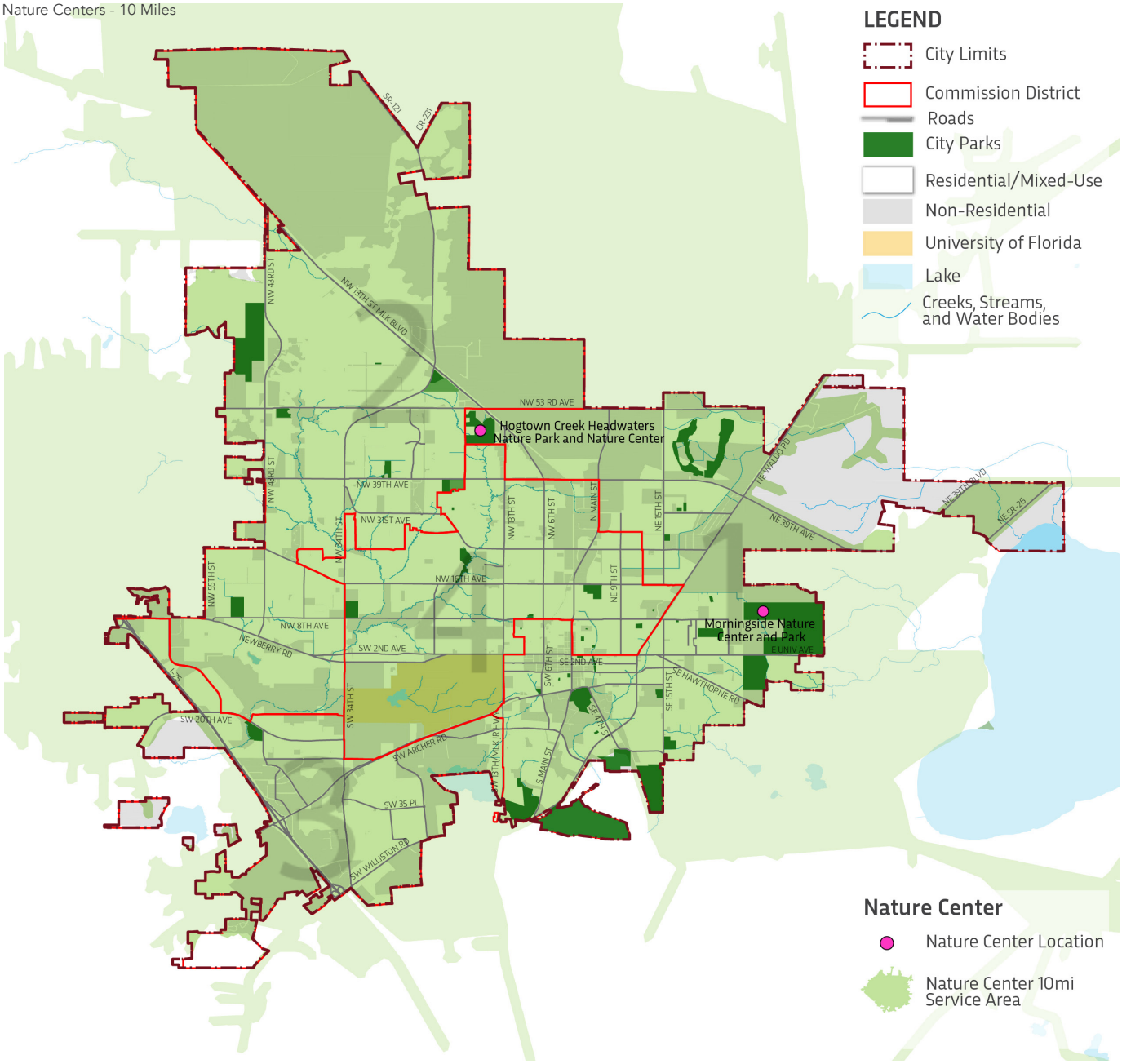


Figure 2.2r
Pickleball Courts - 3 Miles

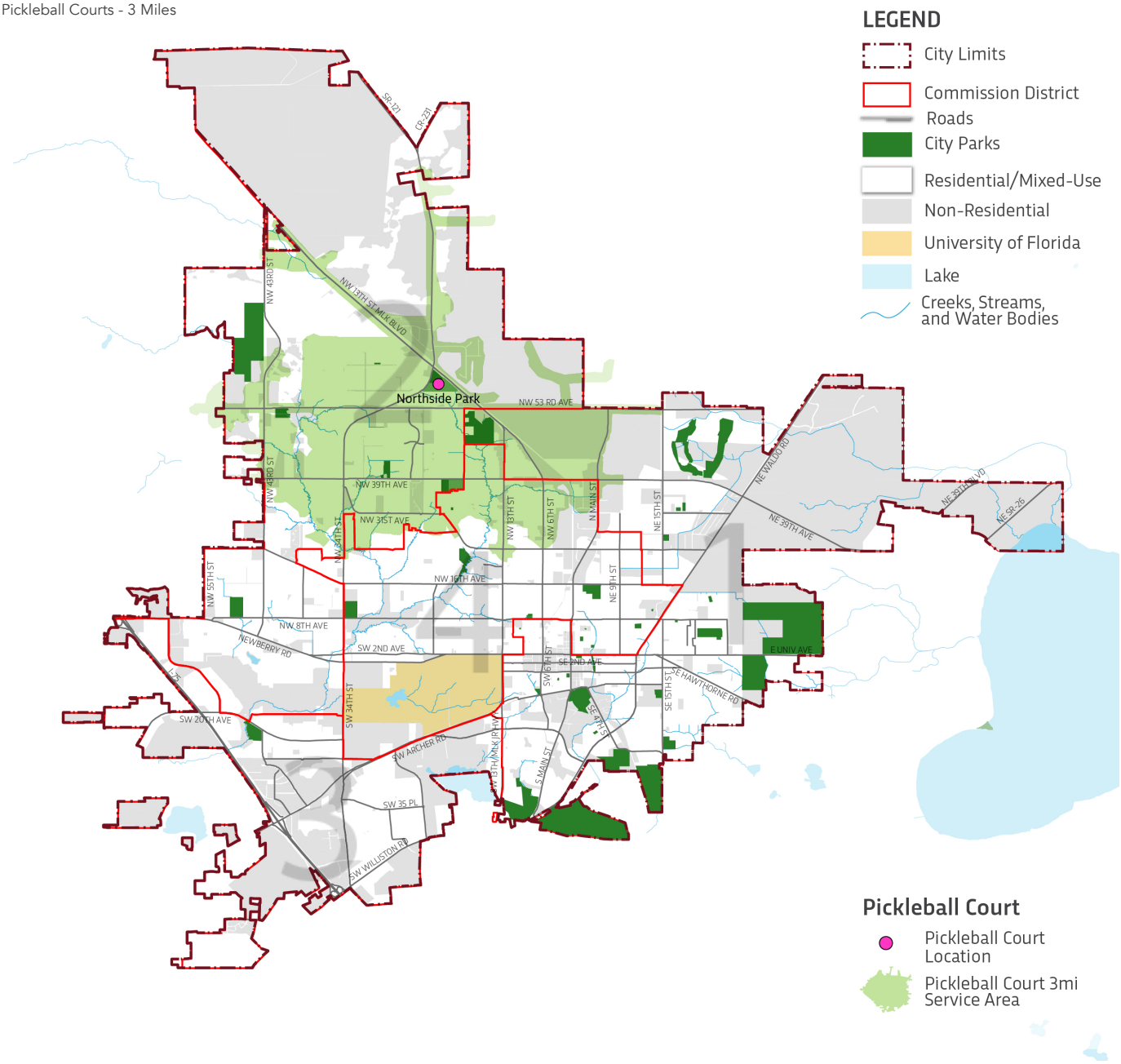


Figure 2.2s
Playgrounds - 0.5 Miles, 1 mile

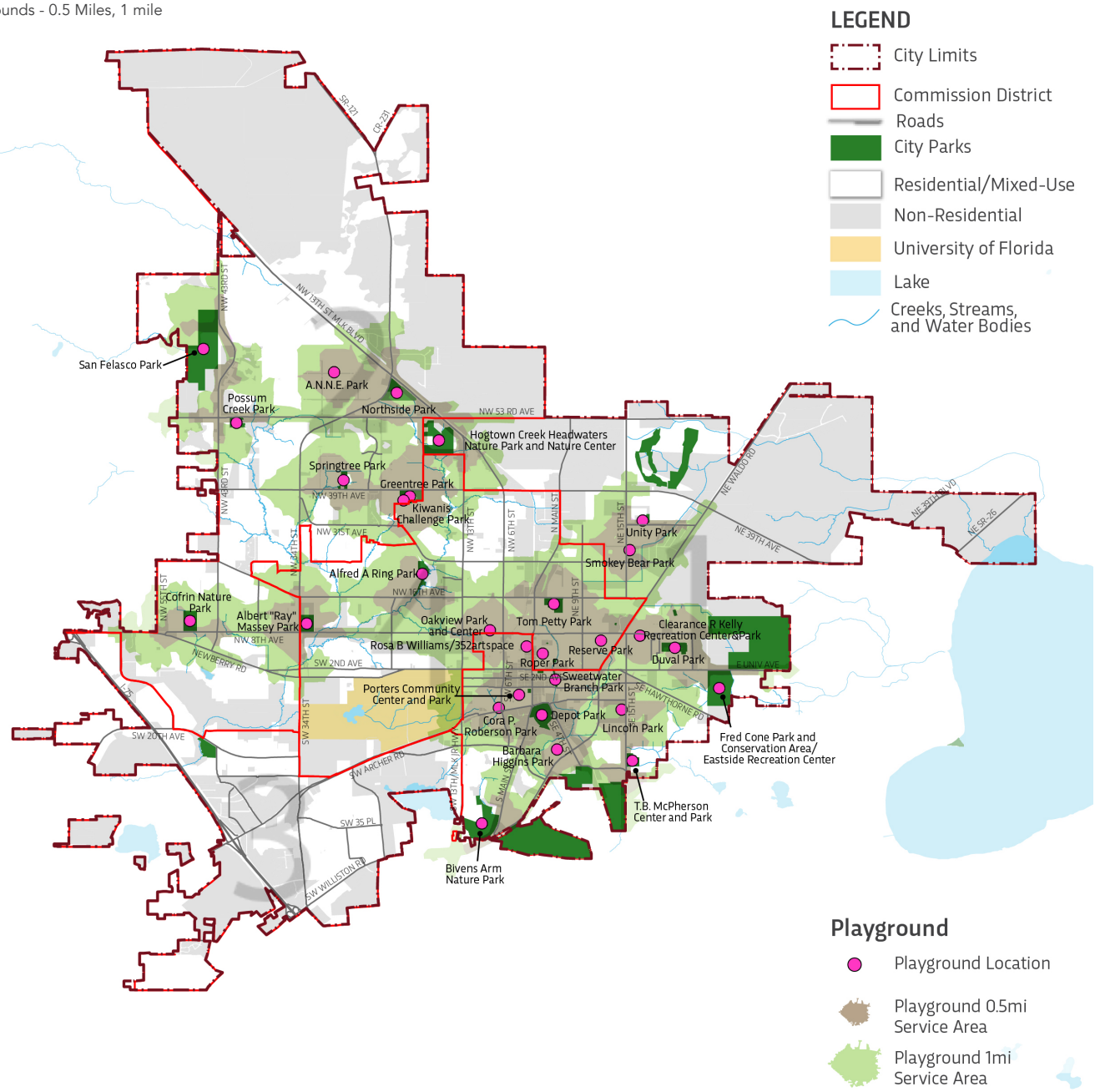


Figure 2.2t
Rectangle Multipurpose Fields - 3 Miles

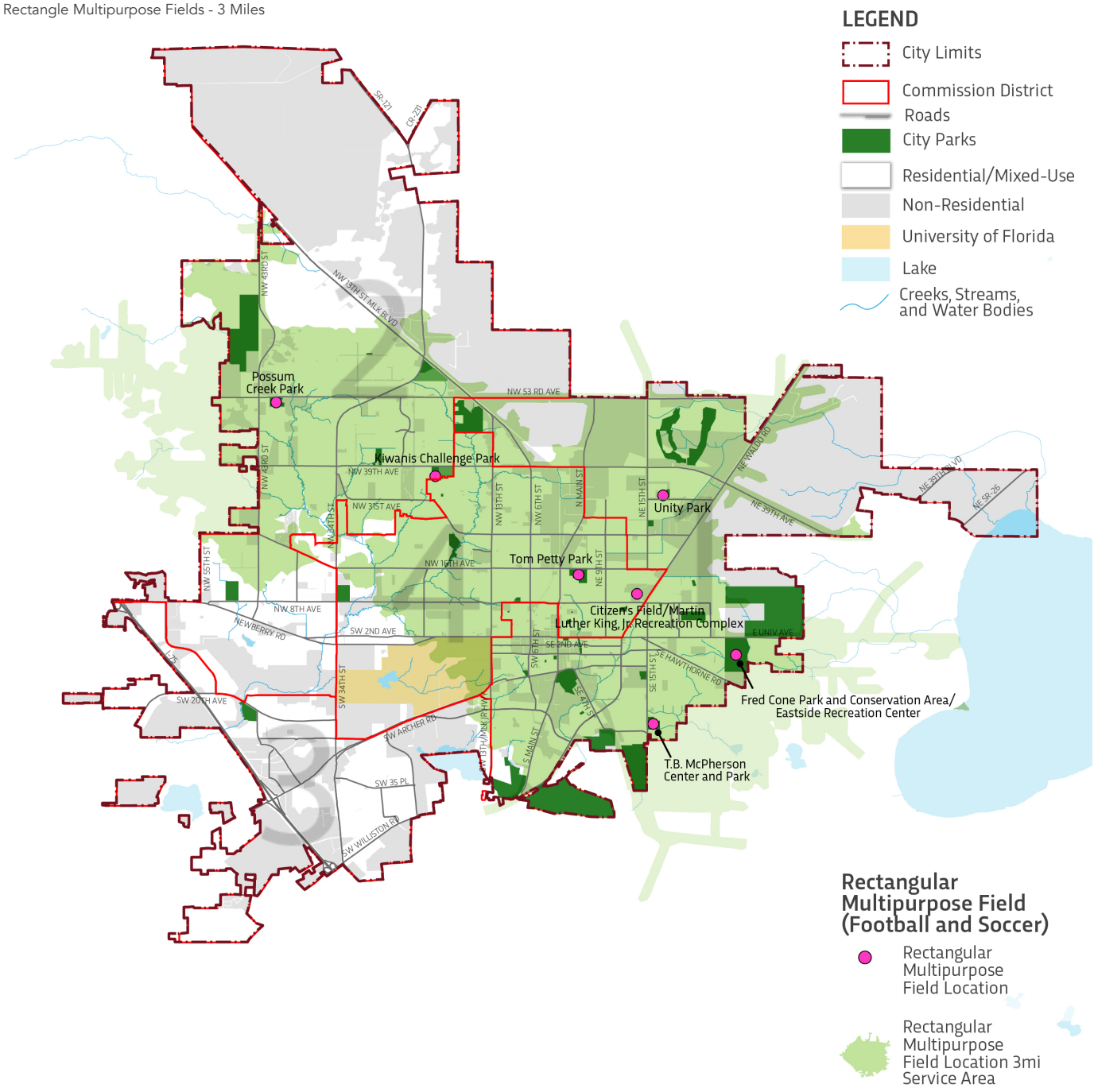


Figure 2.2u
Skate Parks - 10 Miles

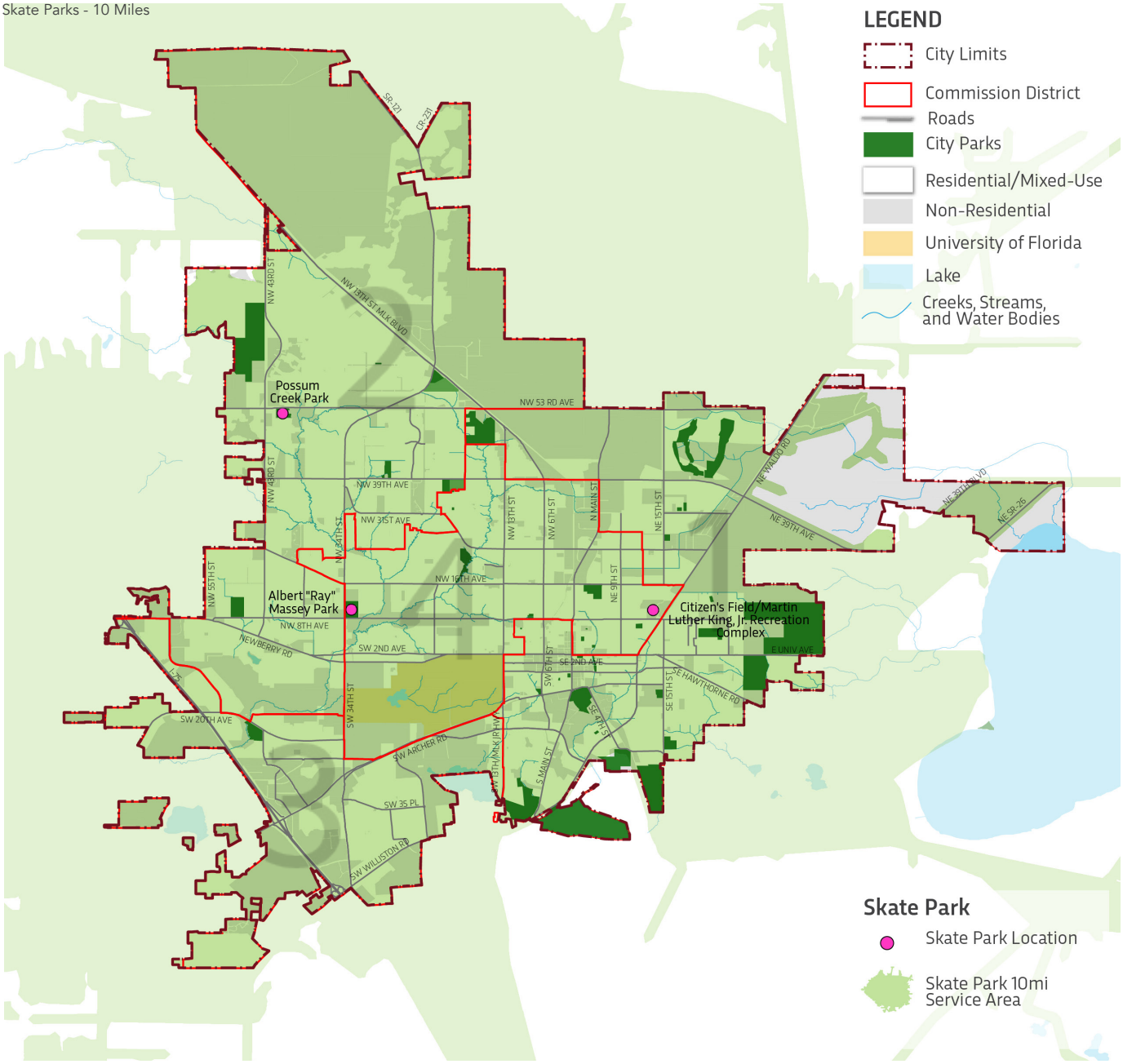


Figure 2.2v
Swimming Pools - 3 Miles

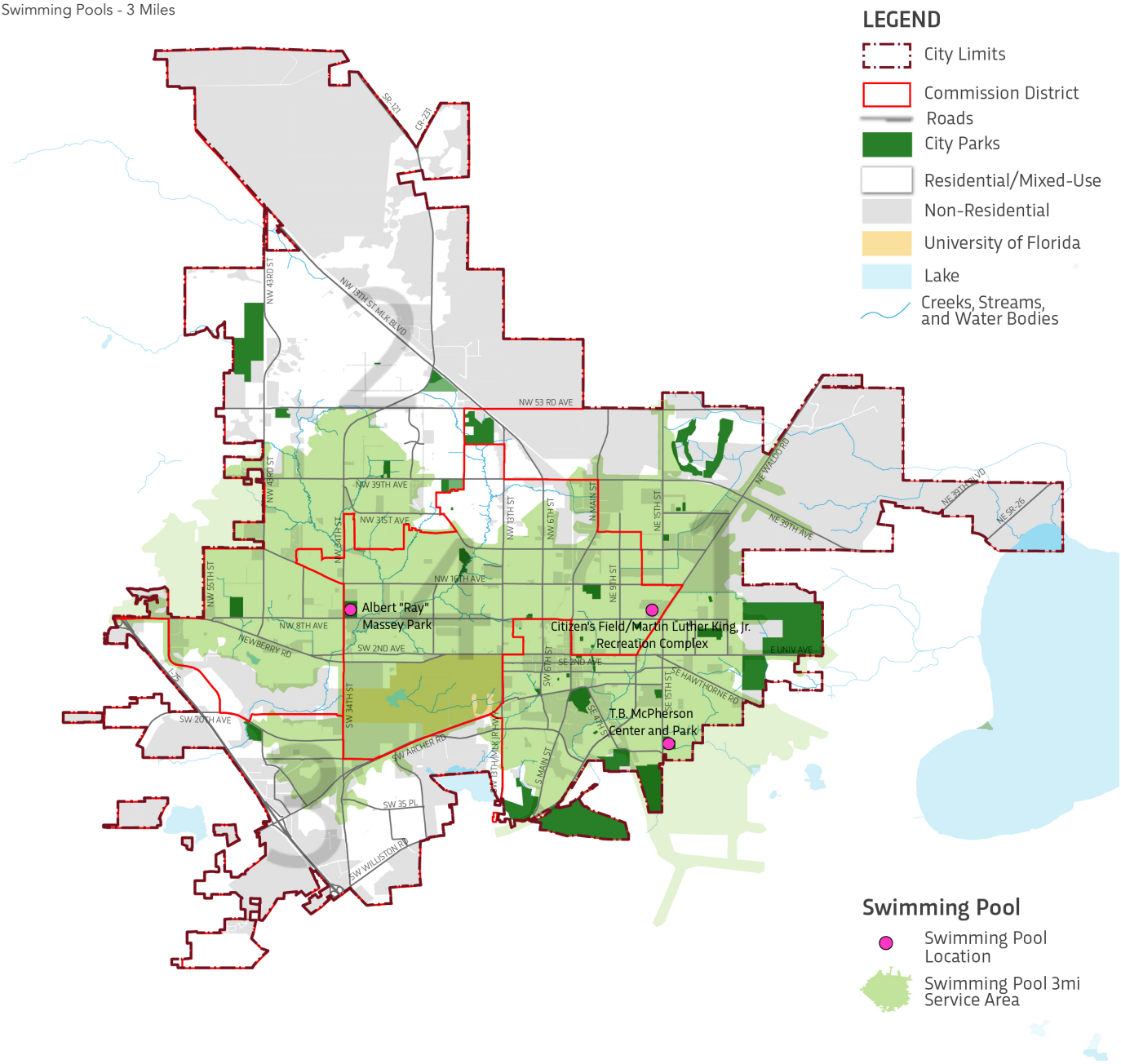


Figure 2.2w
Tennis Courts - 3 Miles

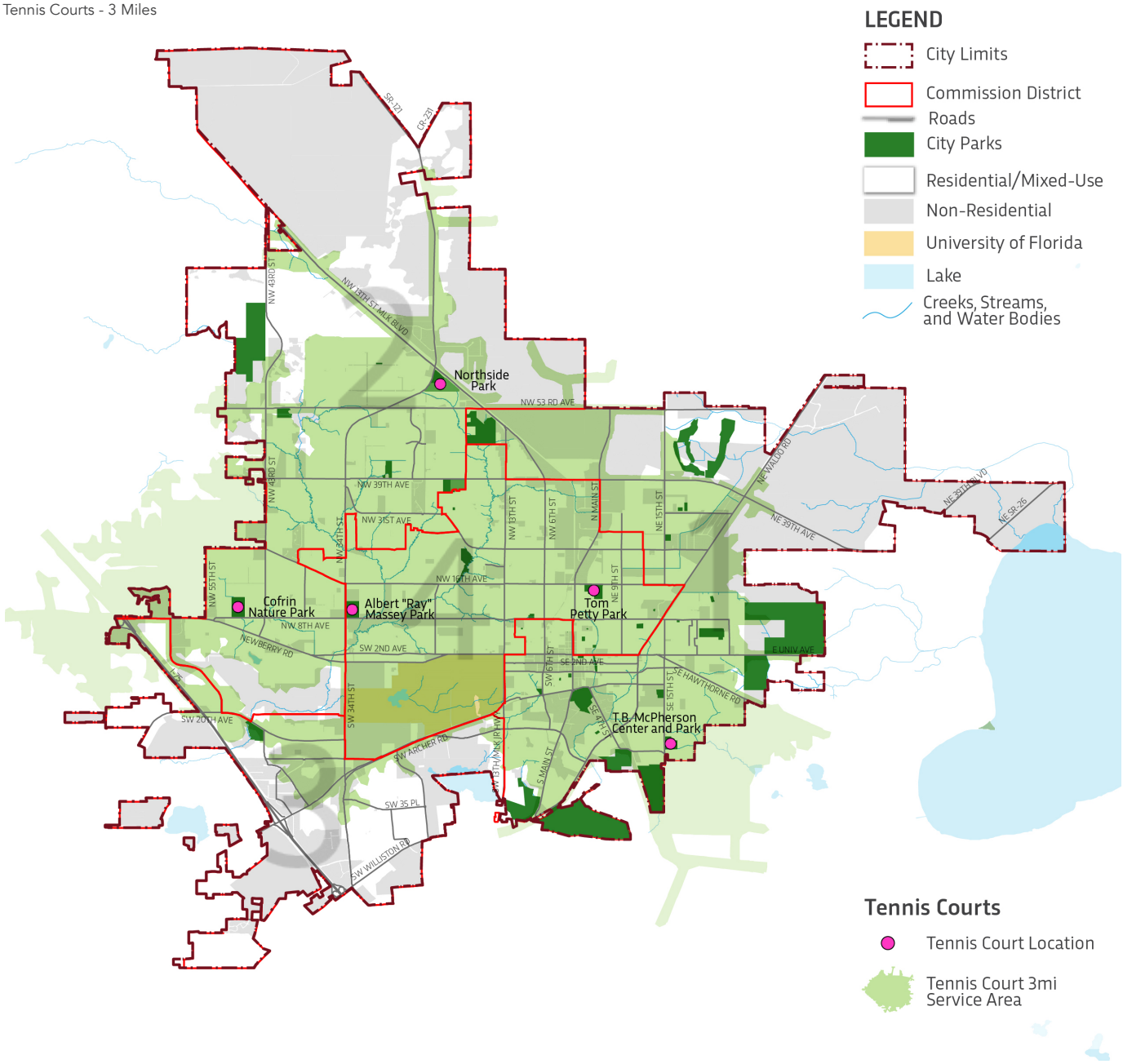


Figure 2.2x
Track and Fields - 10 Miles

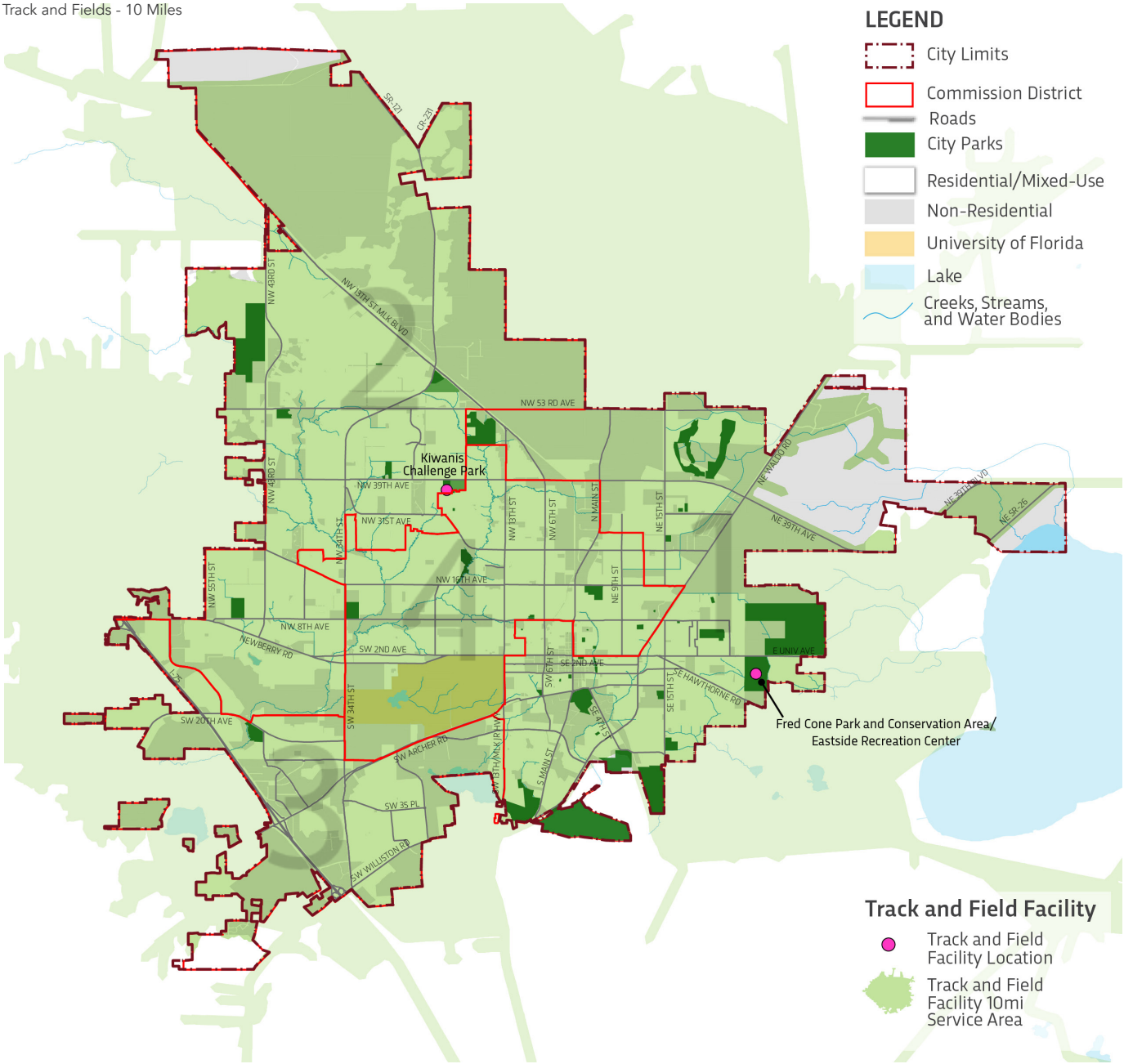
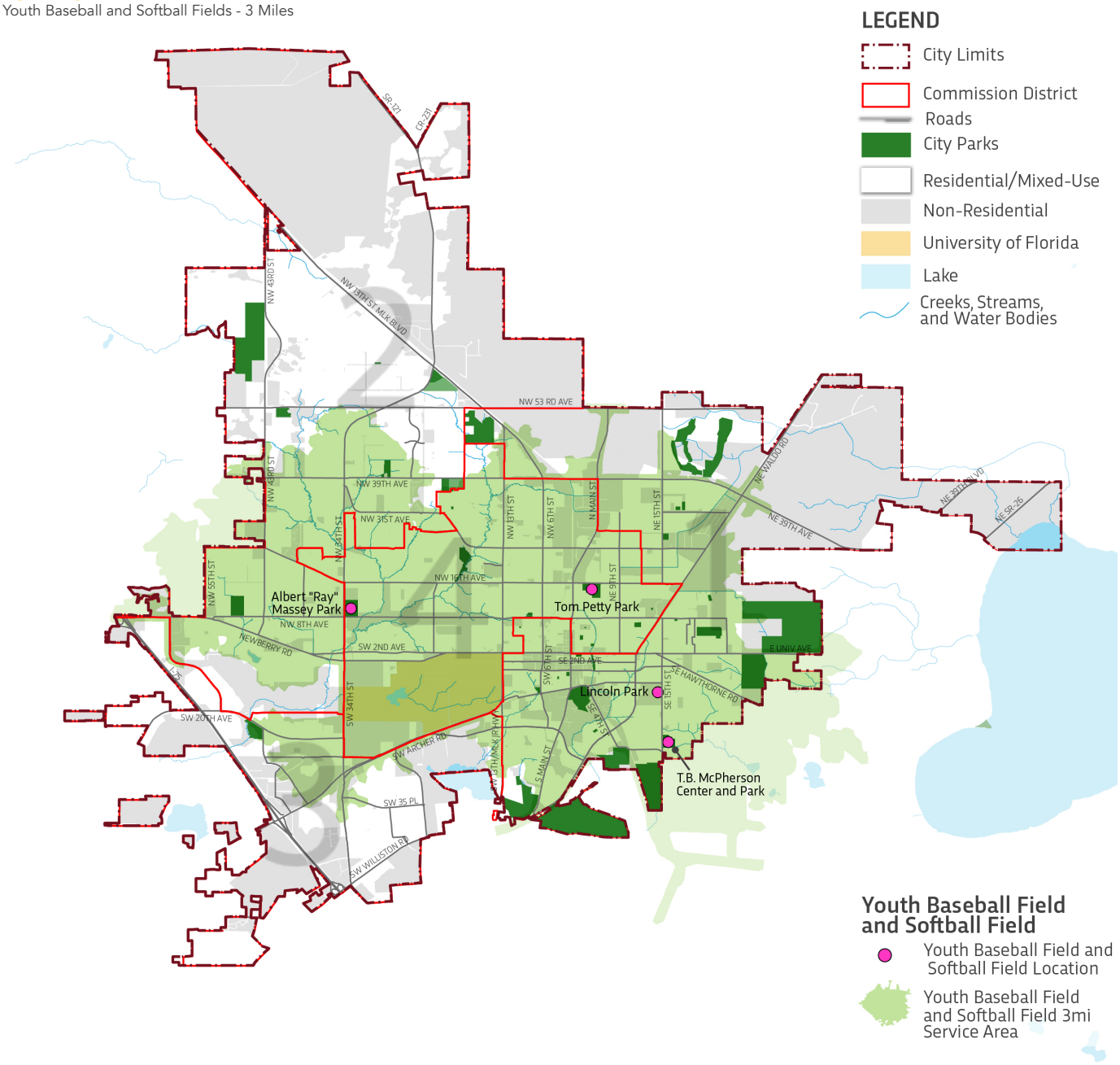


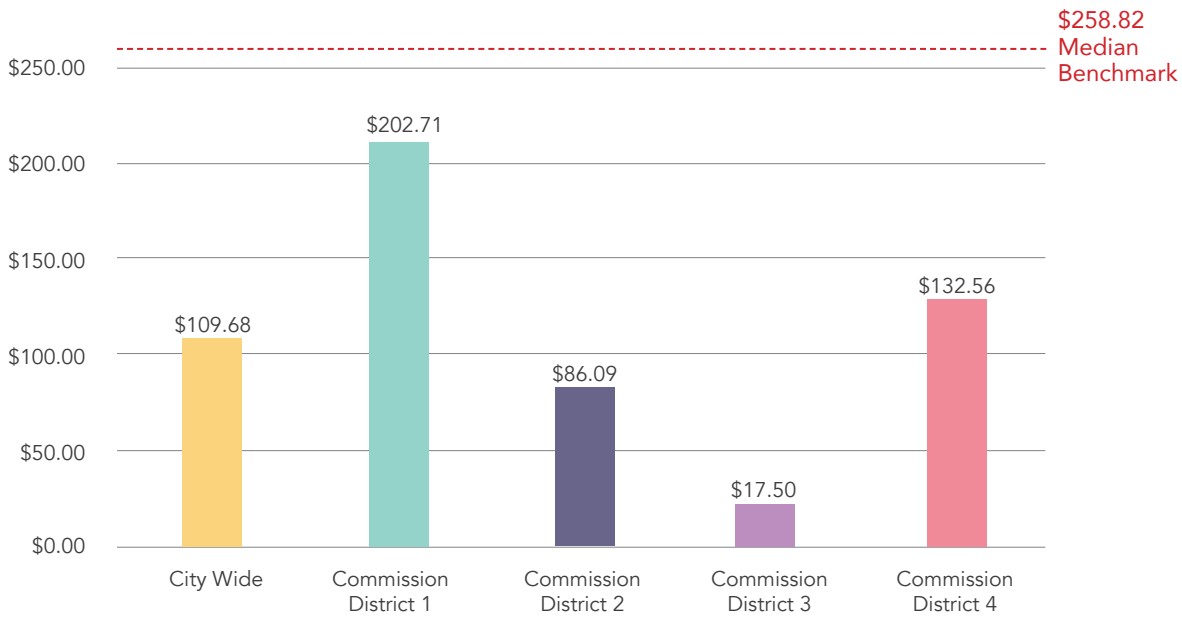
Figure 2.2y
Youth Baseball and Softball Fields - 3 Miles



Capital Funding Per Capita

Capital funding per capita is used to gauge how well a community funds parks and recreation capital improvements. Five-year average capital funding per capita were calculated for the years 2017-2021 city wide and per Commission District and compared to NRPA benchmarks for cities with a similar population and population density as the City of Gainesville. Figure 2.2z illustrates the findings from these analysis.

Figure 2.2z
Capital Funding Per Capita 5-Year Average LOS



Based on this analysis, the City of Gainesville five-year average capital funding per capita for the years 2017-2021 were below the NRPA Median benchmark. Commission District 1 has received the most funding followed by Commission District 4 while Commission District 3 has received the least amount of funding followed by Commission District 2.

2.3

Summary Findings

Overview

Based on the all the information collected, the following section indicates how the findings from the statistically-valid survey - the most reliable and credible of the needs assessment techniques –are validated by many of the other techniques related to facilities/amenities, programs/activities, addressing racial, gender, and age inequities, priority actions, areas of community concern, and funding allocation for facilities/capital improvements and programs/operations.

Following is a summary list of the city wide priority rankings followed by comparison matrices.

Citywide Top Priority Facilities/Amenities

1. Walking, jogging, and nature trails
2. Farmers' market
3. Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails
4. Kayak and canoe launches
5. Small neighborhood parks
6. Nature center

It's important to note that while Pickleball Courts did not appear as a high-priority need in the Statistically Valid Survey, they did appear as a need in most of the other techniques City-wide and per Commission District.

Citywide Top Priority Programs/Activities

1. Nature programs/environmental education
2. Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)
3. Adult fitness classes
4. Community special events
5. Adult art, music, dance, or theater
6. Senior adult programs
7. Adult water fitness programs
8. Volunteer opportunities
9. Community gardening
10. History programs
11. Programs for pets and owners

Citywide Top Priority Ways the Department Can Help Address Racial, Gander, and Age Inequities

1. Provide a broad spectrum of programs, activity, facilities, and equipment for residents of all ages, races, genders, and abilities to explore.
2. Provide programs and activities that are free, low cost, market rate, or include scholarships.
3. Provide high quality parks, facilities, and equipment throughout the City.

Citywide Top Priority Actions

1. Increase safety and security measures in parks (e.g., Increase lighting, security cameras, call boxes, park rangers, onsite staff).
2. Develop parks for unorganized and free play/ general community recreation access and that are not permitted for organized sports.
3. Develop a significant park with a variety of active and passive outdoor activities in each quadrant of the city (e.g., SW, SE, NE, NW).

Citywide Top Priority Areas of Community Concern

1. Community safety/crime/violence

Other city wide issues that were mentioned were Homelessness and/or panhandling, Preservation of natural areas, Cost of healthy foods, and

Figure 2.3a
City Wide Findings Summary Matrix

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. On-line Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Focus Group Interviews	6. Level-of-Service Analysis + Benchmarks
HIGH PRIORITY FACILITIES/AMENITIES:						
Walking, jogging, and nature trails	●	●	●	●	●	n/a
Farmers' market	●	●		●		n/a
Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails	●	●	●	●	●	n/a
Kayak and canoe launches	●	●		●		n/a
Small neighborhood parks	●	●	●	●	●	●
Nature center	●		●	●		●
HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES:						
Nature programs/environmental education	●	●	●	●	●	n/a
Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)	●	●		●		
Adult fitness classes	●	●	●	●	●	
Community special events	●	●	●	●		
Adult art, music, dance, or theater	●	●		●		
Senior adult programs	●	●				
Adult water fitness programs	●	●	●			
Volunteer opportunities	●	●		●		
Community gardening	●	●		●		
History programs	●	●			●	
Programs for pets and owners	●					
TOP PRIORITY WAYS THE DEPARTMENT CAN HELP ADDRESS RACIAL, GENDER, AND AGE INEQUITIES						
Provide a broad spectrum of programs, activity, facilities, and equipment for residents of all ages, races, genders, and abilities to explore.	●		●	●	●	n/a
Provide programs and activities that are free, low cost, market rate, or include scholarships.	●	●	●	●	●	
Provide high quality parks, facilities, and equipment throughout the City.	●		●	●	●	
TOP PRIORITY ACTIONS						
Increase safety and security measures in parks (e.g., Increase lighting, security cameras, call boxes, park rangers, onsite staff).	●	●	●	●	●	n/a
Develop parks for unorganized and free play/ general community recreation access and that are not permitted for organized sports.	●	●		●		
Develop a significant park with a variety of active and passive outdoor activities in each quadrant of the city (e.g., SW, SE, NE, NW).	●	●	●	●		
TOP PRIORITY COMMUNITY CONCERNS						
Community safety/ crime/ violence	●	●	●	●	●	n/a

● Dot identifies where the need was identified as a priority need

Affordable housing.

Citywide Allocation of $100 to Parks and Recreation Actions

$30.54 - Improvements/Maintenance of existing parks, pools, sports, cultural, and recreation facilities

$18.69 - Acquisition of new park land and open space

$17.99 - Acquisition and development of walking and biking trails

$9.57 - Improve cultural program facilities

$8.05 - Develop new cultural program facilities

$7.89 - Construction of new sports fields

Figure 2.3b
Citywide Findings Summary and Comparison - Funding Allocation

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. On-line Survey
FUNDING ALLOCATION OF $100		
Improvements/Maintenance of existing parks,pools, sports, cultural, and recreation facilities	$30.54	$23.44
Acquisition of new park land and open space	$18.69	$18.20
Acquisition and development of walking and biking trails	$17.99	$18.20
Improve cultural program facilities	$9.57	$14.46
Develop new cultural program facilities	$8.05	$12.72
Construction of new sports fields	$7.89	$12.97
Other	$7.27	$0.00

Figure 2.3b compares the funding allocation findings from Statistically Valid Survey and Online Survey respondents. The blue color range represents the order from highest funding allocation to lowest allocation based on the Statistically Valid Survey. The figure demonstrates that there is consensus on the priority order and allocation funding.

Commission District 1 Findings

Following is a summary list of Commission District 1 top priority rankings for facilities/amenities and programs/activities followed by comparison matrices.

Top Priority Facilities/Amenities

1. Walking, jogging, and nature trails
2. Farmers' market
3. Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails
4. Kayak and canoe launches
5. Nature center
6. Community gardens

Top Priority Programs/Activities

1. Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)
2. Adult fitness classes
3. Nature programs/environmental education
4. Adult art, music, dance, or theater
5. Adult water fitness programs
6. Community special events
7. Senior adult programs
8. Community gardening
9. Volunteer opportunities
10. Youth art, music, dance, or theater classes

Figure 2.3c
Commission District 1 Findings Summary Matrix for Top Priority Facilities/Amenities and Programs/Activities

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. On-line Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Level-of-Service Analysis + Benchmarks
HIGH PRIORITY FACILITIES/AMENITIES:					
Walking, jogging, and nature trails	●	●	●	●	n/a
Farmers' market	●	●		●	n/a
Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails	●	●	●	●	n/a
Kayak and canoe launches	●				n/a
Nature center	●			●	
Community gardens	●			●	
HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES:					
Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)	●	●		●	n/a
Adult fitness classes	●	●		●	
Nature programs/environmental education	●	●			
Adult art, music, dance, or theater	●	●	●	●	
Adult water fitness programs	●	●		●	
Community special events	●	●		●	
Senior adult programs	●	●			
Community gardening	●	●		●	
Volunteer opportunities	●	●		●	
Youth art, music, dance, or theater classes	●	●	●	●	

● Dot identifies where the need was identified as a priority need

Commission District 2 Findings

Following is a summary list of Commission District 2 top priority rankings for facilities/ amenities and programs/ activities followed by comparison matrices.

Top Priority Facilities/Amenities

1. Walking, jogging, and nature trails
2. Farmers' market
3. Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails
4. Kayak and canoe launches
5. Dog Parks
6. Nature center
7. Small neighborhood parks

Top Priority Programs/Activities

1. Nature programs/environmental education
2. Senior adult programs
3. Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)
4. Adult fitness classes
5. Community special events
6. Adult art, music, dance, or theater
7. History programs
8. Adult water fitness programs
9. Volunteer opportunities
10. Programs for pets and owners
11. Fishing and boating programs

Figure 2.3d
Commission District 2 Findings Summary Matrix for Top Priority Facilities/Amenities and Programs/Activities

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. On-line Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Level-of-Service Analysis + Benchmarks
HIGH PRIORITY FACILITIES/AMENITIES:					
Walking, jogging, and nature trails	●	●		●	n/a
Farmers' market	●	●		●	n/a
Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails	●	●		●	n/a
Kayak and canoe launches	●	●		●	n/a
Dog Parks	●				
Nature centers	●	●		●	●
Small Neighborhood Parks	●	●		●	
HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES:					
Nature programs/environmental education	●	●		●	n/a
Senior adult programs	●	●		●	
Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)	●	●		●	
Adult fitness classes	●	●	●	●	
Community special events	●	●		●	
Adult art, music, dance, or theater	●	●		●	
History programs	●	●		●	
Adult water fitness programs	●	●			
Volunteer opportunities	●			●	
Programs for pets and owners	●			●	
Fishing and boating programs	●	●			

● Dot identifies where the need was identified as a priority need

Commission District 3 Findings

Following is a summary list of Commission District 3 top priority rankings for facilities/amenities and programs/activities followed by comparison matrices.

Top Priority Facilities/Amenities

1. Walking, jogging, and nature trails
2. Farmers' market
3. Small neighborhood parks
4. Nature center
5. Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails
6. Community gardens
7. Fishing piers

Top Priority Programs/Activities

1. Nature programs/environmental education
2. Adult fitness classes
3. Volunteer opportunities
4. Community special events
5. Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)
6. Adult art, music, dance, or theater
7. Programs for pets and owners
8. Adult water fitness programs
9. Community gardening

Figure 2.3e
Commission District 3 Findings Summary Matrix for Top Priority Facilities/ Amenities and Programs/Activities

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. On-line Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Level-of-Service Analysis + Benchmarks
HIGH PRIORITY FACILITIES/AMENITIES:					
Walking, jogging, and nature trails	●	●		●	n/a
Farmers' market	●			●	n/a
Small neighborhood parks	●	●		●	●
Nature center	●	●		●	●
Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails	●	●		●	n/a
Community gardens	●			●	
Fishing piers	●	●			n/a
HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES:					
Nature programs/environmental education	●	●		●	
Adult fitness classes	●	●		●	
Volunteer opportunities	●	●		●	
Community special events	●	●			
Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)	●	●		●	n/a
Adult art, music, dance, or theater	●	●		●	
Programs for pets and owners	●	●		●	
Adult water fitness programs	●	●			
Community gardening	●	●		●	

● Dot identifies where the need was identified as a priority need

Commission District 4 Findings

Following is a summary list of Commission District 4 top priority rankings for facilities/amenities and programs/activities followed by comparison matrices.

Top Priority Facilities/Amenities

1. Walking, jogging, and nature trails
2. Farmers' market
3. Bicycle/ Walking/Multipurpose trails
4. Small neighborhood parks
5. Kayak and canoe launches

Top Priority Programs/Activities

1. Nature programs/environmental education
2. Adult art, music, dance, or theater
3. Community special events
4. Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)
5. Adult fitness classes
6. Senior adult programming
7. Community gardening
8. History programs

Figure 2.3f
Commission District 4 Findings Summary Matrix for Top Priority Facilities/Amenities and Programs Activities

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. On-line Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Level-of-Service Analysis + Benchmarks
HIGH PRIORITY FACILITIES/AMENITIES:					
Walking, jogging, and nature trails	●	●	●	●	n/a
Farmers' market	●	●			n/a
Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails	●	●	●	●	n/a
Small neighborhood parks	●	●	●		●
Kayak and canoe launches	●	●		●	n/a
HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES:					
Nature programs/environmental education	●	●			n/a
Adult art, music, dance, or theater	●	●	●	●	
Community special events	●	●	●	●	
Enrichment classes (sewing, cooking, etc.)	●	●		●	
Adult fitness classes	●	●		●	
Senior adult programs	●	●		●	
Community gardening	●	●		●	
History programs	●	●		●	

● Dot identifies where the need was identified as a priority need

2024-210D

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