



# **2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails**

**Orange Township, Ohio**

**August, 2022**





**BOARD OF TRUSTEES JOURNAL OF ACTIONS  
FROM SPECIAL MEETING HELD AUGUST 3, 2022  
ORANGE TOWNSHIP - DELAWARE COUNTY**

The electronic recordings of this meeting serve as the official meeting minutes. A full and accurate account of this meeting's audio and video can be found at [www.orangetwp.org](http://www.orangetwp.org)

Ms. Knapp called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Ben Grumbles, Chair (arrived 10 min late/missed role)  
Lisa Knapp, Vice Chair  
Erica Fouss, Trustee  
Lisa Kraft, Fiscal Officer

**ALSO PRESENT:** Michele Boni, Township Administrator  
Silas Bowers, Director of Operations  
Nathan McNeil, Fire Chief

**RES.22-278 APPROVING THE 2022 ORANGE TOWNSHIP 10- YEAR MASTER PLAN  
FOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS**

Ms. Knapp moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Brandstetter Carroll Inc, were engaged to coordinate and update the Orange Township Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Trails.

WHEREAS, The Orange Township Outreach and Communications Committee, Master Plan Steering Committee, Administrations, Operations, Orange Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer provided assistance in revising the master plan; and

WHEREAS, the revision process has been completed;

WHEREAS, the 2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails is a set of standards, goals, community data, maps and recommendations for the future development of the Township parks, trails and open spaces.

NOW THEREFORE, it is moved that the 2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreations, and Trails is recommended to be adopted and accepted as a guide to Township parks, trails and open spaces.

IT IS FURTHER MOVED that the version of The Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreations, and Trails recommended is that submitted to the Orange Township Board of Trustees and dated June, 2022 on its cover, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

Seconded by Mrs. Fouss

VOTE: Grumbles – Yes Knapp – Yes Fouss – Yes

**RES.22-279 MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Knapp to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Grumbles

VOTE: Grumbles – Yes Knapp – Yes Fouss – Yes

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ORANGE TOWNSHIP - DELAWARE COUNTY**

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Lisa Knapp  
Vice Chair

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Erica Fouss  
Trustee

Attest: 

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Lisa Kraft, Fiscal Officer



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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



## **2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails Orange Township, Ohio**

### **Trustees & Fiscal Officer**

Ben Grumbles, Chair  
Erica Fouss, Trustee  
Lisa Knapp, Vice Chair  
Lisa Kraft, Fiscal Officer

### **Administration**

Michele Boni, Township Administrator

### **Park Department**

Silas Bowers – Director of Operations  
Kim Mahaney – Administrative Assistant to the Director  
of Operations  
Alex Rozanski – Project Manager  
Mike Kelly – Parks, Maintenance, and Facilities Manager

### **Orange Township Outreach and Communications Committee (OTOCC)**

Tony Benishek, Vice Chair  
Kimberly Boston, Secretary  
J.D. Hartwell, Member  
Chrisi Hagan, Member  
Emily Elsea, Member

### **Master Plan Steering Committee**

Adam Hemsworth  
Julie Feasel  
Patsy Kaschalk  
Susie Ross  
Kim Boston  
Jerry Davis  
Amy Glaze  
Chad Williams

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August 3, 2022

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**ETC (Survey Consultant)**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## THE NEED FOR A PLAN

Situated within the northern portion of Columbus's Metro Area, Orange Township has experienced tremendous population growth in the last 20 years, transforming the once primarily rural area to largely suburban. While Orange Township has a quality existing park system and a myriad of agencies that provide a variety of space/programming, the quantity of parks required to sustain such population growth has become evident.

This *2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails* will be critical to the township's future as it clarifies the department's own responsibilities and needs, as well as what partnerships can be leveraged to best deliver parks, facilities, and recreational choices to the citizens. Meant to instill focus, establish priorities, and inspire action over the next 5 to 10 years, this Master Plan was produced with guidance from an active steering committee appointed by township staff. It is supported by robust data collection, including hours of in-person engagement, and affirms the Orange Township Park Department as a primary provider of recreation facilities and experiences.

Changing community needs, development goals, and operational feasibility are all reasons enough for producing a future-forward plan. But even as the township looked head-on towards addressing these, the year 2020 ushered in an added and unprecedented layer of change and challenge. Besides dramatically altering daily life, the effects

of the coronavirus pandemic are shaping the future of communities in ways still impossible to fully understand; however, one certain result is the increasing value communities are placing on parks and recreation spaces. As civic spaces, parks act as operational hubs for addressing chronic issues like physical inactivity and poor health. Having even a simple connection to nature can relieve stress, improve mental health, and provide opportunities for interpersonal interaction.<sup>1</sup> Parks are part of hyper-local civic infrastructure (so-called "third-spaces")<sup>2</sup> needed now more than ever, where citizens practice the "art of association" and do the work of knitting communities together.<sup>3</sup>

As the pandemic wanes, the increasing demand for outdoor and recreation spaces has remained high, adding stress to existing parks and outdoor infrastructure across the country. Agencies are adapting and finding creative funding solutions,<sup>4</sup> boldly stepping into the critical work of bridging inequity, safeguarding physical and mental health, and ensuring access. This type of flexibility exemplifies the substance of the recommendations in this Master Plan. While it is impossible to decipher a single "correct" path into the post-pandemic future, this plan underscores the need for responsive action, elevated experiences, and reinforced civic infrastructure. As long-term economic impacts of COVID-19 manifest, there will be temptations and appeals to recover costs or cut spending. This Master Plan maps the beginning of multi-dimensional recovery where parks and recreation are not only important but essential

- 1 National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/>, (March 30, 2022).
- 2 Redefining Infrastructure & Public Space. *Reimagining the Civic Commons*. 2021. <https://medium.com/reimagining-the-civic-commons/redefining-infrastructure-and-public-space-2e311edfde68>
- 3 American Academy of Arts and Sciences, *Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century* (Cambridge, Mass.: American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2020)
- 4 McCormick, Kathleen. *Room to Roam: The Pandemic Has Underscored the Need for More Urban Parks; So What Comes Next?* Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. <https://www.lincolnst.edu/publications/articles/2020-10-room-roam-pandemic-urban-parks-what-comes-next>. (October 7, 2020). Accessed November 2020.



for building a strong, vibrant community in Orange Township.<sup>5</sup>

## EXISTING CONDITIONS OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN ORANGE TOWNSHIP

Due to the nature of the existing park systems in Orange Township, it is necessary to classify the parks according to their functions. A park system should be evaluated as a composite of recreation areas with each meeting a particular public need; the system should provide a combination of smaller Neighborhood Parks, larger Community Parks, Special Use Parks, and Natural Areas. For all residents, whatever their background, parks help provide a variety of passive and active outdoor recreational opportunities. Proximity to these valuable resources invariably improves community health and wellness, not to mention create more adaptable, robust local economies.<sup>6</sup>

Orange Township maintains 121.5 acres of parkland and seven parks, including one Neighborhood Park and four Community Parks. The township also oversees two Special Use parks, including North Road Park and Orange Bridge Park. In addition to these properties, residents have access to several trails, parks, and open spaces managed by other entities (e.g., Shale Hollow Park by Preservation Parks and Alum Creek State Park) within Orange Township plus many more just beyond the township boundary.

### Demographic and Benchmarking Analysis

A strong, proactive approach to department operations requires knowledge and understanding of community demographics. The findings of this Master Plan (Chapter 2) show 1) the population has tripled over the last 20 years but with slower predicted growth – although still growing – in the future; 2) the household size has increased from 2.69 in 2000 to 2.81 in 2020; 3) the senior population (65+) as a percentage will outpace senior populations in comparison to Delaware County and Ohio; and 4) diversity of the population has greatly increased.

The analysis of existing conditions includes a benchmark comparison to 32 similar agencies using the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics database. The benchmarking shows the township has lower service ratios (facilities per 10,000 population) for all amenities but multipurpose

rectangular fields, which could be more equitably utilized. The township population and availability of open park space provides opportunity to expand those underserved services to the community such as indoor recreation spaces, playgrounds, and programming and management of existing rectangular fields.

These improvements will be especially critical as post-pandemic shifts in demand for parks and open space adds to stresses on existing resources.

### Service Area Analysis (Gaps)

Maps of service areas for various parks and facilities were used to identify “Service Gaps” or underserved areas within Orange Township. Maps were also created to illustrate levels of access to various park categories and facilities. The analysis indicated that just over one-third of Orange Township residents (37%) are within walking distance of a park, although only 13% of residents can walk to an Orange Township Neighborhood Park with the largest concentration of walking access to the center of the community. The township also has an existing extensive trail system that provides opportunity for connections and bridging the gaps between recreation areas. However, gaps in trail linkages can be found throughout the township.

Lastly, a composite service areas map shows the overall level of service for parks and facilities, ranked from high to low, in turn revealing spaces of need and opportunity. Dark shades of blue indicate high service levels, while red areas show the areas with the lowest level of service to parks and facilities. Thirty-five percent (35%) of Orange Township's residents live in the highest two categories; however, over half (59%) live within the medium to medium-low service level; only five percent (5%) of the population lives in low service areas.

Overall, Orange Township has a medium level of service for some type of park access whether that be an Orange Township property or another type of recreation area. Areas with the highest levels of service are those near North Orange or Glen Oak parks, as these parks offer a variety of amenities; however, only 9% of the community enjoys the highest level of access.

5 Marquis, Bridget. Infrastructure That Does More: Investing in Public Spaces for a Resilient America. Strong Towns. [https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2020/11/23/infrastructure-that-does-more-investing-in-public-spaces-for-a-resilient-america?fbclid=IwAR2Aa8OXGjUpGNv3ibIDHC-W40ic9L9QjnXvix\\_kgFSOcfEoi5vihqJ0bDg](https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2020/11/23/infrastructure-that-does-more-investing-in-public-spaces-for-a-resilient-america?fbclid=IwAR2Aa8OXGjUpGNv3ibIDHC-W40ic9L9QjnXvix_kgFSOcfEoi5vihqJ0bDg)

6 Berg, Nate. Great Parks Don't Just Have Rec. Space: They Create Jobs. 2021. Fast Company. [https://www.fastcompany.com/90624316/great-parks-dont-just-have-rec-space-they-create-jobs?mc\\_cid=105f89bd93&mc\\_eid=6c9b6b28d4](https://www.fastcompany.com/90624316/great-parks-dont-just-have-rec-space-they-create-jobs?mc_cid=105f89bd93&mc_eid=6c9b6b28d4)

Service Level	Population	Cumulative Population
High	9%	9%
Medium-High	26%	36%
Medium	37%	72%
Medium-Low	22%	95%
Low	5%	100%

## A CITIZEN DRIVEN PLAN

To make informed decisions moving forward, Orange Township needs meaningful public input in addition to robust statistical and performance analysis. Including resident participation in the planning process gives actual park users a means to share their individual needs, perceptions, concerns, and desires for the park system they themselves use. This Master Plan process used several methods to connect with the community.

As the township begins to implement this plan, sustained efforts will be necessary to continuously solicit public feedback about development projects; allowing direct participation whenever possible will ensure the community feels heard and has pride in their parks. As the community finds new balance amid the coronavirus recovery, engagement efforts should be flexible and creative, utilizing tools like on-site feedback (e.g., semi-permanent chalk or bulletin boards) and interactive online platforms (e.g., Mentimeter).

The summary below indicates the various ways the public was involved throughout this Master Plan process.

### Engagement Summary

- Public workshop open house
  - Stakeholder discussions
  - Statistically valid Parks and Recreation Survey (by ETC Institute)
  - Web-based survey
  - Online engagement (powered by MindMixer)
1. A public workshop open house held on September 13, 2021 allowed attendees to learn more about the Master Plan and provide input on three general topics – “Parks and Facilities,” “Trails and Natural Areas,” and “Programs and Events.”
  2. Meetings with stakeholder groups (July 2021) representing:
    - Olentangy United

- Columbus United
  - Olentangy Rugby
  - OYAA
  - Pickleball & Tennis Group
  - 19 Sports
  - Polaris Cricket
  - North Park Cricket Club
  - Disc Golf
  - Trails & Paths Focus Group
  - Sourcepoint
  - Delaware County District Library
  - HOA's/Neighborhoods
  - Mom's Club
  - Seniors
  - Park users
  - Other jurisdictions/agencies – Westerville, Delaware County, Liberty Township, Genoa Township, US Army Corps of Engineers, Columbus Metro Parks
  - Township Trustees
3. A statistically valid needs assessment survey conducted by the ETC Institute – 400 total surveys received
  4. A Web survey – available from Spring to Fall of 2021 and powered by Survey Monkey – completed by 1,209 respondents (68% residents of Orange Township, 32% of another area)

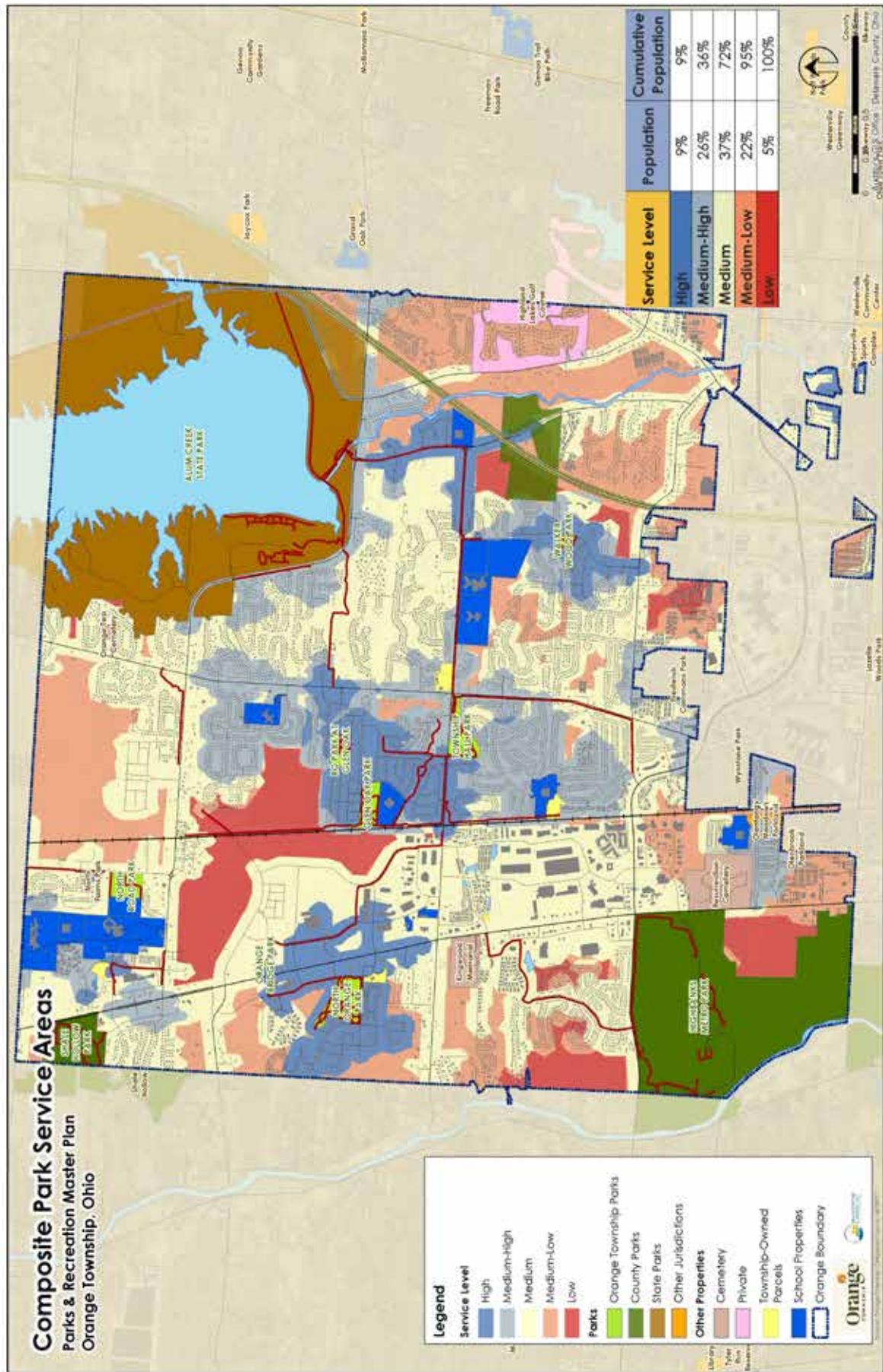
## WHAT ORANGE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS SAID

Information gathered from these public input methods was used to identify the needs of Orange Township residents. A brief summary of the findings is provided below.

### Stakeholder Groups

Discussions spanned a diversity of issues:

1. Trails & connectivity
2. Equity of access to facilities
3. Balance of facilities – active and passive
4. Educational opportunities
5. Splash pad
6. Community events/programs
7. Pickleball courts
8. A park board





9. Indoor recreation opportunities
10. Land set aside for parks
11. More soccer fields and lights
12. Adequate parking
13. Collaboration with other agencies
14. Inclusive playground
15. Disc golf
16. Variety of programming
17. Outdoor fitness opportunities
18. Permanent location for community gardens

## Survey Results

### Visitation

**According to the Mail survey, 86% of residents visited a park in Orange Township at some point in the past two years; 44% of these residents visited parks 20 or more times.** The Web Survey reflects even higher usage. Highbanks Metro Park (73% Mail, 82% Web) and Alum Creek State Park (65% Mail, 80% Web) were the top two most visited parks by households, with North Orange Park (47% Mail, 61% Web) coming in third (see Chapter 4).

### Physical Condition

According to the Mail Survey, 38% of households rated the facilities condition as excellent with only 4% rating them as fair. Web Survey results were similar, but respondents were less likely to rate conditions as excellent.

Overall, 96% of households see the condition of Orange Township's facilities as either excellent or good.

### Existing Parks Improvements (Mail/Web)

1. Trails – walking/hiking (61%/43%)
2. Restrooms (46%/49%)
3. Trails – bike (45%/35%)
4. Shade structures (29%/29%)

These preferences point first to the need for on-site amenities that improve comfort at the parks, as well as a popular desire for trails and walkable connectivity across the community and systemwide.

Unsurprisingly, the greatest household needs for parks and recreation concerned walking & hiking trails (81%) with natural areas/nature parks ranked at a close second (72%). Paved bike trails were third (63%). However, the top met/unmet need according to the Mail Survey was community/recreation centers,

followed closely by paved bike trails at roughly 4,300 households each.

### Most Important Facilities (Sum of Top 4 Choices)

- Walking & hiking trails – 51%
- Paved Bike Trails – 34%
- Natural Areas/nature parks – 33%
- Playgrounds – 21%

The results of the most important facilities were combined with the reported unmet needs to determine high **(top 5) facility priorities for investment:**

1. **Walking & hiking trails**
2. **Paved bike trails**
3. **Community Recreation Centers**
4. **Natural areas/nature Parks**
5. **Swimming pools (indoor)**

### Most Important Facilities (Sum of Top 4 Choices)

- Concerts/art performances – 26%
- Fitness & wellness programs (adult) – 21%
- Nature Programs – 19%

The results of the most important programs were combined with the reported unmet needs to determine the high **(top 7) program priorities for investment:**

1. **Concerts/art performances**
2. **Fitness & wellness programs (adult)**
3. **Nature programs**
4. **Movies (outdoor)**
5. **Programs for persons age 50+**
6. **Special events**
7. **Sports programs**

And finally, respondents shared their level of support for a range of improvements and potential development covered in the survey. **Ninety-six percent (96%) of households indicated support for new trail development, and about 85% supported upgrades to existing facilities and acquisition of open space.**

### Learning about Activities

Currently, residents learn about programs and activity offerings via the township newsletter, word of mouth, and social networking. Moving forward, residents would prefer to learn about these offerings via the township newsletter, email notifications, and posting parks & recreation flyers/banners. Thirty-nine percent

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(39% of households said the top reason for not using facilities and programs was lack of information about what is available. Based on these results, the township should improve its online presence.

## Engagement Key Findings

Results indicate that generally the Orange Township community desires:

- Connectivity and trails, including walking, hiking, and biking
- Upgrades to existing parks
- New park features (e.g., pickleball, disc golf, dog park, splash pad)
- Preservation of natural areas
- Additional programming (e.g., concerts/live performances, outdoor movies, fitness, nature)
- Upgraded playgrounds
- Support amenities (e.g., restrooms, wayfinding, shade, & seating)
- Year-round recreation
- Strategic & collaborative marketing and promotion

## VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN ORANGE TOWNSHIP

Orange Township and the steering committee, with support from the planning team, worked to craft a strategic plan. This facet of the document solidifies the daily purpose of the agency, its guiding values, and the long-term view of success.

### Vision

**Deliver dynamic park experiences that serve our diverse and growing population**

### Mission

**Enrich life through people, parks, and experiences**

### Values

#### Community

Providing innovative opportunities that bring the community together

#### Quality

Delivering excellence, transparency, and safety to the community

#### Connectivity

Guiding the community to enjoyment, wellbeing, and each other

#### Accessibility

Ensuring convenient, inclusive, and affordable community access to parks and facilities

#### Health

Improving physical and mental wellness throughout the community

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives will guide the operations, improvements, and services in parks and recreation in Orange Township over the next 5-10 years.

### Goal 1: Quality Parks and Facilities

Enhance quality of life for everyone in Orange Township by equitably providing exceptional amenities and flexible spaces for recreation, wellness, and socialization

**Places:** Provide innovative parks that serve and engage the community

**Amenities:** Pursue responsive development and strategic replacement of structures and support features

**Land Management:** Employ strategic partnership and development policies to ensure community access to parks and open space in the present and the future

**Proactive Maintenance:** Enhance safety, accessibility, quality, and cost effectiveness by continuously examining maintenance standards and best practices

### Goal 2: Community Connections

Cultivate a wide variety of physical and social connections throughout the entire community

**Access:** Add, expand, and improve connections and transportation options to parks, schools, and community resources

**Gathering:** Offer attractive, accessible, and inviting opportunities that promote community interaction

**Nature:** Provide connections between the community and the natural environment through access, preservation, and education

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### Goal 3: Continuous Engagement

Engage residents and partner agencies to ensure the delivery of innovative, accessible, and inclusive experiences that adapt to the changing needs of the diverse community

**Engagement:** Meaningfully connect with residents and partners to assess needs, eliminate barriers, and ensure availability of unique experiences

**Partnerships:** Prioritize relationship-building and information-sharing to effectively tackle collective goals across the community

**Diverse Opportunities:** Encourage healthy lifestyles, exploration, and learning through a wide variety of activities and events

**Promotion:** Utilize innovative and inclusive outreach methods to raise awareness of opportunities in Orange Township

### Goal 4: Responsible Operations

Employ strong leadership to implement best practices that ensure efficient management, exceptional customer service, and sustainable operations

**Structure:** Encourage an engaged and well-trained workforce of valued staff with a culture of innovation

**Operations:** Implement clear standards for training and performance to ensure quality, adaptable, and innovative services

**Funding:** Explore creative operational practices and funding strategies to maximize the quality and effectiveness of parks, facilities, and operations

## SYSTEMWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Public input (Chapter 4) and a needs assessment (Chapter 5) together informed the recommendations for improvement outlined in Chapters 7 and 8. The following items are the top priorities determined by the Master Plan process along with regular consultation with the steering committee.

1. Add and expand upon existing support features throughout the park system such as restrooms, seating, picnic/shade structures, trees, and landscaping
2. Collaborate with other agencies to expand services and fill gaps within the township
3. Seek opportunities to add parks in underserved areas
4. Utilize the recently hired Events and Communications Coordinator (funded through program fees) to develop and produce Orange Township-branded community events and programs using contractors
5. Continuously update and create master plans for individual parks before major improvement are made
6. Continue to add and connect trails throughout the township
7. Conduct ADA audit and improve ADA access to all existing and future facilities
8. Expand outdoor field and court capacity in response to community needs
9. Seek partnerships with school systems and health organizations to promote programming and healthy living practices
10. Ensure all decisions for new facilities and programs tie into the department's mission
11. Utilize technology for easy program registration and marketing to increase awareness and participation in the park system and offered programs
12. Identify staffing, maintenance, and training requirements for existing and future amenities
13. Consider re-establishing the Orange Township Community Park Board to provide guidance and recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the Park Department
14. Establish partnerships with vendors, contractors, and local organizations
15. Ensure consistency in branding and communication to the public and partnered agencies
16. Consider creating an Orange Township Parks Foundation (an independent organization or subsidiary of another) to raise funds, recruit and organize volunteers, and promote parks
17. Continue seeking grants and apply to foundations for project funding that enhances the park system
18. Institute an easy-to-understand Cost Recovery and Pricing plan for all services offered
19. Utilize and establish a volunteer base to assist with park maintenance and programming
20. Conduct a feasibility study with community engagement prior to development of costly (capital or operational) facilities, such as an indoor recreation center



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## **ACTION PLAN**

The *2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails* concludes with an Action Plan of 95 strategies and recommendations. These action items, which can be found in Chapter 9, detail specific actions for Orange Township to take in implementing this long-range master plan.

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 THE NEED FOR A PLAN

Due to its location in Delaware County within the northern portion of the Columbus Metro Area, the population of Orange Township tripled between 2000 and 2020 from 12,530 to 37,452. This rapid growth has dramatically changed the township from primarily rural to largely suburban. Growth is expected to continue over the next 10 years, although likely at a slower rate. While Orange Township has a great park system with many quality parks, the quantity of offerings has not kept pace with population growth. The needs and make of the community have also evolved over that time. This *2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails*, set in motion by the township, is needed to guide future improvement in responses to growth and changes in the community.

While changing community needs, development goals, and upgrade possibilities taken altogether are reason enough for producing a future-forward plan, 2020 ushered in an unprecedented layer of change and challenge. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on communications, procedures, and everyday routines across all sectors of the economy. Besides impacting daily life, the effects of the ongoing pandemic are shaping the future of communities in ways not yet fully realized.

Prior to the pandemic, the value of parks and recreation was clear. As civic spaces, parks act as operational hubs for efforts to address chronic issues like physical inactivity, poor health, and access to nutrition. Just by living close to a park, an individual is more likely to have higher activity levels. Having even a simple connection to nature – like a small Neighborhood Park with healthy tree canopy – can relieve stress, improve mental health, and provide opportunities for interpersonal interaction.<sup>1</sup> Parks are part of hyper-local civic infrastructure, needed now more than ever, where citizens practice the “art of association” and do the work of knitting communities together.<sup>2</sup>

To overview of the current system, the Orange Township Park Department oversees over 100 acres of parkland and seven parks, including one Neighborhood Park, four Community Parks, and two Special Use Parks. Because this plan is concerned with community access overall and demand for parks and recreation in general, it is important to also consider the many other providers in Orange Township. Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, and Ohio State Parks all offer large parks within the township, and Olentangy Local Schools offer amenities at several school properties. Several private organizations and HOAs also offer open space and recreational facilities.

<sup>1</sup> National Recreation and Park Association, “Health and Wellness,” <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/>, (December 10 2019).

<sup>2</sup> American Academy of Arts and Sciences, *Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century* (Cambridge, Mass.: American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2020)

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In recognizing the need for a future-focused plan, the Board of Trustees and Park Department staff decided a comprehensive planning process should be completed to best align services with community demand. The township appointed a steering committee to support and help guide the planning process. This 2022 *Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails* is the culmination of an engaged and informed planning process. Its 5- to 10-year scope will provide critical guidance for parks, recreation, culture, and community connection as Orange Township moves forward into the future.

## 1.2 THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS

Beyond providing relief during a global pandemic, parks deliver numerous benefits and services to communities. Local agencies have the responsibility to provide parks and recreation resources that champion the health, safety, and welfare of the community. A Master Plan is an important tool that agencies can use to direct the management and provision of their resources. For many residents, parks are the only place where they can access the natural environment or enjoy opportunities for social interaction. Parks have the potential to provide a variety of social, active, and outdoor recreational opportunities to everyone, all of which can improve quality of life and make viable, thriving communities. Equitable access to parks and facilities ensures the health and wellness benefits from these resources is felt by the entire community.

In terms of driving economic impact, parks and recreation offer incredible potential. A major study conducted on behalf of the Trust for Public Land by John L. Crompton, *The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation*, investigates the impact of parks and open space on property taxes. Findings indicate property values were higher for parcels located near quality parks and open spaces than for similar properties located elsewhere. Additionally, recent surveys of home buyers by the National Association of Home Builders indicate that trails, parks, and playgrounds were three of the top five amenities that home buyers desire when considering a new home purchase. Furthermore, the findings of a recent study, *The Economic Significance of Local and Regional Park Systems' Spending on the United States Economy* (conducted by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University (GMU) for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)) found that local and regional parks created \$140 billion in economic activity per year and supported nearly one million jobs in the United States.

In assessing overall quality of life, a community's parks and recreation system is considered a primary indicator; higher quality programming and spaces correspond to higher quality of life. To begin with, parks can play a critical role in a strategy for promoting health and tackling challenges like poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity. Whether through programming or excellent amenities, park spaces can encourage physical and social activity. And proximity matters – even living near a small Neighborhood Park like Walker Wood can encourage higher activity levels – because residents of all ages with access to a variety of recreation facilities are less likely to be overweight and more likely to be in better health. But beyond impacting physical health, studies also illuminate the powerful connection between nature and improved mental wellbeing. Spending time in passive parks and natural open spaces like Highbanks Metro Park can help relieve stress, nurture longtime respect for the environment, stimulate imagination, and restore mental balance. Parks can make tangible contributions to residents too – community gardens, for instance, often provided in partnership with or by parks agencies themselves, can afford residents direct access to fresh food.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to all of these incredible individual benefits, parks can make an invaluable contribution to collective wellbeing. As gathering places for the community and hubs of connection, parks are where multiple interests and passions can play out at once – on game courts and fields, along trails and on playgrounds, and at shelters and picnic tables – helping to cultivate community ties. While less tangible, these collective benefits increase the livability and desirability of our communities and help begin to address the sociopolitical divisions that challenge every community.<sup>4</sup>

Residents in Orange Township clearly place a high value on parks and recreation. According to the Orange Township Community Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment survey, 84% of residents support the acquisition and preservation of open space and natural areas while 83% support making upgrades to existing parks and facilities (see Chapter 4 for more information). Clearly, parks and recreation services are important to

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<sup>3</sup> National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," <http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/>, (December, 10 2019).

<sup>4</sup> National Recreation and Park Association, "Social Equity," <http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Social-Equity/>, (December, 10 2019).

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the people of Orange Township. By implementing this Master Plan and bringing its recommendations to life, Orange Township leadership will ensure all residents can enjoy quality gathering places, excellent recreation opportunities, and overall improved quality of life.

## 1.3 MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

The master planning process for this document consisted of four phases and ongoing dialogue between representatives from Orange Township and the consultant team. Orange Township staff appointed a Steering Committee – members of which included staff members, community leaders, and other stakeholders – to collaborate with and guide the consultant through the plan process. As each phase concluded documentation was submitted along with a presentation of findings. The following sections provide a summary of each phase in the process: Evaluate → Engage → Envision → Plan.

## 1.4 EVALUATE

The planning process launched with evaluation. This phase included gathering of information on township demographics, a review of existing data, site visits and analysis, and the first steering committee meeting.

### 1.4.1 Demographic Analysis

Using information provided by the township and other sources, the consultant team analyzed demographic and population characteristics of Orange Township. Information included:

- Population trends and projections
- Demographic characteristics (quantity, ages, race, etc.)
- Household size and composition
- Median household income and educational attainment
- Population diversity

### 1.4.2 Benchmarking Analysis

Using information provided by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics program, Orange Township parks and recreation offerings were compared to 32 agencies located in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin (serving populations between 20,000 and 50,000) who participated in the Park Metrics program. Comparisons between park systems covered several criteria such as parkland inventory, department functions, staffing, budgets, facilities offered, and more. (See Chapter 2)

### 1.4.3 Inventory of Parks, Facilities, and Programs

The purpose of the parks, facilities, and programs inventory (Chapter 2) is to obtain an accurate, comprehensive assessment of the system's current state. Comparing the findings of this inventory to the desires of Orange Township residents is a critical step in evaluating needs later in the process.

#### Park Classification

As a first step, parks and related sites in Orange Township were catalogued to better evaluate overall recreation opportunities available to the public. In this updated inventory, sites were classified as Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, or Special Use Parks.

#### Parks, Open Space, and Facilities Inventory

The consultant team took stock of all existing parks and open space properties available in the Orange Township. Site visits enabled the team to identify existing conditions and assess opportunities for improvements. As part of this analysis each property was assigned an updated park classification. A comprehensive table provides a summary of the amenities offered at each park. Maps prepared using GIS software serve to highlight the location of all the township-owned parks, as well as those offered by other providers in the area.



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## 1.4.4 Needs Assessment and Identification

### Level of Service Guidelines

The consultant synthesized public input, benchmarking comparisons, and existing standards to develop new guidelines for level of service provided by the Orange Township Park Department. These level of service guidelines were defined for each park classification, different recreation facilities, and for total acreage of both parkland and open space.

### Geographic Distribution – Service Gap Analysis

Identifying service gaps was a critical step in the process, determined by mapping locations and range of access for each of the system's existing facilities. The maps define service areas around specific facility types and park classifications, illuminating locations within Orange Township that lack sufficient quality access. In addition to three park service maps (Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and larger parks), 13 other maps show service for specific recreation facilities. Finally, the Composite Service Areas map shows the combined level of service for parks and facilities across all of Orange Township.

## 1.4.5 Trends

Extending the scope of analysis further, national trends in parks and recreation services were reviewed for relevancy and potential application in Orange Township. This exploration helped point to new possibilities, underscore existing performance, and compare at a wider scale. The analysis included changes in demand, new programming efforts, emerging technology, and user experience advancements.

## 1.5 ENGAGE

The public input process employed a variety of methods intended to reach not only current park users but also non-users (i.e., potential users) to determine community needs, desires, and views on the future of parks and recreation in Orange Township.

### 1.5.1 Public Workshop Open House

A public workshop was held at Township Hall on September 13, 2021 to solicit input from citizens and users regarding their concerns and opinions about existing facilities and programs and to determine their desires for future facilities and programs. The meetings allowed participants to visit a series of stations in order to provide their input and learn more about the Master Plan.

### 1.5.2 Orange Township Community Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

A statistically valid mail survey (Mail Survey) was conducted by ETC Institute producing a total of 400 returned surveys. This portion of the public input was initiated early in the process (spring 2021). The survey was used to identify:

- Current satisfaction levels with programs and facilities
- Participation and satisfaction with current programs and events
- Parks currently used
- Needs for various facilities and programs
- Most needed facilities
- Primary actions that should be taken by Orange Township relating to parks, recreation, open space, and trails

### 1.5.3 Web-Based Survey

The planning consultant team prepared an additional survey, in both handout and web-based formats. All residents and program users were invited to complete the survey. In all, 1,209 individuals participated in the survey, 68% of whom identified as residents of Orange Township. Results are presented and examined extensively in Chapter 4.

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## 1.5.4 Stakeholder Groups

Orange Township provided coordination support and collaboration to convene conversations with about 25 interest groups, as well as meetings with park department staff. These discussions helped illuminate priorities from various perspectives. Facilitation questions were prepared in advance and approved by the steering committee.

## 1.6 ENVISION

### Parks and Recreation Mission and Strategic Plan with Goals and Objectives

Following the phases outlined above – Evaluate and Engage – Steering Committee members and staff convened to discuss the public input and overall findings. The planning consultant team facilitated a focused envisioning session to help formulate a strategic plan.

Through this open discussion and visioning, an agreed-upon vision emerged for the future of parks and recreation services in Orange Township. This finalized Strategic Plan consists of core values, an updated mission statement, and a new vision statement, along with a series of goals and objectives for the system moving forward.

## 1.7 PLAN

In this final phase, a detailed action plan – informed by public and stakeholder input, data collected, service mapping, and steering committee guidance – was developed to direct the Orange Township Park Department in their efforts moving forward. Recommendations are separated into the following groupings.

### 1.7.1 Recommendations

Systemwide improvements for facilities, programs, and operations (Chapter 7) were provided to direct parks and recreation over the next 10 years and beyond. Priorities were provided for improvements that apply to the entire system and Orange Township as a whole, such as operations, programs, budgets, development practices, and priorities for upgrades. Long-term needs for park development and land acquisition were also included in these recommendations. Recommendations for individual parks were also prepared and are included in Chapter 8.

### 1.7.2 Action Plan

This portion of the process consisted of the creation of a detailed Action Plan with specific strategies for the implementation of this master plan.

The Action Plan provided specific strategies for:

- Existing Park Improvements
- Outdoor Athletic Fields and Courts
- Trails and Connectivity
- New Park and Facility Development
- Natural Areas, Open Space, and Nature Education
- Programming
- Operations, Promotion, and Partnerships
- Budget and Funding

The strategies in this Action Plan were categorized under the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan developed during this planning process. The action steps for the implementation of the plan were categorized as short-term (0-2 years), mid-term (3-5 years), or long-term (6-10 years) strategies. Additionally, the plan identified the responsible party and potential funding source for each strategy.

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## **Draft Master Plan**

A draft of the 2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails was presented to Orange Township Park Department and the Steering Committee in June 2022. The plan was adopted by Orange Township Board of Trustees on August 3, 2022.



## PLANNING CONTEXT

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Planning Context chapter provides a summary of factors and trends that influence the delivery of any need for parks and recreation services in Orange Township. This chapter begins with a summary of population and demographic trends in the township and concludes with a benchmarking analysis comparing parks and recreation in the township with other agencies around the region.

### 2.2 POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Needs often vary between demographic groups, and these needs also invariably change over time. Each of the following demographic categories examines specific elements of the population. This exploration of general demographic trends in Orange Township helps define current conditions and to identify potential future needs for parks and recreation service in the community.

#### 2.2.1 Population Change

Figure 2.1 illustrates the population change in Orange Township from 2000 to 2025. Most of the numbers in this chapter come from Esri forecasts, which incorporate Census data. However, for overall population, the recent 2020 Census shows that recent estimates have underestimated growth in the township. The values for 2025 use are based on 2% annual growth, much lower than that of the previous 10 years but about what Esri was projecting. Actual numbers for 2025 will likely be higher.

The values in Figure 2.1 shows how Orange Township's population has tripled over the last 20 years. By 2025, the township's population will be over 40,000. Growth has been a constant across the decades, with the greatest change between 2000 and 2010 when the township more than doubled in size. Projections indicate sustained but possibly more moderate growth through 2025.

#### 2.2.2 Household Size

Table 2.1 shows the number of households in 2020 along with the average household size between 2000 and 2025 for Orange Township, Delaware County, Ohio, and the USA. As evident in the table, Orange Township's household size has grown in the 20 years since 2000; all other comparison geographies show a relatively stable or even decreased household size overall since 2000. All of the growth in household size occurred between



2000 and 2010 (jumping from 2.69 to 2.83). Projections for 2025 show Orange Township's average household size will be 2.80, representing a slight downward trend (dropping from 2.83 in 2010 to 2.80 in 2025). Delaware County has the closest average household size to Orange Township, but all comparison geographies have smaller households.

Figure 2.1: Population Change in Orange Township

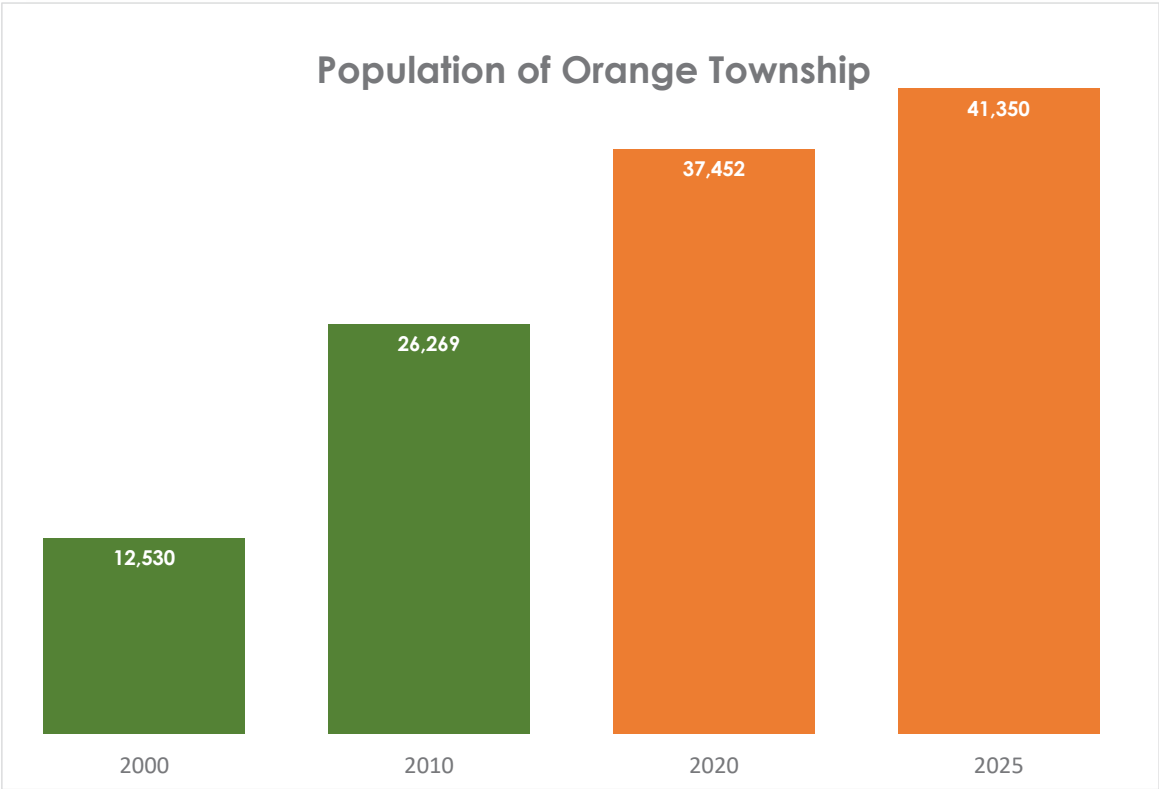


Table 2.1: Household Size in Orange Township

	Households	Average Household Size			
	2020	2000	2010	2020	2025
USA	126,083,849	2.59	2.58	2.58	2.59
Ohio	4,754,087	2.49	2.44	2.42	2.42
Delaware County	76,190	2.70	2.74	2.73	2.73
Orange Twp	12,297	2.69	2.83	2.81	2.80

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

2.2.3 Median Age

Table 2.2 shows the median age for Orange Township, Delaware County, Ohio, and the USA for the decades between 2000 and 2020, including projections for 2025. The median age in Orange Township has increased since 2000 and is expected to reach 35.9 by 2025. As of 2020, Orange Township has a lower median age than all other comparison geographies. That said, Orange Township has experienced more rapid rate of change, increasing in age by 4.3 years (31.2 to 35.5) between 2000 and 2020.

**Table 2.2: Median Age of Orange**

	2000	2010	2020	2025
USA	35.3	37.1	38.5	39.3
Ohio	36.2	38.7	40.2	41.0
Delaware County	35.0	37.2	38.4	39.0
Orange Twp	31.2	34.5	35.5	35.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

## 2.2.4 Senior Population (Age 65+)

Table 2.3 displays the population age 65 and over between the years 2000 and 2025. Orange Township's 65+ population has grown in the last two decades, but as suggested in the above table, growth has also been faster than the county, state, and national levels. Projections show the percentage of 65+ population continuing to increase into 2025, which is expected to have roughly four times the proportion as in 2000 and surpassing Delaware County. Even with this great change, the township will still have a smaller percentage of seniors compared to Ohio and the nation.

**Table 2.3: Population Age 65 and Over**

	2000	2010	2020	2025
USA	12.4%	13.0%	16.6%	18.7%
Ohio	17.1%	14.0%	18.0%	20.5%
Delaware County	8.1%	9.5%	13.2%	15.7%
Orange Twp	4.4%	9.6%	13.8%	16.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

## 2.2.5 Children (< Age 18)

Table 2.4 presents proportions for those under age 18 between 2000 and 2020 with 2025 projections. As evident in the table, Orange Township has a considerably greater population of youth (31.6% compared to the nation's 22.0%). Of note is the rate of change; while all geographies are experiencing a general decline in percentage of population under age 18, Orange Township has a higher percentage of children in 2020 than in 2000. However, after an uptick in 2010 (similarly experienced at the county and state levels), the township has seen a slight decrease in its under 18 population. Looking forward to 2025, Orange Township will maintain its comparably high percentage (30.5% versus Ohio's 21.0%).

**Table 2.4: Population Under Age 18**

	2000	2010	2020	2025
USA	25.7%	24.0%	22.0%	21.7%
Ohio	22.2%	23.7%	21.2%	21.0%
Delaware County	28.2%	29.0%	26.7%	25.7%
Orange Twp	30.4%	32.6%	31.6%	30.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

## 2.2.6 Poverty

Table 2.5 shows percentages of the population living below the poverty line at each of the geographic levels. As of 2019, Orange Township has the lowest percentage of population in poverty compared to the county, state, and national levels. Orange Township had nearly 10% less of its population living in poverty (3.5%) than the nation (13.4%). In fact, where Delaware County, Ohio, and the United States have all seen an increase since 2000, the township experienced a decrease; as of 2019, poverty in Orange Township (3.5%) was almost 2% lower than it had been in 2000.

Table 2.6 presents poverty levels for children specifically. In 2000, Orange Township had 8.5% of its children living in poverty. By 2019, that number was cut by more than half. Looking at the comparisons, Orange Township again saw the only decrease across the different geographies. As of 2019, the township has about a fifth of the state's rate of child poverty (4.0% versus 19.9% in 2019).

**Table 2.5: Population Below Poverty Line**

	2000	2019
USA	12.4%	13.4%
Ohio	10.6%	14.0%
Delaware County	3.8%	4.8%
Orange Twp	5.1%	3.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 2.6: Children Below Poverty Line**

	2000	2019
USA	16.0%	18.5%
Ohio	14.0%	19.9%
Delaware County	4.4%	5.4%
Orange Twp	8.5%	4.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year estimates

## 2.2.7 Income and Educational Attainment

As described in Table 2.7, the median household income in Orange Township (\$111,531 as of 2020) has increased since 2000 but has not quite kept pace with inflation (compared to the adjusted 2000 income of \$114,027), much like the comparison geographies. As of 2020, Orange Township has a higher median household income than the county, state, or nation. Projections for 2025 show similar growth across all comparisons, with the township maintaining an expected median household income nearly double the state and national values. Delaware County has the closest income level for 2020 and looking ahead to 2025, but the values are still lower than the township.

Looking at per capita income, Orange Township again has the highest values across all years. However, the difference between per capita income at the different geographic levels is somewhat less stark than the median household income. This difference reflects the larger household sizes in the township. Orange Township's per capita income in 2020 (\$50,903) is almost exactly what it was in 2000 after adjusting for inflation. It is about \$16,000 more than the national per capita income and \$18,500 more than Ohio. The township is projected to maintain its comparatively higher per capita income through 2025.

**Table 2.7: Household Income**

	2000	2000 Adjusted	2020	2025
<b>Median Household Income</b>				
USA	\$41,994	\$64,178	\$62,203	\$67,325
Ohio	\$40,956	\$62,592	\$56,352	\$60,126
Delaware County	\$67,258	\$102,788	\$102,053	\$107,651
Orange Twp	\$74,612	\$114,027	\$111,531	\$117,207
<b>Per Capita Income</b>				
USA	\$21,587	\$32,991	\$34,136	\$37,691
Ohio	\$21,003	\$32,098	\$31,425	\$34,551
Delaware County	\$31,600	\$48,293	\$50,106	\$54,253
Orange Twp	\$33,240	\$50,800	\$50,903	\$55,380

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2019 ACS 5-year Estimates, Esri forecasts, BLS

Below, Table 2.8 shows Orange Township's rate of change in educational attainment between 2000 and 2020. Much like the comparison geographies, Orange Township has experienced an overall increase in higher educational attainment. Over two-thirds of Orange Township's population over age 25 have a bachelors degree or above (66.9% in 2020). This value is over twice those of Ohio or the nation (both at about 30%) and above that of Delaware County.

**Table 2.8: Educational Attainment for Population Age 25 and Over**

Educational Attainment (Highest Level)	Orange Twp		Delaware County		Ohio		USA	
	2000	2020	2000	2020	2000	2020	2000	2020
No High School Diploma	2.8%	2.2%	7.1%	2.9%	17.1%	9.2%	19.6%	12.0%
High School/GED	14.5%	10.4%	24.9%	17.7%	36.1%	32.4%	28.6%	27.0%
Some College, No Degree	20.9%	14.3%	20.6%	16.5%	19.9%	20.4%	21.0%	20.4%
Associates Degree	7.7%	6.2%	6.3%	6.3%	5.9%	8.6%	6.3%	8.5%
Bachelors Degree	39.1%	40.9%	28.2%	35.3%	13.7%	18.2%	15.5%	19.8%
Graduate/Professional/Doctorate Degree	15.0%	26.0%	12.9%	21.3%	7.4%	11.5%	8.9%	12.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts, ACS 5-year estimates

## 2.2.8 Population by Race

As shown in Table 2.9, Orange Township is experiencing diversification. While Orange Township is still majority white (66.4% in 2020), the population has grown much more diverse in just the last 10 years. The Asian population has grown the most of any racial group since 2010 and makes up the second largest percentage of the community (19.6%). In fact, the Asian population has grown faster than the White population in absolute numbers. All minority populations have grown at a faster rate than the White Alone population with 70% of the population growth within these minority populations. These racial and ethnic groups will likely continue to grow (despite often being undercounted) moving into the future.

**Table 2.9: Population by Race and Hispanic Origin**

Year	Total Population	White Alone		Black Alone		Asian Alone		Other Race Alone		Two or More Races		Hispanic or Latino	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2010	26,269	21,431	81.6%	1,166	4.4%	2,411	9.2%	62	0.2%	479	1.8%	720	2.7%
2020	37,452	24,883	66.4%	2,108	5.6%	7,347	19.6%	224	0.6%	1,553	4.1%	1,337	3.6%
# Change	11,183	3,452		942		4,936		162		1,074		617	
% Change	42.6%	16.1%		80.8%		204.7%		261.3%		224.2%		85.7%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## 2.2.9 Conclusion

In general, the population in Orange Township is undergoing an aging trend, much like the comparison geographies. Though the change is notably behind national trends, it will certainly continue to affect the community's needs and preferences for parks and recreation services. While Orange Township is considerably wealthier than the comparisons, it will benefit the department to understand varying income levels to create cost-effective solutions and accessible opportunities for all populations in the community. Overall, Orange Township has seen an increase in residents with college degrees, pointing to an more highly educated community with potential shifts in demand and preferences. Demographic trends also highlight diversification of the township's population. Programming, development, and other services will need to take into consideration the changing demographic landscape to ensure inclusive service can be enjoyed by everyone.

These trends are already working to shape the future of Orange Township. The direction the township chooses for its parks and recreation service will determine the availability of opportunities for residents and will help enrich the overall quality of life in the community for years to come.



## 2.3 BENCHMARKING COMPARISONS

One method for evaluating parks and recreation services offered in a community is to use benchmark comparisons to other communities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics program provides a variety of data for use in benchmarking. The following analysis uses data from 32 agencies located in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Michigan (serving populations between 20,000 and 50,000) that participated in the Park Metrics program (Table 2.10). Additionally, NRPA provides an annual report<sup>1</sup> which includes national performance benchmarks; these figures are also used in this evaluation process.

**Table 2.10: Benchmark Agencies**

Agency	State	Year	Population	Budget
Athens Community Arts, Parks, & Rec	OH	2020	25,214	\$2,115,020
Beavercreek (City of)	OH	2020	47,000	\$2,881,151
Boardman Township Park	OH	2020	40,000	\$1,047,945
Brownsburg Parks	IN	2020	27,743	\$2,015,624
City of De Pere Community Center	WI	2020	24,970	\$44,798,520
City of Holland Parks & Recreation Department	MI	2019	33,327	\$24,094,351
Collinsville (City of) Parks and Recreation Department	IL	2020	25,579	\$2,536,672
Columbus Indiana Parks & Recreation Department	IN	2020	46,850	\$7,418,816
De Pere Parks, Rec & Forestry (City of)	WI	2020	24,970	\$2,352,493
Deerfield Township	OH	2020	38,000	\$1,098,357
Dublin Parks & Recreation Department	OH	2020	48,647	\$28,258,627
East Lansing Department of Parks, Recreation & Arts	MI	2019	48,579	\$4,386,960
Fairfield Parks and Recreation	OH	2020	44,000	\$4,900,000
Galesburg (City of)	IL	2020	32,193	\$23,717,000
Green (City of) Division of Parks and Recreation	OH	2019	26,000	\$2,105,721
Grove City (City of)	OH	2020	42,766	\$1,500,000
Henderson Parks and Recreation	KY	2020	28,432	\$1,869,790
Highland Parks & Recreation	IN	2019	23,727	\$2,359,333
Huber (City of) Heights	OH	2019	38,019	N/A
Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors	MI	2020	37,026	\$2,957,327
Kent Parks and Recreation Department	OH	2020	29,600	\$1,875,000
Lake in the Hills (Village of) Parks & Recreation	IL	2020	29,228	\$1,385,409
Merrillville (Town of)	IN	2020	35,000	N/A
Michigan City (City of) Department of Parks and Recreation	IN	2020	31,479	\$3,092,330
Municipality of Murrysville	PA	2019	20,000	\$9,301,010
Oakland Township Parks	MI	2019	21,000	\$1,879,051
O'Fallon (City of) Parks & Recreation Dept	IL	2020	42,000	\$2,050,558
Park Forest (Village of) Recreation & Parks Department	IL	2020	22,200	\$3,998,825
Richmond Parks & Recreation	KY	2020	35,894	\$2,398,703
Rock Island Parks and Recreation	IL	2019	38,000	\$4,146,000
Upper Dublin Township Parks & Recreation	PA	2020	25,589	\$2,593,102
Westerville Parks and Recreation	OH	2019	39,737	\$10,622,843

Orange Township is not a participant in the NRPA Park Metrics program; figures were calculated based on information provided by the township. Because the data for other park systems was limited to parks and facilities managed by those agencies, only parks and facilities managed by the township are included in this analysis (other agencies, schools, and private facilities were not included). Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Park budget, especially revenue (i.e., pool not opened) for 2020, the values used in this analysis for Orange Township were for the year 2020 as budgeted (not actual). The figures for the comparison local governments were those entered for 2019 and 2020.

<sup>1</sup> National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), "2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review Park And Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks," <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf> (accessed December 30, 2020).

The comparisons are organized into the following categories: parkland information, trail information, department functions, staffing, operating budget, capital budget, programs, and facilities. The following text details the findings of the benchmark analysis. The values presented in these comparisons are based on information reported to Park Metrics by the local governments and may vary from actual budgets and measurements.

### 2.3.1 Parkland Information

Table 2.11 shows aspects of parks and parkland managed by Orange Township. For instance, the township provides 3.5 acres of parkland per one thousand population, less than the benchmark (10.6) and the national median (9.9). As a percentage of the entire jurisdiction, which controls for the different land area of the comparison agencies, 1% of land in Orange Township is township-operated parkland, about a quarter the benchmark median (4.2%). Taken together, these values indicate Orange Township has smaller amount of parkland given its population and total land area. However, these numbers only consider parkland offered by the township. Residents of Orange Township have access to large amounts of parkland provided by Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, and Ohio State Parks who offer hundreds of additional acres within the community.

While Orange Township has less parkland than the benchmarks, only 44% of that parkland is developed, compared to the benchmark median of 78%. The population served per park (4,938) is about four times higher than the benchmark (1,810). These numbers indicate that Orange Township provision of parks has not kept pace with population growth.

**Table 2.11: Parkland Information**

PARKLAND INFORMATION	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>Acreage of Parkland</b>			
Lower Quartile		230	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		612	
<b>Acreage of Parkland per 1,000 Population</b>			
Lower Quartile		9.1	2.1
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>9.9</b>
Upper Quartile		14.2	17.1
<b>Population per Park</b>			
Lower Quartile		1,233	1,316
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>4,938</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>2,281</b>
Upper Quartile		3,602	4,140
<b>Parkland as a Percentage of Jurisdiction</b>			
Lower Quartile		3.0%	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		6.3%	
<b>Percent of Acreage Developed</b>			
Lower Quartile		39%	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		103%	

### 2.3.2 Trail Information

The comparison of total miles of trails managed by Orange Township (Table 2.12) reveals trail service in Orange Township parks. Total trail miles per jurisdiction square mile is a measurement that controls for differences in the physical size of communities. Orange Township has 0.3 miles of trails per square mile of the township, lower than the benchmark median (0.8). The trail miles per ten thousand population measurement, which controls for the population difference between the benchmark communities, is 2.1, just a bit below the benchmark median (3.2).

The trails within the parks do not tell the whole story, however. The township has an extensive trail system with another 30.3 miles of trails outside of parks. If these trails are included, the township has much higher levels of service than the benchmarks. Many of these trails are managed by the township. With connectivity an ever-growing demand in communities all over the country, including Orange Township, it will be important for the department to continue to build on its robust trail system.

**Table 2.12: Trail Information**

TRAILS	Orange Township	Township w/ Trail System	Benchmark
<b>Total Trail Miles Managed or Maintained</b>			
Lower Quartile			4.9
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>9.3</b>
Upper Quartile			19.0
<b>Total Trail Miles per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.</b>			
Lower Quartile			0.3
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Upper Quartile			1.2
<b>Total Trail Miles per 10,000 Population</b>			
Lower Quartile			1.6
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Upper Quartile			5.3

### 2.3.3 Department Functions

The list of department functions in Table 2.13 shows the percentage of benchmark and national departments that conduct each service and whether Orange Township currently conducts the service. The township provides many of the services listed. The responsibility conducted by the most benchmarks but not by Orange Township is providing recreation programming and services; 97% of benchmark agencies provide programming. Programming in Orange Township is currently provided by others, such as athletic leagues, the county and state park agencies, and other non-profits.

Table 2.13 shows that Orange Township provides most of the services offered by at least half of the benchmark communities. However, there are several services not provided by the township but at least a third or more of benchmarks do, including *manage large performance outdoor amphitheater* and *operate, maintain, or contract tennis center facilities*. Although not provided by the township, other partners do offer some of those services such as the school district's tennis courts.

**Table 2.13: Department Functions**

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>The agency...</b>			
Operate and maintain park sites	✓	100%	96%
Conduct major jurisdiction wide special events	✓	97%	77%
Provide recreation programming and services	*	97%	93%
Operate and maintain indoor facilities	✓	90%	88%
Have budgetary responsibility for its administrative staff	✓	86%	83%
Operate and maintain non-park sites	✓	86%	65%
Operate, maintain, or manage special purpose parks and open spaces	✓	86%	72%
Operate, maintain, or manage trails, greenways, and/or blueways (TGB)	✓	79%	77%
Operate, maintain, or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks	✓	76%	65%
Include in its operating budget funding for planning and development	✓	72%	67%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality outdoor sports complexes	✓	48%	56%
Administer community gardens	✓	41%	41%

**Table 2.13: Department Functions (Continued)**

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>The agency...</b>			
Operate, maintain, or contract tennis center facilities		38%	52%
Manage large performance outdoor amphitheaters		31%	33%
Administer or manage farmer's markets		31%	19%
Operate, maintain, or contract indoor swim facility		28%	31%
Operate, maintain, or contract tourism attractions		21%	34%
Maintain, manage or lease indoor performing arts center		21%	17%
Operate, maintain, or contract golf courses		17%	33%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality indoor sports complexes		10%	18%

\*Offered by other governmental or non-profit agencies in Orange Township

### 2.3.4 Operating Budget

Because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Park budget, these comparisons are based on the approved rather than the actual budget for 2020. The total approved operating budget (Table 2.14) for parks and recreation in Orange Township was \$1.4 million, just about \$1 million less than the benchmark median (\$2.6 million). The per capita operating expenditures for Orange Township were \$42, less than half of the \$99 median of benchmark local governments and below even the lower quartile value. Orange Township's total operating expenditures per acre of parkland were \$6,895. This number is below the benchmark median of \$8,188 and reflects both the smaller amount of parkland and lower operating expenditures in the township. These lower operating values also reflect the limited number of recreational programs offered by the township.

The \$366,000 in earned revenue is well below the benchmark median of \$1.1 million. However, this revenue represents 25% of the Park budget, which is roughly equivalent the median (29%) of benchmark communities. However, Orange Township generated only \$11 in non-tax revenue per capita, about a third of the benchmark (\$31) and half of national (\$21) median.

**Table 2.14: Operating Budget**

OPERATING BUDGET	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>Agency's TOTAL Operating Expenditures for the Fiscal Year</b>			
Lower Quartile		\$2,033,091	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>\$1,436,250</b>	<b>\$2,593,102</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		\$6,159,408	
<b>Agency's TOTAL Non-Tax Revenue for the Fiscal Year</b>			
Lower Quartile		\$500,000	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>\$366,000</b>	<b>\$1,161,600</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		\$2,408,049	
<b>Revenue as a Percentage of Total Operating Expenditures</b>			
Lower Quartile		15%	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>
Upper Quartile		55%	
<b>Operating Expenditures per Capita</b>			
Lower Quartile		\$67	\$46
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>\$42</b>	<b>\$94</b>	<b>\$81</b>
Upper Quartile		\$169	\$150
<b>Operating Expenditures per Acre of Parkland</b>			
Lower Quartile		\$4,349	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>\$6,895</b>	<b>\$8,188</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		\$15,840	
<b>Non-Tax Revenue per Capita</b>			
Lower Quartile		\$14	\$6
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>\$11</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>\$21</b>
Upper Quartile		\$54	\$50

\*Average values used



## 2.3.5 Staffing

Staffing metrics for Orange Township as compared to benchmark communities are outlined in Table 2.15. The Orange Township Park Department employs eight full-time employees, well below the benchmark median (16). Additionally, Orange Township has only about 2.6 full-time employees for every 10,000 residents, much lower than even the lower quartile value (5.2). From a different perspective, acres of parkland per full-time employee, Orange Township has a lower ratio than the benchmark (23.1 acres per FTE vs. 13.6 per FTE), despite having a lower overall amount of land compared to the benchmarks.

**Table 2.15: Staffing**

STAFFING	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>Full-Time Employees</b>			
Lower Quartile		12.0	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		18.0	
<b>Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees</b>			
Lower Quartile		16.5	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		61.4	
<b>FTE per 10,000 Population</b>			
Lower Quartile		5.2	4.5
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Upper Quartile		16.2	14.9
<b>Acres of Parkland per FTE</b>			
Lower Quartile		7.4	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		21.3	
<b>Operating Expenditures per FTE</b>			
Lower Quartile		\$67,521	\$70,329
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>\$159,583</b>	<b>\$94,639</b>	<b>\$97,093</b>
Upper Quartile		\$161,842	\$134,175

Orange Township Parks has much higher expenditures per FTE than the benchmarks (\$160k vs. \$95k). However, the previous table (2.14) indicated that Orange Township has lower expenditures per capita than the benchmarks. Together, these numbers indicate that Orange Township is spending more per staff member because they have fewer employees than the benchmarks, while still spending less overall. Again, lower staffing levels are also connected to the lack of programming in the department. Additionally, the North Orange Aquatic Center is operated by a third party.

Collectively, these metrics indicate that Orange Township has fewer staff than the benchmarks and these staff are responsible for more parks and facilities than the benchmarks. Additionally, there is a sizable amount of acreage currently undeveloped; when pursuing the potential for development of these acres, the township will need to reassess staffing levels accordingly.

## 2.3.6 Programs

The list of program categories in Table 2.16 includes the percentage of benchmark departments that offer each type of program listed and whether Orange Township offers them. The data in Table 2.16 is separated into two types of programs: "Activities," which cover programs intended for all users, and "Out-of-School-Time Activities," which include programs for specific user groups (children, seniors, etc.). Programs offered by other agencies are marked with an asterisk.

**Table 2.16: Programs**

PROGRAMS	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>Activities</b>			
Themed special events	✓	96%	88%
Social recreation events	✓	89%	87%
Team sports	*	85%	87%
Fitness enhancement classes	*	85%	82%
Performing arts	*	85%	64%
Individual sports	*	78%	74%
Health and wellness education	*	78%	81%
Cultural crafts		78%	61%
Visual arts		74%	59%
Aquatics	✓	70%	71%
Martial arts	*	70%	60%
Racquet sports		63%	67%
Natural and cultural history activities	*	63%	59%
Safety training	✓	59%	72%
Trips and tours		59%	63%
Golf		37%	47%
<b>Out-of-School Time (OST) Activities</b>			
Summer camp	*	96%	83%
Specific senior programs	*	78%	78%
Specific teen programs		59%	65%
Programs for people with disabilities		52%	62%
After school programs	*	48%	57%
Preschool		33%	36%
Before school programs	*	26%	20%
Full daycare	*	0%	8%

\*Offered by other governmental or non-profit agencies in Orange Township

Because the department in Orange Township does not include recreation programming, many of the program categories are not represented. However, the township has collaborated – and utilized its existing aquatic facility – to provide opportunities in a few categories: themed special events, social recreation events, aquatics, and safety training. The township also works with various athletic leagues to provide team sports for residents.

Of the OST activities, the department itself is currently not providing any programming. There are several other agencies and organizations throughout Orange Township that offer these kinds of events, activities, and programming that the department currently does not provide. However, considering that the large majority of benchmarks offer these types of programs, Orange Township may want to evaluate and determine any unmet needs for these out-of-school time activities. Collaborative and formalized partnerships will be essential if the department seeks to develop a fresh, effective programming strategy.

### 2.3.7 Facilities

Table 2.17 continues the benchmark comparison, now examining how Orange Township's facility offerings compare to benchmark communities. Types of facilities are grouped by outdoor and indoor areas. Orange Township offers many of the outdoor facilities that at least 50% of benchmark comparisons provide. Three notable exceptions not provided by the Park Department but offered by at least 70% of benchmark park departments: tennis courts (outdoor only), dog park, and diamond fields (adult softball). Residents have access to the tennis courts at Olentangy High School when not in use by the schools, and Alum Creek State Park offers a dog park. Of note is the fact that the township has an aquatic center, a feature offered by just 22% of benchmarks offer one.

**Table 2.17: Facilities**

FACILITIES	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>Outdoor Activity Areas</b>			
Playgrounds	✓	96%	94%
Basketball courts	✓	93%	87%
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	✓	93%	78%
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	*	85%	81%
Dog park	*	78%	63%
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult		70%	65%
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	✓	67%	47%
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	✓	63%	59%
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	✓	56%	41%
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	✓	56%	51%
Community gardens	✓	52%	47%
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose		48%	65%
Diamond fields: baseball - adult		41%	53%
Skate park		33%	38%
Rectangular fields: football field		26%	37%
Aquatics centers	✓	22%	N/A
Ice rink (outdoor only)		22%	17%
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field		15%	11%
Multipurpose synthetic field		15%	19%
Golf Course (Regulation 18-Holes)		11%	N/A
Driving Range		11%	N/A
<b>Indoor Activity Areas</b>			
Community centers	*	52%	60%
Performance amphitheater		37%	35%
Senior centers		30%	41%
Nature centers	*	26%	29%
Recreation centers	*	22%	61%
Indoor competitive swimming pool	*	22%	N/A
Teen centers		11%	14%
Ice rink		7%	15%
Indoor track	*	7%	N/A

\*Offered by other governmental or non-profit agencies in Orange Township

Of indoor facilities, the Orange Township Park Department does not currently offer any of the different types of facilities, although many are provided by other governmental agencies and private organizations. Mount Carmel Fitness Center offers an indoor lap pool, walking track, and fitness equipment. Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks offers a nature center. There is even a privately operated ice rink within the township (OhioHealth Chiller North). The department does offer an indoor rental space at the North Orange Aquatic Center.

While Table 2.17 highlights how Orange Township compares to benchmark communities in terms of facilities provided, Tables 2.18 and 2.19 provide a comparison of population per facility to evaluate the existing supply. In other words, looking at population served per facility can help identify new facilities that the township may want to add in the future. Tables 2.18 and 2.19 show the numeric values for a range of facilities – outdoor and indoor, respectively – plus upper and lower quartile values. A lower value indicates a higher level of service. Figure 2.2.<sup>2</sup> shows active use/athletic facilities per 10,000 population (converted from the numbers in Table 2.18) for playgrounds, tennis courts (outdoor), basketball courts (outdoor), ballfields (youth baseball, youth softball, and adult softball diamonds), and rectangular fields.

<sup>2</sup> The analysis was limited to these facilities due to availability of data for comparison departments.

In terms of benchmark comparisons, Orange Township has lower service ratios (facilities per 10,000 population) for all but one of the listed facilities – multipurpose rectangular fields – and some facilities are serving more than twice the population as the benchmark median (e.g., playgrounds and diamond fields for youth sports).

Though Orange Township has none of the listed indoor facilities with which to compare service levels, Table 2.19 is helpful for illustrating the target service levels the township may consider should any of the indoor facility types be developed. Based on these numbers, Orange Township has adequate population to potentially support a recreation/community center, a gymnasium, and an indoor pool at similar levels of service to the benchmarks.

Figure 2.2 underscores some of the same findings in Table 2.18, showing how Orange Township compares in providing adequate facilities per population. All facilities are operating with strained service (except multipurpose rectangular fields), but some have especially low service levels. Playgrounds, tennis courts, and diamond fields all have much poorer service levels than the benchmark comparisons. However, with the lower percentage of developed parkland in the township, there is potential for improving existing parks through thoughtful development to expand service and availability of features.

**Table 2.18: Population Per Facility (Outdoor)**

POPULATION PER FACILITY (OUTDOOR)	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>Playgrounds</b>			
Lower Quartile		1,697	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>8,642</b>	<b>3,114</b>	<b>3,750</b>
Upper Quartile		4,968	
<b>Tennis Courts</b>			
Lower Quartile		3,171	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>4,745</b>	<b>5,004</b>
Upper Quartile		7,307	
<b>Basketball Courts</b>			
Lower Quartile		4,058	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>11,523</b>	<b>7,108</b>	<b>7,400</b>
Upper Quartile		11,328	
<b>Diamond Fields - Youth Baseball</b>			
Lower Quartile		2,210	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>17,284</b>	<b>3,248</b>	<b>6,779</b>
Upper Quartile		5,705	
<b>Diamond Fields - Youth Softball</b>			
Lower Quartile		3,288	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>17,284</b>	<b>7,604</b>	<b>11,511</b>
Upper Quartile		17,597	
<b>Diamond Fields - Adult Softball</b>			
Lower Quartile		5,346	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>8,974</b>	<b>13,510</b>
Upper Quartile		12,607	
<b>Rectangular Fields (multi-purpose)</b>			
Lower Quartile		3,318	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>11,109</b>	<b>8,150</b>
Upper Quartile		19,005	
<b>Multipurpose Synthetic Field</b>			
Lower Quartile		6,610	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>11,743</b>	<b>49,493</b>
Upper Quartile		20,767	

Table 2.18: Population Per Facility (Outdoor) (Continued)

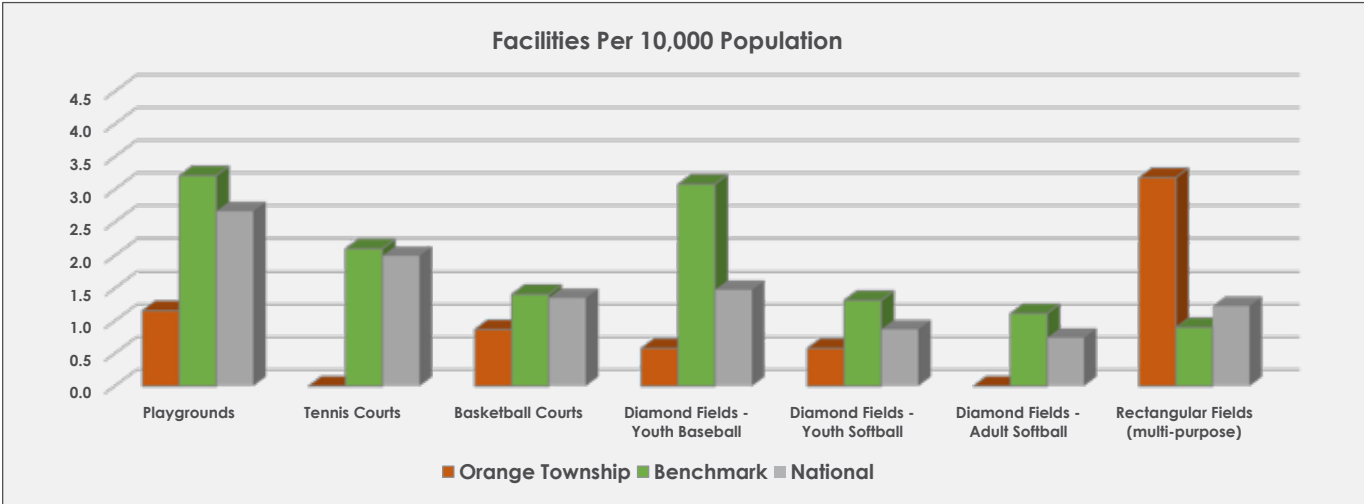
POPULATION PER FACILITY (OUTDOOR)	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>Swimming Pools</b>			
Lower Quartile		23,425	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>34,568</b>	<b>25,589</b>	<b>35,837</b>
Upper Quartile		38,000	
<b>Skate Parks</b>			
Lower Quartile		32,403	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>49,500</b>
Upper Quartile		45,500	
<b>Dog Parks</b>			
Lower Quartile		23,585	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>29,228</b>	<b>45,899</b>
Upper Quartile		41,383	
<b>Community Gardens</b>			
Lower Quartile		23,478	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>35,177</b>	<b>29,273</b>
Upper Quartile		42,500	
<b>Trails</b>			
Lower Quartile			
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>4,735</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile			

Table 2.19: Population Per Facility (Indoor)

POPULATION PER FACILITY (INDOOR)	Orange Township	Benchmark	National
<b>Recreation Centers</b>			
Lower Quartile		20,554	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>31,141</b>
Upper Quartile		41,965	
<b>Community Centers</b>			
Lower Quartile		23,652	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>27,006</b>	<b>28,939</b>
Upper Quartile		42,192	
<b>Senior Centers</b>			
Lower Quartile		37,274	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>41,252</b>	<b>60,513</b>
Upper Quartile		48,184	
<b>Competitive Swimming Pools</b>			
Lower Quartile		23,096	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>36,532</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Upper Quartile		48,596	
<b>Nature Centers</b>			
Lower Quartile		22,200	
<b>Median/Agency Value</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>25,589</b>	<b>109,796</b>
Upper Quartile		42,000	



Figure 2.2: Facilities Per 10,000 Population







## INVENTORY OF PARKS AND FACILITIES

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the Master Plan identifies existing conditions of parks and recreation facilities in Orange Township. It begins with a description of park classifications to provide an understanding of their functions. What follows is an inventory of Orange Township's parks and recreation facilities including park locations, facilities offered, and other observations. The chapter concludes with an inventory of programs offered by the Orange Township Park Department.

### 3.2 PARKLAND AND RECREATION AREA CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

A park classification system helps to evaluate the overall recreation opportunities that are available to the public. In some cases, communities may “meet the standard” in terms of acreage, but a single park may cover the provision in terms of acreage without actually providing for the entire community. A park system should be evaluated as a composite of recreation areas with each meeting a particular public need; the system should provide a combination of smaller Neighborhood Parks, larger Community Parks, Special Use Parks, and Natural Areas.

The facilities inventory in this chapter identifies each park by its classification and lists the specific facilities it provides. Table 3.1 defines each park category by its typical size and service area, population served, typical features and facilities, and desirable characteristics. The categories and descriptions were adapted from Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines – published by the National Recreation and Park Association in 1987 and 1995 – to meet the needs and expectations of the residents of Orange Township.

**Table 3.1: Park Classifications**

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	DEVELOPED ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESCRIPTION & DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
<b>Local Space</b>				
Mini Park (MP)	Size: Less than 2 acres of developed parkland; less than 3 total acres  1/2 mile service area  10-minute walk	Combined with Neighborhood Park	Typical facilities may include playgrounds, small multi-use court area, and benches.	Often provided in association with school facilities. Some developed as part of residential developments.  May also provide open space as needed to serve higher density neighborhoods where households have limited yard space.
Neighborhood Park (NHP)	Size: 2-10 acres of developed parkland; 3-15 total acres  ½-1.0 mile service area  10-minute walk  To serve a population up to 5,000	0.75 Acre/1,000	Suited for intense development  Typical facilities include athletic fields, game courts, playgrounds, drinking fountains, picnic areas/shelters, and walking trails.	Easily accessible to neighborhood population (safe walking and bike distance).  May be developed as park/school facility or in conjunction with service agency facility.  May not be needed in areas served locally by larger parks.
Community Park (CP)	10-30+ acres of developed parkland; 20 or more total acres  1.0-2.0 mile service radius  5-minute drive  To serve several neighborhoods with populations up to 15,000	2.0 Acres/1,000	Typical facilities include all those listed for Neighborhood Parks plus; major swimming pool, field or game court complex, major recreation or community center, etc.  May include an area of natural quality for picnicking, walking, etc.  May have an active or passive recreation focus or a balance of both - parks with passive focus will have a higher percentage of undeveloped land	Capable of providing a range of intensive recreational activities; or, provides one or two activities that attract users from multi-neighborhood areas.  Park should ideally be located near schools.  May meet Neighborhood Park needs for users within a 10-minute walk.
Special Use (SU)	Serves community-wide area	N/A (but may contribute to total open space requirement)	Area for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as plazas, major pools, riverfront park areas, golf courses, athletic complexes, indoor facilities, etc.	Area should be located to meet the specific needs of the intended use.
Open Space (OS)	N/A	N/A (but contributes to total open space requirement)	Special use areas of low or limited development. Includes undeveloped areas, urban greenspaces, and small designated natural areas.  May include urban greenspaces (mowed and landscaped areas) of any size. These areas are considered developed but have predominantly passive uses, few structures, and limited impervious areas.  Typical facilities include walking/hiking trails, picnic areas, gardens, and open grass areas.	Includes undeveloped properties that may be developed in the future.  May also function as small Nature Parks.  Educational opportunities desirable in developed or undeveloped areas.

**Table 3.1: Park Classifications (Continued)**

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	DEVELOPED ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESCRIPTION & DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
<b>Regional Space</b>				
Regional Park (RP)	Size: 50+ acres of developed parkland; 100 or more total acres		Large properties that contain some active recreation facilities and a large percentage of natural or geographical features. Should include both active and passive features.	Capable of providing a range of specific recreational facilities May include unique natural areas of ecological interest.
	3-5 mile service radius	2.5 Acres/1,000 (Developed)	Target size of 100 or more acres with up to 50% developed for recreation. Should be located near major roads.	May meet smaller park needs for users within those service areas.
	10-minute drive	10.0 Acres/1000 (Total)	Destination-oriented parks. May contain picnic areas, any of the active elements found in local space, regional aquatic facilities, and regional indoor facilities. Should connect to linear park and trail system.	May be located in rural areas but should be readily accessible to most of the county population. Serve multiple jurisdictions. May serve population outside of the county as well.
	Travel time within 10 minutes (potentially longer depending on amenities)			Typically provided by county park systems.
	To serve most of the township but located regionally			
Nature Parks or Preserves (NP)	Size as needed to protect the resource	N/A (but contributes to total open space requirement)	Majority of park to remain in its natural state (less than 20% developed)  Facilities should focus on education by use of "nature activities" and should reinforce that philosophy by offering habitat enhancement, trails, nature centers, and interpretive signage. Should also include parking and restrooms.	The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions. Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest.  Typical size should be over 50 acres for management efficiency and to promote ecosystem services.  Typically provided by county or state park systems
State Parks (SP)	Size as needed to protect natural resources of State or regional significance	N/A	Majority of park to remain in its natural state.  The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions.	Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest, lakes, or other features of state or regional interest.  Serve state-wide area or beyond and may be a destination for tourists.  Size will vary based on the area required to protect the resource.

### 3.3 INVENTORY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP PARK DEPARTMENT AREAS

Residents of Orange Township are offered a variety of parks and recreation facilities. The Parks and Recreation Resources Inventory (Table 3.2) provides a summary of all the offerings in Orange Township as well as the classification for each property.

The table indicates each property by park type category as defined in Chapter 2. The Existing Parks and Trails map (Figure 3.1) shows the location of each of the parks and recreation areas offered by Orange Township, as well as those offered by others. The following text provides a detailed narrative summary of these facilities. Aerial photos of each park are provided in Appendix B.

### 3.4 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

A Neighborhood Park is a small but highly developed park located within a short (10-minute) walking or biking distance of residents with facilities such as game courts, playgrounds, picnic areas/shelters, athletic fields, and walking trails. A Mini Park is a small Neighborhood Park, typically located in more densely populated areas where availability of land is limited. The Orange Township Park Department oversees one Neighborhood Park, Walker Wood.



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### 3.4.1 Walker Wood (4.7 acres) – Neighborhood Park

#### Park Location

This Neighborhood Park is located in the southeastern part of the township, off Walker Woods Boulevard between E Orange Road and E Powell Road. Surrounded by residential streets, this park is well situated to serve the community. Informal connections provide access from the adjoining neighborhood.

#### Existing Features & Amenities

- Medium shelter
- Playground
- Paved trail loop (0.3 mile)
- Large multipurpose rectangular field
- Parking lot

#### Park Issues & Opportunities

- No landscaping and limited shade across site
- Lack of formal, accessible connections to surrounding neighborhood
- No seating along trail
- Potential for additional amenities (e.g., benches, fitness equipment, courts)
- Playground surfacing has some holes; need replacement



## 3.5 COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks are larger parks that serve multiple neighborhoods and offer a wider variety of facilities. Community Parks should be conveniently located (within approximately 5-minute drive) and easily accessible with facilities intended to occupy visitors for extended periods of time (field or game court complex, disc golf, etc.). The Orange Township Park Department manages four Community Parks.

### 3.5.1 Township Hall Park (24.1 acres) – Community Park

#### Park Location

Township Hall Park is at the heart of the most developed area in Orange Township, accessible from E Orange Road, a major east-west transportation artery. With about a fourth of the site acreage developed, this park offers opportunities for passive recreation and enjoyment of natural features.

#### Existing Features & Amenities

- Township Hall w/ rental space
- Basketball court
- Paved trail (1.3 miles) – forms loop
- Unpaved trail (0.2 mile)

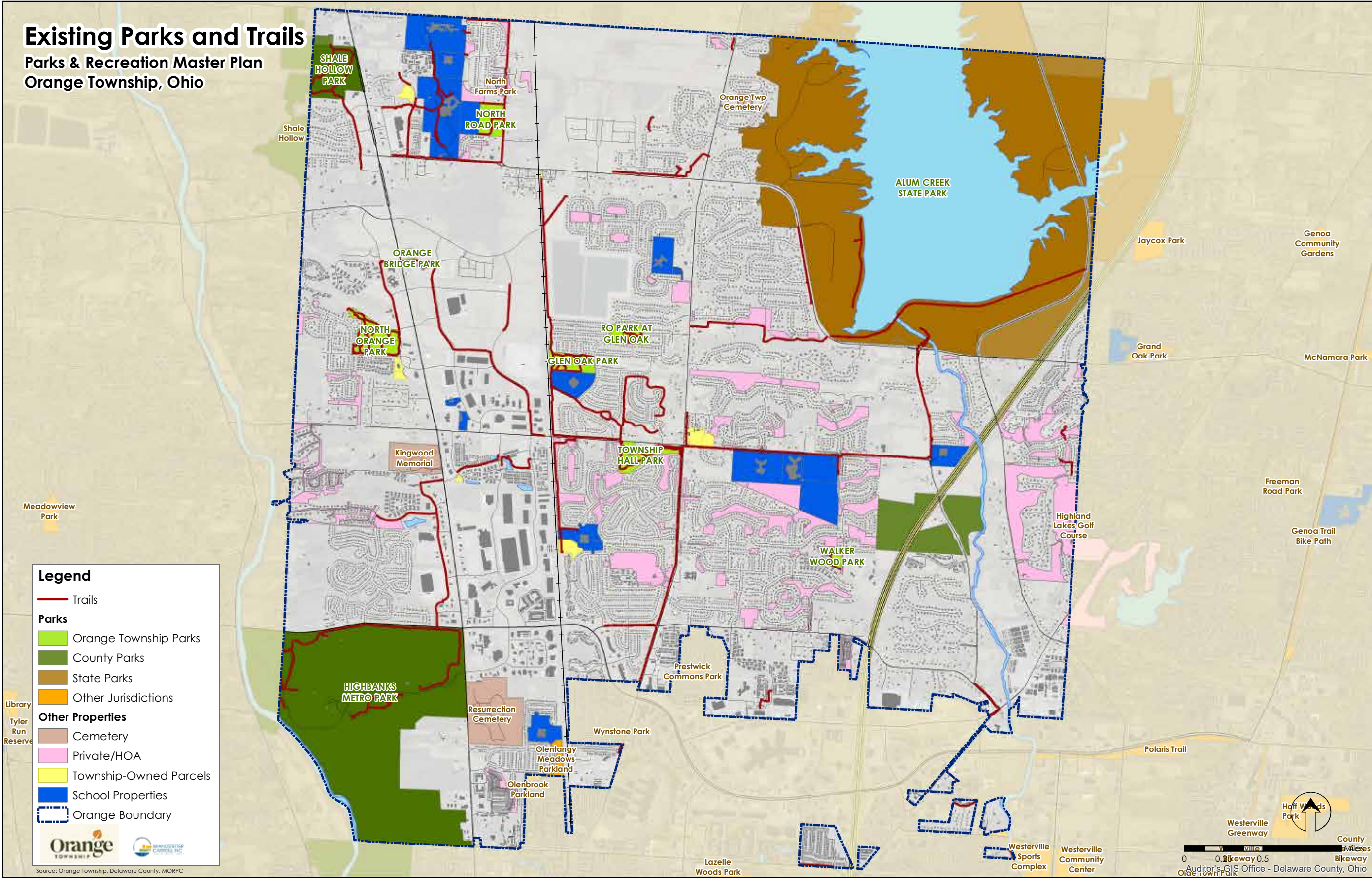


Table 3.2: Parks and Recreation Resource Inventory

PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	Acreage		Athletic Fields				Game Courts		Outdoor Facilities		Trails (Mi)		Natural Areas			Passive Recreation				Support			Indoor		Special Feature/Notes	
				Small Diamond	Large Diamond	Small Rectangular	Large Rectangular	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Playgrounds	Aquatic Centers	Paved	Unpaved	Fishing Access	Lake/Pond/Stream	Natural/Wooded Area	Community Gardens	Large Shelters	Medium Shelters	Gazebos/Small Shelters	Restroom Buildings	Concessions Buildings	Parking	Meeting Room	Rental Facility		
		Total	Developed																								
Orange Township Parks																											
Neighborhood Parks																											
Walker Wood Park	Neighborhood	4.7	4.7				1			1		0.3							1				46				
Subtotal - Neighborhood Parks		4.7	4.7	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	46	0	0		
Community Parks																											
Township Hall Park	Community	24.1	11.2					1				1.3	0.2	X	X	X				2	1		91	1			
Glen Oak Park	Community	22.0	13.4				2			1		1.7		X	X	X		1		2	1		65				
North Orange Park	Community	35.5	27.8			1	3	2		1	1	2.1	0.6	X	X	X		1			1	1	300	1	1		
Ro Park at Glen Oak	Community	13.7	9.9	2						1		0.3	0.3			X		1			1		86				
Subtotal - Community Parks		95.2	62.2	2	0	1	5	3	0	3	1	5.3	1.0	3	3	4	0	3	0	4	4	1	542	2	1		
Special Use Parks																											
North Road Park	Athletic Complex	20.3	19.6				5					0.6											182			Cricket pitch	
Orange Bridge Park	Trailhead	1.2	1.2									0.1		X	X					1			3				
Subtotal - Special Use Parks		21.5	20.8	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0.7	0.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	185	0	0		
Trails/Facilities Outside of Parks																											
Trails/Facilities Outside of Parks	Trails	N/A	N/A									30.3					1									Community garden at Evans Farm neighborhood	
Subtotal - Trails Outside of Parks		0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30.3	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total - Orange Township Parks		121.5	87.6	2	0	1	11	3	0	4	1	36.6	1.0	4	4	4	1	3	1	5	4	1	773	2	1		



Figure 3.1: Existing Parks and Trails





- Pond w/ fishing access
- Natural and wooded areas
- 2 small shelters (includes 1 gazebo)
- Restrooms
- Small cabin
- Parking lot

#### Park Issues & Opportunities

- No non-smoking signs posted at gazebo
- Shelter could possibly be used as a small amphitheater
- Fishing access points are not ADA accessible
- Some existing wayfinding & signage; potential for more
- Basketball court is not ADA accessible (no paved connection from sidewalk)
- No playground, potential for added equipment and/or nature play features
- Paved trail has some deteriorating areas, some rough edges
- Picnic table in gazebo is not ADA accessible
- No accessible parking available near shelter



### 3.5.2 Glen Oak Park (22.0 acres) – Community Park

#### Site Location

Glen Oak is located near the center of Orange Township just north of E Orange Road and west of S Old State Road. The park is accessible by motor vehicle from Blue Holly Drive on the east side of the property. Pedestrians can access the park at using the trail at this entrance or via a connecting path from Blue Stem Drive (to the north) or from the trail that runs along the rail corridor to the west. The park shares its southern border with Glen Oak Elementary.

#### Existing Features & Amenities

- Playground – 3 small, separate, themed areas
- Basketball court
- Paved trails – 2/3-mile loop w/ connection to linear trail along railroad
- Unpaved connection to Glen Oak Elementary
- Restroom building w/ picnic tables, grills, and vending machine
- Large picnic shelter w/ grills
- Small picnic shelter w/ grill
- 2 ponds w/ fishing access and ice skating in winter
- Wooded area



- Sledding hill
- Parking lot

#### Park Issues & Opportunities

- Room for additional features
- Limited play features for older children
- Some features not accessible
- Lack of trees and landscaping in developed areas



### 3.5.3 North Orange Park (35.5 acres) – Community Park

#### Park Location

North Orange Park is located near the western edge of the township, just west of Columbus Pike/US-23. The main entrance to the park is on Gooding Boulevard, which runs along the eastern edge of the property. The park is bounded by Overland Trail to the west and Abbot-Downing Boulevard to the south. Pedestrian connections to the perimeter trail are available along each of these roads. As the largest of Orange Township's parks, this Community Park offers a wide variety of amenities to serve residents throughout the township.



#### Existing Features & Amenities

- Aquatic center
- Meeting room (at aquatic center)
- Large playground – separate age 2-5 and age 5-12 areas, accessible features
- 3 full-sized multipurpose rectangular fields
- 1 small rectangular field
- Large basketball court – 4 goals, full court or 4 half courts
- Paved trails (2.1 miles) – 0.9-mile loop w/ connecting trails
- Unpaved trails (0.6 miles)
- Large picnic shelter w/ grills
- Ponds w/ fishing access
- Wooded area
- Sledding hill
- Restrooms
- Parking lots



#### Park Issues & Opportunities

- Algae blooms in ponds
- Large amount of manicured turf, limited landscaping
- Potential for additional neighborhood connections after new development
- Space to accommodate additional features
- Limited accessibility at fields





### 3.5.4 Ro Park at Glen Oak (13.7 acres) – Community Park

#### Park Location

Ro Park is located within the Glen Oak neighborhood about a half mile to the northeast of Glen Oak Park. The park is accessible by motor vehicle from either Blue Holly Drive or Snapdragon Way. The primary pedestrian access is from Snapdragon Way, but the park can also be accessed through the wooded area from Blue Holly Drive.

#### Existing Features & Amenities

- Playground – separate age 2-5 and age 5-12 areas
- Restroom building w/ picnic tables, vending machine (beverages only), and grills
- 2 baseball/softball diamonds (≈ 200' outfields, no fences)
- Paved connecting paths (0.3 miles) – does not form loop
- Unpaved trail (0.3 miles) – through wooded area, connects 2 sides of park
- Large picnic shelter w/ grills
- Parking lots

#### Park Issues & Opportunities

- Accessible walkways only provided to benches on one side of each field
- No wayfinding between areas
- Pedestrian entrance lacks sign
- Potential for perimeter trail loop
- Shelter needs some repairs



## 3.6 SPECIAL USE PARKS

Special Use Parks are areas designed for specialized use or single purpose recreational activities, and can include places such as plazas, golf courses, sports complexes, and indoor spaces. The township offers the community two Special Use Parks: North Road Park and Orange Bridge Park.

### 3.6.1 North Road Park (20.3 acres) – Athletic Complex

#### Site Location

North Road Park is near the northwestern corner of the township.

#### Existing Features & Amenities

- 5 full-sized multipurpose rectangular fields
- Cricket pitch
- Paved trail (0.6 miles) – connects to trail system but does not form a perimeter loop
- Pond



- Portable toilets
- Parking lot

#### Park Issues & Opportunities

- Limited developed features
- Potential for more features
- Last existing parkland for new facilities
- Lack of connectivity/accessibility throughout site
- Potential for better connection to neighborhood



### 3.6.2 Orange Bridge Park (1.2 acres) – Trailhead

#### Site Location

Orange Bridge Park is a small property located on the western side of the township on Emil's Way near the Mount Carmel Fitness Center. The park serves as a trailhead and provides bike and pedestrian access over Columbus Pike/US-23.

#### Existing Features & Amenities

- Small shelter
- Bridge over Columbus Pike/US-23
- Parking lot

#### Park Issues & Opportunities

- Limited features
- Potential to link new residential neighborhood to trail system



## 3.7 FACILITY SUMMARY

The table (Table 3.3) below provides a summary of the recreation facilities offered by the Orange Township Park Department.

**Table 3.3: Recreation Facility Summary**

Athletic Fields	#	Outdoor Facilities	#	Passive Recreation	#
Small Diamond	2	Playgrounds	4	Large Shelters	3
Large Diamond	0	Aquatic Center	1	Medium Shelters	1
Small Rectangular	1	<b>Trails (Miles)</b>	<b>#</b>	Gazebos/Small Shelters	5
Large Rectangular Fields	11	Paved	6.3	<b>Support Facilities</b>	<b>#</b>
<b>Game Courts</b>	<b>#</b>	Unpaved/Hiking	1.0	Community Gardens	1
Basketball	3	Trails Outside of Parks	30.3	Restroom Buildings	4
Tennis Court	0	<b>Natural Areas</b>	<b>#</b>	Concessions Buildings	1
		Fishing Access	4	Meeting Rooms	2
		Lake/Pond/Stream	4		
		Natural/Wooded Area	4		

## 3.8 OTHER PARKS

Table 3.4 shows over 30 parks and recreation areas that may be available to residents of Orange Township but are neither owned nor maintained by the Orange Township Park Department. These parks are located either in the township itself or nearby and within Delaware County (see Table 3.1 and maps in Chapter 5). These parks are owned and maintained either by the school system, a nonprofit, a state or local organization, another park agency, or a private entity. Each of these spaces contributes to the full spectrum of recreational opportunities available to residents of Orange Township.

The text in this section is intended to create a full inventory of all recreation amenities available to residents by documenting the amenities currently provided in these parks. If major improvements are made in any of these parks the township and the owners of these spaces should coordinate their efforts to best address the community's needs and to avoid potentially costly and inefficient duplication of services and amenities.

**Table 3.4: Parks by Others**

Facility Name	Agency	Playgrounds	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Diamond Fields	Multipurpose Fields	Recreation Centers	Picnic Shelters	Fishing	Trails (Miles)	Mountain Bike Trails (Miles)	Camp Sites	Dog Park	Water Access/ Boat Ramps
<b>School Parks</b>																
Alum Creek Elementary	Olentangy Schools	1	1				2	1								
Freedom Trail Elementary	Olentangy Schools	1	2				1	2								
Glen Oak Elementary	Olentangy Schools	1	1				1	3								
Heritage Elementary	Olentangy Schools	1	1.5				1	1								
Oak Creek Elementary	Olentangy Schools	1	2				1									
Olentangy Meadows Elementary	Olentangy Schools	1	1				1	1								
<b>Subtotal - School Parks</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Parks by Others in Orange Township</b>																
Alum Creek State Park	Ohio DNR	4								3	1	13.1	14.0	310	1	5
Highbanks Metro Park	Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks	1								16		13.7				1
North Farms Park	HOA	1														
Olentangy Meadows Parkland	Columbus Recreation and Parks															
Shale Hollow Park	Preservation Parks	1								1		2.1				
<b>Subtotal - By Others in Orange Township</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Parks by Others Near Orange Township</b>																
Arbor Ridge Park	Powell Parks & Recreation	1		4							1	0.3				
Char-Mar Ridge Preserve	Preservation Parks	1										1.7				
Freeman Road Park	Genoa Twp	1	2					1		1		0.3				
Grand Oak Park/Walnut Creek Elementary	Olentangy Schools/Genoa Twp	1	2				1									
Heritage Park	Westerville Parks & Recreation	1						3		1		0.9				
Hilmar Park	Genoa Twp	1	1							1	1	0.3				
Hoff Woods Park	Westerville Parks & Recreation	1	2	2	4	2	6			1	1	1.9				
Jaycox Park	Genoa Twp															
Lazelle Woods Park	Columbus Recreation and Parks	1	2				4	2	1	1		1.0				
McNamara Park	Genoa Twp	1						1		1		1.2				
Meadowview Park	Powell Parks & Recreation	1									1	0.2				
Olenbrook Parkland	Columbus Recreation and Parks															
Olentangy Meadows/Worthington Hills	Columbus Recreation and Parks											0.4				
Paul S Metzger Park	Westerville Parks & Recreation	1	2	2			4	4		1		1.5				
Polaris Trail	Westerville Parks & Recreation											2.8				

**Table 3.4: Parks by Others (Continued)**

Facility Name	Agency	Playgrounds	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Diamond Fields	Multipurpose Fields	Recreation Centers	Picnic Shelters	Fishing	Trails (Miles)	Mountain Bike Trails (Miles)	Camp Sites	Dog Park	Water Access/ Boat Ramps
Prestwick Commons Park	Columbus Recreation and Parks	1								1						
Sharon Woods Metro Park	Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks	3								4	1	7.6				1
Westerville Community Center	Westerville Parks & Recreation								1			0.6				
Westerville Sports Complex	Westerville Parks & Recreation	1	2					6			1	1.3				
Wynstone Park	Columbus Recreation and Parks	1								1						
<b>Subtotal - Near Orange Township</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total - Other Parks</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

## 3.9 PRIVATE FACILITIES

Several private organizations provide recreational facilities and programming for Orange Township residents. Most of these businesses, which are listed below, focus on specific activities.

1. Just Hoops by Shoot-A-Way – basketball training
2. 3 Lions Soccer
3. SuperKick – soccer training
4. Midwest Xplosion Training Center (MWX Cheer) – cheerleading
5. Gym X-Treme Gymnastics
6. OhioHealth Chiller North – hockey/ice rink
7. Team Chitwood Martial Arts
8. NorthPointe Dance Academy
9. Advancement Academy Volleyball Club Sports Garden
10. D-BAT Columbus North – baseball/softball training



## PUBLIC INPUT

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the processes used and the public input gathered throughout the planning process and summarizes the following elements:

1. Public Workshop Open House
2. Stakeholder Conversations
3. Statistically Valid Survey (by ETC Institute)
4. Web Survey
5. Online Engagement (powered by MindMixer)

The public engagement process is essential for identifying the needs and preferences of Orange Township residents. The findings of the public input process are, therefore, integral to the Needs Assessment and Identification (Chapter 5) and serve as the foundation of the recommendations of this Master Plan.

### 4.2 PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The township held a public workshop (open house meeting) on September 13, 2021 to introduce the project to the public and to solicit feedback from the community regarding the present and future of parks and recreation in Orange Township.

Upon arrival, attendees were asked to sign in and were then given a dot to place on a map to indicate where they live. This map (Figure 4.1) shows the distribution of the meeting attendees. The map indicates that the attendees were generally well-distributed throughout Orange Township.

The meeting allowed participants to visit a series of stations in order to provide their input and learn more about the Master Plan. The primary input stations were arranged around the room and provided opportunities for input on three general topics. At each of these stations, participants were asked to share their responses to two questions: “What makes them great now?” and “What would make them better?”





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The three input topics were as follows:

- Parks and Facilities
- Trails and Natural Areas
- Programs and Events

A final station provided a few activities, including dollar allocation and dot voting (see Section 4.3). The summaries of comments in the ensuing text provide the number of times a topic was mentioned in parentheses after the item. The full text of comments can be found in Appendix D.

### **Parks and Facilities**

This topic represented built amenities and general recommendations for parks. Spaces for events or concerts were the subject of the largest number of comments. Attendees also indicated a need for disc golf, dog parks, and improved accessibility.

What makes them great now?

- Aquatic center
- Parks in neighborhoods

What would make them better? – 21 comments and checkmarks/likes (# in parentheses)

- Event spaces (5)
- Disc golf (3)
- Dog parks (3)
- Accessibility (2)

### **Natural Areas and Trails**

This station encouraged discussion of natural areas, conservation/preservation, and trails. The focus of most of the comments was on the need for more trails and better connectivity. Participants also indicated desire for more fishing opportunities and improvements to ponds in the parks.

What makes them great now?

- Existing/expanding trails
- Well maintained
- Family friendly

What would make them better? – 35 comments and checkmarks/likes (# in parentheses)

- Trails/connectivity (22)
- Trails – specific locations/connections (10)
- Bike Trails (9)
- Fishing (6)
- Pond cleanup (4)
- Disc golf (2)
- Wildflowers (2)

### **Programs and Events**

This topic provided a location for comments about programs, including sports, nature programs, and events.

## PUBLIC INPUT



As the township does not currently offer any programs, the first section about what residents like is omitted in the summary below. Overall, attendees indicated desire for more programs in general and more events such as festivals, movies, and concerts. Several residents also requested more pickleball opportunities.

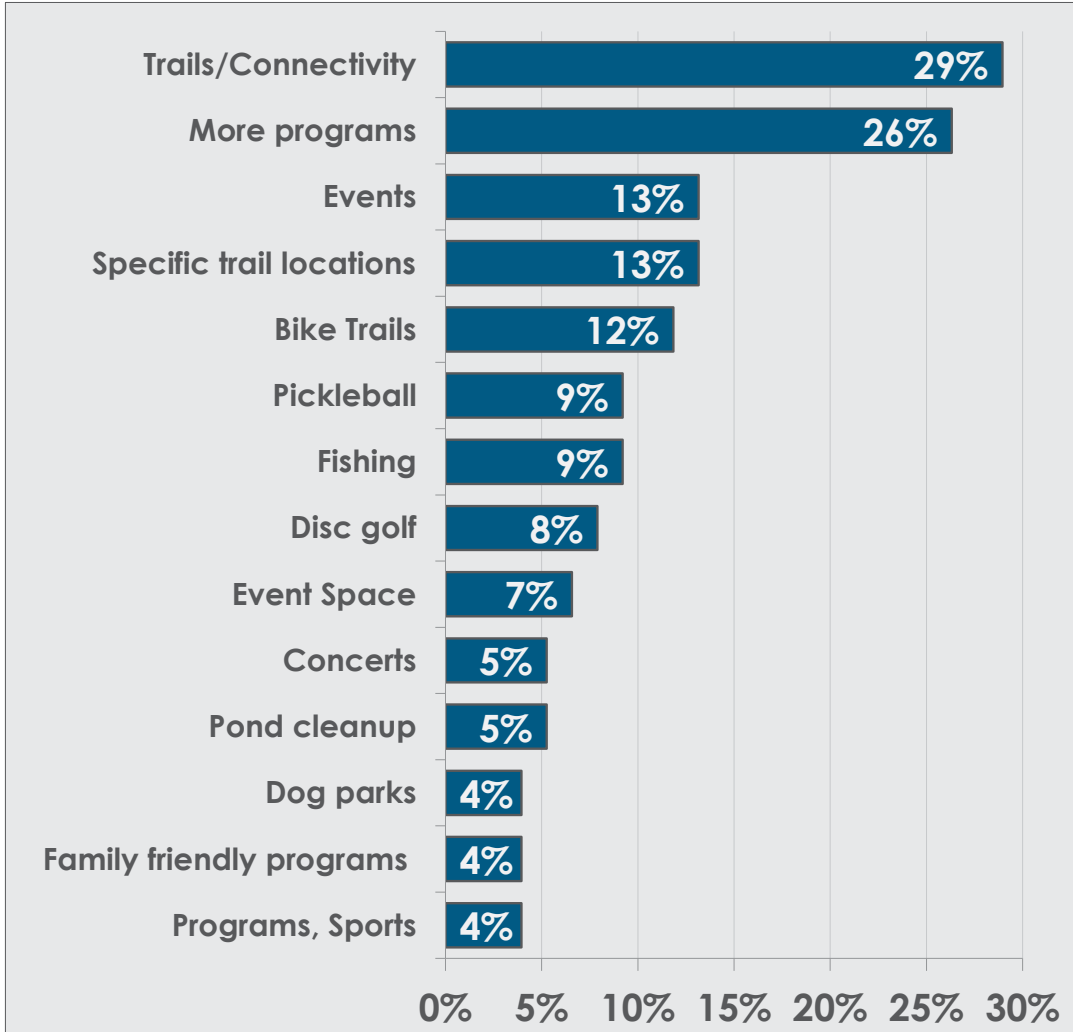
What would make them better? – 20 comments and checkmarks/likes (# in parentheses)

- Events (10)
- Pickleball (7)
- Concerts (4)
- Sports (3)
- Family friendly programs (3)
- Youth programs (2)

**Overall Open House Comment Summary**

The chart below (Figure 4.2) provides a summary of the comments to the question, “What would make them better?” at all stations. Each of the over 75 comments (and checkmarks/likes) were placed into one or more categories to show what improvements attendees of the meeting desired to see in the future. The list includes both general and specific items, so many comments qualified for multiple categories. Additionally, some comments discussed more than one topic and were categorized accordingly. The chart presents the results as a percentage of overall comments. The results indicate that residents want more trails and connectivity and more program opportunities, especially community events.

**Figure 4.2: Distribution of Open House Comments**



## 4.3 DOLLAR VOTING AND PREFERENCES

### 4.3.1 Preference Boards

Attendees of the Open House meeting were given three blue dots to place on a board indicating their preferences for park features. The board provided a list of 16 park amenities (represented by pictures). Attendees of the Open House were also given three green dots for a second board. This board provided a list of 16 program categories (also represented by pictures). These activities requested that participants choose the features and programs most important to them and their households. Children were also invited to participate. At the open house, 24 community members participated in the activities for features and participated for programs. Counts of the selections are presented in Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

On the features board (Table 4.1), trails received the largest number of dots (16), followed by natural areas (10) and disc golf (9). The provided features were intended to be general, so features were combined into categories whenever possible. On the programs board (Table 4.2), festivals easily received the largest number of dots (21), followed by nature programs and movies/music concerts (9 each).

**Table 4.1: Feature Preference Results**

Park Features	Total	%
Trails	16	23%
Natural Areas	10	14%
Disc Golf	9	13%
Event Space	7	10%
Community Gardens	7	10%
Game Courts	5	7%
Athletic Fields	5	7%
Dog Parks	5	7%
Restrooms	2	3%
Playgrounds	1	1%
Spraygrounds	1	1%
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	1	1%
Recreation Centers	1	1%
Outdoor Games	1	1%
Public Art	0	0%
Picnic Shelters	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	
<b>Participants</b>	<b>24</b>	

**Table 4.2: Program Preference Results**

Programs	Total	%
Festivals	21	29%
Nature Programs	9	13%
Movies/Music Concerts	9	13%
Adult Sports	6	8%
Youth Sports	5	7%
Athletic Tournament	4	6%
Senior Programs	4	6%
Arts & Crafts Classes	4	6%
Annual Special Events	3	4%
Runs and Races	3	4%
Fitness Classes	2	3%
Summer Camps	1	1%
After School Programs	1	1%
Dance and Drama Classes	0	0%
Music Classes	0	0%
E-Sports	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	
<b>Participants</b>	<b>24</b>	

### 4.3.2 Dollar Voting

Participants at the public workshop and stakeholder groups were given \$1,000 in play money to place into boxes to indicate how they would like Orange Township to allocate funds for parks and recreation. Table 4.3 shows the total allocations for each of the eight categories (or boxes). Participants could also place money into an "other" box to request specific amenities or improvements not included in one of the eight provided categories. The combined results for the 66 participants at the events are presented below with the allocation for each park improvement category with the percentage of the total allocation.

Of the provided options, *build new walking and biking trails* received the largest allocation at \$15,000 or 23% or total dollars. *Build new athletic fields* was second with 14% of the total allocation, and *build new parks and facilities* was third with 10%. For "Other" improvements, participants wrote their chosen improvements with the allocation on a card and placed it and the money into the "Other" box. This box received the largest overall allocation due to stakeholders requesting disc golf (\$8,600) and pickleball (\$7,000). The individual comments can be found in Appendix D.

**Table 4.3: Dollar Voting Allocation**

Action (Box Title)	Event		Total
	Open House 9/13/2021	Stakeholder Groups	
Build new walking and biking trails	\$7,800	\$7,200	<b>\$15,000</b>
	32%	17%	23%
Build new athletic fields	\$2,700	\$6,700	<b>\$9,400</b>
	11%	16%	14%
Build new parks or facilities	\$1,700	\$4,600	<b>\$6,300</b>
	7%	11%	10%
Develop new indoor recreation facilities	\$2,300	\$2,800	<b>\$5,100</b>
	9%	7%	8%
Upgrade existing park facilities	\$2,600	\$1,400	<b>\$4,000</b>
	11%	3%	6%
Develop a dog park	\$2,400	\$1,600	<b>\$4,000</b>
	10%	4%	6%
Develop a new splash pad	\$1,300	\$2,300	<b>\$3,600</b>
	5%	5%	5%
Expand program offerings	\$1,000	\$1,800	<b>\$2,800</b>
	4%	4%	4%
Other	\$2,600	\$13,500	<b>\$16,100</b>
	11%	32%	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,400</b>	<b>\$41,900</b>	<b>\$66,300</b>

## 4.4 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

In July 2021, the consultant team met with a series of stakeholders to establish their priorities for Parks and Recreation. Around 25 stakeholder groups participated in these discussions, contributing their respective visions to this Master Plan. At these meetings, stakeholders were asked a series of questions about Orange Township parks, recreation facilities, and programs, beginning first with a discussion of strengths before moving on to a discussion of future opportunities. Summaries of the meetings with complete comments can be found in Appendix D.

### 4.4.1 Groups Engaged

The following stakeholder group meetings were held as part of this Master Plan:

- Sports
  - Olentangy United
  - Columbus United
  - Olentangy Rugby
  - OYAA
  - Pickleball & Tennis Group
  - I9 Sports
  - Polaris Cricket
  - North Park Cricket Club
  - Disc Golf



- 
- Trails & Paths Focus Group
  - Sourcepoint
  - Delaware County District Library
  - HOA's/Neighborhoods
    - Village of Oak Creek
    - Village of Alum Creek
    - VOC
  - Mom's Club
  - Seniors
  - Park Users
  - Other Jurisdictions
    - Westerville
    - Delaware County
    - Liberty Township
    - Genoa Township
    - US Army Corps of Engineers
    - Columbus Metro Parks
  - Trustees

#### **4.4.2 Stakeholders Broad Recommendations**

- Trails & connectivity within the township and extending to other jurisdictions
- Equity of access to facilities
- Balance of facilities – active and passive
- Educational opportunities
- Splash pad
- Community events/programs – amphitheater/band shell
- Pickleball courts
- A Park Board to advocate for parks
- Indoor recreation opportunities/programs
- Courts and practice space, lights
- Land set aside for parks
- More soccer fields – some with lights
- Adequate parking
- Collaboration between schools, township, county, adjacent communities, Ohio State Parks, Metro Parks/Preservation Parks
- Inclusive playground
- Disc golf
- Variety of programming offered
- Outdoor fitness opportunities
- Permanent location for community gardens

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## 4.5 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS

The following pages summarize the findings of the statistically valid survey (Mail Survey) and the online survey (Web Survey). Because the Mail Survey results were collected using a statistically valid random sample, they are intended to represent the residents of Orange Township as a whole, both users and non-users. On the other hand, the Web Survey results reflect the views of the respondents, not necessarily Orange Township residents as a whole; Web Survey respondents are often already engaged in some way with the township's parks and programs. The figures in this section display side-by-side the results from both surveys. Of the figures that follow, some show only the top results for a survey question; however, full results can be found in Appendices E and F.

### 4.5.1 Statistically Valid Survey – Overview and Methodology

ETC Institute conducted the Orange Township Community Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey (Mail Survey) during the spring of 2021 to help determine priorities for the future development of parks, trails, programs, and open space in Orange Township. This Mail Survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the township.

The Brandstetter Carroll Inc. project team worked with Orange Township staff on the development of the survey questionnaire. Through this collaborative effort a survey was created and tailored to issues of strategic local importance, providing a critical tool for effective planning of the future of the parks, recreation, trails, and open space in Orange Township. The 5-page survey was mailed to a random sample of households throughout Orange Township. (As an alternative, households were also provided with a web address for completing the survey online).

ETC Institute had a goal of 300 survey responses to ensure statistically valid results. ETC Institute exceeded this goal with a total of 400 surveys. Based on this random sample of households, the overall results have a precision of at least +/- 4.8% at the 95% level of confidence.

### 4.5.2 National Benchmarking

Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 700 communities across all 50 states.

The results of these surveys have provided an unparalleled database of information against which to compare responses from households in client communities. This unique tool enables clients to see their results compared to national averages, assisting them in better decision making. This National Benchmarking summary is included in Appendix E with the full survey report. Select information from the benchmarking is described below.

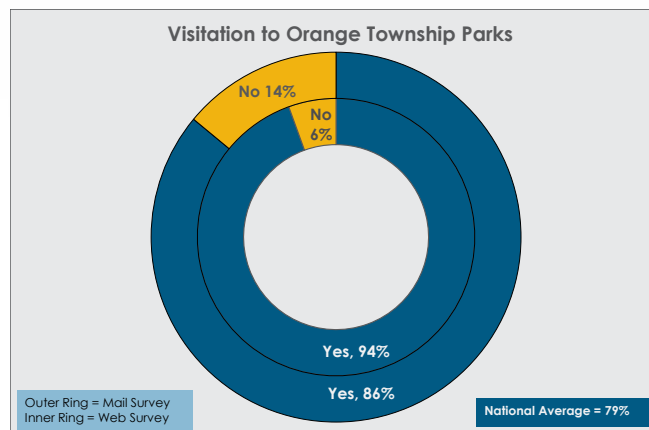
### 4.5.3 Web Survey – Overview and Methodology

In addition to the input-gathering conducted by ETC Institute, a Web Survey was administered by BCI during the spring, summer, and fall of 2021. This Web Survey was similar to the Mail Survey; however, the overall length was reduced (2 pages instead of 5) for ease and improved likelihood of completion. This version was powered by Survey Monkey with a total of 1,209 surveys completed. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of those who responded said they live within the Orange Township and 32% do not. The full survey report can be found in Appendix F.

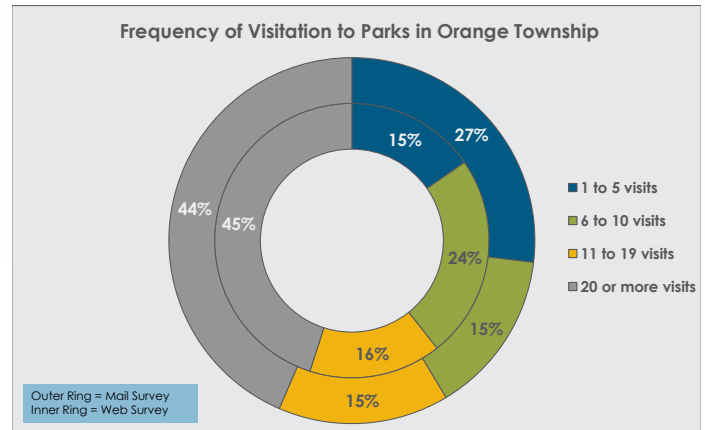
### 4.5.4 Results – Visitation of Parks Offered in Orange Township

Respondents to the survey were asked about their visitation to parks in Orange Township over the last year. Figure 4.3 shows the proportion of those who reported at least one member of their household had visited a township park in the last year. According to the statistically valid Mail Survey (outer ring), an impressive **86% of households visited parks** in Orange Township. Comparably, of those who responded in the Web Survey, 94% had visited a park. In contrast, the national average for park visitation is 79%, according to ETC Institute benchmarking. Thus, residents in Orange Township are considerably more likely than residents of other communities to visit parks.

**Figure 4.3: Visitation**



**Figure 4.4: Frequency of Visitation**



### 4.5.5 Results – Frequency of Visits to Parks & Recreation Facilities in Orange Township

As a follow-up, respondent households that visited Orange Township Parks during the last two years were asked how often they have visited those facilities over that time. The results are presented in Figure 4.4.

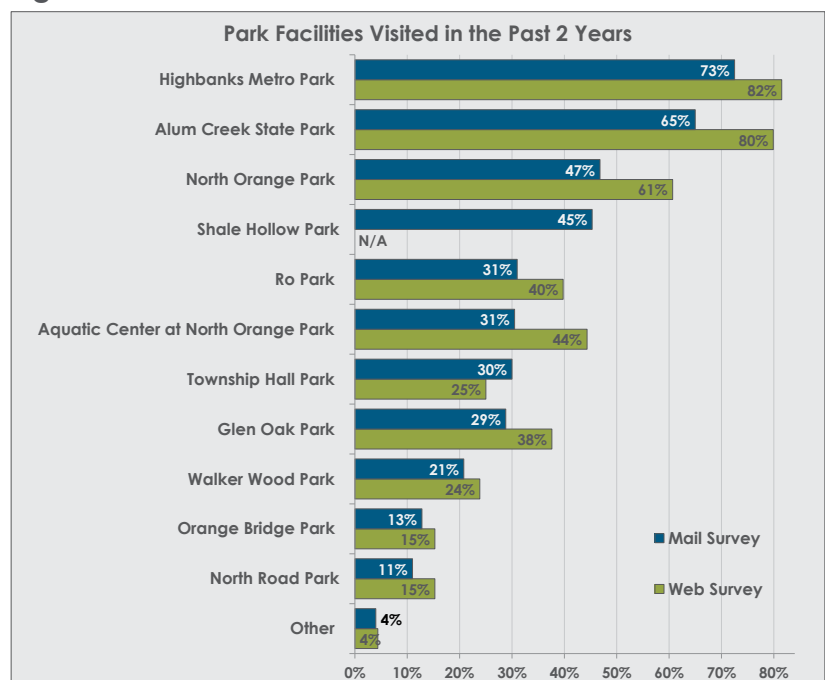
According to the statistically valid Mail Survey, households who visited the township's facilities likely visited many times. **Forty-four percent (44%) reported visiting 20 or more times.** Other results were – 27% visited 1-5 times, 15% visited 6-10 times, and 15% visited 11-19 times. Looking at the responses cumulatively, 59% of households visited parks 11 or more times, and 73% visited parks six or more times. It is worth noting that both sets of participants (Web and Mail Survey) responded similarly, emphasizing the high rate of park visitation in Orange Township. Web Survey respondents were slightly less likely to report using parks infrequently with only 15% visiting 1-5 times in the past two years.

### 4.5.6 Results – Parks and Facilities Visited Over the Past Two Years

Survey respondents were asked to indicate which parks their household visited over the past year. Figure 4.5 shows what percentage of respondents have used each park or facility in the past year.

According to the statistically valid Mail Survey, **73% of households visited Highbanks Metro Park** in the past year; 82% of the Web Survey respondents said they have visited this park. At 65%, Alum Creek State Park was second in the Mails Survey; however, 80% of Web Survey respondents visited the park in the past two years. **North Orange Park was the third most visited park overall (47% of households) but the most visited of Orange Townships parks.** Web Survey respondents were more likely to report using nearly every park listed.

**Figure 4.5: Parks Visited**

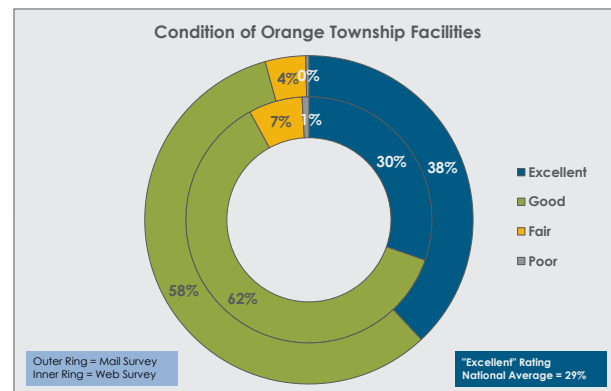


### 4.5.7 Results – Physical Condition of Facilities Offered by Orange Township

Respondent households were asked to rate the physical condition of facilities they visited. Figure 4.6 shows respondents' ratings of the condition of facilities in Orange Township.

According to the Mail Survey, the largest percentage of households (58%) who visited these facilities over the past year rated the condition of those facilities as good. **An impressive 38% of households rated the facilities as excellent** with 4% rating them fair and 0% poor. The excellent rating provided by Mail Survey households is well above the national average of 29% (provided by the ETC Institute). Web Survey results were similar, but respondents were less likely to rate conditions as excellent. Taken altogether, **96% of households see the condition of Orange Township's facilities as either excellent or good.**

Figure 4.6: Condition of Facilities



### 4.5.8 Results – Upgrades to Existing Parks

Respondents were asked to identify upgrades their household would like to see to existing parks, Figure 4.7 shows responses. The **top response in the Mail Survey was trails – walking/hiking (61%)** by a large margin. **Restrooms and trails – bike were second and third** (46% and 45%, respectively). The next priority ranked items for Mail Survey responses (with between 25% and 30%) were *shade structures, playground equipment, picnic shelters, security cameras and lighting, and sidewalks.*

The results of the Web Survey were generally similar with a couple notable differences. *Restrooms* ranked first in the Web Survey, although *trails – walking/hiking* were second. Disc golf was third in the Web Survey at 39%, compared to 21st in the Mail Survey, indicating that a motivated group responded to the Web Survey but is not necessarily representative of the population as a whole. In general, the top prioritized items are reflected in both survey groups. In this case, many of these facilities are amenities that would add to the user experience and enjoyment at any of the parks across Orange Township.

### 4.5.9 Results – Household Needs for Parks and Recreation

Respondents to the Mail Survey were asked to identify (from a list of 27 different types of parks and recreation facilities) if any members of their household have need for a particular facility (i.e., do they make use of a certain facility, or would they if it were available). Figure 4.8 shows the results.

According to the survey, **the highest percentage of Orange Township households (81%) have a need for walking & hiking trails** (i.e., they either do use or would like to use trails). *Natural areas/nature parks* ranked at a close second (72%). Paved bike trails were third with nearly two-thirds (63%) of households indicating a need. *Picnic shelters/picnic areas* (51%) ranked as the fourth most-needed facility, selected by more than half of Mail Survey households.

This table also shows the national benchmark provided by ETC Institute for each facility. According to these numbers, Orange Township has a higher level of need for most of the facilities. Residents have a much higher level of need for the top two facilities in the list: *walking & hiking trails* and *natural areas/nature parks*. The township also has comparable high needs for *community/recreation centers* and *pickleball courts*.

In addition to outlining their general needs, respondents were also asked how well those needs are currently being met by facilities provided by Orange Township. Of these responses, the percentage of households for which needs were met at 50% or less was combined with the total number of households in Orange Township. Figure 4.9 shows the estimated number of households with needs met at 50% or less for the listed facilities.

Figure 4.7: Upgrades to Existing Parks

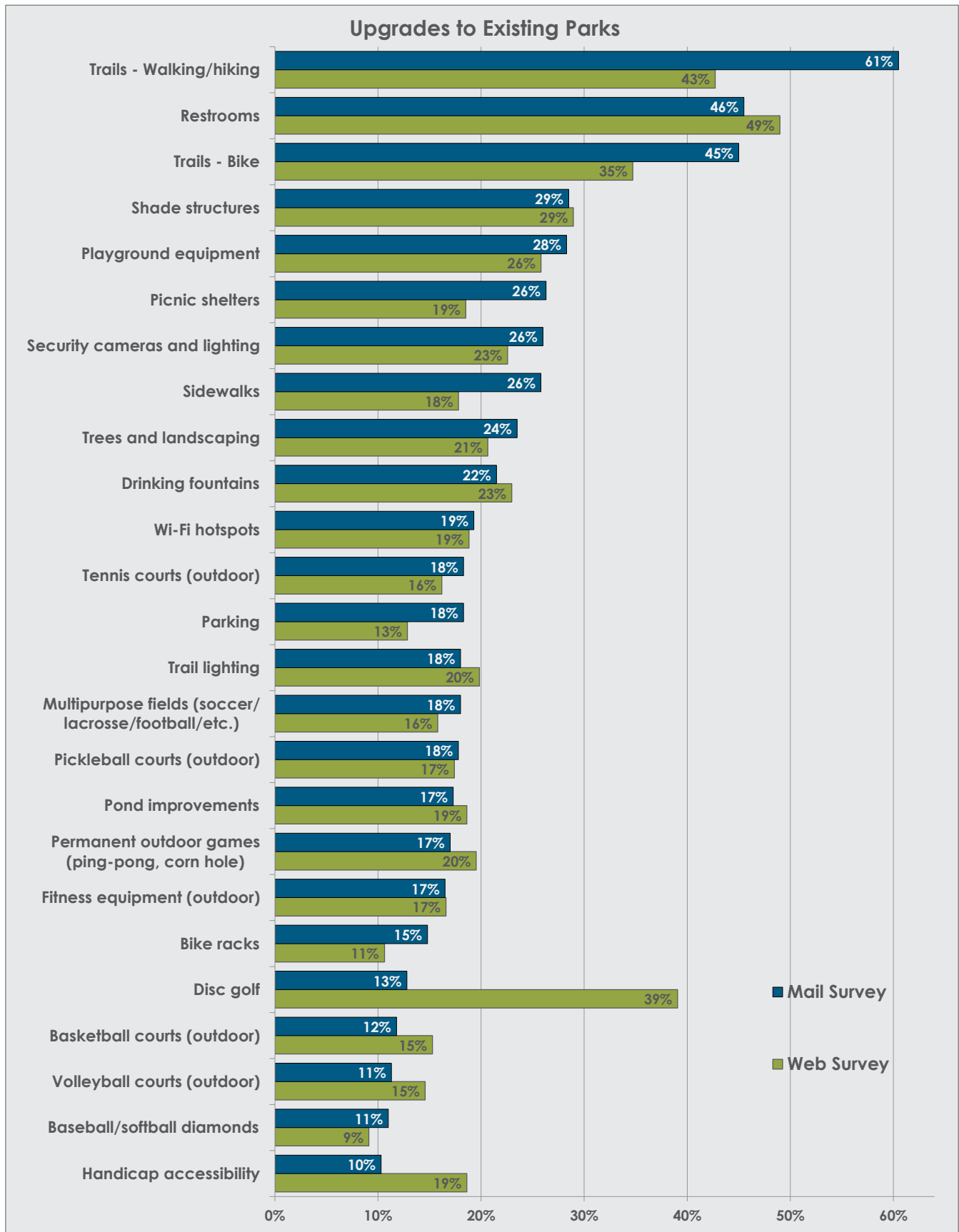
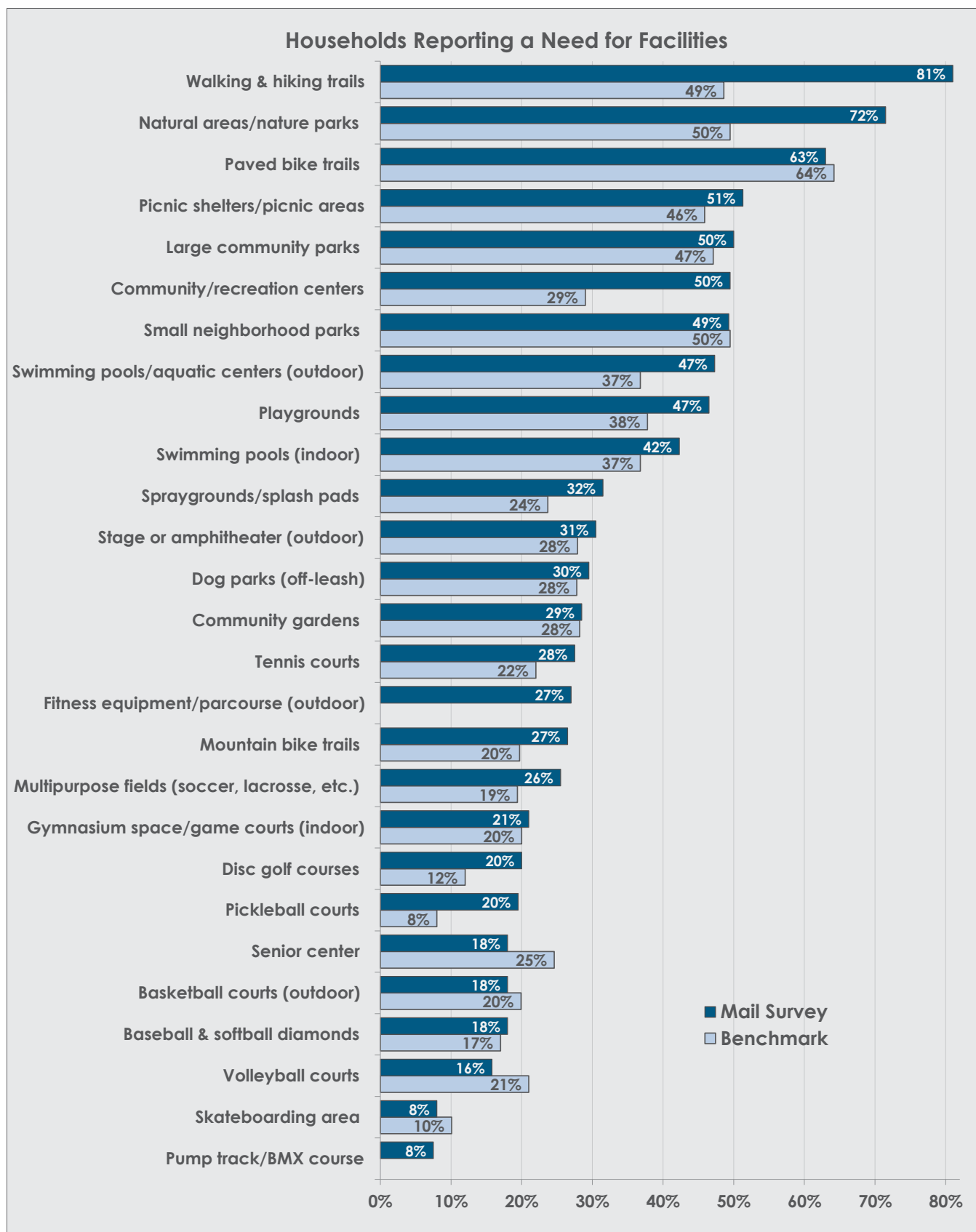
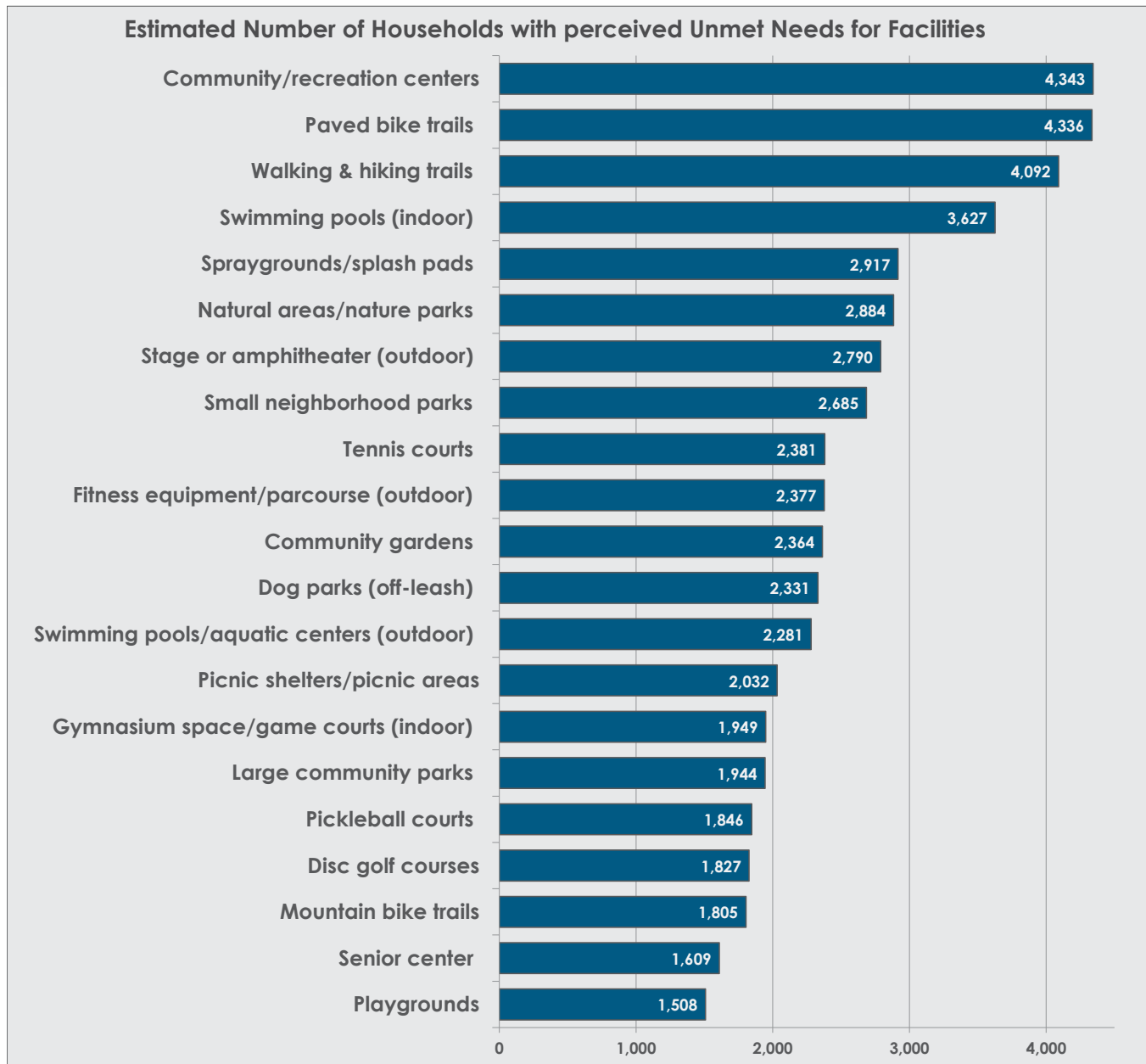




Figure 4.8: Need for Facilities



**Figure 4.9: Estimated Number of Households with Perceived Unmet Facility Needs**

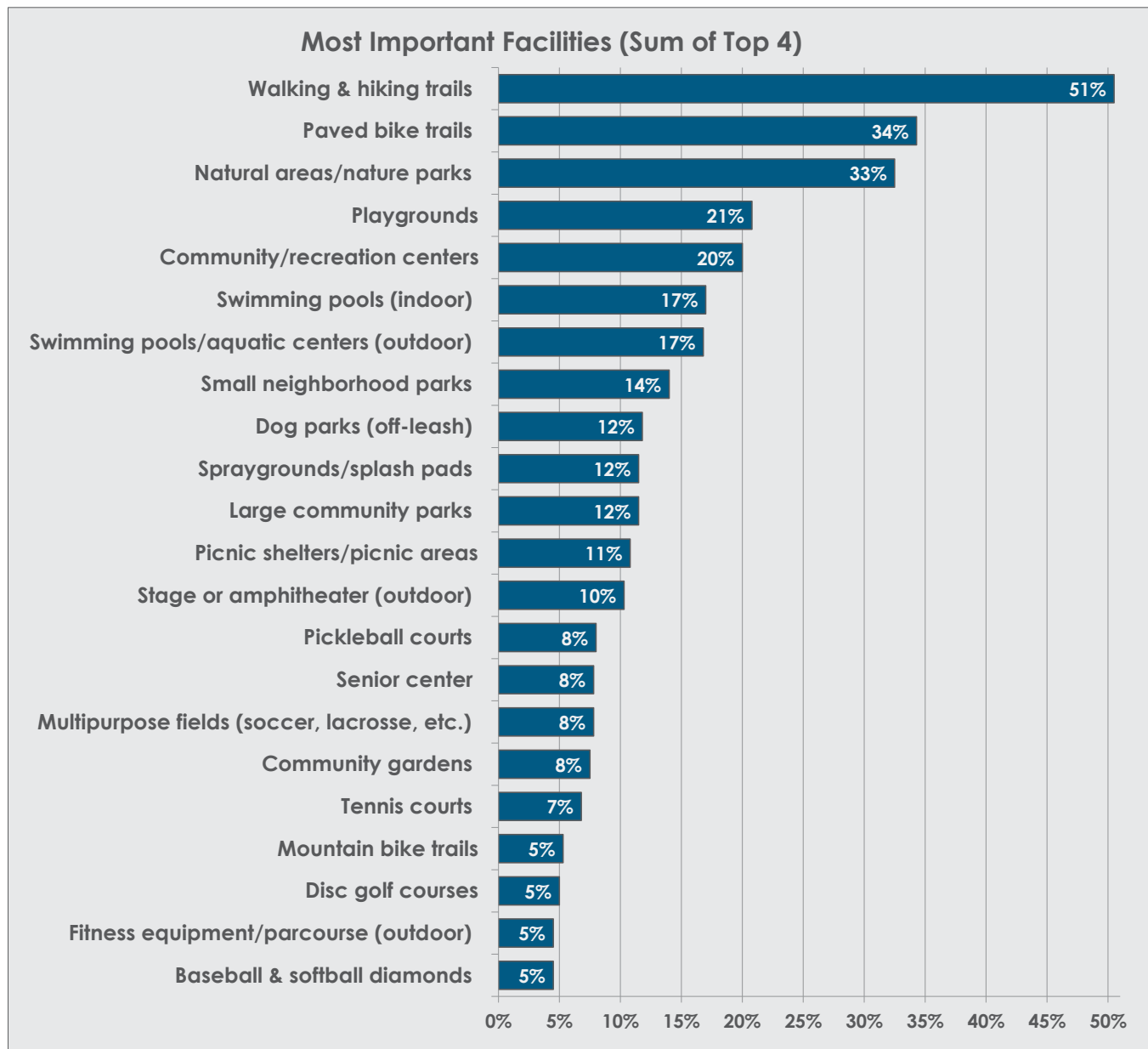


The order of the items in Figure 4.9 varies from the results shown in Figure 4.8. **The top ranked perceived unmet need was for community/recreation centers at roughly 4,300 households.** Fifty percent (50%) of households identified this facility as needed or the sixth most overall. Virtually tied were *paved bike trails*. These facilities ranked third in Figure 4.9. The most needed facility from Figure 4.8, *walking & hiking trails*, ranked third for unmet needs (about 4,100 households). Swimming pools (indoor) and spraygrounds/splash pads jumped to fourth and fifth for unmet needs after ranking 10th and 11th for needed facilities. Overall, the results suggests that the community perceives their need for many facilities are not being met and more or better marketing is required to make the community aware of existing opportunities within the township, including those offered by other agencies.

Participants were also asked to indicate which facilities are most important to them. Figure 4.10 presents the most important facilities overall (by percentage of households who selected the items as one of their top four choices). These items generally reflect the ranking of results in Figures 4.8 and 4.9 **with walking & hiking trails as the most important facility by far for Orange Township households** (51% of households selected it as one of their top three most important facilities). **Paved bike trails and natural areas/nature parks came in at second and third** with 34% and 33% of households, respectively, ranking them in their top three facilities.

The survey results provided by ETC Institute include a Priority Investment Ranking for each of the facilities that combine the level of unmet needs and the importance of facilities (see Appendix E for methodology). The results for the high and medium priority facilities can be seen in Figure 4.10.

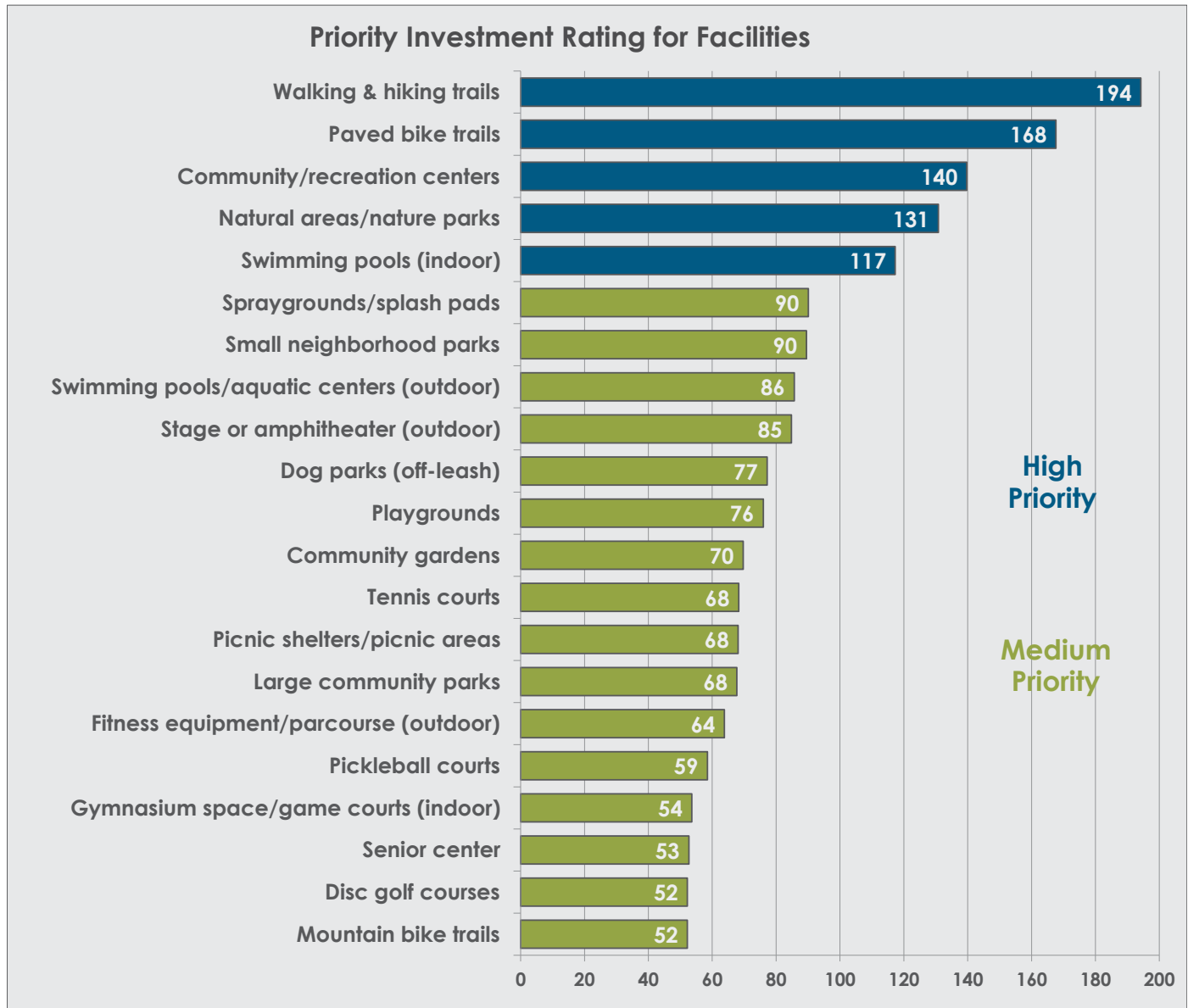
**Figure 4.10: Most Important Facilities**



Based on these results, the **top five priorities for facility investment as determined by survey respondents** in Orange Township are:

- 1. Walking & hiking trails**
- 2. Paved bike trails**
- 3. Community/recreation centers**
- 4. Natural areas/nature parks**
- 5. Swimming pools (indoor)**

Figure 4.11: Facility Priorities for Investment



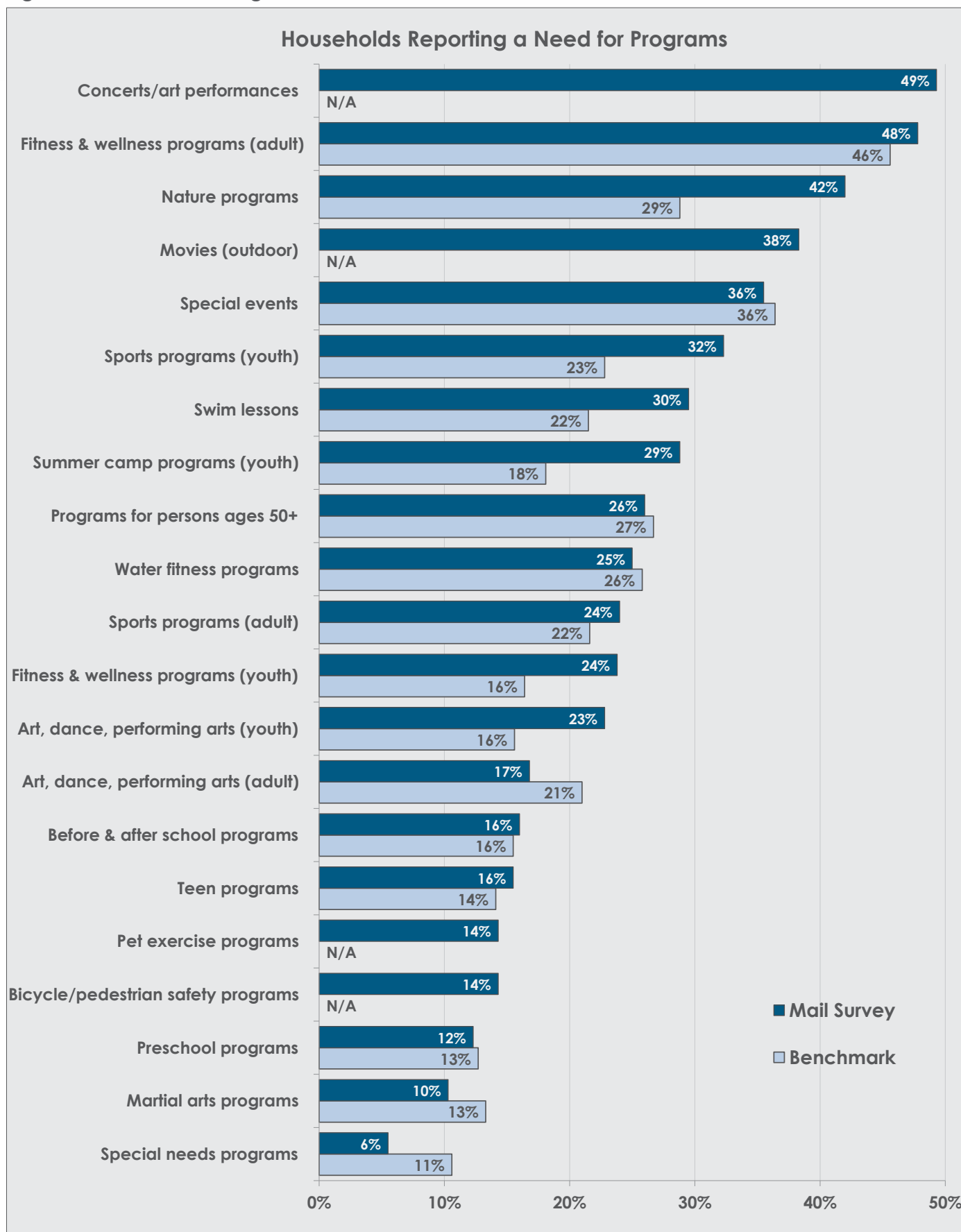
#### 4.5.10 Results – Household Need for Programs

Mail Survey households were asked similar questions focusing on programs in Orange Township. First, respondents were asked to choose (from a list of 21 recreation program categories) which programs their households need (i.e., use or would if available). Figure 4.12 shows the results.

According to the survey, **concerts/art performances ranked as the most needed recreation program category** in Orange Township with nearly half (49%) of households identifying needs. *Fitness & wellness programs (adult)* and *nature programs* ranked second (48%) and third (42%) with *movies (outdoor)* and *special events* ranking fourth and fifth.

As described previously for facilities, ETC Institute provides national benchmarks for the needs of programs. Unfortunately, they do not have benchmarks for many of the listed program categories. Of those with available benchmarks, Orange Township has higher needs for several program categories, including *nature programs*, *sports programs (youth)*, *swim lessons*, and *summer camp programs*. These needs are consistent with the comparatively high percentage of children in the township as discussed in Chapter 2.

Figure 4.12: Need for Programs





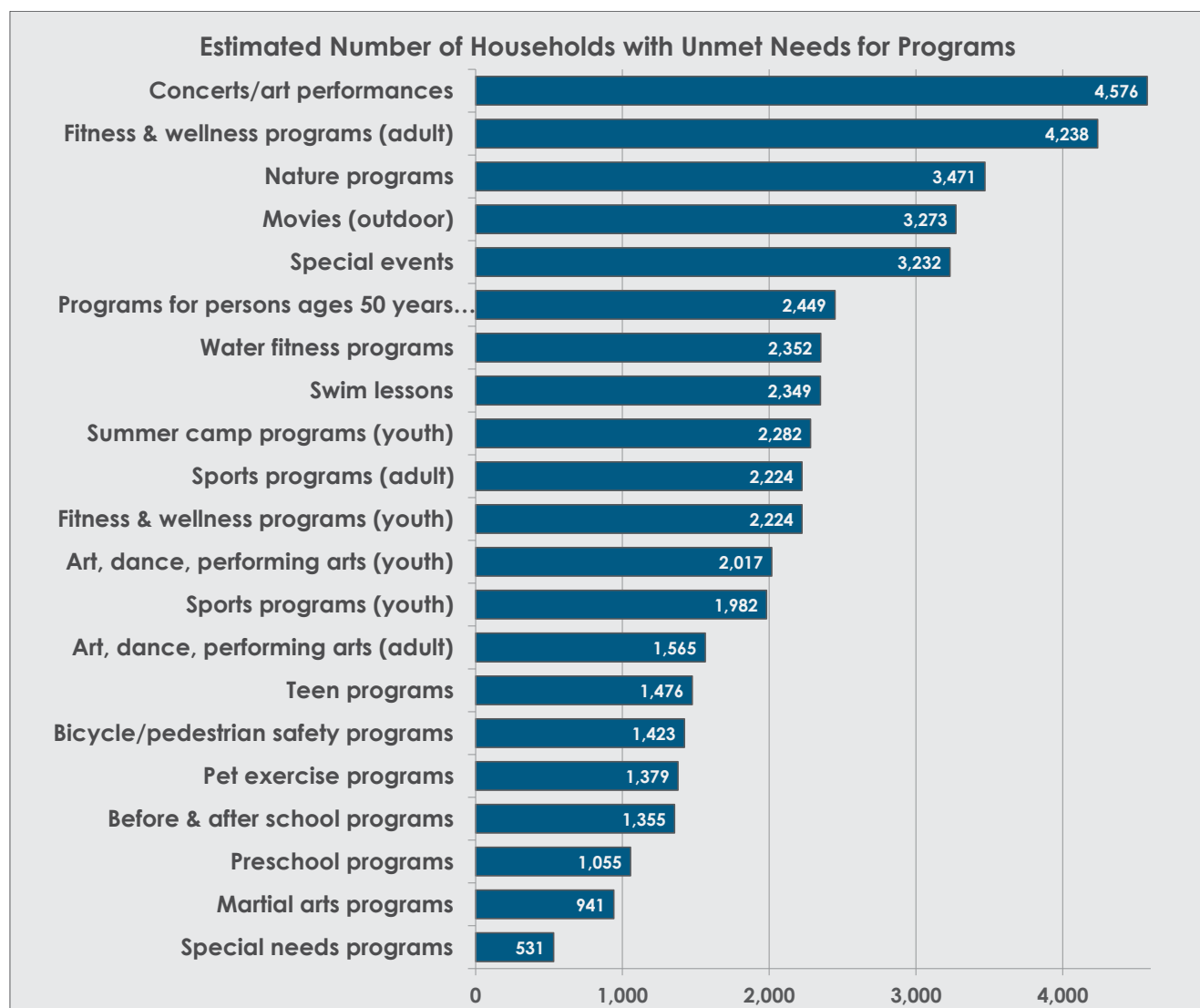
To determine the level of unmet need experienced by residents, the survey asked respondents to define how well their needs are currently met by recreation programs provided in Orange Township, then estimated the number of households for which need is met at 50% or less. Figure 4.13 shows the estimated number of households with unmet need for various programs.

Because Orange Township currently offers very limited programming, it is unsurprising that the order of the items in Figure 4.13 is very similar to the list of needed programs in Figure 4.12 with the top five items appearing in the same order in both rankings, indicating a need for the addition or expansion of these types of programs. **Concerts/art performances ranked highest with nearly 4,600 households indicating unmet needs. Fitness & wellness programs (adult) came up second** with about 4,200 households. *Nature programs, movies (outdoor), and special events* all had 3,000 households with unmet needs.

Figure 4.14 shows the results for the most important programs identified by households. The top three program categories directly reflect the list of unmet needs for programs with *concerts/art performances, fitness & wellness programs (adult), and nature programs* ranking as most important. Sports programs (youth) and programs for persons ages 50 years or older rounding out the top five.

With so many of the same categories of programming appearing at the top of the results in each of these surveys, Orange Township has a significant opportunity to explore and create relevant programming within these categories. Altogether, these results suggest a demand for greater sense of community, healthy activities, and opportunities for older age groups.

**Figure 4.13: Estimated Number of Households with Unmet Program Needs**



As with the facilities, the survey results from the ETC Institute also include a Priority Investment Ranking for programs, combining the unmet needs ranking and most important programs ranking (Figure 4.14). Figure 4.15 shows the high and medium priority facilities.

Based on these results, the **top seven high priorities for program investment** as perceived by survey respondents in Orange Township are:

1. **Concerts/art performances**
2. **Fitness & wellness programs (adult)**
3. **Nature programs**
4. **Movies (outdoor)**
5. **Programs for persons ages 50+**
6. **Special events**
7. **Sports programs (youth)**

**Figure 4.14: Most Important Programs**

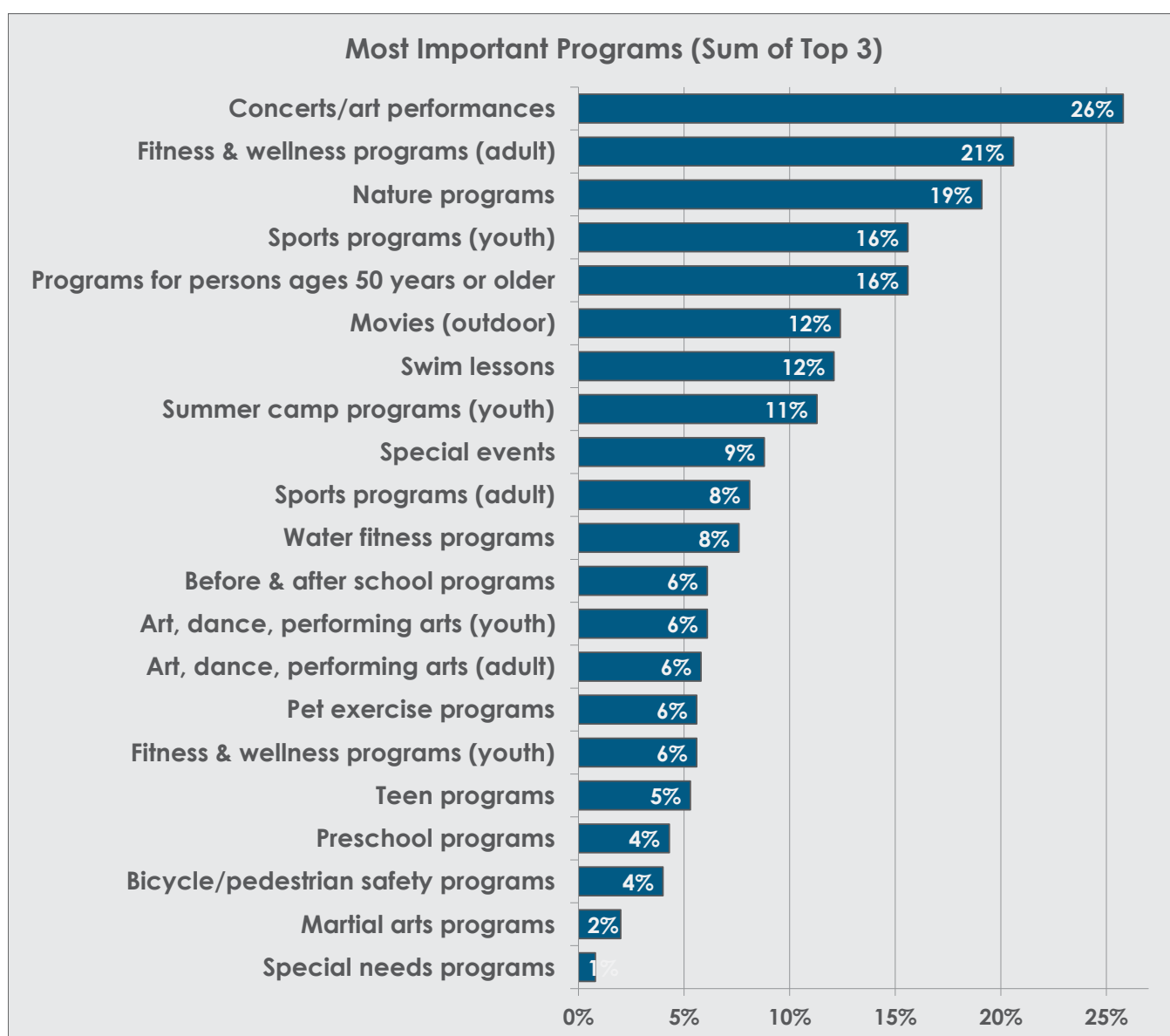
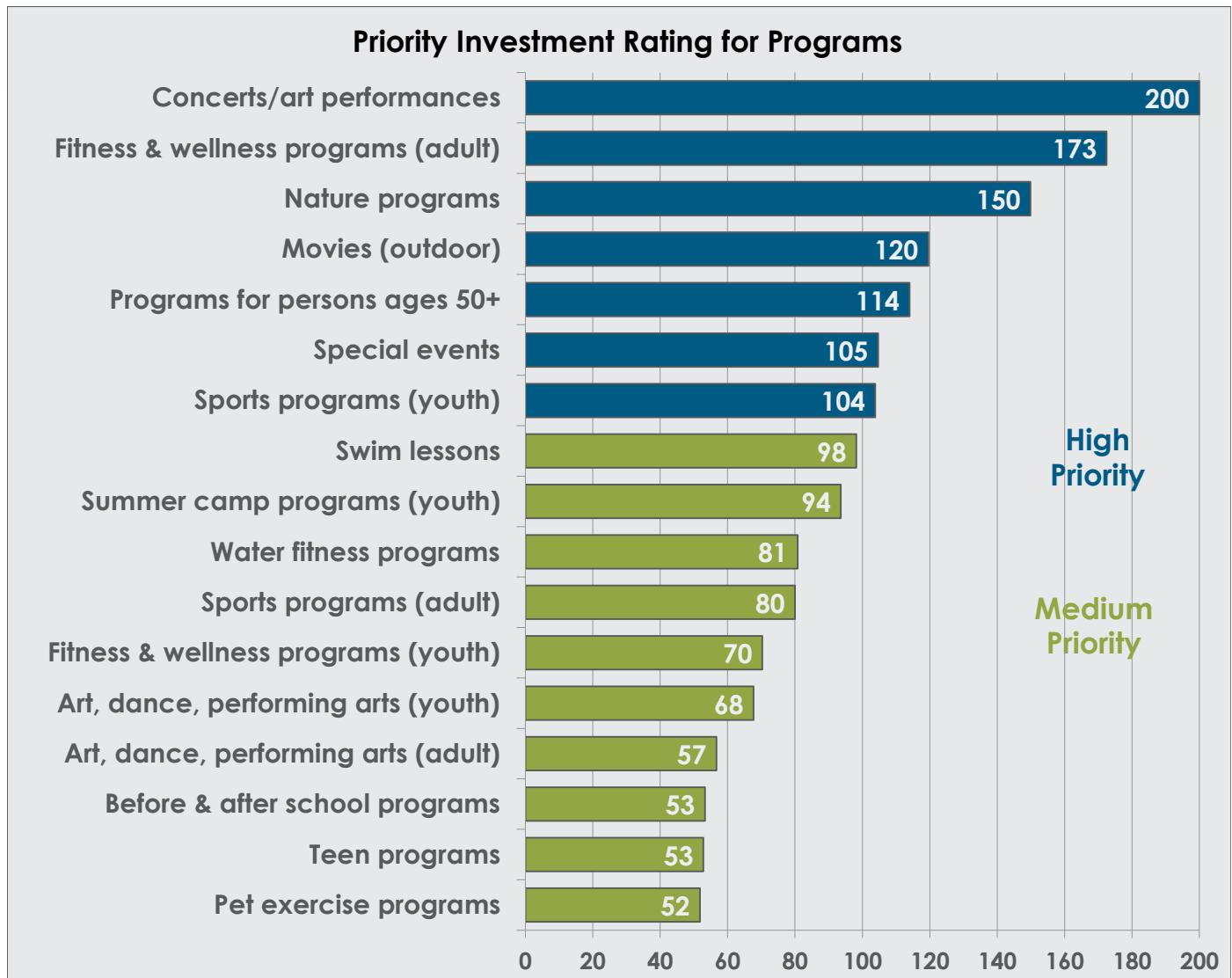


Figure 4.15: Program Priorities for Investment



#### 4.5.11 Results – Support for Park Improvements

Mail Survey households were asked to indicate whether they were *very supportive*, *somewhat supportive*, *not supportive*, or *not sure* of 10 different actions Orange Township could take to improve their parks and recreation services. The results, displayed in Figure 4.16, show the combined total of *very supportive* and *somewhat supportive* responses.

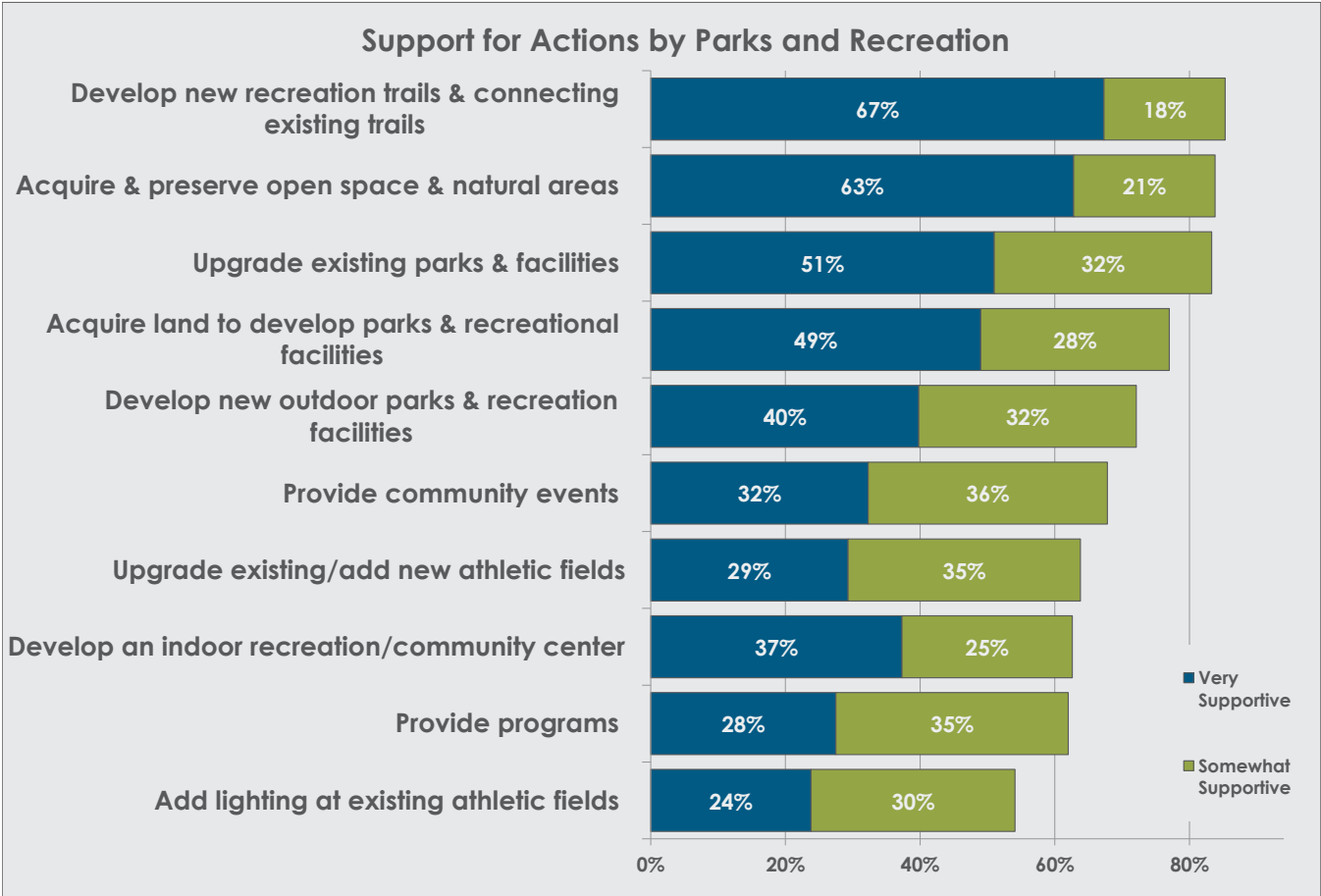
*Develop new recreation trails & connecting existing trails* received the highest level of support with 85% of respondents supporting this action (67% *very supportive*). *Acquire & preserve open space & natural areas* ranked second with 84% of respondents supporting this action (63% *very supportive*). *Upgrade existing parks & facilities* ranked third with 73% of respondents supporting this action (51% *very supportive*). More than 50% of respondents were supportive all 10 actions, indicating overall positivity from residents about improvements to parks and recreation in Orange Township.

#### 4.5.12 Results – Most Import Action to Take (Sum of Top 3)

As a follow-up to asking their general support for various possible actions, households were asked to identify the most important actions to take to improve the quality of the system. Figure 4.17 shows the results of this question, revealing *upgrade existing parks & facilities* as the most popular choice for most important action by a sizeable margin. **Fifty-one percent (51%) of households identified *develop new recreation trails***

**& connecting existing trails** as one of their top three actions. In second was *acquire & preserve open space & natural areas* (43%), followed by *upgrade existing parks and facilities* in third (33%). *Develop an indoor recreation/community center* ranked fourth, compared to eighth in the list of overall support, indicating that the action is very important to a segment of the population. These results illuminate clear priorities for Orange Township households connectivity within the parks and across the community, access to and preservation of nature, and improvements at existing parks.

Figure 4.16: Support for Actions to Improve Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites



4.5.13 Results – Organizations Used for Parks & Recreation Activities

Both the Web and Mail Surveys asked respondents to identify which organizations they use to access parks and recreation activities. Figure 4.18 shows the results of these survey responses. The **Orange Township Parks Department ranked is the third most used organization** after *Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks* and *Olentangy Local Schools*. Web Survey respondents – again, often submitting feedback specifically because they already engaged in recreational opportunities – returned higher percentages of involvement with almost all organizations.

Figure 4.17: Most Important Action for Improving Parks and Recreation in Orange Township

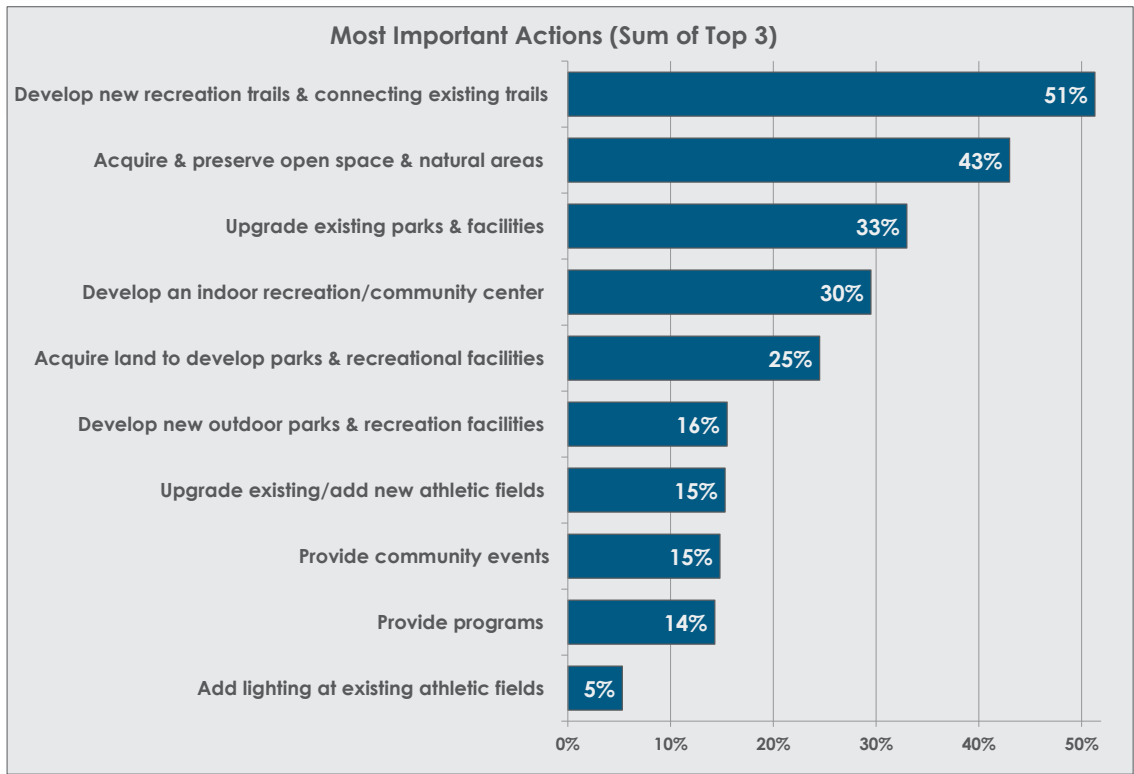
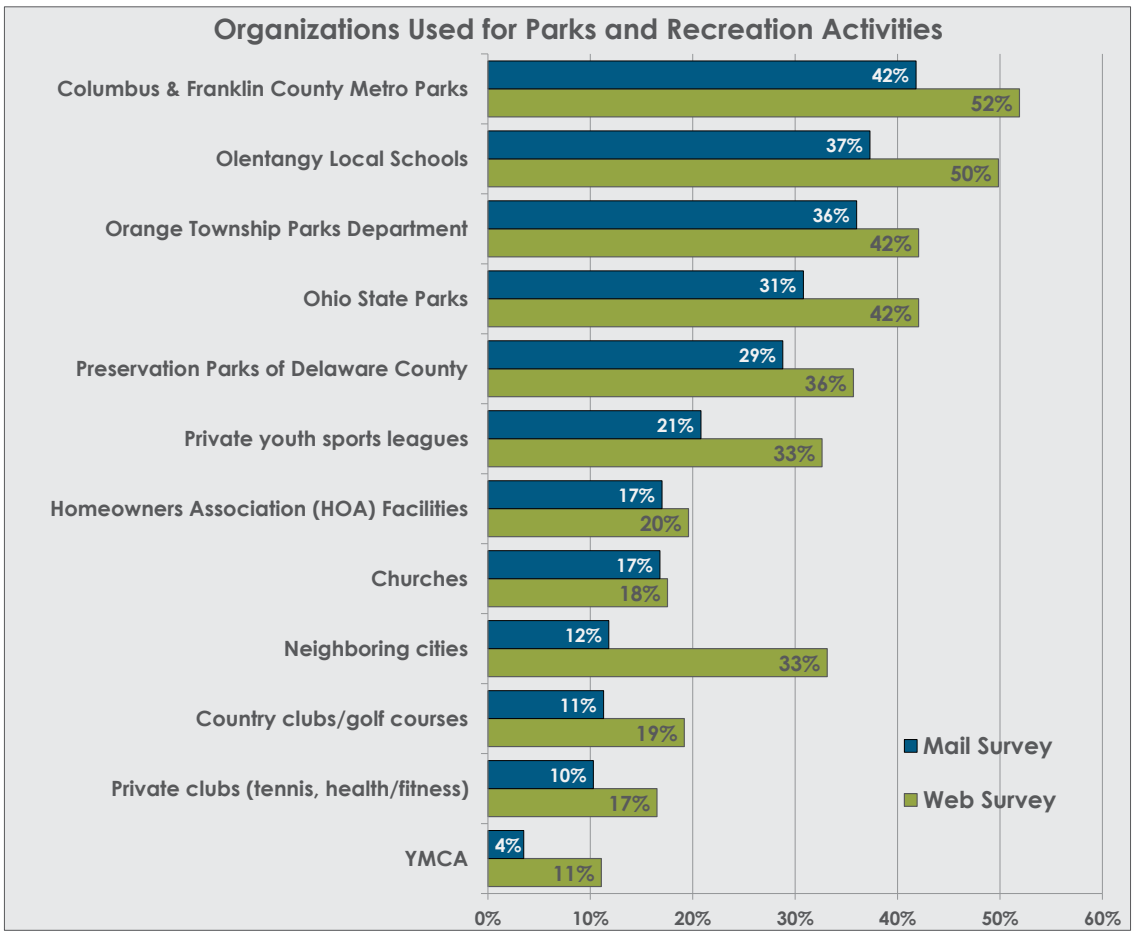


Figure 4.18: Organizations Used for Parks and Recreation Activities

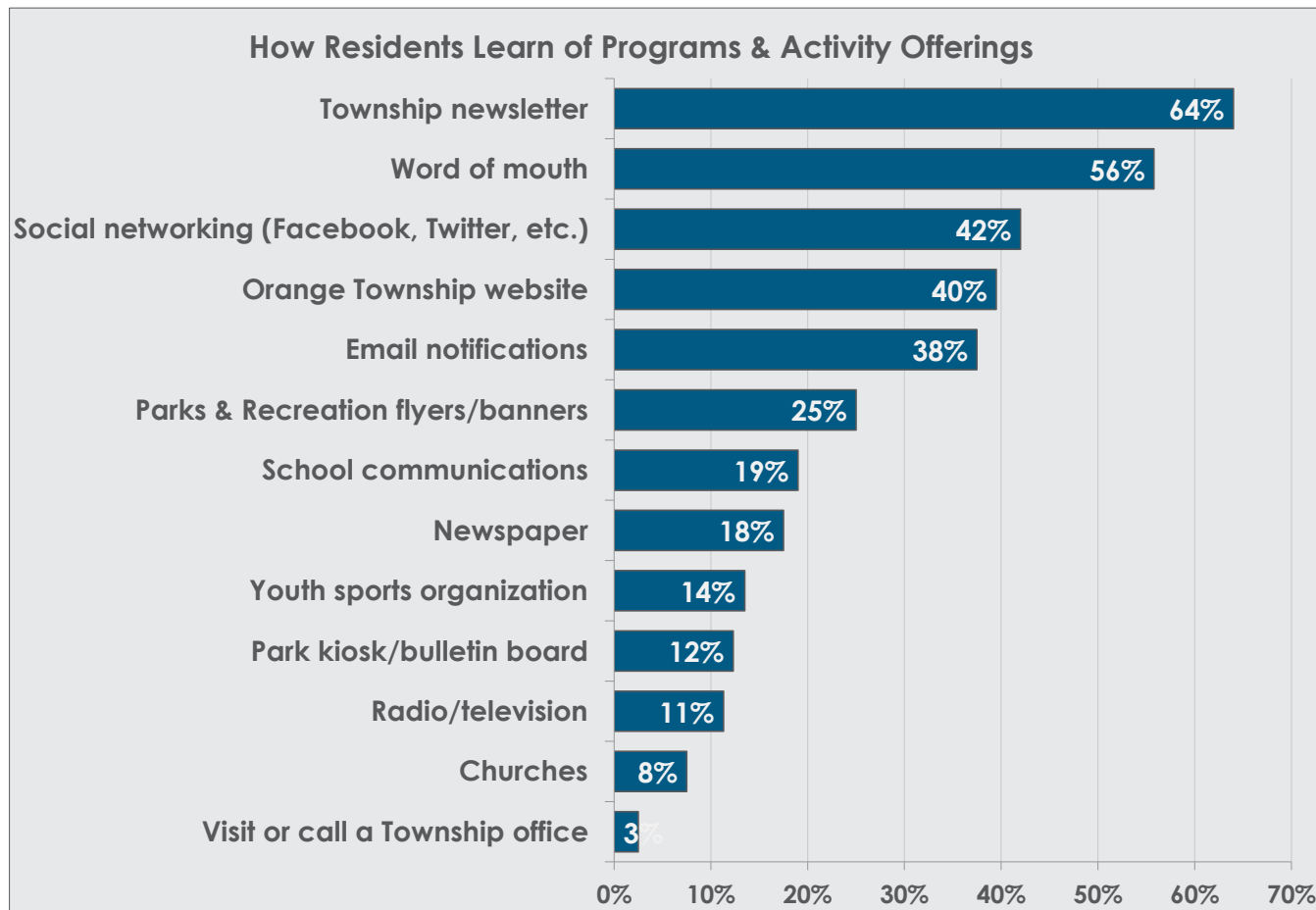




### 4.5.14 Results – Learning about Recreation and Activities in Orange Township

Respondents were asked to identify ways they learn about Orange Township activities (Figure 4.19). According to the survey responses, **the township newsletter is the most common way households learn about the township’s offerings** with nearly two-thirds of households (64%) identifying this method of learning of offerings. *Word of mouth* (56% of respondents) and *social networking* (42%) were the next most common methods of staying informed. Moving forward, it will be important for the department to communicate offerings by other agencies through the township newsletter.

Figure 4.19: Ways Households Learn about Recreation and Activities



To glean insight into how Orange Township might best communicate with the community moving forward, participants were then asked how they would prefer to be notified about programs and activities (Figure 4.20). While the *township newsletter* is the main channel by which residents currently learn about offerings, it is also their preferred choice. *Email notifications* is the second preferred choice for staying informed, leaving the township with some room to improve, as this option was the fifth ranked method for learning of opportunities. Figure 4.20 highlights other opportunities for the township to better connect and more effectively communicate with residents.

### 4.5.15 Allocation of \$100 Between Parks and Recreation Improvements

Survey respondents were asked how they would allocate \$100 between eight different parks and recreation improvements in Orange Township plus an “other” option. Of the options provided (Figure 4.21), **households would allocate the largest amount to build new walking & biking trails (\$14) followed by develop new indoor recreation facilities as a close second (\$13).** *Build new walking and biking trails* were the third highest allocation of the choices (\$14). *Other* received the largest allocation at \$20 with trails, landscaping, and natural areas as the most common requests.

Figure 4.20: Ways Households Would Like to Learn about Recreation and Activities

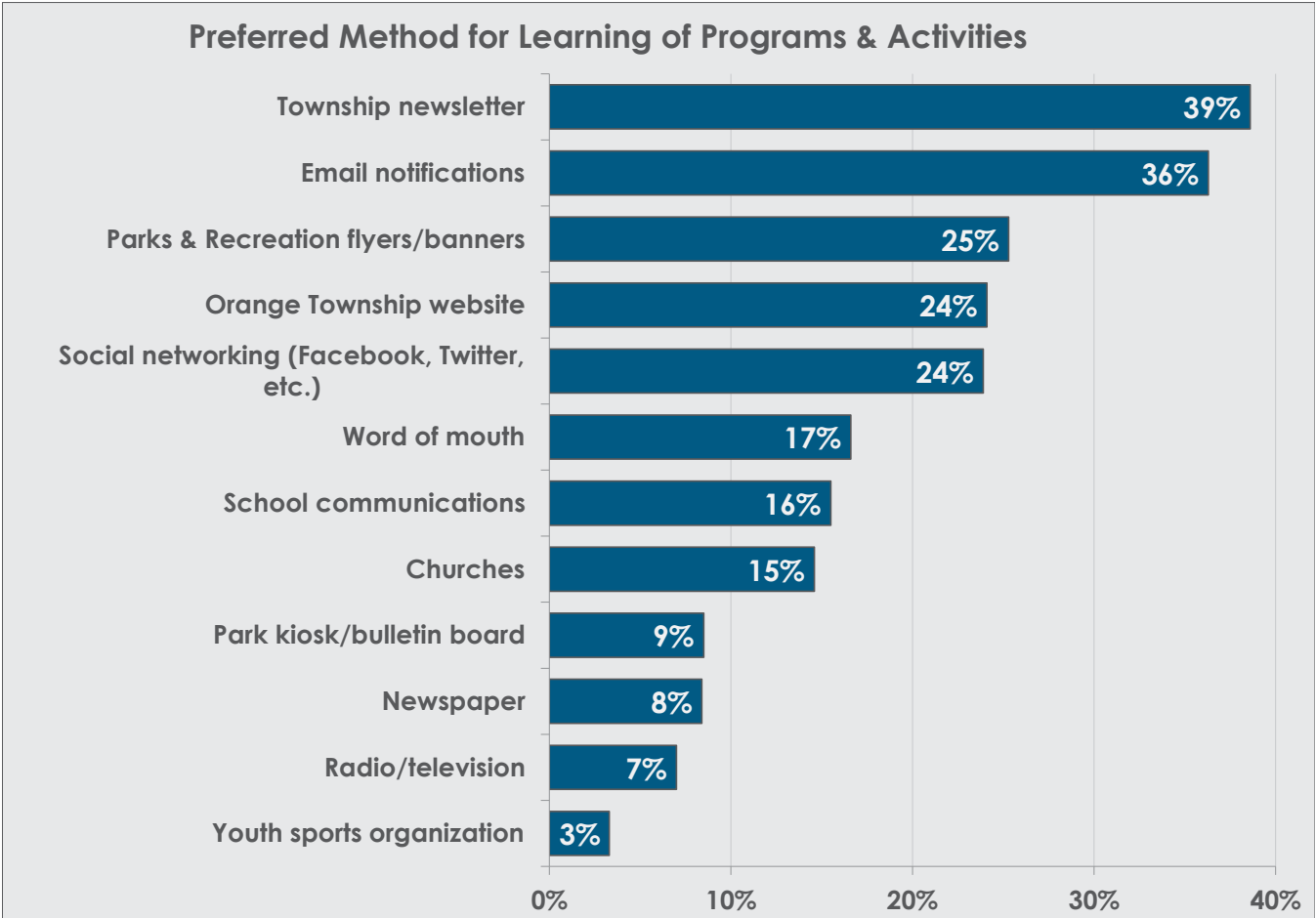
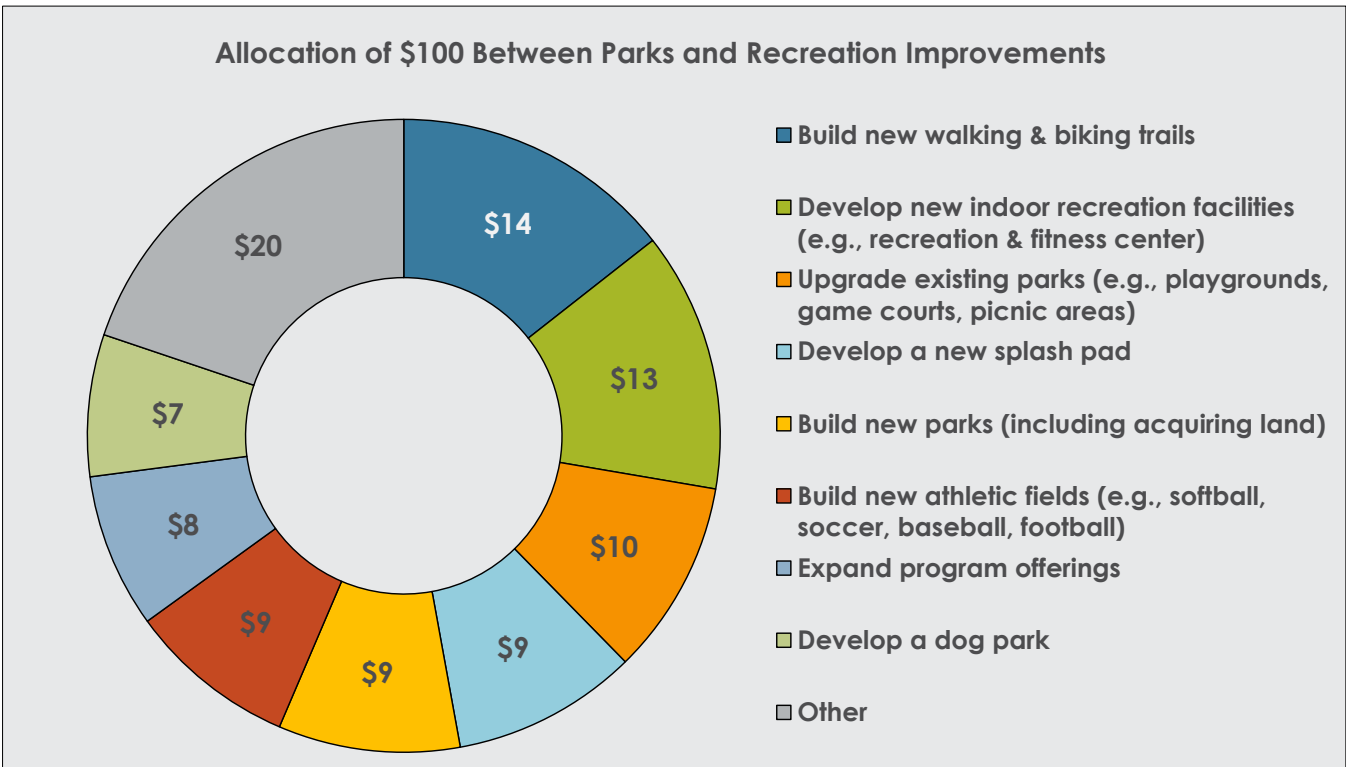


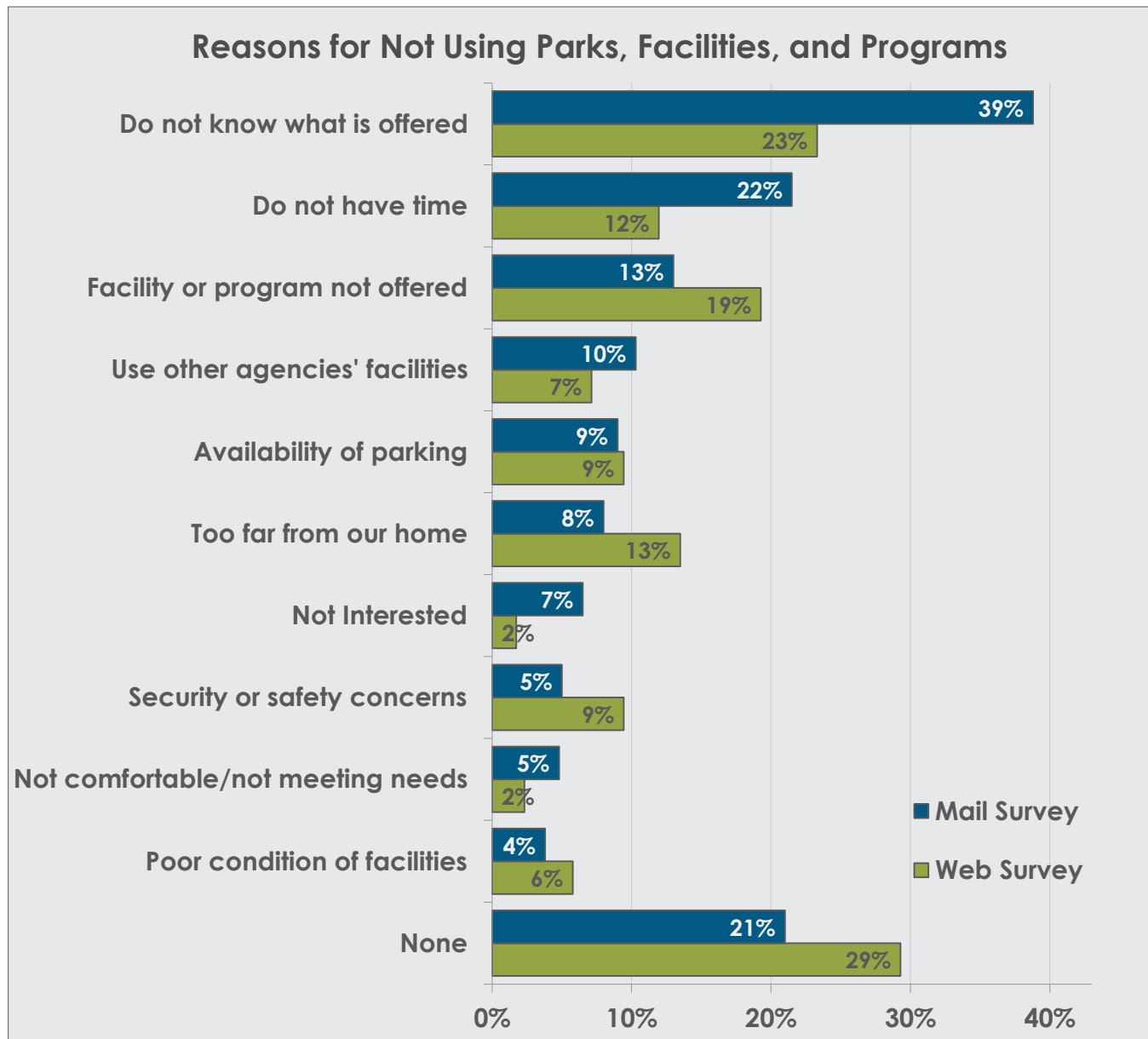
Figure 4.21: \$100 Allocation for Park Improvements



### 4.5.16 Results – Reasons for Not Using Parks, Facilities, and Programs

To determine avenues of opportunity for how the township could improve park usage, survey participants were asked to share their reasons for not utilizing offerings provided by Orange Township Parks more often (Figure 4.22). **Nearly 40% of respondents to either survey selected do not know what is offered as a reason for not using the township's offerings**, easily outpacing the other reasons. Of the Web Survey responses, **19% do not participate because the program or facility is not offered**, and 13% reported that parks are too far from their homes.

Figure 4.22: Reasons for Not Using Parks, Facilities, & Programs

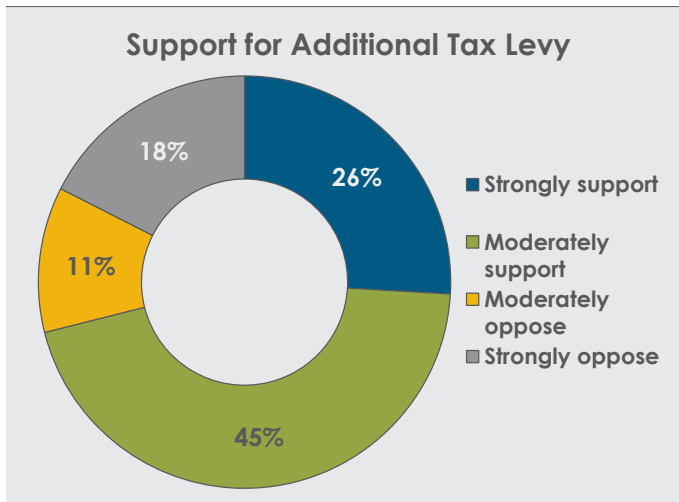


Taking into consideration how the community learns about programming, what amenities they use, event attendance, and how residents would like to connect with Parks in Orange Township, there is overall opportunity for increased and more effective outreach. At a minimum, the department could improve its online presence. Based on the results, addition of program offerings would also likely increase usage.

### 4.5.17 Results – Support for Additional Tax Levy

Mail Survey respondents were asked about their level of support for an additional tax levy to fund parks and recreation services in Orange Township. Figure 4.23 shows the breakdown of community sentiment, with a substantial amount of strong support (26%). **Nearly three-quarters (71%) of the respondent households either strongly support or moderately support a potential bond.** Just 18% of the statistically valid sample strongly oppose the idea.

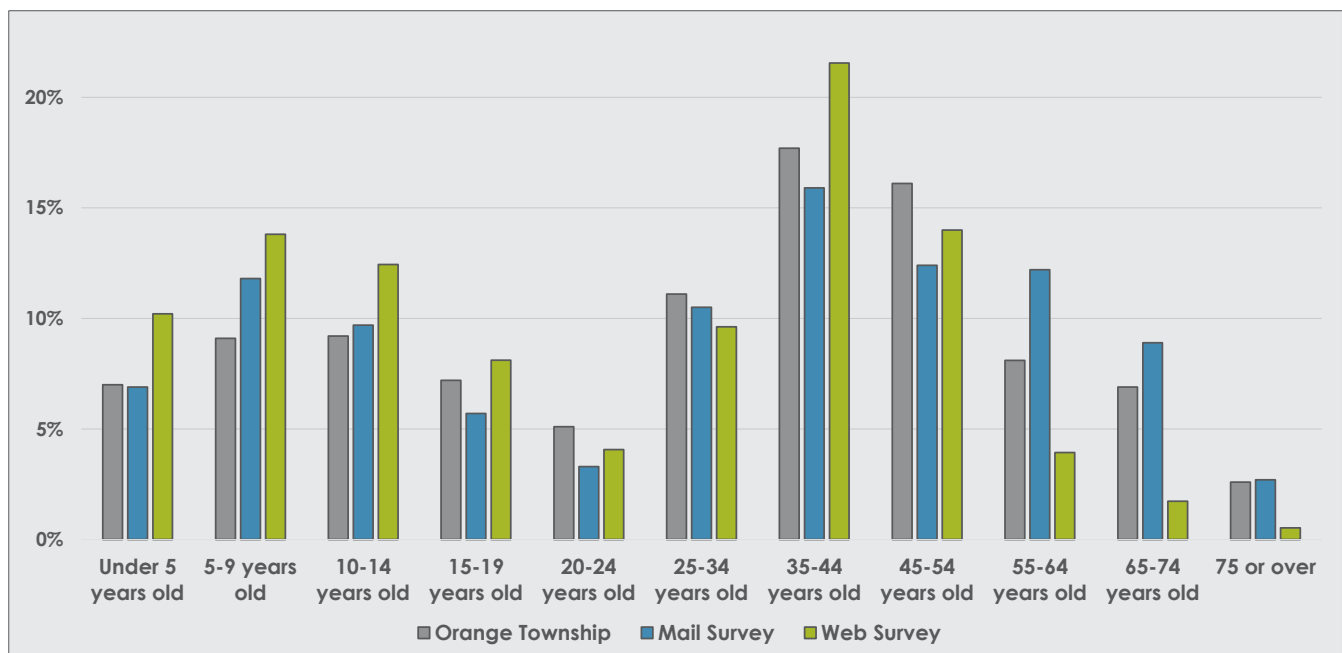
Figure 4.23: Support for Potential Tax Levy



### 4.5.18 Demographics of Survey Households

The distribution of age groups of respondent households was compared to the most recent population estimates<sup>1</sup> to verify the degree to which the demographic representation of the surveys correspond with the population of Orange Township. Figure 4.24 shows the representation by age of survey respondent household members and the estimated 2019 Orange Township population of each age cohort (the most recent available for these age demographics).

Figure 4.24: Household Age Demographics of Mail Survey Respondents



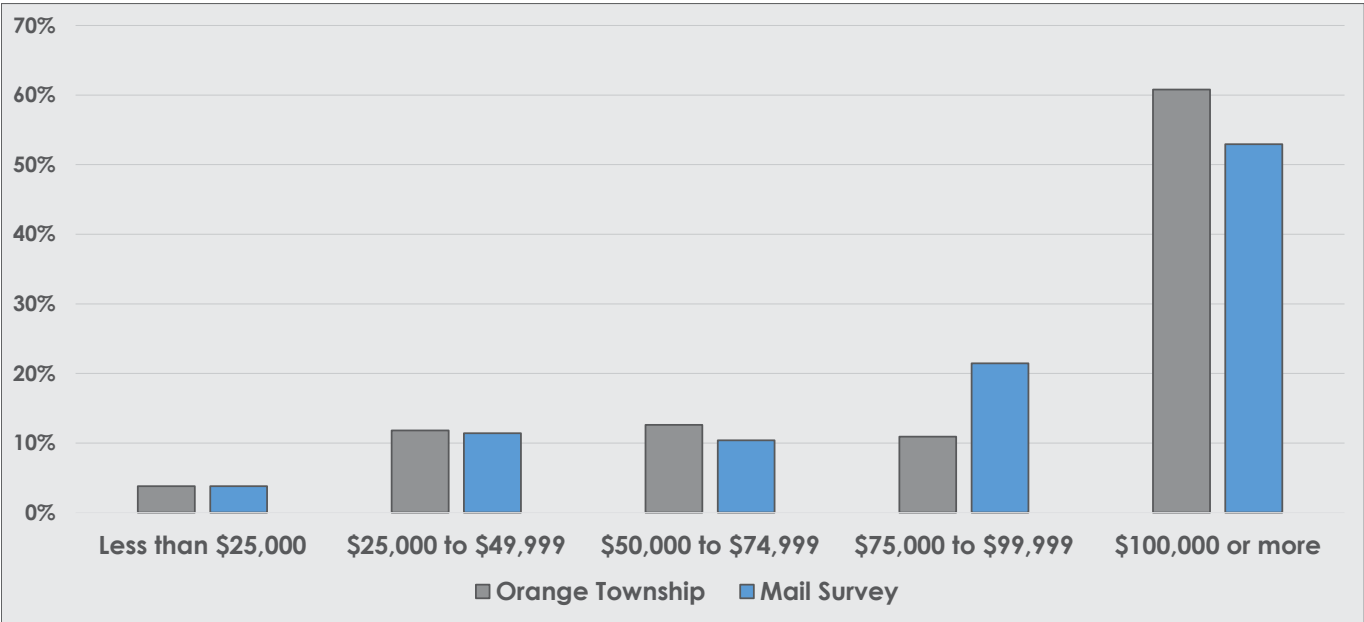
<sup>1</sup> 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

As shown in Figure 4.24, **Mail Survey participants for the most part closely aligned with the age demographics of Orange Township ensuring an accurate representation was achieved.** While in most age groups, either survey – especially the Mail Survey – successfully garnered responses reflective of the population, those residents between the age of 15 and 24 were underrepresented and residents 55 to 74 were slightly overrepresented. Given the higher response levels, the Web Survey was likely utilized by families, with those in the 35-44 and under age 19 cohorts having the greatest overrepresentation of responses. Residents over 55 were underrepresented.

Because the typical Web Survey respondent is already engaged with the park system, the results in Figure 4.24 provide information about which age groups are the heavier users of Orange Township's parks and recreation offerings. As evident from other elements in this report's assessment, families with children are a major demographic for the township to continue engaging and supporting.

The household income levels of Mail Survey participants are indicated in Figure 4.25. These number indicate that higher income households were more likely to complete the survey. However, these higher income levels represent the largest percentage of households in the township and were actually underrepresented. Households with incomes between \$75,000 and \$100,000 were overrepresented, while the other income levels closely matched census data.

**Figure 4.25: Household Income of Mail Survey Respondents**



## 4.6 ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the plan's engagement phase the Orange Township incorporated an online civic engagement tool, MindMixer, as a way to give residents additional opportunities for providing input. Because MindMixer is web-based, individuals can access and interact at any time on any given day. The online platform focused exclusively on the Master Plan and created a space for residents to submit their ideas, provide input on priorities, engage in conversation with department leaders and others, as well as stay up to date on the plan's progress.

The MindMixer website was managed and updated by the planning consultants. Questions or "Topics" posted on the platform were meant to be dynamic, and intentionally reflected public dialogue occurring in other facets of the engagement process; doing so helped ensure relevancy and inclusivity. On the open-ended topics, participants could assign points (up to 5) based on whether they agreed with the comments of other users.

Two different types of interactions were used on the website: instant polls and open-ended questions. Over the course of the engagement period, the web-based MindMixer platform experienced a total of 51 interactions

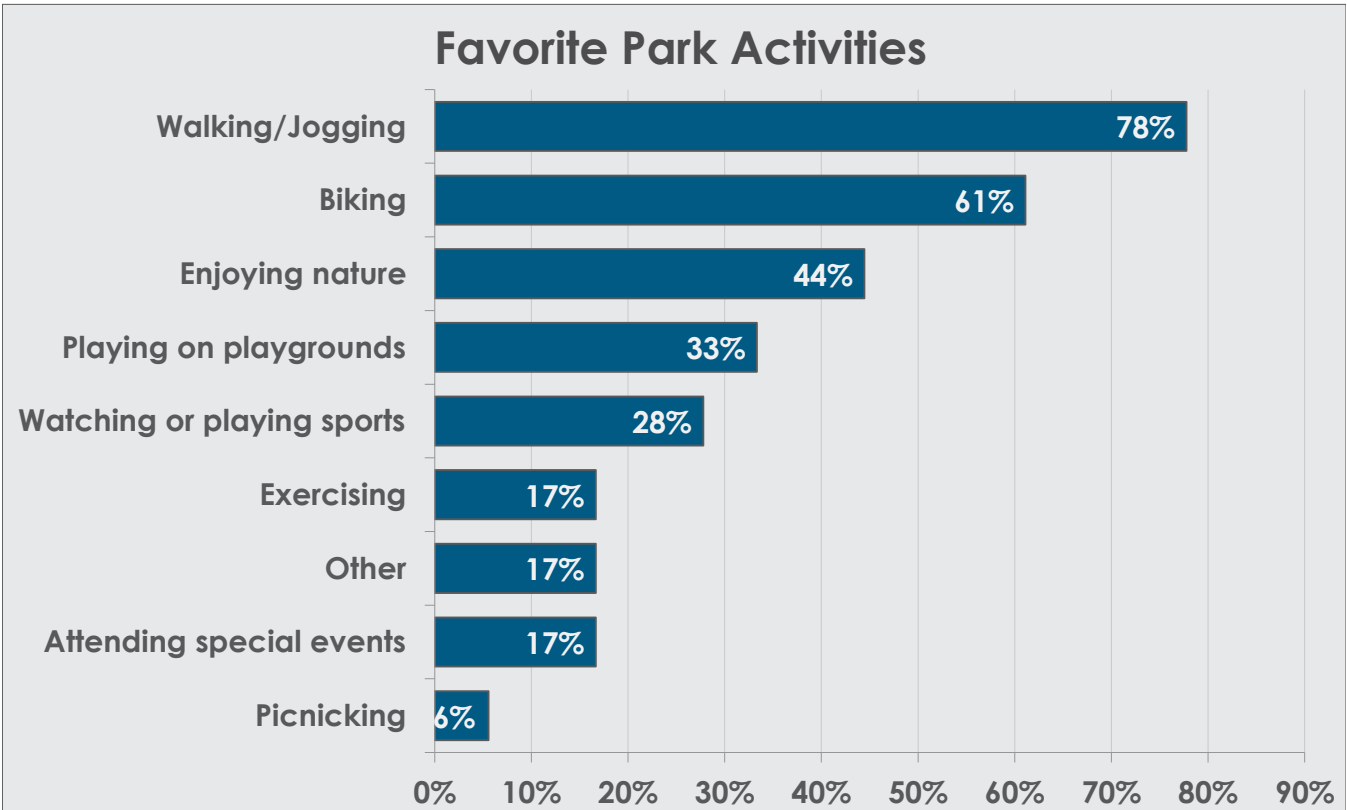


made by 24 participants with a total of 12 ideas generated. The following subsections provide a summary of the results.

### 4.6.1 Favorite Park Activities in Orange Township

Visitors were asked to select their favorite activities at parks from a list (up to 3). The most popular activities can be seen in Figure 4.26, based on 18 participants. The top two selections by a wide margin were *walking/jogging* (78%) and *biking* (61%), both of which are passive recreational activities that are easily enjoyed by park users of all ages and backgrounds.

Figure 4.26: Favorite activities at Orange Township Parks



### 4.6.2 Improvements to Parks

A range of open-ended discussion prompts allowed visitors to engage over topics like how to expand opportunities for engaging with the parks system and what improvements should be made. More specifically, participants were encouraged to share their ideas for the future of parks and recreation in Orange Township.

The open-ended prompts were:

- If you had a magic wand, what one change would you make to improve parks and recreation opportunities in Orange Township?
- How can Orange Township improve parks and facilities?
- How can Orange Township improve its trails and natural areas?

Twelve different ideas were offered – many inspiring further comments from other visitors to the MindMixer platform – and 51 total interactions. **The majority of the ideas, including the top rated comments, discussed the need for more trails and better connectivity** of destinations in Orange Township, including parks, libraries, schools, neighborhoods. Other uprated ideas were for an indoor community center and pickleball courts.

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## 4.7 CONCLUSION

On the whole, the public engagement process provided an abundance of information about the needs and desires of Orange Township residents. While a variety of methods were used to collect data, some trends emerged and residents desire the following:

- Connectivity and trails, including
  - New trails connectivity between existing trails
  - Added sidewalks and walking paths
  - Perimeter trails in existing parks
  - Paved walking and bike paths
  - Trail lighting
  - Full accessibility across the system
- Upgrades and improvements to existing parks
- New park features
  - Pickleball
  - Disc golf
  - Dog park
  - Splash pad
- Preservation of and access to natural areas
- Additional programming and events
  - Concerts & live performances
  - Outdoor movies
  - Fitness & wellness classes
  - Nature classes & activities
  - Active adult (age 50+) Activities
- Upgraded playgrounds
  - Accessible, adaptive equipment
- Support Amenities
  - Restrooms
  - Improved wayfinding
  - Consistent, high-quality signage
  - Security cameras and lighting
  - More shade – trees & structures
  - More seating
  - Wi-Fi hotspots
- Year-round recreation & programming
  - Indoor program space
  - Multi-use and sports complex
- New indoor recreation/community center
  - Multi-use field/gym space
  - Program space
  - Indoor pool
- Strategic and collaborative marketing and promotion

**Figure 4.27: Public Input Word Cloud**









## NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the Master Plan identifies and presents an assessment of needs for parks and recreation in Orange Township. It consists of the following elements:

1. Needs analysis, plus level of service standards and guidelines for developed parkland
2. Guidelines for open space
3. Needs analysis, plus level of service standards for facilities
4. Geographic analysis of the distribution of parks and recreation facilities
5. Examination of recent – and relevant – trends in parks and recreation

An analysis of the level of service for parks and recreation in Orange Township requires various perspectives in order to tell a complete story. A particular service level might be adequate using one method of measurement but deficient by another. For example, acreage standards (i.e., measurement based on the total number of acres) are useful for determining the level at which the township is providing parkland. However, total acreage alone does not account for where park acres are located, and, therefore, who actually has access to parks. Accordingly, it is critical to consider the location of the township's parkland in determining the level of service.

The following information, together with the public input collected (Chapter 4), make up the foundation for recommendations in this plan (Chapter 7). Additionally, analysis throughout this chapter makes significant use of the demographic and benchmarking data from Chapter 2.

### 5.2 NEEDS, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES FOR PARKLAND AND RECREATION AREAS IN ORANGE TOWNSHIP

The Service Level Standards provided here are meant to describe achievable targets (e.g., specific acreage totals and service goals) that can realistically be met over the implementation timeline of this plan. Guidelines are offered to cover more general goals of improvement, acquisition, and maintenance. The standards and guidelines consider both developed parkland and total open space in the system. Tailored specifically for Orange Township, they are intended to be obtainable but also ambitious enough to inspire the Orange Township Park Department in their continuing work to improve quality of life of residents.



Parkland can be developed or undeveloped. Developed acres include features such as athletic fields and courts, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and any mowed areas, while undeveloped acres are those in their natural state – including woodlands, prairies, and wetlands – without developed features. HOA mowed open space would therefore be considered developed parkland, because it must be maintained. When acquired and maintained at a beneficial ratio (specific to the locality), both types of land usage can have a tremendous positive impact on the human population and the environment.

## 5.2.1 Level of Service Standards for Developed Acres

Chapter 3 describes the different classifications of parks and recreational areas (in general, these are consistent with the National Recreation and Park Association criteria but do include some modifications to match local circumstances) and provides an overview of facilities in Orange Township. That inventory – combined with an examination of existing conditions and a thorough analysis of public input – assists with accurately defining the Level of Service Standards (acres per thousand population) for each park classification located in Orange Township.

The table that follows, Service Level Standards by Park Classification (Table 5.1), offers a breakdown of the needs (or target acres) for each type of park in Orange Township. This table includes only properties offered by the Orange Township Park Department. Also, the standards refer to developed acres only. Because such acres represent the improved land with amenities, they are the best basis for drawing a comparison between available features.

**Table 5.1: Service Level Standards for Developed Acreage by Park Classification**

Park Classification	Existing Developed Acres	Existing Developed Acres per 1000 Population	Target Acres per 1000 Population	2020 Developed Acres Target	2020 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2025 Developed Acres Target	2025 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)
Neighborhood	4.7	0.1	0.75	28.1	-23.4	31.0	-26.3
Community	62.2	1.7	2.0	74.9	-12.7	82.7	-20.5
Special Use Parks	20.8	0.6	0.6	22.5	-1.7	24.8	-4.0
Total	87.7	2.3	3.4	125.5	-37.8	138.5	-50.8

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates

2. Does not include parks by others or school grounds

Table 5.1 identifies the current developed park acreage for Orange Township (see Chapter 2). While population growth has slowed comparatively, the township is expected to continue to grow by around 4,000 over the next five years. The ongoing trend of diversification (see Chapter 2) will also likely continue as other racial and ethnic groups grow both in Orange Township and surrounding communities. The values in Table 5.1 are based on modest increases to Neighborhood and Community Park acreage per population targets as to meet the needs identified through the public input.

Existing acreage per 1,000 population (2020) shows the greatest deficits for Neighborhood Parks (-23.4) and Community Parks (-12.7). Looking ahead to 2025 and calculating with the same target per population quantities, these deficits will increase as a result of population growth (-26.3 and -20.5 respectively).

These deficits generally can and should be met through development of existing parkland. Proposed development of North Road Park will meet the Community Park needs. For Neighborhood Parks, many HOA properties have the potential to be upgraded to meet these needs through partnerships with the township and the Park Department. In limited cases, acquisition may be desired to meet growing needs where existing parkland is not available.

## 5.2.2 Guidelines for Open Space

Park systems provide invaluable benefits to public health,<sup>1</sup> economies,<sup>2</sup> local environment and ecology,<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Parks, Trails, and Health Resources. [cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/parks\\_resources.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/parks_resources.htm)

<sup>2</sup> WeConservePA. (2012). The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation: A Guide. Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.

<sup>3</sup> John L. Crompton (2008). Empirical Evidence of the Contributions of Park and Conservation Lands to Environmental Sustainability: The Key to repositioning the Parks Field. World Leisure Journal, 50(3), 154-172

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community social fabric, and overall quality of life.<sup>4</sup> Beyond the developed park acreage, any given park system includes additional undeveloped open space and natural areas. These acres, while easily overlooked, have tremendous potential to benefit the community. Undeveloped open space, or even acres that are lightly developed as parks, can positively impact an entire community through improvements to air and water quality, increased biodiversity, wildlife habitat protection, noise reduction, reduction of erosion, and protection of water resources.<sup>5</sup>

Setting acreage targets – aiming for a certain number of parkland acres overall – is one way of achieving a desired level of open space. Target acreage can be a useful way for evaluating the progress of open space acquisition, but effective conservation requires more carefully targeted acquisitions based on a specific resource and where it is found. In other words, looking at open space acquisitions through a conservation lens, the amount of land preserved depends on aspects of that particular resource not just on the number of acres. Land preservation in general has many benefits, such as increased quality of life for residents and elevated property values. In order for these benefits to be shared equitably – benefits typically are higher the closer the proximity – open space should be looked at from a holistic perspective taking into additional consideration natural resources and distribution. What follows is an examination of the current state of open space in Orange Township and potential for the future.

## **Methods of Measurement**

There are two common metrics for measuring the level of service of open space: acres per population and percentage of total area. Both are provided below in Table 5.2 to serve as guidelines for evaluating and measuring public open space in Orange Township.<sup>6</sup> The table identifies total acres of parks and open space acreage - both developed and undeveloped - in Orange Township. The table shows inventory targets based on 4.5 acres per 1,000 population and 1.5% of the total acreage in the township. The 4.5 acres per 1,000 is a slight increase to the current value for Orange Township (3.2), as is the 1.5% of total area number (up from the current 0.8%).

These values were chosen because Orange Township is well below the benchmark medians. While public input has indicated need for additional land, matching the benchmarks medians over 5 or even 10 years is unrealistic. Orange Township residents desire land preservation (especially of natural areas), and the service area mapping provided later in this chapter (Sections 5.4 and 5.5) shows areas where service could be improved. Land owned by the Preservation Parks of Delaware County, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the local schools are also shown in Table 5.2. This land not included in the recommendations because the township has no control over it, and parks by others were not included in the benchmark comparisons. However, this vast amount of open space highlights an overall high level of service in the township and emphasizes the need for land acquisition by the township to meet a specific recreational purpose.

## **Acres per Population**

Using the target of 4.5 acres per 1,000 population, Orange Township has a 2020 open space deficit of about 47 acres. This service level represents a slight increase over the existing level (3.2 acres per 1000) but is still well below the benchmark median of 10.6. Keeping proportional target acreage would mean that by 2025 the township would have roughly twice the acreage deficit (about 64.6 acres). The slight increase in service level is necessary to meet the identified needs of the community while remaining realistic over the timeframe of this plan.

## **Percentage of Total Township Area**

The percentage of total area is not tied to population which means it can potentially represent a longer-term, more flexible objective. Orange Township parks currently represent only 1% of the land in the township, but other public agencies own an incredible 40% of the land in the township. As noted above, Table 5.2 includes targets for the township based on an 1.5% of total area goal. This target would require the acquisition of roughly 97 additional acres, which should focus on addressing specific needs as noted previously.

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<sup>4</sup> John L. Crompton (2008). Empirical Evidence of the Contributions of Leisure Services to Alleviating Social Problems: A Key to Repositioning the Leisure Services Field. *World Leisure Journal*, 50(4), 243-258.

<sup>5</sup> F.D.B. (2007). *The economic benefits of land conservation*. San Francisco, CA: The Trust for Public Land.

<sup>6</sup> These totals do include some structures, but these features represent a relatively small percentage of the total acreage.

**Table 5.2: Open Space Guidelines**

Open Space Category	Existing Acres	Existing Acres Per 1000	4.5 Acres per 1000 Population				Existing % Preserved	1.5% of Area	
			2020 Target Acres	2020 Surplus/Deficit	2025 Target Acres	2025 Surplus/Deficit		Target Acres	Surplus/Deficit
Orange Township Parks	121.5	3.2	168.5	-47.0	186.1	-64.6	0.8%	218.7	-97.2
<b>Parks by Others<sup>2</sup></b>									
Preservation Parks	192.7	5.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.3%	N/A	N/A
Metro Parks	761.0	20.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.2%	N/A	N/A
State Parks	2,370.8	63.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.3%	N/A	N/A
School Properties <sup>3</sup>	198.7	5.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.4%	N/A	N/A
Orange Township Total	3,644.7	97.3	168.5	-47.0	186.1	-64.6	25.0%	218.7	-97.2

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates

2. Includes only portions of parks within township limits

3. Assumes half of school acreage as open space

## 5.3 FACILITIES NEEDS ANALYSIS AND LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Like the recommendations for parkland described previously, level of service standards for individual park facilities are useful for determining the quantity of recreation facilities needed in the community, both at present and in the future. These standards emerge through examination of the benchmarking (Chapter 2) and the public input findings (Chapter 4); common industry standards and guidelines are also taken into consideration. Table 5.3 details the facilities by type and compares the available supply with the amount needed to meet the targets identified in the table.

### 5.3.1 Facility Level of Service Rationale

The following text provides the basis for the per population targets for each of the facilities in Table 5.3. Each section breaks down individual elements by describing how the per population target compares to the existing per population supply and makes justifications for any recommended change. As with previous elements in this chapter, the following analysis combines benchmarking data (Chapter 2) with public input (Chapter 4).

#### Outdoor Recreation Areas

- Playgrounds – Set at increase due to demand and current distribution, above current but below benchmark
- Picnic Pavilions/Shelters – Set at increase due to demand and current distribution
- Trails (miles) – Set at increase due to demand, trends, and current distribution
- Skate Park – Set at benchmark, none currently
- Amphitheatres – Set at increase to 1 due to demand for programs
- Dog Park – Set at increase to benchmark due to demand and trends
- Community Gardens – Set at current, same as benchmark
- Swimming Pools – Set at current, just below benchmark
- Splash Pads – Set at increase to 1 due to demand and trends

#### Outdoor Fields & Courts

- Youth Baseball Fields – Set at slight increase, well below benchmark
- Youth Softball Fields – Set at slight increase, well below benchmark
- Multipurpose Fields – Set at current, well above benchmark
- Artificial Turf Multipurpose Fields – Set at 1 due to demand, below benchmark
- Basketball Courts – Set at benchmark, slight increase
- Tennis Courts – Met by others
- Pickleball Courts – Set at increase (none currently) due to trends and growing demand, none currently

## Indoor Areas

- Recreation Centers – Set at benchmark, none currently
- Community Centers – Set at benchmark, none currently
- Gymnasiums – Set at 1 due to demand
- Senior Centers – Set at benchmark, none currently

**Table 5.3: Facility Level of Service Standards**

Facility	Per Population Target	Existing per Population	Existing Total Supply	2020 Target	2020 Surplus / Deficit	2025 Target	2025 Surplus / Deficit
<b>Outdoor Recreation Areas</b>							
Playgrounds	5,000	9,363	4	7.5	-3.5	8.3	-4.3
Picnic Pavilions/Shelters	6,000	9,363	4	6.2	-2.2	6.9	-2.9
Trails (miles)	1,100	1,362	27.5	34.0	-6.5	37.6	-10.1
Skate Park	42,000	N/A	0	0.9	-0.9	1.0	-1.0
Amphitheaters	40,000	N/A	0	0.9	-0.9	1.0	-1.0
Dog Park	30,000	N/A	0	1.2	-1.2	1.4	-1.4
Community Gardens	35,000	37,452	1	1.1	-0.1	1.2	-0.2
Swimming Pools	37,000	37,452	1	1.0	0.0	1.1	-0.1
Splash Pads	37,000	N/A	0	1.0	-1.0	1.1	-1.1
<b>Outdoor Fields &amp; Courts</b>							
Youth Baseball Fields	12,000	18,726	2	3.1	-1.1	3.4	-1.4
Youth Softball Fields	7,500	18,726	2	5.0	-3.0	5.5	-3.5
Multipurpose Fields	11,000	3,257	11.5	3.4	8.1	3.8	7.7
Artificial Turf Multipurpose Fields	12,000	N/A	0	3.1	-3.1	3.4	-3.4
Basketball Courts	7,000	12,484	3	5.4	-2.4	5.9	-2.9
Tennis Courts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pickleball Courts	10,000	N/A	0	3.7	-3.7	4.1	-4.1
<b>Indoor Areas</b>							
Recreation Centers	34,000	N/A	0	1.1	-1.1	1.2	-1.2
Community Centers	27,000	N/A	0	1.4	-1.4	1.5	-1.5
Gymnasiums	35,000	N/A	0	1.1	-1.1	1.2	-1.2
Senior Centers	40,000	N/A	0	0.9	-0.9	1.0	-1.0

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates and benchmarking

## 5.3.2 Facility Level of Service Standards

The values in Table 5.3 illustrate potential need for various facilities. These numbers focus on offerings by the Park Department; however, many community needs can and should be met by other agencies or through partnerships (see Chapter 7). The largest current facility deficits (2020) are for playgrounds (-3.5), picnic shelters/pavilions (-2.2), trail miles (-6.5), and pickleball courts (-3.7); other facilities with deficits are skate parks, amphitheaters, dog parks, splash pads, and indoor spaces like gymnasiums, recreation centers, senior centers, and community centers. Athletic fields and facilities also have some deficits with diamond fields at a notable lower level of service compared to benchmarks.

While values in Table 5.3 highlight what additional facilities are needed to adequately meet the demand, they do not indicate where in Orange Township these new facilities should be located. The next sections (5.4 and 5.5) help illuminate gaps in service and, therefore, potential locations for new facilities.

## 5.4 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

The spatial distribution of parks throughout Orange Township is important to consider; residents are better able and more willing to utilize facilities that are close to their homes. Figures 5.1 and 5.2 show Orange Township's existing parks with service areas described for different park classifications. The methodology for this analysis

(and the facility analysis in Section 5.5) can be found in Appendix A. Of note, these service areas are not necessarily representative of all users of the township's parks; after all, some users may be more willing to travel greater distances than those defined in the figures below. However, the most frequent users generally do live within the areas indicated and usage rates do tend to decline sharply in relation to travel times.

A 10-minute walking distance represents about a half mile range and is a commonly used measurement for the walkability of an area; most residents can easily travel this distance without using a car. The Trust for Public Land, NRPA, and the Urban Land Institute have all joined forces to develop the "10-Minute Walk Campaign" which strives for healthy, walkable communities and easy access to greenspace for everyone in the country. As part of their multi-pronged campaign, cities all over the U.S. are committed to ensuring that by 2050 all residents will have access to a park within a 10-minute walk of their home. Mayors throughout the country have already taken the pledge, and more continue to do so. Several mayors in Ohio have committed to the cause, including some of the largest cities of Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, and Toledo but also smaller cities such as Lima, Medina, Montpelier, Richwood, Sharonville, and Wilmington.<sup>7</sup>

**Across the whole township, just over a third (37%) of residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park, although only 13% can walk to an Orange Township park (19% to a School Park and 5% to parks by others).** The existing degree of walkable access is understandable, considering the rapid population growth in Orange Township and the suburban character of the community. However, there is clear demand for improved access and a resounding community desire for more trails and connectivity. The township has a fairly extensive trails system in place with many opportunities to extend and link these existing facilities, which could improve pedestrian and bicycle access to parks.

Figure 5.1 shows the areas in Orange Township where residents are within a 10-minute walk to a Neighborhood Park (green), Special Use Park (purple), School Park (blue), or park by other agencies (orange). This map illustrates the locations of walkable access throughout the township. Walking access to Orange Township's parks is concentrated largely toward the center of the community, although gaps in access can be found throughout the township. Notable gaps include the southeast edge (east of I-71), southeast of Township Hall Park, and west/southwest of Alum Creek State Park.

Figure 5.2 shows how much more accessible parks are across Orange Township by motor vehicle. Drivetime (5-minutes) to Community Parks (bright green for Orange Township parks and orange for those by others) plus State/County/Metro Parks (yellow) are indicated. Overall, nearly all of the population lives within these 5-minute drive areas to a larger park.

## 5.5 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES

This portion of the needs analysis focuses on the distribution of facilities provided by Orange Township for use by residents. Service areas for these key facilities within Orange Township are illustrated in Figures 5.3 through 5.11. As with the geographic distribution of parks, both drive and walk times are used for defining service areas (dark green indicates areas within 10-minute walking distance, yellow shows 5-minute driving distance, and light blue show 10-minute drive areas on select maps).

Larger and unique facilities are intended to serve greater populations; typically, residents are willing to travel longer distances to access these amenities. In contrast, smaller and more common facilities usually serve more localized (smaller) populations and are more often within walking distance. Portions of the township are highlighted in this section as outside of facility service areas; however, a new facility is not necessarily recommended for each of these areas.

### 5.5.1 Playgrounds

Figure 5.3 shows the service areas (10-minute walk to township and school parks) for playgrounds in Orange Township. The township offers playgrounds at four different parks; residents also have access to several additional playgrounds provided by others within the township, including school playgrounds that are unavailable during school hours. Walkable access to playgrounds is available to most households west of S Old State Rd; however, most of the southeast quadrant of the township lacks access other than the area immediately surrounding Walter Wood Park.

<sup>7</sup> <https://10minutewalk.org/>



Figure 5.1: Neighborhood Park Service Areas

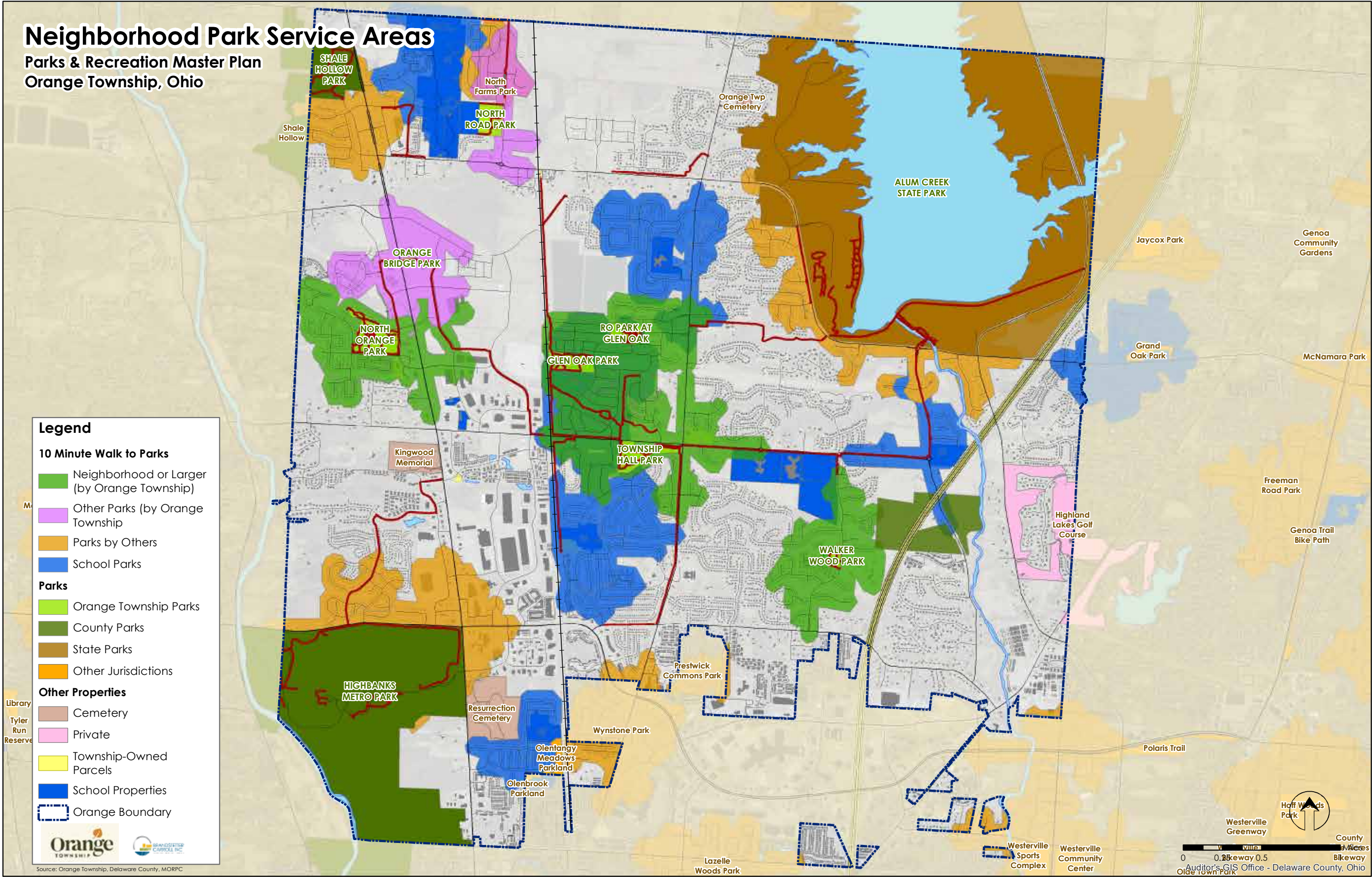
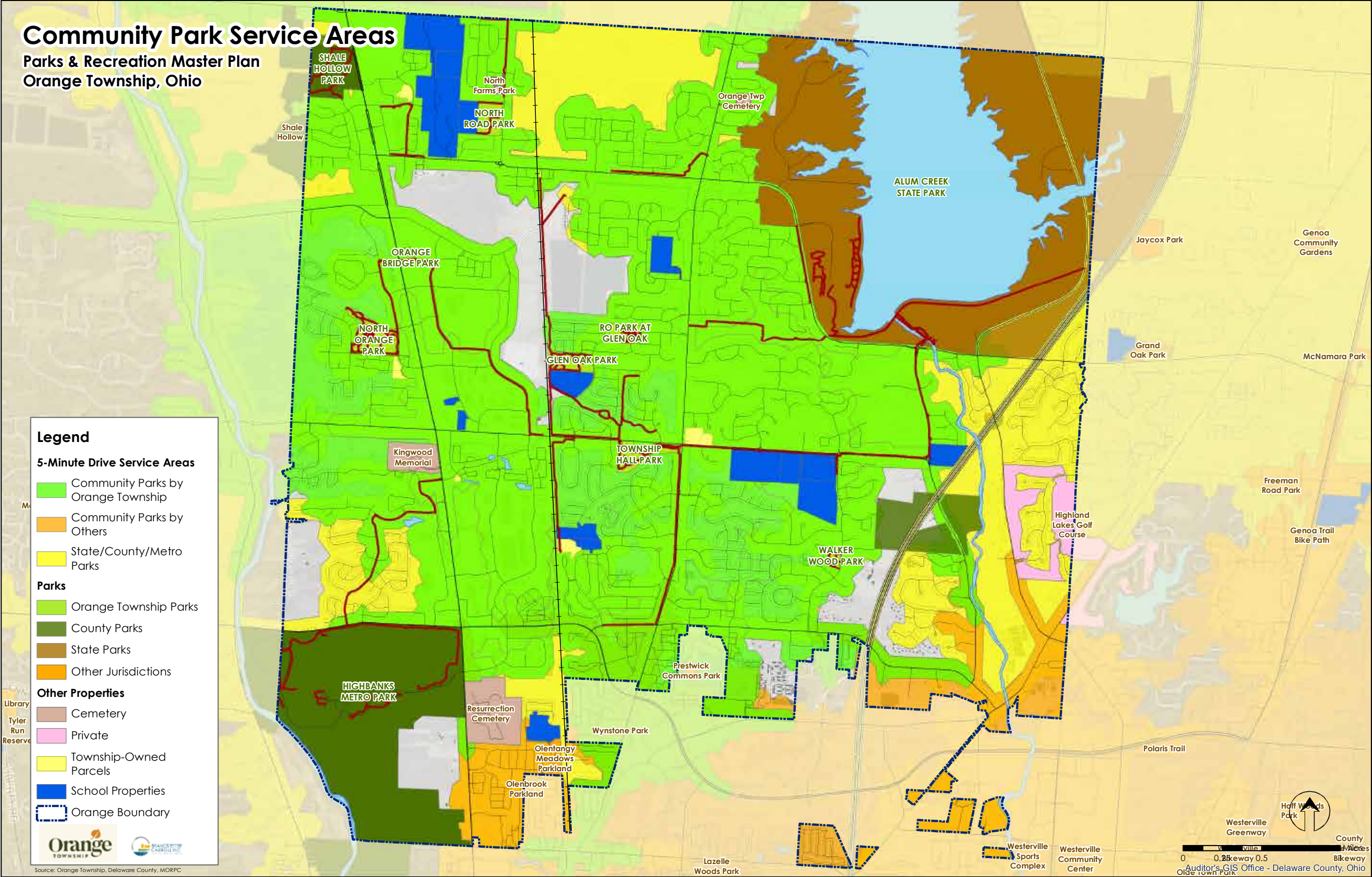




Figure 5.2: Community and Regional Park Service Areas





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### 5.5.2 Basketball Courts (Outdoor)

Figure 5.4 displays service areas for outdoor basketball courts determined by either a 10-minute walk or a 5-minute drive. Orange Township offers three basketball courts in two different parks; additional courts are offered by other entities in or near Orange Township, including those at six elementary schools. The map shows existing areas of access to basketball courts are similar to the playground access in Figure 5.3, except for lack of access near Walker Wood Park. Nearly the entire township is within a 5-minute drive of a court.

### 5.5.3 Diamond Fields

Orange Township's diamond ballfield service areas are illustrated in Figure 5.5 with distances defined by 10-minute walk and a 5-minute drive. Of the Orange Township-owned properties, only Ro Park has diamond fields. The rest are at schools or parks in other communities. Most of the township is within 5-minute drive of a diamond field, but 10-minute walking access is limited to the area just west of S Old State Rd plus a few other small areas.

### 5.5.4 Multipurpose Fields

Figure 5.6 displays the service areas for multipurpose rectangular fields in Orange Township. There are 11 multipurpose rectangular fields in the township parks system, located at four parks. Because the fields are concentrated, the walkable access is limited; however, nearly the entire township is within a 5-minute drive.

### 5.5.5 Aquatics

Figure 5.7 shows the service area for the township's pool at North Orange Park (blue) and the beach at Alum Creek State Park (yellow/orange). The pool provides aquatic access to most of the west side of the township, while the beach provides access to most of the east. Between the two facilities, much of the township is within a 5-minute drive of aquatic opportunities. The notable exception is the south-central portion of the township (south of Township Hall Park).

### 5.5.6 Tennis

Figure 5.8 shows that service areas for tennis courts are less comprehensive than many of the previously discussed facilities. None of the township's parks offer tennis courts. The two high schools have tennis courts that are available when not in use by the schools. The closest courts within parks are in the neighboring communities of Westerville and Powell. Only a small number of households in the township are within a 10-minute walk of a tennis court. Many residents are within a 5-minute drive of a tennis court, but many live beyond those service areas.

### 5.5.7 Picnic Shelters

Picnic shelter access is more comprehensive than many of the park facilities. Figure 5.9 depicts the service areas (10-minute walk and 5-minute drive) for the four picnic shelters provided by the township plus those offered by others. Small shelters or gazebos are not included in the mapping. While walking access is somewhat limited, nearly all households are within a 5-minute drive of a shelter.

### 5.5.8 Trails

Figure 5.10 shows service areas across the township for trails including a 10-minute walk to a trail access point or a 5-minute drive to a park trail of a mile or more. Walkable access to trails is fairly extensive due to the township's trail system, although no trails or access points are located east of I-71. Most of the township is also within a 5-minute drive of a park trail of at least a mile. The most significant trail needs are the development of linkages between the existing trail corridors and to ensure they connect to the parks. This map includes trails by other communities and shows that the non-contiguous portions in the southern edge of the township are largely served by trails provided by neighboring Westerville.

### 5.5.9 Fishing

Access to fishing opportunities is shown in Figure 5.11. The township has ponds with fishing access in four parks, and residents can also fish at Alum Creek State Park. Between the options, nearly all township households are within a 5-minute drive of fishing access. Many near the center of the township are even within walking distance.

## 5.6 COMPOSITE GEOGRAPHIC PARK SERVICE AREAS

While the preceding text outlined the level of access to parks and facilities by geographic distribution and classification, a composite analysis provides a more robust depiction of the level of service residents experience across the township. Service areas for three park classifications and 13 facilities (some not mapped in Section 5.5.) were assigned scores based on distance from the amenity (e.g., 10-minute walk or 5-minute drive), then GIS software (ArcGIS) was used to produce an overlay map with a combined score for all areas of Orange Township. Figure 5.12 shows the composite service areas for the township based on this multi-layered level of access analysis. A more detailed description of the methodology can be found in Appendix A.

In the map, blue indicates a higher level of service for parks and facilities (darker shade indicates higher service levels) while red areas have the lowest level of service (darker shade indicates lower service levels). For example, a resident living within one of the dark blue areas would more likely be within a short walk to park plus a variety of the facilities previously described (e.g., playground or ballfields).

As shown in Figure 5.12, areas with the highest composite level of service are those near North Orange, or Glen Oak, parks, as these parks offer a variety of amenities. Looking at population distribution, just 9% of the community enjoy the highest level of service, but another 26% have medium-high service levels. Over a third (37%) of the community live in areas with the medium level of service. Just over a quarter 27% of households are located within the two lowest service areas, although some of these areas are growing.

Table 5.4 explores some specific demographics of the population within the various service levels. Just over a third of the township's population lives at a medium level of service, but this area has the lowest household income. In general, the better served areas are those with the highest household incomes, indicating that those with lower levels of service may have higher levels of needs and more likely to benefit improvements to public amenities although all income levels are fairly high. The percentage of children decreases with lower service levels with the exception of the lowest. These results indicate that investment in areas with lower levels of service would be beneficial to those communities.

Table 5.4: Population by Composite Service Area

Service Level (Rank)	Proportion at Composite Service Level				Median Household Income	Diversity Index	Median Age	Children
	Population	Cumulative Population	Area	Cumulative Area				
High	9%	9%	8%	8%	\$137,644	47.7	35.3	36%
Medium-High	26%	36%	15%	23%	\$117,620	50.5	34.5	34%
Medium	37%	72%	37%	59%	\$110,483	44.7	36.1	31%
Medium-Low	22%	95%	20%	80%	\$111,049	42.2	38.0	28%
Low	5%	100%	20%	100%	\$126,698	46.3	35.3	35%

## 5.7 TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

The following text analyzes national trends in recreation, including types of activities and their associated facilities. First, this section will take look at participation rates for various recreation activities using data from the Sport and Fitness Industry Association. A deeper dive into the latest, relevant trends in programming and facilities across the nation will follow.

Looking through a broader lens can provide insight into the origin and potential trajectory of local preferences. Understanding trends in fitness, recreation, athletics, and cultural resources helps to clarify present conditions and future possibilities in Orange Township. Equipped with this context, the Orange Township Park Department can better sustain, expand, and realign its existing offerings to best address changing needs in the community.

Figure 5.3: Playground Service Areas

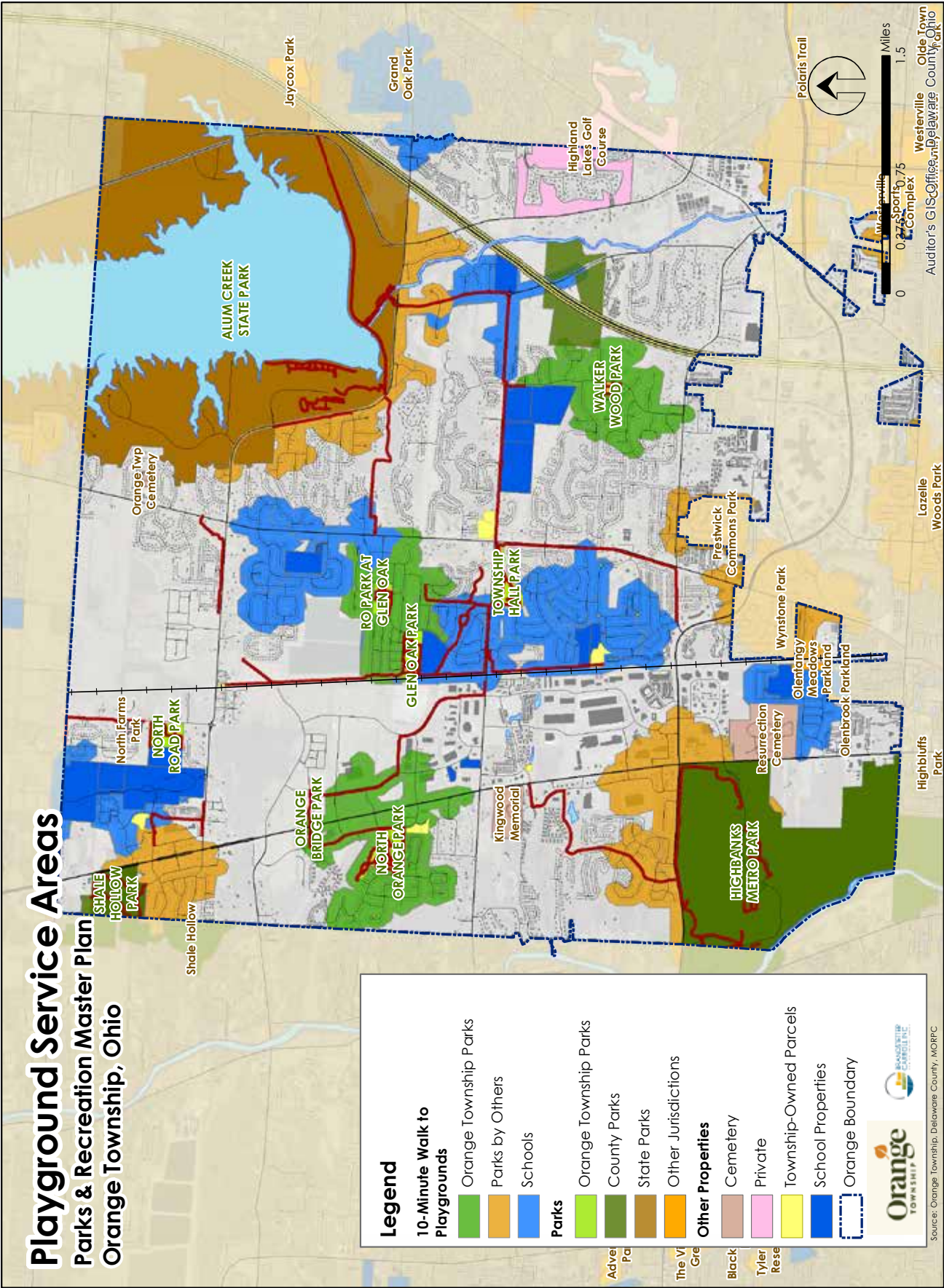
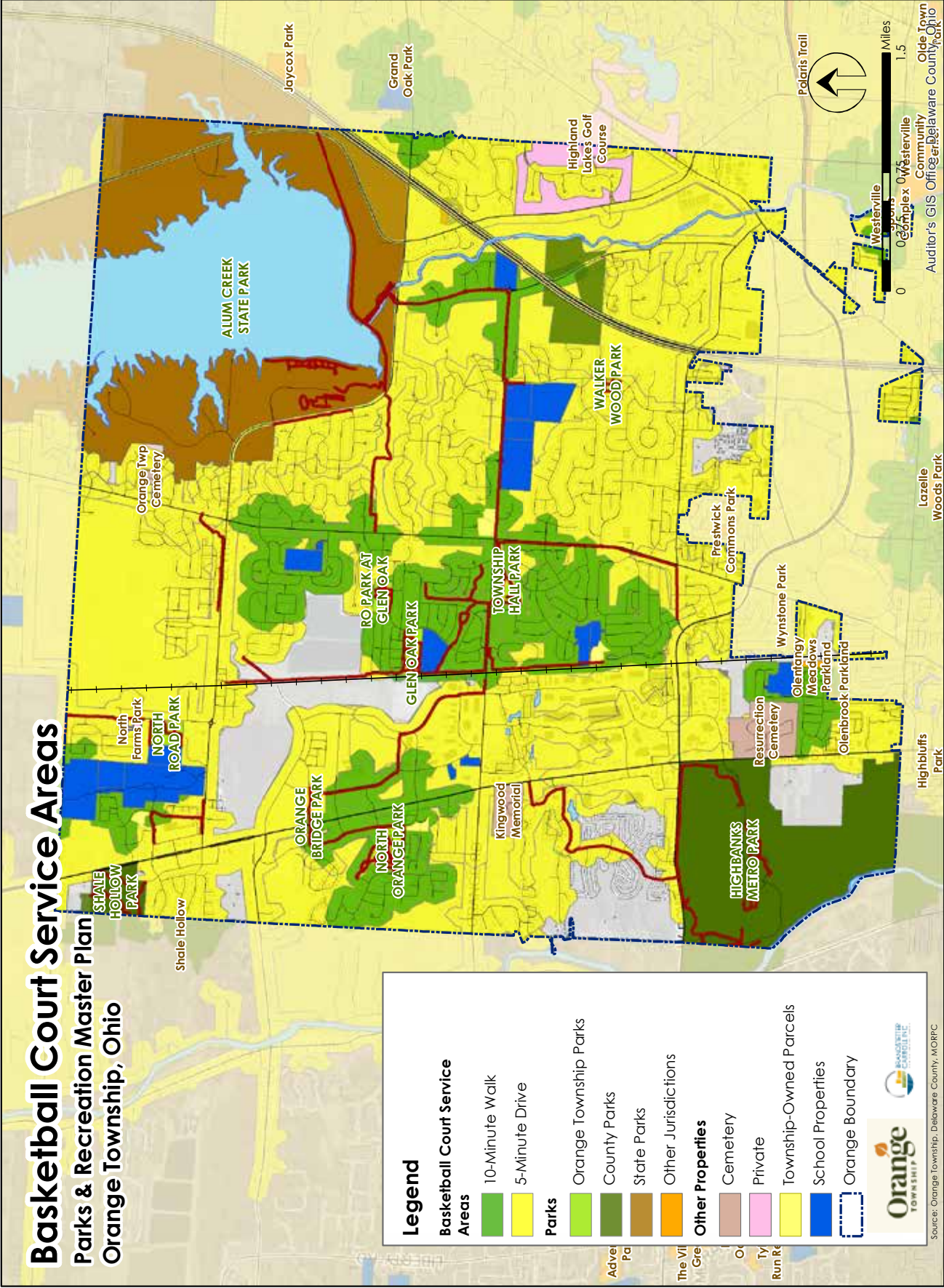




Figure 5.4: Outdoor Basketball Court Service Areas





## NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION





### Figure 5.6: Multipurpose Field Service Areas

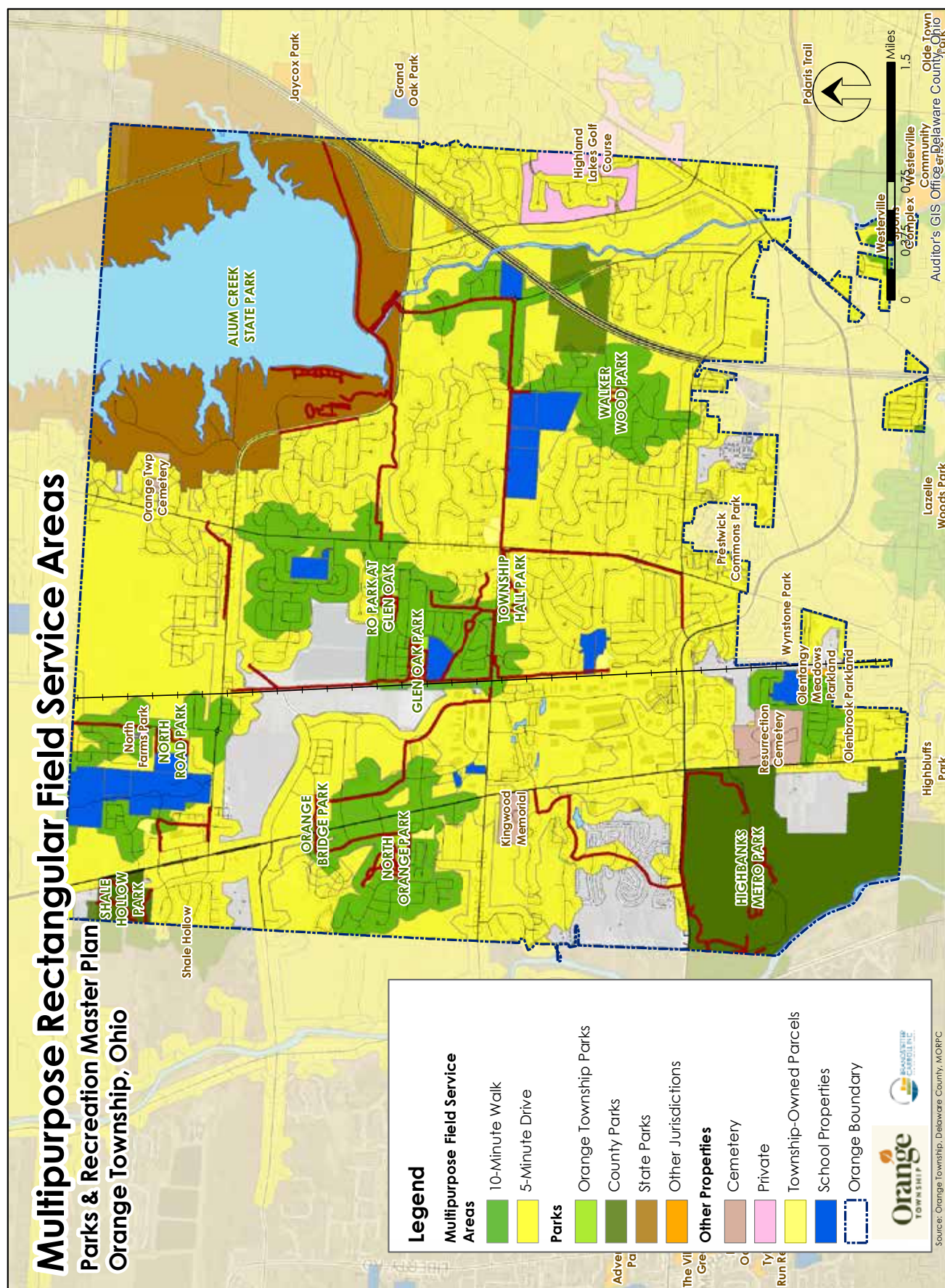




Figure 5.7: Aquatic Facility Service Area

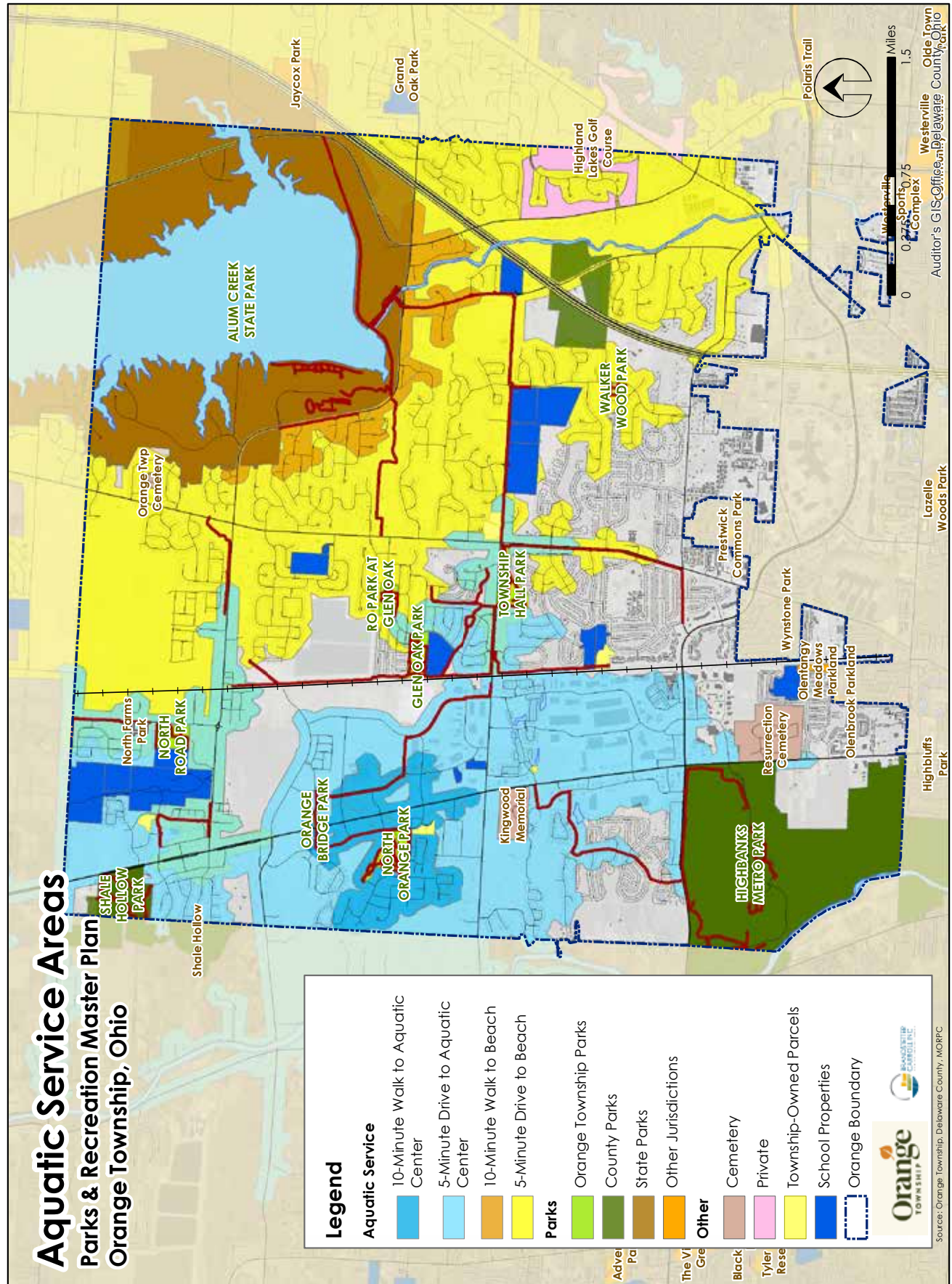




Figure 5.8: Tennis Service Area

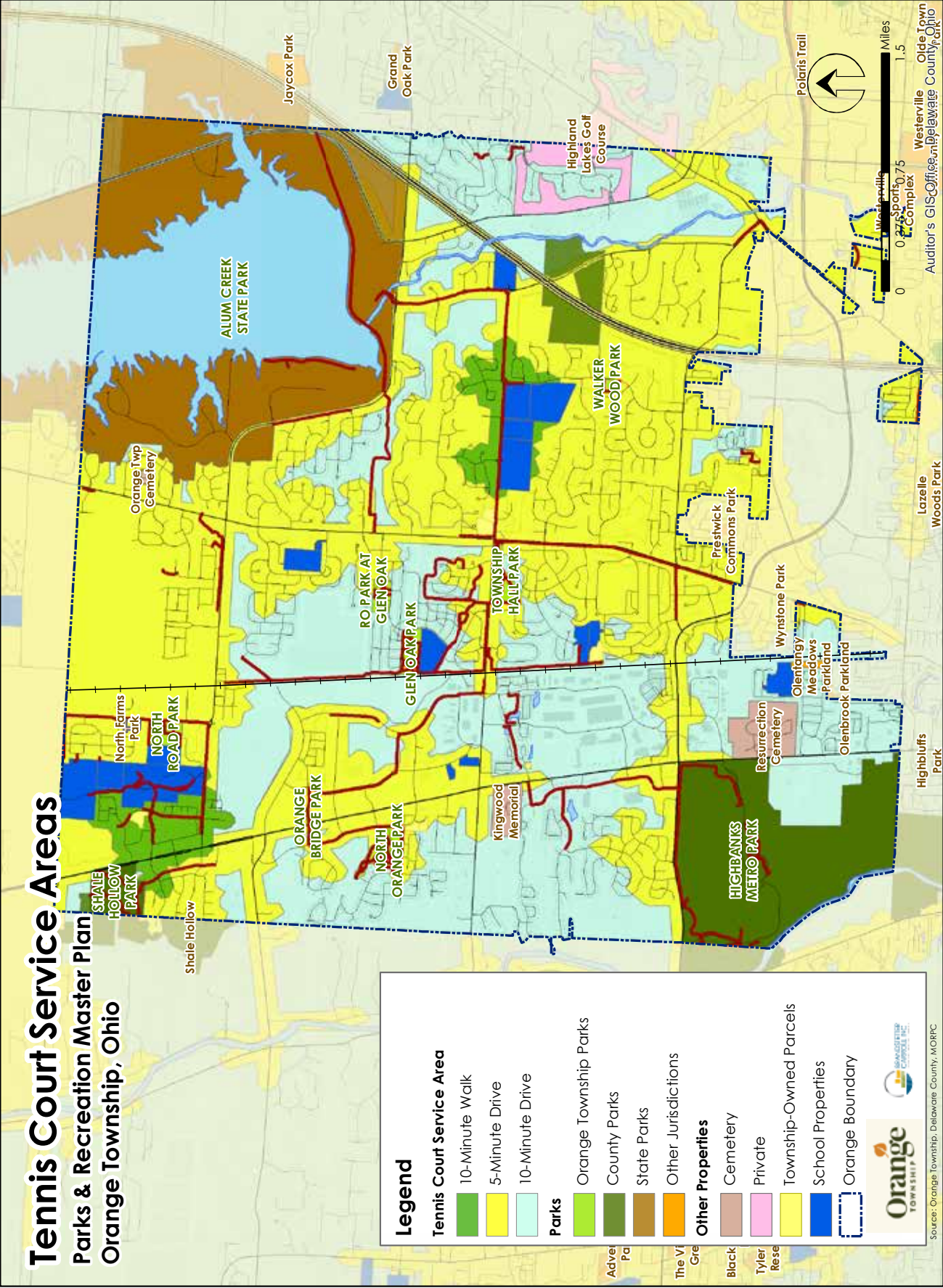




Figure 5.9: Picnic Shelter Service Areas

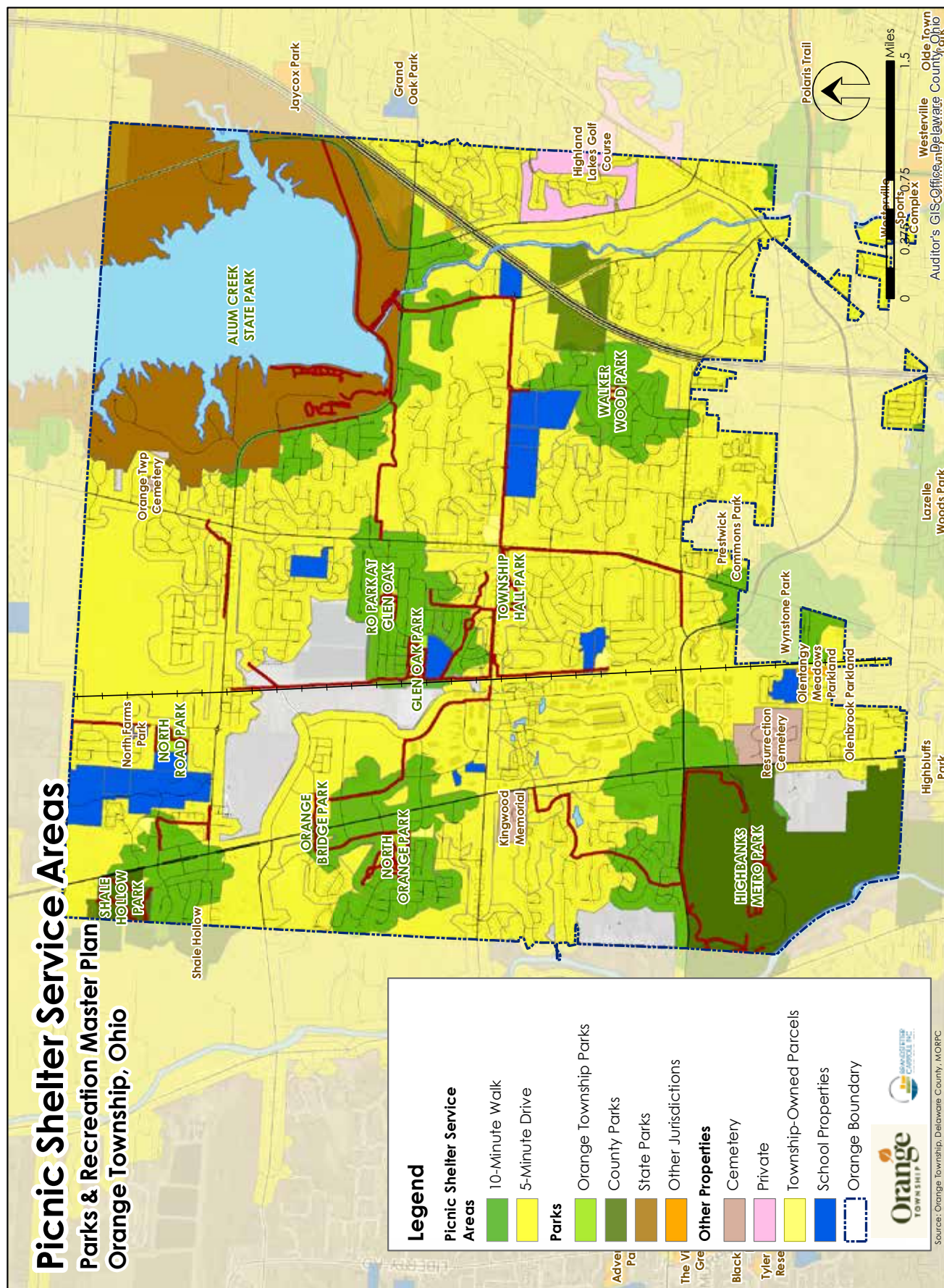




Figure 5.10: Trail Service Areas

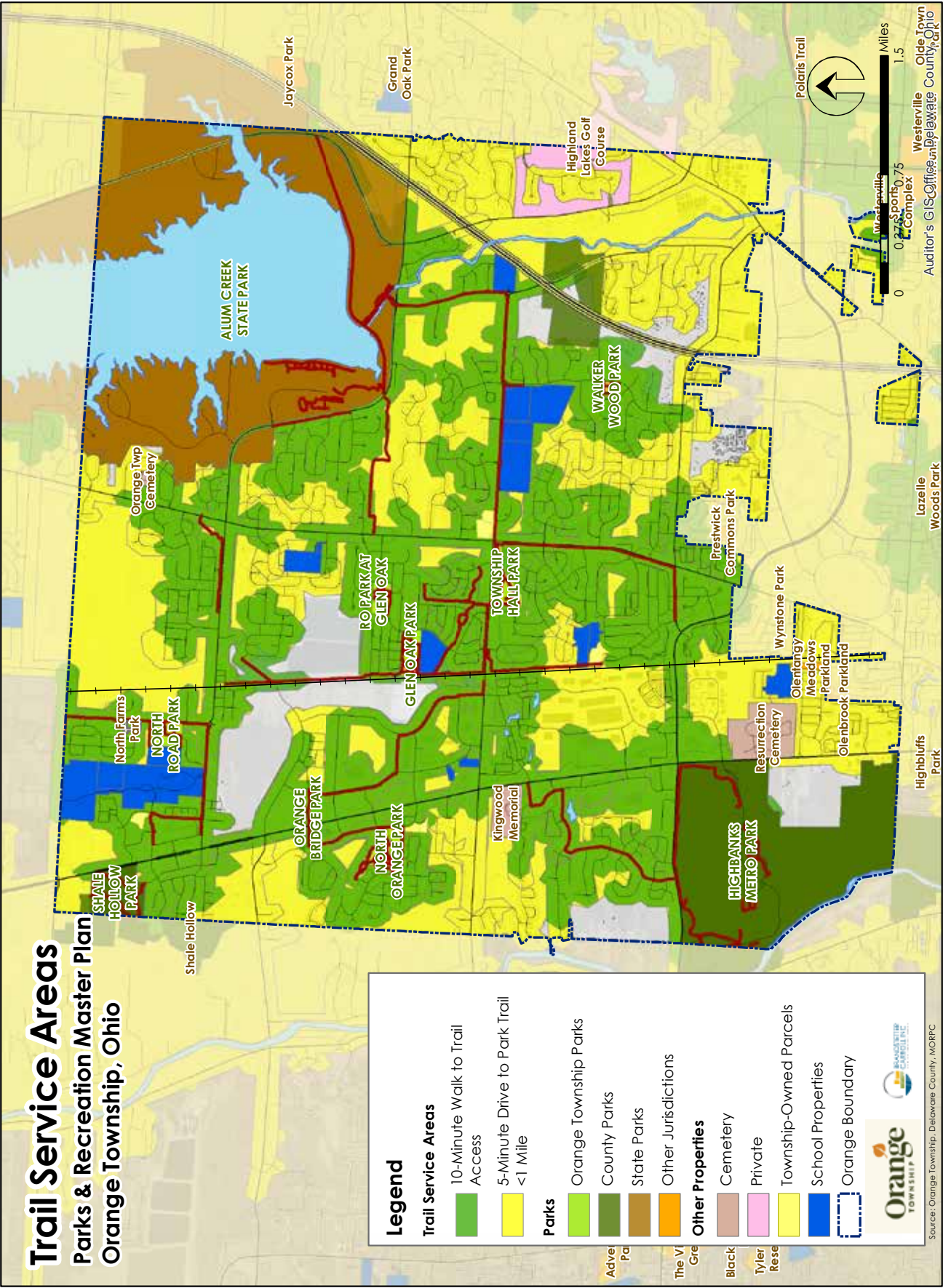
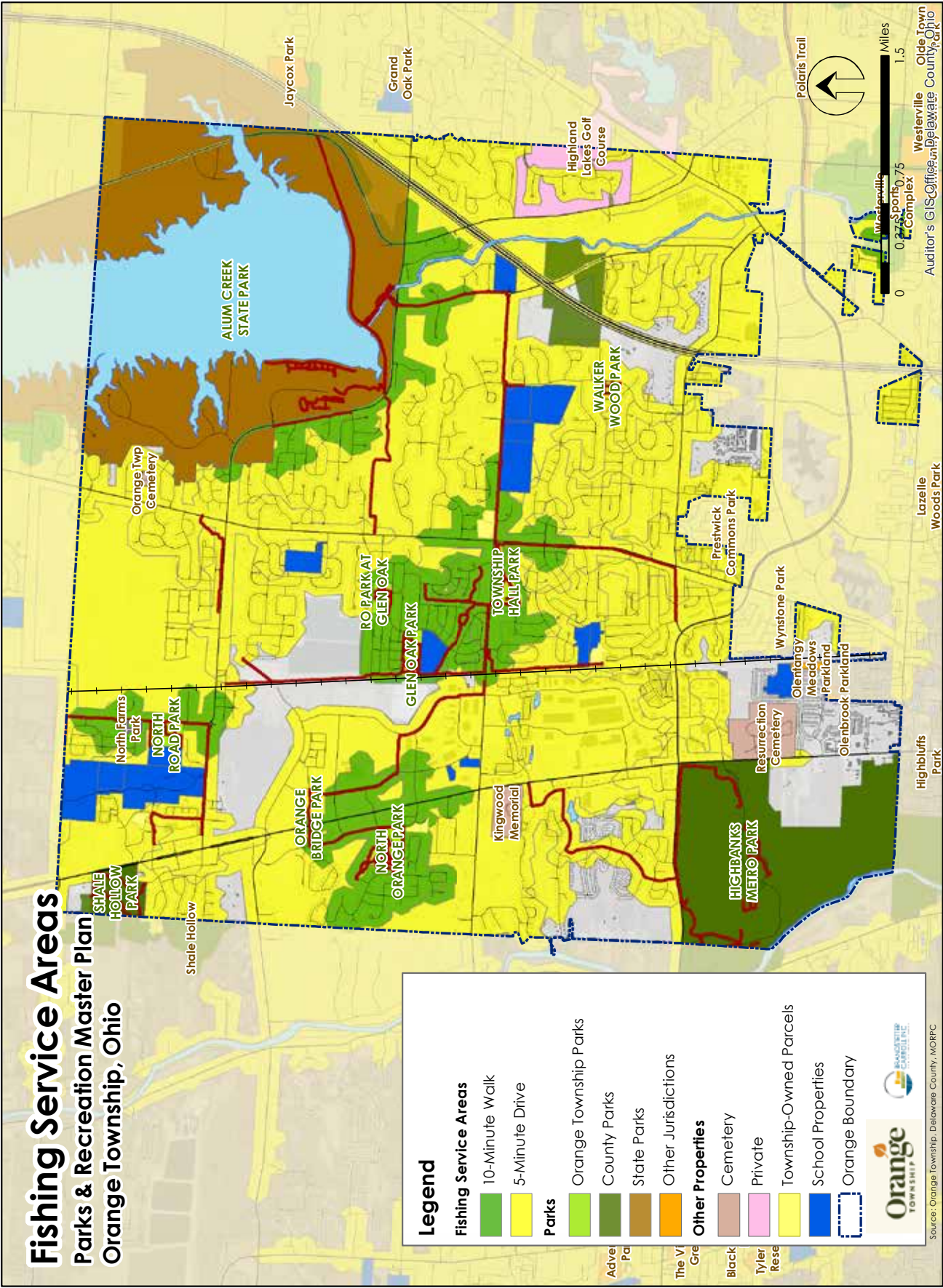




Figure 5.11: Fishing Service Area



## 5.7.1 COVID-19 – Impacts for Parks and Recreation

Though the first impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were felt in the U.S. in early 2020, the nation continues to bear the tide of change, uncertainty, and strain. Parks and recreation agencies throughout the country were hit by myriad measures to slow the spread of infection while also facing increased use of many amenities. Agencies around the country have and will continue to play a vital role in the recovery.

When in the early stages of the pandemic agencies around the country were asked to cancel in-person programs, close facilities, and limit services, agencies were faced with many hard choices. In the following months, many agencies blended creativity, technology, and flexible staff power to provide a new kind of service to their communities. Tactics

include abundant use of signage to communicate physical-distancing guidelines and tips for safely enjoying amenities, spray-painting or otherwise demarcating 6-feet of separation in gathering areas, partially closing vehicle pathways to create more space for pedestrians and bicyclists, and other measures.

This same creative adaptability is much-needed moving forward into a post-pandemic future. Agencies should utilize online social platforms, virtual classes and activities, scheduled nature visits where necessary, physically-distanced programming, and other strategies to ensure access to quality services. Families, seniors, youth, and everyone in between will continue to seek social connection, desire healthy habits, and crave the benefits of time in nature. Parks and recreation agencies have been given an opportunity out of the COVID-19 crisis to explore, evaluate, and realign to better meet these needs. Parks and recreation agencies, including all of those operating in Orange Township, are critical players in the multi-dimensional recovery<sup>8</sup> and must be centered as an invaluable resource to the community.



CDC - Physically distancing in parks

## 5.7.2 Trends in Recreation Participation

On an annual basis, the Sport and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) conducts a survey<sup>9</sup> of individuals and households throughout the United States to determine participation in a variety of sports and fitness activities. By using a weighting technique, the survey produces results reflective of the total U.S. population age 6 and older; the 2020 sample consisted of 18,000 online interviews of households. The following text examines the findings of this SFIA report and connects relevant data to generate insights about Orange Township.

Figure 5.13 shows the difference in participation rates between generations for seven types of sports. The youngest generation (Gen Z) had the highest participation rates for Individual Sports (e.g., archery, skateboarding, golfing, etc.), Team Sports (e.g., baseball, ultimate frisbee, soccer, etc.), and Outdoor Sports (e.g., hiking, trail running, bicycling, etc.). With each generation, participation rates dropped as age increased with the exception of fitness space. The other three generational groups had high participation rates in Fitness Sports (e.g., barre, weight-training, kettlebells, etc.) The remaining three types of sports (Racquet, Winter, and Water Sports) have similar trends, Millennial's and Gen Z representing the highest levels of participation.

With growing percentages of Orange Township residents in the older two generations, demand for fitness sports programming is likely to increase into the future. Even though participation diminishes with age, outdoor sports remain popular with all age groups (39% of Boomers take advantage of outdoor fitness activities). Team sports are far more popular with the youngest generation (56% Gen Z and only 4% Boomers).

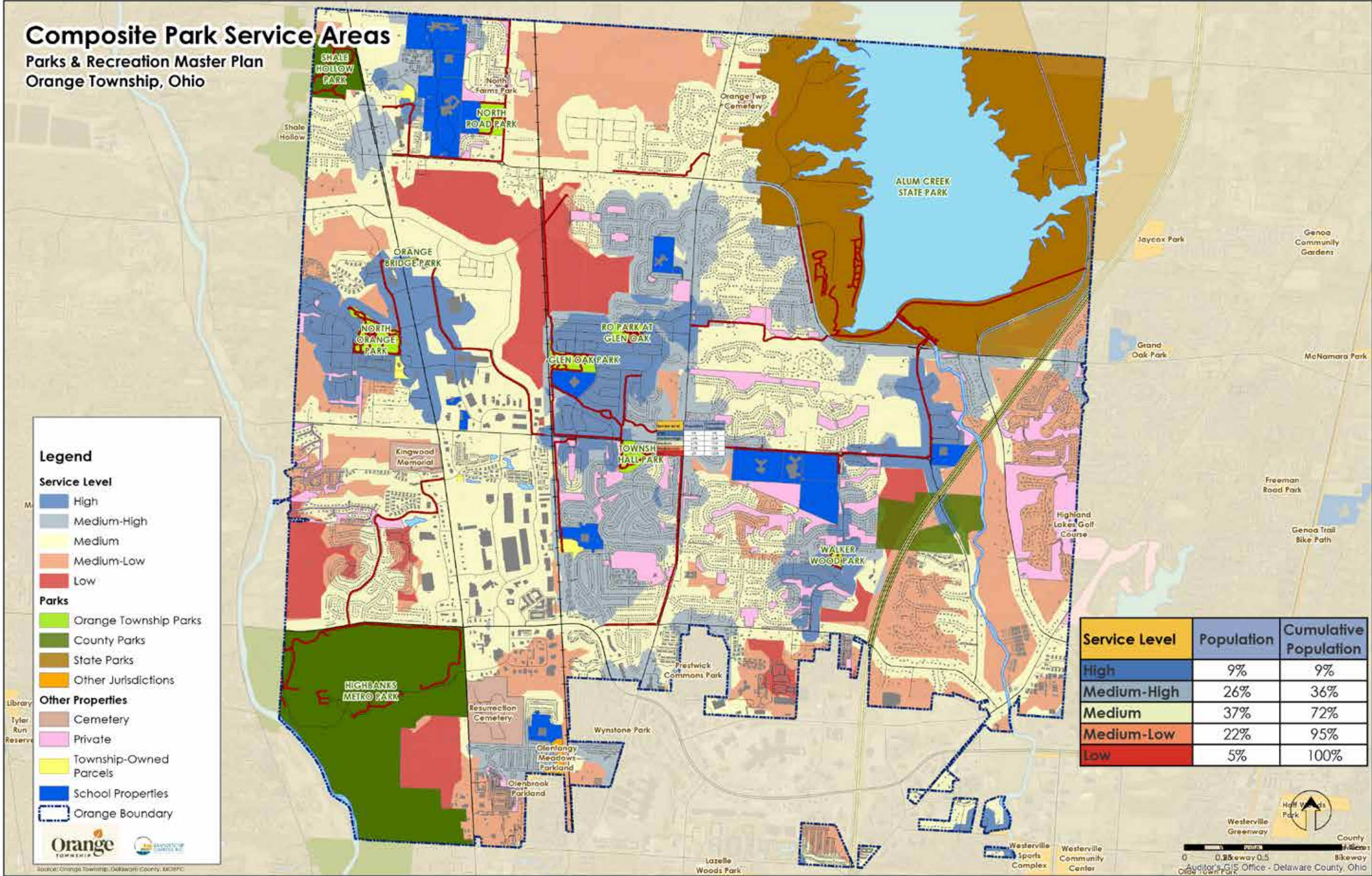
Table 5.5 displays the 5-year participation rates for 55 different sports and fitness activities. This table also shows the 5-year annual growth rate and highlights which activities show either significant growth or decline

<sup>8</sup> Marquis, Bridget. Infrastructure That Does More: Investing in Public Spaces for a Resilient America. Strong Towns. [https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2020/11/23/infrastructure-that-does-more-investing-in-public-spaces-for-a-resilient-america?fbclid=IwAR2Aa8OXGjUpGNv3ibIDHC-W40ic9L9QjnXvix\\_kgFS0CtEoi5vihqJ0bDg](https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2020/11/23/infrastructure-that-does-more-investing-in-public-spaces-for-a-resilient-america?fbclid=IwAR2Aa8OXGjUpGNv3ibIDHC-W40ic9L9QjnXvix_kgFS0CtEoi5vihqJ0bDg) (November 24, 2020).

<sup>9</sup> The 2021 Topline Report for the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) is produced through the partnership of the Physical Activity Council (PAC), a collaboration of eight of the major trade associations in U.S. sports, fitness, and leisure industries.



Figure 5.12: Composite Park Service Areas



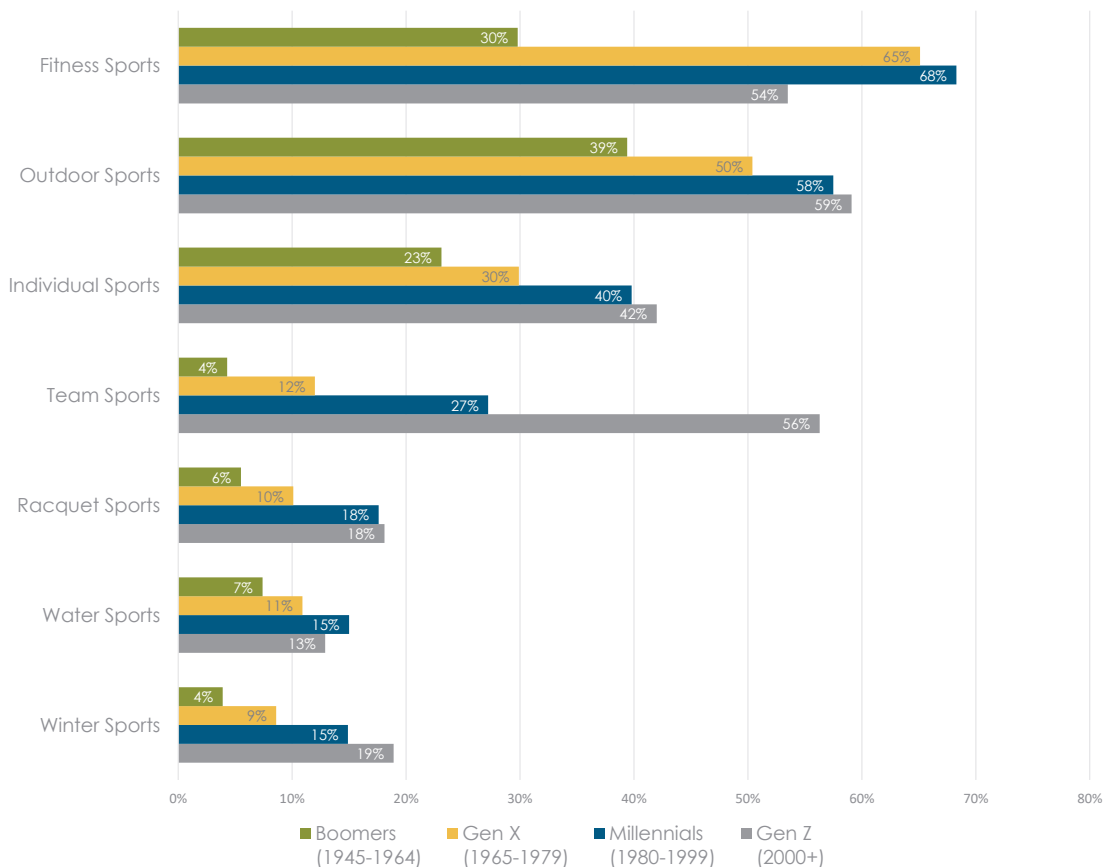




in participation rates. The fastest growing sports are highlighted in blue; *pickleball*, *day hiking*, *trail running*, *BMX bicycling*, and *skateboarding* show the fastest rate of growth over the 5-year period.

*Walking for fitness*, *day hiking*, *free weights* (hand weights), *running/jogging*, and *treadmill* have the largest number of participants. *Walking for fitness* has by far the greatest number of participants (over 100 million participants nationally) and *hiking* is growing over 9% annually even with already high participation (nearly 60 million). Three of the top five activities are oriented around trails (bicycling, ranked six). It is no surprise these facilities are in such high demand; Orange Township residents are not unusual in expressing their strong interest in trail-based activities.

**Figure 5.13: Participation Rates by Generation**



**Table 5.5: Nationwide 5-Year History of Selected Sports Participation**

Sport/Fitness Activity	Category							5-Year Average Annual Growth
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Walking for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	109,829	107,895	110,805	111,001	111,439	114,044	0.8%
Hiking (Day)	Outdoor Activities	37,232	42,128	44,900	47,860	49,697	57,808	9.3%
Free Weights (Hand Weights)	Strength	54,716	51,513	5,217	51,291	51,450	53,256	-0.5%
Running/Jogging	Aerobic Activities	48,496	47,384	50,770	49,459	50,052	50,652	0.9%
Treadmill	Aerobic Activities	50,398	51,872	52,966	53,737	56,823	49,832	0.0%
Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface)	Outdoor Activities	38,280	38,365	38,866	39,041	39,388	44,471	3.2%
Fishing (Freshwater)	Outdoor Activities	37,682	38,121	38,346	38,998	39,185	42,556	2.5%
Yoga	Conditioning	25,289	26,268	27,354	28,745	30,456	32,808	5.4%
Weight/Resistance Machines	Strength	35,310	35,768	36,291	36,372	36,181	30,651	-2.6%
Elliptical Motion Trainer	Aerobic Activities	32,321	32,218	32,283	33,238	33,056	27,920	-2.6%

**Table 5.5: Nationwide 5-Year History of Selected Sports Participation (Continued)**

Sport/Fitness Activity	Category							5-Year Average Annual Growth
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Basketball	Team Sports	23,410	22,343	23,401	24,225	24,917	27,753	3.6%
Swimming for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	26,319	26,601	27,135	27,575	28,219	25,666	-0.4%
High Impact/Intensity & Training	Aerobic Activities	20,464	21,390	21,476	21,611	22,044	22,487	1.9%
Tennis	Racquet Sports	17,963	18,079	17,683	17,841	17,684	21,642	4.2%
Table Tennis	Racquet Sports	16,565	16,568	16,041	15,592	14,908	16,854	0.5%
Baseball	Team Sports	13,711	14,760	15,642	15,877	15,804	15,731	2.8%
Birdwatching (>¼ Mile from Home)	Outdoor Activities	13,093	11,589	12,296	12,344	12,817	15,228	3.5%
Kayaking (Recreational)	Water Sports	9,499	10,017	10,533	11,017	11,382	13,002	6.5%
Soccer (Outdoor)	Team Sports	12,646	11,932	11,924	11,405	11,913	12,444	-0.2%
Trail Running	Individual Sports	8,139	8,582	9,149	10,010	10,997	11,854	7.8%
Aquatic Exercise	Aerobic Activities	8,226	10,575	10,459	10,518	11,189	10,954	3.7%
Pilates Training	Conditioning	8,594	8,893	9,047	9,084	9,243	9,905	2.9%
Ice Skating	Individual Sports	10,485	10,315	9,998	9,721	9,460	9,857	-1.2%
Bicycling (Mountain/Non-Paved Surface)	Outdoor Activities	8,316	8,615	8,609	8,690	8,622	8,998	1.6%
Skateboarding	Individual Sports	6,436	6,442	6,382	6,500	6,610	8,872	7.4%
Fishing (Fly)	Outdoor Activities	6,089	6,456	6,791	6,939	7,014	7,753	5.0%
Archery	Individual Sports	8,378	7,903	7,769	7,654	7,449	7,249	-2.8%
Football (Flag)	Team Sports	5,829	6,173	6,551	6,572	6,783	7,001	3.8%
Softball (Slow-Pitch)	Team Sports	7,114	7,690	7,283	7,386	7,071	6,349	-2.1%
Martial Arts	Individual Sports	5,507	5,745	5,838	5,821	6,068	6,064	2.0%
Stationary Cycling	Aerobic Activities	35,553	36,118	36,035	36,668	9,930	6,054	-5.0%
Badminton	Racquet Sports	7,198	7,354	6,430	6,337	6,095	5,862	-3.9%
Volleyball (Court)	Team Sports	6,423	6,216	6,317	6,317	6,487	5,410	-3.1%
Football (Tackle)	Team Sports	6,222	5,481	5,224	5,157	5,107	5,054	-4.0%
Volleyball (Beach/Sand)	Team Sports	4,785	5,489	4,947	4,770	4,400	4,320	-1.7%
Pickleball	Racquet Sports	2,506	2,815	3,132	3,301	3,460	4,199	11.0%
Bicycling (BMX)	Outdoor Activities	2,690	3,104	3,413	3,439	3,648	3,880	7.7%
Gymnastics	Team Sports	4,679	5,381	4,805	4,770	4,699	3,848	-3.2%
Stand Up Paddling	Water Sports	3,020	3,220	3,325	3,453	3,562	3,675	4.0%
Racquetball	Racquet Sports	3,883	3,579	3,526	3,480	3,453	3,426	-2.4%
Cheerleading	Team Sports	3,608	4,029	3,816	3,841	3,752	3,308	-1.4%
Tai Chi	Conditioning	3,651	3,706	3,787	3,761	3,793	3,300	-1.8%
Swimming on a Team	Team Sports	2,892	3,369	3,007	3,045	2,822	2,615	-1.5%
Kayaking (White Water)	Water Sports	2,518	2,552	2,500	2,562	2,583	2,605	0.7%
Scuba Diving	Water Sports	3,274	3,111	2,874	2,849	2,715	2,588	-4.6%
Cardio Tennis	Racquet Sports	1,821	2,125	2,223	2,499	2,501	2,503	6.8%
Mixed Martial Arts for Fitness	Individual Sports	2,612	2,446	2,376	2,365	2,405	2,445	-1.3%
Ultimate Frisbee	Team Sports	4,409	3,673	3,126	2,710	2,290	2,325	-11.8%
Ice Hockey	Team Sports	2,546	2,697	2,544	2,447	2,357	2,270	-2.2%
Adventure Racing	Individual Sports	2,864	2,999	2,529	2,215	2,143	1,966	-7.0%
Lacrosse	Team Sports	2,094	2,090	2,171	2,098	2,115	1,884	-2.0%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	Individual Sports	2,498	2,374	2,162	2,168	2,001	1,846	-5.8%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	Team Sports	2,460	2,467	2,309	2,303	2,242	1,811	-5.6%
Roller Hockey	Team Sports	1,907	1,929	1,834	1,734	1,616	1,500	-4.6%
Rugby	Team Sports	1,349	1,550	1,621	1,560	1,392	1,242	-1.2%

**Legend**

	>3% Increase
	1-3% Increase
	Minimal Change
	1-3% Decrease
	>3% Decrease



### 5.7.3 Aging Communities

Throughout the United States and in Orange Township, the median age of the population is increasing. It is currently 35.5 in Orange Township (up from 31.2 in 2000) and 38.5 in the USA. The number of persons in the age group 65 and over is growing rapidly. Census data indicates that the percentage of the Orange Township population age 65 and older was just 4% in 2000 but is expected to increase to reach over 16% by 2025 (see Chapter 2).

The relative health of these individuals is better than ever before, and they desire more active recreation than their predecessors. Senior centers are shifting from a focus on activities like card games to more active programming such as fitness activities and outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and nature programs.

While the aging population should inspire parks and recreation agencies to invest more in activities, programs, and facilities for older users such as walking trails, fishing areas, community gardens, and cultural and nature education programs, many of these more involved and nature-oriented activities are appealing to all generations.

The big picture data is certainly mirrored at the local level in Orange Township. The surveys and other forms of public engagement (see Chapter 4) show strong community support for expanding programs and facilities to accommodate residents age 50+ and older.



Photo credit: The Conversation (2017)  
*"Why Communities Should Be Designing Parks for Older Adults"*

### 5.7.4 Universal Access

Many park systems are developing unique facilities that are designed to go well beyond the minimum requirement for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Park system administrators are uniquely positioned to set the best example for inclusivity - by creating an environment that is totally accessible to persons of all ages and abilities, parks and recreation agencies are changing the landscape not just physically but also culturally and in terms of mental health.

Some simple examples of physical treatments that go beyond the basic ADA requirements: textured edging on trails help to make the facilities more accessible for the visually impaired; fragrant plants and sensory gardens, as well as interactive displays provide a more hands-on approach to education and engagement; including therapeutic textures, ground-level features, and mobility-enhancing elements like ramps or bridges in playground equipment ensures all children – including those who are differently-abled – have space to play.



Photo credit: Ann Arbor's Universal Access Park  
*Ann Arbor's Universal Access Park*

Universal access extends beyond the physical to include interpretive signage, buildings, and all programs. Providing barrier-free parks is an essential part of the process for any park improvement. Most equipment providers now have a wide variety of accessible options, and grant funding is potentially available for many improvements.<sup>10</sup>

Some existing playgrounds in the township need improvement, the township has an opportunity to prioritize accessibility and universal access for the benefit of the community whenever playgrounds are added, improved, or replaced. North Orange Park playground provides several accessible features; however, not all play equipment offers universal access for a fully engaging and participatory experience.

<sup>10</sup> For example: <https://www.playandpark.com/funding/grant-opportunities> via PlayCore

### 5.7.5 Fitness and Wellness

State and federal level agencies have placed strong emphasis on improving the health and fitness of individuals throughout the United States. Many local-level parks and recreation departments are building on this message.

Fitness facilities no longer have to be confined to indoor spaces; modern equipment exists that can be installed outdoors. Including outdoor fitness equipment in Neighborhood and Community Parks can serve as an alternative with added benefits of being outdoors. Columbus Recreation and Parks offers outdoor fitness equipment at six of their parks, although the closest is about 20 minutes away at Woodward Park. This equipment closely resembles what would be found at an indoor fitness center and could be installed at parks throughout the township at a fairly modest cost.



*Outdoor Fitness Equipment By KOMPAN*

Additionally, partnerships are key; many agencies collaborate with community health providers to offer fitness facilities and programs. The health benefits that can be provided by parks extend to mental health benefits as studies indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health.<sup>11</sup>

### 5.7.6 Technology

The use of technology is becoming increasingly common in parks and recreation. Many park users want to remain connected while visiting parks and expect instant access to information about facilities and programs at those parks. They also want to be able to register for the events and programs they discover on their mobile device. While there may sometimes be concerns about distraction, especially in nature-oriented spaces, technology – when applied intentionally – can be a tool to enhance park experience. Considering the extent to which technology is part of many user experiences across sectors, it is likely going to be an element necessary to keep people – especially youth – engaged.



*Smart Trail Signage, Denison, IA*

The use of technology in parks has many advantages. Wi-Fi access in parks enables users to stay connected via social media or other online activities, register for programming, and even interact more directly with staff (e.g., reporting maintenance issue or asking a question about scheduling). Installing device-charging benches gives people a place to keep those devices powered-up. Developing park-specific apps can inform visitors of opportunities at individual sites or system-wide. QR codes are yet another technological tool that visitors can use for quick access to information (e.g., tree and other plant identification, trail maps, park history and cultural context, park hours, etc.).

Employing technology in parks can supply helpful information for internal agency operations as well. For example, Wi-Fi hotspots record the number of connections or searches to create a picture of visitation trends.<sup>12</sup> Or, beacon counters can detect cellphone signals to help determine the number of users in an area.<sup>13</sup> Sensors along paths can distinguish between walkers, runners, and cyclists, as well as numbers for visitation frequency. Collectively, this type of data can describe information about popular visitation times, success of new features, and other descriptors. Orange Township could employ any current or future cameras

<sup>11</sup> National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," <http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/>, (April 8, 2019)

<sup>12</sup> National Recreation and Park Association, "Parks Using Technology to Engage and Inspire," <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017/may/parks-using-technology-to-engage-and-inspire/>, (May 1, 2017)

<sup>13</sup> Dolesh, R. J. (2019, January). Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2019. Parks & Recreation.

to measure and record park visitation. The existing broadband connections could also be used to provide Wi-Fi at high traffic locations.

Finally, social media is a means for interaction between parks users, parks staff, and the park itself. When visitors post to social web platforms, they assist with park promotion and help to encourage future use. Park agencies and staff have employed social media as a “crowd-sourced, data-gathering tool” for things like monitoring wildlife or vegetation, reporting invasive species, and identifying condition of trails.

The township currently maintains a limited social media presence. Providing social media content from the Park Department on various platforms (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) with updated, varied posts (e.g., video content, informational flyers, community polls, etc.) will be helpful for attracting followers, expanding impact, and promoting partnerships and programs. These posts could, in turn, provide the department with additional means of gathering information on park condition, plant health, visitation levels, and more.

### 5.7.7 Geocaching

Geocaching is a technology-based activity that has been growing in popularity since the early 2000s, when GPS technology improved significantly. Participants travel to local parks and open spaces to hunt for objects previously hidden by others using a set of coordinates and a digital GPS device (typically on a smart phone). Once found, participants generally exchange the now-discovered item for a new item, guaranteeing future use of the same geocache. The search can have varying levels of complexity - one cache leads to another or a puzzle must be completed.<sup>14</sup>

Several geocaches are already present in Orange Township. Highbanks Metro Park has one of 11 caches as part of Columbus Metro Parks geocaching program. Several caches are located in Alum Creek State Park that are part of the Ohio State Parks Geocache Challenge. Geocaches are also already present at some Orange Township parks, including Township Hall Park and Orange Bridge Park.<sup>15</sup>



Geocaching

The township has not yet developed guidelines for geocachers, but the Ohio State Parks permitting process could serve as a relevant example for how best facilitate geocaching in Orange Township. Opportunities may also exist for the department to promote and encourage this activity by creating their own caches or partnering to organize community geocaching events.

### 5.7.8 Environmental Education

According to the public input in Chapter 4, there is a need for expanded environmental education in Orange Township. Environmental education centers throughout the country are having great success as communities are seeking out better access to engage with and learn from their natural environment. Potential subjects include natural processes, resource management, and wildlife habitats.

Environmental education cultivates understanding of the benefits of natural habitats and open spaces (including those in Orange Township). Many park departments develop outreach strategies to bring environmental curriculum into schools. Not only does this outreach promote and encourage greater use and appreciation of local parks in the



Environmental Education Center at Lord Stirling Park, Basking Ridge, NJ

<sup>14</sup> National Recreation and Park Association, “How to Leverage Geocaching to Promote Park and Recreation Events,” <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017/october/how-to-leverage-geocaching-to-promote-park-and-recreation-events/>. (October 5, 2017)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.geocaching.com/play/search>



community, but it also creates opportunity for collaboration between organizations, institutions, and advocacy groups and it helps instill a lasting connection to the natural world.

Nature education has the potential to engage all ages and abilities; nature-oriented programs are an effective way to create space for intergenerational encounters. Creating environmental education opportunities that appeal to the community involves considering formats like guided hikes, camps, community events, field trips, or special-interest classes and topics such as habitat restoration, wildlife identification, or invasive species removal.

Nature programs in Orange Township have obvious potential for partnerships with Columbus Metro Parks, Delaware County Preservations Parks, and Ohio State Parks all operating large properties in the township. Not only do these agencies own the land, but their missions are a better match for these programs.



*Environmental Education at Mammoth Cave, KY*

Orange Township does offer natural areas in several parks, including Township Hall Parks and North Orange Park. These sites could potentially host nature education programs or educational signage at a minimum. There is also potential throughout the park system to restore some mowed areas to meadow or woodland, providing nature education opportunities while reducing maintenance requirements.

### 5.7.9 Birdwatching (or Birding)

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service nearly 50 million Americans participate in birdwatching (as of 2011) or about 20 percent of the population. The most common form of birding is watching birds near one's home; however, 38% of birders, or 18 million people, participate in birding away from the home. Participants in birdwatching tend to be older and more highly educated than the general population.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report also includes an analysis of the economic impact of birdwatching activities. Birdwatchers direct substantial amounts of dollars into the economy because of trip-related (\$15 million) and equipment expenditures (\$26 million). The report finds that the birding industry, including indirect effects resulting from the multiplier effect, generates over \$100 billion annually throughout the United States and supports 666,000 jobs. These expenditures lead to an additional \$6 million in state tax revenues and \$7 million in federal tax revenues.<sup>16</sup>



Alum Creek State Park (multiple areas), Highbanks Metro Park (multiple areas), and Shale Hollow Park are all identified on the Birding in Ohio website as hotspots for birdwatching.<sup>17</sup> The Delaware County Bird Club and Columbus Audubon both offer birdwatching programs near Orange Township. Orange Township Parks should establish a more formal relationship with these groups and others to collaborate and provide expanded birding opportunities.

### 5.7.10 Trails and Connectivity

Demand for trails, trail linkages, and pathways that connect parks, open spaces, and other destinations has been growing all over the country. Orange Township is no different as public input indicated high demand for trails despite the existing system. Even communities with extensive trail systems, like Orange Township, express continued desire to build more trails between schools, shopping areas, other community attractions, and

<sup>16</sup> Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis, Addendum to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2013.

<sup>17</sup> Ohio Ornithological Society, "Delaware County," <https://birding-in-ohio.com/delaware-county/>



neighborhoods. Livable communities where residents report a high quality of life generally have robust trail systems and reliable connectivity that support active, engaged lifestyles.

The high demand additional trails – both for recreational use and for transportation – was conveyed clearly through the public input process. The community would like to see extension and connection of existing trails plus additional trails in other areas of the township. Orange Township should continue to encourage new trails as part of residential development and should ensure trails are included in any new parks.



### 5.7.11 Nature Play Areas

Many parks and recreation agencies are placing increased emphasis on the availability of nature play areas and programming for children. The Natural Learning Initiative (NLI) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) recently released a document titled *Nature Play & Learning Places*, which provides a series of national guidelines for the creation of places for children to interact with nature. The guidelines are meant to support communities in providing opportunities for children to learn about their natural environment and to develop healthy active habits. The guidelines also encourage incorporating natural materials like plants, stones, water, fallen trees, etc. to augment sensory experience and facilitate tactile play. According to the guidelines, a nature play or learning place is:



Natural Play Structure (Silver Falls State Park – Oregon)

“A designated, managed area in an existing or modified outdoor environment where children of all ages and abilities play and learn by engaging with and manipulating diverse natural elements, materials, organisms, and habitats, through sensory, fine motor and gross motor experiences.”<sup>18</sup>

The following are examples of nature play features.

#### Natural Play Structures

Permanent play structures can be constructed from natural materials such as logs and rocks. The guidelines recommend engaging local children to generate ideas. It is best to use indigenous (native) materials in the design to ensure longevity.

#### Multipurpose Lawns

Multipurpose lawns, depending on size, can support a wide variety of activities and events. These lawns can be utilized for programmed and unprogrammed play for both large and small groups.

#### Meadows and Woodlands

Meadows or fields of native grasses, flowers, and non-woody plants provide ecosystems where children – and even their caretakers - can explore and observe wildlife, especially insects and birds. These landscapes stimulate curiosity and offer dynamic learning moments in ways that a carefully managed lawn cannot.

Woodlands also offer diverse ecosystems similarly prime for creating quality educational and play experiences. Visitors can witness natural processes like seasonal change, photosynthesis, and animal behavior.

<sup>18</sup> Moore, R. (2014). *Nature Play & Learning Places*. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation. Version 1.6. (pages vii, 5, 7-8, 51, 65, 71-83).

## Vegetable Gardens

Hands-on garden beds give visitors opportunities to participate in the growth of vegetables, herbs, and other edible plants, not to mention the benefit of tasting fresh produce. Children can discover different kinds of fresh food, learn more about what it takes to grow from seed, and better understand the source of the food they eat.

## Aquatics

Existing natural streams, ponds, wetlands, and marshes give children and others a chance to witness the dynamic cycles of water, weather, and the geology of a place. If not present naturally, these elements can be constructed to replicate these phenomena. Children can have multi-sensory interactions and even encounter new types of living creatures.

## Gathering and Performance Structures

It is a vital role of parks to give community space to gather. These structures - decks, patios, or gazebos - encourage social interaction and can be utilized for programming. To accommodate performances, these spaces can include things like stages, campfire circles, and amphitheater seating. These settings are also useful for team-building and group presentations.<sup>19</sup>

## Opportunities in Orange Township

Orange Township has great natural areas in the community provided by Columbus Metro Parks, Delaware County Preservations Parks, and Ohio State Parks. Shale Hollow Park (Preservation Parks) even offers a nature play area with sticks, rocks, and logs. In Orange Township parks, Township Hall Park provides potential for constructing a natural play space as the park is largely passive and currently lacks a playground. However, even simple elements of nature play can be incorporated into nearly any playground.

### 5.7.12 Mountain Bike and BMX Facilities

Off-road bicycling activities are growing in popularity, although they still represent a relatively small percentage of all bicycling activities. Modern mountain biking (MTB) originated in the 1970s in California with a group of enthusiasts who modified existing bikes for off-road use. These cyclists organized first downhill races which they called "Repack." This name referred to the need to "repack" the brakes with fresh grease after each race due to the excessive heat from braking during the descent.<sup>20</sup>

During the early years of mountain biking, enthusiasts used single-track trails intended for hiking as bikes were not specifically forbidden from using these trails. However, as



Vegetable Gardens



Missouri State Parks, Hawn State Park Amphitheater



Shale Hollow Park Natural Play Area



Mountain Bike Trail

<sup>19</sup> Moore, R. (2014). Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation. Version 1.6. (pages vii, 5, 7-8, 51, 65, 71-83).

<sup>20</sup> Marin Museum of Bicycling, "Mountain Biking History," <http://mmbhof.org/mtn-bike-hall-of-fame/history/>, (April 8, 2019).



the sport gained in popularity, bikes have been banned from most hiking trails, and single-track trails designed specifically for mountain bikes have been established.<sup>21</sup> More recently, a new style of trail called a “flow trail” has appeared which provides more predictable surfaces, banked turns, and a lack of obstacles. These trails require little peddling and minimal braking that appeal to a wider variety of users, including families. These trails can be designed to allow beginners to bypass any more technical trails.<sup>22</sup>



Another trend in off-road bicycle facilities is the pump track. These tracks, which began to appear in the 2000s, are looping tracks that can be ridden continuously without the need to pedal. A user's speed is dependent on “pumping” the terrain transitions of the track. A pump track requires approximately 50' by 50' of space (minimum) and generally feature a series of rollers and steeply bermed corners.<sup>23</sup> Unlike many of the other off-road facilities, pump tracks are usable by both mountain bike and BMX riders.

While no mountain bike trails are located within Orange Township, residents have easy access to extensive off-road trail in Alum Creek State Park, including the Gnomewood Skills Park with features for all ages and skill levels in Galena. As interest grows, the township should continue to partner with Columbus Metro Parks, Delaware County Preservations Parks, and Ohio State Parks to provide these types of offerings.

### 5.7.13 Splash Pads or Spraygrounds

Splash pads or spraygrounds are a growing trend in aquatics. While many agencies are replacing wading pools with these more accessible water attractions, they are often built as new standalone wet playgrounds. When compared to pools, spraygrounds have several benefits. Lack of standing water means lifeguards are not required, reducing operating costs significantly. In most instances, spraygrounds recirculate water. When built conscientiously, spraygrounds and splash pads achieve significantly universal accessibility.

Orange Township offers a large aquatic center at North Orange Park but does not currently offer any splash pads. The City of Delaware offers a splash pad at Veterans Park. The City of Columbus also offers several splash pads with the closest one located at Village Green Park, about 15 minutes away. Survey results and public input point to growing demand for these facilities in Orange Township. Additionally, there is considerable desire for water-based recreation and developing a splash pad would help the township address this demand without the maintenance of a swimming pool.



<sup>21</sup> Singletracks, “Visiting the Birthplace of Mountain Biking: Marin County, California,” <http://www.singletracks.com/blog/mtb-trails/visiting-the-birthplace-of-mountain-biking-marin-county-california/>, (April 8, 2019).

<sup>22</sup> IMBA, “Flow Trails,” <https://www.imba.com/model-trails/flow-trails>, (April 15, 2016).

<sup>23</sup> Adventure Sports Journal, “Pumpin’: An Introduction to the World of Pump Tracks,” <http://adventuresportsjournal.com/pumpin-an-introduction-to-the-world-of-pump-tracks/>, (April 8, 2019).

### 5.7.14 Dog Parks

Dog parks are in ever-increasing demand throughout the country. These spaces help to improve the interaction skills of dogs, while also providing social opportunities for dog owners. Quality dog parks require careful planning and a fairly extensive operating budget to ensure adequate maintenance and upkeep.

Optimally, a dog park is at least three acres in size and includes three separate areas: large dogs, small dogs, and a rotating unused area to allow for regeneration of turf. Some dog parks include an additional area for agility and training. Many dog parks are larger, reaching well over 10 acres in size. Typical quality amenities include shade, seating, water (for both human and animal), and restrooms.

Orange Township does not currently offer a dog park, but there is one in Alum Creek State Park north of the township. According to the public input, residents would like to see a dog park within one of the township parks. As population growth continues in the community, the demand for this facility will likely continue to increase. A partnership with one of the county agencies might be a potential way to add a dog park in Orange Township.



Photo: Northbrook Dog Park  
Northbrook, IL

### 5.7.15 Creative Placemaking

The Trust for Public Land – a nonprofit organization with a mission to bring high-quality parks within a 10-minute walk of every person in the U.S. – is a leading champion of creative placemaking as a strategy for affecting change. Creative placemaking is a collaborative, community-based process that captures the power of art, vibrancy of local heritage, and potential of place to build memorable spaces rooted in culture and local identity. Parks and recreation agencies around the nation offer community connection in physical and social forms; creative-placemaking is just another tool for ensuring successful parks that equitably reflect the people who use them.<sup>24</sup> Many agencies partner with local entities (like other government departments, nonprofits, schools, places of worship, art institutions, and other groups) to put in place opportunities for resident-led installations, programs, and events.

Creative-placemaking can take countless forms. It may look like an outdoor sculpture walk at the center of the neighborhood park featuring resident and local artists' work. It might be an annual arts performance downtown that showcases immigrant and refugee cultures in the community. It can also be as low-profile as a pollinator garden including interpretive signage about the plants chosen and why. Whatever it may look like, it is essential that the community be inclusively integrated into every phase: ideation, selection (of artist(s), piece(s), feature(s), etc.), installation, activation, and long-term care.



Photo: Madisonville Creative  
Placemaking  
Billiter Studio

*Creative Placemaking in the Madisonville  
Neighborhood of Cincinnati (2015)*

When parks and recreation agencies prioritize local traditions, cultural identities, and native resources, making sure these are reflected in program and facility offerings, users will be more likely to participate and do their part to sustain the system. A reciprocal relationship forms, where community engages with parks and

<sup>24</sup> Trust for Public Land, Creative Placemaking, <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/creative-placemaking>



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recreation to the extent that parks and recreation seeks to provide place-based resources.

Orange Township could include creative placemaking into any future park improvement by incorporating it into the planning process. It provides an opportunity to make every park unique and to build and connect community around these parks. The proposed Veterans Memorial has the potential to provide creative placemaking opportunities.

There is a vibrant arts community in central Ohio, providing potential partnership opportunities to bring more opportunities to Orange Township. The Art of Music, located within Orange Township, already offers programs for children and could potentially be a partner for events and installations in the future. Many of the township's existing parks could host these amenities, especially along park trails, which would improve and enhance the user experience.

### 5.7.16 Drones

Since the late 2000s, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has increased tremendously. Used for both military and civilian purposes, these devices are having a considerable impact on parks and recreation agencies nationwide. A contentious activity, tensions exist around safety, privacy, and environmental impact, as well as applications (professional and recreational) like habitat and wildlife monitoring, photography, and map-making.

Popularity of drones is only growing, but regulations at the federal, state, and local levels have been slow to prevent, mitigate, or manage negative impacts. Many cities have enacted no-fly zones and other restrictions which means UAV-users – licensed or not – have limited available spaces. This then has led drone pilots to look to parks and public open space for flying opportunities.



Requiring permits (day or seasonal) and designating fly areas with set times for flying are tactics agencies are using. These measures help legitimize UAV use and maintain safe park spaces; permitting is also a potential revenue opportunity. Since drone use is only increasing, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) offers useful insight into the future of drone-use in parks:

"[P]ark agencies will face increasing public pressure to look at allowing hobbyist flights and commercial-use drones in parks... By creating stronger guidelines and policies about how to fly drones in parks instead of adopting blanket restrictions, parks can give people an outlet and place to fly recreationally. New programming and events can be planned around drones, bringing in visitors and related businesses that benefit the parks...[K]eep it focused on safety and respect for all parties. [A]cceptance will protect the public and park resources and enable an exciting new form of recreation to take place."<sup>25</sup>

Orange Township does not have a designated location for launching drones and lacks an official policy for flying them in the parks. Columbus Metro Parks does allow recreational drone use in their parks, so residents are free to fly their drones in Highbanks Metro Park. They do have guidelines for use that limit commercial use and filming without a permit. Additionally, the Westerville Model Aeronautics Association operates a 10-acre RC aircraft field in the below dam area of Alum Creek Lake. Delaware County Preservations Parks, in contrast, does not allow drone use in their parks without a special permit. As their popularity continues to increase, the township will likely need to designate such an area, as well as formulate and post a policy for (or against) use of drones within the park system.

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<sup>25</sup> Wootton, Courtney; Bradley, Michael J.; Ray Neal NRPA. Drones in Parks: It's All About Perspective. <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2018/december/drones-in-parks-its-all-about-perspective/>

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## 5.8 CONCLUSION

This chapter provides an assessment of needs for parks and recreation services in Orange Township. The analysis indicates a variety of parks and facilities are located throughout Orange Township; however, not all amenities are evenly distributed, and continued growth has the potential to increase this inequity.

The level of service standards outlined at the start of this chapter – and developed with public input from residents of Orange Township – provide a foundational guideline for the number of parks, open space, and recreation facilities needed in Orange Township. Overall, there is demand for more trails, more Neighborhood Parks, indoor/year-round opportunities, additional programming, and community events. In terms of indoor facilities specifically, senior and recreation centers surfaced repeatedly through public input. However, the township has a large number of private providers of indoor recreation facilities, and partnerships with these groups may have the potential to meet community needs and should be investigated prior to the development of township operated facilities.

The geographic analysis of service areas identifies specific areas to target for investment in additional parks and recreation facilities. The mapping analysis shows higher levels of service in the central and western half of the township, generally. **The findings described above, combined with public input requesting additional services and improved spaces, underscore the need for improvements to existing parks, more trails, development of additional Neighborhood Parks, and enhanced partnerships. These pursuits should be the highest priorities for the department moving forward.**

Responsive improvements, upgrades, and sustainable maintenance must be the focus, even as some proactive development is explored, to ensure comprehensive quality of life improvements for residents and visitors. Orange Township is in a good position to confront many of the trends discussed in this chapter that have not yet been addressed. The aging and somewhat diversifying population of Orange Township presents an additional incentive for the township to address many of these trends, including fitness programming, community events, universal access, nature education, and expansion of trails.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

The *2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails* represents a collective imagination of the future. While the action plan component (Chapter 9) is a detailed account of all the recommendations developed – both operational and capital – to guide investment priorities, the strategic plan component in this chapter is intended to provide the department with a clearly defined purpose and underlying motivation for tackling those action items.

Developed out of all the input gathered during the engage phase, and with full support of the steering committee, this strategic plan articulates a freshly inspired vision, mission, and set of defining values. These strategic elements will help pilot implementation of actions identified in this Master Plan, and thereby shape the future of parks and recreation in Orange Township. Also included at the end of this chapter are goals and objectives. These are incorporated later in the master plan in order to categorize and better define the wide range of recommendations in the action plan.

These strategic plan elements – vision, mission, goals, and subsequent objectives – will be instrumental for bringing the department's new vision and mission to life.

### 6.2 VISION

#### 6.2.1 Purpose of a Vision

A vision describes a unique horizon, an intended outcome. It defines a clear standard of accomplishment and in so doing, helps unify effort. A vision should:

1. Provide clear direction
2. Focus effort
3. Guide long-term action
4. Illustrate the department's purpose
5. Inspire and motivate
6. Visualize an ideal

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## 6.2.2 Vision for Orange Township Parks and Recreation

Fully informed by the values and visioning input generated by the steering committee, and with their support and approval, the following vision statement was crafted for Orange Township.

**Deliver dynamic park experiences that serve our diverse and growing population**

## 6.3 MISSION

### 6.3.1 Purpose of a Mission

A mission defines the daily work and an enduring purpose. More specifically, a mission should answer questions like what the department does, how, and why it does this. The mission is an action-oriented statement that informs day-to-day action.

Like the vision statement, the mission should be easy to remember and to share with others. It should be the foundation of all departmental decision-making.

### 6.3.2 Mission for Orange Township Parks and Recreation

Building from the foundational visioning exercise conducted with the Master Plan Steering Committee – and in consideration of the factors described above – the following mission statement is proposed for the Orange Township Park Department moving forward.

**Enrich life through people, parks, and experiences**

## 6.4 VALUES FOR ORANGE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

### 6.4.1 Purpose of Values

An organization's values serve as a "lighthouse" of guiding principles, informed by personal and organizational beliefs. Values are straightforward phrases or words that should:

1. Direct staff conduct
2. Express department ideals
3. Reflect department personality
4. Complement community's aspirations
5. Communicate what is important
6. Ensure quality staff experience
7. Instill positive focus system-wide

### 6.4.2 Core Values

Core values should be unique to the department and indicative of the attitudes, ambitions, and focus shared by the department and the community. Using insights from the steering committee discussions, and feedback generated through public engagement, the following are offered as foundational values for guiding the future work of the department:

**Community** – Providing innovative opportunities that bring the community together

**Quality** – Delivering excellence, transparency, and safety to the community

**Connectivity** – Guiding the community to enjoyment, wellbeing, and each other

**Accessibility** – Ensuring convenient, inclusive, and affordable community access to parks and facilities

**Health** – Improving physical and mental wellness throughout the community



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## 6.5 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### 6.5.1 Function of Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives identify areas of strategic priority and provide the broad, overarching organization for departmental actions. Together, goals and objectives:

1. Provide focus for actions and aspirations
2. Shape a designated timeframe for improvements
3. Create direction for investments of time, skills, and resources
4. Clarify what the department will and will not do

Generally, goals describe elements of the vision, defining what is achievable through the daily execution of the mission. Objectives – and therefore specific strategies or recommendations – fit within the scope of each goal.

Goals:

1. Overarching areas of strategic priority
2. Broad descriptions of intent
3. Rooted in outcome, rather than specific activity
4. Longest timeframe (i.e., as long as it takes to accomplish the vision)

Objectives:

1. Frame individual actions
2. More detailed description of what needs to be done
3. Measurable metrics (e.g., “increase,” “reduce,” “consolidate,” “improve,” “distribute”)
4. Variable timeframes (0-2, 3-5, 6-10 years)

### 6.5.2 Proposed Goals and Objectives for Orange Township Parks and Recreation

The following goals and objectives are intended to help guide improvements, operations, and services in parks and recreation in Orange Township over the next 10 years.

#### Goal 1: Quality Parks and Facilities

Enhance quality of life for everyone in Orange Township by equitably providing exceptional amenities and flexible spaces for recreation, wellness, and socialization

Objective 1.1 – **Places:** Provide innovative parks that serve and engage the community

Objective 1.2 – **Amenities:** Pursue responsive development and strategic replacement of structures and support features

Objective 1.3 – **Land Management:** Employ strategic partnership and development policies to ensure community access to parks and open space in the present and the future

Objective 1.4 – **Proactive Maintenance:** Enhance safety, accessibility, quality, and cost effectiveness by continuously examining maintenance standards and best practices

#### Goal 2: Community Connections

Cultivate a wide variety of physical and social connections throughout the entire community

Objective 2.1 – **Access:** Add, expand, and improve connections and transportation options to parks, schools, and community resources

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Objective 2.2 – **Gathering:** Offer attractive, accessible, and inviting opportunities that promote community interaction

Objective 2.3 – **Nature:** Provide connections between the community and the natural environment through access, preservation, and education

### **Goal 3: Continuous Engagement**

Engage residents and partner agencies to ensure the delivery of innovative, accessible, and inclusive experiences that adapt to the changing needs of the diverse community

Objective 3.1 – **Engagement:** Meaningfully connect with residents and partners to assess needs, eliminate barriers, and ensure availability of unique experiences

Objective 3.2 – **Partnerships:** Prioritize relationship-building and information-sharing to effectively tackle collective goals across the community

Objective 3.3 – **Diverse Opportunities:** Encourage healthy lifestyles, exploration, and learning through a wide variety of activities and events

Objective 3.4 – **Promotion:** Utilize innovative and inclusive outreach methods to raise awareness of opportunities in Orange Township

### **Goal 4: Responsible Operations**

Employ strong leadership to implement best practices that ensure efficient management, exceptional customer service, and sustainable operations

Objective 4.1 – **Structure:** Encourage an engaged and well-trained workforce of valued staff with a culture of innovation

Objective 4.2 – **Operations:** Implement clear standards for training and performance to ensure quality, adaptable, and innovative services

Objective 4.3 – **Funding:** Explore creative operational practices and funding strategies to maximize the quality and effectiveness of parks, facilities, and operations

## **6.6 STRATEGIES**

As previously mentioned, specific strategies for each of the objectives listed above are provided later in this document. These strategies will be discussed in Chapter 7 (organized in categories) as well as listed in the Action Plan (Chapter 9), which also identifies a timeframe, responsible party, and potential funding source.

## SYSTEMWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

Orange Township's population has been growing rapidly for decades, but the park system has not grown at the same rate. Fortunately, the township's parks and facilities are generally in good condition, and other agencies provide a wide variety of spaces and programs, helping to meet the growing needs of the community. While this Master Plan identifies needs for new investment by township leaders, the continuation and growth of partnerships with other provinces will be critical to meeting the future needs of the Orange Township community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted how and whether users experience parks and recreation. In this time of public health inequity and economic disruption, people everywhere are experiencing the effects of having (or not having) access to open space and parks.<sup>1</sup> For over two years, the coronavirus pandemic has impacted communities, and public parks and open space continue to provide respite, solace, and connection. Parks have helped people cope, and they have and will continue to help communities recover.<sup>2</sup>

Families, seniors, youth, and everyone in between will always need ample opportunity to connect socially, to practice healthy habits, and to enjoy all the benefits of time in nature. Parks and recreation agencies across the nation have a critical role to play in a brighter, more equitable future. The recommendations in this chapter are intended to guide Orange Township through a post-pandemic future and continued growth in the community.

This chapter presents observations and findings gained through the first three phases of this Master Planning process – Evaluate, Engage, and Envision. These systemwide recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Existing Park Improvements
- Outdoor Athletic Fields and Courts
- Trails and Connectivity
- New Park and Facility Development
- Natural Areas, Open Space, and Nature Education

<sup>1</sup> McCormick, Kathleen. Room to Roam: The Pandemic Has Underscored the Need for More Urban Parks; So What Comes Next? Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. <https://www.lincolnst.edu/publications/articles/2020-10-room-roam-pandemic-urban-parks-what-comes-next>. Accessed November 2020.

<sup>2</sup> A Trust for Public Land Special Report: Parks and the Pandemic. <https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/Parks%20and%20Pandemic%20-%20TPL%20special%20report.pdf>

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- Programming
  - Operations, Promotion, and Partnerships
  - Budget and Funding

Recommendations by park are provided in Chapter 8, along with detailed cost estimates for the proposed improvements.

## 7.2 EXISTING PARK IMPROVEMENTS

### 7.2.1 Observations and Analysis

Through the public input process, Orange Township residents voiced a strong desire for improvements to existing parks. According to the Mail Survey, 83% of households support upgrades to existing parks – the third ranked action, after trails and preservation of natural areas. Ninety-six percent (96%) of households who visited parks rated conditions as good (58%) or excellent (38%), and only 4% rated them as fair. These numbers are far above the National Benchmarking by ETC Institute, which shows an average of 29% for excellent. These numbers indicated support for enhancements and additional amenities over simply replacement of existing features.

As far as specific upgrades to existing parks, the top responses in both surveys were trails (see Section 7.4) and restrooms. Shade structures were next, followed by playground equipment, picnic shelters, security cameras and lighting, sidewalks, trees and landscaping, and drinking fountains, all requested by over 20% of households in the Mail Survey. While many Orange Township parks already have these amenities to some degree, more are required to meet the needs of the community. Additionally, residents tend to notice the areas where they are missing. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has put pressure to accelerate transitioning from standard drinking fountains to bottle filler stations. Accessibility deficiencies were noted throughout the park system, most frequently the lack of sidewalks leading to amenities. Respondents to the Web Survey – those that tend to use park more often – were nearly twice as likely as the population as a whole to indicate the need for handicap accessibility at existing parks (19% web, 10% mail). Many respondents to the web survey requested universal changing tables in restrooms.

The need for playground equipment (in the top 5 for improvements to existing parks) is related to the need for additional equipment at existing playgrounds – for more age groups and more accessible – and demand for more playgrounds with easier access to neighborhoods throughout the community. Some Orange Township parks that currently lack playgrounds could accommodate them (e.g., Township Hall and North Road), but playgrounds at new parks (see Section 7.5) will also be needed to provide the desired level of access. Specific improvements are outlined in Chapter 8.

Additional signage is needed throughout the park system. Many parks entrances lack signage, especially at secondary entrances. Wayfinding signage that exists within parks is limited and wayfinding between parks across the township is also lacking. This need will be especially apparent along trails as connectivity improves.

Any plan produced after the beginning of the pandemic in 2020 will be different from those completed pre-pandemic. Among its numerous impacts, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed an incredible demand for outdoor gathering spaces. With many gatherings and activities moved outside, more people are realizing the pleasure of being in the open air, and there will likely be continued demand for these experiences. Orange Township offers picnic shelters or pavilions of various sizes in six parks. However, only five of the facilities are reservable for planned events (Glen Oak-2, North Orange, Ro, and Township Hall). Some of the other existing shelters, including Walker Wood, are large enough to accommodate rental use. North Road Park and other future parks could also offer additional rental and gathering opportunities. Shelters also have the potential to host a variety of programs, including nature programs, classes, and more. Demand for these facilities is likely to continue to increase, especially adjacent to new or expanded facilities.

Orange Township Parks has just begun implementing technology-related improvements at parks. Orange Township still has room to better utilize technology in the parks, such as park apps and mobile device charging stations. A park app with information about facilities, programs, and events offered by both Orange Township and other providers would be a great opportunity for partnerships. Such an app would also enhance user



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experience of the parks. Few Orange Township parks offer Wi-Fi hotspots, though many households indicated a desire for this amenity. The township should expand its efforts to offer public Wi-Fi access at parks with signage to indicate availability.

Individual parks undergoing significant investment should have master plans finalized prior to new development or redevelopment. This process will help ensure facilities are accessible, complementary features are located appropriately, and, most importantly, desired features fit on the site. Planning is a critical tool for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of maintenance, making it easier to be proactive, instead of reactive, in the face of challenges and changing circumstances.

## **7.2.2 Recommendations**

1. Add support features throughout the park system such restrooms, seating/benches, shade structures, drinking fountains, trees & landscaping
  - Include bottle fillers at all new drinking fountains and whenever existing features are replaced
  - Add restrooms to parks that do not currently offer them, if usage rates support the facility
2. Add and upgrade signage – entrance, wayfinding, interpretive, and informative – throughout the park system
  - Consider preparing a new, branded signage package
3. Add and expand playgrounds throughout the township
  - Add new playgrounds to meet service gaps
  - Update older playgrounds and include separate age 2-5 equipment
  - Consider themed playground equipment, such as climbing rocks, sensory features, etc., potentially providing for marketing and resident/visitor photo opportunities
4. Incorporate nature play elements as part of playground development and replacement, especially in more passive park areas
5. Add picnic shelters throughout the park system to increase overall access to these facilities, as well as make them more inviting, and to facilitate opportunities for outdoor community gatherings and programs
  - Consider opening more existing shelters to rental opportunities
6. Add Wi-Fi access to parks; promote park hotspots once available to ensure awareness
7. Upgrade and utilize technology in parks for the benefit of both patrons and staff (see Chapter 5, Technology, Subsection 5.7.6)
8. Pursue and implement an ADA accessibility audit of all facilities, programs, and communications
9. Improve ADA access throughout the park system, ensuring accessible walkways to all facilities and seating areas
10. Prepare park master plans for existing parks and any future parks prior to development of facilities to ensure that added features are complementary, desired, and fully accessible
11. Acquire land contiguous to existing parks, if it becomes available, to allow for additional features and increase the total amount of parkland available to residents with minimal impact to system maintenance and operations

## **7.3 OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FIELDS AND COURTS**

### **7.3.1 Observations and Analyses**

Compared to the benchmarks, Orange Township provides a lower level of service for youth softball fields and youth baseball fields offering only the two fields at Ro Park. However, the township has a higher service level for multipurpose rectangular fields with fields at four different parks. The site assessments (see Chapter 3) indicated that the fields are generally in good condition but need some minor improvements, such as accessible walkways and seating. Most households (64%, according to the Mail Survey) support upgrading or adding athletic fields, and just over half (54%) support adding lighting.

The three basketball courts offer a lower level of service than the benchmarks (one per 11,500 compared to a median of one per 7,100). The township has no tennis courts and matching the benchmark (one per 4,700) would require seven courts. However, the school system and other jurisdictions meet the need for courts. The township also lacks courts for the fast-growing sport of pickleball.

As the population of Orange Township continues to grow and the makeup of the population changes, needs will grow and shift. When parks are improved, there will likely be opportunities to meet changing needs. To best meet both existing and future needs, optimizing multipurpose space at fields and courts is a useful tool for the township to use in the face of finite resources.

### 7.3.2 Athletic Fields

Although Orange Township only has two baseball/softball diamond fields at Ro Park, public input did not indicate a large need for additional fields. However, as the population continues to grow, additional fields will be needed just to maintain the same level of service. Since no existing parks have space to accommodate new diamond fields, new fields will need to be developed at new parks or through partnerships. Lighting of existing or future fields can also increase potential field capacity.

The township has 11 full-sized multipurpose rectangular fields at four parks, with the largest number (5) at North Road Park, taking up most of the space at that park. These fields provide a much higher level of service than the benchmark communities, providing one field per 3,143 people compared to the benchmark of one field per 11,109. These fields in Orange Township are used by both recreational and travel leagues.

Because national trends indicate faster growth of sports that use multipurpose rectangular fields than those using diamond fields, the need for multipurpose fields will likely continue to grow. In fact, despite the much higher level of service, public input, including the surveys, indicated a greater need for more multipurpose fields over diamond fields. The high demand for new facility development at North Road Park – the last large tract of township-owned open space – may impact the amount of field space at the park. Lighting can increase potential field capacity of existing fields.

Several stakeholders indicated a desire for artificial turf fields. This type of field can better withstand heavy use, limiting turf damage and reducing the number of rainouts due to poor drainage. Adding artificial turf to existing fields would help meet expanding needs, while improving and extending turf durability and decreasing the maintenance load. Due to the upfront costs involved, partnerships may be necessary to develop these fields.

Fields by others will continue to meet many of the community's needs for athletic fields. One notable upcoming development is the Jennings Sports Park, which is part of Evans Farms development. This 57-acre complex is expected to provide 10 artificial turf fields. Two are expected to be baseball fields with the remaining used for soccer or multiuse for a variety of sports, including baseball, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and football.<sup>3</sup> These fields should help meet the growing need for field space, especially for the travel leagues.

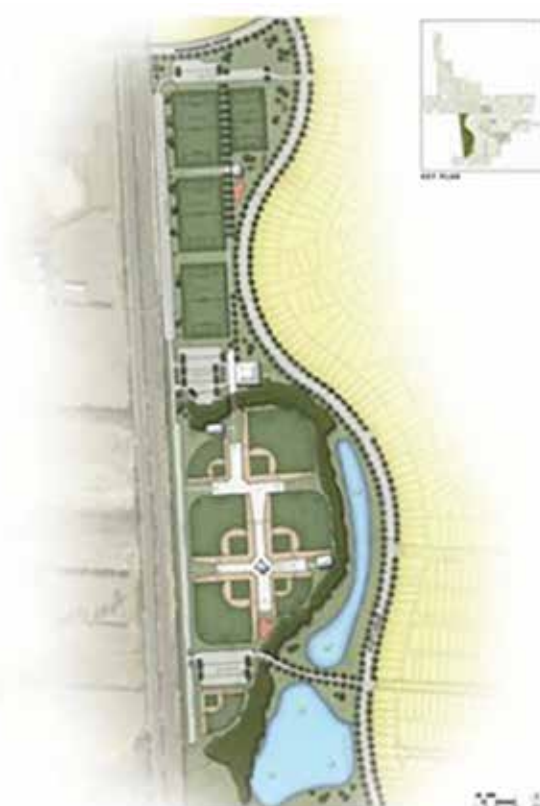


Image Source: Evans Farms Newsletter

Jennings Sports Park

<sup>3</sup> Columbus Business First, "\$20M sports park back at Delaware County mega-development," <https://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2020/03/03/20m-sports-park-back-at-delaware-county-mega.html>. (March 3, 2020)

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### 7.3.3 Game Courts

As noted previously, pickleball is a rising trend in parks and recreation across the country, due in part to its popularity with older residents. Orange Township has not yet responded to this trend. Often as a first step to meeting demand for pickleball courts, lines are added to existing tennis courts; however, Orange Township does not currently operate any tennis courts, eliminating this option. Pickleball lines are sometimes added to basketball courts as well, but the township also has a limited number of these courts as well with more requested.

### 7.3.4 Recommendations

1. Consider adding basketball courts in areas of the township where none are available
2. Expand capacity of existing fields in Orange Township
  - Consider adding artificial turf at multipurpose rectangular fields at North Road Park, preferable as part of a public-private partnership
  - Consider lighting at North Road Park fields, especially any artificial turf fields; ensure all lighting is energy efficient and calibrated to reduce light pollution and bleed into township neighborhoods
3. Seek partnerships with developers of the Jennings Sports Park at Evans Farms for coordination of field needs and possible shared use of fields
4. Add pickleball courts at least one park in Orange Township to help meet existing and growing demand
5. Add basketball courts throughout township parks to meet needs of residents, with smaller half court facilities in Neighborhood Parks
6. Ensure ADA accessibility to all athletic fields and in every spectator area, including connecting pathways
7. Consider field and court needs during renovations of existing and development of new parks – make multiuse spaces wherever possible

## 7.4 TRAILS AND CONNECTIVITY

### 7.4.1 Observations and Analyses

Throughout the country, trails consistently emerge at the top for desired improvements, even in jurisdictions that have extensive networks. In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic only emphasized the demand for trails as park usage rates skyrocketed, and trails were one of the best options for outdoor, physically-distanced activities. Orange Township is no different; residents have clearly communicated their preference for more trail connectivity, through stakeholder discussions, open house engagement, and survey responses.

According to the benchmarking in Chapter 2, Orange Township has 10.9 miles of trail per 10,000 population, well above the median of the benchmark communities (3.2 miles). However, most of the trails are located outside of parks as part of the township's trail network. County and state park agencies (Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, and Ohio State Parks) offer over 40 additional miles of trails in Orange Township. Many more trail opportunities are available just outside of the township.

According to the survey results, trails are the most desired park and recreation improvements in Orange Township, despite the already relatively high level of service for these facilities. Sixty-one percent (61%) of households indicated desire for additional trails within existing parks. Most Orange Township households (81%) expressed a need for walking and hiking trails, which then ranked third for unmet needs (over 4,300 households). Additionally, walking & hiking trails ranked first in the Priority Investment Rankings (by ETC) for new facilities, and paved bike trails ranked second.

Nearly all households (85%) were supportive of developing new and connecting existing trails in Orange Township. Walking & hiking trails also ranked as the most important facility in general to Orange Township households with over half (51%) ranking them as one of the four most important facilities. The second most important facilities were paved bike trails (31%).

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## 7.4.2 Connectivity

About 37% of the population lives within a 10-minute walk to a park, including 13% to a township park and another 19% to a school property with recreation amenities (5% to parks by others). Many households indicated the desire for better connectivity, and 8% of households indicated they do not use parks because they are too far from their home. One way Orange Township can improve 10-minute walk access is by expanding connections to existing parks as potential improved linkages exist between neighborhoods and existing parks. These connections would increase access without building new parks while also completing gaps in the existing trail network.

The *Orange Township Trail Master Plan* has been updated periodically since it was first developed in 2008 as part of the *Orange Township Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan 2008* and was most recently updated in 2015. The plan provides recommendations for a township-wide trail system that connects with adjacent communities. Figure 7.1 provides an update to the trail master plan incorporating planning efforts by others and some potential park linkages. The document should be continuously updated to identify potential future corridors additional linkages between parks.

The establishment and continued improvement of a trail system coincides with the “10-Minute Walk Campaign” led by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), Trust for Public Land (TPL), and Urban Land Institute – a national movement supported by hundreds of communities across the country to ensure everyone has walkable access to parks and trails.<sup>4</sup> Trail and connectivity improvements in Orange Township will continue to establish safe routes, create alternate means of transportation, increase access to parks and destinations throughout the township, as well as contribute to an overall sense of community cohesion.

## 7.4.3 Park Trails

In addition to connectivity in the community and to parks, Orange Township residents desire more trail opportunities within parks, including both existing and any future parks. Any future parks developed by the township should include paved perimeter walking trails and should consider any other potential trail opportunities at the site. Additionally, it will be important for the township to coordinate with other agencies and developers to ensure parks by others include trails, including any potential neighborhood connections.

At existing parks, the trail at North Road Park does not yet form a complete loop and has the potential for a longer trail through a partnership with the schools around their three outer fields. The Township Hall Park trails could potentially be improved and be lighted for extended use, especially during the winter months.

Need for mountain bike trails in the area is currently met by the extensive trails at Alum Creek State Park, just outside of the township limits and other opportunities in the region. However, the demand for these trails continues to grow and the public input indicated some demand for additional trails in the township. While the township does not currently have any land suitable for additional mountain bike trails, potential opportunities should be evaluated if they materialize on township-owned land or through partnerships.

## 7.4.4 Recommendations

1. Continue to periodically update Orange Township Trail Master Plan to ensure that the trail network continues to connect and grow, especially as new residential and commercial areas are planned and developed
2. Continue to expand the trail network through new trails and connections between existing segments
3. Coordinate with adjoining communities to promote regional connectivity
4. Offer paved trail loops at all parks that can accommodate the feature; include paved trail loops in any future parks

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<sup>4</sup> NRPA, TFPL, and ULI's 10-Minute Walk campaign: <https://10minutewalk.org/>



Figure 7.1: Orange Township Trail Master Plan

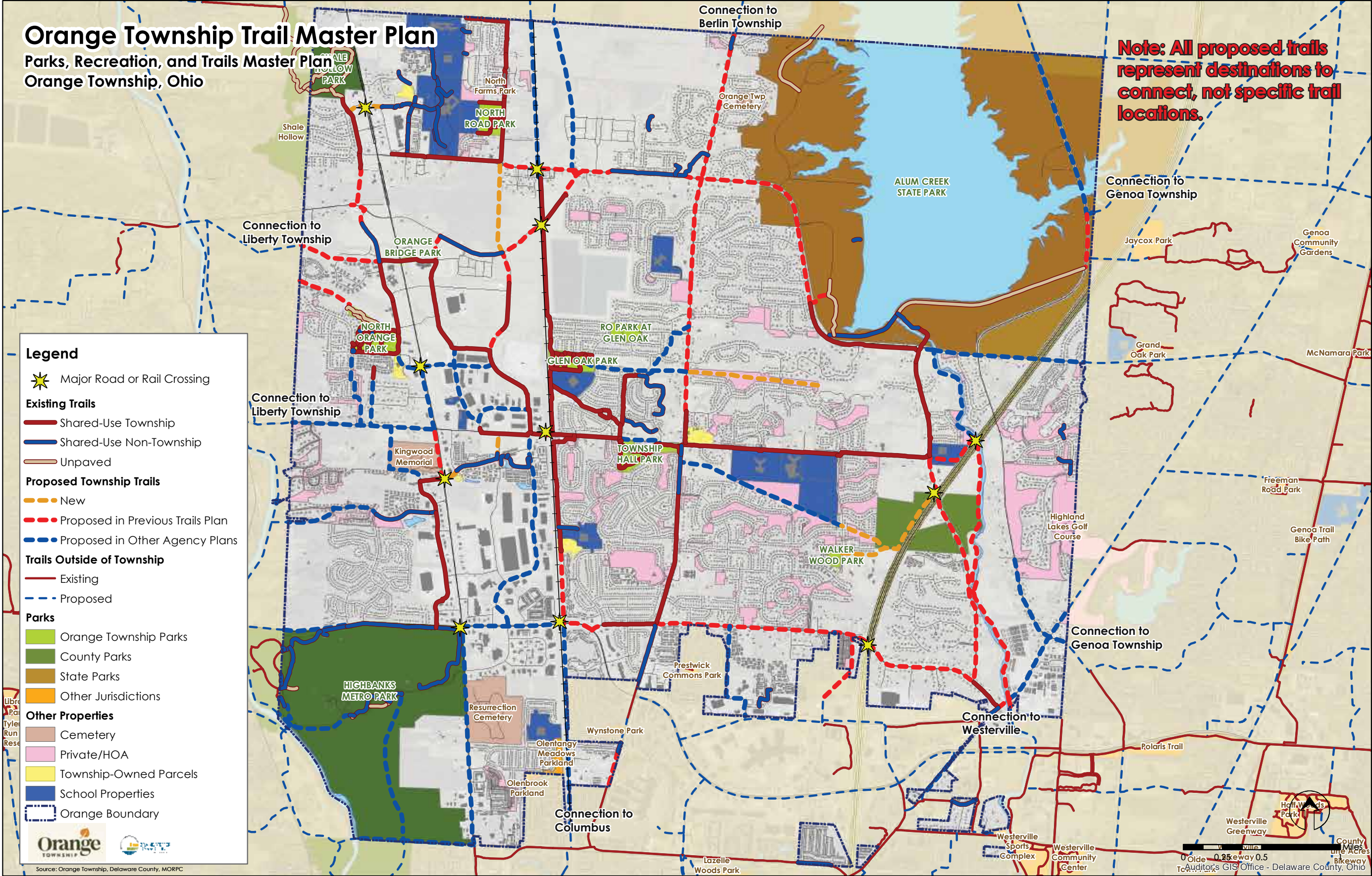
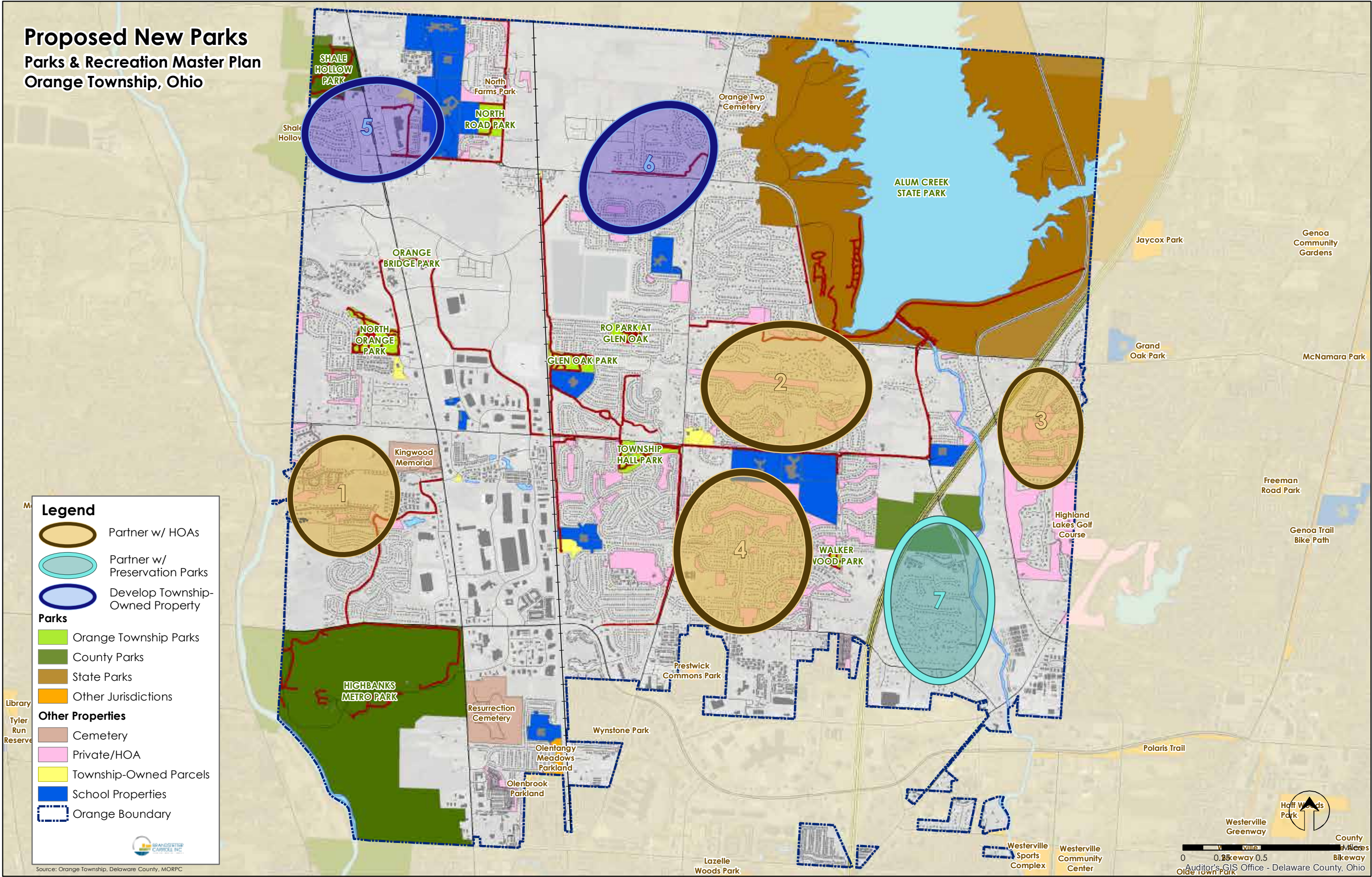




Figure 7.2: Proposed New Parks





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5. Consider adding trail lighting to the trail in Township Hall Park to enable extended use during fall and winter months
  6. Improve connectivity between parks and adjacent neighborhoods by adding connecting paths where possible
  7. Evaluate any future opportunities for mountain bike trails on township-owned land or through partnerships

## 7.5 NEW PARK AND FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

### 7.5.1 Observations and Analyses

Trends indicate a rapidly growing population in Orange Township since 2000 that is expected to continue at a somewhat slower rate through the next decade. The recently released US Census data indicate a population of 37,452, well above previous estimates. As the total population continues to grow, the composition is also changing. The township has done fairly well at keeping pace with trends but has not met all of the changing needs of residents which is a reason for which this Master Plan is needed.

The median age in Orange Township (35.5) has increased substantially since 2000 (31.2), although lower than the State of Ohio and the USA. The population age 65 and over has increased substantially as a percentage since 2000, jumping from 4.4% to a projected 16.1% by 2025. At the same time, the percentage of children (under age 18) is declining only slightly and is much higher than the comparisons, likely due to continued population growth. These numbers support a growing demand for senior activities – also indicated through the public input – and the continued importance of facilities and activities for children and their families.

Like most communities in the USA, educational attainment has increased in Orange Township since 2000. As of 2020, two-thirds (67%) of residents over 25 have a bachelor's degree or above, higher than the rest of Delaware County and more than twice the rate of Ohio (30%). Income in Orange Township is similarly higher than the comparisons. The township, although still largely white, has become more diverse since 2010 with the largest growth in the Asian population, although minority populations in general are growing more rapidly. These demographic changes are expected to continue and will likely lead to evolving recreation needs. Specific requests of demographic groups should be addressed during the individual park master planning process.

According to the benchmarking presented in Chapter 2, Orange Township operates far fewer acres of parkland per thousand population (6.0) than the benchmark median (10.6), although a slightly smaller amount of the land is developed at 72%, compared to 78%. More of the existing parkland could be developed while maintaining a high level of natural space compared to other communities, considering the large amount of open space offered by others. Finally, while much of the township is well served by parks, some areas would benefit from additional Neighborhood Parks or smaller mini parks.

### 7.5.2 New and Upgraded Parks

About a third (36%) of the population lives in areas with "High" or "Medium-High" service levels, and 27% live in areas with "Low" or "Medium-Low" service levels (see Composite Service Areas map, Figure 5.13 in Chapter 5). This moderate overall level of service explains the support for additional Neighborhood Parks and the request for additional features within existing parks. Residents are generally happy with the township's parks; however, they want to see the spaces improved. Generally, the need for new parks is limited to smaller parks strategically located in underserved areas. As noted previously, about 37% of the population lives within a 10-minute walk to a park, which would be improved by the addition of new parks.

New parks would increase access in lower service level areas in Orange Township as would more development at some existing parks in underserved areas. Figure 7.2 shows potential locations for new parks in the township. Most of the proposed parks would utilize existing open space owned by HOAs but would require coordination and partnership with those organizations. Each of the four areas identified (labeled "1" through "4") has multiple HOA-owned properties with sufficient acres to support amenities typically provided at a Neighborhood Park.

Some existing township-owned land may have the potential for development as parkland. One specific property is near the northwest corner of Orange Township, just west of Olentangy High School on Rail Timber Way. This 4.5-acre property, labeled “5” in Figure 7.2, could potentially serve as a Neighborhood Park for this portion of the township. While the area currently has a medium level of service, no walkable Neighborhood Parks are present nearby. A final opportunity, labeled “6,” for a new park would be through a land swap between the township and the schools for land in the north-central portion of the township, west of Alum Creek State Park.

Another potential new park is the Bale Kenyon property owned by Preservation Parks of Delaware County. This undeveloped 215-acre property, labeled “7” in Figure 7.2, could potentially offer park access to areas southeast of I-71 that currently have low levels of park service. The property is a mix of wooded areas and former farmland, bisected by I-71. Coordination and partnership between the township and Preservation Parks would be required, but the property may be able to accommodate features not available at township-owned parks.

### 7.5.3 Veterans Memorial Park

A Veterans Memorial Park has been under consideration since 2017 and was confirmed to be moving forward in early 2020 right before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The location has been identified at the corner of Orange Road and South Old State Roads, next to Orange Township Fire Station 362 and near a pedestrian entrance to Township Hall Park. The design for the memorial was identified when the project was confirmed in 2020 (see image). At that time, the cost of the project was estimated at \$400,000, including a 30-vehicle parking lot.<sup>5</sup>



*Veterans Memorial Park rendering by EDGE Group*

The parcel has the potential to offer more than just the Veterans Memorial but also a passive area with gathering space for the community. This park when completed could provide placemaking for the community in addition to providing functional community space and a link to the existing Township Hall Park. The township is still gathering funding for the project and has submitted a grant application to the State of Ohio.

### 7.5.4 Aquatics

The North Orange Aquatic Center is one of the most popular facilities in Orange Township. The facility generated enough revenue to cover operating expenditures in 2021 for the first time, following the 2020 season when it was closed due to COVID-19. Nearly a third of households reported visiting the aquatic center in 2019, according to the Mail Survey.

However, despite the presence of this facility, outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers ranked seventh in unmet needs in the township (approximately 4,000 households), according to the Mail Survey. They ranked as a medium priority in the Priority Investment Ratings for facilities. The survey does not provide specific reasons that households needs are not being met; however, the facility may be too far from their homes, or it does not offer specific amenities that households desire. Another possibility is that they are unable to use North Orange Aquatic Center because it is too crowded or is at capacity when they arrive. Because the township is unlikely to invest in building another large aquatic center, addressing aquatic needs through improvements and potentially expansion of the existing aquatic center will be essential.

Splash pads are an emerging trend in aquatics across the country. They can be included as part of an aquatic center, often replacing wading pools, or they can be developed as standalone features in separate park areas. This second option is becoming more common and allows a community to expand access to aquatic amenities without building and operating additional pools. Delaware and Columbus both offer splash pads, but the closest one is about 15 minutes away.

<sup>5</sup> Budzak, G. (2020, February 20). Veterans Memorial moving forward. The Delaware Gazette. <https://www.delgazette.com/news/82030/veterans-memorial-moving-forward>.



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Splash pads can come in any size and can include vertical interactive play feature, or may be limited to ground level jets and sprays to preserve an open plaza space when not in use. Because splash pads do not require lifeguards or attendants, they have much lower operating costs than swimming pools. While the township does not currently have a good location for a splash pad, the best location for a future facility would be on the eastern side of the township, far from the existing aquatic center. This facility would optimally be a partnership with other agencies who own land in the area.

### 7.5.5 Indoor Facilities

All methods of public input indicated an unmet demand for indoor recreation facilities. Stakeholder groups indicated a high demand for indoor spaces, including gym space and indoor field space. The Mail Survey indicated that community/recreation centers were a high priority for investment (according to ETC Institute), and over 4,000 households indicated unmet needs for these facilities and over 2,500 for gymnasium space. Fitness and wellness programs – the second ranked unmet program need (5,000 households) – could utilize an indoor facility.

Although the Orange Township Park Department currently offers limited indoor recreation and program spaces, many are provided by others in the township. Were the department to begin offering some recreation programs, most programs would require the township to utilize facilities owned by others. This option is the best solution in the short-term as it would allow indoor programs without the construction and operation of an expensive recreation center. It would also allow the township to determine what indoor facilities are really needed to meet the recreation needs of Orange Township residents. Private recreation organizations in the township offer a wide variety of amenities that are unavailable in most communities.

The need for indoor program space in Orange Township is not new. An indoor recreation center was a recommendation in the previous *Orange Township Parks, Trails, & Greenways Master Plan 2008*. This plan proposed a \$14 million facility in North Road Park, potentially taking most or all of the park's usable space. Due to the high costs associated with the development of an indoor facility, multipurpose spaces will be required to meet the needs of the community while keeping the building footprint and costs in check. Before any facility is developed, however, the township should seek partnerships with existing recreational facility operators for use of their spaces. Once this strategy is attempted, the township should then conduct a feasibility study to identify remaining unmet needs for indoor recreation prior to development of any new facility.

### 7.5.6 Other New Facilities

#### Outdoor Fitness

Facilities popular with seniors were requested throughout the public input. Facilities for active adults are a trend for parks and recreation agencies throughout the country. These facilities include outdoor fitness equipment, pickleball courts (see Section 7.3), and trails (see Section 7.4). Outdoor fitness equipment has become a popular addition to parks for users of all ages (in addition to active adults/seniors). Columbus Recreation and Parks has begun to offer outdoor fitness equipment at their parks, but the closest is about 20 minutes away.

The equipment could be added at a relatively low cost at several parks in Orange Township. Small collections of this equipment can be incorporated into playground development. Larger groups of equipment provide a potential gathering space and a venue for programs for seniors. Obstacle courses or Parkour equipment are popular with teenagers and young adults and have the potential to attract this difficult to engage age group to the parks.

#### Disc Golf

The Orange Township Park Department does not currently offer a disc golf course, but one is available at Alum Creek State Park. As noted in Chapter 5, disc golf is a growing sport throughout the country, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, disc golf has increased in popularity due to the outdoor and socially distant nature of the sport.

While disc golf was not identified as a high priority in the surveys, stakeholder groups indicated the desire for an additional course at a township park. While only 13% of households indicated desire for disc golf at existing

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parks in Orange Township, 39% of Web Survey respondents requested this facility, indicating a substantial and enthusiastic group. Similarly, they ranked third in the features ranking at the open house meeting. Disc golf courses were also needed by more households in Orange Township than in the benchmark communities (20% vs. 12%).

Township Hall Park hosted a PDGA-sanctioned singles tournament on October 17, 2021 after organizers setup a temporary course. Although the event was a success, it showed that disc golf could potentially conflict with users if added permanently at the park. A better possibility would be to partner with another agency, such as Preservation Parks, with property in the township. As indicated by the Township Hall event, a course would allow the township to host tournaments and enhance the region as a destination for disc golf enthusiasts. The costs for this new course are modest and the association has indicated desire to assist in the design and construction of the course.

## **Outdoor Stages/Amphitheaters**

Outdoor stages and amphitheaters can host all types of concerts and events that were repeatedly requested by the community through the various methods of public input. According to the Mail Survey, 2,200 households have unmet needs for outdoor stages or amphitheaters, fairly low in the list of facilities. In contrast, however, over 8,000 households have unmet needs for concerts/art performances (the top ranked unmet need), and 4,000 have unmet needs for outdoor movies. Both of these program categories were high priorities for investment and could be held at outdoor amphitheaters. Other programs such as fitness programs (second program priority for investment) could also be hosted at these facilities. Township Hall Park and North Orange Park are potential locations for an amphitheater as the parks already functions as a gathering space for the community and have parking. A partnership with Ohio State Parks for an amphitheater at the beach area of Alum Creek State Park is another possibility.

## **Dog Parks and Amenities**

As noted in Chapter 5, dog parks are a growing trend in parks and recreation in communities all around Ohio and the USA. Orange Township does not currently operate any dog parks, but one is available in Alum Creek State Park, just north of the township boundary. This facility provides good access to residents in the northern portion of Orange Township, but most of the township is beyond a 5-minute drive, and many in the south portion of the township are more than 10-minutes away.

According to the Mail Survey, about 3,700 households have unmet needs for dog parks, and they ranked in the top 10 for most important facilities. Dog parks were also a medium priority for investment according to the ETC institute. Like many of the facilities requiring large amounts of land, there is no obvious location to build a dog park within an existing township-owned park. Land acquisition or partnerships will be required before a location can be determined. Preservation Parks and HOAs have suitable land to accommodate dog parks, and the township should examine potential partnerships with these property owners to add a dog park in Orange Township to meet growing unmet needs.

## **Community Gardens**

Although many residents in Orange Township have access to yards that could be used for private gardens, community gardens offer prepared plots and opportunities for socialization. The township currently offers one community garden location in the Evans Farms neighborhood through a partnership with the developer. Unfortunately, the agreement is temporary as the developer has other plans for the land currently occupied by the community gardens.

Even with the existing garden location at Evans Farms, the Mail Survey results indicate that over 3,600 households have unmet needs for community gardens. Accordingly, it will be important to find a new location for the community gardens somewhere in Orange Township. The current garden area measures around 0.75 acres, so a new location should be that size or larger with access to water and storage. Educational programs are also common at community garden areas, although not provided at the current locations. A small shelter or gathering space could help accommodate gardening programs. As with other features, partnerships, possibly with Olentangy schools, should be sought for land to relocate these gardens if possible.

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## Drone Launch Areas

As noted in Chapter 5, Orange Township has no official policy for flying them in the parks. As Columbus Metro Parks allows recreational drone use in Highbanks Metro Park, and the 10-acres provided by the Model Aeronautics Association below Alum Creek Dam is also available, it may not be necessary for the township to provide a location or allow drone use in their parks. However, The township should formulate and post a policy for (or against) use of drones within the park system.

### 7.5.7 Recommendations

1. Utilize existing parkland to meet unmet facility needs and to improve access to park features
2. Add outdoor fitness equipment and/or obstacle courses at select parks to expand opportunities for improved community health, and to appeal to more age groups
3. Seek partnerships with HOAs throughout Orange Township to upgrade existing land to Neighborhood Parks or smaller mini parks to better serve all residents of the township
4. Consider developing the existing 4.5-acre township-owned property on Rail Timber Way as a Neighborhood Park to serve the northwest portion of the Orange Township
5. Coordinate and partner with Preservation Parks to utilize the Bale Kenyon Road property for features identified in this plan (consistent with their mission) and to better serve the eastern portion of Orange Township
6. Develop the proposed Veterans Memorial Park to provide community placemaking, gathering space, and a link to Township Hall Park
7. Seek partnerships to add a splash pad in the township, if suitable land is identified, to expand opportunities for aquatic recreation and provide a highly requested park feature for residents
8. Seek partnerships with existing recreational facility operators for use of their indoor spaces to begin to meet the demand for indoor recreation
9. Conduct a feasibility study to identify remaining unmet needs for indoor recreation following initiation of partnership opportunities but prior to any development
10. Explore the development of a disc golf course in Orange Township through a partnership with one of the county park systems and the local disc golf association
11. Develop an amphitheater (or outdoor stage), potentially at Township Hall Park, North Orange Park, or Alum Creek Beach area (partnership) to host all types of concerts and events that were repeatedly requested by the community
12. Seek partnerships with Preservation Parks and HOAs for suitable land to accommodate dog parks in Orange Township
13. Seek a partnership, possibly with Olentangy schools, to relocate and potentially expand the community gardens
14. Continue to seek opportunities for new parkland when available to meet demands and to improve service levels for existing and future residents
15. Formulate and post a policy for (or against) use of drones within the park system and implement signage to designate whether (and where) drones are permitted

## 7.6 NATURAL AREAS, OPEN SPACE, AND NATURE EDUCATION

### 7.6.1 Observations and Analyses

Parks and recreation agencies are increasingly focusing on preservation and restoration of natural resources. Natural areas provide numerous benefits to the health and wellness of a community, including opportunities for all residents. Studies indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improve mental health.<sup>6</sup> Because they are typically one of the largest landowners in their jurisdictions,

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<sup>6</sup> National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," <http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/>, (April 17, 2020)

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parks and recreation departments can lead implementation of sustainability or best management practices (BMPs), efforts that can double as engagement and educational opportunities.

### **7.6.2 Natural Areas**

Residents indicated desire for more access to natural areas and nature programs in Orange Township. Natural areas/nature parks were ranked as the third most important facility and as a high priority for investment (fourth). Natural areas/nature parks were the fourth ranked unmet need in the Mail Survey with over 4,000 households indicating unmet needs. These high numbers are remarkable considering the large amount of open space in Orange Township between the two county park systems and the state park. Residents may not realize these parks are within the township boundary, which may have had some impact on their responses. However, the high demand indicates the importance of preservation of existing natural areas and acquisition where possible, in addition to improving access to the spaces that exist. Ultimately, the township could also better market the existing natural areas within the township to make residents more aware of available areas nearest them.

### **7.6.3 Nature Programs**

Nature programs were a high priority in the Priority investment Ratings by ETC. According to the Mail Survey, 42% have a need for nature programs (the third ranked program type), and most survey respondents indicated these needs were unmet (representing nearly 4,400 households). Both Preservation Parks of Delaware County and Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks offer nature programming in their parks, including those located within Orange Township. Alum Creek State Park also offers a variety of nature programs.

As these organization focus on nature preservation and already offer nature programming, continued partnership with these agencies is the best way to expand program opportunities in Orange Township. Since a variety of nature programs are already available in or near Orange Township, it is possible that residents are simply unaware of these existing opportunities, allowing much of the unmet need to be met through better marketing and mutual promotion. Continued engagement with the community will be required to determine if specific programs or locations are needed.

### **7.6.4 Opportunities within Orange Township Parks**

As noted in the trends section of Chapter 5, environmental education cultivates understanding of the benefits of natural habitats and open spaces. Nature education provides opportunities to engage all ages and abilities and provides great potential for intergenerational programming. Interpretive signage at township parks is a simple and relatively low cost way to provide nature education while also explaining benefits of preservation and environmental practices. Partnerships could potentially offer nature programs within Orange Township parks, possibly using picnic shelters or other outdoor venues.

Currently, approximately 72% of parkland managed by the township is developed, including all facilities, pavement, and mowed areas. However, the parks have large, mowed areas that are not used for recreation. In response to public desire for more natural areas, the department should consider restoration of underused parklands to natural areas, such as prairies or wildflower meadows, and maintain natural areas in future parks. Restoration of park spaces will also reduce the amount of required maintenance, while improving park experiences.

### **7.6.5 Recommendations**

1. Explore expanding partnerships with Preservation Parks of Delaware County, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, and Ohio State Parks to meet community needs and better market nature programming opportunities
2. Develop interpretive and informational signage throughout the park system (with signage plans) to help visitors understand the natural features and history of Orange Township parks while improving awareness of sensitive ecosystems and rare species
3. Explore opportunities for restoring natural areas within parks in ways that improve access to nature and reduce maintenance requirements



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4. Implement conservation policies and sustainable practice guidelines for future development and management of park properties
  5. Elevate parks by setting examples for Best Management Practices (BMP) like stormwater detention, recycling, etc.
  6. Promote conservation and sustainability efforts as they are implemented to encourage reduced levels of consumption and waste generation
  7. Consider partnerships to utilize picnic shelters as outdoor classrooms for nature education programs
  8. Consider acquisition of any private parks or open space in Orange Township that become available for sale to ensure that residents continue to have access to these amenities, especially in environmentally sensitive areas

## **7.7 PROGRAMMING**

### **7.7.1 Observations and Analyses**

Concerts & performances were the most needed recreation program category in Orange Township according to Mail Survey results (49% of households), and fitness & wellness programs for adults ranked second (48%). Outdoor movies ranked fourth (38%) with nature programs third. Each of these program types were identified as top unmet needs by the Mail Survey (4,000 or more households). Orange Township households also want more special events, as about 3,700 households have unmet needs.

### **7.7.2 Future Recreation Division**

Overall, Orange Township residents have expressed a desire for the kind of programs that bring community together and can be enjoyed by all ages. The township has locations for hosting a range of event types, but the development of an amphitheater as described in Section 7.5 would be optimal for the most requested program categories. As noted previously, programs could also utilize new and existing picnic shelters and gazebos (e.g., craft demonstrations) in many of Orange Township's parks.

Based on this strong desire for community events, it is important for the township to enhance and expand event opportunities, such as marathons and concert series. These programs would provide opportunities for the people of Orange Township to find common ground with their neighbors, feel pride in their community, and enjoy a higher quality of life. Additionally, diverse programming can create possibilities for gathering and interaction between different groups, even those that might not otherwise meet.

A Recreation Division working within the Park Department could provide structure for raising funds and building a lineup of community experiences not currently feasible for staff to develop. This new division, or part of the Park Department, would allow the township to offer a wide array of additional programs identified through the public input without increasing staff or resources. This division would utilize existing staff to manage contracts with vendors to offer programming.

After coordination with other agencies in Orange Township to avoid duplication of service, a first step would be to utilize the recently hired Events and Communications Coordinator to issue Requests for Qualifications for event planners and program vendors to fill gaps in programming. Branded Orange Township-specific events, potentially hosted in partnership with existing groups (e.g., Delaware County Visitors Bureau), would create broad appeal and help build a diverse audience base. The Enterprise Recreation Programmer should negotiate with selected event and program vendors to determine what specific types of events, when, and how any revenue should be split between the township and vendors. Programs and events should be contractually owned by the township and incentivized. If the event is successful and growing, the contract can continue.

Example enterprise programs and events include (all requested through public input):

- Concerts and cultural art performances (e.g., jazz band concerts, comedy shows, etc.)
- Fitness & wellness programs, such as a triathlon

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- Outdoor movies
  - Special events (e.g., food truck festivals)
  - Community gardening programs/classes
  - Water fitness programs
  - Summer camp programs – opportunity for expansion as demand is unmet
  - Art, dance, and performing arts programs
  - Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs – potentially at area trails
  - Pet exercise programs – utilizing a new dog park

### 7.7.3 Senior Programs

As noted in Section 7.3, Orange Township, like most of the country, has a growing percentage of residents over age 65. Given this aging population, it is unsurprising that demand for senior programming has increased. The SourcePoint Enrichment Center, just north of Orange Township, provides most of the programming and amenities desired by the age 55+ community. As previously noted, there is demand for pickleball programs in Orange Township which the township should work to accommodate. Beyond that need, Orange Township should continue to monitor needs of this community as they grow and change and coordinate with partners to meet these needs without duplication.

### 7.7.4 Other Programming Opportunities

According to the public engagement (Mail & Web Surveys and in-park engagement), not knowing about offerings was the primary reason – expressed by nearly 40% of households – for not using parks, facilities, and programs. In addition, the Park Department is the third most used organization for parks and recreation activities after Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks and Olentangy Local Schools. Between these organizations and the many others, public and private, providing recreation in Orange Township, it will continue to be a challenge to keep the public informed.

While not knowing what is available will likely always be a top reason keeping people out of parks and programs, the department could make a significant shift in awareness by partnering with these other organizations for shared promotion of opportunities between providers. The township has an online calendar showing scheduled usage of their facilities, but a common event calendar showing opportunities by all area providers would help with both engagement and scheduling. The township also needs guidelines for their promotion and social media engagement (see 7.8.5).

### 7.7.5 Recommendations

1. Be a **mission** driven agency; pay very close attention to the new mission for parks and recreation in Orange Township (Chapter 6)
  - Ensure every action and decision always connects back to the department's mission
2. Regularly identify needs of underserved populations
3. Expand existing concert, movie, and live performance program offerings to address unmet community needs
  - Utilize the proposed amphitheater at Township Hall Park, for additional and enhanced program opportunities
4. Utilize the recently hired staff member (funded through program fees) to develop and produce Orange Township-branded community events and programs using contractors. Maintain existing and successful partnerships with other Orange Township-based organizations
5. Continue and expand collaboration with local health organizations – like Delaware Public Health District – to ensure programming efforts reach the widest audience and align with overall promotion of healthy living in the township
6. Make full use of new facilities – amphitheaters, outdoor fitness equipment, picnic shelters, etc. – by

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programming and offering activities anchored around these sites

7. Monitor nationwide and regional recreation trends regularly, especially concerning growing population to best serve the needs of the whole community

## **7.8 OPERATIONS, PROMOTION, AND PARTNERSHIPS**

### **7.8.1 Observations and Analyses**

On a per population basis, the Orange Township Park Department employs far fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) staff than the benchmark median, largely because they do not offer programming and a third party operates the pool. The township spends about 50% more than the benchmark expenditures per employee (\$160,000 vs. \$95,000). This difference is directly connected to the small overall number of staff and limited number of part-time or seasonal employees, compared to other agencies.

Orange Township's revenue per capita is about a third of the benchmark and half the national level (\$11, compared to \$32 and \$21 respectively). This lower comparative revenue is also related to the lack of programming. The department's cost recovery of 25% is also just below the benchmark (29%). The recommendations that follow should help solidify greater success for the department. By implementing proactive policies and improving efficiency of operations.

### **7.8.2 Structure**

The department will benefit from continued training for leadership and cultivated growth within their respective fields. For example, existing and future staff should be encouraged to pursue appropriate certifications for overseeing park operations, including Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP), Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI), and Aquatic Facility Operator Certification (AFO). As needs arise, staff may wish to pursue other relevant certifications. To accommodate staff seeking these credentials, Orange Township must identify and allocate funding for professional development opportunities (e.g., conferences, training, memberships, etc.) with consideration to the licensure and requirements for certifications.

Because there are no specified program staff, it will be difficult for the department to respond to programming demands without adding staff. The Events and Communications Coordinator described in Section 7.7 could potentially handle all of these needs for new programs and events through outside contracts, which will generate revenue to offset a substantial portion – or potentially all – of this person's salary.

At least in the short-term, nearly all programming opportunities should be conducted through contracts with outside vendors or community partners. Collaborating externally enables limited staff to oversee an array of programs within a smooth, streamlined process. The township needs the partnership of outside vendors and contractors to effectively expand programs and events. Finally, any contracts pursued must remain consistent and formally structured in writing with clear parameters ensuring benefits for the township and contractor both.

The township should consider reestablishing the Orange Township Community Park Board to provide guidance and recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the Park Department regarding acquisition, development, and use of parks in the township. The board would also act as a conduit for citizens to bring forth ideas for future park and recreation facilities, programs, and operations. Without this group, the township lacks recurring meetings of individuals devoted to preserving and improving recreation opportunities. The group could contain members of the Master Plan Steering Committee and should have representation on the Master Plan Implementation Committee that would facilitate, market, and guide implementation of the Action Plan (see Chapter 9).

### **7.8.3 Pricing Philosophy**

The vast majority of funding for the Park Department budget comes from the park levy, with the rest coming from the general fund. To move forward most efficiently and sustainably, the department needs a complete understanding of the direct and indirect costs. First, the department should conduct an analysis of the expenditures in the annual budget. Once these costs are determined, they should be separated:

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- Direct Costs: any expenditures related to the operation of a specific park, program, or facility rental (e.g., rental fees, materials, staff time directly related to the specific service, etc.)
  - Indirect Costs: any expenditures that remain after removing direct costs; usually more general and systemwide (e.g., administrative tasks, facility maintenance, utilities, etc.)

Once the costs are understood and separated into direct and indirect costs, the township should decide how much of a service or program's cost should be recovered, which will vary. Some programs or services could have 100% recovery where all associated costs are recuperated, other services may not have any recovered costs, and the service would be free. This process of calculation can be kept reasonably simple by establishing set categories of recovery (i.e., 100%, 75%, 50%, and 0%).

Orange Township will need a defined "pricing philosophy" to guide all efforts, especially when moving to vendor-based programming. While it requires substantial effort at first, proactive action will prevent long-term inefficiencies and shortfalls. Remaining flexible throughout the transition – currently there is no system of cost recovery in place – will be essential for the department's success. It will require small changes and incremental action for the department and the public to adjust.

The following are pricing strategies used in other communities. These are presented as possible avenues to pursue or inspiration for an Orange Township-specific system.

- Indirect costs are covered by the township, while direct costs are covered by the user at a specified cost recovery rate.
- Classifications are created based on whether the program or service benefits the community, the individual who is taking the program, or a combination of the two.
- Prices are based on the 80% of the public who can pay rather than the 20% of the community who cannot pay; alternate funding sources are used to supplement the costs for the 20%.
- An alternate funding source is established and relied upon for providing opportunities to underserved members of the community.

## **7.8.4 Field Usage & Athletic User Groups**

Due to substantial population growth, Orange Township now deals with a large number of athletic leagues that use their fields. This situation works well for the Park Department from a staffing and resource standpoint. However, field rental policies need to be revamped to be more accommodating to a larger group of users. Currently, much of the field time is taken up by travel teams. To best serve the community, the township would like to ensure that those who do not want to travel, or recreational leagues, have fair use of the facilities.

Current agreements are inconsistent and do not consider who or how many the organization serves. Fields are essentially assigned on a first come first serve basis until the schedule is filled. Those that come later are told there is no fields space available. The costs are also the same for all groups, regardless of how much they charge users or the number of residents in the programs.

The department needs, and is in the process of developing, a new field use policy. This new policy should have a tiered priority approach with limitations. Every field should not be used every day of the week by one group. There also must be down time to rest fields. Fee schedules need to be adjusted and must be fair to the users and the people of Orange Township. This new approach will recoup funds that can then go toward the maintenance of these facilities.

Orange Township recently invested in fields at North Road Park and have plans to continue to improve the property to support athletic field use. These improvements plus those recommended in this Master Plan are funded primarily through the tax levy paid by Orange Township residents, who also pay for the maintenance of facilities. Updated policies will ensure that the community has access they need to the fields they support with their tax dollar.



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## 7.8.5 Park Operations

Moving forward over the next 10 years, the Orange Township Park Department will need to adopt a strategy of sustainability – not simply environmental, but economic as well. Qualities like consistency, fairness, and flexibility will be crucial to the long-term durability of the department and the services it provides to the entire Orange Township community. To efficiently operate an extensive and high-quality system like that in Orange Township, an appropriate amount of funds for staffing, equipment, and grounds management must be in place.

The primary purpose of a successful maintenance management plan is to identify the proper amount of funding each year to administer the park system while implementing this Master Plan. It is essential that the department understands the long-term costs and works closely with the township's budget administrators to alleviate any concerns and prevent budget surprises.

### Maintenance Requirements

First, maintenance requirements should be measurable. Each element of park maintenance needs a standard. For example:

- Level 1,2,3,4 or 5 turf – standards set by the department
- Restroom cleaning (e.g., daily, twice daily, etc.) – standards set by the department
- Capital replacement (e.g., roofs, HVAC systems, etc.) requires items to be placed on a list with an "expiration date" based on the general length of time an item lasts in good condition. Costs should be determined and provided to the township's budgetary administration years in advance to ensure preparation for necessary appropriations.
- Painting schedule (e.g., number of years between re-painting, per item) – standards set by the department; painted items should be included on a multi-year list for funding
- Maintenance equipment replacement (e.g., lawn mowers, trucks, irrigation systems, etc.) – standards set by the department in collaboration with the township

The Park Department should decide the level of maintenance service to provide at each park or portion of a park. This decision should be a proactive exercise where funding is put in place in accordance with what level of maintenance service is desired.

### Turf Maintenance Levels

#### 1. State of the Art Maintenance

- Park/Land Categories
  - High quality diverse landscapes
  - Plazas/Memorials
  - High visitation parks
  - Athletic game fields
  - Manicured grounds
- Maintenance Standards
  - Mow every 5 days
  - Irrigate
  - Fertilize
  - Aerate
  - <1% weeds
  - Daily inspection

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## 2. High Level Maintenance

- Park/Land Categories
  - Well-developed park areas
  - Reasonably high visitation
  - Athletic game fields
- Maintenance Standards
  - Mow every week
  - Fertilize, aerate regularly
  - <5% weeds
  - Daily inspection

## 3. Medium Level Maintenance

- Park/Land Categories
  - Moderate to low level of development and visitation
  - Non-playing field areas in developed parks
- Maintenance Standards
  - Mow every 10 days
  - Fertilize if needed
  - No irrigation
  - Weekly inspection

## 4. Moderately Low-Level Maintenance

- Park/Land Categories
  - Low level of development
  - Low visitation
  - Undeveloped parks
  - Remote parks
- Maintenance Standards
  - Low frequency mowing
  - No fertilizer or irrigation
  - Monthly inspection

## 5. Minimum Maintenance Level

- Park/Land Categories
  - Undeveloped parks
- Maintenance Standards
  - No mowing
  - Occasional bush hogging, monthly inspection

## Staffing Needs

The success of any future development hinges equally on funding and staffing capacity. The department currently employs 3.5 full-time equivalent staff members for maintenance who also assist with other township spaces. As public input indicated a desire for a continued high level of maintenance at the parks, additional staff will be needed as more land is developed and features are added.

Table 7.1 shows the acreage maintained and managed plus the current number of full-time equivalent staff now. The table then shows what would be required to operate additional land at the same level on a per acre basis – meaning the numbers do not include any additional requirements of specific facilities.

Based only on the additional land recommended to be developed at existing and proposed parks (see Chapter 5), the department would need to add approximately 1.5 full-time equivalent maintenance employees to provide the same level of service as provided currently. **These numbers indicate that the maintenance staffing requirements at the Orange Township Park Department will increase by up to 40% based on proposed improvements in this plan, assuming no increase in service levels or requirements.** The table also include the number of staff needed per acre and by park category when new land is added to the system. In order to improve service levels, staffing numbers will need to increase even more.

**Table 7.1: Staff Requirements to Maintain Current Service Levels**

<b>Acreage and Existing Staff</b>	
Total Developed Acreage	87.7
Full-Time Equivalent Staff	3.5
Maintained Acres per FTE Staff	25.1
<b>Acreage and Future Staff Needed to Maintain at Current Level</b>	
Proposed Maintained Acreage*	125.5
Needed Full-Time Staff	5.0
Full-Time Staff Needed Per New Acre	0.04
Full-Time Staff Needed per New Neighborhood Park	0.4
Full-Time Staff Needed per New Community Park	1.2

\*See target acres in Chapter 5

## 7.8.6 Partnerships

### Observations

Collaborative partnerships will necessarily continue to play a critical role in the future of parks and recreation in Orange Township. Through strategic transparent partnerships, the department can both reduce costs and generate additional revenue. In stakeholder conversations, the need for partnership and collaboration emerged over and over. Orange Township already has several formal partnerships – including with sports, environmental, and business groups – as well as a widely held positive and responsive reputation in the community.

Looking forward along the 10-year timeline of this Master Plan, many actions will require expanded support from partner groups in order to be truly successful. In fact, some new facilities will likely only be possible through partnerships with other organizations in order to adequately cover both capital and operating costs. Any partnership the department pursues must be mutually beneficial, and terms clearly stated for all parties.

### Other Parks & Recreation Providers

Orange Township is uniquely positioned for partnerships because of the wide array of other parks in recreation providers in and near the township. Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, and Ohio State Parks are providers of recreation and park services within Orange Township with large land holdings and substantial program offerings. Additionally, many neighboring communities provide parks and recreation services. The township has an opportunity to establish more consistent lines of communication with these entities as well as others including Olentangy Schools, Delaware County District Library, and private providers. Each agency should convey its priorities and objectives, helping clarify services provided to ensure facilities and programs are provided while avoiding inefficient duplication of effort from all entities.

### Developers

Orange Township is still growing rapidly, and collaboration with the development community will continue to be essential. Open dialogue with developers is needed as neighborhoods are planned to help generate coordinated, strategic growth, ensuring needed park space and facilities are included. There should be a

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shared vision with developers for creating spaces and offering facilities that meet the needs of incoming residents, and as noted previously, developers should be encouraged to follow the township's guidelines for new parks and trails.

## 7.8.7 Engagement and Promotion

Based on feedback from the public, the Orange Township Park Department needs to establish a consistent, effective marketing and outreach strategy to convey all that the township and others have to offer. The department needs to build a stronger foundation of community awareness and involvement, which will provide a critical foundation for the success of any future programming the township develops.

The Orange Township community has indicated a desire for continuous, ongoing engagement with the Orange Township Park Department to make sure public needs are heard and addressed (Chapter 4). Some of the specific park improvements recommended in this plan will require local resident engagement to ascertain whether needs are effectively being met or if adjustments should be made. In the upcoming years of implementing this Master Plan, any major improvement project – whether capital or operational – should incorporate authentic outreach and engagement, as well as follow consistent standards of communication, to ensure transparency.

Social media platforms are useful for staying connected but can be a challenge to sustain when staff changes and needs to be updated with engaging, interactive content. The township already uses Facebook regularly, posting images and updates and more. According to survey results (Chapter 4), residents would prefer to learn about recreation opportunities and events through online social media indicating a need for more park specific content. Updating the department's webpage with more prominent, easily accessible navigation to Facebook and other social media platforms would help drive online traffic on the department's social media pages. Additionally, the department could explore adding more varied content (e.g., how-to videos or virtual challenges) to see what impact this can have on likes and shares.

To ensure the longevity of a successful marketing strategy, the department should create simple, branded templates for promotion. Not only do templates give staff a better starting point for effectively promoting programs and events, but they also make any outgoing messaging instantly recognizable by members of the community.

Figure 7.3 outlines three necessary elements that should be part of a successful marketing campaign. The top section, the first element, defines the department's identity. The middle section – the second element, containing the visual identity and messaging platform – describes what brochures, ads, flyers, and media will look like. The third element, at the bottom, lists a range of mediums for how the messaging can be shared.

Figure 7.3 is intended as a big-picture guide for crafting a marketing strategy. The strategic plan in Chapter 6 defines most of the top section for the Orange Township Park Department, but the middle section is left to the discretion of the agency in terms of visual identity and messaging platform. Any marketing materials the Park Department creates should look to this branding for inspiration on color, style, and more.

The most important takeaway is that marketing can, and should be, easily implemented once it is standardized but still flexible for modifications. Figure 7.4 offers an example of a simple format that would be easily recognizable as messaging from the department. The title and images of a standard flyer or brochure can easily be changed to reflect what the agency wants to communicate or promote.



Figure 7.3: Essential Marketing Communication Elements



The standard event flyer format should include:

- Pictures (at the top and middle)
- Event name (in the front banner)
- Time and location (across the middle)
- Sponsors (at the bottom)
- Brand, logo, website and social media information

Any other materials, like the brochure in Figure 7.5, should incorporate similar visual identity and messaging structure. The same visual identity should also be used for online marketing, including social media and email notifications. Standardized, expanded marketing has the potential to attract additional users to the events, spaces, and programs offered by Orange Township.

Figure 7.4: Sample Event Flyers



Figure 7.5: Sample Brochure



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## 7.8.8 Recommendations

### Structure, Maintenance, & Policy

1. Adopt this Master Plan at the level of Township Board of Trustees; ensure commitment of legislative officials and township leaders
2. Consider reestablishing the Orange Township Community Park Board to provide guidance and recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the Park Department
3. Set priorities through an annual Management Retreat to articulate tasks and measure progress
4. Prepare an Operations Plan which defines Maintenance Standards (Section 7.8.5)
5. Know the value of assets (excluding land values); know where those assets are in their life cycle
6. Determine maintenance standards that include how many employees are required to maintain one acre of parkland; consider these standards when adding parkland to the system
7. Know the true costs to deliver services (direct and indirect costs)
8. Establish and adjust fees for programs according to direct and indirect costs
9. Increase maintenance budget in order to sustain current levels as new facilities and programs are developed
  - Consider the need for additional maintenance staff as maintained acreage and features are added to the system
10. Calculate maintenance impact of equipment replacement to ensure maintenance requirements and costs are reduced when possible
11. Update field use policies to ensure equitable access and to protect against damage
12. Train staff
  - Create and implement professional and career development strategies for management and supervisory staff
  - Identify and allocate funding for critical staff development opportunities (including conferences, training, memberships, etc.) with consideration to licensure and certification requirements
  - Encourage continued staff training for leadership and continued growth within respective fields
  - Incentivize management level staff to attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations
  - Incentivize and support staff members to pursue Certified Park & Recreation Professional (CPRP), Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI), and Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) certifications
13. Utilize the new staff position with dedicated hours to oversee programming and managing outside contracts
14. Continue open dialog with developers as neighborhoods are planned to ensure coordinated, strategic growth and the inclusion of needed park space and facilities
15. Expand partnerships with Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, and Ohio State Parks to provide outdoor and nature education programs

### Contracts

1. Develop working agreements with all partners (all outside groups using Orange Township facilities) including measurable outcomes; review every two years, at minimum
2. Understand all agency costs, both indirect and direct, before entering into agreements; understand how much investment a partner will commit to collaboration
3. Never permit private or not-for-profit groups to benefit financially from Orange Township facilities without the city receiving a share of gross revenue
4. Ensure all future contracts have some benefit to Orange Township and its residents, in addition to the relevant partnering vendor or contractor



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5. Require township-owned properties remain available to Orange Township residents when not in use by lessee
  6. Change the terminology from a field "rental" to partnership or MOU to give the township more control over field use
  7. Explore and solidify contracted partnerships with outside vendors and organizations, including private providers and adjacent communities, to produce more programming
    - Broaden programming without necessarily hiring additional staff
    - Address emerging requests from the public through contracts with private vendors

### **Partnerships and Sponsorships**

1. Treat all vendors, contractors, and partners in a professional, consistent manner with legal, signed contracts containing the following:
  - Name, entity, and address
  - Obligations of each party
  - Terms of the contract
  - Price (if any, and who pays for what)
  - Representations and warranties – (insurance, who owns what)
  - Termination of the contract – when and by whom
  - Signed, witnessed, and reviewed periodically
2. Host quarterly or semiannual check-ins with all community partners; host roundtable discussion where all parties share program progress and emerging needs
3. Seek opportunities to expand partnerships with local organizations to improve access to recreation facilities and programs
4. Require a maintenance plan that identifies ongoing funding needs for partnership projects
5. Establish policies for accepting sponsorships and selling naming rights; begin to see sponsorship for facilities and programs
6. Establish consistent communication and collaboration with Delaware County District Library (Orange Branch Library) for educational programs and cross-promotion of program offerings
7. Solicit expertise from Orange Township arts and culture community (e.g., Art of Music) to find arts-based solutions for facility improvements
8. Seek opportunities to develop cultural programming in collaboration with the creative, arts-advocacy entities in Orange Township
9. Include offerings by other agencies in the Township Newsletter to improve awareness of these opportunities

### **Engagement and Promotion**

1. Develop a Master Plan Implementation Committee (e.g., can include members of plan steering committee) to facilitate, market, and guide implementation of the Action Plan (Chapter 9)
2. Establish a consistent messaging strategy for the department
3. Determine standard formatting for all marketing and promotional materials (consider samples provided above) based on the medium (e.g., social media, newspaper, etc.)
4. Create an eye-catching brand, including color, style, logo placement, and flyer layout
  - Establish branding consistency with park signage
5. Expand marketing of programs and facilities including those by others, through collaborative relationships to increase community awareness and participation
6. Engage neighborhood residents during park improvement processes using bulletin boards, monitored social media posts, and other methods



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7. Know the demographics of the citizens served
  8. Track population trends
  9. Improve social media presence, with better access on department webpage
  10. Utilize video content whenever possible to meet increasing need for highly visual engagement
  11. Create and promote a common calendar for activities and events, including a portal for easy registration
  12. Explore development of a searchable mobile app to communicate site locations, services, and special events to the public

## **7.9 BUDGET AND FUNDING**

The total Park Department operating budget (see Table 2.15) in Orange Township 2020 was \$1.4. The table also shows a per capita operating expenditure of \$42, less than half the benchmark median of \$94. Proposed facility development, could have a large impact on the overall budget of the department, even if elements are managed by a third party. Generated revenue represents 25% of the Parks budget, slightly below the benchmark of 29%, but the per capita revenue in Orange Township is only \$11, compared to \$32 for the benchmarks.

These numbers indicate that the cost recovery numbers may not tell the whole story. An increase to 35% cost recovery should be an attainable goal within 10 years as new programs are added and other cost recovery strategies are implemented. Even higher cost recovery should be attained if an indoor recreation center is ever developed as a properly managed facility should generate substantial revenue, although not likely enough to cover all of the operating expenses. Cost associated with use or rental of facilities by others should be offset by program fees, allowing any programs to improve overall cost recovery.

### **7.9.1 Existing Park Levy**

Orange Township has an existing levy that funds capital improvements and some operations of the Park Department. The levy currently generates approximately \$1.2 million per year and must be renewed every three years. The 2019 Parks & Recreation Tax Levy passed with 71% of the vote in favor of the levy. According to the statistically valid Mail Survey, households would support additional levy funding for improvements identified through this plan. Seventy-one percent (71%) of households the same percentage as supported the last levy indicated support for additional funding with 26% supporting strongly.

With the current levy set to expire this year, the township needs residents to vote to continue this funding in order to implement the improvements of this Master Plan. Based on the strong level of support indicated in the survey and prior elections, the township may want to seek a 5-year bond rather than the 3-year bond passed previously to reduce the frequency that they must go back to the public to reauthorize. A longer-term levy also gives the township the ability to plan improvements.

When seeking renewal of the levy, the township should promote the potential improvements identified in this plan, including upgrades to some of the HOAs parks to broaden support. Orange Township has shown that they support parks; however, a levy campaign is much more likely to be successful if the township is able to show that the funds will provide something for everyone.

### **7.9.2 Potential Funding Sources**

There are numerous methods to fund park projects. Unfortunately, many of these strategies can be difficult to implement and may take years to see results. Examples of some of these ideas include maintenance endowment funds, conservation districts, license tags, transient occupancy taxes, income taxes, lease backs, real-estate transfer fees, land dedication and/or park impact fees, and park authorities. Although all of these should be considered, the strategies below could have a more immediate impact on operations and capital improvements in Orange Township.

#### **Forming a Park Foundation**

Orange Township should consider establishing an Orange Township Park Foundation, which would operate separately as a 501c3 organization. A foundation enables the township, its programs, and its facilities to receive philanthropic funds. There are philanthropists in Orange Township that want to donate to parks,

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programs, and services that add value to the township. A foundation must be promoted and actively utilized to successfully fund park improvements. A foundation board is necessary to guide efforts, and the members of this board should be carefully recruited. Funds generated can create opportunities for capital projects but also for programming. Funding can also be used to support volunteer recruitment and organization, enabling the township to introduce park ambassadors and other engaged members as part of the Orange Township's parks and recreation service.

The township has previously used the Delaware County Foundation to accept donations, but it may be beneficial to have a specific organization focused on park improvements specific to Orange Township. Township businesses and residents may be more likely to donate to a smaller more focused organization rather than a county-wide foundation. Alternatively, the township may be able to partner with this or another foundation to create their own fund within that existing foundation.

### **Creating a Scholarship Fund**

Around the country, parks and recreation agencies are exploring ways to utilize the patronage of those already paying for recreation services. Orange Township should explore the following options for building a robust scholarship fund. The township should also coordinate with other groups who use their facilities to implement similar funds.

- Apply an additional \$2.00 charge to the registration fee for all those who pay for programs. Funnel the funds generated into a scholarship fund that can be accessed for those patrons unable to pay
- Add an option to the registration process where those signing up can opt to donate (e.g., \$2.00 or \$5.00) to help those in their community who are unable to pay to participate

### **Volunteer Power**

Park ambassadors can provide directions, offer assistance, or remind visitors of park policies. They may also assist with maintenance activities, like litter pickup. The presence of ambassadors often helps visitors feel more comfortable in park spaces, and they can monitor sites to make sure people feel welcome and have good access to features of the park.

Adopt-A-Trail or Adopt-A-Park programs are an additional, more formalized way for volunteers to assist with park maintenance in Orange Township. These programs encourage residents and interested groups to become involved in keeping parks clean for their community. These programs give new possibilities for involvement to those residents who have the interest but need a structured opportunity. The City of Columbus has an established Adopt-An-Area program which could serve as a regionally relevant example Orange Township can look to for inspiration.

Again, partnerships with local entities can be a great way to explore and initiate volunteer interest in the township. Other potential partner groups for volunteer contributions include:

- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of the USA
- Olentangy Local School District
- Retired residents
- Local colleges and universities (also a potential source of interns)

### **Grants and Application for Funding**

Most grants are beneficial, but some can require more work from staff than the grant's potential benefits. As noted previously, Orange Township is currently applying for a grant from the State of Ohio for the Veterans Memorial. The township should continue to be on the lookout for grants that will enhance the park system. Applying to established foundations is often easier and has a higher acceptance rate. There are sometimes local foundations that are more amenable to giving locally. In all, grants can come from the federal government, state sources, and sometimes local entities. Indianapolis, for example, has received over \$100 million in foundation grants from the Lilly Endowment over the past 20 years for park related improvements in the city.

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#### Example Grant Sources:

- National Recreation Trails Program
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program
- Conservation Reserve Fund
- Community Forest and Open Space Program (Federal)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant (FEMA)
- Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Grants (USDA)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (Federal)
- NatureWorks (Ohio)
- Clean Ohio Fun (Ohio)
- AARP Community Challenge

#### General Funding Sources for Parks, Recreation, and Sports Facility Operations

Below is a general list of ideas that communities have used to supplement costs of operations. Some of these may be more effective in Orange Township than others.

- Official drink for parks
- Tournament fees – if an outside vendor makes money, the township should as well
- Scoreboard sponsors
- Parking fees at events
- Field permits when outside groups are not using the fields
- Advertising sales
- Wi-Fi revenue through sponsorship, if a vendor provides the Wi-Fi
- Cell tower leases
- Privatization of various park and recreation programs and services
- Sports booster clubs
- Corporate sponsorship in exchange for advertising

### 7.9.3 Recommendations

#### Management and Budget

1. Classify the agency's services according to how they align with the agency's mission
2. Inform users, partners, and citizens of the true costs of services
3. Control labor costs
4. Consider seeking a 5-year bond rather than the 3-year bond to provide more budget certainty and to provide additional flexibility to park development processes
5. Promote the potential improvements identified in this plan, including upgrades to some of the HOAs parks to broaden support and show that the funds will provide something for everyone

#### Cost Recovery

1. Institute an easy-to-understand Cost Recovery and Pricing Plan for everything that is offered
2. Price services furthest away from the mission at full cost recovery levels
3. Analyze potential costs versus revenue before adding new features
4. Increase cost recovery to 35% or better as new features are developed, and new programs are added

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5. Add new shelters to the rental inventory as they are developed
  6. Identify potential revenue sources at community events, including sponsorships and entry fees
  7. Develop a program for recruiting and scheduling volunteer park ambassadors to promote wellbeing and provide assistance at parks
  8. Utilize volunteers to assist with park maintenance through efforts such as the adoption of sections of parks or trails in Orange Township

### **Funding Sources**

1. Find dedicated funding sources for parks that can be depended upon annually
2. Seek philanthropists in the community to support the agency's causes
3. Consider creating an Orange Township Parks Foundation either as an independent organization or subsidiary of another to raise funds, recruit and organize volunteers, and promote the parks
4. Continue seeking grants and apply to foundations for project funding that enhances the park system; be sure this is consistent with the mission of the Orange Township Park Department while also considering associated costs to the township
5. Create a Scholarship Fund, potentially by requesting an optional additional \$2.00 charge during registration



## INDIVIDUAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes recommendations for individual park improvements including proposed new facilities and upgrades to existing parks. Each section reviews the findings from the park inventory and assessments (Chapter 3) and offers steps forward to improve parks for the community. These recommendations are presented as a starting point for future discussions with users, neighbors, partners, and the community at large. Before pursuing development, a deeper investigation into the capacity and potential of each of these parks will be needed to determine precise details like placement, materials used, and maintenance considerations.

The table at the end of this chapter includes a suggested level of priority for each improvement recommendation. Priority is based on public engagement, steering committee input, and the condition of facilities. Priorities should always be confirmed before implementation through community engagement which will be especially important as the township continues to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Parks are listed according to the park classification following the proposed improvements.

### 8.2 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

#### 8.2.1 Walker Wood Park

##### Background

This Neighborhood Park is located in the southeastern portion of the township with the parking lot accessible from Walker Wood Blvd. The park also has pedestrian access along Walker Wood Blvd. Although the park is surrounded by residences on three sides, no formal, accessible connections exist. The park also has the potential to offer additional amenities.

The following park issues and opportunities were identified through site assessments and public input:

- No landscaping and limited shade across site
- Lack of formal, accessible connections to surrounding neighborhood
- No seating along trail
- Potential for additional amenities (e.g., benches, fitness equipment, courts)
- Limited number of features

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## Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop a Park Master Plan with community engagement to ensure the site is developed with consideration to long-term needs
2. Install outdoor fitness equipment to diversify site usage and attract more visitors
3. Add shade and upgrade the existing playground equipment to provide a better experience for all users
4. Develop a neighborhood feature based on the preferences of the nearby residents as determined through neighborhood outreach
5. Add a half basketball court to improve the variety of features at the park and increase usage
6. Add entrance signage (secondary at condos if connections are allowed), a drinking fountain with bottle filler (replacement), site furnishings (seating/shade), trees, and landscaping

## 8.3 COMMUNITY PARKS

### 8.3.1 Glen Oak Park

#### Background

Glen Oak Park is centrally located in the township with many homes within walking distance. This park offers a variety of features, including the only ice-skating pond and sledding hill in the township system, and about 30% of households reported visiting the park over the past two years. Like many parks, Glen Oak would benefit from additional wayfinding signage directing users to amenities, the trail system, and the adjacent school.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Room for additional features
- Limited play features for older children
- Some features not accessible
- Flooding of trails in wooded area
- Lack of trees and landscaping in developed areas

#### Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Consider improvements collectively with Ro Park
2. Provide ADA accessible walkways to all existing and future park features (e.g., fishing access, playground access without going through shelter)
3. Add interpretive/educational and rules signage at the ponds and future wildflower meadow
4. Consider adding a wildflower meadow to provide educational opportunities, beautification, and to reduce the amount of mowing needed at the park
5. Improve the surface of the unpaved trails in the wooded area so that they remain passable after rain events
6. Develop a neighborhood feature based on the preferences of the nearby residents as determined through neighborhood outreach
7. Add entrance signage (secondary at Blue Stem Dr and Glen Oak Elem), an additional drinking fountain with bottle filler (near shelters), site furnishings (seating/shade), trees, and landscaping



*Interpretive Signage*

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## 8.3.2 North Orange Park

### Background

The largest of Orange Township's parks at over 35 acres, North Orange Park is also the most visited in the township system with about half (47%) of households visiting over the past two years. The park is the site of the North Orange Aquatic Center and an assortment of features, including several soccer fields, an extensive trail, and the township's largest playground.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Algae blooms in ponds
- Large amount of manicured turf, limited landscaping
- Potential for additional neighborhood connections after new development
- Space to accommodate additional features
- Limited accessibility at fields
- North Orange Aquatic Center is often crowded

### Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Prepare a park master plan to ensure proposed development is consistent with long-term community needs
2. Provide ADA accessible walkways to all existing and future park features (e.g., fishing access, spectator areas)
3. Consider adding a wildflower meadow to provide educational opportunities, beautification, and to reduce the amount of mowing needed at the park
4. Add interpretive/educational signage at the ponds, the nature path, and future wildflower meadow
5. Add shade over playground equipment
6. Consider as a location to build an amphitheater to facilitate programming and community events desired by community
7. Evaluate potential to utilize the existing fields as an event lawn to host additional large community events, while preserving their current use for athletics
8. Consider adding a skate park to provide a local option for residents who seek this facility
9. Make needed improvements to the North Orange Aquatic Center to maintain operations and potentially expand capacity
10. Coordinate with potential users in the township to determine the demand for an obstacle course or Parkour area to attract an additional user group to parks and encourage community fitness
11. Develop a community feature suitable for this park based on the preferences of the township residents as identified in this Master Plan or future outreach
12. Add entrance signage (secondary at Abbot-Downing Blvd, Overland Trail, Harness Way), site furnishings (seating/shade), trees, and landscaping



Challenge Course

## 8.3.3 North Road Park

### Background

North Road Park currently offers only athletic fields and a pond but has the potential for much more. Because it has not yet reached its potential for development, residents have requested every desired facility be developed at this park. While the park can accommodate several new facilities, it does not have the

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space for everything that residents have requested, especially with most of the land devoted to heavily used athletic fields. The recommendations for this park would upgrade it to a Community Park with a wide array of attractions. Final plans should include continued engagement with the community.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Limited developed features
- Potential for more features
- Last existing parkland for new facilities
- Lack of connectivity/accessibility throughout site
- Potential for better connection to neighborhood
- High demand for new facilities as last large township owned property to develop

### **Park Improvement Recommendations**

1. Add pickleball courts and expand parking to meet community demand (in progress)
2. Add a picnic shelter with restrooms to provide a gathering space for resident and a meeting space for teams
3. Add a large all-access playground with shade to broaden activities at the park and meet the growing needs of Orange Township families
4. Develop a park master plan to added needed features and upgrade the park to a Community Park using thorough engagement with community; ensure development coincides with long-term needs
5. Provide ADA accessible walkways to all existing and future park features
6. Provide accessible connections to nearby neighborhoods
7. Consider adding a pollinator garden to provide educational opportunities, beautification, and to reduce the amount of mowing needed at the park
8. Complete the paved perimeter trail loop and partner to extend into the school owned adjoining property
9. Install outdoor fitness equipment to support team training opportunities and attract more visitors
10. Add support amenities, including entrance signage (main and secondary), drinking fountains with bottle fillers, site furnishings (seating/shade/bike racks), trees, and landscaping

## **8.3.4 Ro Park at Glen Oak**

### **Background**

This park is only about a quarter of a mile from Glen Oak Park but offers different and complementary features. Consideration of the features at each park should be considered together as they largely serve the same residents. Ro Park has the only township-operated diamond fields and has a large playground, while Glen Oak has smaller play spots.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Accessible walkways only provided to benches on one side of each field
- No wayfinding between areas
- Pedestrian entrance lacks sign
- Shelter needs some repairs

### **Park Improvement Recommendations**

1. Consider improvements collectively with Glen Oak Park
2. Replace playground surfacing, expand equipment offerings, and improve accessibility (complete)
3. Add shade structures at playground
4. Provide accessible connections to nearby neighborhoods



5. Develop a neighborhood feature based on the preferences of the nearby residents as determined through neighborhood outreach
6. Add support amenities, including entrance signage (Secondary along Blue Holly Dr), site furnishings (seating/shade/bike racks), trees, and landscaping

### 8.3.5 Township Hall Park

#### Background

Township Hall Park is a primarily passive use park that offers trails and a fishing pond, in addition to housing the Township Hall. As a result, the park is a primary gathering space for the community. The recommendations for this park focus on enhancing gathering opportunities while preserving the passive character of the property.

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Shelter could possibly be used as a small amphitheater
- Fishing access points are not ADA accessible
- Some existing wayfinding & signage; potential for more
- Basketball court is not ADA accessible (no paved connection from sidewalk)
- No playground, potential for added equipment and/or nature play features
- Paved trail has some deteriorating areas, some rough edges
- Picnic table in gazebo is not ADA accessible
- No accessible parking available near shelter
- Potential connection to new Veterans Memorial

#### Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Prepare a park master plan to ensure proposed development is consistent with long-term community needs
2. Seek recognition of the park as an official arboretum
  - Rename the park to promote this designation and add tree identification signage
3. Implement long-term solutions at the pond to address algae blooms
4. Provide ADA accessible walkways to all existing and future park features (e.g., basketball court, picnic shelter, fishing access)
5. Develop a nature play area or playground to add activities for children while emphasizing the passive character of the park
6. Install outdoor fitness equipment to meet demand for health and fitness resources
7. Consider as a location to build an amphitheater to facilitate programming and community events desired by community
8. Realign the park path system to eliminate the on-road portion and improve the trail network, add wayfinding signage, and resurface deteriorating areas
9. Add interpretive/educational signage at the ponds and creek and throughout the park educating users about township and site history



*Sample Amphitheater*



*Natural Log Climbing Features, Jacobson Park, Lexington Kentucky*

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10. Consider adding a large picnic shelter to meet growing needs for rentals and to support proposed new features
  11. Consider adding solar lighting to the perimeter trail to provide extended use, especially during the winter months
  12. Evaluate the potential demand for outdoor games, such as corn hole, to amplify this park as a gathering space for the community
  13. Develop a community feature suitable for this park based on the preferences of the township residents as identified in this Master Plan or future outreach
  14. Add site furnishings (bike rack), bottle filler/drinking fountain (near shelter), trees, and landscaping

## 8.4 SPECIAL USE

### 8.4.1 Orange Bridge Park

#### Background

This small park provides access to the bridge over Columbus Pike to the Delaware County District Library. The park functions as a trailhead for a trail that leads to North Orange Park in one direction and a large number of businesses in the other. Its location makes it a great resting place for users of this trail. The park could also highlight the destinations along this 2-mile stretch of trail.

The following park issues and opportunities were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Limited features
- Potential to link new residential neighborhood to trail system

#### Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Consider renaming area to Len Fischer Memorial Bridge Trailhead
2. Add a bike repair station to improve trailhead functionality
3. Add wayfinding signage to highlight destinations along the trail in both directions

## 8.5 NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

### 8.5.1 Standard Features

The text below outlines the features that should be included in the development of new parks in Orange Township. The development of any new park should be preceded by the preparation of a detailed master plan for the property that utilizes community input. Potential locations for new parks are identified in Figure 7.1 in Chapter 7.

Public input indicated need for parks in all parts of the township, and the service area mapping shows lower levels of service in several areas. Fortunately, additional parks can be added in Orange Township without the acquisition of additional land. Opportunities exist to utilize existing, township owned land, HOA properties, or partnerships to meet most of the needs of the community. Figure 7.1 in Chapter 7 shows the approximate locations for new parks in Orange Township.

### 8.5.2 New Neighborhood Parks

Optimally, Neighborhood Parks should be minimum of 5 to 10 acres in size. Mini Parks are similar but smaller parks less than 5 acres in size. With the recommendation to develop up to six new Neighborhood or Mini parks over the next 10 years, Orange Township should have a standard list of elements to include in each park. These standards should function as a starting point for engagement with the community but should ensure that all new parks provide a variety of amenities for all users. Partners that develop Neighborhood Parks should be encouraged to follow these standards.

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**Typical Neighborhood Park Elements include:**

1. Playground
2. ½ basketball court (may be swapped for another feature if desired by the community)
3. Gathering area/picnic shelter
4. Walking trail if supported by site conditions
5. Good circulation – walkways/ADA access
6. Restrooms (small), if usage rates support
7. Landscaping/trees for shade
8. Open grass area/athletic field – practice or pick-up use (if adequate space exists)
9. Unique neighborhood determined feature(s) based on local interest – could be related to sports, environment, arts, etc.
10. Parking (if space allows)

**Typical Mini Park Elements include:**

1. Playground
2. ½ basketball court (may be swapped for another feature if desired by the community)
3. Gathering area w/ shade
4. Good circulation – walkways/ADA access
5. Landscaping/trees for shade
6. Open grass area (if adequate space exists)

### 8.5.3 New Community Parks

Typically, a Community Park should be larger with features that attract users from all over the community. They should be developed with consideration to a higher volume and extended duration of visitation. Although this plan does not recommend the acquisition and development of any new Community Parks, Orange Township has one park that is recommended to be upgraded to a Community Park – North Road Park.

The following features are typical of Community Parks, including North Orange Park, and could apply to any future park opportunities that arise. Any development undertaken by Orange Township should also include an engagement campaign to solicit direct public input from across the township.

**Potential elements include:**

1. Large all-access playground
2. Game courts (pickleball, basketball, etc.)
3. Central gathering area/nucleus with seating
4. Picnic shelters/gathering and program/event space
5. Walking and/or biking trail
6. Outdoor fitness equipment
7. Good circulation – walkways/ADA access
8. Landscaping
9. Trees
10. Shade at gathering areas, seating areas, playgrounds, etc.
11. Restroom
12. Athletic fields – depending on community needs

13. Unique element(s)

14. Parking

## 8.6 PARK IMPROVEMENT LIST AND COST ESTIMATES

The improvements by park are presented in Table 8.1. These improvements should be reevaluated prior to new development and after any follow-up planning studies. All costs in Table 8.1 are estimated in 2022 dollars and will need to be evaluated for potential escalation at the time of development. The master planning process completed before large-scale improvements should include a detailed estimate of the costs for the improvements at each park.

Grant opportunities exist and should be explored for many of these improvements, particularly trail system development, helping to reduce the required contributions by Orange Township. Additionally, partnerships, including for fundraising efforts, should be considered as part of any improvement, particularly those with substantial capital costs.

**Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects**

Park Name		Term	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>						
<b>Walker Wood Park</b>						
1	Park Master Plan	Short	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
2	Signage - Entrance (Secondary at Condos)	Short	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$11,000
3	Site Furnishings (Shade/Seating along Trail/Playground)	Short	\$18,000	\$0	\$0	\$18,000
4	Playground Surface Repair (PIP)	Short	\$47,000	\$0	\$0	\$47,000
5	Trees and Landscaping	Medium	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
6	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Medium	\$0	\$74,000	\$0	\$74,000
7	Playground Equipment Expansion (Age 2-5, Swings, Etc.)	Medium	\$0	\$185,000	\$0	\$185,000
8	Playground Shade	Medium	\$0	\$43,000	\$0	\$43,000
9	Neighborhood Determined Feature	Medium	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000
10	Basketball Court (Half)	Long	\$0	\$0	\$43,000	\$43,000
11	Bottle Filler/Drinking Fountain (Replacement)	Long	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$7,000
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$101,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$551,000</b>
<b>Community Parks</b>						
<b>Glen Oak Park</b>						
1	ADA Walkways - 6' Wide	Short	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$14,000
2	Bottle Filler/Drinking Fountain	Short	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
3	Pond Signage (Rules/Interpretive)	Short	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
4	Signage - Entrance (Secondary - Blue Stem Dr and Glen Oak Elem.)	Short	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$11,000
5	Trail Improvements (Improve Surface of Unpaved Path)	Short	\$59,000	\$0	\$0	\$59,000
6	Bike Repair Station	Medium	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
7	Site Furnishings (Seating/Shade along Trail)	Medium	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
8	Trees and Landscaping	Medium	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
9	Wildflower Meadow	Medium	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
10	Neighborhood Determined Feature	Long	\$0	\$0	\$80,000	\$80,000
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$97,000</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$221,000</b>
<b>North Orange Park</b>						
1	Park Master Plan	Short	\$37,000	\$0	\$0	\$37,000
2	ADA Walkways - 6' Wide	Short	\$34,000	\$0	\$0	\$34,000
3	Signage - Entrance (Secondary - Abbot-Downing Blvd, Overland Trail, Harness Way)	Short	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$11,000



**Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects (Continued)**

Park Name		Term	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
4	Aquatic Center Improvements	Medium	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
5	Site Furnishings (Seating/Shade along Trail)	Medium	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000
6	Trees and Landscaping	Medium	\$0	\$31,000	\$0	\$31,000
7	Wildflower Meadow	Medium	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
8	Interpretive Signage	Medium	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
9	Playground Shade	Medium	\$0	\$62,000	\$0	\$62,000
10	Pond Improvements	Medium/Long	\$0	\$246,000	\$246,000	\$492,000
11	Community Feature TBD Based on Demand	Long	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$400,000
12	Skate Park	Long	\$0	\$0	\$246,000	\$246,000
13	Obstacle Course/Parkour Area	Long	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$82,000</b>	<b>\$388,000</b>	<b>\$992,000</b>	<b>\$1,462,000</b>
<b>North Road Park</b>						
1	Parking Lot Expansion	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
2	Pickleball Courts (4) w/ Lights	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
3	Picnic Shelter - Large w/ Restrooms	Short	\$493,000	\$0	\$0	\$493,000
4	Playground (Large All-Access) w/ Shade	Short	\$370,000	\$0	\$0	\$370,000
5	Upgrade to Community Park	Short	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	Park Master Plan	Short	\$37,000	\$0	\$0	\$37,000
7	ADA Walkways - 6' Wide	Short	\$136,000	\$0	\$0	\$136,000
8	Bottle Filler/Drinking Fountain	Short	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
9	Neighborhood Connections - 10' Wide	Short	\$69,000	\$0	\$0	\$69,000
10	Pollinator Garden	Short	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
11	Signage - Entrance (Main)	Short	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
12	Signage - Entrance (Secondary)	Short	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
13	Site Furnishings (Seating/Shade/Bike Racks)	Short	\$37,000	\$0	\$0	\$37,000
14	Trees and Landscaping	Short	\$31,000	\$0	\$0	\$31,000
15	Trail - Complete Paved Perimeter (10' Wide)/Partner w/ School to Extend	Short/Medium	\$92,000	\$185,000	\$0	\$277,000
16	Bike Repair Station	Medium	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
17	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Medium	\$0	\$148,000	\$0	\$148,000
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$1,289,000</b>	<b>\$335,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,624,000</b>
<b>Ro Park at Glen Oak</b>						
1	Playground Expansion and Surface Replacement (PIP)	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
2	Signage - Entrance (Secondary - Blue Holly Dr)	Short	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
3	Site Furnishings (Seating/Shade/Bike Racks)	Short	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$12,000
4	Playground Shade	Medium	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
5	Playground Equipment Replacement	Medium	\$0	\$160,000	\$0	\$160,000
6	Neighborhood Determined Feature	Long	\$0	\$0	\$80,000	\$80,000
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$19,000</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$309,000</b>
<b>Township Hall Park</b>						
1	Park Master Plan	Short	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
2	Pond Improvements	Short	\$308,000	\$0	\$0	\$308,000
3	ADA Walkways - 6' Wide	Short	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
4	Trees and Landscaping	Short	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
5	Site Furnishings (Bike Rack)	Short	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000

**Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects (Continued)**

Park Name		Term	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
6	Nature Play Area/Playground	Medium	\$0	\$246,000	\$0	\$246,000
7	Bottle Filler/Drinking Fountain (Near Shelter)	Medium	\$0	\$7,000	\$0	\$7,000
8	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Medium	\$0	\$148,000	\$0	\$148,000
9	Amphitheater (Possible Location)	Medium	\$0	\$308,000	\$0	\$308,000
10	Trail Improvements and Realignment	Medium	\$0	\$160,000	\$0	\$160,000
11	Interpretive Signage (Pond and Creek)	Medium	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
12	Arboretum Signage	Medium	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
13	Educational/Historic Signage	Medium	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
14	Trail Lighting (Solar)	Medium	\$0	\$133,000	\$0	\$133,000
15	Community Feature TBD Based on Demand	Long	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$400,000
16	Outdoor Games (e.g., Corn Hole)	Long	\$0	\$0	\$31,000	\$31,000
17	Picnic Shelter - Large	Long	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$380,000</b>	<b>\$1,077,000</b>	<b>\$531,000</b>	<b>\$1,988,000</b>
<b>Special Use Parks</b>						
<b>Orange Bridge Park</b>						
1	Bike Repair Station	Short	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Systemwide</b>						
1	ADA Accessibility Assessment	Short	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
2	Wayfinding Plan & Signage for All Parks	Short	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$75,000
3	Wi-Fi Hotspots	Short	\$123,000	\$0	\$0	\$123,000
4	Community Gardens (Possible Partnership w/ Olentangy Local Schools)	Short	\$37,000	\$0	\$0	\$37,000
5	Veterans Memorial at Fire Station 362	Short	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
6	Trail System Construction (0.5-Mile Per Year w/ 50% Grant Funding)	All	\$616,000	\$924,000	\$1,540,000	\$3,080,000
7	Disc Golf Course (Location TBD - Partnership)	Medium	Partnership	Partnership	Partnership	Partnership
8	Splash Pad (Location TBD - Partnership)	Medium	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
9	Dog Park (Location TBD - Partnership)	Long	Partnership	Partnership	Partnership	Partnership
10	Recreation Center Feasibility Study & Needs Assessment	Long	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
11	New Neighborhood/Mini Park #1 - HOA Partnership	Long	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$700,000
12	New Neighborhood/Mini Park #2 - HOA Partnership	Long	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$700,000
13	New Neighborhood/Mini Park #3 - HOA Partnership	Long	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$700,000
14	New Neighborhood/Mini Park #4 - HOA Partnership	Long	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$700,000
15	New Neighborhood Park #5 - Township-Owned Property (Rail Timber)	Long	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$700,000
16	New Neighborhood Park #6 - Potential Trade w/ Olentangy Local Schools	Long	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$700,000
<b>Systemwide Total</b>			<b>\$876,000</b>	<b>\$1,424,000</b>	<b>\$5,770,000</b>	<b>\$8,070,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PARKS</b>			<b>\$2,844,000</b>	<b>\$3,880,000</b>	<b>\$7,503,000</b>	<b>\$14,227,000</b>

\*Values include 10% contingency and 12% for design, engineering, bidding, construction administration, etc. (except non-construction items)

## ACTION PLAN

### 9.1 INTRODUCTION

The Action Plan table on the following pages (Table 9.1) provides a detailed list of recommendations for the 2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Trails. These strategies represent specific actions for parks and recreation facilities in Orange Township to take to implement this plan.

### 9.2 ACTION PLAN STRATEGIES

These strategies are listed under the four goals and 14 objectives from the Strategic Plan (Chapter 6). The legend at the top of the table identifies the abbreviations used throughout the table. Checkmarks indicate the timeframe for the completion of each strategy within the time periods of 0-2 years, 3-5 years, or 6-10 years. Some strategies are indicated as “Ongoing” as they apply to all timeframes or represent more general actions that should always be considered. A total count of strategies by timeframe is located at the end of the table in the corresponding columns.

The other columns provide information regarding the implementation of each strategy. “Category” describes the type of action within the following four options: capital (capital improvements); policy (guidelines for the Township Parks department, possibly including legislation); planning (long-term parks outlook, which includes conduction of studies); or operations. The column for “Agency” indicates who is expected to implement the strategy, usually the Orange Township Park Department or another township department. “Funding Source” indicates how the strategy should be funded or the type of funds used (operating or capital funds).

### 9.3 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY RATING

The steering committee reviewed potential solutions and participated in an exercise to help verify capital improvement priorities for the Action Plan. Committee members were asked to rate each of the potential improvement projects through the engagement software Mentimeter on a scale of 0-5 with the Highest Priority (5) and Not Needed (0).

The priority ranking was used to help rank the importance of improvements but not necessarily the order in which they should be developed. Figure 9.1, located after the Action Plan, identifies the capital improvement rating based on the average of the ranking for each item. These rankings were used as part of the process for recommending priorities along with public input and analyses completed throughout this master planning process.

Table 9.1: Action Plan

ACTION PLAN - 2022 Orange Township 10-Year Master Plan For Parks, Recreation, and Trails							
Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations							
Parks = Orange Township Park Department		OP = Park Operating Budget					
Twp = Township Board of Trustees, Other Township Departments		CIP = Capital Improvement Budget					
Partners = Other Organizations (County/state park departments, private agencies, HOAs, schools, state/federal grants, etc.)		Revenue = Items that Generate Additional Revenue					
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)		Category	Agency	Funding Source	
		0-2	3-5				
Goal 1: Quality Parks and Facilities							
Enhance quality of life for everyone in Orange Township by equitably providing exceptional amenities and flexible spaces for recreation, wellness, and socialization							
Objective 1.1 – Places: Provide innovative parks that serve and engage the community							
Strategy 1.1.1:		Continue developing North Road Park into a Community Park providing needed features that serve the community	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.2:		Consider themed playground equipment, such as climbing rocks, sensory features, etc., potentially providing for marketing and resident/visitor photo opportunities		Ongoing	Capital/Operations	Parks/Twp	CIP
Strategy 1.1.3:		Add pickleball courts at least one park in Orange Township to help meet existing and growing demand	✓		Capital	Parks/Partners	CIP
Strategy 1.1.4:		Consider field and court needs during renovations of existing and development of new parks – make multiuse spaces wherever possible		Ongoing	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.5:		Add a neighborhood determined feature at each park, ensuring development aligns with need and encouraging a sense of local investment in parks by allowing residents to influence decision-making and change		Ongoing	Capital/Planning	Parks/Partners	CIP
Objective 1.2 – Amenities: Pursue responsive development and strategic replacement of structures and support features							
Strategy 1.2.1:		Use this Master Plan and the list of capital improvements (Table 8.1 of Chapter 8) as a guide for park development over the next 10 years		Ongoing	Capital/Planning	Parks/Twp	CIP
Strategy 1.2.2:		Add support features throughout the park system such as restrooms, seating/benches, shade structures, drinking fountains, trees & landscaping		Ongoing	Capital/Planning	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.2.3:		Add playgrounds where unavailable throughout the township		Ongoing	Capital	Parks/Partners	CIP/Partners
Strategy 1.2.4:		Update older playgrounds and include separate age 2-5 equipment	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.2.5:		Consider adding basketball courts in areas of the township where none are available or where only half courts are available in Neighborhood Parks		Ongoing	Capital/Planning	Parks/Partners	CIP/Partners
Strategy 1.2.6:		Expand capacity of existing fields in Orange Township through adding support features such as artificial turf and lighting	✓	✓	Capital	Parks/Partners	CIP/Partners
Strategy 1.2.7:		Add restrooms to larger parks that do not currently offer them if usage rates support the facility		Ongoing	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.2.8:		Include bottle fillers at all new drinking fountains and whenever existing features are replaced		Ongoing	Capital	Parks/Partners	CIP/Partners
Objective 1.3 – Land Management: Employ strategic partnership and development policies to ensure community access to parks and open space in the present and the future							
Strategy 1.3.1:		Utilize the guidelines in this plan as a starting point for engagement with the community to ensure that all new parks provide a variety of amenities for all users		Ongoing	Capital/Planning	Parks/Partners	CIP/Partners
Strategy 1.3.2:		Implement conservation policies and sustainable practice guidelines for future development and management of park properties	✓		Operations/Policy	Parks/ Twp	OP/CIP
Strategy 1.3.3:		Require township-owned properties remain available to Orange Township residents when not in use by lessee		Ongoing	Operations/Policy	Parks/ Twp	OP



**Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)**

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
<b>Strategy 1.3.4:</b> Consider renaming Orange Bridge Park to Len Fischer Memorial Bridge Trailhead	✓			Operations	Parks/Twp	OP/CIP
<b>Strategy 1.3.5:</b> Consider developing the existing 4.5-acre township-owned property on Rail Timber Way as a Neighborhood Park to serve the northwest portion of the Orange Township		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
<b>Strategy 1.3.6:</b> Consider improvements at Glen Oak Park and Ro Park collectively as these parks are close together and largely serve the same residents			Ongoing	Capital	Parks	CIP
<b>Strategy 1.3.7:</b> Acquire land contiguous to existing parks, if it becomes available, to allow for additional features and increase the total amount of parkland available to residents with minimal impact to system maintenance and operations			Ongoing	Capital	Parks/Twp	CIP
<b>Objective 1.4 – Proactive Maintenance: Enhance safety, accessibility, quality, and cost effectiveness by continuously examining maintenance standards and best practices</b>						
<b>Strategy 1.4.1:</b> Consider field and court needs during renovations of existing and development of new parks – make multiuse spaces wherever possible		Ongoing		Operations/ Planning	Parks	CIP
<b>Strategy 1.4.2:</b> Prepare an Operations Plan which defines Maintenance Standards (Section 7.8.5)	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 1.4.3:</b> Calculate maintenance impact of equipment replacement to verify that replacing reduces, rather than increases, maintenance requirements and costs		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 1.4.4:</b> Determine maintenance standards that include how many employees are required to maintain one acre of parkland; consider these standards when adding parkland to the system	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 1.4.5:</b> Make needed improvements to the North Orange Aquatic Center to maintain operations and potentially expand capacity	✓	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
<b>Goal 2: Community Connections</b>						
<b>Cultivate a wide variety of physical and social connections throughout the entire community</b>						
<b>Objective 2.1 – Access: Add, expand, and improve connections and transportation options to parks, schools, and community resources</b>						
<b>Strategy 2.1.1:</b> Continue to periodically update Orange Township Trail Master Plan to ensure that the trail network continues to connect and grow, especially as new residential and commercial areas are planned and developed		Ongoing		Planning	Parks/Twp/ Partners	CIP/Partners
<b>Strategy 2.1.2:</b> Continue to expand the trail network through new trails and connections between existing segments		Ongoing		Capital/ Planning	Parks/Twp/ Partners	CIP/Partners
<b>Strategy 2.1.3:</b> Improve connectivity on a regional level by adding regional trail connections where possible		Ongoing		Capital/ Planning	Parks/Twp/ Partners	CIP/Partners
<b>Strategy 2.1.4:</b> Pursue, improve, and implement an ADA accessibility audit of all facilities, programs, and communications	✓			Capital/ Planning	Parks	CIP
<b>Strategy 2.1.5:</b> Add and upgrade signage – entrance, wayfinding, interpretive, and informative – throughout the park system	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP
<b>Strategy 2.1.6:</b> Improve connectivity between parks and adjacent neighborhoods by adding connecting paths where possible		Ongoing		Capital/ Planning	Parks/Twp/ Partners	CIP
<b>Strategy 2.1.7:</b> Add paved trail loops within existing parks that lack but can accommodate this feature (e.g., North Road and future parks); include paved trail loops in future parks		Ongoing		Capital	Parks/Twp	CIP
<b>Strategy 2.1.8:</b> Add Wi-Fi access to parks; promote park hotspots once available to ensure awareness	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP
<b>Strategy 2.1.9:</b> Consider adding trail lighting to the trail in Township Hall Park to enable extended use during fall and winter months			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
<b>Objective 2.2 – Gathering: Offer attractive, accessible, and inviting opportunities that promote community interaction</b>						
<b>Strategy 2.2.1:</b> Develop the proposed Veterans Memorial Park to provide community placemaking, gathering space, and a link to Township Hall Park	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP

**Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)**

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies						
	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
<b>Strategy 2.2.2:</b>	Develop an amphitheater (or outdoor stage), potentially at Township Hall Park or North Orange Park, to host all types of concerts and events that were repeatedly requested by the community		✓	Capital	Parks	OP/Revenue
<b>Strategy 2.2.3:</b>	Add picnic shelters at throughout the park system to increase overall access to these facilities, as well as make them more inviting, and to facilitate opportunities for outdoor community gatherings and programs		✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
<b>Strategy 2.2.4:</b>	Make full use of new facilities – amphitheaters, outdoor fitness equipment, picnic shelters, etc. – by programming and offering activities anchored around these sites	Ongoing			Parks/ Partners	OP/Revenue
<b>Strategy 2.2.5:</b>	Organize events and community-engaged activities around trails and bike paths	Ongoing			Parks/ Partners	OP/Revenue
<b>Strategy 2.2.6:</b>	Evaluate the potential demand for outdoor games, such as corn hole, to amplify this park as a gathering space for the community	✓	✓	Capital	Parks/ Partners	CIP
<b>Strategy 2.2.7:</b>	Coordinate with potential users in the township to determine the demand for an obstacle course or Parkour area to attract an additional user group to parks and encourage community fitness	✓	✓	Capital	Parks/ Partners	CIP
<b>Strategy 2.2.8:</b>	Evaluated any future opportunities for mountain bike trails on township-owned land or through partnerships		✓	Capital	Parks/ Partners	CIP
<b>Strategy 2.2.9:</b>	Consider adding a skate park, potentially at North Orange Park, to provide a local option for residents who seek this facility		✓	Capital	Parks/ Partners	CIP
<b>Objective 2.3 – Nature: Provide connections between the community and the natural environment through access, preservation, and education</b>						
<b>Strategy 2.3.1:</b>	Seek a partnership, possibly with Olen tangy Schools, to relocate and potentially expand the community gardens	✓		Capital	Parks/ Partners	CIP/Partners
<b>Strategy 2.3.2:</b>	Add interpretive/educational signage at ponds, future wildflower meadows, and other natural features within the parks	Ongoing			Capital	Parks/ Partners
<b>Strategy 2.3.3:</b>	Consider adding pollinator gardens and/or wildflower meadows in underutilized portions of parks to provide educational opportunities, beautification, and to reduce the amount of mowing needed	Ongoing			Capital/ Operations	CIP/Partners
<b>Strategy 2.3.4:</b>	Incorporate nature play elements as part of playground development and replacement, especially in more passive park areas	Ongoing			Capital/Polic y	Parks  CIP
<b>Strategy 2.3.5:</b>	Explore opportunities for restoring natural areas within parks in ways that improve access to nature and reduce maintenance requirements	Ongoing			Operations	Parks/ Partners  OP
<b>Strategy 2.3.6:</b>	Elevate parks by setting examples for Best Management Practices (BMP) like stormwater detention, recycling, reduced waste generation, etc.	Ongoing			Operations	Parks/ Twp  OP/CIP
<b>Goal 3: Continuous Engagement</b>						
<b>Engage residents and partner agencies to ensure the delivery of innovative, accessible, and inclusive experiences that adapt to the changing needs of the diverse community</b>						
<b>Objective 3.1 – Engagement: Meaningfully connect with residents and partners to assess needs, eliminate barriers, and ensure availability of unique experiences</b>						
<b>Strategy 3.1.1:</b>	Explore expanding partnerships with Preservation Parks of Delaware County, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, and Ohio State Parks to meet community needs and better market nature programming opportunities	Ongoing			Operations	Parks/ Partners  CIP/OP/ Partners
<b>Strategy 3.1.2:</b>	Include offerings by other agencies in the Township Newsletter to improve awareness of these opportunities	Ongoing			Operations	Parks/ Partners  OP
<b>Strategy 3.1.3:</b>	Prepare park master plans for existing parks and any future parks prior to development of facilities to ensure that added features are complementary, desired, and fully accessible	✓	✓	Capital/ Planning	Parks/ Partners	CIP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.1.4:</b>	Change the terminology from a from field "rental" to partnership or MOU to give the township more control over their field use	✓		Operations/ Policy	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 3.1.5:</b>	Continue open dialog with developers as neighborhoods are planned to ensure coordinated, strategic growth and the inclusion of needed park space and facilities	Ongoing			Capital	Parks/ Partners  CIP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.1.6:</b>	Engage neighborhood residents during park improvement processes using bulletin boards, monitored social media posts, and other methods	Ongoing			Operations	Parks/ Partners  OP/Partners

**Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)**

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)	Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10	
<b>Strategy 3.1.7:</b> Track population trends and know the demographics of the citizens served.	✓		Operations	OP
<b>Strategy 3.1.8:</b> Coordinate and partner with Preservation Parks to utilize the Bale Kenyon Road property for features identified in this plan (consistent with their mission) and to better serve the eastern portion of Orange Township	✓	✓	Planning	Partners
<b>Objective 3.2 – Partnerships: Prioritize relationship-building and information-sharing to effectively tackle collective goals across the community</b>				
<b>Strategy 3.2.1:</b> Seek partnerships with HOAs throughout Orange Township to upgrade existing land to Neighborhood Parks and better serve all residents of the township	✓		Capital	CIP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.2.2:</b> Consider partnering with developers of the Jennings Sports Park at Evans Farms for coordination of field needs and possible shared use of fields		Ongoing	Operations	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.2.3:</b> Explore the development of a disc golf course in Orange Township through a partnership with one of the county park systems and the local disc golf association		Ongoing	Operations	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.2.4:</b> Continue and expand collaboration with local health organizations – like Delaware Public Health District – to ensure programming efforts reach the widest audience and align with overall promotion of healthy living in the		Ongoing	Operations	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.2.5:</b> Develop working agreements with all partners (all outside groups using Orange Township facilities) including measurable outcomes; review every two years, at minimum		Ongoing	Operations	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.2.6:</b> Solicit expertise from Orange Township arts and culture community (e.g., Art of Music) to find arts-based solutions for facility improvements		Ongoing	Operations	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.2.7:</b> Encourage partners that develop Neighborhood or Mini parks to follow township standards		Ongoing	Operations/Capital	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.2.8:</b> Seek partnerships to add a splash pad in the township, if suitable land is identified, to expand opportunities for aquatic recreation and provide a highly requested park feature for residents		✓	Capital	CIP/Partners
<b>Objective 3.3 – Diverse Opportunities: Encourage healthy lifestyles, exploration, and learning through a wide variety of activities and events</b>				
<b>Strategy 3.3.1:</b> Add outdoor fitness equipment and/or obstacle courses at select parks to expand opportunities for improved community health to appeal to more age groups	✓	✓	Capital	CIP
<b>Strategy 3.3.2:</b> Seek partnerships with existing recreational facility operators for use of their indoor spaces to begin to meet the demand for indoor recreation	✓		Operations	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.3.3:</b> Follow up these efforts with a feasibility study to identify remaining unmet needs for indoor recreation		✓	Capital	CIP
<b>Objective 3.4 – Promotion: Utilize innovative and inclusive outreach methods to raise awareness of opportunities in Orange Township</b>				
<b>Strategy 3.4.1:</b> Determine standard formatting for all marketing and promotional materials based on the medium (e.g., social media, newspaper, etc.)	✓		Operations	OP
<b>Strategy 3.4.2:</b> Expand marketing of programs and facilities through existing and future collaborative relationships to increase community awareness and participation		Ongoing	Operations	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.4.3:</b> Maintain existing social media presence, but improve access on department webpage		Ongoing	Operations	OP
<b>Strategy 3.4.4:</b> Develop an online program calendar, including the ability to sync directly to personal calendars	✓		Operations	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.4.5:</b> Explore development of a searchable mobile app to communicate site locations, services, and special events to the public	✓	✓	Operations	OP/Partners
<b>Strategy 3.4.6:</b> Utilize volunteers to assist with park maintenance through efforts such as the adoption of sections of parks or trails in Orange Township		Ongoing	Operations	N/A

**Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)**

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
		0-2	3-5	6-10			
Goal 4: Responsible Operations							
Employ strong leadership to implement best practices that ensure efficient management, exceptional customer service, and sustainable operations							
Objective 4.1 – Structure: Encourage an engaged and well-trained workforce of valued staff with a culture of innovation							
Strategy 4.1.1:	Create and implement professional and career development strategies for management and supervisory staff	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.1.2:	Identify and allocate funding for critical staff development opportunities (including conferences, training, memberships, etc.) with consideration to licensure and certification requirements	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.1.3:	Encourage continued staff training for leadership and continued growth within respective fields		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.1.4:	Incentivize management level staff to attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.1.5:	Incentivize and support staff members to pursue Certified Park & Recreation Professional (CPRP), Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) and Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) certifications		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP
Objective 4.2 – Operations: Implement clear standards for training and performance to ensure quality, adaptable, and innovative services							
Strategy 4.2.1:	Adopt this Master Plan at the level of Township Board of Trustees; ensure commitment of legislative officials and township leaders	✓			Operations	Parks/Twp	N/A
Strategy 4.2.2:	Set priorities annually through a Management Retreat to articulate tasks and measure progress	✓			Operations	Parks	N/A
Strategy 4.2.3:	Utilize the recently hired Events and Communications Coordinator to develop and produce Orange Township-branded community events and programs using contractors support programming opportunities	✓			Operations	Parks	Revenue
Strategy 4.2.4:	Ensure easy program registration – and increased participation – by providing a streamlined online portal for sign-ups and information	✓			Operations	Parks	Revenue
Strategy 4.2.5:	Formulate and post a policy for (or against) use of drone within the park system and implement signage to designate whether (and where) drones are permitted	✓			Operations	Parks/Twp	OP
Strategy 4.2.6:	Establish split revenue percentages with funding channeled directly to Parks, not the General Fund, to support programming opportunities		✓		Operations	Parks	Revenue
Objective 4.3 – Funding: Explore creative operational practices and funding strategies to maximize the quality and effectiveness of parks, facilities, and operations							
Strategy 4.3.1:	Know the true costs to deliver services (direct and indirect costs); establish and adjust fees for programs according to these costs		Ongoing		Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.3.2:	Establish consistent permit process for field use to ensure equitable access and to protect against damage	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.3.3:	Understand all agency costs, both indirect and direct, before entering into agreements; understand how much investment a partner will commit to collaboration		Ongoing		Operations	Parks/Partners	OP/Partners
Strategy 4.3.4:	Never permit private or not-for-profit groups to benefit financially from Orange Township facilities without the township receiving a share of gross revenue		Ongoing		Operations	Parks/Partners	OP/Partners
Strategy 4.3.5:	Create a Scholarship Fund, potentially by requesting an optional additional \$2.00 charge during registration	✓			Operations	Parks/Partners	OP/Partners
Strategy 4.3.6:	Continue seeking grants and apply to foundations for project funding that enhances the park system	✓			Operations	Parks/Partners	N/A
Strategy 4.3.7:	Ensure grant requirements are consistent with the mission of the Orange Township Park Department while also considering associated costs to the township		Ongoing		Operations	Parks/Partners	Revenue
Strategy 4.3.8:	Consider creating an Orange Township Parks Foundation to raise funds, recruit and organize volunteers, and promote the parks	✓			Operations	Parks	OP/Revenue

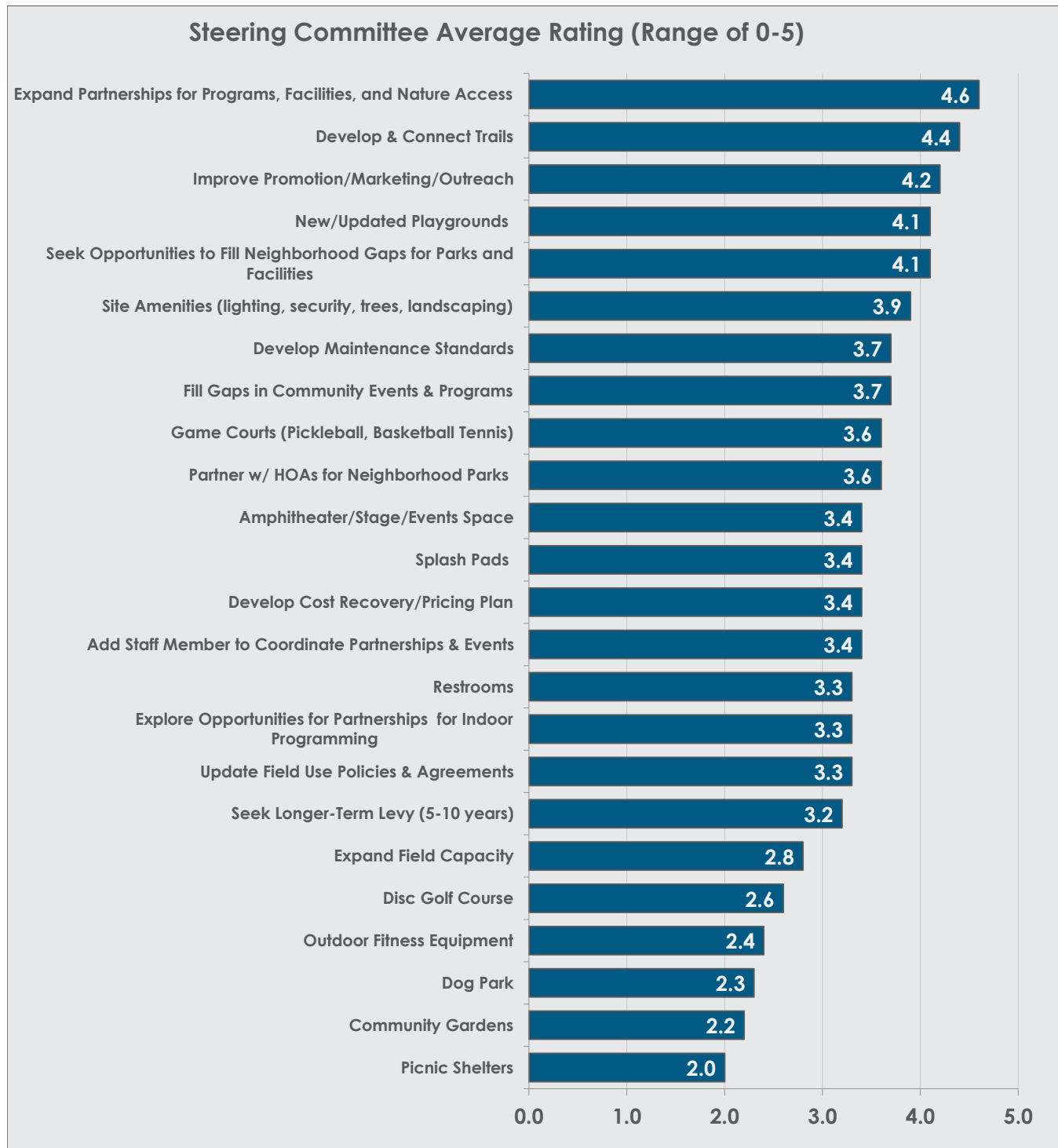


**Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)**

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
<b>Strategy 4.3.9:</b> Find dedicated funding sources for parks that can be depended upon annually	✓			Operations	Parks/ Partners	OP/Revenue
<b>Strategy 4.3.10:</b> Institute an easy-to-understand Cost Recovery and Pricing Plan for everything that is offered	✓			Operations	Parks/ Partners	OP/Partners
<b>Totals by Timeframe</b>	39	13	4			

**Total Number of Strategies = 95**

**Figure 9.1: Capital Improvement Priority Rating**



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# APPENDIX A - METHODOLOGY

## A.1 SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

The spatial distribution of parks throughout Orange Township is important because residents are more able and willing to access facilities that are close to their homes. For this analysis, travel times (walking or driving) based on the street network were used to determine service areas for parks by park type and for specific facilities within parks. The size of service areas varies depending on the amenity in question. This analysis used the ArcGIS Online and ArcMap by ESRI for the development of both the spatial data and the maps used in the report.

This process to develop the service area consisted of six steps for each service area distances.

1. Create shapefile with park entrances in ArcMap
2. Upload shapefile with park entrance points to ArcGIS online
3. Select "Perform Analysis" → "Use Proximity" → "Create Drive-Time Areas"
4. Select Walking Time or Driving Time (depending on measurement)
  - Toward facility at 12pm on Saturday
5. Select "Run Analysis"
6. "Export to Shapefile" and download

This process was repeated to generate service areas representing the following travel times:

- 10-minute walk
- 5-minute drive
- 10-minute drive

The shapefile for park entrances was created using the "Street\_Centerlines\_LBRSGDB.gdb" feature class provided by MORPC Mid-Ohio Open Data and the "Parks" shapefiles provided by Orange Township, combined with aerial imagery (Google Maps). Additionally, the process above was repeated to determine service areas for schools and parks by others in and near Orange Township.

Once the service areas were generated, the results were reduced to a single polygon for each site using the "Dissolve" function in ArcGIS. The service area shapefiles were then linked to the inventory table presented in Chapter 3 (Table 3.2) to allow for the selection of the service area of each site by facilities offered.

Once the service area ranges were calculated, the next step in the process was to assign service areas to parks by park type and various recreational facilities. The travel times associated with each park or facility are based on common travel time measurements. For example, a 10-minute walk is a commonly used measurement for the distance a person will travel for a frequently used service. The travel times assigned are based on the use level of the amenity, which corresponds with the length of time a user is likely to spend at the destination. For example, users are likely to be willing to travel a greater distance to use a large Community Park than a small Neighborhood Park, because the larger park will likely keep visitors and their families occupied for longer.

The travel time shapefiles for the previous step were used to create a series of service area maps. For each map, the locations of each amenity in question were selected using "Definition Query" from the travel time layers. For example, the Neighborhood Park Service Areas map (Figure 5.1) shows a 10-minute walk to any park (green for Orange Township Neighborhood Parks; purple for other Orange Township parks; blue for schools; orange for parks by others) including Mini and Community Parks. In contrast, a 5-minute drive is indicated only for a Community Parks or State/County/Metro Parks in Figure 5.2 (bright green for Community by the township; orange for community by others; yellow for State/County/Metro Parks). These areas were turned-on (or the other areas were turned-off) in the corresponding travel time layers within ArcGIS (using "Definition Query") because they contained the specific park feature represented in the map.

Most maps show more than one travel time to a feature to show varying levels of service, because even if the target service area is a 5-minute drive, those within a 10-minute walk have better access to the facility. As

noted previously, the information presented in Table 3.1 (Chapter 3) was used to assign park type classification and to select the service areas corresponding to the sites where each of the mapped park features were located.

The composite service areas map consists of a weighted overlay of each of the park and facility service areas. A single shapefile was created for each of the 13 facilities and four park classifications listed in Table A.1 below with the levels of service (travel times) indicated in the table. Scores were assigned to the travel time from each facility as indicated with a higher score for a shorter travel time. The “Union” function in ArcGIS was used to combine these 16 layers into one composite layer.

Once the scoring for all layers was combined into a single layer, a Field was added to the Attribute Table to indicate the composite score. The scores for the 16 facilities and park classifications were tallied to represent this composite score for all areas in Orange Township. Each of the five ranges represents approximately eight points since the highest scoring location in Orange Township scored a 50 (out of 67 possible points). Therefore, each category represents the score of the area as a percentage of the points between the lowest and highest score (50). These areas were then presented in the Composite Park Service Levels map. The five areas with then exported to a new shapefile and uploaded to ESRI Business Analyst to estimate the population and demographics for those living within each level of service.

**Table A.2: Composite Map Scoring**

Facility/Score	10 Minute Walk	5 Minute Drive	10 Minute Drive	Total Points	Notes
<b>Park Classification</b>					
Neighborhood Park	6	N/A	N/A	6	Inc. Community
School Park	4	N/A	N/A		
Community Park	N/A	3	N/A	3	
Metro/County/State Park	N/A	4	2	4	
<b>Park Points</b>				<b>13</b>	
<b>Recreation Amenities</b>					
Playground	6	3	N/A	6	10w inc. schools
Basketball Court	4	2	N/A	4	10w inc. schools
Trails	4	2	1	4	Park trails < 1 mile only for 5d and 10d
Diamond Ballfield	4	2	1	4	
Multipurpose Rectangular Field	4	2	1	4	
Picnic Shelter	4	2	1	4	
Aquatic Center	4	2	1	4	
Beach	4	2	1	4	
Tennis Court	4	2	1	4	
Fishing Access	4	2	1	4	
Volleyball Court*	4	2	1	4	
Pickleball Court*	4	2	1	4	
Dog Park*	4	2	1	4	
<b>Facility Points</b>				<b>54</b>	
<b>Total Points</b>				<b>67</b>	

\*Not Mapped in Chapter 5



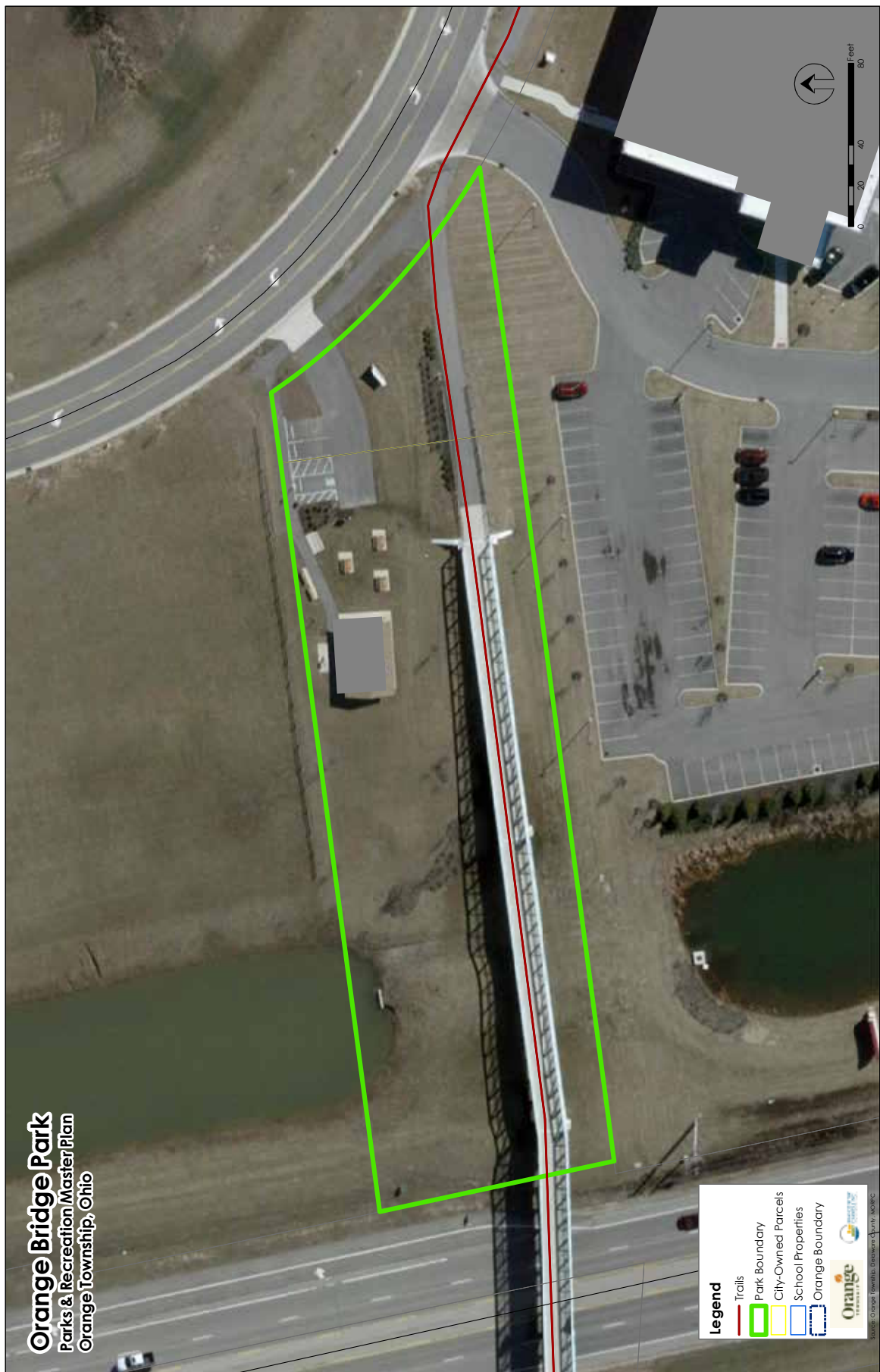
## APPENDIX B - PARK AERIALS





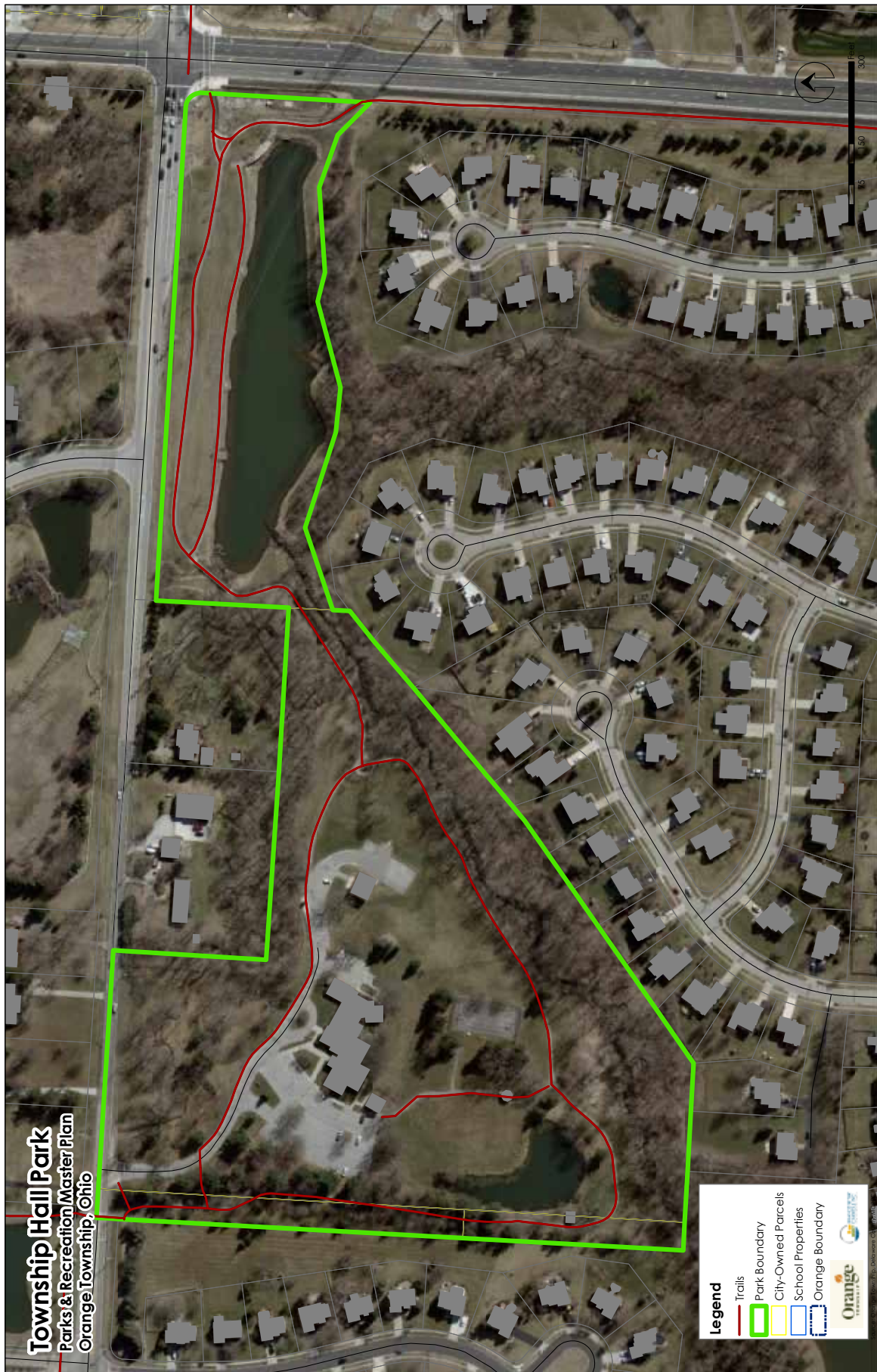




















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# APPENDIX C - CORE PROGRAMMING

## CORE PROGRAM CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

### C.1 ATHLETICS

**Definition:** Leisure activities which focus on skill development and athletic enjoyment.

**1. Audience:**

- Team
- Individuals
- All ages

**2. Formats:**

- Seasonal
- Rec League
- Competitive
- Participant & Spectator
- Progressive levels of skill development

**3. Athletic activities provide the opportunity to:**

- Enjoy physical activity and have fun
- Develop and maintain an effective level of physical fitness
- Utilize a positive outlet for aggressive behavior
- Provide an opportunity to feel connected to and participate with a group (socialization).
- Participate in healthy competition
- Develop sportsmanship and character

**4. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- |                       |                 |                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Badminton           | ▪ Fencing       | ▪ Ice Hockey              |
| ▪ Baseball            | ▪ Flag Football | ▪ Skating                 |
| ▪ Basketball          | ▪ Golf          | ▪ Soccer                  |
| ▪ Bocce               | ▪ Lacrosse      | ▪ Softball                |
| ▪ Bowling             | ▪ Martial Arts  | ▪ Swim team               |
| ▪ Cricket             | ▪ Pickleball    | ▪ Tennis                  |
| ▪ Cycling             | ▪ Racquet Ball  | ▪ Ultimate Frisbee        |
| ▪ Equestrian Programs | ▪ Roller Hockey | ▪ Volleyball              |
|                       |                 | ▪ Evolving and new sports |

### C.2 HEALTH, FITNESS, AND WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

**Definition:** Leisure activities which focus on body movement oriented in direction of fitness, skill development, and physical enjoyment.

**1. Audience:**

- Individuals
- Groups
- Seniors (e.g., Silver Sneakers)

- 
- Youth
  - All ages
- 2. Formats:**
- Seasonal
  - Participant & Spectator
  - Progressive levels of skill development
- 3. Activities provide the opportunity to:**
- Have fun
  - Develop and maintain an effective level of physical fitness
  - Utilize a positive outlet for aggressive behavior
  - Provide an opportunity to feel connected to and participate with a group (socialization)
  - Compete
  - Develop sportsmanship and character
- 4. Topics Include (not limited to):**
- |                        |                                |                               |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Aerobics             | ▪ Walking Clubs                | ▪ Cardio Hikes                |
| ▪ Cycling              | ▪ Therapeutic Horseback Riding | ▪ 5/10K Runs                  |
| ▪ Fitness Activities   | ▪ Movement Fitness             | ▪ Snowshoeing                 |
| ▪ Boot Camp            | ▪ Yoga                         | ▪ Water aerobics and exercise |
| ▪ Barre                | ▪ Paddling                     | ▪ Swimming                    |
| ▪ Cross Country Skiing | ▪ Walking                      | ▪ Weight lifting              |

## C.3 HEALTH AND WELLNESS EDUCATION

**Definition:** These programs go beyond the traditional view of recreation and promote the individual's optimal well being physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually.

- 1. Format:**
- Testing/Screening
  - Instructional Workshops and Classes
  - Speakers
  - Community Forums
  - Partnerships/Programs with Other Agencies
- 2. Health, Wellness and Educational Programs provide opportunities to:**
- Extend and continue the learning process
  - Create public awareness and understanding
  - Allow the individual to feel connected to his/her community
  - Enhance self-esteem
- 3. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▪ Stress Management   | ▪ Healthcare Assistance (e.g. signing up for Medicare) |
| ▪ Cessation Programs (e.g., quitting smoking & substance abuse support) | ▪ Personal Training                                    |
| ▪ Nutrition & Weight Control  | ▪ Diabetes Support                                     |
| ▪ Vision Screening  | ▪ Arthritis Therapy                                    |
|   | ▪ Heart Health Activities                              |

## C.4 CREATIVE ARTS

**Definition:** Activities that result in the creation of something tangible. The process usually involves artistic expression or effort of the imagination:

### 1. Format:

- Progressive Skill Development
- Individual and/or Group Projects
- Exhibits, Shows, Displays
- Classes and Workshops

### 2. Creative Arts provide the opportunity to:

- Express creativity
- Work with hands
- Develop fine motor skills
- Enhance the appreciation for the arts
- Give personal satisfaction and pride in accomplishment

### 3. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):

- Ceramics/Glass
  - Glazing & Staining
  - Greenware
  - Hand Building
  - Raku
  - Stained Glass
  - Wheel (Throwing)
- Crafts
  - Copper Foil Art
  - Paper Making
  - Decoupage
  - Papier Mache
  - Enameling
  - Plaster Crafts
  - Jewelry Making
  - Plastic Crafts
  - Mobiles
  - Print Making
  - Book-binding
  - Mosaics
  - Silk Screening
  - Paper Crafts
  - Wood Working
- Drawing/Painting-Calligraphy
  - Pastels
  - Cartooning
  - Pen & Ink
  - Charcoal
  - Sketching
  - Mixed Media
  - Water Colors
  - Oil
  - Preschool Drawing
- Fabric
  - Batik
  - Needle Point
  - Crochet
  - Quilting
  - Knitting
  - Sewing
- Photography
  - Composition
  - Pinhole Cameras
  - Using 35mm Cameras
  - Digital Workshops

- 
- Sculpture
    - Casting
    - Plaster
    - Clay
    - Soft (Fabric)
    - Mobiles
    - Wire
    - Paper
  - Weaving
    - Basketry
    - Dyeing
    - On or Off the Loom
    - Spinning

## C.5 PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS

**Definition:** Activities that allow the participant to use their own self as the medium of expression. The process of “doing” is important whether or not an audience is involved.

### 1. Formats:

- Progressive skill level development
- Classes and workshops
- Knowledge-Sharing
- Special Events
- Neighborhood Projects

### 2. Performing and Creative Arts provide the opportunity to:

- Discover themselves as a person, by being creatively involved in learning new skills, exploring and expressing talents
- Create their own entertainment
- Enjoy artistic expression at all ages
- Develop and enrich cultural appreciation

### 3. Types of Activities:

- Dance
  - Ballet
  - Ballroom Dance
  - Clogging
  - Creative Movement
  - Folk Dance
  - Jazz Dance
  - Modern Dance
  - Square Dance
  - Tap Dance
  - Line Dancing
- Drama
  - Acting
  - Backstage Crafts & Set-making
  - Games, Charades, Stunts, and Skits
  - Pantomime and Improvisation
  - Poetry Readings
  - Puppetry
  - Storytelling
  - Theater Groups
- Music
  - Choral Groups
  - Guitar
  - Piano
  - Rhythm Instruments (Bells, triangles, blocks, Drums)
  - Recorder
  - Singing
  - Talent/Variety Shows
  - Special Needs Music Program
  - Music Fundamentals



---

## C.6 CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

**Definition:** Activities in which the person is a spectator of a cultural performance.

### 1. **Formats:**

- Progressive skill level development
- Special Events
- Concerts, Live Shows, Screenings, etc.

### 2. **Cultural Performances provide the opportunity to:**

- Provide the participant with the opportunity to discover and appreciate various forms of performing arts
- Serves to develop and enrich cultural appreciation

### 3. **Types of Activities:**

- Ballet
- Musical performances
- Concerts, recitals
- Theater - Plays
- Musicals
- Talent shows

## C.7 EDUCATION, LIFE SKILLS, AND FUN

**Definition:** Programs that offer fun and educational activities which can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

### 1. **Audience:**

- Individuals
- Families
- Group
- All ages or specific age range

### 2. **Format:**

- Instructional Workshop or Class
- Speaker/Presenters
- Travel Program Itinerary

### 3. **Education and Life Skills Programs provide opportunities to:**

- Enhance a skill
- Improve safety and awareness
- Learn
- Explore
- Socialize

### 4. **Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| ■ Informational Referrals | ■ Tax Assistance                             |
| ■ Parenting Skills        | ■ Social Meetings                            |
| ■ CPR & First Aid         | ■ Financial Literacy Training and Assistance |
| ■ G.E.D. Programs         | ■ Introductory Classes or Activities         |

- 
- Tutoring
  - Summer Camp
  - Personal Safety
  - Baby Sitting Classes
  - Computer Skills
  - How-To Classes
  - Group Outings/Travel
  - Scout Programs
  - Aquatics
    - Swim Lessons
    - Red Cross Courses
    - Scuba

## C.8 COMMUNITY AND ANNUAL EVENTS

**Definition:** Activities that bring the community together to celebrate holidays, seasons, traditions, local makers, etc. May overlap with Cultural Performances.

### 1. Formats:

- Large gatherings in parks or along parade routes
- Admission fee – may or may not charge

### 2. Events provide opportunities to:

- Gather with community to celebrate holidays, events and traditions
- Meet neighbors
- Build a sense of unity and shared experience

### 3. Types of Activities:

- Festivals
- Parades
- Fairs
- Concerts
- Cultural celebrations
- July 4th Fireworks
- Holiday events
- Seasonal events
- Social activities
- Movies
- Markets (art, crafts, etc.)

## C.9 GAMES

**Definition:** Activities oriented around play and governed by specific rules; intended to provide challenges, diversion and enjoyment.

### 1. Audience:

- Groups
- Individuals
- Youth
- Seniors
- Families
- All ages

### 2. Formats:

- Active or Semi-active Group Games
- Social Games, Mixers, Ice Breakers
- Mental Games, Quizzes, Puzzles, Paper & Pencil Games
- Table and Equipment Games
- Quiet Games

---

### 3. Games provide the opportunity to:

- Develop ability to cooperate effectively with others
- Learn to accept and abide by the rules of the game
- Accept victory and/or defeat in good spirit
- Learn perseverance
- Develop good sportsmanship and consideration for the rights of others
- Learn to take turns and to accept boundary limits (either in a physical sense, or in terms of personal behavior)

### 4. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| ▪ Air Hockey          | ▪ Horse Shoes  |
| ▪ Billiards           | ▪ Low Organized Games (Lead-Up, Relays, Tag, Dodge ball) |
| ▪ Board & Table Games | ▪ Magic Stunts & Tricks                                  |
| ▪ Cards               | ▪ Table Tennis   |
| ▪ Checkers            | ▪ Skittles   |
| ▪ Chess               | ▪ Word Games   |
| ▪ Dominoes            | ▪ World Wide Games                                       |
| ▪ Cornhole            | ▪ Foosball   |

## C.10 NATURE/OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

**Definition:** Activities that are best conducted outdoors and that have, in some way, a direct relationship with nature or place the participant in direct contact with the elements.

### 1. Audience

- Individuals
- Groups
- All ages

### 2. Format:

- Classes/Workshops
- Teambuilding
- Program partnerships with other agencies
- Role Playing
- Field Trips
- Sensory Awareness Activities
- School Activities
- Summer Camp

### 3. Outdoor education activities provide the opportunity to:

- Develop an awareness and appreciation of our natural resources
- Develop skills for adaptation to vocational or leisure pursuits

### 4. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):

- |                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| ▪ Bird Feeding & Watching | ▪ Snowshoeing |
| ▪ Sledding                | ▪ Archery     |

- 
- Orienteering
  - Canoeing
  - Kayaking
  - Cross Country Skiing
  - Nature Play
  - Camping
  - Glamping (Glamour Camping)
  - Paddling (Canoe and Kayak)
  - Hiking
  - Fishing / Fishing Derby
  - Geocaching
  - Pet Shows
  - Repelling/Climbing
  - Survival Skills

## C.11 GREEN LIVING/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

**Definition:** Programs and activities that inform and help individuals or groups minimize their impact on the environment in order to provide for a sustainable future.

### 1. Audience:

- Family
- Individuals
- School Groups
- All ages

### 2. Formats:

- Seasonal Events
- Summer Camps
- Hands-on Activities
- Group Hikes
- Field Trips

### 3. Activities provide the opportunity to:

- Learn methods to minimize our footprint on the environment
- Participate with others toward a goal of a more sustainable future
- Learn methods which can be practiced at home and in parks at a larger scale

### 4. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):

## C.12 HERITAGE AND HISTORY

**Definition:** Programs that offer educational opportunities to interpret the heritage and history of a community, location, environment, or culture.

### 1. Audience:

- Families
- School Groups
- Individuals
- Tourists

### 2. Format:

- Instructional Workshops and Classes
- Speaker Presentations
- Reenactments
- Interpretive Events

### 3. Heritage and History Programs provide opportunities to:

- Understand and celebrate local natural and cultural history



- 
- Enjoy nature, heritage, and culture as a family or group
  - Feel connected to the environment and local history

**4. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Heritage Walks
- Maple Sugaring
- Heritage Farming Methods
- Native American Studies
- Storytelling
- Military Reenactments
- Live-Action Museums

## C.13 VOLUNTEER TRAINING

**Definition:** Because parks and recreation department staff cannot possibly perform all of the tasks needed to accomplish their mission, volunteers are necessary. Through programs that coordinate, educate, and supervise volunteers the work of the department can be carried out in an efficient, effective, and communal manner.

**1. Audience:**

- Individuals
- Families
- Group
- Partners

**2. Volunteer Training Programs provide opportunities to:**

- Participate toward the overall goals of the department
- Assist in tasks that are beyond the staff limitations of the agency (help to accomplish tasks in a timely and efficient manner)
- Be an integral part of an organization protecting the environment and supporting facilities and programs offered
- Gain experience using a wide array of skills
- Share interests with people of all ages
- Improve overall quality of life through community connectedness
- Receive professional training on a variety of topics
- Learn about the natural world
- Foster friendships
- Interact with park visitors
- Exercise in the great outdoors
- Be creative

**3. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Orientations
- Park Cleanups
- Educational Session Leader Training
- Nature Center Hosts
- Naturalist Training
- Invasive Species Removal
- Adopt a Park/Trail
- Trail Patrol and Maintenance
- Sustainable Trail Building
- Conservation Orientation



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# APPENDIX D - PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

## CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM ORANGE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN PROJECT NO. 21021

**Present:** Keith Rodenhauser, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.  
Darrell Douglas, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.



**September 13, 2021**

The public workshop open house was held on September 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Township Hall. Approximately 24 residents attended this meeting. As people entered, they were given a dot to place on a map to illustrate where they lived. They were shown to three stations where they could provide input and then given dots to vote on their most important park features and programs (3 each). Participants were also given \$1,000 in play money to vote for improvements that should be made to parks. The following are the responses to the write in comments at each of the three stations. A ✓ indicates where a person agreed with a comment.

### Parks and Facilities

#### 1. What makes them great now?

- Great aquatic center
- Pool
- Neighborhoods with parks
- Parks in all areas of Township – (this is not true)
- Consistency in look

#### 2. What would make them better?

- Phase in equipment specific, courts, equipment
- Dog park in attractive area – not leftover
- Inclusive equipment
- Would love a skate park
- Disc golf addition would be great
- Walker Wood playground is very limited in age range
- Additional dog park options
- Dog park
- More communication about what we have and how it can be used (people don't always know)
- Need parks in all areas of Township
- Add permanent outdoor games
- Connectivity for wheelchair/walker access
- Dog park alternative to grass
- A large community space for concerts, events, etc. ✓✓✓✓
- Balanced green space use (not just soccer)
- Addition of disc golf ✓

---

## **Trails and Natural Areas**

### 1. What makes them great now?

- Bike path on railway
- Love all the expanded/new trails in the Township
- Thank you for the new trails, Bale Kenyon and Lewis Center are awesome
- Trees, trails, picnic options
- Peaceful, natural, family friendly
- Well maintained – good job
- Great amenities for families to spend time
- Well maintained

### 2. What would make them better?

- Need to complete railway and biking trails ✓
- Need connectivity
- For fishing – land around ponds needs to be cleaned up ✓
- Finish the bicycle railroad crossing at Orange Road ✓✓
- Keep adding/extending and connect ✓✓
- More fishing areas ✓
- Connect trail system with genoa/Liberty ✓✓✓
- Improve fishing access ✓
- Wildflowers ✓
- Expand to connect to other areas of central Ohio ✓✓
- Mapping/documentation of new and proposed trails
- Complete connectivity of trail behind Walmart. Many residents walk but there is no trail
- Clean up ponds ✓
- Bike/walking path ✓
- Add trails to the north end of the Township
- Paved walk/bike trails so we can access the parks by walking or biking. All of the trails seem to be on the south end or central
- Bike/walking path
- Disc golf
- Addition of a disc golf course in Orange

## **Programs and Events**

### 3. What makes them great now? (No programs offered currently)

- N/A



#### 4. What would make them better?

- Start!
- Community level rec and competitive youth sports to help families
- Addition of pickleball ✓✓✓✓✓✓
- Focus on low-cost high value first-movies
- Events on trails (races) Pond (youth fishing)
- Nature activities, music festivals events, cornhole, etc. ✓✓✓
- Cultural events (food, music, etc.) ✓
- Disc golf
- Events that bring families/community together (youth sports) ✓

#### Dollar Voting

Participants were given \$1,000 in play money to place in boxes with the following categories:

Action (Box Title)	Event		Total
	Open House 9/13/2021	Stakeholder Groups	
Build new parks or facilities	\$1,700 7%	\$4,600 11%	<b>\$6,300</b> 10%
Build new walking and biking trails	\$7,800 32%	\$7,200 17%	<b>\$15,000</b> 23%
Upgrade existing park facilities	\$2,600 11%	\$1,400 3%	<b>\$4,000</b> 6%
Build new athletic fields	\$2,700 11%	\$6,700 16%	<b>\$9,400</b> 14%
Develop new indoor recreation facilities	\$2,300 9%	\$2,800 7%	<b>\$5,100</b> 8%
Develop a new splash pad	\$1,300 5%	\$2,300 5%	<b>\$3,600</b> 5%
Develop a dog park	\$2,400 10%	\$1,600 4%	<b>\$4,000</b> 6%
Expand program offerings	\$1,000 4%	\$1,800 4%	<b>\$2,800</b> 4%
Other	\$2,600 11%	\$13,500 32%	<b>\$16,100</b> 24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,400</b>	<b>\$41,900</b>	<b>\$66,300</b>

Other

- Disc golf (\$2,400)
- Unidentified (\$200)

#### Features Board

Participants were given three red dots to place on 16 park amenities (represented by pictures). The results are presented in the table below.

Park Features	Total	%
Trails	16	23%
Natural Areas	10	14%
Disc Golf	9	13%
Event Space	7	10%
Community Gardens	7	10%
Game Courts	5	7%
Athletic Fields	5	7%
Dog Parks	5	7%
Restrooms	2	3%
Playgrounds	1	1%
Spraygrounds	1	1%
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	1	1%
Recreation Centers	1	1%
Outdoor Games	1	1%
Public Art	0	0%
Picnic Shelters	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	
<b>Participants</b>	<b>24</b>	



### Programs Board

Participants were given three green dots to place on 16 park programs (represented by pictures). The results are presented in the table below.

Programs	Total	%
Festivals	21	29%
Nature Programs	9	13%
Movies/Music Concerts	9	13%
Adult Sports	6	8%
Youth Sports	5	7%
Athletic Tournament	4	6%
Senior Programs	4	6%
Arts & Crafts Classes	4	6%
Annual Special Events	3	4%
Runs and Races	3	4%
Fitness Classes	2	3%
Summer Camps	1	1%
After School Programs	1	1%
Dance and Drama Classes	0	0%
Music Classes	0	0%
E-Sports	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	
<b>Participants</b>	<b>24</b>	



If you should disagree with any information contained herein, please kindly notify our office in writing within 10 days of receipt of this memorandum.

Keith E. Rodenhauser, AICP, SITES AP  
KER/ker

9/15/2021

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**CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM  
ORANGE TOWNSHIP, OHIO  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN  
PROJECT 21021**

**Present: Master Plan Steering Committee**

Kim Boston  
Jerry Davis  
Julie Feasel  
Amy Glaze  
Adam Hemsworth  
Patsy Kaschalk  
Susie Ross  
Chad Williams  
**Staff**  
Silas Bowers  
MaryAnn Ross  
Jeffrey Beard  
Brett Wiemken



**By: Patrick Hoagland, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.**

**July 15, 2021**

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**Steering Committee Meeting**

The first Steering Committee Meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan was held on this date. Eight of the 10 members of the Steering Committee were in attendance along with four staff members. Mr. Hoagland made a presentation outlining the process, some very early results of the surveys, and some early demographics along with some other information. Some comments following the presentation include the following:

1. North Road Park has several plans in process. Mr. Bowers will provide copies of those plans to BCI.
2. There is some undeveloped land in the neighborhoods that is a part of the HOA properties. These are some potentials for development as parks.
3. Ro Park improvements have been funded.
4. The existing levy expires in 2022. It would be ideal to have a levy on the ballot in the spring, in May of 2022 following the public engagement and results of this Master Plan.

Mr. Hoagland asked the Committee Members what they see as some of the unmet needs of the Community. The following items were identified.

1. Connectivity in a bike path systems that connects the Township. It was noted that there is a phased bike path plan with 12 phases that is in the works. The Zoning staff will provide this information to Mr. Hoagland tomorrow morning.
2. The discussion about Bale-Kenyon property which is actually a property owned by Preservation Parks of Delaware County.
3. An amphitheater.
4. In the trails there are gaps around North Road Park that need to be connected.
5. There is not enough gym space in the Community. This is provided by the schools only at this point.
6. The swim teams for the four high schools need an indoor competition facility. Currently, they practice at a small fitness facility with no room for spectators.
7. They need more parks that have a variety of activities rather than just sports fields.

- 
8. It was noted that a lot of people use Glen Oak Park year-round with the ice rink (flooded pond) and sled hill.
  9. There is some funding for a Veteran's Memorial Park, but it does not have a final location as yet and there is a design. This design will be provided to BCI. One potential location is the old Township Hall site on the corner.

*If you should disagree with any information contained herein, please kindly notify our office in writing within 10 days of receipt of this memorandum.*



Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA 07/20/2021

PDH/meg

C:  
File



## Ideas Report

<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>Improving Trails and Natural Areas</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Make a master path plan/connect areas
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Would love to see our path system connect housing communities to the major hubs of Orange Township and then surrounding communities. Connect to library, pool, parks, metro parks, schools, powell paths and westerville paths. Make do our community can access olentangy trail and ohio to Erie trail.
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	15
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Partner with Olentangy Schools
<b>Idea Detail</b>	The township could partner with local Olentangy schools and Preservation Parks to help connect walking trails and bike trails throughout the community.
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	6
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	More Connections on Trails
<b>Idea Detail</b>	There is a gap between North Road and the railroad trailhead off Lewis Center Road. It was promised in plans years ago but fell by the wayside with no explanation.  I like the trails added along Lewis Center near the dam. More like this!
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	6
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Lewis Center Rd. Phase III Trail Development
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Out of abundant safety concerns, residential property owners on the west side of Lewis Center Rd. are advocating for the Township to move the proposed Phase III development to the Alum Creek Park (east) side of the road and create the pedestrian crossing at Waukeegan Ave. or Shoreline Dr. and not at the proposed beach entrance to the park. Please visit our community website for more details and information: <a href="https://saferwayinitiative.wixsite.com/saferway">https://saferwayinitiative.wixsite.com/saferway</a>
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	6
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Add pickleball courts. Fastest growing recreational sport
<b>Idea Detail</b>	All adjacent areas have pickleball courts and group play.
<b>Idea Author</b>	Charlie B
<b>Number of Stars</b>	3
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Bike trail crossings across all major roads & all railroads
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Connect the bike trails to all schools and all parks (including all township parks, all preservation parks, all metro parks, all state parks, and all adjacent communities' bike trail systems). There should also be consistently signed/striped/lit trail crossings across all roads and all railroads. Otherwise, what is the point of the trail system? Currently, with all these dead ends at major crossing points at busy roads and railroad crossings, the bike trail system is actually making it more dangerous. Please fix this so it is safer and more people will use it. Thank you for the US-23 bike bridge! Now please connect the rest of the system so people can get to this US-23 bike bridge.
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	3
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Construct pickleball courts
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Pickleball improves community spirit. We need pball courts
<b>Idea Author</b>	Charlie B
<b>Number of Stars</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b><i>Your Magic Wand</i></b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Connect our bike path system together
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Our bike path systems are completely disjointed and there is no safe way to walk/bike to parks, the pool, library or many local businesses. Imagine being able to ride your bike from home to the library or Highbanks or the pool! It would give people a safe way to travel. The orange Rd train tracks is too dangerous to cross on bicycle today.
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	9
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Connect bike trails to all schools and all parks

## Ideas Report

<b>Idea Detail</b>	Connect the bike trails to all schools and all parks (including all township parks, all preservation parks, all metro parks, all state parks, and all adjacent communities' bike trail systems). There should also be consistently signed/striped/lit trail crossings across all roads and all railroads. Motorists are too often not stopping for crossers and are confused as to who has right of way and when they should stop do the varied and differently marked crossings throughout the township. Immediate crossings should be made for 1) Orange Road at railroad, and 2) Lewis Center Road at North Road for a north/south crossing. Frankly, it's embarrassing that we have gone on this long without connecting all of these parts or put in appropriate and safe crossings for the major roads and railroads. This has been on the Master Plan before but doesn't happen. I know it's hard to do but make it a priority. Thank you for the US-23 bike bridge - now go make the rest of the connections.
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	3
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Topic Name</b>	<b>Improving Parks &amp; Facilities</b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Increase (and connect) trails & More athletic fields
<b>Idea Detail</b>	<p>Orange Township sits in a great geographic location with lots of potential. People move here because of the schools and its location. I would like to see the Township continue to focus on trail connectivity to give more opportunities for families to bike to parks, library, pool, schools, etc.</p> <p>Additionally, the Township has an opportunity to provide recreation and fitness programs/leagues for both youth and adult. Many adults travel to Dublin or Westerville for adult soccer leagues. I believe there is a great opportunity to fill this need here in Orange Township.</p>
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	6
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	Indoor community center and more shade at existing parks
<b>Idea Detail</b>	It would be nice to be able to use facilities year round but we have no indoor pool, gym, or meeting rooms for the community to gather and use. We shouldn't have to continually use our neighboring community facilities in Worthington, Westerville, and Powell. Also, please stop cutting down all mature trees at new parks. There is not enough shade on the playground equipment and table areas. Please also plant some trees ASAP to the west and south of these currently existing areas so that shade can begin. It is simply too hot to touch and use these areas in the summer. It would also be nice if all the parks had at least a small outdoor work area with shade, tables, bike racks, power outlets, and maybe wifi.
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	3
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Idea Title</b>	community youth sports fields
<b>Idea Detail</b>	Families choosing to live in Orange Township need organized youth sports to help manage their children's growth and development. Helping residents by providing high quality community based sports organizations with dedicated field space makes living in the Orange Township/Lewis Center community more appealing. Fields should be issued based on a prioritization schedule like Dublin. Demand of the activity, resident versus non-resident organization, for profit vs nonprofit status, fee structure, and organizations relationship within the community should be part of the process in determining how the community resources are issued.
<b>Idea Author</b>	
<b>Number of Stars</b>	0
<b>Number of Comments</b>	0
<b>Topic Name (Instant Feedback)</b>	<b>Your Favorite Activities</b>
<b>Idea Title</b>	Walking/Jogging
<b>Idea Title</b>	Biking
<b>Idea Title</b>	Enjoying nature
<b>Idea Title</b>	Playing on playgrounds
<b>Idea Title</b>	Watching or playing sports
<b>Idea Title</b>	Exercising
<b>Idea Title</b>	Attending special events
<b>Idea Title</b>	Other (Please specify in the comments)
<b>Idea Title</b>	Picnicking
<b>Idea Title</b>	Arts and crafts
<b>Idea Title</b>	Meeting friends
<b>Idea Title</b>	Fishing
<b>Comments</b>	
<b>Number of Comments</b>	2
<b>Comment 1</b>	Our area needs pb courts. All surrounding areas already have courts   By Charlie B
<b>Comment 2</b>	Pickleball   By Charlie B



# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #1

## 10-Year Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan

Orange Township, Ohio

July 15, 2021









## Parks & Recreation System Master Plan

*Steering Committee Meeting #1  
Orange Township, Ohio  
July 15, 2021*



1



### **On the Agenda:**

Why are we here?

Who is BCI?

Where are we going?

Early discoveries

2

2

# The Project Team



Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA, Project Manager



Tom O'Rourke, CPRP, Funding, Programming, Organization



Keith E. Rodenhauser, AICP, GISP, SITES AP, Data Analysis/GIS/Senior Planner



Hannah Crepps, AICP Planner



Tyler Strader, Associate ASLA, Park Designer



Phillip Schilffarth, AIA, CID, LEED AP, AFO

3

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# Our Experience

## Other Park System Plans in Ohio:

- Green
- Vermilion
- Cuyahoga Falls
- Fairview Park
- Tallmadge
- Lakewood
- Westlake
- Wyoming
- Portage Park District
- Moraine
- Beavercreek
- Independence
- Cincinnati (Park Board & CRC)
- Perrysburg
- Dayton
- Strongsville
- Elyria
- Bainbridge Township
- Monroe
- Boardman Township
- North Ridgeville
- Barberton
- Liberty Township
- Loveland

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## Current Trends We're Seeing:

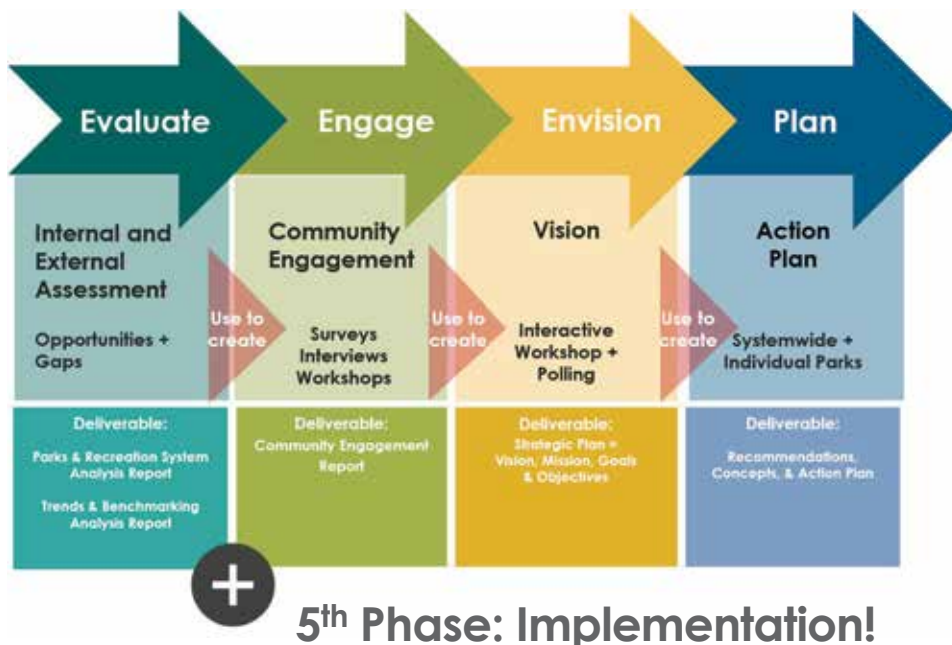
- Trails & Connectivity
- Walkability (10 minutes to a park)
- Dog Parks
- Disc Golf
- Pickleball
- Splash Pads
- Active Adult Programs
- Fitness / Wellness
- Nature Parks (Passive Fun)
- Artificial Turf
- Lifelong Activities
- Community Events



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## Project Process



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## Evaluate Phase

### What We Do:

- Analysis & Context
  - Demographics
  - Benchmarking
  - Previous Plans
  - Policies & Management
  - Funding
  - Industry Trends
- Assessment
  - Parks & Amenities
  - Trails
  - Facilities Inventory
- Mapping
  - Facilities
  - Geographic Distribution (i.e. Service Areas)



Why?...

...To Identify Gaps & Opportunities!



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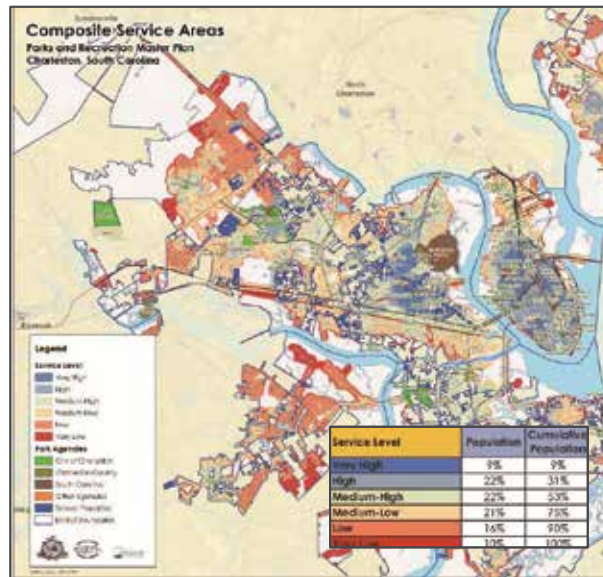
## Service Area Map | Examples

- Facilities We Map:
  - Playgrounds
  - Athletic Fields
  - Basketball Courts
  - Tennis Courts
  - Trails
  - Picnic Shelters
  - ...and more!

### Types of Maps



1. Per Facility
2. Composite Service



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## Engagement Phase

### What We Do:

- Stakeholder discussions
- Public workshops
- Community events
- Online engagement
- Surveys
  - In-park interviews
  - Web-based
  - Statistically valid



### Why?...

...Engagement informs the planning process, raise awareness, build community trust, & identify needs.

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## What our engagement looks like:



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# Online Engagement



Check out [orangeparks.mindmixer.com](http://orangeparks.mindmixer.com) !

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# Stakeholder Engagement

## Examples of groups we've engaged before:

- Municipal administration & government officials
- Athletic organizations
- Cultural arts & creative organizations
- Senior citizens
- Existing partners
- Metro Parks & Ohio State Parks
- Schools
- Neighborhood associations
- Other municipal departments
- Department staff



*This can illuminate opportunities, build coalition, and drive partnerships*

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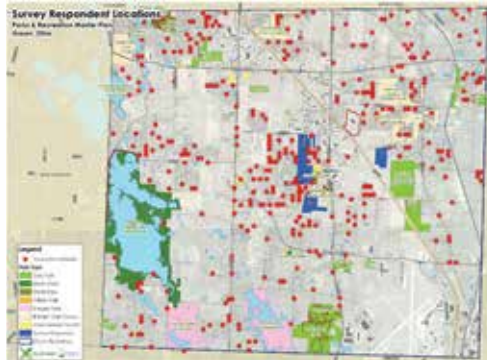
## Statistically Valid Survey

### About

- Random sample of households
- Administered by mail

### Topics include:

- Visitation rates
- Participation in programs
- Satisfaction levels
- Needs for facilities & programs
- How the department functions
- Desired improvements
- Community's reasons for not using



### Results are geocoded to visualize data



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## Web Survey (sometimes handout)

- Condensed to shorter format
- Can be completed online or via handout
- Not statistically valid
- Often filled out by existing users

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/OrangeParks](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OrangeParks)



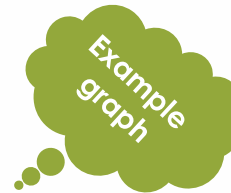
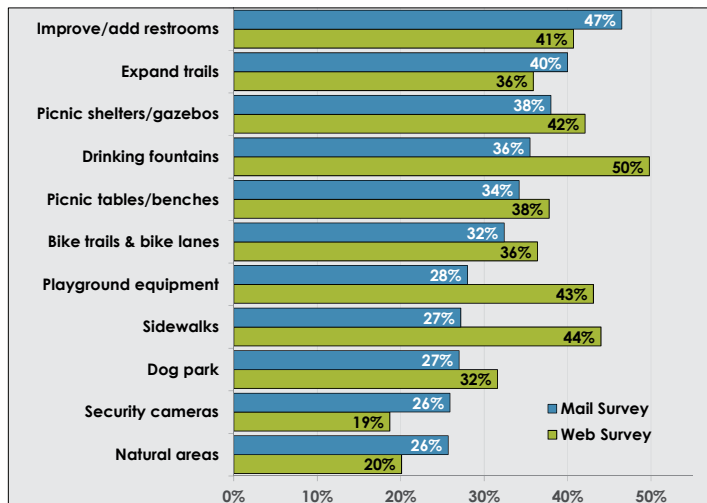
This is live right now.  
If you haven't  
already, please fill it  
out. Share with  
family & friends!

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## Statistically Valid Survey, cont'd...

Results compared to Web Survey responses



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## Example Summary Graphic

### Programs



Health & Wellness activities



Nature-based classes & outdoor experiences



Concerts & performances

### Facilities



Hiking and walking trails



More natural areas & nature parks



Paved bike paths

### System



Connectivity & accessibility



Restrooms



Lighting & security

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## Envision Phase

### What We Do:

- 2-part strategic planning session
  - Group polling & discussion
  - Review results & draft strategic plan
- Use Mentimeter platform (in-person too!)



### Why?...

...Strategic Plans solidify purpose and create a big-picture definition of success. You do great work – visioning helps it be even better!

★ Envision Phase informs and organizes the Plan Phase

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## Envision Phase = Evaluate + Engage

★ Process we'll go through together:



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## Plan Phase

### What We Do:

- Synthesize all phases:
  - Evaluate
  - Engage
  - Envision
- Produce a **realistic, practical** plan that serves as an essential foundation for the road ahead



Why?...

...Having a Master Plan for your parks & recreation will empower you to be proactive, fiscally responsible, & truly effective!

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## Plan Components

- Detailed Action Plan (table format)
  - Timeframe for each recommendation
  - Agency responsible
  - Funding Source
- Systemwide & Per Park Recommendations
  - Land/New Parks
  - Facility Improvements
  - Trails & Greenways
  - Active and passive parks
  - Athletic fields
  - Funding Analysis & Revenue Strategies
  - Marketing
  - Operations & Staffing
  - Programs & Services
- Concept Plans
- Public Review
- Township Trustees Adoption



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# Example of Action Plan

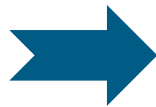
## ACTION PLAN - 2019 PADUCAH PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

### Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations

Parks = Paducah Parks and Recreation	OP = Parks Operating Budget
City = City Commission, Other City Departments	CIP = Capital Improvement Budget
Partners = Other Organizations (foundations, businesses, schools, civic associations, state/federal grants, etc.)	Revenue = Items that Generate Additional Revenue

### Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

				0-2	3-5	6-10			
Goal 1: Great Parks and Enhanced Facilities									
Targeted Outcome: Enhance and expand existing parks and develop high quality facilities that serve as destinations for community recreation									
Objective 1.1 – Gathering Spaces: Offer attractive and welcoming amenities that promote a sense of community and attract visitors									
Strategy 1.1.1:	Develop a recreation center with an indoor aquatic center, gym, a fitness center, meeting rooms, classrooms, a kitchen, an aerobics/group fitness room, and offices at Noble Park	✓			Capital	Parks, City	CIP		
Strategy 1.1.2:	Continue to develop Riverfront Plaza/Schultz Park as a destination park	✓			Planning	Parks	OP		
Strategy 1.1.3:	Determine the potential reuse of the Robert Cherry Civic Center once the new recreation center is developed	✓			Capital, Planning	Parks	CIP		
Strategy 1.1.4:	Evaluate needs for the existing Paducah Recreation Center following the development of the new recreation center	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP		
Strategy 1.1.5:	Renovate the Anna Baumer Building and the Arts and Crafts Building at Noble Park to keep these facilities available for community members to rent for events	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP		
Strategy 1.1.6:	Develop the plaza space at Brockenborough Rotary Health Park for events		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP		
Strategy 1.1.7:	Add picnic shelters at existing and future parks to expand access to these facilities and to promote opportunities for community gatherings (see Chapter 8 for locations)	✓	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP		
Strategy 1.1.8:	Develop a dog park in Anna Baumer Area to replace the dog park at Stuart Nelson (preserve existing trees)	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP		



The Action Plan is organized by the Strategic Plan elements defined during the Envision Phase

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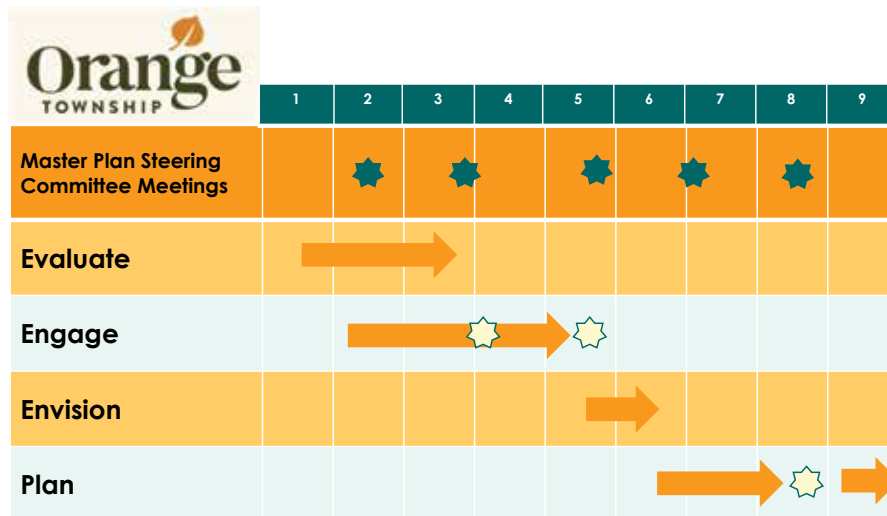
21

# Example of Plan Summary



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# Project Timeline



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## Early Discoveries

Site Assessments – brief takeaways

Preliminary survey data

Demographic – early findings

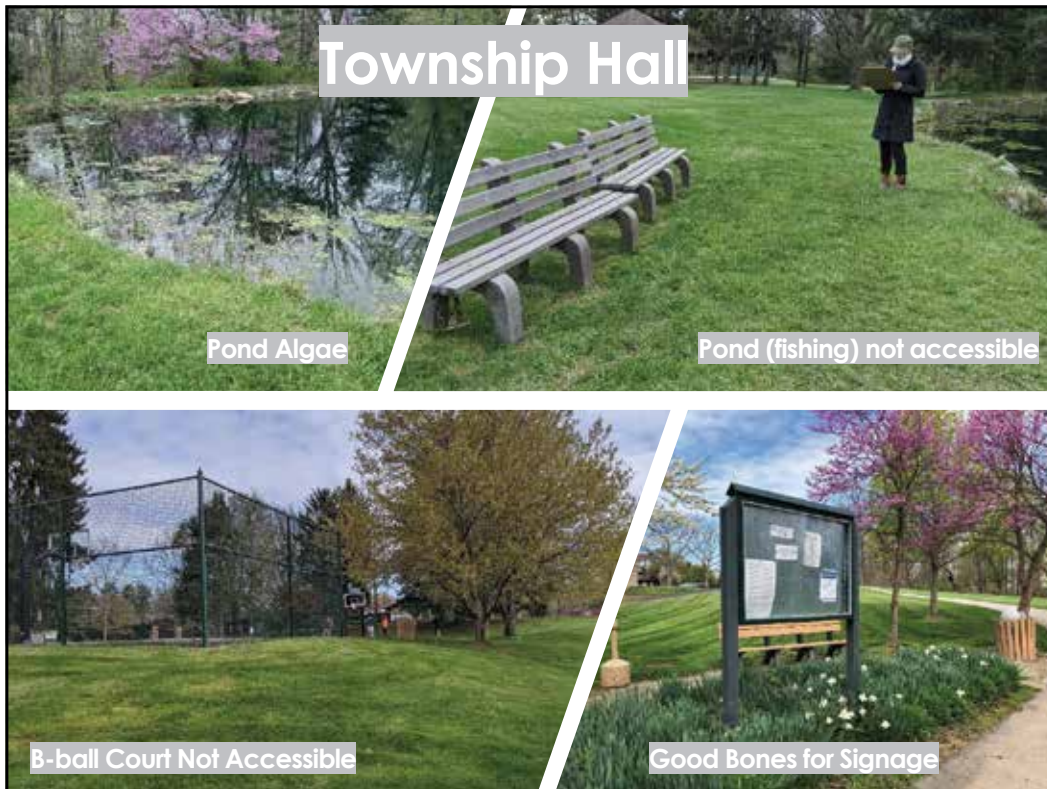
Benchmarking – early findings



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## Other Area Parks We Visited



Glen Oak Elementary



North Farms



Alum Creek



Highbanks Metro Park



Shale Hollow

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## Statistically Valid Survey

A few early takeaways...more to come!

- Visitation
  - **86%** Orange households **visited parks/facilities** in the past 2 years
- Conditions
  - **38%** Orange households **rate conditions as excellent** (10% more than national average)
- Upgrades
  - Walking/hiking trails
  - Restrooms
  - Bike trails



### Contents

Findings Report

i	Executive Summary	Page i
1	Charts and Graphs: Overall Results	Page 1
2	Charts and Graphs: Benchmark Analysis	Page 36
3	Priority Investment Ratings Analysis	Page 48
4	Crosstabulation Data by Household Type	Page 56
5	Tabular Data of Overall Results	Page 123
6	Survey Instrument	Page 171

Our team will examine these results along with web survey & other engagement efforts. Analysis will be discussed in future meetings.

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# Demographics

A few early takeaways...more to come!

- Growth
  - Since 2000, your **population has nearly tripled**
  - Projected to grow 12% by 2025
- Age
  - **30% under age 18**
  - **14% age 65+** (16% by 2025, quadruple 4% from 2000)
- Diversity
  - **Asian, multi-racial, black pop. growing the most**
  - Asian alone pop. = 130% growth between 2010 - 2020
  - **White pop. growing slowest**



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# Benchmarking

A few early takeaways...more to come!

- Compared to 32 agencies across: OH, IN, IL, KY, MI, PA, WI
- Total Park Acres
  - Benchmark: 389 acres
  - **You have: 208.3 acres**
- Population Per Park
  - Benchmark: 1,810
  - **You have: 4,948**
- Percentage of Parkland Developed
  - Benchmark: 77.6%
  - **You have: 44%**



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## Questions? Let's Talk!

### What's next:

- Continue survey promotion
- Determine stakeholder groups & schedule discussions
- GIS mapping info

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# Parks & Recreation System Master Plan

*Steering Committee  
Meeting #2  
Orange Township, Ohio  
October 21, 2021*





# Parks & Recreation System Master Plan

*Steering Committee Meeting #2  
Orange Township, Ohio  
October 21, 2021*



## On the Agenda

Introductions

Service Area Mapping

Benchmarking Comparisons

Survey Review

Open House Summary

Stakeholder Groups Summary

2

# Project Process



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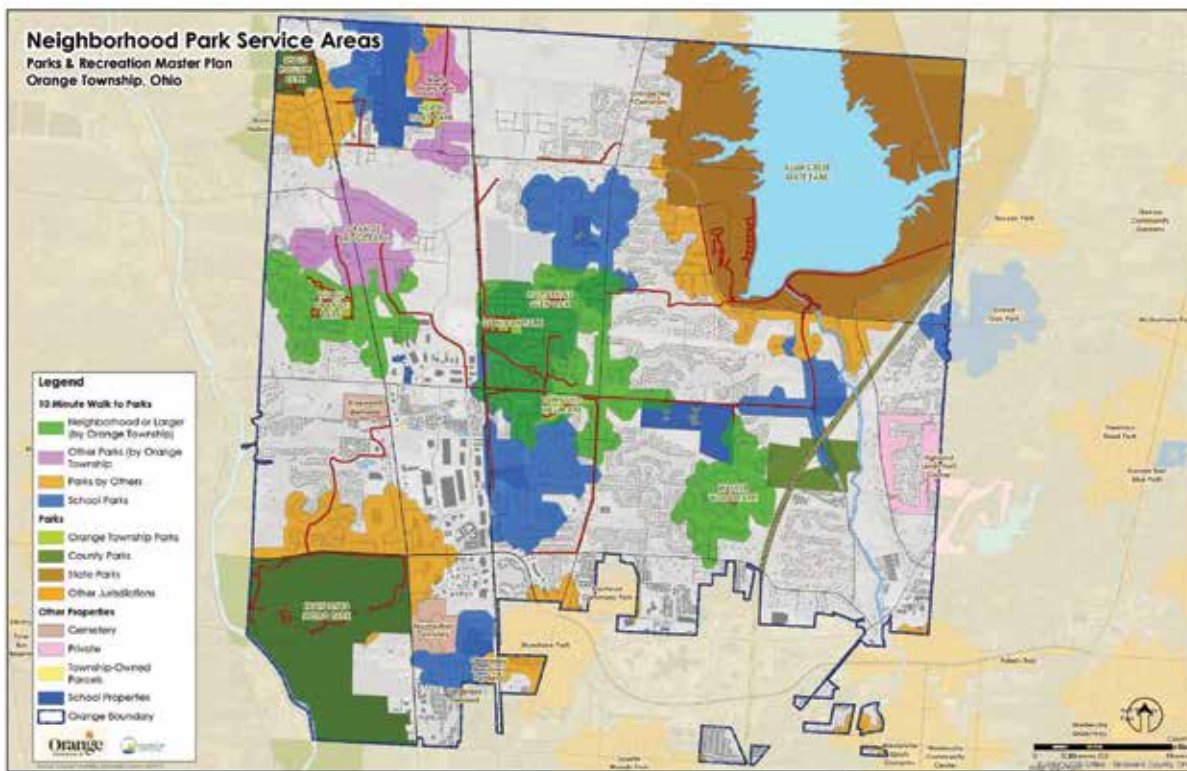


# Service Area Mapping



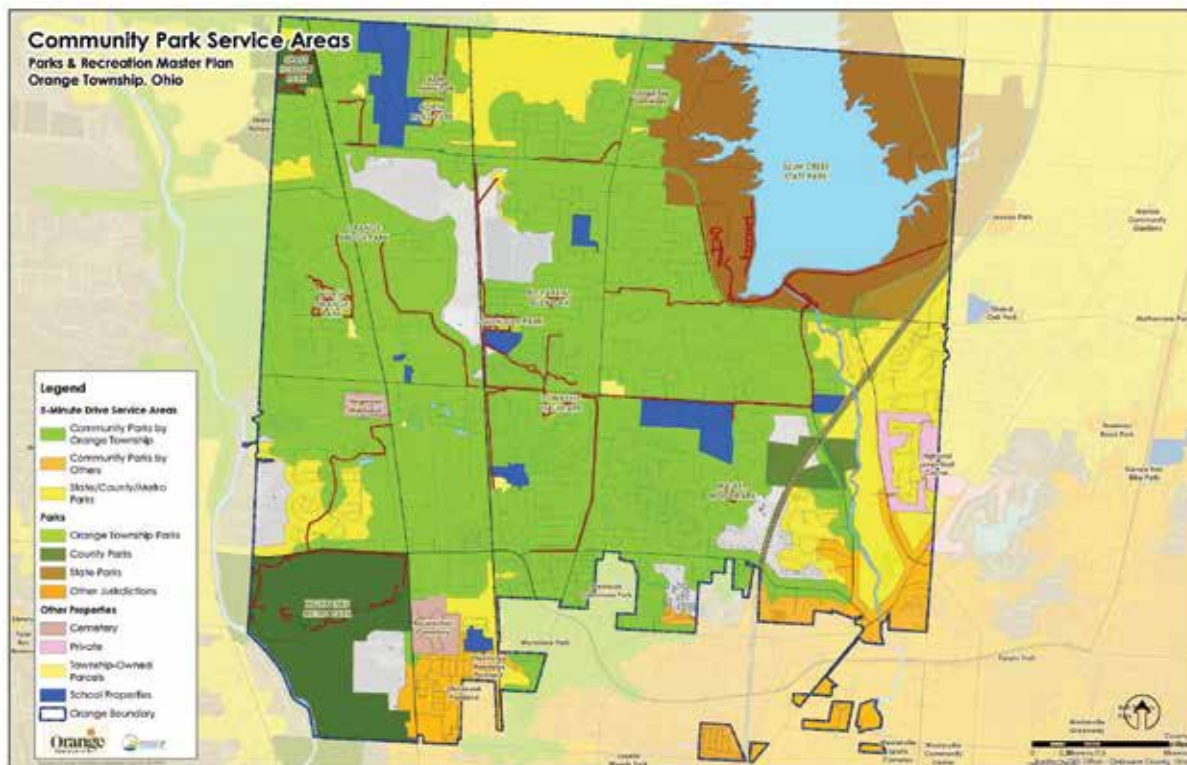
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- ▶ Neighborhood Park 13%, School Parks 19%, 32% total population
- ▶ +5% to other parks

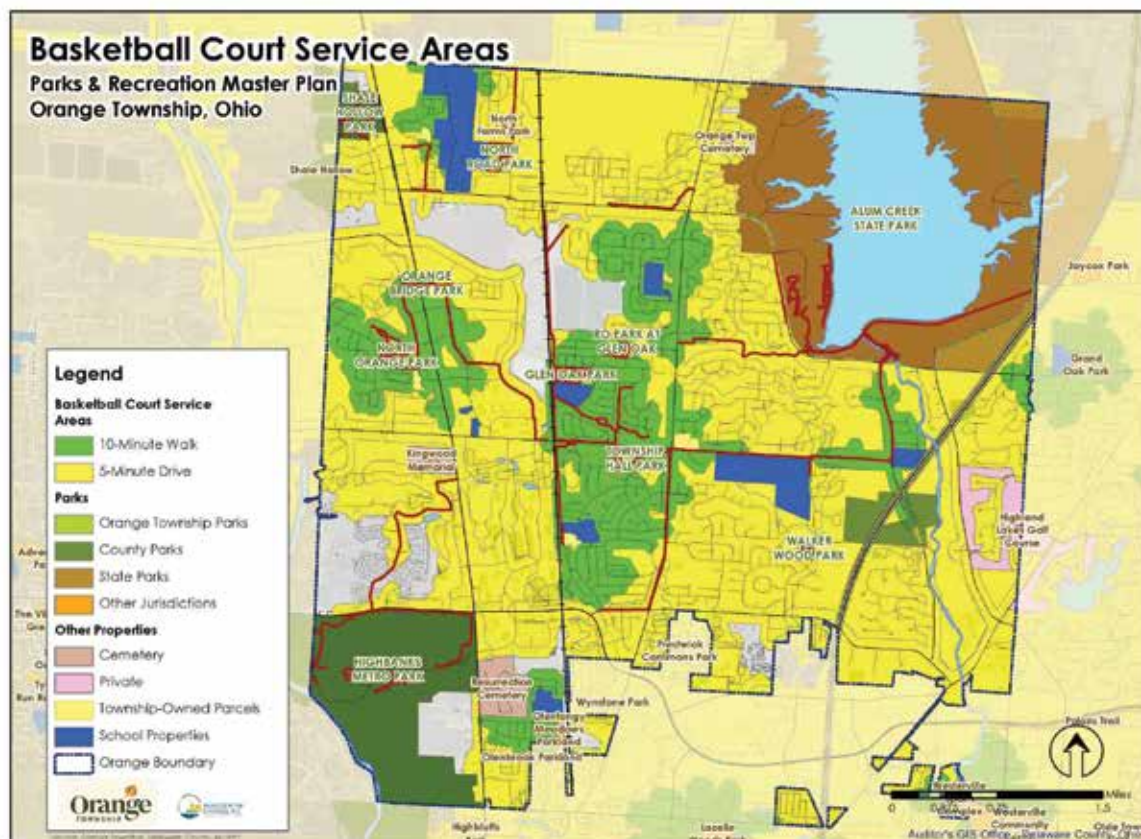
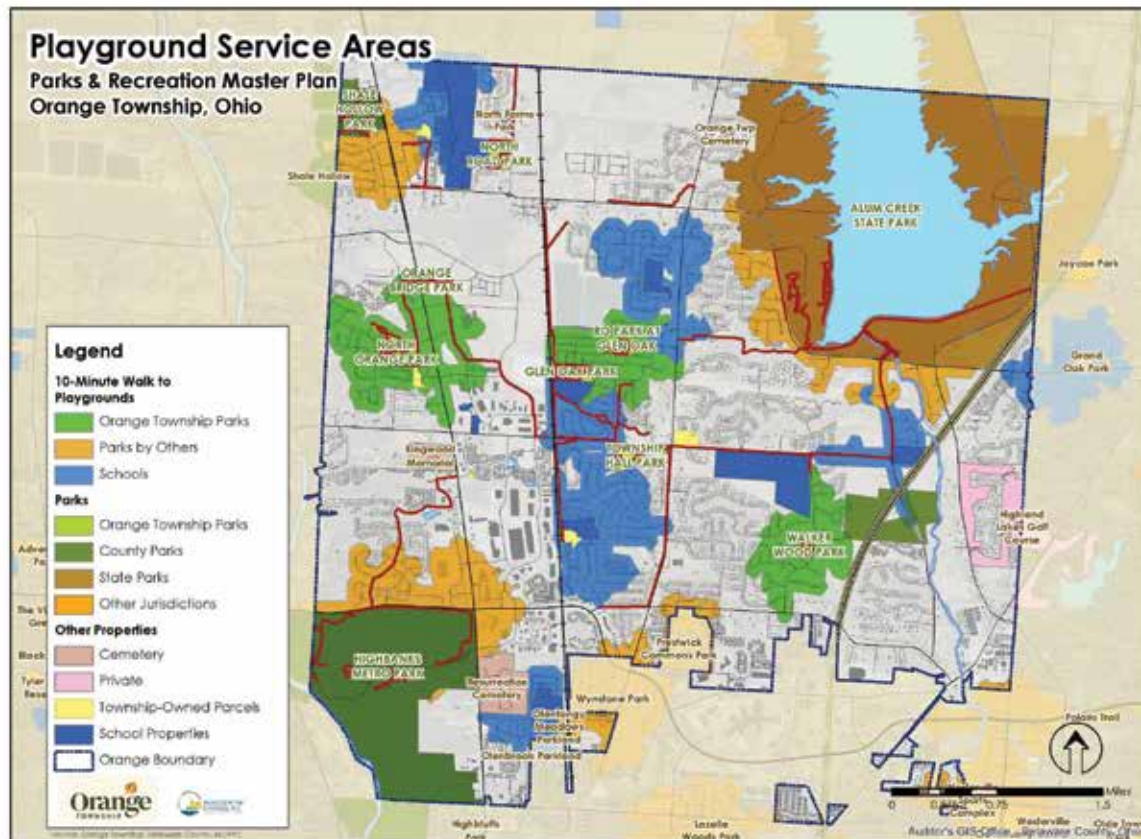
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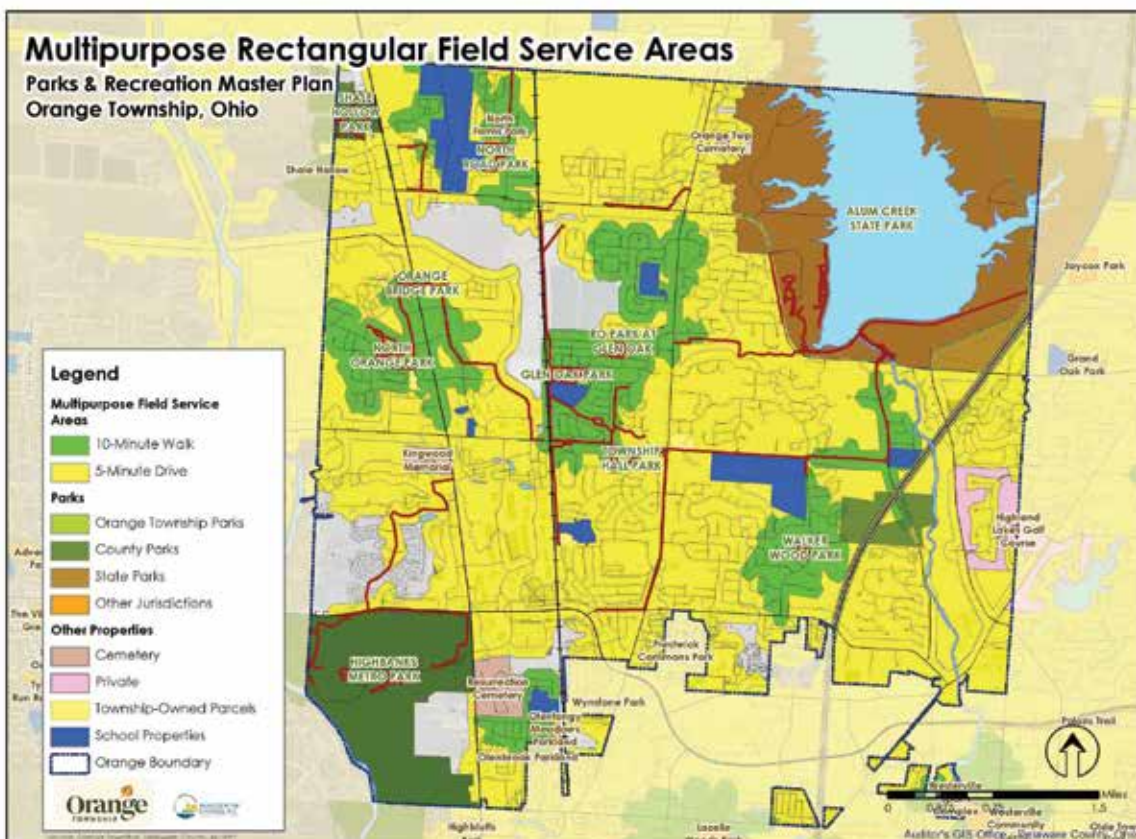
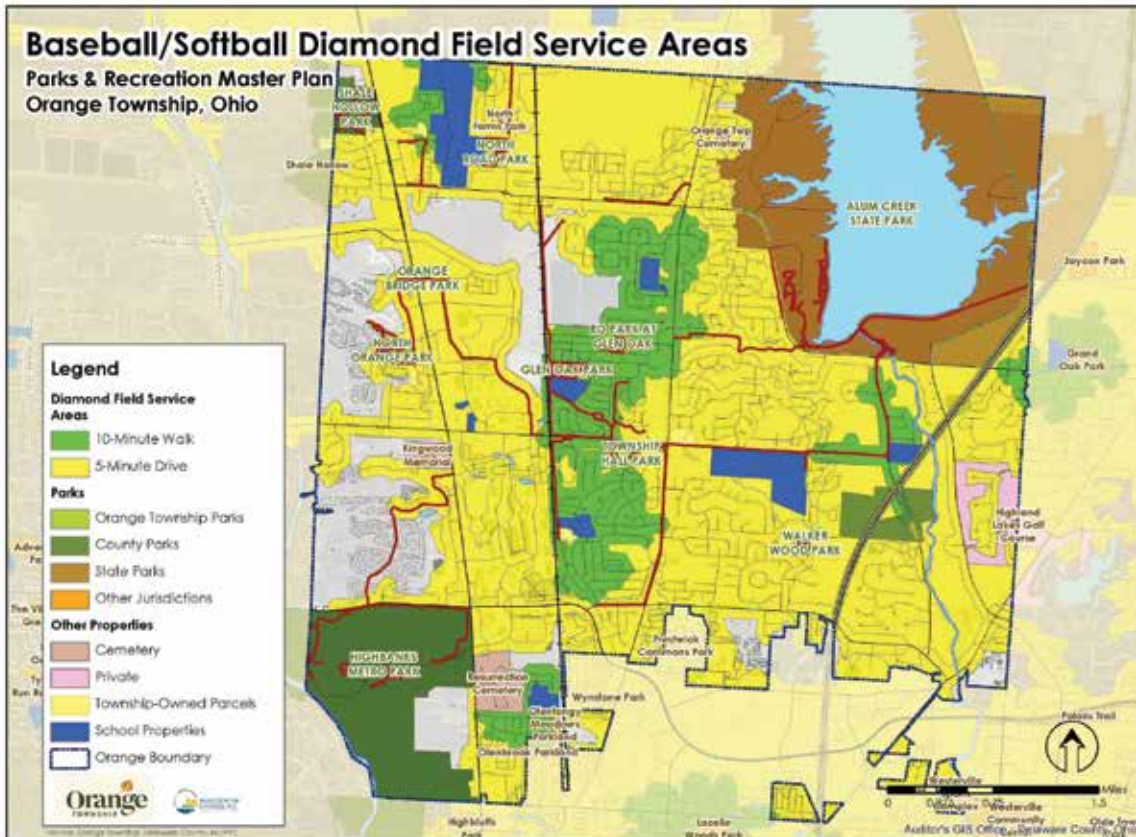
- ▶ Community Parks 82% + County or State Parks 13%
- ▶ 95% to larger parks

6

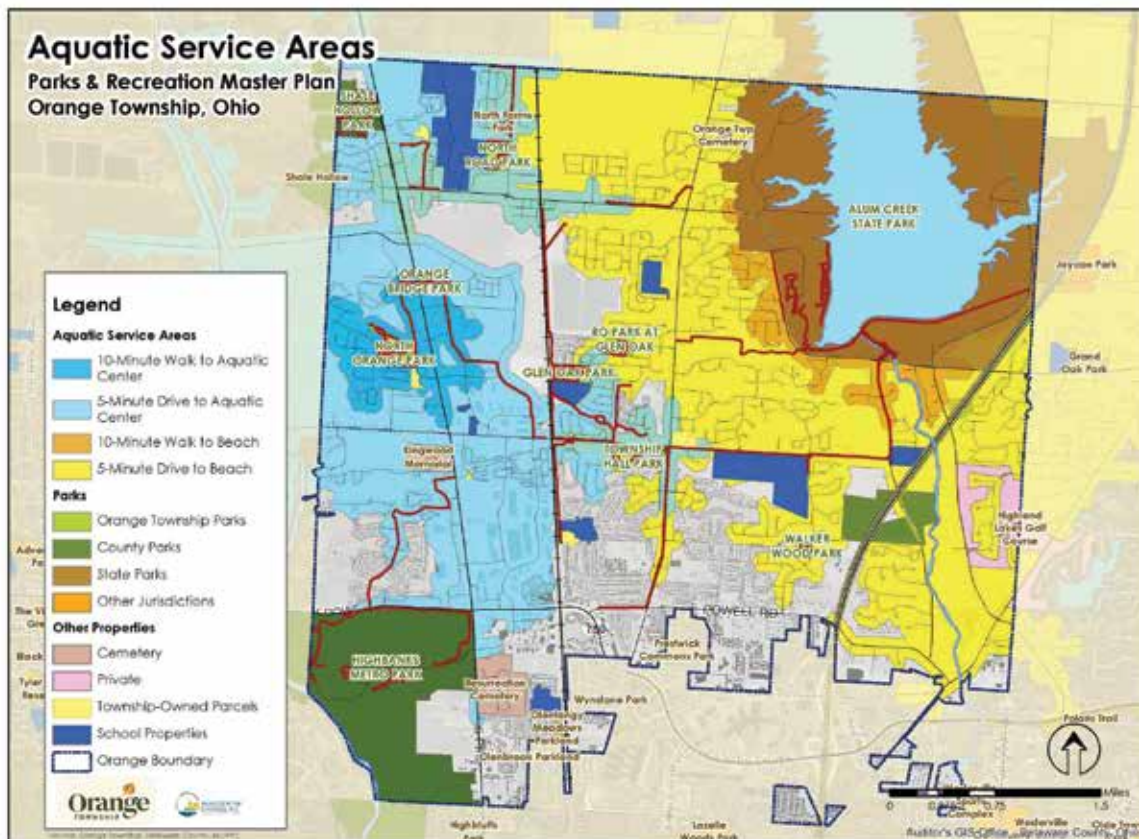
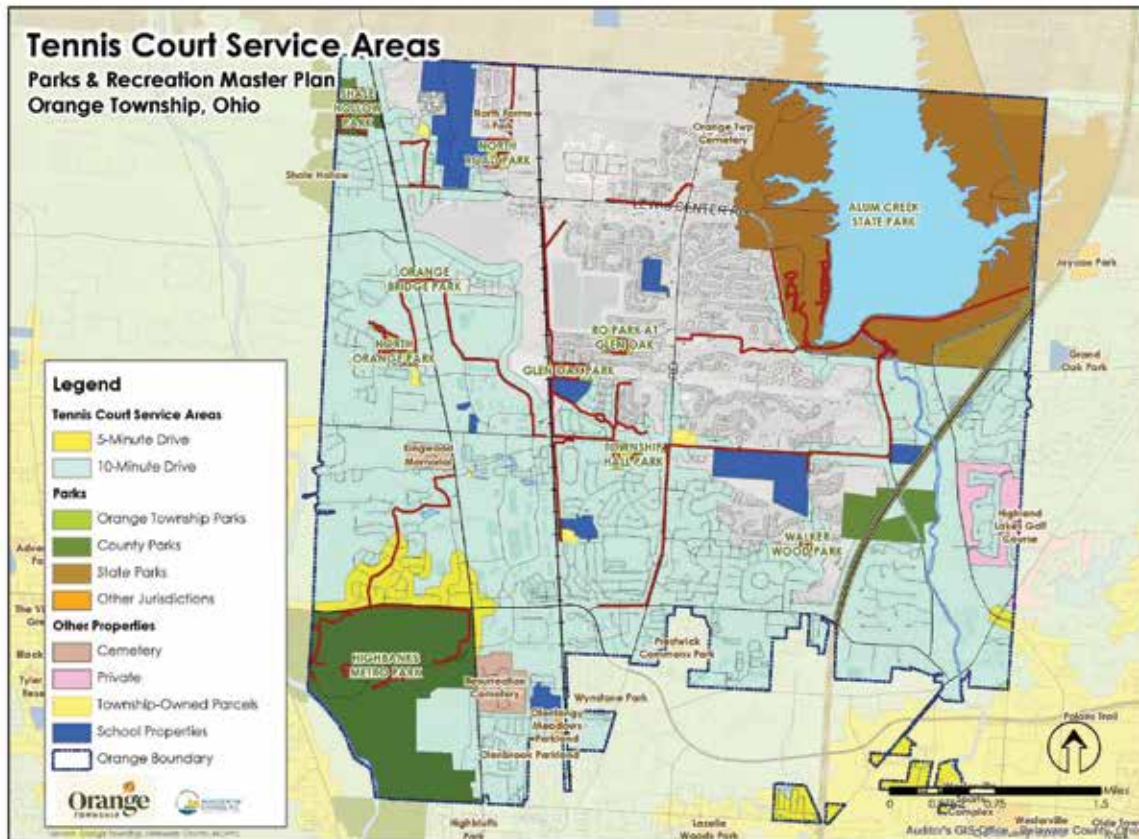




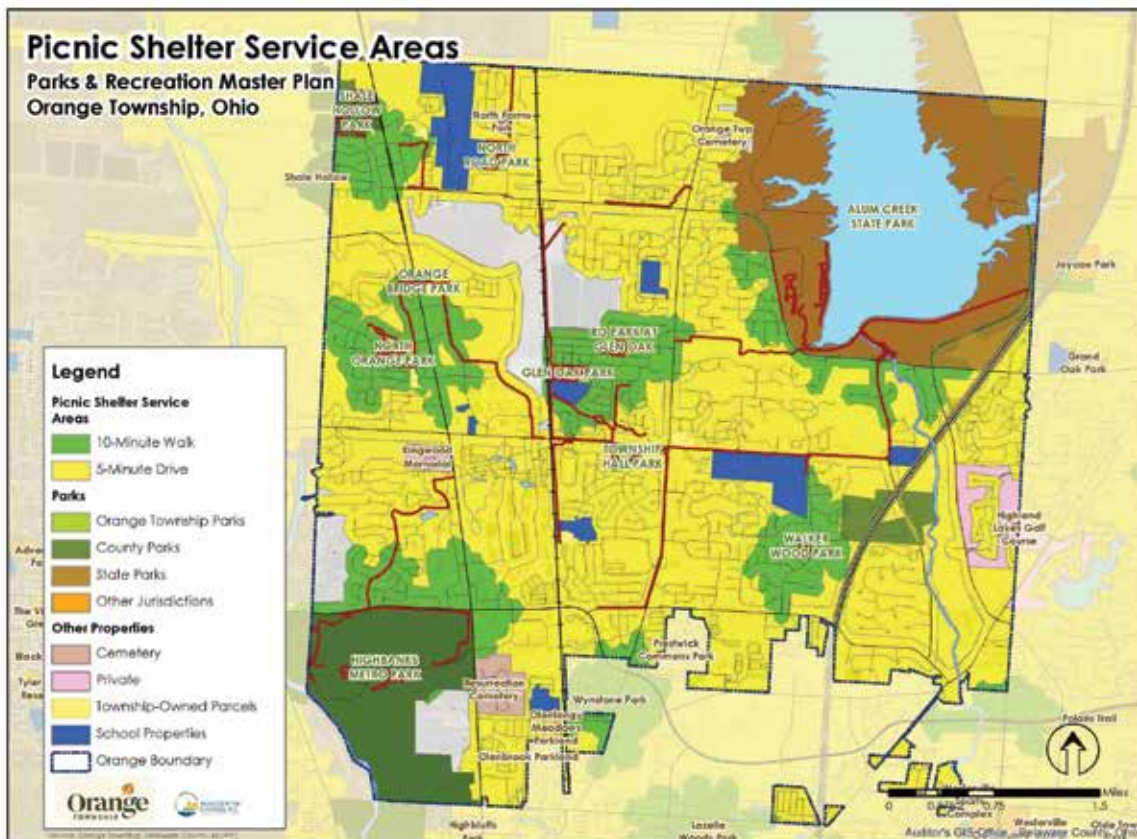
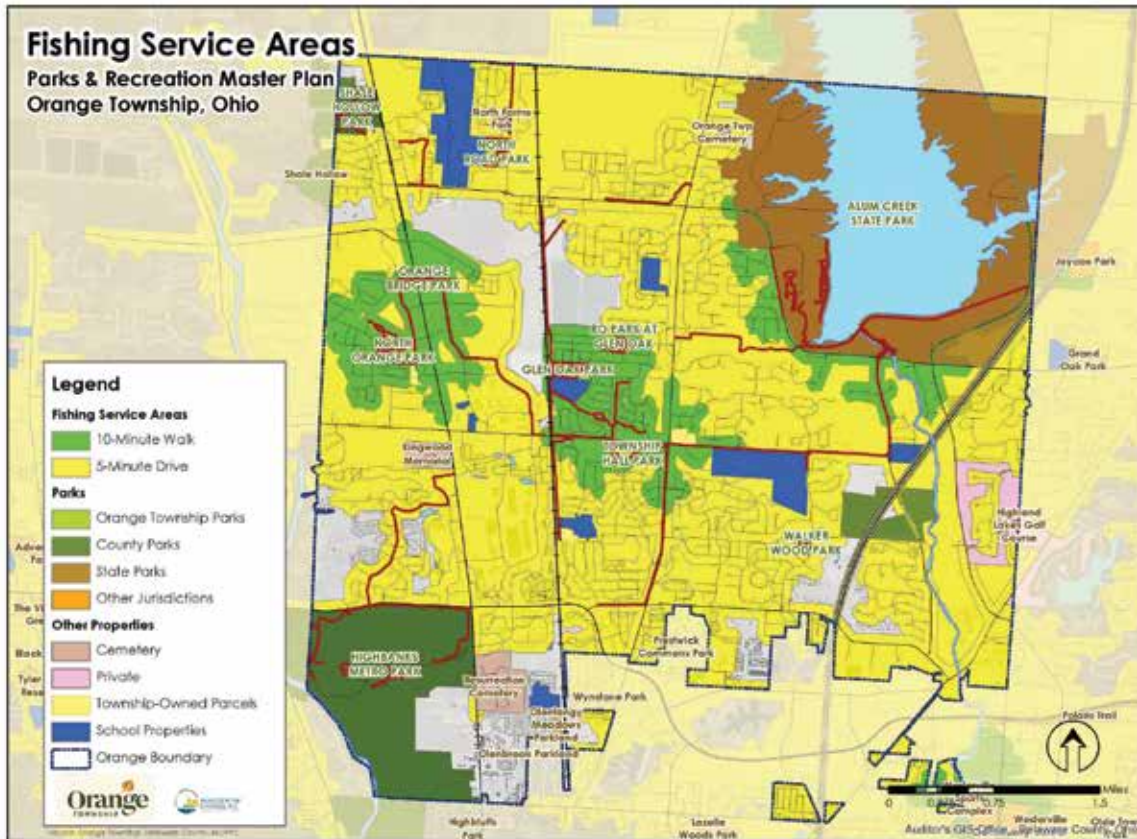




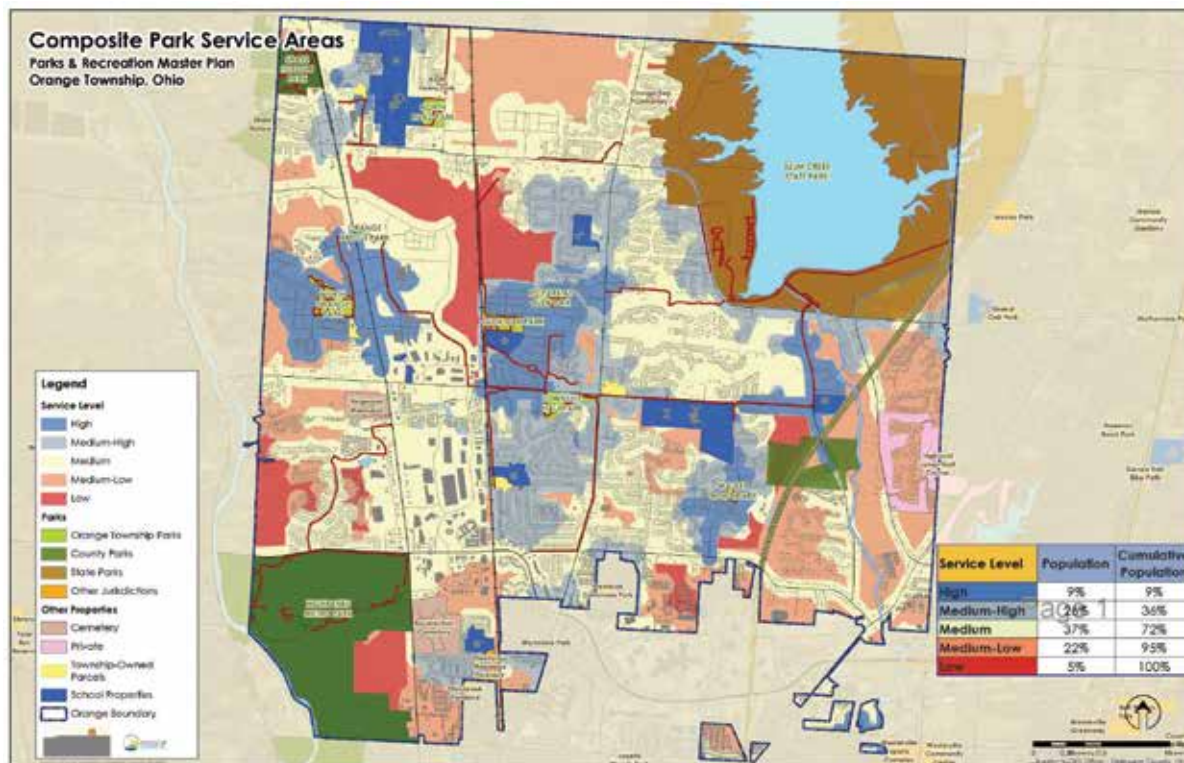
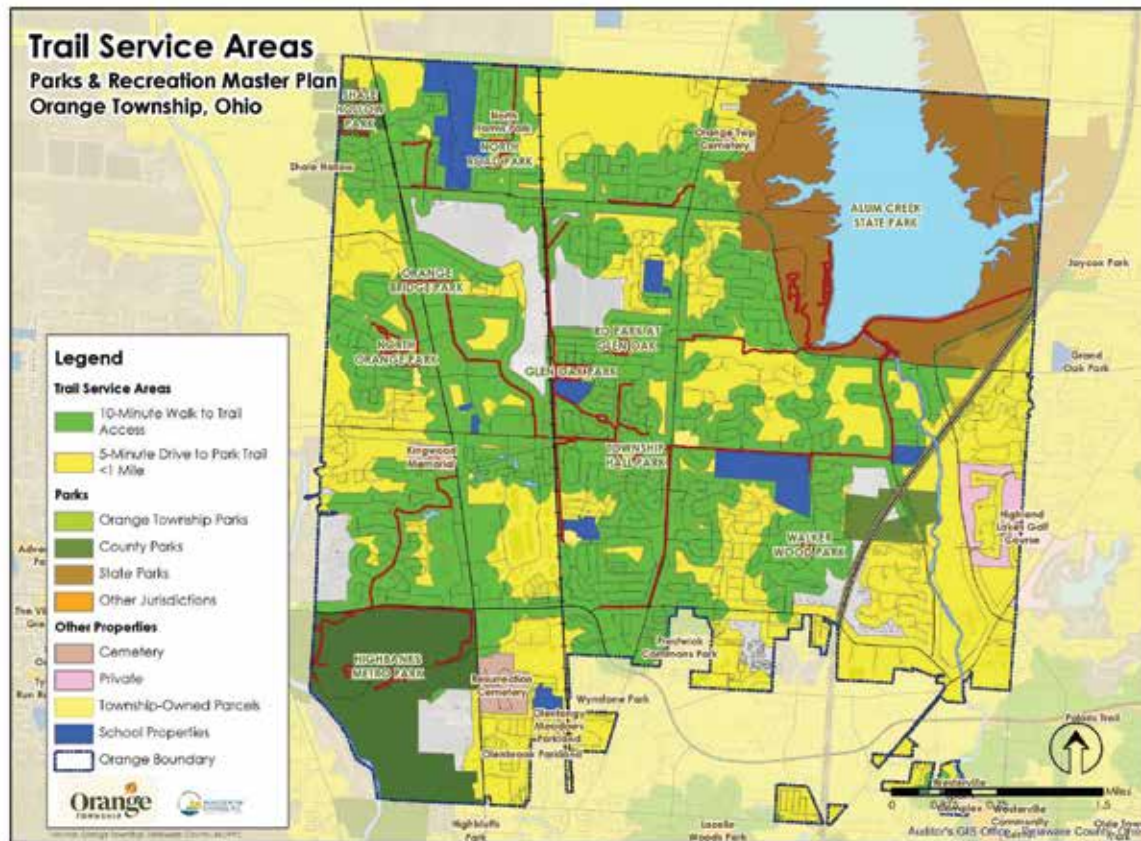












► 16 park and feature types



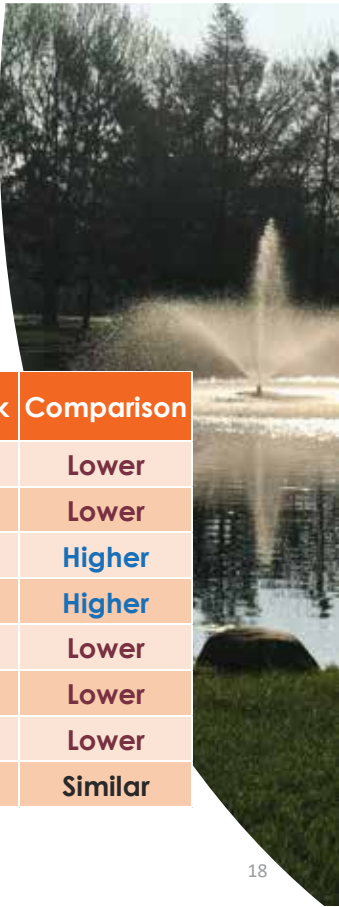
# Benchmarking



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## Benchmarking

- Compared to 32 agencies across: OH, IN, IL, KY, MI, PA, WI
- Between 20,000 and 50,000



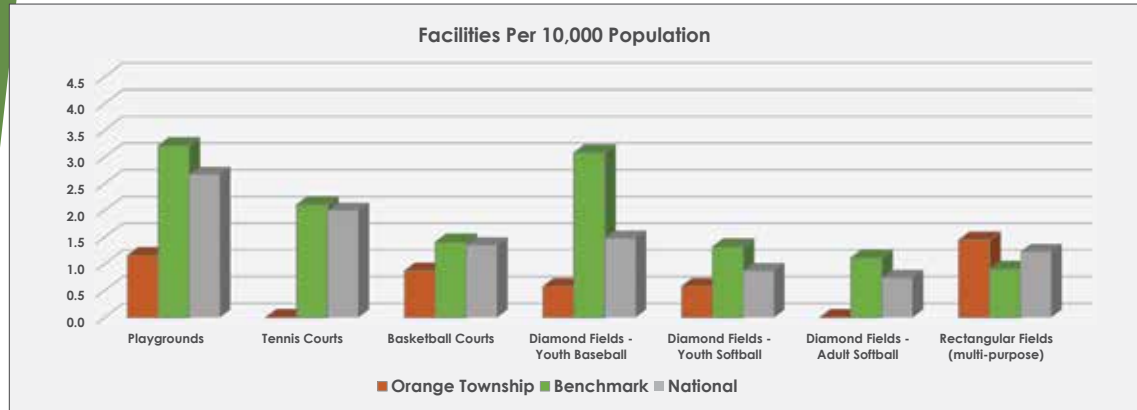
Category	Orange Township	Benchmark	Comparison
Acres per 1,000 population	6.0	10.6	Lower
Parkland as a percentage of city	1.4%	4.2%	Lower
Trail miles per 10,000 population	8.0	3.2	Higher
Trail miles per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.	1.21	0.80	Higher
Percent of parkland developed	44%	78%	Lower
Operating expenditures per capita	\$42	\$94	Lower
Revenue generated per capita	\$11	\$32	Lower
Cost Recovery	25%	29%	Similar

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# Benchmarking

- Notable facilities offered by others but not in Orange Township:
  - Tennis Courts, Dog Parks, Community Centers, Recreation Centers, Indoor Performance Space
- About half the Playgrounds offered by benchmark agencies
- Fewer of most field types



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## Public Input



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# Project Process



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## Survey Results

- Statistically Valid Mail Survey
  - Goal was 300
  - 400 received**
- Web and Handout Survey
  - 1212 completed**
  - 68% live in Orange Township
  - 32% outside of township

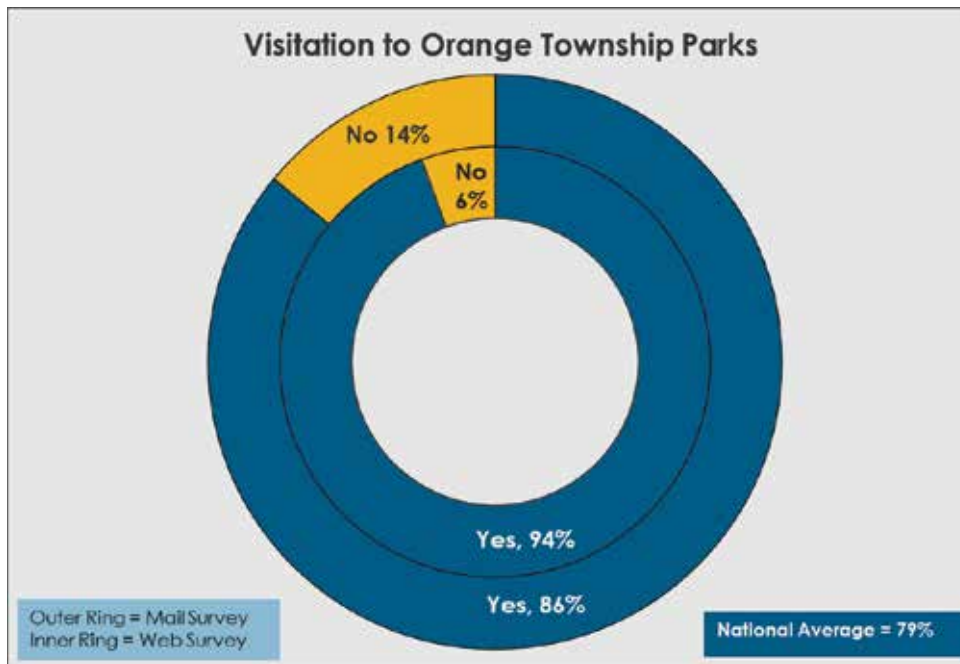
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**Findings Report**

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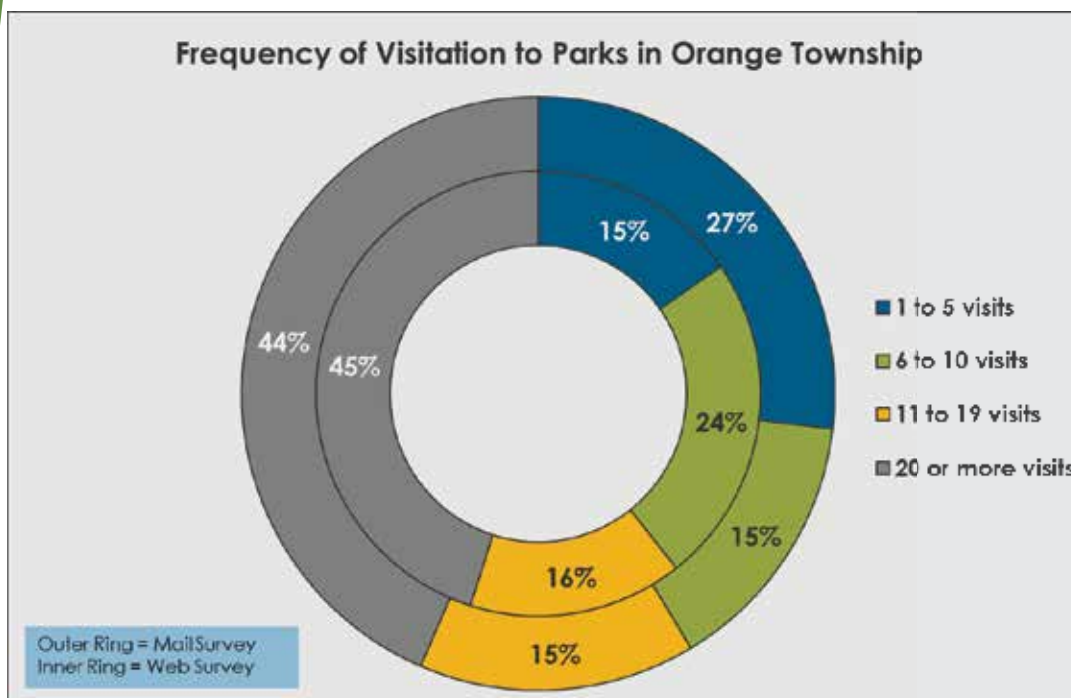


## Orange Township Park Visitation



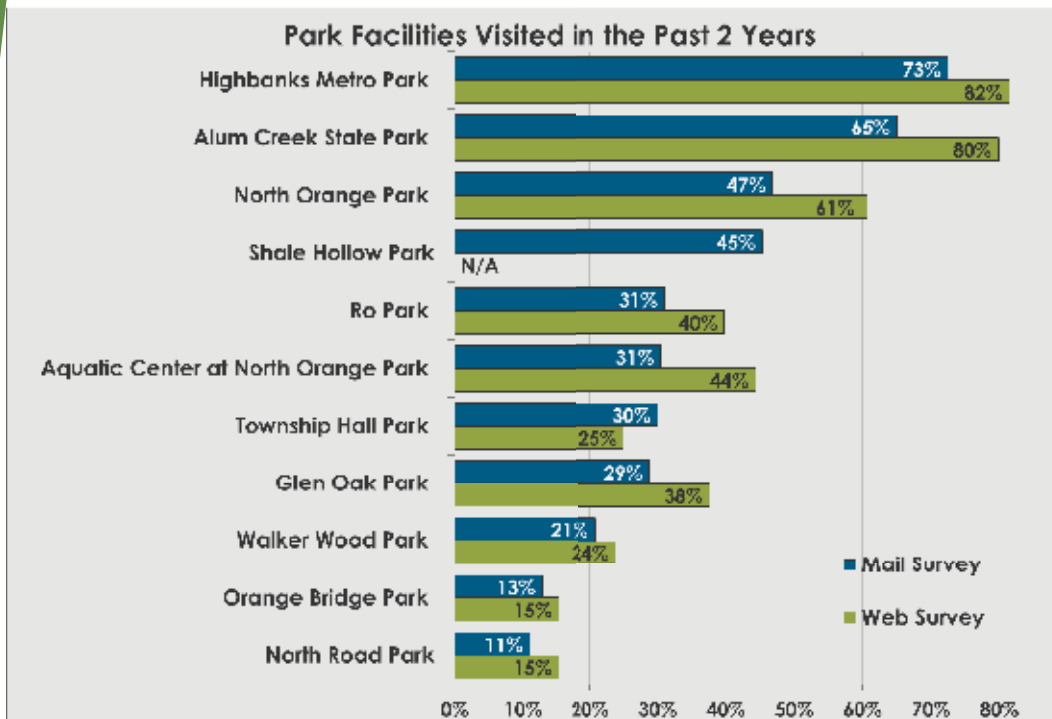
23

## Frequency of Visits to Parks



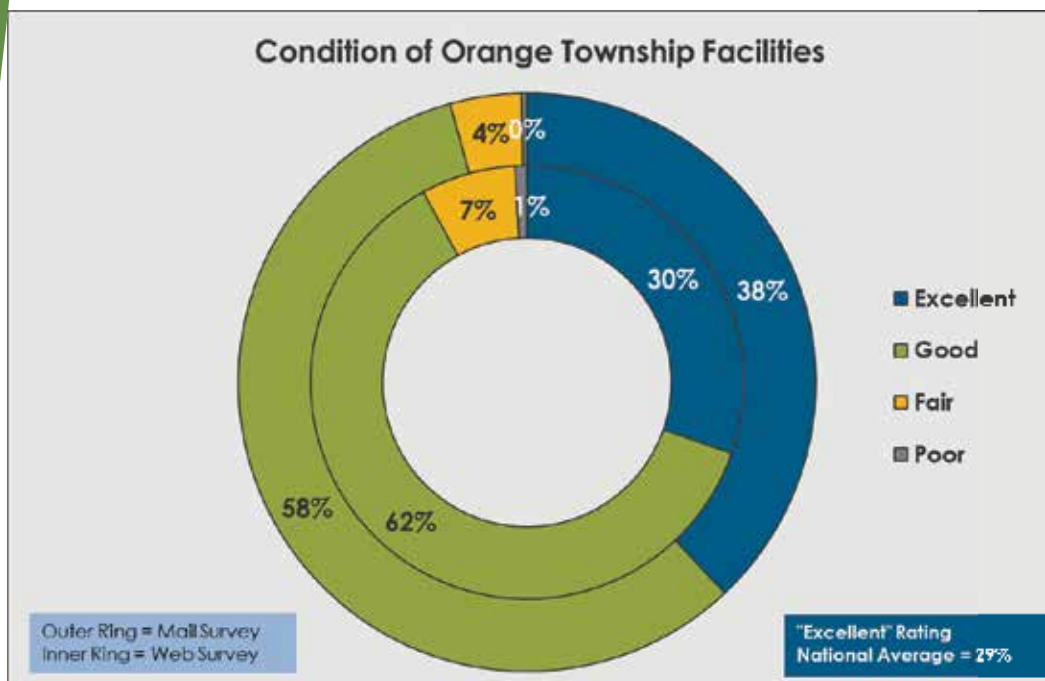
24

## Parks & Facilities Visited



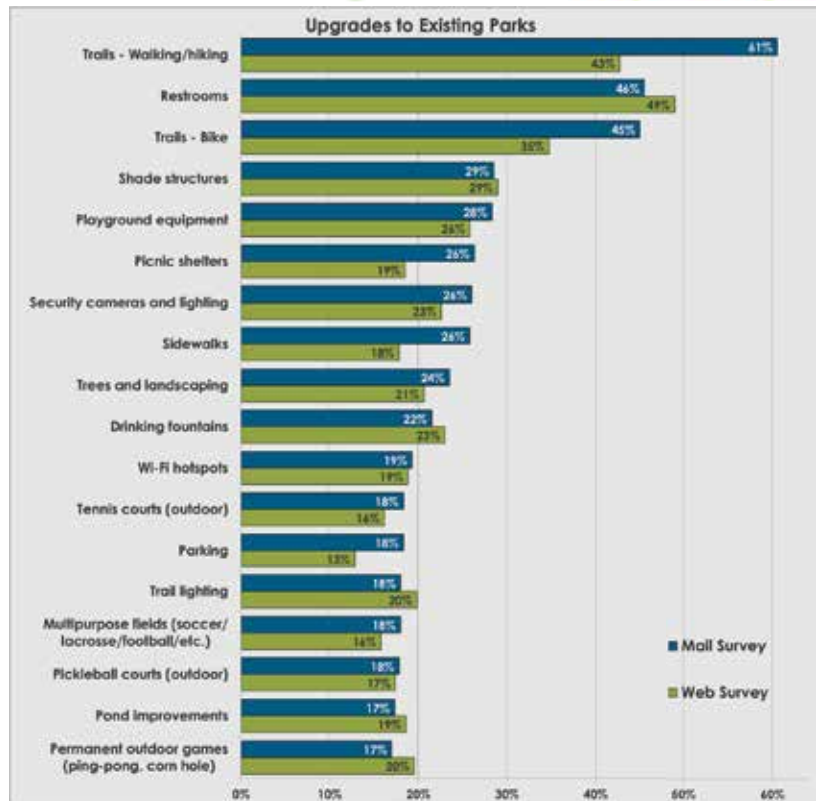
25

## Condition of Parks



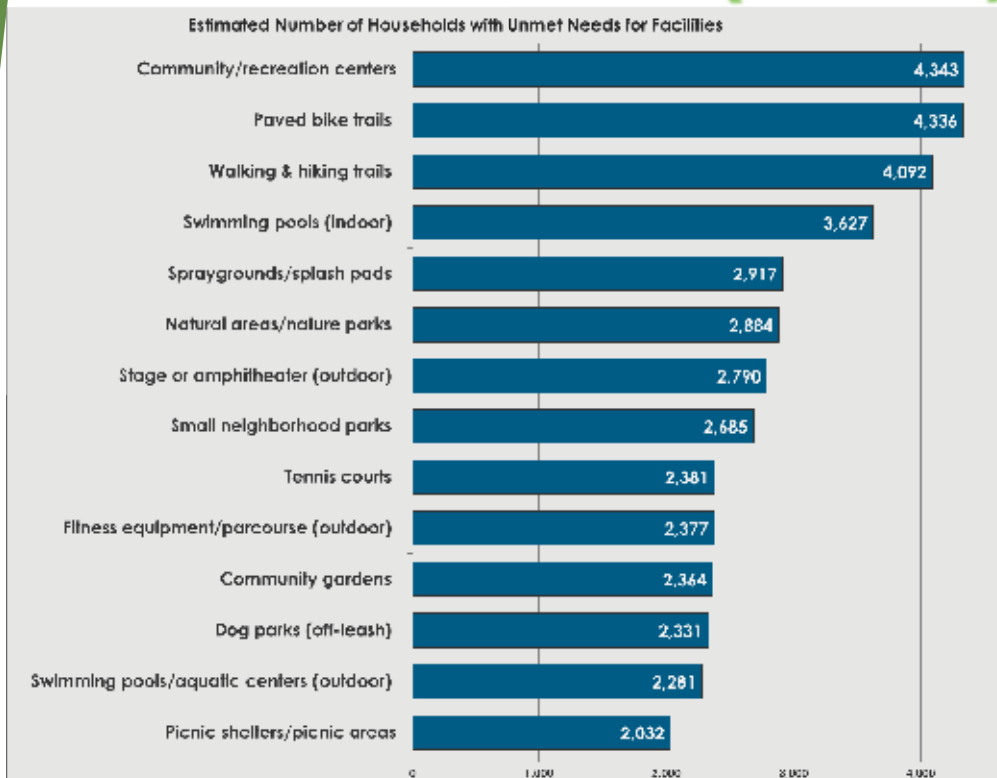
26

## Upgrades to Existing Parks – Top Responses



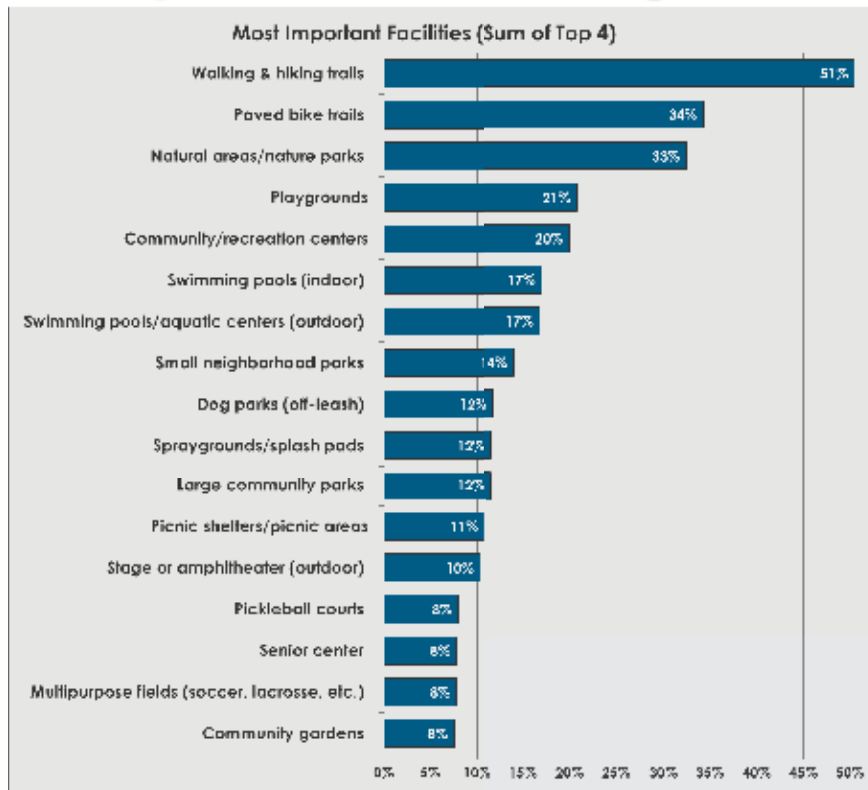
27

## Unmet Facilities Needs (Mail Only)



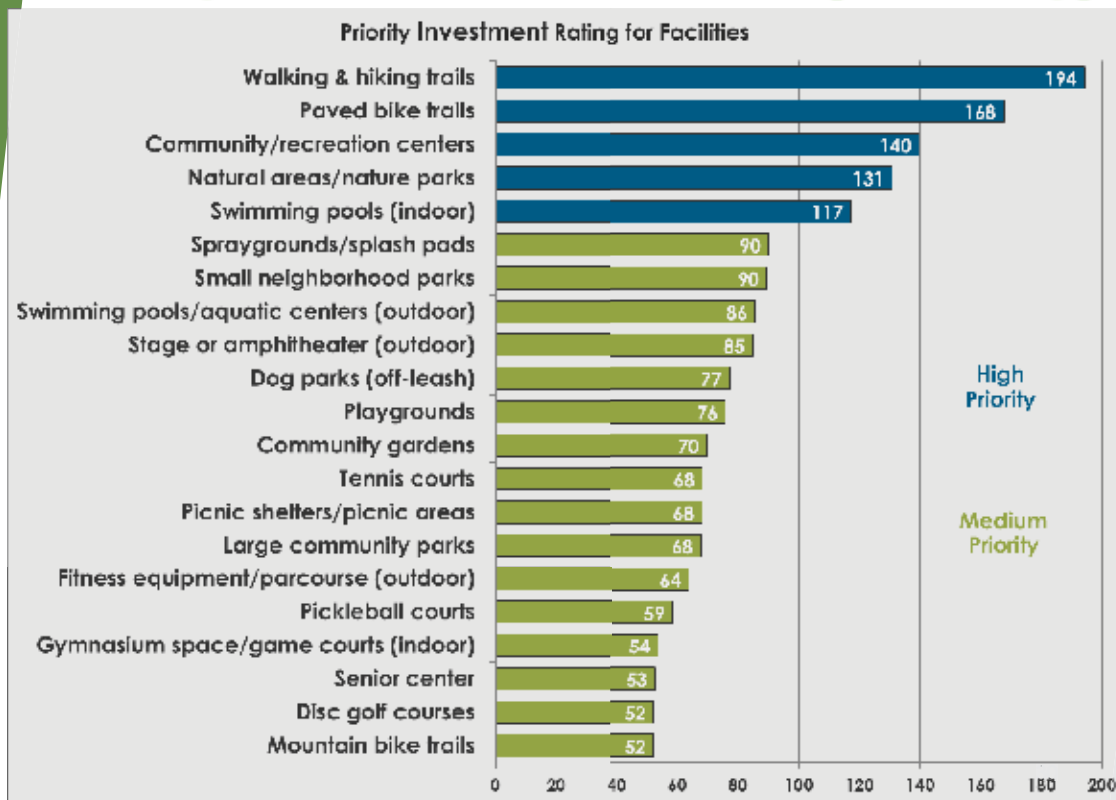
28

## Most Important Facilities (Mail Only)



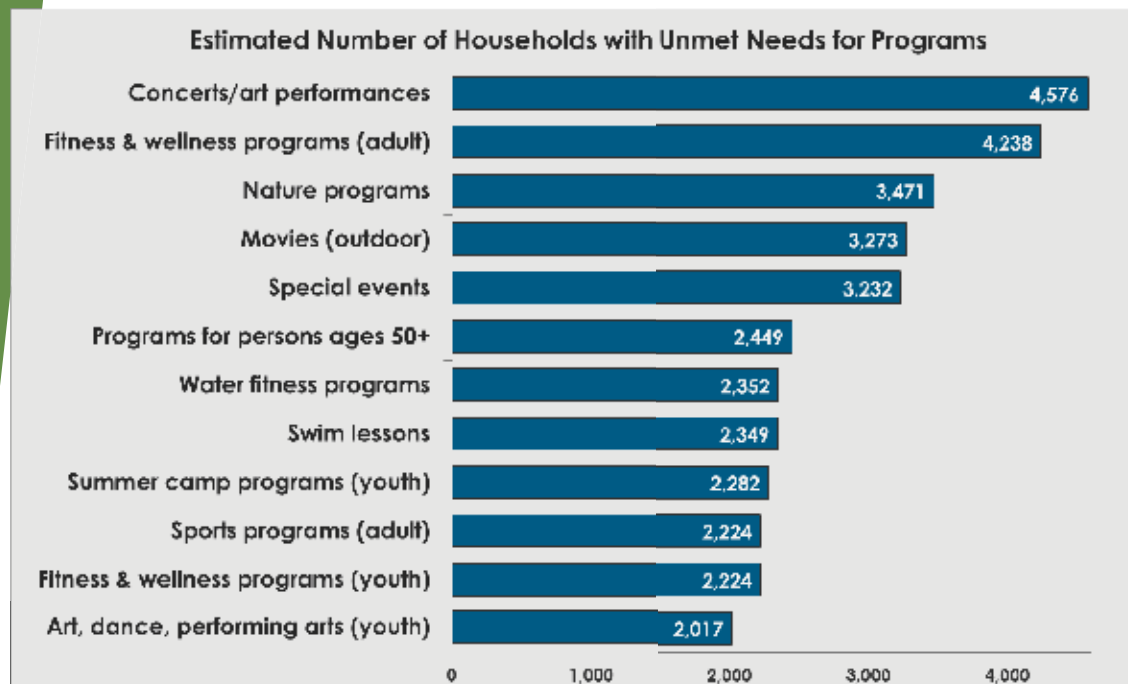
29

## Facility Priorities for Investment (Mail Only)



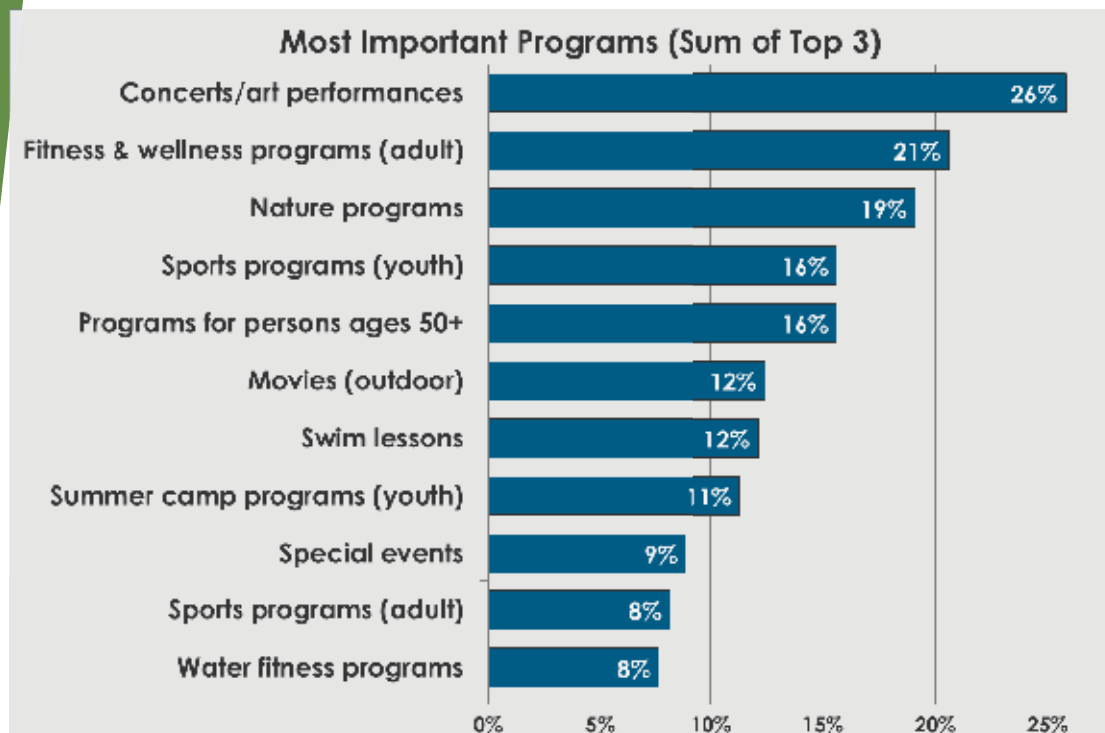


## Unmet Program Needs (Mail Only)



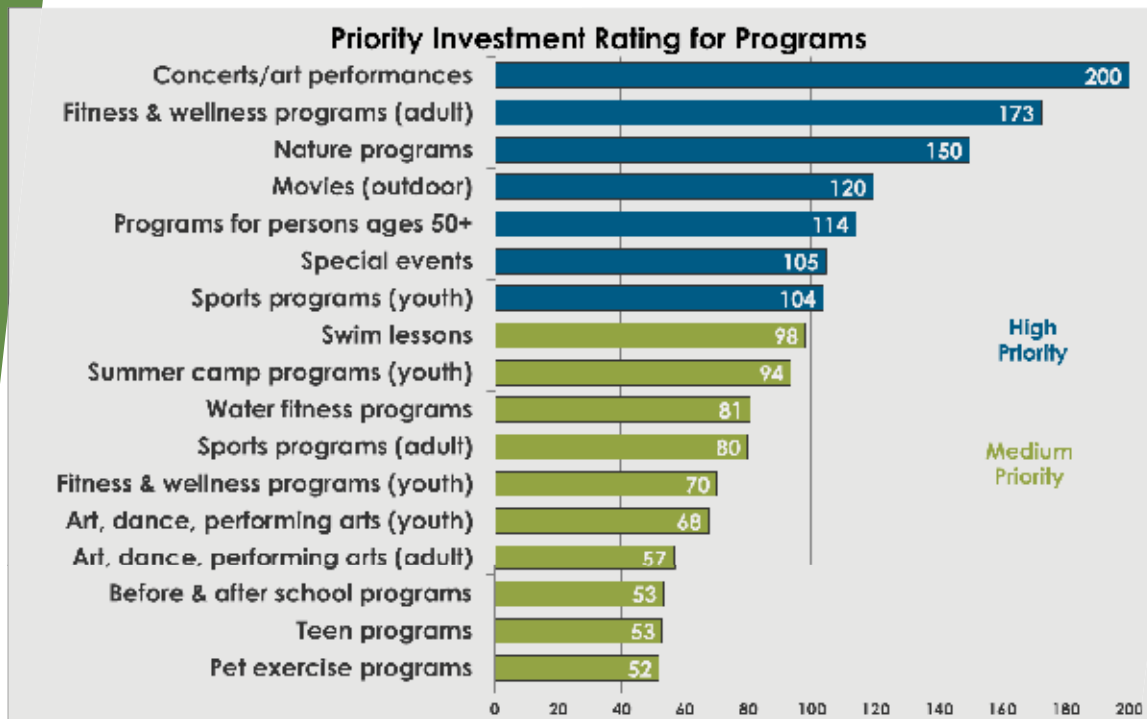
31

## Most Important Program (Mail Only)



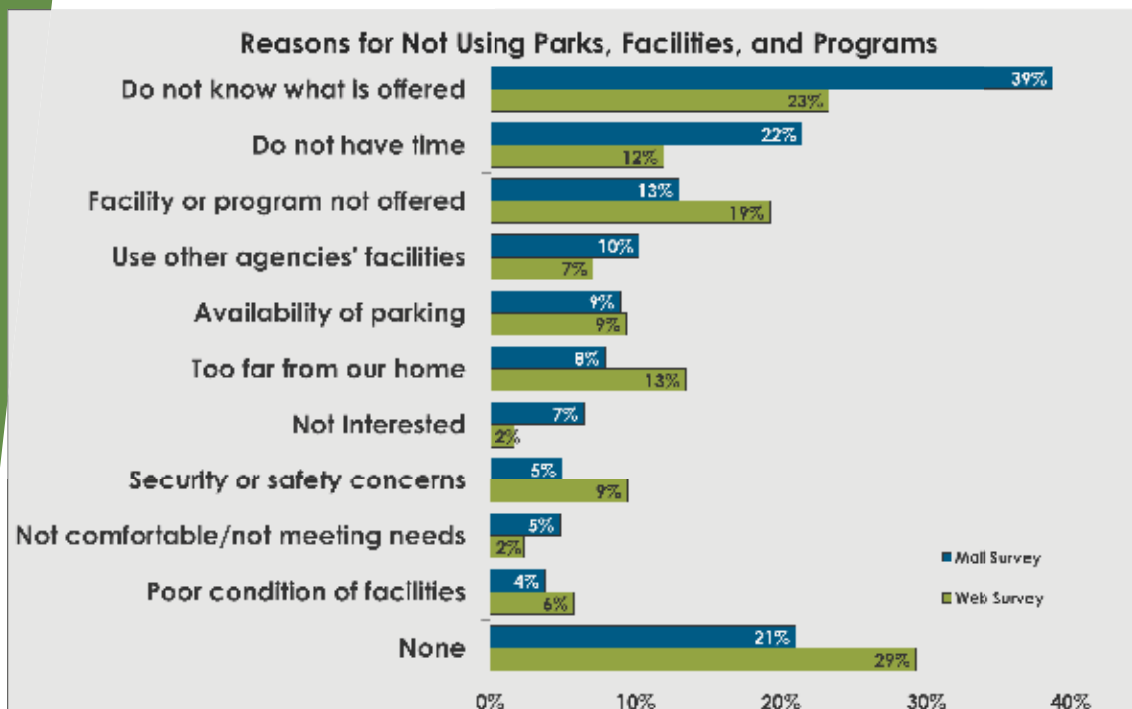
32

## Priorities for Program Investment (Mail Only)



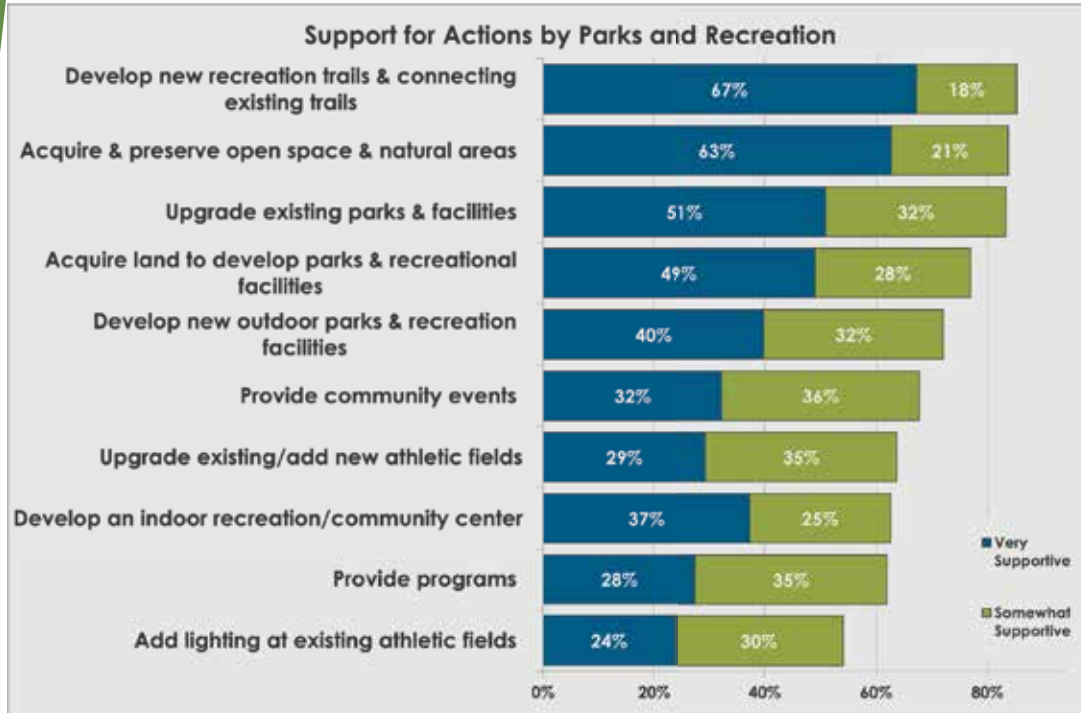
33

## Reasons for NOT Using Parks or Activities



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## Support for Actions (Mail Only)



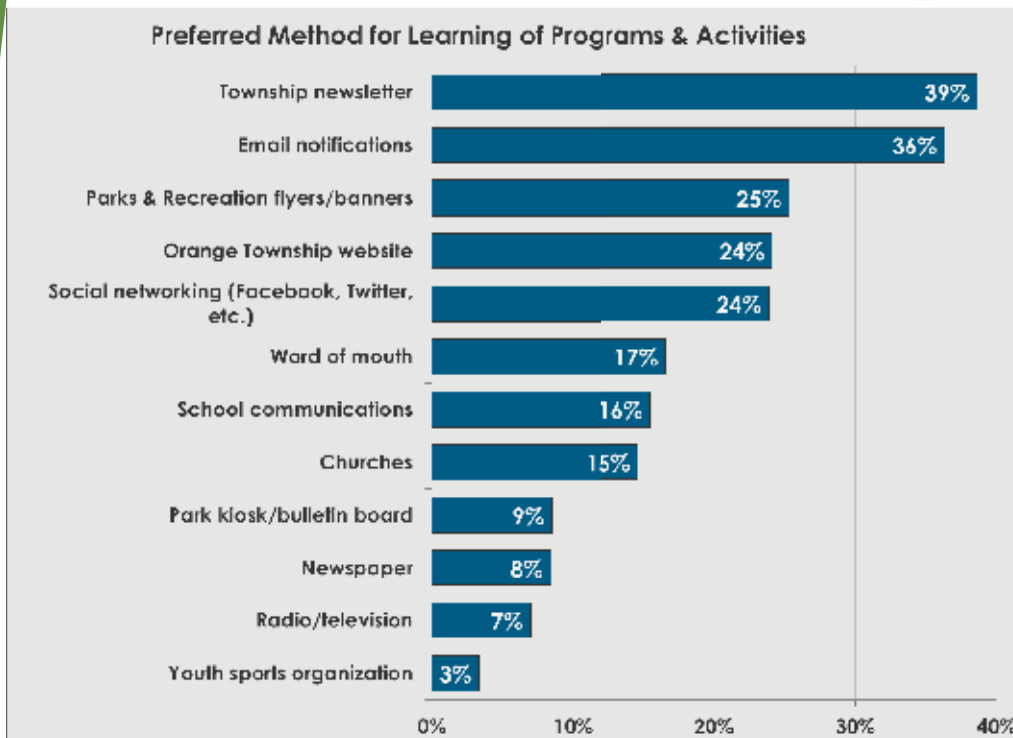
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## Most Important Actions (Mail Only)



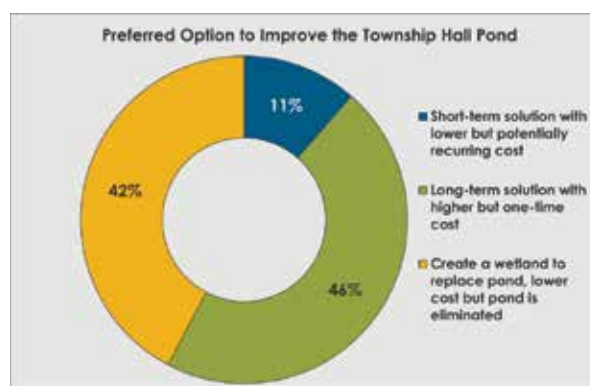
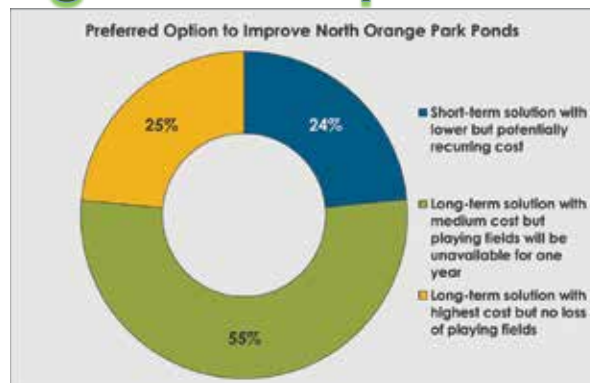
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## Preferred Method for Learning



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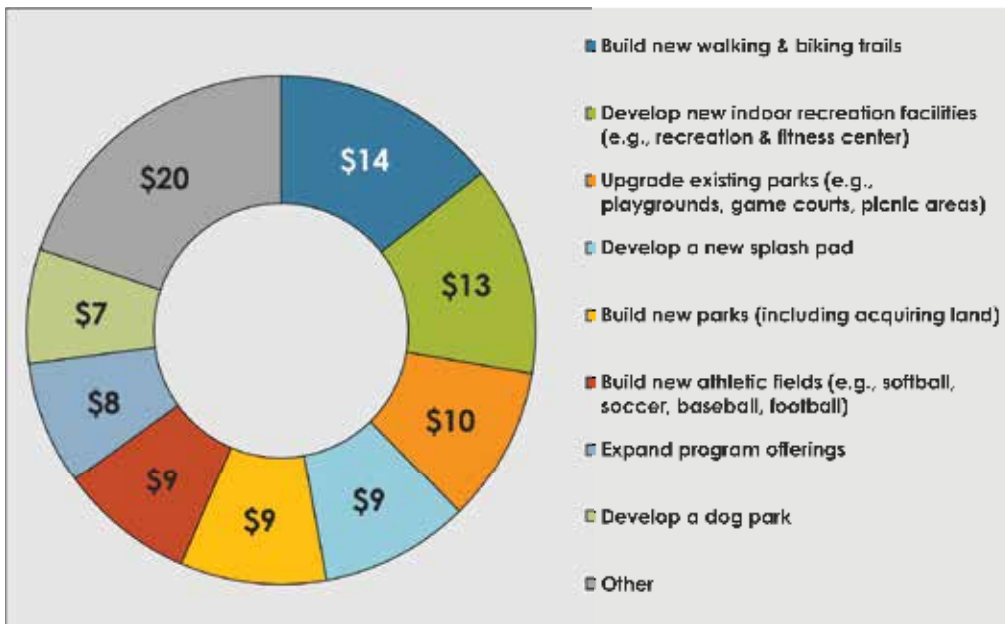
## Orange Township Park Ponds



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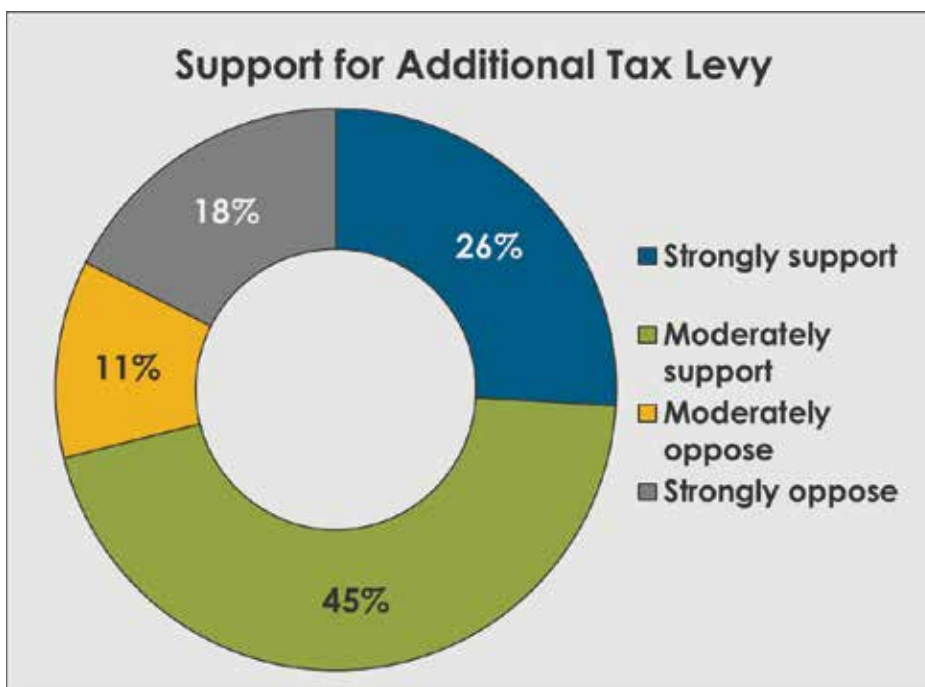
## How People Would Spend \$100 on Parks and Rec in Orange Township



- Other: trails, landscaping, natural areas

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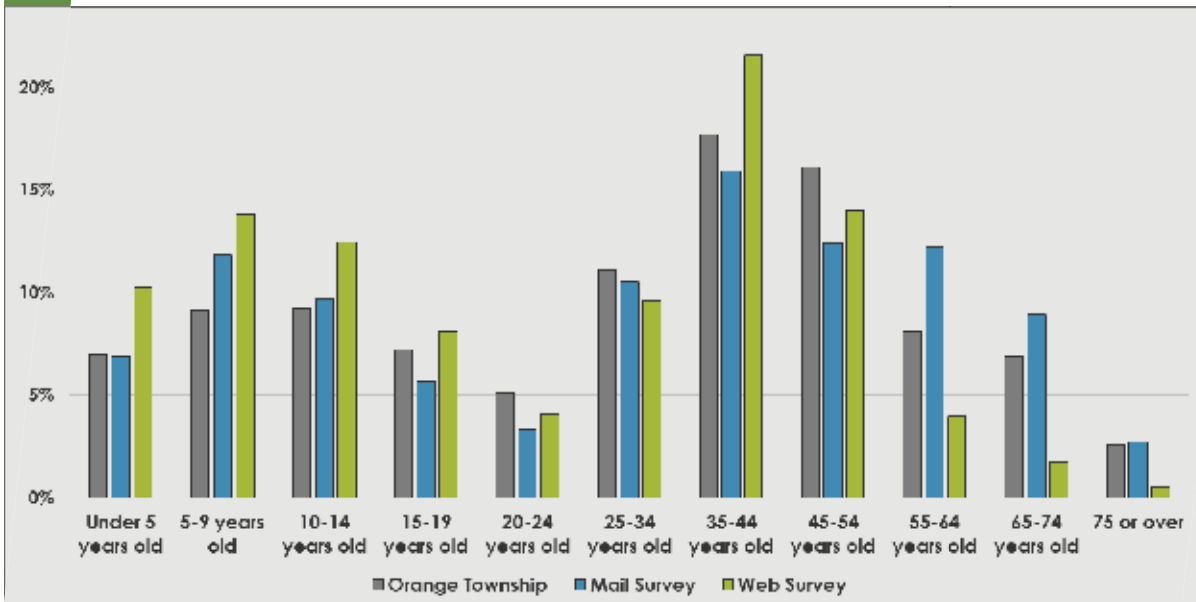
## Support for Additional Park Tax Levy



- 71% strong/moderately support, 29% strong/moderately oppose

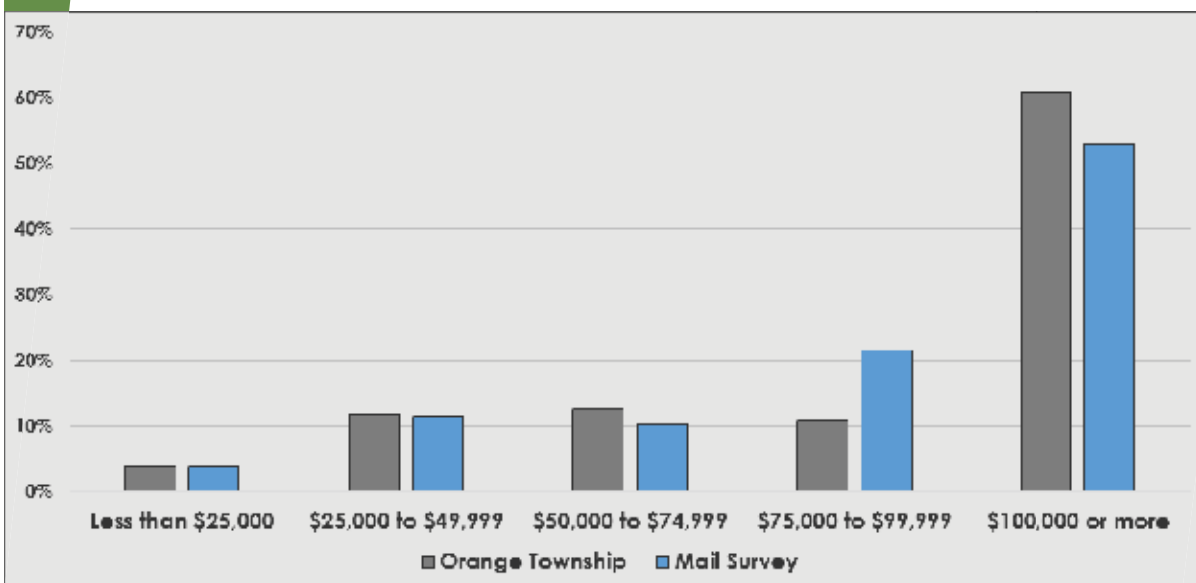
40

## Survey Demographics | Age



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## Survey Demographics | Income



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# Stakeholder Groups

- ▶ Sports
  - ▶ Olentangy United
  - ▶ Columbus United
  - ▶ Olentangy Rugby
  - ▶ OYAA
  - ▶ Pickleball & Tennis Group
  - ▶ I9 Sports
  - ▶ Polaris Cricket
  - ▶ North Park Cricket Club
  - ▶ Disc Golf
- ▶ Trails & Paths Focus Group
- ▶ Sourcepoint
- ▶ Delaware County District Library
- ▶ HOA's/Neighborhoods
  - ▶ Village of Oak Creek
- ▶ Village of Alum Creek
- ▶ VOC
- ▶ Mom's Club
- ▶ Seniors
- ▶ Park Users
- ▶ Other Jurisdictions
  - ▶ Westerville
  - ▶ Delaware County
  - ▶ Liberty Township
  - ▶ Genoa Township
  - ▶ US Army Corps of Engineers
  - ▶ Columbus Metro Parks
- ▶ Trustees
- ▶ Township Staff

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## Stakeholder Groups – Broad Takeaways

- ▶ Trails & connectivity within the township and extending to other jurisdictions
- ▶ Equity of access to facilities
- ▶ Balance of facilities – Active and Passive.
- ▶ Educational opportunities
- ▶ Splash pad
- ▶ Community events/programs – amphitheater/Band Shell
- ▶ Pickleball courts
- ▶ A Park Board to advocate for parks
- ▶ Indoor recreation opportunities/programs

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## Stakeholder Groups – Broad Takeaways

- ▶ Courts and practice space, lights
- ▶ Land set aside for parks
- ▶ More soccer fields – some with lights
- ▶ Adequate parking
- ▶ Collaboration between schools, township, county, adjacent communities, Ohio State Parks, Metro Parks/Preservation Parks
- ▶ Inclusive playground
- ▶ Disc golf
- ▶ Variety of programming offered
- ▶ Outdoor fitness opportunities
- ▶ Permanent location for community gardens

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## Public Workshop/Open House

- ▶ Held on September 13, 2021 at Township Hall
- ▶ 25-30 attendees
- ▶ 3 Topic Stations
  - ▶ Parks and Facilities
  - ▶ Trails and Natural Areas
  - ▶ Programs and Events
- ▶ Dollar Voting
- ▶ Feature and Program Boards

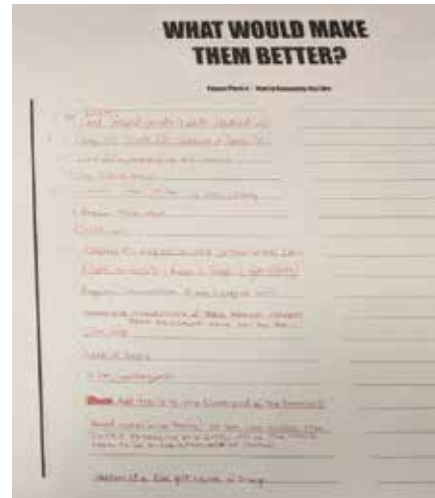
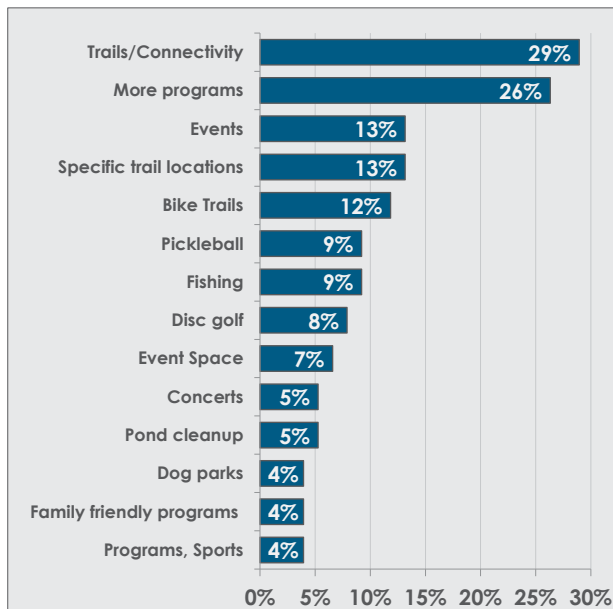


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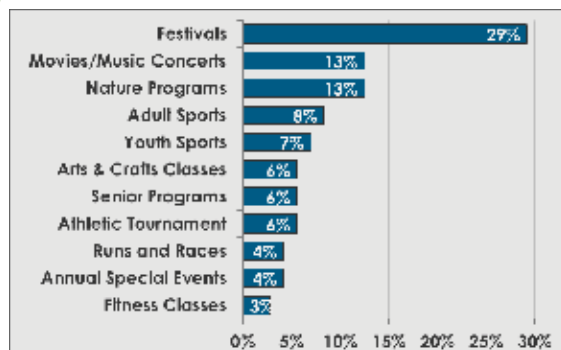
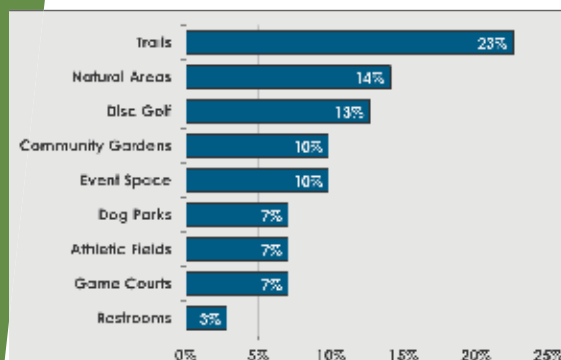
## Public Workshop/Open House

- Over 75 comments and checkmarks at the 3 stations



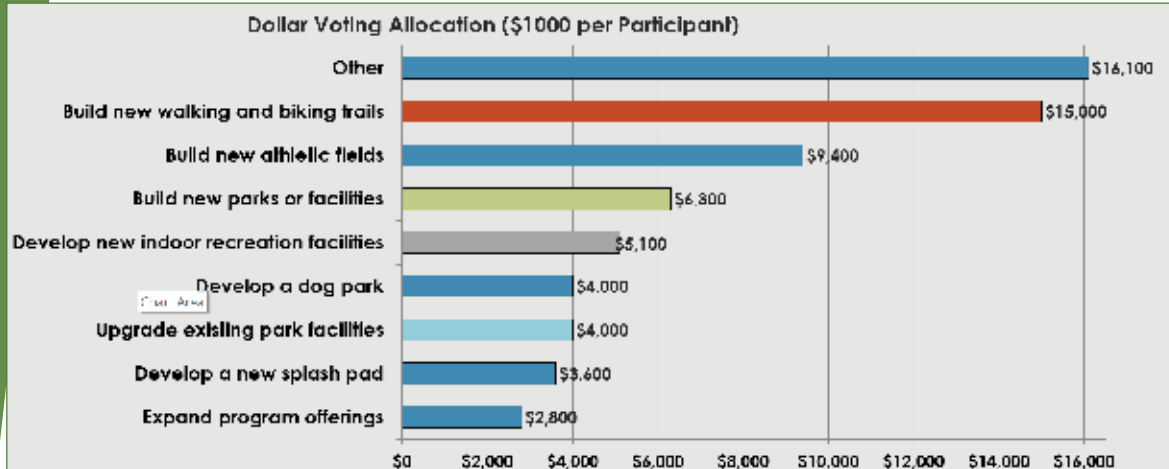
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## Public Workshop/Open House



## Dollar Voting

- ▶ 66 participants at Open House and Stakeholder Groups



- ▶ Other: Disc golf and pickleball

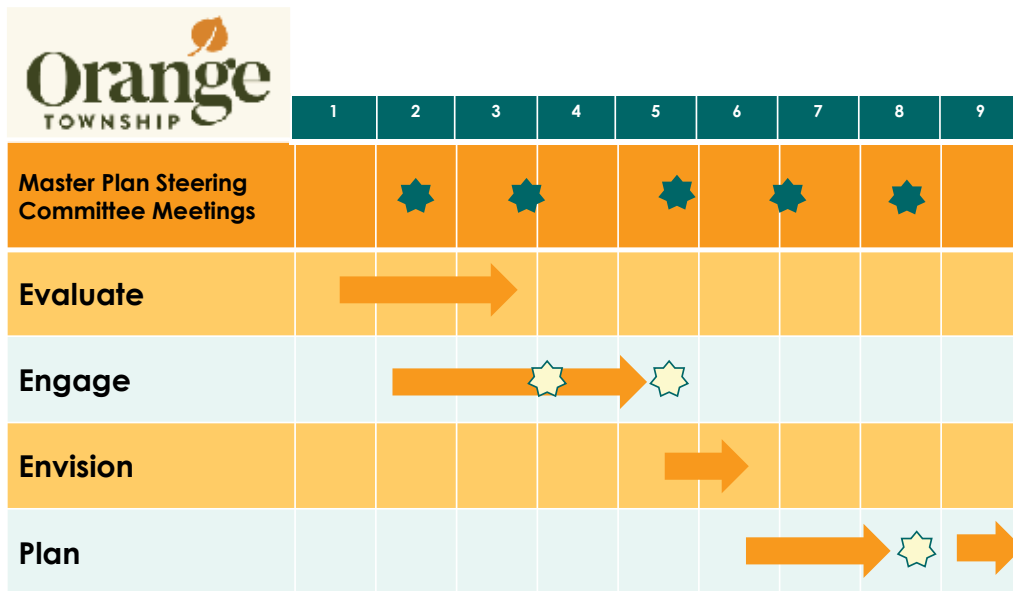
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## To Summarize – Residents want:

- ▶ Connectivity and trails – new, lighting, accessibility
- ▶ Upgrades and improvements to existing parks – more amenities within parks
- ▶ New park features (e.g., pickleball, disc golf, dog park, splash pad)
- ▶ Preservation of and access to natural areas
- ▶ Additional programming and events (concerts, outdoor movies, fitness & wellness classes, nature classes, age 50+ activities)
- ▶ Upgraded playgrounds w/ accessible, adaptive equipment
- ▶ Support Amenities – restrooms, wayfinding, security, shade (trees & structures), seating, Wi-Fi
- ▶ New indoor recreation center/sports facilities – multiuse field/gym space, program space
- ▶ Strategic and collaborative marketing and promotion

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# Project Timeline



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## Questions? Let's Talk!

### What's next:

- Strategic planning session
- Vision, mission, goals, and objectives
- Preliminary recommendations

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# Get Set Up: Let's Work Together!

## Steps to Participate:

1. Take out your mobile phone, computer, or tablet
2. Go to your web browser
3. Type [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)
4. Enter code 3873 2022



1



## Parks & Recreation System Master Plan

Steering Committee Meeting #3  
Orange Township, Ohio  
November 17, 2021



## Agenda

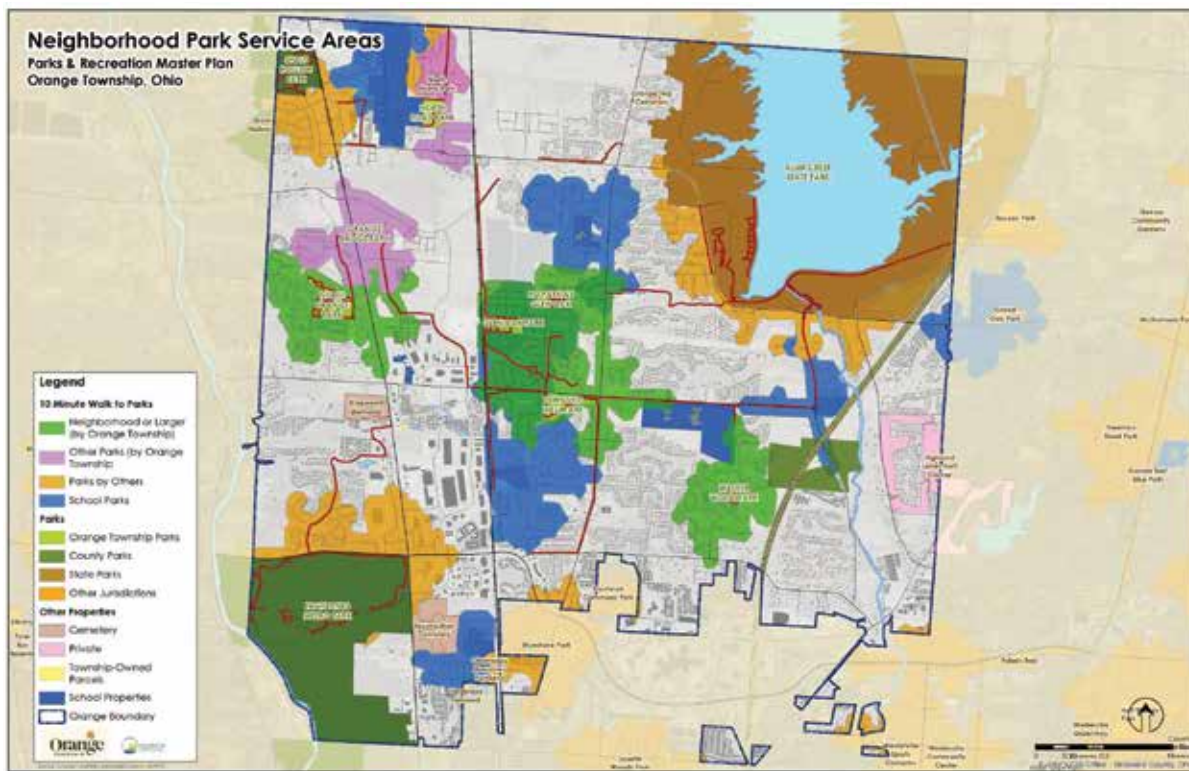
- ▶ Review
- ▶ Explore
  - ▶ Core Values
  - ▶ Mission
  - ▶ Vision
- ▶ Discuss
  - ▶ Goals & Objectives
- ▶ Next Steps



## Previous Meeting Summary

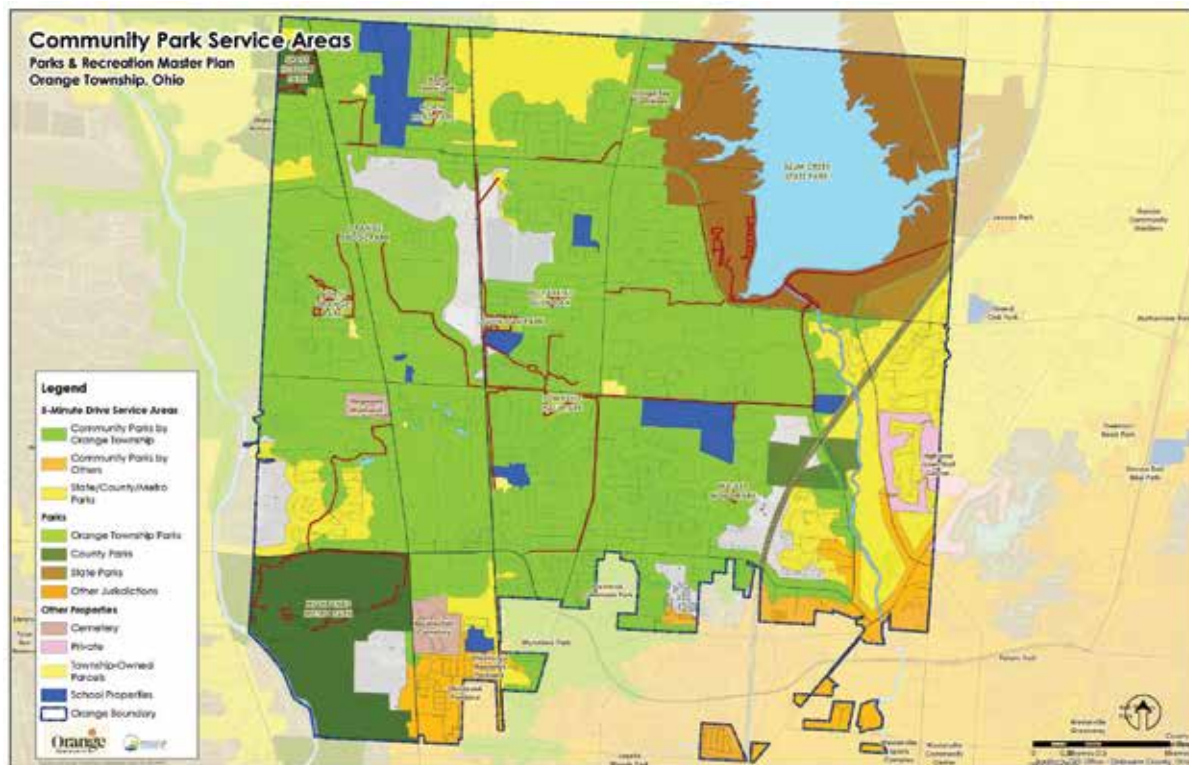
- Township population growing rapidly (37,500)
  - 3,000 above ESRI estimate, 7,000 above 2019 ACS
- **Large Average household size = 2.81 in 2020**
- **Median age = 35.5, <US and OH**
  - 65+ population increasing (14%); under 18 decreasing (32%)
- **Community is diversifying (30% minority)**
- **Site Assessment Summary:**
  - ▶ Overall great condition
  - ▶ ADA accessibility issues
  - ▶ Potential to be more connected
  - ▶ Some features need repair
  - ▶ Opportunity for more seating/shade
  - ▶ More landscaping/trees
  - ▶ Gardens or meadow areas
  - ▶ Open areas w/ potential for additional amenities





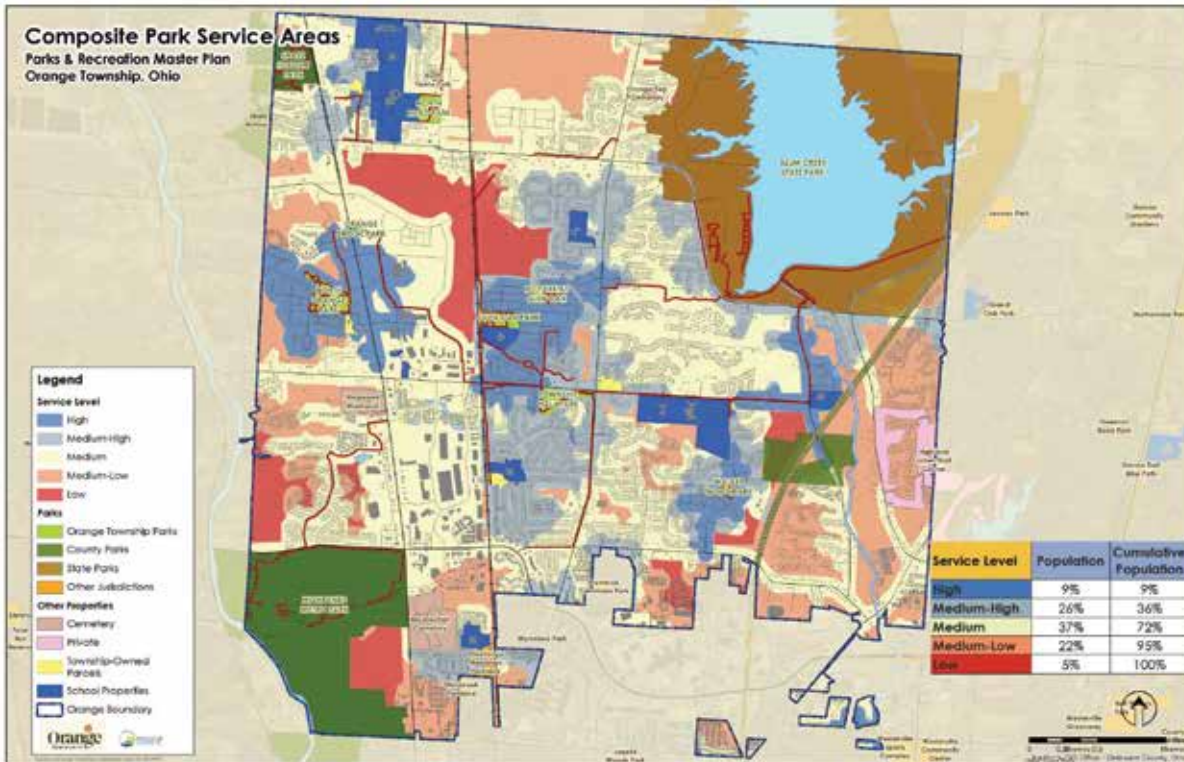
- ▶ Neighborhood Park 13%, School Parks 19%, 32% total population
- ▶ +5% to other parks

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- ▶ Community Parks 82% + County or State Parks 13%
- ▶ 95% to larger parks

6



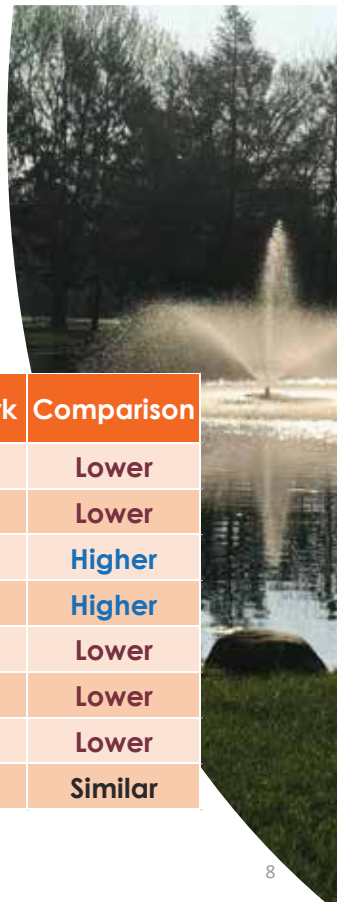
- 16 park and feature types

7

## Benchmarking

- Compared to 32 agencies across: OH, IN, IL, KY, MI, PA, WI
- Between 20,000 and 50,000

Category	Orange Township	Benchmark	Comparison
Acres per 1,000 population	6.0	10.6	Lower
Parkland as a percentage of city	1.4%	4.2%	Lower
Trail miles per 10,000 population	8.0	3.2	Higher
Trail miles per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.	1.21	0.80	Higher
Percent of parkland developed	44%	78%	Lower
Operating expenditures per capita	\$42	\$94	Lower
Revenue generated per capita	\$11	\$32	Lower
Cost Recovery	25%	29%	Similar



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## Previous Meeting Summary

- ▶ Two Surveys Conducted
  - ▶ Statistically Valid Mail Survey
    - ▶ **400 returned surveys**; goal of 300
  - ▶ Web and Handout Survey
    - ▶ **1220 completed**
    - ▶ **68%** live in township
- ▶ **Over 96%** say in **good/excellent condition**
- ▶ **85% support building new trails**
  - ▶ **84%** for acquire/preserve **open space**
  - ▶ **83%** for **upgrading** existing parks
- ▶ Top Upgrades to Existing Parks
  - ▶ **Walking/hiking trails** (61%)
  - ▶ **Restrooms** (46%)
  - ▶ **Bike trails** (45%)



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## Previous Meeting Summary

- ▶ Statistically Valid Mail Survey – Results Continued...
- ▶ Top **Investment Priorities**
  - ▶ Facilities
    - ▶ **Walking & hiking trails**
    - ▶ **Bike trails**
    - ▶ **Community/rec centers**
    - ▶ **Nature Parks/natural areas**
  - ▶ Programs
    - ▶ **Concerts/art performances**
    - ▶ **Fitness/wellness programs**
    - ▶ **Nature programs**
    - ▶ **Outdoor movies**
    - ▶ **Age 50+ programs**



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## To Summarize – Residents want:

- ▶ Connectivity and trails – new, lighting, accessibility
- ▶ Upgrades and improvements to existing parks – more amenities within parks
- ▶ New park features (e.g., pickleball, disc golf, dog park, splash pad)
- ▶ Preservation of and access to natural areas
- ▶ Additional programming and events (concerts, outdoor movies, fitness & wellness classes, nature classes, age 50+ activities)
- ▶ Upgraded playgrounds w/ accessible, adaptive equipment
- ▶ Support Amenities – restrooms, wayfinding, security, shade (trees & structures), seating, Wi-Fi
- ▶ New indoor recreation center/sports facilities – multiuse field/gym space, program space
- ▶ Strategic and collaborative marketing and promotion

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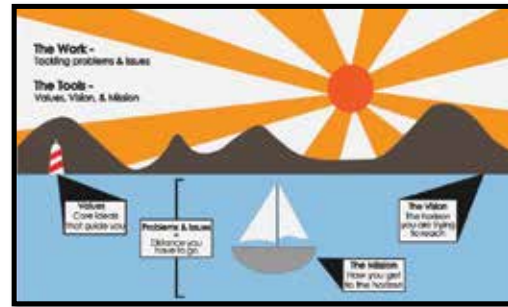
## Project Process



**5<sup>th</sup> Phase: Implementation!**

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# What are Core Values?



*It's your lighthouse!*

- **Guidelines** for Action & Belief
  - Direct staff conduct
  - Express Township ideals
  - Reflect community's personality
- **Signpost** for the Future
  - Shaped by culture, experience, context
- Straightforward **Phrases or Words**

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## Example Core Values:

*"Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission is committed to a set of Core Values. This effort ensures that we leave some blue up above and some green on the ground. Adopting these important values also ensures a thriving park system for our children and grandchildren."*

**Community Enrichment** – Enriching lives through education & programs

**Fun** – Delivering fun to customers

**Leadership** – Providing professional staff development

**Exceptional Customer Service** – Always focusing on you!

**Quality** – Striving for quality throughout the park system

**Safety** – Ensuring safe and secure environments

**Accessibility** – Providing accessibility through affordable options & a variety of offerings

**Diversity** – Fostering diverse populations of vendors, employees, & customers

**Stewardship** – Preserving and conserving cultural, natural, and historical resources

**Building a Legacy** – Maintaining a vision for the future while sustaining a healthy park system

**Health & Wellness** – Providing & promoting healthy lifestyle opportunities



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## Example Core Values:

Community  
Inclusion  
Collaboration  
Innovation



**LEXINGTON**  
*Parks & Recreation*

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## Example Core Values:

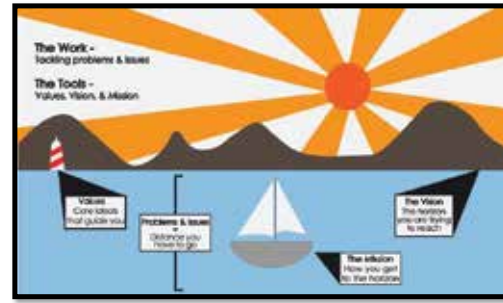


City of Green

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# What is a Vision?



*It's your horizon! Should be aspirational, compelling, easy to understand.*

- **Describes:**
  - **Where** you want to go
  - **What** you hope to accomplish
- **Directs** your impact & what you become
- **Stays with you for the long haul...**

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## Example Vision Statements:

*To be the conservation leader of a vital, active, nature-based community*



*To be an innovative leader in parks and recreation experiences*



*We strive to be a national leader in citizen and visitor focused parks and recreation offerings*



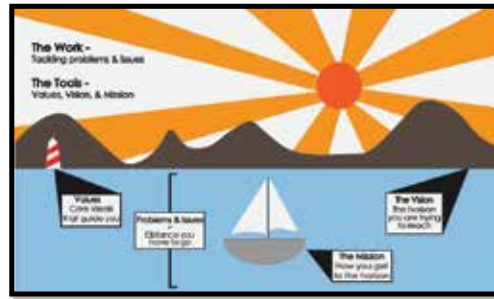
*Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs*



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# What is a Mission?

- Answers 4 questions
  - **What** do you do?
  - **Who** you do it for?
  - **How** you do it?
  - **Why** do you do it?
- One sentence, **simple and concise**
- Should be **easy to remember** and share with others
- Includes **action** words



*It's your boat!*

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## Example Mission Statements

***Together we connect and enrich our community through exceptional experiences***



***Build community and enrich life through parks, programs and play***



***Connecting community through quality parks and programs***

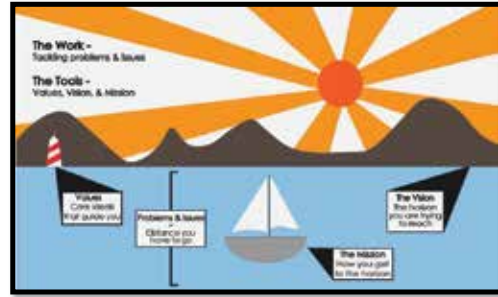


***Enriching lives through dynamic community spaces and inclusive programs***



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# What are Goals & Objectives?



*Think of these as your stops along the way.*

- **More Specific** description of actions and aspirations
- **Focused** direction for investments of:
  - Time, Talents & Resources
- Clarifies what you **will** & **will not** do

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## Goals

Think of goals as **categories** for your intended actions. They should be oriented around the following:

- Parks & Spaces
- Facilities
- Trails
- Finances
- Special aspects
- Programs & Services
- Communications & Marketing
- Leadership & Staff Development
- Maintenance & Operations



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# Example – Goals and Objectives

GOALS	 <b>Create Great Parks</b>	 <b>Engage The Community</b>	 <b>Be a Model of Fiscal Responsibility &amp; Integrity</b>	 <b>Achieve Operational Excellence</b>	 <b>Empower &amp; Prepare Our Team</b>
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide Essential Park Amenities &amp; Services</li> <li>Ensure Healthy Biodiversity</li> <li>Establish the Plan for the Next Levy Period</li> <li>Create Destinations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate Across Boundaries</li> <li>Create a Community Conservation Culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure Financial Stability</li> <li>Develop Alternative Funding Resources</li> <li>Commit to Financial Transparency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Together</li> <li>Provide Exceptional Customer Service</li> <li>Improve Business Practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Leaders</li> <li>Accountable to Outcomes</li> <li>Encourage Creativity &amp; Innovation</li> </ul>
	CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE	FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE	INTERNAL BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE	GROWTH/ DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE	



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# Example – Goals and Objectives

 <b>Inspire Public Space</b> Keep today's parks safe, clean, and fun; promote our parks' history and cultural heritage; and build the great parks of tomorrow.	 <b>Inspire Play</b> Promote active living, well-being, and community for San Francisco's diverse and growing population.	 <b>Inspire Investment</b> Through community engagement, advocacy, and partnerships, cultivate more financial resources to keep San Francisco's parks and programs accessible for all.	 <b>Inspire Stewardship</b> Protect and enhance San Francisco's precious natural resources through conservation, education, and sustainable land/facility management practices.	 <b>Inspire Our Team</b> Encourage innovation and cultivate a connected, engaged, and aligned workforce that delivers extraordinary service.
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<b>OBJECTIVE 1.1</b>	Develop more open space to address population growth in high-needs areas, and emerging neighborhoods.
<b>OBJECTIVE 1.2</b>	Strengthen the quality of existing parks and facilities.
<b>OBJECTIVE 1.3</b>	Steward and promote good park behavior.
<b>OBJECTIVE 1.4</b>	Preserve and celebrate historic and cultural resources.

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## Example – Goals and Objectives



### Great Spaces

Connect people in a variety of environments through parks and spaces



### Great Experiences

Promote health, wellness and experiences for our growing population through programs and events



### Great Stewardship

Value Lexington's resources through preservation, education and sustainable management practices



### Great Engagement

Engage members of the community in planning and promoting quality parks and programs



### Great Leadership

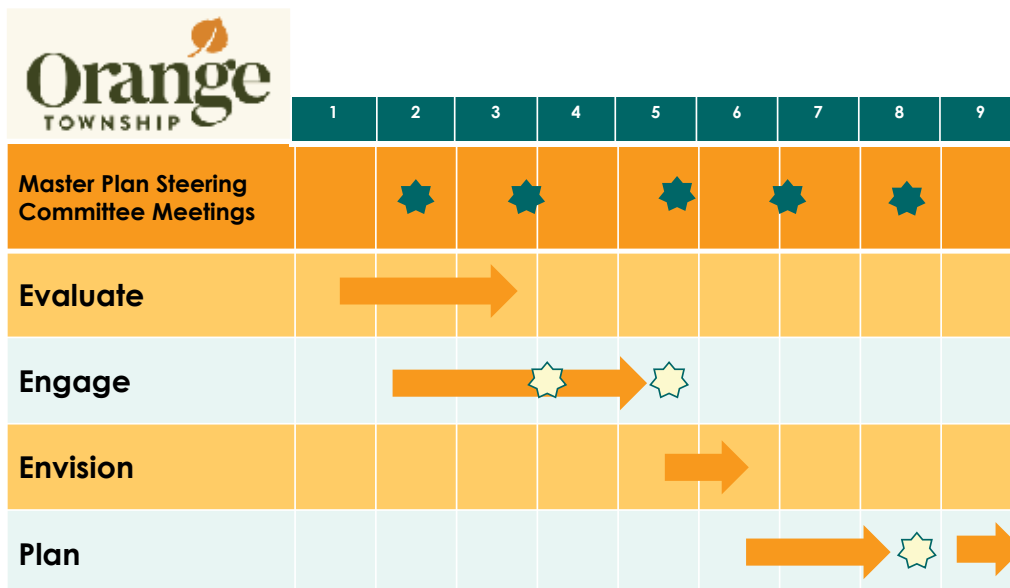
Assure that people, process and finances are managed efficiently and effectively



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*Parks & Recreation*

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## Project Timeline



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## Questions? Let's Talk!

### What's next:

Vision, mission, goals, and objectives

Preliminary recommendations

Draft report

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**2021**

**Orange Township  
Community Parks and  
Recreation Needs  
Assessment  
Findings Report**

Presented to the  
Parks and Recreation  
Master Plan Steering Committee  
of Orange Township, Ohio

June 2021







# Findings Report

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6	Survey Instrument	Page 171





# Executive Summary





# Purpose and Methodology



## Purpose

ETC Institute administered a Parks and Recreation Assessment Survey on behalf of Orange Township, Ohio. The purpose of the assessment was to analyze residents' opinion about various topics regarding the community's parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and services. Analysis will establish priorities for the future improvement of Parks and Recreation services and aide Township leaders in making decisions that best reflect the community's needs.

## Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Orange Township. 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 [www.OrangeParksSurvey.org](http://www.OrangeParksSurvey.org).

Approximately ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent e-mails to the households that received the survey to encourage participation. The e-mails contained a link to the online version of the survey to make it simple for residents to complete. To prevent people who were not residents of the Township from participating, everyone who completed the survey online were 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 counted.



The goal was to obtain 300 completed surveys from City residents. A total of 400 surveys were collected.



The overall results for a sample of 400 surveys have a precision of at least +/- 4.8% at the 95% level of confidence.

### This report contains:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 1)
- Benchmark Analysis comparing the Townships' results to national results (Section 2)
- Priority Investment Ratings (PIR) Analysis that identifies priorities for facilities and programs in the community (Section 3)
- Crosstabulation Data showing the results for all questions on the survey by household type (Section 4)
- Tabular Data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 5)
- A copy of the survey instrument (Section 6)

## Key Findings



- When residents surveyed were asked what reasons have kept them from using parks, recreation, facilities, trails, and participating in events of Orange Township more often, the top response was “do not know what is offered” (38.8%).
- The top three methods that households use to learn about facilities, programs, activities, or events are the Township newsletter (64.0%), word of mouth (55.8%), and social networking sites (42.0%). The two most preferred methods are the Township newsletter (38.6%) and e-mail notifications (36.3%).
- 7 of 10 residents support an additional tax levy to fund land acquisition, development, and the repair of parks and facilities.
- Highbanks Metro Park and Alum Creek State Park were visited the most during the past two years by respondents.
- The top three organizations used by households with children are: Olentangy local schools, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, and the Orange Township Parks Department. The top three organizations used by households without children are: Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Ohio State Parks, and Orange Township Parks Department. Nineteen percent of respondents do not use the organizations that were listed on the assessment.
- Upgrades that residents surveyed would like to see at existing Township parks are: walking/hiking trails, restrooms, and bike trails.
- The percentage of households in Orange Township that indicated they have visited parks/facilities during the past two years (86.0%) is 11.2% higher than the National Average of 74.8%.
- 38.0% of Orange Township residents, who had visited Township parks/facilities during the past two years, rated the condition as excellent. This is 10.6% higher than the National Average of 27.4%.

The analysis of residents’ unmet needs, importance of, and priority investments for Parks and Recreation facilities and programs, as well as additional findings, are on the following pages.

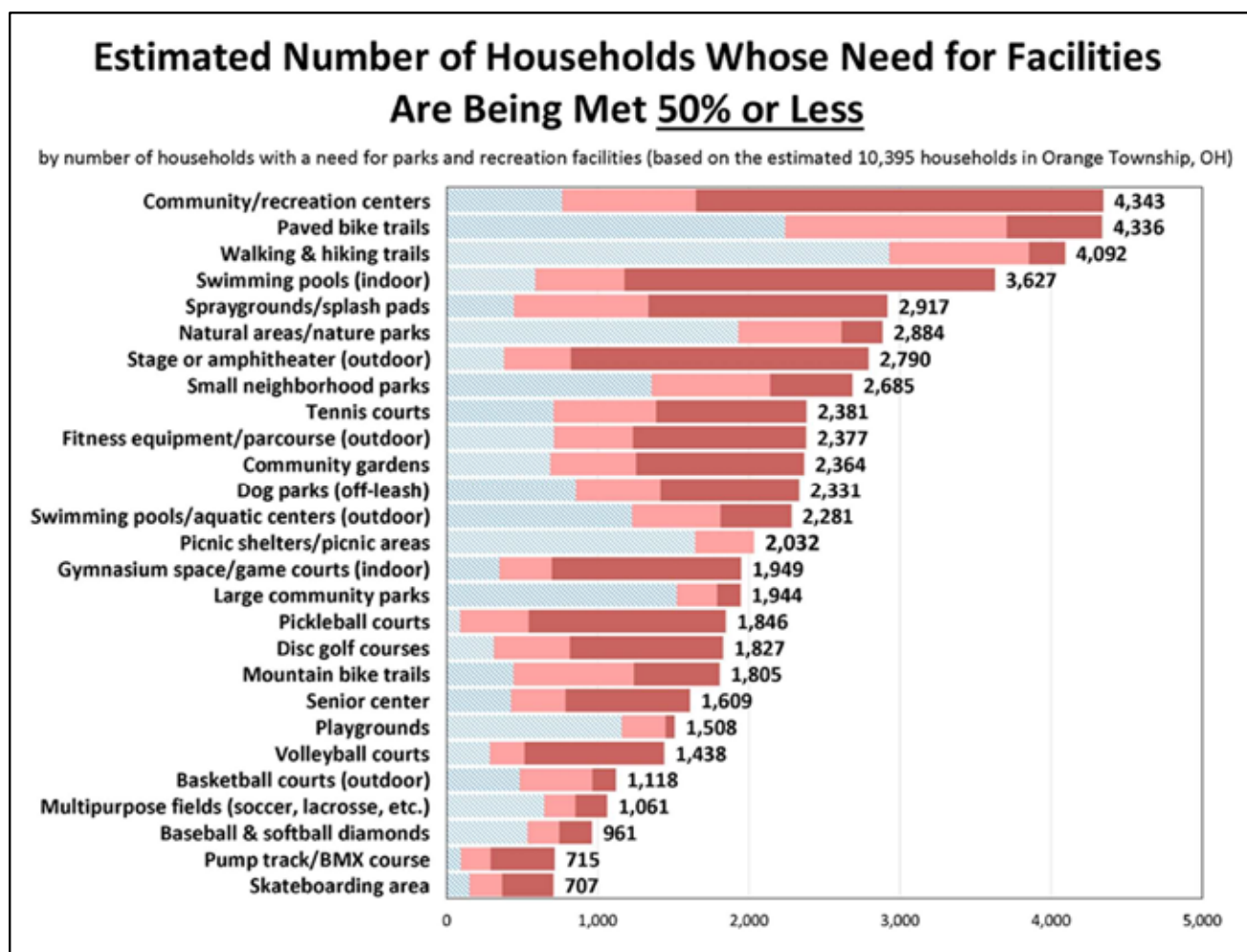
## Amenity, Facility, and Park Needs and Priorities



**Facility Needs.** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 27 facilities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various facilities. The four facilities with the highest percentage of households whose needs are being met 50% or less are listed below.

- Community/recreation centers – 4,343 households (41.8%)
- Paved bike trails – 4,336 households (41.7%)
- Walking and hiking trails – 4,092 households (39.4%)
- Indoor swimming pools – 3,627 households (35.9%)

The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 27 facilities that were assessed is shown in Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1: Estimated Households with Unmet Facility Needs**

## Amenity, Facility, and Park Needs and Priorities



**Facility Importance.** In addition to assessing the needs for each facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each one. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the top three most important facilities to residents were:

- walking and hiking trails (50.6%),
- paved bike trails (34.3%), and
- natural areas/nature parks (32.6%).

The percentage of residents who selected each facility as one of their top four choices is depicted in Figure 2 below.

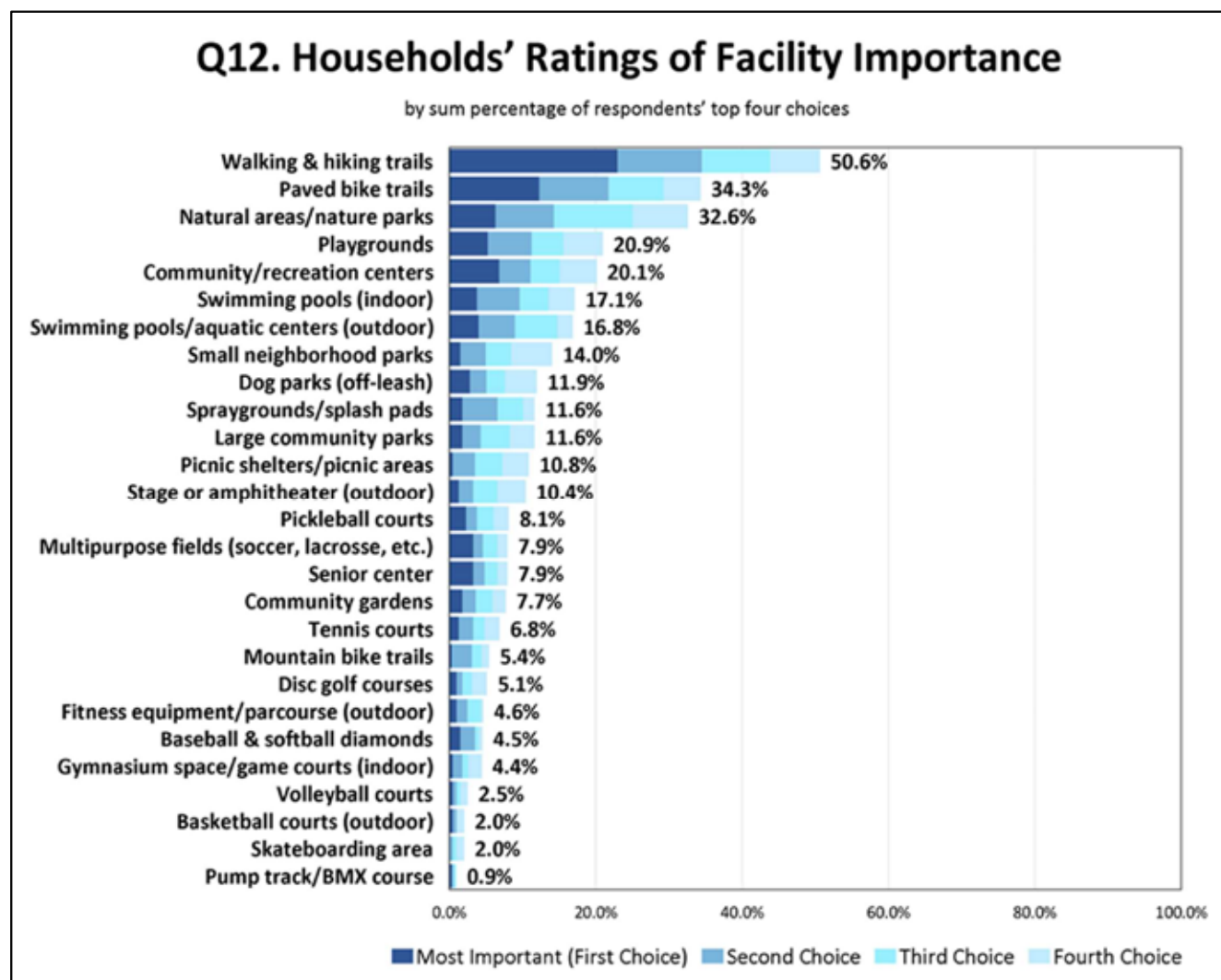


Figure 2: Households' Ratings of Importance for Facilities



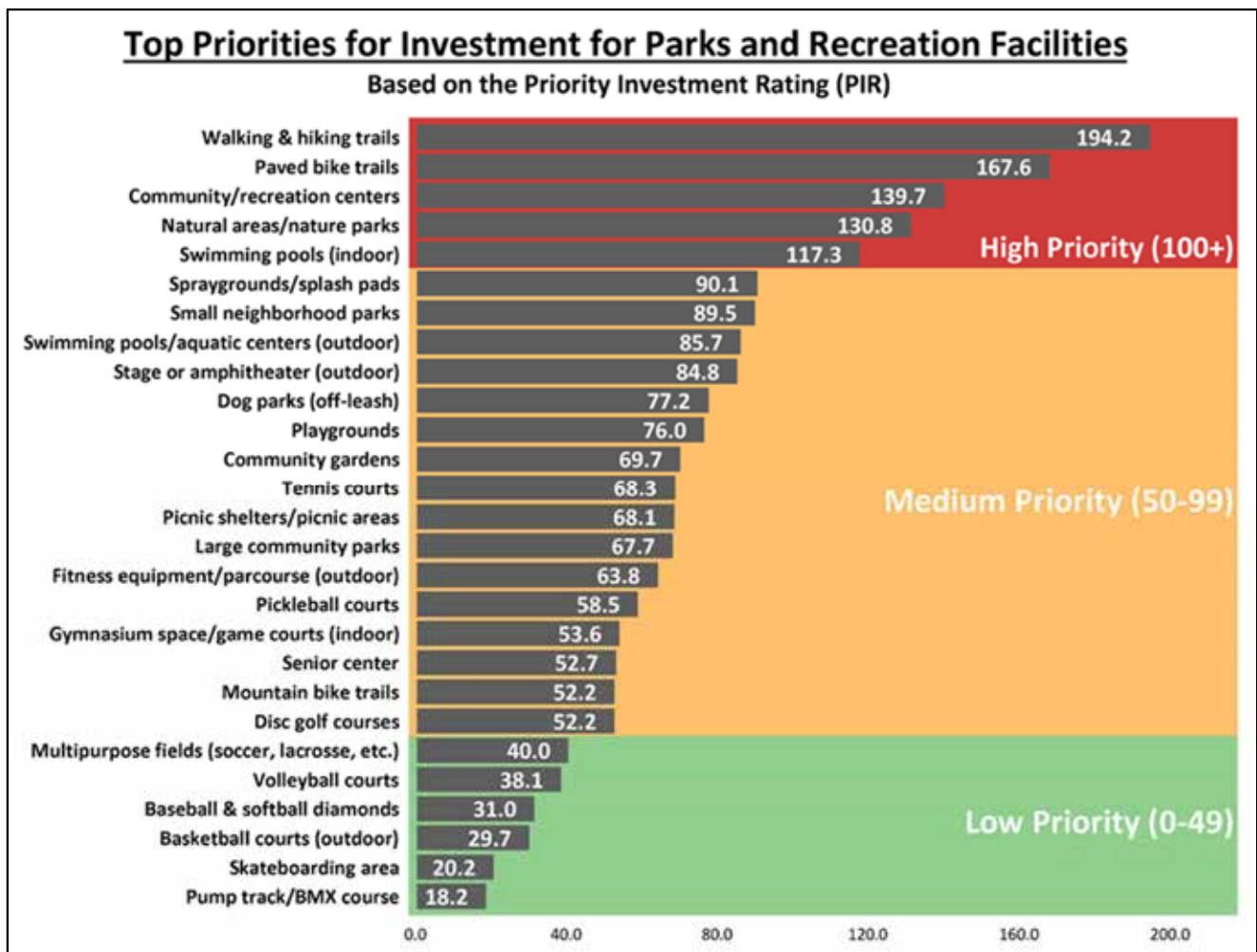
# Amenity, Facility, and Park Needs and Priorities



**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 Parks and Recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs (1) the importance that residents place on each facility/amenity/program and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility/amenity/program. Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 3 of the report. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the five facilities were rated as high priorities for investment are listed below.

- Walking and hiking trails (PIR=194.2)
- Paved bike trails (PIR=167.6)
- Community/recreation centers (PIR=139.7)
- Natural areas/nature parks (PIR=130.8)
- Indoor swimming pools (PIR=117.3)

The Priority Investment Ratings for each facility is shown in the chart below (Figure 3).



**Figure 3: Priority Investment Ratings (PIR) for Facilities Analyzed**

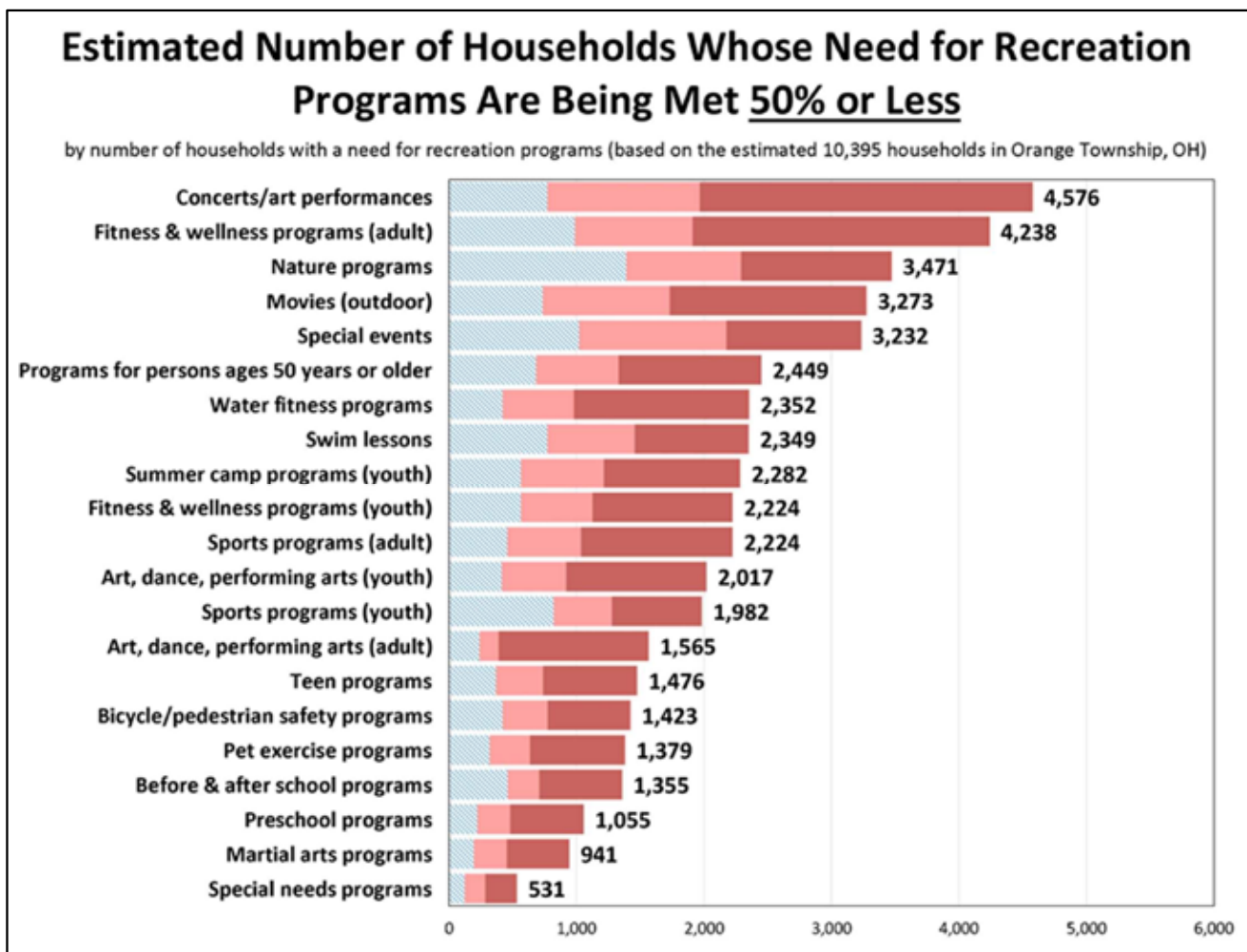
# Program and Activity Needs and Priorities



**Recreation Program Needs.** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 21 programs and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various programs. The five programs with the highest percentage of estimated households whose needs are being met 50% or less are listed below.

- Concerts/art performances – 4,576 households (44.2%)
- Adult fitness and wellness programs – 4,238 households (40.8%)
- Nature programs – 3,471 households (33.4%)
- Outdoor movies – 3,273 households (31.5%)
- Special events – 3,232 households (31.1%)

The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 21 programs that were assessed is shown in Figure 4 below.



**Figure 4: Estimated Households with Unmet Recreation Program Needs**

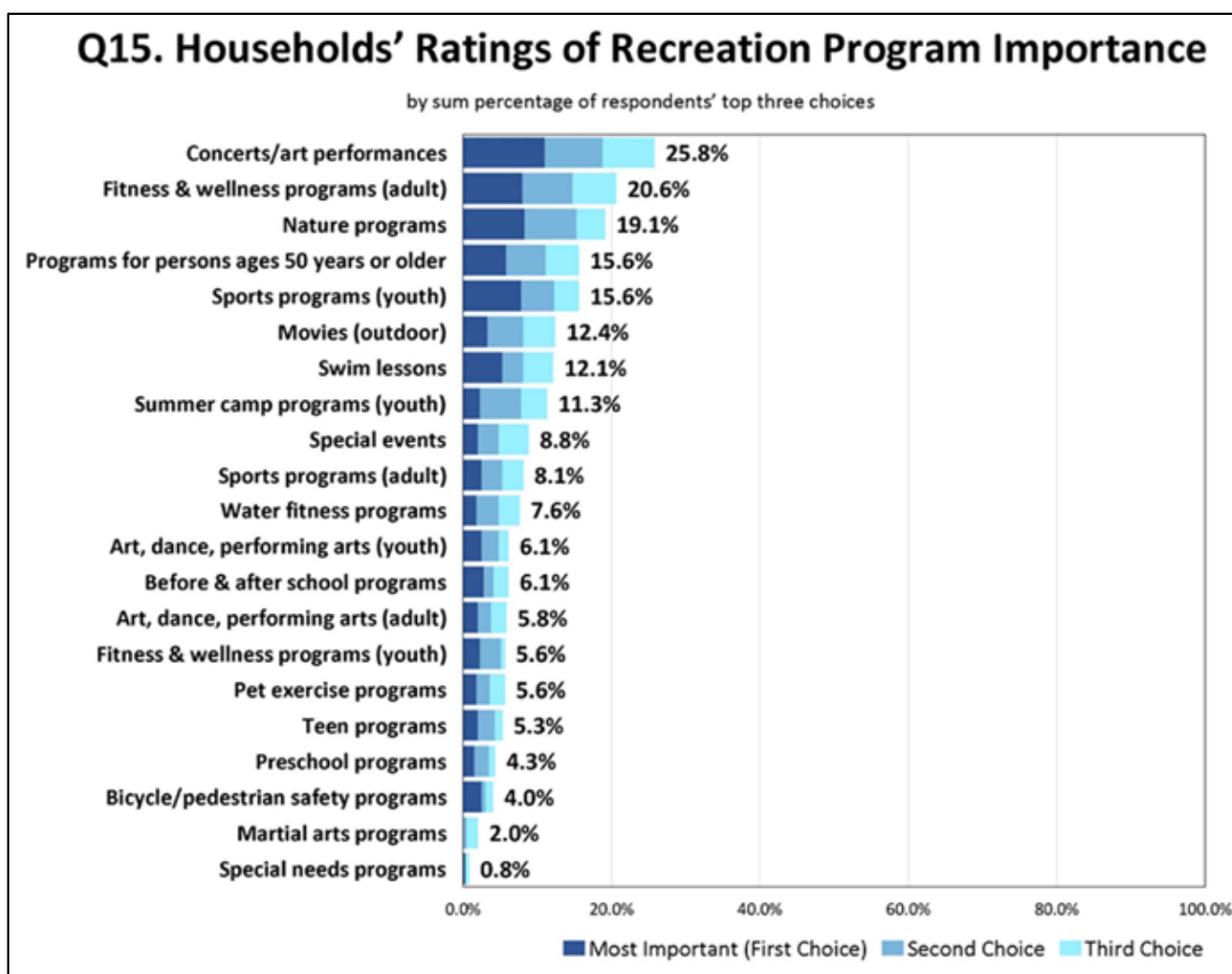
# Program and Activity Needs and Priorities



**Recreation Program Importance.** In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each one. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the top three most important recreation programs to residents were:

- concerts/art performances (25.8%),
- adult fitness and wellness programs (20.6%), and
- nature programs (19.1%).

The percentage of residents who selected each program as one of their top three choices is depicted in Figure 5 below.



**Figure 5: Importance of Various Recreation Programs to Households**

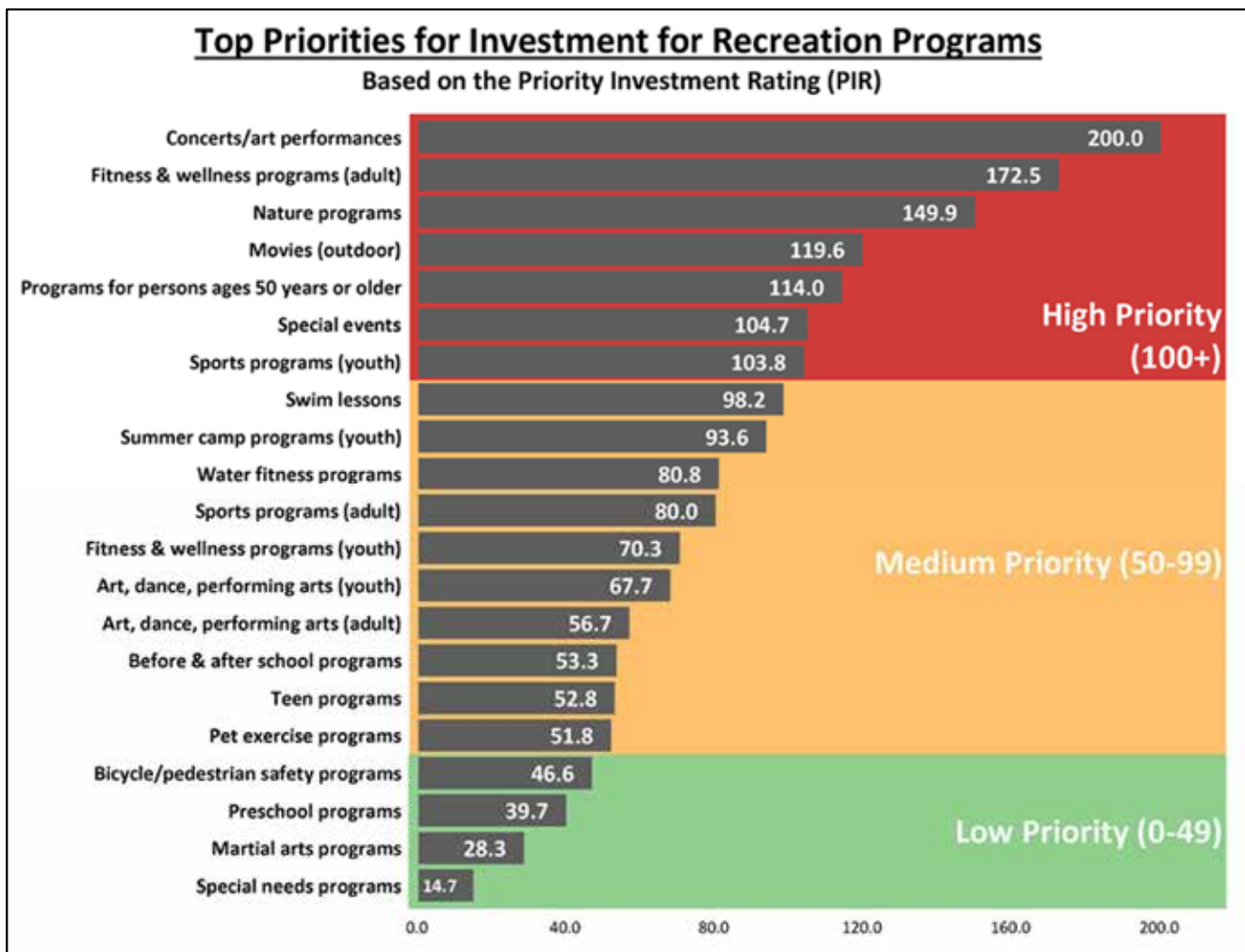
# Program and Activity Needs and Priorities



**Priorities for Recreation Program Investments.** Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided above on Page vi and in Section 3 of the Findings Report, respectively. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the seven recreation programs were rated as high priorities for investment are listed below.

- Concerts/art performances (PIR=200.0)
- Adult fitness and wellness programs (PIR=172.5)
- Nature programs (PIR=149.9)
- Outdoor movies (PIR=119.6)
- Programs for persons ages 50 years or older (PIR=114.0)
- Special events (PIR=104.7)
- Youth sports programs (PIR=103.8)

Figure 6 below shows the PIR for each recreation program assessed.



**Figure 6: Priority Investment Ratings (PIR) for Recreation Programs Analyzed**



## Additional Findings



**Township Parks/Facilities Visited During the Past Two Years.** Eight of ten residents surveyed indicated they or members of their household have visited Orange Township parks and/or recreation facilities in the past two years. Of these respondents, 43.5% indicated they had made 20 or more visits during the past year, 26.9% made 1 to 5 visits, 15.1% made 11 to 19 visits, and 14.5% made 6 to 10 visits.

**Ratings of Park/Facility Condition.** Most residents, who had visited parks and/or recreation facilities during the past two years, rated the condition of the parks/recreation facilities visited as either excellent or good; 4.0% rated the condition as fair, and 0.3% rated the condition as poor.

**Parks and Recreation Facilities Used.** Orange Township parks and recreation facilities used by the highest percentage of residents surveyed were Highbanks Metro Park (72.5%) and Alum Creek State Park (65.0%). Residents were asked which parks and recreation facilities they had visited most and based on the sum of respondents' top three choices, the most visited parks/facilities were, Highbanks Metro Park (52.3%) and Alum Creek State Park (44.3%).

**Upgrades to Existing Orange Township Parks.** Residents surveyed were asked to indicate the upgrade(s) they would like to see at existing Township parks. The top three responses, by respondent households, were: walking/hiking trails (60.5%), restrooms (45.5%), and bike trails (45.0%). Based on the sum of respondents' top three choices, these three upgrades are also the most important to households.

- Households with children under 10 years old would like to see the following upgrades at existing parks in the Township: playground equipment (62.6%), restrooms (60.2%), and walking/hiking trails (60.2%).
- Households with no children, ages 20-54 years old, would like to see the following upgrades at existing parks: walking/hiking trails (73.2%), bike trails (49.3%), and sidewalks (33.8%).

The three actions, to improve parks and recreation, that the highest percentage of households are most supportive of are;

1. to develop new recreation trails and connecting existing trails (85%),
2. acquire and preserve open space and natural areas (84%), and
3. upgrade existing parks and facilities (83%).

**Township Hall Pond and North Orange Park Ponds.** Residents surveyed were asked to choose which options they would prefer to improve the ponds from the shallow depth and heavy nutrient loads in the soil that are causing toxic algae blooms to be present. Regarding improvements to the Township Hall Pond, there is a 4% margin between households' preferring a long-term solution with higher but one-time cost (46.3%) and to create a wetland to replace the pond, this would be a lower cost, but pond is eliminated (42.3%). To improve the North Orange Park Ponds, majority of households (55.1%) prefer a long-term solution with medium cost but playing fields will be unavailable for one year.

## Conclusions



To ensure that the City continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community, ETC Institute recommends that the Parks and Recreation Department sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as “high priorities” by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR). The ratings for facilities and recreation programs are in Table 1 below.

High Priorities	Priority Investment Ratings for Facilities	
	Facility	Rating
	Walking & hiking trails	194.2
	Paved bike trails	167.6
	Community/recreation centers	139.7
	Natural areas/nature parks	130.8
	Swimming pools (indoor)	117.3
	Priority Investment Ratings for Programs	
	Program	Rating
	Concerts/art performances	200.0
	Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	172.5
	Nature programs	149.9
	Movies (outdoor)	119.6
	Programs for persons ages 50 years or older	114.0
	Special events	104.7
	Sports programs (youth)	103.8

**Table 1: Priorities for Investment (Facilities and Programs)**



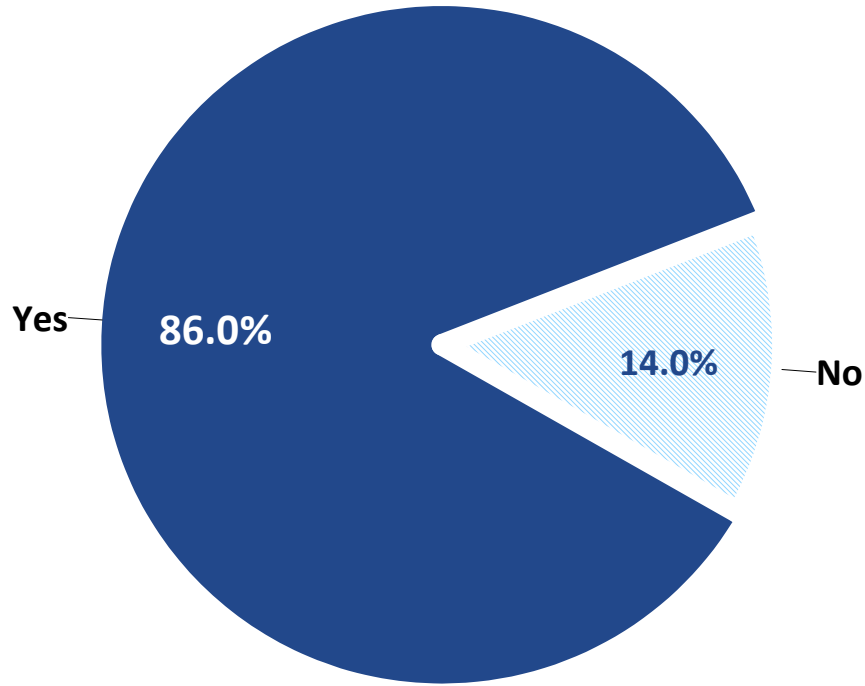
## Charts and Graphs: Overall Results





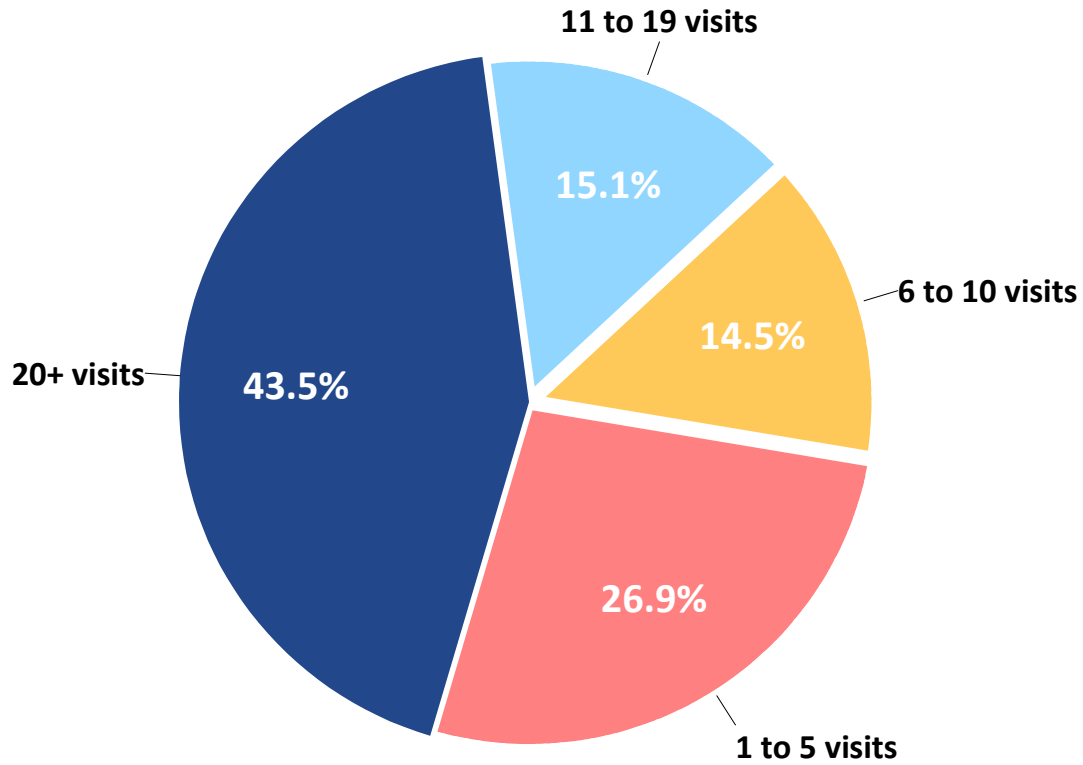
# **Q1. Have you or a member of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by Orange Township in the past 2 years?**

by percentage of respondents



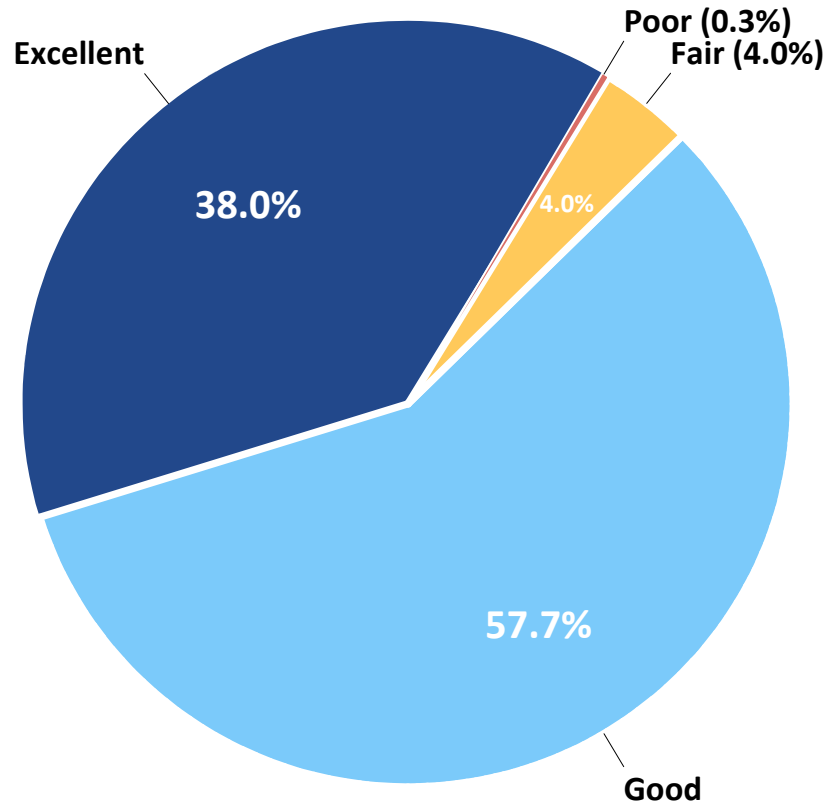
## Q1a. How often did you or any member of your household visit during the past year?

by percentage of respondents who visited Orange Township parks/recreation facilities in the past two years  
(excluding *don't knows*)



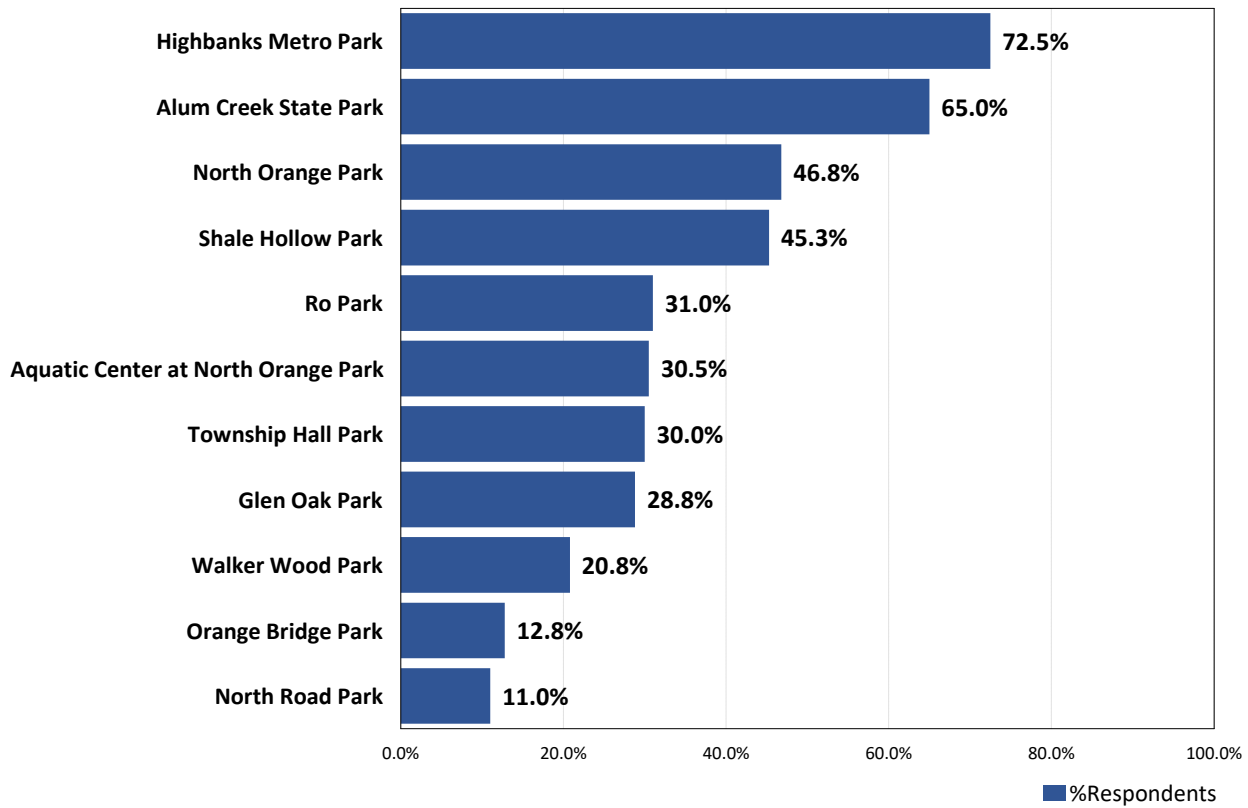
## Q1b. How would you rate their condition?

by percentage of respondents who visited Orange Township parks/recreation facilities in the past two years  
(excluding *don't knows*)



## Q2. Orange Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Households Have Visited in the Past Two Years

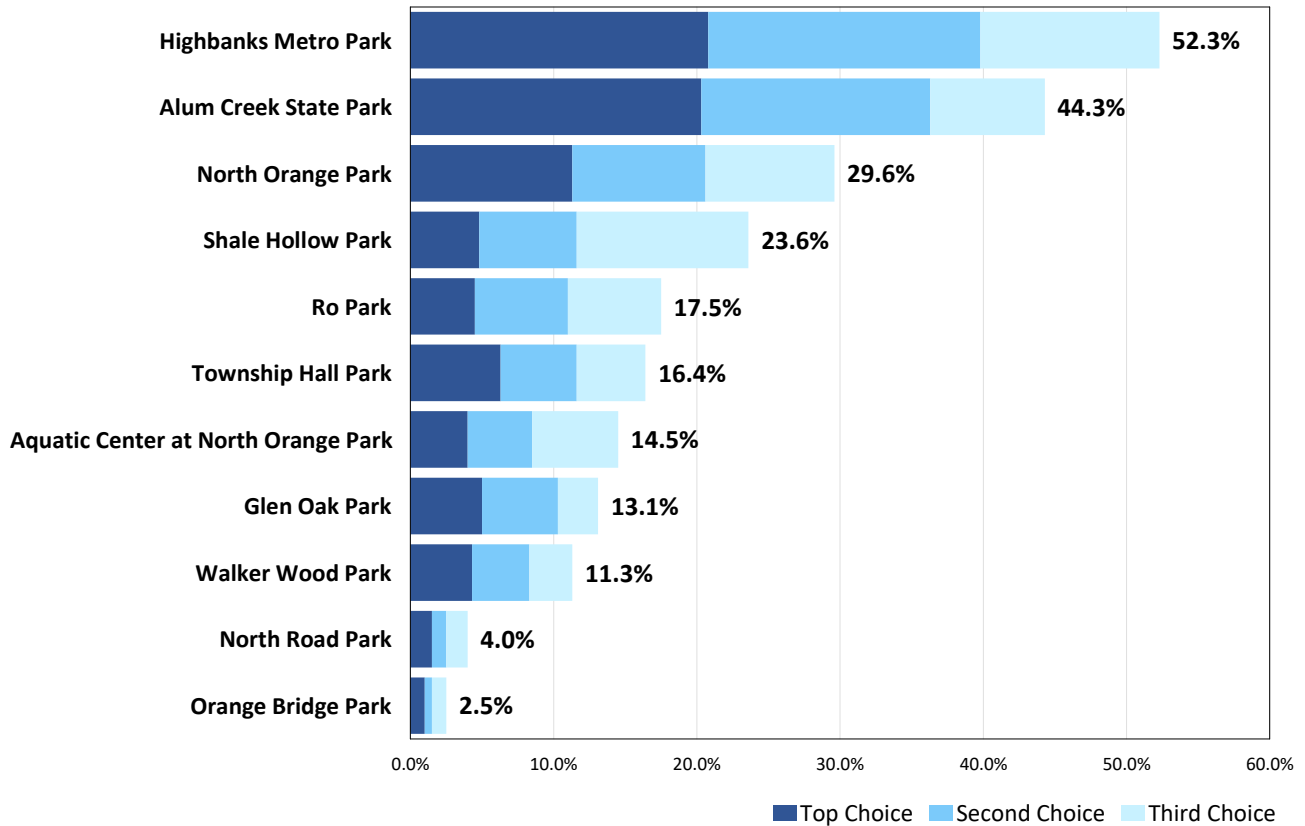
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)





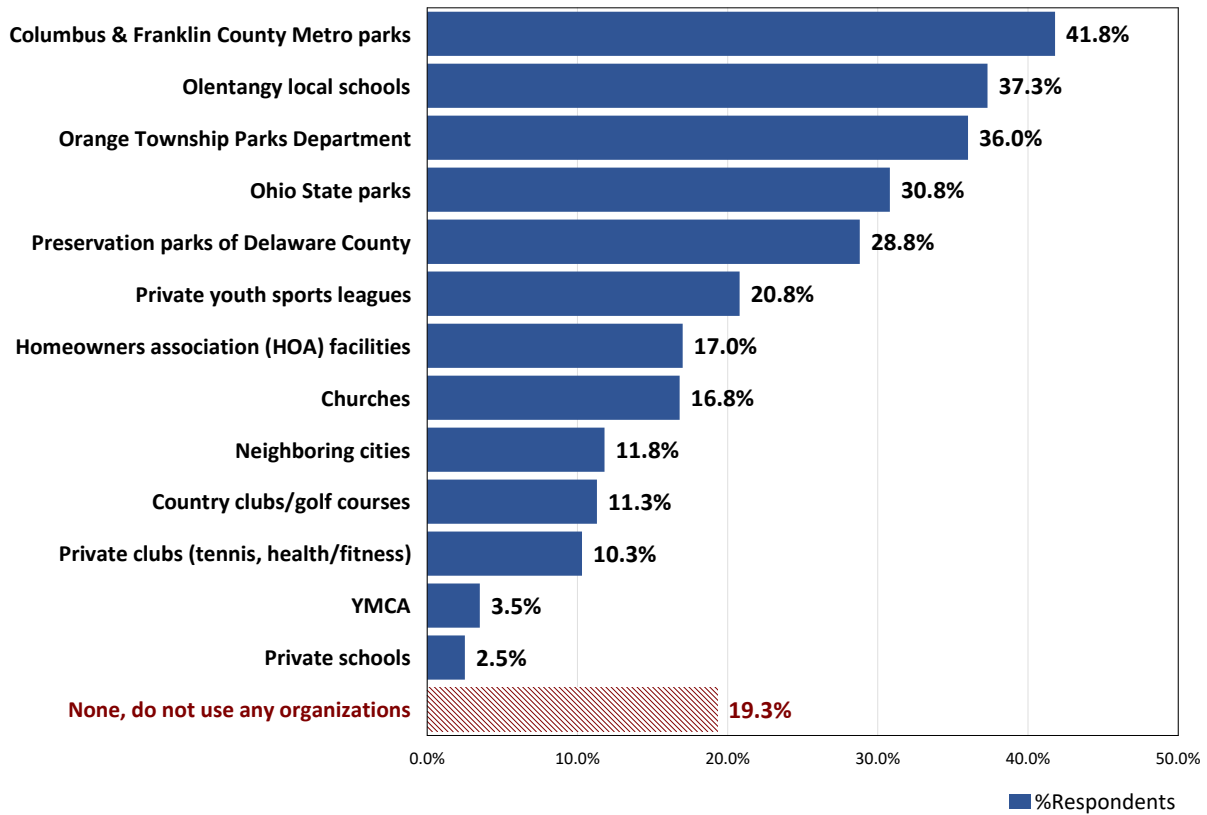
## Q3. Orange Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Visited Most by Households

by sum percentage of respondents' top three choices



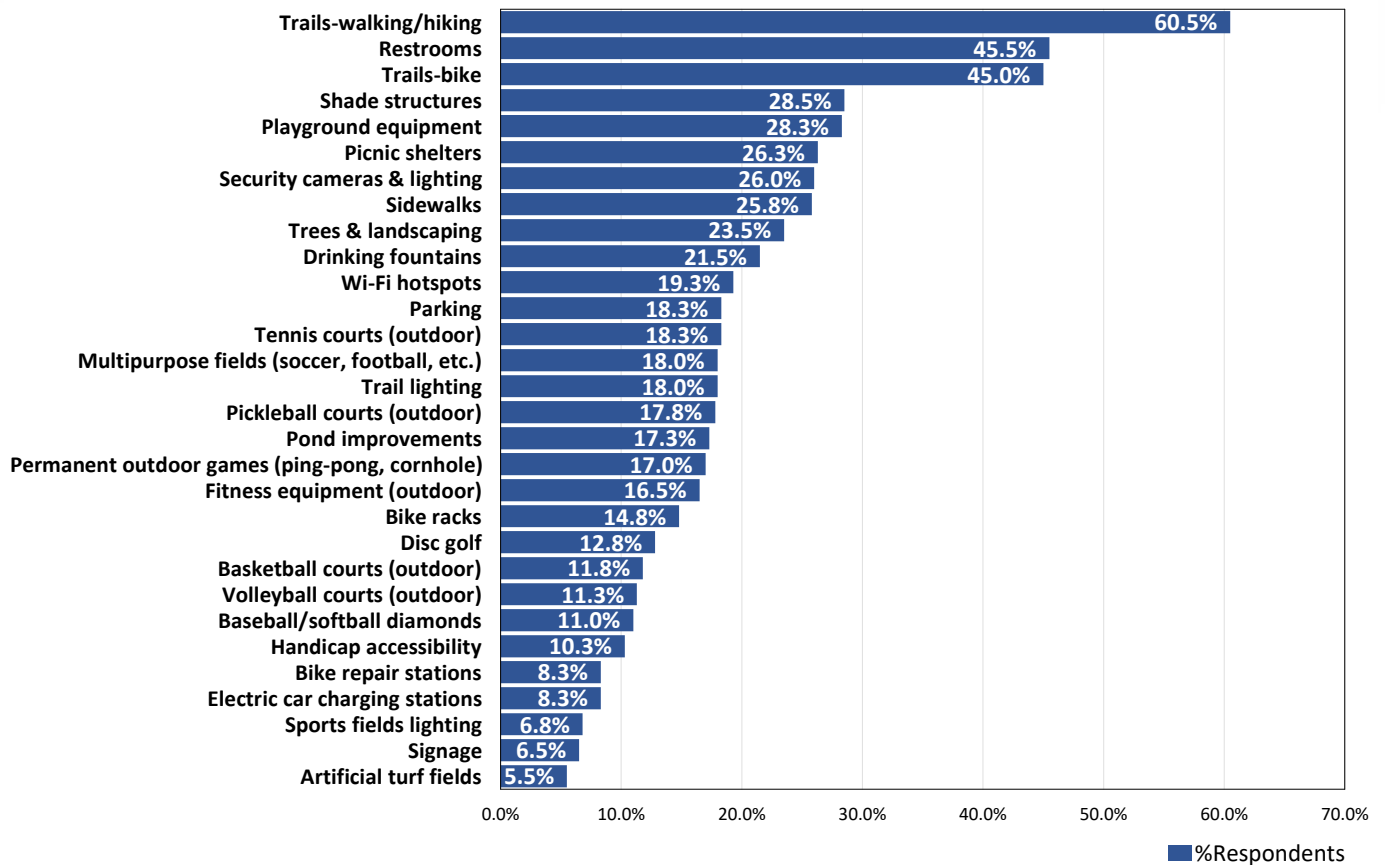
## Q4. Organizations Households Use for Parks and Recreation Activities

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



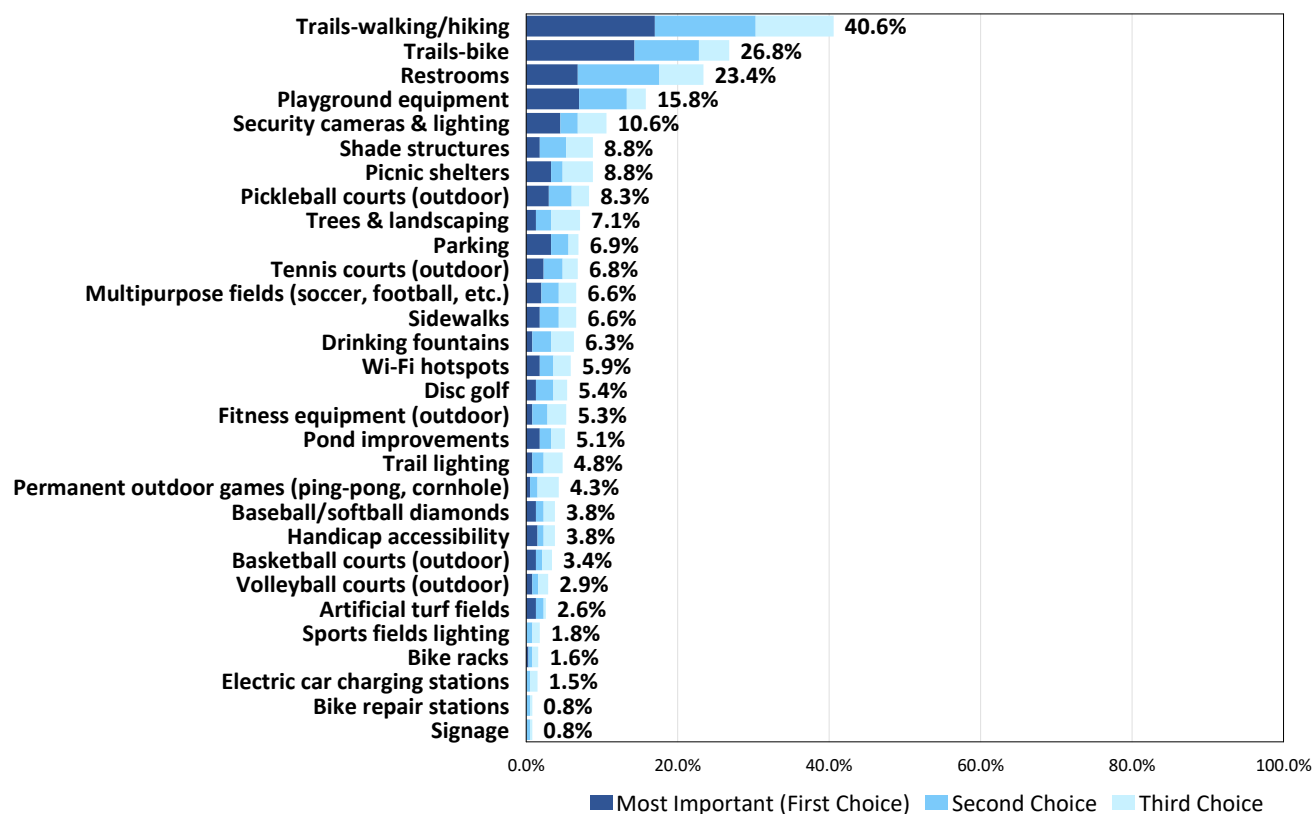
## Q5. Upgrades Households Would Like to See at Existing Orange Township Parks

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



## Q6. Upgrades to Existing Orange Township Parks Most Important to Households

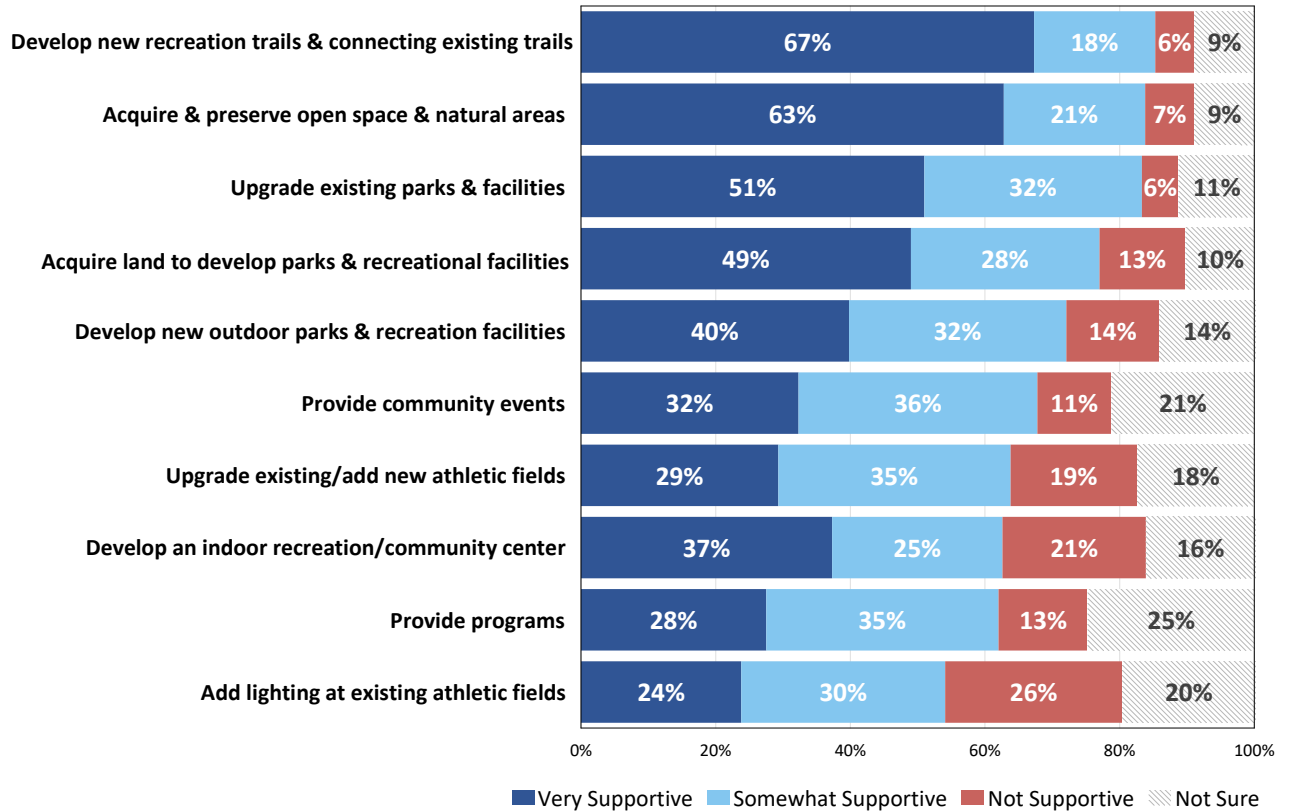
by sum percentage of respondents' top three choices





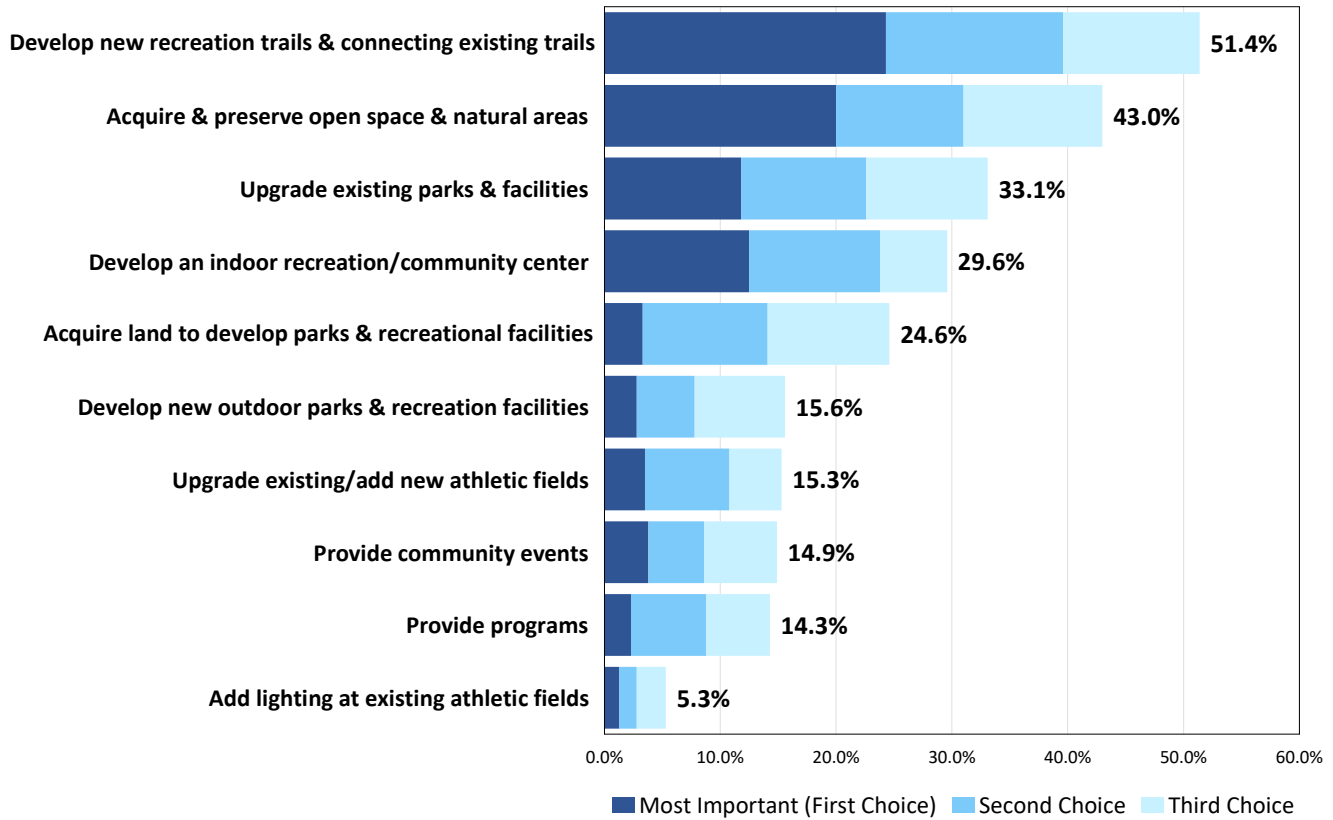
## Q7. Households' Level of Support for Actions Orange Township Could Take to Improve Parks and Recreation

by percentage of respondents, using a 4-point scale, where 4 means "very supportive" and 1 means "not sure"



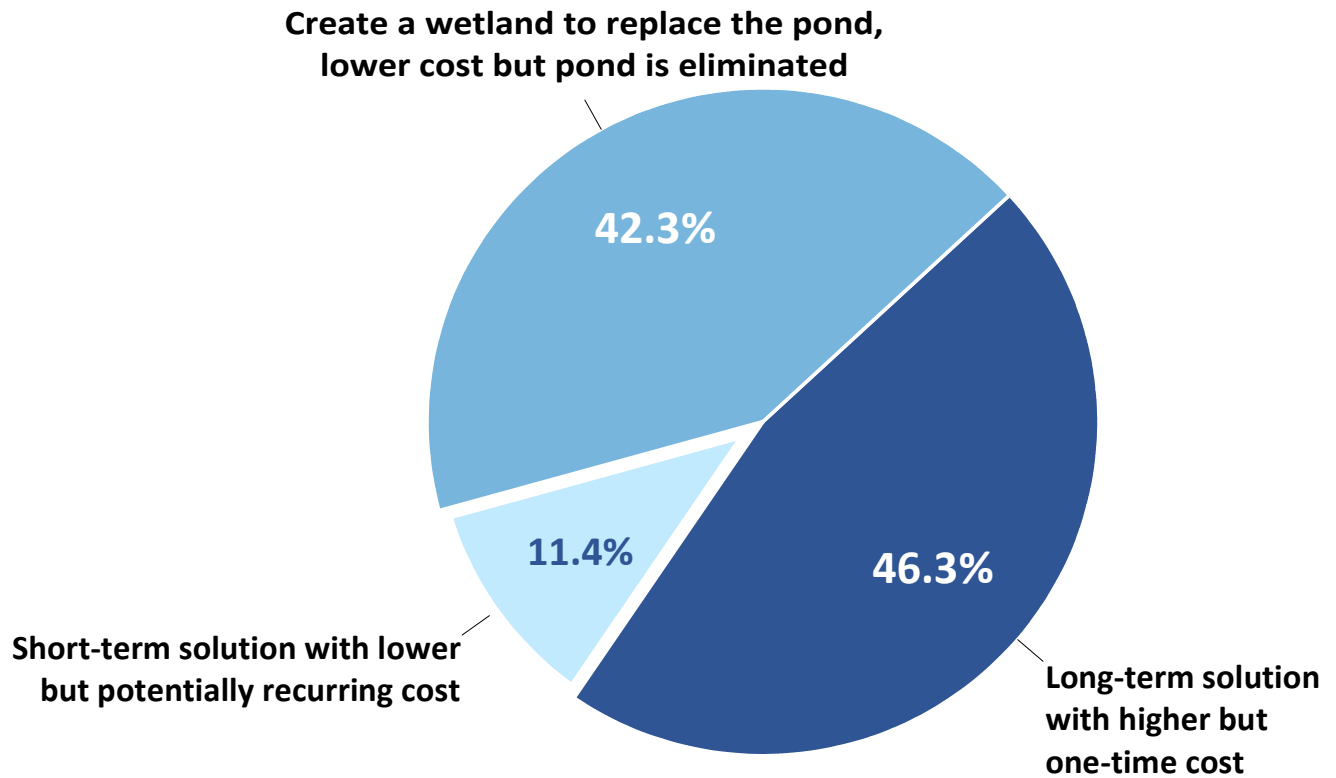
## Q8. Actions Orange Township Could Take to Improve Parks and Recreation That Are Most Important to Households

by sum percentage of respondents' top three choices



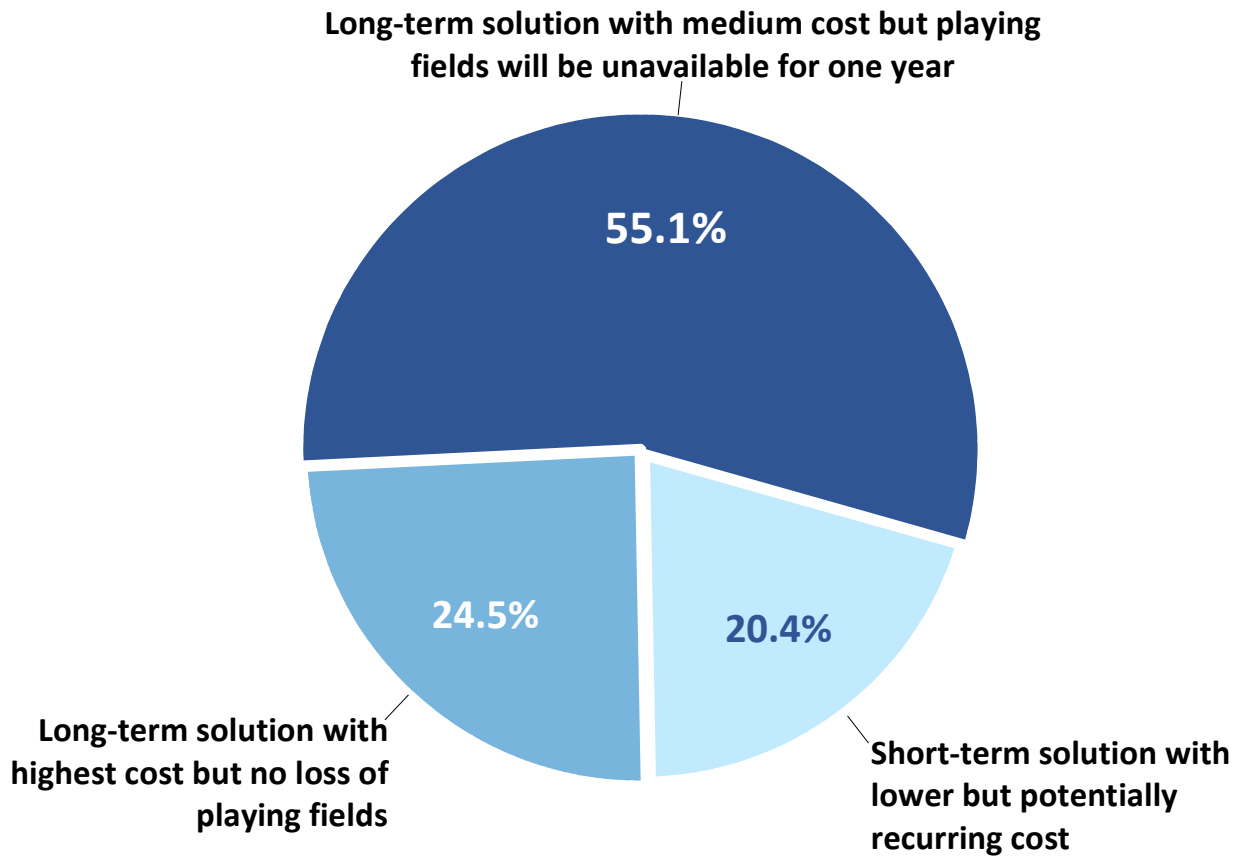
## Q9a. Households' Preferred Option to Improve the Township Hall Pond

by percentage of respondents (excluding *don't knows*)



## Q9b. Households' Preferred Option to Improve the North Orange Park Ponds

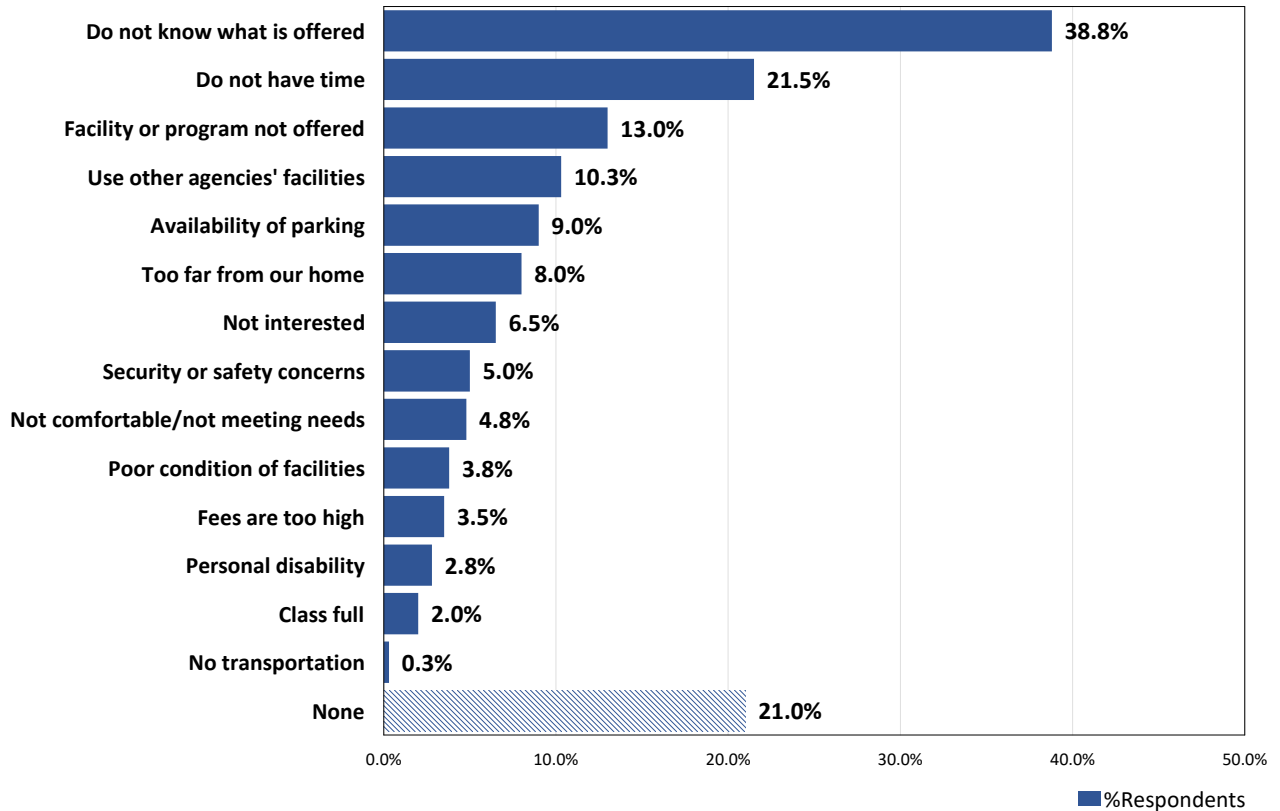
by percentage of respondents (excluding *don't knows*)





## Q10. Reasons That Keep Households From Using Parks, Recreation Facilities, Trails, and Events of Orange Township More Often

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



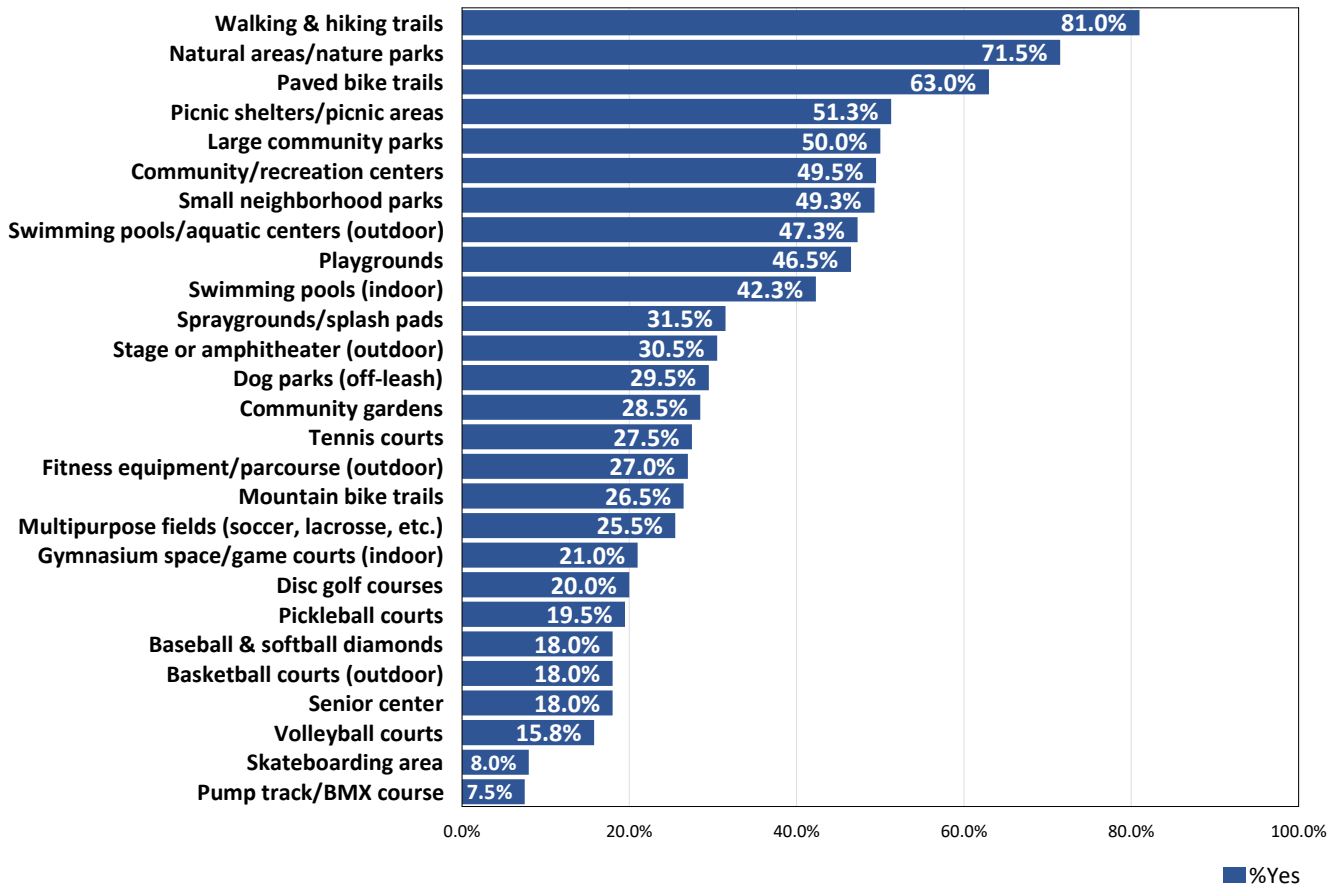


# Assessment of Community Needs for Parks and Recreation Facilities

Orange Township, OH  
June 2021

## Q11. Households That Have a Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

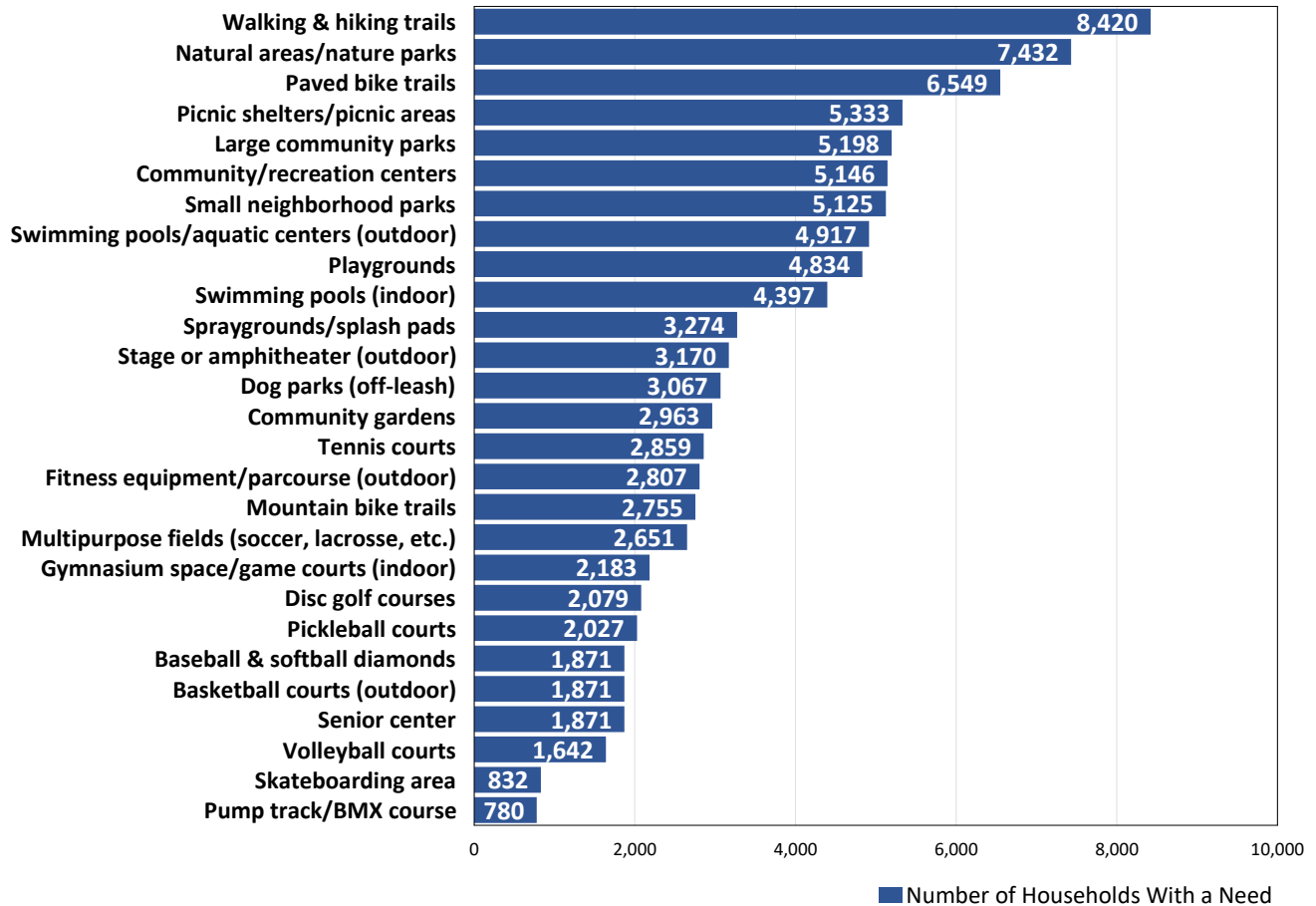
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)





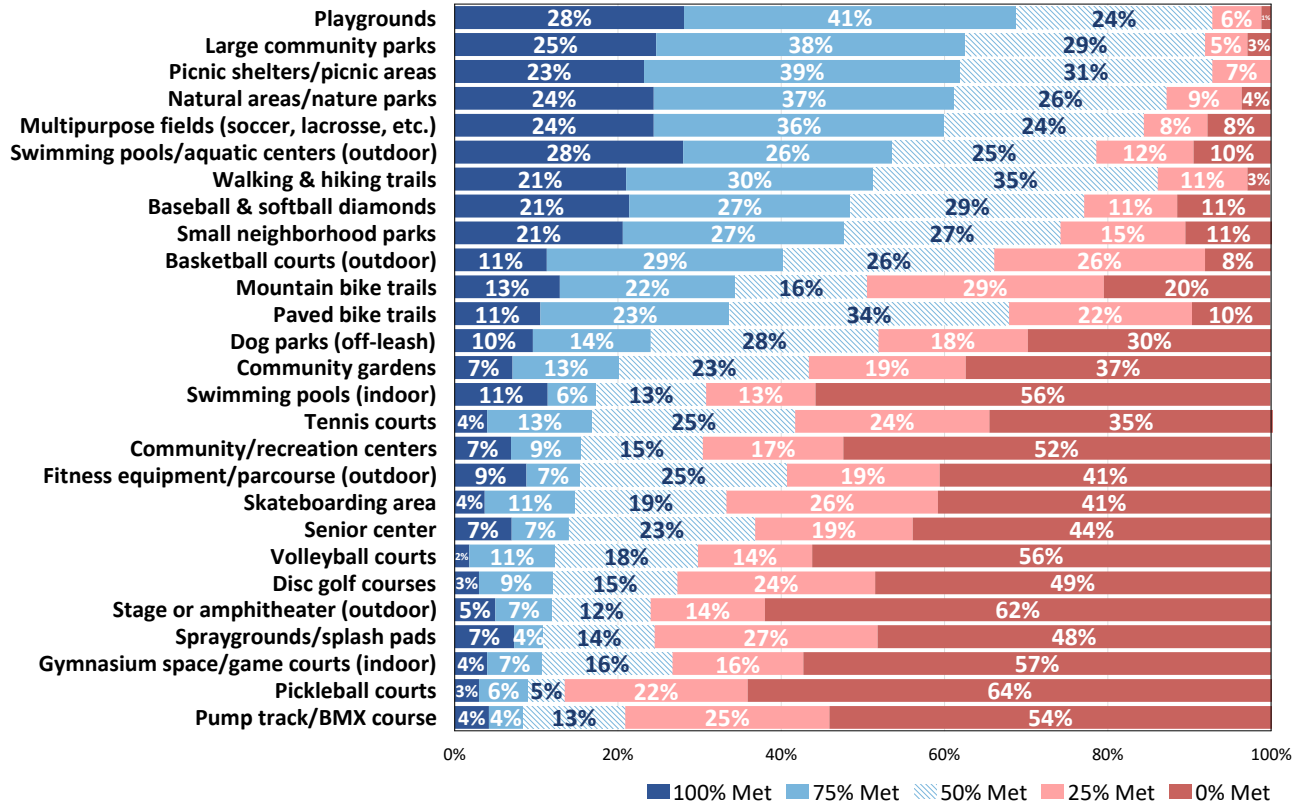
## Estimated Number of Households with a Need for Facilities

by number of households with a need for parks and recreation facilities (based on the estimated 10,395 households in Orange Township, OH)



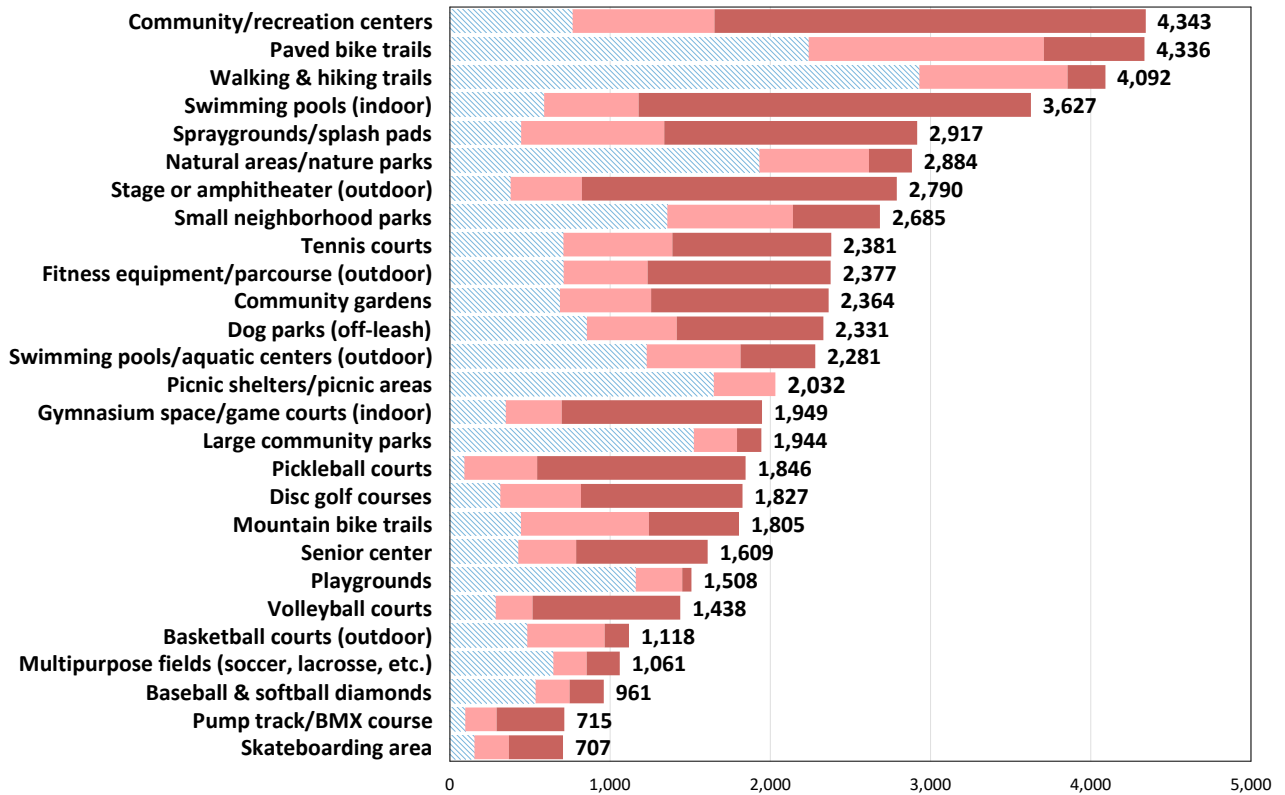
## Q11. Households' Ratings of How Well Parks and Recreation Facilities Are Currently Meeting Their Needs

by percentage of respondents, using a 5-point scale, where 5 means 100% met and 1 means 0% met



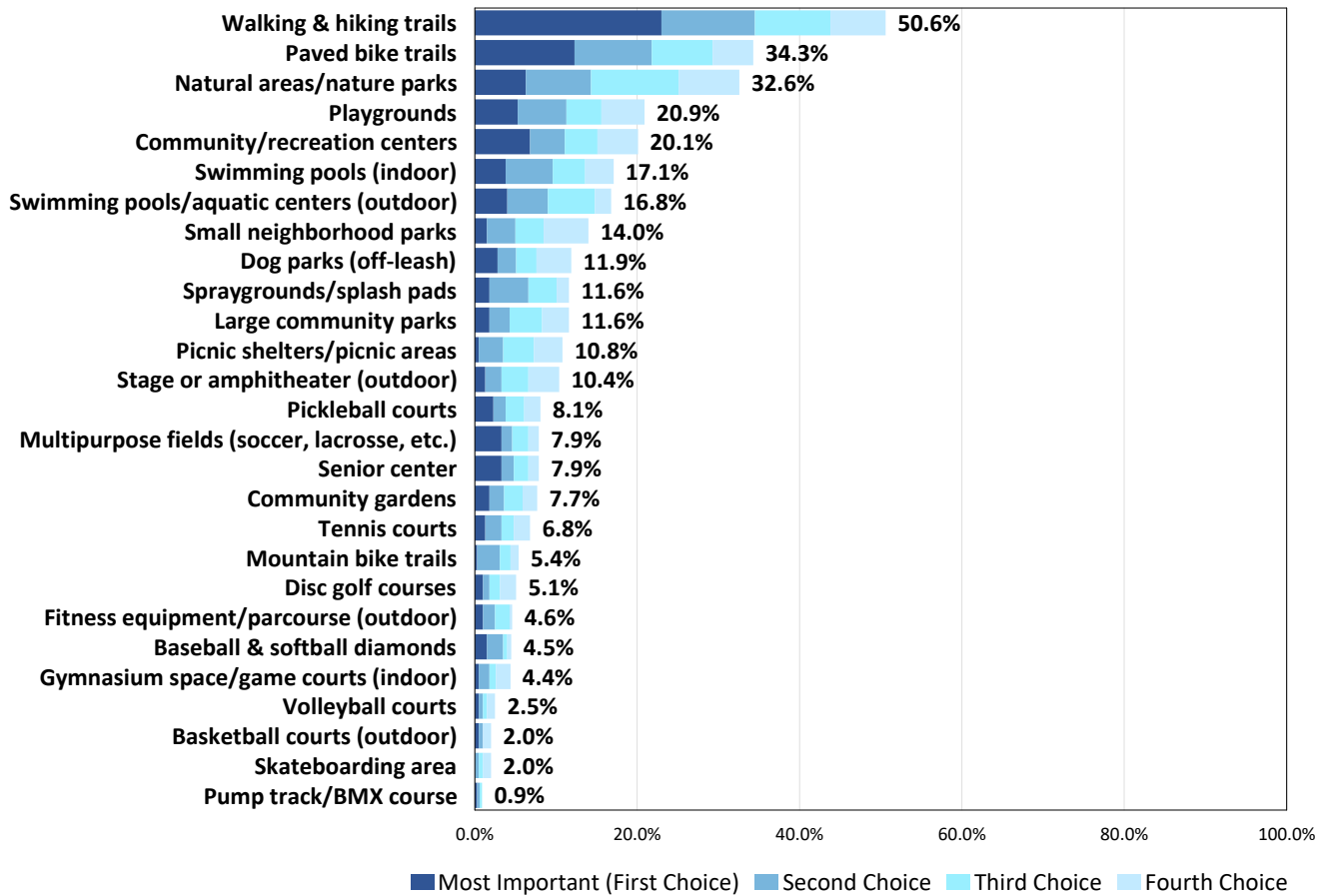
## Estimated Number of Households Whose Need for Facilities Are Being Met 50% or Less

by number of households with a need for parks and recreation facilities (based on the estimated 10,395 households in Orange Township, OH)



## Q12. Households' Ratings of Facility Importance

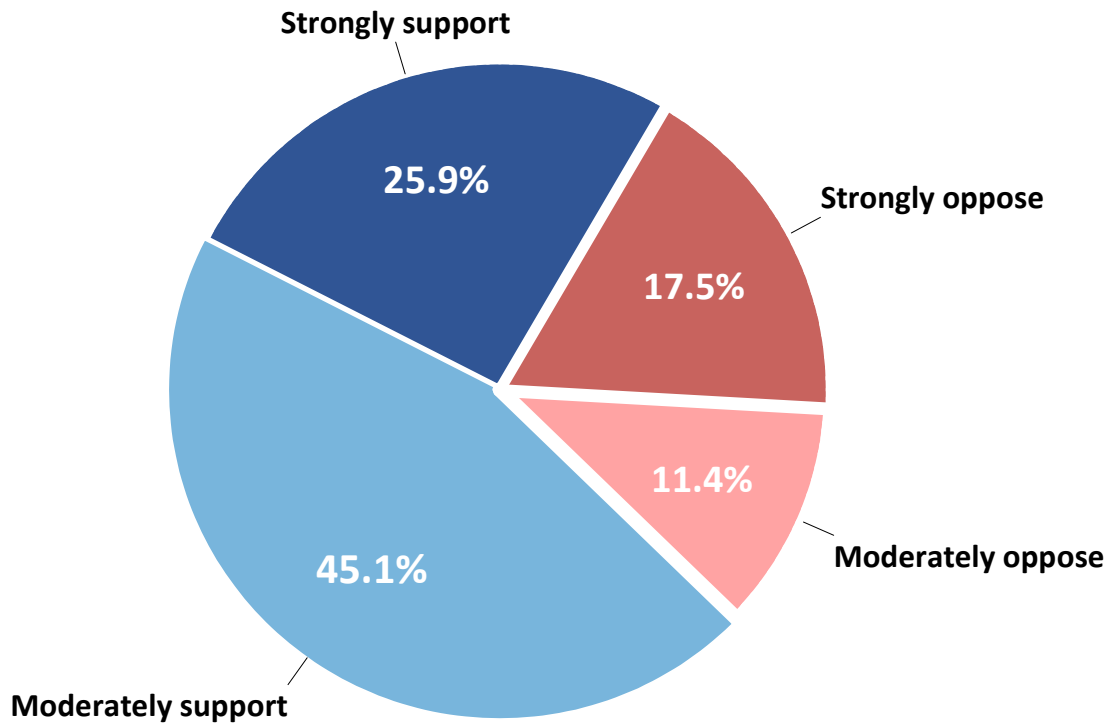
by sum percentage of respondents' top four choices





## Q13. Residents' Level of Support for an Additional Tax Levy to Fund Land Acquisition, Development, and Repair of Parks and Facilities

by percentage of respondents (excluding *don't knows*)



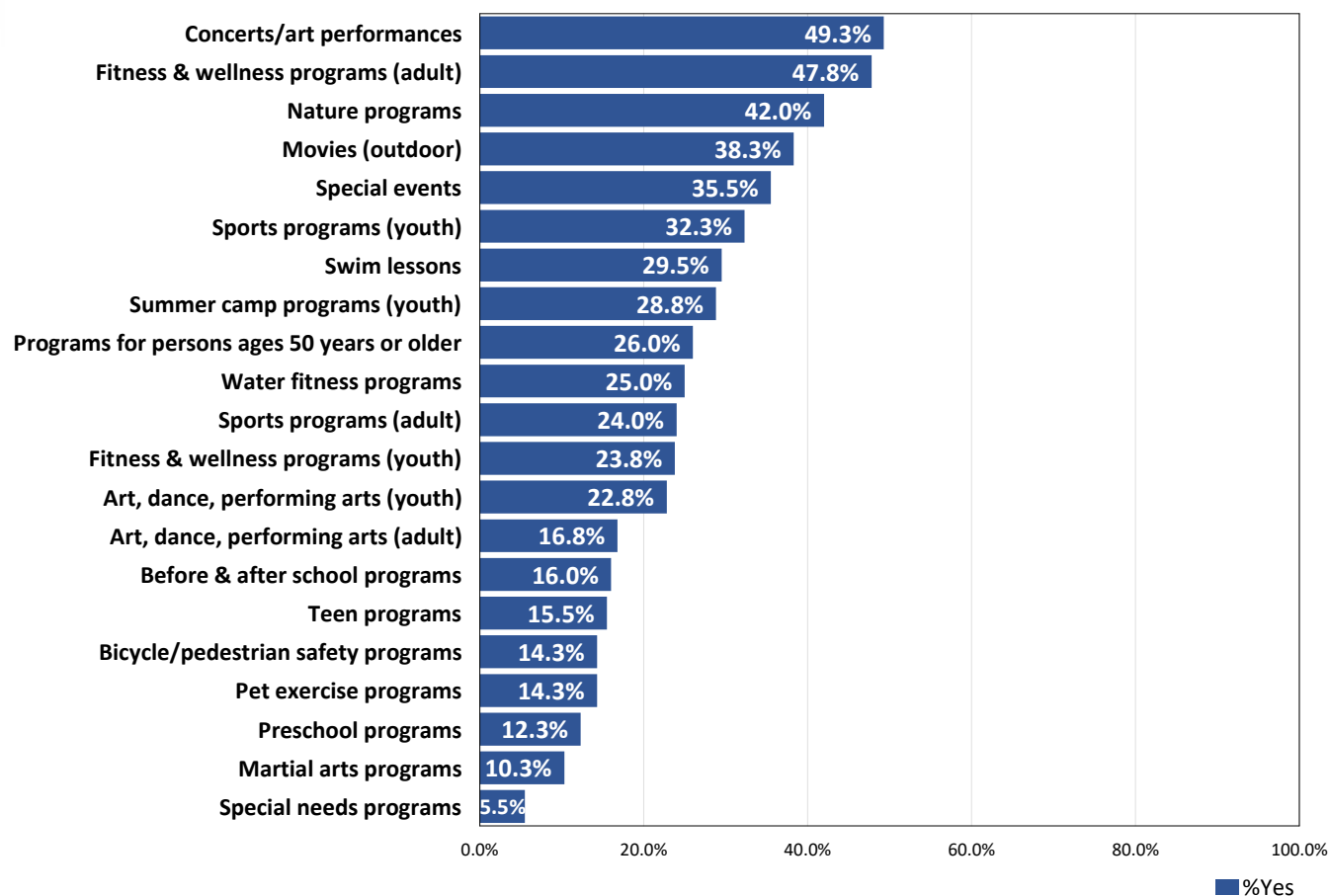


# Assessment of Community Needs for Recreation Programs

Orange Township, OH  
June 2021

## Q14. Households That Have a Need for Recreation Programs

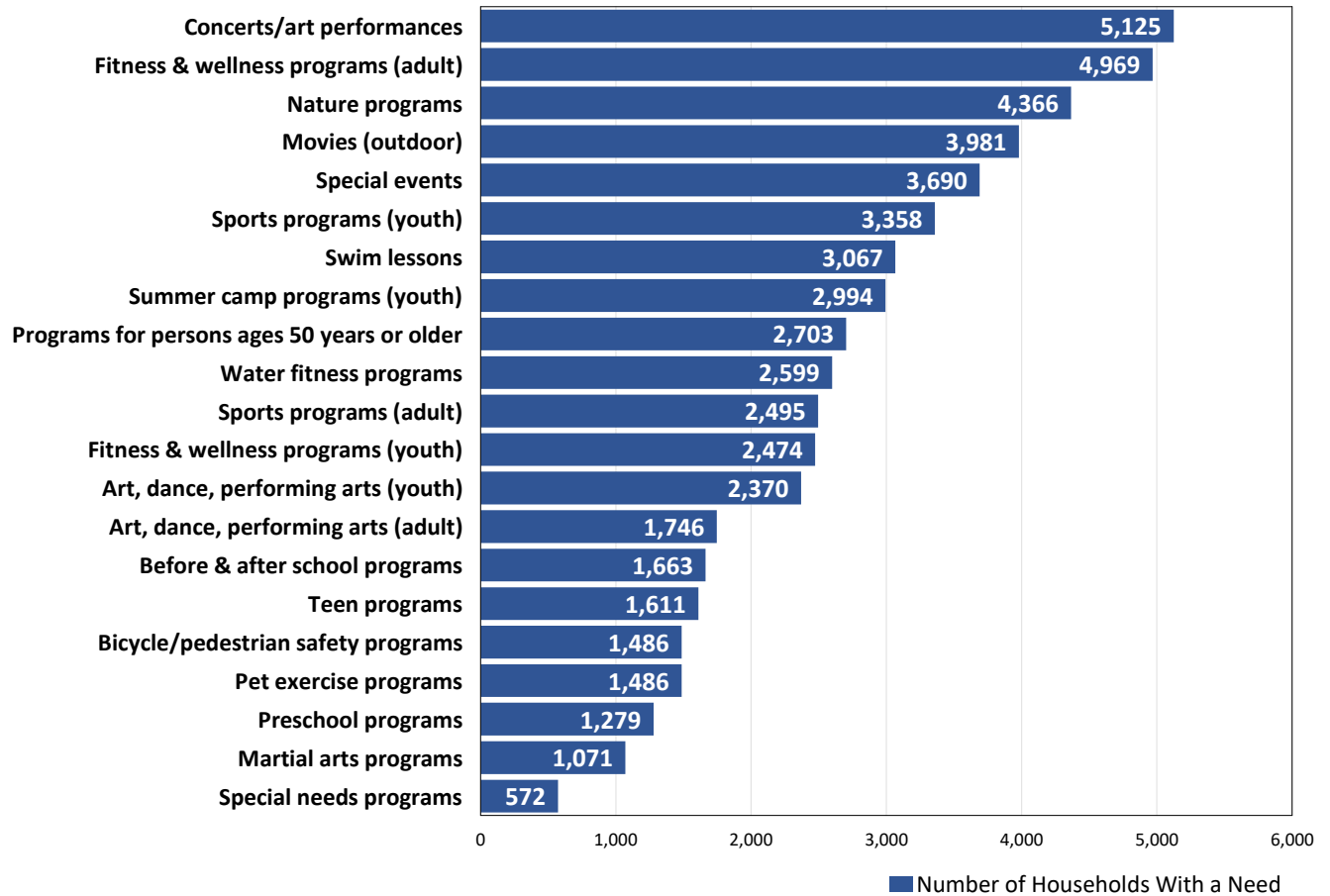
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)





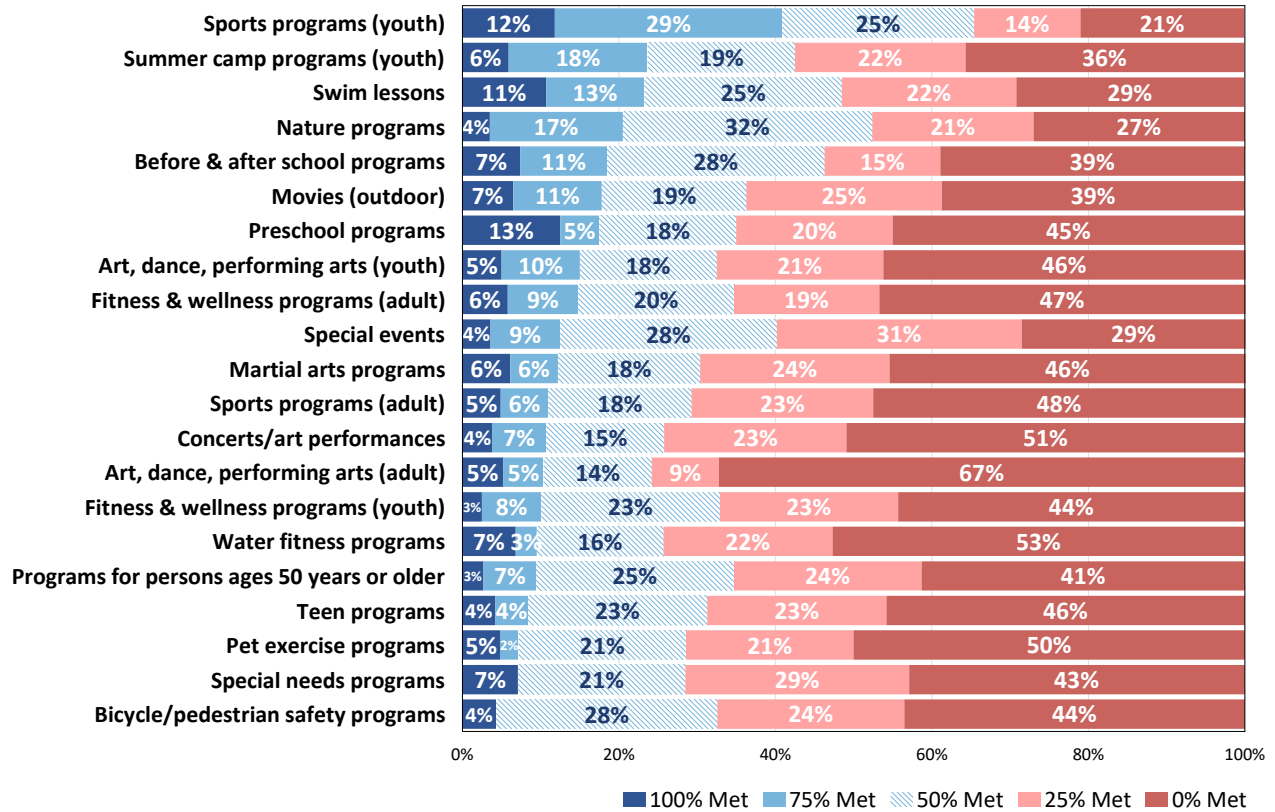
## Estimated Number of Households with a Need for Programs

by number of households with a need for recreation programs (based on the estimated 10,395 households in Orange Township, OH)



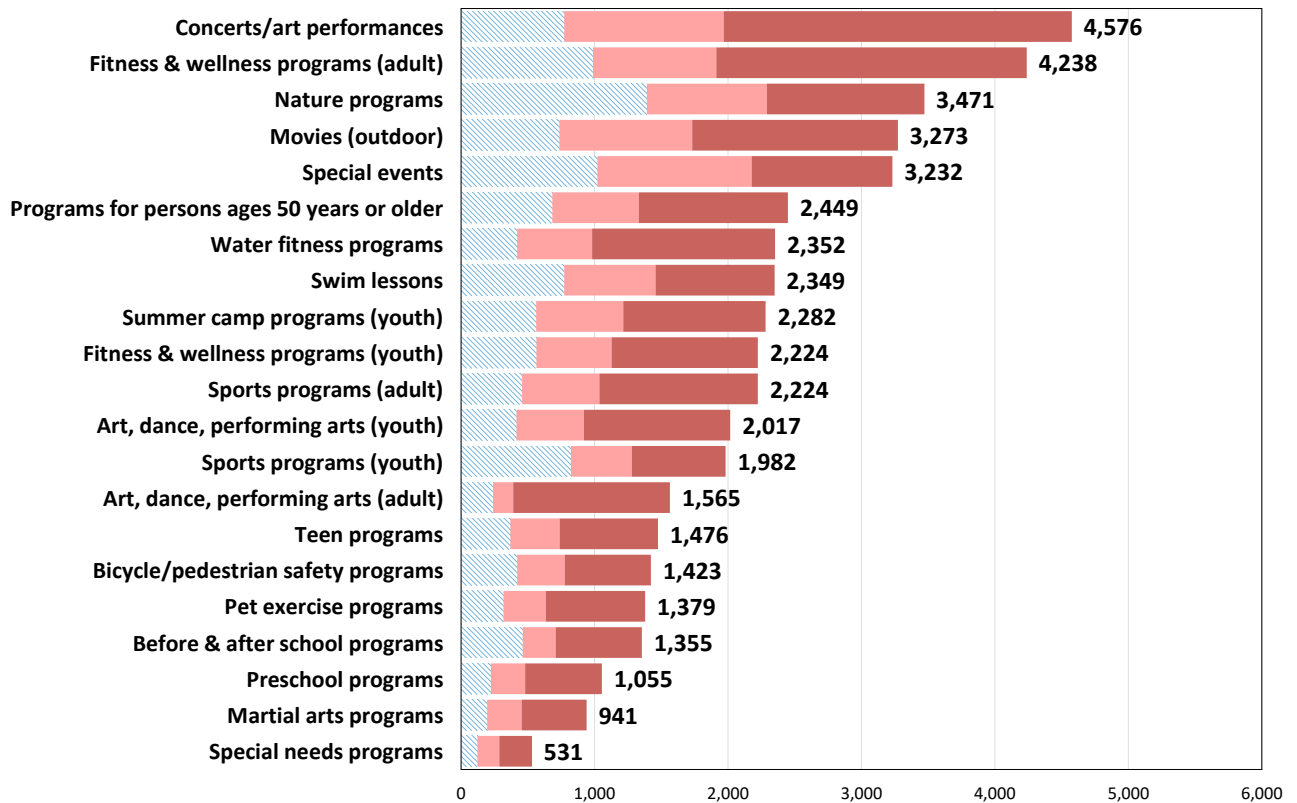
## Q14. Households' Ratings of How Well Current Recreation Programs Are Meeting Their Needs

by percentage of respondents, using a 5-point scale, where 5 means 100% met and 1 means 0% met



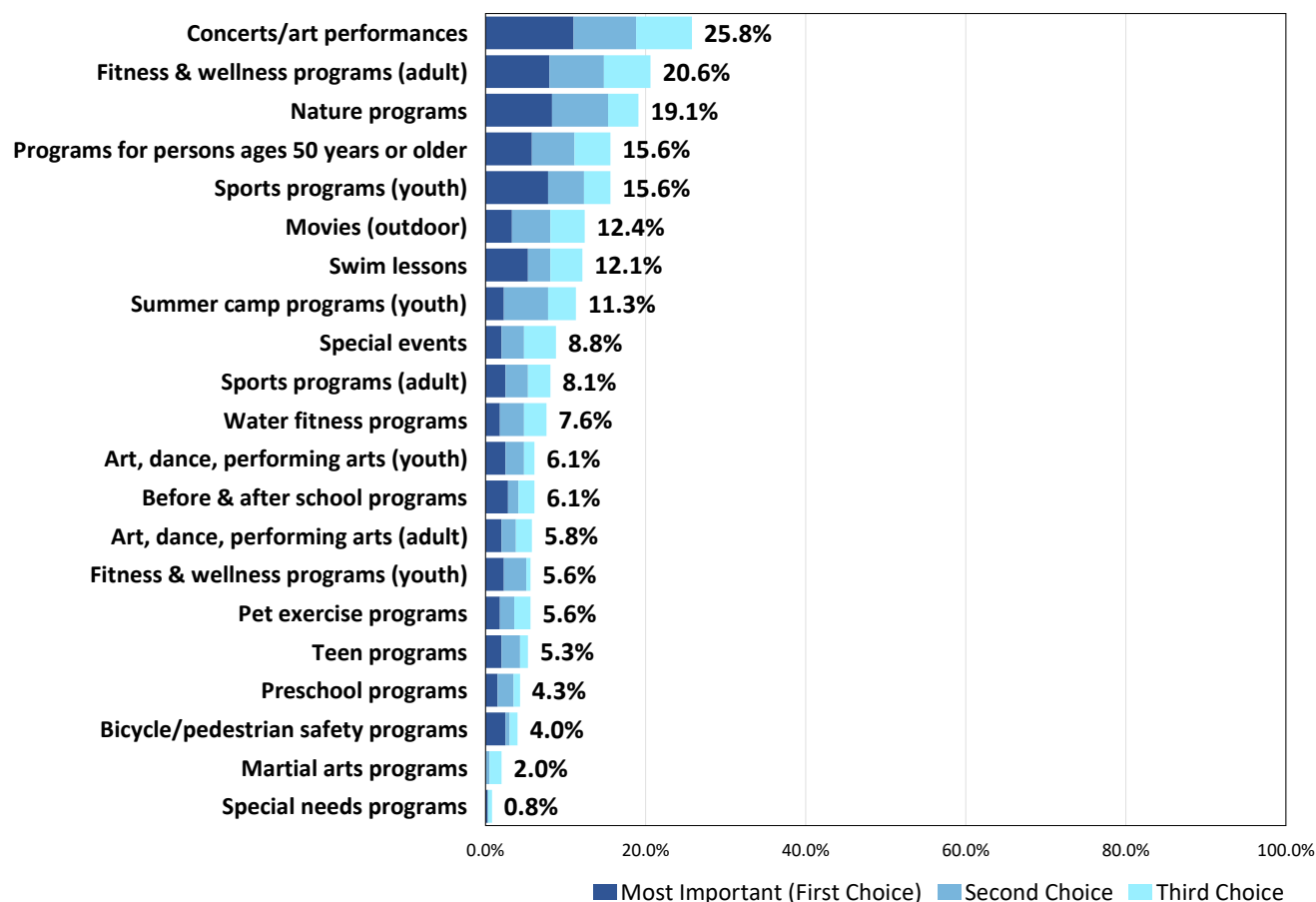
## Estimated Number of Households Whose Need for Recreation Programs Are Being Met 50% or Less

by number of households with a need for recreation programs (based on the estimated 10,395 households in Orange Township, OH)



## Q15. Households' Ratings of Recreation Program Importance

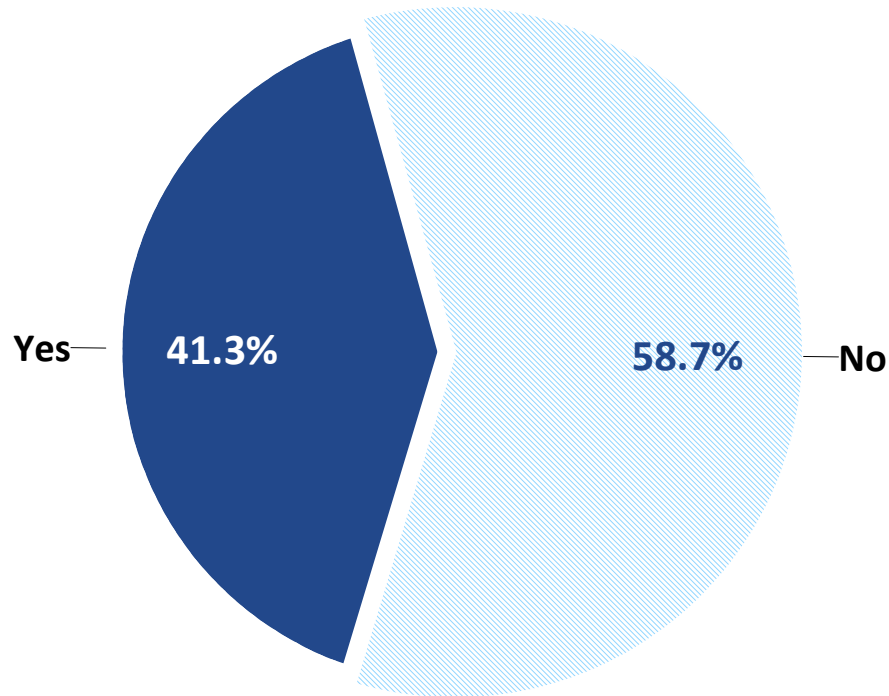
by sum percentage of respondents' top three choices





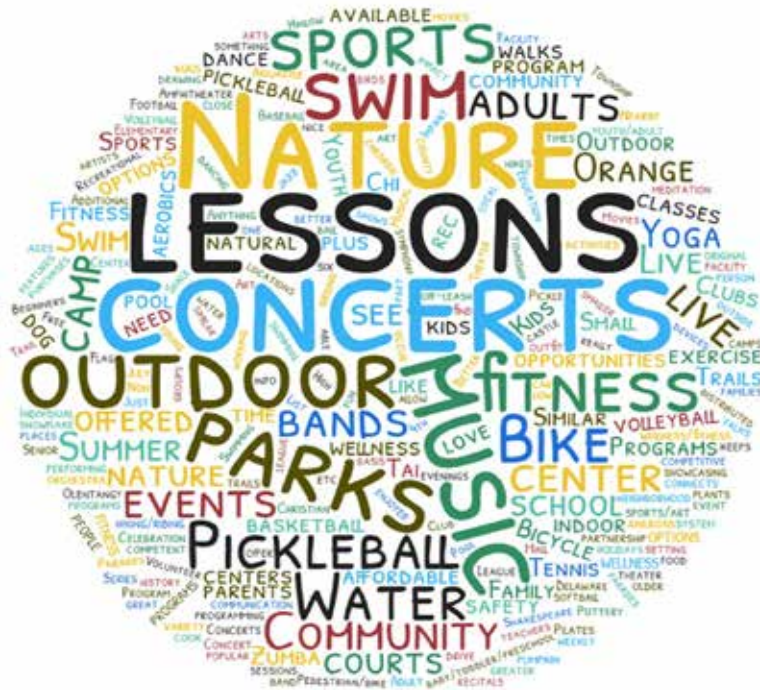
## Q15a. Is there a specific program you would like to see offered or expanded?

by percentage of respondents



## Q15a-1. Which specific program would you like to see offered or expanded? (Open-Ended Question)

by comments of respondents



The “word cloud” to the left represents comments made by respondents in regards to specific programs they would like to see offered or expanded. (Larger the word means the more frequent the word was used, vice versa.)

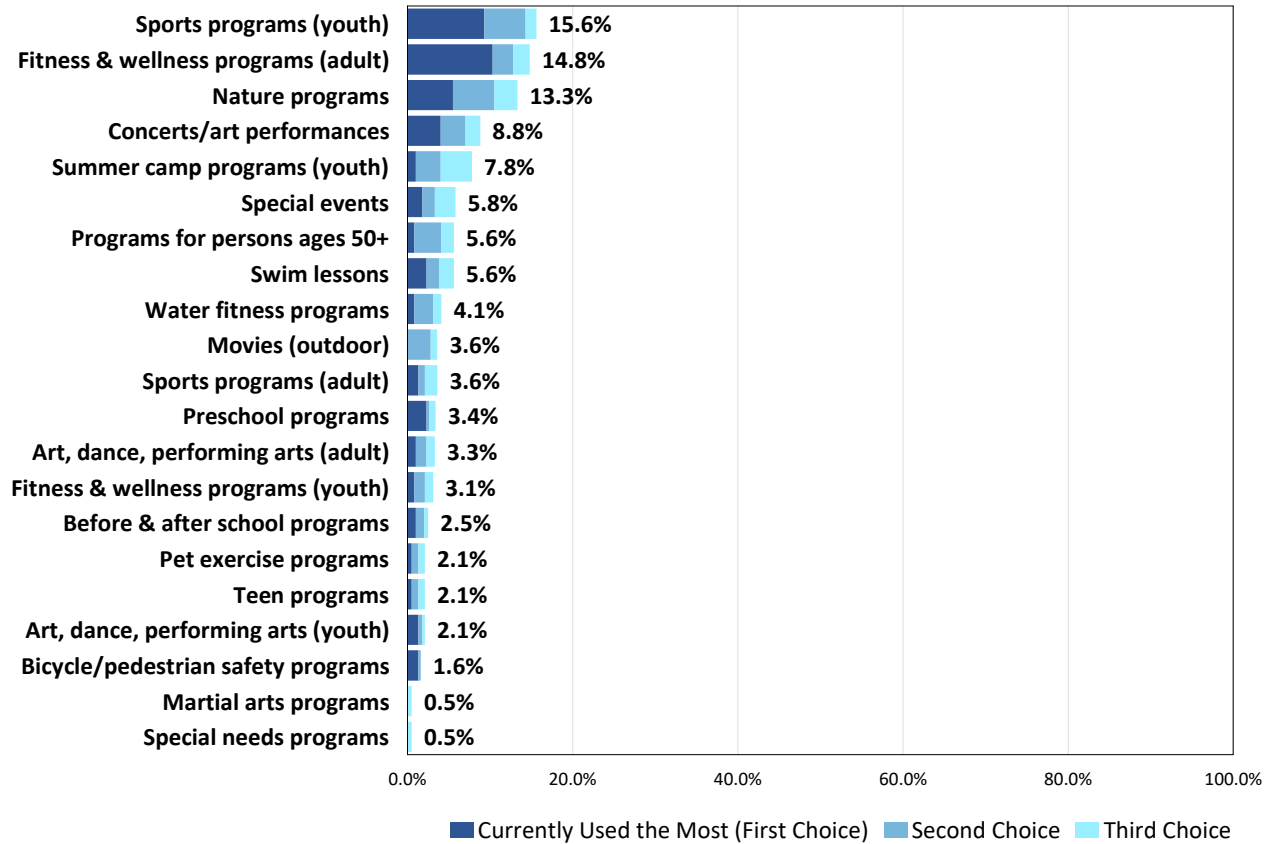
A Few Programs Suggested From Respondents:

Programs for Those 50 Years or Older  
Bike Paths  
Community Center  
Concerts  
Sports Programs  
Swim Lessons  
Pickleball

*\*complete comments found in Section 5 (Tabular Data of Overall Results)*

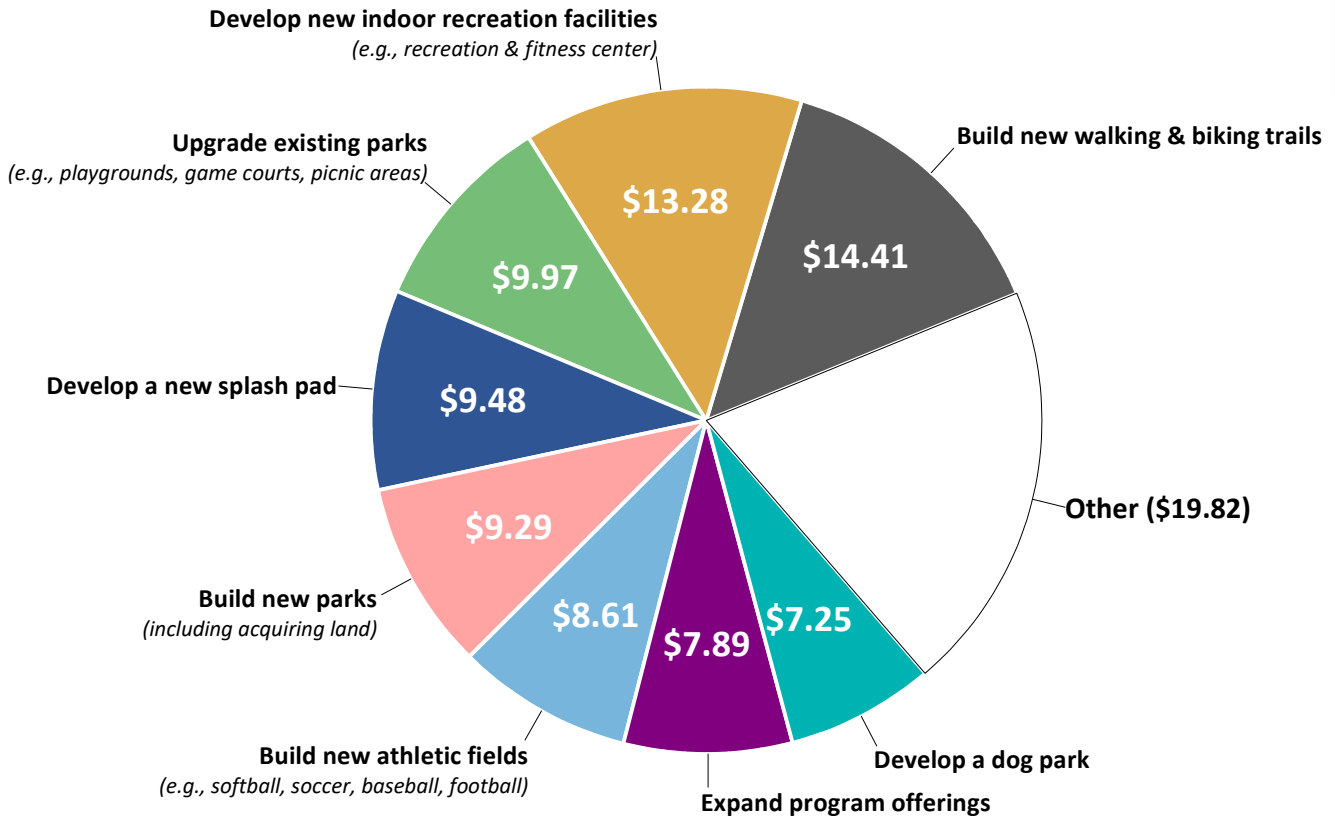
## Q16. Recreation Program Categories Households Currently Participate in Most Often

by sum percentage of respondents' top three choices



## Q17. How would you spend \$100 on Parks and Recreation improvements in Orange Township?

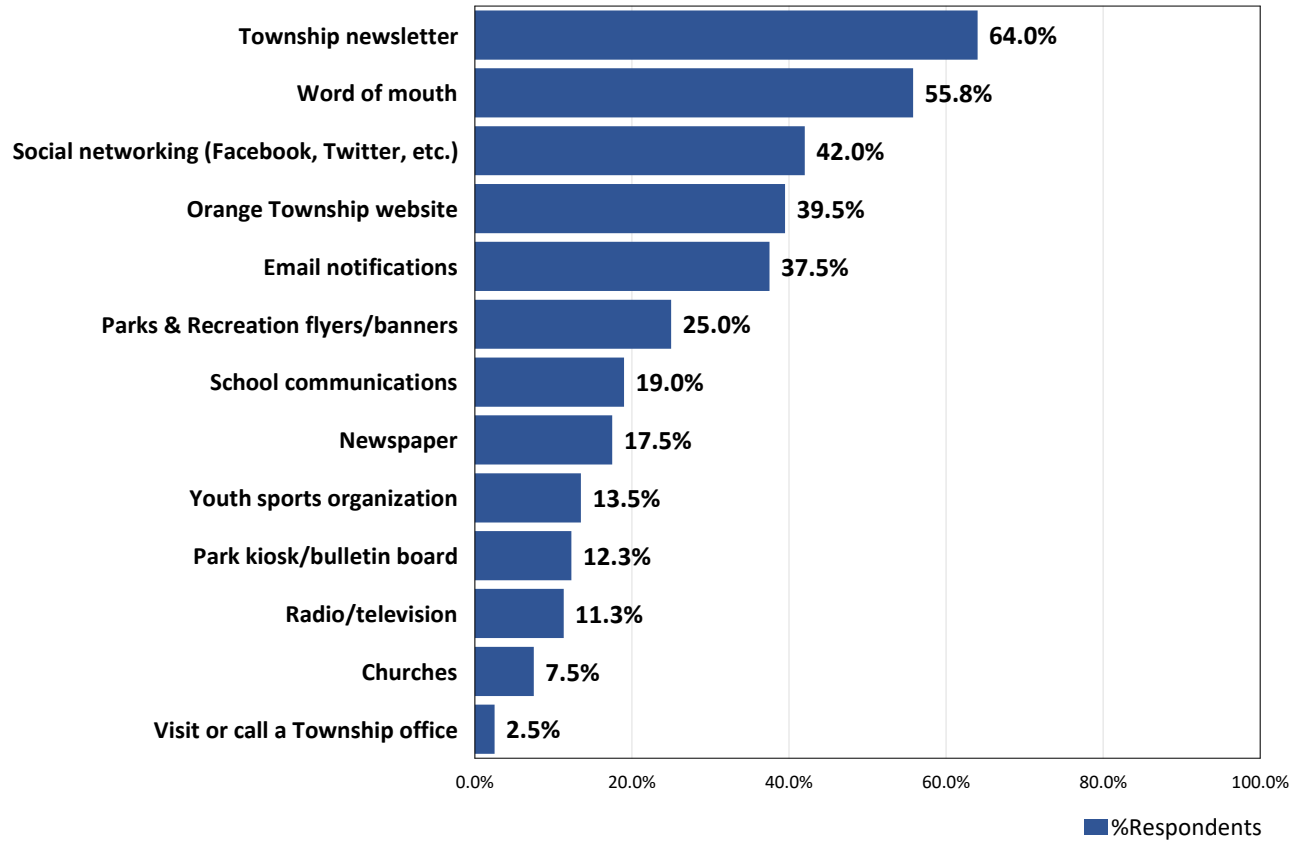
by percentage of respondents





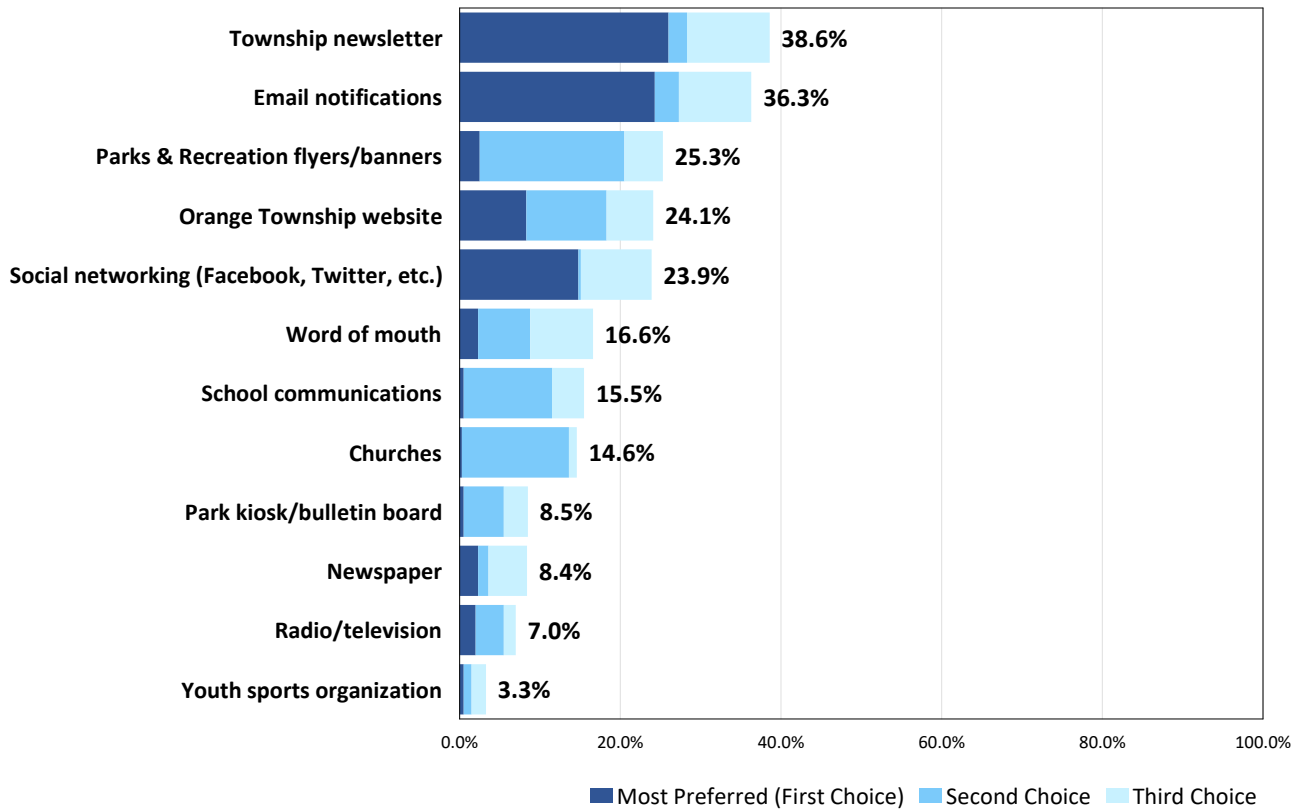
## Q18. Households' Method(s) of Learning About Facilities, Programs, Activities, or Events

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be selected)



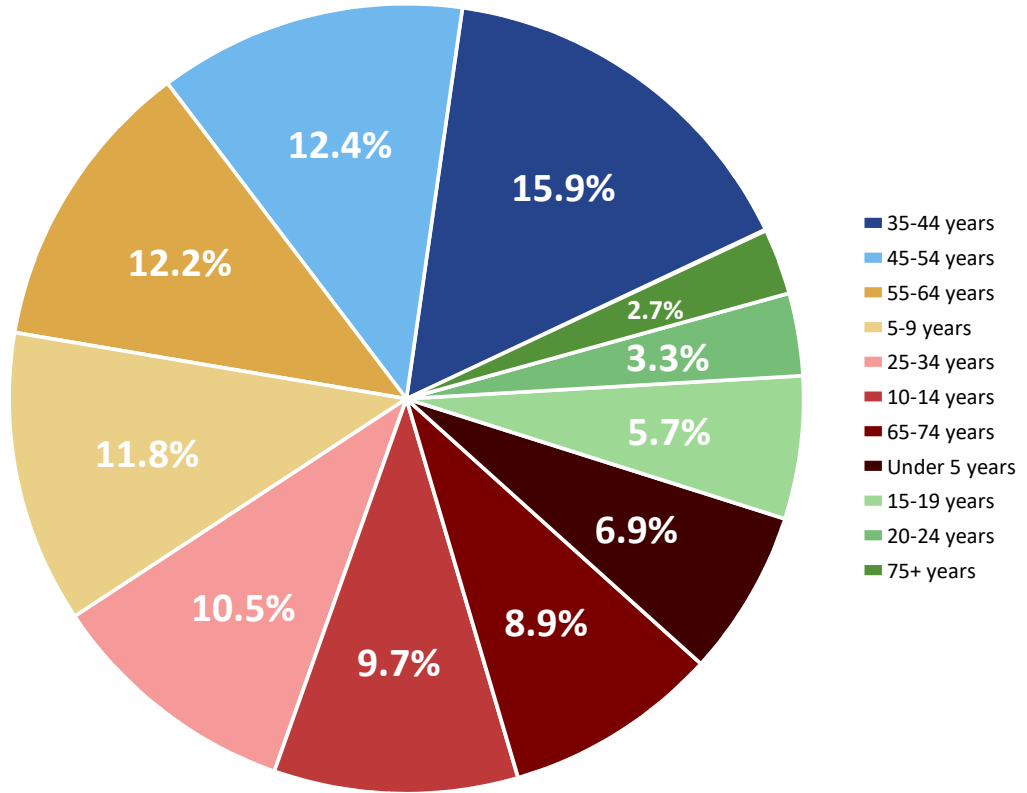
## Q19. Households' Preferred Methods of Learning About Facilities, Programs, Activities, or Events

by sum percentage of respondents' top three choices



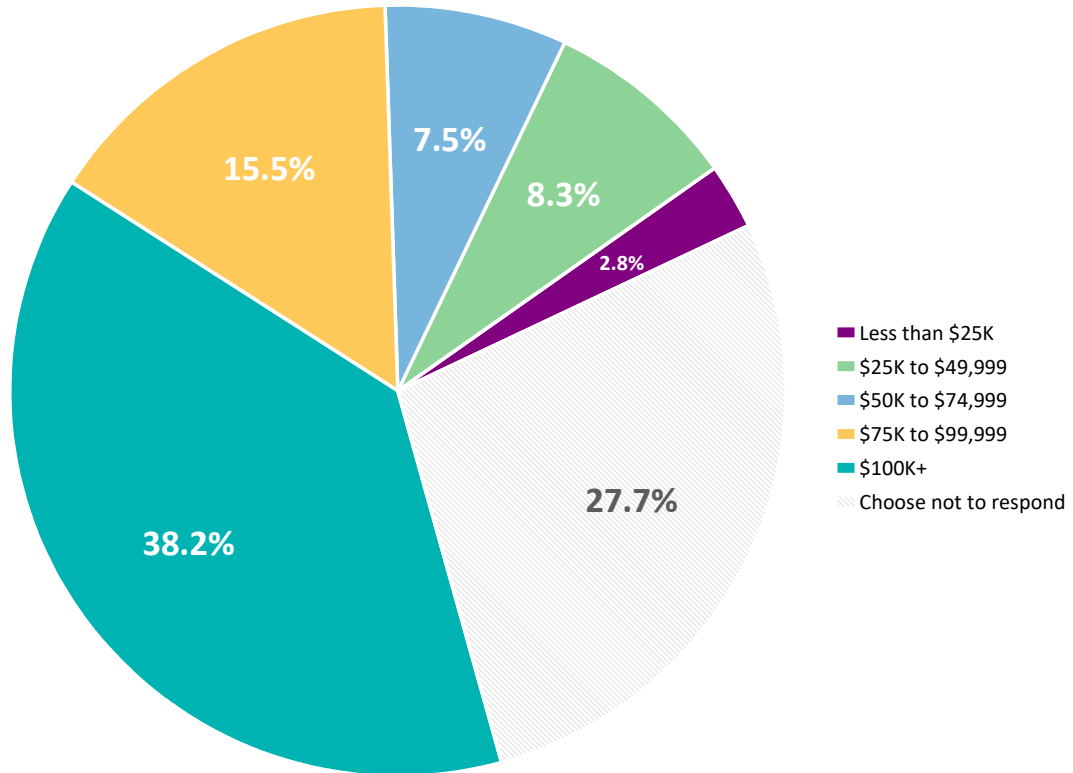
## Demographics: Q20. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

by percentage of respondents

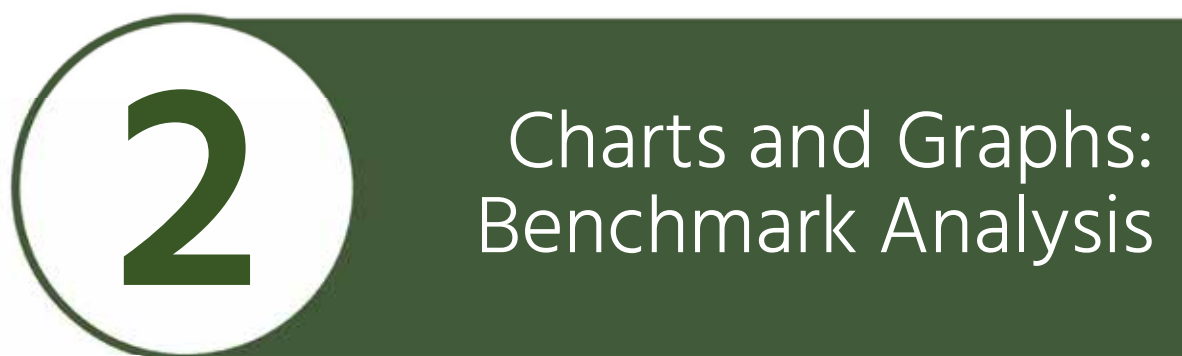


## Demographics: Q21. What is your annual household income?

by percentage of respondents





A large green horizontal bar with a white circle on the left containing the number '2'. To the right of the circle, the text 'Charts and Graphs: Benchmark Analysis' is written in white.

## 2 Charts and Graphs: Benchmark Analysis



## Benchmark Analysis Summary



**Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 1,000 communities in 49 states across the country.**

The results of these surveys have provided an unparalleled data base of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to “National Averages” and therefore provide a unique tool to “assist organizations in better decision making.”

Communities within the data base include a full range of municipal and county governments from 20,000 in population through over 1 million in population. They include communities in warm weather climates and cold weather climates, mature communities and some of the fastest growing cities and counties in the country.

“National Averages” have been developed for numerous strategically important parks and recreation planning and management issues including: customer satisfaction and usage of parks and programs; methods for receiving marketing information; reasons that prevent members of households from using parks and recreation facilities more often; priority recreation programs, parks, facilities and trails to improve or develop; priority programming spaces to have in planned community centers and aquatic facilities; potential attendance for planned indoor community centers and outdoor aquatic centers; etc.

To keep the benchmarking data base current with changing trends, ETC Institute’s benchmarking data base is updated on a regular basis. The “National Average” included on the following pages only include the results of surveys ETC Institute has administered over the past five years.

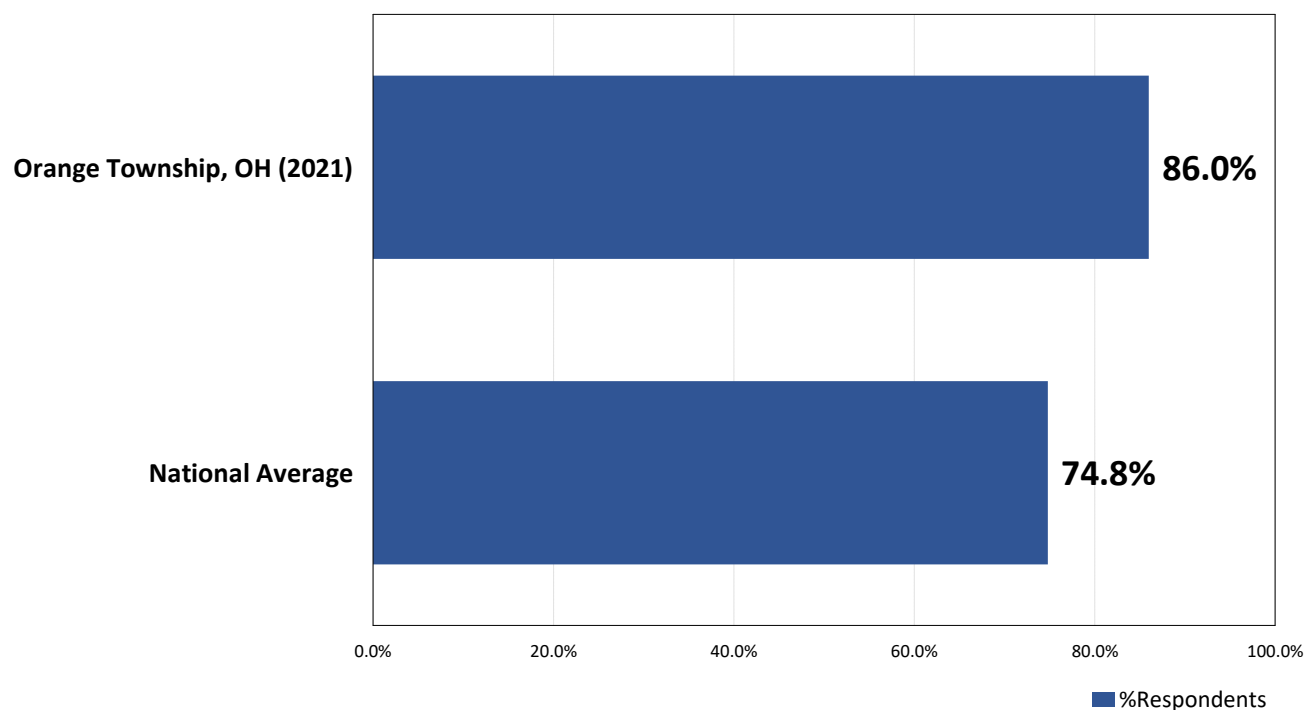
Results from household responses for Orange Township were compared to National Benchmarks to gain further strategic information. Graphs of all tabular comparisons are on the following pages.

**The benchmarking data contained in this report is protected intellectual property. Any reproduction of the benchmarking information in this report by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with Orange Township, Ohio is not authorized without written consent from ETC Institute.**

## Benchmark: Households Who Have Visited Parks and Recreation Facilities Operated by the Local Government in Their Community During the Past Year

### Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

by percentage of respondents

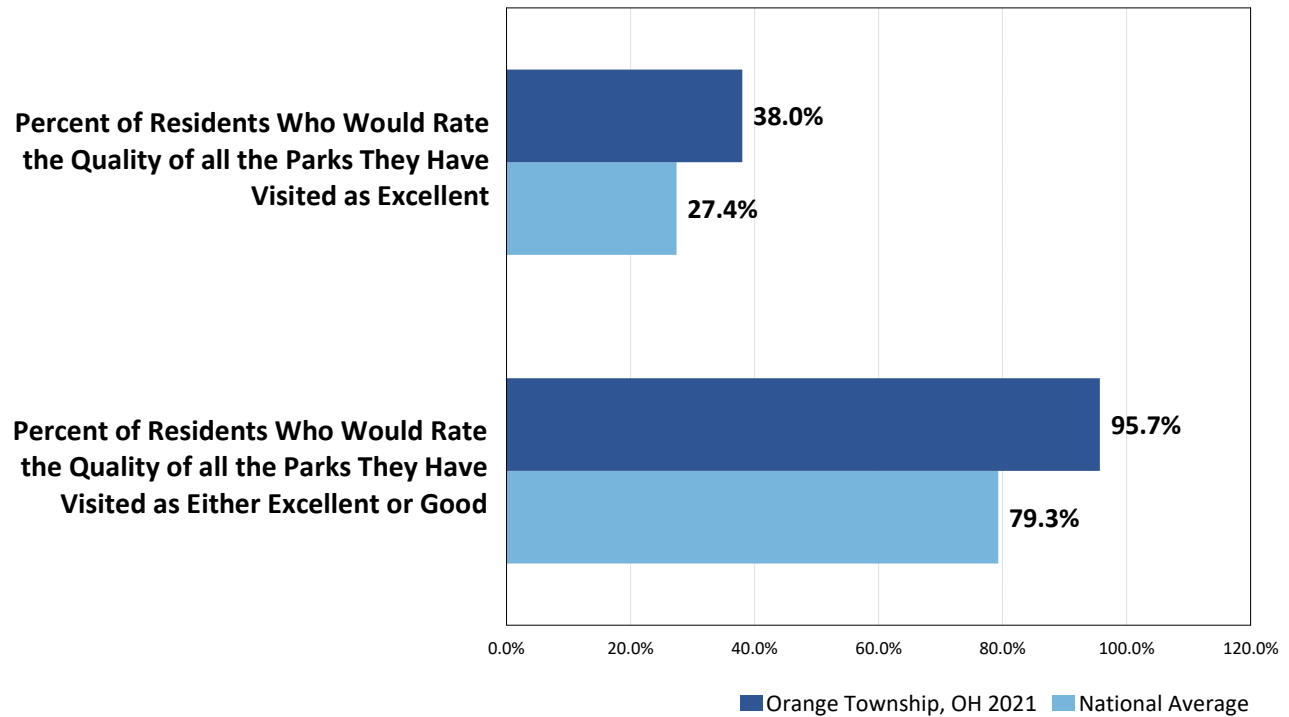




## Benchmark: Percent of Residents Who Would Rate the Parks They Have Visited as Excellent and Excellent/Good

### Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

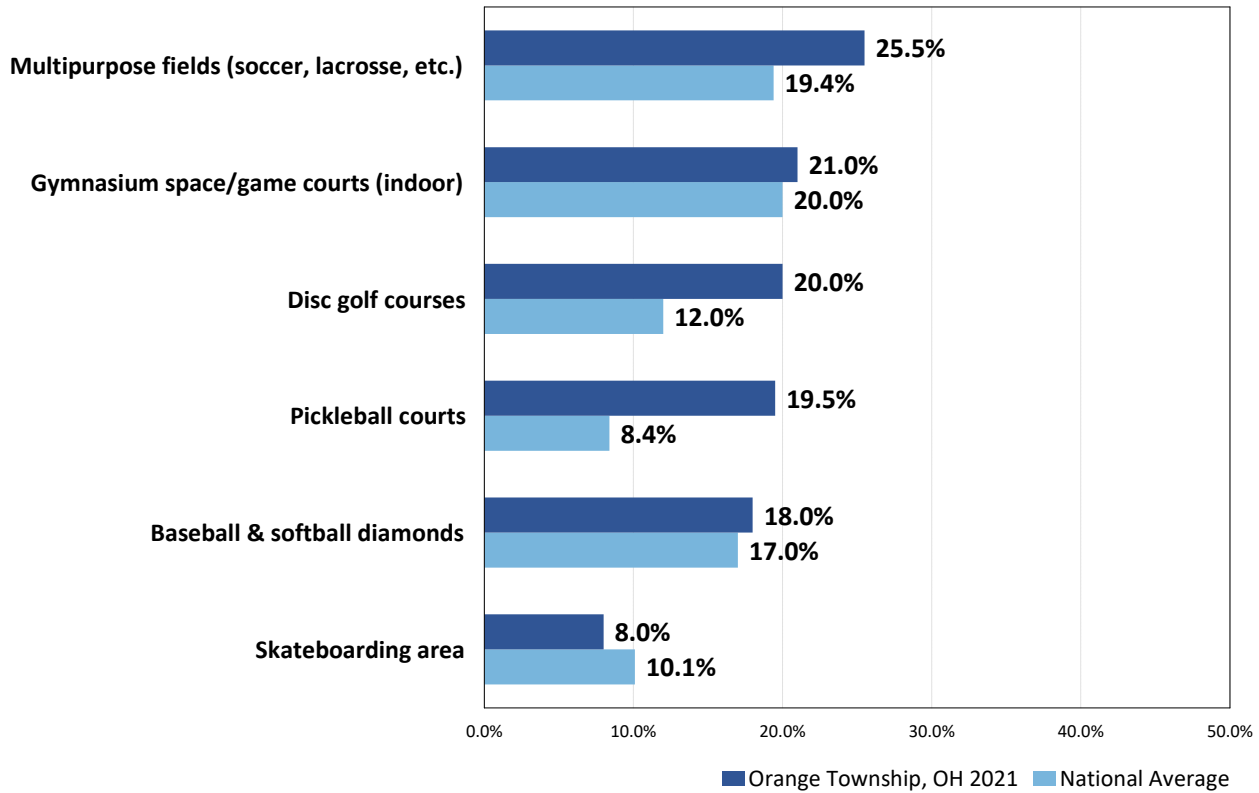
by percentage of respondents who used parks ran by the local government



## Benchmark: Percent of Households With Needs For Sports Facilities

### Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

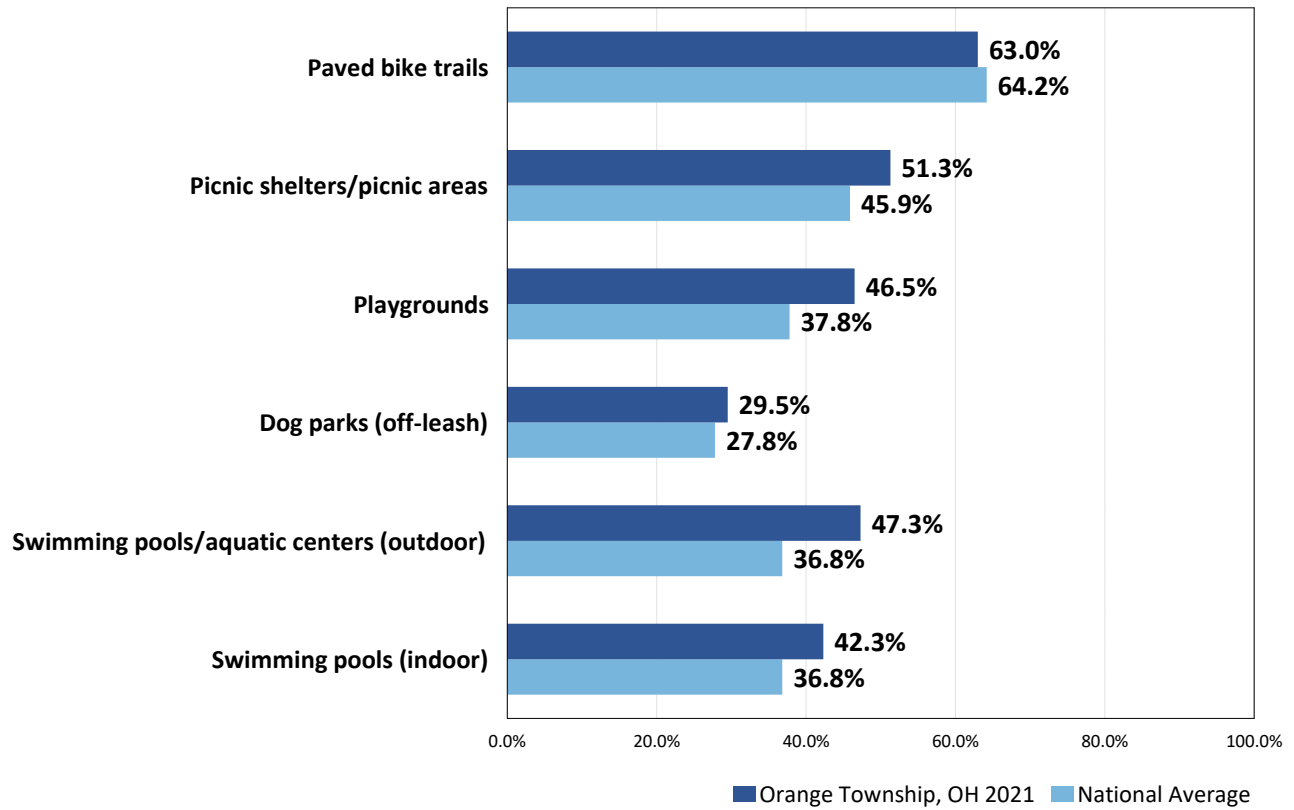
by percentage of respondents



## Benchmark: Percent of Households With Needs For Recreation Facilities

### Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

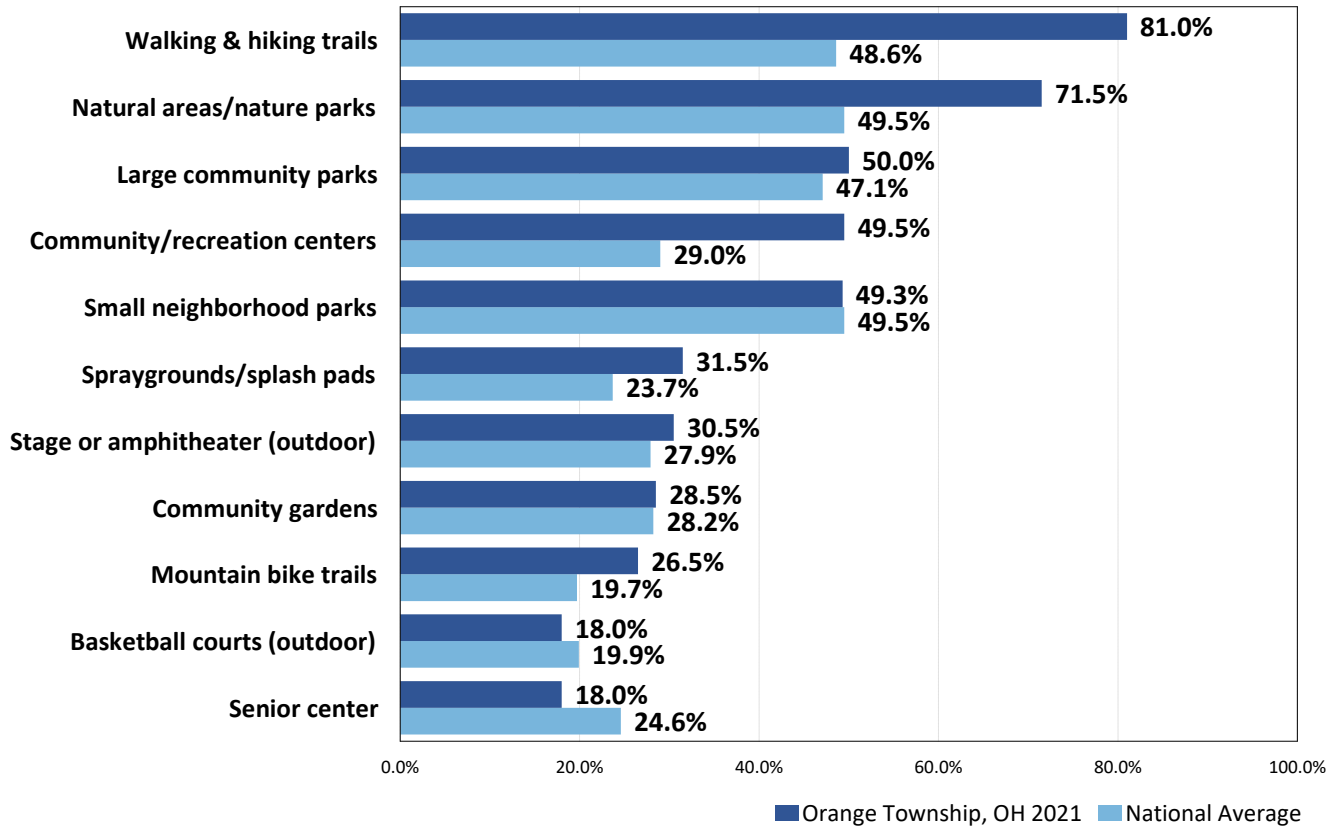
by percentage of respondents



# Benchmark: Percent of Households With Needs For Other Recreation Facilities

## Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

by percentage of respondents

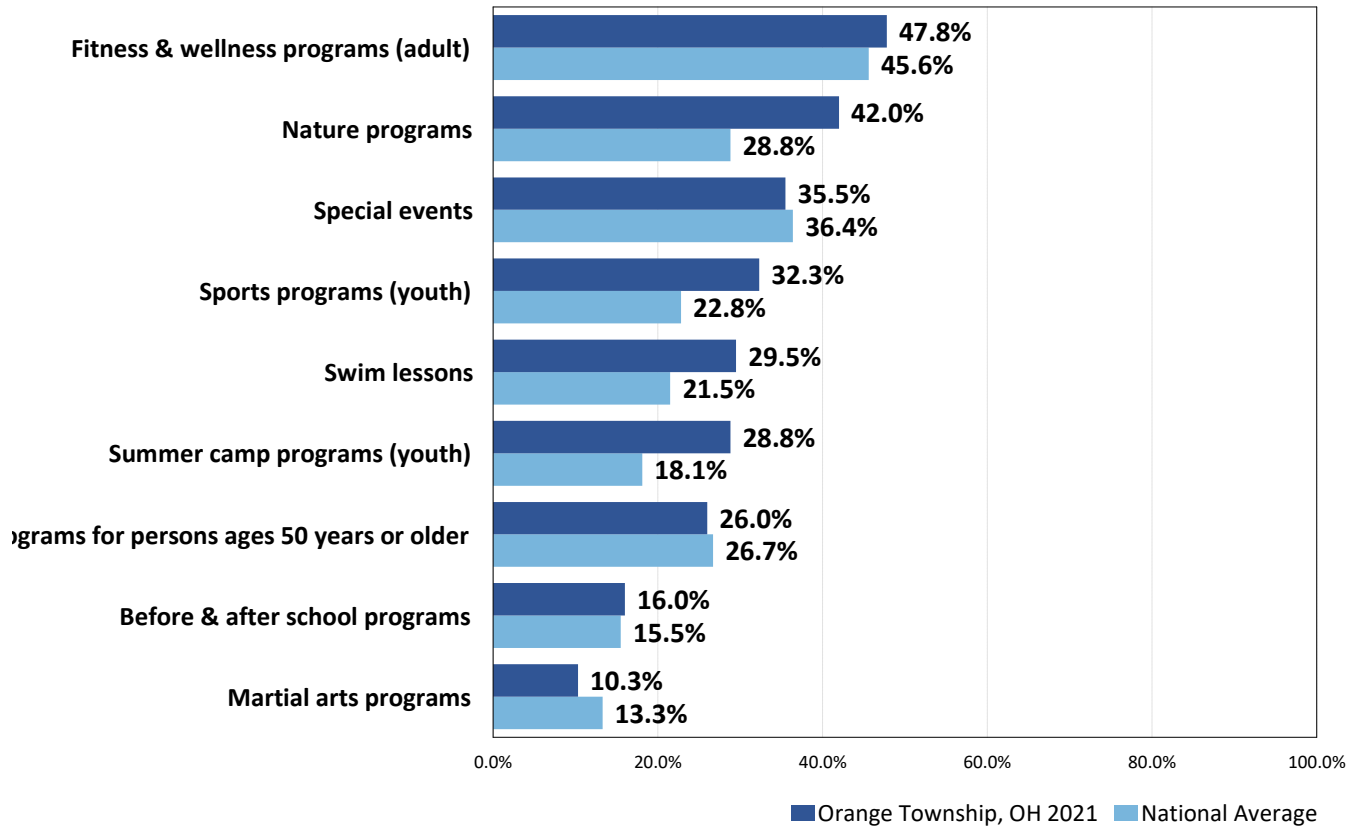




## Benchmark: Percent of Households With Needs For Recreation Programs

### Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

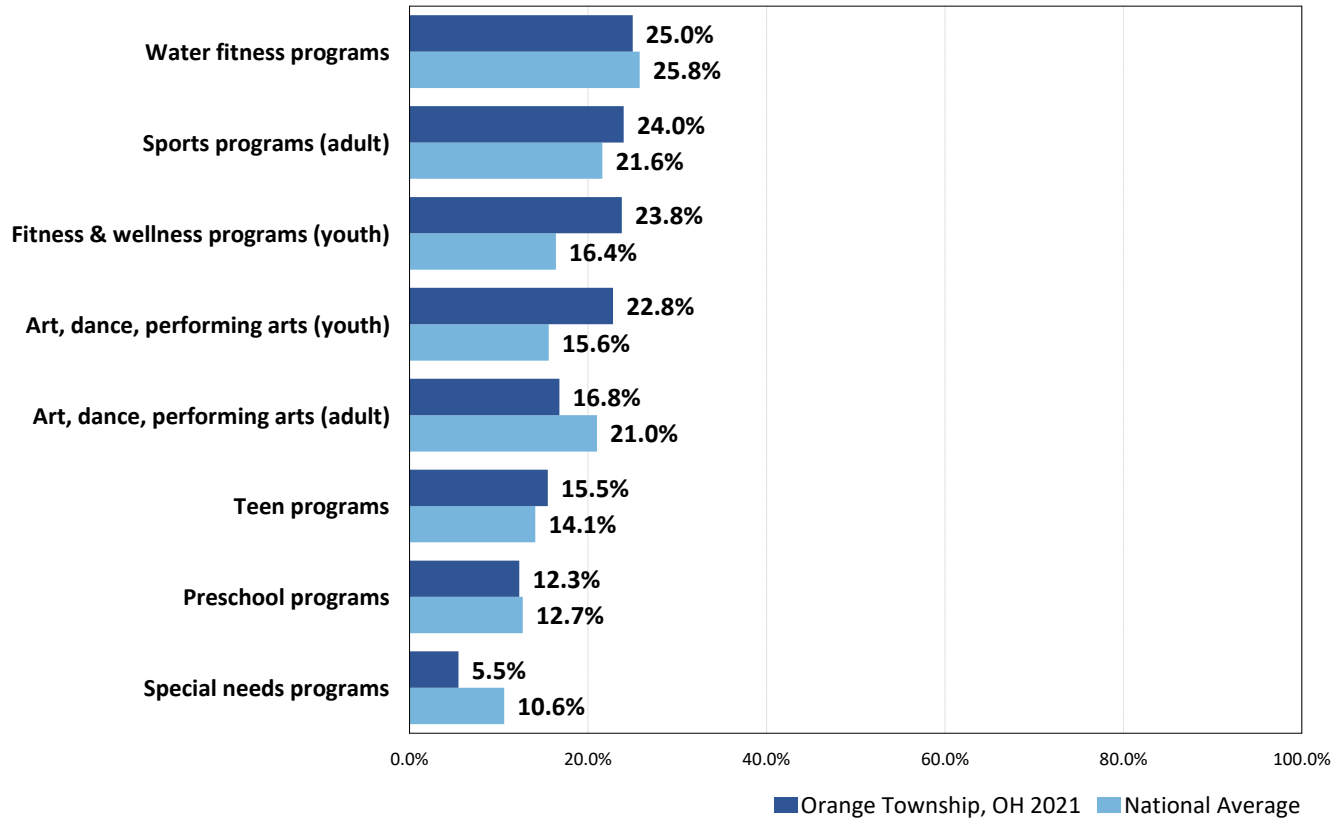
by percentage of respondents



## Benchmark: Percent of Households With Needs For Other Recreation Programs

Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

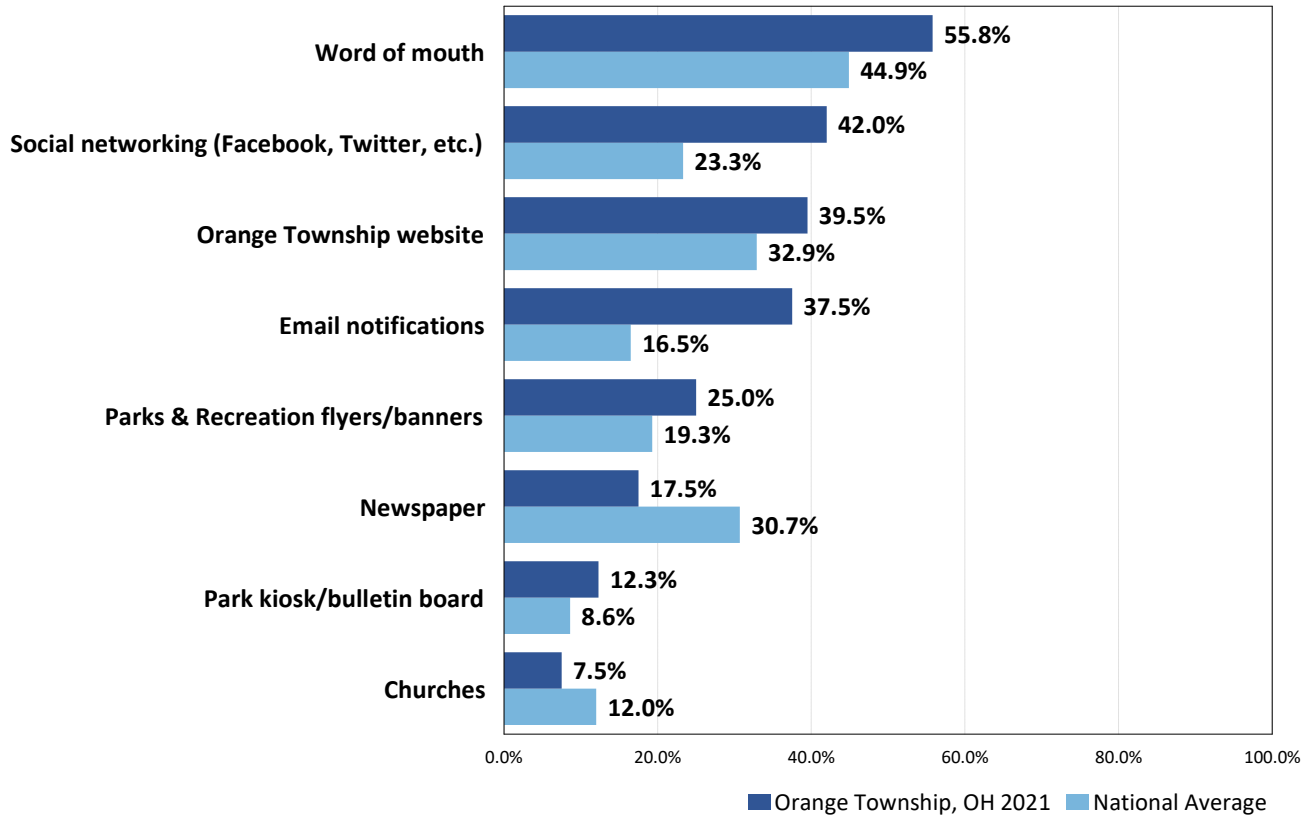
by percentage of respondents



# Benchmark: Methods Households Use to Learn About Facilities, Programs, and Events

## Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

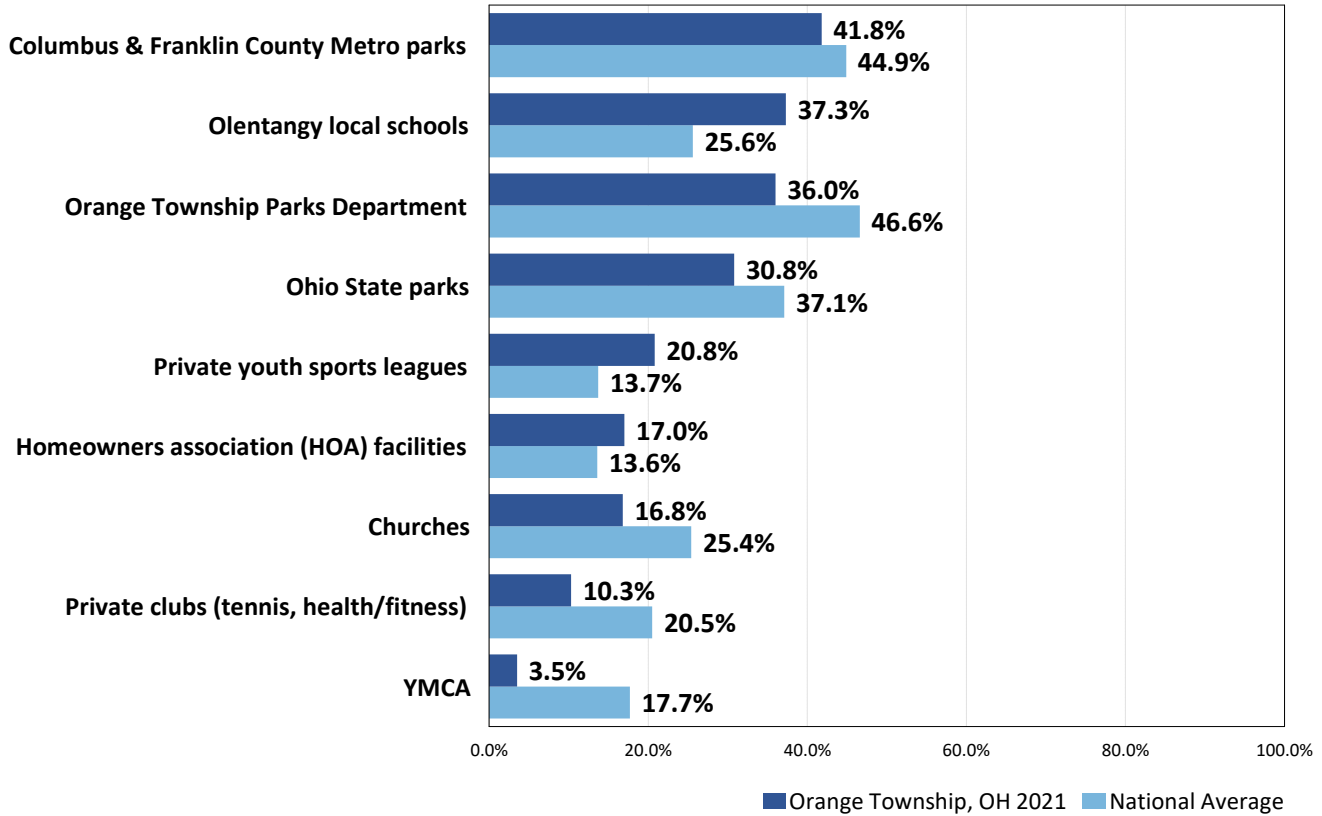
by percentage of respondents



# Benchmark: Organizations Households Use for Parks, Facilities, Programs, and Activities

## Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

by percentage of respondents

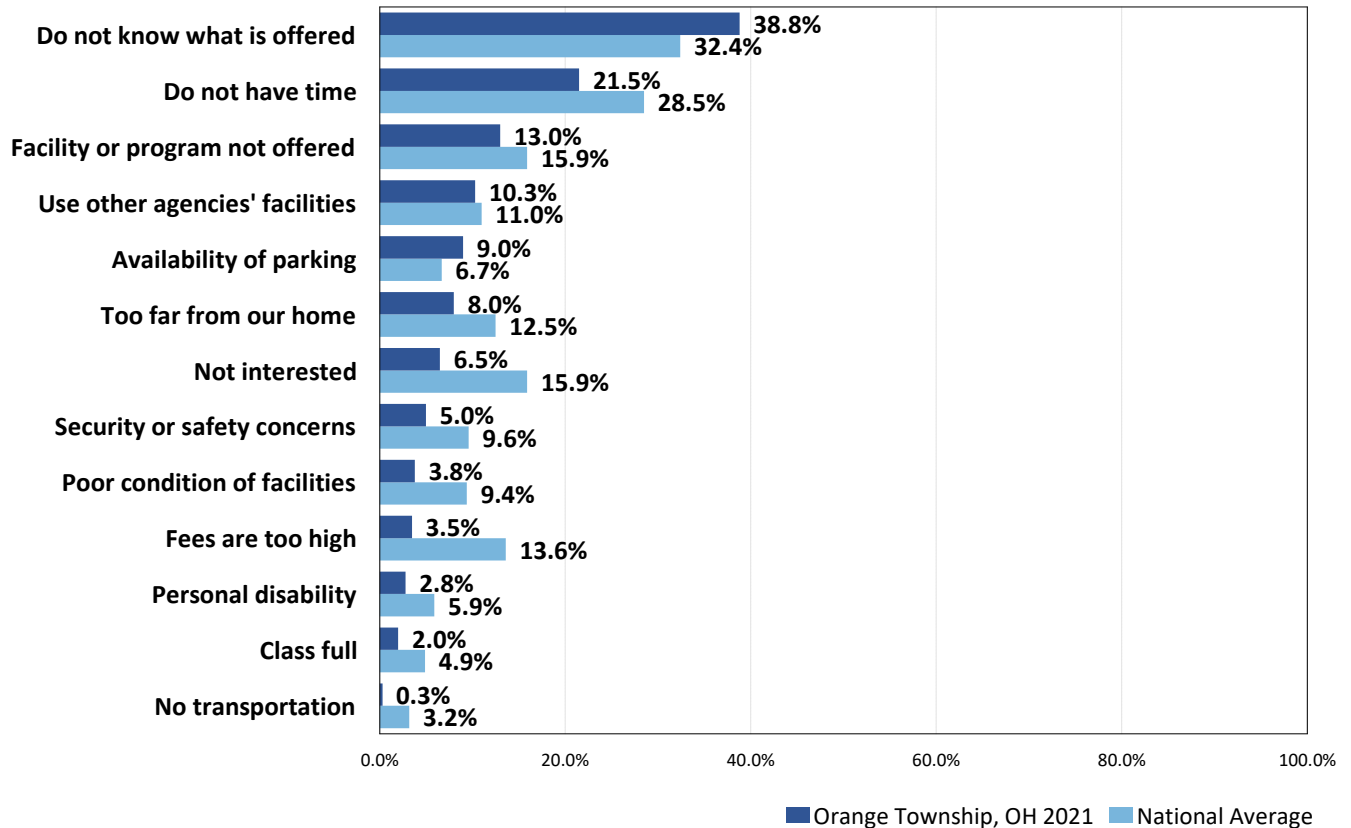




# Benchmark: Potential Barriers That Keep Households From Using Parks, Facilities, and Participating in Programs More Often

## Orange Township, OH Results vs. the National Average

by percentage of respondents







## Priority Investment Ratings Analysis



## Priority Investment Rating Summary



The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide governments with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating was developed by ETC Institute to identify the facilities/amenities and programs residents think should receive the highest priority for investment. The priority investment rating reflects the importance residents place on items (sum of top 4 choices) and the unmet needs (needs that are only being met 50% or less). Since decisions related to future investments should consider both the level of unmet need and the importance of facilities/amenities and programs, the PIR weights each of these components equally.

The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) reflects the sum of the Unmet Needs Rating (UNR) and the Importance Rating (IR) as shown in the equation below:

$$\text{PIR} = \text{UNR} + \text{IR}$$

For example, suppose the Unmet Needs Rating for teen programs is 32.2 (out of 100) and the Importance Rating for teen programs is 20.5 (out of 100), therefore the Priority Investment Rating for teen programs is 52.8 (out of 200).

### How to Analyze the Charts:

- **High Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of at least 100. A rating of 100 or above generally indicates there is a relatively high level of unmet need and residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on the greatest number of households.
- **Medium Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of 50-99. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a medium to high level of unmet need or a significant percentage of residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas.
- **Low Priority Areas** are those with a PIR below 50. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a relatively low level of unmet need and residents do not think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements may be warranted if the needs of very specialized populations are being targeted.

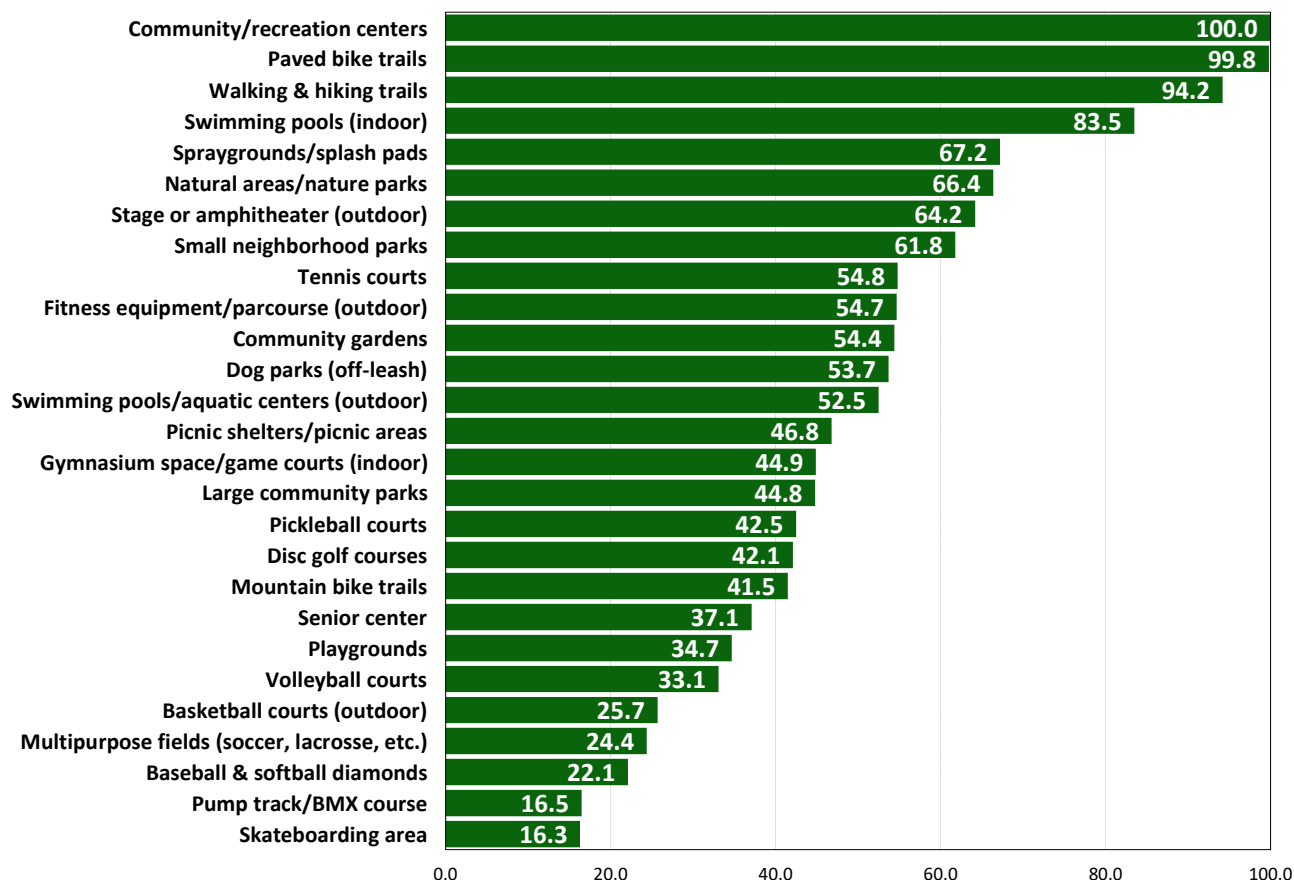
The following pages show the Unmet Needs Rating, Importance Rating, and Priority Investment Rating (PIR) for parks and recreation facilities and programs.



## Unmet Needs Rating for Parks and Recreation Facilities

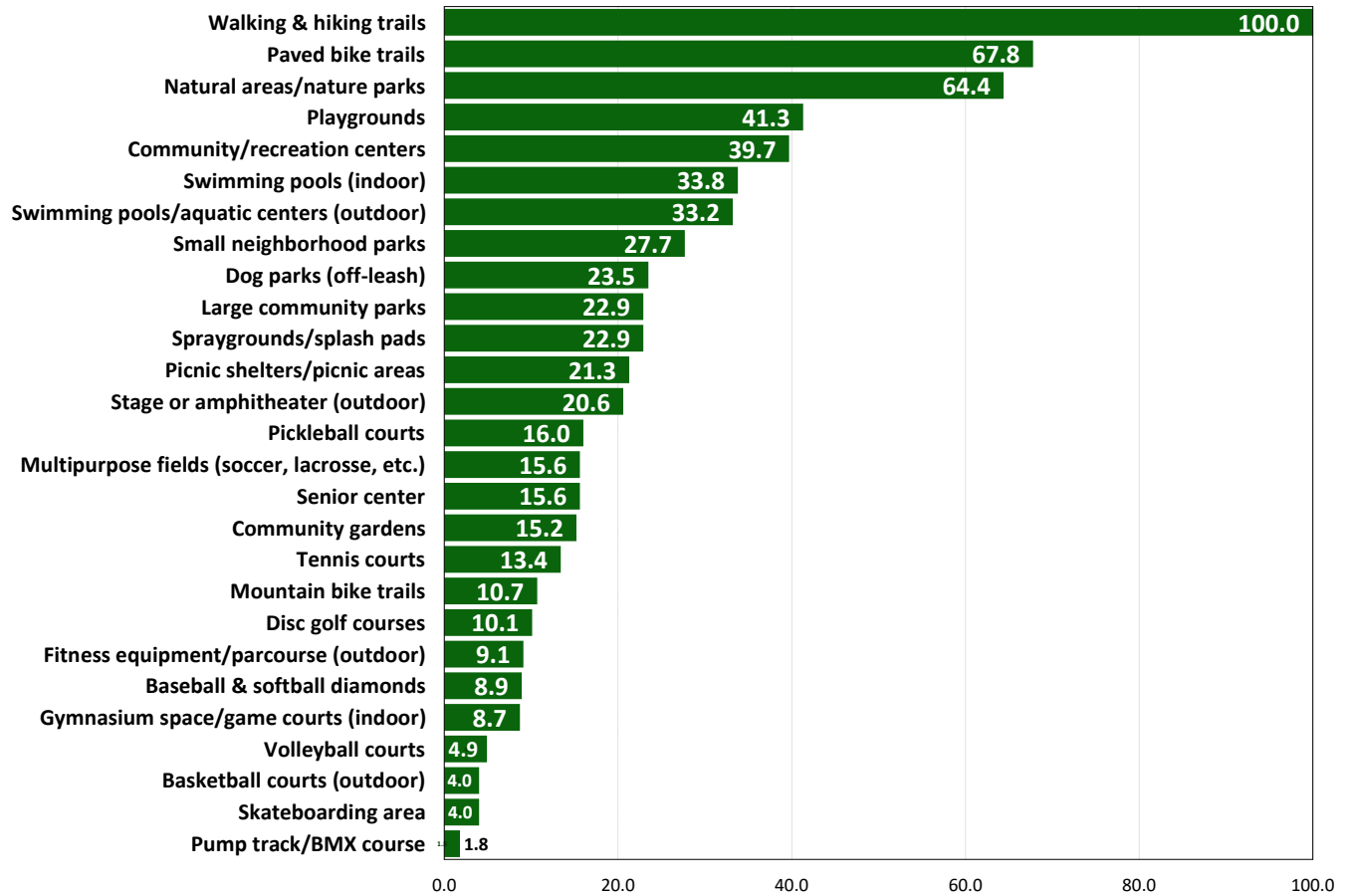
the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



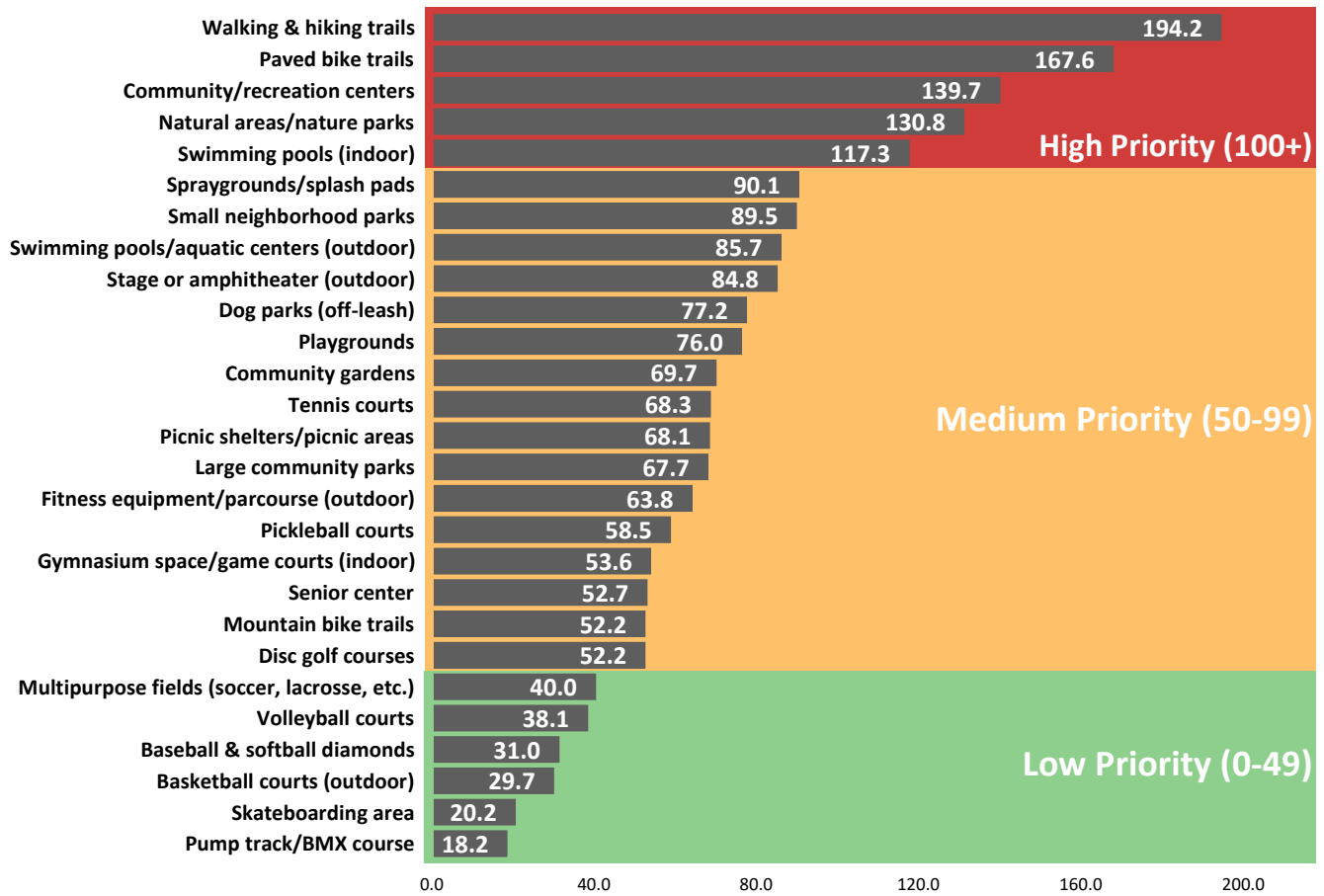
## Importance Rating for Parks and Recreation Facilities

the rating for the item with the most importance=100  
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of importance for each item compared to the item most important to respondents



## Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Facilities

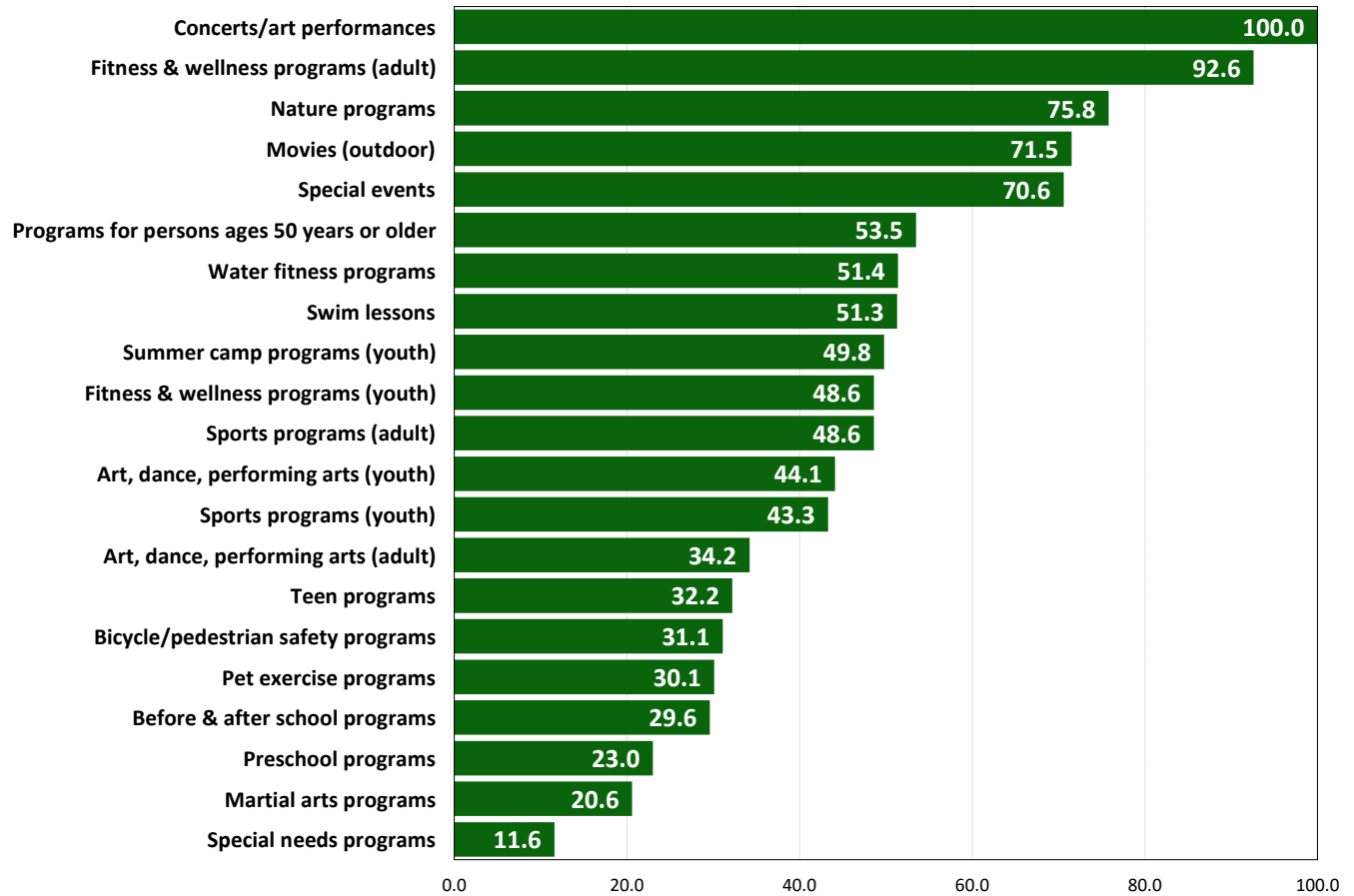
Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR)



## Unmet Needs Rating for Parks and Recreation Programs

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

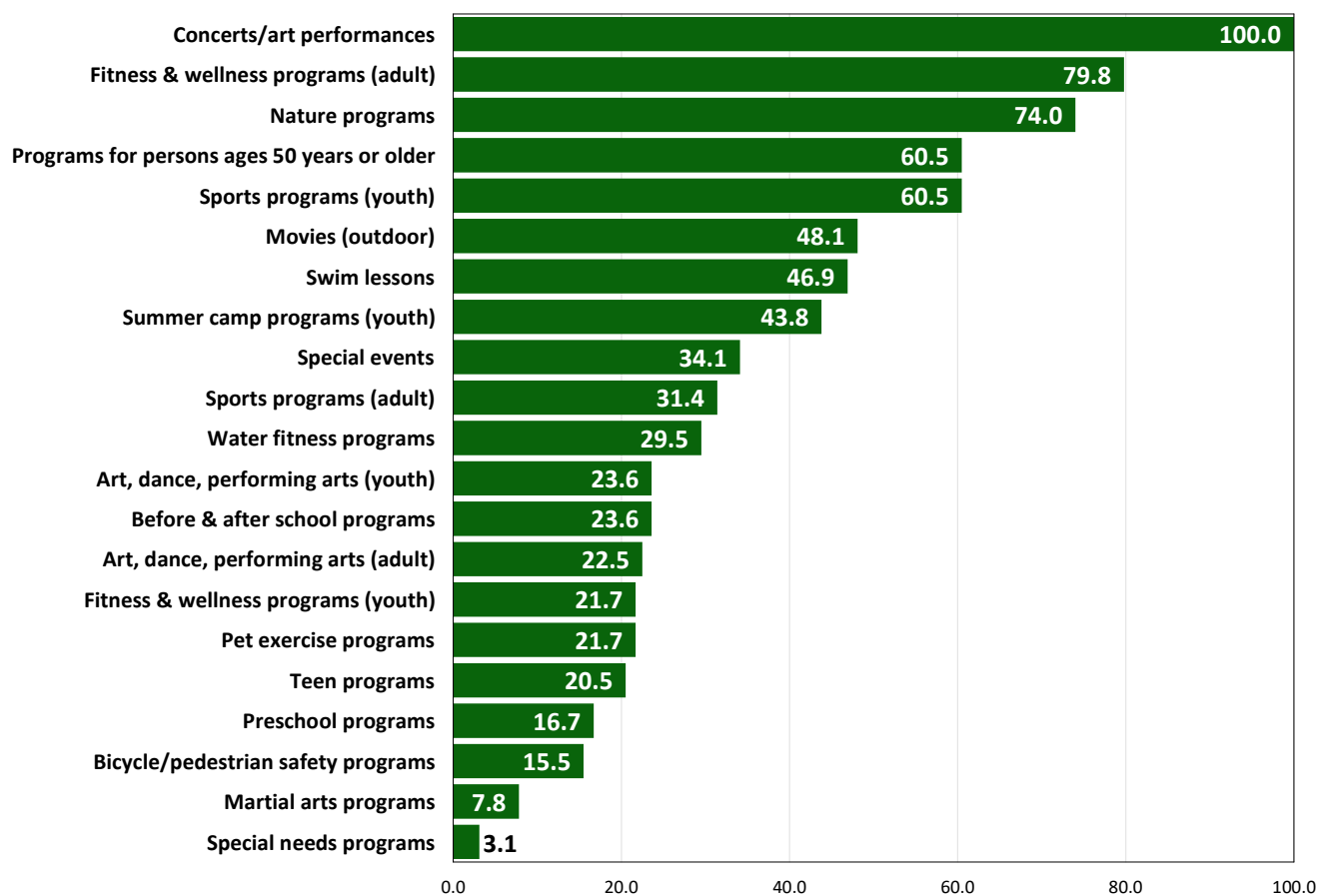
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



## Importance Rating for Parks and Recreation Programs

the rating for the item with the most importance=100

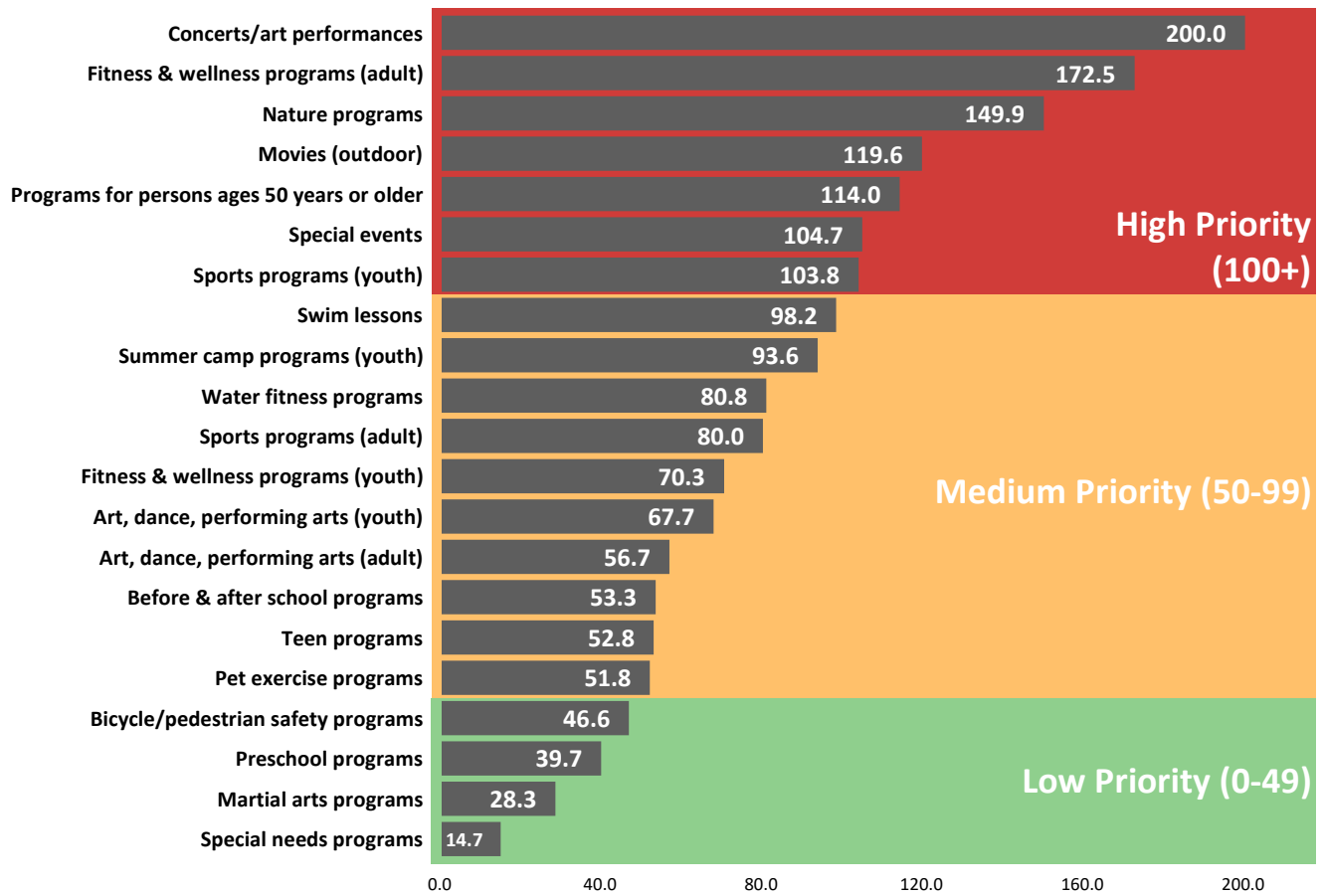
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of importance for each item compared to the item most important to respondents





## Top Priorities for Investment for Recreation Programs

Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR)





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# 4

## Crosstabulation Data by Household Type

**Q1. Have you or a member of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by Orange Township in the past 2 years?**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Yes	97.6%	95.9%	83.1%	72.8%	86.0%
No	2.4%	4.1%	16.9%	27.2%	14.0%

**Q1a. How often did you or any member of your household visit during the PAST YEAR? (without "don't know")**

N=344

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
1 to 5 visits	18.1%	24.3%	28.6%	39.1%	26.9%
6 to 10 visits	11.2%	17.1%	23.2%	11.5%	14.5%
11 to 19 visits	19.8%	11.4%	12.5%	13.8%	15.1%
20+ visits	50.9%	47.1%	35.7%	35.6%	43.5%

**Q1b. How would you rate their condition? (without "don't know")**

N=344	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Excellent	37.4%	43.3%	26.3%	43.4%	38.0%
Good	59.1%	52.2%	68.4%	53.0%	57.7%
Fair	3.5%	4.5%	5.3%	2.4%	4.0%
Poor	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.3%



**Q2. Please CHECK ALL parks and recreation facilities in Orange Township you or a member of your household visited in the PAST 2 YEARS.**

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Glen Oak Park	50.4%	31.1%	25.4%	9.6%	28.8%
North Orange Park	78.9%	60.8%	19.7%	24.8%	46.8%
Aquatic Center at North Orange Park	56.1%	43.2%	7.0%	12.8%	30.5%
North Road Park	13.8%	20.3%	8.5%	4.8%	11.0%
Orange Bridge Park	21.1%	13.5%	7.0%	8.0%	12.8%
Ro Park	65.9%	28.4%	11.3%	10.4%	31.0%
Township Hall Park	39.0%	33.8%	26.8%	21.6%	30.0%
Walker Wood Park	35.0%	27.0%	11.3%	9.6%	20.8%
Alum Creek State Park	75.6%	75.7%	63.4%	51.2%	65.0%
Highbanks Metro Park	84.6%	83.8%	70.4%	56.8%	72.5%
Shale Hollow Park	65.9%	48.6%	31.0%	32.8%	45.3%
Other	0.8%	8.1%	1.4%	6.4%	4.0%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q3. Which THREE parks/facilities listed in Question 2 did you or a member of your household VISIT MOST? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q3. Top choice</u>					
Glen Oak Park	17.9%	14.9%	15.5%	6.4%	13.0%
North Orange Park	52.8%	28.4%	15.5%	16.8%	29.5%
Aquatic Center at North Orange Park	23.6%	27.0%	1.4%	6.4%	14.5%
North Road Park	5.7%	8.1%	4.2%	0.0%	4.0%
Orange Bridge Park	1.6%	1.4%	2.8%	4.0%	2.5%
Ro Park	37.4%	17.6%	2.8%	6.4%	17.5%
Township Hall Park	14.6%	17.6%	19.7%	15.2%	16.3%
Walker Wood Park	12.2%	20.3%	8.5%	7.2%	11.3%
Alum Creek State Park	38.2%	50.0%	54.9%	42.4%	44.3%
Highbanks Metro Park	44.7%	56.8%	66.2%	49.6%	52.3%
Shale Hollow Park	29.3%	24.3%	18.3%	20.8%	23.5%
Other	0.8%	4.1%	0.0%	6.4%	3.0%
None chosen	3.3%	5.4%	16.9%	29.6%	15.3%

**Q4. Please CHECK ALL organizations you or any member of your household use for parks and recreation activities. (without "none")**

N=323	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Orange Township Parks Department	56.3%	45.3%	36.5%	34.1%	44.6%
Olentangy local schools	63.4%	73.4%	23.1%	18.7%	46.1%
Columbus & Franklin County Metro parks	58.9%	39.1%	57.7%	50.5%	51.7%
Preservation parks of Delaware County	42.0%	37.5%	32.7%	29.7%	35.6%
Ohio State parks	35.7%	26.6%	51.9%	41.8%	38.1%
Homeowners association (HOA) facilities	21.4%	15.6%	15.4%	27.5%	21.1%
Private schools	0.9%	9.4%	0.0%	3.3%	3.1%
Private youth sports leagues	49.1%	31.3%	5.8%	5.5%	25.7%
Churches	19.6%	14.1%	19.2%	28.6%	20.7%
YMCA	2.7%	6.3%	1.9%	5.5%	4.3%
Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)	10.7%	18.8%	5.8%	14.3%	12.7%
Country clubs/golf courses	8.0%	17.2%	17.3%	16.5%	13.9%
Neighboring cities	16.1%	15.6%	11.5%	13.2%	14.6%
Other	2.7%	1.6%	9.6%	5.5%	4.3%

**Q5. Please CHECK ALL upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Orange Township.**

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Artificial turf fields	7.3%	9.5%	1.4%	3.2%	5.5%
Baseball/softball diamonds	20.3%	10.8%	5.6%	5.6%	11.0%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	19.5%	13.5%	12.7%	3.2%	11.8%
Bike racks	17.1%	12.2%	19.7%	12.0%	14.8%
Bike repair stations	8.1%	6.8%	18.3%	4.0%	8.3%
Disc golf	14.6%	17.6%	16.9%	6.4%	12.8%
Drinking fountains	26.0%	21.6%	22.5%	17.6%	21.5%
Electric car charging stations	8.9%	5.4%	14.1%	6.4%	8.3%
Fitness equipment (outdoor)	21.1%	17.6%	18.3%	11.2%	16.5%
Handicap accessibility	9.8%	9.5%	14.1%	9.6%	10.3%
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.)	35.0%	18.9%	11.3%	4.8%	18.0%

**Q5. Please CHECK ALL upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Orange Township.**

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Parking	18.7%	16.2%	26.8%	15.2%	18.3%
Permanent outdoor games (ping-pong, cornhole)	28.5%	21.6%	16.9%	4.0%	17.0%
Pickleball courts (outdoor)	17.1%	18.9%	11.3%	22.4%	17.8%
Picnic shelters	34.1%	25.7%	22.5%	22.4%	26.3%
Playground equipment	62.6%	16.2%	8.5%	13.6%	28.3%
Pond improvements	22.0%	14.9%	19.7%	12.8%	17.3%
Restrooms	60.2%	40.5%	32.4%	44.0%	45.5%
Security cameras & lighting	30.9%	20.3%	25.4%	26.4%	26.0%
Shade structures	47.2%	25.7%	18.3%	19.2%	28.5%
Sidewalks	30.1%	21.6%	33.8%	20.0%	25.8%
Signage	5.7%	1.4%	7.0%	10.4%	6.5%



**Q5. Please CHECK ALL upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Orange Township.**

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Sports fields lighting	11.4%	9.5%	4.2%	1.6%	6.8%
Tennis courts (outdoor)	24.4%	23.0%	16.9%	10.4%	18.3%
Trail lighting	23.6%	9.5%	22.5%	15.2%	18.0%
Trails-bike	48.8%	51.4%	49.3%	36.0%	45.0%
Trails-walking/hiking	60.2%	70.3%	73.2%	51.2%	60.5%
Trees & landscaping	23.6%	21.6%	32.4%	20.8%	23.5%
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	17.1%	16.2%	9.9%	3.2%	11.3%
Wi-Fi hotspots	23.6%	18.9%	16.9%	17.6%	19.3%
Other	7.3%	5.4%	12.7%	6.4%	7.8%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q6. Which THREE upgrades listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q6. Top choice</u>					
Artificial turf fields	2.4%	5.4%	1.4%	0.8%	2.5%
Baseball/softball diamonds	6.5%	6.8%	0.0%	1.6%	3.8%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	5.7%	5.4%	1.4%	0.8%	3.3%
Bike racks	0.8%	0.0%	4.2%	1.6%	1.5%
Bike repair stations	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	1.6%	0.8%
Disc golf	5.7%	6.8%	9.9%	1.6%	5.3%
Drinking fountains	6.5%	5.4%	8.5%	5.6%	6.3%
Electric car charging stations	0.8%	0.0%	4.2%	1.6%	1.5%
Fitness equipment (outdoor)	2.4%	8.1%	11.3%	3.2%	5.3%
Handicap accessibility	4.1%	6.8%	0.0%	4.0%	3.8%
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.)	12.2%	9.5%	2.8%	0.8%	6.5%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES - CONTINUED****Q6. Which THREE upgrades listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q6. Top choice (Cont.)</u>					
Parking	3.3%	5.4%	12.7%	8.0%	6.8%
Permanent outdoor games (ping-pong, cornhole)	7.3%	6.8%	2.8%	0.8%	4.3%
Pickleball courts (outdoor)	5.7%	9.5%	7.0%	11.2%	8.3%
Picnic shelters	4.9%	9.5%	9.9%	12.0%	8.8%
Playground equipment	41.5%	8.1%	1.4%	4.0%	15.8%
Pond improvements	7.3%	4.1%	2.8%	4.0%	5.0%
Restrooms	31.7%	18.9%	14.1%	24.0%	23.3%
Security cameras & lighting	12.2%	6.8%	11.3%	11.2%	10.5%
Shade structures	13.8%	8.1%	2.8%	8.0%	8.8%
Sidewalks	5.7%	4.1%	11.3%	5.6%	6.5%
Signage	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	0.8%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES - CONTINUED****Q6. Which THREE upgrades listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<b>Q6. Top choice (Cont.)</b>					
Sports fields lighting	2.4%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
Tennis courts (outdoor)	8.1%	9.5%	2.8%	6.4%	6.8%
Trail lighting	8.1%	2.7%	2.8%	3.2%	4.8%
Trails-bike	27.6%	25.7%	26.8%	27.2%	26.8%
Trails-walking/hiking	33.3%	47.3%	52.1%	39.2%	40.5%
Trees & landscaping	4.9%	2.7%	14.1%	8.0%	7.0%
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	2.4%	8.1%	2.8%	0.0%	2.8%
Wi-Fi hotspots	4.9%	10.8%	2.8%	5.6%	5.8%
Other	4.9%	4.1%	9.9%	3.2%	5.0%
None chosen	4.1%	9.5%	12.7%	24.0%	14.0%

**Q7. Please indicate how supportive you are of actions Orange Township could take to improve Parks and Recreation.**

N=400

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q7-1. Acquire & preserve open space & natural areas					
Very supportive	74.8%	60.8%	66.2%	50.4%	62.8%
Somewhat supportive	16.3%	27.0%	18.3%	24.8%	21.0%
Not supportive	5.7%	6.8%	1.4%	11.2%	7.3%
Not sure	3.3%	5.4%	14.1%	13.6%	9.0%
Q7-2. Acquire land to develop parks & recreational facilities					
Very supportive	65.0%	51.4%	45.1%	36.0%	49.0%
Somewhat supportive	22.8%	32.4%	31.0%	28.8%	28.0%
Not supportive	8.9%	10.8%	8.5%	19.2%	12.8%
Not sure	3.3%	5.4%	15.5%	16.0%	10.3%
Q7-3. Upgrade existing parks & facilities					
Very supportive	71.5%	47.3%	47.9%	36.8%	51.0%
Somewhat supportive	25.2%	37.8%	29.6%	37.6%	32.3%
Not supportive	2.4%	5.4%	4.2%	8.0%	5.5%
Not sure	0.8%	9.5%	18.3%	17.6%	11.3%

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**Q7. Please indicate how supportive you are of actions Orange Township could take to improve Parks and Recreation.**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q7-4. Upgrade existing/add new athletic fields**

Very supportive	51.2%	28.4%	19.7%	14.4%	29.3%
Somewhat supportive	36.6%	39.2%	31.0%	32.8%	34.5%
Not supportive	7.3%	16.2%	22.5%	28.8%	18.8%
Not sure	4.9%	16.2%	26.8%	24.0%	17.5%

**Q7-5. Add lighting at existing athletic fields**

Very supportive	39.0%	29.7%	14.1%	11.2%	23.8%
Somewhat supportive	30.9%	36.5%	31.0%	26.4%	30.3%
Not supportive	20.3%	20.3%	25.4%	36.0%	26.3%
Not sure	9.8%	13.5%	29.6%	26.4%	19.8%

**Q7-6. Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities**

Very supportive	59.3%	40.5%	39.4%	21.6%	39.8%
Somewhat supportive	28.5%	31.1%	32.4%	37.6%	32.3%
Not supportive	6.5%	17.6%	12.7%	17.6%	13.8%
Not sure	5.7%	10.8%	15.5%	23.2%	14.3%

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**Q7. Please indicate how supportive you are of actions Orange Township could take to improve Parks and Recreation.**

N=400

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q7-7. Develop new recreation trails & connecting existing trails**

Very supportive	78.9%	68.9%	71.8%	54.4%	67.3%
Somewhat supportive	15.4%	18.9%	14.1%	22.4%	18.0%
Not supportive	2.4%	8.1%	2.8%	8.0%	5.8%
Not sure	3.3%	4.1%	11.3%	15.2%	9.0%

**Q7-8. Develop an indoor recreation/community center**

Very supportive	62.6%	37.8%	23.9%	20.8%	37.3%
Somewhat supportive	22.8%	33.8%	25.4%	23.2%	25.3%
Not supportive	9.8%	21.6%	21.1%	32.0%	21.3%
Not sure	4.9%	6.8%	29.6%	24.0%	16.3%

**Q7-9. Provide programs**

Very supportive	47.2%	27.0%	16.9%	16.0%	27.5%
Somewhat supportive	30.9%	36.5%	33.8%	37.6%	34.5%
Not supportive	6.5%	21.6%	12.7%	14.4%	13.3%
Not sure	15.4%	14.9%	36.6%	32.0%	24.8%

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**Q7. Please indicate how supportive you are of actions Orange Township could take to improve Parks and Recreation.**

N=400

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q7-10. Provide community events**

Very supportive	51.2%	39.2%	25.4%	15.2%	32.3%
Somewhat supportive	27.6%	35.1%	39.4%	41.6%	35.5%
Not supportive	9.8%	16.2%	4.2%	12.0%	11.0%
Not sure	11.4%	9.5%	31.0%	31.2%	21.3%

**Q7-11. Other**

Very supportive	90.9%	100.0%	100.0%	85.7%	92.3%
Somewhat supportive	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%
Not supportive	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	3.8%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q8. Which THREE actions listed in Question 7 are MOST IMPORTANT? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q8. Top choice</u>					
Acquire & preserve open space & natural areas	36.6%	44.6%	56.3%	41.6%	43.0%
Acquire land to develop parks & recreational facilities	27.6%	18.9%	25.4%	24.0%	24.5%
Upgrade existing parks & facilities	37.4%	29.7%	32.4%	32.8%	33.0%
Upgrade existing/add new athletic fields	24.4%	14.9%	7.0%	12.0%	15.3%
Add lighting at existing athletic fields	5.7%	8.1%	2.8%	4.8%	5.3%
Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	21.1%	18.9%	15.5%	8.8%	15.5%
Develop new recreation trails & connecting existing trails	48.8%	56.8%	60.6%	45.6%	51.3%
Develop an indoor recreation/ community center	47.2%	32.4%	15.5%	19.2%	29.5%
Provide programs	19.5%	13.5%	7.0%	14.4%	14.3%
Provide community events	14.6%	21.6%	12.7%	12.0%	14.8%
Other	4.1%	2.7%	7.0%	4.8%	4.5%
None chosen	2.4%	6.8%	12.7%	19.2%	11.3%

**Q9a. Township Hall Pond. Please select your preferred option to improve the Township Hall pond. (without "don't know")**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Short-term solution with lower but potentially recurring cost	9.2%	16.4%	11.9%	10.5%	11.4%
Long-term solution with higher but one-time cost	50.0%	49.3%	43.3%	41.2%	46.3%
Create a wetland to replace pond, lower cost but pond is eliminated	40.8%	34.2%	44.8%	48.2%	42.3%

**Q9b. North Orange Park Ponds. Please select your preferred option to improve the North Orange Park ponds. (without "don't know")**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Short-term solution with lower but potentially recurring cost	17.1%	27.4%	16.9%	22.0%	20.4%
Long-term solution with medium cost but playing fields will be unavailable for one year	53.8%	54.8%	64.6%	50.5%	55.0%
Long-term solution with highest cost but no loss of playing fields	29.1%	17.8%	18.5%	27.5%	24.5%



**Q10. Please CHECK ALL items that keep you or any member of your household from using the parks, recreation facilities, trails, and events of Orange Township more often. (without "none")**

N=316	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Availability of parking	12.2%	11.5%	10.5%	11.6%	11.4%
Class full	3.1%	3.3%	3.5%	0.0%	2.5%
Do not have time	33.7%	36.1%	31.6%	13.7%	27.2%
Do not know what is offered	54.1%	47.5%	52.6%	44.2%	49.1%
Facility or program not offered	22.4%	13.1%	12.3%	15.8%	16.5%
Fees are too high	7.1%	4.9%	1.8%	3.2%	4.4%
No transportation	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.3%
Not comfortable/not meeting needs	3.1%	4.9%	14.0%	5.3%	6.0%
Not interested	4.1%	8.2%	10.5%	10.5%	8.2%
Personal disability	0.0%	3.3%	1.8%	8.4%	3.5%
Poor condition of facilities	6.1%	4.9%	1.8%	4.2%	4.7%
Security or safety concerns	6.1%	6.6%	3.5%	8.4%	6.3%
Too far from our home	10.2%	14.8%	12.3%	6.3%	10.1%
Use other agencies' facilities	13.3%	9.8%	10.5%	16.8%	13.0%
Other	19.4%	8.2%	12.3%	11.6%	13.9%

**Q11. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each of the facilities listed below.**

N=400

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q11-1. Baseball & softball diamonds					
Yes	36.6%	21.6%	5.6%	5.6%	18.0%
No	63.4%	78.4%	94.4%	94.4%	82.0%
Q11-2. Basketball courts (outdoor)					
Yes	32.5%	18.9%	15.5%	5.6%	18.0%
No	67.5%	81.1%	84.5%	94.4%	82.0%
Q11-3. Community gardens					
Yes	36.6%	16.2%	36.6%	23.2%	28.5%
No	63.4%	83.8%	63.4%	76.8%	71.5%
Q11-4. Community/recreation centers					
Yes	73.2%	58.1%	36.6%	31.2%	49.5%
No	26.8%	41.9%	63.4%	68.8%	50.5%
Q11-5. Disc golf courses					
Yes	19.5%	27.0%	28.2%	12.8%	20.0%
No	80.5%	73.0%	71.8%	87.2%	80.0%

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**Q11. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each of the facilities listed below.**

N=400

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q11-6. Dog parks (off-leash)					
Yes	26.0%	33.8%	39.4%	25.6%	29.5%
No	74.0%	66.2%	60.6%	74.4%	70.5%
Q11-7. Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)					
Yes	33.3%	29.7%	26.8%	20.8%	27.0%
No	66.7%	70.3%	73.2%	79.2%	73.0%
Q11-8. Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)					
Yes	39.0%	21.6%	18.3%	5.6%	21.0%
No	61.0%	78.4%	81.7%	94.4%	79.0%
Q11-9. Large community parks					
Yes	66.7%	47.3%	53.5%	34.4%	50.0%
No	33.3%	52.7%	46.5%	65.6%	50.0%
Q11-10. Mountain bike trails					
Yes	35.0%	37.8%	28.2%	10.4%	26.5%
No	65.0%	62.2%	71.8%	89.6%	73.5%

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**Q11. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each of the facilities listed below.**

N=400

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q11-11. Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)					
Yes	54.5%	24.3%	12.7%	5.6%	25.5%
No	45.5%	75.7%	87.3%	94.4%	74.5%
Q11-12. Natural areas/nature parks					
Yes	78.0%	66.2%	77.5%	66.4%	71.5%
No	22.0%	33.8%	22.5%	33.6%	28.5%
Q11-13. Paved bike trails					
Yes	74.8%	67.6%	71.8%	45.6%	63.0%
No	25.2%	32.4%	28.2%	54.4%	37.0%
Q11-14. Pickleball courts					
Yes	17.1%	20.3%	16.9%	24.0%	19.5%
No	82.9%	79.7%	83.1%	76.0%	80.5%
Q11-15. Picnic shelters/picnic areas					
Yes	74.0%	50.0%	35.2%	41.6%	51.3%
No	26.0%	50.0%	64.8%	58.4%	48.8%

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**Q11. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each of the facilities listed below.**

N=400

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q11-16. Playgrounds					
Yes	89.4%	35.1%	15.5%	31.2%	46.5%
No	10.6%	64.9%	84.5%	68.8%	53.5%
Q11-17. Pump track/BMX course					
Yes	11.4%	13.5%	5.6%	1.6%	7.5%
No	88.6%	86.5%	94.4%	98.4%	92.5%
Q11-18. Senior center					
Yes	1.6%	8.1%	18.3%	40.8%	18.0%
No	98.4%	91.9%	81.7%	59.2%	82.0%
Q11-19. Skateboarding area					
Yes	13.0%	10.8%	7.0%	2.4%	8.0%
No	87.0%	89.2%	93.0%	97.6%	92.0%
Q11-20. Small neighborhood parks					
Yes	72.4%	36.5%	43.7%	40.0%	49.3%
No	27.6%	63.5%	56.3%	60.0%	50.8%

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**Q11. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each of the facilities listed below.**

N=400

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q11-21. Spraygrounds/splash pads					
Yes	69.9%	17.6%	16.9%	12.0%	31.5%
No	30.1%	82.4%	83.1%	88.0%	68.5%
Q11-22. Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)					
Yes	30.1%	25.7%	40.8%	29.6%	30.5%
No	69.9%	74.3%	59.2%	70.4%	69.5%
Q11-23. Swimming pools (indoor)					
Yes	69.9%	48.6%	26.8%	22.4%	42.3%
No	30.1%	51.4%	73.2%	77.6%	57.8%
Q11-24. Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)					
Yes	79.7%	58.1%	29.6%	21.6%	47.3%
No	20.3%	41.9%	70.4%	78.4%	52.8%
Q11-25. Tennis courts					
Yes	38.2%	27.0%	25.4%	19.2%	27.5%
No	61.8%	73.0%	74.6%	80.8%	72.5%

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**Q11. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each of the facilities listed below.**

N=400

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q11-26. Volleyball courts					
Yes	26.8%	21.6%	12.7%	4.0%	15.8%
No	73.2%	78.4%	87.3%	96.0%	84.3%
Q11-27. Walking & hiking trails					
Yes	87.8%	82.4%	87.3%	72.0%	81.0%
No	12.2%	17.6%	12.7%	28.0%	19.0%
Q11-28. Other					
Yes	2.4%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	1.5%
No	97.6%	100.0%	95.8%	100.0%	98.5%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

N=377	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q11-1. Baseball & softball diamonds					
100% met	29.5%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	21.4%
75% met	27.3%	25.0%	33.3%	28.6%	27.1%
50% met	22.7%	37.5%	33.3%	42.9%	28.6%
25% met	9.1%	18.8%	0.0%	14.3%	11.4%
0% met	11.4%	6.3%	33.3%	14.3%	11.4%
Q11-2. Basketball courts (outdoor)					
100% met	11.8%	8.3%	11.1%	14.3%	11.3%
75% met	29.4%	16.7%	44.4%	28.6%	29.0%
50% met	20.6%	58.3%	22.2%	0.0%	25.8%
25% met	29.4%	16.7%	11.1%	42.9%	25.8%
0% met	8.8%	0.0%	11.1%	14.3%	8.1%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<b>Q11-3. Community gardens</b>					
100% met	7.0%	9.1%	9.1%	4.5%	7.1%
75% met	11.6%	9.1%	22.7%	9.1%	13.1%
50% met	20.9%	27.3%	18.2%	27.3%	23.2%
25% met	20.9%	27.3%	13.6%	18.2%	19.2%
0% met	39.5%	27.3%	36.4%	40.9%	37.4%
<b>Q11-4. Community/recreation centers</b>					
100% met	6.0%	10.8%	8.7%	3.3%	6.9%
75% met	9.5%	5.4%	13.0%	6.7%	8.6%
50% met	13.1%	18.9%	13.0%	16.7%	14.9%
25% met	17.9%	16.2%	13.0%	20.0%	17.2%
0% met	53.6%	48.6%	52.2%	53.3%	52.3%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-5. Disc golf courses**

100% met	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
75% met	0.0%	16.7%	21.4%	0.0%	9.1%
50% met	9.1%	27.8%	21.4%	0.0%	15.2%
25% met	27.3%	11.1%	28.6%	33.3%	24.2%
0% met	54.5%	44.4%	28.6%	66.7%	48.5%

**Q11-6. Dog parks (off-leash)**

100% met	13.8%	8.7%	8.3%	7.1%	9.6%
75% met	17.2%	13.0%	16.7%	10.7%	14.4%
50% met	27.6%	26.1%	20.8%	35.7%	27.9%
25% met	6.9%	21.7%	16.7%	28.6%	18.3%
0% met	34.5%	30.4%	37.5%	17.9%	29.8%



**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-7. Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)**

100% met	8.1%	11.8%	0.0%	13.0%	8.8%
75% met	10.8%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%	6.6%
50% met	18.9%	29.4%	28.6%	30.4%	25.3%
25% met	13.5%	11.8%	7.1%	39.1%	18.7%
0% met	48.6%	47.1%	50.0%	17.4%	40.7%

**Q11-8. Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)**

100% met	0.0%	21.4%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%
75% met	8.7%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	6.7%
50% met	13.0%	7.1%	22.2%	50.0%	16.0%
25% met	15.2%	14.3%	22.2%	16.7%	16.0%
0% met	63.0%	57.1%	44.4%	33.3%	57.3%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-9. Large community parks**

100% met	27.3%	30.0%	30.0%	11.1%	24.7%
75% met	41.6%	36.7%	26.7%	38.9%	37.9%
50% met	26.0%	26.7%	26.7%	41.7%	29.3%
25% met	2.6%	6.7%	6.7%	8.3%	5.2%
0% met	2.6%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	2.9%

**Q11-10. Mountain bike trails**

100% met	20.0%	4.2%	6.3%	16.7%	12.9%
75% met	20.0%	20.8%	43.8%	0.0%	21.5%
50% met	17.5%	16.7%	6.3%	25.0%	16.1%
25% met	15.0%	45.8%	25.0%	41.7%	29.0%
0% met	27.5%	12.5%	18.8%	16.7%	20.4%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-11. Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)**

100% met	23.4%	33.3%	25.0%	16.7%	24.4%
75% met	37.5%	33.3%	25.0%	33.3%	35.6%
50% met	26.6%	20.0%	0.0%	33.3%	24.4%
25% met	7.8%	0.0%	25.0%	16.7%	7.8%
0% met	4.7%	13.3%	25.0%	0.0%	7.8%

**Q11-12. Natural areas/nature parks**

100% met	30.0%	26.7%	30.4%	11.8%	24.4%
75% met	40.0%	35.6%	23.9%	42.6%	36.8%
50% met	20.0%	26.7%	30.4%	29.4%	26.0%
25% met	7.8%	8.9%	13.0%	8.8%	9.2%
0% met	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	7.4%	3.6%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-13. Paved bike trails**

100% met	8.0%	13.0%	14.3%	9.8%	10.5%
75% met	26.1%	19.6%	21.4%	23.5%	23.2%
50% met	33.0%	41.3%	35.7%	29.4%	34.2%
25% met	23.9%	19.6%	21.4%	21.6%	22.4%
0% met	9.1%	6.5%	7.1%	15.7%	9.6%

**Q11-14. Pickleball courts**

100% met	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
75% met	9.5%	7.7%	0.0%	4.3%	6.0%
50% met	0.0%	15.4%	10.0%	0.0%	4.5%
25% met	19.0%	7.7%	20.0%	34.8%	22.4%
0% met	61.9%	69.2%	70.0%	60.9%	64.2%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-15. Picnic shelters/picnic areas**

100% met	30.2%	29.4%	5.3%	11.9%	23.2%
75% met	41.9%	35.3%	36.8%	35.7%	38.7%
50% met	19.8%	29.4%	47.4%	47.6%	30.9%
25% met	8.1%	5.9%	10.5%	4.8%	7.2%

**Q11-16. Playgrounds**

100% met	32.4%	21.7%	14.3%	21.9%	28.1%
75% met	42.9%	43.5%	42.9%	31.3%	40.7%
50% met	17.1%	34.8%	28.6%	37.5%	24.0%
25% met	5.7%	0.0%	14.3%	9.4%	6.0%
0% met	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%



**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-17. Pump track/BMX course**

100% met	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%
75% met	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%
50% met	15.4%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%
25% met	15.4%	28.6%	33.3%	100.0%	25.0%
0% met	53.8%	57.1%	66.7%	0.0%	54.2%

**Q11-18. Senior center**

100% met	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	7.3%	7.0%
75% met	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.8%	7.0%
50% met	50.0%	33.3%	25.0%	19.5%	22.8%
25% met	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	22.0%	19.3%
0% met	50.0%	33.3%	62.5%	41.5%	43.9%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

N=377	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q11-19. Skateboarding area					
100% met	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	3.7%
75% met	6.7%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%
50% met	13.3%	14.3%	33.3%	50.0%	18.5%
25% met	26.7%	28.6%	33.3%	0.0%	25.9%
0% met	53.3%	28.6%	33.3%	0.0%	40.7%
Q11-20. Small neighborhood parks					
100% met	21.7%	33.3%	21.7%	10.0%	20.6%
75% met	28.9%	29.2%	21.7%	25.0%	27.1%
50% met	24.1%	12.5%	34.8%	35.0%	26.5%
25% met	14.5%	12.5%	17.4%	17.5%	15.3%
0% met	10.8%	12.5%	4.3%	12.5%	10.6%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-21. Spraygrounds/splash pads**

100% met	7.5%	18.2%	0.0%	0.0%	7.3%
75% met	3.8%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	3.6%
50% met	15.0%	9.1%	10.0%	11.1%	13.6%
25% met	25.0%	27.3%	20.0%	55.6%	27.3%
0% met	48.8%	45.5%	60.0%	33.3%	48.2%

**Q11-22. Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)**

100% met	6.3%	17.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%
75% met	3.1%	5.9%	18.2%	3.4%	7.0%
50% met	12.5%	5.9%	13.6%	13.8%	12.0%
25% met	12.5%	23.5%	4.5%	17.2%	14.0%
0% met	65.6%	47.1%	63.6%	65.5%	62.0%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-23. Swimming pools (indoor)**

100% met	11.3%	11.8%	12.5%	10.5%	11.4%
75% met	6.3%	5.9%	6.3%	5.3%	6.0%
50% met	17.5%	2.9%	18.8%	10.5%	13.4%
25% met	11.3%	20.6%	12.5%	10.5%	13.4%
0% met	53.8%	58.8%	50.0%	63.2%	55.7%

**Q11-24. Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)**

100% met	30.1%	23.7%	13.3%	36.4%	28.0%
75% met	22.6%	34.2%	26.7%	22.7%	25.6%
50% met	24.7%	31.6%	20.0%	18.2%	25.0%
25% met	12.9%	5.3%	20.0%	13.6%	11.9%
0% met	9.7%	5.3%	20.0%	9.1%	9.5%

**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-25. Tennis courts**

100% met	4.3%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%
75% met	4.3%	22.2%	13.3%	23.8%	12.9%
50% met	30.4%	11.1%	26.7%	23.8%	24.8%
25% met	26.1%	22.2%	20.0%	19.0%	23.8%
0% met	34.8%	33.3%	40.0%	33.3%	34.7%

**Q11-26. Volleyball courts**

100% met	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
75% met	9.7%	7.7%	12.5%	20.0%	10.5%
50% met	19.4%	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%	17.5%
25% met	12.9%	0.0%	25.0%	40.0%	14.0%
0% met	58.1%	53.8%	62.5%	40.0%	56.1%



**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=377

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q11-27. Walking & hiking trails**

100% met	21.8%	23.6%	22.6%	17.7%	21.0%
75% met	32.7%	34.5%	28.3%	26.6%	30.3%
50% met	32.7%	29.1%	30.2%	43.0%	34.8%
25% met	9.9%	10.9%	15.1%	10.1%	11.0%
0% met	3.0%	1.8%	3.8%	2.5%	2.8%

**Q11-28. Other**

100% met	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%
25% met	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%
0% met	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	50.0%

**Q12. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 11 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 4)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q12. Top choice</u>					
Baseball & softball diamonds	7.3%	9.5%	0.0%	1.6%	4.5%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	4.1%	1.4%	2.8%	0.0%	2.0%
Community gardens	9.8%	6.8%	5.6%	6.4%	7.5%
Community/recreation centers	30.1%	31.1%	12.7%	8.8%	20.0%
Disc golf courses	4.1%	5.4%	7.0%	4.8%	5.0%
Dog parks (off-leash)	6.5%	10.8%	19.7%	12.8%	11.8%
Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)	2.4%	6.8%	4.2%	4.8%	4.5%
Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	7.3%	8.1%	0.0%	0.8%	4.3%
Large community parks	9.8%	17.6%	14.1%	8.8%	11.5%
Mountain bike trails	4.1%	5.4%	8.5%	4.0%	5.3%

**Q12. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 11 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 4)**

N=400

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

Q12. Top choice (Cont.)

Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)	14.6%	10.8%	2.8%	1.6%	7.8%
Natural areas/nature parks	17.1%	28.4%	47.9%	42.4%	32.5%
Paved bike trails	32.5%	40.5%	38.0%	32.0%	34.3%
Pickleball courts	4.1%	9.5%	5.6%	12.0%	8.0%
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	8.1%	10.8%	8.5%	15.2%	10.8%
Playgrounds	49.6%	5.4%	2.8%	12.8%	20.8%
Pump track/BMX course	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Senior center	0.0%	4.1%	7.0%	18.4%	7.8%
Skateboarding area	4.1%	2.7%	0.0%	0.8%	2.0%
Small neighborhood parks	18.7%	5.4%	11.3%	16.8%	14.0%
Spraygrounds/splash pads	32.5%	1.4%	4.2%	1.6%	11.5%

**Q12. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 11 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 4)**

N=400

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q12. Top choice (Cont.)**

Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	6.5%	8.1%	16.9%	12.0%	10.3%
Swimming pools (indoor)	24.4%	20.3%	14.1%	10.4%	17.0%
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	28.5%	23.0%	8.5%	7.2%	16.8%
Tennis courts	2.4%	10.8%	9.9%	7.2%	6.8%
Volleyball courts	4.1%	2.7%	4.2%	0.0%	2.5%
Walking & hiking trails	39.0%	51.4%	60.6%	56.0%	50.5%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%	0.5%
None chosen	4.1%	6.8%	12.7%	18.4%	11.5%

**Q13. How strongly do you support an additional tax levy to fund land acquisition, development, and repair of parks and facilities that are important to you and members of your household? (without "don't know")**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Strongly support	41.7%	24.3%	17.5%	16.2%	25.9%
Moderately support	44.3%	44.3%	47.6%	46.7%	45.1%
Moderately oppose	5.2%	12.9%	20.6%	12.4%	11.4%
Strongly oppose	8.7%	18.6%	14.3%	24.8%	17.5%



**Q14. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each recreation program category listed below.**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<b>Q14-1. Art, dance, performing arts (adult)</b>					
Yes	17.1%	17.6%	19.7%	15.2%	16.8%
No	82.9%	82.4%	80.3%	84.8%	83.3%
<b>Q14-2. Art, dance, performing arts (youth)</b>					
Yes	52.8%	24.3%	4.2%	4.0%	22.8%
No	47.2%	75.7%	95.8%	96.0%	77.3%
<b>Q14-3. Before &amp; after school programs</b>					
Yes	41.5%	8.1%	4.2%	3.2%	16.0%
No	58.5%	91.9%	95.8%	96.8%	84.0%
<b>Q14-4. Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs</b>					
Yes	27.6%	5.4%	7.0%	11.2%	14.3%
No	72.4%	94.6%	93.0%	88.8%	85.8%
<b>Q14-5. Concerts/art performances</b>					
Yes	46.3%	52.7%	54.9%	49.6%	49.3%
No	53.7%	47.3%	45.1%	50.4%	50.8%

**Q14. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each recreation program category listed below.**

N=400

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Q14-6. Fitness & wellness programs (adult)					
Yes	55.3%	43.2%	53.5%	42.4%	47.8%
No	44.7%	56.8%	46.5%	57.6%	52.3%
Q14-7. Fitness & wellness programs (youth)					
Yes	47.2%	32.4%	9.9%	4.0%	23.8%
No	52.8%	67.6%	90.1%	96.0%	76.3%
Q14-8. Martial arts programs					
Yes	22.0%	9.5%	4.2%	3.2%	10.3%
No	78.0%	90.5%	95.8%	96.8%	89.8%
Q14-9. Movies (outdoor)					
Yes	61.0%	36.5%	36.6%	18.4%	38.3%
No	39.0%	63.5%	63.4%	81.6%	61.8%
Q14-10. Nature programs					
Yes	57.7%	33.8%	35.2%	36.8%	42.0%
No	42.3%	66.2%	64.8%	63.2%	58.0%

**Q14. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each recreation program category listed below.**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<b>Q14-11. Pet exercise programs</b>					
Yes	8.9%	17.6%	18.3%	16.0%	14.3%
No	91.1%	82.4%	81.7%	84.0%	85.8%
<b>Q14-12. Preschool programs</b>					
Yes	30.9%	1.4%	5.6%	4.8%	12.3%
No	69.1%	98.6%	94.4%	95.2%	87.8%
<b>Q14-13. Programs for persons ages 50+</b>					
Yes	4.1%	16.2%	31.0%	52.0%	26.0%
No	95.9%	83.8%	69.0%	48.0%	74.0%
<b>Q14-14. Special events</b>					
Yes	45.5%	35.1%	31.0%	29.6%	35.5%
No	54.5%	64.9%	69.0%	70.4%	64.5%
<b>Q14-15. Special needs programs</b>					
Yes	4.9%	5.4%	5.6%	5.6%	5.5%
No	95.1%	94.6%	94.4%	94.4%	94.5%

**Q14. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each recreation program category listed below.**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<b>Q14-16. Sports programs (adult)</b>					
Yes	35.0%	24.3%	22.5%	14.4%	24.0%
No	65.0%	75.7%	77.5%	85.6%	76.0%
<b>Q14-17. Sports programs (youth)</b>					
Yes	75.6%	28.4%	7.0%	7.2%	32.3%
No	24.4%	71.6%	93.0%	92.8%	67.8%
<b>Q14-18. Summer camp programs (youth)</b>					
Yes	70.7%	21.6%	7.0%	5.6%	28.8%
No	29.3%	78.4%	93.0%	94.4%	71.3%
<b>Q14-19. Swim lessons</b>					
Yes	72.4%	17.6%	9.9%	7.2%	29.5%
No	27.6%	82.4%	90.1%	92.8%	70.5%
<b>Q14-20. Teen programs</b>					
Yes	21.1%	36.5%	1.4%	6.4%	15.5%
No	78.9%	63.5%	98.6%	93.6%	84.5%

**Q14. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each recreation program category listed below.**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<b>Q14-21. Water fitness programs</b>					
Yes	26.8%	23.0%	23.9%	26.4%	25.0%
No	73.2%	77.0%	76.1%	73.6%	75.0%
<b>Q14-22. Other</b>					
Yes	0.8%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	1.3%
No	99.2%	100.0%	94.4%	100.0%	98.8%



**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-1. Art, dance, performing arts (adult)**

100% met	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	6.7%	5.2%
75% met	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	5.2%
50% met	10.0%	8.3%	18.2%	20.0%	13.8%
25% met	10.0%	8.3%	9.1%	6.7%	8.6%
0% met	75.0%	66.7%	72.7%	53.3%	67.2%

**Q14-2. Art, dance, performing arts (youth)**

100% met	4.9%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%
75% met	8.2%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%
50% met	14.8%	26.7%	0.0%	33.3%	17.5%
25% met	23.0%	13.3%	0.0%	33.3%	21.3%
0% met	49.2%	33.3%	100.0%	33.3%	46.3%

**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-3. Before & after school programs**

100% met	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.4%
75% met	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%
50% met	25.0%	40.0%	0.0%	100.0%	27.8%
25% met	14.6%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.8%
0% met	39.6%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%	38.9%

**Q14-4. Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs**

100% met	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	10.0%	4.3%
50% met	22.6%	0.0%	100.0%	40.0%	28.3%
25% met	22.6%	66.7%	0.0%	20.0%	23.9%
0% met	54.8%	0.0%	0.0%	30.0%	43.5%

**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-5. Concerts/art performances**

100% met	1.9%	9.1%	3.6%	2.2%	3.8%
75% met	3.8%	9.1%	3.6%	10.9%	6.9%
50% met	17.3%	15.2%	17.9%	10.9%	15.1%
25% met	23.1%	21.2%	14.3%	30.4%	23.3%
0% met	53.8%	45.5%	60.7%	45.7%	50.9%

**Q14-6. Fitness & wellness programs (adult)**

100% met	3.2%	12.0%	3.3%	7.7%	5.8%
75% met	12.9%	4.0%	13.3%	2.6%	9.0%
50% met	12.9%	28.0%	23.3%	23.1%	19.9%
25% met	16.1%	12.0%	23.3%	23.1%	18.6%
0% met	54.8%	44.0%	36.7%	43.6%	46.8%

**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-7. Fitness & wellness programs (youth)**

100% met	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
75% met	9.4%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%
50% met	20.8%	30.0%	33.3%	0.0%	22.8%
25% met	17.0%	35.0%	33.3%	33.3%	22.8%
0% met	52.8%	20.0%	33.3%	66.7%	44.3%

**Q14-8. Martial arts programs**

100% met	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%
75% met	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%
50% met	16.7%	20.0%	100.0%	0.0%	18.2%
25% met	25.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%	24.2%
0% met	41.7%	40.0%	0.0%	100.0%	45.5%

**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-9. Movies (outdoor)**

100% met	7.1%	9.5%	5.6%	0.0%	6.5%
75% met	12.9%	14.3%	5.6%	7.1%	11.3%
50% met	17.1%	14.3%	16.7%	28.6%	18.5%
25% met	28.6%	19.0%	16.7%	28.6%	25.0%
0% met	34.3%	42.9%	55.6%	35.7%	38.7%

**Q14-10. Nature programs**

100% met	4.6%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%
75% met	16.9%	14.3%	25.0%	14.3%	17.0%
50% met	36.9%	19.0%	15.0%	40.0%	31.9%
25% met	15.4%	14.3%	35.0%	25.7%	20.6%
0% met	26.2%	42.9%	25.0%	20.0%	27.0%



**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-11. Pet exercise programs**

100% met	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%
75% met	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	2.4%
50% met	0.0%	33.3%	18.2%	27.3%	21.4%
25% met	37.5%	0.0%	18.2%	36.4%	21.4%
0% met	62.5%	50.0%	54.5%	36.4%	50.0%

**Q14-12. Preschool programs**

100% met	14.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%
75% met	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%
50% met	11.8%	0.0%	50.0%	66.7%	17.5%
25% met	14.7%	100.0%	50.0%	33.3%	20.0%
0% met	52.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	45.0%

**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-13. Programs for persons ages 50+**

100% met	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	2.2%	2.7%
75% met	0.0%	11.1%	5.9%	6.5%	6.7%
50% met	33.3%	11.1%	29.4%	26.1%	25.3%
25% met	33.3%	22.2%	23.5%	23.9%	24.0%
0% met	33.3%	55.6%	35.3%	41.3%	41.3%

**Q14-14. Special events**

100% met	2.0%	4.8%	5.9%	4.2%	3.6%
75% met	10.0%	14.3%	5.9%	4.2%	8.9%
50% met	38.0%	19.0%	5.9%	29.2%	27.7%
25% met	32.0%	23.8%	47.1%	25.0%	31.3%
0% met	18.0%	38.1%	35.3%	37.5%	28.6%

**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-15. Special needs programs**

100% met	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%
50% met	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	66.7%	21.4%
25% met	20.0%	25.0%	100.0%	0.0%	28.6%
0% met	80.0%	25.0%	0.0%	33.3%	42.9%

**Q14-16. Sports programs (adult)**

100% met	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	4.9%
75% met	4.9%	6.7%	8.3%	0.0%	6.1%
50% met	17.1%	13.3%	25.0%	23.1%	18.3%
25% met	19.5%	20.0%	25.0%	38.5%	23.2%
0% met	51.2%	60.0%	41.7%	30.8%	47.6%

**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-17. Sports programs (youth)**

100% met	10.5%	18.8%	0.0%	25.0%	11.8%
75% met	27.9%	37.5%	0.0%	25.0%	29.1%
50% met	27.9%	12.5%	33.3%	0.0%	24.5%
25% met	10.5%	18.8%	33.3%	50.0%	13.6%
0% met	23.3%	12.5%	33.3%	0.0%	20.9%

**Q14-18. Summer camp programs (youth)**

100% met	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%
75% met	18.8%	15.4%	0.0%	20.0%	17.8%
50% met	18.8%	15.4%	0.0%	40.0%	18.8%
25% met	16.3%	53.8%	33.3%	20.0%	21.8%
0% met	38.8%	15.4%	66.7%	20.0%	35.6%

**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-19. Swim lessons**

100% met	8.5%	18.2%	0.0%	33.3%	10.7%
75% met	11.0%	18.2%	25.0%	16.7%	12.6%
50% met	24.4%	36.4%	25.0%	16.7%	25.2%
25% met	24.4%	0.0%	50.0%	16.7%	22.3%
0% met	31.7%	27.3%	0.0%	16.7%	29.1%

**Q14-20. Teen programs**

100% met	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	25.0%	4.2%
75% met	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%
50% met	17.4%	20.0%	100.0%	50.0%	22.9%
25% met	26.1%	20.0%	0.0%	25.0%	22.9%
0% met	47.8%	55.0%	0.0%	0.0%	45.8%



**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

N=325

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

**Q14-21. Water fitness programs**

100% met	3.3%	15.4%	0.0%	11.1%	6.8%
75% met	0.0%	7.7%	7.7%	0.0%	2.7%
50% met	13.3%	7.7%	23.1%	22.2%	16.2%
25% met	30.0%	15.4%	7.7%	22.2%	21.6%
0% met	53.3%	53.8%	61.5%	44.4%	52.7%

**Q14-22. Other**

50% met	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	20.0%
0% met	100.0%	0.0%	75.0%	0.0%	80.0%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q15. Which three program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q15. Top choice</u>					
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	5.7%	8.1%	4.2%	5.6%	5.8%
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	13.0%	10.8%	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%
Before & after school programs	17.1%	1.4%	1.4%	0.0%	6.0%
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	5.7%	1.4%	2.8%	4.8%	4.0%
Concerts/art performances	10.6%	29.7%	38.0%	32.8%	25.8%
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	13.0%	21.6%	29.6%	23.2%	20.5%
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	8.1%	13.5%	1.4%	0.8%	5.5%
Martial arts programs	4.1%	1.4%	0.0%	1.6%	2.0%
Movies (outdoor)	13.8%	12.2%	16.9%	8.8%	12.3%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES - CONTINUED****Q15. Which three program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q15. Top choice (Cont.)</u>					
Nature programs	15.4%	13.5%	23.9%	24.0%	19.0%
Pet exercise programs	2.4%	4.1%	12.7%	5.6%	5.5%
Preschool programs	9.8%	0.0%	1.4%	3.2%	4.3%
Programs for persons ages 50+	1.6%	6.8%	16.9%	34.4%	15.5%
Special events	8.9%	10.8%	9.9%	6.4%	8.8%
Special needs programs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	0.8%
Sports programs (adult)	6.5%	10.8%	12.7%	5.6%	8.0%
Sports programs (youth)	40.7%	12.2%	1.4%	1.6%	15.5%
Summer camp programs (youth)	30.1%	8.1%	0.0%	1.6%	11.3%
Swim lessons	34.1%	2.7%	2.8%	1.6%	12.0%
Teen programs	4.1%	20.3%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%
Water fitness programs	3.3%	8.1%	7.0%	12.0%	7.5%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES - CONTINUED****Q15. Which three program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 3)**

N=400

Household Type				Total
HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	

Q15. Top choice (Cont.)

Other	0.8%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	1.3%
None chosen	10.6%	21.6%	26.8%	34.4%	24.3%

**Q15a. For your MOST IMPORTANT program category (1st in Question 15), is there a specific program would you like to see offered or expanded?**

N=303	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Yes	45.5%	32.8%	38.5%	43.9%	41.3%
No	54.5%	67.2%	61.5%	56.1%	58.7%



**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q16. Which three program categories from Question 14 do you currently PARTICIPATE in MOST OFTEN? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q16. Top choice</u>					
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	2.4%	4.1%	1.4%	4.8%	3.3%
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	3.3%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Before & after school programs	6.5%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	1.5%
Concerts/art performances	0.8%	9.5%	18.3%	11.2%	8.8%
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	14.6%	18.9%	18.3%	11.2%	14.8%
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	7.3%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
Martial arts programs	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.5%
Movies (outdoor)	4.1%	4.1%	7.0%	0.8%	3.5%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES - CONTINUED****Q16. Which three program categories from Question 14 do you currently PARTICIPATE in MOST OFTEN? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q16. Top choice (Cont.)</u>					
Nature programs	13.8%	14.9%	14.1%	12.0%	13.3%
Pet exercise programs	0.8%	4.1%	1.4%	2.4%	2.0%
Preschool programs	8.1%	0.0%	1.4%	1.6%	3.3%
Programs for persons ages 50+	0.0%	0.0%	11.3%	11.2%	5.5%
Special events	4.9%	6.8%	7.0%	4.8%	5.8%
Special needs programs	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.5%
Sports programs (adult)	2.4%	2.7%	5.6%	3.2%	3.5%
Sports programs (youth)	37.4%	18.9%	1.4%	0.8%	15.5%
Summer camp programs (youth)	19.5%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.8%
Swim lessons	14.6%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%	5.5%
Teen programs	0.8%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Water fitness programs	2.4%	1.4%	4.2%	7.2%	4.0%
Other	0.8%	0.0%	8.5%	0.0%	2.0%
None chosen	42.3%	48.6%	56.3%	66.4%	54.0%

**Q18. Please CHECK ALL the ways you learn about facilities, programs, activities, or events.**

N=400	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
Churches	9.8%	9.5%	4.2%	6.4%	7.5%
Orange Township website	47.2%	28.4%	39.4%	40.8%	39.5%
Email notifications	43.9%	47.3%	21.1%	36.0%	37.5%
Newspaper	12.2%	10.8%	16.9%	26.4%	17.5%
Park kiosk/bulletin board	16.3%	12.2%	8.5%	11.2%	12.3%
Parks & Recreation flyers/banners	29.3%	27.0%	29.6%	17.6%	25.0%
Township newsletter	65.0%	60.8%	57.7%	71.2%	64.0%
Radio/television	8.1%	13.5%	9.9%	14.4%	11.3%
School communications	43.1%	28.4%	0.0%	1.6%	19.0%
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	61.0%	54.1%	39.4%	20.0%	42.0%
Visit or call a Township office	0.8%	4.1%	4.2%	2.4%	2.5%
Word of mouth	76.4%	58.1%	46.5%	42.4%	55.8%
Youth sports organization	32.5%	14.9%	0.0%	2.4%	13.5%
Other	4.9%	4.1%	7.0%	0.8%	3.8%

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q19. Which THREE ways listed in Question 18 do you prefer? (top 3)**

N=400

	Household Type				Total
	HHs with Children Under 10 years	HHs with Children Ages 10-19 years	HHs with no Children Ages 20-54 years	HHs with no Children Ages 55 years or older	
<u>Q19. Top choice</u>					
Churches	0.8%	0.0%	2.8%	1.6%	1.3%
Orange Township website	29.3%	23.0%	22.5%	32.0%	27.3%
Email notifications	56.1%	45.9%	29.6%	38.4%	43.3%
Newspaper	5.7%	1.4%	11.3%	18.4%	10.0%
Park kiosk/bulletin board	5.7%	2.7%	2.8%	6.4%	4.8%
Parks & Recreation flyers/banners	9.8%	12.2%	18.3%	12.0%	12.3%
Township newsletter	48.8%	55.4%	54.9%	60.8%	54.3%
Radio/television	1.6%	4.1%	9.9%	8.8%	5.8%
School communications	16.3%	14.9%	0.0%	0.8%	8.0%
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	53.7%	45.9%	28.2%	14.4%	34.5%
Visit or call a Township office	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Word of mouth	15.4%	23.0%	18.3%	13.6%	16.5%
Youth sports organization	6.5%	5.4%	0.0%	0.8%	3.3%
Other	3.3%	4.1%	5.6%	0.8%	3.0%
None chosen	6.5%	10.8%	16.9%	18.4%	14.0%





# 5

## Tabular Data of Overall Results



**Q1. Have you or a member of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by Orange Township in the past 2 years?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	344	86.0 %
No	56	14.0 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**EXCLUDING DON'T KNOWS****Q1a. How often did you or any member of your household visit during the PAST YEAR? (without "don't know")**

	Number	Percent
1 to 5 visits	89	26.9 %
6 to 10 visits	48	14.5 %
11 to 19 visits	50	15.1 %
20+ visits	144	43.5 %
Total	331	100.0 %

**EXCLUDING DON'T KNOWS****Q1b. How would you rate their condition? (without "don't know")**

	Number	Percent
Excellent	123	38.0 %
Good	187	57.7 %
Fair	13	4.0 %
Poor	1	0.3 %
Total	324	100.0 %

**Q2. Please CHECK ALL parks and recreation facilities in Orange Township you or a member of your household visited in the PAST 2 YEARS.**

	Number	Percent
Glen Oak Park	115	28.8 %
North Orange Park	187	46.8 %
Aquatic Center at North Orange Park	122	30.5 %
North Road Park	44	11.0 %
Orange Bridge Park	51	12.8 %
Ro Park	124	31.0 %
Township Hall Park	120	30.0 %
Walker Wood Park	83	20.8 %
Alum Creek State Park	260	65.0 %
Highbanks Metro Park	290	72.5 %
Shale Hollow Park	181	45.3 %
Other	16	4.0 %
Total	1593	

**Q2-12. Other**

	Number	Percent
Char-Mar	3	18.8 %
Out of Township	1	6.3 %
Char-Mar Ridge Preserve	1	6.3 %
RR bike trail	1	6.3 %
Harner Park, Mitso Park in Delaware	1	6.3 %
Char-Mar Ridge, Hogback Ridge	1	6.3 %
Irriswood	1	6.3 %
Delaware	1	6.3 %
Bike park	1	6.3 %
Orange Rd	1	6.3 %
Alum Creek Dog Park	1	6.3 %
Deer Haven, Seymour Woods	1	6.3 %
Preservation parks	1	6.3 %
Sharon Woods	1	6.3 %
Total	16	100.0 %

**Q3. Which THREE parks/facilities listed in Question 2 did you or a member of your household VISIT MOST?**

Q3. Top choice	Number	Percent
Glen Oak Park	20	5.0 %
North Orange Park	45	11.3 %
Aquatic Center at North Orange Park	16	4.0 %
North Road Park	6	1.5 %
Orange Bridge Park	4	1.0 %
Ro Park	18	4.5 %
Township Hall Park	25	6.3 %
Walker Wood Park	17	4.3 %
Alum Creek State Park	81	20.3 %
Highbanks Metro Park	83	20.8 %
Shale Hollow Park	19	4.8 %
Other	5	1.3 %
None chosen	61	15.3 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q3. Which THREE parks/facilities listed in Question 2 did you or a member of your household VISIT MOST?**

Q3. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Glen Oak Park	21	5.3 %
North Orange Park	37	9.3 %
Aquatic Center at North Orange Park	18	4.5 %
North Road Park	4	1.0 %
Orange Bridge Park	2	0.5 %
Ro Park	26	6.5 %
Township Hall Park	21	5.3 %
Walker Wood Park	16	4.0 %
Alum Creek State Park	64	16.0 %
Highbanks Metro Park	76	19.0 %
Shale Hollow Park	27	6.8 %
Other	1	0.3 %
None chosen	87	21.8 %
Total	400	100.0 %



**Q3. Which THREE parks/facilities listed in Question 2 did you or a member of your household VISIT MOST?**

<u>Q3. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Glen Oak Park	11	2.8 %
North Orange Park	36	9.0 %
Aquatic Center at North Orange Park	24	6.0 %
North Road Park	6	1.5 %
Orange Bridge Park	4	1.0 %
Ro Park	26	6.5 %
Township Hall Park	19	4.8 %
Walker Wood Park	12	3.0 %
Alum Creek State Park	32	8.0 %
Highbanks Metro Park	50	12.5 %
Shale Hollow Park	48	12.0 %
Other	6	1.5 %
None chosen	126	31.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q3. Which THREE parks/facilities listed in Question 2 did you or a member of your household VISIT MOST? (Top 3)**

<u>Q3. Sum of the top three choices</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Glen Oak Park	52	13.0 %
North Orange Park	118	29.5 %
Aquatic Center at North Orange Park	58	14.5 %
North Road Park	16	4.0 %
Orange Bridge Park	10	2.5 %
Ro Park	70	17.5 %
Township Hall Park	65	16.3 %
Walker Wood Park	45	11.3 %
Alum Creek State Park	177	44.3 %
Highbanks Metro Park	209	52.3 %
Shale Hollow Park	94	23.5 %
Other	12	3.0 %
None chosen	61	15.3 %
Total	987	

**Q4. Please CHECK ALL organizations you or any member of your household use for parks and recreation activities.**

	Number	Percent
Orange Township Parks Department	144	36.0 %
Olentangy local schools	149	37.3 %
Columbus & Franklin County Metro parks	167	41.8 %
Preservation parks of Delaware County	115	28.8 %
Ohio State parks	123	30.8 %
Homeowners association (HOA) facilities	68	17.0 %
Private schools	10	2.5 %
Private youth sports leagues	83	20.8 %
Churches	67	16.8 %
YMCA	14	3.5 %
Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)	41	10.3 %
Country clubs/golf courses	45	11.3 %
Neighboring cities	47	11.8 %
Other	14	3.5 %
None, do not use any organizations	77	19.3 %
Total	1164	

**Q4-13. Which neighboring cities:**

	Number	Percent
Westerville	11	28.9 %
Powell	3	7.9 %
Powell, Westerville	2	5.3 %
Powell, Westerville, Worthington	1	2.6 %
Delaware	1	2.6 %
Powell, Delaware	1	2.6 %
Westerville, Worthington	1	2.6 %
Westerville, Dublin, Upper Arlington, Columbus, Worthington	1	2.6 %
Worthington, Powell, Columbus	1	2.6 %
Westerville, Dublin	1	2.6 %
Westerville, Worthington, Delaware	1	2.6 %
Westerville, Powell, Columbus, Worthington	1	2.6 %
Columbus, Westerville	1	2.6 %
Hooking Hills	1	2.6 %
Powell, Columbus	1	2.6 %
Westerville, Sansberry, Columbus	1	2.6 %
Columbus	1	2.6 %
Worthington, Dublin, Westerville	1	2.6 %
Westerville, Powell, Columbus	1	2.6 %
Worthington Bike Trail South	1	2.6 %
Columbus Lazelle Woods	1	2.6 %
Worthington, New Albany	1	2.6 %
Westerville, Grandville	1	2.6 %
Dublin, Hilliard	1	2.6 %
Westerville, Columbus	1	2.6 %
Total	38	100.0 %

**Q4-14. Other**

	Number	Percent
CYP	1	7.1 %
Rails to trails and other bike paths	1	7.1 %
Yoga in the park	1	7.1 %
O'Shaunessy Reservoir	1	7.1 %
Franklin Conservatory	1	7.1 %
Personal use	1	7.1 %
MORPC	1	7.1 %
OYAA	1	7.1 %
Bike trails	1	7.1 %
MRTT	1	7.1 %
Source Point-Delaware Sewer Center	1	7.1 %
Denoa Township	1	7.1 %
Scouting	1	7.1 %
<u>Alum Creek Sailing Association</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7.1 %</u>
Total	14	100.0 %

**Q5. Please CHECK ALL upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Orange Township.**

	Number	Percent
Artificial turf fields	22	5.5 %
Baseball/softball diamonds	44	11.0 %
Basketball courts (outdoor)	47	11.8 %
Bike racks	59	14.8 %
Bike repair stations	33	8.3 %
Disc golf	51	12.8 %
Drinking fountains	86	21.5 %
Electric car charging stations	33	8.3 %
Fitness equipment (outdoor)	66	16.5 %
Handicap accessibility	41	10.3 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.)	72	18.0 %
Parking	73	18.3 %
Permanent outdoor games (ping-pong, cornhole)	68	17.0 %
Pickleball courts (outdoor)	71	17.8 %
Picnic shelters	105	26.3 %
Playground equipment	113	28.3 %
Pond improvements	69	17.3 %
Restrooms	182	45.5 %
Security cameras & lighting	104	26.0 %
Shade structures	114	28.5 %
Sidewalks	103	25.8 %
Signage	26	6.5 %
Sports fields lighting	27	6.8 %
Tennis courts (outdoor)	73	18.3 %
Trail lighting	72	18.0 %
Trails-bike	180	45.0 %
Trails-walking/hiking	242	60.5 %
Trees & landscaping	94	23.5 %
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	45	11.3 %
Wi-Fi hotspots	77	19.3 %
Other	31	7.8 %
Total	2423	

**Q5-31. Other**

	Number	Percent
Splash pad	3	9.7 %
Dog park	1	3.2 %
Highbanks-Olentangy Trail Connector	1	3.2 %
Basketball court	1	3.2 %
Connect trails over RR at Orange Rd	1	3.2 %
Roller Hockey Rink	1	3.2 %
Pools	1	3.2 %
Patrol for motorbikes on bike paths	1	3.2 %
Eradicate non-native plants such as honeysuckles and Autumn Olives	1	3.2 %
Extend to Olentangy Meadows Elementary	1	3.2 %
RC airplane flying site	1	3.2 %
Security presence	1	3.2 %
Maintain what we have	1	3.2 %
Natural play areas	1	3.2 %
Keep pedestrians off the streets	1	3.2 %
Bike paths	1	3.2 %
Indoor badminton	1	3.2 %
Swings-Walker Wood	1	3.2 %
Leave natural without man made upgrades	1	3.2 %
Preserved natural features	1	3.2 %
Lockers at Orange Pool for keys and wallets	1	3.2 %
Dog areas with fences	1	3.2 %
Ninja obstacles	1	3.2 %
Connect Glen Oak Walking Trail near train track to Evan Farms for biking	1	3.2 %
Recycling, no littering, keep trees	1	3.2 %
Trees	1	3.2 %
Security/lighting Alum Creek Dog Park	1	3.2 %
No rocks at playgrounds	1	3.2 %
<u>Dirt bike/motocross tracks</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3.2 %</u>
Total	31	100.0 %



**Q6. Which THREE upgrades listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT?**

<u>Q6. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Artificial turf fields	5	1.3 %
Baseball/softball diamonds	5	1.3 %
Basketball courts (outdoor)	5	1.3 %
Bike racks	1	0.3 %
Disc golf	5	1.3 %
Drinking fountains	3	0.8 %
Fitness equipment (outdoor)	3	0.8 %
Handicap accessibility	6	1.5 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.)	8	2.0 %
Parking	13	3.3 %
Permanent outdoor games (ping-pong, cornhole)	2	0.5 %
Pickleball courts (outdoor)	12	3.0 %
Picnic shelters	13	3.3 %
Playground equipment	28	7.0 %
Pond improvements	7	1.8 %
Restrooms	27	6.8 %
Security cameras & lighting	18	4.5 %
Shade structures	7	1.8 %
Sidewalks	7	1.8 %
Tennis courts (outdoor)	9	2.3 %
Trail lighting	3	0.8 %
Trails-bike	57	14.3 %
Trails-walking/hiking	68	17.0 %
Trees & landscaping	5	1.3 %
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	3	0.8 %
Wi-Fi hotspots	7	1.8 %
Other	17	4.3 %
None chosen	56	14.0 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q6. Which THREE upgrades listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT?**

Q6. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Artificial turf fields	4	1.0 %
Baseball/softball diamonds	4	1.0 %
Basketball courts (outdoor)	3	0.8 %
Bike racks	2	0.5 %
Bike repair stations	2	0.5 %
Disc golf	9	2.3 %
Drinking fountains	10	2.5 %
Electric car charging stations	2	0.5 %
Fitness equipment (outdoor)	8	2.0 %
Handicap accessibility	3	0.8 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.)	9	2.3 %
Parking	9	2.3 %
Permanent outdoor games (ping-pong, cornhole)	4	1.0 %
Pickleball courts (outdoor)	12	3.0 %
Picnic shelters	6	1.5 %
Playground equipment	25	6.3 %
Pond improvements	6	1.5 %
Restrooms	43	10.8 %
Security cameras & lighting	9	2.3 %
Shade structures	14	3.5 %
Sidewalks	10	2.5 %
Signage	2	0.5 %
Sports fields lighting	3	0.8 %
Tennis courts (outdoor)	10	2.5 %
Trail lighting	6	1.5 %
Trails-bike	34	8.5 %
Trails-walking/hiking	53	13.3 %
Trees & landscaping	8	2.0 %
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	3	0.8 %
Wi-Fi hotspots	7	1.8 %
Other	1	0.3 %
None chosen	79	19.8 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q6. Which THREE upgrades listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT?**

Q6. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Artificial turf fields	1	0.3 %
Baseball/softball diamonds	6	1.5 %
Basketball courts (outdoor)	5	1.3 %
Bike racks	3	0.8 %
Bike repair stations	1	0.3 %
Disc golf	7	1.8 %
Drinking fountains	12	3.0 %
Electric car charging stations	4	1.0 %
Fitness equipment (outdoor)	10	2.5 %
Handicap accessibility	6	1.5 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.)	9	2.3 %
Parking	5	1.3 %
Permanent outdoor games (ping-pong, cornhole)	11	2.8 %
Pickleball courts (outdoor)	9	2.3 %
Picnic shelters	16	4.0 %
Playground equipment	10	2.5 %
Pond improvements	7	1.8 %
Restrooms	23	5.8 %
Security cameras & lighting	15	3.8 %
Shade structures	14	3.5 %
Sidewalks	9	2.3 %
Signage	1	0.3 %
Sports fields lighting	4	1.0 %
Tennis courts (outdoor)	8	2.0 %
Trail lighting	10	2.5 %
Trails-bike	16	4.0 %
Trails-walking/hiking	41	10.3 %
Trees & landscaping	15	3.8 %
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	5	1.3 %
Wi-Fi hotspots	9	2.3 %
Other	2	0.5 %
None chosen	106	26.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q6. Which THREE upgrades listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT? (Top 3)**

Q6. Sum of the top three choices	Number	Percent
Artificial turf fields	10	2.5 %
Baseball/softball diamonds	15	3.8 %
Basketball courts (outdoor)	13	3.3 %
Bike racks	6	1.5 %
Bike repair stations	3	0.8 %
Disc golf	21	5.3 %
Drinking fountains	25	6.3 %
Electric car charging stations	6	1.5 %
Fitness equipment (outdoor)	21	5.3 %
Handicap accessibility	15	3.8 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.)	26	6.5 %
Parking	27	6.8 %
Permanent outdoor games (ping-pong, cornhole)	17	4.3 %
Pickleball courts (outdoor)	33	8.3 %
Picnic shelters	35	8.8 %
Playground equipment	63	15.8 %
Pond improvements	20	5.0 %
Restrooms	93	23.3 %
Security cameras & lighting	42	10.5 %
Shade structures	35	8.8 %
Sidewalks	26	6.5 %
Signage	3	0.8 %
Sports fields lighting	7	1.8 %
Tennis courts (outdoor)	27	6.8 %
Trail lighting	19	4.8 %
Trails-bike	107	26.8 %
Trails-walking/hiking	162	40.5 %
Trees & landscaping	28	7.0 %
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	11	2.8 %
Wi-Fi hotspots	23	5.8 %
Other	20	5.0 %
None chosen	56	14.0 %
Total	1015	

**Q7. Please indicate how supportive you are of actions Orange Township could take to improve Parks and Recreation.**

(N=400)

	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
Q7-1. Acquire & preserve open space & natural areas	62.8%	21.0%	7.3%	9.0%
Q7-2. Acquire land to develop parks & recreational facilities	49.0%	28.0%	12.8%	10.3%
Q7-3. Upgrade existing parks & facilities	51.0%	32.3%	5.5%	11.3%
Q7-4. Upgrade existing/add new athletic fields	29.3%	34.5%	18.8%	17.5%
Q7-5. Add lighting at existing athletic fields	23.8%	30.3%	26.3%	19.8%
Q7-6. Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	39.8%	32.3%	13.8%	14.3%
Q7-7. Develop new recreation trails & connecting existing trails	67.3%	18.0%	5.8%	9.0%
Q7-8. Develop an indoor recreation/ community center	37.3%	25.3%	21.3%	16.3%
Q7-9. Provide programs	27.5%	34.5%	13.3%	24.8%
Q7-10. Provide community events	32.3%	35.5%	11.0%	21.3%
Q7-11. Other	92.3%	3.8%	3.8%	0.0%

**Q7-11. Other**

	Number	Percent
Need to work w/RR on Orange to address bike path or lack thereof	1	3.8 %
Community center with swimming pool	1	3.8 %
Add pickleball to existing parks	1	3.8 %
Pools, they are grossly overcrowded	1	3.8 %
Preserve historic homes and farms	1	3.8 %
Outdoor music events	1	3.8 %
Offer free/sign up space for fitness/yoga/martial art classes	1	3.8 %
Secure hunting in exclusive areas	1	3.8 %
Maintain what we have	1	3.8 %
Community center	1	3.8 %
Bike paths	1	3.8 %
Promote natural areas/preservation	1	3.8 %
Bike walks/trails north of Orange Rd (Old State)	1	3.8 %
We need pickleball courts	1	3.8 %
Pickleball courts	1	3.8 %
Create dog parks	1	3.8 %
Connect bike trails to Evans Farm	1	3.8 %
Safe ways to walk or bike to parks. Pool is way overcrowded	1	3.8 %
Retiree meeting place	1	3.8 %
Connect neighborhoods with paths/walking/bike	1	3.8 %
Connection of bike paths in between areas using a bike trail	1	3.8 %
A new pool	1	3.8 %
No more taxes	1	3.8 %
Like Powell Parks and Rec	1	3.8 %
Holiday events	1	3.8 %
Add a splash pad	1	3.8 %
Total	26	100.0 %



**Q8. Which THREE actions listed in Question 7 are MOST IMPORTANT?**

<u>Q8. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Acquire & preserve open space & natural areas	80	20.0 %
Acquire land to develop parks & recreational facilities	13	3.3 %
Upgrade existing parks & facilities	47	11.8 %
Upgrade existing/add new athletic fields	14	3.5 %
Add lighting at existing athletic fields	5	1.3 %
Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	11	2.8 %
Develop new recreation trails & connecting existing trails	97	24.3 %
Develop an indoor recreation/community center	50	12.5 %
Provide programs	9	2.3 %
Provide community events	15	3.8 %
Other	14	3.5 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>11.3 %</u>
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q8. Which THREE actions listed in Question 7 are MOST IMPORTANT?**

<u>Q8. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Acquire & preserve open space & natural areas	44	11.0 %
Acquire land to develop parks & recreational facilities	43	10.8 %
Upgrade existing parks & facilities	43	10.8 %
Upgrade existing/add new athletic fields	29	7.3 %
Add lighting at existing athletic fields	6	1.5 %
Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	20	5.0 %
Develop new recreation trails & connecting existing trails	61	15.3 %
Develop an indoor recreation/community center	45	11.3 %
Provide programs	26	6.5 %
Provide community events	19	4.8 %
Other	2	0.5 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>15.5 %</u>
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q8. Which THREE actions listed in Question 7 are MOST IMPORTANT?**

<u>Q8. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Acquire & preserve open space & natural areas	48	12.0 %
Acquire land to develop parks & recreational facilities	42	10.5 %
Upgrade existing parks & facilities	42	10.5 %
Upgrade existing/add new athletic fields	18	4.5 %
Add lighting at existing athletic fields	10	2.5 %
Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	31	7.8 %
Develop new recreation trails & connecting existing trails	47	11.8 %
Develop an indoor recreation/community center	23	5.8 %
Provide programs	22	5.5 %
Provide community events	25	6.3 %
Other	2	0.5 %
None chosen	90	22.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q8. Which THREE actions listed in Question 7 are MOST IMPORTANT? (Top 3)**

<u>Q8. Sum of the top three choices</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Acquire & preserve open space & natural areas	172	43.0 %
Acquire land to develop parks & recreational facilities	98	24.5 %
Upgrade existing parks & facilities	132	33.0 %
Upgrade existing/add new athletic fields	61	15.3 %
Add lighting at existing athletic fields	21	5.3 %
Develop new outdoor parks & recreation facilities	62	15.5 %
Develop new recreation trails & connecting existing trails	205	51.3 %
Develop an indoor recreation/community center	118	29.5 %
Provide programs	57	14.3 %
Provide community events	59	14.8 %
Other	18	4.5 %
None chosen	45	11.3 %
Total	1048	

**EXCLUDING DON'T KNOWS**

**Q9a. Township Hall Pond. Please select your preferred option to improve the Township Hall pond. (without "don't know")**

	Number	Percent
Short-term solution with lower but potentially recurring cost	43	11.4 %
Long-term solution with higher but one-time cost	175	46.3 %
Create a wetland to replace pond, lower cost but pond is eliminated	160	42.3 %
Total	378	100.0 %

**EXCLUDING DON'T KNOWS**

**Q9b. North Orange Park Ponds. Please select your preferred option to improve the North Orange Park ponds. (without "don't know")**

	Number	Percent
Short-term solution with lower but potentially recurring cost	75	20.4 %
Long-term solution with medium cost but playing fields will be unavailable for one year	202	55.0 %
Long-term solution with highest cost but no loss of playing fields	90	24.5 %
Total	367	100.0 %

**Q10. Please CHECK ALL items that keep you or any member of your household from using the parks, recreation facilities, trails, and events of Orange Township more often.**

	Number	Percent
Availability of parking	36	9.0 %
Class full	8	2.0 %
Do not have time	86	21.5 %
Do not know what is offered	155	38.8 %
Facility or program not offered	52	13.0 %
Fees are too high	14	3.5 %
No transportation	1	0.3 %
Not comfortable/not meeting needs	19	4.8 %
Not interested	26	6.5 %
Personal disability	11	2.8 %
Poor condition of facilities	15	3.8 %
Security or safety concerns	20	5.0 %
Too far from our home	32	8.0 %
Use other agencies' facilities	41	10.3 %
Other	44	11.0 %
None	84	21.0 %
Total	644	

### **Q10-16. Other**

- A restroom or Port O Jonny at Walker Wood Park would be helpful.
- Access to trails.
- Bike trail needs to connect over the railroad tracks (e.g., orange road)!
- Cannot safely ride bike there.
- Closed due to COVID.
- Columbus and Franklin metro forks are better.
- Connect to paths from the shores safely. Biking and walking need this!
- COVID-19.
- COVID-19.
- COVID-19.
- COVID-19.
- COVID and new to the area.
- Crowded.
- Crowding at playgrounds.
- Must drive.
- Length and beauty. Shade of walking trails.
- Like to use a lot of different parks and activities.
- My neighborhood is not connected to parks.
- Need to connect bike trails.
- No attached sidewalks.
- No bathroom.
- No bathrooms at parks.
- No pickleball courts.
- No trail on north side of East Powell Road.
- North Orange Park ponds are a favorite (and convenient) place for our family to fish. It is frustrating when the ponds are not maintained to keep the toxic algae blooms and other pond issues under control.
- Not familiar with any of them except the pool.
- Not many activities are offered.
- Not very many, if any, organized community events.
- Nothing is connected. We need a master plan.
- Only certain sports clubs are granted access.
- Only semi live here. Time limited.
- Overcrowded and too commercial.
- Pandemic.
- Pandemic.
- Parks are not accessible by bicycle easily from other areas without making dangerous road or train track crossings.
- Pickle ball courts are in short supply.
- Safety.
- Safety of my pets.
- Tick infestation at Shale Hollow Park.
- Too many busy roads to get to bike paths.
- Trails do not connect to our neighborhood.
- Use high banks-it is not enough.
- Use less now that kids are older.
- Weather conditions

**Q11. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each of the facilities listed below.**

(N=400)

	Yes	No
Q11-1. Baseball & softball diamonds	18.0%	82.0%
Q11-2. Basketball courts (outdoor)	18.0%	82.0%
Q11-3. Community gardens	28.5%	71.5%
Q11-4. Community/recreation centers	49.5%	50.5%
Q11-5. Disc golf courses	20.0%	80.0%
Q11-6. Dog parks (off-leash)	29.5%	70.5%
Q11-7. Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)	27.0%	73.0%
Q11-8. Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	21.0%	79.0%
Q11-9. Large community parks	50.0%	50.0%
Q11-10. Mountain bike trails	26.5%	73.5%
Q11-11. Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)	25.5%	74.5%
Q11-12. Natural areas/nature parks	71.5%	28.5%
Q11-13. Paved bike trails	63.0%	37.0%
Q11-14. Pickleball courts	19.5%	80.5%
Q11-15. Picnic shelters/picnic areas	51.3%	48.8%
Q11-16. Playgrounds	46.5%	53.5%
Q11-17. Pump track/BMX course	7.5%	92.5%
Q11-18. Senior center	18.0%	82.0%
Q11-19. Skateboarding area	8.0%	92.0%
Q11-20. Small neighborhood parks	49.3%	50.8%
Q11-21. Spray grounds/splash pads	31.5%	68.5%
Q11-22. Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	30.5%	69.5%
Q11-23. Swimming pools (indoor)	42.3%	57.8%
Q11-24. Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	47.3%	52.8%
Q11-25. Tennis courts	27.5%	72.5%
Q11-26. Volleyball courts	15.8%	84.3%
Q11-27. Walking & hiking trails	81.0%	19.0%
Q11-28. Other	1.5%	98.5%



**Q11. If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

(N=377)

	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
Q11-1. Baseball & softball diamonds	21.4%	27.1%	28.6%	11.4%	11.4%
Q11-2. Basketball courts (outdoor)	11.3%	29.0%	25.8%	25.8%	8.1%
Q11-3. Community gardens	7.1%	13.1%	23.2%	19.2%	37.4%
Q11-4. Community/recreation centers	6.9%	8.6%	14.9%	17.2%	52.3%
Q11-5. Disc golf courses	3.0%	9.1%	15.2%	24.2%	48.5%
Q11-6. Dog parks (off-leash)	9.6%	14.4%	27.9%	18.3%	29.8%
Q11-7. Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)	8.8%	6.6%	25.3%	18.7%	40.7%
Q11-8. Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	4.0%	6.7%	16.0%	16.0%	57.3%
Q11-9. Large community parks	24.7%	37.9%	29.3%	5.2%	2.9%
Q11-10. Mountain bike trails	12.9%	21.5%	16.1%	29.0%	20.4%
Q11-11. Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)	24.4%	35.6%	24.4%	7.8%	7.8%
Q11-12. Natural areas/nature parks	24.4%	36.8%	26.0%	9.2%	3.6%
Q11-13. Paved bike trails	10.5%	23.2%	34.2%	22.4%	9.6%
Q11-14. Pickleball courts	3.0%	6.0%	4.5%	22.4%	64.2%
Q11-15. Picnic shelters/picnic areas	23.2%	38.7%	30.9%	7.2%	0.0%
Q11-16. Playgrounds	28.1%	40.7%	24.0%	6.0%	1.2%
Q11-17. Pump track/BMX course	4.2%	4.2%	12.5%	25.0%	54.2%
Q11-18. Senior center	7.0%	7.0%	22.8%	19.3%	43.9%
Q11-19. Skateboarding area	3.7%	11.1%	18.5%	25.9%	40.7%
Q11-20. Small neighborhood parks	20.6%	27.1%	26.5%	15.3%	10.6%
Q11-21. Spray grounds/splash pads	7.3%	3.6%	13.6%	27.3%	48.2%
Q11-22. Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	5.0%	7.0%	12.0%	14.0%	62.0%
Q11-23. Swimming pools (indoor)	11.4%	6.0%	13.4%	13.4%	55.7%
Q11-24. Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	28.0%	25.6%	25.0%	11.9%	9.5%
Q11-25. Tennis courts	4.0%	12.9%	24.8%	23.8%	34.7%
Q11-26. Volleyball courts	1.8%	10.5%	17.5%	14.0%	56.1%
Q11-27. Walking & hiking trails	21.0%	30.3%	34.8%	11.0%	2.8%
Q11-28. Other	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	50.0%

**Q11-28. Other**

	Number	Percent
Fishing pond	1	16.7 %
Ponds, birding habitats, wetlands, nature preserve	1	16.7 %
Large fishing ponds/boat rentals	1	16.7 %
Fishing areas	1	16.7 %
Outdoor yoga	1	16.7 %
<u>Connect Shale Hollow to Orange Park</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>16.7 %</u>
Total	6	100.0 %

**Q12. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 11 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

Q12. Top choice	Number	Percent
Baseball & softball diamonds	6	1.5 %
Basketball courts (outdoor)	2	0.5 %
Community gardens	7	1.8 %
Community/recreation centers	27	6.8 %
Disc golf courses	4	1.0 %
Dog parks (off-leash)	11	2.8 %
Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)	4	1.0 %
Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	2	0.5 %
Large community parks	7	1.8 %
Mountain bike trails	1	0.3 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)	13	3.3 %
Natural areas/nature parks	25	6.3 %
Paved bike trails	49	12.3 %
Pickleball courts	9	2.3 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	2	0.5 %
Playgrounds	21	5.3 %
Pump track/BMX course	1	0.3 %
Senior center	13	3.3 %
Small neighborhood parks	6	1.5 %
Spray grounds/splash pads	7	1.8 %
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	5	1.3 %
Swimming pools (indoor)	15	3.8 %
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	16	4.0 %
Tennis courts	5	1.3 %
Volleyball courts	2	0.5 %
Walking & hiking trails	92	23.0 %
Other	2	0.5 %
None chosen	46	11.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q12. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 11 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

Q12. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Baseball & softball diamonds	8	2.0 %
Basketball courts (outdoor)	2	0.5 %
Community gardens	7	1.8 %
Community/recreation centers	17	4.3 %
Disc golf courses	3	0.8 %
Dog parks (off-leash)	9	2.3 %
Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)	6	1.5 %
Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	5	1.3 %
Large community parks	10	2.5 %
Mountain bike trails	11	2.8 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)	5	1.3 %
Natural areas/nature parks	32	8.0 %
Paved bike trails	38	9.5 %
Pickleball courts	6	1.5 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	12	3.0 %
Playgrounds	24	6.0 %
Pump track/BMX course	1	0.3 %
Senior center	6	1.5 %
Skateboarding area	2	0.5 %
Small neighborhood parks	14	3.5 %
Spray grounds/splash pads	19	4.8 %
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	8	2.0 %
Swimming pools (indoor)	23	5.8 %
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	20	5.0 %
Tennis courts	8	2.0 %
Volleyball courts	2	0.5 %
Walking & hiking trails	46	11.5 %
None chosen	56	14.0 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q12. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 11 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

Q12. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Baseball & softball diamonds	2	0.5 %
Community gardens	9	2.3 %
Community/recreation centers	16	4.0 %
Disc golf courses	5	1.3 %
Dog parks (off-leash)	10	2.5 %
Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)	7	1.8 %
Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	3	0.8 %
Large community parks	16	4.0 %
Mountain bike trails	5	1.3 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)	8	2.0 %
Natural areas/nature parks	43	10.8 %
Paved bike trails	30	7.5 %
Pickleball courts	9	2.3 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	15	3.8 %
Playgrounds	17	4.3 %
Pump track/BMX course	1	0.3 %
Senior center	7	1.8 %
Skateboarding area	2	0.5 %
Small neighborhood parks	14	3.5 %
Spray grounds/splash pads	14	3.5 %
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	13	3.3 %
Swimming pools (indoor)	16	4.0 %
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	23	5.8 %
Tennis courts	6	1.5 %
Volleyball courts	2	0.5 %
Walking & hiking trails	37	9.3 %
None chosen	70	17.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q12. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 11 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

Q12. 4th choice	Number	Percent
Baseball & softball diamonds	2	0.5 %
Basketball courts (outdoor)	4	1.0 %
Community gardens	7	1.8 %
Community/recreation centers	20	5.0 %
Disc golf courses	8	2.0 %
Dog parks (off-leash)	17	4.3 %
Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)	1	0.3 %
Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	7	1.8 %
Large community parks	13	3.3 %
Mountain bike trails	4	1.0 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)	5	1.3 %
Natural areas/nature parks	30	7.5 %
Paved bike trails	20	5.0 %
Pickleball courts	8	2.0 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	14	3.5 %
Playgrounds	21	5.3 %
Senior center	5	1.3 %
Skateboarding area	4	1.0 %
Small neighborhood parks	22	5.5 %
Spraygrounds/splash pads	6	1.5 %
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	15	3.8 %
Swimming pools (indoor)	14	3.5 %
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	8	2.0 %
Tennis courts	8	2.0 %
Volleyball courts	4	1.0 %
Walking & hiking trails	27	6.8 %
None chosen	106	26.5 %
Total	400	100.0 %



**SUM OF THE TOP FOUR CHOICES****Q12. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 11 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (Top 4)**

Q12. Sum of the top four choices	Number	Percent
Baseball & softball diamonds	18	4.5 %
Basketball courts (outdoor)	8	2.0 %
Community gardens	30	7.5 %
Community/recreation centers	80	20.0 %
Disc golf courses	20	5.0 %
Dog parks (off-leash)	47	11.8 %
Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)	18	4.5 %
Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	17	4.3 %
Large community parks	46	11.5 %
Mountain bike trails	21	5.3 %
Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)	31	7.8 %
Natural areas/nature parks	130	32.5 %
Paved bike trails	137	34.3 %
Pickleball courts	32	8.0 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	43	10.8 %
Playgrounds	83	20.8 %
Pump track/BMX course	3	0.8 %
Senior center	31	7.8 %
Skateboarding area	8	2.0 %
Small neighborhood parks	56	14.0 %
Spraygrounds/splash pads	46	11.5 %
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	41	10.3 %
Swimming pools (indoor)	68	17.0 %
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	67	16.8 %
Tennis courts	27	6.8 %
Volleyball courts	10	2.5 %
Walking & hiking trails	202	50.5 %
Other	2	0.5 %
None chosen	46	11.5 %
Total	1368	

**EXCLUDING DON'T KNOWS**

**Q13. How strongly do you support an additional tax levy to fund land acquisition, development, and repair of parks and facilities that are important to you and members of your household? (without "don't know")**

	Number	Percent
Strongly support	93	25.9 %
Moderately support	162	45.1 %
Moderately oppose	41	11.4 %
Strongly oppose	63	17.5 %
Total	359	100.0 %

**Q14. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each recreation program category listed below.**

(N=400)

	Yes	No
Q14-1. Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	16.8%	83.3%
Q14-2. Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	22.8%	77.3%
Q14-3. Before & after school programs	16.0%	84.0%
Q14-4. Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	14.3%	85.8%
Q14-5. Concerts/art performances	49.3%	50.8%
Q14-6. Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	47.8%	52.3%
Q14-7. Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	23.8%	76.3%
Q14-8. Martial arts programs	10.3%	89.8%
Q14-9. Movies (outdoor)	38.3%	61.8%
Q14-10. Nature programs	42.0%	58.0%
Q14-11. Pet exercise programs	14.3%	85.8%
Q14-12. Preschool programs	12.3%	87.8%
Q14-13. Programs for persons ages 50+	26.0%	74.0%
Q14-14. Special events	35.5%	64.5%
Q14-15. Special needs programs	5.5%	94.5%
Q14-16. Sports programs (adult)	24.0%	76.0%
Q14-17. Sports programs (youth)	32.3%	67.8%
Q14-18. Summer camp programs (youth)	28.8%	71.3%
Q14-19. Swim lessons	29.5%	70.5%
Q14-20. Teen programs	15.5%	84.5%
Q14-21. Water fitness programs	25.0%	75.0%
Q14-22. Other	1.3%	98.8%

**Q14. If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

(N=325)

	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
Q14-1. Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	5.2%	5.2%	13.8%	8.6%	67.2%
Q14-2. Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	5.0%	10.0%	17.5%	21.3%	46.3%
Q14-3. Before & after school programs	7.4%	11.1%	27.8%	14.8%	38.9%
Q14-4. Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	4.3%	0.0%	28.3%	23.9%	43.5%
Q14-5. Concerts/art performances	3.8%	6.9%	15.1%	23.3%	50.9%
Q14-6. Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	5.8%	9.0%	19.9%	18.6%	46.8%
Q14-7. Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	2.5%	7.6%	22.8%	22.8%	44.3%
Q14-8. Martial arts programs	6.1%	6.1%	18.2%	24.2%	45.5%
Q14-9. Movies (outdoor)	6.5%	11.3%	18.5%	25.0%	38.7%
Q14-10. Nature programs	3.5%	17.0%	31.9%	20.6%	27.0%
Q14-11. Pet exercise programs	4.8%	2.4%	21.4%	21.4%	50.0%
Q14-12. Preschool programs	12.5%	5.0%	17.5%	20.0%	45.0%
Q14-13. Programs for persons ages 50+	2.7%	6.7%	25.3%	24.0%	41.3%
Q14-14. Special events	3.6%	8.9%	27.7%	31.3%	28.6%
Q14-15. Special needs programs	7.1%	0.0%	21.4%	28.6%	42.9%
Q14-16. Sports programs (adult)	4.9%	6.1%	18.3%	23.2%	47.6%
Q14-17. Sports programs (youth)	11.8%	29.1%	24.5%	13.6%	20.9%
Q14-18. Summer camp programs (youth)	5.9%	17.8%	18.8%	21.8%	35.6%
Q14-19. Swim lessons	10.7%	12.6%	25.2%	22.3%	29.1%
Q14-20. Teen programs	4.2%	4.2%	22.9%	22.9%	45.8%
Q14-21. Water fitness programs	6.8%	2.7%	16.2%	21.6%	52.7%
Q14-22. Other	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	80.0%

**Q14-22. Other**

<u>Q14-22. Other</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pickleball	1	20.0 %
Fishing tournaments	1	20.0 %
Connected bike paths	1	20.0 %
Yoga	1	20.0 %
Halloween events	1	20.0 %
Total	5	100.0 %

**Q15. Which three program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

Q15. Top choice	Number	Percent
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	8	2.0 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	10	2.5 %
Before & after school programs	11	2.8 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	10	2.5 %
Concerts/art performances	44	11.0 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	32	8.0 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	9	2.3 %
Movies (outdoor)	13	3.3 %
Nature programs	33	8.3 %
Pet exercise programs	7	1.8 %
Preschool programs	6	1.5 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	23	5.8 %
Special events	8	2.0 %
Special needs programs	1	0.3 %
Sports programs (adult)	10	2.5 %
Sports programs (youth)	31	7.8 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	9	2.3 %
Swim lessons	21	5.3 %
Teen programs	8	2.0 %
Water fitness programs	7	1.8 %
Other	2	0.5 %
None chosen	97	24.3 %
Total	400	100.0 %



**Q15. Which three program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

<u>Q15. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	7	1.8 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	9	2.3 %
Before & after school programs	5	1.3 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	2	0.5 %
Concerts/art performances	31	7.8 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	27	6.8 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	11	2.8 %
Martial arts programs	2	0.5 %
Movies (outdoor)	19	4.8 %
Nature programs	28	7.0 %
Pet exercise programs	7	1.8 %
Preschool programs	8	2.0 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	21	5.3 %
Special events	11	2.8 %
Sports programs (adult)	11	2.8 %
Sports programs (youth)	18	4.5 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	22	5.5 %
Swim lessons	11	2.8 %
Teen programs	9	2.3 %
Water fitness programs	12	3.0 %
Other	1	0.3 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>32.0 %</u>
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q15. Which three program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

<u>Q15. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	8	2.0 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	5	1.3 %
Before & after school programs	8	2.0 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	4	1.0 %
Concerts/art performances	28	7.0 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	23	5.8 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	2	0.5 %
Martial arts programs	6	1.5 %
Movies (outdoor)	17	4.3 %
Nature programs	15	3.8 %
Pet exercise programs	8	2.0 %
Preschool programs	3	0.8 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	18	4.5 %
Special events	16	4.0 %
Special needs programs	2	0.5 %
Sports programs (adult)	11	2.8 %
Sports programs (youth)	13	3.3 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	14	3.5 %
Swim lessons	16	4.0 %
Teen programs	4	1.0 %
Water fitness programs	11	2.8 %
Other	2	0.5 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>41.5 %</u>
Total	400	100.0 %

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q15. Which three program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (Top 3)**

<u>Q15. Sum of the top three choices</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	23	5.8 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	24	6.0 %
Before & after school programs	24	6.0 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	16	4.0 %
Concerts/art performances	103	25.8 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	82	20.5 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	22	5.5 %
Martial arts programs	8	2.0 %
Movies (outdoor)	49	12.3 %
Nature programs	76	19.0 %
Pet exercise programs	22	5.5 %
Preschool programs	17	4.3 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	62	15.5 %
Special events	35	8.8 %
Special needs programs	3	0.8 %
Sports programs (adult)	32	8.0 %
Sports programs (youth)	62	15.5 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	45	11.3 %
Swim lessons	48	12.0 %
Teen programs	21	5.3 %
Water fitness programs	30	7.5 %
Other	5	1.3 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>24.3 %</u>
Total	906	

**Q15a. For your MOST IMPORTANT program category (1st in Question 15), is there a specific program would you like to see offered or expanded?**

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	125	41.3 %
No	178	58.7 %
Total	303	100.0 %

**Q15a-1. Which specific program would you like to see offered or expanded?**

- 55 plus activities.
- Additional before and after school programs.
- Adult volleyball.
- After school program sports and art.
- Any teen program/camp/certifications/service opportunities.
- Anything that keeps the kids off the devices.
- Aquacise.
- Art drawing and dancing (6 to 8 week sessions). No recitals or outfit purchases.
- Baby/toddler/preschool, dance time, nature time, programs in person.
- Baseball or flag football.
- Before and after school programs.
- Beginners and young children.
- Better pools and lessons.
- Better recreational sports.
- Bicycle safety program.
- More paved bicycle trails that connects to other parks and trail system.
- Bike path over railroad tracks.
- Bike trails like Westerville has.
- Christian camp.
- Communication of what is available.
- Community band concerts.
- Community center like Westerville.
- Community center with indoor pool and swimming lessons.
- Community theater.
- Concerts.
- Concerts/live music.
- Dog Park.
- Education about natural features (birds, plants) and natural history of the local area.
- Extend trails to Olentangy Elementary.
- Facility closer to Orange.
- Family concerts in the park.
- Family events.
- Fitness and wellness.
- Fitness and wellness for youth/adult.
- Fitness and wellness programs for adults.
- Free concerts; performances like high school orchestra or bands.
- Group hiking/riding.
- I would like to see youth sports offered by the Township.
- Individual swim lessons.
- Indoor lesson options.
- Infant swim lessons.
- July 4th celebration with concerts at venue.
- Just need more.
- Kid dance classes.
- Kid swim classes outside.
- List of all that is offered and popular sports.
- Live concerts.
- Live concerts.
- Live music offered.
- Live music performances showcasing original music in outdoor park setting.

- Local bands, artists in parks.
- Low impact exercise.
- Mall.
- Greater variety of concerts and art performances.
- Men's basketball indoor and outdoor.
- More community events for holidays; parades, cook outs, food truck events, etc.
- More community events like car shows, concerts, etc.
- More information distributed for parents.
- More off-leash dog parks as part of neighborhood parks.
- More opportunities to allow for smaller groups.
- More options for affordable swim lessons.
- More options for swim lessons in the evenings for working parents.
- More places open for mom exercise programs.
- More programs at nature centers
- More symphony performances, parades
- Movies because they are a good community event.
- Musical concerts
- Nature centers, birding walks and talks, hikes, programs about trees, bugs, nature
- Nature programs partnership with shale hallow.
- Nature programs.
- Nature walks.
- Nearby pickleball courts.
- Noncompetitive pickleball league.
- Offer programs like Westerville does; they are affordable and in a great facility.
- Outdoor concerts for families.
- Outdoor drive in for adults.
- Outdoor live music.
- Outdoor movies.
- Outdoor music.
- Pedestrian/bike safety.
- Pickleball.
- Pickleball courts.
- Pickleball courts and lessons.
- Pickleball for adults.
- Pool volleyball.
- Pottery and other programs.
- Programs for 50 plus.
- Programs for people above 50 years old.
- Programs offered through a recreation center in Orange Township.
- Quiet outdoor meditation.
- Recreational sports such as basketball, softball, or volleyball.
- Wellness and fitness center.
- Shakespeare in the park.
- Similar programming as to the Westerville Community Center (snowflake castle, pumpkin glow, plays, etc.).
- Like what Worthington/Westerville do.
- Small concerts on weekly basis.
- Small jazz bands and community bands.
- Sports and nature camps.
- Sports for ages under six.
- Summer camp.
- Summer camp programs.
- Summer concert series.
- Swim lessons.

- Swim lessons with good and competent teachers.
- Swim lessons that are more affordable and offer more available times.
- Swimming lessons for kids.
- Tai chi.
- Tennis league.
- Tennis or pickle ball courts.
- Theater and performing arts.
- Volleyball, basketball, and softball.
- Water aerobics.
- Water aerobics.
- Water fitness.
- Water fitness for older adults.
- Water fitness programs.
- We have really enjoyed music performances at the Westerville amphitheater and would like to see more in more locations.
- We need live music.
- Would love more lessons offered.
- Would love to see swim lessons occur as in the past at North Orange Pool.
- Y-club spots or similar programs offered.
- Yoga.
- Yoga in parks.
- Yoga.
- Tai chi.
- Youth clubs.
- Volunteer clubs.
- Youth dance.
- Zumba.
- Zumba.
- Pilates.



**Q16. Which three program categories from Question 14 do you currently PARTICIPATE in MOST OFTEN?**

<u>Q16. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	4	1.0 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	5	1.3 %
Before & after school programs	4	1.0 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	5	1.3 %
Concerts/art performances	16	4.0 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	41	10.3 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	3	0.8 %
Nature programs	22	5.5 %
Pet exercise programs	2	0.5 %
Preschool programs	9	2.3 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	3	0.8 %
Special events	7	1.8 %
Sports programs (adult)	5	1.3 %
Sports programs (youth)	37	9.3 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	4	1.0 %
Swim lessons	9	2.3 %
Teen programs	2	0.5 %
Water fitness programs	3	0.8 %
Other	3	0.8 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>54.0 %</u>
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q16. Which three program categories from Question 14 do you currently PARTICIPATE in MOST OFTEN?**

<u>Q16. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	5	1.3 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	2	0.5 %
Before & after school programs	4	1.0 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	1	0.3 %
Concerts/art performances	12	3.0 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	10	2.5 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	5	1.3 %
Movies (outdoor)	11	2.8 %
Nature programs	20	5.0 %
Pet exercise programs	3	0.8 %
Preschool programs	1	0.3 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	13	3.3 %
Special events	6	1.5 %
Sports programs (adult)	3	0.8 %
Sports programs (youth)	20	5.0 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	12	3.0 %
Swim lessons	6	1.5 %
Teen programs	3	0.8 %
Water fitness programs	9	2.3 %
Other	4	1.0 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>62.5 %</u>
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q16. Which three program categories from Question 14 do you currently PARTICIPATE in MOST OFTEN?**

<u>Q16. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	4	1.0 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	1	0.3 %
Before & after school programs	2	0.5 %
Concerts/art performances	7	1.8 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	8	2.0 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	4	1.0 %
Martial arts programs	2	0.5 %
Movies (outdoor)	3	0.8 %
Nature programs	11	2.8 %
Pet exercise programs	3	0.8 %
Preschool programs	3	0.8 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	6	1.5 %
Special events	10	2.5 %
Special needs programs	2	0.5 %
Sports programs (adult)	6	1.5 %
Sports programs (youth)	5	1.3 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	15	3.8 %
Swim lessons	7	1.8 %
Teen programs	3	0.8 %
Water fitness programs	4	1.0 %
Other	1	0.3 %
None chosen	293	73.3 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q16. Which three program categories from Question 14 do you currently PARTICIPATE in MOST OFTEN? (Top 3)**

<u>Q16. Sum of the top three choices</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	13	3.3 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	8	2.0 %
Before & after school programs	10	2.5 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	6	1.5 %
Concerts/art performances	35	8.8 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	59	14.8 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	12	3.0 %
Martial arts programs	2	0.5 %
Movies (outdoor)	14	3.5 %
Nature programs	53	13.3 %
Pet exercise programs	8	2.0 %
Preschool programs	13	3.3 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	22	5.5 %
Special events	23	5.8 %
Special needs programs	2	0.5 %
Sports programs (adult)	14	3.5 %
Sports programs (youth)	62	15.5 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	31	7.8 %
Swim lessons	22	5.5 %
Teen programs	8	2.0 %
Water fitness programs	16	4.0 %
Other	8	2.0 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>54.0 %</u>
Total	657	

**Q17. How would you spend \$100 on Parks and Recreation improvements in Orange Township?**

	Mean	Percent	Amount (\$)
Build new parks (including acquiring land)	25.69	9.29%	\$9.29
Build new walking & biking trails	39.86	14.41%	\$14.41
Upgrade existing parks (e.g., playgrounds, game courts, picnic areas)	27.58	9.97%	\$9.97
Build new athletic fields (e.g., softball, soccer, baseball, football)	23.82	8.61%	\$8.61
Develop new indoor recreation facilities (e.g., recreation & fitness center)	36.74	13.28%	\$13.28
Develop a new splash pad	26.23	9.48%	\$9.48
Develop a dog park	20.04	7.25%	\$7.25
Expand program offerings	21.82	7.89%	\$7.89
Other	54.81	19.82%	\$19.82
Total	276.59	100.00%	\$100.00

**Q17. Other**

	Number	Percent
Improve landscaping (flowers, ornamental plants), beautification	1	5.0 %
Community activities	1	5.0 %
Maintain and not add levy to give public a financial break from		
Increased taxes	1	5.0 %
Pools	1	5.0 %
Fight algae in ponds	1	5.0 %
Preserve green space-too much development	1	5.0 %
Live outdoor music/pond upkeep	1	5.0 %
Landscape, trees	1	5.0 %
Build bike path connector over orange park railroad tracks	1	5.0 %
Community center for 50 plus	1	5.0 %
New pickleball courts	1	5.0 %
Swings at walker wood park	1	5.0 %
Add lights to paths	1	5.0 %
Preserve nature (greenspaces, wooded lands, wildlife)	1	5.0 %
Pickleball courts	1	5.0 %
Would like new trail from willow springs to park	1	5.0 %
Tennis courts	1	5.0 %
Repair parking lots in Highbanks	1	5.0 %
Community garden/composting	1	5.0 %
Amphitheater	1	5.0 %
Total	20	100.0 %

**Q18. Please CHECK ALL the ways you learn about facilities, programs, activities, or events.**

	Number	Percent
Churches	30	7.5 %
Orange Township website	158	39.5 %
Email notifications	150	37.5 %
Newspaper	70	17.5 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	49	12.3 %
Parks & Recreation flyers/banners	100	25.0 %
Township newsletter	256	64.0 %
Radio/television	45	11.3 %
School communications	76	19.0 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	168	42.0 %
Visit or call a Township office	10	2.5 %
Word of mouth	223	55.8 %
Youth sports organization	54	13.5 %
Other	15	3.8 %
Total	1404	

**Q18-14. Other**

	Number	Percent
Internet search	3	20.0 %
Google	2	13.3 %
Just going out and seeing what is there	1	6.7 %
Visits	1	6.7 %
Texts from Township	1	6.7 %
Mailing info to homes	1	6.7 %
Geocache app	1	6.7 %
Google maps	1	6.7 %
Facebook	1	6.7 %
Mailed flyers or texts	1	6.7 %
Driving past them	1	6.7 %
Library ads	1	6.7 %
Total	15	100.0 %



**Q19. Which THREE ways listed in Question 18 do you prefer?**

<u>Q19. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Churches	1	0.3 %
Orange Township website	33	8.3 %
Email notifications	97	24.3 %
Newspaper	9	2.3 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	2	0.5 %
Parks & Recreation flyers/banners	10	2.5 %
Township newsletter	104	26.0 %
Radio/television	8	2.0 %
School communications	2	0.5 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	59	14.8 %
Word of mouth	9	2.3 %
Youth sports organization	2	0.5 %
Other	8	2.0 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>14.0 %</u>
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q19. Which THREE ways listed in Question 18 do you prefer?**

<u>Q19. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Orange Township website	53	13.3 %
Email notifications	40	10.0 %
Newspaper	12	3.0 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	5	1.3 %
Parks & Recreation flyers/banners	20	5.0 %
Township newsletter	72	18.0 %
Radio/television	9	2.3 %
School communications	14	3.5 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	44	11.0 %
Visit or call a Township office	1	0.3 %
Word of mouth	26	6.5 %
Youth sports organization	4	1.0 %
Other	1	0.3 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>24.8 %</u>
Total	400	100.0 %

**Q19. Which THREE ways listed in Question 18 do you prefer?**

Q19. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Churches	4	1.0 %
Orange Township website	23	5.8 %
Email notifications	36	9.0 %
Newspaper	19	4.8 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	12	3.0 %
Parks & Recreation flyers/banners	19	4.8 %
Township newsletter	41	10.3 %
Radio/television	6	1.5 %
School communications	16	4.0 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	35	8.8 %
Word of mouth	31	7.8 %
Youth sports organization	7	1.8 %
Other	3	0.8 %
None chosen	148	37.0 %
Total	400	100.0 %

**SUM OF THE TOP THREE CHOICES****Q19. Which THREE ways listed in Question 18 do you prefer? (Top 3)**

Q19. Sum of the top three choices	Number	Percent
Churches	5	1.3 %
Orange Township website	109	27.3 %
Email notifications	173	43.3 %
Newspaper	40	10.0 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	19	4.8 %
Parks & Recreation flyers/banners	49	12.3 %
Township newsletter	217	54.3 %
Radio/television	23	5.8 %
School communications	32	8.0 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	138	34.5 %
Visit or call a Township office	1	0.3 %
Word of mouth	66	16.5 %
Youth sports organization	13	3.3 %
Other	12	3.0 %
None chosen	56	14.0 %
Total	953	

**Q20. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...**

	Mean	Sum	Percent
number	3.1	1212	100.0%
Under 5 years	0.2	84	6.9%
5-9 years	0.4	143	11.8%
10-14 years	0.3	117	9.7%
15-19 years	0.2	69	5.7%
20-24 years	0.1	40	3.3%
25-34 years	0.3	127	10.5%
35-44 years	0.5	193	15.9%
45-54 years	0.4	150	12.4%
55-64 years	0.4	148	12.2%
65-74 years	0.3	108	8.9%
75+ years	0.1	33	2.7%

**Q21. What is your annual household income?**

	Number	Percent
Less than \$25K	11	2.8 %
\$25K to \$49,999	33	8.3 %
\$50K to \$74,999	30	7.5 %
\$75K to \$99,999	62	15.5 %
\$100K+	153	38.3 %
Choose not to respond	111	27.8 %
Total	400	100.0 %



# 6 Survey Instrument







***A Few Minutes of Your Time Will Help Make Orange Township a  
Better Place to Live, Work and Play!***

Dear Orange Township Resident:

This year the Orange Township is undertaking a comprehensive study of its **parks, recreation, trails, and open space** ... a parks and recreation master plan. We will be looking at our current parks, facilities and planning for future needs.

The enclosed survey is an important part of this process. **Your household was one of a limited number selected at random to receive it...it will only take about 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain confidential.**

We need to hear from you to make good decisions about community needs. Please complete and return your survey within the **next two weeks**.

We have selected ETC Institute, an independent consulting company, to compile the confidential data received, and present the results to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee. Return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061.

If you would like to take the survey over the web, the address is [www.OrangeParksSurvey.org](http://www.OrangeParksSurvey.org).

For more information, contact Mike Kelly, Parks and Facilities Manager.

Sincerely,

Andrew King, Township Administrator  
Orange Township



**ORANGE TOWNSHIP**  
1680 East Orange Rd | Lewis Center, OH 43035

**T:** (740) 548-5430  
**F:** (740) 548-7537

**[orangetwp.org](http://orangetwp.org)**



The Orange Township Trustees need your help to determine plans for parks, recreation, trails, programs, events, and open space. The survey will take about 10 minutes to finish, and the results are for use in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Please return it in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. Thank you for your time.

**1. Have you or a member of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by Orange Township in the past 2 years? [See Question 2 for a list of Township parks.]**

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes [Answer Q1a-b.]      \_\_\_\_ (2) No [Skip to Q4.]

**1a. How often did you or any member of your household visit during the PAST YEAR?**

\_\_\_\_(1) 1 to 5 visits      \_\_\_\_ (3) 11 to 19 visits      \_\_\_\_ (9) Don't know  
\_\_\_\_(2) 6 to 10 visits      \_\_\_\_ (4) 20 or more visits

**1b. How would you rate their condition?**

\_\_\_\_(1) Excellent      \_\_\_\_ (2) Good      \_\_\_\_ (3) Fair      \_\_\_\_ (4) Poor

**2. Please CHECK ALL parks and recreation facilities in Orange Township you or a member of your household visited in the PAST 2 YEARS.**

____(01) Glen Oak Park	____(05) Orange Bridge Park	<b>Parks by Others:</b>
____(02) North Orange Park	____(06) Ro Park	____(09) Alum Creek State Park
____(03) Aquatic Center at North Orange Park	____(07) Township Hall Park	____(10) Highbanks Metro Park
____(04) North Road Park	____(08) Walker Wood Park	____(11) Shale Hollow Park
		____(12) Other: _____

**3. Which THREE parks/facilities listed in Question 2 did you or a member of your household VISIT MOST? [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 2, or circle "NONE."]**

1st: \_\_\_\_      2nd: \_\_\_\_      3rd: \_\_\_\_      NONE

**4. Please CHECK ALL organizations you or any member of your household use for parks and recreation activities.**

____(01) Orange Township Parks Department	____(09) Churches
____(02) Olentangy Local Schools	____(10) YMCA
____(03) Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks	____(11) Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)
____(04) Preservation Parks of Delaware County	____(12) Country clubs/golf courses
____(05) Ohio State Parks	____(13) Neighboring cities: _____
____(06) Homeowners Association (HOA) Facilities	____(14) Other: _____
____(07) Private schools	____(15) None; do not use any organizations
____(08) Private youth sports leagues	

**5. Please CHECK ALL upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Orange Township.**

____(01) Artificial turf fields	____(12) Parking	____(22) Signage
____(02) Baseball/Softball diamonds	____(13) Permanent outdoor games (ping-pong, cornhole)	____(23) Sports fields lighting
____(03) Basketball courts (outdoor)	____(14) Pickleball courts (outdoor)	____(24) Tennis courts (outdoor)
____(04) Bike racks	____(15) Picnic shelters	____(25) Trail lighting
____(05) Bike repair stations	____(16) Playground equipment	____(26) Trails-Bike
____(06) Disc golf	____(17) Pond improvements	____(27) Trails-Walking/hiking
____(07) Drinking fountains	____(18) Restrooms	____(28) Trees and landscaping
____(08) Electric car charging stations	____(19) Security cameras and lighting	____(29) Volleyball courts (outdoor)
____(09) Fitness equipment (outdoor)	____(20) Shade structures	____(30) Wi-Fi hotspots
____(10) Handicap accessibility	____(21) Sidewalks	____(31) Other: _____
____(11) Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.)		

6. Which **THREE** upgrades listed in Question 5 are **MOST IMPORTANT**? [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 5, or circle "NONE."]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ NONE

7. Please indicate how supportive you are of actions Orange Township could take to improve Parks and Recreation.

		Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
01.	Acquire and preserve open space and natural areas	4	3	2	1
02.	Acquire land to develop parks and recreational facilities	4	3	2	1
03.	Upgrade existing parks and facilities	4	3	2	1
04.	Upgrade existing/add new athletic fields	4	3	2	1
05.	Add lighting at existing athletic fields	4	3	2	1
06.	Develop new outdoor parks and recreation facilities	4	3	2	1
07.	Develop new recreation trails and connecting existing trails	4	3	2	1
08.	Develop an indoor recreation/community center	4	3	2	1
09.	Provide programs	4	3	2	1
10.	Provide community events	4	3	2	1
11.	Other: _____	4	3	2	1

8. Which **THREE** actions listed in Question 7 are **MOST IMPORTANT**? [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 7, or circle "NONE."]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ NONE

9. The Township is experiencing extreme toxic algae blooms at the two ponds in North Orange Park and at one pond in Township Hall park due to the shallow depth of the ponds and heavy nutrient loads in the soil. Which option do you prefer to improve the ponds?

- 9a. Township Hall Pond. Please select your preferred option to improve the Township Hall pond.

- \_\_\_\_(1) Short-term solution with lower but potentially recurring cost  
 \_\_\_\_ (2) Long-term solution with higher but one-time cost  
 \_\_\_\_ (3) Create a wetland to replace pond, lower cost but pond is eliminated

- 9b. North Orange Park Ponds. Please select your preferred option to improve the North Orange Park ponds.

- \_\_\_\_ (1) Short-term solution with lower but potentially recurring cost  
 \_\_\_\_ (2) Long-term solution with medium cost but playing fields will be unavailable for one year  
 \_\_\_\_ (3) Long-term solution with highest cost but no loss of playing fields

10. Please **CHECK ALL** items that keep you or any member of your household from using the parks, recreation facilities, trails, and events of Orange Township more often.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ____ (01) Availability of parking           | ____ (10) Personal disability            |
| ____ (02) Class full                        | ____ (11) Poor condition of facilities   |
| ____ (03) Do not have time                  | ____ (12) Poor customer service by staff |
| ____ (04) Do not know what is offered       | ____ (13) Security or safety concerns    |
| ____ (05) Facility or program not offered   | ____ (14) Too far from our home          |
| ____ (06) Fees are too high                 | ____ (15) Use other agencies' facilities |
| ____ (07) No transportation                 | ____ (16) Other: _____                   |
| ____ (08) Not comfortable/not meeting needs | ____ (17) None                           |
| ____ (09) Not interested                    |  |

- 11. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each of the facilities listed below by circling either "Yes" or "No." If "Yes," please rate that facility using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

Type of Facility	Do you have a need for this facility?		If "Yes," how well are your needs being met?				
			100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01. Baseball and softball diamonds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02. Basketball courts (outdoor)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03. Community gardens	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04. Community/Recreation centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05. Disc golf courses	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06. Dog parks (off-leash)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07. Fitness equipment/parcourse (outdoor)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08. Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09. Large community parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10. Mountain bike trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11. Multipurpose fields (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12. Natural areas/nature parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13. Paved bike trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14. Pickleball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15. Picnic shelters/picnic areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16. Playgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17. Pump track/BMX course	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18. Senior center	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19. Skateboarding area	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20. Small neighborhood parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21. Spraygrounds/Splash pads	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
22. Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
23. Swimming pools (indoor)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
24. Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
25. Tennis courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
26. Volleyball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
27. Walking and hiking trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
28. Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

- 12. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 11 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**  
[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 11, or circle "NONE."]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ 4th: \_\_\_\_ NONE

- 13. How strongly do you support an additional tax levy to fund land acquisition, development, and repair of parks and facilities that are important to you and members of your household?**

\_\_\_\_(1) Strongly support      \_\_\_\_ (3) Moderately oppose      \_\_\_\_ (5) Not sure  
\_\_\_\_ (2) Moderately support      \_\_\_\_ (4) Strongly oppose

- 14. Please indicate if you or any member of your household have a need (use or would use if available) for each recreation program category listed below by circling either "Yes" or "No." If "Yes," please rate that program using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

	Type of Program	Do you have a need for this program?		If "Yes," how well are your needs being met?				
				100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01.	Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02.	Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03.	Before and after school programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04.	Bicycle/Pedestrian safety programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05.	Concerts/Art performances	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06.	Fitness and wellness programs (adult)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07.	Fitness and wellness programs (youth)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08.	Martial arts programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09.	Movies (outdoor)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10.	Nature programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11.	Pet exercise programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12.	Preschool programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13.	Programs for persons ages 50+	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14.	Special events	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15.	Special needs programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16.	Sports programs (adult)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17.	Sports programs (youth)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18.	Summer camp programs (youth)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19.	Swim lessons	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20.	Teen programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21.	Water fitness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
22.	Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

- 15. Which three program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**  
*[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 14, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE

- 15a. For your MOST IMPORTANT program category (1st in Question 15), is there a specific program would you like to see offered or expanded?**

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_(2) No

- 16. Which three program categories from Question 14 do you currently PARTICIPATE in MOST OFTEN?** *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 14, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE

**17. How would you spend \$100 on Parks and Recreation improvements in Orange Township? [Please be sure your total adds up to \$100. Use increments of \$10.]**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Build new parks (including acquiring land)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Build new walking and biking trails  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Upgrade existing parks (e.g., playgrounds, game courts, picnic areas)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Build new athletic fields (e.g., softball, soccer, baseball, football)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Develop new indoor recreation facilities (e.g., recreation and fitness center)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a new splash pad  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a dog park  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Expand program offerings  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$100 total**

**18. Please CHECK ALL the ways you learn about facilities, programs, activities, or events.**

____ (01) Churches	____ (08) Radio/Television
____ (02) Orange Township website	____ (09) School communications
____ (03) Email notifications	____ (10) Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
____ (04) Newspaper	____ (11) Visit or call a Township office
____ (05) Park kiosk/bulletin board	____ (12) Word of mouth
____ (06) Parks and Recreation flyers/banners	____ (13) Youth sports organization
____ (07) Township Newsletter	____ (14) Other: _____

**19. Which THREE ways listed in Question 18 do you prefer? [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 18, or circle "NONE."]**

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ NONE

**20. Counting yourself, how many people in your home are...**

Under 5 years: ____	15-19 years: ____	35-44 years: ____	65-74 years: ____
5-9 years: ____	20-24 years: ____	45-54 years: ____	75+ years: ____
10-14 years: ____	25-34 years: ____	55-64 years: ____	

**21. What is your annual household income?**

____ (1) Less than \$25,000	____ (3) \$50,000 to \$74,999	____ (5) \$100,000 or more
____ (2) \$25,000 to \$49,999	____ (4) \$75,000 to \$99,999	____ (6) Choose not to respond

**This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time.**

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed return-reply envelope addressed to:  
 ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

Your responses will remain completely confidential. The information to the right will ONLY be used to help identify the level of need in your area. Thank you!

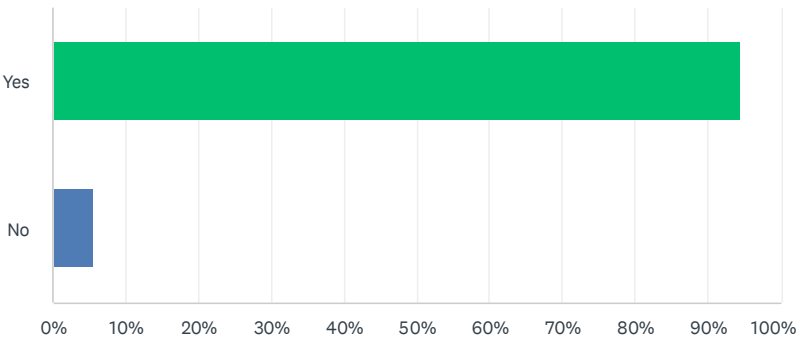


# APPENDIX F - WEB SURVEY

Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Q1 Have you or a member of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities offered by Orange Township in the past 2 years?

Answered: 1,220    Skipped: 0



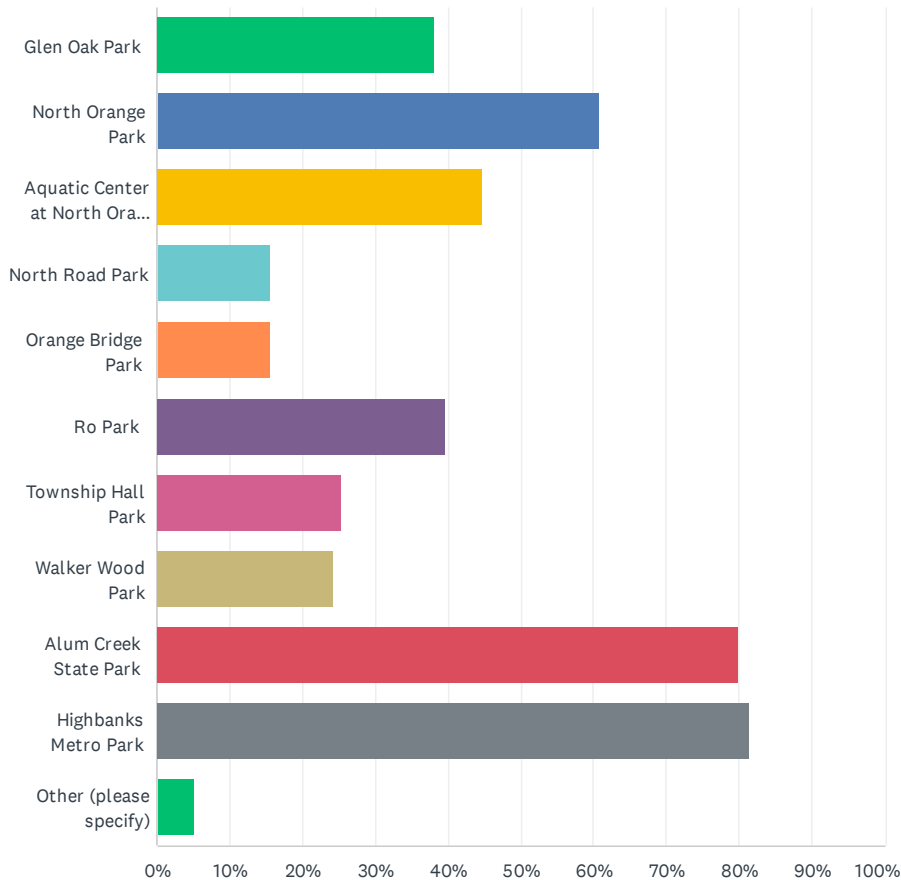
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.51%	1,153
No	5.49%	67
TOTAL		1,220

---

Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

**Q2 Please CHECK ALL parks and recreation facilities in Orange Township you or a member of your household visited in the PAST 2 YEARS.**

Answered: 1,145 Skipped: 75



## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Glen Oak Park	38.08%	436
North Orange Park	60.87%	697
Aquatic Center at North Orange Park	44.80%	513
North Road Park	15.55%	178
Orange Bridge Park	15.46%	177
Ro Park	39.74%	455
Township Hall Park	25.33%	290
Walker Wood Park	24.28%	278
Alum Creek State Park	79.91%	915
Highbanks Metro Park	81.48%	933
Other (please specify)	5.15%	59
Total Respondents: 1,145		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	YMCA	10/20/2021 4:11 PM
2	meh	10/11/2021 7:17 PM
3	Shale Hollow	10/6/2021 7:06 PM
4	I	9/28/2021 5:50 PM
5	Shale Hollow Park, Schools	9/22/2021 10:23 AM
6	Shale Hollow Park	9/22/2021 10:14 AM
7	Shale Hollow Park	9/22/2021 9:55 AM
8	Shale Hollow Park	9/22/2021 9:45 AM
9	Shale Hollow Park, Schools	9/22/2021 9:38 AM
10	Shale Hollow Park	9/22/2021 9:25 AM
11	Bike paths	9/13/2021 11:40 AM
12	Trails	9/8/2021 7:07 PM
13	Chicken	9/8/2021 3:40 PM
14	Lower Dam park at Alum Creek	8/22/2021 4:26 PM
15	Shale hollow	8/18/2021 1:52 PM
16	Shale Hollow	8/7/2021 6:13 PM
17	Shale hollow	8/7/2021 3:22 PM
18	Shale Hollow	8/6/2021 5:29 PM
19	Mmm	8/6/2021 11:44 AM
20	Below dam park	8/6/2021 9:09 AM
21	Shale Hollow	8/6/2021 8:18 AM
22	Shale hallow	8/6/2021 5:49 AM

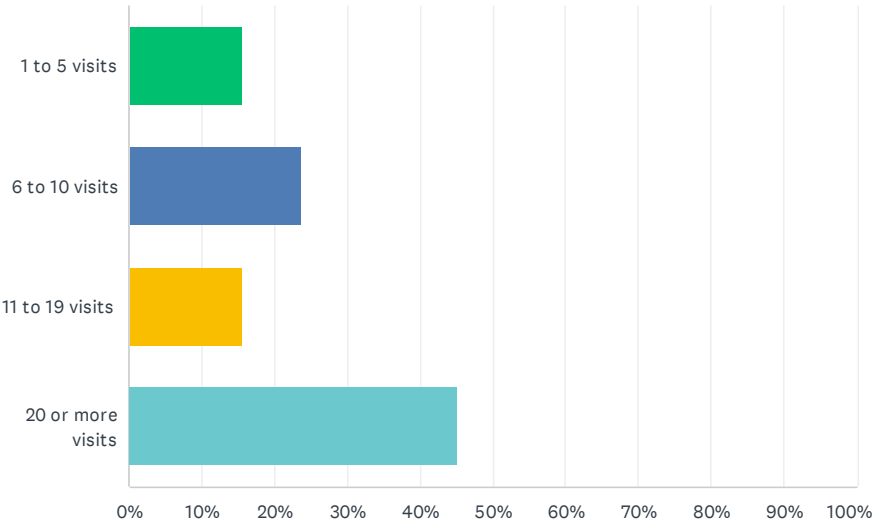
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Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

23	Shale Hollow	8/5/2021 11:37 PM
24	Shale Run	8/5/2021 11:17 PM
25	Shale Hollow Preservation Park	8/5/2021 8:51 AM
26	Sledding hill at glen oak	8/2/2021 11:43 AM
27	Shale hallow	7/27/2021 7:15 PM
28	Deer Haven	5/13/2021 1:11 PM
29	Shale Hallow	5/13/2021 5:52 AM
30	You	5/12/2021 9:16 PM
31	Yes	5/12/2021 1:24 PM
32	Shale Hollow	4/26/2021 5:02 PM
33	None...they are not within walking distance to my home	4/23/2021 9:07 AM
34	Shale Hollow	4/22/2021 6:39 PM
35	Shale Hollow	4/22/2021 5:21 PM
36	Shall Hallow	4/22/2021 1:48 PM
37	Library Park	4/10/2021 9:23 AM
38	Preservation Parks of Delaware Co	4/9/2021 4:37 PM
39	Shale Hollow	4/9/2021 9:29 AM
40	Shale hollow metro park	4/8/2021 10:17 PM
41	Delaware county preservation parks	4/8/2021 7:50 PM
42	Shale H	4/8/2021 7:47 PM
43	Delaware st park	4/8/2021 3:39 PM
44	blendon metro park	4/8/2021 3:04 PM
45	Glennross Community Center	4/8/2021 1:14 PM
46	Shale	4/8/2021 10:21 AM
47	Na	4/8/2021 9:42 AM
48	N/a	4/8/2021 8:11 AM
49	Shale Park	4/8/2021 7:36 AM
50	Shale hollow	4/7/2021 7:09 PM
51	None close to me	4/7/2021 5:18 PM
52	Shale Hollow	4/7/2021 4:34 PM
53	Alum Creek Below Dam Area	4/7/2021 3:57 PM
54	none	4/7/2021 2:51 PM
55	Na	4/7/2021 2:07 PM
56	Shale Hollow	4/5/2021 3:45 PM
57	Shale Hollow Park	4/1/2021 11:09 AM
58	Shale Hollow	3/31/2021 11:04 AM
59	Shale Hallow	3/27/2021 12:53 PM

Q3 Please indicate how often you or people that live with you visited parks within the past year.

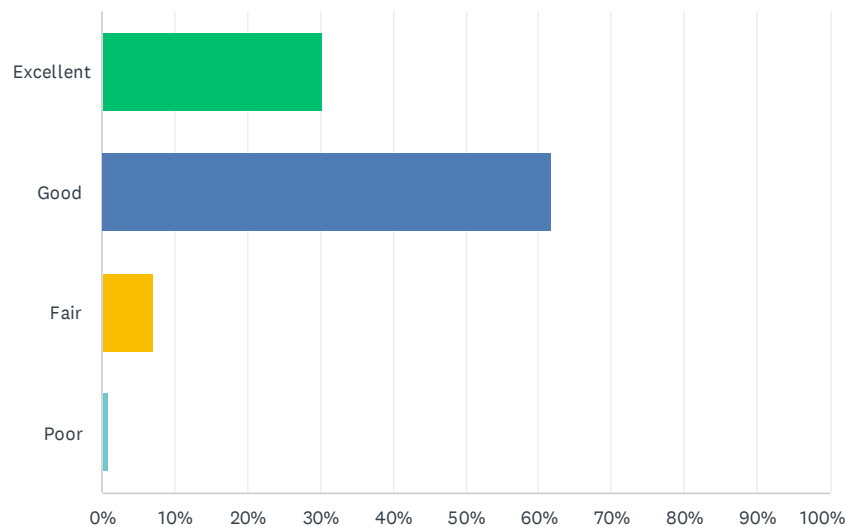
Answered: 1,147    Skipped: 73



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 to 5 visits	15.52%	178
6 to 10 visits	23.71%	272
11 to 19 visits	15.61%	179
20 or more visits	45.16%	518
TOTAL		1,147

Q4 How would you rate the physical condition of the parks and recreation facilities you have visited in Orange Township?

Answered: 1,144 Skipped: 76

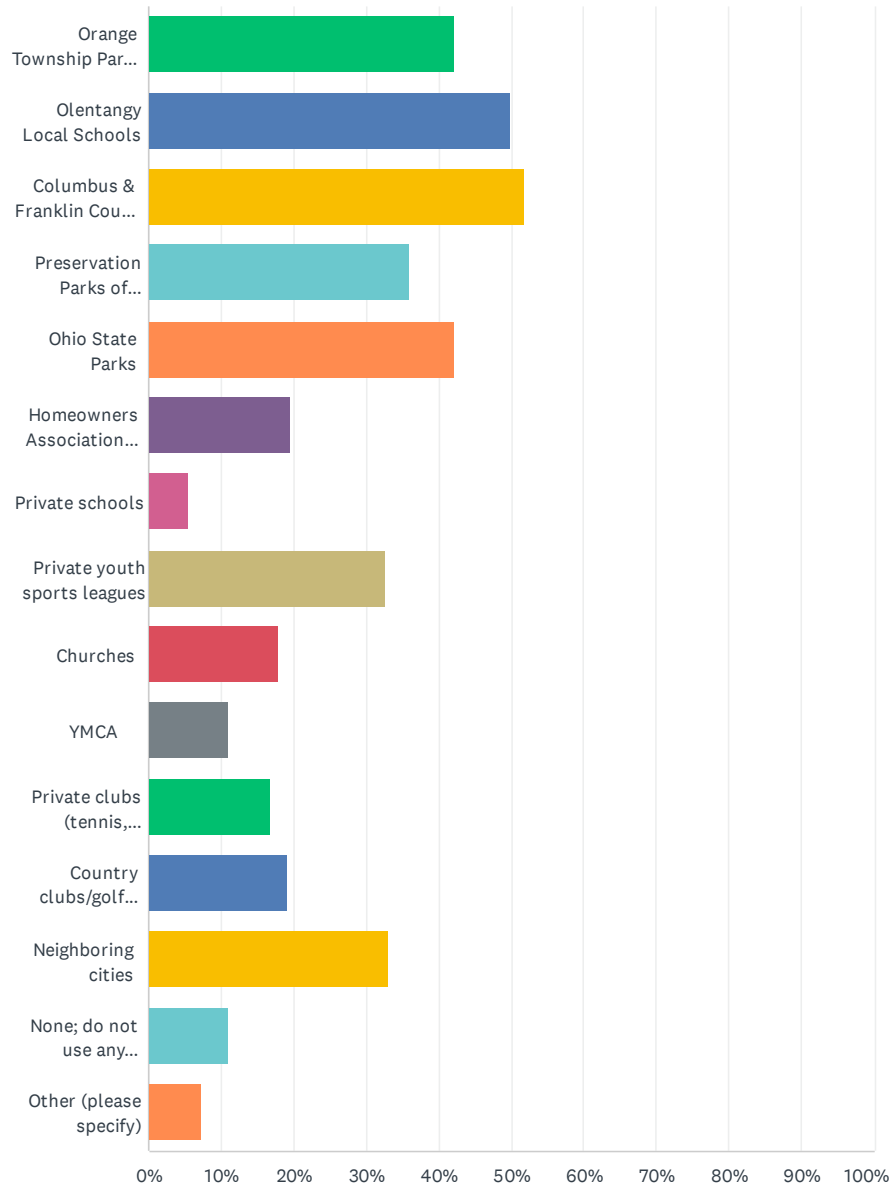


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	30.24%	346
Good	61.89%	708
Fair	6.99%	80
Poor	0.87%	10
TOTAL		1,144



Q5 Please CHECK ALL organizations you or any member of your household use for parks and recreation activities.

Answered: 995 Skipped: 225



## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Orange Township Parks Department	42.21%	420
Olentangy Local Schools	49.95%	497
Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks	51.86%	516
Preservation Parks of Delaware County	36.08%	359
Ohio State Parks	42.21%	420
Homeowners Association (HOA) Facilities	19.60%	195
Private schools	5.53%	55
Private youth sports leagues	32.66%	325
Churches	17.99%	179
YMCA	11.16%	111
Private clubs (tennis, health/fitness)	16.78%	167
Country clubs/golf courses	19.10%	190
Neighboring cities	32.96%	328
None; do not use any organizations	11.06%	110
Other (please specify)	7.24%	72
Total Respondents: 995		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Isus	10/20/2021 4:13 PM
2	meh	10/11/2021 7:20 PM
3	Camp Lazarus	10/6/2021 7:10 PM
4	Boy Scouts	9/15/2021 12:21 PM
5	Rails to Trails in Ohio	9/8/2021 7:10 PM
6	Chicken	9/8/2021 3:43 PM
7	Home school	8/15/2021 8:10 PM
8	We need universal changing tables in all park restrooms.	8/8/2021 10:13 AM
9	Mall walking at Tuttle Mall in winter	8/7/2021 9:55 PM
10	Cub Scouts/Girl Scouts	8/6/2021 6:18 AM
11	Camp	8/6/2021 12:02 AM
12	Liberty Park, concord park	8/5/2021 4:49 PM
13	good	7/30/2021 4:56 PM
14	Pool	7/29/2021 3:10 PM
15	Resolute and Sports Ohio	7/28/2021 1:04 PM
16	Use club near lake erie	7/27/2021 8:20 PM
17	Worthington community center	7/27/2021 10:11 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

18	M	5/12/2021 2:10 PM
19	Cub scouts camp Lazarus	4/22/2021 6:46 PM
20	Disc golf course	4/15/2021 11:04 AM
21	DISC GOLF	4/13/2021 8:46 PM
22	Ohio State Forests	4/12/2021 6:32 AM
23	Columbus Flyers Disc Golf Club	4/11/2021 10:02 PM
24	Disc golf	4/10/2021 9:13 PM
25	Nature family and friends walks	4/9/2021 6:01 PM
26	SourcePoint	4/9/2021 2:49 PM
27	Disc golf	4/9/2021 1:53 PM
28	Several Ohio Disc Golf Clubs	4/9/2021 1:38 PM
29	Disc Golf	4/9/2021 11:43 AM
30	Columbus Flyers - Disc Golf	4/9/2021 9:34 AM
31	Disc golf	4/8/2021 10:55 PM
32	Disc Golf	4/8/2021 10:28 PM
33	Disc golf	4/8/2021 9:32 PM
34	Disc golf	4/8/2021 9:06 PM
35	Disc golf course	4/8/2021 8:12 PM
36	Disc golf	4/8/2021 7:55 PM
37	Columbus flyers disc golf club.	4/8/2021 7:38 PM
38	Disc golf	4/8/2021 6:53 PM
39	Disc Golf Courses	4/8/2021 6:48 PM
40	Disc Golf Leagues	4/8/2021 6:40 PM
41	Columbus Flyers Disc Golf	4/8/2021 5:08 PM
42	Disc golf	4/8/2021 5:05 PM
43	Columbus Flyers Disc Golf	4/8/2021 4:49 PM
44	Disc Golf	4/8/2021 4:36 PM
45	Disc golf courses	4/8/2021 3:57 PM
46	Flyers disc golf	4/8/2021 3:41 PM
47	columbus flyers disc golf club	4/8/2021 3:08 PM
48	Disc golf	4/8/2021 2:52 PM
49	Disc golf course at alum creek	4/8/2021 2:45 PM
50	Disc golf	4/8/2021 2:37 PM
51	Disc golf	4/8/2021 2:26 PM
52	Disc Golf	4/8/2021 1:44 PM
53	Disc Golf Courses	4/8/2021 1:19 PM
54	Boy scouts	4/8/2021 12:36 PM
55	Disc golf	4/8/2021 12:24 PM

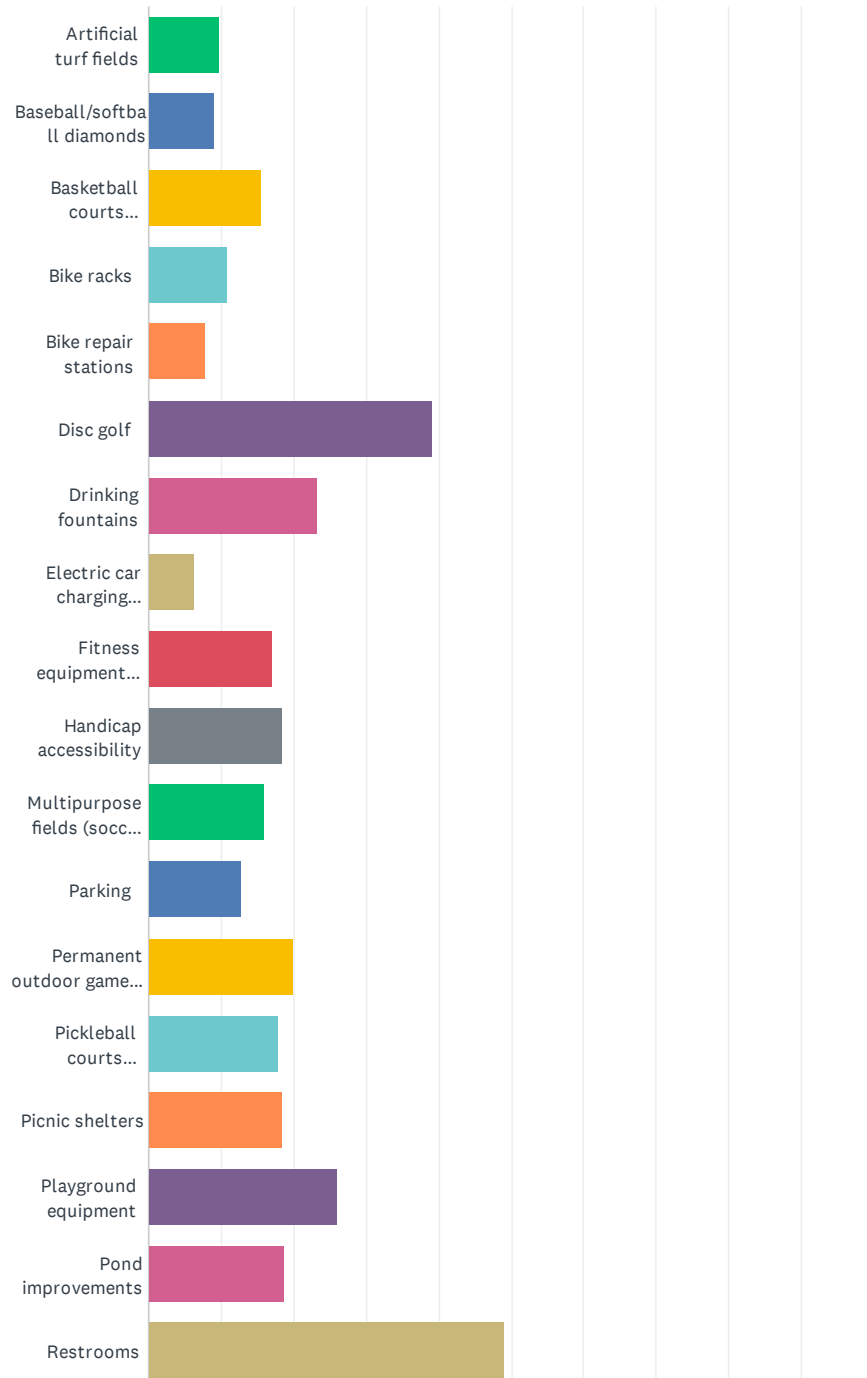
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Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

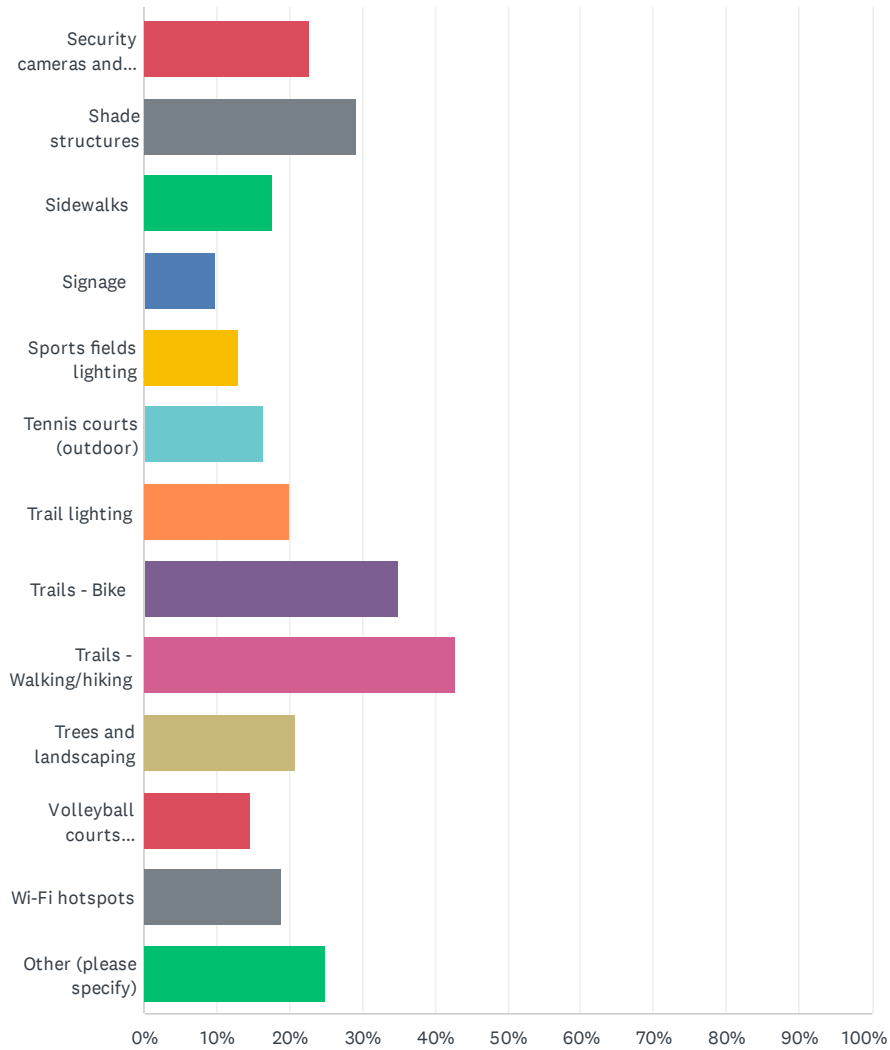
56	Disc golf	4/8/2021 12:15 PM
57	Disc golf	4/8/2021 11:52 AM
58	Disc golf	4/8/2021 10:56 AM
59	Disc golf	4/8/2021 10:28 AM
60	Disc Golf Courses	4/8/2021 10:17 AM
61	Bathroom breaks when I was a cable installer.	4/8/2021 10:12 AM
62	Disc golf courses	4/8/2021 10:06 AM
63	Disc golf course	4/8/2021 9:48 AM
64	Disc golf	4/8/2021 9:44 AM
65	Disc golf	4/8/2021 9:30 AM
66	Disc golf	4/8/2021 9:16 AM
67	N/a	4/8/2021 8:16 AM
68	Disc golf	4/8/2021 7:54 AM
69	Disc Golf	4/8/2021 7:38 AM
70	Disc golf at Alum Creek State Park	4/8/2021 7:09 AM
71	Columbus Flyers Disc Golf	4/8/2021 5:34 AM
72	Community based Travel Soccer Clubs	3/27/2021 10:52 AM

## Q6 Please CHECK ALL upgrades you would like to see at existing parks in Orange Township.

Answered: 1,008 Skipped: 212



### Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey





## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Artificial turf fields	9.72%	98
Baseball/softball diamonds	9.13%	92
Basketball courts (outdoor)	15.48%	156
Bike racks	10.91%	110
Bike repair stations	7.94%	80
Disc golf	39.19%	395
Drinking fountains	23.21%	234
Electric car charging stations	6.45%	65
Fitness equipment (outdoor)	17.06%	172
Handicap accessibility	18.45%	186
Multipurpose fields (soccer/ lacrosse/football/etc.)	16.07%	162
Parking	12.90%	130
Permanent outdoor games (ping-pong, corn hole)	19.94%	201
Pickleball courts (outdoor)	17.96%	181
Picnic shelters	18.65%	188
Playground equipment	26.09%	263
Pond improvements	18.85%	190
Restrooms	49.01%	494
Security cameras and lighting	22.72%	229
Shade structures	29.17%	294
Sidewalks	17.76%	179
Signage	9.82%	99
Sports fields lighting	13.00%	131
Tennis courts (outdoor)	16.47%	166
Trail lighting	20.04%	202
Trails - Bike	35.02%	353
Trails - Walking/hiking	42.76%	431
Trees and landscaping	20.93%	211
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	14.68%	148
Wi-Fi hotspots	19.05%	192
Other (please specify)	24.90%	251
Total Respondents: 1,008		

Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Please	10/20/2021 4:13 PM
2	Basketball courts at walker woods park	10/13/2021 2:33 PM
3	meh	10/11/2021 7:20 PM
4	Natural Play Area	9/22/2021 9:43 AM
5	Swings	9/19/2021 4:29 PM
6	Bike paths across railroad tracks	9/15/2021 12:21 PM
7	Would like more trails that are pet friendly. A lot of the best trails do not allow dogs. Perhaps add doggy bag stations to some of these trails.	9/15/2021 7:45 AM
8	Splash pad	9/11/2021 6:57 PM
9	Artificially covered trail for rainy days would be amazing!	9/11/2021 2:49 PM
10	Pool	9/8/2021 3:43 PM
11	Splash pad	9/6/2021 6:32 AM
12	Pools	9/5/2021 11:16 PM
13	Another public pool!	9/4/2021 4:11 PM
14	Skate park	8/29/2021 7:01 PM
15	Vending machines	8/29/2021 3:37 PM
16	More swimming pools	8/28/2021 8:29 PM
17	Please heat the pool	8/18/2021 1:58 PM
18	Tennis wall for hitting to self ...like the one at Liberty Park	8/14/2021 4:04 PM
19	More pools	8/11/2021 2:57 PM
20	Must connect trail over Orange Railroad Tracks & connect trails to Evans Farm	8/10/2021 12:05 PM
21	Tennis courts with lights - none available today anywhere in township.	8/10/2021 11:43 AM
22	Do not try to make multi use tennis and Pickleball courts. Keep them separate	8/10/2021 10:57 AM
23	Changing tables for disabled in restrooms	8/10/2021 12:11 AM
24	Basketball Courts	8/9/2021 3:01 PM
25	Safer path where you don't feel like you're getting run over by a bicycle when I'm walking on the trails at the orange Township	8/8/2021 6:53 PM
26	Accessibility/engagements for disabled.	8/8/2021 4:11 PM
27	Universal changing stations in restroom, and water fountains that also provide water accessible by pets	8/7/2021 9:55 PM
28	Adult changing stations in restrooms	8/7/2021 8:30 PM
29	Music at N. Orange is obnoxiously loud,	8/7/2021 3:56 PM
30	universal changing tables	8/7/2021 10:49 AM
31	A place to change older children with disabilities in all township parks	8/7/2021 9:06 AM
32	Universal changing tables	8/7/2021 7:42 AM
33	Universal changing tables in the park's restrooms	8/7/2021 4:41 AM
34	Universal changing tables	8/7/2021 12:47 AM
35	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 11:41 PM
36	Universal changing station	8/6/2021 10:21 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

37	We need universal changing tables for teens & adults with disabilities	8/6/2021 10:09 PM
38	Universal changing tables for older kids with disabilities	8/6/2021 9:59 PM
39	Universal changing tables in bathrooms	8/6/2021 8:41 PM
40	Universal changing tables in bathrooms to support individuals with special needs.	8/6/2021 8:19 PM
41	Universal changing stations in restrooms	8/6/2021 7:54 PM
42	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 7:18 PM
43	we need Universal Changing tables installed	8/6/2021 6:43 PM
44	Bathrooms to accommodate larger handicap diaper changing areas for people with disabilities	8/6/2021 5:23 PM
45	Universal changing tables for families with disabilities	8/6/2021 4:12 PM
46	Universal changing stations for bathroom	8/6/2021 4:01 PM
47	We need a movers all changing tables in park bathrooms for members of our community that need a changing table but aren't a baby.	8/6/2021 3:19 PM
48	We need universal changing tables installed in bathrooms for older individuals who need extensive help.	8/6/2021 2:39 PM
49	Older child/teen/adult changing tables for those with disabilities	8/6/2021 1:55 PM
50	Larger changing tables for kids/adults with disabilities	8/6/2021 1:40 PM
51	Multipurpose changing table for people with disabilities	8/6/2021 1:36 PM
52	Universal changing stations in all bathrooms.	8/6/2021 1:00 PM
53	Please add adult changing stations in bathrooms for park visitors with disabilities so it can be a more inclusive, cleaner and safer option for families in need.	8/6/2021 12:44 PM
54	Special changing table for kids with disabilities	8/6/2021 12:42 PM
55	Full size changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 12:20 PM
56	Universal changing tables in bathrooms	8/6/2021 12:16 PM
57	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 12:11 PM
58	Larger changing tables for children with special needs	8/6/2021 12:06 PM
59	Universal changing stations for older children and adults with disabilities	8/6/2021 11:59 AM
60	Universal changing stations in park restrooms	8/6/2021 11:48 AM
61	Universal changing stations in restrooms for our community members living with disabilities	8/6/2021 11:47 AM
62	Universal changing stations installed in bathrooms of public parks	8/6/2021 11:45 AM
63	Disability changing stations, dog parks	8/6/2021 11:44 AM
64	Please put universal changing tables in restrooms for those with handicap children. Also bathrooms abs swings need to be installed at Walker Wood Park	8/6/2021 11:27 AM
65	We need universal changing tables installed in public bathrooms	8/6/2021 11:23 AM
66	Special needs changing tables	8/6/2021 11:17 AM
67	Handicap changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 11:04 AM
68	Changing tables for older kids and adults with disabilities.	8/6/2021 11:04 AM
69	Adult changing stations. Equal field time and conditions for girls sports. Boys OYAA lacrosse gets turf girls OYAA very poorly kept up grass fields behind heritage elementary. Not equal.	8/6/2021 11:01 AM
70	universal chaning tables	8/6/2021 11:01 AM
71	Universal changing stations for physically disabled	8/6/2021 10:47 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

72	Universal diaper changing station	8/6/2021 10:42 AM
73	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 10:39 AM
74	Universal changing stations	8/6/2021 10:34 AM
75	Universal changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 10:16 AM
76	Please create more playground equipment that is handicap accessible. So desperately these children need to feel included. Also Please place universal changing tables that can support older children/adults in all restrooms. A bathroom floor is unacceptable.	8/6/2021 10:14 AM
77	universal changing tables	8/6/2021 10:10 AM
78	Special Needs Changing Tables	8/6/2021 10:07 AM
79	Adult size changing stations in all public restrooms or an accessible restroom with a large changing table! Many of us have school age or teenage children in wheelchairs and are tired of changing them on the ground of the facilities bc the baby changing station is too small. Please do better!	8/6/2021 10:00 AM
80	Diaper change station for big kids with disabilities	8/6/2021 9:49 AM
81	Universal changing tables to be installed	8/6/2021 9:44 AM
82	Provide universal changing tables for kids with disabilities	8/6/2021 9:41 AM
83	Universal changing tables in the restrooms.	8/6/2021 9:38 AM
84	Universal changing tables to fit all sizes	8/6/2021 9:37 AM
85	Bigger changing tables installed into the bathrooms for disabled children	8/6/2021 9:32 AM
86	Universal changing tables in bathrooms	8/6/2021 9:30 AM
87	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 9:20 AM
88	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 9:19 AM
89	Universal changing stations for handicapped teens/adults	8/6/2021 9:17 AM
90	Adult sized changing stations in rstrooms	8/6/2021 9:14 AM
91	Adult changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 9:09 AM
92	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 9:06 AM
93	Universal changing room for adults with disabilities	8/6/2021 9:03 AM
94	Universal changing tables in the restrooms to support needs larger than children	8/6/2021 9:01 AM
95	Universal Changing Tables	8/6/2021 9:01 AM
96	universal changing tables for older children with disabilities installed in all park bathrooms, better restrooms at north orange pool	8/6/2021 8:58 AM
97	Universal changing table in bathrooms	8/6/2021 8:56 AM
98	Bocce Courts	8/6/2021 8:54 AM
99	Universal changing tables for disabled children	8/6/2021 8:52 AM
100	Universal bathrooms, please.	8/6/2021 8:50 AM
101	More toddler areas, sand box, shade near playgrounds, something near shops	8/6/2021 8:46 AM
102	Universal changing stations for adults with disabilities	8/6/2021 8:46 AM
103	Adult size changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 8:40 AM
104	Universal bathroom design for our friends with physical disabilities	8/6/2021 8:39 AM
105	Universal bathroom changing tables (larger for older children with disabilities)	8/6/2021 8:37 AM
106	Bathroom for people with disabilities	8/6/2021 8:33 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

107	we need Universal Changing tables installed in the parks' bathrooms	8/6/2021 8:22 AM
108	Universal changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 8:21 AM
109	Handicap restroom with adult size changing tables	8/6/2021 8:20 AM
110	Universal changing tables for individuals with disabilities that are too big for infant changing tables!	8/6/2021 8:15 AM
111	Universal changing tables for older kids/adult with disability needs	8/6/2021 8:12 AM
112	Universal changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 8:10 AM
113	Adult changing tables	8/6/2021 8:10 AM
114	Universal changing tables installed in park bathrooms	8/6/2021 8:08 AM
115	Universal changing stations to accommodate all ages	8/6/2021 8:03 AM
116	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 8:02 AM
117	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 8:01 AM
118	Changing tables for disabled older children and adults	8/6/2021 7:59 AM
119	There needs to be universal changing tables	8/6/2021 7:59 AM
120	Universal changing tables in public restrooms	8/6/2021 7:51 AM
121	Bathroom changing tables	8/6/2021 7:51 AM
122	Universal changing tables in restroom	8/6/2021 7:46 AM
123	Please add universal changing tables in the bathrooms. My daughter has mitochondrial complex 1 and I do not want to use the floor to change her. Please help	8/6/2021 7:45 AM
124	Changing tables for handicapped individuals	8/6/2021 7:45 AM
125	Universal changing tables for older children/adults with disabilities	8/6/2021 7:43 AM
126	Adult changing stations for those with disabilities	8/6/2021 7:40 AM
127	Universal changing tables for adults with disabilities	8/6/2021 7:37 AM
128	Universal Changing Stations in bathrooms	8/6/2021 7:34 AM
129	Universal changing stations for older children and adults with disabilities	8/6/2021 7:34 AM
130	Universal changing tables in bathrooms	8/6/2021 7:30 AM
131	Universal changing tables in bathrooms	8/6/2021 7:22 AM
132	Universal changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 7:17 AM
133	Universal changing tables in bathrooms	8/6/2021 7:16 AM
134	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 7:13 AM
135	Water bottle fillers, universal changing tables in restrooms for older kids with disabilities	8/6/2021 7:12 AM
136	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 7:11 AM
137	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 7:05 AM
138	Adult changing facilities/universal restrooms	8/6/2021 7:00 AM
139	Universal changing tables for the disabled	8/6/2021 6:58 AM
140	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 6:56 AM
141	Universal Restrooms	8/6/2021 6:54 AM
142	Universal changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 6:51 AM
143	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 6:47 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

144	Universal changing stations in bathroom	8/6/2021 6:41 AM
145	Universal changing stations at parks	8/6/2021 6:25 AM
146	Universal changing stalls for disabilities; electrical outlets at every shelter	8/6/2021 6:18 AM
147	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 6:16 AM
148	Universal changing tables - larger for all ages. Cleaner bathrooms at orange pool	8/6/2021 6:11 AM
149	Universal changing stations	8/6/2021 6:09 AM
150	Basketball court at WW park. older child changing facilities in bathrooms.	8/6/2021 6:07 AM
151	Handicap accessible changing tables	8/6/2021 6:07 AM
152	Weed the landscaping already installed	8/6/2021 6:05 AM
153	Universal changing tables in restrooms for older kids with disabilities	8/6/2021 5:59 AM
154	Universal changing tables in restrooms for older disabled children	8/6/2021 5:58 AM
155	Universal changing table	8/6/2021 5:52 AM
156	Universal changing station in bathrooms	8/6/2021 5:51 AM
157	Universal changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 5:42 AM
158	Adult changing tables	8/6/2021 5:40 AM
159	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 5:37 AM
160	Adding in a changing table for kids with disabilities.	8/6/2021 5:26 AM
161	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 5:23 AM
162	Restrooms need to be upgraded (men and women) with universal changing tables.	8/6/2021 5:00 AM
163	Universal changing tables in the bathrooms	8/6/2021 4:20 AM
164	Universal Changing Tables for special needs children	8/6/2021 4:18 AM
165	Universal changing tables for disabled	8/6/2021 4:06 AM
166	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 3:44 AM
167	Universal changing stations	8/6/2021 3:37 AM
168	Larger person support handicap changing tables	8/6/2021 3:24 AM
169	Universal changing tables in restrooms for kids/adults with immobility/disabilities	8/6/2021 2:14 AM
170	Universal changing station	8/6/2021 1:59 AM
171	Bathroom changing stations for adults/adolescents is important for all who use park facilities.	8/6/2021 1:52 AM
172	Universal style changing table in the public bathrooms	8/6/2021 1:09 AM
173	Adult changing stations	8/6/2021 1:03 AM
174	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 12:42 AM
175	Bigger changing tables for disabled kids/teens/adults	8/6/2021 12:42 AM
176	Changing tables for children and adults with different abilities.	8/6/2021 12:21 AM
177	Adult sized changing tables in the restrooms	8/6/2021 12:20 AM
178	Changing tables for people with disabilities in the restrooms!	8/6/2021 12:14 AM
179	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 12:13 AM
180	Adult/universal changing tables in park restrooms	8/6/2021 12:11 AM
181	Changing tables for handicap children that aren't toddler sized	8/6/2021 12:08 AM



### Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

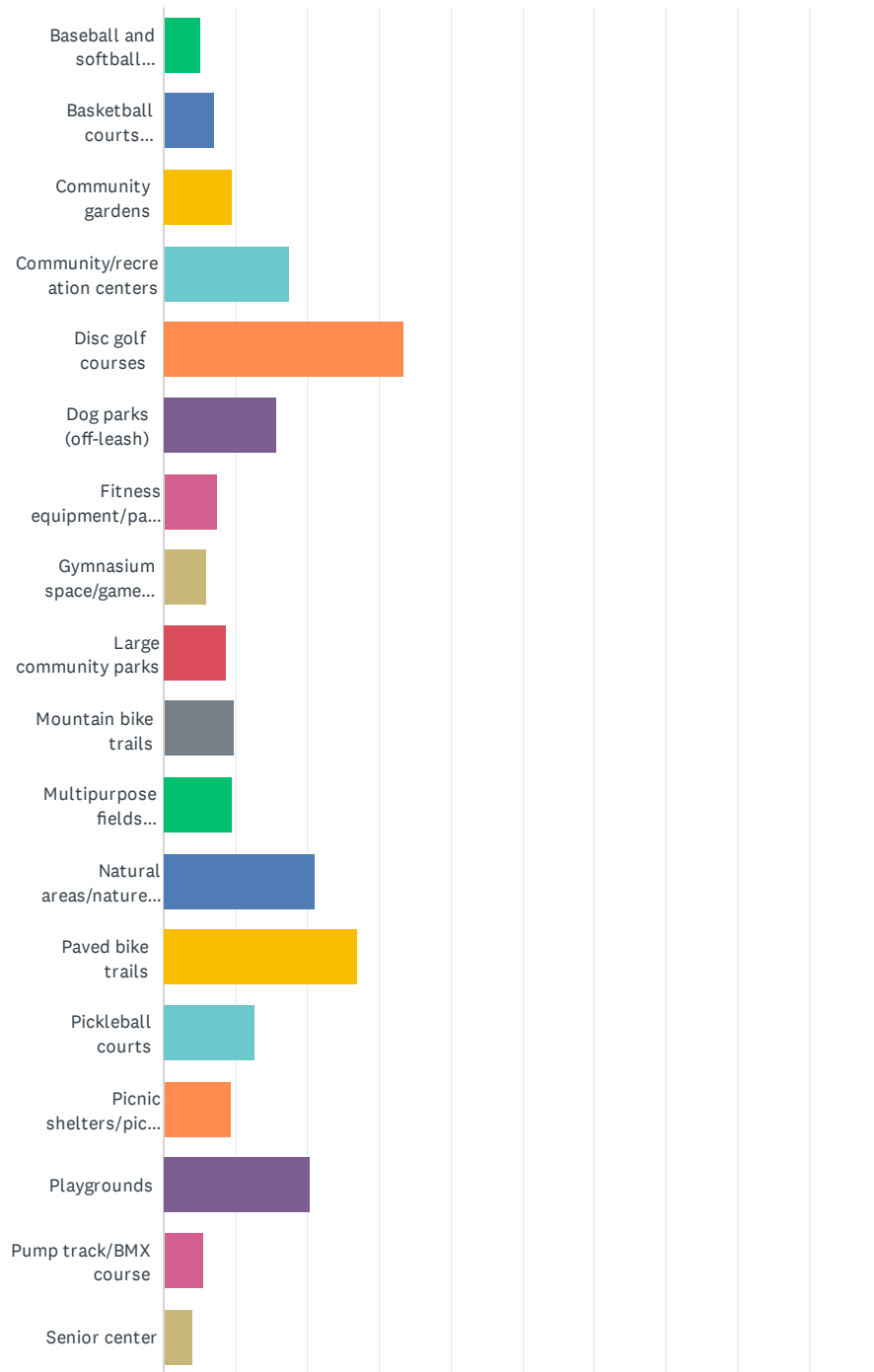
182	Diaper table for kids of 10 yes or so who are disabled.	8/6/2021 12:08 AM
183	Universal changing tables for toddlers and children with disabilities	8/6/2021 12:04 AM
184	I would like to see bathrooms have changing areas for larger disabled individuals that need changing tables.	8/6/2021 12:02 AM
185	Universal changing table for older handicapped children	8/5/2021 11:59 PM
186	Universal changing tables for disabled kids/adults	8/5/2021 11:59 PM
187	Universal changing table for those with disabilities	8/5/2021 11:57 PM
188	Splash Pads	8/5/2021 11:43 PM
189	Universal changing tables in bathrooms	8/5/2021 10:49 PM
190	Amphitheater/ outdoor entertainment venue	8/5/2021 9:45 PM
191	Adapted Mommy and Me swing for children with special needs	8/5/2021 9:03 PM
192	Playground at Orange Township Park	8/5/2021 7:48 PM
193	Tennis courts!!! We drive to Powell to use theirs. We've found none in Orange.	8/2/2021 11:48 AM
194	Free vending machine	7/31/2021 6:25 PM
195	great	7/30/2021 4:56 PM
196	better lifeguards	7/29/2021 3:10 PM
197	A second pool	7/27/2021 7:18 PM
198	More tables and umbrellas	7/26/2021 2:12 PM
199	splash pad	5/21/2021 5:00 PM
200	Splash pads	5/12/2021 10:04 PM
201	Connection of disjointed bike paths	5/12/2021 4:43 PM
202	Skate park	5/12/2021 4:34 PM
203	Dog friendly areas	5/12/2021 4:19 PM
204	Solid rubber surface for floor of all playgrounds (like what is currently in N Orange Park)	5/12/2021 2:10 PM
205	Bocci ball	5/12/2021 1:16 PM
206	None	4/23/2021 9:12 AM
207	FootGolf attachment installed on disc golf basket.	4/22/2021 10:16 PM
208	I would like to access the park system from my neighborhood without getting in my car. I live in Willow springs north. Please bring the sidewalks to us	4/22/2021 6:46 PM
209	Open indoor community space for classes like yoga!	4/22/2021 10:37 AM
210	Disc golf	4/15/2021 11:04 AM
211	Fish cleaning stations, trashcans	4/13/2021 8:46 PM
212	More designated pickleball courts	4/13/2021 7:21 AM
213	Trees in the center islands of Old State	4/12/2021 6:32 AM
214	Was	4/11/2021 9:30 PM
215	Lighted pickleball courts	4/10/2021 7:46 PM
216	Amphitheater at North Orange Park which is the sledding hill.	4/9/2021 4:50 PM
217	More parks in general	4/9/2021 12:50 PM
218	Splash pad	4/8/2021 10:06 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

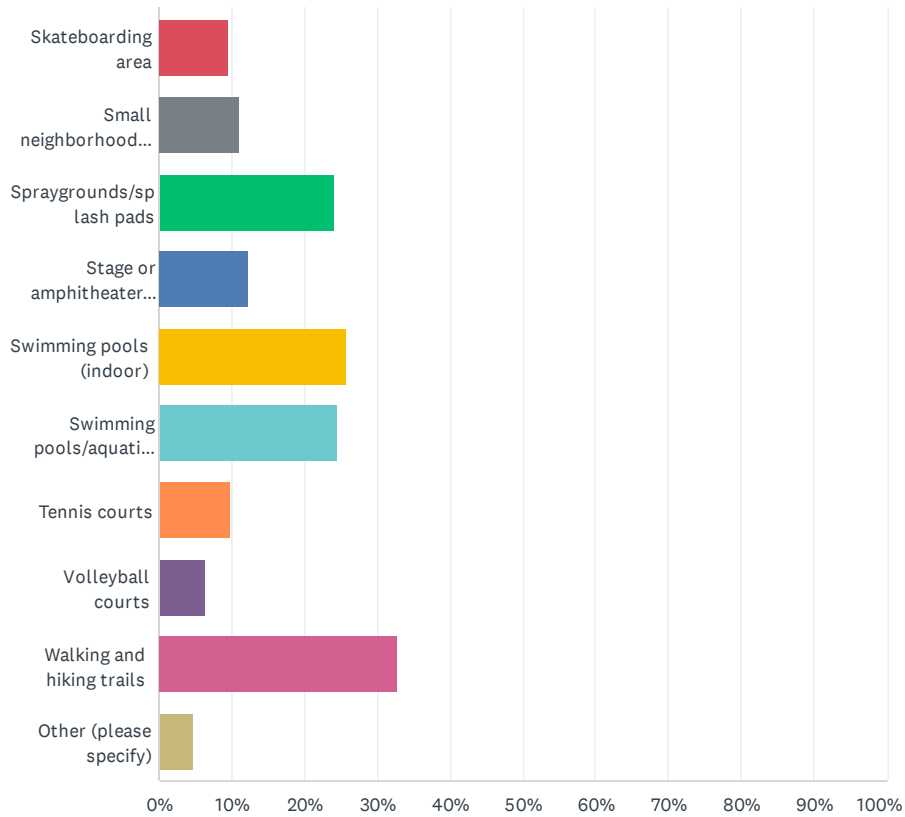
219	Disc golf courses	4/8/2021 4:49 PM
220	Outdoor roller hockey	4/8/2021 4:08 PM
221	adequate trash cans	4/8/2021 3:08 PM
222	Platform Tennis courts	4/8/2021 10:25 AM
223	Disc golf at highbanks!	4/8/2021 10:01 AM
224	Would like to see improvement at done to the current trails. The pavement and bridges from Ro park to Lewis Center are impassable on roller blades.	4/8/2021 8:16 AM
225	More trash cans in parks	4/8/2021 7:58 AM
226	Basketball court	4/8/2021 7:54 AM
227	Dog poop waste cans and bags	4/8/2021 7:44 AM
228	Sometimes trees fall at Alum Creeks's disc golf course and could be dangerous to players walking through the areas.	4/8/2021 7:09 AM
229	Mountain bike trails. Not paved trails	4/7/2021 11:42 PM
230	Pool	4/7/2021 9:20 PM
231	Splash pad	4/7/2021 9:04 PM
232	Additional swimming pool location	4/7/2021 8:52 PM
233	Need lighted tennis courts only ones near by are in worthington	4/7/2021 7:14 PM
234	More skating ponds	4/7/2021 5:46 PM
235	Skate park! So many kids in our community skate, scooter, roller blade, bmx bike, etc	4/7/2021 4:34 PM
236	Pool- all great- would love a comm pool	4/7/2021 4:25 PM
237	Zip lines with seats on playgrounds	4/7/2021 4:25 PM
238	Please reopen all of the restrooms	4/7/2021 4:00 PM
239	Splash pad	4/7/2021 3:28 PM
240	Swingset at walker woods park	4/7/2021 3:19 PM
241	More seating benches at play grounds	4/7/2021 2:40 PM
242	Bathrooms open on weekends!	4/7/2021 2:32 PM
243	Handball/racketball	4/7/2021 1:04 PM
244	Outdoor play like ziplines	4/7/2021 12:54 PM
245	More baseball fields	4/7/2021 12:52 PM
246	I would like for my kids to be able to actually play at the park. Too many older kids bullying younger kids and too many club sports utilizing all of the park green spaces	4/7/2021 12:50 PM
247	Soccer fields	4/6/2021 10:42 AM
248	Skate park	4/5/2021 7:06 PM
249	Dog park	4/5/2021 6:57 PM
250	Splash pad	4/5/2021 10:54 AM
251	Parkshore/Lakeshore neighborhoods have no access to trails without either driving or walking a ways on roadways to get to the trails. Would love 100% connectivity.	3/31/2021 11:12 AM

## Q7 Which facilities would you (or those who live with you) most like to see developed or expanded? (Select up to FOUR options)

Answered: 1,002 Skipped: 218



### Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey



## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball and softball diamonds	5.19%	52
Basketball courts (outdoor)	6.99%	70
Community gardens	9.58%	96
Community/recreation centers	17.56%	176
Disc golf courses	33.43%	335
Dog parks (off-leash)	15.87%	159
Fitness equipment/par course (outdoor)	7.39%	74
Gymnasium space/game courts (indoor)	5.89%	59
Large community parks	8.68%	87
Mountain bike trails	9.78%	98
Multipurpose fields (soccer/lacrosse/etc.)	9.58%	96
Natural areas/nature parks	21.06%	211
Paved bike trails	27.05%	271
Pickleball courts	12.87%	129
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	9.28%	93
Playgrounds	20.46%	205
Pump track/BMX course	5.49%	55
Senior center	4.09%	41
Skateboarding area	9.58%	96
Small neighborhood parks	11.18%	112
Spraygrounds/splash pads	24.05%	241
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	12.28%	123
Swimming pools (indoor)	25.75%	258
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	24.45%	245
Tennis courts	9.78%	98
Volleyball courts	6.49%	65
Walking and hiking trails	32.73%	328
Other (please specify)	4.79%	48
Total Respondents: 1,002		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Yes	10/20/2021 4:13 PM
2	Baseball court or wiffle field at Walker Woods Park	10/13/2021 2:33 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

3	Drive in movie	9/29/2021 2:20 PM
4	A public pool	9/19/2021 4:29 PM
5	Bike paths across railroad tracks	9/15/2021 12:21 PM
6	Ninja course	9/14/2021 10:12 AM
7	Music "tent"	9/8/2021 7:10 PM
8	Golf actual public golf course with limited expense	8/11/2021 2:57 PM
9	Lit tennis courts and indoor pool	8/10/2021 11:43 AM
10	Splash pads	8/9/2021 11:56 AM
11	I love the trails or I can bring my dog like the orange township is perfect	8/8/2021 6:53 PM
12	Roller Skating, RC Tracks	8/8/2021 10:13 AM
13	Clean, safe public restrooms in current parks, and better handicapped accessibility including playgrounds and outdoor fitness equipment	8/7/2021 9:55 PM
14	Continue bike trail from Waukegan to Old State on LC Rd.	8/7/2021 6:27 PM
15	Bathrooms	8/6/2021 4:01 PM
16	We'd love an amphitheater space with ample parking to support our local musicians and artists	8/6/2021 12:44 PM
17	Universal changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 12:11 PM
18	Zip line	8/6/2021 11:04 AM
19	Accessibility features, such as universal changing tables and inclusive playground equipment	8/6/2021 8:44 AM
20	Wheelchair swing	8/6/2021 8:02 AM
21	Universal changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 7:40 AM
22	Turf field hockey field	8/6/2021 7:30 AM
23	M	8/6/2021 6:25 AM
24	Bathrooms (men and women) with universal changing tables	8/6/2021 5:00 AM
25	Handicap accessible trails	8/6/2021 12:21 AM
26	Ninja Warrior course/parcore	8/6/2021 12:02 AM
27	Street/dek hockey rink	8/5/2021 5:53 PM
28	Turf fields	8/5/2021 4:30 PM
29	I have no needs but support whatever because it makes Orange Twp nicer and more friendly	8/5/2021 4:24 PM
30	amazing	7/30/2021 4:56 PM
31	Outdoor Roller Hockey	7/27/2021 8:31 PM
32	Walking trails on lewis center rd	5/12/2021 9:41 PM
33	More/continued preservation of designated green/natural areas within orange Township	5/12/2021 2:10 PM
34	More parks with trees less development!!	4/9/2021 12:50 PM
35	I am a disc golfer and have played most courses in Ohio	4/8/2021 5:20 PM
36	Disc golf	4/8/2021 12:55 PM
37	Platform Tennis courts	4/8/2021 10:25 AM
38	N/a	4/8/2021 8:16 AM
39	Disc golf	4/8/2021 7:58 AM
40	Please put the disc course back in high banks!!	4/8/2021 7:58 AM



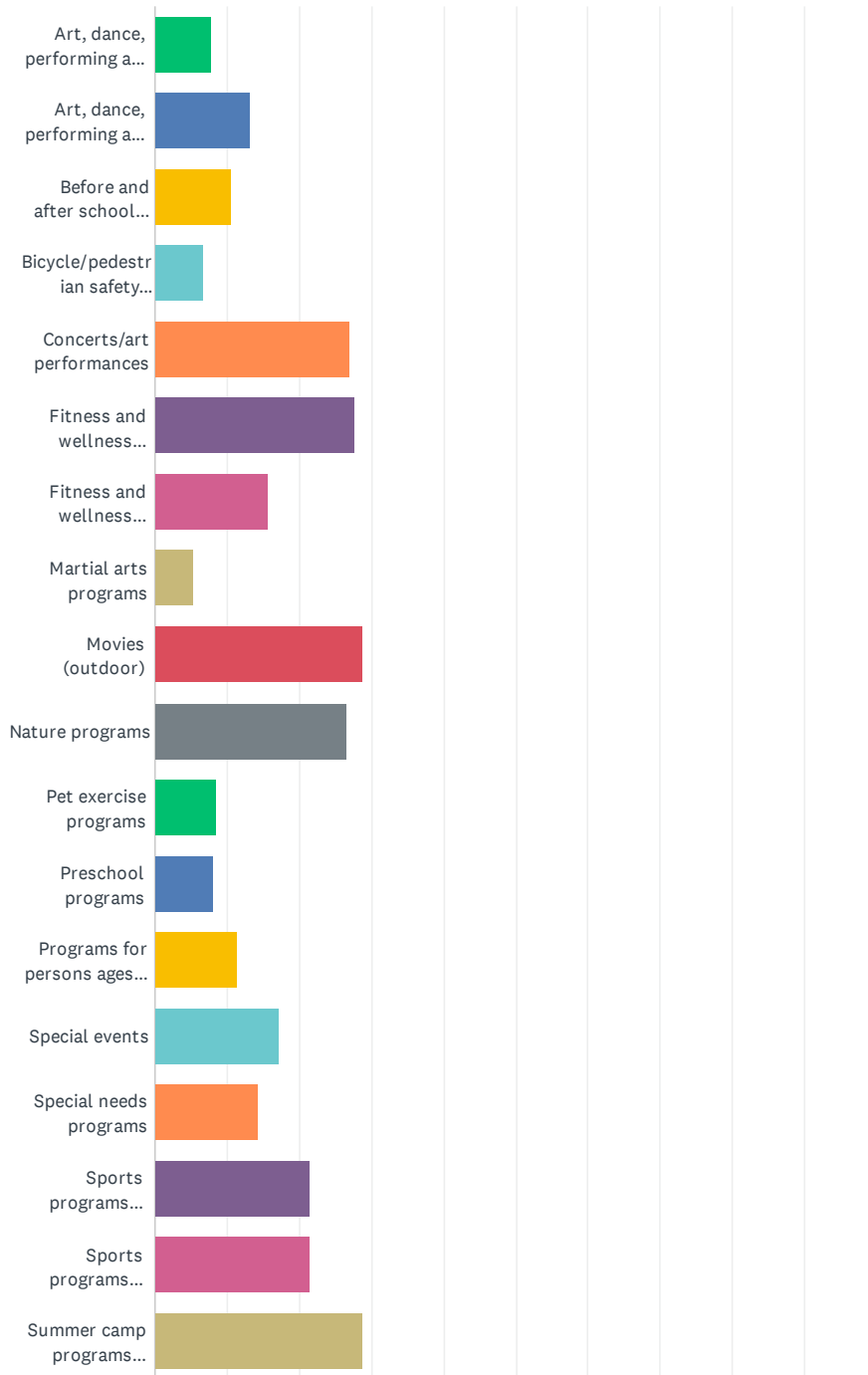
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Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

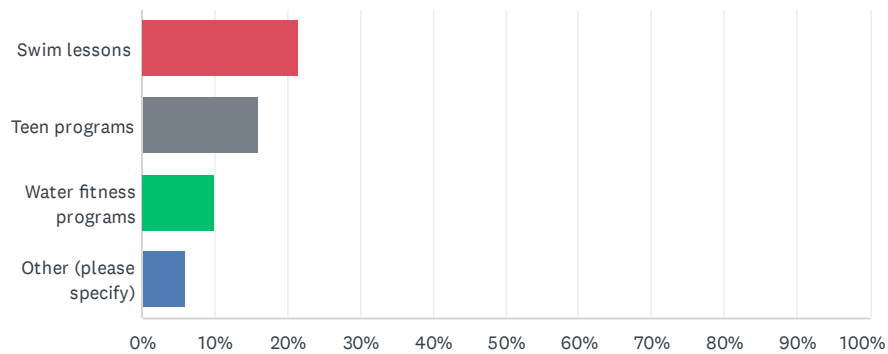
41	Pools!! Our area is in need orange is grossly overcrowded pool	4/7/2021 5:46 PM
42	J	4/7/2021 2:12 PM
43	Sand volleyball courts	4/7/2021 1:13 PM
44	Soccer fields	4/6/2021 7:37 PM
45	Soccer fields	4/6/2021 10:42 AM
46	Bike trail along Lewis Center Rd connecting from Old State to the Dam.	4/5/2021 10:27 PM
47	Splash pad	4/5/2021 10:54 AM
48	The township needs dedicated areas for soccer fields that are for games only...and then additional green space that teams can use for practice. North Road Park and North Orange Park are used for both games and for practice and those fields take a beating.	3/31/2021 11:19 AM

## Q8 Which programs would you (or those who live with you) most like to see developed or expanded? (Select up to FOUR options)

Answered: 897 Skipped: 323



### Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	7.92%	71
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	13.15%	118
Before and after school programs	10.70%	96
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	6.91%	62
Concerts/art performances	26.98%	242
Fitness and wellness programs (adult)	27.76%	249
Fitness and wellness programs (youth)	15.72%	141
Martial arts programs	5.35%	48
Movies (outdoor)	28.87%	259
Nature programs	26.64%	239
Pet exercise programs	8.47%	76
Preschool programs	8.03%	72
Programs for persons ages 50+	11.48%	103
Special events	17.28%	155
Special needs programs	14.38%	129
Sports programs (adult)	21.63%	194
Sports programs (youth)	21.52%	193
Summer camp programs (youth)	28.76%	258
Swim lessons	21.63%	194
Teen programs	15.94%	143
Water fitness programs	10.03%	90
Other (please specify)	6.02%	54
Total Respondents: 897		

### Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

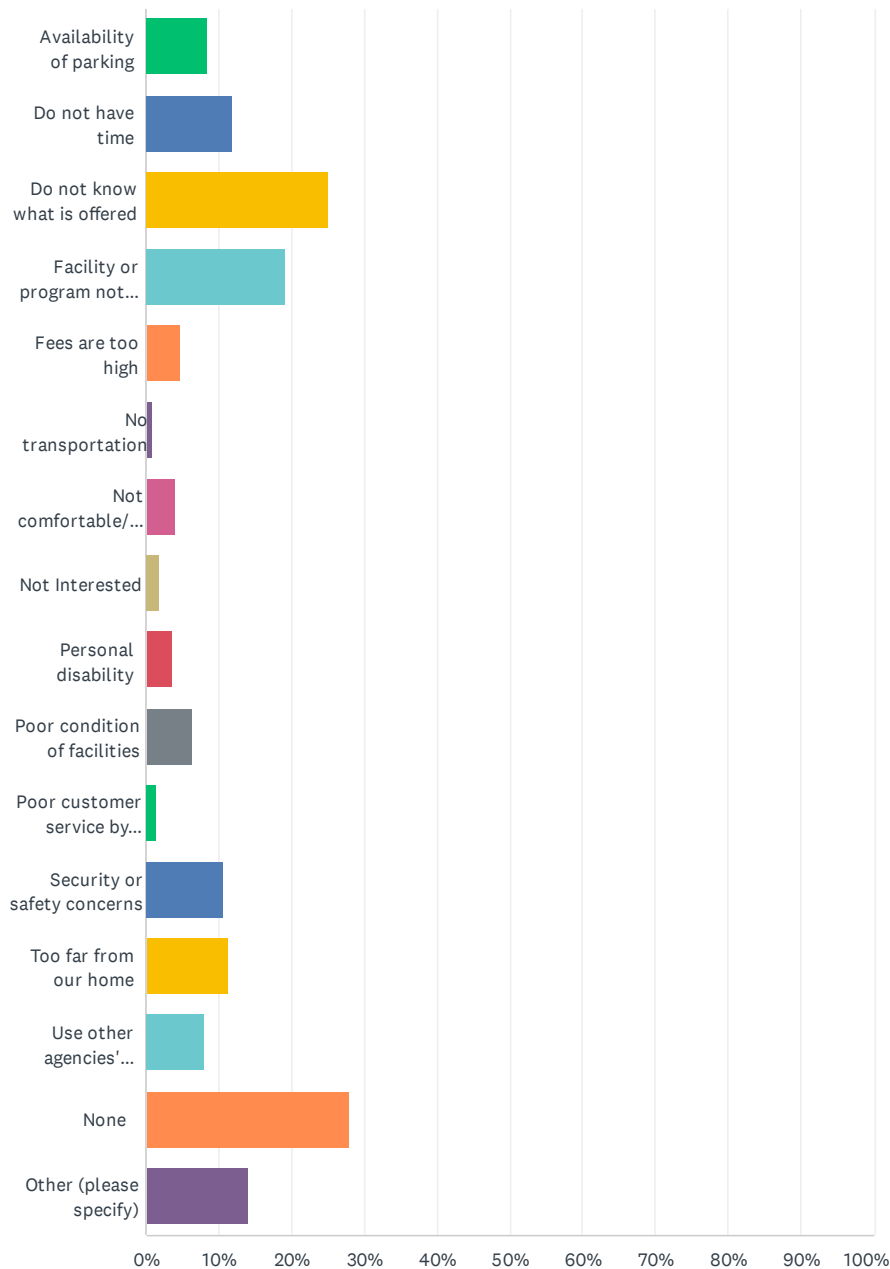
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Yes	10/20/2021 4:13 PM
2	Scavenger hunts	9/19/2021 4:29 PM
3	Food truck festival for our community each month, outdoor Buckeyes tailgate and watch on big screen outdoors as a community	9/16/2021 9:01 AM
4	At township park I would like to see something else added besides one basketball court. Perhaps a second court or tennis court.	9/15/2021 7:45 AM
5	We like the serenity that exists today without all these activities creating more crowds and noise	9/11/2021 2:49 PM
6	Swim team	9/5/2021 11:16 PM
7	Disc Golf	8/12/2021 6:44 PM
8	Diving lessons	8/10/2021 11:43 AM
9	Pickle ball classes	8/10/2021 10:57 AM
10	Swim team at Orange pool	8/6/2021 11:27 AM
11	Tennis programs -lack of those in our area	8/6/2021 7:43 AM
12	Special Events - farmers market, gardens, parades, fireworks, egg hunts etc	8/6/2021 6:09 AM
13	Swim team	8/5/2021 11:57 PM
14	Swim team at Orange pool	8/5/2021 10:49 PM
15	M	8/5/2021 8:30 PM
16	Yoga would be fun	8/5/2021 4:49 PM
17	Swim team at north orange acoustic pavilion	8/4/2021 5:10 PM
18	Homeschool families appreciate options to use faculties during the school year and during the day. Having a few options with any program for school age kids during the day is awesome. 10% of families are now homeschooling.	8/2/2021 11:48 AM
19	outstanding	7/30/2021 4:56 PM
20	Lacrosse program	7/29/2021 9:10 AM
21	8	5/12/2021 2:48 PM
22	walking paths connected to my neighborhood	4/23/2021 9:12 AM
23	Disc golf courses	4/15/2021 11:04 AM
24	Disc golf programs	4/13/2021 8:46 PM
25	Disc Golf	4/11/2021 11:03 AM
26	Disc golf	4/10/2021 9:13 PM
27	group run	4/9/2021 8:19 PM
28	Pickleball group play	4/9/2021 9:45 AM
29	Disc golf	4/8/2021 9:01 PM
30	Disc golf tournaments	4/8/2021 8:28 PM
31	Disc golf	4/8/2021 7:38 PM
32	More disc golf tournaments	4/8/2021 6:47 PM
33	Disc Golf tournaments	4/8/2021 6:40 PM
34	I am 50+ but also play disc golf throughout Ohio	4/8/2021 5:20 PM

### Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

35	Disc golf events	4/8/2021 1:51 PM
36	Disc Golf Leagues, Tournaments, and Events	4/8/2021 1:19 PM
37	Disc golf	4/8/2021 12:26 PM
38	Disc golf	4/8/2021 11:52 AM
39	Disc golf lessons	4/8/2021 10:20 AM
40	League Nights for disc golf	4/8/2021 10:17 AM
41	Kids disc golf leagues or events.	4/8/2021 10:01 AM
42	Disc golf.	4/8/2021 9:58 AM
43	Disc golf	4/8/2021 9:49 AM
44	Disc golf	4/8/2021 9:48 AM
45	Disc golf events please	4/8/2021 9:21 AM
46	Disc Golf League	4/8/2021 8:44 AM
47	N/a	4/8/2021 8:16 AM
48	Disc golf	4/8/2021 7:58 AM
49	Disc golf	4/8/2021 7:58 AM
50	Concerts / Live performances	4/8/2021 7:09 AM
51	Disc Golf Course	4/7/2021 11:13 PM
52	Indoor fitness facilities	4/7/2021 12:55 PM
53	Bike paths connecting schools	4/7/2021 12:52 PM
54	Food events.	4/5/2021 2:20 PM

**Q9 Please CHECK ALL items that keep you or any member of your household from using the parks, recreation facilities, trails, and events of Orange Township more often.**

Answered: 835 Skipped: 385





## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Availability of parking	8.50%	71
Do not have time	11.86%	99
Do not know what is offered	25.15%	210
Facility or program not offered	19.16%	160
Fees are too high	4.67%	39
No transportation	0.96%	8
Not comfortable/not meeting needs	4.07%	34
Not Interested	1.92%	16
Personal disability	3.59%	30
Poor condition of facilities	6.35%	53
Poor customer service by staff	1.44%	12
Security or safety concerns	10.66%	89
Too far from our home	11.38%	95
Use other agencies' facilities	8.14%	68
None	28.02%	234
Other (please specify)	14.13%	118
Total Respondents: 835		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Nice	10/20/2021 4:13 PM
2	Need to enhance the paved Bike trails infra, i have to go to Alum creek or Olentangy bike trials.	9/27/2021 8:41 AM
3	Not enough variety	9/22/2021 9:50 AM
4	No shade, you cut down too many large trees when you built the parks, plant more trees ASAP to the west and south of where you want people to gather, also have some work tables with power outlets and shade so people can work outside if they want at the park and wifi	9/16/2021 9:01 AM
5	No bike paths across railroad tracks	9/15/2021 12:21 PM
6	Not enough connected paths. However it has improved recently on orange road and Bale Kenyon	9/13/2021 6:05 PM
7	Bike paths disconnected and difficult to get to other paths	9/13/2021 11:43 AM
8	Pool is too crowded	9/5/2021 11:16 PM
9	The lack of shade, trees	9/3/2021 2:02 PM
10	Pool closing times	8/18/2021 4:07 PM
11	Orange pool is too small. Their are times I've been shoulder to shoulder no matter where you go	8/15/2021 3:40 PM
12	Not sure where	8/11/2021 7:58 AM
13	No lights for tennis when sun sets	8/10/2021 11:43 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

14	Close to home by mileage, but Traffic makes it prohibitive to go	8/10/2021 11:10 AM
15	Too crowded at pool	8/10/2021 11:09 AM
16	Our neighborhood is outside the orange bubble	8/10/2021 12:11 AM
17	Abbey Knoll Doesn't have any parks	8/9/2021 3:01 PM
18	Availability of public restrooms with handicapped facilities	8/7/2021 9:55 PM
19	Need universal changing tables in bathrooms	8/7/2021 8:24 PM
20	Inaccessibility of bike trail to our Willow Springs neighborhood on LC rd.	8/7/2021 6:27 PM
21	I say none, however, the lifeguards at the pool have had a difficult time having to deal with disrespectful kids and sadly disrespectful parents of these kids. Would love to see the township put into place a zero tolerance standard.	8/7/2021 3:56 PM
22	See above regarding diaper changing.	8/6/2021 3:19 PM
23	Lack of pond cleaning and lack of universal changing tables	8/6/2021 12:11 PM
24	Instead of driving I'd like to be able to bike to programming but there aren't sufficient trails	8/6/2021 11:48 AM
25	As mentioned above, universal changing stations would be life changing for us.	8/6/2021 11:23 AM
26	Need universal changing tables	8/6/2021 10:10 AM
27	not enough trails for connectivity....not going to drive there	8/6/2021 10:08 AM
28	Accessibility	8/6/2021 10:00 AM
29	No restrooms	8/6/2021 9:17 AM
30	Hot/no shade	8/6/2021 9:14 AM
31	Need more umbrellas at Orange Aquatic	8/6/2021 9:01 AM
32	Or enough connecting bike paths. Would love to ride our bikes to any parks from our neighborhood (Willow Springs). We have no bike path in our neighborhood.	8/6/2021 8:20 AM
33	Pool is crowded	8/6/2021 7:43 AM
34	COVID-19	8/6/2021 7:13 AM
35	Live in liberty township	8/6/2021 7:00 AM
36	Require universal changing table in your restroom facilities.	8/6/2021 12:42 AM
37	Not accessible for all family members due to wheelchair access. It's heartbreaking to leave one family member behind.	8/6/2021 12:21 AM
38	Amount of shade	8/6/2021 12:08 AM
39	Lack of universal changing tables in bathrooms	8/5/2021 10:49 PM
40	No trails or shade - township parks has lost too much natural areas so it can be mowed. Also lost habitat and shade	8/5/2021 10:19 PM
41	No bike/walking trails connect my neighborhood to current parks	8/5/2021 9:27 PM
42	Lack of bike trail connectivity over the railroad tracks limits	8/5/2021 9:23 PM
43	Not easily accessed on foot from home. Trails don't lead anywhere - no end destination.	8/5/2021 9:19 PM
44	Snakes	8/5/2021 9:15 PM
45	Alum creek dam and beach only concern	8/5/2021 4:49 PM
46	Need more bike paths to connect parks	8/5/2021 4:27 PM
47	Lack of connected trails to get to parks without driving	8/5/2021 4:04 PM
48	I can say what makes me leave is for water	8/5/2021 1:01 PM

### Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

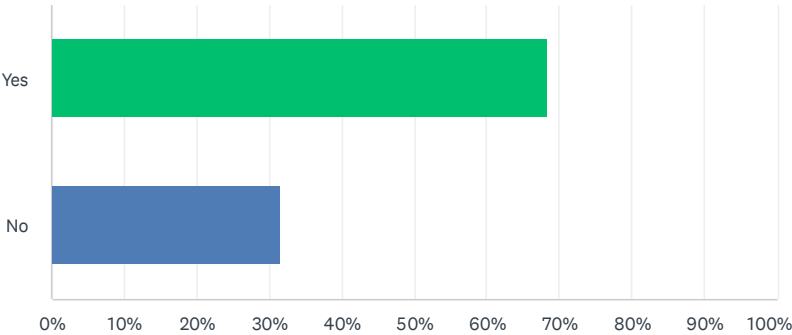
49	perfect	7/30/2021 4:56 PM
50	Idk	7/29/2021 3:10 PM
51	Lack of programs such as swim lessons for those that work and can't do daytime sessions	7/27/2021 8:20 PM
52	Restrooms	5/14/2021 4:11 AM
53	No restrooms	5/13/2021 10:55 AM
54	Crowds (orange pool)	5/13/2021 7:46 AM
55	Too crowded	5/13/2021 7:25 AM
56	Weather	5/12/2021 11:04 PM
57	Inability to walk/bike places.	5/12/2021 10:35 PM
58	Too crowded	5/12/2021 10:04 PM
59	Trails aren't stroller-friendly	5/12/2021 9:36 PM
60	I like the pool, but it can take a while to get there, plus it is usually very crowded.	5/12/2021 8:12 PM
61	No sidewalks or connecting trails	5/12/2021 4:47 PM
62	Restrooms need upkeep/open longer through the year	5/12/2021 4:41 PM
63	Tick infection at high banks	5/12/2021 4:39 PM
64	Mulch free needed	5/12/2021 2:32 PM
65	Orange pool is just too crowded	5/12/2021 1:45 PM
66	No paved trail to my neighborhood willow springs north	4/22/2021 6:46 PM
67	Pool too crowded	4/22/2021 6:10 PM
68	Only one disc golf park	4/21/2021 1:56 PM
69	Having younger kids at a park where there is a group of teens/pre-teens can be challenging at times.	4/19/2021 12:46 PM
70	I like sports or engaging activities. A disc golf course is great for me and my family.	4/14/2021 12:09 PM
71	No Disc golf course except Alum Creek	4/13/2021 4:18 PM
72	No pickleball courts	4/12/2021 7:46 AM
73	Overcrowding	4/11/2021 5:14 PM
74	we need disc golf & more sports fields/courts	4/11/2021 11:03 AM
75	There's no splash pad in OT; some parks have no shade and equipment gets too hot in summer	4/10/2021 3:40 PM
76	Lack of restrooms	4/10/2021 3:13 PM
77	Not enough pickle ball courts	4/10/2021 9:26 AM
78	No pickle ball courts. Waaaaaa	4/10/2021 6:35 AM
79	Parking is causing major issues	4/9/2021 9:22 PM
80	No pickleball courts	4/9/2021 4:50 PM
81	No pickleball courts	4/9/2021 4:50 PM
82	No trees or trails for hiking or walking	4/9/2021 12:50 PM
83	Lack of pickleball courts	4/9/2021 9:45 AM
84	Lack of restrooms	4/8/2021 9:15 PM
85	No disc golf	4/8/2021 8:28 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

86	Not walkable/bikeable safely from our subdivision	4/8/2021 7:40 PM
87	Poor condition of alum creek state park disc golf course	4/8/2021 6:47 PM
88	Lack of disc golf baskets and holes	4/8/2021 6:40 PM
89	I am a 50+ disc golfer and have seen both great upkeep and needed upkeep throughout Ohio	4/8/2021 5:20 PM
90	No disc golf	4/8/2021 5:05 PM
91	Alum creeks park - the poles that once held the slides up are a lawsuit waiting to happen. They need fixed ASAP.	4/8/2021 4:32 PM
92	Disc Golf	4/8/2021 4:22 PM
93	Crowded	4/8/2021 3:57 PM
94	Not enough disc golf baskets	4/8/2021 1:19 PM
95	Need more disc golf!!	4/8/2021 11:52 AM
96	If they have what I'm looking for I will drive to it.	4/8/2021 10:12 AM
97	Better options elsewhere.	4/8/2021 10:01 AM
98	No disc golf courses	4/8/2021 9:48 AM
99	Would love to see disc golf...it would get us out even more.	4/8/2021 9:37 AM
100	No disc golf	4/8/2021 9:19 AM
101	Lack of disc golf course or poorly designed one	4/8/2021 8:44 AM
102	No disc golf course	4/8/2021 8:38 AM
103	Most parks don't have a disc golf course	4/8/2021 7:58 AM
104	North Orange Pool gets way too crowded	4/7/2021 6:16 PM
105	Pool too crowded	4/7/2021 5:46 PM
106	We use a lot	4/7/2021 4:25 PM
107	Lighting on trails. We use the parks/trails more often when it is bright out. Also, flees are an issue	4/7/2021 2:56 PM
108	Safety, numerous older kids (15+) climbing the roof of playgrounds, smoking, poor behaviors, language/talk inappropriate for small children.	4/7/2021 2:42 PM
109	There is only 1 community swimming pool for this growing area that only teens give swimming lessons. We need more access to indoor and outdoor pools for this area for community members only. Also we need more outdoor basketball courts for all the teenagers who are looking to stay active. Also need more summer camps for only community members kids. Also need indoor activities for winter months for kids!	4/7/2021 2:40 PM
110	Covid- trying to keep distanced	4/7/2021 2:12 PM
111	Too hot without shade in summer! Shade sails would be great!	4/7/2021 1:00 PM
112	We need indoor facilities due to climate	4/7/2021 12:55 PM
113	No bike trail access	4/7/2021 12:52 PM
114	Our neighborhood centrally located but not connected to any bike paths.	4/5/2021 10:27 PM
115	Restroom availability	4/5/2021 9:03 PM
116	No restrooms	4/5/2021 5:27 PM
117	Trails aren't connected together or aren't easily accesible	4/5/2021 3:42 PM
118	No pickleball court, skateboarding area	3/27/2021 11:47 AM

Q10 Do you live in Orange Township?

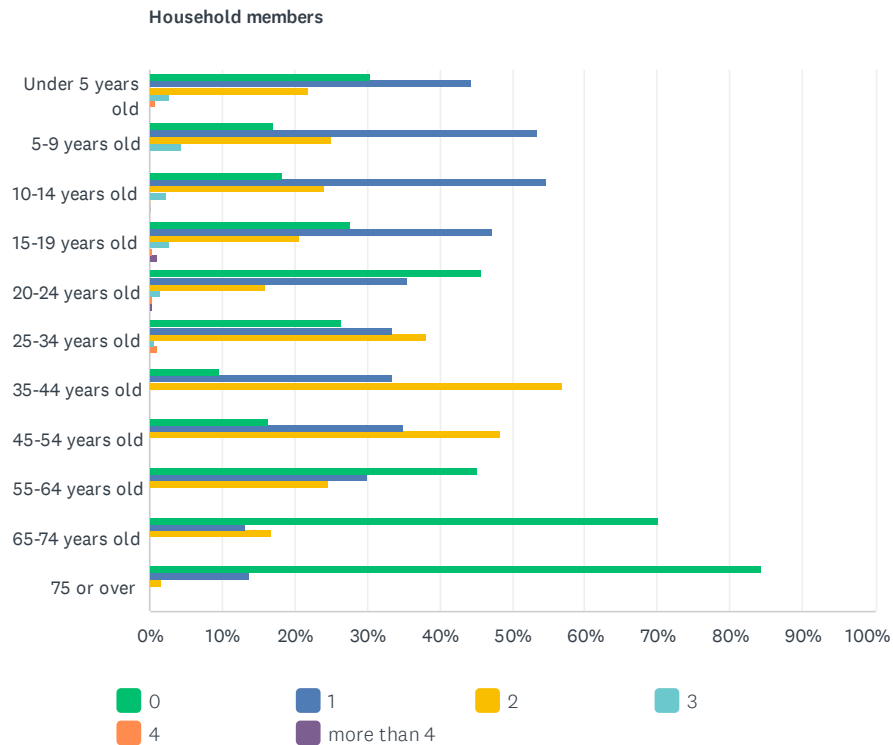
Answered: 995    Skipped: 225



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	68.44%	681
No	31.56%	314
TOTAL		995

## Q11 Counting yourself, how many people in your household are of the following ages?

Answered: 979 Skipped: 241





## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Household members							
	0	1	2	3	4	MORE THAN 4	TOTAL
Under 5 years old	30.40% 114	44.27% 166	21.87% 82	2.67% 10	0.80% 3	0.00% 0	375
5-9 years old	16.98% 73	53.49% 230	25.12% 108	4.42% 19	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	430
10-14 years old	18.25% 75	54.74% 225	24.09% 99	2.43% 10	0.24% 1	0.24% 1	411
15-19 years old	27.68% 80	47.40% 137	20.76% 60	2.77% 8	0.35% 1	1.04% 3	289
20-24 years old	45.88% 89	35.57% 69	15.98% 31	1.55% 3	0.52% 1	0.52% 1	194
25-34 years old	26.51% 79	33.56% 100	38.26% 114	0.67% 2	1.01% 3	0.00% 0	298
35-44 years old	9.55% 51	33.52% 179	56.93% 304	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	534
45-54 years old	16.49% 64	35.05% 136	48.45% 188	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	388
55-64 years old	45.16% 84	30.11% 56	24.73% 46	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	186
65-74 years old	70.07% 96	13.14% 18	16.79% 23	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	137
75 or over	84.35% 97	13.91% 16	1.74% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	115

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

	before a house is even put up	
25	pools pls pls pls	9/1/2021 4:33 PM
26	A pool and basketball court	9/1/2021 4:33 PM
27	some type of garden to grow food or sometime of farming venue. A field planted with sunflowers or a butterfly garden.	9/1/2021 11:47 AM
28	Skate park Bike park	8/29/2021 7:02 PM
29	Outdoor fitness things like smith park in Delaware	8/28/2021 8:30 PM
30	Bathrooms, special needs/handicap accessible	8/28/2021 10:51 AM
31	The Orange Pool closes the lap pool, slides and diving board too early, by the time we get off work and get there it's closed.	8/24/2021 8:22 PM
32	More youth activities	8/21/2021 7:12 PM
33	Please consider children programs	8/20/2021 5:50 PM
34	Programs offered for children.	8/20/2021 5:44 PM
35	Please add restrooms!	8/19/2021 8:22 AM
36	Please hear the pool. Story trails for the kids at the parks, maybe a new book every month. The fairy trail was fun, offer that more often	8/18/2021 1:59 PM
38	A safe connection path for walking and biking over the railroad tracks would be very helpful. Currently there's no safe way to get from the paths East of the tracks on Orange Road to all the connections to the bridge park, library, etc. It would be nice to have a Lewis center community center, with programs like yoga class, kid activities, movies, etc	8/14/2021 4:10 PM
39	Disc Golf @ OTH Park!	8/12/2021 6:45 PM
40	Put in a skatepark	8/12/2021 11:29 AM
41	Pickleball courts possibly with lighting.	8/10/2021 7:05 PM
42	Complete & connect bike trails to High banks	8/10/2021 5:31 PM
43	Pickleball courts at north orange park Path over railroad tracks on orange road	8/10/2021 4:22 PM
44	I would love an additional or expanded outdoor aquatic center. Our current pool is too small!	8/10/2021 1:55 PM
45	Connecting the trail on Orange Road & connecting the trails to Evans Farm, Alum Creek and High Banks.	8/10/2021 12:09 PM
46	8 dedicated pickleball courts	8/10/2021 11:57 AM
47	Lit tennis courts Indoor swimming facility for winter	8/10/2021 11:44 AM
48	Please create a path of the railroad tracks on Orange	8/10/2021 11:18 AM
49	Pickle ball courts North Orange Park	8/10/2021 10:57 AM
50	Pickleball courts	8/10/2021 10:57 AM
51	Pickle ball courts at North orange park. Adult aqua fitness. A bike path over orange road rail road tracks.	8/10/2021 10:55 AM
52	Adult sized changing tables in restrooms for those with disabilities	8/10/2021 12:00 AM
53	Abbey Knoll needs parks	8/9/2021 3:02 PM
54	More pike paths that feature access to restaurants, ice cream, etc.	8/9/2021 11:58 AM
55	Better security and lights also the trail at orange township Has too many bicycle is that practically run me over every time I'm walking. At least market the walking side and the bike side.	8/8/2021 6:55 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

56	Clean and safe handicapped accessible restrooms with universal changing table options for larger children and adults with special needs would make it much easier to spend time in a park, recreation center or attend a special event.	8/7/2021 9:59 PM
57	Accessible playground equipment and adult changing stations in restrooms.	8/7/2021 8:31 PM
58	Continuing to build up the Community Garden space. We have really enjoyed our garden there this summer. Also, bike trail on LC Rd	8/7/2021 6:31 PM
59	The property across from the Old State fire station on the corner of Old State and Orange would be a perfect location to develop a community spot. It is a great spot to create the heart of the community.	8/7/2021 1:17 PM
60	Make sure all parks are handicapped accessible	8/7/2021 9:07 AM
61	Accessable everything!	8/6/2021 9:21 PM
62	More accommodations in the the restrooms for disabled older children such as long changing table.	8/6/2021 8:34 PM
63	There are not enough tennis courts and we need a youth tennis program.	8/6/2021 6:55 PM
64	Splash pad	8/6/2021 5:31 PM
65	Bathrooms to have changing stations to accommodate universal handicaps not just babies and toddlers	8/6/2021 5:25 PM
66	Updating restrooms to include universal changing stations.	8/6/2021 3:19 PM
67	Please add adult size changing tables in restrooms for families with children/adults with disabilities to use for a safer, cleaner bathroom experience	8/6/2021 12:46 PM
68	Free community pool	8/6/2021 12:42 PM
69	Add a second Orange pool Or Add an adult pool/lap pool to existing pool— it's so crowded it's difficult to swim wo getting in kids way	8/6/2021 12:36 PM
70	More handicapped accessible playground...areas...trails...restroom changing tables	8/6/2021 12:22 PM
71	Restrooms with changing tables for adults and older children with disabilities	8/6/2021 12:00 PM
72	Connecting the middle/high schools to public parks safely via bike/walking trails. Many sports practice after school at Highbanks for example—it would be nice for kids to be able to travel safely there from school.	8/6/2021 11:49 AM
73	Install universal changing tables in public bathrooms	8/6/2021 11:46 AM
74	Universal changing stations	8/6/2021 11:24 AM
75	Special needs changing stations	8/6/2021 11:18 AM
76	Notifications of what is available. Where are all the walking/hiking trails with signs. More basketball courts, shading in the picnic areas. Water splash areas for small children. Clean bathrooms.	8/6/2021 11:08 AM
77	More tennis courts Side walk on Bale Kenyon Adult changing area for those with special needs	8/6/2021 11:03 AM
78	Bike trails/walking trails along Old State/Lewis Center Road. Easy accessibility to Evans Farm via Lewis Center Road/Old State, with crosswalks.	8/6/2021 10:40 AM
79	Please think about our disabled youth in your decision making.	8/6/2021 10:17 AM
80	Please have inclusion for all parks to be ADA, not JUST a swing and universal changing tables in restrooms.	8/6/2021 10:11 AM
81	finish what you started 20 years ago and please complete the connectivity and trails that lifelong residents have been paying for that have not yet happened BEFORE spending these funds on other projects.	8/6/2021 10:09 AM
82	Swimming indoor and outdoor	8/6/2021 10:09 AM
83	Fully accessible bathrooms with adult size changing tables	8/6/2021 10:02 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

84	Please consider adding universal changing tables so all of our residents and families can enjoy the facilities.	8/6/2021 9:40 AM
85	I live in Berkshire township, right outside of Orange Township, so most of my children's activities are there. As the community continues to expand I believe security for the children is of the utmost importance. Particularly as more events/opportunities become available.	8/6/2021 9:40 AM
86	More soccer fields, restrooms at North Road Park, universal changing stations for all restrooms for teens/adults with disabilities	8/6/2021 9:18 AM
87	Shade canopies over playground, more parent benches	8/6/2021 9:16 AM
88	Universal changing tables in all public restrooms	8/6/2021 9:07 AM
89	Having access to good bathrooms is essential for visiting the parks with kids. I have been made aware that parents with older children that have special needs have difficulty using the parks because of a lack of change tables that accommodate older children, not just babies and toddlers. We love our parks and want these families to have the same easy access that we do. Please consider installing universal changing tables at all parks. We love North Orange Aquatic Center and would love an indoor option during the colder months, or a YMCA or equivalent recreation center in our township. More art events/exhibits in the park would also be fun. We moved here from CA where there were often art exhibits combined with nature areas. We also love going to Inniswood Metro Gardens and had a similar community garden in CA that we loved. They had master gardeners you could talk to for local gardening advice. Overall we love our parks! Thanks for doing a great job!	8/6/2021 9:05 AM
90	Safety, programs, and bathroom changing stations for people with disabilities of all ages.	8/6/2021 8:47 AM
91	For the individuals and families served by the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities, I would love to see accessibility features included intentionally. Examples include universal changing tables, paved paths with easy access from parking lots, paths with rails for people with visual impairments, community gardens with raised beds for wheelchair users, etc.	8/6/2021 8:46 AM
92	Universal changing tables in all bathrooms	8/6/2021 8:37 AM
93	Universal changing stations in all bathrooms (for babies and adults with disabilities)	8/6/2021 8:28 AM
94	Universal changing tables in restrooms	8/6/2021 8:25 AM
95	we need Universal Changing tables installed in the parks' bathrooms	8/6/2021 8:22 AM
96	Connecting bike path from Alum Creek State Park to Kroger Marketplace area (all the way down Lewis Center Rd)	8/6/2021 8:22 AM
97	Changing stations and accessibility for special needs	8/6/2021 8:17 AM
98	Universal changing table	8/6/2021 8:12 AM
99	More splash pads	8/6/2021 8:09 AM
100	More design considerations for people with disabilities	8/6/2021 8:04 AM
101	Making more things wheelchair accessible. Wheelchair swings, changing tables for bigger kids.	8/6/2021 8:03 AM
102	Universal changing tables	8/6/2021 7:46 AM
103	Tennis courts and mountain biking trails	8/6/2021 7:45 AM
104	Universal changing tables in restrooms.	8/6/2021 7:41 AM
105	Adding Universal changing station to bathrooms for older children with disabilities. The small changing tables for infants are not accommodating.	8/6/2021 7:31 AM
106	Create restroom for physically challenged kids by adding full sized changing tables	8/6/2021 7:25 AM
107	More accessibility for families with disabilities please—playgrounds that are wheelchair accessible, family restrooms with adult sized changing tables, etc.	8/6/2021 7:21 AM
108	Consider ALL	8/6/2021 7:12 AM
109	Family bathrooms with toddler size toilets	8/6/2021 7:06 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

110	Disability access, open things up to residents who live outside of the township.	8/6/2021 7:03 AM
111	Universal changing tables for the disabled in all parks	8/6/2021 6:59 AM
112	Splash pad	8/6/2021 6:47 AM
113	Plz consider updating bathrooms for adult with disabilities-changing table. (For a friend)	8/6/2021 6:33 AM
114	Safety and cleanliness at alum creek	8/6/2021 6:26 AM
115	A community center	8/6/2021 6:20 AM
116	Universal changing tables, better disability access	8/6/2021 6:17 AM
117	Installing universal changing tables	8/6/2021 5:44 AM
118	Universal changing tables Programs for Autism/special needs	8/6/2021 5:39 AM
119	Our community urgently need a Recreational/community center especially considering the rapid growth of the area. Other towns manage to have one while we have more and more residents without one.	8/6/2021 2:15 AM
120	Please ensure all restroom can accommodate all people especially larger children with special needs. Please consider installing universal changing tables for people of all sizes and needs.	8/6/2021 1:05 AM
121	Consider accessibility please!	8/6/2021 12:21 AM
122	A rec center would be amazing! We currently drive to Westerville's.	8/6/2021 12:12 AM
123	Safe Bike paths	8/6/2021 12:10 AM
124	Bathrooms for those adults in diapers.	8/6/2021 12:02 AM
125	Adding universal changing tables to accommodate larger kids. More handicap stalls, and bathrooms in general. Hand sanitizer stations.	8/6/2021 12:00 AM
126	Install a platform swing a wheelchair can roll onto. Install several universal changing tables in bathrooms in various parks, especially the pool.	8/5/2021 10:51 PM
127	Stop allowing developers to clear cut areas with mature trees. Force them to keep and preserve original areas for wetlands /habitat/trails. Delaware Co used to be filled with mature trees and they are systemically being replaced by houses and people wonder why coyotes are in the neighborhoods. Be a better steward for retention not destruction.	8/5/2021 10:25 PM
128	Continue to connect Orange Twp using walking/biking/sidewalks	8/5/2021 10:13 PM
129	The soccer fields at orange park do not seem to be fully utilized. Can one or two of these fields be converted to some other use? Tennis courts, pickle ball, volleyball, outdoor amphitheater? Also general landscaping of flower beds around existing parks needs to be maintained better.	8/5/2021 9:47 PM
130	You need to leverage the parks with program and events that bring people out to for sense of community. Orange Township is slowly becoming just one subdivision after another and no sense of "town square" and no community events. Powell has downtown and their municipal complex. Westerville has their community center and Barn park. Orange Township is just subdivision after subdivision. No sense of community planning - just green lighting of housing developers. You need to complete the bike trail safely over the Orange Road tracks. Someone is going to get hit on bikes that cross the tracks on the road. It is barely wide enough for cars and the visibility is poor. I've seen too many close calls. From what I understand all the work these summer on Orange Road did not address anything related to this.	8/5/2021 9:31 PM
131	None of the trails connect to each other. Lewis center rd just had a trail added on the south side near the dam, there is a floating trail along The Meadows subdivision that ends at Evans Farm. We live on the other side of LC rd and have to push or baby stroller across the horrendous traffic that keeps being diverted to our road just to access the only trail within walking distance and it doesn't even go anywhere.	8/5/2021 9:18 PM
132	Add mommy and me swings for children with disabilities. Add more adaptive playground things for kids to climb and walk on...	8/5/2021 9:05 PM
133	Family oriented upgrades would be great! And also keeping the natural state of parks like Highbanks!	8/5/2021 9:03 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

134	Ball fields!	8/5/2021 7:56 PM
135	It is terrible you do not equally distribute time on outdoor soccer fields to all clubs in the area.	8/5/2021 7:00 PM
136	More placed to swim, more splash pads, more natural areas / gardens. More separated areas for toddlers versus the older kids...the older kids run the little ones over frequently.	8/5/2021 6:01 PM
137	Mailing a catalog of classes, activities, special events for each season.	8/5/2021 5:20 PM
138	Place for community to come together for indoor activities, indoor pool and outdoor pool for swim meets.	8/5/2021 5:08 PM
139	Connect the trails over the railroad tracks	8/5/2021 5:01 PM
140	Bicycle, walking paths on Old State Road from Orange Road to Alum Creek Marina, Lewis Center road between Old State and Columbus Pike.	8/5/2021 4:51 PM
141	Continue focus on paved trail connections as road improvement/changes so we can improve trail system	8/5/2021 4:51 PM
142	Quit wasting money on plans, results are usually the same. Finish what was planned the way it was planned	8/5/2021 4:38 PM
143	please consider that not everyone in our township plays soccer or lacrosse. There is so much space wasted for these 2 sports, in which 1/2 of the team players don't ever live in our township. I would also significantly raise daily pool pass rates for both residents and nonresidents	8/5/2021 4:37 PM
144	Connect the path for bikes & walking & community feeling (like Dublin & Westerville) Add turf	8/5/2021 4:31 PM
145	volleyball and basketball courts and soccer fields	8/5/2021 4:30 PM
146	More bike paths connecting more neighborhoods	8/5/2021 4:28 PM
147	Expand and connect all trails especially at the RR tracks.	8/5/2021 4:25 PM
148	Hi - we would love to have North Road park completed with walking trails, restrooms, playground, basketball, dog area. Thanks!	8/5/2021 4:21 PM
149	Please work on connecting our fragmented trail system. Need safe pedestrian crossings across railroad at Lewis Center Rd and Orange Rd.	8/5/2021 4:07 PM
151	Ike path along Lewis center road to connect Kroger to beach	8/5/2021 3:39 PM
152	More activity's	8/5/2021 1:37 PM
153	More water fountains open, skateboarding park, make sure when building trails/paths they can all intertwine for more possibilities to take but not so long and isn't to costly	8/5/2021 1:03 PM
154	I cannot emphasize enough how much nicer the pool is this summer, with limited access for only OT residents. We would be ecstatic if this policy can be extended. In previous years it was unsafe to take kids there during "peak" hours, because it was so overcrowded. You couldn't watch your kids, mine had children in over their heads pull them under, and more than once each year I watched as adults had to pull struggling swimmers to safety. When crowded it was just too much for lifeguards to handle. Please consider continuing the limited access. We SourcePoint does offer amazing opportunities for seniors in the community, but it is a long drive on busy roads for seniors to make. Expanding transportation options or partnering with them to offer regional activities would be amazing.	8/5/2021 9:07 AM
155	An indoor pool/ water park for our township during the winter with township membership	8/4/2021 2:42 PM
156	Make Lewis Center more bikeable! Add a splash pad. I would LOVE a township recreation center. Also please connect the road from Costco to Powell.	8/2/2021 3:34 PM
157	Over all the facilities And programs that we have are very good. I would prefer to maintain the excellent condition that everything is in as opposed to spreading our budget to thin and expanding into other areas. We already offered a lot so important to maintain the existing services. as the area continues to grow with more residence, expansion of the aquatic center	8/1/2021 7:39 PM



## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

	will be needed as it's begun to get more crowded. The aquatic center is a top notch resource that we use extensively	
158	security abs volleyball/ basketball courts	7/30/2021 4:57 PM
159	volleyball courts/ turf fields	7/30/2021 4:56 PM
160	I'd like more exercise options in out park	7/30/2021 2:22 PM
161	We love living in orange township. We use the orange park and pool very often. We would like to see some updates to the pool, needs a good clean.	7/29/2021 9:12 AM
162	Build a dog park.	7/28/2021 7:39 PM
163	More shade at pool. Turn down music at pool. Bike trails along all major roads like S Old State and Lewis Center to all neighborhoods in Orange Twp. Every neighborhood should be connected.	7/28/2021 1:07 PM
164	Hockey expansion, cleanup of North Orange pond	7/27/2021 8:32 PM
165	We are frequent goers of the pool facility. They keep the pool in order and very clean we have been so impressed with the facility for as long as we have been members and think the lifeguards and other concessions workers are doing a great job. Our family friends daughter works as a lifeguard and has for a few years she said she loves the job but that the compensation and pay does not amount to the responsibility and work they are required to do. Sad to see that the company managing the pool and township cannot come to an agreement with the pool staff for fair conditions. Would make the facility even better.	7/27/2021 12:57 PM
166	We need more outdoor and indoor pools!! Our area is growing and our 1 outdoor pool in not enough! Also no more cotton candy buckets at orange pool! Kids busy them up in the pool and dump water on everyone.	7/26/2021 5:04 PM
167	A life guard for the kiddie area big kids push the small kids and it's always something but no one ever to or they them.	7/26/2021 2:13 PM
168	Bring back the preservation parks preschool programs and storytime!!!	7/26/2021 12:53 PM
169	linking the bike paths and providing a bike path crossing over the railroad tracks	5/21/2021 5:02 PM
170	More mountain biking trails, running trails, another outdoor pool and better lighting in neighborhoods and down roads.	5/15/2021 5:59 PM
171	Restrooms, playground conditions, adult wellness programs, recreational facilities, splash pads, swimming pools.	5/14/2021 4:14 AM
172	Maintenance of existing play structures. The swings at North Orange Park have been squeaking for years.	5/13/2021 11:41 AM
173	I'm very interested in a community center/YMCA with a gym and indoor pool, summer camps for school age kids.	5/13/2021 10:59 AM
174	Additional indoor rental space for special occasions would be great. Especially something with multi use flooring for dance, parties, etc	5/13/2021 10:25 AM
175	Connecting bike trails	5/13/2021 5:58 AM
176	Please continue to connect the current bike paths with future ones.	5/13/2021 2:53 AM
177	Please NO YELLOW LINES on bike trails!! Keep it plain and blend in with nature. SOO unnecessary and tacky. Keep the areas around our neighborhoods classy please!	5/12/2021 11:06 PM
178	Please give us more walk/bike paths so we feel like a community and can better access parks and the community itself	5/12/2021 11:01 PM
179	Continue adding and connecting more bike paths, including ways to cross the railroad tracks. More parks- and a splash pad would be amazing!	5/12/2021 10:37 PM
180	Expand the aquatic center - the township has grown too large for what is currently offered.	5/12/2021 9:50 PM
181	Walking trails connecting to Willow springs	5/12/2021 9:42 PM
182	Stroller-friendly walking areas	5/12/2021 9:36 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

183	It would be great to have a community center!	5/12/2021 9:21 PM
184	A community rec center would be amazing!	5/12/2021 9:13 PM
185	Another pool	5/12/2021 9:05 PM
186	Bike trails, access to olentangy and alum creek bike paths. Consider purchasing property on south old state state road to be used as a park	5/12/2021 8:15 PM
187	Bathroom would be helpful	5/12/2021 7:52 PM
188	Bike/walking path along Lewis Center road	5/12/2021 7:43 PM
189	Handicap accessible playground equipment and trails for kids please!	5/12/2021 5:56 PM
190	More organized youth opportunities (sports, art, music classes).	5/12/2021 5:08 PM
191	Connecting walking/multi-purpose trails to create more of a community feel. Community tennis courts and skate park would be great too. Adding an outdoor street/roller hockey rink would be a great addition to the community.	5/12/2021 4:51 PM
192	Please connect bike trails. Would love to have trails the lead to mt Carmel fitness center from villages at alum creek and bike trails that don't involve crossing or riding along the road with cars. Just also want to thank you all for the work you do to make our community better	5/12/2021 4:44 PM
193	Water stations to wash off feet at orange park (just coming from there now ;) )	5/12/2021 4:42 PM
194	Skate park please	5/12/2021 4:34 PM
195	Connection of walking paths to make them usable	5/12/2021 4:25 PM
196	Walking or bike trails connecting areas of the township. I know this is not a park request, but if there was a paved path along 23 from GFS/aldi to orange park, my family would use this often - biking to the park. Our community is greatly lacking in the ability to walk/bike from place to place. 23 is so dangerous. There should be more options than the side of that road.	5/12/2021 4:22 PM
197	More programs and activities available for citizens of all ages.	5/12/2021 3:16 PM
198	My biggest wish is that a large splash pad is installed within the township. This would also help relieve some of the demand on the pool because people with younger children will go to the splash pad instead.	5/12/2021 2:12 PM
199	Stop destroying most of the natural wildlife areas for more closely built homes, it's ruining our neighborhood feel	5/12/2021 1:29 PM
200	Would like Villages of Alum Creek to tie into the Lewis Center Rd bike trails	5/12/2021 1:25 PM
201	Install Bocci courts	5/12/2021 1:17 PM
202	stop building soccer fields! not everyone in our community has a child that plays soccer.	5/12/2021 9:56 AM
203	The parks in Powell, Westerville and Dublin are far superior than what is offered in Lewis Center. The sizes of the parks they have can accommodate all their sports groups and residents. The amount of money spent on the North Road fields was crazy as for the price paid we could have had at least 2 turf (all weather) fields there.	5/3/2021 11:53 AM
204	Please add ability to FootGolf on disc golf courses by ball catch attachment to basket that other courses already offer.	4/22/2021 10:18 PM
205	Cross walks across neighborhoods on old state.	4/22/2021 6:11 PM
206	Community center offering classes	4/22/2021 1:52 PM
207	Open sign up for community class offerings: yoga, akido, chigong, art, etc.	4/22/2021 10:39 AM
208	More disc golf	4/21/2021 1:57 PM
209	More disc golf courses	4/19/2021 7:26 PM
210	Really look into completing the trail connections, taking along time.	4/19/2021 6:46 PM
211	Would love to see more bike/running/walking trails and also connecting the existing ones. The two major connectors that come to mind would be east to west on Orange road (across the	4/19/2021 12:49 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

tracks), and also somehow connecting Highbanks to the rest of the trails (thinking Highbanks to Alum Creek dam).

212	Disc golf courses. With the rapid expansion of the sport(276% growth from last year) the current courses are becoming extremely congested. Recommend multiple tee boxes and at least two basket placements.	4/18/2021 10:08 AM
213	I love bike trails. When Home Rd is extended, I really hope the trail from the Village at Alum Creek Subdivision that goes along the railroad tracks/DelCo water and connects to Alum Crossing & Township Hall Park still remains in tact, and thought is put into keeping it private despite development. It would also be nice to eventually connect bike trails into/through Evan's Farm from that same area, and to the high school so kids can bike to school safely!	4/17/2021 1:15 AM
214	Disc golf courses	4/15/2021 2:48 PM
215	Disc golf courses everywhere	4/15/2021 11:04 AM
216	A disc golf course.	4/14/2021 12:10 PM
217	Please work with the columbus flyers to install more disc golf courses	4/14/2021 8:09 AM
218	Disc Golf Course at Highbanks Metropark	4/13/2021 10:18 PM
219	Disc Golf is a growing sport for all ages. It encourages outdoor exercise, and is relatively inexpensive	4/13/2021 4:19 PM
220	Disc Golf, Disc Golf, and more Disc Golf.	4/13/2021 1:05 PM
221	Disc golf is a wonderful sport for all ages and with the Pandemic, it has soared in popularity. It's free and gets people outside. Adding a course in orange township/high bank metro parks would be so incredible for the Columbus disc golf community and Lewis Center community as a whole	4/13/2021 9:09 AM
222	Designated Pickleball courts	4/13/2021 7:22 AM
223	This community needs a baseball complex and a disc golf course would be a great touch. I also wish we had a Recreational center like Westerville and Dublin with and indoor pool.	4/12/2021 8:32 PM
224	More disc golf & mnt bike trails please	4/12/2021 7:28 PM
225	Disc Golf since Covid has become a way for people to be outside-together while abiding social distancing. That and more exposure has helped the sport grow tremendously within the past 2 years alone. The disc golf community is full of enthusiasm and is ravenous for new opportunities-especially here. Reach out to disc golf communities and groups, most of us would do anything to push this forward and to have great courses available to continue to grow the sport. This also goes for rugged mountain bike trails which seem lacking. Please consider.	4/12/2021 8:42 AM
226	Pickleball Courts	4/12/2021 7:46 AM
227	A Pool/Recreation Center and Library near Orange Road and Bale Kenyon. Street trees, lots of street trees for screening big buildings and shading hot pavement in our neighborhoods.	4/12/2021 6:45 AM
228	More gardens/containers and volunteer opportunities	4/12/2021 12:59 AM
229	More disc golf courses	4/11/2021 11:01 PM
230	I will always lobby for more disc golf courses. I think it would be great to build on the popularity of the Alum Creek course by building a course nearby with more beginner-friendly hole distances (and hazards that avoid the lake) while retaining some of the technical difficulty. Another great add would be a championship-level course that would attract competitors from around the state and beyond (along the lines of the Caesar Ford course in Xenia or even more challenging (multiple tee pads on each hole can make the course more accessible to beginner and intermediate-level players).	4/11/2021 10:10 PM
231	More disc golf courses,	4/11/2021 5:15 PM
232	Disc Golf	4/11/2021 3:24 PM
233	#1 thing we'd like is Disc Golf Courses at Orange Township Hall Park & High Banks	4/11/2021 11:04 AM
234	Please consider adding things that are not currently available at Orange Township, Preservation Parks, or Columbus Metro Parks. Please do not use township money to provide	4/11/2021 8:45 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

	services that are already available through other places close by.	
235	Converting tennis courts to pickleball - 6 pickleball courts can fit in 2 tennis courts	4/11/2021 6:09 AM
236	Pickleball courts, connected walking paths and amphitheater.	4/11/2021 12:07 AM
237	Disc golf is a great family activity. Cheap for folks to participate, and great for all ages.	4/10/2021 9:14 PM
238	Expansion of disc golf into Highbanks park!	4/10/2021 9:00 PM
239	Disc golf course at highbanks!	4/10/2021 8:58 PM
240	Most of all I would like a splash pad in OT	4/10/2021 3:42 PM
241	Pickleball courts	4/10/2021 2:06 PM
242	Area is in dire need of Pickle ball courts. Fastest growing sport in Nation and need to take additional action now to get caught up.	4/10/2021 11:41 AM
243	As many pickleball courts as possible. It is the fastest growing sport in America.	4/10/2021 9:39 AM
244	Pickle ball has grown 600% in the last 5 years. It's great exercise for young and old , gets you out to our parks , and is has so much to offer for community involvement.	4/10/2021 6:37 AM
245	Would LOVE more walking/biking paths from all neighborhoods especially in more northern areas around meadows of Lewis Center/Evans Farm!	4/9/2021 9:41 PM
246	More parking and safer parking	4/9/2021 9:23 PM
247	8 designated pickleball courts with light, fencing and wind screens. This is the fastest growing sport in the US and courts are scarce. It is especially well suited for the older age groups.	4/9/2021 7:38 PM
248	As mentioned above in questionnaire.	4/9/2021 6:02 PM
249	Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the world, & there's great interest in the sport here locally. In our neighborhood, families play in their cul-de-sacs & driveways. Our township needs well designed & accessible courts.	4/9/2021 4:59 PM
250	Add pickleball courts in several parks	4/9/2021 4:50 PM
251	Preserve nature!	4/9/2021 2:50 PM
252	I'd love to see an 18 hole disc golf course back at highbanks park. Any other disc golf courses that could be added would be welcome additions as well	4/9/2021 2:43 PM
253	Disc Golf. Our sport exploded last year with everything closed and Parks open. Thousands more found our wonderful sport. Over 100% growth. Demand for more courses is at an all time high. Contact your local Disc Golf Club, Columbus Flyers, for more info and help please. Thank you	4/9/2021 1:41 PM
254	More disc golf courses for all the new players that picked up the sport during covid	4/9/2021 1:32 PM
255	Stop letting developers just cut down wide swathes of trees/areas that would make great natural parks. This area used to have tons of trees/ponds and they are just being destroyed by developers for houses!! Buy more park areas that have trees so they can be saved for the wildlife in the area.	4/9/2021 12:53 PM
256	Adding more disc golf courses.	4/9/2021 11:44 AM
257	I'd love to see more disc golf courses! It's growing in popularity and many Columbus courses are over-crowded now.	4/9/2021 9:59 AM
258	Pickleball courts. Fastest growing sport in our country. I drive to Delaware, Worthington and Westerville to play. Would like to stay in our twshp. and form local groups to play like everywhere else I mentioned. Thanks	4/9/2021 9:49 AM
259	As an avid disc golfer, I would love to see more courses similar to Alum Creek's disc golf course.	4/9/2021 9:35 AM
260	Interconnected bike paths across the entirety of the community	4/9/2021 7:04 AM
261	I believe a well maintained disc golf course is a big draw to many parks. As the sport grows, so should the amount of courses, and local parks play a big role in making that happen.	4/9/2021 6:40 AM

### Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

262	More disc golf courses	4/8/2021 11:13 PM
263	Done	4/8/2021 11:10 PM
264	More disc golf courses!!! Lol	4/8/2021 11:07 PM
265	Disc golf courses at high banks and other parks where extra land is available. It is the cheapest thing u can add to parks and brings in lots of ppl and great exercise	4/8/2021 10:51 PM
266	More trash cans in outdoor park and Disc Golf areas. Empty trash cans more often.	4/8/2021 10:14 PM
267	Disc golf at more parks, especially Highbanks	4/8/2021 10:11 PM
268	Install Disc Golf courses wherever you can!	4/8/2021 9:59 PM
269	Better restrooms	4/8/2021 9:48 PM
270	Disc golf!	4/8/2021 9:06 PM
271	Disc golf course development	4/8/2021 9:00 PM
272	Add more disc golf courses to promote the sport in our community.	4/8/2021 8:28 PM
273	More disc golf courses/upkeep and nature programs	4/8/2021 8:13 PM
274	I would like to see more green space /natural areas reserved in the Township rather than being completely built up. I would like to see connecting options to get to the parks by bike or walking. For example, having a simple connection path from the walking paths near Oak Creek and Glen Oak to go over the train tracks on Orange Road and get to the other connecting walking paths all the way to the bridge over 23 would be great. All those paths are built behind Menards and up to the bridge but there's no way to actually get to them safely. Thank you!	4/8/2021 8:04 PM
275	Open pool for 2021-2022 season	4/8/2021 7:56 PM
276	Grow Disc Golf, it's a sport for all	4/8/2021 7:40 PM
277	Disc golf course	4/8/2021 7:38 PM
278	Disc golf	4/8/2021 7:02 PM
279	Add a championship disc golf course to your parks and be the first in the region to put the money and time in	4/8/2021 6:48 PM
280	Disc golf courses are excellent for all ages to get exercise and enjoy themselves in the woods.	4/8/2021 6:47 PM
281	Disc golf is ever growing and it is an affordable option for many of all ages to get out and play and have fun.	4/8/2021 6:41 PM
282	Disc golf courses and disc rentals for people that are new and want to try it out	4/8/2021 6:36 PM
283	Disc golf course for high banks	4/8/2021 6:22 PM
284	Disc golf at Highbanks!	4/8/2021 6:12 PM
285	A disc golf course in Highbanks Park. Thank you.	4/8/2021 5:57 PM
286	There are many great opportunities for outdoors. Personally speaking, the 30% increase of disc golf of participation in 2020 warrants new disc golf courses. Please strongly consider a new 18 hole disc golf course at one or more of your beautiful parks. Covid friendly activity. Thank you. Side note, 30 years involved in the sport and also a course designer. Ohio PDGA State Coordinator and a Innova Ambassador.	4/8/2021 5:56 PM
287	Disc Golf Course	4/8/2021 5:55 PM
288	More disc golf courses, please	4/8/2021 5:49 PM
289	Love to see a Disc golf course go back into high banks metro park. It was the first course in central Ohio.	4/8/2021 5:48 PM
290	More disc golf courses!	4/8/2021 5:45 PM
291	Add dedicated bike lanes around Alum Creek	4/8/2021 5:33 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

292	Diac golf courses (not to sound repetative!).	4/8/2021 5:21 PM
293	Disc golf expansion. Hiking trails	4/8/2021 5:21 PM
294	Please consider the huge increase in the popularity of disc golf in the area. It is a great addition to any park. Would love to see it back at Highbanks.	4/8/2021 5:19 PM
295	Putting in disc golf courses	4/8/2021 5:05 PM
296	Disc golf course at High Banks	4/8/2021 4:50 PM
297	More disc golf courses, especially at Highbanks	4/8/2021 4:50 PM
298	Disc golf courses	4/8/2021 4:44 PM
299	Add Disc Golf!!!	4/8/2021 4:36 PM
300	Disc Golf	4/8/2021 4:31 PM
301	Disc golf and Skateboarding	4/8/2021 4:28 PM
302	18 hole Disc Golf Course	4/8/2021 4:24 PM
303	More disc golf!	4/8/2021 4:20 PM
304	The updates to North Orange Park were outstanding. The rubberized flooring replacing mulch/bark/dirt is a welcome addition! The Westerville Park at Maxtown and N Spring is also a favorite for our daughter. We have really enjoyed the pool when it is open because of the area specifically for small children. It is truly outstanding.	4/8/2021 4:10 PM
305	More disc golf, and action sports facilities(skateboarding/bmx/rollerblading/mountain biking)	4/8/2021 4:05 PM
306	Keep them clean and add some nice disc golf courses.	4/8/2021 4:05 PM
307	More Disc Golf!!!	4/8/2021 4:03 PM
308	Disc golf courses and tee pads	4/8/2021 3:59 PM
309	Stand alone Championship level disc golf course	4/8/2021 3:58 PM
310	Expand on more disc golf. It's a great outdoor activity for all ages.	4/8/2021 3:56 PM
311	Disc golf courses are a great way for people to hike with a purpose.	4/8/2021 3:43 PM
312	Installing 9-18 hold disc golf course.	4/8/2021 3:24 PM
313	trash dispensers parking	4/8/2021 3:09 PM
314	Disc golf courses!	4/8/2021 3:06 PM
315	I would love to see a full size disc golf course added to the lineup.	4/8/2021 2:53 PM
316	Disc golf course at Highbanks	4/8/2021 2:27 PM
317	Please add a disc golf course back to highbanks or even any park	4/8/2021 2:27 PM
318	Disc golf	4/8/2021 1:51 PM
319	Disc golf	4/8/2021 1:51 PM
320	Quality disc golf course. Not a tiny one that people will lose interest in or one that isn't well thought out.	4/8/2021 1:46 PM
321	Expansion of Disc Golf courses available	4/8/2021 1:22 PM
322	More Disc Golf courses	4/8/2021 1:20 PM
323	Disc golf	4/8/2021 1:00 PM
324	More disc golf!	4/8/2021 12:36 PM
325	18 hole disc golf course would be awesome!	4/8/2021 12:16 PM
326	With the giant surge in disc golf players due to covid 19, I recommend investing in as may 18 hole courses as possible to allow for players in the local area to explore more parks. The	4/8/2021 12:03 PM



## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

	investment for a disc golf course is fairly low compared to other facilities and has very little maintenance required. I know the local community would love this addition to our parks.	
327	More disc golf, current courses are very busy.	4/8/2021 11:54 AM
328	Please allow an 18 hole disc golf course back at high banks	4/8/2021 11:53 AM
329	I've heard there's a possibility of getting a disc golf course in at High Banks. I live in Columbus but often drive to Delaware State Park because of the great disc golf course, so this would definitely bring me out that way even more!	4/8/2021 11:45 AM
330	Expanding disc golf courses.	4/8/2021 11:43 AM
331	Disc golf is one of the fastest growing sports. A course being put back in a high banks would be amazing.	4/8/2021 11:27 AM
332	More disc golf in the area.	4/8/2021 11:25 AM
333	I would love to see a new Disc Golf Course, especially at High Banks!	4/8/2021 11:18 AM
334	More seating/rest areas on trails, more seating throughout disc golf courses, more restrooms/cleaner restrooms, water fountains, more trash receptacles, scheduled trash clean up days	4/8/2021 11:12 AM
335	Disc golf is growing rapidly! Would love to see more courses in the area!	4/8/2021 11:08 AM
336	Disc golf is a fast growing sport and most participants respect the land. People will travel to good quality courses and be patrons at local businesses	4/8/2021 10:57 AM
337	MORE DISC GOLF!	4/8/2021 10:50 AM
338	I would love for there to be more disc golf courses. In all of the places I've lived, Central Ohio has the most engaged Disc Golf community and often during the summer our courses are very full. It is a great activity that is cheap to start and addicting once you begin.	4/8/2021 10:40 AM
339	Love to see a full 18 hole disc golf course added to orange township park!	4/8/2021 10:29 AM
340	Disc Golf is a great healthy way to get out side and exercise while respecting social distancing.	4/8/2021 10:28 AM
341	Bring back Disc Golf to Highbanks.	4/8/2021 10:26 AM
342	The inclusion of more fiscal golf courses will really increase foot traffic to the park as disc golf is a growing sport. The inclusion of disc golf courses does not have a heavy impact on the park and still maintains its natural beauty.	4/8/2021 10:18 AM
343	Climbing walls, disc Golf, more water access for kayaks and canoes	4/8/2021 10:16 AM
344	Disc golf courses.	4/8/2021 10:12 AM
345	Disc golf courses. The community is massive and they would love to have more courses to help get more people out and playing	4/8/2021 10:07 AM
346	Need disc golf courses. Even if not able to do a large quality course, still can do smaller recreational courses for kids and beginners. Sport is exploding in popularity and perfect for families taking an 'active hike'.	4/8/2021 10:04 AM
347	More disc golf courses and course lighting	4/8/2021 10:03 AM
348	Disc golf is great clean family fun and great for exercise. Please build a course back in highbanks again	4/8/2021 10:02 AM
349	Disc golf has grown exponentially in the last year. It has brought a unique item to the park the entire family can enjoy, at any age.	4/8/2021 10:00 AM
350	Adding Disc Golf	4/8/2021 9:55 AM
351	Disc golf is a great, inexpensive, way to get families outside and enjoying nature	4/8/2021 9:49 AM
352	Disc golf courses.	4/8/2021 9:48 AM
353	More disc golf!	4/8/2021 9:44 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

354	Disc golf course back at highbanks	4/8/2021 9:42 AM
355	Disc golf will bring many good families out, as the sport is exploding.	4/8/2021 9:37 AM
356	New disc golf courses	4/8/2021 9:28 AM
357	More investment in the disc golf courses. Support the local clubs by allowing them to help manage planning, budgeting, construction, and maintenance. Thank you!	4/8/2021 9:23 AM
358	18 hole disc golf course at highbanks	4/8/2021 9:20 AM
359	18 hole disc golf course!	4/8/2021 9:20 AM
360	Disc Golf Courses added, especially at Highbanks. There is so much beautiful space there. Disc Golf is the fastest growing sport and its booming. The courses at Alum creek are constantly in use and too busy we need more.	4/8/2021 9:19 AM
361	More disc golf courses	4/8/2021 9:17 AM
362	Would love to see additional disc golf courses in Orange Township. The pandemic has brought more people than ever into the sport and that's a great thing.	4/8/2021 9:17 AM
363	We need more disc golf	4/8/2021 9:16 AM
364	Disc golf!	4/8/2021 9:15 AM
365	Disc golf! More gardens and park space!	4/8/2021 9:07 AM
366	More parking. Disc golf has exploded in popularity. Courses that were near empty 5 years ago now have lines to start a round. More entry level courses for the new players.	4/8/2021 9:07 AM
367	If they are going to expand/create other parks, etc. Please, please, do not forget about the ones that we already have and do the best at keeping them updated, usable, and continue maintenance so as not to let them get run down because they are "the older" places.	4/8/2021 8:52 AM
368	More disc golf courses	4/8/2021 8:47 AM
369	Disc Golf is an incredibly accessible game for all people. It requires start up costs, but very little upkeep costs compared to other offerings from parks. It also can contribute to park funding by holding tournaments and leagues.	4/8/2021 8:46 AM
370	Please build a disc golf course in high banks. And anywhere else you can.	4/8/2021 8:42 AM
371	Disc golf courses are a great activity for all. From families to advanced players disc golf is a growing, accessible, affordable sport that is seeing a boom in central Ohio and around the country. While 9 holes would be a great start 18 holes should be considered and executed to really bring a draw and attendance to the park.	4/8/2021 8:41 AM
372	Some shoreline erosion control at the disc golf course at Alum	4/8/2021 8:31 AM
373	Disc golf!	4/8/2021 8:23 AM
374	Bring back disc golf	4/8/2021 7:59 AM
375	Reinstall the course at high banks park. Or expand the course at alum creek. Or both would also be great.	4/8/2021 7:59 AM
376	More disc golf courses! And improvements done to the current ones.	4/8/2021 7:56 AM
377	It would be fantastic to add one or two disc golf courses in the area. Many years ago, Highbanks had a great course, but it was removed. With the amount of land and usage the course would get, I think this would be a great addition. Something like a basketball court cost many thousands of dollars and has a limit of 10 people. A disc golf course cost less than half and can have almost 100 people at a time. Drive my the course at Alum, Hoover, Blendon, Griggs or one of the others in central Ohio. They are packed and we are in need of more options. Thank you for the consideration!	4/8/2021 7:46 AM
378	Disc golf is a free, enjoyable game for all ages. I have had a disc golf unit with my special needs classroom for years, and every year it's a great success. My wife, who is not a disc golfer, enjoys going with me because it is a game integrated within nature... not separate from it. We go to get our steps in and to stay active. I have met great people on disc golf courses, and now look for nearby courses when going to areas out of town.	4/8/2021 7:37 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

379	I would absolutely love to see a disc golf course go in at High Banks.	4/8/2021 7:31 AM
380	Understanding the growth of disc golf and how large the community has become. It is a great way to get outside and enjoy the parks while still being Covid friendly. Courses are getting more densely populated with the growth of the sport and it would be great to keep things spread out and have more options in this area of Columbus.	4/8/2021 7:11 AM
381	Specific to the check boxes marked prior, a disc golf course in Highbanks Metro Park. I understand that there used to be land dedicated to the sport years ago and has been removed. Several parks in the area have successfully seen long-term benefits in adding disc golf courses and the sport has grown exponentially as a safe, family-friendly option. North of 270 there are currently no courses between Alum Creek and Glacier Ridge; Highbanks would be the perfect location for a new course. Thank you for considering!	4/8/2021 7:10 AM
382	I would love to see disc golf courses added to some of the parks. I really like going to some of the other metro/state parks around Columbus and Ohio and getting to hike or bike, then relax and get a nice round of disc golf in. Outside of Alum Creek there is not really a place to do this in Orange Township.	4/8/2021 5:37 AM
383	Bring back the 18 hole Disc Golf course at Highbanks.	4/8/2021 4:53 AM
384	As many disc golf courses as possible	4/7/2021 11:26 PM
385	Disc Golf Courses, a 9 hole course @ OT Park & an 18 hole at a bigger park like High Banks	4/7/2021 11:14 PM
386	Ponds are stinky	4/7/2021 10:25 PM
387	Connected multipurpose trails	4/7/2021 9:47 PM
388	Bringing something comparable to the YMCA.	4/7/2021 9:05 PM
389	Organized outdoor classes like yoga	4/7/2021 9:03 PM
390	An additional aquatic facility to be on par with other similar sized/growing communities who have multiple outdoor and indoor aquatic facilities (Dublin, Westerville, Upper Arlington, Hilliard)	4/7/2021 8:55 PM
391	We are in deep need of a community rec center!	4/7/2021 8:51 PM
392	Add more outdoor swimming pools for our community. And more sledding hills & outdoor ice skating rinks within the community.	4/7/2021 6:18 PM
393	More pools!! Rec center. More parks another skate pond a huge hit this winter but was always used by hockey hard to get space to skate	4/7/2021 5:47 PM
394	Larger park with more options. More trails. Better night lighting/security at parks...especially those hidden in neighborhoods that attract problems	4/7/2021 5:33 PM
395	Lighting along the rail trail and other paths and teen programs	4/7/2021 5:07 PM
396	Community outdoor track would be useful	4/7/2021 4:55 PM
397	Build more bike/multi use paths and connect current paths with one another and other park systems.	4/7/2021 4:36 PM
398	Connect neighborhoods with sidewalks off of dangerous roads. Bale Kenyon, Lewis Center, Orange Old state	4/7/2021 4:36 PM
399	This township desperately needs a community / recreation center with a full court basketball, fitness areas, a competition swimming pool and multipurpose classrooms.	4/7/2021 4:33 PM
400	More bike path connecting to existing paths	4/7/2021 4:30 PM
401	You do a wonderful job! Thank you!	4/7/2021 4:25 PM
402	Would love a splash pad or 2! Activities for toddlers summer and winter.	4/7/2021 4:02 PM
403	Would love to see the development of a splash pad! And indoor pool like Westerville or Worthington would also be amazing.	4/7/2021 3:29 PM
404	Swingset at wall woods park	4/7/2021 3:20 PM
405	Being able to walk or bike within the township safely. Water stations that function at each park.	4/7/2021 3:18 PM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

	More parking at each site. Safety lighting	
406	Police or security checks. Especially in evening/dinner hours as older kids come to abuse the location.	4/7/2021 2:43 PM
407	More pools, basketball courts and indoor facilities for our youth.	4/7/2021 2:43 PM
408	Sports fields and paved bike paths increased	4/7/2021 2:39 PM
409	Near by ponds there are lots of mosquitoes so while walking on trail it is annoying	4/7/2021 2:39 PM
410	Rec center, another pool, and more parks with shade!	4/7/2021 2:34 PM
411	Connect the path over orange road tracks.	4/7/2021 2:33 PM
412	Connecting bike trails and expanding bike trails. Opening another outdoor aquatic center our community is way too big for one.	4/7/2021 2:28 PM
413	I'm a runner & would love the trails to all connect so I can avoid running on our busy streets :)	4/7/2021 2:28 PM
414	Connecting most of the paved paths (ie. so we would be able to bike from Orange park all the way to Alum creek...right now we can get across the train tracks without having to go into orange road)	4/7/2021 2:26 PM
415	A community center that is the hub for Orange township for adults and kids alike. Making alum creek accessible by bike/walk from the nearby neighborhoods would be great, as well.	4/7/2021 2:12 PM
416	Restroom at walker wood park More bike paths that are connected and to get over railroad track safely Indoor basketball courts/community center	4/7/2021 2:11 PM
417	Bike trails on the east side of old state road	4/7/2021 2:10 PM
418	Make things as walkable as possible and focus on outdoors so prepared for another pandemic	4/7/2021 2:06 PM
419	Safety, upkeep, ample parking	4/7/2021 1:52 PM
420	Sand volleyball courts, concession stands, bike trails throughout community.	4/7/2021 1:14 PM
421	An indoor pool	4/7/2021 1:01 PM
422	OT resident indoor rec facility. Extension of bike paths and connections. Improvements of hall bike path	4/7/2021 12:57 PM
423	I would LOVE to see a community center with programs.	4/7/2021 12:56 PM
424	Bike paths connecting schools and parks	4/7/2021 12:52 PM
425	A skate park similar to the one in Powell would be a great improvement.	4/5/2021 7:08 PM
426	Hi! I would love to have North Road Park completed. Walking trails, basketball, dog park, playground would be so fun! We ride our bikes but have to ride through the parking lot since the paths are not finished. The parking lot gets pretty crowded with soccer.	4/5/2021 7:01 PM
427	More walking/biking trails.	4/5/2021 3:54 PM
428	More bike paths! And connect the existing ones together. This includes crossing the railroad tracks on Lewis Center Rd and Orange Rd - you've stalled way too long on this issue.	4/5/2021 3:45 PM
429	We would love to see a community center and some spray grounds!	4/5/2021 2:58 PM
430	Would love to see a splash pad added to Orange Twnship!	4/5/2021 2:34 PM
431	Add Community center and more swimming pools and indoor courts.	4/5/2021 2:25 PM
432	The cost and how it will be paid for...	4/5/2021 2:21 PM
433	Connecting trails and splash pad!	4/5/2021 10:55 AM
434	The biggest issue is the Orange Pool. It is overpacked and would be nice to see an additional one or it expanded with more features.	4/3/2021 7:28 AM
435	continue to push neighborhood path/trail connections	4/2/2021 4:05 PM
436	Extend the existing multi-use trail along the RR corridor to Evan's Farm and beyond. Extend	4/1/2021 11:16 AM

## Orange Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

	the Alum Creek Trail (along the creek) from Westerville to Alum Creek State Park.	
437	More natural area parks, primitive trails.	3/31/2021 3:12 PM
438	Bike Trail connectivity Dedicated soccer game fields (to preserve the condition of the fields) Open green space for sports	3/31/2021 11:21 AM
439	Pickleball courts!!	3/27/2021 1:07 PM
440	Add Pickleball courts.	3/27/2021 12:25 PM
441	Pickleball courts w/ Lighting Pickleball leagues and tournaments Skateboarding area	3/27/2021 11:49 AM
442	Lighting for soccer fields and parking as well as turf fields	3/27/2021 11:10 AM
443	Priority use of limited township park space to organizations that are composed of majority Orange Township/Olentangy School District families. Community based use should be top priority. Improving the living experience of Orange Township community members should be top priority. Youth sports is a critical aspect of family activities and we should help our families that choose to live in Orange Twp.	3/27/2021 10:56 AM

