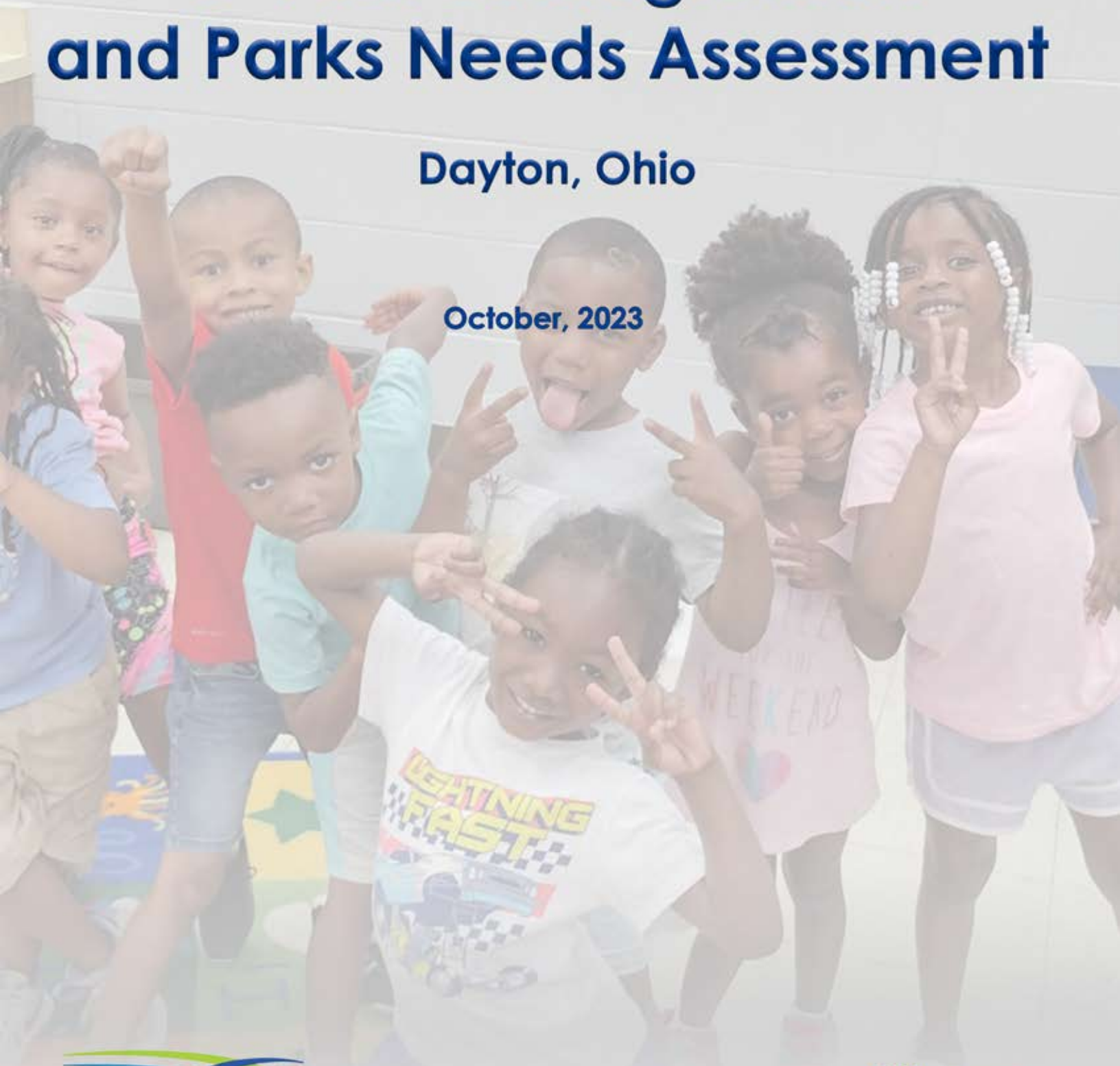
2023 Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan and Parks Needs Assessment

Dayton, Ohio

October, 2023



DAYTON

BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC
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2023 Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan and Parks Needs Assessment
Dayton, Ohio

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Why this Plan is Needed

After decades of declining population, the City of Dayton has stabilized at about 137,000 residents. The composition of the population has also changed with increased diversity and an aging population. With the previous plan for recreation and parks completed nearly 20 years ago, it is time to reconsider the structure, programs, and services of the system.

Dayton has also become a destination for recreation in the region, driven in part by its five waterways and abundant amounts of parkland. While many opportunities are available at properties offered by other providers, there has been increased interest in investment to the city's recreation facilities and parks.

Kettering Field, for example, has a new artificial turf field funded by the NFL to commemorate the anniversary of the first NFL game which took place in Dayton's Triangle Park. A motivated group of park users spearheaded a successful effort to build the Dayton Bike Yard in Welcome Park, and donations have also helped fund a new skatepark in Claridge Park.

As shown by these examples, the growing interest in expanding the variety and quality of recreational opportunities highlight the need for a new plan to direct and organize these efforts. This *2023 Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan & Parks Needs Assessment* will guide the city and interested partners in their efforts to provide a modern and high quality system of recreation facilities and programs for today's and tomorrow's residents.

This plan is important because it…

- Provides a vision for Recreation (and Parks) in Dayton for the next 10 years
- Prepares the departments to respond to changing needs and trends
- Ensures the department has the staff and structure required to meet these needs
- Addresses gaps & inequities in service delivery
- Describes future funding requirements and potential sources
- Strengthens fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and efficiency
- Avoids duplication of services, improve partnerships

Meant to instill focus, establish priorities, and inspire action, this Plan was produced with guidance from an active steering committee appointed by city officials and staff. It is supported by robust data collection, including hours of in-person engagement, and affirms the special potential that the Dayton Recreation Department and Parks (through Public Works) have to improve quality of life and provide excellent experiences for both residents and visitors.

Vision, Mission, and Values for Recreation and Parks in Dayton

Dayton Recreation and the steering committee, with support from the planning team, crafted a strategic plan to define and guide recreation offerings and operations for the next 5-10 years. This facet of the document solidifies the daily purpose of the agency (also accepted by the Public Works Department for Parks), its guiding values, and the long-term view of success.

Vision

Everyone is engaged through high-quality experiences that connect the community and improve their wellbeing

Mission

We enhance quality of life through inclusive, dynamic, and high-quality programs and amenities

Values

Respect

Integrity

Accountability

Commitment to Excellence

Inclusion

Goals & Objectives

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

Goal 1: Responsive Recreation

Deliver a diverse array of programs that promote community fun and health

Goal 2: Modern Features

Offer excellent amenities that support recreational opportunities that inspire play and enjoyment

Goal 3: Continuous Engagement

Engage residents and partner agencies to ensure innovative, accessible, and inclusive experiences that respond to changing community needs

Goal 4: Effective Administration

Emphasize accountability and responsiveness to ensure superior service in an inclusive environment

Moving Forward — Let's Play

Guided by the findings of this plan, Dayton should strive to provide upgraded parks and facilities, updated programs that cater to today's community's needs, and improved internal operations. Moving forward, Dayton's vision is a future where everyone in the community is engaged with experiences that bring people together and improve their health and wellbeing.

Recreation Recommendations

Public input (Chapter 3) and an analysis of existing conditions (Chapter 2) together guided the Recreation recommendations for improvements outlined in Chapter 5. The following items are the top Recreation priorities determined through the planning process.

1. Widely promote the revised mission, vision, and goals
2. Upgrade and modernize all three recreation centers to address desired activities and programs; expand hours and open gym times
3. Open the aquatic center at GDRC
4. Provide consistent hours daily at all three pools to meet the demand for aquatic activities in Dayton
5. Utilize the teen space at Northwest Recreation Center and, if successful, add at GDRC and Lohrey Recreation Center
6. Improve GDRC with sound and privacy improvements at the multipurpose rooms
7. Update Belmont Pool (Lohrey); consider adding an auxiliary gym
8. Renovate classrooms, gym, and multipurpose room with stage at Northwest Recreation Center to accommodate more programs and rentals
9. Update and add fields at the Kettering Field complex to support growing sports needs in the community, especially soccer
10. Update the Kettering Field complex to a regional attraction with a wide range of amenities and improved connectivity
11. Update Jim Nichols Tennis Center to maintain the facility as a community asset
12. Continue to implement improvements at Community Golf Course and seek strategies to include more youth and teens in golf programming
13. Ensure ADA accessibility throughout Recreation facilities
14. Continuously evaluate the demand for new or expanded programs, making use of new facilities
15. Utilize dedicated staff to improve marketing and awareness with an active Recreation Department social media presence
16. Continuously seek partnerships for the development of facilities and programs
17. Revise the job descriptions and titles to match those commonly used in the profession
18. Update structure to allow for upward mobility within the department and true part-time positions
19. Encourage continued staff training for leadership and continued growth within respective fields
20. Maintain clear pricing, cost recovery, and funding policies for Recreation
21. Identify alternative funding streams to implement this plan and improve the park system
22. Continuously engage the public throughout the implementation of this plan

Park and Facility Recommendations

The engagement and analysis similarly guided the recommendations for Parks and the facilities offered within them (Chapter 6), and the top priorities are provided below.

1. Improve ADA access throughout the system
2. Add/improve restrooms, especially in heavily-used parks
3. Add site amenities including, security, drinking fountains, shade, seating, trees
4. Provide strategic & consistent signage – wayfinding, entrance – same as Recreation
5. Upgrade and replace existing facilities (e.g., playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts) to provide consistent quality of parks throughout the system
6. Demolish/remove obsolete and poor-quality facilities
7. Add desired new amenities, including picnic shelters, dog parks, disc golf, and skate parks

8. Upgrade existing and develop new splash pads to provide equitable distribution throughout the city
9. Add and improve connectivity throughout the system
10. Include features specifically desired by users of neighborhood parks to increase visitation and promote a sense of ownership
11. Consider maintenance and staffing needs when adding parkland and features to the system
12. Reduce the number of facilities and amount of parkland maintained through partnerships, nature restoration, and targeted consolidation
13. Define maintenance standards to improve efficiency and consistency
14. Increase mowing at sports fields in neighborhood park field areas to allow use

The Process – Why are These Actions Needed

Existing Conditions of Parks and Recreation in Dayton

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, and special use parks. 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.[1]

Dayton's Recreation and Parks System

Recreation Facilities

- 3 recreation centers
- Sports complex (Kettering Field)
- Community Golf Course
- Jim Nichols Tennis Center

Parks

- 33 neighborhood/mini parks
- 4 community parks
- 7 splash pads (Rec)
- 35 playgrounds
- 36 basketball courts
- 15 tennis courts
- 2 dog parks
- New Bike Yard
- More

About 900 acres total

[1] https://www.fastcompany.com/90624316/great-parks-dont-just-have-rec-space-they-create-jobs?mc_cid=105f89bd93&mc_eid=6c9b6b28d4

Demographic and Benchmarking Analysis



- Population stabilized at about 137,000
- Diversity increasing
- 65+ population growing
- High level of poverty



Service Area Analysis (Gaps)

Maps of service areas for various parks and facilities were used to identify service gaps or underserved areas within Dayton. Maps were also created to illustrate levels of access to various park categories and facilities. The analysis indicated that about 77% of Dayton residents are within walking distance to a park that has at least a playground, with 57% within walking distance of a City of Dayton park. This high level of access shows that the city has a good quantity and distribution of park offerings.



77% **w/ walkable access to parks**

A composite service areas map (next page) shows the overall level of service for parks and facilities, ranked from high to low, in turn revealing spaces of need and opportunity. Shades of blue indicate high service levels, while red areas show those with the lowest level of service to parks and facilities. Nearly two-thirds of residents live in areas with high of medium-high service levels. Only about 15% of the city is within the low or medium-low service areas.

What Dayton Residents Said

To make informed decisions moving forward, Dayton 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 process utilized several methods to connect with the community.

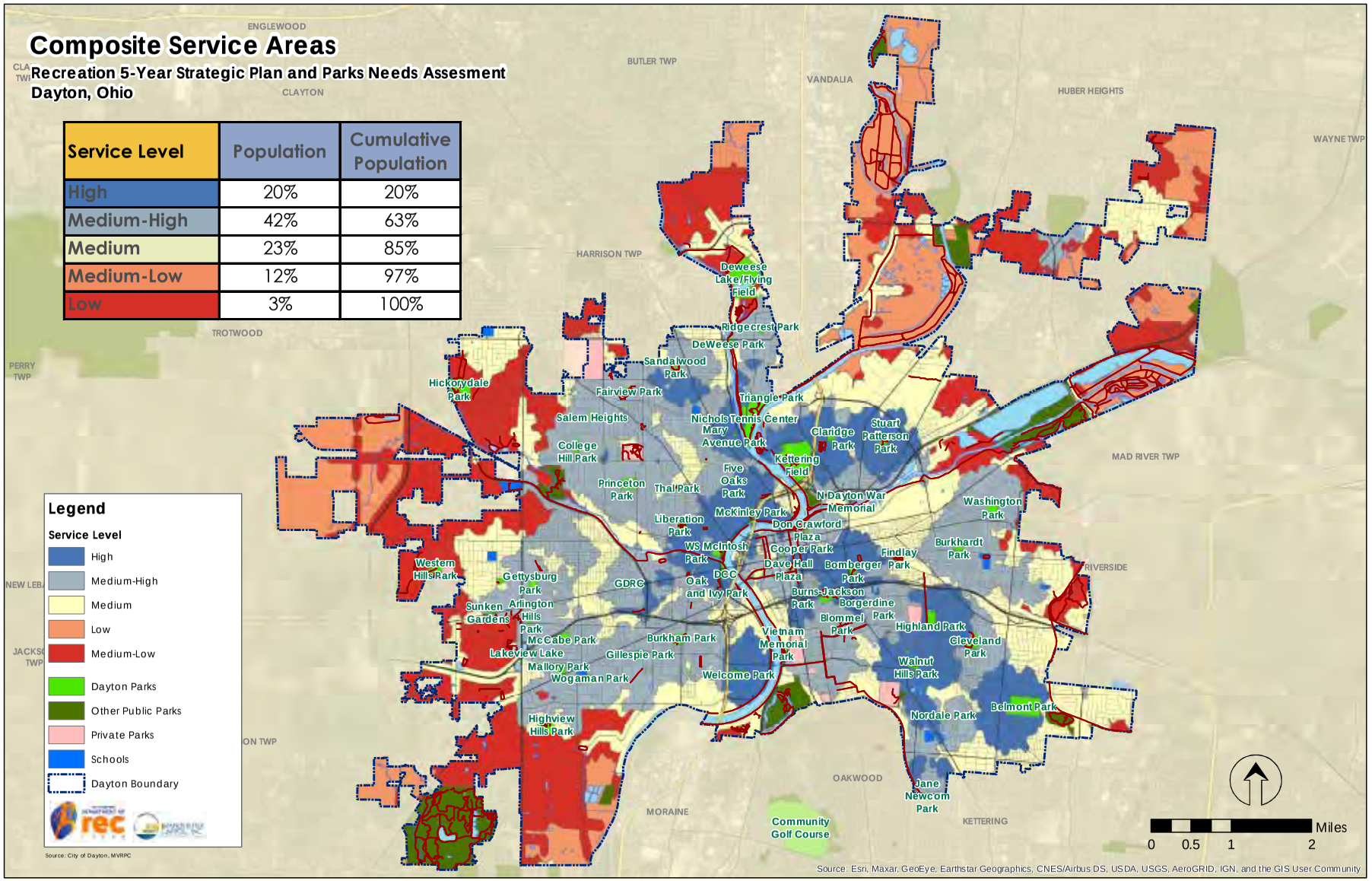
Engagement Summary

1. 3 open house workshops in fall of 2022
   - 100 attended (approximately)
2. Meetings with stakeholder groups (October 2022) representing:
   - Dayton staff at GDRC, Northwest, and Lohrey
   - Recreation Centers and Downtown (4 meetings)
   - Public Works staff dedicated to parks
   - Dayton City Commissioners and Mayor
   - Dayton City Manager's Office
   - Dayton Police
   - Neighborhood presidents
   - Dayton neighborhood residents (neighborhood conversations)

Composite Service Areas

Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan and Parks Needs Assesment
Dayton, Ohio

Service Level	Population	Cumulative Population
High	20%	20%
Medium-High	42%	63%
Medium	23%	85%
Medium-Low	12%	97%
Low	3%	100%



3. A handout and Web Survey – available from fall 2022 to spring 2023
   - 298 surveys completed
4. A random sample Mail Survey sent in winter 2022
   - 614 surveys received

Stakeholder Groups

These groups desire:

Upgraded Facilities

- Modernize/renovate Recreation Centers
- Kettering Field upgrades (new diamond fields, soccer fields, pedestrian access)
- ADA accessibility
- Support features (signage, security, lighting, drinking fountains)
- Extended pool hours

New Facilities

- Playground replacement program
- New picnic shelters, including elimination of obsolete shelters
- New & upgraded basketball courts

Expanded Programing

- Additional community events
- Aquatic programs
- Teen programs
- Active adult 50+
- Multigenerational

Partnerships, Collaboration, & Marketing

- Transportation to parks and facilities
- Collaboration with MetroParks & YMCA for additional services
- Cross departmental collaboration
- Improved community engagement

Operations

- Fully staffed recreation department
- Locate additional/alternative funding for park improvements
- Dedicated staff for marketing purposes

Survey Results (Random Sample of Households)

87% report visiting

13% rated excellent

Activities Enjoyed

51% Enjoying nature

51% Walking/hiking/jogging

48% Attending festivals, concerts/performances

32% Attending special events

Desire for Investment in Facilities

44% Natural areas/nature parks

43% Walking & hiking trails

36% Small neighborhood parks

34% Large community parks

34% Picnic shelters/areas

33% Recreation centers

28% Playgrounds

Desire for Investment in Programs

49% Festivals

37% Concerts/art performances

35% Fitness & wellness programs (adult)

29% Programs for age 50+

27% Nature programs

22% Water fitness programs

27% Art, dance, performing arts

What Would Encourage More Use

39% Addition of desired programs

35% Better marketing/promotion

33% Improved security

31% Additional hours/days of operation

27% Improvement of existing facilities

26% More/improved restrooms

24% Improved maintenance

As the city 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. Engagement efforts should be flexible and creative, utilizing tools like on-site feedback and interactive online platforms. Information gathered from these public input methods was used to identify the needs of Dayton residents and was the primary driver of recommended actions.

Action Plan

The *2023 Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan & Parks Needs Assessment* concludes with an Action Plan of 219 strategies and recommendations. These action items, provided in Chapter 7, detail specific actions with timelines for Dayton to implement this Plan.

Overall Engagement Findings (All Methods)

Recreation

- Recreation center improvements
- More access to indoor pools
- Sports field improvements & access
- New/upgraded splash pads
- Pickleball courts
- Wayfinding & entrance signage (also applies to Parks)
- Improved ADA accessibility (also applies to Parks)

Programs and Operations

- Strategic & collaborative marketing
- Continuous community engagement
- Additional festivals & community events
- Fitness & wellness classes
- Active adult (50+) programs
- Nature programs
- Partnerships with local organizations

Parks

- Increased maintenance at existing parks
- Neighborhood park improvements
- Upgraded playgrounds with unique equipment
- Upgraded/improved courts (basketball, tennis, etc.)
- Access to natural areas & activities (picnics, fishing, etc.)
- Connectivity & trails
- Restrooms & support features (lighting, drinking fountains, etc.)

City of Dayton

2023 Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan & Parks Needs Assessment

The Community Desires:

Recreation Facilities

- Upgrades & revitalization of existing facilities (restrooms, ADA, utilization of space, etc.)
- Improved security
- Increased pool availability
- Athletic fields & courts (soccer, baseball/softball, tennis

Parks and Open Space

- Increased maintenance of parks
- Improved park experiences (restrooms, shade, seating, picnic areas, drinking fountains, etc.)
- Established branding (wayfinding & signage)
- Neighborhood input
- Additional trails/connectivity

Recreation Programs

- Concerts, festivals, and art performances
- Aquatics programs
- Fitness and wellness programs
- Active adult programs (50+)
- Nature programs
- Sports programs

Operations

- Easier registration & reservation
- Improved marketing and promotion
- Increased community engagement
- Improved partnerships



MISSION

We enhance quality of life through inclusive, dynamic, and high-quality programs and amenities

VISION

Everyone is engaged through high-quality experiences that connect the community and improve their wellbeing

GOALS

Responsible Recreation

Modern Features

Continuous Engagement

Effective Administration

VALUES

Respect Integrity

Committement to Excellence

Accountability

Inclusion

Overall Engagement Findings

Recreation

- Recreation center improvements
- More access to indoor pools
- Sports field improvements & access
- New/upgraded splash pads
- Pickleball courts
- Wayfinding & entrance signage (also applies to Parks)
- Improved ADA accessibility (also applies to Parks)

Programs & Operations

- Strategic & collaborative marketing
- Continuous community engagement
- Additional festivals & community events
- Fitness & wellness classes
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- Nature programs
- Partnerships with local organizations

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- Neighborhood park improvements
- Upgraded playgrounds with unique equipment
- Upgraded/improved courts (basketball, tennis, etc.)
- Access to natural areas & activities (picnics, fishing, etc.)
- Connectivity & trails
- Restrooms & support features (lighting, drinking fountains, etc.)

Recreation Recommendations

1. Widely promote the revised mission, vision, and goals
2. Upgrade and modernize all three recreation centers
3. Open the aquatic center at GDRC
4. Provide consistent hours daily at all three pools
5. Utilize the teen space at Northwest and add at GDRC and Lohrey
6. Add a ceiling at GDRC multipurpose rooms for sound and privacy
7. Update Belmont Pool (Lohrey); consider adding an auxiliary gym
8. Renovate classrooms, gym, and multipurpose room with stage at Northwest
9. Update and add fields at the Kettering Field complex
10. Update Kettering Field with a wide range of amenities and improved connectivity
11. Update Jim Nichols Tennis Center
12. Continue to improve Community Golf Course and add youth and teen programming
13. Ensure ADA accessibility throughout Recreation facilities
14. Consider the demand for new or expanded programs, making use of new facilities
15. Improve promotion with active Recreation Dept. social media
16. Continuously seek partnerships for facilities and programs
17. Revise job descriptions and titles to match those commonly used
18. Update structure to allow for upward mobility and true PT positions
19. Encourage staff training for leadership and growth
20. Maintain clear pricing, cost recovery, and funding policies
21. Identify alternative funding streams
22. Continuously engage the public

Park & Facility Recommendations

1. Improve ADA access throughout the system
2. Add/improve restrooms
3. Add site amenities (e.g., security, shade, seating, trees)
4. Provide strategic & consistent signage
5. Upgrade and replace existing facilities throughout the system
6. Remove obsolete/poor-quality facilities
7. Add desired new amenities (e.g., picnic shelters, dog parks, disc golf, and skateparks)
8. Upgrade existing and develop new splash pads
9. Add and improve connectivity
10. Include features specifically desired by users of neighborhood parks
11. Consider maintenance/staffing needs when adding parkland & features
12. Use careful consideration to reduce maintenance requirements
13. Define maintenance standards for parks
14. Increase mowing at select sports fields



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Need for a Plan

The purpose of this *2023 Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan & Parks Needs Assessment* is to provide an ambitious yet feasible roadmap for the future which encompasses the needs and desires of both the residents and staff of the City of Dayton. In the fall of 2022 Brandstetter Carroll Inc., a consulting firm based out of Lexington, Kentucky, partnered with the city to develop this publicly driven plan.

This plan is important because it...

- Provides a vision for the future of parks and recreation in Dayton
- Ensures department offerings are aligned with community needs
- Fosters civic engagement and creates a sense of community
- Develops clear priorities based on community needs and desires
- Identifies gaps & inequities in service delivery
- Strengthen fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and efficiency
- Identifies future funding requirements and potential sources
- Increases user participation, satisfaction, revenue, and capital investment
- Ensures that the city keeps up with parks and recreation trends
- Ensures no duplication of service & improves partnerships

Parks are part of hyper-local civic infrastructure (so-called "third-spaces"[1]) needed now more than ever, where citizens practice the "art of association" and do the work of knitting communities together.[2]

Parks and Recreation Facilities are Essential to Public Health

The Trust for Public Land (TLP) prepares ParkScore every year to rank the park systems of the 100 most populous cities in the U.S. This year the organization added data about the positive health outcomes of the top-scoring cities.[3] A new report, The Power of Parks to Promote Health, encourages communities to make parks a more formal part of their health programs, helping to ensure more are able to experience the physical and mental health benefits of public parks and green spaces.

The Trust for Public Land found that "people are on average 9% less likely to suffer from poor mental health and 21% less likely to be physically inactive" in the top 25 ranking cities, compared to the lower-ranked cities, even after controlling for race/ethnicity, income, age, and population density. The report offers examples for how public agencies, non-profit community organizations, and healthcare providers can come together to leverage public park space to improve health outcomes.

According to the Trust for Public Land doctors in Columbus, Ohio prescribe an 11-week fitness program offered free through the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department to patients struggling with obesity and high blood pressure. Close-to-home parks are associated with lower obesity rates and improved health in both young people and adults. Staffed programming, such as fitness classes, dramatically increased physical activity.

1 National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/, (December, 10 2019).
2 Redefining Infrastructure & Public Space. Reimagining the Civic Commons. 2021. https://medium.com/reimagining-the-civic-commons/redefining-infrastructure-and-public-space-2e311edfde68
3 Urban Parks Should Be a Greater Part of the Health Care System, https://dirt.asla.org/2023/08/14/new-evidence-on-the-health-benefits-of-top-performing-parks/

Community Background

Dayton is located in southwest Ohio with a population of approximately 137,000. This population has steadily declined over the past 20 years and is projected to continue decreasing through 2030 but at a much slower rate than seen previously. The demographics of the city are also expected to continue to change with the city becoming older and more diverse.

Dayton Recreation provides about 400 acres of parkland, including:

- 3 recreation centers
- 1 sports complex (Kettering field)
- 7 splash pads
- 1 golf course (Community Golf Course)
- 1 tennis center (Jim Nichols Tennis Center)
- Howell Field (at Triangle Park)
- 2 parks (Princeton & Belmont)

Dayton Public Works manages about 500 acres of parkland, including:

- 33 neighborhood parks
- 2 community parks
- 17 special use parks/open space

The city has an abundant amount of parkland with significant potential for strategic and responsible development.

1.2 The Planning Process

This Plan acts as a compass for the department and incorporates findings from the four-phase process including:

- Evaluating existing facilities and programs
  - Analyzing current trends and benchmarking
- Engaging with a steering committee, community stakeholders, staff, and the public (open house, online survey, and stakeholder meetings)
- Visioning sessions
- Reviewing recommendations and strategy prioritization

1.2.1 How to Read the Plan



The **EVALUATE** phase is encompassed in Chapters 1 & 2 and provides a baseline understanding of the existing conditions of Dayton as a whole, facilities and programs available, and both the Recreation and Public Works Departments. The text evaluates the make-up of the population and the levels of service in the community. Additionally, Chapter 2 includes trends and benchmarking analysis which reveals how Dayton measures up to surrounding communities of similar make up and to national recreation trends. Contents include:

- **Parkland and facility inventory & analysis**
- **Program analysis**
- **Benchmark comparisons of similar agencies**

Figure 1.1: Planning Process



- **Geographic park and facility service area mapping**
- **Trends in parks and recreation**

Engage CH 3

The **ENGAGE** phase is summarized in Chapter 3 and ultimately leads the discussions throughout the rest of the Plan. Identifying what the community desires is essential to determine and prioritize the future of the parks, recreation facilities, and special events/programming.

- **Open house workshops**
- **Web/handout & mail surveys**
- **Stakeholder group meetings**

Envision CH 4

The **ENVISION** phase is driven by the visioning sessions and meetings with the steering committee and can be found in Chapter 4. Findings from the evaluate and engage phase are reviewed and are used to produce a specific vision, mission, values, goals, and objectives for both departments.

- **Steering committee visioning sessions**
- **Needs, standards, & guidelines for parks and recreation**
- **Facility needs analysis & level of service standards**

Plan CH 5-7

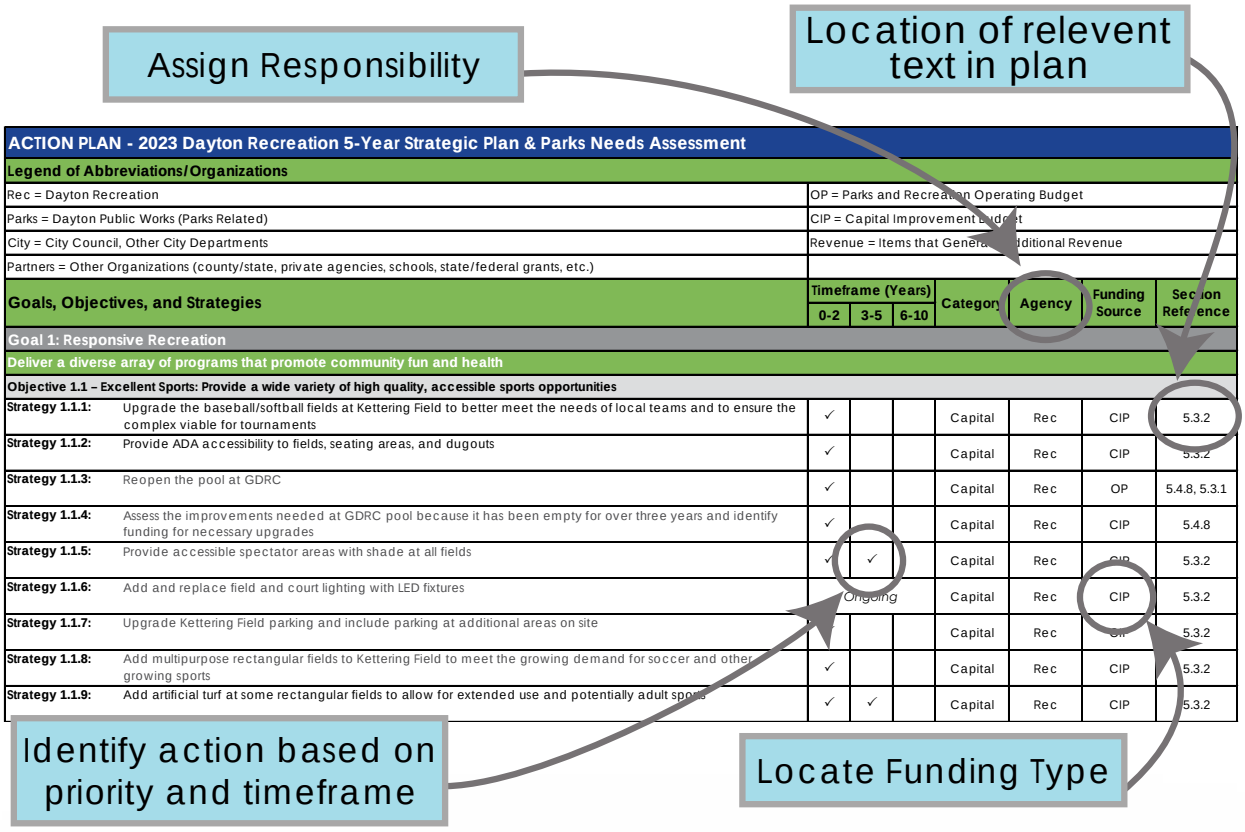
The **PLAN** phase combines all the information gathered throughout the first three phases of the planning process and formulates operational and capital – both systemwide and individual park related – recommendations to meet the goals for the future of recreation and parks. Chapters 5 & 6 discusses these topics at length and help provide the direction for the departments for the next 5-10 years. Chapter 5 discusses recreation recommendations while chapter 6 discusses park facilities and maintenance. Chapter 7 presents the action plan that can be used as a checklist for implementation.

- **Recreation recommendations**
- **Park and facility recommendations**
- **Action plan**

1.3 How To Use This Plan

The action plan is a living document. This plan will act as a guiding document over the next 5 – 10 years for future development within the Recreation and public works departments that should, at least, be revisited annually to measure progress. The recommendations found in the latter half of the plan include capital lists of improvements that prioritize systemwide, departmental, and individual park enhancements.

Upon acceptance of this plan, the action plan provided in Chapter 7 will begin to guide and bring to life the needs



ACTION PLAN - 2023 Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan & Parks Needs Assessment								
Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations								
Rec = Dayton Recreation				OP = Parks and Recreation Operating Budget				
Parks = Dayton Public Works (Parks Related)				CIP = Capital Improvement Budget				
City = City Council, Other City Departments				Revenue = Items that Generate Additional Revenue				
Partners = Other Organizations (county/state, private agencies, schools, state/federal grants, etc.)								
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	**Timeframe (Years)**			**Category**	**Agency**	**Funding Source**	**Section Reference**	
	0-2	**3-5**	**6-10**					
Goal 1: Responsive Recreation								
Deliver a diverse array of programs that promote community fun and health								
Objective 1.1 – Excellent Sports: Provide a wide variety of high quality, accessible sports opportunities								
Strategy 1.1.1: Upgrade the baseball/softball fields at Kettering Field to better meet the needs of local teams and to ensure the complex viable for tournaments	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2	
Strategy 1.1.2: Provide ADA accessibility to fields, seating areas, and dugouts	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2	
Strategy 1.1.3: Reopen the pool at GDRC	✓			Capital	Rec	OP	5.4.8, 5.3.1	
Strategy 1.1.4: Assess the improvements needed at GDRC pool because it has been empty for over three years and identify funding for necessary upgrades	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.4.8	
Strategy 1.1.5: Provide accessible spectator areas with shade at all fields	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2	
Strategy 1.1.6: Add and replace field and court lighting with LED fixtures	*Ongoing*			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2	
Strategy 1.1.7: Upgrade Kettering Field parking and include parking at additional areas on site				Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2	
Strategy 1.1.8: Add multipurpose rectangular fields to Kettering Field to meet the growing demand for soccer and other growing sports	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2	
Strategy 1.1.9: Add artificial turf at some rectangular fields to allow for extended use and potentially adult sports	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2	

and desires of both the Recreation and Public Works Departments and the community.

1.4 Related Planning Efforts

The City of Dayton first adopted a parks master plan in 1926 and has updated or replaced it twice since then in 1956 and 2004. In response to the previous plans, current conditions of the existing park system, and the demographic shifts seen within the city, the Dayton Recreation Department and Public Works Department in partnership with the consultant began the planning process once again in of August of 2022.

This Plan supports existing community efforts to revitalize the City of Dayton. Listed below are supportive documents which were considered during the planning process.[4]

- Ten Year Master Plan for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture
- Dayton Forward Comprehensive Plan
- 2018 Dayton Riverfront Plan
- 2021 ARPA Recovery Plan
- NE, NW, SE, West, Pineview, Carillon-Edgemont Dayton Neighborhood Visions
- Renew Miami Chapel – Transforming the Greater Miami Chapel Neighborhood
- Dayton Active Transportation Plan

[4] Summaries of previous planning efforts can be found in Appendix B



2 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2.1 Introduction

The Community Background & Needs Assessment chapter provides an evaluation of the existing conditions of recreation and parks in Dayton. This chapter provides detailed analysis of the following:

- Population demographics
- Existing inventory of recreation facilities and parks
- Benchmarking against other agencies
- Service areas of parks and facilities
- Trends in recreation and parks

The ensuing text serves to provide the context needed to understand the existing and potential future needs of the community. The data compiled in this chapter is necessary to understand and interpret the desires of the community which are outlined in Chapter 3.

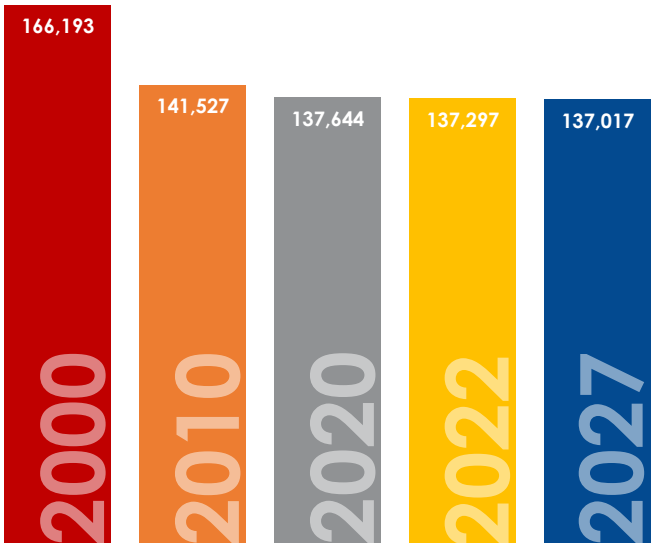
2.2 Population and Demographic Trends

An overall understanding of population trends in Dayton is necessary to identify current conditions and to anticipate future needs for recreation and parks services and facilities. Needs vary between demographic groups, and these needs also change over time. Each of the following demographic categories examines specific elements of the population.

2.2.1 Population Change

Figure 2.1 uses US Census Bureau data and Esri Forecasts to illustrate the population change in Dayton from 2000 to 2027. The population of Dayton has slowly decreased over the past 20 years. Based on previous annual percent change of the population, it is projected that the population will continue to decline but, potentially, at a slower rate than seen in previous years.

Figure 2.1: City of Dayton Population Change



2.2.2 Household Size

Table 2.1 shows the average household size between 2000 and 2027 for Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, and the nation. Household size in Dayton has decreased since 2000 along with all other geographies. Prior to the decline in household size in Dayton, the city already had smaller households than comparison geographies.

Table 2.1: Average Household Size

	2000	2010	2022	2027
USA	2.59	2.58	2.55	2.54
Ohio	2.49	2.44	2.38	2.37
Montgomery Co.	2.37	2.34	2.29	2.27
Dayton	2.30	2.30	2.23	2.22

Source: US Census Bureau, Esri Forecasts

2.2.3 Age

Understanding the age composition of Dayton is critical for ensuring that this Plan addresses future development and opportunity in a way that best serves the community. Table 2.2 shows the median age for Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, and the nation from 2000 through 2027. The median age in Dayton has increased since 2000 (from 32.6 to 36.8 in 2022). Age in all geographic levels has risen since 2000, but Montgomery County has the highest, while Dayton has the lowest, indicating that the age in Montgomery County outside of the city is even higher. The median age in Dayton is projected to continue increasing through 2027.

Table 2.2: Median Age

	2000	2010	2022	2027
USA	35.3	37.1	38.9	39.6
Ohio	36.2	38.7	40.6	41.3
Montgomery Co.	36.4	39.3	41.2	41.9
Dayton	32.6	33.8	36.8	37.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

Table 2.3 displays the population age 65 and older from 2000 to 2027 and shows that this age group has increased considerably over the last 20 years, with projected sustained increase (representing 18.3% of Dayton's population by 2027). While a similar trend of growth is evident at all other geographic levels, the City of Dayton shows a lower percentage of residents older than 65 than all other geographies as they are aging even more rapidly. This change emphasizes the need for facilities and services for the 65+ population and should guide consideration of future development and opportunities.

Table 2.3: Population Age 65 and Older

	2000	2010	2022	2027
USA	12.4%	13.0%	17.5%	19.5%
Ohio	17.1%	14.0%	18.9%	21.3%
Montgomery Co.	13.7%	15.3%	20.2%	22.3%
Dayton	12.0%	11.8%	16.3%	18.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

Table 2.4 presents the population under age 18 from 2000 to 2027. The table indicates that the percentage of children decreased from 25.0% to 21.3% in Dayton between 2000 and 2022; the percentage of the population within this age group is expected to remain roughly the same through 2027, while other geographic levels will experience continued decline. At over 20% of the population, children will continue to represent a valuable and significant percentage of the Dayton community and should be accommodated accordingly.

Table 2.4: Population under Age 18

	2000	2010	2022	2027
USA	25.7%	24.0%	21.7%	21.4%
Ohio	22.2%	23.7%	20.9%	20.8%
Montgomery Co.	24.7%	22.9%	20.5%	20.3%
Dayton	25.0%	23.2%	21.3%	21.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

2.2.4 Poverty

Table 2.5 shows the percentage of the population living below the poverty line at each of the geographic levels. The table shows that the poverty level in Dayton is significantly greater than the county, state, and nation. Like in the USA, Ohio, and Montgomery County, the poverty level in Dayton decreased from a peak of 34.5% in 2010 to 27.6% in 2021. The numbers for child poverty (Table 2.6) follow the same trends but are higher overall. These numbers highlight the need for the Recreation Department to consider the financial burden of programming and services on the poorest members of the community and ensure their ability to participate.

Table 2.5: Population Under the Poverty Line

	2000	2010	2021
USA	12.4%	15.3%	12.8%
Ohio	10.6%	15.8%	13.4%
Montgomery Co.	11.3%	17.8%	15.3%
Dayton	23.0%	34.5%	27.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1 Year estimates

Table 2.6: Children Under the Poverty Line

	2000	2010	2021
USA	16.1%	21.2%	16.9%
Ohio	14.0%	23.3%	18.6%
Montgomery Co.	15.6%	27.2%	23.7%
Dayton	32.0%	54.8%	44.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1 Year estimates

2.2.5 Income and Educational Attainment

The median household income (Table 2.7) in Dayton ($37,300 as of 2022) is below all other comparison geographies. Looking at the individual level, per capita income in Dayton ($22,600) is also lower than the comparisons by 30% to 50%. Income levels have also not kept up with inflation in Dayton.

Table 2.7: Income

	2000	2000 Adjusted	2022	2027
Median Household Income				
USA	$42,000	$69,900	$72,400	$84,400
Ohio	$41,000	$68,200	$62,400	$73,400
Montgomery Co.	$40,200	$66,900	$57,600	$66,500
Dayton	$27,400	$45,700	$37,300	$44,600
Per Capita Income				
USA	$21,600	$36,000	$40,400	$47,100
Ohio	$21,000	$35,000	$36,700	$42,700
Montgomery Co.	$21,700	$36,200	$34,500	$40,300
Dayton	$15,500	$25,900	$22,600	$26,500

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts, US BLS

Table 2.8 shows the change in educational attainment in Dayton and comparisons since 2000. As of 2022, 20.7% of residents age 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or above. The percentage of Dayton's population with higher education degrees is significantly below the three comparison geographies. While Dayton's education levels have increased, they are just now reaching the levels seen in the benchmarks in 2000. Notably, those in Dayton are the most likely to have completed some college with no degree.

2.2.6 Population Diversity

Like much of the nation, diversity is increasing in Dayton (Table 2.9). As of the 2020 US Census, the white, non-Hispanic population represents less than 50% of Dayton residents. Although the total population and White and Black alone populations decreased between 2010 and 2020, all other population groups increased over this period. Two or more races increased at the fastest rate (91.1%), followed closely by Hispanic or Latino (88.0%).

Changes in the community's population often correspond with different recreation preferences, especially compared to the time of the original construction of the recreation facilities and parks. While the racial makeup of the population is changing, the total population is projected to continue decreasing. Engagement of all demographic groups is essential for the city's recreation and park offerings to successfully meet the needs of the entire city's population.

2.2.7 Conclusion

These demographic trends indicate aging and a declining but increasingly diverse population with comparatively lower income levels than surrounding areas. These trends will continue to shape the future of Dayton. The direction Dayton chooses for its recreation and parks will determine the availability of opportunities for residents and will help enrich the overall quality of life in the community for years to come.

Table 2.8: Educational Attainment Age 25 and Over

Educational Attainment (Highest Level)	Dayton		Montgomery County		Ohio		USA	
	2000	2022	2000	2022	2000	2022	2000	2022
No High School Diploma	24.9%	14.7%	16.5%	8.5%	17.1%	8.2%	19.6%	10.0%
High School/GED	31.9%	29.9%	30.4%	27.5%	36.1%	32.6%	28.6%	27.1%
Some College, No Degree	22.6%	24.5%	22.9%	22.4%	19.9%	18.5%	21.0%	18.3%
Associates Degree	6.3%	10.2%	7.3%	10.8%	5.9%	9.6%	6.3%	9.4%
Bachelors Degree	9.3%	12.8%	14.4%	18.6%	13.7%	19.5%	15.5%	21.7%
Graduate/Professional/Doctorate Degree	4.9%	7.9%	8.5%	12.1%	7.4%	11.6%	8.9%	13.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri forecasts

Table 2.9: Population by Race and Ethnicity

Year	Total Population	White Alone		Black Alone		Asian or Pacific Islander Alone		Other Race Alone		Two or More Races		Hispanic or Latino	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2010	141,527	71,458	50.5%	60,342	42.6%	1,242	0.9%	638	0.5%	3,667	2.6%	4,180	3.0%
2020	137,644	64,020	46.5%	55,620	40.4%	1,995	1.4%	1,142	0.8%	7,008	5.1%	7,859	5.7%
# Change	-3,883	-7,438		-4,722		753		504		3,341		3,679	
% Change	-2.7%	-10.4%		-7.8%		60.6%		79.0%		91.1%		88.0%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

2.3 Inventory of Dayton Recreation Facilities and Parks

Park classification systems help evaluate the overall recreation opportunities available to the public. A recreation and park system should be evaluated as a composite of spaces that collectively meet public needs. It should provide a combination of smaller neighborhood parks, larger community parks, special use parks, and natural areas, located throughout the community.

The inventory in this chapter identifies each property by its classification and outlines the specific facilities provided. Table 2.10 defines each park category by its typical size and service area, population served, typical features and facilities, and desirable characteristics. Categories and descriptions are adapted to meet the specific needs of the Dayton system from "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines," by the National Recreation and Park Association.

Residents of Dayton are offered a variety of recreation facilities and parks. The Recreation Facilities and Park Inventory (Table 2.11) provides a summary of the offerings

Table 2.10: Park Classifications

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Local Space			
Mini Park (MP)	Size: Less than 2 acres of developed parkland; less than 3 total acres 1/2-mile service area 10-minute walk	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 high density neighborhoods where households have limited yard space.
Neighborhood Park (NP)	Size: 2-10 acres of developed parkland; 3-15 total acres 1-mile service area 10-minute walk To serve a population up to 5,000	Suited for intense development Typical facilities include athletic fields, game courts, playgrounds, drinking fountains, picnic areas/shelters, and walking paths.	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 2-mile service radius 5-minute drive To serve several neighborhoods with populations up to 20,000	Typical facilities include all those listed for neighborhood parks, plus swimming pool, field or game court complex, dog park, recreation or community center, etc. May include natural areas or 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. May meet neighborhood park needs for users within a 10-minute walk.
Special Use (SU)	Serves community-wide area	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.

Table 2.10: Park Classifications (Continued)

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Regional Space			
Natural Area/Open Space (OS)	N/A	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 that are considered developed but have predominantly passive uses. 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.
Nature Parks (NP)	Size as needed to protect the resource	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.
State Parks (SP)	Size as needed to protect natural resources of State or regional significance	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. Size will vary based on the area required to protect the resource.

in Dayton and classification for each property and whether is overseen by the Recreation Department or Public Works. The Existing Recreation Facilities and Parks map (Figure 2.2) shows the location of each of the recreation facilities and parks offered by the City of Dayton, plus those by others. The following text provides a summary of these facilities.

2.3.1 Recreation Facilities (Recreation Department)

Listed at the top of Table 2.11, the Recreation Department oversees eight properties, including three recreation centers, a tennis center, a golf course, and a sports complex. They also manage Howell Field at Triangle Park. These locations host most of the programming offered by the Recreation Department, but facility maintenance is conducted by the Public Works Department. Photos of each facility with conditions assessment and more detailed information about features offered can be found in Appendix A.

Recreation Centers

The Recreation Department manages three recreation centers that provide a wide range of programming, described in detail in the next section (2.4) of this document. The three centers are located regionally to provide access throughout the city. Each center has a fitness center, gymnasium(s), an indoor pool, and meeting rooms. The following text summarizes findings for each center.



Greater Dayton Recreation Center
Greater Dayton Recreation Center is the newest of the three centers and is in overall good condition. The building is in the western part of Dayton and adjoins Dayton Public Schools' Roosevelt campus.

Issues & opportunities:

- No water in pool, not available for use
- No Wi-Fi
- No functional computers for users
- Lack of privacy in meeting rooms – reduces rental opportunities
- Inefficient layout
- Noisy due to open layout
- No dedicated teen space

Lohrey Recreation Center

Lohrey Recreation Center is located within Belmont Park in southeast Dayton and is in overall good condition for its age although could use some technology updates. The original Lohrey Recreation Center was built in 1957 and renovated in 2009. The center has been serving the Dayton community for more than 60 years and caters to a myriad of different recreating groups.

Issues & opportunities:

- Wi-Fi available
- Limited pool hours (due to lack of staff)
- No computers or video games available at the center
- Low-visibility from nearby roads
- Non-functional computers at front desk
- Programming gap between the seniors and children age groups
- Alarm system malfunctions

Northwest Recreation Center

The Northwest Recreation Center is located adjacent to Princeton Park on the northwest side of Dayton and is home to Dabney Pool. The center also contains activity rooms, a fitness room, stage, and two indoor gymnasiums and offers a variety of activities.



Issues & opportunities:

- Lack of Wi-Fi – inoperable computers
  - Needed for homework help and other activities
- Front door, locks, and security cameras in need of repairs – safety concerns
- Gym floor and stage flooring improvements needed
- Lacks programming for the younger generation
- Underutilization of second gym and stage

Kettering Field

Kettering Field provides most of the city's baseball/softball diamonds and the city's only artificial turf field, funded by the NFL. The park was recently expanded with the new football field using some of this land, but no parking lot is available in this part of the property. The new land provides opportunities to greatly improve the offerings at the site.

Overall, the property lacks sidewalks and trails for connectivity and ADA accessibility. Several features on the property need improvements or removal, including some old basketball courts. Fortunately, the city has plans to improve the property and is currently soliciting consultants to develop a plan for improvement to the park.

Issues and opportunities:

- Lack of pedestrian connectivity and ADA access
- Space for additional features using recently acquired land

Jim Nichols Tennis Center

The Nichols Tennis Center is located centrally in the city, next to Triangle Park and features Dayton's only clay courts. The center includes three hard courts and six clay courts and serves youth camps, individuals, and team play. The condition of the courts is in overall good condition along with the restrooms.

Issues & opportunities:

- Condition of sidewalks to and from the parking area
- Condition of surfacing and lighting at Courts #1-3
- ADA access improvements needed

Community Golf Course

Community Golf Course is located outside of Dayton just south of the City in Kettering. The facility offers two 18-hole courses, driving range, practice space, a pro shop, and a bar and grill.

Splash Pads

Dayton Recreation manages and maintains the seven splash pads offered at various parks throughout the city. Overall, the splash pads are in good condition and funds have been allocated towards the maintenance of the existing splash pads and the addition of new splash pads at other locations throughout Dayton.

Table 2.11: Recreation Facilities and Park Inventory

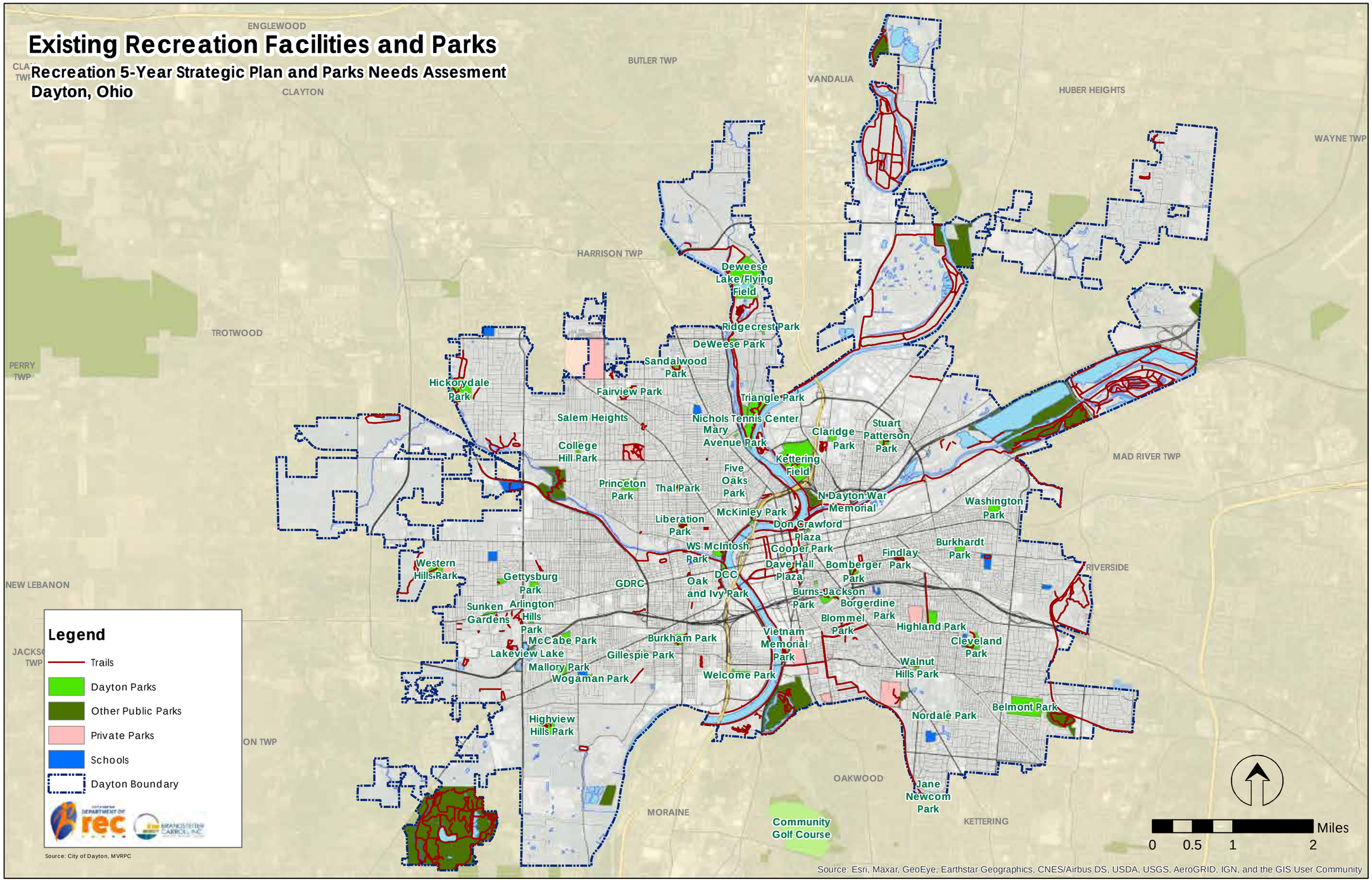
PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	Acreage		Athletic Fields						Game Courts				Outdoor Facilities					Trails (Mi)		Passive Recreation						Indoor		Support			Special Feature/Notes
		Total	Developed*	Small Diamond	Large Diamond	Batting Cages	Playfield/T-Ball (Backstop)	Small Rectangular	Large Rectangular	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Pickleball Courts	Playgrounds	Splash Pads^	Skateparks	Golf (Holes)	Disc Golf (Holes)	Paved	Unpaved	Dog Parks	Community Gardens	Stages or Amphitheaters	Large Shelters	Medium Shelters	Gazebos/ Small Shelters	Recreation Center	Pool	Restroom Buildings	Concessions Buildings	Parking	
Dayton Recreation and Parks																																
Recreation Facilities																																
Belmont Park	Community	55.6	55.6				2	2	2	2	2			1				19	0.8						1				1		192	
Community Golf Course	Golf Course	234.9	205.0														18													280	
Greater Dayton Recreation Center	Center	4.6	4.6							1																	1	1			107	Gym, pickleball, fitness center, senior room
Howell Field	Special Use	N/A	N/A		1																								1			At Triangle Park
Kettering Field	Sports Complex	92.6	92.6	6	10				1															1					1	1	356	
Lohrey Recreation Center	Center	N/A	N/A																							1	1			143	Gym, Pool, Fitness Center
Jim Nichols Tennis Center	Special Use	5.1	4.2								9																	1	1	41	
Northwest Recreation Center	Center	N/A	N/A																							1	1			59	Gym, Pool, fitness center, teen room
Princeton Park	Community	16.5	16.5				3			2	2			1																44	
Subtotal - Recreation Facilities		**409.4**	**378.5**	**6**	**11**	**0**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**5**	**13**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**18**	**19**	**0.8**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**2**	**1,222**	
Public Works Facilities																																
Neighborhood/Community																																
Arlington Hills Park	Neighborhood	3.6	3.6							2				1											1				1		8	Abandoned splash pad
Blommel Park	Mini	0.6	0.6											1																		
Bomberger Park	Neighborhood	4.7	4.7				1	1		1	3			1																		
Burkham Park	Neighborhood	10.7	10.7							2				1										2	1			1				
Burkhardt Park	Neighborhood	4.9	4.9				2			1				1																		
Burns-Jackson Park	Neighborhood	9.1	9.1				2			1	1			1																		
Claridge Park	Neighborhood	4.1	4.1				1			1				1		1																Tennis courts turned into skatepark
Cleveland Park	Neighborhood	14.0	6.5							1				1					0.3	0.3				1								Wooded natural areas
College Hill Park	Neighborhood	4.3	4.3							1				1										1								
Fairview Park	Neighborhood	4.5	4.5											1	1				0.5													
Five Oaks Park	Neighborhood	3.5	2.6							1				1	1										1							
Gettysburg Park	Neighborhood	9.1	7.0							2																						Playground unusable
Gillespie Park	Neighborhood	4.6	4.6							2				1																		
Highland Park	Neighborhood	14.5	14.5						1	1				1							1											
Highview Hills Park	Neighborhood	25.6	10.3								2			1					0.3						1				1		28	
Jane Newcome Park	Neighborhood	4.4	4.4				1			1	2			1						0.3				1					1			Fitness equipment along gravel loop trail
Liberation Park	Neighborhood	6.5	6.5							2				1										1					1			
Mallory Park	Neighborhood	10.5	10.5							1				1	1									1						20		
Mary Avenue Park	Mini	1.2	1.2											1											1							
McCabe Park	Neighborhood	16.4	16.4							1				1										1	1			1				
McKinley Park	Neighborhood	5.2	5.2								2		2	1																		
Nordale Park	Neighborhood	6.9	6.9							2				1								1		1				1				
Oregon Park (Newcom Founders Park)	Mini	0.9	0.9											1											1							
Pierce Steele Park	Mini	0.4	0.4											1																		
Residence Park	Neighborhood	4.6	4.6							1				1										1				1				

Table 2.11: Recreation Facilities and Park Inventory (Continued)

PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	Acreage		Athletic Fields						Game Courts				Outdoor Facilities					Trails (Mi)		Passive Recreation						Indoor		Support			Special Feature/Notes
		Total	Developed*	Small Diamond	Large Diamond	Batting Cages	Playfield/T-Ball (Backstop)	Small Rectangular	Large Rectangular	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Pickleball Courts	Playgrounds	Splash Pads^	Skateparks	Golf (Holes)	Disc Golf (Holes)	Paved	Unpaved	Dog Parks	Community Gardens	Stages or Amphitheaters	Large Shelters	Medium Shelters	Gazebos/ Small Shelters	Recreation Center	Pool	Restroom Buildings	Concessions Buildings	Parking	
Ridgecrest Park	Neighborhood	3.6	3.6				1					1	2	1											1				1			
Salem Heights Park	Mini	2.4	2.4											1																		
Sandalwood Park	Neighborhood	3.7	3.7					1			2			1					0.3						1							Pickleball lines
Stuart Patterson Park	Neighborhood	7.9	7.9				2		1	1	1			1	1																	
Triangle Park	Community	62.4	62.4			1		4													1			1	2	1			1		76	Deeds Point Dog Park, Recreation manages Howell Field
Walnut Hills Park	Neighborhood	9.7	8.5				1		1	1	2	3		1	1																	Hockey
Washington Park	Neighborhood	13.8	13.8				1			1				1	1											1				1		
Welcome Park (Virginia McNeal Park)	Community	13.2	13.2							2				1						0.5					1					1		MTB & BMX park under construction
Wogaman Park (Madden Hills)	Neighborhood	1.8	1.8											1																		
WS McIntosh Park	Neighborhood	7.3	7.3				1			2				1	1										1					1		Tennis courts to be removed
Open Space																																
Borgerdine Park	Greenspace	0.4	0.4																													
Hickorydale Park	Open Space	36.0	3.6																													No functioning amenities
Lakeside Lake	Open Space	10.6	1.1																												10	
Shroyer Bike Path	Linear	N/A	N/A																1.4												10	
Sunken Gardens	Greenspace	3.1	3.1																													Greenspace in a median
Thal Park	Greenspace	2.5	1.3																							1						
Western Hills Park	Open Space	9.7	5.0																													No functioning amenities
Special Use																																
Canal Park	Plaza	0.5	0.5																													
Cooper Park	Plaza	1.7	1.7																													Fountain and landscaping
Dave Hall Plaza (Levitt Pavilion)	Plaza	2.8	2.8																													
Deweese Lake and Flying Field	Special Use	101.2	46.9																						1							RC plane flying field
DeWeese Park	Special Use	3.3	2.9																												18	Trailhead for Stillwater River Trail
Don Crawford Plaza (Dragon's Stadium)	Plaza	1.3	1.3																													
Gateway Park (Friendship Park)	Special Use	3.0	3.0																													
Jane Reese Park	Special Use	0.4	0.4																													Small fountain
North Dayton War Memorial	Plaza/Median	0.2	0.2																													Greenspace in a median - some lighting & sidewalks
Oak & Ivy Park	Plaza	1.5	1.5																													
Vietnam Memorial Park	Special Use	4.9	4.9																													Greenspace, monuments, walking paths
Subtotal - Public Works Facilities		**483.6**	**354.1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**13**	**6**	**3**	**31**	**15**	**4**	**4**	**33**	**7**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**2.8**	**1.0**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**15**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**13**	**0**	**170**	
Total - Dayton Recreation and Parks		**892.9**	**732.6**	**6**	**11**	**1**	**18**	**8**	**6**	**36**	**28**	**4**	**4**	**35**	**7**	**1**	**18**	**19**	**3.5**	**1.0**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**17**	**10**	**3**	**3**	**17**	**2**	**1,392**	

*Acreage measured in ArcGIS
^Splash Parks managed by Recreation

Figure 2.2: Existing Recreation Facilities and Parks



Other Properties

In addition to the facilities above, Dayton Recreation also manages Belmont Park, Princeton Park, and Howell Field at Triangle Park. Belmont Park has backstops, rectangular fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, a playground, a disc golf course, and a paved trail along with a shelter and restroom building. Princeton Park also has backstops, field space, basketball courts, and tennis courts.

Issues & opportunities:

- ADA improvements needed for all amenities
- Condition of parking areas
- Replacement/removal needed of small playground at Belmont Park
- Condition of backstops – should be removed or replaced

2.3.2 Parks (Public Works Department)

As noted previously, the Public Works Department maintains the buildings and grounds at all of the recreation facilities. The department also maintains many other parks and open spaces. These properties provide a wide variety of facilities for use by Dayton residents. As with the Recreation facilities, photos of each park with conditions assessment and more detailed information about features offered can be found in Appendix A.

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. Dayton Public Works oversees 33 neighborhood parks, including mini parks.



Walnut Hills Park

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.). Dayton Public Works oversees four community parks:

- Triangle Park
- Welcome Park (Virginia McNeal Park)

Open Space

Open space and natural areas include both built environments or natural features that exist in the park system to provide the public with a connection to nature and typically offer passive amenities. Dayton Public Works oversees a mixture of open spaces, linear parks (bike paths), and greenspaces.



Thal Park

Open space properties include:

- Hickorydale Park
- Lakeside Lake
- Shroyer Bike Path
- Sunken Gardens
- Thal Park
- Western Hills Park



N Dayton War Memorial

Special Use Parks & Facilities

Special use parks are areas designed for specialized or single purpose recreational activities and can include places such as plazas and singe use facilities. Dayton offers 11 of these parks, such as the DeWeese Lake and Flying Field, and more.

2.4 Parks by Others

Table 2.10 shows recreation and parks areas that may be available to residents of Dayton but are neither owned by the City of Dayton nor managed the Recreation or Public Works Departments. These parks are located either in the city itself or nearby. These parks are owned and maintained either by the school system, a nonprofit, a state or local organization, another park agency (such as Five Rivers MetroParks), or a private entity. Each of these spaces contributes to the full spectrum of recreational opportunities available to residents of Dayton.

These parks are included in this section to create a full inventory of all recreation amenities available to residents. If major improvements are made in any of these parks, the city 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 2.12: Parks by Others

Facility Name	Agency	Playgrounds	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Backstops	Ballfield	Multipurpose Fields	Splash Pads	Outdoor Pool	Stage/Amphitheater	Indoor Facility	Golf (Holes)	Outdoor Ice Rink	Picnic Shelter	Gazebo/Small Shelter	River/Water Access	Trails (Miles)
School Parks																	
Belle Haven Elementary	Dayton Public Schools	2	1														
Brown Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	2	1														
Cleveland Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	2	1														
Eastmont Park Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	1			1												
Edison Pre-K	Dayton Public Schools	1					1										
Gardendale Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools																
Horace Mann Elementary	Dayton Public Schools	2															
Kemp Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	2	1		1												
Louis Troy Magnet School	Dayton Public Schools	1	1														
Residence Park Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	2	0.5														
Roosevelt Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	1				1											
Ruskin Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	1															
Westwood Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	1	1														
Wilbur Wright Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	1	1		1		1										
Wogamon Elementary School	Dayton Public Schools	1	1														
Subtotal - School Parks		**20**	**9**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**
Parks by Others in Dayton																	
Courthouse Square	Montgomery County																
Deeds Point	Five Rivers MetroParks					1											
Inland Activity Center	The Dayton Firefighters	1	1								1						
Island Park	Five Rivers MetroParks	1						1		1				4	2	1	

2.5 Program Inventory

Quality recreational programming is an important aspect of a vibrant and healthy community. Programs can be useful for meeting specific needs of different groups in the community – like active adults, young children, families, or teenagers – in a way that is more creatively tailored. In fact, programs can be an essential access-point for users; offerings such as fitness class, sports leagues, cultural crafts, and camps give residents unique ways to meaningfully interact with parks in their community. When properly managed and promoted, programs are an invaluable tool for strengthening social connectivity and enhancing the livability of a community. Dayton Recreation's primary responsibility is to provide such programming to the community while also overseeing some outdoor park sites.

2.5.1 Core Program Guidelines

The core program concept provides direction in the planning, scheduling, and coordination of community-based recreational activities. Involvement of community representatives, parents, participants, and advisory groups in the planning and development of program opportunities is critical for success.

The Core Program Guidelines include six components used as benchmarks for determining the quality of specific activities conducted at each program location. The level of Core Program offering may vary in activity type, broad

Table 2.12: Parks by Others (Continued)

Facility Name	Agency	Playgrounds	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Backstops	Ballfield	Multipurpose Fields	Splash Pads	Outdoor Pool	Stage/Amphitheater	Indoor Facility	Golf (Holes)	Outdoor Ice Rink	Picnic Shelter	Gazebo/Small Shelter	River/Water Access	Trails (Miles)
Montgomery County Fairgrounds	Montgomery County																
Oakwood Soccer Field	City of Oakwood					1											
Old River Park	City of Oakwood			6			10										
Sunrise Park	Five Rivers MetroParks															1	
Sunwatch Indian Village	Dayton Society of Natural History																
Riverscape	Five Rivers MetroParks									1			1				
Wegerzyn Garden	Five Rivers MetroParks														1		
Wesleyan Park	Five Rivers MetroParks	1									1			1	1		
Woodman Fen Park	Five Rivers MetroParks																
Subtotal - Parks by Others		**3**	**1**	**6**	**0**	**2**	**10**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**5**	**4**	**2**	**0.0**
Total - Other Public Parks in Dayton		**23**	**10**	**6**	**3**	**3**	**12**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**5**	**4**	**2**	**0.0**
Private Parks																	
Action Sports Center	Action Sports Center					8	6									1	
Children's Garden	Children's Medical Center	1															
Dayton Soccer Fields	University of Dayton						3										
Downtown YMCA	YMCA																
KROC Center	Salvation Army		1					1									
Miami Valley Golf Club	Friends of Miami Valley Golf Club			4								18					
Miami Villa Soccer Fields & Baseball	Wayne Pee Wee/Warrior Soccer					4	18							3			
Omega Campus Playground	Omega Baptist Church	1															
Owen's Park and others	Quail Hollow HOA	2	3														
Patterson Memorial Homestead	Patterson Homestead																
Patterson Park Youth Baseball & Softball	Woodland Cemetery					8								2			
South Park	University of Dayton	1															
St Joseph's Children's Center	The Glen at St Joseph	1															
Woodman Park Apartments	Woodman Park Apartments	1	1														
Subtotal - Private		**7**	**5**	**4**	**0**	**20**	**27**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**18**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Parks by Others near Dayton																	
Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm	Allwood Audubon																
Aullwood Garden MetroPark	Five Rivers MetroParks													1	1		1.0
Canal Lock Park	City of Huber Heights																1.0
Carriage Hill MetroPark	Five Rivers MetroParks													2		1	7.4
Cassel Hills Swimming Pool	City of Vandalia								1								
Centennial Park at Houk Stream	City of Oakwood																
Deer Meadow Park	City of Moraine															1	
Eastwood Park	Five Rivers MetroParks	1														1	
Englewood Metropark	Five Rivers MetroParks															1	12.9
Ernst Park	City of Kettering	1		5		2		1							1		
Germantown MetroPark	Five Rivers MetroParks													10	1		15.0
Hill and Dale Metropark	Five Rivers MetroParks																
Huffman Metropark	Five Rivers MetroParks														1	1	
Huffman Prairie & Flying Field	National Park Service																
Irelan Park	City of Kettering	1				5								1	1		
John Wolfe Park	City of Trotwood	1	2					1						1			

Table 2.12: Parks by Others (Continued)

Facility Name	Agency	Playgrounds	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Backstops	Ballfield	Multipurpose Fields	Splash Pads	Outdoor Pool	Stage/Amphitheater	Indoor Facility	Golf (Holes)	Outdoor Ice Rink	Picnic Shelter	Gazebo/Small Shelter	River/Water Access	Trails (Miles)
Kroger Aquatic Center	City of Huber Heights							1									
Orchardly Park	City of Oakwood	1	1	2				1									
Pinnacle Park	City of Moraine	1												1			
Possum Creek	Five Rivers MetroParks													2		1	
Robinette Playground	City of Vandalia	1	3		1										1		
Roselawn Playground (Jeffers Park)	City of Vandalia	1	1	1													
Shafour Park	City of Oakwood	1		5					1					1			
Sinclair Park	Harrison Township	1												2	4		
Southdale Nature Center	City of Kettering	1															
State Farm Park	City of Kettering	1				6											
Sugarcreek MetroPark	Five Rivers MetroParks	1												3	1		33.9
Sycamore State Park	Ohio DNR															1	37.0
Thomas A Cloud Memorial Park	City of Huber Heights	1	3	12		8	5	1									
Twin Creek MetroPark	Five Rivers MetroParks													3	1		26.0
Vandalia Sports Complex	City of Vandalia					11											
West Carrolton Soccer Complex	City of West Carrollton						6										
Total - Other Parks near Dayton		**14**	**10**	**25**	**1**	**32**	**11**	**5**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**27**	**12**	**7**	**134.2**

intensity, and scope depending on such factors as size of the facility, equipment availability, and the number of staff required. The discussion below provides a description of the core program components as well as a summary of if and how well Dayton Recreation is, as of 2023, addressing these components.

Appendix E provides an expanded description of each program category (component six). It includes possible program formats, identifies the primary values served by the activity, and lists specific program examples. The list can be a helpful resource for determining and developing programs in the City of Dayton.

Core Program Components

The summary below uses the following abbreviations after each bullet point to describe whether Dayton is meeting the core program components:

Y = Yes offered by Dayton Recreation

L = Limited offerings by Dayton Recreation

O = Offered by partner organizations in Dayton

N = No, not offered in Dayton

This analysis is based on the cumulative offerings and participation rates over the last five years.

1. Broad Appeal

Parks and community centers should have broad appeal by conducting activities and special events for people young and old and of varying needs and skill levels. Target groups for programs include:

- Preschool – (N)
- Elementary School Age – (Y)
- Teens – (Y)
- Adults – (Y)
- Seniors – (Y)
- Intergenerational – (Y)
- Multiple Ages – (Y)
- Special Needs – (N)

2. Administrative Feasibility

Activities should be administratively feasible, and the following factors should be considered as part of any program development process:

- Facility and Equipment Requirements – (N)
- Safety – (N)
- Cost vs. Benefits – (N)
- Specialized Instruction Requirements – (N)

Dayton has not yet completed a detailed analysis of the costs of programs. This type of analysis can determine the cost of each program per participant in terms of dollars

and staff time and compare those numbers to program outcomes and revenues. This type of an analysis can be especially useful for evaluating partnerships with partner organizations.

3. Coordination

Program and service offerings should be of a coordinated nature within the community, thus serving to complement rather than duplicate activities already provided elsewhere by other organizations or agencies.

Dayton coordinates with partner organizations to expand recreational services; partner relationships range from regularly scheduled programming to one-time collaborations or providing space.

4. Settings and Times

Activities should be conducted in a variety of settings and formats, formal and informal. Programs should also be offered at a variety of times to meet the competing schedules of residents. For example, working adults may not be able to participate in programs until the evening or on weekends. Additionally, parents with children may benefit from availability of childcare or children's programs running concurrent to their chosen activity.

Settings and formats include:

- Instructional Classes (Y)
- Progressive Skill Levels (Y)
- Drop-In (Y)
- Special Events (Y)
- Special Interest Clubs (N)
- Leagues and/or Tournaments (Y)
- Outings and Field Trips (N)
- After School Programs (Y)
- Camps (Y)

5. Constructive Nature

Programs should be constructive in nature and satisfy the creative, cultural, physical, and social desires of the participants.

6. Diverse Range of Activities

A diverse range of activities should be offered and should include a balanced mix of the following broad program categories:

- Sports (Y)
- Community Events (Y)
- Creative Arts (Y)
- Cultural Performances (N)
- Education, Life Skills, and Fun (Y)
- Games (Y)
- Green Living/ Environmental Education (N)
- Health, Fitness, and Wellness Activities (Y)
- Health and Wellness Education (N)
- Heritage and History (O) – Wright-Patterson Air Force Base/Museum, Sunwatch Indian Village
- Nature/Outdoor Programs (O) – Five Rivers MetroParks
- Performing Arts (Y)
- Volunteer Training & Opportunities (N)

Table 2.13 shows the different categories established by Dayton Recreation for 2021 to 2022. A deeper analysis into the years before COVID revealed some trends in recreation versus the "post-COVID" years. Programs offered by Dayton Recreation over the past six years were organized into the core program categories as referenced above and compiled into the list in Table 2.14. While many programs were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, there has still been growth in program participation in some of the categories.

Table 2.13: Program Summary (2021-2022)

Participation Summary	2021	2022	2-Year Total	% Change
Special/Community Events	45,820	27,805	73,625	-24%
Unique Events/Programs	0	1,130	1,130	N/A
Aquatics	5,090	4,892	9,982	-2%
General Recreation	1,714	2,299	4,013	15%
Recreation - Youth	1,676	6,271	7,947	58%
Fitness	36,524	45,075	81,599	10%
Senior Programming	3,137	3,798	6,935	10%
Warming/Cooling	29	298	327	82%
Sports	948	986	1,934	2%
Youth Sports	547	8,895	9,442	88%

Table 2.14: Core Program Summary (2017-2022)

Participation Summary	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021*	2022*	6-Year Total	% Change
Sports	5,077	3,081	7,070	2,707	1,341	6,750	26,026	6%
Community Events	3,958	5,111	795	0	45,821	28,039	83,724	29%
Creative Arts	282	232	113	1	4	134	766	-19%
Education, Lfie Skills, Fun	3,257	3,952	3,945	1,868	1,452	4,446	18,920	6%
Games	3,500	2,694	2,529	840	265	945	10,773	-24%
Health, Fitness, Wellness	13,146	12,305	15,699	3,957	11,993	11,986	69,086	-2%
Heritage and History	23	51	35	0	0	0	109	-21%
Performing Arts	1,153	974	960	199	188	300	3,774	-23%
Total	**30,396**	**28,400**	**31,146**	**9,572**	**61,064**	**52,600**	**213,178**	**10%**
Drop-In	67,084	63,613	64,766	18,109	34,447	44,681	292,700	-8%

*Participation impacted by COVID-19 pandemic

For sports, the participation dropped significantly from 2020 to 2021 but returned to near pre-pandemic levels in 2022 because of the addition of multiple sports programs, especially soccer, flag football, and T-Ball. Obviously, community events took a toll from the pandemic, but significant participation occurred in 2021 and 2022 with the offered musical events. The creative arts programs were slowly decreasing in participation from 2017 to 2019 but returned above 2019's rates in 2022 due to the DIY Art Class. Education, life skills and fun increased dramatically in 2022 due to the participation in the Urban Adventures Summer Camp.

"Health, fitness, and wellness" has historically been the largest category of offerings by the Recreation Department.

Though, participation did decrease slightly between 2017 and 2022 because fewer aquatics programs were offered in 2022. The "games" category has decreased the most significantly between the six years, likely because citywide games and the teen tournaments were not offered in 2022. With only one class offering under the "heritage and history" category, the percent change is significant, but it is important to note that the history class was only offered between 2017 and 2019.

The performing arts programs offered by Dayton Recreation have been slowly declining with a steep decline in 2020. Participation rates increased in 2022 due to the participation in the Urban Ballroom Dancing class. Drop-In recreation participation rates were separated from the rest of the programs because this type of recreation is passive and does not require major planning and preparation efforts.

Overall participation rates declined from 2017 to 2022 except for the Urban Adventures Summer Camp, community events, and athletics programs. The large uptick in participation in those three categories shows Dayton's overall recreation program participation up at 10%.

Dayton Recreation has a diverse line up of programs, events, and activities for the community to enjoy. Of the programs listed above, environmental education, performing arts, and health and wellness education are not currently offered by the department. If not provided by the department, other organizations or businesses in the city are available that fill some of the needs for programs not offered. Additional partnerships with organizations that can provide these types of programming at recreation facilities may fill these needs.

2.6 Benchmarking Comparisons

One method for evaluating recreation and parks 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 40 agencies located in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, and Missouri (serving populations between 50,000 and 150,000) that participated in the Park Metrics program (Table 2.15). Additionally, NRPA provides an annual report[1] which includes national performance benchmarks; these figures are also used in this evaluation process.

Figures were calculated based on information provided by the city and information from the most recent NRPA program information provided by Dayton. Because the data for other park systems was limited to parks and facilities managed by those agencies, only parks and facilities managed by the City of Dayton are included in this analysis (other agencies, schools, and private facilities were not included). The figures used in this analysis for Dayton were those projected for fiscal year 2022, and the figures for the comparison municipalities were those entered for 2018 through 2023 (most recent year available for each agency).

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 agencies and may vary from actual budgets and measurements.

Table 2.15: Benchmark Agencies

Agency	State	Year	Population	Budget
Ames (City of) Parks and Recreation Department	IA	2021	66,427	$4,950,000
Bloomington Parks and Recreation	IN	2022	79,968	$9,723,349
Blue Springs Parks and Recreation	MO	2022	59,430	$7,500,442
Brooklyn Park Recreation and Parks	MN	2022	86,478	$13,413,924
Canton Leisure Services	MI	2022	98,695	$13,905,310
Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation	IN	2021	99,757	$11,099,820
Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Department	IA	2020	133,562	$8,274,899
Columbus Indiana Parks & Recreation Department	IN	2022	50,569	$8,555,716
Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation	IA	2021	62,335	$3,625,711
Davenport (City of) Parks and Recreation	IA	2022	102,132	$8,367,087
Dearborn Recreation Department	MI	2018	98,000	$12,611,199
Eagan Parks & Recreation	MN	2022	69,785	$11,890,000
Elgin Parks and Recreation Department	IL	2021	115,000	$16,971,770
Evanston Parks, Recreation and Community Services	IL	2021	75,000	$10,997,640
Farmington Hills Special Services	MI	2019	81,154	$8,350,000

[1] National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), "2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review Park And Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks," https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/2022-nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf (accessed August 9, 2022).

Table 2.15: Benchmark Agencies (Continued)

Agency	State	Year	Population	Budget
Fayetteville Parks and Recreation	AR	2022	95,230	$7,391,491
Hopkins/Minnetonka Recreation Department	MN	2021	53,025	$20,566,700
Independence Parks & Rec Dept - Independence, MO	MO	2022	122,000	$5,829,205
Iowa City Parks and Recreation	IA	2020	67,862	$8,826,118
Lawrence Parks and Recreation	KS	2022	97,000	$19,034,000
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation	MO	2022	101,008	$9,286,730
Lenexa Parks & Recreation Department	KS	2022	58,388	$10,601,188
Little Rock Parks and Recreation	AR	2021	197,992	$13,906,279
Noblesville Parks & Recreation Department	IN	2021	69,604	N/A
Normal Parks & Recreation Department	IL	2019	54,629	$9,864,373
Novi (City of), Dept. of Parks Recreation and Cultural Services	MI	2022	66,243	$2,603,648
O'Fallon Parks and Recreation	MO	2020	85,000	$6,900,000
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	KS	2018	142,000	$22,980,000
Owensboro Parks & Recreation	KY	2022	60,011	$7,371,991
Plymouth Parks and Recreation	MN	2020	79,650	$10,829,635
Rochester (City of) Parks and Recreation	MN	2018	115,733	$11,305,926
Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources	MI	2023	76,028	$6,754,050
Roseville (City of) Parks, Recreation & Libraries	AR	2021	146,594	$37,209,122
Shawnee (City of) Parks and Recreation	KS	2022	68,958	$6,159,630
South Bend Venues, Parks and Arts	IN	2021	103,000	$14,903,472
St. Charles Parks & Recreation Department	MO	2021	70,764	$7,377,824
St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department	MO	2023	76,780	$7,475,509
St. Peters (City of)	MO	2022	58,126	$6,329,000
Sterling Heights (City of)	MI	2020	132,000	$5,167,000
Woodbury (City of)	MN	2021	76,593	$8,885,800

2.6.1 Agency Operations and Budget

Table 2.16 shows various measures of recreation and parks operations by the City of Dayton with separate numbers broken out for Recreation, Golf, and Public Works. The table also shows the median values for the 40 benchmark agencies and the national benchmark provided by the 2022 NRPA annual report.

The city provides 6.5 acres of parkland per thousand population, less than half of the benchmark median (17.0 acres). As a percentage of the entire jurisdiction, which controls for the different land area of the comparison agencies, 2.5% of land in Dayton is city-operated parkland, also less than half the benchmark (6%).

Dayton has a large amount of parkland and open space provided by other agencies. Over 1,700 acres of open space is available within the city limits provided by other public agencies, including 1,200 by Five Rivers MetroParks. While the benchmark communities likely have other providers of parks and open space, most likely do not have the amount available as is provided in Dayton. **Given its population size and the availability of parkland provided by other agencies, the amount of parkland existing as a percentage of the jurisdiction is not necessarily indicative of needing additional land.**

The majority (92%) of Dayton's parkland is considered developed, much higher than the benchmark (50%). The city's properties are highly developed with the county department (Five Rivers MetroParks) providing nature access to residents of the city. The population served per park (2,333) is about the same as the benchmark (2,083).

The 2022 total operating budget for Recreation, Public Works parks, and the golf course in Dayton was about $7 million with about $2.2 million in revenue. While these numbers are similar to the benchmarks, the City of Dayton has a larger population than most of the benchmarks. Adjusting for population differences, the per capita operating expenditure for the City of Dayton were $64, about half of the $116 benchmark median and well below the national $93 per capita. Dayton also spends less per acre of developed parkland at $9,630, compared to the benchmark median of $13,247.

Cost recovery for Dayton represents about 31% of the total combined budgets, similar to the median cost recovery of the benchmark communities. However, nearly all revenue

comes from Golf. Dayton generated only $16 of non-tax revenue per capita (2022) less than half of the benchmark median ($40) but closer to the national ($22) median.

Dayton's combined departments employ 4.8 full-time equivalent employees for every 10,000 residents, less than half of the benchmark (10.0). Dayton has significantly fewer employees than the benchmarks yet higher operating expenditures per FTE, indicating the city employs a smaller staff in comparison to the total budget. These numbers also use the total number of Recreation Department positions, several of which are currently vacant.

The 5-year capital improvements expenditures for Dayton should be determined with consideration to the findings of this Plan. The capital expenditures per capita for Dayton were $12, compared to the benchmark of $17. This number is largely due to the recent investments the Recreation Department has made, including several million in demolition.

2.6.2 Programs

The list of program categories in Table 2.17 includes the percentage of benchmark departments that offer each type of program listed and whether Dayton offers them. The data in the table is separated into two program areas: "Activities," which cover general program categories intended for all users, and "Out-of-School-Time Activities," which include programs targeted for specific user groups (children, seniors, etc.).

Dayton Recreation offers programming in 13 categories, including two OST activities. The department currently hosts annual events and offers affordable and age inclusive programming to the community.

Although Dayton provides a significant number of events and programming offerings, some activities are not available. Programs for people with disabilities are offered by 82% of the benchmarks and after school programs, teen programs, and STEM programs are offered by 61% or more of benchmarks but not by Dayton

Table 2.16: Agency Operations and Budget

Benchmark	Dayton				Benchmark	National
	Recreation w/o Golf	Golf	Public Works	Total		
PARKLAND INFORMATION						
Acreage of Parkland	174.5	234.9	483.6	893.0	1,294	N/A
Acreage of Parkland per 1,000 Pop.	1.3	1.7	3.5	6.5	17.0	10.4
Population per Park	27,529	137,644	2,597	2,333	2,083	2,323
Parkland as a % of Jurisdiction	0.5%	0.6%	1.3%	2.5%	6.0%	N/A
Percent of Acreage Developed	99%	87%	73%	82%	50%	N/A
TRAILS						
Trail Miles Managed or Maintained	0	0	4.6	4.6	29	14
Trail Miles per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.67	N/A
Trail Miles per 10,000 Pop.	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.33	2.69	N/A
OPERATING BUDGET						
Operating Expenditures (Annual)	$3,017,783	$1,292,749	$2,744,437	$7,054,969	$8,885,800	$5,079,256
Non-Tax Revenue (Annual)	$246,830	$1,966,998	$0	$2,213,829	$3,126,527	N/A
Cost Recovery	8%	152%	0%	31%	34%	24%
Operating Expenditures per Capita	$22	$9	$20	$51	$116	$93
Operating Exp. per Developed Acre	$17,391	$6,307	$7,750	$9,630	$13,247	$7,823
Non-Tax Revenue per Capita	$2	$14	$0	$16	$40	$22
STAFFING						
Full-Time Employees	12	4	27	43	45	N/A
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees	33.3	4.0	29.0	66.3	93.0	49.4
FTE per 10,000 Population	2.4	0.3	2.1	4.8	10.0	8.9
Acres of Parkland per FTE	5.2	58.7	16.7	13.5	16.5	N/A
Operating Expenditures per FTE	$90,692	$323,187	$94,636	$106,450	$96,898	$102,530
CAPITAL BUDGET[4]						
Capital Park Budget for Next 5-Years	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	$15,646,400	N/A
Capital Budget per Year	$1,383,350	$165,225	$153,333	$1,701,908	$2,000,000	N/A
Capital Expenditures per Capita	$10	$1	$1	$12	$17	N/A

1. Figures obtained from City of Dayton. Population estimates used from 2020 Census
2. Based on Median Values (or averages) of 40 agencies with populations between 50,000 and 200,000 in 10 states.
3. NRPA National Park metrics obtained from 2022 Report
4. Recreation budget is an average of 2018-2021. Golf budget is an average of 2018-2022. PW budget is an average of 2019-2021.

Recreation. There are some other resources available for school aged children at private facilities such as daycares, learning centers, and through the school district.

Table 2.17: Programs

PROGRAMS	Dayton	Benchmark	National
Activities			
Themed special events	✓	97%	90%
Social recreation events	✓	97%	88%
Individual sports	✓	97%	76%
Team sports	✓	91%	87%
Fitness enhancement classes	✓	88%	82%
Health and wellness education		85%	80%
Natural and cultural history activities		85%	62%
Performing arts		85%	64%
Aquatics	✓	82%	70%
Racquet sports	✓	82%	71%
Safety training		79%	72%
Visual arts		76%	63%
Golf	✓	76%	48%
Martial arts	✓	70%	59%
Cultural crafts		70%	62%
Trips and tours	✓	58%	61%
Running/cycling races		55%	50%
eSports/eGaming	✓	27%	12%
Out-of-School Time (OST) Activities			
Summer camp	✓	91%	83%
Specific senior programs	✓	82%	79%
Programs for people with disabilities		82%	62%
STEM Programs		61%	58%
Specific teen programs		61%	66%
After school programs		45%	55%
Preschool		30%	34%
Before school programs		15%	19%
Full daycare		3%	7%

2.6.3 Facilities

Table 2.18 provides a comparison of population per facility to evaluate the existing supply and the percentage of benchmarks that offer each facility. Looking at population served per facility can help identify new facilities that the city may want to add (or remove) in the future. This table shows the benchmark median values for a range of facilities – outdoor and indoor, respectively. A lower value indicates a higher level of service.

Dayton has higher service ratios for basketball courts, outdoor tennis courts, adult softball fields, and rectangular multipurpose fields than the benchmarks, although only basketball courts are significantly higher. Of the outdoor facilities offered, Dayton has much lower service ratios for youth baseball fields and outdoor pools (none offered).

For indoor facilities, Dayton only offers recreation centers; however, the service ratio is higher than the benchmarks due to having three centers. Over 40% of the benchmarks offer senior centers, but while the recreation centers offer some dedicated senior areas, there are no official senior centers.

Table 2.18: Population Per Facility

FACILITIES	Dayton		Benchmark		National	
	Offered	Pop. per	% Offered	Pop. Per	% Offered	Pop. per
Outdoor Activity Areas						
Playgrounds	R/PW	3,622	92%	3,199	95%	3,750
Basketball courts	R/PW	3,529	86%	6,488	86%	7,403
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	R/PW	4,916	69%	5,545	78%	5,608
Dog park	PW	68,822	58%	60,506	67%	43,586
Diamond fields - Youth Softball	R	13,764	67%	12,678	62%	11,339
Diamond fields - Youth Baseball	R	11,470	81%	6,763	79%	7,000
Diamond fields - Adult Softball	R	27,529	75%	16,561	65%	14,302
Rectangular fields: multipurpose	R/PW	9,832	58%	10,144	68%	9,622
Swimming pools (outdoor only)		N/A	33%	55,474	53%	38,000
Community gardens	PW	137,644	61%	41,840	51%	30,140
Skatepark	PW	137,644	69%	68,958	39%	53,708
Performance amphitheater	PW	137,644	53%	69,785	36%	68,181
Golf Course (Regulation 18-Holes)	R	137,644	50%	74,662	29%	N/A
Pickleball courts	PW	68,822	50%	13,598	18%	14,714
Indoor Activity Areas						
Recreation centers	R	45,881	75%	59,430	64%	31,239
Senior centers		N/A	47%	76,780	41%	59,603
Nature centers		N/A	28%	88,192	31%	N/A
Teen centers		N/A	28%	80,739	14%	

R - Recreation offers
PW - Public Works offers

Figure 2.3 shows active use/athletic facilities per 10,000 population (converted from the numbers in Table 2.18) for playgrounds, game courts, and athletic fields. This figure underscores some of the same findings in Table 2.18, showing how Dayton has a lower level of service for pickleball courts and youth baseball fields and a higher level of service for basketball courts.

2.7 Case Studies

For a more localized comparison, shrinking cities in Ohio and neighboring communities were used for comparison in Table 2.19. These studies consist of data gathered from the US Census and each city's department web pages, strategic and master plans, and approved fiscal budgets.

While the shrinking cities parks and recreation departments are more similar to Dayton's, comparing neighboring communities helps to show what the residents of Dayton and surrounding areas experience and see on a daily basis, which ultimately creates public expectations for recreation in Dayton.

2.7.1 Shrinking Cities

Akron, Toledo, and Canton are all shrinking in population in Ohio with somewhat comparable park systems to the City of Dayton's. Although Toledo has a larger park system with more amenities than Akron and Canton, it has a lower level of service for acres per 1,000 population. Of the three, Canton has the highest level of service in this aspect. In comparison, Dayton has fewer park acres and therefore, higher populations per park and lower service ratios for acres for population. For every 100,000 people in these cities, Akron has the most basketball and tennis courts,

Figure 2.3: Facilities Per 10,000 Population

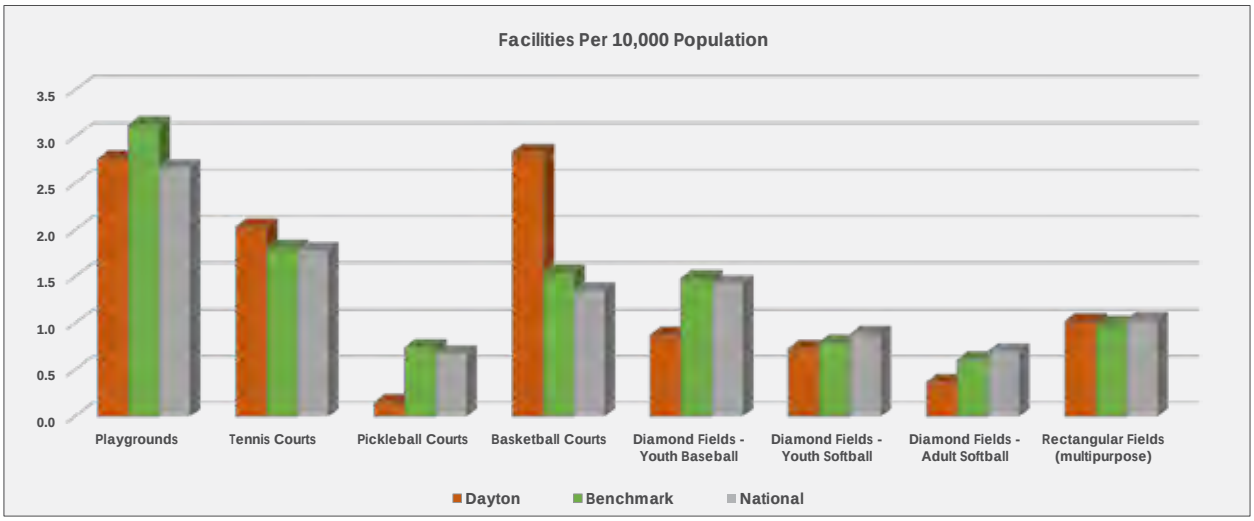


Table 2.19: Neighbor Benchmarking Comparisons

City	Shrinking Cities			Neighboring Communities			Shrinking Cities Average	Neighboring Communities Average	Dayton
	Akron	Toledo	Canton	Beavercreek	Centerville-Washington[4]	Kettering			
Population[1]	190,469	270,871	70,872	46,549	61,682	57,862	177,404	55,364	137,644
Parkland[2]									
Park Acres	2,100	2,368	825	234	1,000	364	1,764	533	893
Population per Park	3,284	1,868	1,143	2,024	1,209	2,755	2,098	1,996	2,333
Acres per 1000 Population	11.0	8.7	11.6	5.0	16.2	6.3	10.5	9.2	6.5
Agency % of Total Land	5.3%	4.4%	5.1%	1.3%	5.0%	3.5%	4.9%	3.3%	2.5%
Budget[3]									
Operating Budget per Capita	$55	$64	$91	$80	$85	$163	$70	$109	$51
Capital Budget per Capita	$18	$1	$14	$10	$13	$56	$11	$26	$12
Revenue per Capita	$4	$6	$3	$27	$4	$49	$5	$27	$16
Operating Expenditures per Acre	$5,033	$7,338	$7,859	$15,940	$5,231	$26,978	$6,743	$16,050	$7,901
Cost Recovery	8%	10%	3%	34%	4%	25%	7%	21%	31%
Staff									
Full-Time Equivalent Employees	55.0	84.0	31.0	16.0	31.0	134.0	56.7	60.3	66.3
FTE per 10,000 Population	2.9	3.1	4.4	3.4	5.0	23.2	3.5	10.5	4.8
Acres per FTE	38.2	28.2	26.6	14.6	32.3	2.7	31.0	16.5	13.5
Facilities (per 100,000 population)									
Playgrounds	17.9	24.0	62.1	34.4	71.3	31.1	34.6	45.6	25.4
Basketball Courts	15.8	11.4	18.3	4.3	6.5	20.7	15.2	10.5	26.2
Recreation/Community Centers	6.3	3.7	0.0	2.1	0.0	5.2	3.3	2.4	2.2
Tennis Courts	20.5	23.6	11.3	8.6	27.6	12.1	18.5	16.1	20.3
Multipurpose Rectangular Fields	24.2	1.5	4.2	53.7	9.7	10.4	10.0	24.6	7.3
Diamond Fields	29.4	21.0	57.9	34.4	29.2	24.2	36.1	29.2	12.4
Golf Coures (Reg. 18-hole)	1.1	1.1	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.7
Dog Parks	0.5	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.6	0.3	1.5
Skate Parks	0.5	0.4	2.8	2.1	1.6	0.0	1.2	1.3	0.7

1. 2020 Decennial Census
2. Agency data provided by the department website & 2021 NRPA Report
3. Budgets & staff for benchmark cities are from fiscal years 2021
4. Centerville-Washington is a Park District

recreation centers, and multipurpose rectangular fields. Canton surpasses Akron, Toledo, and Dayton with playgrounds at 62 per 100,000.

Regarding budgets, Canton's operating budget per capita is about a third higher than the comparison shrinking cities despite having fewer parkland and facilities, which could be linked to the larger staffing size in proportion to the population. Toledo takes the lead of the three shrinking cities with the highest revenue per capita and therefore cost recovery.

On average, Dayton's operating budget is less than the shrinking cities but their revenue per capita is significantly higher ($16 vs $5) as well as their cost recovery (31% vs 7%). This high cost recovery in comparison is due to the revenues from the golf course.

2.7.2 Neighboring Cities

Beavercreek, Centerville-Washington Park District, and Kettering, all less than half the size of Dayton in population, are less similar to Dayton's recreation and parks system but provide some local context. Beavercreek and the area served by Centerville-Washington Park District are close in geographical size at around 30 square miles while Kettering is about half that size (16 square miles).

Centerville-Washington Park District has the best population per park service ratio along with the largest percentage of parkland to total land. This metric is one of few where the shrinking cities surpassed the neighbors.

Centerville-Washington Park District has the highest service ratios for playgrounds and tennis courts but does not offer a community center (one is offered by Washington Township). Kettering has similar service ratios for playgrounds to Beavercreek and the highest basketball court ratios of the three neighboring communities. Beavercreek outpaces all of the cities in this case study for diamond fields and rectangular fields. Of note, golf courses are offered by the City of Beavercreek plus the City of Centerville offeres a golf course, but not by the Park District. The only dog park in these neighboring communities is offeed by the Centerville-Washington Park District.

While Centerville-Washington's operating budget is similar to Beavercreek's, their expenditure per park acre is much smaller as is their cost recovery. Kettering's expenditures per acre are significantly higher. They also have more staff than all other cities in this case study but still maintain a high cost recovery rates.

2.7.3 In Comparison to Dayton

Comparing the average of the shrinking cities and the average of the neighboring communities, Dayton overall has a similar number of parks, fewer acres per population, and a smaller proportion of land in their park system.

Dayton has fewer playgrounds, soccer fields, diamond fields, and skateparks than both the neighboring and shrinking cities (per 100,000 population). Although, if many of the former backstops/diamond fields were brought back online, these numbers would be more comparable. If the skatepark beneath the overpass were to be legitimized and added to Dayton's park system, they would be on par with the other cities in this study. Basketball court, tennis court, and dog park service levels surpass those of the other cities. Dog parks are a more recent trend, and many of these communities may have added a dog park to their system since 2021. Regarding recreation centers/community centers, Dayton is more similar to the neighboring cities rather than the shrinking cities.

Most notable, Dayton's operating budget is less than half of the neighboring communities per capita and well below the shrinking cities. Without Golf, cost recovery rate for Dayton is only around 8% rather than the 31% shown. This revenue shows that Dayton's one golf course is doing comparatively well. Dayton's capital expenditures are similar to the shrinking cities but half of the neighboring cities.

Regarding staffing levels, Dayton has slightly more FTE's per 10,000 population than the shrinking cities but significantly fewer than the neighboring cities, although Kettering's high staffing numbers somewhat skew the average. On the other hand, Dayton's acres per FTE are more similar to the neighboring communities and less than half the shrinking cities. These differences are due to Dayton's smaller amount of land per capita and lower staffing levels.

Overall, Dayton is spending less than both the neighboring communities and other shrinking cities in Ohio on parks and recreation programs and facilities. The city also has lower staffing levels than all comparisons.

2.8 Geographic Distribution of Recreation Facilities and Parks

Because residents are better able and more willing to utilize amenities closer to their homes, it is important to consider the spatial distribution of facilities and parks throughout Dayton. Figures 2.4 and 2.5 show Dayton's existing parks with service areas for different park classifications. The methodology for this analysis (and the facility analysis) can be found in Appendix C. Of note, these service areas are not necessarily representative of all users of the city'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.

Figure 2.4 shows the areas in Dayton that are within a 10-minute walking distance to neighborhood parks (or larger), including school parks. **About 57% of the total**

population of Dayton is within a 10-minute walk to a neighborhood park or larger offered by the city, and about 20% are within walking distance of a school park (7%) or a neighborhood park by others (13%) . In total, about 77% of the population is within walking distance to a park. Overall, Dayton has a high level of walkability and connectivity to parks; however, there are some gaps in the northeast portion of the city and the western/southwestern portions of the city.

Figure 2.5 shows the drivetime (5 and 10-minutes) to community parks. This figure shows that most residents live within a 5-minute drive to a larger park, with all but the northeastern edge of the city withing a 10-minute drive.

2.9 Geographic Distribution of Facilities

This portion of the needs analysis focuses on the distribution of facilities provided by Dayton for use by residents. Service areas for these key facilities within Dayton are illustrated in Figures 2.6 through 2.16. As with the geographic distribution of parks, both drive and walk times are used for defining service areas

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. The following sections outline the overall need for facilities in Dayton; though portions of the city are highlighted that are located outside of facility service areas, a new facility is not necessarily recommended for these areas.

Playgrounds (Figure 2.6)

- Walkable access – most of the city, higher concentrations nearest the parks
- 1 playground for every 175 children under 14 years of age

Outdoor Basketball Courts (Figure 2.7)

- Walkable access – most of the city, higher concentrations nearest the parks
- Driving access – nearly all households within 5-minutes

Baseball/Softball Diamond Fields (Figure 2.8)

- Walkable access – limited to those near Kettering Field Complex and other parks with fields
- Driving access – most of the city within a 5-minute drive

Multipurpose Rectangular Fields (Figure 2.9)

- Walkable access – concentrated around a few parks
- Driving access – most of the east and central portions of the city within 5-minutes, few on west side and furthest areas west of downtown outside of the 10-minute driving range

Splash Pads (Figure 2.10)

- Walkable access – limited overall but better on east side of city
- Driving access – most of the city within 5-minutes, rest within 10-minutes

Skateparks (Figure 2.11)

- Walkable access – limited to the area near the one skatepark at Claridge Park
- Driving access – most of east side of city
- Unofficial skatepark on the west side not included in this spatial analysis but would increase access

Recreation Centers (Figure 2.12)

- Walkable access – limited to those near the three centers
- Driving access – most of west side and southeast within 5-minutes, northeast served by The Salvation Army Dayton Kroc Center, some limited areas beyond 5-minutes

Picnic Shelters (Figure 2.13)

- Walkable access – scattered, better in west and southeast
- Driving access – most of the city within 5-minutes, all but northeast most within 10-minutes

Tennis Courts (Figure 2.14)

- Walkable access – somewhat limited, better on east side
- Driving access – most of the city within 5-minutes, almost all within 10-minutes

Pickleball Courts (Figure 2.15)

- Walkable access – limited
- Driving access – north and central only, west and southeast of city beyond even a 10-minute drive

Dog Parks (Figure 2.16)

- Walkable access – limited, near the two dog park locations
- Driving access – most of east side of city within 5-minutes, west side within 10-minutes

Figure 2.4: Neighborhood Park Service Areas

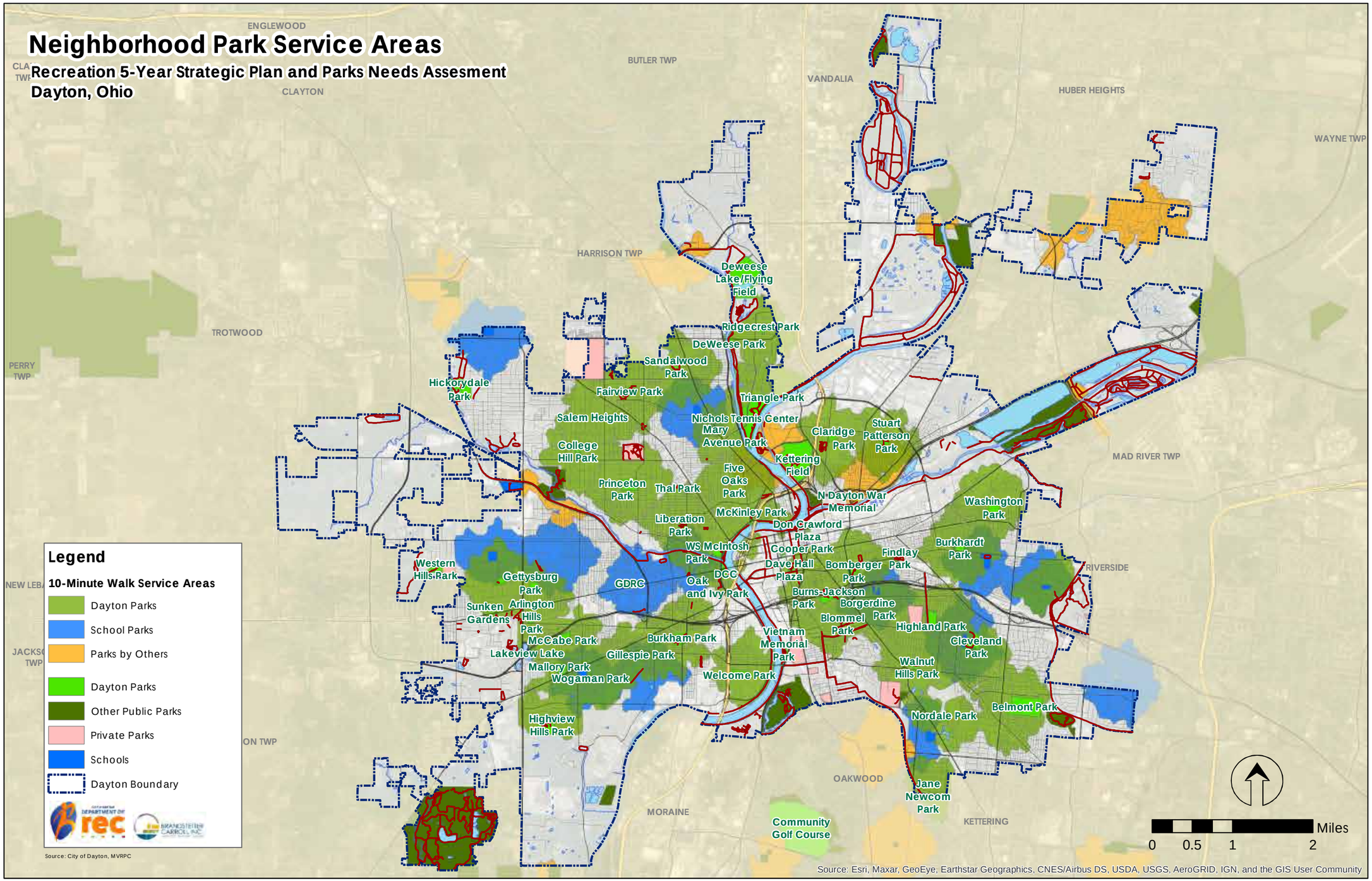


Figure 2.5: Community Park Service Areas

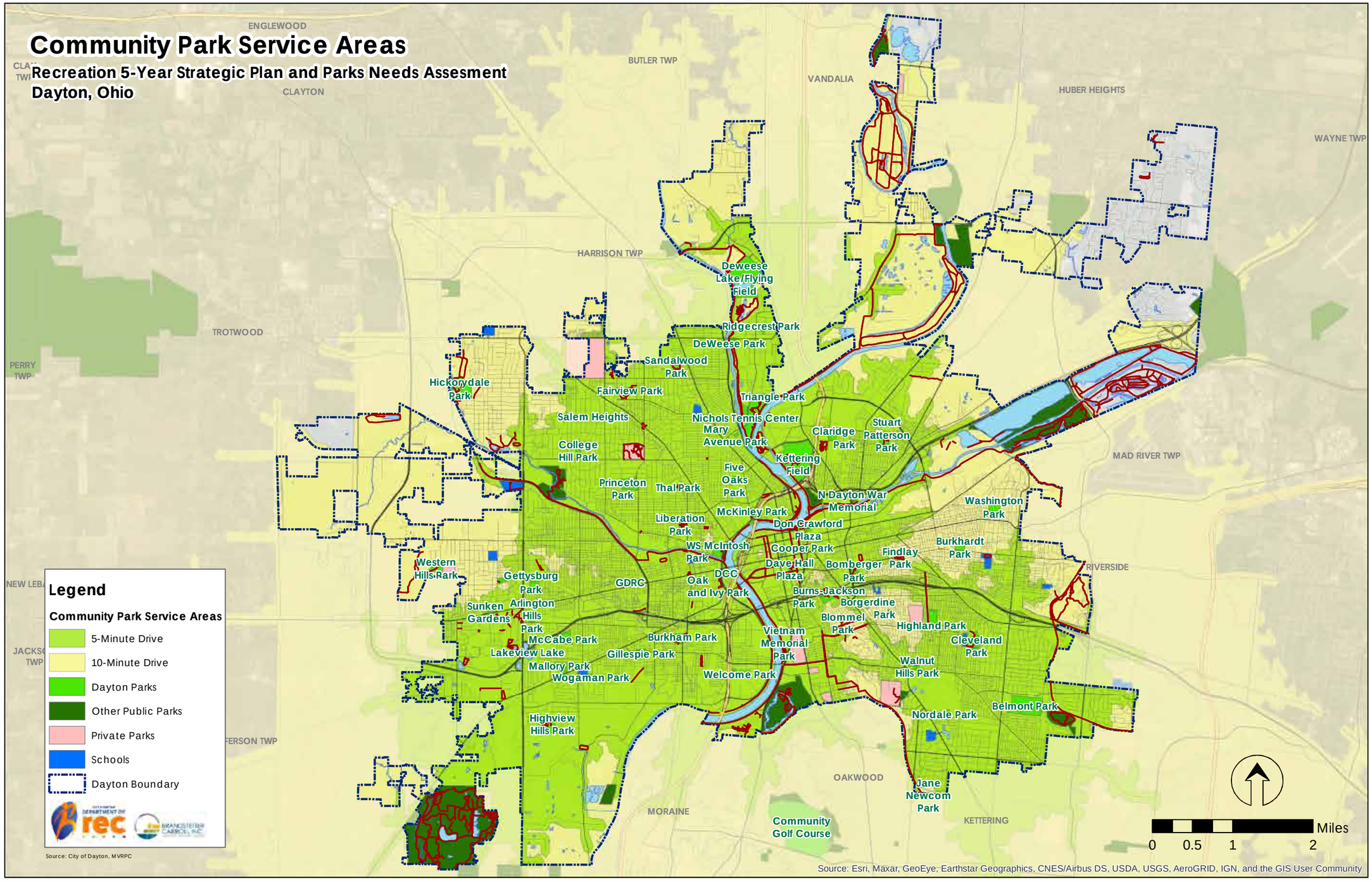


Figure 2.6: Playground Service Areas

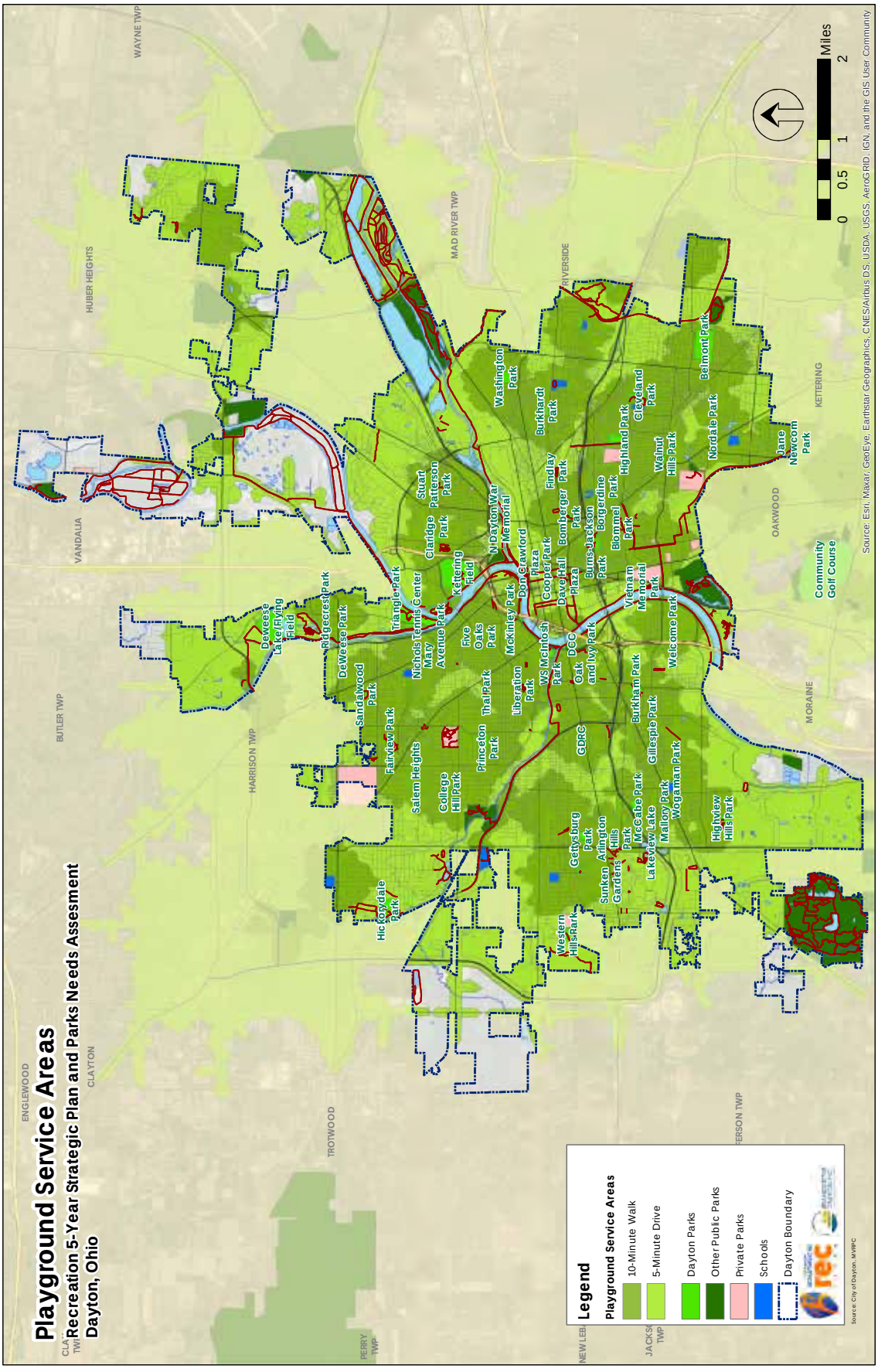


Figure 2.7: Outdoor Basketball Court Service Areas

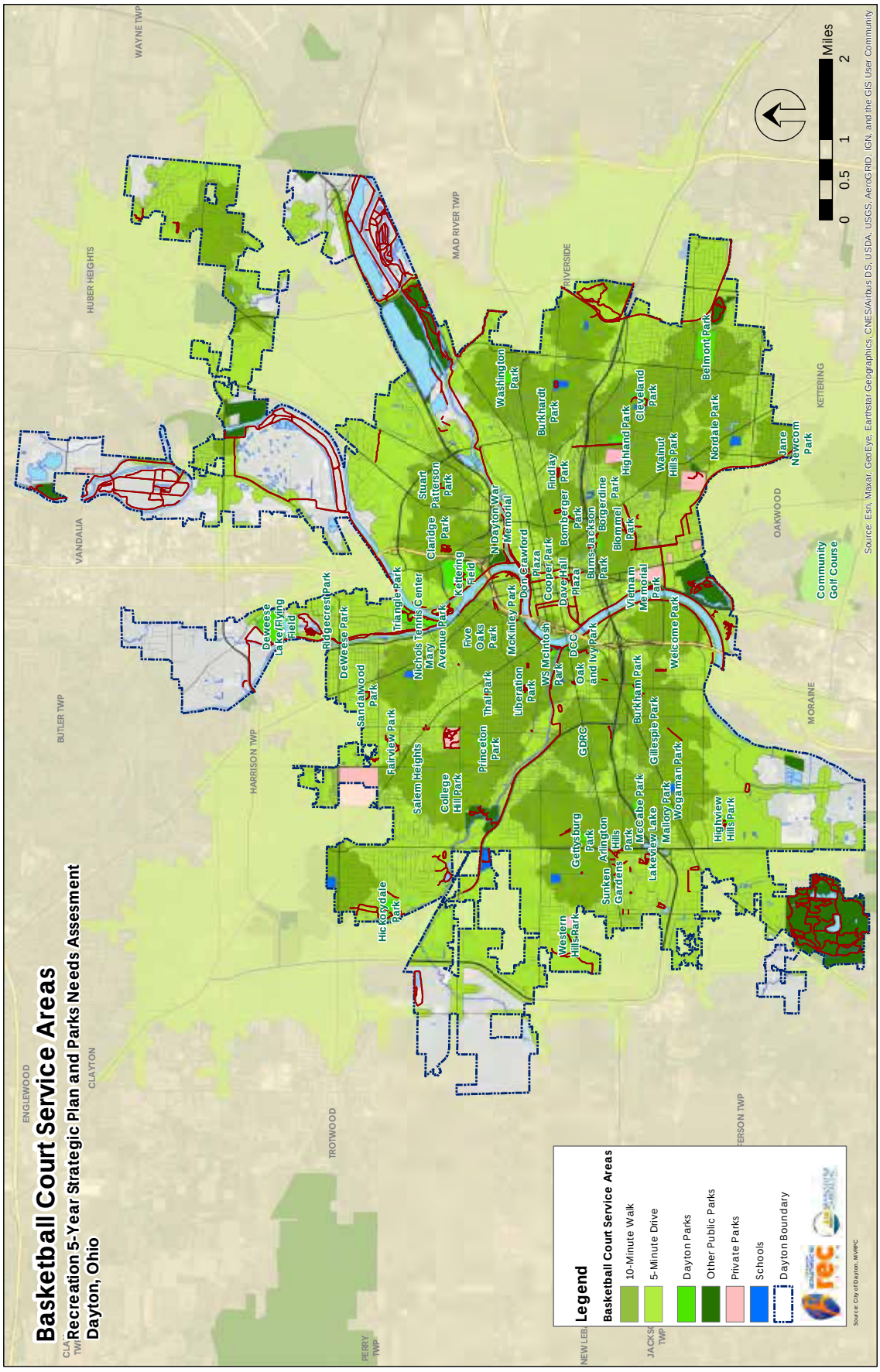


Figure 2.8: Diamond Field Service Areas

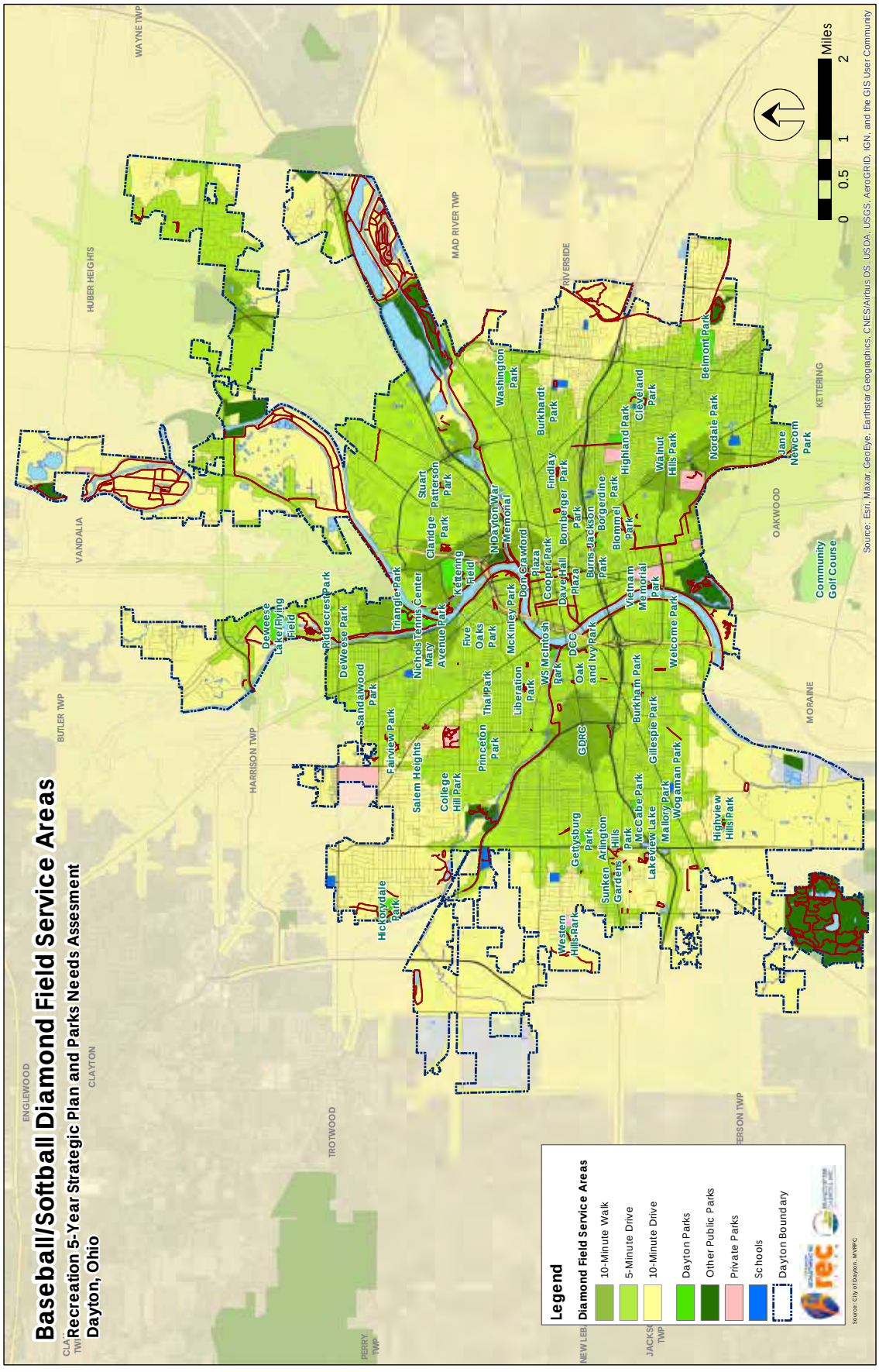


Figure 2.9: Multipurpose Rectangular Field Service Area

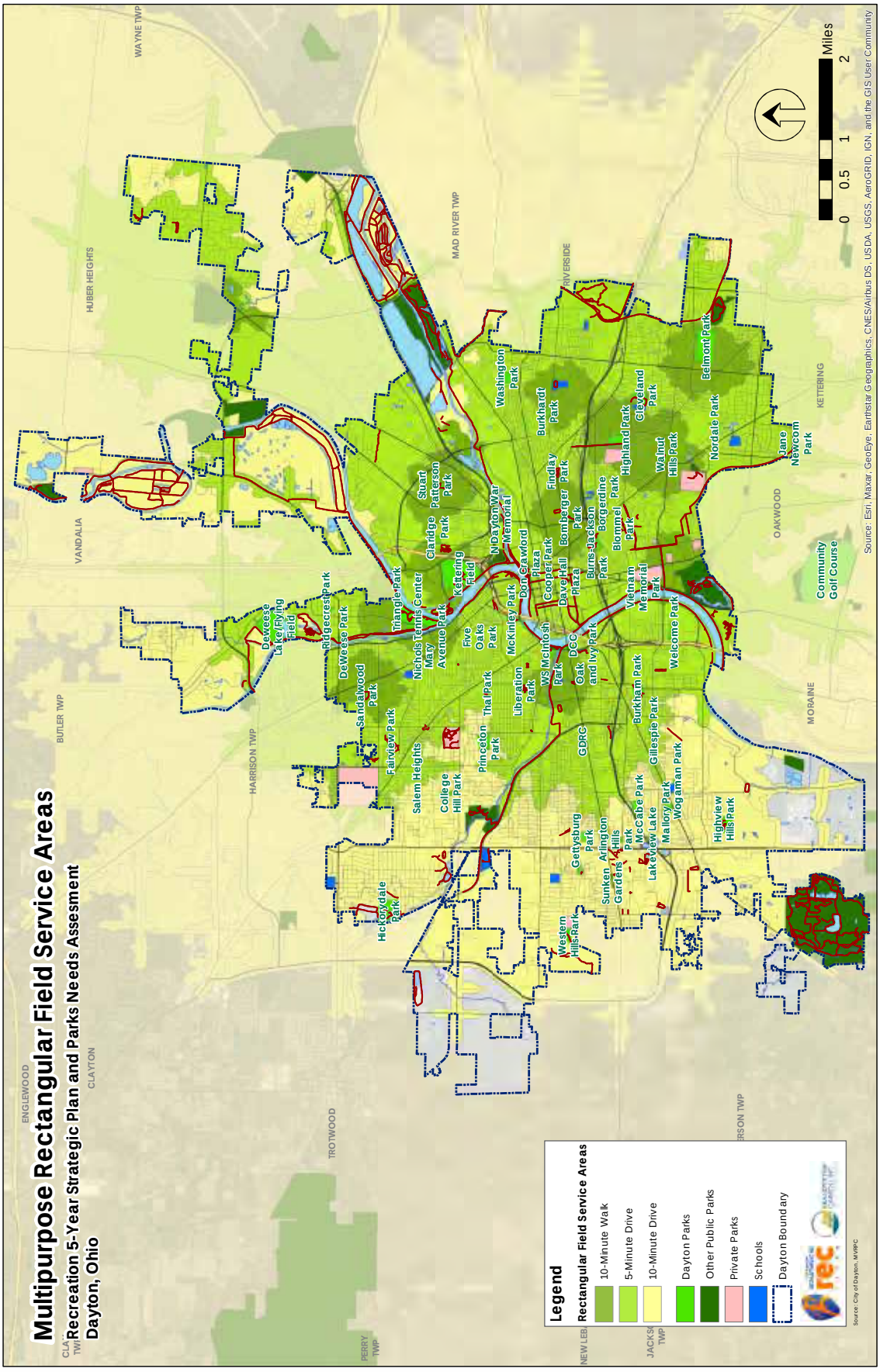


Figure 2.10: Splash Pad Service Area

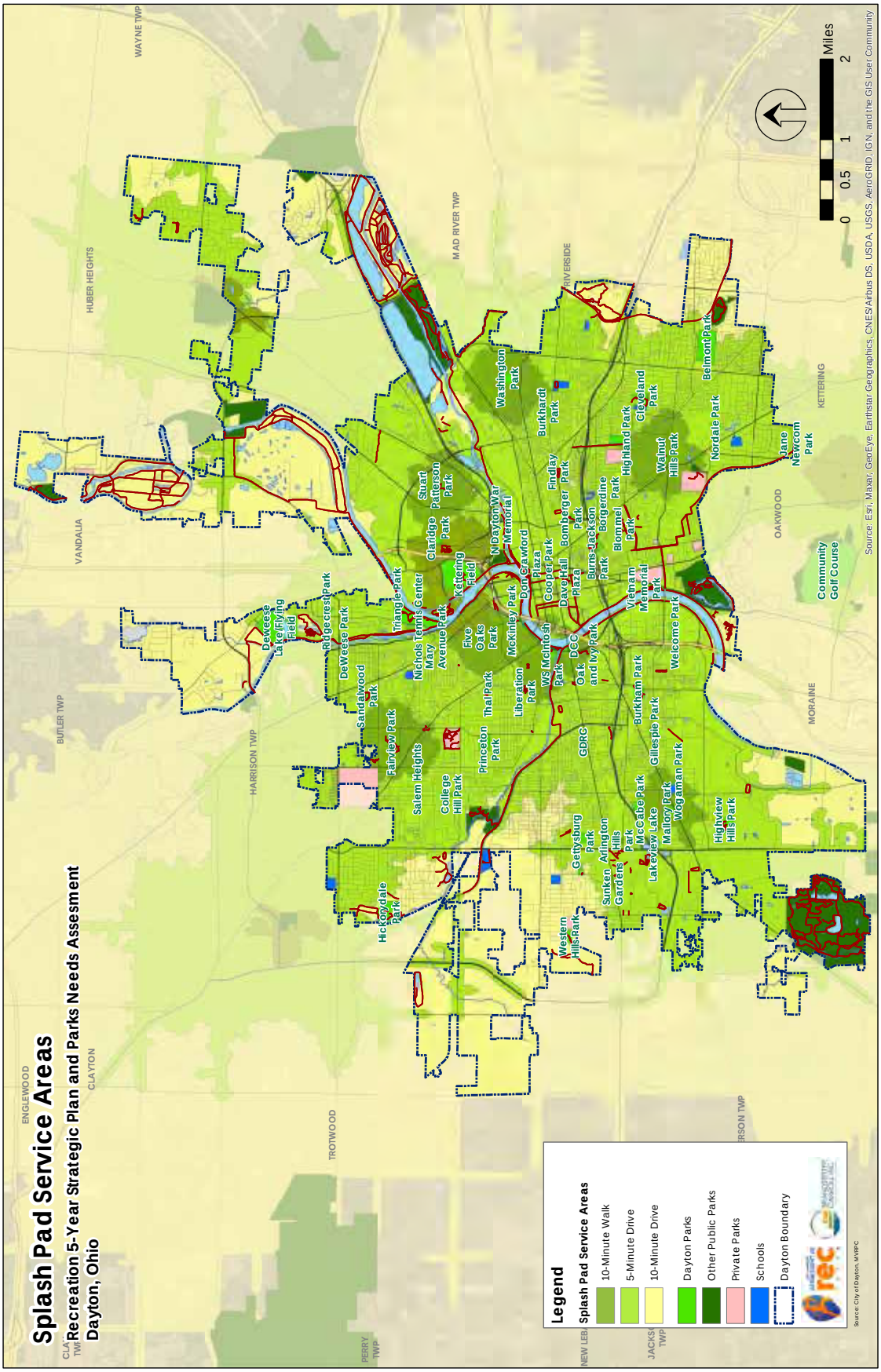


Figure 2.11: Skatepark Service Area

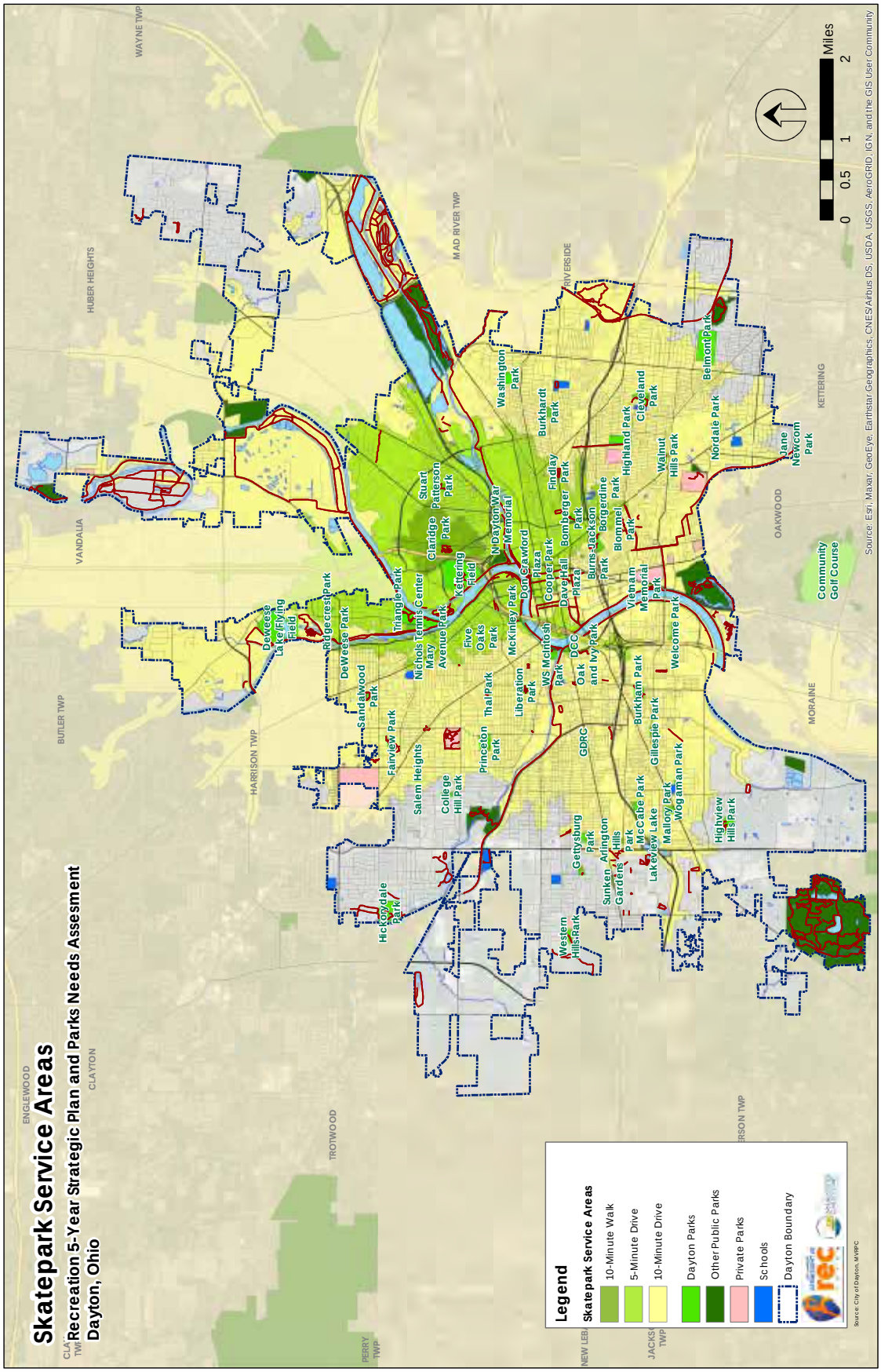


Figure 2.12: Recreation Center Service Area

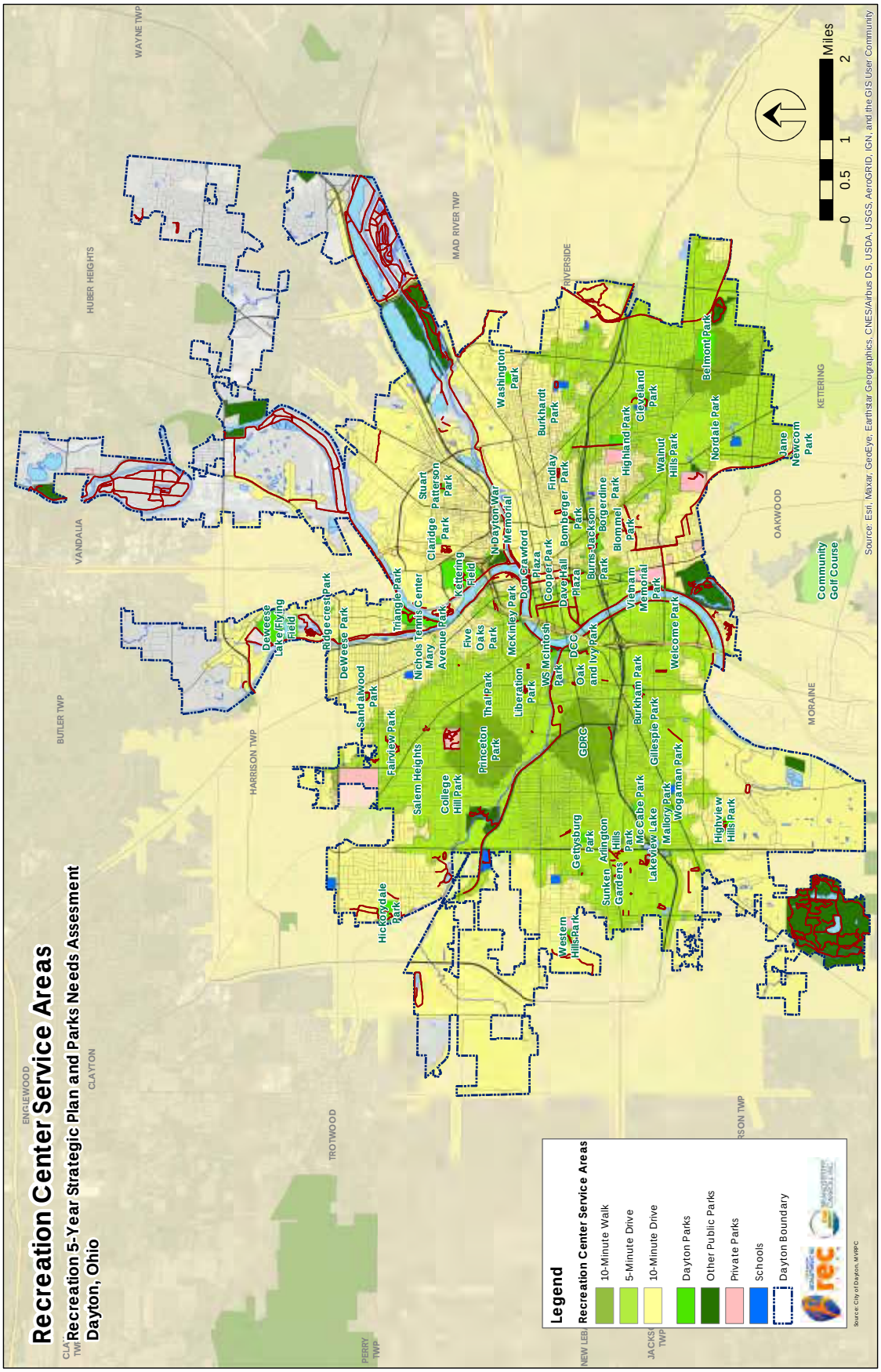


Figure 2.13: Picnic Shelter Service Areas

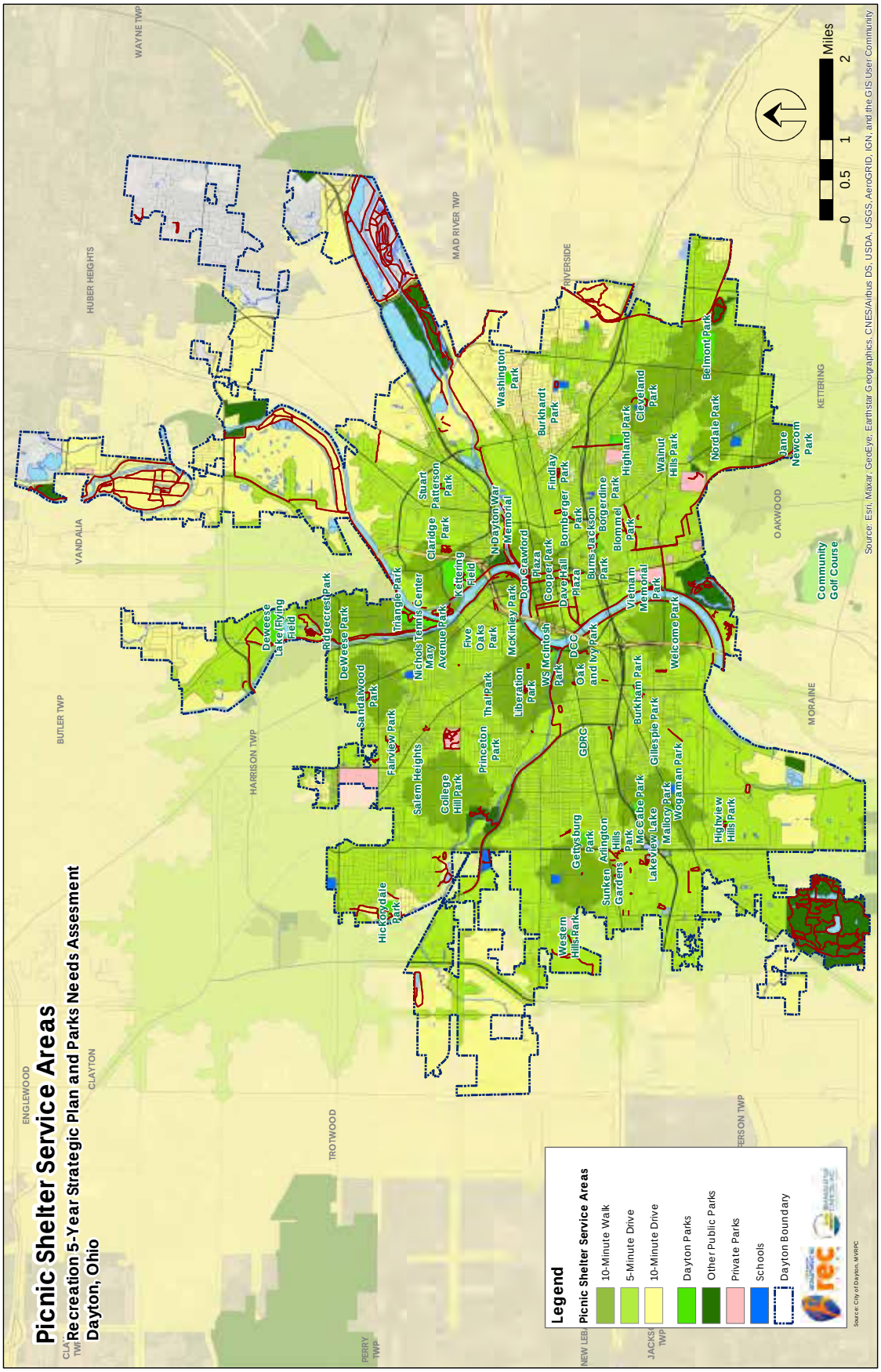


Figure 2.14: Tennis Service Area

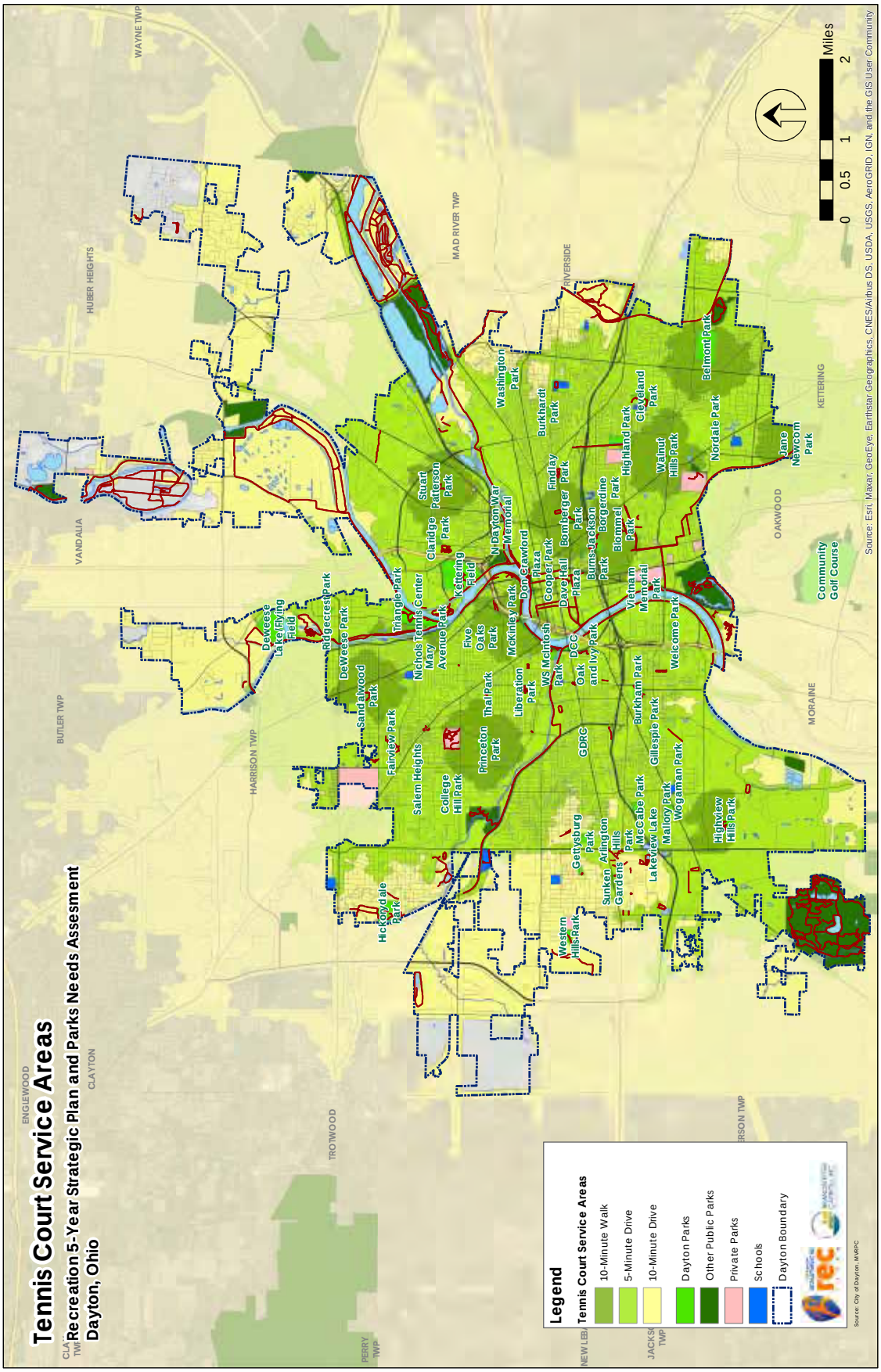


Figure 2.15: Pickleball Service Areas

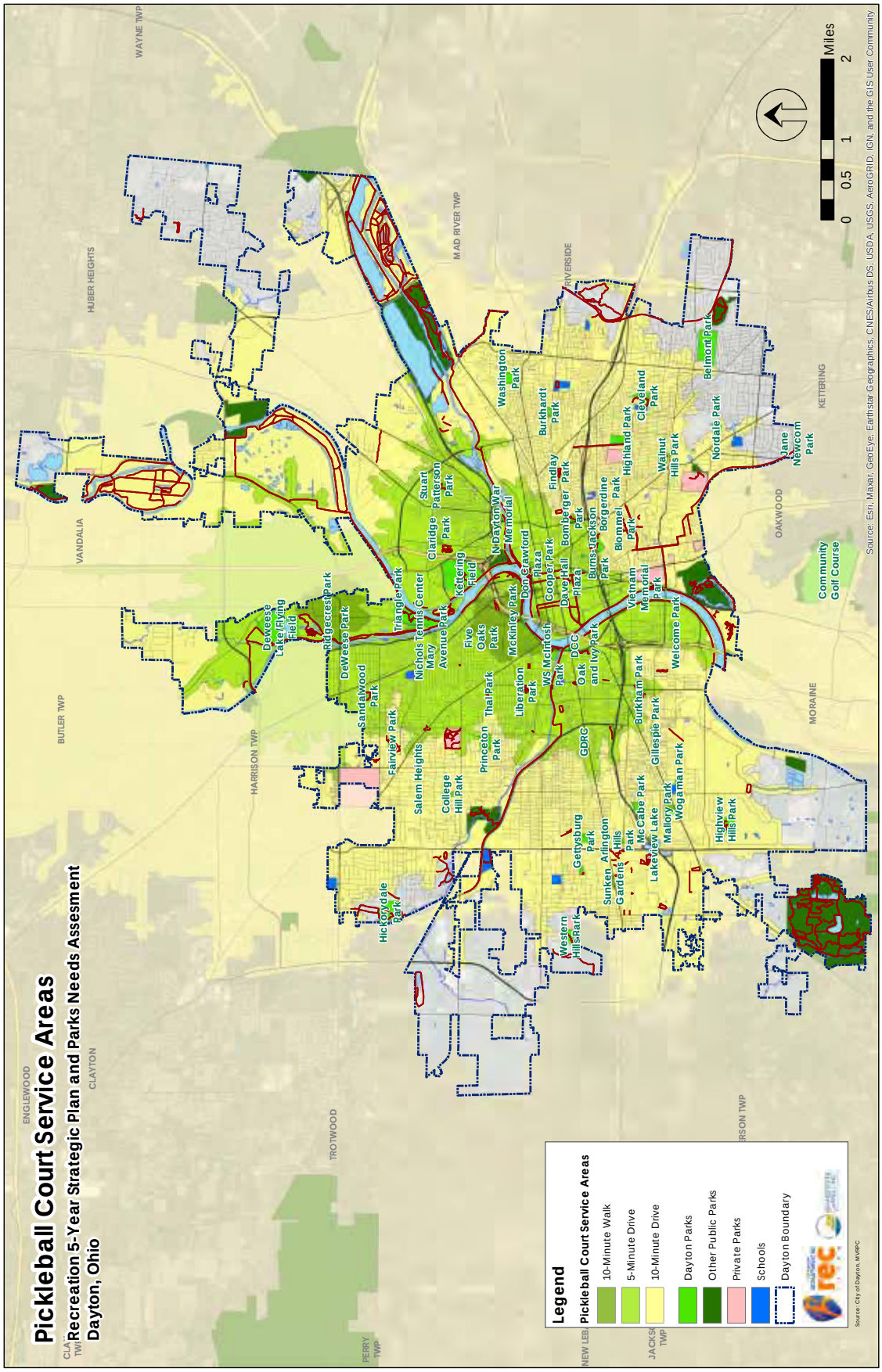
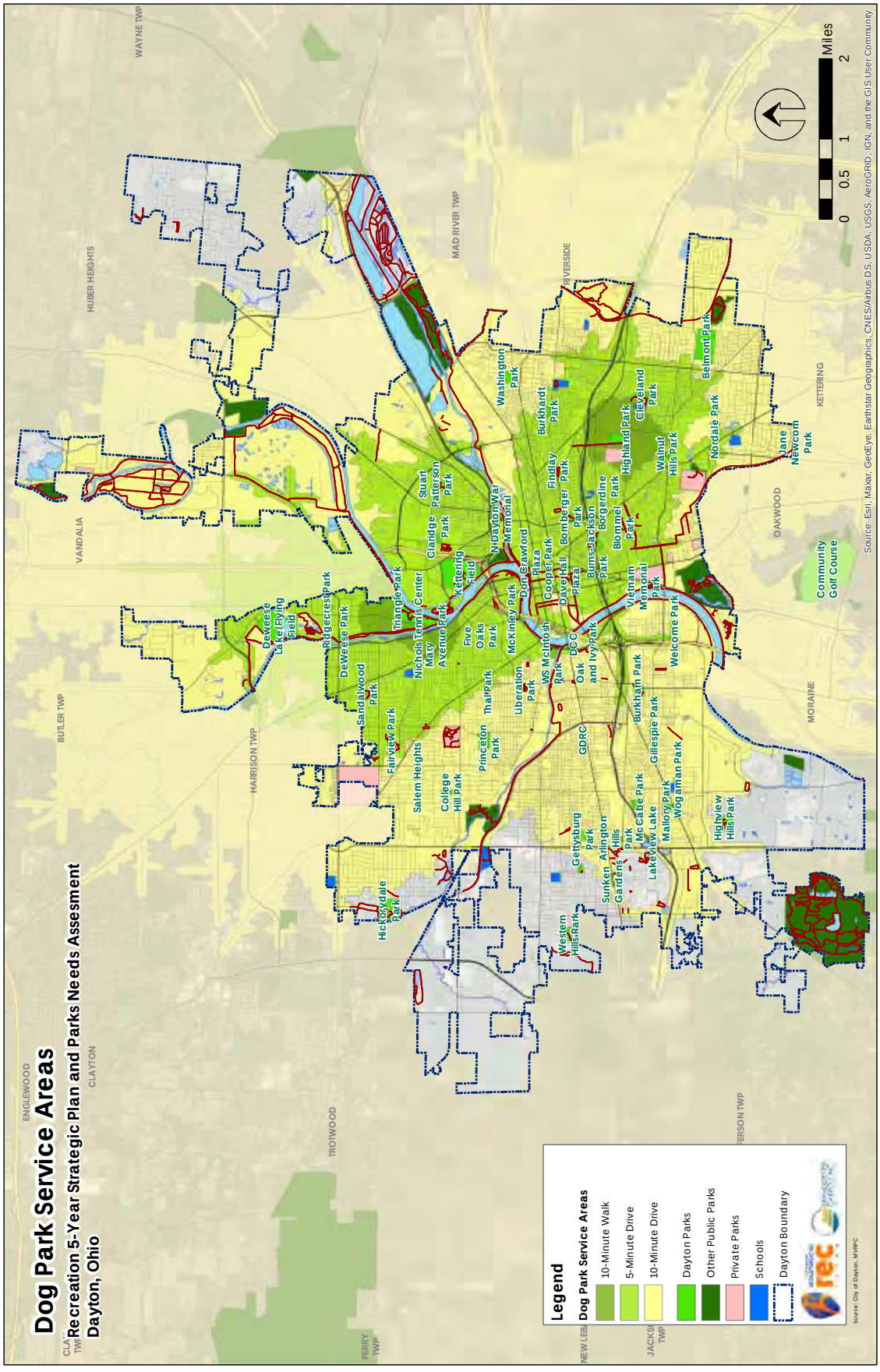


Figure 2.16: Dog Park Service Area



2.10 Social Vulnerability Index

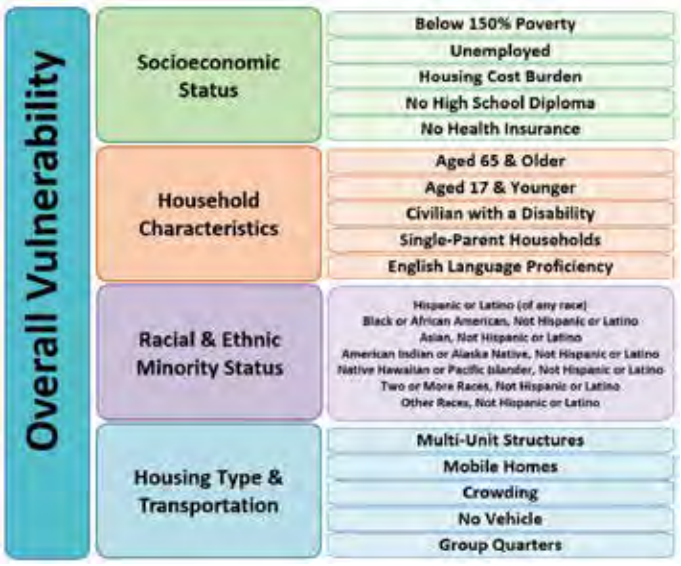
Analyzing demographic and socioeconomic characteristics is a critical step towards identifying what populations throughout Dayton are most likely to need or utilize public programs, services, and facilities. The analysis that follows offers results that can be applied to services beyond those related to recreation and parks. Essentially, the following descriptions help to indicate which portions of the city are most likely to benefit from community services.

2.10.1 Methodology

Designed to identify communities most likely to need support before, during, or after a hazardous event, the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) uses 16 social factors to calculate a score (between 0 and 1) that compares all census tracts in the USA to each other – a score of 0 being the least vulnerable and 1 being the most. The 16 factors are places into four categories as seen in Figure 2.17, each with its own score that is used to determine the overall SVI score.[2]

This information provides a valuable resource to identify the portions of a community that are most likely to need community services overall, including recreation and parks. The demographic data used for the 2020 SVI (the most recent available) comes from the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates from (2016-2020). Census tracts included in the analysis are those that are completely or partially within the boundary of Dayton.

Figure 2.17: Social Vulnerability Factors



2.10.2 Results

Once the SVI was acquired for each census tract in Dayton, the results were divided into five categories based on percentiles which can be seen in Figure 2.18. This map shows areas with higher levels of social needs in red and areas with lower levels in blue. Overall, the majority of the population of the City of Dayton is within the high to medium high socially vulnerable areas. Several tracts in the central portion of the city have high vulnerability, and these tracts represent the majority of the city's population. Based on these findings, those living within the west side of the city and some portions of the east side would benefit the most from improvement to public services, including recreation services and parks. Those in the northeast and southeast are least in need of services. Highly vulnerable areas are:

- Arlington Hills Park
- Blommel Park
- Bomberger Park
- Borgerdine Park
- Burkham Park
- Burkhardt Park
- Burns-Jackson Park
- Claridge Park
- College Hill Park
- Findlay Park
- Five Oaks Park
- Gateway Park
- GDRC
- Gettysburg Park
- Gillespie Park
- Hickorydale Park
- Highview Hills Park
- Jane Reese Park
- Kettering Field
- Lakeside Lake
- Liberation Park
- Mallory Park
- McCabe Park
- N Dayton War Memorial
- Oak and Ivy Park
- Pierce Steele Park
- Princeton Park
- Residence Park
- Salem Heights
- Stuart Patterson Park
- Sunken Gardens
- Vietnam Memorial Park
- Washington Park
- Welcome Park
- Western Hills Park
- Wogaman Park
- WS McIntosh Park

2.10.3 Vulnerable Populations

This section takes a closer look at the portions of the city with the highest levels of vulnerability according to the SVI. This section compares demographics conditions of the areas to the overall conditions in the City of Dayton.

Vulnerable Census Tracts

This analysis is limited to the two most vulnerable categories that are more likely to have needs for social services based on the SVI. Table 2.20 shows a selection of demographic indicators for these areas and the City of Dayton as a whole. The total population of those over 65 and under 18 are slightly higher than the city. The median household income is lower than the city. Accordingly, those households living below the poverty line are higher than the city as a whole as well. Of note, Dayton and the high/medium high socially vulnerable area within it have significantly higher percentages of households with members that have a disability compared to both the state and the nation.

[2] Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, "CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index," https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html

Figure 2.18: Social Vulnerability Index

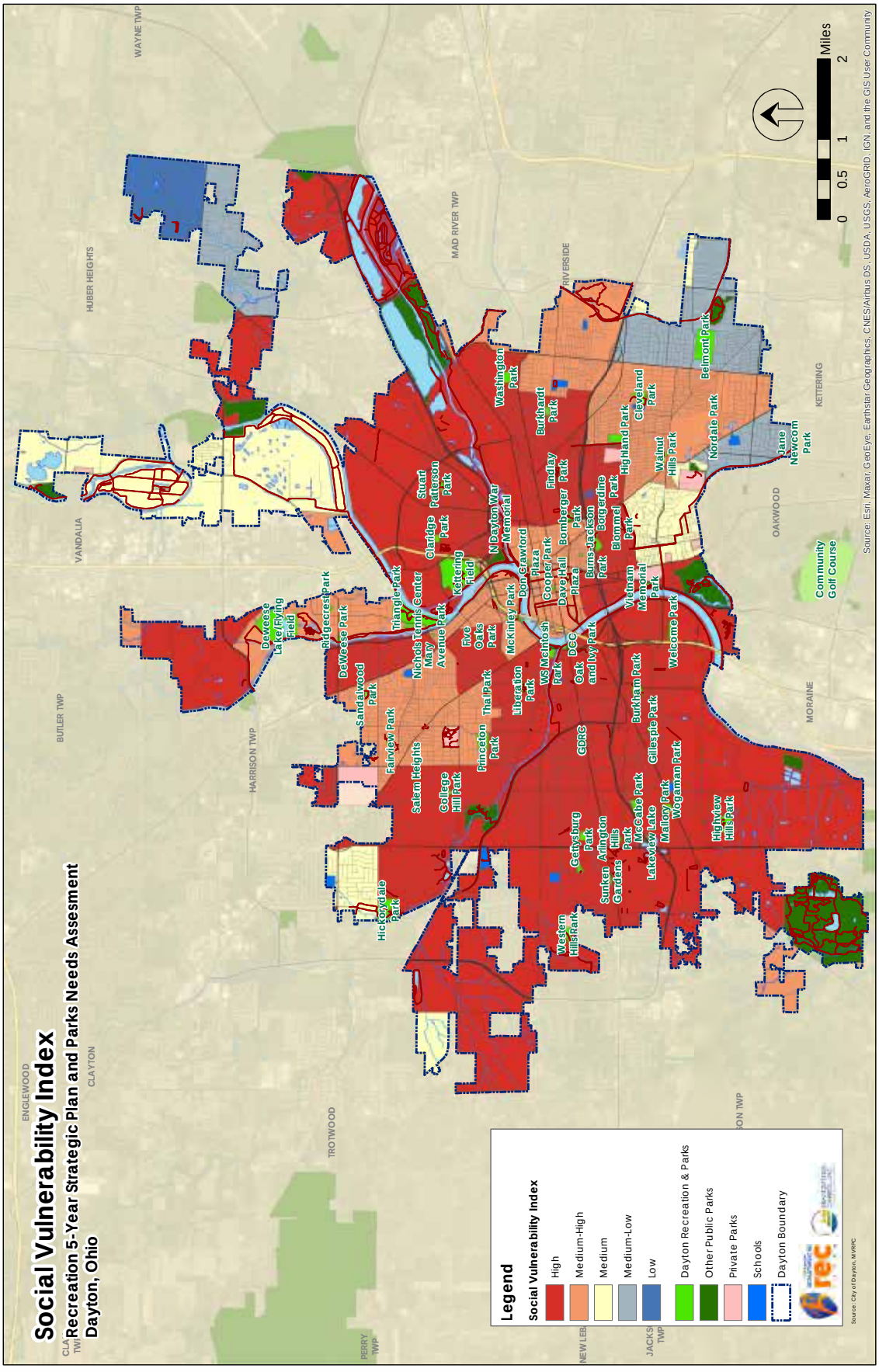


Table 2.20: Demographic Indicators for Vulnerable Areas

Measurement	High/ Medium-High	Dayton	Ohio	USA
Total Population[1]	109,834	137,297	11,820,906	335,707,897
Households[1]	47,751	57,475	4,831,463	128,817,580
Median Age[1]	38.1	36.8	40.6	38.9
Age 65+[1]	17%	16%	19%	18%
Age <18[1]	23%	21%	21%	22%
Single Parent HH (of total HH)[2*]	72%	67%	37%	34%
HH below Poverty Line[2]	29%	26%	13%	12%
HH w/ Members w/ Disabilities[2]	35%	33%	27%	26%
Median Household Income[1]	$34,085	$37,282	$36,681	$72,414
Diversity Index[1]	65.4	64.9	44.6	71.6

Source: 1. Esri 2022 forcasts, 2. 2021 5-year ACS

*Percentage of households with children that are single parent

2.11 Composite Geographic Park Service Areas

While the preceding text outlined the level of access to parks and facilities by geographic distribution and type, a composite analysis provides a more robust depiction of the level of service residents experience across the city. Service areas for two park classifications and 15 facilities (some not mapped in Section 2.9.) were assigned scores based on distance from the amenity (e.g., 5-minute drive vs. 10-minute walk), then GIS software (ArcGIS) was used to produce an overlay map with a combined score for all areas of Dayton. Figure 2.19 shows the composite service areas for the city based on this multilayered level of access analysis. A more detailed description of the methodology can be found in Appendix C.

In the figure, blue indicates a higher level of service for parks and facilities per location (the deeper the shade, the better) while red areas have the lowest level of service (similarly, the deeper the red, the lower the service level). For example, a resident living within one of the dark blue areas would more likely be within a short walk to park and/or many of the facilities previously described (e.g., playgrounds and picnic shelters).

As shown in the map, areas with the highest composite level of service are anchored to areas with community parks with a wide range of amenities, such as McKinley Park and Welcome Park. Looking at population distribution, over half (62%) of the community enjoys a medium-high to high level of service, while about 14% of residents are living in areas with low to medium-low service. Just under a quarter (23%) of residents are experiencing medium levels of service.

Table 2.21 explores the service levels and population demographics in greater detail. While about two-thirds of the city's population lives at a medium-high level of service or better, the areas with the lowest levels of service have the highest median household incomes and lowest diversity index. The percentage of children within each area is similar, but the median age is higher in the vulnerable areas.

2.11.1 Priority Improvement Areas

While the composite service areas analysis helps identify portions of Dayton with lower levels of access to parks and recreation service, the Social Vulnerability Index (Figure 2.18) aids in identifying locations with the greatest need for public services, including parks and recreation facilities. The combination of these two datasets can help to identify areas within Dayton most in need of additional park and recreation facility investment (higher vulnerability and lower service levels).

A map showing these areas can be seen in Figure 2.20. The portions of the city indicated in this combined map may need special consideration for park improvements, including additional features or potentially new parks. The "very high" areas are those with a combination of low or medium-low service levels and high or medium-high social vulnerability. The "high" category represents areas that are medium in composite service and high or medium-high in SVI.

Although relatively few residents live in the "very high" areas, some are present near Gettysburg Park, Western Hills Park, and Hickorydale Park. Overall, the map highlights the need for park and recreation facility investment through the west side of the city with some areas in the east and central part of the city. These are areas that currently lack parks/recreation facilities or have limited amenities in the parks that are present and functional.

Table 2.21: Population by Composite Service Area

Service Level (Rank)	Proportion at Composite Service Level				Median Household Income	Diversity Index	Median Age	Children[1]	Seniors
	Population	Cumulative Population	Area	Cumulative Area					
High	20%	20%	13%	13%	$37,727	63.1	39.1	21%	17%
Medium-High	42%	63%	27%	40%	$34,034	64.8	35.8	22%	16%
Medium	23%	85%	24%	63%	$41,400	61.0	35.5	19%	16%
Medium-Low	12%	97%	21%	85%	$35,135	60.7	38.1	23%	18%
Low	3%	100%	15%	100%	$79,024	60.6	38.0	25%	15%

1. % of population of each area

Figure 2.19: Composite Service Areas

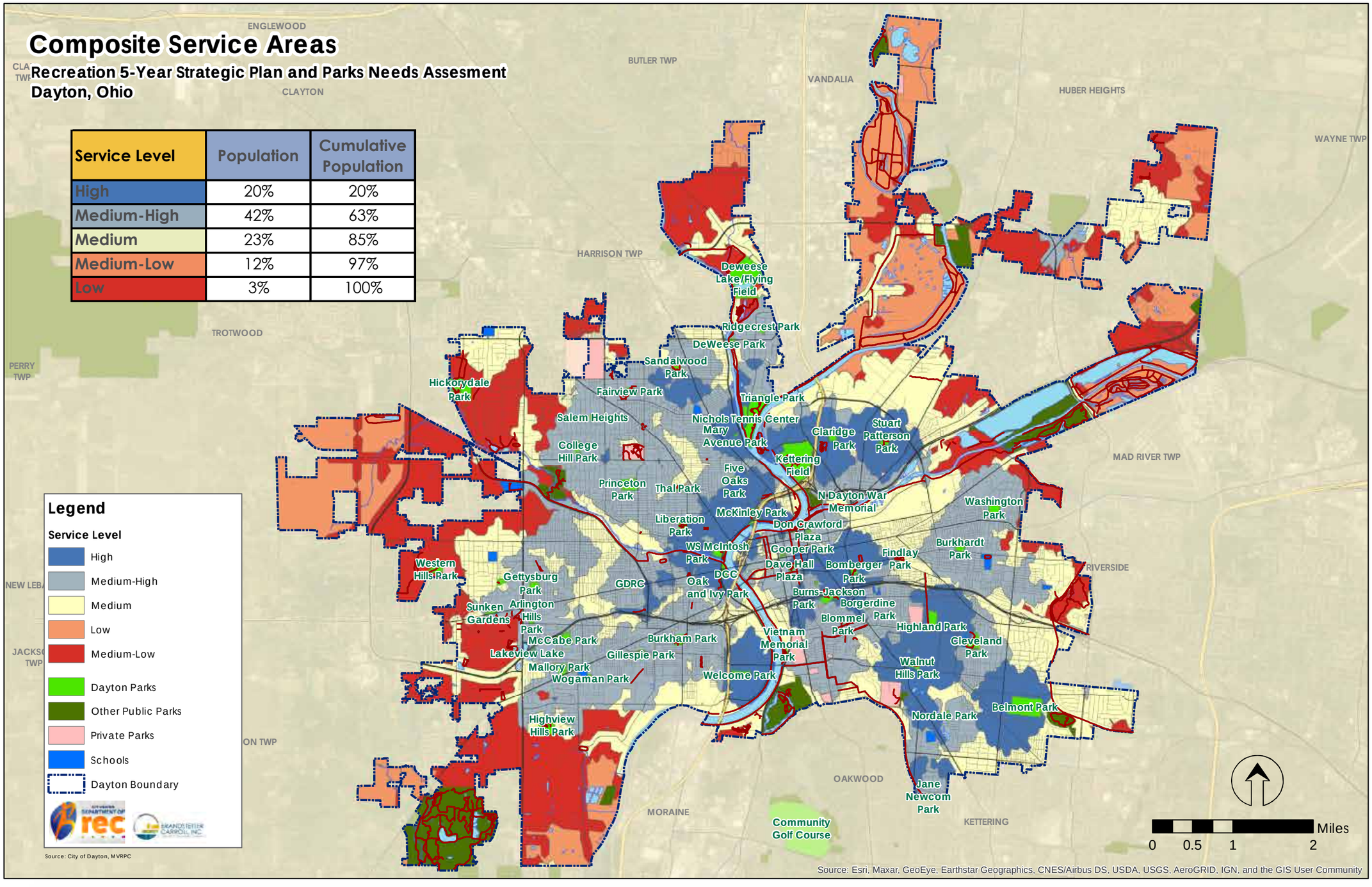
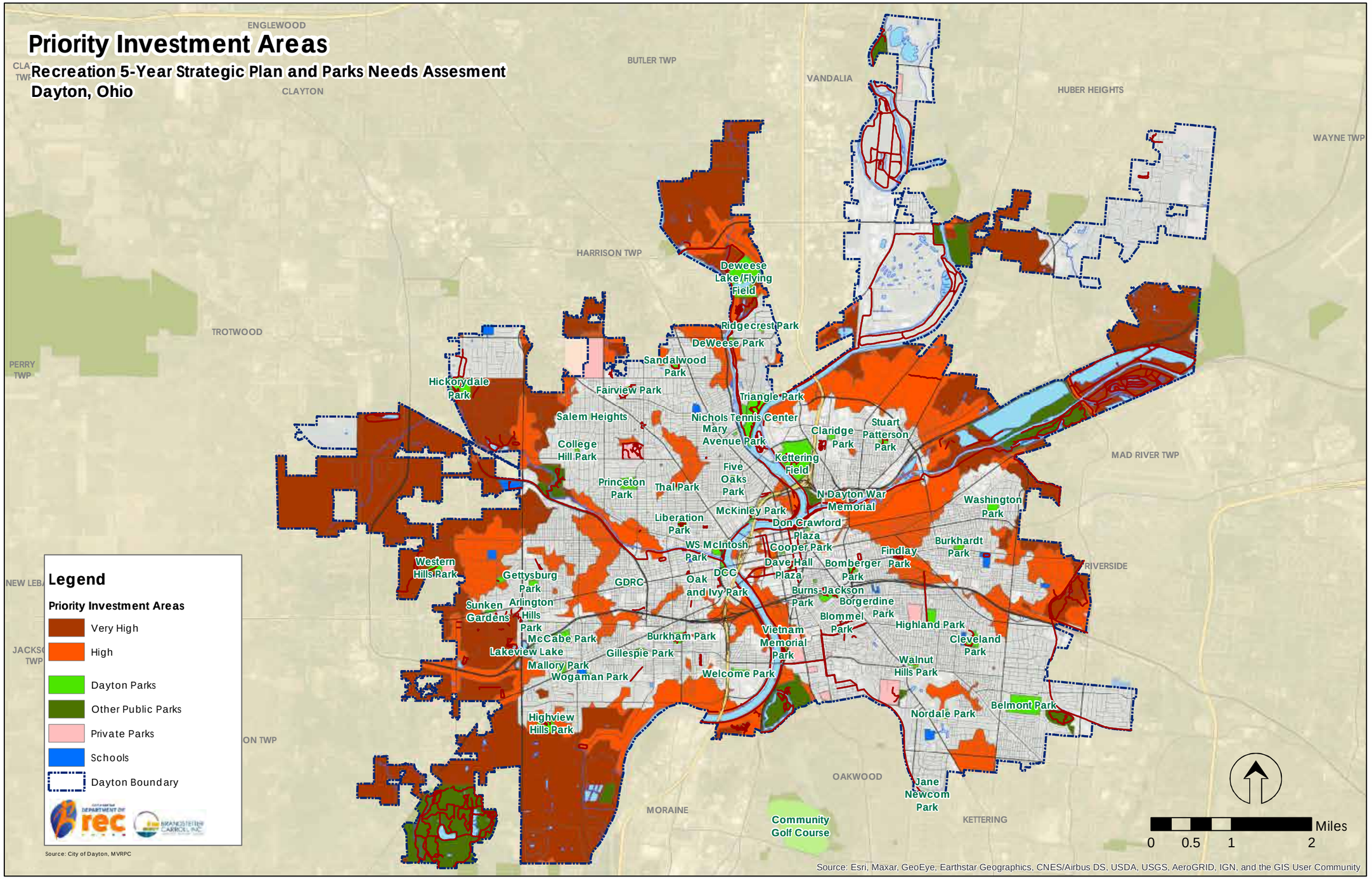


Figure 2.20: Priority Investment Areas



2.12 Trends in Recreation and Parks

The following text analyzes national trends in recreation, including types of activities and their associated facilities. First, a look at participation rates for various activities – using data from the Sport and Fitness Industry Association – then a deeper dive into the latest trends (relevant to Dayton) occurring in programming and facilities across the nation.

Looking through a broader lens can provide insight into the origin and trajectory of more localized preferences. Understanding how trends in fitness, recreation, athletics, and cultural resources reflect in the recreation and parks industry illuminates present conditions and future possibilities in Dayton. Equipped with industry context, Dayton Recreation can better sustain, expand, and realign its existing offerings.



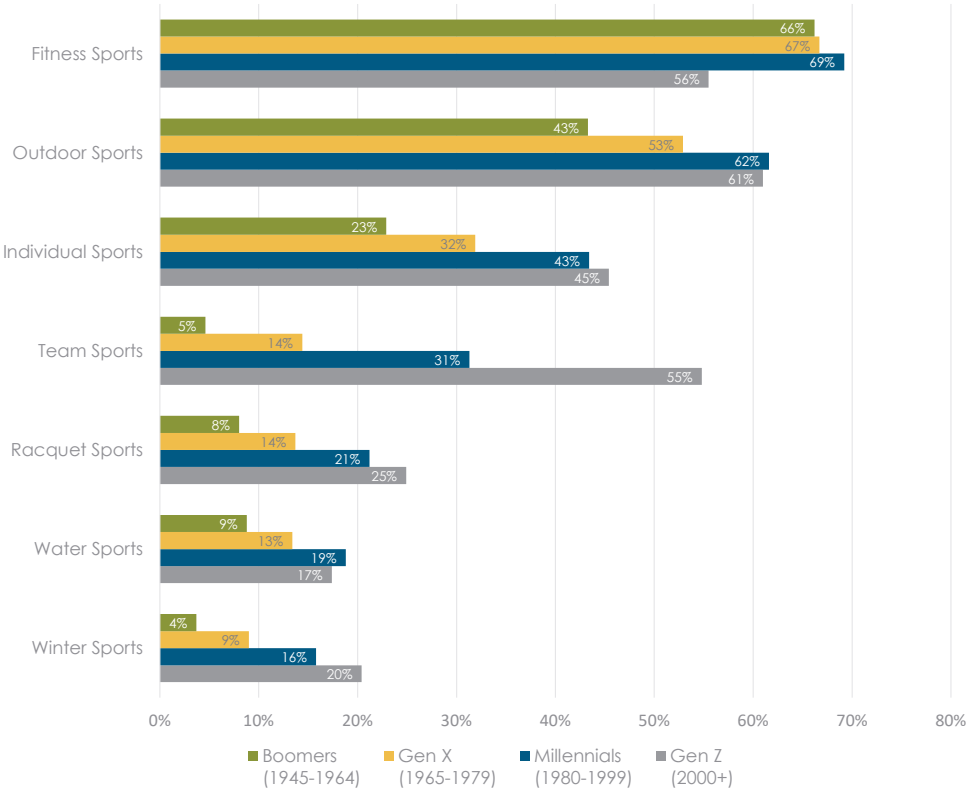
Dayton Bike Yard

2.12.1 Trends in Participation

On an annual basis, the Sport and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) conducts a survey[3] 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 2022 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 Dayton.

Figure 2.21 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.). With each generation, participation rates dropped as age increased except for fitness sports. 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,

Figure 2.21: Participation Rates by Generation



[3] The 2023 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.

and water sports) have similar trends, Millennials and Gen Z representing the highest levels of participation. With growing percentages of Dayton 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 (43.3% of Boomers take advantage of outdoor sports activities). Team sports are far more popular with the youngest generation (54.8% Gen Z and only 4.6% Boomers).

Table 2.22 displays th 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 in participation rates. The fastest growing sports are highlighted in blue; pickleball, tennis, yoga, birdwatching, 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; Dayton residents are not unusual in expressing their strong interest in trail-based activities.

2.12.2 Aging Communities

Throughout the United States and in Dayton, the median age of the population is increasing along with the number of persons 65 years and older. Census data indicates that the percentage of the Dayton population age 65 and older was under 12% in 2010 but is expected to increase to reach over 18% by 2027.

Senior centers are shifting focus from sedentary activities like card games to more active programming such as fitness activities and outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and field trips.

While the aging population should inspire recreation and parks 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.

This trend is certainly applicable in Dayton. Although overall the senior population is lower than the county and state, it is still rapidly growing, and their interests and needs will need to be addressed as Dayton's Recreation Department updates offerings.

2.12.3 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, recreation and parks agencies are changing the landscape not just physically but also culturally and in terms of mental health.



Photo of Ann Arbor's Gallup Universal Access Park (2017)

Ann Arbor's Universal Access Park

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.

Universal access extends beyond the physical to include interpretive signage, buildings, and all programs. Providing barrier-free features is an essential part of the process for any park improvement. Several equipment providers are available for exploring options; grant funding is potentially available.[4]

Many of the amenities in the parks are lacking ADA accessibility. Several existing playgrounds need improvement and replacement; the city has a real opportunity to prioritize accessibility and universal accessfor the benefit of the community. In some cases, existing play equipment and access to amenities are at the standard needed for a fully engaging and participatory experience.

2.12.4 Pickleball

Another national trend sweeping the nation is the growing sport of pickleball. No more are the days of pickleball being for the older generation. Even during the engagement process, it is evident Dayton park goers would like to see the development of additional pickleball courts. Pickleball is a court sport played on a badminton-sized court with the net set to a height of 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic ball and composite or wooden paddles about twice the size of ping-pong paddles. It can be played one on one or two on two. Pickleball grew in 2022 to 8.9 million players in the US, according to the 2023 Sports & Fitness Industry Association Report on the fastest growing sport over the 5-year period at 26%.

[4] For example: https://www.playandpark.com/funding/grant-opportunities via PlayCore

Table 2.22: Nationwide 5-Year History of Selected Sports Participation

Sport/Fitness Activity	Category	Participants (in Thousands)						5-Year Average Annual Growth
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Adventure Racing	Individual Sports	2,529	2,215	2,143	1,966	1,826	1,714	-7.4%
Aquatic Exercise	Aerobic Activities	10,459	10,518	11,189	10,954	10,400	10,676	0.5%
Archery	Individual Sports	7,769	7,654	7,449	7,249	7,342	7,428	-0.9%
Badminton	Racquet Sports	6,430	6,337	6,095	5,862	6,061	6,490	0.3%
Baseball	Team Sports	15,642	15,877	15,804	15,731	15,587	15,478	-0.2%
Basketball	Team Sports	23,401	24,225	24,917	27,753	27,135	28,149	3.9%
Bicycling (BMX)	Outdoor Sports	3,413	3,439	3,648	3,880	3,861	4,181	4.2%
Bicycling (Mountain/Non-Paved Surface)	Outdoor Sports	8,609	8,690	8,622	8,998	8,963	8,916	0.7%
Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface)	Outdoor Sports	38,866	39,041	39,388	44,471	42,775	43,554	2.5%
Birdwatching (>¼ Mile from Home)	Outdoor Sports	12,296	12,344	12,817	15,228	14,815	15,818	5.4%
Cardio Tennis	Racquet Sports	2,223	2,499	2,501	2,503	2,608	2,812	4.9%
Cheerleading	Team Sports	3,816	3,841	3,752	3,308	3,465	3,507	-1.5%
Elliptical Motion Trainer	Aerobic Activities	32,283	33,238	33,056	27,920	27,618	27,051	-3.3%
Fishing (Fly)	Outdoor Sports	6,791	6,939	7,014	7,753	7,458	7,631	2.5%
Fishing (Freshwater)	Outdoor Sports	38,346	38,998	39,185	42,556	40,853	41,821	1.8%
Football (Flag)	Team Sports	6,551	6,572	6,783	7,001	6,889	7,104	1.7%
Football (Tackle)	Team Sports	5,224	5,157	5,107	5,054	5,228	5,436	0.8%
Free Weights (Hand Weights)	Strength	5,217	51,291	51,450	53,256	52,636	53,140	0.4%
Golf	Individual Sports	23,829	24,240	24,271	24,804	25,111	25,566	1.4%
Gymnastics	Team Sports	4,805	4,770	4,699	3,848	4,268	4,569	-0.5%
High Impact/Intensity & Training	Aerobic Activities	21,476	21,611	22,044	22,487	21,973	21,821	0.3%
Hiking (Day)	Outdoor Sports	44,900	47,860	49,697	57,808	58,697	59,578	6.0%
Ice Hockey	Team Sports	2,544	2,447	2,357	2,270	2,306	2,278	-2.2%
Ice Skating	Individual Sports	9,998	9,721	9,460	9,857	9,481	10,086	0.3%
Kayaking (Recreational)	Water Sports	10,533	11,017	11,382	13,002	13,351	13,561	5.3%
Kayaking (White Water)	Water Sports	2,500	2,562	2,583	2,605	2,623	2,726	1.8%
Lacrosse	Team Sports	2,171	2,098	2,115	1,884	1,892	1,875	-2.8%
Martial Arts	Individual Sports	5,838	5,821	6,068	6,064	6,186	6,355	1.7%
Mixed Martial Arts for Fitness	Individual Sports	2,376	2,365	2,405	2,445	2,339	2,524	1.3%
Pickleball	Racquet Sports	3,132	3,301	3,460	4,199	4,819	8,949	26.4%
Pilates Training	Conditioning	9,047	9,084	9,243	9,905	9,745	10,311	2.7%
Racquetball	Racquet Sports	3,526	3,480	3,453	3,426	3,260	3,521	0.1%
Roller Hockey	Team Sports	1,834	1,734	1,616	1,500	1,425	1,368	-5.7%
Rugby	Team Sports	1,621	1,560	1,392	1,242	1,238	1,166	-6.3%
Running/Jogging	Aerobic Activities	50,770	49,459	50,052	50,652	48,977	47,816	-1.2%
Scuba Diving	Water Sports	2,874	2,849	2,715	2,588	2,476	2,658	-1.5%
Skateboarding	Individual Sports	6,382	6,500	6,610	8,872	8,747	9,019	7.9%
Soccer (Outdoor)	Team Sports	11,924	11,405	11,913	12,444	12,556	13,018	1.8%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	Team Sports	2,309	2,303	2,242	1,811	2,088	2,146	-0.8%
Softball (Slow-Pitch)	Team Sports	7,283	7,386	7,071	6,349	6,008	6,036	-3.6%
Stand Up Paddling	Water Sports	3,325	3,453	3,562	3,675	3,739	3,777	2.6%
Stationary Cycling	Aerobic Activities	36,035	36,668	9,930	6,054	5,939	6,268	-6.0%
Swimming for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	27,135	27,575	28,219	25,666	25,620	26,272	-0.5%
Swimming on a Team	Team Sports	3,007	3,045	2,822	2,615	2,824	2,904	-0.5%
Table Tennis	Racquet Sports	16,041	15,592	14,908	16,854	15,390	15,824	0.0%
Tai Chi	Conditioning	3,787	3,761	3,793	3,300	3,393	3,394	-2.0%
Tennis	Racquet Sports	17,683	17,841	17,684	21,642	22,617	23,595	6.2%
Track and Field	Team Sports	3,126	2,710	2,290	2,325	3,587	3,690	-2.0%
Trail Running	Individual Sports	9,149	10,010	10,997	11,854	12,520	13,253	7.7%
Treadmill	Aerobic Activities	52,966	53,737	56,823	49,832	53,627	53,589	0.5%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	Individual Sports	2,162	2,168	2,001	1,846	1,748	1,780	-3.7%
Ultimate Frisbee	Team Sports	3,126	2,710	2,290	2,325	2,190	2,142	-7.1%
Volleyball (Beach/Sand)	Team Sports	4,947	4,770	4,400	4,320	4,184	4,128	-3.5%
Volleyball (Court)	Team Sports	6,317	6,317	6,487	5,410	5,849	6,092	-0.3%
Walking for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	110,805	111,001	111,439	114,044	115,814	114,759	0.7%
Weight/Resistance Machines	Strength	36,291	36,372	36,181	30,651	30,577	30,010	-3.5%
Yoga	Conditioning	27,354	28,745	30,456	32,808	34,347	33,636	4.3%

Legend

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

While growth of the sport began with seniors, popularity is growing with all ages. Under age 24 was the fastest growing group from 2020 to 2021 at 21%; growth for ages 55 and under was 10%. Core players (play 8 times or more a year) are more likely to be older, while casual players (1-7 times per year) are more likely to be younger.[5]



Photo credit: USA Pickleball Association

Pickleball Tournament

Dayton currently offers two courts at Ridgecrest Park that are shared with the basketball courts and do not have permanent nets. There are also two dedicated pickleball courts at the flood control lift station on W Riverview Avenue (McKinley Park) and pickleball lines on three courts at Nichols Tennis Center. These existing courts are not currently meeting the needs of the public, and additional courts will likely be needed to satisfy demand as this sport continues to grow.

2.12.5 Technology

The use of technology is becoming increasingly common in recreation and parks. 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.

Potential applications of technology in parks:

- **Wi-Fi hotspots** – to record the number of connections or searches to create a picture of visitation trends[6]
- **Beacon counters** – to detect cellphone signals to help determine the number of users in an area[7]
- **Device**-charging areas
- **QR codes** – to promote and inform
- **Trail counters** – to detect record types of users

The city currently maintains an active Facebook presence, but the department does not have their own independent social media platforms. Creating a department Facebook page would improve awareness of programs and facilities available to the community and increase participation.



Photo credit: mycountyparks.org, Denison, IA

Smart Trail Signage, Denison, IA

Keeping social media relevant with frequent, varied, and timely posts (e.g., video content, informational fliers, community polls, etc.) will be help attract followers and expand impact. These posts would, in turn, provide the department with additional means of gathering information on park and facility condition, visitation levels, and more. Additionally, the city could extend its effort to provide public Wi-Fi into heavily used areas of parks, improving user experiences while also potentially providing information about park and program visitation.

2.12.6 Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Many communities utilize parks as examples of best management practices (BMPs) to serve as models for minimizing environmental impacts and maximizing the sustainability of both park sites and operations. Recreation and parks departments are in great positions to lead in the implementation of these practices because they are typically among the largest landowners (if not the largest) in their jurisdictions. To assist in the implementation of these practices, some park departments establish manuals detailing the BMPs which are generally divided into categories.[8] Some potential categories include (with examples):

- Site Selection – which properties to acquire and protect
- Design – strategies for management of stormwater, water quality, riparian/wetland buffers; use of vegetation; choice of building materials
- Construction – controlling of pollutants, soil restoration, recycling of construction materials

[5] USA Pickleball Association. (2022, August 30). Pickleball fact sheet. USA Pickleball. Retrieved November 1, 2022, from https://usapickleball.org/about-us/organizational-docs/pickleball-fact-sheet/#:~:text=Pickleball%20is%20a%20court%20sport,size%20of%20ping%2Dpong%20paddles.

[6] 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)

[7] Dolesh, R. J. (2019, January). Top Trends in Recreation and parks for 2019. Parks & Recreation.

[8] Environmental Best Management Practices Manual. City of Fort Collins Parks and Recreation, 2011

- Operation and Maintenance – practices for water conservation, use of organics, weed control, composting, energy use, etc.
- Programs and Special Events – consider carrying capacity of facility, provide recycling receptacles

Although Dayton's parks and recreation facilities are considered urban parks, there are natural areas within these parks that could be expanded upon and should be protected. Many parks have large mature tree canopies and walking areas that should be preserved.

Future development at all properties should consider best management practices during development. Nature programs include birdwatching partnership with MetroParks.

2.12.7 Bike 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.[9]

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 the sport gained in popularly, bikes have been banned from most hiking trails, and single-track trails designed specifically for mountain bikes have been established. 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.[10]

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.[11] Unlike many of the other off-road facilities, pump tracks are usable by both mountain bike and BMX riders.

Dayton is also ahead of this trend with the construction of the new Dayton Bike Yard at Welcome Park, completed in Spring of 2023. The yard includes multiple tracks and trails that are designed to provide a range of opportunities for those at all skill levels. Continued implementation and expansion of this new bike park will help Dayton respond to this trend.

2.12.8 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. Recreation and parks 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.[12] 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 in the Madisonville Neighborhood of Cincinnati (2015)

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.

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

Dayton could include creative placemaking into any future park improvement by incorporating it into the planning process. Fostering art programs at the recreation centers could also encourage creative placemaking activities

[9] Marin Museum of Bicycling, "Mountain Biking History," http://mmbhof.org/mtn-bike-hall-of-fame/history/, (April 8, 2019).
[10] IMBA, "Flow Trails," https://www.imba.com/model-trails/flow-trails, (April 15, 2016).
[11] 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).
[12] Trust for Public Land, Creative Placemaking, https://www.tpl.org/our-work/creative-placemaking

throughout the community. Creative placemaking provides an opportunity to make every park unique and to build and connect community around these parks. With clear expectations, fair compensation, and meaningful engagement, the arts community in Dayton has the power to enliven the city's parks and community spaces.

2.12.9 Golf Courses

Since 2003, there has been a consistent annual decline in the number of golf players across the nation.[13] Additionally, according to research conducted by the National Golf Foundation, there has been a corresponding 11% contraction in course supply (i.e., more and more golf courses are closing). And even as participation and number of courses decline, youth and young adults represent one of the sport's largest consumer segments, and the percentages of golfers who are women or people of color (either junior participants, beginners, or off-course players) have increased.[14] The golf industry is experiencing changes that have been in motion since the 1990s, and while the pandemic year of 2020 brought a renewed surge in participation, municipalities have significant reason to reimagine their golf courses.

The city's one remaining golf course, Community Golf Course, is located to the south of the city in Kettering. The course's revenues fund the operations with funds left to implement capital improvements according to the Golf Master Plan. The biggest challenge for the City of Dayton is access to this course, due to its location, especially for youth. Strategies to improve access and transportation would increase use and potentially ensure the course's success into the future.

2.12.10 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 recreation and parks 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.



Photo: NRPA 2018

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."[15]

Dayton does have a designated location for launching drones at DeWeese Lake Flying Field but lacks an official policy for flying them in the parks. As their popularity continues to increase, the city will likely need to formulate and post a policy for (or against) use of drones within the park system. Five Rivers MetroParks, for example, require a permit before flying drones in their parks during events.

2.12.11 Conclusion

Data in this chapter describes an aging and diversifying population in the City of Dayton. These changes in population composition have and will likely continue to alter the recreation and parks needs of the community. Additionally, the city generally compares favorably to the benchmarks in terms of quantity of offerings but fall short in staffing and budget. As a result, there are opportunities to improve services and facility access.

The inventory and the mapping analysis show higher levels of service in the center of the city, with lower levels of service in the surrounding outskirts of the community, especially on northeast side and westernmost side. This analysis will help guide the recommendations of both what and where to add features and programs in the future.

[13] Crompton, John L. NRPA. Implications of the Rise and Decline of Golf. June 25, 2020. https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2020/july/implications-of-the-rise-and-decline-of-golf/

[14] National Golf Foundation. 2020 Golf Industry Facts. 2021. https://www.ngf.org/golf-industry-research/

15 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/



3

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

3.1 Introduction

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

1. Open House Workshops
2. Stakeholder & Neighborhood Conversations
3. Surveys – Web/Handout Survey & Representative Random Sample Mail Survey

The public engagement process is essential for identifying the needs and preferences of Dayton's residents. The findings of the public input process are, therefore, integral to the vision for the future and serve as the foundation of the recommendations of this Plan.

3.2 Open House Workshops

The city held three open house workshops in November 2022 at Greater Dayton, Lohrey, and Northwest Recreation Centers to solicit feedback from the community regarding the present and future of the Recreation Department and parks in Dayton. Dollar voting boxes were also utilized at the four neighborhood conversations in March at Lohrey and Northwest Recreation Centers (two each).

The meetings allowed participants to visit a series of stations to provide their input and learn more about the 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?"

The three input topics were as follows:

- Recreation Facilities
- Programs, Events, & Festivals
- Public Works' Parks and Open Space

The final stations provided activities, including dollar allocation and dot voting (see section 3.3). The summaries of comments in the ensuing text reflect the top noted items. The full text of comments can be found in Appendix D.

Recreation Facilities

This station encouraged discussion of recreation facilities. Most comments were related to upgraded and better utilized recreation centers and additional sports fields and game courts.

What makes them great now? – 48 comments and checkmarks/likes (# in parentheses), top items only

- Indoor pools (6)
- Low cost (6)
- Friendly/great staff (6)
- Centennial (football) Field (2)

What would make them better? – 60 comments and checkmarks/likes (# in parentheses), top items only

- Maintained sports fields and courts (6)
- More recreation centers and outdoor facilities (6)
- Upgrade the restrooms and facilities (Northwest Rec Center) (4)
- Utilization of meeting spaces (4)
- New programs – more funding & discounts for family memberships (4)
- More lifeguards to allow more patrons to utilize indoor pools (2)

Programs, Events, & Festivals

This topic provided a location for comments about programs, including sports, special events, and more. Overall, attendees desired more youth programs and senior programs.

What makes them great now? – 20 comments and checkmarks/likes (# in parentheses), top items only

- Sports programs (6)
- Movies, concerts, festivals (4)

What would make them better? – 40 comments and checkmarks/likes (# in parentheses), top items only

- More sports (9)
- More collaboration with schools to engage kids in programming (7)
- Support events/use centers (6)
- More events, concerts, festivals, movies (5)
- Age 50+ programs (4)
- Computer literacy for 50+ (4)
- Job opportunities for students (4)
- Pickleball classes (4)
- Adult literacy programs (4)
- More staff, better wages, full time (3)
- Cheerleaders (3)
- Discounts/scholarships to allow more kids to participate (3)
- More swimming hours – open Saturdays (3)
- Need more teen programming (3)

Public Works' Parks and Open Space

This topic represented built amenities and general recommendations for parks. The largest number of comments pertained to the maintenance of parks and the need for new facilities.

What makes them great now? – 34 comments and check marks/likes (# in parentheses), top items only

- Clean parks (2)
- Collaboration with Mosaic Institute (2)
- The trails connect (2)
- Great for kids (2)
- Easy for people to use (2)
- Clean parks (2)
- Walking trails/bike trails (2)

What would make them better? – 99 comments and checkmarks/likes (# in parentheses), top items only

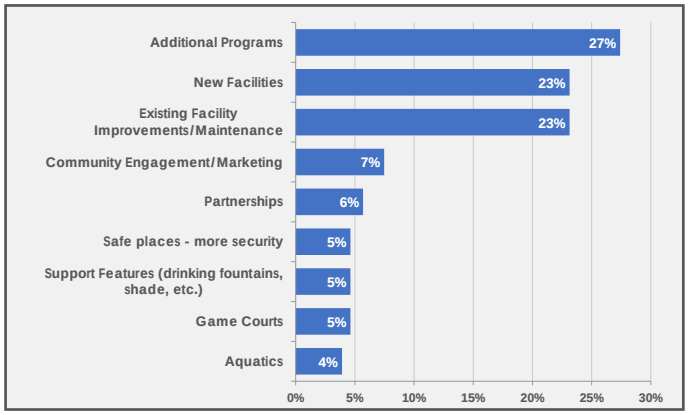
- More availability (6)
- Add hiking trails, mountain bike paths (6)
- Removal of unusable features (4)
- Skateparks (4)
- Safety monitoring measures (4)
- Improved marketing & signage (4)
- More outdoor courts & recreation facilities (3)

Overall Open House Comment Summary

The chart below (Figure 3.1) provides a summary of the comments to the question, "What would make them better?" at all stations. Each of the over 200 comments (and checkmarks/likes) were placed into one or more categories to show what improvements attendees of the meetings 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 attendees would like additional programs, new parks and recreation facilities, and improved maintenance for both recreation and parks facilities. Additionally, many would like to see increased marketing and community engagement.

Figure 3.1: Distribution of Open House Comments (top topics)



3.3 Preferences Boards and Dollar Voting

3.3.1 Preference Boards

Attendees of the open house workshops were given three red dots and three green dots to place on boards indicating their preferences for park features and programs. The boards provided a list of 16 park amenities and programs with pictures. These activities asked participants to choose the features and programs most important to them and their households. Children were also invited to participate. About 81 community members participated in each of these activities. The results of the selections are presented in Figures 3.2 and 3.3.

On the features board (Figure 3.2), indoor recreation facilities received the largest number of dots (39 or 16%), followed by restrooms (12%) and game courts (10%). The provided features were intended to be general, so features were combined into categories whenever possible. On the programs board (Figure 3.3), aquatic programs received the largest number of dots (35 or 14%), followed by teen programs and youth sports (12% each).

Figure 3.2: Feature Preference Boards

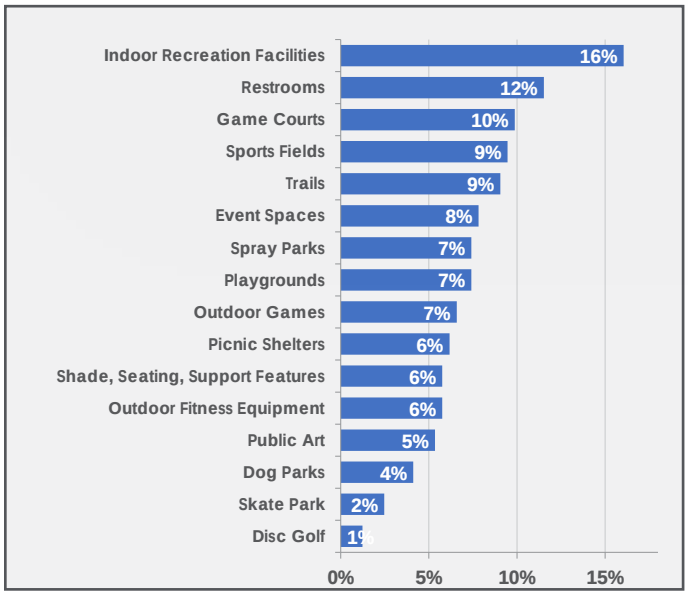
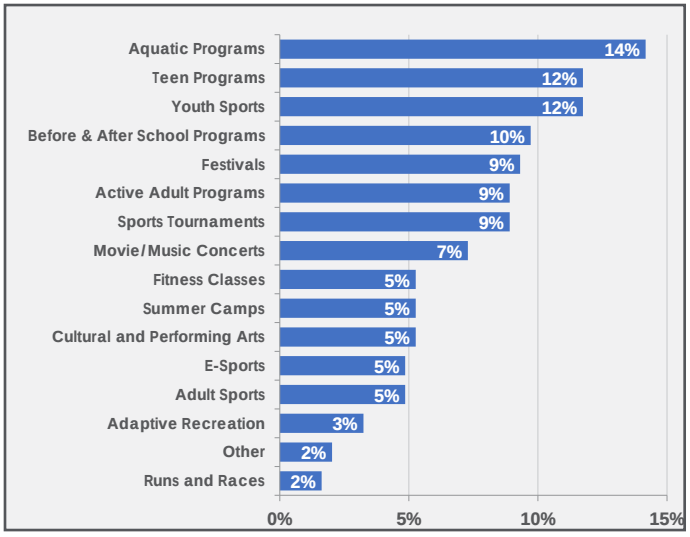


Figure 3.3: Program Preference Boards



3.3.2 Dollar Voting

Dollar voting boxes were provided at both open house workshops and the neighborhood conversations. Participants were given $1,000 in play money to place into boxes to indicate how they would like Dayton to allocate funds for recreation facilities and parks/open space. Table 3.1 shows the total allocations for each of eight categories (or boxes). Participants could also place money into a box marked "other" to request specific amenities or improvements not included in one of the provided categories.

Of the provided options *sports fields and courts* received the largest allocation at $22,100 or 18% of total dollars. *Programs and events and indoor recreation centers and facilities* were second followed by improving *existing facilities* and *maintenance*. "Other" comments are provided in Appendix D.

3.4 Stakeholder Conversations

In November 2022 and March 2023, the consultants met with a series of stakeholders to determine their priorities for parks and recreation in Dayton. Seven stakeholder groups participated in these discussions, contributing their respective visions to this Plan. At these meetings, stakeholders were asked a series of questions about Dayton parks, recreation facilities, and programs that included discussions of strengths as well as future opportunities. Summaries of the meetings with complete comments are included in Appendix D.

3.4.1 Groups Engaged

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

- Dayton staff at GDRC, Northwest, and Lohrey Recreation Centers and Downtown (4 meetings)
- Public Works staff dedicated to parks
- Dayton City Commissioners

Table 3.1: Dollar Voting Allocation

Action (Box Title)	Open House #1 GDRC	Open House #2 Lohrey	Open House #3 Northwest	Neighborhood Conversations - Lohrey	Neighborhood Conversations - Northwest	Total
Sports Fields & Courts	$9,700	$3,500	$5,100	$1,900	$1,900	**$22,100**
	27%	*18%*	*12%*	*24%*	*12%*	*18%*
Programs & Events	$6,900	$3,100	$8,000	$600	$2,500	**$21,100**
		16%	*19%*	*8%*	*16%*	*17%*
Indoor Recreation Centers & Facilities	$6,300	$1,400	$9,800	$900	$2,700	**$21,100**
	17%	*7%*	*24%*	*11%*	*18%*	*17%*
Existing Facilities/Maintenance	$5,200	$3,300	$7,600	$1,400	$2,700	**$20,200**
	14%	*17%*	*18%*	*18%*	*18%*	*17%*
Support Features	$2,900	$2,800	$4,100	$1,000	$3,100	**$13,900**
	8%	*15%*	*10%*	*13%*	*20%*	*12%*
Trails	$2,500	$2,500	$3,400	$1,600	$1,100	**$11,100**
	7%	*13%*	*8%*	*20%*	*7%*	*9%*
Splash Pads	$1,900	$800	$2,600	$400	$900	**$6,600**
	5%	*4%*	*6%*	*5%*	*6%*	*5%*
Other	$1,200	$1,900	$700	$200	$500	**$4,500**
	3%	*10%*	*2%*	*3%*	*3%*	*4%*
Total	**$36,600**	**$19,300**	**$41,300**	**$8,000**	**$15,400**	**$120,600**

- City of Dayton Police
- City of Dayton Mayor
- Dayton City Managers Office
- Neighborhood presidents
- Dayton neighborhood residents (neighborhood conversations)

3.4.2 Stakeholder Broad Recommendations

Upgraded Facilities

- Modernize/update Recreation Centers
- Kettering Field upgrades (new diamond fields, soccer fields, pedestrian access)
- ADA accessibility
- Support features (signage, security, lighting, drinking fountains)
- Extended pool hours

New Facilities

- Playground replacement program
- New picnic shelters, including elimination of obsolete shelters
- New & upgraded basketball courts

Expanded Programing

- Additional community events
- Aquatic programs
- Teen programs
- Active adult 50+
- Multigenerational

Partnerships, Collaboration, & Marketing

- Transportation to parks and facilities
- Collaboration with MetroParks & YMCA for additional services
- Cross departmental collaboration
- Improved community engagement

Operations

- Fully staffed Recreation Department
- Locate additional/alternative funding for park improvements
- Dedicated staff for marketing purposes

3.5 Public Opinion Surveys

The following pages summarize the findings of the online and the random sample survey. Because the Mail Survey results were collected using a representative random sample, they are intended to represent the residents of Dayton as a whole, both users and non-users. On the other hand, the Web Survey results reflect the views of the respondents, not necessarily Dayton residents as a whole; Web Survey respondents are often already engaged in some way with the city'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 F and G.

3.5.1 Representative Random Sample Survey – Overview and Methodology

ETC Institute conducted a Dayton Parks Community Survey (Mail Survey) during the early 2023 to help establish priorities for the future development of recreation programs and facilities and parks/open space in Dayton. This Mail Survey was designed to obtain representative results from households throughout the city.

The Brandstetter Carroll Inc. project team worked with Dayton Recreation staff to develop the survey questionnaire. Tailored to issues of strategic local importance, the survey was mailed to a random sample of households throughout Dayton. Households were also provided with a web address for completing the survey online.

ETC Institute had a goal of 600 survey responses for representative results and met this goal with a total of 614 surveys. Based on this random sample, the overall results have a precision of at least +/3.9% at the 95% level of confidence.

3.5.2 National Benchmarking

Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for Parks and Recreation issues in more than 700 communities across all 50 states. The results of these surveys provide a database to compare responses from households in client communities. National averages used the frequency of visitation to parks/recreation facilities and condition of facilities are from 2021 data. This National Benchmarking summary is included in Appendix F with the full survey report. Select information from the benchmarking is included below.

3.5.3 Web Survey – Overview and Methodology

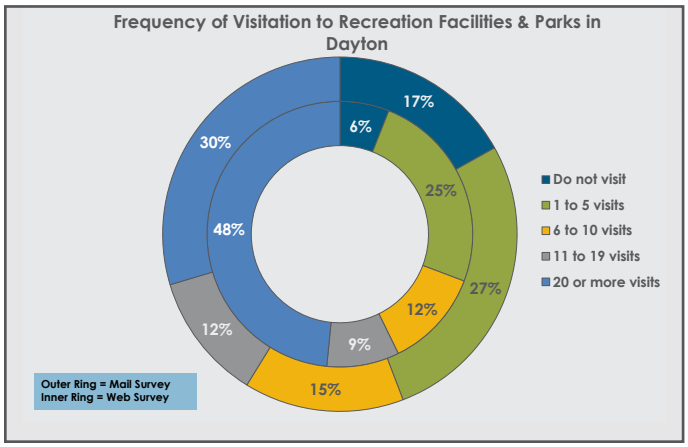
In addition to the random sample survey conducted by ETC Institute, a web and handout survey (Web Survey) was administered by BCI from the beginning of project through summer 2023. The questions in this Web Survey were similar to the Mail Survey with the overall length reduced. This version was powered by Survey Monkey with a total of 298 surveys completed. Many of the surveys were completed by hand at the recreation centers. The full survey report can be found in Appendix G.

3.5.4 Frequency of Visits to Parks & Recreation Facilities in Dayton

According to the Mail Survey, 83% of Dayton households visited a park or recreation facility in the past year (Figure

3.4), and **30% of those households visited 20 or more times**. Web Survey respondents reported visiting at higher rates (48% for 20 or more times), an expected result as these surveys were sent to programs users and many were completed within the centers.

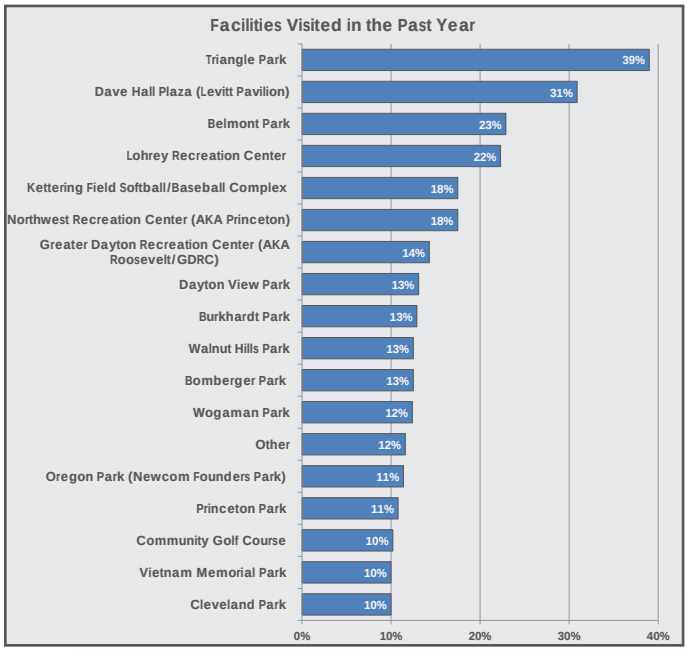
Figure 3.4: Frequency of Visitation



3.5.5 Recreation Facilities and Parks Visited (Mail Survey Only)

Figure 3.5 shows the rate of visitation to parks and facilities in Dayton over the past year. Triangle Park was the top-most visited park with a wide variety of amenities offered by both the Recreation Department and the Public Works Department. Dave Hall Plaza (Levitt Pavilion) came in second, followed by Belmont Park. Of the recreation centers, Lohrey Recreation Center is the top-most visited center followed by Northwest and Greater Dayton. Kettering Field Softball/Baseball Complex also received a high level of visitation in the past year.

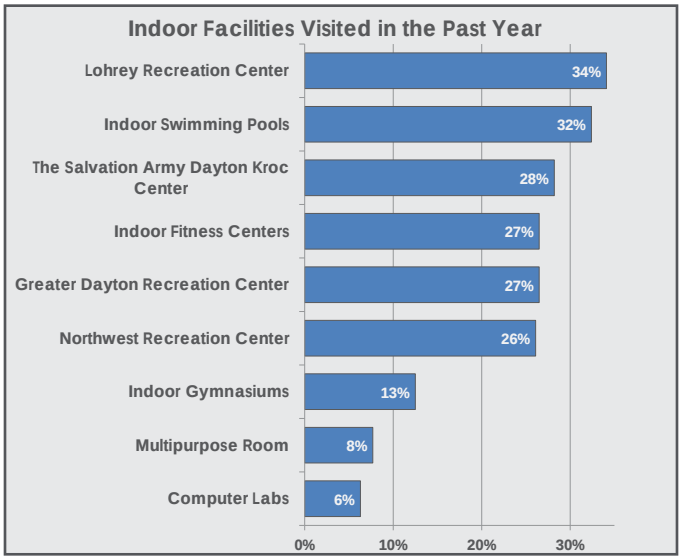
Figure 3.5: Parks Visited in the Past Year



Indoor facilities Visited in the Past Year

According to the results in Figure 3.6, Lohrey Recreation Center (34%) is the top-most visited indoor facility, followed by indoor swimming pools (32%) and the Dayton KROC Center (28%). These results show respondents prioritize indoor aquatic and indoor fitness activities. Although attending the Dayton KROC Center may be more expensive than Dayton's recreation centers, slightly more households were willing to visit the facility over GDRC and Northwest Recreation Center.

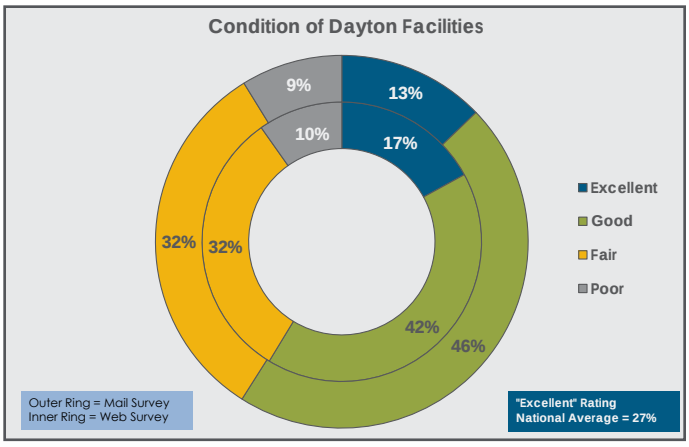
Figure 3.6: Indoor Facilities Visited



3.5.6 Physical Condition of Facilities Offered by Dayton

According to the Mail Survey, forty six percent (46%) of respondents rated the condition of Dayton's facilities as *good*, and **13% rated the condition of the facilities as *excellent*** (Figure 3.7). Taken altogether, a little over half **59% of respondents see the condition of Dayton's facilities as either *excellent* or *good***. These results indicate general satisfaction with the facilities but show some room for improvement, especially considering the benchmark average for excellent at 27% (13% in Dayton).

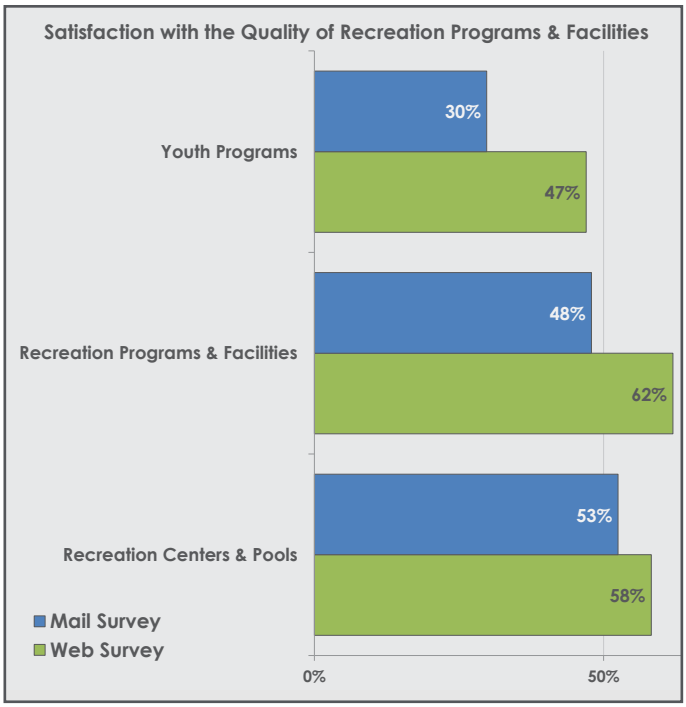
Figure 3.7: Condition of Facilities



3.5.7 Results – Quality of Recreation Programs and Facilities

Respondents were asked about the quality of youth programs, recreation programs and facilities, and recreation centers and pools offered by the City of Dayton. The levels in Table 3.8 below show a combination of very and somewhat satisfied responses. Overall, results show satisfaction with the recreation programs, centers, and pools, but lower satisfaction for youth programs. The Web Survey results reflect higher satisfaction overall than the random sample Mail Survey. Many respondents selected "neutral" as their response indicating that they were not sure and may not have used many of the facilities/ programs.

Figure 3.8: Quality of Recreation Programs and Facilities (Very or Somewhat Satisfied)



3.5.8 Events and Quality (Mail Survey Only)

Figure 3.9 shows household attendance at events over the past year. Just over three quarters of households (77%) attended the Independence Day Fireworks & Festival at Riverscape (77%) with the Summer Music Series ranking as the second most attended single event at 58% of households. Sixty percent (60%) reported attending any of Five Rivers MetroParks' events. Respondents were asked to rate the quality of these events (Figure 3.10) with most rating them as either good or excellent (87%).

Figure 3.9: Events Attended in the Past Year

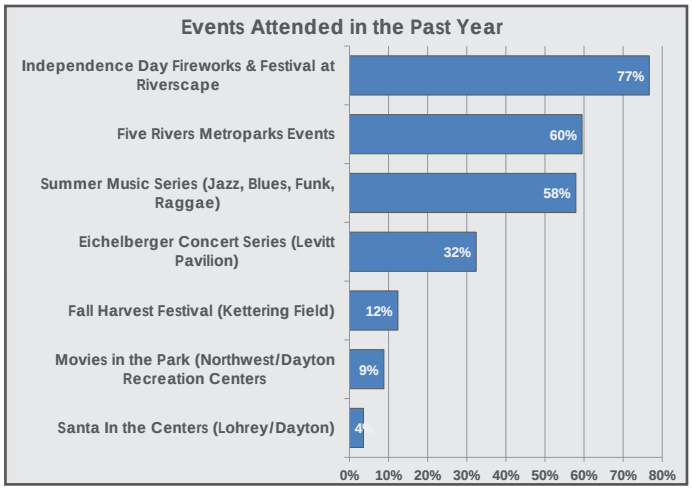
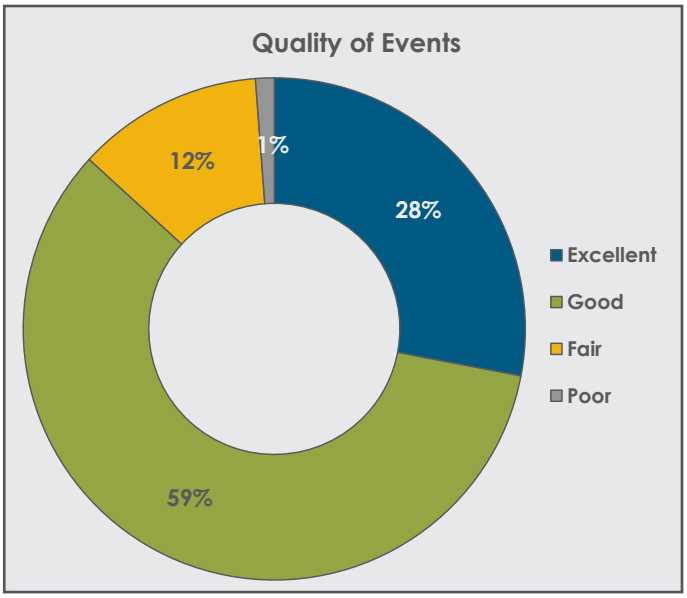


Figure 3.10: Quality of Events



3.5.9 Results – Activities Enjoyed and Desired

The percentage of households that enjoyed various activities at Dayton recreation facilities and parks over the past year are shown in Figure 3.11. The top activities include enjoying nature, walking/hiking/jogging, and attending festivals, concerts, & special events. Web Survey respondents were more likely to select activities provided at the recreation centers.

As a follow-up, households were asked which activities they would like more opportunities to do (Figure 3.12). Attending festivals, concerts, and performances were the top-most selected item for the Mail Survey households, while Web Survey respondents wanted more baseball/ softball opportunities. **Overall, the data shows respondents want more festivals, concerts, performances, additional aquatic programs, more pickleball opportunities, and nature access.**

Figure 3.11: Activities Enjoyed at Recreation Facilities and Parks

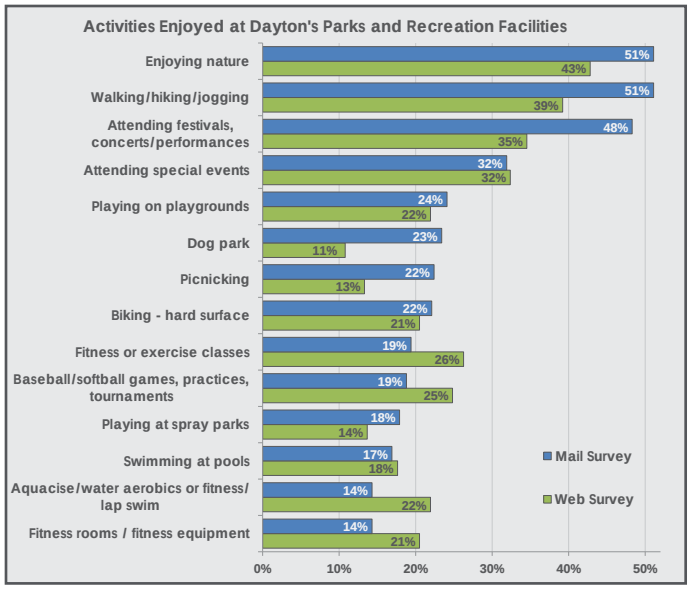
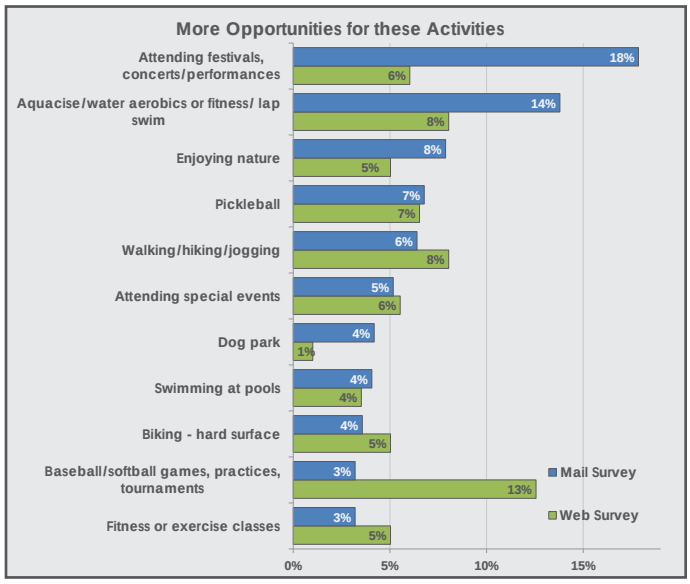


Figure 3.12: More Opportunities for these Activities



3.5.10 Household Needs and Desire for Facility Investment

Figure 3.13 shows the percentage of households that reported a need (i.e., currently use or would if it were available) for various facilities. **Natural area and walking/ hiking trails ranked as the top two most needed facilities, both at nearly 50% of households.** Neighborhood parks, community parks, picnic shelters, and recreation centers were next with over a third of households reporting a need. ***Recreation centers* were easily the most needed facility by Web Survey respondents.**

Mail Survey households were also asked to select their three most important facilities. The results, shown in Figure 3.14, again highlight the importance of natural areas and trails but also indicate the importance of recreation centers and neighborhood parks.

When asked what type of investment households would like to see for facilities, natural areas and trails again appear at the top of the list, as shown in Figure 3.15. **Neighborhood parks, large community parks, picnic shelters, recreation centers, and playgrounds also ranked at the top of the list with an emphasis on improvements to existing facilities over new development.** Web Survey results (not shown) are similar except for a higher investment desired for recreation centers and basketball courts.

Based on these findings, the **highest priority facilities for investment** are:

1. **Natural areas/nature parks**
2. **Trails-walking/hiking**
3. **Small neighborhood parks**
4. **Large community parks**
5. **Picnic shelters/picnic areas**
6. **Recreation centers**
7. **Playgrounds**

Figure 3.13: Facilities Used or Would Like to Use if Available

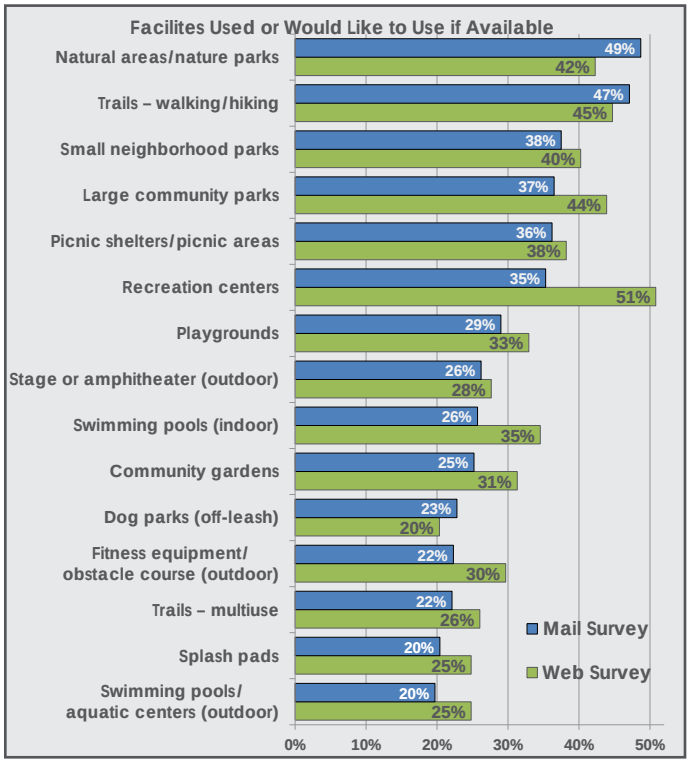


Figure 3.14: Most Important Facilities (Mail Only)

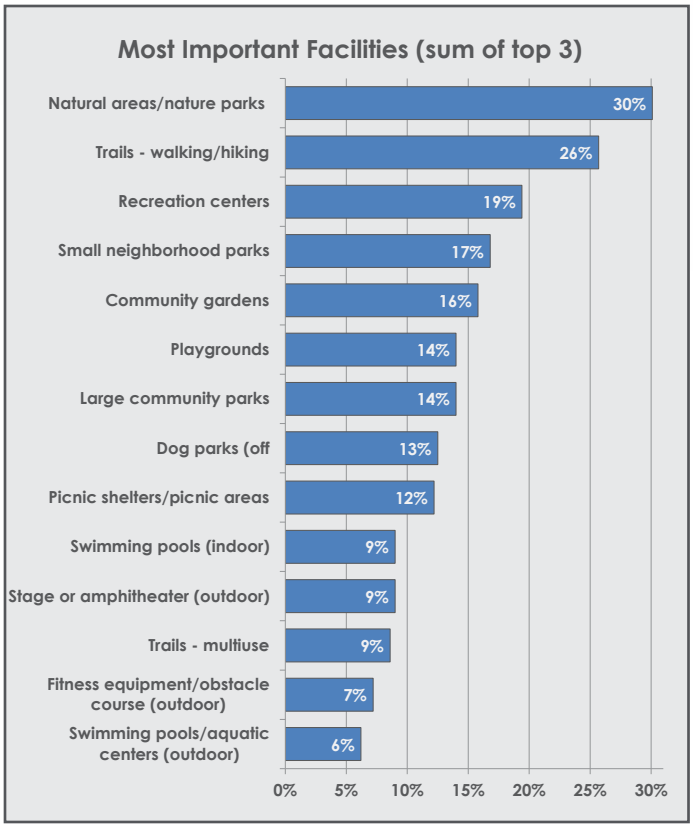
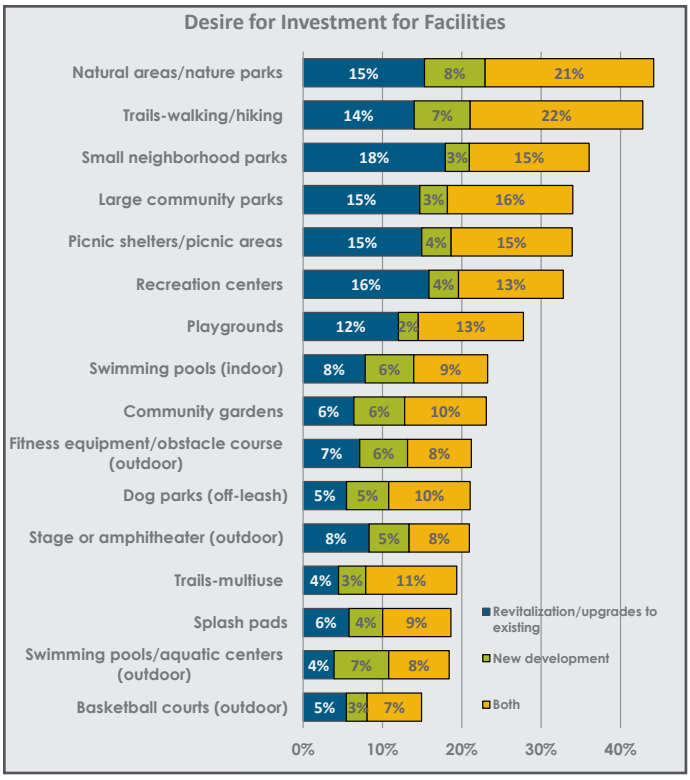


Figure 3.15: Desire for Investment for Facilities (Mail Only)



3.5.11 Household Needs and Desire for Program Investment (Mail Survey Only)

Figure 3.16 shows the percentage of households who have needs (i.e., currently use or would if it were available) for various program categories, similar to the earlier question about facilities. **Festivals easily ranked first with almost two thirds of households indicating need.** Concerts/ art performances were second with just under half of households indicating need.

Adult fitness and wellness, nature programs, and age 50+ programs were all desired by about a third or more of households. Households were also asked to select their three most important program categories. The results, shown in Figure 3.17, emphasize the strong importance of these same types of programs.

Households were asked to indicate the type of investment they would like to see for each type of program. **The results, as shown in Figure 3.18, indicate that Dayton households would like additional community events, adult fitness programs, age 50+ programs, and nature programs.** Dayton households would also like to see water fitness programs and art programs. Web Survey responses are not included in this chart; however, the results are similar but indicate a higher prioritization of adult sports programs and outdoor movies.

For most types of programs, households would like to see the variety of offerings expanded. The aquatic programs (lesson and fitness) are an exception as there is more emphasis on capacity and times than new programs. This difference likely reflects the current situation where the pools are not open at all operation hours due to lifeguard shortages.

Based on these finding, the **highest priority program categories for investment** are:

1. **Festivals**
2. **Concerts/art performances**
3. **Fitness & wellness programs (adult)**
4. **Programs for persons ages 50+**
5. **Nature programs**
6. **Aquatic programs (swim lessons and fitness)**
7. **Art, dance, performing arts (adult)**

Figure 3.16: Programs Used or Would Like Use

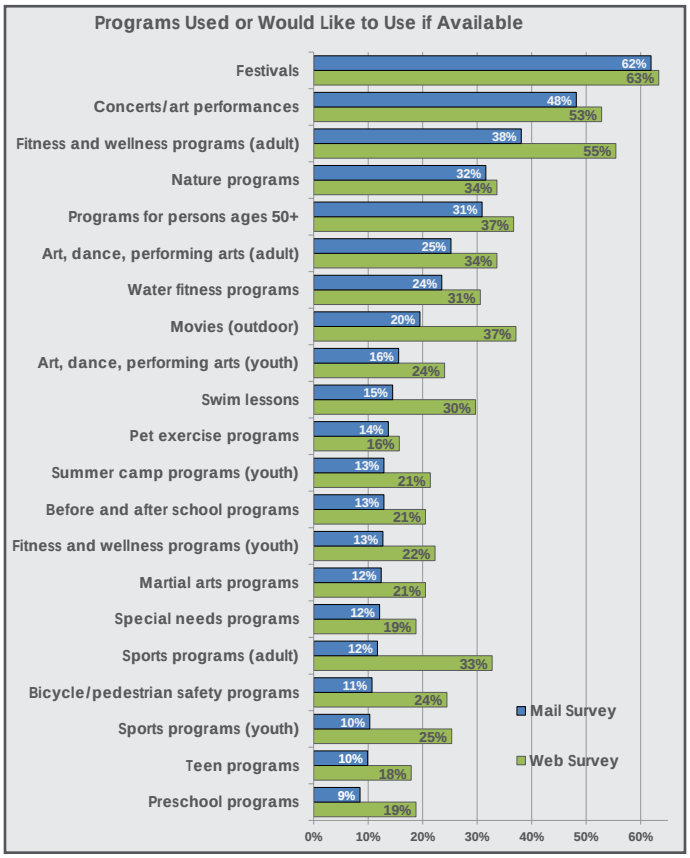


Figure 3.17: Most Important Programs (Mail Only)

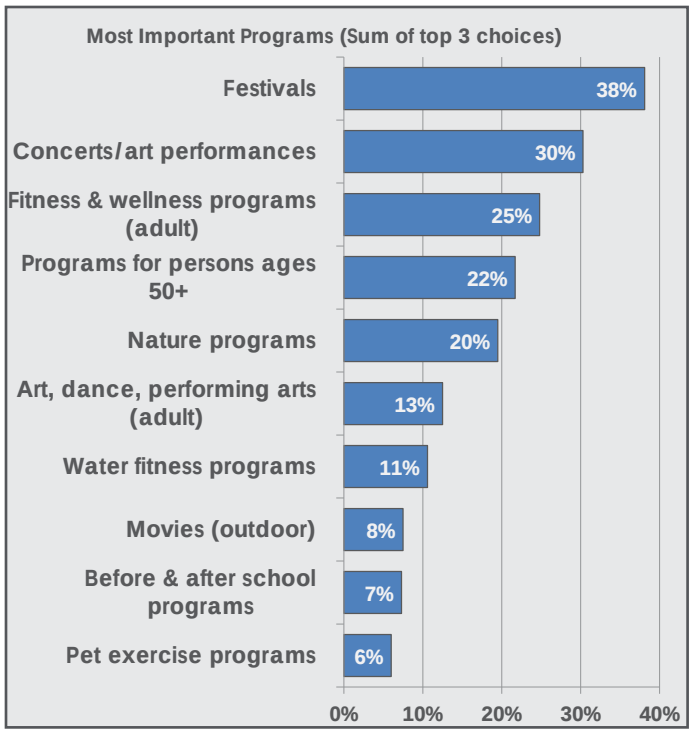
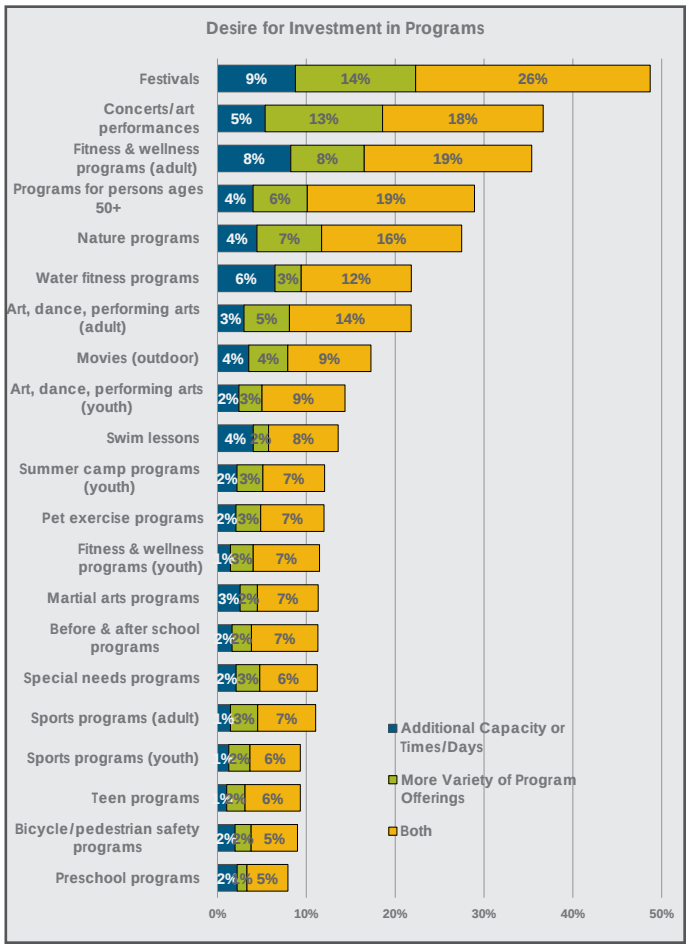


Figure 3.18: Desire for Investment in Programs (Mail Only)



3.5.12 Reasons for Not Using Dayton Recreation Facilities, Parks, and Programs

To potentially identify barriers, households were asked for reasons they do not use Dayton's facilities or programs. The top response, shown in Figure 3.19, was that they do not know what is offered, indicating a need for improved marketing and promotion of offerings. The second ranked reason was security or safety concerns, and condition of facilities was third, indicating a need for upgrades and improved maintenance.

Dayton is well above the benchmark median for each of these reasons, indicating that the city has an even greater need to address these concerns than most communities. It is also important to note that Dayton is significantly below the national average for those indicating that they do not have time or interest in facilities/programs, which would mean that the community would like to participate in Dayton's recreation offerings if they were more satisfied with what was available. With continued community engagement and improved marketing and promotion, Dayton Recreation can better understand what the community would like to see regarding programs and

facilities and, hopefully, mitigate some of these reasons for not using these amenities.

Respondents to both surveys were asked what would encourage them to use Dayton's offerings in Figure 3.20. Unsurprisingly, the results are directly related to the reasons for not using the offerings. Respondents would also like to see the addition of desired programs, along with better marketing/promotion, improved security, and upgraded facilities. Additional hours and days of operation round out the top five.

Figure 3.19: Reasons for Not Using Facilities, Parks, and Programs (Mail Survey Only)

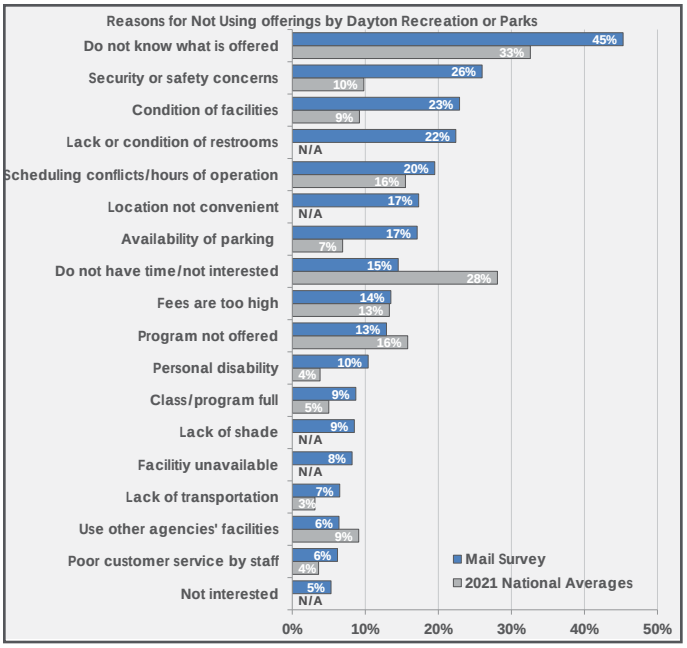
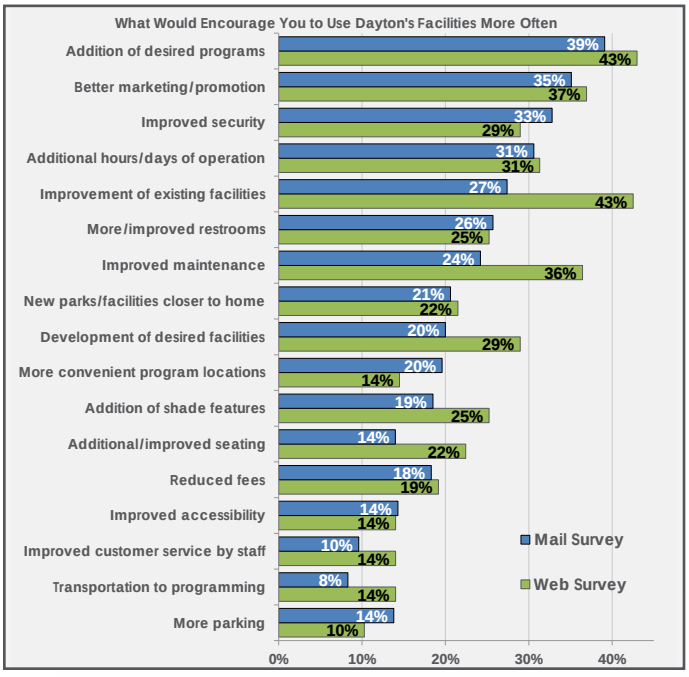


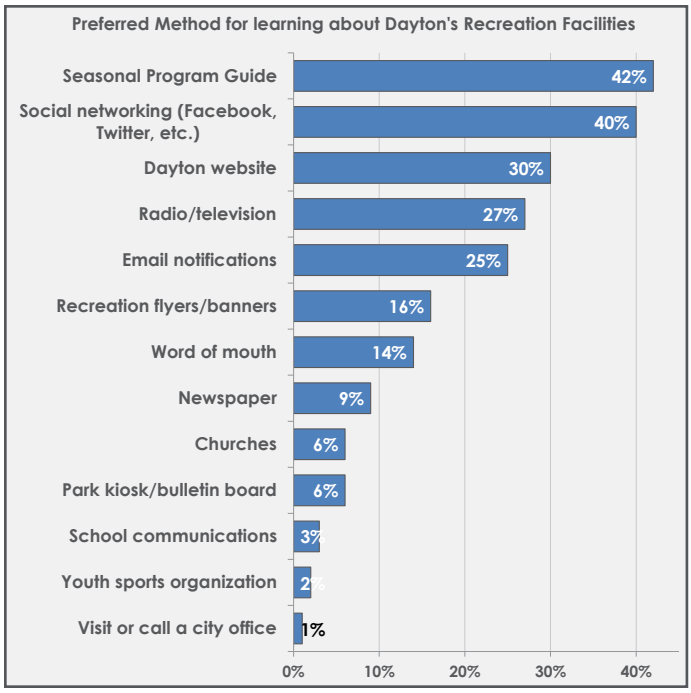
Figure 3.20: What Would Encourage You to Use Dayton's Facilities



3.5.13 Results – Preferred Method of Learning about Programs and Activities

Households were asked to indicate their preferred methods of learning about recreation facilities, programs, and events. As indicated in Figure 3.21, half of households currently learn by word of mouth, the most common method of learning of opportunities, followed by the Dayton website (43%) and social networking (42%). In contrast, households would most like to learn from the seasonal program guide (Figure 3.22), followed by social networking and the website. These results indicate that Recreation should step up efforts to connect residents to the seasonal program guide, including through social media and the city website.

Figure 3.21: Preferred Method of Learning

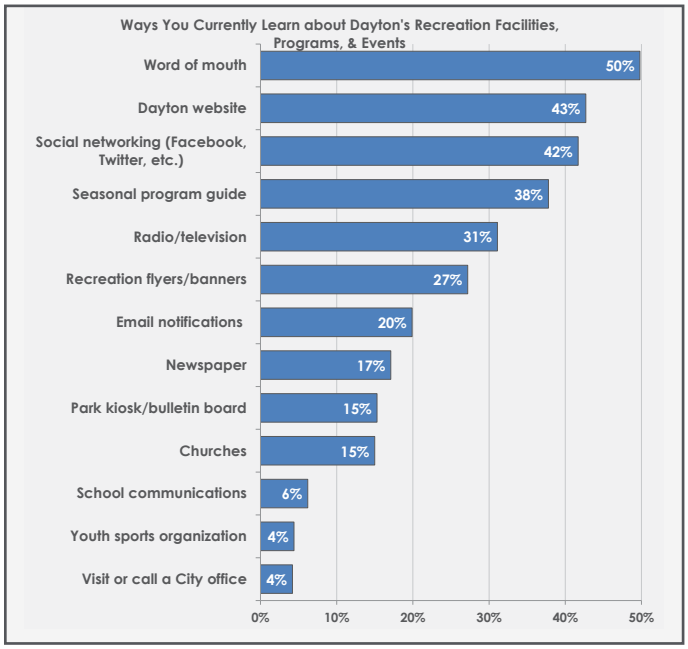


3.5.14 Results – Support for Actions to Improve Recreation and Parks

Mail Survey households were asked to rate their level of support for a series of actions the city take to improve the system of recreation facilities and parks. According to Figure 3.23, Dayton households most strongly support ensuring Dayton's recreation centers remain assets to the community and protecting the city's natural areas and resources. However, all but one action had more than 50% support, indicating that **Dayton residents are supportive of improvements to the system in general but place an emphasis on existing facility quality and availability**.

To close some parks to focus on improved quality at others received support of less than 50% of households, but only 26% indicated that they were not supportive with another 25% unsure (not shown). This result indicates that the public is likely open to potentially closing some parks if that allows for improved quality of those parks that remain.

Figure 3.22: Ways You Currently Learn About Recreation and Parks Offerings



3.5.15 Demographics of those Represented by Survey Households

Figure 3.24 compares the age ranges of those represented by respondent households with Dayton's population as a whole. Compared to the overall population of Dayton, the older cohorts were overrepresented in the surveys, especially ages 65-74, with the younger age groups underrepresented. Those in the 15-24 age range were the most underrepresented, potentially including the challenge to reach thecollege student population. Overall, the Mail Survey age demographics are closer to the actual representation of the city as would be expected by a random sample.

Figure 3.25 shows Dayton's income levels for the city as a whole and for the households who responded to both surveys. Those making over $75,000 per year were overrepresented in both surveys, but the difference was much more pronounced for the Web Survey. The households lowest income level were underrepresented. In general, lower income levels are more difficult to engage.

Race and ethnic background were only collected for the Mail Survey (Figure 3.26). Overall, there is a slight overrepresentation of respondents who identify as white (non-Hispanic), but overall, the results closely match the background of Dayton as a whole.

Figure 3.23: Support for Actions to Improve Recreation and Parks (Mail Survey Only)

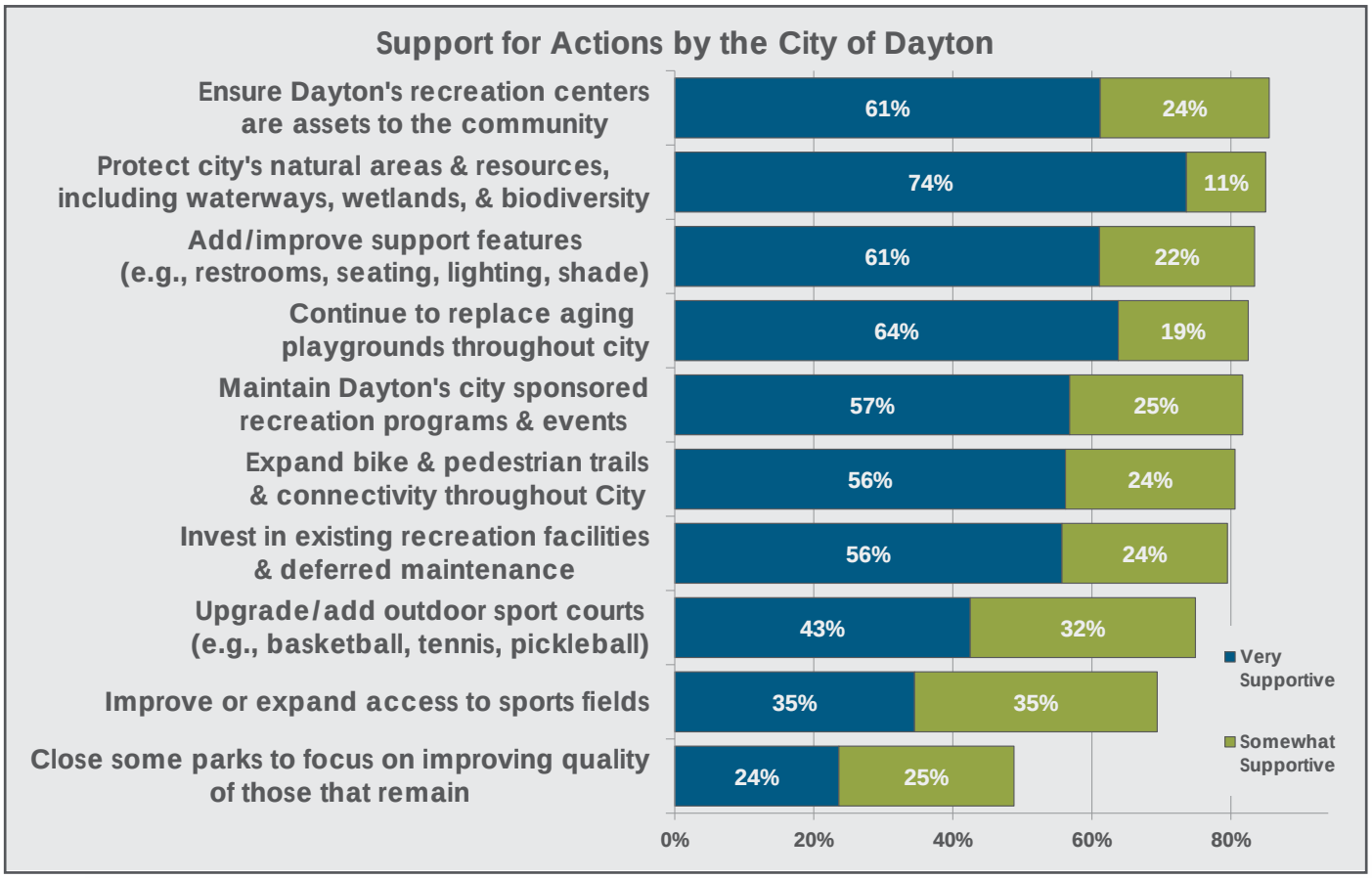


Figure 3.24: Age Comparison

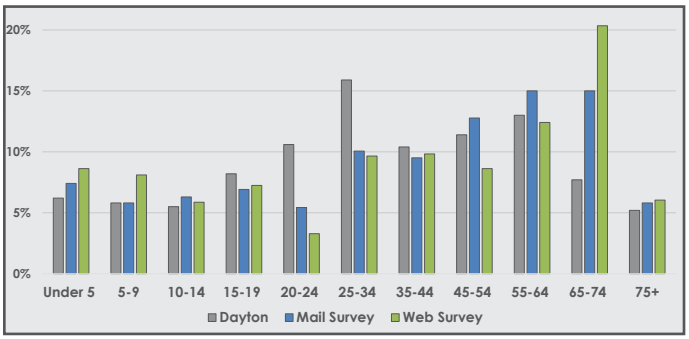


Figure 3.25: Income Comparison

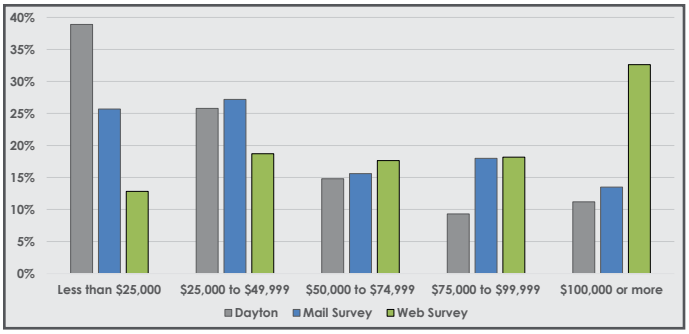
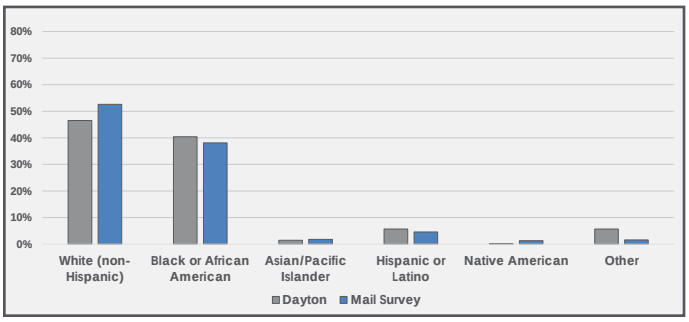


Figure 3.26: Race/Ethnicity Comparison (Mail Survey Only)



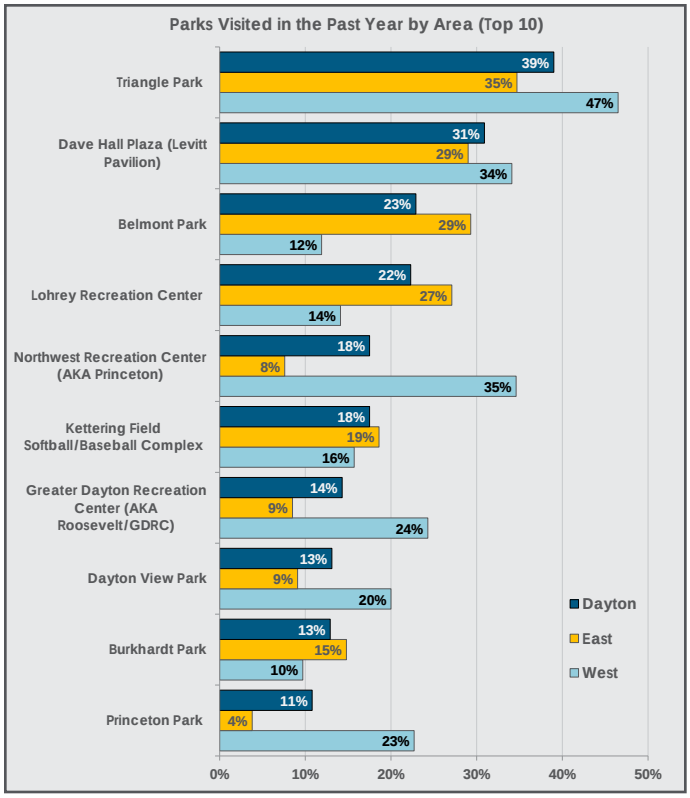
3.5.16 Survey Results by Area of the City

Results from the Mail Survey were filtered by areas of the city (east and west) to understand the diverse and varying needs of those living in different parts of Dayton. The ensuing text highlights the differences between these different parts of the city.

Parks Visited

As expected, parks visited correlate with where in the city the respondent lives. Those living on the west side of Dayton tend to visit parks and facilities on the west side. Of note, facilities that are more centrally located and somewhat equally accessible by both west and east side residents tend to be visited more by those on the west side. According to survey results in Figure 3.27, Triangle Park and Dave Hall Plaza were visited by more west siders than the city as a whole. Kettering Field was visited by almost the same proportion of households on both sides of the city.

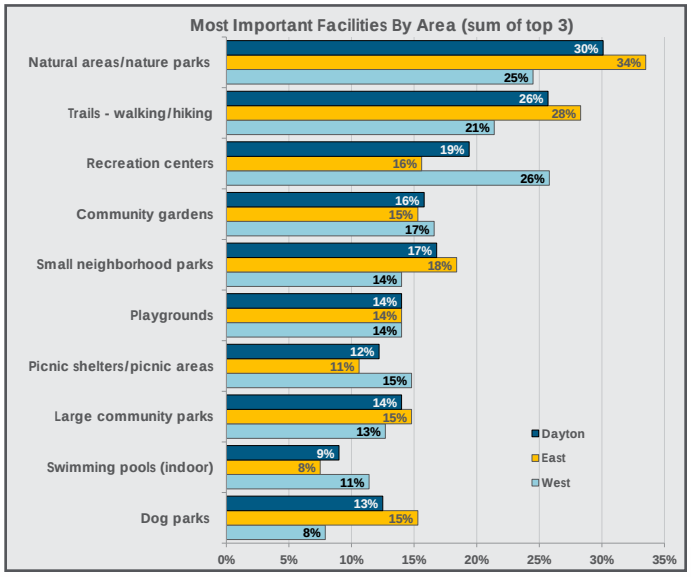
Figure 3.27: Parks Visited in the Past Year by Area



Most Important Facilities and Programs

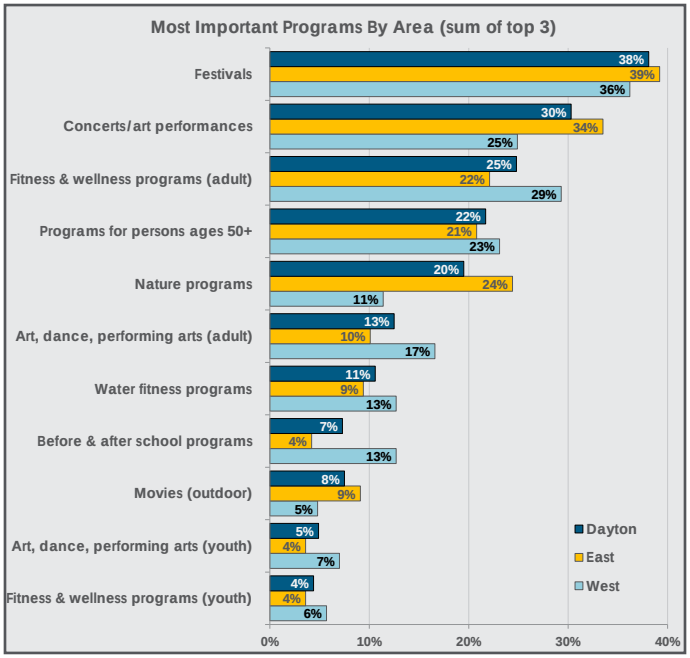
When comparing the most important facility responses in Figure 3.28, east side households indicated natural areas and trails as more important than west side households. For those living on the west side of Dayton, recreation centers are the most important, followed by natural areas. Dog parks were more important to east side residents, while picnic shelters were more important to west side residents.

Figure 3.28: Most Important Facilities by Area (sum of top 3)



When reviewing most important programs by area in Figure 3.29, all respondents value community events and gathering opportunities. The eastern respondents valued concerts/art performances more than west side households, while the western respondents valued adult fitness and wellness programs. Like natural areas, the east side households valued nature programming more than those on the west side.

Figure 3.29: Most Important Programs by Area (sum of top 3)



Motivation to Utilize Facilities by Area

The most notable difference in what would motivate additional use of Dayton's recreation facilities and programs between the two areas are for the addition of desired programs. Those on the west side indicated a stronger desire for more programs than those on the east side. However, this reason was the top ranking for both areas.

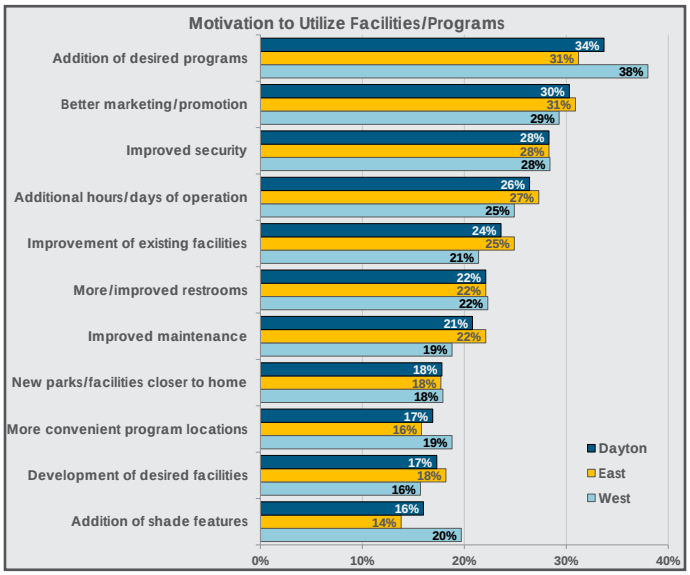
3.6 Conclusion

On the whole, the public engagement process provided an abundance of information about the needs and desires of Dayton residents. While a variety of methods were used to collect data, some trends do emerge with residents desiring:

Recreation Facilities & Programs

1. Upgrades & revitalization of existing facilities
   - Improved restrooms at both indoor and outdoor facilities
   - Improved ADA accessibility
   - Improved utilization of space within recreation centers

Figure 3.30: Motivation to Utilize Facilities/Programs by Area



   - Updated computers for both staff & patrons at the recreation centers
   - Upgraded fitness equipment at the recreation centers
2. Improved security
   - More staff at the recreation centers & facilities
   - Increased lighting at the recreation centers
3. Increased pool availability
   - Open GDRC pool
   - Extended hours/days
   - Additional programs
4. Athletic fields & courts
   - Additional multipurpose rectangular fields (esp. for soccer)
   - Improved fields at Kettering Field complex (drainage, fencing, etc.)
   - Updated tennis courts at Jim Nichols Tennis Center
5. More programs & events
   - Additional concerts, festivals, and art performances
   - Programs that are established through community engagement
   - More aquatics programs for both seniors and youth
   - Fitness and wellness programs
   - Active adult programs (50+)
   - Nature programs
6. Sports programs
   - Additional youth sports programs
   - Soccer programs

Parks and Open Space

1. Increased maintenance of parks
   - Additional landscaping
   - Increased maintenance of existing restrooms
   - Frequent trash pick-up and general maintenance
   - More frequent mowing of athletic fields
   - Removal of unusable features
2. Improved park experiences
   - Additional/updated restrooms
   - Increased lighting
   - More shade, benches, and picnic areas
   - Additional drinking fountains
   - ADA accessibility
   - More & upgraded restrooms
3. Established branding
   - Incorporate wayfinding and entrance signage that follow the same design standards
   - Incorporate neighborhoods into future park plans (neighborhood identified park features)
4. Additional trails
   - Walking/hiking/jogging
   - Connections to existing trails within Dayton
   - Loop trails in parks

Operations

- Utilize online registration for programs and have online registration available at the recreation centers
- Improved marketing and promotion of programs and facilities
- Increased and continuous community engagement
- Improved partnerships with other agencies to offer additional indoor and outdoor space and programs

The word cloud image below (Figure 3.31) uses font size to show how frequently a word appears in the survey results. While positive or negative value is not applied to a word, the graphic is valuable because it illustrates the elements of parks and recreation in Dayton that are most important to the community. This image is provided in conclusion to reinforce the myriad comments, suggestions, and requests heard during the multifaceted public engagement phase.

Figure 3.31: Public Input Word Cloud





4 VISION FOR THE FUTURE

4.1 Introduction

The Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan represents a collective imagination of the future. While the action plan component (Chapter 7) 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. Although primarily developed for the Recreation Department, the Public Works Department has agreed to adopt this strategic plan to apply to the park related elements of their operation and capital improvement.

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 Plan, and thereby shape the future of parks and recreation in Dayton. Goals and objectives are also included in this chapter, which are incorporated later in the Plan to categorize and better define the wide range of recommendations in the action plan.

Finally, the chapter includes updated level of service standards and guidelines that are consistent with the vision for the future of parks and recreation in Dayton. These targets help to quantify the future needs of the community and provide measurable outcomes for level of service throughout the city.

4.2 Vision

4.2.1 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

4.2.2 New Vision for Dayton 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 Dayton Recreation:

Everyone is engaged through high-quality experiences that connect the community and improve their wellbeing

4.3 Mission

4.3.1 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.

4.3.2 New Mission for Dayton Recreation

Building from the foundational visioning exercise conducted with the Steering Committee, the previous mission statement, and in consideration of the factors described above, the following is the new mission statement for Dayton Recreation moving forward:

We enhance quality of life through inclusive, dynamic, and high-quality programs and amenities

4.4 Values for Dayton Recreation

4.4.1 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

4.4.2 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. The Recreation Department has adopted the city's four values. However, using insights from the steering committee discussions based on feedback from public engagement, a fifth value was prepared to best represent the department. The following values are foundational for guiding the future work of the department:

Respect – We serve our citizens and one another with courtesy and dignity recognizing the impact our actions have on the quality of life now and in the future. We value the diversity throughout our community and organization.

Integrity – We are honest and ethical in all of our dealings with each other and with the public.

Accountability – In the performance of our duties, we are individually and collectively accountable to citizens, customers, and stakeholders. We are competent, responsible, and dedicated to providing effective and efficient services.

Commitment to Excellence – We provide quality services with a continuing focus on customer value and financial performance. These services are provided with clear communication, cooperation, and teamwork.

Inclusion – We offer accessible and welcoming opportunities that connect everyone.

4.5 Goals and Objectives

4.5.1 Function of Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives identify areas of strategic priority and provide 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," etc.)
4. Variable timeframes (0-2, 3-5, 5-10 years)

4.5.2 Goals and Objectives for Dayton Recreation

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

Goal 1: Responsive Recreation

Deliver a diverse array of programs that promote community fun and health

Objective 1.1 – Excellent Sports: Provide a wide variety of high quality, accessible sports opportunities

Objective 1.2 – Health & Wellness: Encourage exploration & growth through multigenerational physical and educational opportunities

Objective 1.3 – Engaging Programs: Offer year-round possibilities for interaction, fun, & learning for all

Goal 2: Modern Features

Offer excellent amenities that support recreational opportunities that inspire play and enjoyment

Objective 2.1 – Inviting Spaces: Provide innovative recreational facilities and amenities that connect and engage the community

Objective 2.2 – Updated Amenities: Pursue responsive improvement and strategic replacement of facilities and other amenities

Objective 2.3 – Proactive Maintenance: Improve safety, accessibility, quality, and stewardship by continuously monitoring needs and examining best practices

Goal 3: Continuous Engagement

Engage residents and partner agencies to ensure innovative, accessible, and inclusive experiences that respond to changing community needs

Objective 3.1 – Connecting Patrons: Build relationships with – and facilitate connections between – residents throughout the community

Objective 3.2 – Productive Partnerships: Build and maintain collaborative relationships to support community priorities

Objective 3.3 – Enhanced Promotion: Raise awareness and connect people to opportunities through a variety of methods of outreach

Goal 4: Effective Administration

Emphasize accountability and responsiveness to ensure superior service in an inclusive environment

Objective 4.1 – Welcoming Staff: Employ a responsive, engaged, and well-trained workforce

Objective 4.2 – Accountable Operations: Utilize performance standards and best practices to ensure quality and flexible services

Objective 4.3 – Reliable Funding: Explore creative funding strategies to ensure needed improvement and continued action

4.6 Strategies

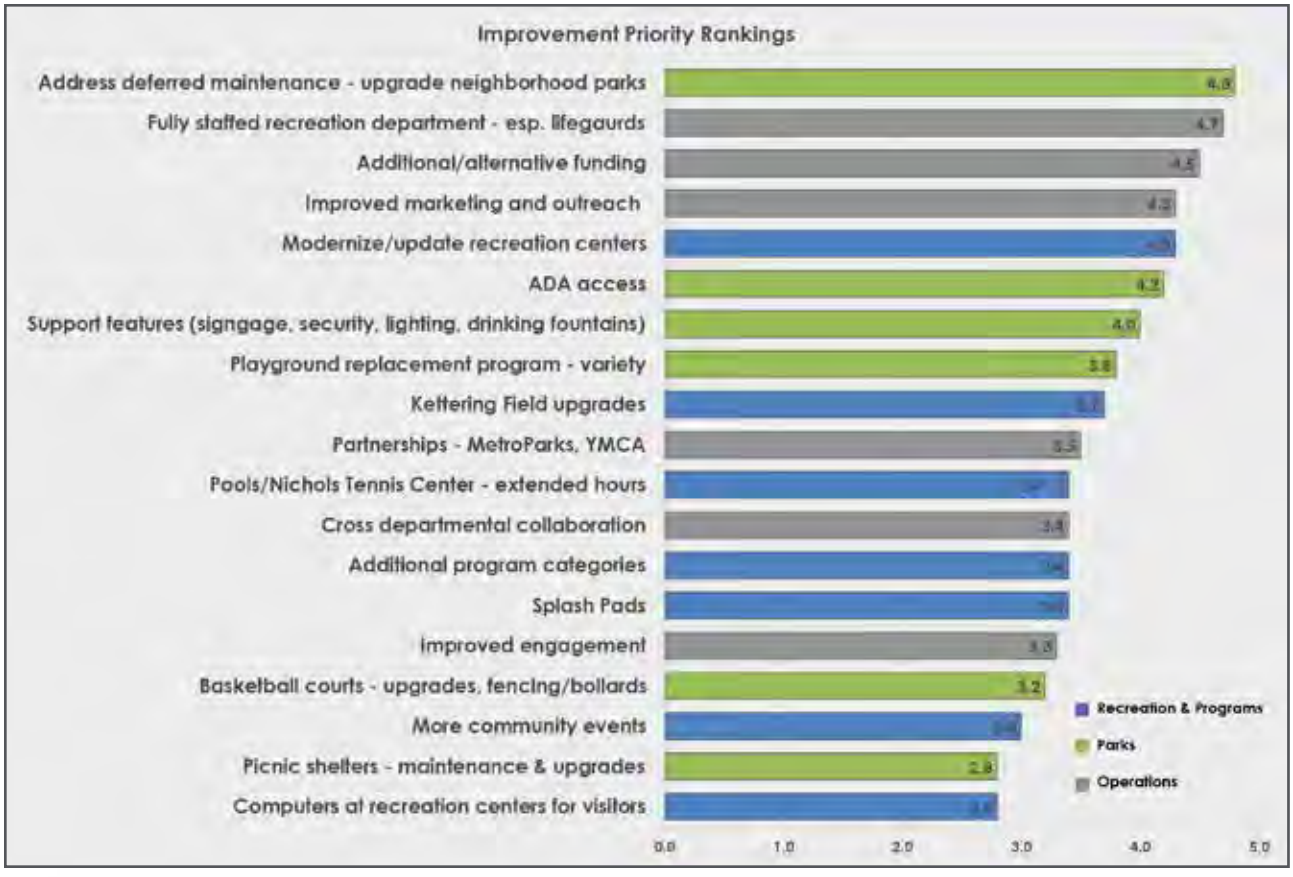
As already mentioned, specific strategies are provided for each of the objectives listed above later in this report. These strategies will be discussed in Chapter 5 (organized by category, like "programming" and "facility improvements") as well as listed in the Action Plan (Chapter 7), which also identifies a timeframe, responsible party, and potential funding source.

4.7 Improvement Priority Rating

At the end of the visioning process, the steering committee reviewed potential solutions and ranked capital and operational recommendations. This exercise helped to verify improvement priorities for this 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 5 as high priority and 0 as not a priority.

This priority ranking was used to help rank the importance of improvements but not necessarily the order in which they should be developed. Figure 4.1, identifies the capital improvement rating based on the average of the ranking for each item. These rankings, along with public input

Figure 4.1: Improvement Priority Rating



and analyses, help guide the process for recommending priorities and the level of service standards in the ensuing sections of this chapter.

4.8 Standards for Recreation Facilities in Dayton

Analysis of the level of service for parks and recreation in Dayton requires various perspectives to tell a complete story. A service level might be described as adequate by one method of measurement but deficient by another. For example, facility per population standards (i.e., measurements based on the total number of facilities) are useful for determining service levels of the system, but do not account for location, and therefore, which residents have access to them. It is critical to also consider the location of the city's facilities when determining the level of service. Accordingly, the service area mapping from Chapter 2 was considered as part of the development of these standards, along with the public engagement from Chapter 3.

Agencies also commonly identify acreage standards for parkland. However, Dayton has a large amount of public parkland and open space offered by both the city and others, especially Five Rivers MetroParks. As a result, setting population-based acreage standards for the City of Dayton, especially with a declining population, would not provide a useful metric for measuring level of service for city offerings. Instead, it would be more effective to focus on providing adequate and equitable access to facilities and services.

Standards provided in this chapter are meant to be achievable targets that can realistically be reached over the implementation timeline of this plan. Tailored specifically for Dayton, they are intended to be obtainable but also ambitious enough to inspire Dayton Recreation and Parks in their continuing work providing equitable services and improving the quality of life for residents.

4.8.1 Facility Level of Service Rationale

The following text provides the basis for the per population targets for each of the facilities in Table 4.1. 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).

Indoor Areas

- Recreation Centers – Set at current, meeting demand but upgrades needed
- Gymnasiums – Set at current, meeting demand but upgrades needed
- Pools – Set at current but including currently closed GRDC

Outdoor Fields & Courts

- Youth Baseball Fields – Set at current, meeting demand but upgrades needed
- Youth Softball Fields – Set at current, meeting demand but upgrades needed
- Multipurpose Fields – Set at increase due to demand and trends, includes practice fields
- Basketball Courts – Set at current, meeting demand but upgrades needed
- Tennis Courts – Set at current, similar to benchmark, meeting demand but upgrades needed
- Pickleball Courts – Set at increase to benchmark due to trends and growing demand

Outdoor Recreation Areas

- Playgrounds – Set at current, meeting demand but upgrades needed
- Picnic Pavilions/Shelters – Set at increase due to demand and current distribution
- Skateparks – Set at increase, could be accomplished by formalizing existing facility under overpass
- Amphitheaters – Set at current, meeting demand
- Dog Parks – Set at increase due to demand and trends, west side location potentially needed
- Splash Pads – Set at increase to due to demand and current distribution

4.8.2 Facility Level of Service Standards

The values in Table 4.1 illustrate potential need for various facilities. The largest current facility deficits are for multipurpose (soccer) fields (-7.2), pickleball courts (-5.8), picnic shelters (-7.5), and splash pads (-4.5). While values in Table 4.1 highlight what additional facilities are needed to adequately meet the demand, they do not indicate where in Dayton these new facilities should be located. The recommendations in Chapter 5 and 6 consider this information collectively with the service area analysis in Chapter 2.

Table 4.1: Facility Level of Service Standards

Facility	Per Population Target	Existing per Population	Existing Total Supply	Target	Surplus / Deficit	*Benchmark Median*
Indoor Areas						
Recreation Centers	45,000	45,881	3	3.1	-0.1	*59,400*
Gymnasiums	30,000	27,529	5	4.6	0.4	*N/A*
Pools	45,000	45,881	3	3.1	-0.1	*N/A*
Outdoor Fields & Courts						
Youth Baseball Fields	12,000	11,470	12	11.5	0.5	*6,800*
Youth Softball Fields	14,000	13,764	10	9.8	0.2	*12,700*
Multipurpose Fields	8,000	13,764	10	17.2	-7.2	*10,100*
Basketball Courts	3,800	3,823	36	36.2	-0.2	*6,500*
Tennis Courts	5,000	4,916	28	27.5	0.5	*5,500*
Pickleball Courts	14,000	34,411	4	9.8	-5.8	*13,600*
Outdoor Recreation Areas						
Playgrounds	4,000	3,933	35	34.4	0.6	*3,200*
Picnic Pavilions/Shelters	5,000	6,882	20	27.5	-7.5	*N/A*
Skateparks	70,000	137,644	1	2.0	-1.0	*69,000*
Amphitheaters	140,000	137,644	1	1.0	0.0	*69,800*
Dog Parks	50,000	68,822	2	2.8	-0.8	*60,500*
Splash Pads	12,000	19,663	7	11.5	-4.5	*N/A*

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates and benchmarking
2. Does not include parks by others or school grounds



5 RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The new vision where "everyone is engaged through high-quality experiences that connect the community and improve their wellbeing" emphasizes a desire to serve all Dayton residents. Youth, adults, families, seniors, and everyone in between need opportunities to connect socially and enjoy healthy, fun activities. This plan will direct Recreation in its efforts to shape a more equitable and better-connected future.

As described in Chapter 2, the Dayton community has changed since the previous plan was completed in 2003. The department has changed names, Recreation and Parks (now part of Public Works) have separated. The population has changed, and many facilities have been added, updated, or removed.

The COVID-19 pandemic also permanently impacted how visitors experience recreation facilities and parks. In a time of public health inequity and economic disruption, people everywhere felt the effects of having (or not having) access to open space and parks.[1] For more than three years, the coronavirus pandemic and its economic impacts blazed through communities, and public parks and open space offered and continue to provide respite, solace, and connection.[2] These past few years changed usage patterns and desires for recreation, and many of these changes are likely here to stay. Recommendations in this chapter directly result from pandemic driven changes, as well as other evolving needs of Dayton residents.

The recommendations of this chapter are presented in the following categories:

- Recreation Facilities
- Operations & Programming
- Staffing
- Professional Development and Accreditation
- Pricing Philosophy and Revenue Sources
- Recreation Capital Improvements and Cost Estimates

5.2 Recreation Recommendation Summary

Recreation recommendations represent high level, aspirational strategies and are, therefore, more general in nature. However, these actions refer to operational and capital improvements and are essential to the successful implementation of the goals of this Plan and represent ongoing efforts that require annual review and evaluation.

Top recommendations include:

1. Widely promote the revised mission, vision, and goals
2. Upgrade and modernize all three centers to address desired activities and programs; expand hours and open gym times
3. Open the aquatic center at GDRC
4. Provide consistent hours daily at all three pools to meet the demand for aquatic activities in Dayton
5. Utilize the teen space at Northwest Recreation Center and, if successful, add at GDRC and Lohrey Recreation Center
6. Improve GDRC with sound and privacy improvements at the multipurpose rooms
7. Update Belmont Pool (Lohrey); consider adding an auxiliary gym
8. Renovate classrooms, gym, and multipurpose room with stage at Northwest Recreation Center to accommodate more programs and rentals

[1] 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.lincolninst.edu/publications/articles/2020-10-room-roam-pandemic-urban-parks-what-comes-next.

[2] 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

9. Update and add fields at the Kettering Field complex to support growing sports needs in the community, especially soccer
10. Update the Kettering Field complex to a regional attraction with a wide range of amenities and improved connectivity
11. Update Jim Nichols Tennis Centers maintain the facility as a community asset
12. Continue to implement improvements at Community Golf Course and seek strategies to include more youth and teens in golf programming
13. Ensure ADA accessibility throughout Recreation facilities
14. Continuously evaluate the demand for new or expanded programs, making use of new facilities
15. Utilize dedicated staff to improve marketing and awareness with an active Recreation Department social media presence
16. Continuously seek partnerships for the development of facilities and programs
17. Revise the job descriptions and titles to match those commonly used in the profession
18. Update structure to allow for upward mobility within the department and true part-time positions
19. Encourage continued staff training for leadership and continued growth within respective fields
20. Maintain a clear pricing, cost recovery, and funding policies for Recreation
21. Identify alternative funding streams to implement this plan and improve the park system
22. Continuously engage the public throughout the implementation of this plan

5.3 Recreation Facilities

5.3.1 Recreation Centers

Dayton Recreation offers three recreation centers with indoor program and activity spaces – Greater Dayton Recreation Center, Lohrey Recreation Center, and Northwest Recreation Center. Each of these buildings needs some updates and improvements to better meet the current needs of users, which may have changed since they were originally constructed. When asked for their level of support for actions by the City of Dayton, efforts to ensure Dayton's recreation centers remained assets to the community ranked first with support from 85% of households.

The needs of each center are described below, but several issues apply to all centers. First, all centers requested Wi-Fi which was fortunately added during the planning process. Staff of all centers also requested computers for visitors for homework help, senior assistance, registration for programs, and general use. These requests were consistent with other forms of public engagement.

Engagement also indicated a desire for more open gym time and updated fitness equipment at all three centers. Transportation issues were also a consistent concern for both youth and seniors who have no way to reach centers but would like to participate. Finally, there were numerous requests for more weekend hours.

Greater Dayton Recreation Center (GDRC)

Because this recreation center has not had any major improvements since its construction, the spaces are not optimized to best meet the needs of users. The multipurpose rooms currently lack a ceiling, which results in a lack of privacy from the walking track above. Due to the nature of the concrete floors and block walls, these rooms also tend to echo throughout the center, causing disturbances to users and others at the facility.

These issues with the multipurpose rooms reduce both programming and rental opportunities. A sound dampening privacy screen or a ceiling over the rooms would address these issues. Additionally, the wall between the rooms was removed to allow for a larger space and larger programs, but there is currently no way to divide the rooms. A room divider would allow the space to be temporarily split into two rooms, as needed, accommodating smaller programs and additional rentals.

The aquatic center has been closed for over three years due to lack of lifeguards. The need to reopen the facility was mentioned by many throughout the engagement process. This aquatic facility was designed primarily for youth with engaging features focused on enjoyment, while the other two pools primarily offer lap lanes. At the open house workshop at this center many expressed the desire to reopen the pool. Locating and retaining lifeguards is essential for the operation of the aquatic facility and meeting the needs of the Dayton community.



GDRC Aquatic Center

Lohrey Recreation Center

Lohrey Recreation Center is overall in good condition for its age although it could use technological updates and improvement are needed to Belmont Pool. The lack of knowledge of the center was a common theme throughout the process. Several residents of the adjoining neighborhood noted that they just learned of the center before coming to

an engagement meeting. Consistent and visible signage directing users to the center would help improve awareness of the center and the programs offered. Despite the concerns of visibility and awareness, Lohrey Recreation Center was the most visited of the three centers, according to the random sample Mail Survey.



At the open house at this center and at the stakeholder meeting with staff, extended pool hours were a top desired improvement by the community. Multiple groups also expressed the need for programming (structured and unstructured) for teens, which could be partially alleviated by adding technology to the center, although a dedicated teen space would be optimal. This center also has less gym space than the other centers, so an auxiliary gym would be beneficial to accommodate additional programs and open gym times. It could also be designed to accommodate the desired youth golf programming.

The previous master plan for the system, completed in 2004, recommended three new recreation centers. Only two, including the Salvation Army Dayton Kroc Center, have been developed, leaving unmet needs for modern facilities in the eastern portion of Dayton. Optimally, the final new center would be a total replacement of Lohrey Recreation Center in the same park but potentially more visible from the adjoining roads. The modernization recommended above represent a good potential alternative if replacement is not feasible.

Northwest Recreation Center

The Northwest Recreation Center faces similar challenges as the other recreation centers regarding technology and desire for extended hours at Dabney Pool. However, the recent addition of a teen center has the potential to address some programming needs expressed by the community. Staff reported that many community members do not know this recreation center is available for their use, again pointing to the need for better promotion, marketing, and signage.

The stage in the large multipurpose room and the auxiliary gym are currently underutilized. The stage could host arts programs, including theater, music, and dance, but the acoustics in the room make it difficult to hear anyone at or near the stage. Improvements to this room should address this issue to allow this space to be better utilized. Additionally, this space can support many types of programs that are unlikely to be offered by the new YMCA located nearby.

Most of the rooms in the center, other than the new teen spaces, need renovation and floor replacement – consistent with the condition of the other centers – to better accommodate desired programs and rentals. The exterior of the building, especially the entrance, also needs cosmetic improvements to make the facility more inviting to the public.



5.3.2 Kettering Field

The Kettering Field property has been a recreational asset for the community for decades and continues to provide numerous opportunities to the Dayton community with diamond fields and an artificial turf football field (Centennial Field). Improvements are planned for the property, and a consultant has been selected following a request for proposals (RFP) issued earlier this year (2023).



This property has the potential to be much more than just a home for sports fields as it is currently. With additional features, Kettering Field could be transformed into a unique, citywide attraction. Site evaluations indicate substantial space for additional amenities at the Kettering Field complex, especially utilizing the additional acreage added after the demolition of a previous housing development. So far, this space has only been used for the development of Centennial Field, and this facility lacks parking.

Existing fields need upgrades, especially the 4-field complex nearest to I-75 and the three individual fields along the southern edge of the property. Consider artificial turf at some infields to reduce rainouts and attract tournaments. Permanent seating is needed, including covered bleachers to protect from both the sun and foul balls.

The City of Dayton currently has a limited number of multipurpose rectangular fields for soccer, lacrosse, and more. According to analysis in Chapter 2, Dayton is below both the benchmark and national medians. The sports that use these fields are also growing throughout the nation as well as in Dayton. Additionally, Dayton has a growing immigrant community that desires access to fields for soccer, but public engagement indicated difficulty finding fields to use.

Several of these fields are planned for Kettering Field which will help address these growing needs. If possible, some of these fields should have artificial turf to allow for extended use, including adult leagues.

A perimeter trail should be included in the improvements to connect the site and provide an additional highly-desired amenity as trails were frequently a top requests for desired improvements. Fitness equipment would be a great addition to enhance exercise opportunities at the park.

To become an attractive destination for all Dayton residents and families, the park should include a large all-access playground with an imaginative theme and unique equipment. Other potential features include basketball courts, volleyball courts, and pickleball courts, all of which were requested through public engagement. At least one additional restroom and concessions building is also needed, notably on the east side of the park.

5.3.3 Jim Nichols Tennis Center

The Jim Nichols Tennis Center is the location of about a third of the city's tennis courts, including the only clay courts available. The facility generates revenue as the clay courts require an hourly fee, but some improvements are needed to ensure it remains a high-quality asset to the community.



The clay courts are in good condition cosmetically but need some drainage improvements. The hard courts, in contrast, need to be resurfaced. Additionally, the pickleball lines on these courts are difficult to see and should be lined in a different color when repainted. The lighting also needs to be upgraded to LED fixtures, and the wood poles need to be replaced with metal or concrete.

The center does not currently offer any hours on weekends, but, according to the public engagement, there is some demand for use on Saturdays and Sundays. Recreation has offered weekend hours in the past but had limited participation. It is unclear whether that lack of participation was demand or awareness related, however. If additional hours are added, promotion of available play times will be necessary to ensure potential users are aware. The lack of hours on weekends also affects pickleball access as the nets are only available when the clay courts are open, and the facility is staffed.

5.3.4 Golf

Improvements to the Community Golf Course were not included as part of the scope of this project. The course has its own Golf Master Plan that the city is continuing to implement, funded by net revenue. Additionally, there were some golf related requests that surfaced during the engagement process.

The city has an ongoing equity and inclusion effort to make use inclusive and to bring more youth to the facility. Its location outside of the city is a problem for some to access, and the city should continue to seek strategies to provide transportation to the facility for youth and teens to promote the growth of golf programming. Additional efforts to bring golf programming to the recreation centers could also help encourage more use of the course.

5.3.5 Recommendations

Recreation Centers

<u>All Centers</u>

1. Upgrade and modernize all three centers to address desired activities and programs
2. Provide functional computers for public use; utilize recently added Wi-Fi
3. Hire additional lifeguards to allow for additional pool hours and daily operation of all three pools
4. Add open gym hours when staffing allows
5. Update and replace outdated fitness equipment and add more than one fitness/wellness class per day
6. Provide/maintain weekend hours and ensure awareness of availability (see section 5.5)
7. Improve security and lighting around entrances/exits and parking lots
8. Seek partnerships with schools and other agencies to improve access to transportation to centers and awareness of opportunities

<u>Greater Dayton Recreation Center</u>

1. Make any needed improvements and reopen the aquatic center
2. Add a ceiling for privacy and sound dampening over the multipurpose rooms to optimize space upstairs and make it more suitable for classes, programs, and rentals

3. Add a removable room divider to accommodate smaller classes
4. Create a dedicated teen space

Lohrey Recreation Center

1. Make needed improvements to keep Belmont Pool operating
2. Place strategic signage outside/near the recreation center
3. Create a dedicated teen space
4. Consider adding an auxiliary gym to provide amenities consistent to the other centers and to allow for additional program opportunities
5. Consider total replacement of the aging facility to maximize offerings

Northwest Recreation Center

1. Renovate multipurpose room and improve acoustics from the stage area to expand rental and program capacity, including arts programs (e.g., theater, music, dance)
2. Renovate smaller classrooms to better accommodate desired programs and rentals
3. Upgrade the exterior of the building, especially the entrance, to make the facility more inviting to the public
4. Improve the ceiling/roof at Dabney Pool
5. Renovate and replace flooring at the main gym; add pickleball
6. Utilize recently added teen space for programming, both structured and unstructured, as determined through engagement of users
    - Use this space as a model for adding teen areas at the other two centers

Kettering Fields

1. Develop a perimeter trail to provide connectivity and recreational opportunities
2. Add outdoor fitness equipment to complement the proposed trail and provide training opportunities
3. Upgrade the baseball/softball fields to better meet the needs of local teams and to ensure the complex viable for tournaments
    - Add a restroom/concessions building at the smaller fields on the eastern side of the property
    - Provide ADA accessibility to fields, seating areas, and dugouts
    - Provide accessible spectator areas with shade at all fields
    - Add/replace field lighting (LED fixtures)
    - Upgrade parking and include parking at other areas on site
    - Utilize the paved walking trail around perimeter of the park for connectivity and to provide activities for tournament attendees
4. Add parking to serve the existing artificial turf football field and future fields
5. Add multipurpose rectangular fields to the site to meet the growing demand for soccer and other growing sports
    - Add artificial turf at some fields to allow for extended use and potentially adult sports
6. Add a large all-access playground with unique features to attract families to the property
7. Add indoor and outdoor basketball courts in a visible and accessible portion of the site; demolish old facilities
8. Add pickleball courts to address the needs of this fast-growing sport
9. Add sand volleyball courts for an additional amenity not currently available at City of Dayton parks
10. Include multiple picnic shelters for community gatherings, events, team meetings, and shaded seating

Jim Nichols Tennis Center

1. Resurface the hard courts
2. Improve drainage and surface at clay courts
3. Upgrade court lighting to LED fixtures
4. Consider replacing the storage/staff building with a larger structure that is more visible to users, potentially with restrooms and changing areas
5. Upgrade the sidewalks from the parking area to the other amenities
6. Extend time of operation to include weekend hours
    - Promote extended availability to ensure awareness
7. Consider expanding the center to include pickleball courts (long-term)

Golf

1. Continue to implement improvements at Community Golf Course according to the Golf Master Plan
2. Continue to seek strategies to provide transportation to the facility for youth and teens to promote the growth of golf programming

5.4 Operations & Programming

5.4.1 Observations and Analyses

Dayton Recreation ensures that residents enjoy a variety of programs at both indoor and outdoor facilities. The previous section summarizes needs and recommendations for the facilities. This section looks at the programming desires of Dayton residents and the operations that support those programs as well as the facilities needed to accommodate them.

5.4.2 Programming

Dayton Recreation currently offers a wide array of programs; however, specific deficiencies were revealed through the public input process related to both the programs offered and awareness of those offerings. The main reason for not participating in programs, according to the Mail Survey, is due to the lack of awareness of what is available. Nearly half (45%) of households indicated this reason, by far the top reason cited. At the open houses, programming received the second highest allocation in the dollar voting exercise, and the most common topic of discussion was the need for additional programs. The largest number of households (40%) indicated that the addition of desired programs would increases their participation in offerings by Dayton Recreation.

Overall, residents indicated desire for more community gatherings, aquatic programs, fitness programs, and engagement with nature were also highly requested. Open house attendees indicated that they would like to see more teen programs and youth sports opportunities. The ability to address these potential growing needs is limited without additional resources, both staff and facilities.

Most of the unmet program needs could be offered at existing facilities with the improvements described above and if the recreation centers were fully staffed with experienced individuals. Several staff members indicated the desire for more involvement in program planning, so there may be potential for additional programs through existing employees once the centers are fully staffed.

The following program needs were identified as the highest priority through the public input:

- Festivals
- Concerts/art performances
- Fitness & wellness programs
- Programs for persons ages 50+
- Nature programs
- Aquatic programs (swim lessons and fitness)
- Art, dance, performing arts
- Teen programs
- Youth sports and tournaments

Aquatic Programs

More aquatic programs were requested through all methods of public engagement. Specifically, Dayton residents would like more opportunities for swim lessons (youth and adult) and water fitness programs at all three centers. The first step is to open all three pools every day that the centers are open. The main challenge is the lack of lifeguards which will take time to address, but this plan includes some potential strategies. Additionally, many in the community do not know how to swim which contributes to the lifeguard shortages. A partnership with Dayton Public Schools to ensure that every child learns to swim would be beneficial to the whole community.

A potential partnership with the University of Dayton to secure lifeguards and offer college credits, in addition to them performing other practicum duties, may help the lifeguard shortage. According to the Stop Drowning Now (501c3), endorsed by the United States Swim School Association, in the US, an average of 3,500 to 4,000 people drown per year. That is an average of 10 fatal drownings per day. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children. When parents have no or low swimming skills, their children are also unlikely to have proficient swimming skills. Sixty-four percent (64%) of African-American, 45% of Hispanic/Latino, and 40% of Caucasian children have few to no swimming skills (more on lifeguards and lessons in subsection 5.4.7).



Northwest Camp Aquatic

Festivals, Concerts, and Cultural Arts

Overall, Dayton residents expressed a desire for the kind of programs that bring the community together and can be enjoyed by all ages. The city currently offers a concert series downtown at the Levitt Pavilion. The concerts are organized by a partner organization, Levitt Pavilion Dayton. It is not clear whether residents truly need more concerts or if they are unaware of these opportunities.



Dayton Greek Festival

In response to the desire for more festivals, Recreation should look for opportunities for more of these opportunities, with

additional promotion to ensure awareness. Partnerships with interested outside groups should also be considered. These programs could be promoted through city efforts as well.

The demand for all types of cultural arts, including art, dance, and performing arts should be evaluated since the department does not currently provide any of these programs, and they were a recurring theme of the engagement process. Recreation has the facilities needed to offer these programs (although not the staff), especially after improvements are made to the recreation centers.

Senior/Active Adult Programs

As noted in Chapter 2, Dayton has an aging population and a growing percentage of residents older than age 65, like most of the country. Given this aging population, it is unsurprising that many residents would like to see more age 50+ programs. Additionally, it is important to note that many citizens who qualify as "seniors" based on age (an arbitrary delineation) do not self-identify as seniors; they will sometimes elect not to participate in senior-targeted programs due to stigma or perception of aged people. This problem is common wherever communities advertise programs for "seniors" alone. It is important to consider branding and marketing more active programs geared towards this age group as "active adult programs."



Senior Fitness

The department should provide additional senior programming in all three centers. There are also many opportunities for outdoor senior programming, especially once upgrades are made to Kettering Field. The property could host various fitness programs using the proposed equipment and walking trail. Although growing for all ages, pickleball remains a popular sport with the 50+ community, and the proposed courts provide opportunities for more leagues, tournaments, and educational programs.

Teen Programs

The need for programs and activities to engage teens was a frequent subject of discussion throughout the planning process. Currently, there are limited opportunities for this age group at the recreation centers and programming in general, other than sports and open gym. As noted previously, teen space at each center would be optimal, but the new spaces at Northwest Recreation Center are a great start. Teens often prefer unstructured activities, and Recreation should engage with the users of the new center to identify specific programming that would bring more teens to the department's centers and programs.

As described in Chapter 2, Esports are growing in popularity and can serve this hard-to-reach age group. Currently, the recreation department does offer an Esports league from at home, but this program does not have the same social aspects as in-person opportunities. The new space at Northwest Recreation Center provides a great location to experiment with some of these programs.

A mobile teen center would provide potential to engage the entire community, including those who do not currently have transportation to a recreation center. This program would require a vehicle, equipment, and a staff person to run the program. However, this type of program has been gaining in popularity throughout the country.



Teen Programs

Nature Programs and Environmental Education

Throughout the engagement process, residents indicated a desire for more access to natural areas and nature programs in Dayton. Natural areas/nature parks were ranked as the second most important facility in the Mail Survey, and they were a high priority for improvement, according to the findings by ETC Institute. According to the Mail Survey, over 80% of households support preservation of open space, with 70% very supportive.



School program with Naturalist by Five Rivers MetroParks

This type of program would be best accomplished through a partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks. They have knowledge and the staff required to provide these programs, so it does not make sense for Dayton Recreation to attempt to duplicate these offerings, However, the department should make additional efforts to connect participants to these programs by inviting MetroParks to the centers for nature programs and/or finding transportation to MetroParks facilities for those who are interested.

Other Programs Needs

In general, engagement indicated a lack of non-sports programming and all types of programming for adults. Other program categories Recreation should consider:

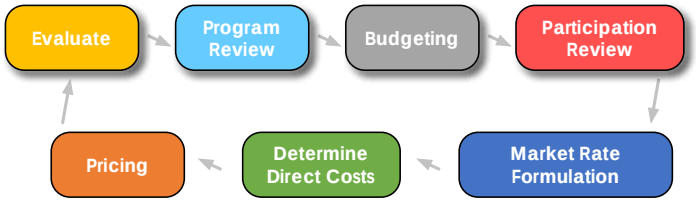
- STEM classes
- Adult sports
- Literacy programs
- Programs for adults younger than age 50
- Activities for parents/children during programs and events

5.4.3 Annual Operations Plan

Creating an annual plan allows the department to establish goals for both internal operations and external performance (i.e., programming). Figure 5.1 illustrates the ongoing evolution of a typical recreation agency's working operations. Each cycle begins with an annual plan and ends with evaluation. An annual operations plan is helpful for establishing pricing and costs, as well as for defining more specifically the ways which the agency will benefit the community; a yearly evaluation is critically important to ensure efficiency, appropriateness, and vitality.

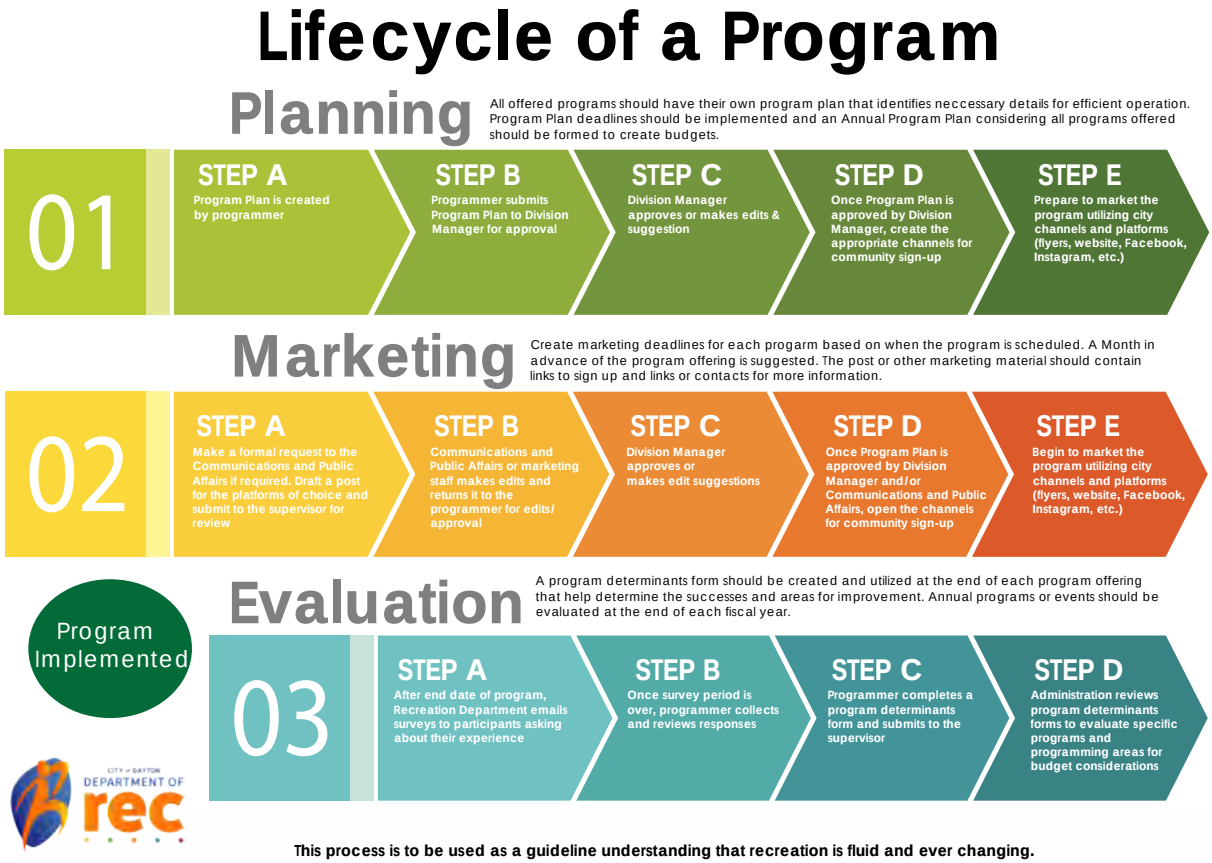
Dayton Recreation must consider overall operations in their entirety then determine what operations the department should "stop, start, or continue" and program. Hosting a year-end retreat for the department staff is a helpful way to collectively evaluate performance and to identify goals and objectives for the coming year.

Figure 5.1: Ongoing Annual Operation Plan Diagram



New and existing program offerings require a process to evaluate the success of each program. Programs offered by vendors should be cost neutral to the city with any revenue used to support future city programs or scholarships for those who cannot afford a program. Pricing philosophy is described in section 5.7.

Figure 5.2: Program Life Cycle



5.4.4 Program Life Cycle

While an annual plan is a broad overview, a more granular approach to programming would be to establish a "program life cycle" that details a formal process for establishing and continuing a specific program. Three main sections make up the life cycle including the planning portion, the marketing portion, and the evaluation portion.

The planning portion focuses on establishing the details of the program itself, similar to the information requested in the ongoing annual operation plan. Once prepared, the program plan is submitted by a programmer or vendor to the Director with marketing following, once approved. Coordination with the Communications and Public Affairs or the proposed Manager of Community Engagement and Marketing (more information below) is needed prior to publishing the program for community consumption. After the program has been marketed and participants have registered, the program is implemented. Finally, after implementation, the program should be evaluated based on established program determinants to determine the successes and areas for improvement and ultimately, whether the program should continue and is beneficial to both the city and the community.

5.4.5 Recreation Advisory Board

The city should create a Recreation Advisory Board to provide programming and operational guidance and serve as ambassadors for all recreation facilities and programs in Dayton as well as the Parks. This structure will allow for a more cohesive support group for recreation opportunities in the city. Members should be appointed by the City Manager's Office with representatives from all areas of Dayton, representing a cross-section of the community.

The Board may be comprised of representatives of the city, Dayton Public Schools, and other partner organizations. Goals of the Advisory Board include:

- To communicate the agency's mission, values, and vision to the community
- To ensure that the city is responding to the community's needs for recreation
- To confirm that city improvement strategies are consistent with this and other planning efforts
- To coordinate efforts of other entities to avoid duplication
- To help address the needs of underserved populations identified in this Plan

5.4.6 Community Engagement and Promotion

As noted above, lack of awareness is a major reason for lack of participation in programs and facilities offered by Dayton Recreation and the city overall. Staff also reported a lack of awareness of upcoming programs. Issues with promotion and marketing were a major theme of the engagement. Better marketing and promotion were the second most cited change that would encourage more use of Dayton Recreation offerings, with over a third (35%) of households identifying this need.

As noted above, numerous residents indicate that they were unaware of recreation centers and other facilities in their neighborhoods. Many staff are even unaware of much of what the city has to offer. Based on the high percentage of households indicating lack of awareness, the current marketing strategies are insufficient to reach many in the community.

Residents would most like to learn about opportunities through the seasonal program guide and social networking. Next, they would like to learn through the website, radio/ television, and email. Accordingly, the department should increase efforts to connect the program guide to residents, including through social media platforms, email, and the department website.

Social Media

Many recreation and park departments manage their own social media pages, including nearby Kettering, Washington Township, and Centerville-Washington Park District and larger Ohio agencies, such as Cincinnati Recreation Commission and Columbus Recreation and Parks. Columbus even has a separate website for their department. Dayton Recreation does not currently manage any social media accounts. In addition to reduced levels of awareness, the lack of social media pages leads to confusion when users decide to make their own, unofficial pages.

Social media platforms are useful – and necessary – for staying connected to users, but they can be a challenge to sustain and update with engaging, interactive content, especially without dedicated staff. Additionally, promoted postings can reach residents who do not follow the department's (or the city's) accounts. Promoted postings are inexpensive and will allow the department to reach less engaged residents.

Dayton Recreation should manage official social media accounts on multiple platforms to improve awareness throughout Dayton. Frequent posting should highlight the recreation facilities and programs available in Dayton. This marketing could also help improve awareness of the parks in the city, while also reminding residents that those facilities are offered through the Public Works Department. It is necessary to have a qualified and trusted staff member (i.e., Manager of Community Engagement and Marketing) in charge of all accounts with all posts following city guidelines. Conditions related to programs and events can change rapidly, and the department needs the ability to reach the public quickly.

Ongoing Engagement

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 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.

Once improvements are made (or programs are added), it is equally important to make the public aware of these new offerings. Promoting successful implementation of this plan shows residents that they have been heard, and the city is making efforts to improve their quality of life. Seeing these results also helps encourage residents to participate in the future.

5.4.7 Partnerships

As noted throughout this chapter, collaborative partnerships will continue to play a critical role in the future of recreation in Dayton. Through strategic and transparent partnerships, the city and the department can potentially reduce costs and generate additional revenue while adding offerings. In stakeholder conversations, the need for partnership and collaboration emerged repeatedly.

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



Dayton Bike Yard

The city has an opportunity to establish more consistent lines of communication with existing and potential partner groups such as Dayton City Schools, University of Dayton, Wright State University, Five Rivers MetroParks, the YMCA, and private recreation providers. Recreation must continue to partner with Public Works who provide maintenance of all of their facilities as well as the parks. Other city departments such as the Police Department, who indicated a desire for a closer relationship with Recreation's programs and events, are potential partners and already offer some programming that could be used for mutual promotion.

The department should consider hosting semiannual meetings with all partners to plan for coordination and mutual promotion. 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.

The recently opened Dayton Bike Yard at Welcome Park is a great example of a partnership to expand offerings in Dayton. The project began with the development of a bicycle playground funded by private donations and grants. Through efforts of partners, including Miami Valley Mountain Bike Association, the project eventually turned into the regional attraction it is today with more than $2 million invested in the park.

Partnerships extend beyond just the development of the facility, Miami Valley Urban League, through the Dayton Foundation, created a Community Bike Fund that seeks to raise $25,000 to provide neighborhood youth with mountain bikes.[3] The Dayton Bike Yard now has its own website to promote the facility, provide information, and solicit donations.[4]

5.4.8 The Need for Lifeguards and Learning to Swim

A study by the USA Swimming Foundation found that 64% of Black children in the United States are unable to swim and are, as a result, nearly six times more likely to drown in a swimming pool than white children. Hispanic children have similar challenges. Parents who cannot swim tend to raise children who are also unable to swim. Approximately 46% of Black children and 47% of Hispanic children have access to swim lessons, compared to 72% of white children.

According to an article in the August 2023, National Recreation and Park Association magazine, "swimming can be a source of joy, but it also impacts physical health, wellness, and socio-emotional variables, such as where families socialize and vacation. The low-swimming ability of children affects communities impacted by historical bias as well as barriers to health, such as poverty. It is a national issue, but solutions must occur at a local level. Working with local organizations to find innovative solutions to problems can have a tremendous, long-term impact on community programs and the community itself."[5]

Teaching all children to swim saves lives. Through its three recreation centers and indoor pools, the City of Dayton has the opportunity and the aquatic facilities to ensure all children can take swimming lessons. Unfortunately, despite efforts to hire them, the Recreation Department currently has two major resource issues: the closure of the pool at the Greater Dayton Recreation Center and a continual shortage of lifeguards. Throughout this master planning

[3] Frolik, C. (2022, August 10). What you need to know about bike yard, Dayton's first Bike Park: Contract approved for work. https://www.daytondailynews.com/local/what-you-need-to-know-about-bike-yard-daytons-first-bike-park-contract-approved-for-work/TGKJEKY3JJGPLOPCAXPBC2BVJE/

[4] Dayton Bike Yard, https://daytonbikeyard.com/

[5] Brown, J., & Willis, G. (2023, July 27). From tragedy comes hope and positive change: We are parks and recreation: Parks & recreation magazine: NRPA. National Recreation and Park Association. https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2023/august/from-tragedy-comes-hope-and-positive-change/

process, engagement through public meetings and survey data has shown that people are interested in having their children, and even some adults, learn to swim.

Aquatic Needs in Dayton

The need to reopen the pool at GDRC was a recurring theme of public engagement. The city must assess what improvements are needed since the pool has been empty for three years and identify funding for necessary upgrades. Then, the pool should reopen as soon as practical.

The city should also provide consistent hours daily at all three pools to meet the demand. The public would also like Recreation to offer swim lessons (youth and adult) and water fitness programs at all three centers. The centers are all closed on Sundays, the day of the week when most people have leisure time.

To add hours and programs, Dayton must hire additional lifeguards. In order to accomplish this goal, new strategies will be needed, including new methods for marketing to people who may be interested in lifeguarding, such as using social media and coordinating with schools, civic/ religious youth groups, and Mayor Mims' newly formed Youth Commission. Strategies may also include programs teaching the skills needed to become certified lifeguards first.

To meet the desperate need for lifeguards, they likely need to be hired on a different basis than other Recreation employees. Some people may only be able to work 20 hours a week, only mornings or evenings. The lifeguard's primary responsibility is safety – ensuring the safety of pool patrons by enforcing established pool rules and responding to emergencies when they arise. As a result, it may be necessary for lifeguard positions to be negotiated out of the union contract as a public safety service, ultimately benefiting all residents and employees. It is also important to cross-train lifeguards so that they are able to work in any of the recreation centers when needed. Management staff must work together to develop training and scheduling plans.

Dayton Recreation should seek a partnership with Dayton AARP to recruit adults to become lifeguards. New York City Parks hired seniors to be lifeguards this summer, as did pools in Toronto (OH), Denver (CO), Austin (TX), and many other cities across the country. They taught these adults the vigorous lifeguarding certification program and then hired them. There is even a Facebook group for lifeguards aged 55 and older with 2,700 members. It is a growing market to fill aquatic positions.

Another important strategy is the creation of a partnership with Dayton Public Schools to ensure that every child learns to swim. Swim lessons could be part of physical education classes or an afterschool activity. Transportation may be a challenge, but it could possibly be funded from a grant, potentially from the Dayton Foundation or other local or national funding sources.

Examples of Lifeguard Hiring Strategies from Other Communities

Kettering Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts shared that lifeguard retention has been a struggle for them since the pandemic. They were able to keep their water park open daily this summer, but with reduced hours Monday through Thursday noon to 5pm with day and evening hours Friday through Sunday. They had an easier time hiring lifeguards for the indoor pool, which is open year-round. They implemented a new program, paying the lifeguards who work the morning shift a premium pay rate, which resulted in a fair number of adult/retired individuals applying for lifeguard positions.

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation partnered with Temple University to hire lifeguards and also gave students some additional practicum responsibilities, and the students received three college credits. This idea could be explored with the University of Dayton or Wright State University.

Through the YMCA of Greater Kansas City's "Learn to Swim" program, offered in partnership with Kansas City Public Schools and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, a local citizen group called the Government Employees Health Association, supported a four-day swim lesson program focused on building basic swimming proficiency for 200 students. The program also provided swimming suits, swim towels, sunscreen, and goggles, during the summer of 2022. Of those who participated, 94% had never had swimming lessons, and 37% had never been submerged in water. The YMCA finished the summer with 100% of participants improving their water safety abilities.

Phoenix Parks and Recreation has a campaign in place now in the fall of 2023 to prepare for the summer of 2024. They are offering lifeguarding certification classes for only $20. The fee has been underwritten by a grant from the Phoenix Parks Foundation. They are marketing the program through social media and have highlighted skills that youth will learn, including earning money; looking great on a college application because it shows teamwork, responsibility, and leadership; learning lifesaving skills; keeping the community safe; and becoming a role model for kids. They also note the flexibility of shifts for students. The promotional campaign includes a short video and a link to the application.

5.4.9 Recommendations

Programming

1. Be a mission driven agency; pay very close attention to the new mission of Recreation and Parks
   - Ensure every action and decision always connects back to the department's mission
2. Continuously evaluate the demand for new or expanded programs as indicated by the survey results and other public input
3. Make full use of new facilities – especially at Kettering Field – with new programming and activities the department was previously unable to offer

4. Provide more opportunities for swim lessons (youth and adult) and water fitness programs at all three centers
5. Seek a partnership with Dayton Public Schools to ensure that every child learns to swim
6. Seek opportunities to develop more age 50+ programming and to ensure offerings align with local needs
7. Consider branding and marketing active senior programs together under a unique category, such as "active adults" to increase participation
    - Strategically market these programs with support from partners and related service-providers
8. Continue to respond to the growing demand for pickleball programs and leagues, both indoor and outdoor, especially after new courts are developed
9. Consider adding Esports programs, starting at Northwest Recreation Center, to attract the hard-to-reach teenage population
10. Engage with teen users at the new teen center at Northwest Recreation Center to identify programming, including unstructured programs and events, that would bring more teens to the department's centers and programs
11. Consider adding a mobile teen center to provide activities for this population while potentially activating neighborhood parks
12. Explore partnerships with Five Rivers MetroParks to offer more accessible nature-based program opportunities and community events
13. Seek opportunities to develop therapeutic recreation programs and expand access for those with special needs to existing programs
14. Monitor nationwide and regional recreation trends regularly, especially concerning growing population groups to best serve the needs of the whole community
    - Regularly identify needs of underserved populations

Operations

1. Create an annual operations plan to establish pricing and costs with a yearly evaluation
2. Establish and maintain an annual assessment process to determine if Dayton Recreation should stop offering a program, continue offering a program, or start a new program
3. Consider hosting a year-end retreat for the department staff to collectively evaluate performance and to identify goals and objectives for the coming year Establish a "program life cycle" that details a formal process for establishing and continuing a specific program
4. Regularly evaluate program times to ensure programs are offered when community members can actually participate

Recreation Advisory Board

1. Establish a Recreation Advisory Board to provide guidance to city officials on the development, maintenance, operation, and acquisition recreation facilities and programs in Dayton

Community Engagement and Partnerships

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 7)
2. Utilize this Master Plan to guide decision making – regularly monitor progress
3. Create and maintain an active social media presence to increase awareness of recreation opportunities in Dayton
    - Consider the use of paid promotion
4. Expand marketing of programs and facilities through existing and future collaborative relationships to increase community awareness and participation
5. Collaborate with partners and other service-providers in the city to cross-promote and share information about services
6. Maintain continuous public engagement throughout the implementation of this plan
7. Engage neighborhood residents during park improvement processes using bulletin boards, monitored social media posts, and other methods
8. Continuously seek partnerships for the development of facilities and programs identified in this plan, especially those with significant capital and operating costs
9. Establish more consistent lines of communication with existing and potential partner groups such as Dayton City Schools, University of Dayton, Wright State University, Five Rivers MetroParks, the YMCA, and private recreation providers
10. Consider hosting semiannual meetings with all partners to plan for coordination and mutual promotion
11. Continue to ensure that all new contracts with partners are consistent with existing best practices (see below)
    - Treat all vendors, contractors, and partners in a professional, consistent manner with legal, signed contracts
    - Explore and solidify contracted partnerships with outside vendors and organizations, including private providers, to produce more programming
    - Develop working agreements with all partners (all outside groups using Dayton Recreation facilities) including measurable outcomes; review every two years, at minimum
    - Ensure all future contracts benefit Dayton Recreation and its residents, in addition to the relevant partnering vendor or contractor
    - Understand all agency costs, both indirect and direct, before entering into agreements;

understand how much investment a partner will commit to collaboration

- Require a maintenance plan that identifies ongoing funding needs for partnership projects

Lifeguards and Learning to Swim

1. Reopen the pool at GDRC
   - Assess the improvements needed because the pool has been empty for over three years and identify funding for necessary upgrades
2. Provide consistent hours daily at all three pools to meet the demand; include Sunday hours
3. Offer swim lessons (youth and adult) and water fitness programs at all three centers
4. Hire additional lifeguards to staff the additional pool hours and daily operation of all three pools.
   - Utilize new marketing strategies to attract lifeguards, such as using social media, coordinating with schools, civic/religious youth groups, and Mayor Mims' newly formed Youth Commission
5. Hire lifeguards to work the schedules needed to keep these positions filled due to the desperate public safety implications
   - Allow 20 or fewer hours per week, including only mornings or evenings
   - Consider negotiating lifeguards out of the union contract as a public safety service
6. Create a partnership with Dayton Public Schools to ensure that every child learns to swim – identify transportation solutions if needed
7. Create a partnership with Dayton AARP to recruit adults to become lifeguards

5.5 Staffing

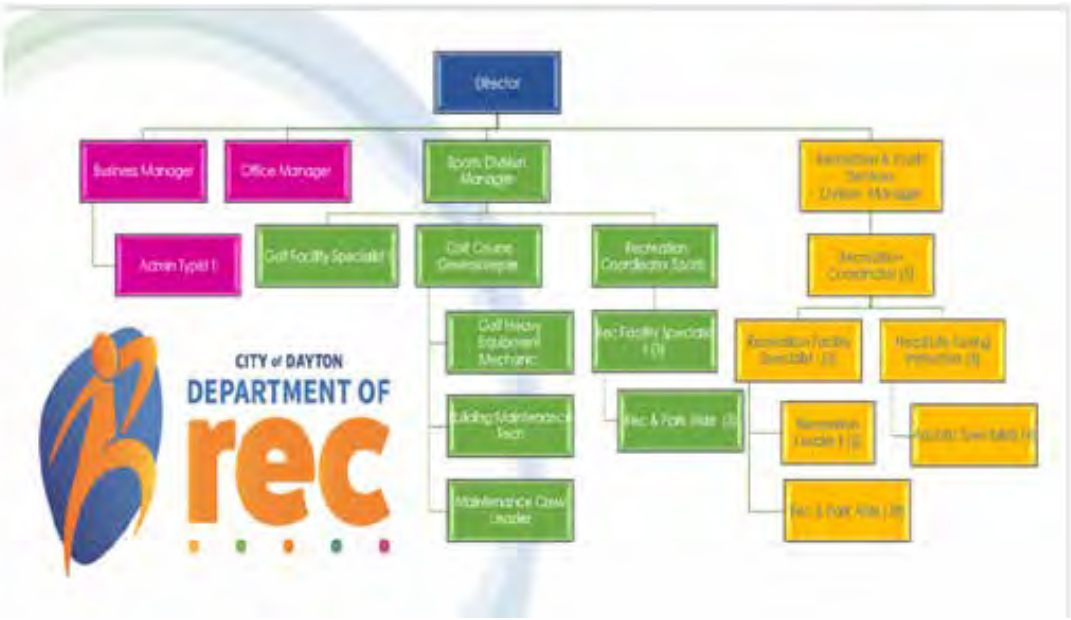
On a per population basis, Dayton Recreation and Parks (Public Works) collectively employ fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) staff per 10,000 population (3.1) than the benchmark median (10.0), fewer even than other cities in Ohio with declining populations. This number also includes the total number of positions, not those that are filled, so the real number is even lower. These numbers also include the Parks staff from Public Works. Without those staff, the numbers are much lower (1.2 FTE per 10,000 population for Recreation alone). Staffing levels limit both programming opportunities and maintenance levels.

The success of future operations for Dayton Recreation hinges on staffing capacity. Filling the positions that already exist is currently a challenge, and it is possible that additional staff will be needed as facilities are improved or programs are added to the system. It is important that the department has the staff needed to maintain and operate the system as it evolves. This requirement is related to both the number of staff and their skills and qualifications.

5.5.1 Recreation Staff Assessment

The City of Dayton's Recreation Department has been operating with reduced staffing levels since the 2020 pandemic. Repeated budget cuts to the Recreation Department starting during the recession in 2008 have also contributed to many of the struggles the department faces. As part of this plan, a departmental organization assessment was conducted to understand the challenges facing staff and ways to address these issues. In the fall of 2022, staff from the consultant team met with Recreation staff and conducted a staff survey, held validation meetings, reviewed job descriptions, and performed an overall organizational assessment. These methods of data collection revealed an abundance of information regarding the mechanisms and inner workings of the Recreation Department.

Figure 5.3: Current Recreation Department Organization Chart



Key action items for the department include:

- Developing a structured and adhered to onboarding and training program to retain staff and to utilize them to their full potential
- Supplying staff with the tools needed to be successful in their roles (i.e., technology, such as computers, cameras, Wi-Fi, and communication platforms)
- Allowing for continuous employee engagement through multiple methods of communication (verbal, anonymous, reviews, online, in-person)
- Eliminating red tape by streamlining processes and regularly consulting with key stakeholders to evaluate process success
- Restructuring the agreement with the Union regarding working hours and role flexibility to meet both employee and recreation center needs

5.5.2 Existing Structure

The current organization structure for Dayton Department of Recreation is managed by a Director, and three divisions each led by Managers: Recreation and Youth Services, Sports, and Business. The current organization chart is presented in Figure 5.3. The discussion in this section refers to the positions that exist, not those that are filled currently.

The Director of Recreation is responsible for a department which includes three recreation centers, each of which has fitness areas, aquatic facilities, gymnasiums, and multipurpose space for youth and other programs. A variety of programs and special events for youth, adults, and families are conducted year-round in the recreation centers, as well as on various athletic facilities (baseball, softball, and football), summer camps, and a golf course. The Director manages the planning, implementation, promotion, and evaluation of recreation programming for all ages and abilities within the City of Dayton recreation centers, parks, and leisure facilities.

Recreation and Youth Division

The Recreation and Youth Division Manager supervises three full-time (FT) Recreation Coordinators, each of whom is responsible for a recreation center. Three FT Recreation Facility Specialists I report to the three FT Recreation Coordinators (one to each). Two Recreation Leader II's, who are continuous full-time (FT), and 18 Recreation and Park Aides (continuous part-time), report to the Recreation Facility Specialists. Additional Recreation and Park Aides are hired from the temp agency during the summer in the capacity as camp counselors.

There are aquatic facilities within each of the three recreation centers and each has a continuous PT Head Lifesaving Instructor who reports to the Recreation Coordinators. Aquatic Specialists (also continuous part-time) report to the Head Lifesaving Instructors. Seasonal lifeguards are also hired from a temp agency. However, the pool the Greater Dayton Recreation Center was drained three years ago and has been empty since.

Sports Division

The Sports Division Manager supervises three full-time staff – a Recreation Sports Coordinator, the Golf Course Greenskeeper, and a Golf Facility Specialist, whose duties are to assist golf operations. The Recreation Sports Coordinator supervises three FT Recreation Facility Specialists I, who in turn supervise three continuous PT Recreation and Park Aides. (There are no Recreation Leaders in the Sports Division.) Additional PT Recreation and Park Aides are hired from the temp agency for the summer season to assist with sports programs.

The Greenskeeper supervises a Maintenance Crew Leader, who according to the job description then supervises the frontline golf personnel. These are typically called Greensworkers on golf courses; however, no specific title is provided, and there are no staff listed as reporting to the Maintenance Crew Leader on the organization chart. These positions are hired seasonally from a temp agency. The Greenskeeper also supervises a Heavy Equipment Mechanic and a Building Maintenance Technician. These last two positions are not specific to the Recreation Department, as Public Works also has these positions. Therefore, these last two job descriptions were not reviewed.

The Golf Facility Specialist does not supervise staff, although the three Recreation Facility Specialists in the Recreation and Youth Services Division are supervisory positions. A job description for the Golf Facility Specialist did not exist previously, independent from the duties that the incumbent had been performing in the previous role.

Business Division

The third division consists of a Business Manager who supervises an Administrative Typist and an Office Manager. These three positions are not specific to the Recreation Department – other departments within the city also have these positions. Therefore, these job descriptions were not reviewed as part of this process. Notably, the Business Manager position does reference that the incumbent is responsible for assisting both other divisions with budget development and administration, as well as tracking accounts payable and receivable, which includes software applications specifically utilized by the Recreation Department. The Business Manager also has direct oversight of the capital improvement program.

5.5.3 Issues Experienced by the Department

According to information stated in the RFP for this study, as well as anecdotal information shared in meetings and conversations with Dayton Recreation Director Stephan Marcellus and other department staff, Recreation has experienced several name changes and operational changes. These frequent changes lead to identity issues with the public and the staff. The staff need to feel connected and aligned with the recently revised mission, values, and goals of the department, or they will not be able to provide the best service possible to the people who participate in programs and who visit parks and athletic facilities.

The Recreation and Youth Services Division title is not indicative of the services provided by this division of the Recreation Department as the programs actually offered are a variety of adult fitness classes, senior recreation programs, teen drop-in spaces within the rec centers, after school program for elementary ages, arts and adult urban dance classes, and community special events. It is recommended that this Division eventually be renamed Recreation and Community Services to better reflect its mission.

Swim lessons are also provided; however, none are offered this fall or winter months as per the listings in the Program Guide, due to a shortage in being able to hire and maintain lifeguards and other aquatics positions. Recreation leadership is willing to train people to become certified lifeguards, and aquatic staff are also encouraged to obtain Water Safety Instructor (WSI) certification as well. However, due to the current AFSCME Union contract, all part-time staff must work 35 hours a week in the Recreation Department (seven-hour shifts for five consecutive days a week), which makes it challenging to fill vacancies.

Staff also will not remain as employees at the agency if they do not feel appreciated and believe that they are a part of the organizational culture. It was revealed that the staff has had a 50% turnover rate, which is difficult for several reasons. Without staff, programs may need to be cancelled, which affects public perception. And facilities may not be maintained to the standards that they should be if there are insufficient staff to clean – or even open – them.

All three recreation centers are closed on Sundays, one of two weekend days; a day in which the majority of the public is not working and is, therefore, available to participate in leisure activities. However, the centers cannot operate without staff.

Comments Regarding Staffing in Stakeholder Meetings

Some of the comments shared by Recreation staff, City Administration, and elected officials were specifically related to staffing and are summarized in the section for reference. Staff members share thoughts based upon their perceptions of what they see as occurring in the organization. While their perceptions may not be entirely accurate, they may reflect how the public perceives the department is being managed. Therefore, these comments are worth noting so that department leadership can take action to change some of their behaviors, and in turn change those perceptions.

Communication Comments

- Limited communication between Directors and Managers and front-line staff due to their location at City Hall
- Lack of communication between the Recreation and Sports Divisions and between recreation centers
- Perception that each center is run differently – difficult to advise patrons of offerings at other

Ability to Work Comments

- Need more staff
- High turnover rate of staff every year
- Lots of turn over because of part-time status
- Limitations of strict schedule
- No opportunities for advancement – after six months move to another position at the city
- Not hiring people with disabilities
- Staff appreciated by community

Staff Safety Comments

- Concerns about safety arriving and leaving during dark hours – need functional security, cameras, and lighting
- Need remote access to the building
- Need lighting around the facility, especially around the entrances and exits
- Staff training needed for emergency situations
- Need more lifeguards

Marketing Comments

- Red tape related to marketing
- Not enough info in program guides, no physical copies at recreation centers
- Promotion improvements needed
- Public unaware of recreation centers
- Social media presence lacking
- Continuous public engagement needed

5.5.4 Part-Time Employees

As mentioned above, as per the current AFSCME Union contract, all part-time staff must work 35 hours a week in the Recreation Department. According to the Ohio Administrative Code 3357:12-3-01, "a **full-time employee** is defined as an individual employed on a forty hour per week, nine-, ten-, eleven, or twelve-month basis per fiscal year; or an individual employed an average of not less than thirty hours per week on a twelve-month contract shall be considered a full-time employee."

According to the Ohio Administrative Code 3357:12-3-02, "a **part-time annual employee** is defined as an individual employed for a minimum of twenty hours but less than thirty hours per week employed under an annual contract. Part-time annual employees are eligible for selected benefits on a prorated basis."

According to the US Bureau of Labor, almost 28 million people work part-time, which the Labor Bureau refers to as

less than 35 hours. They state, *"full-time is 35 hours or more per week; part-time is 1 to 34 hours per week."*[6]

A quarter of the people who work part-time do so involuntarily, meaning they would prefer a full-time job, but could only find part-time work. The other 75% are working part-time voluntarily, meaning they only wish to work on a part-time basis.

Employed teenagers have the highest voluntary part-time rates of any age group. Older workers also have an above-average tendency to work part time, as do women of all ages, many of whom want a part-time job for non-economic reasons. Lastly, there are people who want a second job, after working another full-time job.[7]

School attendance is the primary reason that people choose part-time hours, which correlates with the large number of youth working part-time voluntarily. These people are mainly between the ages of 16 and 24 or are teachers who are looking for extra hours or summer employment. The second most common reason people choose part-time work is family or other personal obligations. There are many people who want to work but cannot commit to what is basically a regular schedule that most would consider a full-time position elsewhere (i.e., the current PT positions in the Recreation Department).

The US Labor Bureau also defines job sharing as "two (or more) workers share the duties of one full-time job, each working part time, or two or more workers who have unrelated part-time assignments share the same budget line. Job sharing is a matter of agreement between an employer and an employee (or the employee's representative). The benefits of job sharing are said to include increased morale and productivity. Job sharing can also be an attractive way to recruit new employees and retain current ones."[8]

It is crucial for the department to be able to hire part-time employees at 20 hours (or whatever number of hours work best) to provide staff coverage to open facilities, lead programs, and lifeguard lap swimming or open pool time when it is most needed in the community. The Recreation Department would be able to offer more and varied programs to meet the needs of the entire community, including those areas that have been identified in the Social Vulnerability Index in Chapter 2 of this plan, especially on the west side of the city, and some portions of the east side.

These programs might include wellness and fitness programs that address America's obesity health issue, drama activity programs (perhaps using the stage at the Northwest Recreation Center) to combat social loneliness issues, more organized teen programming to offer teens a safe space especially with the high number of teen mental health and suicide issues, and programs for people with disabilities.

5.5.5 Additional Staffing Needs

The Recreation Department currently does not have any staff dedicated to marketing programs and special events. As noted in subsection 5.4.5, most municipal recreation departments have the ability to use several social media platforms on a daily basis to share content every day to entice people to participate in programs. They can share information about a special event that just began, by sharing a small video of the band, for example, or showing people participating in a sporting event or the sun on a beautiful day as a golfer takes a swing on the first tee. Staff can even share daily tips for exercising at home or sharing specials that may be occurring in golf or fitness classes as another example. Those happen in real time. People see them on their phones and, typically, not on a website. Then they act.

Many departments also have the ability to update and modify a webpage on the city's overall website, improving the value of information available to the public. For example, the following quote currently appears on the city website on the Recreation page:

> "Ever wanted a pool party in the winter? Now you can! The Family Aquatic Center, located inside GDRC, includes a 55-foot slide and spray features. Contact us today for rental opportunities."

Since the pool has been closed for three years, it is not possible to rent this space. Not having the staff to update the website leads to misinformation.

In addition to needing someone to manage social media and promotion, staff also identified a need to have a full-time position to perform other duties such as coordinating efforts to provide a presence at community events (offered by other entities), potentially staffing a table to interact and share information about Dayton Recreation with the public attending the events.

This new position, Manager of Community Engagement and Marketing, could also be responsible for the development, design, and production of all marketing materials, which would have some cost savings to the department who would then not need to outsource creation of the seasonal program guides. As noted throughout this document, promotion and staff to manage it are critical to the department and the city.

Recreation staff leadership shared the need for more staffing in a front-line supervisory role within the recreation centers. This position would be full-time and would be primarily responsible for the daily activities at the centers including scheduling and supervising programs, supervising part-time and seasonal staff, and ensuring building cleanliness and safety. The incumbent(s) would report to the Recreation Facility Supervisor, and the proposed title is Assistant Facility Supervisor.

Lastly, the Golf Facility Specialist was previously an additional Recreation Facility Specialist, who was moved to the Sports Division to provide assistance in golf operations. As mentioned in a previous section, this position does not supervise staff, although the three Recreation Facility

[6] Labor Force Characteristics (CPS) : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (bls.gov), https://www.bls.gov/cps/lfcharacteristics.htm#fullpart
[7] US Department of Labor Statistics, Who chooses part-time work and why?, https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2018/article/who-chooses-part-time-work-and-why.htm
[8] US Department of Labor, Job Sharing, https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/workhours/jobsharing

Specialists in the Recreation and Youth Services Division are supervisory positions. A new job description for the Golf Facility Specialist has now been drafted to reflect the duties that the incumbent has been doing.

5.5.6 Job Descriptions and Titles

The job descriptions for Recreation Department positions were reviewed to ensure that they reflect what the incumbents are currently doing in this post-COVID time, especially regarding leading programs and operating facilities. Following the review of duties, job descriptions were revised, and new titles were recommended.

All job descriptions follow the same format within the City of Dayton Recreation Department. Each job begins with an opening generic Statement of Qualifications which is actually not specific to qualifications of a job, but rather a statement regarding reasonable accommodations to be made for persons whose disabilities are covered under the ADA. It is recommended that this statement be moved to the end of the section where the essential duties are listed for each job. Additionally, this statement should be edited to read as follows:

Qualifications

> To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty and responsibility satisfactorily. The requirements listed herein are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made as required for ~~to enable~~ individuals with disabilities ~~to perform the essential functions.~~ as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The main aspects of each job description are then listed in this new order:

- Purpose
- Supervisory Responsibilities (if applicable)
- Essential Duties and Responsibilities
- Education/Experience
- Certificates, Licenses, Registrations
- Supervisor/Manager Competencies (if applicable)
- Physical Demands & Work Environment

These sections are followed by two more sections entitled Core Competencies and Customer Service-Core Values. Since these are incorporated into every job description, it is suggested that these may be better suited for a Human Resources Manual or paperwork that is shared and signed during the onboarding process when a new employee is hired within the department. If it is preferred that these remain in the job descriptions, then it is recommended that these sections move to the end of each job description as a supplemental stand-alone page.

Recreation Job Titles as per NRPA

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recently released its annual report on compensation within recreation and park systems. A 43-question survey was used to gather salary data for 13 positions in park and recreation agencies, as well as information about benefits and salary policies. More than 400 agencies throughout the country participated in 2023, and the titles most often used within recreation departments are as follows:

- Park and Recreation Director (or Executive Director or Superintendent)
- Planning Director (or Superintendent)
- Director of Finance (or Administrative Director or Business Manager)
- Recreation Director (or Recreation Superintendent or Assistant Director – Recreation)
- Park Operations Director (or Maintenance Director or Maintenance Superintendent)
- Park Operations (or Maintenance Foreman)
- Facilities Manager
- Athletics Supervisor (or Athletics Manager)
- Aquatics Supervisor (or Aquatics Manager)
- Recreation Program Coordinator (or Recreations Program Manager)Marketing and Communications Director (or Manager)
- Fitness Center Manager
- Administrative Assistant

Recreation Job Titles in Ohio

There are currently 192 park and recreation agencies throughout the United States who have completed the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) process. The summary of titles provided below is not inclusive of all positions, but it does provide an overview of titles used for senior level recreation positions.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission has a Director, multiple Assistant Directors, Division Managers, Regional Supervisors, and Coordinators. Columbus Parks and Recreation has a Director and several Assistant Directors.

Kettering has a Director, and three Superintendents (Recreation, Parks, and Administration), among other staff. Dublin Parks and Recreation has a Director, two Administrators, Recreation Supervisor, Recreation Program Coordinator, Outreach & Engagement Coordinator, and Aquatics Program Coordinator. In Beavercreek Parks and recreation, the director is called the Superintendent and they have an Assistant Superintendent as well. They also have a Recreation Supervisor, Coordinator, and Leader.

Westerville Parks and Recreation has two Superintendents who report to the Director (Recreation & Operations and Parks & Facilities). Then they have Administrators, Managers, and Supervisors. They also have a Community Affairs Administrator (Marketing), who reports to the Director. Fairfield Parks and Recreation has two Superintendents

Table 5.1: Department of Recreation Job Titles (Existing and Proposed)

Current title	Proposed New title
Director of Recreation (E)	Title remains the same
Recreation and Youth Services Division	**Recreation and Community Services Division**
Recreation & Youth Services Division Manager (E)	Deputy Director of Recreation and Youth Services
Recreation Program Coordinator (3 E – Civil Service)	Recreation Program Manager or Administrator
Recreation Facility Specialist I (3 E – Civil Service)	Recreation Facility Supervisor
New position; reports to Rec Facility Supervisor (NE)	Assistant Facility Supervisor
Recreation Leader II (2 NE - Union)	*Suggest title remains the same*
Recreation and Park Aide (18 continuous PT – Union)	Recreation Assistant
Summer seasonal positions such as camp counselor (hired from temp agency)	*Not listed on org chart but should be added to chart*
Head Lifesaving Instructor (3 continuous PT – Union)	Aquatics Coordinator
Aquatic Specialist (4 continuous PT – Union)	Senior Lifeguard
Seasonal Lifeguard (hired from temp agency)	Lifeguard – *not listed on org chart but should be added*
Sports Division	**Sports Division**
Sports Division Manager	Deputy Director of Sports
Recreation Coordinator Sports (E – Civil Service)	Recreation Sports Manager
Recreation Facility Specialists I (3 E – Civil Service)	Recreation Facility Supervisor
Recreation and Park Aide (3 continuous PT - Union)	Recreation Assistant
Recreation and Park Aide (hired from temp agency)	*Not listed on org chart but should be added*
Golf Facility Specialist (E – Civil Service)	Golf Administration Coordinator
Golf Operations staff – Golf Pro, Clubhouse, Concessions (contracted)	*Not listed on org chart – contracted out*
Golf Course Greenskeeper (E – Civil Service)	Golf Course Superintendent
Maintenance Crew Leader (NE – Union)	Proposed title remains the same
Front line golf maintenance staff (*hired from temp agency*)	Greensworkers – *not listed on org chart and no job description provided*
Golf Heavy Equipment Mechanic (NE – Union)	*Job not reviewed; not specific to just Recreation and no job description provided*
Building Maintenance Technician (NE – Union)	*Job not reviewed; not specific to just Recreation and no job description provided*
New - Reports to Director	**New - Reports to Director**
New position; reports to Director (E)	Manager of Community Engagement and Marketing

that report to the Director. They also have Managers and Coordinators.

Five Rivers MetroParks, Toledo MetroParks, and Cleveland MetroParks, which are county-wide special park districts, have Division Chiefs (as opposed to Deputy or Assistant Directors), as well as Managers and Coordinators.

Although not CAPRA accredited, Centerville-Washington Park District (located within Montgomery County) has a Recreation Division which is led by Managers and Supervisors.

Dayton Recreation Proposed Titles

Based upon the most common job titles utilized on both a national and state level, the job titles in Table 5.1: Department of Recreation Job Titles, are suggested to replace what is currently used in Dayton Recreation. These more accurately reflect the duties and will also help the

public to identify the positions. For example, calling a lifeguard a lifeguard, as opposed to an aquatic specialist, may help job seekers find the position.

5.5.7 Recommendations

1. Develop and adhere to a structured onboarding and training program to retain staff and to utilize them to their full potential
2. Ensure staff have the tools needed to be successful in their roles
3. Encourage continuous employee engagement through multiple methods of communication (verbal, anonymous, reviews, online, in-person)
4. Strive to eliminate red tape by streamlining processes and regularly consulting with key stakeholders to evaluate process success
5. Consider revising the name of the Division of Recreation and Youth Service to be called Recreation and Community Services to better reflect its mission of providing programs to people of all ages
6. Revise the job descriptions and titles to match those used in the profession on a national basis and throughout the State of Ohio
    - To also allow the public to better identify staff
7. Create a new full-time position whose primary responsibilities are to serve as a front-line supervisor at the recreation centers, primarily responsible for the daily activities including scheduling and supervising programs, supervising part-time and seasonal staff, and ensuring building cleanliness and safety (i.e., Assistant Facility Supervisor)
8. Create a new full-time position dedicated to community engagement, marketing, and alternative funding (i.e., Manager of Community Engagement and Marketing)
9. Consider methods to hire part-time employees for a variable number of hours that they are available to work
    - To increase staff availability and the number of staff available to be hired
    - To better serve the community so that the recreation centers can be open seven days a week
10. Utilize social media with frequent (at least daily) updates by Recreation staff to increase exposure to those interested of what is happening and opportunities to participate
11. Implement new approaches for Recreation Department leadership to communicate with front-line staff to share with them what is occurring on a more strategic level
    - Ask front-line staff for their opinions when gathering information for decision making (e.g., when purchasing a new mower, ask the maintenance staff for their opinion. The mower that costs more money may a better purchase, because the less expensive one is costly to continually repair.)
12. Implement job shadowing, where staff in leadership roles work alongside front-line staff for a few hours once a month to better understand their jobs
13. Create a graphic of the revised mission, vision, and goals and share it with all staff
    - Post it everywhere! Live the document!
14. Create policies, as needed, to ensure the public, staff, and the city are protected from harm (e.g., if staff administering prescription medication, there should be a clear policy and training before medications are dispensed)

5.6 Professional Development and Accreditation

As noted in the previous section, staff reported a need for improved training when starting a new position, but that should just be the beginning of continuous staff development. Staff and the department itself will benefit from continued training in leadership and cultivated growth within their respective fields. For example, the existing and future staff should pursue appropriate certifications for overseeing Parks and Recreation operations, including Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP), Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) and Aquatic Facility Operator Certification (AFO) offered by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

As needs arise, staff may pursue other relevant certifications. To accommodate staff seeking these credentials, Dayton Recreation must identify and allocate funding for professional development opportunities (e.g., conferences, training, memberships, etc.) with consideration to the licensure and requirements for certifications.

The Recreation Department itself can also pursue accreditation through NRPA's Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This accreditation delivers quality assurance to accredited park and recreation organizations throughout the United States by helping them build a comprehensive management system of operational best practices. This system improves a department's infrastructure, increases efficiency, and demonstrates accountability within their communities. Implementation of this system strengthens teamwork among organization staff, embeds all aspects of CAPRA into the organization's internal culture, and establishes a continuous improvement mindset for all organization activities.

5.6.1 Professional Memberships and Certification

One of the CAPRA standards is Professional Certification and Organizational Membership (4.6.2), which states, "Professional staff shall be active members of their professional organization(s) and pursue professional certifications within their respective disciplines. 'Active'

means more than holding membership, including attendance at meetings, making presentations, participating in committee work, holding elected and appointed positions, and participation in educational opportunities."

Being members of professional recreation and park associations provides the ability to network. These connections provide opportunities, knowledge, and free resources for staff by sharing policies, program ideas, and management issues and solutions.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has both individual professional membership and an agency membership called Premier where every staff member and board member is a member and has access to the monthly magazine, a free education seminar each month, and the ability to participate in the annual Park Metrics system to obtain benchmarking data with similar agencies across the country. This data can then be shared with stakeholders and decision makers at budget time.

Other membership perks are available on their website; however, the biggest one is access to the NRPA Connect Network, which allows staff to network and connect with their peers through about a dozen topic specific online communities, as well as access to the member directory. Members can engage in discussions on various interests, topics, issues, and trends. It is a chance to expand staff networks and gain information to be used to enhance programs, policies, facilities, and services.[9]

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association also has individual and agency membership options. The agency package has options that include the Director, all board members, and 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, or 40 additional professional members.[10]

Professional recreation and park staff should also be encouraged to seek the Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification through NRPA, the only national standard for park and recreation professionals. Attaining the CPRP demonstrates that a staff member has met education and experience qualifications. Having certified staff also demonstrates that the agency has invested in meeting national standards of best practice.[11]

Staff can join several professional Facebook groups including Mentoring Professional Recreators (MPR), Parks & Recreation Done Right, Women in Parks and Recreation (WiPAR), and Ohio Women in Parks and Recreation, to name a few. Each of these organizations posts daily questions, ideas, and suggestions about sharing policies, ideas for programs, where to purchase supplies, etc.

There are also many free/low-cost resources available for parks and recreation personnel and management in general. Staff do not need to join these organizations, but they can follow them on LinkedIn or Facebook to learn about new trends. Several allied professional organizations with similar missions also offer free webinars and resources. All are helpful and are free or low cost.

Other Organizations with Allied Missions

- Core Learning with PlayCore
- Children and Nature Network
- The Nature Conservancy
- City Parks Alliance
- Safe Parks Alliance
- Urban Park Leaders

SmartBrief.com

- NRPA Smart Brief
- Smart Brief on Leadership
- ICMA Smart Brief
- Smart Cities Smart Brief

Free Magazines

- Park & Rec Business
- Camp Business
- Recreation Management
- Athletic Business
- Governing

5.6.2 Staff Professional Development

Recreation is a field that consistently has new nationwide trends and issues that affect the community and staff, stretch already tight budgets, and require new skills to problem solve and effectively manage and implement new programs, facilities, and services. Staff skills cannot be stagnant. They need to grow on a regular basis too, so that staff are current on best practices and can meet community needs with effective strategies.

One of the CAPRA standards is developing and implementing an Employee Training and Development Program (4.6.1). It states, "There shall be a program of employee development which is available to employees throughout the agency. It should be based on the needs of individual employees, future organizational needs, and is evaluated and updated periodically. The program must notify personnel of available and/or required training, maintain training records, and assure that required training programs are attended. The program should incorporate in-service training and succession planning to ensure the continued effective performance of the organization after the departure of key staff."

Investing in staff demonstrates that leadership values their work and is interested in helping them grow in their positions. Staff investment boosts morale and increases productivity. Happy employees are more likely to stay in an agency, reducing turnover. This training can also provide skills that help foster internal promotions as opportunities arise.

[9] The link to the NRPA Membership is: https://www.nrpa.org/membership/premier/
[10] The link to greater details regarding OPRA Membership is: https://opraonline.org/membership/
[11] The link to the resources about CPRP is: https://www.nrpa.org/certification/CPRP/become-a-cprp/

A budget should be developed to allow staff to attend the OPRA Conference held annually in late January and for senior leadership to attend the NRPA Conference held annually in late September/early October. NRPA even offers free registration to individuals who apply to volunteer at the conference. In addition to educational sessions, attending a conference allows staff to network with experts and practitioners who can provide guidance and insight into trends and best practices.

There are also six national schools held in conjunction with NRPA and NC State – Supervisor's School, Director's School, Revenue Management School, Maintenance Management School, Event Management, and Sustainability School. Each school offers a two-year professional development program, conducted in-depth one week per year. Some of these schools have scholarship programs as well to cover the costs.

Dayton Recreation could potentially approach the Dayton Foundation or apply for a grant from another foundation to fund a multi-year program plan to educate and certify staff. If such an investment is made to provide for staff development, the city should consider a policy that requires staff members to remain a Dayton Recreation or Parks employee for a period of two years (or pay back the funding) to ensure that the department and the community benefit from these skills. Most of these schools are held at the National Training Center at Oglebay in Wheeling, West Virginia; a three-hour drive from Dayton.[12]

NRPA also offers online Certificate Programs that enable staff to become (more) proficient in certain job responsibilities. These include Marketing and Communications for Park and Recreation, Aquatic Management, Splash Pads, Playground Maintenance, Leadership, Equity in Practice, and Green Stormwater Management in Urban Areas.[13]

Another option to reach more staff in a shorter period of time is to bring in a consultant to provide training for staff. There are several nationally known and recognized recreation and park consultants throughout the country who not only speak at conferences, but also provide onsite in-service on a variety of topics. The most important aspect of training is what occurs after the training to ensure that new techniques or skills can be applied or discussed.

Mentorship

Mentors support growth, build confidence, and help staff gain new perspectives. All park and recreation professionals benefit from mentoring, whether in a formal or informal setting. There are three formal programs which are free and available to Dayton Recreation and Park staff. They should be shared with staff with the expectation that they may avail themselves of them. As Maya Angelou stated, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

The Mentorship Committee – American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA)

The academy partners with the Young Professional Network of NRPA to produce a mentorship program annually. The academy is a group limited to 135 distinguished practitioners and educators who are leaders in the field of parks and recreation. The academy's mission is to advance research, foster professional development, and the use of best practices in parks and recreation.

Specifically, the Mentorship Program is for emerging leaders, new parks and recreation directors, supervisors, and programming staff. The purpose of the program is to provide each mentee with development opportunities through a relationship with an experienced professional who can function as a sounding board, provide advice, and share feedback to help mentees achieve their goals.

Program participants do not need to be members of OPRA or NRPA, but they do need to commit to providing a minimum of an hour a month of worktime to meet via computer with their paired mentor from March through October. Each year approximately 200 pairs of mentors/mentees participate. It is a great way for staff to meet other professionals around the country, expand their network, and have a place to share ideas and grow. It is highly encouraged to have Dayton Recreation staff participate. They decide what goals they hope to achieve. Mentees may wish to discuss supervisory issues, learn more about budgeting, read leadership books together, and practice interviewing skills. Everyone is different as is their experience in the program.

Registration for 2024 will begin in late January/early February. The application takes less than five minutes to complete and consists mostly of checking boxes about experiences to help match similar people (i.e., not matching an aquatic person with a conservation person), and then at the end, staff uploads their resume.[14]

The Mentorship Program – Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA)

This program began in 2023, and its purpose is to provide each mentee with professional development opportunities and to build a local network of support and guidance throughout one's career. Mentees are matched with more experienced and/or distinguished professionals (mentors) to create mentee/mentor relationships.

These pairs will determine a schedule of meetings to discuss career development goals and any other topics of interest. Benefits for participants include personal and professional development; improved networking within OPRA; a chance to give back to the profession; career advice and feedback; and the opportunity to exchange perspectives, trends, and best practices.

[12] The link to more information is: https://learning.nrpa.org/schools
[13] The link to more information about certificate programs is: https://learning.nrpa.org/certificate-programs
[14] Mentorship Program information: https://aapra.org/Programs/Mentorship-Program

Participants must be current OPRA members. Participants submit an application to OPRA and will be matched based on individual objectives and geographic location. Mentorship meetings could take place in any format, and mentorship pairs will set their own agenda and explore any topics of interest. A minimum of five meetings over a 12-month period is suggested to provide each mentor team with time to set goals, build professional relationships, and share experiences.[15]

Mentorship – National Recreation and Park Ethnic Minority Society (NRPEMS)

NRPEMS is an organization of minority members of the National Recreation and Park Association who have joined for the express purpose of productively representing the park, recreation, and related leisure service interest and rights of minorities while participating in the overall effort of the park and recreation profession and the National Recreation and Park Association to serve the park, recreation, and related leisure service needs and desires of the public.

The Mentorship Program is named in memory of Ernie Burkeen, a national leader within parks and recreation, who was the director of Miami, Baltimore, and Detroit parks and recreation departments. The website says the benefits of participation in the program are:

- Being encouraged and empowered in personal development
- Guidance and collaboration in career growth and goal setting
- Building a professional network
- Developing & maintaining a broader perspective on career options and opportunities in parks

Mentees do not need to be members of NRPEMS; however, they should at least be members of their state association and be willing to commit an hour a month from the spring through October to meet with their mentors.[16]

5.6.3 National Recreation and Park Association Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)

CAPRA is the only national accreditation of park and recreation organizations and is a valuable measure of an organization's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community.[17]

Benefits of Accreditation

For the community:

- Demonstrates that the organization meets national standards of best practice.
- Recognizes the community as a wonderful place to live.
- Helps secure external financial support and reduce costs for the community.
- Holds an organization accountable to the public and ensures responsiveness to meet their needs.
- Ensures that all staff are providing quality customer service.

For the organization and staff:

- Provides positive public and political recognition.
- Proves to decision makers, stakeholders and the public that the organization is operating with the best practices of the profession.
- Increases credibility and can improve internal and external funding.
- Improves overall operations and increases efficiency.
- Enhances staff teamwork and pride by engaging all staff in the process.
- Creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement.

There are currently 192 park and recreation agencies throughout the United States who have completed the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) process. This represents 2% of all agencies nationwide. Nine of them are in Ohio and are as follows:

1. Five Rivers MetroParks
2. Cleveland MetroParks
3. Toledo MetroParks
4. Kettering Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs
5. Beavercreek Parks and Recreation
6. Dublin Parks and Recreation
7. Westerville Parks and Recreation
8. Fairfield Parks and Recreation
9. Cincinnati Recreation Commission

CAPRA Standards

The CAPRA Standards for National Accreditation provide a thorough assessment tool for park and recreation agencies. Through compliance with these national standards of excellence, CAPRA accreditation assures elected officials, policy makers, park and recreation staff, and the public that an accredited park and recreation agency has been independently evaluated against established benchmarks as delivering a high level of quality service.

The process is based on an agency's compliance with the 154 standards for national accreditation, which are split into

[15] OPRA Mentorship Program: https://opraonline.org/2023/02/01/opra-mentor-program/
[16] NRPEMS Mentoring Program: https://nrpems.org/mentoring-program/
[17] Benefits of CAPRA Agency Accreditation : https://www.nrpa.org/certification/accreditation/CAPRA/benefits-of-capra-agency-accreditation/

10 sections/chapters. To achieve accreditation, an agency must comply with all 36 Fundamental Standards (100%), and 106 of the 118 Non-Fundamental Standards (90%) upon seeking initial accreditation, as well as 112 of the 118 Non-Fundamental Standards (95%) upon reaccreditation five years later.

Standards Sections/Chapters

1. Agency Authority, Mission and Goals, Policies and Procedures
2. Planning
3. Marketing, IT, Records Management
4. Human Resources
5. Financial Management
6. Programs and Services Management
7. Facility and Land Use Management
8. Public Safety and Security
9. Risk Management
10. Evaluation, Assessment, and Research

List of all 36 required Fundamental Standards

- 1.1 Source of Authority
- 1.4 Mission
- 1.4.1 Agency Goals and Objectives
- 1.5 Vision
- 1.6.1 Administrative Policies and Procedures
- 1.7 Agency Relationships
- 2.2 Involvement in Local Planning
- 2.4 Park and Recreation System Master Plan
- 2.5 Strategic Plan
- 2.9 Community Involvement
- 3.1 Organizational Structure
- 3.3 Internal Communication
- 3.4 Public Information Policy and Procedure
- 3.5.1 Management Information Systems
- 4.1 Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual
- 4.1.1 Code of Ethics
- 4.1.3 Equal Opportunity Employment and Workforce Diversity
- 4.1.5 Background Investigation
- 4.2 Staff Qualifications
- 4.3 Job Analyses for Job Descriptions
- 5.1 Fiscal Policy
- 5.1.1 Comprehensive Revenue Policy
- 5.2 Fiscal Management Procedures
- 5.2.2 Purchasing Procedures
- 5.3 Accounting System
- 5.3.4 Independent Audit
- 5.4 Annual or Biennial Budget
- 6.1 Recreation Programming Plan
- 6.2 Program Objectives
- 6.3.1 Outreach to Diverse Underserved Populations
- 7.5 Maintenance and Operations Management Standards
- 8.1 Codes, Laws, and Ordinance
- 8.2 Authority to Enforce Laws by Law Enforcement Officers
- 8.5 General Security Plan
- 9.1.1 Risk Management Plan and Procedures
- 10.1 Systematic Evaluation Processes

Two resources provide information about all 154 Standards. The CAPRA Accreditation and CPRE Resource is a summary of the standards,[18] and The National Accreditation Standards[19] provide greater details for each standard, along with the suggested evidence of compliance that an agency should provide for each standard, which are submitted electronically. Please note that the "suggested evidence of compliance" is a misnomer as the elements identified are required.

Fees

There is a preliminary application fee of $130, and then based on the population of Dayton, the current fee for a first-time agency review is $3,750, with an annual fee of $650 to retain accreditation. Some documentation is also submitted annually. Every five years after that, the fee to complete the re-accreditation process is currently $3,750 again.

Accreditation Process

An agency that wishes to achieve CAPRA accreditation should review the standards and discuss with agency staff all of the various types of plans and documents that should be in place prior to submitting the initial application. For example, to name a few, a Park & Recreation Master Plan, Agency Marketing Plan, Records Disaster Mitigation & Recovery Plan, Employee Training & Development Plan, Recreation Programming Plan, Maintenance & Operations Management Standards, and Risk Management Plan. It may also be helpful for an agency to select a staff member to complete Certified CAPRA Visitor Training to better understand the process and standards.

Once an agency has submitted the initial application, they have two years to complete the evidence of compliance of the standards. It is highly suggested that all staff of the agency are involved and engaged in the process of performing this self-assessment of the park and recreation department and creating and/or strengthening the required plans. This level of involvement is critical to helping the agency to function as a well-respected department and an organization that meets national standards of best practice. It also helps to provide a more cohesive team that feels ownership in the service they deliver.

Toward the end of the two-year cycle, the agency also applies to schedule a week-long site visit by a team of three park and recreation peers who have been trained to review the information. CAPRA will assign this team to the agency. A tour of the agency's parks and/or facilities to view the system to verify compliance with standards is part of the visitation. Dayton Recreation staff would also need

[18] CAPRA Accreditation and CPRE Resource, https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/a97da272bb9a44a89763ad435649d846/capra-accreditation-and-cpre-resource.pdf

[19] CAPRA, The National Accreditation Standards, https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/30f03182dc3343e7800380a1211d889a/capra-national-accreditation-standards-master-document-2021.pdf

to attend the in-person CAPRA hearing at the NRPA Annual Conference the same year as the site visit.

In summary, the CAPRA Accreditation Process includes six steps:

1. Submit Preliminary Application and Fee
2. Attend Prepare for CAPRA Accreditation – Basics and Standards online training
3. Develop Self-Assessment Report
4. Present Self-Assessment Report to CAPRA Review Team for initial review
5. Host the CAPRA Review Team members Visitation
6. Attend Official CAPRA Hearing in person at NRPA Annual Conference.

5.6.4 Recommendations

1. Create and implement professional and career development strategies for management and supervisory staff
2. Identify and allocate funding for critical staff development opportunities (including conferences, training, memberships, etc.) with consideration to licensure and certification requirements
3. Encourage continued staff training for leadership and continued growth within respective fields
4. Encourage staff to join professional recreation and park associations to networking opportunities and access to shared policies, program ideas, and management solutions
5. Incentivize management level staff to attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations
6. Incentivize and support staff members to pursue Certified Park & Recreation Professional (CPRP), Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI), Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO), and Water Safety Instructor (WSI) certifications
7. Ensure department budget allows staff to attend the OPRA Conference held annually in late January for educational sessions and networking with experts and practitioners
    - Encourage senior leadership to attend the NRPA Conference held annually in late September or early October
8. Encourage staff to attend one (or more) of the two-year professional development programs offered by the six national schools – Supervisor's School, Director's School, Revenue Management School, Maintenance Management School, Event Management, and Sustainability School
9. Enable staff to participate in the online Certificate Programs by NRPA to become (more) proficient in certain job responsibilities, including Marketing and Communications for Park and Recreation, Aquatic Management, Splash Pads, Playground Maintenance, Leadership, Equity in Practice, and Green Stormwater Management in Urban Areas
10. Consider bringing in consultants to provide training for staff and then ensure that new techniques or skills are applied and discussed
11. Encourage staff to participate in one of the three mentorship programs outlined in this plan, as either mentor or mentee, to support growth, build confidence, and gain new perspectives
12. Seek CAPRA Accreditation within the next five years to show the department's commitment to providing quality services to the Dayton community

5.7 Pricing Philosophy and Revenue Sources

The total operating budget for Dayton Recreation for 2021 was about $4.3 million with a per capita operating expenditure of $31, well below the benchmark median of $116, even if Parks operations are included ($51 per capita). Proposed facility and program development could potentially have a large impact on the overall budget of the department, and the city should be prepared for these additional budgetary (and staffing) demands when expanding or developing new facilities. As resources are limited, the department must have a clear funding philosophy, and it will be essential to seek alternative funding streams for many additional programs.

5.7.1 Pricing Philosophy

As program offerings are potentially increased, Dayton Recreation should maintain a clear funding philosophy and funding policies for the department and its programs. Some participants can afford to pay market rate fees, while many cannot. In general, fees should be based on what 80% of the population can afford to pay with policies in place, including scholarship programs, to assist those who cannot.

Dayton residents want more recreation opportunities and are very likely willing to pay for them. In fact, many of the desired programs will not be possible without fees, especially those further away from the department's mission. However, the department needs a formal process for determining how much cost should be recovered for any given service.

This process requires a complete understanding of the direct and indirect costs for programs, events, rentals, and any partner agreement. First, the department should conduct an analysis of expenditures in the annual budget. Once these costs are determined, they should be separated into:

- Direct Costs: any expenditures related to the operation of a specific park, program, or facility rental (e.g., instructor 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 city should decide how much of each program's cost should be recovered. Some programs or services could have 100% recovery where all associated costs are recuperated. These are typically ones in which a user group has exclusive use of a facility such as a picnic shelter rental. Other services may be free and not have any recovered costs, such as no park entry fees or free wellness programs that have limited or no overhead costs. A process to determine the level of recovery can be kept reasonably simple by establishing set categories (i.e., 100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, and 0%).

Recreation needs a defined pricing philosophy to guide these efforts. While it requires substantial effort at first to develop, 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 a Dayton-specific system.

- Indirect costs are covered by the city, 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 what 80% of the public can afford pay; alternate funding sources are used to supplement the costs for the 20%.
- Alternate funding sources are established and relied upon to provide opportunities to underserved members of the community with a simple process to apply.

5.7.2 Potential Sources of Revenue and Reduced Costs

Parks and recreation projects can be funded in many ways, including 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 an immediate impact on the operations and capital improvements of Dayton Recreation.

Volunteer Power

Park ambassadors provide directions, offer assistance, or remind visitors of park policies, while maintaining a positive presence in the park. 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. This type of program also represents an opportunity to engage youth in their community.

Adopt-A-Park or Adopt-A-Spot programs are an additional, more formalized way for volunteers to assist with park maintenance in Dayton at Recreation facilities and Parks. These programs encourage interested residents and groups to become involved in keeping parks clean for their community. These programs give new possibilities for involvement to those residents who have an interest but need a structured opportunity.

Utilizing already existing volunteer bases from partner organizations can be a great way to aid the Parks and Recreation department and promote community pride. Keep Montgomery County Beautiful offers some services in Dayton along with a volunteer base. They offered a $1000 beautification grant in 2023 for projects in Montgomery County.

Five Rivers MetroParks also has a substantial volunteer program with a wide variety of positions, including Adopt-A-Park. Their program offers online registration with description of various positions and requirements. This program provides a great example that the city could emulate. As they serve many of the same residents, they may be willing to partner or assist in the city's volunteer efforts.

Partnering with other groups in and around the city who already have a volunteer base to assist with Recreation or Parks needs can be beneficial for the department and increase awareness of the parks and recreation programs available to the community which are related to a city's economic health.

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. Dayton Recreation can explore a couple of options for building a robust scholarship fund:

- 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 registering can opt to donate (e.g., $2.00 or $5.00) to help those in their community who are unable to pay to participate

Rentals

Multiple indoor and outdoor facilities in Dayton are available for rental for modest fees, either through Recreation or Public Works. The process for reserving a facility varies depending on the facility a user intends to rent and the department that manages the facility.

Many of the improvements recommended in this plan have potential for rental usage and fees, including indoor spaces at the recreation centers, new facilities at Kettering Field, and many park improvements described in Chapter 6. When any of these amenities are developed, they should be added to the rental inventory, and the fees should be reevaluated to ensure they match what the public is able and willing to pay.

The city, whether through Recreation or Public Works, reserves most rentals on a daily basis, though most events last only two hours or less. A fee to reserve spaces for half days (with an hour between reservations) would allow expanded use of existing facilities. Changing the reservation structure in this way may require emptying trash receptacles and other tasks between rental sessions to maintain expected service levels. If city staff are unavailable, this service may be outsourced with the cost included in the rental fee.

Currently, there is no way to reserve and even see the availability of rental facilities on the city website. Residents must call one number for Recreation facilities and another for picnic shelters which are managed by Public Works. Residents may be able to reserve a Recreation facility by visiting a recreation center, but no such option exists for picnic shelters.

A streamlined process is needed to allow potential users to access all rental facilities in a single location with a calendar of availability and the option to reserve online, even if a follow-up call or email is needed for confirmation. This process would simplify the experience for users and likely increase the overall number of rentals, mitigating the cost of any required software. Additionally, this process would reduce the amount of staff time required to manage rentals, while reducing confusion between rentals from the two departments. It also would not require any changes to which department manages the rentals as the users would not even need to know before reserving.

Programs offered by others at city facilities have the potential to help meet many of the program demands identified in this plan. This goal can best be accomplished if the Recreation Department is aware of the programs and is able to cross-promote the offerings. Rentals, especially for programs and events that generate revenue, should have a process in place to review the proposed activity as well as the organization that plans to host it. The current process of renting facilities to other program providers without any other involvement prevents Recreation from receiving potential revenue and may leave the city liable for anything that happens during the event if the organization has not been properly vetted. Follow best practices for partner groups from section 5.4.

New development will lead to more demand for programs and events using the facilities. For example, the city has begun to receive many requests for events at the new Bike Yard. To maximize the potential of these facilities, the city needs to process in place and staff to organize and oversee these programs. This task represents another opportunity for the proposed Manager of Community Engagement and Marketing.

Grants and Application for Funding

The Recreation Department struggles with funding, which is pervasive of recreation and park departments throughout the country. Having staff hours devoted to researching and applying for grants from foundations and corporations is important to find funding for special projects, such as a program to teach all children to swim – which saves kids from drowning – or a program to teach youth to play golf – creating a feeder system for them to continue to play as adults and ensuring revenue in the future.

The City of Dayton should continue to search for grants that will enhance the recreation and 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.

Omega CDC has been awarded the Promise Neighborhood Grant of nearly $29 million. This Hope Zone initiative "focuses on the community just northwest of downtown Dayton, bordered by Gettysburg Avenue to the west, Siebenthaler Avenue to the north and Riverview Avenue, Riverside Drive and James H. McGee Blvd to the south and southwest." This initiative will fund projects to improve education, economic stability, health & well-being, and community growth.[20]

Because there are local sources from which to apply for funding, it is important to have a dedicated staff person who could make in-person presentations about Dayton Recreation and its needs to better help the citizens of the community. For example, the department could apply for a grant from the Dayton Foundation, using data from this report, to fund programs that support the department mission and reach the most vulnerable community members. Another example is one that was implemented in Philadelphia Recreation and Parks, in which they partnered with Temple University to hire lifeguards. The program gave students some additional practicum responsibilities, and they received three college credits. Perhaps a similar program could be implemented with the University of Dayton or Wright State University.

The Dayton Bike Yard described earlier is an example of a successful grant project. The development was funded primarily through a $1.8 million CDBG grant, after the city and partners made other investments at Welcome Park.

PlayCore, a playground and other recreation equipment manufacturer, has a funding tool on their website that connects users to a variety of local, state, and national grant opportunities. It also allows for searching by type of project to be funded.[21]

[20] Hope zone. Omega CDC. https://omega-cdc.org/news-events/hope-zone/
[21] PlayCore Funding Tool: https://www.playcore.com/funding

Example grant sources:

- National Recreation Trails Program
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program
- Resilient Communities Program (NFWF)
- America The Beautiful (U.S. Department of the Interior)
- 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)
- National Recreation Trails Program (Ohio)
- Clean Ohio Fun (Ohio)
- AARP Community Challenge

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

Below is a general list of ideas that communities have used to supplement the costs of operations. Some of these may be more effective for Dayton Recreation than others.

- Official drink for Recreation
- Tournament fees – if an outside vendor makes money, the city 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

5.7.3 Recommendations

Pricing Philosophy

1. Determine a clear funding philosophy and funding policies for Recreation
2. Conduct an analysis of expenditures in the annual budget determining the true costs to deliver services (direct and indirect costs)
    - Inform users, partners, and citizens of these costs of services
3. Define a pricing philosophy to determine the level of cost recovery expected for each service
4. Establish and adjust fees for programs according to direct and indirect costs
5. Institute an easy-to-understand Cost Recovery and Pricing Plan for everything that is offered
    - Price services furthest away from the mission at full cost recovery levels
6. Analyze potential costs versus revenue before adding new programs
7. Consider not waiving fees, when requested by non-profits groups who rent facilities, because when there is a direct cost to the Recreation Department, the department is essentially underwriting the cost of someone else's event with taxpayer funds

Sources of Revenue and Reduced Costs

1. Consider creating a park ambassador program to provide directions, offer assistance, remind visitors of park policies, and assist with maintenance activities
2. Create volunteer opportunities, such as Adopt-A-Park or Adopt-A-Spot programs, to provide formal ways for volunteers to assist with park maintenance in Dayton
    - Consider other volunteer opportunities as needed
3. Create a Scholarship Fund to cover program fees, potentially by requesting an optional additional $2.00 charge during registration
4. Add new facilities to the rental inventory as they are developed
5. Reevaluate rental fees as amenities are updated, replaced, or added to the inventory
6. Consider reserving facilities and spaces for shorter periods (half days) to allow expanded use of existing facilities and increased revenue
7. Develop a streamlined process to allow potential users to access all rental facilities in a single location with a calendar of availability and the option to reserve online
8. Coordinate with partners and vendors to offer additional programs and events at city facilities and promote those offerings in Recreation Department marketing efforts
9. Develop a process to review any program or event and the hosting organization to be help at city recreation facilities or parks
10. Establish split revenue percentages for any program partnerships with funding channeled directly to Recreation
11. Continue seeking grants and apply to foundations for project funding that enhances the park system
    - Ensure grant requirements are consistent with the mission of Recreation, while considering associated costs to the city

12. Identify potential revenue sources at community events, including sponsorships and entry fees
13. Continue to employ and update policies for accepting sponsorships and selling naming rights

5.8 Recreation Capital Improvements and Estimated Costs

This section provides recommendations for individual improvements to Dayton's recreation facilities. These recommendations are presented as a starting point for future discussions with users, neighbors, the community at large, and, potentially, even partners. Recommended improvements for each recreation facility are presented in Table 5.2. All costs in the table are estimated in 2023 dollars and will need to be evaluated for potential escalation at the time of development.

Table 5.2: Recreation Facility Improvements List

	Facility Name	Term	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
Recreation Centers						
Greater Dayton Recreation Center						
1	Aquatic center improvements (after closure for 3+ years)	Short	$60,000	$0	$0	$60,000
2	Computers for visitors	Short	$30,000	$0	$0	$30,000
3	Lighting and security improvements	Short	$40,000	$0	$0	$40,000
4	Fitness equipment replacement (select equipment)	Medium	$0	$120,000	$0	$120,000
5	Gym seating	Medium	$0	$20,000	$0	$20,000
6	Room divider for multipurpose rooms	Medium	$0	$30,000	$0	$30,000
7	Sound dampening privacy screen/ceiling for multipurpose rooms	Medium	$0	$70,000	$0	$70,000
8	Teen space	Medium	$0	$10,000	$0	$10,000
	Project Total		**$130,000**	**$250,000**	**$0**	**$380,000**
Lohrey Recreation Center						
1	Belmont Pool improvements	Short	$1,200,000	$0	$0	$1,200,000
2	Computers for visitors	Short	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
3	Lighting and security improvements	Short	$40,000	$0	$0	$40,000
4	Signage - exterior	Short	$30,000	$0	$0	$30,000
5	Wayfinding signage to center	Short	$10,000	$0	$0	$10,000
6	Classroom/program/multi-purpose rooms renovations	Medium	$0	$70,000	$0	$70,000
7	Restroom and locker room renovations	Medium	$0	$150,000	$0	$150,000
8	Auxiliary gym	Long	$0	$0	$2,000,000	$2,000,000
	Project Total		**$1,300,000**	**$220,000**	**$2,000,000**	**$3,520,000**
Northwest Recreation Center						
1	Computers for visitors	Short	$30,000	$0	$0	$30,000
2	Façade/entrance/plaza improvements	Short	$370,000	$0	$0	$370,000
3	Lighting and security improvements	Short	$40,000	$0	$0	$40,000
4	Classroom/program rooms renovations	Medium	$0	$100,000	$0	$100,000
5	Dabney Pool roof improvements (needs detailed design/structural analysis)	Medium	$0	$2,400,000	$0	$2,400,000
6	Gym/renovation flooring replacement (main gym)	Medium	$0	$300,000	$0	$300,000
7	Multipurpose room renovation & acoustics/stage improvements	Medium	$0	$200,000	$0	$200,000
8	Restroom and locker room renovations	Medium	$0	$300,000	$0	$300,000
	Project Total		**$440,000**	**$3,300,000**	**$0**	**$3,740,000**
Outdoor Facilities						
Kettering Field						
Phase 1 Project Budget - Remaining items for Phase 2		In Progress	$15,000,000	$0	$0	$15,000,000
1	ADA sidewalks throughout	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
2	Artificial turf at infields (2-4 fields)	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
3	Basketball courts (2)	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
4	Bleachers (covered) throughout	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress

Table 5.2: Recreation Facility Improvements List (Costs to be added)

Facility Name		Term	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
5	Diamond field improvements	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
6	Field lighting replacement & additional (LED fixtures)	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
7	Fitness equipment (outdoor)	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
8	Multipurpose rectangular fields, including artificial turf (1 field)	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
9	Perimeter trail w/ access to amenities & connection to GMRT	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
10	Pickleball courts (4)	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
11	Picnic shelters (3-4)	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
12	Basketball courts indoor (4)	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
13	Playground	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
14	Restrooms/concessions building	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
15	Sand volleyball courts (2)	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
	Project Total		**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Jim Nichols Tennis Center						
1	Lighting replacement (LED fixtures, new poles)	Short	$370,000	$0	$0	$370,000
2	Hard court resurfacing	Short	$30,000	$0	$0	$30,000
3	Sidewalk replacement w/ access to all courts and bleachers	Short	$60,000	$0	$0	$60,000
4	Clay court surface/drainage improvements	Medium	$0	$70,000	$0	$70,000
5	Building replacement - registration/changing rooms/restrooms/storage	Long	$0	$0	$300,000	$300,000
6	Pickleball courts (4)	Long	$0	$0	$250,000	$250,000
	Project Total		**$460,000**	**$70,000**	**$550,000**	**$1,080,000**
Community Golf Course						
1	Golf Master Plan implementation	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
	Project Total		**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL RECREATION FACILITIES			**$2,330,000**	**$3,840,000**	**$2,550,000**	**$8,720,000**

*Values include 10% contingency and 12% for design, engineering, bidding, construction administration, etc. (except non-construction items)



6 PARK AND FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

Dayton's system of parks is robust in terms of quantity but is aging and in need of investment. This Plan will help guide the future of the city and the Public Works Department as it approaches both the revitalization of needed parks and facilities and new development of desired amenities not currently available to residents.

For many of the community desires to be met, the continuation and growth of partnerships with other providers will be critical as Dayton cannot meet all needs alone. Recent partnerships for the Dayton Bike Yard, Centennial Field, and Claridge Park skatepark show that there are interested groups in the community that will commit time and resources to improving the city's parks.

This chapter, like the previous one for Recreation, presents observations and findings gained through the first three phases of this master planning process – Evaluate, Engage, and Envision. Recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Upgrades to Existing Parks and Features
- New Park Features
- Trails, Connectivity, and Nature Access
- Continuity with Other Plans
- Maintenance

6.2 Upgrades to Existing Parks and Features

6.2.1 Observations and Analysis

Through the public input process, Dayton residents voiced a strong desire for improvements to existing parks, consistent with the findings of the park assessments. Through the random sample Mail Survey, 80% of households indicated support for improvements to existing facilities. The condition of facilities ranked third in this survey with about a quarter (23%) of households indicating that the condition of facilities limits their use. Improvements to existing facilities ranked first in the Web Survey with 43% indicating that they would use parks and facilities more if the conditions were improved. The condition and need for improvements to existing facilities were frequent topics of conversation at both the open house workshops and the stakeholder groups

6.2.2 Neighborhood Park Upgrades

Dayton has many neighborhood parks distributed throughout the city, providing walkable access to 57% of the population (77% with parks by others). These parks provide a similar level of service to the benchmark agencies, but the condition of many facilities is below what is desired by residents. Currently, nearly two-thirds (63%) of the population lives in areas with "high" or "medium-high" service levels, and only about 15% live in areas with "low" or "medium-low" service levels (see Composite Park Service Levels map in Chapter 2).

These service levels emphasize the need to focus on improving existing parks and facilities in the system over adding new ones. The city has recently started to make a strong effort toward improving these parks; however, until now, no plan has been in place to prioritize the improvement needed at each of the more than 30 neighborhood parks in Dayton. This Plan will help ensure that parks are improved equitably as far as both distribution and amenities within.

All parks (new or existing) undergoing significant development should have master plans finalized prior to construction. These plans 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.

Due to the large number of needed improvements, investment should focus on existing neighborhood parks. However, Hickorydale Park and Western Hills Park, not currently identified as neighborhood parks due to lack of usable amenities, should be reestablished as neighborhood

parks. These two parks are located in areas of the city that have limited access to parks and are both in the priority improvement areas identified in Chapter 2. Hickorydale Park should be redeveloped in a more visible location, potentially utilizing the adjoining Dayton Public School property through a partnership.

Neighborhood Park Standards

Dayton should have a standard list of elements to include in each neighborhood park. These standards can then be applied to parks when it is time to upgrade (or build new) and 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, including developers, that develop neighborhood parks should be encouraged to follow these standards.

Typical neighborhood park elements include:

1. Playground
2. Basketball court (full or half)
3. Gathering area/picnic shelter
4. Walking trail (if space allows)
5. Good circulation – walkways/ADA access
6. Landscaping & trees
7. Shade – trees and/or structures
8. Open grass area/sports 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., should consider placemaking opportunities
10. Parking (if space allows)

6.2.3 Support Features

Overall, many of the desired improvements to existing parks and facilities relate to improving park users' experiences. According to the Mail Survey, 83% of households want more support features in the parks. Additionally, more than a quarter (26%) of households indicated that more or improved restrooms would lead to increased use of parks and facilities.

Although they can be a destination on their own, picnic shelters, a high-ranking need, would help address the desire for both shade and seating, while also providing potential community gathering spaces. Dayton resident noted the lack or poor condition of these amenities in the city's parks.

According to the survey results, other support features such as security, drinking fountains, trees, and shade would improve experiences and increase visitation to Dayton's parks. Security concerns ranked second for reasons for not using Dayton parks and facilities with 26% of households citing this reason. Stakeholder groups and staff also indicated desire for better security The lack of parking was also cited as an issue at parks through all methods of input

The need for improved signage was a clear trend through both the public engagement and the park assessment. Numerous stakeholder groups discussed needs for various types of signage, including entrance, wayfinding, interpretive (e.g., educational, historical, etc.), and informative (e.g., bulletins, program opportunities, and development updates).

Signage is inconsistent throughout the park system, as noted through the park assessments and public engagement. Many parks lack signage identifying them as City of Dayton parks, and existing signage varies in appearance. Recreation and Public Works are currently collaborating to identify and implement a new signage program which should address this issue.

The city also has room to better utilize technology, such as beacon counters, park related apps, and mobile device charging stations. Many of these technological improvements would require Wi-Fi hotspots in Dayton parks, which would help the success of any future app and would also allow the city to collect data about park usage. Where implemented, Wi-Fi access should include information indicating its availability.

6.2.4 ADA Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires parks and recreation departments to make reasonable accommodations to facilities and programs to serve those with disabilities. The 2010 revision to the ADA Guidelines specifically mentions additional parks and recreation amenities, now including sports facilities, boating facilities, exercise equipment, fishing piers, play areas, and swimming pools as requiring accommodation.

The ADA requires agencies to develop an ADA transition plan to define a strategy to eliminate barriers to accessibility. Dayton like many agencies, has not yet prepared such a plan for its parks and recreation facilities. An accessibility audit, also required as of 1993, should identify barriers and set a timeline to remove them.

As noted through the site assessments and the public input, many of the parks in Dayton need accessibility improvements. Many playgrounds, seating areas, and fields lack accessible paths. Dugouts and spectator seating areas, for example, need to be accessible by wheelchair or other mobility device.

The city recently completed an ADA accessibility audit that included all of the parks and recreation facilities in Dayton. Due to the high cost to implement, the city needs to prepare a strategy with budgeting to function as a guide for their efforts to improve access throughout the system. The plan will show a "good faith" effort to bring the system into compliance as required by the ADA.[1]

[1] National Recreation and Park Association, "Recreation and the Americans with Disabilities Act," https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2016/august/recreation-and-the-americans-with-disabilities-act/

6.2.5 Playgrounds

Dayton currently offers playgrounds at 35 parks with the majority of those facilities in fair or poor condition. Accordingly, 83% of households indicated support (64% very supportive) for playground improvements. Other methods of engagement confirmed this support.

Playground Replacement Program

The City of Dayton does not currently have a playground upgrade or renovation schedule established. With a park system of this size, the age of equipment, and the number of playgrounds, prioritization of replacement is required to maintain safe play environments and to keep playgrounds available to residents.

Typically, a renovation schedule considers factors such as age, condition of equipment, nearby population demographics, and community engagement, to rank priority and determine a schedule for replacement. To determine priority for replacement of playgrounds in Dayton, each park with a playground (or until recently offered one) was evaluated based on a series of variables that are listed below.

Variables considered for priority:

- Demographics (10-minute walk population under age 10)
- Location (walking distance from closest excellent or good playground in minutes) – including in-progress
- Existing playground condition
- Amenities (# of other features in park)
- Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)
- Other outside factors

Once the values for each variable were determined for each park, the variables were assigned a weight leading to a score for each location (see Appendix C for values and weighting). The scores were used to determine priority along with other factors that could be quantified. For example, development near Gillespie Park necessitates a longer timeframe to allow for the engagement of residents. Playgrounds in excellent or good condition were not included. The results with the 10-minute walk area for each park are shown in Figure 6.1.

Top Ranking Playgrounds for Replacement

In Progress

- Blommel Park
- Five Oaks Park
- Gettysburg Park
- Jane Newcom Park
- Kettering Field Park
- Liberation Park
- Oregon Park
- Walnut Hills Park
- Wogaman Park (Madden Hills)

Short-Term

- Burkham Park
- College Hill Park
- Pierce Steele Park
- Residence Park
- Triangle Park

Other Considerations

When replacing or adding playgrounds, the city should make efforts to ensure variation (e.g., themes and features) to provide unique experiences and reasons for families to visit different parks. The city should also consider incorporating nature play elements into playgrounds, which can also satisfy the desire for greater access to nature as indicated by the survey results. It is important to continue to engage the public, especially park neighbors, when making these improvements.

When a playground is installed, it is necessary to understand that the lifespan of that playground is limited and plans for renovation or replacement are necessary. The department should continually track installation dates with an expectation of replacement after approximately 25 years. Once the department addresses the current backlog of playground improvement needs, Dayton should expect to replace 1.5 playgrounds per year moving forward.

6.2.6 Outdoor Fields and Courts

The 36 basketball courts in Dayton provide nearly twice the level of service as the benchmarks. Like the playgrounds, however, many of these facilities are in need of improvement or replacement. The courts have also experienced some vandalism and should have added security in the future to keep vehicles from driving on them.

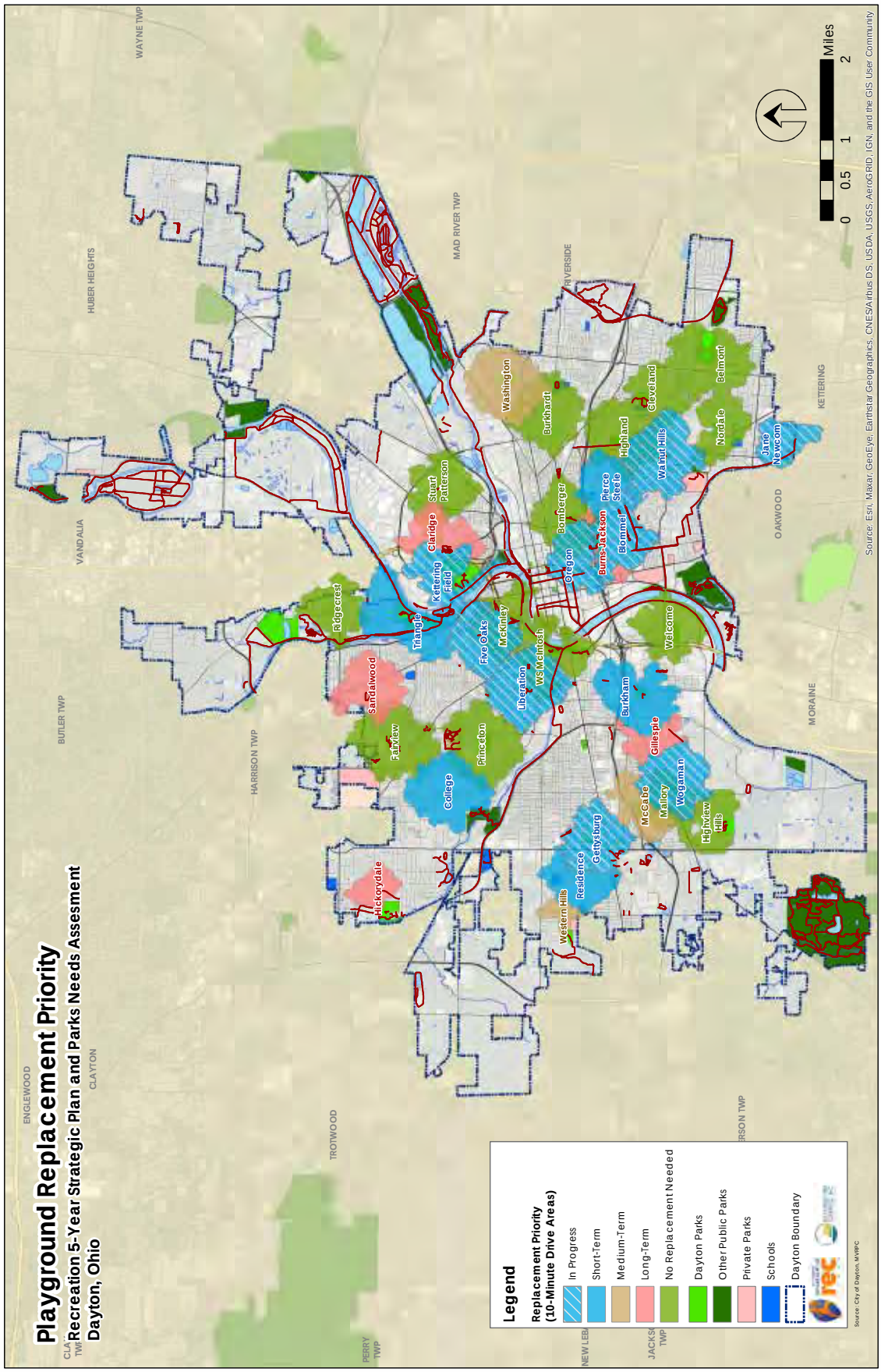
Basketball Court Replacement Program

Dayton has not yet prepared a renovation schedule for basketball courts. Prioritization of replacement is required to ensure safe play environments and equitable access to these facilities. To determine priority for basketball court improvements, each neighborhood park (plus those with features recently removed) was evaluated based on a series of variables that are listed below.

Variables considered for priority:

- Existing basketball court condition
- Demographics (10-minute walk population)
- Location (walking distance from closest basketball court in minutes)
- Amenities (# of other features in park)
- Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)
- Other outside factors

Figure 6.1: Playground Replacement Priority



Once the values for each variable were determined for each park, the variables were assigned a weight leading to a score for each location (see Appendix C for values and weighting). The scores were used to determine priority along with other factors that could be quantified. The priorities with the 10-minute walk area for each park are shown in Figure 6.2. The top-ranking basketball courts for replacement or renovation are:

- Burkham Park
- Highland Park
- McCabe Park
- Nordale Park
- Princeton Park
- Welcome Park
- Western Hills Park

Many of the replacements should include a reduction in the number of courts, as many small parks have more than one court. In most cases, a single court or even a half court can meet the needs of neighborhood users. Most new (i.e., not replacement) basketball courts at neighborhood parks should be half court facilities. All long-term priority courts in Figure 6.2 are new facilities. New full-sized basketball courts are recommended at Kettering Field because it is intended to become a destination for sports of all types in Dayton.

Tennis Court Replacement Program

Dayton does not have a renovation schedule for tennis courts. The city has slightly more courts than the benchmarks with many in need of improvement. Similar to playgrounds and basketball courts, the tennis court locations were evaluated based on a series of variables (listed below).

- Variables considered for priority:
- Existing tennis court condition
- Demographics (5-minute drive population)
- Location (driving distance from next closest tennis court in minutes)
- Parking
- # of existing tennis courts
- Restrooms

Like the other analyses, variables were assigned a weight leading to a score for each location (see Appendix C). The scores were used to determine priority for improvements with the following locations ranking highest:

- Belmont Park
- Jim Nichols Tennis Center
- Princeton Park

Highview Hills Park was next but Burcham Park would be a better location for southwest Dayton due to its location and the other proposed improvements at the park. These locations provide a good distribution of access throughout the city. The other locations should be evaluated with input from the community to determine whether the courts should be improved or replaced with amenities preferred by the neighborhoods.

Multiuse Courts

Soccer on a paved surface (futsal and street soccer) is growing in popularity due in part to limited field space in many communities. Paved courts give users a chance to play soccer where space is otherwise limited and provide for a faster paced game. Although not a high priority according to the public input, these courts would provide opportunities for pick-up play with limited maintenance requirements. Multipurpose courts lined for soccer and other sports could also be added at future parks that lack the space for larger fields. They are another example of a potential "neighborhood determined/placemaking feature" that should be considered at the individual park planning level.

These courts are already present in some Dayton parks. For example, goals were recently added to the tennis courts at Bomberger Park to allow for multiuse of the space. Additionally, the hockey rink at Walnut Park is also used for street soccer. The rink at Sandalwood could potentially be used for soccer as well.



Street Soccer at Bomberger Park

Fields

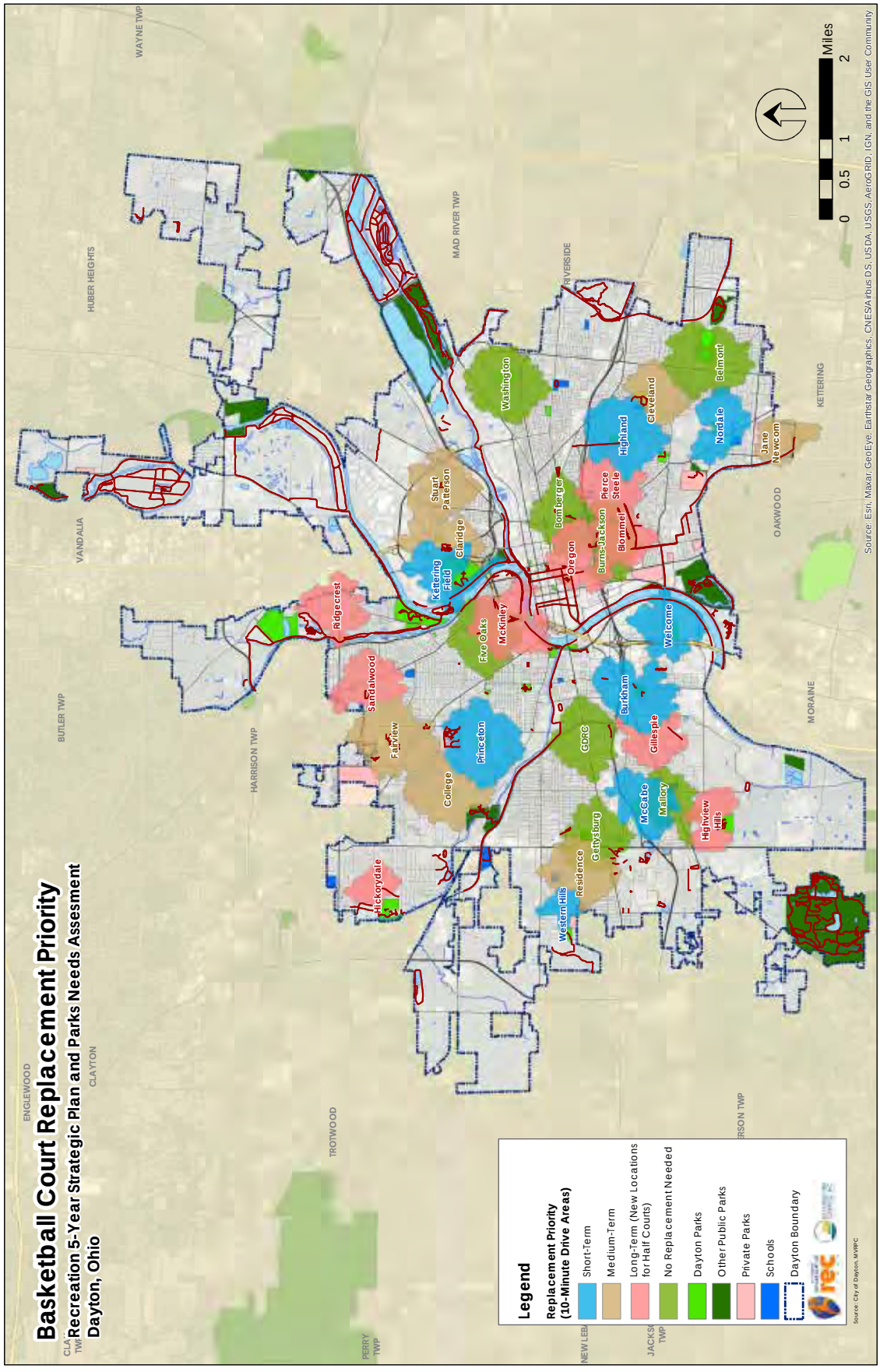
Many of the needs for new and improved fields will be met by improvements at Kettering Field. However, participants at the open house workshops and stakeholder groups requested more space in neighborhood parks for practices and pick-up games for neighborhood youth. Most of the infields in these parks have been allowed to return to grass to reduce maintenance requirements, and the backstops are in poor condition.

Most of the neighborhood needs can be met without reestablishing infields, but improved turf maintenance is required for both baseball/softball use and soccer. The city should identify fields throughout the city to provide improved turf to accommodate these users, and backstops should be replaced at these locations. Promotion of the location of these fields will also be necessary to ensure awareness and to maximize use.

6.2.7 Recommendations

1. Continue to focus investment on existing neighborhood parks to provide consistent quality and access throughout the city

Figure 6.2: Basketball Court Replacement Priority



- Reestablish Hickorydale Park (with facilities relocated to a more visible location) and Western Hills Park as neighborhood parks to address underserved areas in the city

2. Utilize neighborhood park standards when upgrading parks to ensure equity of features
3. Prepare park master plans for parks prior to development of facilities to ensure that added features are complementary, desired, and fully accessible

Support Features

1. Add support features throughout the park system such as seating/benches, shade structures, trash/recycling receptacles, drinking fountains/bottle fillers, and trees & landscaping
   - Include bottle fillers at all new drinking fountains and when existing features are replaced
   - Provide consistent amenities throughout the system
   - Add and improve parking throughout the system, especially where currently insufficient
2. Add and upgrade picnic shelters at parks to increase overall access to these facilities, as well as make them more inviting, and to facilitate opportunities for outdoor community gatherings
3. Add or improve restrooms throughout the parks; include family restrooms at larger parks
4. Add and upgrade signage – entrance, wayfinding, interpretive, and informative – throughout the park system
   - Ensure consistent appearance and branding for all city facilities (both Recreation and Parks)
   - Develop interpretive and informational signage throughout the park system (following signage plans) to help visitors understand the natural features and history of Dayton parks while improving awareness of sensitive ecosystems and rare species
5. Add security cameras and lighting throughout parks in locations that have perceived security concerns
6. Add Wi-Fi access to parks; promote park hotspots to ensure awareness
7. Upgrade and utilize technology in parks for the benefit of both patrons and staff (see trends discussion in Chapter 2)
8. Prepare and implement an ADA transition plan, following the recently completed accessibility audit
   - Ensure accessible walkways to facilities and seating areas

Playgrounds

1. Implement a playground investment program that identifies the expected useful life of all playgrounds with a timeline for replacement
2. Add playgrounds in strategic locations to meet gaps in services
3. Ensure some playgrounds are fully inclusive and barrier free (e.g., Kettering Field)
4. Include separate age 2-5 equipment at some playgrounds
5. Consider themed playground equipment, such as climbing rocks, sensory features, etc., potentially providing for marketing and resident/visitor photo opportunities
6. Incorporate nature play elements as part of playground development, especially in more passive park areas

Fields and Courts

1. Implement a basketball court replacement program
   - Consider reducing the number of courts during replacement
   - Prioritize half courts at new locations
2. Prioritize tennis court improvements at strategically located and larger parks
3. Consider adding multipurpose courts with street soccer goals/lines to parks to provide additional places for residents to play soccer and other desired activities
4. Identify fields throughout the city to provide improved turf and backstops; promote these locations to ensure awareness and to maximize use

6.3 New Park Features

6.3.1 Observations and Analyses

Although the public engagement requests focused heavily on improvements to existing facilities, there were requests for new facilities as well. Most of these requests are consistent with trends throughout the country and emphasize the need to ensure that the parks offer something for people of all ages.

Although the population of Dayton has declined in recent decades, the characteristics of those who live in the city have changed. The population age 65 and older has increased as a percentage and is expected to reach 18% by 2027, well above the 12% from 2010. At the same time, the population under age 18 has declined by about 4% to 21%. Diversity has also increased with the largest growth amongst Hispanic or Latino and multiracial populations.

These trends point to potential changes to the users of parks and facilities in Dayton. Facilities for children will remain important, but demand for senior activities will continue to increase. Specific requests for users of other age groups should also be expected. The needs of specific demographic groups can also be addressed during engagement for each individual park.

6.3.2 Outdoor Aquatics

Dayton does not currently offer any outdoor pools, instead focusing investment on the three indoor pools. However, the city offers seven popular outdoor splash pads across the

city. Given the current demand for aquatic opportunities and the condition of the existing splash pads, ARPA funds have already been dedicated towards repairs to existing and the development of new splash pads. Proposed locations for new splash pads were determined based on the following criteria.

New splash pad feasibility criteria:

- Location (walking distance from closest splash pad in minutes)
- Restrooms
- Demographics (10-minute walk population)
- Park Acreage
- Amenities (# of existing features)
- Parking



Fairview Splash Pad

- Transit Access (bus stop within 5-minute walk)
- Utilities (water/sewer)
- Adjacent Land Use
- Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)
- Access (bike/ped/visibility)

Figure 6.3 shows the recommended locations for six new splash pads. The complete rankings and underlying data are available in Appendix C. The two large parks that host recreation centers, Belmont Park and Princeton Park, ranked as the most suitable locations based on the scoring criteria. Some adjustments were made to ensure that adjacent parks were not selected, and the final recommendations were equitably distributed throughout the city. For example, Burkham Park was selected over Welcome Park because it serves a much larger population within walking distance, and Welcome Park lacks the space for the facility after the recent development of the Dayton Bike Yard.

Proposed splash pad locations (in order of priority):

1. Belmont Park
2. Princeton Park
3. Gettysburg Park
4. Burkham Park
5. Triangle Park
6. Bomberger Par

6.3.3 Other New Facilities

Dog Parks

Dog parks have become increasingly popular amenities for parks to provide in communities all around the USA and in Ohio. The city currently offers two dog parks with one on the east side (Highland Park) and one in the north (Triangle Park). No dog parks are currently located on the west side of the city, making it an obvious area for the next facility to be added. Dog parks were one of the most important facilities for households and a desire for investment. The newest dog park at Triangle Park is a great example for future facilities in Dayton as it offers seating, shade, and ADA accessibility.



Deeds Point Dog Park at Triangle Park

Outdoor Fitness/Obstacle Course

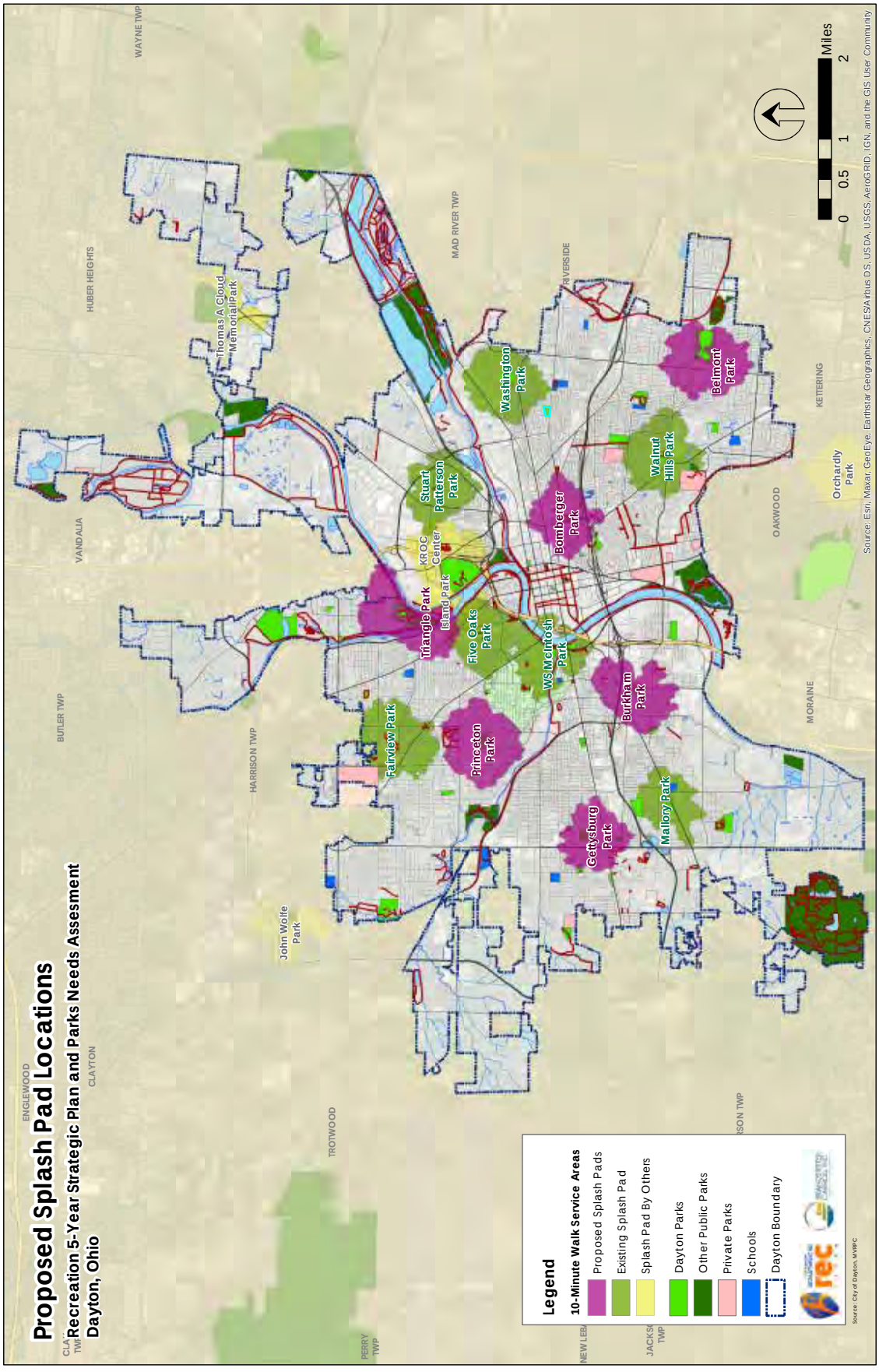
Outdoor fitness equipment is another growing trend in parks, desirable by users of all ages, including active adults/seniors. A couple of parks already offer this equipment but based on community engagement, it should be added at more locations.



Outdoor Fitness Equipment

The equipment could be added at a relatively low cost at parks throughout Dayton to provide even distribution. Larger groups of equipment provide a potential gathering space and a venue for programs. Different equipment appeals to different age groups with obstacle courses or parkour appealing to younger users. The city should add

Figure 6.3: Proposed Splash Pad Locations



a variety of equipment throughout the system to meet the different needs of residents, starting with larger parks such as Triangle Park, Belmont Park, and Kettering Field.

Skateparks

Skateparks are popular with teens and young adults (and others) who may not be engaged by some of the more common park amenities, such as playgrounds. While the engagement indicated some desire for skateparks, the strongest evidence is the community efforts to bring these facilities to Dayton. The existing skatepark at Claridge Park is the result of fundraising by interested Dayton residents.

A second skatepark already exists under the US-35 overpass near Hove Ave and Adelite Ave. This unofficial skatepark was built without city approval; however, the facility is of good quality and has the potential to provide a second skatepark location and balance distribution of access. The city should bring this existing feature into the system and promote it as a city amenity.

While the city should not encourage groups to add unsanctioned amenities to parks, this skatepark shows that there are groups within Dayton that are motivated to raise funds and organize donations to provide additional park features for residents. This story highlights the need to improve channels of communication to ease future efforts by others to contribute to additions and improvements of parks and facilities.



DIY Skatepark - Near Home Ave & Adelite Ave

Disc Golf

As noted in Chapter 2, disc golf is a fast-growing sport throughout the country, and Dayton already offers one course at Belmont Park. These courses are another amenity that attracts non-traditional users to parks, ensuring that they offer something for everyone.

Disc golf courses can utilize land unsuitable for other recreation facilities, and Dayton has an abundance of underutilized parkland. The city should consider additional opportunities to partner with Dayton Disc Golf or other local disc golf groups for courses in Dayton, especially in the north and western parts of the city.

Pickleball

As noted previously, pickleball is a rising trend in parks and recreation across the country, due in part to its popularity with older residents. The recommended courts at Kettering Field described in Chapter 5 should help address this growing need for pickleball in the short-term. However, with the rapid growth of the sport, more courts may be needed in the future and should be added in response to community needs.



Pickleball

Community Gardens

The survey results indicated a potential need for community gardens in Dayton where residents can grow their own food or learn about gardening. According to the survey, 25% of respondents would like to use community gardens if available, and 22% of households would like to see new community gardens constructed in Dayton. Even residents with access to yards that could be used for private gardens often prefer community gardens for socialization and assistance in plot preparation. Educational programs are also common at community garden facilities. Opportunities to partner with an interested group should be considered to provide this amenity in more Dayton parks.



Patterson Park Neighborhood Garden

ATV/Dirt Bike Facilities

Stakeholders and observations during site assessments identified issues with the use of ATVs in parks and on city streets. The desire for a location was also discussed at the open houses. Currently, there is no legal place for those who want to participate in this activity, and it would be beneficial to find a location where this activity could be allowed, especially if a partner group desires to manage the amenities.

Other Potential Features

Many specific features were requested throughout the public input that are consistent with trends and may or may not have support for development in Dayton. The community-wide lens of this Plan focuses on the needs of the city as a whole but does not necessarily have the data needed to make all of the specific facility recommendations for every park, especially small neighborhood parks.

As a result, these specific needs should be addressed during the individual park master planning process. During the individual park planning process, it is important to consider specific features to be determined by the neighborhood to ensure inclusion of specific elements desired by nearby residents are included in each park. Planning and budgeting for these elements helps to ensure that development aligns with needs and promotes a sense of local investment and ownership. It also can provide opportunities for placemaking in park.

Potential **neighborhood determined features** include:

- Game courts (e.g., pickleball, tennis, volleyball, bocce, futsal/street soccer)
- Public art
- Nature area or garden
- Community gardens
- Fitness equipment
- Permanent outdoor games (ping pong/corn hole)
- Skateparks (small)
- Dog parks (small)
- Splash pad
- Bike park elements (e.g., pump track, BMX course)
- Shade structures

6.3.4 Recommendations

1. Utilize existing parkland to meet unmet facility needs identified in this plan
2. Upgrade existing splash pads and add new ones according to the prioritization included in this Plan
3. Develop a dog park in a park on the west side of Dayton in response to growing needs and to provide equitable access; include shade, seating, and water access
4. Add outdoor fitness equipment and/or obstacle courses at select parks to expand opportunities for improved community health and attract additional user groups
5. Bring the existing skatepark under the US-35 overpass near Hove Ave and Adelite Ave into the system and promote it as a city amenity.
6. Seek methods to improve channels of communication to ease future efforts by others to contribute to additions and improvements of parks and facilities
7. Consider additional opportunities to partner with Dayton Disc Golf or other local disc golf groups for courses in Dayton, especially in the north and western parts of the city
8. Continue to evaluate the need for additional pickleball courts after the development of new courts at Kettering Field
9. Evaluate the demand for community gardens and other fresh food opportunities and seek partnerships to meet the demand
10. Include a neighborhood determined feature at each neighborhood park, ensuring development aligns with needs and encouraging a sense of local investment and opportunities for placemaking in parks
11. Consider a potential location for authorized ATV and dirt bike use, especially if a partner group desires to manage the amenities
12. Formulate and post a policy indicating where drone use is permitted or prohibited in Dayton parks; consider adding a drone launch area at Deweese Flying Field
13. Seek opportunities to install public art in additional parks and develop cultural programming in collaboration with creative, arts-advocacy entities in Dayton

6.4 Trails, Connectivity, and Nature Access

6.4.1 Observations and Analyses

The City of Dayton already has an expansive series of trails along its waterways, including the Great Miami River Trail, the Mad River Trail, and the Wolf Creek Trail, managed primarily by Five Rivers MetroParks. However, trail access is more limited in many of the city's neighborhoods. According to the benchmarking in Chapter 2, the City of Dayton manages about 4.5 miles of trails through the Public Works Department, providing 0.3 miles of trail per 10,000 population, well below the median of the benchmark communities (2.7).

Trails consistently emerge at the top for desired improvements all over the country, even in jurisdictions like Dayton with extensive networks of trails or popular and extensive trails. Dayton is no different as clearly communicated by requests by residents for more trails within and outside of parks. Through the public input process, Dayton residents voiced a strong desire for more trails, better connectivity, and more access to natural areas.

Survey results indicate that trails and natural areas are the top two facilities in which households want the city to invest. Many of Dayton's parks currently lack trail loops but could potentially support them, including larger parks such as Triangle Park, Princeton Park, and Kettering Field (also noted in Chapter 5) and several smaller parks.

6.4.2 Connectivity

Connectivity in the community to parks, existing trails, and other destinations is also important to residents. The city recently adopted the *Dayton Active Transportation Plan*

(DATP) earlier this year. This plan provides prioritization of improvements, funding strategies, and maintenance guidelines.

The plan identifies a new vision for a more connected Dayton where, "People of all ages and abilities living, working, and visiting the City of Dayton have access to affordable, safe, and convenient methods of cycling, walking, and other types of micro-mobility." To realize this vision, the DATP proposes:

- 10 miles of sidewalks
- 124 miles of on-street bikeways
- 12 miles of shared-use paths
- Improvements to 252 intersections
- Establishing supportive programs (educational campaigns, encouragement programs/policies, and school-related programs)

Consistent with the findings of this Plan, the DATP also encourages better connectivity between parks and neighborhoods. Once constructed, trails within the parks will provide better connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods and the larger citywide trail system. These park trails have the potential to promote community health and fitness and to promote increased use of the trail network by functioning as trailheads to the larger system.

The effort to expand the 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.[2] Trail and connectivity improvements in Dayton will establish safe routes, create alternate means of transportation, increase access to parks and destinations throughout the city, as well as contribute to an overall sense of community cohesion. The city is well on its way to this target, and implementation of this Plan and the DATP will bring it even closer.



Great Miami River Trail in Triangle Park

6.4.3 Nature Access

All methods of public engagement indicated a desire for improved access to nature in Dayton. Many of the city's parks include natural areas that could be accessed using the trails proposed in this Plan. Portions of parks could also be restored to natural areas with educational opportunities. Triangle Park provides the best potential for additional water access through potential boat launches and fishing access to two rivers (Stillwater and Great Miami).

As with nature programming described in Chapter 5, an effective strategy for improving access to nature in Dayton is to continue to partner with Five Rivers MetroParks to ensure access to their parks which have vast amounts of natural areas. Better connectivity through trails between parks will improve access, but improved cross-promotion and marketing could also have a substantial impact.

6.4.4 Recommendations

1. Evaluate opportunities to add paved trails in existing parks
   - Add paved trails throughout the system at existing parks, especially larger parks such as Triangle, Kettering Field, and Princeton
   - Include trail connections between parks and adjacent neighborhoods wherever possible, especially when developing new parks

Connectivity (some directly from DATP)

1. Begin to implement the *Active Transportation Plan* to improve connectivity throughout Dayton
2. Provide better connectivity between parks and the surrounding neighborhoods and the larger citywide trail system
   - Utilize park trails trailheads to the larger system to promote community health and fitness and increased use of the trail
3. Attend neighborhood meetings to raise awareness of active transportation activities and programs and share the final recommendations from the plan
4. Evaluate and submit annual applications for new bicycle and pedestrian facilities (TA/CMAQ/STP/etc).
5. Convene trail partners to establish, adopt, and/or update universal maintenance policy and practices for regional off-street trail network within the city's boundaries
6. Update maintenance policy for bicycle and pedestrian facilities
7. Design and implement an annual evaluation of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities
8. Design and build new active transportation facilities within city bounds
9. Consider signing on to the 10-Minute Walk Mission by the TPL and NRPA to show the city's commitment to connectivity and access to parks

Nature Access

1. Look for opportunities to restore natural areas within parks and provide educational opportunities

2 NRPA, TFPL, and ULI's 10-Minute Walk campaign: https://10minutewalk.org/

2. Consider adding water access at Triangle Park through potential boat launches and fishing access to two rivers (Stillwater and Great Miami).
3. Continue to partner with Five Rivers MetroParks to ensure access to their parks for all residents

6.5 Continuity With Other Planning Efforts

6.5.1 Observations and Analyses

As Dayton moves forward working toward improvements and development that can make a difference in the lives of the community, it is important to ensure that efforts align with existing plans wherever possible. In addition to the *Dayton Active Transportation Plan* described in the previous section, several existing plan documents and studies, including some pursued by other city entities, refer to parks and recreation opportunities in Dayton. Appendix B includes a summary of those plans considered especially relevant to the work of the agency. The following are a few key highlights and subsequent recommendations.

6.5.2 Relevant Planning Documents

Dayton Forward Comprehensive Plan (2022)

The *Dayton Forward Comprehensive Plan* incorporates the myriad of existing plans the city has conducted over the past two decades and is broken into nine sections dealing with economic development, equity, historic preservation, housing, land reutilization, mobility, open space, strategic vision & land use principles, and sustainability. The open space section focuses on utilizing the existing open space network anchored by the waterways and trails in Dayton. The goals for this section include:

- Economic Engine – leverage rivers to catalyze development
- Diverse Programming – provide a range of recreation experiences
- Placemaking – celebrate history and cultural heritage
- Support Healthy Lifestyles – provide programs that support health, safety, and wellness
- Accessibility – improve access to and across the riverfronts
- Ecological Preservation – promote ecological health of the riverfront while protecting it from flooding
- Open Space Connectivity – connect the open space network
- Alternative Landscapes – preserving natural landscapes where applicable to mitigate park maintenance costs

ARPA Dayton Recovery Plan (2021)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the City of Dayton received and dedicated federal funding towards addressing neighborhood needs, including recreation. As noted earlier in this chapter, the Recreation Department was allocated funding for new splash pads across the city along with upgrades to existing splash pads. The site suitability analysis was conducted because of this funding to identify locations for potential new splash pads (see Figure 6.3).

Dayton Riverfront Plan (2018)

In 2018, the *Dayton Riverfront Plan* was prepared to guide parks and recreation development in conjunction with the existing river systems in Dayton. This plan focuses on three corridors, the Cultural Corridor, Downtown Core, and Community Corridor. This plan includes improvement strategies for some City of Dayton parks, including Triangle Park, DeWeese Park, and Kettering Field.

Overall, these three parks are intended to become better connected to one another along with the river via a system of trails and pedestrian connections. Triangle Park and DeWeese Park recommendations are focused mainly on nature access along with amenities such as signage, improved parking, and clearings along the trail adjacent to the river for potential boat launches or fishing access. Kettering Field recommendations are focused on more active park features such as upgrading the ballfields, increasing pedestrian connectivity, adding a playground, and providing additional multipurpose fields, all included in this Plan.

Northeast Dayton Neighborhood Vision (2020)

The *Northeast Dayton Neighborhood Vision* plan focuses on 15 neighborhoods, including the Historic Inner East neighborhoods and those separated by the Great Miami River and industrial uses. Specifically related to recreation and park facilities are recommendations for improved neighborhood connectivity to the Stillwater and Mad Rivers through Kettering Field and Triangle Park. Since this plan in 2020, the recommended NFL artificial turf field has been constructed with plans for further improvements to Kettering Field in process.

Southeast Dayton Neighborhood Vision (2020)

The *Southeast Dayton Neighborhood Vision* plan includes eight neighborhoods within the city which are all well connected. A common theme included in this plan is the need for greater investment in existing parks and connecting neighborhoods to trails. This plan includes an Open Space Framework focusing on Walnut Hills Park, Nordale Park, Highland Park, Lohrey Recreation Center, Patterson Park, and Jane Newcome Park. Recommendations emphasize increasing accessibility and creating connections between parks/community amenities and adding new facilities that improve the park experience.

Northwest Dayton Neighborhood Vision (2020)

The *Northwest Dayton Neighborhood Vision* plan encompasses 20 neighborhoods within Dayton that range in demographic composition. Relating to recreation and parks, this plan focuses on developing the existing trail system and utilizing the river corridors as assets to the communities they pass through. Recommended connections include Fairview Park to Triangle Park, Island MetroPark, and Kettering Field.

West Dayton Neighborhood Vision (2019)

The *West Dayton Neighborhood Vision* plan includes a section on parkways, trails, and parks. The basis of this section is to connect existing parks and open spaces to one another via a trails system. Specific improvements to McCabe Park include military cemetery expansion into the park. This site is proposed to act as a preserve with natural areas, open spaces, and mature trees.

Pineview Neighborhood Plan (2020)

The *Pineview Neighborhood Plan* focuses on a small residential neighborhood in West Dayton whose history is like other neighborhoods in Dayton. Developed during the 1950s, the neighborhood relies heavily on homeownership and is surrounded by large institutional campuses that draw visitors, clients, and employees from around the region. Community assets for this neighborhood include Lakeside Lake and Mallory Park. Although upgrades have been made in recent years to these recreation areas, additional maintenance and updates are needed. For Lakeside Lake, this plan calls for placemaking, site enhancement, and funding mechanisms to maintain the park. This plan calls for improved access to Mallory Park from the surrounding neighborhoods, especially those to the west.

Renew Miami Chapel (2018)

The R*enew Miami Chapel* plan includes neighborhoods in Dayton that have been negatively impacted by the decline in industrial/manufacturing uses over the past few decades resulting in population and retail development loss. These neighborhoods include Pineview, Lakeview, Miami Chapel, Madden Hills, and Edgemont. Parks located in these neighborhoods include Lakeside Lake, McCabe Park, Burkham Park, and Mallory Park. This plan included surveys and community engagement which identified improvements for both the parks in these neighborhoods and recreation programs. Objective 2 in this plan calls for increasing the quality and quantity of youth programs which could be answered through the Recreation Department.

Carillon-Edgemont Neighborhood Plan (2018)

This neighborhood plan focuses on two planning districts, Carillon and Edgemont. A focus on community and economic development helped identify six priorities of focus, including recreation. Overall, improvements at Burkham Park and Welcome Park consist of upgrading amenities, bike park construction (completed in 2023), updated shelters, new playground equipment, and basketball courts, along with increased programming such as summer camps and mentoring programs.

Ten-Year Master Plan for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (2004)

The previous master plan for recreation and parks was created prior to the separation of the department into the Recreation Department with Parks moved to the Public Works Department. This document was established to help guide the city over ten years for its recreation programs and services as well as maintaining and improving the existing park system. Although much of the plan has been completed, some of the recommendations in this plan are still applicable today, nearly 20 years later. Ultimately, providing parks that support recreation programs to best serve the community is still an overarching goal for the department.

6.5.3 Recommendations

1. Refer to previous planning documents for linking neighborhoods when improving key parks within these corridors (e.g., Kettering Field, Triangle Park, & Deweese Park)
    - Increase pedestrian connectivity at all outdoor facilities
    - Add features that improve the overall experience (shelters, signage, landscaping, drinking fountains, benches, etc.)
    - Increase access to the existing trail network and rivers and utilize these locations for outdoor recreation programming
    - Partner with other groups who offer amenities that are not located at city parks/facilities to expand program offerings
2. Utilize ARPA funding and this Plan's findings for placement of new splash pads and renovations to existing
3. Continue to engage with residents when updating outdoor/indoor recreation facilities
4. Increase the sense of safety at all facilities by adding lighting, supervision, and appropriate parking/ vehicular and pedestrian connections
5. Ensure ADA accessibility throughout the facilities
6. Create more usable, inviting public spaces by improving amenities at existing sites and establishing multiuse areas where possible
7. Collaborate with the community to identify preferred park features when developing and updating existing parks (e.g., placemaking, neighborhood determined features)
8. Provide support to local groups advocating connectivity throughout Dayton by planning for trails within the parks
9. Improve engagement with the riverfront; develop additional opportunities to access the water

10. Clear additional viewsheds of the river, trimming only non-stabilizing vegetation
11. Consider converting some open spaces to natural areas to mitigate maintenance costs

6.6 Maintenance

6.6.1 Observations and Analyses

Throughout the public engagement, residents indicated they would like to see improved maintenance of the parks in Dayton. Additionally, as described earlier in this chapter, households indicated strong support for upgrades to existing park features, and the site assessments revealed many facilities near or at the end of their useful lives and others needing repairs. Households were more supportive of upgrading existing parks and facilities over adding to the system. These findings indicate that the system's maintenance challenges are related to both long-term capital maintenance and replacement and day-to-day maintenance.

Staff indicated that they currently struggle to keep up with maintenance, indicating that more staff are needed. Additionally, as investments are made to the city's parks, residents will expect maintenance levels to increase to preserve the condition of the upgraded facilities. Part-time staff may also be needed to maintain the system to the desires of residents. As with the program and operations staff (Recreation Department), hiring and retention of maintenance staff is a challenge, and the Public Works Department is currently developing strategies to address this issue.

6.6.2 Capital Maintenance and Funding

Dayton has a significant backlog of deferred maintenance throughout the park system. While the department continues to work to address the needed repairs, a detailed capital maintenance and replacement plan needs to be developed for all features. Public input clearly indicated that residents would like to see high-quality parks and facilities, and this Plan is essential to ensure the continued realization of this desire.

The process of addressing deferred maintenance will require additional dedicated funding in the capital budget with new development adding demands for more capital budget dollars. The limited ARPA funding that has been dedicated to park improvements will address only a small number of these needs. It is insufficient to fund everything in this Plan. Similarly, Issue 9 has helped fund several park projects, but the 8-year tax will expire in 2024. Based on robust support for recreation and parks, Dayton should seek replacement funding sources to allow for continued capital improvements.

Of utmost consideration is the high cost of reactive maintenance, rather than proactive action; when maintenance is deferred for too long, the cost increases exponentially each year of delay. It is important for the city to prioritize improvements to existing parks and facilities before or along with investments in new development.

6.6.3 Maintenance Standards and Strategies

Clearly defined standards and strategies improve efficiency and consistency throughout the system while potentially reducing maintenance demands. 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 city's budgetary administration years in advance to ensure the city is prepared 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., lawnmowers, trucks, irrigation systems, etc.) – standards set by the department in collaboration with the city
- Coordination with maintenance staff during the park and facility design process; essential to ensuring that staff understand how to maintain what is developed and improves efficiency by ensuring compatibility with maintenance equipment and practices

Public Works 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. The above process will also help to address equipment needs proactively rather than reactively.

Maintenance Strategies

As noted throughout this Plan, residents desire improved park maintenance levels. Increased frequency of mowing is needed to meet these expectations, which will require more staff. Some additional staff dedicated to parks are expected to be added next year; however, staffing levels will still be insufficient compared to what is desired by city residents. Additionally, users will want to see their city's investment protected once improvements are made.

The mowing schedule should be updated based on park rentals and through knowledge of and communication with neighborhoods. A weekly mowing schedule is necessary for highly used parks or areas within, with up to a 21-day schedule for less used park areas. This strategy is especially important as staffing levels will likely remain stressed into the future, even if additional staff are added.

Table 6.1: Turf Maintenance Levels

1 State of the Art Maintenance

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

2 High Level Maintenance

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

3 High 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
  - 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

5 High Visitation Natural Areas

- Park/Land Categories
  - Natural areas of high visitation
  - Nature parks
- Maintenance Standards
  - No mowing
  - Annual bush hogging, monthly inspection (prairie/meadow areas)

6 Minimum Maintenance Level

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

The lower level of staffing has been documented throughout this Plan. The analysis in Chapter 2 showed various benchmark comparisons for both staffing levels and overall budget.[3] In nearly all measurements, Dayton was behind in these comparisons. Table 6.2 shows a collection of these values with the difference between Dayton. Looking at staffing level, Dayton is only ahead of the other shrinking cities in Ohio, and Dayton is even behind those when it comes to per capita budget. While Dayton cannot expect to match these comparison numbers, they do confirm that the city is currently providing fewer staff and resources to the maintenance of parks.

[3] Because comparison numbers are only available for all staff in the departments, both Recreation and Parks are included with a breakdown for the proportion of staff in each department.

6.6.4 Reducing Maintenance Requirements

The Mail Survey found some support for reducing the number of parks and amount of land maintained if that allows what remains to be maintained at a higher level. When asked if they would support an action to close some parks to focus on improving the quality of those that remain, nearly half (49%) of households indicated support, and only 26% indicated that they would not support this action. As a result, the city should look for opportunities to close (or return to greenspace) some parks that are within a short distance of another park, in poor condition, and/or have few residents living nearby.

Reducing the amount of land or facilities maintained at each park could also allow for improved conditions without additional resources. For example, if portions of a park are converted to lower maintenance plantings or restored to natural areas, existing resources could maintain the remaining portions of the park at a higher level.

During the engagement process, the city should provide alternatives to residents based on the amount of maintenance time and staff that can be dedicated to the upkeep of each park. If more frequent mowing is required to ensure a field is playable for sports, another portion of the park may need to be maintained at a reduced level.

Reducing the number of basketball courts during replacement will also lower maintenance requirements. In general, the total maintenance needs for each park should be considered as parks are improved. Finally, choosing equipment that requires less maintenance, both facilities in parks and maintenance equipment, can reduce the demands on staff time.

6.6.5 Management Plans

As the department currently operates, there is typically not enough funding to replace facilities as they reach the end of their useful life. All deferred maintenance should be identified and prioritized over a multi-year period and anticipated when features are initially added. Creating a comprehensive preventive maintenance plan for equipment safeguards against costly repairs that might otherwise have been avoided. Whenever items are purchased, plans for their eventual replacement must be put in place.

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

Management plans should be prepared for facilities and sites as the city invests in improvements to the system. These plans should identify the expected life of features or structures plus the required maintenance needs. Replacement costs should be included and considered prior to development. These plans should also include relevant best management practices (BMPs).

6.6.6 Recommendations

1. Develop a detailed capital maintenance and replacement plan for all features
2. Know the value of assets (excluding land values); know where those assets are in their life cycle

Table 6.2: Staff and Funding Comparisons

Benchmark Values	Benchmark Median	National	Shrinking Cities	Neighboring Communities	Dayton (Current)
Staff					
FTE per 10,000	10.0	8.9	3.5	10.5	*4.8*
Dayton FTE Req. to Match	137.6	122.5	48.2	144.5	*66.3*
Recreation	77.4	68.9	27.1	81.3	*37.3*
Maintenance (PW Parks)	60.2	53.6	21.1	63.2	*29.0*
Total Staff Difference	71.3	56.2	-18.2	78.2	*N/A*
Maintenance Difference	**31.2**	**24.6**	**-7.9**	**34.2**	*N/A*
Budget					
Operating Exp. per Capita	$116	$93	$70	$109	*$51*
Dayton Budget to Match (in Millions)	$16.0	$12.8	$9.6	$15.0	*$7.0*
Budget Difference (in Millions)	**$8.9**	**$5.8**	**$2.6**	**$8.0**	*N/A*

3. Create and continuously update a comprehensive preventive maintenance plan for all equipment
    - Plan for eventual replacement of items as they are purchased
4. Prioritize improvements to existing parks and facilities before or along with investments in new development
5. Seek replacement funding sources as Issue 9 expires and ARPA funds are depleted to allow for continued capital improvements.

Standards and Strategies

1. 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
2. Determine the level of maintenance service to provide at each park or portion of a park and ensure funding is in place in accordance with the level of maintenance expected
3. Increase staffing levels to meet the expectations of residents and to protect the city's investment once improvements are made

Reducing Maintenance Requirements

1. Look for opportunities to decommission (or return to greenspace) some parks that are within a short distance of another park, in poor condition, and/or have few residents living nearby
2. Consider maintenance and staffing needs when adding parkland and features to the system
3. Provide alternatives to residents during the engagement process based on the amount of maintenance time and staff that can be dedicated to the upkeep of each park
4. Consider the total maintenance needs for each park as improvements are made to ensure demands are within staffing and budget limitations
5. Choose equipment that requires less maintenance, both facilities in parks and maintenance equipment, to reduce the demands on staff time

Management Plans

1. Prepare management plans that identify the expected life, required maintenance and operational needs, and BMPs for facilities and sites as the city invests in improvements
2. Identify the proper amount of funding each year to administer the park system, including after implementing this Plan
3. Implement conservation policies and sustainable practice guidelines for future development and management of park properties

6.7 Park Capital Improvements and Priority

The estimated cost of the improvements in this Plan will ultimately depend on which facilities are developed. Some of the improvements require future decisions based on location or neighborhood preferences, and priorities also change over a 10-year period. Items may also be added or removed when park master plans are prepared and the community is engaged for many of these properties. This section provides a probable cost for many of the individual facility improvements identified in this chapter. The values in Table 6.3 can then be used to estimate the potential cost of park improvements indicated at Dayton parks in Table 6.4. These estimates can then be used in conjunction with the park improvement lists to set priorities and allow for the comparison of costs between alternative features.

Table 6.3: Estimated Development Costs by Feature

Improvement	Estimated Cost
Connectivity/Accessibility	
Sidewalk, concrete, 5 ft wide per LF	$85
Trail, asphalt; 8 ft wide per LF	$90
Trail, asphalt; 10 ft wide per LF	$135
Fields and Courts	
Backstop	$18,000
Basketball court	$100,000
Basketball court reseal/restripe	$30,000
Basketball court resurface/restripe	$50,000 - $100,000
Basketball half-court	$60,000
Diamond field - game/tournament	$300,000 - $400,000
Field lighting	$250,000 - $350,000
Rectangular field - practice	$100,000 - $150,000
Tennis court construction (2 courts)	$200,000
Tennis court repair, coating and restriping	$40,000 - $100,000
Tennis court resurfacing (2 courts)	$100,000 - $200,000
Outdoor Amenities	
Disc golf - 9-hole course	$30,000 - $50,000
Disc golf - 18-hole course	$80,000 - $120,000
Natural play area	$150,000
Outdoor games	$15,000 - $30,000
Outdoor fitness equipment (neighborhood park)	$100,000
Outdoor fitness equipment (community park)	$150,000
Playground (neighborhood park)	$150,000 - $200,000
Playground (community park)	$250,000 - $350,000
Pump track	$50,000 - $100,000
Skate park (small)	$100,000 - $150,000
Splash pad (includes shade and other site amenities)	$600,000
Passive Use	
Boat launch	$90,000
Dog park (<1 acres)	$150,000
Dog park (2-3) acres	$250,000
Natural area restoration - wetland per acre	$7,500
Natural area restoration - woodland per acre	$12,000
Support Amenities	
Benches, permanent - each (includes installation)	$2,000
Bike rack (installed)	$4,000
Drinking fountain w/ bottle filler (add for new water line)	$10,000
Parking (per space)	$2,500 - $3,500
Picnic shelter (large)	$150,000
Picnic shelter (medium)	$100,000
Picnic shelter (small)	$70,000
Picnic tables (permanent - each w/ installation)	$3,000
Restroom - large (w/ concessions and storage)	$350,000 - $500,000
Restroom - small (w/ storage)	$200,000 - $300,000
Shade structures - medium (e.g., playground or small picnic/program area)	$60,000
Shade structures - small (e.g., one set bleachers or fitness station)	$30,000
Shaded tables/benches	$12,000
Wi-Fi (per hotspot)	$10,000

Table 6.4: Park Capital Improvement List

	Park Name	Term
Systemwide		
1	ADA accessibility audit/transition plan implementation	Short
2	ADA sidewalks throughout system	Ongoing
3	Park master plans/community engagement for all parks	Ongoing
4	Consistent signage at all park entrances	Short/Medium
5	Wayfinding plan & signage for all parks	Short/Medium
6	Drinking fountains/bottle fillers throughout system	Ongoing
7	Security cameras & lighting - as needed based on conditions	Ongoing
8	Tree planting and maintenance strategy	Ongoing
9	Demolition of obsolete and poor quality facilities	Short/Medium
10	Site furnishing upgrades at all existing parks (trash & recycling receptacles/ bike racks/pet waste stations)	Ongoing
11	Wi-Fi hotspots (larger parks)	Ongoing
Neighborhood Parks		
Arlington Hills Park		
1	Consider for decommission	Short
2	Splash pad removal	Short
Blommel Park		
1	Playground replacement	In Progress
2	Basketball half court	Long
3	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
4	Picnic shelter - small	Long
Bomberger Park		
1	Playground replacement	Complete
2	Picnic shelter	Short
3	Splash pad (6th priority)	Short
4	Restroom building (short-term if splash pad added)	Medium
Borgerdine Park		
1	Consider for decommission (no existing amenities)	Short
2	Follow Neighborhood Park Standards if retained in system	TBD
Burkham Park		
1	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Short
2	Gazebo repairs	Short
3	Parking lot installation - new location	Short
4	Picnic shelter	Short
5	Playground replacement	Short
6	Restroom building replacement	Short
7	Splash pad (4th priority)	Short
8	Tennis courts	Medium
9	Trail - perimeter walking (0.5-mile)	Medium
Burkhardt Park		
1	Picnic shelter	Medium
2	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Long
3	Neighborhood determined feature	Long

Table 6.4: Park Capital Improvement Lists (Continued)

Park Name		Term
Burns-Jackson Park		
1	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Long
2	Picnic shelter	Long
3	Playground replacement	Long
4	Tennis court improvements - or replace w/ NH determined feature	Long
5	Trail - perimeter walking (0.25-mile) w/ connection to pedestrian bridge	Long
Claridge Park		
1	Parking lot	Short
2	Basketball court improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Medium
3	Trail - perimeter walking (0.25-mile)	Medium
4	Picnic shelter	Long
5	Playground replacement	Long
Cleveland Park		
1	Shelter improvements (roof/paint/tables)	Short
2	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Medium
3	Trail resurfacing	Medium
4	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
College Hill Park		
1	Playground replacement	Short
2	Shelter improvements (roof/paint/tables)	Short
3	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Medium
4	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
Fairview Park		
1	Poolhouse demolition	In Progress
2	Picnic shelter	Long
Five Oaks Park		
1	Fitness equipment repair	In Progress
2	Picnic shelter	In Progress
3	Playground replacement	In Progress
4	Restroom building	In Progress
5	Splash pad improvements	In Progress
Gettysburg Park		
1	Basketball courts	In Progress
2	Parking lot	In Progress
3	Picnic shelter	In Progress
4	Playground	In Progress
5	Restroom building	In Progress
6	Splash pad (3rd priority)	Short
Gillespie Park		
1	Park master plan	Short
2	Basketball court improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Long
3	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
4	Picnic shelter	Long

Table 6.4: Park Capital Improvement Lists (Continued)

Park Name		Term
5	Playground replacement	Long
6	Trail - perimeter walking (0.75-mile) - connect to existing NH trail	Long
Hickorydale Park		
1	Park master plan - relocate access and features to a more visible location, consider partnership w/ schools, potential upgrade to community park	Medium
2	Basketball court	Long
3	Dog park - potential location	Long
4	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
5	Picnic shelter	Long
6	Playground replacement	Long
7	Restroom building replacement	Long
Highland Park		
1	Basketball court replacement/relocation	Short
2	Parking lot improvements (pave/line)	Short
3	Dog park improvements (seating/access/shade/water)	Long
4	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
5	Picnic shelter	Long
6	Trail - perimeter walking (0.5-mile) - connect to existing NH trail	Long
Highview Hills Park		
1	Basketball court replacement/relocation	Short
2	Demolition of wading pool, basketball courts, & restroom building	Short
3	Tennis court replacement w/ NH determined feature	Short
4	Dog park - potential location	Long
5	Picnic shelter	Long
6	Trail - perimeter walking (0.5-mile) - connect to neighborhoods & existing trail	Long
Jane Newcome Park		
1	Playground replacement	In Progress
2	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Medium
3	Tennis court improvements - or replace w/ NH determined feature	Medium
4	Backstop replacement	Long
5	Trail - pave existing	Long
Liberation Park		
1	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	In Progress
2	Playground replacement	In Progress
3	Picnic shelter improvements (roof/paint/tables)	In Progress
4	Restroom building	Medium
5	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
6	Trail - perimeter walking (0.25-mile)	Long
Mallory Park		
1	Splash pad improvements	Short
2	Picnic shelter relocation/replacement	Medium
3	Restroom building	Medium
4	Basketball court improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Long

Table 6.4: Park Capital Improvement Lists (Continued)

Park Name		Term
5	Disc golf course (9-hole) - potential location	Long
6	Trail - perimeter walking (0.5-mile) w/ neighborhood connections	Long
Mary Avenue Park		
1	Consider for decommission	Short
McCabe Park		
1	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Short
2	Demolition of shelter & court on north side	Short
3	Playground replacement	Medium
4	Picnic shelter improvements (roof/paint/tables)	Medium
5	Restroom building	Medium
6	Trail - perimeter walking (0.5-mile) w/ neighborhood connections	Medium
7	Dog park - potential location	Long
8	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
McKinley Park		
1	Basketball half court	Long
2	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
3	Picnic shelter	Long
Nordale Park		
1	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Short
2	Demolition of wading pool & former tennis courts	Short
3	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
4	Trail - perimeter walking (0.25-mile)	Long
Oregon Park (Newcom Founders Park)		
1	Playground replacement	In Progress
2	Basketball half court	Long
3	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
Pierce Steele Park		
1	Playground replacement	In Progress
2	Basketball half court	Long
3	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
4	Picnic shelter - small	Long
Residence Park		
1	Parking lot (to replace tennis courts)	Short
2	Playground replacement	Short
3	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Medium
4	Picnic shelter improvements (roof/paint/tables)	Medium
5	Restroom building	Medium
6	Neighborhood determined feature	Long
Ridgecrest Park		
1	Pickleball courts (permanent nets and fencing at end)	Short
2	Volleyball court (nets/surfacing)	Short
3	Trail - perimeter walking (0.25-mile) w/ neighborhood connections	Medium
4	Backstop replacement	Long

Table 6.4: Park Capital Improvement Lists (Continued)

	Park Name	Term
5	Basketball half court	Long
Salem Heights Park		
1	Consider for decommission	Short
2	Playground replacement	TBD
Sandalwood Park		
1	Fencing removal (Sandalwood Dr)	Short
2	Picnic shelter replacement	Short
3	Playground replacement	Medium
4	Tennis court improvements - or replace w/ NH determined feature	Medium
5	Trail resurfacing	Medium
6	Basketball half court	Long
7	Hockey rink improvements (consider multiuse/soccer court)	Long
Stuart Patterson Park		
1	Parking lot	Short
2	Splash pad improvements/expansion	Short
3	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Medium
4	Tennis court improvements - or replace w/ NH determined feature	Medium
5	Picnic shelter	Long
6	Restroom building	Long
Walnut Hills Park		
1	Playground replacement	In Progress
2	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Short
3	Restroom building	Short
4	Splash pad improvements	Short
5	Hockey rink improvements (surface/add street soccer lines)	Medium
6	Tennis court improvements	Medium
7	Volleyball court improvements (nets/surface)	Medium
8	Picnic shelter	Long
Washington Park		
1	Restroom building	Short
2	Splash pad improvements/expansion	Short
3	Picnic shelter improvements (roof/paint/tables)	Medium
4	Playground expansion	Medium
5	Trail - perimeter walking (0.5-mile) w/ neighborhood connections	Medium
Western Hills Park		
1	Park master plan	Short
2	Basketball court	Short
3	Picnic shelter	Short
4	Playground replacement	Short
5	Neighborhood determined feature	Medium

Table 6.4: Park Capital Improvement Lists (Continued)

	Park Name	Term
Wogaman Park (Madden Hills)		
1	Playground replacement	In Progress
WS McIntosh Park		
1	Parking lot (to replace tennis courts)	Complete
2	Bollards around park (to prevent vehicles from entering)	Complete
3	Picnic shelter (away from playground)	Short
4	Splash pad improvements	Short
5	Fitness equipment (outdoor)	Long
6	Outdoor games (e.g., cornhole)	Long
Community Parks		
Belmont Park		
1	Playground equipment replacement (age 2-5)	Short
2	Splash pad (1st priority)	Short
3	Tennis court improvements	Short
4	Parking lot improvements (resurface/line) - north & disc golf lots	Medium
5	Trail - perimeter walking, complete loop and add neighborhood connections	Long
6	Fitness equipment (outdoor)	Long
7	Backstop replacement (2)	Long
Princeton Park		
1	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Short
2	Playground equipment replacement (age 2-5)	Short
3	Splash pad (2nd priority)	Short
4	Tennis court improvements	Short
5	Trail - perimeter walking (0.5-mile)	Medium
6	Picnic shelter	Medium
7	Backstop replacement (2)	Long
Triangle Park		
1	Fitness equipment (outdoor)	In Progress
2	Parking lot improvements (resurface/line) - Embury	In Progress
3	Picnic shelter removal	In Progress
4	Picnic shelters (2)	In Progress
5	Trail paved perimeter loop, connecting GMRT to parking lot	In Progress
6	Parking lot improvements (resurface/line) - Ridge Ave	Short
7	Playground (large all-access)	Short
8	Splash pad (5th priority)	Short
9	Howell Field lighting (LED)	Medium
10	Disc golf course (18-hole) - potential location	Long
11	Boat launch/fishing access (2)	Long
12	Howell Field artificial turf at infield	Long
Welcome Park (Virginia McNeal Park)		
1	Basketball courts improvements (surface/goals/added fencing)	Short



7 ACTION PLAN

7.1 Introduction

The Action Plan table on the following pages (Table 7.1) provides a detailed list of recommendations for the *2023 Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan & Parks Needs Assessment*. These strategies represent specific actions for the City of Dayton to take to implement this plan.

7.2 Action Plan Strategies

These strategies are listed under the four goals and 12 objectives from the Strategic Plan (Chapter 4). 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 Recreation Department or Parks (through Public Works), possibly including legislation); planning (long-term parks outlook, which includes conducting studies); or operations. The column for "Agency" indicates who is expected to implement the strategy, usually the Recreation Department or Parks (through Public Works), another city department, or partners. "Funding Source" indicates how the strategy should be funded, the type of funds used (operating or capital funds), or if the strategy should generate revenue.

ACTION PLAN - 2023 Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan & Parks Needs Assessment								
Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations								
Rec = Dayton Recreation				OP = Parks and Recreation Operating Budget				
Parks = Dayton Public Works (Parks Related)				CIP = Capital Improvement Budget				
City = City Council, Other City Departments				Revenue = Items that Generate Additional Revenue				
Partners = Other Organizations (county/state, private agencies, schools, state/federal grants, etc.)								
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		**Timeframe (Years)**			**Category**	**Agency**	**Funding Source**	**Section Reference**
		0-2	**3-5**	**6-10**				
Goal 1: Responsive Recreation								
Deliver a diverse array of programs that promote community fun and health								
Objective 1.1 – Excellent Sports: Provide a wide variety of high quality, accessible sports opportunities								
Strategy 1.1.1:	Upgrade the baseball/softball fields at Kettering Field to better meet the needs of local teams and to ensure the complex viable for tournaments	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.2:	Provide ADA accessibility to fields, seating areas, and dugouts	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.3:	Reopen the pool at GDRC	✓			Capital	Rec	OP	5.4.8, 5.3.1
Strategy 1.1.4:	Assess the improvements needed at GDRC pool because it has been empty for over three years and identify funding for necessary upgrades	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.4.8
Strategy 1.1.5:	Provide accessible spectator areas with shade at all fields	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.6:	Add and replace field and court lighting with LED fixtures	*Ongoing*			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.7:	Upgrade Kettering Field parking and include parking at additional areas on site	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.8:	Add multipurpose rectangular fields to Kettering Field to meet the growing demand for soccer and other growing sports	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.9:	Add artificial turf at some rectangular fields to allow for extended use and potentially adult sports	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.10:	Add indoor and outdoor basketball courts in a visible and accessible portion of Kettering Field; demolish old facilities	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.11:	Add pickleball courts at Kettering Field to address the needs of this fast-growing sport	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.12:	Continue to evaluate the need for additional pickleball courts after the development of new courts at Kettering Field	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks/Rec	CIP	6.3.3
Strategy 1.1.13:	Identify fields throughout the city to provide improved turf and backstops; promote these locations to ensure awareness and to maximize use	✓	✓		Capital/ Operations	Parks	CIP	6.2.6
Strategy 1.1.14:	Add sand volleyball courts at Kettering Field for an additional amenity not currently available at City of Dayton parks	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.15:	Resurface the hard courts at Jim Nichols Tennis Center	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.3
Strategy 1.1.16:	Improve drainage and surface Jim Nichols Tennis Center clay courts		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.3
Strategy 1.1.17:	Consider expanding Jim Nichols Tennis Center to include pickleball courts (long-term)			✓	Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.3

Table 7.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		0-2	3-5	6-10				
Strategy 1.1.18:	Consider replacing the storage/staff building at Jim Nichols Tennis Center with a larger structure that is more visible to users, potentially with restrooms and changing areas			✓	Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.1.19:	Continue to implement improvements at Community Golf Course according to the Golf Master Plan	*Ongoing*			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.4
Strategy 1.1.20:	Consider reducing the number of courts during replacement	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.6
Strategy 1.1.21:	Prioritize half basketball courts at new locations			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.6
Strategy 1.1.22:	Prioritize tennis court improvements at strategically located and larger parks	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Parks	CIP	6.2.6
Strategy 1.1.23:	Consider adding multipurpose courts with street soccer goals/lines to parks to provide additional places for residents to play soccer and other desired activities	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Parks	CIP	6.2.6
Objective 1.2 – Health & Wellness: Encourage exploration & growth through multigenerational physical and educational opportunities								
Strategy 1.2.1:	Develop a perimeter trail at Kettering Field to provide connectivity and recreational opportunities	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.2.2:	Add outdoor fitness equipment at Kettering Field to complement the proposed trail and provide training opportunities	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 1.2.3:	Add outdoor fitness equipment and/or obstacle courses at select parks to expand opportunities for improved community health and attract additional user groups	✓	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP	6.3.3
Strategy 1.2.4:	Provide consistent hours daily at all three pools to meet the demand; include Sunday hours	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.8
Strategy 1.2.5:	Offer swim lessons (youth and adult) and water fitness programs at all three centers	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.8
Strategy 1.2.6:	Update and replace outdated fitness equipment and add more than one fitness/wellness class per day	✓	✓		Capital/ Operations	Rec	CIP/OP	5.3.1
Strategy 1.2.7:	Extend time of operation to include weekend hours at Jim Nichols Tennis Center; promote extended availability to ensure awareness	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.3.3
Strategy 1.2.8:	Add paved trails throughout the system at existing parks, especially larger parks such as Triangle, Kettering Field, and Princeton	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.4.1
Strategy 1.2.9:	Increase access to the existing trail network and rivers and utilize these locations for outdoor recreation programming	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Operations	Rec/City/ Parks	CIP/OP	6.5.2
Strategy 1.2.10:	Look for opportunities to restore natural areas within parks and provide educational opportunities	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Operations	Parks	OP/CIP	6.4.3
Strategy 1.2.11:	Consider adding water access at Triangle Park through potential boat launches and fishing access to two rivers (Stillwater and Great Miami)			✓	Capital	Parks/ Partners	CIP/ Partners	6.4.3
Strategy 1.2.12:	Improve engagement with the riverfront; develop additional opportunities to access the water	*Ongoing*			Capital	City	CIP	6.5.2
Strategy 1.2.13:	Clear additional viewsheds of the river, trimming only non-stabilizing vegetation	*Ongoing*			Capital	City	CIP	6.5.2
Objective 1.3 – Engaging Programs: Offer year-round possibilities for interaction, fun, & learning for all								
Strategy 1.3.1:	Continuously evaluate the demand for new or expanded programs as indicated by the survey results and other public input	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.2:	Make full use of new facilities – especially at Kettering Field – with new programming and activities the department was previously unable to offer	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.3:	Provide more opportunities for swim lessons (youth and adult) and water fitness programs at all three centers	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.4:	Utilize recently added teen space for programming, both structured and unstructured, as determined through engagement of users	✓			Operations	Rec	OP	5.3.1

Table 7.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		0-2	3-5	6-10				
Strategy 1.3.5:	Consider adding Esports programs, starting at Northwest Recreation Center, to attract the hard-to-reach teenage population	✓			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.6:	Consider branding and marketing active senior programs together under a unique category, such as "active adults" to increase participation	✓			Policy/ Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.7:	Seek opportunities to develop more age 50+ programming and to ensure offerings align with local needs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.8:	Continue to respond to the growing demand for pickleball programs and leagues, both indoor and outdoor, especially after new courts are developed	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.9:	Engage with teen users at the new teen center at Northwest Recreation Center to identify programming, including unstructured programs and events, that would bring more teens to the department's centers and	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.10:	Consider adding a mobile teen center to provide activities for this population while potentially activating neighborhood parks	✓	✓		Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.11:	Seek opportunities to develop therapeutic recreation programs and expand access for those with special needs to existing programs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.2
Strategy 1.3.12:	Add open gym hours when staffing allows	✓	✓		Operations	Rec	OP	5.3.1
Strategy 1.3.13:	Continue to seek strategies to provide transportation to the facility for youth and teens to promote the growth of golf programming	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.3.4
Goal 2: Modern Features								
Offer excellent amenities that support recreational opportunities that inspire play and enjoyment								
Objective 2.1 – Inviting Spaces: Provide innovative recreational facilities and amenities that connect and engage the community								
Strategy 2.1.1:	Utilize this Master Plan to guide capital improvement priorities (Tables 5.2 & 6.4)	✓			Capital/ Policy	Rec/Parks	CIP	5.8, 6.7
Strategy 2.1.2:	Create more usable, inviting public spaces by improving amenities at existing sites and establishing multiuse areas where possible	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Rec/Parks/ City	CIP	6.5.2
Strategy 2.1.3:	Upgrade and modernize all three centers to address desired activities and programs	✓	✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.4:	Provide functional computers for public use at all three recreation centers; utilize recently added Wi-Fi	✓			Capital	Rec	OP/CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.5:	Improve security and lighting around entrances/exits and parking lots at all centers	✓			Capital	Rec	OP/CIP	5.3.1, 6.5.2
Strategy 2.1.6:	Consider total replacement of Lohrey Recreation Center to maximize offerings	✓			Capital/ Policy	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.7:	Make needed improvements to keep Belmont Pool operating	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.8:	Place strategic signage outside/near Lohrey Recreation Center to improve visibility and awareness	✓			Capital/ Operations	Rec	OP/CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.9:	Upgrade the exterior of Northwest Recreation Center, especially the entrance, to make the facility more inviting to the public	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.10:	Add a ceiling for privacy and sound dampening over the multipurpose rooms in GDRC to optimize space upstairs and make it more suitable for classes, programs, and rentals; add a removable room divider to accommodate		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.11:	Use the space at Northwest Recreation Center as a model for adding teen areas at the other two centers		✓		Policy	Rec	OP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.12:	Create dedicated teen spaces at Lohrey and GDRC		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.13:	Renovate the multipurpose room at Northwest Recreation Center and improve acoustics from the stage area to expand rental and program capacity, including arts programs (e.g., theater, music, dance)		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1

Table 7.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		0-2	3-5	6-10				
Strategy 2.1.14:	Renovate smaller classrooms at Northwest Recreation Center to better accommodate desired programs and rentals		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.15:	Improve the ceiling/roof at Dabney Pool		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.16:	Renovate and replace flooring at the main gym at Northwest Recreation Center; add pickleball		✓		Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Strategy 2.1.17:	Consider adding an auxiliary gym at Lohrey Recreation Center to provide amenities consistent to the other centers and to allow for additional program opportunities			✓	Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.1
Objective 2.2 – Updated Amenities: Pursue responsive improvement and strategic replacement of facilities and other amenities								
Strategy 2.2.1:	Continue to focus investment on existing neighborhood parks to provide consistent quality and access throughout the city	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.2, 6.3.1
Strategy 2.2.2:	Utilize neighborhood park standards when upgrading parks to ensure equity of features	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.2
Strategy 2.2.3:	Provide consistent amenities throughout the system	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3
Strategy 2.2.4:	Prepare and implement an ADA transition plan, following the recently completed accessibility audit	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.4, 6.5.2
Strategy 2.2.5:	Ensure accessible walkways to facilities and seating areas	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.4, 6.5.2
Strategy 2.2.6:	Ensure some playgrounds are fully inclusive and barrier free	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Parks/Rec	CIP	6.2.5
Strategy 2.2.7:	Add a large all-access playground at Kettering Field with unique features to attract families to the property	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 2.2.8:	Include separate age 2-5 equipment at some playgrounds	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Parks	CIP	6.2.5
Strategy 2.2.9:	Add playgrounds in strategic locations	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.5
Strategy 2.2.10:	Consider themed playground equipment, such as climbing rocks, sensory features, etc., potentially providing for marketing and resident/visitor photo opportunities	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Parks	CIP	6.2.5
Strategy 2.2.11:	Incorporate nature play elements as part of playground development, especially in more passive park areas	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Parks	CIP	6.2.5
Strategy 2.2.12:	Include multiple picnic shelters at Kettering Field for community gatherings, events, team meetings, and shaded seating	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 2.2.13:	Add and upgrade picnic shelters at parks to increase overall access to these facilities, as well as make them more inviting, and to facilitate opportunities for outdoor community gatherings	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3
Strategy 2.2.14:	Add a restroom/concessions building at the smaller fields at Kettering Field on the eastern side of the property	✓			Capital	Rec	CIP	5.3.2
Strategy 2.2.15:	Add or improve restrooms throughout the parks; include family restrooms at larger parks	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3
Strategy 2.2.16:	Add support features throughout the park system such as seating/benches, shade structures, trash/recycling receptacles, drinking fountains/bottle fillers, and trees & landscaping	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3, 6.5.2
Strategy 2.2.17:	Upgrade existing splash pads and add new ones according to the prioritization included in this Plan	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.3.2
Strategy 2.2.18:	Bring the existing skatepark under the US-35 overpass near Hove Ave and Adelite Ave into the system and promote it as a city amenity.	✓			Policy	Parks/City	OP	6.3.3
Strategy 2.2.19:	Include bottle fillers at all new drinking fountains and when existing features are replaced	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3
Strategy 2.2.20:	Add and improve parking throughout the system, especially where currently insufficient	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3, 6.5.2

Table 7.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		0-2	3-5	6-10				
Strategy 2.2.21:	Add security cameras and lighting throughout parks in locations that have perceived security concerns	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3, 6.5.2
Strategy 2.2.22:	Reestablish Hickorydale Park (relocated facilities to a more visible location) and Western Hills Park as neighborhood parks to address underserved areas in the city		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.2
Strategy 2.2.23:	Develop a dog park in a park on the west side of Dayton in response to growing needs and to provide equitable access; include shade, seating, and water access			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP	6.3.3
Strategy 2.2.24:	Evaluate the demand for community gardens and other fresh food opportunities and seek partnerships to meet the demand	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP/ Partners	6.3.3
Strategy 2.2.25:	Consider a potential location for authorized ATV and dirt bike use, especially if a partner group desires to manage the amenities	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks/ City/ Partners	CIP/ Partners	6.3.3
Objective 2.3 – Proactive Maintenance: Improve safety, accessibility, quality, and stewardship by continuously monitoring needs and examining best practices								
Strategy 2.3.1:	Implement a playground investment program that identifies the expected useful life of all playgrounds with a timeline for replacement	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.5
Strategy 2.3.2:	Implement a basketball court replacement program	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.6
Strategy 2.3.3:	Develop a detailed capital maintenance and replacement plan for all features	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.2
Strategy 2.3.4:	Know the value of assets (excluding land values); know where those assets are in their life cycle		✓		Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.2
Strategy 2.3.5:	Create and continuously update a comprehensive preventive maintenance plan for all equipment; plan for eventual replacement of items as they are purchased	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.2
Strategy 2.3.6:	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	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.3
Strategy 2.3.7:	Determine the level of maintenance service to provide at each park or portion of a park and ensure funding is in place in accordance with the level of maintenance expected	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.3
Strategy 2.3.8:	Look for opportunities to close (or return to greenspace) some parks that are within a short distance of another park, in poor condition, and/or have few residents living nearby	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.4
Strategy 2.3.9:	Consider maintenance and staffing needs when adding parkland and features to the system	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.4
Strategy 2.3.10:	Consider converting some open spaces to natural areas to mitigate maintenance costs	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Operations	Parks/City	CIP/OP	6.5.2
Strategy 2.3.11:	Provide alternatives to residents during the engagement process based on the amount of maintenance time and staff that can be dedicated to the upkeep of each park	*Ongoing*			Planning	Parks	OP	6.6.4
Strategy 2.3.12:	Consider the total maintenance needs for each park as improvements are made to ensure demands are within staffing and budget limitations	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.4
Strategy 2.3.13:	Choose equipment that requires less maintenance, both facilities in parks and maintenance equipment, to reduce the demands on staff time	*Ongoing*			Policy	Parks	OP	6.6.4
Strategy 2.3.14:	Prepare management plans that identify the expected life, required maintenance and operational needs, and BMPs for facilities and sites as the city invests in improvements	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.5
Strategy 2.3.15:	Implement conservation policies and sustainable practice guidelines for future development and management of park properties	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.5
Goal 3: Continuous Engagement								
Engage residents and partner agencies to ensure innovative, accessible, and inclusive experiences that respond to changing community needs								
Objective 3.1 – Connecting Patrons: Build relationships with – and facilitate connections between – residents throughout the community								
Strategy 3.1.1:	Establish a Recreation Advisory Board to provide guidance to city officials on the development, maintenance, operation, and acquisition recreation facilities and programs in Dayton	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City	OP	5.4.5
Strategy 3.1.2:	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	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.6

Table 7.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		0-2	3-5	6-10				
Strategy 3.1.3:	Maintain continuous public engagement throughout the implementation of this plan	*Ongoing*			Operations / Planning	Rec/Parks/ City	OP	5.4.6
Strategy 3.1.4:	Ensure consistent appearance and branding for all city facilities (both Recreation and Parks)	✓			Capital	Parks/Rec	CIP	6.2.3
Strategy 3.1.5:	Prepare park master plans for parks prior to development of facilities to ensure that added features are complementary, desired, and fully accessible	*Ongoing*			Planning	Rec/Parks/ City	CIP	6.2.2, 6.5.2
Strategy 3.1.6:	Include a neighborhood determined feature at each neighborhood park, ensuring development aligns with needs and encouraging a sense of local investment and opportunities for placemaking in parks	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Capital	Parks/City	CIP	6.3.3, 6.5.2
Strategy 3.1.7:	Engage neighborhood residents during park improvement processes using bulletin boards, monitored social media posts, and other methods	*Ongoing*			Planning	Rec/Parks/ City	OP	5.4.6
Strategy 3.1.8:	Utilize social media with frequent (at least daily) updates by Recreation staff to increase exposure to those interested of what is happening and opportunities to participate	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec	OP	5.5.5
Strategy 3.1.9:	Add Wi-Fi access to parks; promote park hotspots to ensure awareness	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3
Strategy 3.1.10:	Upgrade and utilize technology in parks for the benefit of both patrons and staff (see trends discussion in Chapter 2)	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3
Strategy 3.1.11:	Formulate and post a policy indicating where drone use is permitted or prohibited in Dayton parks; consider adding a drone launch area at Deweese Flying Field	✓			Capital	Parks/City	OP/CIP	6.3.3
Strategy 3.1.12:	Develop interpretive and informational signage throughout the park system (following signage plans) to help visitors understand the natural features and history of Dayton parks while improving awareness of sensitive		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP	6.2.3
Strategy 3.1.13:	Refer to previous planning documents for linking neighborhoods when improving key parks within these corridors (e.g., Kettering Field, Triangle Park, & Deweese Park)	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Planning	City/Parks	OP/CIP	6.5.2
Strategy 3.1.14:	Include trail connections between parks and adjacent neighborhoods wherever possible, especially when developing new parks	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Parks/City	CIP	6.4.1
Strategy 3.1.15:	Begin to implement the Active Transportation Plan to improve connectivity throughout Dayton	✓			Capital/ Planning	City	CIP	6.4.2
Strategy 3.1.16:	Provide better connectivity between parks and the surrounding neighborhoods and the larger citywide trail system	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Parks/City	CIP	6.4.2
Strategy 3.1.17:	Utilize park trails trailheads to the larger system to promote community health and fitness and increased use of the trail	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Policy	Parks/City	CIP	6.4.2
Strategy 3.1.18:	Attend neighborhood meetings to raise awareness of active transportation activities and programs and share the final recommendations from the plan	*Ongoing*			Planning	City	OP	6.4.2
Strategy 3.1.19:	Evaluate and submit annual applications for new bicycle and pedestrian facilities (TA/CMAQ/STP/etc)	*Ongoing*			Planning	City	OP	6.4.2
Strategy 3.1.20:	Convene trail partners to establish, adopt, and/or update universal maintenance policy and practices for regional off-street trail network within the city's boundaries	✓	✓		Policy	City	OP	6.4.2
Strategy 3.1.21:	Update maintenance policy for bicycle and pedestrian facilities	✓			Policy	City	CIP	6.4.2
Strategy 3.1.22:	Design and implement an annual evaluation of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities	✓			Operations	City	OP	6.4.2
Strategy 3.1.23:	Design and build new active transportation facilities within city bounds	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks/City	CIP	6.4.2
Strategy 3.1.24:	Consider signing on to the 10-Minute Walk Mission by the TPL and NRPA to show the city's commitment to connectivity and access to parks	✓			Policy	City	N/A	6.4.2
Objective 3.2 – Productive Partnerships: Build and maintain collaborative relationships to support community priorities								
Strategy 3.2.1:	Continuously seek partnerships for the development of facilities and programs identified in this plan, especially those with significant capital and operating costs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP/ Partners	5.4.7

Table 7.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		0-2	3-5	6-10				
Strategy 3.2.2:	Coordinate with partners and vendors to offer additional programs and events at city facilities and promote those offerings in Recreation Department marketing efforts	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.7.2
Strategy 3.2.3:	Establish more consistent lines of communication with existing and potential partner groups such as Dayton City Schools, University of Dayton, Wright State University, Five Rivers MetroParks, the YMCA, and private recreation providers	✓			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.7
Strategy 3.2.4:	Consider hosting semiannual meetings with all partners to plan for coordination and mutual promotion	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.7
Strategy 3.2.5:	Continue to ensure that all new contracts with partners are consistent with existing best practices	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec/Parks/ City	OP/ Partners	5.4.7
Strategy 3.2.6:	Create a partnership with Dayton Public Schools to ensure that every child learns to swim – identify transportation solutions if needed	✓	✓		Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.8
Strategy 3.2.7:	Seek partnerships with schools and other agencies to improve access to transportation to centers and awareness of opportunities	✓			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.3.1
Strategy 3.2.8:	Explore partnerships with Five Rivers MetroParks to offer more accessible nature-based program opportunities and community events	✓			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.2
Strategy 3.2.9:	Create a partnership with Dayton AARP to recruit adults to become lifeguards	✓			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.8
Strategy 3.2.10:	Seek methods to improve channels of communication to ease future efforts by others to contribute to additions and improvements of parks and facilities	✓			Policy	Rec/City/ Parks	OP	6.3.3
Strategy 3.2.11:	Consider additional opportunities to partner with Dayton Disc Golf or other local disc golf groups for courses in Dayton, especially in the north and western parks of the city	*Ongoing*			Capital/ Operations	Parks	CIP	6.3.3
Strategy 3.2.12:	Seek opportunities to install public art in additional parks and develop cultural programming in collaboration with creative, arts-advocacy entities in Dayton	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks/City/ Partners	CIP/ Partners	6.3.3, 6.2.2
Strategy 3.2.13:	Continue to partner with Five Rivers MetroParks to ensure access to their parks for all residents	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks/City	OP	6.4.3
Strategy 3.2.14:	Partner with other groups who offer amenities that are not located at city parks/facilities to expand program offerings	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/City/ Partners	OP/CIP	6.5.2
Strategy 3.2.15:	Provide support to local groups advocating connectivity throughout Dayton by planning for trails within the parks	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Planning	City/ Partners	OP/ Partners	6.5.2
Objective 3.3 – Enhanced Promotion: Raise awareness and connect people to opportunities through variety of methods of outreach								
Strategy 3.3.1:	Create and maintain an active social media presence to increase awareness of recreation opportunities in Dayton	✓			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City	OP	5.4.6
Strategy 3.3.2:	Utilize new marketing strategies to attract lifeguards, such as using social media, coordinating with schools, civic/religious youth groups, and Mayor Mims' newly formed Youth Commission	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.8
Strategy 3.3.3:	Consider the use of paid social media promotion to expand reach	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec/City	OP	5.4.6
Strategy 3.3.4:	Expand marketing of programs and facilities through existing and future collaborative relationships to increase community awareness and participation	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.6
Strategy 3.3.5:	Collaborate with partners and other service-providers in the city to cross-promote and share information about services	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.6
Strategy 3.3.6:	Strategically market these programs with support from partners and related service-providers	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP/ Partners	5.4.2
Strategy 3.3.7:	Add and upgrade signage – entrance, wayfinding, interpretive, and informative – throughout the park system	✓	✓		Capital	Parks/Rec	CIP	6.2.3

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		0-2	3-5	6-10				
Goal 4: Effective Administration								
Emphasize accountability and responsiveness to ensure superior service in an inclusive environment								
Objective 4.1 – Welcoming Staff: Employ a responsive, engaged, and well-trained workforce								
Strategy 4.1.1:	Increase staffing levels to meet the expectations of residents and to protect the city's investment once improvements are made	✓			Polcity	Parks/Rec/ City	OP	6.6.3
Strategy 4.1.2:	Develop and adhere to a structured onboarding and training program to retain staff and to utilize them to their full potential	✓			Operations	Rec	OP	5.5.1
Strategy 4.1.3:	Ensure staff have the tools needed to be successful in their roles	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.5.1
Strategy 4.1.4:	Encourage continuous employee engagement through multiple methods of communication (verbal, anonymous, reviews, online, in-person)	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.5.1
Strategy 4.1.5:	Strive to eliminate red tape by streamlining processes and regularly consulting with key stakeholders to evaluate process success	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.5.1
Strategy 4.1.6:	Consider revising the name of the Division of Recreation and Youth Service to be called Recreation and Community Services to better reflect its mission of providing programs to people of all ages			✓	Policy/ Operations	Rec/City	OP	5.5.6
Strategy 4.1.7:	Revise the job descriptions and titles to match those used in the profession on a national basis and throughout the State of Ohio, also allowing the public to better identify staff	✓			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City	OP	5.5.6
Strategy 4.1.8:	Create a new full-time position whose primary responsibilities are to serve as a front-line supervisor at the recreation centers, primarily responsible for the daily activities including scheduling and supervising programs, supervising part-time and seasonal staff, and ensuring building cleanliness and safety (i.e., Assistant Facility Supervisor)	✓			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City	OP	5.5.6
Strategy 4.1.9:	Create a new full-time position dedicated to community engagement, marketing, and alternative funding (i.e., Manager of Community Engagement and Marketing)	✓			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City	OP	5.5.6
Strategy 4.1.10:	Consider methods to hire part-time employees for a variable number of hours that they are available to work	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.5.4
Strategy 4.1.11:	Hire additional lifeguards to staff the additional pool hours and daily operation of all three pools	✓			Operations	Rec	OP	5.3.1, 5.4.8
Strategy 4.1.12:	Hire lifeguards to work the schedules needed to keep these positions filled due to the desperate public safety implications	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City	OP	5.4.8
Strategy 4.1.13:	Allow lifeguards to work 20 or fewer hours per week, including only mornings or evenings	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City	OP	5.4.8
Strategy 4.1.14:	Consider negotiating lifeguards out of the union contract as a public safety service	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City	OP	5.4.8
Strategy 4.1.15:	Implement new approaches for Recreation Department leadership to communicate with front-line staff to share with them what is occurring on a more strategic level	✓			Operations	Rec	OP	5.5.5
Strategy 4.1.16:	Ask front-line staff for their opinions when gathering information for decision making (e.g., when purchasing a new mower, ask the maintenance staff for their opinion)	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.5.5
Strategy 4.1.17:	Implement job shadowing, where staff in leadership roles work alongside front-line staff for a few hours once a month to better understand their jobs		✓		Operations	Rec	OP	5.5.5
Strategy 4.1.18:	Create and implement professional and career development strategies for management and supervisory staff	✓			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.6.1
Strategy 4.1.19:	Identify and allocate funding for critical staff development opportunities (including conferences, training, memberships, etc.) with consideration to licensure and certification requirements	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City/ Parks	OP	5.6.1
Strategy 4.1.20:	Encourage continued staff training for leadership and continued growth within respective fields	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.6.1
Strategy 4.1.21:	Encourage staff to join professional recreation and park associations to networking opportunities and access to shared policies, program ideas, and management solutions	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.6.1

Table 7.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		0-2	3-5	6-10				
Strategy 4.1.22:	Incentivize management level staff to attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City/ Parks	OP	5.6.1
Strategy 4.1.23:	Incentivize and support staff members to pursue Certified Park & Recreation Professional (CPRP), Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI), Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO), and Water Safety Instructor (WSI)	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City/ Parks	OP	5.6.1
Strategy 4.1.24:	Ensure department budget allows staff to attend the OPRA Conference held annually in late January for educational sessions and networking with experts and practitioners	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.6.2
Strategy 4.1.25:	Encourage senior leadership to attend the NRPA Conference held annually in late September or early October	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.6.2
Strategy 4.1.26:	Encourage staff to attend one (or more) of the two-year professional development programs offered by the six national schools – Supervisor's School, Director's School, Revenue Management School, Maintenance Management School, Event Management, and Sustainability School	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City/ Parks	OP	5.6.2
Strategy 4.1.27:	Enable staff to participate in the online Certificate Programs by NRPA to become (more) proficient in certain job responsibilities, including Marketing and Communications for Park and Recreation, Aquatic Management, Splash Pads, Playground Maintenance, Leadership, Equity in Practice, and Green Stormwater Management in Urban Areas	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/City/ Parks	OP	5.6.2
Strategy 4.1.28:	Consider bringing in consultants to provide training for staff and then ensure that new techniques or skills are applied and discussed	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.6.2
Strategy 4.1.29:	Encourage staff to participate in one of the three mentorship programs outlined in this plan, as either mentor or mentee, to support growth, build confidence, and gain new perspectives	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.6.2
Objective 4.2 – Accountable Operations: Utilize performance standards and best practices to ensure quality and flexible services								
Strategy 4.2.1:	Be a mission driven agency; pay very close attention to the new mission of Recreation and Parks	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec/Parks	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 4.2.2:	Ensure every action and decision always connects back to the department's mission	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 4.2.3:	Create a graphic of the revised mission, vision, and goals and share it with all staff; post it everywhere! Live the document!	✓			Operations	Rec	OP	5.5.5
Strategy 4.2.4:	Create an annual operations plan to establish pricing and costs with a yearly evaluation	✓			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.3
Strategy 4.2.5:	Create policies, as needed, to ensure the public, staff, and the city are protected from harm	✓			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.5.5
Strategy 4.2.6:	Establish and maintain an annual assessment process to determine if Dayton Recreation should stop offering a program, continue offering a program, or start a new program	✓			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.3
Strategy 4.2.7:	Establish a "program life cycle" that details a formal process for establishing and continuing a specific program	✓			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.4
Strategy 4.2.8:	Utilize this Master Plan to guide decision making – regularly monitor progress	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.4.6
Strategy 4.2.9:	Monitor nationwide and regional recreation trends regularly, especially concerning growing population groups to best serve the needs of the whole community	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 4.2.10:	Regularly identify needs of underserved populations	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.2
Strategy 4.2.11:	Consider hosting a year-end retreat for the department staff to collectively evaluate performance and to identify goals and objectives for the coming year	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.3
Strategy 4.2.12:	Regularly evaluate program times to ensure programs are offered when community members can actually participate	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.4.3
Strategy 4.2.13:	Seek CAPRA Accreditation within the next five years to show the department's commitment to providing quality services to the Dayton community		✓	✓	Operations	Rec	OP	5.6.3
Objective 4.3 – Reliable Funding: Explore creative funding strategies to ensure needed improvement and continued action								
Strategy 4.3.1:	Seek replacement funding sources as Issue 9 expires and ARPA funds are depleted to allow for continued capital improvements	✓	✓		Polciy	Parks/Rec/ City	Revenue	6.6.2

Table 7.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies		Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source	Section Reference
		0-2	3-5	6-10				
Strategy 4.3.2:	Identify the proper amount of funding each year to administer the park system, including after implementing this Plan	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP	6.6.5
Strategy 4.3.3:	Determine a clear funding philosophy and funding policies for Recreation	✓			Policy	Rec	OP	5.7.1
Strategy 4.3.4:	Conduct an analysis of expenditures in the annual budget determining the true costs to deliver services (direct and indirect costs)	✓	✓		Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.7.1
Strategy 4.3.5:	Inform users, partners, and citizens of these costs of services	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.7.1
Strategy 4.3.6:	Define a pricing philosophy to determine the level of cost recovery expected for each service	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	OP	5.7.1
Strategy 4.3.7:	Establish and adjust fees for programs according to direct and indirect costs	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	Revenue	5.7.1
Strategy 4.3.8:	Institute an easy-to-understand Cost Recovery and Pricing Plan for everything that is offered	✓	✓		Operations	Rec	OP	5.7.1
Strategy 4.3.9:	Price services furthest away from the mission at full cost recovery levels	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	Revenue	5.7.1
Strategy 4.3.10:	Analyze potential costs versus revenue before adding new programs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec	OP	5.7.1
Strategy 4.3.11:	Identify potential revenue sources at community events, including sponsorships and entry fees	✓	✓		Operations	Rec/Parks	Revenue	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.12:	Establish split revenue percentages for any program partnerships with funding channeled directly to Recreation	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	Revenue	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.13:	Consider not waiving fees, when requested by non-profits groups who rent facilities, because when there is a direct cost to the Recreation Department, the department is essentially underwriting the cost of someone else's event with taxpayer funds	✓			Policy	Rec	Revenue	5.7.1
Strategy 4.3.14:	Consider creating a park ambassador program to provide directions, offer assistance, remind visitors of park policies, and assist with maintenance activities	✓	✓		Operations	Rec	OP	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.15:	Create volunteer opportunities, such as Adopt-A-Park or Adopt-A-Spot programs, to provide formal ways for volunteers to assist with park maintenance in Dayton	✓	✓		Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.16:	Consider other volunteer opportunities as needed	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.17:	Create a Scholarship Fund to cover program fees, potentially by requesting an optional additional $2.00 charge during registration	✓			Operations	Rec	Revenue	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.18:	Add new facilities to the rental inventory as they are developed	*Ongoing*			Policy/ Operations	Rec/Parks	Revenue	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.19:	Reevaluate rental fees as amenities are updated, replaced, or added to the inventory	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec/Parks	Revenue	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.20:	Consider reserving facilities and spaces for shorter periods (half days) to allow expanded use of existing facilities and increased revenue	✓	✓		Policy	Rec/Parks	Revenue	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.21:	Develop a streamlined process to allow potential users to access all rental facilities in a single location with a calendar of availability and the option to reserve online	✓	✓		Operations	Rec/Parks	Revenue	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.22:	Develop a process to review any program or event and the hosting organization to be held at city recreation facilities or parks	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	OP	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.23:	Continue seeking grants and apply to foundations for project funding that enhances the park system	*Ongoing*			Operations	Rec/Parks	OP	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.24:	Ensure grant requirements are consistent with the mission of Recreation, while considering associated costs to the city	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec	OP	5.7.2
Strategy 4.3.25:	Continue to employ and update policies for accepting sponsorships and selling naming rights	*Ongoing*			Policy	Rec/Parks	Revenue	5.7.2
Totals by Timeframe	**Ongoing = 117**	**82**	**39**	**9**				
Total Number of Strategies = 219								

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Legend for Conditions

	Excellent - New/Well Maintained Condition, No Improvements Needed
	Good - Minor Wear, Minimal Improvements Needed
	Fair - Significant Wear/Damage, Needs Repair
	Poor - Needs Replacement

NOTE: Most photos taken in fall 2022









BELMONT PARK

957 Lynhurst Ave

Park Size:
55.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Community

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	55.6	
Playfield/T-Ball (backstop)	2	
Small Rectangular	2	
Large Rectangular	2	
Basketball Courts	2	
Tennis Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Disc Golf Holes	19	
Paved Trails (mi)	0.8	
Medium Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking: Disc Golf	50	
Parking: Other	142	











COMMUNITY GOLF COURSE

2917 Berkley St

Park Size:
234.9 Acres

Park Classification:
Golf Course

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	205.0	
Golf Holes	18	
Parking Spaces	280	



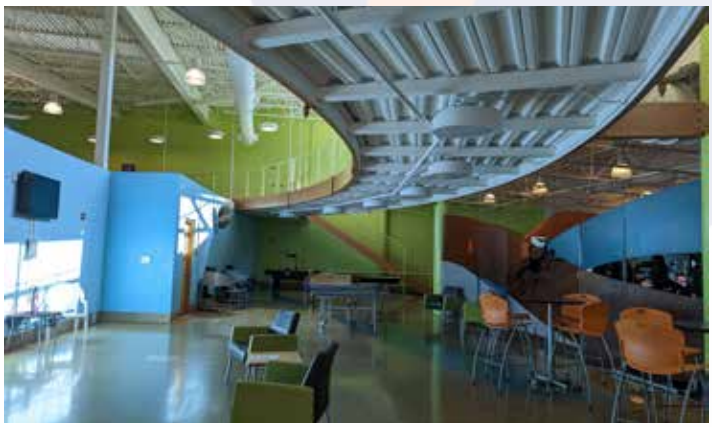












GREATER DAYTON RECREATION CENTER

2021 W Third St

Park Size:
4.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Recreation Center

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.6	
Basketball Court (outdoor)	1	
Recreation Center	1	
Indoor Pool (closed)	1	
Indoor Track	1	
Gymnasium	2	
Meeting Rooms	3	
Senior Room	1	
Parking Spaces	107	









HOWELL FIELD

2702-2708 Ridge Ave

Park Size:
N/A

Park Classification:
Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	N/A	
Diamond Field	1	
Batting Cage	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking Lot by Ballfield (no lines)	1	

















KETTERING FIELD

444 N Bend Boulevard

Park Size:
92.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Sports Complex

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	92.6	
Diamond Field Complex 1 (Fields 1-5)	5	
Diamond Field Complex 2 (Fields 6-9)	4	
Diamond Field Complex 3 (Fields 10-13)	4	
Diamond Field #14	1	
Diamond Field #15	1	
Diamond Field #16	1	
Artificial Turf Football Field	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Restroom/Concessions	1	
Parking Spaces	356	





KETTERING FIELD (CONTINUED)



















LOHREY RECREATION CENTER

2366 Glenarm Ave

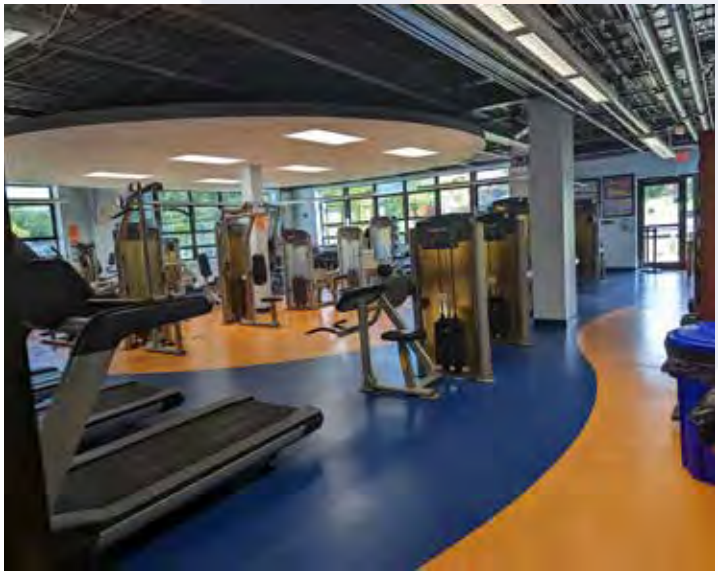
Park Size:
N/A Acres

Park Classification:
Center

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	N/A	
Recreation Center	1	
Gym	1	
Fitness Center	1	
Belmont Pool	1	
Multipurpose Room	1	
Parking Spaces	143	



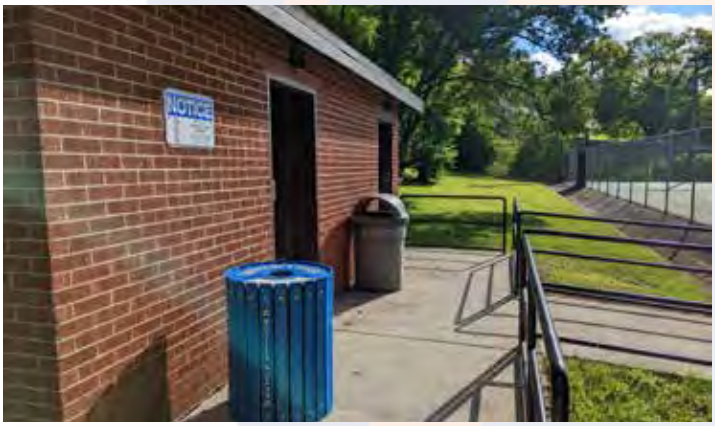














JIM NICHOLS TENNIS CENTER

2424 Ridge Ave

Park Size:
5.1 Acres

Park Classification:
Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.2	
Tennis Courts (clay)	6	
Tennis Courts (hard) w/ Pickleball Lines	3	
Restroom Building	1	
Registration/Storage Building	1	
Parking Spaces	41	















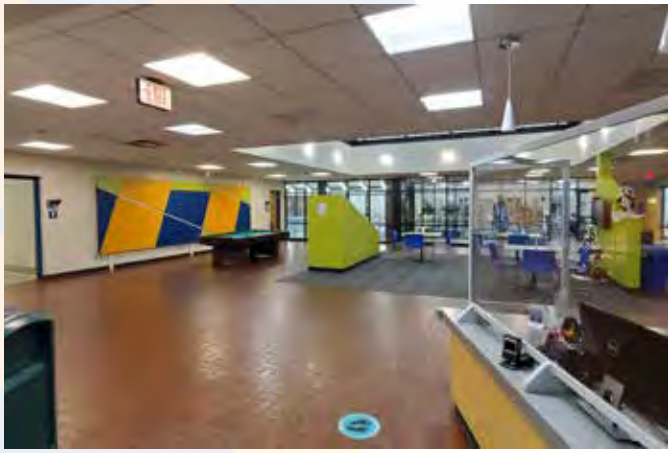
NORTHWEST RECREATION CENTER

1600 Princeton Dr

Park Size:
N/A Acres

Park Classification:
Center

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	N/A	
Recreation Center	1	
Dabney Pool	1	
Gymnasium	1	
Auxiliary Gym	1	
Teen Center	1	
Multipurpose Room	1	
Fitness Room	1	
Parking Spaces	59	













PRINCETON PARK

1600 Princeton Drive

Park Size:
16.5 Acres

Park Classification:
Community

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	16.5	
Playfield/T-ball (backstops)	3	
Basketball Courts	2	
Tennis Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	1	
Parking Spaces	44	











ARLINGTON HILLS PARK

3905 Maywood Avenue

Park Size:
3.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	3.6	
Basketball Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Small Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking (on street)	8	















BLOMMEL PARK

104 Bonner Street

Park Size:
0.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Mini

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage		
Playground	1	
Parking (on street)		

















BOMBERGER PARK

1316 E 5th Street

Park Size:
4.7 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.7	
Playfield/T-Ball (Backstop)	1	
Small Rectangular Field	1	
Basketball Court	1	
Tennis Courts	3	
Playground	1	
Parking (shared)		

Photos taken before recent improvements















BURKHAM PARK

979 Dona Avenue

Park Size:
10.7 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	10.7	
Basketball Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Medium Shelters	2	
Gazebo/Small Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking Lot (no lines)	1	













BURKHARDT PARK

3017 E 5th Street

Park Size:
4.9 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.9	
Playfield/T-ball (backstops)	2	
Basketball Court	1	
Playground	1	
Parking (shared/on street)	1	









BURNS JACKSON PARK

501 Hickory Street

Park Size:
9.1 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	9.1	
Playfield/T-ball (backstops)	2	
Basketball Court	1	
Tennis Court	1	
Playground	1	
Parking (shared)	1	











CLARIDGE PARK

1400 Webster Street

Park Size:
4.1 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.1	
Playfield/T-Ball (backstop)	1	
Basketball Court	1	
Playground	1	
Skatepark	1	
Parking (not designated)		



















CLEVELAND PARK

3144 Cleveland Avenue

Park Size:
14.0 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	6.5	
Basketball Court	1	
Playground	1	
Nature Play Area	1	
Paved Trail (Mi)	0.3	
Unpaved Trail (Mi)	0.3	
Medium Shelter	1	
Parking (on street)		

Photos taken before recent improvements









COLLEGE HILL PARK

3231 Harvard Boulevard

Park Size:
4.3 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.3	
Basketball Court	1	
Playground	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Parking (on street)		













FAIRVIEW PARK

2262 Elsmere Avenue

Park Size:
4.5 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.5	
Small Shelter	1	
Playground	1	
Splash Pad	1	
Paved Trail	0.5	
Parking Lot (shared)	1	















FIVE OAKS PARK

Address

Park Size:
3.5 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	2.6	
Basketball Court	1	
Playground	1	
Splash Pad	1	
Small Shelter	1	
Fitness Equipment	1	















GETTYSBURG PARK

410 N Gettysburg Avenue

Park Size:
9.1 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	7.0	
Basketball Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Parking Lot	1	

Photos taken before recent improvements











GILLESPIE PARK

1769 W Stewart Street

Park Size:
4.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.6	
Basketball Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Parking Lot (no lines)	1	











HIGHLAND PARK

900 Koening Avenue

Park Size:
14.5 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	14.5	
Large Rectangular Field	1	
Basketball Court	1	
Playground	1	
Dog Park	1	
Parking Lot	1	

Photos taken before recent improvements

















HIGHVIEW HILLS PARK

3805 Palmerston Avenue

Park Size:
25.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Community

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	10.3	
Tennis Courts	2	
Basketball Courts (unusable)	3	
Playground	1	
Paved Trails (Mi)	0.3	
Small Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking Lot	1	









JANE NEWCOME PARK

1132 Tutor Road

Park Size:
4.4 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborgood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.4	
Playfield/T-Ball (backstop)	1	
Basketball Court	1	
Tennis Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Unpaved Trail (mi)	0.3	
Large Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking (on street)		















LIBERATION PARK

839 Ferguson Avenue

Park Size:
6.5 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	6.5	
Basketball Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking (on street)		















MALLORY PARK

3037 Germantown Street

Park Size:
10.5 Acres

Park Classification:
Community

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	10.5	
Basketball Court	1	
Playground	1	
Splash Pad	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Parking Spaces	20	



















MARY AVENUE PARK

71 Cardell Street

Park Size:
1.2 Acres

Park Classification:
Mini

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	1.2	
Playground	1	
Small Shelter	1	
Parking (on street)		















MCCABE PARK

3200 Home Avenue

Park Size:
16.4 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	16.4	
Basketball Courts	1	
Playground	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Gazebos/Small Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking (on street)		









MCKINLEY PARK

2 Palmer Street

Park Size:
5.2 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	5.2	
Playground	1	
Tennis Courts	2	
Pickleball Courts	2	











NORDALE PARK

106 Nordale Avenue

Park Size:
6.9 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	6.9	
Basketball Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Community Garden	1	
Large Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking (on street)		















OREGON PARK (NEWCOM FOUNDERS PARK)

140 Brown Street

Park Size:
0.9 Acres

Park Classification:
Mini

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	0.9	
Playground (in progress)	1	
Gazebo	1	















PIERCE STEELE PARK

412 Pierce Street

Park Size:
0.4 Acres

Park Classification:
Mini

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	0.4	
Playground (in progress)	1	
Parking (on street)		









RESIDENCE PARK

425 Elmhurst Road

Park Size:
4.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.6	
Basketball Court	1	
Tennis Courts (unusable)	2	
Playground	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking (on street)		

















RIDGECREST PARK

1801 Fieldstone Dr

Park Size:
3.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	3.6	
Diamond Field #1	1	
Basketball Court	1	
Volleyball Court	1	
Pickleball Courts (no nets)	2	
Playground	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking (on street)		









SALEM HEIGHTS PARK

1929 Parkhill Dr

Park Size:
2.4 Acres

Park Classification:
Mini

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	2.4	
Basketball Goal (no pad)	1	
Playground	1	
Parking (on street)		



















SANDALWOOD PARK

98 Kurtz Avenue

Park Size:
3.7 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	3.7	
Small Rectangular Field	1	
Tennis Courts	2	
Hockey Rink	1	
Playground	1	
Paved Trail	0.3	
Medium Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking (on street)		















STUART PATTERSON PARK

238 Baltimore St

Park Size:
7.9 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	7.9	
Playfield/Backstop	2	
Large Rectangular Field	1	
Basketball Court	1	
Tennis Court	1	
Playground	1	
Splash Pad	1	
Parking (on street)		









TRIANGLE PARK

2680 Ridge Avenue

Park Size:
62.4 Acres

Park Classification:
Community

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	62.4	
Small Rectangular	4	
Deeds Dog Park	1	
Large Shelter (#1)	1	
Medium Shelters	2	
Small Shelter (dog park)	1	
Shelters (no tables)	8	
Restroom Building	1	
Restroom Buildings (family) (closed)	1	
Parking Lot	1	
Parking at Shelter/Dog Park	76	











TRIANGLE PARK

























WALNUT HILLS PARK

2340 Wayne Avenue

Park Size:
9.7 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	8.5	
Playfield/backstop	1	
Large Rectangular Field	1	
Basketball Court	1	
Tennis Courts	2	
Volleyball Courts	3	
Hockey Rink	1	
GaGa Pit	1	
Playground (in progress)	1	
Splash Pad	1	
Shelter 1	1	
Shelter 2	1	
Parking (on street)		







WASHINGTON PARK

98 N Delmar Avenue

Park Size:
13.8 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	13.8	
Playfield/T-ball (backstop)	1	
Basketball Court	1	
Playground	1	
Splash Pad	1	
Shelter/Restroom Building	1	
Parking (on street)		

















WELCOME PARK (VIRGINIA MCNEAL PARK)

809 Hopeland Street

Park Size:
13.2 Acres

Park Classification:
Community

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	13.2	
Basketball Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Unpaved Trail	0.5	
Dayton Bike Yard	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking (shared)		













WOGAMAN (MADDEN HILLS) PARK

1017 Ruth Avenue

Park Size:
1.8 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	1.8	
Playground	1	
Parking (on street)		















WS MCINTOSH (RIVERVIEW) PARK

882 W Riverview Avenue

Park Size:
7.3 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	7.3	
Playfield/Backstop	1	
Basketball Courts	2	
Playground	1	
Splash Pad	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Restroom Building	1	
Parking		









BORGERDINE PARK

349 Quitman Street

Park Size:
0.4 Acres

Park Classification:
Open Space

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	0.4	
Parking (on street)		













HICKORYDALE PARK

5198 W Hillcrest Avenue

Park Size:
36.0 Acres

Park Classification:
Open Space

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	3.6	
Playground (unusable)	1	
Tennis Court (unusable)	1	
Basketball Courts (unusable)	2	
Parking		















LAKESIDE LAKE

Address

Park Size:
10.6 Acres

Park Classification:
Open Space

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	1.1	
Fishing Dock	1	
Parking Spaces	10	









SUNKEN GARDENS

4425 Greenleaf Drive

Park Size:
3.1 Acres

Park Classification:
Greenspace

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	3.1	







THAL PARK

1100 Harvard Blvd

Park Size:
2.5 Acres

Park Classification:
Neighborhood/Mini

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	1.3	
Gazebo	1	
Parking (on street)		















WESTERN HILLS PARK

4998 Becker Drive

Park Size:
9.7 Acres

Park Classification:
Open Space

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	5.0	
Playground (unusable)	1	
Basketball Court (unusable)	1	
Shelter (unusable)	1	













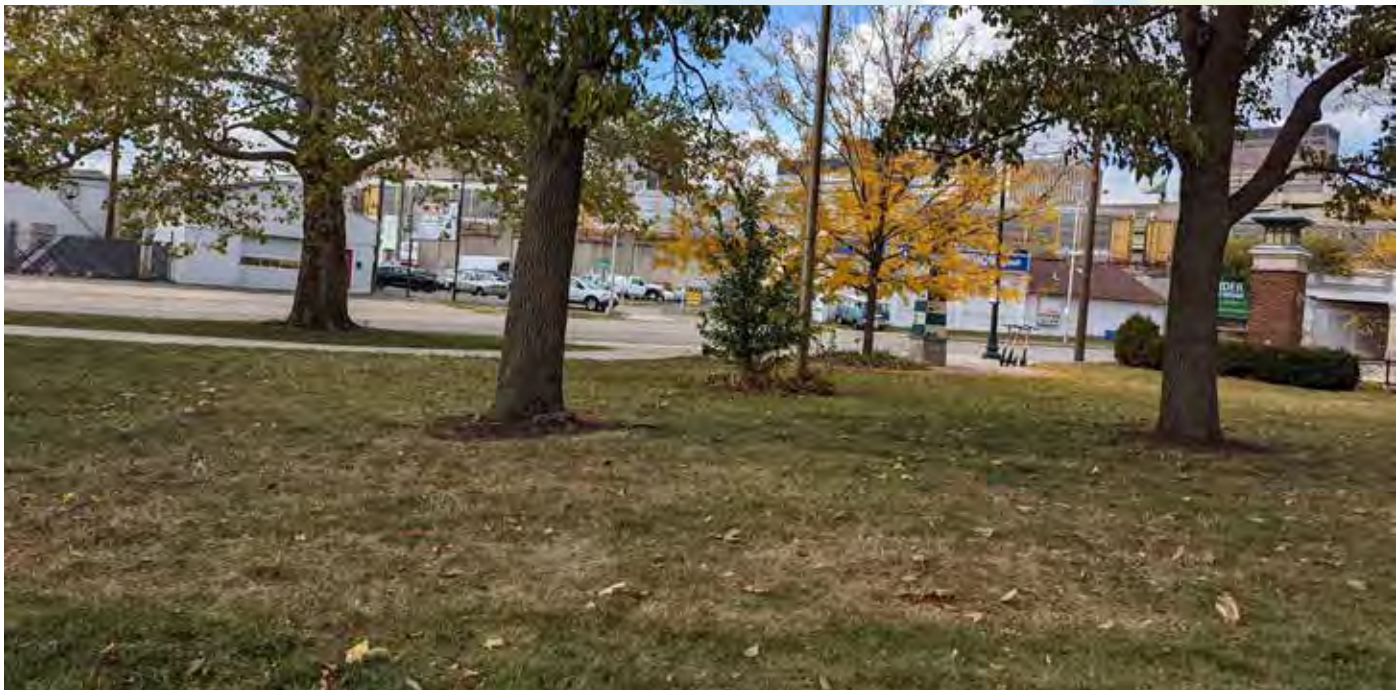
CANAL PARK

S Patterson @ 6th St

Park Size:
0.5 Acres

Park Classification:
Plaza/Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	0.5	







COOPER PARK

31 S St Clair Street

Park Size:
1.7 Acres

Park Classification:
Plaza/Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	1.7	
Plaza	1	
Statue	1	
Play Area	1	



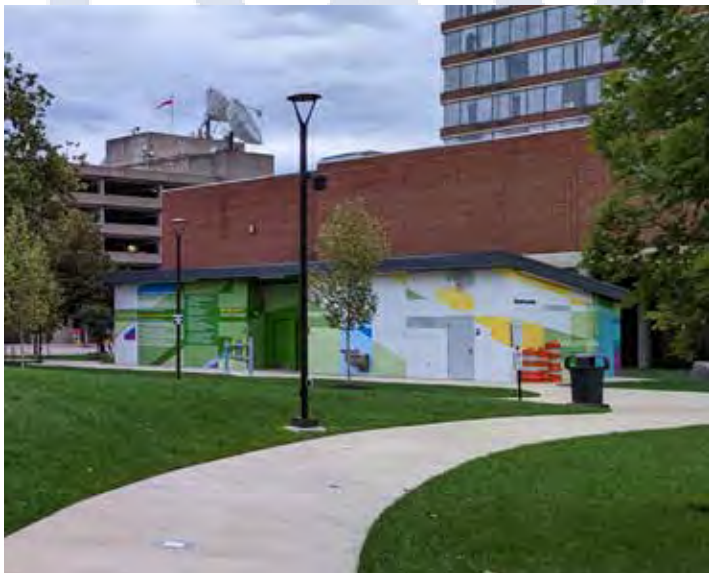














DAVE HALL PLAZA (LEVITT PAVILION)

134 S Main Street

Park Size:
2.8 Acres

Park Classification:
Plaza/Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	2.8	
Stage	1	
Restroom Building	1	







DEWEESE LAKE AND FLYING FIELD

Unnamed Road

Park Size:
101.2 Acres

Park Classification:
Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	46.9	
Fishing Access	1	
Medium Shelter	1	
Parking (gravel)	Unlined	













DEWEESE PARK

1303 E Siebenthaler Avenue

Park Size:
3.3 Acres

Park Classification:
Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	2.9	
Parking Spaces	18	







DON CRAWFORD PLAZA (DRAGON'S STADIUM)

210 N Patterson Blvd

Park Size:
1.3 Acres

Park Classification:
Plaza

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	1.3	









GATEWAY PARK

40 S Edwin C Moses Blvd

Park Size:
3.0 Acres

Park Classification:
Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	3.0	
Memorial	1	











JANE REESE PARK

Address

Park Size:
0.4 Acres

Park Classification:
Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	0.4	







NORTH DAYTON WAR MEMORIAL

374 N Keowee St

Park Size:
0.2 Acres

Park Classification:
Plaza/Median

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	0.2	
Memorial	1	















OAK AND IVY PARK

700 Anderson-Goodrich Ct

Park Size:
1.5 Acres

Park Classification:
Plaza/Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	1.5	
Plaza	1	
Pergola	1	















VIETNAM MEMORIAL PARK

Veteran's Parkway

Park Size:
4.9 Acres

Park Classification:
Special Use

Park Amenities	Quantity	Condition
Developed Acreage	4.9	
Memorial	1	
Fishing Access	1	
Parking (unlined)		













APPENDIX B - PREVIOUS PLANS & STUDIES

Summary of Previous Plans and Studies

Ten Year Master Plan for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture

The previous master plan for the department was written prior to the department splitting into what it is today, Parks and the Department of Recreation & Youth Services. Since 2004 many of the recommendations regarding program and recreation operations have been remedied such as tracking program attendance. Many of the recommendations included in this plan are broad and are still applicable nearly 20 years later. Establishing relationships with the community to help determine program needs prevails as a top priority for the Recreation Department.

With regards to the park system, issues that faced the department two decades ago have continued until today. Recommendations as part of this plan for the parks include addressing deferred maintenance, making the needed upgrades and repairs, and considering consolidating parks based on need and ability to maintain. The key recommendation which is synonymous with the recommendations made in this updated master plan is to provide parks and facilities that advance the services and programming operated by the Recreation Department.

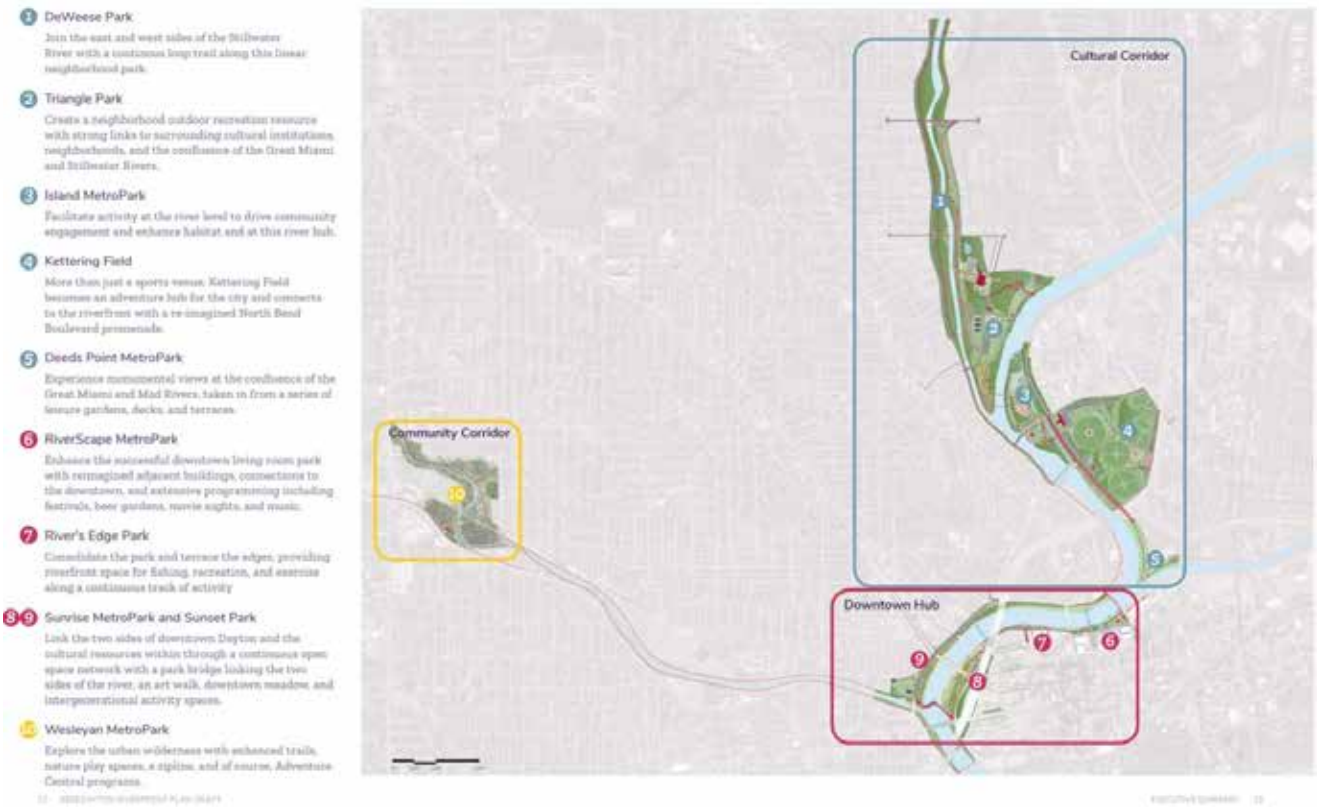
Dayton Forward Comprehensive Plan

The Dayton Forward Comprehensive Plan is based on the myriad of existing plans the city has conducted over the past two decades and is broken into nine sections dealing with economic development, equity, historic preservation, housing, land reutilization, mobility, open space, strategic vision & land use principles, and sustainability. The open space section focuses on utilizing the existing open space network anchored by the waterways and trails in Dayton. The goals for this section include:

- Diverse programming that is equitable and provides a range of experiences
- Placemaking within these spaces to emphasize Dayton's identity and celebrate historical legacy and cultural heritage
- Supporting healthy lifestyles through providing access to the riverfront and other outdoor recreational opportunities
- Improving access to the riverfront and connecting open spaces to each other

2018 Dayton Riverfront Plan

The Dayton Riverfront Plan is designed to provide guidance for re-establishing a positive relationship between the Great Miami River and the city and utilizing this relationship to leverage economic and environmental success. While focused on downtown, this plan also considers three corridors and their unique characteristics (Cultural Corridor, Downtown Core, and Community Corridor). Included in this plan are conceptual designs for 10 riverfront parks that include short-term and long-term strategies to reach completion. Some of these parks are within the City of Dayton's system and hold opportunities to incorporate recreation programs that support this plan, the *2023 Dayton Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan & Parks Needs Assessment*, and ultimately increase park usage.



Within these three corridors lies three City of Dayton Parks: Triangle Park, DeWeese Park, and Kettering Field

Triangle Park



This plan calls for this park to become more connected to the Great Miami and Stillwater Rivers as well as linking to the strong cultural institutions that surround it by becoming an outdoor recreation resource. Currently, the park has nature-oriented and sports activities with Howell Field, the newly constructed dog park, and the Jim Nichols Tennis Center adjacent to the park. This plan's vision for the park includes mostly nature-related improvements such as riverfront pavilions and overlooks and maintaining vegetation. Also included are recommendations for the addition of a playscape that accompanies Howell Field.

DeWeese Park



DeWeese Park currently acts as a trailhead that runs along the Stillwater River. Proposed in the Riverfront Plan is linking this existing trail to the west side of the river which will include a continuous loop trail throughout the park. As part of this updated Plan, recommendations support these findings which can be found in the Chapter 6:

- Improved signage – helps direct trail users, creates identity associated with Dayton parks
- Improved parking & trailhead features – the existing lot needs repairs, curbs, and lighting
- Connect the trail to other parts and features at Triangle Park as well as the Great Miami River
- Create clearings along the trail for greater access to the river and potentially include a boat launch

Kettering Field



The vision for Kettering Field focuses on pedestrian connectivity and support features throughout the site. Recommendations include creating paths, sidewalks, walking trails, pedestrian bridges, and maintenance of existing facilities along with the addition of new facilities. New facilities suggested include a skate park, adventure play area, wetland zones, and new multiuse fields and baseball fields. Other recommendations from this plan:

- Increase pedestrian connectivity through incorporation of sidewalks, paths, and trails to key features throughout the site
- Upgrade the existing baseball/softball fields
- Incorporate wayfinding signage throughout the site

With the addition of the new artificial turf football field located on the eastern portion of the site and the plans for redevelopment, this park holds the potential to become a destination for the City of Dayton for both athletics and non-athletic experiences.

2021 ARPA Dayton Recovery Plan

In 2021 the City of Dayton received ARPA funding and dedicated the proceeds to six investment areas that address neighborhood needs, amenities (including recreational), major projects, and city organization projects. As part of these improvements, the Recreation Department received funding for eight spray parks to be added across the city along with upgrades to four existing spray parks.

Northeast Dayton Neighborhood Vision (2020)

The NE Dayton Neighborhood Vision plan focuses on 15 neighborhoods, including the Historic Inner East neighborhoods and neighborhoods separated by the Miami River and industrial uses. Specifically related to Parks and Recreation facilities are recommendations for improved neighborhood connectivity to the Stillwater and Mad Rivers through sites such as Kettering Field and Triangle Park. Since this plan in 2020, the recommended NFL turf field has been constructed with plans for further improvements to Kettering Field in process.

Northwest Dayton Neighborhood Vision (2020)

The Northwest Dayton Neighborhood Vision Plan encompasses 20 neighborhoods within Dayton that range in demographic composition. Relating to recreation and parks, this plan focuses on developing the existing trail system and utilizing the river corridors as assets to the communities they pass through. Recommended connections include Fairview Park to Triangle Park, Island Metro Park, and Kettering Field.

Southeast Dayton Neighborhood Vision (2020)

The Southeast Dayton Neighborhood Vision Plan includes eight neighborhoods within the city which are all well connected. A common theme included in this plan is the need for greater investment in existing parks and connecting neighborhoods to trails. This plan includes an Open Space Framework that focuses on Walnut Hills Park, Nordale Park, Highland Park, Lohrey Recreation Center & Woodman Fen, Patterson Park, and Jane Newcome Park. Improvements include:

Walnut Hills Park

- Increase accessibility and visibility by replacing the existing retaining wall and adding a staircase and signage
- Focus on adding infrastructure for passive uses by adding walking paths with benches, pavilions, and landscaping

Highland Park

- incorporate the mutliuse path along Steve Whalen Blvd into the park

Nordale Park

- Connect to Belmont High School, 10 Wilmington Place, and the library
- Add a dog park
- Create a splash pad where the old pool used to be
- Add signage to Nordale Avenue

Lohrey Rec Center & Woodman Fen

- Continue to function as a hub for youth athletics and recreation
- Share the parking areas between the church and the recreation center along with adding connections between the two

Patterson Park

- Add sidewalk & lighting along Shadowlawn Avenue
- Add a new more visible park sign

- Add a hardscaped area near the intersection with trees/landscaping between
- Add a small pavilion or amphitheater for events
- Create a gathering space at the intersection of two neighborhoods

Jane Newcome Park

- Install a new gate that is both aesthetically pleasing and capable of being opened and closed
- Add a paved tree-lined connection from Tudor Road to the Dayton-Kettering connection for ADA accessibility from the trail to the neighborhood
- Create access for trash collection
- Add a sign and landscaped gateway as this park is somewhat hidden
- Resolve issues with maintenance and accessibility

West Dayton Neighborhood Vision (2019)

The West Dayton Neighborhood Vision plan includes a section on parkways, trails, and parks. The basis of this section is to connect the already existing parks and open spaces to one another via a trails system. Specific improvements to Lakeside/McCabe Park include military cemetery expansion into the park. This site is proposed to act as a preserve with natural areas, open spaces, and mature trees.



Pineview Neighborhood Plan

The Pineview Neighborhood Plan focuses on a small residential neighborhood in West Dayton whose history is not unlike other neighborhoods in Dayton. Developed during the 1950s, the neighborhood relies heavily on homeownership and is surrounded by large institutional campuses that draw visitors, clients, and employees from around the region. Lakeside Lake and Mallory Park

are listed as community assets for this neighborhood. Although upgrades have been made in recent years to these recreation areas, additional maintenance and updates are needed. For Lakeside, this plan calls for placemaking, site enhancement, and funding mechanisms to maintain the park. This plan calls for improved access to Mallory Park from the surrounding neighborhoods, especially those to the west.

Renew Miami Chapel – Transforming the Greater Miami Chapel Neighborhood

The Renew Miami Chapel plan includes neighborhoods in Dayton that have been negatively impacted by the decline in industrial/manufacturing uses over the past few decades resulting in population and retail development loss. These neighborhoods include Pineview, Lakeview, Miami Chapel, Madden Hills, and Edgemont. Parks located in these neighborhoods include Lakeside Lake, McCabe Park, Burkham Park, and Mallory Park. Although multiple improvements have been made since this plan, residents have continued to push for more improvements at these parks. At Burkham, residents would like to see similar investments that were made at Mallory Park which entail a spray park, basketball court, picnic area, restrooms, soccer field, and tennis courts. They'd also like to see the amenities that are currently adjacent to a trucking yard positioned away from that area to improve safety at the park. This plan also calls for tapping into the proximity and expansion of the riverfront parks near Edgemont.

Objective 2 in this plan calls for increasing the quality and capacity of childcare and preschool in the GMC area which involves recreation programs. Per the household survey, seventy-four percent (74%) of respondents prefer recreation/sport enrichment activities for their children along with significant portions preferring art/music/dance/singing, social activities, tutoring, and other programs Dayton Recreation either currently provides or could provide at their recreation centers and facilities. Youth programming times preferred by respondents to the survey include after-school (81%), summer (69%), and weekend (66%) programs.

Carillon-Edgemont Neighborhood Plan

This neighborhood plan focuses on two planning districts, Carillon and Edgemont. A focus on community and economic development helped identify six priorities of focus, including recreation. Overall, improvements at Burkham Park and Welcome Park consist of upgrading amenities, bike park construction (completed in 2023), updated shelters, new playground equipment, and basketball courts, along with increased programming such as summer camps and mentoring programs.

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES
Improve & expand amenities & utilization of parks & open space	Burkham Park • Upgrade amenities (2022) • Support Renew Miami Chapel Plan
	Welcome Park • Bike Park construction • Install new playground equipment, basketball courts • Update shelter
	Promote expansion of bikeways • W Stewart St • S Broadway St • Germantown St
	Connection with Great Miami River through intentional design of gateways
	Encourage exercise & physical fitness
Establish a safe space for youth activities	Partner with churches & volunteers to start small after school program
	Create a consistent schedule to build local support & continuity
Engage youth	Build relationships with youth to determine what types of programs to offer
	Build partnerships with youth serving organizations • Summer camps • Mentoring programs

Burkham Park functions as a neighborhood park for Edgemont and the adjacent Miami Chapel neighborhood, especially DeSoto Bass public housing complex. It provides recreation space for area youth and allows the neighborhood to host community events.

Upgrades to park equipment are scheduled for 2022. Youth summer camps and other programs can be established in the area through potential partnerships with the YMCA and the University of Dayton. An extension of the street grid west of the park is proposed within the Renew Miami Chapel Plan, in hopes of increased accessibility and activation of the park.

Welcome Park will soon be transformed into a premier bike park, which will be a unique amenity to the city and West Dayton area. The City is contracting with International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) to design the bike park. The design process will engage area residents, and will include updates to the existing park shelter to meet the needs of bike park visitors as well as residents. Also, new playground equipment and basketball court will be installed concurrently with the bike park construction.

Engage Youth

Getting the area's youth involved in recreation, sports, and healthy living practices is another focus within community development. Sports and outdoor activities paired with mentoring influences will allow the children of the area to be successful adults. Partnerships with existing mentoring/sports-focused groups are a great way to get youth involved and foster positive interaction with adults and mentors.

29



Strategic Land Acquisition to expand Edgemont Solar Garden



Edgemont Solar Garden has been a longstanding facility within the Edgemont neighborhood. It includes a large planting area, a newly constructed greenhouse and an attached structure.

The Edgemont Solar Garden has had a number of partnerships with local and state institutions and will continue similar partnerships that focus on teaching students and residents about growing and planting food. Also, establishing a farmer's market on or near the Edgemont Solar Garden site would allow residents from the area access to healthy food.

Aquaponics, namely a sustainable fish farm, is another way to provide healthy food to the community. Currently, an

Community Gardens are a sustainable reuse of vacant lots. Many neighborhoods within the city have added community gardens. They provide space to plant vegetables and a healthy food source for residents. Vacant City-owned lots are perfect for community gardens, as the lots do not require mowing by Public Works, and permission to use the area can be granted easily.

The **Lot Links** tax lien foreclosure process can be used to acquire vacant lots within the neighborhoods to be used for community gardens. Also, the NIP federal grant used for strategic demolition has left vacant residential lots within the Edgemont neighborhood. Some of the lots are great locations for community gardens, landscaping enhancements or reforestation.

APPENDIX C - METHODOLOGY

C.1 Service Area Analysis

The spatial distribution of parks throughout Dayton 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.

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 entrance points was created using the "dayton_Centerline_PW" shapefile provided by the City of Dayton for streets and the "dayton_ParkPoint" (City of Dayton) combined with the MVRPCRegional_Open_Space (MVRPC) shapefiles for park locations, as well as aerial imagery (Google Maps).

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 3.1) 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

Table C.1: Composite Map Scoring

Facility/Score	10 Minute Walk	5 Minute Drive	10 Minute Drive	Total Points	Notes
Park Classification					
Neighborhood Park	6	N/A	N/A	6	Inc. community, mini, other agencies
School Park	*4*	*N/A*	*N/A*		
Community Park	N/A	3	1	3	
Park Points				**9**	
Recreation Amenities					
Playground	6	3	N/A	6	Inc. schools
Basketball Court	4	2	N/A	4	Inc. schools
Diamond Ballfield	4	2	1	4	
Multipurpose Rectangular Field	4	2	1	4	
Tennis Court	4	2	1	4	McIntosh not included
Picnic Shelter	4	2	1	4	Med & large only for 5d and 10d
Recreation Center	4	2	1	4	
Dog Park	4	2	1	4	
Pickleball Court	4	2	1	4	
Spray Park	4	2	1	4	
Skatepark	4	2	1	4	
Disc Golf Course*	4	2	1	4	
Golf Course*	4	2	1	4	
Amphitheater*	4	2	1	4	
Facility Points				**58**	
Total Points				**67**	

*Not Mapped in Chapter 2

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 2.4) shows a 10-minute walk to any park (green for Dayton Neighborhood Parks; orange for parks by others; blue for school parks). In contrast, a 5-minute drive is indicated for community parks in Figure 2.5 (bright green), and a 10-minute drive is indicated in yellow. 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.

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 14 facilities and two park classifications listed in Table C.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 14 facilities and park classifications were tallied to represent this composite score for all areas in Dayton. Each of the five ranges represents approximately 10 points since the highest-scoring location in Dayton scored 51 (out of 71 possible points). Therefore, each category represents the score of the area as a percentage of the points between the lowest (1) and highest score (51). These areas were then presented in the Composite Service Areas map. The five areas were 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.

C.1.1 Priority Investment Areas

This analysis was intended to show portions of Dayton most in need of additional park services. The highest level of need consists of areas that have both low a level of park services and a high level of social vulnerability, according to the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) described in Chapter 2. The first step in this analysis was to combine the two layers into a single shapefile so that areas of overlap could be selected for display. The "Union" function in ArcGIS was used to produce this layer.

Once these layers were combined, this layer was then reduced using "Definition Query" to show only areas with medium-high or above social vulnerability and medium or below service levels for parks (indicated in red on the map). Of the identified areas, those with medium service levels (and medium-high or high SVI) were assigned "High" priority. The areas with medium-low or low service levels (and medium-high or high SVI) were assigned "Very High" priority. The areas with "Medium-High" or "High" in SVI or "Medium-Low" or "Low" in park services (and at least Medium in the other measurement) were assigned "Highest" priority.

C.2 Facility Replacement/Development Prioritization

C.2.1 Playground Replacement Program

The following tables show the data used, the weighting, and the corresponding scoring for the data used to determine playground replacement prioritization presented in Chapter 6 and the map in Figure 6.1.

Table C.2: Playground Ranking and Weighting

Park Name	Demographics (10-minute walk pop. Under age 10)	Location (Walking distance from closest E G playground in minutes)	Amenities (# of existing features)	Existing Playground Condition	Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)	SITE SUITABILITY RATING	Rank
Weight	**30%**	**30%**	**10%**	**20%**	**10%**	**100%**	
Washington Park	5	5	4	3	5	4.5	**1**
Gillespie Park	4	4	3	5	5	4.2	**2**
Burkham Park	3	4	5	5	5	4.1	**3**
Burkhardt Park	5	5	2	1	5	3.9	**4**
Hickorydale Park	1	5	0	5	5	3.3	**5**
McCabe Park	3	3	4	3	5	3.3	**6**
Sandalwood Park	4	2	5	3	4	3.3	**7**
Borgerdine Park	4	1	0	5	5	3.0	**8**
Burns-Jackson Park	2	2	3	5	5	3.0	**9**
Mary Avenue Park	3	2	1	5	4	3.0	**10**
College Hill Park	3	2	3	3	5	2.9	**11**
Mallory Park	4	2	4	1	5	2.9	**12**
Pierce Steele Park	6	1	1	0	5	2.7	**13**
Salem Heights Park	2	2	1	3	5	2.4	**14**
Residence Park	2	1	4	3	5	2.4	**15**
Western Hills Park	1	3	0	5	5	2.7	**16**
Claridge Park	1	2	3	3	5	2.3	**17**
Fairview Park	4	0	3	1	4	2.1	**18**
Arlington Hills Park	1	1	4	3	5	2.1	**19**
Highland Park	5	2	4	1	4	3.1	**20**
Nordale Park	3	0	5	1	4	2.0	**21**
WS McIntosh Park	2	0	5	1	5	1.8	**22**
McKinley Park	2	0	5	1	4	1.7	**23**
Ridgecrest Park	1	0	5	1	4	1.4	**24**
Welcome Park	0	0	5	1	5	1.2	**25**

Table C.3: Playground Raw Data

Park Name	Total Population	% Under 10	Demographics (10-minute walk population)*	Location (Walking distance from closest E or G playground in minutes)	Amenities (# of existing features)	Existing Playground Condition	Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)	Existing Playground Condition w/ IP	Location (Walking distance from closest E or G playground in minutes) w/ IP
Arlington Hills Park	695	12.3	85	10	4	F	H	F	10
Blommel Park	2795	9.2	257	36	1	P	H	E	0
Bomberger Park	1993	9.2	183	46	5	P	H	E	0
Borgerdine Park	3315	13.2	438	45	0	0	H	0	11
Burkham Park	1579	17.6	278	40	5	P	H	P	40
Burkhardt Park	4817	15.3	737	48	2	G	H	F	30
Burns-Jackson Park	3075	8.1	249	41	3	P	H	P	15
Claridge Park	627	13.0	82	16	3	F	H	F	16
Cleveland Park	2200	11.8	260	29	5	E	MH	E	26
College Hill Park	2,714	11.0	299	22	3	F	H	F	22
Fairview Park	2871	13.4	385	0	3	G	MH	G	0
Five Oaks Park	3551	12.9	458	13	4	F	H	E	0
Gillespie Park	1967	19.2	378	41	3	P	H	P	41
Hickorydale Park	903	11.3	102	47	0	P	H	P	47
Highland Park	4198	14.4	605	42	4	G	MH	G	20
Jane Newcome Park	1606	12.6	202	28	6	F	ML	IP	28
Liberation Park	2575	12.7	327	13	5	F	H	F	13
Mallory Park	1995	20.8	415	16	4	G	H	G	16
Mary Avenue Park	1844	16.1	297	28	1	P	MH	P	19
McCabe Park	1262	22.3	281	29	4	F	H	F	29
McKinley Park	2119	8.3	176	0	5	G	MH	G	0
Nordale Park	3200	8.2	262	0	6	G	MH	G	0
Oregon Park	1693	2.7	46	3	2	F	MH	E	0
Pierce Steele Park	4168	13.9	579	36	1	F	H	F	14
Residence Park	1826	10.4	190	14	4	F	H	IP	14
Ridgecrest Park	921	8.0	74	0	6	G	MH	G	0
Salem Heights Park	2135	11.5	246	19	1	F	H	F	19
Sandalwood Park	3048	13.8	421	24	6	F	MH	F	24
Walnut Hills Park	3997	13.3	532	23	9	F	MH	E	0
Washington Park	3071	16.1	494	55	4	P	H	P	50
Welcome Park	131	8.3	11	0	6	G	H	G	0
Western Hills Park	635	13.0	83	30	0	P	H	P	30
Wogaman Park	1995	20.5	409	24	1	P	H	IP	24
WS McIntosh Park	1662	10.3	171	0	6	G	H	G	0

*Population under 10

Table C.4: Playground Scoring Key

Criteria	Data Source	5	4	3	2	1	0
Demographics (10-minute walk population) under age 10	ESRI Business Analyst	500+	400	300	200	100	0
Location (Walking distance from closest playground in minutes)	Google Maps	50	40	30	20	10	5
Amenities (# of existing features)	Site Assessments	5+	4	3	2	1	0
Existing Playground Condition	Site Assessments	Poor		Fair		Good	Excellent
Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)	CDC	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	N/A

C.2.2 Basketball Court Replacement Program

The following tables show the data used, the weighting, and the corresponding scoring for the data used to determine basketball court replacement prioritization presented in Chapter 6 and the map in Figure 6.2.

Table C.5: Basketball Court Ranking and Weighting

Park Name	Demographics (10-minute walk population)	Location (Walking distance from closest basketball court in minutes)	Amenities (# of existing features)	# of Existing basketball courts	Existing basketball court Condition	Social Vulnerability Index (SV	SITE SUITABILITY RATING	Rank
Weight	15%	15%	10%	5%	50%	5%	100%	
Nordale Park	3	3	5	5	5	4	4.4	1
Highland Park	4	3	4	3	5	4	4.3	2
Walnut Hills Park	4	4	5	3	4	4	4.1	3
Highview Hills Park	1	4	5	0	5	5	4.0	4
Burkham Park	2	4	5	5	4	5	3.9	5
Gillespie Park	2	2	3	5	5	5	3.9	6
McCabe Park	1	2	4	3	5	5	3.8	7
Welcome Park	0	5	5	5	4	5	3.8	8
Jane Newcome Park	2	4	5	3	4	2	3.7	9
Stuart Patterson Park	3	2	5	3	4	5	3.7	10
Arlington Hills Park	1	4	4	5	4	5	3.7	11
Cleveland Park	2	3	5	3	4	4	3.6	12
Fairview Park	3	3	3	0	4	4	3.4	13
Salem Heights Park	2	1	1	0	5	5	3.3	14
Residence Park	2	1	4	3	4	5	3.3	15
Claridge Park	1	2	3	3	4	5	3.2	16
College Hill Park	3	3	3	3	3	5	3.1	17
Ridgecrest Park	1	5	5	0	3	4	3.1	18
Sandalwood Park	3	3	5	0	3	4	3.1	19
Pierce Steele Park	4	2	1	0	3	5	2.8	20
McKinley Park	2	1	5	0	3	4	2.7	21
Oregon Park	2	3	2	0	3	4	2.7	22
Five Oaks Park	4	5	4	3	1	5	2.7	23
Hickorydale Park	1	5	0	0	3	5	2.7	24
Blommel Park	3	2	1	0	3	5	2.6	25
Burkhardt Park	5	5	2	3	1	5	2.6	26
Borgerdine Park	3	2	0	0	3	5	2.5	27
Mary Avenue Park	2	2	1	0	3	4	2.4	28
Western Hills Park	1	2	0	0	3	5	2.2	29
Bomberger Park	2	3	5	3	1	5	2.2	30
Wogaman Park	2	0	1	0	3	5	2.2	31
Liberation Park	3	1	5	5	1	5	2.1	32
Burns-Jackson Park	3	3	3	3	1	5	2.1	33
Mallory Park	2	2	4	3	1	5	1.9	34
Washington Park	3	0	4	3	1	5	1.8	35

Table C.6: Basketball Court Raw Data

Park Name	Demographics (10-minute walk population)	Location (Walking distance from closest basketball court in minutes)	Amenities (# of existing features)	# of Existing basketball courts	Existing basketball court Condition	Social Vulnerability Index (S
Arlington Hills Park	695	28	4	2	F	H
Blommel Park	2795	14	1	0	N/A	H
Bomberger Park	1993	18	5	1	G	H
Borgerdine Park	3315	14	0	0	N/A	H
Burkham Park	1579	27	5	2	F	H
Burkhardt Park	4817	29	2	1	G	H
Burns-Jackson Park	3075	18	3	1	G	H
Claridge Park	627	14	3	1	F	H
Cleveland Park	2257	18	5	1	F	MH
College Hill Park	2,714	20	3	1	F	H
Fairview Park	2871	20	3	0	F	MH
Five Oaks Park	3551	44	4	1	G	H
Gillespie Park	1967	15	3	2	P	H
Hickorydale Park	903	46	0	0	N/A	H
Highland Park	4198	18	4	1	P	MH
Highview Hills Park	1192	28	5	0	N/A	H
Jane Newcome Park	1606	25	6	1	F	ML
Liberation Park	2575	12	5	2	G	H
Mallory Park	1995	16	4	1	G	H
Mary Avenue Park	1844	17	1	0	N/A	MH
McCabe Park	1262	16	4	1	P	H
McKinley Park	2119	12	5	0	N/A	MH
Nordale Park	3200	22	6	2	P	MH
Oregon Park	1693	22	2	0	N/A	MH
Pierce Steele Park	4168	15	1	0	N/A	H
Residence Park	1826	12	4	1	F	H
Ridgecrest Park	921	47	6	0	N/A	MH
Salem Heights Park	2135	10	1	1	N/A	H
Sandalwood Park	3048	20	6	0	N/A	MH
Stuart Patterson Park	2961	14	5	1	F	H
Walnut Hills Park	3997	23	9	1	F	MH
Washington Park	3071	2	4	1	G	H
Welcome Park	131	33	6	2	F	H
Western Hills Park	635	16	0	0	N/A	H
Wogaman Park	1995	4	1	0	N/A	H

Table C.7: Basketball Court Scoring Key

Criteria	Data Source	5	4	3	2	1	0
Demographics (10-minute walk population)	ESRI Business Analyst	5000	4000	3000	2000	1000	0
Location (Walking distance from closest Basketball Court in minutes)	Google Maps	30+	25	20	15	10	5
Amenities (# of existing features)	Site Assessments	5+	4	3	2	1	0
# Of existing basketball courts	Site Assessments	2+		1			0
Existing Basketball Court Condition	Site Assessments	Poor	Fair	N/A		Good	Excellent
Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)	CDC	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	N/A

C.2.3 Tennis Court Replacement Program

The following tables show the data used, the weighting, and the corresponding scoring for the data used to determine Tennis Court replacement prioritization presented in Chapter 6.

Table C.8: Tennis Court Ranking and Weighting

Park Name	Demographics (5-minute drive population)	Location (Driving distance from closest tennis court in minutes)	Parking	# of Existing Tennis Courts	Existing Tennis Court Condition	Restrooms	SITE SUITABILITY RATING	Rank
Weight	**15%**	**15%**	**10%**	**10%**	**40%**	**10%**	**100%**	
Belmont Park	5	4	5	2	4	5	4.2	**1**
Nichols Tennis Center	5	2	5	5	4	5	4.2	**2**
Princeton Park	3	4	5	2	4	5	3.9	**3**
Highview Hills Park	1	5	5	2	5	2	3.8	**4**
Bomberger Park	5	2	5	3	4	0	3.5	**5**
Walnut Hills Park	5	4	0	2	4	0	3.2	**6**
Sandalwood Park	4	2	0	2	5	0	3.1	**7**
Jane Newcome Park	3	4	0	2	4	2	3.1	**8**
Burns-Jackson Park	5	2	0	1	4	0	2.8	**9**
Stuart Patterson Park	2	3	0	1	4	0	2.5	**10**
McKinley Park	4	2	0	2	1	0	1.5	**11**

Table C.9: Tennis Court Raw Data

Park Name	Demographics (5-minute drive population)	Location (Driving distance from next closest tennis court in minutes)	Parking	Amenities (# of existing features)	# of Existing Tennis Courts	Existing Tennis Court Condition	Restrooms
Belmont Park	36196	7	50+	12	2	F	O
Bomberger Park	35323	3	40 Shared	6	3	F	0
Burns-Jackson Park	33857	3	OS	3	1	F	0
Highview Hills Park	10869	9	30	1	2	P	C
Jane Newcome Park	19761	7	OS	6	2	F	C
McKinley Park	24717	4	OS	5	2	G	0
Nichols Tennis Center	31939	4	40	9	9	F	O
Princeton Park	21947	7	46	5	2	F	O
Sandalwood Park	23874	4	OS	3	2	P	0
Stuart Patterson Park	15483	6	OS	6	1	F	0
Walnut Hills Park	33291	7	OS	6	2	F	0

Table C.10: Tennis Court Scoring Key

Criteria	Data Source	5	4	3	2	1	0
Demographics (5-minute drive population)	ESRI Business Analyst	30,000+	25,000	20,000	15,000	10,000	0
Location (Driving distance from next closest tennis court in minutes)	Google Maps	10	8	6	4	2	0
Parking (spaces)	Site Assessments	30+	25	20	15	10	0
# of tennis courts	Site Assessments	5+	4	3	2	1	0
Restroom availability	Site Assessments	Open			Closed		None
Existing tennis court condition	Site Assessments	Poor	Fair			Good	Excellent

C.2.4 Splash Pad Development Prioritization

The following tables show the data used, the weighting, and the corresponding scoring for the data used to determine the prioritization for proposed splash pads in Chapter 6 and the map in Figure 6.3.

Table C.11: Splash Pad Ranking and Weighting

Park Name	Demographics (10-minute walk population)	Location (Walking distance from closest splash pad in minutes)	Park Acreage	Amenities (# of existing features)	Restrooms	Transit Access (bus stop within 5-minute walk)	Utilities (water/sewer)	Adjacent Land Use	Parking	Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)	Access (bike/ped/visibility)	SITE SUITABILITY RATING	Rank
Weight	**15%**	**20%**	**10%**	**10%**	**20%**	**3%**	**3%**	**3%**	**10%**	**3%**	**3%**	**100%**	
Arlington Hills Park	Eliminated (Former Splash Pad)											N/A	
Fairview Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)											N/A	
Five Oaks Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)											N/A	
Mallory Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)											N/A	
Stuart Patterson Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)											N/A	
Blommel Park	Eliminated (Inadequate Space)											N/A	
Walnut Hills Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)											N/A	
Washington Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)											N/A	
WS McIntosh Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)											N/A	
Belmont Park	2	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	2	4	4.2	**1**
Princeton Park	2	3	2	5	5	5	2	4	4	5	5	3.6	**2**
Gettysburg Park	5	1	2	4	5	5	5	4	2	5	2	3.4	**3**
Burkham Park	3	3	2	3	5	0	5	4	2	5	4	3.3	**4**
Triangle Park	0	2	5	5	2	5	5	2	5	4	2	2.8	**5**
Bomberger Park	2	5	1	3	0	5	0	5	4	5	4	2.7	**6**
Jane Newcome Park	2	4	1	3	2	0	5	4	0	2	2	2.3	**7**
McCabe Park	3	2	2	2	2	5	5	4	0	5	2	2.3	**8**
Nordale Park	3	2	1	2	2	5	5	4	0	4	4	2.2	**9**
Sandalwood Park	4	2	1	2	1	5	5	4	0	4	4	2.2	**10**
Highview Hills Park	2	1	3	0	2	5	5	2	3	5	4	2.1	**11**
Residence Park	2	2	1	2	2	5	5	4	0	5	5	2.1	**12**
Cleveland Park	3	2	3	3	0	5	2	5	0	4	4	2.1	**13**
Highland Park	5	2	2	2	0	5	0	4	0	4	0	1.9	**14**
Gillespie Park	4	2	1	2	0	5	0	4	1	5	2	1.9	**15**
College Hill Park	3	2	1	2	0	5	5	4	0	5	5	1.9	**16**
Burns-Jackson Park	2	3	2	2	0	5	0	5	0	5	4	1.9	**17**
Hickorydale Park	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	1.8	**18**
Pierce Steele Park	5	2	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	5	5	1.7	**19**
Borgerdine Park	4	2	0	1	0	5	0	4	0	5	5	1.7	**20**
Burkhardt Park	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	5	5	1.6	**21**
Wogaman Park	5	1	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	5	4	1.5	**22**
Oregon Park	0	4	0	0	0	5	2	4	0	4	5	1.4	**23**
Western Hills Park	0	3	2	0	0	0	5	4	0	5	2	1.3	**24**
McKinley Park	2	1	1	2	0	5	0	4	0	4	2	1.3	**25**
Mary Avenue Park	3	2	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	4	0	1.2	**26**
Claridge Park	1	1	1	2	0	5	0	4	0	5	4	1.2	**27**
Salem Heights Park	2	0	0.0	0	0	5	0	4	0	5	2	0.8	**28**
Liberation Park	5	2	1	2	2	5	5	4	0	5	5	2.6	**X**
Welcome Park	0	5	3	3	5	5	5	3	1	5	2	3.3	**X**
Kettering Field	0	2	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	2	3.5	**X**
Ridgecrest Park	1	5	1	3	2	5	5	4	0	4	2	2.6	**X**

*Population under 10

Table C.12: Splash Pad Raw Data

Park Name	Demographics (10-minute walk population)*	Location (Walking distance from closest splash pad in minutes)	Park Acreage	Amenities (# of existing features)	Restrooms	Transit Access (bus stop within 5-minute walk)	Utilities (water/sewer)	Adjacent Land Use	Parking	Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)	Access (bike/ped/visibility)
Arlington Hills Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)										
Fairview Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)										
Five Oaks Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)										
Mallory Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)										
Stuart Patterson Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)										
Walnut Hills Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)										
Washington Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)										
Blommel Park	Eliminated (Inadequate Space)										
WS McIntosh Park	Eliminated (Existing Splash Pad)										
Belmont Park	155	39	55.6	**12**	**O**	1	Y	RES & Church	50+	ML	Good
Bomberger Park	183	45	4.7	**6**	0	1	N	PUB & SCH	40 shared	H	Good
Borgerdine Park	438	19	0.4	1	0	1	N	RES	OS	H	Excellent
Burkham Park	278	33	10.7	**5**	**O**	0	1	IND & RES	20 gravel	H	Good
Burkhardt Park	737	13	4.9	**2**	0	0	N	RES & PUB	OS	H	Excellent
Burns-Jackson Park	249	29	9.1	**3**	0	1	N	SCH & RES	OS	H	Good
Claridge Park	82	14	4.1	**3**	0	1	N	RES & IND	OS	H	Good
Cleveland Park	260	24	14.0	5	0	1	W	RES & SCH	OS	MH	Good
College Hill Park	299	21	4.3	3	0	1	Y	RES	OS	H	Excellent
Gettysburg Park	528	34	9.1	**4**	**O**	1	Y	RES	20	H	Good
Gillespie Park	378	15	4.6	**1**	0	1	N	Church & RES	10	H	Fair
Hickorydale Park	102	47	36.0	0	0	0	N	Open Space	0	H	Poor
Highland Park	605	18	14.5	**3**	0	1	N	RES	0	MH	None
Highview Hills Park	238	14	25.6	**1**	**C**	1	Y	Open Space	30	H	Good
Jane Newcome Park	202	40	4.4	**6**	**C**	0	Y	RES & IND	OS	ML	Fair
Kettering Field	4	18	57.2	**19**	**O**	1	1	REC & IND	300	H	Fair
Liberation Park	494	21	6.5	**4**	**C**	1	Y	RES	OS	H	Excellent
Mary Avenue Park	297	17	1.2	**1**	0	1	N	RES	OS	MH	Poor
McCabe Park	281	15	16.4	**3**	**C**	1	Y	RES	OS	H	Fair
McKinley Park	176	14	3.8	**5**	**0**	1	N	RES & PUB	OS	MH	Fair
Nordale Park	262	21	6.9	**5**	**C**	1	Y	RES	OS	MH	Good
Oregon Park	46	41	0.9	**1**	0	1	W	RES	OS	MH	Excellent
Pierce Steele Park	579	15	0.4	1	0	1	N	RES	OS	H	Excellent
Princeton Park	240	28	16.5	6	O	1	W	RES	46	H	Excellent
Residence Park	190	39	4.6	**4**	**C**	1	Y	RES	OS	H	Excellent
Ridgecrest Park	74	48	3.6	**6**	**C**	1	Y	RES	OS	MH	Fair
Salem Heights Park	246	4	2.0	1	0	1	N	RES	OS	H	Fair
Sandalwood Park	421	19	3.7	**3**	1	1	Y	RES	OS	MH	Good
Triangle Park	14	18	62.4	**9**	**C**	1	Y	REC	200	MH	Fair
Welcome Park	11	59	24.5	**6**	**O**	1	Y	IND, RES	shared with HP	H	Fair
Western Hills Park	47	34	9.7	0	0	0	Y	RES	OS	H	Fair
Wogaman Park	711	6	1.8	1	0	1	N	RES & SCH	OS	H	Good

*Population under 10

Table C.13: Splash Pad Scoring Key

Criteria	Data Source	5	4	3	2	1	0
Demographics (10-minute walk population)	ESRI Business Analyst	500+	400	300	200	100	0
Location (Walking distance from closest splash pad in minutes)	Google Maps	50	40	30	20	10	0
Park Acreage	City of Dayton	60	40	25	15	5	0
Amenities (# of existing features)	Site Assessments	10+	8	6	4	2	0
Restrooms	Recreation	Open			Closed		None
Transit Access (bus stop within 5-minute walk)	Dayton RTA	Yes					No
Utilities (water/sewer)	Site Assessments	Yes			Water Only		None
Adjacent Land Use	City of Dayton	School	Residential		Open Space		Other
Parking (Spaces)	Site Assessments	50+	40	30	20	10	On Street
Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)	CDC	High	Med-High	Med	Med-Low	Low	N/A
Access (bike/ped/visibility)		Excellent	Good		Fair		Poor

APPENDIX D - PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARIES

CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM
2023 DAYTON RECREATION 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT
NOVEMBER 15TH-17TH OPEN HOUSES
PROJECT NO. 22098

Present: **Pat Hoagland, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.**
Keith Rodenhauser, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
Sam Veitch, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

December 5, 2022

Three open houses were held November 15th, 16th, and 17th 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Approximately 95 residents attended these meetings. 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 three dots to vote on their most important features in parks and another three dots to place on desired program types. 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 seconded a comment.

Open House No. 1 – GDRC, November 15, 2022)

Public Works' Parks and Open Space

What makes them great now?

- Walking path at DeWeese Parkway
- Dog park at Triangle Park
- Jim Nichols Tennis Center
  - Clay courts
  - Great, accommodating staff
  - Free pickleball equipment to borrow
- ADA compliance
- Special needs playground equipment
- Clean parks
- They are all good
- Activity
- The mentors
- Cleanliness

What would make them better?

- More variety at playgrounds
- Motocross/ATV Park
- Easier access parking/more restrooms
- Repave walking path at DeWeese Parkway
- Remove obsolete shelters at Triangle Park
- Make space available
- Create paved walking paths through Triangle Park
- Resolve water issue at hard courts at Nichols Tennis Center. (Water /drainage issues are destroying hard courts) then resurface hard courts
- Community
- More activities

Programs, Events, and Festivals

What makes them great now?

- Volleyball
- Age 50+ programs

- Therapeutic recreation
- Movies and concerts
- Music jamboree for small children
- Festivals
- Marketing programs
- Gaming (Esports) for teens
- It's all good to me

What would make them better?

- Dedicated outdoor pickleball courts (at south end of Nichols Tennis Center)
- Community Involvement

Recreation Facilities

What makes them great now?

- Clay courts at Jim Nichols
- Pickleball courts on the hard tennis courts at Nichols Tennis Center
- Basketball court
- FC
- Indoor pools
- Centennial football field
- More children and teen programs
- ADA compliance
- Clean, inviting, great staff, inexpensive
- I see no change

What would make them better?

- Greater Dayton Pool has been closed
- Drinking fountains
- More courts
- Indoor pickleball
- Swim program

Open House No. 2 – Lohrey Recreation Center (November 16, 2020)

Public Work's Parks and Open Space

What makes them great now?

- That we have so many parks and open space
- Thank you for the opportunity to provide input
- Love collaboration with the Mosaic Institute✓
- Great walking/bike path at Lohrey
- People use them
- That so many parks and open space are available throughout the city

What would make them better?

- Concession Stands
- Permanent outdoor games✓
- Outdoor fitness equipment✓
- Removal of unusable features✓
- Removal of dead/dangerous trees✓
- Replacement of grills that were removed✓
- Return picnic tables (for family activities) ✓
- Replace/upgrade signage✓
- Inclusive playground equipment
- Add hiking trails, maintain bike paths✓
- Picnic shelters for event rentals
- Game courts – pickleball

- Better landscape at centers and parks (remove down trees)
- Update playground equipment and a more frequent schedule
- Resurface existing walking track, summer mowing schedule, more frequent, getting neighborhood involved with neighborhood park
- Connect parking lot (at Lynhurst entrance) to walking path – hard for pedestrians and bikes to travel ✓
- Proactive incentive program for city employees to report issues at parks
- Plant native species, install small prairie space for education
- Park could be cleaner or bigger
- Skate parks ✓
- Drinking fountains
- Disc golf enhancements, like landscape features/meadows
- Urban meadows with trails
- Trees

Recreation Facilities

What makes them great now?

- Friendly staff ✓
- Neighborhood location
- Staff is always friendly, but often too busy or seldom seen ✓
- Annual membership price is awesome ✓
- Swimming pool is very good
- Great pool
- That at least we have them

What would make them better?

- Concession stands
- Adult bleachers
- Proper lighting
- Supervision
- More collaboration with community partners, non-profits
- Signage at Centennial Field
- American flag at Centennial Field
- Infrastructure for youth family engagement
- Bathroom upgrades
- Well-kept sports fields ✓

Programs, Events, and Festivals

What makes them great now?

- Pool programs
- Tennis courts are available
- Walking track is available
- Aqua Zumba is the best
- Great pool ✓
- Football teams for girls, boys, co-ed
- Basketball teams for girls, boys, co-ed
- That kids know about this

What would make them better?

- Tournaments for ping pong, foosball
- More basketball activities (competitive)
- More activities for family engagement
- Programs for senior citizens (e.g., computers, health fairs, health and wellness workshops, fall prevention, food, exercise class, mental health awareness)
- Supervision
- Classes, cooking/sewing, etc.

- Events notice ✓
- Security
- Programming for kids activities at the parks ✓
- Therapeutic recreation
- Visual and cultural arts
- Teen and youth camps
- Mental health, food, education
- Leadership classes
- Toddler time/mom and me classes/homeschool, open gym
- Teen programs
- Pickleball ✓✓
- Adult sports ✓
- Tournaments ✓
- Perhaps convert a few tennis courts to pickleball courts ✓
- Surface of walking track is hard on feet (gravel at Jane Newcom Park)
- Partnerships with private organizations on facilities/fields, and events/tournaments
- Pickleball courts and classes
- Giant croquet course
- More advertising to the proper sports also to the kids in public and catholic schools

Open House No. 3 – Northwest (November 17, 2022)

Public Works' Parks and Open Space

What makes them great now?

- Water parks
- Parks and water parks
- The kids really enjoy the spray parks ✓
- The green areas
- Accessibility
- The trails connect ✓
- Childcare in recreation centers
- Free/low prices ✓
- Basketball courts indoor or covered
- Great for kids ✓
- Great during warmer seasonal activities
- Water park areas
- Bike riding
- Kids activities
- Play on working equipment
- Easy for people to use
- Them being clean
- Walking trails/bike trails. Meeting other children
- Spray parks are great

What would make them better?

- More adaptive equipment
- Sauna or steam room
- Picnic shelters
- Grills ✓
- Bike/skate parks ✓
- Removal of unusable features, check monthly
- Community resource center ✓
- More of the parks, picnic shelters, outdoor fitness, disc golf, game courts etc. In the 45405, 45406, 45402, and 45417 areas
- Inside shelters close to kids play areas
- Weather permit activities in the park
- Cameras for safety monitoring

- Police patrols for safety monitoring ✓
- More security ✓
- More availability ✓
- Wi-Fi and more electric plugs
- Access to restrooms that are clean/jobs
- Very few activities that are free and affordable for youth and families in inner city areas
- Make them clean/get new equipment
- More staff, better wages, full time staff ✓
- Parking near shelters
- Renew older parks inside neighborhoods
- Pocket parks in vacant lots ✓
- Trails with stations (learning activities) ✓
- better parks
- Football, soccer field/dog park
- Better marketing
- Lights for when it gets dark/better security or cameras
- Space for community events to take place/stage for performances, garden for community
- Clean up trash better
- More convenient parking
- More control over parking
- Better options for older kids ✓
- Hire students during school closures/breaks

Recreation Facilities

What makes them great now?

- Recreation offers individuals places they can go to feel safe while being able to participate in programs
- Community golf course
- Indoor pools
- Recreation centers
- Recreation centers offer affordable space for community programs ✓
- Pool, meeting rooms
- Senior room with more activities
- Low cost
- Jimmy is the best
- Flexible hours
- Amazing pool at NW ✓
- Great maintenance
- Bring back to inner city
- Access, low cost, staff personable
- Free admissions to games
- Close to home
- Basketball courts for team free
- We need all the people like you all
- Indoor meeting facilities
- Swimming incredibly inexpensive

What would make them better?

- Lower fees, open on weekend
- Need more community golf courses, Indoor pools, recreation centers
- Golf courses
- Basketball courts
- Provide more heat in the women's dressing room ✓
- Enclose the showers across from the ones which are already enclosed ✓
- Repair the machine that you can put your swimming suits, etc. in ✓

- Recreation centers
- Utilization of meeting spaces ✓
- Meeting spaces open on holidays or evenings which are times when I can use them when not at work
- Transportation tokens for youth to get there by bus
- Jim Nichols Tennis Facility
    - Better maintenance
    - Training of staff personnel ✓
- We need indoor facilities at outdoor venues
- Pool needs to be open everyday
- Expand hours of operation
- Open old facilities
- More open times/access
- Fitness centers ✓
- New programs, more funding ✓
- Need more swim time
- Need more swim classes, advanced
- More affordable for lower income
- Scholarship programs
- Security and availability
- More flexible hours/availability
- Membership discounts for students and their families✓
- More lifeguards to allow more patrons to utilize indoor pools
- Utilize indoor pools Saturday hours
- Better maintained restroom
- Make programming/recreation etc.
- More availability in inner city communities
- Enjoyed the 10ft diving board/miss the ladder
- Keep the pool open

Programs, Events, and Festivals

What makes them great now?

- Softball
- More youth activities
- Sports/recreation
- Festivals and entertainment
- Esports
- Youth sports (children need something positive to do)
- Positive bowling center
- Some exist depending on location
- Pickleball
- Had great recovery support softball league
- Community support
- Sports options and pricing for families
- After school/before school/summer camps
- Sports/activities they have that varies age wise

What would make them better?

- More 50+ programs and fees lowered
- None located in the inner city
- Need more recreation things at College Hill Park, etc. swings, water park, etc.
- Parents or guardians need things to do while they wait for kids to get out of events or practices
- Volleyball ✓
- Age 50 programs ✓✓
- Drill team, drums ✓✓

- Cheerleaders ✓✓
- Drug prevention for kids ✓
- Programs, camps, events, movies ✓✓✓✓
- Concerts, festivals ✓✓
- Gang/gun violence prevention ✓
- Financial literacy programs ✓
- Resource and literacy courses ✓
- Computer literacy for 50+ ✓✓
- More collaboration with schools to engage kids in programming ✓
- Discounts/scholarships to allow more kids to participate ✓✓✓
- Job opportunities for students ✓✓✓
- Programming for McIntosh Park
- Skating rink ✓
- Communication/improve marketing campaign
- Family activity nights/provide meeting space for the community to host
- More outdoor courts ✓
- Add more with sports ✓✓
- Support events, use center ✓
- Have or organize subcommittees in each area ✓
- Have classes and speakers
- Soccer
- Dance classes
- More tennis programs, tournaments, more kid participation
- Basketball
- More swimming hours Saturdays ✓✓
- Need more intentional teen programs ✓✓
- Youth advisory council to provide input on programs, events ✓
- More programs for 50+
- Make programming, events, etc. more available and proportionate to all communities✓
- Marketing
- Social media
- Direct mailing
- Newsletter email marketing
- SEO and outreach
- Search engine optimization
- Collaborate with public/private adoption foster agencies for children to be connected to the recreation

Dollar Voting

Participants were given $1,000 in play money to place in boxes with the following categories:

Action (Box Title)	Open House #1 GDRC	Open House #2 Lohrey	Open House #3 Northwest	Total
Sports Fields & Courts	$9,700	$3,500	$5,100	**$18,300**
	27%	*18%*	*12%*	*19%*
Programs & Events	$6,900	$3,100	$8,000	**$18,000**
		16%	*19%*	*19%*
Indoor Recreation Centers & Facilities	$6,300	$1,400	$9,800	**$17,500**
	17%	*7%*	*24%*	*18%*
Existing Facilities/Maintenance	$5,200	$3,300	$7,600	**$16,100**
	14%	*17%*	*18%*	*17%*
Support Features	$2,900	$2,800	$4,100	**$9,800**
	8%	*15%*	*10%*	*10%*
Trails	$2,500	$2,500	$3,400	**$8,400**
	7%	*13%*	*8%*	*9%*
Spray Parks	$1,900	$800	$2,600	**$5,300**
	5%	*4%*	*6%*	*5%*
Other	$1,200	$1,900	$700	**$3,800**
	3%	*10%*	*2%*	*4%*
Total	**$36,600**	**$19,300**	**$41,300**	**$97,200**

Other

The comments with dollars are listed below. Some participants wrote numbers on the cards that differed from that amount inserted, and some wrote comments with no money attached. As a result, the total below does not match the total for the "other" box in the previous table.

GDRC Meeting 1

- Motocross Park ($1,000)
- Exercise equipment ($400)
- More sporting events for kids ($200)
- ADA compliant ($100)
- 1 silent disco in the fitness center ($100)
- More comfortable chairs in senior lounge ($0)
- Meeting with department heads $1,000,000,000 ($0)
- Skate parks ($0)
- More same amenities for kids ($0)
- ATV park $10,000 ($0)
- Drinking fountains ($0
- Senior center senior specific ($0)
- Handicap parking $1,000,000,000 ($0)
- Real pool for laps, not wading pool $1,000,000,000 ($0)
- Sr. outreach/advisory group w/ monthly meetings ($0)

Lohrey Meeting 2

- Jane Newcome Park playground eq ($500)
- Toddler time program, homeschool gym, mom+me classes ($400)
- Jane Newcome Park walking track ($300)
- Daytime programs ($200)

- Jane Newcome Park Pickleball court ($200)
- Jane Newcome Park Pickleball court ($200)
- Indoor swimming pools ($100)
- Park for seniors $10,000 ($0)
- Senior center ($0)

Northwest Meeting 3

- Salary increases for current staff ($500)
- Financial computer and literacy courses ($400)
- Update equipment/spinner bike ($200)
- Security/safety ($200)
- More recovery events ($100)
- History ($0)
- Cameras ($0)
- Parking ($0)
- Concession stands ($0)
- Lights in the park ($0)
- Anti-bullying suicide prevention $1,000,000,000 ($0)
- Concerts ($0)

Feature Board

Participants were given three red dots to place on 16 park amenities (represented by pictures). The results in the table below show the count from all three meetings.

Recreation & Park Features	Open House #1 GDRC	Open House #2 Lohrey	Open House #3 Northwest	Total	%
Indoor Recreation Facilities	13	6	20	39	14%
Restrooms	9	7	12	28	10%
Game Courts	13	4	7	24	9%
Sports Fields	7	8	8	23	8%
Trails	6	6	10	22	8%
Event Spaces	7	0	12	19	7%
Playgrounds	6	4	8	18	6%
Spray Parks	8	2	8	18	6%
Outdoor Games	8	3	5	16	6%
Picnic Shelters	6	3	6	15	5%
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	7	2	5	14	5%
Shade, Seating, Support Features	4	4	6	14	5%
Public Art	8	2	3	13	5%
Dog Parks	5	1	4	10	4%
Skate Park	0	2	4	6	2%
Disc Golf	2	0	1	3	1%
Total	**107**	**54**	**119**	**282**	
Participants	**36**	**18**	**40**	**94**	







Program Board

Participants were given three green dots to place on 16 programs (represented by pictures, including an option for "other" not included in these categories. The results in the table below show the count from all three meetings.

Programs	Open House #1 GDRC	Open House #2 Lohrey	Open House #3 Northwest	Total	%
Aquatic Programs	7	5	23	35	12%
Youth Sports	12	7	10	29	10%
Teen Programs	9	6	14	29	10%
Before & After School Programs	10	1	13	24	9%
Festivals	8	5	10	23	8%
Sports Tournaments	10	5	7	22	8%
Active Adult Programs	6	3	13	22	8%
Movie/Music Concerts	8	4	6	18	6%
Cultural and Performing Arts	2	4	7	13	5%
Summer Camps	6	3	4	13	5%
Fitness Classes	5	0	8	13	5%
Adult Sports	9	3	0	12	4%
E-Sports	8	2	2	12	4%
Adaptive Recreation	3	3	2	8	3%
Other	3	1	1	5	2%
Runs and Races	2	1	1	4	1%
Total	**108**	**53**	**121**	**282**	**1**
Participants	**36**	**18**	**40**	**94**	







Keith E. Rodenhauser, AICP, SITES AP 12/5/2022

KER

c: Pat Hoagland
c: Sam Veitch

File

CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM
COMMISSIONER MEETING
DAYTON RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN & PARKS MASTER PLAN
PROJECT NO. 22098

Present: **Keith Rodenhauser, Senior Planner, BCI**
Sam Veitch, Planner, BCI
Stephan Marcellus, Recreation Division Manager, Dayton Recreation

BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC

March 22nd, 2023

MEETING – COMMISIONERS FAIRCHILD & SHAW (MARCH 21ST, 10AM)

Do Dayton recreation and parks have any unmet needs?

- Staffing the pools is a safety issue
  - Creating a pipeline for careers in pool and water management
  - Interested in seeing the fix for lifeguards
  - Would like to figure out a way to make lifeguarding more attractive
  - Lifeguarding academy
  - Kids in the community are not currently learning how to swim

What would you like to see come out of this plan?

- What kind of models are there to take programming outside the recreation centers
- What transportation solutions exist
- How to partner with schools, churches, other facilities
- Ideas for volunteerism – what are others doing?
- Connectivity with community
  - Linking youth with golf
  - Transportation to recreation facilities and programs
  - Outreach for Dayton residents
  - Currently golf professionals are hosting clinics at the rec centers
- Demographics of where youth live in relation to the locations of the parks and recreation facilities
  - Five Oaks may be most dense area of kids
- Integration with the River Master Plan
- Kayaking, canoeing, biking
- Connecting to the recreation centers
- Partnerships with Five Rivers
- Access to non-traditional sports
  - Tennis
  - Golf
- Recreation needs to be fully staffed to be fully open to the public
- Currently in the process of conducting an ADA audit

In 10 Years, Dayton's parks and recreation facilities and programs…

- Pools open and fully staffed
- Increase utilization rates of facilities
- Improved aesthetics at facilities
- Improved sense of pride in Dayton's parks and recreation facilities
- Incorporate a tree strategy within Dayton's parks
  - Current arborist out of Public Works Department

If you should disagree with any information contained herein, please kindly notify our office in writing within 10 days of receipt of this memorandum.

SIGNED BY
Keith E. Rodenhauser, AICP, GISP, SITES AP 3/29/2022
KER/SEV

CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM
NEIGHBORHOOD CONVERSATIONS
DAYTON RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN & PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT
PROJECT NO. 22020

Present: **Keith Rodenhauser, Senior Planner, BCI**
Sam Veitch, Planner, BCI

March 21st – 22nd, 2023

MEETING #1 – LOHREY (MARCH 21ST, 10AM)

- Members from Five Rivers Metroparks (3)
- City of Dayton – Community Engagement staff (2)

General Discussion

- Least busy times at Lohrey are between 12PM-3PM
- Recreation centers are now open on Saturdays from 9AM-4PM
    - Not a lot of people are aware of this, so low attendance so far.
    - Pickleball players are utilizing this gym time the most.

What do you like about Dayton parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities?

- All programs are affordable
- Most visited City of Dayton Parks:
    - Triangle
    - Trails – Shroyer Bike Path
    - DeWeese Trailhead
    - Bomberger
    - Washington
    - McIntosh
    - KROC Center
    - Northwest Recreation Center
- Existing walking and biking paths
- Connections between parks
- Proximity and availability of parks to residences
- Connections between different parks and organizations
- Like the amount of parks
- Burkham Park and other parks have a lot of potential but were funded by private corporations and are not anymore
- Western Hills
    - Hidden gem
    - Has a lot of natural landscape
- Cleveland park
    - Has a great hiking trail – but short
- Dayton Bike yard
- Five Rivers partnered with Dayton parks for fireworks and Levitt Pavilion
- Easter egg hunts
- Summer music series
- Baseball at Kettering field – Dayton brings a lot of diversity to the area to play sports

What don't you like about the offerings & do you have any unmet needs?

- Wish Northwest's pool had better hours
- Need better connections between residences and parks
- Sidewalks/hazardous conditions to get to the park
- City is not pedestrian friendly

- Need better maintenance and ways to access the facilities
- More activities at the parks, more natural play areas
- More awareness of what Dayton parks have to offer
- Parks and recreation facilities out of sight out of mind
- Need more soccer fields
- More open gym time
- Not enough dog parks
- More bike paths and upkeeping of existing paths
- Do not need restrooms in neighborhood parks
- Benches and seating
    - Swinging benches
- Parking and driving on parkland an issue
- Need more accessible parking at Dayton parks
- Different programming
    - Always the same classes offered year after year
- Not a lot of options for kids who aren't into sports
- Do not know what exists and is offered
    - Need improved marketing
- Signage and wayfinding for some of the smaller parks is needed
- Did not know Lohrey existed due to lack of signage and marketing

In 10 Years Dayton's Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs…

- More safety along the trails for solo walking or biking
- More safety at the parks
- Easy parking
- Clean parks and trails
- Better maintenance and higher quality amenities vs having to replace everything
- Vibrancy at the parks and recreation centers
- More conservation at the parks
- Fiver Rivers always partnering with the City of Dayton's Recreation programs and parks
- More people using parks and are aware of the Recreation Department and park offerings
- Outdoor water park
- Better/more staff at the facilities
- Keep centers open on the weekends
- Do not need parks to be an attraction to the city, but more valuable for the neighborhoods
- Highlight each park's uniqueness
- Recreation centers need to evolve to meet the needs of the youth and the community which is changing – relevant programming etc.
- Positive teen interactions with recreation and parks facilities
- Make people feel safe going downtown to visit parks
- Bus connections to both the parks and the recreation centers and facilities
- More shade along the trail between Deeds Park and Triangle Park

MEETING #2 – LOHREY (MARCH 21ST, 5:30PM)

- Soccer representatives
- City of Dayton – Community Engagement staff (2)
- Neighborhood residents

What do you like about Dayton parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities?

- Immigrants at Lohrey Recreation Center – value having access to an indoor facility and outdoor facilities, especially for low-income immigrant children
- Need for public soccer fields that have goals and other soccer needs
- Three good recreation centers – wish there were more
- All centers have nice pools
- Affordable programs and access
- Affordable room rentals

- Not enough for pedestrian connectivity to the parks and the centers
- Attendees do use the playgrounds and appreciate the availability of them
- Most visited City of Dayton Parks:
    - Bomberger Park
    - Park behind charter school
- Like the ability to walk around the parks

What don't you like about the offerings & do you have any unmet needs?

- Limited options for recreation programs
- Need youth soccer programs, art programs, etc.
    - Current soccer programs use the University of Dayton to play and for practice
    - Using the university comes with limitations
        - Fields are not available, especially at convenient times
        - Difficulty getting athletes to the facility
- Parks and Recreation facilities are not kept as clean
- No restrooms
- Equipment is in disrepair
- No landscaping
- Everyone should be able to walk to a park with a playground
- Huffman neighborhood does not have a playground
- Struggle maintaining what we have
- Baseball diamonds are overgrown
- Soccer related:
    - Soccer fields need graded
    - Have to sign up for soccer in Kettering and other communities
    - No Dayton soccer programs
    - Only 1 soccer field in Dayton area that is accessible
    - Kettering Field surface is too hard to play soccer
    - Soccer players are between 15 years and 33 years (60 players currently enrolled)
    - Soccer part of the immigrant community life – helps to shape children
- Large expanses of grass at parks but they are not conducive for sports
- GDRC pool needs to be re-opened
- Northwest's outdoor pool has been closed for years
- Turkish Center now owns vacant pool which was given to the center by the city
    - Turkish Center is not equipped to maintain an outdoor pool, the pool sits vacant
- Parks and recreation facilities need continuous investment rather than one time renovations or rebuilds
- Need a renovation cycle for playground and amenity replacement
- Trash cans are not being emptied at parks
- Parks should be accessible – hard to reserve fields and facilities
- More programs that are more inclusive for teenagers
- Need teen CPR and lifeguarding programs
- More art, acting, athletic, active programs
- Need better advertising for lifeguards and jobs with the Recreation Department

In 10 Years Dayton's Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs…

- Dayton will be a vibrant city where programs are accessible to anyone
- People enjoy doing outdoor activities
- To never have to leave the city of Dayton to access programs and parks
- Want to be able to enjoy time at the park instead of picking up trash and checking safety beneath play equipment
- Modern and maintained facilities
- Ample access to soccer fields and programs in Dayton
- Walkable paths to parks
- More trees in the parks
- More participation in the city

- Better advertisement and marketing
- People are aware of what Dayton has to offer
- Welcome Dayton Facebook page – more advertisement
- Better engagement with the schools
- Better city website and social media presence
- Red tape at the city is lifted
- Better signage for recreation centers
- Better communication about happenings around the rec centers and parks
- Better customer service for the city as a whole

MEETING #3 – NORTHWEST (MARCH 22ND, 10AM)

- Seniors
- City of Dayton – Community Engagement staff (2)
- City Commissioner Turner-Sloss

What do you like about Dayton parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities?

- Affordable prices to use the recreation centers
- Used to use the Northwest Recreation Center but no longer do
- When spray parks were open – would bring the kids
    - Used Island Park spray park
- Used Triangle Park, rented shelters for family events
- Enjoy the events at the parks – festivals, carnivals
- Anything free for the community was used
- Used to use the pool at Fairview and the current spray park
- Classes at Northwest

What don't you like about the offerings & do you have any unmet needs?

- Difficult to get into the pool – too crowded
- Small weight room
- Difficulty accessing the Recreation Center
    - Difficult to find parking and the center in general (Northwest)
    - Difficult to see if it is open
- Senior center does not have enough diverse activities unless you play cards or billiards
- Lack of advertising of senior programs
- Used to do ceramics and exercise – not sure if that's offered anymore
- No designated space for the seniors
    - Lost the Ellis Center, and senior space got shrunk to a room
- GDRC does not accommodate the amount of seniors and youth that participate in recreation programs
- Northwest does get used a lot – not sure if the maintenance is keeping up with the crowds that use the facilities
- Senior room does not have information posted about the activities
- The three recreation centers need to be invested in with better maintenance and services available to all ages
- Large pockets of youth do not have access to recreation facilities
- Coaches want to have soccer for children but transportation is a barrier– especially for the Hispanic and African community
- Need designated indoor space for the summer camp instead of cancelling the summer camp due to inclement weather – not enough space within the recreation center to accommodate both the classes going on and the summer camp at the same time
- Need better security for the all who use the recreation centers and parks
    - Need emergency call boxes around the outside of the recreation centers
- Need more soccer fields with proper grading and equipment
- Need more places for kids to hangout after school – especially if you don't live walking distance to a recreation center
- Need more engagement everywhere, at all locations

- Need programs and facilities that cater to the special needs populations (sensory friendly items)
- Need indoor soccer fields
- Drill teams also need indoor and outdoor space

In 10 Dayton's Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs…

- Activities going to the parks instead of getting kids to the recreation centers
    - Traveling vehicle with sports equipment and activities
    - Increased engagement and activities at the parks – go where the people are
- More ADA accessible parks and recreation facilities
- An integrated community that participates in many community activities
- A more involved youth in community happenings
- Crime rates would decrease
- More advertising of facilities and programs
    - Easier access to that information
- People want to join recreation centers over other private centers in the community
- Enough funding to accomplish goals
- Plans for the following 10 years
    - The process doesn't just stop after this plan
- Offerings for everyone in the community
    - All ages, races, etc.
- Centers are still here and being used
- More programs and facilities open during the day and caters to seniors
    - Increased transportation options to the centers and programs
- Empower the recreation directors to meet the needs of each community
    - Create avenues for increased community engagement to provide the best services for each individual community around each recreation center
- A new additional recreation center
- More pedestrian friendly connections to the parks and recreation centers
- Building parks and rec facilities around the same vision as other departments to create a cohesive city
- Better security outside of the facilities
    - Better police presence

MEETING #4 – NORTHWEST (MARCH 22ND, 5:30PM)

- Neighborhood leaders
- City of Dayton Community Engagement Staff (1)
- Seniors

What do you like about Dayton parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities?

- GDRC
    - Walk the track without having to join a program
    - Free walking track if not using the gym
    - Nice to have an indoor space to use during inclement weather
- Northwest's swimming pool
- Spray parks
- Lots of brochures and leaflets that provide info about the community and recreation center
- Chair aerobics at GDRC
- Water and chair aerobics at Northwest
- Senior fitness classes
- Softball at Northwest's fields
- Affordable summer camps
- Greenspaces
    - Northwest's open field

What don't you like about the offerings & do you have any unmet needs?

- Need more all age equipment at park in College Hill

    - Both for younger and older kids
    - Currently no equipment for youngest children
    - Need more swings
- One neighborhood resident surveyed 3 parks to see the difference between their neighborhood park and the other parks throughout Dayton
    - Liberation Park
    - Sandalwood Park
    - Island Metropark
- Mcintosh is used by adults – not by kids
- Disordered investment in parks
- More swings, more equipment for little kids
- College hill needs a spray park
- Mcabe Park on home avenue does not have any amenities
    - Needs a parking lot, currently no access
    - Needs restrooms
- Programs for younger kids and all ages
    - Programs based on what the kids have identified are their needs or wants
- Pool at GDRC is very shallow – not swimmable
- Location used to have 2 tracks, Olympic sized pools, theaters – new building does not have that amenity (10 year time span between these facilities)
- Closest pool is the downtown YMCA – parking is not accessible and cost money
- No outdoor pools
- Security is an issue at the recreation center
    - Problems with the youth gathering
    - Difficult to engage with the teenagers
- Add a small shelter away from where the kids play at McIntosh for the adults
- Metroparks marketing is better than Dayton
    - Dayton parks and recreation need better marketing and advertising
- Need more diverse groups of people coming into the recreation centers
    - Racial, age, socio-economic
- Need improved signage
- Add programs that cater to more diverse groups of people
- Need to utilize different platforms for social media other than Facebook
- Need a better brand for recreation so they are recognizable
- Cross-promotion between the YMCA, schools, and recreation
- More connectivity between the parks – biking and walking paths
- Create a parks and recreation foundation to find funding for these facilities and programs
- Marketed and known vision for Recreation and parks
- More transportation for the seniors and youth
- Programs and amenities for the disabled
    - Hope Center installing new ADA accessible playground
- More partnerships – especially with University of Dayton & Wright State University
- How to create buy-in through giving back to the community and promote a sense of ownership over these recreation facilities
- Have more games between communities with the sports programs (intramural)
    - Kickball, soccer, etc.
- “Urban wilderness” trails – link bike paths to parks

In 10 Years…

- More greenspace on the west side of Dayton
- Synthesis of what we’ve discussed at these stakeholder meetings
    - City parks are equal in quality and use to the Metroparks
    - Clear vision and objective that’s connected to the needs and wants of the community
    - Variety of amenities – neighborhood identified features (identity)
- Recreation & Public works depts. incorporate the arts community into development

- Every park needs to have similar features and amenities provided but still unique to the neighborhood
- Collaborating with other agencies to avoid duplication of services
- Obtain "Omega" grants
- Continued programming at the recreation centers
    - Continued senior services
- Programs relevant to the community surrounding the center
- Partnering with the art institute for programs
- Applying and obtaining a Hope zone initiative grant - $120 million Omega CDC grant
    - For anti-poverty efforts for the youth
- Better and new funding mechanisms – sustainable funding process that is separate from the city
- Cleaner, brighter, landscaped, maintained, recreation facilities and parks
- More diverse programming
- Better marketing and advertising through multiple social media channels

DOLLAR VOTING RESULTS

Participants were asked to vote for their preferences regarding improvements to parks and recreation programs and facilities using play money. Results were combined with the open house meetings to produce an overall count of preferences.

Action (Box Title)	Open House #1 GDRC	Open House #2 Lohrey	Open House #3 Northwest	Neighborhood Meeting - Lohrey	Neighborhood Meeting - Northwest	Total
Sports Fields & Courts	$9,700	$3,500	$5,100	$1,900	$1,900	**$22,100**
	27%	*18%*	*12%*	*24%*	*12%*	*18%*
Programs & Events	$6,900	$3,100	$8,000	$600	$2,500	**$21,100**
		16%	*19%*	*8%*	*16%*	*17%*
Indoor Recreation Centers & Facilities	$6,300	$1,400	$9,800	$900	$2,700	**$21,100**
	17%	*7%*	*24%*	*11%*	*18%*	*17%*
Existing Facilities/Maintenance	$5,200	$3,300	$7,600	$1,400	$2,700	**$20,200**
	14%	*17%*	*18%*	*18%*	*18%*	*17%*
Support Features	$2,900	$2,800	$4,100	$1,000	$3,100	**$13,900**
	8%	*15%*	*10%*	*13%*	*20%*	*12%*
Trails	$2,500	$2,500	$3,400	$1,600	$1,100	**$11,100**
	7%	*13%*	*8%*	*20%*	*7%*	*9%*
Spray Parks	$1,900	$800	$2,600	$400	$900	**$6,600**
	5%	*4%*	*6%*	*5%*	*6%*	*5%*
Other	$1,200	$1,900	$700	$200	$500	**$4,500**
	3%	*10%*	*2%*	*3%*	*3%*	*4%*
Total	**$36,600**	**$19,300**	**$41,300**	**$8,000**	**$15,400**	**$120,600**

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 Rodenhauser
SIGNED BY

CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM
STAKEHOLDERS MEETING
2023 DAYTON RECREATION 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT
PROJECT NO. 22020

Present: **Keith Rodenhauser, Senior Planner, BCI**
Sam Veitch, Planner, BCI
Pat Hoagland, Principal, BCI (select meetings)
Alphonso Spence, President, Trinity Inc. (select meetings)

November 15th – 17th, 2022

MEETING #1 - GDRC STAFF (NOVEMBER 15, 1:30PM)

- Yanna – Any sports at GDRC & Jim Nichols Tennis. (tennis, pickleball, volleyball)
- Timothy Hall-Norman – After school programs (2PM-5:30PM, M-F)
- Joe Echols III – Helps out wherever needed
- Mr. Tweedie – Helps out wherever needed (been with Rec for 20+- years)
- Susan Cunningham – Front desk opener, helping as needed (been with Rec for 20+- years)
- Courtney Austin – Fitness room & front desk

General Discussion

- Everyone is part-time (35 hours per week) except Mr. Tweedie (FT)
- Coordinators are responsible for programs
  - Athletics, special events, sports, senior programming, pool/aquatics (different topics coordinators are responsible for)

Strengths of Recreation Department

- All programs are affordable
- Located within the community
- After school program is free, open gym is free, movie nights
- Older kids are role models for the community
- Great relationship with community
- Repeat users
- Fitness center for the community (walkable & affordable ($10/month or $3/day, $2 senior) military & senior discounts - 10% off)
- Senior room
- Coworkers have a good working relationship
- Modernization & look of the facility
- Patron interaction that knits community together
- Community appreciates work the staff does
- Family atmosphere – coworkers close
- Fun job
- Supervisor communication is good
- Good website

Weaknesses

- Design/layout of recreation center makes it difficult to program
- Lots of turn over because of part-time status – no way to climb the ladder
  - Used to be another tier between to move up – no opportunities to stay in this department
- Lack of communication between the recreation and sports and between recreation centers
- Everything is run different at each center which makes it difficult to advise patrons of offerings at other centers
- Sports and recreation are very separate entities

- Program guides do not have enough info in them, typos, no physical copies at the recreation centers
- Staff at the center do not know what programs are going to be offered until the program guide comes out so there's no time to prepare or promote
  - Promotion of program offerings could be better
- Coordinators and upper-level staff are located at city hall rather than at the recreation centers which creates barriers in communication

Unmet needs

- Need Wi-Fi, computers, temperature regulation (not always comfortable)
- Gym does not have enough seating for events – creates unsafe conditions for emergencies
- Security (people/officers) lacks at the tennis courts & at the recreation center
  - Limits program offerings – no adult open gym because of lack of security measures
- Gym is underutilized
- People want a bigger pool and the pool to be open (calls every day)
  - Shortage of lifeguards
- Cameras cannot be monitored from the front desk
- Acoustics due to the multipurpose rooms open air concept create loud conditions and prevents a lot of potential programming from happening simultaneously
  - Rooms do not get rented out because of design
  - People can look down into the multipurpose rooms – for classes like yoga, women do not feel comfortable
- Separation of kids, adults, and homeless is an issue (need a system to keep them separate)
- Limit times when homeless can come in to use the shower and restrooms to avoid child interaction
- Kids safety is an issue
- No outdoor play space (handicap accessible)
- The fitness room's equipment is outdated – same equipment from 2010
- Game consoles cannot used without Wi-Fi
- No computers available
- Teen spaces unavailable
- Only those 12 and below and the seniors can use this facility for lack of space and programs
- Do not ask seniors about what they want to do
- Senior lunch programs
- No transportation for seniors
- Do not know about other programs in the city at other centers and at other organizations
- Efforts have been made to try to improve communication
- Registration for programs can only be done in person at a rec center
- Need higher wages for staff
- Need more training

In 10 Years…

- More communication between staff at GDRC, other recreation centers, and upper management
- More staff and increased public satisfaction
- Efficient operations
  - Public is more involved at the center
  - More promotion of program offerings and public awareness
- Teen space & activities will be available
- Partnerships with outside organizations to utilize the space
- Continuous public engagement
- Computers and Wi-Fi added
- Updated technology and fitness equipment
- Better able assist kids with homework & better serve the public
- Online registration including payment
- Video games that are currently supplied are in working order
- Promoting employment at the center

MEETING #2 - PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR (NOVEMBER 15, 3:30PM)

Fred Stovall

General Discussion

- Parks and Recreation departments separated in 2007
- Parks is a division of Public Works with a dedicated parks group
- Responsibilities: Mow grass, rent shelters, clean shelters, playground & other equipment replacement, manages all amenities at parks, prepares for events hosted by Recreation by supplying trash receptacles, restroom cleaning, etc.
- Public Works building attendants clean buildings & do maintenance
- Public Works manages all spray parks
  - Belmont Park and Princeton Park are desired locations for spray parks
- Burkham & Bomberger upgrades recommended (shelter, playground, restrooms)
  - Bomberger has $157K allocated for playground upgrades
  - Potential donor for portable soccer at Bomberger Park (tennis court can transition to a soccer court)
  - Blommel to be updated by 2023 with Issue 9 funds
- People from outside of the city are meeting up in various locations in Dayton to burn rubber – some at basketball courts, causing damage
- No security cameras at any parks
- Dog park group said they are trying to get a grant for cameras
- No lights in parks
- Home Ave & Adelite skatepark under highway overpass
- Certified playground inspector on staff (David Burns)
- Highview Hills pool scheduled to be filled in
- Create contracts to help manage mowing and trash pickup at vacant properties
- 290-300 staff make up Public Works, 50 seasonal staff are separate (March-Oct 40 hour weeks)
- Triangle Park upgrades to be approved by commission soon
- ARPA funds dedicated for pool upgrades at Lohrey & demolition of the pool house at Fairview
- MacIntosh – new basketball court just added, parking area to be created at old tennis courts

What do you wish to see come out of this plan?

- Need data to support recommendations for upgrades at parks regarding:
  - Basketball courts
  - Shelters
  - Restrooms
  - Playgrounds
  - Other amenities
- A priority list for park upgrades
- Identify which parks should be removed and consolidated
- Identify a demolition priority list
- This plan will help determine park upgrades from the $1.6 million ARPA funds – prioritize west side of Dayton (to be used 2023-2024)
- This plan will also direct Issue 9 temporary tax increase funding (2017-2024, $244K/year in budget for upgrades)
- Basketball courts & playground equipment will be updated at Cleveland and Highland Park
- Updated mowing schedule based on park rentals, knowledge of neighborhood.
  - Weekly schedule for highly used parks
  - 21-day schedule for less used
  - Mowing needs to increase – need more staff
- Additional staff dedicated to parks will be added next year

Unmet needs

- Clear distinction between the west side and east side of town – would like to bridge the divide by providing quality parks to both sides

- Park rental rate down because the parks are not in good condition

In 10 Years…

- All parks have great and up to date amenities
- Equal opportunities for recreation

MEETING #3 - DAYTON CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE (NOVEMBER 16,9:00AM)

Shelley Dickstein – City Manager
Joe Parlette – Deputy City Manager
Lashea Lofton – Deputy City Manager

General Discussion

- Too many parks – few are heavily utilized
  - Focus attention on parks that are not utilized (consolidation)
- Concerned with setting expectations that are not deliverable
- Park is only asset in some neighborhoods
- Get creative with finding funding and maintenance sources
- Kids can't travel to parks
- Can we share public input back out to the community?
  - Present to the neighborhood presidents group
  - Create a short summary document to give to community
- Share with Tori at Commissioner's office when we craft the vision, mission, etc.
  - Also share with neighborhood presidents
- Lohrey could use an auxiliary gym
- Analyze threats surrounding the parks regarding current and future amenities
- Will the new YMCA impact Northwest's programs?
- Hope Center has senior programming
- Where is our niche as Dayton rec and parks?
- Greater NW area has most kids and families

What do you wish to see come out of this master plan?

- A plan that is instructive to elevate Recreation and parks (10-year timeframe)
- A plan that equitably invests in areas within the city
- Planning, Recreation, & Public Works working together
- Aspirational and bold ideas for investment along with short term goals
- A document that clearly defines what the goals are and ways to achieve them
- Dayton Recovery Plan – has goals for parks
- Methods to update the program offerings at recreation centers to pull more kids in
  - Green walls, technology entertainment to support making videos, older kids
  - Identify partners in the community
    - Lisa Wagner, Eva Budacelli (arts underground arcade that has production and performance space that will be programmed)
- Mobile teen "center" that can engages the entire community
- Create equitable access to parks and recreation facilities
- Continuous community engagement

In 10 years…

- A very robust network of parks exists throughout the city
  - Specialized interests are catered to (skateparks, programming, open space)
  - Use parks to make community feel like they are an asset
  - Programming that draws kids to centers
- Parks are extensions of backyards
  - All ages are able to use and play safely
  - Safe, accessible, walkable, bikeable, parking available
- Recreation centers
  - Dayton recreation centers are first choice over other private centers

- Intergenerational space and programming available
- Diverse groups are welcomed

- The right amenities in the right places driven by demographics and community engagement

Meeting #4 - Commissioner (November 16, 10:00am)

Shenise Turner-Sloss

General Discussion

- Triangle Park shelters need to be removed
- Additional engagement to the community
- Suggests park ambassadors to help with maintenance and keep a watch on the parks – would like models/examples

What would you like to see come out of this plan?

- Learn how parks are being used, which parks and amenities are used
- Where additional services that the community would like to see

Unmet needs

- Accessible facilities – especially restrooms
- Improved security – concerns about liability, vandalism
- Maintenance issues – need help with staff

Meeting #5 - Commissioner (November 16, 10:30am)

Matt Joseph

General Discussion

- Interested in Highland & Claridge parks
- Wants to see how walkable the parks are – consider difficulty in crossing streets
- Need publicized proof for why some parks are being updated vs others
- Look at leading indicators (2-5 year olds)
- Would like to create measurable park conditions to create a prioritization list
- Figure out how to remove abandoned parks and re-use the space (consolidation)
- Orientation and layout of facilities in neighborhoods is important

Strengths and Weaknesses of Departments

- Not enough resources but do well with what they have
- Both departments have many levels of red tape
- Lots of different populations to serve
- Need a future focus to serve residents
- Park maintenance is improving but could be better
- Need partnership with schools
- Need to improve parks that have not seen investment
- Make sure location is appropriate

Meeting #6 - Mayor (November 16, 11:00am)

Jeffery Mims

General Discussion

- City used to have a partnership with little leagues & wide/diverse program offerings
- City used to have "show wagon" rotating talent show that goes around the county
- City used to have high quality arts and crafts programs
- Intergovernmental programs used to exist where young people would be paid to work in parks with kids teaching arts and crafts
- City used to have summer work programs (working with Public Works, working at golf courses)
- Potential MOU with school system to align Recreation with the programs offered through the schools

    - Youth participation in programs offered by Recreation is low
    - Need program coordination with other offerors in town
- Schools have not been interested in partnerships
- Look to sports that guarantee a scholarship (softball, tennis, golf, soccer)
- Need more promotion on the value of sports and sportsmanship
    - Translates to work skills
- Facilities/programs are not evenly distributed throughout the city
- Schools have stopped teaching home economics and industrial arts
- Golf course needs to come back to Dayton
    - Also including an indoor learning and practice center, food area, banquet center, pickleball, tennis around the space (bigger/better than it was before)
    - Utilize surrounding space at existing Madden Golf facility
- Community Golf Course generates $1.5 million/year, some gets reinvested into parks and recreation, not owned by city
- Solar panels/sustainable design of new facilities

What would you like to see from this master plan?

- Information about how to improve quality of life through recreation
- Vacant lots and roads should not be rec and parks responsibility
- Build community support
- Value for recreation is better understood, improves quality of life
- This community will become a high performing community
- Opportunities to recreation with police and the mayor
- Event communication with the commissioners and the mayor

Strengths and Weaknesses

- Budget challenges
- 2016 tax increase first in 34 years
- Lack of investment
- High performing communities have high quality recreation

In 10 Years…

- The city will experience population growth, private investment in community
- A better prepared youth population for the workforce through participation in Recreation programs
- Increase tax base through creating good parks and recreation conditions
- Improved partnerships between Dayton City Schools and Recreation
- 6 city/school recreation centers
- More state funding for projects
- Goals identified to improve opportunities for citizens
- Madden Golf Course reopened by investor
    - Learning and practice center, additional amenities
    - New housing developed on adjacent sites

MEETING #7 - LOHREY RECREATION CENTER STAFF (NOVEMBER 16, 1:00PM)

- Kyle – sports specialist (youth), Centennial Field and Kettering Field (FT)
- Isaah – facilities specialist (FT)
- Kiera Pollard – rec aid
- Asia Jackson – youth sports
- Tori – rec aid
- Corey Martin – rec aid
- David Corbitt – rec aid (29 years)
- Isaah Trice – rec aid

Strengths

- Serving the community
- Programs for younger kids

    - Helps get them involved with other kids their age
    - Somewhere to go
    - Help with homework
- Pricing is affordable
- Memberships work at all three recreation centers
- Offerings to the seniors – diverse program offerings (aerobics, arts & crafts, hearing impaired class)
- Welcoming environment
- Good environment for the youth and patrons
- Accessibility – neighborhood friendly
- Rec building is always open
- Wi-fi available
- Movies at the park at all rec centers and easter egg hunts
- Work orders are answered fairly fast (24 hours)

Weaknesses

- The pool hours are limited (only open 3 days)
- Adult teams are lacking – age service gap (age 13-18)
- Open gym only M-F 2PM-5PM
- No computers or video games available
    - Do have E-sport league from at home
- Visibility – not everyone knows that this center exists
- Marketing and social media lacking
- Technology lacking/behind
- Computers do not work at the front desk
- Program gap between seniors and kids
- Communication lacking between recreation centers and upper management
- Training of new staff – fend for themselves situation
- New hire orientation is done with Nikki for RecTrac – has been sick, need more than 1 person who can train
- Only one cash drawer working of the two (been going on for over 4 years) – IT has come but has not fixed the register
- Faulty alarm system at times
    - 2 companies, monitoring is separate from company that fixes the system, causes confusion with repairs
- High turnover rate at this facility
    - No opportunities to move up
    - Entry level people are not necessarily interested in recreation
- Directors and managers do not have a general discussion in recreation
- People with disabilities are not being hired
- Staff is not prioritized
- No teen programming, no young adult programming, limited youth programming
- Red tape when it comes to marketing
- Budget cuts always include Recreation
- Video game availability
- Updated computers
- Online registration needed
- More events at the centers
    - Bring back pre-pandemic block parties
- Recreation centers to be open on the weekends (starting in December, however, pool still closed)
- Multigenerational recreation
- Applications for grants for additional programming

Unmet needs

- Need personal trainers and signage for operating equipment in fitness center
    - Need certified trainers
    - No structure to offer one on one training

- Lack non-sports programming (esp. home economics related)
- No STEM classes
  - Legos and robotics
- Every recreation center programming is different which causes confusion
- No physical copies of program guides
- Staff is unaware of program offerings
- Lack of class instructors
- Instructors do not always want to go to all rec centers
  - Instructors must go through same process as all city employees do which limits availability
- Need staff for the pool
- Staff training needed for emergency situations
- Social media presence lacking
  - People hear about programs by word of mouth currently

In 10 years…

- Target inner city youth & create a generational community center
- Upgraded facilities (fitness equipment, pool)
- Hire people with disabilities
- Upgrade technology, add computers
- Retain staff
- Building full 5-6 days a week – maximize use
- Pool is open longer hours and more days
- Fulfilling what the community wants and needs
- Creating programming for teens (more than open gym)
- Raises and employee investment (training, holiday pay, etc.)
- Teen programs beyond open gym
- Grants for programs are obtained – hire a grant writer
- Marketing is improved – marketing staff member is hired, better social media presence
- Parks and Recreation should be considered essential services

MEETING #8 – PW ENGINEER (NOVEMBER 17, 9:00AM)

David Burns – engineer & certified playground inspector – implement direction of physical parks improvements

General Discussion

- Implement Recreation and Parks improvements identified by directors
- City does not typically contract out park projects
- Many projects are getting halted
- Triangle Park planned updates
  - Recreational trail that connects bike path to parking lot
  - 2 reservable park shelters
  - Old shelters being torn down, the shelters that are staying are located within the dog park
  - Kitchen in large pavilion is not functional – deciding whether to keep or remove
  - Playground equipment not included in this plan
  - 13-year-old fitness equipment replacement
- Large list of wants throughout the city that will hopefully be lead through this plan
- Five Oaks planned updates (January to begin), funded without ARPA
  - Repair fitness equipment
  - New playground
  - Modular restroom
  - New shelter
  - Splash pad improvements
- MacIntosh Park planned updates
  - Tennis courts to be replaced with parking lot
  - Bollards around the entire park

- Encourage demolition of the existing features at vacant parks
- Wayfinding signage needed to existing parks
- Need more durable playground and park equipment
- Homeless sleeping in equipment at multiple parks
- Create more destination parks and remove the myriad of neighborhood park (consolidation)
  - Need to identify which parks will be consolidated through this plan
- Cleveland & Highland – no existing usable equipment, playground was removed this week
  - DWA play equipment being installed at Cleveland and Highland parks currently
- Bomberger Park
  - Adding age 2-5 play equipment is only going to be added if the neighborhood advocates for it (neighborhood funded)
  - ADA access grants included
- Issue 9 to expire in 2025 – $250K/year
- College Hill & Residence playgrounds need to be removed

In 10 Years…

- Majority of parks in the city have received new play equipment
- Most of the wants in the city have been received
  - New restrooms
  - Sports fields
  - Something at every park
- Fewer unsafe pieces of equipment and facilities that need to be removed
- More ADA paths at the parks, better connectivity

MEETING #9 – NORTHWEST RECREATION CENTER STAFF (NOVEMBER 17, 1:30PM)

- Bryan Urban – Public Works – grounds maintenance for the parks, athletic fields, playgrounds (about 20 in public works are dedicated to parks maintenance, 3 seasonal athletic fields)
- James Peebles – youth and adult sports, operation of NW Rec Center (been with Recreation for 25+- years)
- Rodriguez – Recreation aide & artist
- James Collier – After school programs
- Lisa Adams – Front desk
- Michelle Goodman – After school & summer camp
- Leah Long – Front desk
- Shavonte – Youth and adult sports
- *Pool staff not present

Strengths

- Helping the kids
- Helping the seniors, inspiring
- Providing the public with knowledge about recreation programs
- Eager to incorporate art programming
- Serve the community in many ways
  - Recreation center
  - Softball programs
  - Different ethnicities
- Provide a place people want to go
- Variety of recreation activities
- Meeting new people & building relationships
- Providing the pool to the public
- Teen room/hangout space is being developed
- Programs that are provided are well used
  - Ballroom dancing
  - Karate
  - Silver sneakers
- Staple for the community

- Enjoy experiencing active seniors
- Regular attendants to the recreation center – building community relationships
- Seniors playing games with the younger groups
- Open swim & gym– good for teens (2-5pm 6 days a week, 8:30-4 on Saturday)
- Gyms and stage room heavily used
- Availability of space for additional art programming
- Community meetings held in the recreation center
- Big gym can be divided into 2
- Tours are given to public individuals who have not been here before
- Serves as a warming center

Weaknesses

- No physical program guides
- Cell reception is poor in the building
- No Wi-Fi –computers do not work
  - If they had Wi-Fi what would they do with it?
    - Homework & after school programs
    - Increase recreation center demand
    - Create a hang out space
    - Helps the seniors
    - Could access program guides
    - Parents could access internet while children are doing programs
    - Come here instead of going to library or if library is closed
- Local government falls under constraints related to funding
- To attend the rec center, there needs to be a purpose – not a hang out spot currently
- High staff turnover rates, not enough staff
- Public not very aware of open gym & swim schedule – will be posted in the center, not posted online
- Public does not know this recreation center exists
- Not a lot of teen activities available
- Reservation of rooms and programs is restricted to in person at the center
- Not enough lifeguards – pool hours restricted
  - In this community, kids do not swim and then do not pursue lifeguarding
  - Lifeguards can do lessons
- Door broken at the front – no one bid on it – issues obtaining a bid due to hoops required as a city
- No natural light in this recreation center
- Fresh paint – feels like an old school building
- Stage is underutilized
- Small gym underutilized
- Staff are unaware of programs at other recreation centers
- Communication between staff at recreation center and upper management lacking
  - Although, Immediate supervisors are good at communicating
- More and diverse fitness equipment needed
  - Need free weights
- Better space management – rearrange the layout of the fitness center
- No space for childcare
- Gym flooring and stage flooring needs replacement
  - Scratched, needs buffing
- Door locks are faulty
- Do not have a dumpster – trash cans get full after an event
- 3 cameras work but do not record and do not pick up audio (only live) and cannot be monitored from the front desk
  - Outdoor cameras do not work either
- Staff does not feel safe to open and close during dark hours
  - Need remote access to the building

- Security cameras that record
- Lots of overnight and weekend activities in the parking lot
- Need lighting around the facility, especially around the entrances and exits

- Neighborhood kids running ATV's and vehicles on the property – creates unsafe conditions for the patrons and kids during the after-school programs

Unmet needs

- Sauna/steam room
- Wi-Fi
- Pickleball (indoor & outdoor) & classes
- Younger kid-oriented programs – sports programs are the same across all recreation centers

Job specifics

- Part-time have fewer paid holidays per year, insurance is more expensive
  - If the benefits were equal to the full-time employees, staff may stay
- High turnover – every year turning over
- After 6 months you can move to another position at the city
- Unable to work another job to supplement income because of the hours required

In 10 Years…

- Wi-Fi will be available
- Facility is newer/renovation
- Better game room for the kids – in progress
  - Video games & E-sports (variety of games, dedicated hours for certain games based on age range)
  - Game room and catch all room to receive furniture in Dec.
  - Game room to become a lounge – hang out room
  - 6 TV screens with Xboxes
  - Video station with recording equipment (halo light, green screen)
- Higher concentration of younger people at the center
- More people and activity in the recreation center

MEETING #10 – POLICE (NOVEMBER 17, 4:00PM)

Eric Henderson – Deputy Director & Assistant Chief

General Discussion

- Grew up in northwest Dayton – used to attend the rec center
- Lived near Lohrey at some point in time
- Would like police to have a closer relationship with Recreation programs and events
  - More involvement with the youth
  - Officers being present, interacting with the kids
  - More formalized programming (currently K9's come out during summer camps)
- Provides security with issues at recreation centers
  - Basketball court issues, stolen cars, mainly outdoor issues
- Community engagement officers exist that provide crime assessments – could provide assistance with design of security camera layouts (offered already to private businesses & some city projects)
- Emergency shelter needs
  - Recreation centers do not have generators – discussions on this have been occurring
  - Prepare recreation centers for emergency situations
- Recreation centers are a good place for kids to congregate
- Emphasized good marketing and advertising is key – relationship with schools could be improved
- Specific parks have reoccurring issues – shelters at Triangle Park, MacIntosh Park parking issues (currently being addressed), Sandalwood Park has noise complaints about drill team practices
- Wolf Creek neighborhood – residents would like to see the park better utilized
- Issues with dirt bikes and ATV's on city streets (old N Dayton – people creating illegal trails)

Specific park improvements

- Securing public restrooms when parks are closed
- Providing a place for ATV's and dirt bikes
- Better pedestrian protection between vehicles and people

Unmet community needs

- Large immigrant community
  - Need sports for them (soccer, skatepark)

In 10 Years…

- More use of parks and facilities
- More people in parks
- Increased use of bike trail system
  - More developed greenspace in west Dayton incorporating trails
- Neighborhood identified special features which creates a better sense of ownership
- More bollards to prevent driving in parks

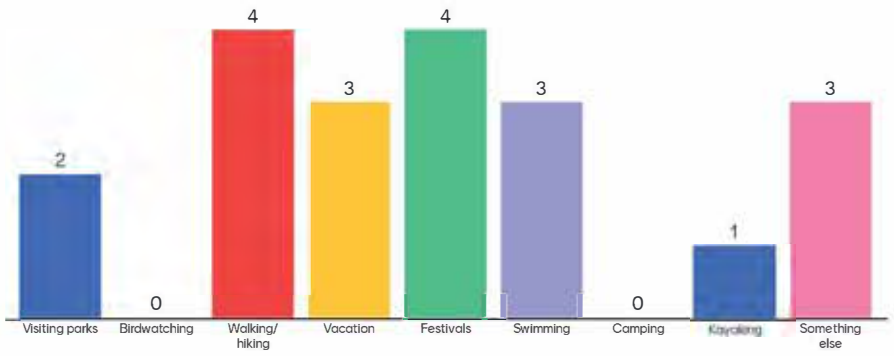
If you should disagree with any information contained herein, please kindly notify our office in writing within 10 days of receipt of this memorandum.

_____

SIGNED BY

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What are your favorite Summer activities?
menti.com 33 96 15 9 WiFI PW 9373333322



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CITY of DAYTON
DEPARTMENT OF rec

Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan & Parks Needs Assessment

Meeting#1
Dayton, Ohio
June 23rd 2023

BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC



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On the Agenda:

Park & Recreation Facility Assessments

Review Demographics & Benchmarking

Service Area Mapping

Preliminary Public Input Results

Visioning Session

Next Steps

2

Expectations from Steering Committee

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Steering Committee Members

- Act as a critical liaison between the planning team and individuals/organizations throughout Dayton
- Share relevant planning process information with your social and professional networks
- Create a new strategic plan for the Dayton Recreation department
- Offer regular feedback as plan components are developed

Approximately 3 Meetings

- Meeting #1
  - Introduction & overview of the process
  - Review of findings from initial analysis and public input
  - Visioning: An interactive participatory process to co-create new mission, vision, and goals
- Meeting #2 – Visioning session 2 & preliminary recommendations: Consultant shares broad recommendations which the committee will rank by priority
- Meeting #3 – Draft Master Plan: Committee reviews and shares suggestions prior to final presentation of plan to Dayton City Commission

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Project Process

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Inventory

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Recreation:

- 3 recreation centers
  - Greater Dayton Recreation Center
  - Lohrey Recreation Center
  - Northwest Recreation Center
- Sports complex (Kettering Field)
- 7 spray parks
- Community Golf Course
- Jim Nichols Tennis Center
- Howell Field (at Triangle Park)
- Princeton & Belmont parks

Total Acreage: 409.4







Parks:

- 33 neighborhood parks
- 2 community parks
- 16 special use parks
- 34 playgrounds
- 31 basketball courts
- 15 tennis courts, 4 pickleball
- 4.8 miles of trails
- 2 dog parks
- 39 shelters of varying size

Total Acreage: 483.6

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Assessments – GDRC

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Strengths:

- Newer facility
- Adjacent to Roosevelt School
- Wi-fi now available

Issues & opportunities:

- No water in the pool
- No functional computers
- Lack of privacy in multipurpose rooms – reduces rental opportunities
- Inefficient layout
- Noisy due to open layout
- No dedicated teen space

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Assessments – Lohrey Recreation Center

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Strengths:

- Located in Southeast part of Dayton
- Center has been serving Dayton for over 60 years
- Wi-fi now available

Issues & opportunities:

- Limited pool hours (due to lack of lifeguards)
- No computers or video games
- Low-visibility from nearby roads – difficult to find
- Programming gap between seniors and children age groups
- Alarm system not reliable

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Assessments – Northwest Recreation Center

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Strengths:

- Located in Northwest part of Dayton
- Has multiple types of spaces
- Wi-fi now available

Issues & opportunities:

- Inoperable computers
- Security/safety concerns (cameras, locks)
- Gym floor & stage floor need repairs
- Underutilization of stage and second gym

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Assessments – Kettering Field

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Issues & opportunities:

- Lack of pedestrian connectivity and ADA access
- Recently acquired land
- No parking at football field
- Age/condition of some features
- Space for additional features

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Assessments – Jim Nichols Tennis Center

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Issues & opportunities:

- Located centrally in Dayton
- Condition of courts and restrooms are good
- Some repairs needed at paved courts

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Assessments - Parks

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Issues & opportunities:

- Aging facilities
- Obsolete equipment & courts
- Large number of parks located throughout Dayton
- Duplicate playgrounds
- Lack of signage
- Limited ADA access
- New dog park & bike yard

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Demographics

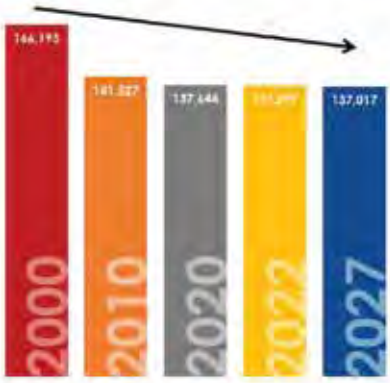
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Comparing the Nation, Ohio, & Montgomery County

Your **population has experienced slow decline since 2000**

36.8yrs
Median Age
Younger than all geographies

Projected to continue to decline though at a slower rate





The Senior population is lower than all geographies but still increasing.

16.3% Seniors – growing

21.3% Under 18 – declining



Median household income is lower than all other geographies.

$37K (Dayton) vs $57K (Montgomery County)

Diversity

Minority white (46.5%) - declining

Black (40.5%) - declining

Other groups growing - "Two or More" and Hispanic or Latino growing fastest



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Benchmarking

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Category	Recreation	Golf	Public Works	Dayton	Benchmark	Comparison
Population per Park	27,529	137,644	2,647	2,373	2,083	Similar
Acreage of Parkland per 1,000 Pop.	1.3	1.7	3.5	6.5	17.0	Lower
Parkland as a % of Jurisdiction	0.5%	0.6%	1.3%	2.5%	6.0%	Lower
Operating Expenditures per Capita	$22	$9	$20	$51	$116	Lower
Operating Exp. per Developed Acre	$17,391	$6,307	$7,750	$9,630	$13,247	Lower
Non-Tax Revenue per Capita	$2	$14	$0	$16	$40	Lower
Cost Recovery	8%	152%	0%	31%	34%	Similar
FTE per 10,000 Population	0.9	0.3	2.0	3.1	10.0	Lower
Acres of Parkland per FTE	5.24	58.72	16.67	13.47	16.52	Lower

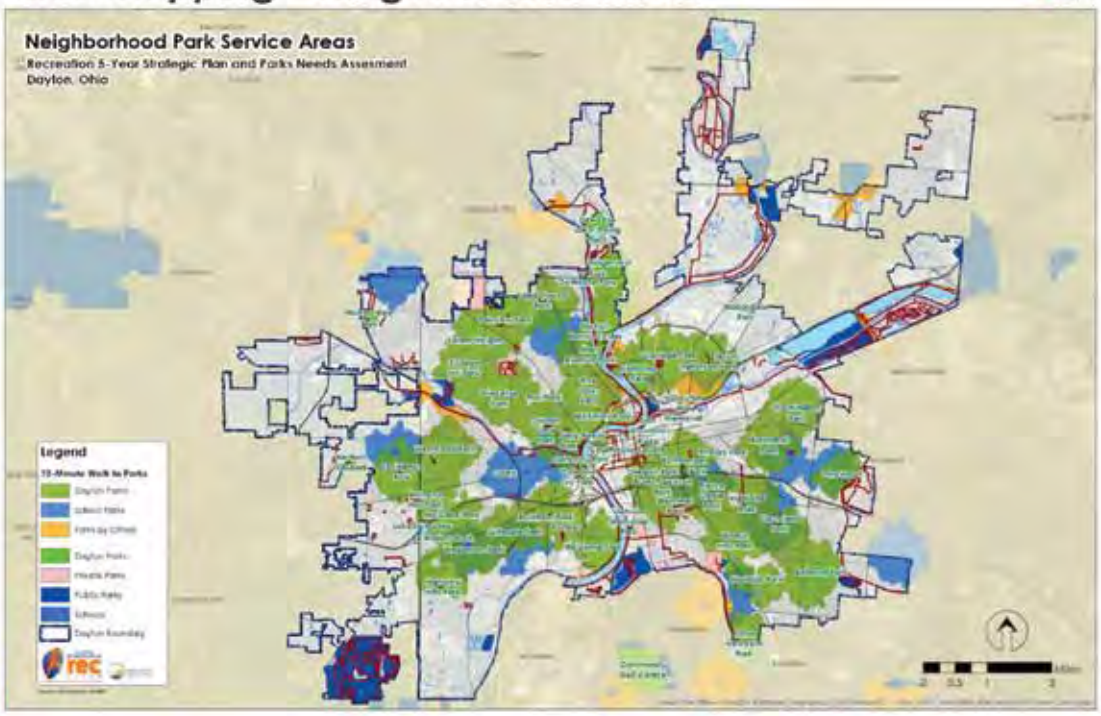
*Comparing 40 agencies with populations between 50,000 and 200,000 in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Arkansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas, and Michigan

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Service Area Mapping – Neighborhood Parks

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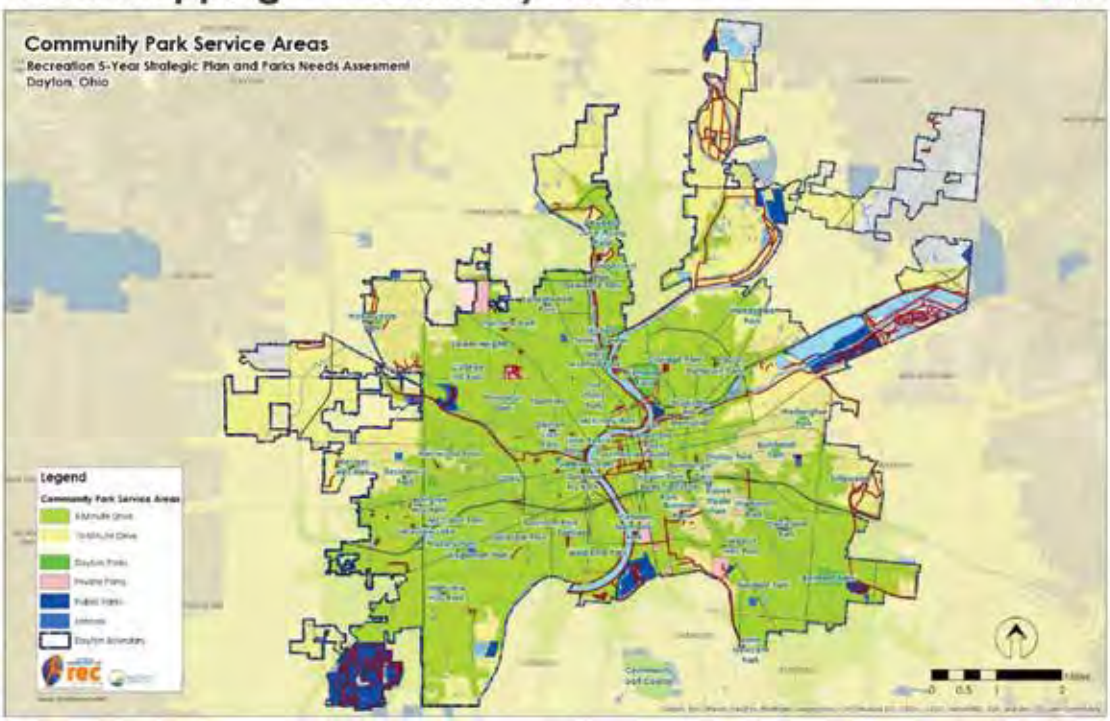


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Service Area Mapping – Community Parks

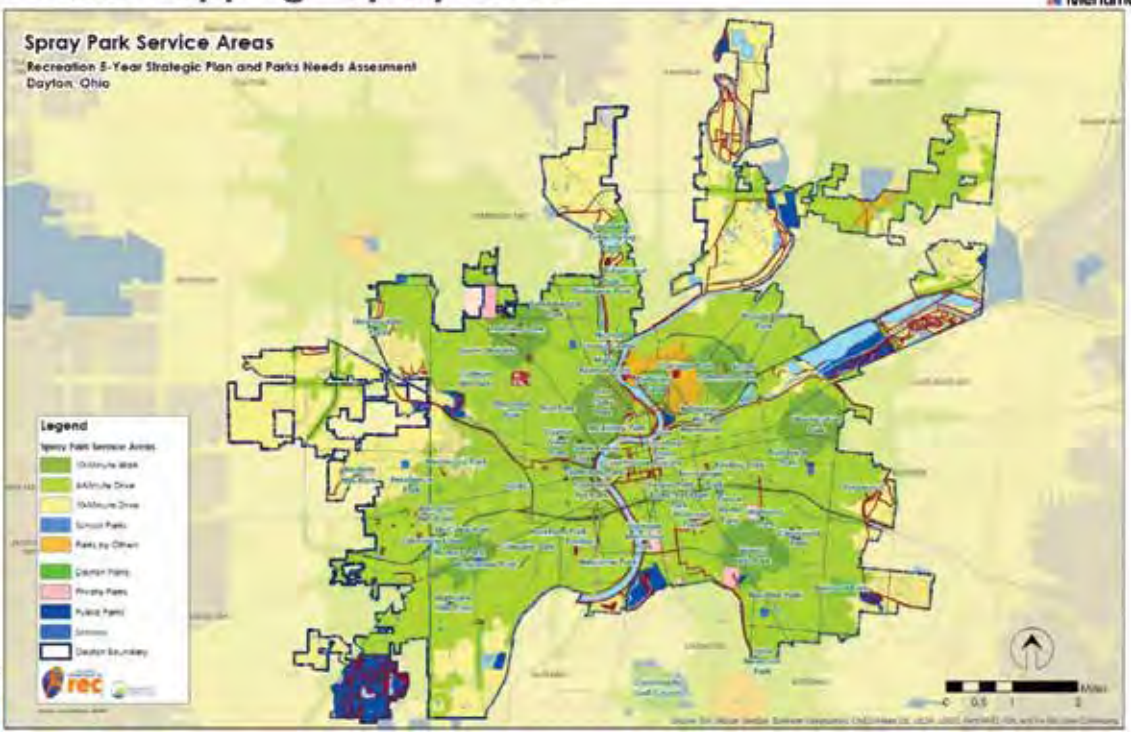
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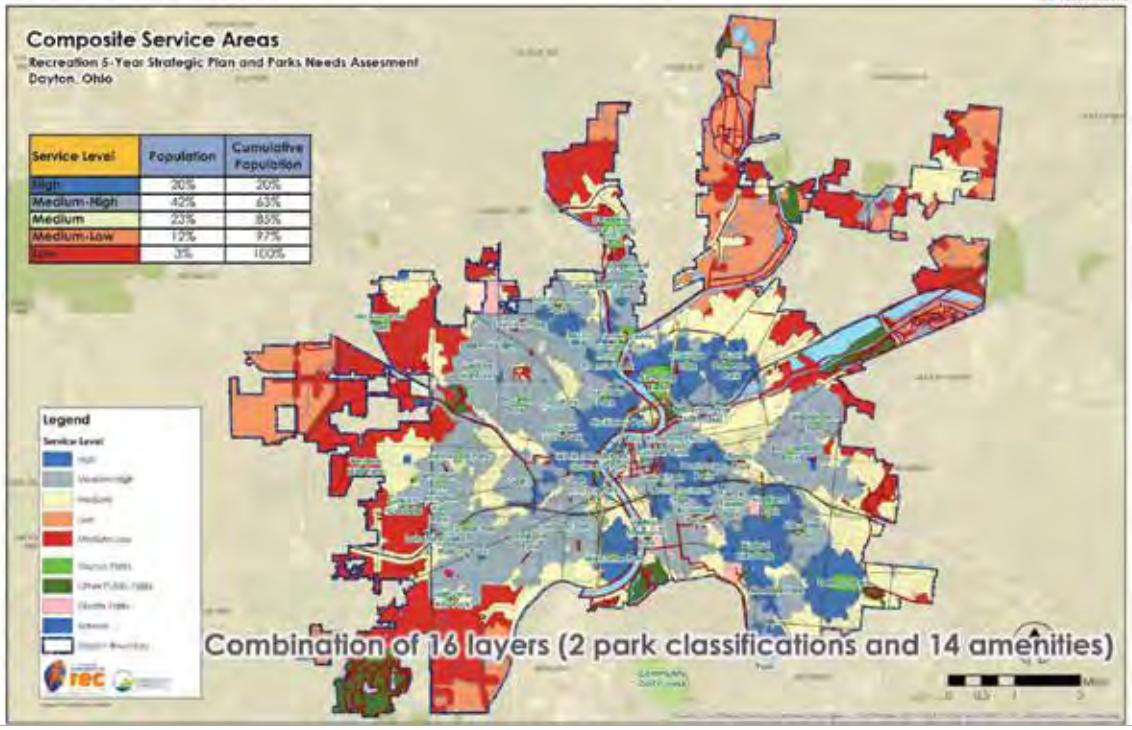
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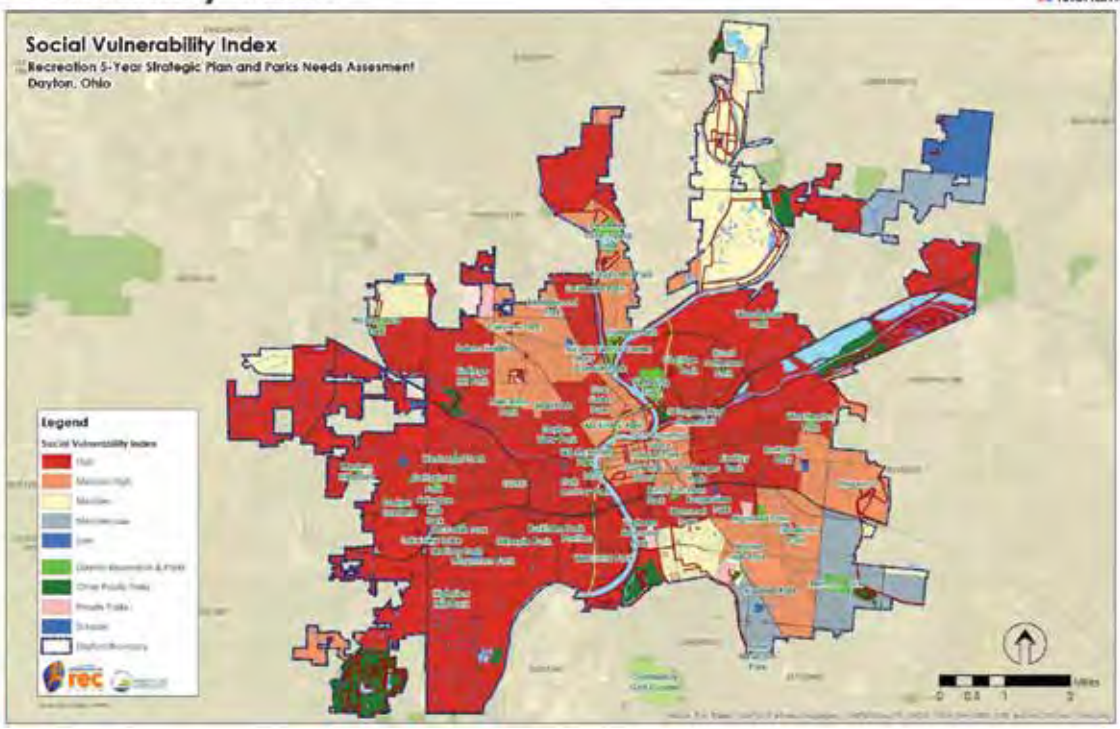
Service Area Mapping – Spray Parks



Composite Service Areas

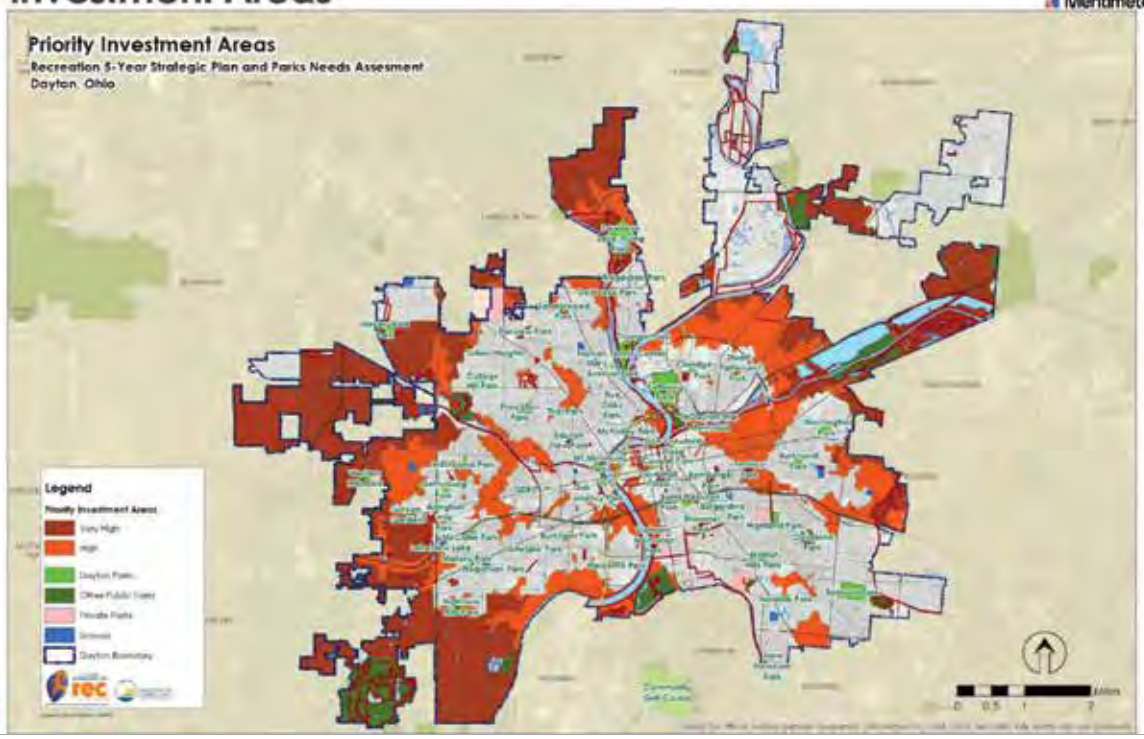


Social Vulnerability Index



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Priority Investment Areas



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Project Process

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3 Public Workshop/Open Houses

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96 Participants
(Approximately)













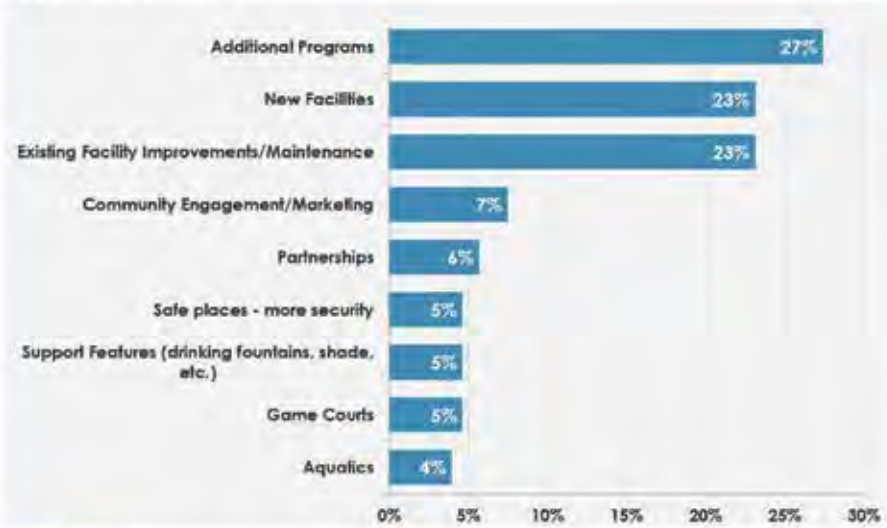
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Input Stations

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Overall Comments







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- About 350 comments/checkmarks at 3 stations

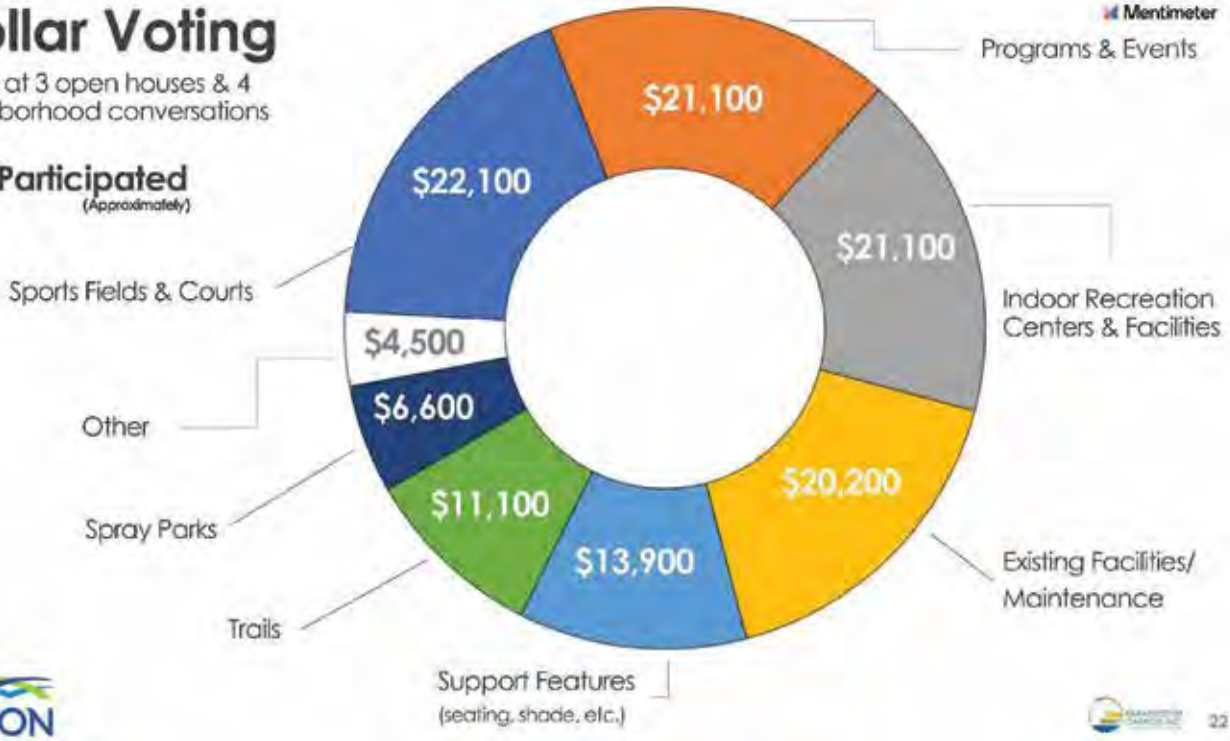
21

Dollar Voting

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Boxes at 3 open houses & 4 neighborhood conversations

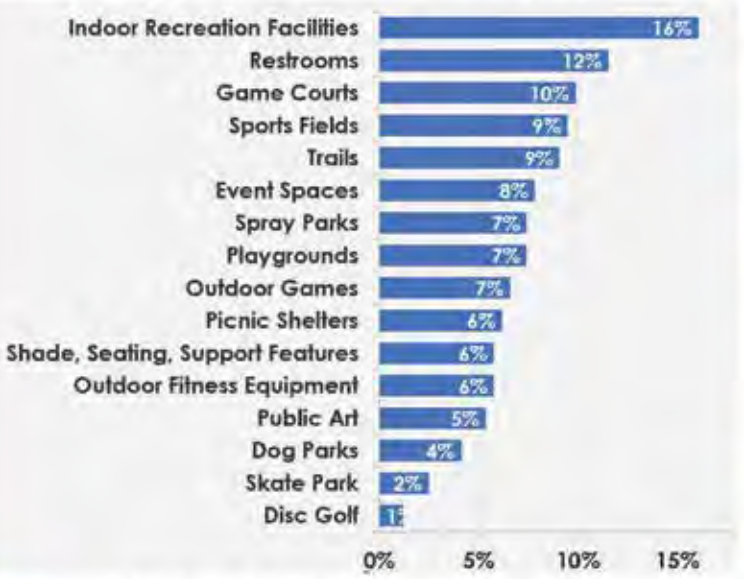
120 Participated
(Approximately)



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Most Important Features





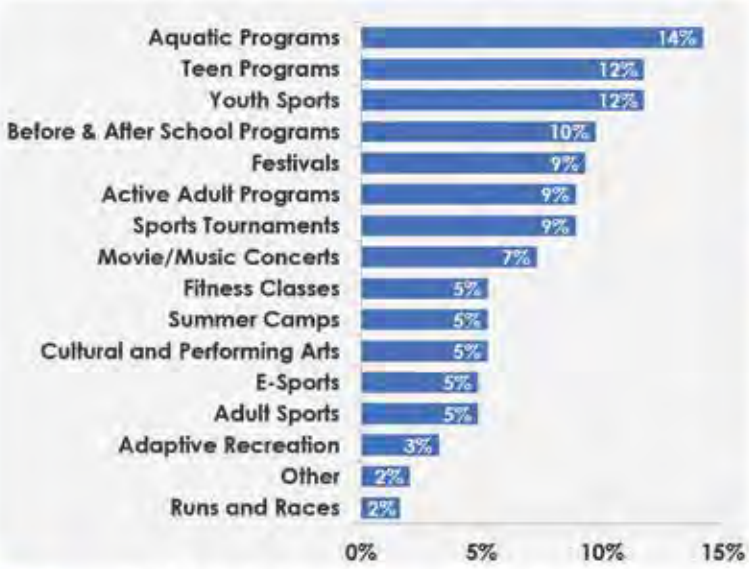
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81 Participated
(Approximately)

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Most Important Programs





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82 Participated
(Approximately)

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Stakeholder Groups

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- **Improved communication** – better streams of communication between centers and upper management
- **Increased community engagement & marketing**
  - Best identify what types of programs and improvements are needed or desired
  - Improve awareness of existing recreation resources, better social media presence
- **Pools open – lifeguards**
- **Updated recreation centers**
  - Wi-Fi (already added at all centers)
  - Security cameras & other security measures
  - Updated computers
  - Updated fitness equipment
  - More space/more efficient use

Met with:
- Recreation center staff
- Public works staff
- Representative of Dayton Police
- Dayton Mayor & Commissioners

- **Upgraded parks & outdoor facilities** – all parks in the city should have quality and accessible equipment
- Ensure that **parks are a community asset**
- **Improved partnerships** – private and public organizations to provide or expand services/programs
- Programming/space for teens, multigenerational

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Neighborhood Conversations

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- Attendees included members from Five Rivers Metroparks, City of Dayton, soccer representatives, neighborhood residents & leaders, & seniors
- **Better maintenance**, more attractive/inviting – **cleaner, brighter, landscaped**
- **Increased safety at the parks**
- **More staff** at the recreation centers & facilities, **especially lifeguards**
- **Increase park usage** within neighborhoods – create some kind of ownership, highlight each park/neighborhood unique character
- **More use of recreation centers**
- **All pools open**
- **Recreation programming that meets the communities needs**
  - Diverse programming line-up – for all ages & abilities
  - Soccer fields and programs
- **Increased advertisement & marketing** of facilities and programs offered
  - Along with more partnerships with local organizations

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Survey Results

Web and Handout Survey

296 Completed

Mail Survey

614 Completed

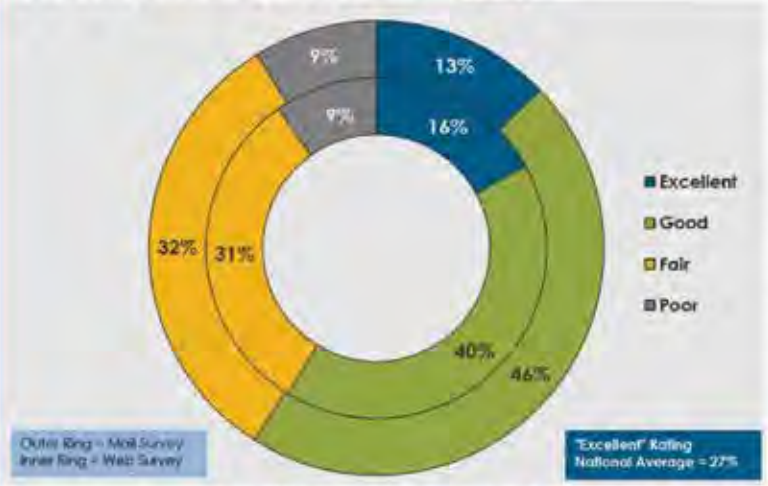
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Condition of Rec Centers, Outdoor Facilities, and Parks



Top Facilities Rated and Visited:

- Triangle Park
- Kettering Field
- Dave Hall Plaza (Levitt Pavilion)
- Belmont Park
- Lohrey Recreation Center
- Northwest Recreation Center
- GDRC
- Indoor Pools
- Kroc Center

*Facilities rated correlate with facilities visited in the past year

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Activities at Parks and Facilities

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More Opportunities for these Activities



Top activities currently enjoyed:

- Enjoying nature
- Walking/hiking/jogging
- Attending festivals, concerts, & special events

Data shows respondents want :

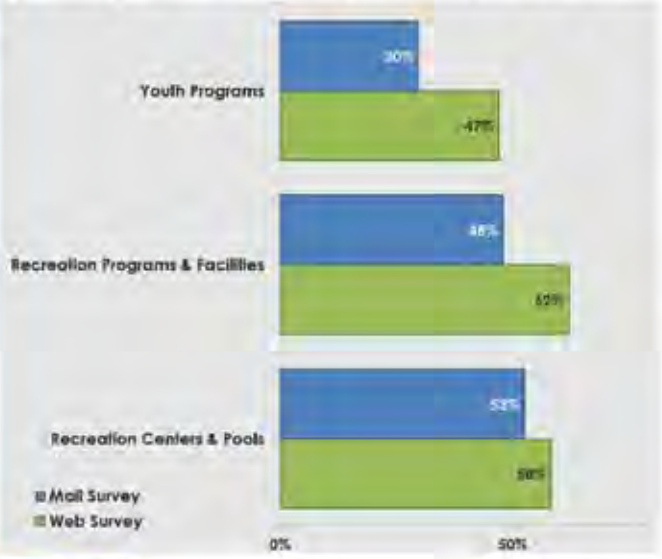
- Additional Festivals, concerts/performances
- Additional aquacise programs
- More opportunities to play pickleball
- More trails for walking/hiking/biking

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Satisfaction with Recreation Facilities & Programs (Very and Somewhat Satisfied)

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The data shows:

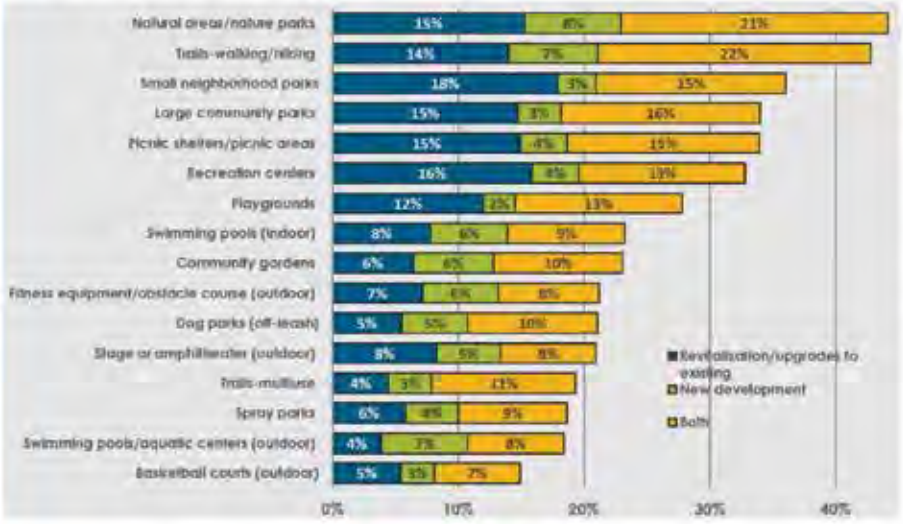
- Mail survey satisfaction rates are lower than web/handout
- Many selected neutral

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Desire for Investment for Facilities (Mail Only)

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The data shows:

- Overall, natural areas/nature parks along with trails for walking/hiking are the top choices
- For most facilities, the desire to upgrade and revitalize is higher than building new

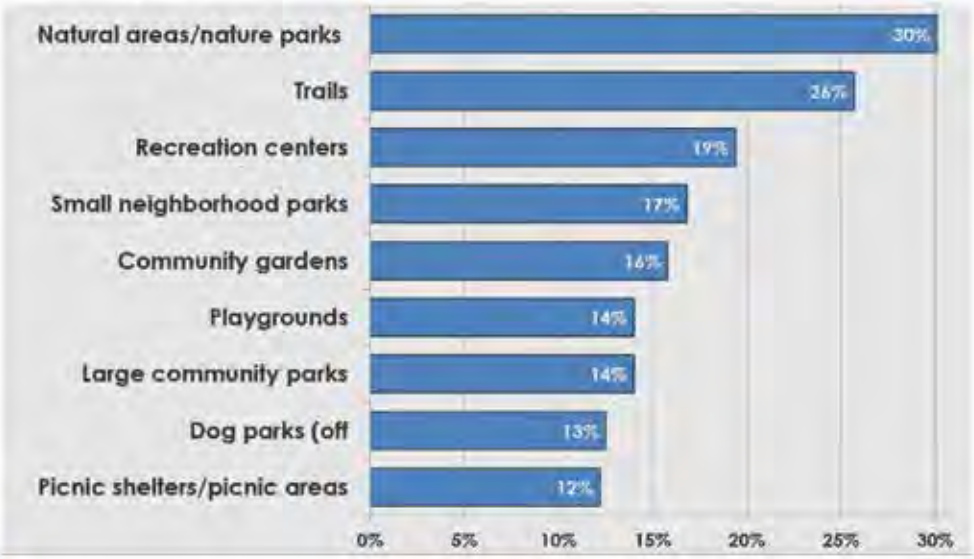
*Web responses are similar except for higher investment desired for recreation centers & basketball courts

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Most Important Facilities – Sum of Top 3 Options (Mail Only)

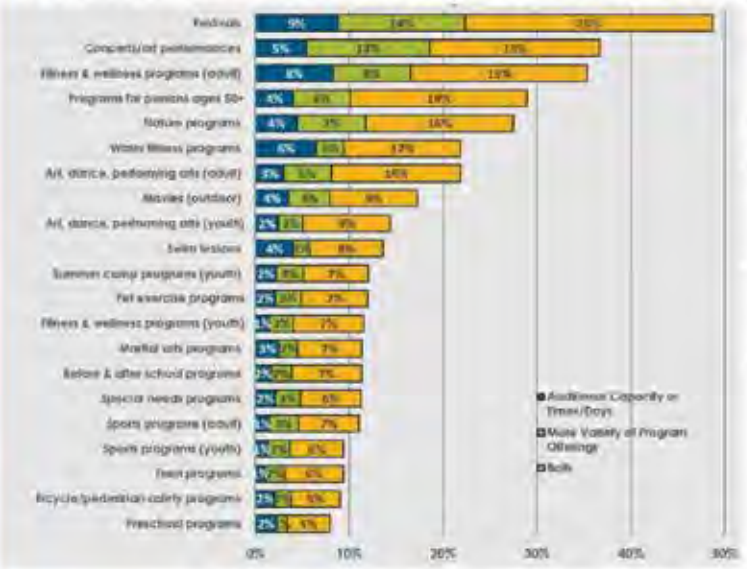
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Desire for Investment for Programs (Mail Only)



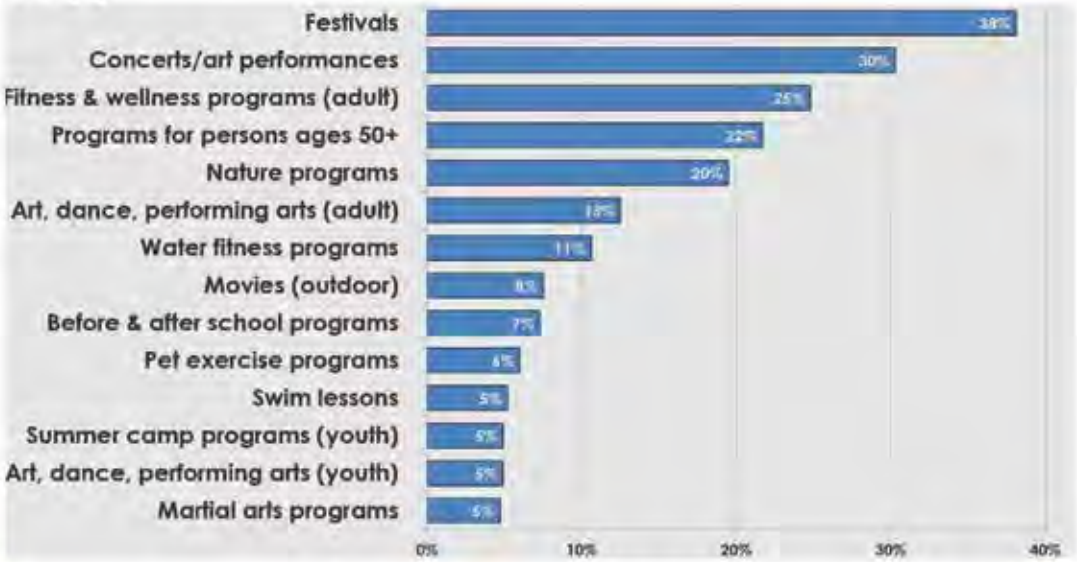
The data shows:

- Respondents are seeking opportunities for more community events & adult fitness programs
- Respondents would like to see new types of festivals and concerts/art performances
- Overall, most would like to see new programs for nearly all categories

*Web responses are similar except for higher investment desired for adult sports programs & outdoor movies

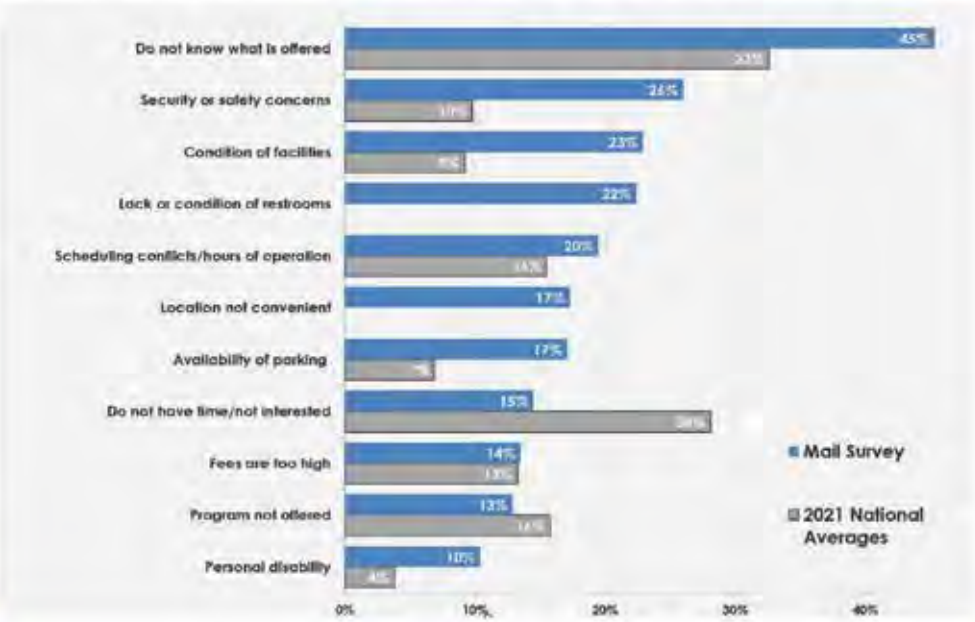
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Most Important Programs (Sum of Top 3 Choices) (Mail Only)



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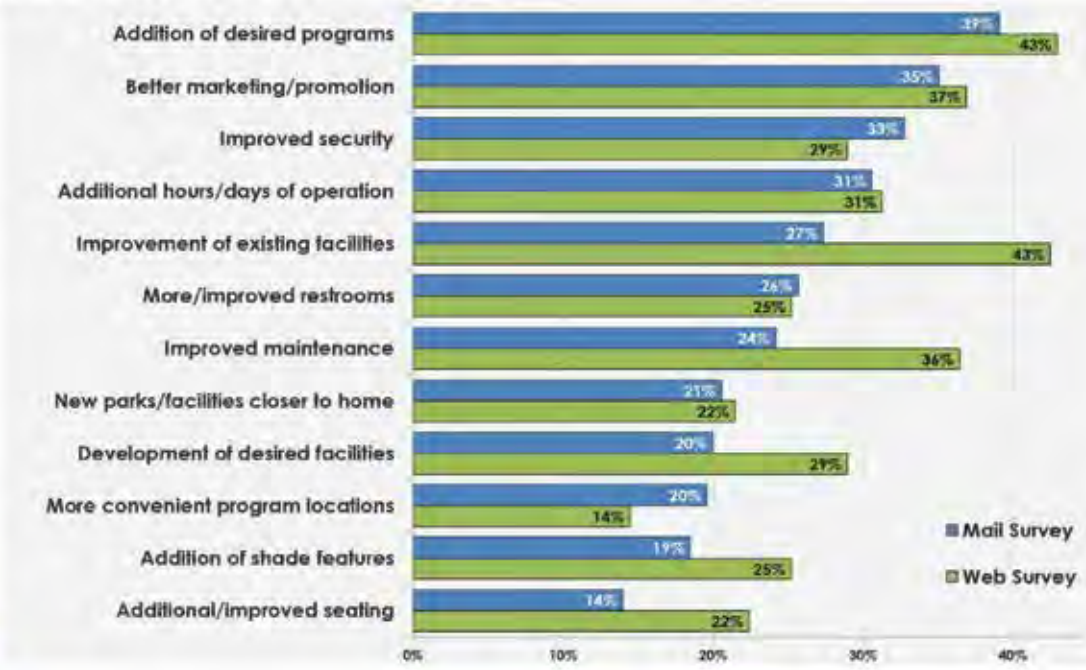
Reasons for Not Using Offerings by Dayton Recreation



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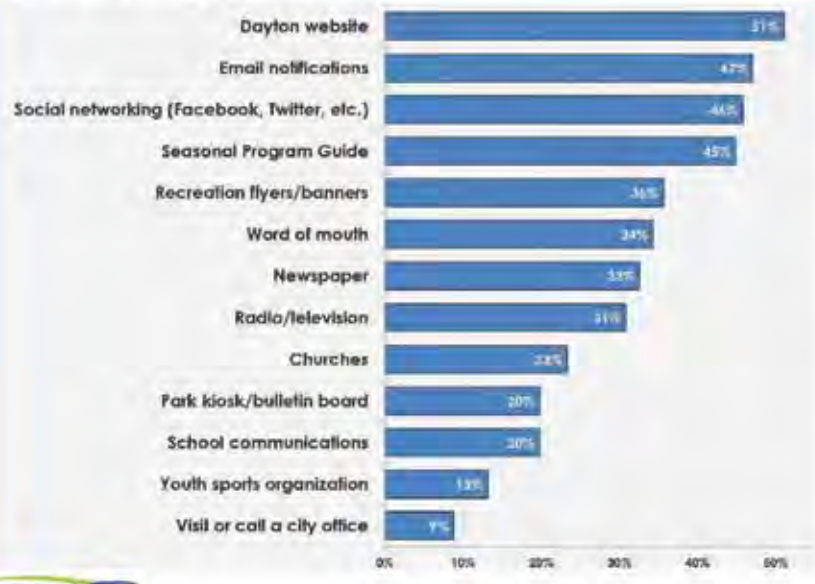
What would Increase Usage?



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36

Preferred Method for Learning about Recreation Facilities (Mail Only)



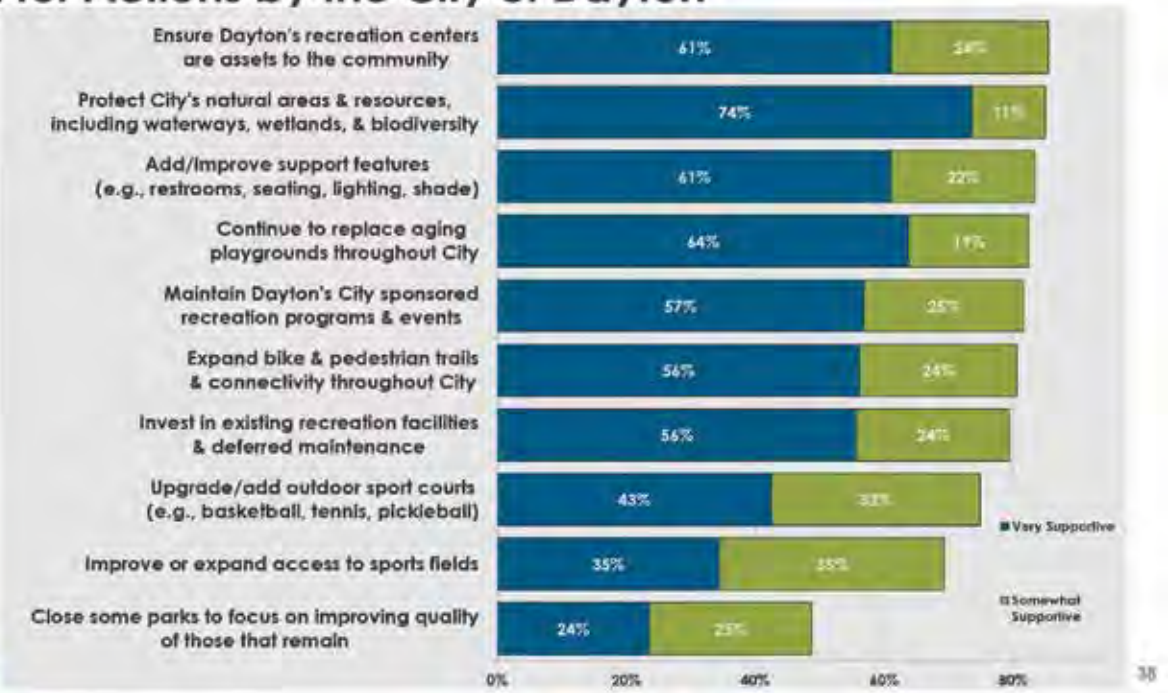
Currently:

- Word of mouth (50%)
- Dayton Website (43%)
- Social networking (42%).

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37

Support for Actions by the City of Dayton

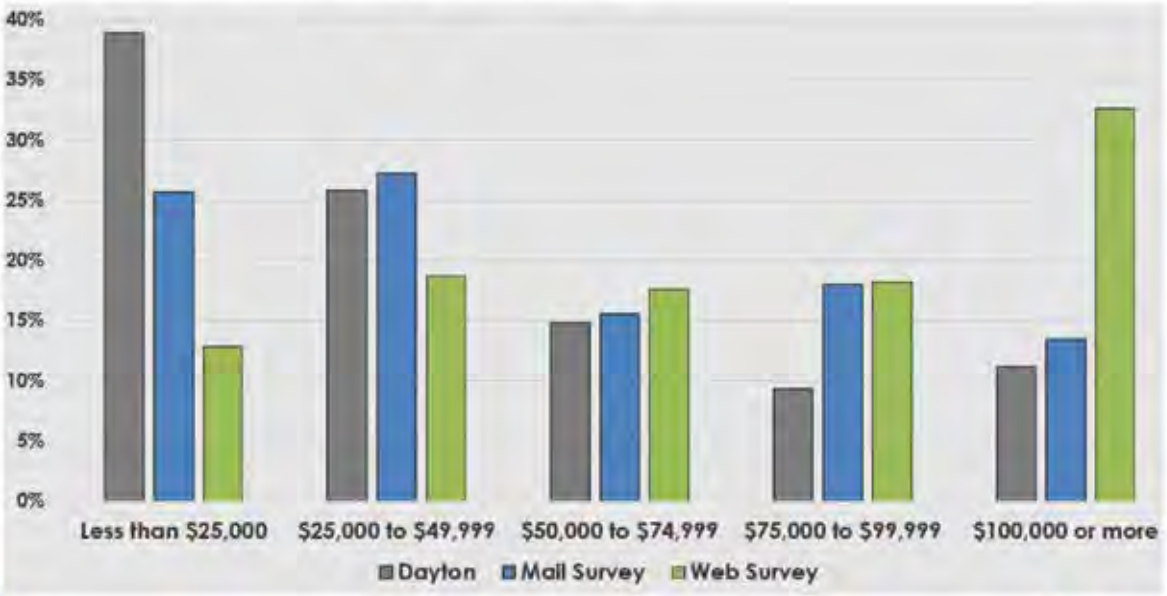


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Demographics – Household Income

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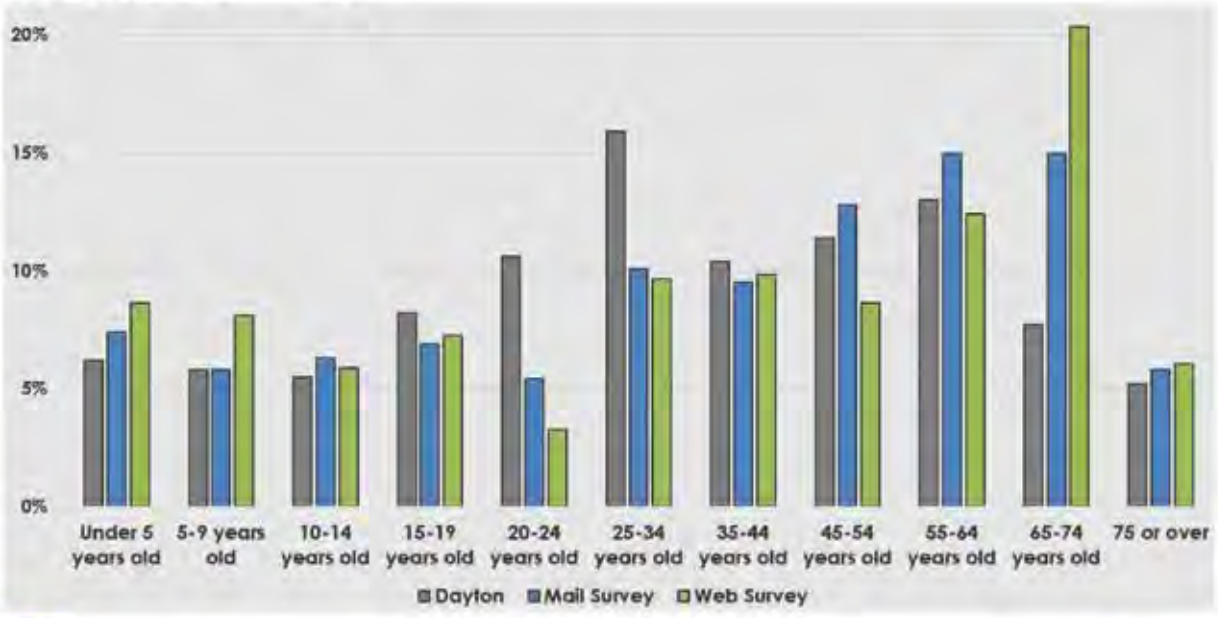


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Demographics – Age

Mentimeter

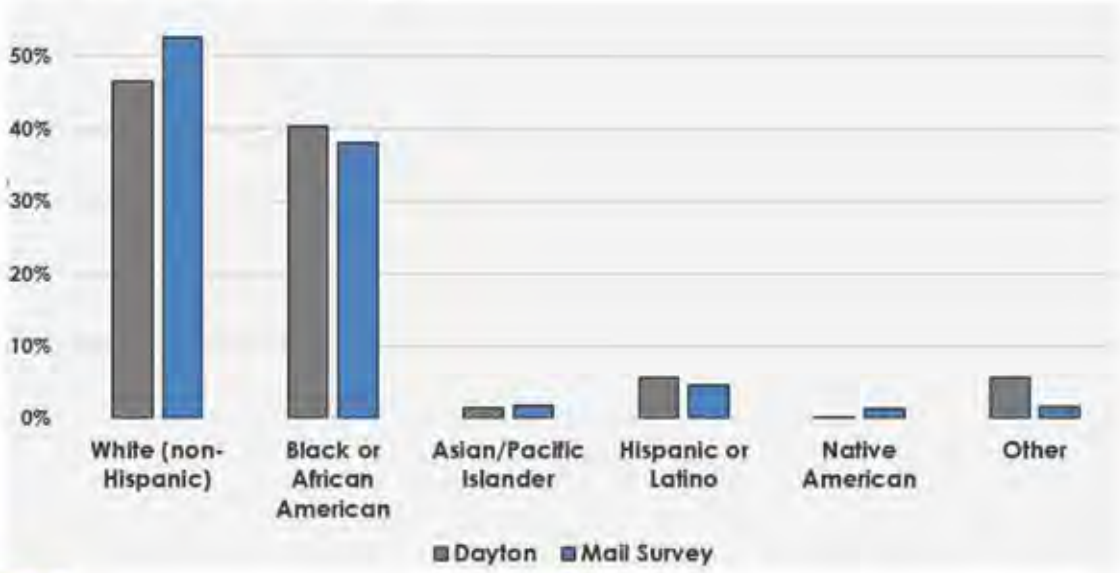


DAYTON

40

Demographics – Race

Mentimeter



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Residents Want:

Mentimeter

- **Upgrades & improvements to existing facilities –** recreation centers, parks, playground equipment, restrooms, neighborhood & community parks, trails & natural areas
- **New facilities –** trails, soccer fields, outdoor swimming pools/aquatics
- **Better marketing and promotion –** greater awareness of programs, facilities, and events
- **New programs that meet the communities needs –** achieved through continuous community & program user engagement
  - Festivals, concerts, art performances
  - Fitness & wellness programs
  - Active Adult programs (50+)
  - Youth & sports programs
- **Greater access to indoor pools –** utilize existing pools
- **Improved park experiences –** support features that promote safety, and longer park visits (lighting, benches, shade, drinking fountains, ADA accessibility, restrooms)
- **Improved maintenance**

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Project Process

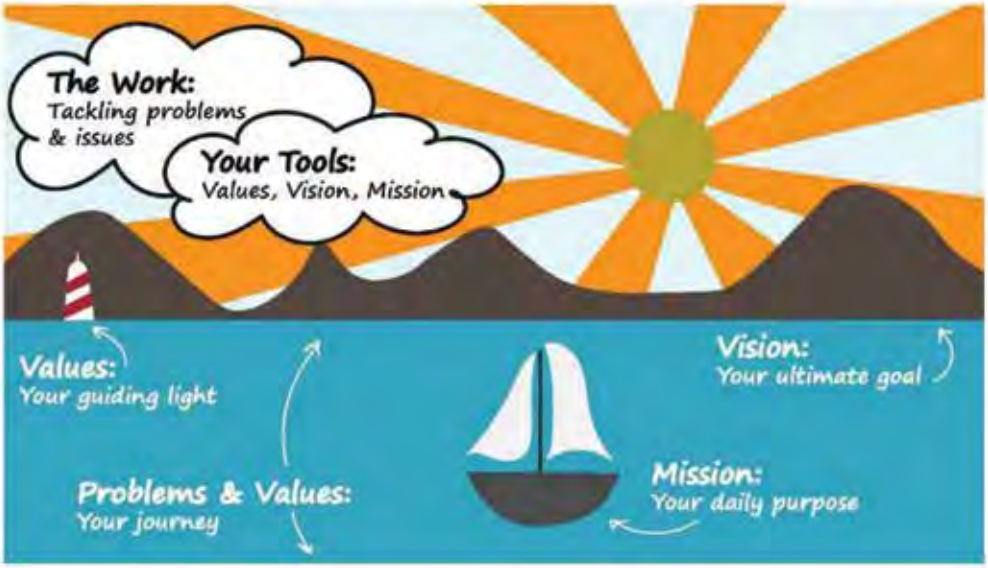


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Envision Phase = Evaluate + Engage

Process we'll go through together:



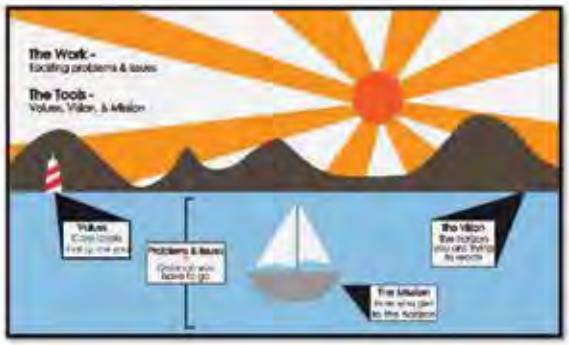
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What are Core Values?

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- **Guidelines** for Action & Belief
  - Direct staff conduct
  - Express city ideals
  - Reflect community's personality
- **Signpost** for the Future
  - Shaped by culture, experience, context
- Straightforward **Phrases or Words**



It's your lighthouse!

DAYTON

45

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What does (and should) make recreation & parks special in Dayton?

6 Athletics	8 Fitness & Wellness	2 Trails & Connectivity
6 Programs	6 Staff	6 Recreation Centers
5 Community Events	3 Experiences	0 Something Else

Existing Core Values:

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Stewardship

Integrity

Respect

Excellence

Trust

Inclusion

DAYTON

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Example Core Values:

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AMARILLO Parks & Recreation

8 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR OUR FUTURE PARK INVESTMENT



Sustainability
ensuring the wise use of our assets and resources



Diversity
creating parks and programs that reflect community culture



Equity and Inclusion
providing park benefits and play opportunities for all



Connectivity
enhancing trail connections through the city and beyond



Health & Wellness
supporting healthy lifestyles, including individual and community health



Social Cohesiveness
cultivating community through events and activities



Resilience
regaining park system vitality amidst adversity and challenges



Enrichment
promoting quality park experiences and Amarillo's identity

Figure 2: Guiding Principles

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Example Core Values:

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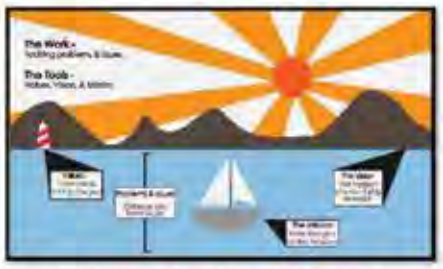
Mentimeter

What values should guide Recreation and Parks in Dayton?



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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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Existing Vision Statement:

City Vision Statement:

Dayton is a community where people choose to live, work, play, and raise families. We serve as a regional leader and resource in offering cutting-edge services to our many customers.

Dayton Recreation Vision Statement:

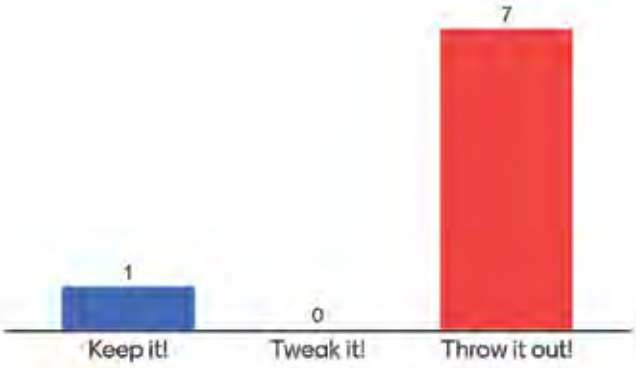
…the ultimate in physical, social, and cultural experiences

DAYTON

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What do you think of the existing Recreation vision?



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Example Vision Statements

Existing Vision Statement:

...the ultimate in physical, social, and cultural experiences

We envision an exceptional and engaging parks, recreation and cultural arts department that improves the quality of life for everyone in our community

We will improve the well-being of every person in our community by connecting them to each other and their environment

The Parks and Recreation Department will be an innovative leader in parks and recreation experiences

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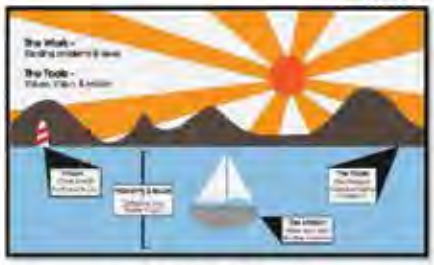
Mentimeter

How would you rank these visions?



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What is a Mission?



It's your boat!

- 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

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Existing Mission Statement

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City of Dayton:

As stewards of the public trust, our mission is to provide leadership, excellent services, and participatory government to enhance the quality of community for all who live, work, raise families, play, or conduct business in Dayton.

Public Works:

To provide essential transportation, solid waste, vacant property, green spaces, and engineering services necessary in protecting and promoting the fundamental health, safety and viability of the city. *This is accomplished through an efficient and sensitive caretaker philosophy focusing on daily urban needs while ensuring long-term infrastructure responsibilities are met. To manage and maintain City-owned land and buildings, To provide essential vehicle and equipment maintenance services.*

Recreation:

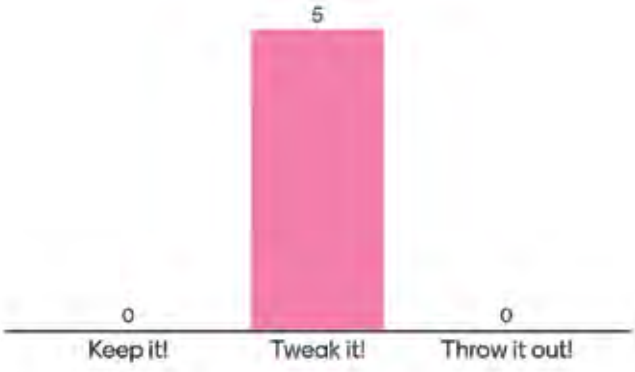
Building community togetherness, stability and growth using Recreation & Youth Services to enhance the quality of life for Dayton youth and families

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What do you think of the existing Recreation mission?



Mission Statement

Mentimeter

Existing Mission Statement:

Building community togetherness, stability and growth using Recreation & Youth Services to enhance the quality of life for Dayton youth and families

Example Mission Statements:

Together we connect and enrich our community through exceptional experiences

Raleigh

Build community and enrich life through parks, programs and play

LEXINGTON Parks & Recreation

Connecting community through quality parks and programs

City of Green OHIO

DAYTON

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Mentimeter

How would you rank these mission statements?



What are Goals and Objectives?



Think of these as your stops along the way.

- **More Specific** description of actions and aspirations
- **Focused** direction for investments of:
  - Time, Talent, & Resources
- Clarifies what you **will** & **will not** do
- Supported by Strategies or **Actions**

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Goals

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Think of goals as **categories** for your intended actions. They should be oriented around the following:



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Example - Goals & Objectives

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Example - Goals & Objectives

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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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LEXINGTON
Parks & Recreation

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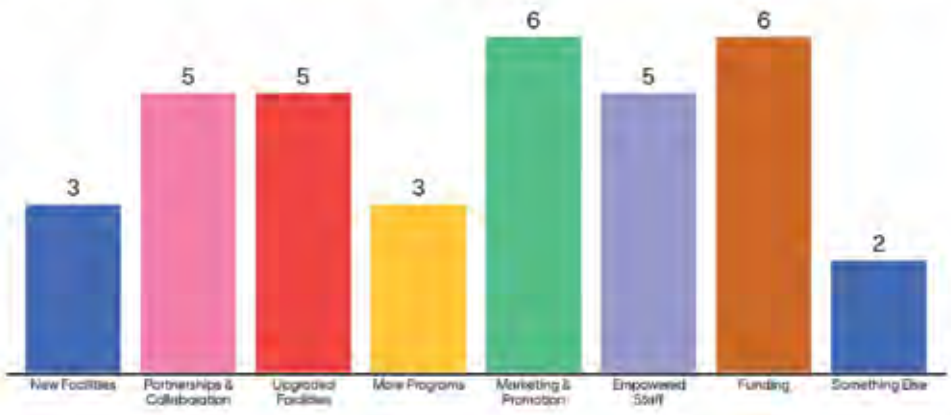
Imagine it's the year 2033: how has Recreation improved in Dayton?

6 Answers

Increased utilization	Fully staffed	More group activities
Improved facilities	Improved facilities	Strong partnerships with similar service providers

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What do you need to get to that future?



Mentimeter

Let's get focused: What specific actions are needed? What improvements must be addressed for this plan to be a success?





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Questions? Let's Talk!

What's next:

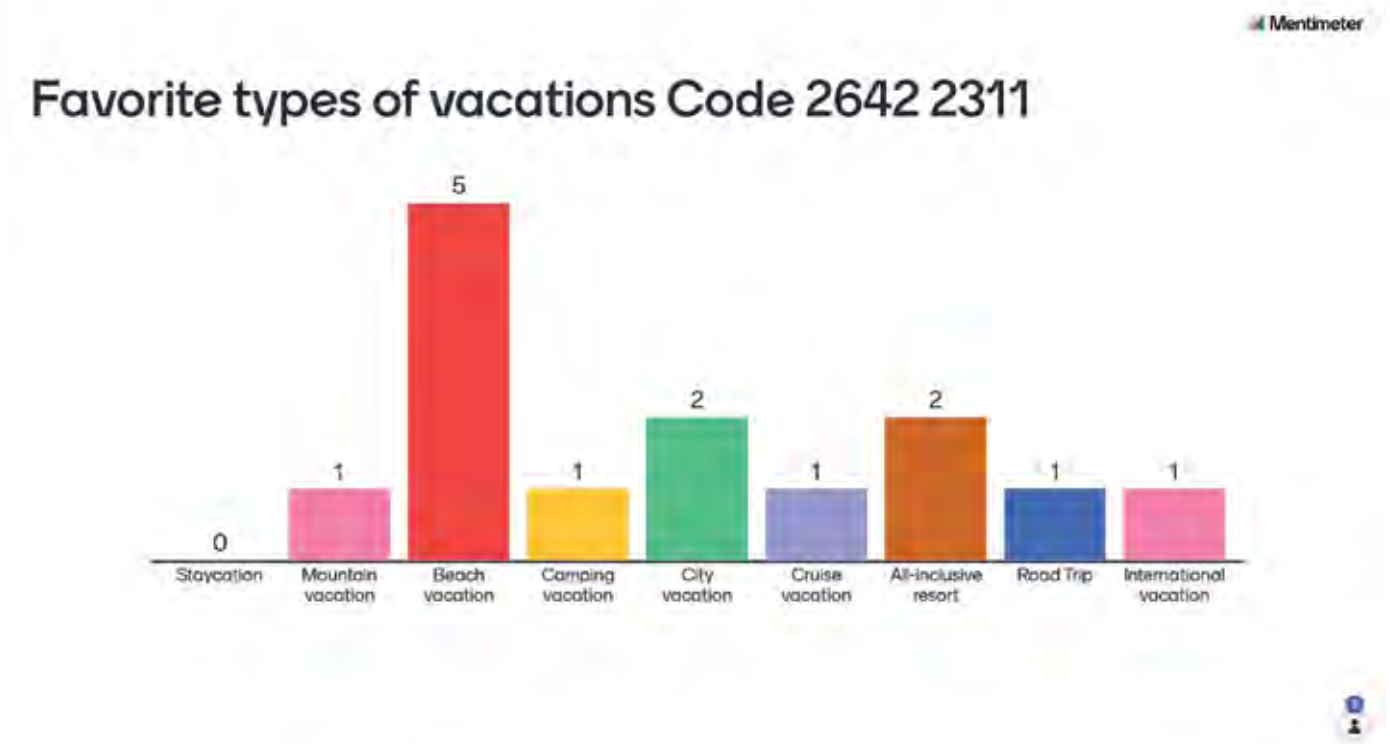
Draft Strategic Plan &Visioning Meeting #2

Preliminary Recommendations

Draft Master Plan

Final presentation to City Commission

61


Mentimeter
Favorite types of vacations Code 2642 2311
0
1
5
1
2
1
2
1
1
Staycation
Mountain vacation
Beach vacation
Camping vacation
City vacation
Cruise vacation
All-inclusive resort
Road Trip
International vacation


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DAYTON
CITY of DAYTON
DEPARTMENT OF
rec
Recreation 5-Year Strategic Plan &
Parks Needs Assessment
Steering Committee
Meeting #2
Dayton, Ohio
7/24/23
BRANDSTETTER
CARROLL INC



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On the Agenda:

Review Visioning Results

Review DRAFT Strategic Plan

Choose Mission Statement

Choose Vision Statement

Goals & Objectives

Preliminary Recommendations

Next Steps

2

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Project Process



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3

Values

Mentimeter



DAYTON

4

DRAFT Values

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RESPECT – We serve our citizens and one another with courtesy and dignity recognizing the impact our actions have on the quality of life now and in the future. We value the diversity throughout our community and organization.

INTEGRITY – We are honest and ethical in all of our dealings with each other and with the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY – In the performance of our duties, we are individually and collectively accountable to citizens, customers, and stakeholders. We are competent, responsible, and dedicated to providing effective and efficient services.

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE – We provide quality services with a continuing focus on customer value and financial performance. These services are provided with clear communication, cooperation, and teamwork.

INCLUSION – We offer accessible and welcoming opportunities that connect everyone.

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5

DRAFT Mission Options

Mentimeter

1. *Continuously build community through forward-thinking recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for Dayton residents of today and tomorrow*

2. *We enhance your quality of life through inclusive recreational opportunities and accessible parks*

3. *Foster community togetherness through dynamic programs and quality parks*

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Mentimeter

How would you rank these mission statements?



DRAFT Vision Options

Mentimeter

1. Our entire community is connected to exceptional recreational services and excellent parks

2. We improve the wellbeing of every Dayton resident through accessible recreation services and parks

3. We engage everyone through high-quality experiences that connect the community and improve their wellbeing

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Mentimeter

How would you rank theseVision statements?



Goals for the Future

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Increased utilization

Fully staffed

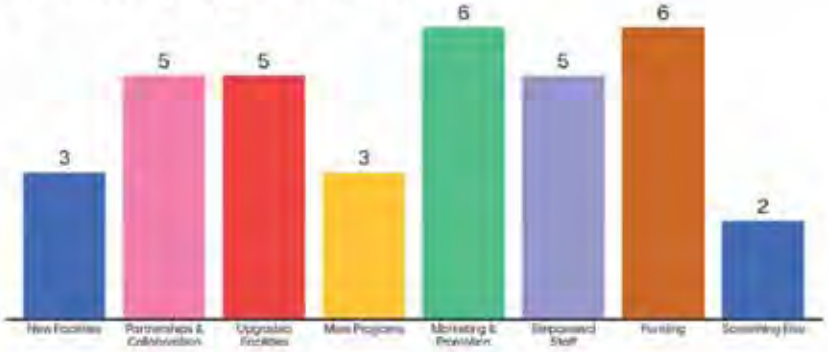
More group activities

Improved facilities

Improved facilities

Strong partnerships with similar service providers

What will it take to get there?



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DRAFT Goals & Objectives

Mentimeter

▶Goal 1: Responsive Recreation

Deliver a diverse array of programs that promote community fun and health

- Objective 1.1 – **Excellent Sports:** Provide high quality and attractive sports opportunities
- Objective 1.2 – **Health & Wellness**: Encourage exploration & growth through multigenerational physical and educational opportunities
- Objective 1.3 – **Engaging Programs:** Offer year-round possibilities for interaction, fun, & learning for all

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DRAFT Goals & Objectives

Mentimeter

▶Goal 2: Modern Features

Offer excellent amenities that support recreational opportunities that inspire play and enjoyment

- Objective 2.1 – **Inviting Spaces:** Provide innovative recreational facilities and parks that connect and engage the community
- Objective 2.2 – **Updated Amenities:** Pursue responsive improvement and strategic replacement of facilities and support features
- Objective 2.3 – **Proactive Maintenance:** Improve safety, accessibility, quality, and stewardship by continuously monitoring needs and examining best practices

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DRAFT Goals & Objectives

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Goal 3: Continuous Engagement

Engage residents and partner agencies to ensure innovative, accessible, and inclusive experiences that respond to changing community needs

- Objective 3.1 – **Connecting Patrons:** Build relationships with – and facilitate connections between – residents throughout the community
- Objective 3.2 – **Productive Partnerships:** Build and maintain relationships to address complex community goals
- Objective 3.3 – **Enhanced Promotion:** Raise awareness of opportunities through variety of methods of outreach

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DRAFT Goals & Objectives

Mentimeter

▶Goal 4: Effective Administration

Emphasize accountability and responsiveness to ensure superior service in an inclusive environment

- Objective 4.1 – **Welcoming Staff:** Employ a responsive and engaged workforce
- Objective 4.2 – **Accountable Operations:** Utilize performance standards and best practices to ensure quality and flexible services
- Objective 4.3 – **Reliable Funding**: Explore creative funding strategies to ensure needed improvement and continued action

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Recreation Facilities & Programs

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- **Modernize/update rec centers** (maximize spaces)
- **Kettering Field upgrades** (diamonds/soccer, pedestrian access, etc.)
- **Splash Pads**
- **Additional program categories** (aquatics, teen programs, 50+, multigenerational, fitness, arts/dance)
- **More community events** – festivals, movies, concerts





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Mentimeter

How would you rank these Recreation & Program priorities?



Operations

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- **Improved marketing & outreach** – social media (both Rec and Parks)
- **Improved engagement** – program users/community as a whole
- **Fully staffed Rec Department** (esp. lifeguards)
- **Cross departmental collaboration** (Bridge the gap between Parks & Recreation)
- **Pools** – extended hours
- **Nichols Tennis** – upgrades, extended hours
- **Computers at Rec Centers** (visitors)
- **Partnerships** – MetroParks, YMCA
- **Additional/alternative funding**
- **Other**

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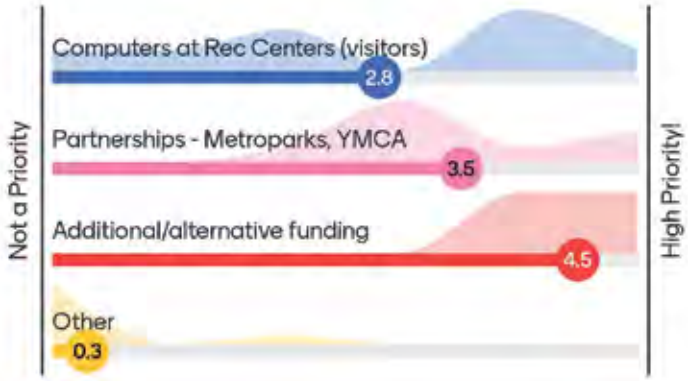
Mentimeter

How would you rank these Operational priorities?



Mentimeter

How would you rank these Operational priorities?



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Parks

- **Address deferred maintenance** – upgrade NH parks
- **ADA access**
- **Support features** (signage, security, lighting, drinking fountains)
- **Playground replacement program** – variety
- **Picnic shelters** (maintenance, upgrades, elimination of obsolete shelters)
- **Basketball courts** – upgrades, fencing/bollards
- **Other**





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Mentimeter
How would you rank these Park priorities?
Not a Priority
High Priority!
Address deferred maintenance – upgrade NH parks
4.6
ADA access
4.2
Support features (signage, security, lighting, drinking fountains)
4
Playground replacement program – variety
3.8
Picnic shelters - maintenance & uparades
2.8
Basketball courts – upgrades, fencing/bollards
3.2
Other
1


Mentimeter
Next Steps...
DAYTON
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Final Steps

- Finalize Strategic Plan
- Finalize **Recommendations**
- Determine **Individual Park Recommendations**
  - Identify **Capital Costs**
- Action Plan & Draft Report
- **Final Meeting to Review Draft Report**
- Present to City Commission

DAYTON



NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENTS





Project Process

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3

Evaluate Phase

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What We Do:

- Analysis & Context
  - Demographics
  - Benchmarking
  - Previous Plans
  - Policies & Management
  - Funding
  - Industry Trends
- Assessment
  - Recreation Centers & Facilities
  - Parks & Amenities
  - Facilities Inventory
- Mapping
  - Facilities
  - Geographic Distribution (i.e., Service Areas)



Why?...

...To Identify Gaps & Opportunities!

4

Engagement Phase

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What We Do:

- Surveys
  - Statistically valid random sample
  - Web-based/handout
- Stakeholder engagement
- Public workshops/open houses



Why?...

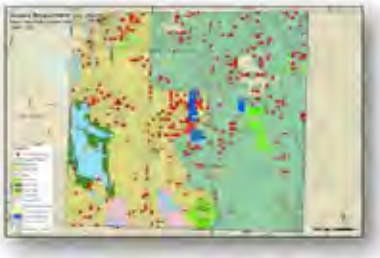
...Engagement informs the planning process, raises awareness, builds community trust, & identifies needs.

5

Statistically Valid Survey

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- Random sample of households
- Administered by mail and web
- Topics
  - Parks and trails visited
  - Program participation
  - Satisfaction levels
  - Facility and program needs
  - Primary functions of the city
  - Desired park improvements
  - Reasons for lack of use
- Geocoded results
- Goal – accurate representation of public opinion





6

Web & Handout Survey

- Short format (5-10 minutes)
- Can be completed online or via handout
- Not statistically valid
- Often filled out by more engaged users
- Goal – to maximize participation

bit.ly/DYRPLAN

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Stakeholder Engagement

Examples of groups to engage:

- City Management & Council
- Staff from Dayton Departments of Recreation and Public Works
- Existing partners
- Athletic organizations
- Cultural arts & creative organizations
- Senior citizens
- Schools
- Neighborhood associations/priority boards
- Other city departments (e.g., Planning, Police, Library)

These meetings can illuminate opportunities, build coalitions, and drive partnerships

Open House Workshops

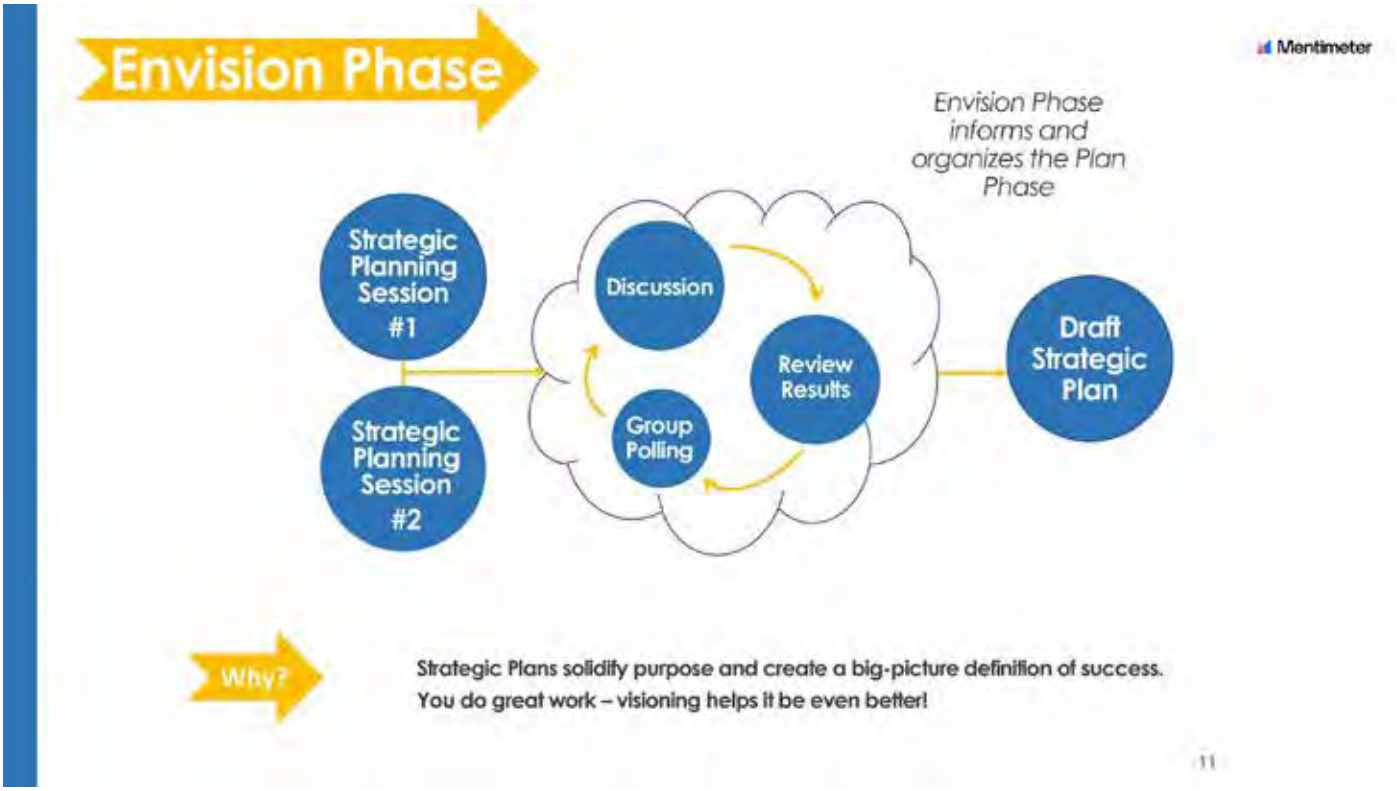
- November 15 – Greater Dayton Rec
- November 16 – Lohrey Rec Center
- November 17 – Northwest Rec Center
- 3 meetings scheduled, one at each recreation center
- Interactive stations
- No formal presentation
- Come at any time between 6pm & 8pm



What our engagement looks like:

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Envision Phase
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Envision Phase informs and organizes the Plan Phase
Strategic Planning Session #1
Strategic Planning Session #2
Discussion
Review Results
Group Polling
Draft Strategic Plan
Why?
Strategic Plans solidify purpose and create a big-picture definition of success.
You do great work – visioning helps it be even better!
11


Mentimeter
Evaluate
Engage
Envision
Plan Phase
Having a Master Plan for your parks & recreation will empower you to be proactive, fiscally responsible, & truly effective!
Produce a realistic, practical plan that serves as an essential foundation for the road ahead
12

Example of Plan Summary



13

Stakeholder Engagement Today

- Open the web browser on your mobile device
- Go to **menti.com**
- Enter code: **2328 6602**



How satisfied are you with each of the following? menti.com CODE 2328 6602

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45

How would you rank the importance of each option?

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Pretend it is 2032 and you are extremely pleased with what the City of Dayton and the Recreation Department have accomplished. What has happened?

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20

Pretend it is 2032 and you are extremely pleased with what the City of Dayton and the Recreation Department have accomplished. What has happened?

Mentimeter



20

Pretend it is 2032 and you are extremely pleased with what the City of Dayton and the Recreation Department have accomplished. What has happened?

Mentimeter

We have fewer parks that are better maintained

Play equipment for a variety of ages in our park

A feeling of ownership and belonging from those using the parks

I'll be in my mid 80's so hard to answer this

POLICE SHOULD POLICE THE NEIGHBORHOODS THEIR FROM

POLICE ARE POLICING THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS. CHILDREN HAVE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TO INDULGE IN. PARENTS, TEACHERS & COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE ALL COMMITTED TO A BETTER FUTURE

A recreational programs that engage every age group. This involves facilities, parks, green spaces, equipment to provide recreational activities that is seasonal and changeable

Clean, safe and full of families and children. In a community that has volunteered to help with up keep and beautification

20



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Questions? Let's Talk!

What's next:

Promote Surveys

Stakeholder groups & schedule discussions

Open house workshops

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APPENDIX E - CORE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

CORE PROGRAM CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

E.1 Sports

Definition: 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. **Sports 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
   - Baseball
   - Basketball
   - Bocce
   - Bowling
   - Cricket
   - Cycling
   - Equestrian Programs
   - Fencing
   - Flag Football
   - Golf
   - Lacrosse
   - Martial Arts
   - Pickleball
   - Racquet Ball
   - Roller Hockey
   - Ice Hockey
   - Skating
   - Soccer
   - Softball
   - Swim team
   - Tennis
   - Ultimate Frisbee
   - Volleyball
   - Evolving and new sports

E.2 Health, Fitness, and Wellness Activities

Definition: 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
   - Cycling
   - Fitness Activities
   - Boot Camp
   - Barre
   - Cross Country Skiing
   - Walking Clubs
   - Therapeutic Horseback Riding
   - Movement Fitness
   - Yoga
   - Paddling
   - Walking
   - Cardio Hikes
   - 5/10K Runs
   - Snowshoeing
   - Water aerobics and exercise
   - Swimming
   - Weight lifting

E.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
   - Cessation Programs (e.g., quitting smoking & substance abuse support)
   - Nutrition & Weight Control
   - Vision Screening
   - Healthcare Assistance (e.g. signing up for Medicare)
   - Personal Training
   - Diabetes Support
   - Arthritis Therapy
   - Heart Health Activities

E.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

E.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

E.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

E.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
   - Parenting Skills
   - CPR & First Aid
   - G.E.D. Programs
   - Tax Assistance
   - Tutoring
   - Summer Camp
   - Personal Safety
   - Baby Sitting Classes
   - Computer Skills
   - How-To Classes
   - Social Meetings
   - Financial Literacy Training and Assistance
   - Introductory Classes or Activities
   - Group Outings/Travel
   - Scout Programs
   - Aquatics
     - Swim Lessons
     - Red Cross Courses
     - Scuba

E.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.)

E.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
   - Billiards
   - Board & Table Games
   - Cards
   - Checkers
   - Chess
   - Dominoes
   - Cornhole
   - Horse Shoes
   - Low Organized Games (Lead-Up, Relays, Tag, Dodge ball)
   - Magic Stunts & Tricks
   - Table Tennis
   - Skittles
   - Word Games
   - World Wide Games
   - Fooseball

E.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
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Archery
- Camping
- Glamping (Glamour Camping)
- Paddling (Canoe and Kayak)
- Hiking
- Orienteering
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Cross Country Skiing
- Nature Play
- Fishing / Fishing Derby
- Geocaching
- Pet Shows
- Repelling/Climbing
- Survival Skills

E.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):**
   - Land/Wildlife Conservation
   - Recycling
   - Gardening
   - Rain Barrel Making
   - Small Footprint Spring Cleaning
   - Landscaping with Native Plants
   - Earth Day Celebrations
   - Butterfly Gardens
   - Backyard Conservation Workshops
   - Composting How-To and Support
   - Invasive Species Removal
   - Weather, Climate Observation

E.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

E.13 Volunteer Training

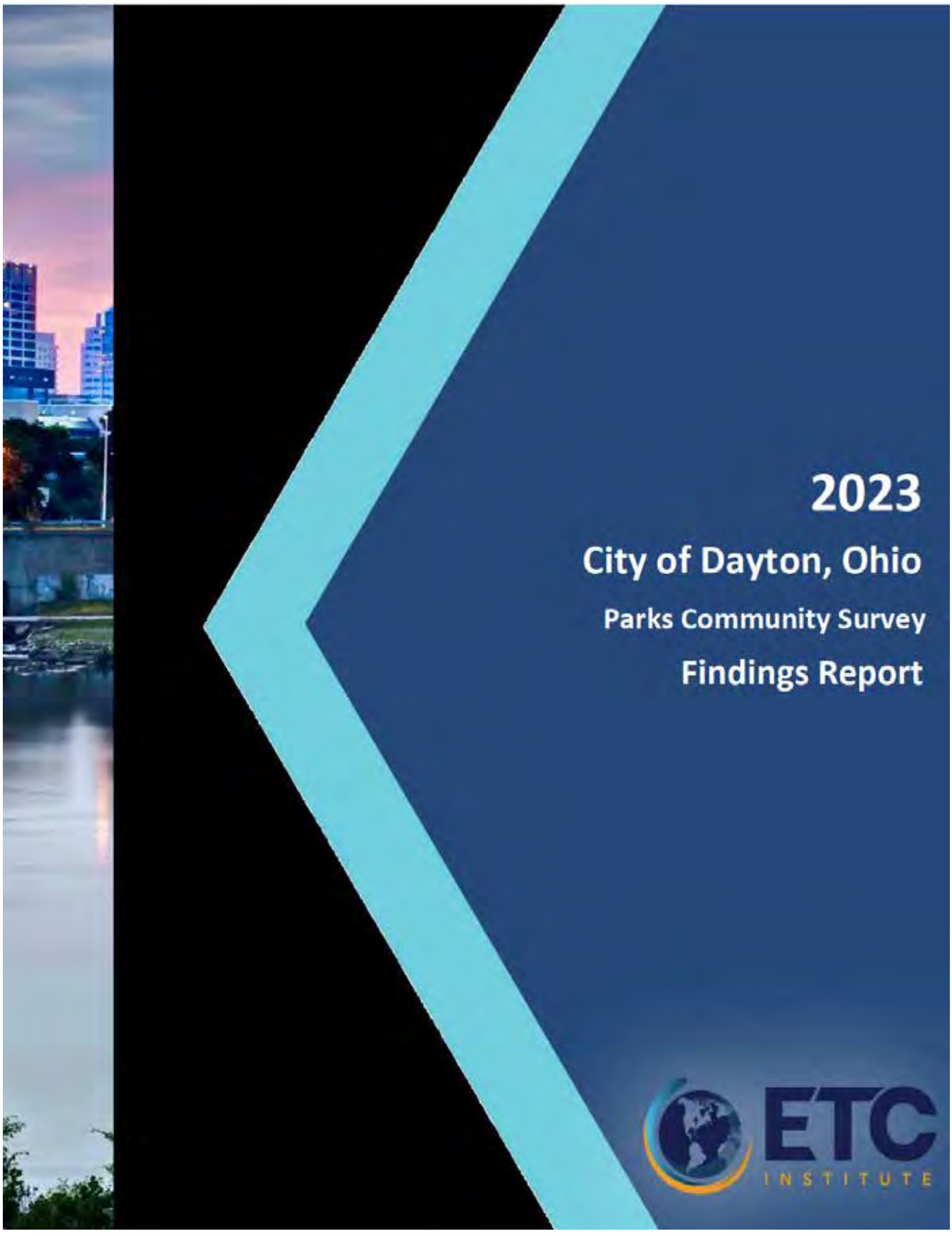
Definition: Because staff cannot possibly perform all of the tasks needed to accomplish their mission, volunteers are necessary. Through programs that coordinate, educate, and supervise volunteers the work of the department can be carried out in an efficient, effective, and communal manner.

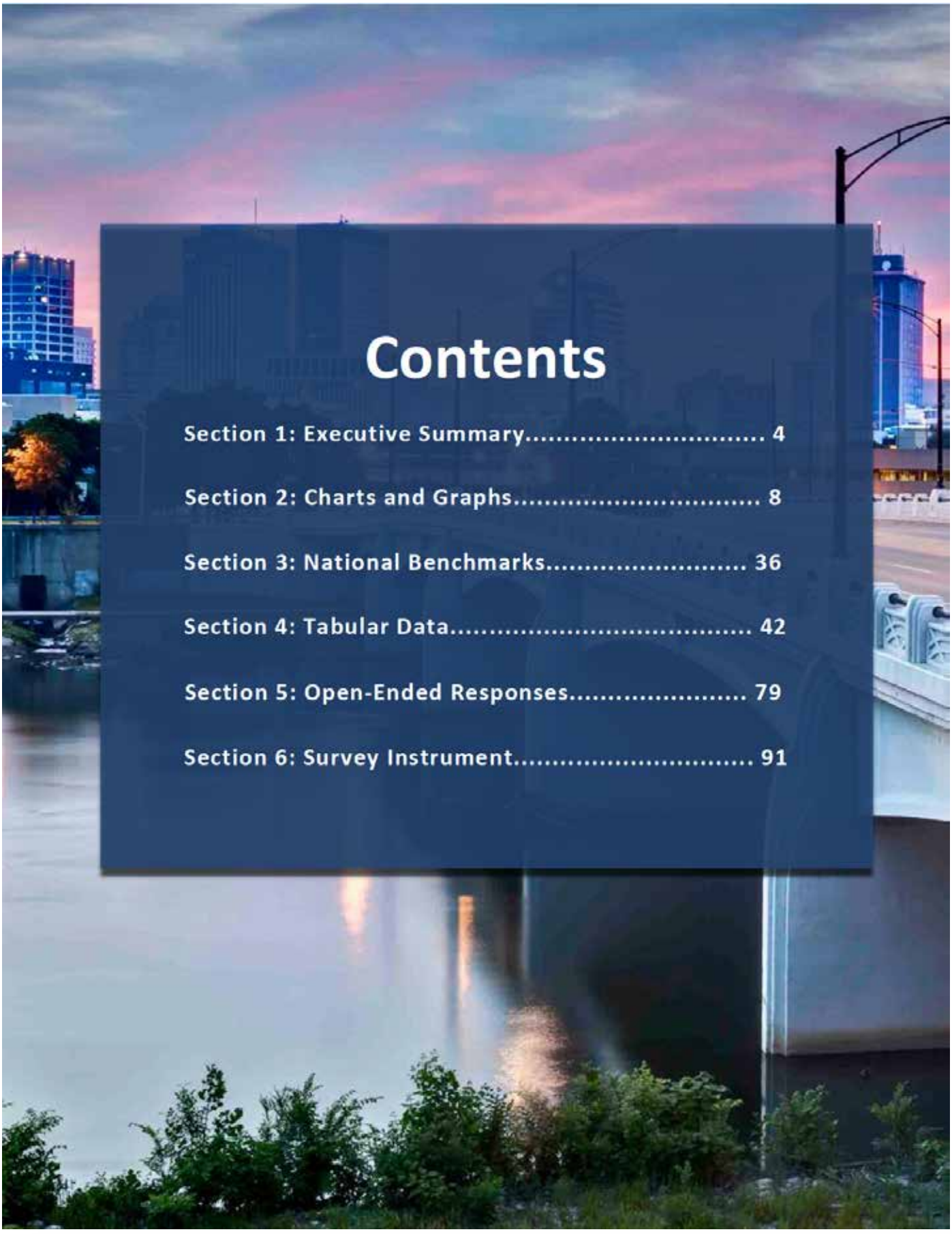
1. **Audience:**
   - Individuals
   - Families
   - Group
   - Partners
2. **Volunteer Training Programs provide opportunities to:**
   - Participate toward the overall goals of the department
   - Assist in tasks that are beyond the staff limitations of the agency (help to accomplish tasks in a timely 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

APPENDIX F - RANDOM SAMPLE SURVEY





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1 Executive Summary

2023 City of Dayton Parks Community Survey Executive Summary

Overview

ETC Institute administered a survey to residents of Dayton during the winter months of 2023. The purpose of the survey was to receive feedback from the community to help determine the future of recreation services and parks throughout the city as part of Dayton's Department of Recreation's Strategic Master Plan.

Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Dayton. 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 *DaytonParksSurvey.org*.

After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up with residents to encourage participation. To prevent people who were not residents of Dayton from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not included in the final database for this report.

The goal was to collect a minimum of 600 completed surveys from residents. The goal was met with 614 completed surveys collected. The overall results for the sample of 614 households has a precision of at least +/-3.9 at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains the following:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 2)
- Benchmark charts comparing survey data to national results (Section 3)
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 4)
- Responses to open-ended questions (Section 5)
- A copy of the survey instrument (Section 6)

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

Major Findings

Use of City of Dayton's Recreation Offerings. Respondents were asked to indicate how often their household visited recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in the City of Dayton over the past year. The highest percentage of respondents (30%) visited 20+ times followed by 27% visiting 1-5 times. Respondents were then asked to select all the barriers that kept them from using Dayton's Department of Recreation's offerings more often. Not knowing what was offered (45%), security or safety concerns (26%), and condition of facilities (23%) were the most common barriers to use. Respondents would be more encouraged to participate with the addition of desired programs (39%), better marketing/promotion (35%), and improved security (33%).

Most Popular Facilities and Parks. Respondents were asked to select all the recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, and parks their household had visited in the past year. Triangle park (39%), Dave Hall Plaza (Levitt Pavilion) (31%), and Belmont Park (23%) were selected most often. For indoor recreation centers or amenities, the Lohrey Recreation Center (34%), indoor swimming pools (32%), and the Salvation Army Dayton Kroc Center (28%) were used most often.

Satisfaction with Dayton Facilities, Programs, and Parks. Respondents were asked to rate the condition of recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, and parks closest to their home. Most respondents (59%) rated the condition as either "good" (46%) or "excellent" (13%). Next, respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction regarding the overall quality of maintenance of Dayton recreation centers/swimming pools. Most respondents (52%) were either satisfied (39%) or very satisfied (13%). Almost half of respondents (48%) felt satisfied (39%) or very satisfied (9%) with the overall quality of recreation facilities and programs, 40% felt neutral. For youth programs and activities, most respondents felt neutral (44%) followed by satisfied (22%).

Activities and Special Events. Respondents were asked to select all the activities their household participated in while visiting recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton. Enjoying nature (51%), walking/ hiking/ jogging (51%), and attending festivals/ concerts/ performances (48%) were the most popular activities. The special events attended by the most participants were the Independence Day Fireworks and Festival (77%), Five Rivers Metroparks Events (60%), and the Summer Music Series (58%). Those who attended most often rated the special events as either good (59%) or excellent (28%).

Support for Improvements. Respondents most often supported (rating "very supportive") improvements to protect the city's natural areas and resources (74%), continue to replace aging playgrounds throughout the city (64%), and ensure Dayton's recreation centers are assets to the community (61%). These were also the three improvements most important to households.

Communications. Respondents most often learned about recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, programs, activities, and events via word of mouth (50%), the Dayton website (43%), or social networking (42%). Respondents most prefer using the seasonal program guide (42%), social networks (40%), or the Dayton website (30%) to learn information.

Facility Needs

Use of Facilities Respondents were asked to indicate whether their household members currently use any of the 27 listed facilities or if they would like to use them if they were available. The most used (or desired) facilities were natural areas/nature parks (49%), trails—walking/hiking (47%), and small neighborhood parks (38%).

Investment in Facilities. Respondents were then asked to indicate what type of investment they would like to see in each of the facilities they use or want to use. Respondents most often thought there should be revitalization/upgrades to existing facilities for small neighborhood parks (48%), recreation centers (45%), playgrounds (41%), and picnic shelters/picnic areas (41%). Respondents most often thought there should be new developments for pickleball courts (63%), skate parks (36%), and outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers (35%). Respondents desired both revitalization/upgrades and new developments most often for volleyball courts (52%), multi-use trails (52%), and skate parks (50%).

Importance of Facilities. Respondents were asked to select the three most important facilities to their household. The three facilities selected most often were natural areas/nature parks (30%), walking/hiking trails (26%), and recreation centers (19%).

Program Needs

Use of Programs Respondents were asked to indicate whether their household members currently participate in any of the 21 listed programs or if they would like to if they were available. The most used (or desired) programs were festivals (62%), concerts/art performances (48%), and adult fitness/wellness programs (38%).

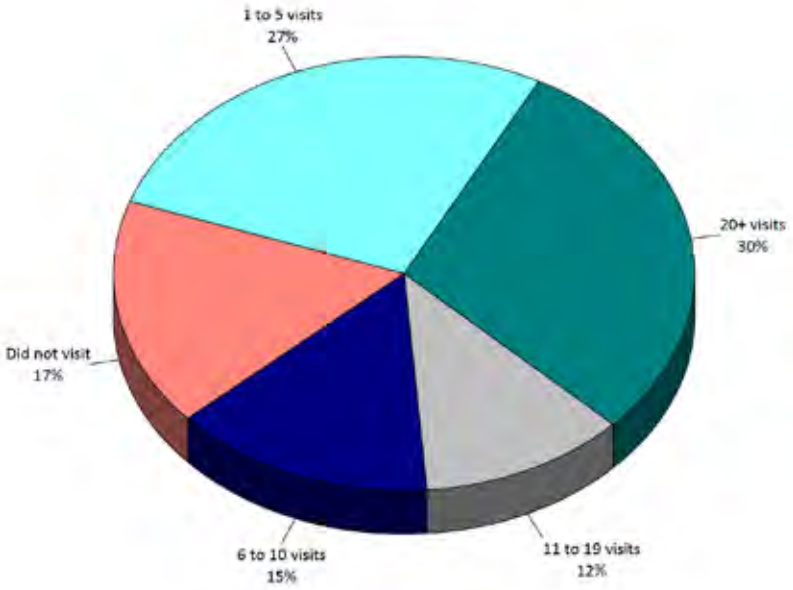
Changes to Programs. Respondents were then asked to indicate what changes they would like to see in each of the programs. Respondents most often thought there should be additional capacity or times/days added for swim lessons (28%), water fitness programs (28%), and preschool programs (27%). Respondents most often thought there more variety of program offerings for concerts/art performances (28%), adult sports programs (27%), youth sports programs (24%), and nature programs (24%). Respondents most often desired both changes for teen programs (64%), programs for persons ages 50+ (62%), and youth art, dance, and performing arts (61%).

Importance of Programs. Respondents were asked to select the three most important program categories to their household. The three categories selected most often were festivals (38%), concerts/art performances (30%), and adult fitness and wellness programs (25%).

2 Charts and Graphs

Q1. How often have you or members of your household visited recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities or parks in the City of Dayton over the PAST YEAR?

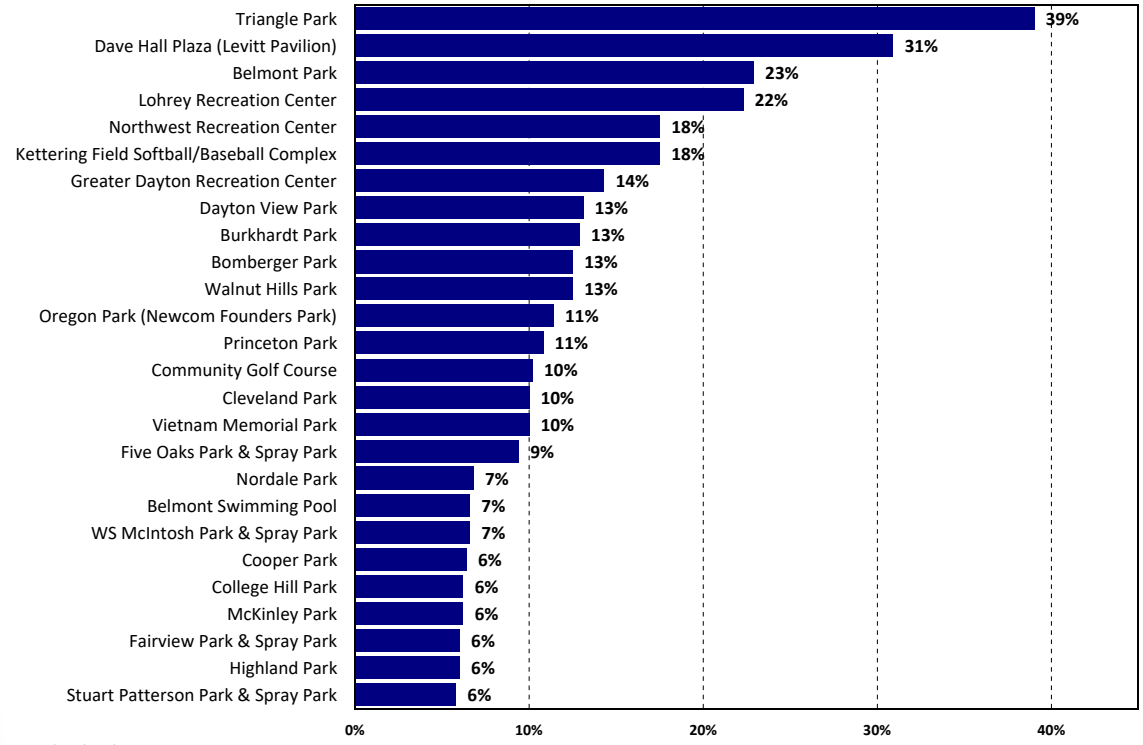
by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



ETC Institute (2023)

Q2. Please CHECK ALL recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton that you or your household members visited in the PAST YEAR.

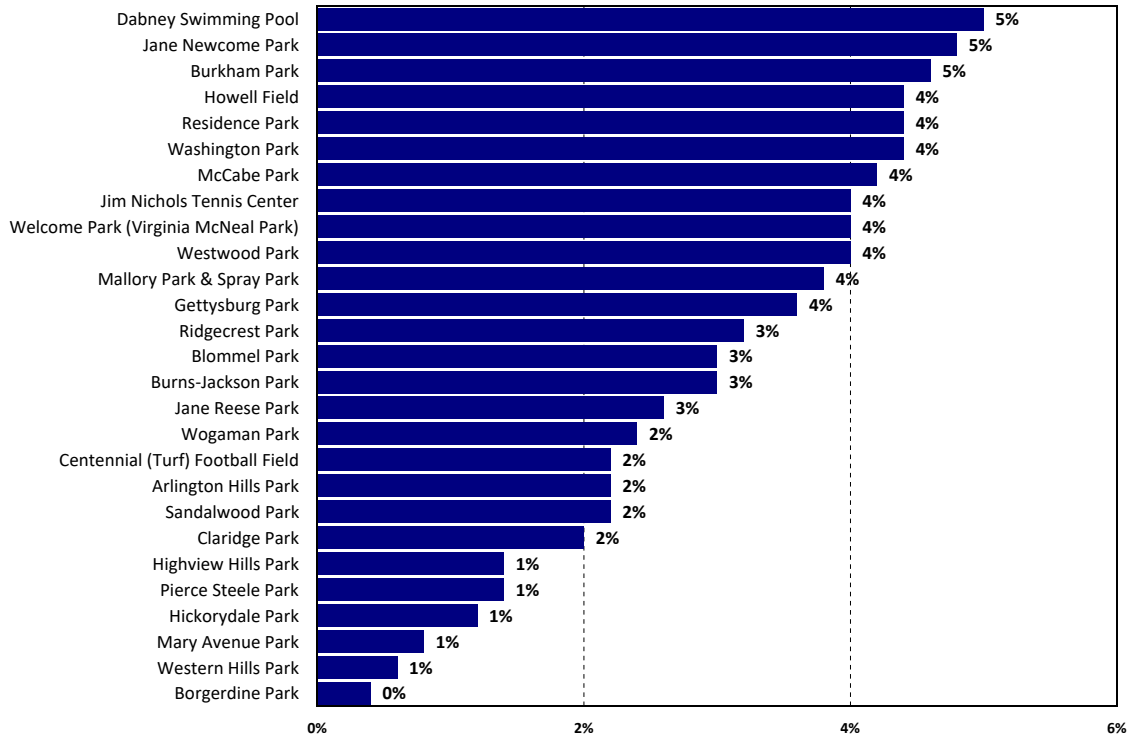
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



ETC Institute (2023)

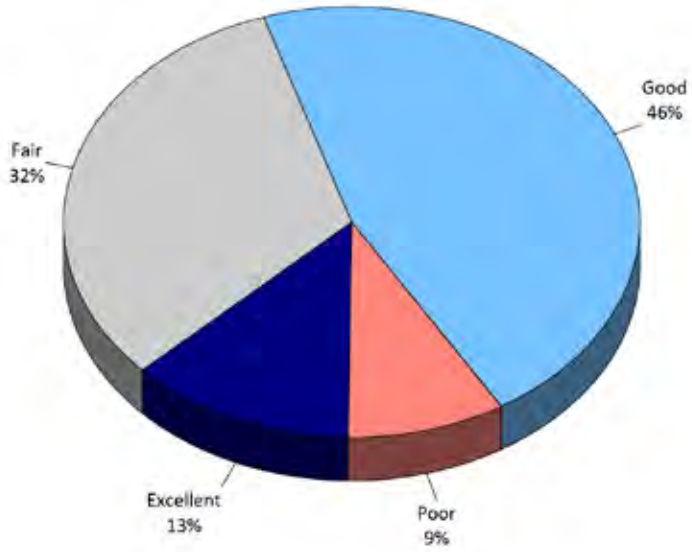
(Continued) Q2. Please CHECK ALL recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton that you or your household members visited in the PAST YEAR.

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



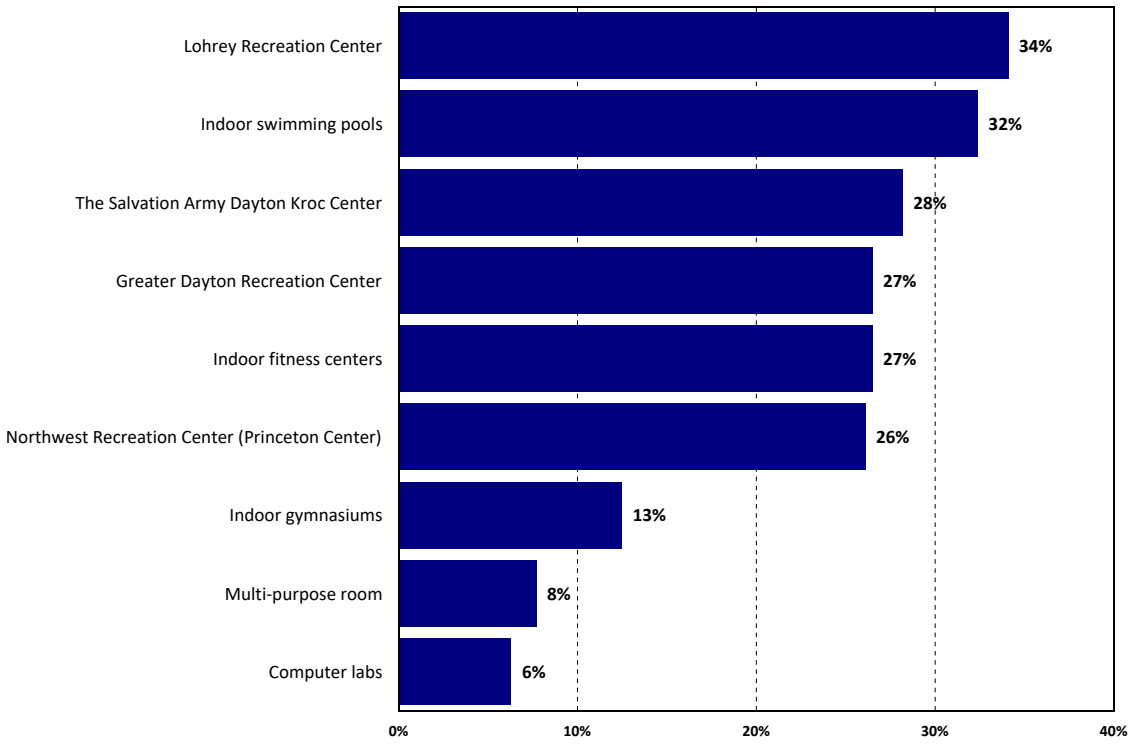
Q3. How would you rate the condition of recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks closest to your home?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



Q4. Please CHECK ALL INDOOR recreation centers or amenities you or members of your household used in the PAST YEAR.

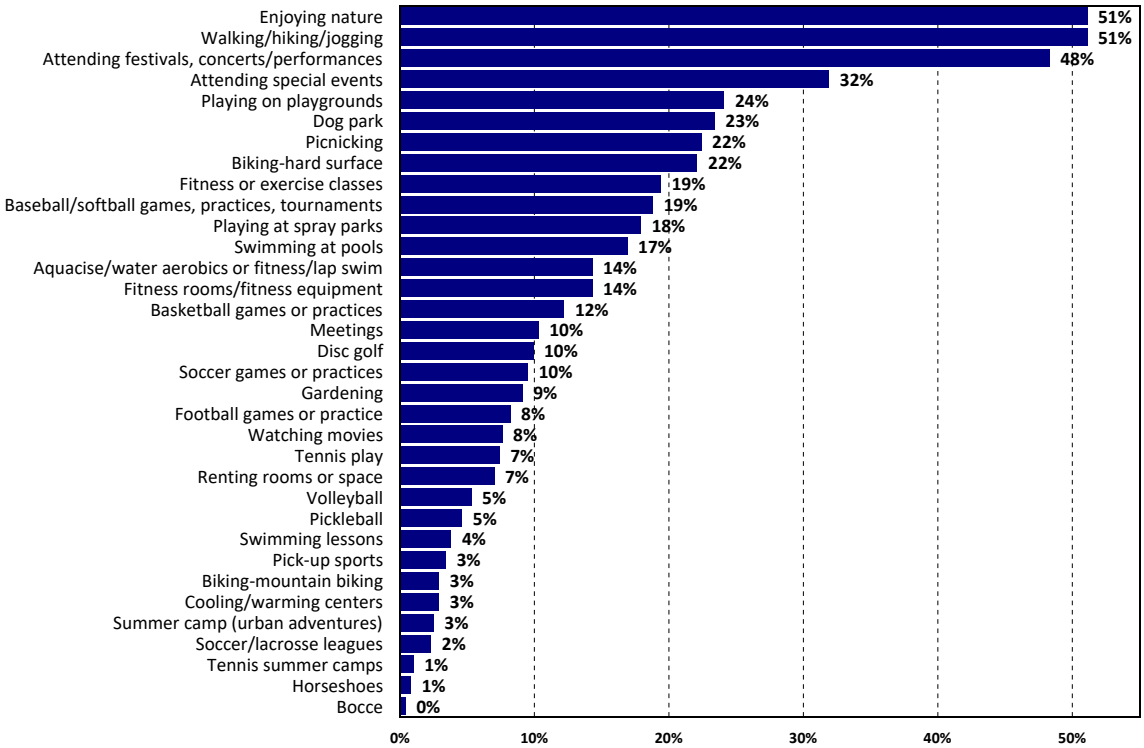
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



ETC Institute (2023)

Q5. Please CHECK ALL the activities you or household members enjoyed at recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton in the PAST YEAR.

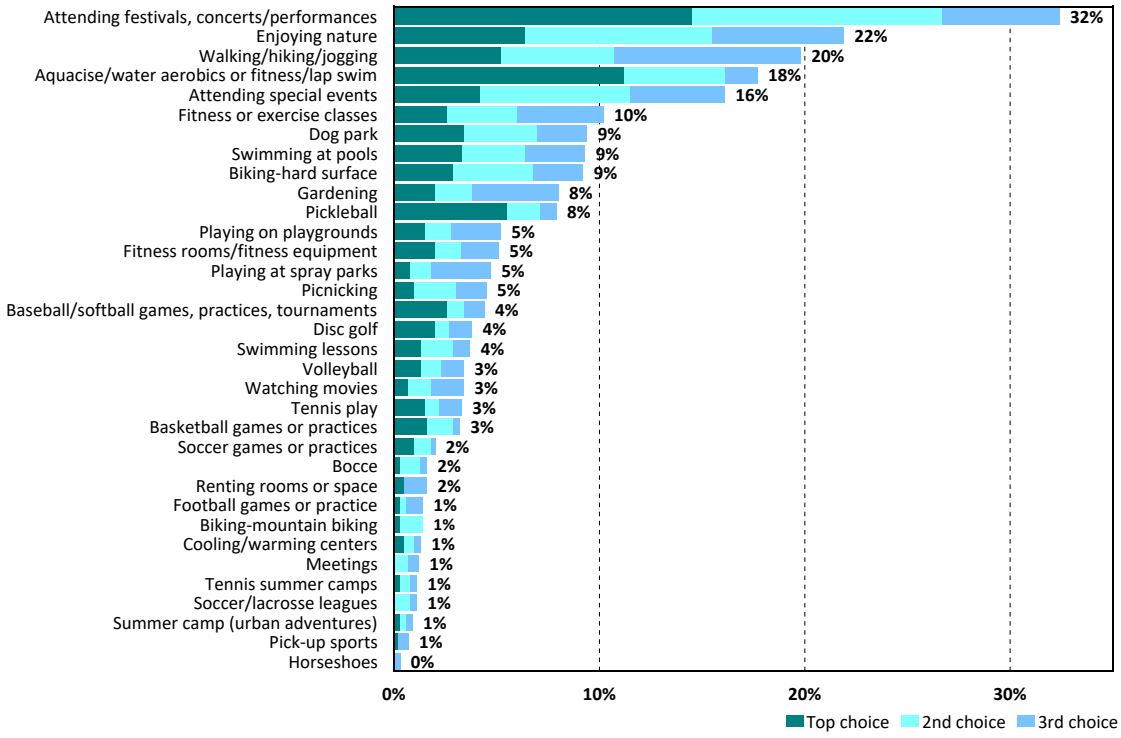
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made) (excluding "none")



ETC Institute (2023)

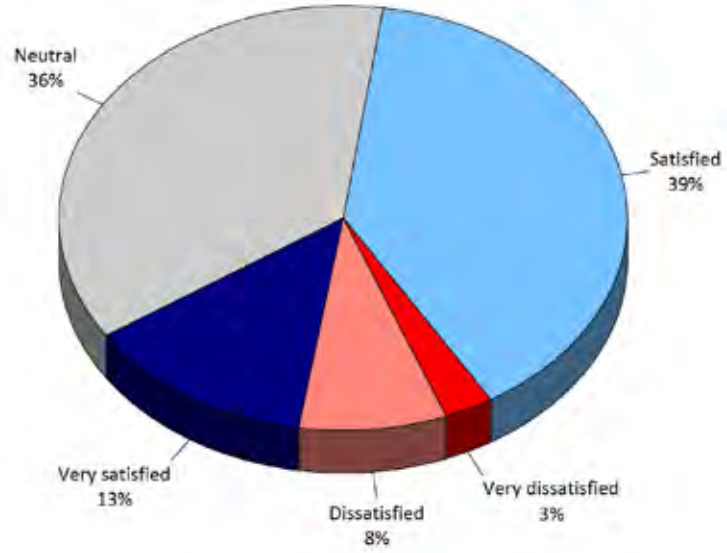
Q6. Please identify up to three activities from Question 5 for which you would like to find more opportunities to do in the future?

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



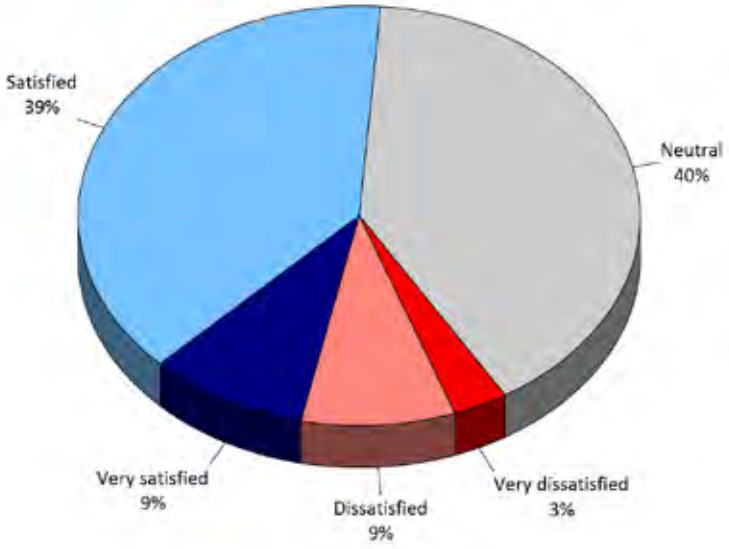
Q7. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the maintenance of Dayton recreation centers/swimming pools?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



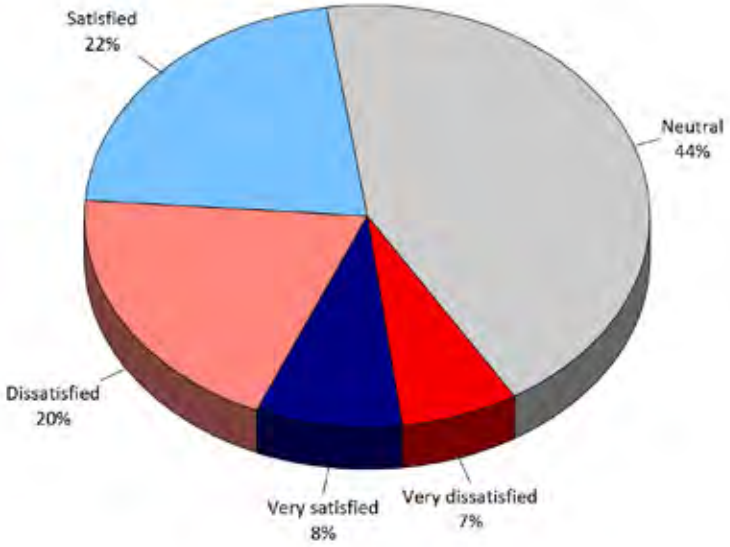
Q8. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of Dayton recreation programs and facilities?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



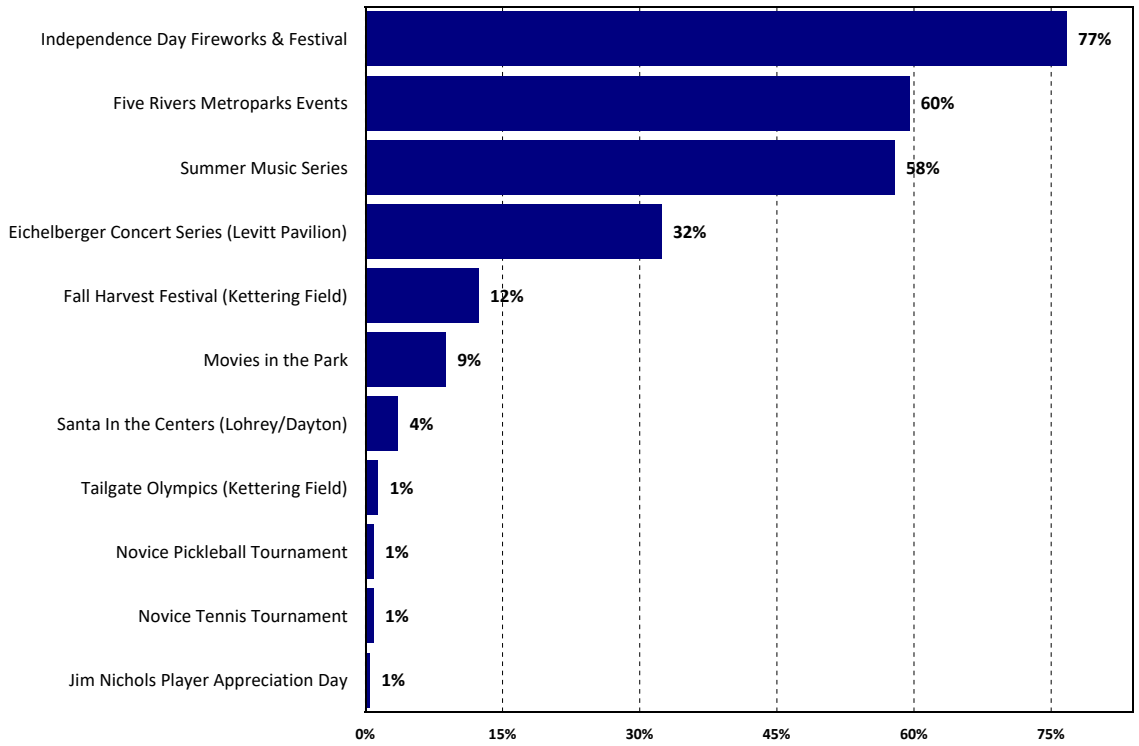
Q9. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of Dayton Recreation youth programs and activities?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



Q10. Please CHECK ALL of the City sponsored special events you or household members attended in the past year.

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made) (excluding "none")



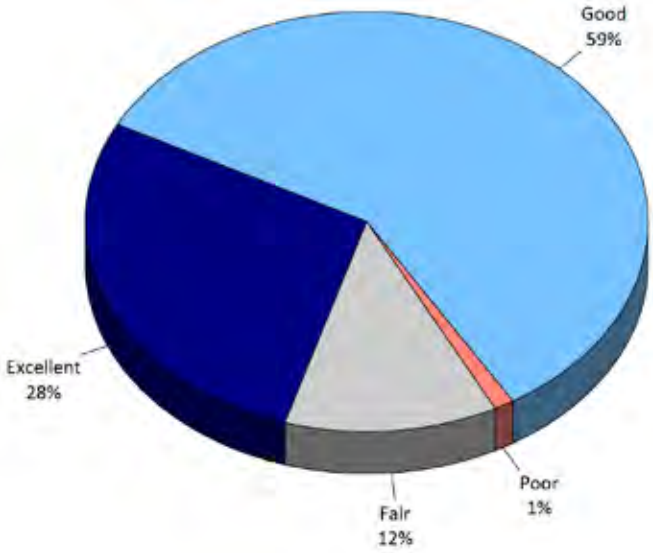
ETC Institute (2023)

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Dayton, OH 2023 Survey

Q11. How would you rate the quality of the special events you attended?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "did not attend")

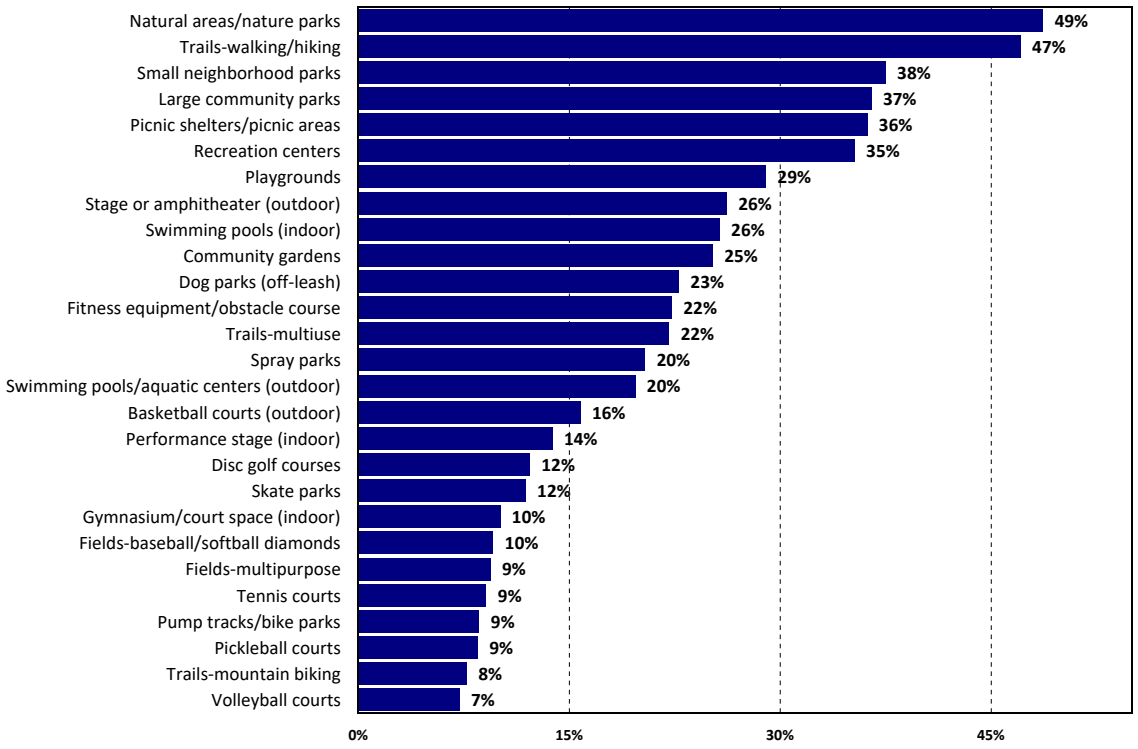


ETC Institute (2023)

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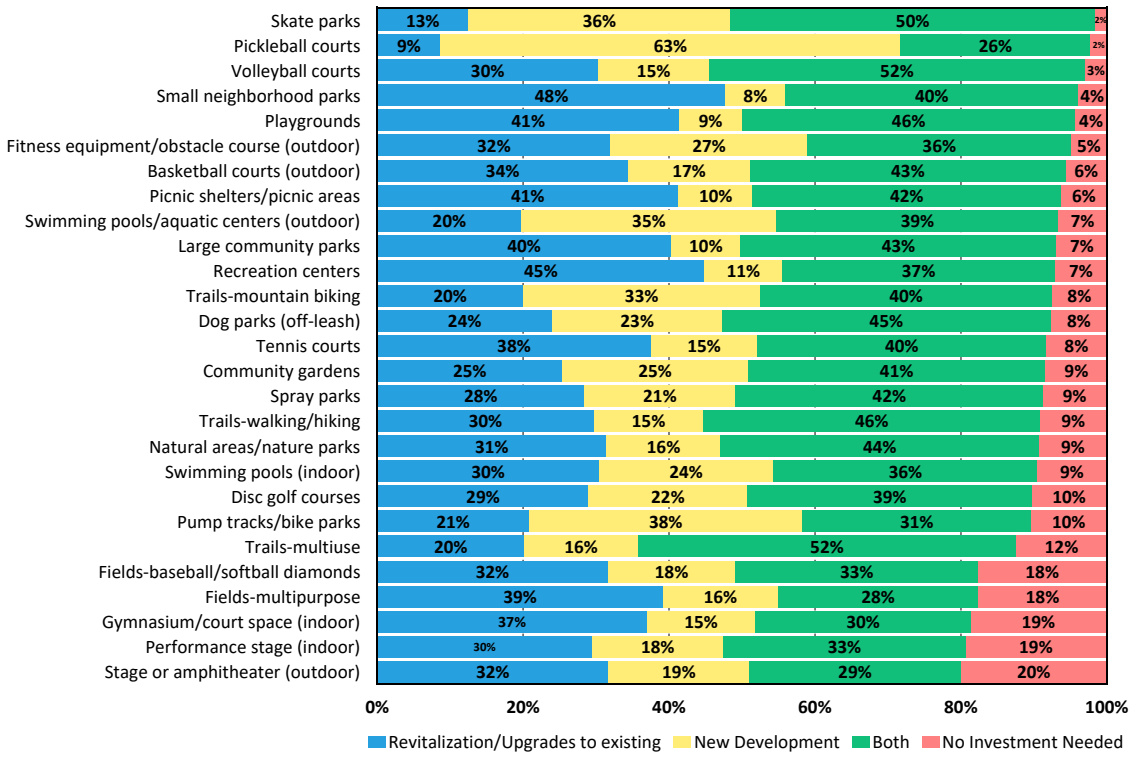
Q12. Please indicate whether you or household members currently use each facility (or would like to use if available).

by percentage of respondents



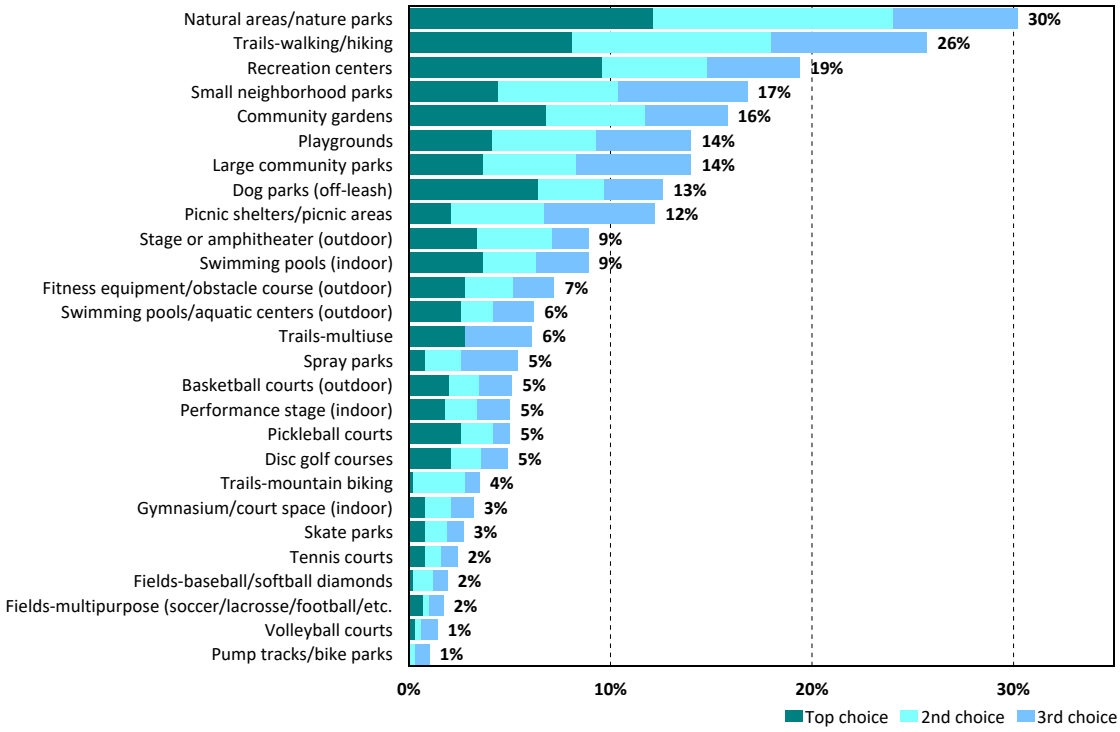
Q12. If "Yes," what type of investment you would like to see in Dayton?

by percentage of respondents who answered "Yes" to Q12



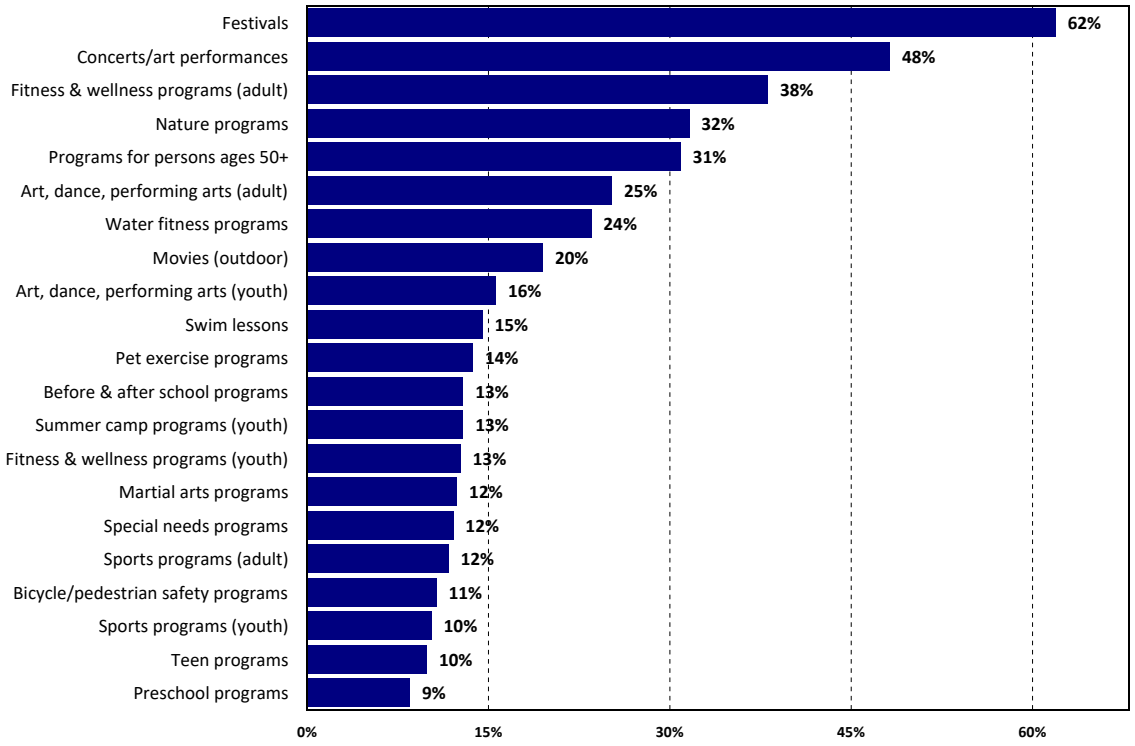
Q13. Which THREE facilities from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

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



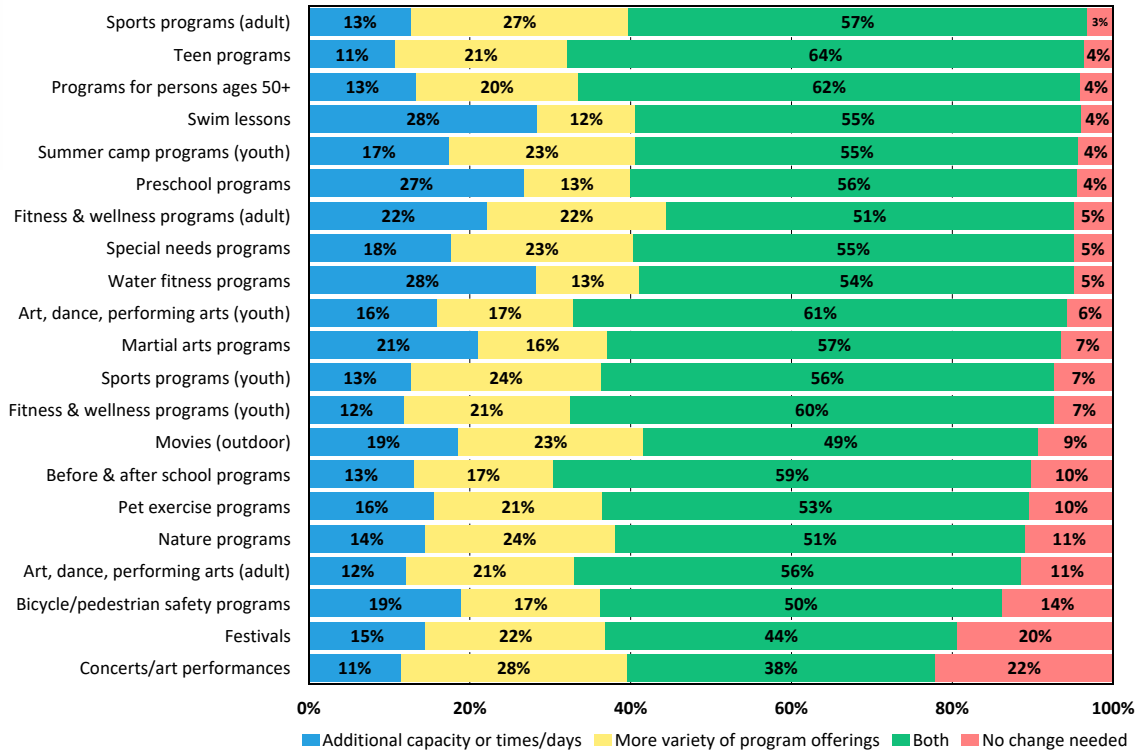
Q14. Please indicate whether you or household members currently participate in each program (or would like to participate in if available).

by percentage of respondents



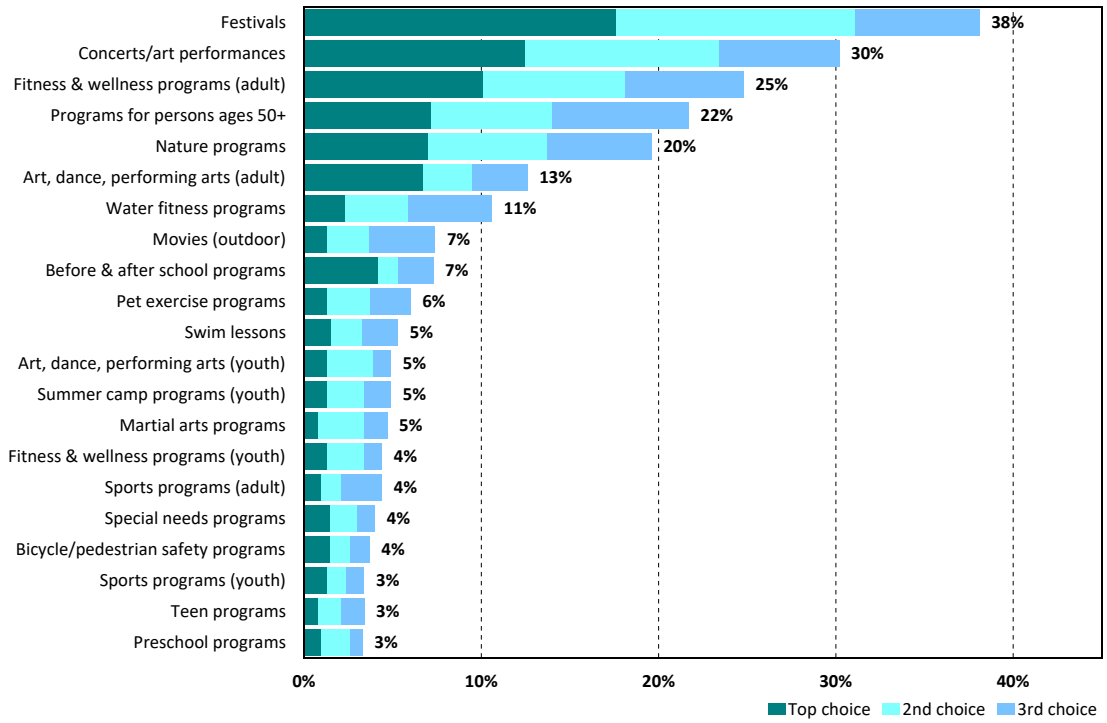
Q14. If "Yes," what type of change would you like to see in Dayton?

by percentage of respondents who answered "Yes" to Q14



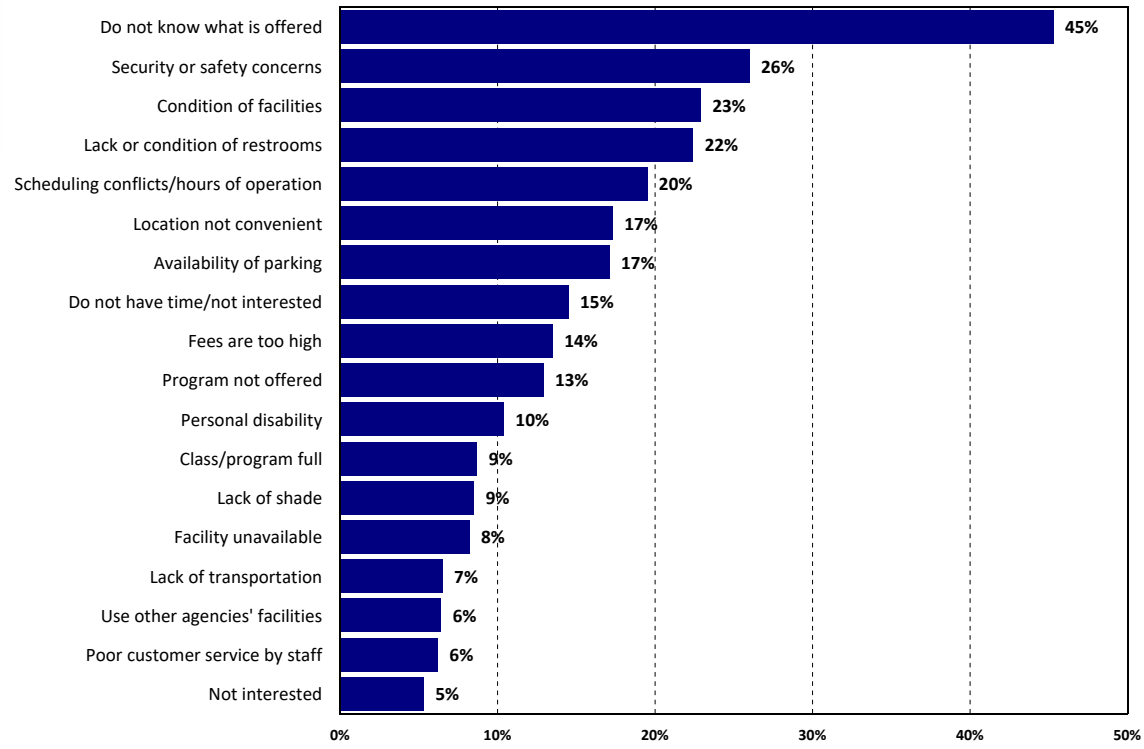
Q15. Which THREE program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

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



Q16. Please CHECK ALL reasons that keep you or members of your household from using offerings by Dayton's Department of Recreation more often.

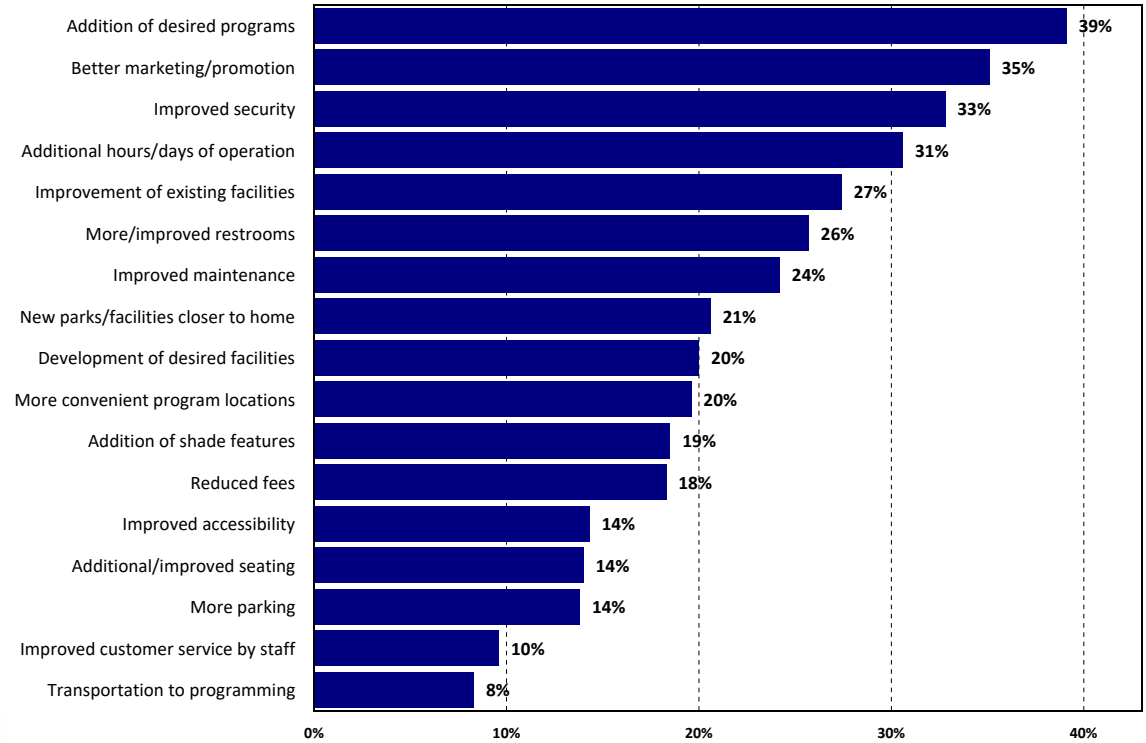
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made) (excluding "none")



ETC Institute (2023)

Q17. What would encourage you and your household to participate in more offerings by Dayton in recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks?

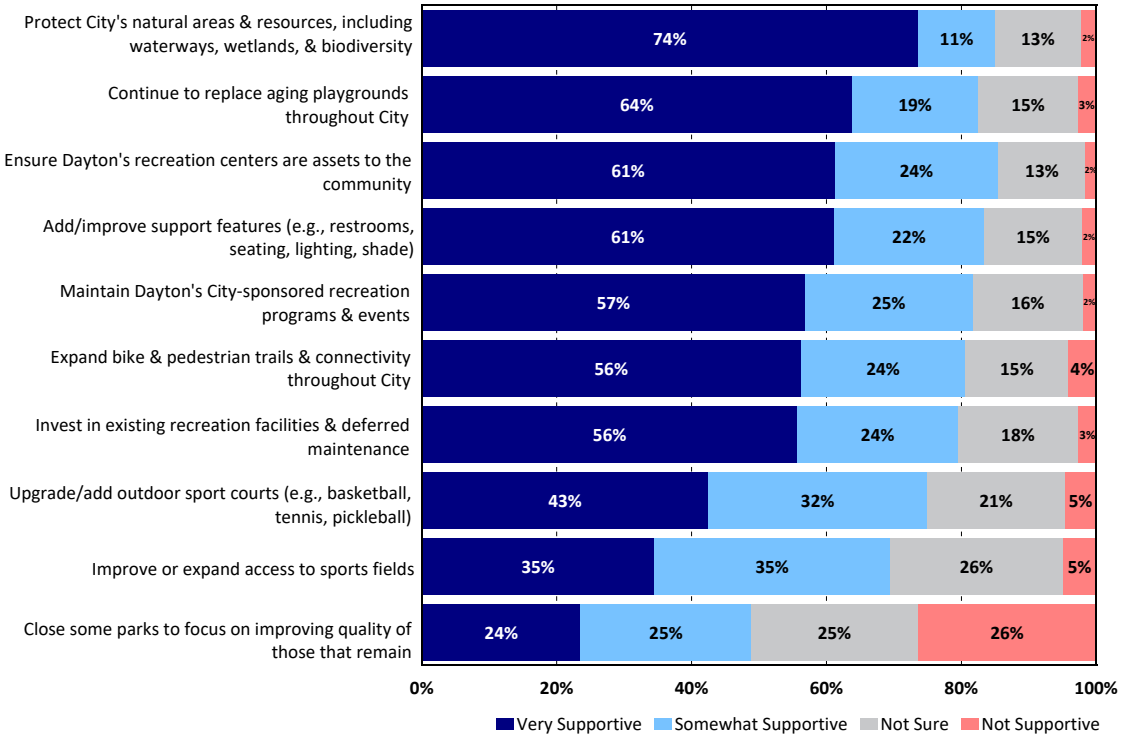
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made) (excluding "none")



ETC Institute (2023)

Q18. Please indicate how supportive you are of actions the City of Dayton could take to improve recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks.

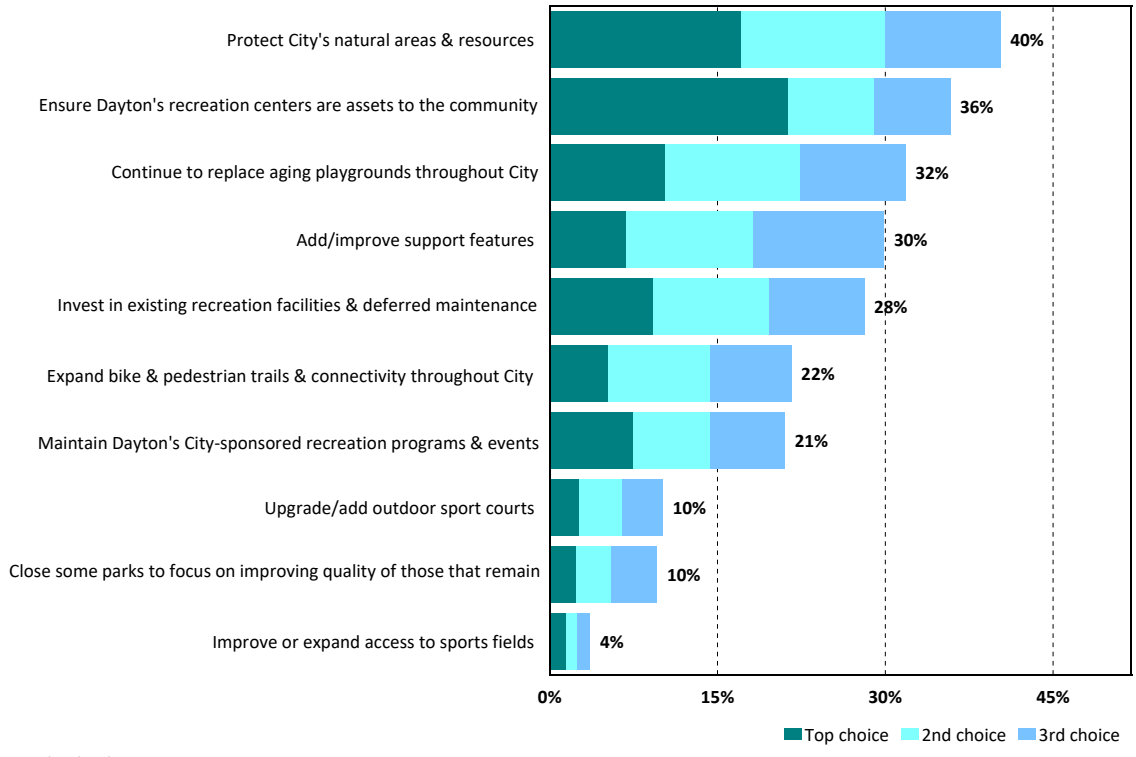
by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



ETC Institute (2023)

Q19. Which THREE actions from Question 18 are most important?

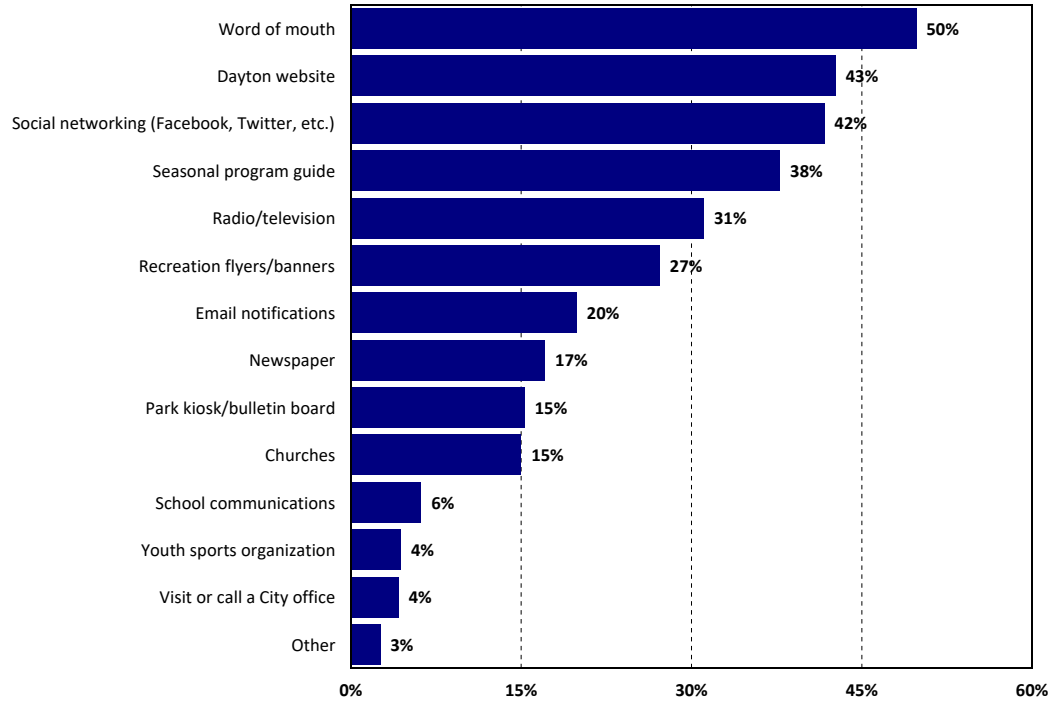
by percentage of respondents who selected the actions as one of their top three choices



ETC Institute (2023)

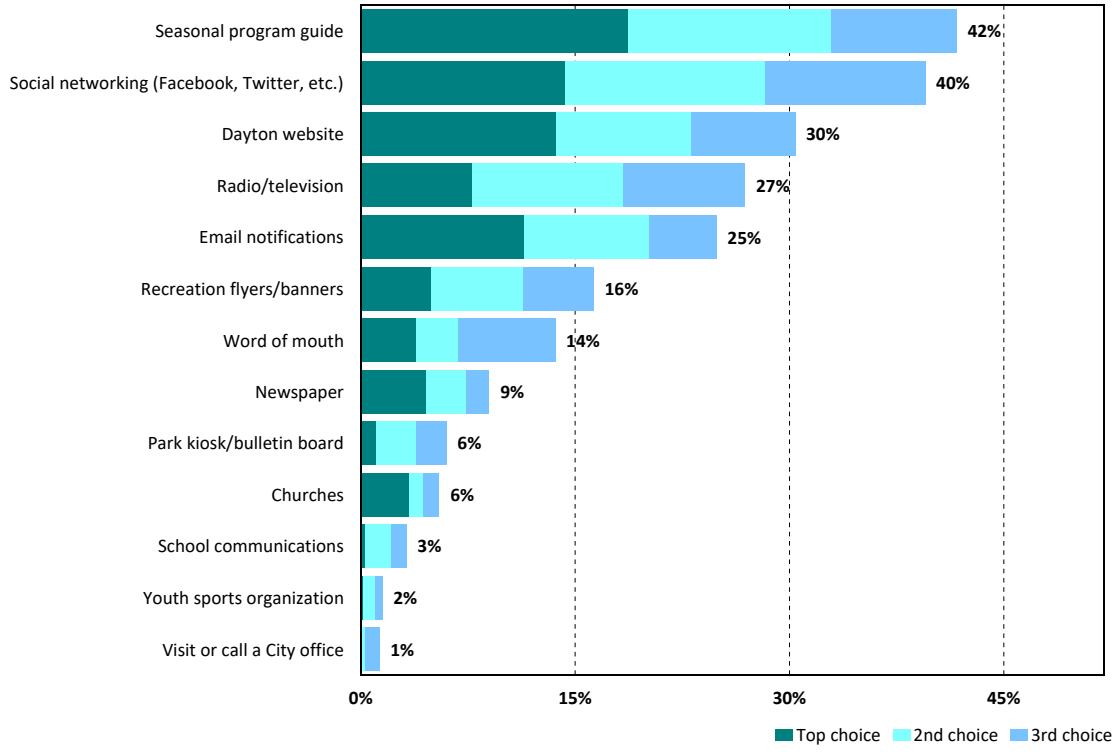
Q20. Please CHECK ALL the ways you learn about recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, programs, activities, or events.

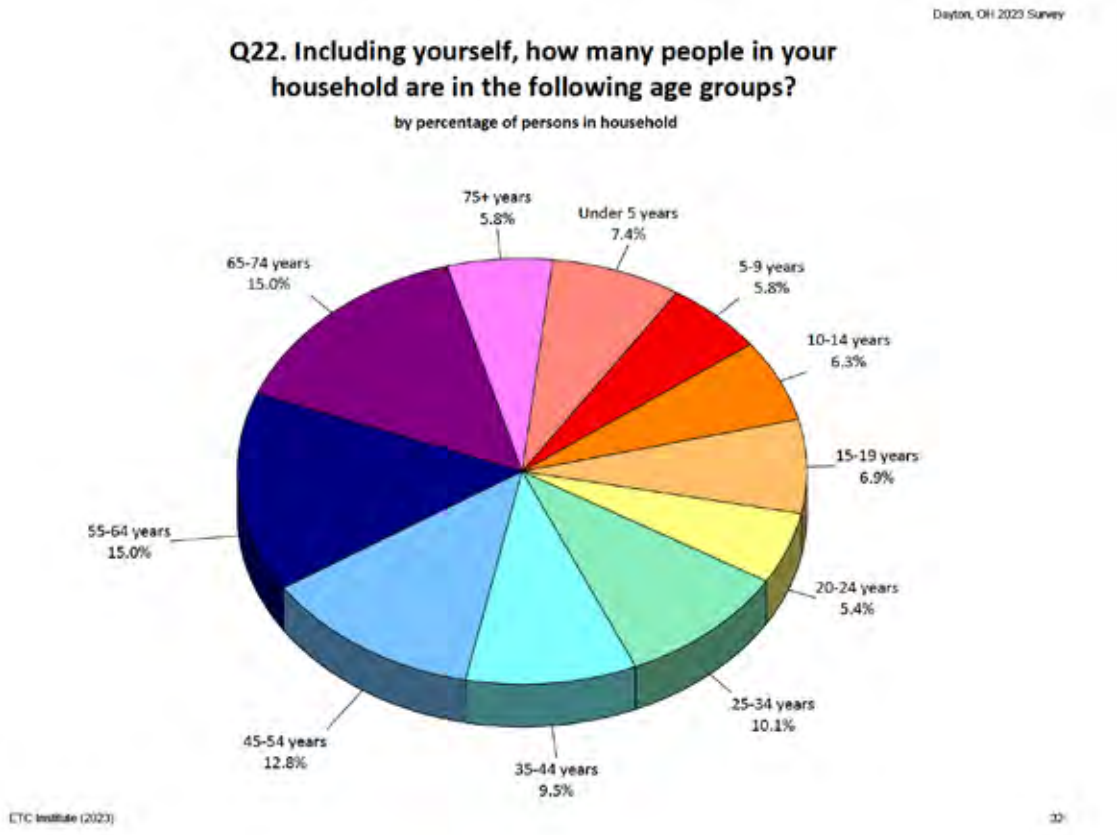
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made) (excluding "none")



Q21. Which THREE ways listed in Question 20 do you prefer?

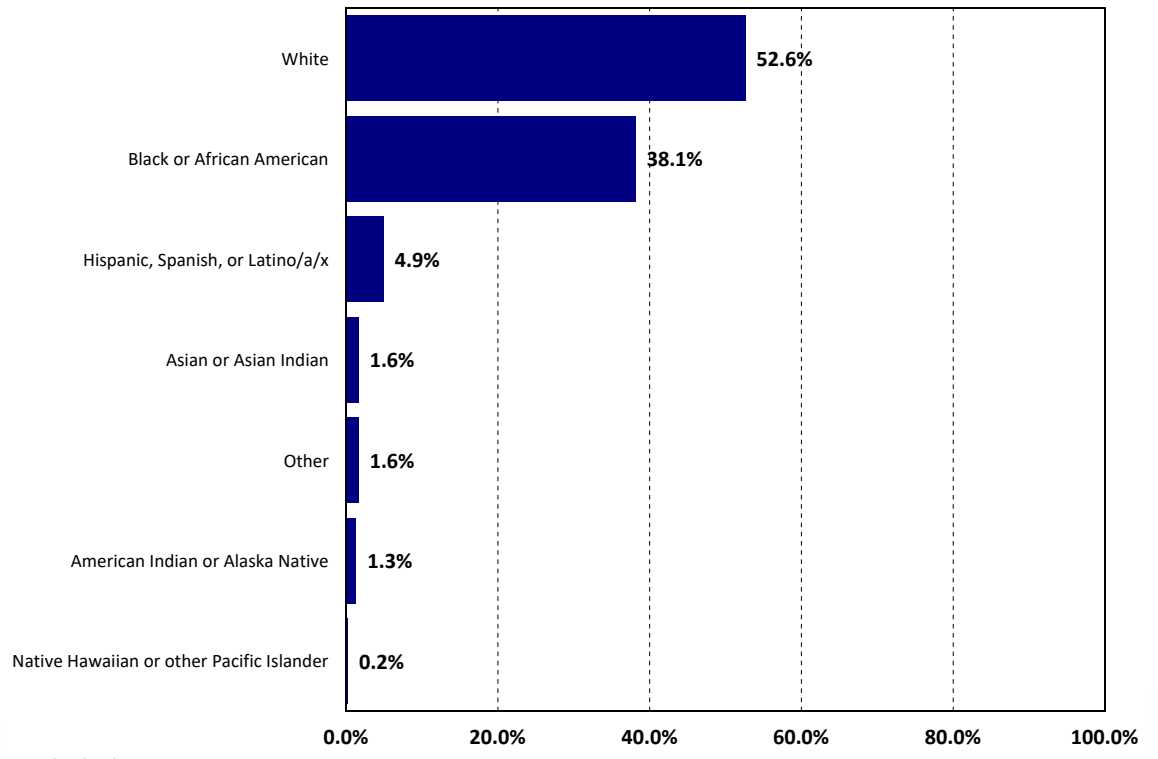
by percentage of respondents who selected the actions as one of their top three choices





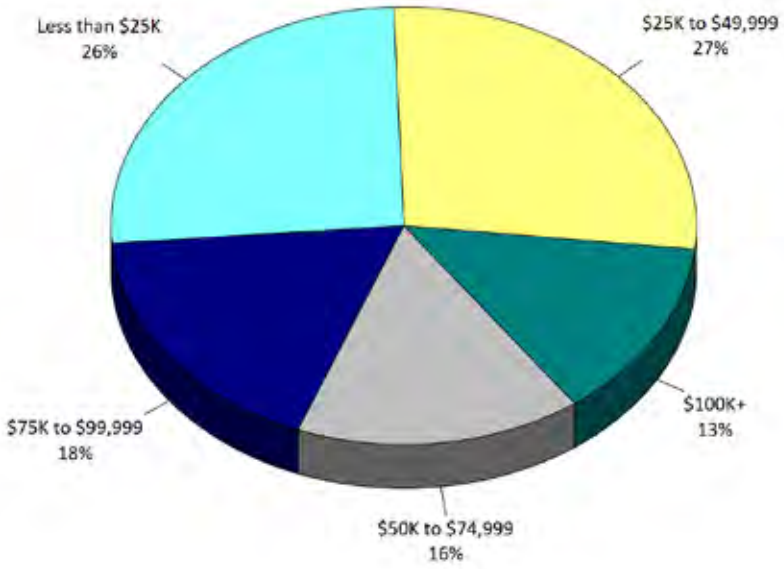
Q23. Which of the following best describes your race?

by percentage of respondents



Q24. What is your annual household income?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "choose not to respond")

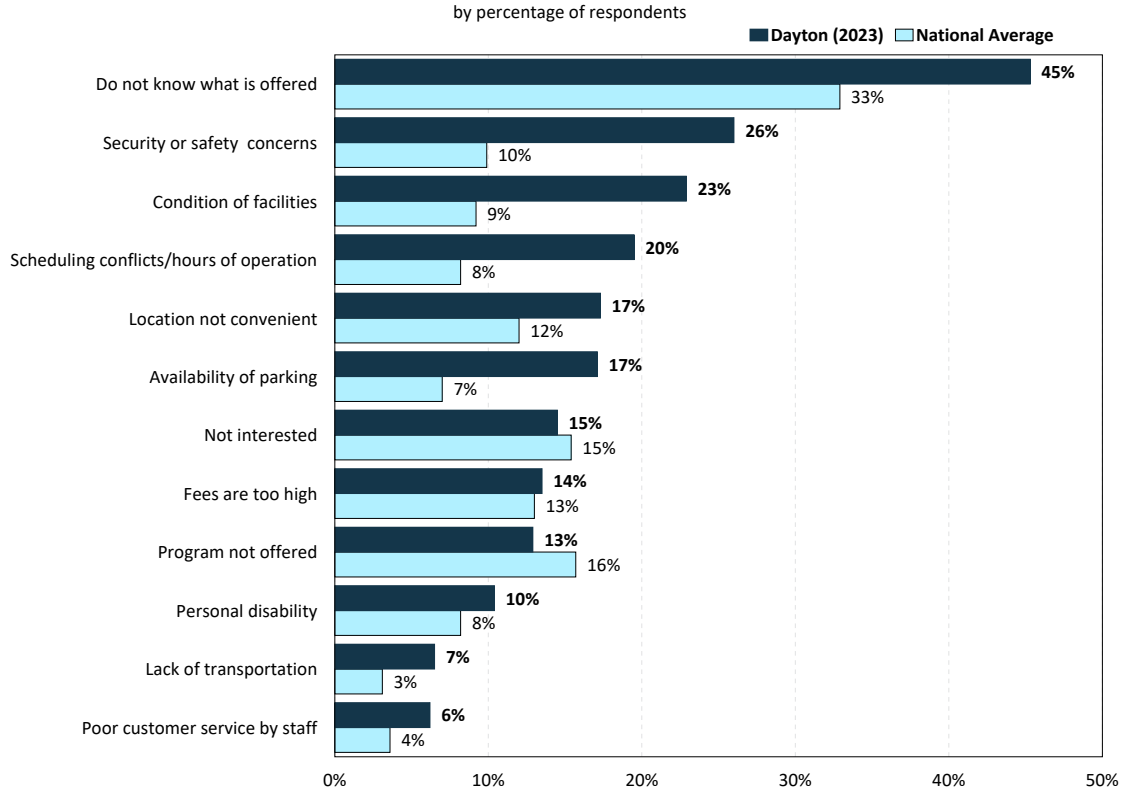


3 Benchmarks

National Benchmarks

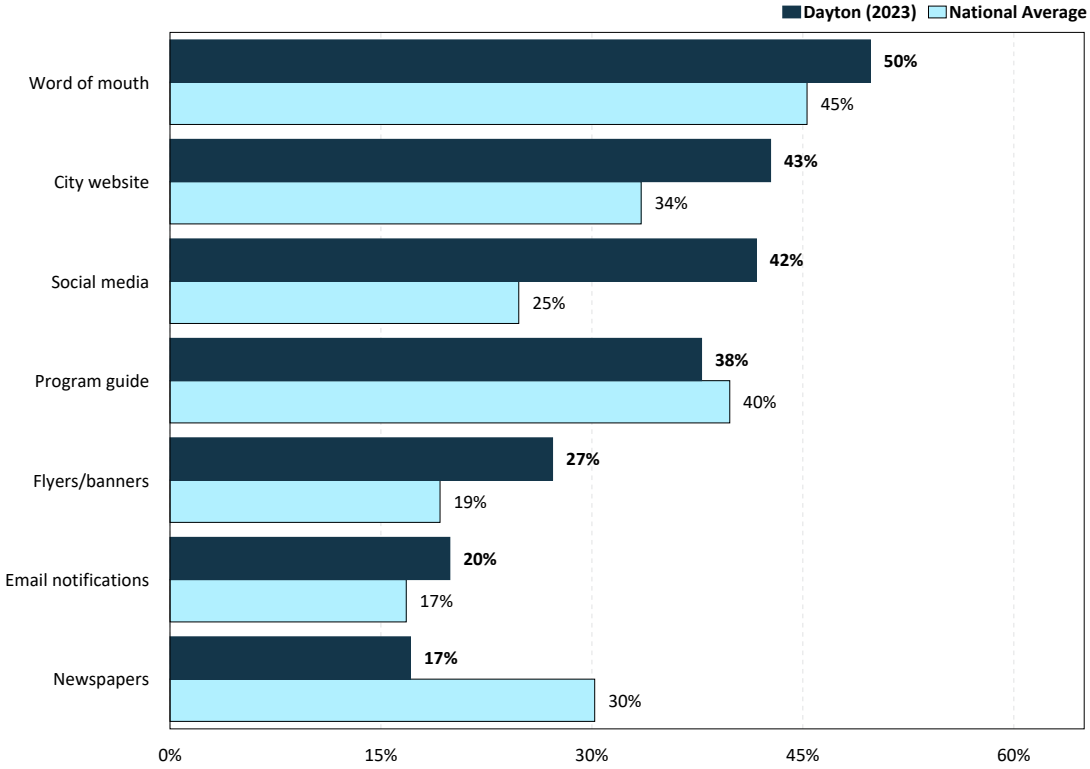
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Barriers to Use of Parks/Facilities/Programs



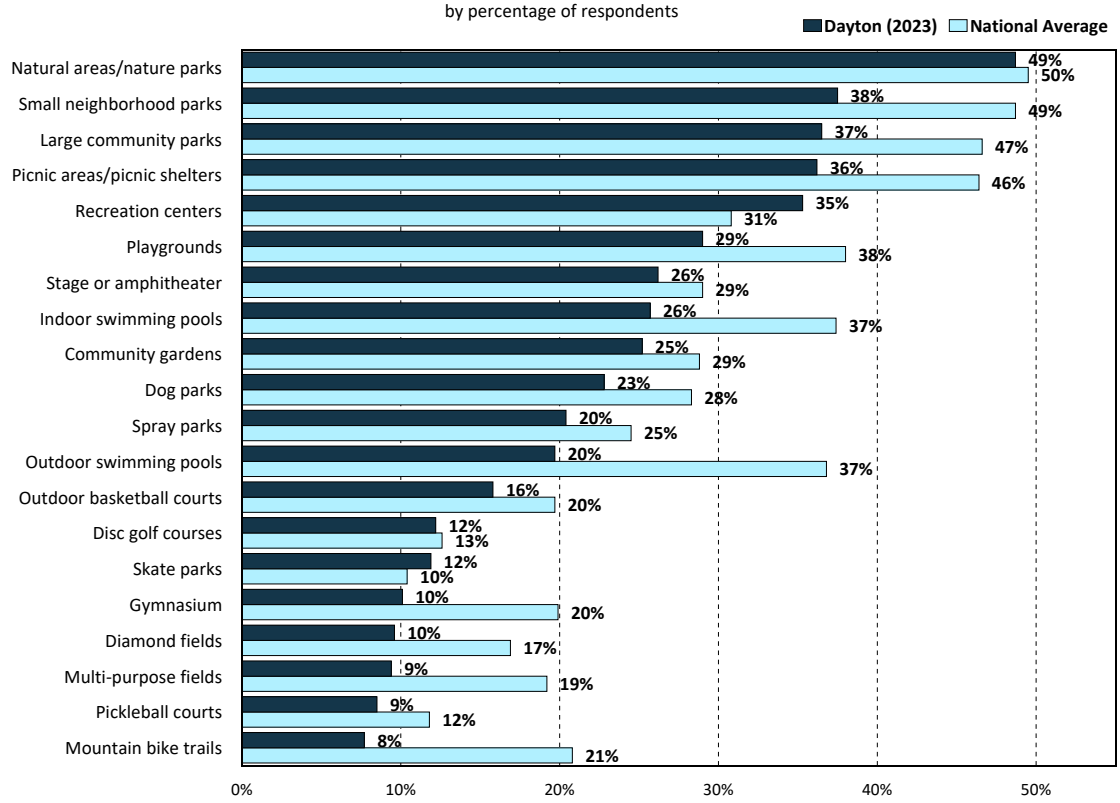
Information Sources Used by Respondents

by percentage of respondents



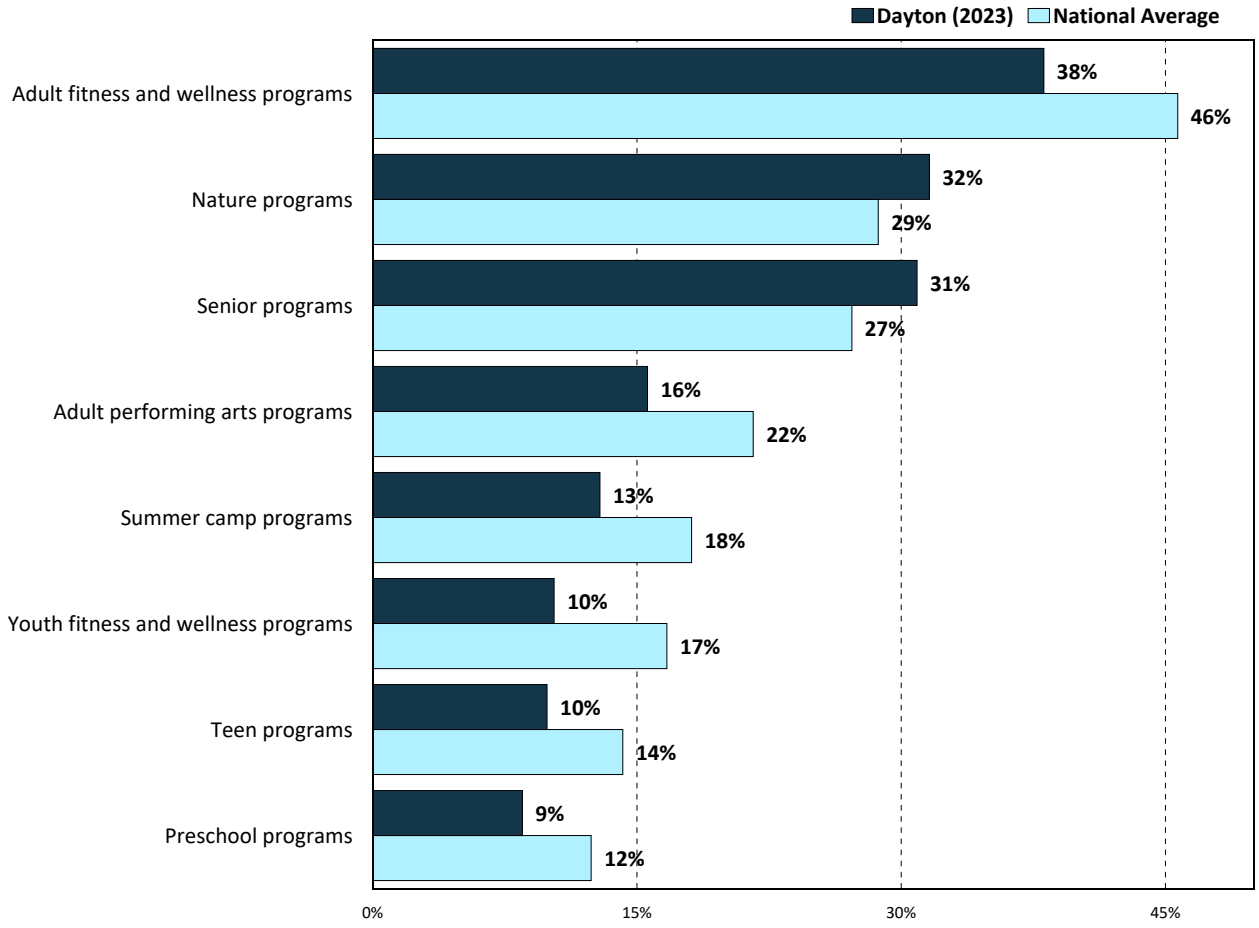
Respondents with Need for Facility/Amenity

by percentage of respondents



Respondents with Need for Programs

by percentage of respondents



ETC Institute (2023)

4 Tabular Data

Q1. How often have you or members of your household visited recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities or parks in the City of Dayton over the PAST YEAR?

Q1. How often has your household visited City recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities or parks over past year	Number	Percent
1 to 5 visits	165	26.9 %
6 to 10 visits	88	14.3 %
11 to 19 visits	70	11.4 %
20+ visits	179	29.2 %
Did not visit	102	16.6 %
Not provided	10	1.6 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")

Q1. How often have you or members of your household visited recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities or parks in the City of Dayton over the PAST YEAR? (without "not provided")

Q1. How often has your household visited City recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities or parks over past year	Number	Percent
1 to 5 visits	165	27.3 %
6 to 10 visits	88	14.6 %
11 to 19 visits	70	11.6 %
20+ visits	179	29.6 %
Did not visit	102	16.9 %
Total	604	100.0 %

Q2. Please CHECK ALL recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton that you or your household members visited in the PAST YEAR.

Q2. All recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks your household visited in past year	Number	Percent
Lohrey Recreation Center	112	22.3 %
Belmont Swimming Pool	33	6.6 %
Belmont Park	115	22.9 %
Northwest Recreation Center (AKA Princeton Recreation Center)	88	17.5 %
Dabney Swimming Pool (AKA Princeton Swimming Pool)	25	5.0 %
Princeton Park	54	10.8 %
Greater Dayton Recreation Center (AKA Roosevelt or GDRC)	72	14.3 %
Jim Nichols Tennis Center	20	4.0 %
Kettering Field Softball/Baseball Complex	88	17.5 %
Centennial (Turf) Football Field	11	2.2 %
Community Golf Course	51	10.2 %
Howell Field	22	4.4 %
Arlington Hills Park	11	2.2 %
Blommel Park	15	3.0 %
Bomberger Park	63	12.5 %
Borgerdine Park	2	0.4 %
Burkham Park	23	4.6 %
Burkhardt Park	65	12.9 %
Burns-Jackson Park	15	3.0 %
Claridge Park	10	2.0 %
Cleveland Park	50	10.0 %
College Hill Park	31	6.2 %
Cooper Park	32	6.4 %
Dave Hall Plaza (Levitt Pavilion)	155	30.9 %
Dayton View Park	66	13.1 %
Fairview Park & Spray Park	30	6.0 %
Five Oaks Park & Spray Park	47	9.4 %
Gettysburg Park	18	3.6 %
Hickorydale Park	6	1.2 %
Highland Park	30	6.0 %
Highview Hills Park	7	1.4 %
Jane Newcome Park	24	4.8 %
Jane Reese Park	13	2.6 %
Mallory Park & Spray Park	19	3.8 %
Mary Avenue Park	4	0.8 %
McCabe Park	21	4.2 %
McKinley Park	31	6.2 %
Nordale Park	34	6.8 %
Oregon Park (Newcom Founders Park)	57	11.4 %
Pierce Steele Park	7	1.4 %
Residence Park	22	4.4 %
Ridgecrest Park	16	3.2 %

Q2. Please CHECK ALL recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton that you or your household members visited in the PAST YEAR.

Q2. All recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks your household visited in past year	Number	Percent
Sandalwood Park	11	2.2 %
Stuart Patterson Park & Spray Park	29	5.8 %
Triangle Park	196	39.0 %
Vietnam Memorial Park	50	10.0 %
Walnut Hills Park	63	12.5 %
Washington Park	22	4.4 %
Welcome Park (Virginia McNeal Park)	20	4.0 %
Western Hills Park	3	0.6 %
Westwood Park	20	4.0 %
Wogaman Park	12	2.4 %
WS McIntosh Park & Spray Park	33	6.6 %
Other	58	11.6 %
Total	2132	

Q3. How would you rate the condition of recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks closest to your home?

Q3. How would you rate the condition of recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks closest to your home	Number	Percent
Excellent	61	12.2 %
Good	221	44.0 %
Fair	154	30.7 %
Poor	42	8.4 %
Don’t Know	24	4.8 %
Total	502	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "DON’T KNOW")

Q3. How would you rate the condition of recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks closest to your home? (without "don't know")

Q3. How would you rate the condition of recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks closest to your home	Number	Percent
Excellent	61	12.8 %
Good	221	46.2 %
Fair	154	32.2 %
Poor	42	8.8 %
Total	478	100.0 %

Q4. Please CHECK ALL INDOOR recreation centers or amenities you or members of your household used in the PAST YEAR.

Q4. All indoor recreation centers or amenities your household used in past year	Number	Percent
Greater Dayton Recreation Center (Roosevelt Center or GDRC)	76	15.1 %
Lohrey Recreation Center	100	19.9 %
Northwest Recreation Center (Princeton Center)	75	14.9 %
The Salvation Army Dayton Kroc Center	81	16.1 %
Indoor gymnasiums	36	7.2 %
Indoor swimming pools	93	18.5 %
Indoor fitness centers	76	15.1 %
Computer labs	18	3.6 %
Multi-purpose room	22	4.4 %
None	215	42.8 %
Total	792	

(WITHOUT "NONE")

Q4. Please CHECK ALL INDOOR recreation centers or amenities you or members of your household used in the PAST YEAR. (without "none")

Q4. All indoor recreation centers or amenities your household used in past year	Number	Percent
Greater Dayton Recreation Center (Roosevelt Center or GDRC)	76	26.5 %
Lohrey Recreation Center	98	34.1 %
Northwest Recreation Center (Princeton Center)	75	26.1 %
The Salvation Army Dayton Kroc Center	81	28.2 %
Indoor gymnasiums	36	12.5 %
Indoor swimming pools	93	32.4 %
Indoor fitness centers	76	26.5 %
Computer labs	18	6.3 %
Multi-purpose room	22	7.7 %
Total	575	

Q5. Please CHECK ALL the activities you or household members enjoyed at recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton in the PAST YEAR.

Q5. All the activities your household members enjoyed at recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in past year	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball games, practices, tournaments	99	16.1 %
Basketball games or practices	64	10.4 %
Football games or practice	43	7.0 %
Pickleball	24	3.9 %
Soccer games or practices	50	8.1 %
Tennis play	39	6.4 %
Tennis summer camps	5	0.8 %
Volleyball	28	4.6 %
Aquacise/water aerobics or fitness/lap swim	75	12.2 %
Attending festivals, concerts/performances	254	41.4 %
Attending special events	168	27.4 %
Biking-hard surface	116	18.9 %
Biking-mountain biking	15	2.4 %
Bocce	2	0.3 %
Cooling/warming centers	15	2.4 %
Disc golf	52	8.5 %
Dog park	123	20.0 %
Enjoying nature	269	43.8 %
Fitness or exercise classes	102	16.6 %
Fitness rooms/fitness equipment	75	12.2 %
Gardening	48	7.8 %
Horseshoes	4	0.7 %
Meetings	54	8.8 %
Pick-up sports	18	2.9 %
Picnicking	118	19.2 %
Playing at spray parks	94	15.3 %
Playing on playgrounds	127	20.7 %
Renting rooms or space	37	6.0 %
Soccer/lacrosse leagues	12	2.0 %
Summer camp (urban adventures)	13	2.1 %
Swimming at pools	89	14.5 %
Swimming lessons	20	3.3 %
Walking/hiking/jogging	269	43.8 %
Watching movies	40	6.5 %
Other	23	3.7 %
None	88	14.3 %
Total	2672	

Q5. Please CHECK ALL the activities you or household members enjoyed at recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton in the PAST YEAR. (without "none")

Q5. All the activities your household members enjoyed at recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in past year	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball games, practices, tournaments	99	18.8 %
Basketball games or practices	64	12.2 %
Football games or practice	43	8.2 %
Pickleball	24	4.6 %
Soccer games or practices	50	9.5 %
Tennis play	39	7.4 %
Tennis summer camps	5	1.0 %
Volleyball	28	5.3 %
Aquacise/water aerobics or fitness/lap swim	75	14.3 %
Attending festivals, concerts/performances	254	48.3 %
Attending special events	168	31.9 %
Biking-hard surface	116	22.1 %
Biking-mountain biking	15	2.9 %
Bocce	2	0.4 %
Cooling/warming centers	15	2.9 %
Disc golf	52	9.9 %
Dog park	123	23.4 %
Enjoying nature	269	51.1 %
Fitness or exercise classes	102	19.4 %
Fitness rooms/fitness equipment	75	14.3 %
Gardening	48	9.1 %
Horseshoes	4	0.8 %
Meetings	54	10.3 %
Pick-up sports	18	3.4 %
Picnicking	118	22.4 %
Playing at spray parks	94	17.9 %
Playing on playgrounds	127	24.1 %
Renting rooms or space	37	7.0 %
Soccer/lacrosse leagues	12	2.3 %
Summer camp (urban adventures)	13	2.5 %
Swimming at pools	89	16.9 %
Swimming lessons	20	3.8 %
Walking/hiking/jogging	269	51.1 %
Watching movies	40	7.6 %
Other	23	4.4 %
Total	2584	

Q5-35. Other

Q5-35. Other	Number	Percent
Golf	3	13.0 %
Golf at Community Golf Course	1	4.3 %
Bird watching	1	4.3 %
Volleyball	1	4.3 %
LaCrosse	1	4.3 %
Drawing and painting	1	4.3 %
Watching the skateboarders, river surfers	1	4.3 %
Shuffleboard	1	4.3 %
Kickball, golf	1	4.3 %
Dog training & exercise	1	4.3 %
Easter Egg Hunt	1	4.3 %
Playing golf at Community, wishing Kitty Hawk Golf Course was still open	1	4.3 %
Fishing	1	4.3 %
Huffman Park	1	4.3 %
Walking along the walking path at Belmont Park	1	4.3 %
Events	1	4.3 %
Dog walking	1	4.3 %
Theater at Wegerzyn	1	4.3 %
Old North Dayton Cops Night out	1	4.3 %
Skate boarding	1	4.3 %
Need more fishing areas	1	4.3 %
Total	23	100.0 %

Q6. Please identify up to three activities from Question 5 for which you would like to find more opportunities to do in the future?

Q6. Top choice	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball games, practices, tournaments	16	2.6 %
Basketball games or practices	10	1.6 %
Football games or practice	2	0.3 %
Pickleball	34	5.5 %
Soccer games or practices	6	1.0 %
Tennis play	9	1.5 %
Tennis summer camps	2	0.3 %
Volleyball	8	1.3 %
Aquacise/water aerobics or fitness/lap swim	69	11.2 %
Attending festivals, concerts/performances	89	14.5 %
Attending special events	26	4.2 %
Biking-hard surface	18	2.9 %
Biking-mountain biking	2	0.3 %
Bocce	2	0.3 %
Cooling/warming centers	3	0.5 %
Disc golf	12	2.0 %
Dog park	21	3.4 %
Enjoying nature	39	6.4 %
Fitness or exercise classes	16	2.6 %
Fitness rooms/fitness equipment	12	2.0 %
Gardening	12	2.0 %
Pick-up sports	1	0.2 %
Picnicking	6	1.0 %
Playing at spray parks	5	0.8 %
Playing on playgrounds	9	1.5 %
Renting rooms or space	3	0.5 %
Summer camp (urban adventures)	2	0.3 %
Swimming at pools	20	3.3 %
Swimming lessons	8	1.3 %
Walking/hiking/jogging	32	5.2 %
Watching movies	4	0.7 %
None chosen	116	18.9 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q6. Please identify up to three activities from Question 5 for which you would like to find more opportunities to do in the future?

Q6. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball games, practices, tournaments	5	0.8 %
Basketball games or practices	8	1.3 %
Football games or practice	2	0.3 %
Pickleball	10	1.6 %
Soccer games or practices	5	0.8 %
Tennis play	4	0.7 %
Tennis summer camps	3	0.5 %
Volleyball	6	1.0 %
Aquacise/water aerobics or fitness/lap swim	30	4.9 %
Attending festivals, concerts/performances	75	12.2 %
Attending special events	45	7.3 %
Biking-hard surface	24	3.9 %
Biking-mountain biking	7	1.1 %
Bocce	6	1.0 %
Cooling/warming centers	3	0.5 %
Disc golf	4	0.7 %
Dog park	22	3.6 %
Enjoying nature	56	9.1 %
Fitness or exercise classes	21	3.4 %
Fitness rooms/fitness equipment	8	1.3 %
Gardening	11	1.8 %
Meetings	4	0.7 %
Picnicking	12	2.0 %
Playing at spray parks	6	1.0 %
Playing on playgrounds	8	1.3 %
Soccer/lacrosse leagues	5	0.8 %
Summer camp (urban adventures)	2	0.3 %
Swimming at pools	19	3.1 %
Swimming lessons	10	1.6 %
Walking/hiking/jogging	34	5.5 %
Watching movies	7	1.1 %
None chosen	152	24.8 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q6. Please identify up to three activities from Question 5 for which you would like to find more opportunities to do in the future?

Q6. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball games, practices, tournaments	6	1.0 %
Basketball games or practices	2	0.3 %
Football games or practice	5	0.8 %
Pickleball	5	0.8 %
Soccer games or practices	1	0.2 %
Tennis play	7	1.1 %
Tennis summer camps	2	0.3 %
Volleyball	7	1.1 %
Aquacise/water aerobics or fitness/lap swim	10	1.6 %
Attending festivals, concerts/performances	35	5.7 %
Attending special events	28	4.6 %
Biking-hard surface	15	2.4 %
Bocce	2	0.3 %
Cooling/warming centers	2	0.3 %
Disc golf	7	1.1 %
Dog park	15	2.4 %
Enjoying nature	39	6.4 %
Fitness or exercise classes	26	4.2 %
Fitness rooms/fitness equipment	11	1.8 %
Gardening	26	4.2 %
Horseshoes	2	0.3 %
Meetings	3	0.5 %
Pick-up sports	3	0.5 %
Picnicking	9	1.5 %
Playing at spray parks	18	2.9 %
Playing on playgrounds	15	2.4 %
Renting rooms or space	7	1.1 %
Soccer/lacrosse leagues	2	0.3 %
Summer camp (urban adventures)	2	0.3 %
Swimming at pools	18	2.9 %
Swimming lessons	5	0.8 %
Walking/hiking/jogging	56	9.1 %
Watching movies	10	1.6 %
Other	2	0.3 %
None chosen	211	34.4 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(SUM OF TOP 3)

Q6. Please identify up to three activities from Question 5 for which you would like to find more opportunities to do in the future? (top 3)

Q6. Top choice	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball games, practices, tournaments	27	4.4 %
Basketball games or practices	20	3.3 %
Football games or practice	9	1.5 %
Pickleball	49	8.0 %
Soccer games or practices	12	2.0 %
Tennis play	20	3.3 %
Tennis summer camps	7	1.1 %
Volleyball	21	3.4 %
Aquacise/water aerobics or fitness/lap swim	109	17.8 %
Attending festivals, concerts/performances	199	32.4 %
Attending special events	99	16.1 %
Biking-hard surface	57	9.3 %
Biking-mountain biking	9	1.5 %
Bocce	10	1.6 %
Cooling/warming centers	8	1.3 %
Disc golf	23	3.7 %
Dog park	58	9.4 %
Enjoying nature	134	21.8 %
Fitness or exercise classes	63	10.3 %
Fitness rooms/fitness equipment	31	5.0 %
Gardening	49	8.0 %
Horseshoes	2	0.3 %
Meetings	7	1.1 %
Pick-up sports	4	0.7 %
Picnicking	27	4.4 %
Playing at spray parks	29	4.7 %
Playing on playgrounds	32	5.2 %
Renting rooms or space	10	1.6 %
Soccer/lacrosse leagues	7	1.1 %
Summer camp (urban adventures)	6	1.0 %
Swimming at pools	57	9.3 %
Swimming lessons	23	3.7 %
Walking/hiking/jogging	122	19.9 %
Watching movies	21	3.4 %
Other	2	0.3 %
None chosen	116	18.9 %
Total	1479	

Q7. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the maintenance of Dayton recreation centers/swimming pools?

Q7. How satisfied are you with overall quality of maintenance of Dayton recreation centers/ swimming pools	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	52	8.5 %
Satisfied	153	24.9 %
Neutral	142	23.1 %
Dissatisfied	32	5.2 %
Very dissatisfied	11	1.8 %
Don't know	224	36.5 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")

Q7. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the maintenance of Dayton recreation centers/swimming pools? (without "don't know")

Q7. How satisfied are you with overall quality of maintenance of Dayton recreation centers/ swimming pools	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	52	13.3 %
Satisfied	153	39.2 %
Neutral	142	36.4 %
Dissatisfied	32	8.2 %
Very dissatisfied	11	2.8 %
Total	390	100.0 %

Q8. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of Dayton recreation programs and facilities?

Q8. How satisfied are you with overall quality of Dayton recreation programs & facilities	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	41	6.7 %
Satisfied	170	27.7 %
Neutral	177	28.8 %
Dissatisfied	38	6.2 %
Very dissatisfied	14	2.3 %
Don't know	174	28.3 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")

Q8. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of Dayton recreation programs and facilities? (without "don't know")

Q8. How satisfied are you with overall quality of Dayton recreation programs & facilities	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	41	9.3 %
Satisfied	170	38.6 %
Neutral	177	40.2 %
Dissatisfied	38	8.6 %
Very dissatisfied	14	3.2 %
Total	440	100.0 %

Q9. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of Dayton Recreation youth programs and activities?

Q9. How satisfied are you with overall quality of Dayton Recreation youth programs & activities	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	23	3.7 %
Satisfied	61	9.9 %
Neutral	123	20.0 %
Dissatisfied	56	9.1 %
Very dissatisfied	19	3.1 %
Don't know	332	54.1 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")

Q9. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of Dayton Recreation youth programs and activities? (without "don't know")

Q9. How satisfied are you with overall quality of Dayton Recreation youth programs & activities	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	23	8.2 %
Satisfied	61	21.6 %
Neutral	123	43.6 %
Dissatisfied	56	19.9 %
Very dissatisfied	19	6.7 %
Total	282	100.0 %

Q10. Please CHECK ALL of the City sponsored special events you or household members attended in the past year.

Q10. All the City sponsored special events your household attended in past year	Number	Percent
Independence Day Fireworks & Festival at Riverscape	343	55.9 %
Movies in the Park (Northwest/Dayton Recreation Centers)	39	6.4 %
Tailgate Olympics (Kettering Field)	6	1.0 %
Fall Harvest Festival (Kettering Field)	55	9.0 %
Summer Music Series (Jazz Festival, Blues Festival, Funk Festival, Reggae Festival)	256	41.7 %
Eichelberger Concert Series (Levitt Pavilion)	143	23.3 %
Santa In the Centers (Lohrey/Dayton)	16	2.6 %
Novice Pickleball Tournament	4	0.7 %
Five Rivers Metroparks Events	263	42.8 %
Novice Tennis Tournament	4	0.7 %
Jim Nichols Player Appreciation Day	2	0.3 %
None	172	28.0 %
Total	1303	

(WITHOUT "NONE")

Q10. Please CHECK ALL of the City sponsored special events you or household members attended in the past year. (without "none")

Q10. All the City sponsored special events your household attended in past year	Number	Percent
Independence Day Fireworks & Festival at Riverscape	339	76.7 %
Movies in the Park (Northwest/Dayton Recreation Centers)	39	8.8 %
Tailgate Olympics (Kettering Field)	6	1.4 %
Fall Harvest Festival (Kettering Field)	55	12.4 %
Summer Music Series (Jazz Festival, Blues Festival, Funk Festival, Reggae Festival)	256	57.9 %
Eichelberger Concert Series (Levitt Pavilion)	143	32.4 %
Santa In the Centers (Lohrey/Dayton)	16	3.6 %
Novice Pickleball Tournament	4	0.9 %
Five Rivers Metroparks Events	263	59.5 %
Novice Tennis Tournament	4	0.9 %
Jim Nichols Player Appreciation Day	2	0.5 %
Total	1127	

Q11. How would you rate the quality of the special events you attended?

Q11. How would you rate quality of special events you attended	Number	Percent
Excellent	121	19.7 %
Good	254	41.4 %
Fair	52	8.5 %
Poor	5	0.8 %
Did not attend	182	29.6 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "DID NOT ATTEND")

Q11. How would you rate the quality of the special events you attended? (without "did not attend")

Q11. How would you rate quality of special events you attended	Number	Percent
Excellent	121	28.0 %
Good	254	58.8 %
Fair	52	12.0 %
Poor	5	1.2 %
Total	432	100.0 %

Q12. Please indicate whether you or household members currently use each facility (or would like to use if available).

(N=614)

	Yes	No
Q12-1. Basketball courts (outdoor)	15.8%	84.2%
Q12-2. Community gardens	25.2%	74.8%
Q12-3. Recreation centers	35.3%	64.7%
Q12-4. Disc golf courses	12.2%	87.8%
Q12-5. Dog parks (off-leash)	22.8%	77.2%
Q12-6. Fields-baseball/softball diamonds	9.6%	90.4%
Q12-7. Fields-multipurpose (soccer/ lacrosse/football/etc.)	9.4%	90.6%
Q12-8. Fitness equipment/obstacle course (outdoor)	22.3%	77.7%
Q12-9. Gymnasium/court space (indoor)	10.1%	89.9%
Q12-10. Large community parks	36.5%	63.5%
Q12-11. Natural areas/nature parks	48.7%	51.3%
Q12-12. Performance stage (indoor)	13.8%	86.2%
Q12-13. Pickleball courts	8.5%	91.5%
Q12-14. Picnic shelters/picnic areas	36.2%	63.8%
Q12-15. Playgrounds	29.0%	71.0%
Q12-16. Pump tracks/bike parks	8.6%	91.4%
Q12-17. Skate parks	11.9%	88.1%
Q12-18. Small neighborhood parks	37.5%	62.5%
Q12-19. Spray parks	20.4%	79.6%
Q12-20. Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	26.2%	73.8%
Q12-21. Swimming pools (indoor)	25.7%	74.3%

Q12. Please indicate whether you or household members currently use each facility (or would like to use if available).

	Yes	No
Q12-22. Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	19.7%	80.3%
Q12-23. Tennis courts	9.1%	90.9%
Q12-24. Trails-mountain biking	7.7%	92.3%
Q12-25. Trails-multiuse	22.1%	77.9%
Q12-26. Trails-walking/hiking	47.1%	52.9%
Q12-27. Volleyball courts	7.2%	92.8%
Q12-28. Other	2.9%	97.1%

Q12. If "Yes," what type of investment you would like to see in Dayton?

(N=550)

	Revitalization/ upgrades to existing	New development	Both	No investment needed
Q12-1. Basketball courts (outdoor)	34.4%	16.7%	43.3%	5.6%
Q12-2. Community gardens	25.4%	25.4%	40.8%	8.5%
Q12-3. Recreation centers	44.9%	10.6%	37.4%	7.1%
Q12-4. Disc golf courses	29.0%	21.7%	39.1%	10.1%
Q12-5. Dog parks (off-leash)	24.0%	23.3%	45.0%	7.8%
Q12-6. Fields-baseball/softball diamonds	31.6%	17.5%	33.3%	17.5%
Q12-7. Fields-multipurpose (soccer/ lacrosse/football/etc.)	39.2%	15.7%	27.5%	17.6%
Q12-8. Fitness equipment/obstacle course (outdoor)	32.0%	27.0%	36.1%	4.9%
Q12-9. Gymnasium/court space (indoor)	37.0%	14.8%	29.6%	18.5%
Q12-10. Large community parks	40.3%	9.5%	43.3%	7.0%
Q12-11. Natural areas/nature parks	31.4%	15.7%	43.6%	9.3%
Q12-12. Performance stage (indoor)	29.5%	17.9%	33.3%	19.2%
Q12-13. Pickleball courts	8.7%	63.0%	26.1%	2.2%
Q12-14. Picnic shelters/picnic areas	41.3%	10.2%	42.2%	6.3%
Q12-15. Playgrounds	41.4%	8.6%	45.7%	4.3%
Q12-16. Pump tracks/bike parks	20.8%	37.5%	31.3%	10.4%
Q12-17. Skate parks	12.5%	35.9%	50.0%	1.6%
Q12-18. Small neighborhood parks	47.8%	8.1%	40.2%	3.8%
Q12-19. Spray parks	28.4%	20.7%	42.2%	8.6%
Q12-20. Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	31.7%	19.3%	29.0%	20.0%

Q12. If "Yes," what type of investment you would like to see in Dayton?

	Revitalization/ upgrades to existing	New development	Both	No investment needed
Q12-21. Swimming pools (indoor)	30.4%	23.9%	36.2%	9.4%
Q12-22. Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	19.8%	34.9%	38.7%	6.6%
Q12-23. Tennis courts	37.5%	14.6%	39.6%	8.3%
Q12-24. Trails-mountain biking	20.0%	32.5%	40.0%	7.5%
Q12-25. Trails-multiuse	20.2%	15.5%	51.9%	12.4%
Q12-26. Trails-walking/hiking	29.7%	15.0%	46.2%	9.0%
Q12-27. Volleyball courts	30.3%	15.2%	51.5%	3.0%
Q12-28. Other	29.4%	17.6%	41.2%	11.8%

Q12-28. Other:

Q12-28. Other	Number	Percent
Golf	3	16.7 %
Soccer	1	5.6 %
Community Golf Course	1	5.6 %
Chess tables or art areas	1	5.6 %
Obstacle course (like Glacier ridge in plain city)	1	5.6 %
Shuffleboard	1	5.6 %
Bring back Wegerson Gardens	1	5.6 %
Fishing	1	5.6 %
Fishing areas	1	5.6 %
Community Dojo	1	5.6 %
Bocce	1	5.6 %
Need more fishing areas	1	5.6 %
Gardening at Wegerzyn	1	5.6 %
Other	1	5.6 %
Classes on computers or classes to teach elders how to use their cell phones	1	5.6 %
Skating Rinks	1	5.6 %
Total	18	100.0 %

Q13. Which THREE facilities from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q13. Top choice	Number	Percent
Basketball courts (outdoor)	12	2.0 %
Community gardens	42	6.8 %
Recreation centers	59	9.6 %
Disc golf courses	13	2.1 %
Dog parks (off-leash)	39	6.4 %
Fields-baseball/softball diamonds	1	0.2 %
Fields-multipurpose (soccer/lacrosse/football/etc.)	4	0.7 %
Fitness equipment/obstacle course (outdoor)	17	2.8 %
Gymnasium/court space (indoor)	5	0.8 %
Large community parks	23	3.7 %
Natural areas/nature parks	74	12.1 %
Performance stage (indoor)	11	1.8 %
Pickleball courts	16	2.6 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	13	2.1 %
Playgrounds	25	4.1 %
Skate parks	5	0.8 %
Small neighborhood parks	27	4.4 %
Spray parks	5	0.8 %
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	21	3.4 %
Swimming pools (indoor)	23	3.7 %
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	16	2.6 %
Tennis courts	5	0.8 %
Trails-mountain biking	1	0.2 %
Trails-multiuse	17	2.8 %
Trails-walking/hiking	50	8.1 %
Volleyball courts	2	0.3 %
None chosen	88	14.3 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q13. Which THREE facilities from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q13. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Basketball courts (outdoor)	9	1.5 %
Community gardens	30	4.9 %
Recreation centers	32	5.2 %
Disc golf courses	9	1.5 %
Dog parks (off-leash)	20	3.3 %
Fields-baseball/softball diamonds	6	1.0 %
Fields-multipurpose (soccer/lacrosse/football/etc.)	2	0.3 %
Fitness equipment/obstacle course (outdoor)	15	2.4 %
Gymnasium/court space (indoor)	8	1.3 %
Large community parks	28	4.6 %
Natural areas/nature parks	73	11.9 %
Performance stage (indoor)	10	1.6 %
Pickleball courts	10	1.6 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	28	4.6 %
Playgrounds	32	5.2 %
Pump tracks/bike parks	2	0.3 %
Skate parks	7	1.1 %
Small neighborhood parks	37	6.0 %
Spray parks	11	1.8 %
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	23	3.7 %
Swimming pools (indoor)	16	2.6 %
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	10	1.6 %
Tennis courts	5	0.8 %
Trails-multiuse	16	2.6 %
Trails-walking/hiking	61	9.9 %
Volleyball courts	2	0.3 %
None chosen	112	18.2 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q13. Which THREE facilities from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q13. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Basketball courts (outdoor)	10	1.6 %
Community gardens	25	4.1 %
Recreation centers	28	4.6 %
Disc golf courses	8	1.3 %
Dog parks (off-leash)	18	2.9 %
Fields-baseball/softball diamonds	4	0.7 %
Fields-multipurpose (soccer/lacrosse/football/etc.)	4	0.7 %
Fitness equipment/obstacle course (outdoor)	12	2.0 %
Gymnasium/court space (indoor)	7	1.1 %
Large community parks	35	5.7 %
Natural areas/nature parks	38	6.2 %
Performance stage (indoor)	10	1.6 %
Pickleball courts	5	0.8 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	34	5.5 %
Playgrounds	29	4.7 %
Pump tracks/bike parks	4	0.7 %
Skate parks	5	0.8 %
Small neighborhood parks	39	6.4 %
Spray parks	17	2.8 %
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	11	1.8 %
Swimming pools (indoor)	16	2.6 %
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	12	2.0 %
Tennis courts	5	0.8 %
Trails-mountain biking	4	0.7 %
Trails-multiuse	20	3.3 %
Trails-walking/hiking	47	7.7 %
Volleyball courts	5	0.8 %
None chosen	162	26.4 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(SUM OF TOP 3)

Q13. Which THREE facilities from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 3)

Q13. Top choice	Number	Percent
Basketball courts (outdoor)	31	5.0 %
Community gardens	97	15.8 %
Recreation centers	119	19.4 %
Disc golf courses	30	4.9 %
Dog parks (off-leash)	77	12.5 %
Fields-baseball/softball diamonds	11	1.8 %
Fields-multipurpose (soccer/lacrosse/football/etc.)	10	1.6 %
Fitness equipment/obstacle course (outdoor)	44	7.2 %
Gymnasium/court space (indoor)	20	3.3 %
Large community parks	86	14.0 %
Natural areas/nature parks	185	30.1 %
Performance stage (indoor)	31	5.0 %
Pickleball courts	31	5.0 %
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	75	12.2 %
Playgrounds	86	14.0 %
Pump tracks/bike parks	6	1.0 %
Skate parks	17	2.8 %
Small neighborhood parks	103	16.8 %
Spray parks	33	5.4 %
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	55	9.0 %
Swimming pools (indoor)	55	9.0 %
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	38	6.2 %
Tennis courts	15	2.4 %
Trails-mountain biking	5	0.8 %
Trails-multiuse	53	8.6 %
Trails-walking/hiking	158	25.7 %
Volleyball courts	9	1.5 %
None chosen	88	14.3 %
Total	1568	

Q14. Please indicate whether you or household members currently participate in each program (or would like to participate in if available).

(N=614)

	Yes	No
Q14-1. Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	25.2%	74.8%
Q14-2. Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	15.6%	84.4%
Q14-3. Before & after school programs	12.9%	87.1%
Q14-4. Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	10.7%	89.3%
Q14-5. Concerts/art performances	48.2%	51.8%
Q14-6. Festivals	61.9%	38.1%
Q14-7. Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	38.1%	61.9%
Q14-8. Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	12.7%	87.3%
Q14-9. Martial arts programs	12.4%	87.6%
Q14-10. Movies (outdoor)	19.5%	80.5%
Q14-11. Nature programs	31.6%	68.4%
Q14-12. Pet exercise programs	13.7%	86.3%
Q14-13. Preschool programs	8.5%	91.5%
Q14-14. Programs for persons ages 50+	30.9%	69.1%
Q14-15. Special needs programs	12.1%	87.9%
Q14-16. Sports programs (adult)	11.7%	88.3%
Q14-17. Sports programs (youth)	10.3%	89.7%
Q14-18. Summer camp programs (youth)	12.9%	87.1%
Q14-19. Swim lessons	14.5%	85.5%
Q14-20. Teen programs	9.9%	90.1%
Q14-21. Water fitness programs	23.5%	76.5%
Q14-22. Other	1.6%	98.4%

Q14. If "Yes," what type of change would you like to see in Dayton?

(N=537)

	Additional capacity or times/days	More variety of program offerings	Both	No change needed
Q14-1. Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	12.1%	20.8%	55.7%	11.4%
Q14-2. Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	15.9%	17.0%	61.4%	5.7%
Q14-3. Before & after school programs	13.0%	17.4%	59.4%	10.1%
Q14-4. Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	19.0%	17.2%	50.0%	13.8%
Q14-5. Concerts/art performances	11.4%	28.1%	38.4%	22.1%
Q14-6. Festivals	14.5%	22.4%	43.7%	19.5%
Q14-7. Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	22.2%	22.2%	50.7%	4.8%
Q14-8. Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	11.8%	20.6%	60.3%	7.4%
Q14-9. Martial arts programs	21.0%	16.1%	56.5%	6.5%
Q14-10. Movies (outdoor)	18.5%	23.1%	49.1%	9.3%
Q14-11. Nature programs	14.4%	23.6%	51.1%	10.9%
Q14-12. Pet exercise programs	15.6%	20.8%	53.2%	10.4%
Q14-13. Preschool programs	26.7%	13.3%	55.6%	4.4%
Q14-14. Programs for persons ages 50+	13.3%	20.2%	62.4%	4.0%
Q14-15. Special needs programs	17.7%	22.6%	54.8%	4.8%
Q14-16. Sports programs (adult)	12.7%	27.0%	57.1%	3.2%
Q14-17. Sports programs (youth)	12.7%	23.6%	56.4%	7.3%
Q14-18. Summer camp programs (youth)	17.4%	23.2%	55.1%	4.3%
Q14-19. Swim lessons	28.4%	12.2%	55.4%	4.1%
Q14-20. Teen programs	10.7%	21.4%	64.3%	3.6%
Q14-21. Water fitness programs	28.2%	12.9%	54.0%	4.8%
Q14-22. Other	0.0%	12.5%	75.0%	12.5%

Q14-22. Other:

Q14-22. Other	Number	Percent
Pickleball	2	20.0 %
Conservative/religious based or collaborated training	1	10.0 %
Soccer	1	10.0 %
Golf at Community Golf Course	1	10.0 %
A good skate park	1	10.0 %
Ice rink	1	10.0 %
More fishing areas	1	10.0 %
Golf	1	10.0 %
NEED ROLLER SKATING RINKS IN WEST DAYTON	1	10.0 %
Total	10	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)	41	6.7 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	8	1.3 %
Before & after school programs	26	4.2 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	9	1.5 %
Concerts/art performances	77	12.5 %
Festivals	108	17.6 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	62	10.1 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	8	1.3 %
Martial arts programs	5	0.8 %
Movies (outdoor)	8	1.3 %
Nature programs	43	7.0 %
Pet exercise programs	8	1.3 %
Preschool programs	6	1.0 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	44	7.2 %
Special needs programs	9	1.5 %
Sports programs (adult)	6	1.0 %
Sports programs (youth)	8	1.3 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	8	1.3 %
Swim lessons	9	1.5 %
Teen programs	5	0.8 %
Water fitness programs	14	2.3 %
None chosen	102	16.6 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q15. Which THREE program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q15. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	17	2.8 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	16	2.6 %
Before & after school programs	7	1.1 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	7	1.1 %
Concerts/art performances	67	10.9 %
Festivals	83	13.5 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	49	8.0 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	13	2.1 %
Martial arts programs	16	2.6 %
Movies (outdoor)	15	2.4 %
Nature programs	41	6.7 %
Pet exercise programs	15	2.4 %
Preschool programs	10	1.6 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	42	6.8 %
Special needs programs	9	1.5 %
Sports programs (adult)	7	1.1 %
Sports programs (youth)	7	1.1 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	13	2.1 %
Swim lessons	11	1.8 %
Teen programs	8	1.3 %
Water fitness programs	22	3.6 %
None chosen	139	22.6 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q15. Which THREE program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q15. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	19	3.1 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	6	1.0 %
Before & after school programs	12	2.0 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	7	1.1 %
Concerts/art performances	42	6.8 %
Festivals	43	7.0 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	41	6.7 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	6	1.0 %
Martial arts programs	8	1.3 %
Movies (outdoor)	23	3.7 %
Nature programs	36	5.9 %
Pet exercise programs	14	2.3 %
Preschool programs	4	0.7 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	47	7.7 %
Special needs programs	6	1.0 %
Sports programs (adult)	14	2.3 %
Sports programs (youth)	6	1.0 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	9	1.5 %
Swim lessons	12	2.0 %
Teen programs	8	1.3 %
Water fitness programs	29	4.7 %
None chosen	222	36.2 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(SUM OF TOP 3)

Q15. Which THREE program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 3)

Q15. Top choice	Number	Percent
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	77	12.5 %
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	30	4.9 %
Before & after school programs	45	7.3 %
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	23	3.7 %
Concerts/art performances	186	30.3 %
Festivals	234	38.1 %
Fitness & wellness programs (adult)	152	24.8 %
Fitness & wellness programs (youth)	27	4.4 %
Martial arts programs	29	4.7 %
Movies (outdoor)	46	7.5 %
Nature programs	120	19.5 %
Pet exercise programs	37	6.0 %
Preschool programs	20	3.3 %
Programs for persons ages 50+	133	21.7 %
Special needs programs	24	3.9 %
Sports programs (adult)	27	4.4 %
Sports programs (youth)	21	3.4 %
Summer camp programs (youth)	30	4.9 %
Swim lessons	32	5.2 %
Teen programs	21	3.4 %
Water fitness programs	65	10.6 %
None chosen	102	16.6 %
Total	1481	

Q15a. For your MOST IMPORTANT program category (1st in Question 15), is there a specific program you would like to see offered or expanded?

Q15a. Is there a specific program you would like to see offered or expanded	Number	Percent
Yes	148	24.1 %
No	466	75.9 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q16. Please CHECK ALL reasons that keep you or members of your household from using offerings by Dayton's Department of Recreation more often.

Q16. All reasons that keep your household from using offerings by Dayton's Department of Recreation more often	Number	Percent
Availability of parking	94	15.3 %
Class/program full	48	7.8 %
Condition of facilities	126	20.5 %
Do not have time/not interested	80	13.0 %
Do not know what is offered	249	40.6 %
Facility unavailable	45	7.3 %
Program not offered	71	11.6 %
Fees are too high	74	12.1 %
Lack of transportation	36	5.9 %
Lack of shade	47	7.7 %
Lack or condition of restrooms	123	20.0 %
Location not convenient	95	15.5 %
Not interested	29	4.7 %
Personal disability	57	9.3 %
Poor customer service by staff	34	5.5 %
Scheduling conflicts/hours of operation	107	17.4 %
Security or safety concerns	143	23.3 %
Use other agencies' facilities	35	5.7 %
Other	33	5.4 %
None	64	10.4 %
Total	1590	

(WITHOUT "NONE")

Q16. Please CHECK ALL reasons that keep you or members of your household from using offerings by Dayton's Department of Recreation more often. (without "none")

Q16. All reasons that keep your household from using offerings by Dayton's Department of Recreation more often	Number	Percent
Availability of parking	94	17.1 %
Class/program full	48	8.7 %
Condition of facilities	126	22.9 %
Do not have time/not interested	80	14.5 %
Do not know what is offered	249	45.3 %
Facility unavailable	45	8.2 %
Program not offered	71	12.9 %
Fees are too high	74	13.5 %
Lack of transportation	36	6.5 %
Lack of shade	47	8.5 %
Lack or condition of restrooms	123	22.4 %
Location not convenient	95	17.3 %
Not interested	29	5.3 %
Personal disability	57	10.4 %
Poor customer service by staff	34	6.2 %
Scheduling conflicts/hours of operation	107	19.5 %
Security or safety concerns	143	26.0 %
Use other agencies' facilities	35	6.4 %
Other	33	6.0 %
Total	1526	

Q17. What would encourage you and your household to participate in more offerings by Dayton in recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks?

Q17. What would encourage your household to participate in more offerings by Dayton in recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks	Number	Percent
Addition of desired programs	207	33.7 %
Addition of shade features	98	16.0 %
Additional hours/days of operation	162	26.4 %
Additional/improved seating	74	12.1 %
Better marketing/promotion	186	30.3 %
Development of desired facilities	106	17.3 %
Improved accessibility	76	12.4 %
Improved customer service by staff	51	8.3 %
Improved maintenance	128	20.8 %
Improved security	174	28.3 %
Improvement of existing facilities	145	23.6 %
More convenient program locations	104	16.9 %
Transportation to programming	44	7.2 %
More parking	73	11.9 %
More/improved restrooms	136	22.1 %
New parks/facilities closer to home	109	17.8 %
Reduced fees	97	15.8 %
Other	15	2.4 %
None	84	13.7 %
Total	2069	

(WITHOUT "NONE")

Q17. What would encourage you and your household to participate in more offerings by Dayton in recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks? (without "none")

Q17. What would encourage your household to participate in more offerings by Dayton in recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks	Number	Percent
Addition of desired programs	207	39.1 %
Addition of shade features	98	18.5 %
Additional hours/days of operation	162	30.6 %
Additional/improved seating	74	14.0 %
Better marketing/promotion	186	35.1 %
Development of desired facilities	106	20.0 %
Improved accessibility	76	14.3 %
Improved customer service by staff	51	9.6 %
Improved maintenance	128	24.2 %
Improved security	174	32.8 %
Improvement of existing facilities	145	27.4 %
More convenient program locations	104	19.6 %
Transportation to programming	44	8.3 %
More parking	73	13.8 %
More/improved restrooms	136	25.7 %
New parks/facilities closer to home	109	20.6 %
Reduced fees	97	18.3 %
Other	15	2.8 %
Total	1985	

Q18. Please indicate how supportive you are of actions the City of Dayton could take to improve recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks.

(N=614)

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not supportive	Not sure
Q18-1. Ensure Dayton's recreation centers are assets to the community	61.2%	24.3%	1.6%	12.9%
Q18-2. Maintain Dayton's City-sponsored recreation programs & events	56.8%	24.9%	2.0%	16.3%
Q18-3. Invest in existing recreation facilities & deferred maintenance	55.7%	23.8%	2.8%	17.8%
Q18-4. Continue to replace aging playgrounds throughout City	63.8%	18.7%	2.6%	14.8%
Q18-5. Close some parks to focus on improving quality of those that remain	23.6%	25.2%	26.4%	24.8%
Q18-6. Add/improve support features (e.g., restrooms, seating, lighting, shade)	61.1%	22.3%	2.1%	14.5%
Q18-7. Protect City's natural areas & resources, including waterways, wetlands, & biodiversity	73.6%	11.4%	2.3%	12.7%
Q18-8. Expand bike & pedestrian trails & connectivity throughout City	56.2%	24.4%	4.1%	15.3%
Q18-9. Upgrade/add outdoor sport courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, pickleball)	42.5%	32.4%	4.6%	20.5%
Q18-10. Improve or expand access to sports fields	34.5%	34.9%	4.9%	25.7%
Q18-11. Other	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Q19. Which THREE actions from Question 18 are most important?

Q19. Top choice	Number	Percent
Ensure Dayton's recreation centers are assets to the community	131	21.3 %
Maintain Dayton's City-sponsored recreation programs & events	46	7.5 %
Invest in existing recreation facilities & deferred maintenance	57	9.3 %
Continue to replace aging playgrounds throughout City	63	10.3 %
Close some parks to focus on improving quality of those that remain	15	2.4 %
Add/improve support features (e.g., restrooms, seating, lighting, shade)	42	6.8 %
Protect City's natural areas & resources, including waterways, wetlands, & biodiversity	105	17.1 %
Expand bike & pedestrian trails & connectivity throughout City	32	5.2 %
Upgrade/add outdoor sport courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, pickleball)	16	2.6 %
Improve or expand access to sports fields	9	1.5 %
None chosen	98	16.0 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q19. Which THREE actions from Question 18 are most important?

Q19. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Ensure Dayton's recreation centers are assets to the community	47	7.7 %
Maintain Dayton's City-sponsored recreation programs & events	42	6.8 %
Invest in existing recreation facilities & deferred maintenance	63	10.3 %
Continue to replace aging playgrounds throughout City	74	12.1 %
Close some parks to focus on improving quality of those that remain	19	3.1 %
Add/improve support features (e.g., restrooms, seating, lighting, shade)	70	11.4 %
Protect City's natural areas & resources, including waterways, wetlands, & biodiversity	79	12.9 %
Expand bike & pedestrian trails & connectivity throughout City	56	9.1 %
Upgrade/add outdoor sport courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, pickleball)	24	3.9 %
Improve or expand access to sports fields	6	1.0 %
None chosen	134	21.8 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q19. Which THREE actions from Question 18 are most important?

Q19. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Ensure Dayton's recreation centers are assets to the community	42	6.8 %
Maintain Dayton's City-sponsored recreation programs & events	41	6.7 %
Invest in existing recreation facilities & deferred maintenance	52	8.5 %
Continue to replace aging playgrounds throughout City	58	9.4 %
Close some parks to focus on improving quality of those that remain	25	4.1 %
Add/improve support features (e.g., restrooms, seating, lighting, shade)	72	11.7 %
Protect City's natural areas & resources, including waterways, wetlands, & biodiversity	63	10.3 %
Expand bike & pedestrian trails & connectivity throughout City	45	7.3 %
Upgrade/add outdoor sport courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, pickleball)	22	3.6 %
Improve or expand access to sports fields	7	1.1 %
None chosen	187	30.5 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(SUM OF TOP 3)

Q19. Which THREE actions from Question 18 are most important? (top 3)

Q19. Top choice	Number	Percent
Ensure Dayton's recreation centers are assets to the community	220	35.8 %
Maintain Dayton's City-sponsored recreation programs & events	129	21.0 %
Invest in existing recreation facilities & deferred maintenance	172	28.0 %
Continue to replace aging playgrounds throughout City	195	31.8 %
Close some parks to focus on improving quality of those that remain	59	9.6 %
Add/improve support features (e.g., restrooms, seating, lighting, shade)	184	30.0 %
Protect City's natural areas & resources, including waterways, wetlands, & biodiversity	247	40.2 %
Expand bike & pedestrian trails & connectivity throughout City	133	21.7 %
Upgrade/add outdoor sport courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, pickleball)	62	10.1 %
Improve or expand access to sports fields	22	3.6 %
None chosen	98	16.0 %
Total	1521	

Q20. Please CHECK ALL the ways you learn about recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, programs, activities, or events.

Q20. All the ways you learn about recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, programs, activities, or events	Number	Percent
Churches	92	15.0 %
Dayton website	262	42.7 %
Email notifications	122	19.9 %
Newspaper	105	17.1 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	94	15.3 %
Recreation flyers/banners	167	27.2 %
Seasonal program guide	232	37.8 %
Radio/television	191	31.1 %
School communications	38	6.2 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	256	41.7 %
Visit or call a City office	26	4.2 %
Word of mouth	306	49.8 %
Youth sports organization	27	4.4 %
Other	16	2.6 %
Total	1934	

Q20-14. Other:

Q20-14. Other	Number	Percent
Mail	2	12.5 %
Hill View Neighborhood Association Newsletter	1	6.3 %
Sportcial	1	6.3 %
Mailed newsletters	1	6.3 %
Driving by	1	6.3 %
Library	1	6.3 %
Parks & Rec mailed booklet	1	6.3 %
Neighborhood Association	1	6.3 %
Exploring by car	1	6.3 %
Live next to a park	1	6.3 %
Walnut Hills Associations	1	6.3 %
Visiting the facility	1	6.3 %
Neighbors	1	6.3 %
Solar Garden	1	6.3 %
Items I have received via mail	1	6.3 %
Total	16	100.0 %

Q21. Which THREE ways listed in Question 20 do you prefer?

Q21. Top choice	Number	Percent
Churches	21	3.4 %
Dayton website	84	13.7 %
Email notifications	70	11.4 %
Newspaper	28	4.6 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	7	1.1 %
Recreation flyers/banners	30	4.9 %
Seasonal program guide	115	18.7 %
Radio/television	48	7.8 %
School communications	2	0.3 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	88	14.3 %
Word of mouth	24	3.9 %
Youth sports organization	1	0.2 %
None chosen	96	15.6 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q21. Which THREE ways listed in Question 20 do you prefer?

Q21. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Churches	6	1.0 %
Dayton website	58	9.4 %
Email notifications	54	8.8 %
Newspaper	17	2.8 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	17	2.8 %
Recreation flyers/banners	40	6.5 %
Seasonal program guide	87	14.2 %
Radio/television	65	10.6 %
School communications	11	1.8 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	86	14.0 %
Visit or call a City office	2	0.3 %
Word of mouth	18	2.9 %
Youth sports organization	5	0.8 %
None chosen	148	24.1 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q21. Which THREE ways listed in Question 20 do you prefer?

Q21. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Churches	7	1.1 %
Dayton website	45	7.3 %
Email notifications	29	4.7 %
Newspaper	10	1.6 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	13	2.1 %
Recreation flyers/banners	30	4.9 %
Seasonal program guide	54	8.8 %
Radio/television	52	8.5 %
School communications	7	1.1 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	69	11.2 %
Visit or call a City office	6	1.0 %
Word of mouth	42	6.8 %
Youth sports organization	3	0.5 %
None chosen	247	40.2 %
Total	614	100.0 %

Q21. Which THREE ways listed in Question 20 do you prefer? (top 3)

Q21. Top choice	Number	Percent
Churches	34	5.5 %
Dayton website	187	30.5 %
Email notifications	153	24.9 %
Newspaper	55	9.0 %
Park kiosk/bulletin board	37	6.0 %
Recreation flyers/banners	100	16.3 %
Seasonal program guide	256	41.7 %
Radio/television	165	26.9 %
School communications	20	3.3 %
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	243	39.6 %
Visit or call a City office	8	1.3 %
Word of mouth	84	13.7 %
Youth sports organization	9	1.5 %
None chosen	96	15.6 %
Total	1447	

Q22. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

	Mean	Sum
number	2.7	1620
Under 5 years	0.2	120
5-9 years	0.2	94
10-14 years	0.2	102
15-19 years	0.2	112
20-24 years	0.1	88
25-34 years	0.3	163
35-44 years	0.3	154
45-54 years	0.3	207
55-64 years	0.4	243
65-74 years	0.4	243
75+ years	0.2	94

Q23. Which of the following best describes your race?

Q23. Your race	Number	Percent
Asian or Asian Indian	10	1.6 %
Black or African American	234	38.1 %
American Indian or Alaska Native	8	1.3 %
White	323	52.6 %
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1	0.2 %
Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x	30	4.9 %
Other	10	1.6 %
Total	616	

Q23-7. Self-describe your race:

Q23-7. Self-describe your race	Number	Percent
Multi-race	3	33.3 %
Italian	1	11.1 %
Berber/Tunisian	1	11.1 %
Middle Eastern	1	11.1 %
Croatian	1	11.1 %
German Irish	1	11.1 %
Mixed	1	11.1 %
Total	9	100.0 %

Q24. What is your annual household income?

Q24. What is your annual household income	Number	Percent
Less than $25K	120	19.5 %
$25K to $49,999	127	20.7 %
$50K to $74,999	73	11.9 %
$75K to $99,999	84	13.7 %
$100K+	63	10.3 %
Choose not to respond	147	23.9 %
Total	614	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "CHOOSE NOT TO RESPOND")
Q24. What is your annual household income? (without "choose not to respond")

Q24. What is your annual household income	Number	Percent
Less than $25K	120	25.7 %
$25K to $49,999	127	27.2 %
$50K to $74,999	73	15.6 %
$75K to $99,999	84	18.0 %
$100K+	63	13.5 %
Total	467	100.0 %

5 Open-Ended Questions

Open-Ended Questions Responses

Q2—"Other": Please CHECK ALL recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton that you or your household members visited in the PAST YEAR.

- A Park with trails and picnic tables by a lake where boats can be launched in Eastern part of Greater Dayton. Name forgotten.
- Carillon Historical Park
- Carillon Park, Wegerzyn Gardens Park, Aullwood Gardens, numerous times we went to EVERY one of the parks around Community Golf Course and the Patterson Monument.
- Carrillon Historical Park, rivers edge metro park. Our local bikeways.
- Carrilon Park & Sugarcreek Metro parks
- Cloud park. Carrage hill. YMCA
- Cox arboretum
- Deeds Point, DPDP
- DeWeese Pkwy
- Downtown at Riverscape and Island Park
- Eastwood lake and Eastwood park
- Eastwood Lake and Park, Taylorsville Park and Dam, Charleston Falls Preserve
- Eastwood metro park
- Eastwood Park
- Eastwood Park
- Eastwood Park
- Eastwood Park
- Eastwood park, and Eastwood lake (for many sunsets) riverscape
- Eastwood/Huffman
- Five Rivers Metro Parks: Island metro park and Eastwood metro park (both off Harshmann and Springfield st)
- Hill and Dale, Island Metro park, wegerzyn gardens
- Hills & Dales
- Hills and Dales park.
- huffman
- Hydrobowl
- I hit the one with the splash pad near Hillcrest & the one that is new, couple blocks from Neff Rd. I'm so sorry I don't know names.
- Indian ripple park behind the KMS school
- Island Metro park
- Island Park
- Island Park
- Island Park
- Island Park
- Island Park
- Island Park
- Island Triangle Parks, River Scape

- Island, Eastwood, Riverscape
- Judge Arthur Fisher Park
- Keyers cape Metro park
- Madison, carriage hill
- River Scape downtown and connecting bike trails
- River Scape Metro Park
- Riverscape
- Riverscape
- Riverscape
- Running the river, fishing,
- Shellabarger park
- Steele Park
- The Carrillon
- The metro parks
- Thomas Cloud and Art Van Atta
- Trotwood park
- various Metro Parks
- Walkway across street from Wegerzyn area.
- Wegerzyn
- Wegerzyn
- Wegerzyn and DeWeese
- Wegerzyn Gardens
- Wegerzyn Metro park, Second Street Market, Riverscape.
- Wegerzyn, down along the river, number of parks in Miamisburg
- Wegerzyn, Riverscape, Island Park

Q15a—"Yes, please specify": For your MOST IMPORTANT program activity, is there a specific program you would like to see offered or expanded?"

- "pickin" in the park at Riverscape
- A Community Dojo for Martial Arts/Meditation practice and training, safe from outside heckling and within walking distance of Eastern Hills Neighborhood and free and open to Public participation;
- a mature adult presence- just to be seen and provide guidance
- Adult fitness
- After school educational program for teens and pre teens
- all kids should learn how to swim
- all, and outdoor activities for young people
- Anything that a special needs child or adult can get in and do
- Aquatic Animals of the Miami River
- Art, dance, preforming arts
- art, dance, singing
- Art, performing arts
- Arts programming for age 50 plus
- Bee keeping and raising chickens in urban areas
- Before and after school care for young children (preschool and younger). We are downtown residents and travel to Beavercreek for childcare. We would like to enroll our 3.5 year old in preschool at the River's Edge Montessori School next year. The number one challenge is finding local after school care.
- Big Band concerts at Riverscape and bring back City folk if possible.
- Camping Trips
- canine pet education, awareness programs
- city pickleball league
- Classes at the centers
- Community art projects, classes with local artists,
- Concerts
- Concerts
- Concerts/art performances
- Conservative/Religious based or collaborated training and support centers/systems. I am willing to assist in the collaboration and formation of this. MarkCoxPhd@gmail.com
- Cooking classes for adults and teens, book club discussions for adults and teens, even canning classes which would encompass ol, young, and fitness.
- CPR classes
- Days/times for senior swims & excise year round.
- "Dayton is lacking in club swim and summer swim competitions, particularly on the west side.
- You have a great bike route system but it needs to connect all the parks and civic centers. Additionally, the average rider should feel safe on the routes, whether they are 7 or 70."
- Disc golf or archery
- dog socializing led by certified trainers

- Exercise for adults
- festivals
- Festivities bringing people to downtown
- Fishing lakes stocked.
- Fitness
- Fitness
- Fitness & wellness programs for adults
- Fitness/walking/arts
- focus on sustainable and natural habitat landscaping gardening
- Food trucks at Levitt concerts, more and scattered seating at events near food vendors.
- Fraze Pavilion more seating/concerts.
- Free swimming classes
- Generating an interest in shuffleboard and getting a league going
- guided nature hikes
- health and wellness
- I miss evening Aquacise/water aerobics at the Lohrey center
- I would love a foraging/plant identification program
- Importance of reducing and reusing and recycling
- Indoor fitness track
- Indoor swimming
- Larger swimming pool for adults to use
- Learn a foreign language/get to know your neighbor/community coffee hour
- local performing artists
- maintenance on exercise equipment.
- Martial arts
- Martial arts
- mental health
- Mommy and me classes. Music. Art. Homeschool gym. Anything for younger kids inside at the rec centers.
- More activities in East Dayton, Burkhardt Wright view areas
- More art programs like Riverbend Arts Center provided before the City closed it. Dayton residents that used Riverbend have to go to Kettering for quality community art classes. I would love to see an art center again, but understand it is probably cost prohibitive.
- more bike/skate parks
- more courses
- More dance/with intercultural offerings.
- More disc golf courses.
- More dog parks with the city wanting to help instead of saying there is no $$$ in the budget. [redacted] 1 was the water fountains spray out of the dog bowls so dogs will not use it. He got upset and acted as if it didn't matter then tells me I am using a fake name.

- More Festivals with Riverscape or with the or in each neighborhood
- More festivals in Down town Dayton
- More for youth to do in our recreation centers!! Why do they get kicked out at 5pm! They only get an hour after school!! More pool hours!
- More free concerts
- More new music people coming to our town and let it last until 11.00 Pm
- More offerings in more places. Everything always concentrated near north/west Dayton or downtown. Need more things around south/southeast area of Dayton
- More open swims a new outside swimming pool
- More outdoor pools to swim in on the east Dayton side and for the Lohrey center to have warmer pool temperatures as it's always freezing year round. Also, more open swim time slots for Lohrey.
- More pickleball
- More programs for our youth and elderly
- More resources for speech development for kids.
- More Riverscape events with shuttles to and from cheap, secure parking.
- More walking trails.
- More water Zumba or evenings water exercise for adults (maybe a deep water exercise class)
- Music programs and/or a community band.
- Neighborhood conservation teams doing cleanups while learning about the flora and fauna on their streets/alleys/empty lots/open spaces
- Neighborhood festivals
- Neighborhood parks in Dayton should be expanded and maintained regularly. Also neighborhood garden centers where empty lots are used.
- Other than the metro parks which aren't city of Dayton, I don't see any natural areas. Community gardens, parks, and open spaces could help in the urban centers but it would be nice to have other natural areas. We walk along the river every day and some trees would be nice to offer shade, create the sense of nature, a d help the environment.
- Outdoor fitness
- Outdoor fitness and wellness
- Outside activities
- Park leaders at community out door parks after school and on weekends with lunches provided
- Pétanque Courts
- Pickleball and Yoga at Lohrey
- Pickleball at Lohrey. It would be cool if you could design an outdoor pool that when empty, was part of a skateboard park. SO much space at Lohrey. Easily show outdoor movies. Kite flying tournaments. Croquet!
- Pickleball indoor & outdoor- open play evenings & weekend hours, leagues
- Pilates!
- Police & Kids together
- Preschool and youth activities
- Programs for children and teens
- Programs for kids to keep them busy

- programs for older people
- Programs for people 50+
- Programs for people 50+
- Programs For persons over 50 that their family's & Grand children can enjoy as well.
- Programs for Retired Seniors To Participate In Such as Bingo Lunches And Other Activities
- programs other than softball
- Proper nutrition & exercise- getting outdoors. Less violent video games and Facebook
- Resurfacing the Pickleball courts at Nichols
- Return of Riverbend Arts Center in or near its original space. It was convenient and I learned new skills.
- ROLLER SKATING RINK IN WEST DAYTON.
- Skateboarding
- Soccer
- Soccer
- soccer fields
- Soccer programs year round and multiple times.
- Some types of programs for 50 + that wouldn't be expensive
- space for local theater groups
- Special needs programs
- Sports programs for adults
- Summer camp for youth
- Summer youth programs.
- Swim lessons for youth.
- Swim lessons....advertise them if they are offered. All these questions- I don't know where to FIND these programs. Dayton does stuff? I thought the democrats running this city didn't care.
- Swimming
- Swimming lessons at different pools. More nature trails.
- Swimming pools and sports in Old North Dayton
- Swim exercise in afternoon
- Tai Chi for seniors offered at more locations.
- Taste of Dayton
- Teen programs
- teen summer camps
- Teens need something to do and need to be safe
- There should be an expansion on youth and teen activities. Our youth in the city of Dayton are not engaging in any activities outside of school which leads to more violence within the community. Include their parents too.
- Trails for bike and walking and safety. Festivals and movies are great too.
- Trips for youth and seniors. Sewing classes Mentoring in communities for our young mother's to establish housing parenting skills. I realize these are already established but we need more personal contact.
- TRIPS, DANCES, SPORTS
- Tutoring, Mentoring, Chair yoga

- walking spaces in neighborhood
- Warmer pools or therapy pools or hot tubs
- water aerobics
- Water aerobics adult
- Watercolor painting lessons
- we need this badly
- We need to have more times for swimming. Senior citizen days are only Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We would really love it if the Lowry Center to include the swimming pool (located by Immaculate Conception Church) was open on Saturday and Sunday.
- Wellness for youth and teens
- Working out and biking
- Working with Dayton's many theater companies to make drama, dance, music experiences available to all income levels, ages, and community centers.
- would like to see more theatre/arts
- Yoga and tai chi
- You should purchase/support the Dayton Playhouse again. The fact that Wegerzyn will no longer have facilities there is very sad and a huge missed opportunity for the community!!

Q16-7—"Which program is needed?"

- A Community Dojo for Martial Arts/Meditation practice and training, safe from outside heckling and within walking distance of Eastern Hills Neighborhood and free and open to Public participation;
- Adult 50+ Programs
- Adult water aerobics
- Any programs in my area- nothing is now offered. The parks now have nothing to offer
- Arts and crafts for adults like the ones that were at Riverbend Arts years ago. Rosewood arts in Kettering is too far away. Riverbend was perfect. Plus weaving classes and calligraphy were offered at Riverbend.
- Beekeeping and raising chickens in urban home areas
- Concerts that offer more music than blues, jazz & rap.
- Conservative/Religious based or collaborated training and support centers/systems
- Deep water exercise class for adults
- Education! Education in all things. Animals, environment and physical health.
- More activities in East Dayton
- More advanced water exercise classes, Strength training classes, Spin class in the water
- More exercise classes. And an easier way to find out what is offered and where and when. I struggle to find that info clearly communicated online.
- More outreach and make known availability of low cost or no cost programs for older adults (40+)
- More reasons to go downtown
- More senior citizens friendly programs
- More teen programming to keep off the streets and doing something positive!
- Pickleball

- Pottery martial arts jewelry soccer
- Pottery, jewelry, gardening, cooking, crafts classes. Woodworking, writing classes
- Preschool, seniors, youth and nature programs. Most things are catered to basketball and fitness.
- Quality adult exercise classes
- Rec centers are not convenient or close. Centers are not well-maintained. Indoor pool at Dabney still not functioning.
- regular yoga and pickleball
- ROLLER SKATING RINK IN WEST DAYTON...
- Safety program for older Adults and pre teens
- Senior socialization and wellness
- Silver Sneakers
- singing lessons
- Special needs like, learn and play.
- Summer youth programs.
- triathlons/races
- U need something for special, Needs to be able to do Year around.

Q16—"Use other agencies' facilities – Why?"

- Availability of programs and open gym time
- Availability, cleanliness, safety and communication skills
- better availability or better condition
- better location, parking, and personal. I can find the schedule of events and it is easy to sign up. the place is clean and you don't feel dirty walking in
- Better quality playgrounds; in some cases these other parks are closer to our house than CoD parks; most of our kids playmates live in the suburbs closer to these other parks
- cleaner and overall much better shape
- Closer to my home
- Closer, safety, varied interests
- familiar with the APAFB community
- feel more safe there
- I use Five River Metroparks mostly because I'm more aware of what they offer and they have trails that I enjoy.
- I would like to city to build a better relationship with the YMCA. The dog park is great. There is not many opportunities on northern part of city . Recreation Center would be great near nedimore area maybe team up YMCA. My son plays lacrosse there are not many tournaments in the Dayton area. If you could have a few more fields at Kettering you could bring many teams from Cincinnati and Columbus.
- Kettering
- Kettering facilities offer a lot more
- Member @ YMCA
- metro parks safe/professional/known
- Metro Parks when in their area

- Metro Parks-clean and maintain bathrooms. Need more patrolling.
- Metro Parks-variety and excellent maintenance of trails & facilities
- Program offerings
- Safety-when there are multiple cars parked on the grass in the middle of the park, with broken glass around and adults (but not children) loitering together, it does not feel like a welcoming and safe community park. When the playground slides have holes or have broken pieces strewn about, it doesn't feel like an appropriate place to play.
- Scheduling conflict or prefer what activity or performance they might be offering more.
- Swimming lessons and quality
- The South Dayton Y was open more during the Pandemic. I went there for AOA(Active Older Adults) class (like Silver Sneakers) and I still go there for Deep Water exercise classes
- Time and locality
- YMCA
- YMCA is closer for recreation and in other cases I just didn't know these spaces existed. Small parks are also typically used by people in those neighborhoods. I live in Wright Dunbar so I tend to spend time walking there or a long the river.
- YMCA South- free & more equipment

Q16—"Other": Barriers to using offerings from Dayton's Department of Recreation

- caretaker
- Clientele
- Cold water in pools. Not open enough days (pool)
- cookouts/trash from people who don't live in the neighborhood
- Facilities closed
- General societal unrest
- I live a bust active life
- Lazy
- lighting on courts
- Moved away from Ohio and Dayton because of the taxes.
- need evening and weekend hrs. and programs
- physical condition
- Proximity/walkability
- Roads at some metro parks are in major disrepair. Specifically, Wegerzen Gardens. The roads have not been completely paved in four or more years. The only time the major potholes are patched is right before Mudfest.
- There should be buses with sliding fees to take folk without transportation too and from facilities. Many of our seniors have mobility issues and cannot walk two, three blocks to facilities. The Roosevelt facility is so small and the staff is so nonprofessional.
- Things are being taken over by the younger generation, and people in their 50s and up don't feel safe, don't want to be around the activities that take place for example people smoking weed. For myself that's a huge problem
- too far away
- too much violence in Dayton. No respect anymore. fear all the time, not just at night

- We would use the Lowry Recreation Center more often but swimming pool days for senior citizens are limited. Please consider having the Lowry Recreation Center be open on weekends.
- weather
- Wheelchair access
- While I'm not actually listed as disabled, it is hard for me to walk around a lot.
- Work too late.

Q17—"Other": What would encourage you and your household to participate in more offerings by Dayton in recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks?

- all of the above plus proper security and helpful & respectful staff
- Better organization with sports
- Better quality of people at the centers
- Concerts especially country
- fewer people
- I mentioned earlier but warmer pool temps at Lohrey and perhaps even a hot tub for adults.
- no fence up at Levitt- its degrading
- no indoor facility at Washington Park or Eastwood Park. no playground equipment
- not to have to go online to sign up
- Reopen KittyHawk golf course
- ROLLER SKATING RINK IN WEST DAYTON STRONG FOR OUR CHILDREN AS ND ADULTS...
- Safe access by bicycle
- Security. Police presence at times
- security/safety (no shootings or fights)
- trash

Q18—"Other": Please indicate how supportive you are of actions the City of Dayton could take to improve recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks.

- add and improve off leash dog parks
- Add bingo and art classes.
- Add disc golf course to parks that do not have them. And improve current disc golf courses
- Advertising available programs
- All members of the community, regardless of their age, should be able to access facilities by walking or bicycling. Even with the wonderful bike routes, it is often nerve racking to be on or near a road. I still do it, but as my balance degrades, I am less sure of myself riding on the streets. Please pay more attention to manually powered transportation and less to motorists. The motorists have all the advantages now and personally powered transportation has gotten the short shift.
- Be out in front of trends like lacrosse and pickle ball. The downtown investment needs improved with the housing downtown. Metro Parks job making town a great place to live . The city needs a state art facilities with YMCA to continue that investment. Kettering fields would be great place to build it. Tournaments would drive economic impact. It would also drive housing north of the river.
- CLEAN PARKS EVERY DAY

- connection for bikes more bike lanes and bike safety, more nature areas / woods
- Customer service training.
- Dayton should have a skate park, not just places cobbled together by kids.
- expand kayak facilities
- General maintenance and sustainment.
- in lighted areas
- More disc golf courses
- more dog parks
- more golf courses
- More lighting and security presence
- open Madden or Kitty Hawk golf course
- Other is what I don't see that the city of Dayton needs right now, but I am sure something different will make things better for the city of Dayton, Ohio.
- parking n the lot & not on the street. Trash clean up from cookouts (people who don't live here)
- Reopen closed Golf Courses at Madden + KittyHawk!
- Re-open Kitty Hawk Golf course and Madden
- Safety
- security
- Shuffleboard
- Skate Park! Please build a nice safe place for everyone to skate! A concrete skate park with obstacles for every skill level. A nice full pipe with a big bowl with a clam shell. A nice snake run with small to deep bowls. Hand rails and stair obstacles, ledges and rails. A place where it's shaded during the day, and well lit at night. Ex. Skate park of Huston or Louisville.
- State of the art programs which attract youth and family activities
- tennis courts/ West Side terrible
- The outdoor restrooms and water fountains need to be available to park users at Belmont Park. A new restroom was built about 2 1/2 years ago but is only open when someone pays to use the shelter. The Lohrey has limited hours. There are no porta potties unless the soccer players pay for one during their tournaments. People do @ use" the trees, bushes and areas around the outside of the Lohrey center. If there are worries about vandalism maybe cameras could be installed in the outside if the facilities with time stamps.
- The parks are OK but maintaining them is terrible...Stuart Patterson park is terrible...grass cut every other month or 1 week before Cops Night Out when the Mayor comes...baseball fields are non existent because they are not properly maintained...grass not only not cut...but not trimmed...poorly location of trashcans...no recycle cans...trash not picked up...no COD sponsored activities for children...when I grew up I attended Sandlewood park daily in the summer and 2 staff were always there...give the kids planned activities at every park...not just the 3
- Warm pools dance classes for seniors
- Whatever the city has to do to keep our parks and rec dept improving and accessible for everyone!

6 Survey Instrument

DAYTON

Office of the City Manager | City Hall

A Few Minutes of Your Time Will Help Make Dayton a Better Place to Live, Work and Play!

Dear Dayton Resident:

This year the City of Dayton is undertaking a comprehensive study of its **recreation facilities, recreation programs, and parks** that will result in a Recreation Strategic Master Plan and a Parks and Open Space Study. We will be looking at our current offerings 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 this survey. 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 our community's recreation and park 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. Once received, the results will be presented to the 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 prefer to take the survey online, the address to do so is DaytonParksSurvey.org.

For more information, please feel free to contact Robin L. Williams, Recreation Director, at Rec@daytonohio.gov. Thank you in advance for your support of the City of Dayton's Department of Recreation and Department of Public Works, Parks Division.

Sincerely,

Shelley Dickstein

Shelley Dickstein,
City Manager
City of Dayton

2023 Dayton Parks Community Survey

The City of Dayton needs your help to determine the future for our recreation services and the parks located throughout the city. This survey is part of Dayton's Department of Recreation's Strategic Master Plan. We would also like to gather information about the city's parks. This survey should take about 10 minutes. Please return it in the enclosed pre-paid envelope or online at DaytonParksSurvey.org. *At the end of the survey, to say thank you for your time and feedback, you can enter to win a $500 Visa gift card for completing the survey.* Thank you for your input, and we appreciate your time!

1. How often have you or members of your household visited recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities or parks in the City of Dayton over the PAST YEAR? *[See Question 2 for a list of city recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities and parks.]*

____(1) 1 to 5 visits
____(2) 6 to 10 visits
____(3) 11 to 19 visits
____(4) 20 or more visits
____(5) Did not visit *[Skip to Q3.]*

2. Please CHECK ALL recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton that you or your household members visited in the PAST YEAR.

Recreation Facilities
____(01) Lohrey Recreation Center
____(02) Belmont Swimming Pool
____(03) Belmont Park
____(04) Northwest Recreation Center (AKA Princeton Recreation Center)
____(05) Dabney Swimming Pool (AKA Princeton Swimming Pool)
____(06) Princeton Park
____(07) Greater Dayton Recreation Center (AKA Roosevelt or GDRC)
____(08) Jim Nichols Tennis Center
____(09) Kettering Field Softball/ Baseball Complex
____(10) Centennial (Turf) Football Field
____(11) Community golf course
____(12) Howell Field

Parks
____(13) Arlington Hills Park
____(14) Blommel Park
____(15) Bomberger Park
____(16) Borgerdine Park
____(17) Burkham Park
____(18) Burkhardt Park
____(19) Burns-Jackson Park
____(20) Claridge Park
____(21) Cleveland Park
____(22) College Hill Park
____(23) Cooper Park
____(24) Dave Hall Plaza (Levitt Pavilion)
____(25) Dayton View Park
____(26) Fairview Park & Spray Park
____(27) Five Oaks Park & Spray Park
____(28) Gettysburg Park
____(29) Gillispie Park
____(30) Hickorydale Park
____(31) Highland Park
____(32) Highview Hills Park
____(33) Jane Newcome Park
____(34) Jane Reese Park
____(35) Mallory Park & Spray Park
____(36) Mary Avenue Park
____(37) McCabe Park
____(38) McKinley Park
____(39) Nordale Park
____(40) Oregon Park (Newcom Founders Park)
____(41) Pierce Steele Park
____(42) Residence Park
____(43) Ridgecrest Park
____(44) Sandalwood Park
____(45) Stuart Patterson Park & Spray Park
____(46) Triangle Park
____(47) Vietnam Memorial Park
____(48) Walnut Hills Park
____(49) Washington Park
____(50) Welcome Park (Virginia McNeal Park)
____(51) Western Hills Park
____(52) Westwood Park
____(53) Wogaman Park
____(54) WS McIntosh Park & Spray Park
____(55) Other: _____

3. How would you rate the condition of recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks closest to your home?

____(4) Excellent ____(3) Good ____(2) Fair ____(1) Poor ____(9) Don't Know

4. Please CHECK ALL INDOOR recreation centers or amenities you or members of your household used in the PAST YEAR.

____(01) Greater Dayton Recreation Center (Roosevelt Center or GDRC)
____(02) Lohrey Recreation Center
____(03) Northwest Recreation Center (Princeton Center)
____(04) The Salvation Army Dayton Kroc Center
____(05) Indoor gymnasiums
____(06) Indoor swimming pools
____(07) Indoor fitness centers
____(08) Computer labs
____(09) Multipurpose room
____(10) None

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5. Please CHECK ALL the activities you or household members enjoyed at recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks in Dayton in the PAST YEAR.

____(01) Baseball/softball games, practices, tournaments
____(02) Basketball games or practices
____(03) Football games or practice
____(04) Pickleball
____(05) Soccer games or practices
____(06) Tennis play
____(07) Tennis summer camps
____(08) Volleyball
____(09) Aquacise/water aerobics or fitness/lap swim
____(10) Attending festivals, concerts/performances
____(11) Attending special events
____(12) Biking - hard surface
____(13) Biking - mountain biking
____(14) Bocce
____(15) Cooling/warming centers
____(16) Disc golf
____(17) Dog park
____(18) Enjoying nature
____(19) Fitness or exercise classes
____(20) Fitness rooms/fitness equipment
____(21) Gardening
____(22) Horseshoes
____(23) Meetings
____(24) Pick-up sports
____(25) Picnicking
____(26) Playing at spray parks
____(27) Playing on playgrounds
____(28) Renting rooms or space
____(29) Soccer/lacrosse leagues
____(30) Summer camp (urban adventures)
____(31) Swimming at pools
____(32) Swimming lessons
____(33) Walking/hiking/jogging
____(34) Watching movies
____(35) Other: _____
____(36) None

6. Please identify up to three activities from Question 5 for which you would like to find more opportunities to do in the future? *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 5, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ NONE

7. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the maintenance of Dayton recreation centers/swimming pools?

____(5) Very Satisfied ____(3) Neutral ____(1) Very Dissatisfied
____(4) Satisfied ____(2) Dissatisfied ____(9) Don't Know

8. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of Dayton recreation programs and facilities?

____(5) Very Satisfied ____(3) Neutral ____(1) Very Dissatisfied
____(4) Satisfied ____(2) Dissatisfied ____(9) Don't Know

9. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of Dayton Recreation youth programs and activities?

____(5) Very Satisfied ____(3) Neutral ____(1) Very Dissatisfied
____(4) Satisfied ____(2) Dissatisfied ____(9) Don't Know

10. Please CHECK ALL of the city sponsored special events you or household members attended in the past year.

____(01) Independence Day Fireworks & Festival at Riverscape
____(02) Movies in the Park (Northwest/Dayton Recreation Centers)
____(03) Tailgate Olympics (Kettering Field)
____(04) Fall Harvest Festival (Kettering Field)
____(05) Summer Music Series (Jazz Festival, Blues Festival, Funk Festival, Reggae Festival)
____(06) Eichelberger Concert Series (Levitt Pavilion)
____(07) Santa In the Centers (Lohrey/Dayton)
____(08) Novice Pickleball Tournament
____(09) Five Rivers Metroparks Events
____(10) Novice Tennis Tournament
____(11) Jim Nichols Player Appreciation Day
____(12) None

11. How would you rate the quality the special events you attended?

____(4) Excellent ____(3) Good ____(2) Fair ____(1) Poor ____(9) Did not attend

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12. Please indicate whether you or household members currently use each facility (or would like to use if available). Next, please identify what type of investment you would like to see in Dayton (circle one type per facility).

	Type of Facility	Do you use or want to use this facility?		If "Yes," what type of investment you would like to see in Dayton? (Circle only one per facility type.)			
				Revitalization/ upgrades to existing	New development	Both	No investment needed
01.	Basketball courts (outdoor)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
02.	Community gardens	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
03.	Recreation centers	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
04.	Disc golf courses	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
05.	Dog parks (off-leash)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
06.	Fields - baseball/softball diamonds	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
07.	Fields - multipurpose (soccer/lacrosse/football/etc.)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
08.	Fitness equipment/obstacle course (outdoor)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
09.	Gymnasium/court space (indoor)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
10.	Large community parks	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
11.	Natural areas/nature parks	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
12.	Performance stage (indoor)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
13.	Pickleball courts	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
14.	Picnic shelters/picnic areas	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
15.	Playgrounds	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
16.	Pump tracks/bike parks	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
17.	Skate parks	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
18.	Small neighborhood parks	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
19.	Spray parks	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
20.	Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
21.	Swimming pools (indoor)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
22.	Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
23.	Tennis courts	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
24.	Trails - mountain biking	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
25.	Trails - multiuse	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
26.	Trails - walking/hiking	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
27.	Volleyball courts	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
28.	Other: _____	Yes	No	4	3	2	1

13. Which THREE facilities from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?
[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 12, or circle "NONE."]

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ NONE

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14. Please indicate whether you or household members currently participate in each program (or would like to participate in if available). Next, please identify what type of change you would like to see in Dayton (circle one type per activity).

Type of Program		Do you attend or want to attend?		If "Yes," what type of change you would like to see in Dayton? (Circle only one per activity.)			
				Additional Capacity or Times/Days	More Variety of Program Offerings	Both	No change needed
01.	Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
02.	Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
03.	Before and after school programs	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
04.	Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
05.	Concerts/art performances	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
06.	Festivals	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
07.	Fitness and wellness programs (adult)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
08.	Fitness and wellness programs (youth)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
09.	Martial arts programs	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
10.	Movies (outdoor)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
11.	Nature programs	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
12.	Pet exercise programs	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
13.	Preschool programs	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
14.	Programs for persons ages 50+	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
15.	Special needs programs	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
16.	Sports programs (adult)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
17.	Sports programs (youth)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
18.	Summer camp programs (youth)	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
19.	Swim lessons	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
20.	Teen programs	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
21.	Water fitness programs	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
22.	Other: _____	Yes	No	4	3	2	1

15. Which THREE program categories from Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?
[Write 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 you would like to see offered or expanded?

____(1) Yes (Please specify: _____) ____(2) No

16. Please CHECK ALL reasons that keep you or members of your household from using offerings by Dayton's Department of Recreation more often.

____(01) Availability of parking
____(02) Class/program full
____(03) Condition of facilities
____(04) Do not have time/not interested
____(05) Do not know what is offered
____(06) Facility unavailable
____(07) Program not offered - Which program is needed?
_____
____(08) Fees are too high
____(09) Lack of transportation
____(10) Lack of shade
____(11) Lack or condition of restrooms
____(12) Location not convenient
____(13) Not interested
____(14) Personal disability
____(15) Poor customer service by staff
____(16) Scheduling conflicts/hours of operation
____(17) Security or safety concerns
____(18) Use other agencies' facilities - Why?
_____
____(19) Other: _____
____(20) None

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17. What would encourage you and your household to participate in more offerings by Dayton in recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks?

____(01) Addition of desired programs
____(02) Addition of shade features
____(03) Additional hours/days of operation
____(04) Additional/improved seating
____(05) Better marketing/promotion
____(06) Development of desired facilities
____(07) Improved accessibility
____(08) Improved customer service by staff
____(09) Improved maintenance
____(10) Improved security
____(11) Improvement of existing facilities
____(12) More convenient program locations
____(13) Transportation to programming
____(14) More parking
____(15) More/improved restrooms
____(16) New parks/facilities closer to home
____(17) Reduced fees
____(18) Other: _____
____(19) None

18. Please indicate how supportive you are of actions the City of Dayton could take to improve recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks.

		Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
01.	Ensure Dayton's recreation centers are assets to the community	4	3	2	1
02.	Maintain Dayton's city-sponsored recreation programs and events	4	3	2	1
03.	Invest in existing recreation facilities and deferred maintenance	4	3	2	1
04.	Continue to replace aging playgrounds throughout the city	4	3	2	1
05.	Close some parks to focus on improving the quality of those that remain	4	3	2	1
06.	Add/improve support features (e.g., restrooms, seating, lighting, shade)	4	3	2	1
07.	Protect the city's natural areas and resources, including waterways, wetlands, and biodiversity	4	3	2	1
08.	Expand bike and pedestrian trails and connectivity throughout the city	4	3	2	1
09.	Upgrade/add outdoor sport courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, pickleball)	4	3	2	1
10.	Improve or expand access to sports fields	4	3	2	1
11.	Other: _____	4	3	2	1

19. Which THREE actions from Question 18 are most important? *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 18, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ NONE

20. Please CHECK ALL ways you learn about recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, programs, activities, or events.

____(01) Churches
____(02) Dayton website
____(03) Email notifications
____(04) Newspaper
____(05) Park kiosk/bulletin board
____(06) Recreation flyers/banners
____(07) Seasonal Program Guide
____(08) Radio/television
____(09) School communications
____(10) Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
____(11) Visit or call a city office
____(12) Word of mouth
____(13) Youth sports organization
____(14) Other: _____

21. Which THREE ways listed in Question 20 do you prefer? *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 20, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ NONE

22. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

Under 5 years: ____
5-9 years: ____
10-14 years: ____
15-19 years: ____
20-24 years: ____
25-34 years: ____
35-44 years: ____
45-54 years: ____
55-64 years: ____
65-74 years: ____
75+ years: ____

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23. Which of the following best describes your race? *[Check all that apply.]*

____(01) Asian or Asian Indian
____(02) Black or African American
____(03) American Indian or Alaska Native
____(04) White
____(05) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
____(06) Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x
____(99) Other: _____

24. What is your annual household income?

____(1) Less than $25,000
____(2) $25,000 to $49,999
____(3) $50,000 to $74,999
____(4) $75,000 to $99,999
____(5) $100,000 or more
____(6) Choose not to respond

25. As a way to say thank you for your time, we will be randomly selecting one survey respondent to receive a $500 Visa gift card for completing the survey. Would you like to enter the drawing?

____(1) Yes *[Please answer Q25a.]* ____(2) No

25a. To enter the drawing, please provide your first name, email and/or phone number below.

First Name:_____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

26. Would you be willing to participate in future surveys sponsored by the City of Dayton's Recreation Department?

____(1) Yes *[Please answer Q26a.]* ____(2) No

26a. Please provide your contact information.

Mobile Phone Number:_____

Email Address:_____

This concludes the survey. We appreciate 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 anonymous. The information to the right will ONLY be used to help identify the level of need in your area. Thank you!

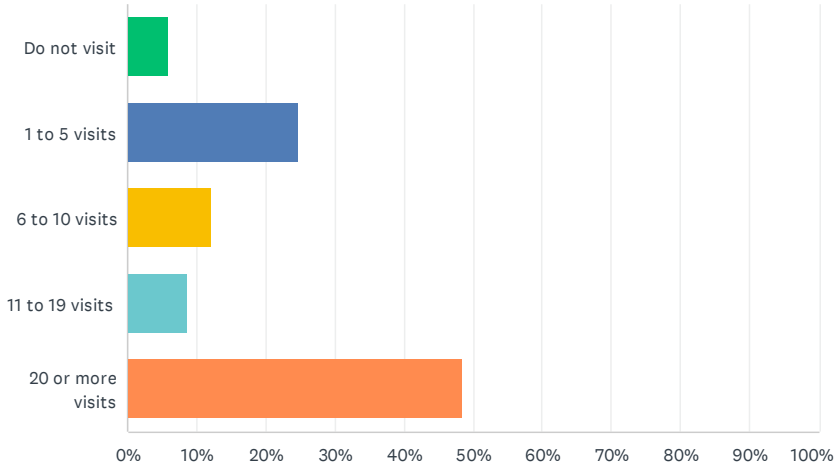
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APPENDIX G - WEB SURVEY REPORT

Dayton Recreation Strategic Master Plan & Park Needs Assessment

Q1 How often have you or members of your household visited recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities or parks in the City of Dayton over the PAST YEAR?

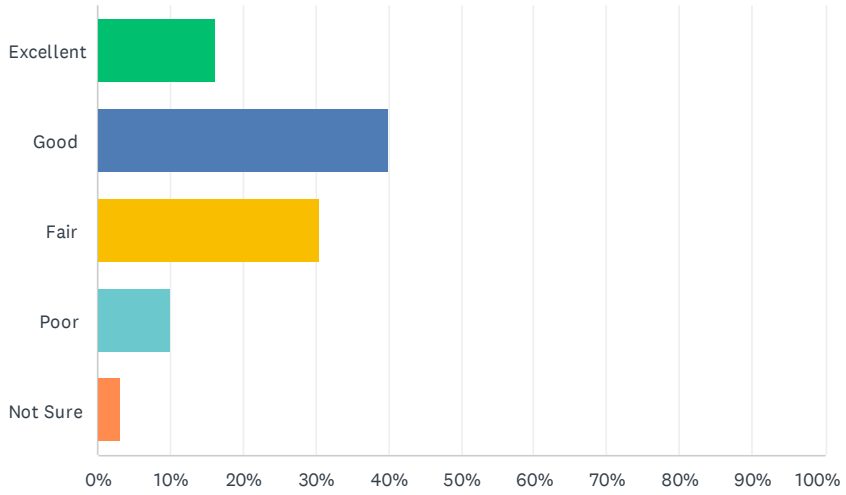
Answered: 287 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Do not visit	5.92%	17
1 to 5 visits	24.74%	71
6 to 10 visits	12.20%	35
11 to 19 visits	8.71%	25
20 or more visits	48.43%	139
TOTAL		287

Q2 How would you rate the condition of recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks closest to your home?

Answered: 289 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	16.26%	47
Good	40.14%	116
Fair	30.45%	88
Poor	10.03%	29
Not Sure	3.11%	9
TOTAL		289

Q3 Which recreation center, outdoor sports facility, or park did you rate?

Answered: 219 Skipped: 79

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Lohrey	7/24/2023 3:14 PM
2	Kettering fields	5/15/2023 9:26 AM
3	Highland Park	4/4/2023 11:28 PM
4	Princeton	4/4/2023 3:49 PM
5	Bomberger park	3/31/2023 8:24 AM
6	The tennis/pickleball courts near the art institute.	3/30/2023 12:57 PM
7	It's unclear, at least to me, what belongs to the CoD and what belongs to MetroParks.	3/30/2023 3:03 AM
8	Downtown YMCA, the tennis court next to the Dayton Art Institute.	3/29/2023 9:24 PM
9	Bike paths, riverscape, MoMBA, Belmont disc golf I am sorry that I don't know the difference between city parks and metro parks	3/29/2023 7:12 PM
10	Collectively I would say they all seem in good conformity	3/29/2023 6:48 PM
11	Residence Park	3/29/2023 5:04 PM
12	Eastwood Lake, various hiking trails	3/29/2023 12:15 PM
13	Roosevelt on West Third St. Kettering Fields and football park on at Leo and Helena. Lohrey Rec center. Tennis courts	3/29/2023 10:22 AM
14	Madden Hills park and welcome stadium	3/28/2023 11:41 AM
15	Riverscape	3/28/2023 10:11 AM
16	Bomburger Park	3/28/2023 7:59 AM
17	Bomberger park, bomberger tennis court, triangle dog park	3/27/2023 9:19 PM
18	Roosevelt recreation center	3/27/2023 8:15 PM
19	Lohrey & Princeton	3/27/2023 6:18 PM
20	Bomberger, Dog Park	3/27/2023 6:11 PM
21	Liederkrantz Carillon	3/27/2023 4:47 PM
22	Bomberger Park	3/27/2023 4:42 PM
23	Riverscape	3/27/2023 4:11 PM
24	Bomberger park, the new almost done bike park at welcome stadium, the dog park	3/27/2023 4:06 PM
25	Bomberger Park	3/27/2023 4:01 PM
26	John Bryan, Eastwood, hill and dale.	3/27/2023 3:31 PM
27	Bomberger Park/playground , Oregon District Park/playground	3/27/2023 3:29 PM
28	Bomberber park	3/27/2023 3:12 PM
29	NA	3/27/2023 3:10 PM
30	Bomberger Park	3/27/2023 3:10 PM
31	Bomberger Park is the location we visit most frequently	3/27/2023 3:01 PM

32	Madden Hills Park & Mallory Park	3/27/2023 2:03 PM
33	North Dayton area does have a facility. Will the city consider building one for us?	3/26/2023 8:09 PM
34	Clair ridge	3/26/2023 4:34 PM
35	Roosevelt	3/25/2023 8:40 PM
36	Roosevelt Center	3/25/2023 12:10 PM
37	Oak & Ivy Park(Fountain Railing Bad-Lights do not work)	3/25/2023 10:35 AM
38	Roosevelt Recreation Center and Oak and Ivy Park	3/25/2023 9:55 AM
39	Roosevelt	3/25/2023 7:48 AM
40	McInTosh, Roosevelt, Kroc Centrt	3/24/2023 8:11 PM
41	Greater Dayton Rec Center, McIntosh Park, Tennis Courts on Riverview,	3/24/2023 4:54 PM
42	Sunrise, River Walk	3/24/2023 3:37 PM
43	Riverviee park	3/24/2023 3:35 PM
44	Sunrise park and surrounding bike paths	3/24/2023 3:29 PM
45	Triangle Park and Deweese	3/24/2023 1:35 PM
46	Northwest Rec Center Island Park Park downtown where they have music	3/24/2023 7:27 AM
47	Liberation Park, Princeton Park	3/24/2023 6:15 AM
48	Northwest Dayton Rec Center	3/23/2023 2:51 PM
49	Stuart Patterson Park	3/23/2023 1:21 PM
50	College Hill Park	3/23/2023 1:12 PM
51	Lofino Park, Community Meeting Space at the Senior Center, Pickle Ball Court at the Senior Center,Owens Place, Wartinger park	3/23/2023 12:57 PM
52	NW Recreation Center and others	3/23/2023 1:45 AM
53	The park on the corner of Wyoming Avenue and Steve Wayland, the park on Springfield near the SERRC and park off Keowee near a police station.	3/22/2023 11:20 PM
54	Atta	3/22/2023 8:42 PM
55	Highland Park	3/22/2023 7:57 PM
56	Possum Creek Metro Park, Riverscape, Hills & Dales	3/22/2023 7:00 PM
57	Cleveland (School) park	3/22/2023 4:37 PM
58	Levitt Pavilion and Downtown Dayton park for the 4th of July.	3/22/2023 4:32 PM
59	Possum Creek	3/22/2023 2:42 PM
60	Greater Dayton Recreation Center 2021 West Third St. 45417.	3/22/2023 1:59 PM
61	Both the GDRC and the Princeton Center	3/22/2023 10:05 AM
62	Dayton View Park on Broadway.	3/22/2023 9:47 AM
63	Jane Newcome park	3/22/2023 9:13 AM
64	There is no facility close to me. Stuart Patterson Park is the only park close that I know of.	3/22/2023 7:39 AM
65	Stuart Patterson	3/22/2023 7:29 AM
66	Stuart Patterson Park	3/22/2023 7:19 AM
67	Princeton	3/21/2023 10:41 PM
68	Northwest Deweese Lohrey	3/21/2023 10:19 PM

69	Madden Hills Park	3/21/2023 7:23 PM
70	Northwest	3/21/2023 3:36 PM
71	Northwest Rec Center [Good Condition] and McIntosh Park [Fair Condition]	3/21/2023 2:30 PM
72	Dave Hall Plaza	3/8/2023 12:32 PM
73	Roosevelt GDRC	3/8/2023 12:23 PM
74	Kettering Fields	2/25/2023 9:06 PM
75	Kettering fields, tom cloud	2/25/2023 1:25 PM
76	Lohrey Center & Northwest/Dabney and Greater Dayton Recreation Center. Please note: The gyms, restrooms, etc are in good condition, but the Lohrey pool needs work.	2/8/2023 5:33 PM
77	Princeton/Roosevelt	1/31/2023 9:39 AM
78	11	1/31/2023 9:35 AM
79	Lohrey/Belmont Park	1/31/2023 9:33 AM
80	21,31,48	1/31/2023 9:30 AM
81	39	1/31/2023 9:26 AM
82	Nordale Park	1/31/2023 9:24 AM
83	1, 39	1/30/2023 9:33 AM
84	Lohrey	1/30/2023 9:29 AM
85	Lohrey Recreation	1/30/2023 9:27 AM
86	Nordale Park	1/30/2023 9:24 AM
87	Pinewood Park	1/30/2023 9:21 AM
88	Nordale Park	1/30/2023 9:19 AM
89	Lohrey + Belmont Park	1/30/2023 9:16 AM
90	Northwest	1/30/2023 9:10 AM
91	7,24,25,54	1/30/2023 9:06 AM
92	Northwest	1/30/2023 9:04 AM
93	GDRC	1/30/2023 8:59 AM
94	Greater Dayton	1/30/2023 8:55 AM
95	Rosevelt Center	1/30/2023 8:50 AM
96	Princeton Park + Greater Dayton	1/30/2023 8:48 AM
97	Princeton Park	1/30/2023 8:46 AM
98	Lohrey Recreation Center	1/30/2023 8:41 AM
99	Northwest + Greater Dayton	1/30/2023 8:39 AM
100	Roosevelt or GDRC	1/30/2023 8:37 AM
101	Greater Dayton	1/30/2023 8:33 AM
102	NW + GDRC	1/30/2023 8:30 AM
103	Kettering Fields	1/24/2023 9:05 PM
104	Northwest Recreation	1/24/2023 3:54 PM
105	Northwest Recreation	1/24/2023 3:50 PM
106	Dave Hall Plaza	1/24/2023 3:46 PM

107	Northwest Recreation Center	1/24/2023 3:41 PM
108	Great	1/20/2023 7:21 PM
109	Kettering Fields	12/17/2022 9:00 AM
110	JFK and Delco	12/14/2022 4:23 PM
111	Kettering field ,triangle park , Deweese Park	12/14/2022 6:12 AM
112	Kettering field softball complex	12/8/2022 10:57 PM
113	Kettering Softball Fields	12/8/2022 8:55 PM
114	Kettering Fields	12/8/2022 5:13 PM
115	Belmont Part - Softball & Baseball Fields are not kept up.	12/8/2022 12:51 PM
116	Kettering Fields	12/8/2022 12:47 PM
117	Kettering Field	12/8/2022 12:10 PM
118	Kettering Field	12/8/2022 11:44 AM
119	Kettering Field Complex	12/8/2022 10:39 AM
120	Kettering fields	12/8/2022 10:35 AM
121	Kettering Fields	12/8/2022 9:01 AM
122	Kettering Fields	12/8/2022 8:26 AM
123	Kettering Ball Fields	12/8/2022 8:25 AM
124	Kettering Field	12/8/2022 7:18 AM
125	Kettering Fields	12/8/2022 6:30 AM
126	Kettering Fields	12/7/2022 11:44 PM
127	Kettering fields	12/7/2022 9:39 PM
128	Kettering Fields	12/7/2022 8:16 PM
129	KETTERING COMPLEX	12/7/2022 7:26 PM
130	Kettering Field	12/7/2022 7:26 PM
131	Kettering Fields	12/7/2022 7:26 PM
132	Kettering Fields softball diamonds	12/7/2022 7:19 PM
133	Kettering field.	12/7/2022 6:52 PM
134	Kettering fields	12/7/2022 6:51 PM
135	Princeton	12/5/2022 9:59 AM
136	Greater Dayton Recreation Center	11/30/2022 3:19 PM
137	Lohrey Center/Belmont Pool	11/29/2022 11:55 AM
138	Princeton	11/29/2022 11:32 AM
139	Northwest	11/28/2022 9:10 AM
140	NorthWest	11/28/2022 9:07 AM
141	Non-city	11/28/2022 9:03 AM
142	N W	11/28/2022 8:57 AM
143	Princeton	11/28/2022 8:51 AM
144	Roosevelt	11/28/2022 8:44 AM

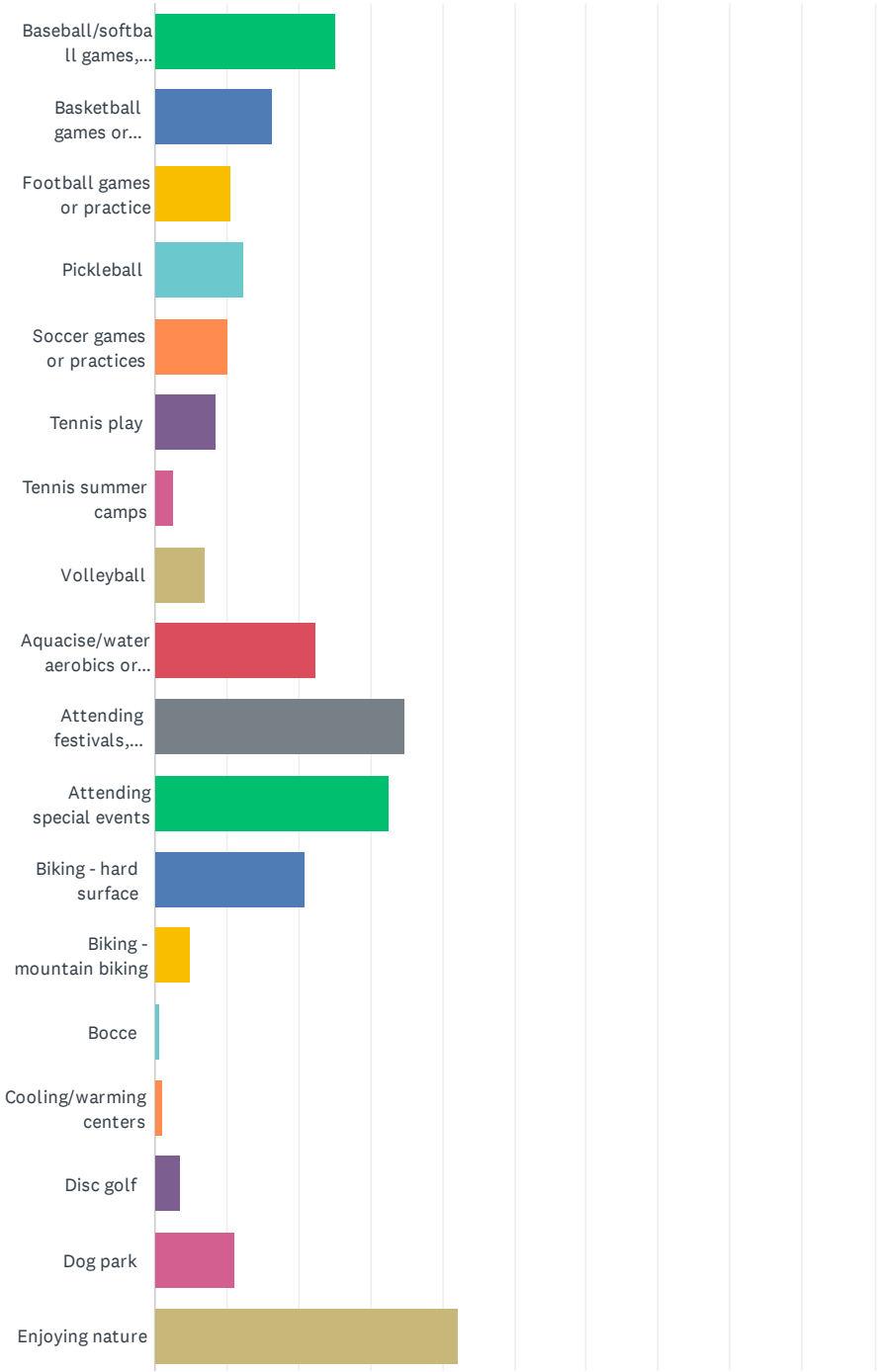
145	Jane Newcom Park	11/28/2022 8:32 AM
146	Jane Newcom Park	11/28/2022 8:28 AM
147	Princeton Park	11/28/2022 8:23 AM
148	G.D.R.C	11/28/2022 8:16 AM
149	Greater Dayton + Northwest	11/28/2022 8:06 AM
150	Nichols Tennis Center	11/24/2022 5:32 AM
151	The Roosevelt Center	11/22/2022 9:04 PM
152	Princeton	11/21/2022 12:53 PM
153	Belmont Park	11/21/2022 12:08 PM
154	Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark	11/21/2022 10:07 AM
155	Northwest Recreation	11/21/2022 10:00 AM
156	Northwest	11/20/2022 1:33 PM
157	Lohrey and Northwest Weight rooms and pools	11/19/2022 1:35 PM
158	Northwest Rec Center	11/19/2022 11:17 AM
159	Princeton	11/18/2022 4:07 PM
160	Huber heights.	11/18/2022 4:03 PM
161	Trotwood	11/18/2022 3:51 PM
162	The one on Riverside and Helena	11/18/2022 3:48 PM
163	Princeton	11/18/2022 3:31 PM
164	all of them	11/18/2022 3:06 PM
165	Greater Dayton Recreation Center	11/18/2022 2:39 PM
166	Resident Park, Park in Huber heights, park off third street	11/18/2022 2:37 PM
167	Fairview	11/18/2022 2:13 PM
168	Island park, Kroc Center	11/18/2022 2:00 PM
169	Eastwood	11/18/2022 1:58 PM
170	Fairview Water Park	11/18/2022 1:52 PM
171	Riverscape and Judge Fisher	11/18/2022 1:46 PM
172	Vandalia	11/18/2022 1:13 PM
173	Princeton	11/18/2022 1:11 PM
174	Madison lakes park is a 0/5 stars Englewood dam is a 1/5	11/18/2022 1:07 PM
175	Possum Creek	11/18/2022 12:50 PM
176	Northwest Recreation Center	11/18/2022 12:32 PM
177	Northwest	11/18/2022 12:21 PM
178	Huber and water park in englewood also Princeton	11/18/2022 12:12 PM
179	NW Princeton Park	11/18/2022 12:04 PM
180	LOHREY NICHOLS TENNIS DEEDS POINT	11/18/2022 11:46 AM
181	Fairview The only problem is the trash. And it needs more shelters	11/18/2022 10:33 AM
182	Kettering Fields and the NFL field.	11/18/2022 8:49 AM

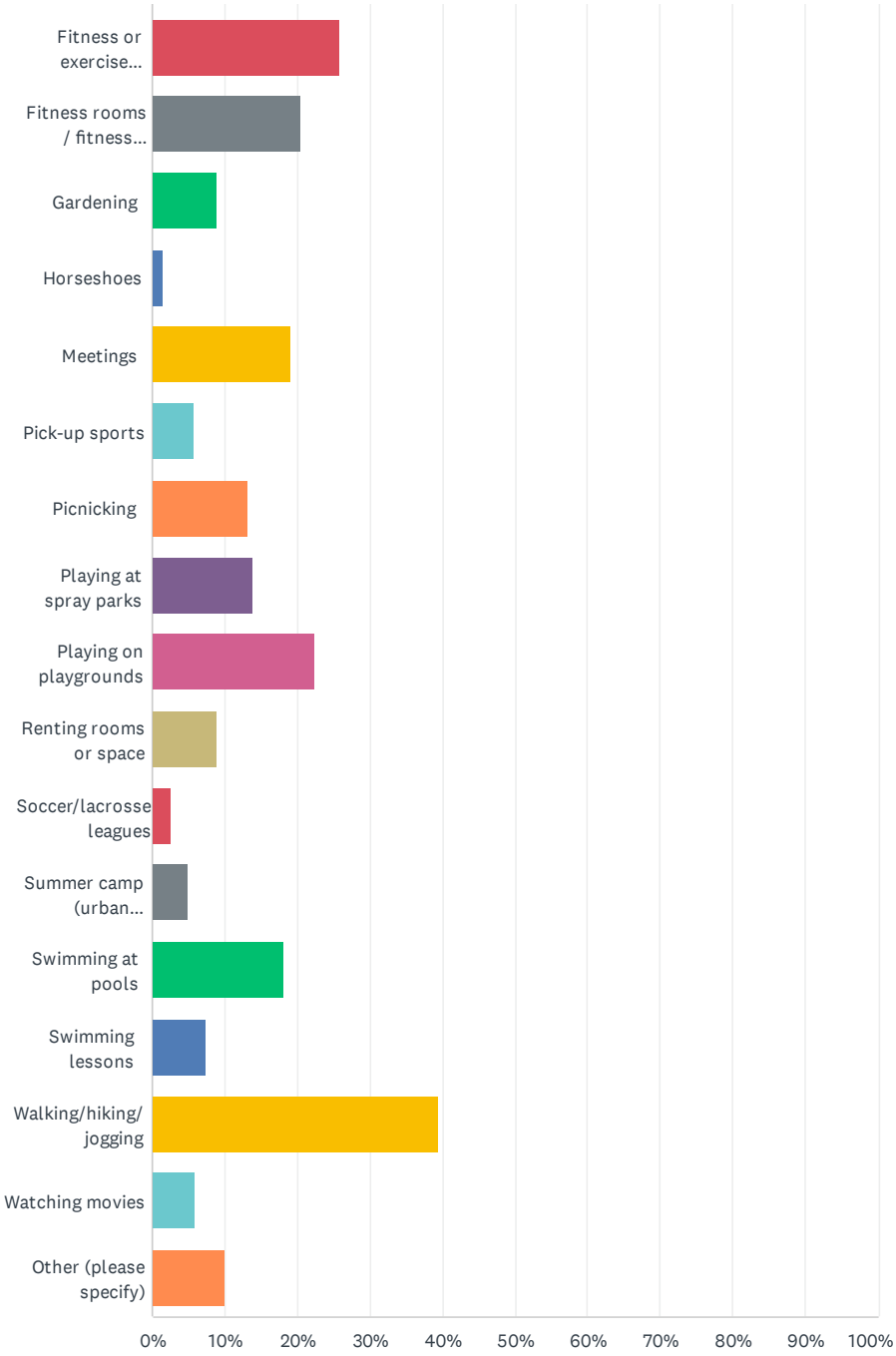
183	Centennial Field, Kettering fields, Island metro park.	11/17/2022 6:50 PM
184	The hard surface courts at Nichols	11/17/2022 3:02 PM
185	kettering field, Centennial Field and third street rec center	11/17/2022 1:04 PM
186	Kettering Field Softball Complex	11/17/2022 10:14 AM
187	Arthur Fisher, Deweese and Nichols Tennis courts	11/17/2022 9:12 AM
188	Kettering Field Complex	11/17/2022 9:03 AM
189	Jim Nichols Tennis Center	11/17/2022 5:26 AM
190	McKinley Park (The playground area could use more shade near the seating areas for parents/caregivers. The landing area at the bottom of the slide had exposed concrete. The kids still like it!)	11/16/2022 10:06 PM
191	Lohrey Center	11/16/2022 6:32 PM
192	Cleveland Park, walnut hills Lohrey, Kettering fields	11/16/2022 4:41 PM
193	Lorei, greater Dayton rec center, centennial field	11/16/2022 1:31 PM
194	Lohrey & NorthWest	11/16/2022 1:10 PM
195	Lohrey	11/16/2022 1:10 PM
196	Lohrey	11/16/2022 1:09 PM
197	Lohrey Community Center	11/16/2022 1:09 PM
198	Lohrey, GDRC and Jim Nichols Tennis	11/16/2022 1:04 PM
199	Lohrey center, rec center on third street	11/16/2022 12:30 PM
200	Jim Nicholas Tennis center	11/16/2022 12:24 PM
201	Tennis facility for tennis and pickleball	11/16/2022 12:19 PM
202	Lohrey	11/15/2022 7:42 PM
203	McIntosh Park	11/15/2022 2:21 PM
204	Several metro parks all over the metro park area, Lowry center, NW center	11/10/2022 5:49 PM
205	Island, Triangle and Wesleyan	11/10/2022 9:19 AM
206	Triangle Park/Deeds Point Dog Park Deweese Park Riverscape Wegerzyn Island Park Eastwood	11/9/2022 9:22 AM
207	Triangle Park	11/8/2022 10:41 AM
208	Jim Nichols Tennis Center 4th of July Deweese Parkway Ridgecrest Park	11/8/2022 9:06 AM
209	Ridgecrest Park, which is underway to being restored but needs a lot more financial support to be a place that I would choose to visit more.	11/7/2022 4:01 PM
210	Triangle	11/7/2022 1:08 PM
211	Deweese park	11/7/2022 10:55 AM
212	Jim Nichols Tennis Center, Ridgecrest Park, Triangle Park, DeWeese Parkway, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark	11/7/2022 9:11 AM
213	Welcome park, Huffman Park, bomberger park	10/31/2022 10:22 AM
214	Lowrey Center	10/27/2022 7:43 PM
215	Nichols Tennis Center	10/26/2022 10:23 AM
216	Welcome	10/24/2022 6:19 PM
217	Thal park, Northwest Rec center	10/24/2022 6:16 PM

218	None. Haven’t heard of the rec centers till recently.	10/24/2022 6:16 PM
219	Lohrey, Northwest and GDRC	10/24/2022 6:13 PM

Q4 Please check ALL ACTIVITIES you or household members typically enjoy at parks or facilities in Dayton in a year.

Answered: 282 Skipped: 16




Fitness or exercise...
Fitness rooms / fitness...
Gardening
Horseshoes
Meetings
Pick-up sports
Picnicking
Playing at spray parks
Playing on playgrounds
Renting rooms or space
Soccer/lacrosse leagues
Summer camp (urban...
Swimming at pools
Swimming lessons
Walking/hiking/ jogging
Watching movies
Other (please specify)
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

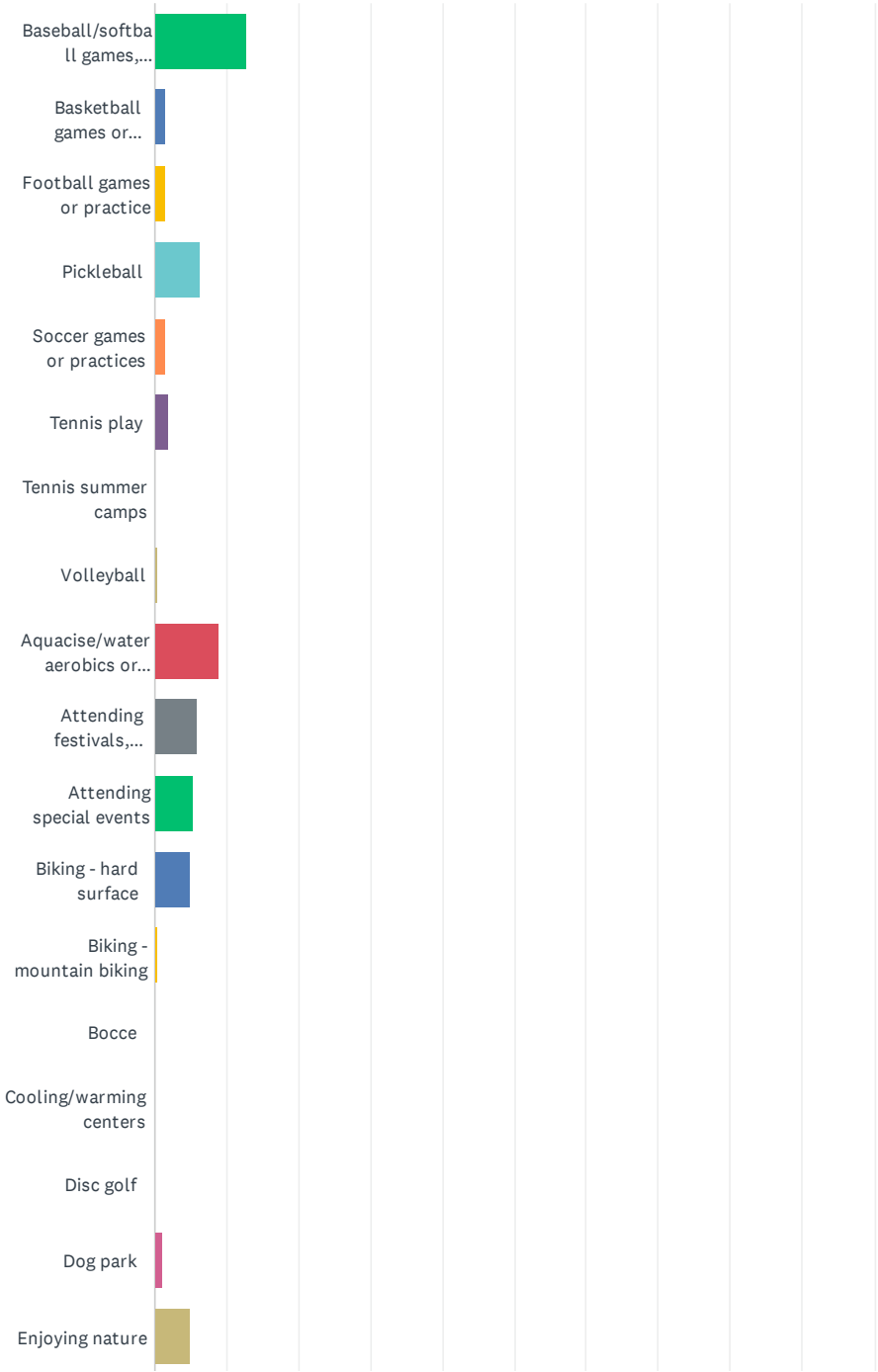
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball/softball games, practices, tournaments	25.18%	71
Basketball games or practices	16.31%	46
Football games or practice	10.64%	30
Pickleball	12.41%	35
Soccer games or practices	10.28%	29
Tennis play	8.51%	24
Tennis summer camps	2.48%	7
Volleyball	7.09%	20
Aquacise/water aerobics or fitness/ lap swim	22.34%	63
Attending festivals, concerts/performances	34.75%	98
Attending special events	32.62%	92
Biking - hard surface	20.92%	59
Biking - mountain biking	4.96%	14
Bocce	0.71%	2
Cooling/warming centers	1.06%	3
Disc golf	3.55%	10
Dog park	10.99%	31
Enjoying nature	42.20%	119
Fitness or exercise classes	25.89%	73
Fitness rooms / fitness equipment	20.57%	58
Gardening	8.87%	25
Horseshoes	1.42%	4
Meetings	19.15%	54
Pick-up sports	5.67%	16
Picnicking	13.12%	37
Playing at spray parks	13.83%	39
Playing on playgrounds	22.34%	63
Renting rooms or space	8.87%	25
Soccer/lacrosse leagues	2.48%	7
Summer camp (urban adventures)	4.96%	14
Swimming at pools	18.09%	51
Swimming lessons	7.45%	21

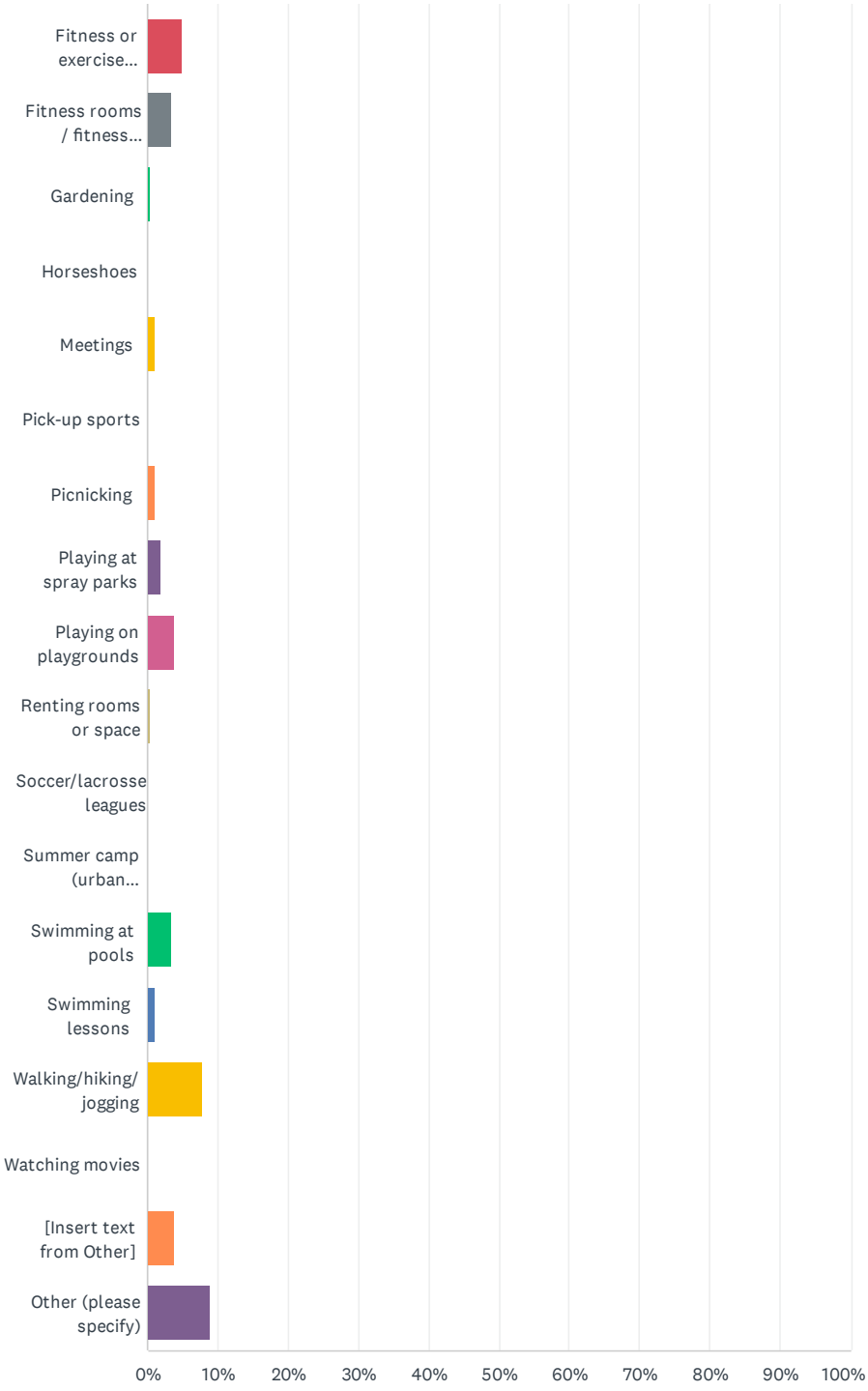
Walking/hiking/jogging	39.36%	111
Watching movies	6.03%	17
Other (please specify)	9.93%	28
Total Respondents: 282		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Kickball league	3/30/2023 12:57 PM
2	Skate parks and pump tracks	3/29/2023 8:56 PM
3	kyaking	3/29/2023 12:15 PM
4	NA - I frequent the Five Rivers Metroparks because they are closer to my home.	3/27/2023 3:10 PM
5	Neighborhood planned events	3/27/2023 2:03 PM
6	Oaak & Ivy Park/Not a typical Park	3/25/2023 10:35 AM
7	Early Morning forms and exercises at island park. Family Barbeques at island and triangle parks.	3/22/2023 1:59 PM
8	Recreation Equipment	1/30/2023 9:21 AM
9	Playing Cards	1/30/2023 8:50 AM
10	Line Dancing	1/30/2023 8:30 AM
11	Medicare Meeting	1/24/2023 9:55 AM
12	Art Class	1/24/2023 9:05 AM
13	Reading books	1/20/2023 7:21 PM
14	Community Event	11/28/2022 9:03 AM
15	Community Night(?)	11/28/2022 8:57 AM
16	Motorcross Park	11/28/2022 8:23 AM
17	Children activities + festivals	11/28/2022 8:06 AM
18	Walking on the indoor track	11/22/2022 9:04 PM
19	Racquetball	11/20/2022 1:33 PM
20	I used the after school programming for many years.	11/19/2022 11:17 AM
21	Open gym	11/18/2022 2:13 PM
22	Fishing	11/18/2022 12:50 PM
23	community events	11/18/2022 12:13 PM
24	Walking dog	11/18/2022 12:12 PM
25	PICKLEBALL, YOGA	11/18/2022 11:46 AM
26	We like all those thing and want a better variety and bigger pools	11/18/2022 10:33 AM
27	Youth Athletics	11/16/2022 1:04 PM
28	Golfing Community Golf course	11/7/2022 10:55 AM

Q5 Which activity from the previous question would you most like to find more opportunities to do in the future?

Answered: 203 Skipped: 95




Fitness or exercise...
Fitness rooms / fitness...
Gardening
Horseshoes
Meetings
Pick-up sports
Picnicking
Playing at spray parks
Playing on playgrounds
Renting rooms or space
Soccer/lacrosse leagues
Summer camp (urban...
Swimming at pools
Swimming lessons
Walking/hiking/ jogging
Watching movies
[Insert text from Other]
Other (please specify)
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

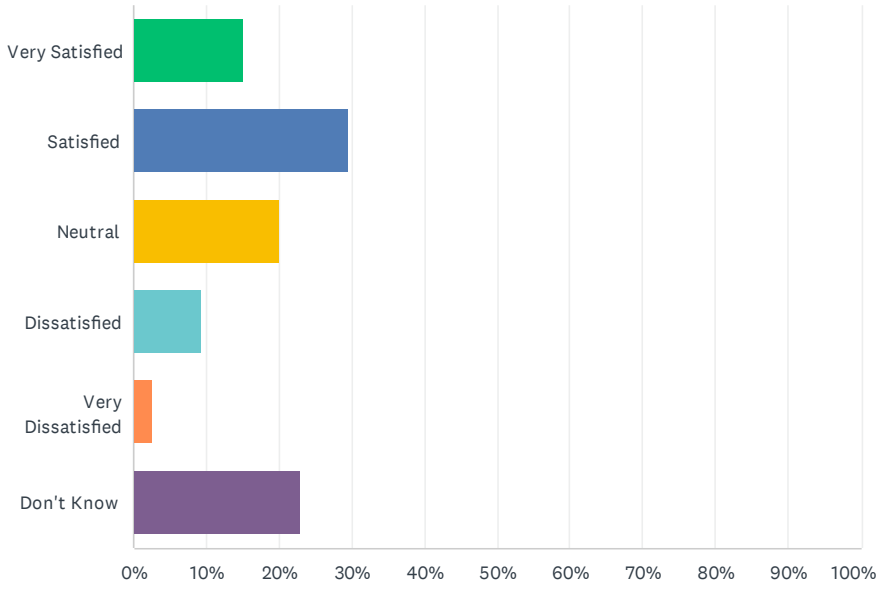
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball/softball games, practices, tournaments	12.81%	26
Basketball games or practices	1.48%	3
Football games or practice	1.48%	3
Pickleball	6.40%	13
Soccer games or practices	1.48%	3
Tennis play	1.97%	4
Tennis summer camps	0.00%	0
Volleyball	0.49%	1
Aquacise/water aerobics or fitness/ lap swim	8.87%	18
Attending festivals, concerts/performances	5.91%	12
Attending special events	5.42%	11
Biking - hard surface	4.93%	10
Biking - mountain biking	0.49%	1
Bocce	0.00%	0
Cooling/warming centers	0.00%	0
Disc golf	0.00%	0
Dog park	0.99%	2
Enjoying nature	4.93%	10
Fitness or exercise classes	4.93%	10
Fitness rooms / fitness equipment	3.45%	7
Gardening	0.49%	1
Horseshoes	0.00%	0
Meetings	0.99%	2
Pick-up sports	0.00%	0
Picnicking	0.99%	2
Playing at spray parks	1.97%	4
Playing on playgrounds	3.94%	8
Renting rooms or space	0.49%	1
Soccer/lacrosse leagues	0.00%	0
Summer camp (urban adventures)	0.00%	0
Swimming at pools	3.45%	7
Swimming lessons	0.99%	2

Walking/hiking/jogging	7.88%	16
Watching movies	0.00%	0
[Insert text from Other]	3.94%	8
Other (please specify)	8.87%	18
TOTAL		203

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	tennis	4/4/2023 11:31 PM
2	More sports leagues (the one I took part in was disorganized and stressful)	3/27/2023 3:03 PM
3	More programs for OUR YOUTH!	3/21/2023 10:03 PM
4	Yoga	2/8/2023 5:34 PM
5	Art Class	1/24/2023 9:06 AM
6	Water exercise	11/29/2022 11:57 AM
7	Pickleball	11/28/2022 9:11 AM
8	Summer Camp	11/28/2022 9:04 AM
9	Fitness experience, line dancing, art programs & cleaner.	11/28/2022 8:59 AM
10	Festivals, concerts, performances, swimming at pool	11/28/2022 8:53 AM
11	Adult sports.	11/28/2022 8:49 AM
12	Festivals	11/28/2022 8:46 AM
13	Walking at local park is on gravel (large), different paving would be great.	11/28/2022 8:34 AM
14	Updated Playground Equipment	11/28/2022 8:29 AM
15	ATV Park	11/28/2022 8:25 AM
16	Children activities and festivals	11/28/2022 8:09 AM
17	Senior activity	11/18/2022 12:24 PM
18	Soccer or Pickleball	10/24/2022 6:17 PM

Q6 How satisfied are you with the overall quality and maintenance of Dayton recreation centers/swimming pools?

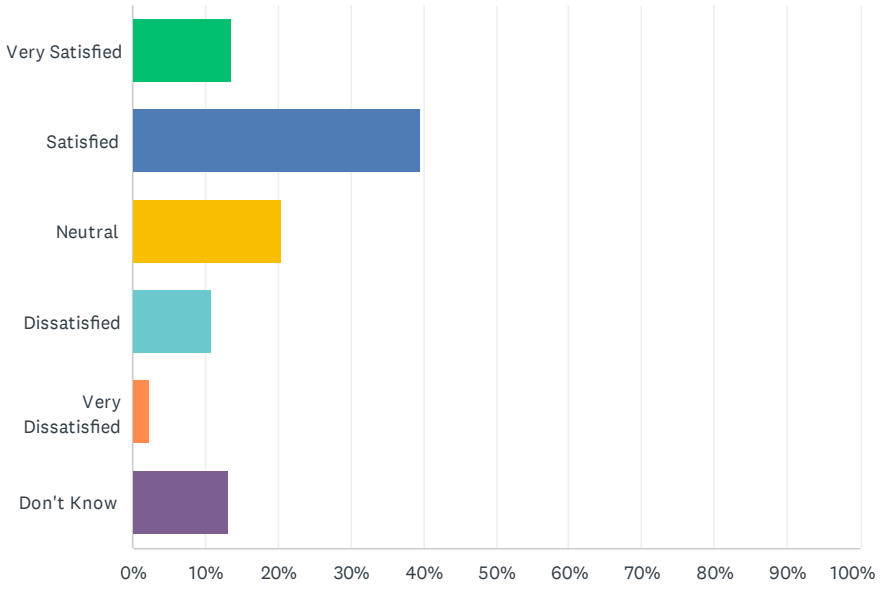
Answered: 269 Skipped: 29



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Satisfied	15.24%	41
Satisfied	29.74%	80
Neutral	20.07%	54
Dissatisfied	9.29%	25
Very Dissatisfied	2.60%	7
Don't Know	23.05%	62
TOTAL		269

Q7 How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the overall quality of Dayton recreation programs and facilities?

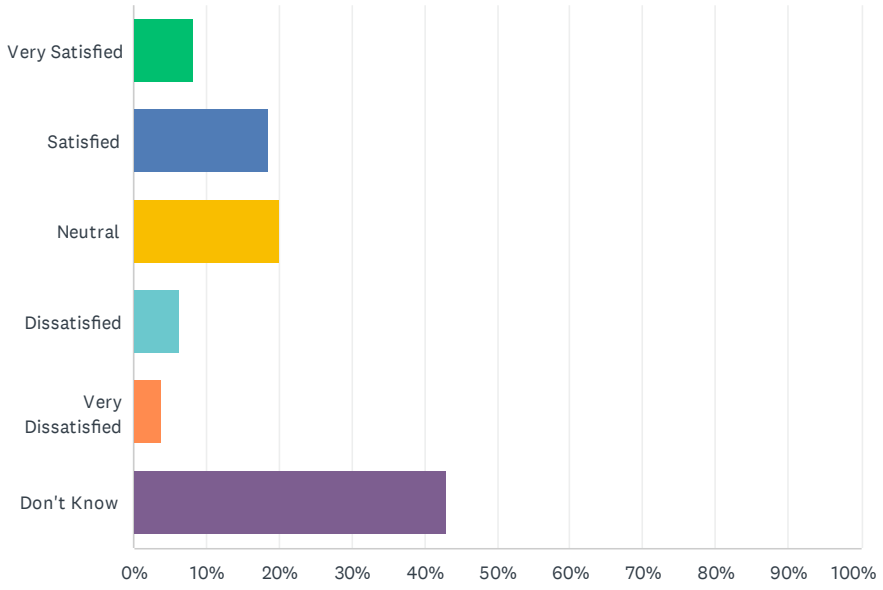
Answered: 265 Skipped: 33



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Satisfied	13.58%	36
Satisfied	39.62%	105
Neutral	20.38%	54
Dissatisfied	10.94%	29
Very Dissatisfied	2.26%	6
Don't Know	13.21%	35
TOTAL		265

Q8 How satisfied are you with the overall quality of Dayton Recreation youth programs and activities?

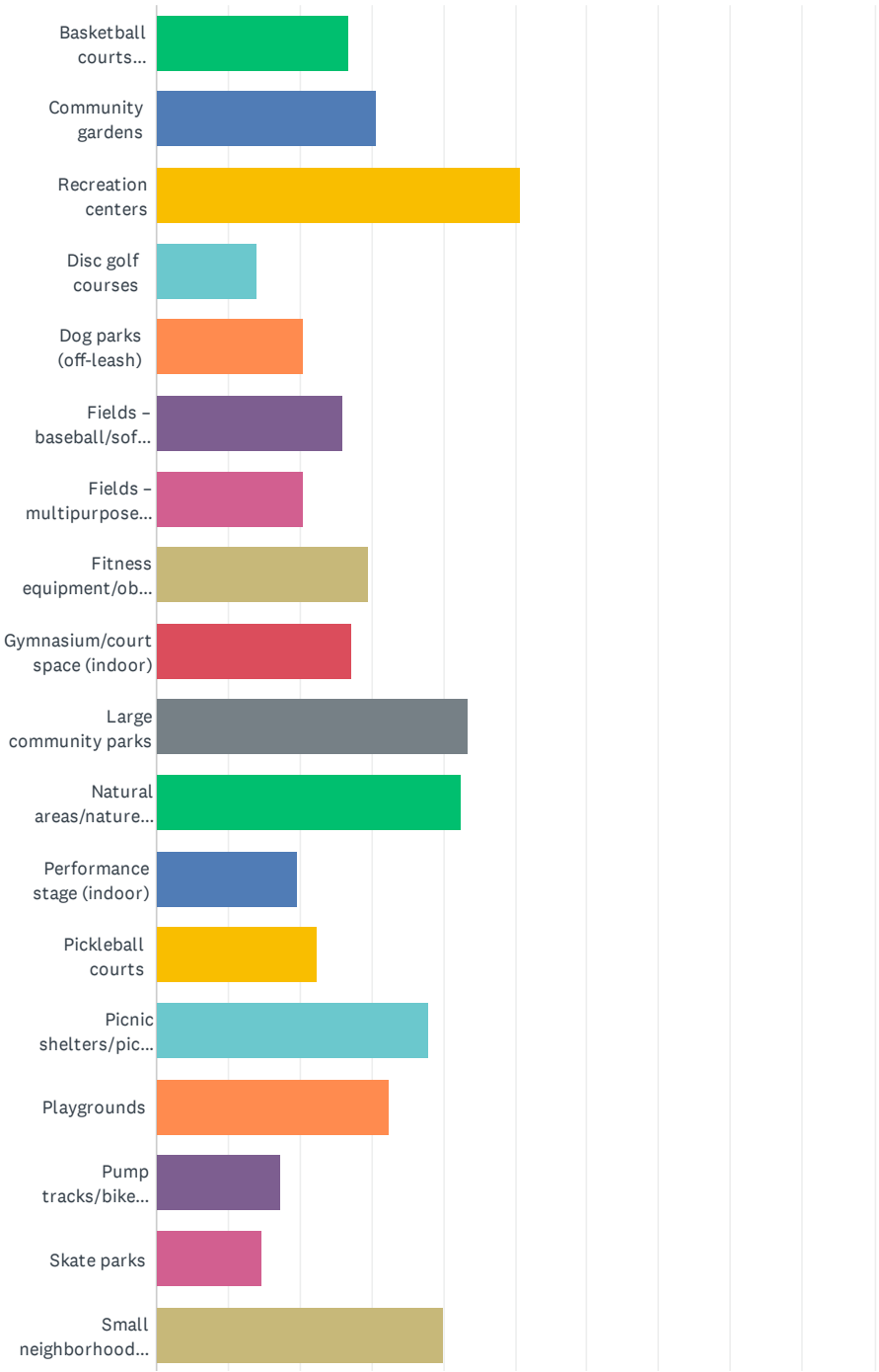
Answered: 265 Skipped: 33

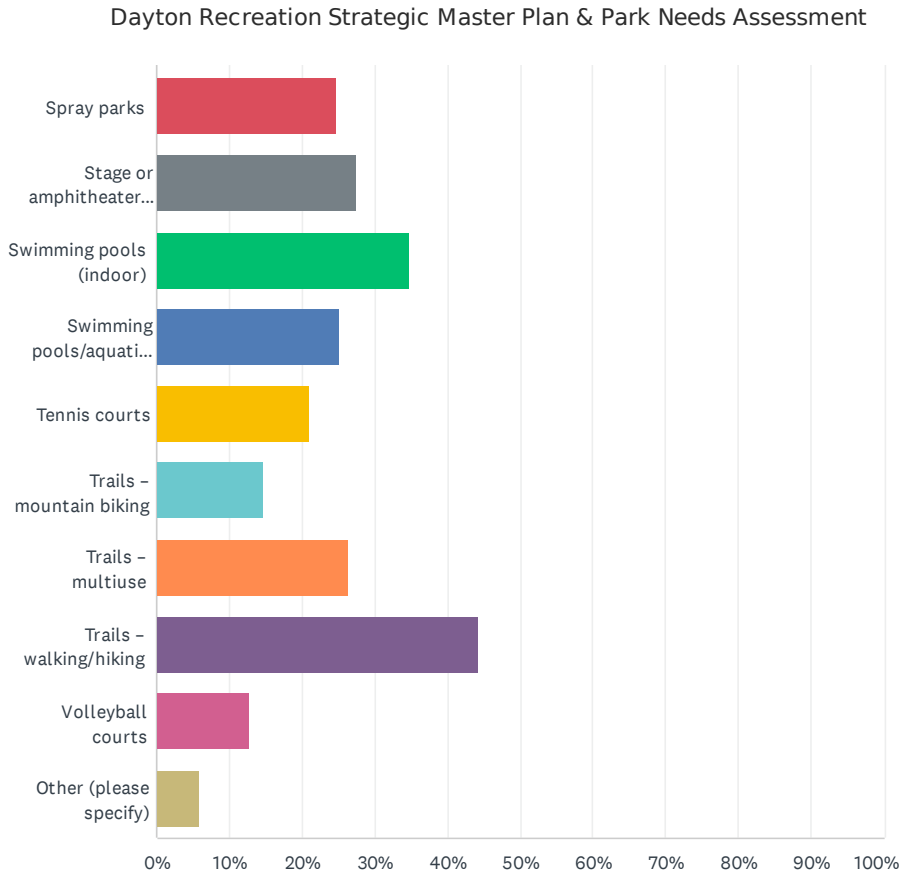


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Satisfied	8.30%	22
Satisfied	18.49%	49
Neutral	20.00%	53
Dissatisfied	6.42%	17
Very Dissatisfied	3.77%	10
Don't Know	43.02%	114
TOTAL		265

Q9 Please identify ALL FACILITIES you or household members currently use or would like to use if available.

Answered: 250 Skipped: 48




Dayton Recreation Strategic Master Plan & Park Needs Assessment
Spray parks
Stage or amphitheater...
Swimming pools (indoor)
Swimming pools/aquati...
Tennis courts
Trails – mountain biking
Trails – multiuse
Trails – walking/hiking
Volleyball courts
Other (please specify)
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

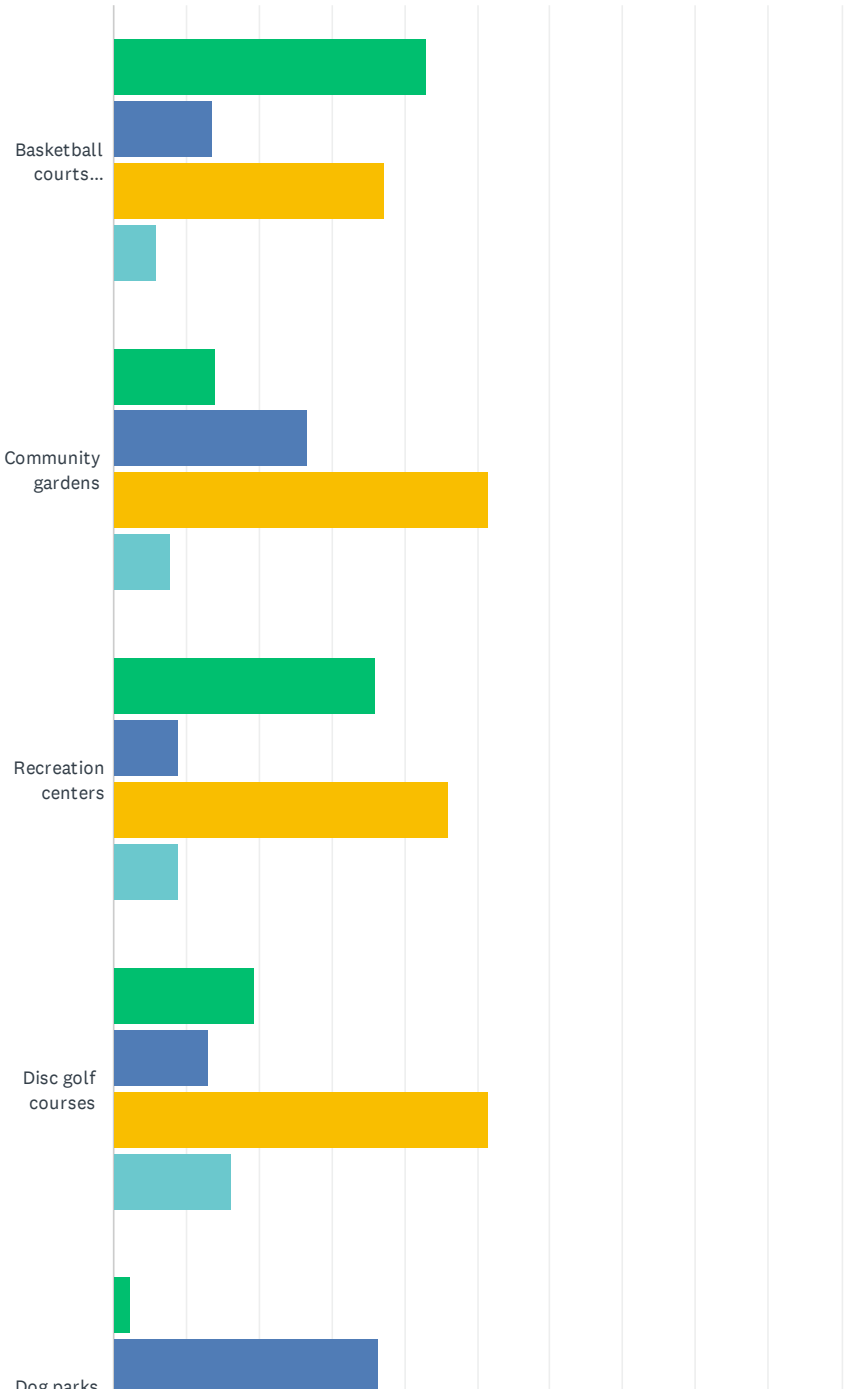
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Basketball courts (outdoor)	26.80%	67
Community gardens	30.80%	77
Recreation centers	50.80%	127
Disc golf courses	14.00%	35
Dog parks (off-leash)	20.40%	51
Fields – baseball/softball diamonds	26.00%	65
Fields – multipurpose (soccer/lacrosse/football/etc.)	20.40%	51
Fitness equipment/obstacle course (outdoor)	29.60%	74
Gymnasium/court space (indoor)	27.20%	68
Large community parks	43.60%	109
Natural areas/nature parks	42.40%	106
Performance stage (indoor)	19.60%	49
Pickleball courts	22.40%	56
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	38.00%	95
Playgrounds	32.40%	81
Pump tracks/bike parks	17.20%	43
Skate parks	14.80%	37
Small neighborhood parks	40.00%	100
Spray parks	24.80%	62
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	27.60%	69
Swimming pools (indoor)	34.80%	87
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	25.20%	63
Tennis courts	21.20%	53
Trails – mountain biking	14.80%	37
Trails – multiuse	26.40%	66
Trails – walking/hiking	44.40%	111
Volleyball courts	12.80%	32
Other (please specify)	6.00%	15
Total Respondents: 250		

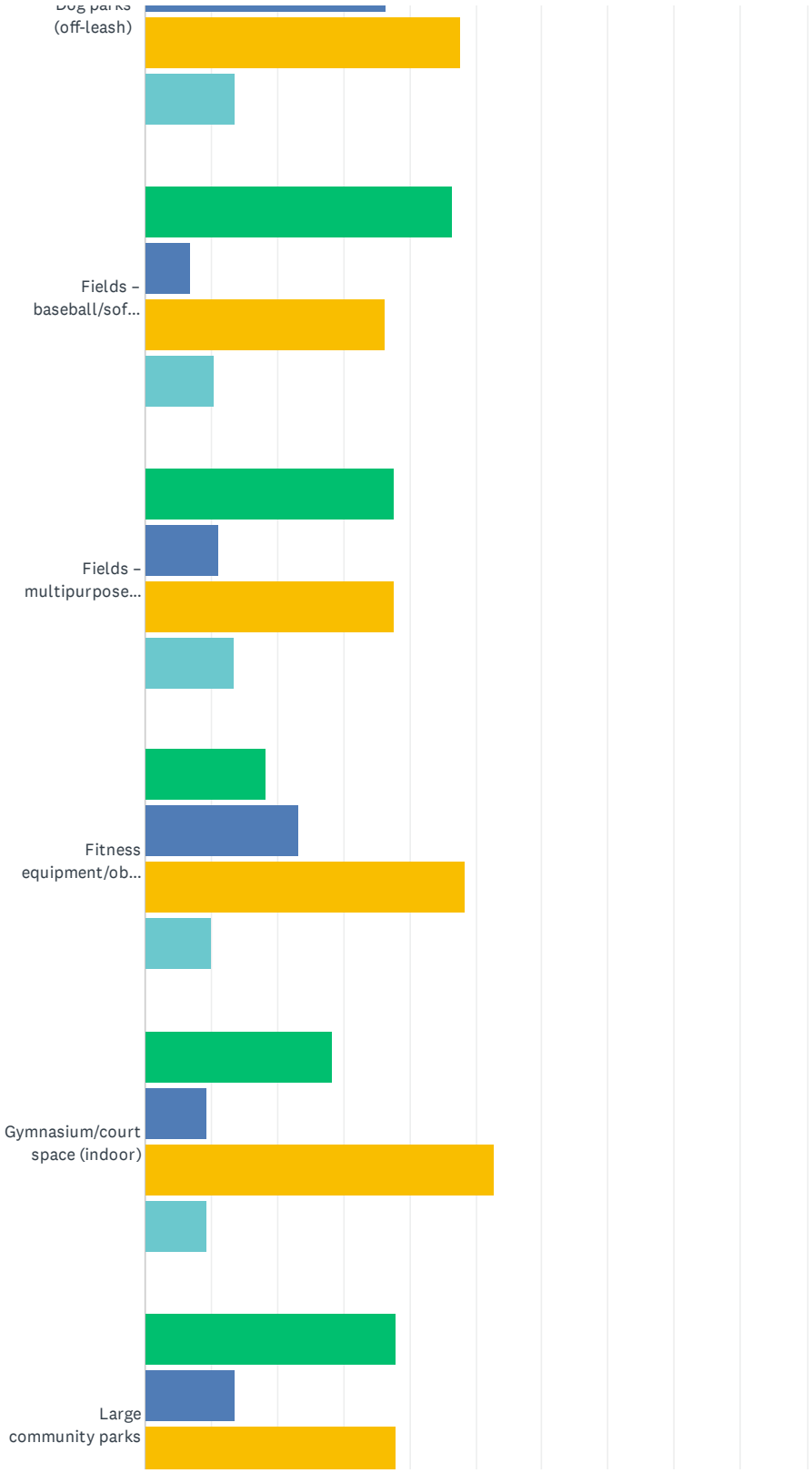
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Dayton definitely needs a skatepark	3/31/2023 8:29 AM
2	Connecting the rails-to-trails system is our highest priority request	3/27/2023 3:35 PM
3	Oak & Ivy Park	3/25/2023 10:37 AM

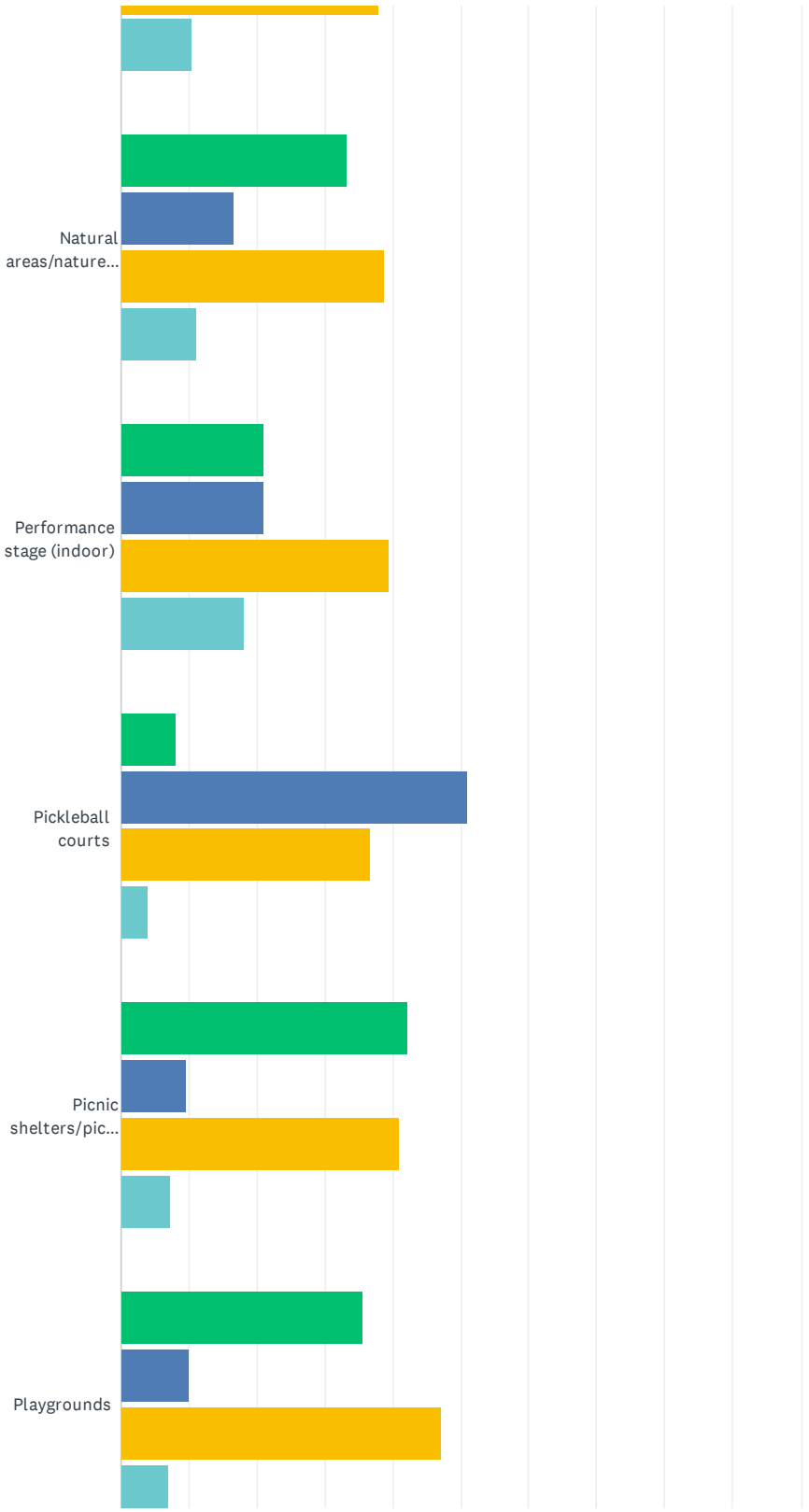
4	The swimming pool at the Rosavelt center needs to be fixed.	3/22/2023 2:07 PM
5	We do not use any facilities as there are none in Old North Dayton	3/22/2023 7:40 AM
6	Recreation Equipment	1/30/2023 9:22 AM
7	indoor weightroom	1/24/2023 8:45 AM
8	Racquetball	11/20/2022 1:36 PM
9	We have a small baby so many of the items above will likely become more important as he gets older	11/18/2022 12:15 PM
10	All are fun and pleasant to the eye to watch other people playing! We need spectator seating to please. And thank you for this opportunity to see what we want as a community	11/18/2022 10:35 AM
11	Pickle ball	11/17/2022 6:51 PM
12	For #6, I said dissatisfied because we'd like to see the pool at the Greater Dayton Rec Center open again!	11/16/2022 10:09 PM
13	meeting space	11/8/2022 9:10 AM
14	Open kitty hawk golf course	11/7/2022 10:57 AM
15	Wegerzyn gardens building	11/7/2022 10:31 AM

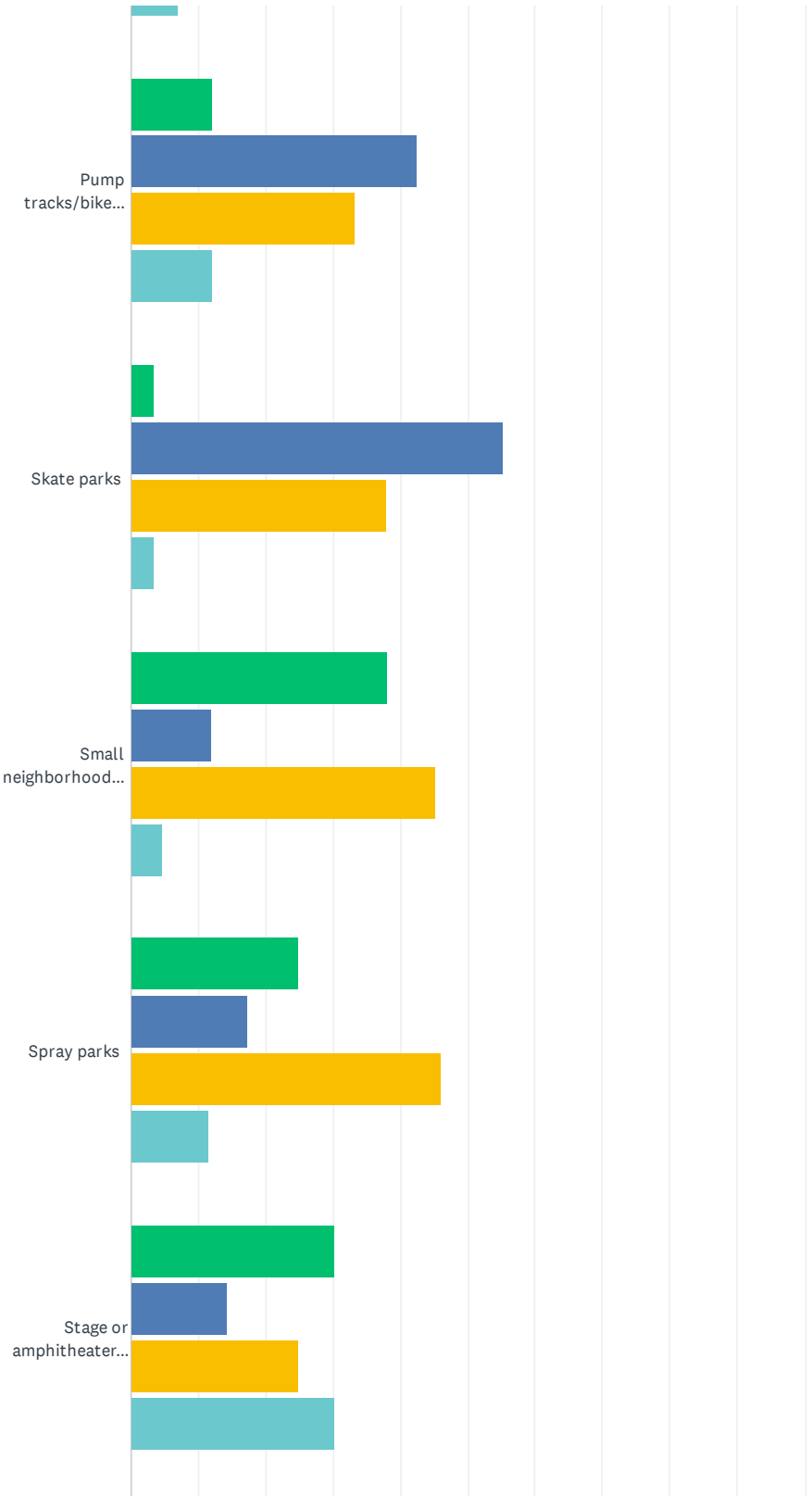
Q10 For these facilities, what kind of investment would you like to see in Dayton?

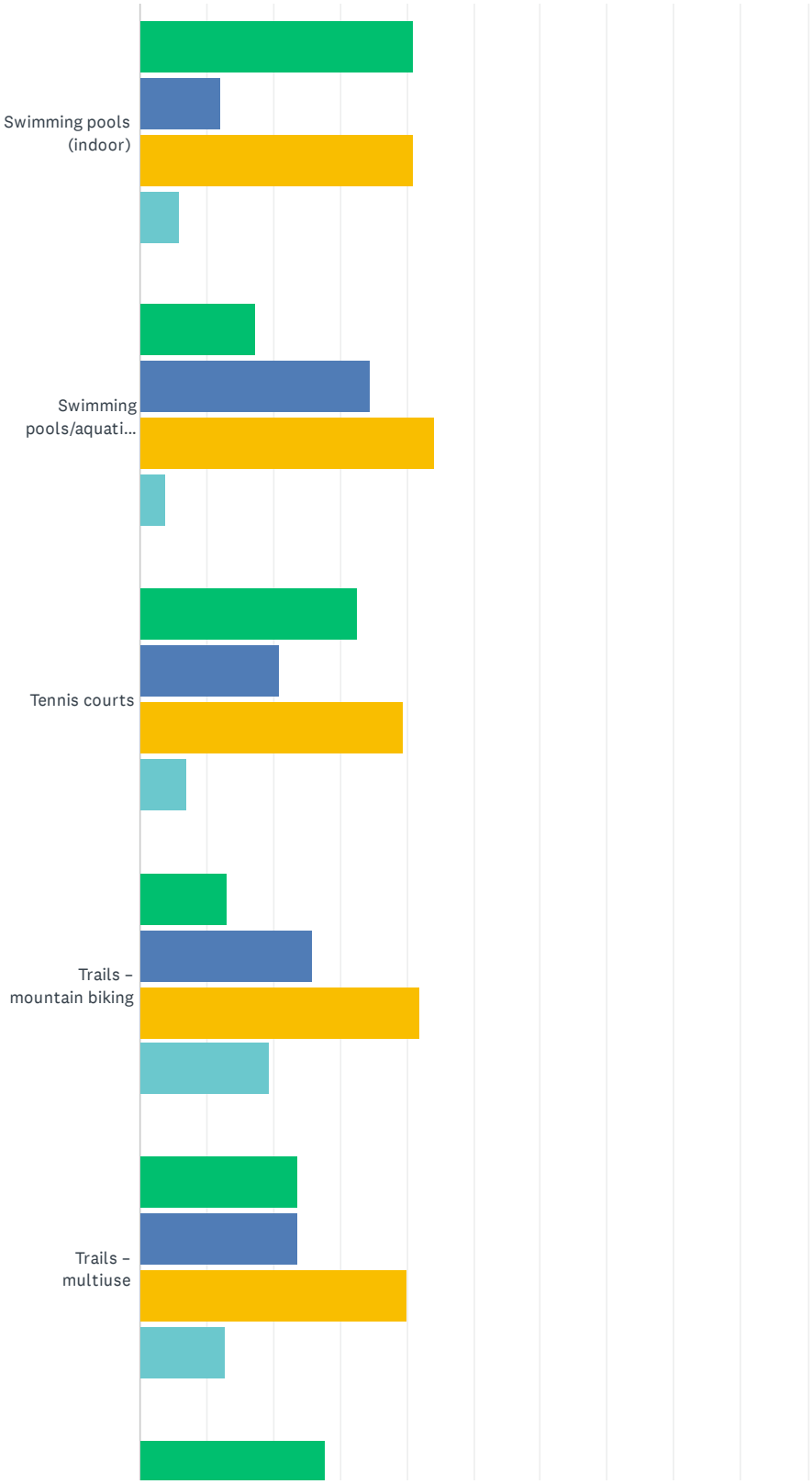
Answered: 216 Skipped: 82

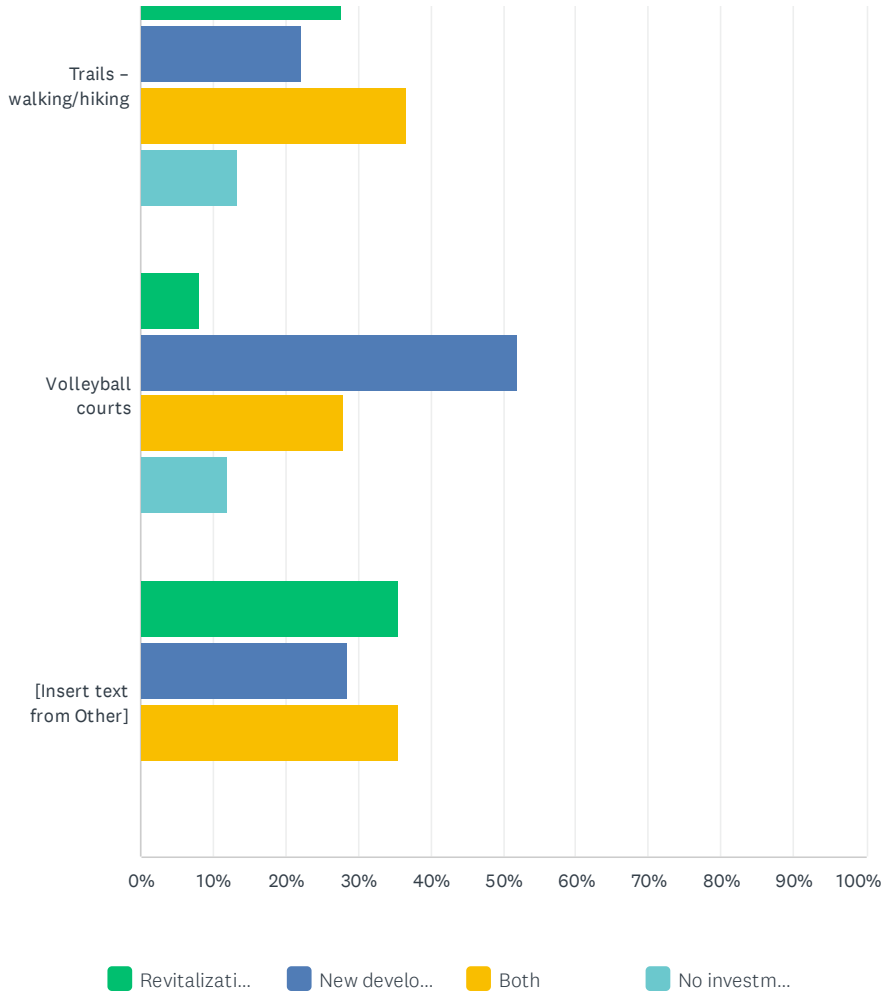



(off-leash)
Fields –
baseball/sof...
Fields –
multipurpose...
Fitness
equipment/ob...
Gymnasium/court
space (indoor)
Large
community parks


Natural areas/nature...
Performance stage (indoor)
Pickleball courts
Picnic shelters/pic...
Playgrounds


Pump tracks/bike...
Skate parks
Small neighborhood...
Spray parks
Stage or amphitheater...


Swimming pools (indoor)
Swimming pools/aquati...
Tennis courts
Trails – mountain biking
Trails – multiuse

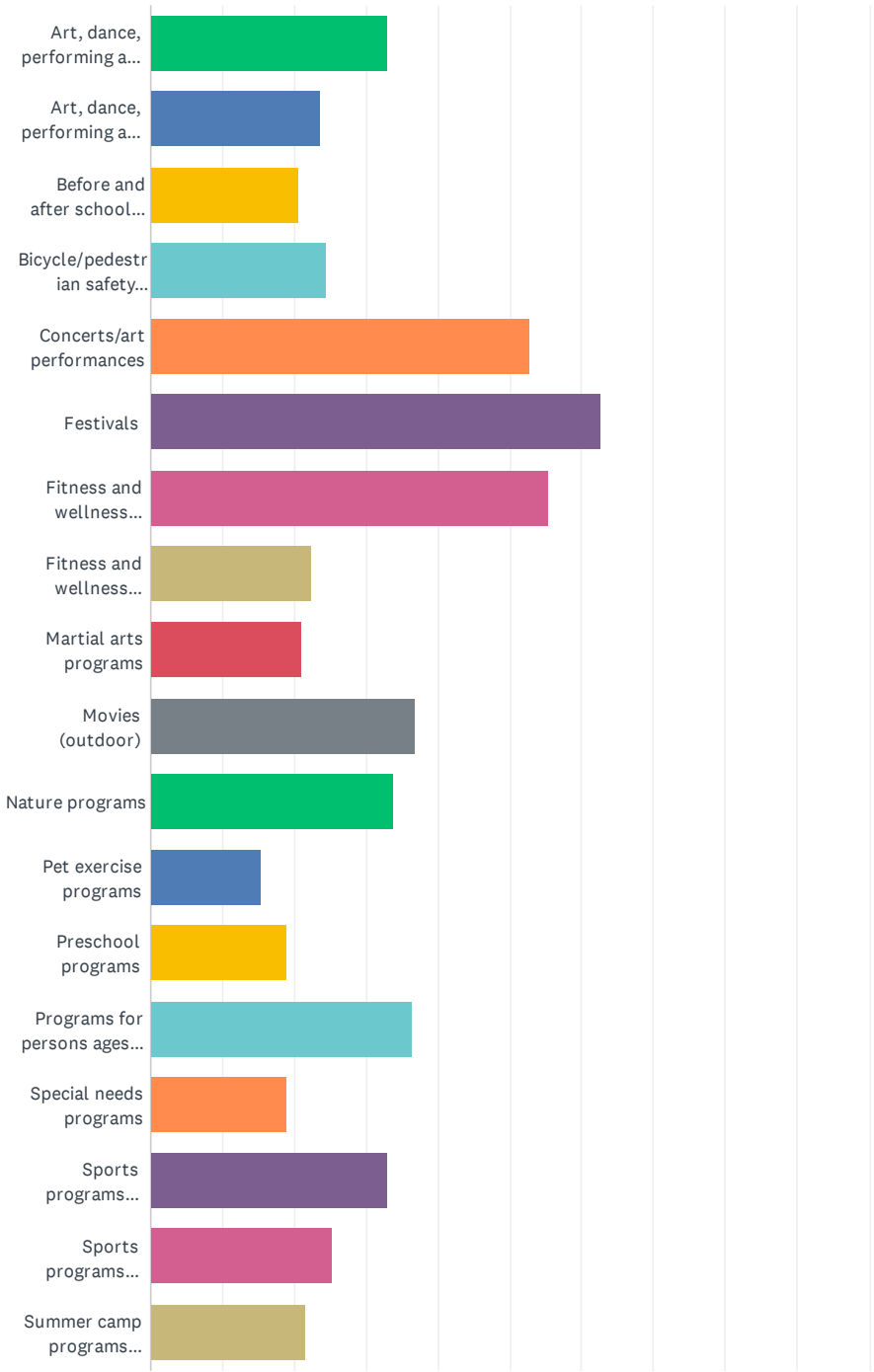

Trails – walking/hiking
Volleyball courts
[Insert text from Other]
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Revitalizati...
New develo...
Both
No investm...

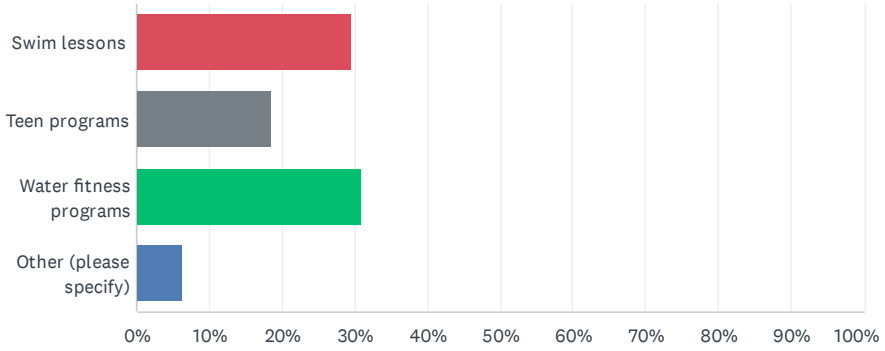
	REVITALIZATION/UPGRADES TO EXISTING	NEW DEVELOPMENT	BOTH	NO INVESTMENT NEEDED	TOTAL
Basketball courts (outdoor)	43.14% 22	13.73% 7	37.25% 19	5.88% 3	51
Community gardens	14.06% 9	26.56% 17	51.56% 33	7.81% 5	64
Recreation centers	36.00% 36	9.00% 9	46.00% 46	9.00% 9	100
Disc golf courses	19.35% 6	12.90% 4	51.61% 16	16.13% 5	31
Dog parks (off-leash)	2.27% 1	36.36% 16	47.73% 21	13.64% 6	44
Fields – baseball/softball diamonds	46.55% 27	6.90% 4	36.21% 21	10.34% 6	58
Fields – multipurpose (soccer/lacrosse/football/etc.)	37.78% 17	11.11% 5	37.78% 17	13.33% 6	45
Fitness equipment/obstacle course (outdoor)	18.33% 11	23.33% 14	48.33% 29	10.00% 6	60
Gymnasium/court space (indoor)	28.30% 15	9.43% 5	52.83% 28	9.43% 5	53
Large community parks	37.89% 36	13.68% 13	37.89% 36	10.53% 10	95
Natural areas/nature parks	33.33% 30	16.67% 15	38.89% 35	11.11% 10	90
Performance stage (indoor)	21.21% 7	21.21% 7	39.39% 13	18.18% 6	33
Pickleball courts	8.16% 4	51.02% 25	36.73% 18	4.08% 2	49
Picnic shelters/picnic areas	42.17% 35	9.64% 8	40.96% 34	7.23% 6	83
Playgrounds	35.71% 25	10.00% 7	47.14% 33	7.14% 5	70
Pump tracks/bike parks	12.12% 4	42.42% 14	33.33% 11	12.12% 4	33
Skate parks	3.45% 1	55.17% 16	37.93% 11	3.45% 1	29
Small neighborhood parks	38.10% 32	11.90% 10	45.24% 38	4.76% 4	84
Spray parks	25.00% 13	17.31% 9	46.15% 24	11.54% 6	52
Stage or amphitheater (outdoor)	30.36% 17	14.29% 8	25.00% 14	30.36% 17	56
Swimming pools (indoor)	40.91% 27	12.12% 8	40.91% 27	6.06% 4	66
Swimming pools/aquatic centers (outdoor)	17.31% 9	34.62% 18	44.23% 23	3.85% 2	52
Tennis courts	32.56%	20.93%	39.53%	6.98%	

	14	9	17	3	43
Trails – mountain biking	12.90% 4	25.81% 8	41.94% 13	19.35% 6	31
Trails – multiuse	23.64% 13	23.64% 13	40.00% 22	12.73% 7	55
Trails – walking/hiking	27.78% 25	22.22% 20	36.67% 33	13.33% 12	90
Volleyball courts	8.00% 2	52.00% 13	28.00% 7	12.00% 3	25
[Insert text from Other]	35.71% 5	28.57% 4	35.71% 5	0.00% 0	14

Q11 Please identify ALL PROGRAMS you or household members currently use or would like to use if available.

Answered: 233 Skipped: 65



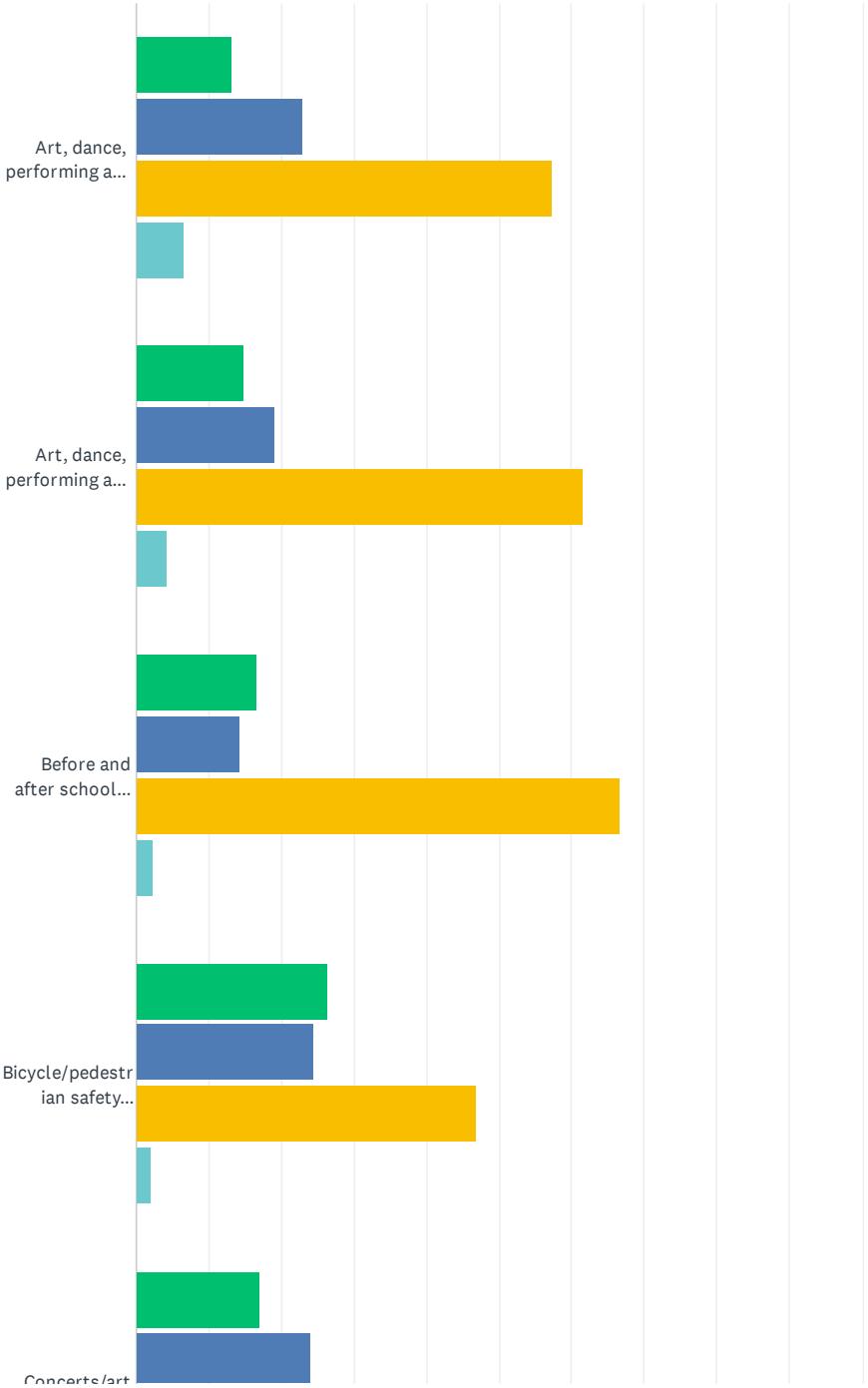


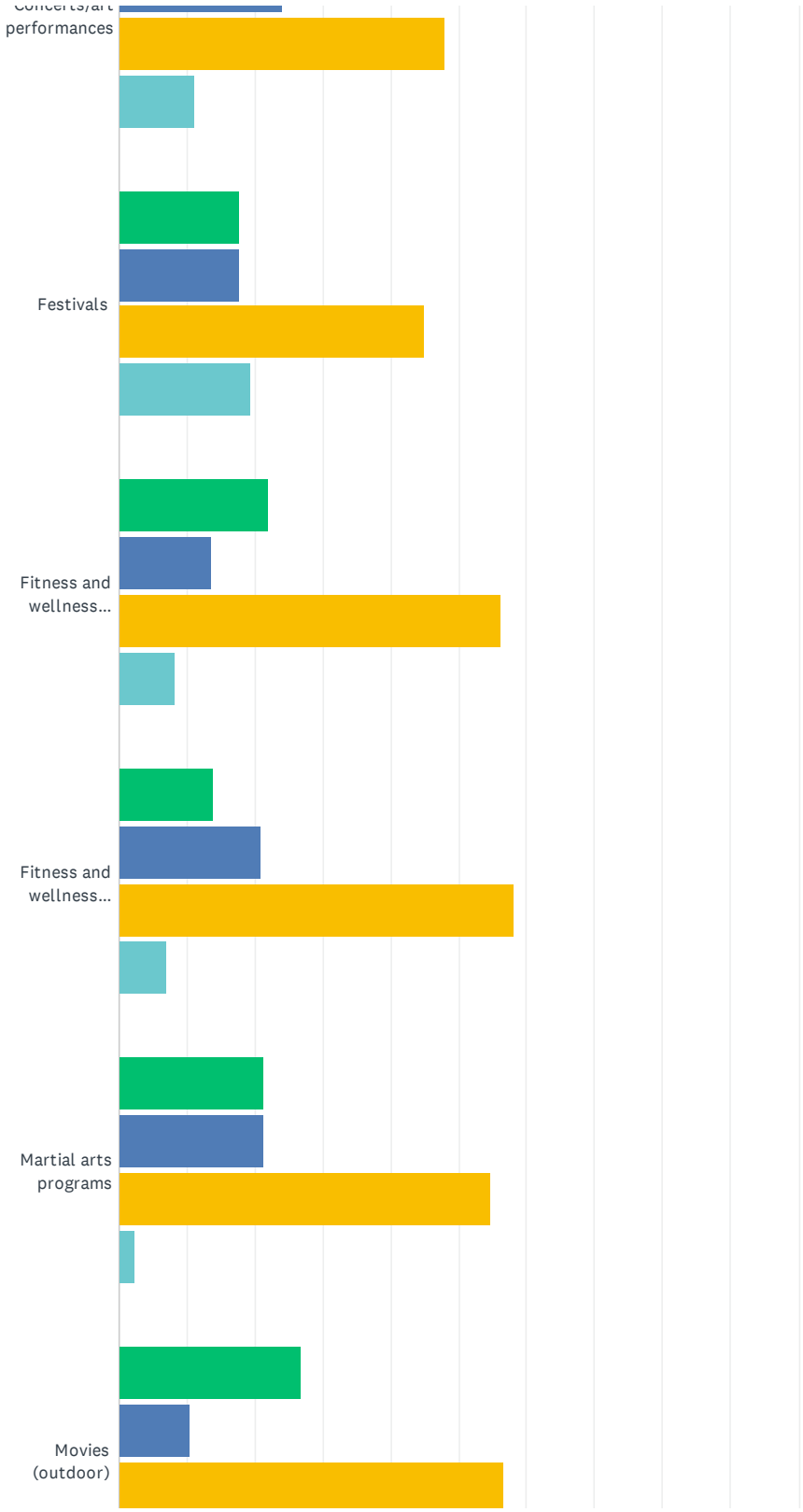
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	33.05%	77
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	23.61%	55
Before and after school programs	20.60%	48
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	24.46%	57
Concerts/art performances	52.79%	123
Festivals	62.66%	146
Fitness and wellness programs (adult)	55.36%	129
Fitness and wellness programs (youth)	22.32%	52
Martial arts programs	21.03%	49
Movies (outdoor)	36.91%	86
Nature programs	33.91%	79
Pet exercise programs	15.45%	36
Preschool programs	18.88%	44
Programs for persons ages 50+	36.48%	85
Special needs programs	18.88%	44
Sports programs (adult)	33.05%	77
Sports programs (youth)	25.32%	59
Summer camp programs (youth)	21.46%	50
Swim lessons	29.61%	69
Teen programs	18.45%	43
Water fitness programs	30.90%	72
Other (please specify)	6.44%	15
Total Respondents: 233		

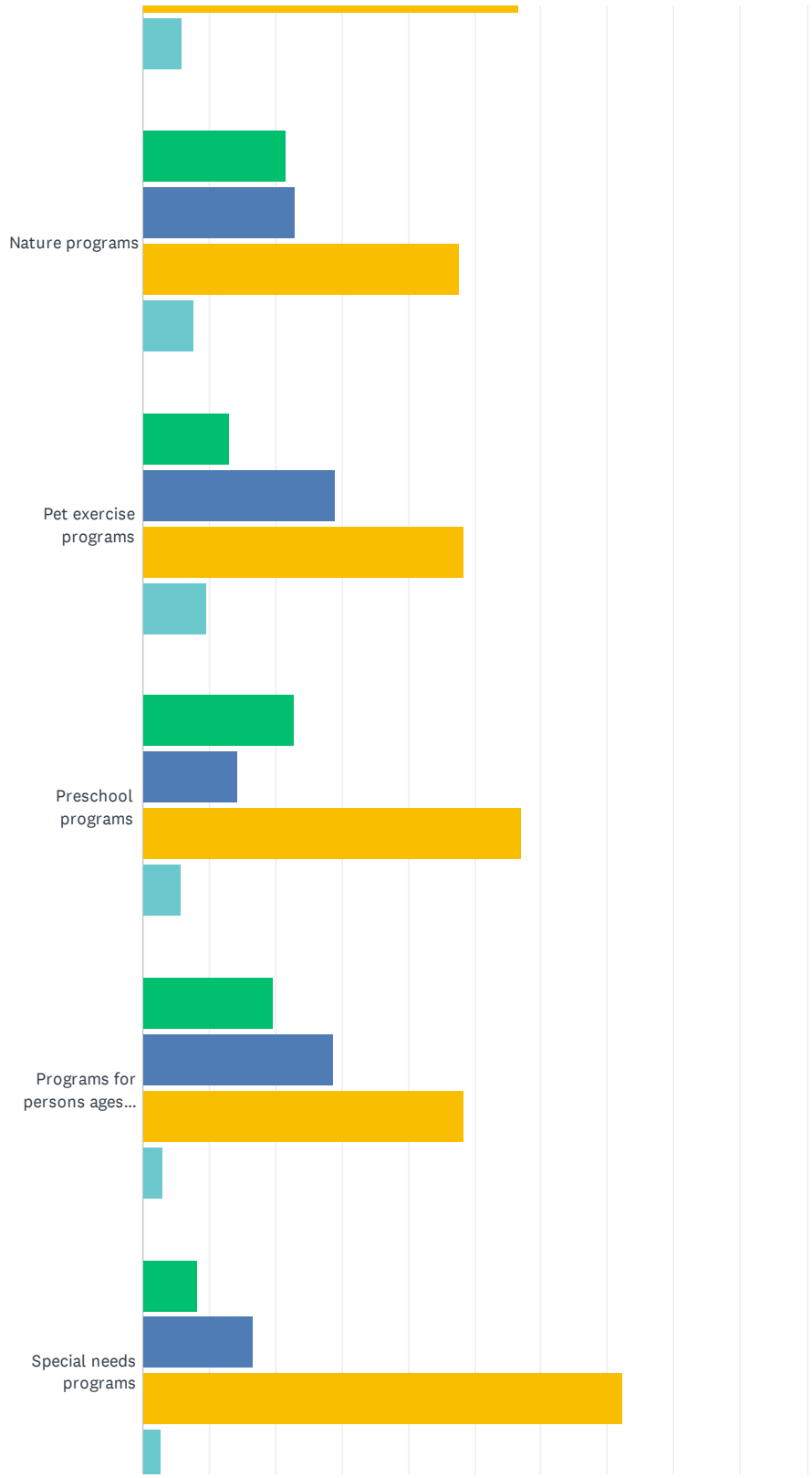
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	league softball and tournaments	5/15/2023 9:32 AM
2	I am glad our city have the many various programs available. I make note of what is available and I pass the word on to people who need the programs you offer.	3/29/2023 10:30 AM
3	Oak & Ivy Park Revitalization & Upgrade	3/25/2023 10:39 AM
4	Early hours at the gym	3/25/2023 7:53 AM
5	On Next Door when I put out the meeting notice residents aksed for the music scheduled for island Park, country, R&B, gospel	3/24/2023 7:30 AM
6	Indoor swimming pool, Family Barbeques in the park.	3/22/2023 2:14 PM
7	Zumba	1/24/2023 9:17 AM
8	Globetrotters Travel Club;Track/Field Club; Drumline/Step Club; Neighborhood Clean-up Club; Neighborhood Beautification Club; Pass It Forward Club; Book Club; Math Club	12/5/2022 10:14 AM
9	Adult Aqua	11/28/2022 8:54 AM
10	Senior Citizens/Teen Center	11/28/2022 8:39 AM
11	Summer morning programs for children/youth.	11/28/2022 8:35 AM
12	Motorcross ATV	11/28/2022 8:25 AM
13	Swim lessons and a bigger place to do it like the Kettering Rec center	11/18/2022 10:38 AM
14	Tennis facilities	11/17/2022 9:16 AM
15	Golf course	11/7/2022 10:58 AM

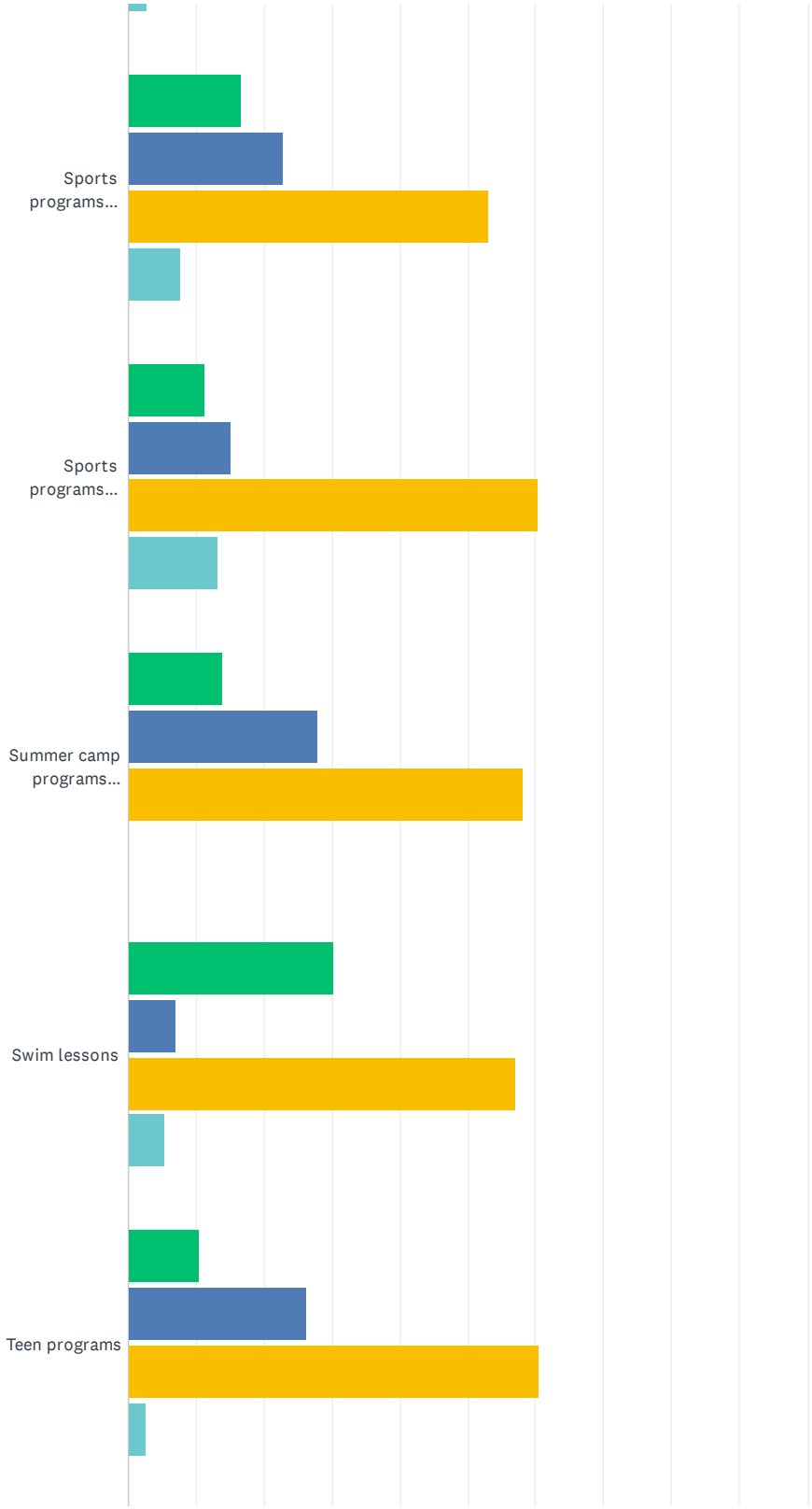
Q12 For these PROGRAMS, what kind of investment would you like to see in Dayton?

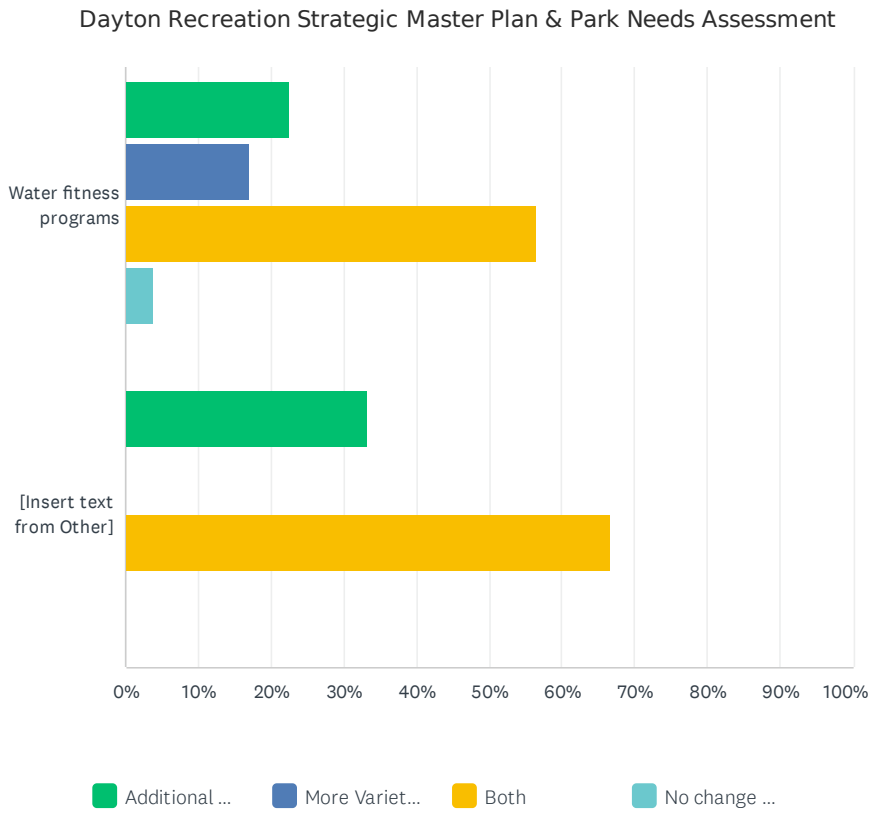
Answered: 185 Skipped: 113




performances
Festivals
Fitness and wellness...
Fitness and wellness...
Martial arts programs
Movies (outdoor)


Nature programs
Pet exercise programs
Preschool programs
Programs for persons ages...
Special needs programs

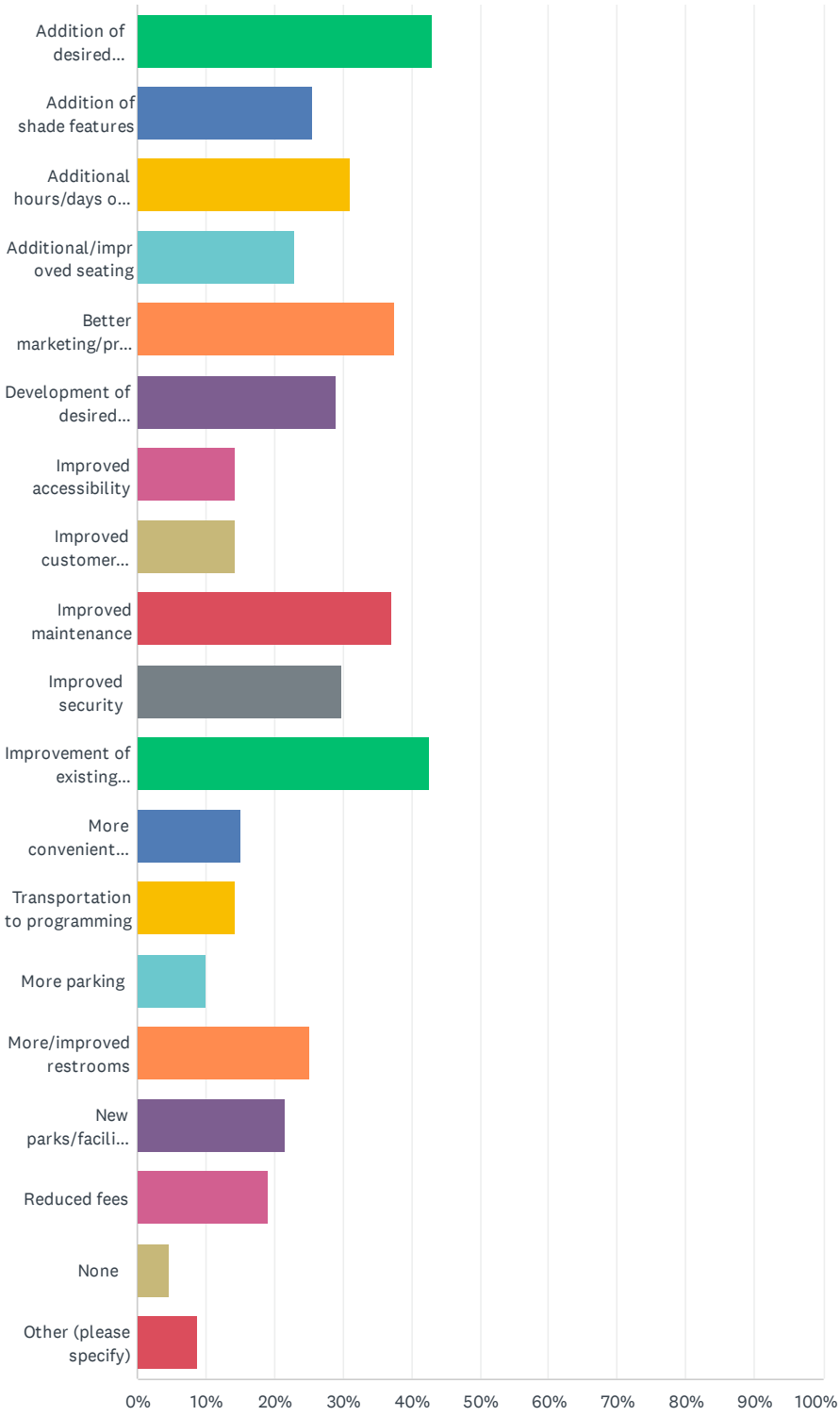

Sports programs...
Sports programs...
Summer camp programs...
Swim lessons
Teen programs


Dayton Recreation Strategic Master Plan & Park Needs Assessment
Water fitness programs
[Insert text from Other]
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Additional ...
More Variet...
Both
No change ...

	ADDITIONAL CAPACITY OR TIMES/DAYS	MORE VARIETY OF PROGRAM OFFERINGS	BOTH	NO CHANGE NEEDED	TOTAL
Art, dance, performing arts (adult)	13.11% 8	22.95% 14	57.38% 35	6.56% 4	61
Art, dance, performing arts (youth)	14.89% 7	19.15% 9	61.70% 29	4.26% 2	47
Before and after school programs	16.67% 7	14.29% 6	66.67% 28	2.38% 1	42
Bicycle/pedestrian safety programs	26.53% 13	24.49% 12	46.94% 23	2.04% 1	49
Concerts/art performances	17.00% 17	24.00% 24	48.00% 48	11.00% 11	100
Festivals	17.80% 21	17.80% 21	44.92% 53	19.49% 23	118
Fitness and wellness programs (adult)	21.88% 21	13.54% 13	56.25% 54	8.33% 8	96
Fitness and wellness programs (youth)	13.95% 6	20.93% 9	58.14% 25	6.98% 3	43
Martial arts programs	21.43% 9	21.43% 9	54.76% 23	2.38% 1	42
Movies (outdoor)	26.87% 18	10.45% 7	56.72% 38	5.97% 4	67
Nature programs	21.54% 14	23.08% 15	47.69% 31	7.69% 5	65
Pet exercise programs	12.90% 4	29.03% 9	48.39% 15	9.68% 3	31
Preschool programs	22.86% 8	14.29% 5	57.14% 20	5.71% 2	35
Programs for persons ages 50+	19.70% 13	28.79% 19	48.48% 32	3.03% 2	66
Special needs programs	8.33% 3	16.67% 6	72.22% 26	2.78% 1	36
Sports programs (adult)	16.67% 11	22.73% 15	53.03% 35	7.58% 5	66
Sports programs (youth)	11.32% 6	15.09% 8	60.38% 32	13.21% 7	53
Summer camp programs (youth)	13.95% 6	27.91% 12	58.14% 25	0.00% 0	43
Swim lessons	30.36% 17	7.14% 4	57.14% 32	5.36% 3	56
Teen programs	10.53% 4	26.32% 10	60.53% 23	2.63% 1	38
Water fitness programs	22.64% 12	16.98% 9	56.60% 30	3.77% 2	53
[Insert text from Other]	33.33% 4	0.00% 0	66.67% 8	0.00% 0	12

Q13 What would encourage you and your household to participate in more offerings by Dayton in recreation centers, outdoor sports facilities, or parks?

Answered: 218 Skipped: 80


Addition of desired...
Addition of shade features
Additional hours/days o...
Additional/improved seating
Better marketing/pr...
Development of desired...
Improved accessibility
Improved customer...
Improved maintenance
Improved security
Improvement of existing...
More convenient...
Transportation to programming
More parking
More/improved restrooms
New parks/facili...
Reduced fees
None
Other (please specify)
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

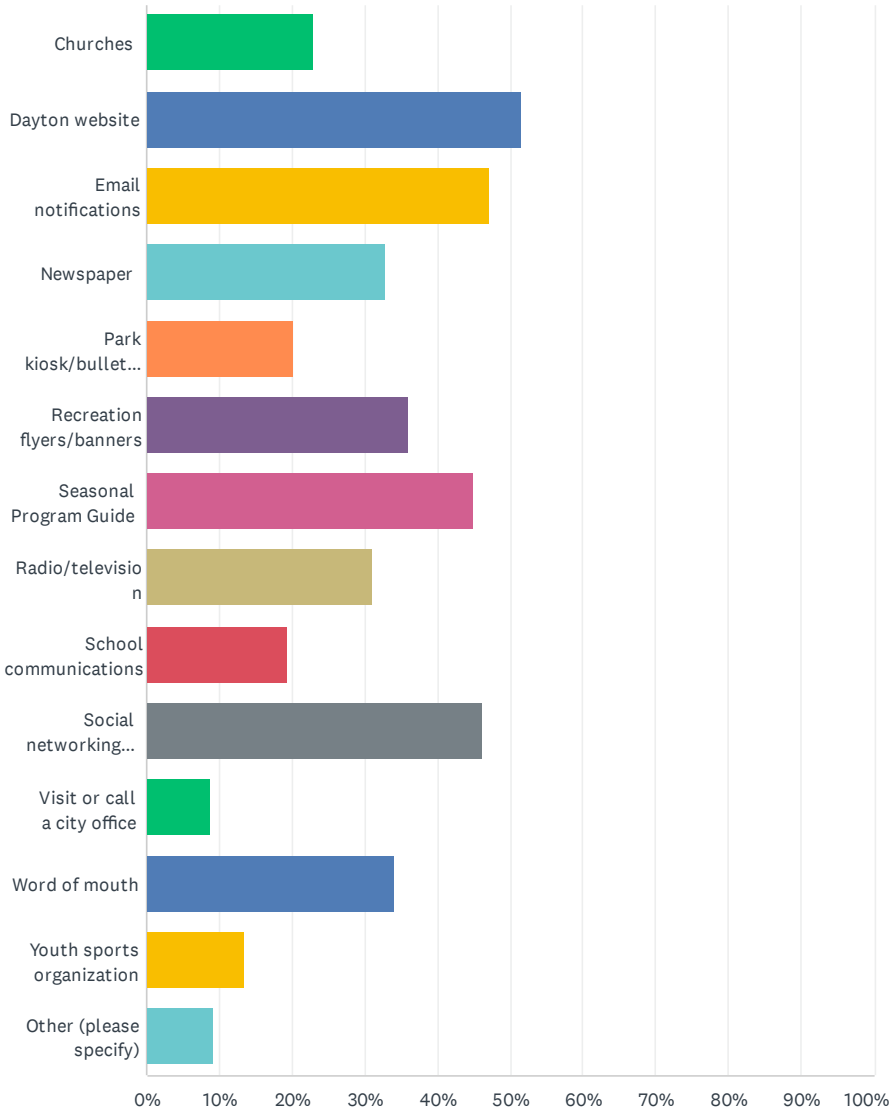
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Addition of desired programs	43.12%	94
Addition of shade features	25.69%	56
Additional hours/days of operation	31.19%	68
Additional/improved seating	22.94%	50
Better marketing/promotion	37.61%	82
Development of desired facilities	28.90%	63
Improved accessibility	14.22%	31
Improved customer service by staff	14.22%	31
Improved maintenance	37.16%	81
Improved security	29.82%	65
Improvement of existing facilities	42.66%	93
More convenient program locations	15.14%	33
Transportation to programming	14.22%	31
More parking	10.09%	22
More/improved restrooms	25.23%	55
New parks/facilities closer to home	21.56%	47
Reduced fees	19.27%	42
None	4.59%	10
Other (please specify)	8.72%	19
Total Respondents: 218		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I access these facilities through sport leagues.	3/30/2023 1:01 PM
2	Scholarship monies for youth and adult programs	3/29/2023 10:35 AM
3	Safety	3/28/2023 6:16 PM
4	Downsize or eliminate the Canadian geese population	3/27/2023 5:55 PM
5	water fountains, sticking to posted schedules	3/27/2023 3:22 PM
6	There are no Dayton City Parks in my downtown neighborhood of which I'm aware.	3/27/2023 3:15 PM
7	Important historical revitalization	3/25/2023 10:42 AM
8	People can be a real turn off. Especially marijuanna smoking in picnic areas. Children unsupervised in play areas are also aggravating. Young teens are also quite brazen. We basically just take the dog to the park.	3/22/2023 11:29 PM
9	Facilities in the neighborhood	3/22/2023 7:42 AM
10	More things for our youth for education	3/21/2023 10:12 PM
11	Difficult to get a monthly lap swim schedule, Lohrey pool needs repair, need more lifeguards to offer swim classes to children	2/8/2023 5:35 PM

12	Turf diamonds	12/7/2022 7:21 PM
13	Belmont park has a 2 year old park restroom that is almost always locked	11/29/2022 12:00 PM
14	Later and earlier programs for working individuals	11/18/2022 12:23 PM
15	All of these are important I know we may not be able to do them all but it would be nice	11/18/2022 10:41 AM
16	Turf infield at Kettering Field and a covered shelter added	11/17/2022 9:19 AM
17	The pools have very limited hours. We also belong to the Y, so we use their programs as well, but we used to go to the pool on West Third. It is a unique pool and great for young kids.	11/16/2022 10:15 PM
18	Better	11/16/2022 1:13 PM
19	Restrooms that are available and open outside of formal programming	10/31/2022 10:26 AM

Q14 Please select ways you prefer to learn about facilities, programs, activities, or events.

Answered: 231 Skipped: 67



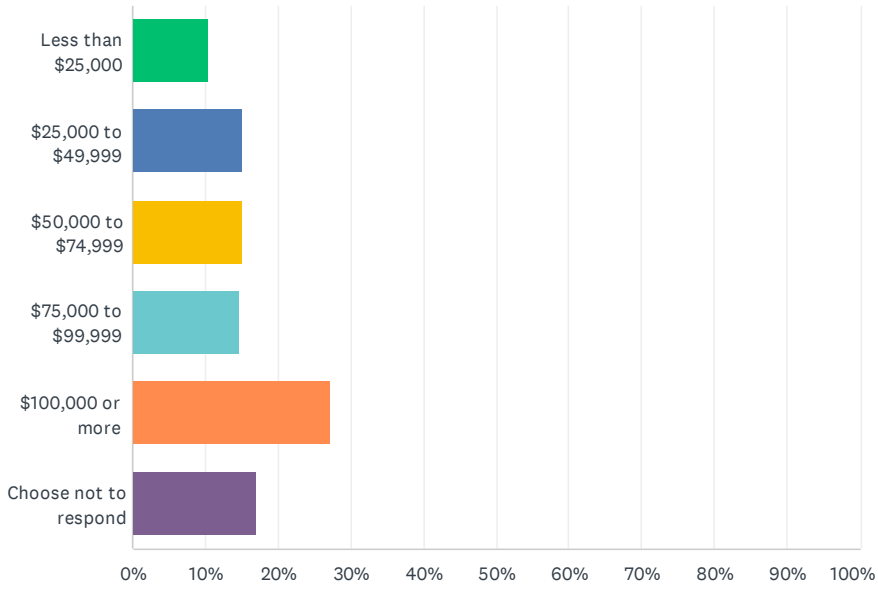
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Churches	22.94%	53
Dayton website	51.52%	119
Email notifications	47.19%	109
Newspaper	32.90%	76
Park kiosk/bulletin board	20.35%	47
Recreation flyers/banners	35.93%	83
Seasonal Program Guide	45.02%	104
Radio/television	31.17%	72
School communications	19.48%	45
Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	46.32%	107
Visit or call a city office	8.66%	20
Word of mouth	34.20%	79
Youth sports organization	13.42%	31
Other (please specify)	9.09%	21
Total Respondents: 231		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Historical society meetings	3/31/2023 8:29 AM
2	Sport leagues like Sportcial	3/30/2023 1:01 PM
3	Mosques bulletins	3/26/2023 8:13 PM
4	Local kiosks and historical plaques	3/25/2023 10:42 AM
5	So kids to know where to go in need of help	3/21/2023 10:12 PM
6	Via Dayton Softball Commission	2/25/2023 9:09 PM
7	Easy online access to ALWAYS UPDATED swim schedule (online is ok and an app even better) plus a paper handout or posting at Rec Center	2/8/2023 5:35 PM
8	In neighborhood	1/24/2023 3:43 PM
9	phone call if pool is closed.	1/24/2023 10:02 AM
10	Neighborhood Meeting	1/23/2023 10:59 AM
11	COMMUNCIATION	12/7/2022 7:30 PM
12	Facility specific website	12/7/2022 7:30 PM
13	mailers to home	12/5/2022 10:17 AM
14	Better marketing.	11/28/2022 8:55 AM
15	Better marketing	11/28/2022 8:47 AM
16	Non-profit	11/28/2022 8:40 AM
17	To connect with the high school teens, place a city councilman aid in all six Dayton Public high schools during the lunch periods. This aid should be there for at least two weeks to sit with and	11/21/2022 10:31 AM

	talk to the teens advertising the program and hear their thoughts. Also, purchase some menu holders that could be placed on each table advertising the program.	
18	Legendary People Podcast	11/18/2022 4:10 PM
19	Should be a mix of above, the more variety the more likelihood of getting the word out	11/18/2022 12:23 PM
20	Pass the flyers out to our school children or in school newsletters and at all school games and events	11/18/2022 10:41 AM
21	Adult sports organizations	11/17/2022 10:20 AM

Q15 What is your annual household income?

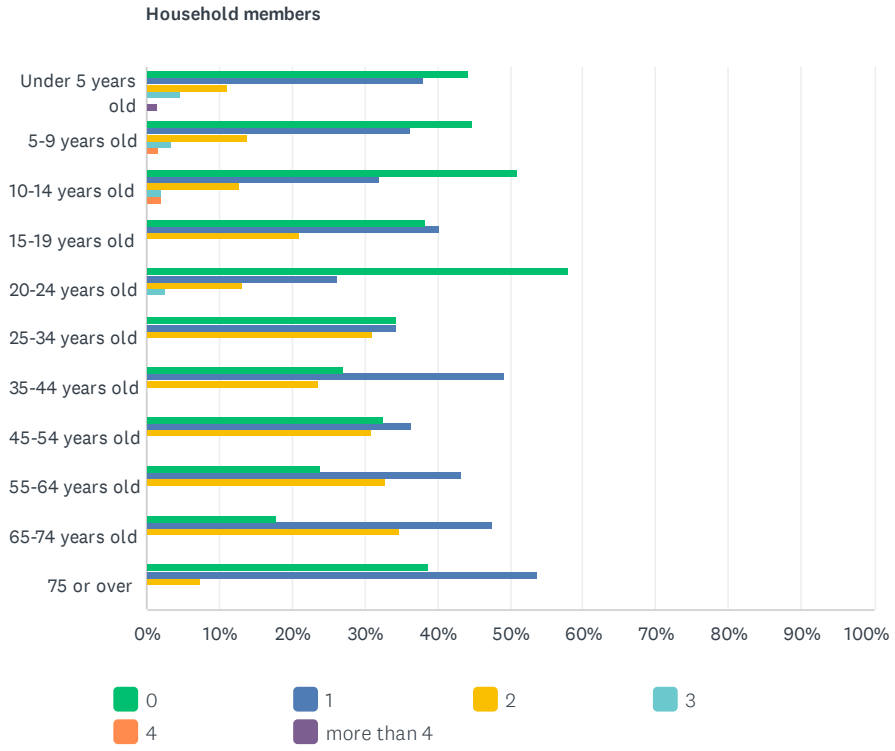
Answered: 230 Skipped: 68



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than $25,000	10.43%	24
$25,000 to $49,999	15.22%	35
$50,000 to $74,999	15.22%	35
$75,000 to $99,999	14.78%	34
$100,000 or more	27.39%	63
Choose not to respond	16.96%	39
TOTAL		230

Q16 Counting yourself, how many people in your household are of the following ages?

Answered: 234 Skipped: 64



Household members							
	0	1	2	3	4	MORE THAN 4	TOTAL
Under 5 years old	44.44% 28	38.10% 24	11.11% 7	4.76% 3	0.00% 0	1.59% 1	63
5-9 years old	44.83% 26	36.21% 21	13.79% 8	3.45% 2	1.72% 1	0.00% 0	58
10-14 years old	51.06% 24	31.91% 15	12.77% 6	2.13% 1	2.13% 1	0.00% 0	47
15-19 years old	38.46% 20	40.38% 21	21.15% 11	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	52
20-24 years old	57.89% 22	26.32% 10	13.16% 5	2.63% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	38
25-34 years old	34.43% 21	34.43% 21	31.15% 19	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	61
35-44 years old	27.12% 16	49.15% 29	23.73% 14	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	59
45-54 years old	32.73% 18	36.36% 20	30.91% 17	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	55
55-64 years old	23.88% 16	43.28% 29	32.84% 22	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	67
65-74 years old	17.82% 18	47.52% 48	34.65% 35	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	101
75 or over	38.89% 21	53.70% 29	7.41% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	54

Q18 What other recommendations would you like for Dayton to consider?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 224

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Designated parks and recreation employees for each neighborhood.	5/21/2023 7:14 AM
2	Keep the parks clean, no loud music playing in the park, don't install things that can't be kept up, enforce the park hours and parking locations.	4/4/2023 11:40 PM
3	Skate parks	3/29/2023 9:08 PM
4	Offer youth golf programs.	3/29/2023 10:38 AM
5	Improve parks and plant more trees	3/27/2023 9:24 PM
6	We need an outdoor pool in East Dayton!!!	3/27/2023 8:21 PM
7	I'd like to see some urban parks under the freeways - space seems wasted.	3/27/2023 3:15 PM
8	Please don't forget about Northeast Dayton areas, we are growing, with zero amenities to speak about	3/26/2023 8:14 PM
9	more clean up on our ally ways	3/26/2023 4:41 PM
10	Major upgrade to Oak & Ivy Park and historical recognition of Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Wright Bros. Issue RFP to accomplish.	3/25/2023 10:46 AM
11	Senior Center is lacking in activities and programing. Room very small. Not good programing. More seniors in the community Not one question about their needs on this form at all. Youth mention but not aged.	3/24/2023 7:32 AM
12	My 10 year vision for the city parks is clear, modern, and consistent branding with good marketing. This includes signage, mailers, social media, etc.	3/23/2023 2:56 PM
13	more sports programs for younger youth - starting at 3 years old, i.e. basketball, hockey, baseball, etc.	3/23/2023 1:21 PM
14	Public trash bins throughout the city and littering signs!	3/22/2023 9:02 PM
15	To put permanent activities in the city that we will be known for like Horse and carriage rides, a Ferris Wheel, or someone to take us on boat rides through parts of the Miami River. Etc.	3/22/2023 4:44 PM
16	Chin-up Bars in all outside recreational facilities.	3/22/2023 2:22 PM
17	Better city/county partnering and utilization of resources devoted to recreational opportunities.	3/22/2023 10:14 AM
18	Crackdown on noise ordinances and traffic violations throughout our residential areas, particularly off Salem avenue and Main street. Nothing seems to be done about this and crime has increased dramatically.	3/22/2023 9:53 AM
19	DO SOMETHING !	3/22/2023 9:17 AM
20	Improve and add outdoor fields please, specially soccer fields	3/22/2023 9:08 AM
21	Activities for youth.	3/21/2023 10:46 PM
22	More youth programs	3/21/2023 10:14 PM
23	The equipment that is here in the Madden Hills Park was damaged last summer by quite a few teens visiting it, various reports were made but no improvements or repairs have taken place.	3/21/2023 7:27 PM
24	The splash pads need expanded hours!!! I think in recent years they've opened at 12pm (waters turns on at 12) which is late in the day for little kids who cannot be safely outside in hot temperatures! I think 10AM is a safer time. I'm not sure the reasoning- but if it's noise then I think 10AM is late enough in the day and a fair time for noise to begin. It does not make	3/21/2023 2:23 PM

	sense to wait until the hottest part of the day when more heat advisories occur to turn the water on. Younger kids miss out!	
25	Brand new softball baseball complex	2/25/2023 9:10 PM
26	1) I know the lifeguard shortage is a national problem. Please keep trying. Swimming is a life skill and swim lessons are vital. 2) The swim facilities are clean and neat and the staff are always terrific. What is lacking is promotion -- always difficult to find out what the current swim schedule is. The website information is oftentimes outdated, there is no app to make it easy, and even the paper schedules are not always timely. 3) I don't know what kind of promotion is done in the nearby neighborhoods for the terrific facilities to be used.	2/8/2023 5:36 PM
27	Turf fields for the softball/baseball diamonds, upgraded LED lighting, and better concessions.	1/24/2023 9:08 PM
28	No	1/20/2023 7:23 PM
29	Field turf for softball fields	12/17/2022 9:02 AM
30	New scoreboards with timer clocks. New stands. Turf fields. New Lighting.	12/8/2022 6:36 AM
31	A new shelter with tables adjacent to the Softball HOF Monument at Kettering Fields that can be used for the HOF picnic, and softball teams and fans! More frequent field maintenance on the softball diamonds at Kettering Fields!	12/8/2022 12:02 AM
32	Assign someone to care for Kettering fields frequent grass cutting and infield care. The infields are embarrassing due to recent overhaul has been neglected and allowed to slip into disrepair	12/7/2022 9:46 PM
33	AstroTurf infields at Kettering Fields Complex	12/7/2022 8:22 PM
34	Upgrades to Kettering Complex!	12/7/2022 7:32 PM
35	organize a community support group/quarterly meetings	12/5/2022 10:22 AM
36	Resurfaced parking lots-especially the one that is parallel to Woodbine Ave and the one off of Linherst(by Frisbee golf course).Usable restrooms it's portapotties; benches along Or near the paved path or near playing fields.	11/29/2022 12:05 PM
37	Consider the youth more.	11/28/2022 9:13 AM
38	Partnering with school district to survey students for their input.	11/28/2022 9:07 AM
39	Drug prevention for all ages, Active with children with one parent homes, Gang awareness.	11/28/2022 8:56 AM
40	Recreation has been passed around from dept. to dept. over the past two decades, without defined ownership or easy access (by residents). How about a Department of Parks & Recreation?	11/28/2022 8:37 AM
41	Dayton should invest more into neighborhood parks. Develop a relationship with neighbors.	11/28/2022 8:31 AM
42	ATV + Dirt bike place to ride to get kids off the street.	11/28/2022 8:27 AM
43	More Hours.	11/28/2022 8:21 AM
44	ADA compliance at parks. Children + teen programs.	11/28/2022 8:15 AM
45	Nichols - new lighting for courts	11/24/2022 5:35 AM
46	Satellite Boys & Girls Centers To connect with the high school teens, place a city councilman aid in all six Dayton Public high schools during the lunch periods. This aid should be there for at least two weeks to sit with and talk to the teens advertising the program and hear their thoughts. Also, purchase some restaurant menu holders that could be placed on each table advertising the program. Turn Fairview K-6 and EJ Middle School into satellite Boys & Girls Centers after school. The centers would be open seven days a week for all 33 weeks of the academic school year. Sample hours are: M – F, 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm Sat, 12 pm – 6 pm Sun, 12 pm – 6 pm We could use college students from UD, Central State, Wilberforce, and Wright State to supervise and teach in the buildings. They would get paid via their College Work Study programs. Their respective colleges and the Boys and Girls Club can provide age-appropriate activities for the kids. We could strategically have RTA run buses through the neighborhood to provide safe transportation to and from both locations. The hours would change during summertime. COST Food - USDA College Employer Cost – College Work Study Building Usage – Free Security – Neighborhood Community Policing provided by the Dayton	11/21/2022 11:23 AM

	Police Department RTA Transportation - Unknown Both buildings were built with the hope that the community to use them. Here is one way the community could use them and provide quality, fun educational programs for the kids in this community. Please call if you would like to discuss this in greater detail.	
47	Please keep the weight room at Lohrey mopped and all surfaces cleaned. Please do not have the pools closed from 10-11 AM. Maybe 12-1. Love the chair yoga-keep it up. Love the pool exercise classes. Maybe bring back cards and more senior activities. Please buy new ratchet tools to secure lane markers for both indoor pools. Please fix the lane hook that has pulled out of the wall months ago at Lohrey. Please hire more lifeguards so both pools can operate M-F. Thank you for helping keep the community strong by providing programs that nurture healthy living. Thanks for all you do.	11/19/2022 1:47 PM
48	Increased security. The free after-school childcare was a great financial help for my family. However, I was often discouraged by the lack of security for the attendees and the poor customer service that was often displayed by the staff that didn't work in the after school programming.	11/19/2022 11:23 AM
49	Secondary options for youth outreach.	11/18/2022 4:12 PM
50	Child Care Center offered at recreation parks	11/18/2022 4:04 PM
51	More water aerobics in Trotwood	11/18/2022 3:54 PM
52	everything	11/18/2022 3:08 PM
53	More bathrooms in parks	11/18/2022 2:41 PM
54	No else at this time.	11/18/2022 1:56 PM
55	More programming regarding excersize classes.	11/18/2022 1:20 PM
56	N/A	11/18/2022 1:15 PM
57	Reduce litter outside of the facilities.	11/18/2022 12:29 PM
58	A post survey would be good for people who are taking existing programs to be able to gage if existing programs have interest. Also encourage including outreach at events or to create opportunities for neighborhood events.	11/18/2022 12:25 PM
59	Bigger pools! Sheltered seating areas in open lots for school bus riders. Coaching training and assistance. Free gym time for coaches developing young players. And the thank you all for making an effort to make these changes	11/18/2022 10:45 AM
60	Seatingvat the new NFL field.	11/18/2022 8:57 AM
61	Develop our programs to their apex… then move to other things	11/17/2022 6:57 PM
62	Resurfacing of Pickleball courts at Jim Nichols	11/17/2022 3:06 PM
63	Increased stakeholder involvement and public-private planning and execution.	11/17/2022 10:22 AM
64	A process that would attract Senior Softball Tournaments to Kettering Field	11/17/2022 9:21 AM
65	Since there are so many organizations offering youth sports programming, I often choose the one that has the best timing. Sometimes, the commitment is higher than desired. I often would like something that is just once per week.	11/16/2022 10:21 PM
66	Should consider outsourcing all the parks to 5 Rivers Metro Parks. The overall park maintenance is terrible and often unkept and dirty, Programming is poor. Facilities are in poor condition. You should look at what other communities do. We are at the bottom. I am a Dayton resident and taxpayer as well.	11/16/2022 12:24 PM
67	Better PR....more positive coverage on TV and newspaper highlighting all the programs and parks available. We need to let folks in Dayton and out of the area see what gems we have in the parks and recreation programs offered.	11/10/2022 5:57 PM
68	Safer sidewalks to cross dangerous streets that intersect neighborhoods, such as Siebenthaler, Ridge... which break up the DeWeese Ridgecrest neighborhood, creating a division. There is no safe crossing path from Ridge and Pinecrest to get to Ridgecrest Park.	11/7/2022 4:06 PM
69	Please consider transferring Triangle to MetroParks. MetroParks Police have access to laws	11/7/2022 1:23 PM

	that DPD are prevented from using by the City Prosecutor. Why force a crippled Police department to protect an area when better alternatives are available? This is a decades old issue and nobody wants to solve the problem. Triangle is not safe without MetroParks Police access to the Opportuning statutes.	
70	Reopen kitty hawk and madden golf courses	11/7/2022 11:01 AM
71	Please replace the building at Wegerzen like cox so people can book programs.	11/7/2022 10:38 AM
72	In Triangle Park, remove obsolete shelters and other buildings (they are magnets for unwelcome activities) and construct a walking trail(s) through the park to further encourage positive activity like the great dog park is doing. In DeWeese Parkway, resurface the much-used and well-worn walking path. At Jim Nichols Tennis Center, construct new, dedicated pickleball courts at the south end of the center, and fix the water/drainage issues at the north end of the center which continually destroy the surface of the hard courts. There is no point in resurfacing the hard courts until the water issue is addressed; it's throwing money away. Allocate more resources to park maintenance (mowing, dead tree removal and new tree planting, etc.) Public Works is doing a very good job with limited resources but there are limits to what can be done with no money.	11/7/2022 9:30 AM
73	Pickleball is a sport that is rapidly growing in popularity. Dayton seems to be somewhat 'behind the curve' in recognizing and responding to this. the tennis/pickleball hard courts at Jim Nichols Tennis Center are in desperate need of repair. One of the three hard surface tennis courts could easily be converted into two permanent pickleball courts.	10/26/2022 10:29 AM
74	Grt busy on the plans	10/24/2022 6:27 PM