



## Skokie Park District

# Community Recreation Needs Assessment

January 2013



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## Introduction

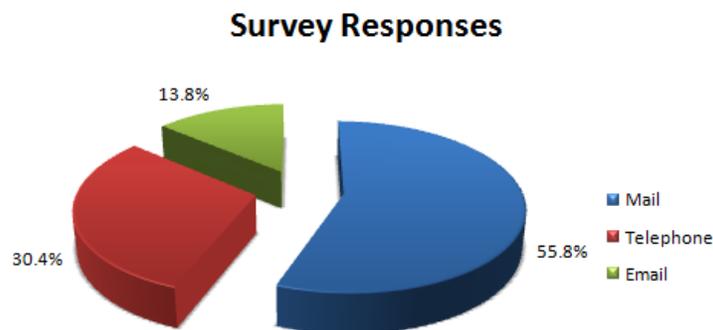
Public Research Group, in association with GreenPlay, was retained by the Skokie Park District to aid them in the establishment of priorities for future capital improvements, programs and recreational services. This report discusses how the data gathering process was developed, how this data was collected and analyzed, and the conclusions that can be derived from this planning effort. This report highlights the variety of methods that were used to collect data in both a quantitative and qualitative format, and the multiple layers of data that were analyzed to produce the associated conclusions. This included a series of input sessions with Park District staff, the Park District Board of Commissioners and a community focus group. Together, the qualitative and quantitative data findings paint a picture that should help the Skokie Park District chart a course for its future direction in providing quality parks and recreation services.

## Survey Findings

### Methodology

This presentation of the combined mail, telephone and email findings from the data gathered by the Public Research Group on behalf of the Skokie Park District is presented as a narrative report. Findings are presented in tabular, graphical and chart formats in order to make it easier for board members and the public to understand their meanings and implications.

The data presented in this report is derived from mail, telephone and email survey responses entered into a statistical package licensed from IBM. The data was gathered from surveys sent out to randomly selected households within the Skokie Park District using GIS (Geographic Information System) to develop a custom geo-coded residential database.



Using the three methods, a total of 421 responses were received, of which 235 were mail surveys, 128 were telephone surveys, and 58 from emails. The mail survey response rate was nearly 24%, considered high in social science research.

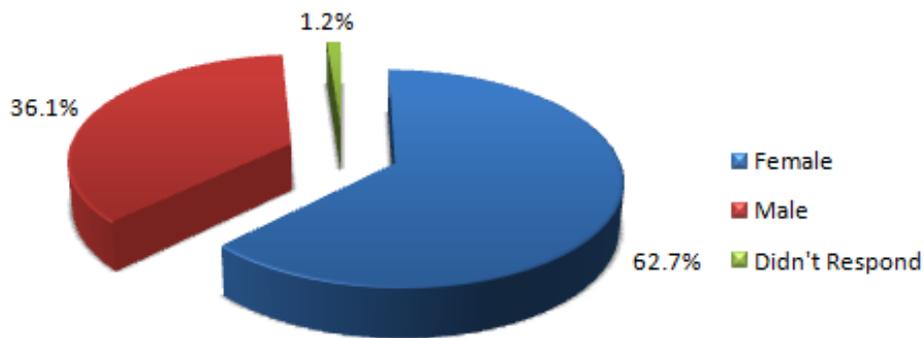
Based on the total number of responses, the margin of error of the survey sample is approximately 4% at a 95% level of confidence. Based on Public Research Group's experience, the sample collected is representative of the entire population of the Skokie Park District.

The statistical methodology used to interpret the data findings includes one-sample and independent-sample t-testing. Variables are defined as responses to answers. While there are 27 questions in the survey, there are 196 variables that are analyzed in this report. Variables are choices, with some questions having as many as 32 potential choices for answers.

### **Demographics**

In recreation surveys such as this, survey responses tend to be provided more by females than males. Sometimes their response differences are important and sometimes they are not. In this study, Public Research Group believes the differences in responses between females and males are not particularly important because the information requested is more factual than opinion based. In this case, more females answered the survey than males.

### **Q24. What is your gender?**



416 respondents answered Question 24, which asked their gender. 62.7% were females and 36.1% were males. The chart shows that 5 people (1.2%) refused to provide their gender. When the responses of the two genders are compared, the 5 respondents who didn't provide an answer are not considered by the statistical program in the findings, but when gender is not a consideration, all responses are considered.

Similarly, Question 25 asked the age of respondents and the ages of those in their households. Using the responses to that question, the average age of respondents was determined. The percentage of respondents that were seniors was calculated, as well as the percentage of households that had children 17 years of age or younger.

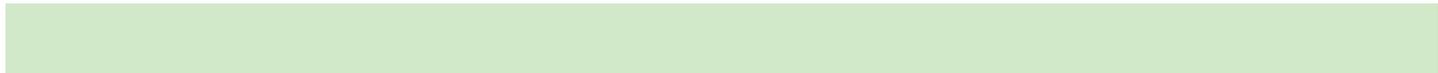
<b>Demographics of the Sample</b>	
Age of Respondent	59.69
Respondents Over the Age of 65	38%
Respondents with Children in the Household	29%

391 of the 421 respondents answered Question 25. The data showed that the average age of respondents was 59.69, that 38% of them were 65 years of age or older, and that 29% of respondents answering Question 25 said they had children in the household.

The average age may seem high, however it should be considered that children 17 years of age and younger did not participate in the study. Taking this into account, the demographic data for this study closely resembles the 2010 Census data for the Village of Skokie.

Just as it is important to consider whether females and males answered questions differently, it is important to consider if senior citizens and respondents with children in their households answered questions differently. There will be occasions where that occurs in this study.



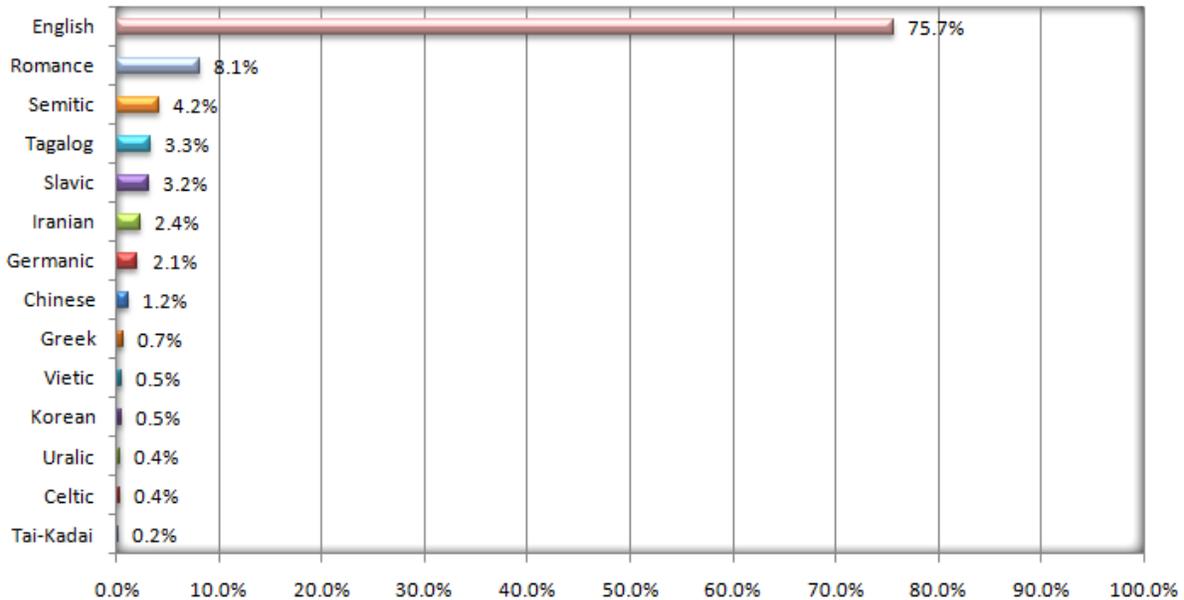


The final demographic question in this study measures the percentage of respondents who have a language other than English spoken in their households. The following table shows the percentages.

<b>Question 26 - Households with languages other than English</b>	
A language other than English is spoken	24%

The table shows that 24% of responding households reported speaking languages other than English in their home. The following graph shows the languages spoken.

**Q26. It would be helpful to the Skokie Park District if you would tell us what languages other than English are spoken in your household.**

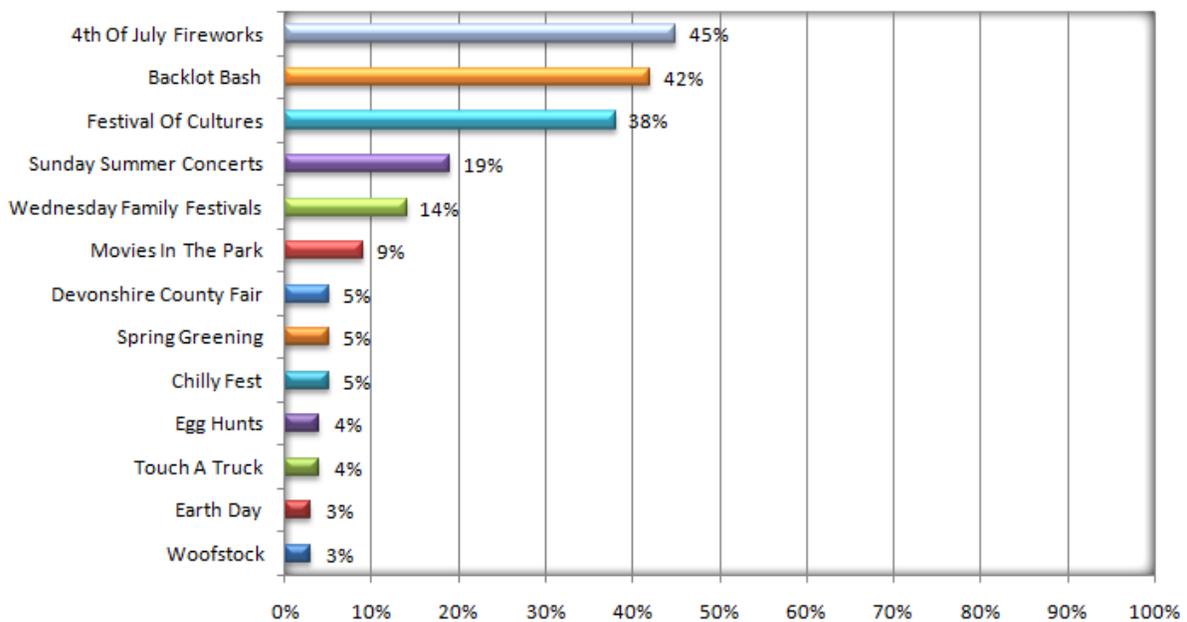


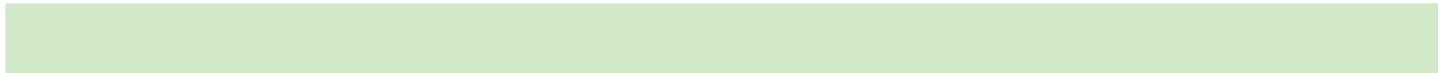
The graph shows the ethnic diversity of the residents of Skokie and illustrates the fact that second languages are spoken. Romance languages were the second most spoken type of language within Skokie. Romance languages are a language classification that includes: Spanish, French, Italian, and other European dialects. Second languages spoken in the household is an important consideration, particularly when considering communication media outlets for the Skokie Park District.

## Recreation and Special Events Participation

Question 4 asked respondents which special events members of their households participated in. The responses show the most popular events are; 4th of July fireworks, with nearly half of all respondent households participating, Backlot Bash, with more than 40% participating, and the Festival of Cultures, with nearly 40% participating.

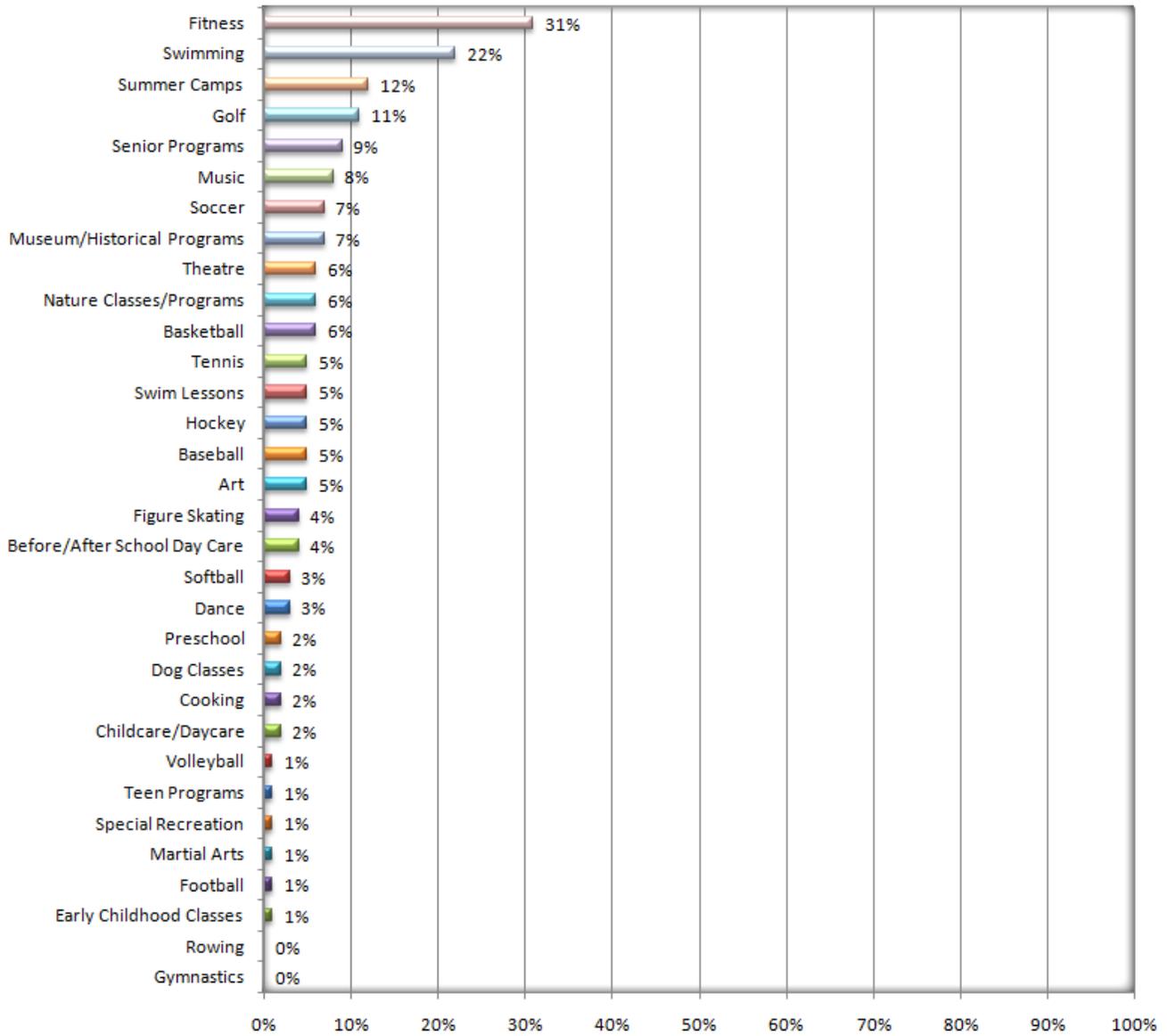
### Q4. In which Skokie Park District free special events have you or a member of your household participated in during the past year?





Question 5 expanded recreation participation to include general activities, ranging from art to volleyball.

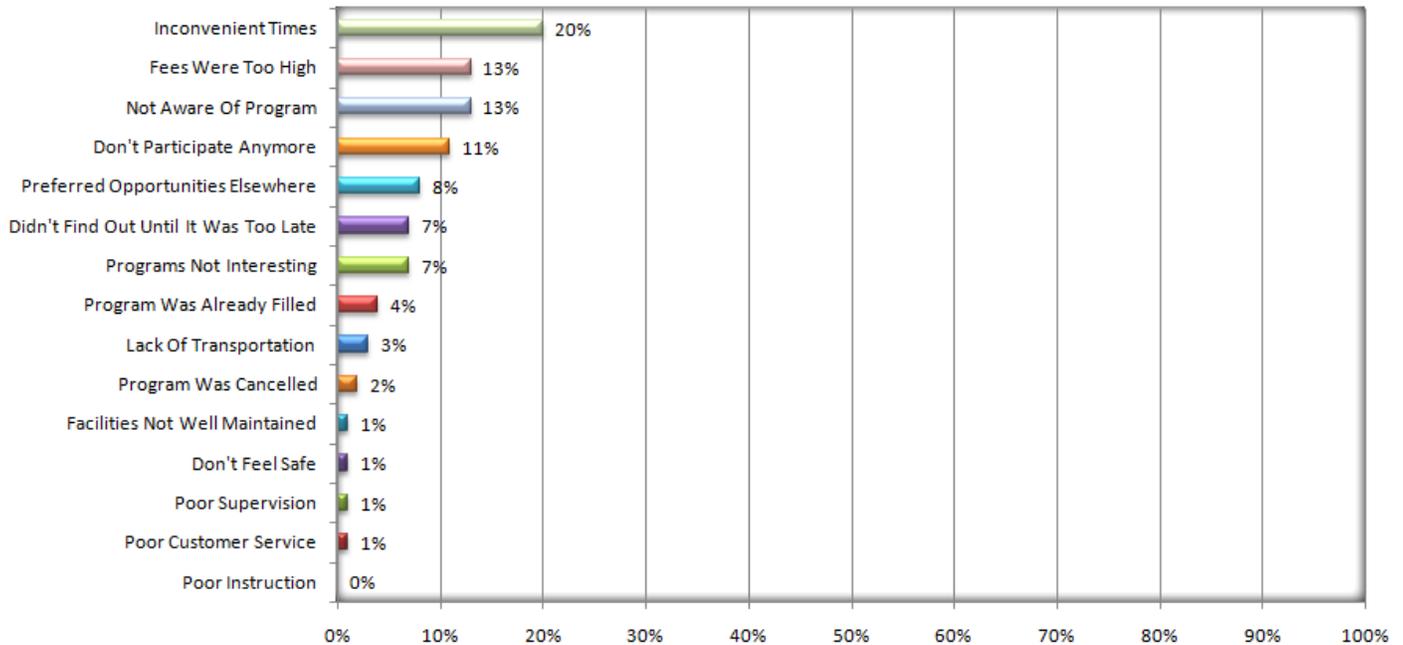
### Q5. In which Skokie Park District activities have you or a member of your household participated in during the past year?



The two most popular activities were fitness and swimming, with 31% and 22% of respondents saying they participated. All other activities ranged between 1% and 10% of respondents, who said they or someone in their household participated.

When asked for the reasons that they or members of their households might not have participated in Skokie Park District recreation programs, a list of choices were provided, along with the opportunity to provide a written response in Question 8.

**Q8. What are the reasons that you or members of your household might not have participated in Skokie Park District recreation programs?**



Inconvenient times was the most common reason for not participating in any activities. The Park District may want to evaluate the times that the recreation programs are offered and make adjustments based on this analysis, as needed. Interestingly, only 11% of respondents said the reason they don't participate in Skokie Park District programs is that they don't generally participate in recreation activities.

When asked to provide their own reasons for not participating, responses were varied. The list of unedited responses in the Appendix of this report (page 44) shows that almost everyone provided similar reasons as were offered in the list of choices. Few provided different reasons.

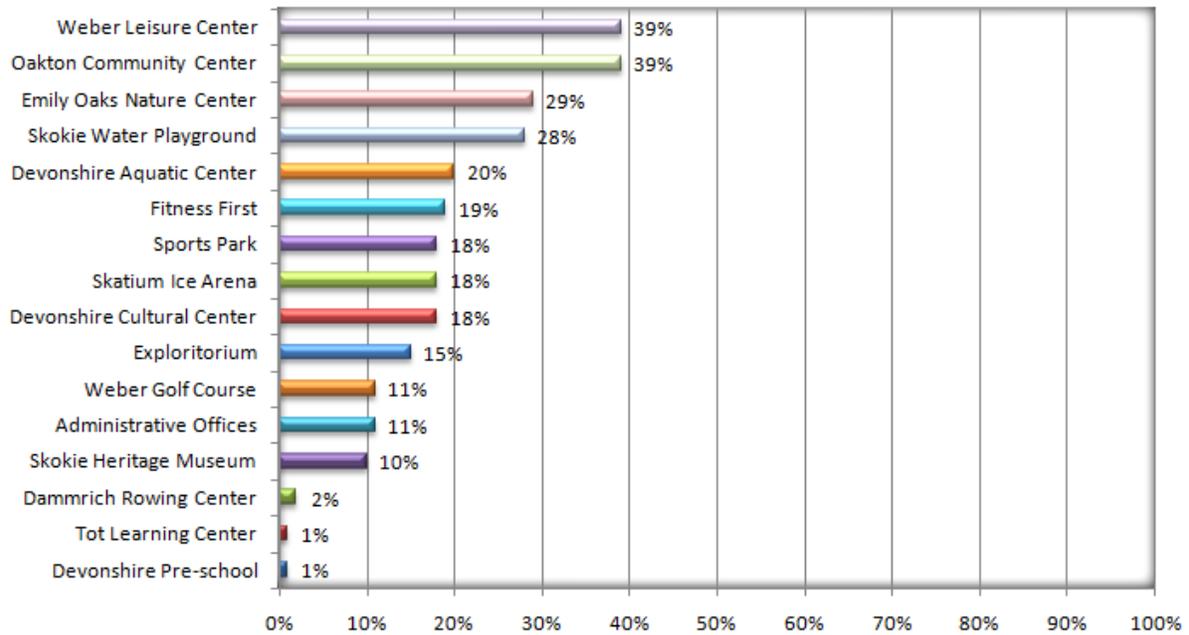
When asked, in Question 9, what new programs they would like to see the Skokie Park District offer, again, a varied list of responses was provided. The responses are displayed as a list in the Appendix (page 46), many of which suggest improvements to existing programs offered at the Skokie Park District, some that mention programs already offered, and a few that offer new suggestions.

When asked, in Question 10, where they go for recreation services outside the Skokie Park District, the list provided is found in the Appendix (page 48) includes private fitness centers, and public parks and recreation agencies. This illustrates the point that many options for leisure services compete for recreation time.

## Facility Usage and Expansion

Question 11 is important to this study because it asks which Skokie Park District facilities respondents or members of their household have visited during the past year. Respondents were provided the list of facilities operated by the Park District and an opportunity to add to that list if they chose.

### Q11. What Skokie Park District facilities have you or a member of your household visited during the past year?



The graph shows that 39% of those responding said they or someone in their household visited either the Weber Leisure Center or the Oakton Community Center. The third most used facility was the Emily Oaks Nature Center, with 29% of respondents reporting visits there.

The Skokie Water Playground was reported to be visited by 28% of households, the Devonshire Aquatic Center by 20%, Sports Park by 18%, and the Exploritorium by 15%. The findings suggest that many Skokie Park District facilities are visited by a high percentage of residents.

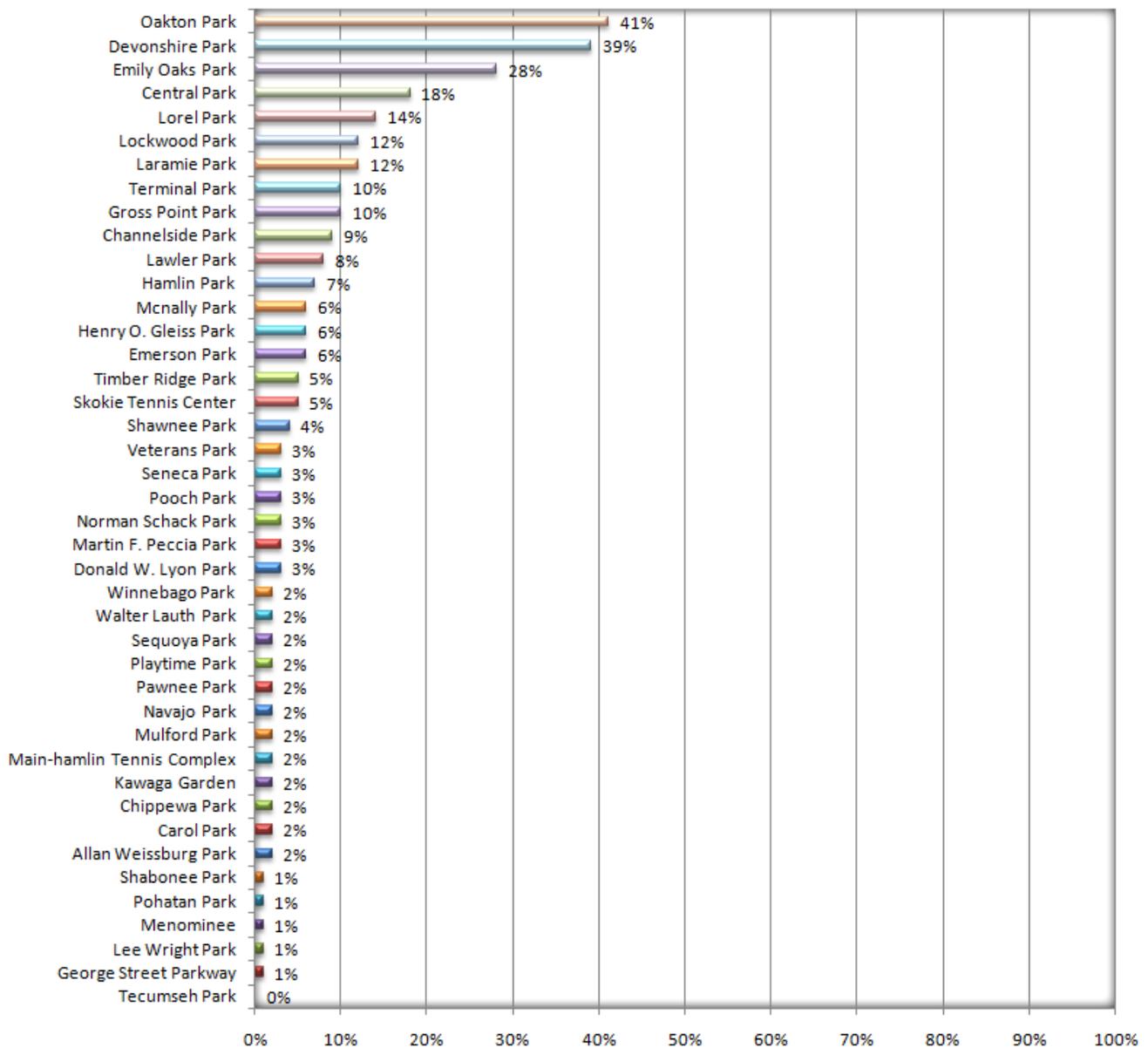
Question 12 asked respondents to indicate which facilities they visited most often in the previous year. Many respondents chose not to answer the question and some listed facilities that they did not say they visited in Question 11. An organized list with their unedited responses is in the Appendix (page 39) of this study.

The list is somewhat confusing because of the social science research phenomena that occurs when respondents are provided the opportunity to give their own answers. People didn't always answer the question as it was asked. As a result, the findings from open-ended responses can't be quantified.

Open-ended responses to Question 12 generally corroborate the responses in Question 11 which show that the Weber Leisure Center, Oakton Community Center, and the Emily Oaks Nature Center are the most used facilities.

Question 16 asked which parks respondents or members of their households visited within the past year. The data shows a fairly even distribution of park usage, with the exception of Devonshire Park, where 39% of respondents reported visiting, Emily Oaks Park, where 28% of respondents reported visiting, and Oakton Park, where 41% of respondents reported visiting. Those parks have community or nature centers which may account for the higher usage.

### Q16. What Skokie Park District parks have you or a member of your household visited during the past year?

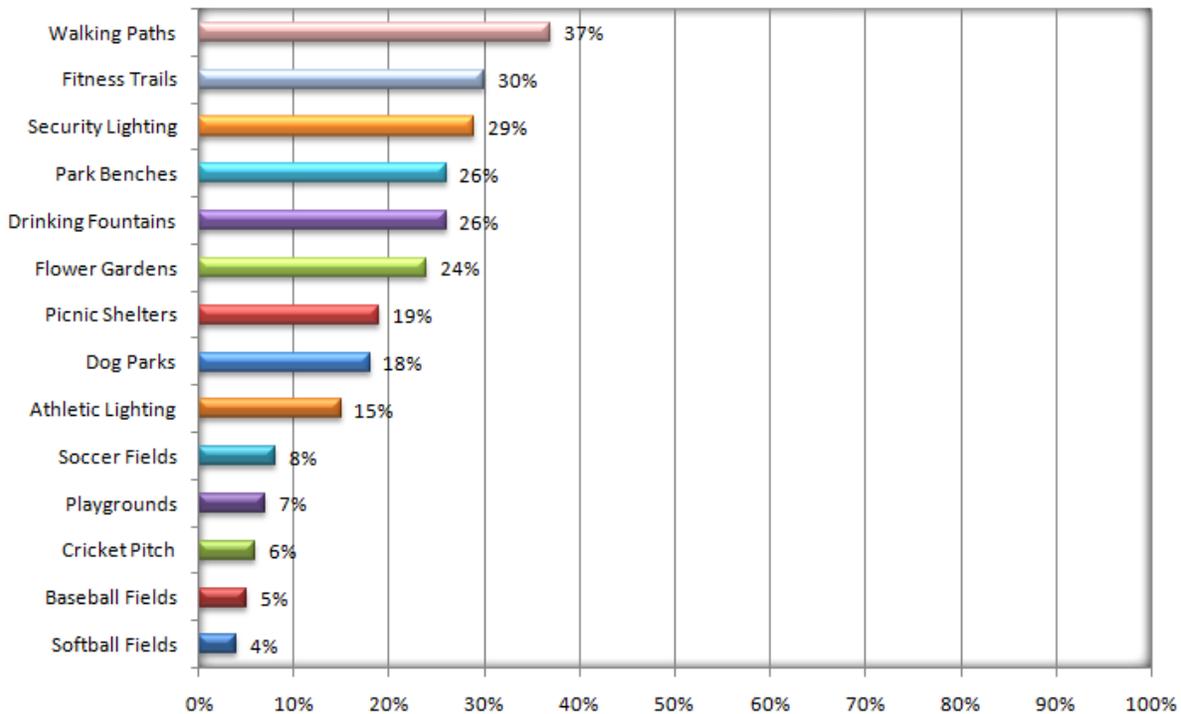


As for parks without community centers, swimming pools or golf courses, Central Park was used by 18% of respondents, Laramie and Lockwood Parks by 12%, Lorel Park by 14%, and Gross Point and Terminal Parks by 10%. All other parks were used by less than 10% of the respondents, and most by less than 5%.

Question 17 asked respondents which parks they most frequently visited. A list of their unedited responses is in the Appendix (page 40). As was the case for Question 12, the most frequently visited parks were the ones reported as responses to Question 16.

Question 20 provided a list of amenities and asked respondents to select which ones they would like to see added to Skokie's parks. The following graph shows the percentages of respondents that chose that particular amenity.

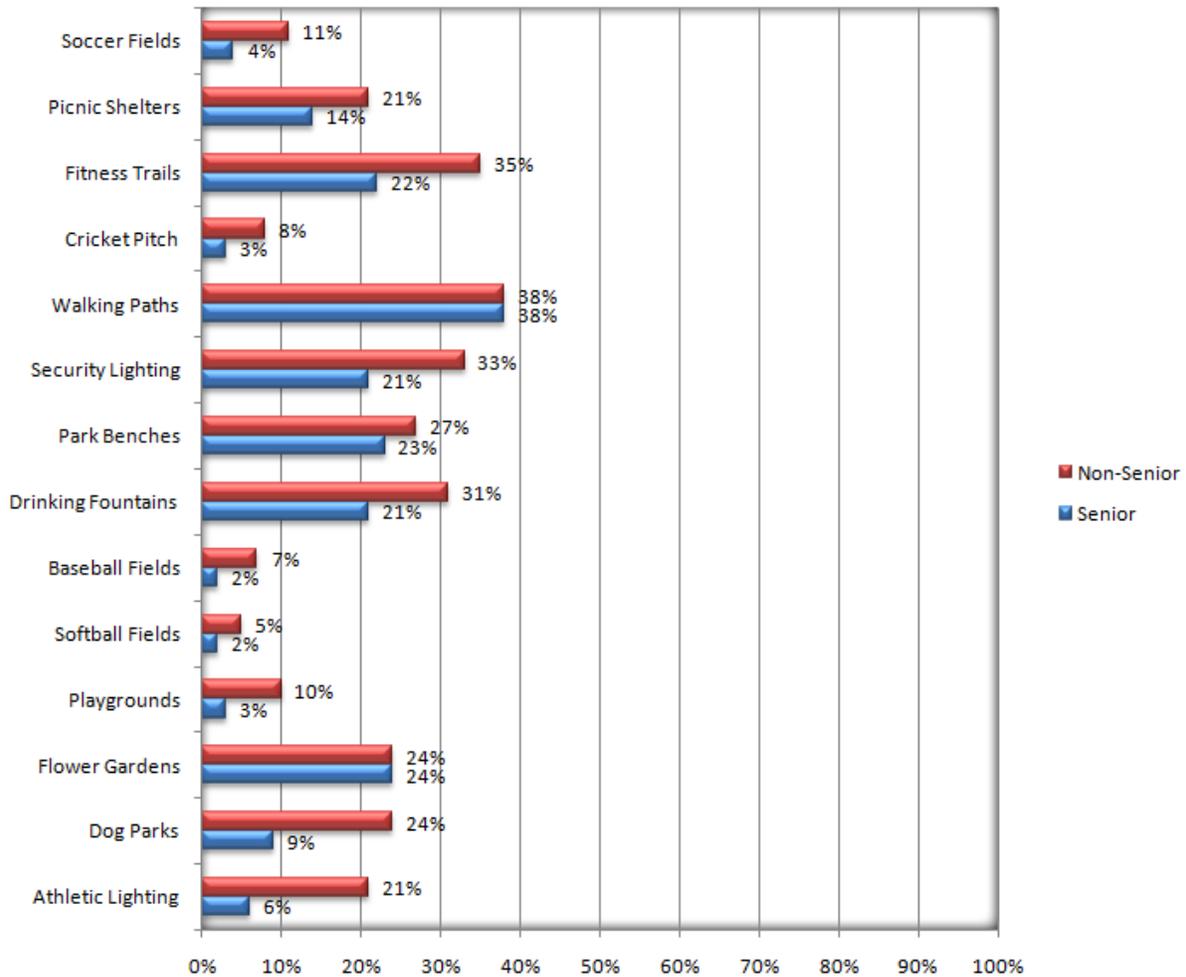
**Q20. Which of the following amenities do you think should be added to the Skokie Park District parks that you or someone in your household uses?**



The most popular amenities were walking paths, with 37% of respondents saying they favored more of them in the parks. The second most popular were security lighting and fitness trails, at 29% and 30% respectively. Drinking fountains, park benches and flower gardens were also popular at 26%, 26% and 24% respectively. If the park currently has the amenities listed above, an evaluation of the condition of the amenities will be prudent to decide if they should be considered for future capital improvements.

The findings show that passive recreation amenities to the parks are popular. Active recreation amenities are less popular, but probably are more desirable among younger respondents. To test this hypothesis, two comparisons can be made. One between senior and non-senior respondents and the other between households with and without children.

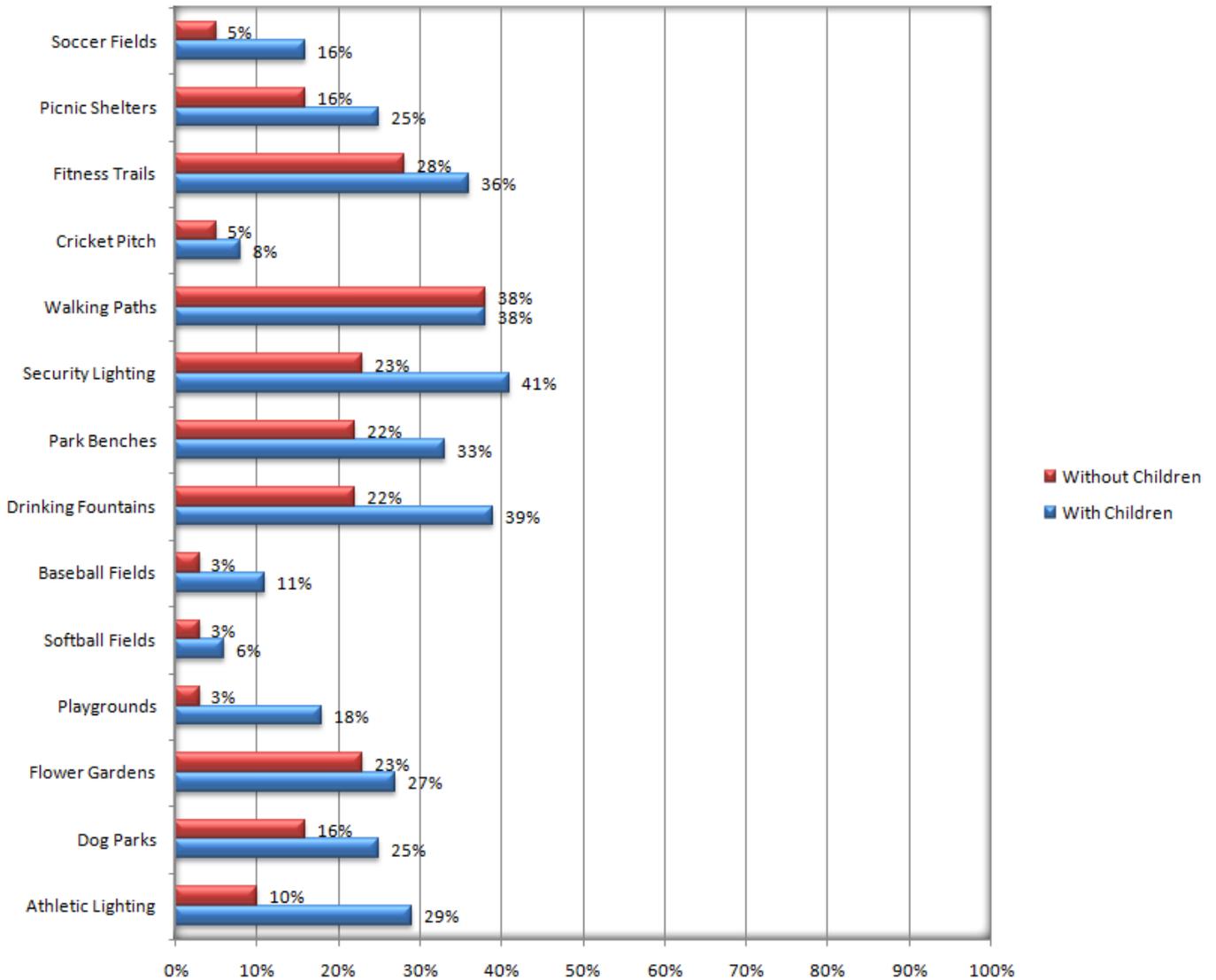
### Park Amenities Preferred by Seniors & Non-Seniors



Comparing senior respondents to non-senior respondents shows the differences in the park amenity improvements they prefer. For instance, athletic field lighting is favored by 21% of non-seniors but only 6% of senior respondents. Flower gardens are equally preferred, but dog parks are preferred by 9% of seniors and 24% of non-seniors.

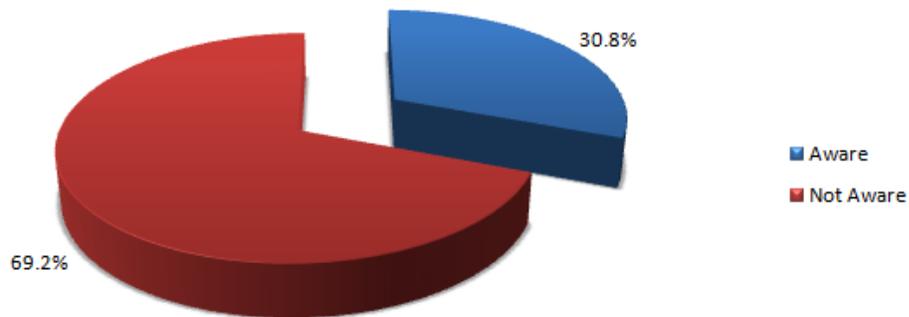
Households with and without children showed similar differences. 28% of households with children would like to see athletic field lighting added compared to 10% of households without children. Additional flower gardens were favored by nearly the same percentages, as were additional walking paths, but 16% of households with children would like to see more soccer fields compared to 5% without children.

### Park Amenities Preferred by Households with & without Children



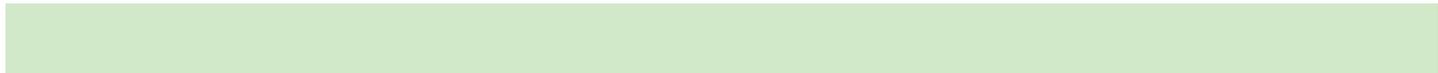
Considering the Skokie Park District initiative to expand Sports Park, Question 21 asked if respondents were aware that the Skokie Park District leases 17 acres of undeveloped property from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. The intent of the question was to identify the level of familiarity residents have with that property.

**Q21. Are you aware that the Skokie Park District leases 17 acres of undeveloped property east of Sports Park from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)?**



The data shows that 30.8% of respondents said they were aware of the lease and 69.2% were not aware of it. The findings suggest that a minority of the community is aware of the lease the Skokie Park District holds on the property.

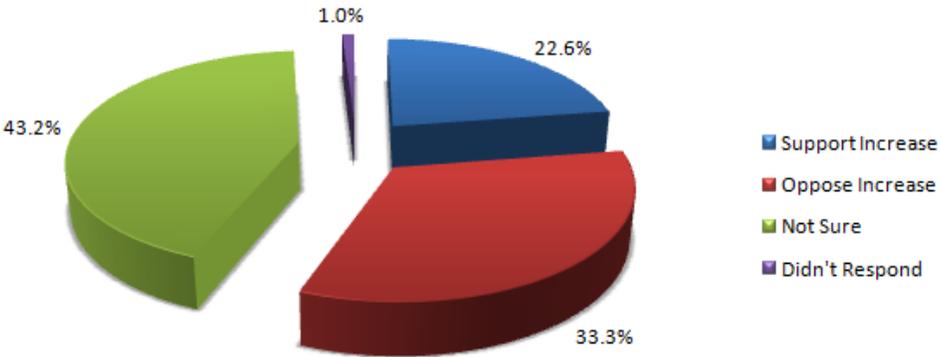




Question 23 asks if, in the future, the Skokie Park District proposed a tax increase for park and facility development for the undeveloped property east of Sports Park, would respondents support it.

The graphic identifies the overall percentages of those who said they would support a tax increase, those who would not, and those who were not sure. In addition, the responses of seniors and non-senior, households with and without children and those aware and unaware of the lease can be compared.

**Q23. In the future, if the Skokie Park District proposed a tax increase for park or facility development for the undeveloped property east of Sports Park would you support it?**



The data shows that 22.6% of those responding said they would support a tax increase for the undeveloped property east of Sports Park, 33.3% said they would oppose it, 43.2% weren't sure, and 1% didn't provide a response, which usually means they were not sure of how they felt.

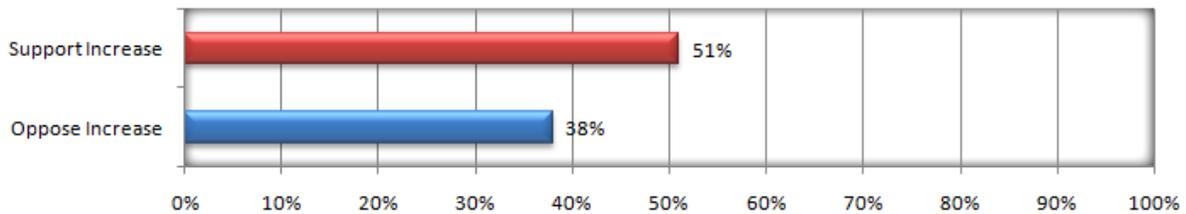
The findings suggest the community is currently more opposed to a tax increase than in favor of it, but that a large percentage of respondents are not sure.



In political science, predicting which way undecided voters will react to a referendum is the art of predicting outcomes. One way of doing so is to see if awareness that the Park District has a lease on the property east of Sports Park is a contributing factor to favoring the tax increase.

Using independent samples t-testing, the following graph compares the responses of support for those aware of the lease with those who were not aware of the lease of the 17 acres east of Sports Park.

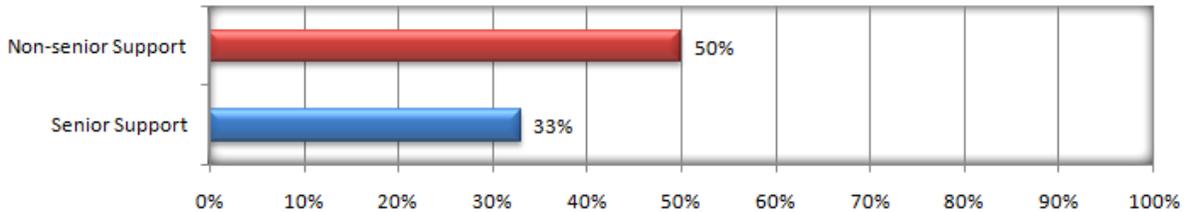
### Support for Tax Increase Based on Awareness of Lease



The graph shows that when respondents were aware of the lease of the 17 acres east of Sports Park, 51% were willing to support a tax increase to improve it and 38% opposed it. The finding suggests that being aware of the lease makes a difference.

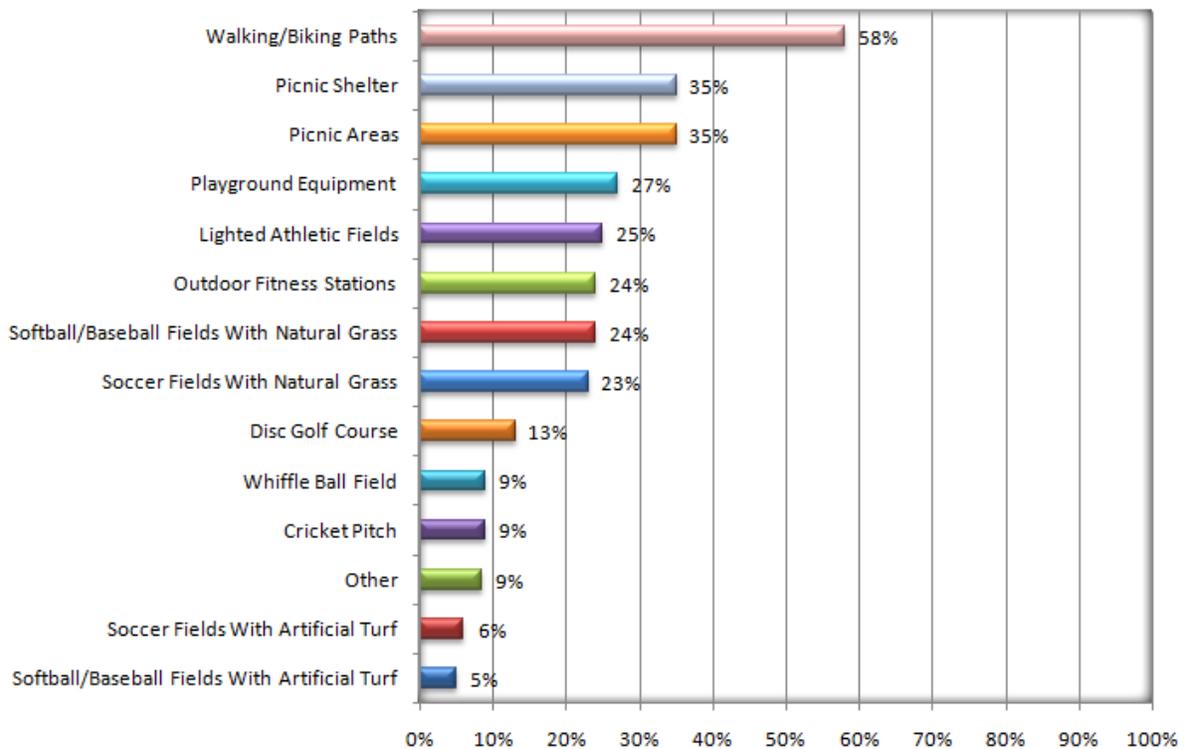
The Public Research Group also measured the level of support for a tax increase by comparing senior respondents to non-senior citizens. Employing independent-samples t-testing, the following graph illustrates the differences, not considering the undecided respondents. When not considering undecided respondents, 50% of non-seniors said they would support a tax increase to improve Sports Park compared to 33% of seniors.

### Senior Versus Non-Senior Support to a Tax Increase



Considering the amenities presented in Question 22 that respondents were asked to select for the undeveloped property east of Sports Park, the graph below shows the percentages of respondents who favored them whether they were aware of the lease or not.

### Q22. Which of the following amenities do you think should be included in the undeveloped property east of Sports Park?

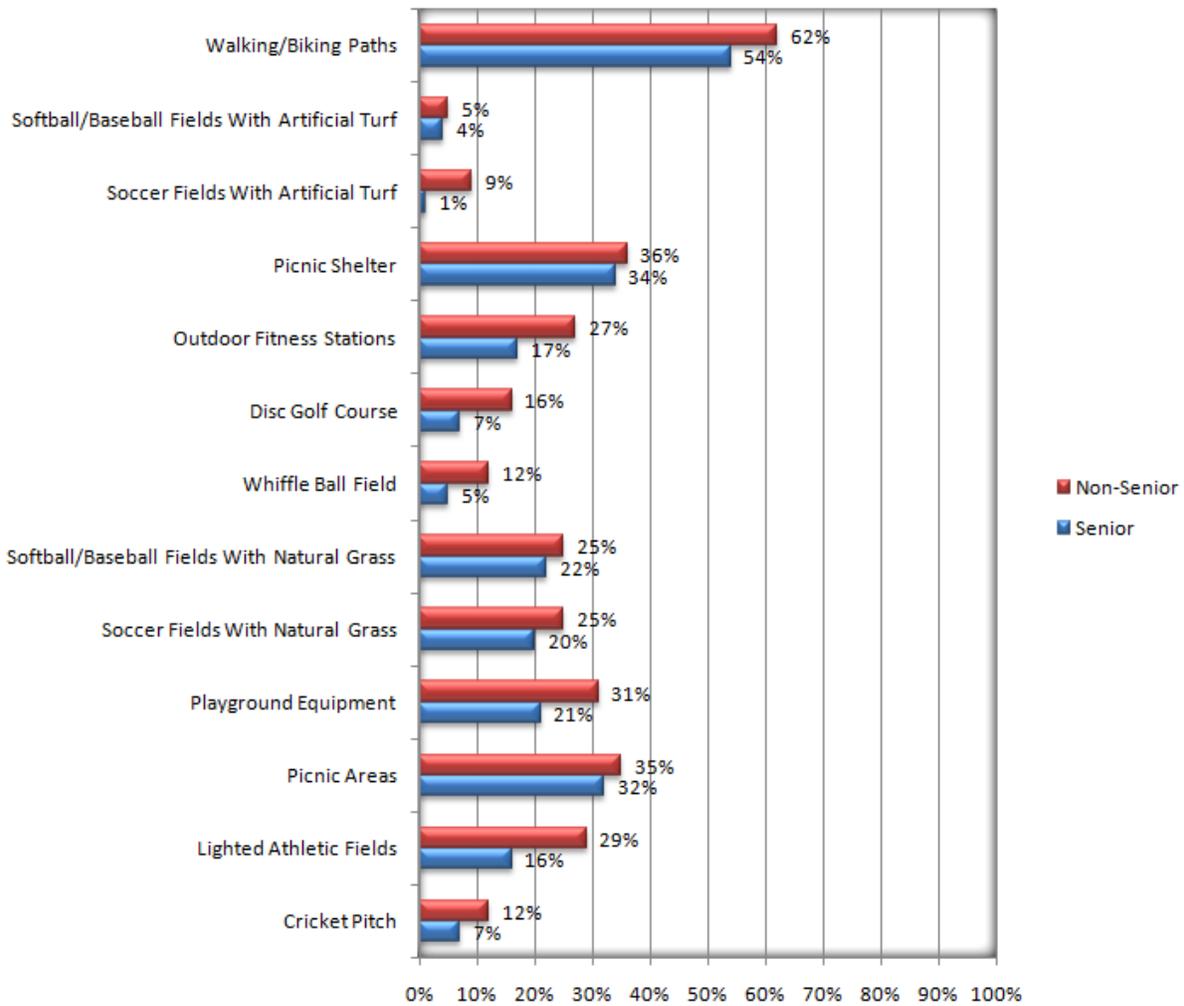


The data suggests that walking paths are, by a wide margin, the most popular amenities, with 58% of respondents favoring them. Picnic areas and shelters are second and third at 35% each. A few common

themes that arose for amenities listed from the 'other' category included: a dog park, water park and nature center. As the Park District advances the design of the undeveloped property east of Sports Park, other elements not listed in this survey question may be added based on future input. These additional elements could be considered worthwhile and could be included in the final design discussion.

When separating seniors from non-senior respondents, the preferences for amenities that each group preferred provides insight.

### Senior Versus Non-Senior Amenity Improvements for Sports Park



The data shows seniors' preferences are almost always lower than non-senior preferences for improvements at Sports Park. The most popular are walking/biking trails, at 54%, picnic areas, at 34%, and picnic shelters, at 32%. Overall, the data shows passive recreation amenities offer the greatest chance of gaining senior support.

More active amenities, such as playground equipment and athletic fields are popular for the younger aged demographic. These findings offer evidence that, if the Skokie Park District wants to engage residents for their support, including elements for a diversity of ages would be a good idea.

Regarding the responses to the question about supporting a tax increase for Sports Park, there are a number of open-ended responses indicating support for the Park District, far more than those who oppose the tax increase.

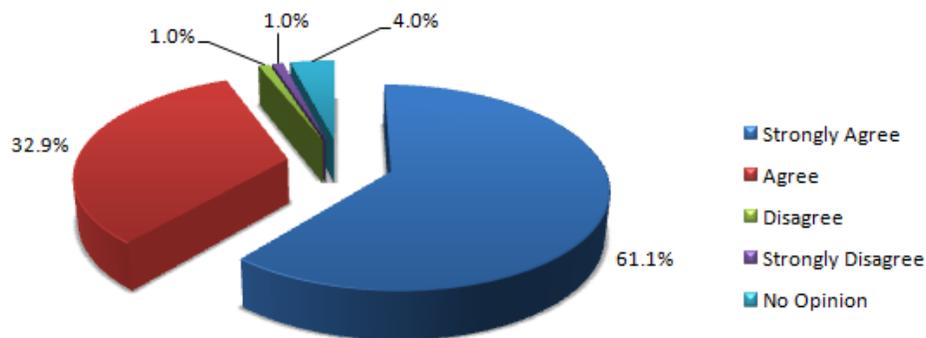
One important reason for doing this community survey was to measure the level of support for Sports Park. Public Research Group believes that there is support for the initiative of expanding and improving the park. However, the Skokie Park District needs to offer more information regarding this initiative before any solid conclusions can be made for the future of this project.

### **Satisfaction with the Skokie Park District**

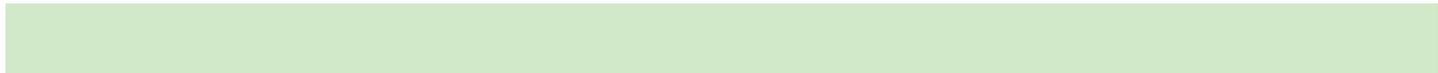
Six questions asked respondents how they would characterize the Skokie Park District and their satisfaction with its performance. Question 3 asked a general question about how respondents felt the District contributes to the quality of life. Question 7 asked about how courteous respondents thought the staff was during their attendance at recreation programs, Question 13 asked about the condition of facilities, Question 14 asked about respondents' satisfaction with their interaction with staff at facilities, Question 18 asked how well maintained respondents thought the parks were, and Question 19 asked how safe respondents felt when visiting the parks.

The following set of graphs compares respondents' answers with the percentages of choices.

### **Q3. Would you agree that the Skokie Park District contributes to the quality of life in Skokie?**

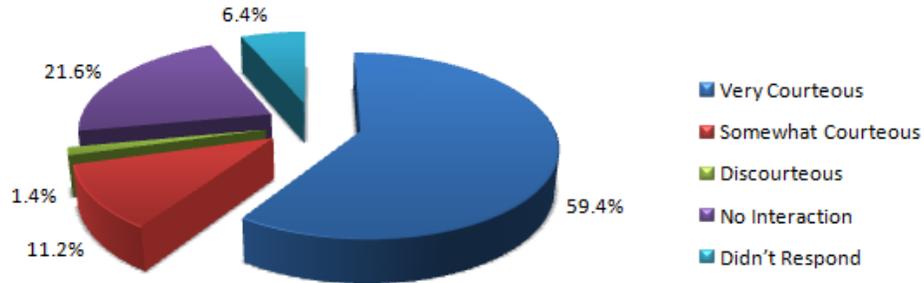


Of the respondents that had an opinion, 97.9% of them agree or strongly agree that the Skokie Park District contributes to the quality of life in the community. 61.1 % strongly agreed and 32.9% agreed.



Question 7 asked about interaction with the Skokie Park District program staff and whether respondents felt they had been treated courteously.

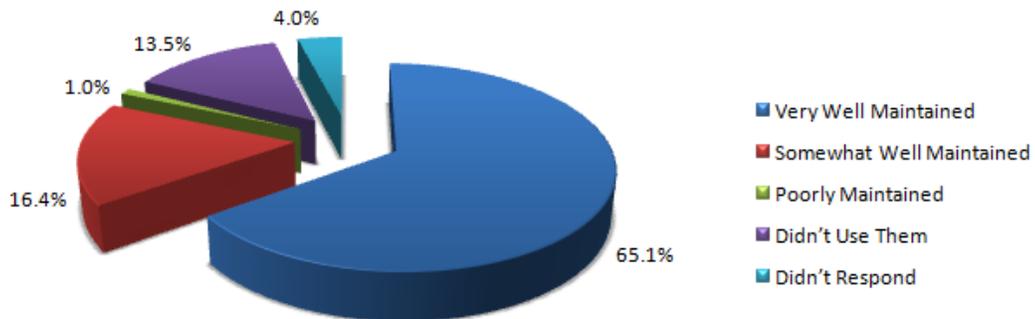
### Q7. How would you characterize your interaction with the Skokie Park District staff during your attendance at a special event or in a recreation program?



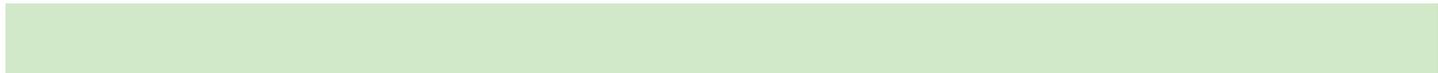
In response to Question 7 regarding their interaction with the staff at recreation programs or special events, 21.6% said they had no interaction, 6.4% didn't respond, 59.4% said the staff was very courteous, and 11.2% said they were somewhat courteous. Of those who indicated an interaction, 98.1% of respondents said staff was very courteous or somewhat courteous.

Question 13 asked respondents to describe the condition of Park District facilities, with the opportunity to say that they were very well maintained, somewhat well maintained, poorly maintained, or they didn't use them.

### Q13. How would you characterize the condition of the facilities when you used them?

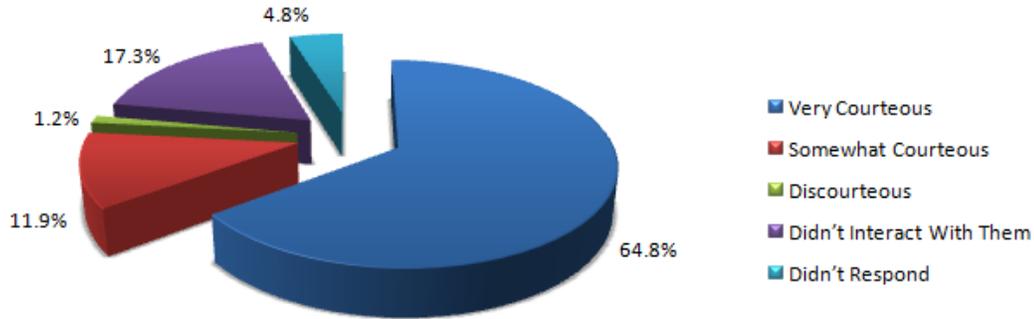


While 13.5% of respondents said they didn't use them and 4% didn't answer the question, 65.1% said the Skokie Park District facilities were very well maintained and 16.4% said they were somewhat well maintained. Of those respondents indicating an experience with facilities, 98.8% felt they were very well maintained or somewhat well maintained.



Question 14 asked about the level of courtesy of the facilities' staff.

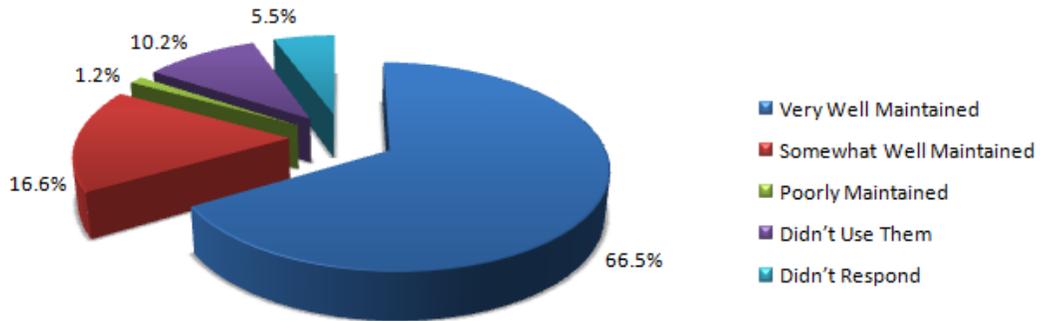
### Q14. How would you characterize your interaction with the Skokie Park District staff during your visit to a facility?



The question about the courteousness of the facilities' staff was similar in its levels of satisfaction, as were responses regarding the program staff. 64.8% of all respondents rated the staff as very courteous and 11.9% said they were somewhat courteous. 17.3% said they didn't interact with the facilities' staff and 4.8% didn't respond. For those who experienced an interaction with facilities' staff, 98.5% found the staff very courteous or somewhat courteous.

Considering the condition of the parks, Question 18 asked respondents to rate them.

### Q18. How would you characterize the condition of the parks when you used them?

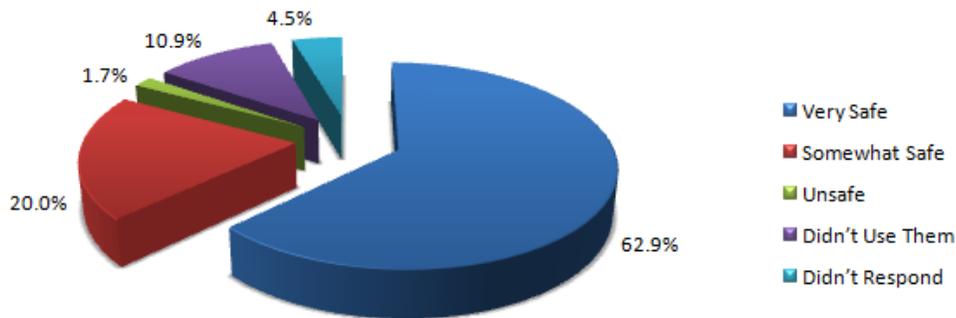


Respondents seemed to be satisfied with the condition of the parks. 66.5% said they were very well maintained and 16.6% said they were somewhat well maintained. Only 1.2% said they were poorly maintained, 10.4% said they didn't use them and 5.6% of respondents didn't answer the question. 98.6% of those who indicated an opinion found the parks were very well maintained or somewhat well maintained.

The data is clear that park maintenance is perceived to be excellent by the respondents to this survey and, therefore, by the public in general.

The final question dealing with satisfaction was that of the level of safety in the parks. Question 19 asked respondents to say if they felt very safe, somewhat safe, unsafe, or didn't use them.

### Q19. How would you perceive your level of safety when you used the parks?



How safe respondents felt in the parks was indicated by the responses to Question 19. 62.9% of those responding said they felt very safe and 20% said they felt somewhat safe. Only 10.9% said they didn't use the parks and 4.56% didn't answer the question. Therefore, of those who had an opinion, 98% felt very safe or somewhat safe in the parks.

The chart provides compelling evidence that the residents of the Skokie Park District feel safe in their parks.

Another common data finding in all of the questions about satisfaction is the relative low percentage of respondents who said they didn't use the programs, visit the facilities or parks, or interact with the staff.

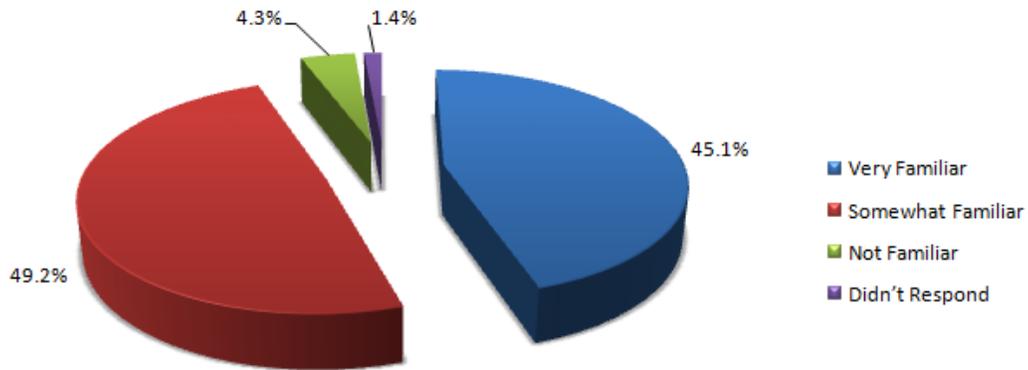
It is clear from the data that a high percentage of respondents use the parks, facilities and programs, that most of them interact with the staff, and that a large majority is satisfied with staff courtesy, the condition of the parks and facilities, and believe the Skokie Park District contributes significantly to the quality of life in the community.



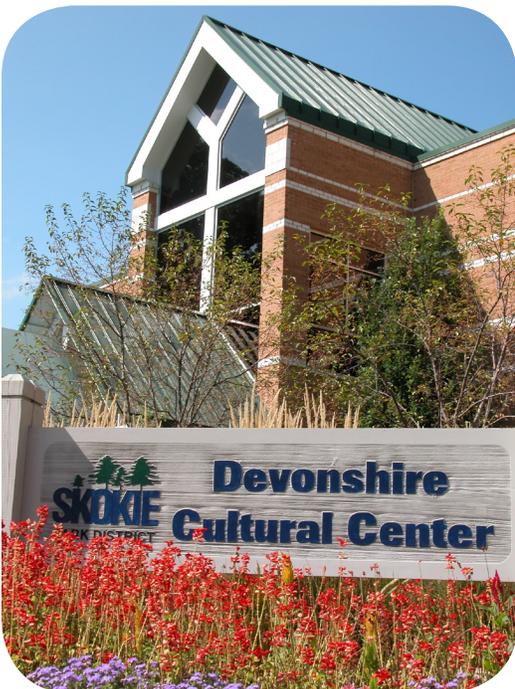
## Familiarity

There is substantial evidence provided in this study that suggests the Skokie Park District is well regarded and that its parks and facilities are well used. Responses to Question 1 affirm that a majority of respondents are familiar with the Skokie Park District, shown in the graph below.

### Q1. How familiar are you with the Skokie Park District?



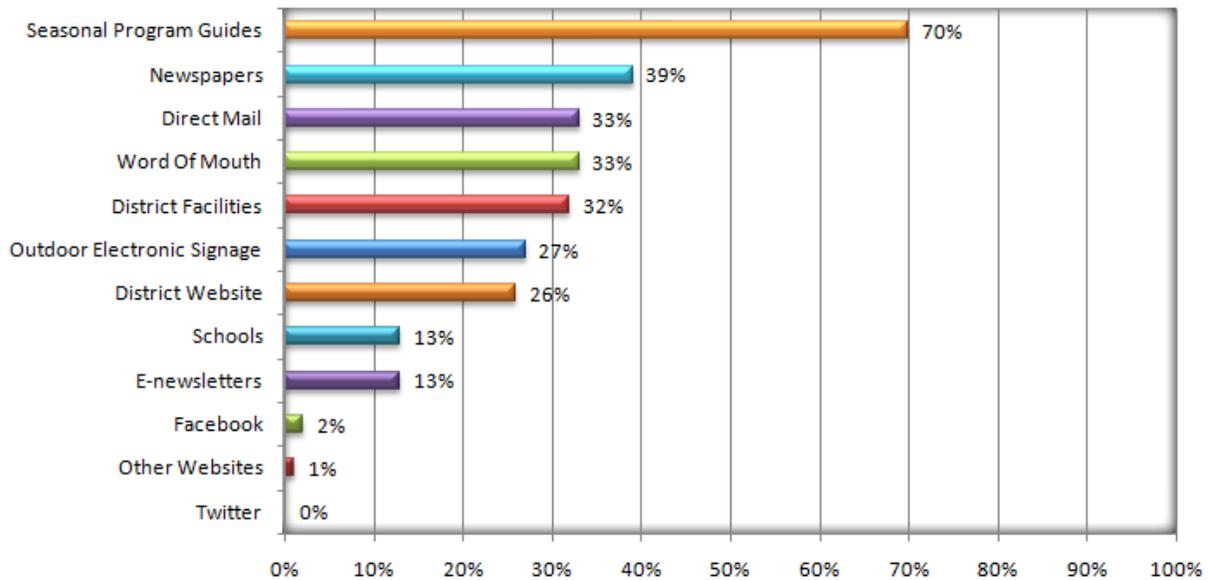
In spite of the finding that 24% of respondents speak another language in their household, only 4.3% said they were not at all familiar with the Park District. That is an important finding, suggesting that the Skokie Park District is doing a good job in communicating with all its residents.



## Communication

The District's successful modes of communication tend to be more traditional than high tech, as the responses to Question 2 show.

### Q2. If you are very or somewhat familiar, how do you hear about the Skokie Park District?



The printed media, including program brochures and newspapers, as well as the Park District website, had the highest response rate. FaceBook and Twitter are barely blips on respondents' radar screens at this point. Electronic signage communicates with a high percentage of residents as does word of mouth.

## Open-ended Comments

At the end of the survey, respondents were provided the opportunity to offer general comments they thought would be helpful to the Skokie Park District. Many respondents did make comments, an unedited list of which is contained in the Appendix (page 50) of this report. Public Research Group generally does not edit comments or interpret them beyond certain limits.

Within those limits, it is important to observe from the comments that far more respondents were positive than negative and that the community values the Skokie Park District and its services.

## **Recreation Staff Input & Program Analysis**

The core identity of most parks and recreation agencies lies within its recreation programming. The Park District has a current population of approximately 65,000 residents. A focus of the Park District is to offer diverse and appropriate recreation programs for community enrichment within a defined revenue strategy. As part of this recreational needs assessment, Public Research Group held a meeting with appropriate staff to focus on gathering input on recreation programs and facilities. In addition, a simple program analysis was completed centered on program utilization and revenue/expense control to gain a deeper understanding of recreation programs.

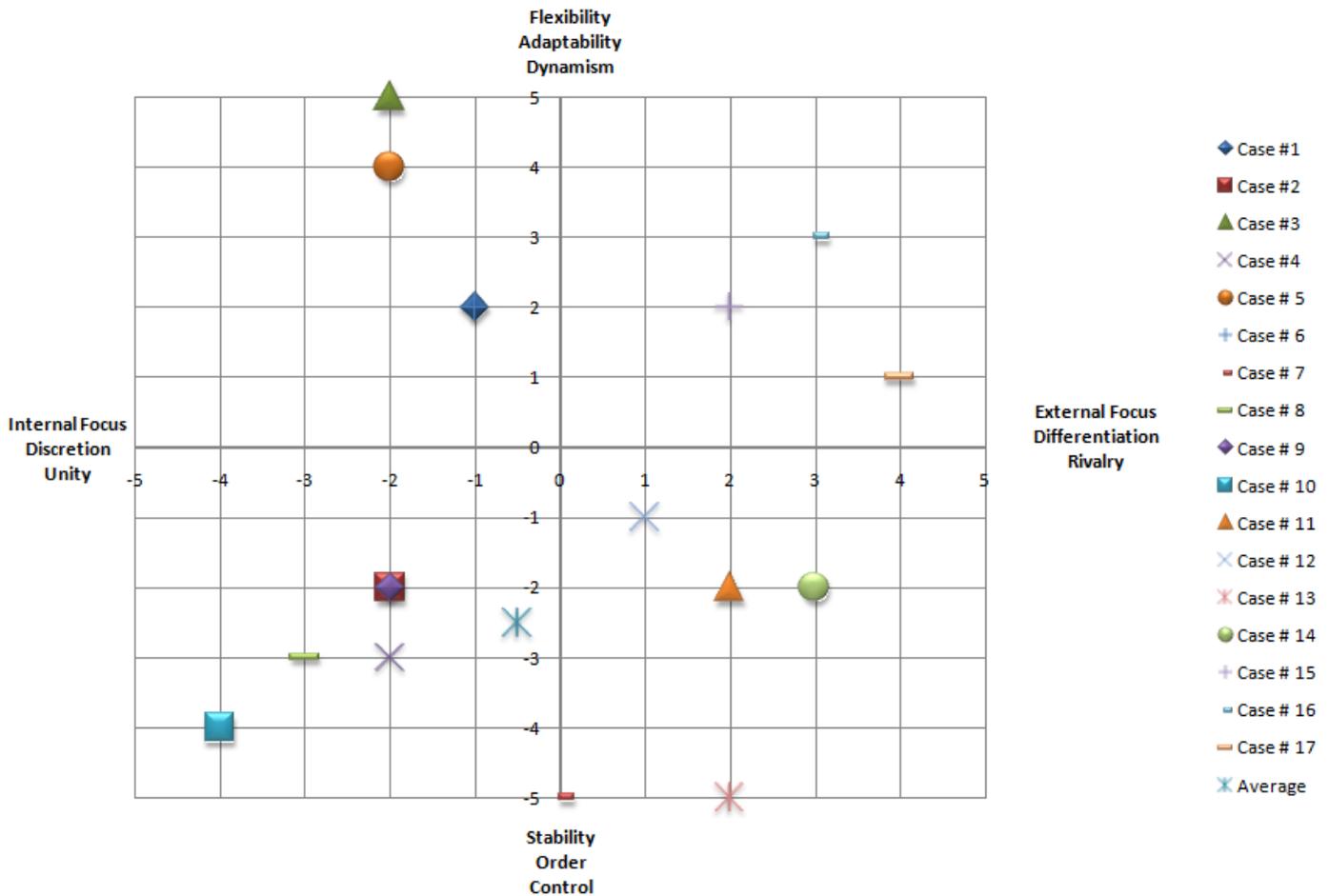
### ***Recreation Staff Input Session***

A visioning and input session was facilitated by the Public Research Group as part of the needs assessment, which included a series of questions that were presented to the group with a primary goal being to obtain impressions regarding the current use of recreation programs and facilities. The following summarizes the discussion;

- Exceptional service is more important than price.
- Money spent on maintenance is more important than expansion.
- Improvements to facilities should include revenue enhancement opportunities, when cost effective.
- Core customers of the Park District are young families, children between the ages of 3 to 11 and individuals looking for physical activities.
- Successful programs as defined by the group are early childhood, camps and children's programming between the ages of 3 to 7. Aquatic programming is strong within the community. Fitness programs are enjoyed more by adults.
- Challenges facing recreation services are; older school aged programming including teens, indoor space within facilities, transportation for seniors and registration deadlines.

The recreational program and facilities staff completed an organizational culture assessment tool within the meeting. The graphic below highlights the assessment module findings that portray a high level of diversity within the leadership culture characteristics found. This diversity allows for a variety of different approaches to be considered when problem solving within the department.

### Office Organizational Culture



The remaining discussion centered on programs and facilities. The following summarizes the discussion;

- Camps provide quality leisure experiences for a wide age range. They have been enjoyed by many generations of Skokie residents and continue to have a strong loyalty base with residents today.
- Aquatic programs, in the form of outdoor pools and an indoor pool partnership, are successful by providing leisure services to the community. However, outdoor pools are aging and the need to renovate them is coming.

- Athletics is mainly geared towards youth sports with the Park District utilizing the local School Districts' facilities for gym space and indoor pools. The Park District also works with baseball and soccer affiliates.
- The Dammrich Rowing Center is a unique facility with a public boat launch that is free to the public. To increase use, the Park District could seek out more partners to utilize the facility in a more comprehensive manner.
- The Emily Oaks Nature Center operates year round and sits on a 13 acre nature preserve. The center provides summer camps, offers drop-in family events and nature education classes.
- The Skatium Ice Arena is an indoor ice venue and is very popular. Summer camps, as well as figure skating programs, are successful. The building handles crowds quite well, however, the current number of Birthday Rooms only allows for 2 parties at a time.
- The hockey program is for ages 3 to adults. The recreational league is very successful, with a sister program for a travelling All Star league.
- The Oakton Community Center is home to The Exploritorium, which is an indoor children's playground. Birthday parties are a huge hit with about 14 parties on a weekend. Oakton also houses the Park District's senior programs. It is a busy location, with the Center, Skokie Water Playground and a large community park also on the site.
- Sports Park offers a variety of activities including a two-tiered driving range, mini-golf courses, batting cages and a small party room.
- Weber Park Golf Course is a 9 hole, Par 3 course in a hidden location with course conditions that are usually fantastic with excellent upkeep. There is room for tremendous growth beyond the 12,000 to 15,000 rounds currently played.
- Weber Leisure Center is the Park District's recreation center. It focuses on indoor athletic programs, including the Fitness First fitness health club and an indoor walking track. The center receives around 22,000 visits a month and houses the District's administrative offices.
- Fitness First is roughly 10,000 SF and has approximately 3,400 members. The membership numbers are down slightly but the center use is up from previous years. The center is a cost service model that generates revenue for the Park District. It is open 365 days a year and boasts an extremely diverse membership both in age and ethnic background.
- Tot Learning Center is a licensed day care facility that handles infants (6 weeks) to Kindergarten. The modern center has six classrooms with excellent staff to child ratios. The daycare center has a waiting list for the toddler room and requests for weekend care.
- Devonshire Cultural Center focuses on creative enrichment centered on the arts. It is also home to the Devonshire Playhouse and Devonshire Preschool.
- The Skokie Heritage Museum opened in 1992, has a log cabin on site and focuses on historic programs. A District priority is to raise awareness of the Museum, and to increase visitation and class participation.

## ***Program Analysis***

The Park District provided access to RecTrac data for the spring and summer of 2012. The analysis focused on program utilization as well as a simple revenue/expense ratio review. The data reviewed showed the average program utilization during that time was nearly 50% and 64 class types were nearly full, full, or had a waiting list. Youth active programming made up nearly half of these types with skating programs being the most popular activity type.

We also reviewed the financial performance of the various funds that account for recreational activities for the first 8 months of 2012. The information that was analyzed showed the recreation and revenue funds were profitable while the museum fund had a negative fund profit/loss ratio. In review of this simple financial analysis, the Park District provides an affordable fee structure for leisure services to the community with modest profits that offset free or reduced cost special events and recreation services.



## **Visioning Sessions**

An important part of gathering research is to use a diverse number of data gathering techniques allowing for multiple layers of input throughout the course of the study. Visioning meetings were held with the Parks Department staff, individual stakeholders, the Board of Park Commissioners and a community focus group. These meetings were facilitated by the combined efforts of the Public Research Group and GreenPlay. The following highlights the major discussion points during these meetings.

### ***Parks Services (Maintenance) Staff Input***

- Key strengths of the Park District include modern facilities, special events, transparency, professionalism and community support.
- Safety and upkeep of the parks were rated high among the staff.
- Areas that need improvements include the allocation of special event manpower, district wide maintenance standards, lack of indoor storage space for parks maintenance equipment and more efficient cross training.
- New amenities within the park system could include an outdoor sports complex, additional passive recreation areas, fitness trails, band shell, artificial turf athletic fields, additional indoor space for athletics and possibly an aquatics facility.
- Focus areas for the future include the continuation of park upgrades, infrastructure improvements, ADA renovations, technology upgrades and a commitment to green living.

### ***Individual Stakeholders Input***

A series of individual stakeholder interviews were held as part of the needs assessment process. Three of the interviews were comprised of Park District senior staff and the last interview was of a Park District Commissioner. The data generated was analyzed and the responses are summarized as follows;

- The key strengths of the Park District centered on personnel, reputation within the community, financial stability and well maintained parks and facilities.
- Marketing to a diverse ethnic population, crime prevention in select parks, limited capital dollars for improvements and the lack of available open space to add into the community were areas in need of improvement.
- Additional programs that could be offered that were discussed include cricket, adult athletic leagues, affordable senior programs, and ethnic programs to address diversity within the community.
- The top priorities for the Skokie Park District should include maintaining the high quality of parks and leisure services, maintaining a balanced budget, developing Sports Park East, creation of new programs and staying on top of technology.

## Park Board Visioning Session

A one night session was held to allow the consultant team to investigate a series of topics with the Park Board. For example, the Park Board is more supportive of the concept of building on the undeveloped 17 acres east of the Sports Park as compared to the survey data. The future goal would be to engage the community to increase awareness and create a final design based on this public input. As the public becomes more aware, opportunities for the community to support the project will increase if the project meets the needs of the community.

The session was brief with a short input session followed by a questionnaire that allowed the commissioners an opportunity to further provide input. The table that follows summarizes the responses from that questionnaire.

<b>Park Board Visioning Workshop Question Summary</b>			
	Agree		
	Yes	No	
Q1	X		Do you feel that the Park District is providing adequate recreation opportunities for your community?
Q2	X		Do you think that Park District facilities are adequately maintained?
Q3	X		Do you think that the parks are safe?
Q4	X		Do you feel that the current staff in place runs the Park District effectively?
Q5	X		Do you think that the Park District is on good terms with other local governmental units?
Q6	X		Are you comfortable with the financial position of the agency?
Q7	X		Do you feel that now is time for the undeveloped sports complex project?
Q8	X		Would you support a tax increase to improve the sports complex?
Q9	X		Do you think the Park District is a forward thinking agency?
Q10	X		Do you feel you have adequate and updated policies and procedures in place to operate the agency?
Q11		X	Do you think residents are leaving the Park District and going elsewhere for recreational services?
Q12		X	Do you feel that residents get confused about where and what type of programs are offered by the large number of facilities that the Park District operates?
Q13	X		Do you think the Park District should have its own indoor pool?

## Focus Group Meeting

The final input opportunity of the study was a focus group meeting comprised of selected individuals that were invited by the Skokie Park District to discuss recreational programs, parks and facilities. The meeting was facilitated by the consultant team. The meeting had two primary components. The first was an interactive round robin exercise that allowed members of the focus group to comment on a series of targeted questions. The second was a short questionnaire that allowed individuals to answer important questions as it pertained to the data that was collected for this study. The following is a summary of the discussions that were generated during the focus group meeting.

- Emily Oaks Nature Center is the best kept secret for Skokie residents.
- Skokie is missing a large community park.
- The parks are well maintained and always look nice.
- The community is fortunate to have great neighborhood parks.
- There is a limited schedule of children's classes for dual working families and this needs to be improved.
- The competing baseball programs in town need to work together.
- The website is challenging to navigate and needs additional content.
- Top priorities for the Park District would be to stay engaged with kids as they grow up, keep services affordable, reach out to segments of the community that don't take advantage of all that the Park District offers, consideration of a year round pool facility and maintaining a high quality standard for parks and recreation services.
- Marketing to a diverse ethnic population, crime prevention in select parks, limited capital dollars for improvements and the lack of available open space to add into the community were areas in need of improvements.



The meeting ended with a short questionnaire that allowed the focus group an opportunity to further provide input. The table that follows summarizes the responses from that questionnaire.

<b>Focus Group Questions Summary</b>					
<b>Question</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
1. How would you rate the overall quality of Skokie Park District facilities	6	4	1	0	0
2. How would you rate the overall level of maintenance at the facilities operated by the Skokie Park District?	5	5	1	0	0
3. How would you rate the overall level of safety at the Skokie Park District parks?	1	4	6	0	0
4. How satisfied are you with the quality of current Skokie Park District activities?	4	6	1	0	0
5. How do you rate the overall level of customer service provided by the Skokie Park District staff?	5	4	2	0	0

**Comparison of Focus Group Results from December 2002**

Public Research Group was asked to review the focus group results from the previous community needs assessment and provide a comparison to the information gathered from this planning effort. The following items had a common theme compared to our most recent focus group meeting. These included:

- Reputation of the Park District is good within the community.
- Parks are well maintained.
- Sports are a key component to the Park District but enhanced programming in cultural and performing arts is desired.
- Dammrich Rowing Center should be marketed more toward local residents.
- Aquatic facility cleanliness/maintenance issues were noted. These issues do not involve safety.
- The Park District web site is a valuable tool for marketing and should be continually evaluated and expanded when possible.

## Conclusions

A substantial amount of data was obtained from the random sample survey, and from other input sessions. The results have been simplified to provide comprehensive conclusions. It is clear from this analysis that the Park District touches many lives within the community. The Public Research Group has come to the following conclusions based on the data obtained. These include;

### **Administrative**

- The Skokie Park District contributes significantly to the quality of life in the Village.
- Seasonal program guides are still a great marketing tool, but the outdoor electronic sign and website have high scores also.
- There is a lack of awareness regarding the 17 acre site east of Sports Park.
- Support for a tax increase for the 17 acre site project is relatively evenly distributed between support, no support and the undecided.
- The Park District should apply for grants to offset capital projects and operational costs.
- Users appear to have high loyalty to Park District facilities. However, new marketing efforts should be developed to connect users of a particular facility for exposure to other Park District opportunities.
- The current website needs updates with more content and improved navigation in order to enrich the user experience.

### **Recreation:**

- Continue to develop an understanding of ethnic communities that reside within Skokie and offer recreation programs and services that would generate interest to them.
- 4th of July, Back lot Bash and Festival of Cultures are well attended and are important special events.
- Fitness, swimming and summer camps are important recreational activities.
- Inconvenient times, lack of awareness and high fees are limitations in program participation.
- Recreation programs are generally profitable and utilization is at nearly 50% of classes offered, but a goal should be to keep improving upon these numbers.
- The Park District needs to stay engaged in programming with kids, including teen activities for the junior high age group.
- Perform an aquatic needs study to include all strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis forecasting future financial and programming needs for the community.

### **Parks & Facilities:**

- Parks, staff interaction and facilities received excellent marks from the community.
- Oakton and Devonshire Park are heavily visited parks.
- Walking paths/fitness trails are important park amenities.
- The Park District needs to continue to focus on maintenance and upkeep of parks and facilities.
- Continue to develop the sports complex project with a grand public rollout and impressive design.
- Oakton Community Center and Weber Leisure Center are heavily visited.
- Indoor recreation space needs to grow in the future.

As we conclude this report, the following major tasks should be considered as a start point for future goal discussion.

### **Administrative**

- Develop a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan.
- Apply for appropriate grants for capital improvements, recreation and operations to advance the mission of the Park District.
- Seek creative input to enhance the Park District website.

### **Recreation:**

- Study ethnic cultures recreation inclusion.
- Develop ways to activate underperforming parks and recreation spaces through new recreation programs and unique special events.
- Perform an aquatic needs study.

### **Parks & Facilities:**

- Update the concept and prepare an effective PR campaign for the 17 acre lease Sport Park project.
- Assess purchase of significant open space if land should become available. If appropriate, acquire available recreation property and open space for the good of the community.
- Fund capital investments for both indoor and outdoor needs for continued community enjoyment.





# Skokie Park District Community Survey

The Skokie Park District is in the process of identifying the recreation needs of the community. Your help in this process is essential. Please take the time to complete the following questionnaire and return it in the stamped envelope by September 25, 2012. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

1. How familiar are you with the Skokie Park District?  
 Very familiar                       Somewhat familiar                       Not at all familiar
  
2. If you are very or somewhat familiar, how do you hear about the Skokie Park District? (Check all that apply)  
 Facebook                       Twitter                       The District website  
 Newspapers                       Seasonal program guides                       Other websites  
 E-Newsletters                       Schools                       Outdoor electronic signage  
 Word of mouth                       Direct mail                       District facilities  
 Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Would you agree that the Skokie Park District contributes to the quality of life in Skokie?  
 Strongly agree                       Agree                       Disagree  
 Strongly disagree                       No opinion
  
4. In which Skokie Park District **free** special events have you or a member of your household participated during the past year? (Check all that apply)  
 Festival of Cultures                       4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks                       Backlot Bash  
 Movies in the Park                       Sunday Summer Concerts                       Wednesday Family Festivals  
 Woolstock                       Touch a Truck                       Egg hunts  
 Earth Day                       Spring Greening                       Devonshire County Fair  
 Chilly Fest                       Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. In which Skokie Park District activities have you or a member of your household participated during the past year? (Check all that apply)  
 Art                       Football                       Soccer  
 Baseball                       Golf                       Softball  
 Basketball                       Gymnastics                       Special recreation (M-NASR)  
 Before/ After school care                       Hockey                       Summer camps  
 Childcare/Daycare                       Martial arts                       Swim lessons  
 Cooking                       Museum/Historical programs                       Swimming  
 Dance                       Music                       Teen programs  
 Dog classes                       Nature classes/programs                       Tennis  
 Early childhood classes                       Preschool                       Theatre  
 Figure skating                       Rowing                       Volleyball  
 Fitness                       Senior programs  
 Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the questions on the back of this page.**

6. Please rank the most important **activity in terms of participation** from the previous question.
- 
7. How would you characterize your interaction with the Skokie Park District staff during your attendance at a special event or in a recreation program?
- They were very courteous                       They were somewhat courteous  
 They were discourteous                       I didn't have an interaction
8. What are the reasons that you or members of your household might not have participated in Skokie Park District recreation programs? (Check all that apply)
- Inconvenient times                       Fees were too high  
 Programs not interesting                       Didn't find out until it was too late  
 Program was already filled                       Preferred opportunities elsewhere  
 Program was cancelled                       Lack of transportation  
 Poor customer service                       Poor instruction  
 Poor supervision                       Facilities were not well maintained  
 Don't feel safe                       I don't participate in recreation anymore  
 Not aware of program  
 Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
9. What **new recreation programs** would you like to see the Skokie Park District offer?
- 
- 
10. What other recreation providers, if any, do you or your family use?
- 
- 
11. What Skokie Park District facilities have you or a member of your household visited during the past year? (Check all that apply)
- Administrative Offices                       Oakton Community Center  
 Dammrich Rowing Center                       Skatium Ice Arena  
 Devonshire Aquatic Center                       Skokie Heritage Museum  
 Devonshire Cultural Center                       Skokie Water Playground  
 Devonshire Pre-School                       Sports Park  
 Emily Oaks Nature Center                       Tot Learning Center  
 Exploritorium                       Weber Golf Course  
 Fitness First                       Weber Leisure Center  
 Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Please tell us the most frequently visited facility by you or a member of your household from the previous question.
-

13. How would you characterize the condition of the facilities when you used them?
- Very well maintained                       Somewhat well maintained  
 Poorly maintained                               I didn't use them
14. How would you characterize your interaction with the Skokie Park District staff during your visit to a facility?
- They were very courteous                       They were somewhat courteous  
 They were discourteous                               I didn't have an interaction
15. What **indoor facilities** would you like to see added to the Skokie Park District?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
16. What Skokie Park District parks have you or a member of your household visited during the past year? (Check all that apply)
- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allan Weissburg Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> Laramie Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> Playtime Park        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawler Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> Pohatan Park         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lee Wright Park            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pooch Park           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channelside Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lockwood Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Seneca Park          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chippewa Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lorel Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequoya Park         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Devonshire Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Main-Hamlin Tennis Complex | <input type="checkbox"/> Shabonee Park        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donald W. Lyon Park          | <input type="checkbox"/> Martin F. Peccia Park      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shawnee Park         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerson Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> McNally Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> Skokie Tennis Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emily Oaks                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Menominee Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tecumseh Park        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George Street Parkway        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mulford Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Park        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gross Point Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> Navajo Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber Ridge Park    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hamlin Park                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Norman Schack Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Park        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Henry O. Gleiss Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> Oakton Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Lauth Park    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kawaga Garden                | <input type="checkbox"/> Pawnee Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> Winnebago Park       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____ |   |   |
17. Please tell us the three most frequently visited parks by you or a member of your household from the previous question.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
18. How would you characterize the condition of the parks when you used them?
- Very well maintained                       Somewhat well maintained  
 Poorly maintained                               I didn't use them
19. How would you perceive your level of safety when you used the parks?
- Very safe     Somewhat safe  
 Unsafe     I didn't use them

**Please answer the questions on the back of this page.**

20. Which of the following amenities do you think should be added to the Skokie Park District parks that you or someone in your household uses? (Check all that apply)
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic lighting            | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball fields    | <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket pitch   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog parks                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking fountains | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness trails  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower gardens               | <input type="checkbox"/> Park benches       | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Security lighting  | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer fields   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball fields              | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking paths      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____ |   |  |
21. Are you aware that the Skokie Park District leases 17 acres of undeveloped property east of Sports Park from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)?
- Yes                       No
22. Which of the following amenities do you think should be included in the undeveloped property east of Sports Park? (Check all that apply)
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket pitch                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf course                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighted athletic fields                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor fitness stations                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic areas                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelter                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground equipment                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer fields with artificial turf            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer fields with natural grass            | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball/Baseball fields with artificial turf |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball/Baseball fields with natural grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/Biking paths                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whiffle ball field                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____                |  |
23. In the future, if the Skokie Park District proposed a tax increase for park or facility development for the undeveloped property east of Sports Park would you support it?
- Yes                       No                       I'm not sure
24. What is your gender?
- Female                       Male
25. **Beginning with yourself**, what are the ages of those in your household?
- \_\_\_\_\_
26. It would be helpful to the Skokie Park District if you would tell us what languages other than English are spoken in your household
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
27. Please make any comments you think will be helpful to the Skokie Park District.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return it in the enclosed stamped envelope by September 25<sup>th</sup>.**

## Question 12 - Most frequently visited facilities

- Golf
- All only once or twice
- Aquatic Center
- At least once a week
- Dammirich Rowing Center.
- Devonshire
- Devonshire Aquatic Center
- DEVONSHIRE AQUATIC CENTER
- Devonshire Aquatic Center and Weber Leisure Center
- Devonshire Aquatic Center and Weber Leisure Center both used with same frequency
- Devonshire Aquatic Center for swimming
- Devonshire Center & pool
- Devonshire Cultural Center
- DEVONSHIRE CULTURAL CENTER
- Devonshire Cultural Center for piano lessons
- Devonshire Cultural Center/Water playground
- Devonshire park
- Devonshire Preschool
- Don't know
- Emily Oaks
- Emily Oaks (summer camps)
- Emily Oaks nature center
- Emily Oaks Nature Center
- Emily Oaks Nature Center and Oakton Community Center equally
- Emily Oaks walking several times /week
- Emily Oaks-to walk, Oakton Community Center
- Emily Oaks Nature Center
- Exploritorium and Oakton Park with our grandchildren
- Exploritorium
- Fitness first
- Fitness first
- Fitness First
- Fitness First and Exploritorium
- Fitness First Oakton Community Center
- Fitness First Running track
- Fitness First, Skatium Ice Arena
- Golf facilities
- Heritage museum
- Leisure Center
- Niece had a wonderful time playing and interacting with other children
- None
- Northshore Channel park
- Not used frequently
- Oaks N.C.
- Oakton
- Oakton CC
- Oakton Community Center
- Oakton Community Center and Devonshire Cultural Center (Oakton used most frequently in summer for swimming)
- Oakton Community Center and Weber Leisure Center
- Oakton Community Center PD
- Oakton Community Center
- Oakton Park
- Oakton swimming pool

- Oakton Water Playground
- Oakton, Skatium, Sports, Weber Golf
- Open gym basketball at Weber
- Our main fitness activity is walking on sidewalks in our neighborhood
- Play cards, Trips
- Pretty equal
- Rowing center
- See neighbors Arts Pictures
- Skatium
- Skatium Ice arena
- Skatium Ice Arena
- Skatium Ice Arena
- Skokie Dog Park
- Skokie Heritage Museum
- Skokie water playground
- Skokie Water playground
- Skokie Water Playground
- Skokie Water Playground, Devonshire Aquatic Center, Sports Park
- Skokie water playgrounds
- Sport Park, 1-2 times Ice rink 40+
- Sports park
- Sports Park
- Swimming pool at Oakton
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- The Skokie Water Park, but rarely
- Twice a month during warm weather
- Walking area
- Water fitness center
- Water park
- Water parks

- Water playground
- We just go occasionally
- Weber Golf
- Weber
- Weber - open gym for basketball
- Weber and Skokie Water Park
- Weber Center
- Weber Center Fitness
- Weber Center, Fitness First
- Weber Ct
- Weber Exploritorium
- Weber for the running/walking track
- Weber Golf
- Weber Golf Course
- Weber Hockey rink
- Weber Leisure Center
- Weber leisure Center
- Weber Leisure Center
- Weber Leisure Center for walking
- Weber Walk
- Weber workout
- Weekly
- Weber Leisure Center
- Workouts Walking track

**Question 17 - Most frequently visited parks**

- DEVONSHIRE
- Devonshire Park
- Lockwood
- Oakton
- About half year ago
- Allan Weissburg, Devonshire, Oakton
- Allan Weiss Park

- Central, Devonshire, and Timber Ridge
- Central
- Central park
- Central Park
- Central Park Oakton Park Devonshire Park
- Central Park, Timber Ridge, & Oakton
- Central park, TimberRidge, Emily Oaks
- Central park, TimberRidge, Gleiss
- Central park=- It's across the street from us
- Central, Channelside, Devonshire parks
- Central, Devonshire Timber Ridge
- Central, Devonshire, Gleiss
- Central, Lawler, and Gross Point
- Central, Timber Ridge
- Channelside , Lawler, Laramie
- Channelside Park
- Channelside, Devonshire, and Oakton
- Channelside, Emily Oaks, and Terminal
- Channelside, McNally, Playtime
- Channelside, Navajo, Shabonne parks
- Chippewa, Donald Lyon
- D. Lyon, Hamlin, and Oakton
- Devonshire, Seneca
- Devonshire
- DEVONSHIRE, OAKTON,TERMINAL
- Devonshire, Lockwood and Oakton parks
- Devonshire
- Devonshire and Central
- Devonshire and Lockwood
- Devonshire Gelith, Terminal
- Devonshire Gleiss, Oakton
- Devonshire Hamlin, Central park
- Devonshire mainly
- Devonshire Park
- Devonshire Park, Emily Oaks and Seneca Park
- Devonshire Park, Gross pointe Emerson
- Devonshire Park, Lorel Park, and Oakton Park
- Devonshire Park, Oakton Park, Seneca Park
- Devonshire, Emily Oaks
- Devonshire, Emily Oaks, and Terminal
- Devonshire, Emily Oaks, Hamlin
- Devonshire, Emily Oaks, Oakton
- Devonshire, Gleiss, Shawnee
- Devonshire, Gross Point, Oakton
- Devonshire, Hamlin, Oakton
- Devonshire, Lawler
- Devonshire, Lorel and Oakton parks
- Devonshire, Lorel, Pohatan
- Devonshire, McNally, Shawnee
- Devonshire, Oakton
- Devonshire, Oakton, and Emerson
- Devonshire, Oakton, East Prairie at Bremelle Park
- Devonshire, Oakton, Emily Oaks
- Devonshire, Oakton, Terminal
- Devonshire, Terminal
- Donald Lyon - Laramie Hamlin Park (EPS Sports)
- Donald W Lyon
- Emerson
- Emerson, Devonshire, Lawler
- Emerson, Lorel, Oakton
- Emerson, Terminal
- Emily Oaks
- Emily Oaks and Oakton

- Emily Oaks Peccia Park Lorel Park
- Emily Oaks, Central Park Kawaga Garden
- Emily Oaks, Central park/Terminal park Summer camps & baseball
- Emily Oaks, Devonshire, Oakton park
- Emily Oaks, Devonshire
- Emily Oaks, Laramie, Martin F. Peccia
- Emily Oaks, Laramie, Oakton
- Emily Oaks, Lauth, Oakton
- Emily Oaks, Lockwood
- Emily Oaks, Lockwood, Lorel
- Emily Oaks, Lockwood, Oakton
- Emily Oaks, Lorel , Veterans
- Emily Oaks, Mulford, and Oakton
- Emily Oaks, Oakton
- Emily Oaks, Oakton Park
- Emily Oaks, Oakton, Winnebago
- Emily Oaks; Hamlin; and Oakton.
- Fitness Center, Oakton Park
- Gelith, Shabonee, Terminal
- George, Lorel, Peccia
- Gleiss
- Gleiss, Central
- Gleiss, Devonshire
- Gross Point
- Gross Point /Davis Park has too much gang activity Try to Control it
- Gross Point Park
- Gross Point, Lockwood
- Gross Point, Lorel, Pawnee
- Gym classes, walking
- Hamlin
- Hamlin, Henry O. Gleiss, Lockwood
- Hamlin, Mulford, Oakton
- Have not gone to any in the past year
- Henry Gleiss, Main-Hamlin , Skokie, Walter Lauth
- Henry O Gleiss Park
- Henry O. Gleiss Park
- I walk around Central Park daily
- Kawaga Garden
- Kids are getting older so time at parks is very limited unless it's to play basketball
- Kostner and Howard park, Emily Oaks
- Kostner, Emily Oaks, Devonshire
- Kostner, Emily Oaks, Oakton
- Laramie park
- Laramie Park
- Laramie-soccer Grosspoint Great improvement Oakton - pool and play
- Laramie, Lockwood, and Emerson
- Laramie, Martin F. Peccia
- Laramie/ Devonshire
- Lauth
- Lawler and Oakton Parks
- Lawler Park
- Lawler, Devonshire, Emily Oaks
- Lawler, Devonshire, Oakton
- Lawler, Emily Oaks, Hamlin
- Lawler, Lockwood
- Lockwood
- Lockwood park
- Lockwood, Oakton, Pooch
- Lockwood, Sequoia, Oakton
- Lockwood, the jane Stenson park (not sure the names)& Oakton Park

- Lorel
- Lorel park
- Lorel Park
- Lorel Park for x-camp
- Lorel park, Pawnee Park, Schack Park
- Lorel, Devonshire, Oakton
- Lorel, Oakton
- Lorel, Veterans, Channelside
- Lorel park
- Lyons Emily Oaks, Oakton Park
- McCormick
- McNally, Emily Oaks, Lorel
- Mulford, Oakton, Gross Park
- Mulford, Walter Lauth, Hamlin
- Nature Center
- None
- Norman Schack Park
- Norman Schack park, Laramie park, Lorel Park
- Oaks, Oakton, Devonshire park
- Oakton
- OAKTON
- Oakton Park
- Oakton Park Norman Schack Park, Walter Lauth park
- Oakton Park Weber walking inside
- Oakton Park, Devonshire Park, Emily Oaks
- Oakton Park, Emily Oaks
- Oakton Park, Lorel Park
- Oakton Park, Pooch Park, Lawler Park
- Oakton, Central park, Walter Lauth
- Oakton, Central, Gleiss
- Oakton, Central, Terminal
- Oakton, Devonshire
- Oakton, Devonshire, Central
- Oakton, Devonshire, Emily Oaks
- Oakton, Devonshire, Laramie
- Oakton, Emily Oaks, Devonshire
- Oakton, Emily Oaks, Lorel
- Oakton, Gross Point, Devonshire
- Oakton, Gross Point, Lockwood
- Oakton, Kawaga, Laramie
- Oakton, Lawler
- Oakton, Lockwood
- Oakton, Lockwood, and Winnebago
- Oakton, Mulford, and Laramie
- Oakton, Peccia, Skokie Tennis Center
- Oakton, Terminal, Lockwood Park
- Oakton, Emily Oaks
- Only Central park
- Only visited Oakton Park and Skokie Tennis Center
- Pawnee Lockwood, Lorel
- Pawnee Devonshire
- Pawnee Park
- Pawnee, Lockwood, Oakton
- Peccia Park since we live across the street from it
- Playtime, Henry O Gleiss
- Pooch
- Pooch, Emily Oaks, Devonshire
- Same and the one across from McCracken School and Oakton park
- Schack and Laramie
- Sculpture Park and bike path
- See #16
- SENECA

- Shabonee Park
- Shabonee, Laramie
- Shawnee
- Shawnee, Mc Nally, Sculpture park
- Shawnee, Oakton
- Skokie Park
- Tennis Court
- Terminal
- Terminal Park
- Terminal park, Kostner park, Emily Oaks
- Terminal, Devonshire, Emerson
- Terminal, Lockwood Emerson
- Terminal
- Timber ridge, Devonshire Oakton
- Timber Ridge, Devonshire, Pooch Park
- Veterans park
- Water park (Oakton)
- Weber golf Course , Sports park and Emily Oaks

#### **Question 8 - Other reasons for not participating**

- Full week already
- Ill
- Kids aren't old enough but will when they are
- Kids choosing other camps hours more conducive to working parents
- Not enough time
- We are in our 80s
- Age
- Age
- Age poor health
- Age 85
- Age and illness in the family
- Age itself
- Age older seniors
- Age/health limitations
- All I get is the flyer which gets put in with other mail. So it's easy to neglect.
- Always working
- Belong to Health club elsewhere
- Busy
- Busy on the days events took place
- Busy schedules
- Busy, did not make the time
- Can't attend classes or programs on Sat. due to Jewish Sabbath
- Caregiver for an aging parent
- Catalogs arrive and one should be able to register and not have to wait
- Children are more involved with school activities now
- Children are now out of high school
- Children grown Primarily interested in Fitness First classes
- Conflict of interest with other activities
- Conflicts with the Sabbath
- Cost
- Daughter not like pool maintenance at Oakton facility
- Didn't have
- Dog classes were inconvenient times.
- Family grown
- Few programs for teens
- Getting OLD
- Got lazy
- Health clubs
- Health reasons

- Husband - Alzheimer's
- Husband passed away, ill
- I was working too much Recently retired Look forward to more participation
- I'm too old
- Illness
- Illness
- Involved in other recreation
- It is hard because some friends can go but others are not Skokie residents so they end up in Evanston instead
- Kids are grown
- Kids are older
- Lack of interest in recreational programs
- Limited time- I work full time
- Low expectations
- Medical reasons
- My fault
- My own tight schedule
- My schedule of work is nights & weekends
- No children and my time very limited
- No easy online registration
- No indoor swimming in Skokie
- No interest
- No interest in many activities other than fitness
- No real interest
- No time
- No time
- No time working
- Not enough time
- Not enough time
- Not enough time to do everything
- Not interested in recreational programs in general
- Not many classes or recreational programs geared for age 50 and over
- Not many programs for resident's age group
- Not much time
- Not time, care giver to 100 year old mother
- Older senior
- Older senior citizen
- Older seniors
- Orthodox Jewish - most of recreational activities are religiously affiliated
- Other activities elsewhere
- Other scheduled programs
- Our church activities & responsibilities keep us busy enough
- Participate in other fitness activities elsewhere
- Poor health on oxygen
- Primary caregiver for child grown child with cerebral palsy
- Recent arrivals to the area- No information
- Resident has MS
- Resident sees activities on line and when registering for classes, it states classes not available
- Resident's schedule
- Scheduling
- Scheduling conflicts
- Senior
- Senior
- Senior activity not convenient and all in one location
- Since my surgery I feel the pools are dangerous as so many children are tearing around and racing

- This summer was TOO HOT, work full time
- Too busy
- Too busy
- Too busy with other activities
- Too busy with work and other activities
- Unable to attend activities certain days and times
- Used programs more when kids were younger
- Very busy with other things
- Very busy with other things and limited energy due to health concerns
- Was wait listed for Dells Paddle Boat trip
- We have very busy lives
- When children were home we always participated
- Why can't get a Fitness Center like the one in Niles

- Bingo walks, Softball tournaments
- Bridge lessons for seniors
- Control Section 8 Housing
- Crafts for adults
- Current affairs discussions
- Dancing lessons for 50 and above
- Dodgeball for elementary school kids, Dodgeball camp, more access to Pilates
- Exercise for women 35-55 age
- Exercise underwater for arthritis like Niles and Morton Grove have now or at least have a coop program
- Expand Fitness classes
- Feeder programs for high school sports as alternative to clubs that many cannot afford
- Fishing
- For all classes, etc. please keep in mind that children cannot participate if the parents work, since we cannot get them to afternoon activities, and adults cannot participate in afternoon activities
- Foreign language instruction classes
- Gardening, Vegetable gardens
- General Photo Contest
- Go to plays, concerts & Operas
- Good variety of offerings
- Gymnastics (e.g. Wilmette)
- Gymnastics for girls;
- Gymnastics in Skokie because of convenience
- Habitat restoration
- Home school programs
- Hot yoga
- I'm only recently reading the programs
- Indoor pool

#### **Question 9 - New recreation programs**

- A band class or Rock group class where kids can play instruments & sing songs
- A walking dog park only
- A SENIOR CARD GAME CLUB
- Able senior citizen outdoor programs
- Adult dance classes tap, jazz, hip hop
- Another Bus should be purchased to handle the peoples requests for trips
- Aqua Zumba and cardio boxing
- Art for first graders
- Arts and Crafts for adults and special needs
- Become a member of Blue Cross/Blue Shield Fitness program
- Better notification of programming for kids
- Better run softball program for grade school

- Indoor swimming facility with early am and after work lap swim hours ie 5am - 8am and 4pm- 8pm
- Indoor swimming pool
- Indoor swimming program
- Indoor tennis during winter
- Lessons for canasta then canasta play for those who would like
- Meetings for stay at home moms to get together
- More after school programs for ages 5-12 such as art cooking, athletics
- More class at Fitness Center during the day
- More cooking
- More exercise classes at Oakton
- More exercise programs for seniors
- More fairs like the Backlot Bash
- More internet based programs, instructional and how-to's
- More open gym hours for basketball and a new membership just for basketball players
- More optimal days and times for current programs
- More senior programs
- More swimming opportunities
- More Yoga or Fitness Classes
- No idea
- No opinion
- None
- Not sure
- Outdoor ice skating
- Outdoor or indoor running track
- Outdoor skating in the winter months
- Over 70 16 softball
- Perhaps partner with library and include job search skills, one aimed at teens, one aimed at college grads, one aimed at midlife and one aimed at seniors
- Picnic area at Lorel and Oakton park is not used by anyone I live across the street
- Ping pong games
- Ping-pong for kids, art programs for middle schoolers
- Pools open after labor day for month of September
- Programs for preschool kids on the weekends.
- Provide a driveway allowing a canoe or kayak to be loaded and unloaded at the waters edge at the boat launch
- Racquetball
- Senior golf
- Skatepark, Gyrokinesis, Paddlepong
- Spanish Guitar, gardening, pottery, art, jewelry making
- Sports birthday parties at Weber Center or Oakton Center
- Swimming
- Swimming lessons for babies/toddlers during lessons for adults
- Tap dance adult
- Teen programs
- There is a group of people in Skokie who enjoy scrabble and other board games
- Walleyball co-ed leagues
- Yoga Pilates Indoor lap pool
- Zumba, Yoga, Aerobics, Pilates, All for free

### Question 10 - Other places they go for services

- Music Institute of Chicago
- AYSO, School, Evanston
- Bally Fitness
- Beach bike paths, TCBoost, church activities, travel
- Big Blue Swim School
- Chicago Park, Botanical gardens
- Chicago and Glenview Park Districts
- Chicago bike paths
- Chick Evans
- Church
- Club Botanical Garden
- Concerts
- Country club, Other Private Fitness clubs
- Crossfit e-town
- Dog agility competition
- Dog Parks
- Elk Grove Village, Highland Preserve, Evanston
- Evanston athletic club, Hannah's Woods
- Evanston AYSO, Wilmette soccer
- Evanston beaches
- Evanston Dance Center
- Evanston Park District (beach)
- Evanston Park District, beach passes
- Evanston Park District
- Evanston PD
- Expert fitness
- Fitness center near work
- Full package basketball
- Full Package Sports
- Glenview Park District
- Glenview PD walking track Meditation class via the North Shore University Health system in their facility
- Golf Courses
- Gotter Life Center in Chicago
- Grandson joined the Evanston Soccer team as it has coaches in charge
- Health club Theater
- High school feeder programs , Virtuoso (dance& acting)
- High School Feeder Teams
- Husband uses the gym at the Univ. where he teaches
- Indoor swimming pool at Skatium
- LA Fitness
- LA Fitness in Evanston
- Lacrosse - Evanston Youth Lacrosse
- Library
- Library meetings - Movies
- Lifetime
- Lifetime Fitness; Elk Grove Park District
- Lincolnwood
- MGPD NN Feeder NW Feeder
- Morton Grove Park Dist
- Movie Theater, Ravinia Park
- Music lessons, McGaw YMCA, Levy Center, SNAP fitness, Connolly's Martial Arts Academy and dance instruction
- My kids swim at ETHS on a club
- Niles Family Fitness center
- Niles Fitness Center
- Niles PD facilities and Lifetime fitness
- None
- None
- None, I live alone

- None; single senior living alone
- Northwestern, Evanston, Lakefront
- NW Basketball camp Bears summer Football camp, LA fitness
- OTSFM
- Parks Walking tracks
- Planet Fitness/lifetime
- Private Healthclub
- School district
- School sponsored
- School sports team
- Schools
- See above
- Senior active men Evanston/Skokie group for men over 55
- Senior Exercise
- SILVER SNEAKERS
- Skokie Indians
- Skokie library, Center East
- Skokie Public library ETHS Gym
- Sports and Aquatic Center on the Northwestern Campus in Evanston
- Tam Tennis PD Outdoor tennis -Park Ridge
- The Skokie Public Library
- The Y Programs at Skokie Library
- Urban Beat dance center, AYSO, Skokie Youth Baseball
- Urban Dance Beat
- We've used other Park Districts like Des Plaines that offer more convenient weekend programming.
- Weber
- Weber Center
- Weber Ct

- Wilmette
- Wilmette Centennial Tennis and Aquatics
- Would use the pool if it stayed open longer
- YMCA
- YMCA Morton Grove Park District
- YMCA NW pools on occasion
- YMCA warm pool for aqua aerobics
- Yoga studios, dance studios, lifetime

#### **Question 22 - Other amenities at Sports Park**

- All sound good, especially the 2 marked above
- An indoor pool
- Anything that won't cause traffic problems
- Artificial turf for field hockey
- Ballroom & social dance classes swimming pool indoors
- Bathroom
- Bathrooms and concession stands
- Bathrooms, splashpads
- Better swimming pool either indoor or outdoor
- Bigger dog park
- Can there be other walking baths around
- Do not waste my taxpayer money
- Dog friendly family areas
- Dog park
- Don't know
- Enough parks already
- Fitness trails
- Good locations but the smell
- How's smell from Sanitary District
- I know the area but not that familiar with the terrain

- Ice skating rink, toboggan slide (activities for winter)
- Indoor athletic center
- Indoor swimming facility
- Indoor water park
- Mountain bike trails
- Nature center like Cook County Nature Preserve
- Nature preserve
- Parent concierge
- Save the money, cancel the lease
- Saving to taxpayers by quitting the lease
- Sell property and get it on the tax rolls
- Skateboard park
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool indoors
- Water/splashpad like in the glenn

#### Question 27 - Final comments

- Accessible and free of charge /more affordable
- Added security throughout the days/nights. Section 8 housing is ruining the Skokie suburban look
- Additional programs for the age group of 45-55
- Am a retired senior but the activity for grandchildren that use the checked facilities - Lorel Park is a real treat for all of us
- An agreement with Evanston for resident price for dog beach They get resident prices for some of our programs
- As a former preschool director I could see major improvements that are needed to make the Exploritorium more useful
- AS longtime residents we praise the vision of

and continuing upgrading supported by the Board and Professional Staff

- Assyrians love soccer The lack of quality fields means we have to search outside of Skokie
- Be smart Cut bad wasteful programs Be fiscally responsible
- Better publicity on programs and, particularly, special event programs
- Better safety in the parks.
- Better security to avoid gangs using parks instead of families, since Skokie has lost families in the community
- Buy a second bus (14 passenger ) to allow you to meet current and future needs
- Children enjoyed park facilities
- Classes of sign language
- Could use more soccer fields. Pool needs a facelift
- Create multiuse and multipurpose outdoor recreational areas as well as a couple dog parks in Skokie.
- Disappointed that the putting/chipping area at Weber was not completed.
- Do something to attract people to the Oakton and Lorel park up to now it was a waste of the taxpayers money
- Doesn't feel the 17 leased acres from the Water Reclamation District should be developed. It smells out there.
- Emily Oaks could be improved to be more like the mentioned above
- Enough facilities & programs for children Address adults and seniors The Park District does not need any more money
- Fishing area in Channel Park, Free entry to Heritage museum
- Fitness First is an excellent facility with a broad

offering of classes

- Freeze all expenditures and reduce operating costs
- Goes to YMCA for fitness and recreational activities because you pay one fee for all activities. At PD, there is a separate fee for each activity. Price is too high
- Great job!
- Great Park District
- Great PD; son enjoys central camp; Wife likes Fitness First classes
- How about a few more picnic benches and picnic shelters along the river in the Sculpture Park? Also, free WiFi to enable someone to spend a lunch hour or afternoon, yet still be 'connected'
- How about singles nights or Taste of Skokie
- How will you get rid of the smell in the 17 acres of undeveloped area near the Water Reclamation Center?
- I also hope that you will update your database. It is a huge problem registering for classes (like it says 'available' but it is not and there is a waiting list which we are not aware). When I call, the customer service is not professional or helpful. Thank you.
- I don't think that it is financially prudent to build facilities that Skokie taxpayers will fund that are able and aim to attract users from outside of Skokie without a paid fee
- I love to go to water therapy the teacher is registered by the Arthritis Foundation to conduct classes
- I think that during this poor economy you should stop spending more money because we are having trouble paying our taxes now.
- I think that the proposed Skate Park should be placed at the undeveloped property east of

sports park rather than on school property

- I was not aware that NNASR would provide a free aide so that my special needs daughter can participate in Skokie Park District activities
- I would love to see more after school classes and athletics geared toward 5-12 year olds
- Increase the number of seat for Lake Geneva boat trip
- It is a wonderful Park District
- It was always too expensive to get a mixed group of Sheraton & Evanston boys to go to Skokie open gym activities
- It would be nice to have a sports arena like Libertyville.
- It would be great if the village would consider making the center of McCormick Blvd. green space in Main St.
- Keep community well informed of proposed project plans and put the plans to a resident vote.
- Keep the swimming pools open after labor day. We pay heavy property taxes..let's see something for our money!!
- Keep them clean and don't allow gangs `in them
- KEEP UP THE EXCELLENT WORK WITHOUT HAVING A TAX INCREASE THAT EXCEEDS THE CPI AND/OR A SALE OF ANY ADDITIONAL BONDS..
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work, Capitol Costs
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the great work
- Keep up the quality work and programs that make the Skokie Park District so unique.
- Lived in Skokie for over 50 years Have used Park facilities over the years

- Love the Fitness Center please expand Programs offered
- Love the Skokie Park District. Between the Skokie Park District and the library, I find many places to visit and activities to enjoy. Thank you.
- Many good teenagers are hanging in the streets, alleys, and front porches of residents' homes near Madison, Keating, and Kilpatrick due to lack of free community activities. Resident feels the PD and Village should partner together to provide community centers for these children.
- Monitoring dog waste in the park and neighbors lawns
- More evening classes - we work full time
- More indoor pools (water) More weekend fitness classes for children
- Most PD facilities are well maintained with the exception of the Oakton Community Center swimming pool. The pool is poorly maintained.
- Nancy is amazing, always extremely helpful.
- Need to do a better job at keeping the gang-banging kids out of the park.
- No more tax increase I for more unused parks
- No more tax increases
- Oakton Park monitor is overzealous
- Only use senior services and do walking
- Overall I am very happy with the Skokie PD
- Overall Very pleased with schools and Skokie Park District
- Personnel at the fitness center are very accommodating
- Please build an indoor swimming pool. Would support a tax increase for park or facility development for the undeveloped property east of Sports Park if it were a reasonable amount (5% tax increase). Would not support a large tax increase for the development. Keep up the good work. Skokie Park D
- Please do not raise taxes to make improvements.
- Please do not spend any money on new or future upgrades. Park District facilities are fine as is.
- Please keep the Park district well maintained, more activities every season and it should be for all ages. And never try to increase the tax this is the only place that help people relax and take out the stress as everybody try to cope in this hard economic situation. Thanks!
- Please keep working families in mind with preschool programming. There are great programs at Devonshire, but they are all during the work day. The Saturday offerings are limited. We try to go to church on Sunday, so really have one day for classes for the kids.
- Please let citizens/users of Central park know when the bathroom facilities are closed for winter /open in spring
- Please lower membership costs to Weber as well as individual recreational class fees. Prices are becoming too high for many residents.
- Please lower prices at the Skatium Ice Arena.
- Please make every effort to maintain clean and properly care the Fitness First facility The heavy usage requires more time effort and money to maintain
- Please put larger No dogs allowed signs up by our park Lots of abuse in that area
- Please send us a welcome packet to new residents We just moved here
- Programs offered by the district are well run, but we'd rather have a little more money in our pockets and fewer well run programs.
- Recycle bins at all parks
- Resident doesn't feel there needs to be any

park, facility, or program updates. Instead, feels the children need to be properly taken care of within the specified programs/activities. Resident's 10 year old participated in this year's summer camp being transported to and from the camp using PD bus

- Resident feels pool at the Oakton Community Center is very dirty.
- Resident feels the two outdoor pools are overdeveloped,
- Resident has MS. Goes to Lake Forest for weekly horseback riding for individuals with illnesses. Fund raising is done to accommodate for costs. The community and the individuals in need benefit. Would like to see the Skokie PD offer a program of this kind.
- Resident is thankful that Skokie Park District rents Oakton Community Center rooms to community organizations for meeting purposes.
- Resident loves the Skokie Park District and their programs. However, feels there could be better balance between the outdoor aesthetics (planting too many trees in the same location and too many flowers) and playground maintenance. Would like to see new or more woodchips added to playground areas and some landscape
- Resident not sure in favor of developing the 17 acres leased from Water Reclamation of Greater Chicago as the land and area smells in that area. Resident hates to drive in that area.
- Skokie does a great job Let's maintain what we have
- Skokie PD does a great job Continue to do it with the money you have No new taxes
- Skokie PD is an important part of the quality of life in Skokie
- Skokie PD is one of the things we love most about living in Skokie

- Skokie rocks
- Skokie should be a great town, and it does not reach the level it should be, comparing to Evanston, Glenview and Wilmette.
- Sorry I am not really of any help
- Thanks for sending a survey It's nice to know that our opinion counts
- The ability to have multiple diamonds at a local facility would be nice I don't think it will be built in my sons baseball career
- The bathroom facilities are in excellent shape, well lighted at both Oakton and Weber when I attended
- The channel bike path is fantastic, but the light at Main & McCormick is too short to cross if you're on a bike.
- The Park District should not offer services already offered by the private sector.
- The park would be great for soccer the current fields flood
- The parks and its programs are great
- The rummage sale if its ran correctly ie advertising
- The stop sign as one exits Fitness First parking lot cannot be seen is never obeyed by drivers Those of us turning left into the alley
- The tennis area ground are not well maintained
- The track at Weber center needs to be replaced with a flat track . The current one is canted too much
- There are no parks within the boundaries of east of Expressway, Howard and Skokie without crossing norm streets
- Think that PD does a great job
- To attend the pools and other local programs
- Too many dogs in the parks, Signs say No Dogs

My grandchildren play in the park

- Try to get rid of the smell in the undeveloped leased land near the Water Reclamation Center. The smell is a hindrance to future land development.
- Uses too much of my tax dollars.
- Valuable to keep residents abreast of what PD is planning to do versus what they are actually going to in specific projects. Resident needs additional info about the plans for the 17 acres of undeveloped area in order to decide whether she would support a tax increase to fund project.
- Very pleased with Skokie Park District
- We are both seniors and have found Skokie parks to be wonderful places to raise our children
- We enjoy the PD facilities very much Especially Emily Oaks Our grandchildren love Oakton Park playground facilities
- We have a terrific PD This questionnaire actually got me to look at the online brochure
- We have live din Skokie over 40 years and are very pleased with Park services
- We have lived in Skokie more than 50 years. Our kids loved the sand box and fire truck at Oakton
- We have used the Skokie Park District facilities a great deal in the past when our daughter was younger. Thank you to the Park District. We love you.
- We live in Skokie more than 35 years, We still think it is the BEST village in Illinois
- We love Skokie and think it is a great place to live - raise a family An indoor pool would make growing old here doable
- We love the Skokie Park District. It's one of the great things about living in Skokie.

- We love Weber a real plus for us Economical way to maintain health
- We really enjoy the Backlot Bash Maybe there could be some competition events
- We used the Park Distract years ago when our children were young. Now we only use the playgrounds when the grandchildren visit. Regarding taxes, much of our taxes go to the school districts. Perhaps you could get some tax money from them to develop the area!
- We used the parks and facilities more extensively when our kids were younger
- We've been impressed with the Park District. Amazing amount of programs, especially for kids.
- When building parks fence them in if the park is large put drinking fountains on both sides
- When my kids were younger we used the PD a lot
- Would be great if all playgrounds had either wood chips or rubberized flooring/pieces instead of sand
- Would definitely feel safer if a security guard was present
- Would like to see better law enforcement.
- Would like to see PD offer English classes for the Indian population to improve their command of the English language.
- Would like to see recreation programs for senior citizens as well as translators for people who speak foreign languages.
- Would like to see summer camp evaluation sheets. This was the first year in 6 years evaluation sheets were not provided.
- Would like to see the Park District hold the 4th of July fireworks at a park near public transportation so people who don't drive can attend.

- Would like to see the Skokie Park District get the community more involved in using their facilities.
- Would like Yoga classes other than Tuesdays and Thursdays as at Oakton Park Maybe at Devonshire or Weber
- You guys are great
- You're great Keep up the good work

# Skokie Park District

## Survey Responses

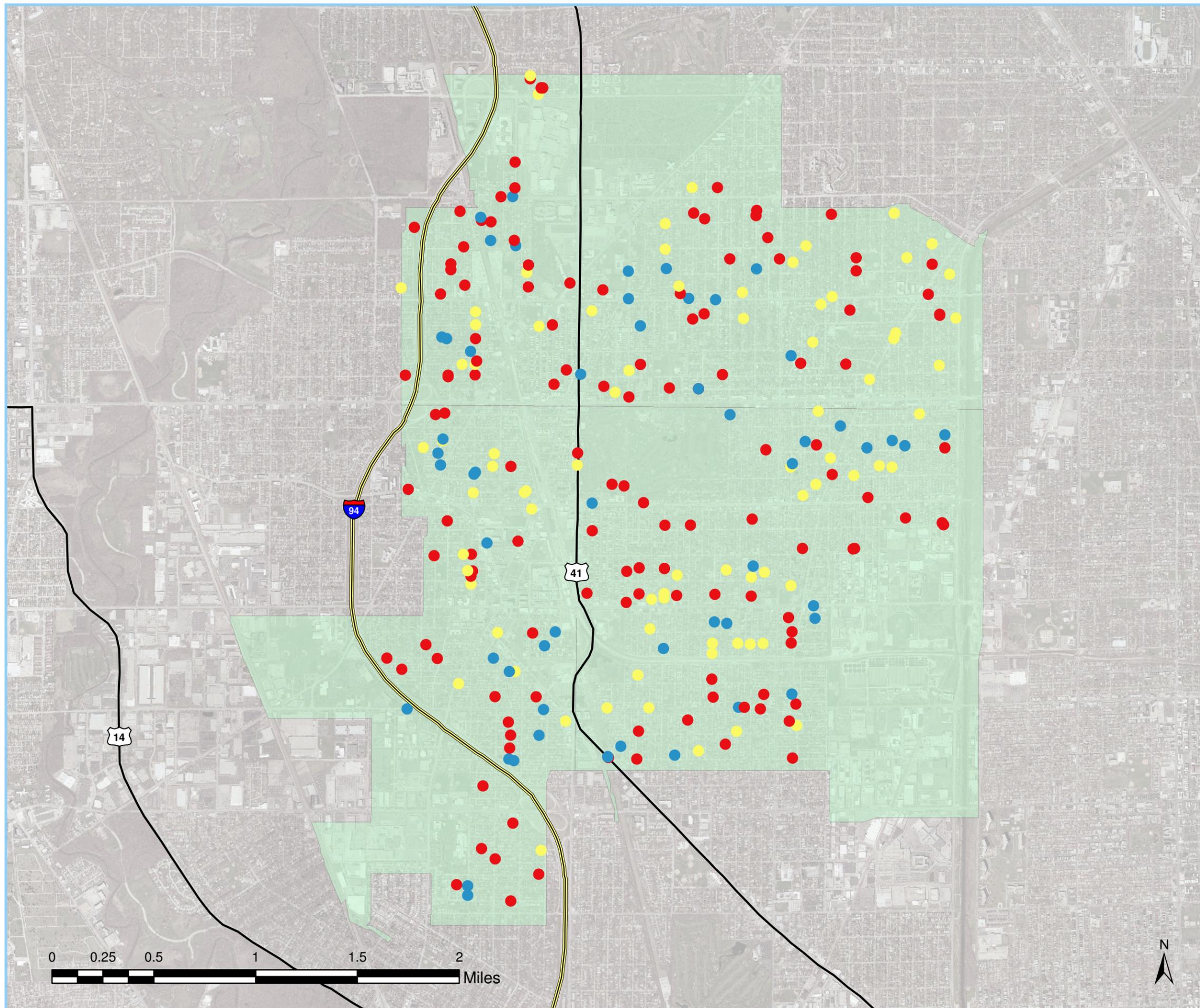
### Legend

- Email
- Mail
- Phone

- ~ Roads
- ~ US Highways
- ~ Interstate

### Park District Boundary

- Park District Boundary



# Skokie Park District

*Survey Responses:  
Support a Tax Increase*

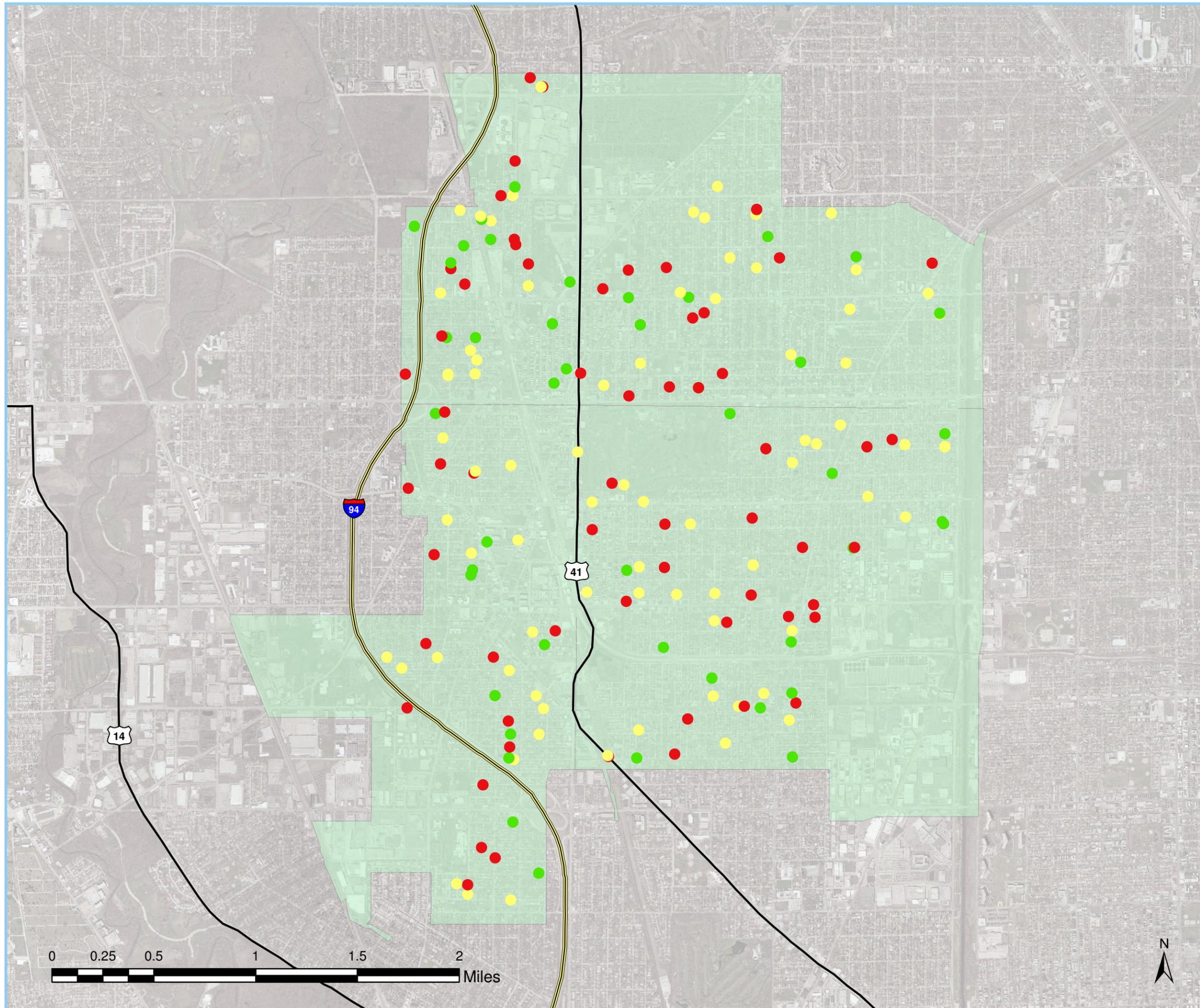
## Legend

- Yes
- No
- I'm Not Sure

- ~ Roads
- ~ US Highways
- ~ Interstate

## Park District Boundary

- Park District Boundary



# Skokie Park District

*Survey Responses:  
Aware of Lease with MWRD*

## Legend

- Yes
- No

- ~ Roads
- ~ US Highways
- ~ Interstate

## Park District Boundary

- Park District Boundary

