

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

BARRIE PARK



CHENEY MANSTON



FIELD PARK + CENTER



ANDERSEN PARK



2025-2029

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Kassie Porreca, President
Jake Worley-Hood, Vice President
David Wick, Treasurer
Sandy Lentz, Secretary
Chris Wollmuth, Commissioner

Principal Staff

Jan Arnold, Executive Director
Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance
Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks and Planning
Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation
Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Special Facilities
Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture and Conservatory Operations
Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HISTORY OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT	4
2025-2029 OVERVIEW	6
PURPOSE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	6
SELECTION AND ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS	7
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING SOURCES	7
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENDITURES BY TYPE	9
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE	10
PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES BY LOCATION	11
SCHEDULE OF SITE MASTER PLANS AND IMPROVEMENTS	12
PARK AND CENTER IMPROVEMENTS	
ANDERSEN PARK AND CENTER	14
AUSTIN GARDENS	16
BARRIE PARK AND CENTER	17
CARROLL PARK AND CENTER	19
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER	21
CHENEY MANSION	22
DOLE CENTER	24
EUCLID SQUARE PARK	25
FIELD PARK AND CENTER	26
FOX PARK AND CENTER	27
GYMANSTICS AND RECREATION CENTER	28
HEDGES ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER	29
LINDBERG PARK	31
LONGFELLOW PARK AND CENTER	33
MAPLE PARK	35
MILLS PARK AND PLEASANT HOME	36
OAK PARK CONSERVATORY	38
RANDOLPH PARK	40
REHM PARK AND POOL	41
RIDGELAND COMMON RECREATION COMPLEX	43
SCOVILLE PARK	46
STEVENSON PARK AND CENTER	47
TAYLOR PARK	49
WENONAH PARK	50
NON-SITE SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS	51
APPENDIX	
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN	53
2023 COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY FINDINGS	93
2023 PARK REPORT CARD	190
PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE	191

HISTORY OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

The Park District of Oak Park has had a long and proud history of acquiring and developing green space and offering recreation opportunities for the residents of Oak Park. Established in 1912, the five elected commissioners who made up the first Park Board purchased the land now known as Scoville Park for \$135,637. This park, designed by Jens Jensen, an internationally renowned landscape architect, remains the “Village Green” today having been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior on November 21, 2002. It is the site of the World War I monument unveiled on November 11, 1925, in the presence of General C.G. Dawes, Vice-President of the United States.

Most of the land now owned by the Park District of Oak Park was purchased during the first two decades of the Park District’s existence. The main use of this property was for passive recreational activities. A conservatory was erected in 1929, supplying flowers for the community flower beds as well as hosting seasonal flower shows, which are still held today. The Oak Park Conservatory was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior on March 8, 2005.

In 1918, a “Small Parks Commission” was appointed by the Village Board to ensure that Oak Park children had a place to “enjoy and practice organized outdoor sports.” They became the Oak Park Playground Board in 1920, and began to levy a tax in 1921, to “equip, construct, and maintain playgrounds.” This Board went on to purchase land for playgrounds and eventually built neighborhood centers, named after prominent children’s authors, where organized recreation programs were provided. At the National Recreation Congress in October 1926, Oak Park won national recognition for programs such as the “Boys’ Playground Band”, a “Shelter House Design Contest” won by Oak Parker John S. Van Bergen, “Murals Contest”, “Junior Art Museum”, “Library on Wheels”, as well as playground landscaping and beautification. Mr. Van Bergen designed many of the neighborhood recreation centers built by the Playground Commission.

In 1939, the Park District bought the property now known as Mills Park from the Herbert Mills Family. Historic Pleasant Home, designated as a historic landmark in 1972, is located on this property. In 1947, the Henry W. Austin Family donated Austin Gardens to the Park District. Sometimes referred to as “the secret garden”, this beautiful park has been home to Festival Theatre since 1975, the Midwest’s oldest professional theatre devoted to outdoor performances of the classics. Cheney House (now known as Cheney Mansion) was presented as a gift to the Park District in 1975, although it remained the private residence of Elizabeth Cheney until her death in 1985. Cheney Mansion was designed by Charles E. White, Jr. in 1913, and boasts many handsome reception rooms, six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and separate servants’ quarters. The two acres of beautifully-landscaped grounds also include a coach house and greenhouse.

For many years the Park District and Village Playground Commission operated side-by-side in serving the recreation needs of Oak Park residents when, in 1980, a new intergovernmental agreement merged the Recreation Department with the Park District. In 1990, the Park District became the sole provider of government-sponsored parks and recreation in Oak Park. At that time, the Park District assumed the operation and maintenance of the Village-owned recreation centers.

The voters of Oak Park successfully passed a referendum in April 2005, providing much needed funding to “Renew Our Parks,” and provide clear stewardship of the parks and recreation service for the residents of the Village. In 2006, the Village transferred the titles of five of the seven recreation centers to the Park District and a 99-year use lease for the two remaining centers has been established due to underground water reservoirs located on these properties. Master plans have been completed for all of the parks, and major renovation projects have been completed or are in progress.

THE 2025-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is the thirteenth update of the original 2005-2010 CIP. The CIP is a five-year projection of planned improvements to the District's parks and facilities. The CIP provides a blueprint for spending priorities over a five-year period. The CIP is updated annually to ensure funding is available for needed capital improvements throughout the District during the next five years. No actual expenditures are made until they are included in the annual budget, which is reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners. Therefore, based on updated needs and priorities, the CIP is being updated on an annual basis.

The public has had ongoing opportunities for input on capital improvements through the site master plan processes. The public is also invited to provide comment at the beginning of every Board meeting and at the annual Public Hearing held before the budget is approved, or by contacting staff and Board members throughout the year. This CIP is made available to the public on the Park District web site, www.pdop.org, along with other planning, budgeting, and capital improvement information.

PURPOSE OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Continued investment in our parks and facilities is critical to the District's mission, which states, "In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities." Developing a long-range vision for park and recreation programs and services in our community has allowed the Park District of Oak Park to continue to provide the many individual, community, economic, and environmental benefits that enhance the quality of life and make our community a great place to work and play.

Capital items included in the CIP are projects that have a monetary value of at least \$5,000 with a useful life of at least three years. Examples of capital projects include construction, remodeling, purchase of parks, park fixtures, buildings, and vehicles, as well as related planning and engineering costs.

Appropriations for capital improvement items lapse at the end of the fiscal year but are re-budgeted and re-appropriated as needed until the project is completed or changed. The operating and maintenance costs for capital assets, once complete, are funded through the operating budget.

SELECTION AND ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital projects are developed through an extensive site planning process with input from many stakeholders including the community, user groups, other government entities and partners, staff, and the Board of Commissioners. A balanced approach to improvements in the District is used that takes into consideration a) the previous schedule of when the master plan was completed, b) the last time improvements were completed at a facility, c) location of the park in the community, attempting to ensure residents feel something is happening in their neighborhood geographically (south, central and north), d) grant opportunities, e) funding available compared to scope and size of project, f) staff resources, g) highest demand-greatest need determined the order of the projects, and h) scores that parks receive as part of the Park Report completed by staff on an annual basis.

Equipment and smaller scale capital projects may be submitted by Park District staff for review and consideration by the Executive Director and Board of Commissioners. Staff and Board meetings are held to discuss all projects, with the projects prioritized based on the District's mission, vision and values, department goals, and available funding. When requests exceed available funding in a given year, adjustments are made to scope, scheduling, or additional funding is sought. The effect of capital improvements on operating expenses is always an important consideration.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING SOURCES

The District has been improving its parks and facilities through various revenue sources; some of which include property taxes, grants, debt, and proceeds from fees and charges. Sources of revenue are identified property tax, grants, debt, or operating fund transfers from the Corporate, Recreation and/or Special Facilities Funds.

	<i>2023 Actual</i>	<i>2024 Estimate</i>	<i>2025 Projected</i>	<i>2026 Projected</i>	<i>2027 Projected</i>	<i>2028 Projected</i>	<i>2029 Projected</i>
Intergovernmental	\$7,342,194	\$0	\$861,463	\$337,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$19,957	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Donations	\$522,064	\$165,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Property Tax Contribution	\$1,532,084	\$1,593,368	\$1,671,443	\$1,738,301	\$1,790,450	\$1,844,163	\$1,899,488
Operating Funds' Transfers	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Total Revenue	\$11,416,299	\$4,263,368	\$5,047,906	\$5,090,801	\$4,805,450	\$4,859,163	\$4,914,488

Property Tax

The 2005 referendum increase of 25 cents per \$100 in equalized assessed valuation in property taxes was split between operational needs and capital projects. Annually, the amount of property tax transferred to the capital projects fund is adjusted according to the increase in property tax revenue. For fiscal year 2025 the tax increase is 4.9%, so the property tax transfer for capital projects will also increase 4.9% to \$1,671,443. The 2025-2029 CIP assumes a 4% increase in 2026, and a 3% increase each year in 2027 - 2029.

Grants

The District has been fortunate to have received over \$12.5 million in grants from several sources over the last 16 years. The District has received one (1) grant for \$2.1m from PARC, eleven (11) grants totaling over \$4m from the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have been awarded to the District, three (3) grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for \$4.875m, and three (3) grants from Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for \$2.5 million at Austin Gardens, Carroll, and the CRC. The OSLAD grant is available for the purpose of acquiring, developing, and/or rehabilitating lands for public outdoor recreation purposes and requires a matching contribution from the Park District. The District has identified Longfellow Park as an OSLAD project for 2026. The District does not recognize revenue from grants until the award has been finalized and earned.

Debt Issues

The Board authorized issuing \$30 million in alternative revenue source general obligation bonds for major capital improvements in the District. The source of the alternative revenue to pay the debt service on these bonds will be the portion of the 2005 tax levy referendum proceeds dedicated for capital projects.

The District issued the bonds over three years in increments of \$10 million each. The bonds were for improvements at the Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex, Gymnastics and Recreation Center, and John Hedges Administrative Center. The first of the three planned \$10 million bond issues was sold on October 20, 2011, through a competitive sale monitored by the District's financial advisor, Speer Financial. The second \$10 million bond issue was sold on March 15, 2012, through a competitive sale. The third \$10 million bond issue was sold on February 21, 2013, through a competitive sale. In 2019 and 2020, all three bond series were successfully refunded for a total savings of approximately \$3 million. In 2021, the Park District also issued a \$6 million debt certificate to maintain the CIP schedule in the wake of the revenue impacts from COVID-19.

Operating Budget Transfer

Operating revenues generated mainly by non-tax sources are transferred to the capital improvement fund to accelerate the pace of capital improvements. These transfers are based on the District's fund balance policy which in part, states there to be a minimum fund balance for operational funds with amounts over the minimum transferred to the CIP for capital improvements.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

Expenditures or projects are identified by location and type. Types of expenditures are specific to improvements such as, vehicle and technology improvements, studies and surveys, and/or master plan improvements. Some allocations represent best estimates of what a specific item, such as a replacement fire alarm system, will cost. Such cost estimates are made based on estimates provided from the site master plans and are updated based on current construction costs adjusted for inflation.

	<i>2023 Actual</i>	<i>2024 Estimate</i>	<i>2025 Projected</i>	<i>2026 Projected</i>	<i>2027 Projected</i>	<i>2028 Projected</i>	<i>2029 Projected</i>
ADA/Surveys	\$81,900	\$375,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$105,000	\$300,000
Non-site specific	\$64,804	\$190,000	\$350,000	\$650,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$50,000
Community Recreation Center	\$6,282,256	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Vehicle/Tech/Equipment	\$194,101	\$100,000	\$287,000	\$330,000	\$150,000	\$365,000	\$295,000
Park/Master Improvements	\$2,332,483	\$2,405,000	\$8,776,000	\$4,407,450	\$3,325,000	\$4,300,000	\$4,380,000
Total Expenses	\$8,955,543	\$3,130,000	\$9,548,000	\$5,522,450	\$3,710,000	\$5,030,000	\$5,085,000

Surveys/Studies

From time-to-time the District undertakes large scale planning projects including the Comprehensive Master Plan and studies related to facility acquisition or development. Each park also has an individual master plan that is reviewed every 10 years.

Vehicle, Equipment, and Technology Replacement

This category includes replacement of District vans and trucks as well as the Zamboni, water trailer, wood chipper, tractor, and other mobile equipment. Also, this category includes technology improvements ranging from server replacements, networking equipment, and fiber line projects. See the appendix for a schedule of vehicle replacement.

Master Plan Improvements

Once site master plans have been approved, improvements based on these are labeled as master plan improvements. Generally, master plan improvements are not undertaken totally in one year based on the dollar cost. However, with successful grant applications, several parks have had substantial improvements towards completion of site master plans.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE

The District's Fund Balance Policy requires the Capital Projects Fund to not have a negative fund balance. The following chart shows the actual, estimated, and projected fund balance for the Capital Projects Fund for this CIP.

	<i>2023 Actual</i>	<i>2024 Estimate</i>	<i>2025 Projected</i>	<i>2026 Projected</i>	<i>2027 Projected</i>	<i>2028 Projected</i>	<i>2029 Projected</i>
Total Revenue	\$11,416,299	\$4,263,368	\$5,047,906	\$5,090,801	\$4,805,450	\$4,859,163	\$4,914,488
Total Expenses	\$8,955,543	\$3,130,000	\$9,548,000	\$5,522,450	\$3,710,000	\$5,030,000	\$5,085,000
Net	\$2,460,756	\$1,133,368	(\$4,500,094)	(\$431,649)	\$1,095,450	(\$170,837)	(\$170,512)
Fund Balance	\$4,367,016	\$5,500,384	\$1,000,290	\$568,641	\$1,664,091	\$1,493,254	\$1,322,742

PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES BY LOCATION

<i>2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan by Park</i>						
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Andersen Park & Center	\$25,000	\$1,000,000				
Austin Gardens			\$20,000			\$25,000
Barrie Park & Center	\$40,000	\$40,000				
Carroll Park & Center		\$50,000				
Elizabeth F. Cheney Mansion	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$325,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Dole Center	\$350,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$900,000
Euclid Square Park				\$150,000	\$400,000	
Field Park & Center	\$200,000	\$2,800,000	\$1,000,000			
Fox Park & Center				\$550,000		
Gymnastic and Recreation Center	\$95,000	\$65,000	\$100,000		\$125,000	\$70,000
John L. Hedges Admin Center		\$400,000				\$150,000
Lindberg Park	\$125,000	\$75,000				\$200,000
Longfellow Park & Center		\$250,000	\$2,287,450			\$35,000
Maple Park			\$150,000			
Mills Park		\$50,000				
Oak Park Conservatory	\$305,000	\$86,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$750,000	\$25,000
Pleasant Home			\$60,000	\$400,000		
Rehm Park						\$100,000
Rehm Pool	\$750,000	\$3,000,000	\$150,000	\$1,150,000	\$2,750,000	\$2,800,000
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	\$125,000	\$480,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$50,000
Scoville Park	\$60,000	\$15,000				
Stevenson Park & Center	\$30,000			\$750,000		
Taylor Park		\$115,000				
Wenonah Park						
Randolph Park			\$15,000			
Non-Site Specific*	\$190,000	\$350,000	\$650,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$50,000
Community Recreation Center	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Vehicles/Technology/Repairs	\$100,000	\$287,000	\$330,000	\$150,000	\$365,000	\$295,000
ADA/Surveys	<u>\$375,000</u>	<u>\$75,000</u>	<u>\$75,000</u>	<u>\$75,000</u>	<u>\$105,000</u>	<u>\$300,000</u>
Project Costs	\$3,130,000	\$9,548,000	\$5,522,450	\$3,710,000	\$5,030,000	\$5,085,000

*Non-site specific includes the Park District's portion of School District 97 turf field replacements

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK MISSION: *In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.*

SCHEDULE OF SITE MASTER PLANS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Park District sets high standards when designing and constructing park renovation projects to ensure that all parks receive needed improvements and are safe for the public to use. To maintain the highest standard, the Park District promotes and seeks competitive Requests for Proposals from qualified professional consultants and competitive bids from qualified contractors.

Site Master Plans have been prepared for 18 District parks. Implementation of plans began in 2006, with Andersen Park and continues throughout this Capital Improvement Plan. Through public awareness, focus group meetings, community meetings, and online questionnaires, the planning process allows everyone in the community an opportunity to suggest what improvements are to be made to park sites and facilities. The public is also invited to provide comment at the beginning of every Board meeting and by contacting staff and Board members.

Park master plans are reviewed with the community and updated every 10 years.

The following explains the core guidelines when planning for a major capital park improvement project:

- A Request for Proposals is released to professional consultants for professional park planning services. Consultants typically include Landscape Architects, Architects, and/or Civil Engineers.
- Once a professional consultant is selected, Park District staff will meet with the consultant to introduce and discuss general site conditions and concerns and provide pertinent information from previous studies.
- Between two and six focus group meetings are held. Those typically invited to these meetings, depending on the park location, include Park District staff and representatives from the Park District Citizen Committee, the Village or Oak Park (administration, engineering, planning, fire, and police), Oak Park School Districts, Park District sports affiliates, business associations, universal access commission, WSSRA, FOPCON, and more.
- Three to four community meetings, in conjunction with online questionnaires, are held. During these meetings, conceptual or schematic designs are discussed and refined into a final site master plan. These meetings allow the public to have active involvement in the planning process. Park District staff meets with the consultant before and after each community meeting to ensure all suggestions or recommendations are discussed and the consultant's work is progressing to an acceptable level.
- The Park Board reviews a final site master plan for approval and adoption.
- The Park District then submits a Request for Bids to hire a qualified contractor to construct the proposed improvements. Due to the cost of certain improvements, some park projects need to be phased over time.
- The Park Board reviews the bids from a qualified contractor and approves the hiring/contracting of the contractor.
- Construction begins and is monitored by the Park District Superintendent of Parks and Planning.

Park District of Oak Park Proposed Timing for Master Plan Reviews

<u>Plan Created</u>	<u>Plan Reviewed</u>	<u>Tentative Next Review</u>
Field (2006)	2014	2024
Carroll (2005)	2014	2024
Austin Gardens (2005)	2015	2024
Andersen (2005)	2015	2025
Barrie (2015)	2015	2025
Cheney (2009)	2016	2025
Maple (2007)	2013	2025
Conservatory (2008)	2016	2026
Rehm Park (2008)	2016	2026
Euclid (2009)	2016	2026
Mills (2008)	2017	2027
Taylor (2009)	2017	2027
Scoville (2010)	2018	2027
Lindberg (2010)	2018	2028
Wenonah (2009)	2018	2028
Randolph (2009)	2018	2028
Stevenson (2011)	2021	2029
Fox (2006)	2023	2030
Longfellow (2006)	2023	2030
Rehm Pool (2023)	2023	2033

Andersen Park and Center

History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Hans Christian Andersen and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. The play equipment was previously renovated in 1985.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Andersen Park was completed in January 2006, and updated in 2014. Initial improvements were completed in September 2006. These improvements included: new playground equipment, splash pad, roll hill, walkways, drinking fountain, bicycle rack, security lighting, replacement fencing, woven willow dome, interpretive signage, landscaping, and decorative paved seating areas. In 2006, Andersen Center improvements were also made including roof repair and lock and door replacement. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008, which replaced the circa 1965 system. The new system allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Replacement park benches were installed in 2008. Center improvements in 2010, made the restrooms accessible when no staff is present, and addressed small-scale maintenance needs (e.g., painting, tuck pointing, tile replacement). In 2011, a new exterior accessible restroom was constructed for the Center. There were aesthetic and deferred maintenance improvements completed at Andersen Center in 2018, including a new roof and interior upgrades.

Current Features

This small neighborhood park currently features a multi-purpose field, two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, roll hill, walkways, and seating areas including chess tables, drinking fountain, bicycle rack, and restrooms in Andersen Center.

Future Improvements

Final master plan improvements are scheduled for 2025, on the south end of the park. These improvements include seating areas, play spaces, and fencing. The entrances and walkways will improve the aesthetics of the park. Multi-purpose field improvements would include field grading, improved spectator seating, signage, and bike racks. In 2018, the large elm on the south side of the park had to be removed which opened up the space and will allow for improvements to the west and south side of the facility. The 2015 master plan update provided for an alternative if the tree was lost. Additionally, improvements include additional shade, outdoor fitness equipment, and playground replacement.

1.3 acres at Hayes & Division



Andersen Park and Center – Continued

1.3 acres at Hayes & Division

Benefits

Capital improvements to Andersen Park will enhance the field environment, improve safety, and improve the aesthetic value of the park and facility. The walkways will also create greater accessibility to the park.

<i>Andersen Park & Center</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	25,000	1,000,000	-	-	-	-
	25,000	1,000,000	-	-	-	-

Austin Gardens

3.64 acres at Ontario & Forest

History

Henry W. Austin, Jr. donated the land for Austin Gardens to the Park District in 1947, on the condition that it remains a public park bearing the Austin family name. The District officially received ownership of the property upon the death of Mrs. Austin in 1954. The park includes a wildflower woodland habitat first planted in 1970, by members of the League of Women Voters, as well as pathways and hundreds of trees. Since 1975, Austin Gardens has been used as a performance space by the Oak Park Festival Theatre. A Trust for Austin Gardens is held by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation and has a value of close to \$500,000. Proceeds of the trust can be used for extraordinary maintenance and recreation activities.



Past Improvements

The site master plan for Austin Gardens was completed in 2005, and updated in 2016. Construction of improvements began in October 2007, and included: path improvements, new benches, landscaping, trash receptacles, fencing, electrical upgrades, lighting, and an irrigation system for the wildflower area. A multi-purpose Environmental Education Center, discovery garden, and other improvements such as walkways, landscaping, and signage were completed in 2016.

Current Features

The park includes a wildflower woodland habitat first planted in 1970, by members of the League of Women Voters, as well as walkways, a drinking fountain, hundreds of trees and an area for a Festival Theatre stage. The Environmental Education Center provides educational opportunity for residents and will be used for day camp programs. The discovery garden is a natural habitat that utilizes rainwater to help irrigate the park. The signage creates additional educational components and the mile markers will be used by walkers for fitness tracking.

Future Improvements

Staining for the siding is planned for 2026 and 2029.

<i>Austin Gardens</i>	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	-	-	20,000	-	-	25,000
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	20,000	-	-	25,000

Barrie Park and Center

History

The 0.9 acre site at the southwest corner of Lombard and Garfield was acquired in 1932, and named for the children's author James Barrie. It includes a center originally designed by Arthur B. Maiworm. The adjacent 3.3 acre park was acquired in 1965, and had been the site of a manufactured gas plant from 1893-1931. Soil contamination was discovered in 1999, and remediation was undertaken through a coordinated effort by the Park District, Village of Oak Park, ComEd, and NiCor. Cleanup and restoration took place from 2001-2005. Barrie Center is located on top of a Village underground potable water tank. A master plan was created for Barrie Park in 2015, which includes future upgrades to the playground, sled hill, and the addition of a natural play area.

Past Improvements

Improvements to Barrie Park, done through the remediation project and completed in 2005, included: new ball fields and a multi-use sport field with irrigation, a sled hill, walkways, playground equipment, and patio. Near the center, improvements included a new tot lot, sport courts, and an accessible ramp. Other improvements in both locations included benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, landscaping and lighting. In 2006, improvements to Barrie Center included roof repair, lock and door replacement, and creation of storage spaces to secure equipment. In 2007, these center improvements were completed. In March 2008, improvements included making the restrooms ADA accessible and creating both interior and exterior access, upgrading restroom fixtures, upgrading ventilation systems, creating a customer service kiosk, replacing railings, improving common areas, and reorganizing office workspace. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008, which replaced the system installed in 1965. The new system allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Improvements were made again in 2023 to the playgrounds, ball fields, sports courts, and a new picnic area and pickleball courts were added in 2023 and 2024.

Current Features

Current features include restrooms at Barrie Center, a multi-purpose field, a soccer field, one baseball field, a sport courts facility (for basketball, volleyball, tennis and inline hockey), three age-appropriate playground areas (2 at Barrie Park and 1 at Barrie Center), a sled hill with a storage area for utilities and maintenance equipment built into the base, and drinking fountains. Barrie Park athletic fields are irrigated.

4.22 acres at Lombard & Garfield



Barrie Park and Center – Continued

4.22 acres at Lombard & Garfield

Future Improvements

For 2025 the District is planning to add shade structures to the sports fields.

Benefits

These improvements will help to improve the park and facility amenities and use of the park.

<i>Barrie Park & Center</i>	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	10,000	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	30,000	40,000	-	-	-	-
	40,000	40,000	-	-	-	-

Carroll Park and Center

2.48 acres at Kenilworth & Fillmore

History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Lewis Carroll and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. The northern part of Kenilworth Street was vacated by the Village in 1960, to expand the park and connect it to the Lincoln School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Carroll Park was completed in December 2005, and updated in 2014, with the cooperation of Elementary School District 97; initial improvements were completed in September 2007. These improvements included: new playground equipment, a drinking fountain, walkways, landscaping, and additional security lighting. In coordination with the Village of Oak Park, the Kenilworth cul-de-sac was rotated 90 degrees to the southwest to gain more play space. In 2007, Carroll Center improvements were also made including roof repair and lock and door replacement. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008, which allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Two properties adjacent to Carroll Center were purchased on Kenilworth Avenue and turned into added green space for this park in 2008 and 2009. Center improvements in 2010, made the restrooms accessible when no staff is present and addressed small-scale maintenance needs (e.g., painting, tuck pointing, tile replacement). In 2014, Master plan improvements to ball field and spectator areas including west side walkways were completed to create a continuous walking path. Additionally, an education classroom area was installed east of the Recreation Center. The ball field improvements included new backstops, diamond and multi-purpose field grading, player and spectator areas improvements that include covered player benches, spectator seating, signage and bike racks. In 2019, the Park District began construction of an addition to the Carroll Center. The addition is to add space for preschool and afterschool as well as provide the largest individual room in the District's portfolio. The addition was constructed with capital funds from the District as well as a grant of \$577,800 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to construct the building as passive design. The facility will now generate more energy than it uses. It has six geothermal wells, solar panels, triple-pane windows, a rain garden and extensive insulation to create our most energy efficient building. Additionally, the playground was renovated to include swings, play structure and forever lawn surfacing. In 2019 the District purchased the property adjacent to Carroll Park with OSLAD funds and created open green space to expand the park.

Current Features

Current features include a baseball field, a multi-purpose field, playground for 2-5 year olds, drinking fountain, baggo stations, benches, and restrooms in Carroll Center.



Carroll Park and Center – Continued

2.48 acres at Kenilworth & Fillmore

Future Improvements

For 2025 the District is planning to replace some siding panels that have been damaged.

<i>Carroll Park & Center</i>	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	-	50,000	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	50,000	-	-	-	-

Community Recreation Center

History

Land for the CRC was acquired in 2019, by donation from the Parks Foundation, the property at 229 Madison Street will allow the District to fulfill a recommendation for an indoor recreation center as outlined in the 2015-2024 Comprehensive Master Plan. Construction began in March of 2022 and was completed in May 2023. The facility was constructed without the need for referendum or tax increase, being funded primarily by donations through the Parks Foundation as well as grants through the state of Illinois and Illinois Clean Energy Foundation.

Current Features

The CRC currently features an indoor walking track, gymnasium space, a play zone, community rooms, e-sports room, and a fitness center. The facility was constructed as a net zero energy use building, generating all of its required electricity with onsite rooftop solar panels.



Future Improvements

Phase two of the CRC plan is not currently scheduled. The funds in the CIP from 2024-2029 are for the fitness equipment capital lease.

<i>Community Recreation Center</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Building Improvements	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000

Cheney Mansion

History

Cheney Mansion was designed in 1913, by Charles E. White, Jr. for the Sharpe family. It has six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, many reception rooms, a ballroom, coach house, and greenhouse on two acres of landscaped grounds. It was purchased in 1922, by Andrew and Mary Dole and inherited by their niece, Elizabeth Cheney, who deeded it to the Park District in 1975. The Park District took ownership of the property in 1985. It was designated an Oak Park Landmark by the Village of Oak Park in 2004. Cheney Mansion is currently used for Park District programs such as cooking classes, special events, and as a rental facility for the public. The mission of Cheney Mansion is “to provide a unique venue for recreation programs, special activities, and community events for the enjoyment of Oak Park residents and is a distinctive locale for private meetings and celebrations.”

Past Improvements

The boiler and external walkway pavers were replaced in 2006. Major renovations were made in 2007, in preparation for the 2007 Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society’s Designer Showcase House. Improvements included: roof and gutter replacement, tuck pointing of chimney and exterior elevations, repair of the exterior stucco, and exterior painting. Interior renovations included: a remodeled kitchen, replacement kitchen hood vent, fire alarm upgrade, and interior finishes to all rooms. A new wooden fence was erected on the east end of the property and the wrought iron fence surrounding the Mansion was repaired and restored. Improvements were made to the coach house to make it a better rental property and lead paint was removed from the fire escape staircase. In fall 2009, a site plan was developed for the grounds surrounding Cheney Mansion which focused on improving accessibility to the first floor. This plan was updated in 2016. A feasibility study, to fully assess the condition of the Cheney Greenhouse, was completed in 2010. Master plan improvements began in the late fall of 2011, and concluded in spring 2012. Improvements included main entry identifying signage, main entry sidewalk improvements, an accessible walkway with improved landscaping from the main entry to the house solarium, a new south garden access walkway leading to the back patio area, and a new walkway to the north garden area. In 2013, through a generous donation, the waterfall garden on the south of the property was restored. In 2014, the greenhouse was restored and made into a functional space to be used as part of rentals on the property. In 2020, the entrance off the alley was widened to better accommodate catering vehicles.

Current Features

Current features include a historic home, coach house, and decorative gardens around each. The home and grounds are used for Park District programs and private rentals.

2.20 acres at Euclid & Ontario



Cheney Mansion – Continued

2.20 acres at Euclid & Ontario

Future Improvements

Major improvements planned for 2024 are tuck pointing and electrical work at the home, and in 2025 the District is planning for a geothermal energy system at Cheney Mansion, with construction completing in 2026. 2027-2029 has funds reserved for maintenance items needed at Cheney Mansion.

<i>Cheney Mansion</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	300,000	300,000	325,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
	300,000	300,000	325,000	25,000	25,000	25,000

Dole Center

History

Dole Learning Center was built in 1926, and donated to the Village of Oak Park in 1939, by Andrew and Mary Dole, who also owned Cheney Mansion. The Village used it as a library branch for several decades and added recreational programming in the late 1970s. Dole Center underwent a major renovation in 2002, which made the building ADA accessible. In addition to the Village, the Oak Park Library, and the Park District occupied parts of Dole Center through an intergovernmental agreement and all three entities contributed to a sinking fund for the utility costs, janitorial services, and maintenance of the building. The Park District purchased Dole Center from the Village of Oak Park in 2019.

Building at Augusta & Cuyler



Past Improvements

In 2006, a partition was built on the third floor to create a sound barrier between two dance studios. In 2017, security cameras were upgraded to increase the safety of this facility.

Current Features

This property has offices, restrooms, and a drinking fountains. There are also classroom spaces for seniors and fitness programming.

Future Improvements

The District has planned for a geothermal system and roof replacement in 2029. Years 2025-2028 are capital maintenance items.

Estimated Operating Costs

Geothermal is planned to reduce the electric and natural gas used when maintaining temperatures in the facility.

Benefits

The geothermal system will reduce the District's consumption of electricity and natural gas.

<i>Dole Center</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Building Improvements	350,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	900,000
	350,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	900,000

Euclid Square Park

2.81 acres at Fillmore & Euclid

History

Acquired in 1929, the park was originally called New South Park, or Park #9, but was subsequently named after the adjacent street.

Past Improvements

The tennis courts were replaced in 1979, and resealed in 2008. The playground equipment was replaced in 1998. A site master plan was created in 2009, and updated in 2017. The site master plan process for Euclid Square began in 2009, resulting in recommended improvements separated into three phases. Completed in spring 2011, master plan improvements focused on complete renovation of the ballfield and the southwest corner of the park. New walkways on the southern half of the park, landscaping, a bicycle rack, drinking fountain, and benches are also part of this project. The Park District received a \$100,000 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant for the ballfield improvements. In 2017, improvements included a continuous walking path, new playground with rubberized surface, new tennis courts and fencing, rain garden and small sled hill. \$400,000 of the project was funded through the OSLAD grant program.



Current Features

Current features include an age-appropriate playground area, a baseball field, a multi-purpose field, four tennis/pickleball courts, soccer field, and drinking fountain.

Future Improvements

Tennis court surface replacement is scheduled for 2028. The District plans to install an exterior restroom at Euclid in 2028 as called for in the 2017 master plan update.

<i>Euclid Square Park</i>	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	-	-	-	150,000	400,000	-
	-	-	-	150,000	400,000	-

Field Park and Center

3.39 acres at Division & Woodbine

History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Eugene Field and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. Woodbine Avenue between Berkshire and Division was vacated by the Village in 1960, to expand the park and connect it to the Mann School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Field Park was completed in May 2006, with the cooperation of School District 97. Master plan improvements began in August 2007, and were completed in April 2008. A \$399,000 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant partially funded these improvements, which included: new playground equipment, a bocce court, splash pad, shelter, new walkways, renovated and expanded baseball and soccer fields, a new vehicular drop off near the Center, installation of an irrigation trunk, new benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks and landscaping, including the addition of many new trees. In 2007, Field Center improvements including roof repair and lock and door replacement. An upgrade of the local fire alarm system was completed in 2008, which allows for constant fire/smoke detection and direct communication alerts to emergency agencies. Center improvements in 2010, made the restrooms accessible when no staff is present and addressed small-scale maintenance needs (e.g., painting, tuck pointing, tile replacement). In 2011, a new exterior accessible restroom was constructed for the Center. Irrigation was added in 2013, to the sports fields. In 2014, the District reviewed the master plan for Field Park and Center with the community. An underground cistern was added in 2017, to capture the water from the splash pad and reuse through the irrigation system on the fields. In 2018, the playground surface was replaced as well as a natural planting area was installed.



Current Features

Current features include two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, a bocce court, shelter, seating area with benches and chess tables, walkways, two baseball fields, a multi-purpose field, drinking fountain, native planting area, and restrooms in Field Center.

Future Improvements

The District is in the process of an architecture design contest to replace Field Center. That construction is planned for 2025, and the playground is scheduled for 2026.

<i>Field Park & Center</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	200,000	2,800,000	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	-
	200,000	2,800,000	1,000,000	-	-	-

Fox Park and Center

1.54 acres at Oak Park & Jackson

History

Acquired in 1922, the park is named after William H. Fox, who served on the Park Board of Commissioners from 1919-1925. It includes a recreation center built in 1966.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Fox Park was completed in January 2007, and updated in 2014. Center improvements completed in 2008, included: making the restrooms ADA accessible and creating both interior and exterior access, upgrading restroom fixtures, upgrading ventilation systems, replacing railings, remodeling the kitchen and activity space, adding storage space, creating a customer service kiosk, improving common areas, and reorganizing office workspace. Master plan improvements to the north end of the park, completed in spring 2009, included new playground equipment, restored splash pad area with added accessibility, a ramp to gain access to the restrooms, a new north entranceway to the center, a walkway all the way around the center, and a renovated entryway plaza on the south side of the center with additional seating. Other improvements included benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, landscaping, and lighting. The “sunken area” was brought up to grade in order to accommodate these features and create accessibility. In 2011, the windows for the center were replaced. Ballfield improvements were made to the backstops, player and spectator areas, and seating during 2014. Additionally, bench seating was added to the perimeter of the park, shaded seating at the sand play area, and irrigation was installed for the sports field. In 2016, the retaining walls and entry steps were renovated to match existing with new walls, structure, railings and copings.



Current Features

Current features include two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, baseball field, multi-purpose field, drinking fountains, seating with benches and chess tables.

Future Improvements

The playground and playground surface are scheduled for replacement in 2027.

<i>Fox Park & Center</i>	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	-	-	-	550,000	-	-
	-	-	-	550,000	-	-

Gymnastics and Recreation Center

0.6 acres (26,505 sq. ft.) at Lake & Humphrey

History

Acquired in 2011, for \$980,000, the 25 Lake Street property was previously owned by Aldi, Inc., the grocery chain. The Park District Board approved building a gymnastics facility, which resulted in the current gymnastics center moving out of its location at 218 Madison Street in 2013.

Past Improvements

In early 2012, the existing building operated by Aldi, Inc. was demolished. Construction for the new facility started in fall 2012, and was completed in 2013. The Parks Foundation purchased a sculpture in 2017, which was installed in 2017, named Blue Woman in the Twilight. In 2024 the District replaced flooring at the GRC as well as upgraded the lights in the sign to LED bulbs.



Current Features

The Gymnastics and Recreation Center includes expanded gym floor space and equipment, a studio room, two multi-use rooms, staff offices, restrooms, spectator viewing areas, and parking with a drop-off zone.

Future Improvements

A building automation system, boiler, and office carpeting are planned for 2025. Thin film solar and a rooftop HVAC replacement is scheduled for 2026. A second roof top HVAC unit is scheduled for 2028, and parking lot repairs are scheduled for 2029.

<i>Gymnastics and Recreation Center</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Building Improvement	95,000	65,000	100,000	-	125,000	70,000
	95,000	65,000	100,000	-	125,000	70,000

Hedges Administrative Center

0.34 acres (22,180 sq. ft.) at Madison & Harvey

History

Acquired in 1986, 218 Madison was built in the 1930s, and formerly housed an automobile dealership. In 2001, the building, which housed administrative offices, program registration, the buildings and grounds headquarters (including vehicle storage) and the District's Gymnastics Center, was named after John L. Hedges, Park District Executive Director from 1980 to 2000.

Past Improvements

Renovations made from 2001 to 2006, reorganized office workspaces, converted storage space into offices, streamlined the customer service and registration area, converted lighting fixtures to energy-saving models, and replaced roof trusses in the Gymnastics Center. A Facility Improvement Study conducted in 2006, focused on improvements to the existing facilities on a short-term (1 to 3 years) basis with an emphasis on the Buildings and Grounds and Gymnastics Center. The Study identified needed structural repairs such as replacement of roof trusses, reconstruction of the basement ceiling, masonry repair, ventilation system replacement, and roofing replacement. The District was actively pursuing the relocation of one or all of the following: Administrative offices, the Gymnastics, and/or the Buildings & Grounds functions. In 2011, the Park District purchased the 25 Lake Street property with the Board approving moving the gymnastics program to it. An architectural firm was hired for validating the cost of moving gymnastics to 25 Lake Street, expanding Building and Grounds, and renovating Administration at 218 Madison. In 2013, the gymnastics programs were relocated to the new Gymnastics and Recreation Center. In 2015, the District completed a redevelopment of both the Buildings and Grounds space as well as the Administrative area. These improvements provide buildings and grounds the work space needed and brought the entire building up current code.

Current Features

This facility is used for Park District Administrative offices and Buildings and Grounds.

Future Improvements

In 2025 the District plans to replace office carpeting and install additional solar panels. In 2029 the District plans to install electric vehicle chargers.

Estimated Operating Costs

There will be additional electric usage due to the charging stations, however in anticipation of this the District is continuing to add solar power to the building.



Hedges Administrative Center - Continued

Benefits

The benefits to these charging stations will be a sustainable source of energy, decreased fuel costs, and a lower carbon footprint.

<i>Admin/Buildings & Grounds</i>	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Building Improvement	-	400,000	-	-	-	150,000
	-	400,000	-	-	-	150,000

Lindberg Park

13.9 acres at Marion & Le Moyne

History

Acquired in 1925, this park was originally called “Green Fields” but was subsequently named after Gustav A. Lindberg, the first Superintendent of Parks at the Park District of Oak Park. The land had previously been used as a refuse dump. In 1972, the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation established the Presidential Walk in Lindberg Park with the planting of 17 sugar maples, one for each of the 17 former Village of Oak Park Presidents. This tradition continues with a new tree planted as each village president ends their term in office. One of the ballfields is named for Merritt Lovett, a former Park Board Commissioner.

Past Improvements

In the late 1990’s, the gardens were restored to their original layout as designed in the 1930’s by Mr. Lindberg. This project was a joint effort between the Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest and the Park District of Oak Park with funding from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The original design had included water gardens and roses transplanted from gardens dismantled after Chicago’s Century of Progress World’s Fair in 1934. Other improvements completed in 2000, included: remodeling the comfort station and concession stand, resurfacing the tennis courts, installing irrigation under the fields, and replacing 120 trees. The tennis courts were resealed in 2009. A site master plan for Lindberg was completed in fall 2010, and updated in 2018. Identifiable needs included adding paths on the north and east sides to complete a walkway around the park, replacing backstops and fencing, improving security lighting, renewing the comfort station, improving field drainage, and adding “health-walk” medallions around the park. In 2014, with the help of a \$400,000 OSLAD grant, the District was able to complete improvements to the sports fields, added a picnic shelter and new playground, and improved the tennis courts and walkways. In 2015, landscaping work on the west side of the Trial Gardens took place to create a wonderful wildlife refuge. In 2024 the District resurfaced the tennis courts.



Current Features

The park features a comfort station with restrooms, an age appropriate playground area, two baseball fields, two multi-purpose fields, three tennis courts, picnic pavilion, a native prairie plant garden, and a drinking fountain. Lindberg Park athletic fields are irrigated.

Lindberg Park – Continued

13.9 acres at Marion & Le Moyne

Future Improvements

The District is planning to add a shade structure to the playground in 2025, and repair the walking paths in 2029.

<i>Lindberg Park</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvement	125,000	75,000	-	-	-	200,000
	125,000	75,000	-	-	-	200,000

Longfellow Park and Center

2.62 acres at Ridgeland & Jackson

History

Acquired in 1920, the park was named after the American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The recreation center was built in 1966, in the same style as Fox Center.

Past Improvements

The site master plan for Longfellow Park was completed in February 2007. Center improvements completed in 2008, included: making the restrooms ADA accessible and creating both interior and exterior access, installing an elevator, upgrading restroom fixtures and ventilation systems, creating a viewing area for the upper level program room, creating a customer service kiosk, improving common areas, and reorganizing office workspace. In 2008, replacement of the Center's air conditioning system was also completed. In 2011, the windows were replaced in the Center.



Park master plan improvements constructed in 2008, included new accessible and creative playground equipment, a new splash pad, a ramp to gain access to the restrooms, a new north entranceway to the center, a walkway around the center, and a renovated entryway plaza on the south side of the center with additional seating. Other improvements included benches, drinking fountains, bicycle racks, landscaping, and lighting. The “sunken area” north of the center was filled in and a new full-sized basketball court with spectator area was installed. The play areas were relocated from the northwest corner of the park to a more central location allowing for parental monitoring of both the playground and the ball field. Sand volleyball courts were relocated to Rehm Park. At the southeast corner of the park, a brick ballfield plaza was created and a drinking fountain and bicycle rack were added. A significant percentage of this project was funded through grant dollars. Irrigation was installed on the sports fields in 2013. In 2014, improvements were made to the ball field and spectator areas. In 2016, the entry retaining walls and ADA ramps were re-built & a new roof was installed to allow for the addition of solar panels in 2017, and 2018. In 2016, a cistern was installed to collect water from the splash pad and repurpose that water for the irrigation of the sports fields.

Current Features

Current features include two age-appropriate playground areas, a splash pad, one baseball field, one multi-purpose field, one basketball court, two tennis courts that also convert into a temporary outdoor ice rink in the winter, walkways, seating with benches and chess tables, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, and restrooms in Longfellow Center. The Center is now accessible via a new elevator on the north side of the building. An above ground cistern was installed to capture water from the splash pad and rain water and treat that for use for irrigation and 30 solar panels.

Longfellow Park and Center – Continued

2.62 acres at Ridgeland & Jackson

Future Improvements

In 2026 the Park District will remove the tennis courts and replace with dedicated pickleball courts. The sandbox by the splashpad will be removed in order to expand the splash pad and reduce maintenance needs. The District will also add a sensory garden at the entrance to the park, and replace both the playground and playground surfaces. The basketball courts will be resurfaced in 2029.

Estimated Operating Costs

These updates will lower some of the costs associated with the upkeep of the courts and make them more playable. The playground and splashpads are also due for renovation and that work will decrease maintenance needed in the park.

<i>Longfellow Park & Center</i>	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements		250,000	2,287,450			35,000
	-	250,000	2,287,450	-	-	35,000

6.98 acres at Harlem & Lexington

Maple Park

History

Acquired in 1921, the linear park was formerly railroad property.

It was originally called Park #6 or Perennial Gardens for the formal plantings installed there, but was later renamed for the adjacent Maple Street. A comfort station was built in the center of the park around 1960. Renovations in the early 1980s added new landscaping and curving walkways. The playground equipment was replaced in 1998.

Past Improvements

The tennis courts were resurfaced in 2002. Ballfield backstops were renovated and safety cages were added in 2005, when the infields were realigned. Many trees have been replaced in Maple Park in recent years. The master plan was completed in November 2007. Initial master plan improvements, starting in the summer 2010, and finishing in spring 2011, included: removal of the three tennis courts and one old basketball court in the center of the park. Two new lighted tennis courts were located on the south end of the park. The vacated land in the center was landscaped as an open meadow, and a new continuous walkway was created along the east side of the park to fully connect the north and south ends. An off leash dog area was installed. The District completed improvements including: a new playground, climbing boulders, new picnic shelter, additional walkways to provide a continuous walking path, as well as improvements to the two ball field to include new backstops, fencing, diamond and multi-purpose field grading, player and spectator areas with new player benches, signage, resurfaced tennis courts including pickle ball stripes, and bike racks in 2016. Improvements to the comfort station originally slated for 2014, occurred in 2016. In 2017, the park was renovated to include a picnic pavilion, updated ballfields with amenities, walking loop, and new playground with rubberized surface.



Current Features

Current features include a comfort station with restrooms, two age-appropriate playground areas, two baseball fields, two multi-purpose fields, two lighted tennis/pickle ball courts, picnic pavilion walkways, seating, drinking fountain, climbing boulders, and bicycle racks.

Future Improvements

Tennis court surface repairs are planned for 2026.

Maple Park	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvement	-	-	150,000	-	-	-
	-	-	150,000	-	-	-

Mills Park and Pleasant Home (“John Farson House”)

History

Acquired in 1939, the historic John Farson House, known as “Pleasant Home”, is a National Historic Landmark designed in 1897, by architect George W. Maher. Outbuildings on the attendant grounds were subsequently razed and Mills Park has been maintained as open space for many years. Pleasant Home was used for decades as a community center and is now also rented out to the public for events. The Pleasant Home Foundation offices are located in the home. The organizations provide daily tours (free on Fridays) and educational programming for the community.

Past Improvements

Major projects from 1939 to 1990 included: rebuilding of two front porch plaster medallions, restoration of one of Maher’s urns, remodeling of the restrooms, replacement of some windows, removal and replacement of front walkway and steps, and on-going exterior painting and roof repair.

A comprehensive existing conditions report on the home was conducted in 2002, and subsequent restoration and repair has included: rebuilding the entire roof structure and most gutter systems, restoration of the library and great hall fireplace, restoration of the front fence entry, addition of an accessible lift at the west elevation, repair of the living room fireplace, front door, sun porch door and threshold, and boiler room mold abatement. In 2005, the restoration of the front entry fence was completed with the support of the Rotary Club of Oak Park and River Forest. In spring 2009, masonry repair was completed on all four sides of the house and also the chimneys. In late 2009, the interior walls of the first floor rooms were painted to their original colors. The development of a site master plan for Mills Park began in late 2008, and was updated in 2017. Identifiable needs included: renovation of fencing, ADA-accessible walkways through the park, natural discovery areas, and landscaping.

Restoration of the ornamental steel fencing along the east and north sides of the park and the creation of two new entryways into the park were completed in 2011. The Park District had applied for a \$300,000 grant from the Illinois State Museum Department for the fence renovation; however the application was denied. In 2011, the boiler system and fire alarm at Pleasant Home were replaced. Master plan improvements in 2011/2012 included: new entryways into the park and various walkways through the park, allowing pedestrian access to the east, west, and north sides of the park. The Park District applied for and was awarded a \$400,000 State of Illinois OSLAD grant to help fund these improvements, which complete the site master plan. Additionally in 2011, lead remediation was completed around the perimeter of the Pleasant Home. There were also improvements to the lower level restrooms in the Pleasant Home. In 2016, the 2nd and 3rd floor were renovated with refurbished floors, plaster repairs, painting, and plumbing work. In 2018, the roof was returned to a clay tile roof and the two front door stained glass panels were restored with help from the Pleasant Home Foundation. In 2022, geothermal air conditioning was added to the home.

4.43 acres at Pleasant & Home



Mills Park and Pleasant Home - Continued

4.43 acres at Pleasant & Home

Current Features

The open grounds of the park surround the historic home. Air conditioning powered by a high efficiency geothermal system was added to the home in 2022.

Future Improvements

Funds are scheduled in 2025 to repair the west side walking path of Mills Park. Funds in 2026 and 2027 are to make ADA improvements to the restroom at Pleasant Home.

<i>Mills Park and Pleasant Home</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	-	-	60,000	400,000	-	-
Park Improvements	-	50,000	-	-	-	-
	-	50,000	60,000	400,000	-	-

Oak Park Conservatory

0.80 acres at Garfield & East

History

The Conservatory began as a community effort in 1914, to provide a place to house exotic plants that residents collected during their travels abroad. The present Edwardian-style glass structure, built in 1929, houses a botanical collection of more than 3,000 plants, some of which date back to the Conservatory's founding. Over the years, the building fell into neglect. In 1970, a drive to preserve this unique resource began. In 1986, the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory (FOPCON) was incorporated to provide fundraising, educational programs, and other volunteer supports. In June of 2000, the Conservatory Center addition was opened to provide expanded space and facilities for educational programming, operations and public events. In 2004, the Oak Park Conservatory was designated an Oak Park Landmark, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.



Past Improvements

In 2002, a major lead abatement project was completed in the Fern Room with the assistance of grants from the FOPCON and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Grant Program. In 2006 and 2007, lead abatement was accomplished in the Desert Room and the East Growing House. Additional upgrades were made to the East Growing House to improve growing conditions including: new mechanical vent controls, a modern heating system, a retractable shade device, environmental controls, and new rolling benches for more efficient use of growing space. FOPCON provided \$12,000 in grant funds towards the cost of the shade device. Glazing work in the historical entrance was also completed. A back-up generator was installed in 2007. Exterior doors were replaced in March 2008. Improvements, similar to those in the East Growing House, were completed for the West Growing House in 2009. Improvements to the Tropical House, including lead abatement and other upgrades were completed in 2011. A site master plan for the Conservatory site was completed in 2009 and updated in 2017. Initial site master plan improvements were completed in 2011, with construction of a new outdoor garden, named in memory of Herbert M. Rubinstein, a long-time Conservatory supporter and volunteer. Significant donations were received from the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory, private donors, and the Rubinstein family to fund the garden project. In 2012, the boiler system at the Conservatory was completely replaced and the dryvit walls were repaired. In 2013, the window in the tropical room were repaired to provide a proper seal. Improvements to the Garfield entrance including a new nature playground area named Elsie Jacobson, a founder of the Friends. This work was funded heavily by the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory totaling \$210,000. Also in 2015, the north base walls of the Conservatory were redone as well as the main entrance to the Conservatory. In 2016, ventilation and heating system upgrades to the Fern and Desert Rooms were completed as well as environmental automation control upgrades for the all greenhouses. In 2018-2019, the Conservatory had solar and water harvesting systems added with a \$100,000 grant from Green Mountain Sun Energy. In 2024 the District made repairs to the northside vestibule, the discovery garden fence, and the vents in the desert room.

Oak Park Conservatory - Continued

0.80 acres at Garfield & East

Current Features

The facility has three display rooms for the public, two growing houses, one meeting room, administrative offices for the Conservatory and Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory staff, decorative outdoor garden, and a children's discovery garden.

Future Improvements

pointing repairs are planned in 2025 with other capital maintenance items in 2026, 2027, and 2029. The District is planning for a geothermal energy system in 2028.

Estimated Operating Costs

These projects should improve the energy efficiency of the building leading to reduced energy costs for the building, especially the geothermal system in 2028.

<i>Oak Park Conservatory</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	305,000	86,000	50,000	50,000	750,000	25,000
	305,000	86,000	50,000	50,000	750,000	25,000

Randolph Park

0.16 acres at Randolph & Grove

History

The parcel occupied by Randolph Park and the adjacent open parcel to the east at Randolph and Oak Park Avenue were acquired by Village of Oak Park in 1924. Randolph Tot Lot was conveyed to the Park District in 2006, and the property to the east was transferred in 2009, doubling the size of the park. This land and other similar strips along Randolph Street were set aside for rail stations along the “Dummy line railroad” into Chicago that was never developed. It is a small neighborhood playground for children under eight years old with play equipment, a sand feature, berm, and water fountain.

Past Improvements

The playground equipment was last replaced in 1991. A site master plan for Randolph Park, including the land east of the alley, was completed in 2009, and updated in 2018, with \$400,000 allocated for master plan improvements in 2010. These improvements included: replacement of the playground equipment, benches, and trash receptacles. The adjacent District-owned parcel to the east of the playground received improvements to create a passive area with benches, chess tables and landscaping. The alley also received upgrades to create a link between the two sides of the park. A donation was received from the adjacent apartment owner to fund the ornamental fencing and gates near their property. In 2020, the Park District installed its first outdoor fitness pieces. Also minor improvements were made to the west side by adding man-made mounds, friendship swing, and a cozy dome.



Current Features

Current features include one age-appropriate playground area, a passive area, seating with benches and chess tables, a drinking fountain, a bicycle rack, and outdoor fitness equipment.

Future Improvements

Repairs to the gate are planned for 2026.

<i>Randolph Park</i>	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	-	-	15,000	-	-	-
	-	-	15,000	-	-	-

Rehm Park and Pool

6.51 acres at Garfield & East

History

Acquired in 1913, Rehm Park was originally called “South Park” but was subsequently renamed after Colonel Arthur D. Rehm, a member of the Park District’s first Board of Commissioners and its second Board President. The original park was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen’s design remains. The play train has been at Rehm playground since at least 1960. An outdoor pool was constructed in 1966, and quickly became a regional destination. While remediation was taking place at Barrie Park in 2001, Rehm hosted the “Temporary Barrie Center” double-wide trailer north of the diving well.

Past Improvements

Playground equipment was replaced in 2002, as part of the Barrie Park remediation agreement with ComEd. In 1996, pool repairs included renovation of all decks and piping, creation of a zero-edge entry, addition of a wading pool and sand play, and improvements to concessions. Additional pool repairs in 1999-2000, included replacement of the sand filter equipment and lockers. Minor gutter repair was undertaken in 2006. A site master plan for Rehm Park was completed in 2008. The stairs to the platform diving boards were repaired in 2009. In 2009, two competitive play sand volleyball courts were constructed, replacing two courts previously located in Longfellow Park. In 2010, the pool filter system was replaced, new shade structures, and a burglar/fire alarm were installed. Master plan improvements started in 2011, with a total of \$250,000 allocated for improvements. Improvements included a revised play train foundation and track, a new train storage tunnel, playground surfacing, walkways, fencing and landscaping. A pool master plan was being completed in 2014. A complete park renovation was completed again in 2021 as an OSLAD project.

Current Features

Current features include a pool with three changing spaces, zero depth entry, two sand volleyball courts, two age-appropriate playground areas, a self-propelled play riding train, two tennis courts, a multi-purpose field, gaga pit, and parking lot.

Future Improvements

Major renovations are planned at Rehm Pool from 2024-2029. The diving well is scheduled for replacement in beginning in fall 2024 and completed by spring 2025. The boiler is scheduled for replacement in 2026. In 2027 the District will replace the pool gutters and complete design work for the main building construction. Building construction will take place in 2028-2029, along with parking lot repairs and tennis court resurfacing in 2029.



Rehm Park and Pool – Continued

6.51 acres at Garfield & East

Estimated Operating Costs

The maintenance improvements are intended to help lower ongoing maintenance costs that are currently just fixing the issues in the short term.

Benefits

Capital improvements to Rehm Pool will improve the comfort and safety of patrons, improve the aesthetic value of the facility and reduce future maintenance costs by addressing long-standing problem areas.

<i>Rehm Park & Pool</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pool Improvement	750,000	3,000,000	150,000	1,150,000	2,750,000	2,800,000
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
	750,000	3,000,000	150,000	1,150,000	2,750,000	2,800,000

Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex

6.06 acres at Ridgeland & Lake

History

Acquired in 1912, from Charles B. Scoville, the site was known as the “Old Cricket Grounds”. In 1914, the site was doubled with the acquisition of a former public service company storage yard to the west between Elmwood and Scoville. Ridgeland Common was named for the adjacent street and was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen’s design remains. In 1923, toboggan slides and a skating pond were built. In 1929, a memorial to the Spanish American War was erected at the behest of veterans and in 1936, comfort stations were built. The pool, building, and outdoor ice rink were constructed in 1962, with the pool soon used as a cooling tower for the ice rink making these two features necessarily operate in opposite seasons. A roof was built over the ice rink in 1965, and the District’s first lighted baseball fields were installed to the west of the rink which now has irrigation systems. Two basketball courts, a handball court, and sled hill were also built along the railroad tracks at this time. In 1982, the rink was fully enclosed and heated, the front entrance was moved to its current location, and the pool filters were replaced. In 2007, the ice arena was renamed after Paul Hruby, long-time hockey coach and mentor to many Oak Park skaters. In the 1980s, the east baseball field was named in recognition of Vince Dirks, long-term president of the Oak Park Youth Baseball Association at that time. The multi-purpose room was named after Fred L. Comstock, a Park Commissioner in the 1930s. Ridgeland Common is the Park District’s flagship facility.



In 2007, an Existing Conditions Study was completed, including a comprehensive physical evaluation of the site and analysis of all mechanical, structural, architectural, and civil/yard piping systems. The Study concluded that Ridgeland Common was physically and functionally obsolete, requiring extensive renovation within five years that would cost over \$9 million, and no longer met the community’s modern space programming needs. In late 2007, several of the ice rink’s 242 cooling pipes failed and were repaired at a cost of nearly \$70,000, delaying the opening of the rink.

Completed in 2008, a site master planning process for Ridgeland Common, established consensus on components that would be included in the redesigned Ridgeland Common Park, including a permanent dog park on the site and moving the building to the west side of the park to take advantage of the Village-owned parking garage located on OPRF High School property. The process also left the District with many unanswered questions due to the projected cost of a renovation. Out of the three site plans developed, the projected cost of the least expensive plan was \$38 million, which was not obtainable without a voter-supported referendum. This plan called for a new facility similar in function to the current 6.06 acre park site and facility while taking into consideration today’s design standards and meeting all regulatory compliance requirements such as ADA and codes. It also corrected the currently undersized ice arena and the sled hill was to be removed.

Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex – Continued

6.06 acres at Ridgeland & Lake

In November 2011, Nagle Hartray Architecture was hired to design the renovation for the facility. Construction improvements started early 2013, and were completed by June 2014. This process included the demolition of the facility, excluding the roof and associated support structure. The facility opened in 2014, with a full sized ice rink, new administrative space, two multipurpose rooms, four locker rooms, and all new pool and rink mechanicals.

Past Improvements

In 1985, the original ice refrigeration system was replaced. Major pool renovations were completed in 1996, including deck and pipe replacement, zero edge entry to the wading pool, and spray feature addition. During construction, an evaporative condenser was used for one ice rink season and still remains on the upper deck. In 2000, ADA accessible bathrooms were built, office spaces were reconfigured, and hockey locker rooms were added to reduce wear and tear on the other locker rooms. The main pool pump was replaced in 2002, and the motor was rebuilt. In 2006, a temporary dog park was created beside the train tracks adjacent to the sled hill and the parking lot and staging area west of the Hruby Ice Arena was resurfaced. In 2007, improvements to the flooring, air conditioning, storage, and paint in the Comstock Room were completed and the indoor soccer artificial turf used on the rink in the summer was replaced. In 2013, the old Ridgeland Common was demolished, except for the roof, which was salvaged as part of the new Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex. In 2014, the RCRC was opened to the community including a full sized ice rink, new administrative space, two multipurpose rooms, four locker rooms, and all new pool mechanicals. A 256 kW solar array was added to the facility in two phases from 2017 and 2019 through the solar lease agreement with Realgy Energy.

Current Features

Current features include a pool and ice arena, two multipurpose rooms, administrative areas including registration, four locker rooms for hockey and swimming, one lighted multi-purpose field with two baseball fields, batting cages, dog park, and parking lot.

Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex – Continued

6.06 acres at Ridgeland & Lake

Future Improvements

Plans for 2024 include filter replacements at the pool, concrete repairs, expansion joint replacement, and accessible doors. Mechanical system replacements, structural beam repairs, bleacher bracket replacement, and expanded access to the ice arena are planned for 2025. In 2026 – 2028 the District will be replacing flooring, boilers, and making repairs to the concrete at the pool. 2029 is reserved for addental capital maintenance items.

<i>Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	125,000	480,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	50,000
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
	125,000	480,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	50,000

Scoville Park

3.98 acres at Oak Park & Lake

History

Acquired in 1913, Scoville Park was named after Charles B. Scoville, the previous owner of the land and an advocate for the creation of the Park District. It was the first park built after the creation of the Park District in 1912. It serves as a village green with the installation of a “Liberty” flag pole in 1915, a World War I monument dedicated by the Vice President of the United States in 1925, and bronze marker noting the location of the home of Joseph Kettlestrings, the first white settler in Oak Park. Scoville Park was originally designed by Jens Jensen and is one of the parks that retain the most of Jensen’s design. The southeast corner features a replica of a fountain originally designed by sculptor Richard Bock and architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The play equipment was last replaced in 1991. In partnership with the Village of Oak Park and the Library, Grove Avenue was vacated in 2001 and a new plaza was constructed adjacent to the park. Scoville Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.



Past Improvements

A bust of Percy Julian, a world-renowned chemist, humanitarian, and Oak Park resident, was installed in 2003, to celebrate his life and contributions. The tennis courts was resurfaced in 2005 and resealed in 2008. New benches were installed in 2007. The World War I memorial was fully restored in 2009/2010, at a cost of \$320,000. The comfort station doors were replaced in 2010. A site master plan for Scoville Park was developed in 2010 and updated in 2018. Identifiable needs included renovating the southeastern entry plaza and area near the library entrance, improving the walkways and planters, creating a formal plaza area around the WWI memorial, evaluating possibilities for the performing stage, and replacing the playground equipment. Master plan improvements began in 2012, with the assistance of a Park and Recreation Activity Grant in the amount of \$1.6 million. These improvements completed the site master plan developed in 2010, which included updated entryways, tennis courts, plantings, and a permanent bandstand. In 2019, additional perennial plantings were added to the Lake Street planting bed as well as two game tables between the library and Scoville Park.

Current Features

Current features include a comfort station with restrooms, an age-appropriate playground area, three tennis courts, drinking fountain and an open space used for summer concerts and events.

Future Improvements

Tennis court improvements are scheduled for 2024, and repairs to the comfort station roof are scheduled for 2025.

Scoville Park	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	60,000	15,000	-	-	-	-
	60,000	15,000	-	-	-	-

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK MISSION: *In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.*

Stevenson Park and Center

History

Stevenson Park was acquired by the Village of Oak Park in 1916, and named after author Robert Louis Stevenson. The Park District entered into a 99-year lease agreement with the Village in 2006, rather than purchasing the property outright, because the park contains two underground water reservoirs. The center was built in 1965. The second water reservoir was installed in the eastern part of the park in 2002. Other park features include a baseball diamond, multi-purpose field, and a skateboard activity area.

Past Improvements

The play centers were relocated and renovated, and fencing, lighting, and landscaping were renovated in 2003. A skate park and three half basketball courts were built on top of the new reservoir in 2004.

Improvements to the ballfield made in 2007, included improved drainage and new walkways leading to the field for improved ADA accessibility. Stevenson Center was renovated in 2007, to replace electrical and plumbing systems, replace restroom fixtures, replace lower level windows, provide functional and secure staff office areas, and improve the overall condition of this recreation center. A teen center opened in the lower level of the center in early 2008, and later closed in 2014, and was replaced by a preschool play area. The District pursued but did not receive Community Development Block Grant funding in 2008. The skate park received new ramp equipment in 2009. In 2011, security cameras were installed and the windows were replaced in the Center. In 2014, the Village had to complete improvements to the underground water reservoir. An intergovernmental agreement was struck to replace the field turf at that time as well as providing for the District's installation of irrigation and expanding the fence on the north side of the field. In 2017, the roof was replaced as well as the boiler. In 2019, the Park District applied for an OSLAD grant to replace the playground, add a kickwall, table tennis and game tables as well as improving the entrance to the Park and creating a walking loop. This work was completed and the park reopened in spring of 2020.

Current Features

Current features include a baseball field, one multi-purpose field, two age-appropriate playground areas, a skate park, three half basketball courts, and a facility with restrooms, an indoor playground, and a multi-purpose room for various Park District programs.



Stevenson Park and Center - Continued

Future Improvements

Shade for the sports courts is scheduled for 2024, and an elevator is planned for 2027.

Stevenson Park & Center	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvement	-	-	-	750,000	-	-
Park Improvements	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
	30,000	-	-	750,000	-	-

Taylor Park

11.75 acres at Ridgeland & Division

History

Acquired in 1914, Taylor Park was originally called “North Park” but was subsequently named after the first President of the Park Board of Commissioners, Henry A. Taylor. Taylor Park was designed by Jens Jensen and still retains some of Jensen’s original design. The park sits on the edge of a moraine from the remains of what was once glacial Lake Chicago.



Past Improvements

Taylor Park was identified as a potential site for a dog park during the 2006, Dog Park Site Master Plan process. The comfort station windows were replaced in 2007. The site master plan process was completed in 2008, and updated in 2017. Master plan improvements, completed in 2011, included: replacement/expansion of the existing playground with ADA accessible equipment, tennis courts replacement, installation of an open air shelter and new walkways in the interior of the park, and the establishment of a wetland-bioswale area to resolve drainage problems within the park site. New park landscaping was also added. In 2010, the District successfully received a State of Illinois Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$400,000 to help fund these improvements. In 2014, the District installed irrigation for the playing surfaces. A new drainage system was installed with a donation from AYSO in 2017. The District also extended the Fen area to help with drainage and added native plantings to the area.

Current Features

The park currently features a comfort station with restrooms, six lighted tennis courts, a multi-purpose field, a soccer field, one age-appropriate playground area, a sled hill, and one group picnic area. Taylor Park is irrigated.

Future Improvements

Work is planned for 2025 to relocate the electrical controls to a safer area.

<i>Taylor Park</i>	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	-	115,000	-	-	-	-
	-	115,000	-	-	-	-

Wenonah Park

History

This playground was acquired in 1962 and is named for the adjacent street.

Past Improvements

The playground equipment was last replaced in 1991. A site master plan was created in 2009, and reviewed in 2018. Construction of the improvements started in fall 2009, and was completed in spring 2010. Recent improvements included replacement of the playground equipment, installation of resilient rubber surfacing, new benches, walkway, drinking fountain, trash receptacle, ornamental fencing, and landscaping. In 2020, the Park District removed the sand box and installed swings as well as created man-made mounds for the children to enjoy.

Current Features

Current features include an age-appropriate playground area, seating with benches and a chess table, and a drinking fountain for people and dogs.

Future Improvements

No future improvements are planned.

0.12 acres at Harrison & Wenonah



Wenonah Park	Projected 2024	Capital Improvement Plan				
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Master Plan Review	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

Non-Site Specific Improvements

The Park District plans for a number of non-site specific capital expenditures. These non-site or expenditures that occur in several parks or at several facilities include urban forestry management, technology improvements, and vehicle replacement. Urban forestry, per the District's Environmental Policy, states that one of the Park District's primary goals is to manage our trees by maintaining, preserving, conserving, and improving the existing tree population in our parks. The District recognizes the immense value of its trees, which provide residents and visitors to our village with beauty, shade, cooling and enhanced air quality, as well as reduction of storm water run-off, and atmospheric carbon dioxide.

District vehicles are replaced according to the schedule included in Appendix E. The schedule reflects the useful life of each vehicle and a replacement plan designed to minimize excessive maintenance costs by replacing vehicles in a timely manner. Technology and any capital equipment replacements are included in this line item.

The studies/plans/ADA line item includes a needs assessment for a future gymnasium facility and completion of the updates to park master plans. The District's policy is to review all master plans every 10 years and many of the District's master plans are reaching that age. The line also includes any smaller ADA improvements to locations that are not seeing master plan improvements. The District's next Comprehensive Strategic Master Plan (CSMP) will run from 2025-2029 so the District is budgeting for a community survey again in 2028 with a new CSMP developed in 2029.

The non-site specific is for projects that do not fall into an existing category in the CIP. In 2025 and 2026, the increases in this area are for the District's portion of turf replacements at Irving, Brooks, and Julian schools. The 2028 increase is for major repairs at the District's storage facility at 947 Ridgeland.

<i>Non-Site Specific</i>	Projected	Capital Improvement Plan				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Vehicle & Equip Replacement	100,000	287,000	330,000	150,000	365,000	295,000
Non-Site Specific	190,000	350,000	650,000	100,000	200,000	50,000
Studies/Plans/ADA	375,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	105,000	300,000
	665,000	712,000	1,055,000	325,000	670,000	645,000

APPENDIX



PARK
DISTRICT
OF OAK PARK

2014 Comprehensive Master Plan

Park District of Oak Park

December 12, 2014 - Final Draft for Park Board Approval

Executive Summary

In 2014, the Park District of Oak Park undertook a process to update its Comprehensive Master Plan to create a series of recommendations that will guide decision making and investments over the next 10 years. The last Comprehensive Master Plan, completed in 2004, provided direction that led to the much needed funding referendum, the improvement and modernization of most of the District's parks, the building of the Gymnastic & Recreation Center, and the renovation of Ridgeland Common.

Like the previous plan, this Comprehensive Master Plan will support the Mission, Vision and Values of the Park District and should serve as a living document that provides the foundation for future plans and addresses the changing needs of the Community.

Park District of Oak Park Mission Statement

In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.

PDOP Vision Statement

We strive to exceed the needs of our diverse community with a collaborative and innovative approach

PDOP Values

Values identify the main tools that will be used to accomplish the mission and vision:

- Partnerships: We will work collaboratively with others in our community
- Responsible Leadership: We will create a high performing, engaged, and accountable organization
- Integrity: In all that we do, we will adhere to moral, honest, and ethical principles and work toward accessibility and inclusion
- Innovation: We will continuously try new methods and ideas, adapt services according to trends, and continuously improve processes in order to exceed the needs of our customers
- Sustainability: the District will endure through renewal, maintenance, stewardship and stability in all aspects of operation

Planning Process

The planning process, led by a team of consultants, started in early 2014 and began with focused community outreach and engagement, project promotion, and dialogue facilitation. At the same time, the team conducted a comprehensive inventory of parks, facilities, and programs owned or managed by the Park District, noting needs and opportunities for further study. The team's analysis was supplemented by the completion of a statistically valid community needs assessment survey. Based on the input from community dialogue, the survey results and the analysis conducted, the team developed and tested a range of master plan recommendations.

The refined list of recommendations and steps needed to implement them make up the core of the Comprehensive Master Plan. The recommendations have been organized into seven categories:

- Parks & Open Space
- Recreation Facilities & Buildings
- Programming
- Marketing
- Organization & Planning
- Administration, Maintenance & Operations
- Funding

Additionally, the recommendations have categorized based on timing as either:

- Short-term (1 to 3 Years)
- Mid-term (4 to 7 Years)
- On-going



Short-term goals will be among the first items that the Park District will focus on, following the adoption of this plan. Short-term goals include:

- **Enhance District Signage** to consistently communicate park rules and the District brand
- **Conduct a Feasibility Study for an Indoor Recreation Facility** to evaluate if a new facility can be realistically accomplished and supported by the community
- **Improve Adult Fitness Programming** to increase participation, especially among adults, who are a growing sector of the population
- **Improve Environmental Education Programming** to capitalize on existing and future District facilities and amenities and to respond to a common community value
- **Implement Recommendations from the Branding Study** to further awareness of the Park District and better communicate its brand
- **Collect, Analyze & Use Maintenance Data** to identify opportunities to efficiently maintain and improve the quality of the District's parks and facilities
- **Identify Opportunities to Engage Parks Foundation** to build capacity for accomplishing initiatives that help the District enrich livability within the community

The Park District of Oak Park is well-positioned to continue to fulfill its mission of enriching the lives of the residents of the community. However, responding to the changing needs and desires of the community requires PDOP to change as well. By following and revisiting the recommendations detailed in this plan over the next 10 year, the Park District will be able to evolve with the community, providing the high level of service that Village residents have come to expect.

Previous Plans and Reports

The Park District of Oak Park has worked diligently over the years to self-evaluate and plan for the future. The Comprehensive Plan process is not intended to re-create any previous efforts, but instead to build upon them and supplement the analysis and outputs of these efforts with current data and information. The following is a summary of the plans, studies and reports that were reviewed as part of the Comprehensive Planning Process.

2004 Comprehensive Master Plan

The previous Comprehensive Master Plan for the Park District established a baseline understanding of the District at the time and a series of recommendations for moving forward. The process included stakeholder and focus group interviews as well as an Attitude and Interest Survey. Key elements that came from this Plan included a referendum that established the Park District with a secure line of financing that provided funding for much-needed capital work. This led directly into the process of developing and implementing Master Plans for all of the parks to address deficiencies within the parks.

2005-2011 Park Master Plans

A series of plans and exhibits detailing the master plans for all parks within the District (with the exception of Barrie Park) which were completed in 2005. Many of the plans identify phasing of improvements, and all of the parks have had at least the initial phase implemented.

2010 Community Attitude & Interest Survey

An update to the Community Attitude & Interest Survey conducted as part of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. The survey helped to evaluate progress from the 2004 Plan and to specifically identify the community's preference for repair and upgrading the existing Ridgeland Common building.

2010 Population Report

A report that analyzes age and gender distribution per Census tract in the Village based on the 2010 Census results. Generally, the demographic analysis compared to the 2000 Census shows a stable, but aging, population with a reduction in population in the 20 to 24 year old age range. It also highlights specific shifts per Census tract.

2012 Conservatory Report

A summary report for the Conservatory for 2012. The report provides an overview of expenses, revenues, visitor statistics, facility improvements and plans for the future. The Conservatory draws more than half of its visitors from outside of Oak Park.

2011/2012 Gymnastics Facility & Operations Report

A report providing background on the operations of the gymnastic program, including programs, registration, risk management, training and revenue and expenses. This report was developed prior to the transition to the Gymnastics & Recreation Center and discusses opportunities to capitalize on the new facility.

2012 Annual Programming & Participation Report

A report identifying the strengths, weaknesses and trends within Park District programs to help understand needed improvements and assist with program decision making. The report shows that revenues have grown in many of the categories. Specific programming categories, such as ice and fitness/martial arts, were impacted by changes to the facility or departure of a specialized instructor. Otherwise, the report indicates that significant management and monitoring of the programs has resulted in overall improvements.

2012-13 Rink Report

A report for the final season of the Ridgeland Common indoor ice rink prior to its closing for renovation. The report identifies decreased registration, participation and rentals, potentially due to the pending closing. However, revenue was still shown to exceed expenses.

2013 Budget

A report on the financial condition of the Park District and budget items for 2013. Major investments planned included the completion of the Gymnastics and Recreation Center, the start of construction of the new Ridgeland Common, continued technology improvements, completion of the Scoville Park renovations and increased investment in outdoor athletic fields through the hiring of a sports field manager and purchasing of new field maintenance equipment.

2013 Comprehensive Outdoor Athletic Field Development & Operation Plan

A report on the District's athletic fields and operations. Includes an assessment of all Park District and local school district athletic fields, including capacity and demand analysis. The report includes recommendations for improvements, changes in maintenance operations and useage guidelines, such as rotation of the fields and maximum use of each field.

2013 Pool Report

A report on the 2013 pool season. Due to the temporary closing of Ridgeland Common for renovation, and an abundance of cool and rainy days, registration and attendance were down from previous years. Additionally, expenses exceeded revenues for the season. The report lays out plans for changes to better meet budget goals and a transition plan for the 2014 season as Ridgeland Common reopens.

2013 Teen Center Report

A report identifying the number of visits tracked during drop-in hours at the Teen Center at Stevenson Park, leading to the recommendation that the Teen Center be closed for drop-in hours at the end of 2013.

2013 Facility Availability Study

A series of charts that detail the availability, expressed as a percentage, of all individual rooms and facilities within the Park District, as tracked for the 2013 calendar year. These charts show that many of the facilities have significant availability depending on the time of day and day of the week.

2013-15 Strategic Plan

A report that establishes the mission, vision and values of the Park District as well as strategic initiatives, goals and objectives for the three year period of 2013 to 2015. These strategic initiatives, goals and objectives are used for benchmarking and justifying budget decisions moving forward.

2014 Brand Strategy Report

A report on the brand strategy process and recommendations. This process studied the alignment of the visual identity of the Park District with the message it communicates and its mission. The study identified recommendations for the District's brand and identity, marketing mix and messaging. Specifically, it provided recommendations for new marketing messages for the overall Park District, as well as targeted messages for Ridgeland Common, Cheney Mansion and the Conservatory.

2014 Budget

A report on the financial condition of the Park District and budget items for 2014. Major investments planned included the completion of the Ridgeland Common, continued technology improvements, a comprehensive update to the District's park rules signs, increased allocation of resources to help maintain playing fields, standardization of district camps to a one-week format and full-year operation of the Gymnastics and Recreation Center.

2015-19 Capital Improvement Plan

A document identifying the five-year projection of planned capital improvements to Park District, including the planned budget and benefits related to planned expenditures.

Village & Other Plans

2012 Madison Street Corridor Plan

The Madison Street Plan developed a vision for this key east-west Village corridor. In specific, it identifies a Node at Oak Park Avenue and calls out that the Village-owned site at the northeast corner of Madison Street and Oak Park Avenue should be redeveloped as some kind of destination use, citing an athletic facility as one of the possible options.

I-290 Eisenhower Expressway Study

In addition to the District's reports and studies, the on-going planning and design process for improvements to the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway was also reviewed. As there are four District parks or facilities - Barrie Park, Rehm Park, The Conservatory and Wenonah Park - adjacent to the Eisenhower, there are significant potential impacts from modifications to the road. However, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has clearly defined that all improvements will be contained within the existing "trench" and no land acquisition will be necessary.

2014 Envision Oak Park - A Comprehensive Plan for the Oak Park Community

In 2014, the Village released its updated Comprehensive Plan to guide the Village over the next 15-20 years. The Plan divides its goals and objectives into 11 categories. There are several that specify the Park District as a key partner, including:

- Arts & Culture
- Parks, Open Space, & Environmental Features
- Environmental Sustainability

The Park District currently supports and seeks to advance many of the goals and specific objectives within these categories. However, as a Village document, it is intended that the Village take an active leadership role in moving these goals forward on a community-wide basis and in partnering with other agencies.

John L. Hedges Administrative Center

218 Madison Street

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

D

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
6	16	10	4	8	44



FUNCTIONALITY

1. Storage space is at a premium. Wherever space allows, storage for essential items has been created. Overall, there is not enough space.
2. Space is cut up and doesn't flow well.
3. ADA audit has been completed; items are being addressed.
4. Existing elevator is small.
5. Admin office space is not adequate and spread throughout the building.
6. The size of the maintenance garage is not adequate for all needs. Most everything for the maintenance department is stored here including seed which has caused a rodent problem.

AESTHETICS

1. Fair to poor – exterior and interior design elements which were added during recent renovations are not consistent with the character of the original building and detract from the overall appearance.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Finishes are outdated.
2. Drywall surfaces don't tolerate abuse well.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The building has been renovated multiple times and is in reasonably good condition with the exception of the roof structure over the gym and maintenance garage. Since roof insulation was added during a past renovation, snow doesn't melt as rapidly, builds up, and overstresses the roof trusses. As a corrective measure, reinforcement has been added to the trusses.

Summary

The John L. Hedges Administrative Center and maintenance facility has served the District well, but has potentially reached the end of its useful life. It was originally built as a car dealership in the 1920's. It has functional limitations with physical and structural challenges including ADA accessibility limitations, mechanical and electrical inadequacies, shortage of storage, and no on-site parking. The gymnastics program was recently moved to a new site and the former gym area is now used for storage.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. No fire sprinkler system.
2. The open, non-compliant stair does not provide a protected means of egress.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. It was reported that the HVAC system is worn out and has exceeded its expected useful life; it's inefficient and loud. System zoning has also been an issue – there are inconsistent temperatures throughout the building.
2. Electrical capacity is limited; lighting in gym and garage are operated by the electrical panel circuit breakers.

Andersen Park

824 North Hayes Avenue

1.3 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
81	87	80	N/A	88	100	83	87



Park History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Hans Christian Andersen and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. The play equipment was previously renovated in 1985.

Evaluation Notes

The park is in good condition with some small issues. There is repair needed for storm damage of the fence along the alley on the eastern property line. The walk on the west side of the building suffers from ice issues created by snow melt from the roof re-freezing at night. Permeable paving should be considered as solution. The splash pad was noted as having unexpectedly high water usage. The field is fenced along three sides and there is some use as a de facto dog run. A secondary entrance point in the northeast corner could deter this use as well as make the park more accessible. Constructing a paved connection, from the seating area to the playground would improve the area where the lawn is worn from heavy use.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bike Lane
Number of Bike Racks	1
Distance to Train Station	1.2 mi (Austin-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Austin & Division (70, 91)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.2 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	Yes
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Tables



Andersen Center

824 North Hayes Avenue

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

D

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
8	16	10	2	6	42



FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center operates primarily as a preschool building.

AESTHETICS

1. The exterior is acceptable.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. (The tour did not involve entering the building.)

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The roof is in good condition.

Summary

The Andersen Park Center is located at the northeast corner of the District and is similar to the centers at Field and Carroll Parks. It was originally built in the 1920's and renovated in 1965 at which time a brick veneer was added to the exterior wall face.

If any of the centers are removed from the District's inventory, this center should receive strong consideration.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The stair is not compliant with current standards.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.

SITE

1. The concrete walk/stoop behind the building has settled.

Austin Gardens

167 Forest Avenue

3.64 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	N/A	86	78	N/A	N/A	100	86



Park History

Henry W. Austin, Jr. donated the land in 1947 on the condition that it remains a public park bearing the Austin family name. The wildflower woodland habitat was planted in 1970 by the League of Women Voters. Since 1975, Austin Gardens has been used as a performance space by the Oak Park Festival Theatre. A Trust for Austin Gardens is held by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation.

Evaluation Notes

The overall condition of the park is high. Intense use that the lawn receives from when the theatre operates makes it hard to maintain grass in certain areas. Some settling has occurred in the paver sections of the walkway, which is scheduled to be addressed as part of the master plan implementation in 2015. Additional maintenance attention should be given to turf management within this park in the future.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015 Environmental learning center and associated improvements

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	2
Distance to Train Station	0.4 mi (Harlem-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Forest/Ontario (305)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	Yes
Playground	
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	
Notes: n/a	

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Nature Area, Public Art, Seasonal Performance Space



Elizabeth F. Cheney Mansion

220 North Euclid Avenue

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
12	32	8	8	16	76



Summary

Reminiscent of a gracious English country home, Cheney Mansion was designed in 1913 by Charles E. White, Jr., a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. This 12,000-square-foot mansion boasts many handsome reception rooms, six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and separate servants' quarters. The two acres of beautifully landscaped grounds also include a coach house and greenhouse. These showcase gardens include a kitchen and cutting garden with an espalier fence, a woodland walk, and the great lawn for picnics. Located in the Ridgeland Historic District of Oak Park, the Mansion is used for special occasions and events such as weddings/receptions, private parties, corporate meetings and events, concerts and recitals, and memorial services. (Information provided by the PDOP website.)

FUNCTIONALITY

1. Given the historical nature and adaptation of the mansion to a public building, there are multiple deficiencies with which to deal when hosting an event.
2. The mansion is used for public functions three to four per week, and mostly in the summer.
3. There is no elevator access to the third floor, the location of the ball room. Therefore, accommodations must be made in other areas of the mansion.
4. The ball room has a relatively low ceiling.
5. Kitchen was redone in 2007.
6. It was noted that continuous refinement to the operation is necessary.
7. The greenhouse has been repurposed and an accessible toilet room was added.

AESTHETICS

1. The mansion is wonderfully preserved and provides a valuable contribution to the community.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good condition.
2. Lead paint abatement is needed, especially in the basement.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The roof was recently redone.
2. Masonry is in excellent condition.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. Due to the mansion's age and historical nature, there are likely several areas of concern. A detailed assessment was not conducted.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are old and require constant attention. The HVAC system needs to be replaced.
2. The existing heating system is hot water.
3. There is only central A/C on the third floor/ball room.

SITE

1. The site is a true asset to the community.

Barrie Park

127 Garfield Street

4.22 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
83	72	90	N/A	N/A	N/A	78	81



Park History

A portion of this site was acquired in 1932 and named for the children's author James Barrie. The adjacent 3.3 acre park was acquired in 1965 and had been the site of a manufactured gas plant from 1893-1931. Soil contamination was discovered in 1999, and remediation was undertaken through a coordinated effort by the Park District, Village of Oak Park, ComEd, and NiCor.

Evaluation Notes

The playground in the southeast corner has received heavy use and may need some modifications in the future to help reduce maintenance needs. The sand play area, including a water spigot, creates challenges. Maintaining turf grass on the sled hill throughout the year has been challenging due to inappropriate use of the hill during warmer months. The fields are in good condition. The sports court, including basketball and volleyball should be evaluated as part of a Master Plan process to determine how to attract increased use. The location, the layout of courts or the surface treatment may detract from the use.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015 Master Plan development

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	5
Distance to Train Station	0.1 mi (Austin-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Austin/Harvard/Arthington (91, 315)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.2 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	Yes
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	Yes

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; 1/2 Basketball Court (2); 1-2 Tennis Court; Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Indoor Playground



Barrie Center

1011 South Lombard Avenue

OVERALL FACILITY GRADE

B

EVALUATION SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
16	28	10	9	14	77



FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center works well as a preschool center.
2. Storage space is at a premium. Basement is used and outdoor storage has been created behind the building which is not very secure.

AESTHETICS

1. Suits the neighborhood well.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Generally, interior finishes are in good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. All components appear to be in relatively good condition.
2. Brick veneer has developed a stress crack. Otherwise, the building is in good condition.
3. Windows were recently replaced.
4. Basement stays fairly dry.

Summary

The Barrie Park Center serves the District's southeast quadrant for preschool and summer camp. It was expanded in 1965 at which time a brick veneer was added to the exterior wall face. Overall, the building is in good condition and one of the better facilities in the district dedicated to preschool and summer camp activities.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The basement stair is non-compliant.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage. Air conditioning (cooling) was added in +/- 2003; the hot water boiler for heating the building is new.

SITE

1. An underground water reservoir is adjacent to the building with sports courts above.

Carroll Park

1125 South Kenilworth Avenue

2.68 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
74	79	87	81	N/A	N/A	88	83



Park History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Lewis Carroll and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The northern part of Kenilworth Street was vacated by the Village in 1960 to expand the park and connect it to the Lincoln School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Evaluation Notes

This park has one diamond field that is scheduled for renovation in 2014. Both playgrounds on site receive heavy use. Some longer-term maintenance issues are related to poor and compacted soil conditions where Kenilworth Avenue used to cross the site, which leads to drainage issues and challenges maintaining turf grass. Underdrainage for the fields will help counteract these conditions.

Planned Improvements

2014 Ball field and associated improvements

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	2
Distance to Train Station	0.6 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Oak Park/Harvard (311)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.1 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Individual Equipment; Play Equipment for 5-12 yrs located on adjacent school site

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	



Carroll Center

1125 South Kenilworth Avenue

OVERALL FACILITY GRADE

D

EVALUATION SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
8	16	10	2	6	42



FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center works well as a preschool building
2. ADA audit was completed.

AESTHETICS

1. The exterior is acceptable and suits the site well.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Fair, but showing age.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STUCTURE

1. All components appear to be in good condition.
2. The roof is in good condition.

Summary

The Carroll Park Center serves the District's southwest quadrant for preschool and summer camp. It's similar to the centers at Field and Andersen Parks. It was originally built in the 1920's and expanded in 1965 at which time a brick veneer was added to the exterior wall face. Overall, the building is in fair condition, but since it is dedicated to preschool, its usefulness is extremely limited.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The stair to the basement does not comply with current standards and is in poor condition.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. There is a high water table and sump pump runs constantly and needs to be replaced approximately every three years
2. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.

SITE

1. The site is located adjacent to a school and playground.

Euclid Square

705 West Fillmore Avenue
2.81 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
69	81	77	N/A	N/A	N/A	98	81



Park History

Acquired in 1929, the park was originally called New South Park, or Park #9, but was subsequently named after the adjacent street.

Evaluation Notes

The northern portion, including the playground and tennis courts, is in need of upgrades. The playground equipment is dated and the edge treatment around the playground detracts from its overall character. The tennis court surfacing is showing wear and the fence enclosing the tennis court is in poor condition. Additionally, there is a significant lack of bike racks and challenges to circulation around the tennis courts, specifically on the east side along Wesley Avenue.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015

2016

2017 Improvements to playground, sport courts, walking path and other elements

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	N/A
Number of Bike Racks	1
Distance to Train Station	0.3 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Roosevelt/Euclid (305)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

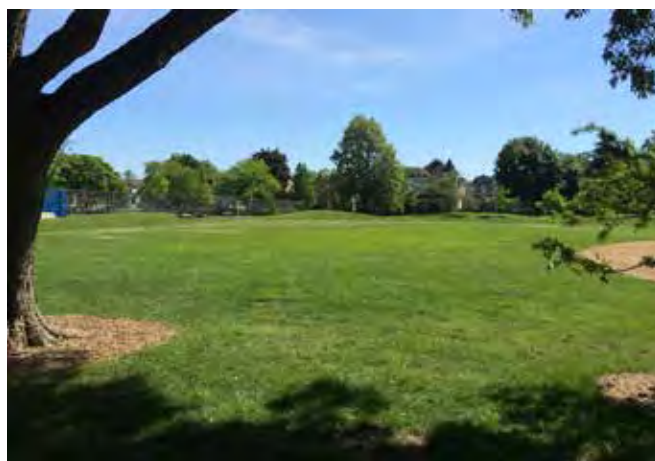
Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; Tennis Court (4); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Individual Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center
Public Restrooms
Pavilion
Other



Oak Park Conservatory

615 Garfield Street

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
16	28	14	9	18	85



FUNCTIONALITY

1. The entry and adjacent spaces flow well.
2. The meeting room and outside patio / garden area at the west end provide ample and accessible space.
3. Being an older structure, the greenhouse has some challenges, especially with regard to ADA accessibility.
4. Aside from the greenhouse structure, the building is relatively new and modern, and functions well for its intended use.

AESTHETICS

1. The structure in total is in keeping with the surrounding character of the community and makes a strong architectural contribution.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Generally, in good to very good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The older part of the greenhouse structure needs work. There are struggles with keeping the interior warm in very cold conditions. The glass and framing provides very little thermal resistance.

Summary

Owned and operated by the Park District of Oak Park, the Conservatory is one of the top three historical sites in Oak Park drawing up to 30,000 visitors annually. Staff and volunteers grow 20,000 bedding plants from seeds and cuttings annually that are planted at 90 public parks and sites throughout the village.

The Conservatory has an active support group, the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory whose mission is to promote interest in the Oak Park Conservatory, offer educational and recreational opportunities and support projects that benefit the Oak Park Conservatory.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. None reported.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. The systems appear to be in good condition. As noted, however, the hot water heating system struggles to keep the interior of the greenhouse warm during cold months.

SITE

1. The site is tight and struggles to support the needs of the conservatory.

Field Park

935 Woodbine Avenue
3.39 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
75	88	67	84	88	85	95	82



Park History

Acquired in 1916, the park is named after children's author Eugene Field and includes a center originally designed by John S. Van Bergen. The center has been significantly modified over the years. Woodbine Avenue between Berkshire and Division was vacated by the Village in 1960 to expand the park and connect it to the Mann School grounds, creating roughly five acres of total open space.

Evaluation Notes

The two diamond fields have recently been renovated. However, there were drainage issues noticed that caused a significant amount of infield mix to wash-out into the adjacent dug-outs and seating areas. The path in the southwest corner of the park by the natural landscape area is impacted by drainage issues as well where standing water and muddy puddles were noted on more than one visit. The path system on the south side of the park has several pinch points that make snow clearing challenging. The paved area around the building may be well served by permeable pavers to help with issues created by the lack of gutters on the building. At the time of the visit, the bocce court was unplayable and in need of maintenance if it receives enough use to be preserved.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	3
Distance to Train Station	1.4 mi (Harlem-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Oak Park/Division (311)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	Yes
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field (2); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Individual Play Equipment; Bocce Court

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	Yes
Other	Native Plant Garden, Chess Tables; Picnic Area



Field Center

935 Woodbine Avenue

OVERALL FACILITY GRADE

D

EVALUATION SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
8	16	10	2	6	42



FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center operates primarily as a preschool building.
2. ADA audit was completed.

AESTHETICS

1. The exterior is acceptable.
2. The interior is worn.
3. The exposed sheet metal duct for A/C doesn't suit the interior.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Fair.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STUCTURE

1. A portion of the preschool floor is a concrete slab on grade and is deteriorating.
2. High water on site causes continuous water seepage problems in the basement.
3. The roof is in good condition.

Summary

The Field Park Center is located at the centrally in the park and is similar to the centers at Anderson and Carroll Parks. It was originally built in the 1920's and renovated in 1965 at which time a brick veneer was added to the exterior wall face. It was reported that the overall condition of the building is poor; "it looks better than it really is".

If any of the centers are removed from the District's inventory, serious thought should be given to eliminating this facility.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The stair is not compliant with current standards.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.

SITE

1. The site is located adjacent to a school and playground.

Fox Park

624 South Oak Park Avenue
1.54 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE



EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
67	87	99	74	76	50	80	77



Park History

Acquired in 1922, the park is named after William H. Fox, who served on the Park Board of Commissioners from 1919-1925. It includes a recreation center built in 1966.

Evaluation Notes

Renovations to the playground and splash pad made in 2009 were a large improvement over previous conditions. There are some maintenance issues related to the sand play area, the drinking fountain and landscape areas around the playground. The largest maintenance challenge is related to the south side of the building. There is severe deterioration of the entry ramp on the south side of the building, along with the retaining wall visible from the basement windows. These issues may be related to the quality of the construction, and have been exacerbated by stormwater run-off from the roof and freeze-thaw cycles. The Park District should budget for extensive repairs to address this issue in the near future.

Planned Improvements

2014 Ball field and associated improvements

2015

2016

2017 Safety improvements to stairway and foundation

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Shared Lane
Number of Bike Racks	3
Distance to Train Station	0.5 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (311)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	Yes
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Individual Play Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Tables



Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
12	28	10	7	12	69



FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center works well.
2. ADA audit was completed; items are being addressed.

AESTHETICS

1. Good.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good, however, VCT floor tile in the general purpose rooms does not last very long.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The building is structurally sound and in good condition.
2. The first floor structure is poured concrete.
3. Roofing is 8 years old and in good condition.
4. Windows have been replaced with thermally insulated units and are in excellent condition.
5. Basement stays fairly dry; however, the roof drains into the area well next to the building. Accordingly, it is mandatory to keep the area drains clean.

Summary

The Fox Park Center is a small neighborhood facility used for general programming, rentals and summer camps. It, along with the Longfellow Center (same design), was built in 1965. Overall, the building is in good condition. However, major work will be required to replace a deteriorating retaining wall adjacent to the entrance. In addition to two general purpose rooms, there are 2 supervisor offices and exterior access to rest rooms.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The open, non-compliant stair does not provide a protected means of egress.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.
2. Hot water heat functions well.

SITE

1. Concrete retaining wall adjacent to the entry ramp is deteriorating severely.

Lindberg Park

On Greenfield Between
Marion & Woodbine
13.9 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
56	82	79	84	N/A	80	95	80



Park History

Acquired in 1925, this park was named after Gustav A. Lindberg, the first Superintendent of Parks at the Park District of Oak Park. In 1972 the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation established the Presidential Walk with the planting of 17 sugar maples, one for each of the 17 former Village of Oak Park Presidents. This tradition continues with a new tree planted as each village president ends their term in office.

Evaluation Notes

Lindberg Park is the largest open space in the District, it is home to the two largest baseball fields. It also features tennis courts and a wildflower garden. The park is in generally good condition, and the areas in most need of improvement are scheduled for improvements. These include the baseball fields and the tennis courts. The condition of the fields themselves is very good likely due to irrigation, however, the dugouts and bleachers are very dated. The tennis courts and associated fences are aged and worn and need replacement or significant repair. There is limited support for bicyclists at this park and additional racks should be installed throughout.

Planned Improvements

2014 Improvements to sports fields, tennis, playground, picnic shelter and paths

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	4
Distance to Train Station	1.7 mi (Harlem-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Harlem & Greenfield (90, 305, 307, 318)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.1 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 90' Baseball Field (2); Tennis Court (3); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Nature Area



Lindberg Park Comfort Station

LeMoyne Parkway at Forest Avenue

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

A

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
18	36	14	9	18	95



FUNCTIONALITY

1. There are multiple unisex toilet rooms and a concession service room.
2. A storage room for youth baseball is also included.
3. The mechanical room houses the park's irrigation system.
4. The low roof attracts climbers.

AESTHETICS

1. Rich in character.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. No issues reported.

Summary

The Lindberg Park Building is an attractive and functional facility built in 1990. It includes multiple toilet rooms, storage, mechanical, and concession service space. Its character and appearance provides an aesthetic contribution to the community.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. None reported.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are in reasonably good condition.

SITE

1. No issues reported.

Longfellow Park

610 South Ridgeland Avenue

2.62 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE



EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
72	81	73	N/A	N/A	85	82	79



Park History

Acquired in 1920, the park was named after the American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The recreation center was built in 1966 in the same style as Fox Center.

Evaluation Notes

Renovations to the playground and splash pad made in 2009 were a large improvement over previous conditions. However, there are some maintenance issues related to the proximity of the sand play area and the splash pad. The sidewalk on the east side of the building has settled significantly creating tripping hazards, though it appears repairs are in the works. The largest maintenance challenge is related to the south side of the building. There is severe deterioration of the entry ramp on the south side of the building, along with the retaining wall visible from the basement windows. These issues may be related to the quality of the construction, and have been exacerbated by stormwater run-off from the roof and freeze-thaw cycles. The Park District should budget for extensive repairs to address this issue in the near future.

Planned Improvements

2014 Ball field and associated improvements

2015

2016 Safety improvements to stairway and foundation

2017

2018 Tennis courts and associated improvements

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Bike Lane
Number of Bike Racks	4
Distance to Train Station	0.8 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (315)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	Yes
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	Yes
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	Yes
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; Full Basketball Court; Timer-Controlled Lighted Tennis Courts; Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Individual Play Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	



Longfellow Center

610 South Ridgeland Avenue

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

C

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	12	28	10	7	12	69



FUNCTIONALITY

1. The center works well.
2. ADA audit was completed; items are being addressed.
3. Elevator was added 5 years ago.

AESTHETICS

1. Good.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good, however, VCT floor tile in the general purpose rooms does not last very long.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The building is structurally sound and in good condition.
2. The first floor structure is poured concrete.
3. Roofing is 8 years old and in good condition.
4. Windows have been replaced with thermally insulated units and are in excellent condition.
5. Basement stays fairly dry; however, the roof drains into the area well next to the building. Accordingly, it is mandatory to keep the area drains clean.

Summary

The Longfellow Park Center is a small neighborhood facility used for general programming, rentals and summer camps. It, along with the Fox Center (same design), was built in 1965. Overall, the building is in good condition. However, major work will be required to replace a deteriorating retaining wall adjacent to the entrance. In addition to two general purpose rooms, there are 2 supervisor offices and exterior access to rest rooms.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The open, non-compliant stair does not provide a protected means of egress.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in good condition and easy to manage.
2. Hot water heat functions well.

SITE

1. Concrete retaining wall adjacent to the entry ramp is deteriorating severely.

Maple Park

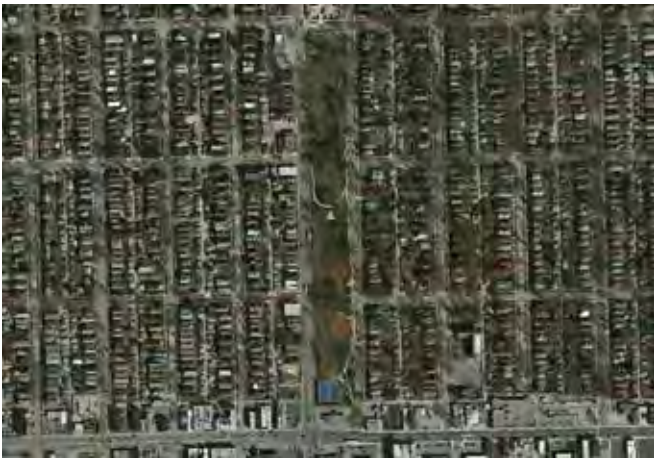
1105 South Maple Avenue at
Harlem Avenue
6.98 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
77	70	94	85	N/A	68	92	81



Park History

Acquired in 1921, the linear park was formerly railroad property. It was originally called Park #6 or Perennial Gardens for the formal plantings installed there, but was later renamed for the adjacent Maple Street. A comfort station was built in the center of the park around 1960. Renovations in the early 1980s added new landscaping and curving walkways. The playground equipment was replaced in 1998.

Evaluation Notes

Several renovations were completed in 2011, including relocated and improved tennis courts at the south end, an off-leash dog park at the north end, and a continuous path system. The condition of the remaining amenities are keeping the overall park score low, but are planned to be addressed in the coming years. The frontage along Harlem Avenue creates a challenging condition. One long range consideration for the park would be to create a more protected condition for the sidewalk along Harlem and potentially bring it inbound of any perimeter fence.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015 Comfort station improvements

2016 Improvements to playground, ball fields and new picnic shelter

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	N/A
Number of Bike Racks	2
Distance to Train Station	0.6 mi (Harlem-Forest Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (307)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	Yes
Sled Hill	

Notes: Multi-purpose Field (2); 60' Baseball Field (2); Tennis Court w/ Button-Controlled Lighted Court and Hit Boards (2); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	



Maple Park Comfort Station

1105 South Maple Avenue

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
16	28	16	7	14	81



FUNCTIONALITY

1. There are two toilet rooms.
2. Due to the low roof, it attracts climbers.

AESTHETICS

1. Acceptable.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Average.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. The roof is about 8 years old.
2. The roof structure is precast concrete.

Summary

The Maple Park Building, built in the 1960's, provides support for the park. It houses two toilet rooms, and two storage rooms. Although its age is about 50 years, its character and appearance still suit the park.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. None reported.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are in reasonably good condition.

SITE

1. No issues reported.

Mills Park

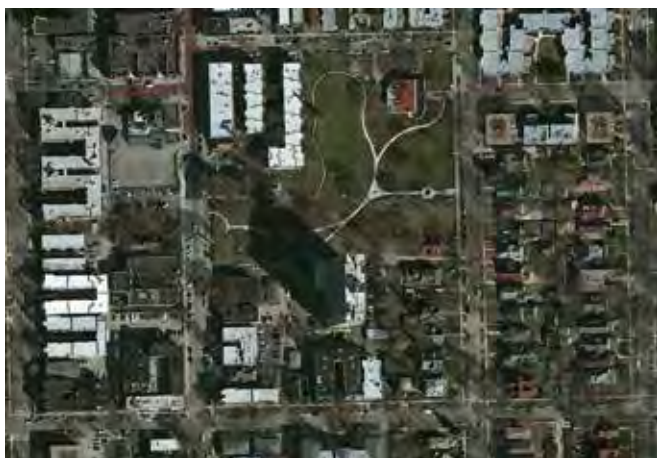
217 South Home Avenue
4.43 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	N/A	92	84	N/A	N/A	83	87



Park History

Acquired in 1939, the historic John Farson House, known as "Pleasant Home", is a National Historic Landmark designed in 1897 by architect George W. Maher. Outbuildings on the attendant grounds were subsequently razed and Mills Park has been maintained as open space for many years.

Evaluation Notes

Mills Park is located in the western central part of the Village, just south of the downtown and within the Pleasant District. It is also the location of the historic Pleasant Home. The park is in very good shape, having undergone Master Plan improvements in 2011/2012. There are some areas of the limestone path that have washed out and should be addressed. Additionally, the removed wrought iron fence is being stockpiled along the southern boundary of the site. This should be addressed either through reuse, recycling, disposal or off-site storage.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bicycle Boulevard
Number of Bike Racks	4
Distance to Train Station	0.2 mi (Harlem-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Harlem/Pleasant/Franklin (305, 307, 318)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.2 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field
Baseball / Softball Field
Basketball Court
Tennis Court
Sand Volleyball Court
Outdoor Ice Rink
Playground
Splash Pad
Outdoor Pool
Skate Park
Dog Park
Sled Hill
Notes: n/a

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Nature Area



Pleasant Home

217 South Home Avenue

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE

C

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
8	16	6	8	16	54



The park and its mansion have had various community uses. In 1970, The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest moved into a bedroom on the second floor and today the organization leases all of the second and third floors from the Park District of Oak Park. However, the Historical Society will be moving to a new location.

The overall rating score for this building is impacted most by the roof repairs scheduled for 2017.

FUNCTIONALITY

1. Given the historical nature and adaptation of the mansion to a public building, there are limitations with which to deal when hosting an event.
2. There is no elevator access in the structure. However, there is a chair lift from grade to the main level.
3. The mansion is used for rentals, public functions, summer social events, and art programs.
4. Once the Historical Society moves out, space will be repurposed; potentially into exhibit space.

AESTHETICS

1. The mansion is wonderfully preserved and provides a valuable contribution to the community.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Very good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. It was reported that the roof tile roof needs to be replaced.
2. The summer dining porch was recently renovated; windows were added.
3. Masonry is in excellent condition.

Summary

Designed in 1897 by noted Prairie Style architect George W. Maher for investment banker and philanthropist John W. Farson, Pleasant Home is one of the earliest and most distinguished examples of the Prairie School of Architecture.

After John Farson's death in 1910, the estate was purchased by Herbert Mills, owner of Mills Novelty Company, which manufactured coin operated gambling and music machinery in Chicago. The Mills family sold the home and its five-acre grounds to the Park District of Oak Park in 1939, to create Mills Park. It is now a National Historic Landmark.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. Due to the mansions age and historic nature, there are likely several areas of concern. A detailed assessment was not conducted.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. The existing heating system is hot water.
2. There is no central A/C system; only window units.

SITE

1. The site is a true asset to the community.

Randolph Park

300 South Grove Avenue

0.32 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	81	92	75	87	N/A	100	86



Park History

The parcels were acquired by Village of Oak Park in 1924. Randolph Park was conveyed to the Park District by quit-claim deed in 2006 and the property to the east was transferred in 2009, doubling the size of the park. This land and other similar strips along Randolph Street were set aside for rail stations along the "Dummy line railroad" into Chicago that was never developed.

Evaluation Notes

It is divided into two separate sections by a public alley, with the west half being used for playground equipment and the east half as a passive seating area. The park is in generally good condition, but due to the small enclosed area it receives intense use and has some maintenance issues. The landscape, including bermed lawn areas, receive heavy foot traffic and are hard to maintain. The District should consider other treatments, including synthetic turf, as solutions if the issues cannot be overcome with maintenance. The bench in the northwest corner seemed disconnected and encouraged traffic on some of the heavily worn lawn and landscape areas. This bench should be considered for relocation in the future.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	N/A
Number of Bike Racks	1
Distance to Train Station	0.4 mi (Oak Park-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (311)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Chess Tables (2); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Individual Play Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Tables



Rehm Park

515 Garfield Street at
East Avenue
6.51 acres

OVERALL PARK GRADE



EVALUATION SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
68	85	80	N/A	N/A	N/A	86	79



Park History

Acquired in 1913, Rehm Park was named after Colonel Arthur D. Rehm, a member of the Park District's first Board of Commissioners and its second Board President. The original park was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen's design remains. An outdoor pool was constructed in 1966 and quickly became a regional destination.

Evaluation Notes

Several characteristics make for heavy use of this park, including the proximity to the pool, the unique character of the playground, the self-propelled play trains, and the sand volleyball courts. The tennis courts are scheduled for improvements in 2018, which will help improve the athletic space score, as will continued turf grass maintenance. Opportunities should be explored to better integrate the open lawn at the southwest corner of the site into the rest of the park or address other District-wide needs.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015 General improvements and repairs

2016 New pool play feature

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	46
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Shared Lane
Number of Bike Racks	15
Distance to Train Station	0.1 mi (Oak Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Ridgeland/Garfield (315)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.1 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	Yes
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	Yes
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Tennis Court (3); Volleyball Court (2);

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Table; Trains (Hand-Powered)



Ridgeland Common

415 Lake Street at
Ridgeland Avenue
6.06 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

A

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
98	N/A	86	N/A	N/A	N/A	96	93



Park History

Ridgeland Common was named for the adjacent street and was designed by Jens Jensen, although little of Jensen's design remains. The pool, building, and outdoor ice rink were constructed in 1962. Ridgeland Common is the Park District's flagship facility.

Evaluation Notes

Ridgeland Common is centrally located in the District. Having recently reopened after significant renovations, including the installation of synthetic turf fields, the park is in excellent condition. The score is brought down due to issues with the perimeter sidewalk within the public rights-of-way on the Lake Street and Scoville Avenue sides of the park. It appears that the Village is planning repairs, though the parkways should be reviewed in the future as there may be drainage issues that will not be resolved though repair to the sidewalk.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	27
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bike Lane
Number of Bike Racks	36
Distance to Train Station	0.2 mi (Ridgeland-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (86, 309, 313, 315)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	Yes
Skate Park	
Dog Park	Yes
Sled Hill	Yes

Notes: 60' Baseball Field (2)

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Program Registration



Taylor Park

400 West Division Street at
Ridgeland Avenue
11.75 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
78	86	92	88	75	72	81	82



Park History

Acquired in 1914, Taylor Park was originally called “North Park” but was subsequently named after the first President of the Park Board of Commissioners, Henry A. Taylor. Taylor Park was designed by Jens Jensen and still retains some of Jensen’s original design. The park sits on the edge of a moraine from the remains of what was once glacial Lake Chicago.

Evaluation Notes

Updates to the tennis courts and playground have raised the overall quality of this park. Areas in most need of improvement, such as the seating area with outdoor grills along the park’s northern edge, are identified as future phases of improvements in the park’s master plan. The athletic field suffers from some drainage issues, due to the high water table in this part of the Village. Underdrainage may be the only permanent solution and should be considered in the future. The rain garden feature in the southeast corner has started to establish and will require specialized maintenance to be successful. Overflow for this feature should be revisited, as stormwater quantity appears to exceed the design expectations for some storm events. The overflow channel may need to be modified and lined with rock to accommodate storm conditions.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Bike Lane
Number of Bike Racks	4
Distance to Train Station	1.1 mi (Ridgeland-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (86)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	Yes
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	Yes

Notes: Tennis Court with Manual Button-Controlled Lighted Court and Hit Boards (6); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Chess Tables (4)

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	Yes
Other	Chess Tables; Nature Area; Picnic Area



Scoville Park

800 West Lake Street at
Oak Park Avenue
3.98 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
98	99	81	74	N/A	84	92	87



Park History

Acquired in 1913, Scoville Park was named after Charles B. Scoville, the previous owner of the land and an advocate for the creation of the Park District. Scoville Park was originally designed by Jens Jensen and retains the much of Jensen's design. Grove Avenue was vacated in 2001 and a new plaza was constructed adjacent to the park. Scoville Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

Evaluation Notes

The recent renovations and restoration of the World War I Memorial have elevated the quality of the park. One of the few issues facing the park relates to drainage in the large open field. The creation of a new path at the bottom of the hill has impacted drainage patterns and created an area that is often wet. This could be resolved through the addition of an underdrain or other small adjustments. The addition of a permanent stage has opened some less desirable views out to Lake Street and created a steeper hill at the front of the stage where it is hard to maintain grass. Along Grove at the northwest corner of the park, the light poles and parking meters are staggered in a way that clutters the sidewalk and makes snow removal challenging. The Park District should coordinate with the Village to resolve this issue by relocating the meters.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Shared Lane
Number of Bike Racks	12
Distance to Train Station	0.2 mi (Oak Park-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (309, 311, 313)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	Yes
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Tennis Court with Manual Button-Controlled Lighed Court and Hit Boards (3);
Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	Yes
Pavilion	
Other	Nature Area



Scoville & Taylor Park Comfort Stations

800 West Lake Street &
400 West Division Street

OVERALL
FACILITY GRADE



EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
18	36	14	9	18	95



FUNCTIONALITY

1. There are dedicated toilet rooms for men and women, and a third unisex toilet room meeting ADA requirements. Each building also includes a small storage room.
2. Due to the low roofs, they attract climbers.

AESTHETICS

1. Rich in character.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. No issues reported.

Summary

The Scoville Park and Taylor Park Restroom facilities are generous amenities for the public and there is a high level of expectation to make them available for use. Their character and appearance provide a positive aesthetic contribution to the community. Photos of the Scoville Park facility are included.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. None reported

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are in reasonably good condition.
2. The water and electrical systems are new.

SITE

1. No issues reported.

Stevenson Park

49 West Lake Street

3.3 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE



EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
70	66	66	75	N/A	N/A	78	71



Park History

Stevenson Park was acquired by the Village of Oak Park in 1916 and named after author Robert Louis Stevenson. The Park District entered into a 99-year lease agreement with the Village in 2006, rather than purchasing the property outright, because the park contains two underground water reservoirs.

Evaluation Notes

The park provides the only skateboard park for the District and one of three basketball facilities. The majority of the park is located above underground reservoirs that create a large grade change from the adjacent sidewalk. This has led to some run-off issues along the sidewalk. The athletic fields benefit from having lighting, which is a key reason why the field is slated to be converted to synthetic. Planned improvements to the fields and playground will help improve the overall quality and appearance of the park. Maintenance opportunities include addressing settling of the concrete path at the entrance to the courts, surface treatments for the skate park and courts and treating the access drive with a different material that will not suffer from wash-out. Potential enhancements include additional bike parking, improved ADA access into the park, public bathrooms and modifications to the skate park to allow for BMX bikes.

Planned Improvements

2014

2015 Synthetic turf ball field, lighting and path improvements

2016

2017

2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	Planned Shared Lane
Number of Bike Racks	3
Distance to Train Station	0.2 mi (Austin-Green)
Bus Stop at Site	Flag Stop (309, 313)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.0 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	Yes
Baseball / Softball Field	Yes
Basketball Court	Yes
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	Yes
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: 60' Baseball Field; 1/2 Basketball Court (3); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Play Equipment for 5+ yrs; Individual Play Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	Yes
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	



Stevenson Center

49 West Lake Street

OVERALL FACILITY GRADE

C

EVALUATION SCORE CARD	Functionality	Condition Assessment	Positive Revenue	Comparison - PDOP Facilities	Comparison - Other Districts	AGGREGATE RATING
	10	28	10	5	8	61



FUNCTIONALITY

1. The Center does not comply with ADA accessibility standards. With no elevator access, the second floor is not accessible.
2. This Center is not used as much as other centers, mainly due to parking issues and its location near Ridgeland Common.
3. The lower level provides good space for the Teen Center.

AESTHETICS

1. Generally, the building's design is out dated.

CONDITION OF INTERIOR FINISHES

1. Good condition.

BUILDING ENVELOPE & STRUCTURE

1. It was reported that the flat roof leaks.
2. Windows have been replaced with thermally insulated units and are in excellent condition.
3. The masonry appears to be in good condition, but its appearance is dated.

Summary

The Stevenson Park Center, built in 1965, is a small neighborhood facility used for general programming, rentals and summer camps. Overall, the building appears to be in good condition, but outdated aesthetically. In addition to two general purpose rooms, there are 2 supervisor offices.

Significant improvements needed, including the additional of an elevator, addressing ADA issues and providing public restrooms accessible from the exterior of the building. However, given the age and condition of the building and its proximity to newer District facilities, these types of long-term investments do not appear to make financial sense. Future planning should consider the removal of this building.

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES - BUILDING

1. The open, non-compliant stair does not provide a protected means of egress.

UTILITIES, MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

1. Systems are generally in reasonably good condition, but maintaining consistent temperature throughout the building is difficult.

SITE

1. An underground water reservoir is adjacent to the building.
2. Its location in the District is not as desirable as other locations due to its proximity to the train tracks and Lake Street.

Wenonah Park

844 Wenonah Avenue

0.12 acres

OVERALL
PARK GRADE

B

EVALUATION
SCORE CARD

Athletic Fields / Courts	Playgrounds	Paths and Walkways	Passive Green Spaces	Seating Areas	Bathrooms	Drinking Fountains	TOTAL SCORE
N/A	90	N/A	74	N/A	N/A	97	85



Park History

This playground was acquired in 1962 and is named for the adjacent street.

Evaluation Notes

The park benefits from being close to the pedestrian bridge that crosses the Eisenhower, approximately in line with Home Avenue. The park is in generally good condition, but similar to the Randolph Park, the small enclosed area and intense use and has created some maintenance issues. The landscaped and lawn areas within the fenced portion of the site receive heavy foot traffic and are hard to maintain. The District should consider other treatments, including synthetic turf, as solutions if the issues cannot be overcome with maintenance. Additionally, the sand play area at this site creates maintenance issues as the sand tends to migrate within the park.

Planned Improvements

2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Park Amenities

Transportation Amenities

Number of Vehicle Parking Spaces	N/A
Access to Dedicated Bike Route	N/A
Number of Bike Racks	1
Distance to Train Station	0.7 mi (Harlem-Forest Park-Blue)
Bus Stop at Site	Harlem/Jackson (307)
Distance to Bus Stop	0.3 mi

Active Recreation Amenities

Multi-Use Field	
Baseball / Softball Field	
Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	
Sand Volleyball Court	
Outdoor Ice Rink	
Playground	Yes
Splash Pad	
Outdoor Pool	
Skate Park	
Dog Park	
Sled Hill	

Notes: Chess Tables (2); Play Equipment for 0-5 yrs; Individual Equipment

Park Structures

Community Center	
Public Restrooms	
Pavilion	
Other	Chess Tables



LEGEND

- \$ less than \$100,000
- \$\$ \$100,000 to \$1,000,000
- \$\$\$ greater than \$1,000,000

Recommendation	Page	Timeframe	Responsible Parties and Partners (Project Lead in BOLD)	Funding Sources	Cost Level	Actions/Key Tasks	Target Completion
ALIGN PARK MASTER PLANS WITH DISTRICT LEVEL OF SERVICE	138	On-Going	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Recreation Superintendent Finance Director Marketing and Communication Director	Capital Projects Fund Corporate Fund Grants	\$\$	Evaluate opportunities for additions/changes during Master Plan updates Incorporate changes into CIP Implement changes	On-going
INCORPORATE BATTING CAGES INTO FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS	139	On-Going	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Recreation Superintendent Finance Director Marketing and Communication Director	Capital Projects Fund Corporate Fund Grants	\$	Identify and evaluate potential batting cage locations Test locations with community during associated Master Plan updates Incorporate planned additional batting cages into CIP Implement additional batting cages	On-going
CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY	140	Short-Term (1-3 Years)	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Finance Director Recreation Superintendent Marketing and Communication Director Project Manager	Capital Projects Fund	\$ - \$\$\$	Identify if indoor pool or other elements should be incorporated into feasibility study Identify budget for study and budget funds Prepare RFP for feasibility study Select consultant and conduct feasibility study Identify potential program opportunities facility would allow Communicate the decision to the public	2016
ASSESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDOOR POOL	141	Mid-Term (4-7 Years)	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Revenue Facilities Superintendent Recreation Superintendent Finance Director	Capital Projects Fund Revenue Facilities Fund	\$ - \$\$\$	Continue to track D200 progress and keep communication open Identify other public & private agencies in community for potential partnerships Include indoor pool in recreation feasibility study if D200 opportunities do not exist Make decision based on results and budget in CIP if appropriate	2019
CONTINUE TO MANAGE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	142	On-Going	Executive Director Recreation Superintendent	Recreation Administration Fund	\$	Identify additional opportunities for use of spaces/facilities Update and refine agreements with existing partners as needed Identify funding partnerships with user groups	On-going
CONTINUE TO MANAGE HISTORIC RESOURCES OWNED BY THE DISTRICT	142	On-Going	Executive Director Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Conservatory Manager Cheney Mansion Supervisor Pleasant Home Foundation Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory	Capital Projects Fund Museum Fund Corporate Fund Cheney Mansion Fund	\$\$	Continue to build and refine partnerships with foundations and friends groups Continue to budget for on-going maintenance and improvements Explore and pursue additional funding and grant opportunities Fund and conduct training services to build partner capacity and skills	On-going
PROGRAMMING							
INCREASE PARTICIPATION LEVELS WITHIN THE DISTRICT	143	On-Going	Executive Director Recreation Superintendent Revenue Facilities Superintendent Conservatory Manager Marketing and Communications Director	Corporate Fund Revenue Facilities Fund Recreation Fund	\$	Evaluate programs lifecycles and participation levels on annual basis Modify program offerings to increase participation levels Advertise and promotes new program offerings Conduct in-person and online survey on an annual basis to evaluate progress Use 5 years Needs Assessment update as statistically valid survey to track progress	On-going
IMPROVE ADULT FITNESS PROGRAMMING	144	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Recreation Superintendent Revenue Facilities Superintendent Finance Director Communication and Marketing Director	Recreation Fund Communications & Marketing Fund Recreation Administration Fund	\$	Identify potential changes to delivery of service Test and implement changes Retire or reposition programs near the end of their lifecycle Conduct additional targeted surveys to identify program specific community needs/priorities Introduce new or repositioned programs to address identified needs/priorities Conduct and track program lifecycles on an annual basis Marketing efforts to target user groups	2015
IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING	144	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Conservatory Manager Recreation Superintendent Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory	Corporate Fund Recreation Fund Grants	\$	Identify potential environmental programs that can be paired with specific District facilities Conduct additional targeted surveys to identify program specific community desires Introduce new programs to address identified needs/priorities Conduct and track program lifecycles on an annual basis Use GAC to assist in ideas and marketing options to get the word out on our new programs. Partner with D97 and D200 and local colleges for program offerings	2016

LEGEND

- \$ less than \$100,000
- \$\$ \$100,000 to \$1,000,000
- \$\$\$ greater than \$1,000,000

Recommendation	Page	Timeframe	Responsible Parties and Partners (Project Lead in BOLD)	Funding Sources	Cost Level	Actions/Key Tasks	Target Completion
CREATE & SUPPORT CONTINUED CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES	145	On-Going	Executive Director Recreation Superintendent Arts Advisory Committee Oak Park Area Arts Council	Corporate Fund Recreation Administration Fund	\$	Participate in current Oak Park Cultural Plan development process	On-going
						Coordinate with other local agencies	
						Evaluate opportunities to continue/expand concerts and theater in parks	
						Integrate Art into Parks (see previous recommendation)	
MARKETING							
IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BRANDING STUDY	146	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Marketing and Communications Director Finance Director	Corporate Fund	\$\$	Refresh Logo	2017
						Develop Brand Standards Guide	
						Develop similar looks for revenue centers	
						Develop a photography calendar	
						Adjust and tune the focus of marketing materials and messaging	
						Ensure messaging reflects unique attributes of PDOP: Convenience, Variety, Affordability, Quality	
						Conduct a branding study/survey in 5 to 10 years	
ORGANIZATION & PLANNING							
CONTINUE TO UPDATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) ANNUALLY	147	On-Going	Executive Director Finance		\$	Monitor outcomes of Master Plan updates	On-going
						Monitor feedback from maintenance analysis, park ambassador outreach and other sources	
						Evaluate priorities, issues and opportunities and modify CIP accordingly	
COMMUNICATE COLLABORATION & ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS	148	On-Going	Executive Director Marketing and Communications Director Recreation Superintendent	Corporate Fund	\$	Update list of collaboration efforts on an annual basis	On-going
						Identify opportunities (annual report, website, program brochure) to communicate efforts	
						Implement communications on a regular basis	
						Use VOP's FYI to highlight	
UDPATE NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN FIVE YEARS	148	Mid-Term (4-7 Years)	Executive Director Marketing and Communications Director	Corporate Fund Capital Projects Fund	\$	Identify additional information goals of updated assessment	2019
						Select consultant to write and administer survey	
						Review, evaluate and communicate results	
						Make changes/improvements as appropriate	
ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS							
ADVANCE PARK AMBASSADOR PROGRAM	149	On-Going	Executive Director Revenue Facilities Superintendent Recreation Superintendent	Corporate Fund	\$	Identify opportunities to collect additional data at parks without centers	On-going
						Work with park ambassadors to collect additional information	
						Develop process for regularly evaluating and sharing input	
						Provide additional training on software to increase functionality	
						Incorporate a continuous improvement model	
EVALUATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER SUSTAINABILITY WITHIN DISTRICT	149	On-Going	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds	Buildings & Grounds Fund Facilities Fund	\$	Develop policy for evaluating cost recovery on sustainable upgrades to capital projects	On-going
						Identify potential target projects or sustainable goals	
						Integrate sustainable practices where appropriate opportunities arise	
						Monitor and track impacts - communicate and market successes	
CONDUCT FURTHER ANALYSIS & USE OF MAINTENANCE FEEDBACK	150	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Finance Director Revenue Facilities Superintendent	Corporate Fund Revenue Facilities Fund	\$	Continue to track work orders	2015
						Continue to evaluate open spaces on a regular basis	
						Develop tool for evaluating facilities on a regular basis	
						Implement process for analysis of information collected and development of recommendations	
FUNDING							
MANAGE REVENUE GROWTH	151	Mid-Term (4-7 Years)	Executive Director Finance Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Revenue Facilities Superintendent Recreation Superintendent	Recreation Administration Fund Revenue Facilities Fund	\$	Conduct and track program lifecycles on an annual basis	2020
						Continue to track and analyze use of facilities	
						Establish cost recovery goals for programs or program areas	
						Develop full cost accounting for each program or class	
						Implement changes based on lifecycle, use, and cost recovery analysis	
						Meet tax/earned revenue ratio goal of 50/50	
IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE PARKS FOUNDATION	151	Short-Term (1 to 3 Years)	Executive Director Parks Foundation of Oak Park Finance Director Buildings & Grounds Superintendent	Donations	\$	Participate in the development of the Foundation's Master Plan	2016
						Identify key opportunities for Foundation to support District goals	
						Establish key giving areas for Foundation to approve	

COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

DECEMBER 2023

aQity Research & Insights

Evanston, IL

Table of Contents

SECTIONS	PAGE
Research Methods	3
Sample Demographics	4
Executive Summary	6
Detailed Findings:	
I. Overall Opinions, Strengths/Improvements Sought, and Perceived Value of PDOP	17
II. Assessment of PDOP's Six Core Values	31
III. PDOP Park/Facility Usage and Satisfaction	37
IV. Usage and Satisfaction with new Community Rec Center (CRC)	50
V. Willingness-to-Pay: Indoor Pool	57
VI. Awareness of PDOP's Financial Assistance Programs	66
VII. PDOP Program Participation and Satisfaction	70
VIII. Sources of PDOP Information	77
IX. Final Comments/Suggestions	86
Appendix	90
Sample postcard invitation for survey recruitment	91
Survey Topline Results (questionnaire with overall frequency of responses)	92

Research Methods

- These findings are based on responses from n=558 residents within the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP), exceeding the target sample of n=500 respondents.
- Data collection took place between September 23rd and November 13th, 2023.
- Invitation postcards for the online survey or printed mail questionnaires (with prepaid return envelope) were sent to a random sample of PDOP residents. Both mailings offered three options (with instructions) for their response. Follow-up email reminders (supplied by the District) were also sent to non-respondents. Across the three response options:
 - n=436 completed the survey online
 - n=122 completed a printed survey (sent and returned by USPS)
 - n=0 opted for a phone survey/interview.
- The random sample of n=558 residents was weighted to match US Census data for Oak Park by region, age, gender, race and ethnicity, homeowner vs. renter status, and percentage of households with children. Assuming no sample bias, the margin of error is +/- 4.1% (at the 95% confidence level)*.
- Throughout the report, statistically meaningful differences (at the 95% confidence level) are identified. If responses from a demographic group are not reported, this means that the response from that segment was generally in line with the overall result.
- When available, results from the 2019 PDOP community survey are included for trending comparisons.

Respondent Sample Demographics (self-reported)

Gender*

Male	44%
Female	53%
Prefer to self-describe	3%

Age*

Under 35	21%
35-44	21%
45-54	20%
55-64	16%
65+	22%
<i>Mean (average): 50.6 years old</i>	

Children in Household*

Yes	29%
No	71%

Length of Residence in Park District of Oak Park

Less than 5 years	35%
5-14 years	20%
15-24 years	18%
25+ years	27%
<i>Mean (average): 16.6 years</i>	

Race* (multiple responses)

White/Caucasian	67%
Asian	7%
Black/African American	22%
Hispanic/Latino/Spanish	8%
Other	2%

Home Ownership*

Homeowner	60%
Renter	40%

*Weighted to 2020 Census data.

Regional Distribution of Respondents*

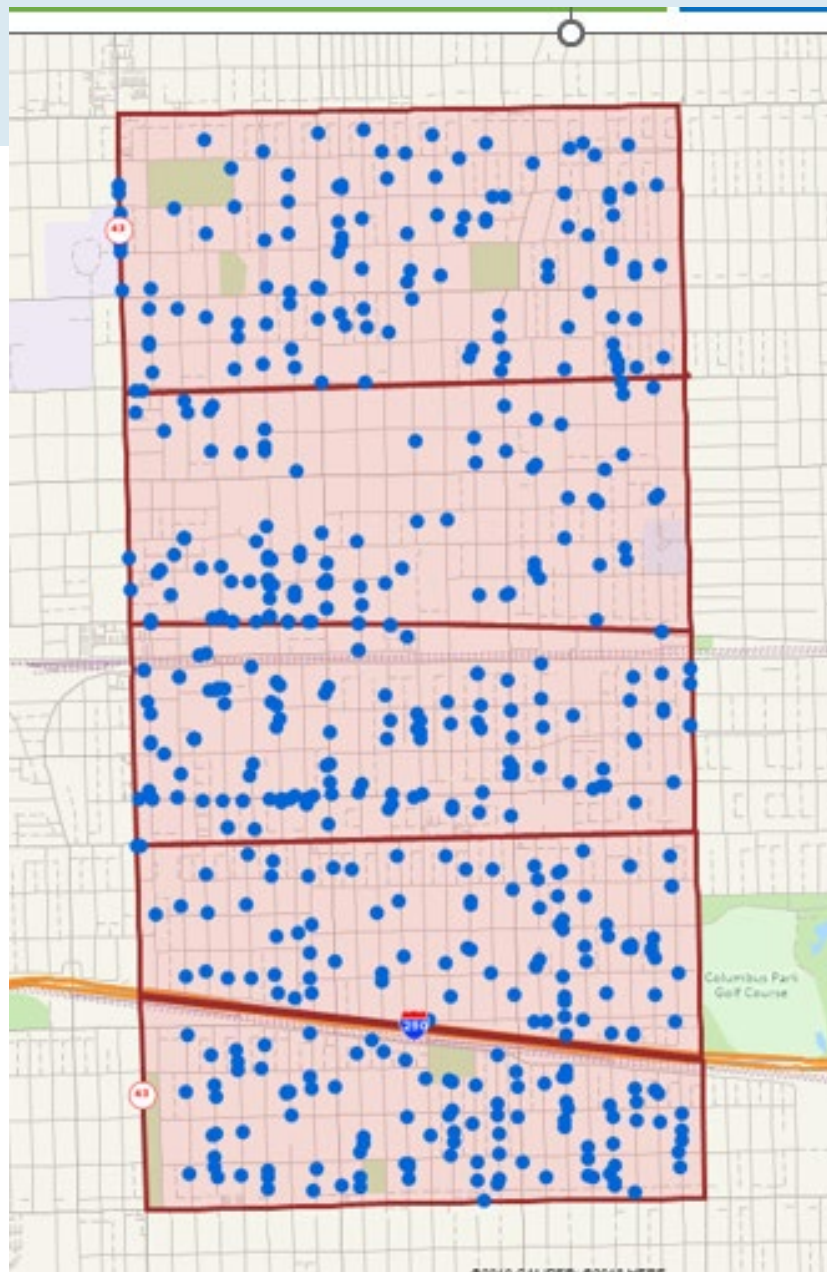
**North
(19%)**

**N-Central
(20%)**

**Central
(27%)**

**S-Central
(17%)**

**South
(17%)**



*Weighted to 2020 Census data

Executive Summary

The PDOP maintains very favorable esteem and value ratings from residents since 2019.

- The District's average esteem rating (measuring overall opinion on a 0-10 scale) is 8.0, virtually identical to its 8.2 average score in 2019 (no statistically meaningful difference). <pg. 18>
- Overall, 91% have a favorable opinion of the District (scores of 6 or higher), including 39% who hold the PDOP in highest regard (scores of 9 and 10).
 - There is a slight downward shift from these "highest regard" scores (51% in 2019), to more "very" and "somewhat" favorable ratings (scores of 6-8) in 2023.
 - However, the percent who have negative opinions have likewise dropped (from 4% in 2019 to 2% currently). In fact, the PDOP's ratio of favorable-to-unfavorable ratings is greater than 45:1 (very positive).
- The strong scores are consistent across all regions and subgroups, with Oak Park residents of 25+ years giving the lowest scores (7.7 average – still very favorable).
 - The PDOP's ratings are significantly higher than 2022 benchmarks statewide (6.8 average) and from nearby suburban park agencies (5.9)*. <pg. 19>
- On average, respondents estimate that 9.5% of their property taxes go to the PDOP, more than double the District's actual 4.6% share. <pp. 28-30 >
 - When informed that the District receives this 4.6% of one's property taxes and asked to rate its value given the programs, parks, facilities and services provided, residents give a very strong 8.0 average value rating (on a 0-10 scale).
 - This is the same average score reported in the 2019 survey, and far exceeds benchmark ratings statewide (5.9) and from neighboring suburbs* (5.1).
 - Even those giving lower than average scores (men, residents in the South region) still give strong value ratings (averaging 7.3 or higher).

Respondents cite the quality/variety of programs, and the number/condition of local parks and playgrounds as top PDOP strengths.

- When asked (in an open-ended format) to identify the District's strengths or what they like most about the PDOP, the top response include: <pp. 20-23>
- The programs, activities, and/or events that the District offers (cited by nearly half – 48%). Most often these responses include
 - The range of activities offered across all age groups (tied as the #1 strength at 24% of respondents)
 - The quality of these programs in general, especially sports and fitness
 - Strong youth programming/options, as well as summer camps in particular
 - Good variety of community events.
 - Just over one in three (35%) also cite the District parks and playgrounds as a top strength, especially:
 - The high level of maintenance and upkeep of the parks (also #1 at 24%)
 - The overall quality of parks and open space
 - The number and variety of local parks
 - Quality playgrounds and play equipment.
 - PDOP facilities and buildings rank a distant third (cited by 18% of respondents), most often:
 - The outdoor pools
 - The new Community Rec Center (CRC)
 - Good facilities in general.
 - Nearly as many (14%) include the District administration, management, and/or staff as a top strength, usually the level of communication and outreach (6%).
 - About one in ten most value the location and proximity/accessibility of PDOP locations (11%), and half as many cite the affordable costs/fees (5%).

There is less consensus when respondents are asked about dislikes or needed improvements from the PDOP.

- Over a third (36%) were unable to offer any suggestions or weaknesses for the PDOP, including 15% who said there is nothing they dislike at all. Among the remaining respondents:
 - One in four offered suggestions for improved District administration/management/staff (23%), usually concerning difficulties and stress when registering for programs (e.g., issues with the online platform/process, frustration when options fill up quickly). A few others also mention:
 - A need for more/better outreach and communication from the District (updates, initiatives, plans, etc.)
 - Perceptions of unnecessary spending (e.g., fast/hasty replacements of new improvements at specific parks)
 - Concerns about the quality or engagement with program instructors, coaches, District staff, etc.
 - Nearly as many (21%) offer suggestions for facilities, most often:
 - More or improved sports facilities (sports fields, courts, etc.)
 - Longer seasons or hours for specific facilities (usually the pools)
 - A need/desire for an indoor pool to provide year-round swimming (3%).
 - Park suggestions come from 12% overall (mostly concerns about safety), followed by program complaints (11%, usually requests for more adult options, both for seniors and/or adults without children).
 - The top responses are rounded out by comments regarding PDOP's costs and fees (again, usually for the pools or specific programs/events), mentioned by about one in ten.

<pp. 24-27>

Among the PDOP's six core values, residents feel that Community Engagement, Inclusivity, and Integrity are most important.

- A majority (52%+) rank each of these among the top three core values for the District: <pp. 32-34>
 - Community Engagement (57% top three), especially important to Hispanic/Latino residents and current/recent PDOP program participants. This was the #1 most important value to nearly a quarter of residents.
 - Integrity (53%), especially important to middle-aged residents (45 to 54).
 - Inclusivity (52%), especially for residents of color, relatively newer Oak Park residents, and non-participants in PDOP programs.
- The remaining three are still deemed important to about a third of residents:
 - Responsible Leadership (38%) ranks higher among residents ages 45-54, along with African Americans and recent PDOP program participants.
 - Sustainability (38%), especially among younger adults ages 35 to 44 (regardless of race/ethnicity).
 - Innovation (30%) ranked lowest overall but tends to be included more often among Asian adults and those with children ages 5 and under.
- The PDOP's performance on each core value is rated very strong, especially on the "top tier" options in terms of importance (Community Engagement, Inclusivity, and Integrity). <pp. 35-36>

Virtually all residents report visiting a PDOP park or facility in the past year and are very satisfied with those experiences.

- Overall, 98% report that someone in their household has been to a District location in the past 12 months (up from 92% in the 2019 survey). <pp. 38-40, 42-44>
- Nearly two-thirds (65%) report visiting Scoville Park during that time, and about half have been to:
 - Austin Gardens (47%)
 - Oak Park Conservatory (47%)
 - Rehm Park (44%)
 - Taylor Park (40%)
- About a third have been to:
 - Barrie Center/Park (33%)
 - Mills Park (32%)
 - Ridgeland Common Rec Complex (31%) and/or pool (29%)
 - Rehm Pool (31%)
 - Lindberg Park (30%)
 - Longfellow Center/Park (29%)
- Most often, residents use these locations for personal health and fitness, and/or because of their convenience and proximity to where they live. Others appreciate the availability of open space and natural settings, as well as safe places for children. <pg. 41>
- Satisfaction scores (on a 0-10 scale) remain very strong across District parks and facilities (despite being slightly lower vs. 2019 ratings). The highest scores go to: <pp. 45-48>
 - The overall experience, cleanliness/upkeep, and safety at these locations (8.3 average for each)
 - Accessibility (8.2 average)
 - Service provided by PDOP staff (7.9)
- No group is dissatisfied with any attribute; all average scores of 7.3 or higher. The top complaints are scattered, most often focusing on a lack of parking across various facilities, limited bathroom access (often locked/unavailable), homeless people in specific parks, suggestions for friendlier service from staff, and general upkeep.

Consistent with the 2019 survey, non-usage is usually due to not having young children.

About a third (32%) have been inside the new CRC, and those familiar with the facility are very satisfied across the board.

- In other words, non-visitors continue to perceive the PDOP as more focused on children and young families. <pg. 49>
 - This reflects some of the open-ended feedback cited earlier as well.
- This 32% includes self-reported members (13%) and recent non-member users (8%) who tend to live closest to the CRC (South and S-Central regions). The remaining 11% have toured but not used the facility and tend between ages 55-64. <pg. 51>
- Another 38% have seen the new facility but not yet been inside, and 19% have heard about the CRC but not driven past it. The remaining 11% remain unaware (especially those under age 35, renters, Asian residents, and the North region).
- Those familiar enough with the CRC to offer an opinion give high satisfaction scores (averaging 7.1 on a 0-10 scale), especially self-reported members (8.3) and non-member users (7.7). Those who have only seen or heard about the CRC tend to give more neutral ratings (no strong opinions yet). <pg. 52>
 - The few who are less satisfied mostly cite the lack of an indoor pool, small workout space at the CRC, and/or the fees.
- Still, at least 90% of those aware of the CRC agree that it: <pp. 53-56>
 - Is welcoming of everyone (97%)
 - Makes Oak Park more attractive (95%) and helps property values (93%)
 - Represents a good value (92%)
 - Is inclusive and serves the diversity of Oak Park (92%) and meets the community's needs (90%) – though residents in the South region and residents aged 45-54 are less likely to agree with these statements.
- Nearly as many (87%) feel the CRC's programs and activities are innovative (with slightly less agreement – 78% – among self-reported members). Residents in the South and those aged 45-54 are less likely to feel that the CRC meets their recreation/fitness needs (roughly 60% agree, vs. 79% overall).

Respondents express a willingness to pay a property tax increase for an indoor pool facility.

- Survey respondents were informed that building an indoor pool (including open swim, 25-yard lap lanes, and a separate warm water therapy pool) would require passage of a referendum which would increase annual property taxes by \$90 per year for a median-valued home of \$400,000. <pp. 58-59>
- Based on this description, residents express support by just over a 2:1 margin (69% vs. 31% opposed).
 - Overall, 35% are “strong” supporters, vs. 14% who are “strongly” opposed.
 - Support is especially strong among younger adults (under 35), renters, women, newer Oak Park residents, and those in the Central region.
 - Older residents (ages 65+), men, and households in the South region tend to be more divided with smaller margins of support (roughly 53% to 56% in favor vs. 44% to 47% opposed).
- Supporters give several reasons for their support, most often: <pp. 60-62>
 - A desire for year-round swimming (28%) or general need/interest (18%)
 - The tax increase is reasonable (15%)
 - Conditional support depending on facility hours, availability of adult/lap swimming, etc. (12%)
 - Health and fitness benefits (11%)
 - Overall asset and improvement for Oak Park (10%).
- Among opponents, their top reasons driving their opposition are: <pp. 63-65>
 - Perceived lack of need in general (30%)
 - Opposition to further increasing taxes that are already deemed high (25%)
 - Existing indoor pool options which are available (16%)
 - The OPRF High School is pursuing an indoor pool at the same time (10%).

Awareness of the PDOPs scholarships and CDM discounts remains relatively low.

- Overall, about one in five are either “very” (6%) or “somewhat” familiar (15%) with the District’s scholarship pool which provides financial assistance available to lower-income households. <pg. 67>
 - The good news is that those most likely to qualify (reporting household incomes under \$50K) tend to be the most aware of this opportunity (23% “very” familiar, vs. 6% overall). Still, just over half of these lower income residents (51%) have never heard of these scholarships.
- Similarly, only 12% are “very” (2%) or “somewhat” familiar (10%) with the District’s CDM offering for lower income residents with children in Kindergarten through age 14. Three in four overall (75%) have never heard of this program. <pg. 68>
 - Residents with children ages 12 to 14 tend to be more aware (12% “very” familiar, vs. 2% overall) – possibly because they have taken advantage of CDM in the past or currently. However, 59% of these households remain not at all aware of this assistance.

Residents report recent participation in several PDOP programs and events, with very strong satisfaction overall.

- Reinforcing the District’s programming as a top strength, most respondents report household participation during the past year in a variety of programs and events. <pg. 71-74>
 - Top **programs** focus on youth activities (sports, summer camp, skating, gymnastics) and adult options (fitness/wellness, sports, performing arts).
 - The top **events** include summer concerts, Movies in the Park, and Fall Fest.
- Satisfaction is very strong for each (average 8.3 for both on a 0-10 scale). The few dissatisfied scores are attributed mostly to program instructors/leaders/coaches, etc., and/or registration challenges.
- Ideas for programming opportunities tend to center around more for adults, especially fitness/yoga offerings, arts and crafts, and social events (e.g., get-togethers, game nights, music/entertainment options). <pg. 75-76>

As in 2019, residents mostly rely on the Village's FYI Newsletter and the PDOP printed program guide when seeking Park District information.

- Three in five (60%) cite both the printed program guide and the Village FYI newsletter as primary sources for PDOP information. <pp. 78-81>
- Another 46% now mention the District's e-newsletter as a top source – significantly higher than the 2019 response (21%). The e-newsletter tends to be mentioned most often by younger adults (ages 35-44), households with children, and Asian and African American residents.
- Nearly as many go to the PDOP website when seeking information (41%), and roughly a third cite flyers at District locations along with fence banners at these sites. <pg. 84>
 - The website is mentioned most often by adults under age 55, along with Hispanic/Latino adults. Nearly half of website users visit the site at least once a month (48%), while the rest mostly access it once every six months (35%).
 - Flyers and fence banners tend to be mentioned by the youngest adults (under 35), renters and newer Oak Park residents, and the South region.
- While 60% report using the printed program guide, fewer than half as many (27%) refer to the digital version on the PDOP website. Younger residents tend to prefer the digital version (under age 55), while those favoring the printed version tend to be slightly older (ages 45 to 64). <pp. 78-80>
 - In a separate question, most (59%) prefer continuing to receive the printed mailed version of the program guide. Both the youngest (under 35) and oldest (65+) residents prefer the printed guide, along with women and lower-income households. <pg. 85>
 - Conversely, 41% would rather receive an emailed link to updated digital guides with the option of picking up a hard copy at a PDOP location (especially men, those aged 35-64, and households earning \$200K+).

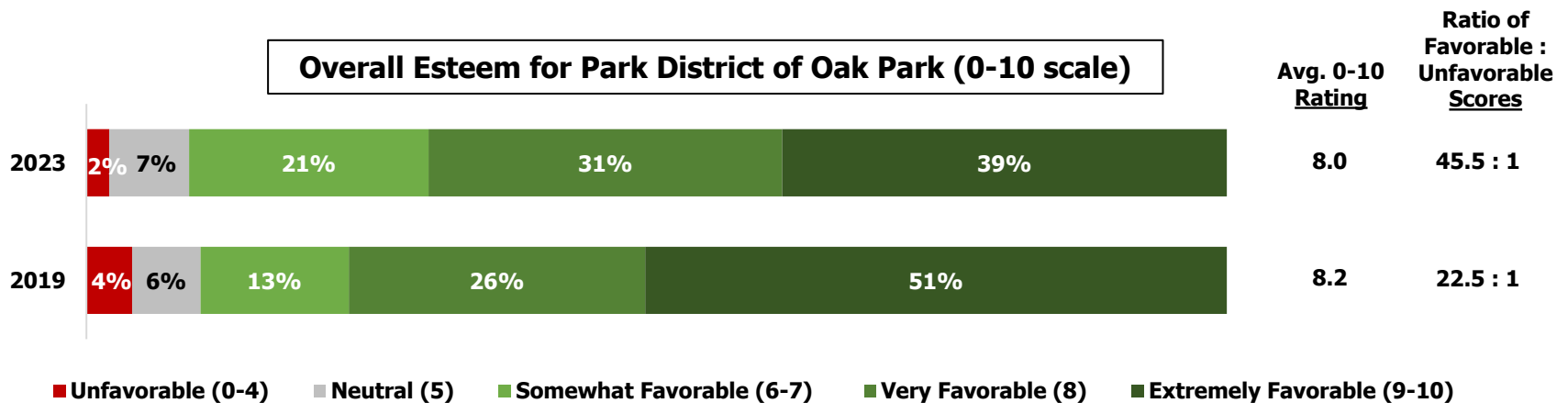
Only one in three respondents offer final comments or suggestions.

- This final survey feedback is very scattered, with most suggestions centered on: *<pp. 87-89>*
- Management/Administrative requests (13%) – most often extending the hours or seasons at specific locations (usually the pools), more parking, increased safety/staff presence, better communication, reduced spending, and/or easier program registration (2% to 3% each).
 - Park and facility issues (12%) – usually suggestions for amenities (e.g., benches, fitness stations, improved play equipment), better landscaping, more natural areas and sustainable practices, and more dog parks or off-leash areas.
 - Programs and activities (7%), usually more options for adults along with a wider range of age groups (1% to 2% each).

I. Overall Opinions, Strengths/Improvements Sought, and Perceived Value of PDOP

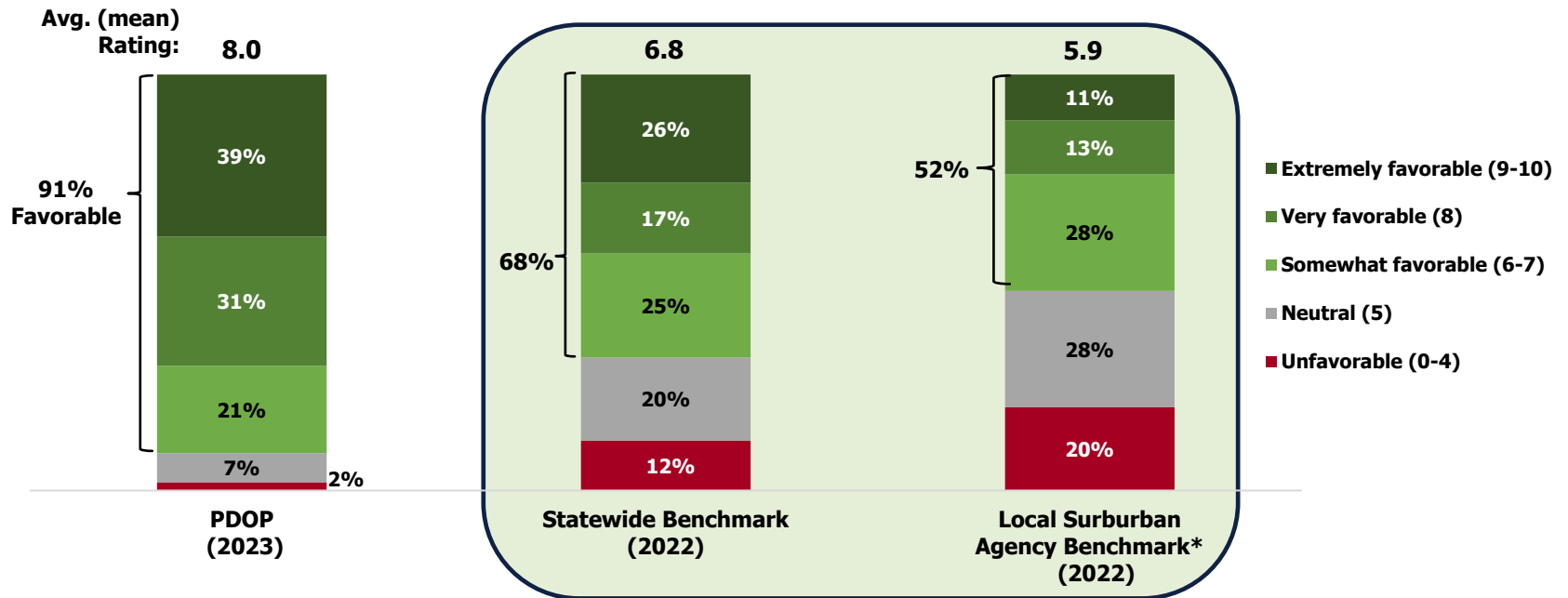
Nine out of ten residents (91%) continue to have a favorable overall opinion about the Park District of Oak Park, based on esteem ratings using a 0-10 scale. Only 2% rate the District unfavorably, and the remaining 7% are neutral (no strong opinion either way).

- Resident ratings are generally consistent with the 2019 survey results, despite a shift from “extremely favorable” scores (9+ on a 0-10 scale) to “very favorable” and “somewhat favorable” ratings. As a result, the overall average rating has dropped slightly (from 8.2 in 2019 to 8.0 currently).
- That said, these ratings are still overwhelmingly positive, and are significantly higher than statewide and regional benchmarks (see next page).
- In addition, these favorable scores are generally consistent across all subgroups and regions. The biggest differences (not statistically significant) are:
 - Slightly higher scores in the North region (8.3) and among Asian households (8.8, n=31 cases)
 - Slightly lower ratings from Oak Park residents of 25+ years (7.7 – still very favorable).



As reported, the PDOP's esteem ratings outperform statewide and local agency benchmarks from 2022. This general pattern is consistent with the 2019 survey findings (when the PDOP's average esteem rating was also a full point higher than the statewide average).

Benchmark Comparisons: Overall Esteem Ratings



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

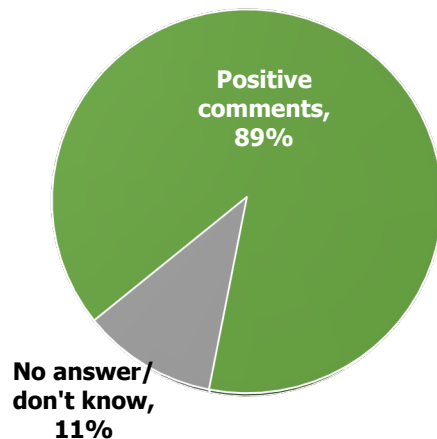
* 2022 benchmark comparisons with neighboring agencies include Berwyn, Cicero, Elmwood Park, Forest Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, North Riverside, River Forest, River Grove, and Riverside.

When asked in an open-ended format what they like most about the PDOP, most residents cite the programs and events (mentioned by 48%, usually the variety and quality of options, especially sports/fitness activities).

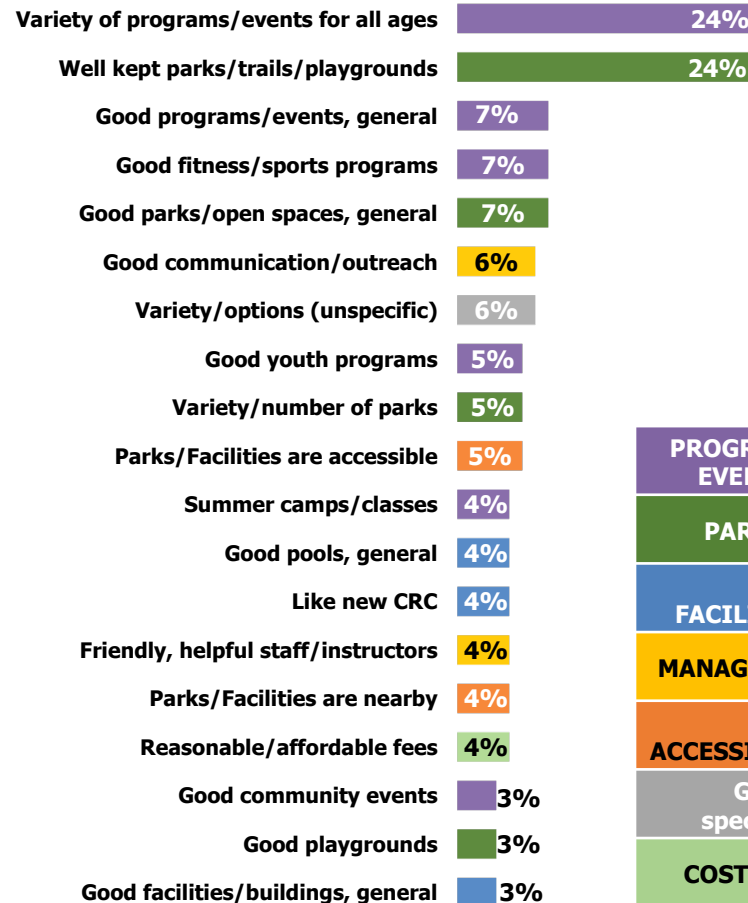
- Over a third (35% total) cite something about the parks and open spaces, usually their level of maintenance/cleanliness, overall quality, and the number of local parks.
- A number of other strengths are cited (e.g., facilities, management and staff), only less often.

**What do you like most/
strengths about the PDOP**

(top multiple open-ended responses, n=558)



Most Frequent Responses



**PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/
EVENTS = 48% Total**

PARKS = 35% Total

**BUILDINGS/
FACILITIES = 18% Total**

MANAGEMENT = 14% Total

**LOCATION/
ACCESSIBILITY = 11% Total**

**GENERAL (Non-
specific) = 7% Total**

COST/FEES = 5% Total

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Likes/Strengths

Programs/Activities/Events (TOTAL NET = 48%)

"Multitude of programs for seniors, adults, children. Individual events and facilities are also great."

"Variety of classes. The crafting for adults. Family cooking classes, teen cooking camps!"

"I think the Park District clearly puts a lot of effort into our various park programs. I love that we have such a diversity of programs offered, that there are special events, classes for both adults and children."

"Wide variety of activities offered, well funded programs and knowledgeable staff."

"We like the extensive offered programs and their overall quality. We especially like the gymnastics and ice skating ones that are really good. We like also the different events that are organized by the PDOP (like) Fall Fest, etc."

"Amazing array of camps and services!"

"The offerings are excellent and plentiful for all ages of residents."

"The park district continues to provide a variety of programming for different members of our community. They adjust programming to keep it relevant and are receptive to community feedback. I love the focus on building community in everything they do. We LOVE the park district."

"Wonderful diversity of programs supporting residents of all ages for very affordable prices."

"I appreciate the wide range of activities for multiple age groups."

"Making very good use of our limited space and resources to offer high quality recreational programs."

"The new role where someone is planning interesting things to do and activities for adults."

Parks/Playgrounds/Trails (TOTAL NET=35%)

"Our village has diverse, numerous parks that are well-maintained and provide sufficient opportunities to sit and rest. Even those parks with few trees or grassy areas have a touch of nature, e.g., wildflowers that attract pollinators."

"I visit Taylor Park frequently and it is so close to home and is kept up so well. The grass is mowed, and I like the walking path."

"Very well-maintained parks, beautiful landscaping and ground, clean parks. Lots of parks throughout town; can always walk to a park."

"Number and quality of parks, so many within walking distance. Very well maintained."

"Clean, safe, properly maintained, beautifully curated and decorated."

"Allows green space in areas of Oak Park and does a fair job of maintaining that space."

"Accessible, they have up kept the parks. They are mostly clean; things seem to be repaired in a timely manner."

"Beauty of the parks -- the field houses & playgrounds."

"I like the parks - both play spaces and green spaces."

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Likes/Strengths (cont'd)

Buildings/Facilities (TOTAL NET=18%)

"The new CRC and the walking track."

"Conservatory is wonderful and has a great Storytime."

"I love the CRC and that they provided badminton time in their gyms. Pickleball and tennis are everywhere."

"Both pool facilities The maintenance of all the parks, and tennis courts The collaboration with the high school for field space The CRC."

"It has something for everyone. The parking, pools, tennis courts, children's playgrounds, etc."

"Pools and CRC are great."

"Tennis courts, Cheney Mansion, parks, Oak Park Conservatory."

"Clean facilities and well maintained."

"Good quality facilities and special recognition of effort to maintain ice on outdoor rinks despite poor weather."

"Clean facilities and well maintained."

"I like that you can rent the centers for parties."

"'Uncorked' garden parties at the Conservatory; opportunity to rent beautiful venues like Cheney Mansion (as needed)."

PDOP Managements/Staff/Admin (TOTAL NET=14%)

"Communication, good facilities, priced to allow access by all."

"Communication and mail pieces are good."

"The coaches are amazing."

"Great variety of programs run by competent people. Never bored!"

"They work hard to provide resources to the residents, even with limited green space."

"Park District of Oak Park does a good job communicating activities and events in a timely manner via electronic media (e-mail, social media, print etc.)."

"I have enjoyed the fantastic day trips to new places. The staff is always nice and helpful."

"They listen to the community and bring new activities...providing plenty options for leisure and fun."

"Activities for all ages -- family oriented -- most are reasonably priced -- organized catalogue."

"Diversity and thoughtfulness of staff. Nature and arts programming."

"Great caliber of instructors for fitness classes."

"Staff at clubhouse and how engaged they are with kids."

Location/Accessibility (TOTAL NET=11%)

"I like that there are parks scattered throughout the Village."

"There are a few parks spread across the village that I have access to. Each one has its own unique feature to it, adding to the variety of each park."

"The many parks, large and small."

"The variety of the parks. It's great and the fact there are so many. I've visited many on my bicycle."

"Location. Most within walking distance of my residence."

"I can walk to Scoville Park."

"The parks are easily accessible and kept clean, open to all residents. Even parents from beyond Oak Park's borders can bring their children to play."

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Likes/Strengths (cont'd)

General non-specific comments (TOTAL NET=7%)

"Overall, I think we have an excellent park district."

"Well maintained and serviced."

"Options and interests."

"I like that the Oak Park Park District exists and strives to cater to the needs and interests of Oak Parkers."

"Great variety for all ages."

"PDOP offers a variety of services and offerings."

Cost/Fees (TOTAL NET=5%)

"The diversity of programs, the affordability of programs."

"Quality programs for residents of all ages at an affordable price."

"I really like that residents can use the indoor track for free."

"The amount of any given park available and free toddler programs."

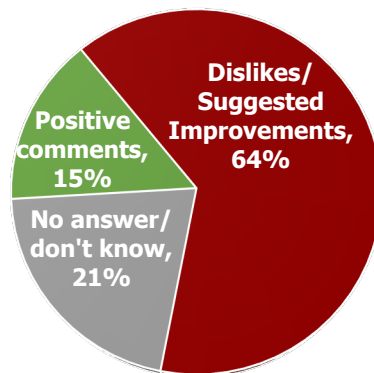
"Offers a lot of programs and childcare options at an affordable price."

Respondents had a more difficult time identifying something they dislike or would like to see improved by the PDOP. Over a third (36%) could not think of anything (including 15% who said there is nothing they dislike).

- The specific dislikes were very scattered, with the program registration process/website cited most often by 8% overall (usually because programs fill too quickly, or the platform is cumbersome). Almost as many (7%) feel that program and membership fees are too high. The remaining responses are mentioned by fewer than 5% each.
- The feedback on PDOP facilities is varied (e.g., general improvements, longer pool hours/season, larger fitness area at CRC, lack of an indoor pool).
- Most park-related comments concern safety, or more amenities (bathroom access, benches, lighting). Many program suggestions focus on more adult options and scheduling outside of work hours (more evening, weekend programs).

What do you dislike/want improved by the PDOP

(top multiple open-ended responses, n=558)



Most Frequent Responses

Difficulty with program registration	8%
Lower costs/program fees, general	7%
More, better outreach, communication	4%
More, better sport fields, courts	4%
More/longer hours	4%
Too much spending/waste (costly/unecessary improvements)	4%
More adult programs	4%
Enforce rules more	3%
Issues with instructors, program leaders, staff	3%
Park safety	3%
Need an indoor pool	3%

MANAGEMENT = 23% Total
BUILDINGS/FACILITIES = 21% Total
PARKS = 12% Total
PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS = 11% Total
COST/FEES = 9% Total

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Dislikes/Improvements Sought

PDOP Managements/Staff/Admin (TOTAL NET=23%)

"Enrollment feels very competitive, we don't always get into the classes we put on our wish list."

"The registration process for anything children-related is extremely frustrating and the spots are very limited."

"Registration is very stressful. Doesn't seem like enough spots available for events and programs."

"Mad scramble to get one of the few spots for certain sports. Registering for classes are very difficult for older (me) individuals who are not familiar with online registration. Would rather call a telephone number & talk to a real person!"

"I really dislike the Amilia registration system as the replacement for the previous Mind Body system. The Amilia system was very frustrating when it was first rolled out. It is still confusing to me when I register for a drop-in Nia class using my 10 pack of classes. The website is very hard to navigate."

"Please improve the online signup system for summer camps. The system has crashed in the past due to interest/demand."

"Sign up process and competitiveness of it."

"Registration can be tough. System times out when trying to get summer camps and you get shut out of programs."

"Prefer more advertising of events."

"Lack of communication around programs and coordinators of programs. Lack of response to email and voice mails. Lack of communication with the public – e.g., their handling of the floors at Pleasant Home was atrocious."

"Not enough communication with lap swimmers, the most dedicated and enthusiastic users of the pool. One result was a bad redesign of the Ridgeland women's locker room, replacing a simple central spot to sit while changing with an insufficient number of private changing cubbies."

"It could do a better job of outreach to ALL Oak Parkers."

"I was disappointed about the way communication was shared signing up for gymnastics in the fall. We are new to Oak Park and enrolled for one week of summer gymnastics camp. When it came for fall registration, we did not know that that one week counted as having been enrolled in gymnastics 'summer camp' and that we were eligible for early fall enrollment. There was no email explaining that the one week we had participated in counted. As a result, we enrolled with the rest of OP and of course didn't get into any of the fall programming. My kids were heartbroken. I was really disappointed that no email was shared explaining that we would have qualified to enroll early."

"Sometimes it feels like maintenance and/or improvements aren't planned out well. They build then sometimes remove or replace it a few years later."

"I think the Park District is too quick to replace park equipment rather than doing the more fiscally responsible thing of repairing and refurbishing."

"In my opinion, many construction projects, improvements and maintenance efforts appear wasteful and much of it unnecessary."

"Spends too much money, we keep building new buildings, updating parks with state of art equipment that is not needed."

"Stop re-doing parks when play equipment is just fine! If stuff is good enough to donate, it's good enough to keep."

"Ticket people who litter."

"Please enforce people to pickup after their dog."

"Sometimes dogs are not on a leash."

"I wish the lifeguards at the community pools did a better job of enforcing pool rules, specifically enforcing proper use of lap lanes."

"Class quality is very dependent on instructors and some of them aren't great. I would say my satisfaction with classes has been 50%. I just don't feel confident when signing up that I will be satisfied with any given class."

"My nine-year-old took a week-long class during the summer and the program and counselors weren't that good."

"Administrative staff falls down on the job sometimes. Team sport prices too high."

"Staffing - serious staffing issues. I understand how difficult staffing is these days, but it has always been an issue with the park district. Pay more!

Devote more resources to your employees."

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Dislikes/Improvements Sought

Buildings/Facilities (TOTAL NET=21%)

"Some of the tennis courts are in bad shape. The pickle ball courts could be repaved. More dedicated pickle ball courts."

"Lack of outdoor basketball courts."

"They did not provide the proper court lines for badminton. We are making do with pickleball court lines. I encourage them to look at Wheeling Park District's CRC and how they allot time in their gyms for sports including badminton. They must make about \$200 on a Monday night \$5 drop-in badminton utilizing 6 courts. Utilizing a system like that would encourage more players to use the gyms and bring in revenue for the CRC."

"Projects done without expert input, e.g., Barrie pickleball courts."

"Should have more basketball hoops. Couldn't tennis courts do double duty?"

"I'm disappointed that the newly developed CRC did not take into consideration that there is not enough large classroom space for the fitness classes, such as Nia. What a disappointment that such a beautiful new facility can't be used and thus those classes will still be shunted to too-small spaces in older buildings."

"CRC is a very nice facility but...the space allocated to the workout area, where most users go, is unbelievably small! Why have a huge skating rink and small rooms for other programs?"

"Lack of bathroom access at many of the parks."

"Bathrooms are often locked in fall, winter, spring with no porta potty options. This is hard with young kids needing to use the bathroom."

"The only issue I have with the park district is the pool schedule during the summers. It seems ridiculous for the pools to close as early as they do, and have limited schedules during certain times of the year. The memberships are not cheap and to limit how late they stay open really impacts how much we are able to utilize the pool pass outside of weekends. It would be great to be able to have the pools open until 8 or 9 PM so that families could take kids after work and dinner."

"I'd like to see longer hours at the pools, and better functionality for booking fields and understanding when fields are open and when they're reserved or in use. Also, we have friends and family members with mobility challenges, I think many of the facilities need to be more accessible, specifically parking."

"Oak Park needs an indoor pool that offer swim lessons and activities for youth and adults alike. The only other reasonable option is the YMCA. I however, have to drive all the way to Triton college for classes."

"Needs an indoor pool for lap swimming."

"In a community of this size with the taxes that are paid, that there is not a year-round aquatic facility for pool activities, programs, and free swim for residents is a disgrace."

"Indoor pool please! Also, we are not nearly where surrounding communities are on the number of available and dedicated pickleball courts. No dog parks in northeast Oak Park."

Sample Verbatims: PDOP Dislikes/Improvements Sought (cont'd)

Parks/Playgrounds/Trails (TOTAL NET=12%)

"I live near Maple Park. Need to secure it; there's no reason to have a west gate that's right off Harlem which is a busy street. That gate should be locked or removed. We need to be safe: What if a child runs into Harlem Avenue, or (it's an) easy exit if someone abducts a child."

"The parks are not regularly monitored after dark. There are frequent gatherings of loud teenagers. We tried talking with them but it was unsuccessful."

"Have some police presence at certain parks. The ones on Lake street closer to Austin."

"Lighting could be better in smaller parks."

"Homeless people who sleep there. They should have someplace else to go."

"Could use bathrooms on the premises. I miss the old sledding hill. Would like more walking paths and intermittent exercise apparatus for seniors."

"Bathrooms in the parks would be great, especially when the park hosts sports."

"Litter seems to be an issue in some parks. However, I understand there's limited resources for frequent trash sweeps."

"I dislike the lack of upkeep at the south end of town. I live a block from Barrie Park and the basketball and pickleball courts are in terrible shape. The green and grassy area surrounding it is always overgrown, you can barely walk on the narrow sidewalk, and it's unsafe with traffic passing so close by."

Programs/Activities/Events (TOTAL NET=11%)

"If the adult programming could be made more available on evenings and weekends, that would make it more accessible to those of us who work 9 to 5."

"More events for single adults."

"Offer more evening adult classes for those who of us who are not yet retired."

"It needs more 'maker' classes for active adults, like 3-D printing, laser cutting/etching, etc. It seems that (current) maker classes are oriented to kids."

"I wish there were more sports camps during the summer and throughout the year. Chicago Edge runs very good ones, but those run by the park district tend to be very basic, and seem like they're run by random high schoolers, not people more engaged in the sport and education of kids."

"Used to have overnight travel like to Starved Rock; need to start offering again. Need to offer in-person Tai Chi; why did this stop?"

"More senior programming."

Cost/Fees (TOTAL NET=9%)

"It charges too much for certain programs. The prices for pool general admission and pool passes are outrageously high, even for residents. The Park District of Oak Park absolutely should look into finding ways to bring down the costs for residents, because there are other communities that structure their pool admission prices that way."

"As a parent of young children, I was surprised at having to pay for activities for children under two or for parents for activities like the Santa Trolley."

"For residents, outside of a season pool pass, the cost is prohibitive."

"Swimming pool access is expensive if you only go occasionally."

"The classes are overpriced for what the level of instruction given. My child has not walked away from a class saying, 'I really improved.'"

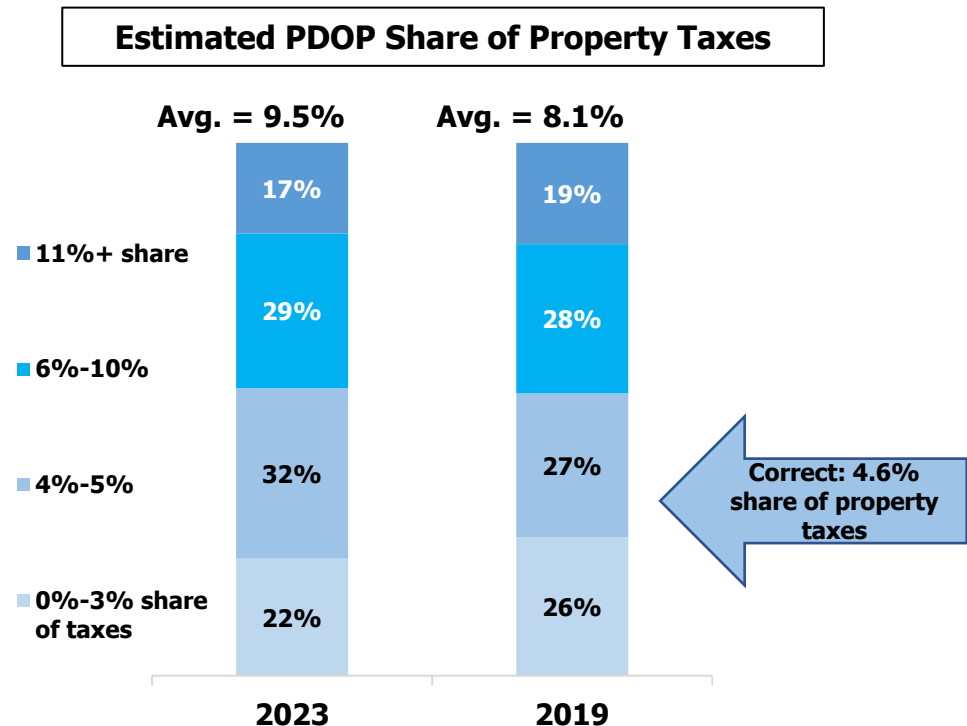
"Administrative fee is charged when you request a refund for an event."

"Some of the programs are expensive. Though worth it, we can't afford to do extra in Oak Park."

"Sometimes prices are too high for residents, like the cost of a single entry to the pool."

On average, residents estimate the PDOP's share of local property taxes to be double the actual percentage (average estimate of 9.5% share, vs. actual 4.6% share of property tax revenues).

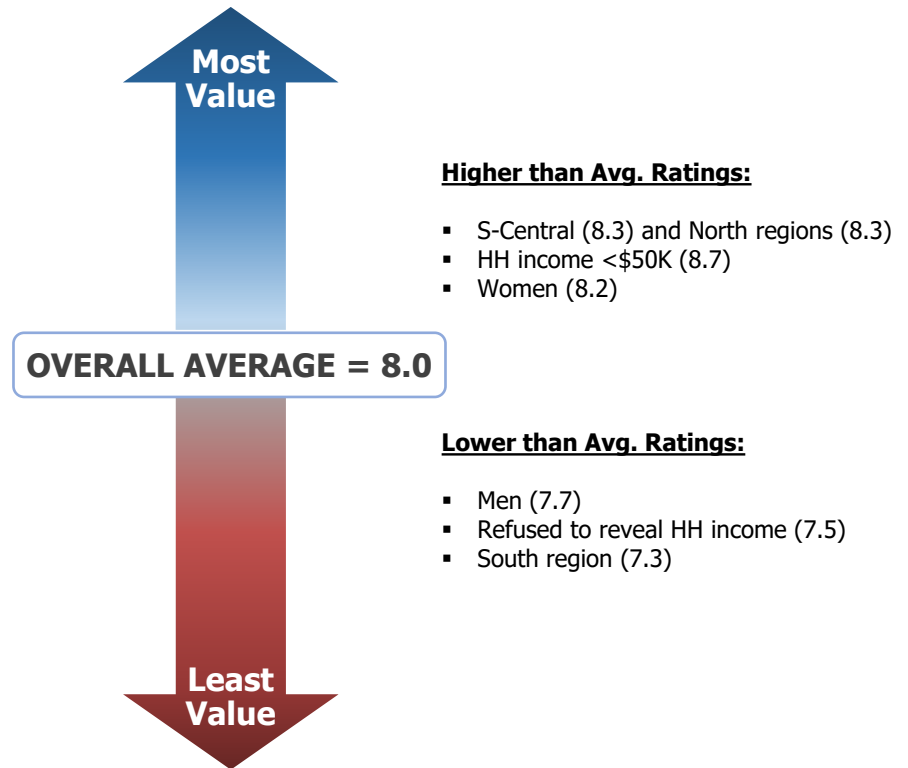
- This average is up very slightly from 2019 estimates (8.1% overage), mostly due to fewer giving estimates under 4%.
- Nearly one in five adults (17%) gave estimates of over ten percent going to the District (similar to 19% in 2019). The highest estimates tend to come from:
 - Residents in the North-Central region (13.8% average estimate, vs. 9.5% overall)
 - Homeowners (10.6% average estimate)
 - African American adults (15.4% average estimate).
- Those giving lower than average estimates (but still well above the District's actual 4.6% share of property taxes) include:
 - Residents in the South region (8.0% average estimate)
 - Renters (7.6% average estimate)
 - Asian and white adults (6.3% and 7.5% average estimates, respectively).



When informed that the PDOP represents 4.6% of one's property taxes, residents continue to rate it a "great" value overall (average 0-10 score of 8.0, identical to 2019 results).

- As in 2019, at least four out of five residents (82%) rate the District at least a "good" value, including just over half (51%) rating it an "excellent" value (scores of 9+ on the 0-10 value scale).
- By comparison, only 5% rate the District a poor value, and the remaining 13% feel it is an "average" value overall.
- Furthermore, all subgroups feel the PDOP represents a good-to-great value overall. No segment gives average value ratings below a 7.3 (on the 0-10 scale).

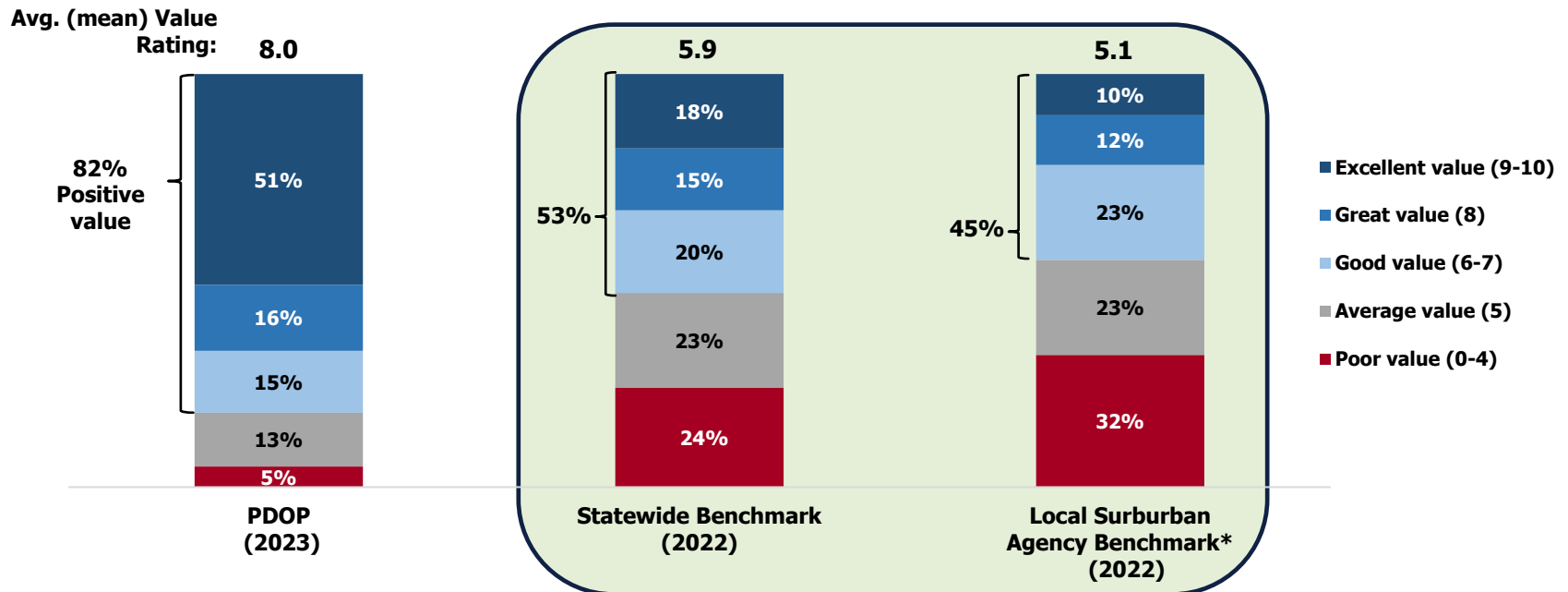
Significant Differences: PDOP's Perceived Value Relative to District's Share of Property Taxes



Q24. About 4.6% of your property taxes goes to the Park District of Oak Park. Thinking about the programs, parks, facilities, and services that the Park District provides, please rate the overall value that it represents given its share of property taxes. (0=poor value, 5=average value, 10=excellent value)

The PDOP's strong value ratings far surpass the statewide and local suburban benchmarks for park agencies – especially the percentage who rate the PDOP an "excellent" overall value.

Benchmark Comparisons: Overall Value Ratings



Q24. About 4.6% of your property taxes goes to the Park District of Oak Park. Thinking about the programs, parks, facilities, and services that the Park District provides, please rate the overall value that it represents given its share of property taxes. (0=poor value, 5=average value, 10=excellent value)

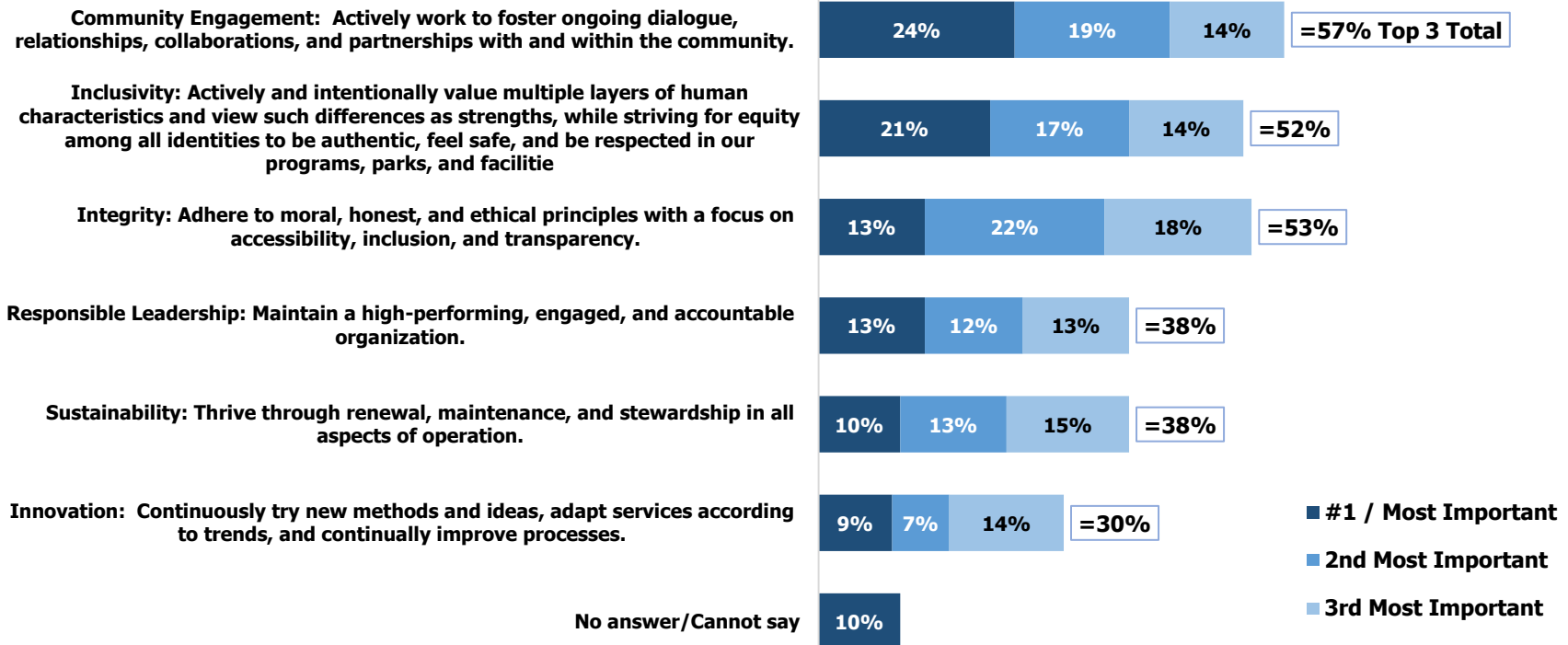
* 2022 benchmark comparisons with neighboring agencies include Berwyn, Cicero, Elmwood Park, Forest Park, Maywood, Melrose Park, North Riverside, River Forest, River Grove, and Riverside. The 2022 benchmark survey tested value ratings at a 5% share of property taxes.

II. Assessment of PDOP's Six Core Values

Six core values for the PDOP were shown to respondents, who were asked to rank them in order of importance (with #1 being the top priority). The top three core values clearly include “community engagement” followed closely by “inclusivity” and “integrity”.

- Note that while “inclusivity” and “integrity” receive virtually identical “top three” responses, the former is deemed more important based on a clear advantage of “#1” rankings.
- The three remaining core values receive fewer #1 and “top three” scores, with at least three in ten residents including them among the Top 3 most important. The remaining 10% choose not to provide a ranking.

Perceived Importance: PDOP Core Values



Among the three “top tier” core values, the most recent residents and Hispanic/Latino adults tend to include both “community engagement” and “inclusivity” among their top priorities. Those placing the highest priority on “integrity” tend to be slightly older.

- Note that “community engagement” tends to be most important (ranked #1) among the lowest income households, but the most affluent residents (incomes of \$200K+) disproportionately include it among their “top three” (meaning it tends to rank as their #2 or #3 priority).

Significant Differences: Top Tier PDOP Core Values

	#1 Most Important	Top 3 Most Important
Community Engagement	<u>24% Overall</u> - Hispanic/Latino adults (38%, n=46), and white adults (28%) - HH income <\$50K (37%) - PDOP program participants (30%, vs. 14% of non-participants)	<u>57% Overall</u> - Hispanic/Latino adults (86%, n=46) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (63%) - HH income \$200K+ (65%) - PDOP program participants (65%, vs. 46% of non-participants) - CRC members (74%, vs. 56% of non-members)
Inclusivity	<u>21% Overall</u> - North region (36%) - Hispanic/Latino adults (43%, n=46), Asian adults (40%), African Americans (31%) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (34%) - Non-PDOP program participants (28%, vs. 16% of participants)	<u>52% Overall</u> - Ages 35-44 (66%) - Hispanic/Latino adults (73%, n=46) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (60%), 5-14 yrs. (73%) - Have children ages 6-11 (64%)
Integrity	<u>13% Overall</u> - South (25%) - Ages 45+ (16%, vs. 5% of 35- to 44-year olds) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (18%)	<u>53% Overall</u> - Ages 45-54 (67%) - African American adults (59%), white adults (57%) - Non-CRC members (56%, vs. 38% of members)

For the remaining core values, middle aged residents (45 to 54), African Americans and recent PDOP program participants tend to place higher priority on “responsible leadership”, while “sustainability” is especially important to younger adults across several races.

- Asian residents and CRC members tend to rank innovation as their #1 priority, and those with children aged 5 and under include it in their Top 3.

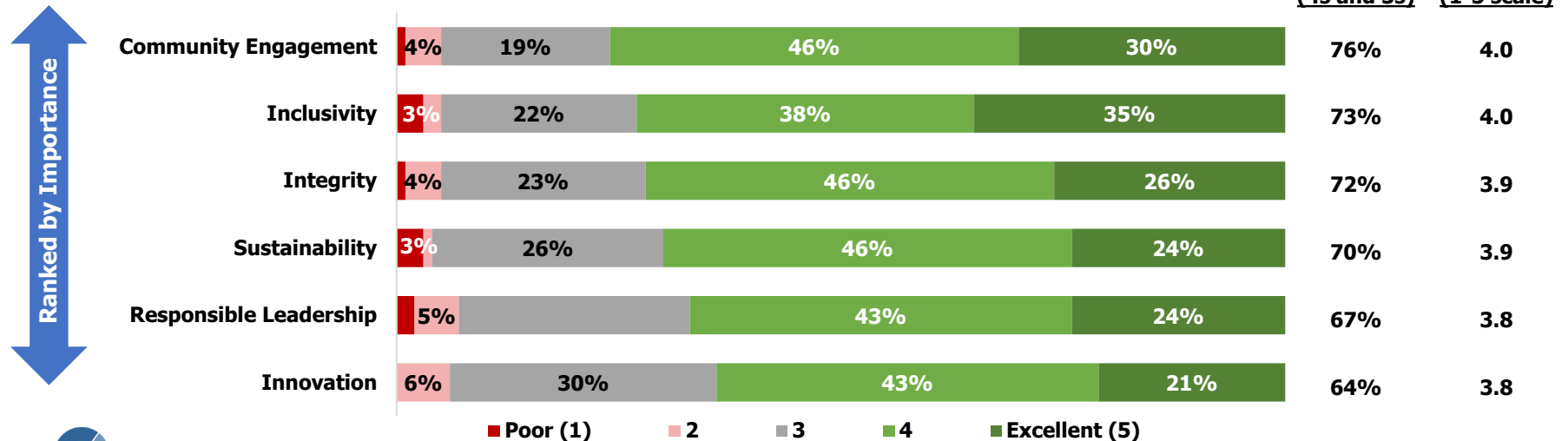
Significant Differences: Top Tier PDOP Core Values

	#1 Most Important	Top 3 Most Important
Responsible Leadership	<u>13% Overall</u> - N-Central region (25%) - Ages 45-54 (23%) - African Americans (23%) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (20%), 15-24 yrs. (28%) - PDOP program participants (18%, vs. 11% of non-participants)	<u>38% Overall</u> - Men (46%, vs. 33% of women) - Ages 45-54 (51%) - African Americans (50%) - HH income \$50K-\$99K (49%) - PDOP program participants (48%, vs. 24% of non-participants)
Sustainability	<u>10% Overall</u> - Ages 35-44 (19%) - White adults (13%)	<u>37% Overall</u> - Under age 35 (46%), 35-44 (53%) - Asian adults (73%), Hispanic/Latino adults (42%) and white adults (42%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (49%)
Innovation	<u>9% Overall</u> - Asian adults (16%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (16%) - CRC members (20%, vs. 7% of non-members)	<u>30% Overall</u> - Have children ages 5 and under (42%)
No answer/Can't say	<u>10% Overall</u> - Ages 55-64 (16%), 65+ (22%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (24%)	< no statistically meaningful differences >

When asked to assess the PDOP's performance on these six core values, the District receives consistently strong scores with at least 64% giving positive scores (4s and 5s on a 1-5 scale). Note that it receives the most "excellent" ratings for "inclusivity".

- None of these are considered weaknesses or concerns among residents, as no more than 7% overall rate the District poorly (scores of 1 or 2). The average 1-5 ratings are also all very strong (between 3.8 and 4.0)
- The table on the next page shows that there are relatively few significant differences in these ratings, meaning all groups and regions feel the PDOP is strong in each area.
 - In general, younger residents and lower-income households tend to be more favorable toward the District across most attributes. Slightly lower than average (still positive) scores are most likely to come from those earning over \$100K, and ages 45-54 (especially on "responsible leadership" and "sustainability").
 - Note that Hispanic/Latino adults tend to give slightly lower ratings for "community engagement", a core value that this segment feels is more important than average (an opportunity for the District to address).

Assessment of PDOP's Performance on Core Values (1-5 scale)



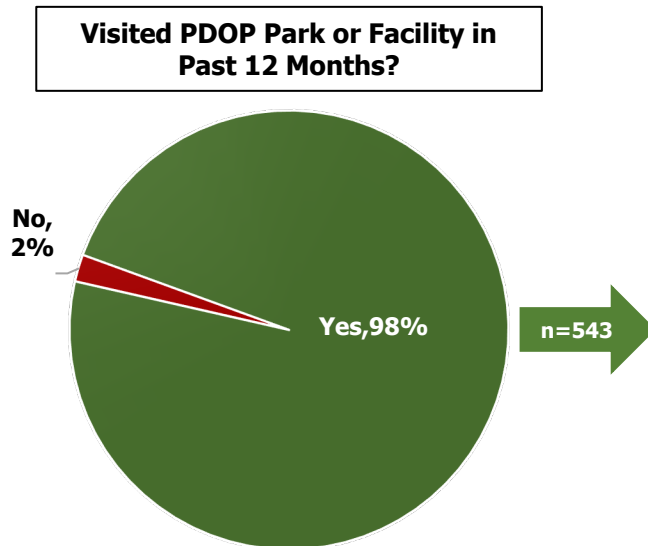
Significant Differences: Assessment of PDOP's Performance on Core Values (average 1-5 ratings)

	Lower than Average	Higher than Average
Community Engagement (avg. = 4.0)	- South region (3.7) - Hispanic/Latino adults (3.7) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (3.8)	- N-Central (4.2) and Central regions (4.1) - Under age 35 (4.2) - Asian adults (4.4) - HH income <\$50K (4.3)
Inclusivity (avg. = 4.0)	- Non-CRC members (4.0)	- CRC members (4.2)
Integrity (avg. = 3.9)	- Hispanic/Latino adults (3.6) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (3.8)	- Asian adults (4.3) - HH income <\$50K (4.3)
Sustainability (avg. = 3.9)	- Ages 45-54 (3.6) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (3.7)	- Under age 35 (4.1) - HH income <\$50K (4.2)
Responsible Leadership (avg. = 3.8)	- Ages 55-64 (3.6)	- Under age 35 (4.2)
Innovation (avg. = 3.8)	- HH income \$100K+ (3.6)	- HH income <\$100K (4.1)

III. PDOP Park/Facility Usage and Satisfaction

As in the 2019 survey, virtually all residents report visiting a PDOP park or facility in the past year (98%, up from 92% four years ago).

- Among recent visitors, Scoville Park remains the top destination (cited by roughly two out of three respondents). Nearly half have also visited the Oak Park Conservatory, Austin Gardens, and Rehm Park.
- At the time of this survey, one in four (25%) report visiting the new CRC which opened in mid-2023.



PDOP Parks (NET 94%)	
Scoville Park	65%
Austin Gardens	47%
Rehm Park	44%
Taylor Park	40%
Barrie Center/Park	33%
Mills Park	32%
Lindberg Park	30%
Longfellow Center/Park	29%
Maple Park	23%
Fox Center/Park	19%
Field Center/Park	19%
Euclid Square Park	18%
Stevenson Center/Park	18%
Andersen Center/Park	12%
Carroll Center/Park	11%
Randolph Park	7%
Wenonah Park	2%

PDOP Facilities (NET 82%)	
Oak Park Conservatory	47%
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	31%
Rehm Pool	31%
Ridgeland Common Pool	29%
Pleasant Home	25%
Community Recreation Center	24%
Elizabeth F Cheney Mansion	22%
Gymnastics and Recreation Center	17%
Dole Center	15%
Paul Hruby Ice Arena	12%
Austin Gardens Education Center	8%

Looking at the top visited (self-reported) PDOP parks in the past year and where these visitors live, it becomes clear that most are heavily used by “neighbors”, with only a couple of sites attracting residents District-wide.

- For example, Scoville Park and Austin Gardens draw disproportionately from the N-Central region (relative to the percent of the population in this area).
- The same is true for Rehm Park which draws the largest numbers from the S-Central and South regions.
 - While the N-Central area accounts for 20% of the overall population, only 12% of Rehm Park visitors come from that area.
- This pattern of drawing large numbers from proximate neighborhoods is consistent across most of the top PDOP parks visited, with two exceptions. Both Stevenson Park/Center and Wenonah Park tend to draw more evenly from throughout the District (no statistically meaningful differences).

<u>PDOP Parks</u>	<i>n</i>	Region				
		North	N Central	Central	S Central	South
Overall (row) % of Respondents	558	19%	20%	27%	17%	16%
Scoville Park	358	18%	25%	25%	15%	16%
Austin Gardens	273	18%	28%	29%	13%	12%
Rehm Park	257	16%	12%	18%	26%	27%
Taylor Park	254	32%	27%	12%	13%	16%
Mills Park	140	7%	18%	47%	19%	9%
Barrie Center/Park	175	9%	11%	17%	26%	37%
Lindberg Park	188	41%	15%	18%	11%	14%
Longfellow Center/Park	162	9%	19%	16%	35%	21%
Maple Park	147	10%	8%	15%	26%	41%
Fox Center/Park	121	10%	18%	15%	42%	15%
Field Center/Park	110	47%	25%	6%	9%	13%
Euclid Square Park	118	11%	7%	20%	29%	33%
Stevenson Center/Park	118	16%	30%	26%	15%	14%
Andersen Center/Park	78	38%	37%	3%	13%	10%
Carroll Center/Park	83	14%	6%	7%	31%	42%
Randolph Park	41	3%	9%	68%	8%	13%
Wenonah Park	18	10%	17%	26%	27%	20%

○ = statistically higher regional response

Comparing the regional “draws” for PDOP facilities, this regional pattern is less evident as residents from throughout Oak Park tend to report recent visits to most facilities.

➤ The few statistically significant regional differences indicate that:

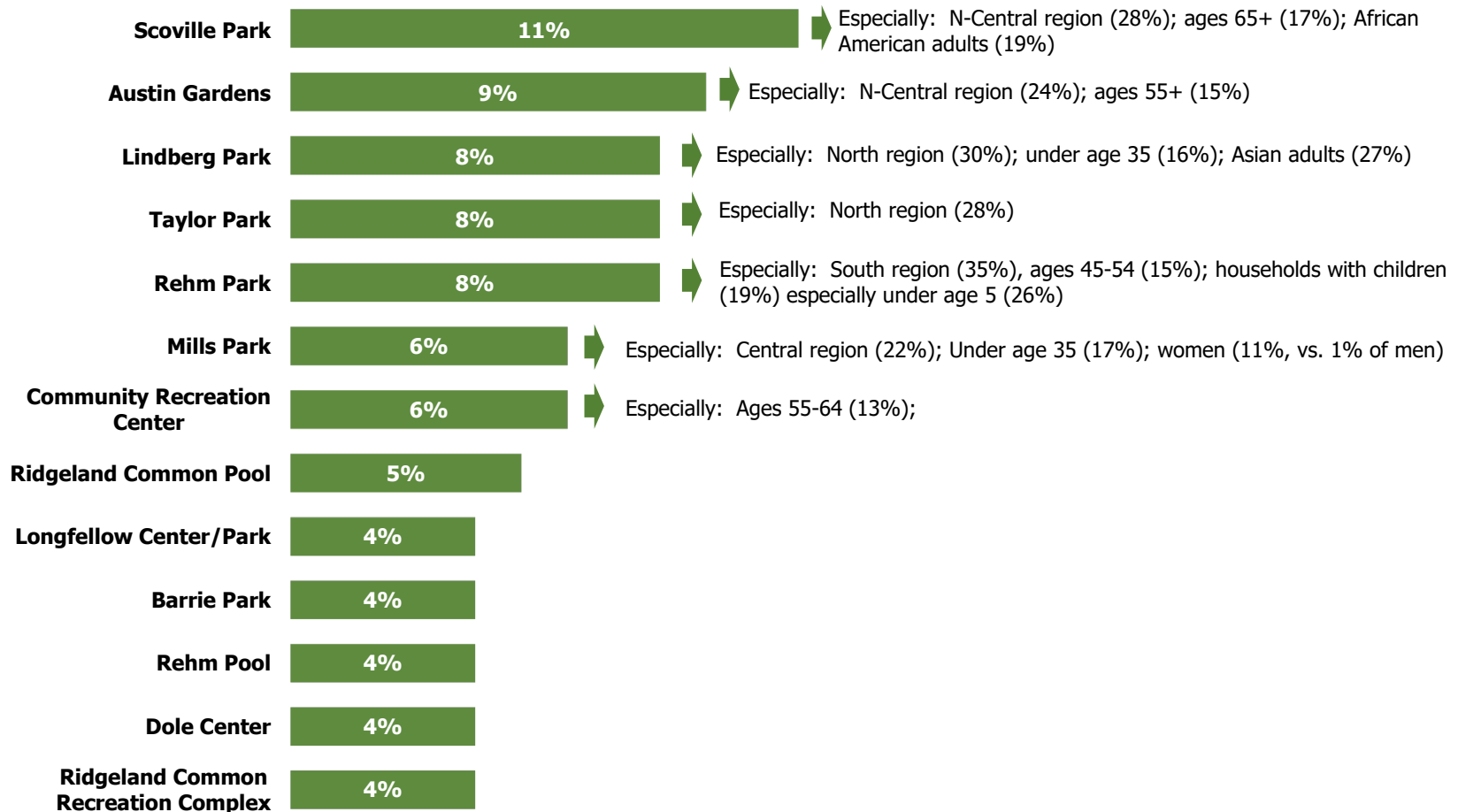
- Ridgeland Pool tends to attract N-central residents
- Pleasant Home tends to draw visitors from the Central region
- Dole Center is visited most often by those in the North region.

<u>PDOP Facilities</u>	<i>n</i>	Region				
		North	N Central	Central	S Central	South
Overall (row) % of Respondents	558	19%	20%	27%	17%	16%
Oak Park Conservatory	276	14%	23%	28%	21%	14%
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	176	23%	27%	18%	19%	13%
Rehm Pool	194	16%	16%	22%	24%	23%
Ridgeland Common Pool	173	22%	29%	18%	18%	13%
Pleasant Home	136	10%	24%	43%	12%	10%
Community Recreation Center	151	21%	13%	20%	26%	20%
Elizabeth F Cheney Mansion	159	13%	29%	25%	23%	10%
Gymnastics and Recreation Center	108	26%	21%	17%	18%	18%
Dole Center	116	33%	22%	13%	22%	11%
Paul Hruby Ice Arena	75	23%	12%	25%	16%	24%
Austin Gardens Education Center	45	12%	20%	47%	7%	13%

 = statistically higher regional response

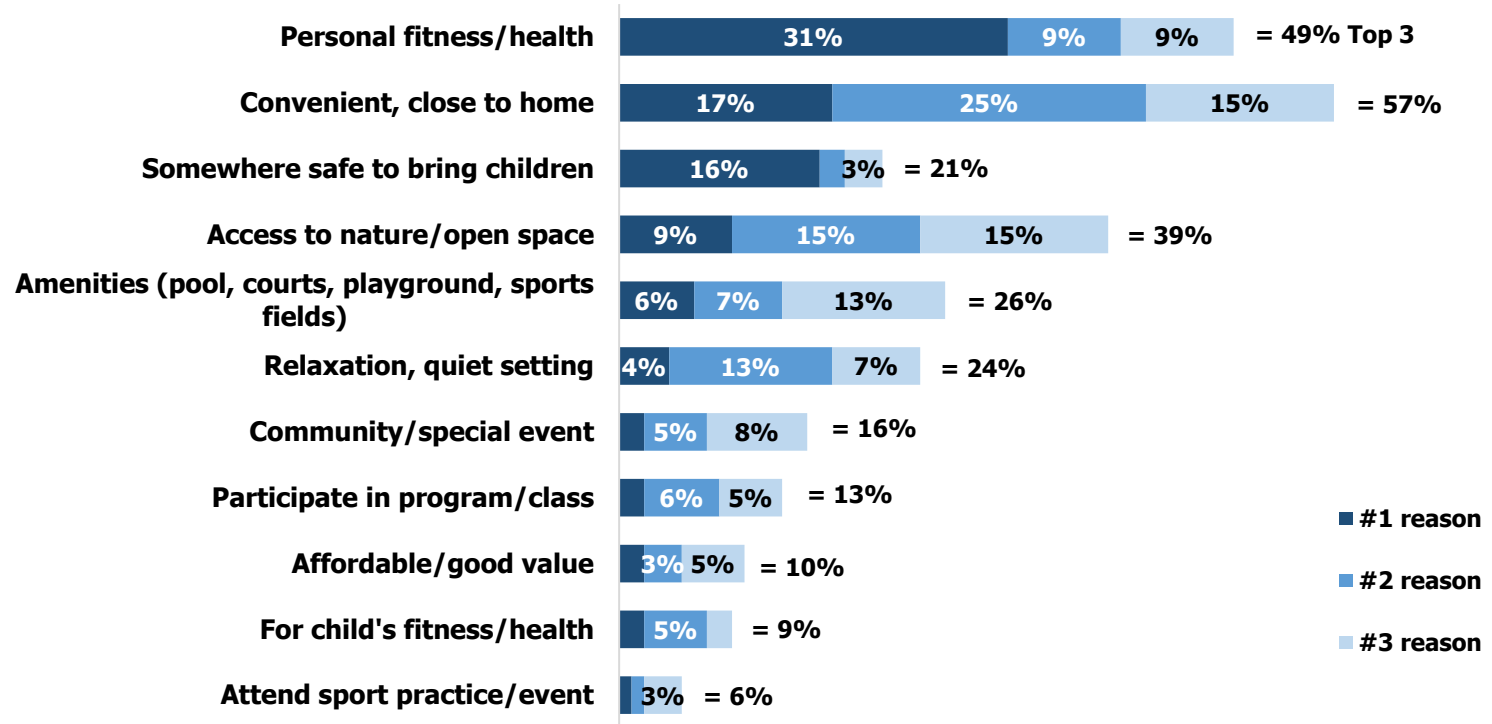
Roughly one in ten respondents report that Scoville Park and Austin Gardens are their most visited PDOP locations (especially older residents and those in the N-Central region). Lindberg Park and Mills Park tend to attract younger adults most often.

Most Visited PDOP Parks/Playgrounds/Facilities Visited in Past Year



The #1 reason for visiting a PDOP location is for personal health and fitness, with convenience and proximity a strong secondary reason. Those with children tend to cite safety as the top reason, while the broader population rank enjoying natural setting among their top reasons.

Most Visited PDOP Parks/Playgrounds/Facilities Visited in Past Year



Renters, and those without children tend to use District locations for their personal health and fitness, and out of convenience/proximity to where they live. The relatively few differences among those citing “convenience/proximity” indicate ample options and locations throughout Oak Park.

- As reported, those with children tend to use the PDOP for safe locations and activities. This is especially true for those in the North and South regions, along with men and higher-income households.

Significant Differences: Top Reasons for Using PDOP Parks/Facilities

	#1 Reason	Top 3 Reasons
Personal fitness/health	<u>31% Overall</u> - N-Central (41%) - Under age 35 (42%) - Renters (41%, vs. 24% of homeowners) - No children in household (38%, vs. 13% of those with children)	<u>49% Overall</u> - North (58%), N-Central (58%), and S-Central regions (57%) - Under age 35 (60%), 55-64 (59%) - Renters (59%, vs. 42% of homeowners) - CRC members (73%, vs. 46% of non-members) - No children in household (58%, vs. 27% of those with children)
Convenient, close to home	<u>17% Overall</u> - HH income <\$50K (36%) - No children in household (20%, vs. 10% of those with children)	<u>57% Overall</u> - Renters (65%, vs. 51% of homeowners) - No children in household (61%, vs. 47% of those with children)
Somewhere safe to bring children	<u>16% Overall</u> - North (22%) and South regions (28%) - Ages 35-44 (29%), 45-54 (23%) - Homeowners (23%, vs. 5% of renters) - Men (21%, vs. 12% of women) - Lived in Oak Park <25 yrs. (20%) - HH income \$200K+ (27%) - PDOP program participants (23%) - Have children in household (40%), especially under age 5 (54%)	<u>21% Overall</u> - North (30%) and South regions (32%) - Ages 35-44 (42%), 45-54 (28%) - Homeowners (32%, vs. 5% of renters) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (37%) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (25%), \$200K+ (37%) - PDOP program participants (30%, vs. 9% of non-participants) - Have children in HH (55%), especially under age 5 (77%)

Younger adults, the Central region, and those without children especially go for the relaxed/quiet settings of PDOP parks, while non-white residents (especially Hispanic/Latino adults) appreciate the value that the District represents (along with CRC members)

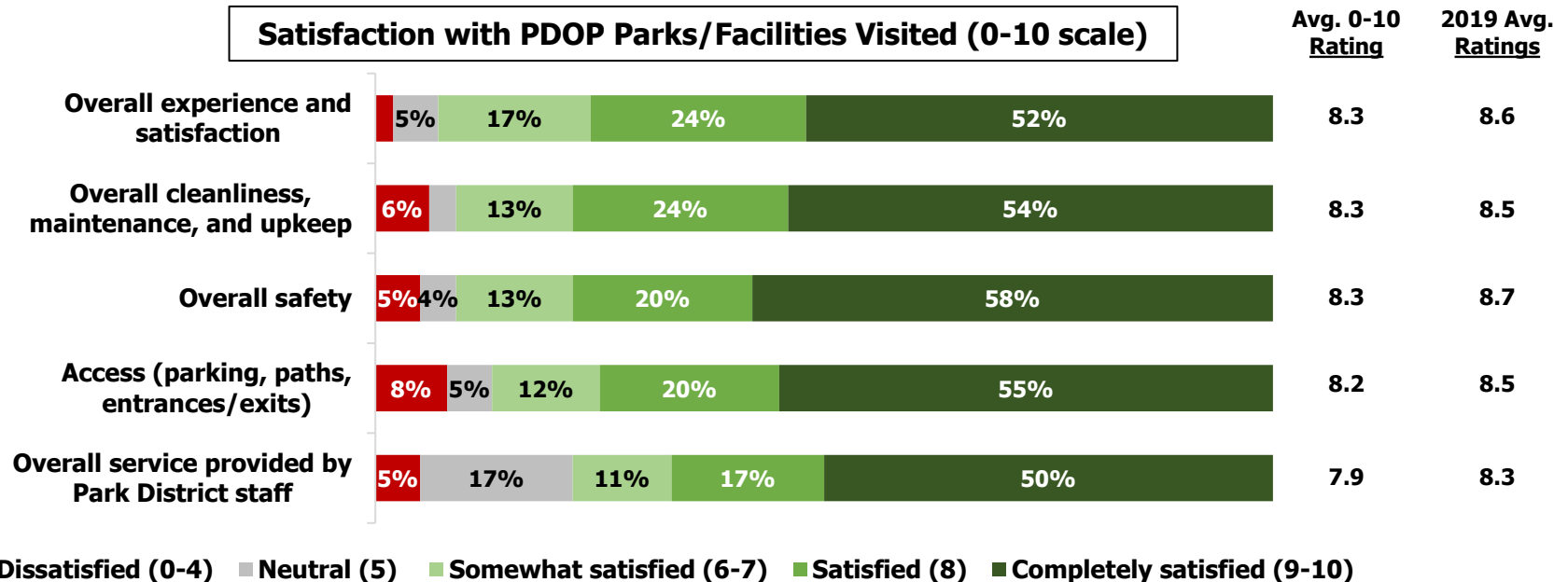
- The remaining top reasons had relatively few differences due to the smaller number of cases/responses.

Significant Differences: Top Reasons for Using PDOP Parks/Facilities (cont'd)
--

	#1 Reason	Top 3 Reasons
Relaxation, quiet setting	<u>4% Overall</u> - Central region (10%) - Under age 35 (8%) - Non-CRC members (5%) - No children in HH (5%, vs. 1% of those with children)	<u>24% Overall</u> - Central region (34%) - Under age 35 (46%) - Renters (33%, vs. 18% of homeowners) - White residents (28%) - HH income \$50K-\$99K (35%) - Non-PDOP program participants (34%, vs. 17% of participants) - Non-CRC members (27%, vs. 5% of members) - No children in HH (30%, vs. 9% of those with children)
Community/ special event	<u>2% Overall</u> < no statistically meaningful differences >	<u>16% Overall</u> - N-Central (22%) and Central regions (22%) - Ages 55+ (21%) - African American adults (26%) - HH income <\$50K (27%) - PDOP program participants (16%, vs. 6% of non-participants)
Participate in program/class	<u>2% Overall</u> < no statistically meaningful differences >	<u>13% Overall</u> - Ages 45-54 (18%) - Women (17%, vs. 8% of men) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (25%), 15-24 yrs. (18%) - PDOP program participants (18%)
Affordable, good value	<u>2% Overall</u> - Ages 55-64 (7%) - Non-whites (8%, vs. 1% of white adults) - PDOP program participants (4%, vs. 1% of non-participants)	<u>10% Overall</u> - S-Central (15% and South regions (14%) - Hispanic/Latino adults (28%) - PDOP program participants (15%, vs. 4% of non-participants) - CRC members (22%, vs. 8% of non-members)

PDOP park and facility users continue to be very satisfied with their overall experience at these locations, and with all attributes – especially overall cleanliness and safety. These scores remain very strong despite slight declines since the 2019 survey.

- Consistently, 67% or more users remain satisfied with each attribute, including a majority (50%+) who are “completely satisfied” (scores of 9+ on a 0-10 scale).
 - Note that fewer than one in ten users are dissatisfied with any of the attributes tested.
- The average 0-10 ratings (7.9 or higher) are very strong as well. Comparing these averages by subgroups, no segment is dissatisfied. The lowest average score (7.3 from those in the South region on overall access) is still positive.



Consistently, higher scores tend to come from the North and Central regions, with Asian adults especially satisfied with overall accessibility and staff service.

➤ Lower-income residents also tend to be more satisfied than average.

	Lower than Avg. Ratings	Higher than Avg. Ratings
Overall experience (8.3)	<i>< no statistically meaningful differences ></i>	
Overall cleanliness, maintenance, and upkeep (8.3)	- South region (7.7) - Ages 45-54 (8.0) - Men (8.0) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (7.9)	- Central region (8.7) - Ages 65+ (8.6) - Women (8.6) - HH income <\$50K (9.4) - PDOP program participants (8.7, vs. 8.1 of non-participants)
Overall safety (8.3)	- South region (7.6) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (8.1)	- North (8.8) and Central (8.6) regions - HH income <\$50K (9.1)
Overall access - parking, paths, entrances/exits (8.2)	- South region (7.3) - Hispanic adults(7.6) - HH income \$50K+ (8.1)	- North (8.6), Central (8.5), and S-Central (8.4) regions - Asian adults (9.3) - HH income <\$50K (9.2)
Level of service provided by park district staff (7.9)	- White adults (7.8) - HH income \$100K+ (7.6)	- Asian adults (9.0) - HH income <\$50K (9.0)

Residents giving lower satisfaction scores (6 or below) cite a wide range of concerns, mostly centered around limited parking, presence of homeless people at the parks, suggestions for staff (friendlier service, more supervision), and cleanliness (e.g., litter, dog droppings).

Reasons for Dissatisfaction with PDOP Parks or Facilities (multiple responses, n=100 respondents)

General, unspecific

n=41 responses

Limited parking (n=4); bathrooms locked/not accessible (n=3); (n=2 each: Drug use at parks; homeless people; need more pickleball courts; unsafe traffic/crossings nearby; costs/fees too high; need more programs/variety; longer pool hours; lack of staff; staff service issues) (n=1 each: Upgrade splash pad; more tot lots; more trees; lifeguards should enforce rules; more natural landscapes; too much litter; dirty facilities; tennis courts too busy; better dog control/leashed; safety concerns; more shade at dog parks; more benches at dog parks; more basketball courts; more/variety play equipment; more sustainable practices)

Maple Park

13

Homeless people (n=6); (n=2 each: Unsafe; too much litter); (n=1 each: Lack of tree trimming; unsafe traffic; unruly adults)

Rehm Pool

8

Lack of parking (n=3); more supervision/enforcing rules from lifeguards (n=2); (n=1 each: more lap swimming hours; better umbrella benches; not well-maintained)

Austin Gardens

7

Too much dog poop (n=2); cracked sidewalk (n=2); (n=1 each: too many dogs; homeless people; lack of parking)

Scoville Park

7

Homeless people (n=3); (n=1 each: loud teenagers; dog poop; litter; "woke-agendized" park)

Ridgeland Common

6

(n=1 each: Remove gate barriers for walkers; rude desk staff; more dog park shade; too much spending on field improvements; fitness equipment is old; lack of parking)

Ridgeland Pool

6

Lack of parking (n=4); (n=1 each: ducks in the pool; poor facility management)

CRC

6

Nicer staff (n=2); (n=1 each: behavior of children using CRC; lack of staff supervision; competes with private fitness clubs; better running track)

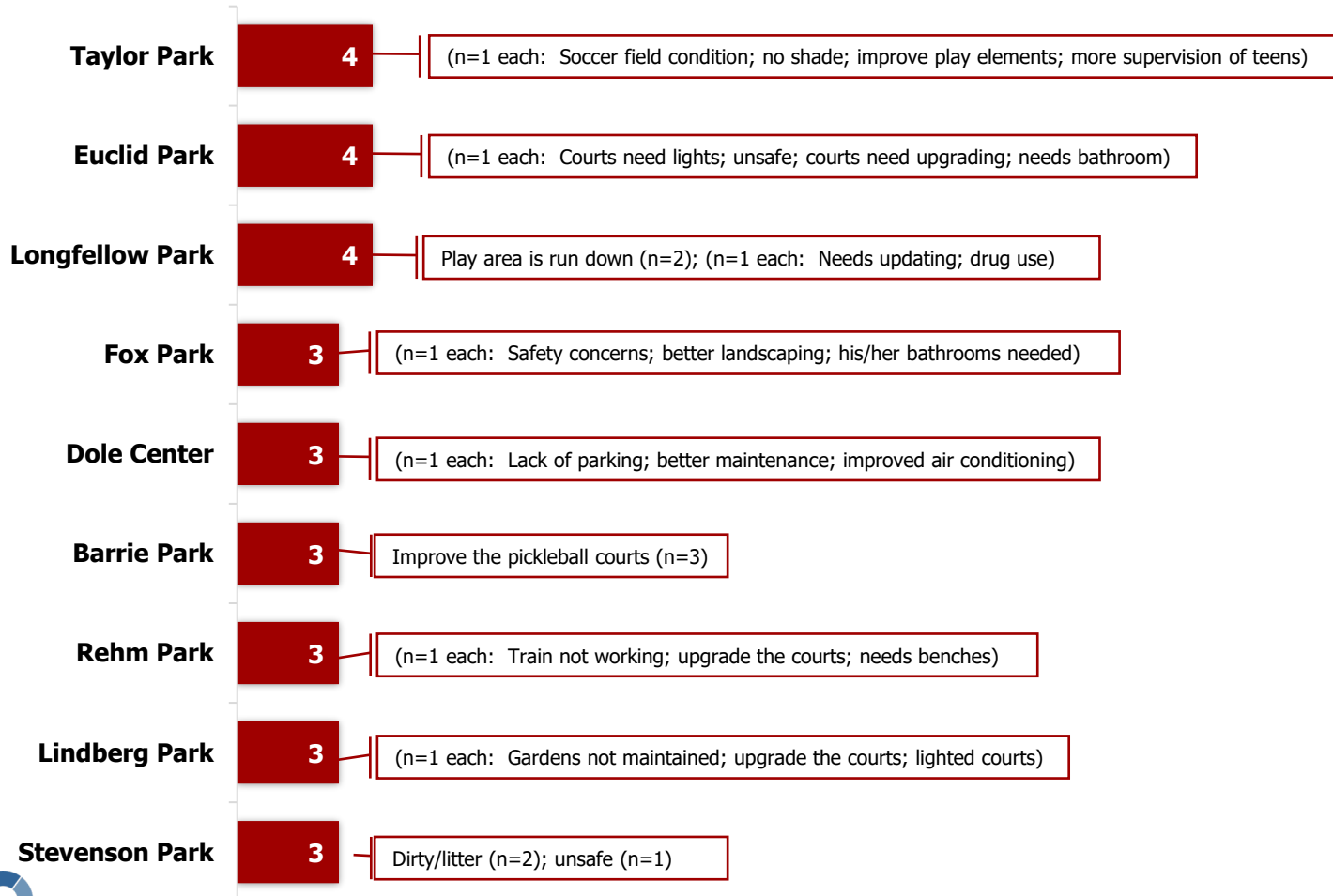
Mills Park

6

Homeless people (n=2); (n=1 each: general dislike; dog pool; safety concerns; needs benches)

Feedback regarding dissatisfaction for additional PDOP parks/facilities (cited by at least n=3 to 4 respondents each) are listed below. All others were mentioned less often (n=2 or fewer).

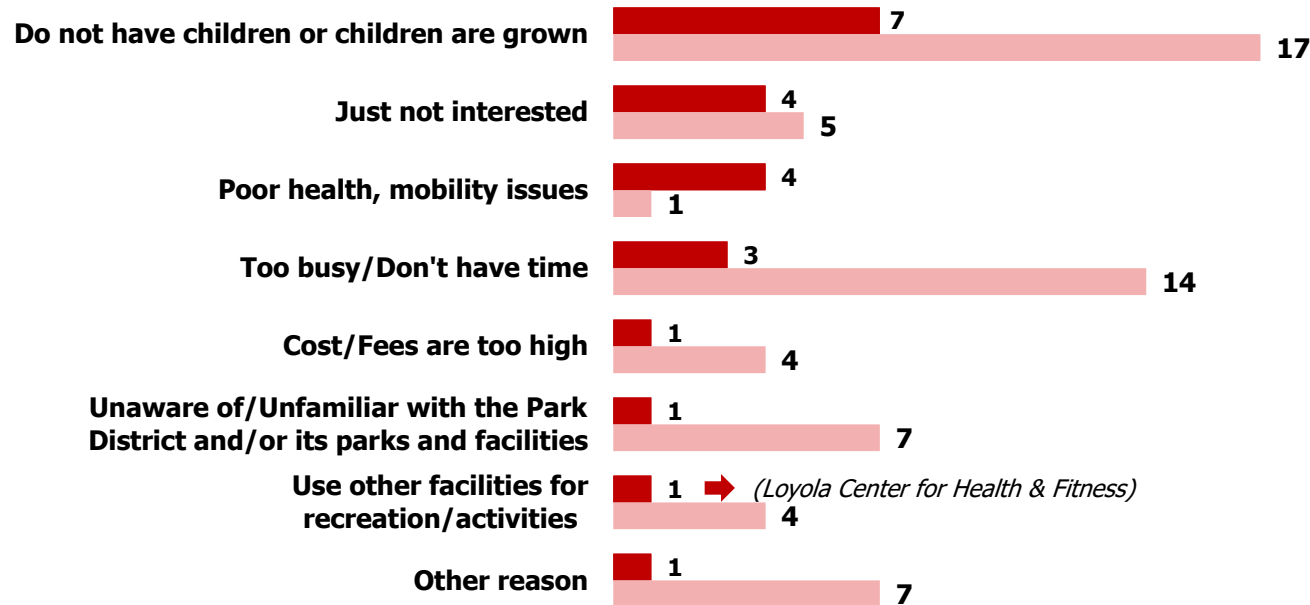
**Reasons for Dissatisfaction with PDOP Parks or Facilities – cont'd
(multiple responses, n=100 respondents)**



Among the few (2%) who report no visits to PDOP parks or facilities in the past year, the top reason continues to be not having young children at home (continuing a perception that the District focuses on children and young families and is less relevant to older adults).

- The rest usually attribute their non-usage to a lack of interest, health issues/limitations, and a lack of time (mentioned far less often now than in 2019).
- Similarly, non-users now appear to be more familiar with PDOP parks and facilities (given the big drop in lack of awareness in 2019).

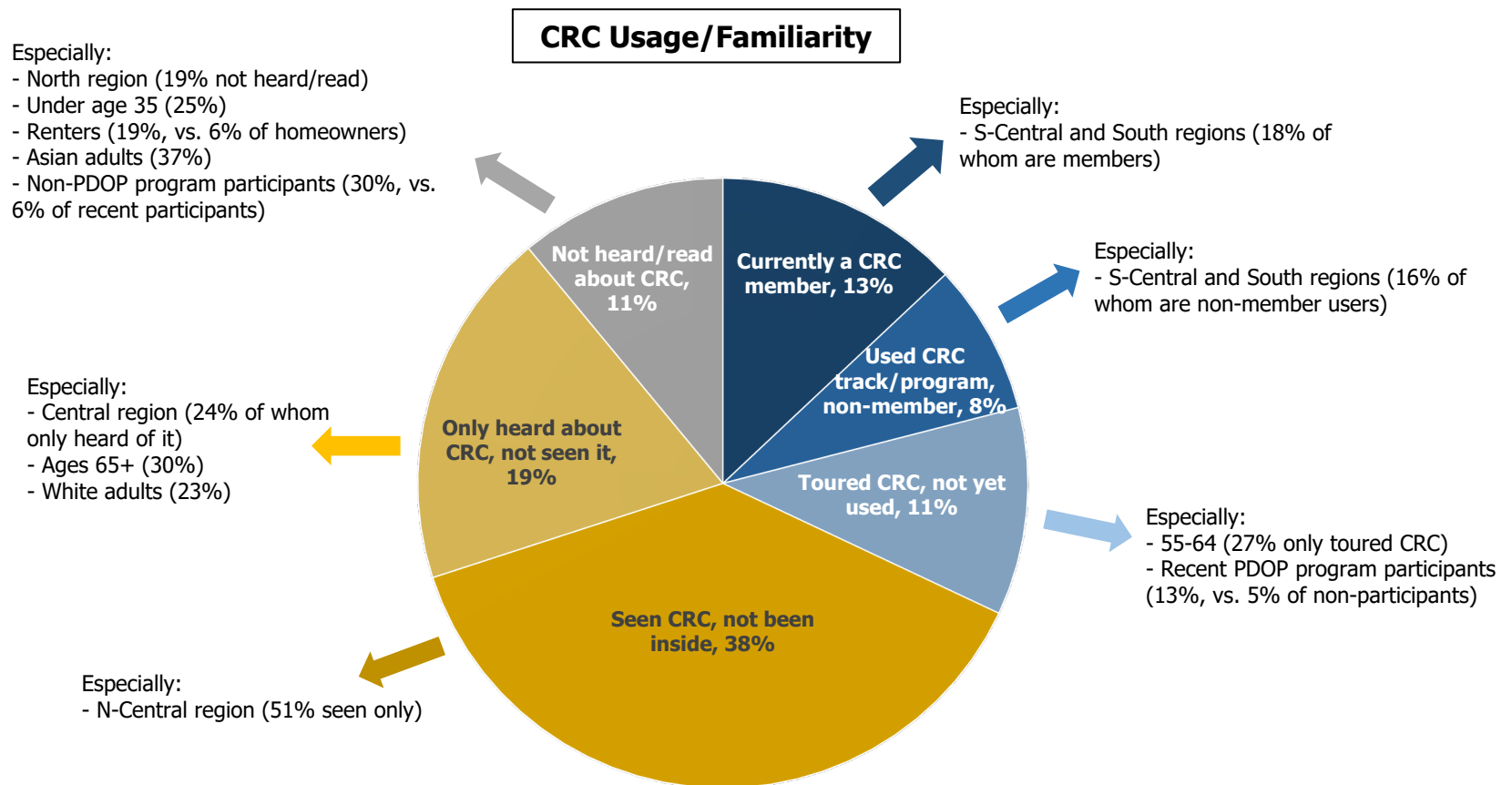
Reasons for Non-PDOP Park/Facility Usage (multiple responses, n=15 non-visitors in 2023, responses shown in absolute n)



IV. Usage and Satisfaction with New Community Recreation Center (CRC)

Overall, nearly a third (32%) of residents report visiting the new CRC, including 13% who are current members, and 8% who have used the facility as non-members. The remaining 11% have visited or toured the CRC, but not yet used it.

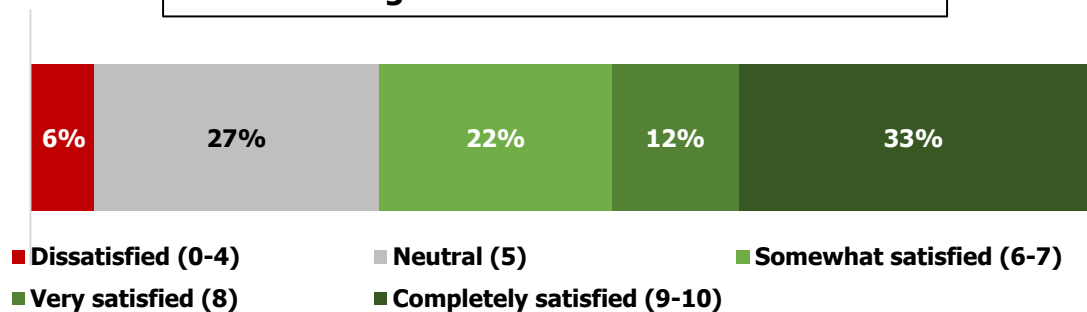
- Most of the non-visitors are familiar with the facility, with a plurality (38%) having seen it. Currently, only 11% are unaware of the CRC. Most of the differences are regional (with highest usage among households in the S-Central and South regions). The youngest adults, renters, and Asian residents tend to be unfamiliar with the facility.



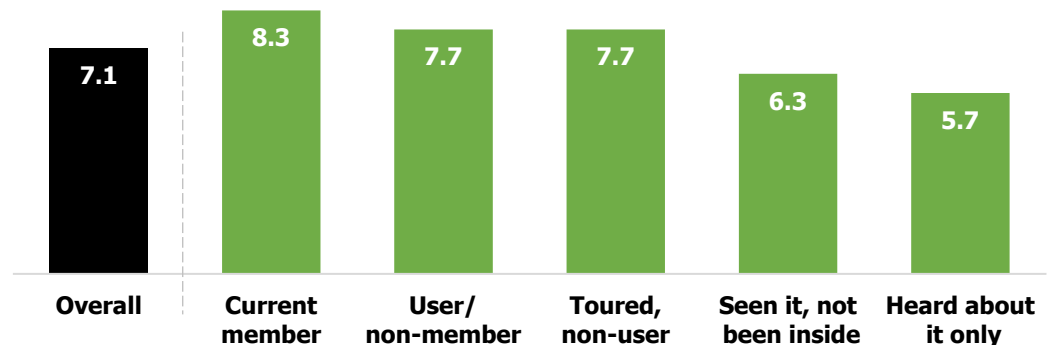
Those who are at least familiar with the new CRC facility express strong satisfaction overall. Two-thirds (67%) are satisfied, including 33% who are completely satisfied. Only 6% give negative feedback, and the remaining 27% are neutral (probably least familiar).

- The average satisfaction score (on the 0-10 scale) is a very positive 7.1.
- The highest satisfaction ratings come from recent CRC users (especially members), followed by those who have visited the facility but not yet used it.
- Residents who have only heard about the facility tend to give more neutral ratings (no strong opinions either way).
- Demographically and regionally, satisfaction with the CRC is consistent.
- **Clearly, direct experience with the CRC has the biggest impact on one's overall satisfaction with the facility and its amenities.**

**Satisfaction with CRC (0-10 scale, n=328):
Average Satisfaction Score = 7.1**



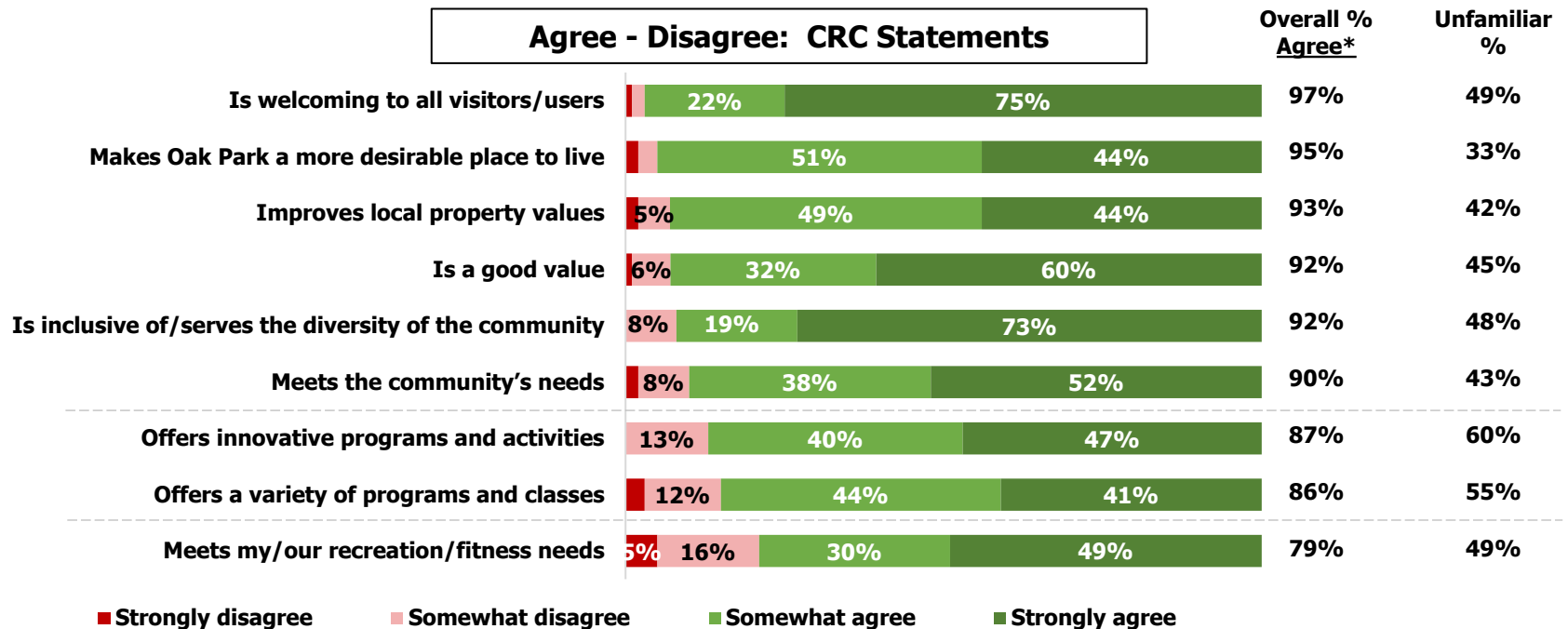
Average Satisfaction Rating by CRC Usage/Familiarity



Q13. [IF FAMILIAR WITH CRC = n=328] Please indicate your overall opinion of the new Community Recreation Center CRC rating your satisfaction on a scale from 0 (completely dissatisfied) through 10 (completely satisfied), with 5 a neutral score.

When testing statements about the benefits and impact of the new CRC, many respondents (33% to 60% of those familiar with the facility) were unable to express an opinion. The rest represent a strong consensus in agreement with most statements.

- Two statements especially stand out with over 73% who “strongly agree” that the CRC is welcoming to all, and is inclusive of and serves the diverse needs of the community.
- Between 14% and 21% disagree that the facility offers the variety of programs that they seek or meets their needs. Most often, these respondents report interest in or a need for an indoor pool, larger workout area, and/or lower fees (see page 56).



Q14. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the new CRC. If you are not familiar enough to rate any item, simply select "Unfamiliar". The new Community Recreation Center/CRC:

* Among those familiar enough to give a response.

NOTE: values <4% are not shown. Overall agree % may be adjusted due to rounding.

Among the statements garnering the most overall agreement, close to one in four residents in the South region and adults ages 45-54 disagree that the CRC is “inclusive” and/or “meets the community’s needs”.

Significant Differences: CRC Agree/Disagree Statements

	Most Likely to Disagree	Most Likely to Agree
Is welcoming to all visitors/users	(3% overall) <i>< no differences, 95%+ of all subgroups agree ></i>	(97% overall) - Renters (100%, vs. 95% of homeowners)
Makes Oak Park a more desirable place to live	(5% overall) - Lived in Oak Park 15-24 yrs. (15%) - HH income \$100K-\$199K (12%)	(95% overall) - Lived in Oak Park < 15 yrs. (98%)
Improves local property values	(7% overall) - Ages 65+ (15%)	(93% overall) - Under age 35 (100%) - HH income <\$50K (100%)
Is a good value	(8% overall) - Ages 65+ (19%) - Non-members (10%)	(92% overall) - Ages 35-54 (96%) - CRC members (99%)
Is inclusive of/serves the diversity of the community	(8% overall) - South region (20%) - Ages 45-54 (24%) - Non-members (12%)	(92% overall) - North (97%), Central (97%), and S-Central regions (96%) - Under age 45 (99%) - CRC members (100%)
Meets the community’s needs	(10% overall) - South region (24%) - Ages 45-54 (24%) - White adults (13%) - Non-members (13%)	(90% overall) - Central (96%) and S-Central regions (95%) - African Americans (97%) - CRC members (100%)

The remaining statements likewise tend to generate strongest agreement among households in the Central and S-Central regions. However, some key exceptions emerge among these statements.

- **Current CRC members are more likely to disagree that the facility offers innovative programs and activities.** Likewise, residents in the North region and adults aged 35-44 tend to feel this way, and also disagree that the CRC offers a variety of programs/classes.
- Similarly, significant numbers (28% to 40%) of respondents in the South, ages 45-54, and white adults indicate that the CRC does **not** meet their recreation or fitness needs.

Significant Differences: CRC Agree/Disagree Statements (cont'd)
--

	Most Likely to Disagree	Most Likely to Agree
Offers innovative programs and activities	(13% overall) - North region (29%) - Ages 35-44 (24%) - CRC members (22%)	(87% overall) - S-Central (95%) and South regions (94%) - Ages 55-64 (98%) - Non-members (93%)
Offers a variety of programs and classes	(14% overall) - North region (33%) - Ages 35-44 (30%)	(86% overall) - Central (96%) and S-Central regions (90%) - Under age 35 (94%), 45-64 (93%)
Meets my/our recreation and fitness needs	(21% overall) - South region (39%) - Ages 45-54 (40%) - White residents (28%) - CRC non-members (29%)	(79% overall) - S-Central region (88%) - Ages 55-64 (91%) - Asian residents (96%) - CRC members (95%)

Respondents who disagreed with any of the CRC statements were asked to explain their answer. Most often, they cite a lack of an indoor pool, a relatively small workout/weight room at the CRC, costs and fees, and/or a lack of program variety as their top complaints.

- Most of these comments come from those that feel the current facility is not meeting their needs or offering a variety of innovative programs or activities/classes.

CRC Statements: Top Reasons for Disagreement

Sample Verbatims



"It's got a gym; that's not super innovative. Maybe when an indoor pool shows up, I'll change my answer."

"Community needs an affordable indoor pool; not happening here nor at the high school."

"An indoor pool would have been really great to include. I know it's a larger community issue and also being considered for the high school."

"Very disappointed with the fitness studio; too small, no ventilation, no sunshades. I get overheated, and there are no fans."

"The size of the workout area is way too small; this is where most users are! Please consider reallocating space even though difficult now that building is finished. Very impressive place otherwise."

"Tighter spaces than I'd prefer to work out in."

"It is not inclusive if everything costs money even if you are a resident."

"I didn't see any classes that would be of interest and/or weren't associated with additional costs beyond a membership fee."

"I don't think this one place increased my property value."

"Most desirable places to live have a rec center; not sure it improves local property values."

"It was an unnecessary expense as there are many athletic facilities in the area (I belong to one of them)."

"Some staff members are just not enforcing rules or are not friendly."

"The staff did not have customer service skills."

"It competes with the YMCA, FFC, other smaller gyms; important contributors to our community."

"It doesn't open early enough in the morning for my husband."

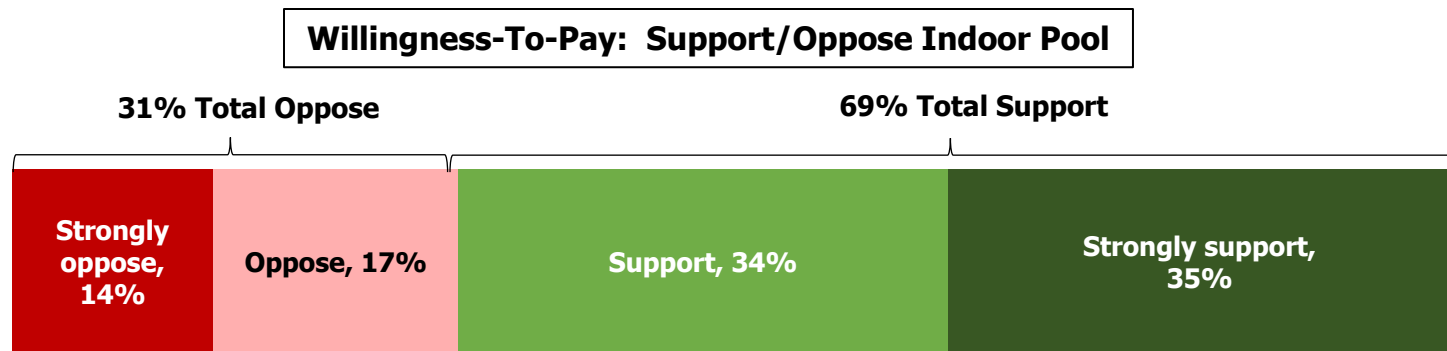
V. Willingness-to-Pay Question: Indoor Pool

By a 2:1 margin, residents express support for a property tax increase to help pay for the cost of an indoor community pool. In fact, slightly more respondents strongly support a new indoor pool (35%) vs. all opponents combined (31% total for strongly+not strongly opposed).

- Overall, the strongest support tends to come from younger and “newer” residents to Oak Park, as well as households in the Central region (see next page). Women and renters also tend to be more willing to pay for a new indoor pool facility (more so than men and/or homeowners).
- Opposition to a new indoor pool tends to increase with age and length of residence in Oak Park (especially ages 65+ and 25+ year local residents). Those in the South region and men are also among the most opposed.

That said, none of these segments express majority opposition for an indoor pool; they are simply more evenly divided. For example:

- 56% of those in the South are supportive, vs. 44% opposed (compared to 31% opposed overall – see next page)
- 57% of those who lived in Oak Park for at least 25 years are supportive, vs. 43% opposed
- 53% of residents aged 65+ are supportive, vs. 47% opposed
- 56% of men are supportive, vs. 44% opposed



Q27. Oak Park residents have asked for an indoor community pool with amenities including open swim sessions, swimming lessons, 25-yard lap lanes, and a separate warm-water therapy pool. The cost to add this pool (and amenities) would require a voter-approved property tax increase of (on average) about \$90 per year for a median-valued home of about \$400,000. Knowing it would result in higher property taxes, would you oppose or support this property tax referendum to pay for an indoor pool? (Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.)

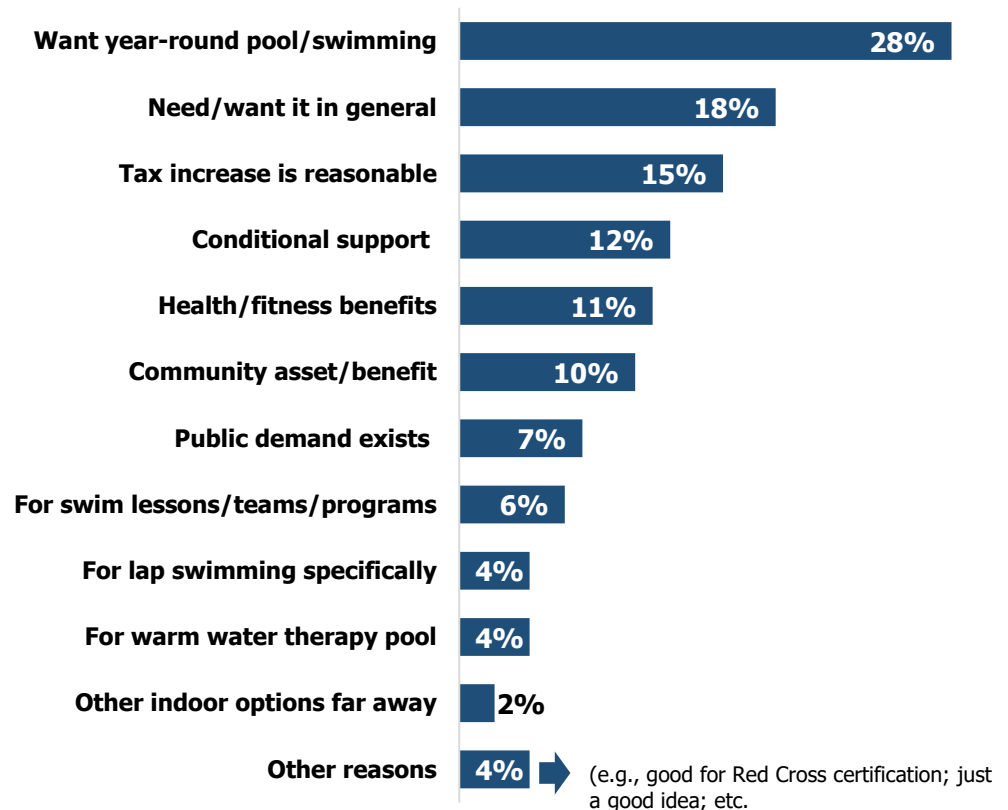
Significant Support/Opposition Differences: Willingness-to-Pay for New Indoor Pool

	Most Likely to Be Opposed		Most Likely to Support	
Indoor Pool (open swim sessions, swimming lessons, 25- yard lap lanes, separate warm-water therapy pool)	<u>Overall Opposed (31%)</u>		<u>Overall Support (69%)</u>	
	- South region (44%) - Ages 55-64 (37%), 65+ (47%) - Homeowners (38%) - Men (44%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (43%)		- Central region (78%) - Under age 35 (90%) - Renters (80%) - Women (79%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (79%), 15-24 yrs. (77%)	
	<u>Strongly Opposed (14%)</u>	<u>Opposed (17%)</u>	<u>Support (34%)</u>	<u>Strongly Support (35%)</u>
	- South region (30%) - Ages 65+ (21%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (22%)	- Ages 65+ (27%) - Men (25%) - Homeowners (23%)	- Under age 35 (51%) - Lived in Oak Park 15-24 yrs. (54%)	- Central region (47%) - Ages 35-44 (42%) - Lived in Oak Park <15 yrs. (43%)

When supporters are asked (in an open-ended format) why they favor a property tax increase to pay for an indoor pool, the top reasons reflect a personal interest or likely usage of the facility, followed by 15% who feel this facility would be worth the proposed tax increase.

- Twelve percent express support but said it depends on certain factors, most often:
 - If there is still a partnership or collaborative opportunity with OPRF HSD200 on an indoor pool
 - If a new facility would offer sufficient hours for swimming (e.g., lap swimming during evenings)
 - If pool memberships and/or water therapy programs are affordable.
- Others seek the health and fitness benefits that an indoor pool would bring (keeping people active – 11%), as well the benefit that the facility would bring to the community in general (10%).
- Examples of the reasons for supporting this proposed facility are on the following pages.

**Reasons for Supporting Indoor Pool
(top open-ended multiple responses, n=287)**



Sample Verbatims: Top Reasons for Referendum Support

Want year-round pool/swimming (28%)

"We need to have access to a pool year-round. Swimming is a necessary life skill for all."

"Access to year-round swimming is good for all age groups. I couldn't understand, why we couldn't get an indoor pool at the CRC?"

"Everyone in my family swims and there are no local options for open swim opens, or laps, in winter."

"Because we would like to be able to swim year-round. It is excellent exercise."

"I think it would be great to have a year-round pool facility for the community and the additional cost would be well worth it to me."

"There is a lot of poor weather in Oak Park so it would be great to have a swimming option for those seasons."

"Swimming is a great thing to learn and great exercise even for those with injuries or older folks. We need this in winter."

Need/want an indoor pool/would use it (18%)

"I live in a seniors building, and the pool would be nice for us to use."

"It is a needed and a necessary resource for a variety of populations. I currently drive 30 minutes for pool exercise recommended by my doctor."

"It supports a community need. I would use it for lap swim. Reasonable cost for the community benefit."

"Oak Park doesn't currently have an affordable indoor aquatic venue."

"I would use the amenities that this referendum supports, and I value having a place where everyone in the community can go to seek out affordable fitness activities."

Tax increase/cost is reasonable (15%)

"I think \$90 is a very reasonable price for such a desirable amenity."

"This cost is significantly less than the price of a membership to a private gym with pool access. It would be a good value. There are also limited private gyms with pools in Oak Park (only two that I am aware of). Plus, the outdoor swim season here is short and cannot be lengthened despite warmer, longer summers because of lack of lifeguard availability when school is in session."

"If the projected tax increase is correct, it is not unreasonable. I think the proposed pool would be well used."

"It would clearly be useful. We have to pay more to go into indoor private pool in winter. We would go probably more to a swimming pool in winter if there was an indoor community pool."

"It's much better than paying high rates at gyms that offer same. Also, another great selling point of Oak Park living."

Sample Verbatims: Top Reasons for Referendum Support (cont'd)

Conditional support (12%)

"Access to swimming is important to all; at the same time, collaboration with the school districts, specifically School District 200, should be considered."

"I would only support it if the Park District worked with the high school to create one solution."

"The High School and Park District should have collaborated on this."

"An indoor pool would be nice, but maybe the Park District can work with District 200 to make their new facilities available to the public."

"I would want it to go specifically to a pool that has moderate, not top of the line features. Every time this town does something, we go for the most expensive. We don't need to build the most amazing state of the art space. We need a space to teach the life skill of swimming to all members of the community. Something safe, sustainable, and built for the size of the anticipated use. I'd want WSSRA to have space in the pool weekly for their programs as well."

"Great option for families. But the cost for lessons should be reasonable, considering our property taxes would already paying for the facility."

"If it has the ability to lap swim, year-round swim lessons, and year-round open swim for kids was AFFORDABLE, in the same spirit as the very affordable CRC membership, I would support it."

"If it benefits the community then it might be worth it."

"If there were senior water classes that I could afford, I would support it."

"I would like to swim laps--ideally in the evening. Could we put roofs on the existing pools instead of building a 3rd pool?"

"\$90 is fine. But also depends on how much is the extra cost for membership for this pool."

Health/fitness benefits (11%)

"It would provide an additionally convenient sport facility to promote health and well-being of all age groups especially during long winter seasons."

"I think an indoor pool could be a tremendous add to the community, particularly for those for whom being able to swim makes the difference between keeping active vs. staying at home."

"Can help keep kids active, even in cold winter days."

"Swimming is an activity that anyone can engage in, from young children to seniors, and is a life skill. It affords socialization, fitness and exercise to all."

"Swimming is great exercise for all ages and a good life skill."

"This would be a valuable resource for health of older adults."

Community asset/benefit (10%)

"An indoor pool would be an excellent amenity for our community."

"Will provide increased scope of community services and help to maintain/raise property values."

"I see value in it for some residents, and I can see how it would enhance Oak Park's offerings as a community."

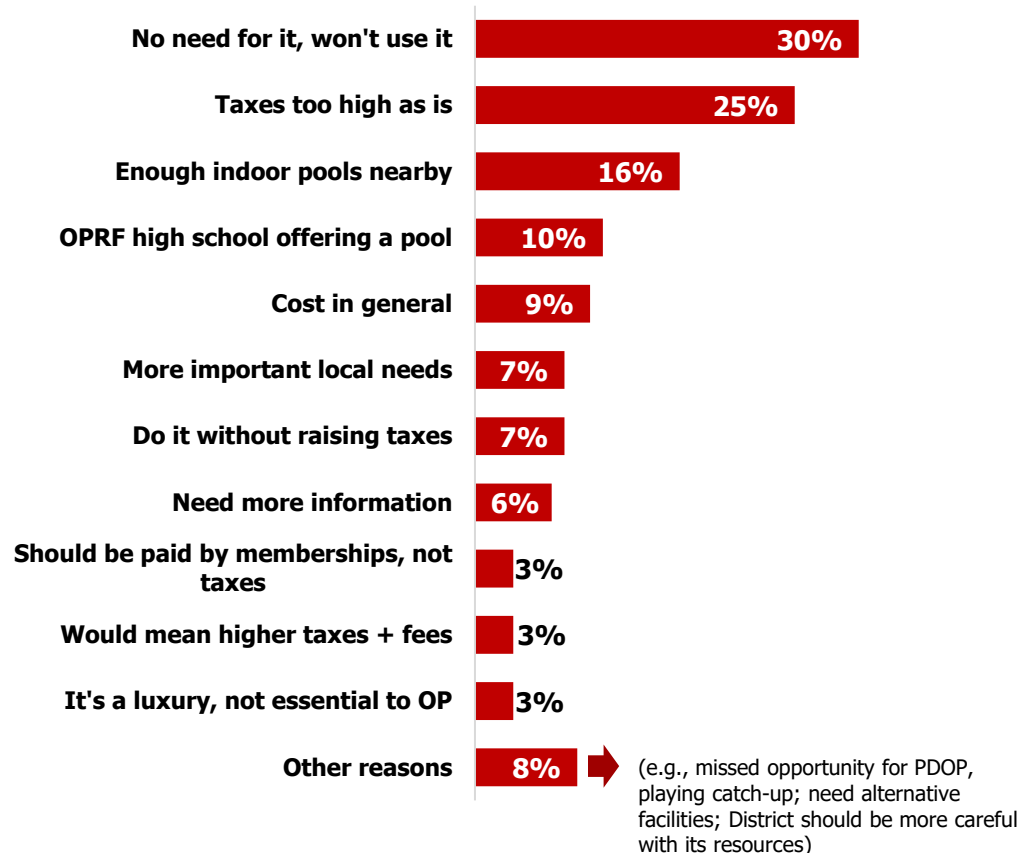
"Pool is an excellent and high value amenity."

"Indoor pool seems pretty basic for the parks department. This seems like a better use of money vs. the gymnastics center and hockey rink. Also, better than the \$100 million dollar school pool currently being proposed."

The top reasons among opponents of a possible property tax referendum for an indoor pool are not convinced that one is needed (with some citing existing indoor pools nearby) and/or that property taxes are high enough already and they do not want to pay more.

- These top three reasons account for a clear majority of anti-referendum/indoor pool reasons. Another 10% are opposed because they report that the high school is pursuing an indoor pool (and therefore the PDOP doesn't need one as well).
- Sample verbatim reasons from opponents are provided on the next few pages.

**Reasons for Opposing Indoor Pool
(top open-ended multiple responses, n=174)**



Sample Verbatims: Top Reasons for Referendum Opposition

No need for it/Won't use it (30%)

"I wouldn't use it and pools are a luxury."

"It does not seem overly important to me. The kids can swim in the summer. If adults want a pool, they can join a fitness club."

"I would not use this, there are several pools available already. I do not want to increase my already high taxes."

"Pool only appeals to small percentage of users, are expensive and redundant to summer pools. Repurpose ice rink to a workout facility while you are at it."

"Where I grew up, the community used the high school pool. I belong to Loyola Health Club and have no need for a community indoor pool."

"For 90 dollars per year, the swimmers could join a gym with a pool... And the rest of us could spend the same amount of money on something more valuable to ourselves like holiday programming and seasonal events at lower/no cost."

"That's another \$180 for our house, not to mention however much the High School pool will cost us. We would not use this pool. If Oak Park residents want a pool that would be used by a limited number of folks, let them pay for a private pool/swim club."

"I do not think that we would use an indoor pool. We would rather more funds be put into bettering the outdoor pools for the summer. The two pools we have often feel dangerous because of how crowded they are."

"Only because no one in my family would use it so it would be an additional expense for us with no added value."

Taxes too high already (25%)

"I think our tax burden is quite high already. An indoor pool sounds nice but not essential."

"We are already paying too much in property taxes. Not everyone is a swimmer. I'm a runner and there aren't any running paths or even water stations and I'm not complaining or making demands. I adapt."

"Taxpayers are being forced out of Oak Park."

"Can lead to a tax increase considering that Oak Park has already high taxes."

"Oak Park taxes are too high. We have to start learning to do without."

"At the rate taxes are going, it feels unlikely that our kids will be able to afford to live here."

"My taxes have more than doubled in 20 years. I will not vote for anything that increases my property taxes."

"Retired on a fixed income -- Oak Park property taxes are too high."

Enough indoor pools nearby (16%)

"YMCA has a pool and programs."

"Other options available nearby for year-round swimming. Our family would also not use it."

"We have two pools already and 2 high school pools plus the YMCA; that's enough water."

"There are other indoor pools on Oak Park, available for use beyond summertime."

"We have Rehm and Ridgeland pools as well as LFFC and Loyola Center for fitness availability for swimmers."

"If you need that, join a health club. There are plenty around here running promotions right now. Taxes are brutal enough in Oak Park."

"Investing in a pool for three months-a-year doesn't make sense; county taxes are already rising. We have enough pools for the population of Oak Park."

Sample Verbatims: Top Reasons for Referendum Opposition (cont'd)

OPRF High School pursuing a pool (10%)

"If the high school is building a pool using taxpayer money, it should be available to the community. We don't need to spend more on another pool."
"I oppose it because I think the Park District could have worked with the high school to share an indoor pool. Put a roof over Ridgeland Pool."
"I would never use it, but a community our size/position should have an indoor pool. Why not use the HS new pool?"
"Oak Park already raised our taxes for the High School pool; that can be used for community on weekends or when not in use by the school."
"Because the high school district is also proposing a new pool. This should be a combined project and including River Forest to share the facility. It would benefit everyone with a smaller tax burden. I am planning on selling my house at the beginning of the year because the tax burden is unsustainable."
"We already are paying for a mega pool at the high school with zero collaboration with the Park District. Now the Park District has to have its own parallel pool? Unbelievable."

Cost in general (9%)

"Don't know many details, but concerned about cost to access facility and amenities, on top of annual tax increase."
"High cost for limited use."
"The cost of maintaining and the overall maintenance and repairs after installation."

Other more important local needs/issues (7%)

"I think it's more important for any available land to go to sports fields for soccer and baseball or nature areas."
"If they're going to be indoor pools there need to be indoor tennis courts available as well."
"Not essential to the community—other needs rank higher."
"A lot of capital projects are on the horizon: a stand-alone police station that's 50 years overdue; the renovation of Village Hall."
"As much as I can see the use of an indoor community pool, it feels like there are other more important issues to tackle if we're talking about a property tax increase."

Do it without raising taxes (7%)

"Not a fan of big government. This pool should be from existing resources, not more taxes which are forever."
"I completely support the indoor community pool, but other park service spending should be cut (staff, studies, contracts) to support this. Why wasn't a pool part of the new fitness center on Madison?"
"Existing resources may be utilized to achieve this. Resources would be better allocated to enhancing existing services and creating new opportunities."

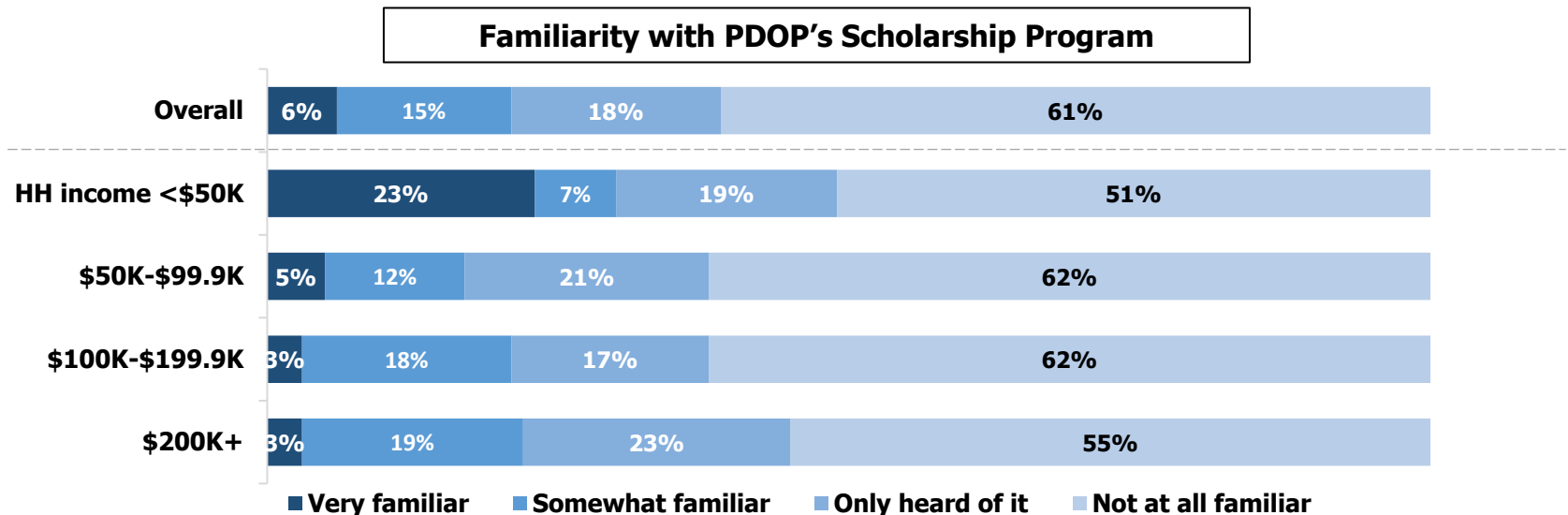
Need more information (6%)

"This would give us three swimming pools and based on current hours at Rehm/Ridgeland with lifeguards, I want to know when it would even be open to the public. Do not want to pay for something that we cannot sustain and keep open. Would need a promise and more details about the hours in which the facility would be open."
"Where would this be located? In another facility with no parking?"
"More information about it is needed."

VI. PDOP's Financial Assistance Programs

Overall, one in five respondents (21%) said they are familiar with the District's scholarship program for lower-income households. However, much of this awareness is "soft".

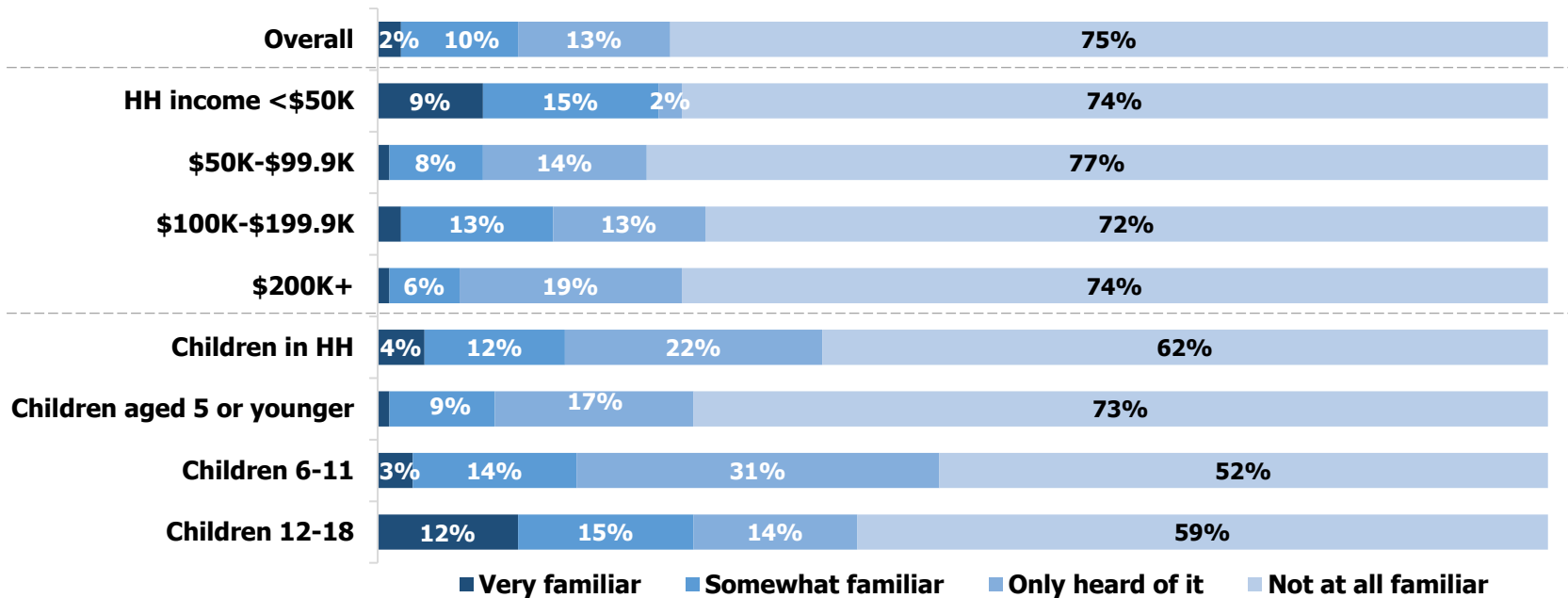
- Only 6% are "very familiar", and more than twice as many are "somewhat familiar" (15%). Another one in five (18%) have only heard about these scholarships, nothing more. And the rest – a majority at 61% – are not at all aware.
- While awareness tends to be highest among those most eligible for these scholarships (lower-income respondents), at least half of this income group (51%) are still not at all familiar with this opportunity. Awareness is also lowest among:
 - Those with children (66% "not at all familiar", vs. 61% overall)
 - Non-PDOP program participants (74%)
 - Residents who moved to Oak Park <5 years ago (68%) or 15-24 years ago (69%)
 - Those under age 35 (81%) along with residents aged 65+ (66%).
- The 2019 survey tested awareness as a "yes/no" question, with 39% "yes" and 61% "no" results (no change vs. 2023).



Awareness is even lower with the PDOP's Childcare Discount Program (CDM) to assist lower-income residents with school-aged children (up to age 14) with the cost of full-day camps and afterschool programs.

- Similar to the PDOP scholarship program, the lowest income residents tend to be more familiar with the CDM assistance. However, three out of four remain completely unfamiliar (similar to the overall response).
- Those with children likewise remain mostly unfamiliar, despite slightly higher awareness among those with children ages 6+ (and especially those with teenagers – some of whom may have recently benefited from the CDM).

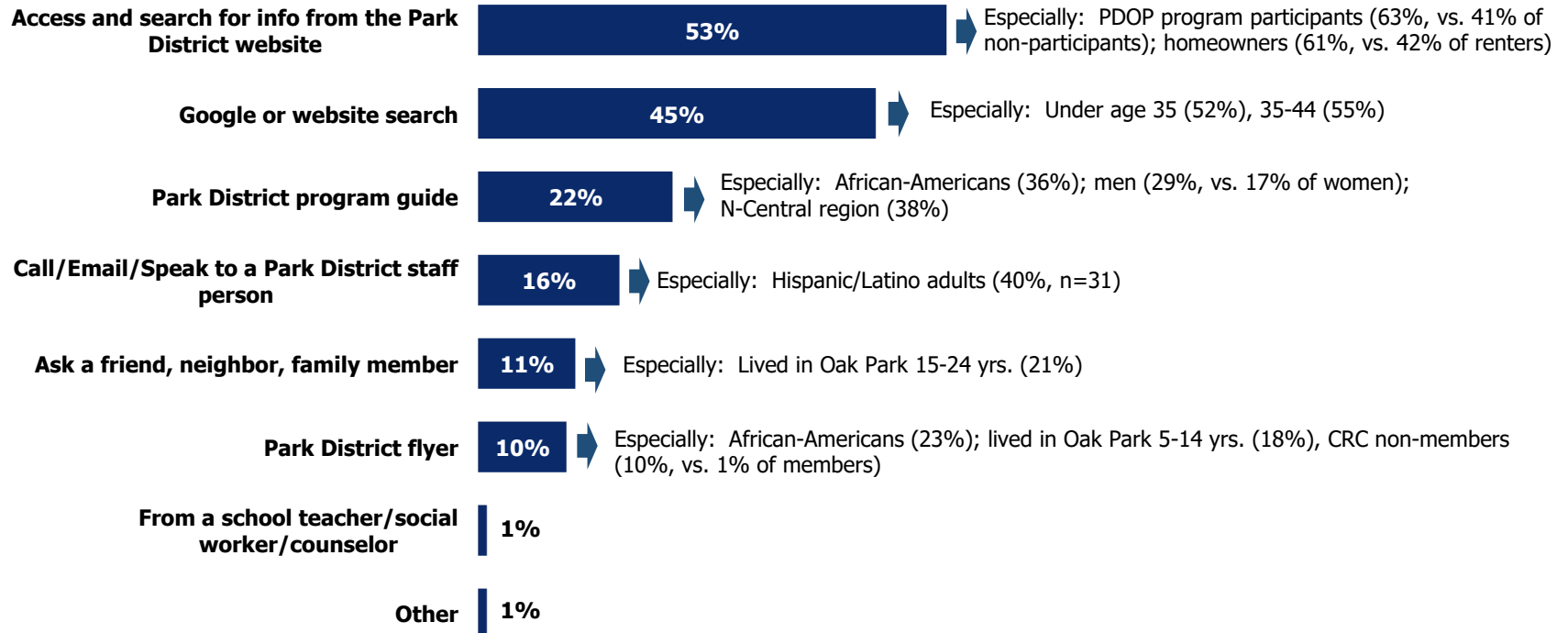
Familiarity with PDOP's Childcare Discount Membership (CDM) Program



Respondents unaware of the PDOP's scholarship and/or CDM programs most often would seek additional information from the District website (especially those already in PDOP programs), with a general web search a close second option (especially among younger adults).

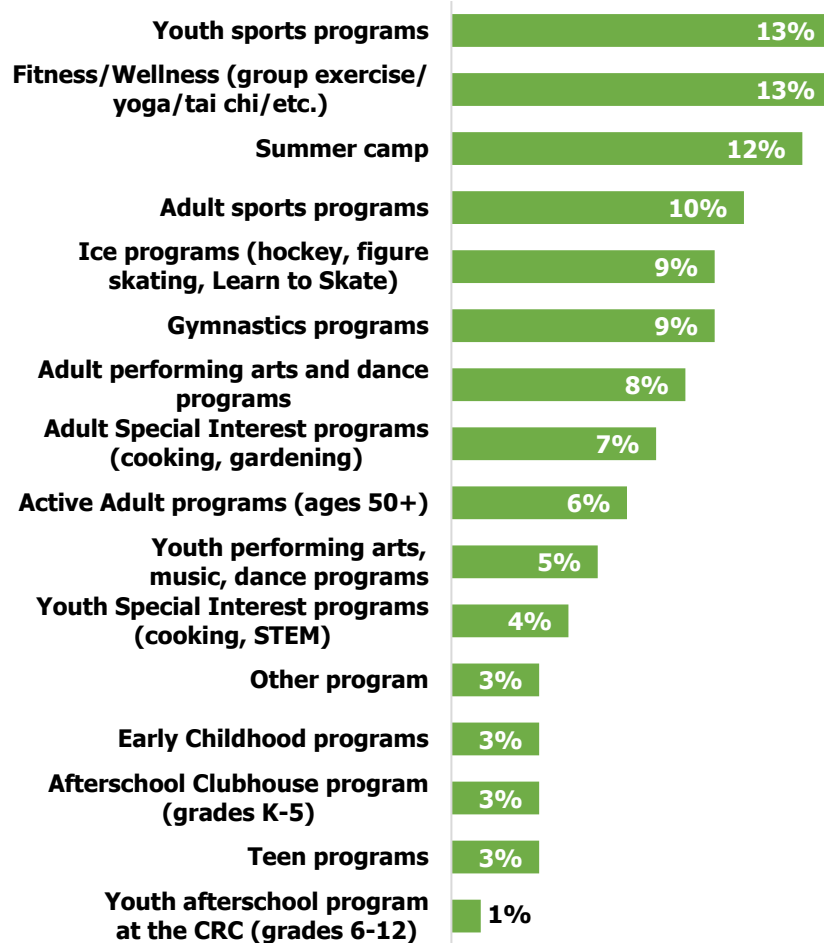
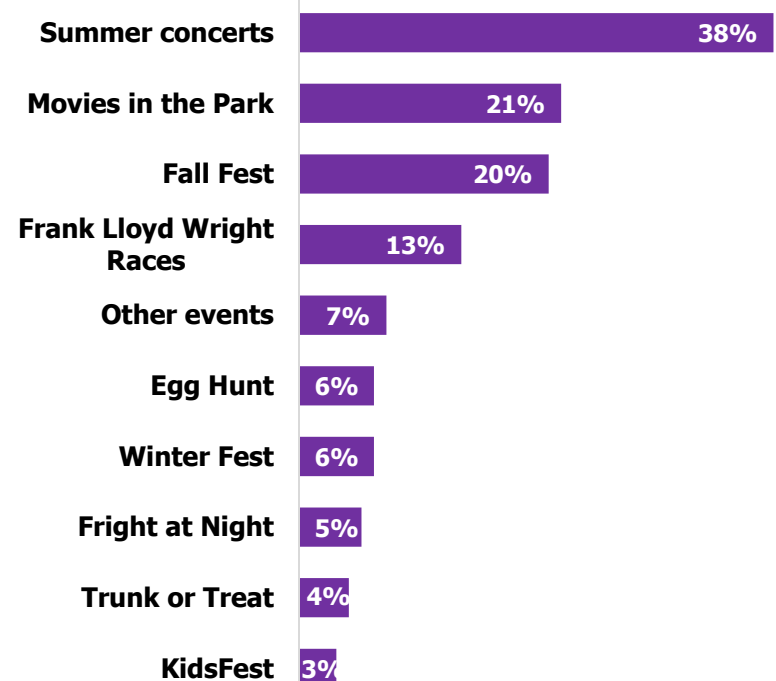
- Hispanic residents would be more likely to call the PDOP for more information, while African Americans report a greater likelihood of looking to print materials (program guide, District flyers) compared to the average.

PDOP's Financial Assistance Programs Information Sources



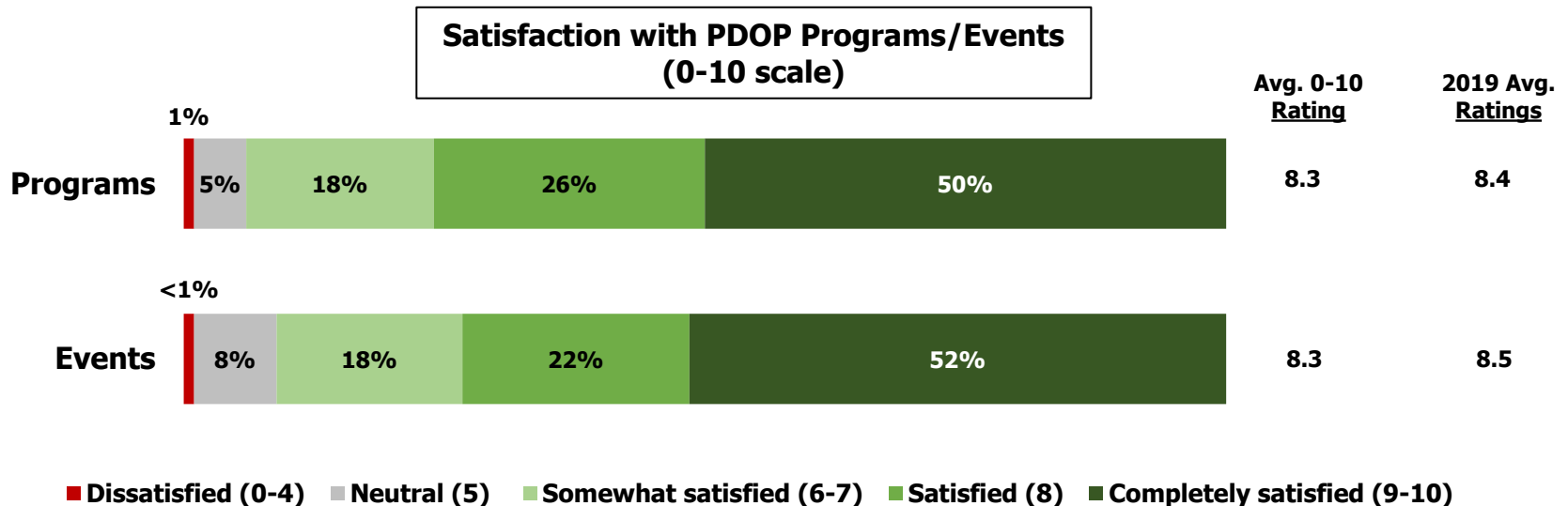
VII. PDOP Program Participation and Satisfaction

When asked about household participation in recent PDOP programs, summer concerts, movies in the park, and Fall Fest events are cited most often. At least one in ten households also participate in youth sports and summer camps, and adult fitness and sports programs

Program Participation (Past Year)

Event Attendance (Past Year)


Recent program participants are clearly satisfied with these activities. Overall, at least 94% are happy with the experiences (including roughly half – 50% to 52% -- who are “completely” satisfied, giving scores of 9+). Only 1% express dissatisfaction.

- The average ratings are likewise very strong, and statistically similar to the 2019 scores. In addition, they are consistent across all subgroups who give average scores of 7.5 or higher.
- Those most satisfied with PDOP programs are lower income households (9.2 average reporting incomes under \$50K) and residents with children ages 12-18 (8.7).
- The highest scores for District events tend to come from the oldest (8.6 from ages 65+), and again lower income residents (9.5 from those earning under \$50K).



Participants giving lower satisfaction scores (6 or below on a 0 through 10 scale) were asked to explain any issues or sources of dissatisfaction. Most often they cite concerns with the quality of the programs/instruction, difficult registration process, or music choices at events.

- A few other comments focus on program fees and/or cancelled offerings. The full set of responses are below and on the next page.

Verbatim Responses: Reasons for Lower PDOP Program Satisfaction Scores

Quality/Instruction Comments

"We have turned to private lessons for swim and dance/music because of the lack of quality of park district offerings."

"Took a beginning pottery class because the description emphasized the 'hand built' component of the class. When I attended the first class, it turned out the emphasis was on the wheel (which I did not need)."

"My children have not yet learned to swim."

"The Spanish music class for toddlers; there weren't enough participants, and the instructor didn't give a structured lesson."

"Each (gymnastics) lesson is alike, my kid gets bored and is losing interest. There could be more variety in the structure."

"Swim lessons for 0-36 months is very basic, and I wish there were an option more advanced than simple water introduction."

"Staffing at CRC. We did not do swimming lessons with PDOP because of low quality."

"Some of the events are lame."

"Wine tasting at Cheney was neutral."

Registration Issues/Challenges

"Gymnastics is difficult to get in."

"Grandchildren's sports programs; some programs are filled before they enroll."

"Active adult programs; I signed up, but I was unable to get an ID at Dole; the class was also full and I was put on a waiting list."

Music/Event Issues

"Concerts in park; far, far too loud. People running the sound are usually hard of hearing due to their role and they're hurting everyone else's hearing as a result."

"DJ at Fall Fest was awful. Better to have no one."

"The music is usually not really all that great."

"The Sunday night music in Scoville Park is pretty awful. Mostly just loud."

Verbatim Responses: Reasons for Lower PDOP Program Satisfaction Scores (cont'd)

Cost/Fees

"The swim lessons are expensive."

"Cost, availability."

Cancellations

"Lots of cancellations; otherwise, the programs meet my expectations. Nothing good or bad."

"Cooking and art for schools is out."

Other/Facility-related

"Spin class at the skating rink was in small classroom which isn't a good place, so it was poorly attended. Meanwhile, an enormous and expensive skating rink?"

"Just the pool; very cold. Very uncomfortable especially for little kids."

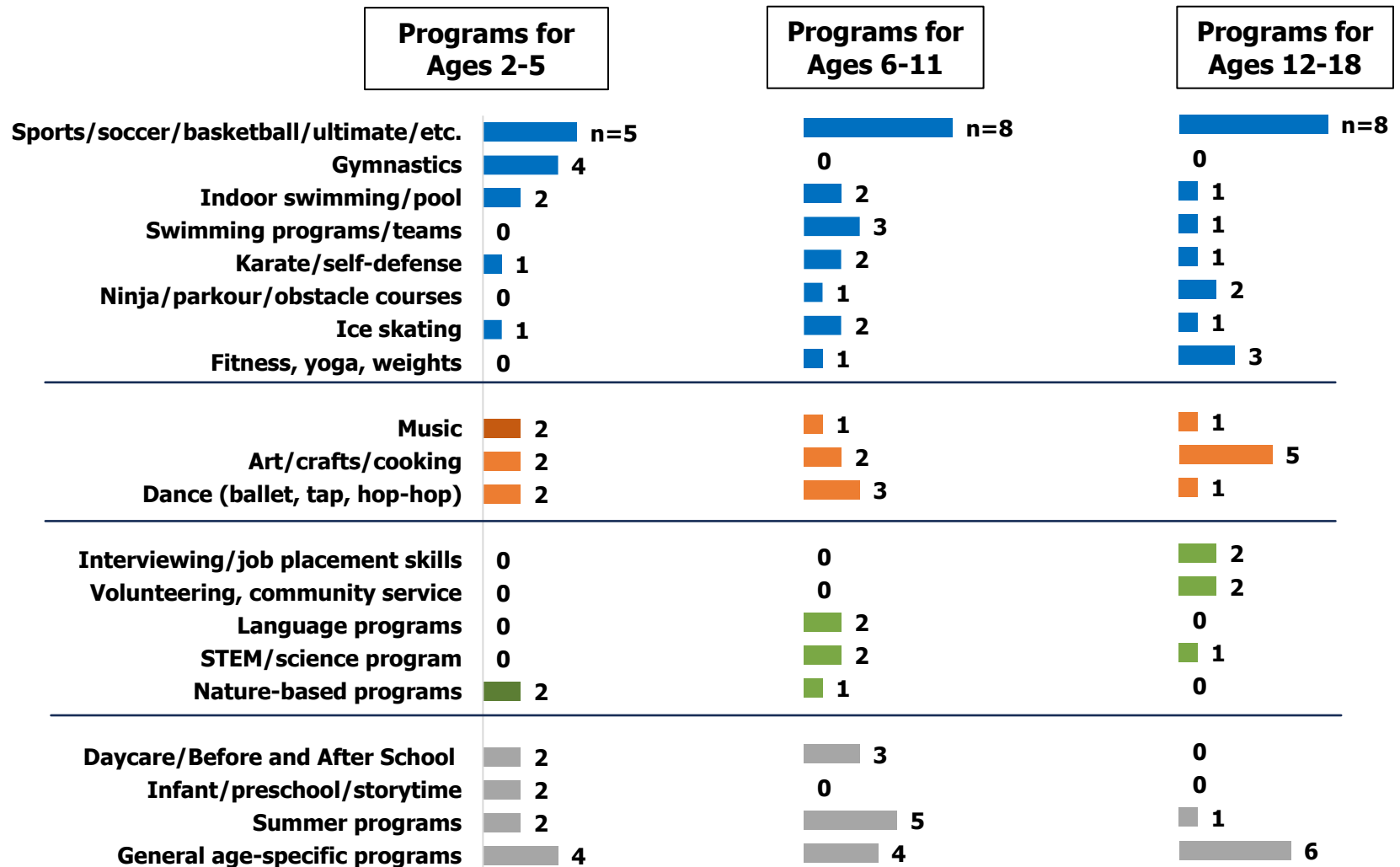
"CRC has more open time for juniors and kids that are under 10; I do not have as much access to the gym and game room."

"Fitness - scheduling issues and age of equipment."

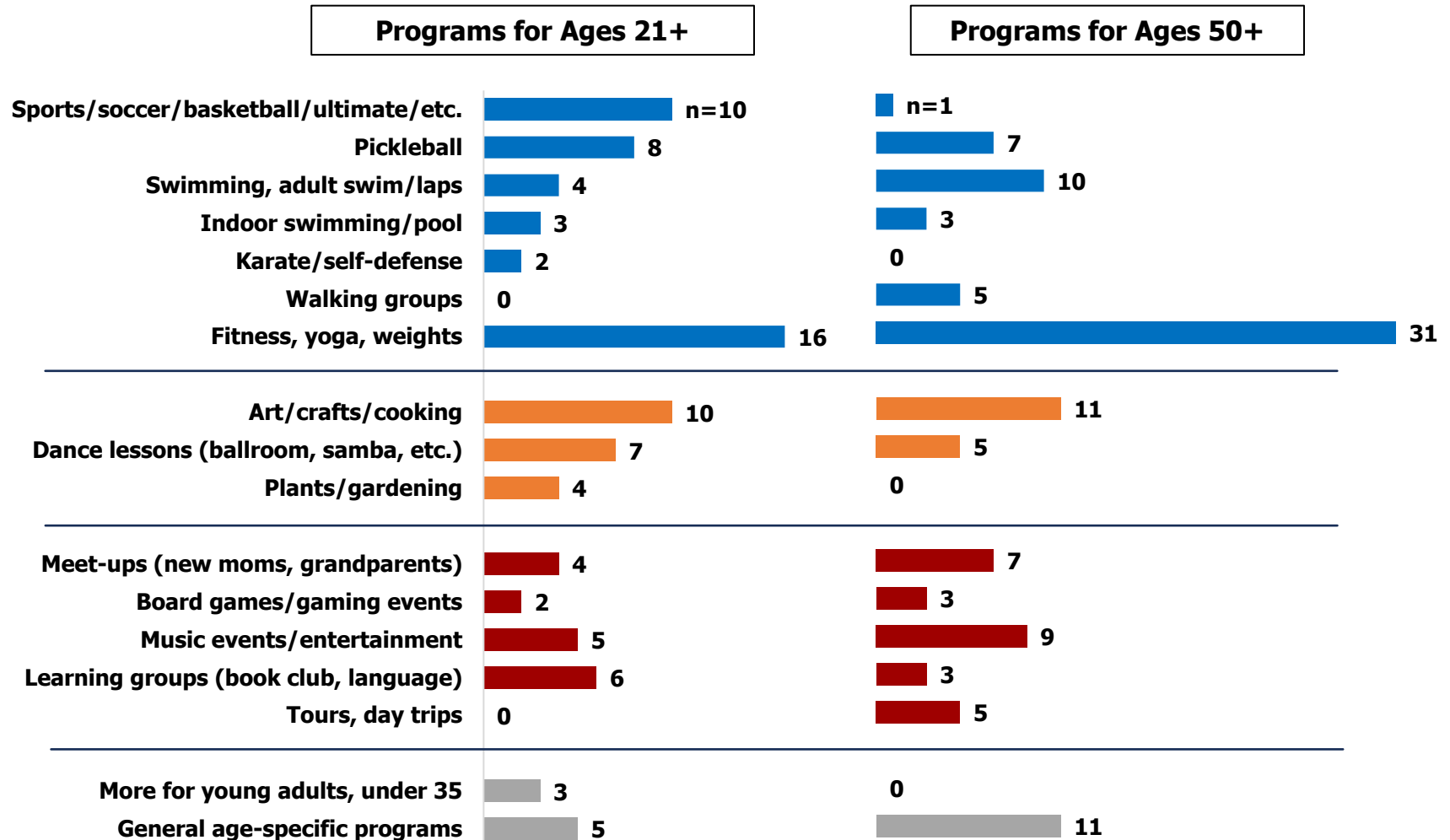
"Austin Gardens' Shakespeare in the Park: Keep divisive political propaganda out of it. It is true that Shakespeare has been re-interpreted in many ways over the centuries but when you push an agenda, expect to annoy people who have feelings that do not line up with yours. We don't need activists to preach to us any more than they already do in this left-wing town."

"Frank Lloyd Wright - need to do better job managing vehicle traffic on the day of race, and why no women's sizing in race shirts?"

When asked what programs residents want to see from the PDOP, most suggestions for youth programs focus on sports/athletics, followed by arts programming, and general activities specific to age group.



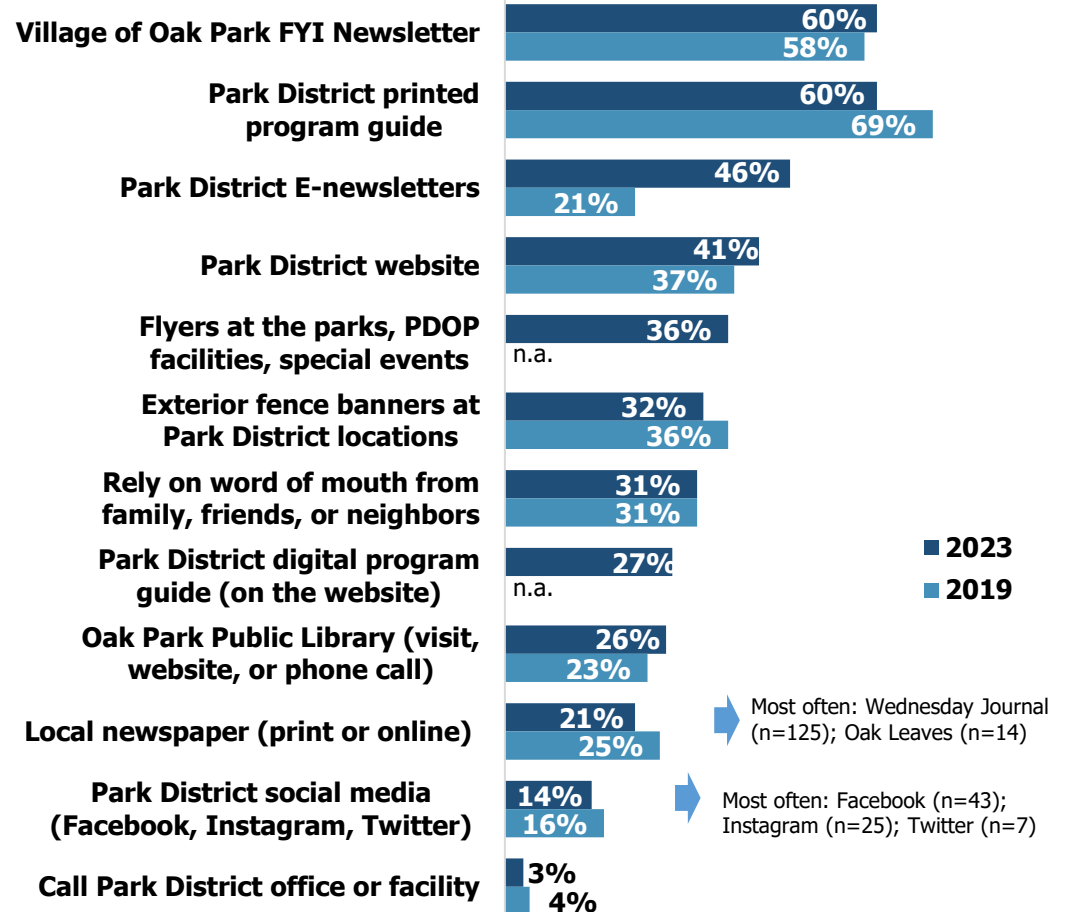
Suggestions for adult programs focus mostly on fitness activities and swimming (especially for those aged 50+) along with sports programs (almost exclusively for younger adults). Ideas for social events generate as much interest (or more) as arts and crafts activities.



VIII. Sources of Information

When seeking information about PDOP programs, events, facilities, etc., most residents continue to rely on the Village FYI Newsletter and the PDOP printed program guide.

- Usage of the printed guide is down slightly since 2019, but **reported usage of the PDOP's e-newsletter has more than doubled since then.**
- Otherwise, there is very little change in usage of other sources. About two in five cite the PDOP website as a source, and about half as many refer to the digital program guide vs. the printed version.
- Note that at least a third also rely on flyers and fence banners and PDOP parks and facilities for information.
- Word-of-mouth and the local library are each mentioned by at least one in five residents.
- Social media platforms continue to be mentioned less often.

PDOP Information Sources


Profiles of those most likely to use specific sources identify clear patterns. For example, the FYI newsletter may be a key source for less active PDOP users as it is used most by households without children (including both the youngest and oldest adults) and non-CRC members.

- By comparison, the PDOP program guide (printed and digital), e-newsletters, and the District website are heavily used by recent program participants, CRC members, and those with children. Note also that these sources are cited more often among somewhat newer Oak Park residents who moved here in the past 5 to 14 years.

	Overall	Most Likely to Cite as a Source
Village of Oak Park FYI Newsletter	60%	- N-Central region (69%) - Under age 35 (77%), 65+ (64%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (66%) - African American adults (65%), white adults (64%) - CRC non-members (62%, vs. 42% of members) - Households without children (65%, vs. 52% of those with children)
PDOP Printed program guide	60%	- South (85%), S-Central (66%) and North regions (67%) - Ages 45-64 (68%) - Homeowners (71%, vs. 43% of renters) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (77%) - CRC members (76%, vs. 58% of non-members) - Households with children (75%), especially under age 5 (77%)
PDOP e-newsletters	46%	- Ages 35-44 (57%) - Asian (59%) and African American adults (59%) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (70%) - PDOP program participants (57%, vs. 30% of non-participants) - Households with children (65%), especially ages 6-11 (70%)
Park District website	41%	- Under age 35 (48%), 35-44 (57%), 45-54 (45%) - Hispanic/Latino adults (62%) - Lived in Oak Park 5-14 yrs. (56%) - PDOP program participants (57%, vs. 26% of non-participants) - CRC members (55%, vs. 40% of non-members) - Households with children (58%), especially under age 5 (61%) or 6-11 (64%)

Flyers and signage at PDOP parks and facilities are mentioned most often by the youngest (under age 35) and newest residents (past five years), and renters far more than homeowners.

- The OPPL is also mentioned more often among the youngest residents and households of color (mostly Asian and African American adults).

	Overall	Most Likely to Cite as a Source
Flyers at parks, PDOP facilities, special events	36%	- South region (47%) - Under age 35 (59%) - Renters (45%, vs. 30% of homeowners) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (51%) - PDOP participants (45%, vs. 25% of non-participants) - Households with children (45%), especially under age 5 (56%)
Exterior fence banners	32%	- South region (42%) - Under age 35 (47%) - Renters (41%, vs. 27% of homeowners) - Men (42%, vs. 25% of women) - Asian adults (54%) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (44%)
Word of mouth	31%	- South region (44%) - Under age 55 (38%) - Homeowners (37%, vs. 23% of renters) - HH income \$200K+ (45%) - PDOP program participants (37%, vs. 23% of non-participants)
PDOP Digital program guide (on website)	27%	- South region (57%) - Ages 45-54 (38%), under age 45 (32%) - White adults (32%) - PDOP program participants (39%, vs. 9% of non-participants) - Households with children (49%), especially under age 12 (52%)
Oak Park Public Library	26%	- Under age 35 (41%) - Asian (34%) and African American adults (33%, vs. 13% of Hispanics/Latinos)

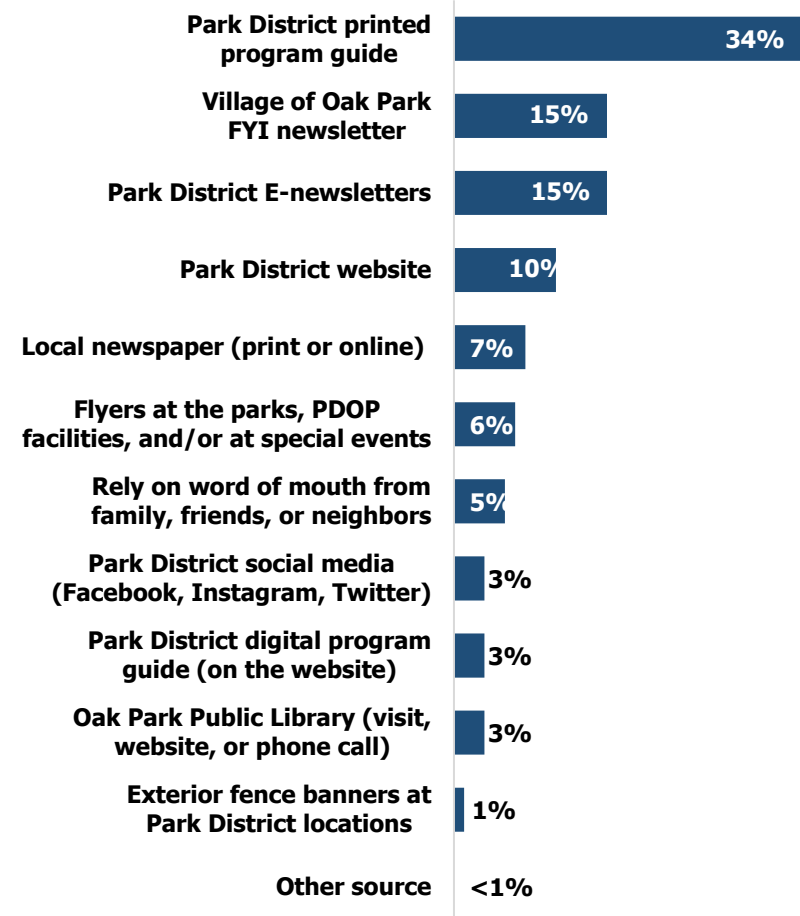
The oldest and most long-term Oak Park residents are more likely to get their PDOP information from local newspapers/websites. Social media sites are referenced most often by PDOP program participants and adults under age 55.

	Overall	Most Likely to Cite as a Source
Local newspaper (print/online)	21%	- North region (32%) - Ages 65+ (41%) - Homeowners (27%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (40%)
PDOP social media	14%	- Under age 55 (17%, vs. 8% of those over 55) - Lived in Oak Park <25 yrs. (18%, vs. 4% of 25+ year residents) - HH income \$50K-\$99K (25%) - PDOP program participants (20%, vs. 5% of non-participants)

In terms of their preferred or top source for PDOP information, the printed program guide clearly emerges as the #1 choice. Fewer than half as many cite the Village FYI Newsletter or PDOP e-newsletters as their top source.

- In fact, the printed program guide is the most preferred source among all groups except for:
 - Those under age 35, who slightly prefer the Village FYI newsletter (24%, vs. 21% for the printed guide)
 - Those reporting <\$50K in household income (26% most prefer the District's e-newsletters, vs. 16% the printed guide)
 - Those in the N-Central region who are as likely to also cite the District's e-newsletters as their top choice (28% for each).
- As shown on the next page, non-PDOP program participants and non-CRC members tend to prefer the FYI newsletter, along with those without children (consistent with findings on page 79).
- African American respondents tend to favor the District e-newsletters, while the oldest and most long- term residents favor print/digital newspapers.
- Renters, the youngest adults, and newest Oak Park residents continue to favor flyers at PDOP locations.

Preferred Source for PDOP Information



Significant Differences: Most Preferred Source of PDOP Information

	Overall	Most Likely to Cite as a Source
PDOP Printed program guide	34%	- South region (48%) - Ages 55-64 (47%)
Village of Oak Park FYI newsletter	15%	- North (20%), Central (19%) and S-Central regions (20%) - Under age 35 (24%) - White adults (18%) - Lived in Oak Park 25+ yrs. (24%) - Non-program participants (27%) and non-CRC members (16%) - No children in HH (18%, vs. 6% of those with children)
PDOP e-newsletters	15%	- N-Central region (28%) - Lived in Oak Park 15-24 yrs. (28%) - African Americans adults (25%) - PDOP program participants (19%, vs. 7% of non-participants)
Park District website	10%	- Ages 35-44 (19%) - Household income \$200K+ (16%) - PDOP Program participants (14%, vs. 4% of non-participants)
Local newspaper (print/digital)	7%	- Ages 65+ (13%) - Lived in Oak Park 15+ yrs. (10%) - No children in household (81%, vs. 3% of those with children)
Flyers at parks, PDOP facilities, special events	6%	- Central (12%) and South regions (12%) - Under age 35 (14%) - Renters (12%, vs. 2% of homeowners) - Men (8%, vs. 3% of women) - Lived in Oak Park <5 yrs. (10%) - PDOP program participants (9%, vs. 2% of non-participants)
Word of mouth	5%	- HH income <\$50K (15%)

Among those who report having visited the PDOP website for information (41% as reported on page 78), most access the site once a month (39%) or once every six months (35%). Only 9% report weekly (or more frequent) usage.

- In profiling the most frequent PDOP website users, weekly visitors tend to be:
 - Residents in the South region (25%, vs. 9% overall)
 - Ages 45-54 (22%)
 - White adults (14%)
 - Households with incomes of \$100K-\$199K (22%)
 - There are no meaningful differences between household with/without children, or PDOP program participants/non-participants.

- Those accessing the website at least monthly (39% overall) tend to include:
 - Ages 35-44 (52%)
 - Hispanic/Latino adults (65%) and African Americans (70%)
 - Newer residents, <5 years (47%) or 5-14 years (55%) in Oak Park
 - Households with income under \$50K (59%)
 - CRC members (61%, vs. 36% of non-members).

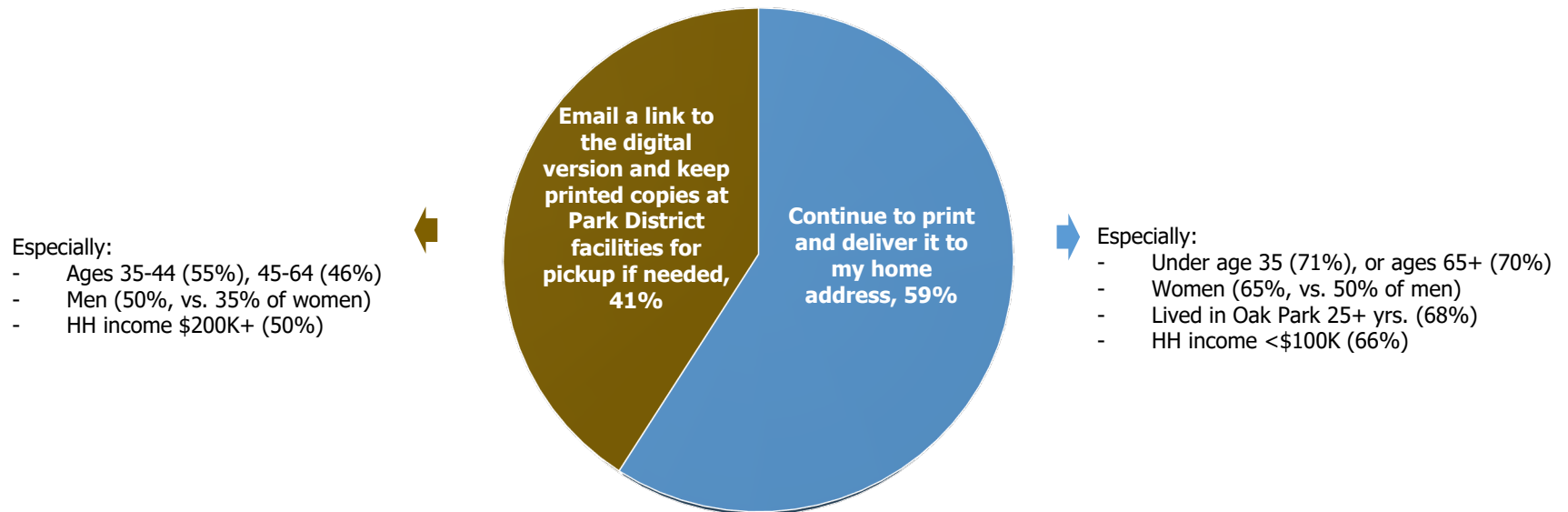
Frequency of Website Usage (n=226)



Given a choice between the printed vs. digital version of the PDOP program guide, a majority prefer to continue receiving the mailed brochure.

- Note that women, both the youngest and oldest Oak Park residents, and lower-income households tend to prefer the printed version by nearly a 2:1 margin (or higher) over the digital option.
- At least half of men, higher income residents, and ages 35-64 would favor a digital link via email.

Preference for Printed vs. Emailed Digital Link to PDOP Program Guide



IX. Final Comments/Suggestions

Only one-third (34%) of respondents offered final comments or suggestions for the District. Note that 5% are very satisfied and simply want the PDOP to continue what it is doing.

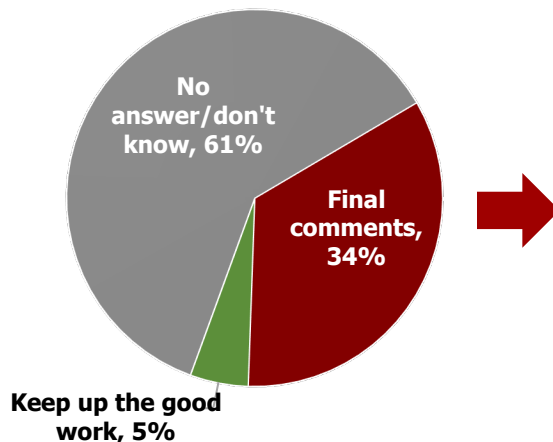
➤ The three top improvements concern:

- Management/admin suggestions, most often longer schedules or facility seasons – especially for the pools – along with more park safety, better communications, reduced spending/taxes, and improvements to the website and online registration platform
- Parks and facilities, especially more park amenities and improved landscaping
- Program options for a variety of age groups and types of activities (no consensus – see sample verbatims on the next few pages).

Final Comments/Suggestions?

(top multiple open-ended responses, n=558)

Most Frequent Responses



Management

13%

Most often: 3% access issue (longer/different schedules, more parking, etc.); 3% safety at PDOP sites; 2% more/better communications; 2% control spending/lower taxes; 2% easier registration process; 2% better website

Parks and facilities

12%

Most often: 3% more park amenities for fitness equipment/improved playgrounds/benches; 2% landscaping and natural areas; 2% more sustainable park practices; 2% more dog parks

Programs and activities

7%

Most often: 2% more for seniors; 1% for all other age groups (adults, teens, youth, preschool) and specific events (sports and non-sports programs, events – very scattered responses)

Sample Verbatims: Final Comments/Suggestions

Management/Admin Suggestions (TOTAL = 13%)

"More pool hours for members."

"Pool with adults-only hours on weekends and some weeknights!!!"

"Extend the lap swim season at Ridgeland! And DO NOT institute unisex bathrooms / locker room / shower facilities at Rehm!!"

"Better traffic safety and fencing around parks and playgrounds - particularly Rehm Park. Lack of a safety fence by a busy road is a danger."

"Better after-hours security."

"More police presence in parks."

"Provide better information about park improvement projects and why. Provide more information or at least try to provide more open swim hours for families at our existing pools. Stop spending money and placing too many things in small Southside parks. The Northside parks are much bigger."

"Please keep printing and delivering the program guides, including for summer camp. Then my kids can look at it too."

"Create a 'Please Deliver' list to condo buildings. We used to receive the yearly/seasonal printed guides; then they stopped coming."

"I need better info on what programs I may want to use."

"It's hard to stay in Oak Park due to taxes. 'Only' some amount of extra tax keeps adding to the burden. We don't NEED more and none of us 'deserves' anything. New does not equal better."

"Stop the pool mania. One pool crammed down the taxpayers' throats is enough."

"Maintain our taxes as-is and don't add extra burden. We already pay some of the highest property taxes in Illinois and it's ridiculous."

"Improve signup -- improve Amilia -- Amilia is impossible to navigate."

"Please make summer camp enrollment easier. I did everything right, logged in immediately at the exact time and couldn't get my child into camps. It should not be that difficult. I'll do whatever it takes, stand in a line in the pouring rain. I don't want the worry of not having summer camp covered next year. It was worrying from February throughout the summer trying to play the waitlist game. I'm a single working parent and cannot afford the stress on top of the cost."

"Improve registration for the PDOP and for classes. It currently takes forever to find one's classes and to find out how to register for them. Use terminology that is correct and user friendly. Poor locations and terminology on the website is a deterrent to registration and park district usage."

Parks and Facilities (TOTAL = 12%)

"Mills Park does not have public toilet facilities. All parks should have toilets available to the public. More park benches around town (like in Forest Park) would be nice for the elderly as well."

"Have park bathrooms stay open longer into year."

"We really miss an indoor soccer facility. The drive to Chicago Soccer on North Ave. is really long during rush hour."

"Austin Garden; the grass needs better care. Holes are in the grass that are dangerous."

"Cleaner floors at the karate facilities."

"Make sure to clear paths in winter at parks so it is safe to walk my dog."

"Open more dog parks and dog friend spaces."

"Increased off leash dog areas."

"More dedicated pickleball courts; maintenance of the Barrie Park courts is a disaster. Better maintenance of playgrounds. Kids love sand -- better maintenance of sand boxes."

"Better surfaces on tennis courts."

Sample Verbatims: Final Comments/Suggestions (cont'd)

Programs/Activities (TOTAL = 7%)

"Consider the needs of older Oak Parkers, not just young families and children."

"More programming for older adults."

"Offer more for seniors' activities during daytime."

"More programming south of I-290."

"Offer short classes for children at multiple locations throughout oak Park through the school year for children to participate in."

"More toddler events."

"More classes for children ages 2 and under."

"Orient less toward families. We are a married couple in their late 30s with no desire to have children."

"One-day classes with an expert, maybe bike maintenance or preparing your yard for winter, making a patio, beekeeping."

"I think there's a need for drop-in teen activities. Maybe that will happen at the CRC, but it would be nice to have something central and north."

"Beautiful plants/landscaping at parks, basketball courts, running track."

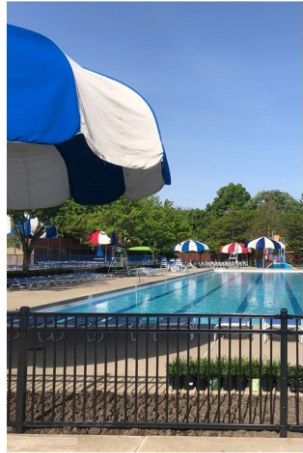
"Offer programs for the young adults from ages 17 to 21."

"More information/programs on sustainability and environment."

Appendix



**MAKE YOUR
VOICE HEARD!**



**PLEASE TAKE OUR QUICK SURVEY
TO SHARE YOUR OPINIONS:**

Website: www.arisurvey.com/s3/OP23

Password: **XXXXXX**

See reverse side for more information.

Your feedback to our survey will help us
better understand your needs and serve
our community!

**Whether or not you use our parks, facilities, or
programs, your opinions are very important.**

We request that an adult complete the
anonymous 15-minute survey online in the
next few days. Simply go to the website below
(or scan the QR code) & enter your password.

www.arisurvey.com/s3/OP23

Password: **XXXXXX**



**Your feedback is very valuable! Thank
you for sharing.**

aQity Research & Insights (an independent research firm) has been
asked by the Park District of Oak Park to conduct this survey. If you
have questions, please call 847-424-4171, x212.

aQity Research & Insights Inc.
1330-B Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201


2023 Community Survey

Based on n=558 cases

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages may not total (with differences of $\pm 1\%$)

1. How many years have you lived in Oak Park?

Less than 5 years	35%
5-14 years	20%
15-24 years	18%
25+ years	27%
Mean	16.6 years
Median	12 years


2. Please rate your overall opinion of the Park District of Oak Park.

Highest regard (9-10)	39%
Great (8)	31%
Good (6-7)	21%
Neutral (5)	7%
Poor (0-4)	2%
Mean	8.0

3. Please describe what you like most about the Park District of Oak Park, or what it does particularly well.

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

4. Please describe what you dislike about the Park District of Oak Park, or what it could do better.

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

5. What percent of your property taxes do you think goes to the Park District of Oak Park?

3% or less	22%
4-5% (ACTUAL: 4.6%)	32%
6-10%	29%
11%+	17%
Mean	9.5%
Median	5%

6. Which PDOP park/facility locations have you or a member of your household visited in the past two years?*

PARKS	94%	FACILITIES	82%
Scoville Park	65%	Oak Park Conservatory	47%
Austin Gardens	47%	Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	31%
Rehm Park	44%	Rehm Pool	31%
Taylor Park	40%	Ridgeland Common Pool	29%
Mills Park	32%	Pleasant Home	25%
Barrie Center/Park	33%	Community Recreation Center	24%
Lindberg Park	30%	Elizabeth F. Cheney Mansion	22%
Longfellow Center/Park	29%	Gymnastics and Recreation Center	17%
Maple Park	23%	Dole Center	15%
Fox Center/Park	19%	Paul Hruby Ice Arena	12%
Field Center/Park	19%		
Euclid Square Park	18%		
Stevenson Center/Park	18%		
Andersen Center/Park	12%		
Carroll Center/Park	11%		
Randolph Park	7%		
Wenonah Park	2%	Have not visited <u>any</u> parks/facilities	2%

7. Which one park or facility do you use most often?

Scoville Park	11%
Austin Gardens	9%
Lindberg Park	8%
Taylor Park	8%
Rehm Park	8%
Mills Park	6%
Community Recreation Center	6%
Ridgeland Common Pool	5%
Longfellow Center/Park	4%
Barrie Park	4%
Rehm Pool	4%
Dole Center	4%
Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex	4%
Oak Park Conservatory	2%
Carroll Center/Park	2%
Maple Park	2%
Paul Hruby Ice Arena	2%
Pleasant Home	2%
Gymnastics and Recreation Center	2%
Field Center/Park	2%

8. Thinking about the parks and facilities that you visited, rate your satisfaction with each of the following

Overall experience and satisfaction	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	52%
Very satisfied (8)	24%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	17%
Neutral (5)	5%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	2%
Mean	8.3
Overall cleanliness, maintenance, and upkeep	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	54%
Very satisfied (8)	24%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	13%
Neutral (5)	3%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	6%
Mean	8.3
Overall safety	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	58%
Very satisfied (8)	20%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	13%
Neutral (5)	4%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	5%
Mean	8.3
Access (parking, paths, entrances/exits)	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	55%
Very satisfied (8)	20%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	12%
Neutral (5)	5%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	8%
Mean	8.2
Overall service provided by Park District staff	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	50%
Very satisfied (8)	17%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	11%
Neutral (5)	17%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	5%
Mean	7.9

9. If you are dissatisfied with any facility or park, which one(s) and why?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

10. What are your top reasons for using PDOP parks and facilities?

	#1	Top 3
For my personal fitness/health	33%	52%
Convenient, close to home	19%	61%
Somewhere safe/fun to bring my children	17%	23%
Access to nature, open space	10%	42%
Use amenities (pool, courts, playground, sport fields, etc.)	6%	28%
Relaxation, quiet setting	4%	25%
Affordable, good value	3%	11%
Attend a community/special event	2%	17%
Participate in program or class	2%	13%
For my child's/children's fitness/health	2%	10%
Attend a sporting practice/event	2%	6%
Option for childcare	1%	3%
Other reason	1%	4%

11. Which of the following reasons explain why you have not visited/used a Park District of Oak Park facility or park recently?

Too busy/Don't have time	53%
Do not have children or children are grown	46%
Just not interested – e.g., not very active	16%
Cost/Fees are too high	16%
Poor health, mobility issues	13%
Unaware of/Unfamiliar with the Park District and/or its parks and facilities	4%
Use other facilities for recreation/activities	2%
Other reason (please specify)	9%

12. As you may know, the PDOP recently opened its new Community Recreation Center (CRC) at 229 Madison Street. Which of the following best describes you?

I have not heard/read anything about the CRC	11%
I have heard about it, but do not know much	19%
I have seen it but have not yet been inside	38%
I took a tour/been inside but have not yet used the CRC	11%
I have used the CRC track or attended a program/activity, but am not yet a member	8%
I am currently a CRC member	13%

17. Which programs/events have you or a household member participated in?

PROGRAMS	52%	EVENTS	62%
Youth sports programs	13%	Summer concerts	38%
Fitness/Wellness programs (group exercise, yoga, tai chi, etc.)	13%	Movies in the Park	21%
Summer camp	12%	Fall Fest	20%
Adult sports programs	10%	Frank Lloyd Wright Races	13%
Ice programs (hockey, figure skating, Learn to Skate)	9%	Other events	7%
Gymnastics programs	9%	Egg Hunt	6%
Adult performing arts and dance programs	8%	Winter Fest	6%
Adult Special Interest programs (cooking, gardening)	7%	Fright at Night	5%
Active Adult programs (ages 50+)	6%	Trunk or Treat	4%
Youth performing arts, music, dance programs	5%	KidsFest	3%
Youth Special Interest programs (cooking, STEM)	4%		
Other program	3%		
Early Childhood programs	3%		
Afterschool Clubhouse program (grades K-5)	3%		
Teen programs	3%		
Youth afterschool program at the CRC (grades 6-12)	1%		
		Have not participated in any programs/events	24%

18. Thinking about the programs and events that you participated in, rate your satisfaction with each of the following.

PROGRAMS	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	49%
Very satisfied (8)	26%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	18%
Neutral (5)	5%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	1%
Mean	8.3
EVENTS	
Completely satisfied (9-10)	52%
Very satisfied (8)	22%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	18%
Neutral (5)	8%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	0%
Mean	8.3

13. Please indicate your overall opinion of the new Community Recreation Center/CRC.
(based on n=328 familiar with the CRC)

Completely satisfied (9-10)	33%
Very satisfied (8)	12%
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	22%
Neutral (5)	27%
Dissatisfied (0-4)	6%
Not familiar enough to rate	53%
Mean	7.1

14. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the new CRC.
(% "agree" shown)

Is welcoming to all visitors/users	97%
Makes Oak Park a more desirable place to live	95%
Improves local property values	93%
Is a good value	92%
Is inclusive of/serves the diversity of the community	92%
Meets the community's needs	91%
Offers innovative programs and activities	87%
Offers a variety of programs and classes	86%
Meets my/our recreation/fitness needs	79%

15. Why do you disagree with the statement(s) about the CRC?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

16. How many total people live in your household?

1 (I live alone)	26%
2	39%
3-4	30%
5+	6%

16A-E. Do you have household members ages...

... 5 or younger?	13%
... 6-11?	13%
... 12-18?	10%
... 19-34?	25%
... 35-49?	36%
... 50+?	53%

19. If you are dissatisfied with any programs or events, which one(s) and why?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

23. Below, please list any specific programs or events that you'd like the Park District of Oak Park to offer.

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

24. About 4.6% of your property taxes goes to the Park District of Oak Park. Thinking about the programs, parks, facilities, and services that the Park District provides, please rate the overall value that it represents given its share of property taxes.

Excellent (9-10)	51%
Great (8)	16%
Good (6-7)	15%
Average (5)	13%
Poor (0-4)	5%
Mean	8.3

25. Please rank each core value in order of importance.

(average ranking shown below—lower number = higher rating; more #1 responses)

Community Engagement	2.74
Integrity	2.93
Inclusivity	2.97
Responsible Leadership	3.45
Sustainability	3.65
Innovation	4.1

26. Rate how well the Park District is performing on each of those core values.

(TZB shown below)

Community Engagement	76%
Inclusivity	73%
Integrity	73%
Sustainability	70%
Responsible Leadership	67%
Innovation	64%

27. Oak Park residents have asked for an indoor community pool with amenities including open swim sessions, swimming lessons, 25-yard lap lanes, and a separate warm-water therapy pool. The cost to add this pool (and amenities) would require a voter-approved property tax increase of (on average) about \$90 per year for a median-valued home of about \$400,000.

Knowing it would result in higher property taxes, would you oppose or support this property tax referendum to pay for an indoor pool?

SUPPORT	69%
Support strongly	35%
Support, not strongly	34%
OPPOSE	31%
Oppose, not strongly	17%
Oppose strongly	13%

28. What are the reasons why you support/oppose the referendum?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

40. In which ways do you learn about the Park District of Oak Park and its programs, parks, facilities, or services?

Village of Oak Park FYI newsletter	60%
Park District printed program guide	60%
Park District E-newsletters	46%
Park District website	41%
Flyers at the parks, PDOP facilities, and/or at special events	36%
Exterior fence banners at Park District locations	32%
Rely on word of mouth from family, friends, or neighbors	31%
Park District digital program guide (on the website)	27%
Oak Park Public Library (visit, website, or phone call)	26%
Local newspaper (print or online)	21%
Park District social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)	14%
Call Park District office or facility	3%
Other source	3%
None of the above	2%

41. What source of information do you use most often?

Park District printed program guide	34%
Village of Oak Park FYI newsletter	15%
Park District E-newsletters	15%
Park District website	10%
Local newspaper (print or online)	7%
Flyers at the parks, PDOP facilities, and/or at special events	6%
Rely on word of mouth from family, friends, or neighbors	5%
Park District social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) —	3%
Park District digital program guide (on the website)	3%
Oak Park Public Library (visit, website, or phone call)	3%
Exterior fence banners at Park District locations	1%
Other source	0%

32. How often do you go to/use the Park District website in general?
(asked of n=226 who used website)

At least once a week	9%
At least once a month	39%
At least once every six months	35%
At least once a year	11%
Less than once a year	2%
Have never been to/used the website	3%

33. As you may know, the Park District now sends a program guide twice a year to all residents in Oak Park. It also has a digital version of the program guide on its website. Which option below do you prefer for receiving the program guide?

Continue to print and deliver it to my home address	59%
Email a link to the digital version and keep printed copies at Park District facilities for pickup if needed	41%

29. How familiar are you with the Park District's scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to low-income residents/families of all ages to make Park District programs and facilities available to all?

Very familiar	6%
Somewhat familiar	15%
Only heard of it	19%
Not at all familiar	61%

30. How familiar are you with the Park District's Childcare Discount Membership (CDM) program for lower-income residents with children in Kindergarten through age 14 to reduce the cost of full-day camps and afterschool programs?

Very familiar	2%
Somewhat familiar	10%
Only heard of it	13%
Not at all familiar	75%

31. If you wanted to learn more about these programs, where would you first go/look/ask for more information?

Access and search for info from the Park District website	53%
Google or website search	45%
Park District program guide	22%
Call/Email/Speak to a Park District staff person	16%
Ask a friend, neighbor, family member	11%
Park District flier	10%
From a school teacher/social worker/counselor	1%
Other	1%

34. Aside from the topics already covered, what else can the Park District of Oak Park improve or do differently to serve your household better?

Coding in progress; see final analysis for results.

35. In what year were you born?
(age shown below)

Under 35	21%
35-44	21%
45-54	20%
55-64	16%
Over 65	22%
Mean	50.6 years old
Median	49 years old

36. Please indicate the gender you identify with.

Male	44%
Female	53%
Prefer to self-identify	3%

37. Do you own or rent your current residence?

Own	60%
Rent	40%

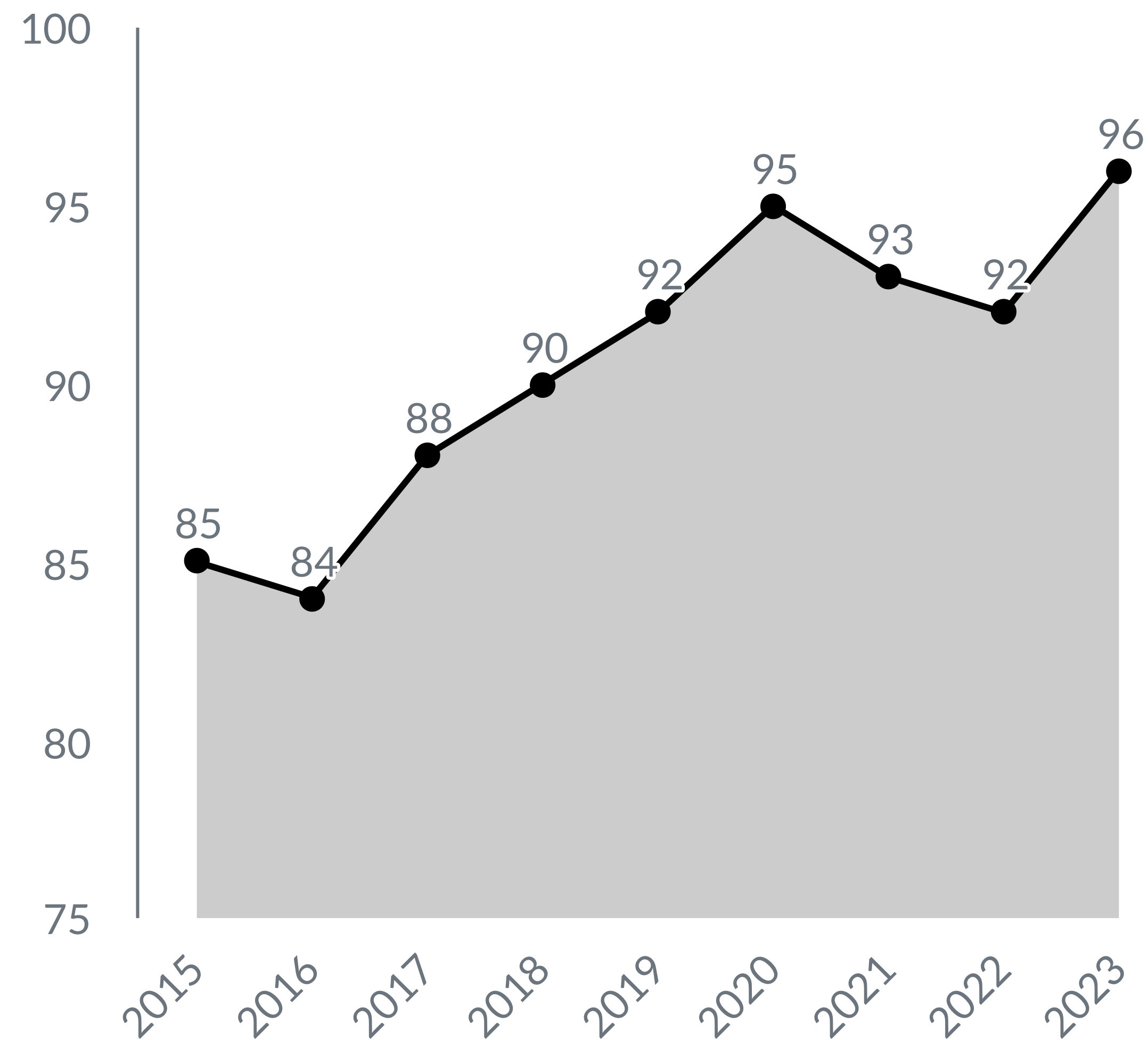
38. Which of the following identifies your ethnicity?

White/Caucasian	67%
Black/African American	22%
Hispanic/Latino/Spanish	8%
Asian	7%
Other	2%

39. What was your total household income in 2022, before taxes?

Less than \$35,000	7%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	16%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	16%
\$200,000 or more	29%
Prefer not to answer	16%

OVERALL SCORES



The Park District defines the measurement as the average score of all parks, on a scale of 0 to 100, from the Park District's Park Report Card from the current year, indicating quality and maintenance of the park system. This measure is only for Park District park spaces. There is a separate report card for facilities (see Appendix B for park scores).

PDOP Fleet Replacement Schedule

No.	Year	Model	Description	Dept.	License	Purchased		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
300	2016	F250	3/4 ton pickup	Conservatory	M206859	2016						
105	2005	F150 4WD	1/4 ton pickup	P&P	M147886	2004						
121	2005	Sprinter	Panel Van	Rec	M152523	2005						
214	2008	F250 lift gate	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M169640	2008						
213	2008	Dakota 4WD	½ ton pickup	P&P	M171169	2008						
215	2008	Dakota 4WD	1/2 ton pickup	P&P	M171170	2008						
272	2009	E350	Passenger/Cargo Van	Conservatory	M177831	2009						\$ 65,000
217	2011	Grand Caravan	Minivan	Rec	M185750	2011	\$ 50,000					
210	2010	Ranger	¾ ton pickup	Special Facilities	M187644	2012						
209	2010	Ranger	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M187740	2012						
203	2012	E350	Cargo Van	P&P	M191684	2012						\$ 60,000
335	2013	F250 Club Cab	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M194888	2013			\$ 55,000			
216	2011	F550	Lift Truck (CDL)	P&P	M184187	2010						
706	1997	540 John Deere	Loader tractor	P&P	NA	1997		\$ 100,000				
708	2016	5600 Bobcat	Utility Vehicle	P&P	NA	2010				\$ 100,000		
504	1998	F350	1 ton dump (chipper)	P&P	M103921	1998						
218	2011	F450	1 ton dump	P&P	M181171	2011						
211	2015	F250	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M991628	2015						\$ 55,000
700	2011	S180 Bobcat	Skidsteer	P&P	NA	2011						
198	2015	Transit	Minivan	P&P	M205994	2016						
219	2013	F450	15 passenger bus	Rec	M193953	2013						
200	2015	F250	¾ ton pickup	P&P	M213538	2017						
711	2001	5210 John Deere tractor	Tractor	P&P	NA	2000						
237	2005	Zamboni 520	Ice surfacer	Special Facilities	NA	2005			\$ 150,000			
212	2016	Nissan Frontier	¾ ton pickup	Special Facilities	M157314	2018						
202	2009	E350	15 passenger bus	Rec	M204478	2015						
422	2015	Carryall	Utility vehicle	P&P	NA	2015						
197	2023	Maverick	1/4 ton pickup	P&P	M236836	2023						
709	2021	UV34G Bobcat	Utility Vehicle	P&P	NA	2021						
131	2014	Zamboni 550	Ice surfacer	Special Facilities	NA	2014						
199	2015	NRR	Garbage Packer (CDL)	P&P	M202024	2015						\$ 135,000
221	2021	Gator	Utility vehicle	Conservatory	NA	2021						
421	1992	2155 John Deere tractor	Tractor	P&P	NA	1992		\$ 65,000				
208	2023	Maverick	1/4 ton pickup	P&P	TBD	2023						
196	2023	Transit - EV	Minivan	P&P	TBD	2023						
933	2015	Toro 7200	Mower	P&P	NA	2015			\$ 75,000			
966	2007	Smithco	Ballfield Groomer	P&P	NA	2007						
929	2016	ABI Force	Ballfield Groomer	P&P	NA	2016						
TBD		Gravely	Electric Zero Turn Mower	P&P	NA	2025		\$ 32,000				
TBD		Maverick	1/4 ton pickup	P&P	TBD	2025		\$ 40,000				
934	2010	Toro 4300D	Mower	P&P	NA	2013						
930	2015	Toro Grand Stand	Mower	P&P	NA	2015						
931	2015	Toro 6000	Mower	P&P	NA	2015						
935	2013	John Deere Z925m	Mower	P&P	NA	2013						
938	2017	John Deere 652R	Mower	P&P	NA	2017						
929	2020	Toro 7200	Mower	P&P	NA	2020						
							\$ 50,000	\$ 237,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 315,000	