



**MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
TUALATIN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 14, 2025 - 6:00 pm**

Virtual Meeting

Options to Join

Video: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83957525204>

Phone: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 839 5752 5204

“We are a group of enthusiastic advocates for the Parks & Recreation system with a focus on the stewardship and enhancement of our community.”

A. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

B. Approval of Minutes

1. December 10, 2024

C. Communication & Comments

1. Chair
2. Staff
3. Public

D. Old Business

1. Park Bond Update
 - a. Projects Status
 - b. Veterans Plaza
 - i. Completion Status
 - ii. Brick Program
 - iii. Shade Shelter Funding
2. Committee Goals
 - a. 2025 Goals
3. Utility Fee Projects
 - a. Project Review & Discussion
 - b. Recommendation Consideration
4. Annual Report
 - a. Content
 - b. Committee Photo
5. Parks & Recreation Director Selection Update

E. New Business

1. City Budget & Finance Information (Don Hudson, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director)
 - a. Presentation
 - i. City Budget Process

- ii. Funds Available for Parks and Recreation
 - iii. Financial Overview of Funding Sources
 - iv. Core Opportunity Reinvestment Area
 - b. Questions
- 2. Las Casitas Park Construction Update
- 3. 2025 Meetings
 - a. In Person/Virtual
- 4. Updates
 - a. Programs
 - b. Projects
 - c. Operations
 - d. Volunteers











F. Upcoming Dates & Calendar Review

G. Committee Member Communications

H. Adjournment

Bond Projects

1/7/2025

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Phase 1</u> 2023-26	<u>Phase 2</u> 2026-29	<u>Status</u>
Trail Connections Nyberg Creek/Wetlands Design Construction			In Construction Design Construction summer 2025
New River Access Community Park Expansion Planning & Design Construction			Design Proposals winter 2025
Athletic Fields Parks TCP field lights (replacement LED) Neighborhood park fields School shared use partnership Planning/Design Construction			Completed February 2024 Planning w/Community Sports on hold Plan w/School District & Com Sports on hold
Upgrades Veterans Plaza			In Construction - completion spring 2025
Natural Areas Property acquisition Natural parkland WA County Community Park Expansion Community Park Expansion			Park Acquisitions Completed Acquired May 2023 Acquired September 2023 Acquired May 2023 Acquired October 2024
Play & Park Equipment Atfalati Ibach Jurgens Ibach (tween/teen area)			Playground Projects Completed Completed December 2023 Completed December 2023 Completed February 2024 Completed April 2024



UTILITY FEE

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS



- System Balance
- Urgency
- Implementation
- Synergistic
- Sustainability
- Scale of Benefit



**CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION
OF APPROVAL**

Park & Recreation Utility Fee Prioritized Assets Condition 5's

NEAR TERM
MID TERM
LONG TERM

(20-24 points)		(10-19 points)		Asset Condition 4's	
Location	Name	Location	Name	Location	Name
Atfalati	Restrooms - 22	Atfalati	Sport Field (lower) - 15		
Atfalati	Basketball Surface - 21	TCP	Boat Launch/Ramp - 18		
Atfalati	Parking Lot (curb/landscape) - 23	TCP	Rustic Shelter -14		
Ibach	Bleachers - 20	I Meadows	Fence - 17		
Ibach	Restrooms - 22	Saum Creek	Trail (Venetia - 17		
Jurgens	Court Surface - 21	Saum Creek	Stairs (trail) - 15		
Jurgens	Restrooms - 22	Little Woodrose	Fence - 19		
Commons	Landscape/Irrigate (west side) - 23	Brown Ferry	Overlook Deck -10		
Commons	Surface (west side) - 23	Commons Park	Landscape - 13		
Commons	Electrical & Lighting - 24	Commons Park	Path Surface - 10		
Commons	Trash Cans - 22	Sweek Pond	Fence - 12		
Commons	Planters - 21	Harvin Grove	Electrical - 13		
TCP	Play Area - 21	Shaniko	Trail (asphalt) - 10		
TCP	Irrigation - 21				
TCP	Trestle Park Lot - 21				
Sweek Pond	Boardwalk (Hedges Wetland) - 22				
HS Stadium Field	Renovation - 21				

2025/26 Park & Recreation Utility Fee Projects

Location	Name	Priority			Note
Atfalati Park	Restrooms	4			design & construction
Atfalati Park	Basketball Surface				design
Atfalati Park	Parking Lot (curb/landscape)				maintenance
Ibach Park	Bleachers	1			safety replacement
Ibach Park	Restrooms	4			design & construction
Jurgens Park	Court Surface				maintenance
Jurgens Park	Restrooms	4			design & construction
Commons Plaza	Landscape/Irrigate (west side)				maintenance
Commons Plaza	Surface (west side)				design & construction
Commons Plaza	Electrical & Lighting				design & construction
Commons Plaza	Trash Cans				maintenance
Commons Plaza	Planters				maintenance
Community Park	Play Area	3			equip & surface replace
Community Park	Irrigation				design
Community Park	Trestle Park Lot				maintenance
Sweek Pond	Boardwalk (Hedges Wetland)				maintenance
HS Stadium Field	Renovation	2			agreement with school district

12/12/2024

2025/26 Park & Recreation Utility Projects Staff Recommendation

Location	Name	Priority	Estimated Cost	Note
2024-25 Carryover				
Variety	Prepaire Future Projects		\$ 100,000	design & engineering
P&R Office	ADA Access		\$ 90,000	construction
Variety	System Sign Replacement		\$ 75,000	planning
Total			\$ 265,000	
2025-26 Projects				
Ibach Park	Bleachers	1	\$ 20,000	safety replacement
HS Stadium Field	Renovation	2	\$ 500,000	agree with school district
Community Park	Play Area	3	\$ 350,000	equip & surface replace
Atfalati Park	Restrooms	4	\$ 80,000	design & construction
Ibach Park	Restrooms	4	\$ 80,000	design & construction
Jurgens Park	Restrooms	4	\$ 80,000	design & construction
Atfalati Park	Basketball Surface	5	\$ 75,000	design
Variety	Prepair Future Projects		\$ 150,000	design & engineering
Total			\$ 1,335,000	
Grand Total			\$ 1,600,000	

Budget		
Revnuue	\$	1,600,000
Expenses	\$	1,600,000
	\$	-

12/12/2024

For all slides: Update footer “TPARK 2024 Annual Report”

Current Members

- Update member names
- Denote student member as “student member”

What We Do 2024

- Regular Meetings
 - Learn about Parks & Recreation activities
 - Evaluate and provide recommendations to city staff regarding the efficacy of policies, programs, and procedures
 - Provide feedback and guidance regarding priority and progress of projects related to bond and utility fee
- Represent Parks & Recreation System to Council
- Attend Activities & Events
 - Advocate for community participation and engagement in our Parks & Recreation system
 - Provide community outreach
- Bee City Facilitation Committee
- Tree City USA Board

TPARK 2024 Accomplishments

Sustainability

- Supported completion of the facilities inventory
- Identified intersections between parks operations and council-approved climate action plan
 - Prioritization of shade in playground projects
 - Prioritization of native plantings in parks projects
- Promoted pollinator information and resources
- Provided community resources for trees and bees

Parks Bond & Utility Fee Projects

- Acted as ad hoc bond oversight committee
 - Actively pursued implementation of parks bond projects including:
 - Construction of Veterans Plaza
 - Replacement of TCP field lights

- Completion of all playground improvement projects
 - Continued support on progress of new river access adjacent to Community Park
 - Supported planning and design of Nyberg Creek Wetlands trail
 - Supported land acquisition for future parks assets and natural areas
- Advocated for continued progress for integrated trail system
 - Supported completion of 99w Trail improvement
 - STAFF TO ADD ANY ADDITIONS
- Assisted staff with prioritizing Utility Fee projects
 - Shelter at TCP
 - STAFF TO ADD 2024 BIGGIES

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Began conversations around current park naming policies for possible updates and recommendation
- Worked with Youth Advisory Committee to recruit an interested and engaged student member

Collaboration

- Participated in selection process for new Parks Director

TPARK 2025 Goals

Collaboration and Community Engagement

- Actively engage in onboarding new Parks Director
- Better understand the Parks budget and the relationship between projects and programs
- Engage with City Planning staff to identify intersections between Parks the Downtown Core planning process
- Engage with City Finance staff to identify best practice for Parks Bond funding oversight role
- Renew conversations about a Community Center
- Collaborate with the IDEA committee to coordinate overlap of activities
- Continue discussion around updates to park naming policies to prioritize community inclusion

Sustainability

- Explore potential for an integrated pest management program

- Evaluate existing tree code for possible climate resiliency updates and recommendations

Funded Projects (Bond, Utility Fee, ARPA, Cross-Agency funded, etc.)

- Continue to assist staff with prioritizing Utility Fee projects
 - Advise staff on action plans from facility assessment report
- Continue role as ad hoc bond oversight committee with specific emphasis on:
 - Creating momentum around identification of field improvements in partnership with Youth Sports and TTSD
 - Continuing progress on new river access
 - Construction of Nyberg Creek Wetlands Trail
 - Completion and appropriate community celebration of Veterans Plaza
 - OTHERS FROM STAFF/TPARK MEMBERS HERE
- Continue to support design and construction of ARPA-funded Las Casitas Park



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

20 | ENGAGEMENT 24 | WITH PARKS REPORT



Cover image: Hikers enjoy scenic views in Eugene, Oregon.

Photo courtesy of City of Eugene (Oregon) Parks and Open Space Division

Children play on a playground
in Arvada, Colorado.

PHOTO COURTESY OF APEX (COLORADO)
PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT



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Introduction



A group of adults participate in an outdoor identification activity in Gardner, Kansas.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHNSON COUNTY (KANSAS) PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT



With more than 10,000 local agencies nationwide, parks and recreation is vital to fostering healthy communities and ecosystems. By providing public spaces and programming, U.S. residents can engage in various activities tailored to their needs such as health and wellness, social connection, education and family support. As parks and recreation contributes significantly to the well-being and development of communities, ensuring access remains crucial so that everyone can benefit from these valuable resources.

Since 2016, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has conducted an annual survey to understand how people connect with parks and recreation across the United States. The survey results form the basis of NRPA's annual *Engagement With Parks Report*. The report provides park and recreation professionals, advocates, policymakers and other key stakeholders with insights into how local park and recreation facilities impact the lives of people nationwide.

On behalf of NRPA, Wakefield Research surveyed 1,000 U.S. adults ages 18 and older between June 24 and July 7, 2024. The firm used quotas to ensure the pool of respondents was a reliable and representative reflection of the U.S. adult population. The margin of error for data contained in this report is +/-3.1 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

Key Findings of the 2024 Engagement With Parks Report



More than **276 million** people in the United States visited a local park or recreation facility at least once during the past year.



Being with family and friends is the **top reason** respondents use park and recreation facilities.



97% of visitors report some feelings of inclusion or belonging at their park and recreation spaces.



91% of people agree that parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local government.



93% of U.S. adults support the use of automated technology by their local park and recreation agency — especially for crime prevention, understanding park use and increasing community members' access.

Key Findings

PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF CORAL GABLES (FLORIDA) COMMUNITY RECREATION



Dancers perform at a community event in City of Coral Gables, Florida.

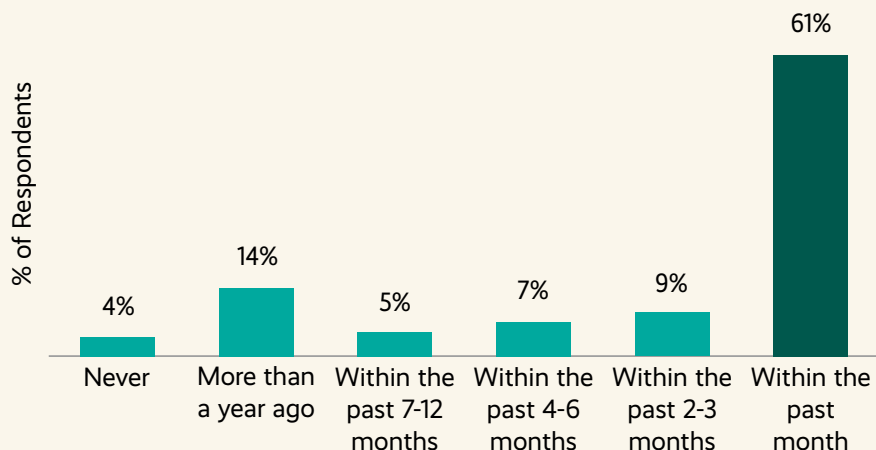
Park and Recreation Access

Across the nation, U.S. residents visit park and recreation facilities to take advantage of their diverse offerings and numerous benefits. Public access to these facilities varies by neighborhood depending on factors like the number of parks available, parks' proximity to community members' homes and the availability of transportation options.

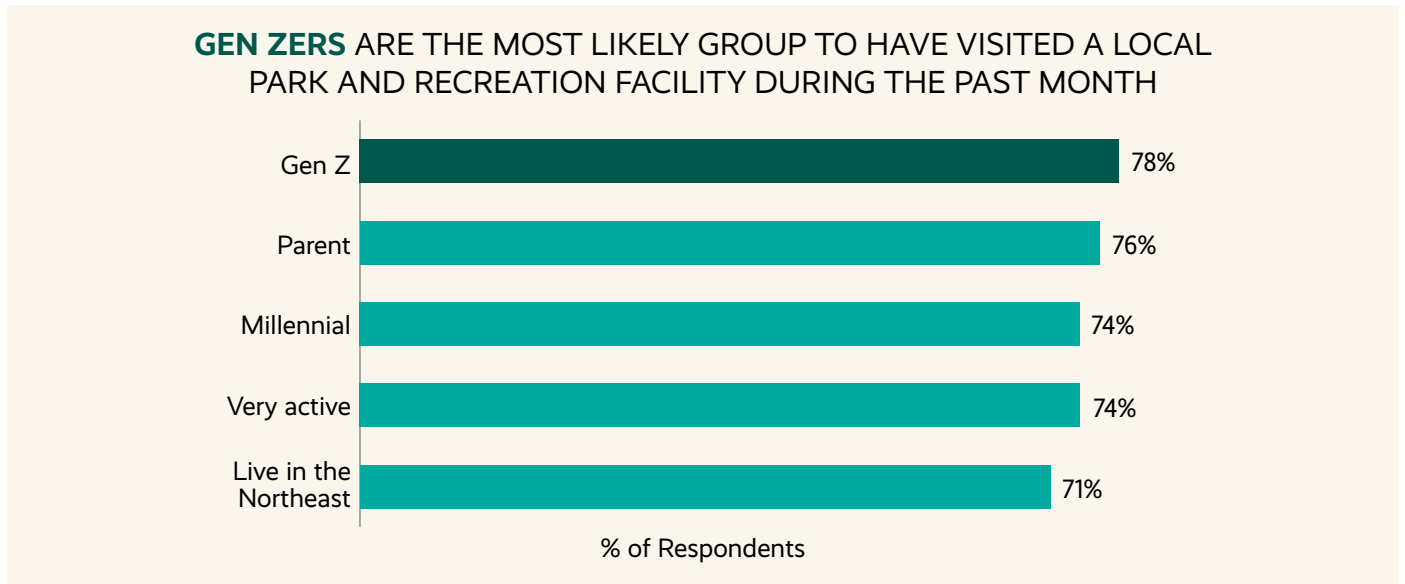
Visiting Parks and Recreation

Between June 2023 and July 2024, 82 percent of survey respondents — the equivalent of **more than 276 million people** in the United States — visited a local park or recreation facility at least once, most within the previous month. A slight four percent of respondents had never visited a park and recreation resource.

MOST SURVEY RESPONDENTS REPORTED VISITING A LOCAL PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY **DURING THE PAST MONTH**



Sixty-one percent of respondents visited their local park or recreation resource at least once within the past month of completing the survey, including 42 percent who visited the same day or within the previous week.



Frequency of Visits

On average, people visited their local park and recreation facilities 23 times between June 2023 and July 2024, with the highest average observed for those who characterized themselves as very physically active (an average 31 times) and the lowest for those not living near a park (an average 16 times). “Power users” — those who used park and recreation facilities once a week or more — accounted for eight percent of all respondents. Those in the Midwest and very physically active people were the top two groups of “power users.”

U.S. RESIDENTS WHO LIVE CLOSER TO PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND WHO SELF-IDENTIFY AS “VERY ACTIVE” VISITED MORE OFTEN.

Average and median number of visits to park and recreation facilities during the past year

	Proximity to Park			Physical Activity	
	All	Live near park	Do not live near park	Very active	Not active
Average number of visits	23	25	16	31	13
Median number of visits	6	8	4	9	4

Proximity to Park and Recreation Facilities

The majority (73 percent) of survey respondents live within a walkable distance of at least one park or recreation facility, including 36 percent who live within walkable distances of multiple facilities. However, 27 percent — the equivalent of 90 million people in the United States — do not have walkable access to a park or other recreation resource.

ABOUT 3 IN 4 (73%) U.S. RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN WALKABLE DISTANCE OF AT LEAST ONE PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY



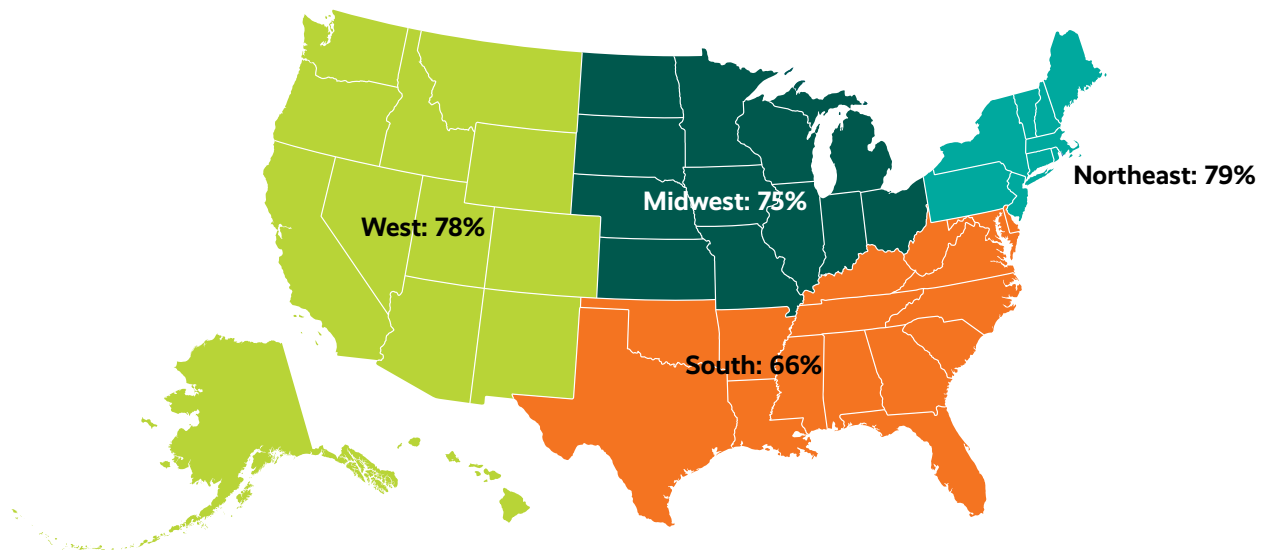
A young artist stands by a community mural in Dunwoody, Georgia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DUNWOODY (GEORGIA) PARKS AND RECREATION

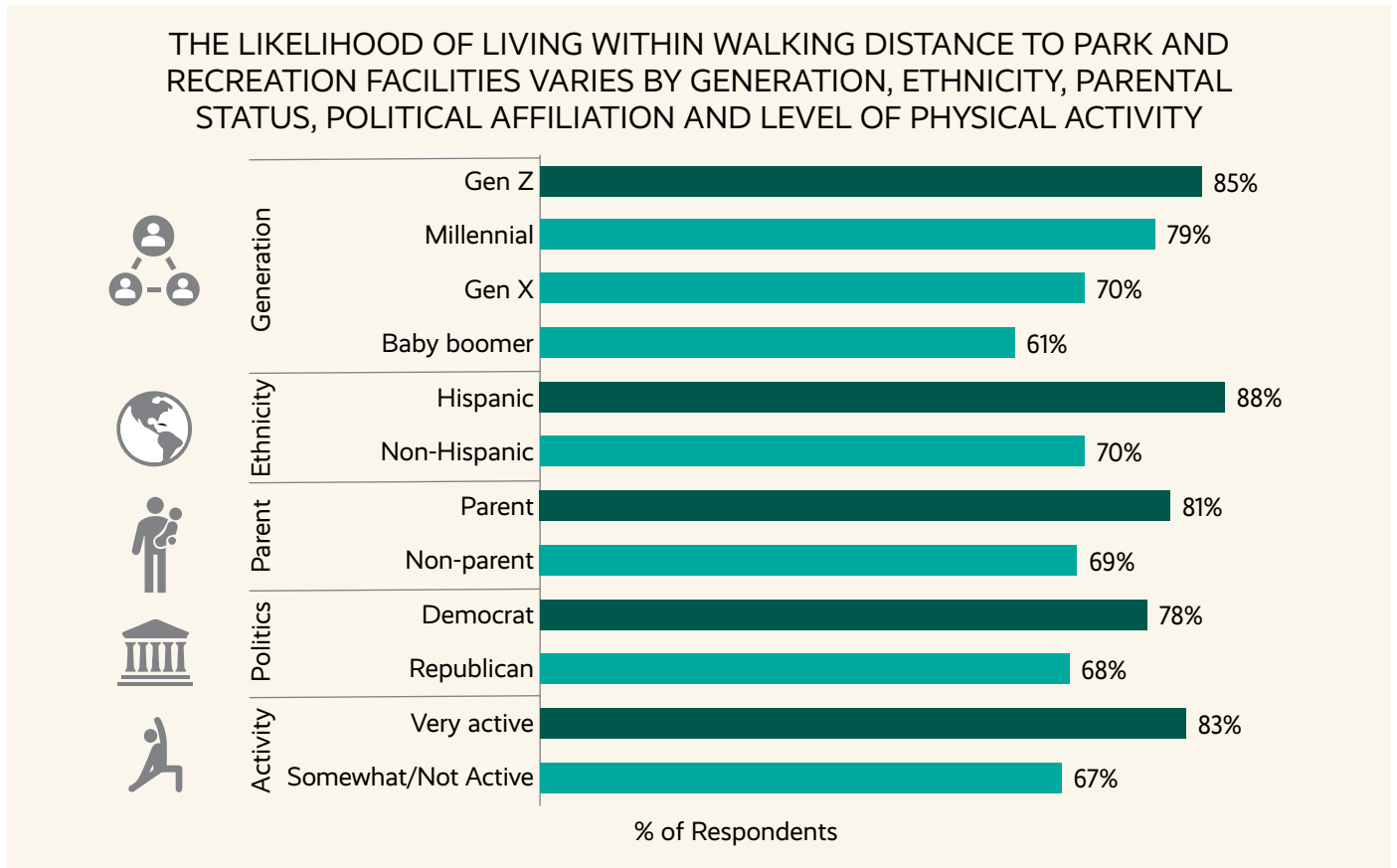


The perceived availability of parks and recreation within a walkable distance varies by region. Compared to respondents from the Northeast and West, those who live in the South are less likely to have facilities close by. Also, a larger share of respondents from suburban areas than those from rural areas reported having facilities within walkable distances.

RESPONDENTS IN THE SOUTH WERE LESS LIKELY THAN THOSE IN OTHER REGIONS TO REPORT HAVING FACILITIES WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE
Percent of respondents within walking distance to at least one park and recreation facility by region



Aside from regional differences, walkability to park and recreation facilities varies within other segments of the population. The likelihood of living within walking distance to parks and recreation is greater for Gen Zers than for Gen Xers and baby boomers; for those identifying as Hispanic compared to those that do not; for parents compared to non-parents; for Democrats compared to Republicans; and for those who consider themselves very active in comparison to those that do not.



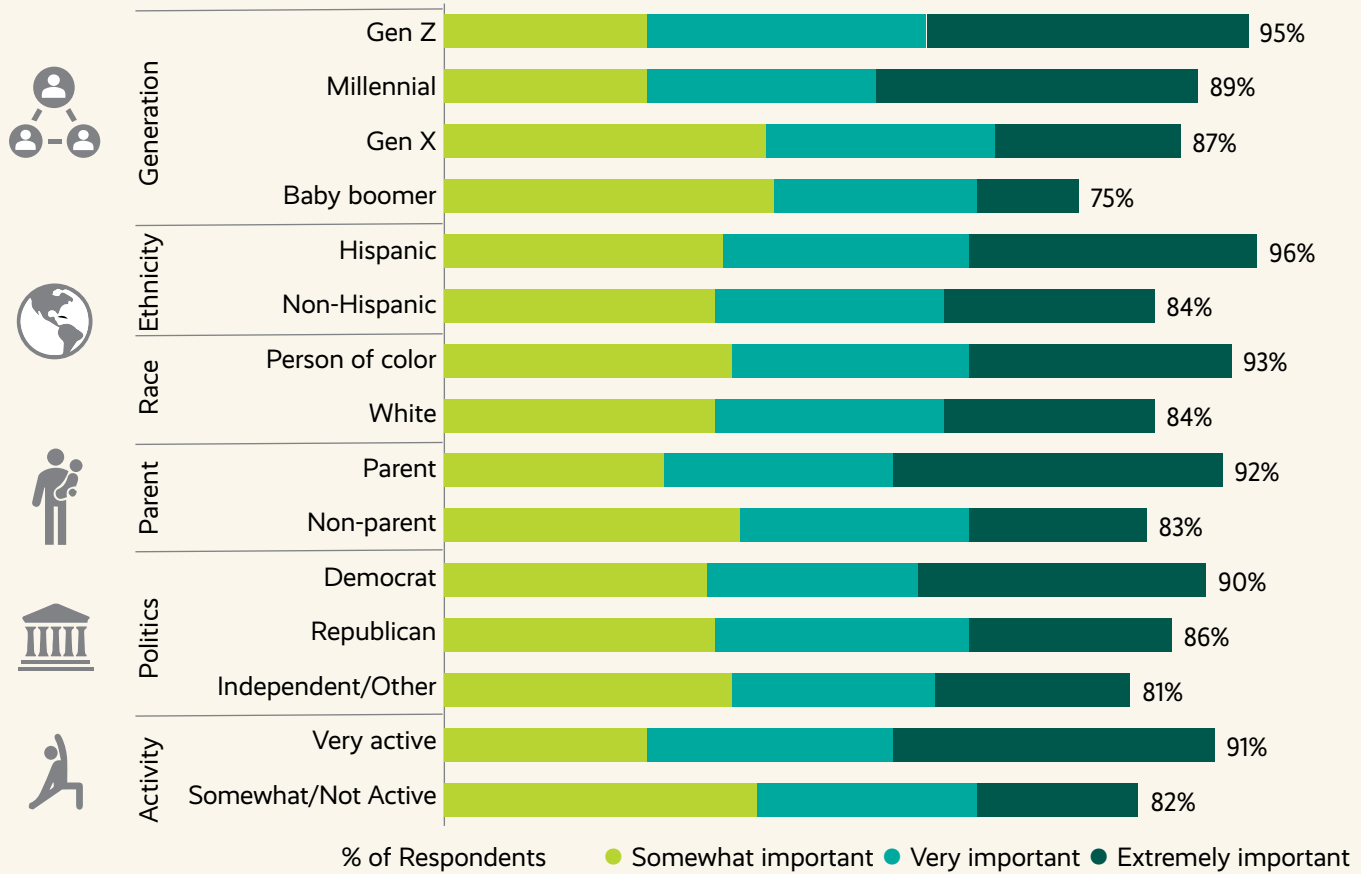
Many residents desire close access to local park and recreation opportunities. In fact, 86 percent of survey respondents said proximity to high-quality parks, playgrounds, open spaces or other recreation facilities is important when choosing a neighborhood or area in which to live.

6 IN 7 (86%) U.S. RESIDENTS SAY PROXIMITY TO PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES IS IMPORTANT WHEN CHOOSING A PLACE TO LIVE



Significant differences emerged when comparing the shares of respondents within different groups who place importance on proximity to parks and recreation when choosing where to live. Living in proximity to park and recreation facilities is more important for Gen Zers than for Gen Xers and baby boomers; for those identifying as Hispanic compared to those that do not; for those identifying as people of color as compared to those identifying as white; for parents compared to non-parents; for Democrats compared to Independents or those of another political party; and for those that consider themselves very active in comparison to those that do not.

IMPORTANCE OF PROXIMITY TO PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES WHEN CHOOSING A PLACE TO LIVE VARIES BY GENERATION, ETHNICITY, RACE, PARENTAL STATUS, POLITICAL AFFILIATION AND LEVEL OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



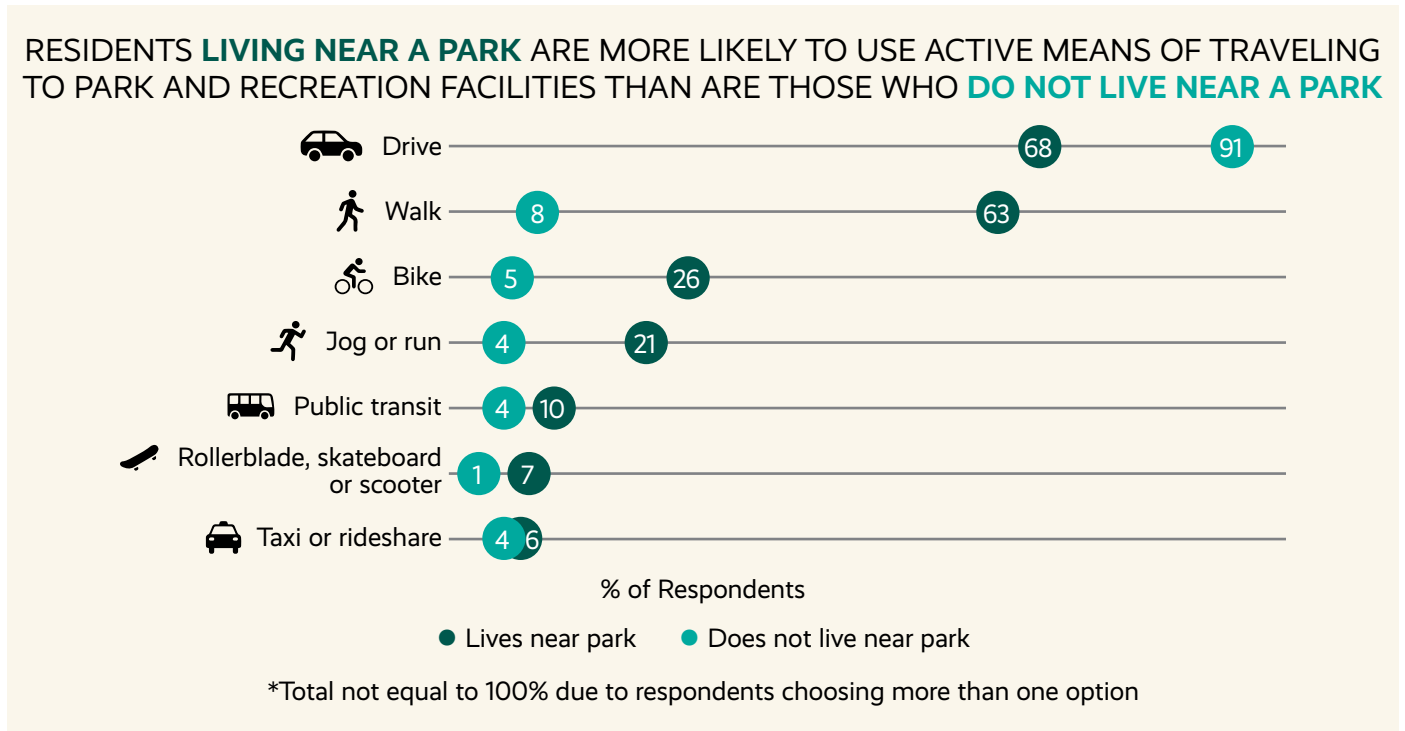
More than 50 percent of respondents consider distance to parks and recreation highly important when choosing a residence. The top five population groups most likely to place the highest importance on proximity ranged from those who are Hispanic (62 percent) to Gen Zers (71 percent).

GEN ZERS ARE MOST LIKELY TO PLACE A HIGH IMPORTANCE ON THE PROXIMITY OF PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO THEIR RESIDENCE



Traveling to Park and Recreation Facilities

People use many forms of transportation to travel to parks, playgrounds, open spaces and recreation centers. While many people travel by automobile to these areas (74 percent of all respondents), nearly half of U.S. adults (49 percent) access these locations by walking. Proximity to a park increases the likelihood that people visiting such a facility do so by “active” means (e.g., walking, biking, running, rollerblading, etc.). Sixty-nine percent of all respondents with a park nearby say they use one or more of these “active” means to visit local parks. Conversely, 91 percent of U.S. adults who do not live near parks or recreation offerings drive to those amenities.



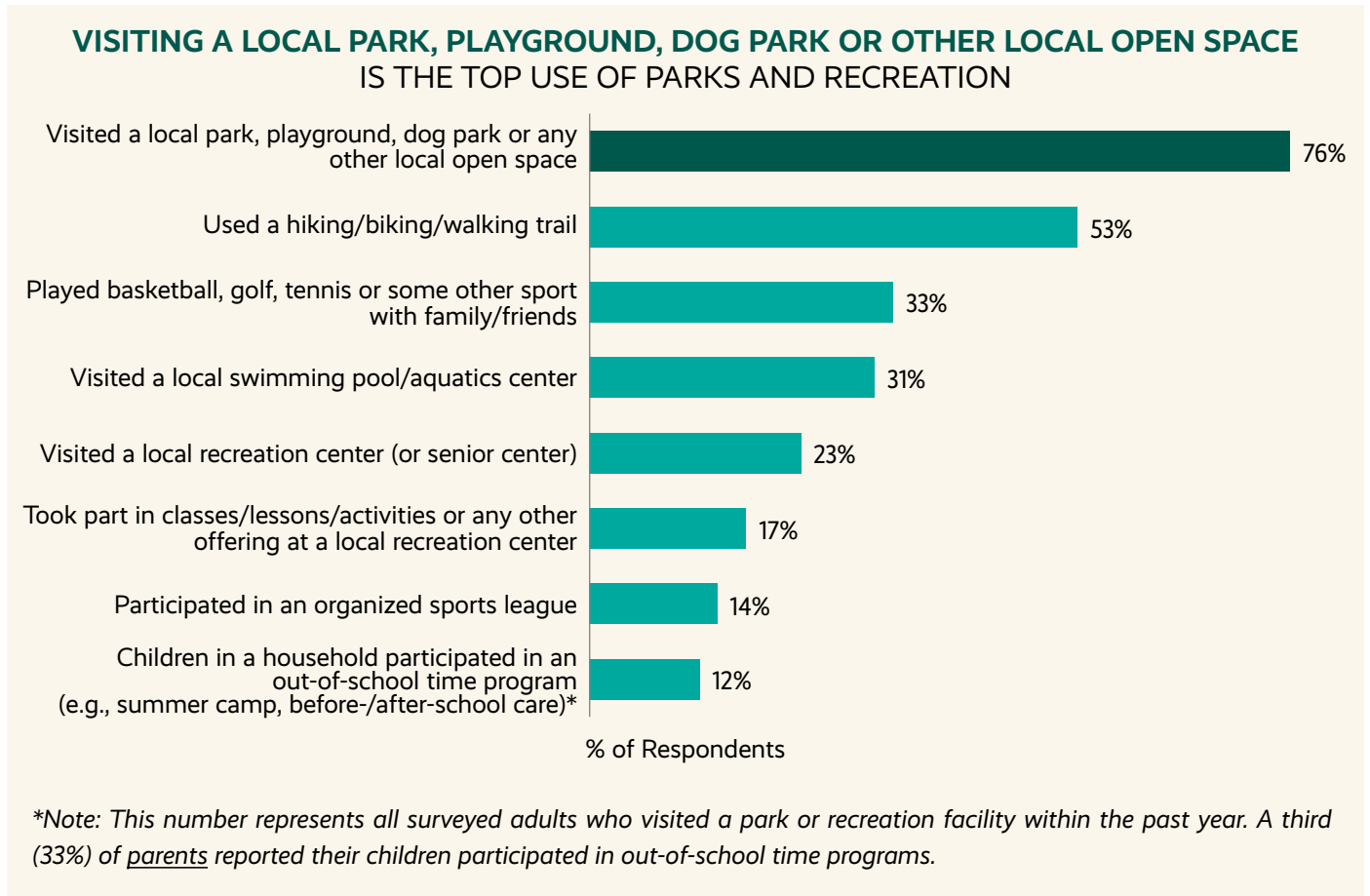
Adults perform on a community stage in Asheville, North Carolina.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHEVILLE (NORTH CAROLINA) PARKS AND RECREATION

Park and Recreation Use

Park and recreation offerings vary by community, and families and individuals use them differently. Of the more than 276 million visitors between June 2023 and July 2024, three-fourths (76 percent) visited a local park, playground, dog park or other local open space. Gen Zers (82 percent), people in the Midwest (80 percent) and those not living near a park (80 percent) were the top users of parks and recreation spaces in this way. Hiking, biking and walking on local trails was the second-most popular activity, with more than half of all survey respondents (53 percent) taking advantage of these offerings.



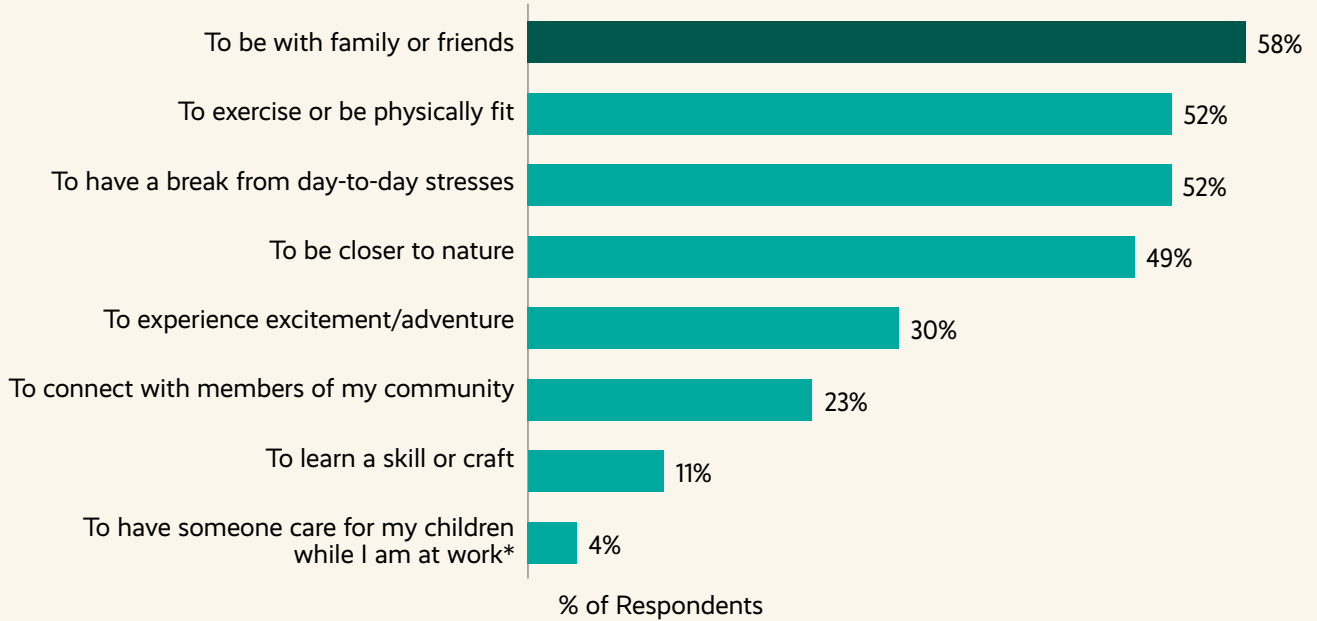
More than half (55 percent) of respondents and/or a member of their household had participated in an activity sponsored by a park and recreation department in the past year, including sports leagues, summer camps, out-of-school time care and classes/lessons. This participation rate is equivalent to more than 185 million people. The groups that were most likely to have personally participated or had a member of their household participate in a park and recreation program within the past three months include parents (65 percent), Gen Zers (63 percent), those identifying as very active (59 percent), those identifying as Hispanic (58 percent) and working adults (53 percent).

Reasons for Park and Recreation Use

People engage with park and recreation amenities and programming for various reasons, including for social connections, physical and mental health benefits, and opportunities for new experiences and learning.

Younger adults and very active people are most likely to have engaged in sports activities in their local park and recreation facilities.

BEING WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS IS THE TOP REASON FOR USING PARKS AND RECREATION



*Note: This number represents all surveyed adults who visited a park or recreation facility within the past year. Fourteen percent of parents reported having someone care for their children while at work.

Barriers to Park and Recreation Use

Obstacles may hinder residents from taking full advantage of their local park and recreation opportunities. Overall, 67 percent of respondents reported at least one barrier kept them from using park and recreation opportunities as much as they would have liked during the past year. Nearly two in five (39 percent) U.S. adults said lack of time kept them from fully enjoying their local park and recreation facilities.

Gen Zers (71 percent) and parents (69 percent) were most likely to cite family and friends as their primary motivation for accessing parks and recreation.

LACK OF TIME IS THE TOP BARRIER FOR USING PARKS AND RECREATION

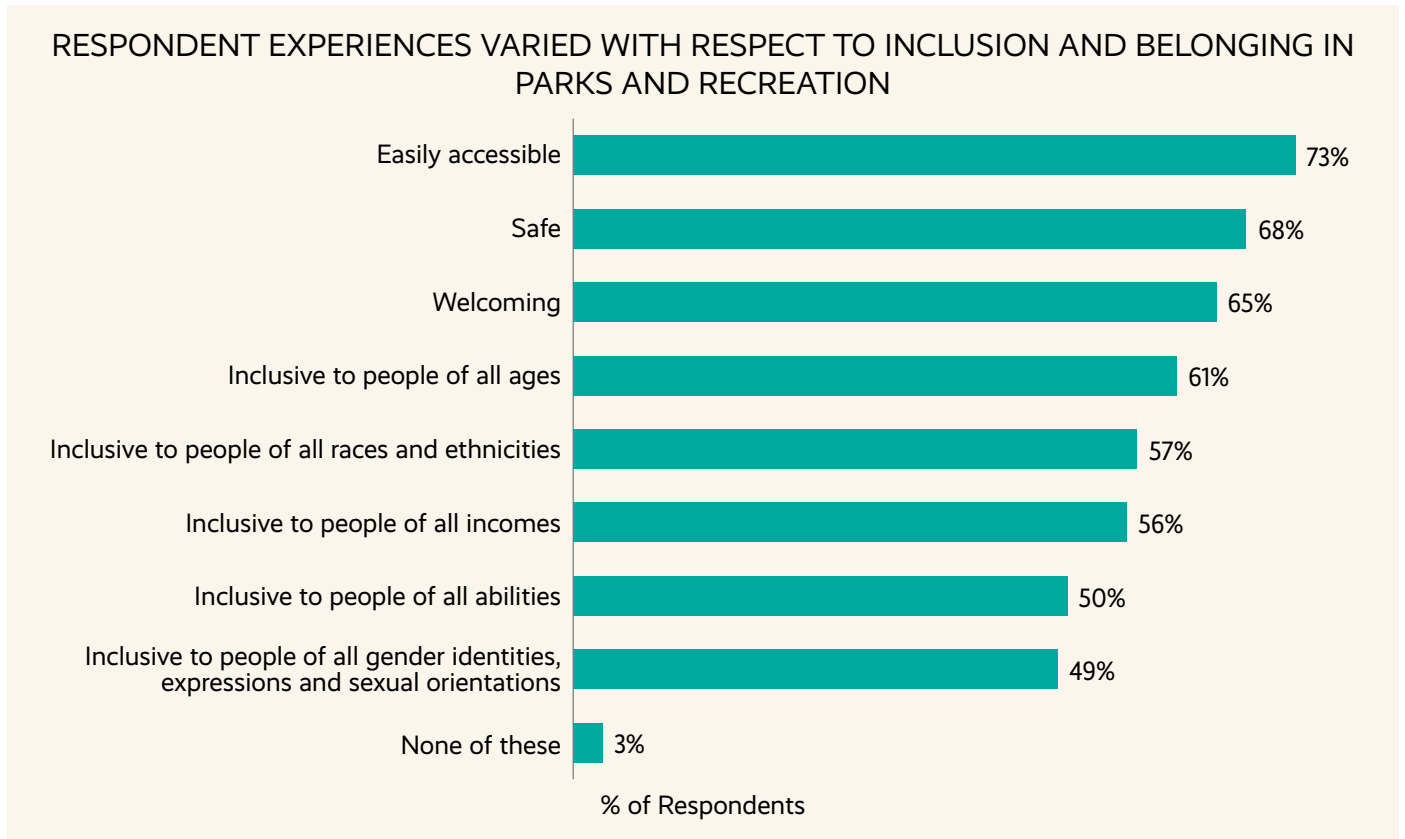


Two children play on a tire swing in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



Inclusion and Belonging in Parks and Recreation

Safe, accessible, inclusive and welcoming spaces can impact a person’s perception and use of park and recreation facilities. Nearly all (97 percent) respondents experienced one or more instances of inclusion and belonging at their park and recreation spaces. These experiences varied among respondents. While easy accessibility was experienced most frequently (73 percent), 27 percent of respondents did not agree.



Feeling welcome within park and recreation spaces can influence whether one takes advantage of the programming and activities offered. People who experience safe, accessible and inclusive park and recreation facilities visit those places more often than do those who do not share the same experiences. For example, respondents who felt a sense of inclusion for people of all ages visited a park nearly twice as often (24 times), on average, as did those who did not have this experience (13 times).

RESPONDENTS WHO **EXPERIENCED** SAFETY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY VISITED PARKS AND RECREATION SPACES, ON AVERAGE, MORE THAN THOSE WHO **DID NOT HAVE THESE EXPERIENCES**



SEVERAL GROUP DIFFERENCES BY GENERATION, INCOME AND RACE/ETHNICITY EMERGED FOR EXPERIENCES OF INCLUSION AND BELONGING

Percent of respondents reporting experiences of inclusion and belonging at park and recreation facilities by select demographics

Park and Recreation Experience	Generation		Income		Race/Ethnicity	
Easily accessible	Gen Z	76%	Less than \$35K	66%	Hispanic	74%
	Millennial	70%	\$35-75K	77%	People of color	63%
	Gen X	69%	More than \$75K	75%	White	76%
	Baby boomer	76%				
Safe	Gen Z	73%	Less than \$35K	64%	Hispanic	62%
	Millennial	68%	\$35-75K	63%	People of color	57%
	Gen X	60%	More than \$75K	73%	White	72%
	Baby boomer	73%				
Welcoming	Gen Z	74%	Less than \$35K	70%	Hispanic	58%
	Millennial	69%	\$35-75K	68%	People of color	60%
	Gen X	64%	More than \$75K	61%	White	66%
	Baby boomer	58%				
Inclusive of all ages	Gen Z	63%	Less than \$35K	53%	Hispanic	66%
	Millennial	58%	\$35-75K	57%	People of color	55%
	Gen X	56%	More than \$75K	67%	White	63%
	Baby boomer	69%				
Inclusive of all races/ethnicities	Gen Z	58%	Less than \$35K	51%	Hispanic	49%
	Millennial	57%	\$35-75K	53%	People of color	46%
	Gen X	48%	More than \$75K	61%	White	60%
	Baby boomer	65%				

Park and Recreation Experience	Generation		Income		Race/Ethnicity	
Inclusive of all incomes	Gen Z	60%	Less than \$35K	47%	Hispanic	46%
	Millennial	53%	\$35-75K	53%	People of color	41%
	Gen X	50%	More than \$75K	60%	White	60%
	Baby boomer	63%				
Inclusive of all abilities	Gen Z	53%	Less than \$35K	43%	Hispanic	45%
	Millennial	50%	\$35-75K	50%	People of color	40%
	Gen X	44%	More than \$75K	54%	White	54%
	Baby boomer	56%				
Inclusive of all genders	Gen Z	52%	Less than \$35K	38%	Hispanic	43%
	Millennial	46%	\$35-75K	45%	People of color	39%
	Gen X	46%	More than \$75K	55%	White	52%
	Baby boomer	54%				

These data show that:



Baby boomers were more likely to experience inclusion than were other generations.



People identifying as white were more likely to experience accessibility, safety and inclusion than were people of color and those identifying as Hispanic or people of color.



People in a higher income bracket were more likely to experience accessibility, safety and inclusion compared to those with lower incomes.

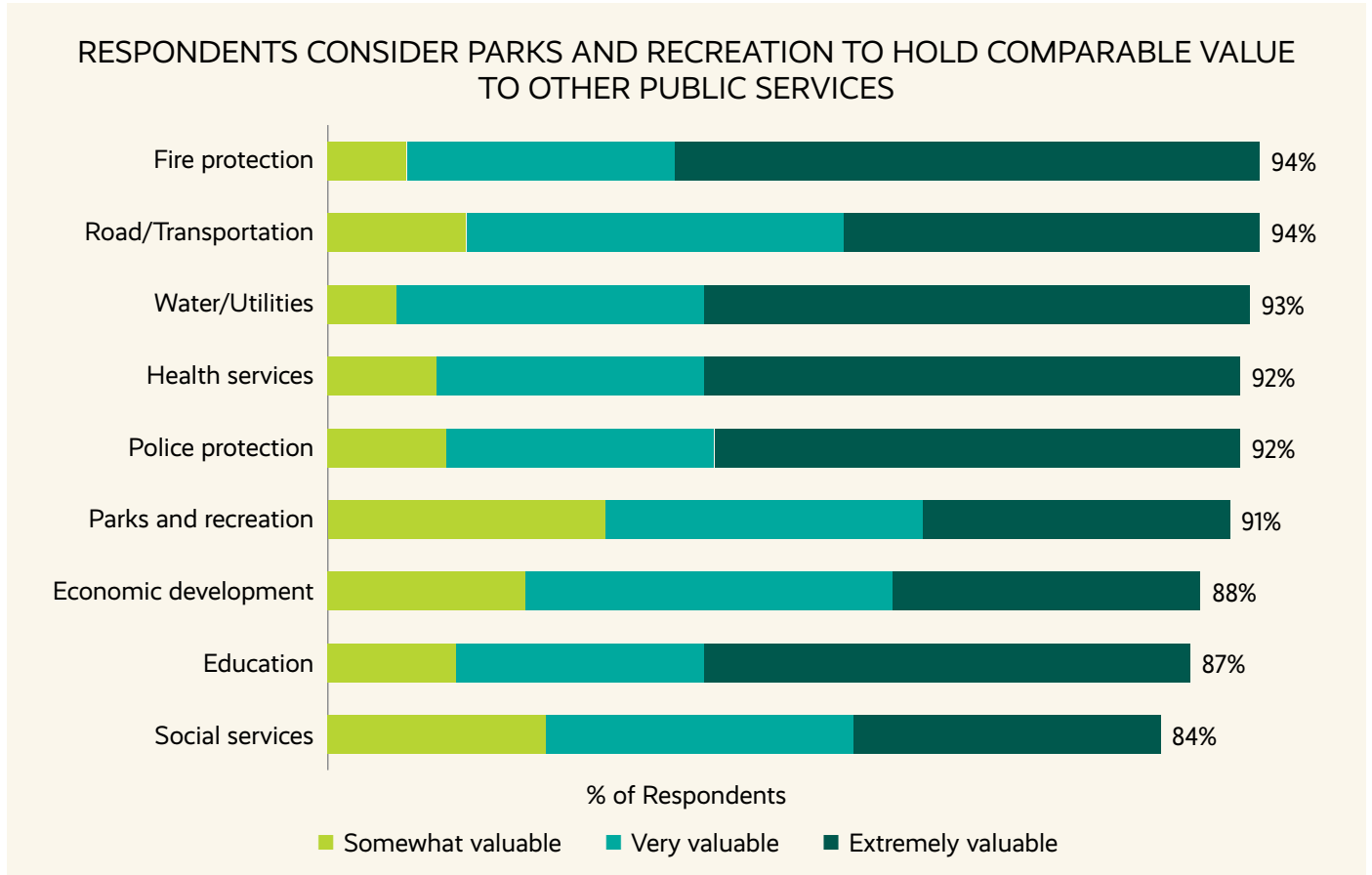
PHOTO COURTESY OF DES MOINES (IOWA) PARKS AND RECREATION



A historic interpreter poses for a photo in Des Moines, Iowa.

Value of Parks and Recreation

Park and recreation agencies are crucial components of a broader system of public services across towns, cities and counties. In fact, nine in 10 (91 percent) U.S. adults agree parks and recreation is a valuable service their local governments provide. This robust support spans across generations, genders, regions, races/ethnicities and political views, among other demographic groups. In comparison to other public services, parks and recreation is considered as valuable as fire, road/transportation, water/utilities, health and police services.



Most (92 percent) respondents indicated that it is valuable for local and state governments to sufficiently fund parks and recreation to ensure that every community member has access to amenities, infrastructure and programming. Nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of these adults consider this funding highly valuable.

Those who consider it extremely valuable for local and state governments to sufficiently fund parks and recreation tend to be:



Very physically active



Living near a park



Democrats



Gen Z/Millennials



Parents

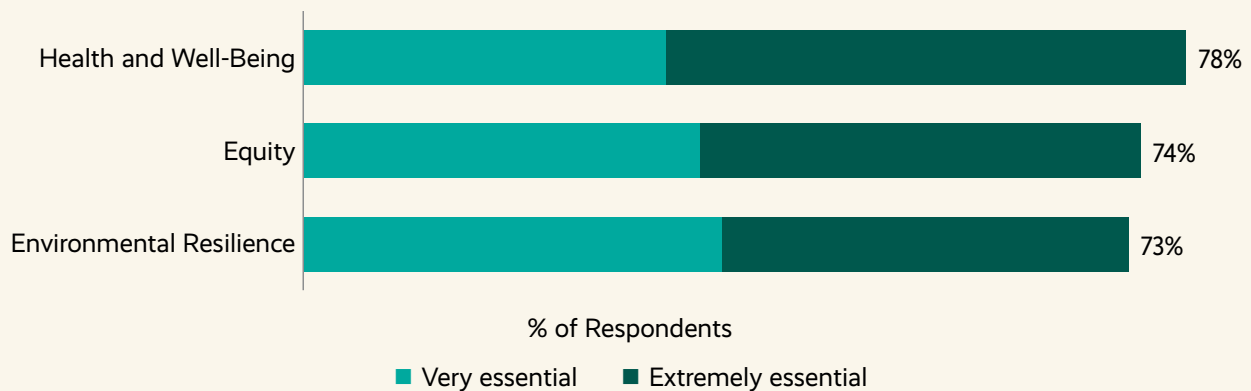
NRPA's Three Pillars

NRPA's Three Pillars are central to organizational efforts to support the role of parks and recreation in advancing the well-being of individuals and communities nationwide. They can serve as focus areas for park and recreation agencies in advocacy, program development and community engagement. The three pillars include:

- **Health and Well-Being:** Advancing community health and well-being through parks and recreation.
- **Equity:** Striving for a future where all people have access to the benefits of quality parks and recreation.
- **Environmental Resilience:** Promoting healthy, resilient and equitable community-driven solutions to build a better future for everyone.

Most (93 percent) respondents agree that NRPA's Three Pillars are essential goals for their local park and recreation agencies; between 73 and 78 percent report that each of the three pillars are very or extremely essential.

MOST RESPONDENTS RATED NRPA'S THREE PILLARS AS **VERY** OR **EXTREMELY ESSENTIAL** PARK AND RECREATION GOALS



New Park Technologies

A park in Farmers Branch, Texas, glows at nighttime.



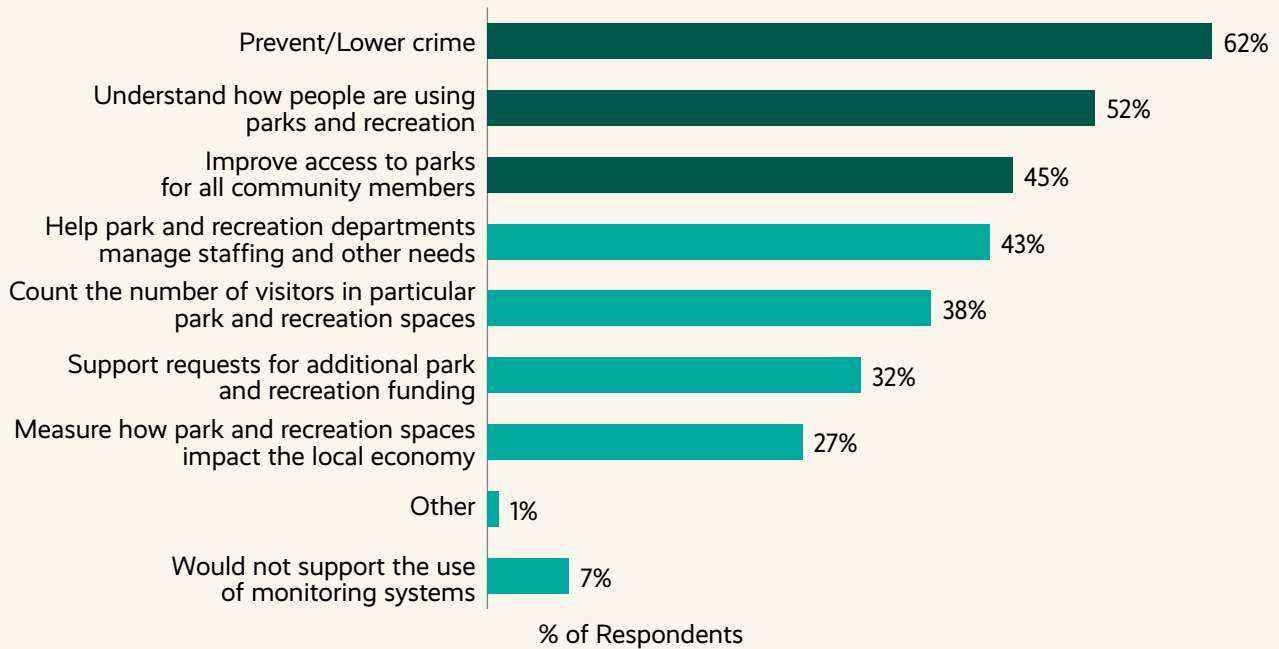
Park and recreation agencies seek ways to improve their services, including through the adoption of new technologies. To gauge public perceptions of emerging trends, we asked survey respondents about their support of data collection from monitoring systems like cameras, counters and cell phone data in park and recreation spaces. Overall, 93 percent indicated they support their local parks in using these devices for data collection.

Respondents selected reasons why they would support data monitoring technologies in parks and recreation. The top three reasons were to prevent crime (62 percent), to understand how people use parks and recreation (52 percent) and to improve access to parks for all community members (45 percent).



Children play in foam in Deer Park, Texas.

THE TOP THREE SUPPORTED REASONS FOR USING MONITORING SYSTEMS ARE CRIME PREVENTION, UNDERSTANDING PARK USE AND INCREASING ACCESS TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Written comments from respondents paralleled the top reasons for using monitoring systems with safety and security as a predominant theme. However, some noted concerns for privacy or how the data would be used. One respondent said, “I understand how this might be useful for [park and recreation] agencies, but I’m also concerned about the safety of the data, especially citizens’ cell phone data.” Another commented, “I have no issues as long as no personal info is collected/stored.”

Fifty-nine percent of respondents were aware whether their local park and recreation agency was using or not using this type of technology in public spaces, while 41 percent were not sure. Ideas for increasing public awareness of the use of these monitoring technologies in public spaces include posting signage in monitoring locations (noted by 65 percent of respondents), sharing data online (46 percent) or at public meetings (43 percent), announcements on social media (46 percent) and press releases (43 percent).

Conclusion

Youth play basketball at a recreation center in Champaign, Illinois.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAMPAIGN (ILLINOIS) PARK DISTRICT

Parks and recreation is a vital hub within the array of local public services. It offers invaluable resources to the more than 276 million people who visited park and recreation spaces during the past year. Park and recreation agencies' role in promoting health and wellness, fostering social connections, providing educational opportunities and family support positively impacts communities. Despite many benefits, continued work must be done so that every community member has access and feels included, safe and welcome in the park and recreation space.

Park and recreation professionals can use the results from the *2024 Engagement With Parks Report* as proof of the strong support they have from, and the valued services they provide to, communities. The information in this report also serves as a tool to use when speaking to local political leaders, stakeholders and the media to advocate for increased funding and resources. Professionals may also find the data useful for encouraging open dialogue with community members to address barriers to park use and explore ways to create more welcoming spaces. Finally, the data presented in this report series are not only a snapshot of the public's engagement with their local parks and recreation facilities, but also a reminder of the hard work and dedication of park and recreation professionals.



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About NRPA

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. With more than 60,000 members, NRPA advances this vision by investing in and championing the work of park and recreation professionals and advocates — the catalysts for positive change in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being.

NRPA brings strength to our message by partnering with like-minded organizations, including those in the federal government, nonprofits and commercial enterprises. Funded through dues, grants, registrations and charitable contributions, NRPA produces research, education and policy initiatives for our members that ultimately enrich the communities they serve.

NRPA places immense importance on research and data to raise the status of parks and recreation and conducts research with two goals. First, NRPA creates and analyzes data to help park and recreation agencies make optimal decisions on operations, programming and spending. Second, NRPA develops data and insights that support park and recreation professionals making the case for greater and more stable funding to policymakers, key stakeholders, the media and the public. The NRPA Research team works closely with internal subject matter experts, respected industry consultants and the academic community to develop its reports and data resources. Learn more at nrpa.org/Research.



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

22377 Belmont Ridge Road, Ashburn, VA 20148
800.626.NRPA (6772) | nrpa.org

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 7:00 pm – City Council Meeting	14 6:00 – TPARK Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 7:00 pm – City Council Meeting	28	29	30	31	

February 2025

TPARK

February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Share the Love Event (all month)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 7 pm – City Council	11 6 pm - TPARK	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 7 pm – City Council	25	26	27	28	