



Dolton Park District

2021 Comprehensive Master Plan

Adopted April 5, 2022

May 2021 - April 2027

Board of Commissioners / Council

Cleo D. Jones
President

Gail Towers
Vice President

Sandra D. Wells
Commissioner

Kyle Rochelle
Commissioner

Kevin A. Boens
Commissioner

Mark H. Kiel
Secretary / Treasurer

Michelle Broughton-Fountain
Attorney

Department Heads

Shiloh Jackson-Woodall
Director of Park Operations

Katrina Cotton
Communications Director

Kevin Green
Recreation Superintendent
Gregory Knuckles
Maintenance Manager

Jarees Towers
Assistant Maintenance Manager

Telicia Shelton
Human Resources Coordinator

Staff

Administration
Shameka Woodbury

Recreation
Katherine Cotton
Fenia Dukes
Carmelita Love
Lesley Vaughns
Lamont Woodall

Maintenance
Kenneth Bridges
Richard Cotton
Carolyn Fulgham
Anthony Harris
Alicia Jackson
Brodrick Jones
Terrance Ross



Project Team

Hitchcock Design Group
Planning and Landscape Architecture

Contents

4	Introduction
9	Chapter 1: <i>Analyze: Inventory & Analysis</i>
41	Chapter 2: <i>Connect: Needs Assessment</i>
65	Chapter 3: <i>Envision & Prioritize: Alternative & Preferred Strategies</i>
73	Chapter 4: <i>Implement: Action Plan</i>
85	Chapter 5: <i>Appendix</i>



Introduction

Since the last comprehensive planning effort, much has changed within the Dolton Park District. This plan was developed to address these changes and provide an updated vision for the future.

Purpose

- Assess existing parks, facilities, and programs
- Determine community opinion on services and facilities
- Identify park, facility, and program needs
- Define strategic and measurable goals and objectives
- Provide an action plan to implement strategies over the next five years

Planning Process

The comprehensive planning process encompasses five key phases: Analyze, Connect, Envision, Prioritize, and Implement. This Master Plan is the result of the first four phases and is meant to inform and guide the final phase, Implement.

The planning process began in the Spring of 2021 with an in depth inventory and analysis of the Dolton Park District's parks and open space, indoor facilities, and community context. During the

Connect Phase, the Board of Commissioners, staff, stakeholders, and community shared their opinions about the District's parks, facilities, programs, and needs.

Upon completion of the Analyze and Connect phases, the planning team met to develop alternative strategies. Input from the Board of Commissioners and staff prioritized and incorporated these strategies into a cohesive action plan to be implemented over the next five years.

How to Use the Plan

This Comprehensive Plan will be used by the Dolton Park District as a guide to implement action items over the next five to ten years. The Action Plan should be thought of as a "working list" that will need to be evaluated and updated annually.

STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT



Chapter One

Analyze: Inventory and Analysis

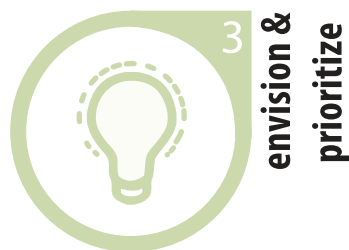
Chapter One provides a detailed inventory of parkland open space, District facilities, schools, and relevant adjacent land uses. Park assets are classified and quantified by standards, size, location, and amenities.



Chapter Two

Connect: Needs Assessment

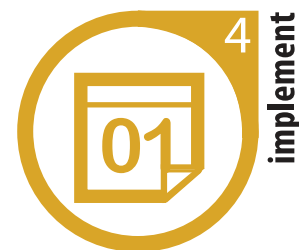
Chapter Two includes national, state, and local parks and recreation trends. It also includes summaries of the community survey, stakeholder and community workshop, staff workshop, and Board of Park Commissioners discussion.



Chapter Three

Envision & Prioritize: Alternative & Preferred Strategies

Chapter Three outlines the needs that arose during the Analyze and Connect phases. It provides the background of those needs, synthesizing the results from the previous phases into justification and background for future action items, and the strategies to achieve them.



Chapter Four

Implement: Action Plan

Chapter Four outlines the highest priority strategies into a five-year action plan. The action plan designates when strategies will occur and how to accomplish them.



Chapter Five

Appendix

Chapter Five contains the Village of Dolton zoning map, the focus questions asked at the various workshops during the Connect phase, and the graphs and results from the Community Survey.

District Profile

The Dolton Park District service area covers approximately 4.75 square miles and serves a population of over 22,000 people. Located in the southern end of Cook County, the Park District maintains more than 120 acres of recreation properties.

Geographic Profile

The Park District properties include a combined eleven Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks. Additionally, the Park District maintains several indoor recreational facilities, most notably the William “Bill” Shaw Recreation and Fitness Center.

The Park District is located in Cook County and overlaps with other governing bodies’ jurisdictions. These jurisdictions include the Village of South Holland, Thornton Township School District 205, School District 148 and School District 149. Portions of Forest Preserves of Cook County properties including Beaubien Woods and Kickapoo Woods also overlap the Park District jurisdiction.

Funding

The Dolton Park District’s primary revenue source consists of taxes. It also includes grant funds, subsidized payments, building rental fees, Early Learning Center fees, permit fees, and program fees. This revenue is then appropriated to various funds that are used to fund new developments, maintenance costs, operating costs, salaries, and other expenses.

The Park District has a total budget of \$2.7 million.

Organizational Structure

The five-person Board of Commissioners is the legal governing authority of the Park District. District residents elect Commissioners at large to serve staggered six year terms. This governing body is responsible for, among other things, passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees, and hiring the Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the Board, for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Park District, and for hiring qualified and professional employees.

Related Plans

Related documents referenced during the master planning process include:

- 2012 Dolton Park and Recreation Plan
- 2020 Annual Financial Report
- 2020 Dolton Park District Community Interest and Opinion Survey

History

In 1925, a group of interested citizens met to form a Park District and selected a parcel of 21 acres in the center of the Village of Dolton. This land was owned by Mrs. Matthew VenDersen, and her asking price

was \$3,000 per acre.







The Village of Dolton had a population of 2,300. Mr. Fred Waterman, owner of approximately 200 acres of land incorporated as part of the Village of South Holland, requested that this area be included in the boundaries of the Park District. The name selected was the Dolton Park District.

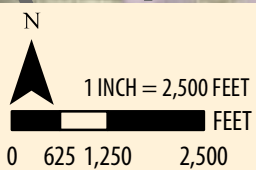
- 1927 - The West Garage was constructed to hold all lawn maintenance equipment for the Park District.
- 1953 - The Main Field House Banquet facility was built.
- 1979 - The New Administration Building was built.
- 1996 - Shaw Recreation Center was built, which holds our gymnasium, fitness room, piano room, and dance room.
- 2015 - Dolton Park District’s LEED Early Learning Center was built.
- 2017 - The Park District launched a new and improved mobile-friendly website.

Aerial Map

Aerial Map

Legend

-  Dolton Park District Boundary
-  Adjacent Park District
-  DPD Parks
-  Other Open Space
-  Forest Preserve
-  Schools



Dolton-Riverdale
Sunshine Park
Dolton Park
Town & Country Park

Needles Park
Kandy Kane Park
Blackstone Park
Meadowlane Park

Willowgreen Park
Triangle Park
Riverfront Park





analyze

A photograph of two individuals standing in front of a green wall with two white water fountains. The person on the left is wearing a red bucket hat, glasses, and a black face mask. The person on the right is wearing a grey baseball cap and a dark t-shirt. The word "Overview" is overlaid in large white text on the left side of the image.

Overview

The Analyze: Inventory & Analysis chapter provides a description and illustration of the existing conditions of the Dolton Park District, showing a basic understanding of the District's assets and programs.

This chapter documents the inventory and analysis accomplished during the Analyze phase of the comprehensive master planning process. This phase describes the context in which the District operates, the recreation services they provide, and the patrons that utilize parks, facilities, and programs.

The following chapter defines the community's demographic context and provides detailed maps of the District that identify parks, trails, and other relevant land uses. It also includes the level of service analysis for parks and facilities, comparing the District's total acreage of parks and open space and indoor facility square footage to local, state, and national benchmarks. A distribution mapping analysis of the geographic location of parks is also found in this chapter. This information provides insight into potential surpluses or deficiencies the District has in terms of parks, open space, and facilities.

Chapter Outline

- Demographics
- Existing Conditions
- Asset Inventory
- Park Classifications
- Park & Open Space Inventory Matrix
- Indoor Facility Inventory Matrix
- Level of Services Analysis
- Acreage
- Distribution
- Mini Park Distribution Analysis
- Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis
- Community Park Distribution Analysis
- Overall Park Distribution Analysis
- Amenities
- SCORP Amenity Needs Assessment
- Park Metrics Amenity Needs Assessment

CHICAGO PARK
DISTRICT

RIVERDALE
PARK DISTRICT







DIXMOOR
PARK
DISTRICT

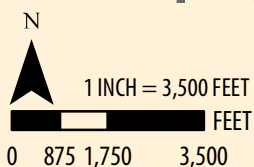
DOLTON PARK
DISTRICT

CALUMET MEMORIAL
PARK DISTRICT

PHOENIX PARK
DISTRICT

**Context Map
Legend**

-  Dolton Park District Boundary
-  Adjacent Park District
-  DPD Parks
-  Other Open Space
-  Forest Preserve
-  Schools



Demographics

The demographics review utilized the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Business Analyst Online (BAO) software to gather up-to-date demographic data necessary to gain an understanding of the District and its context.

Summary

According to 2020 estimates, the Dolton Park District has a population of 22,144. Total population numbers from 2010 indicate the population is decreasing at an annual rate of 5.6%. The population is expected to continue declining into 2025, when the population is projected to reach 21,609. The Park District's growth rate is falling right along with the state's growth rate (-0.10%). Conversely, the national growth rate is on the rise at 0.72%.

There are 7,581 households within the Park District. According to the U.S. Census, a household "includes all persons who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence." Out of these 7,581 households 74.42% (5,642) are families. A family is defined as a household in which one or more people are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. The 2020 average household size is 2.91 in the Dolton Park District. This is a slight decrease from 2010 (2.94) and the number is projected to reach 2.90 in 2025.

Age Distribution

With a median age of 37.3, the Park District has an adult, aging population. According to 2020 estimates, 28.20% of the population is over 55. This is expected to increase to 30.10% by 2025. This age group's growth is consistent with that of the state and nation. The aging active adult and senior populations are, and will continue to be, a major District demographic. Since 2010, all age groups under

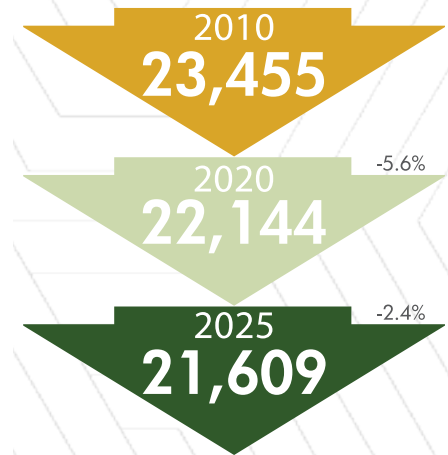
25 have decreased. The populations for these age groups are expected to hold constant going into 2025, with the exception of a small decrease in the 5-9 age group.

Race and Ethnicity

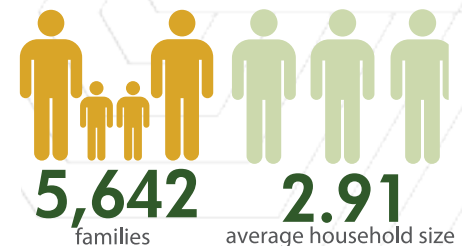
According to ESRI, the Dolton Park District has a diversity index of 80. The Diversity Index captures the racial and ethnic diversity of a geographic area in a single number, 0 to 100, and allows for efficient analysis of diversity throughout the U.S. The Diversity Index is "the likelihood that two persons, selected at random from the same area, would belong to a different race or ethnic group." According to demographic estimates, 89.2% of Park District residents indicate their race as Black, which results in a low diversity index. The second largest racial group within the District is White with 6.7% of the population reporting their race as "White Alone." This group is followed by 1.9% reporting "two or More Races," 1.6% as "Some Other Race Alone," 0.4% as "Asian Alone," 0.1% as "American Indian Alone," and 0.0% as "Pacific Islander Alone." Three point six percent of the population identifies their ethnicity as Hispanic. Race and ethnicity are considered two different concepts and are measured separately. The U.S. Census Bureau defines race as "a person's self-identification with one or more social groups." Meanwhile, ethnicity "determines whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not... Hispanics report as any race."

Source: Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)

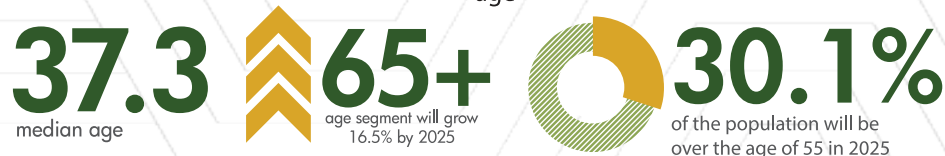
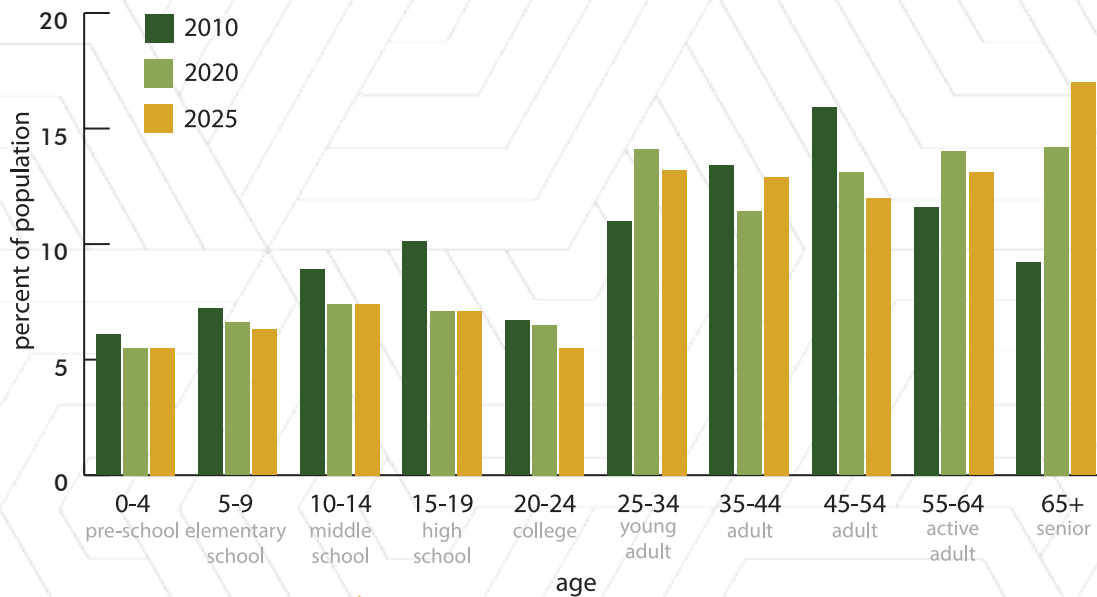
|| TOTAL POPULATION |||||



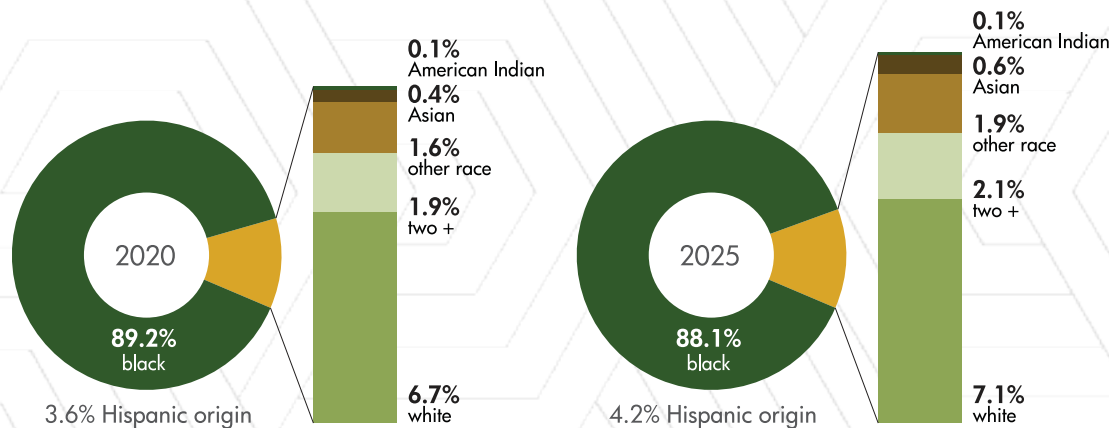
7,581
households



AGE DISTRIBUTION



RACE & ETHNICITY



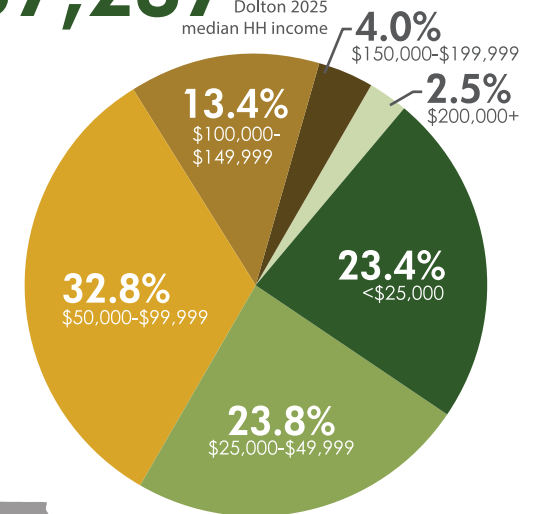
Income

The median household income for Dolton Park District residents is slightly below the state and national median. It is expected that the median household income in the District will increase at a rate of about 1.8%. Although this is higher than the projected growth rate for both the state and the nation (1.5% and 1.6%, respectively), it is projected that the median household income will still fall below both state and national medians in 2025. Over twenty-three percent of the District's population make less than \$25,000 per year, which is the poverty line as defined by Illinois Legal Aid.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

\$52,412 Dolton 2020 median HH income

\$57,237 Dolton 2025 median HH income



\$65,003 state median HH income

\$62,203 national median HH income

Existing Conditions

The first step in the comprehensive planning process is to understand the Park District's surroundings and the existing conditions of the District's assets including land use, open space, and trails.

Land Use

The Dolton Park District encompasses a majority of the Village of Dolton and portions of the Village of South Holland. The majority of the Village is residentially zoned property. Most of these lots are designated for single-family homes, while multi-family development is generally located in the central corridor of town. The remaining land uses are a mix of business (commercial) and manufacturing (industrial). Public, commercial, and industrial land is located throughout Dolton, with the largest tracts of industrial use concentrated at the north end of the Village, surrounding the rail lines. The Village of Dolton zoning map can be found in the Appendix.

Open Space Providers

The Park District is one of several open space and outdoor recreation providers within the community. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Village of South Holland, and the Dolton School Districts are the other open space providers. The map to the right displays the public open spaces within Dolton Park District.

Public Open Space

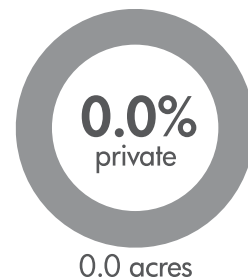
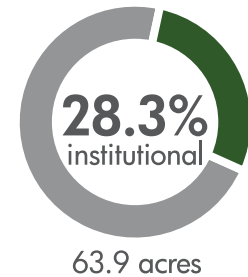
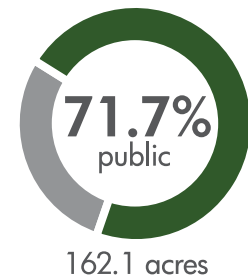
Park District, Municipal, Forest Preserve District, State, Federal
The Dolton Park District owns more than 120 acres of active and passive open space. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County owns approximately 40 acres of land within the Dolton Park District boundaries. The Village of South Holland owns 0.35 acres within the District.

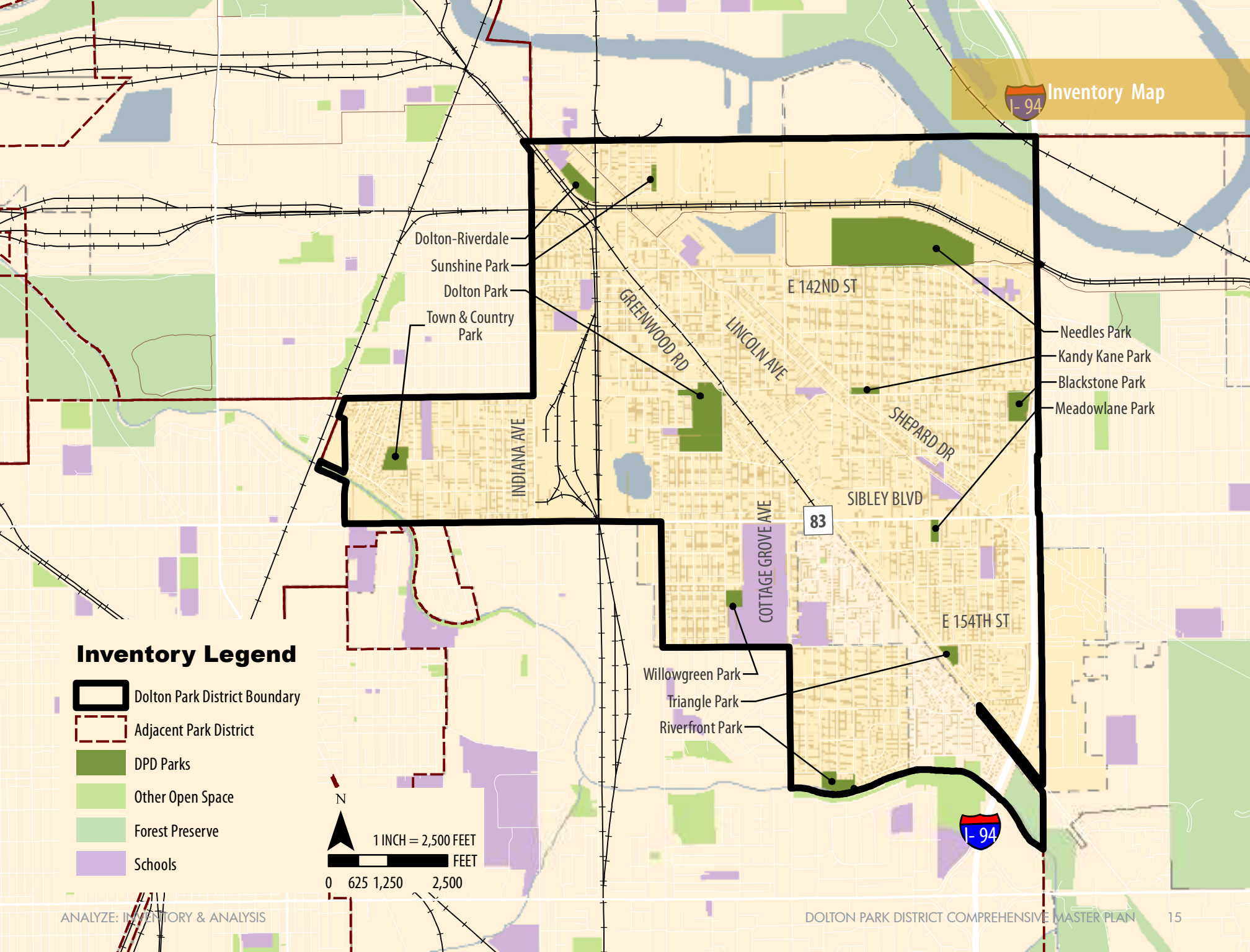
Institutional Open Space

Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; Colleges / Universities
There are three public school districts serving Park District residents: Dolton School District 148, Dolton School District 149, and Dolton School District 205. There are a number of private schools as well.

Private Open Space

There is no private active or passive recreation space within the Dolton Park District boundaries.





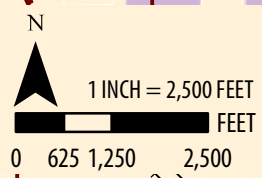
Dolton-Riverdale
Sunshine Park
Dolton Park
Town & Country
Park

Needles Park
Kandy Kane Park
Blackstone Park
Meadowlane Park

Willowgreen Park
Triangle Park
Riverfront Park

Inventory Legend

- Dolton Park District Boundary
- Adjacent Park District
- DPD Parks
- Other Open Space
- Forest Preserve
- Schools





Asset Inventory

As part of the planning process, the planning team referenced the guidelines outlined by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) - Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines Manual updated in 1996.

NRPA recommends creating a park classification system to serve as a guide for organizing an agency's parks. Park, recreation, and greenway classification guidelines are expressions of the minimum amount and development of land a community should provide for different classifications or types of parks, open space, and greenways.

Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, Large Urban Park, and Sports Complexes are the five classifications for parks recognized by the NRPA. Commonly, School Parks serve similar functions as Neighborhood Parks and Large Urban Parks and Sports Complexes are included in the Community Park category.

These categories are based on size, function, and use. Mini Parks are the smallest and most limited in function, while Community Parks are typically

the largest parks of a system and serve a variety of functions for the community. Other open space categories recognized by the NRPA are Natural Areas, Trails, Corridors or Linear Parks, and Special Use. Undeveloped Parks are sites not yet developed for meaningful access. This category is recognized for planning purposes but is not an NRPA category.

These classifications are vital to a comprehensive Level of Service analysis. In the park and open space matrix on the following pages, amenities were quantified to understand the District's total recreational offerings.

The District's indoor space was also categorized by the type of facility and/or use. The facility open space inventory follows the park and open space inventory. It categorizes the District's facilities by use and identifies the total administration, recreation, and support space allocations within each facility.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

<i>Classification</i>	<i>General Description</i>	<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Size Criteria</i>	<i>Dolton Park District Parks and Facilities</i>
Mini Park (M)	Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. Appropriate elements in these parks include playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating. These parks usually do not include parking. Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than 0.25 mile distance in a residential setting.	1.3 to 2.6 acres	Sunshine Park, Willowgreen Park
Neighborhood Park (N)	Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces. Elements in these parks often include playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields, and trail systems. Neighborhood Parks serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.	0.25 to 0.5 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	1.9 to 6.4 acres	Blackstone Park, Dolton-Riverdale, Kandy Kane Park, Meadowlane Park, Riverfront Park, Town & Country Park, Triangle Park
Community Park (C)	Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These parks preserve unique landscapes and often serve the community as gathering places and general athletics. Elements in these parks include playgrounds, pavilions, trails and path systems, multiple sport courts and fields. Serves broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Focus is on meeting community based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 0.5 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 10 acres.	Dolton Park, Needles Park
Natural Areas*	Conservation and wildlife areas, wooded areas and waterways that are maintained for the most part in their natural state.	Service radius is unlimited.	No applicable standard.	N/A
Special Use*	Special use facilities focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. Often, these spaces, both indoor and outdoor, are designed as single-use recreation activities. Examples of special use facilities include golf courses, nature centers, recreation centers, and museums. Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities. Generally designed for active recreation and focus on meeting community based recreation needs.	No applicable standard.	Variable, depending on desired amenity.	N/A
Trails, Corridors, and Linear Parks*	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	No applicable standard.	N/A
Undeveloped Park	Lands owned by the agency, but not yet developed with any amenities to provide meaningful access to the site such as trails, seating areas, and other passive and active recreation amenities.	No applicable standard.	Variable.	N/A

*from NRPA's Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines

Park & Open Space Matrix

	ACREAGE		TRAILS				INDOOR FACILITIES		DAY USE AMENITIES				SPORTS COURTS AND AMENITIES														WATER-BASED AMENITIES						NATURAL FEATURES					
	Acreage - Own	Acreage - Lease / Manage	Regional Trail Access	Multi-Use Trails	Hiking Trails	Bicycle Trails	Nature / Interpretive Trails	Indoor Program / Support Facility	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Disc Golf (holes)	Football / Rugby	Golf Course (holes)	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Lacrosse	Pickleball Court	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing	Creek / River / Open Water	Natural Area / Gardens		
PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM																																						
Mini Parks																																						
Sunshine Park	1.3													1	1																							
Willowgreen Park	2.6													1																								
Mini Park Acreage	3.9	0.0																																				
	3.9																																					
Neighborhood Parks																																						
Blackstone Park	6.4													1		2												1										
Dolton-Riverdale	6.0								X	X				1		3																						
Kandy Kane Park	1.9													1													1	1										
Meadowlane Park	1.9													1																								
Riverfront Park	5.8													1	1	1											1											
Town & Country Park	5.4													1													2											
Triangle Park	2.6													1		1											1											
Neighborhood Park Acreage	30.0	0.0																																				
	30.0																																					
Community Parks																																						
Dolton Park**	24.6			X				X	X	X	12		2	2		2		1							1		4											
Needles Park	63.6							X	X	X				1	2	4				1																		
Community Park Acreage	88.2	0.0																																				
	88.2																																					
	122.1	0.0																																				
TOTAL PARK & OPEN SPACE HOLDINGS	122.1	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	3	3	12	0	2	12	4	13	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
BEYOND USEFUL LIFE AMENITIES AT CURRENT STANDARDS																																						
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	1	3	3	12	0	2	8	4	13	0	1	0	1	0	4	13	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Indoor Program / Support Facility	Restrooms	Concessions	Fitness Stations	Dog Park	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Basketball	Baseball	Disc Golf (holes)	Football / Rugby	Golf Course (holes)	Golf Driving Range	Horseshoe Pit	Lacrosse	Pickleball Court	Skate Park	Soccer	Softball	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Boat Launch	Fishing	Creek / River / Open Water	Natural Area / Gardens									
	INDOOR FACILITIES													SPORTS COURTS AND AMENITIES														WATER-BASED AMENITIES		NATURAL FEATURES								
Acreage information was derived from GIS data obtained from Cook County GIS open data portal.																																						
*all text in red indicates an amenity is beyond its useful life.																																						
**one playground at Dolton Park is beyond its useful life																																						

Acreage information was derived from GIS data obtained from Cook County GIS open data portal.

*all text in red indicates an amenity is beyond its useful life.

**one playground at Dolton Park is beyond its useful life

Indoor Facility Matrix

	SQUARE FOOTAGE	RESTROOMS		ADMIN		ACTIVITY ROOMS						RECREATION AND FITNESS							OTHER			
	Total Square Footage	Restrooms	Locker Rooms	Reception Desk	Office	Kitchen	Concessions	Banquet / Community	Classroom / Multipurpose	Art Room	Teen Room	Auditorium	Gymnasium	Indoor Turf	Fitness / Weight Room	Aquatics	Indoor Activity Courts	Dance	Storage	General	Greenhouse	Maintenance
INDOOR FACILITIES																						
Recreation & Fitness Programming																						
William "Bill" Shaw Recreation / Fitness Center	14,600	2	2	1	2		1		1				1		1				2	2		2
Recreation & Fitness Programming	14,600																					
Single-Use																						
Administrative Office	3,400	2		1	3	1			1													1
John W. Needles Driving Range	576	2		1															2			
Lester L. Long Field House	4,125	2			1	1	1	2											2			1
Scout Bulding	2,500	2				1		1														
Commissioners Building	1,312	2				0.5		1														1
Outdoor Concession Stand	205																					
Needles Outdoor Concession Stand	1,200																					
Dolton-Riverdale Concession Stand	500																					
Early Learning Center	13,300	10		1	3	1.0			8													
Print Shop	800	1																				
Light House	256																					
Single-Use	28,174																					
Maintenance																						
Dolton-Riverdale Storage and Restrooms	1,000	2																	2			
West Garage	6,750																					
Garage Storage	1,968	1			1														2			1
Maintenance	9,718																					
TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE	52,492	26	2	4	10	4.5	2	4	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	10	2	0	6

Level of Service Analysis

This Level of Service analysis evaluates how well the District's parks, facilities, and amenities are serving the current needs of the community.

The development of a Level of Service standard for parks and recreation began in the 1980s with the development of Levels of Service for other infrastructure such as water, storm water drainage, sewer systems, and transportation. These benchmarks provide agency officials with the ability to respond to growing communities, evolving demographics, and changing needs. It is important to note however, that these benchmarks are not strict rules that all communities should follow. These Level of Service benchmarks are simply another gauge for agencies to use when determining future needs and services.

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the Level of Service is a quantification of the park and recreation delivery philosophy and policy of a community. Its basic utility is in meeting a legal and/or economic requirement of quality service and equity. As a basic rule, a Level of Service benchmark should:

- Be practical and achievable
- Provide for an equitable allocation of park and recreation resources throughout a community with equal opportunity access for all citizens
- Reflect the real-time demand of the citizens for park and recreation opportunities

The Level of Service standard uses four measurements to help a community evaluate the comprehensiveness and equability of their current park and recreation offerings. These are:

1. **Acreage:** A calculation of the minimum amount of land required to provide all of the recreation activities and facilities required to support such activities
2. **Distribution:** An evaluation of how equitably park and open space sites are placed throughout the community, as well as how accessible existing sites are to residents
3. **Amenities:** A calculation of the minimum number of amenities and facilities required to meet state and/or national averages
4. **Square Footage:** A calculation of the minimum number of indoor square footage required to provide all of the recreation programs and services

Level of Service guidelines are developed by state and national agencies, including the NRPA. Historically, a Level of Service analysis has been limited to total park and open space acreage alone and did not include distribution, amenities or indoor square footage. The national standard for acreage Level of Service was 10 acres per 1,000 population, but as park and recreation planning developed, pro-





professionals saw the need to develop a more comprehensive benchmarking tool that could be adjusted for, and specific to, each community.

Because one size does not fit all, the NRPA recommends using community-specific benchmarks. Park Metrics is the NRPA's online management tool designed for public park and recreation agencies.

This tool is a supplement to the NRPA standards that have guided land acquisition and development for the past 55 years. Through this tool, agencies have the ability to compare themselves and their offerings with departments and agencies in their state or region. Agencies can also compare themselves to others based on factors such as total population, operating budget, and full-time technical equivalent employees. Now, agencies can plan and benchmark with more applicable data than national averages.

Park Metrics has thousands of data points and more than 600 completed profiles. It is now the largest and most comprehensive collection of detailed municipal, county, state, and special district data. As more agencies add their data to the database, trends and patterns begin to emerge that help agencies plan and benchmark.

The following Level of Service analyses reference national NRPA standards, Park Metrics benchmarks, and local and regional-specific standards set by the State of Illinois and the planning team. The Dolton Park District was compared against 11 U.S. park districts with populations between 20,000 and 25,000 registered with the NRPA's Park Metrics.

Acreage

Acreage Level of Service benchmarks are calculations of the recommended amount of land required to provide recreation activities and the facilities to support them.

The NRPA's population ratio method (acres/1,000 population) emphasizes the direct relationship between recreation spaces and people and is the most common method of estimating an agency's level of service for parkland and open space. In addition to the baseline of 10 acres/1,000 population used in this analysis, Park Metrics benchmarks are also used to understand how the Dolton Park District compares to agencies of similar population size.

Based on the NRPA benchmark of 10 acres per 1,000 population, 221.44 acres of Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park space is recommended for the Dolton Park District. The table to the right designates these parks as "Active Recreation Areas." With 122.09 acres of open space dedicated to Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park uses, DPD has a 99.35 acre deficit compared to this benchmark. The District has a level of service of 5.51 acres per 1,000 population, which is slightly more than half the NRPA recommended 10 acres per 1,000 population.

Dolton Park District has no designated natural areas, special use, or greenway park space, so the NRPA recommendations for all District-managed open space acres and level service do not change from the active recreation area benchmarks. However, when all public open space within the Dolton Park District boundary is considered, there is a small surplus of open space acreage. With the addition of 64.55 acres of school open space and 39.98 acres of

Forest Preserve property, DPD residents are served by a total of 226.62 acres, giving them a 5.18 acre surplus over the NRPA recommendation of 221.44 acres. This additional public open space gives DPD a level of service of 10.23 acres per 1,000 population, which is just 0.23 acres per 1,000 population over the recommendation.

The Park Metrics database was referenced to understand how the Dolton Park District compares to agencies across the nation with similar population sizes. The Dolton Park District has a population of 22,144. Out of over 600 agencies reporting, there were 11 agencies with populations between 20,000 and 25,000. Park Metrics provided information on the following level of service benchmarks:

- Total Number of Parks
- Total Park Acres
- Total Acres Managed
- Acres of Park Per 1,000 Residents

The Dolton Park District has 11 parks that total 122.09 acres, which is significantly lower than the median 21 parks and median 315 acres as reported by Park Metrics.





Distribution

Planning areas are used to analyze park distribution, land acquisition, and park facility redevelopment needs. Planning areas are delineated by major pedestrian barriers, including major roads or highways, railroad corridors, and impassible natural features.

The location and geographic distribution of the parks themselves can offer an indication of how well an agency is serving its residents. Understanding where parks are located in relation to residential development determines who is under-served. This analysis may reveal the need for acquisition to expand service or may reveal that the District is serving the residents well and should focus on maintaining or updating existing assets.

Methodology

In the Dolton Park District, arterial roads and railroads serve as the main pedestrian barriers. These barriers resulted in 15 planning areas. Areas of the District defined as “non-planning areas” are shown by a transparent blue color. These areas are predominantly industrial or commercial in use.

A service area, illustrated in the following maps with an orange halo, was created around each individual park. The shape of each service area is determined by analyzing the existing road and sidewalk infrastructure to identify the actual route of distance one has to travel to access the park. The size of the service area is dependent upon the park classification and is either a quarter, half, or one mile.

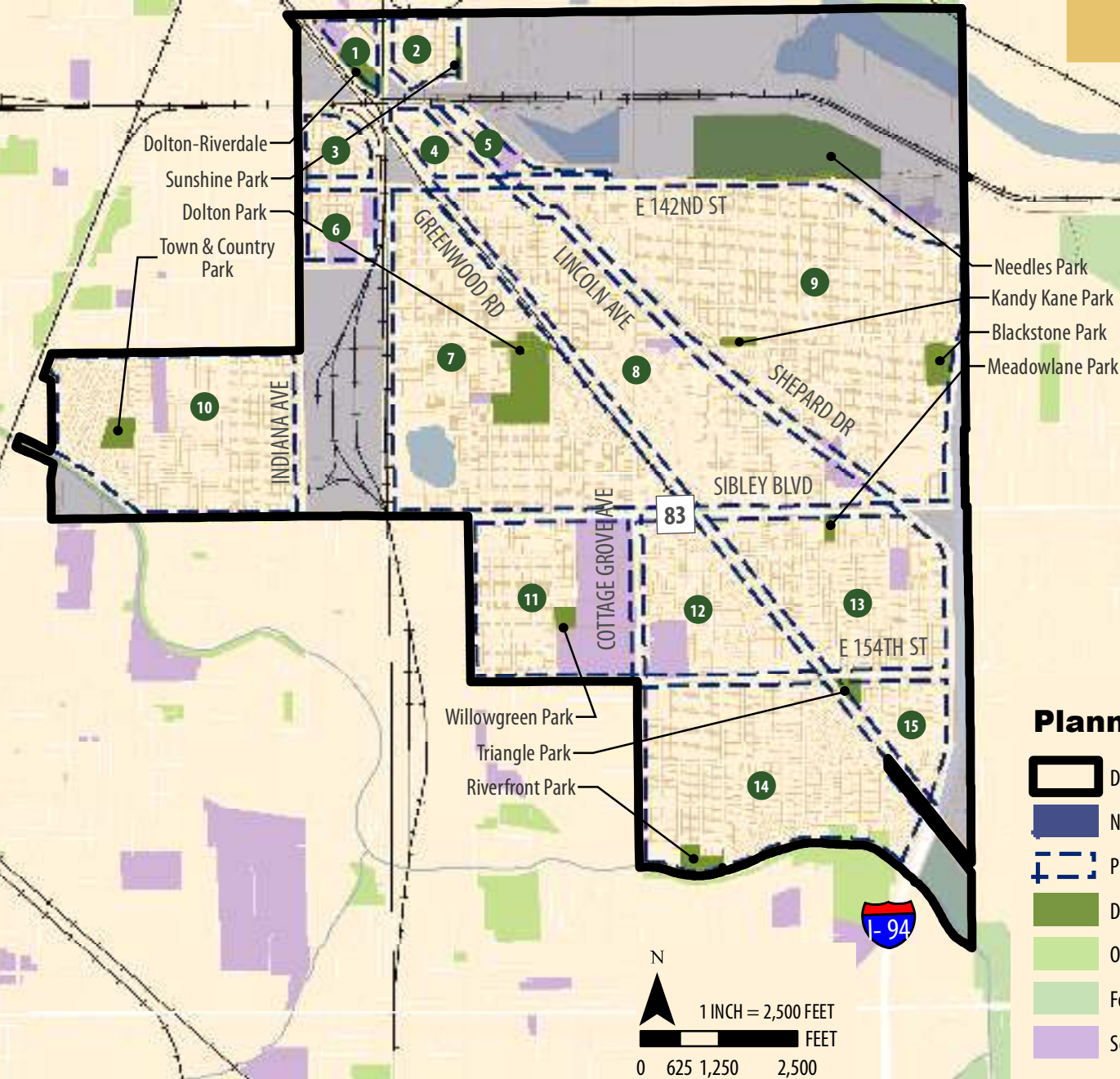
The table on page **17** notes the various recommended service area distances for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks.

Service area buffers for Mini and Neighborhood Parks were truncated to the planning area boundaries in which the park is located. Planning Area boundaries are considered barriers to safe or comfortable pedestrian access, and Mini and Neighborhood Parks are considered walk-to or walkable destinations. For Community Parks, the boundaries were not truncated because these parks are seen as drive-to destinations.

Finally, overlaying service area maps reveal which areas are most and least served by the existing park system. The most served areas are illustrated by the dark orange, while the least served areas are illustrated by the lack of orange. The orange service area buffers overlap to form a gradient that illustrates the degree to which residents are served. The darker the orange, the better these residents are served. Residents who fall within the darker or opaque orange areas are served by multiple parks and their amenities. Demographics for each planning and service area further informed the level of service analysis.



Planning Area Map



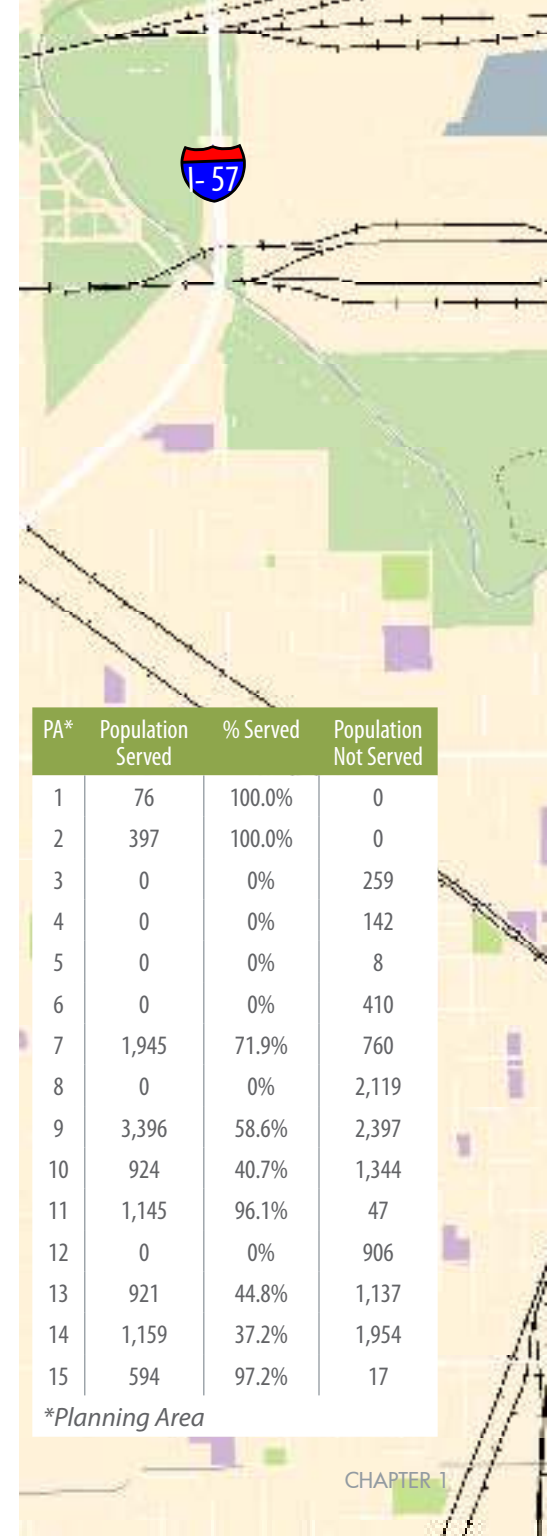
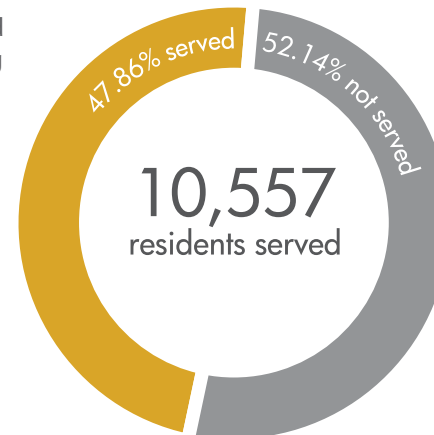
Mini Park Distribution Analysis

Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. Appropriate elements in these parks typically include playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating opportunities.

The purpose of the Mini Park Distribution Analysis is to determine which planning areas are underserved by the District's existing Mini Park land holdings. Currently, the District has two Mini Parks that range in size from 1.3 acres to 2.6 acres in size.

The map to the right illustrates the quarter-mile (0.25-mile) service area reach for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks shown in orange. Quarter-mile service areas are also shown for Neighborhood and Community Parks, as these parks serve the function of a Mini Park for those residents within a quarter-mile distance from the park. According to NRPA's Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, Mini Park service areas do not include residents who must cross a planning area boundary to reach the park. Service areas are truncated to all planning area boundaries.

The map to the right illustrates where Mini Park service is concentrated within the District. Planning Areas 1 and 2, where 100% of residents have walkable access to a Mini Park, are the best served. The percent of the population within the Planning Area is important, but knowing which populations have the highest total population without access allows the planning team to prioritize based on need. The Planning Area with the most residents not served is Planning Area 9 followed by Planning Areas 8, 14, 10, and 13. It should also be noted that while smaller, the entire populations of Planning Areas 3, 4, 5, 6, and 12 have no Mini Park access. The table to the right compares the total population served to the total population not served by a park within one quarter-mile of their home. Overall, 47.86% of the Dolton Park District's population has access to a park asset within one quarter-mile walking distance. This exceeds the median Mini Park Distribution Level of Service of 42.00% within the planning team's database.



PA*	Population Served	% Served	Population Not Served
1	76	100.0%	0
2	397	100.0%	0
3	0	0%	259
4	0	0%	142
5	0	0%	8
6	0	0%	410
7	1,945	71.9%	760
8	0	0%	2,119
9	3,396	58.6%	2,397
10	924	40.7%	1,344
11	1,145	96.1%	47
12	0	0%	906
13	921	44.8%	1,137
14	1,159	37.2%	1,954
15	594	97.2%	17

*Planning Area



Mini Park Distribution

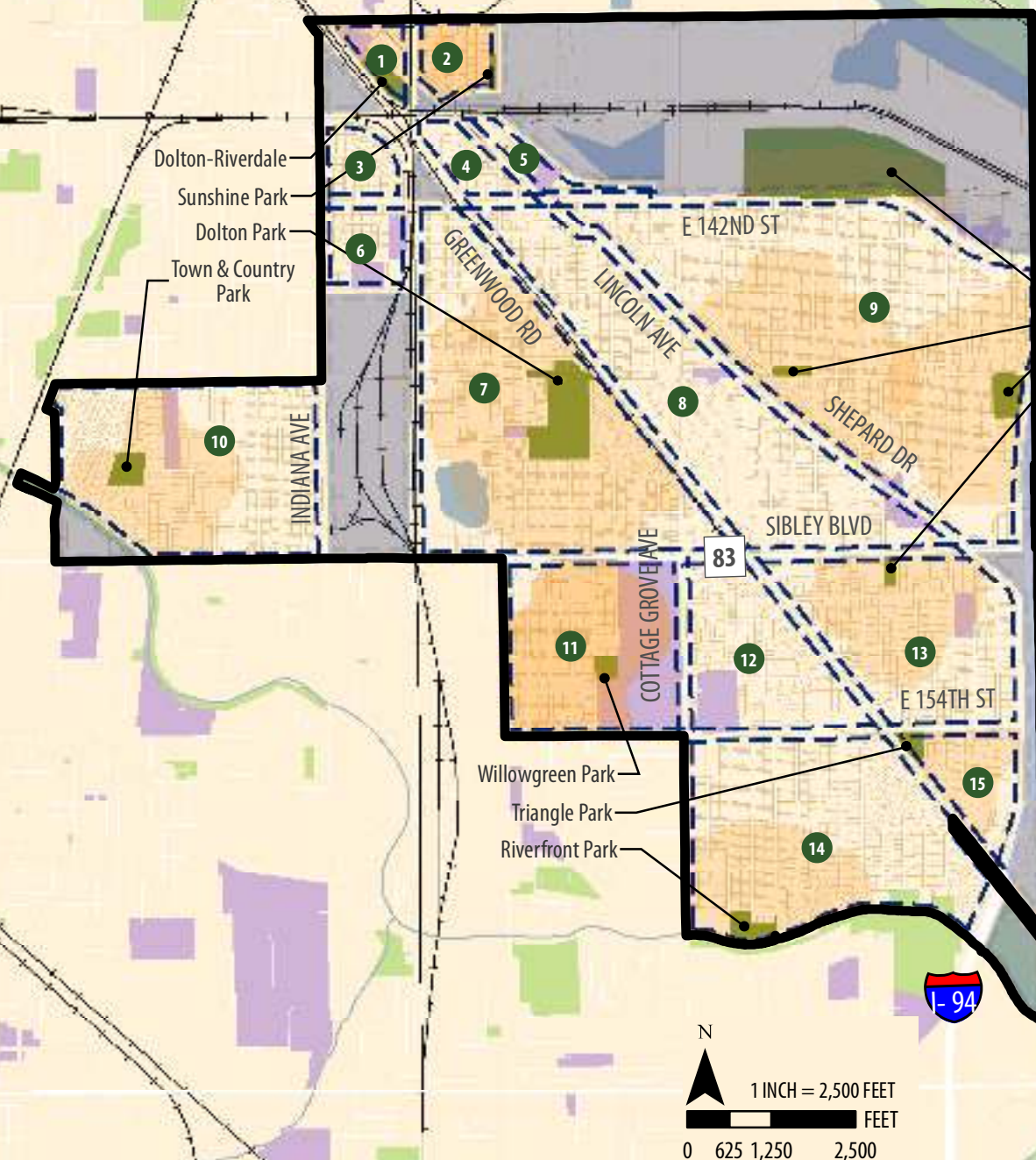
Mini Park List

Sunshine Park
Willowgreen Park

Needles Park
Kandy Kane Park
Blackstone Park
Meadowlane Park

Mini Park Level of Service Legend

-  Dolton Park District Boundary
-  Non-Planning Area
-  Planning Area
-  0.25-Mile Service Area
-  DPD Parks
-  Other Open Space
-  Forest Preserve
-  Schools



Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis

Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces.

The purpose of the Neighborhood Park Distribution Analysis is to determine which planning areas are underserved by the District’s existing Neighborhood Park land holdings. Currently, the District has seven Neighborhood Parks that range from 1.9 acres to 6.4 acres in size.

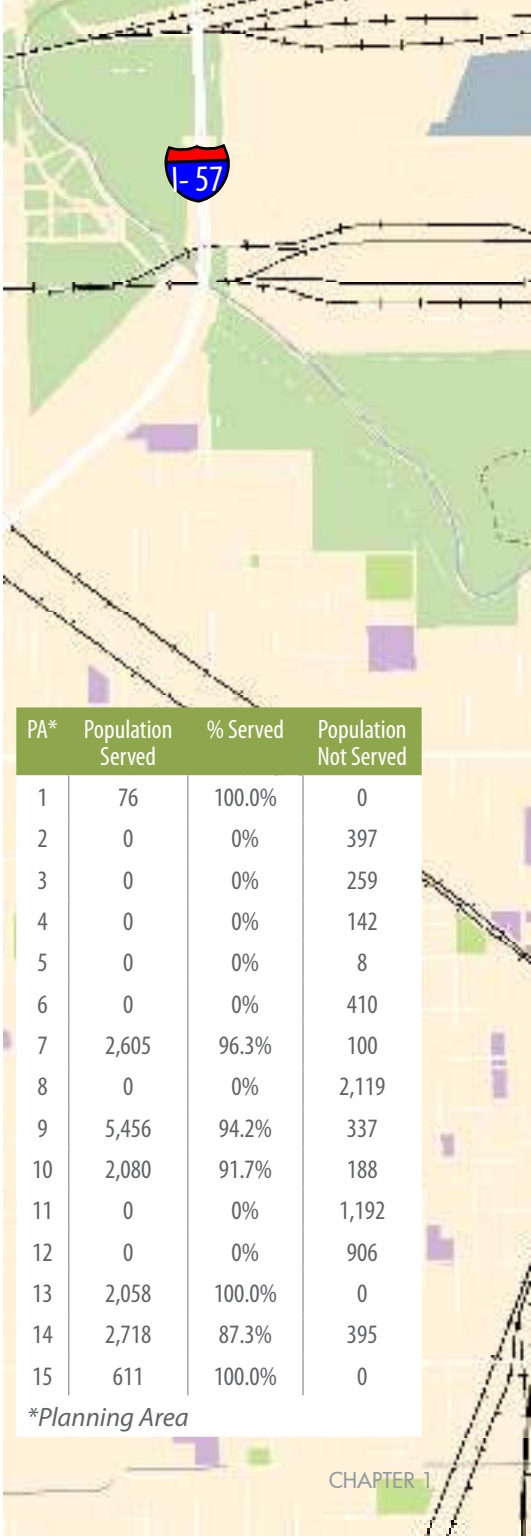
The map to the right illustrates the half-mile (0.5-mile) service area reach for Neighborhood Parks. This plan also illustrates a half-mile service area (shown in orange) for Community Parks, as these parks can serve the function of a Neighborhood Park for residents within a 0.5-mile walk from the park. According to NRPA’s Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, Neighborhood Park service areas do not include residents who must cross a planning area boundary to reach the park. Service areas are truncated to all planning area boundaries.

The map to the right illustrates where Neighborhood Park service is concentrated within the Park District. In Planning Areas 1, 13, and 15, 100% of residents have walkable access to a Neighborhood or Community Park. Planning Areas 8 and 11 have the most residents not served; approximately 2,100 and 1,200 residents, respectively, do not have access to a park within a half-mile of their home. The table to the right compares the total population served to the total population not served by a Neighborhood Park. Overall, 70.74% of the Dolton Park District’s population has access to a park asset within a half-mile walking distance. This is much higher than the Neighborhood Park Distribution Level of Service of 53.20% in the planning team’s database.



PA*	Population Served	% Served	Population Not Served
1	76	100.0%	0
2	0	0%	397
3	0	0%	259
4	0	0%	142
5	0	0%	8
6	0	0%	410
7	2,605	96.3%	100
8	0	0%	2,119
9	5,456	94.2%	337
10	2,080	91.7%	188
11	0	0%	1,192
12	0	0%	906
13	2,058	100.0%	0
14	2,718	87.3%	395
15	611	100.0%	0

*Planning Area



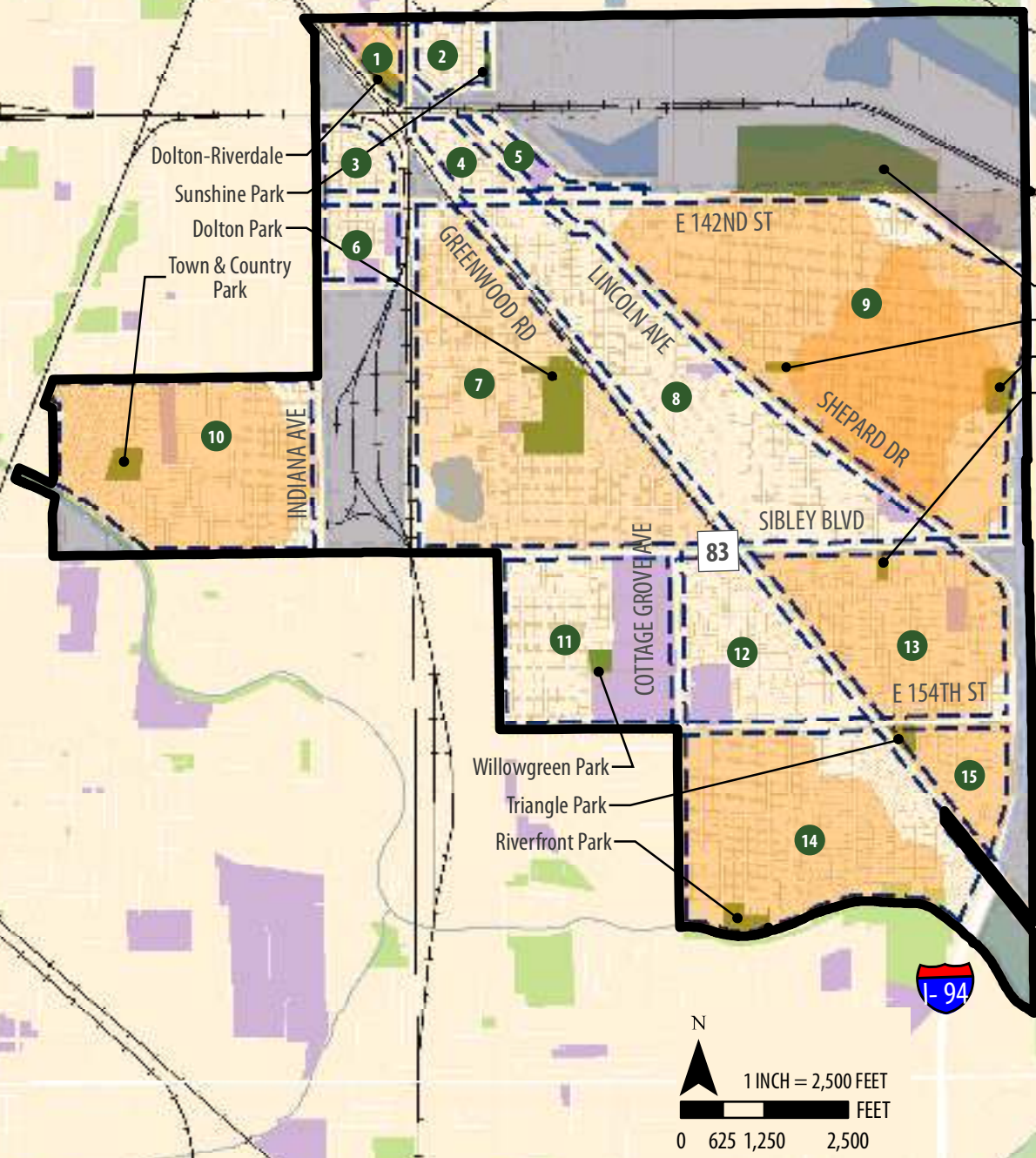
Neighborhood Park Distribution

Neighborhood Park List

- Blackstone Park
- Dolton-Riverdale
- Kandy Kane Park
- Blackstone Park
- Meadowlane Park
- Riverfront Park
- Town & Country Park
- Triangle Park

Neighborhood Park Level of Service Legend

-  Dolton Park District Boundary
-  Non-Planning Area
-  Planning Area
-  0.5-Mile Service Area
-  DPD Parks
-  Other Open Space
-  Forest Preserve
-  Schools



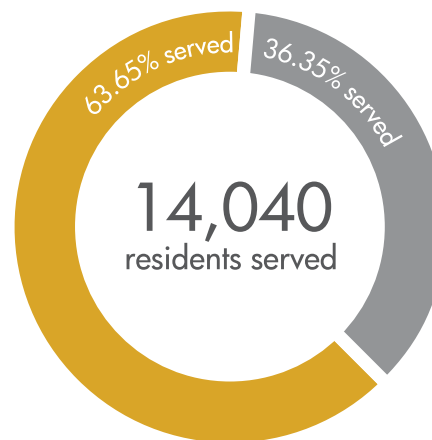
Community Park Distribution Analysis

Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These parks may preserve unique landscapes and often serve as event and recreational team sport spaces.

The purpose of the Community Park Distribution Analysis is to determine the location of gaps in Community Park service area coverage. Currently, the District has two Community Parks that range from 24.6 acres to 63.6 acres in size.

The map on the right illustrates the one-mile (1-mile) service area reach for Community Parks, shown in orange. Unlike Min and Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks are considered drive-to recreation destinations. Service areas are not limited to the boundary of the planning areas in which they are located. These drive-to destinations cover multiple planning areas and are community destinations for Park District residents.

Overall, 63.65% of the District has access to a Community Park asset within a 1-mile drive from where they live. The largest gaps occur in Planning Areas 10, 13, 14, and 15. This is slightly lower than the 67.00% median Community Park Distribution Level of Service in the planning team's database.



Community Park Distribution

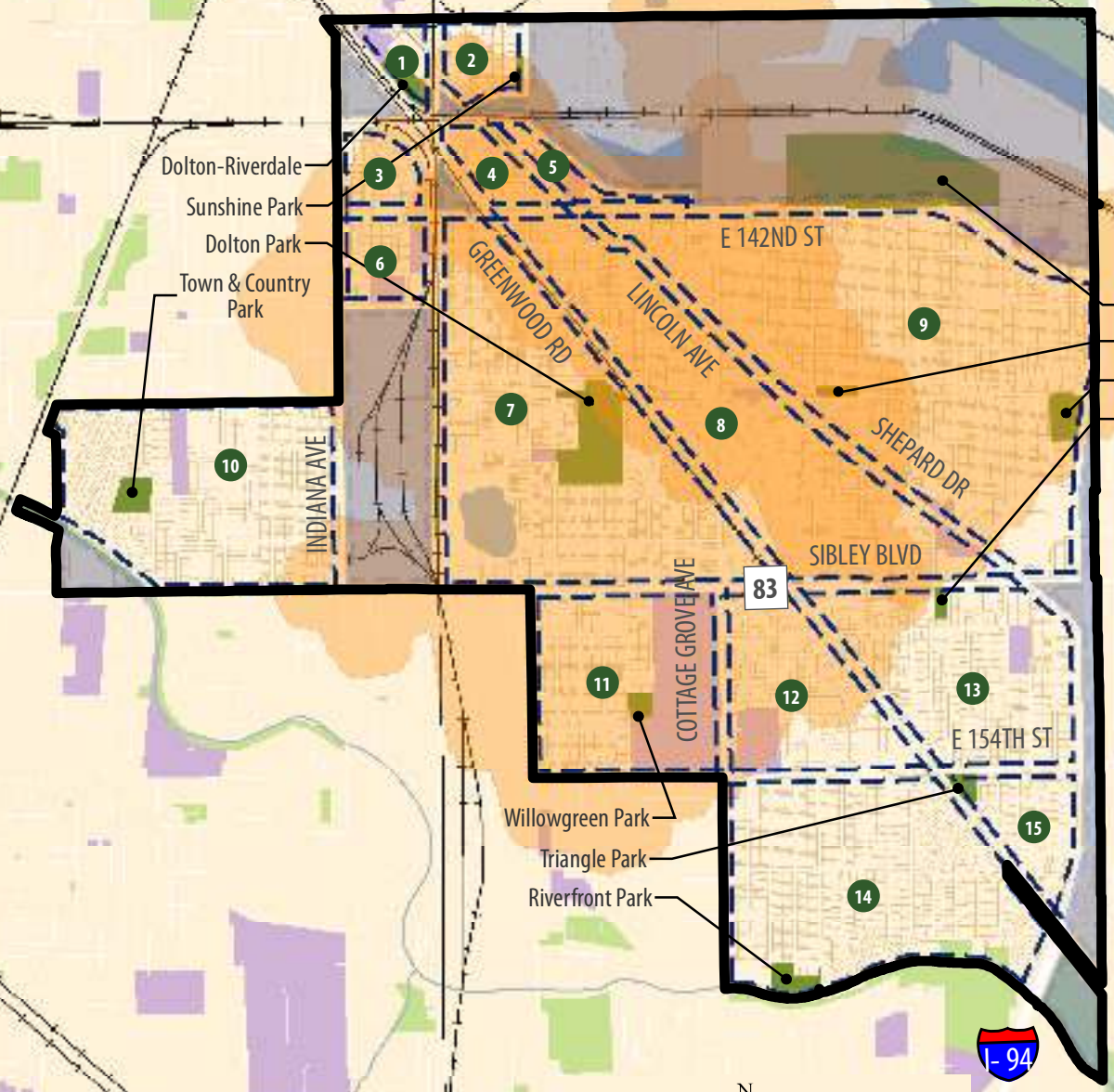
Community Park List

Dolton Park
Needles Park

Needles Park
Kandy Kane Park
Blackstone Park
Meadowlane Park

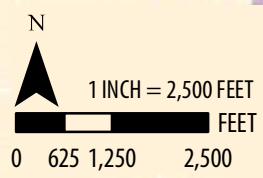
Community Park Level of Service Legend

-  Dolton Park District Boundary
-  Non-Planning Area
-  Planning Area
-  1.0-Mile Service Area
-  DPD Parks
-  Other Open Space
-  Forest Preserve
-  Schools



Dolton-Riverdale
Sunshine Park
Dolton Park
Town & Country Park

Willowgreen Park
Triangle Park
Riverfront Park

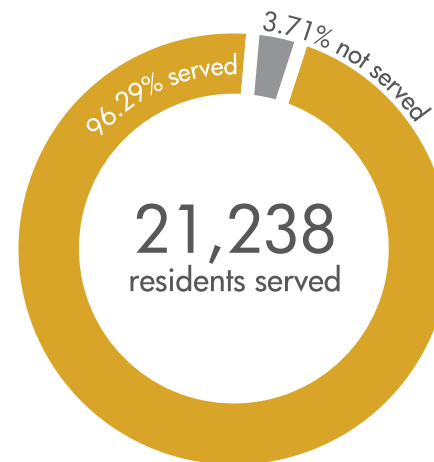


Overall Park Distribution Analysis

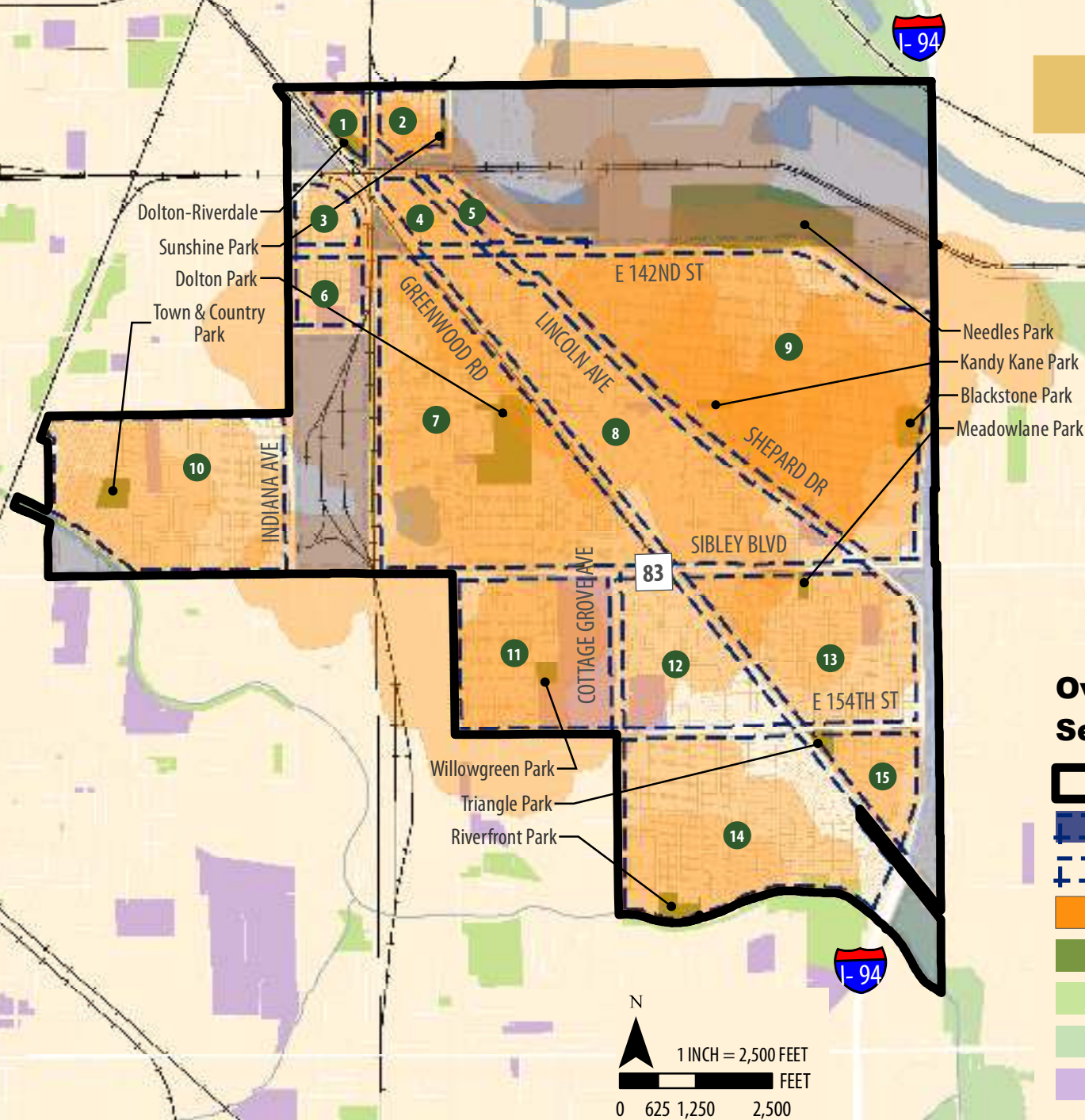
The Overall Distribution Analysis illustrates the District-wide deficiencies for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Park assets combined.

The map on the right illustrates the service areas for all Mini (quarter-mile), Neighborhood (half-mile), and Community (one-mile) Parks. Per NRPA guidelines, the Mini and Neighborhood service areas are truncated to the boundaries of the individual planning areas in which they reside. Community Parks are considered drive-to destinations, so those service areas are not truncated to the planning area boundaries.

Overall, 96.29% of Dolton Park District residents have access to a Mini, Neighborhood, and / or Community Park resource within one mile of where they live. The largest areas of residential development not served by a Mini, Neighborhood, or Community Park exist in the eastern sections of Planning Areas 12 and 14. This is much higher than the Overall Park Distribution Level of Service of 88.60% in the planning team's database.



Overall Park Distribution



Overall Level of Service Legend

-  Dolton Park District Boundary
-  Non-Planning Area
-  Planning Area
-  Service Area
-  DPD Parks
-  Other Open Space
-  Forest Preserve
-  Schools

Amenities

In addition to park acreage and distribution, another measure of Level of Service is the total recreation amenities available to residents. These benchmarks come from the Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics.

SCORP Comparison

Based on the Illinois SCORP, the District meets or exceeds the recommended number of amenities for five of the 36 amenities outlined in the chart to the right. Amenities that meet or exceed the recommendation are identified by black or green text in the “Surplus / Deficit” column.

Items with red text noted in the “Surplus / Deficit” column are deficiencies. The five amenities with the greatest deficiencies, according to the comparison against SCORP averages are:

- Swimming Beaches (linear feet): -375.1
- Hiking Trails (miles): -10.2
- Fishing Pier / Docks / Access: -9.0
- Cross-Country Trails (miles): -8.9
- Marina Slips: -6.0

Because the Dolton Park District is a land-locked District, some of the deficiencies noted, such as swimming beaches and marina slips, are to be expected. Meeting recommendations for these amenities may not be a priority for the Park District.

SCORP Amenity Needs Analysis

Existing Population 2020

	Existing Facilities			Illinois Facility Average		Surplus / Deficit
	Existing # of Facilities (total)	Existing # of Facilities at current standards	Existing # of Facilities per 1,000 population	Total # of Facilities needed to meet IL Average	IL Average # of Facilities per 1,000 population	Surplus / Deficit
WATER-BASED FACILITIES						
Fishing Pier / Docks / Access	0	0	0.00	9.0	0.41	-9.0
Boat Launch Ramps / Access	0	0	0.00	2.7	0.12	-2.7
Canoe only access areas	0	0	0.00	0.9	0.04	-0.9
Marina Slips	0	0	0.00	6.0	0.27	-6.0
Swimming Pools	0	0	0.00	0.6	0.03	-0.6
Swimming Beaches (linear ft.)	0	0	0.00	375.1	16.94	-375.1
Spray Grounds / Splash Pads	0	0	0.00	0.6	0.03	-0.6
TRAILS						
Multi-Use Trails (Miles)	0	0	0.00	3.6	0.16	-3.6
Hiking Trails	0	0	0.00	10.2	0.46	-10.2
Bicycle Trails	0	0	0.00	2.3	0.10	-2.3
Physical Fitness Trails (Stations)	12	12	0.54	4.9	0.22	7.1
Nature / Interpretive Trails (Miles)	0	0	0.00	1.2	0.05	-1.2
Cross-Country Trails	0	0	0.00	8.9	0.40	-8.9
Snowmobile Trails	0	0	0.00	2.4	0.11	-2.4
Ski Trails	0	0	0.00	4.0	0.18	-4.0
DAY USE FACILITIES						
Picnic Shelters	2	0	0.00	4.6	0.21	-4.6
Playgrounds	12	8	0.36	8.9	0.40	-0.9
Interpretive Centers	0	0	0.00	0.2	0.01	-0.2
SPORTS COURTS AND FACILITIES						
Tennis Courts	10	10	0.45	10.9	0.49	-0.9
Basketball Courts	4	4	0.18	5.5	0.25	-1.5
Volleyball Courts	1	1	0.05	3.8	0.17	-2.8
Baseball Fields	13	13	0.59	5.8	0.26	7.2
Softball Fields	0	0	0.00	3.1	0.14	-3.1
Football Fields	1	1	0.05	1.2	0.05	-0.2
Soccer Fields	1	1	0.05	3.9	0.18	-2.9
Golf Course (18-Hole Course)	0	0	0.00	0.2	0.01	-0.2
Golf Course (9-Hole Course)	0	0	0.00	0.1	0.01	-0.1
Golf Driving Range	1	0	0.01	0.0	0.00	0.1
Ice Rinks	0	0	0.00	0.9	0.04	-0.9
Horseshoe Pits	0	0	0.00	5.3	0.24	-5.3
Bocce Court	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0
Shuffleboard courts	0	0	0.00	1.0	0.05	-1.0
Dog Parks	0	0	0.00	0.2	0.01	-0.2
Frisbee Golf	0	0	0.00	0.2	0.01	-0.2
Skate Park	0	0	0.00	0.4	0.02	-0.4
Field Hockey	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0

Park Metrics Amenity Needs Analysis

In addition to the SCORP averages, the planning team referenced NRPA's Park Metrics to identify how the Dolton Park District compares to other agencies throughout the U.S. with populations between 20,000 and 25,000. Park Metrics provided information about the total population per facility for 18 recreation facilities and amenity types. The table compares the total number of Park District-owned and managed facilities to agencies with similar populations. According Park Metrics benchmarks, the District meets or exceeds the total number of recreation centers, tennis courts, and baseball fields offered by agencies of similar population size.

Existing Population 2020

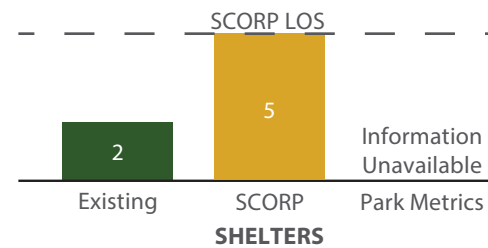
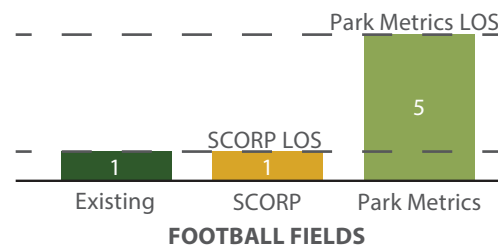
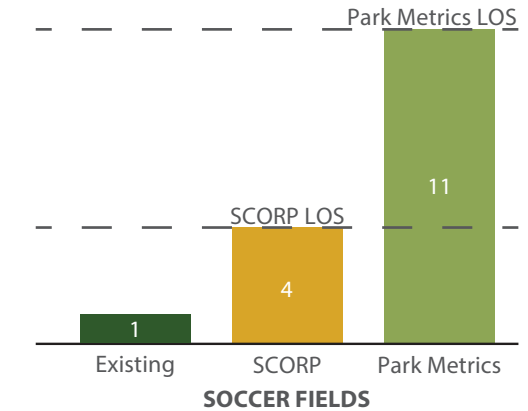
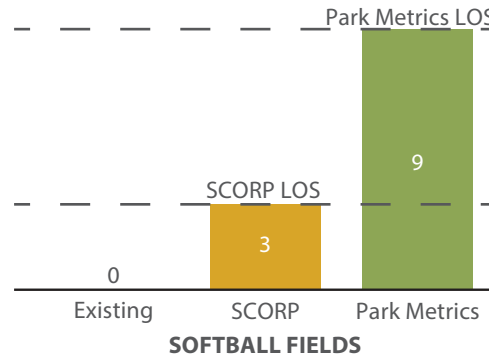
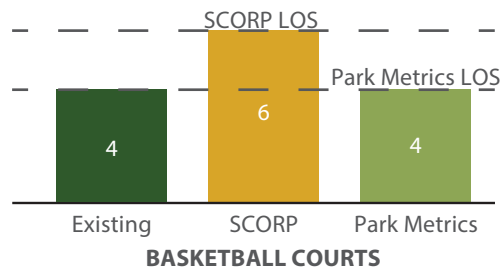
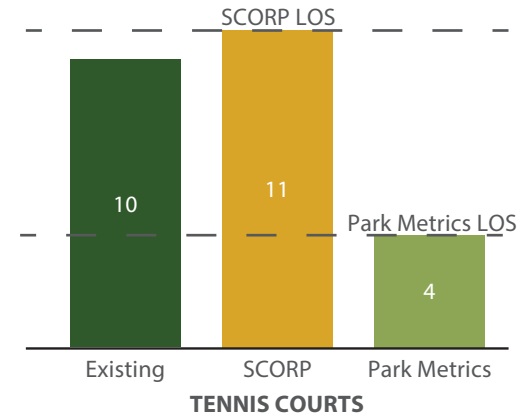
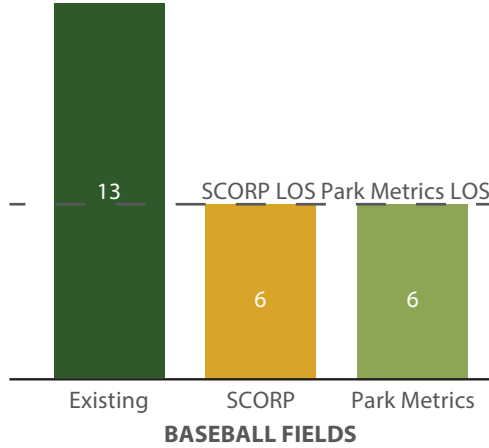
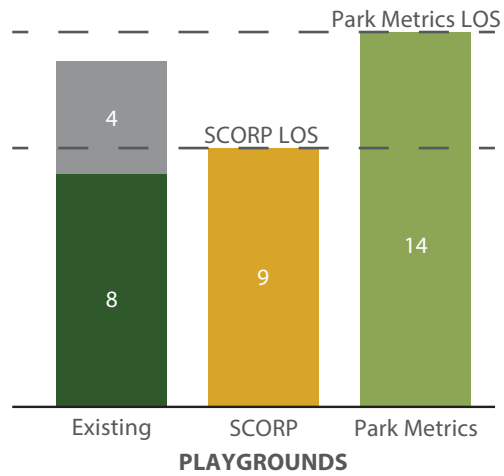
	Dolton Park District			IL Facility Average	Surplus / Deficit
	Existing # of Facilities (total)	Existing # of Facilities at current standards	Existing # of Facilities per population	Total # of Facilities needed to meet Park Metrics median	Surplus / Deficit

INDOOR FACILITIES					
Recreation Center	1	1	0.05	1.0	0.0
Fitness Center	0	0	0.00	1.0	-1.0
Senior Center	0	0	0.00	0.9	-0.9
Ice Skating Rink (indoor)	0	0	0.00	0.9	-0.9
Gymnasium	0	0	0.00	1.0	-1.0
Community Center	0	0	0.00	1.0	-1.0
Nature / Interpretive Center	0	0	0.00	0.9	-0.9
Performing and / or Visual Arts Center	0	0	0.00	0.9	-0.9

DAY USE FACILITIES					
Playgrounds	12	8	0.36	13.9	-5.9

SPORTS COURTS AND FACILITIES					
Tennis Courts	10	10	0.45	4.4	5.6
Basketball Courts	4	4	0.18	4.1	-0.1
Baseball Fields (90 ft)	0	0	0.00	1.2	-1.2
Baseball Fields (50-65 ft)	13	13	0.59	4.4	8.6
Softball Fields (youth)	0	0	0.00	4.2	-4.2
Softball Fields (adult)	0	0	0.00	5.0	-5.0
Football Fields	1	1	0.05	4.4	-3.4
Soccer / Lacrosse / Rugby Fields (regulation)	0	0	0.00	5.3	-5.3
Soccer / Lacrosse / Rugby Fields (small size)	0	0	0.00	5.5	-5.5

SCORP - Park Metrics Key Comparison Graphics - All Amenities Level of Service (LOS)



Facility Square Footage

Square Footage Level of Service benchmarks are calculations of the minimum amount of indoor space recommended to provide all of the indoor recreation activities. It also includes consideration for specific facilities recommended to support programs and activities.

Level of Service (LOS) guidelines for indoor space are less established than the guidelines for park and open space, but the planning team utilizes a Chicagoland benchmark of two square feet per person with 1.5 square feet consisting of indoor classroom-based or active recreation space and 0.5 square feet consisting of indoor aquatics.

The District has a total of 42,774 square feet of indoor recreational programming space. According to the indoor square footage level of service analysis, the District has an indoor level of service of 1.93 square feet per person. Compared to the Chicagoland benchmark, this is a deficit of 1,514 square feet. It is also a 0.07 square feet deficit compared to the recommended 2 square feet per person.

The District is deficient in indoor aquatics. According to this Level of Service gauge, the Dolton Park District has an 11,072 square feet deficit in indoor aquatic space and is 0.50 square feet per person below the recommended level of service.

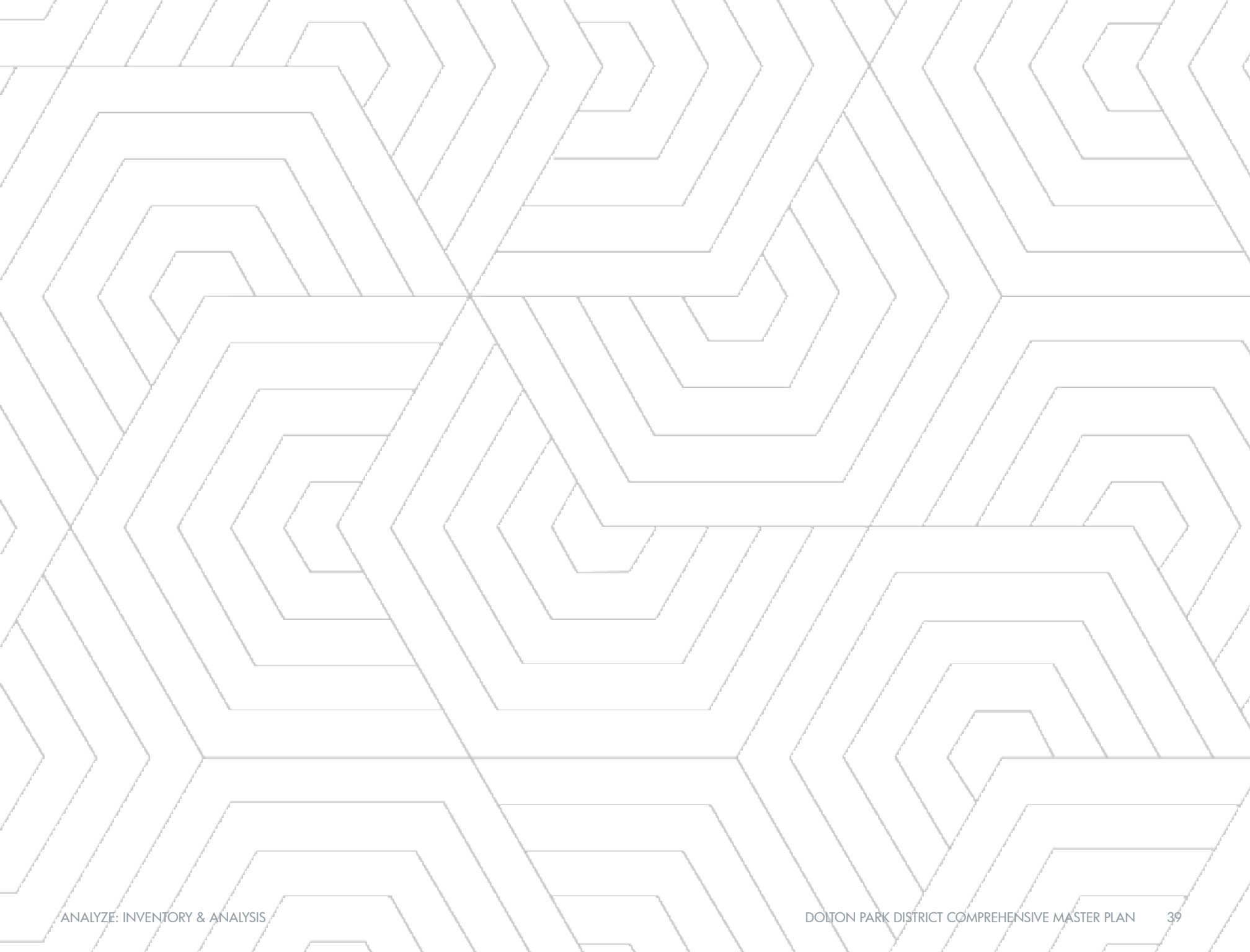
NRPA does not collect square footage data for indoor facilities, so the planning team relies solely on the Chicagoland benchmarking for indoor recreation facility comparisons.

Level of Service Analysis: Chicagoland Benchmark

INDOOR RECREATION SPACE

Classification	DPD Square Feet (Total)	DPD Existing Level of Service (SF / population)	Recommended Square Footage	Recommended Level of Service (SF / population)	Square Footage deficiency / surplus (SF)
Indoor Recreational Space	42774.00	1.93	33216.00	1.50	9558.00
Indoor Aquatics	0.00	0.00	11072.00	0.50	-11072.00
Total Square Feet	42774.00	1.93	44288.00	2.00	-1514.00

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 22144







connect



Overview

The Connect: Needs Assessment chapter documents trends in the recreation industry and specific input received from the Dolton Park District Staff, Board, and community members.

Purpose

The purpose of understanding park and recreation trends is to determine probable demands for certain services and amenities. Recreation trend reports were compiled from nationally-recognized sources to explore spending, participation, and inactivity trends.

In order to increase participation, knowing the trends and interests of various user groups is crucial. Significant changes in specific activities (both increases and decreases) from national, state, and local trends are summarized. Summaries of all engagement sessions follow the national, state, and local trends report.

During the Connect phase of the master planning process, the planning team reviewed trends and conducted workshops with District Staff, the Park Board, and key community stakeholders. The

planning team also considered the results of the community survey conducted in November 2020 independently of the planning process.

Chapter Outline

- Methodology
- Review of Trends
 - National
 - State
 - Local
- Stakeholder / Community Input
- Staff Input
- Board Input

METHODOLOGY

Review of Trends

National Trends were derived from the 2020 Sports, Fitness and Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report that was facilitated by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (a top national researcher in the sports and fitness industry) as well as the 2019 Outdoor Foundation's Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report. State trends were derived from the 2015 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). ESRI's Business Analyst provided local recreation participation trends.

Stakeholder / Community Input Meeting

Dolton Park District residents and local stakeholders were invited to a community meeting on April 21, 2021. Residents participated in a consensus building activity in which they were asked a single focus question. They were asked to come up with ideas which they discussed with the group. The group then clustered the ideas together to find similar themes and goals and cast votes on which items they found the most important.

Staff Workshops

Dolton Park District Staff members provided input about their goals and objectives for the next five years as well as their opinions on the current state of the Park District.

Board Workshop

The Dolton Park District Board participated in a workshop to generate and prioritize ideas for the Park District for the next five years.

2020 Resident Survey

The Park District completed a statistically valid survey in 2020 to collect demographic information, determine user satisfaction with the Park District, and determine how the District's parks, facilities, and programs are used.

National Trends

Derived from the statistically valid surveys facilitated by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association with the Physical Activity Council and The Outdoor Foundation, the following data will help inform the planning team's recommendations.

The Physical Activity Council (PAC) is a partnership of seven major trade organizations in U.S. sports, fitness, and leisure activities. These organizations are the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), the National Golf Foundation (NGF), Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), the International Health, Racquet, and Sports Club Association (IHRSA), the Tennis Industry Association (TIA), the United States Tennis Association (USTA), and Snowsports Industries America (SIA).

The PAC produces an annual Sport, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report providing information on participation, inactivity, spending, aspirational participation and projections. The 2020 report compiled and analyzed 18,000 online responses collected in 2019. These surveys were then weighted against a total population of 302,756,603 ages 6 and older. The following variables were used: gender, age, income, household size, region, population density and panel join date. Other research incorporated in this chapter references the

Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report, created by the Outdoor Foundation, in association with the Outdoor Industry Association. This annual report tracks American outdoor recreation trends with a focus on youth, diversity, and the future of the outdoors. The 2019 report is based on an online interview of 20,069 individuals.

Sports and Fitness Participation

Overall, more people are becoming active but only 35.9% of the population of any age group is meeting the recommended time and intensity of activities. For the first time in six years, the percentage of the population who are active has increased 0.5% over the previous year.

The data collected suggests that Americans are adding high-calorie burning exercise to their exercise routine. The most popular activities are Fitness Sports which experienced a 2.0% increase from 2018. Following Fitness Sports, the most popular activity categories are





Outdoor Sports, Individual Sports, Team Sports, Water Sports, Racquet Sports, and Water Sports. Among these categories, only Fitness Sports, Outdoor Sports, and Team Sports had an increase in participation rates while all other categories decreased.

Activity participation is measured by core participation and growth. Core participants are defined as those who participate in a sport or activity on a regular basis. Based on core participation, the top ten activities in 2019 defined by number of participants, are:

- Walking for Fitness (50+ times/year): 75.2M
- Hiking (1+ times/year): 49.7M
- Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights) (50+ times/year): 31.7M
- Treadmill (50+ times/year): 28.3M
- Camping within 1/4 mile of vehicle/home (1+ times/year): 28.3M
- Running/Jogging (50+ times/year): 28.2M
- Golf on a 9- or 18-hole course (1+ times/year): 24.3M
- Weight/Resistance Machines (50+ times/year): 21.5M
- Wildlife Viewing more than 1/4 mile from Home/Vehicle (1+ times/year): 20.0M
- Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface) (26+ times/year): 18.6M

In addition to referencing the current most popular activities by measuring core participation, The Overview Report also lists the growth of activities over one-, three- and five-year periods. These predictions can be used to recognize ongoing recreation trends and predict future area of growth. The top ten core growth activities over the past three years are:

- Trail Running (8.6%)
- Boxing for Competition (6.8%)
- Rugby (6.8%)
- Golf Off-Course only (6.7%)
- Cardio Tennis (5.7%)
- Hiking (Day) (5.7%)
- Lacrosse (5.3%)

- Pickleball (5.0%)
- Kettlebells (4.8%)
- Barre (4.8%)

As evidenced by the above lists of activities, outdoor fitness related activities are currently a popular form of recreation with four of the ten activities falling into this category based on number of participants. Aerobics activities are also popular this three of the top ten in this category. Growth trends however indicate a different, more diverse trend. The largest growth is occurring in individual sports (three activities in the top ten) with racquet sports and team sports both having two activities and conditioning activities, strength activities, and outdoor sports each have one activity in the top ten growing activities.

These trends reveal that active people are increasingly looking for non-traditional health and recreation experiences that offer a fun physical, emotional, and mental experience. While the largest amount of growth is being seen in less traditional sectors, class-based group fitness and exercise programs remain strong and are expected to grow in popularity, albeit at slower rates.

While many Americans enjoy watching team sports, both in-person and on television, they are increasingly disinterested in participating in them for their fitness needs. Ultimate frisbee and swimming on a team had the largest decrease in participation over the past three years with other team sports including touch and tackle football, gymnastics, ice and roller hockey, soccer, softball, and track and field also declining. While team sport participation is declining as a whole, a few team sports are growing: baseball, basketball, flag football, rugby, and lacrosse.

Racquet sports such as squash, cardio tennis, and pickleball have maintained popularity over the

last three years. Pickleball in particular is a trend to watch, as it has been growing in popularity in the recreation industry but was overtaken in 2016 by cardio tennis in growth and had nearly equal participation.

The above findings are confirmed by the Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends for 2021 which conducts an annual international survey among practitioners in the commercial, clinical, community, and corporate fitness industries. In their predictions for 2021, the majority of activities in the top ten and the top 20 could be described as fitness related, while other trends can be classified as outdoor sports or technology. Seventeen of the top twenty trends reported remained from the previous year but circuit training, worksite health promotion, and workplace well-being all moved out of the top 20 trends for 2021. The following are the top 10 trends:

- Online training (available 24/7 and can be a live class or prerecorded)
- Wearable technology (activity trackers, smart watches, heart rate monitors, GPS trackers and smart eyeglasses)
- Body weight training (uses minimal equipment for cost savings)
- Outdoor activities (can be short events, day-long events, or planned week-long hiking excursions)
- High-intensity interval training (HIIT uses short bursts of high-intensity exercise followed by short recoveries)
- Virtual training (the fusion of group exercise with technology offering workouts designed for ease and convenience)
- Exercise is medicine (encourages physicians and health care providers to include physical activity assessment and associated treatment recommendations as part of patient visits)
- Strength training with free weights (often

incorporated into comprehensive exercise routines)

- Fitness programs for older adults (older, retired adults are increasingly healthier than previous generations and interested in participating in safe, age-appropriate exercise)
- Personal training (services provided by professionals with proper education, training, and credentials)

Outdoor Sports & Participation

According to the Outdoor Foundation 2019 Topline Report, half the U.S. population (50.5%) participated in one or more outdoor sport or activity. These 152 million people went on a reported total of 10 billion outings over the course of the year. While these numbers reflect an overall increase in participation, the number of outings declined as individual participation occurred less often. Compared to previous years, outdoor sports participation have increased. BMX biking has had the most growth over the last three years at 22%. Running, jogging, and trail running has continued to be the most popular activity by participation for several years.

Across all age groups, running, jogging and trail running remained the top form of outdoor outings by both participation rates and frequency. Bicycling, fishing, and camping were also among the top five activities for all ages. The most popular activities for youth (age 6-17) determined by participation rates were:

- Bicycling (road, mountain, and BMX) (24.6% or 12.7M)
- Fishing (fresh, salt, and fly) (21.8% or 11.2M)
- Running, jogging, and trail running (21.5% or 11.1M)
- Camping (car, backyard, and RV) (20.5% or 10.6M)
- Hiking (16.1% or 8.3M)

The favorite activities for youth, based on frequency of participation, were bicycling; running, jogging, and trail running; fishing; skateboarding; and camping.

For young adults (age 18-24), the most popular activities by participation rates were:

- Running, jogging, and trail running (31.0% or 6.2M)
- Hiking (19.5% or 3.9M)
- Camping (car, backyard, and RV) (15.2% or 3.1M)
- Bicycling (road, mountain, and BMX) (14.7% or 3.0M)
- Fishing (fresh, salt, and fly) (14.6% or 2.9M)

The top five favorite young adult activities based on frequency of participation were running, jogging, and trail running; bicycling; hiking; fishing; and camping.

Three-year growth trends indicated that the following nine activities have seen increasing participation and will likely continue to provide opportunities to engage more people in the future:

- BMX bicycling
- Camping (within 1/4 mile of vehicle/home)
- Fishing (freshwater)
- Hiking (day)
- Kayaking (recreational, white water)
- Running, jogging, and trail running
- Skateboarding
- Surfing
- Trail Running

Three year trends also identified ten activities with declining participation in the last three years.

- Adventure racing
- Backpacking overnight
- Camping (car, backyard, backpacking, & RV)
- Canoeing
- Fishing (saltwater)
- Hunting (rifle/shotgun/handgun/bow)
- Kayak fishing
- Kayaking (sea/touring)
- Rafting
- Running/Jogging

Engaging Inactives

An “inactive” person is defined by the Physical Activity Council as one who does not participate in any of the sports/activities covered in the PAC Overview Report. In the past year, 81.2 million Americans or 26.8% of the population, were inactive, reflecting a decrease in inactivity from last year with 0.9 million people becoming active. By age group, 6-12 year-olds are the least inactive with inactivity among 13-17 year-olds dropping to nearly the same levels. Of the eight age groups, only 45-54 year-olds saw an increase in percent of inactive population from 2018 to 2019. Americans over 65 have the largest rates of inactivity, reflecting the trend that people generally become more inactive as they age.

In order to understand how to engage inactives in sports and activities, the PAC survey lists “aspirational” activities that inactives are interested in participating in. For all age groups fishing is within the top four aspirational activities. Camping and swimming for fitness also listed in the top ten for every age group.

For inactives 6-12, other activities of interest focus on team sports such as basketball, soccer, volleyball, and team swimming. As Americans age,

interest in outdoor sports such as hiking, fishing and backpacking grows as does working out with weights and machines. Adults 65 and older list fishing as their top aspirational activity. Hiking, camping, birdwatching/wildlife viewing, and shooting are also within the top ten activities for this age group making five of the ten items focused on outdoor activities.

Active adults, as well as inactives, are interested in social programs and sports leagues as well as active recreation. Active Network recommends the following activities for adult recreation programs:

- Sports - Broomball, Inner Tube Water Polo, Pickleball, Wallyball
- Exercise - Zumba Gold, Dance Buffet, Kettlebells, Outdoor FitnessTechnology - Beginner's Guide to iPad, Social Media, Digital Photography
- Entertainment - Karaoke, Improv, Murder Mystery Dinners, Speed Dating, Wii for Seniors
- Art - Cooking, Drawing/Painting, Jewelry Making, Mixed Media Arts, Pottery, Quilting
- Professional/Other - Languages, Estate Planning, Self-Publishing, Brain Fitness, Voice-Overs, Memoirs

Many agencies are “branding” their active adult programs for younger populations than the traditional senior. Two local examples include Schaumburg Park District's *Club 55* and *50 Plus!* at the Champaign Park District.

State Trends

Data from the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is used to compare District/Department amenities to other Park Districts in the state of Illinois.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared as a five-year document by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to maintain Illinois' eligibility to participate in the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. Its purpose is to "evaluate the outdoor recreation needs of Illinois citizens and determine how best to meet those needs." The state's natural resources, recreational lands, facilities, and socioeconomic factors are considered in this vision document.

A major finding in the 2015-2019 SCORP is the state's long-standing deficit of outdoor recreation lands and facilities. While Illinois has not been able to achieve the per capita equivalent of other states with more lands and fewer people, park and recreation agencies throughout the state consistently plan for and achieve a high level of excellence with the recreation opportunities they provide to their communities.

Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory

There are more than 1.5 million acres of outdoor recreation land in Illinois ranging from federal and state lands to schools and private commercial lands. Municipal agencies, which include park and recreation departments, park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts and county-level park departments, provide a total of 350,915 acres of park sites. They also own 195,753 acres of natural areas and lease/manage another 15,612 acres of open space.

The state itself, primarily handled by the IDNR, manages offer 470,000 acres of open space throughout the state. State lands include parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas, and recreation areas to name a few. Federal lands include the 280,000 acre Shawnee National Forest and seven National Wildlife Refuge sites throughout the state. Other providers include schools, non-profits, and private entities that provide unique outdoor recreation opportunities for the people of Illinois. The lands managed





by these providers were not included in the SCORP.

Based on the 2015 Illinois Community Recreation Facilities and Park Lands Inventory, there are approximately 347.08 acres and 17.9 park sites on average per community throughout the state. Typically, park districts provide more acreage and park sites than city/village recreation agencies.

Top trends across the state are pickleball, disc golf, and splash pads. The increasing popularity of pickleball is in response to aging populations found in all communities across the state, while the popularity of splash pads is in response to the financial constraints of outdoor swimming pool renovations. The popularity of disc golf demonstrates a growing preference for alternative outdoor recreation activities. Foot golf is another example of an alternative outdoor recreation activity that has increased as golf course owners look for alternate uses for their assets.

Top Activities

The top activities identified by the IDNR community-wide survey were pleasure walking and observing wildlife/bird watching. Picnicking, using a playground, on-road bicycling and swimming at outdoor pools were also among the most prevalent activities for Illinois residents. Activities with lower participation numbers include lacrosse, pickleball, snowmobiling, trapping, in-line skating, sailing, and cross-country skiing. Reasons for some sports having lower participation rates may include smaller interest groups, no available facility, or that the trend is still growing, like pickleball.

According to the survey, city parks or county preserves are used most for visiting an amphitheater or band shell, softball/baseball, lacrosse, soccer, and mountain biking. State parks are used most for tent camping, vehicle camping, hiking, motor boating, and water skiing. Federal lakes or forests are primarily used for sailing, water skiing, and motor boating. Hunting is the most prevalent reason residents visit and use private areas for recreation.

Attitudes about Outdoor Recreation

Respondents were asked to rate the various factors they considered to be important when making decisions about engaging in outdoor recreation opportunities. Top contributing factors to respondent's decisions to participate in outdoor recreation activities include exercise/health, experience nature, have fun, and spend time with family and friends.

Survey respondents indicated the primary role of parks and recreation facilities for Illinois communities is to preserve open space. Other primary roles include making the community more desirable, improving fitness, enhancing a sense of place, and increasing property values. Most (56.3%) respondents believe that local, state, and federal open space and recreation agencies are underfunded. The top two priorities for providers in the state are the operation and maintenance of existing park facilities and long-term planning and management. The most important items in terms of park and open space development are recreational facility variety, followed closely by camping, trails, fishing, and boating facilities. Regional and community trails are also important to approximately 80% of respondents.

Outdoor Recreation Priorities

Priorities in the 2015-2019 State of Illinois SCORP are:

- Healthy people and communities
- Access to outdoor recreation
- Natural resource stewardship
- Conservation education
- Cooperative partnerships

Local Trends

Local trend information was derived from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Sports and Leisure Market Potential Report.

This data is based on national inclination to use various products and services that has been applied to the local demographic composition of the Dolton Park District. Usage data was collected by Growth for Knowledge Media-mark Research and Intelligence, LLC (GfK MRI) in a national survey that was representative of U.S. households. Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the relative likelihood of the adults in specific areas to exhibit certain consumer behaviors or purchasing patterns compared to the U.S. population as a whole. An MPI of 100 represents the U.S. average while numbers under 100 indicate a lower than average representation and numbers above 100 represent a higher than average representation.

Based on projected population, the top ten recreational activities Dolton Park District residents will participate in are:

- Walking for exercise (2,844)
- Basketball (1,965)
- Jogging / Running (1,692)
- Football (1,177)

- Fishing (freshwater) (1,158)
- Yoga (1,086)
- Weight lifting (1,061)
- Swimming (1,019)
- Aerobics (831)
- Bowling (825)

The number of MPIs over 100 for Dolton Park District is much lower than what the planning team typically finds in the Chicagoland region. Having only three activities over 100 speaks to a relatively inactive community compared to the rest of the nation. With all high scoring activities being outdoor recreation opportunities, there are several areas in which the District can grow its parks.





Sports and Leisure Market Potential

Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of Adults/HHs	Percent	MPI
Participated in football in last 12 months	1,177	7.0%	150
Participated in basketball in last 12 months	1,965	11.7%	149
Participated in archery in last 12 months	482	2.9%	109

Community Survey

ETC Institute administered a community-wide survey for the Dolton Park District in the Fall of 2020.

This report contains the following survey information:

- Summary of Methodology
- Major findings

Charts and graphs of the major findings can be found in the Appendix of this document.

Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet, including a cover letter, copy of the survey, and a postage paid return envelope, to a random sample of Dolton Park District households. Residents receiving the survey were also given the option to complete the survey online.

The goal was to obtain survey responses from at least 400 residents. To prevent non-District residents from participating, survey responders were asked

to include their address, which was cross-checked with the addresses that were originally selected for the survey sample. If an address did not match, the response was not counted. The goal was reached and the overall results have a precision of at least $\pm 4.86\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

Major Findings

Use and Ratings of Parks and Facilities

Just over half (52%) of respondents reported visiting a Park District park in the past twelve months. The three most popular parks and facilities were: [Dolton] Main Park (25%), Dolton-Riverdale Park (20%), and Main Field House (14%).

The most popular modes of travel to reach parks and facilities are driving (62%) and walking (41%).

When asked to rate the physical condition of the District's parks, respondents answered as follows:

- 14% excellent
- 44% good
- 35% fair
- 7% poor

Facility Needs and Priorities

Respondents were asked to identify if their households had a need for any of 32 facilities and to rate how well their needs were being met by those same facilities. The top four facilities with the highest level of unmet needs were as follows:

- indoor walking / running tracks (31%)
- indoor fitness and exercise facilities (30%)
- indoor swimming pools / leisure pools (30%)
- walking and biking trails (30%)

The top four most important facilities were as follows:

- walking and biking trails (27%)
- indoor fitness and exercise facilities (23%)
- sidewalks / walking paths within parks (20%)
- indoor swimming / leisure pools (19%)

ETC Institute developed a rating system called the Priority Investment Rating (PIR) to help agencies prioritize Park and Recreation investments. Based on the PIR, the following eight facilities were rated as high priorities for investment within the Dolton Park District:

- walking and biking trails (198)
- indoor fitness and exercise facilities (185)
- indoor swimming pool / leisure pools (168)
- indoor running / walking trails (163)
- sidewalk / walking paths within parks (147)
- park shelters and picnic areas (109)
- banquet hall / large indoor venues (108)
- cultural arts center for dance, theater, concerts (103)

Participation and Ratings of Programs

Eleven percent of respondents have indicated that they or a member of their household have participated in a District sports or recreation program in the past twelve months. Of those that have participated, the level of participation is as follows:

- at least one program (43%)
- two to three programs (48%)
- four to six programs (2%)
- did not provide this information (7%)

Households that participated in programs were asked to provide a reason for participating. The reasons given were as follows:

- location of the program facility (64%)
- friends participated in the program (32%)
- quality of the program facility (30%)

Respondents were also asked to indicate how many recreation programs or activities they have participated in during the past 12 months. Their level of participation is as follows:

- at least one program / activity (41%)
- two to three programs / activities (30%)
- four to six programs / activities (7%)
- seven to ten programs / activities (2%)
- eleven or more programs / activities (3%)
- did not provide this information (18%)

Satisfaction with sports programs was indicated as follows:

- excellent (23%)
- good (41%)
- fair (32%)
- poor (5%)

Satisfaction with recreation programs was indicated as follows:

- excellent (13%)
- good (45%)
- fair (23%)
- poor (5%)

Program Needs

Respondents were asked to identify if their household has a need for any of 33 listed programs and to rate how well their needs were being met by existing programs. The top four programs with the highest level of unmet needs were as follows:

- farmers market (28%)
- senior (55+) programs (26%)
- fitness exercise classes (24%)
- concerts in the park (22%)

The top four most important were as follows:

- senior (55+) programs (27%)
- farmers market (21%)
- concerts in the park (16%)

- fitness and exercise classes (14%)

Based on PIR, the following eight programs were rated as high priorities for investment within the Dolton Park District:

- senior (55+) programs (194)
- farmers market (180)
- fitness exercise classes (142)
- concerts in the park (139)
- movies in the park (116)
- water fitness programs (111)
- swim programs (110)
- fitness in the parks (104)

Additional Findings

The top five barriers to facility or program use were as follows:

- I do not know what is being offered (29%)
- security is insufficient (22%)
- too busy / not enough time (19%)
- fees are too high (18%)
- lack of quality programs (16%)

Respondents feel the following are the most needed facility / park amenities over the next five to ten years were:

- exercise park (58%)
- all kids park (41%)
- club house (35%)

When asked how they would budget \$100 in parks spending, respondents prioritized funding as follows:

- \$28.32 for upgrading existing parks and park amenities
- \$23.22 for developing new indoor facilities
- \$18.73 for upgrading existing indoor facilities
- \$15.91 for improving existing sports fields
- \$13.82 for expanding indoor facilities

When it comes to learning about Park District programs, activities, and events, the top three most common methods were:

- flyers (40%)
- word of mouth (36%)
- Park District program guide (34%)

The preferred method of communication from the Park District was determined to be:

- flyers (32%)
- Park District program guide (29%)
- Park District website (24%)
- Park District email blasts / newsletters (23%)

When asked to rate the effectiveness of DPD's marketing and communications effort, respondents answered as follows:

- very effective (8%)
- moderately effective (12%)
- somewhat effective (22%)
- not very effective (15%)
- not effective at all (10%)
- unsure (32%)

Respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of the District's website in a similar manner. Those answers are as follows:

- very effective (8%)
- moderately effective (9%)
- somewhat effective (12%)
- not very effective (6%)
- not effective at all (5%)
- unsure (59%)

From a list of eight words, respondents were asked to select the words that best describe the Park District. The top three responses were:

- convenient (41%)
- open space (36%)
- gathering space (31%)

The survey then asked several questions to measure the public's satisfaction with Dolton Park District's elected officials and staff. The officials and staff that received the highest levels of satisfaction from respondents were:

- administrative front desk staff (40%)
- recreation center staff (38%)
- recreation center front desk staff (37%)
- maintenance staff (37%)

When asked to rate the overall value received from the Park District, respondents answered as follows:

- very satisfied (6%)
- satisfied (14%)
- neutral (26%)
- dissatisfied (6%)
- very dissatisfied (7%)
- do not know (41%)



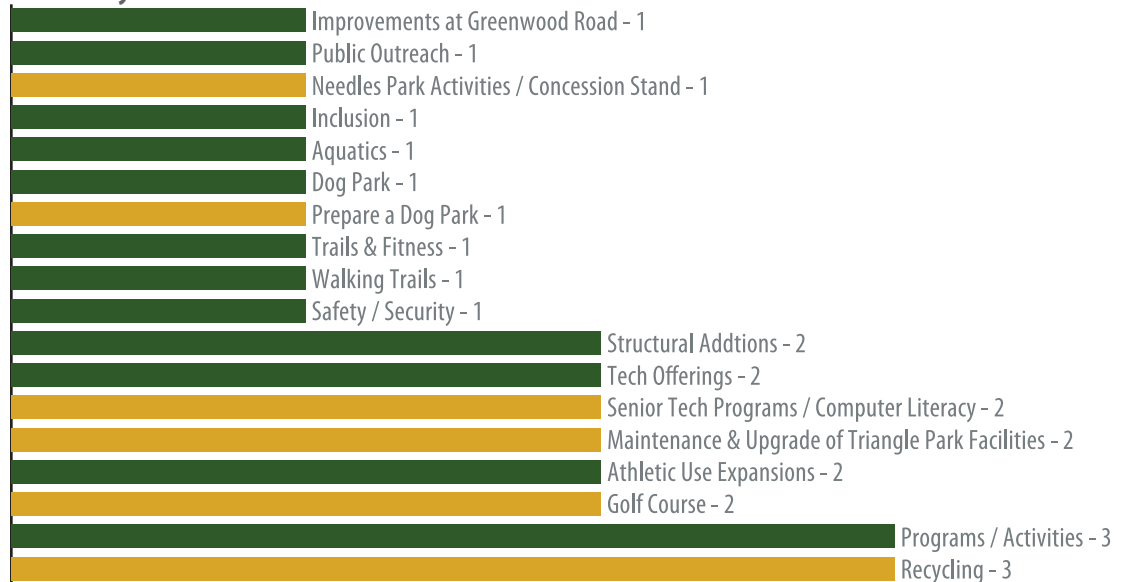
Stakeholder / Community Input Summary

The following summary is an overview of input received from the stakeholder and community meeting held on April 21, 2021 as part of the comprehensive master planning process.

Dolton Park District leadership invited the members of the public and key stakeholders to participate in a workshop to provide input for the District's comprehensive master plan. All participants were given a note card and asked to write down their comments and suggestions for the Park District based on a series of focus questions asked by the Planning Team. They then selected the two or three items most important to them. The group discussed the ideas and organized them based on theme. All participants were then given the opportunity to vote on their favorite ideas. They were allowed to vote on categories (green bars in chart to the right) or specific items within a category (yellow bars in chart to the right).

The results from the workshop are summarized and listed on the following pages. All comments are documented "as written" by community members during the meeting.

What should Dolton Park District focus on over the next five years?



Programs / Activities

3 votes

- Gymnastics beginner / intermediate
- Teen activities
- Martial arts program
- Various activities to keep youth engaged (chess, knitting, sewing, cooking class, etc.)
- Bingo for seniors

Tech Offerings

4 votes

- STEM / Coding classes
- Tech computer center
- Senior tech programs / computer literacy
- Activities to assist seniors (computers, technical assistance, training on various scams to be aware of)

Structural Additions

3 votes

- Pavilion for picnics
- Needles Park activities / concession stand
- Concession stand

Athletic Use Expansions

4 votes

- Youth sports field with turf / small bleachers / scoreboard, football / soccer
- Golf course
- Continue sports activities for kids & youth
- Soccer
- Skate park

Improvements at Greenwood Park

1 vote

- Build a skateboard park on Greenwood Park
- Open up basketball courts on Greenwood Road

Public Outreach

1 vote

- Town Hall meeting
- Spread the word

Inclusion

1 vote

- Increase awareness of services for people with disabilities
- Include more inclusive programming for disabled with non-disabled peers
- Work more closely with Dolton Park District and NSRS

Aquatics

1 vote

- Swimming pool
- Splash pad

Dog Park

2 votes

- Dog Park
- Designated dog / pet park
- Prepare a dog park

Trails & Fitness

2 votes

- Fitness stations
- Walking trails
- Walking paths mile / distance markers
- More playground equipment geared towards child fitness obstacle courses
- Indoor walking track

Safety / Security

1 vote

- More ways to secure parks safety measures
- Lights

Maintenance

5 votes

- Maintenance & upgrade of Triangle Park facilities
- Recycling

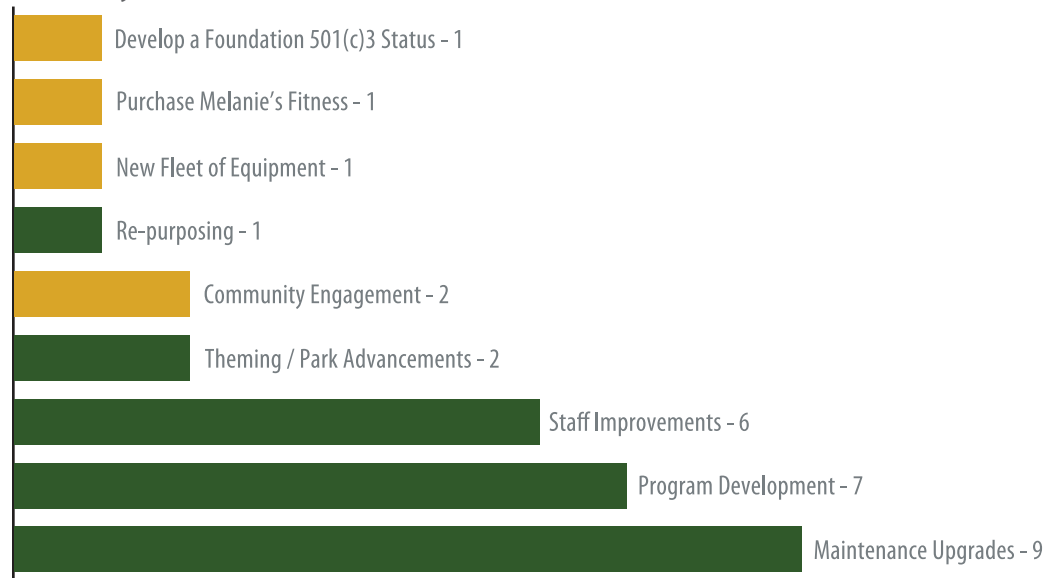
Staff Input Summary

A staff workshop was held on March 22, 2021 to gather input on the Comprehensive Master Plan.

Dolton Park District staff members were asked several focus questions. Each participant then had the opportunity to write down all of their ideas and comments. From this list, they chose the three most important items. The group then categorized these ideas to find similar themes and goals and voted on priorities. They were allowed to vote on a category (green bars in chart to the right) or a single item within a category (yellow bars in chart to the right).

One Staff workshop was held to gather input. The results are summarized and listed on the next page. All comments are documented “as written” by Staff members during the meeting.

What should Dolton Park District focus on over the next five years?



Maintenance Upgrades

10 votes

- Need: Trucks, uniform
- New fleet of equipment
- New equipment
- More or better equipment to work with for maintenance

Staff Improvements

6 votes

- Staffing
- Happy staff
- Reorganization
- Better communication with each other
- The pay
- Start using No!!!

Theming / Park Advancements

2 votes

- Fitness park
- State of the art playground
- Dog park
- Additional gardens
- Pavilions

Re-purposing

1 vote

- Renovation of empty space
- Transform all parks that are underutilized
- Install pavilions for more family activities
- Need more rentals at other parks
- Recreation renovation

Technology

2 votes

- Technology
- Community engagement

Facility Additions

1 vote

- Purchase Melanie's Fitness
- Swimming pool on site
- Swimming pool

Program Development

7 votes

- Diverse programs
- Programs
- Programs
- Develop more programs for our changing culture (e.g. soccer)
- More programs at all our parks for the kids

Funding Sources

1 vote

- Develop a Foundation 501(c)3 status
- Become a Board certified park

Board Input Summary

A Board workshop was held on May 4, 2021 to gather input on the Comprehensive Master Plan.

The Planning Team presented the Board with a series of focus questions to guide discussion. These questions can be found in the Appendix of this document.

Board members were then given the opportunity to share their answers and ideas with the group. A majority of the comments were parks- and amenity-focused, but there was some discussion on programs, indoor facilities, communication, and maintenance. A summary of the comments can be found on the following pages.

Programs

- Programs should be upgraded and be sustainable so more participation can occur

Indoor Facilities

- Noted plans to expand fitness center and / or acquire additional indoor space to add courts, indoor walking path (similar to nearby amenities at Homewood-Flossmoor)
- Would like to provide special room(s) for senior use - programs and activities

Communication

- Need more community meetings for continued input - possible "Town Hall" meetings





Maintenance

- Maintenance equipment (i.e. fleet) needs upgraded

Parks and Amenities

- Need a golf range within a specific mile radius for accreditation purposes
- Driving range needs updated with putting greens and sand traps
- Neighborhood parks need redevelopment / updated - pavilions, water access, programs and events at neighborhood parks (instead of all at Dolton Main Park)
- Need more walking trails and exercise equipment at neighborhood parks
- Neighborhoods are changing - need more soccer to address growing Hispanic demographic
 - Should convert / re-purpose parks to address what the community wants
 - Discussed converting unused tennis courts to pickleball or soccer courts, as examples
- Dolton Main Park's football field should be converted to multi-use
 - Baseball interest and participation is on the rise - new field currently under construction, potential multi-use /shared field at Dolton Main Park
- Health and wellness should be the main focus of park updates
- Would like to add a dog park (seeing more people out walking dogs lately), possibly at Dolton Main or Blackstone Park

- Would like to add a skate park within the District in the next 5 years
 - Aspirations to acquire old basketball court property on Greenwood Road to convert to a skate park (including skateboards) and possibly a dog park here
 - Skate park = in-line rink (e.g. skate ribbon at 35th Street and Lake Shore Drive in Chicago)
 - Skate board park = ramps, railings, and obstacles
- Would like to add a splash pad for younger kids
- Need to provide a rentable area for outdoor use - weddings, parties, etc.
 - With a gazebo / stage for ceremonies and events
 - Possibly at Triangle Park
 - Referenced similar settings in nearby South Holland
- Off-street parking needed at Blackstone Park to amplify current park use
- Potential opportunity for access to Little Calumet River for boating (canoe / kayaking) and fishing opportunities at Riverfront Park
- Need to increase outdoor winter activities:
 - Add ice skating rink (or update existing)
 - Potential dual-use opportunity - in-line rink in summer vs. ice rink winter (South Holland has a nearby example)
 - Utilize sled hill at Riverfront Park (improve access)
- Discussed adding challenge / obstacle course equipment at appropriate park
 - Possibly re-purposing one of the playground areas at Dolton Main Park
- All playgrounds need to be upgraded to meet current ADA standards
- Increase volleyball participation by upgrading existing sand court and adding indoor courts



Connect Phase Summary

The following conclusions, combined with the information gathered in the Analyze Phase, directly influence the strategies developed in the following phase of the Comprehensive Master Plan process.

Update Existing Parks and Open Space

A desire to update the existing parks and amenities was expressed throughout the Analyze and Connect phases. Based on state standards and national benchmarks, Dolton Park District is deficient in a number of amenity categories. The public, staff, and the Board expressed a desire for a number of new amenities to be added to the District over the next five years to keep up with recreation trends and the changing demographics within their community. The public view updating parks and outdoor amenities as a high priority, so implementing these kinds of changes will be effective strategies for the Park District.

Look for Opportunities to Acquire New Properties

With its current land holdings, DPD is deficient in parkland when compared to state and national recommendations. Being a landlocked District, opportunities to acquire land could be few and far between. When these opportunities do arise, they should be carefully considered.

The acquisition of the old basketball court property on Greenwood Road was brought up several times during the community and Board workshops. While the addition of this property would not eliminate the acreage deficit, it would help reduce it and development of the site would serve to reduce specific amenity deficiencies as well.

In addition to outdoor space acquisition, DPD should also explore facility acquisitions. Acquisition

of Melanie Fitness Center was discussed during the staff workshop. This new facility would provide an opportunity for the District to evaluate the current uses of its existing facilities and make changes to increase efficiency and utilization of its current holdings.

Update Indoor Recreation Facilities

Dolton Park District owns a collection of recreation facilities with relatively low square footages. Although they have surplus of indoor recreational space according to local benchmarking, the space is spread out. Strategic updates of these facilities will improve efficiency and utilization. Community survey responses and various workshop comments indicated that there is a desire to upgrade these facilities.

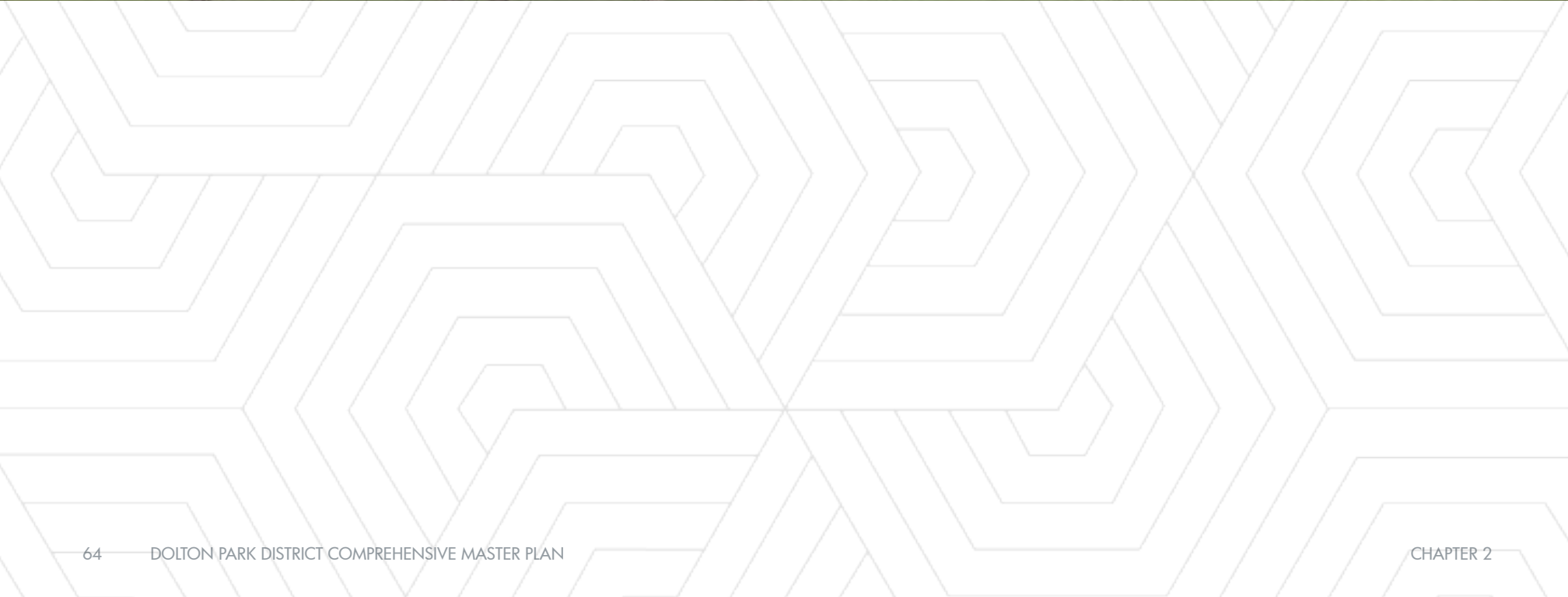
Evaluate Program Needs

Park District programs are continually in a state of change, cycling through the stages of introduction, gaining traction, performing, and end of life. The Park District needs to identify growing trends and adjust accordingly. Programs that are in decline should be assessed to determine the value of revitalizing or decommissioning and reappropriating the resources used to run them.

Residents called attention to a number of perceived program gaps, especially for seniors and teens and technology-focused programs.

Upgrade Maintenance Assets

Maintenance of amenities, parks, and facilities was brought up at every stage of the Connect phase. Most notably, at the staff workshop, the age of the existing maintenance fleet was discussed. In order to maintain existing parks and facilities at the desired level, the maintenance equipment used must be able to handle the workload. Updated equipment will allow maintenance staff to work more efficiently and keep DPD facilities in top shape.





envision & prioritize



Overview

This Chapter documents the Envision: Alternative Strategies phase of the comprehensive master planning process.

Purpose

The purpose of the Envision & Prioritize: Alternative and Preferred Strategies Phase is to develop actionable items for the Park District to accomplish over the next five years.

The project team conducted a visioning workshop to develop a series of goals and strategies to address the opportunities revealed during the analysis and connect phases. The strategies were then organized into primary goals that relate back to the needs that were identified in the previous phases. Following the visioning workshop, the project team met with Park District staff members to review and build upon the proposed strategies.

Finally, the planning team met with both staff and Park District Board of Commissioners to review the initial priorities and determine the most preferred action items to implement over the next five years.

Chapter Outline

This chapter is organized by the defined objectives as listed below and in the following pages. Determined through discussion with Park District staff and Board of Commissioners, goals were organized into a 5-year Action Plan or listed as recurring best practices.

Objectives

1. Address Underserved Planning Areas within the Park District
2. Upgrade and Expand Amenities to Improve Offerings at Existing Parks
3. Expand Use of Indoor Space
4. Align Programs with Evolving Community Needs

ADDRESS UNDERSERVED PLANNING AREAS WITHIN THE PARK DISTRICT

Justification

There is a noticeable lack of neighborhood parks (i.e. “walk-to destinations”) within Planning Areas 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8.

Evaluate vacant / open parcels for possible land acquisition(s) to create new mini parks or neighborhood parks within Planning Areas 3, 4, 5, and 8.

- Provide outdoor space closer to residents (reduce need to drive to larger parks).
- Address amenity deficiencies or expand offerings at new parks.
- Acquire old basketball court property along Greenwood Road (repurposing opportunity).

Improve access to nearby parks in underserved areas.

- Designated routes with specific access points (pedestrian crossings) to Dolton Park within Planning Area 8.
- Evaluate adding mini / neighborhood park(s) to serve adjacent planning areas (Planning Areas 3 and 6 or Planning Areas 4 and 5, for example).

Partner with Thornridge High School to upgrade and expand Willowgreen Park to be a Neighborhood Park.

- Add shared green space areas.
- Improve access between properties.
- Develop dual maintenance and monitoring agreement to ensure upkeep.

UPGRADE AND EXPAND AMENITIES TO IMPROVE OFFERINGS AT EXISTING PARKS

Justification

During the Connect Phase, the community, staff, and Board all expressed the desire for a number of new amenities and offerings. Residents expressed a desire for a dog park, fitness park, skate park, state-of-the-art playground, gardens, pavilions, and aquatics. Both staff and the community noted the need for increased integration with and offering of inclusive activities. Finally, all three groups expressed a desire for increased health and wellness offerings at various parks.

Explore re-purposing opportunities.

- Replace underutilized amenities with newer trends, such as:
 - challenge course
 - pickleball courts
 - futsal / soccer courts
- Consider adding multi-purpose fields (soccer, football, etc.) at Dolton Park.
- Add / update amenities to cater to increasing demographic groups.

Determine best fit for adding special use amenities, such as:

- dog park
- splash pad
- skatepark / skateboard park
- state-of-the-art park (adventure or nature-based play)
- access to Little Calumet River at Riverfront Park (fishing, boat launch, scenic overlook, etc.)
- winter-use activities (skating rink, sled hill, etc.)

Expand accessibility to and within existing parks.

- Add accessible routes to playgrounds, courts, fields, etc. from surrounding neighborhoods.
- Evaluate and upgrade playground surfacing to be ADA compliant.
- Confirm requirements needed for and achieve ADA accreditation.

Establish a list of park renovations to be completed within the next five years.

- Prioritize renovations based on age of amenities to be renovated, replaced, etc.
- Add supporting features as needed at various parks, such as:
 - off-street parking
 - shade structures (shelters, pavilions, gazebos, etc.)
 - outdoor venue space (weddings, special events, stages, etc.)

UPGRADE AND EXPAND AMENITIES TO IMPROVE OFFERINGS AT EXISTING PARKS

Improve safety and security at parks.

- Implement field lighting upgrades / additions at Dolton and Needles Parks.
- Add pedestrian and parking lot lighting to:
 - provide safer navigation out of park after dark
 - allow for easier monitoring / security of parks
- Upgrade maintenance equipment to allow for better upkeep and ability to maintain cleaner parks.

Partner with local special needs group to provide inclusive “play for all” opportunities.

- Develop and implement list of park activities.
- Develop and implement inclusive programs.

EXPAND USE OF INDOOR SPACE

Justification

The community and Board feedback both showed a desire for additional indoor fitness and exercise space. Park District staff and the Board wish to evaluate indoor space acquisition opportunities. Residents noted a need specifically for an indoor running / walking track. Staff also noted the need to renovate existing indoor facilities and amenities.

Conduct a facility feasibility study to determine indoor space needs.

- Identify needed indoor spaces for public use, programming, and Park District operations, considering:
 - necessary size
 - anticipated growth
 - long-term use
- Determine cost recovery goals for expansion of existing facilities versus new construction.
- Identify existing and upcoming deficiencies.
- Establish maintenance needs at current facilities.

Conduct a facility assessment for Shaw Recreation / Fitness Center (per the facility feasibility study).

- Consider renovation or expansion of the current facility.
- Determine if underutilized space can be repurposed for the following:
 - senior classes
 - technology center
 - teen arts programs (painting, sewing, knitting, etc.)
- Establish additional indoor offerings needed (beyond repurposing existing areas).

Design and construct addition to Shaw Recreation / Fitness Center.

- Consider adding the following:
 - multi-use rooms (for various classes, programs, etc.)
 - fitness / exercise areas
 - running / walking track
 - athletic court use

Acquire Melanie's Fitness

- Increase indoor space specifically for fitness / exercise use.

ALIGN PROGRAMS WITH EVOLVING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Justification

Community feedback indicated a need for additional program offerings specifically for seniors. Residents also suggested the addition of more inclusive programs. Finally, Park District staff and the community both noted a need for more tech-focused programs.

Begin offering various technology programs for specific user groups.

- Develop programs geared toward the younger population that includes:
 - science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
 - coding
 - gaming
- Develop programs geared toward the older population that includes:
 - computer literacy
 - internet awareness

Promote inclusivity through various program offerings.

- Partner with local special needs groups and / or School District to provide various programs to residents of all abilities.





implement

A photograph showing a community event. In the foreground, a man with long dreadlocks and a beard, wearing a blue t-shirt, is looking down. Behind him, a woman in an orange life vest is visible. To the right, a young girl with braids and a colorful beaded necklace is looking towards the camera. Another young girl in a black shirt is looking to the side. In the background, there are yellow and green balloons and a traffic cone.

Action Plan

The Plan: Action Plan Chapter outlines the proposed tasks and projects for the Dolton Park District over the next five years.

Purpose

This chapter outlines the steps and potential timeline for implementing the Comprehensive Master Plan strategies identified in the previous chapter from the Envision & Prioritize Phase. They were further refined and finalized through workshops with the Dolton Park District staff and Board of Commissioners to develop the action plan. The action plan is a guide to assist the Dolton Park District with implementing the strategies over the next five years and will be periodically re-evaluated and adjusted to reflect the completed projects and the community's changing needs. The action plan is organized as follows:

- An at-a-glance Action Plan timeline with each year divided into quarters (Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4) to provide a general idea of when each action or action item step might start or end within a given year

- A detailed summary of the action items provided in a year-by-year list in chronological order from 2021 - 2027+
- The action items are further organized within each year according to the following categories:
 - Parks and Open Space
 - Indoor Facilities
 - Planning and Programs

The Dolton Park District is following a May to April fiscal year.



Current Year

2021		2022	
May June July	Aug Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Establish List of Park Renovations to be completed	Partner with Thornridge High to make Willowgreen Park a Neighborhood Park		
	Develop Park Safety/Security Plan		
	Apply for OSLAD Grant Funding for Blackstone Park Phase I	Secure OSLAD Grant Funding for Blackstone Park Phase I	Design and Engineer Blackstone Park Phase I improvements
	Acquire Melanie's Fitness	Conduct Facility Feasibility Study to determine indoor space and identify deficiencies	
			Determine Cost Recovery Goals for Expansion of existing facilities vs. new construction
	Begin offering Technology Programs for Older and Younger Populations		Identify Needed Indoor Spaces for public use, programming, and Park District operations

Year 1

2022		2023	
May June July	Aug Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Evaluate vacant/open parcels for Land Acquisition within Planning Areas 3, 4, 5 and 8			Acquire old Basketball Court property along Greenwood Road
		Evaluate Adding Park(s) to serve adjacent Planning Areas (3 and 6, 4 and 5)	
		Bid and Construct Blackstone Park Phase I improvements	
Designate route with specific access points to Dolton Park within Planning Area 8			
Improve Access to Nearby Parks in Underserved Areas			
Add or upgrade field lighting at Dolton Park	Master Plan and Fund Dolton Park	Design and Engineer Dolton Park improvements	
Conduct Facility Assessment for Shaw Recreation/Fitness Center (per feasibility study)			

Year 2

2023		2024	
May June July	Aug Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
		Determine best fit for adding skatepark (consider Greenwood Road Park)	Master Plan and Fund Greenwood Road Park
	Determine best fit for adding winter use activities (consider Riverfront Park)	Master Plan and Fund Riverfront Park	
Fund Blackstone Park Phase II improvements	Design and Engineer Blackstone Park Phase II improvements		Bid and Construct Blackstone Park Phase II improvements
Bid and Construct Dolton Park improvements			
Fund addition to Shaw Recreation/Fitness Center			Bid and Construct addition to Shaw Recreation/Fitness Center
Design and Engineer addition to Shaw Recreation/Fitness Center			

Year 3

2024		2025	
May June July	Aug Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Master Plan and Fund Greenwood Road Park (cont'd)	Design and Engineer Greenwood Road Park improvements		Bid and Construct Greenwood Road Park improvements
			Determine best fit for adding splash pad (consider Kandy Kane Park)
Determine best fit for adding dog park (consider Triangle Park)	Master Plan and Fund Triangle Park		Design and Engineer Triangle Park improvements
Design and Engineer Riverfront Park		Bid and Construct Riverfront Park	
Bid and Construct Blackstone Park Phase II improvements (cont'd)			
Bid and construct addition to Shaw Recreation/Fitness Center			

Year 4

2025		2026	
May June July	Aug Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Master Plan and Fund Kandy Kane Park		Design and Engineer Kandy Kane Park improvements	
	Bid and Construct Triangle Park improvements		

Year 5

2026		2027	
May June July	Aug Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Determine best fit for adding adventure or nature based play park (consider Sunshine Park)	Master Plan and Fund Sunshine Park		Design and Engineer Sunshine Park improvements
Bid and Construct Kandy Kane Park improvements			
Add Shade Structures and Outdoor Venue space where needed			

Year 5+: Beyond 2027			Recurring Items	
Upgrade Maintenance Equipment to allow for better upkeep of parks	Add or upgrade field lighting at Needles Park		Add or upgrade Pedestrian and Parking Lot Lights where needed	Add/update Amenities to Cater to Increasing Demographic Groups
Bid and Construct Sunshine Park improvements			Provide Accessible Routes to Playgrounds, Courts, Fields, Etc.	Address Amenity Deficiencies or expand offerings at new parks
			Implement Park Renovations per the list determined in Y1 Q1	Explore Repurposing opportunities for Underutilized Amenities
			Evaluate and Upgrade Playground Surfacing to remain ADA Compliant	Implement requirements needed to achieve ADA Accreditation
			Establish Maintenance Needs at Current Facilities	Partner with local special needs groups to provide inclusive "Play for All" Opportunities
			Partner with local groups and/or School District to provide Programs to Residents of All Abilities	Promote inclusivity through various Program Offerings
			Review and update Comprehensive Plan (Yearly)	

Legend

Facilities

Planning and Programs

Parks and Open Space

Plan Updates

Current Year

(May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022)

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Establish a **List of Park Renovations** to be completed
- Partner with **Thornridge High** to make **Willowgreen Park** a Neighborhood Park
- Develop a **Park Safety / Security Plan**
- Apply for **OSLAD Grant Funding for Blackstone Park Phase I**
- Secure **OSLAD Grant Funding for Blackstone Park Phase I**
- Design and Engineer **Blackstone Park Phase I** improvements

INDOOR FACILITIES

- Acquire **Melanie's Fitness**
- Conduct **Facility Feasibility Study** to determine indoor space and identify deficiencies
- Determine **Cost Recovery Goals for Expansion** of existing facilities vs. new construction
- Identify **Needed Indoor Spaces** for public use, programming, and Park District operations

PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

- Begin offering **Technology Programs for Older and Younger Populations**

Fiscal Year 1

(May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023)

PARKS

- Evaluate vacant / open parcels for **Land Acquisition within Planning Areas 3, 4, 5, and 8**
- Design and Engineer **Blackstone Park Phase I** improvements (continued)
- Designate route with specific points to **Dolton Park** within **Planning Area 8**
- Improve **Access to Nearby Parks in Underserved Areas**
- Add or upgrade field lighting at **Dolton Park**
- Master Plan and Fund **Dolton Park**
- Evaluate **Adding Park(s)** to serve adjacent **Planning Areas** (e.g. Planning Areas **3 and 6** or Planning Areas **4 and 5**)
- Bid and Construct **Blackstone Park Phase I** improvements
- Design and Engineer **Dolton Park** improvements
- Acquire old **Basketball Court** property along **Greenwood Road**

INDOOR FACILITIES

- Conduct **Facility Assessment for Shaw Recreation / Fitness Center** (per feasibility study)

Fiscal Year 2

(May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024)

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Bid and Construct **Blackstone Park Phase I** improvements (continued)
- Fund **Blackstone Park Phase II** improvements
- Bid and Construct **Dolton Park** improvements
- Determine best fit for adding winter use activities (consider **Riverfront Park**)
- Design and Engineer **Blackstone Park Phase II** improvements
- Determine best fit for adding **skatepark** (consider Greenwood Road Park)
- Master Plan and fund **Riverfront Park**
- Master Plan and Fund **Greenwood Road Park**
- Bid and Construct **Blackstone Park Phase II** improvements

INDOOR FACILITIES

- Fund addition to **Shaw Recreation / Fitness Center**
- Design and Engineer addition to **Shaw Recreation / Fitness Center**
- Bid and Construct addition to **Shaw Recreation / Fitness Center**

Fiscal Year 3

(May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025)

PARKS

- Master Plan and Fund **Greenwood Road Park** (continued)
- Determine best fit for dog park (consider **Triangle Park**)
- Design and Engineer **Riverfront Park**
- Bid and Construct **Blackstone Park Phase II** improvements (continued)
- Design and Engineer **Greenwood Road Park** improvements
- Master Plan and Fund **Triangle Park**
- Bid and Construct **Riverfront Park**
- Bid and Construct **Greenwood Road Park** improvements
- Determine best fit for adding splash pad (consider **Kandy Kane Park**)
- Design and Engineer **Triangle Park** improvements

INDOOR FACILITIES

- Bid and Construct addition to **Shaw Recreation / Fitness Center** (continued)

Fiscal Year 4

(May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026)

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Bid and Construct **Greenwood Road Park** improvements (continued)
- Master Plan and Fund **Kandy Kane Park**
- Design and Engineer **Triangle Park** improvements (continued)
- Bid and Construct **Riverfront Park** (continued)
- Bid and Construct **Triangle Park** improvements
- Design and Engineer **Kandy Kane Park** improvement

Fiscal Year 5

(May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027)

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Determine best fit for adding adventure or nature based play park (consider **Sunshine Park**)
- Bid and Construct **Kandy Kane Park** improvements
- Add **Shade Structures** and **Outdoor Venue** space where needed
- Master Plan and Fund **Sunshine Park**
- Design and Engineer **Sunshine Park** improvements

Year 5+: Beyond 2027

(May 1, 2027 and beyond)

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Upgrade **Maintenance Equipment** to allow for better upkeep of parks
- Bid and Construct **Sunshine Park** improvements
- Add or upgrade field lighting at **Needles Park**

Recurring Items (occurs on an annual basis)

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Add or upgrade **Pedestrian and Parking Lot Lights** where needed
- Provide **Accessible Routes to Playgrounds, Courts, Fields, Etc.**
- Implement **Park Renovations** per the list determined in Y1 Q1
- Evaluate and **Upgrade Playground Surfacing** to remain **ADA Compliant**
- Add / update **Amenities to Cater to Increasing Demographic Groups**
- Address **Amenity Deficiencies** or expand offerings at new parks
- Explore **Repurposing** opportunities for **Underutilized Amenities**
- Implement requirements needed to achieve **ADA Accreditation**

INDOOR FACILITIES

- Establish **Maintenance Needs at Current Facilities**

PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

- Partner with local special needs groups to provide **inclusive “Play for All” Opportunities**
- Partner with local groups and / or School District to provide **Programs to Residents of All Abilities**
- Promote **inclusivity** through various **Program Offerings**

PLAN UPDATES

- Review and update **Yearly Comprehensive Plan** (Yearly)





appendix



Village of Dolton, Illinois

Official Zoning Map

(2010)

DRAFT

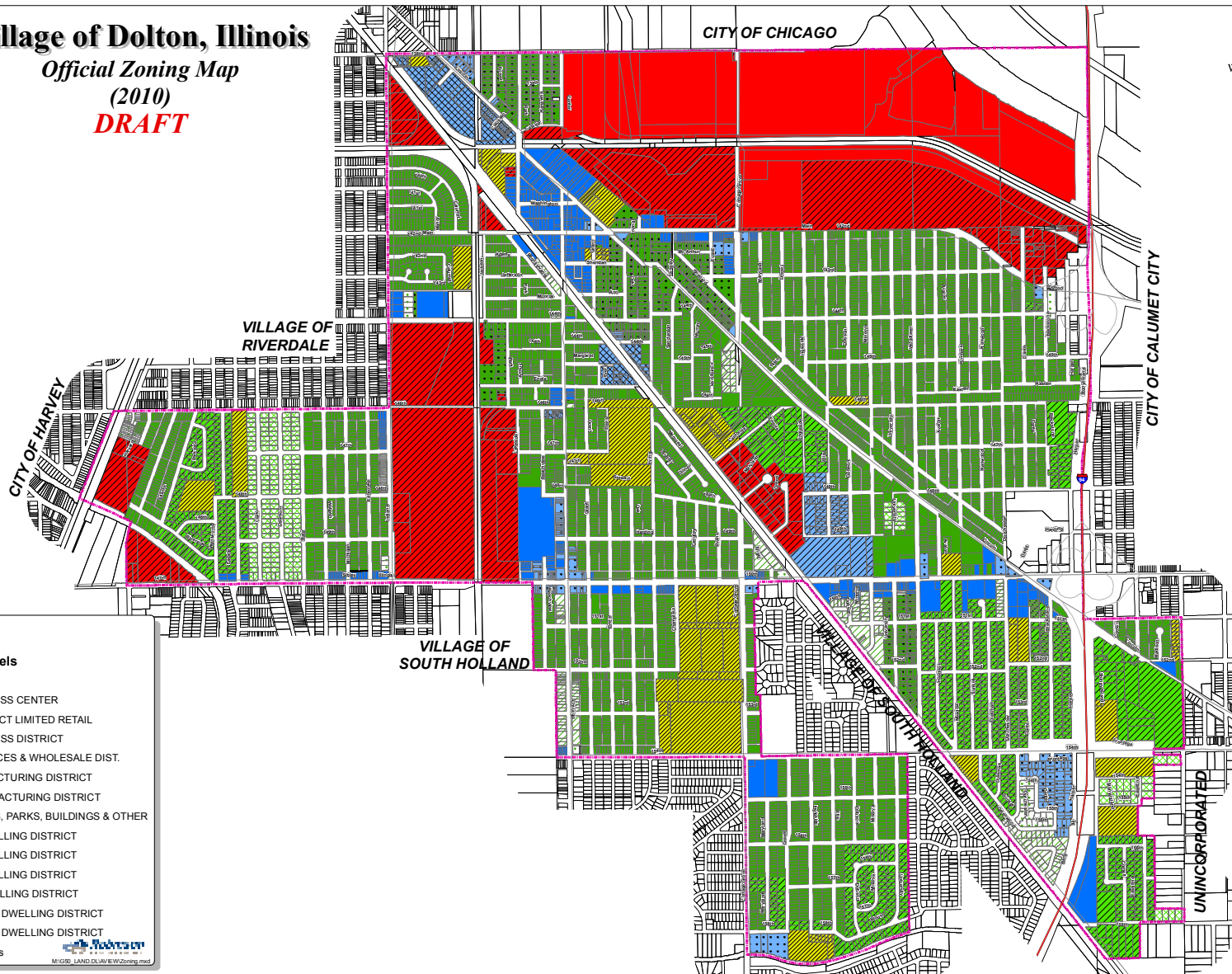


Legend

Dolton Zoning Parcels

- Parcels
- PLANNED BUSINESS CENTER
- BUSINESS DISTRICT LIMITED RETAIL
- GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
- BUSINESS SERVICES & WHOLESALE DIST.
- LIMITED MANUFACTURING DISTRICT
- GENERAL MANUFACTURING DISTRICT
- PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PARKS, BUILDINGS & OTHER
- ONE FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT
- ONE FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT
- ONE FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT
- TWO FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT
- MULTIPLE FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT
- MULTIPLE FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT
- Dolton Village Limits

Map by: **STANTEC**
M:\GIS\LAND\PLAN\W\Zoning.mxd

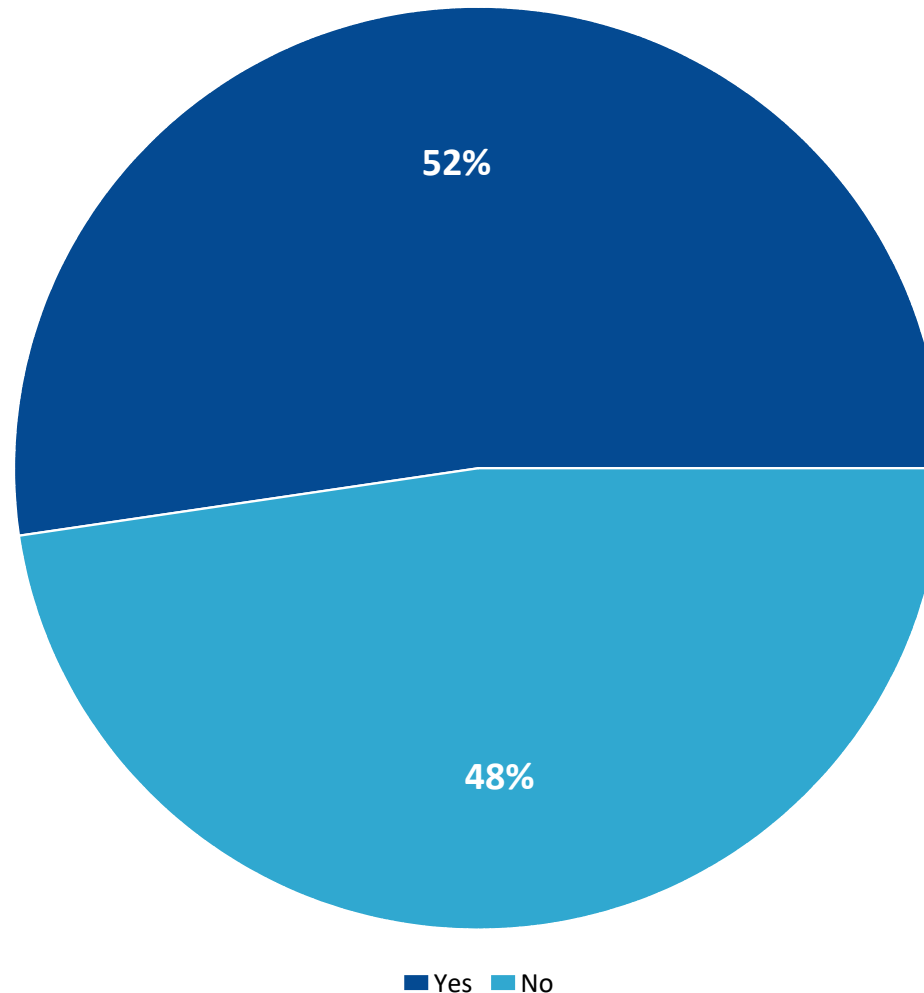


Focus Questions

- What is your history in the Dolton community and your involvement through the years with the Park District?
- What should the vision for the Park District be in the next 5 years? next 20 years?
 - What will be different from today and what does/will the community need?
 - What will the community need to remain relevant to its current residents and attractive to newcomers looking to make Dolton their home?
- As a Park Board member and based on your day to day experience, what do you believe the Park District's focus should be for the next 5 years to achieve that vision?
- Where are opportunities or needs for improvements with existing, parks and open space, facilities, and programs?
 - What would you change?
 - What is working that should remain?
- Are any new parks, amenities, facilities, programs needed?
 - What might be needed to support those?
 - Consider seasonal needs throughout the year
 - What newer trends do you envision fitting well in Dolton?
 - Which might not?
 - What have you seen in other districts or municipalities that should be considered in Dolton?
- What park and/or facility improvements are needed to improve and/or expand programs and recreational offerings?

Q1. Have you or any member of your household visited any parks of the Dolton Park District over the past 12 months?

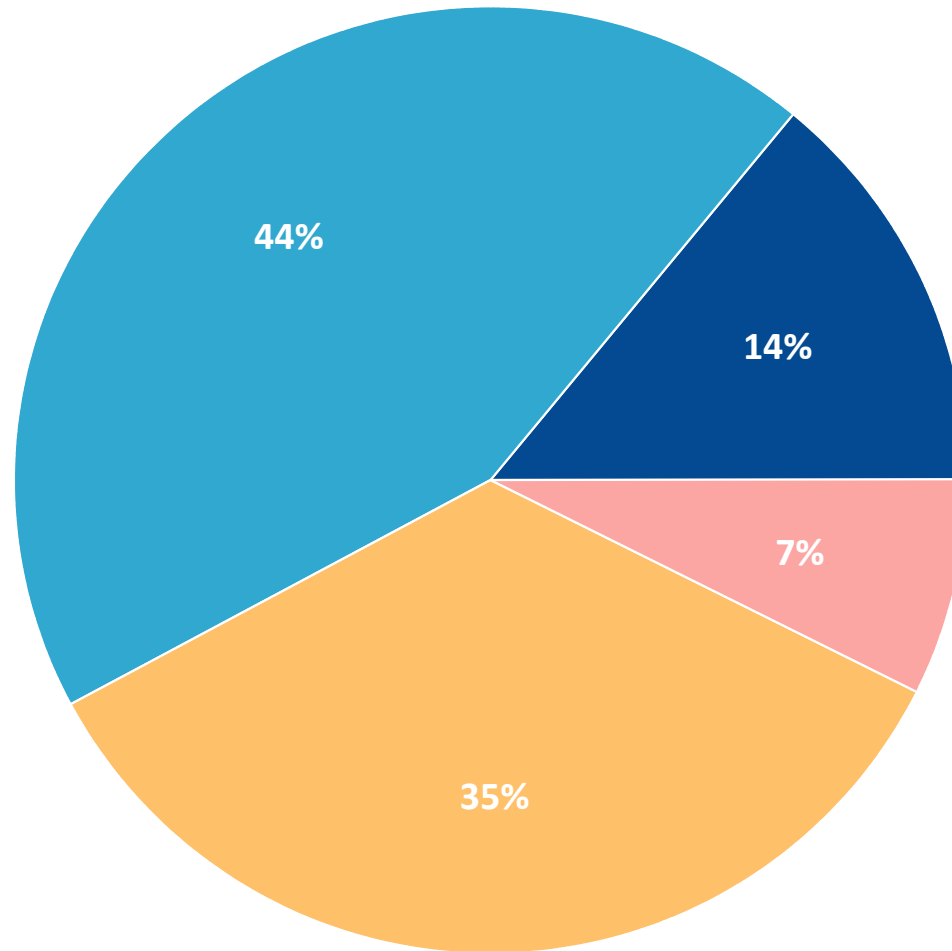
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q1a. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL of the parks of the Dolton Park District you have visited?

by percentage of respondents that have visited District parks during the past 12 months (without “not provided”)

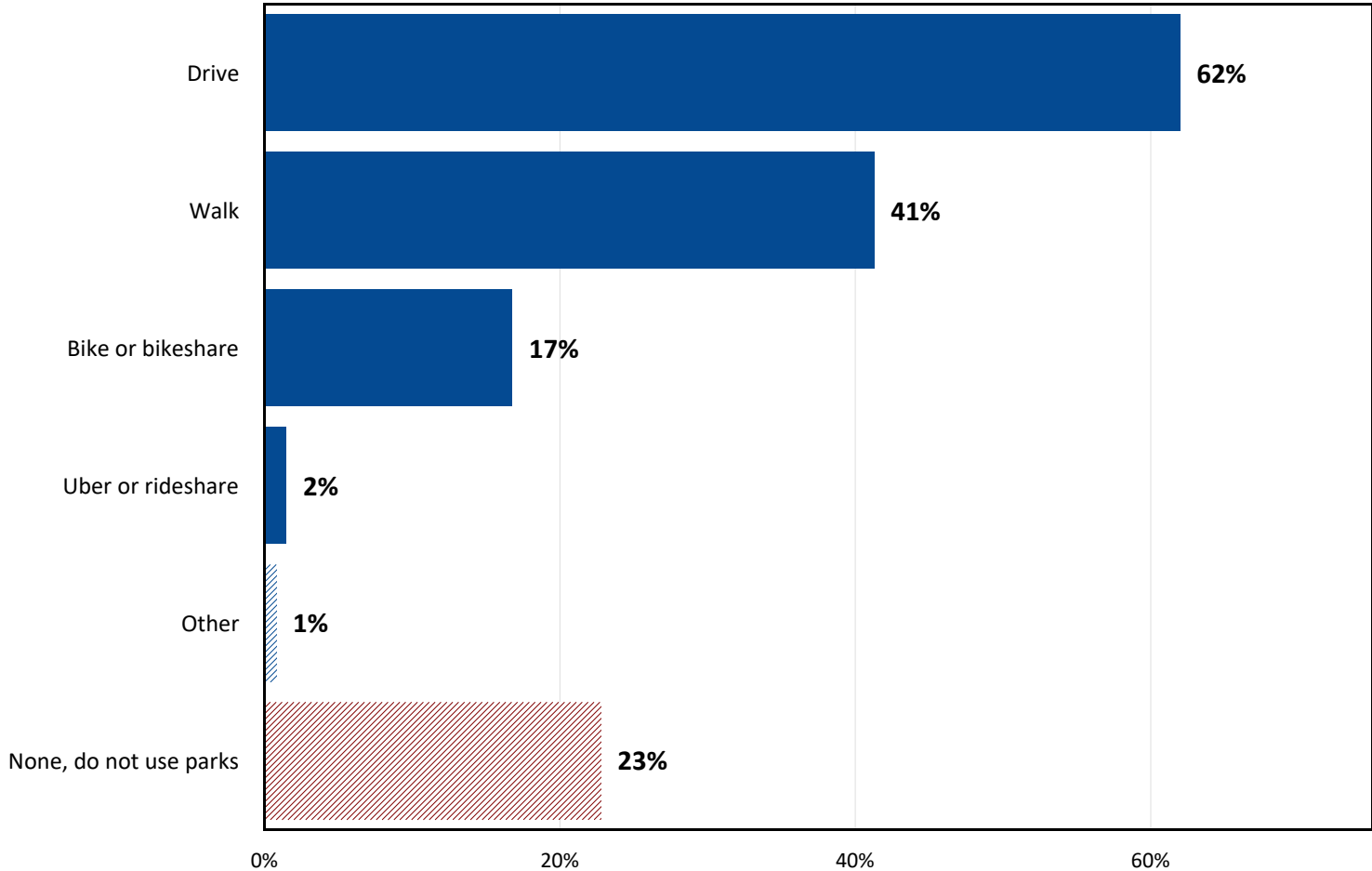


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor

Q2. Please CHECK ALL the ways you and members of your household travel to the parks and recreation facilities you use.

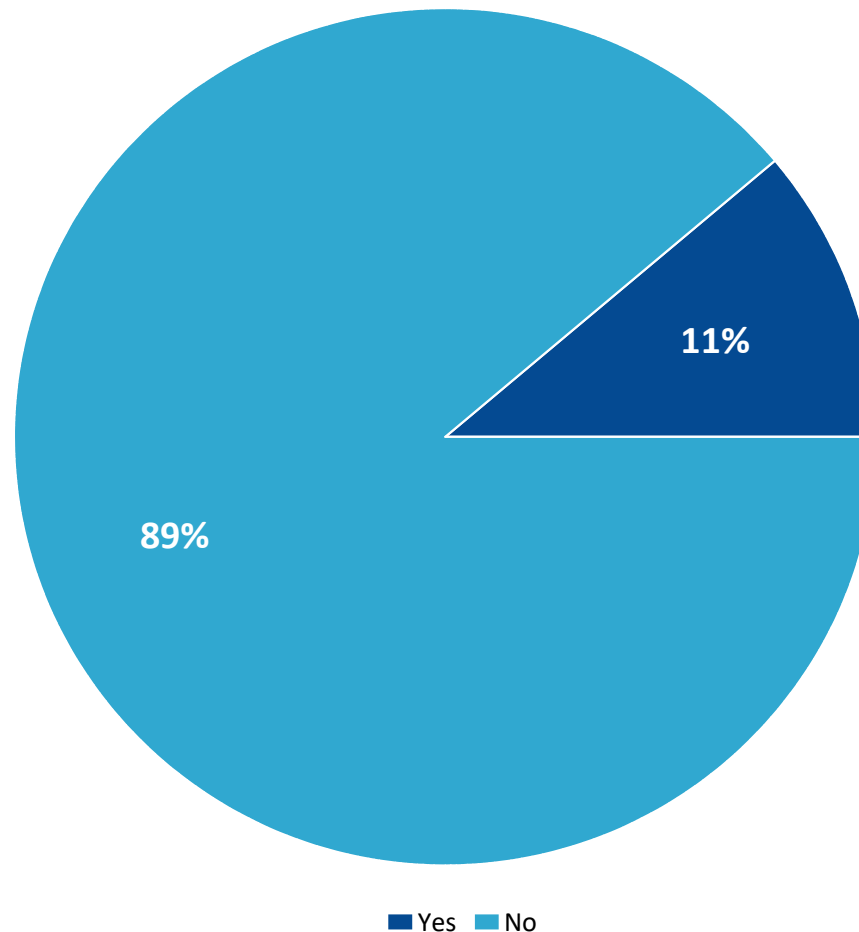
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q3. Have you or other members of your household participated in any recreation or sports programs offered by the Dolton Park District during the past 12 months?

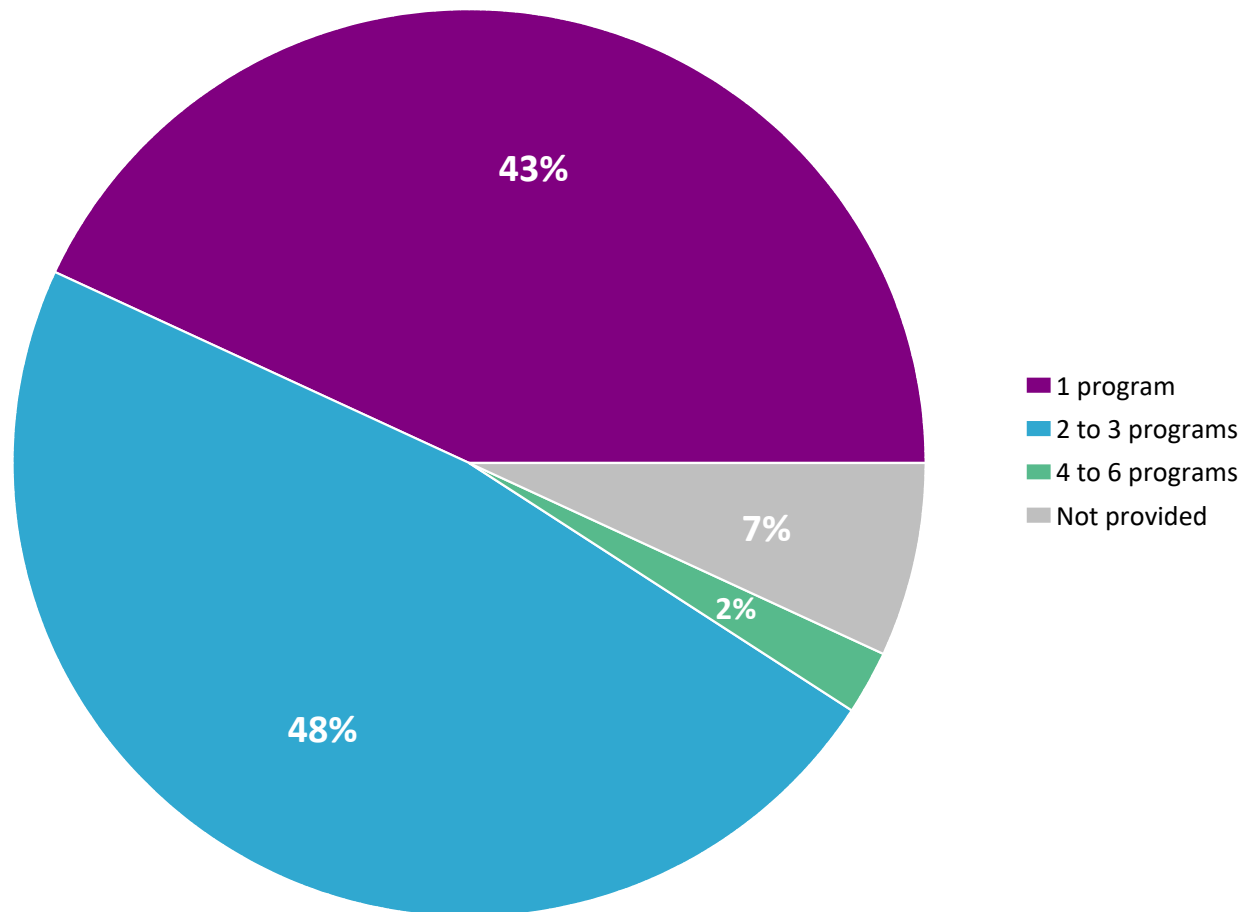
by percentage of respondents (without “not provided”)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q3a. Approximately how many different recreation or sports programs offered by the Dolton Park District have you or members of your household participated in over the past 12 months?

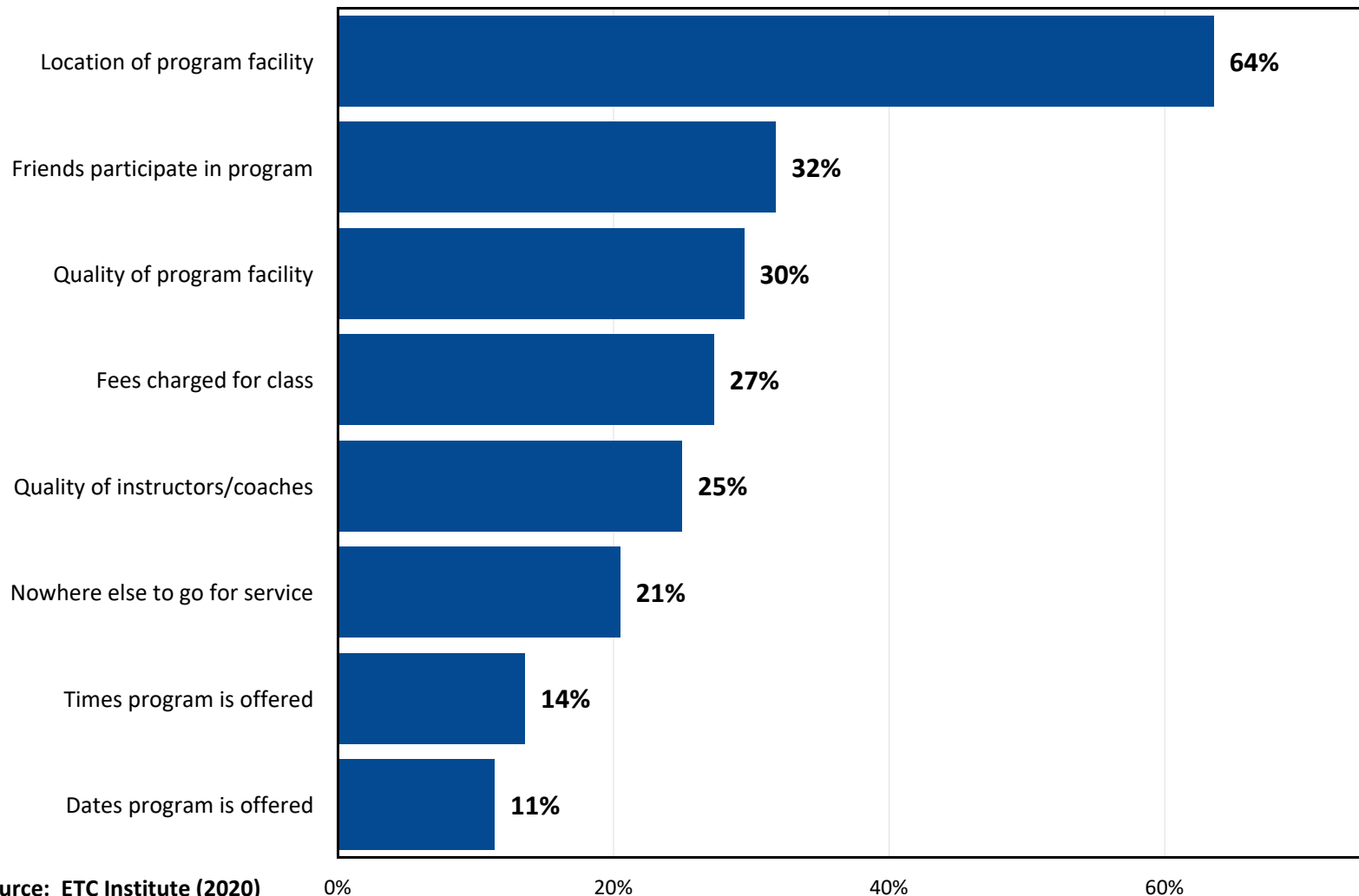
by percentage of respondents that have participated in District recreation or sports programs during the past 12 months



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

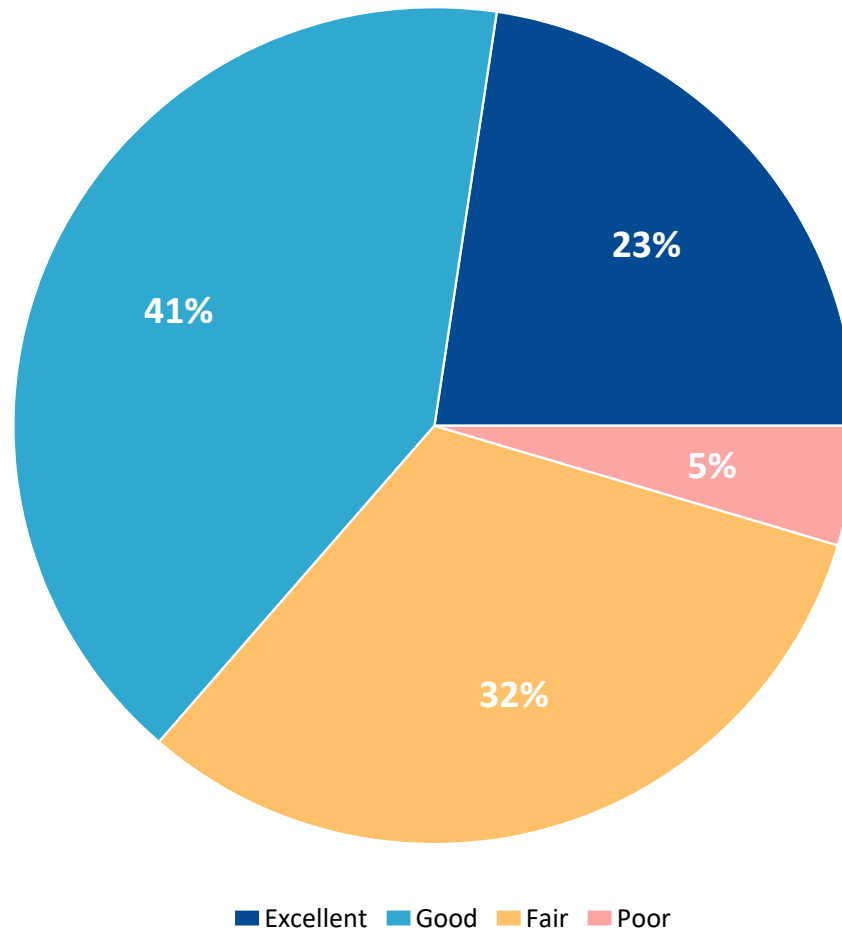
Q3b. Please check the **THREE** primary reasons why your household has participated in Dolton Park District recreation or sports programs.

by percentage of respondents that have participated in District recreation or sports programs during the past 12 months
(three choices could be made)



Q3c. How would you rate the overall quality of the recreation or sports programs that you and members of your household have participated in?

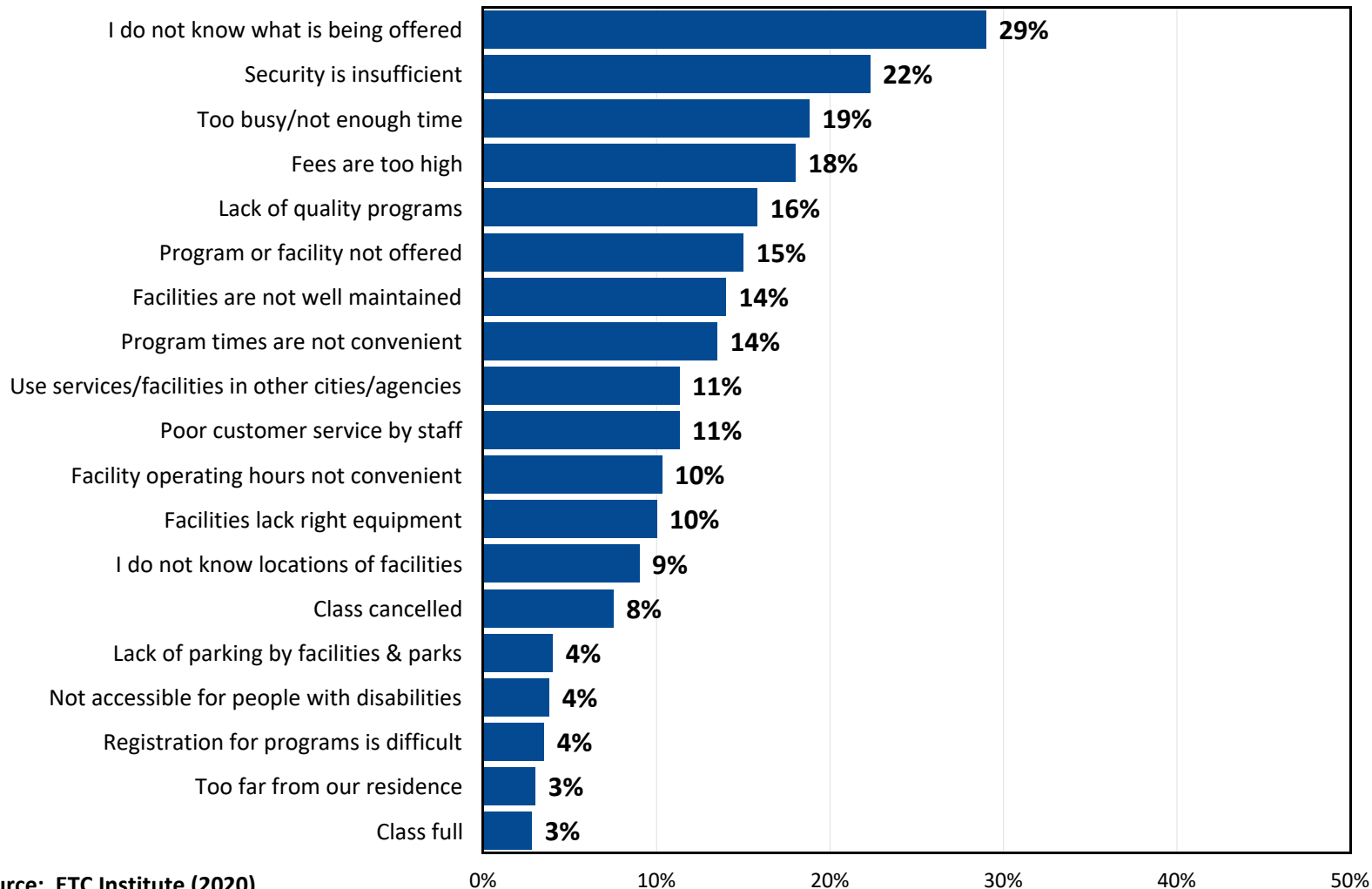
by percentage of respondents that have participated in District recreation or sports programs during the past 12 months



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q4. Please CHECK ALL of the reasons that deter you or other members of your household from using the parks, recreation, and sports facilities/programs of the Dolton Park District MORE OFTEN.

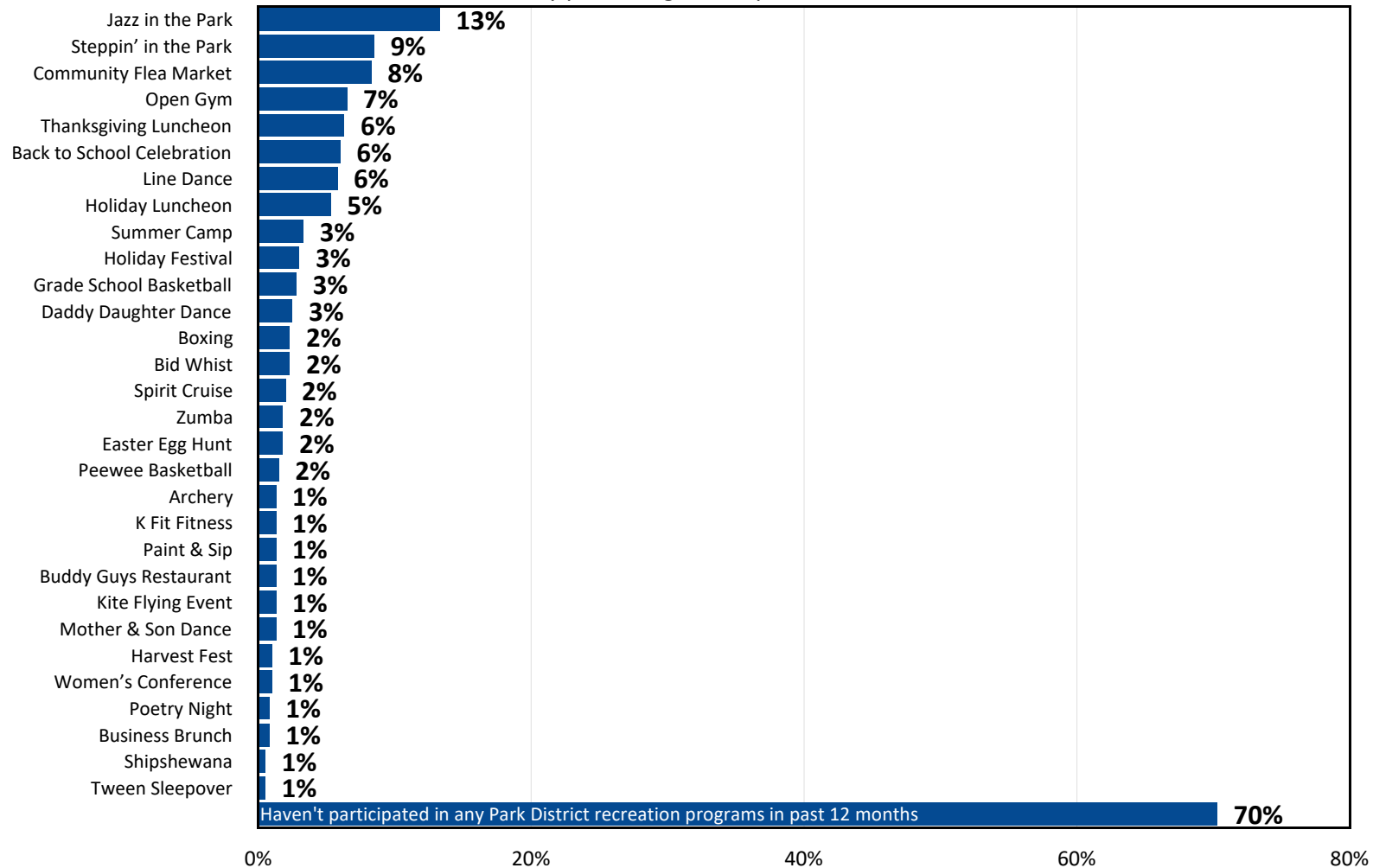
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q5. Please indicate all of the recreation programs offered or co-sponsored by the Dolton Park District that your household has participated in during the past 12 months.

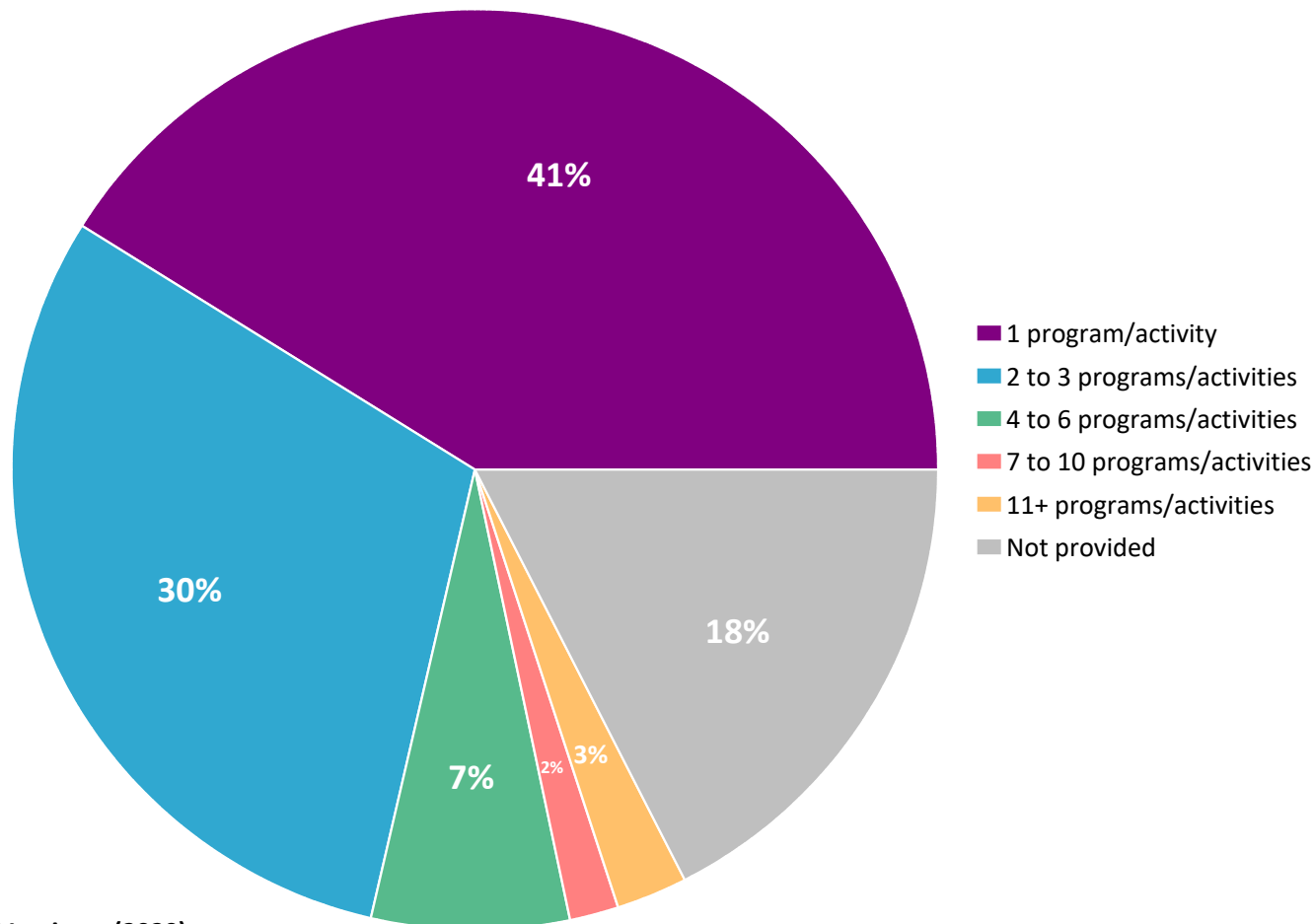
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q5a. Of the programs selected in Question 5, how many different recreation programs offered or co-sponsored by the Dolton Park District has your household participated in during the past 12 months?

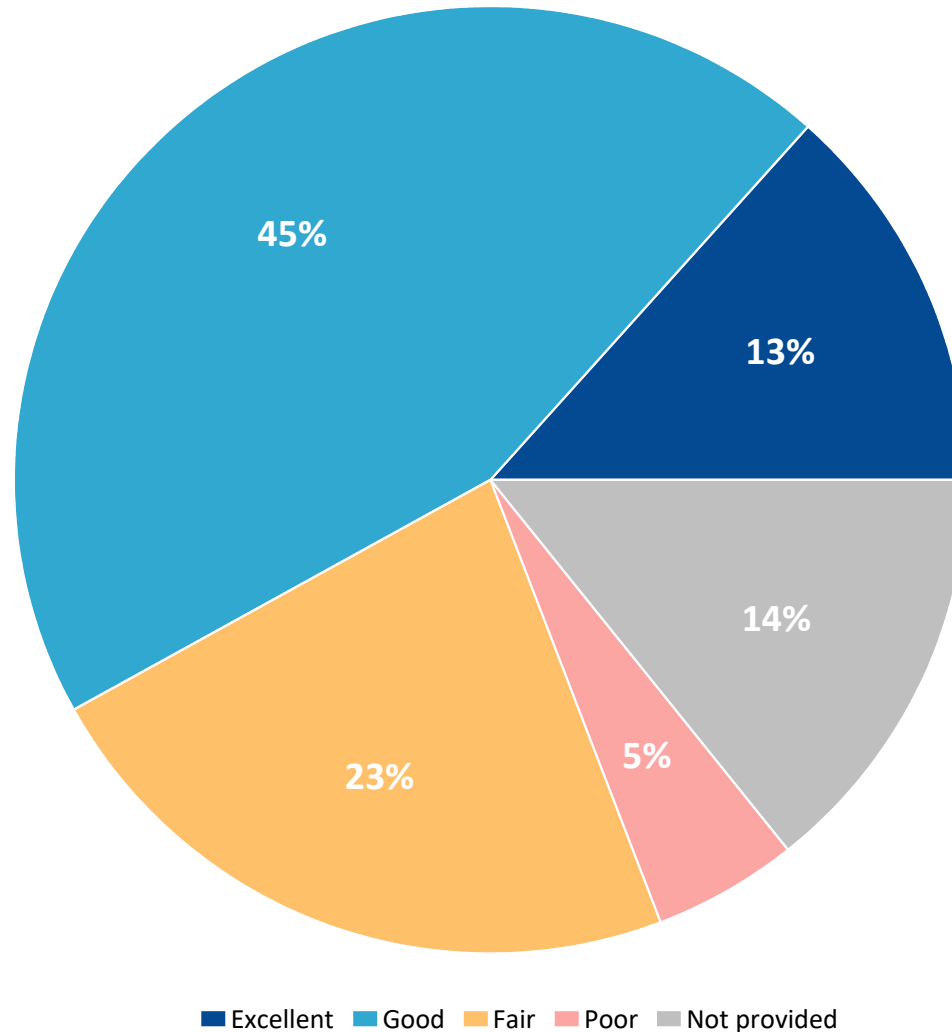
by percentage of respondents that participated in a recreation program in the past 12 months



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q5b. How would you rate the overall quality of recreation programs offered or co-sponsored by the Dolton Park District that you have participated in?

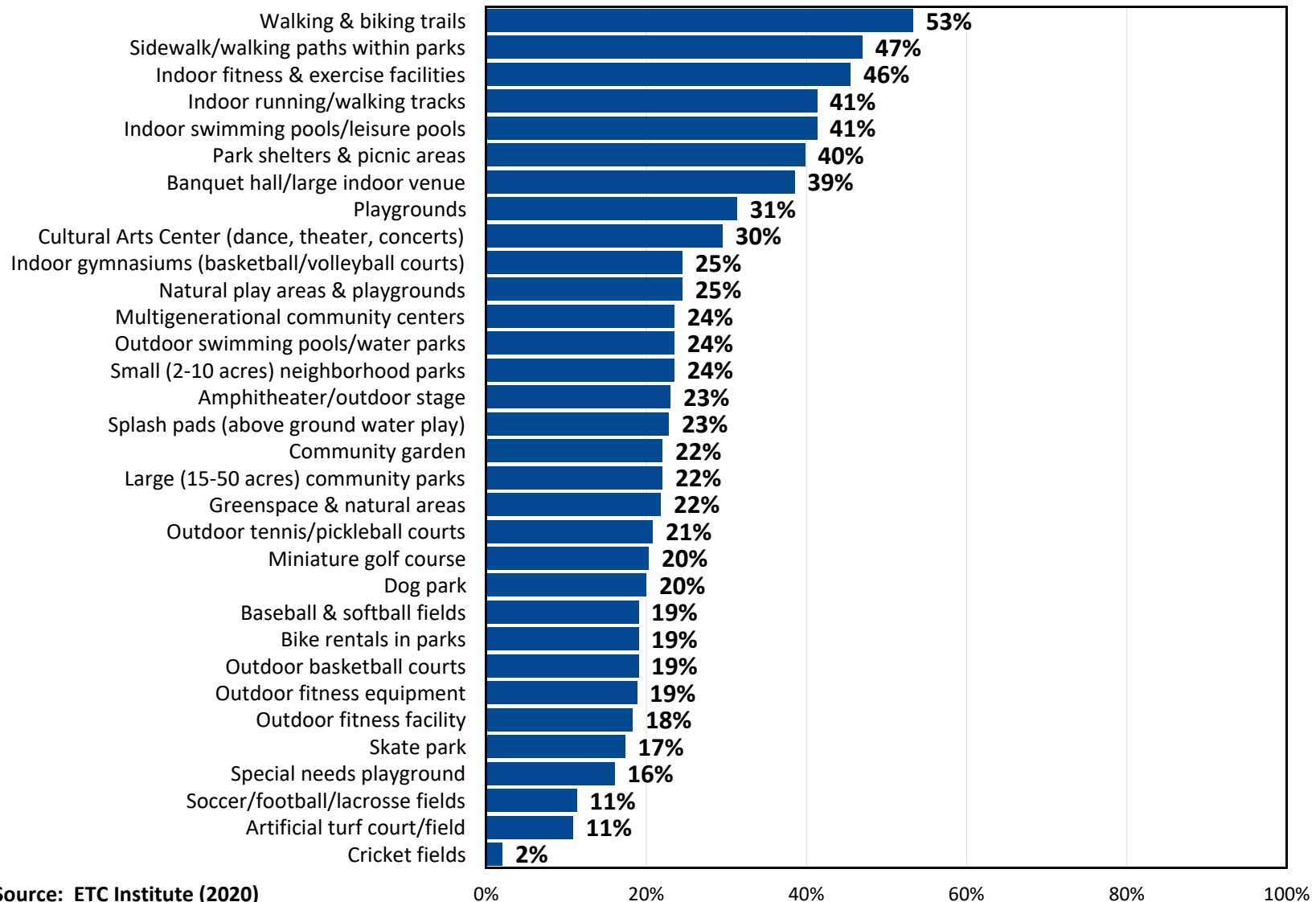
by percentage of respondents that participated in a recreation program in the past 12 months



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

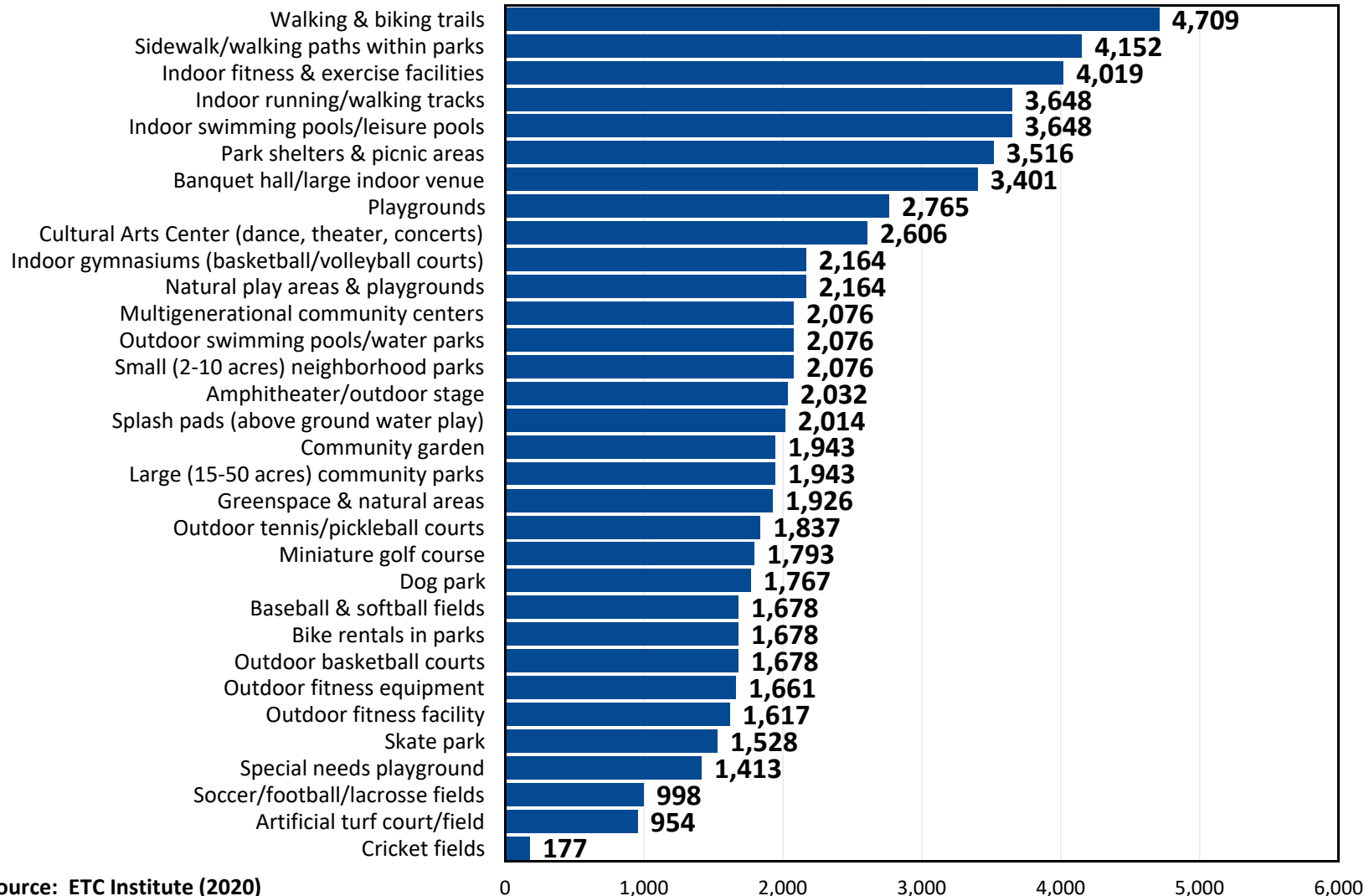
Q6. Households' Facility Needs

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Estimated Number of Households That Have a Need for Various Facilities

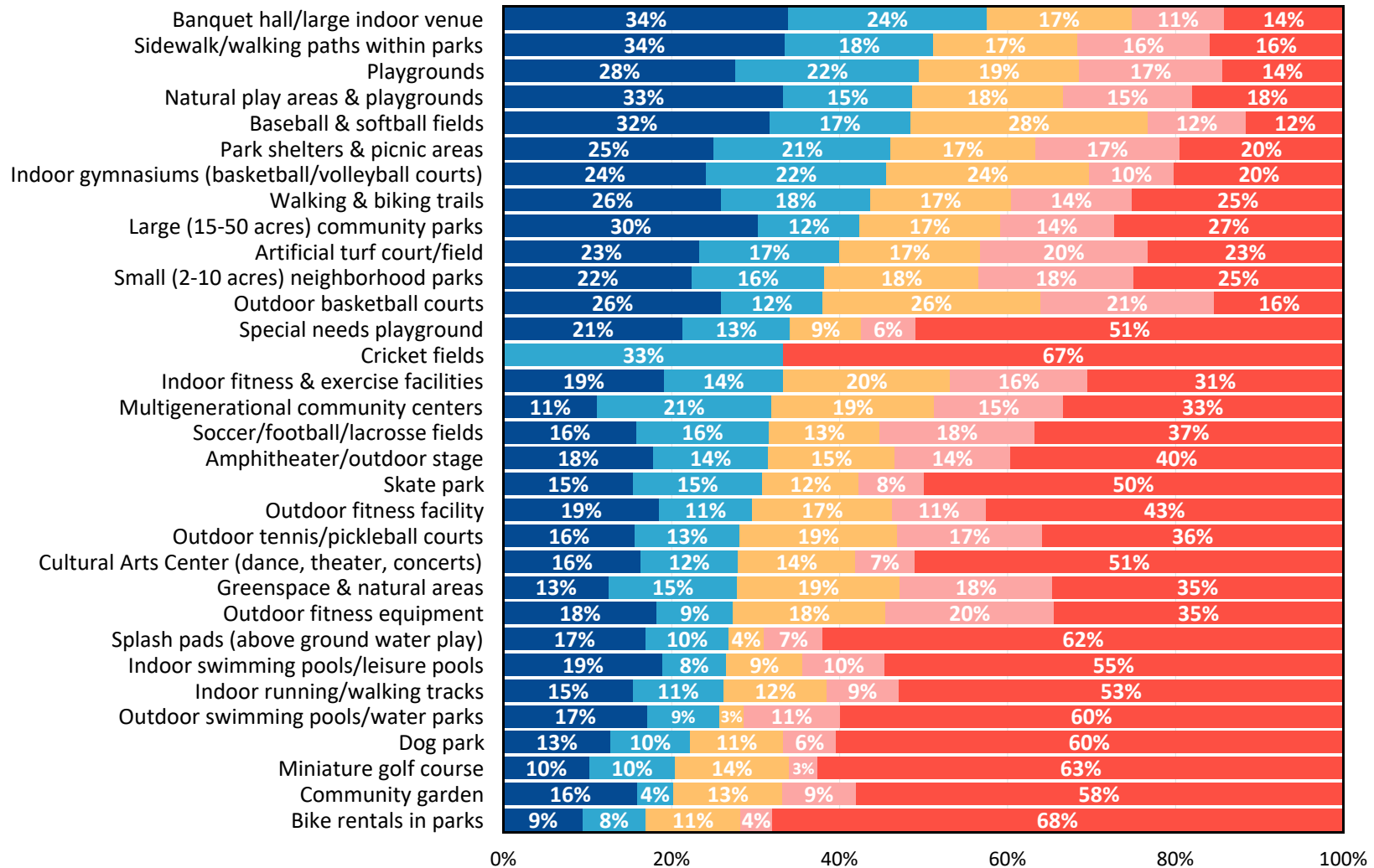
by number of households based on an estimated 8,834 households in the Dolton Park District (Dolton, IL)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q6. How Well Facility Meet the Needs of Respondent Households

by percentage of respondents with a need for facilities
(using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met.")

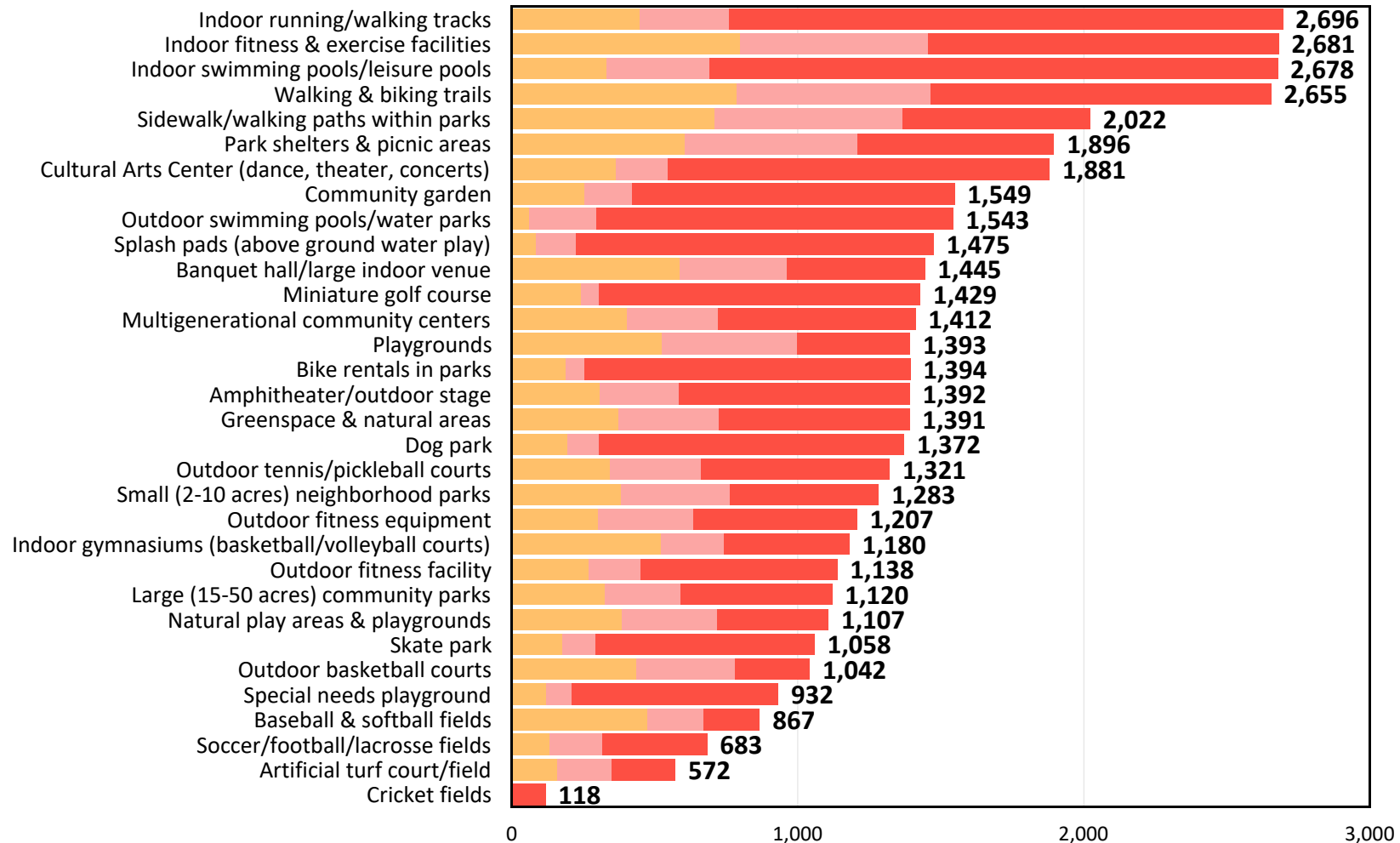


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

100% Met 75% Met 50% Met 25% Met 0% Met

Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Facilities Are Partly Met or Not Met

by number of households based on an estimated 8,834 households in the Dolton Park District (Dolton, IL)

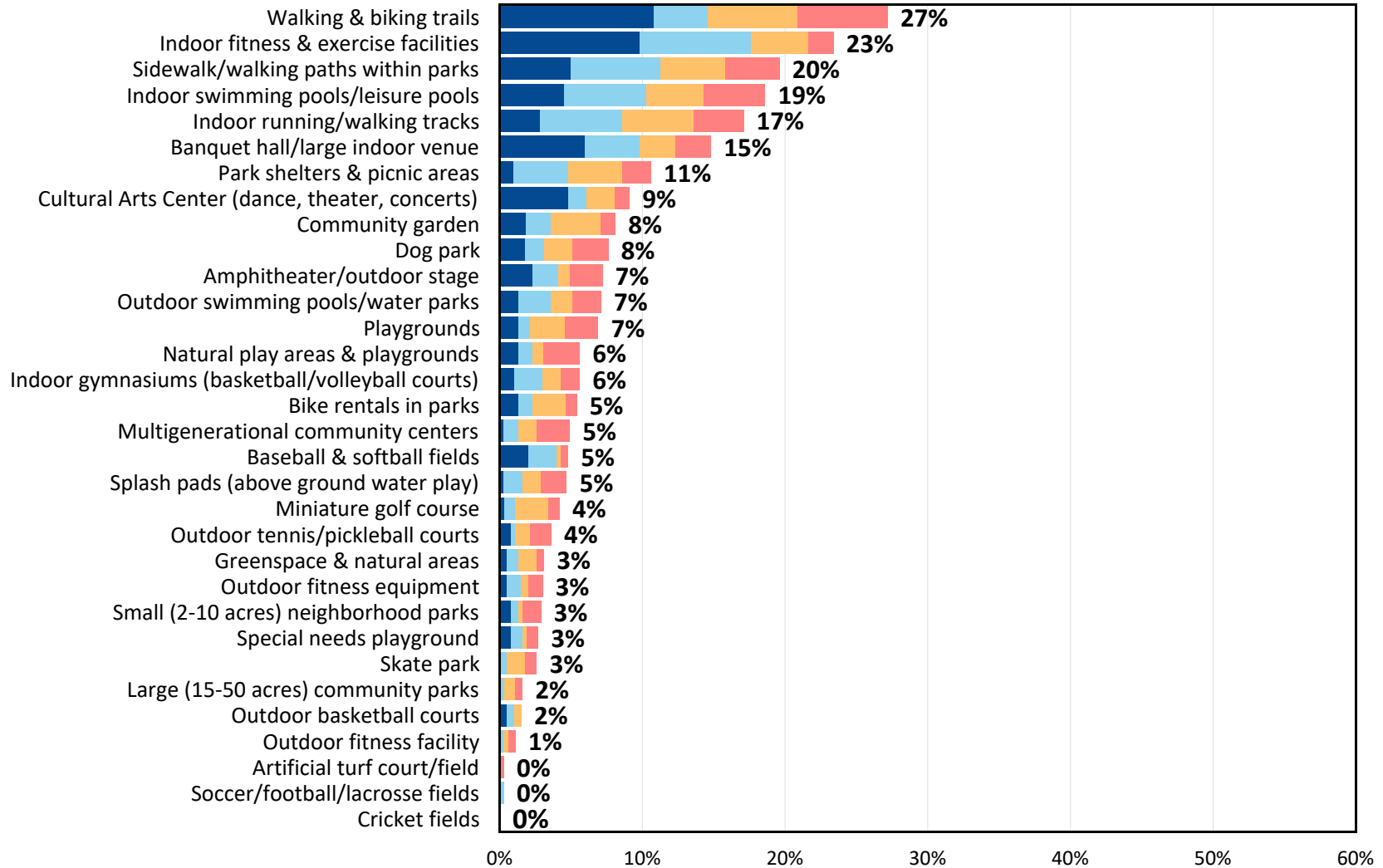


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

50% Met 25% Met 0% Met

Q7. Facilities Most Important to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices

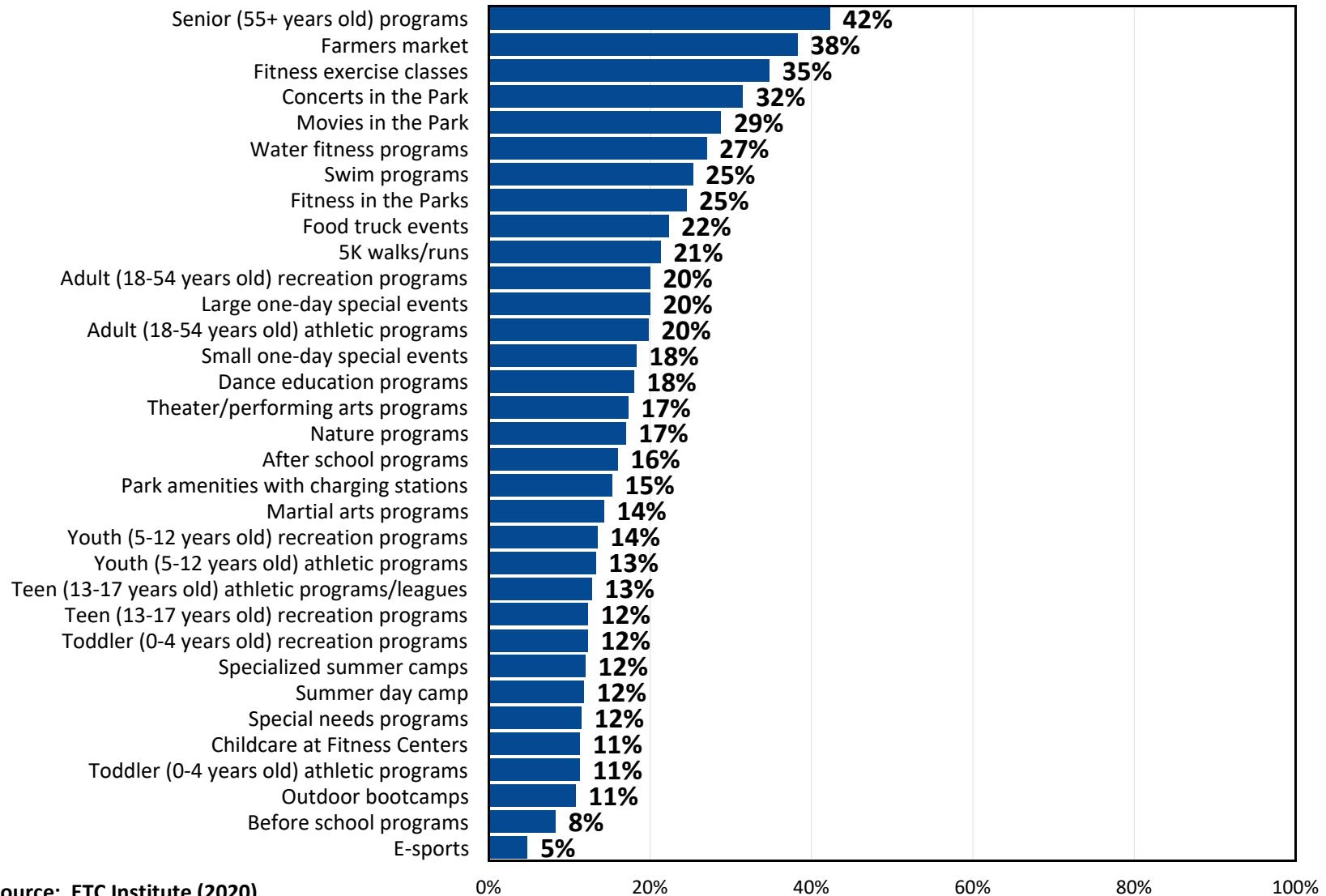


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

■ Most Important ■ 2nd Choice ■ 3rd Choice ■ 4th Choice

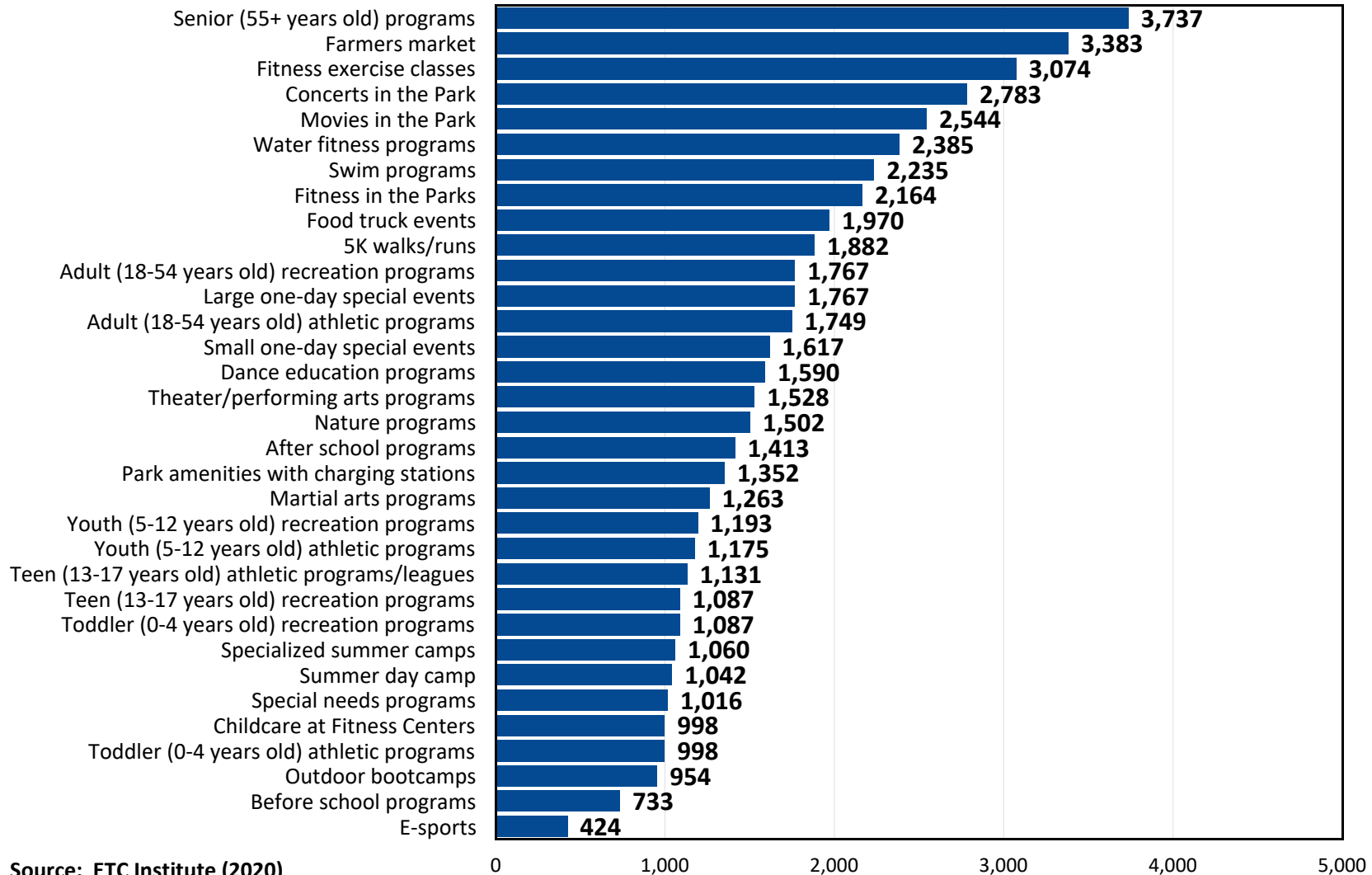
Q8. Households' Program Needs

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Estimated Number of Households That Have a Need for Various Programs

by number of households based on an estimated 8,834 households in the Dolton Park District (Dolton, IL)

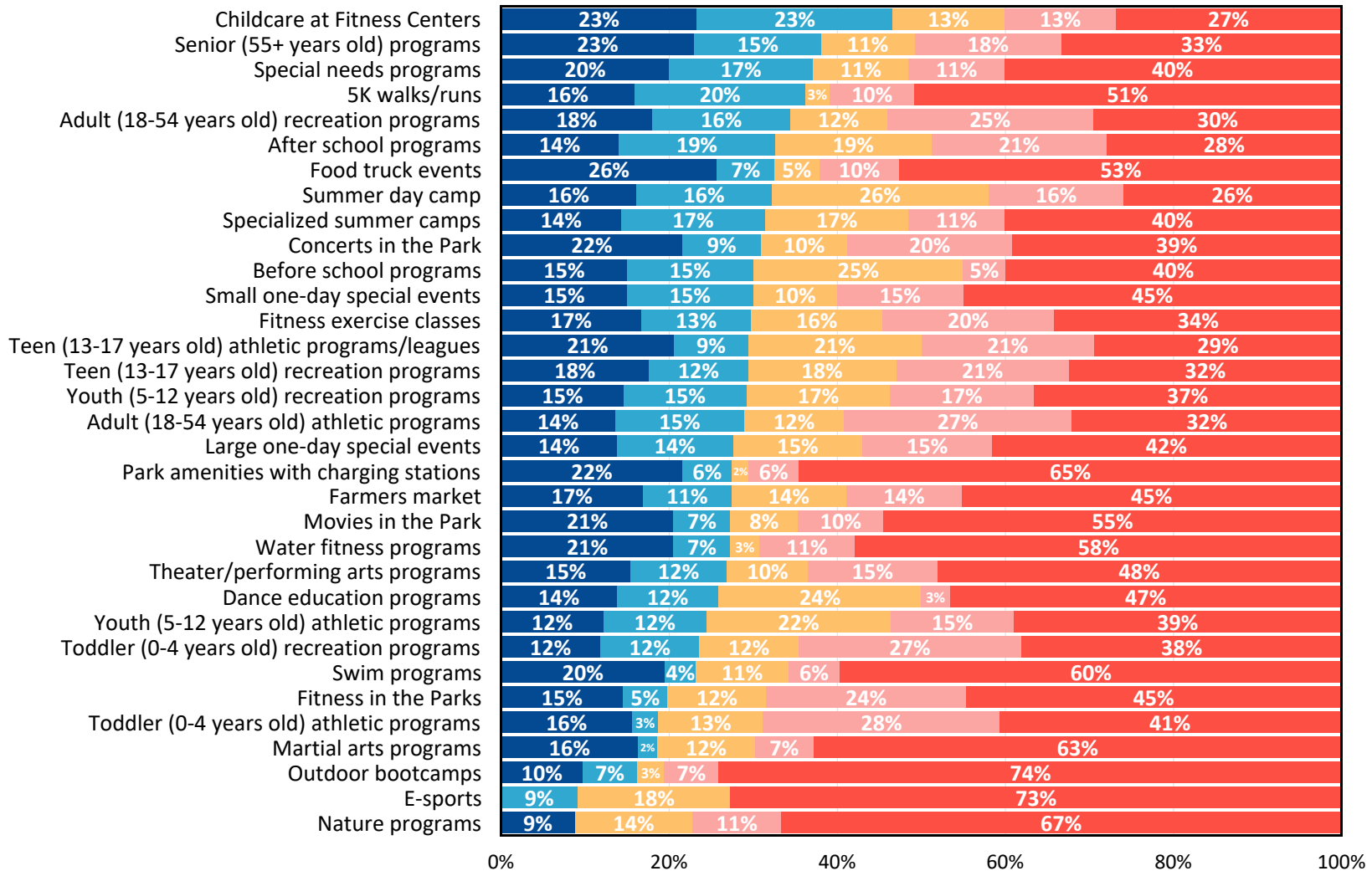


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q8. How Well Programs Meet the Needs of Respondent Households

by percentage of respondents with a need for programs

(using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means your needs are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met.")

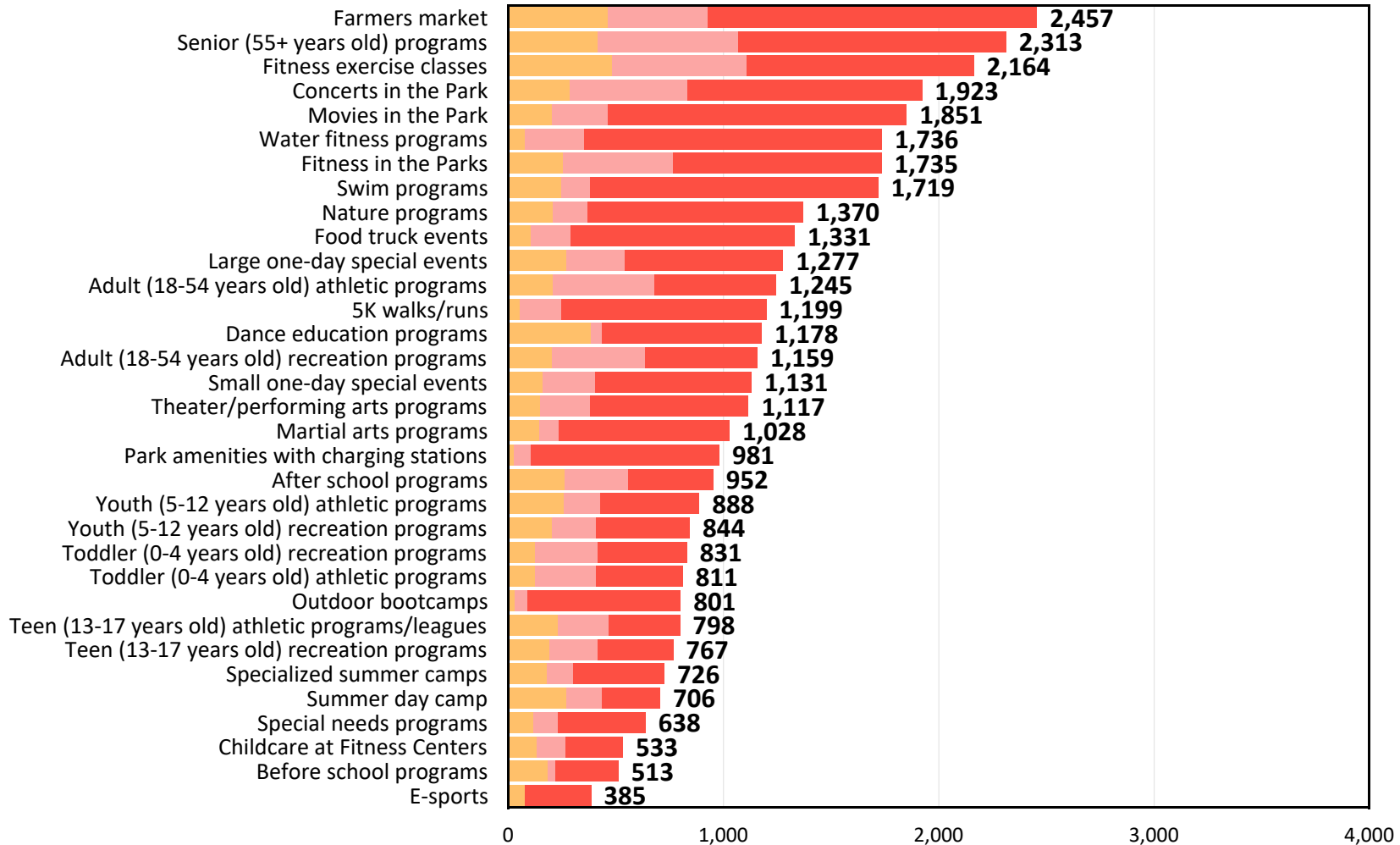


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

100% Met 75% Met 50% Met 25% Met 0% Met

Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Programs Are Partly Met or Not Met

by number of households based on an estimated 8,834 households in the Dolton Park District (Dolton, IL)

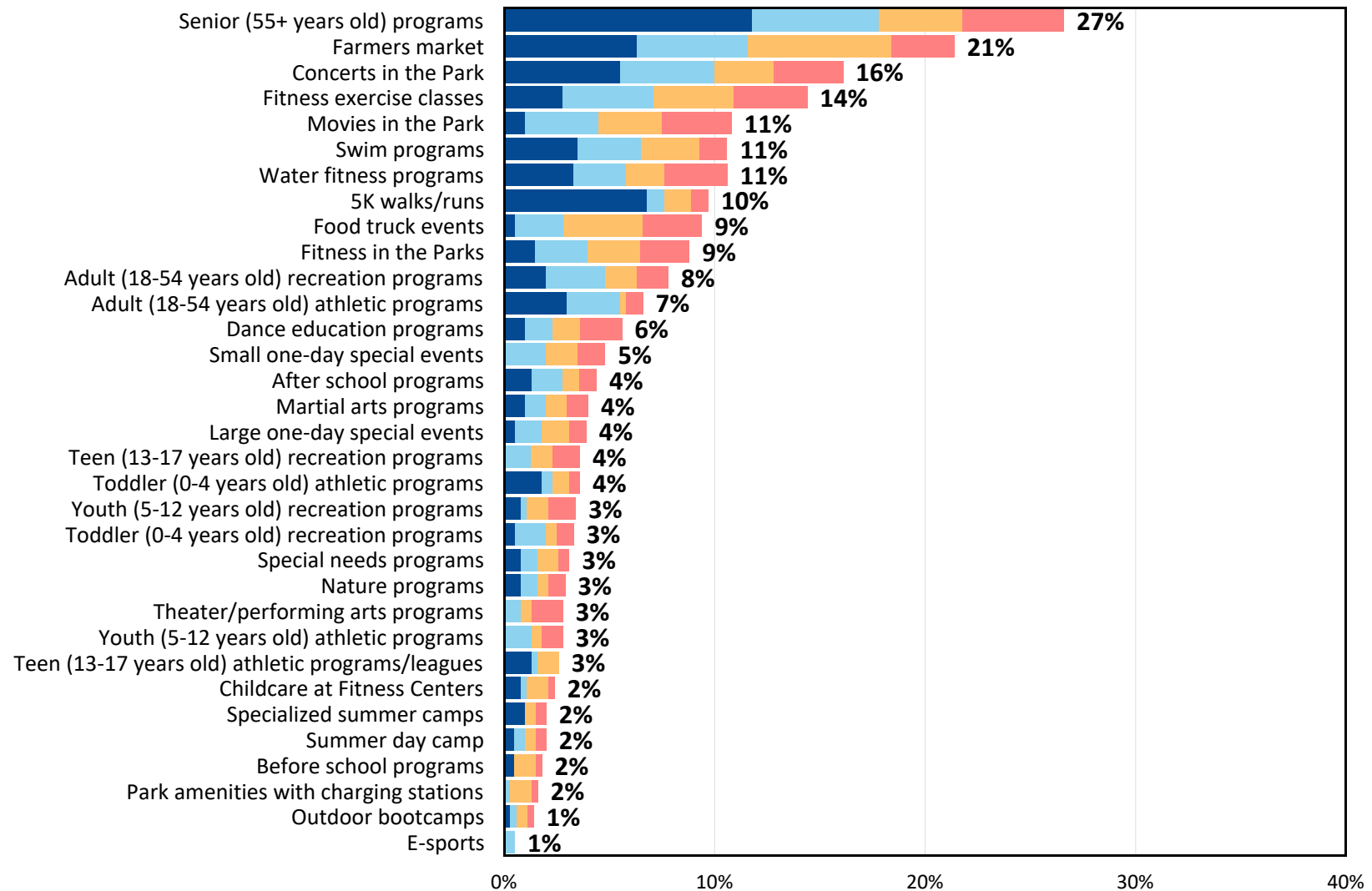


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

50% Met 25% Met 0% Met

Q9. Programs Most Important to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices

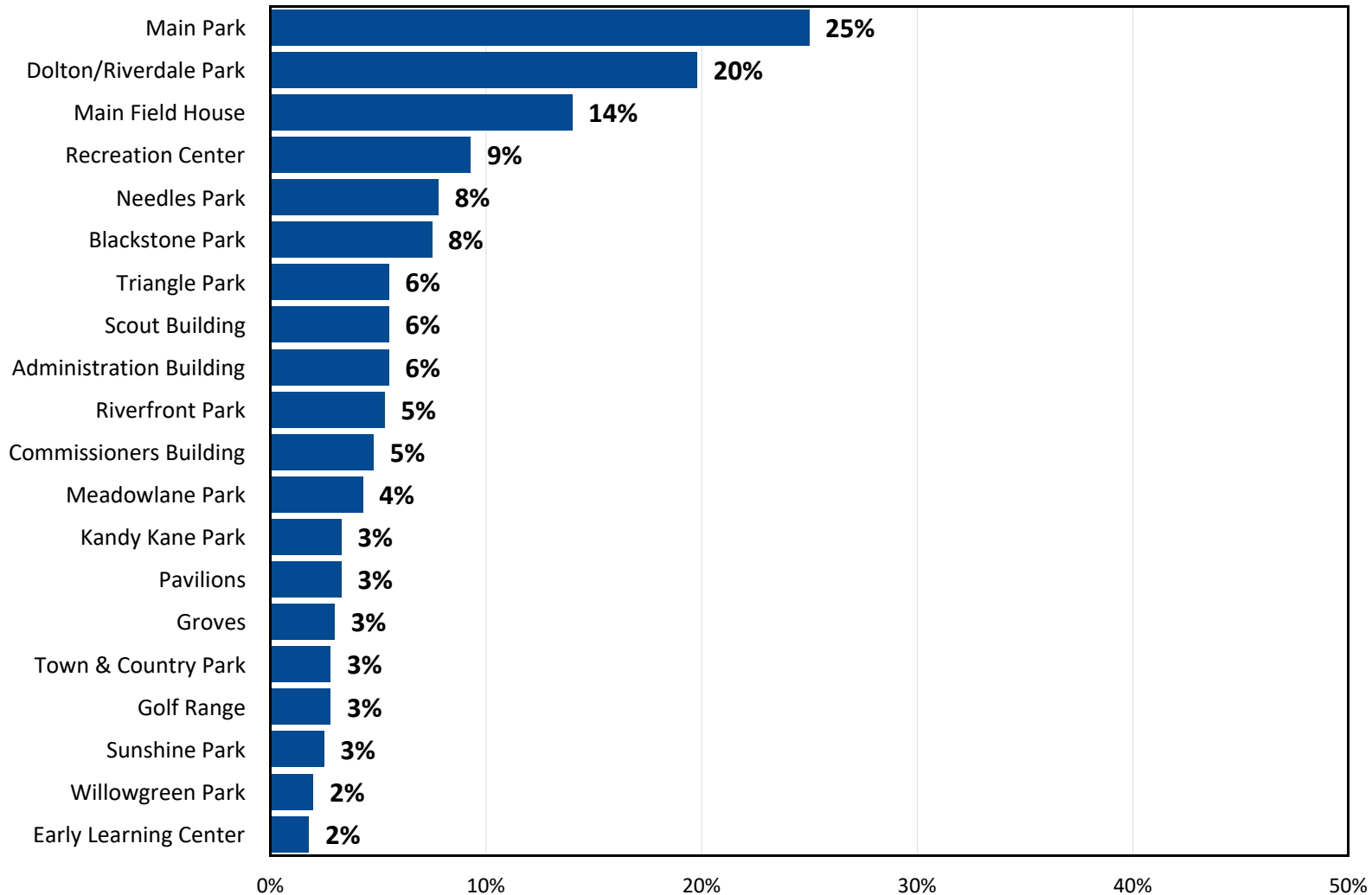


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

■ Most Important ■ 2nd Choice ■ 3rd Choice ■ 4th Choice

Q10. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has used any of the following Dolton Park District parks/facilities during the past 12 months.

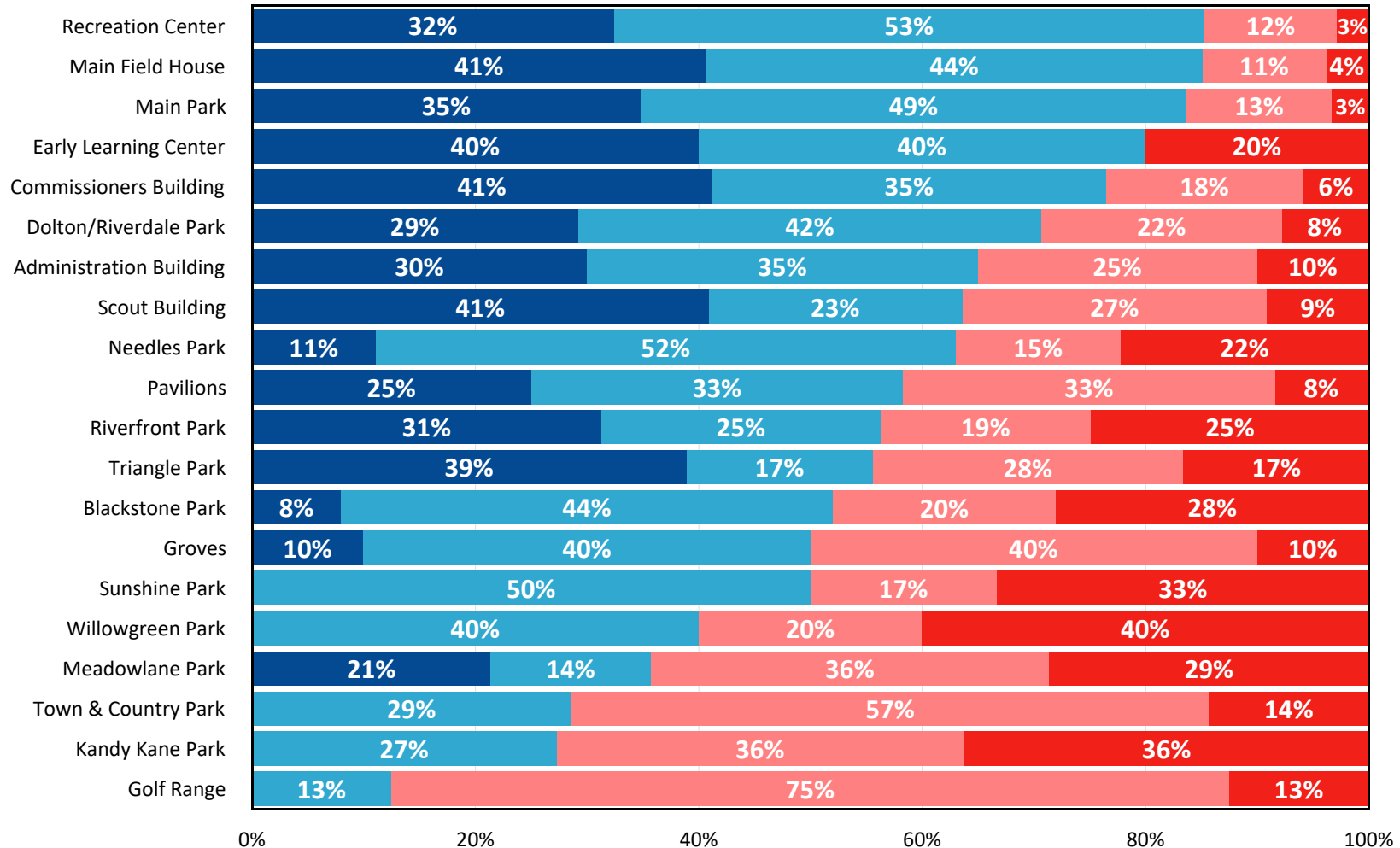
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q10. If "YES," please rate the condition of the parks/facilities.

by percentage of respondents using a scale of 1 to 4, where 4 means your needs are "Excellent" and 1 means "Poor" (without "don't know")

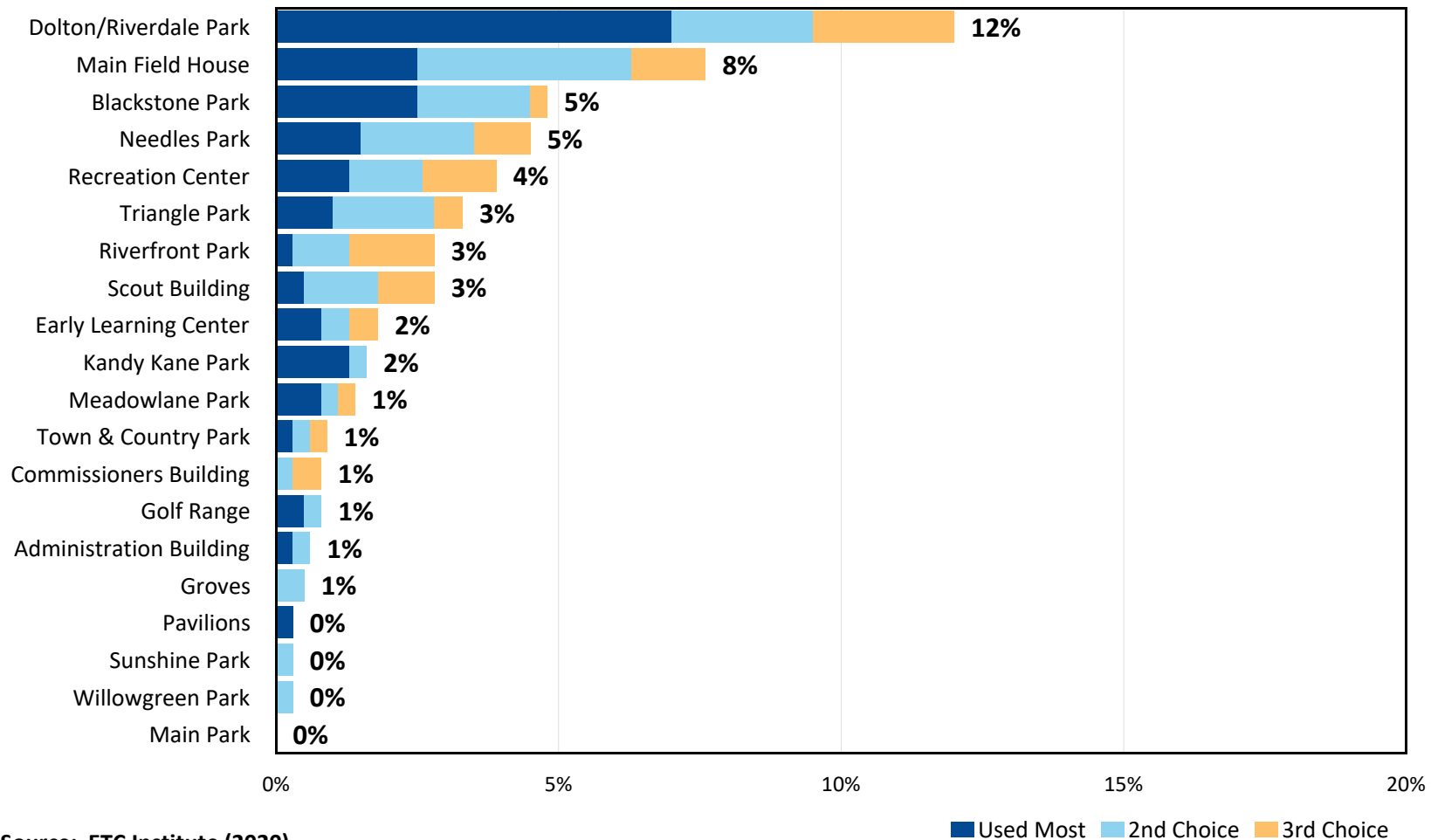


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Excellent Good Fair Poor

Q11. Which THREE of the parks/facilities listed in Question 10 have you or members of your household USED MOST during the past year?

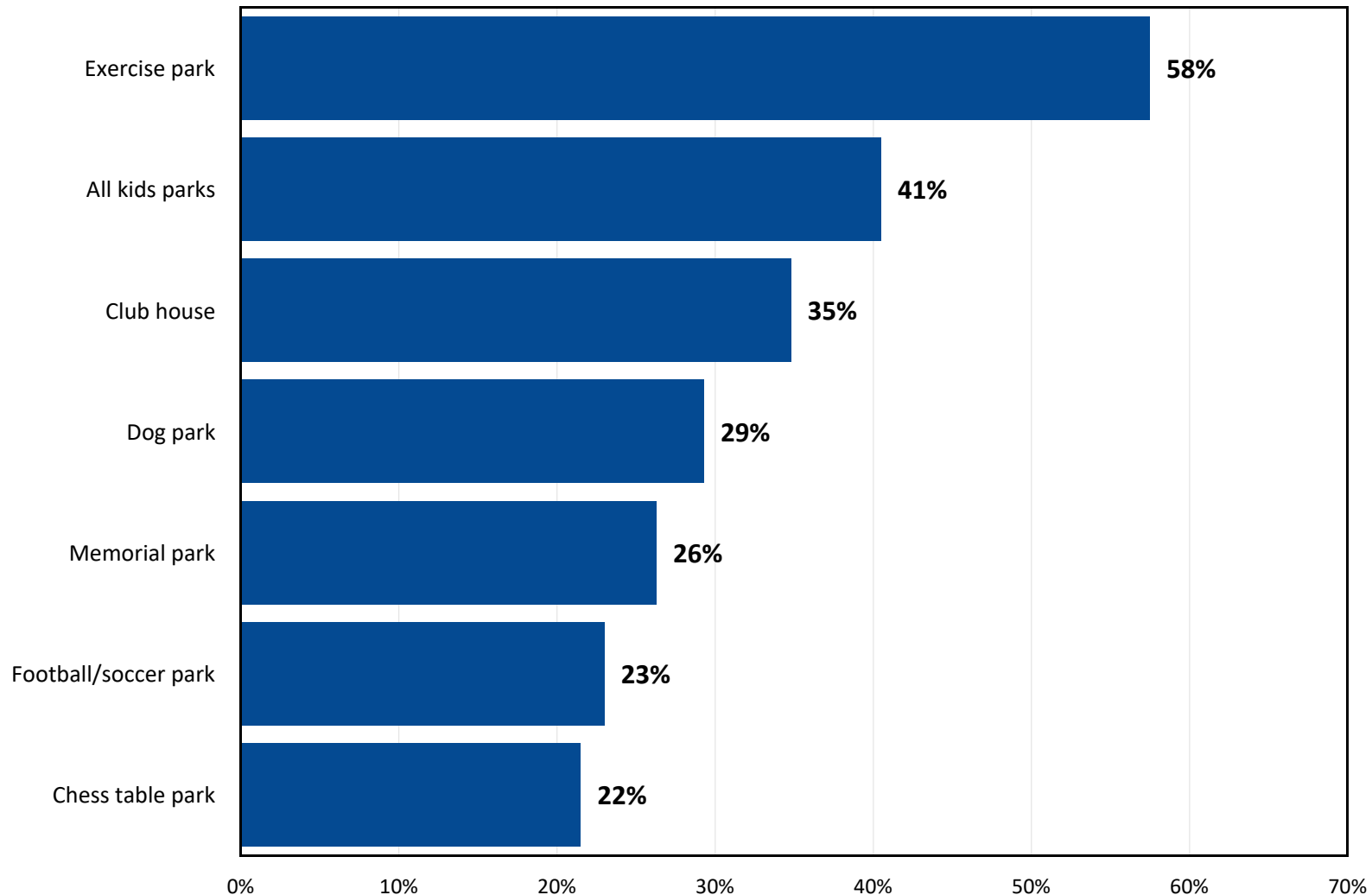
by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top three choices



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q12. Please CHECK ALL of the following facilities/park amenities that you feel are needed in the community over the next five to ten years.

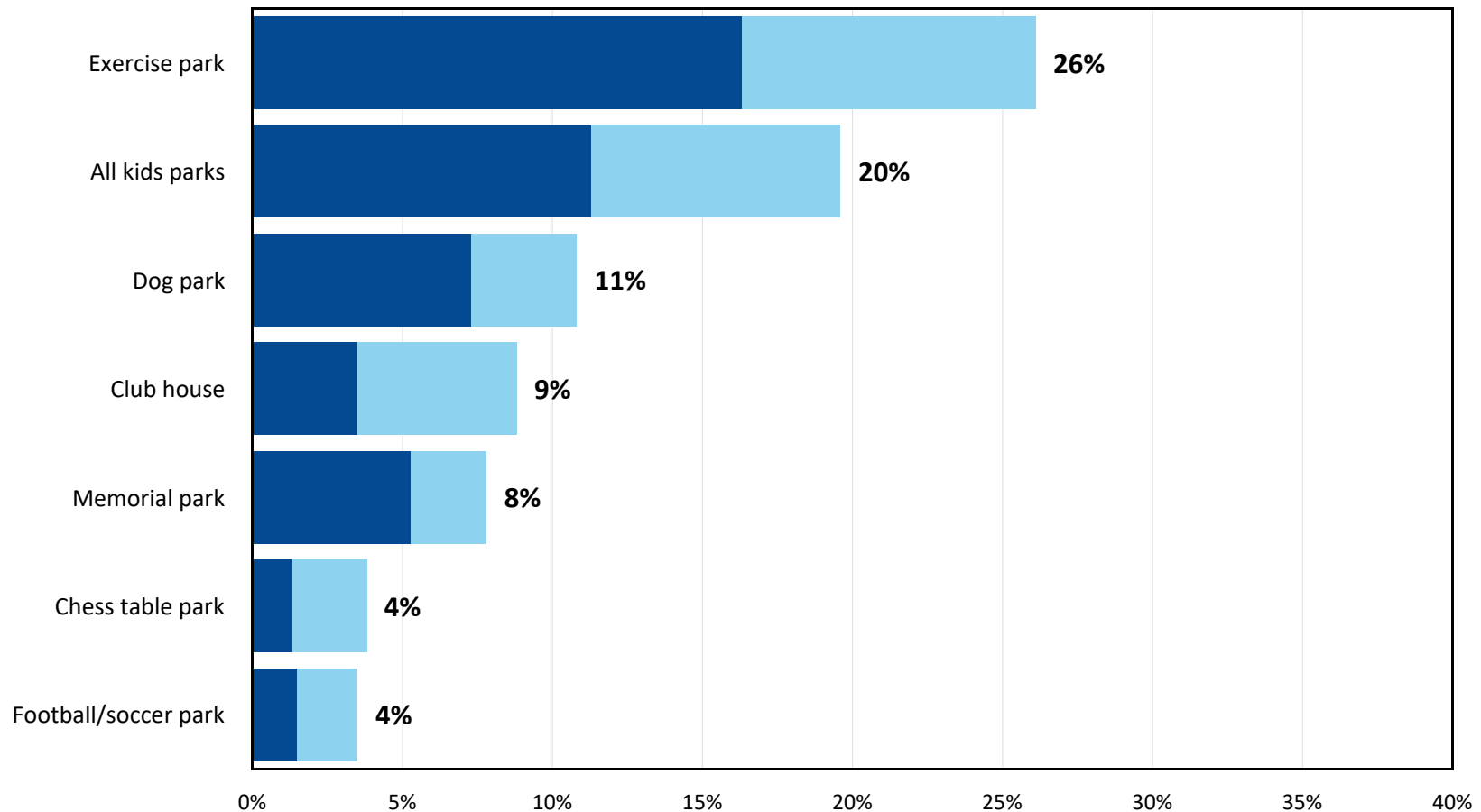
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q13. Which TWO of the facilities/amenities listed in Question 12 do you think are MOST NEEDED in the parks/facilities you and the members of your household have used most during the past year?

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top two choices

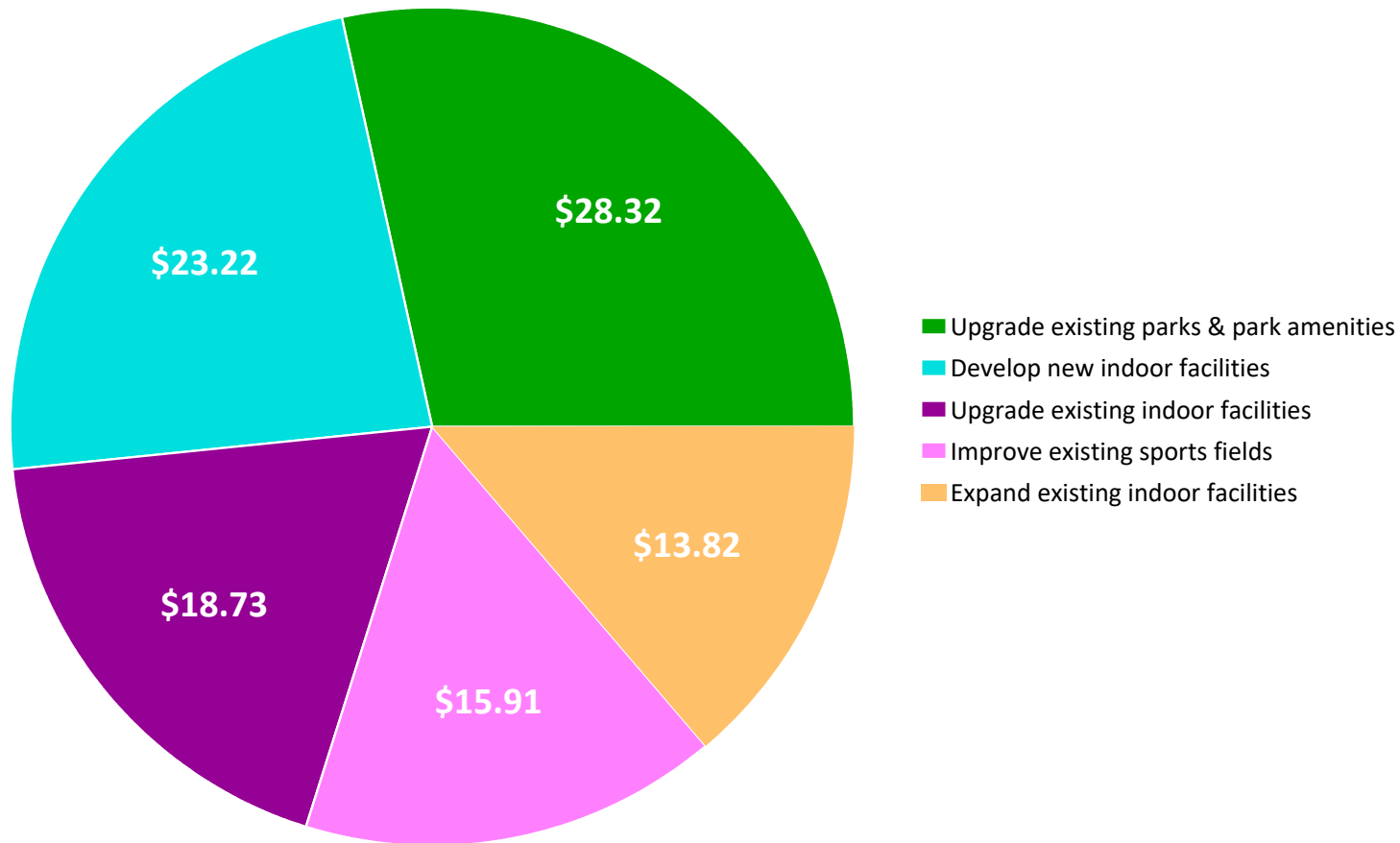


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

■ Most Needed ■ 2nd Choice

Q14. If you had a budget of \$100 for services provided by the Dolton Park District, how would you allocate the funds among the categories of funding listed below?

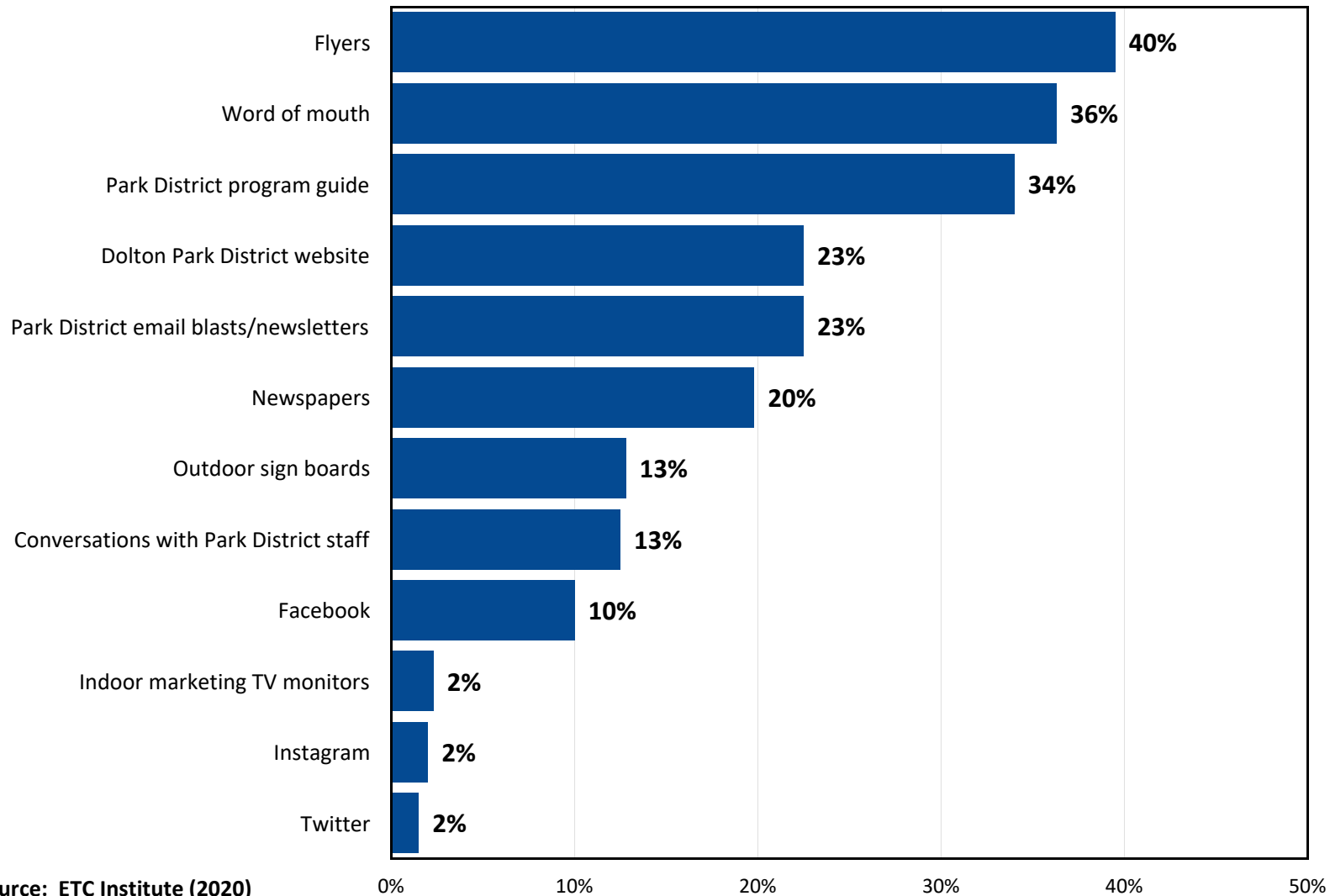
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q15. Please CHECK ALL of the following ways you learn about Dolton Park District programs, activities, and events.

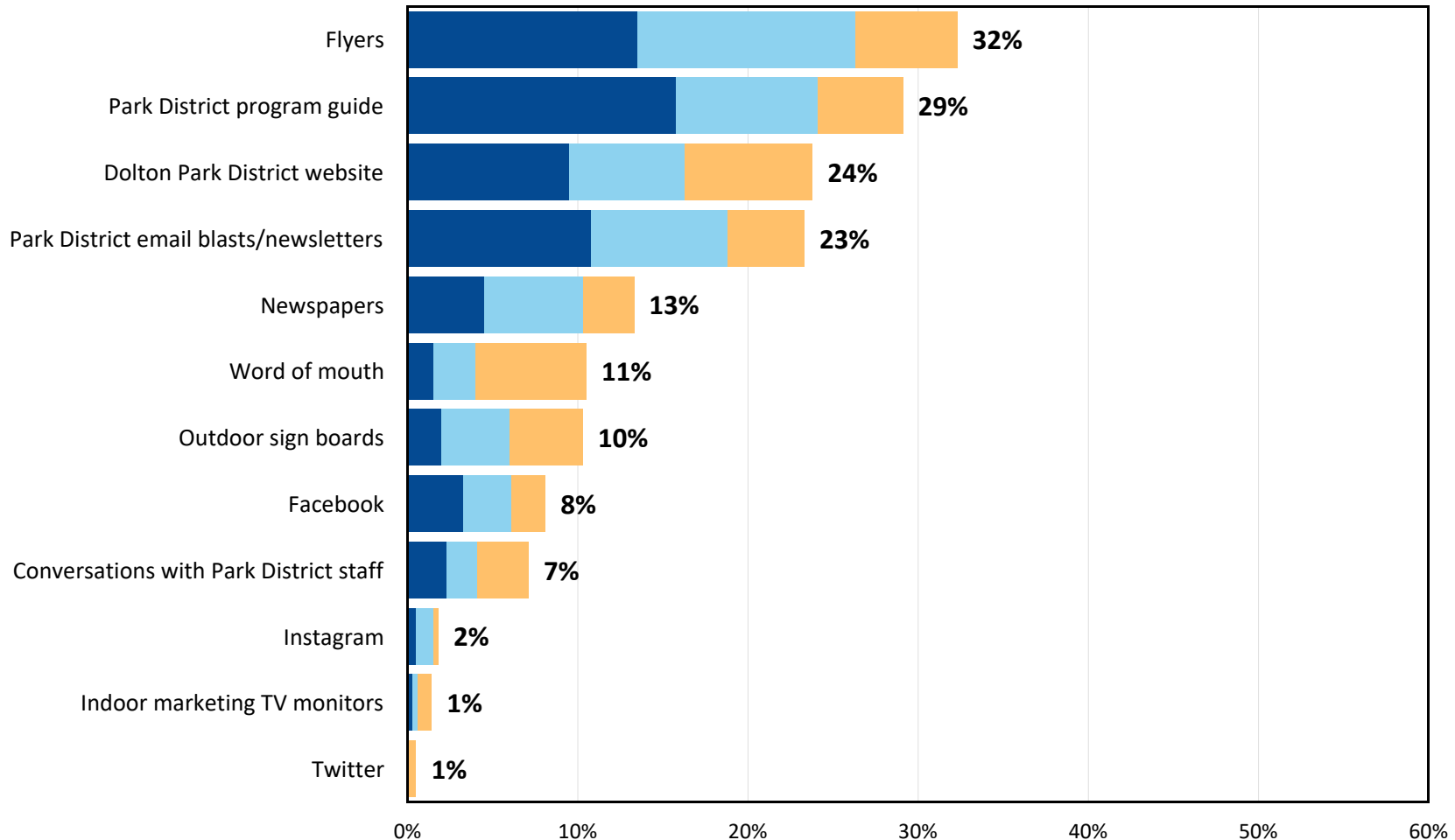
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q16. Which THREE of the communication methods listed in Question 15 do you MOST PREFER to use to learn about Dolton Park District programs, activities, and events?

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top three choices

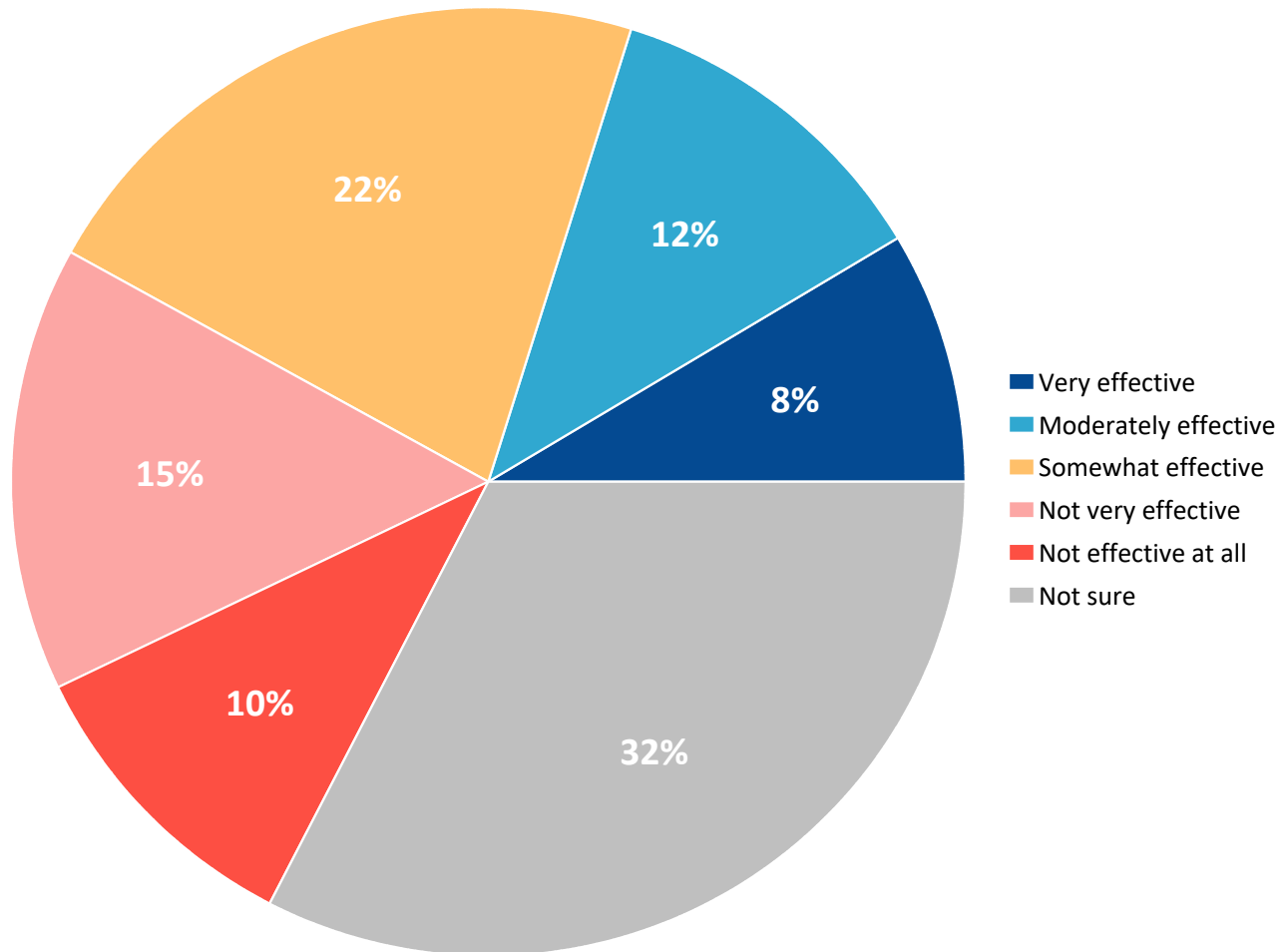


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Most Preferred 2nd Choice 3rd Choice

Q17. How would you rate the effectiveness of the District's marketing and communications efforts?

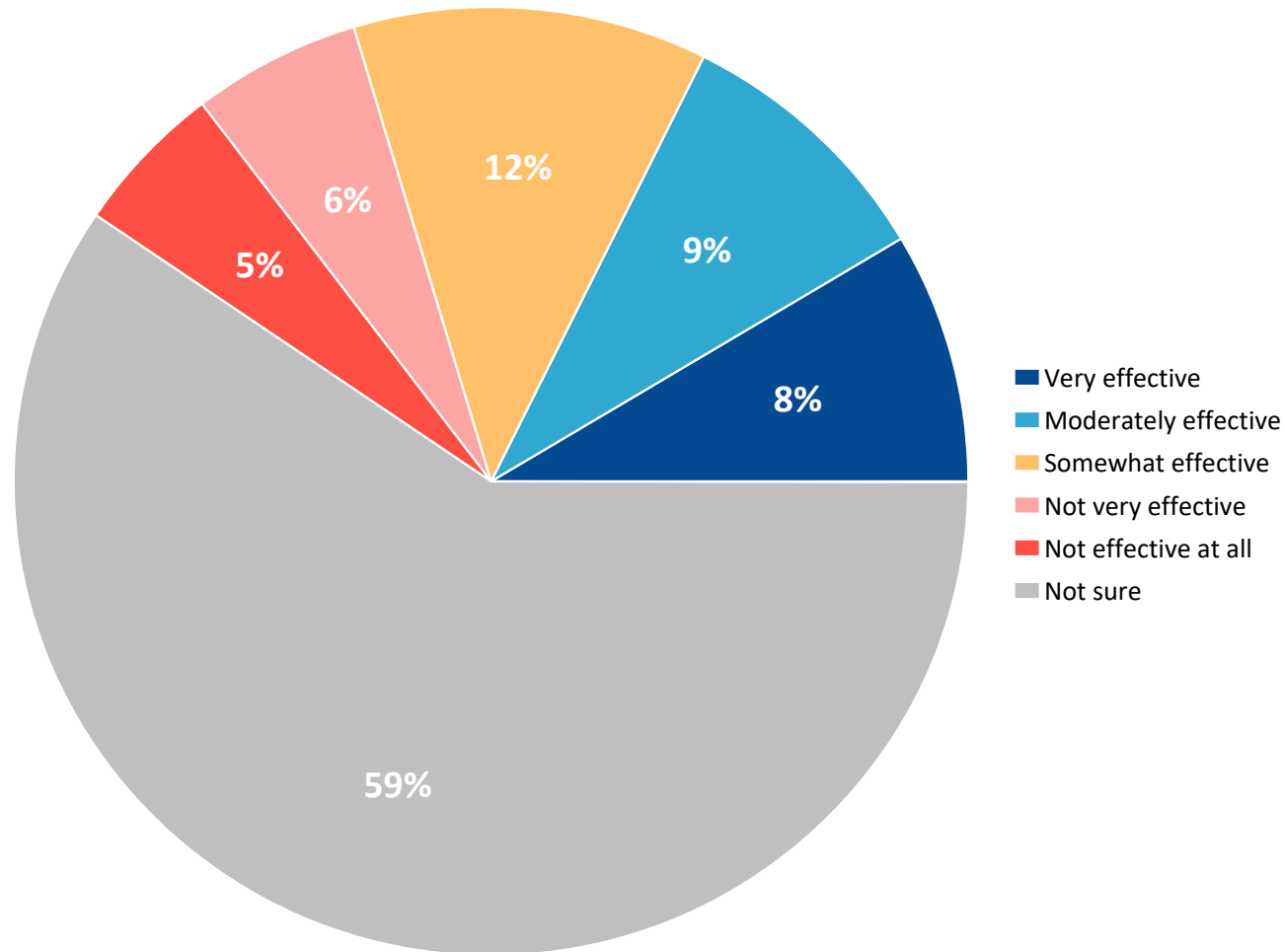
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q18. How would you rate the effectiveness of the Dolton Park District website?

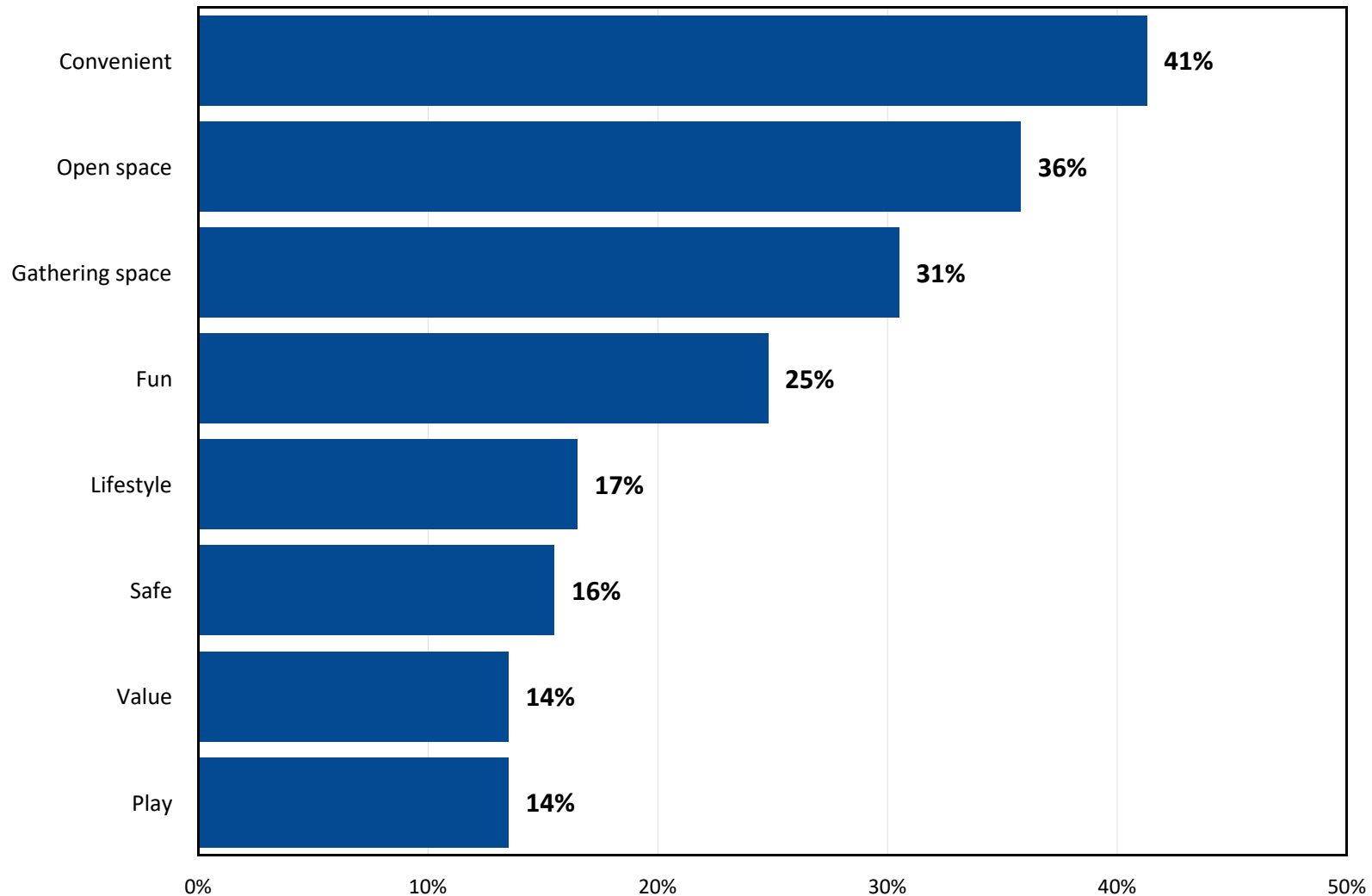
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q19. Please check **THREE** things that come to mind when you think about Dolton Park District.

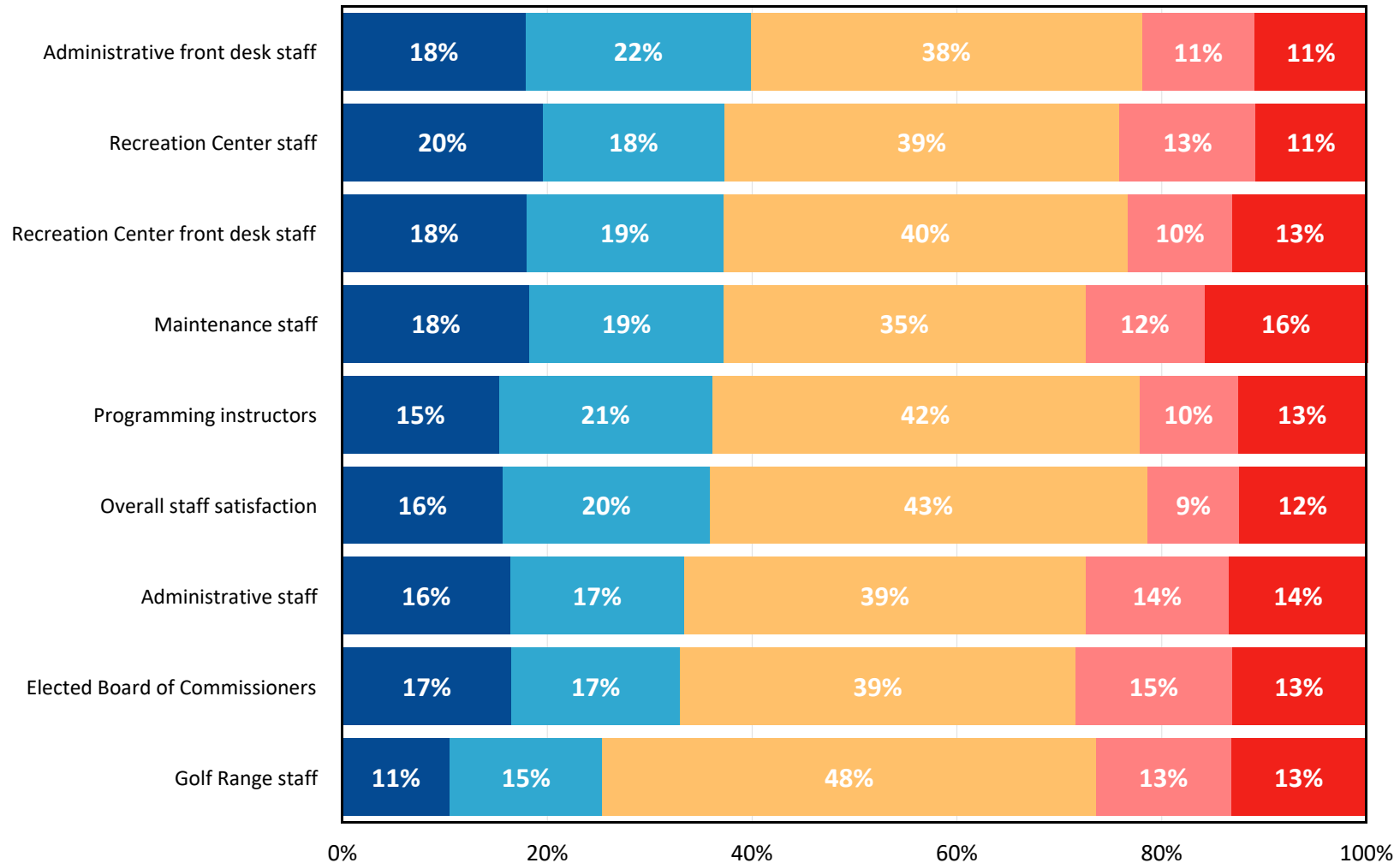
by percentage of respondents (three choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q20. Satisfaction with Dolton Park District Elected Officials and Staff

by percentage of respondents using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means your needs are "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied" (without "don't know")

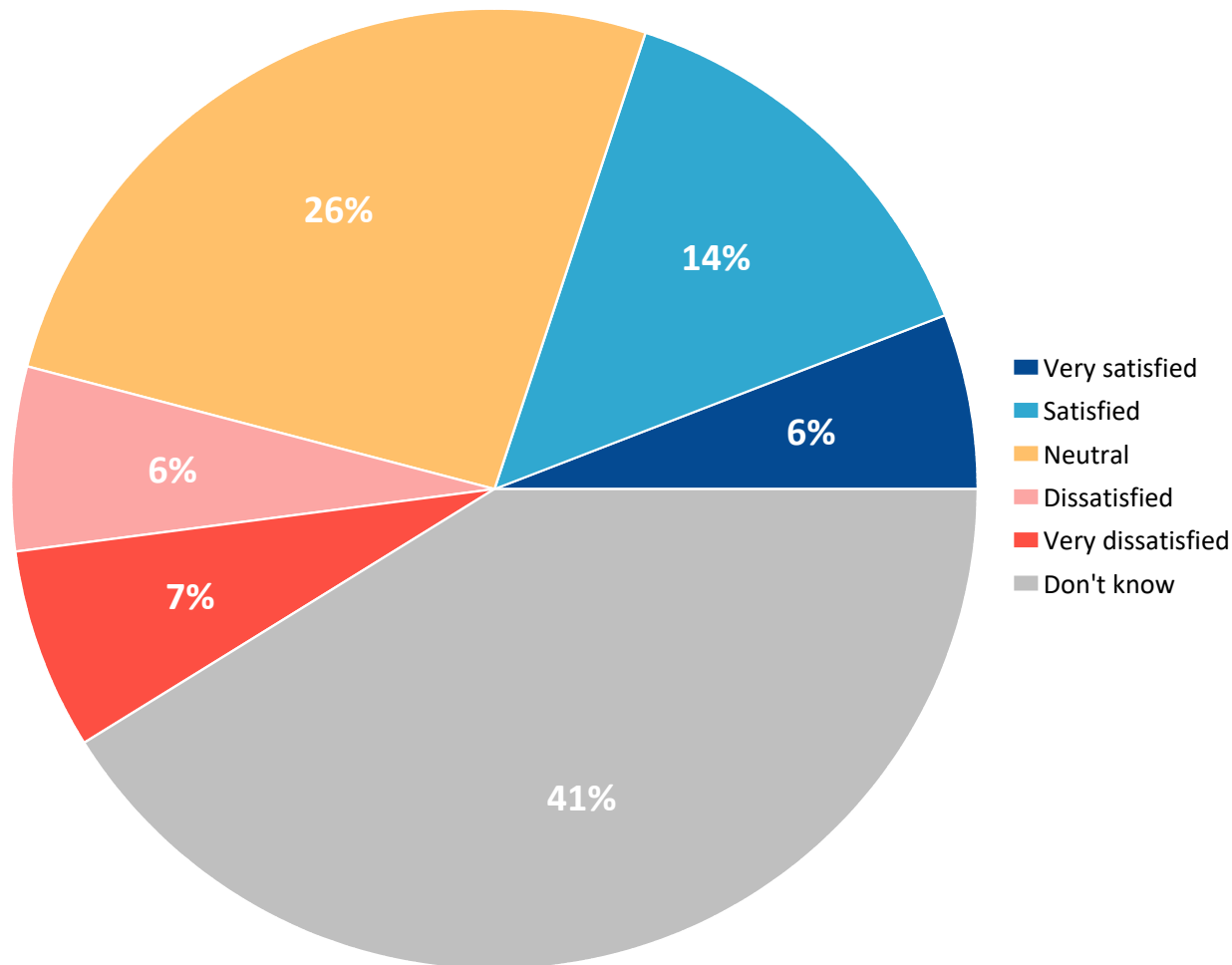


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Very Satisfied Somewhat Satisfied Neutral Somewhat Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied

Q21. Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from the Dolton Park District.

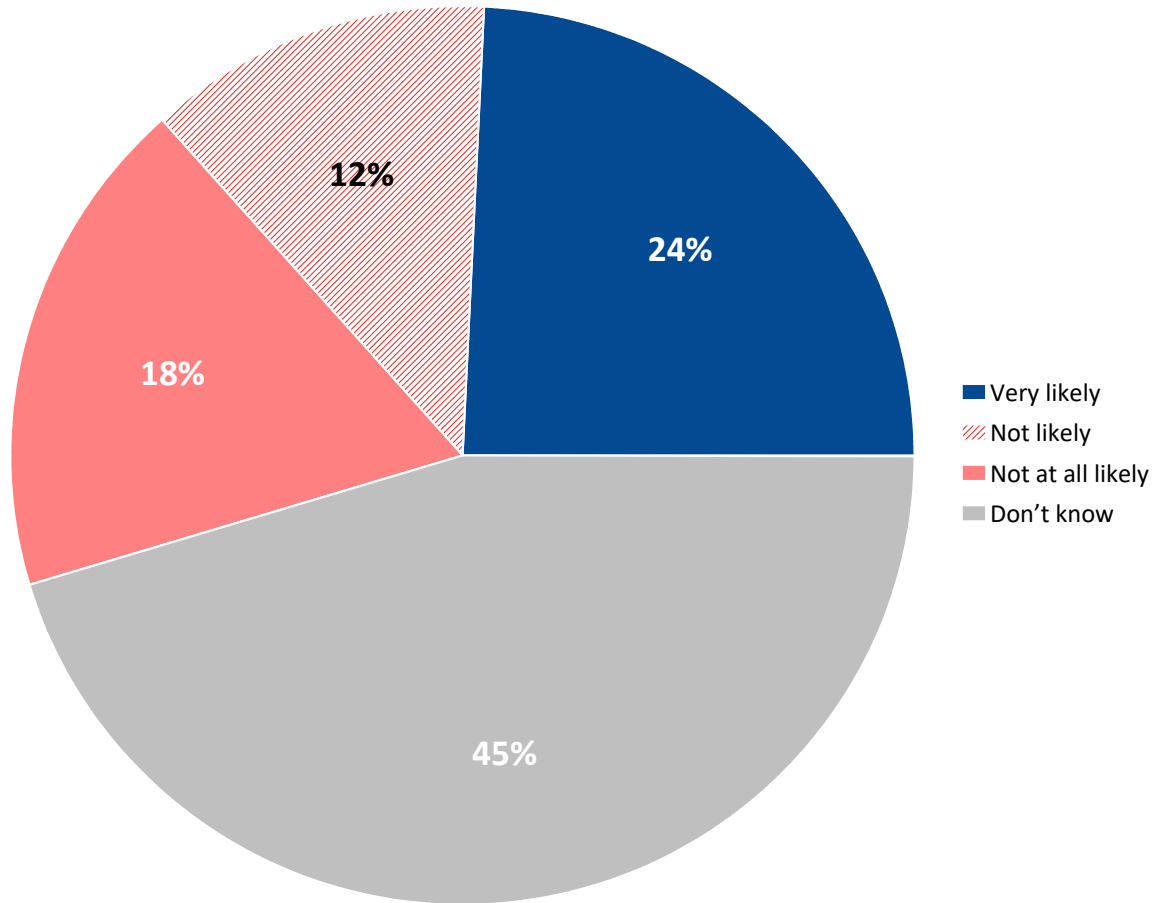
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q22. How likely would you be to recommend Dolton Park District programs and activities to a friend?

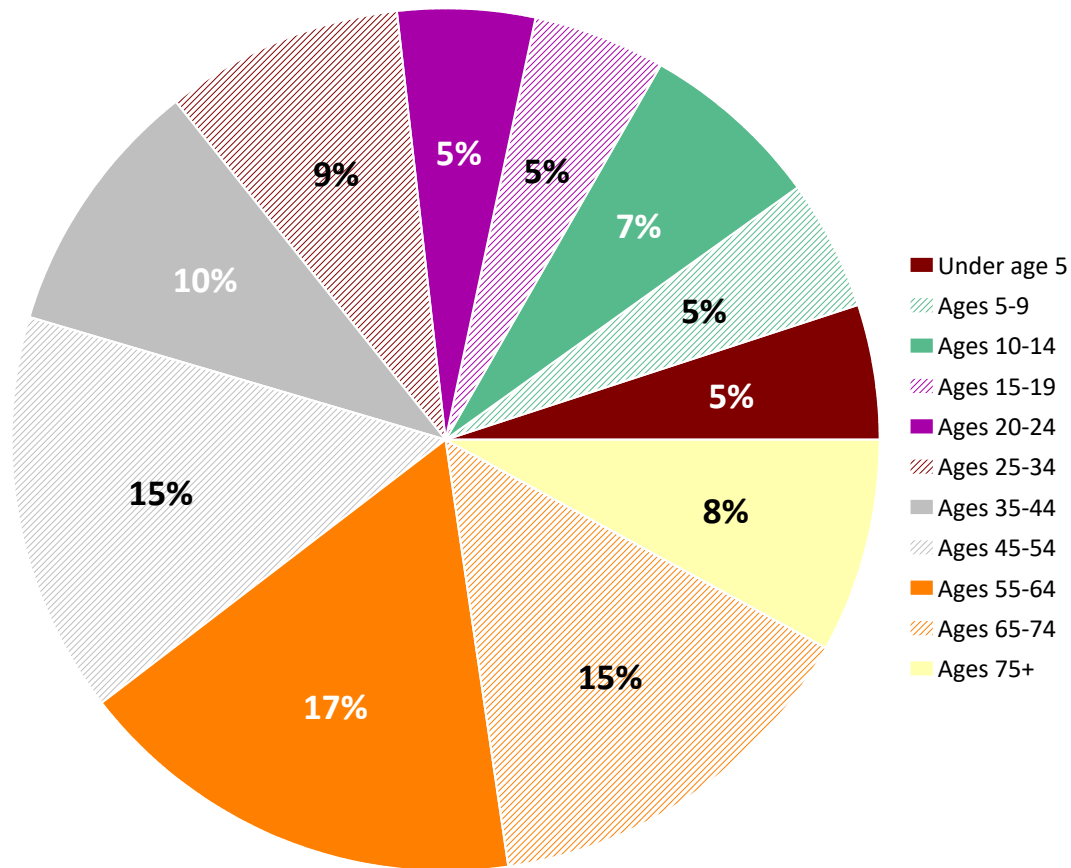
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q23. Demographics: Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

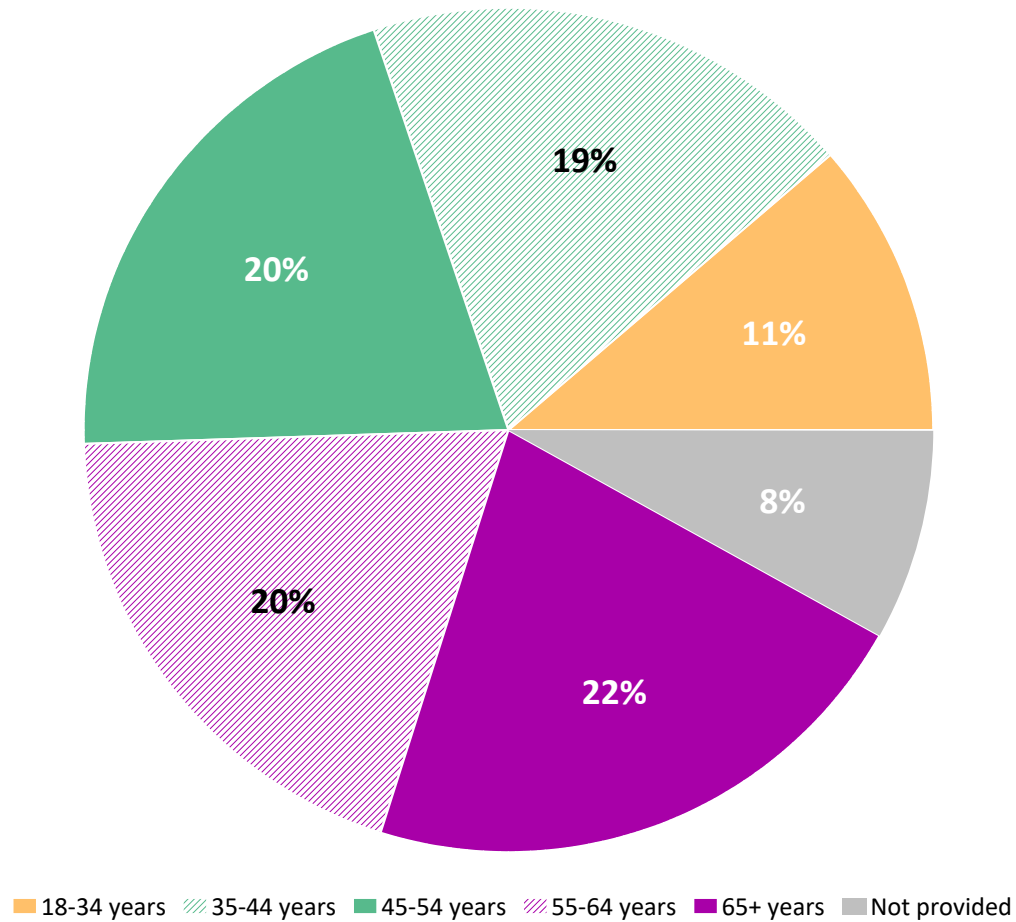
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q24. Demographics: What is your age?

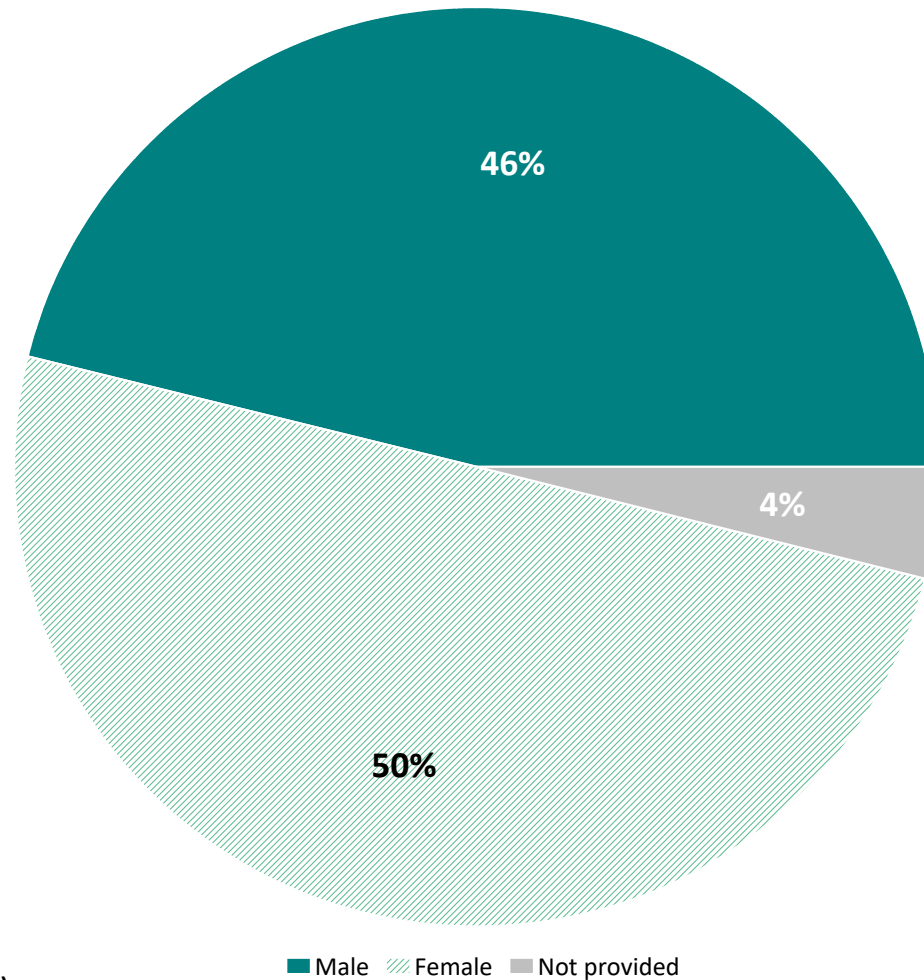
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q25. Demographics: Your gender:

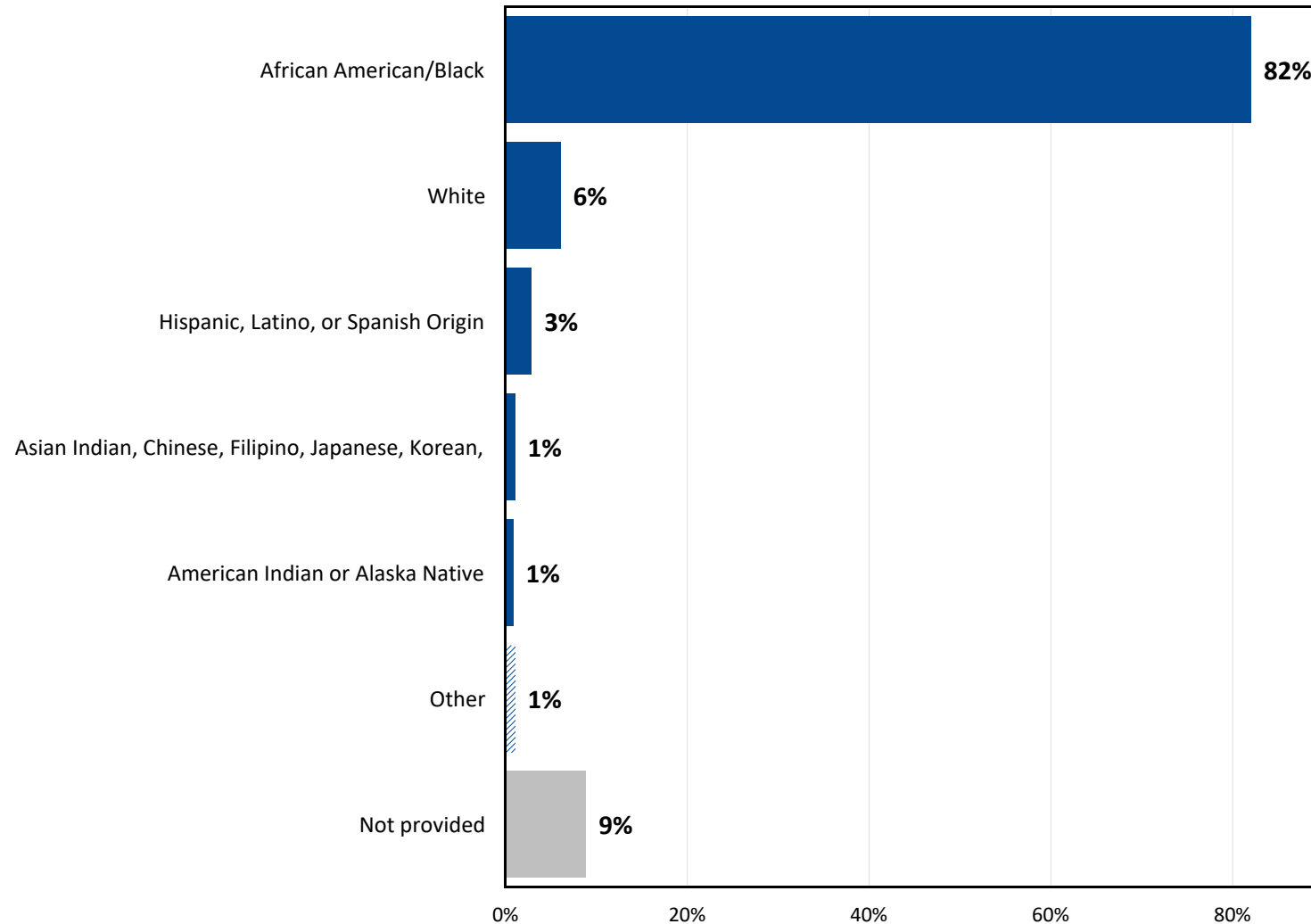
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q26. Demographics: Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

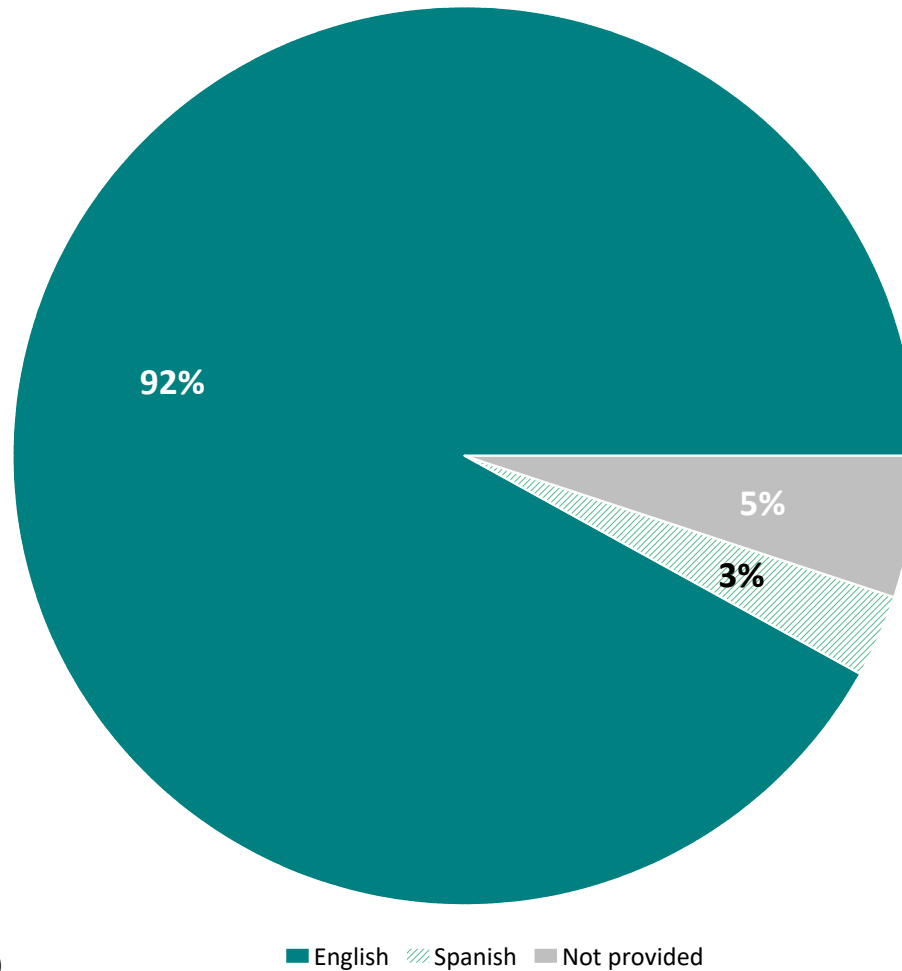
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q27. Demographics: Which of the following best describes the primary languages spoken in your home?

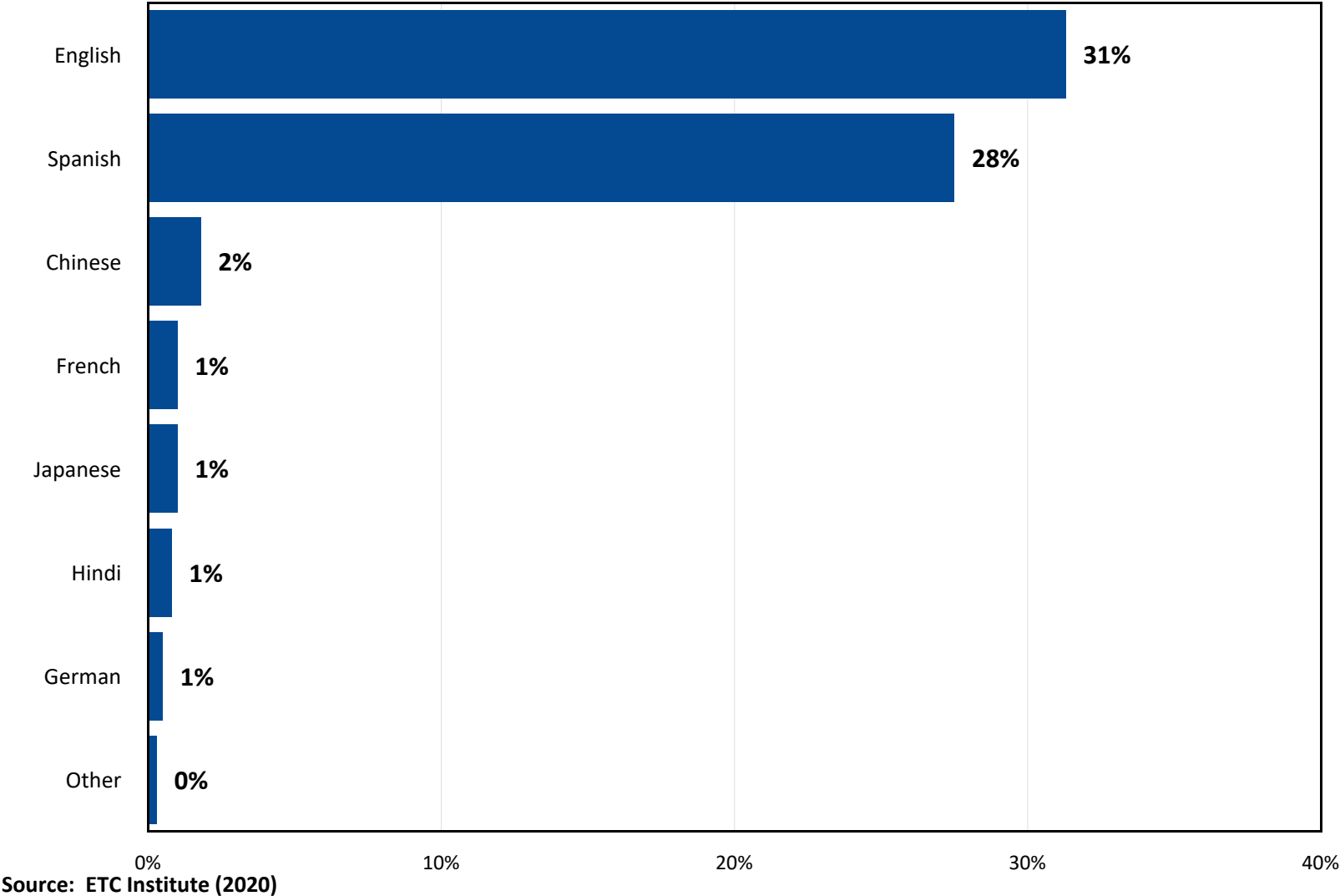
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

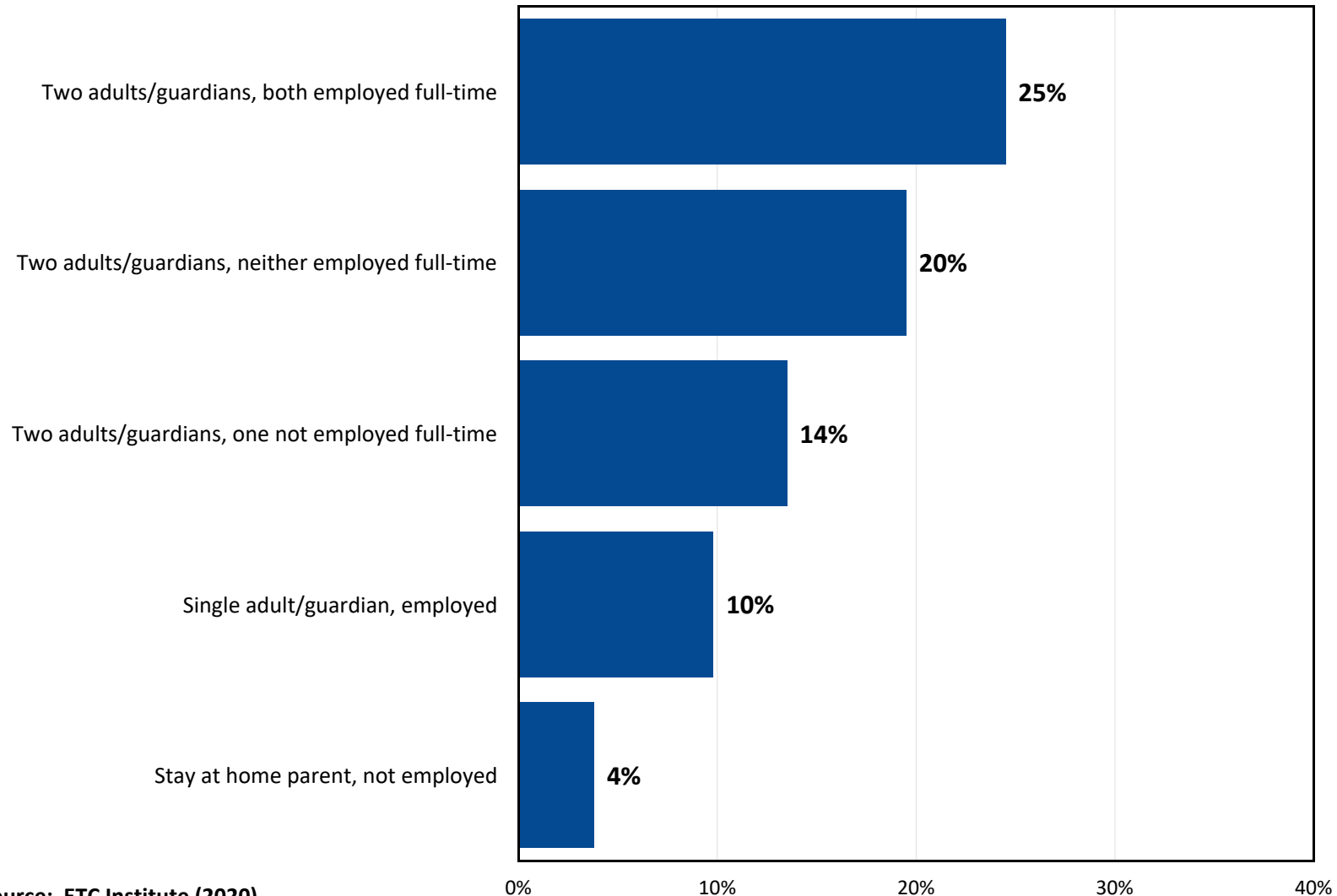
Q28. Demographics: In what other language(s) would you like to see Dolton Park District materials translated?

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Q29. Demographics: Please CHECK ALL of the descriptions below that best indicate your household's employment status.

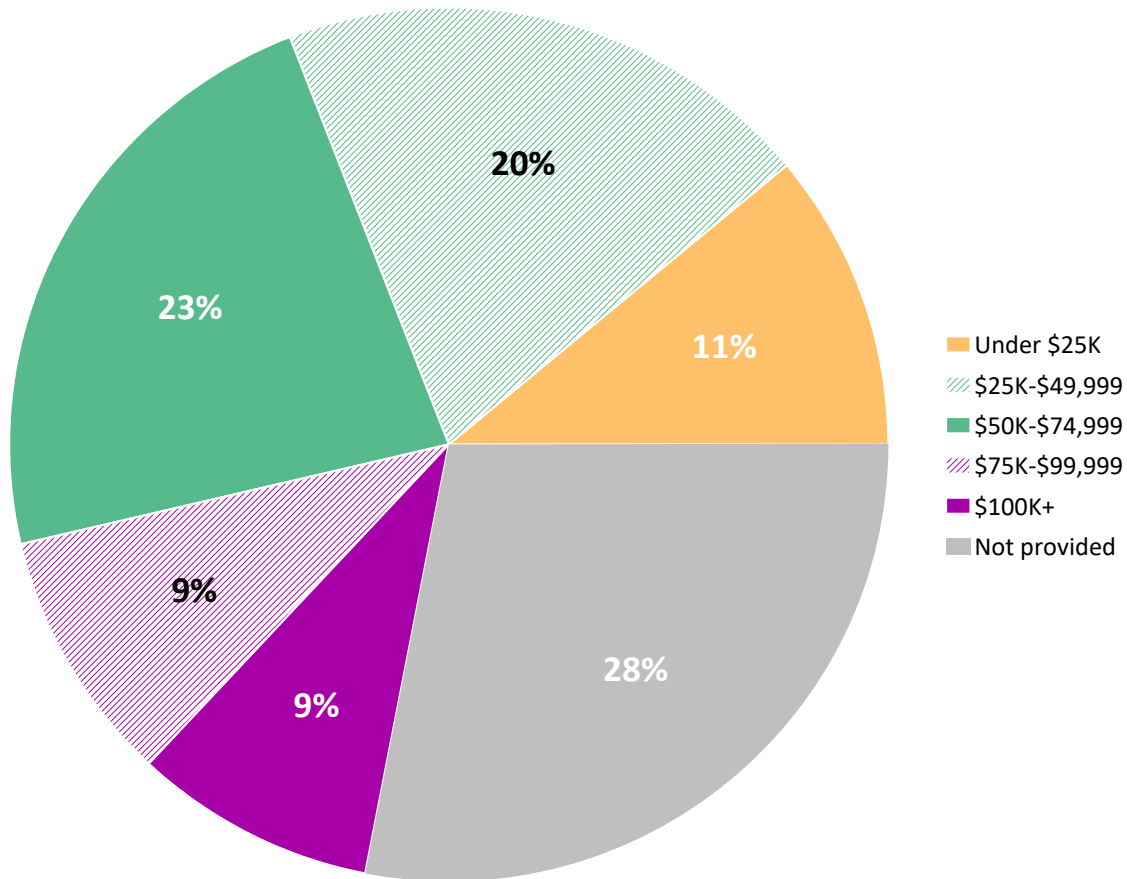
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Q30. Demographics: What is your household income?

by percentage of respondents

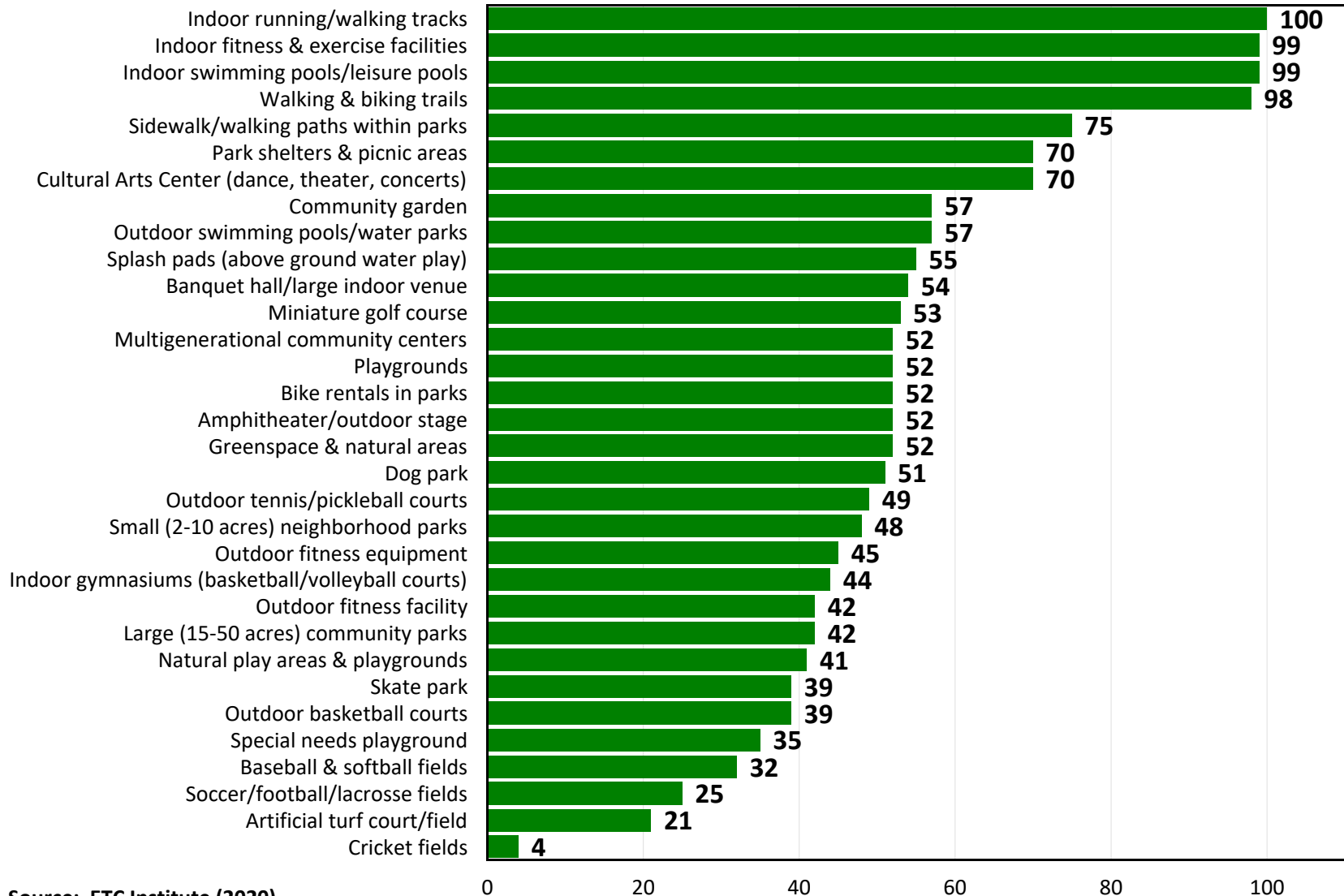


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Unmet Needs Rating for Facilities

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need

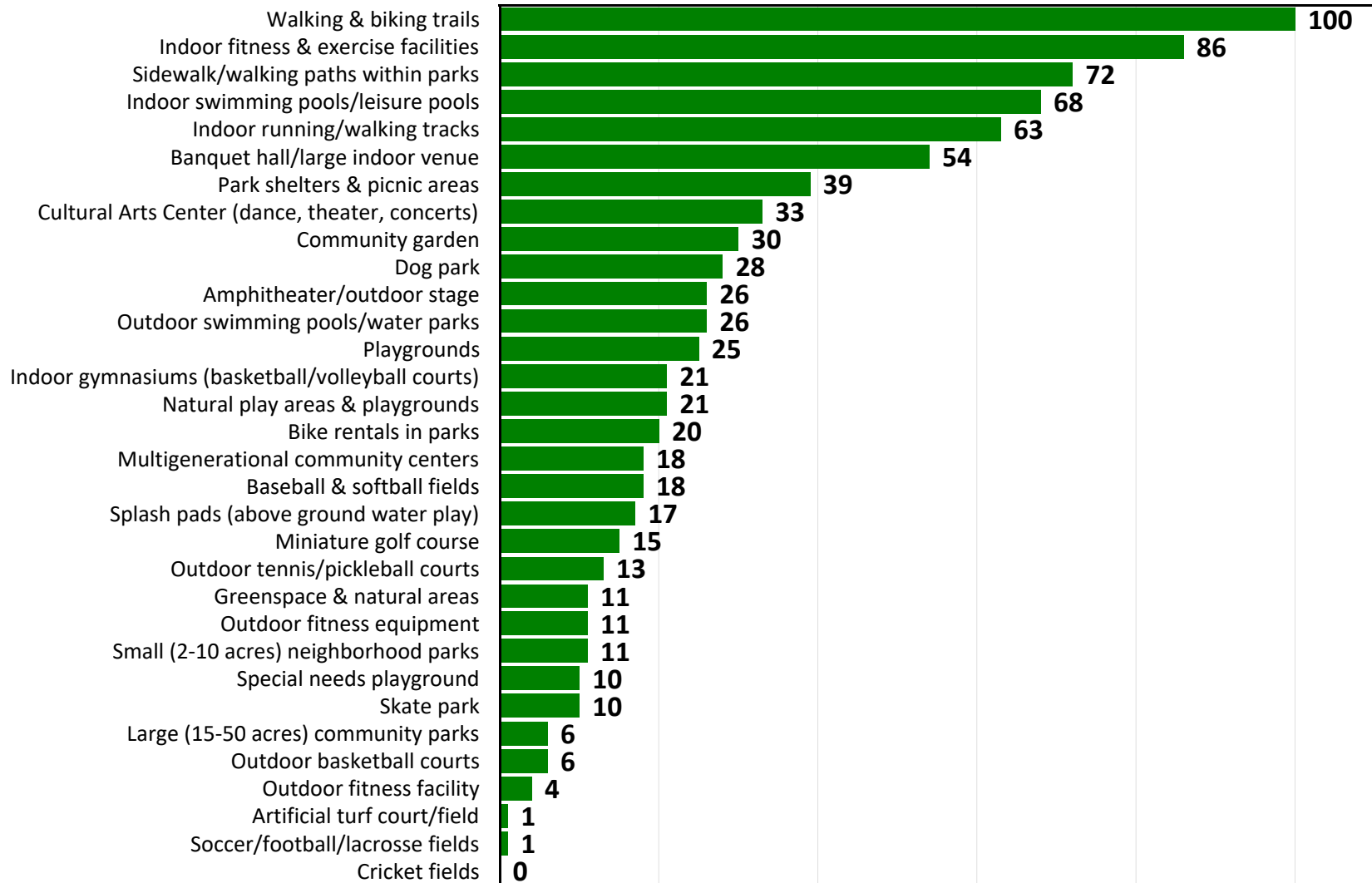


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Importance Rating for Facilities

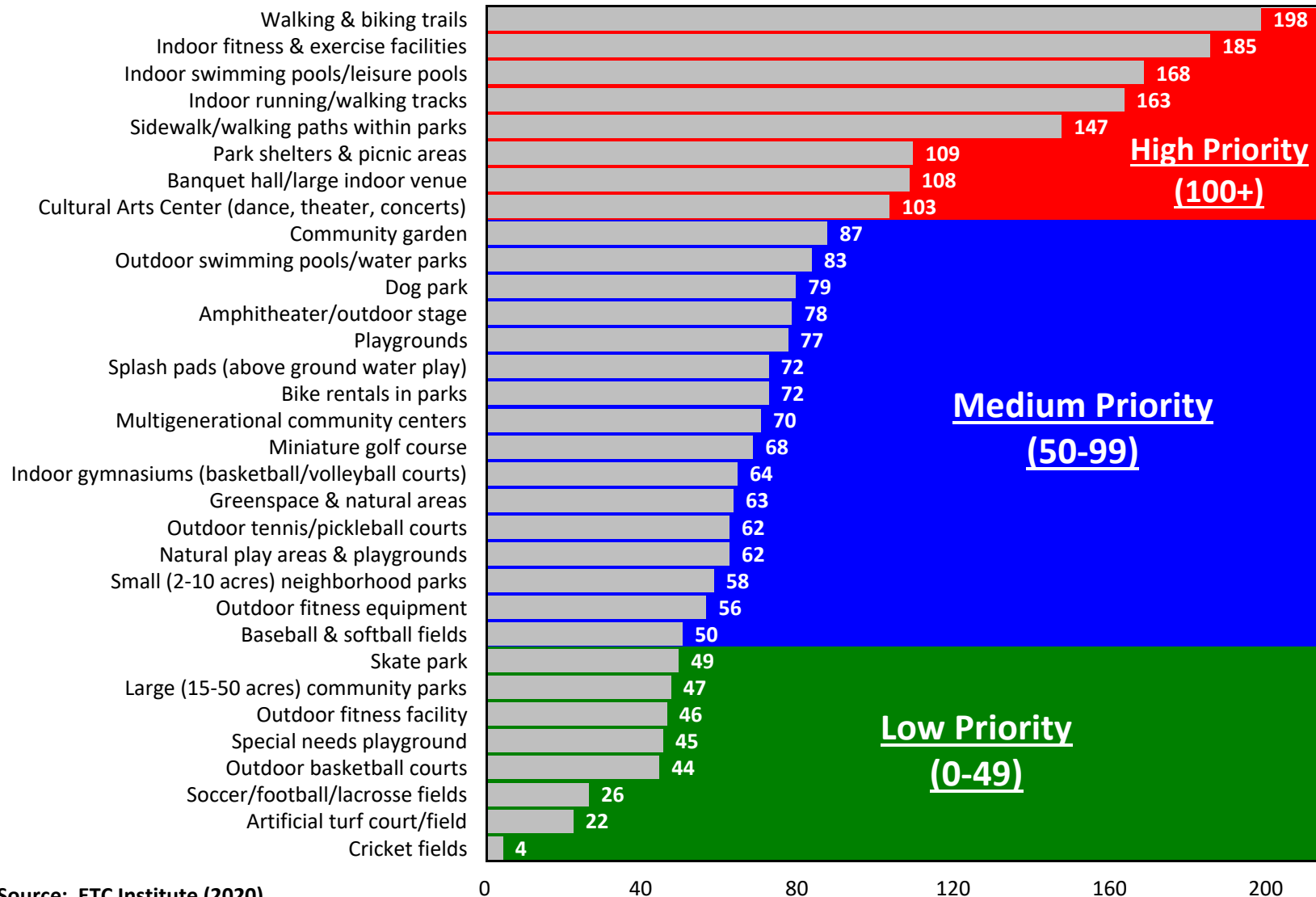
the rating for the item rated as the most important=100

the rating of all other items reflects the relative level of importance for each item compared to the item rated as the most important



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Top Priorities for Investment for Facilities Based on the Priority Investment Rating

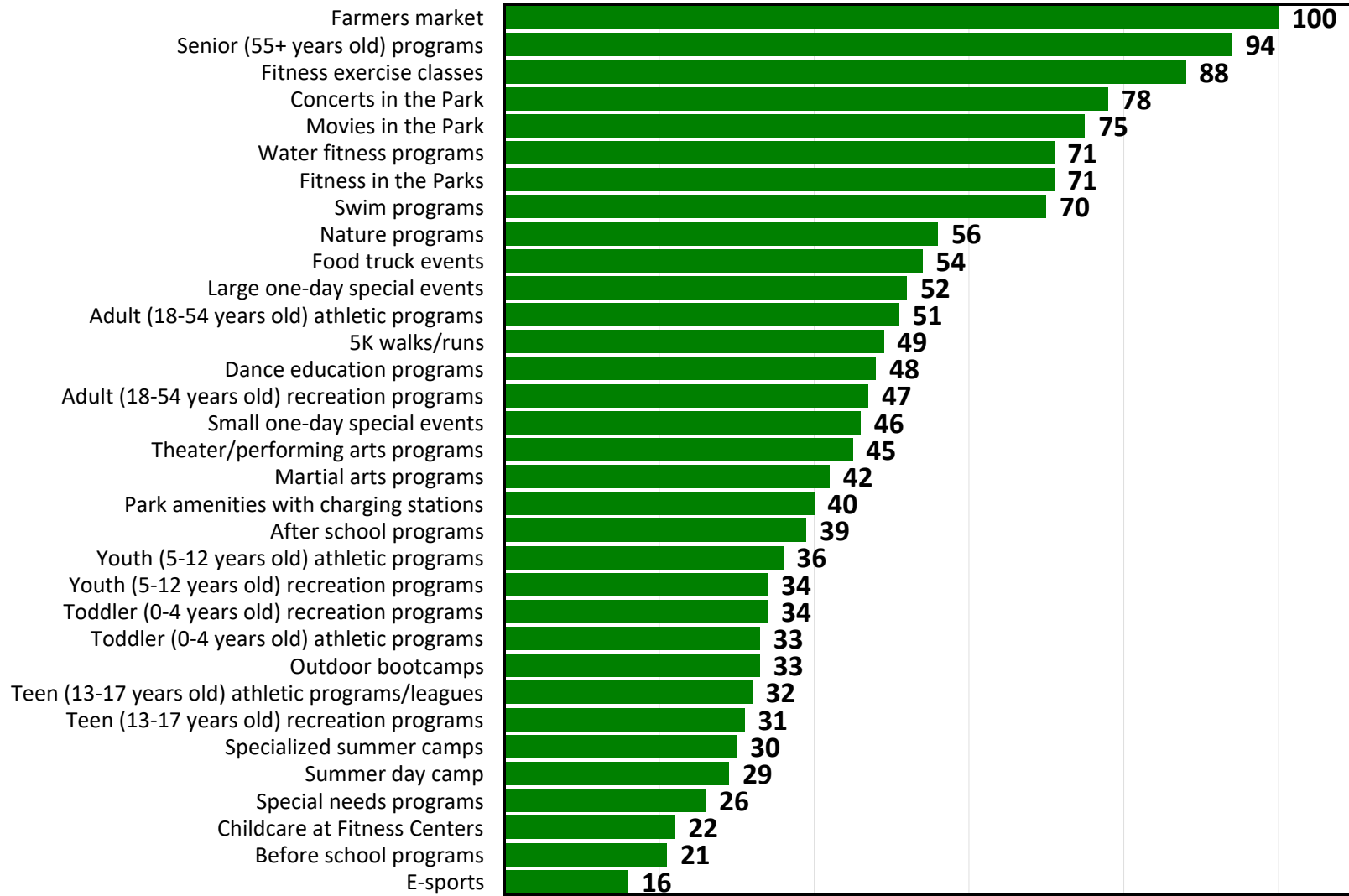


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Unmet Needs Rating for Programs

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need

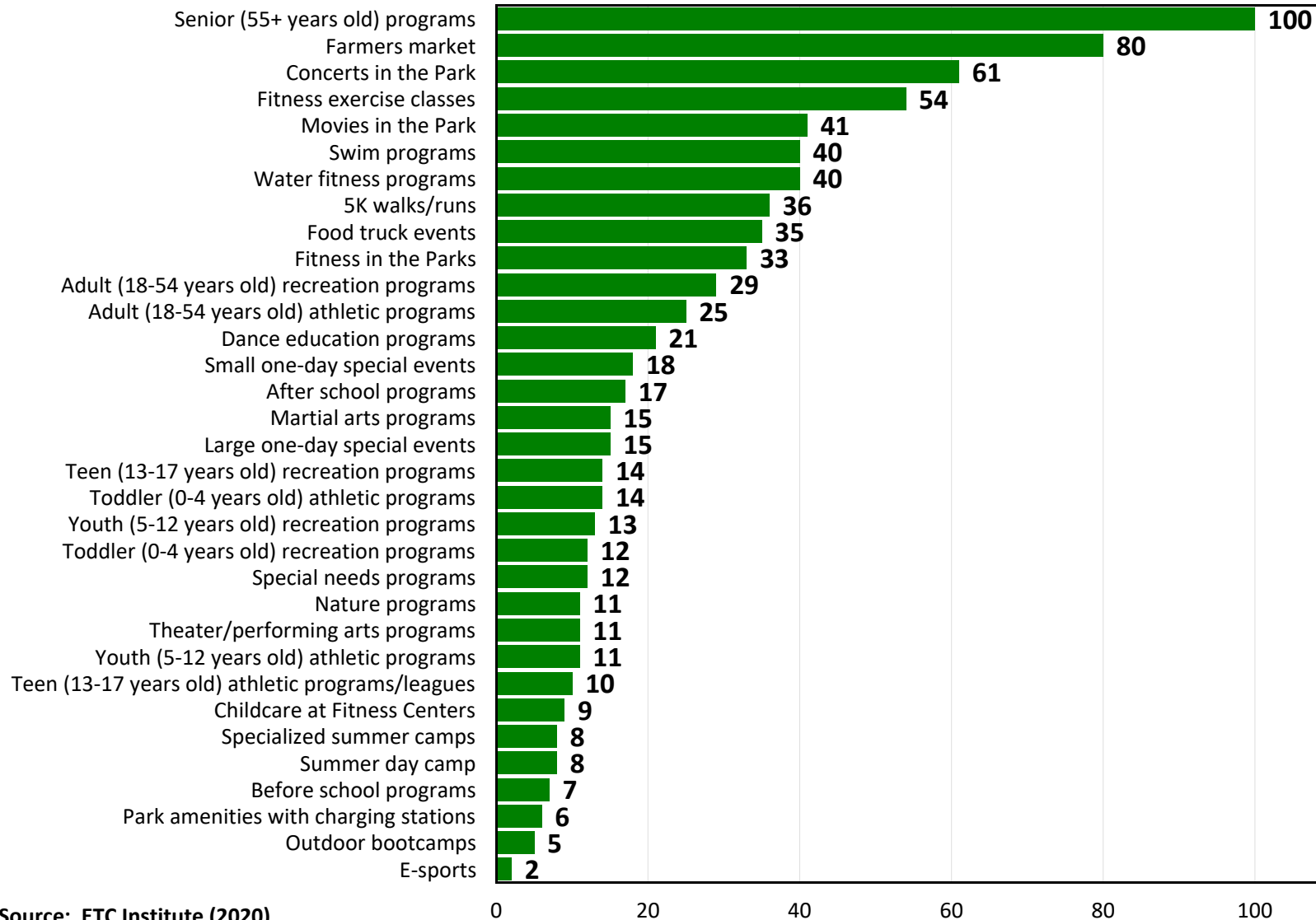


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Importance Rating for Programs

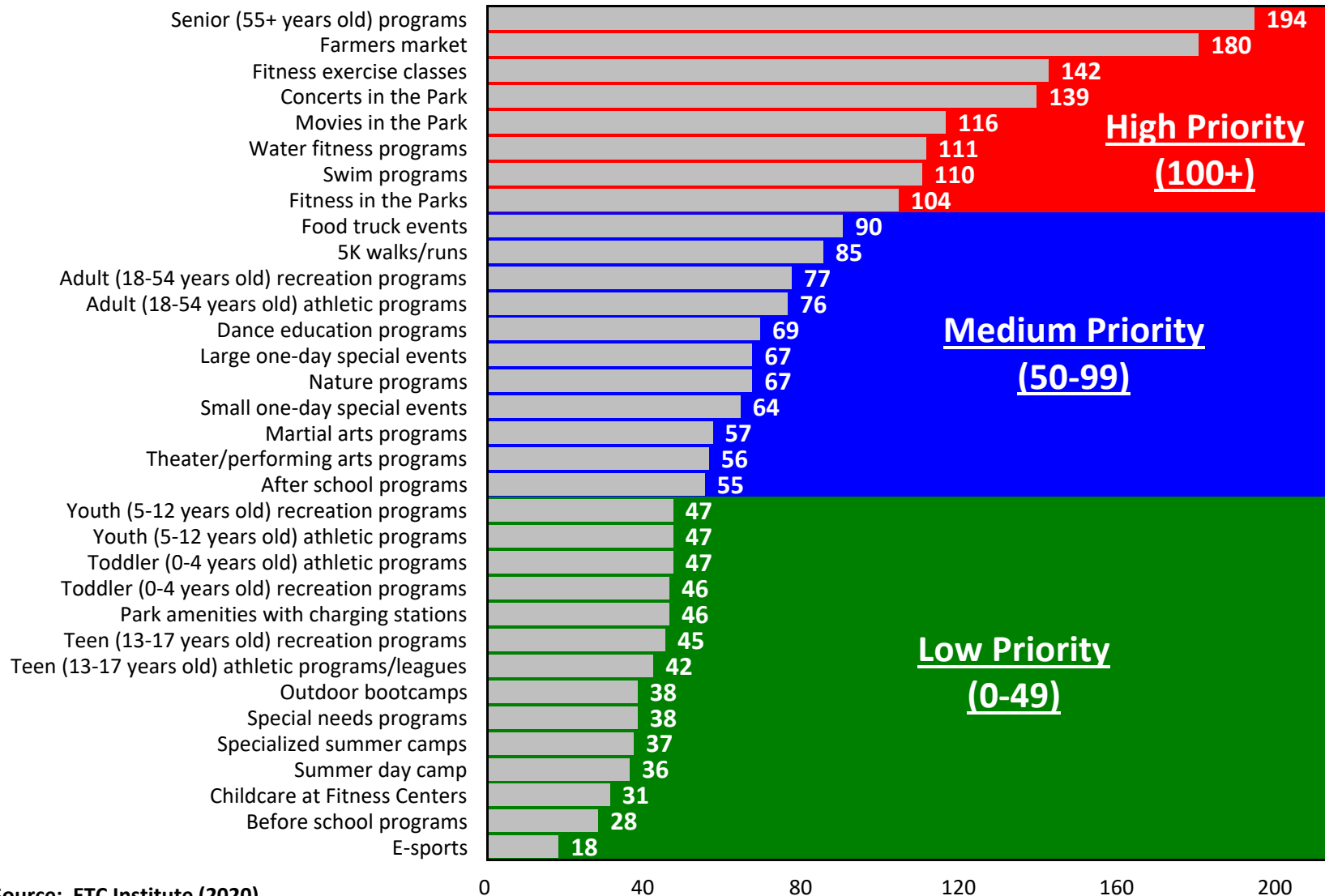
the rating for the item rated as the most important=100

the rating of all other items reflects the relative level of importance for each item compared to the item rated as the most important



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

Top Priorities for Investment for Programs Based on the Priority Investment Rating



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

