

Attitude and Interest Survey Summary

As part of the overall Comprehensive Plan effort, the Park District contracted with Public Research Group (PRD) to conduct a statistically valid community recreation survey to identify and update understanding of the resident's needs and preferences related to recreation.

The survey was administered to a random sampling of households in the community, from which 2,268 responses were collected. Those included 2,068 email responses, 188 mail and 12 telephone.

The survey included 21 questions which included some quantifiable results and some answers to openended questions.

The full results are summarized in the *Park District of Oak Park - 2014 Community Recreation Survey Analysis (August 2014)*. Additionally, the results are used as to inform the Analyze phase of the process. However, there are several take-aways worth mentioning:

- The District's parks and facilities are heavily used by the community.
- Compared to the 2004 and 2010 surveys, there
 is an improvement in how residents evaluate
 the physical condition of the parks, reflecting
 an awareness of the work completed by the
 Park District.
- Of the District's facilities, the most respondents indicated they use the Conservatory.
- The neighborhood community centers rated the worst when it comes to condition.
- There is a majority support for the Park District to build and operate both and indoor pool and an indoor multi-use facility, though the community does not have a clear support for how these facilities should be paid for.
- The community is almost evenly split when it comes to prioritizing future investment towards additional greenspace or new facilities.

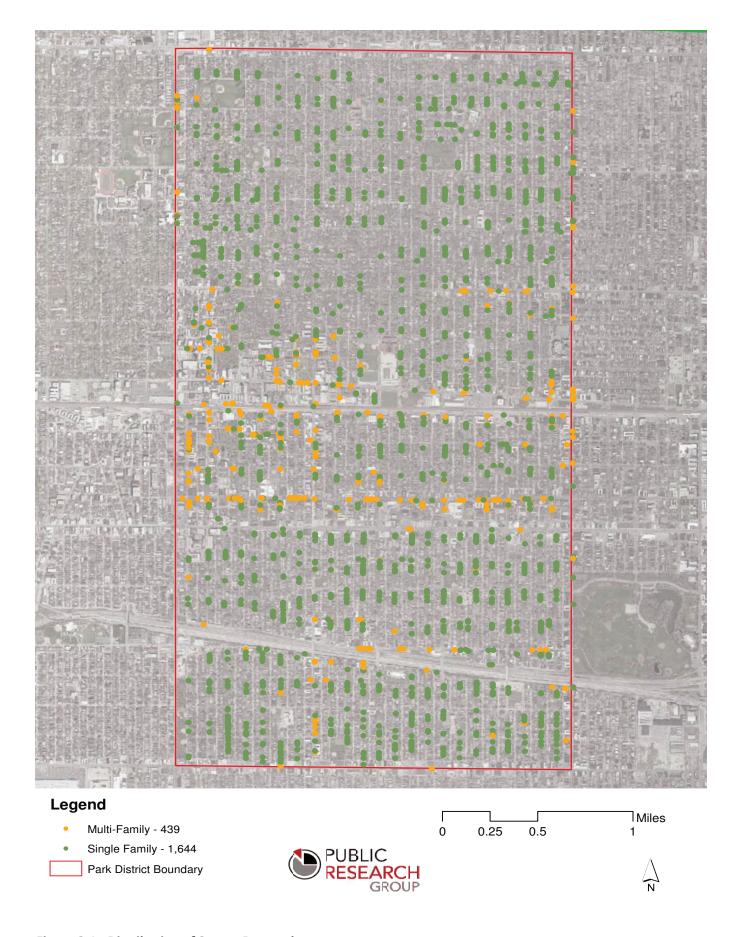


Figure 2.1 - Distribution of Survey Respondents



2014 Community Recreation Survey Findings

August 2014

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Public Research Group conducted a Community Recreational Needs Survey during the summer of 2014. The purpose of the survey was to assist in establishing priorities for future capital improvements, programs and services within the Park District of Oak Park. This information is to be used by an independent consultant team in the development of Comprehensive Master Plan for the Park District of Oak Park in late 2014. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout Oak Park. The consultant worked comprehensively with Park District staff, the elected officials and the Comprehensive Master Plan team in the development of the survey questionnaire.

The survey data was collected from three primary sources: mail, email, and telephone surveys. The goal was to obtain a total of at least 1,000 survey responses. This goal was far exceed with a total of 2,268 responses received, combining the data gathering methodologies into one data set. Statistically, a sample of 2,268 households provides a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5% at a 95% confidence level that findings are representative of the sentiments of the residents of Oak Park.

Major Survey Findings

The survey contained a series of questions that were designed to measure behavior as well as perceptions by residents of Oak Park surrounding the Park District of Oak Park, Furthermore, there were several opportunities for participants to provide specific comments from "open end" questions.

Overall Satisfaction with the Park District

89.5% respondents said they were satisfied and only 10.5% said they were not, suggesting that respondents were overall overwhelmingly satisfied with Park District.

Ways Respondents Learn about the Park District

The Park District seasonal program guide garners the highest percentage of respondents, with 82.3% of all survey respondents saying they learn about the Park District through the program guide. The Park District website was second at 52.4% while the friends and neighbors were third with 37.9%. The Illinois average for website use in this capacity is less than 30%.

Quality of Programs (Benchmark)

91.3% respondents said the programs were either excellent or good while only 0.8% said the program quality was poor. The excellent category was at 40.8% which is slightly higher than the Illinois average of 37%.

Participation in Park District Programs

The most highly participated program was community wide special events at 57.7%, followed by youth sports/leagues at 26.0% and then youth aquatics/swim lessons at 24.5%.

Most Important Programs

The top four ranked activities in terms of importance were community wide special events at 10.2%, adult fitness programs at 5.1%, youth sports/leagues at 4.8% and youth aquatic programs at 4.7%.

Visited a park in the last 12 months

93.9% of the survey respondents said they or a member of their household had visited a park during the past year which is a very high percentage of park usage as the Illinois average is less than 80%.

Condition of the Parks

44.3% of the survey respondents said park conditions were excellent, 46.0% said they were good, 8.8% said fair, and 0.9% said poor. The findings suggest that community members who overwhelming visit the parks also think they are in very good shape.

Visitation of Park District facilities in the last 12 months

The highest percentage of use by the public is the Conservatory, where 63.7% of those responding said they used that facility. A total of 58.0% of those responding said they used the Rehm Outdoor Pool, with historic properties at 44.4%, neighborhood community centers at 43.6% and the Gymnastics & Recreation Center at 38.4%.

Condition of the Facilities

The physical condition ratings are generally good, but some are better than others. The Conservatory got high ratings, with 49.9% of respondents saying its physical condition was excellent and 45.3% saying it was good. The highest ratings were for the Gymnastics & Recreation Center, with 75.3% of respondents reporting its condition was excellent and 23.4% reporting it was good. This facility would be expected to gather high marks as it is a brand new facility. Other facilities were respectable but not quite as high.

Park District Impact on Health

The survey data shows that only 13.6% said that the Park District makes no difference in the health of respondents or their family members and 22.9% said it makes little difference. A total of 63.5% of respondents said the Park District helps them maintain a healthy lifestyle or has actually improved their health.

Level of Support for Building a New Indoor Multi-Use Facility

The survey data shows that 59.7% thought the Park District should build such a facility. If the survey respondent answered yes to this question, a follow up question was asked if they would be willing to support a \$2 per month tax increase to pay for it. The data shows of the 59.7% that supported building the facility, only 25% said they would support a tax increase, 8.1% opposed it, 15% were unsure and 51.9% didn't answer.

Level of Support for Building a New Indoor Swimming Pool

The survey data shows that 60.3% thought the Park District should build such a facility. If the survey respondent answered yes to this question, a follow up question was asked if they would be willing to support a \$4 per month tax increase to pay for it. The data shows of the 60.3% that supported building the facility, only 24% said they would support a tax increase, 9.5% opposed it, 14.4% were unsure and 52.1% didn't answer.

Level of Satisfaction with Website

The survey data shows that 91.2% were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the websites general information. Comparatively, 87.5% of those responding were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the website's park and facility information and 86.6% with the website's program information. Lower levels of satisfaction were attributed to the website's online program registration, where 73.8% were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied, and lowest levels of satisfaction were attributed to its ease of navigation.

Use of Parks & Recreation Facilities

The most used facilities were outdoor swimming pools at 67.0%, playgrounds at 64.6%, gardens/natural areas at 56.9%, and walking paths at 54.6%.

Most Important New Parks & Facilities

The top four ranked new parks & facilities in terms of importance were indoor swimming pools at 58.7%, of those responding said they were needed, followed by indoor walking/running tracks at 56.0%, indoor fitness/exercise facilities at 53.8%, and art facilities at 30.7%.

Survey Conclusions

- Overall satisfaction with the Park District is high.
- Programs are the main reason for not being satisfied.
- The Park District helps maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- The program guide still heavily used followed by the website.
- Website improvements should focus on ease of navigation and on-line registration.
- Program quality and participation scored high.
- Community special events, youth sports/leagues and youth aquatics/swim lessons are used and in demand.
- Adult programming should be a focus as it is an area that the Park District does not meet the need of the community.
- Parks and facilities are heavily visited and used.
- The Community does not factor community center location in selecting programs in which to participate.
- Outdoor swimming pools, playgrounds, gardens/nature areas are important facilities to the community.
- Indoor swimming pool, indoor running/walking track and indoor fitness/exercise facilities are the most needed.
- Good level of support for a multi-use facility but a small portion of the supporters is willing to pay a tax increase to build and operate it.
- Good level of support for an indoor pool but a small portion of the supporters is willing to pay a tax increase to build and operate it.

Methodology

Public Research Group (PRG) provides a variety of data gathering techniques and different types of analysis to help parks and recreation agencies identify the needs of their residents. PRG's data gathering techniques include mail, telephone, email and online surveys, personal interviews, as well as meetings with staff, board members and stakeholders. Analysis of data includes quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including graphical and tabular presentations. This study utilizes mail, telephone and email surveys and reviews this data using both quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques.

Most research studies conducted by PRG have much smaller data sets. In the case of the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP), the data set is one of the largest PRG has ever collected, only exceeded by its 2011 study for the Village of Arlington Heights, where over 2,400 surveys were collected. This PDOP study collected 2,268 surveys, including 2,068 email, 188 mail and 12 telephone.

One thousand random sample mail surveys were sent out, with 188 returns representing an 18.8% completion rate, considered above average in social science research. The email completion rate was over 72%, also considered high in social science research. Only 12 telephone surveys were completed because the 2,068 email and 188 mail survey sample was sufficient to create a representative sample.

According to the 2010 Census, the Village of Oak Park has about 23,000 occupied housing units. A random sample of 2,268 represents nearly a 10% cross-section of the community, with a 95% confidence that the sample is plus or minus 2.5% of all 23,000 households. To put your sample in perspective, nationwide presidential polls only take a sample of about 1,200 respondents to be representative of the entire voting population of the United States and Nielsen rating households only comprise about 1,200 households as well to be representative of all television viewers. Both 1,200 samples provide a statistical level of 95% that presidential polls and Nielsen ratings are within + or – 3.5% of the national average.

In this PDOP study, respondents were asked to complete a five page questionnaire with 21 questions. Within those 21 questions, there were 261 variables, most of which were statistically quantifiable and some of which were open-ended questions which could only be presented as narrative responses in tables. The survey took an average of 14 minutes to complete. A copy of the mail survey instrument is presented in the Appendix of this report. While email and telephone survey instruments had their own scripts, questions were asked in identical order and using identical wording.

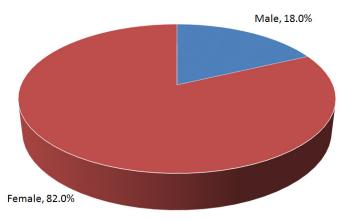
The quantifiable variables are generally presented in tables and graphs in this study, using one-sample and independent-sample means testing and frequency analysis. Occasionally, correlation can be used. Qualitative data is analyzed, determining if themes within narrative responses exists and whether those themes are also reflected in the quantitative data. Most qualitative data will be presented in the Appendix of this report.

This report begins with a presentation of the demographic data, comparing it to Census estimates in order to show the strength of the sample. Questions relating to satisfaction with Park District services will be the first area of focus. Use of those services follows with questions relating to the importance or unimportance of those services immediately after. The report will conclude with questions about future priorities and the willingness of the public to pay for new services. Please note, the analysis of questions will not be presented in the same order that they were asked.

Demographic Data

According to Census estimates, the residents of the Village of Oak Park are 53.6% female and 46.4% male. It is not unusual that leisure services research survey responses tend to be more female than male. Such is the case for this study, where of the 1,620 respondents who provided their gender, approximately 82% were female and 18% male, the valid percent which does not take those who didn't answer into consideration.





Since females were more diligent in responding to email, mail and telephone surveys and tend to be spokespersons of their households, a question becomes does this gender difference lead to a response bias. The answer in social science research is probably not. Most questions in the survey were about household activities, participation in programs and use of facilities.

Exceptions were questions 9, 9a, 10, and 10a, which were about supporting new recreation facilities and tax increases to pay for them. During the analysis of those questions, PRG will compare gender and age responses to determine if there are gender differences in respondents' answers.

Question 18 asked the age of respondents. Census estimates were that the median age of Oak Park residents is 38.9 years. The table shows that exactly 1,500 of the 2,268 respondents chose to provide their ages and that the average age of respondents to this survey was 48.04 years.

Average Age of Survey Respondents	48.04 Years Old
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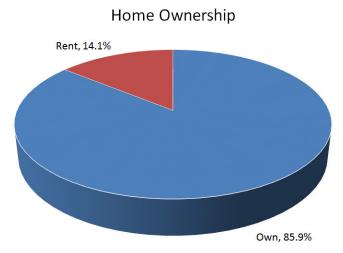
However, since no one under 18 years of age responded to the survey, the data suggests that the average age of respondents was slightly younger compared to Census estimates, about 30 years of age (48.04 - 18= 30.04). This can be explained by the high percentage of email surveys in the sample and that seniors tend to be the least likely to provide their ages in social science research.

Census data shows that 57.5% of households had families and 29.4% had children under 18 years of age. Sample data from the email, mail and telephone data showed that a higher percentage of respondents had children under 18 within their households, 61%.

Households with Children 61%

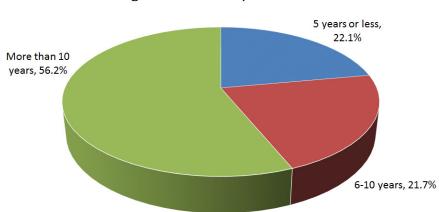
The findings are probably a function of the high percentage of email respondents compared to mail and telephone. In social science research, email respondents tend to be younger and have more children in the household, compared to mail and telephone respondents.

Question 16 asked respondents if they owned or rented their place of residence. Census data showed that 60.3% were estimated to own their homes and 39.7% were estimated to rent their residences. The census data also shows that 4.2% of the rental housing as vacant. So the adjusted percentage for rental residences is 35.5%.



The data from the surveys shows that, of the 1,631 respondents who answered the question about whether they owned or rented their residence, 85.9% said they owned and 14.1% said they rented. The sample was also geo-coded with parcel level zoning data powered through GIS files. The housing stock within the Village of Oak Park is approximately 42% multi-family buildings that included flats, townhomes, rentals and condo buildings according to the Village of Oak Park Village Profile. The returned sample had a breakdown of 78% of single-family homes and 22% of multi-family units. A map that illustrates the survey breakdown within the Park District is included in the Appendix.

Question 15 asked how long respondents lived in Oak Park. The following chart shows that a high percentage of respondents have been relatively recent residents. Census data was very similar.



Length of Residency in Oak Park

The data from the combined email, mail and telephone surveys shows that 22.1% were relative newcomers, living in the Park District for five years or less, that 21.7% said they lived in Oak Park between six and 10 years and that 56.2% lived in Oak Park for more than ten years, not taking those who didn't answer into consideration. This finding suggests that the survey did not just focus on long time residents and senior citizens, supporting previous findings that the survey achieved a younger demographic with children in the household.

Question 19 asked respondents to describe their race. While it was assumed that some households would be of mixed race, the vast majority were of one race, mainly describing themselves as white.

Survey

5.0%

Race of Respondents Spanish Census 4.5% Hispanic/ Survey 5.3% American 23.9% African Census Black/ Survey 9.7% American Census 0.7% Indian Survey 0.7% Census 68.8% White Survey 79.4% Asian/ Pacific Islander Census 4.1%

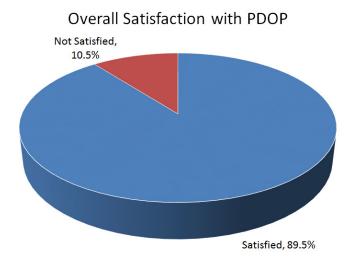
The data from Question 19 shows that Black/African American respondents were somewhat under-represented in the sample, while whites were over-represented somewhat. Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, and Asian/ Pacific Islander respondents were represented very close to Census estimates.

10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0% 90.0% 100.0%

In social science research, random sampling attempts to eliminate biases toward one group or another. PRG finds that respondents are self-selecting, volunteering to complete surveys or not. In this study for the Park District of Oak Park, the sample is so large that it would be difficult to argue it is not representative of the entire community. The demographic data more or less bears that hypothesis out.

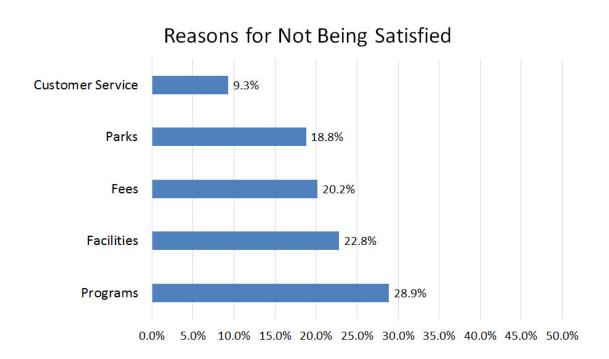
Satisfaction

Question 1 asked respondents to characterize their overall levels of satisfaction with the Park District of Oak Park. Respondents were provided the choices of saying they were satisfied or not satisfied. Some respondents chose not to answer the question.



A total of 94 respondents failed to answer the question. Of the 2,174 that answered it, 89.5% said they were satisfied and 10.5% said they were not, suggesting that respondents were overwhelmingly satisfied.

Question 1a provided those not satisfied with the opportunity to explain the reasons why. Respondents were provided the choices of saying customer service, facilities, parks, programs, or fees were the reasons. Respondents were offered the opportunity to select more than one choice or provide an answer of their own.



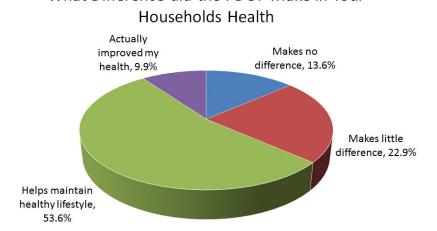
A total of 229 had said they were not satisfied with the Park District in Question 1. Since respondents were permitted to select more than one reason for not being satisfied, there were 356 reasons selected.

The data shows that programs were the leading reason for dissatisfaction, with 28.9% of the 10.5% dissatisfied respondents selecting programs. Facilities were second at 22.8%, fees third at 20.2%, and parks fourth at 18.8%. A distant fifth was customer service at 9.3%, suggesting that programs, parks and facilities were the leading reasons for any dissatisfaction that existed.

There were a relatively few open-ended responses that are presented in a table in the Appendix of this report. PRG presents them in their unedited versions so as not to put words in the mouths of respondents. A few of the responses were choices that could have been selected from those provided in the question. Others were reasons of their own.

Question 8 asks respondents to what extent does the Park District of Oak Park make a difference in their or other members of their household's health. The following chart presents how the data arrived.

What Difference did the PDOP Make in Your



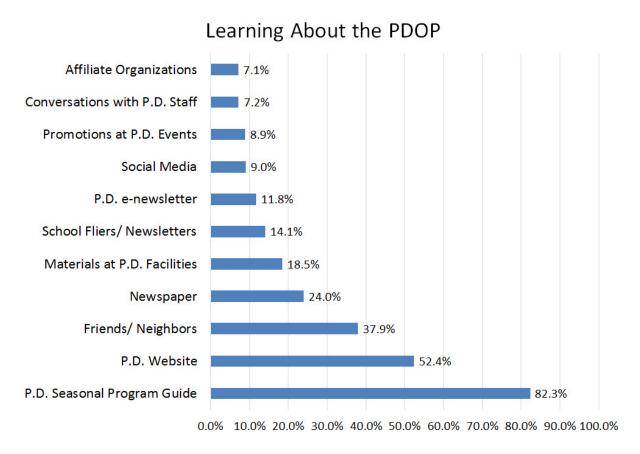
The data shows that only 13.6% of those answering the question said that the Park District makes no difference in the health of respondents or their family members and 22.9% said it makes little difference. A total of 63.5% of respondents said the PDOP helps them maintain a healthy lifestyle or has actually improved their health.

The findings suggest at least one reason why the Park District of Oak Park has such a high level of overall satisfaction, as well as explaining part of the importance of parks and recreation in general.

Other satisfaction questions in this study are embedded in the questionnaire as follow-up inquiries to questions about park, facility and program usage. Those satisfaction questions will be considered during this report as they occur. However, it is sufficient to say that, considering the high number of responses to the combined email, mail and telephone surveys, there was a relatively high level of satisfaction indicated and a fairly low number of reasons not to be satisfied. A goal of this study is to identify other causal factors and determine what can be done to improve satisfaction beyond its currently high level.

Media and Communication

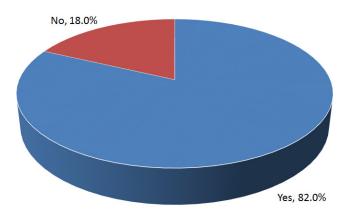
Question 2 asked the ways in which respondents learn about the Park District of Oak Park. Respondents were provided a list of choices and an opportunity to provide their own method. Different percentages of respondents answered the different choice. The percentages reflected in the following graph are those that answered the question divided by the total respondents for the survey.



The percentages show that the Park District seasonal program guide garners the highest percentage of respondents, with 82.3% of all survey respondents saying they learn about the PDOP through the program guide. It should not be totally surprising that a high percentage of our database comprised mainly of email respondents would say they lean about the Park District from its website. Other means of communication garner far fewer followers.

Question 12 asked combined email, mail and telephone respondents if they had visited the Park District's website in the past year. This question corroborates one of the media choices in Question 2.

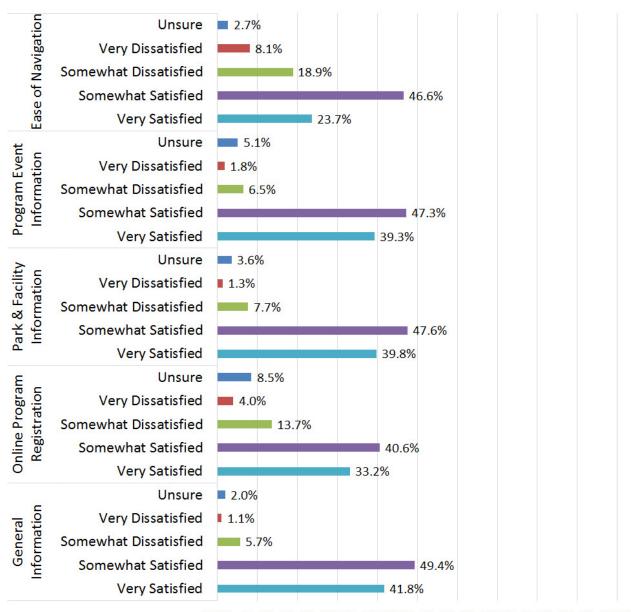




The chart shows that 521 (23.0%) of respondents didn't answer the question. Of those who did, 1,433 (82.0%) said they visited the website during the past year. That number is higher than the 1,189 who said they learned about the Park District of Oak Park from the website in Question 2, suggesting that the difference is the number of people that already were aware of the Park District and used the website for registration or additional information.

Question 12 asked respondents who visited the website to rate their satisfaction level with its general information, online program registration, park and facility information, program and event information, and user friendliness and ease of navigation. Respondents were provided the opportunity to say they were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, very dissatisfied, or not sure how they felt. PRG considers those respondents that didn't answer the question to be among the unsure, making valid percent responses the most relevant.

Website Satisfaction



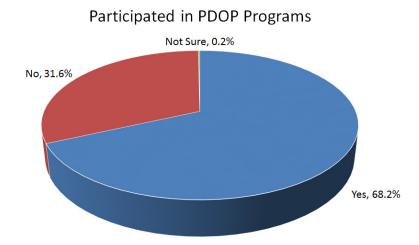
0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0% 90.0% 100.0%

The graph show that 91.2% were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the websites general information. Comparatively, 87.5% of those responding were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the website's park and facility information and 86.6% with the website's program information. Lower levels of satisfaction were attributed to the website's online program registration, where 73.8% were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied, and lowest levels of satisfaction were attributed to its ease of navigation.

Program Questions

A number of survey questions addressed program participation and whether Park District of Oak Park programs met the recreational needs of Oak Park residents.

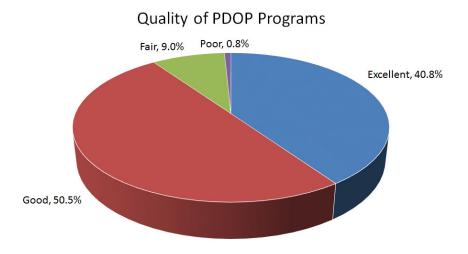
Question 3 was a warm-up question asking whether respondents or members of their households had participated in any programs offered by the PDOP during the past year.



The response totals show that 68.2% of respondents said they or a member of their household had participated in Park District programs during the past 12 months and 31.6% said they had not. Four respondents were not sure, and 183 didn't answer the question. The data suggests participation among respondents was high, an indication of the importance of parks and recreation to the community.

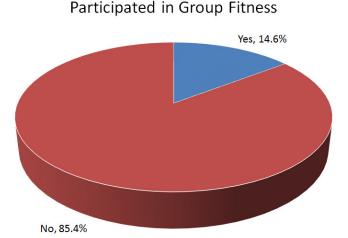
Question 3a asked respondents to provide a rating of the overall quality of the programs in which they or members of their households had participated. Respondents were provided the choice of saying the overall quality was excellent, good, fair, or poor. It is assumed that anyone who didn't respond either didn't participate in a program or had no opinion.

The following chart shows the percentages of respondents who had an opinion.

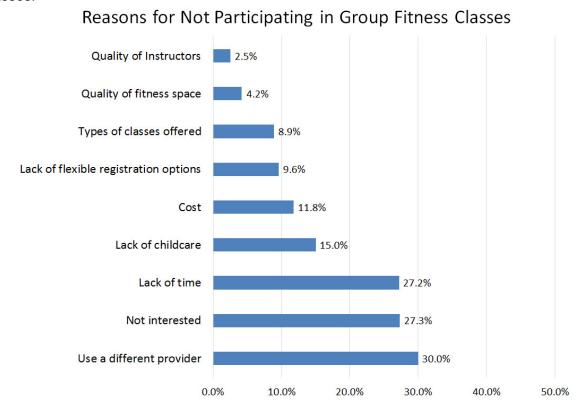


What is striking about the data is that only .8% of those answering the question said program quality was poor and needed many improvements. A total of 91.3% said programs were either excellent or good.

Question 4 focused specifically on group fitness classes, asking respondents if they or members of their households had participated in group fitness classes during the past 12 months.



Of the 2,048 respondents answering the question, 299 (14.6%) said they had and 1,748 (85.4%) said they had not. Question 4a was written to identify what prevented respondents from participating in group fitness classes. Respondents were provided a list of possible reasons and to choose all that applied. They were also provided the opportunity to express their own reasons. The following graph shows the percentages or those choosing one of the reasons divided by the total number of the 1,748 respondents who said they didn't participate in group fitness classes.

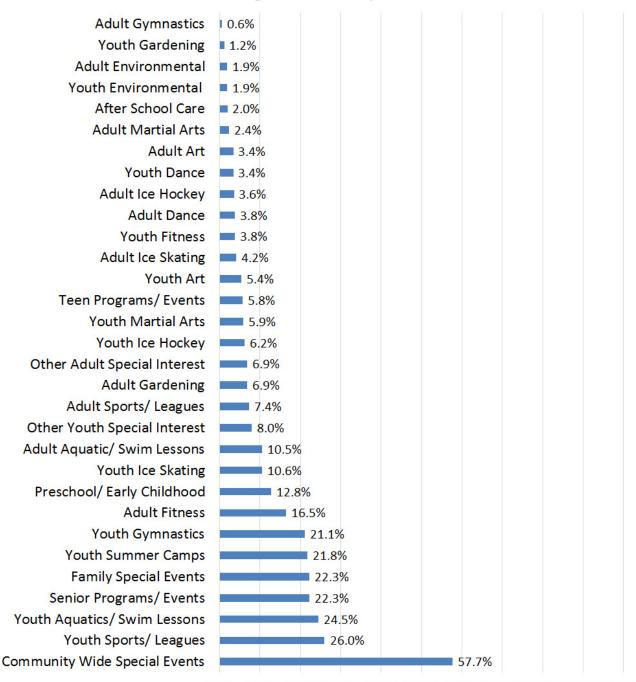


Intuitively, a hypothesis would be the biggest reason people don't participate in group fitness classes would be that they were not interested to do so. Counter-intuitively, the data shows that the biggest reason is that respondents said they don't participate in group fitness classes (30.0%) because they participate somewhere else. Not being interested was selected by 27.3% of respondents followed closely by 27.2% of respondents who said they didn't have the time. Other reasons generally paled by comparison, with lack of childcare and cost being the most significant second tier reasons.

The open-ended responses are in a table in the Appendix of this report, presented in unedited form. Most of the responses in the table repeat those choices provided in the question, such as stating the service provider from whom respondents participate in group fitness.

Question 5 also provided a table where respondents were asked to state if they used each of the programs in the table and, if they did, had the Park District met their needs. The graph showing who participated in what program types is on the following page. Percentages are calculated as the number of people who said they participated in a program divided by the number of people responding to each program choice.

Program Participation

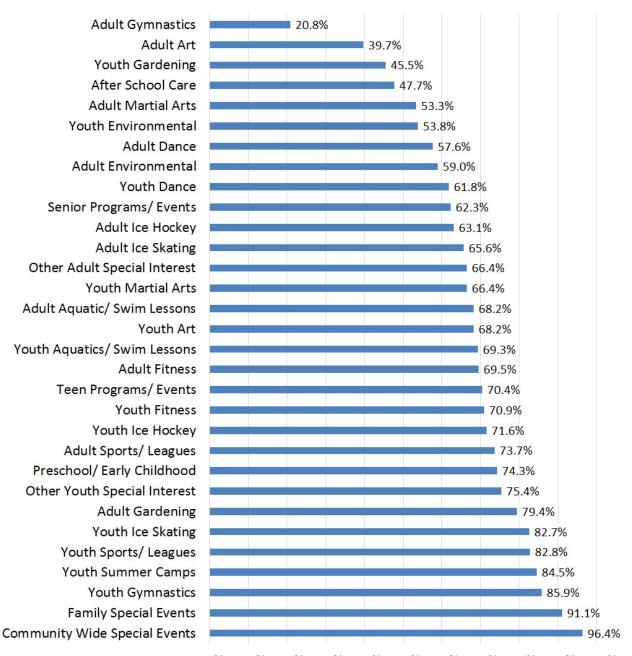


0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0% 90.0% 100.0%

The graph shows that, by far, the most highly participated program was community wide special events, where 57.7% of the 1,605 people answering that question said they participated. The lowest participation was for adult gymnastics, where only .6% of the 1,474 responding to the question said they participated.

As far as meeting their needs which was the second part of Question 5, not everyone who said they participated answered that question. Of those who did, the following graph shows their responses.

Does the PDOP Meet Your Needs

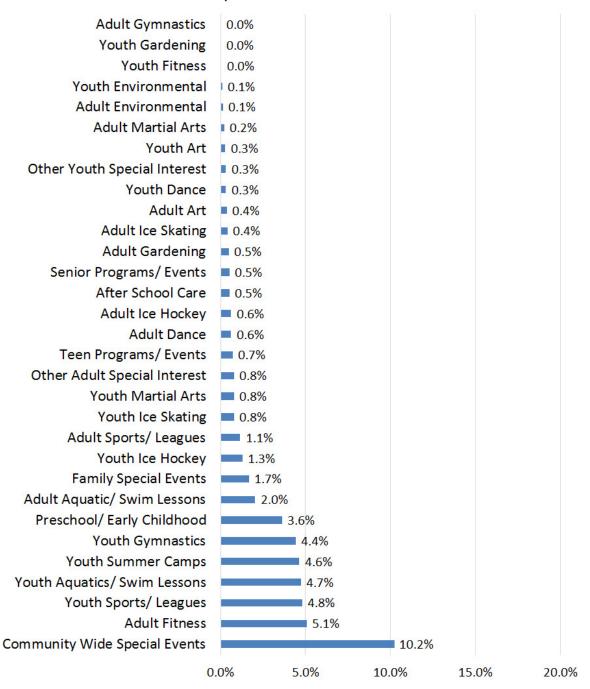


0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0% 90.0% 100.0%

The data shows the highest participation programs are also those which respondents thought met their needs. Community-wide special events were attended by 835 of those 1,605 people responding to the question, which represented 57.7% of the public, with 96.4% of them believing these programs met their needs. Family special events, youth gymnastics, youth summer camps, and youth sports leagues were also highly utilized and popular in so far as respondents thought they met their needs.

Question 5a asked respondents to list the four programs that were the most important to their household. All of the programs in Question 5 were eligible, with respondents also permitted to select "none."

Most Important to Households



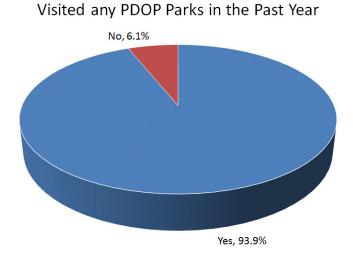
While none was the most frequently selected choice, it only represented a small portion of the total sample of 2,268 households. The top seven ranked activities in terms of importance were community wide special events, adult fitness programs, youth sports programs, youth aquatic programs, youth summer camps, youth gymnastics programs, and preschool/early childhood programs. All others were distant finishers.

Respondents were permitted the opportunity in Question 5b to list their needs that are not being met. Their comments are presented in unedited form so as not to change them. The table of those needs is in the Appendix of this report.

Within that table are hundreds of suggestions, but most of them are comments that will be reiterated at the end of the survey when they have the opportunity to make them again. Comments range from discussions about dog parks to discussions about swimming lessons. There are a few new program ideas, but most respondents did not address the question of suggesting new programs that would meet their needs.

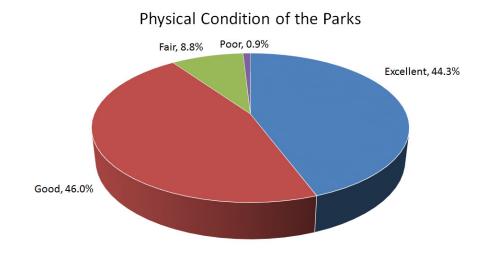
Park and Facility Usage

Question 6 asked respondents if they had visited any of the Park District of Oak Park parks during the past year. Respondents were permitted to answer yes or no, and PRG also recorded the number of people who did not answer the question for whatever reason.



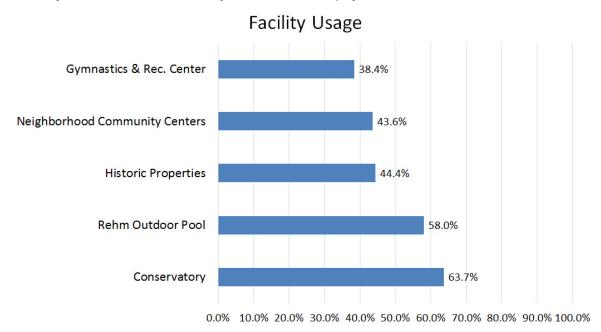
Of those 1,799 respondents who answered the question, 93.9% said they or a member of their household had visited a park during the past year. This is a very high percentage of park usage, higher than other communities PRG has polled in the past 10 years, suggesting parks are very important to the residents of Oak Park.

Question 6a asked how respondents rated the physical condition of all of the parks in Oak Park that they had visited. Respondents were provided the choices of saying the conditions were excellent, good, fair, or poor. Those not responding are also shown in the following chart.

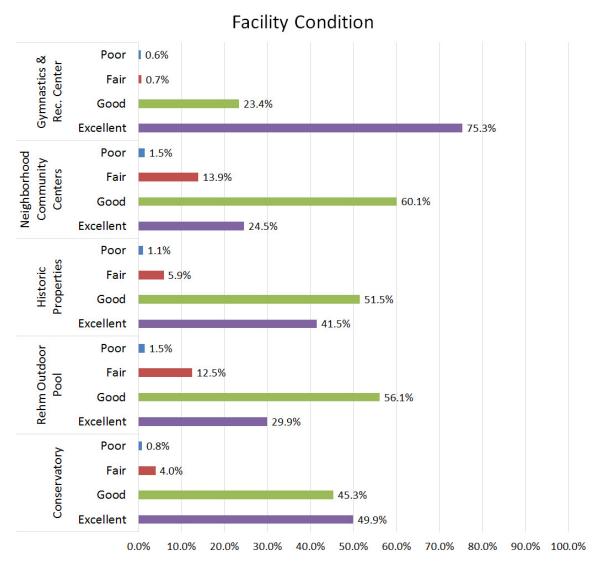


Of those 1,679 respondents who answered the question, 44.3% said park conditions were excellent, 46.0% said they were good, 8.8% said fair, and .9% said poor. The findings suggest that community members who overwhelming visit the parks also think they are in very good shape.

Specific facilities were listed in Question 7. Survey respondents were provided a list of five facilities in which they were asked if they used them and how they would rate their physical condition.



The graph shows the highest percentage of usage by the public is the Conservatory, where 63.7% of those responding said they used the facility. A total of 58.0% of those responding said they used the Rehm Outdoor Pool, with historic properties, the Gymnastics & Recreation Center and neighborhood community centers garnering 44.4%, 38.4% and 43.6% respectively.

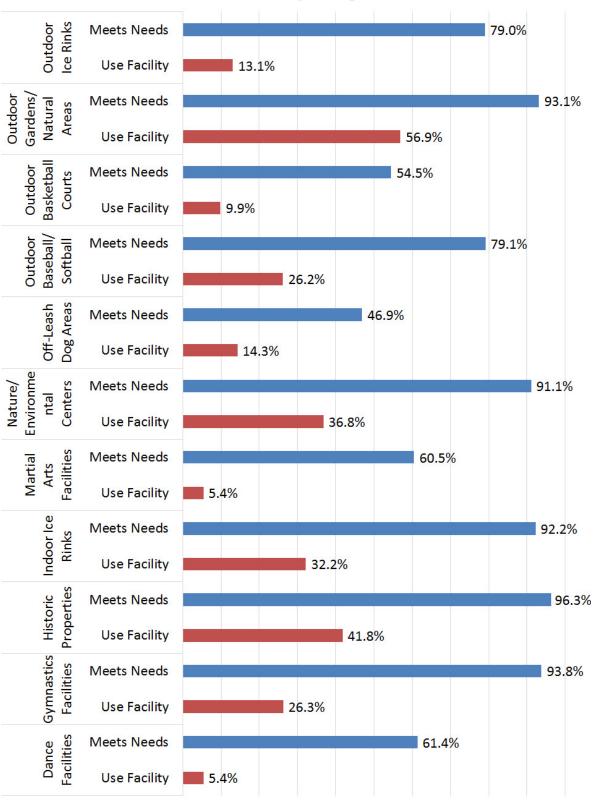


The graph above shows the physical condition ratings.

The physical condition ratings are generally good, but some are better than others. The Conservatory got high ratings, with 49.9% of respondents saying its physical condition was excellent and 45.3% saying it was good. The highest ratings were for the Gymnastics & Recreation Center, with 75.3% of respondents reporting its condition was excellent and 23.4% reporting it was good. This facility would be expected to gather high marks as it is a brand new facility. Other facilities were respectable but not quite as high.

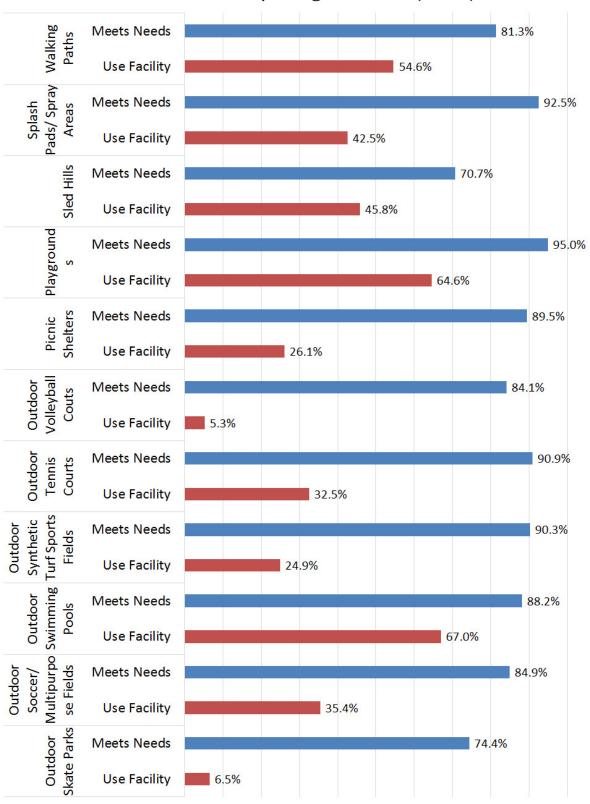
Question 13 provided another list of facilities typically found in parks but also including historic properties, outdoor swimming pools, nature and environmental centers. Respondents were asked if they used these types of facilities and, if yes, does the Park District meet their needs by providing them. The graphs on the following two pages includes both statistics.

Parks and Facility Usage & Need



0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0% 90.0% 100.0%

Park and Facility Usage & Need (cont.)

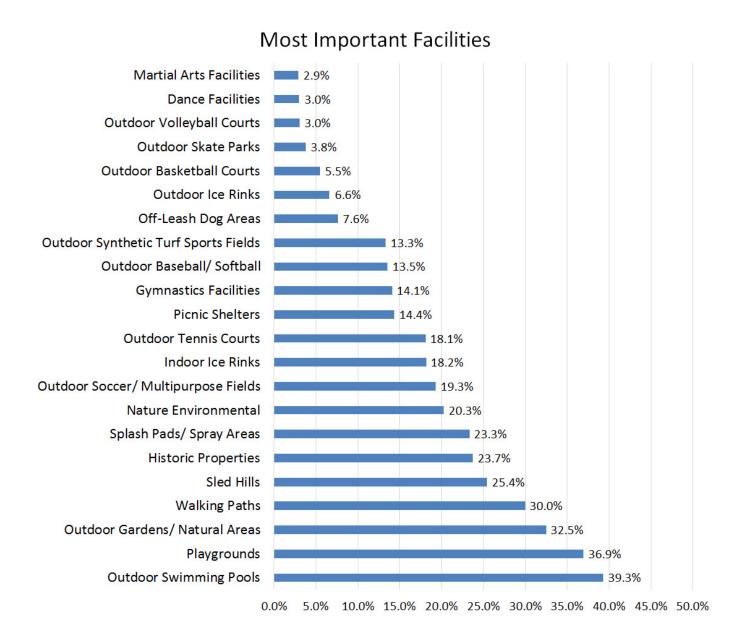


0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0% 90.0% 100.0%

The graphs show the highest and lowest percentages of respondents who said they used the facilities on the list in Question 13. The most used facilities were outdoor swimming pools at 67.0%, playgrounds at 64.6%, gardens/ natural areas at 56.9%, and walking paths at 54.6%. The lowest used facilities were outdoor volleyball courts at 5.3%, martial arts and dance facilities both at 5.4%, and outdoor skate parks at 6.5%.

The lowest percentage of respondents, 46.9%, said that off-leash dog areas met their needs, affirming some of the open-ended comments in Question 5b and which this report will show in other comments at the end of the study.

Question 13a asked respondents to list the four facilities that were the most important to their household. The following graph shows the percentages.

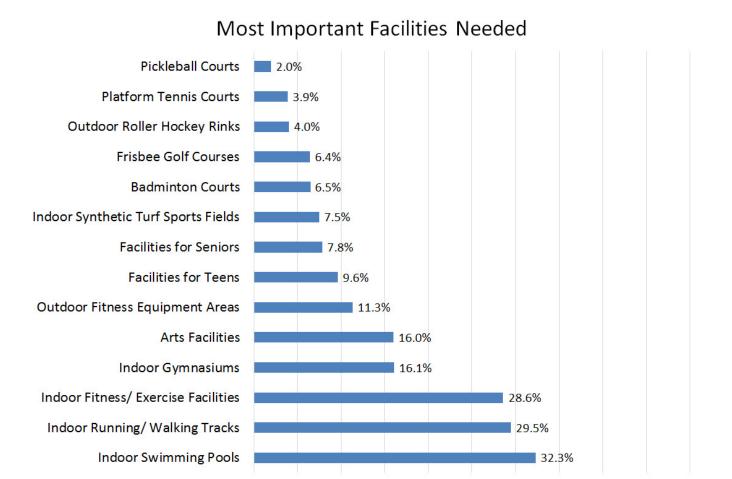


The graph shows the number of respondents who selected each of the facilities in Question 13 as one of their top four in importance. While none was the most frequently selected response, representing 59.2% of the total sample of 2,268 households, outdoor swimming pools, playgrounds, outdoor gardens/ natural areas, walking paths, sled hills, historic properties, and splash pads/ spray areas were the top seven choices by respondents.

Question 14 asked if respondents or any member of their households saw the need for new facilities that it listed in the table. Respondents were then asked in Question 14a, which four recreation facilities would be the most important. The two graphs showing the responses are presented below and on the next page.



The graph shows the top four need facilities to be indoor swimming pools, where 58.7% of those responding said they were needed, followed by indoor walking/running tracks at 56.0%, indoor fitness/exercise facilities at 53.8%, and art facilities at 30.7%. Question 14a attempted to corroborate those responses.



The graph above shows that the top four needed facilities when respondents are asked to rank them are indoor swimming pools, indoor running/walking tracks, indoor fitness/exercise facilities, and indoor gymnasiums. Indoor gymnasiums just edged out art facilities. Art facilities were among the four most frequently selected. It would be fair to say then that five types of facilities are what the public would want to see built first.

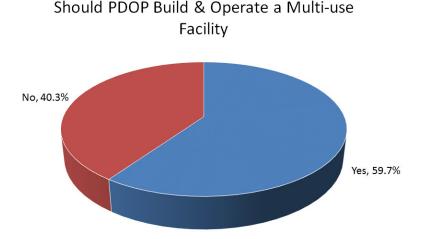
10.0% 15.0% 20.0% 25.0% 30.0% 35.0% 40.0% 45.0% 50.0%

0.0%

5.0%

Building New Facilities

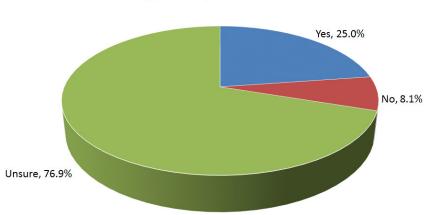
Question 9 asked if respondents believed the Park District of Oak Park should build and operate a multi-use facility housing indoor basketball and volleyball courts and a walking track. The following graph shows their responses.



The chart shows that 59.7% of those answering the question said they thought the Park District should build such a facility, considering that 45.6% said yes taking into consideration those respondents not answering the question. Valid percent is the percent of respondents, not taking into consideration those who didn't answer the question. Percent takes them into consideration.

Either way, the findings suggest that more people favor the idea of a building and operating a multi-purpose facility than oppose it. Considering the responses to Question 14, an indoor walking/ running track and a fitness center would be popular amenities.

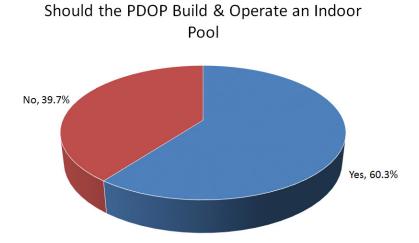
Question 9a asked respondents if they would support a tax increase of \$2 per month per \$100,000 assessed home value to build a multi-purpose facility. The question also explains that the average home in Oak Park, valued at \$323,200, would pay less than \$7 per month. Respondents were provided the choice of saying they would support a tax increase for that purpose, that they would not or they were unsure. For this question, those not answering the question would be considered unsure. The following table shows the percentages for each answer.



Support a \$2 Tax Increase

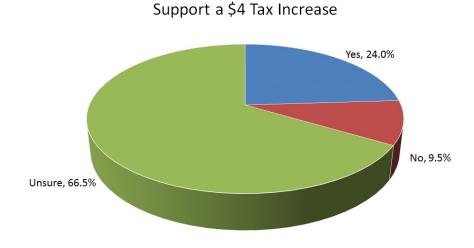
The table shows that 25% of all respondents said they would support a tax increase, 8.1% opposed it, 15% were unsure and 51.9% didn't answer. Counting those who didn't answer as unsure, 76.9% in total were unsure.

Question 10 asked if respondents believed the Park District of Oak Park should build and operate an indoor pool.



Not considering those who didn't respond, 60.3% of all respondents supported the notion of building and operating an indoor pool and 39.7% oppose it. Counting those who didn't answer as undecided, 46% of respondents supported the idea, 30.3% opposed it, and 23.7% were undecided.

In terms of their willingness to increase property taxes to fund the construction of an indoor pool, the pattern of responses was similar to that of the multi-purpose facility.

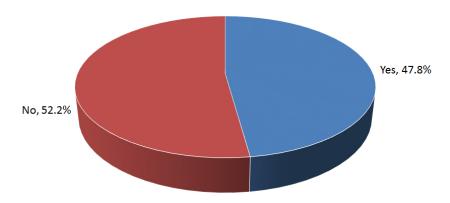


Considering those respondents that didn't answer to be undecided, 24% of all survey respondents supported a tax increase to pay to build an indoor pool, 9.5% opposed it, 14.4% said they were unsure and 52.1% didn't answer, for a total 66.5% unsure.

The findings from Question 9, 9a, 10, and 10a suggest that the public supports the idea of construction of an indoor multi-purpose facility and an indoor pool but are largely undecided about whether they want to pay for it through a property tax increase. The data suggests that more information needs to be provided in order for supporters to be willing to pay for these facilities, but that it is far better to start from a position of the public supporting the concepts instead of opposing them.

Finally, Question 11 asked combined email, mail and telephone respondents if they believe the Park District of Oak Park should make acquiring green space a priority over building new facilities.





The responses to this question were close, but respondents were slightly more in favor of building new facilities than acquiring additional green space. Less people didn't answer the question and, therefore, less were undecided, with 24.7% in that category. A plurality of 39.3% said that the PDOP should not make acquiring additional green space a priority, compared to 36% who said it should.

Removing the undecided respondents from consideration, 47.8% said that the PDOP should make acquiring land a priority over building new facilities and 52.2% said it should not, suggesting there is a slim majority in favor of building new facilities. This finding has been consistent throughout the data, with strong support for new indoor facilities.

Ideas and Comments

Question 20 asked respondents for the one idea they felt would be beneficial for the Park District of Oak Park to implement in the next five years. As can be imagined, some people offered an idea, others no ideas, and still others offered many ideas. Their unedited responses are in the Appendix in a very long table, with over 1,000 people offering their thoughts.

Many of their ideas supported the concept of a new indoor multi-purpose facility or swimming pool. Others were programming ideas expressed earlier in Question 5b. Overall, though, the ideas were generally positive and consistent with questions throughout the survey. Reviewing the comments shows how important parks and recreation services are to the residents of Oak Park and how they encourage the Park District to improve them whenever they can. Many are simply offers of thanks for the good work the Park District does.

Question 21 asked respondents to share any additional comments they might have. Their comments are presented in a very large table in the Appendix of this report.

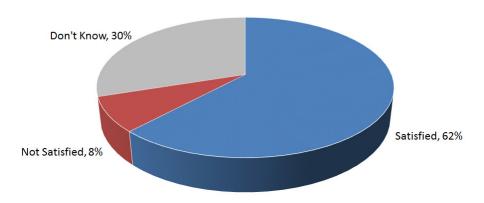
Many of their comments were reminiscent of respondents' previous fond memories of them or their children using Park District services. Others were restatements of issues they had discussed earlier; including ideas expressed in Question 20. For the most part, comments were positive.

Additional Analysis

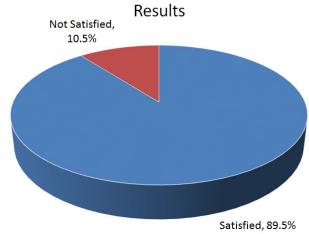
Question 1

The following two charts compare the data for overall satisfaction with the Park District of Oak Park from 2010 to 2014. While the 2014 survey did not give an option for the respondent to reply they didn't know, the level of satisfaction with the Park District is much higher for the 2014 survey.

Overall Satisfaction with PDOP- 2010 Survey Results



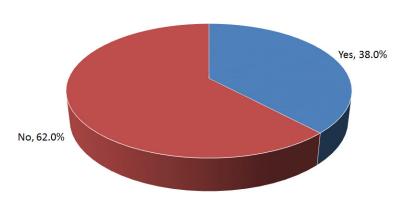
Overall Satisfaction with PDOP- 2014 Survey



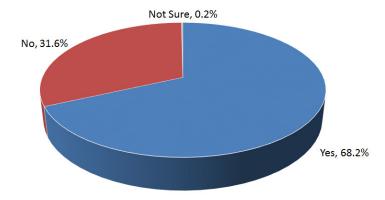
Question 3

The following two charts compare program participation data from 2010 to 2014. The charts show that participation in Park District programs increased dramatically since the 2010 survey.

Participated in PDOP Programs- 2010 Survey Results

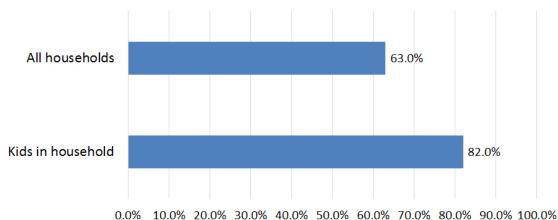


Participated in PDOP Programs- 2014 Survey Results

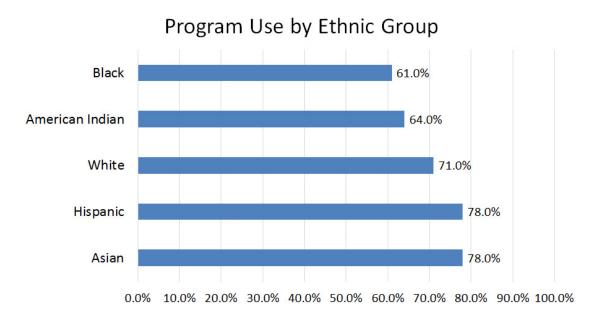


Participation in programs comparing households with kids compared to all households shown graphically:

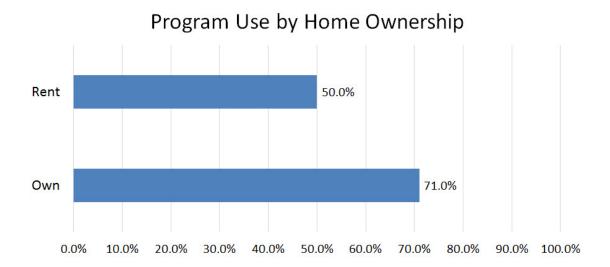




Participation in programs by different ethnic groups compared graphically:

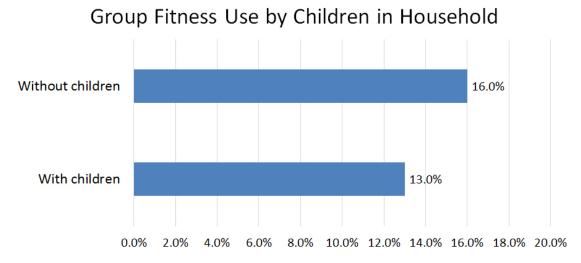


Program participation comparing those who rent to those who own their homes shown graphically:



Question 4 & 4A

Comparing households with and without children in Question 4, the following table shows the percentage or households with children who said they had a household member in any group fitness class offered by the Park District of Oak Park.

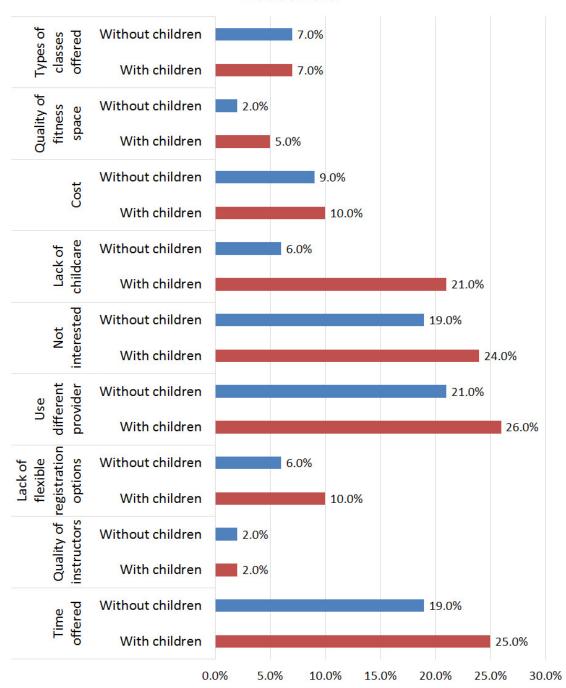


The graph shows 13% of households with children have a household member who participates in group fitness classes and 16% of those household without children participate.

Considering Question 4, the question asked respondents to select from a list of what prevents them from using group fitness. The graph on the following page compares the different responses by households with and without children. There are relatively small differences between households with and without children regarding the reasons that households with and without children don't participate in group fitness classes, except for lack of childcare, which is in an intuitive response.

For households with children, the second greatest difference is the response to the time classes are offered. Taking them from a different provider is the third greatest difference, with not being interested close behind.

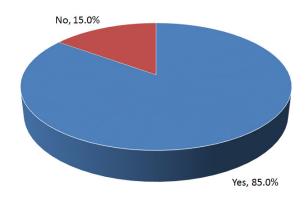
Not Using Group Fitness by Children in Household



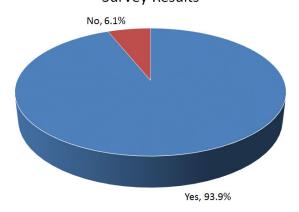
Question 6 & 6A

The following charts compare the number of respondents who said they have visited a Park District of Oak Park park within the past 12 months, and then how they would rate the physical condition of those parks from 2010 to 2014.

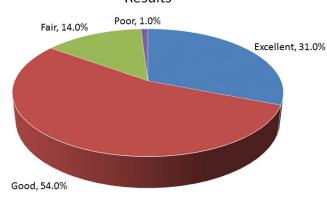
Visited any PDOP Parks in the Past Year- 2010 Survey Results



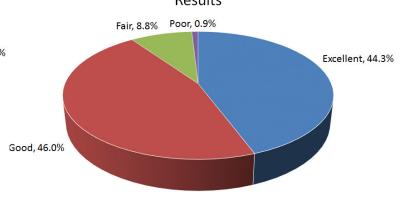
Visited any PDOP Parks in the Past Year- 2014 Survey Results



Physical Condition of the Parks- 2010 Survey Results

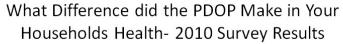


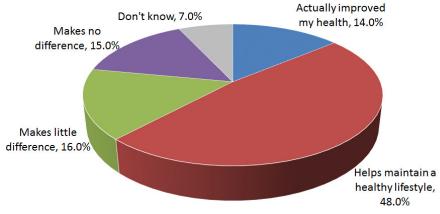
Physical Condition of the Parks- 2014 Survey Results



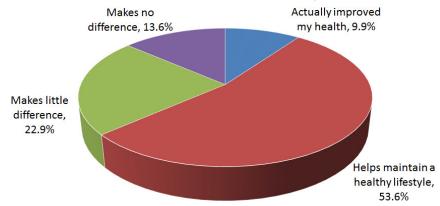
Question 8

The following charts compare the difference respondents said the Park District makes to their households health between 2010 and 2014.



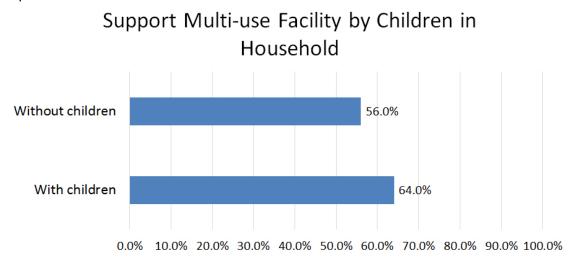


What Difference did the PDOP Make in Your Households Health- 2014 Survey Results



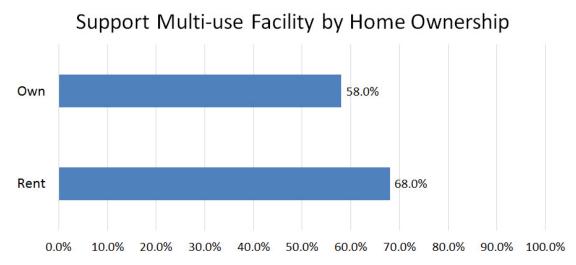
Question 9

This question asks respondents whether the PDOP should build a new multi-use facility that would house indoor basketball and volleyball courts and a walking track. The following graph compares the responses by households that had children and those without children after eliminating all the undecided respondents and those that didn't answer both questions.



The graph shows a marginal higher level of support by households with children at 64% compared to households without children at 56%.

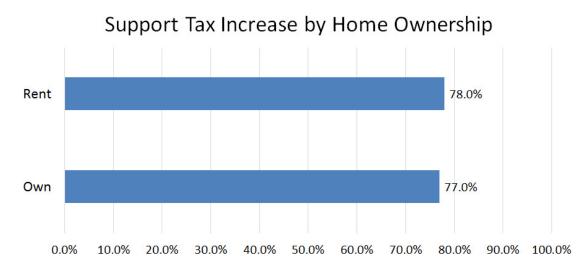
The following graph compares support for a multi-use facility by those who rent and those who own after eliminating all the undecided respondents and those that didn't answer both questions.



The graph shows renters tend to support the construction of a multi-use facility at somewhat higher levels than those households that own their own homes.

Question 9A

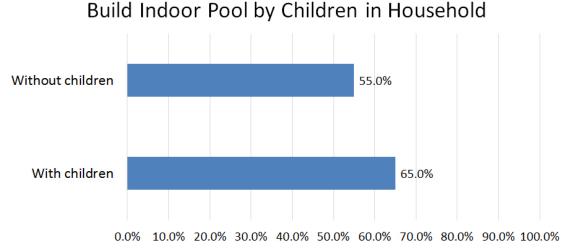
Question 9a asks respondents if they would support a \$2 per month tax increase to build a multi-use facility. Comparing respondents' answers by whether they owned or rented their residences, the following graph makes that comparison after eliminating all the undecided respondents and those that didn't answer both questions.



The graph shows there is practically no difference between home owners and renters.

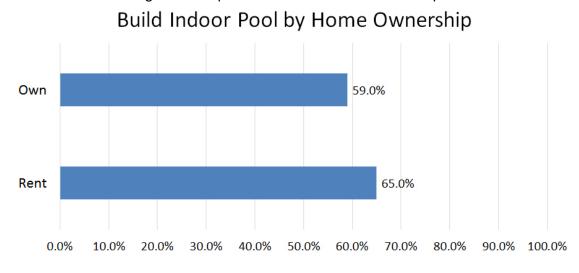
Question 10

Question 10 asks respondents to state whether they believed the PDOP should build an indoor pool. After eliminating all of those respondents who didn't answer either of the questions, the following graph compares the responses of those households that had children against the ones that did not have children or didn't answer the questions.



The graph shows that 65% of those households with children said an swimming pool should be built compared to 55% of those without children, a relatively significant difference.

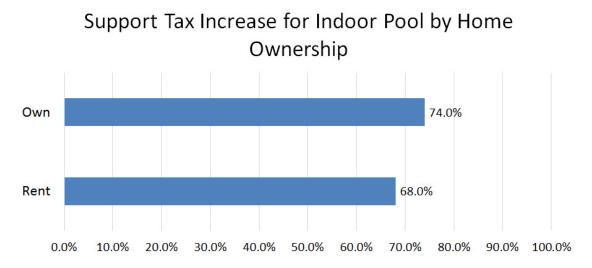
The following graph compares respondents who said they rented their dwelling units compared to those who said they owned them after eliminating those respondents who didn't answer the questions or were not sure.



The data suggests that there is a difference of 6% between owners and renters supporting the construction and operation of an indoor swimming pool, with 59% of homeowners in favor and 65% of renters.

Question 10A

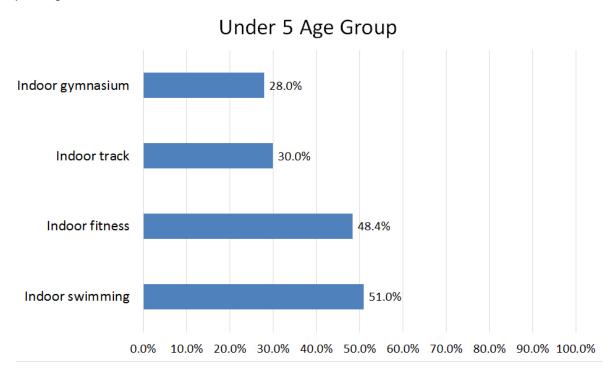
Question 10a asked respondents whether they would support a tax increase of \$4 per month per \$100,000 of assessed home value to build an indoor pool. The following graph compares homeowners to renters after those who didn't answer both questions were eliminated or simply didn't know.

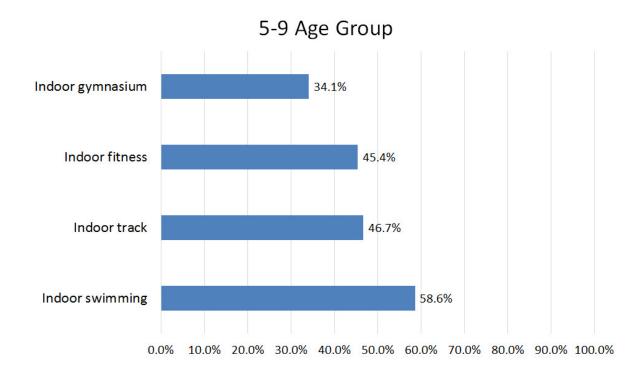


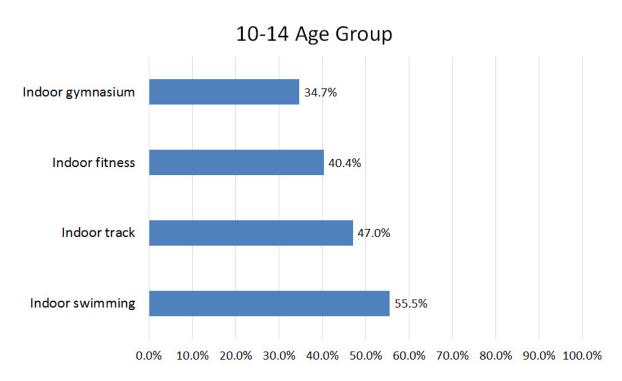
The graph shows that homeowners were slightly more in favor of paying increased property taxes than renters, with 74% of them supporting the tax increase compared to 68% of renters.

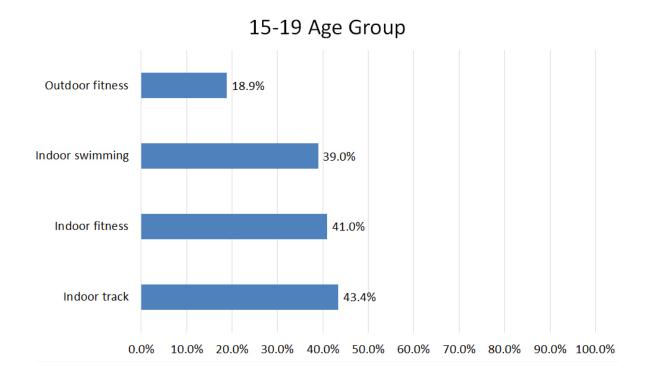
Question 14A

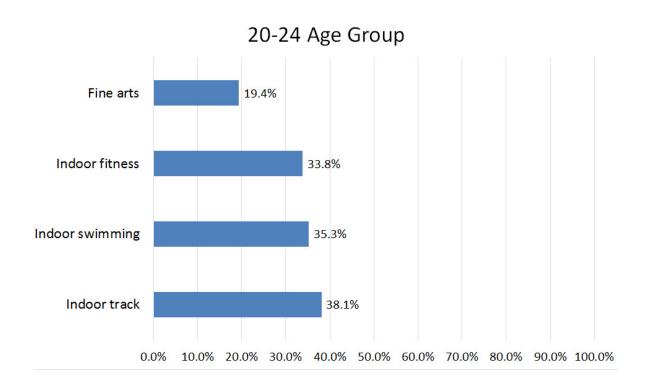
Question 14a asked respondents to rank which four parks & recreation facilities that the Park District of Oak Park does not have were most important to their household from a list in question 14. The following graphs compares demographic age breakdowns and if kids were in the household or not.

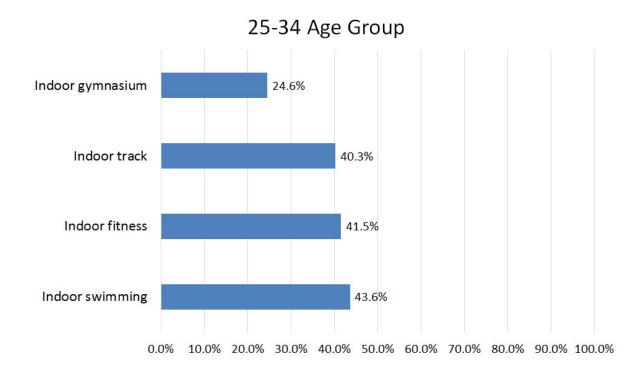


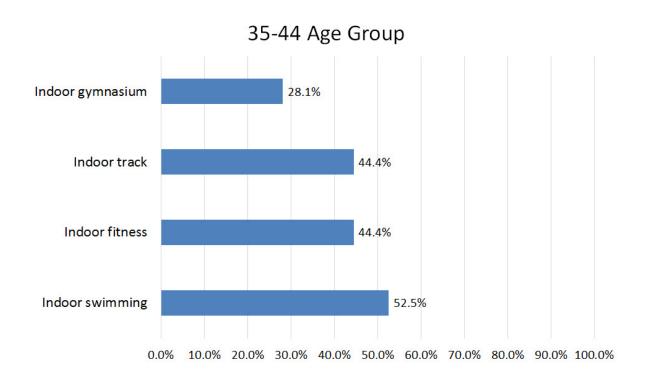


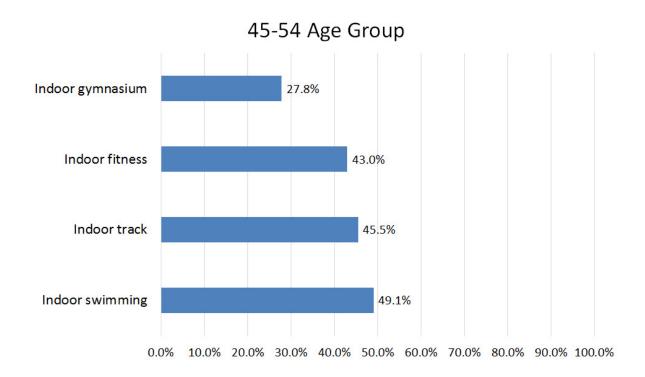


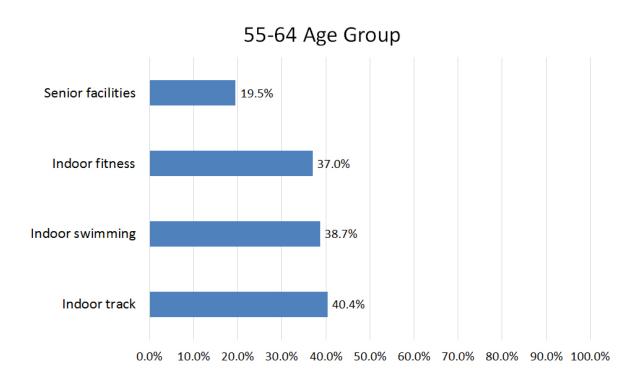


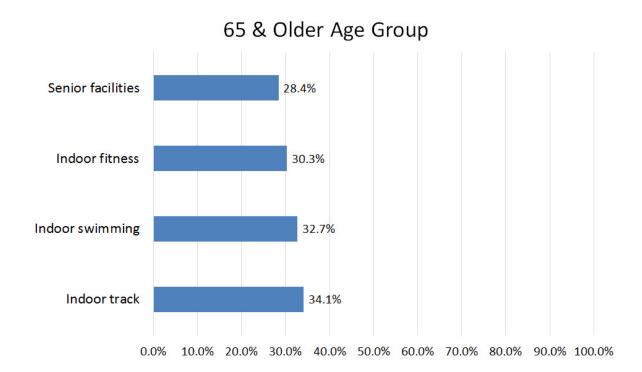


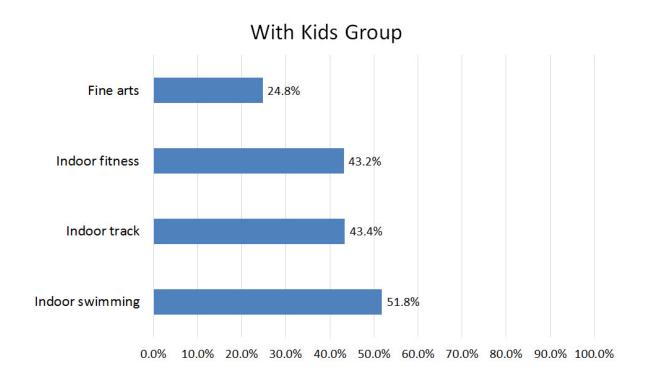


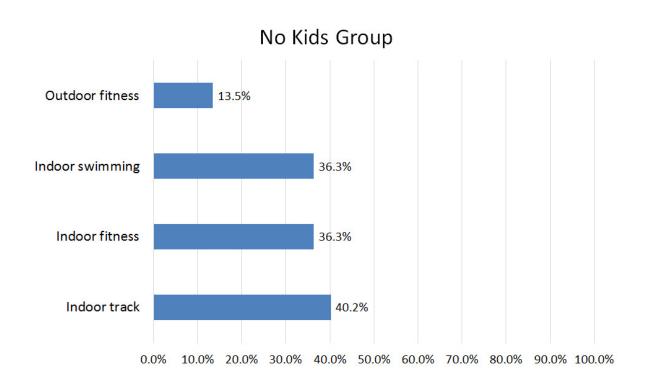












Conclusions

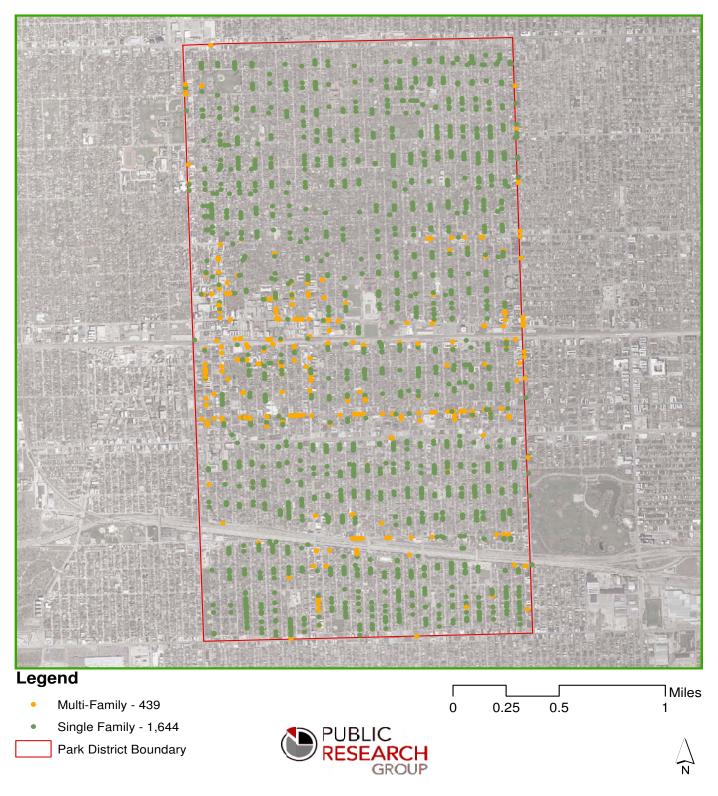
This study had a number of goals which PRG believes were achieved. One goal was to measure the levels of satisfaction for the Park District of Oak Park in general and for specific services, including the use of parks and facilities. Another goal was to measure program and facility usage, rank their importance and determine if use met their needs. Still another goal was to measure the media with which the public learns about the Park District and feelings about the website specifically. And another goal was to determine if the public favors the construction of new indoor facilities and would be willing to pay for them.

The findings from this study identified the most popular programs, the use of facilities and that the public was in favor of constructing new indoor facilities as long as they included a walking/ running track, fitness center and indoor pool. Those that had an opinion were in favor of paying for these new facilities, but a majority of people were undecided.

Finally, PRG found that, unlike many other Park Districts in Illinois, Oak Park residents rely heavily on the website as a means of communication. Typically, residents rely more on the printed seasonal brochures, but Oak Park is unique in its high volume of website users. That finding suggests that the Park District of Oak Park should continue to focus on its electronic communication as well as social media in the future.

Appendix

Park District of Oak Park | Survey Responses





Park District of Oak Park Questionnaire

The Park District of Oak Park would like your input to help determine park and recreation priorities for our community. Your "household" refers to you and those residing in your home. This survey will take up to 15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. All responses to this survey are anonymous and confidential. Please note that the Park District of Oak Park is a separate, autonomous agency, independent from the governance of the Village of Oak Park.

6	How would you characterize your overall satisfaction with the Park District of Oak Park?						
	Satisfied (Skip to #2)	Not Satisfied (Answer #1a)					
	1a. If you answered "Not Satisfied", pleas (Choose all that apply)	se tell us which area(s) you are not sat	isfied with?				
	Customer Service	Programs					
	Facilities Parks Other (Please specify)	Fees					
	Select the ways in which you learn about the	e Park District of Oak Park. (Choose a	all that apply)				
	Park District seasonal program guide	School fliers/ newsletters					
	Park District website	Promotions at Park District ev					
	Newspaper	Conversations with Park Distr	ict staff				
	Social media e.g. Facebook & Twitter	Park District e-newsletter					
	Materials at Park District facilities	Friends & neighbors					
	Affiliate Organizations (FOPCON, You Other (Please specify)	th Sports Organizations, etc.)					
	Have you or members of your household part the past 12 months?	ticipated in any programs offered by the	he Park District of Oak Park during				
	Yes (Answer #3a)	No (Skip to #4)					
	3a. How would you rate the overall quin?	ality of the programs you and memb	ers of your household participated				
	Excellent	Fair (needs some improvemen	ts)				
	Good	Poor (needs many improveme					
	Have you or other members of your household Oak Park during the past 12 months?	old participated in any group fitness cl	asses offered by the Park District				
	Yes (Skip to #5)	No (Answer #4a)					
	4a. What prevents you from participating	in Park District of Oak Park group fit	ness classes? (Choose all that apply				
	Time classes offered	Lack of childcare	Quality of fitness space				
	Quality of instructors	Cost	Types of classes offered				
		ons such as monthly pass/ punch pass					
	I take group fitness classes from a						
	Not interested in group fitness cla	isses					
	Other (Please specify)						

1

53

5. Indicate if YOU or ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD uses the following program offerings. If YES, does the Park District meet your needs by circling YES or NO below.

	Type of Program		this ram?	If YES, Does the Park District meet your needs?	
A	Preschool & Early Childhood Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
В	Youth Aquatics & Swim Lesson Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
С	Youth Art Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
D			No	Yes	No
Е			No	Yes	No
F	Youth Gymnastics Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
G	Youth Ice Hockey Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
Н	Youth Ice Skating Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
I	Youth Martial Arts Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
J	Youth Environmental Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
K	Youth Gardening Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
L	Youth Sports Programs & Leagues	Yes	No	Yes	No
М	Youth Summer Camps	Yes	No	Yes	No
N	After School Care	Yes	No	Yes	No
0	Other Youth Special Interest Programs (Cooking, Crafts, Technology, etc.)		No	Yes	No
P	Teen Programs & Events	Yes	No	Yes	No
Q	Adult Aquatic & Swim Lesson Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
R	Adult Art Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
S	Adult Dance Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
Т	Adult Gymnastics Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
U	Adult Ice Hockey Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
V	Adult Ice Skating Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
W	Adult Fitness Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
X	Adult Martial Arts Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
Y	Adult Environmental Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
Z	Adult Gardening Programs	Yes	No	Yes	No
AA	Adult Sports Programs & Leagues	Yes	No	Yes	No
AB	Other Adult Special Interest Programs (Cooking, Crafts, Technology, etc.)	Yes	No	Yes	No
AC	Senior Programs & Events	Yes	No	Yes	No
AD	Family Special Events (such as Egg Hunt, Santa Trolley, etc.)	Yes	No	Yes	No
AE	Community Wide Special Events (such as Frank Lloyd Wright Races, Concerts in the Parks, etc.)	Yes	No	Yes	No

5a.	write in the letter	ograms that you use from corresponding to your important to your house.	1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th		,		
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	NONE		
5b.	If you indicated above that your needs are not being met in any areas above, what specific programs are you looking for?						
	Plea	ase answer the question	s on the reverse side o	of this page.	2		

3

0.	riave y	you of members of your nous	senoid vis	incu any	raik District of	Oak Falk palks	during the past y	cai:
	Ye	es (Answer #6a)		N	o (Skip to #7)			
6a. Overall how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks in Oak Park that you have vi						ve visited?		
		Excellent Good			air (needs some oor (needs many)	
7.	past 12	te if YOU or ANY MEMBER 2 months by circling YES or er to the right.						
		Facility		this	If YES, ho	w would you ra	te the physical	condition?
			Faci	lity?	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Co	nservato	ory	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
Gy	mnastics	s & Recreation Center	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
His	toric Pr	operties	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
Ne	ighborh	ood Community Centers	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
Rel	nm Outo	loor Pool	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
9.	The Park District helps to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The Park District has actually improved my health or the health of someone in my household. Do you believe the Park District of Oak Park should build and operate a multi-use facility that houses indoor courts, volleyball courts and walking track? Yes (Answer #9a) No (Skip to #10) 9a. Would you support a tax increase of \$2 per month per \$100,000 of assessed home values.				value to build			
		a multi-use facility? (Th \$7/month)	e averag					pay less than
		Yes		N	0	Un	sure	
10.		u believe the Park District of	`Oak Parl		_	e an indoor poo	!?	
	Ye	es (Answer #10a)		N	o (Skip to #11)			
	10a.	Would you support a trabuild an indoor pool? (7 \$13/month)						
		Yes		N	o	Un	sure	
11.	-	u believe the Park District of acilities?	f Oak Par					y over building
	Ye	es		N	o			

12.	Have you visited the Park District's website in the past year?	

___ Ycs(Answer #12a) ___ No (Skip to #13)

12a. Rate your household's satisfaction with the Park District of Oak Park's website by circling the corresponding number to the right of each description.

Website	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
General information	5	4	3	2	1
Online program registration	5	4	3	2	1
Park & facility information	5	4	3	2	1
Program & event information	5	4	3	2	1
User friendliness/ Ease of navigation	5	4	3	2	1

13. Indicate if YOU or ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD uses the existing parks and recreation facilities listed below by circling YES or NO next to the park/ facility. If YES, does the Park District meet your needs by circling YES or NO below.

Type of Facility			s type of acility?	If YES, Does the Park District meet your needs?	
A Dance Facilities		Yes	No	Yes	No
В	Gymnastics Facilities	Yes	No	Yes	No
С	Historic Properties	Yes	No	Yes	No
D	Indoor Ice Rinks	Yes	No	Yes	No
Е	Martial Arts Facilities	Yes	No	Yes	No
F	Nature/ Environmental Centers	Yes	No	Yes	No
G	Off-Leash Dog Areas	Yes	No	Yes	No
Н	Outdoor Baseball/ Softball Fields	Yes	No	Yes	No
I	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Yes	No	Yes	No
K	Outdoor Gardens/ Natural Areas	Yes	No	Yes	No
J	Outdoor Ice Rinks	Yes	No	Yes	No
L	Outdoor Skate Parks	Yes	No	Yes	No
М	Outdoor Soccer/ Multipurpose Fields	Yes	No	Yes	No
N	Outdoor Swimming Pools	Yes	No	Yes	No
О	Outdoor Synthetic Turf Sports Fields	Yes	No	Yes	No
P	Outdoor Tennis Courts	Yes	No	Yes	No
Q	Outdoor Volleyball Courts	Yes	No	Yes	No
R	Picnic Shelters	Yes	No	Yes	No
S	Playgrounds	Yes	No	Yes	No
T	Sled Hills	Yes	No	Yes	No
U	Splash Pads/ Spray Areas	Yes	No	Yes	No
V	Walking Paths	Yes	No	Yes	No

13a.	Which FOUR ex	isting parks & recreation	facilities that you use i	from the list above are	e most important to your		
	household? (Please write in the letters corresponding to your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices below, or selec						
	NONE if parks & facilities are not important to your household.)						
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	NONE		

Please answer the questions on the reverse side of this page.

Indicate if YOU or ANYMEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD has a need for the following parks and recreation facilities
that the Park District of Oak Park does not currently have listed below by circling YES or NO next to the park/facility.

	Type of Park/ Facility	Do you need this ty	pe of park/ facility?
Α	Arts Facilities	Yes	No
В	Badminton Courts	Yes	No
С	Facilities for Teens	Yes	No
D	Facilities for Seniors	Yes	No
Е	Frisbee Golf Courses	Yes	No
F	Indoor Fitness & Exercise Facilities	Yes	No
G	Indoor Gymnasiums (Basketball, Volleyball, etc.)	Yes	No
Η	Indoor Running/ Walking Tracks	Yes	No
Ι	Indoor Swimming Pools	Yes	No
J	Indoor Synthetic Turf Sports Fields	Yes	No
K	Outdoor Fitness Equipment/ Areas	Yes	No
L	Outdoor Roller Hockey Rinks	Yes	No
M	Pickleball Courts	Yes	No
Ν	Platform Tennis Courts	Yes	No

14a.	Which FOUR parks & recreation facilities from the list above that the Park District of Oak Park does not
	currently have are most important to your household? (Please write in the letters corresponding to your 1st,
	2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices below, or select NONE if parks & facilities are not important to your household.)

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	NONE		
15.	How long have you li	ved in Oak Park?	Years				
16.	Do you own or rent y	our residence? (Select	one)				
	Own		Rent				
17.	Your gender?						
	Male		Female				
18. What are the genders and ages of those in your household? (M or F/Age)							
	/	/			_/_		
19.	How would you descr	ribe your race? (Please	check all that apply)				
	Asian/ Pacific Isl White/ Caucasian American Indian	7/07/70/7/P	Black/ African An Hispanic/ Latino/ Other:				
20.	What is the one idea to	hat you feel would be b	peneficial for the Park Dis	strict to implement in t	he next 5 years?		
21.	Please share any additional comments.						

Thank you for your time and effort. Please return your completed survey in the enclosed stamped envelope by Wednesday, July 2nd.