

# CITY OF MINNETONKA PARK SYSTEM PLAN



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

AUGUST 2021

DF/ DAMON FARBER

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## WHAT IS A PARK SYSTEM PLAN?

A Park System Plan is a 10-15 year road map for planning and implementing park improvements, helping the City prioritize park improvements and ensure that changes and investments to parks trails and open space fit into the bigger picture of serving the needs of the entire community.

- Reflects the needs, values and preferences of the community
- Establishes a long-range (10-15 year) vision for the future of the park and recreation system
- Aligns investments with community needs to establish clear and realistic goals, objectives, and implementation strategies, including prioritization and budgeting for Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) for new and replacement park amenities
- Aligns with the Natural Resources Master Plan (NRMP) to preserve, protect and restore open space and significant natural resources in Minnetonka
- Aligns with the Trail Improvement Plan (TIP) to provide opportunities for people of all abilities & comfort levels to use active transportation and access parks and open spaces
- Fills gaps and reduces redundancy
- Identifies opportunities for partnerships
- Strengthens grant application opportunities
- Identifies needs and opportunities for future development of parks trails and open space

## PROJECT UPDATES

Project updates and information about milestones are shared on <https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/services/projects/development-studies/parks-open-space-and-trail-system-plan-update> and via the email subscription as it becomes available. Anticipated timelines for project milestones are listed below.

- Inventory and needs assessment: April/May 2021
- Community Engagement: June-August 2021
- Visioning: August 2021
- Draft plans: September/October
- Drafts reviewed by park board and city council: November 2021
- Approval and adoption: December 2021/January 2022

## PROJECT SUPPORT

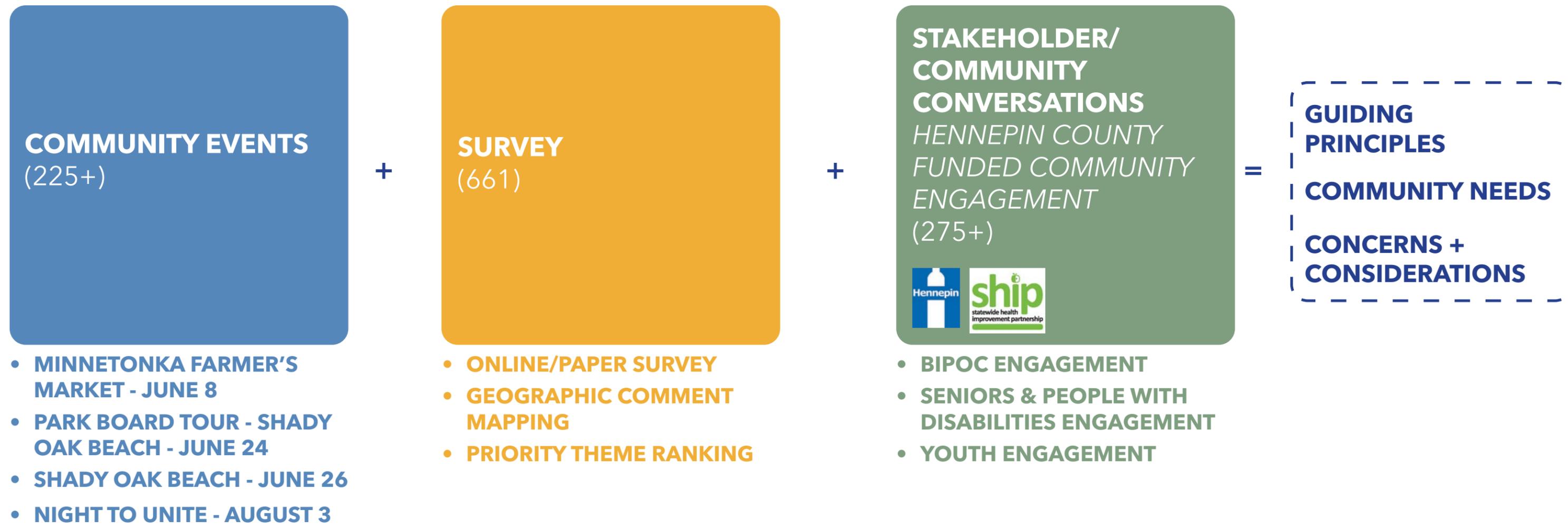
The city has received project support from Hennepin County Active Living funded through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), Minnesota Department of Health, to deepen community outreach and engagement. This support supplements the planned engagement activities listed above by adding additional resources to specifically engage underrepresented communities, including BIPOC, seniors, youth, and persons with disabilities.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

To help identify and understand the values, needs and preferences of the community to create a Park System Plan that will meet the community's needs, input from numerous groups of people has been gathered through events, surveys, and stakeholder/community conversations. This effort has been intentional to reach out to traditionally underrepresented groups including seniors, youth, BIPOC, and people with disabilities to ensure this new park will be an asset for the whole community.

This extensive process has been undertaken with the City of Minnetonka with the support of SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program) and Hennepin County through an Active Living Technical Assistance grant. Engagement events / activities are shown below, which together have resulted in fruitful information for how the city can create the parks that Minnetonka residents want and need.



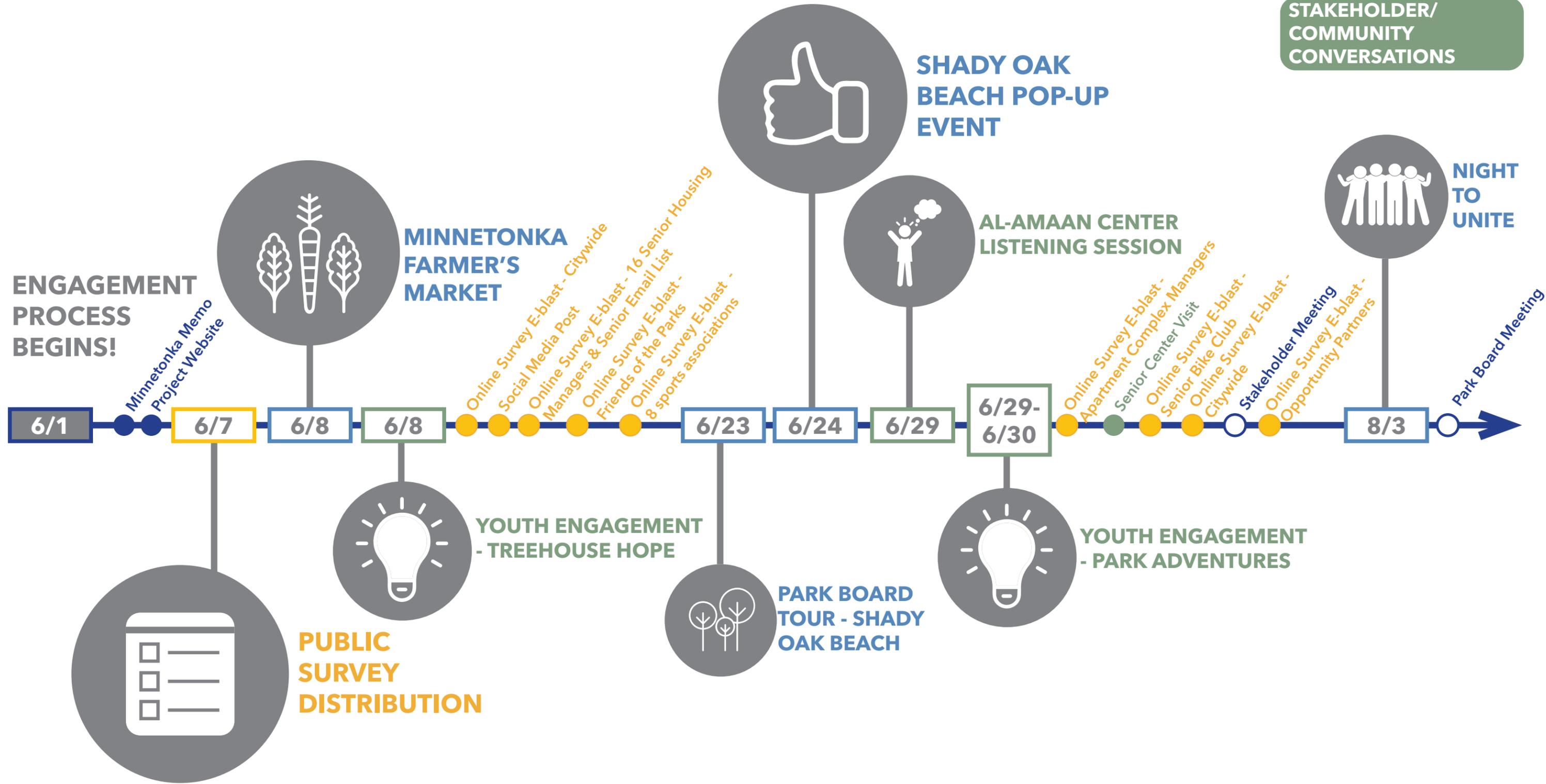
# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**SURVEY**

**STAKEHOLDER/COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

COMMUNITY EVENTS  
SURVEY  
STAKEHOLDER



# COMMUNITY EVENTS OVERVIEW

## MINNETONKA FARMER'S MARKET

June 8  
174 votes cast

## SHADY OAK BEACH POP-UP EVENT

June 24  
222 votes cast

## NIGHT TO UNITE NEIGHBORHOOD POP-UPS

August 3  
109 votes cast

COMMUNITY EVENTS

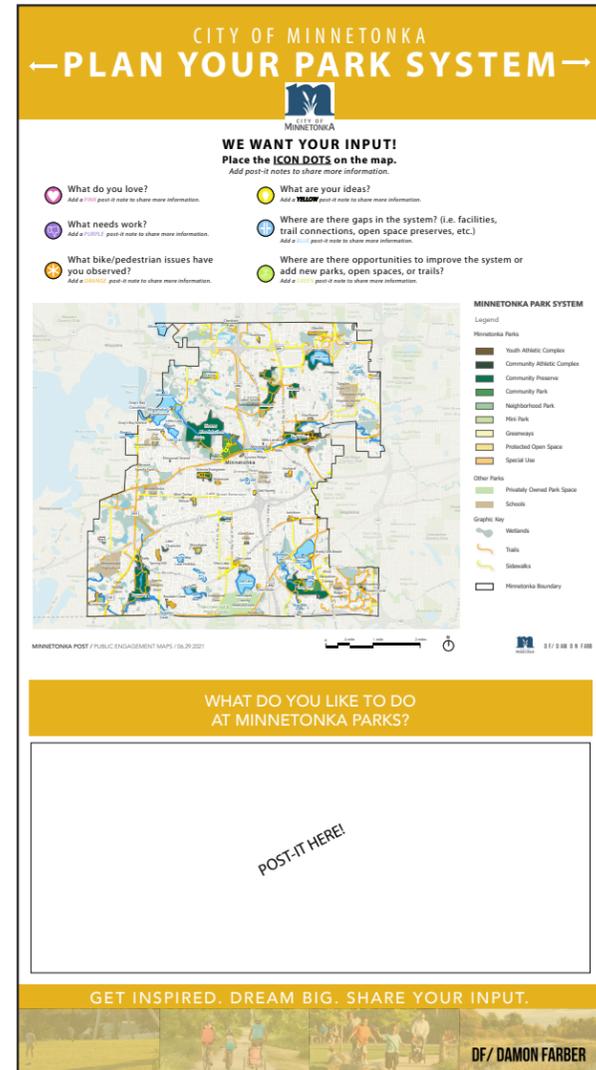


# COMMUNITY EVENTS - DOT VOTING

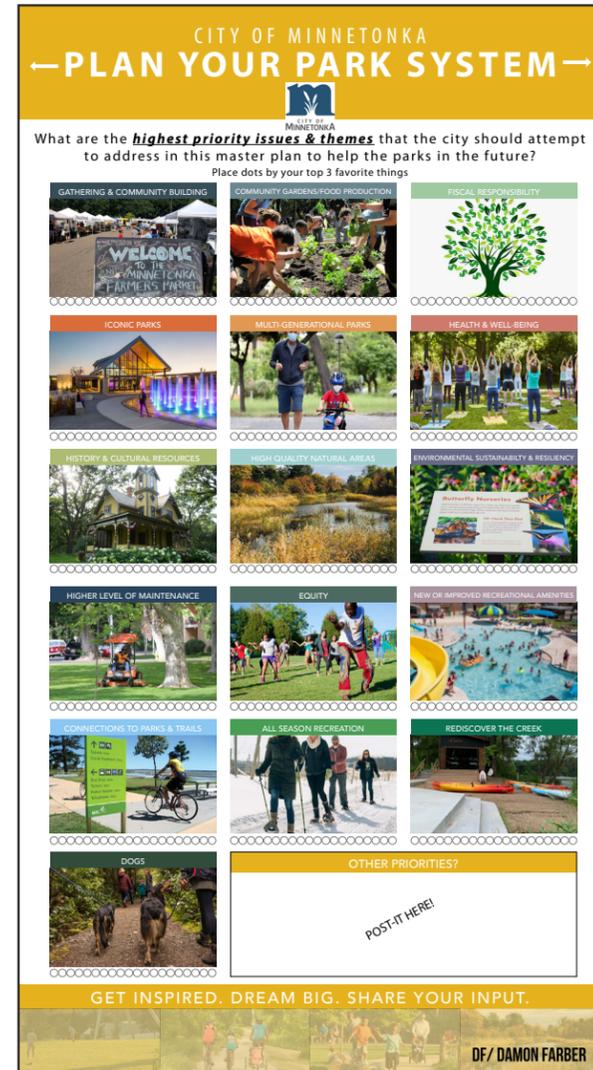
Three large image boards were used to engage, familiarize people with the Park System Plan project and to start conversations about what they envision for future of the parks and trail system. Using dot-stickers, participants selected what their highest priority issues and themes and new/additional things that they would like to do in the parks. Participants were also asked to place icons and comments on a map of the City of Minnetonka. An area was also dedicated for people to post additional comments, suggestions, and concerns.

The voting boards complimented the online survey and were used to help reach alternative audiences. More non-residents and youth participated in the dot-voting than in the online survey.

## 1. GEOGRAPHIC COMMENT MAPPING & POST-IT COMMENTS



## 2. DOT PREFERENCE - HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUES & THEMES



## 3. DOT PREFERENCE - NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN THE PARKS



## EVENTS WHERE USED



**SHADY OAK BEACH**  
222 votes cast



**MINNETONKA FARMER'S MARKET**  
174 votes cast

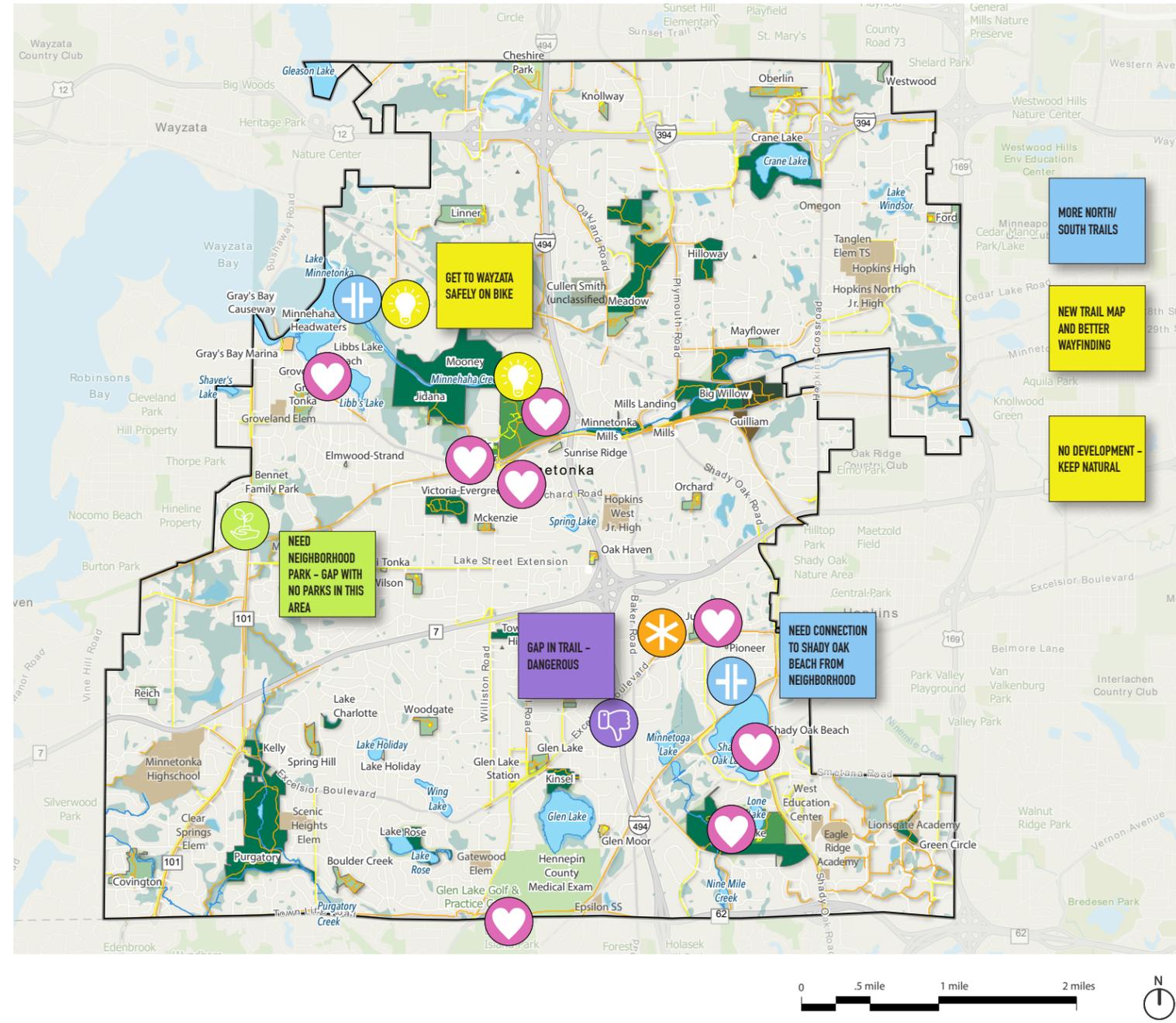


**NIGHT TO UNITE**  
109 votes cast

AMOUNT OF INPUT

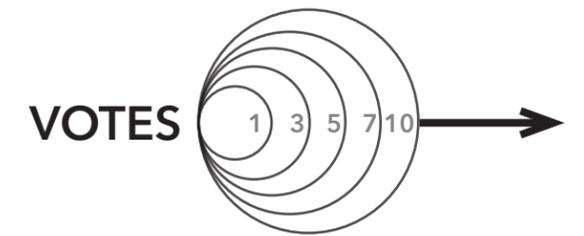
# 1. GEOGRAPHIC COMMENT MAPPING & POST-IT RESPONSES

-  **What do you love?**  
Add a **PINK** post-it note to share more information.
-  **What needs work?**  
Add a **PURPLE** post-it note to share more information.
-  **What bike/pedestrian issues have you observed?**  
Add a **ORANGE** post-it note to share more information.
-  **What are your ideas?**  
Add a **YELLOW** post-it note to share more information.
-  **Where are there gaps in the system? (i.e. facilities, trail connections, open space preserves, etc.)**  
Add a **BLUE** post-it note to share more information.
-  **Where are there opportunities to improve the system or add new parks, open spaces, or trails?**  
Add a **GREEN** post-it note to share more information.



## 2. HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUES & THEMES THAT THE CITY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS IN THE PLAN TO HELP THE PARKS IN THE FUTURE - IMAGERY RESPONSE

## DOT VOTING



### DOT VOTING TAKEAWAYS:

- HAVING **NEW OR IMPROVED RECREATIONAL AMENITIES** WAS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUE/THEME AT THE COMMUNITY EVENTS
- THE NEXT HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUES/THEMES AT THE COMMUNITY EVENTS ARE:
  - **ICONIC PARKS**
  - **GATHERING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING**
  - **ALL SEASON RECREATION**



<p><b>GATHERING &amp; COMMUNITY BUILDING</b></p> <p>11</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY GARDENS/ FOOD PRODUCTION</b></p> <p>4</p>	<p><b>FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY</b></p> <p>0</p>	<p><b>NEW OR IMPROVED RECREATIONAL AMENITIES</b></p> <p>23</p>
<p><b>ICONIC PARKS</b></p> <p>13</p>	<p><b>MULTI-GENERATIONAL PARKS</b></p> <p>3</p>	<p><b>HEALTH &amp; WELL-BEING</b></p> <p>3</p>	<p><b>EQUITY</b></p> <p>6</p>
<p><b>HISTORY &amp; CULTURAL RESOURCES</b></p> <p>10</p>	<p><b>HIGH QUALITY NATURAL AREAS</b></p> <p>10</p>	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY &amp; RESILIENCY</b></p> <p>9</p>	<p><b>HIGHER LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE</b></p> <p>1</p>
<p><b>CONNECTIONS TO PARKS &amp; TRAILS</b></p> <p>10</p>	<p><b>ALL SEASON RECREATION</b></p> <p>11</p>	<p><b>REDISCOVER THE CREEK</b></p> <p>9</p>	<p><b>DOGS</b></p> <p>3</p>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 3. NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS - IMAGERY RESPONSE #1- #15

### DOT VOTING

COMMUNITY EVENTS

1. MORE PAVED OFF-STREET TRAILS



9

2. MORE PAVED NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS



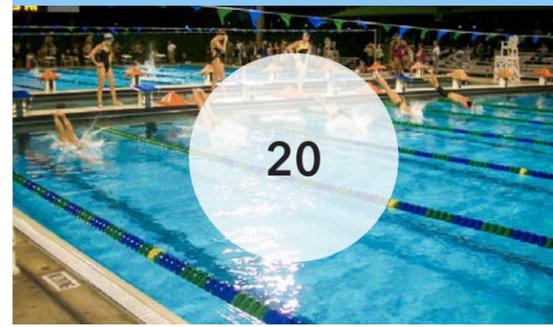
10

3. IMPROVE NATURAL AREAS SUCH AS BY VOLUNTEERING



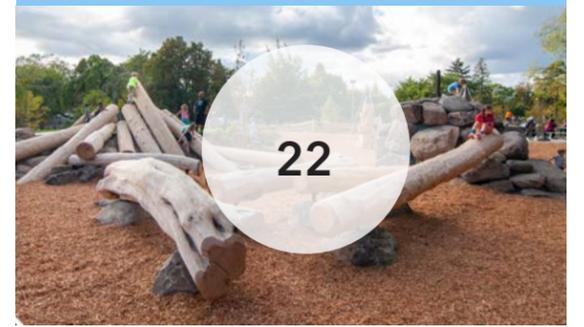
5

4. YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY



20

5. NATURE PLAY AREAS



22

6. FULLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS



10

7. NINJA WARRIOR STYLE PLAYGROUND



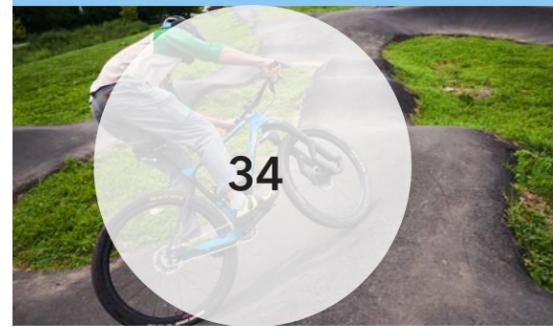
16

8. MORE ART & CULTURAL EVENTS



9

9. BICYCLE PLAYGROUND/PUMPTRACK



34

10. ROCK CLIMBING OR BOULDERING



29

11. ICE SKATING TRAIL/LOOP



19

12. MORE UNDERREPRESENTED SPORTS (LACROSSE, CRICKET, E-SPORTS, ETC.)



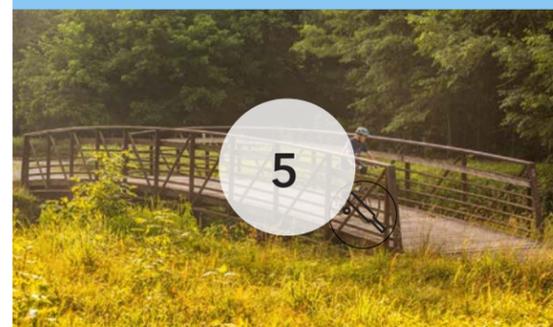
6

13. TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO AREAS OUTSIDE THE CITY



4

14. BOARDWALKS IN WETLAND AREAS



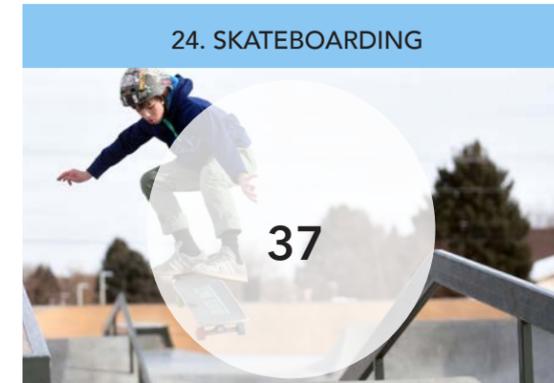
5

15. CROSS-COUNTRY SKI / SNOWSHOE TRAILS



3

COMMUNITY EVENTS



**DOT VOTING TAKEAWAYS:**

- **SKATEBOARDING AND HAVING A BICYCLE PLAYGROUND/PUMP TRACK** WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT NEW/ADDITIONAL THING TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS FOR COMMUNITY EVENT PARTICIPANTS
- THE NEXT MOST POPULAR NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO ARE:
  - ROCK CLIMBING OR BOULDERING
  - SPECIAL EVENTS
  - NATURE PLAY AREAS
  - YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY
  - PICKLEBALL COURTS

# COMMUNITY SURVEY - SUMMARY

A 30-question public survey was available to collect feedback between 6/7/2021 and 8/7/2021 and publicized through mailers, social media, and at events. Respondents could participate online or hard copies were available at the Minnetonka Senior Advisory Committee, the Community Center, community events, and stakeholder engagement/listening sessions.

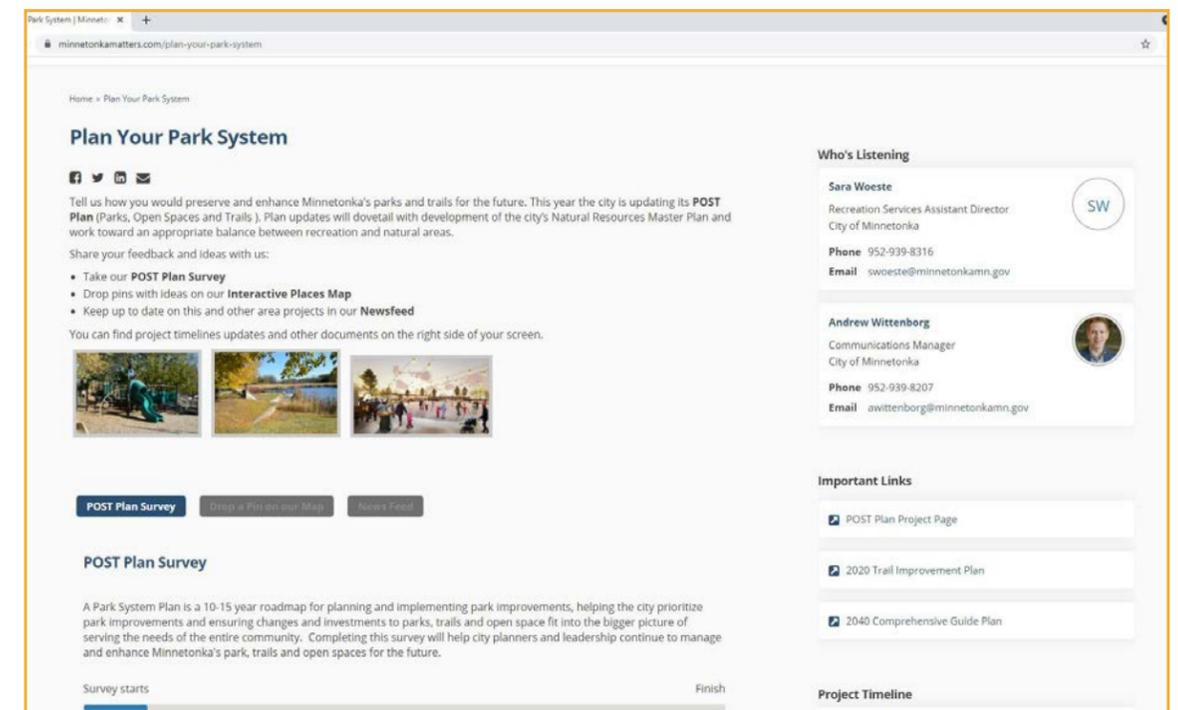
In total, **661** people responded.

## MINNETONKA MATTERS - HUB FOR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Minnetonka Matters was the hub for the online engagement and provided communications, information about the existing park system, and provided two main ways to engage with the Park System Plan:

1. SURVEY - 30 QUESTIONS
2. GEOGRAPHIC COMMENT MAPPING

<https://www.minnetonkamatters.com/plan-your-park-system>

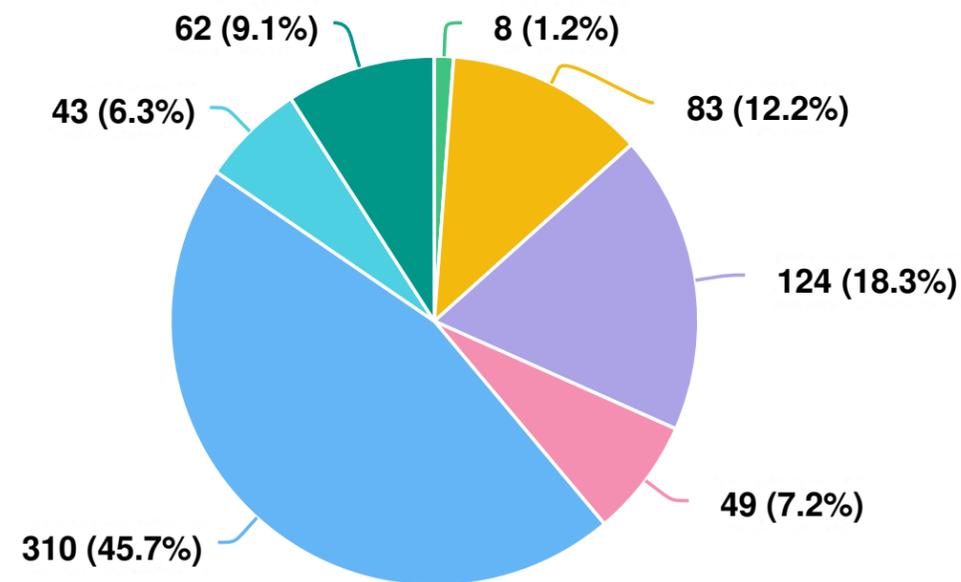


# COMMUNITY SURVEY - SUMMARY

The following section summarizes the results of the key engagement activities for the community engagement survey for the City of Minnetonka Park System Plan.



## How did you hear about this project?



ALMOST 46% OF RESPONDENTS HEARD OF THIS PROJECT THROUGH EMAIL, FOLLOWED BY 18% FROM THE MINNETONKA MEMO AND ABOUT 12% FROM A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR.

### Question options

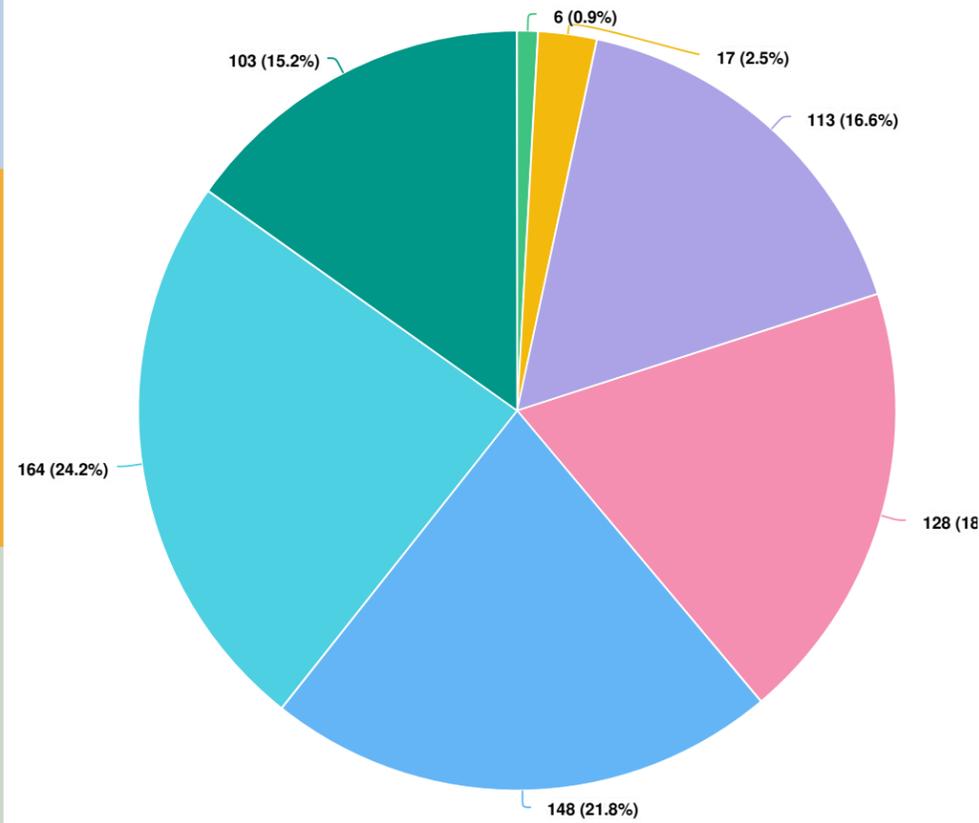
- Farmers Market
- Friend/neighbor
- Minnetonka Memo
- Social Media
- Email
- Signs in public spaces
- Other (please specify)

# COMMUNITY SURVEY - DEMOGRAPHICS

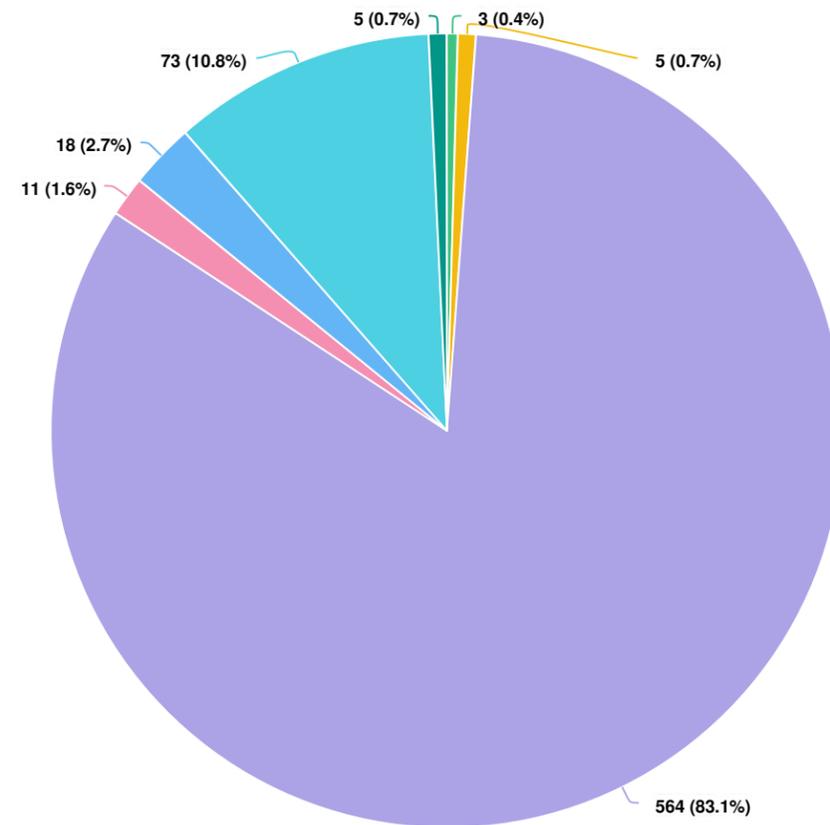
OVER 92% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS WERE MINNETONKA RESIDENTS. OVER 60% HAD LIVED IN MINNETONKA FOR 11+ YEARS.

THE SURVEY MAINLY REACHED PEOPLE AGES 31-71+. ALMOST 60% OF RESPONDENTS WERE WOMEN.

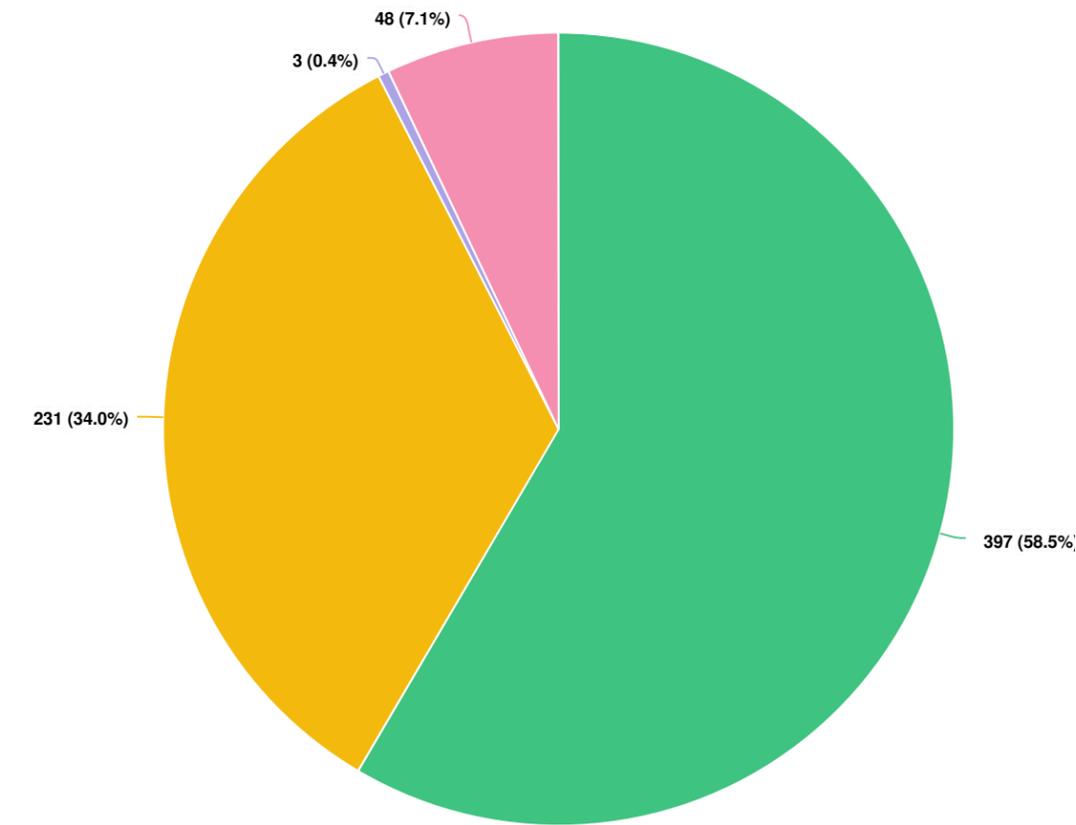
What is your age?



What race or ethnicity do you identify as?



What gender do you identify as?



Question options

- 0-17
- 18-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- 71-80

Question options

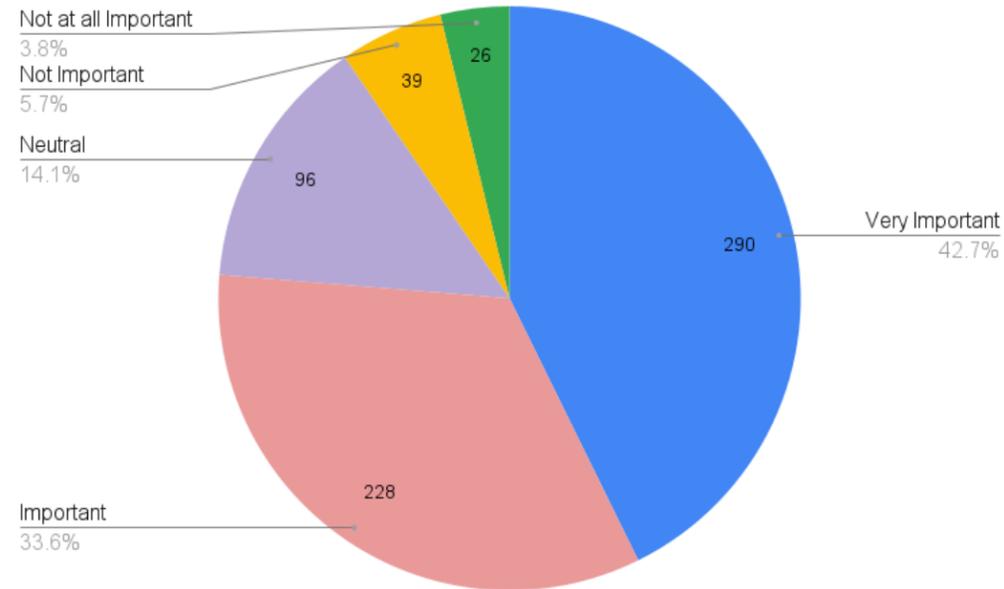
- Hispanic/LatinX
- Black or African American
- White
- Prefer not to disclose
- Other (please specify)
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Two or more races/ethnicities

Question options

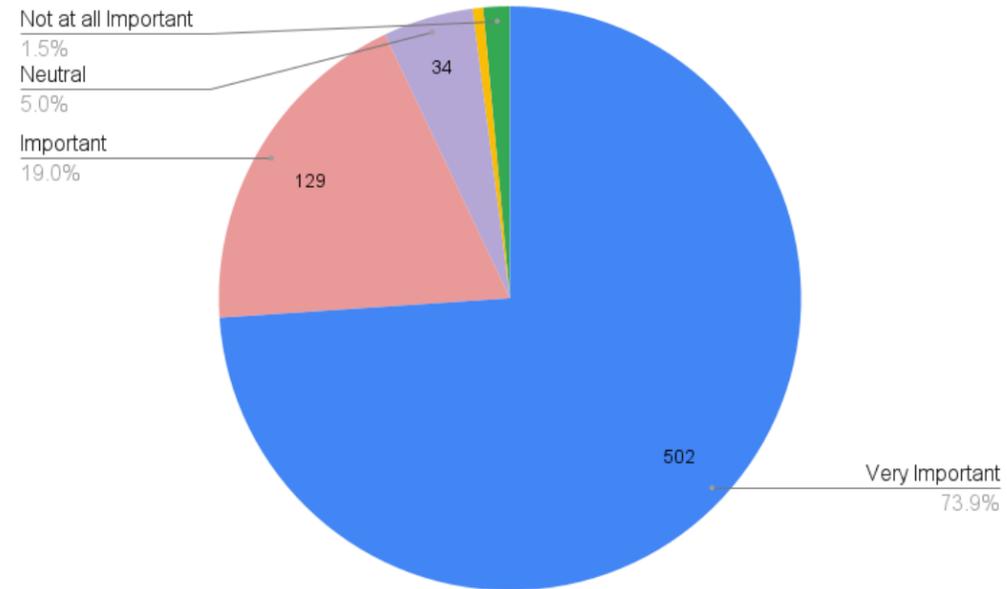
- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to disclose

**How important are the following to the overall quality of life in Minnetonka?  
(Rank EACH on a scale of 1 -5, 1 not important, 5 very important)**

**PARKS WITH RECREATIONAL AMENITIES**



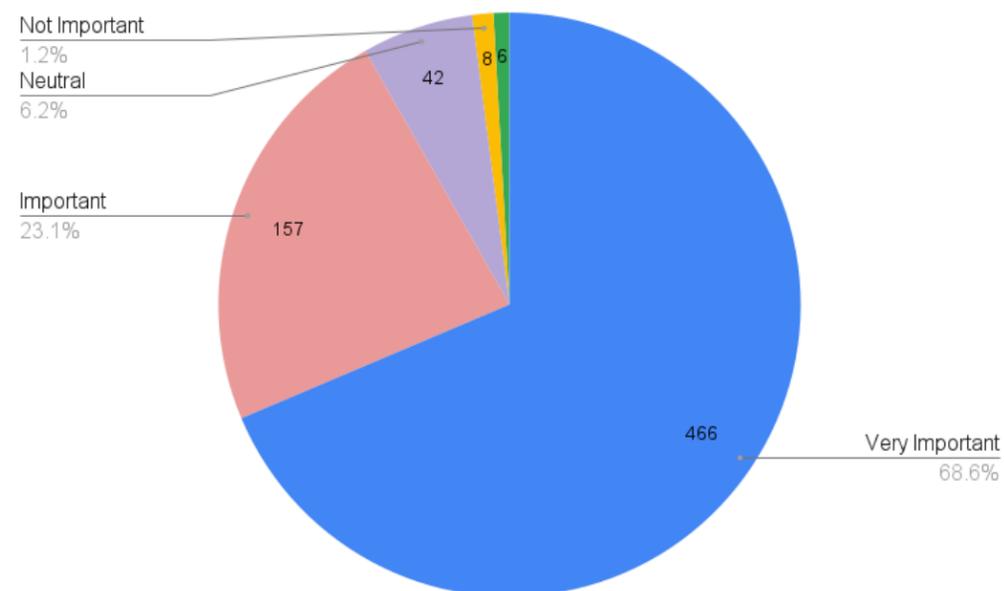
**TRAILS AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS**



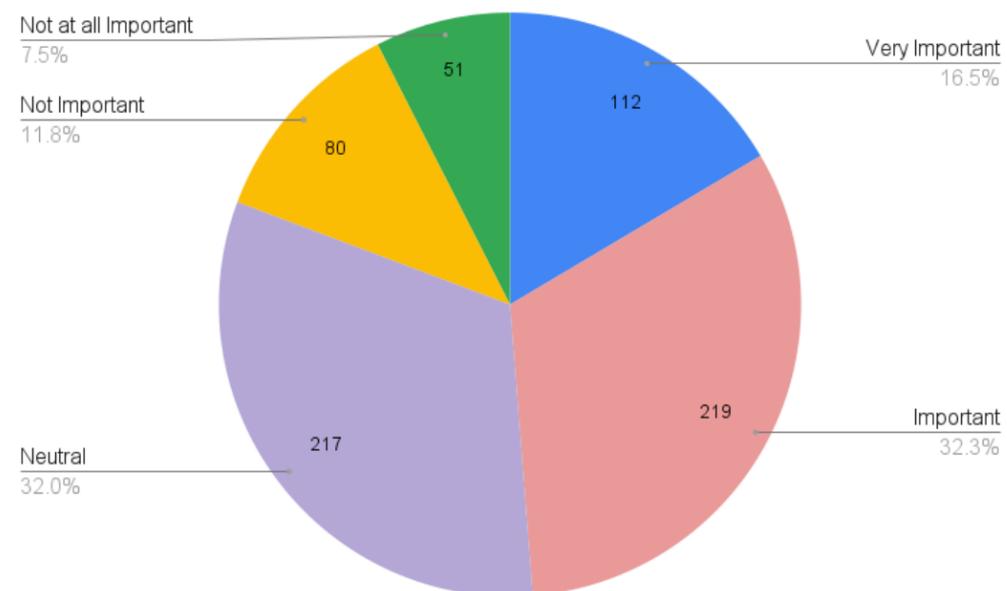
**Question options**

- 5 = very important
- 4 = important
- 3 = neutral
- 2 = not important
- 1 = not at all important

**NATURAL AREAS FOR PASSIVE RECREATION**



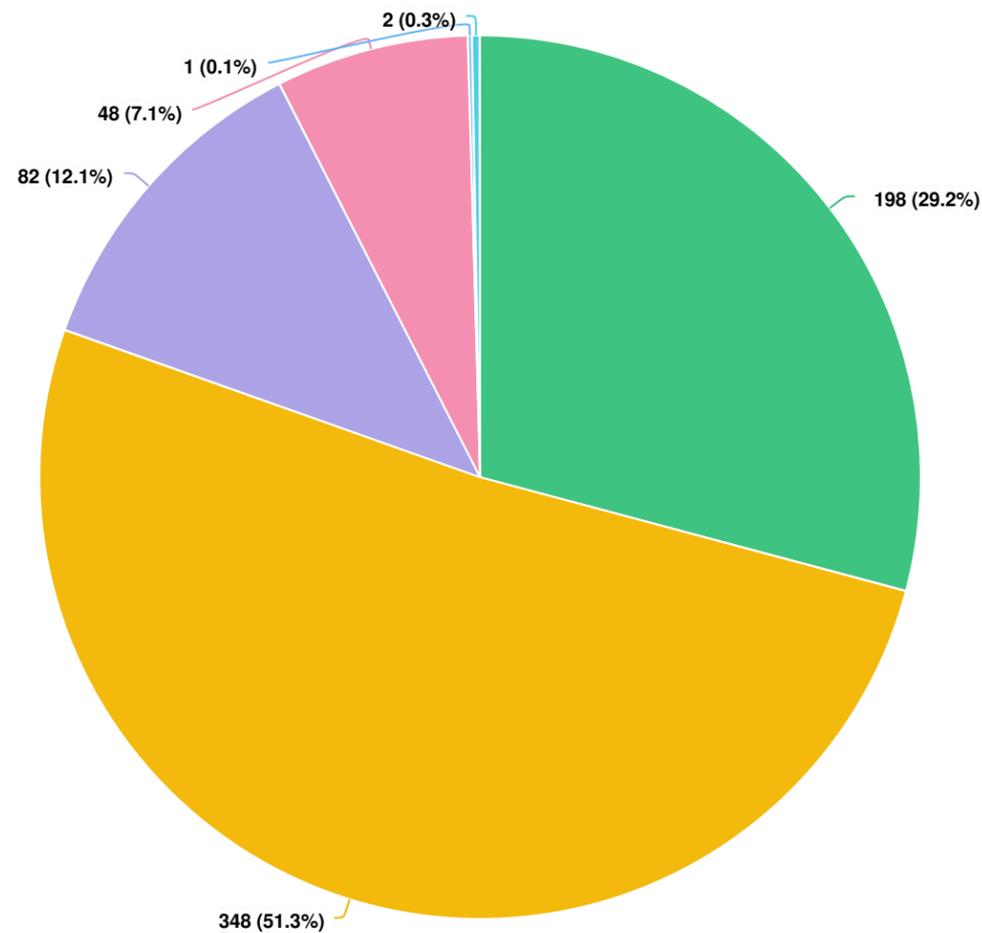
**RECREATION PROGRAMMING**



**TAKEAWAYS:**

- TRAILS AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS AND NATURAL AREAS FOR PASSIVE RECREATION ARE IMPORTANT OR VERY IMPORTANT FOR A COMBINED 94% OF RESPONDENTS.
- PARKS WITH RECREATIONAL AMENITIES ARE IMPORTANT OR VERY IMPORTANT FOR A COMBINED 75% OF PARTICIPANTS.

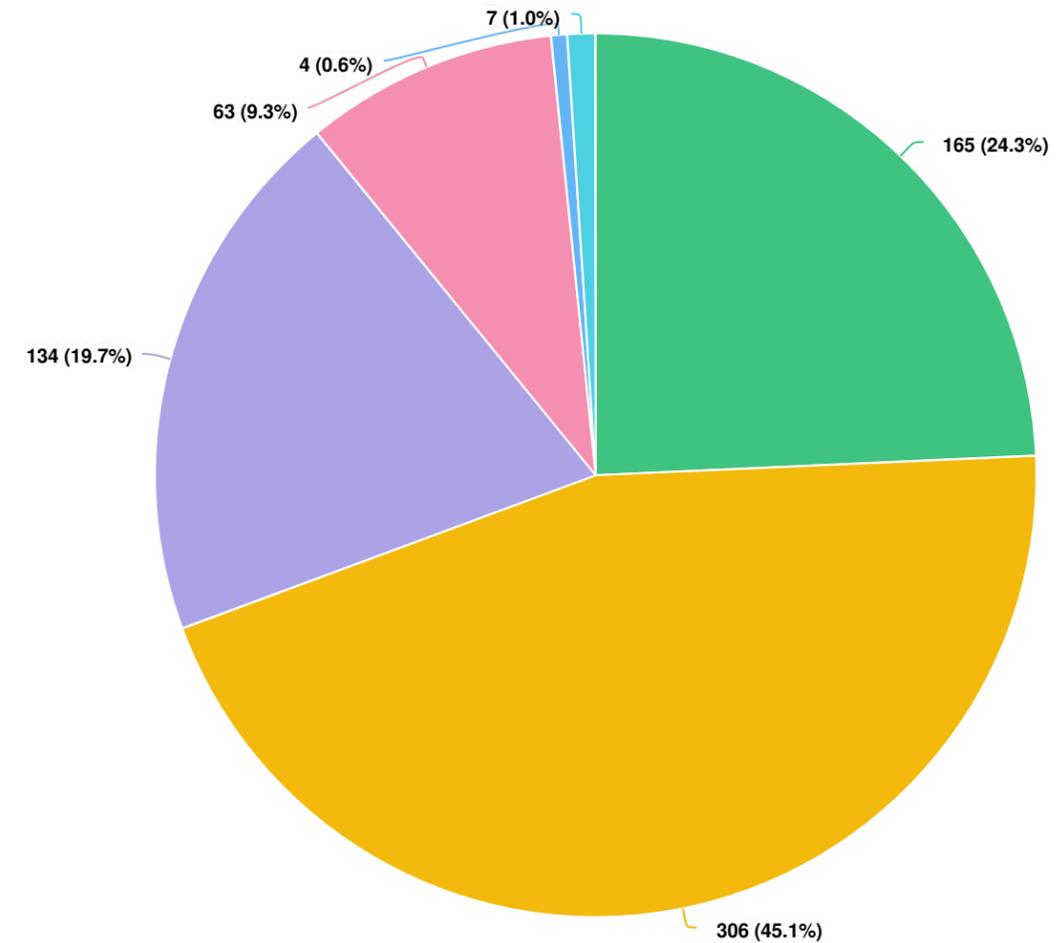
How often do you visit a park in Minnetonka?



Question options

- Don't know
- Never
- Less often
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily

How often do you visit Minnetonka's natural areas?



Question options

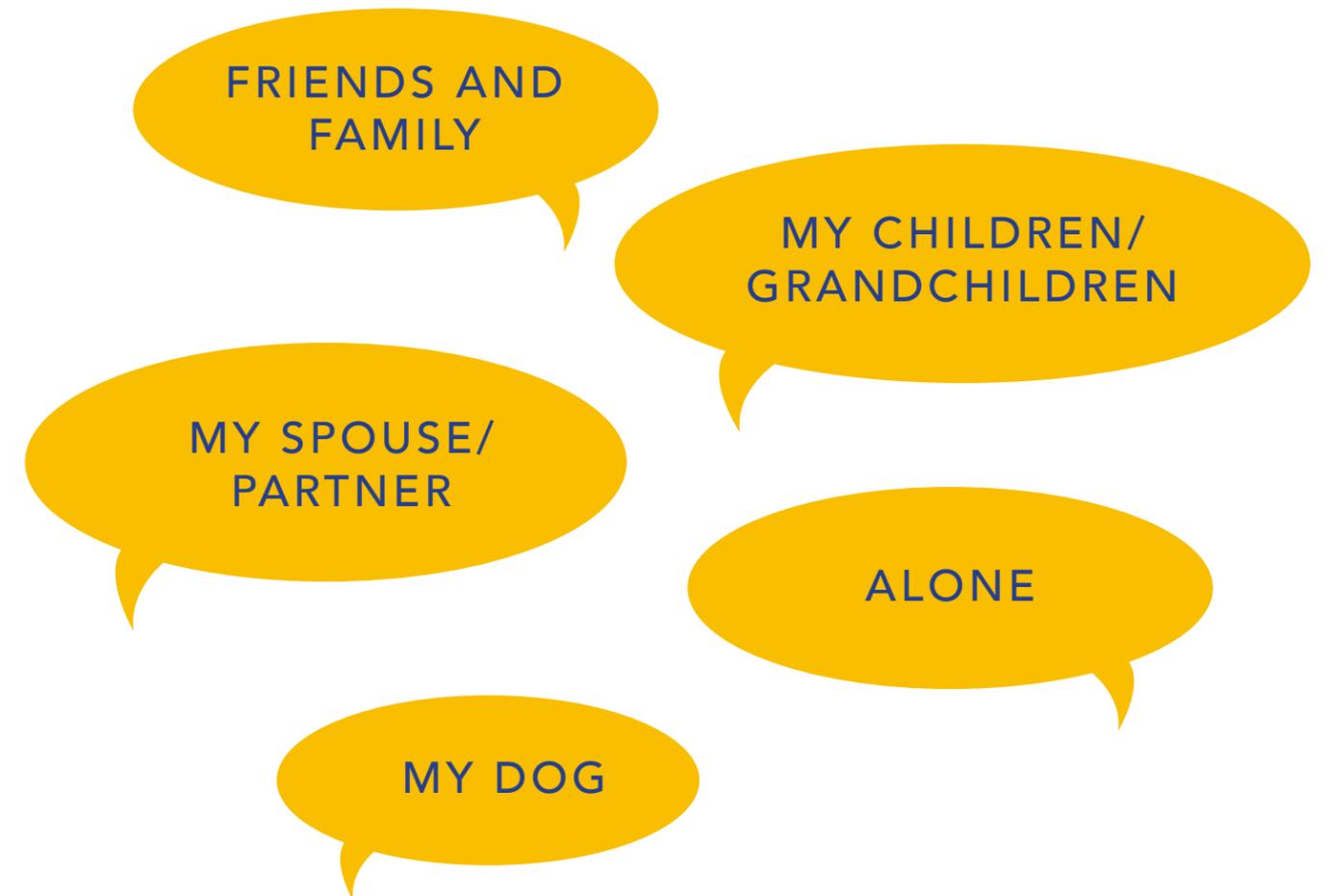
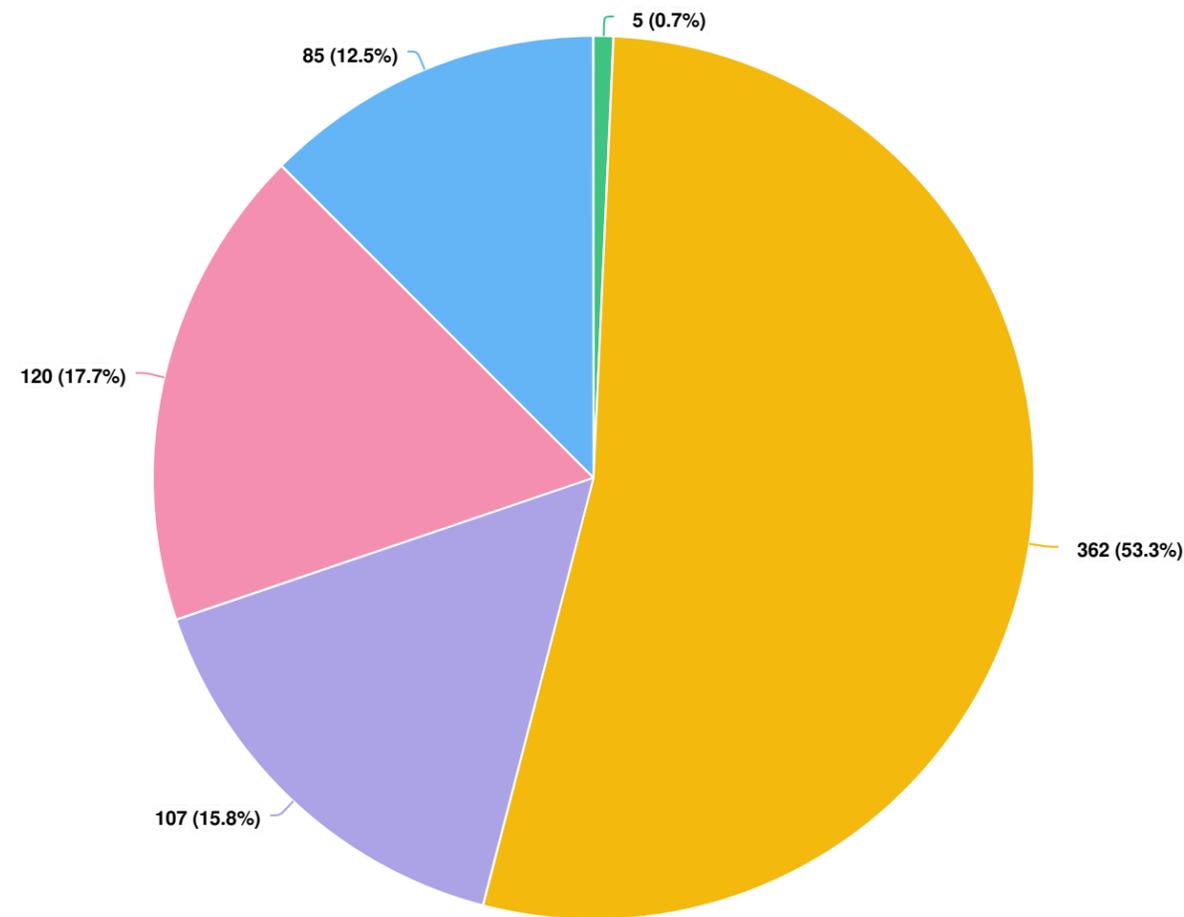
- Don't know
- Never
- Less often
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily

TAKEAWAYS:

PARTICIPANTS VISIT THE MINNETONKA PARKS OFTEN; 50% WEEKLY AND 29% DAILY

PARTICIPANTS VISIT MINNETONKA'S NATURAL AREAS OFTEN; 45% WEEKLY AND 24% DAILY

Who do you have accompany you to Minnetonka parks and natural areas?



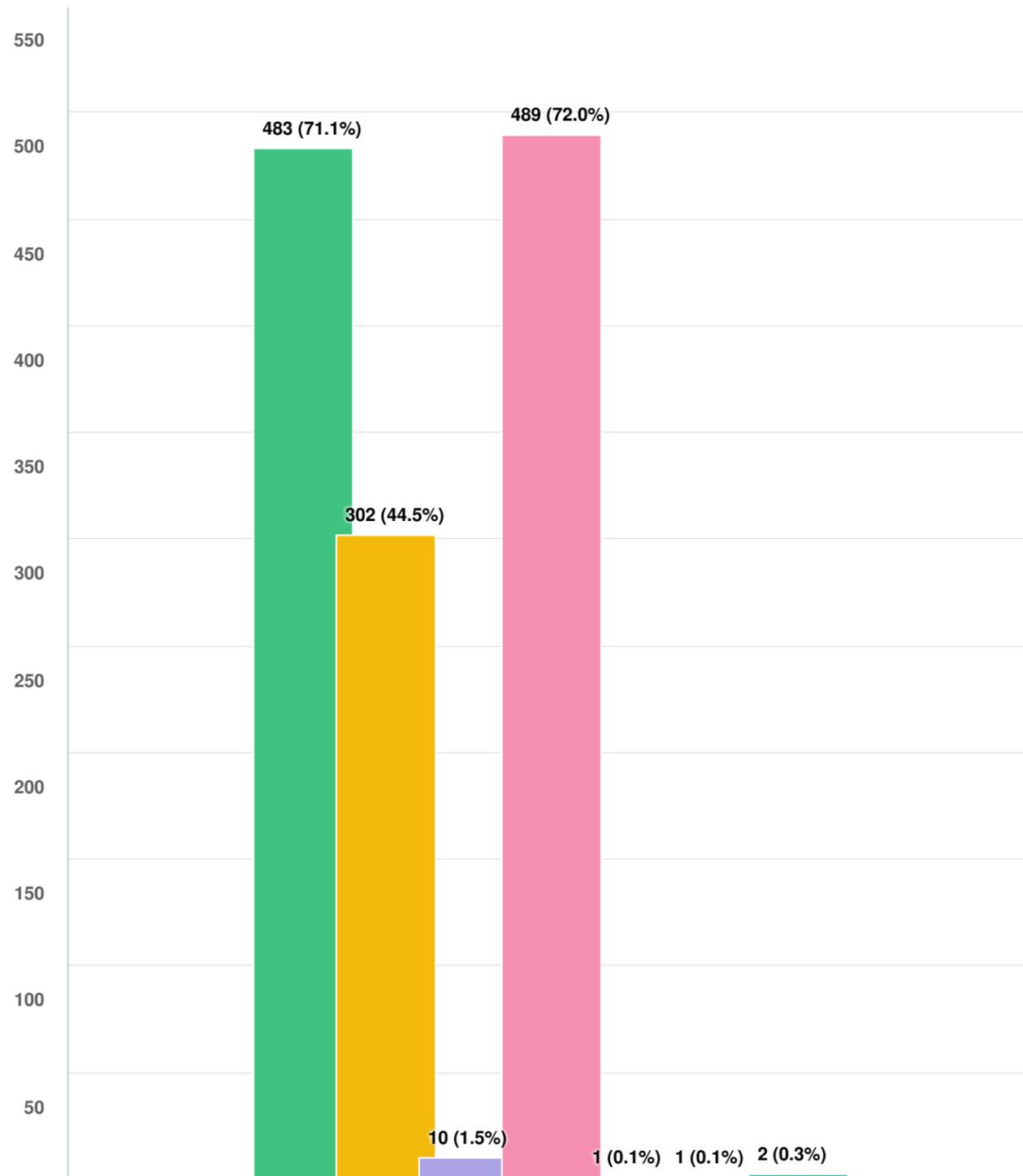
Question options

- Alone
- Pets
- Friends
- Family
- Teams/leagues

TAKEAWAYS:

OVER 50% OF PARTICIPANTS VISIT THE MINNETONKA PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS WITH FAMILY.

How do you normally get to Minnetonka parks? (check all that apply)



TAKEAWAYS:

72% OF PARTICIPANTS GET TO THE PARKS BY DRIVING.

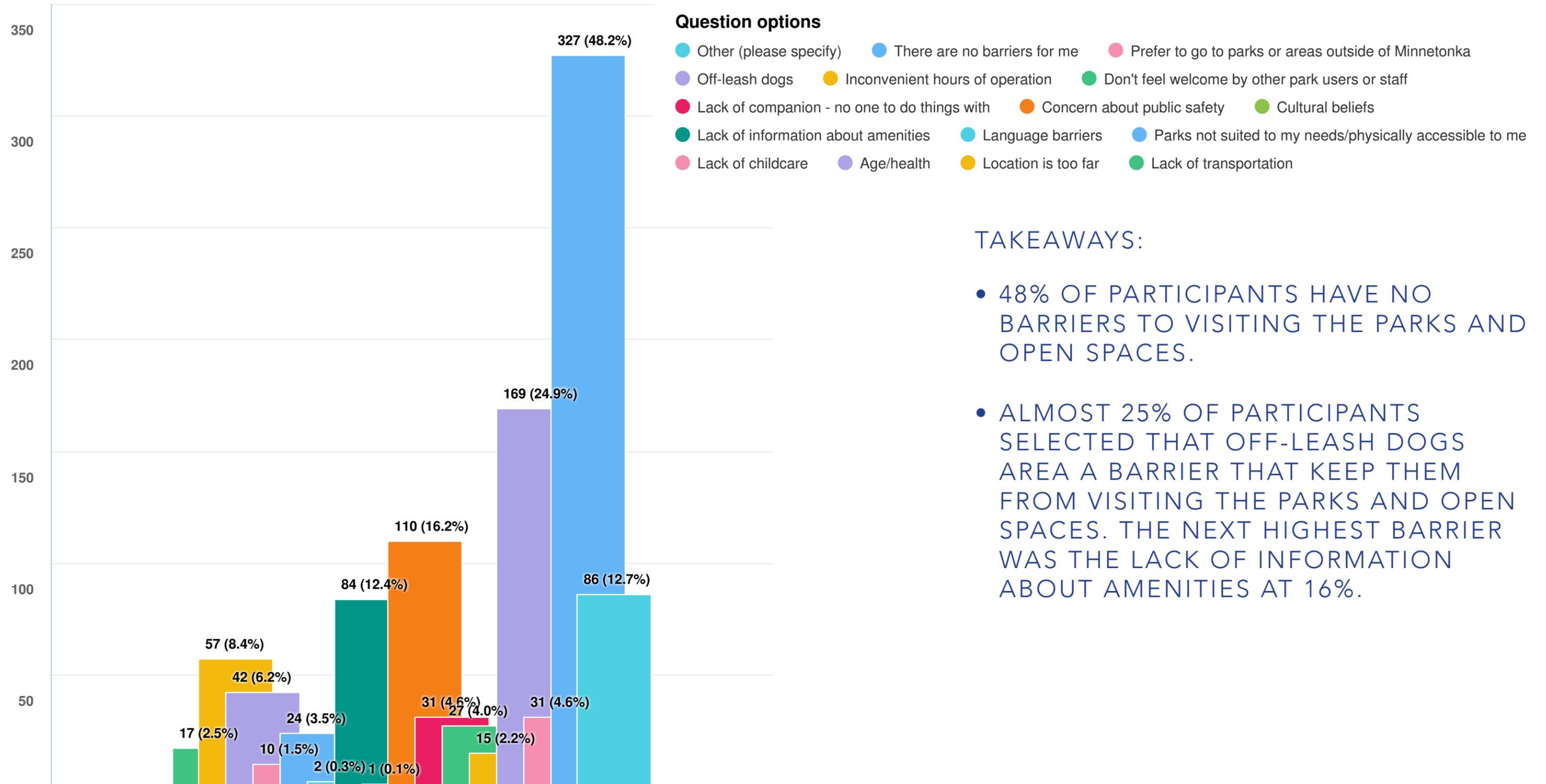
OVER 71% OF PARTICIPANTS GET TO THE PARKS BY WALKING.

LESS THAN 2% OF PARTICIPANTS GET TO THE PARKS BY OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, SCOOTER, AND METRO MOBILITY.

Question options

- Metro Mobility
- Public transportation
- School bus
- Drive
- Scooter or skateboard
- Bike
- Walk

### What are the barriers that would keep you from visiting the parks and open spaces in Minnetonka? (check all that apply)



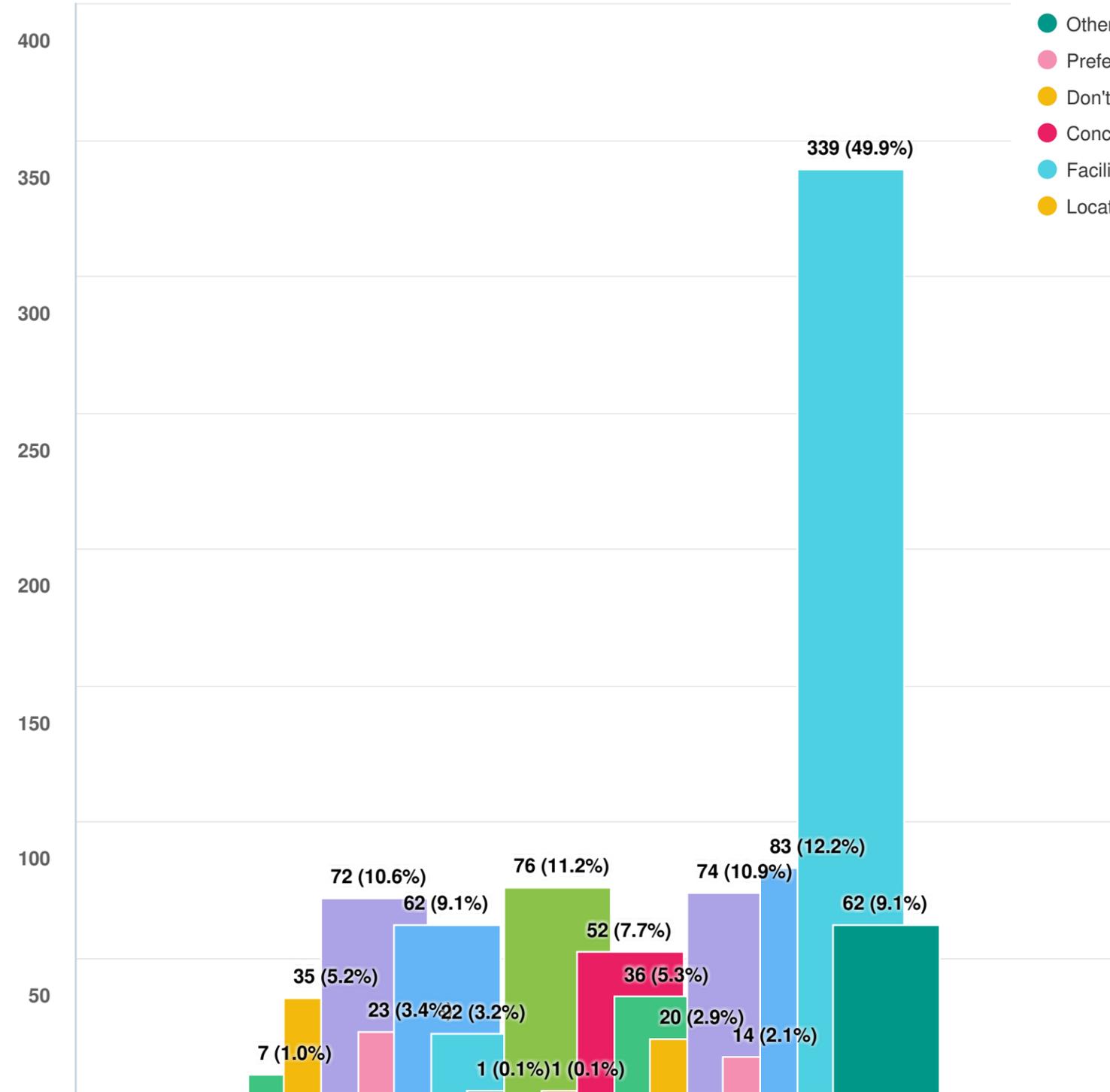
#### TAKEAWAYS:

- 48% OF PARTICIPANTS HAVE NO BARRIERS TO VISITING THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.
- ALMOST 25% OF PARTICIPANTS SELECTED THAT OFF-LEASH DOGS AREA A BARRIER THAT KEEP THEM FROM VISITING THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES. THE NEXT HIGHEST BARRIER WAS THE LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT AMENITIES AT 16%.

### What are the barriers that would keep you from participating in recreational programs or volunteer opportunities in Minnetonka? (check all that apply)

**Question options**

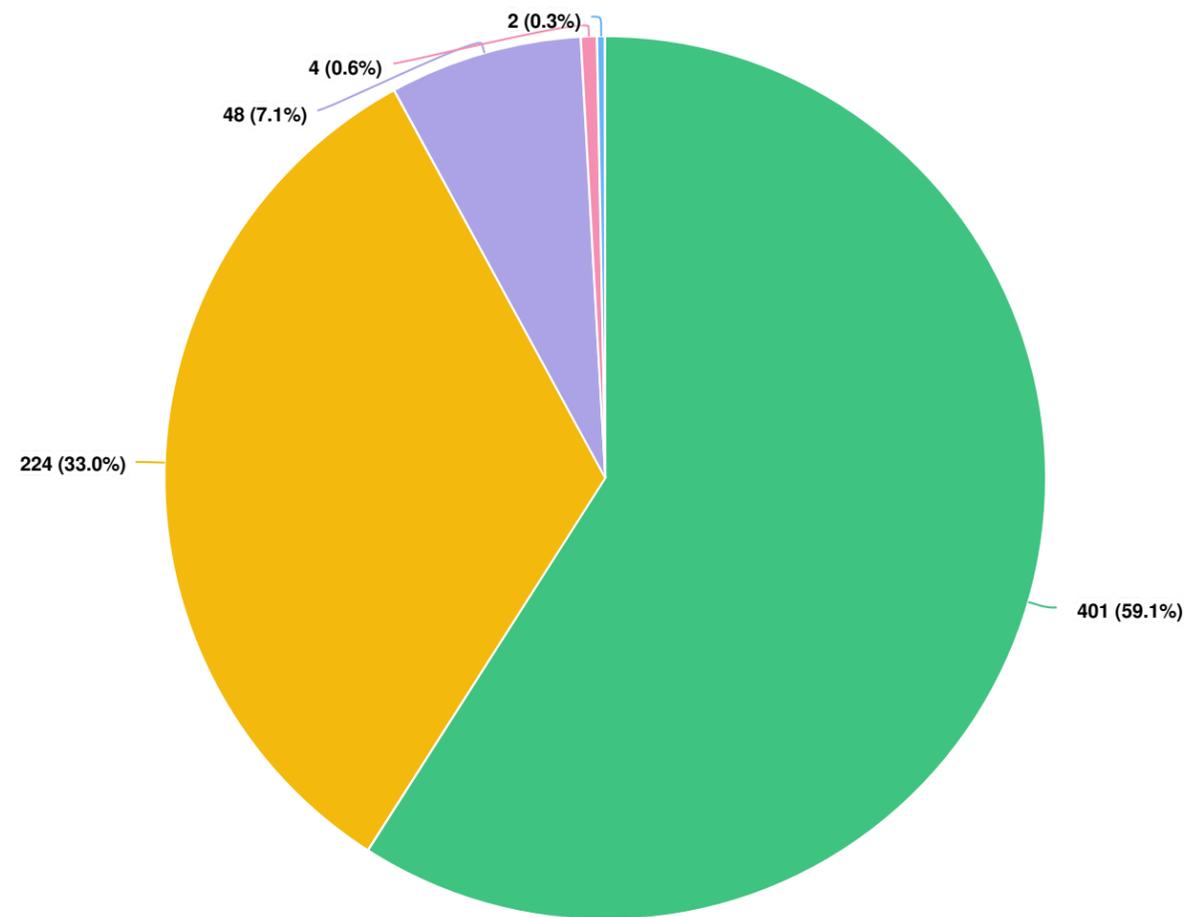
- Other (please specify)
- There are no barriers for me
- Off-leash dogs
- Prefer to go to parks or areas outside of Minnetonka
- Inconvenient hours of operation
- Don't feel welcome by other park users or staff
- Lack of companion - no one to do things with
- Concern about public safety
- Cultural beliefs
- Lack of information about amenities
- Language barriers
- Facilities are not suited to my needs/physically accessible to me
- Cost or programs
- Lack of childcare
- Age/health
- Location is too far
- Lack of transportation



**TAKEAWAYS:**

- ALMOST 50% OF PARTICIPANTS HAVE NO BARRIERS.
- THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF BARRIERS THAT KEEP PEOPLE FROM PARTICIPATING IN RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS OR VOLUNTEERING ARE:
  - INCONVENIENT HOURS OF OPERATION (12%)
  - AGE/HEALTH (11%)
  - OFF-LEASH DOGS (11%)
  - LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT AMENITIES (9%)
  - COST OF PROGRAMS (9%)

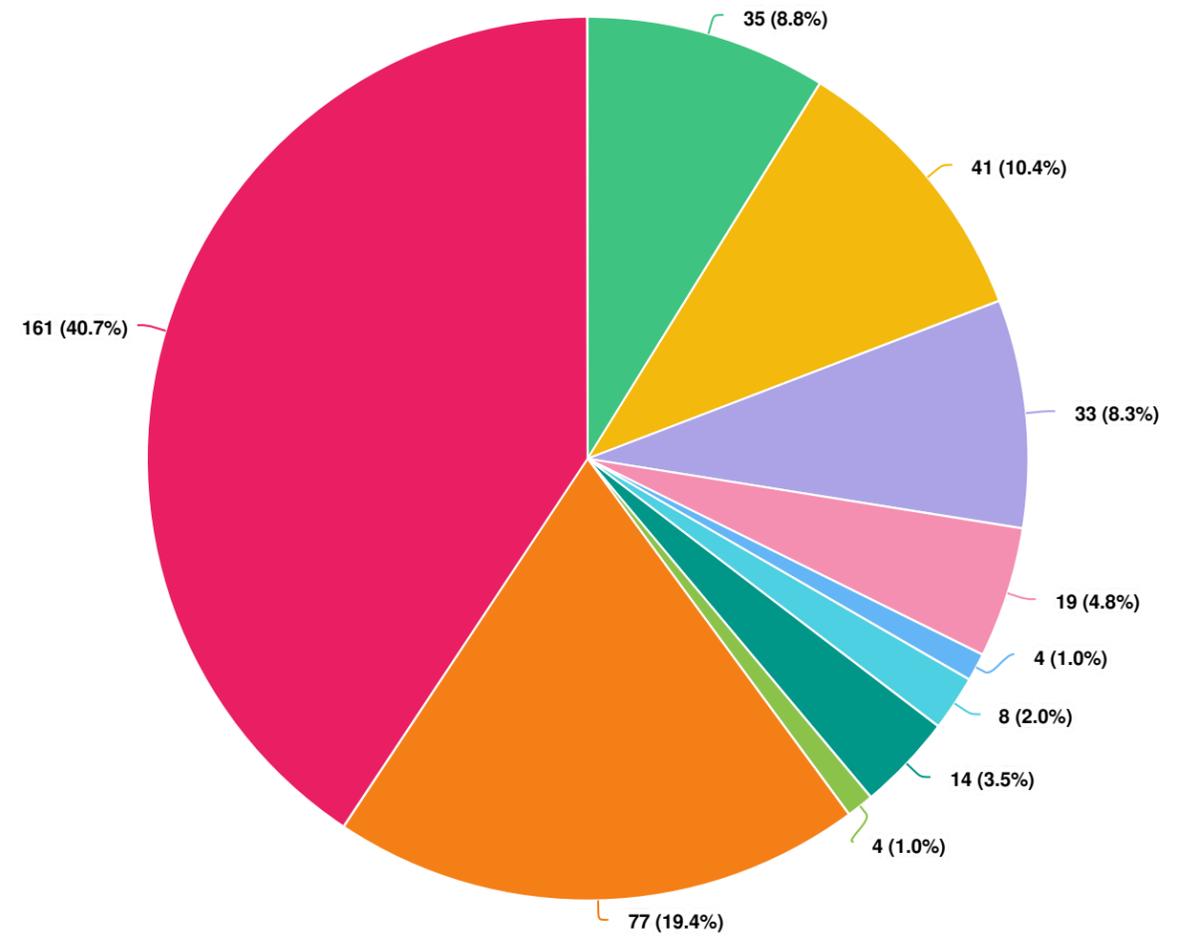
Do you feel welcome and safe in Minnetonka parks?



Question options

- No opinion
- Never
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

If not, what makes you feel unwelcome or unsafe in the parks?



Question options

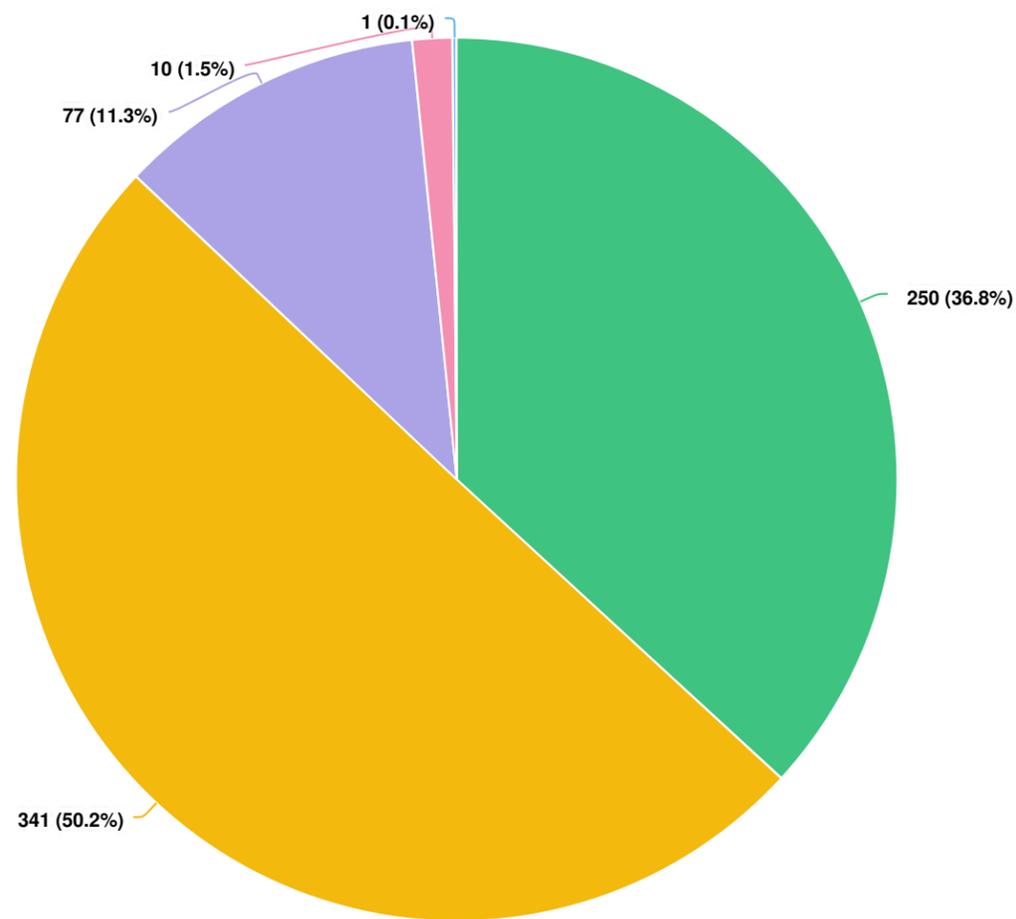
- I feel safe and welcome
- Off-leash dogs
- Park policies and/or regulations
- Poor maintenance of park facilities
- Age or physical ability
- Race or cultural identify
- Vandalism
- Too many people around
- Not enough people around
- Lack of lighting

TAKEAWAYS:

THE MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS FELT SAFE ALWAYS OR OFTEN IN THE PARKS.

ALMOST 20% OF PARTICIPANTS SAID THAT OFF-LEASH DOGS MAKE THEM FEEL UNWELCOME OR UNSAFE IN THE PARKS.

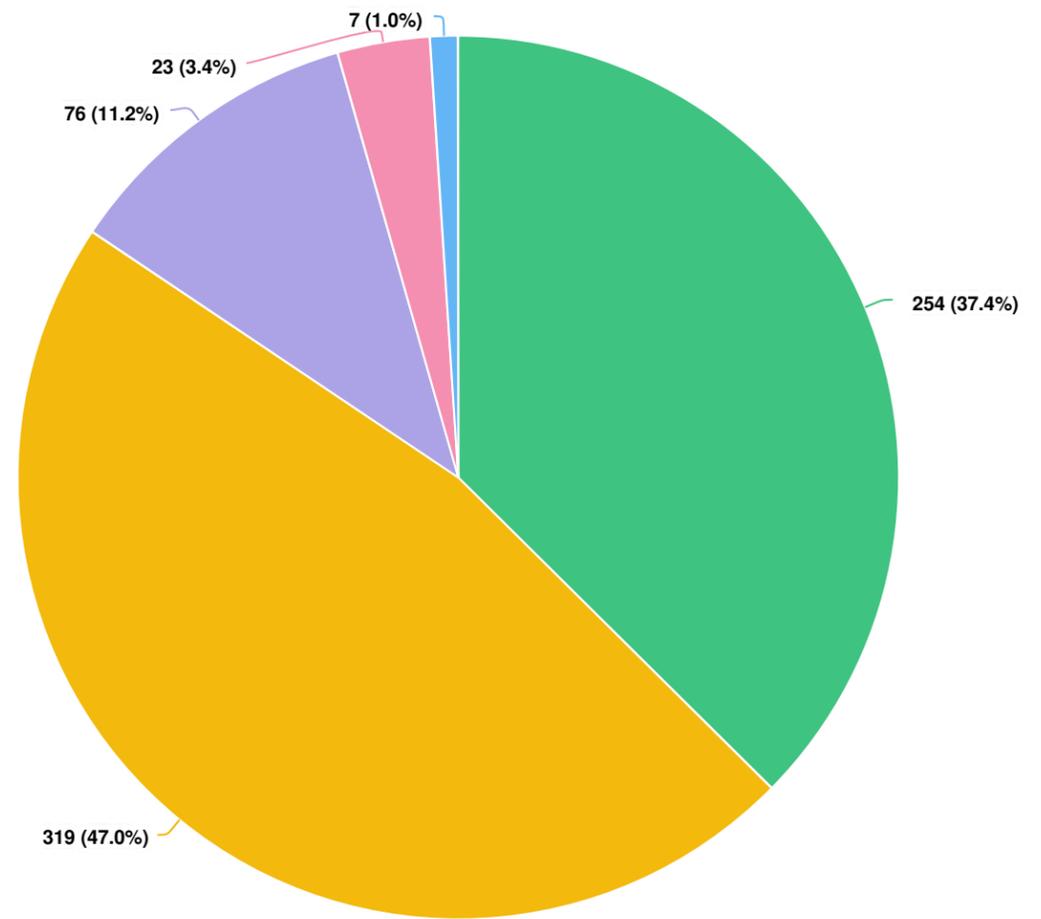
What is your overall impression of the appearance and maintenance of Minnetonka park features and facilities?



Question options

- No opinion
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent

What is your overall impression of the condition of natural areas in the Minnetonka park system?



Question options

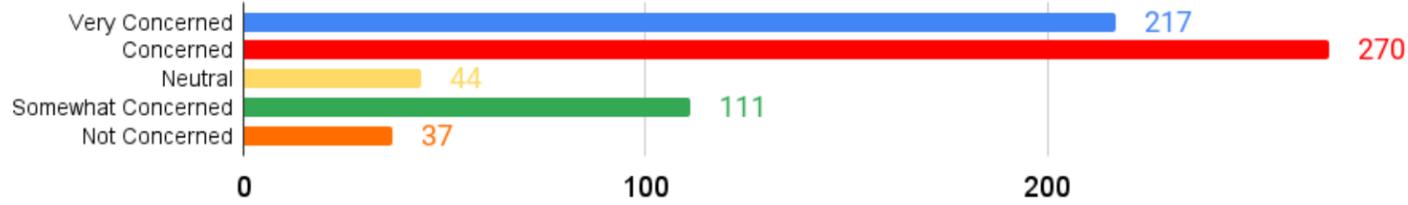
- No opinion
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent

TAKEAWAYS:

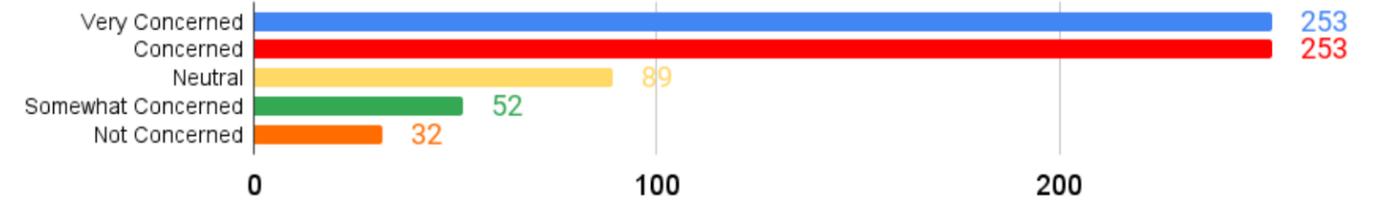
THE MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS FEEL THAT THE PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS ARE EITHER IN GOOD TO EXCELLENT CONDITION.

# How concerned are you about the following related to Minnetonka's natural habitat?

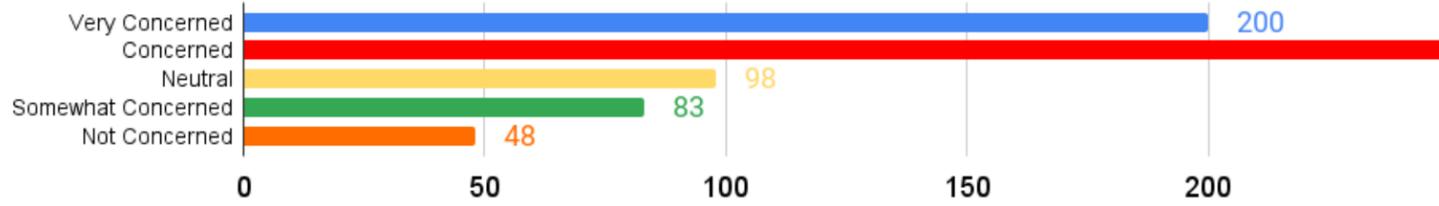
Invasive plants and animal species



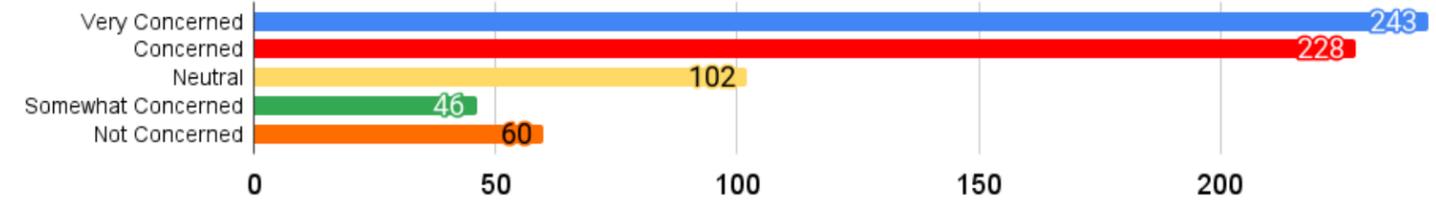
Water quality and/or stormwater management



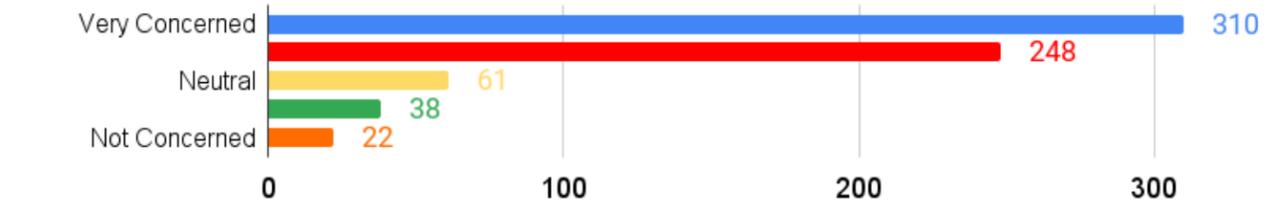
Loss of native plant diversity



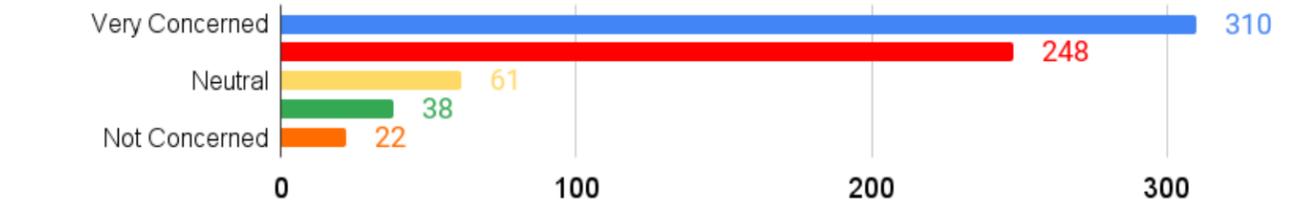
Planning for climate resilience



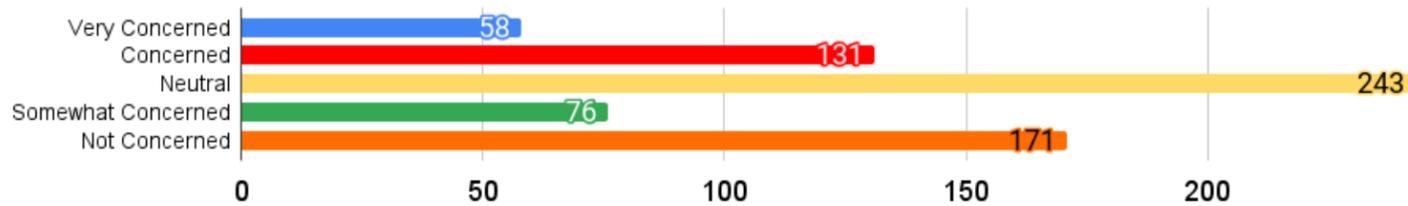
Protecting trees and the community forest



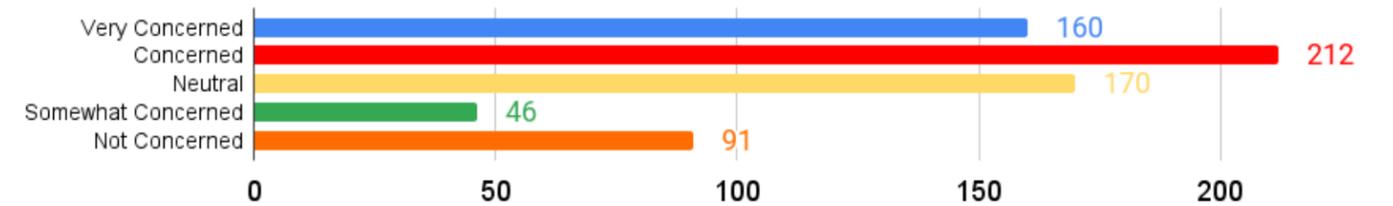
Protecting trees and the community forest



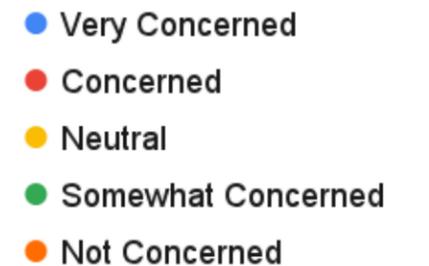
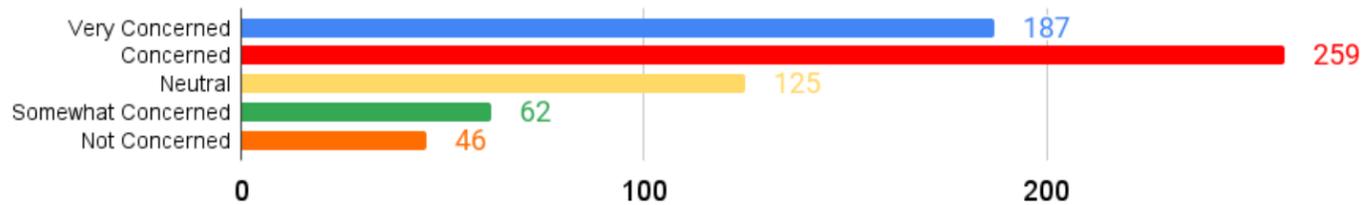
Deer browsing/damage



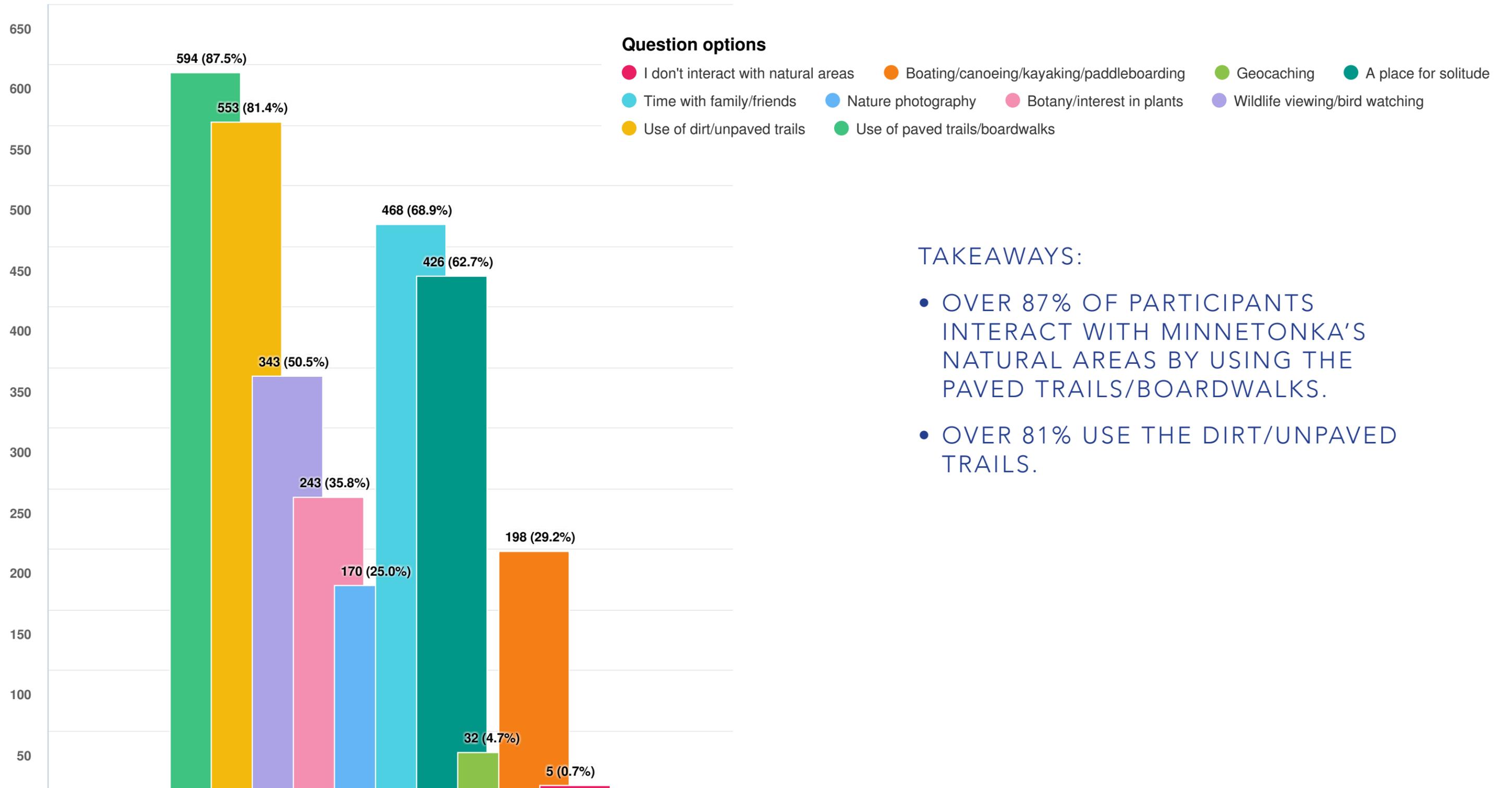
Equitable access to natural areas



Wildlife habitat



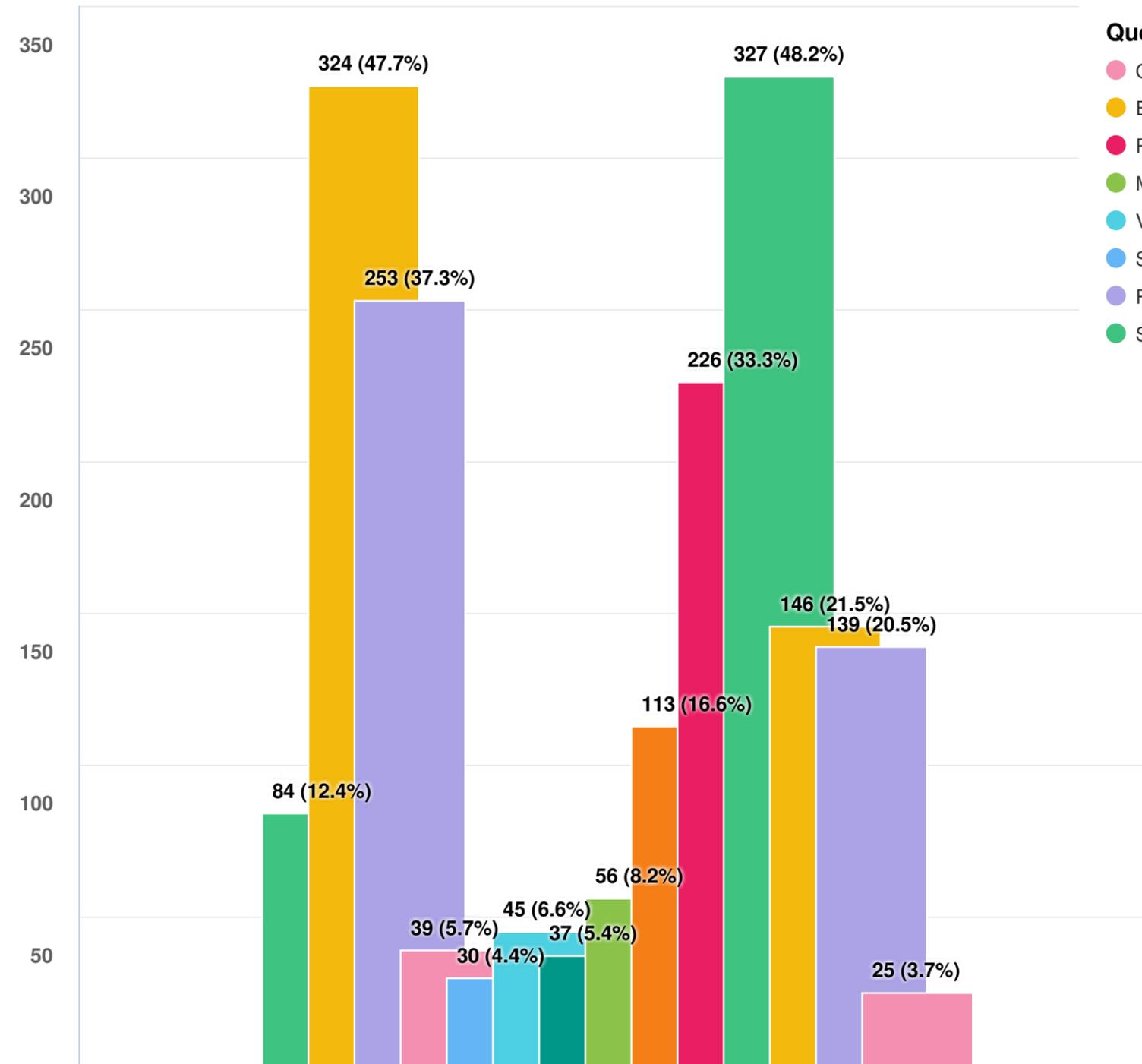
### How do you interact with Minnetonka's natural areas? (check all that apply)



#### TAKEAWAYS:

- OVER 87% OF PARTICIPANTS INTERACT WITH MINNETONKA'S NATURAL AREAS BY USING THE PAVED TRAILS/BOARDWALKS.
- OVER 81% USE THE DIRT/UNPAVED TRAILS.

What activities do you and your family enjoy most at Minnetonka parks? (select top 3)



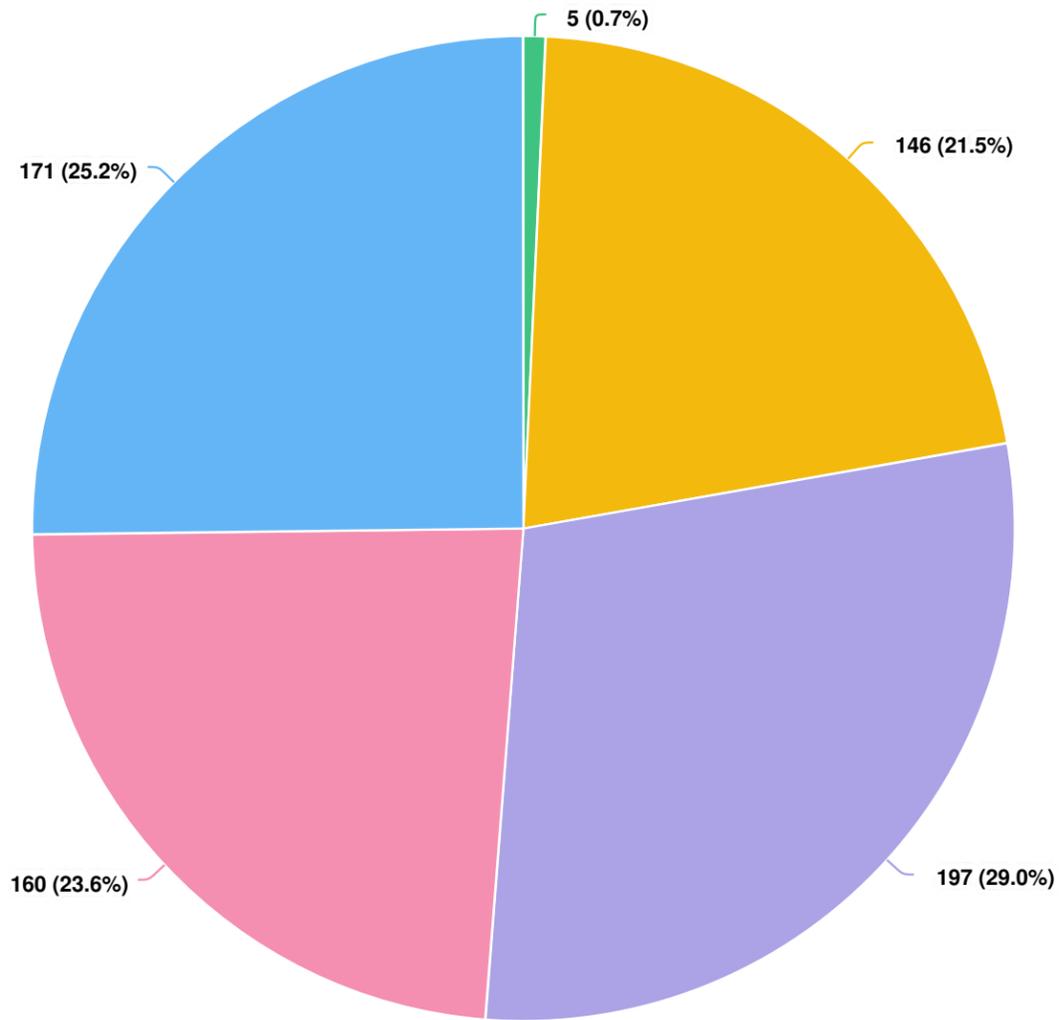
Question options

- Other (please specify)
- Exercise - yoga, running, etc.
- Play - playgrounds, beaches, etc.
- Music/Movies in the Park
- Volunteer - habitat restoration, park signage beautification, mountain bike trail maintenance
- Social activities - gatherings, celebrations, reunions, etc
- Relaxation - benches, shade, pleasing views
- Sports leagues - soccer, baseball, basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc
- Winter activities - sledding, skating, curling, Nordic skiing, snowshoe, etc.
- Nature - native landscapes, bird watching, fishing, naturalist hikes, etc.
- Community Events - Summerfest, Pollinator Field Day, Farmers Market, etc.
- Learn - cultural resources, interpretive signage, programming, environmental education
- Eat - picnic, food trucks, concessions
- Individual sports - mountain biking, trail running, hiking, walking

TAKEAWAYS:

- ALMOST 50% OF PEOPLE MOST ENJOY SPENDING TIME IN NATURE. 47% ENJOY EXERCISING IN THE PARKS.
- LESS THAN 5% OF PEOPLE LISTED SOCIAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS GATHERINGS AND EATING (PICNICS) AS THEIR TOP ACTIVITIES.

### Do you feel the amount of Minnetonka park space meets you and your family's needs?

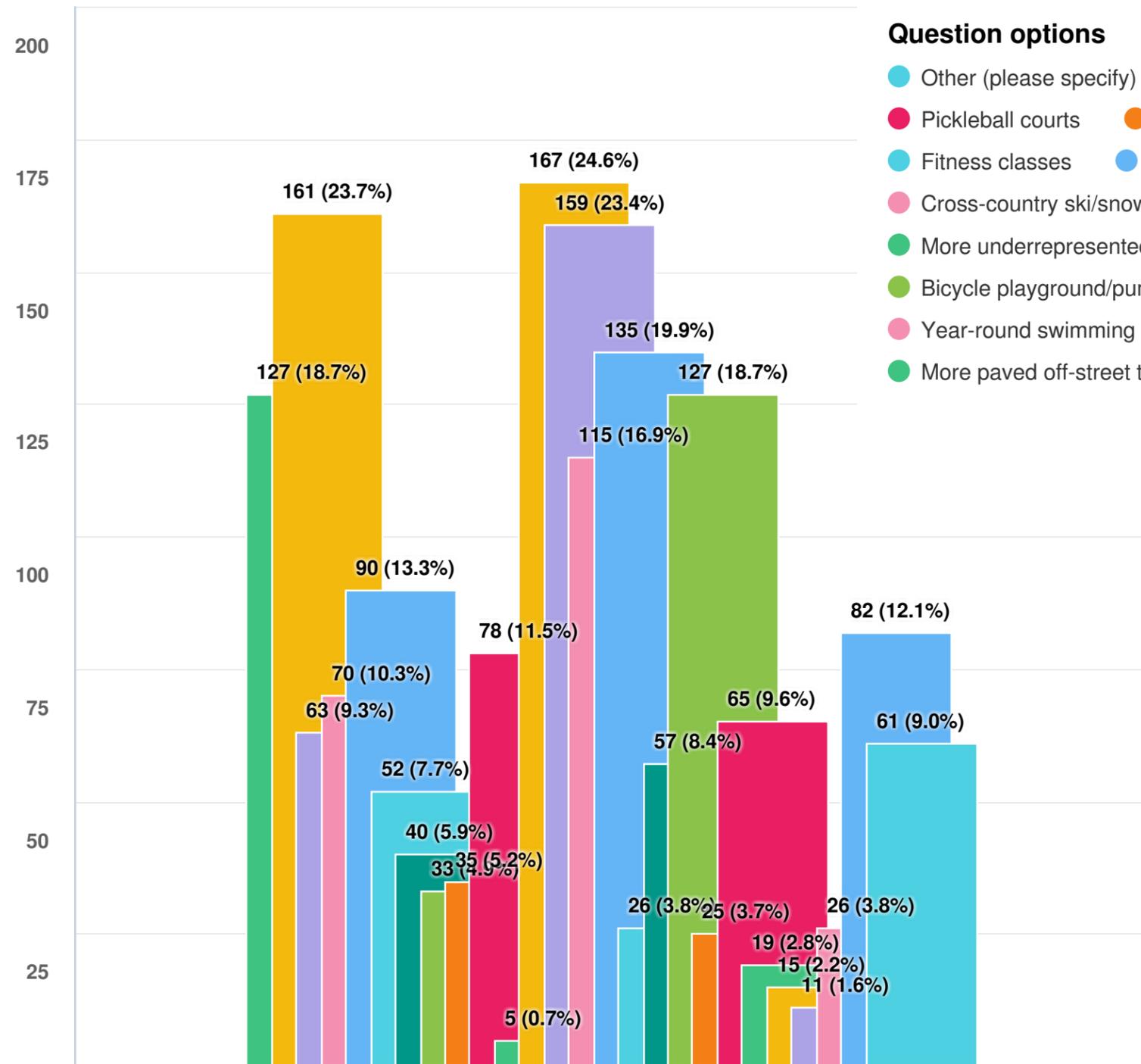


TAKEAWAYS:  
NOT ENOUGH/SLIGHTLY NOT ENOUGH = 49%.  
ENOUGH/JUST RIGHT = 51%

#### Question options

- There is not enough park and open space
- There is slightly not enough park and open space to meet current and future needs
- The amount of park and open space is just right
- There is a lot of park and open space, enough to meet current and future needs
- There is too much park and open space

What new/additional things would you like to do in Minnetonka parks? (select top 3)



Question options

- Other (please specify)
- More winter trails
- Gardening
- Skateboarding
- Sand volleyball
- Bocce
- Pickleball courts
- Platform tennis
- Off-leash dog park
- Special events (concerts, festivals, movies, etc.)
- Fitness classes
- Natural programming (plant ID walks, bird ID/watching/ canoeing/kayaking)
- Cross-country ski/snowshoe trails
- Boardwalks in wetland areas
- Trail connections to areas outside the city
- More underrepresented sports (lacrosse, cricket, e-sports, etc.)
- Ice skating trail/loop
- Rock climbing or bouldering
- Bicycle playground/pumptrack
- More art & cultural evens
- Ninja Warrior style playground
- Nature play areas
- Year-round swimming facility
- Improve natural areas by volunteering
- More natural surface trails
- More paved off-street trails

TAKEAWAYS:

TOP 5 NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS:  
25% TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO AREAS OUTSIDE THE CITY

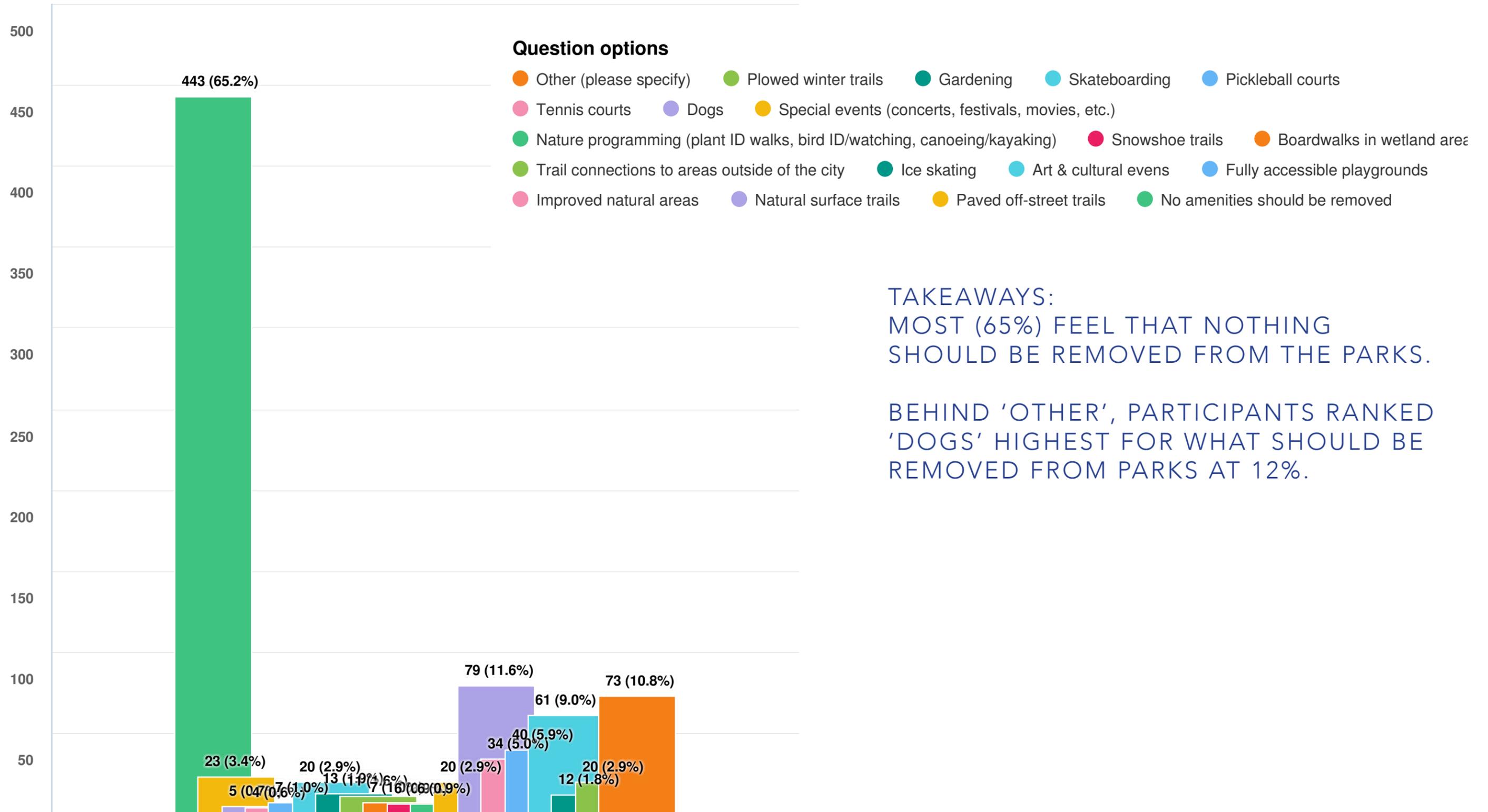
24% MORE NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS

23% BOARDWALKS IN WETLAND AREAS

20% NATURE PROGRAMMING

19% OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

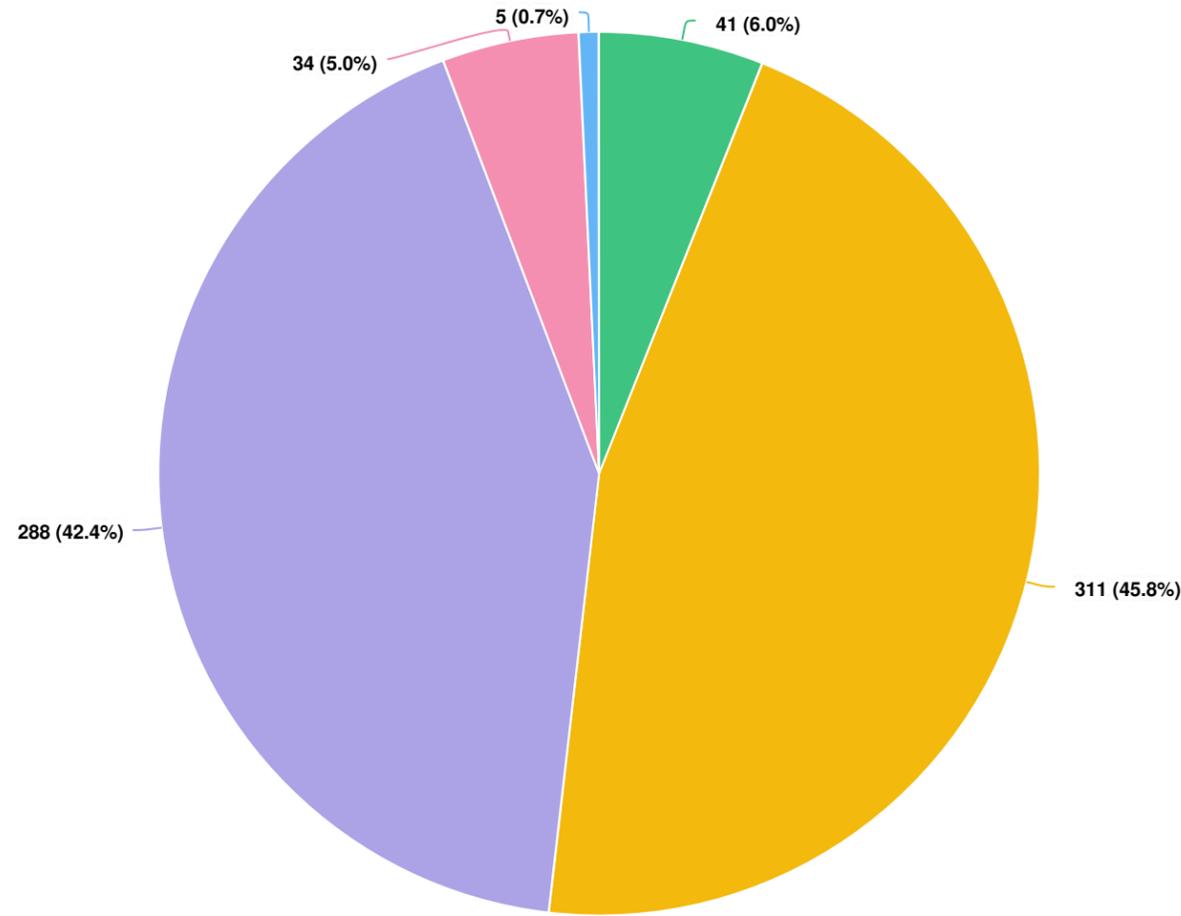
Are there amenities you think should be removed from park? (select top 3)



TAKEAWAYS:  
 MOST (65%) FEEL THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE PARKS.

BEHIND 'OTHER', PARTICIPANTS RANKED 'DOGS' HIGHEST FOR WHAT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PARKS AT 12%.

**How should Minnetonka parks balance natural resource protection with human use and access for recreation?**



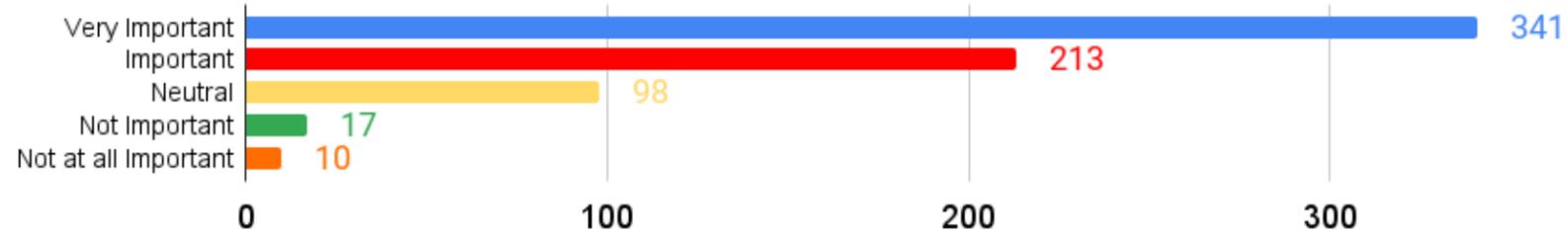
TAKEAWAYS:  
46% WANT PROTECTION FOCUSED.  
43% WANT AN EQUAL BALANCE.

**Question options**

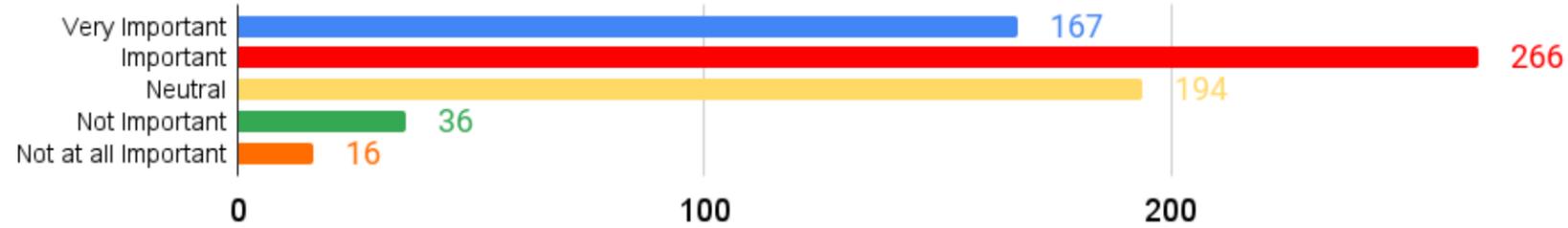
- Recreation Only - Provide as much access as we responsibly can through natural areas
- Recreation Focused - access to recreation is emphasized, even if quality of natural areas is compromised in certain areas
- Balance - Protection and access should be equally balanced
- Protection Focused - natural areas protected, but allow for low impact uses in certain areas
- Preservation - natural areas protected with no recreation allowed

Within natural areas, how important are the following?

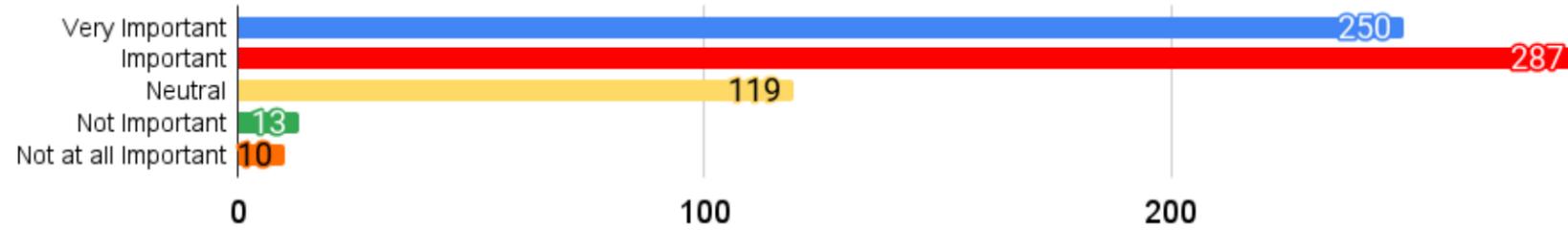
Protection of existing natural areas from development or new amenities



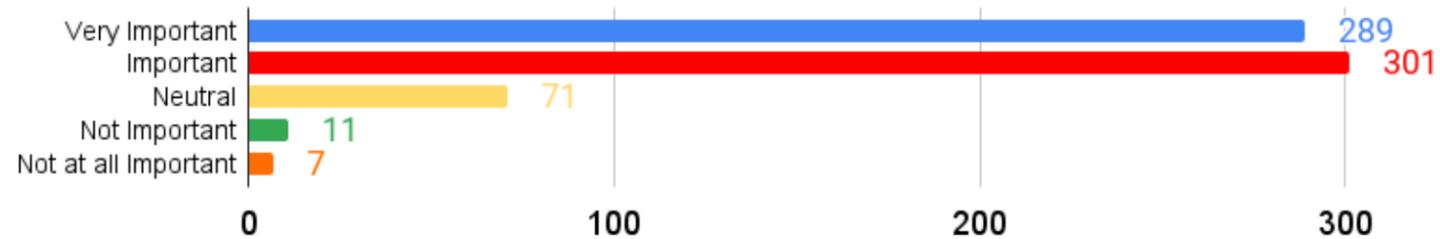
Expanding the overall size and connection between natural areas



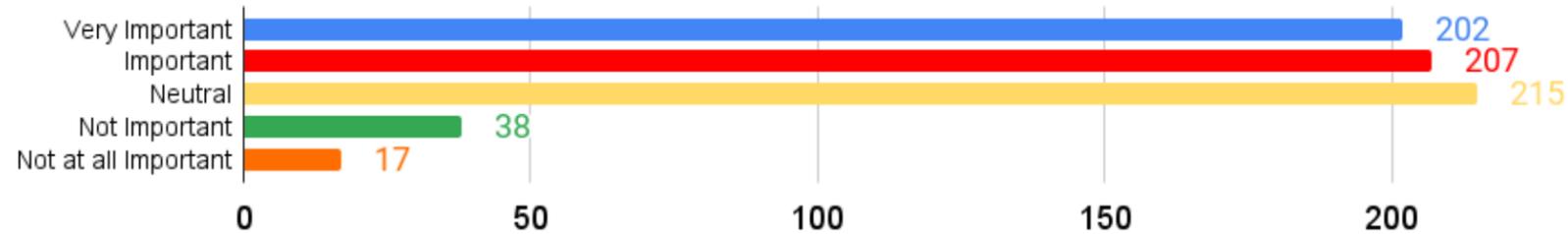
Improving the quality of existing natural areas



Maintaining and improving the quality of existing restored natural areas



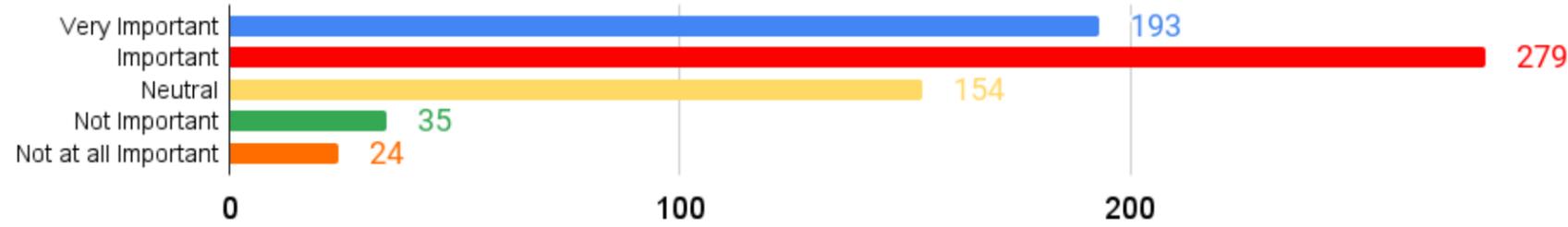
Increasing the total acreage of restored areas in the park system



SURVEY

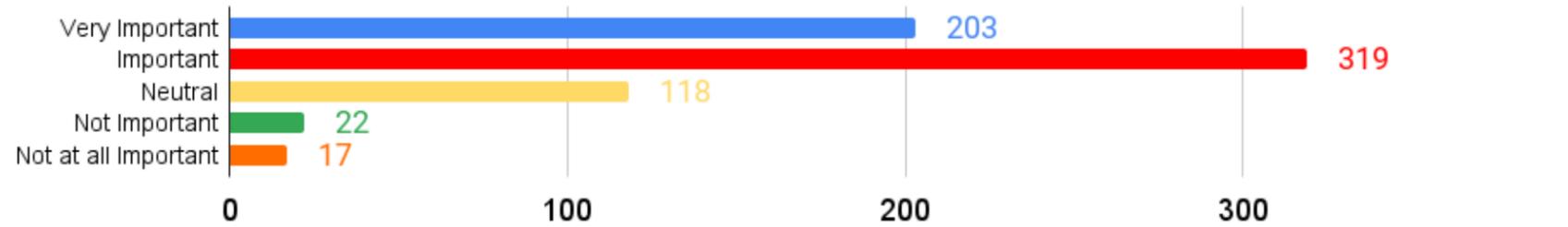
# How important are each of the following for involving Minnetonka residents in natural area management?

## Workshops on using native plants, landscaping for water quality & conservation, & invasive species management

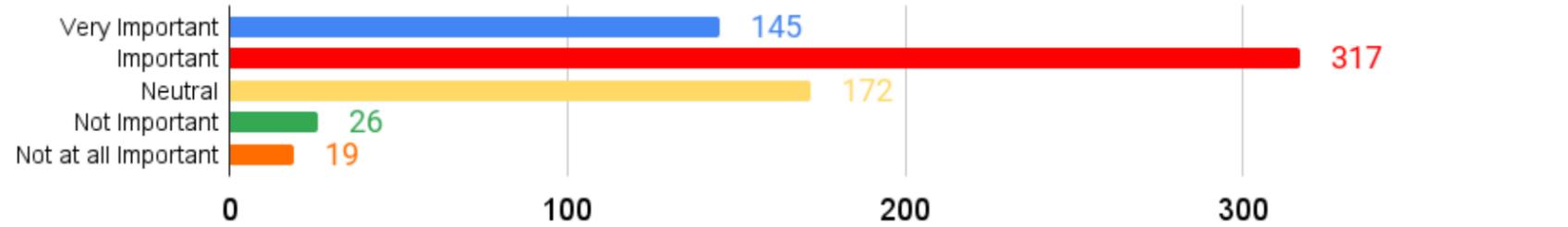


- Very Important
- Important
- Neutral
- Not Important
- Not at all Important

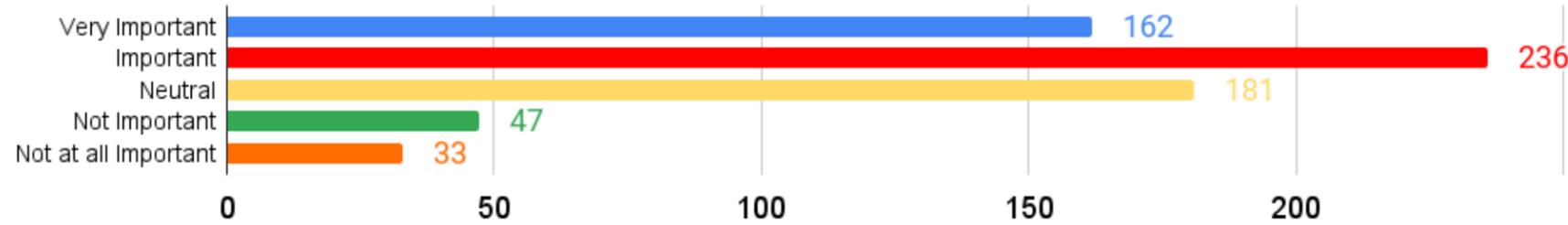
## Programs to assist residents in private land management (e.g. buckthorn removal, water efficiency grants)



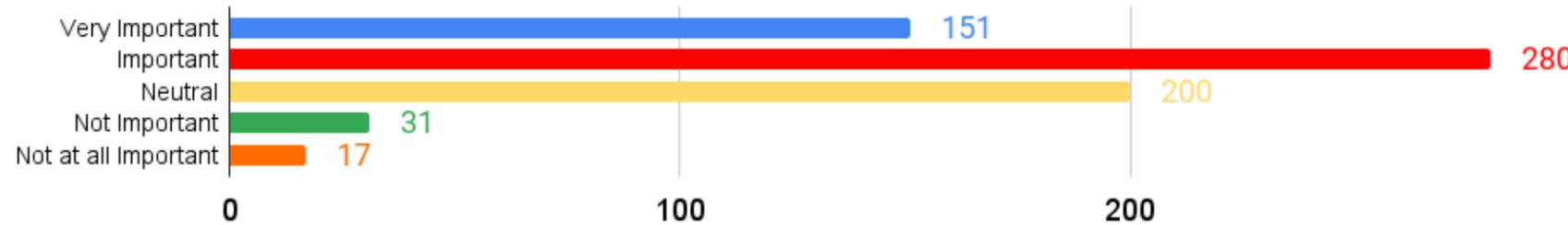
## Educational programs on tree selection, planting and maintenance



## Improving access to education and programs for underserved areas of the community



## Volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups in natural area restoration projects

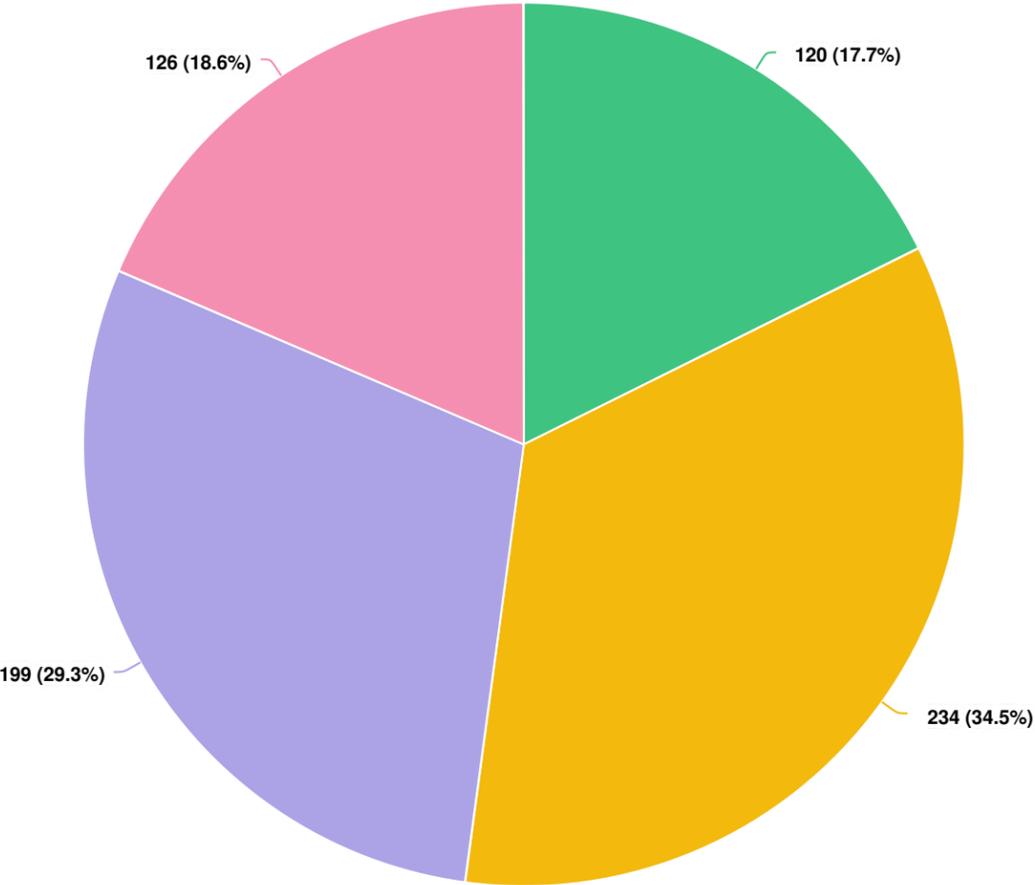


SURVEY

Climate change and shifting trends have created challenges for providing outdoor ice skating. Which approach do you think Minnetonka should use to adapt to these challenges?

TAKEAWAYS:

LESS THAN 19% OF PARTICIPANTS FEEL THAT THE CITY SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUTDOOR RINKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY, INSTEAD PREFERRING QUALITY OVER QUANTITY, NONE, OR A DESTINATION RINK.



Question options

- Close to Home - There should continue to be outdoor rinks throughout the city, even if quality is less consistent
- Quality over Quantity - Concentrate on fewer outdoor facilities with higher quality ice that might not be a close to my home
- None - I'm not likely to use city-provided outdoor ice skating facilities
- Destination - Create one high quality outdoor ice skating facility (ice trail, holiday skating rink, etc.)

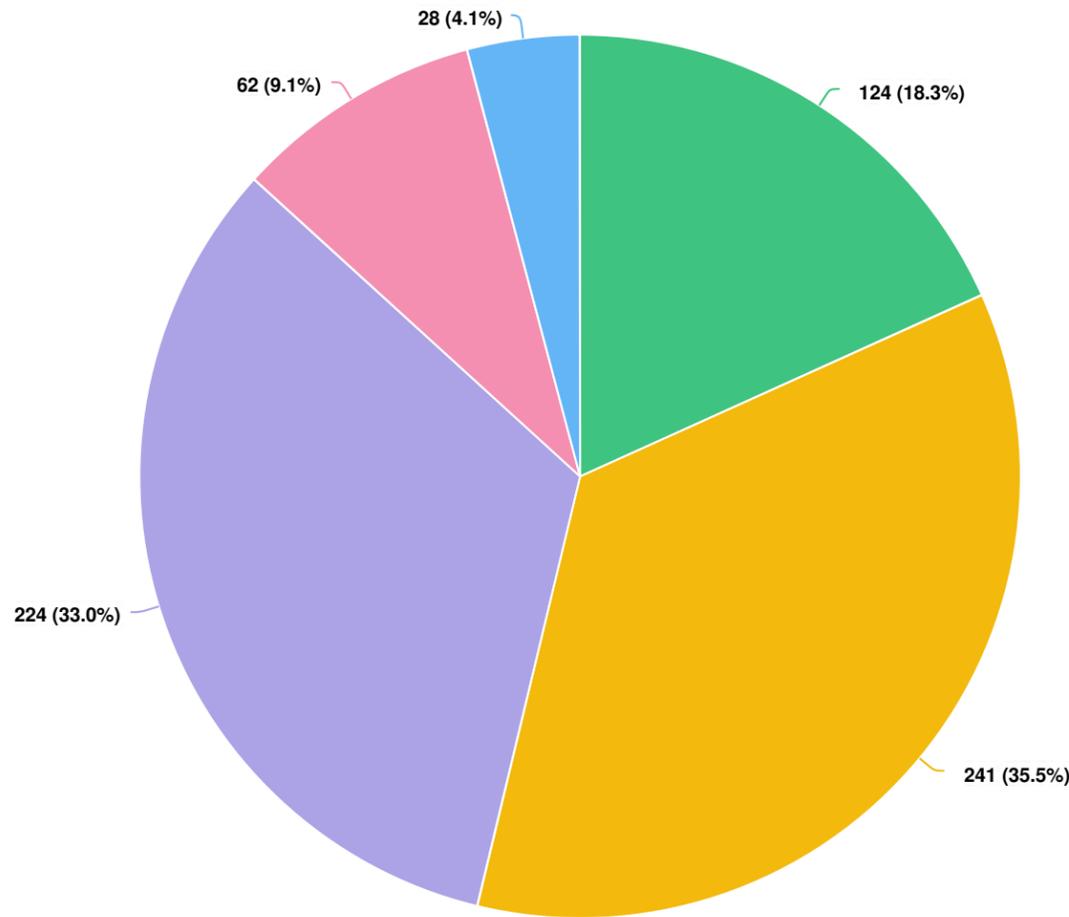
Natural, unmaintained areas of the city have traditionally allowed for dogs off-leash under voice command, but there have been issues with dog/people interactions. Which approach should the city use to adapt to challenges?

TAKEAWAYS:

ABOUT 18% OF PARTICIPANTS WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE POLICY AS IS.

33% PREFER TO CREATE AN OFF-LEASHED DOG PARK.

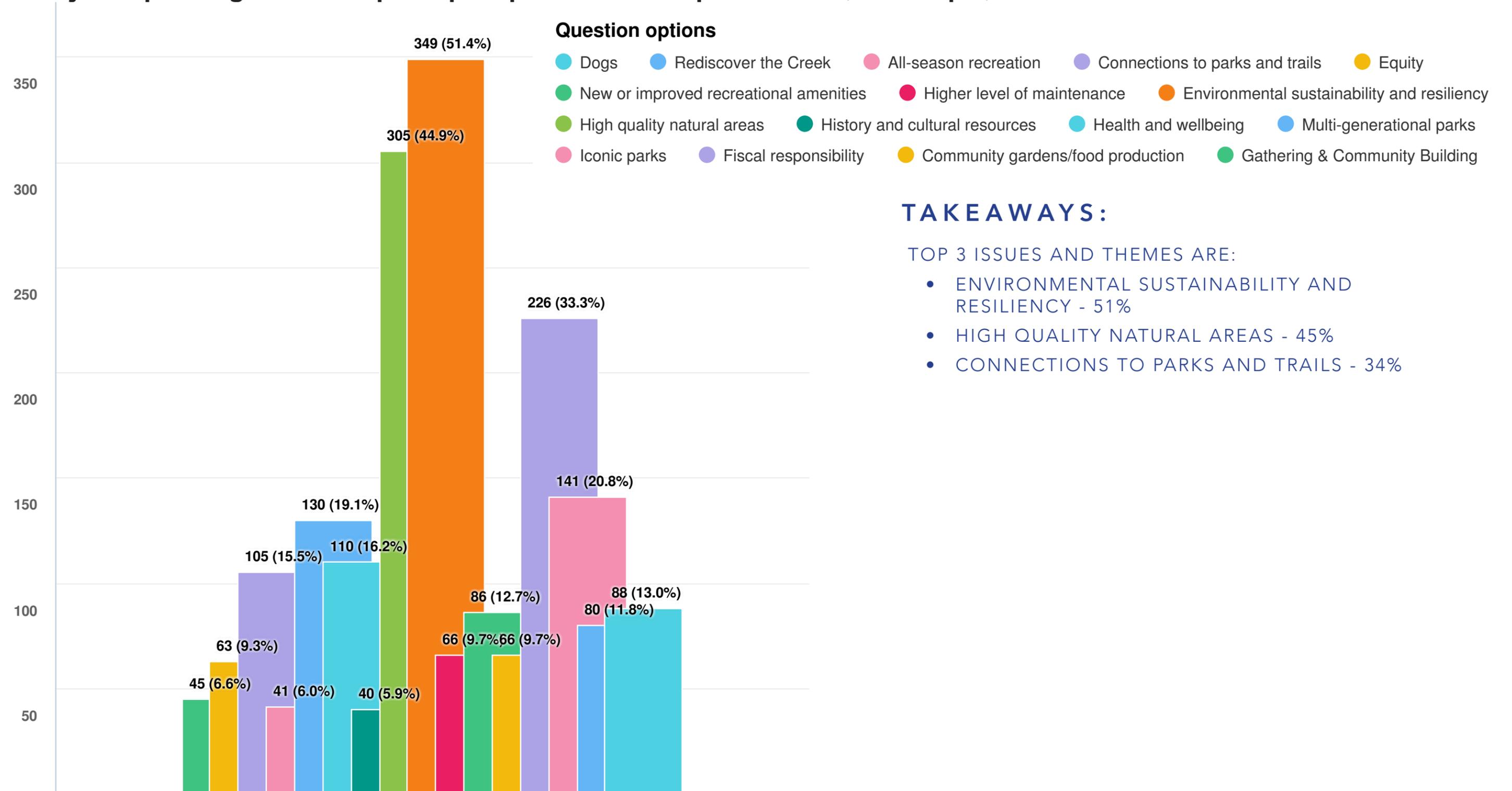
ABOUT 36% WOULD LIKE TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PARKS WHERE DOGS ARE ALLOWED TO BE OFF-LEASH.



Question options

- Include a dog park in a future new park space
- Create fenced off-leash dog park(s)
- Identify specific parks and areas with those parks where dogs are allowed to be off-leash under voice command
- Keep As Is - dogs should be allowed off leash under voice command in natural, unmaintained areas
- Ban dogs from being off-leash in parks. Do not create an off-leash dog park

What are the highest priority issues and themes Minnetonka should attempt to address in this system plan to guide future park open space and trail improvements?(select top 3)



TAKEAWAYS:

TOP 3 ISSUES AND THEMES ARE:

- ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY - 51%
- HIGH QUALITY NATURAL AREAS - 45%
- CONNECTIONS TO PARKS AND TRAILS - 34%

# MAP YOUR COMMENTS - SUMMARY

149  
MAP COMMENTS

As part of the survey, respondents were asked to place 'pins' on an interactive map and add notes to share more information. A tool allowed respondents to zoom in on specific park, trail, and open space areas. There were six categories for comments:

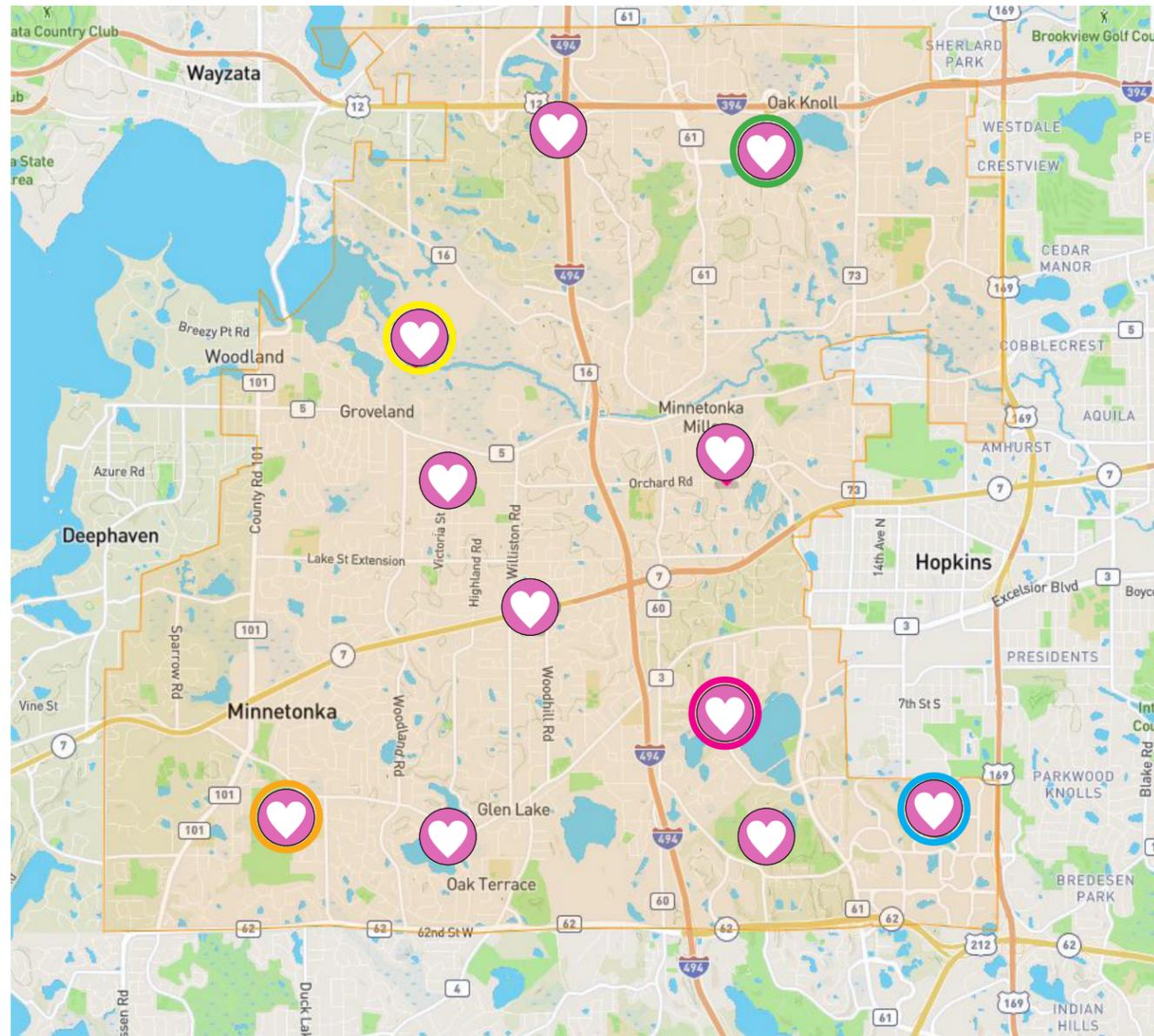
-  What do you love?
-  What are your ideas?
-  What needs work?
-  Where are there gaps in the system? (i.e. facilities, trail connections, open space preserves, etc.)
-  What bike/pedestrian issues have you observed?
-  Where are there opportunities to improve the system or add new parks, open spaces, or trails?

There were 149 comments made with the interactive mapping tool. The following pages provides a summary of comments for each category.

# MAP YOUR COMMENTS - SUMMARY

This is a summary of comments for each category.

## What do you love?



 Location: 31XX Fairchild Avenue, Minnetonka  
This is THE BEST winter outdoor space!

 Location: 19XX Dwight Lane, Minnetonka  
I love this little connection here from the neighborhood to Ridgedale and the YMCA. We need more connections like this that makes Minnetonka more walkable!

 Location: Purgatory Park  
Comment 1: Awesome park! We love the natural area and walking trails. Would love additional parks like this one!  
Comment 2: The restored prairie is a beautiful amenity in this park. It is in need of further restoration and management (increase number of flowering plants).

 Location: 52XX Dominick Drive, Minnetonka  
I love how this has been kept mostly open and prairie right now. The frogs, turtles, and fireflies love this area.

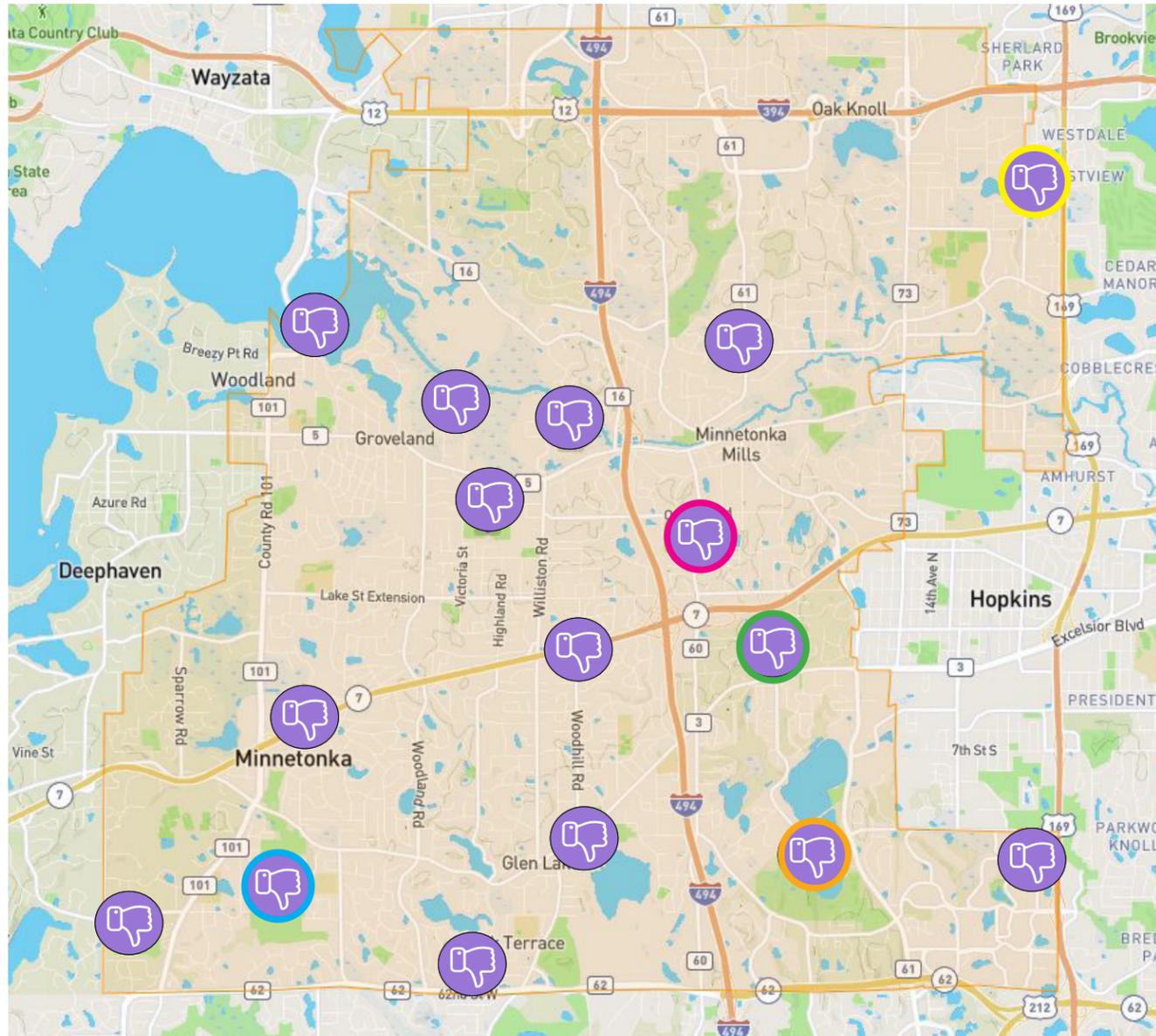
 Location: Green Circle Park  
Love the pollinator habitat here. Please add more in Minnetonka Parks!

# MAP YOUR COMMENTS - SUMMARY

This is a summary of comments for each category.



## What needs work?



Location: Ford Park  
Play equipment is old, tired, and some items don't operate as intended

Location: Junction Park  
The tennis courts are in terrible shape. Pickleball courts are very busy in the evening at other parks. Restore the tennis courts with pickleball lines so families can play in the evening.

Location: Shady Oak Park  
This path is often under water due to the lack of water outlet for Shady Oak. Also there is a lot of erosion here from the hill above that could be fixed fairly easily.

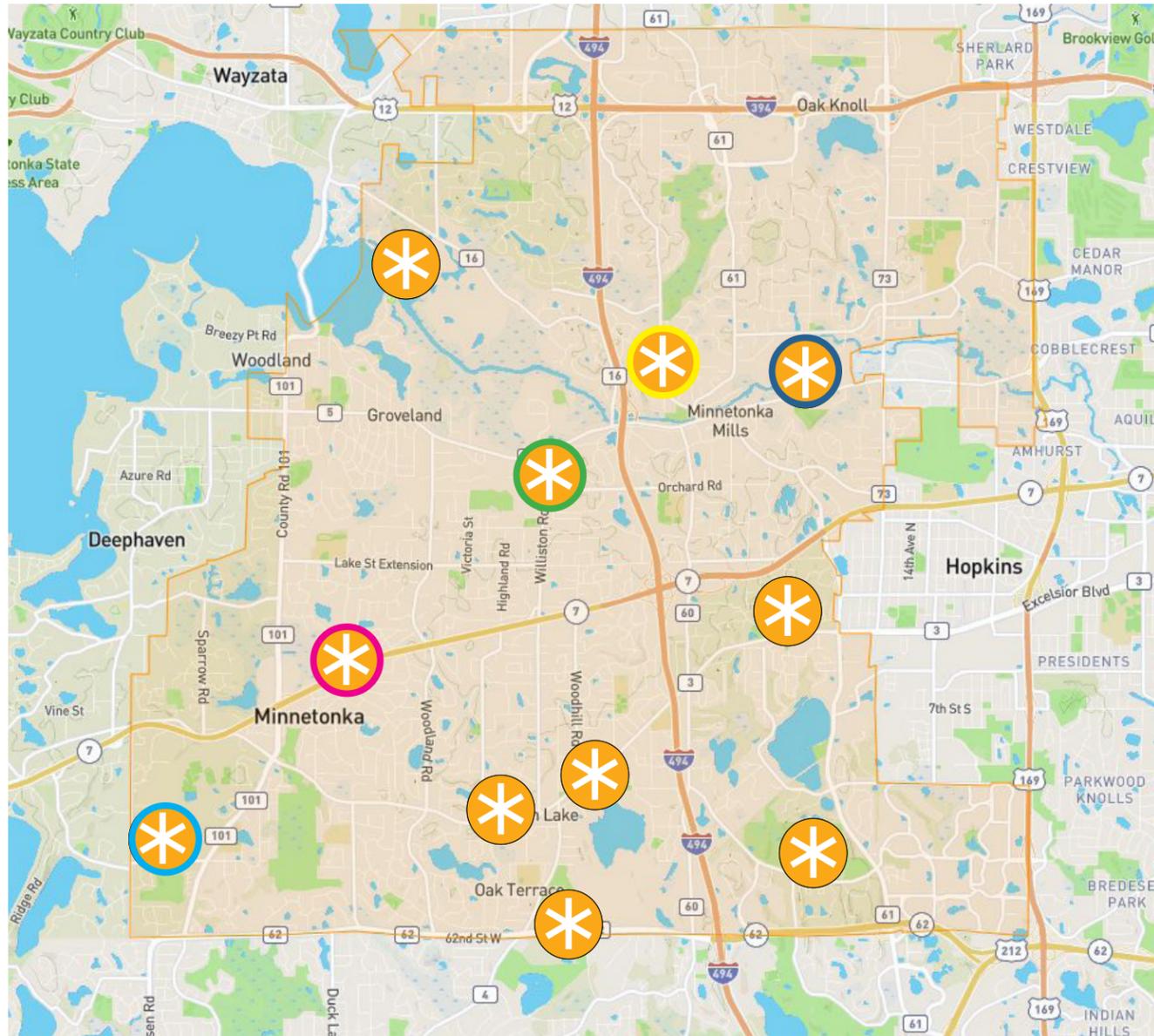
Location: Meadow Park  
The rocks that form the border around the play set is quite sharp and is a risk to kids who run (and fall).

Location: Purgatory Park  
I am a dog lover and understand the value of walking a dog off leash. The problem in this park is that the areas used for off leash walking are managed/maintained areas. The city leash ordinance states dogs can be off leash in unmaintained areas. The city has invested significant time and resources restoring this park and it is being significantly degraded by the overuse. Please find an unmaintained area for people to walk their dogs off leash or build a dedicated dog park. We cannot afford to lose these last natural places in the parks that benefit all park users.

# MAP YOUR COMMENTS - SUMMARY

This is a summary of comments for each category. .

## What bike/pedestrian issues have you observed?



 Location: 13XXX McGinty Road East, Minnetonka  
This area is heavily used by walkers, runners, and bikers and is very dangerous because there is no path and cars go very fast. A path needs to be added to connect the walking path that ends at Surry Lane to Plymouth Road (61).

 Location: 18XXX Covington Road, Minnetonka  
This path that leads to a blind stop sign on a steep slope. Cars drive too fast and there needs to be speed bumps or a path clearly labeled on the road for peds to access the park path.

 Location: 11XXX Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka  
When biking from the LRT trail through Guilliam Park to get to Big Willow Park, there is no connection here even though the trails are so close. You have to unsafely ride along Minnetonka Blvd to get down to the Big Willow entrance. I'd like to see a connection here to the Minnetonka Loop Trail

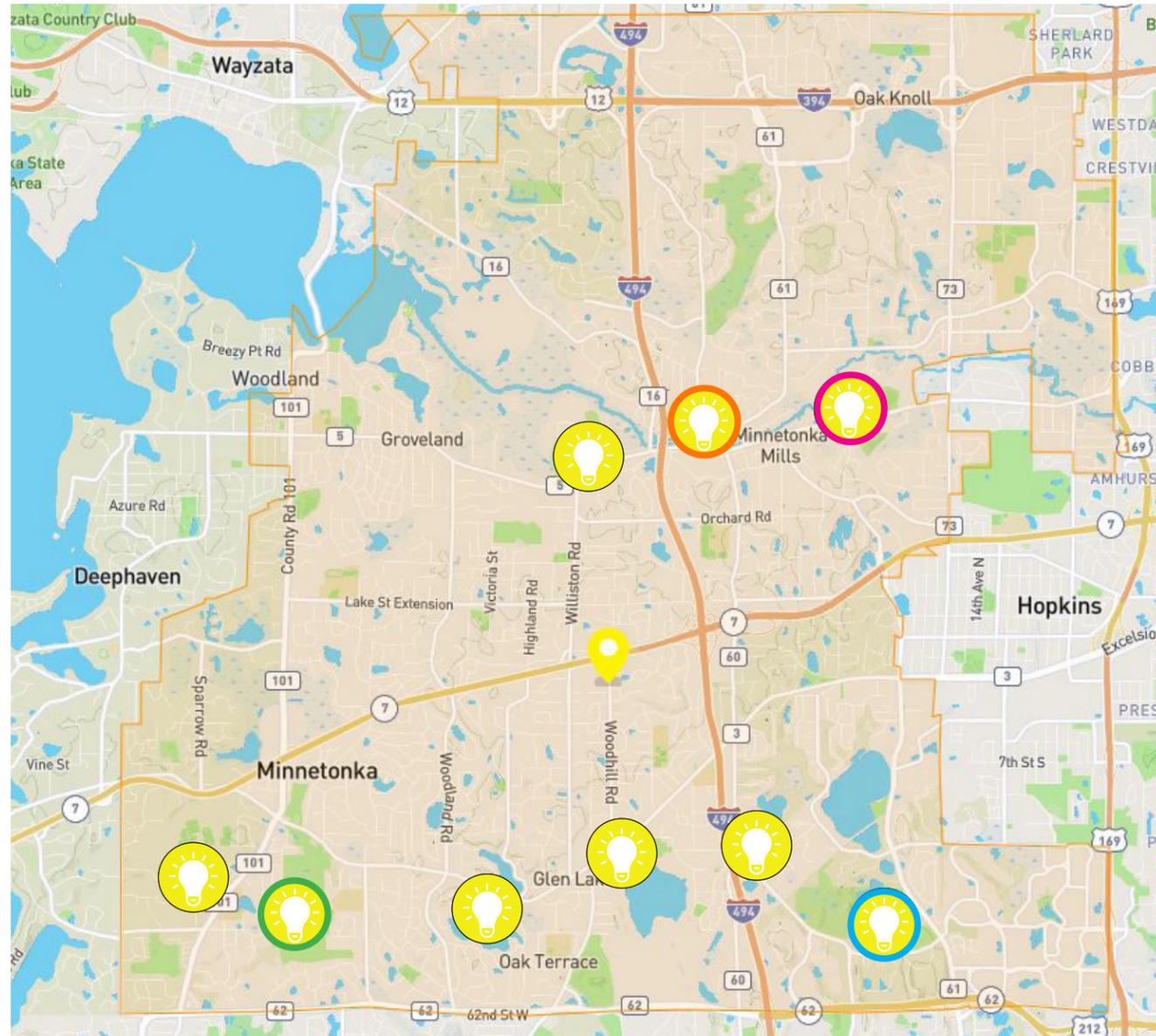
 Location: 16XXX Minnesota State Highway 7, Minnetonka  
The black tarmac path here is in quite rough shape, and oddly has no fence between it and the highway.

 Location: 3XXX Williston Road, Minnetonka  
I've observed (and been a participant) of the bike/foot traffic that uses Williston to hook up with the Mtka LRT. Would love to see a dedicated path or protective barriers for the ped lane since it's a decent hill and cars come flying down. Also since it's a common road to head into City Hall where the farmers market and other community events are held - big need for a pedestrian path for safer travel.

# MAP YOUR COMMENTS - SUMMARY

This is a summary of comments for each category. A full list of the comments can be found in the Appendix.

## What are your ideas?



 Location: 13508 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka  
This would be a great spot for a narrow natural surface bike / walk trail making a better connection from Burwell to the west than the narrow, slanted, often uncleared in winter sidewalk.

 Location: Lone Lake Park  
Comment 1: When the city re develops the signage for the park it needs to provide some history on the indigenous people (before settlers) who lived here plus the distinctive natural elements of the park including the vistas, lake, creek, remnants of big woods, etc. Kind of a cultural and physical history.  
Comment 2: No one uses this large area of turf. Why not create a pollinator meadow?

 Location: Minnetonka Loop Trail Systems, 12523 Creek Rd W, Minnetonka  
When biking from the LRT trail through Guilliam Park to get to Big Willow Park, there is no connection here even though the trails are so close. You have to unsafely ride along Minnetonka Blvd to get down to the Big Willow entrance. I'd like to see a connection here to the Minnetonka Loop Trail.

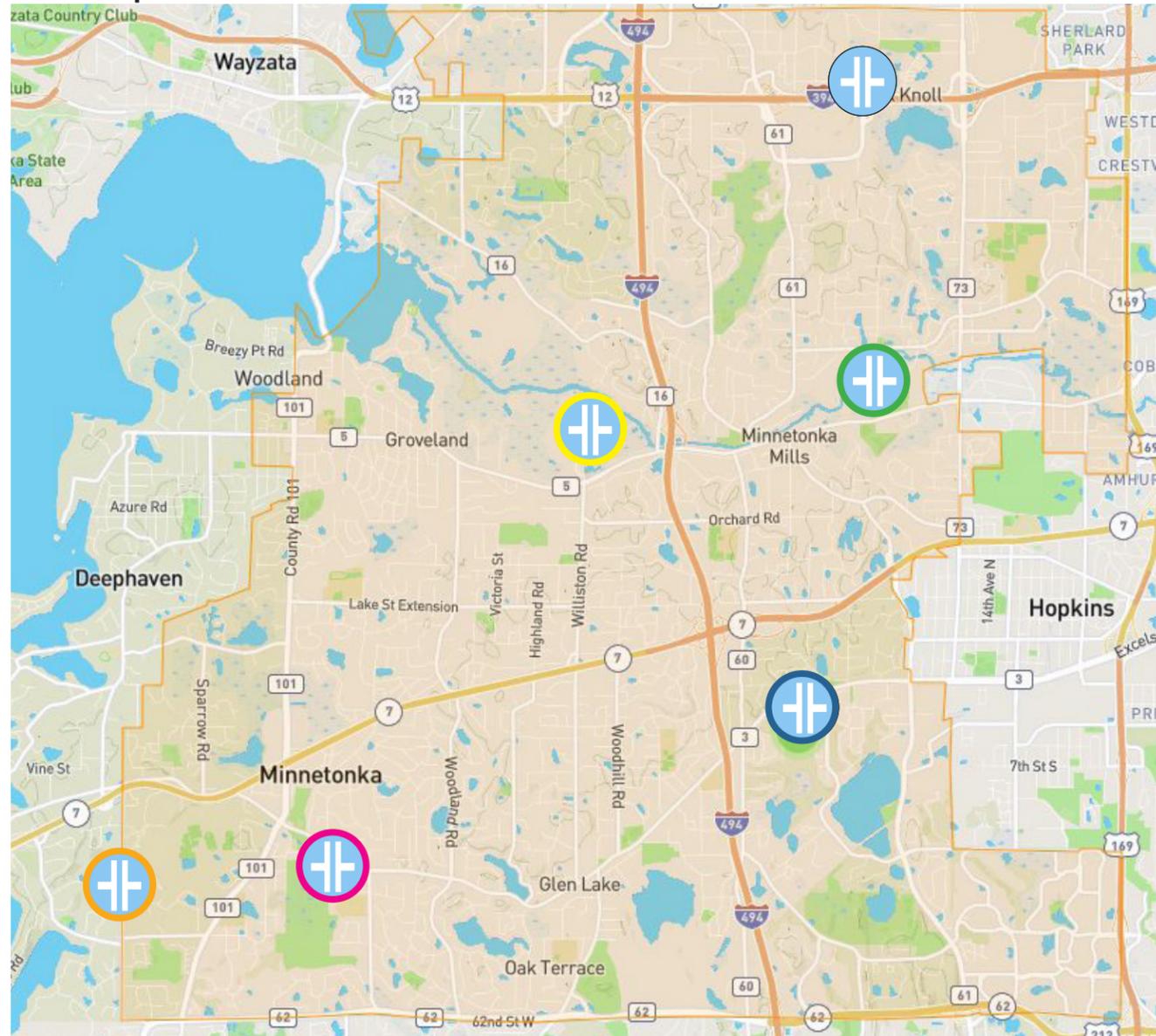
 Location: Purgatory Park  
Comment 1: When the city re develops the signage for the park it needs to provide some history on the indigenous people (before settlers) who lived here plus the distinctive natural elements of the park including the vistas, lake, creek, remnants of big woods, etc. Kind of a cultural and physical history.  
Comment 2: Connect Purgatory Park to Covington Park through a ped path or have better signs to direct people from one park to another

# MAP YOUR COMMENTS - SUMMARY

This is a summary of comments for each category.



Where are there gaps in the system?  
(i.e. facilities, trail connections, open space preserves, etc.)



Location: Civic Center Campus  
A more general comment - please update City statutes / ordinances to allow people on bicycles to access the (euphemistically titled) "unmaintained" trails in Minnetonka parks.

Location: 55XX Vine Hill Road, Minnetonka  
Minnetonka should extend the path from Vine Hill to connect to the trail system behind the Minnetonka High School going into the Tamarack neighborhood. This is a very dangerous trek, especially when walking with children, to get to the path.

Location: Junction Park  
Two tennis courts are in terrible shape. Would love to see both courts resurfaced with one court kept at tennis and the second court turned into two pickleball courts. The courts now are currently frequently used as off leash dog runs.

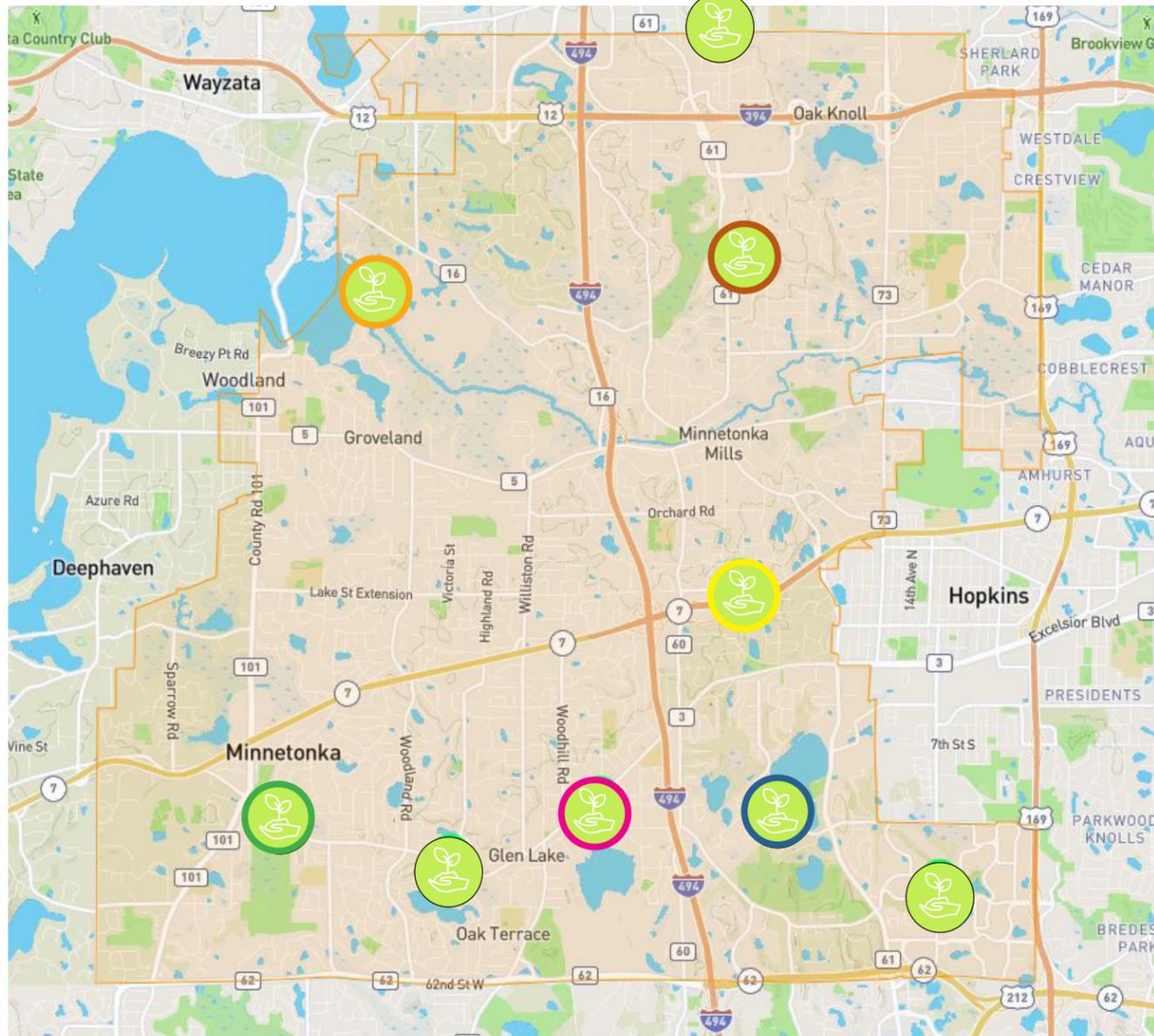
Location: Purgatory Park  
The park appears to be saturated with memorial benches at this point. I would think we should stop this program going forward and initiate a new dedication program if desired. Perhaps an arched pagoda over by the entrance in the lawn area or by the barn. This could be funded with small memorial placards that could be installed onto the post...

Location: Big Willow Park  
It would be great if there were nets around the outfield fences on all Big Willow baseball fields, but particularly the back two. The only parking available for people playing sports (soccer and softball is right beyond the outfield fences. Everyone tries to park as far away as possible and crosses their fingers that they won't come back to a smashed windshield. I've seen a number of dented cars and smashed windshields from Softball players hitting homeruns.

# MAP YOUR COMMENTS - SUMMARY

This is a summary of comments for each category.

 Where are there opportunities to improve the system or add new parks, open spaces, or trails?



 Location: 43XX Briarwood Drive, Minnetonka  
This would be a great place for a pedestrian/bike overpass of Hwy 7. These two neighborhoods are completely disconnected right now due to Hwy 7.

 Location: 16XXX Grays Bay Boulevard, Minnetonka  
Provide better access to Lake Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek for non motor boat users.

 Location: 12XXX Hilloway Road West, Minnetonka  
Would absolutely love some kind of playground feature the Sherwood Forest neighborhood could walk to safely.

 Location: Shady Oak Access  
It would be nice if the city made the informal path that starts here and accesses the trail in Lone Lake Park official. It has been here a long time and right now we need some ground rules for it.

 Location: Kinsel Park  
Would like to see Kinsel park preserve be better maintained. Trails need work, picnic tables inaccessible, and maintain it in winter for winter walks, snowshoeing, X-skiing would be great.

 Location: Purgatory Park  
The city recently replaced a pipe draining polluted parking lot water and water from Excelsior Blvd to flow directly into the creek. This could have been an innovative project that showcased best management practices. Please consider a watershed partnership to fix this antiquated storm sewer system of dumping directly into water bodies.

# STAKEHOLDER/COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

## STAKEHOLDER/ COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
FUNDED COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

(275+)

## PROJECT SUPPORT

The city has received project support from Hennepin County Active Living funded through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), Minnesota Department of Health, to deepen community outreach and engagement. This support supplements the planned engagement activities listed above by adding additional resources to specifically engage underrepresented communities, including BIPOC, seniors, youth, and persons with disabilities.



## STAKEHOLDER/COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

### BIPOC

City staff has met with the City's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group, to determine appropriate forums, methods and/or events and facilitate engagement with BIPOC communities. It was determined that conducting Listening Sessions will be a good way to reach out BIPOC communities. A listening session was conducted at the Al-Amaan Center on June 19th.

Apartment complexes were identified as places to reach out to the BIPOC community. An online survey e-blast to 37 apartment complex managers was sent out in June. In addition, at Night to Unite, pop-up events were held at various neighborhood gatherings at apartment complexes.

### YOUTH

- Engagement with Treehouse Hope youth group - June 8th (~18 participants)
- Pop-up event at Shady Oak Beach to engage with youth - June 26th (~60 participants)
- Six visits to the Park Adventures camps in Minnetonka - June 29th/30th (60)

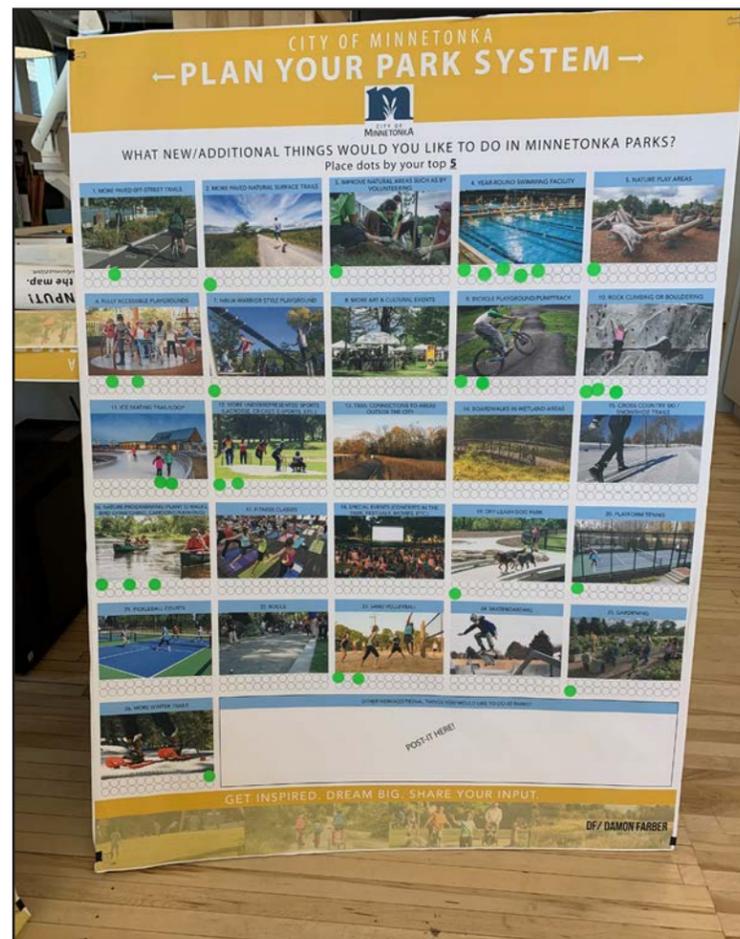
### SENIORS & PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- City staff has met with the City's Senior Advisory Board to review online survey questions/topics to gain better insight and make adjustments to the survey. As a result, more natural resources questions will be added to the survey as well as more questions regarding senior programming.
- City staff/project team have provided hard copy surveys to senior groups/facilities to complete. Results have been transferred to the online survey and results tallied.
- Outreach has happened at City locations to reach out to seniors and people with disabilities, including multiple visits to the Community Center/Senior Services.
- An online survey e-blast was sent to the Senior Bike Club in June.
- An online survey e-blast was sent to Opportunity Partners, a nonprofit organization that works alongside people with disabilities to provide job training, employment and residential support for people to live more independently.

# LISTENING SESSION - AL-AMAAN CENTER

A listening session was conducted at the Al-Amaan Center on the evening of June 19th. A small group ranging in ages from about 5 to 50 provided input. The input received was both through a small group discussion with six general discussion topics as well as providing dot voting on two boards ranking their highest priority issues and themes for the parks and new/additional things to do in the parks.

## NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS - IMAGERY RESPONSE



### DOT VOTING

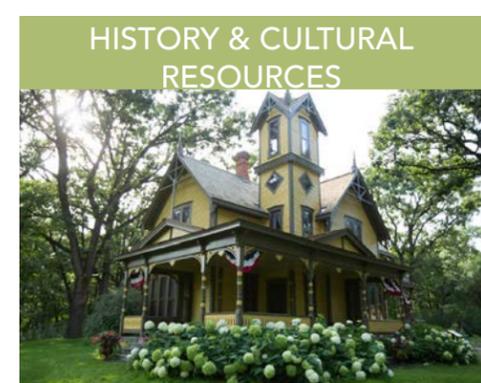
- MORE PAVED OFF-STREET TRAILS - 1
- MORE PAVED NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS - 2
- IMPROVE NATURAL AREAS SUCH AS BY VOLUNTEERING - 1
- YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY - 5
- NATURE PLAY AREAS - 1
- FULLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS - 2
- NINJA WARRIOR STYLE PLAYGROUND - 1
- BICYCLE PLAYGROUND/PUMPTACK - 2
- ROCK CLIMBING OR BOULDERING - 3
- ICE SKATING TRAIL/LOOP - 2
- MORE UNDERREPRESENTED SPORTS (LACROSSE, CRICKET, E-SPORTS, ETC.) - 2
- NATURE PROGRAMMING (PLANT ID WALKS, BIRD ID/WATCHING, CANOEING/KAYAKING) - 3
- OFF-LEASH DOG PARK - 1
- PLATFORM TENNIS - 1
- SAND VOLLEYBALL - 2
- GARDENING - 1
- MORE WINTER TRAILS - 1

### TAKEAWAYS:

- HAVING NEW OR IMPROVED RECREATIONAL AMENITIES WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO THIS GROUP, ESPECIALLY ACCESSIBLE YEAR-ROUND FACILITIES.
- CONNECTING WITH NATURE WAS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT TO THIS GROUP.

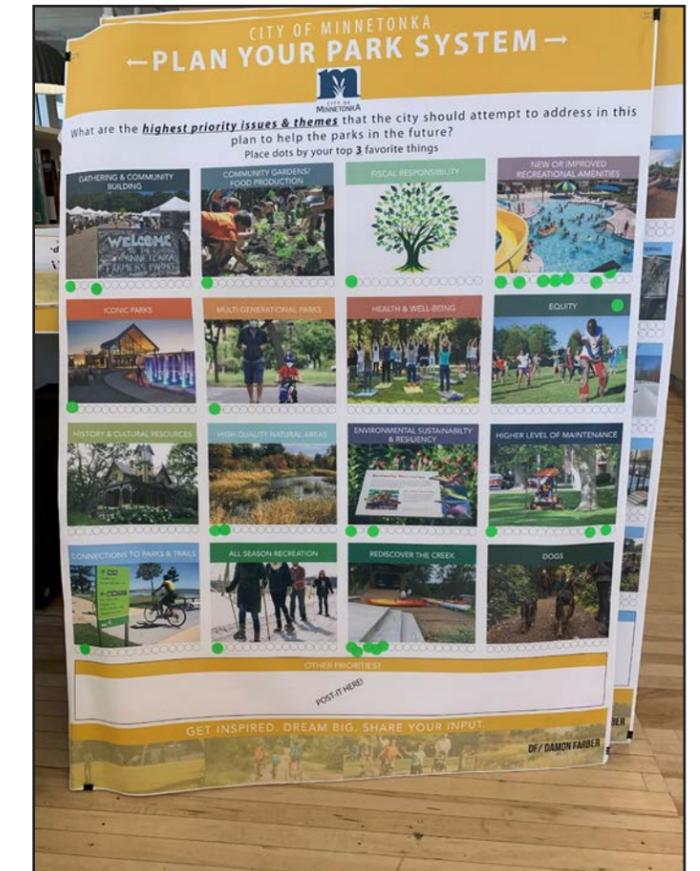
# LISTENING SESSION - AL-AMAAN CENTER

HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUES & THEMES THAT THE CITY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS IN THE PLAN TO HELP THE PARKS IN THE FUTURE - IMAGERY RESPONSE



## DOT VOTING TAKE-AWAYS:

- HAVING NEW OR IMPROVED RECREATIONAL AMENITIES WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO THIS GROUP, ESPECIALLY ACCESSIBLE YEAR-ROUND FACILITIES.
- RECONNECTING WITH THE CREEK AND NATURE WAS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT TO THIS GROUP.



STAKEHOLDER

# LISTENING SESSION - AL-AMAAN CENTER

The following minutes summarize discussion and comments received in the Listening Session conducted with members of Al-Amaan Center (5620 Smetana Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55343) on June 29, 2021:

## STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION TOPICS

### 1. (HOW) DO YOU CURRENTLY USE MINNETONKA'S PARKS, OPEN SPACES, AND TRAILS?

- WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU DO?
- HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THE SYSTEM?

#### COMMENTS

- *We use Lone Lake Park, Shady Oak Beach, and some of the parks located near the Al Amaan Center located in the Opus District*
- *Basketball*
- *Soccer*
- *Large social gatherings*
- *Picnicking/grilling*

### 2. WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT MINNETONKA'S SYSTEM OF PARKS, OPEN SPACES, AND TRAILS?

- WHAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT IN THE COMMUNITY?

#### COMMENTS

- *Greenery*
- *Where they come from, there are few if any parks, so they appreciate the fact that there are so many parks in Minnetonka*

### 3. WHAT IS MISSING IN THE EXPERIENCE OF VISITING THE CITY'S SYSTEM OF PARKS, OPEN SPACES, AND TRAILS?

- WHAT IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE?
- ARE THERE OTHER ACTIVITIES, FEATURES, FACILITIES AND/OR PROGRAMS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE OFFERED?

#### COMMENTS

- *More shade*
- *More water parks*
- *More running tracks and fields*
- *More flexible/multi-use park space*
- *Indoor soccer facilities*
- *Climbing walls*
- *Youth Center*
- *Places to pray (indoor)*
- *Places for large gathering (200-300 people) w/kitchen and dining areas*
- *More picnic facilities with shade*
- *Grilling facilities*

# LISTENING SESSION - AL-AMAAN CENTER

## 4. DOES ANYTHING MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO VISIT MINNETONKA'S PARKS OR TRAILS, OR PARTICIPATE IN RECREATION PROGRAMS?

- WHAT BARRIERS YOU DO EXPERIENCE TO ACCESSING THE PARKS, TRAILS, OR RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS?
- WHAT WOULD HELP OVERCOME THOSE BARRIERS?

### COMMENTS

- *Parks should be more accessible – ability to walk safely to parks*
- *City should advertise parks and park events better – with park images and in multiple languages*
- *Advertise through schools and direct mailers/fliers to multi-family housing units/apartments, particularly to under-served communities*
- *Include more multi-lingual park signage*
- *Create more opportunities for people to feel a sense of belonging and ownership of the parks*

## 5. HOW EASY IS IT FOR YOU TO GET TO MINNETONKA'S PARKS AND TRAILS?

- CAN YOU BIKE OR WALK TO A PARK OR TRAIL FROM YOUR HOME OR WORK?
- (IF NO) WHAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO WALK OR BIKE TO THE PARK/TRAILS?
- ARE THERE ANY PARKS, TRAILS, OR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT YOU DON'T GO TO BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GET THERE / DON'T HAVE TRANSPORTATION?

### COMMENTS

- *Parks should be more accessible – ability to walk safely to parks*

## 6. DO YOU FEEL WELCOME IN THE CITY'S PARKS AND TRAILS?

- DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN THE CITY'S PARKS AND TRAILS?
- HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY HARASSMENT OR FELT TARGETED WHILE USING MINNETONKA'S THE PARKS OR TRAILS?
- WHAT WOULD MAKE PARKS AND TRAILS FEEL MORE WELCOMING AND SAFER FOR YOU?

### COMMENTS

- *We feel safe and welcome in the parks now*
- *Create more opportunities for people to feel a sense of belonging and ownership of the parks*

# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

The Treehouse Hope Youth Group, located in Minnetonka, was engaged in a focus group event the evening of June 8th. A group of 20 ranging in ages from about 13-17 provided input. The input received was both through three activities - a visual survey, a small group mapping exercise, and a live poll.

## VISUAL SURVEY

### ACTIVITY 1

#### YOUR MINNETONKA PARK SYSTEM

1. LIST OR DRAW WHAT YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT GOING TO PARKS NOW:

2. WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU LIKE TO DO MOST AT MINNETONKA PARKS?  
Circle your top three...

- |            |               |              |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| skateboard | basketball    | be in nature |
| bike       | play          | run          |
| garden     | fish          | learn        |
| swim       | winter sports | volunteer    |
| soccer     | canoe/kayak   | hike         |
| baseball   | gather        | other? _____ |

MORE ON THE BACK →

3. WHAT NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO AT MINNETONKA PARKS?



+

## DESIGN YOUR OWN PARK

### ACTIVITY 2



+

## LIVE POLL

### ACTIVITY 3

QUESTION 6:

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO DO AT A MINNETONKA PARK? (SELECT 3)

- |                                |                                  |                              |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A.  SKATE BOARD                | F.  PLAY ON A PLAYGROUND         | K.  PRETEND PLAY             |
| B.  FIELD SPORTS (E.G. SOCCER) | G.  GARDEN                       | L.  TECH/ WIFI               |
| C.  PLAY BASKETBALL            | H.  RUN AROUND                   | M.  READ A BOOK              |
| D.  RIDE MY BIKE               | I.  SWIM OR SPLASH               | N.  PICNIC                   |
| E.  HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS      | J.  WATCH A PERFORMANCE/ CONCERT | O.  COURT PLAY (E.G. TENNIS) |



# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

## VISUAL SURVEY

### ACTIVITY 1

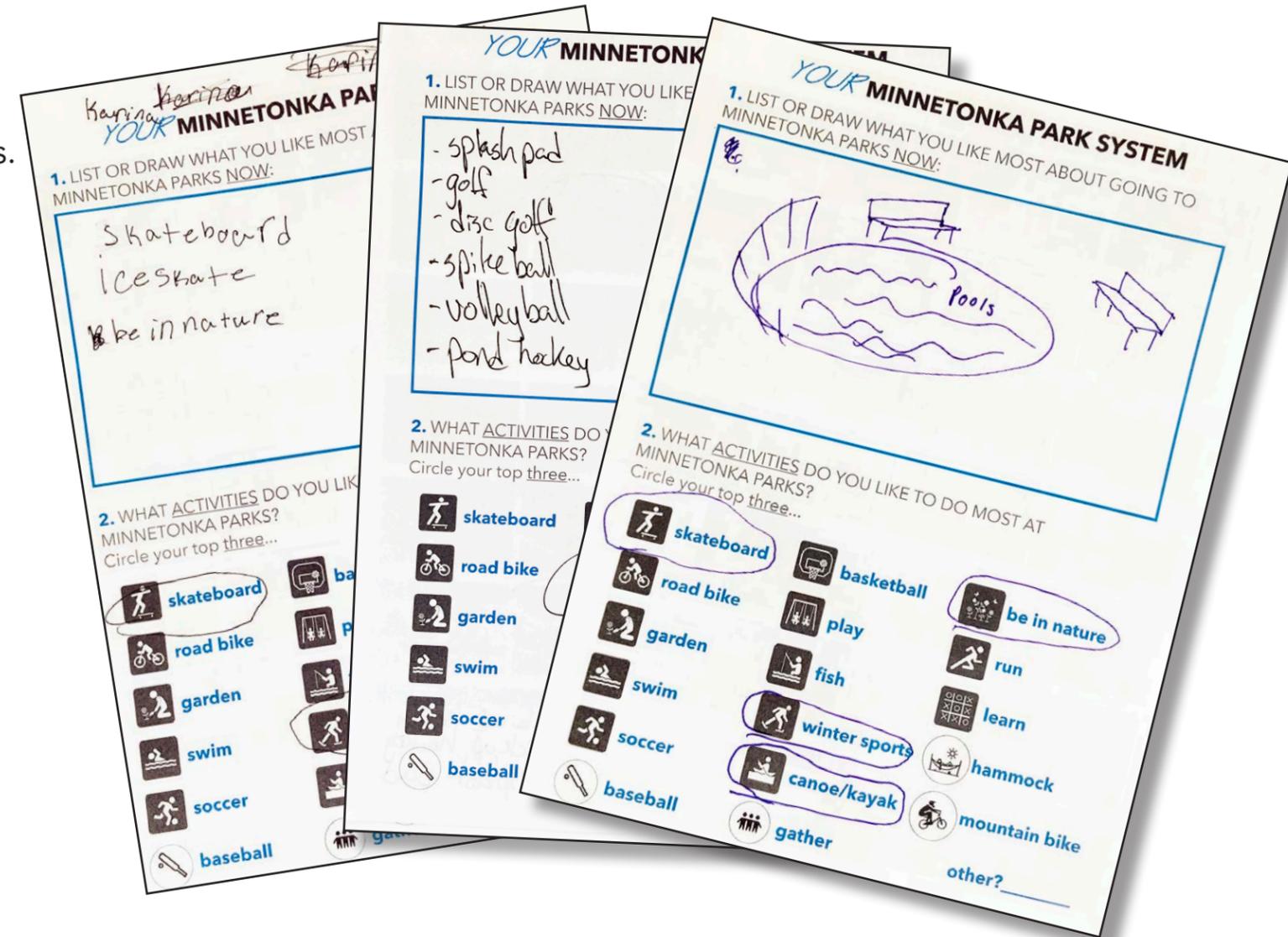
Each individual was handed 'visual survey' to fill out and return to the facilitators. 14 surveys were collected.

### YOUR MINNETONKA PARK SYSTEM

1. LIST OR DRAW WHAT YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT GOING TO PARKS NOW:

2. WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU LIKE TO DO MOST AT MINNETONKA PARKS?  
Circle your top three...

- |            |               |              |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| skateboard | basketball    | be in nature |
| bike       | play          | run          |
| garden     | fish          | learn        |
| swim       | winter sports | volunteer    |
| soccer     | canoe/kayak   | hike         |
| baseball   | gather        | other? _____ |



### TOP VOTES FOR ACTIVITIES:

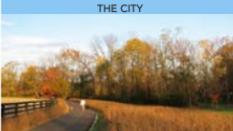
- SKATEBOARDING - 15% OF PARTICIPANTS
- WINTER SPORTS - 30% OF PARTICIPANTS
- MOUNTAIN BIKE - 15% OF PARTICIPANTS
- BE IN NATURE - 30% OF PARTICIPANTS
- CANOE/KAYAK - 15% OF PARTICIPANTS
- BASKETBALL - 45% OF PARTICIPANTS
- ROAD BIKE - 45% OF PARTICIPANTS
- PLAY - 30% OF PARTICIPANTS

# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

## VISUAL SURVEY

### ACTIVITY 1 - PG 2

#### 3. WHAT NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO AT MINNETONKA PARKS?

<p>1. MORE PAVED OFF-STREET TRAILS</p> 	<p>2. MORE PAVED NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS</p> 	<p>3. IMPROVE NATURAL AREAS SUCH AS BY VOLUNTEERING</p> 	<p>4. YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY</p> 
<p>5. NATURE PLAY AREAS</p> 	<p>6. FULLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS</p> 	<p>7. NINJA WARRIOR STYLE PLAYGROUND</p> 	<p>8. MORE ART &amp; CULTURAL EVENTS</p> 
<p>9. BICYCLE PLAYGROUND/PUMPTRACK</p> 	<p>10. ROCK CLIMBING OR BOULDERING</p> 	<p>11. ICE SKATING TRAIL/LOOP</p> 	<p>12. MORE UNDERREPRESENTED SPORTS (LACROSSE, CRICKET, E-SPORTS, ETC.)</p> 
<p>13. TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO AREAS OUTSIDE THE CITY</p> 	<p>14. BOARDWALKS IN WETLAND AREAS</p> 	<p>15. CROSS-COUNTRY SKI / SNOWSHOE TRAILS</p> 	<p>16. NATURE PROGRAMMING (PLANT ID WALKS, BIRD ID/WATCHING, CANOEING/KAYAKING)</p> 
<p>17. FITNESS CLASSES</p> 	<p>18. SPECIAL EVENTS (CONCERTS IN THE PARK, FESTIVALS, MOVIES, ETC.)</p> 	<p>19. OFF-LEASH DOG PARK</p> 	<p>20. PLATFORM TENNIS</p> 
<p>21. PICKLEBALL COURTS</p> 	<p>22. BOCCIE</p> 	<p>23. SAND VOLLEYBALL</p> 	<p>24. SKATEBOARDING</p> 
<p>25. GARDENING</p> 	<p>26. MORE WINTER TRAILS</p> 	<p>OTHER NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO AT PARKS?</p>	

### TOP VOTES FOR NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN PARKS:

- YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY
- NATURE PLAY AREAS
- NINJA WARRIOR STYLE PLAYGROUND
- BOARDWALKS IN WETLAND AREAS
- SKATEBOARDING
- ICE SKATING/TRAIL LOOP

### OTHER VISUAL SURVEY TAKEAWAYS:

- PARTICIPANTS RANGED FROM SOMETIMES TO ALWAYS FEELING SAFE IN PARKS
- 30% OF PARTICIPANTS LISTED RACE OR CULTURAL IDENTITY AS A REASON FOR MAKING THEM NOT FEEL WELCOME OR SAFE IN PARKS
- MANY DO NOT VISIT PARKS OFTEN IN MINNETONKA - WITH A FEW STATING 'I DON'T HAVE PARKS AROUND ME.'

STAKEHOLDER

# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

## DESIGN YOUR OWN PARK

### ACTIVITY 2

Three small groups were formed to design their own parks. Each group was provided a base plan and they were directed to collectively select 10 different icon stickers they would like to see happen in the park and layout the features in their respective zones. Icons could be used multiple times. Facilitators walked around to answer questions as the plans were developed. A group leader then described their plan to the overall group.

#### 1. IN SMALL GROUPS OF 3-4, SELECT PLAN DIAGRAM:



#### 2. SELECT PROGRAM ICON STICKERS:

SAMPLE ICONS (PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE MULTIPLE OF EACH)\*:



PLACE THE ICON STICKERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ZONES TO SHOW WHAT HAPPENS WHERE IN YOUR PREFERRED PARK DESIGN. E.G. DO YOU WANT LOTS OF BENCHES, SWINGS, ETC?

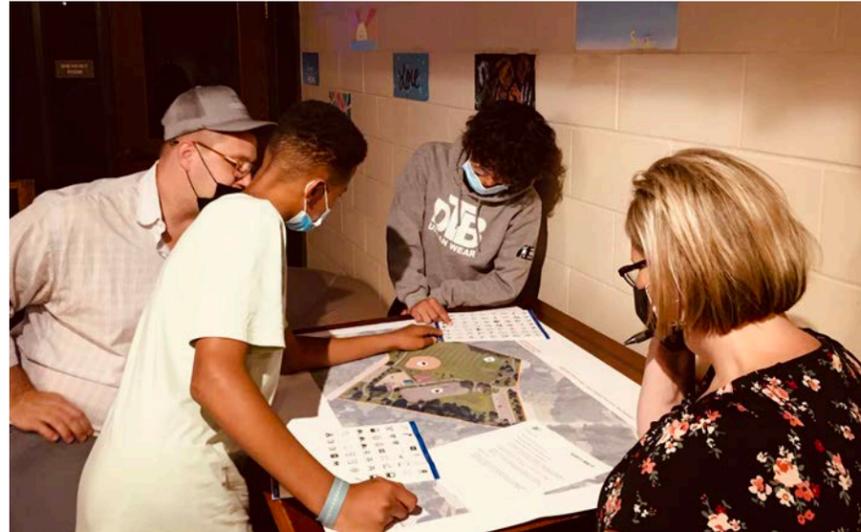
STAKEHOLDER

# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

## DESIGN YOUR OWN PARK

### ACTIVITY 2

#### GROUP 1



#### GROUP 2



#### GROUP 3



#### TAKEAWAYS:

- LIKED TO HAVE A LOT OF ACTIVITY OPTIONS IN THE PARK
- INCLUDED A MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL AND SKATEBOARD LOOP BUILT IN THE ADJACENT WOODS
- RECOMMENDED MANY PLACES FOR SITTING

#### TAKEAWAYS:

- WANTED A SKATEPARK
- WIFI IN THE PARK
- A PLACE FOR DOGS
- A COMMUNITY GARDEN

#### TAKEAWAYS:

- CREATED AN INTAGRAM SPOT IN THE PARK
- WIFI IMPORTANT
- REUSING THE RINK AS A DOG PARK IN THE WARMER MONTHS
- A PLACE FOR MUSIC/PERFORMANCE

# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

## LIVE POLL

### ACTIVITY 3

A live poll consisting of 10 questions was conducted on a survey website. The teens used their phones to vote 'live' and then the results were presented in real time.

#### 1. GENERATE POLL QUESTION:



WHAT TYPE OF CLIMBING ACTIVITY DO YOU PREFER?



a. climbing wall



b. nature-based climbing



c. traditional climbing equipment

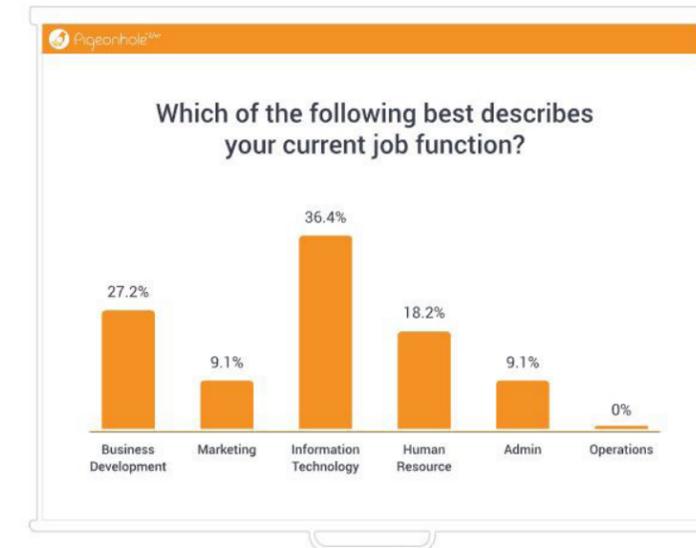
**\*Questions will be specific to teen use: how they use the park, what they want it to be & look like.**

#### 2. CAST YOUR VOTE FROM ANY DEVICE WITH INTERNET ACCESS



**No App required, wifi connection only. Survey accessed via website.**

#### 3. SEE REAL-TIME RESULTS & DISCUSS



**\*Questions, polling can be developed & filtered on-site or in advance to promote responsive polling.**

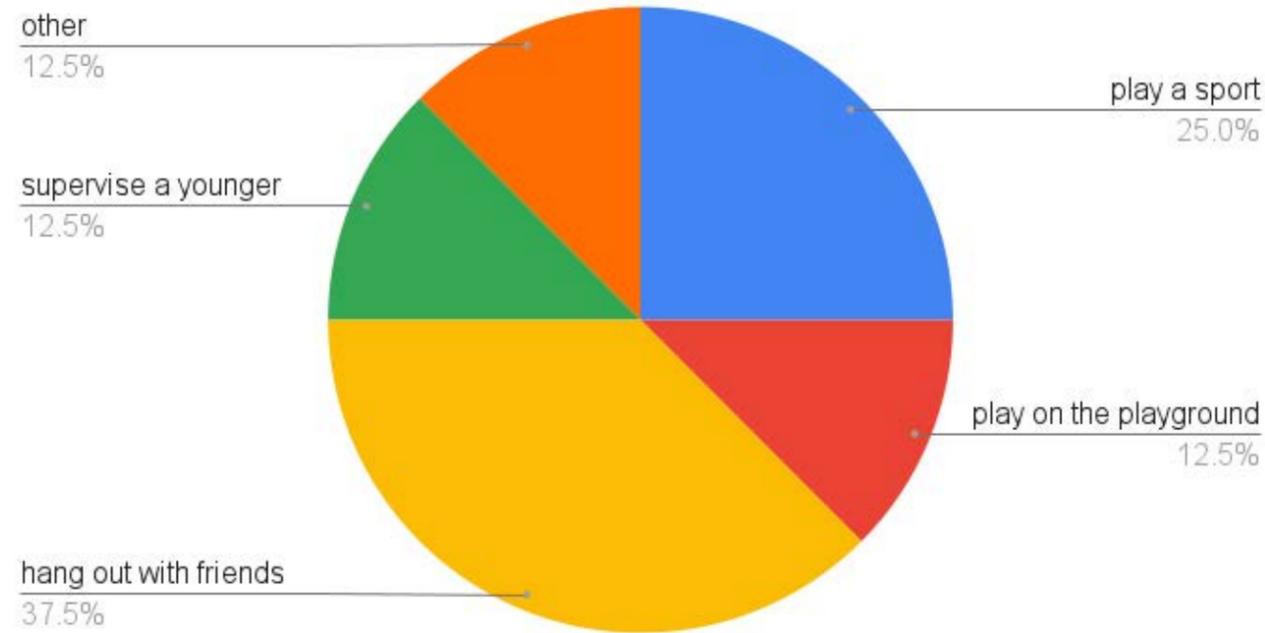
# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

## LIVE POLL

### ACTIVITY 3

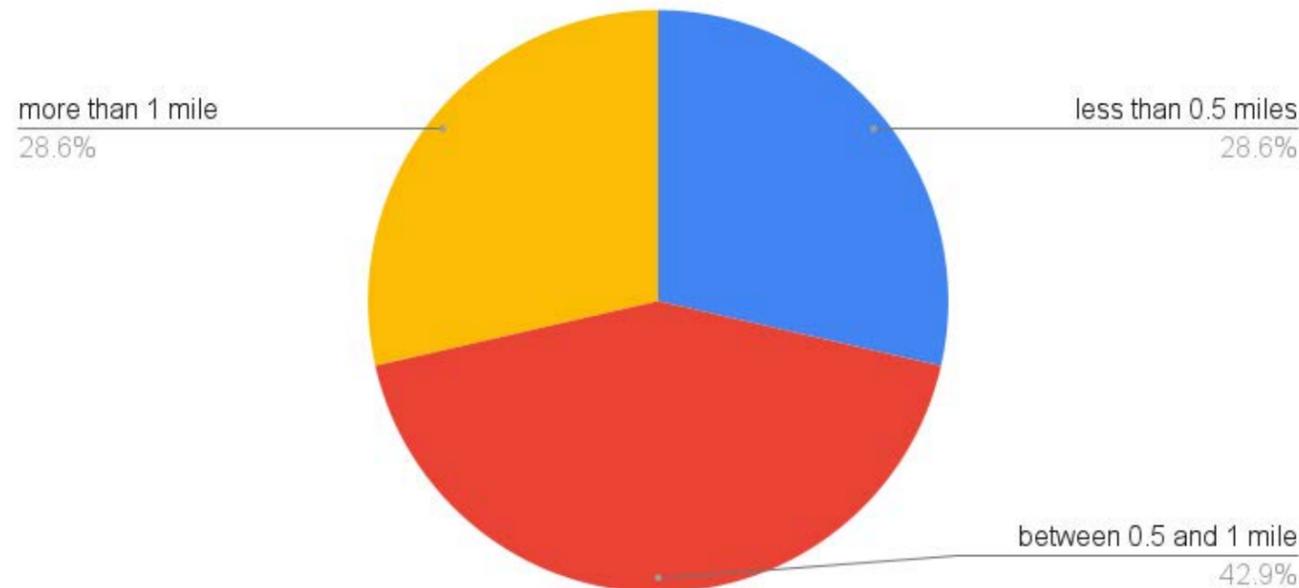
QUESTION 1:

#### HOW DO YOU MOST USE MINNETONKA PARKS NOW?



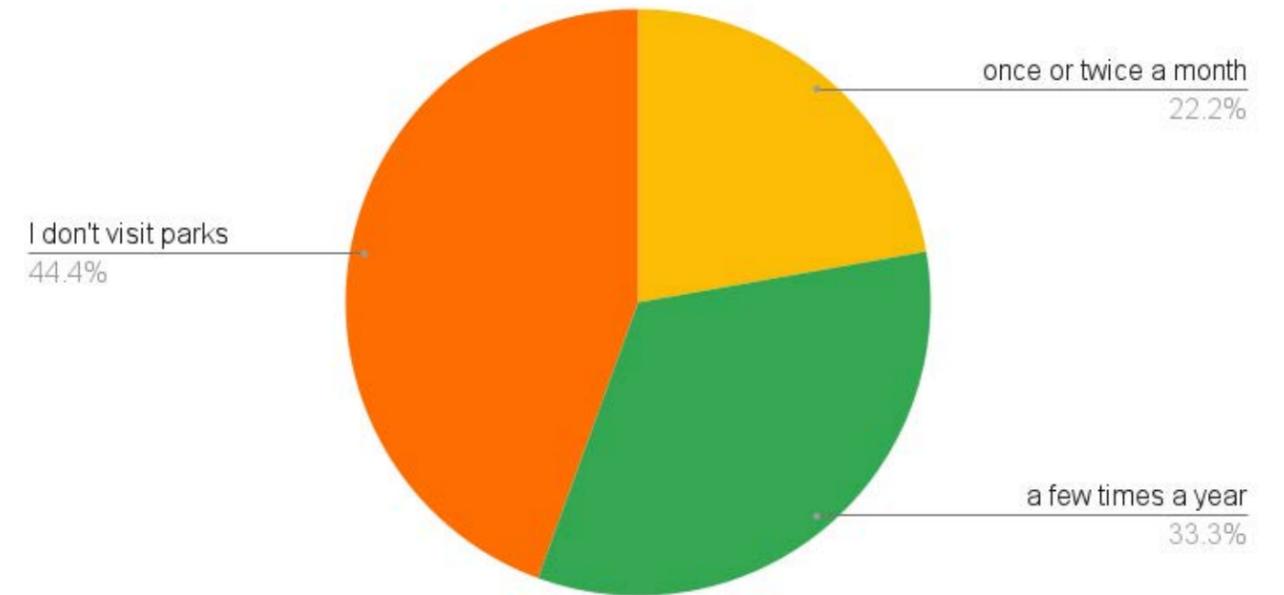
QUESTION 2:

#### I LIVE \_\_\_\_\_ MILES FROM THE CLOSEST PARK:



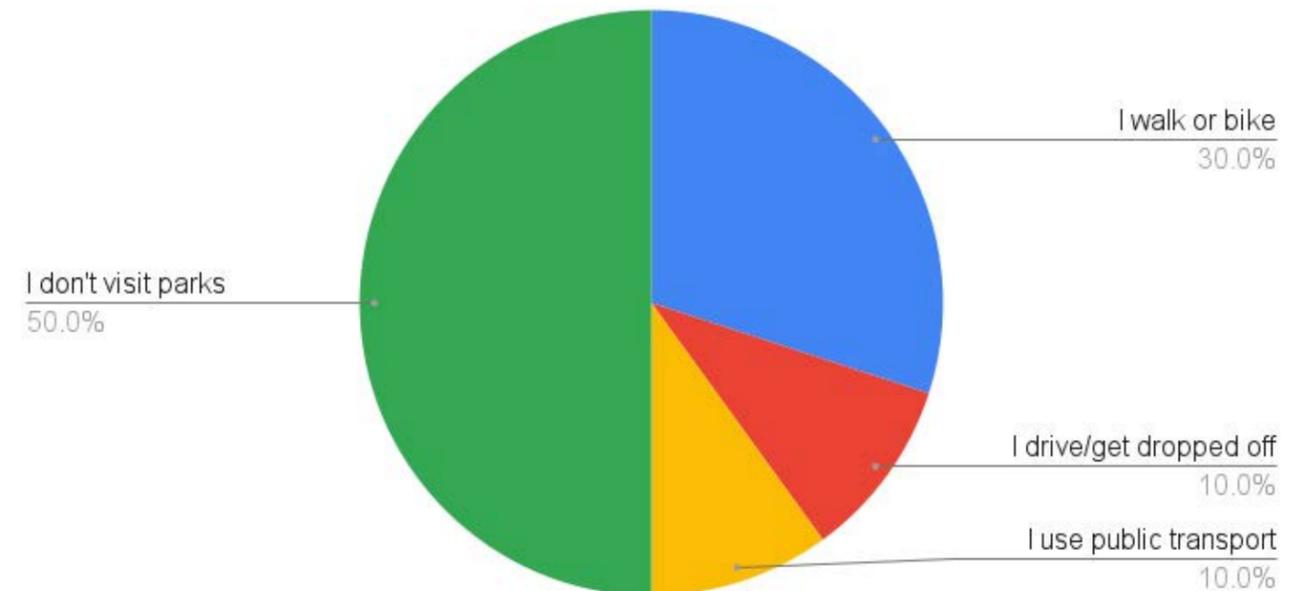
QUESTION 3:

#### HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT A PARK IN MINNETONKA?



QUESTION 4:

#### HOW DO YOU MOST OFTEN GET TO THE PARK?



STAKEHOLDER

# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

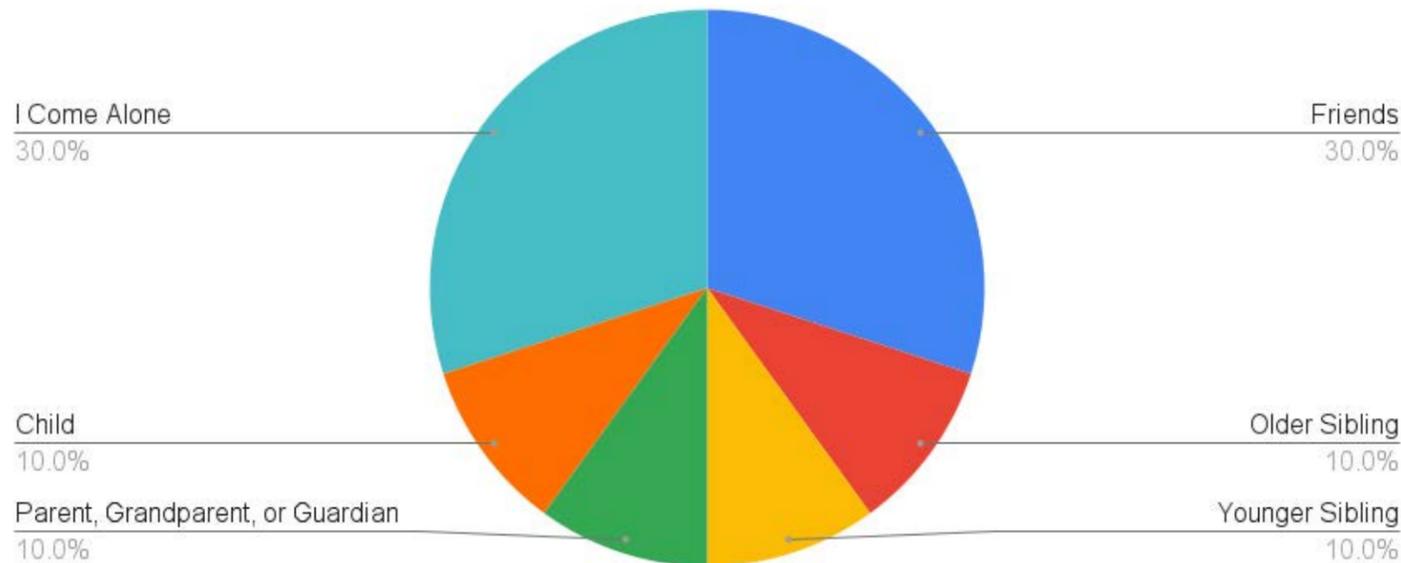
## LIVE POLL

### ACTIVITY 3

#### QUESTION 5:

I VISIT MINNETONKA PARKS WITH MY \_\_\_\_\_.

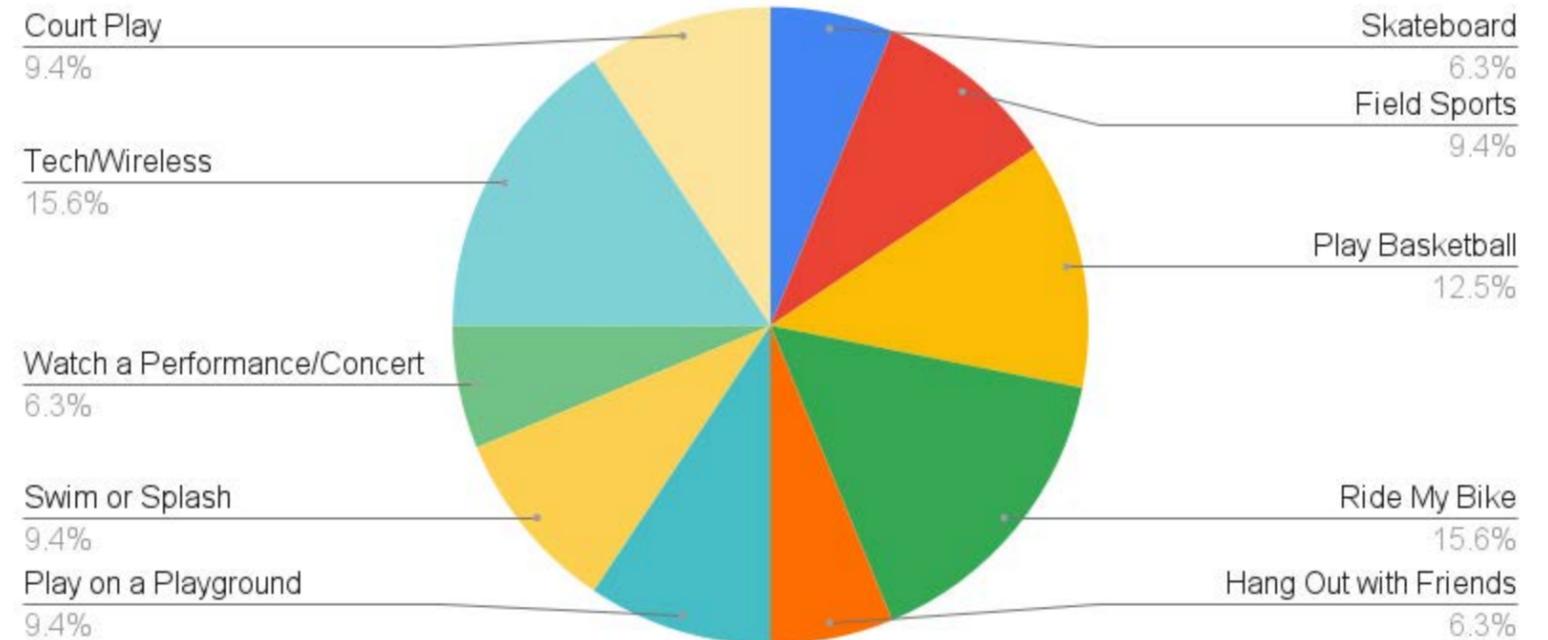
- A. FRIENDS
- B. OLDER SIBLING
- C. YOUNGER SIBLING
- D. PARENT, GRANDPARENT, OR GUARDIAN
- E. CHILD
- F. I COME ALONE
- G. OTHER



#### QUESTION 6:

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO DO AT A MINNETONKA PARK? (SELECT 3)

- A. SKATE BOARD
- B. FIELD SPORTS (E.G. SOCCER)
- C. PLAY BASKETBALL
- D. RIDE MY BIKE
- E. HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS
- F. PLAY ON A PLAYGROUND
- G. GARDEN
- H. RUN AROUND
- I. SWIM OR SPLASH
- J. WATCH A PERFORMANCE/ CONCERT
- K. PRETEND PLAY
- L. TECH/ WIFI
- M. READ A BOOK
- N. PICNIC
- O. COURT PLAY (E.G. TENNIS)



# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

## LIVE POLL

### ACTIVITY 3

QUESTION 7:

WHAT TYPE OF PLAYGROUND WOULD YOU PREFER?



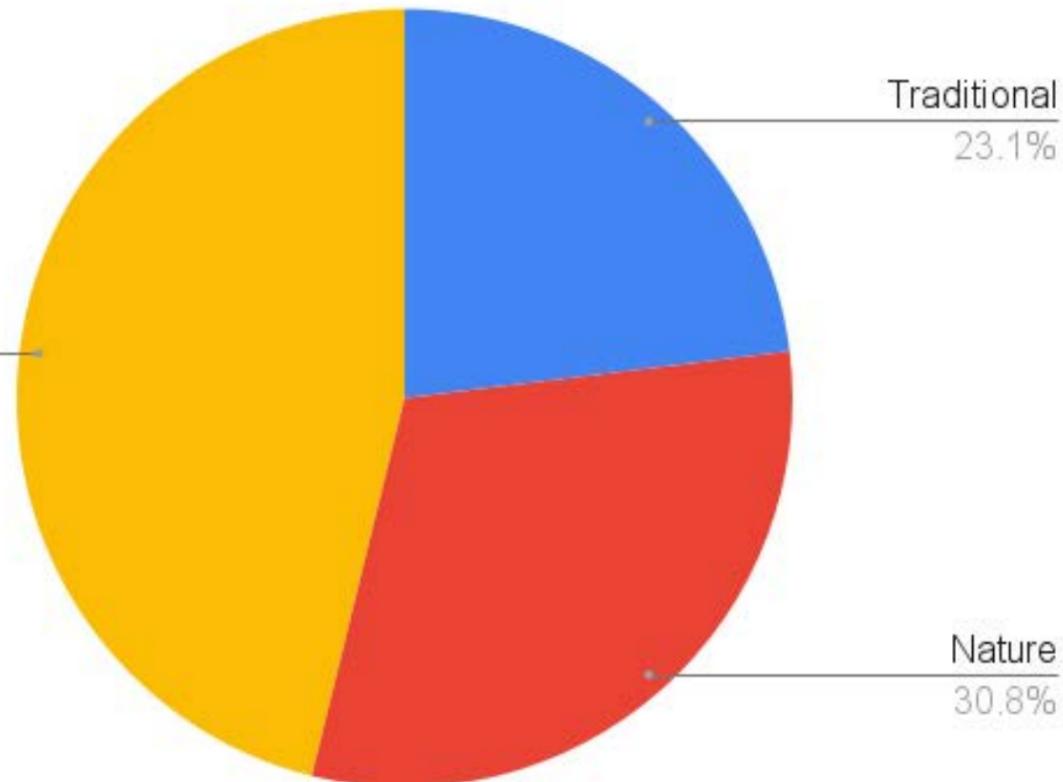
A. TRADITIONAL



B. NATURE BASED



C. MODERN



QUESTION 8:

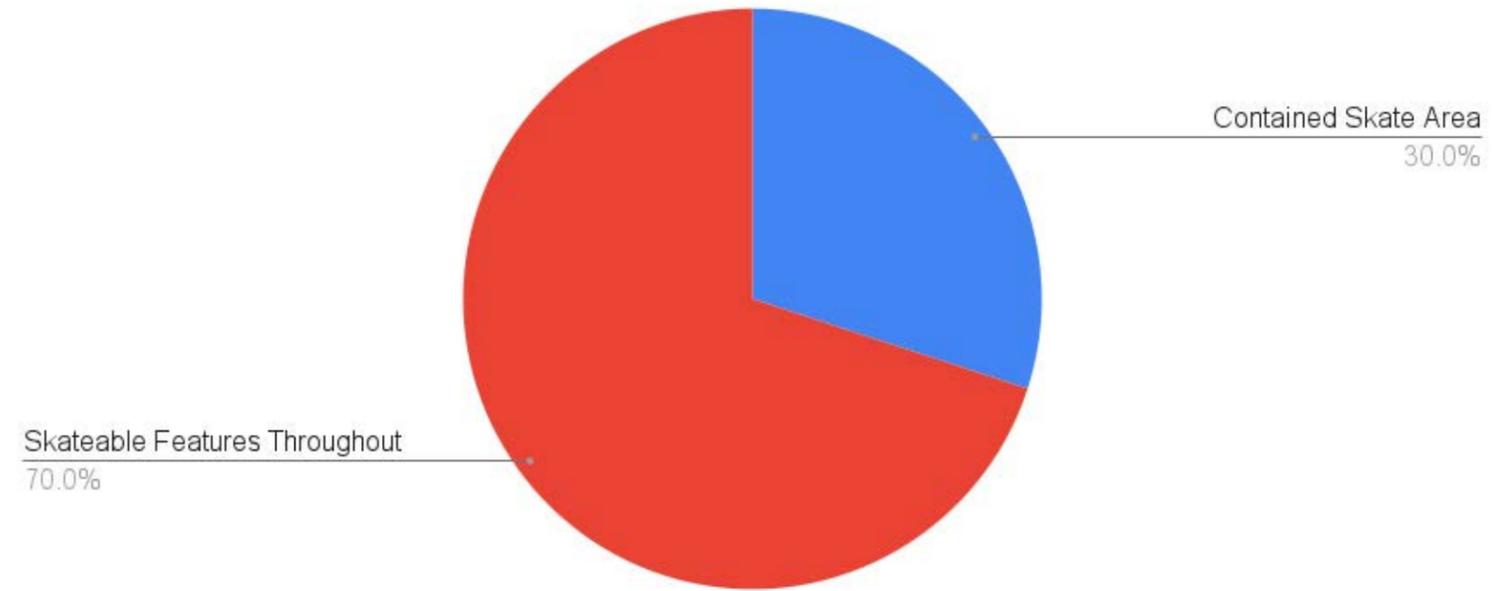
WHAT TYPE OF SKATE PARK DO YOU PREFER?



A. CONTAINED SKATE AREA



B. SKATEABLE FEATURES THROUGHOUT THE PARK



STAKEHOLDER

# TREEHOUSE HOPE YOUTH GROUP ENGAGEMENT

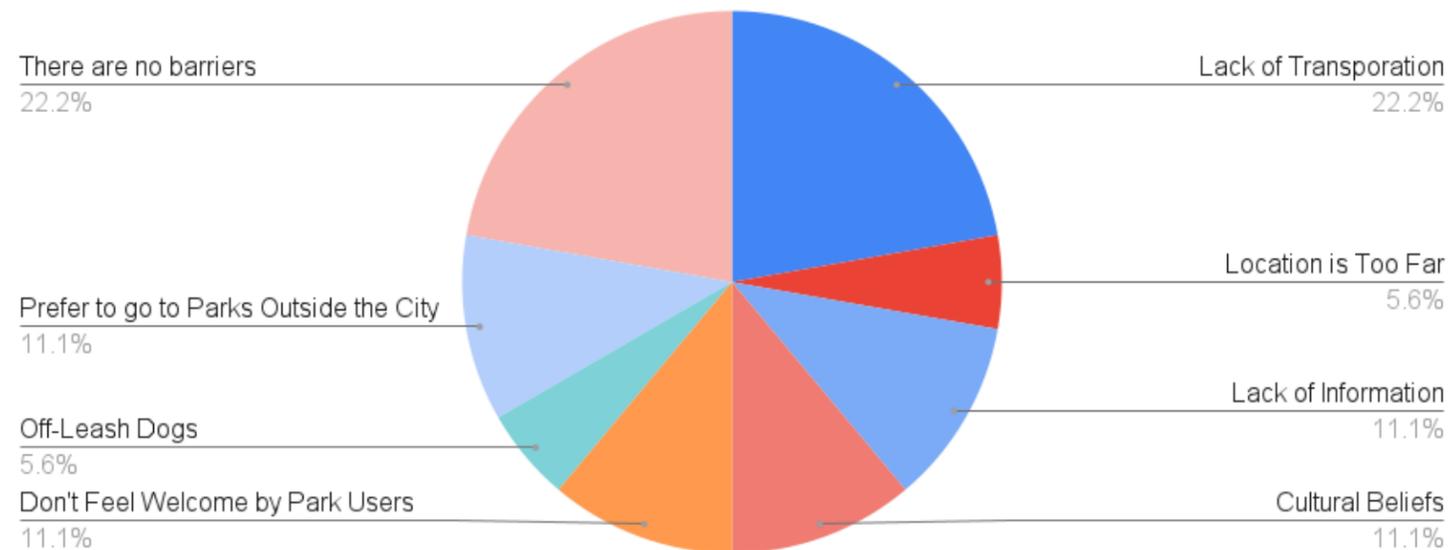
## LIVE POLL

### ACTIVITY 3

#### QUESTION 9:

**WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS THAT WOULD KEEP YOU FROM VISITING THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES IN MINNETONKA? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

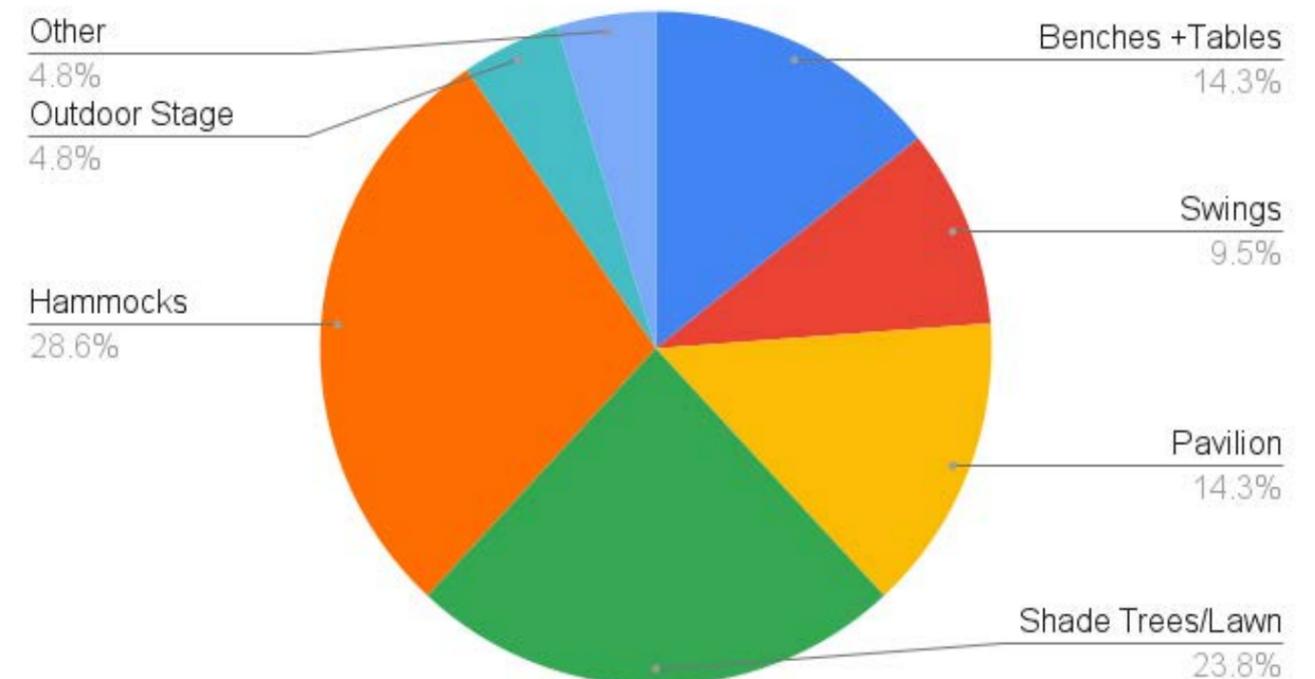
- A. LACK OF TRANSPORTATION
- B. LOCATION IS TOO FAR
- C. AGE/HEALTH
- D. LACK OF CHILDCARE
- E. PARKS AREN'T PHYSICALLY ACCESSIBLE TO ME
- F. LANGUAGE BARRIERS
- G. LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT AMENITIES
- H. CULTURAL BELIEFS
- I. CONCERN ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY
- J. NO ONE TO DO THINGS WITH
- K. DON'T FEEL WELCOME BY PARK USERS/STAFF
- L. OFF-LEASH DOGS
- M. PREFER TO GO TO PARKS OUTSIDE OF CITY
- N. THERE ARE NO BARRIERS FOR ME
- O. OTHER



#### QUESTION 10:

**WHERE DO YOU MOST LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS?**

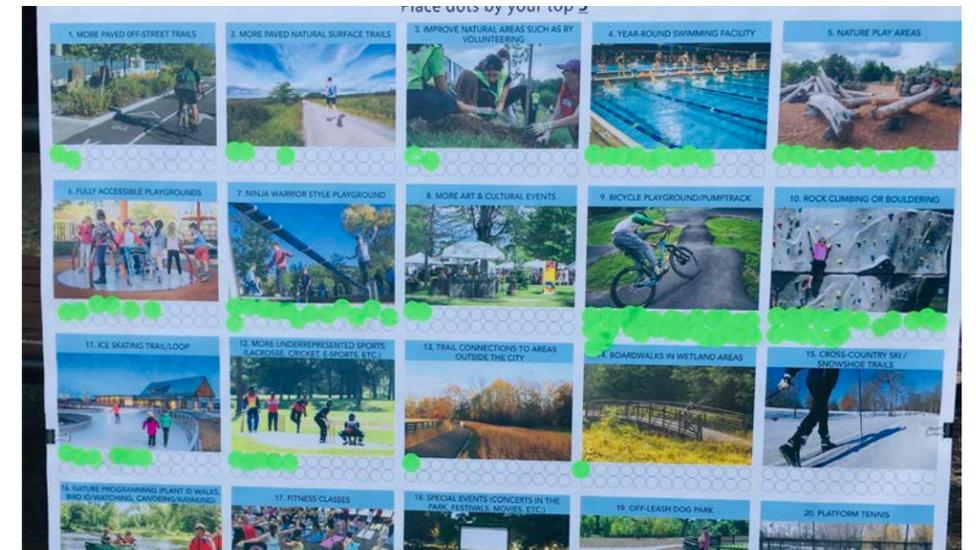
- A. BENCHES & TABLES
- B. SWINGS
- C. PAVILION
- D. SHADE TREES/ LAWN
- E. HAMMOCKS
- F. OUTDOOR STAGE
- G. OTHER



# SHADY OAK BEACH POP-UP EVENT

222  
VOTES  
CAST

A pop-up event was conducted the afternoon of June 24th at Shady Oak Beach to engage to youth. More than 75 people, the majority ages 8-12, dot voting on two boards ranking their highest priority issues and themes for the parks and new/additional things to do in the parks.



STAKEHOLDER

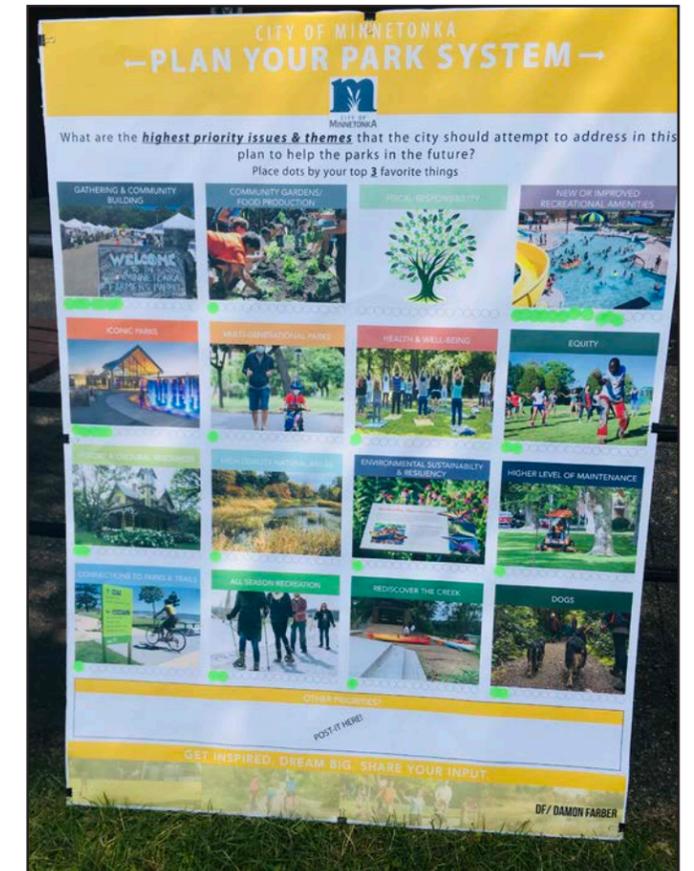
# SHADY OAK BEACH POP-UP EVENT

HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUES & THEMES THAT THE CITY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS IN THE PLAN TO HELP THE PARKS IN THE FUTURE - IMAGERY RESPONSE

<p>GATHERING &amp; COMMUNITY BUILDING</p> <p>7</p>	<p>COMMUNITY GARDENS/ FOOD PRODUCTION</p> <p>1</p>	<p>FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>0</p>	<p>NEW OR IMPROVED RECREATIONAL AMENITIES</p> <p>11</p>
<p>ICONIC PARKS</p> <p>5</p>	<p>MULTI-GENERATIONAL PARKS</p> <p>1</p>	<p>HEALTH &amp; WELL-BEING</p> <p>1</p>	<p>EQUITY</p> <p>2</p>
<p>HISTORY &amp; CULTURAL RESOURCES</p> <p>2</p>	<p>HIGH QUALITY NATURAL AREAS</p> <p>1</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY &amp; RESILIENCY</p> <p>1</p>	<p>HIGHER LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE</p> <p>1</p>
<p>CONNECTIONS TO PARKS &amp; TRAILS</p> <p>1</p>	<p>ALL SEASON RECREATION</p> <p>2</p>	<p>REDISCOVER THE CREEK</p> <p>1</p>	<p>DOGS</p> <p>2</p>

## DOT VOTING TAKE-AWAYS:

- HAVING NEW OR IMPROVED RECREATIONAL AMENITIES WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO THIS GROUP, ESPECIALLY NEW AND IMPROVED RECREATIONAL AMENITIES



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# SHADY OAK BEACH POP-UP EVENT

## NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS - IMAGERY RESPONSE



### DOT VOTING - IMAGE RESPONSES

- MORE PAVED OFF-STREET TRAILS - 2
- MORE PAVED NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS - 3
- IMPROVE NATURAL AREAS SUCH AS BY VOLUNTEERING - 2
- YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY - 10**
- NATURE PLAY AREAS - 10**
- FULLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS - 6
- NINJA WARRIOR STYLE PLAYGROUND - 14**
- MORE ART AND CULTURAL EVENTS - 2
- BICYCLE PLAYGROUND/PUMPTRACK - 25**
- ROCK CLIMBING OR BOULDERING - 18**
- ICE SKATING TRAIL/LOOP - 6
- MORE UNDERREPRESENTED SPORTS (LACROSSE, CRICKET, E-SPORTS, ETC.) - 5
- TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO AREAS OUTSIDE THE CITY - 1
- BOARDWALKS IN WETLAND AREAS - 1
- CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS - 0
- NATURE PROGRAMMING (PLANT ID WALKS, BIRD ID/WATCHING, CANOEING/KAYAKING) - 4
- FITNESS CLASSES - 0
- SPECIAL EVENTS - 4
- OFF-LEASH DOG PARK - 4
- PLATFORM TENNIS - 5
- PICKLEBALL COURTS - 12**
- BOCCIE - 0
- SAND VOLLEYBALL - 7
- SKATEBOARDING - 30**
- GARDENING - 3
- MORE WINTER TRAILS - 2

### TAKEAWAYS:

- SKATEBOARDING AND A BICYCLE PLAYGROUND/PUMPTRACK IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THIS GROUP.
- THE NEXT MOST POPULAR NEW OR ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE: YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY, NATURE PLAY AREAS, NINJA WARRIOR STYLE PLAYGROUND, ROCK CLIMBING/BOULDERING, AND PICKLEBALL COURTS.

STAKEHOLDER

# PARK ADVENTURES CAMP

DOT VOTING

**120**  
Participants  
**503**  
Votes

Over 120 youth ages 5-12 were engaged through the City of Minnetonka Parks Adventures Camps at six different occasions on June 29th and 30th. Participants were asked to conduct dot voting on what new/additional things to do in the parks.

## NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS - IMAGERY RESPONSE #1-#15

1. MORE PAVED OFF-STREET TRAILS



2. MORE PAVED NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS



3. IMPROVE NATURAL AREAS SUCH AS BY VOLUNTEERING



4. YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY



5. NATURE PLAY AREAS



6. FULLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS



7. NINJA WARRIOR STYLE PLAYGROUND



8. MORE ART & CULTURAL EVENTS



9. BICYCLE PLAYGROUND/PUMPTRACK



10. ROCK CLIMBING OR BOULDERING



11. ICE SKATING TRAIL/LOOP



12. MORE UNDERREPRESENTED SPORTS (LACROSSE, CRICKET, E-SPORTS, ETC.)



13. TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO AREAS OUTSIDE THE CITY



14. BOARDWALKS IN WETLAND AREAS



15. CROSS-COUNTRY SKI / SNOWSHOE TRAILS



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# PARK ADVENTURES CAMP

## 3. NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS - IMAGERY RESPONSE #16-#26

16. NATURE PROGRAMMING (PLANT ID WALKS, BIRD ID/WATCHING, CANOEING/KAYAKING)



17. FITNESS CLASSES



18. SPECIAL EVENTS (CONCERTS IN THE PARK, FESTIVALS, MOVIES, ETC.)



19. OFF-LEASH DOG PARK



20. PLATFORM TENNIS



21. PICKLEBALL COURTS



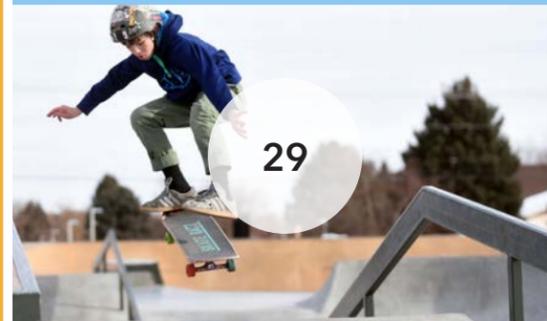
22. BOCCE



23. SAND VOLLEYBALL



24. SKATEBOARDING



25. GARDENING



26. MORE WINTER TRAILS



### DOT VOTING TAKEAWAYS:

- HAVING A YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT NEW/ADDITIONAL THING TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS - **112 VOTES!**
- THE NEXT MOST POPULAR NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO ARE:
  - ROCK CLIMBING OR BOULDERING - 68 VOTES
  - NINJA WARRIOR SYLE PLAYGROUND - 57 VOTES
  - ICE SKATING LOOP/TRAIL - 33 VOTES
  - SKATEBOARDING - 29 VOTES
  - NATURE PLAY AREAS - 28 VOTES
  - BICYCLE PLAYGROUND/PUMPTRACK - 23 VOTES



# SUMMARY

## WHAT WE HEARD

Considering the outreach information from the Listening Sessions, Pop-Up Events and Online Survey efforts in aggregate, we have summarized the most commonly received input as “What We Heard” and organized it into three categories:

- Perceptions of Existing Parks, Open Spaces and Trails
- New Additional Things to do in Minnetonka Parks
- Highest Priority Issues/Themes

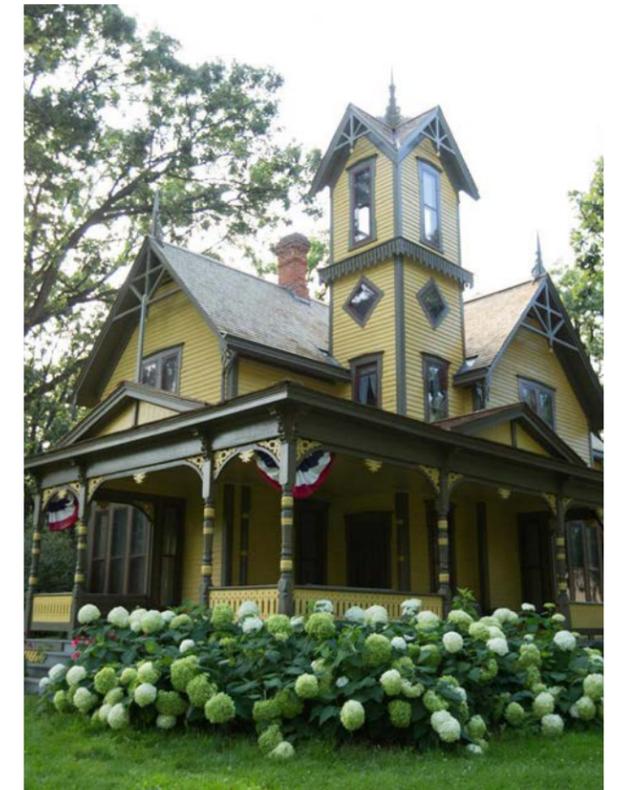
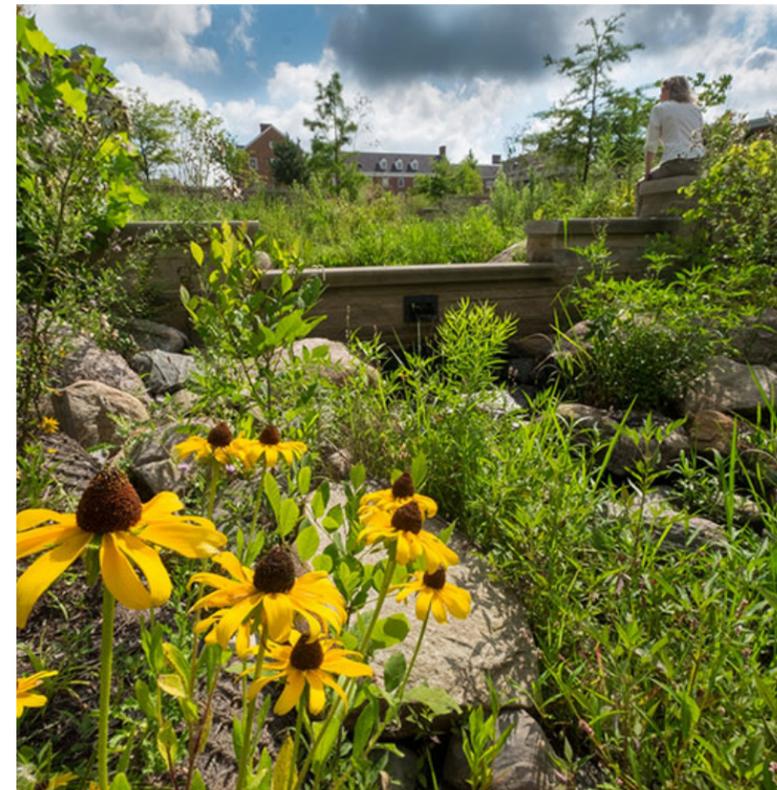
Commonly heard themes within each category will be translated into specific recommendations in the updated Park, Open Space, and Trail (POST) Plan.

## PERCEPTIONS OF EXISTING PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND TRAILS

### WHAT WE HEARD

Input on perceptions of existing parks, open spaces and trails were gained from surveying park users through an online survey process and input received during listening sessions and pop-up events conducted by the consultant team and city staff during the planning process. The following represents key findings from that engagement process:

- Natural areas for passive recreation and trails, and trail connections are very important.
- Parks with recreational amenities are important to park users.
- A significant number of park users use the parks on a weekly basis.
- Few park users get to the park system via public transportation.
- Top barriers to visiting parks and open spaces include off-leash dogs and lack of information about park amenities.
- A majority of existing park visitors feel safe in the parks.
- A majority of park users feel the parks and open spaces are in good to excellent condition.
- Most park users are enjoying the parks and open spaces for recreation or just to spend time in nature.
- Existing park users would like to see a balance between natural resource protection and access for recreation.
- Park users prefer quality ice rinks over quantity of ice rinks. Few survey participants support ice rinks throughout the city.

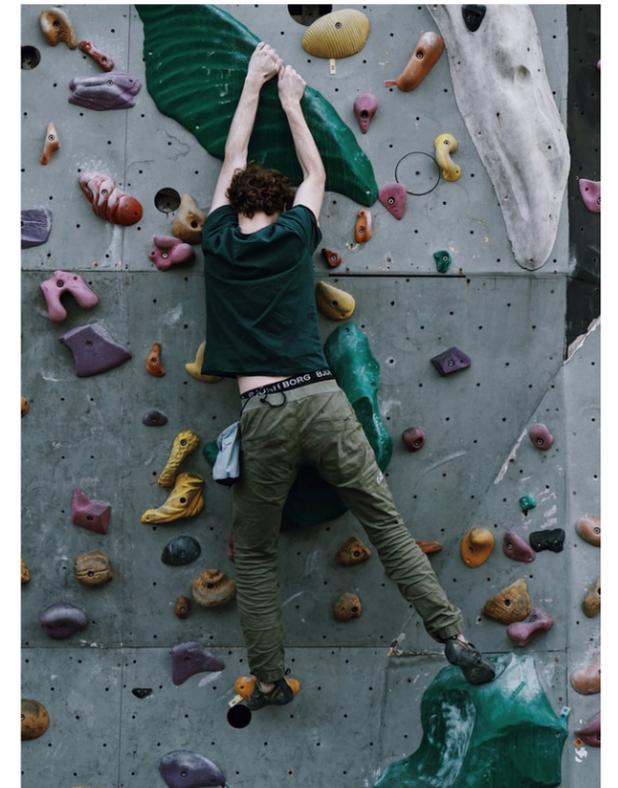
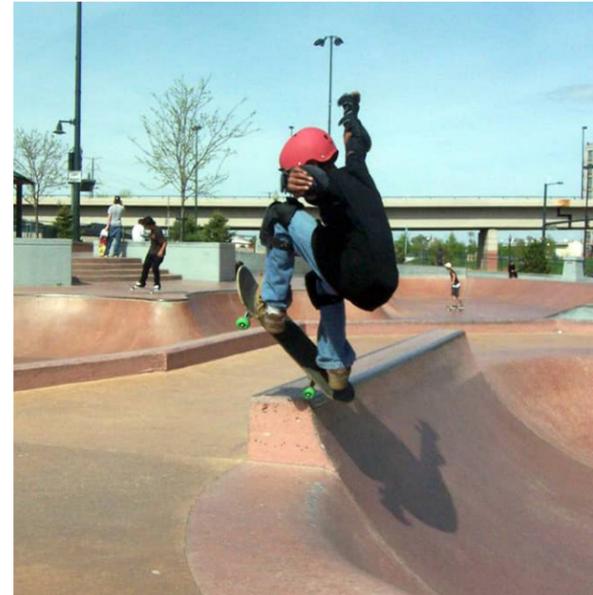


## NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS

### WHAT WE HEARD

Input received regarding future park, open space and trail programs and facilities was gained through engaging with community stakeholders through the online survey, listening sessions, and pop-up events conducted by the consultant team and city staff during the planning process. The following represents key findings from that engagement process indicating desired future park program and facilities:

- Provide a year-round swimming facility
- Consider rock climbing or bouldering features in the parks
- Provide more nature programming
- Provide nature play areas in community and neighborhood parks
- Prioritize flexible spaces for special event programming
- Provide a more significant/permanent skateboarding park
- Upgrade playgrounds to make them more accessible
- Provide a Ninja Warrior playground
- Provide more pickleball courts
- Provide a bicycle playground/pump track
- Consider programming for and providing off-leash dog parks
- Enhance trail connections to parks and open spaces from existing trail systems
- More natural surface trails
- Provide more boardwalks in wetland areas



# NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS

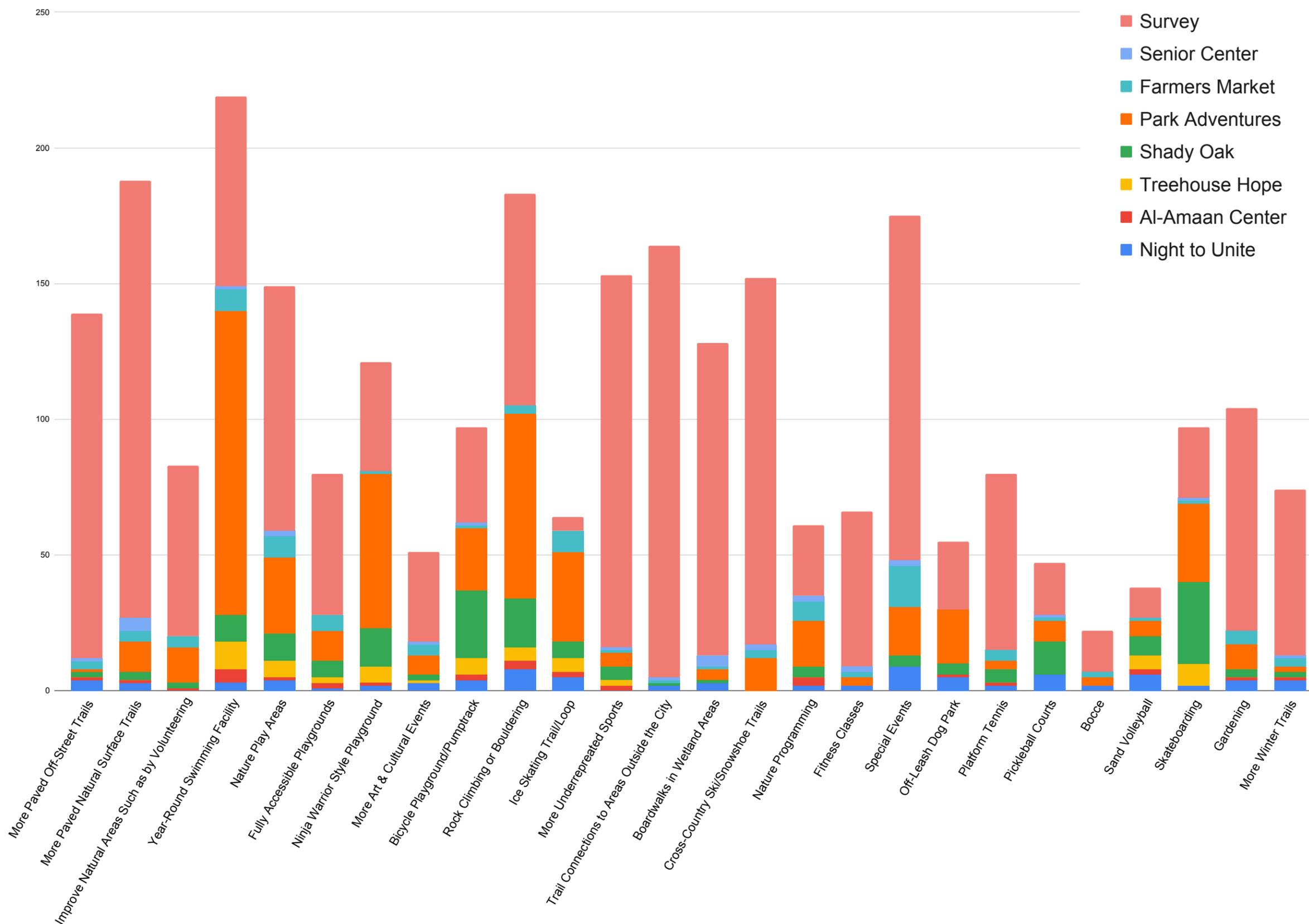
# SUMMARY

## VOTING SUMMARY OF NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN MINNETONKA PARKS FROM ALL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTREACH

This is a summary of voting from all the community engagement for new/additional things to do in Minnetonka Parks. These numbers include all the community events, survey, and stakeholder/community conversations.

### VOTING TOTALS GATHERED FROM:

- COMMUNITY EVENTS**
- SURVEY**
- STAKEHOLDER/COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**



## HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUES/THEMES

### WHAT WE HEARD

Input received regarding future park, open space and trail priorities and themes was gained through engaging with community stakeholders through the online survey, listening sessions, and pop-up events conducted by the consultant team and city staff during the planning process. The following represents key findings from that engagement process providing information about the highest priorities and themes to consider in the POST Plan:

- New or improved recreational amenities
- Rediscovering the creek
- Connecting to nature
- Iconic parks
- Gathering and community building
- High quality natural areas
- Environmental sustainability and resiliency
- Connections to parks and trails

