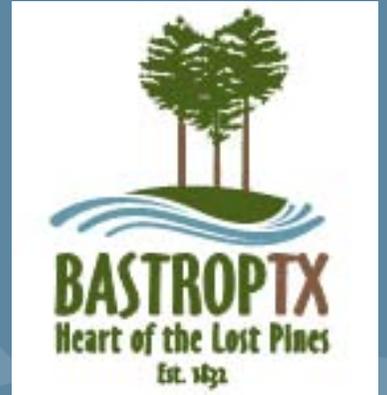


# City of Bastrop Master Parks Plan Update



Submitted to:

City of Bastrop, Texas

Approved by City Council  
August 12, 2008

Submitted by:

Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation



Life's better outside.™

August 20, 2008

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Lufkin

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Chairman-Emeritus  
Fort Worth

---

Carter P. Smith  
Executive Director

Mr. Michael Talbot  
City Manager, City of Bastrop  
PO Box 427  
Bastrop TX 78602

Re: 2008 Master Plan Review

Dear Mr. Talbot:

Our review of your parks and recreation master plan has been completed. All of the standard requirements identified in the "Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Guidelines" have been met.

The City will now qualify for planning points under item two of the Recreation Grant Project Priority Scoring System beginning with the January 31, 2009 review.

Please contact me at 512-389-8322 if you have any questions. The Department commends you and the City for your planning efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Kovach".

Wendy Kovach  
Local Park Grant Programs

RESOLUTION NO. R-2008-18

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BASTROP TEXAS  
FORMALLY APPROVING, ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING  
THE CITY OF BASTROP MASTER PARKS PLAN UPDATE**

---

WHEREAS, the City of Bastrop has experienced unprecedented growth and development in recent years that has created numerous challenges for the City in the appropriate provision of municipal services, specifically those related to parks, trails, recreation and open spaces; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bastrop recognized the need for a *Master Parks Plan Update* to provided goals, assessments, standards, recommendations and strategies for implementation of a ten year period in a effort to provide for and continually improve park and recreation facilities, provide trail opportunities, preserve open spaces and upgrade existing parks in the City of Bastrop; and

WHEREAS, the City Council commissioned BWR Corporation to perform an update to the City's Master Parks Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Board worked with the city staff and general public to produce the proposed *City of Bastrop Master Parks Plan Update*;

WHEREAS, public hearings on the *Master Parks Plan Update* were conducted by the Parks Board on July 10, 2008 and the City Council on July 22, 2008.

WHEREAS, the *Master Parks Plan Update* complies with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) master plan guidelines which require parks and recreation needs to be prioritized and address in an action plan format; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council wishes to now formally adopt and approve the *City of Bastrop Master Parks Plan Update*, to create a comprehensive planning document for parks, recreation, trails and open space projects contemplated for the future of the City of Bastrop.

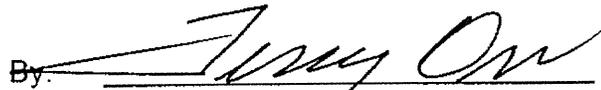
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP THAT:**

1. The *Master Park Plan Update* for the City of Bastrop be approved and adopted as revised and attached hereto and incorporated herein for all intents and purposes.

2. That is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Resolution is passed was open to the public as required and that public notice of the time, place, ad purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Local Government Code.
3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions, in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, and are no longer of any force or effect.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August 2008.

On behalf of All Members of the City Council:

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Terry Orr

ATTESTED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Valdez, City Secretary

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## CREDITS:

### ***Members of City Council***

#### **2008**

- Mayor, Terry Orr
- Mayor Pro-Tem, Wille De LaRosa
- Council Member, Dock Jackson
- Council Member, Terry Sanders
- Council Member, Joe Beal
- Council Member, Julie Hart

#### **2007-2008**

- Mayor, Tom Scott
- Mayor Pro-Tem, Wille DeLaRosa
- Council Member, John Creamer
- Council Member, Martha Harris
- Council Member, Dock Jackson
- Council Member, Terry Sanders

### ***Members of the Parks Board***

- Chairman, Don Calvert
- Co-Chair, Norrise Bryant
- Secretary, Nancy Rabensburg
- Board Member, Judi Hoover
- Board Member, Barbara Wolanski

### ***Key Members of City Staff***

- City Manager, Michael H. Talbot
- Director of Planning and Development, Stacy A.M. Snell
- Recreation Coordinator, Amanda Phillips
- Director of Public Works and Parks, Lee Weatherford
- Administrative Assistant, Planning & Development, Marie Murnan

# INTRODUCTION

## History of the City of Bastrop

In the early 1800's, the King of Spain directed that the various properties of Spain in North America be connected by a road system, the Camino Real. The route crossed the Colorado River near the mouth of Gills Branch where in 1805 Spanish soldiers were stationed to protect the crossing. In 1827, Stephen F. Austin, Father of Texas, saw in this location the ideal site for a township. He wrote "An abundant supply of fine cedar, oak, ash and other timber is found at this spot, as also lime and other building stone, clay and sand suitable for brick making." A settlement was established to reduce the Indian raids against travelers. Miguel Areniega was appointed Commissioner of the Colony in 1830. On June 8, 1832, the town of Bastrop was formally established. The name, Bastrop, was chosen in honor of Baron de Bastrop a friend and advisor to Stephen F. Austin.

With the City of Bastrop as the county seat, Bastrop County was among the ten original counties created in 1836 by the First Congress of the Republic of Texas. After an 18 month effort, Bastrop came in second in a competition to name a permanent Capital for the Republic in 1839. Bastrop supplied Waterloo, soon to be renamed Austin, with the pine and other timber for construction of the Capital. Agriculture and lumbering were the area's major industry for many years.

By 1860, the town was thriving with a newspaper, fine homes, beautiful churches, growing commerce and a fashionable private school attended by one of Sam Houston's children and a future Texas Governor, Joseph Sayers. The Civil War started, Texas seceded from the union and Bastrop struggled. In 1862, a fire destroyed the 900 block of Main Street, the heart of the business district. Before the South surrendered in 1865, money became scarce, trade withered and the families of many soldiers fell into distress. With the abolishment of slavery, Bastrop underwent a difficult economic political and cultural transformation. In the 1870's, agricultural production was re-established and railroads came to the County, returning prosperity to the community.

In 1889, a group of local businessmen opened the town's first bank. In 1892, the city council—with voter approval—borrowed \$20,000 to establish Bastrop's first tax-supported free public school system. In 1894, as the city's first water lines were being laid, the Bastrop Volunteer Fire Department was organized to provide fire protection. A new courthouse was build during this time. That same courthouse is where county business is conducted to this day.

## Current Conditions

Bastrop retains much of its historical flavor. Many of the historic homes and other buildings have been restored and 104 are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic downtown represents a unique blending of old and new. Much of the parks system has been carefully interwoven into the historical downtown area. The City recognizes the need for park planning and the importance of the parks' place within this historic City as it continues to grow and expand. If tourism is the economic development tool of choice for the City, a strong parks and recreation system and program is a must.

The City has constantly sought to preserve its historical character which provides much of the charm that visitors enjoy today. Victorian architecture is prevalent throughout the community. This same architecture makes the historic downtown area unique. This unique cultural resource defines the "Bastrop character" and sets it apart from other communities as a tourism or recreation destination. Part of this character is the availability of recreation and open space which has been identified as a high priority by those who currently live in the City and by those considering relocation to the community.

This combination of recreation, open space and cultural resources is important to the community and the preservation of the recreation and open space will be an important component of the City's future success.

## General Land Description of the Area

The City of Bastrop is in what is known as the "Lost Pines" area of central Texas. Bastrop is situated in a grove of pine trees unlike the usual vegetation of Central Texas. In addition to the trees, pine, cedar, oak and elm trees are abundant. The City has predominantly two soil types-1) Axtell-Tabor: a nearly level to strongly sloping soil that has a loamy surface layer and very slowly permeable lower layers; on uplands, and 2) Bosque- Smithville-Norwood; nearly level soils that have a loamy surface layer and moderately permeable lower layers; on low terraces and flood plains. The Colorado River and its tributaries run through downtown Bastrop.

**Analysis of Climate**

With temperatures in Bastrop that are cool in the winter and warm in the summer, the climate is attractive for all weather activities. From a planning perspective, it is important to understand the typical indoor and outdoor preferences in climates of this type.

Best practices within the parks and recreation profession provide some clues for our consideration:

- There should be a balance between the indoor and outdoor facilities provided. There is a recognition that not all users play outdoor sports or engage in outdoor activities but do use many of the indoor amenities that are provided in contemporary indoor recreation centers; e.g. indoor walking/jogging tracks and fitness areas and activity rooms.
- Outdoor areas need to be designed with plenty of shaded areas; e.g. shaded areas on the decks of our pools and in the shallow water area, too; the City needs to be funded for a re-forestation program to ensure that shade trees are bountiful in our parks; baseball/softball fields need to include shaded dugouts; soccer fields need to offer shaded areas within a reasonable distance from the fields for those in need of it; and, many agencies are now providing shade over their outdoor playgrounds.

**Population and Demographics**

According to the Texas State Data Center, the Census data shows the population Bastrop County to be 38,263 persons in 1990, 57,733 in the year 2000 and current estimates of 72,859 as of January 2007. The City of Bastrop made up 10.57% of the counties population in 1990 at 4,044 persons within the City limits and 9.24 % at 5,340 persons in 2000. The City of Bastrop's population is calculated as of January 2007 is 8,202. The City is experiencing intense growth due to the International Airport built approximately 15 miles away on Highway 71 and population increase of the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Williamson, Travis, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell counties.

**Table 1: Texas State Data Center Population Estimates**

<b>Texas State Data Center Population Estimates</b>							
Place	2000 Census	July 2006 Pop Est	Jan 2007 Pop Est	# Change 2000-2006	# Change 2000-2007	% Change 2000-2006	% Change 2000-2007
City of Bastrop	5,340	8,052	8,202	2,712	2,862	50.8	53.6
Bastrop County	57,733	71,726	72,859	13,993	15,126	24.2	26.2

\*Texas State Population and Projections Program, September 22, 2007

## City of Bastrop, Texas

As shown in the tables below, the composition of Bastrop residents in 1990 was 68.3 percent White, 15.3 percent Hispanic Origin of any race, and 21.0 percent Black. Also, the 1990 Census reported that 0.4 percent of Bastrop citizens were American Indian, 0.4 percent Asian, and 9.7 percent were indicated as other race. The numbers changed significantly from 1990 to 2000 with the percentage of minority population increasing in all categories.

**Table 2: Total Population by Race and Hispanic Origin**

	1990		2000		Change 1990 2000	
	Persons	% of Total	Persons	% of Total	Change	% Change
Total Population by Race (Hispanics included in all races)*	4,044	100.00%	5,340	100.00%	1,296	32.05%
White	2,765	68.37%	3,863	72.34%	1,098	39.71%
Black	850	21.02%	908	17.00%	58	6.82%
American Indian	17	0.42%	39	0.73%	22	129.41%
Asian or Pacific Islander	16	0.40%	53	0.99%	37	231.25%
Other Race	396	9.79%	375	7.02%	-21	-5.30%
Two or More Races	N/A	0.00%	102	1.91%	102	N/A
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)**	621	15.36%	948	17.75%	327	52.66%

\*U.S. Census 1990, P006. Race; 2000, P7. Race.

\*\*U.S. Census 1990, P008, Persons of Hispanic Origin; 2000 P8. Hispanic or Latio by Race

According to US Census Data, in 2000, the City of Bastrop was 49.2% male and 50.8% female. The median age in Bastrop is 36.3 years old. Pre school age children (0-4) accounted for 7.5% of the population and school age children made up 20.6% of the total. Residents of working age comprised 53.7% (20-59 years) of the population and persons of retirement age (60 years +) accounted for 18.1% of the total. The 2000 Census reported 2,034 households with an average household size of 2.46 persons. 11% of the persons in Bastrop are living below the poverty level. 61.3% of the housing in the city is owner-occupied with 38.7% of the population renting.

## Population Projections

The City of Bastrop estimates their population growth to be between 2-3% per year. In the City of Bastrop Annual Budget Fiscal Year 2007-2008, the City estimates the 2007-2008 population to be 8,452.

**Table 3: Population Projections Bastrop and Bastrop County**

Population Projections							
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
City of Bastrop	5340*	7753**	8793***	9708***	10719***	11834***	13066***
Bastrop County****	57733	66361	76145	87108	99333	112732	127178

\*US Census Data

\*\*Texas State Data Center City Population for year 2005

\*\*\*Projections Calculated on 2% per year forecasted in City Budget Financial Projections

\*\*\*\*Texas State Data Center County Projections

The following table from the Texas State Data Center shows projected population by race/ethnicity for the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area.

**Table 4: Projected Population 2005-2040 (Austin-Round Rock MPO)**

Population 2000 and Projected Population 2005 2040 by Race/Ethnicity and Migration Scenario for Austin Round Rock					
Year	Total	Anglo	Black	Hispanic	Other
2005	1,405,638	831,238	110,635	402,102	61,663
2010	1,563,179	885,844	120,685	484,494	72,156
2015	1,727,413	939,206	130,789	573,671	83,747
2020	1,898,404	990,819	140,543	670,810	96,232
2025	2,079,470	1,040,298	149,918	779,025	110,229
2030	2,269,254	1,085,121	158,638	899,807	125,688
2035	2,463,056	1,122,883	166,530	1,031,335	142,308
2040	2,658,510	1,153,357	173,694	1,171,796	159,663

**\*The One-Half 1990-2000 Migration (0.5) Scenario**

\*Population Estimates and Projections Program, Texas State Data Center, Office of the State Demographer, Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, October 2006

This scenario has been prepared as an approximate average of the zero (0.0) and 1990-2000 (1.0) scenarios. It assumes rates of net migration one-half of those of the 1990s. The reason for including this scenario is that many counties in the State are unlikely to continue to experience the overall levels of relative extensive growth of the 1990s. A scenario which projects rates of population growth that are approximately an average of the zero and the 1990-2000 scenarios is one that suggests slower than 1990-2000 but steady growth.

## City of Bastrop, Texas

The following table from the Texas State Data Center shows projected population by race/ethnicity for Bastrop County.

**Table 5: Projected Population 2005-2040 (Bastrop County)**

Population 2000 and Projected Population 2005-2040 by Race/Ethnicity and Migration Scenario for Bastrop County					
Year	Total	Anglo	Black	Hispanic	Other
2000	57,733	38,169	5,110	13,845	609
2005	66,361	42,536	5,546	17,629	650
2010	76,145	47,153	6,063	22,253	676
2015	87,108	51,914	6,617	27,865	712
2020	99,333	56,744	7,226	34,618	745
2025	112,732	61,396	7,870	42,691	775
2030	127,178	65,626	8,518	52,234	800
2035	142,721	69,334	9,183	63,399	805
2040	159,792	72,761	9,849	76,383	799

**\*The One-Half 1990-2000 Migration (0.5) Scenario**

\*Population Estimates and Projections Program, Texas State Data Center, Office of the State Demographer, Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio, October 2006

This scenario has been prepared as an approximate average of the zero (0.0) and 1990-2000 (1.0) scenarios. It assumes rates of net migration one-half of those of the 1990s. The reason for including this scenario is that many counties in the State are unlikely to continue to experience the overall levels of relative extensive growth of the 1990s. A scenario which projects rates of population growth that are approximately an average of the zero and the 1990-2000 scenarios is one that suggests slower than 1990-2000 but steady growth.

Capital Area Planning Council of Governments (CAPCOG) population projections for the region in five year increments.

**Table 6: CAPCOG Surrounding County Population Projections**

Population Projections for the CAPCOG Region CAMPO Scenario										
	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Bastrop County	38,263	57,733	69,500	84,600	102,300	123,700	149,200	179,500	215,500	258,700
Blanco County	5,972	8,418	9,400	11,000	12,500	14,100	15,600	17,000	18,200	19,200
Burnet County	22,677	34,147	39,500	47,300	55,500	64,700	74,500	84,500	94,400	104,000
Caldwell County	26,392	32,194	35,400	43,300	50,100	57,500	65,300	73,500	82,100	90,900
Fayette County	20,095	21,804	23,000	24,300	26,000	27,900	29,600	31,200	32,700	34,200
Hays County	65,614	97,589	126,200	154,800	189,200	228,100	271,600	319,400	371,200	426,400
Lee County	12,854	15,657	16,600	19,000	21,000	23,100	25,300	27,200	29,100	31,000
Llano County	11,631	17,044	18,600	17,300	17,300	17,200	17,000	16,800	16,600	16,400
Travis County	576,407	812,280	896,800	1,003,600	1,105,100	1,208,900	1,318,000	1,434,100	1,555,300	1,680,200
Williamson County	139,551	249,967	330,700	386,700	473,300	577,300	702,700	851,900	1,026,500	1,228,500
Austin-Round Rock MSA	846,227	1,249,763	1,458,600	1,673,000	1,920,000	2,195,500	2,506,800	2,858,400	3,250,600	3,684,700
CAPCOG Region	919,456	1,346,833	1,565,700	1,791,900	2,052,300	2,342,500	2,668,800	3,035,100	3,441,600	3,889,500

**Sources:**

Texas State Data Center  
<http://txsdc.utsa.edu/tpepp/2006projections>

Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization  
<http://www.campotexas.org/>

**Note:** Data represents CAMPO's approved methodology for calculating the population forecasts in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. The projections were calculated by rounding the average of the TSDC's Scenario 0.5 and Scenario 1.0. Other scenarios using different underlying assumptions are available on the TSDC website.

## City of Bastrop, Texas

Bastrop County ranked 88th in the US Census Bureau reports for population increases from 2000-2005 in the March 2006 Publication. Two neighboring counties in the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area also ranked in the top 100.

**Table 7: Fastest Growing Counties April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005**

Population Estimates for the 100 Fastest Growing U.S. Counties with 10,000 or more Population in 2005: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005					
Rank	Geographic area	Population estimates		Change, 2000 to 2005	
		1-Jul-05	April 1, 2000 estimates base	Number	Percent
88	Bastrop County, TX	69,932	57,716	12,216	21.2
16	Williamson County, TX	333,457	249,967	83,490	33.4
35	Hays County, TX	124,432	97,566	26,866	27

\*Note: The April 1, 2000 Population Estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population from the Count Question Resolution program and geographic program revisions.

\*Population Estimates for the 100 Fastest\* Growing U.S. Counties with 10,000 or more Population in 2005: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005 (CO-EST2005-09)

\*Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

\*Release Date: March 16, 2006

Bastrop County did not rank in the US Census Bureau "Top 100" fastest growing counties for 2006-2007 for population increases in the March 2007 Publication, but three neighboring counties did rank in the top 100, Travis, Hays and Williamson. These three counties are in the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area.

**Table 8: Fastest Growing Counties July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007**

Estimates for the 100 Fastest Growing U.S. Counties with 10,000 or More Population in 2007: July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007					
Rank	County	Population estimates		Change, 2000 to 2005	
		1-Jul-07	1-Jul-06	Number	Percent
11	Williamson County, TX	373,363	350,879	22,484	6.4
13	Hays County, TX	141,480	133,151	8,329	6.3
99	Travis County, TX	974,365	941,577	32,788	3.5

\*Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

\*Release Date: March 20, 2008

**City of Bastrop, Texas**

The area is growing at a rapid pace, evidenced by the increase in the amount of commercial development in both the City and its extra-territorial jurisdiction. With development comes the threat of a decrease in the amount of open space and public recreation areas, if properties are not identified and preserved for this specific purpose.

**Application of Demographic Data**

**Educational System**

The City of Bastrop residents as a whole have a higher percentage of high school graduates and degree holders than the County, and State Average. According to the Census 26.7% have a Bachelor's, Graduate or professional degree, 27.7% have some college or an Associate degree, 26.2% either graduated or took the equivalency exam, and 19.3% of the population 25 years and over have not graduated high school.

**Table 9: Educational Attainment Comparison**

Educational Attainment Comparison						
	Bastrop		Bastrop County		Texas	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Less than 9th Grade	306	8.50%	4,022	10.80%	1,465,420	11.50%
9th or 12th Grade	390	10.80%	4,581	12.30%	1,649,141	12.90%
High School Graduate	945	26.20%	11,806	31.70%	3,176,743	24.80%
Some College, No Degree	860	23.90%	8,526	22.90%	2,858,802	22.40%
Associate Degree	137	3.80%	1,967	5.30%	668,494	5.20%
Bachelor's Degree	533	14.80%	4,609	12.40%	1,996,250	15.60%
Graduate / Profession Degree	430	11.90%	1,738	4.70%	976,043	7.60%
% High School Graduate or Higher	2,905	80.60%	28,646	77.00%	9,676,332	75.60%
% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	963	26.70%	6,347	17.10%	2,972,293	23.20%

\*US Census Bureau-2000

From a planning perspective, there is research which concludes that leisure services are selected, in part, based on one's educational achievements. The City should be aware of the choices that one will make for services, based on their educational level and corresponding higher income earning power and provide choices for services; for example:

- Offer services that are priced for those who do not earn a lot of money, but also, provide services that are priced for those who can afford to spend more on those services that are important to them.

## **City of Bastrop, Texas**

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### **Gender**

The female population is 50.8% and the male population is 49.2% in Bastrop.

From a planning perspective, there are some trends which differentiate the female from the male user of parks and recreation services. Those differences are:

#### **Females**

- Women participate in fitness programs outside the home more than men do.
- There is increased interest in women's participation in sports that have been traditionally played by men.
- Women's and girl's sports are growing exponentially which is due, in part, to the increasing number of women's professional teams and media coverage.
- Yoga and Tai Chi are two of the more popular activities selected by females in an indoor setting.
- A greater percentage of females participate in exercise walking, exercising with equipment, swimming, aerobic exercising, workouts at a club, volleyball, ice/figure skating and kick boxing than do males.
- Women are more likely to use exercise equipment that focuses on cardiovascular well-being.

#### **Males**

- The fastest growing expenditure for sports-related activities by male teens is for adventure sports such as skateboarding, in-line skating, BMX biking and cycling.
- Participation in structured programs is decreasing and movement is toward individual activities.
- Most popular activities, in order, include exercise walking, camping, exercising with equipment, swimming, bowling and fishing.
- Men are more likely to use exercise equipment that stresses muscular development/toning.

### **Age and Income**

Age and income are the two best predictors of what one will choose to do in their leisure time. According the US Census Bureau, Census 2000 the median age in Bastrop is 36.3. This compares nationally with a median age of 35.3. Please refer to the attached **Map 1 - Age by Census Block** to further understand the age distribution within the City of Bastrop.

From a planning perspective for parks and recreation services, it is helpful to analyze the preferences by citizens relative to both their age group and income bracket. This data can be evaluated by the information contained within this chapter to make informed decisions about what the citizen preferences might be.

**Table 10: 2000 Census Age Distributions**

Age Distribution						
	Bastrop		Bastrop County		Texas	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0-4 Under 5 Years	403	7.55%	4,376	7.58%	1,624,628	7.80%
5-19 Generation Y	1,101	20.62%	13,249	22.95%	4,921,608	23.60%
20-34 Generation X	1,080	20.22%	10,872	18.83%	4,701,487	22.50%
35-44 Tweeners	802	15.02%	10,105	17.50%	3,322,238	15.90%
45-54 Baby Boomers	729	13.65%	8,384	14.52%	2,611,137	12.50%
55-64 Empty Nesters	437	8.18%	4,820	8.35%	1,598,190	7.70%
65 Years and over Seniors	788	14.76%	5,927	10.27%	2,072,532	9.90%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,340</b>		<b>57,733</b>		<b>20,851,820</b>	

\*US Census Bureau-2000

**Table 11: 2000 Census Income Distributions**

Income Distribution						
	Bastrop		Bastrop County		Texas	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Households	2,059		20,067		7,397,294	
less than \$10,000	247	12.00%	1,860	9.27%	767,505	10.38%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	179	8.69%	1,150	5.73%	491,154	6.64%
\$15,000-\$24,999	252	12.24%	2,427	12.09%	1,004,123	13.57%
\$25,000-\$34,999	225	10.93%	2,466	12.29%	996,141	13.47%
\$35,000-\$49,999	327	15.88%	3,623	18.05%	1,219,358	16.48%
\$50,000-\$74,999	421	20.45%	4,737	23.61%	1,359,437	18.38%
\$75,000-\$99,999	208	10.10%	2,118	10.55%	705,684	9.54%
\$100,000-\$149,000	137	6.65%	1,281	6.38%	536,018	7.25%
\$150,000-\$199,999	35	1.70%	313	1.56%	153,492	2.07%
\$200,000 or more	28	1.36%	192	0.96%	164,382	2.22%
Median Household Income (\$)	40,212		43,578		39,927	
Per Capita Income (\$)	19,862		18,146		19,617	

\*US Census Bureau-2000

## Texas Parks and Wildlife Research

The City of Bastrop can benefit from research within the State of Texas as presented by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Dr. John Crompton of Texas A & M University. Much of the research is relative to the kinds of services the City can offer in an outdoor setting. Please note the following verifiable observations:

- Age and income are best predictors of perceived constraints to use of outdoor recreation facilities away from home.
- Younger adults were far more likely to cite information and access constraints (parks and outdoor recreation areas are too far away) and time constraints.

## City of Bastrop, Texas

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- Texans with low incomes were more likely than those with high incomes to report that personal constraints, economic constraints and information and access constraints limited their use of outdoor recreation facilities.
- Time constraints were cited more by individuals with high incomes than individuals with low incomes for their limited use of outdoor recreation facilities.
- Single parent households have increased.
- Single parent households have lower incomes, less mobility and less free time than do two parent households.
- Single parent households will benefit from outdoor recreation opportunities that are close to home.
- We are competing with other leisure providers and must be aware of them and the consequences as follows
  - Other providers include television and the media;
  - Improve and expand opportunities to make advanced reservations so patrons can use time more precisely;
  - Should provide shorter and more self-directed opportunities (ski areas, amusement parks and golf courses now provide half day tickets or nine hole rounds of golf); and
  - Provide complete information concerning time requirements (trail maps include trail length and approximate time).
- Older Adults
  - Fear of crime and being attacked are real concerns;
  - Lighted park areas, easily accessible trails and visible rangers may contribute to the perception that parks are safe; and
  - Older women feel more secure in groups and may be attracted to parks to participate in interpretive programs, walking clubs or other group related activities.
  - By 2030, 20% of the population is likely to be over age 65;
  - Use of parks and participation in outdoor recreation tends to go down with age; and
  - We need to understand the needs and interests of an aging population and those factors that stymie participation in later life.

## PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The City of Bastrop has made tourism a priority economic development issue for the City. The parks system is an integral part of this development. The City also desires to provide a quality lifestyle for its citizens through planned growth, controlled zoning and a superior park system. Attractive park facilities and diverse leisure programs provide a strong, positive image for the community.

While usually taken for granted until no longer available, open space plays an important role in the quality of life for the residents it benefits. Currently, the City has what appears to be adequate “green space” in accordance with national parkland per capita standards, but the increase in population and commercial development will reduce the availability of additional space open to the public, thus increasing the pressure on existing lands, if no additional open space is added to the public inventory.

The quality of life benefits gained from the use of open space includes recreation, wildlife interaction, plant life interaction, natural resource enjoyment, environmental education and exercise. Additionally, open space provides the opportunity to protect the land from certain hazards including non-point source pollution, air pollution, noise pollution and plant and animal life reduction.

The City's recognition of the need to protect and preserve land still available and suitable for recreation and open space prompted the City Council to commission Richardson-Verdoorn to prepare a City Master Plan in 1987, which included the identification of open space areas suitable for protection. In June of 1994, the City of Bastrop Master Plan-Recreation and Open Space Plan Segment was developed with the assistance of Dr. Howard Balanoff, Professor of Public Administration at Southwest Texas State University. The 1994 plan used the Capital Area Planning Council (CAPCO) "Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan", the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) "Colorado River Trail-Ten Year Vision" and the "Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan" (TORP) in its development.

In February 1997, the City Council contracted to have the Master Park Plan revised and updated. Meetings were held with the City Parks Board to establish standards, goals/objectives and priorities. Several public hearings were held to elicit community input on the proposed Master Park Plan. A survey was published in the local paper to assist in the establishment of recreational facilities priorities. A good response was received. Once the information was collected, the Parks Board met several more times to approve the priorities, goals/objectives,

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standards and park classifications.

In 1999, the City Council appointed a fifteen member task-force to intricately review the parks system in the City. The citizen based, culturally diverse group well represented all sectors of the population. The group included City staff, recreational organizations, the school district, the Lower Colorado River Authority and Parks & Wildlife members. The task-force met weekly for more than three months. The outcomes of those meetings were incorporated within the plan. The plan was reviewed and approved by the Parks Board on April 13, 2000.

The Master Park Plan is designed to act as a guiding force in directing a comprehensive effort toward the preservation and enhancement of the City's Parks and Recreation system.

In 2007, the Parks Board and City Council, once again saw a crucial need to update the Master Parks Plan. The rapid growth, changing demographics, and evolving preferences for different types of park and recreational services has made the 2000 plan an outdated document. In September 2007, the City of Bastrop selected Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation (BWR) to assist the City in revising the Master Parks Plan. The planning process for updating the plan began in October 2007 with an established time frame to have the revisions completed and approved by City Council in August 2008.

## **Accomplishments**

The City of Bastrop prides itself on continuing to update existing parks and developing new park facilities. Please refer to **Map 2 - Existing Parks & Trails** for site locations. The city has made several accomplishments since the adoption of the 2000 Parks Plan, which are described as follows:

### ***New Parks & Trails***

1. **Bob Bryant Park-** This 22.8 acre park; is adjacent the Colorado River; includes a tennis court, multi-purpose field, sand volleyball court, fishing pier/overlook; has a nature trail; canoe launch; basketball court, two recycle bins, two handicap swings and signage.
2. **Kerr Community Park-** This 1.39 acres park has a basketball court; recycle bins; and is adjacent the Kerr Community Center (renovations completed in 2006).
3. **El Camino Real Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail-** Completed in 2004, this new 5,013 linear foot trail is also adjacent to Old Austin Highway, Highway 71 to the Old Iron Bridge.
4. **El Camino Real Paddling Trail-** Launched in November 2007, this paddling trail is 6 miles long extending from Fisherman's Park to the Lost Pines Nature Trail park.

**Parkland Improvements**

1. **Fireman's Park** – New lights surrounding the softball fields and replaced bleachers.
2. **Fisherman's Park**- New video surveillance (security) added. The trails were also renovated and stabilized. New equipment added, including 3 bench swings, 2 recycle bins, 2 drinking fountains, signage and safety fencing.
3. **Rusty Reynolds Baseball Complex**- New T-ball field, and new bleachers added.
4. **Ferry Park** –New swing set, and bench swing, improved safety fall zones and signage.

## Citizen Involvement Process

**PURPOSE**

It was determined by the City of Bastrop and the city staff of the Planning & Development Department that the Master Parks Plan Update would be developed in consideration of the preferences of the citizens-at-large, user groups, staff, appointed officials and elected officials (who serve the community-at-large and their constituent groups).

Input from the general citizenry and the various identified groups was collected on four (4) occasions during the planning process: a) Informal Citizen Survey of citizens-at-large was conducted during the months of November and December 2007, which resulted in responses from 347 households, 319 located in the City and 26 from the County; b) Key-Person Interviews were conducted on December 6, 2007; c) Focus Session was facilitated on January 30, 2008; and d) Public Forum Workshop was facilitated on February 21, 2008.

**PUBLIC VENUES**

**Informal Citizen Survey** – The Informal Citizen Survey was used to give the silent majority an opportunity for their preferences to be heard. Unlike public meetings, interviews and focus sessions, the silent majority is typically not heard in a planning process, thus the use of the survey. The survey was distributed and completed during November and December 2007. A total of 3,200 surveys were distributed with responses from 347 households. All comments from the survey have been considered by the consultant as final recommendations are made.

**Key-Person Interviews** – The Key-Person Interviews involved stakeholder representatives of the following groups: City Council, Parks Board, City Department Heads, Bastrop Independent School District (BISD), Bastrop Chamber of Commerce, Pines and Prairies Land Trust, Environmental Stewardship, and Boys & Girls

## ***City of Bastrop, Texas***

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Club. The input from these interviews on December 6, 2007 was used for two purposes – to identify both key issues and the preferred future by those interviewed. All comments from the interviews have been considered by the consultant as final recommendations are made.

**Focus Session** – The Focus Session, held on January 30, 2008, was designed to review and discuss the data retrieved from the citizen survey and the key-person interviews with the previously interviewed stakeholders. The discussions allowed the consultant an opportunity to better understand the survey responses, clarify the primary issues and outline the group’s vision for the Master Park Plan Update.

**Public Forum Workshop** – The Public Forum Workshop, conducted on February 21, 2008, was specifically designed as a hands-on highly structured symposium involving four (4) working teams comprised of citizens from all walks of life. In attendance were students, senior adults, elected officials, businessmen, housewives, etc. Each team evaluated the conditions of existing facilities, established priorities for park & recreation improvements, recommended optimal locations for new facilities and voiced their preferred approach to financing future projects. Each team’s report to the overall group allowed the consultant to crystallize the fundamental components of the park plan update.

## Public Input Outcomes

Outcomes of the information collected from each of the four sources provided very helpful information to the consultant team which will be used in a variety of ways. Listed below are the ways that the information will be used:

- Clarification of the role that a future Parks and Recreation Department should play/serve in the community.
- Preferences for various improvements which should be made to the park system.
- Preferences for increased recreational programs.
- The necessity of partnering with other organizations to ensure that the master plan is fully implemented.
- Recognition of fiscal challenges and preferred funding approaches for improvements.

### ***Identification of Potential Key Issues***

As a result of the Key Person Interviews and Focus Session with the stakeholders, a number of potential key issues were identified:

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- Lack of facilities and programs (need new recreation center).
- Lack of staffing and funding for a Parks & Recreation Department (no Parks & Recreation Department).
- Need improvements to existing facilities and better maintenance.
- Address recreational needs of all age groups.
- Educating residents as to what parks and programs are available (better communication).
- Increasing demands from rapid growth within the City and County.
- Acquiring land and/or access to protect open space.
- Providing connecting hike and bike trails throughout the City.
- Planning beyond the current City limits and statutory ETJ.
- Funding new projects and improvements to existing facilities.
- Need more land for sports and recreational activities (athletic/sports complex).
- Getting more active support from younger people and people with school age children.
- Creating better and more effective partnerships with other organizations to provide more recreational programs.
- How to provide park & recreational services to both City residents and non-residents in a fair and equitable manner.

### **Focus Session Findings**

Having established the primary issues facing the City of Bastrop, the next step in the Focus Session was to get the Stakeholders to establish a vision for the Master Park Plan Update. These vision statements are as follows:

- To give guidance to the City on where to go in the future to address the existing and future needs.
- Educate the City Council on the needs and desires of Bastrop residents concerning parks and recreation within the community.
- Plan for the continued growth in population of the City and County of Bastrop.
- Provide parks in areas that have been neglected.
- Provide a true assessment of what the people want based on the utilization of current facilities.
- Educate citizens of the importance and availability of existing parks and recreational facilities and programs.
- Establish a full time Parks and Recreation Department with adequate staffing and funding.
- Identify land and/or buildings for future parks and a recreation center.
- Provide facilities that offer constructive activities for juveniles and socializing opportunities for older adults.
- Provide a framework for planning for future parks and recreational needs of the community.
- Prepare for park development and land acquisition for the next ten years.
- Document community goals and objectives for Texas Parks & Wildlife Grant applications.

### **Input from Public Forum**

Comments from each of the four (4) working teams during the public forum were recorded by the consultant. Their responses are summarized under the following categories that each team addressed:

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- Project Priorities:
  - Community Recreation Center
  - Aquatic Facilities (indoor/outdoor pool with splash pads)
  - Athletic Sports Complex (football, baseball, softball and soccer fields)
  - Community Hike & Bike Trail System (emphasis on green space & trail access to the Colorado River)
  - Summer Youth Recreation Programs
  - Dog Park
  - Improvements to existing parks (lighting, parking, etc..)
  - Skate Park
  
- Conditions Analysis of Existing Facilities:
  - Excellent Rating: Hunters Crossing Park
  - Good Rating: Bob Bryant Park, Fisherman’s Park, Ferry Park, Mayfest Park, Hill Street Park, Rusty Reynolds Little League Complex, Kerr Community Park and Old Iron Bridge
  - Fair Rating: Fireman’s Park
  - Poor Rating: Lovers Lane Fields
  
- Requested Facility Improvements:
  - Fisherman’s Park: renovate restrooms, improve maintenance, install video surveillance and increase security with better lighting.
  - Lovers Lane Fields: provide restrooms, storage space and lighting.
  - Bob Bryant Park: provide lighting and playing fields.
  - Fireman’s Park: provide restrooms and more trees.
  - Kerr Community Park: provide restrooms and more trees.
  - River Trails: improve access and enhance with picnic tables and lighting; implement ADA accessibility standards.
  - General Improvements: provide better maintenance, improve road access and parking at parks, install emergency phones, and utilize native, drought resistant landscaping.
  
- Land Acquisition / Location of Additional Facilities:
  - Purchase acreage adjacent to Lovers Lane Fields to construct a large athletic sports complex with football, baseball and soccer fields.
  - Construct the proposed Community Recreation Center along with an Aquatic Park near the center of town making it accessible to the entire community.
  - Purchase the Tahitian Clubhouse area as new park & recreation facility for the City.
  - Combine proposed dog park, skate park and children’s park into one central location.
  - Acquire land and secure easements for an expanded trail system along the Colorado River.
  - Review land owned by the City, County and LCRA to determine what unused properties might be potential park sites that could be donated rather than purchased.
  
- Partnerships for Recreational Programs:
  - Re-evaluate and restructure current recreational services contract between the City and BISD.
  - Explore further cooperation with the Boys and Girls Club in developing more recreational programs.
  - Consider promoting the establishment of a YMCA /YWCA in Bastrop.
  - Work with Pines & Prairies Land Trust / Lost Pines Nature Trails to expand river trail system (connectivity).

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- Initiate discussions with the State, LCRA and Lost Pines Hyatt Resort on utilizing their facilities to enhance the community’s recreational options.
- Funding/Financing Projects:
  - Utilize hotel/motel tax, where feasible.
  - Apply for Texas Parks & Wildlife Grants.
  - Utilize corporate sponsorships and naming rights.
  - Promote donations through a Friends of the Park Program.
  - Establish membership dues and/or user fees for certain facilities.
  - Limited use of municipal bonds with little or no tax increase.
  - Establish a parkland dedication requirement and/or fees in- lieu of land dedication for all new residential developments.
  - Review lease options for Youth Athletic Activities.
  - Consider joint park development ventures with Bastrop County.

### ***Informal Survey Outcomes***

The Bastrop Planning and Development Department conducted a Community Interest and Opinion Survey during the winter of 2007 to help establish priorities for the future of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the City. The survey was designed to receive as many results as possible from households throughout the City of Bastrop. The survey was administered by direct mailing in the utility bill and also posted on the City’s website.

The survey was mailed to every utility bill household totaling 3,200 in Bastrop. The surveys were due with the utility bill payment, or households could mail the survey back separate, drop off at the library or City offices.

The goal was to obtain as many results as possible, and a gift basket drawing was utilized to increase maximum survey results. Bastrop received a total of 347 completed surveys. Although the results are not statically valid, they give the City a great outlook at future potential parks, and comments on the existing park system. This survey resulted in a 10.8% response rate. Please see the **Appendix A.** for the entire survey, and survey results.

The following pages summarize major survey findings:

General Demographics

Figure 1: Survey Results of Bastrop Residents

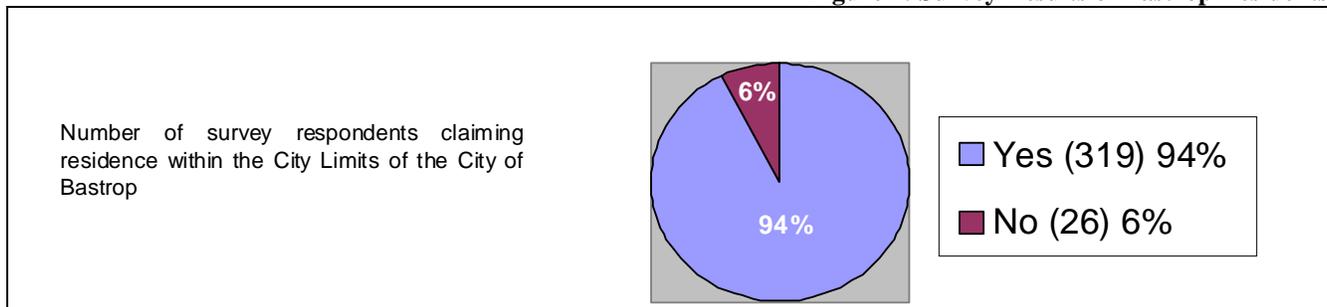


Figure 2: Age of Survey Respondents

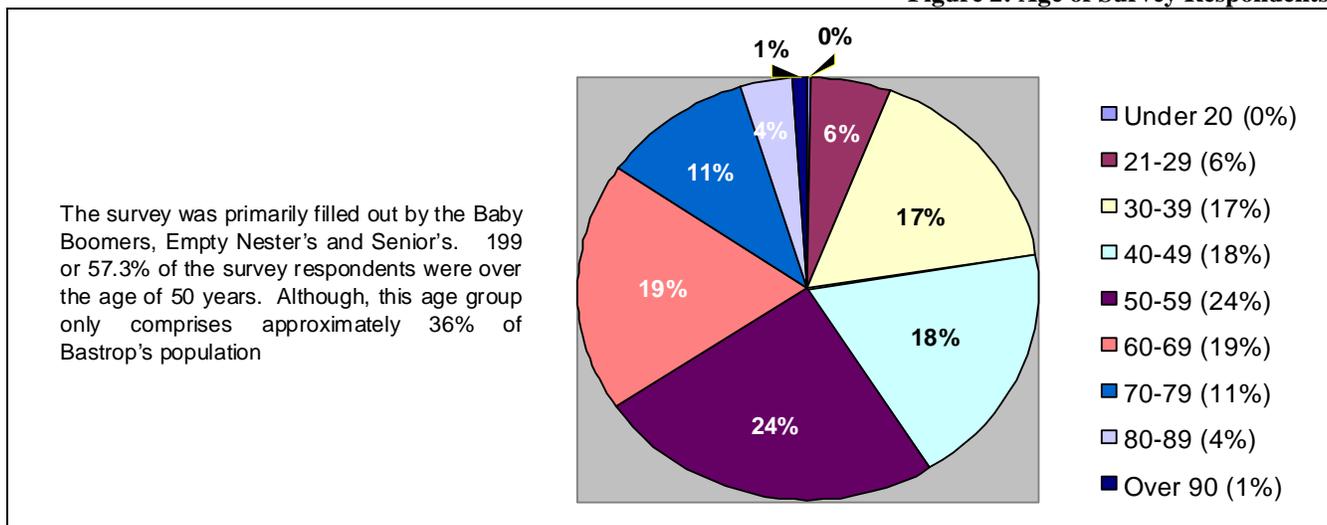


Figure 3: How many years have the respondents lived in Bastrop?

How many years have you lived in Bastrop? 61% of the survey respondents have lived in Bastrop 6 years or more.

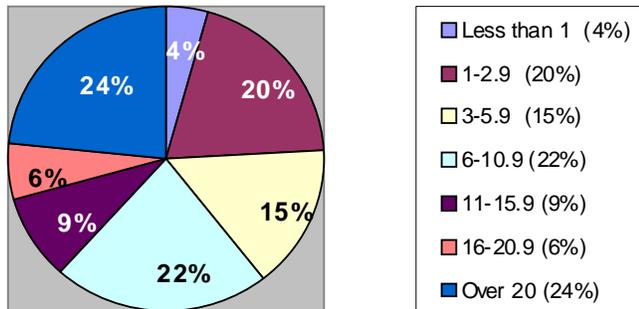


Figure 4: Household Income of Respondents

**Income:** Although an optional question on the survey, the income was varied from survey respondents. 317 out of 347 households answered this question. Median income for the City of Bastrop was approximately \$40,000 according to the 2000 US Census.

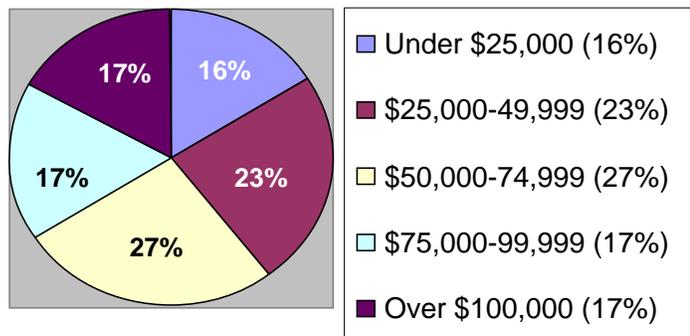


Figure 5: How many people live in your Household?

**General Demographics:** According to the census average household size in Bastrop is 2.46; the survey respondents had 64% with 2 or fewer persons per household or 217 survey respondents. This could be linked to the majority of the survey respondents over the age of 50 years.

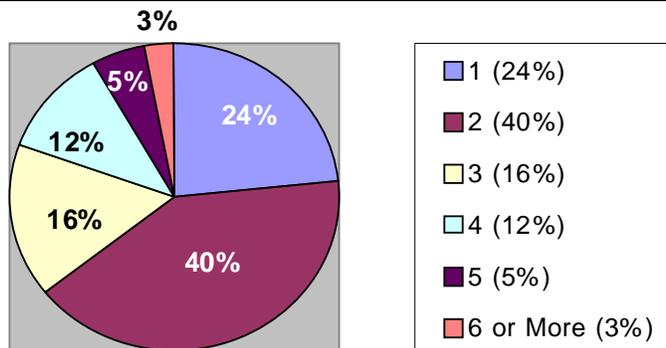
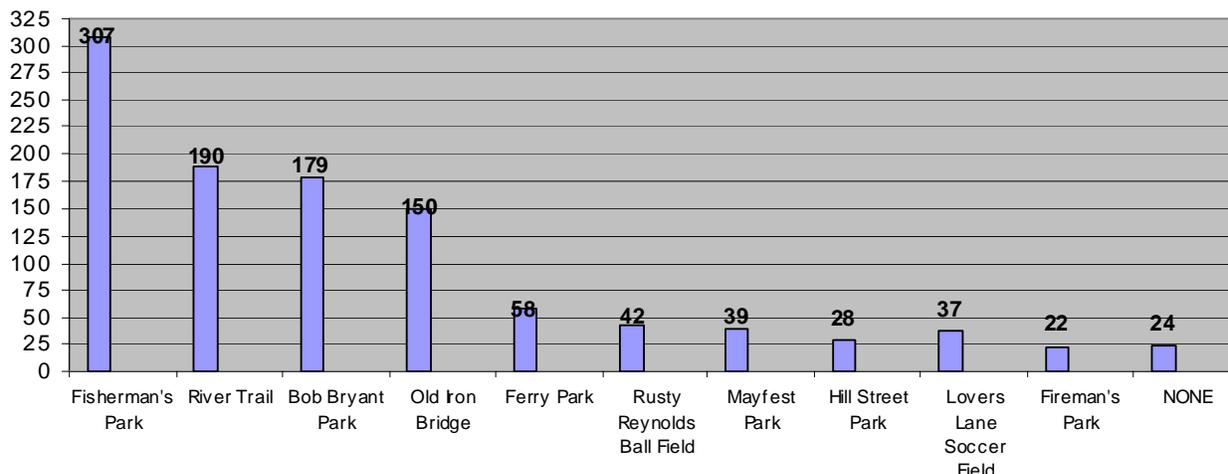


Figure 6: Survey Respondents Park Visit Frequency



**Visited Parks:** From the following list, please check ALL the City of Bastrop parks and trails you or members of your household have visited over the past 12 months. Fisherman's Park is the most visited park by household in the City of Bastrop. The second top choice is the Riverwalk Trail that connects Fisherman's Park to Ferry Park. The least visited park is Fireman's Park classified as a special park, which is used as a neighborhood park. Please note that Lovers Lane Soccer Field is not a dedicated City park.

Figure 7: Recreation Facilities Used

**Facilities used:** From the following list, please check ALL the recreation facilities found within City of Bastrop Parks you or members of your household have used or visited over the past 12 months? Walking and Hiking Trails are the most used facilities in Bastrop, followed by playgrounds, and historic and wildlife trails and picnic shelters.

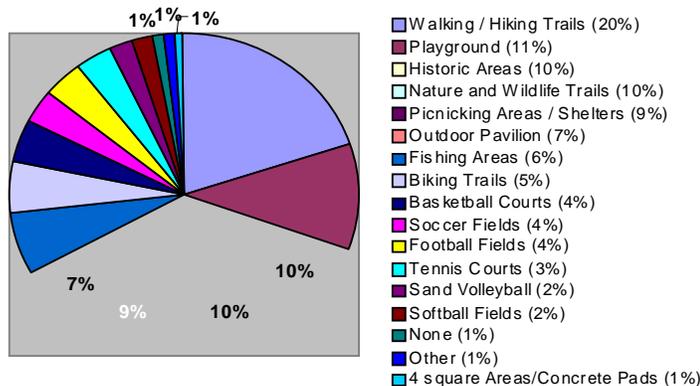


Figure 8: Physical Condition for all Bastrop Parks

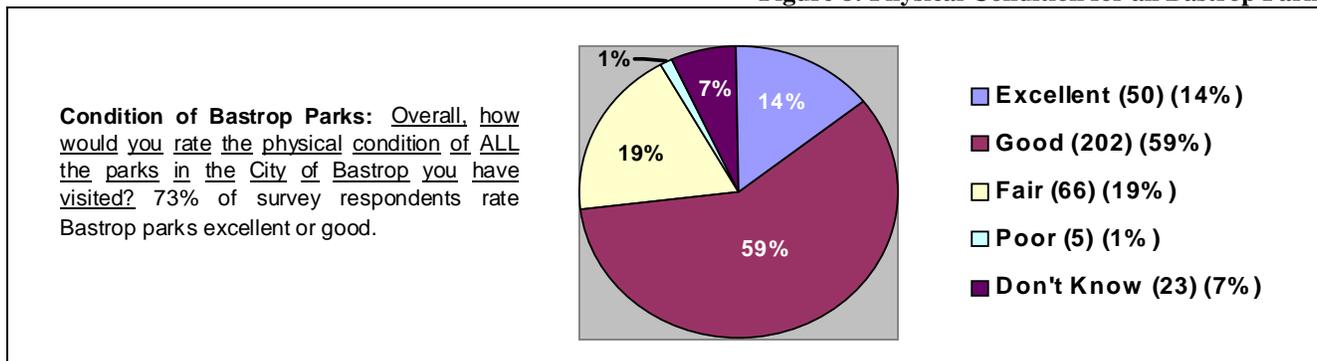
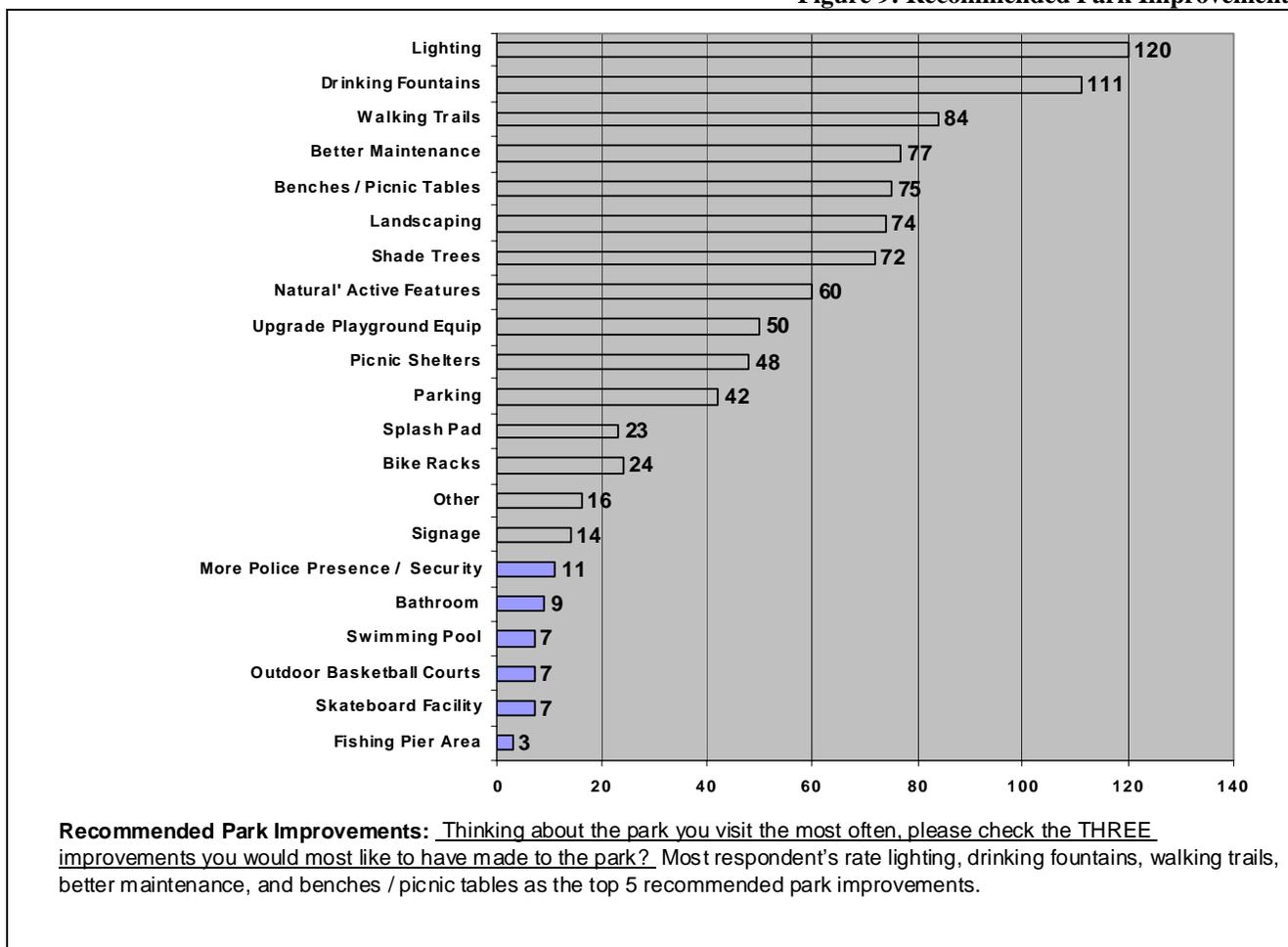


Figure 9: Recommended Park Improvements

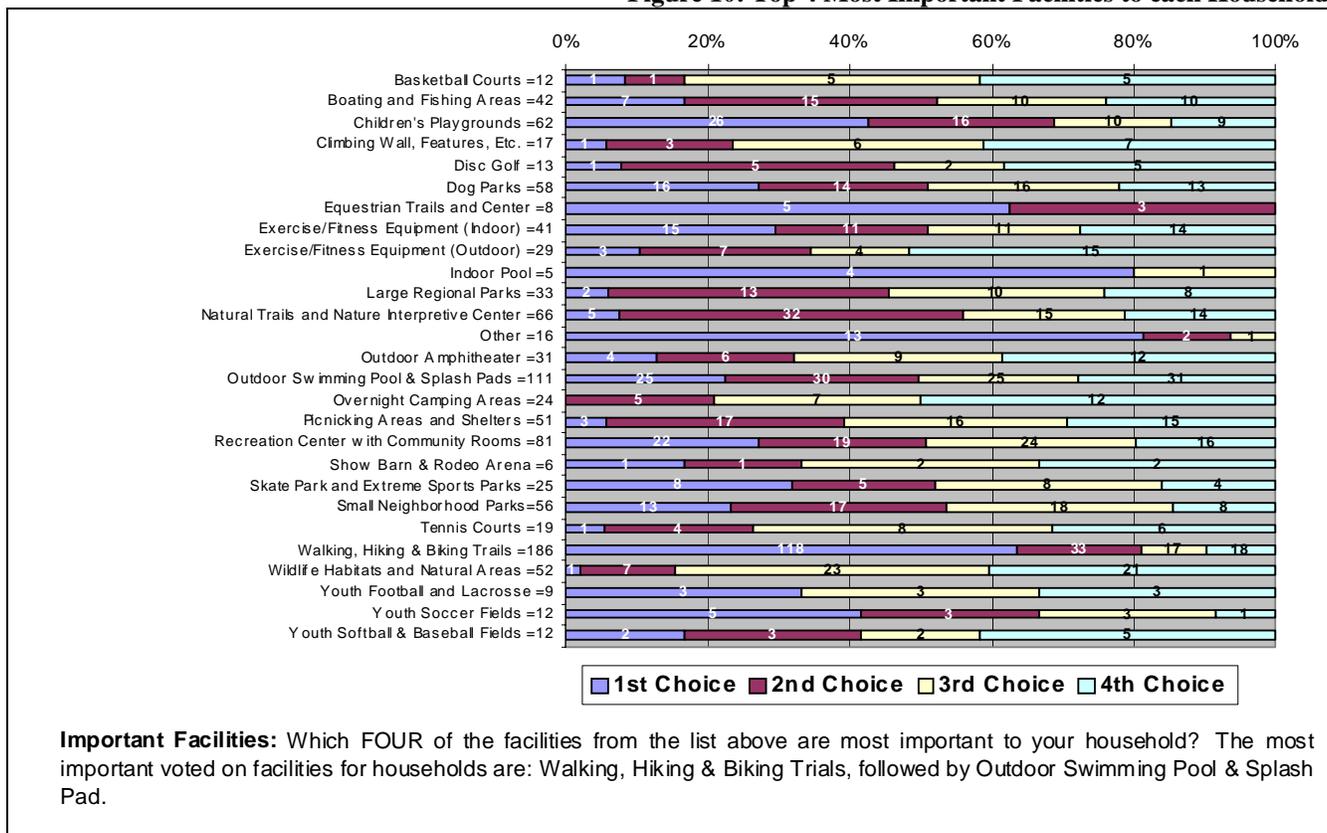


**City of Bastrop, Texas**

**Important Facilities:**

Walking Hiking & Biking Trails received 186 votes and out of those votes 118 households picked it as the most important facility to their households. The next number one choice was Outdoor Swimming Pool & Splash Pads at 25 first choice votes but received a total of 111 votes. The top second choice facility was also Walking Hiking & Biking Trails at 33 votes followed by Natural Trail and Nature Interpretive Center at 32 votes. It is clear that Walking Hiking & Biking Trails ranks in the top 2 facilities for most households that completed the survey, where actually Outdoor Swimming Pool & Splash Pad actually received the highest third and fourth place votes. This information shows that although a facility may receive a large number of votes, it is still not the top first or second priority per household.

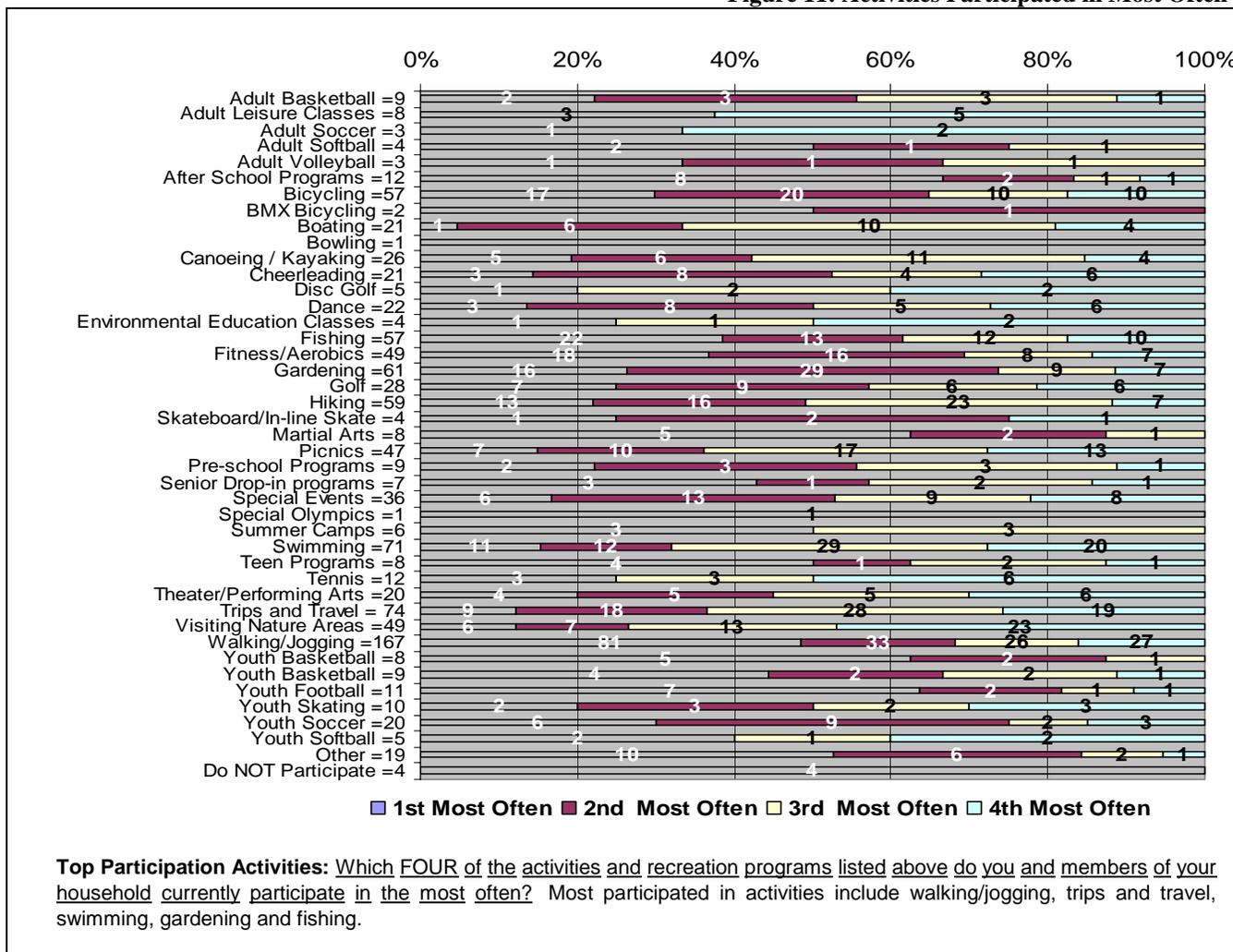
**Figure 10: Top 4 Most Important Facilities to each Household**



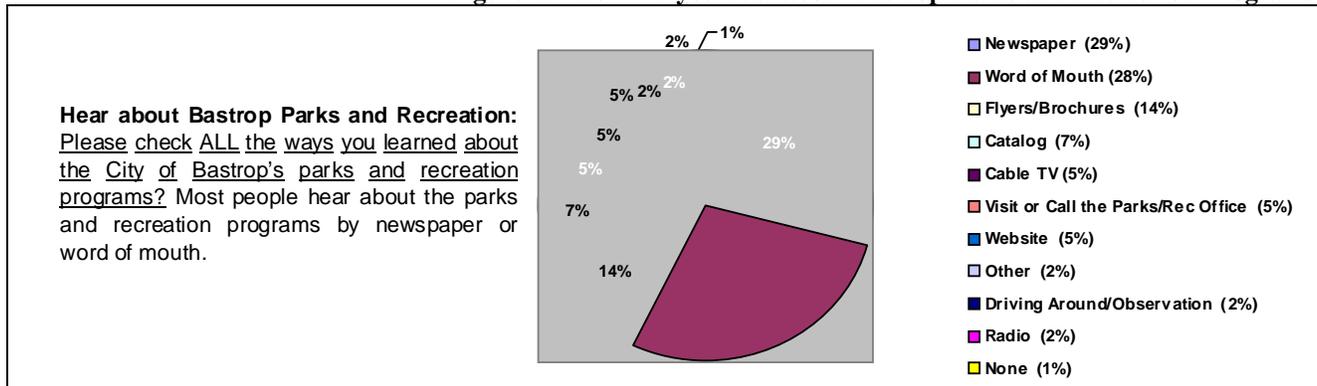
**Top Participation Activities**

Again this chart shows that Walking / Jogging received a total of 167 votes with 81 going to the first choice of activities participated most often followed by 33 for the second most often. The next most popular first choice activity of fitness / aerobics only received 18 votes for a total of only 39 votes. This clearly shows that walking / jogging is the most participated in activity first and second choice. Swimming received the top third and fourth choice participation activity followed by Trips and Travel.

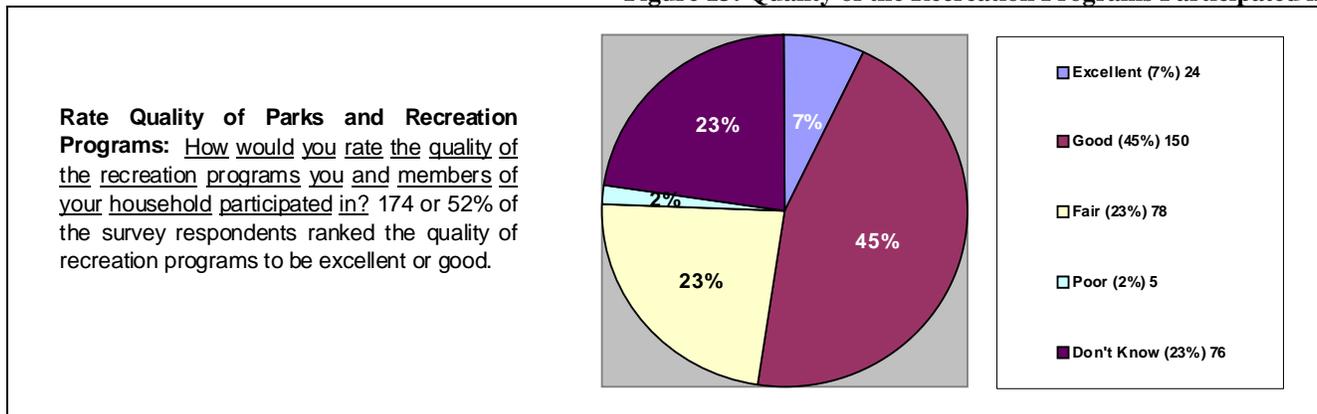
**Figure 11: Activities Participated in Most Often**



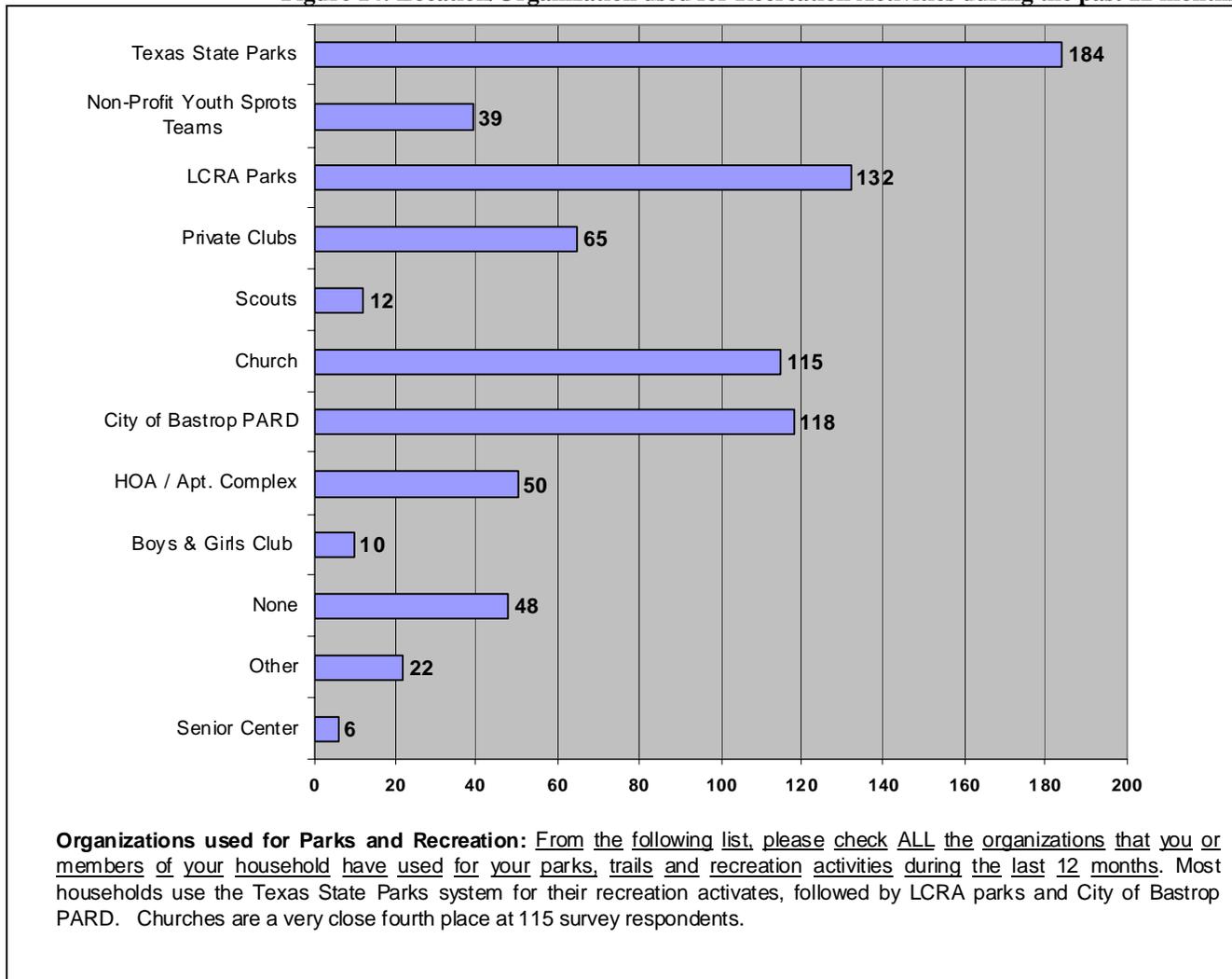
**Figure 12: How did you hear about Bastrop Parks and Recreation Programs?**



**Figure 13: Quality of the Recreation Programs Participated in**



**Figure 14: Location/Organization used for Recreation Activities during the past 12 months**



# FACILITY CONCEPTS, PRIORITIES, STANDARDS

In an effort to take a more comprehensive approach, two methods were utilized in determining the park and recreation guidelines for the City of Bastrop: Standards-Based and Demand-Based. Through comparison, contrast and collaboration these guidelines will help outline and detail the existing parkland and future parks and recreation needs for the City. Likewise, this combined approach provides for a more accurate and realistic assessment of the community’s fundamental needs. Each method is detailed below.

## Park Facility Guidelines

### Methodology (Standards-Based)

Standards-Based methodology considers guidelines developed in 1981 by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Tables 12, 13 & 14, below, outline in detail the NRPA Guidelines for parks.

**Table 12: Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards Local & Close to Home**

Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards Local & Close-to Home Space					
Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres /1,000 Population	Desirable Site Characteristics
Mini Park	Specialized facilities that serve as a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as toddlers or senior citizens.	Less than ¼ mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A	Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly.
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ to ½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 a neighborhood	5+ acres	1.0 to 20A	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population – geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school park facility.
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability.	Several neighborhoods, 1 to 2 mile radius.	25+ acres	5.0 to 80A	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

\*TOTAL Local/Close-to-Home Space: 6.25 – 10.5 acres/1000

**Table 13: Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards Regional Space**

Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards Regional Space					
Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres / 1,000 Population	Desirable Site Characteristics
Regional/Metro-politan Park	Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail uses; may include play areas.	Several communities. One hour driving time.	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0A	Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.
Regional Park Reserve	Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing, and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development.	Several communities. One hour driving time.	1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed.	Variable	Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, fauna, topography.
<b>*TOTAL REGIONAL SPACE - 15 - 20 A/1,000 (local/close to home space plus regional)</b>					

**Table 14: Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards Local or Regional, Unique to Each Community**

Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards Space That May Be Local or Regional and is Unique to Each Community					
Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres / 1,000 Population	Desirable Site Characteristics
Linear Park	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing, and pleasure driving. May include active play areas. (Note: any of above components may occur in the "linear park")	No applicable standard.	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use.	Variable.	Built or natural corridors, such as utility right-of-ways, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.
Special Use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as athletic complexes, adventure parks for BMX Biking or skateparks, golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret building sites, and objects of archaeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, blvd., parkways.	No applicable standard.	Variable depending on desired size.	Variable	Plenty of parking, shaded areas, multiple things to do in one area, comfort amenities such as upgraded restrooms, easy ingress/egress with emphasis on large volume of traffic, directional signage from major trafficways, themeing within the park relative to design and color patterns
Conservancy	Protection & management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard.	Sufficient to protect the resource.	Variable	Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

Based on the Standards-Based methodology the process for determining the need for parkland is shown below in Table 15. As can be seen in the table, Bastrop overall currently has a large amount of acreage dedicated to parks and open space with a limited need to for additional acreage by the year 2030. However, by utilizing the NRPA Guidelines it can be shown in **Map 3 – Neighborhood Parks GAPS Analysis** that the City has

numerous areas that are currently underserved by the existing neighborhood parks. This deficit is further illustrated in Table 16, below, which focuses the analysis on neighborhood and community parks exclusively. Even though the majority of the City’s parks are large community park facilities with multiple uses or special use parks further analysis shows there still remains certain underserved areas of the City that are in need of a community level park.

**Table 15: Total Parkland per 1000 Residents of Bastrop  
Park Land Acquisition Deficit Based on Standard of  
10 acres/1,000 population**

Existing Acreage	Existing Acreage per 1,000 population (8,202 population)	Acreage Goal to meet short term target at 10 acres/1,000 population for 8,202 population	Acreage Goal to meet long term target at 10 acres/1,000 population for 13,066 population (2030)	Acreage Deficit
*102.86	12.54	Exceeds current target by 20.84 acres	27.8 acres (to be added to the amount of 102 acres for a total of 130.66 acres)	0 (short term) 28 (long term)

\* Acreage includes Bob Bryant, Ferry Park, Fireman's, Fisherman's, Hill Street, Hunters Crossing, Kerr Community, Mayfest and Rusty Reynolds

**Table 16: Total Parkland per 1000 Residents of Bastrop for Neighborhood & Community Parks Only**

**Park Land Acquisition Deficit Based on Standard of  
10 acres/1,000 population  
(Neighborhood and Community Parks Only)**

Existing Acreage	Existing Acreage per 1,000 population (8,202 population)	Acreage Goal to meet short term target at 10 acres/1,000 population for 8,202 population	Acreage Goal to meet long term target at 10 acres/1,000 population for 13,066 population (2030)	Acreage Deficit
*55.35	6.74	Deficit from current target by -26.67 acres	75.31 acres (to be added to the amount of 55 acres for a total of 130.66 acres)	26.67 (short term) 75.31 (long term)

\* Acreage includes Bob Bryant, Ferry Park, Fireman's, Hill Street, Hunters Crossing, and Kerr Community

***Methodology (Demand-Based)***

Demand-Based approach for measuring the communities' needs is accomplished through the gathering of information from citizens, organized recreational groups, civic organizations, church groups, elected officials and appointed boards. For the purposes of this plan the citizen involvement process included the following: key-person interviews, focus sessions, public workshops, Parks Board meetings and an informal citizen survey, which were used to establish recreational facility priorities. The results of the Demand-Based approach will be further discussed later in this document.

## Recreational Needs Assessment

Once again utilizing the NRPA Standards, Table 17, below, effectively depicts the City's recreational facility needs. The first column lists the type of facility being considered. The second column describes the standard with which the facilities should be per populations. The third column is the number of existing facilities available. The fourth column shows the number of facilities needed based on 2007 population estimates. The fifth column shows the radius and approximate location of where the facilities should be related to the majority of the population. The sixth column shows how many are needed by population and then by location. The location figures were calculated by using the recommended maximum radius for neighborhood parks into the 8,202 acres in the City Limits 12.81 square miles in the City's corporate boundaries.

Table 17: Needs by Facility Standards

Needs by Facility Standards						
Facility Units	Standard	Existing Facilities	Units Required for 8,202 Person	Units Required by Location	Units Needed by Population / Location	Additional Needs Based on Recommendations in this Report
<b>Fields</b>						
Baseball	1 per 7,000	6 (2 sites)	1 or by demand	< 1/2 Mile radius	0 of 6	0
Softball	1 per 5,000	2 (2 sites)	1 or by demand	< 1/2 Mile radius	0 of 9	0
Football	1 per 20,000	1	1 or by demand	15-30 minute drive time	1 of 1	0
Soccer / Multi Purpose Fields	1 per 5,000	7 (4 sites)	2 or by demand	1-2 Miles	0 of 4	0
<b>Courts</b>						
Basketball	1 per 5,000	6.5 (5 sites)	2 or by demand	< 1/2 Mile radius	0 of 8	0
Tennis	1 per 4,000	2 (2 sites)	3	< 1/2 Mile radius	1 of 1	0
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	2 (2 sites)	2			
<b>Outdoor Areas</b>						
1/4 mile Running Track		0	1	15-30 minute drive time	1 of 1	0
Dog Park	No Standard	0	1 or by demand			1
<b>Trails</b>						
Hiking/Biking Walking	No Limit	22,265 ft.				
<b>Specialized</b>						
*Aquatic Center	1 per 20,000	0	by demand		0	0
Neighborhood Meeting Center	1 per 20,000	0	by demand			0
Skate Park	No Standard	0	1 or by demand			1
Golf	1 per 25,000	2 Total = 1- State Owned and 1- Privately Owned	1 or by demand	1/2-1 hours drive time	1 of 1	0
**Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	1 (State Owned)	1	15-30 minute drive time	1 of 1	0
Rodeo Area	No Standard					

These totals do not include school facilities

\* Aquatic Center is defined as a facility containing various pools/activities for all ages from tots to adults.

\*\* Swimming Pool is typically an outdoor facility designed for competition and lap swimming.

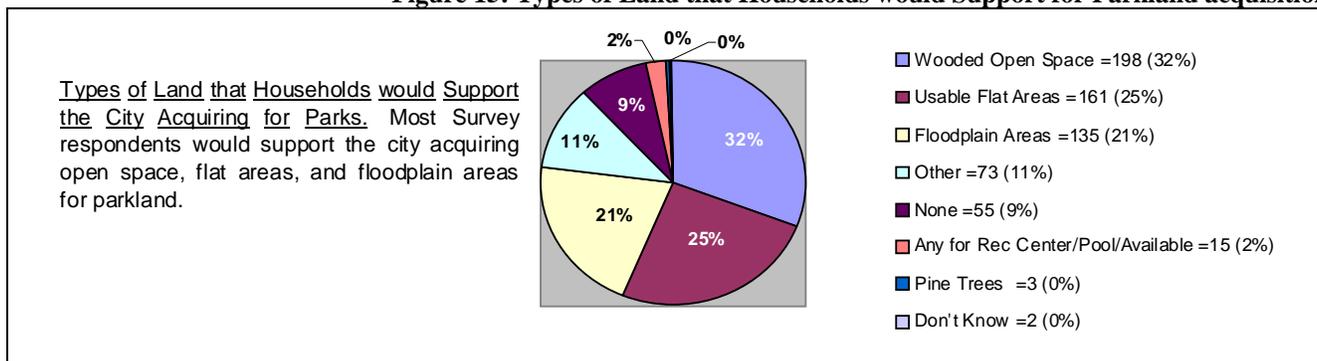
**Important Observations:**

The City of Bastrop presently exceeds the NRPA per capita standard for park land based on the current population. The two primary issues facing the City are as follows: 1) How effectively is it utilizing its existing park and recreational assets to achieve the level and quality of service desired by the community as a whole (quantity and quality of useable features in the existing park system); 2) The lack of adequately developed neighborhood and community parks throughout the City as underscored by the updated inventory of existing facilities. As the City continues to grow in population, based on the NRPA Standards, there will be a need for an additional 27 acres of parkland in the short term and 75 acres by the year 2030.

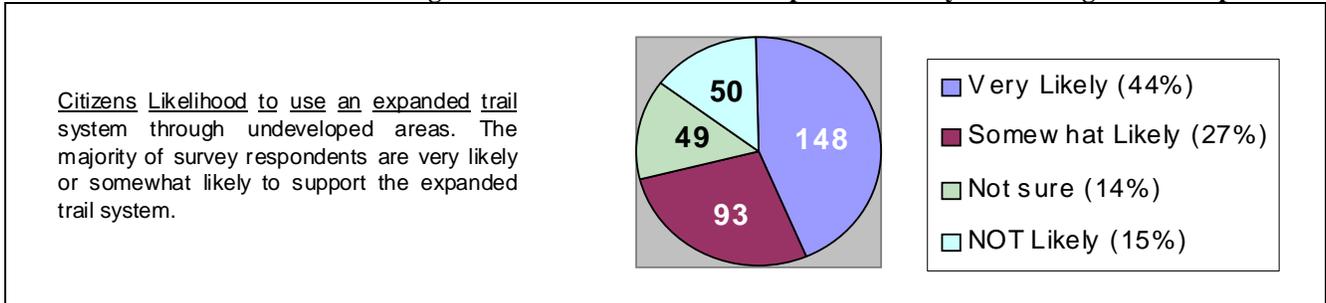
While the schools provide some open space that could be potentially used for recreational activities. Most of the school facilities are not open for public use. Through this Master Parks Plan Update, the City has set the standard of neighborhood parks to be every 1/4 mile. **Map 4 – Future Parks & Facilities** designates several underserved areas for consideration of placement of neighborhood parks. Even pocket parks would be helpful to provide open space for the citizens. The City of Bastrop is much like older cities of its size. Planning and zoning regulations did not exist when many of the houses were built. Park sites were not required with the development of residential areas or the houses were built by individual families and park land was not designated by anyone. In many of the residential areas throughout town, there is limited land available for acquisition and construction of parks. For this reason, pocket parks may have to be used instead of neighborhood parks.

**Survey**

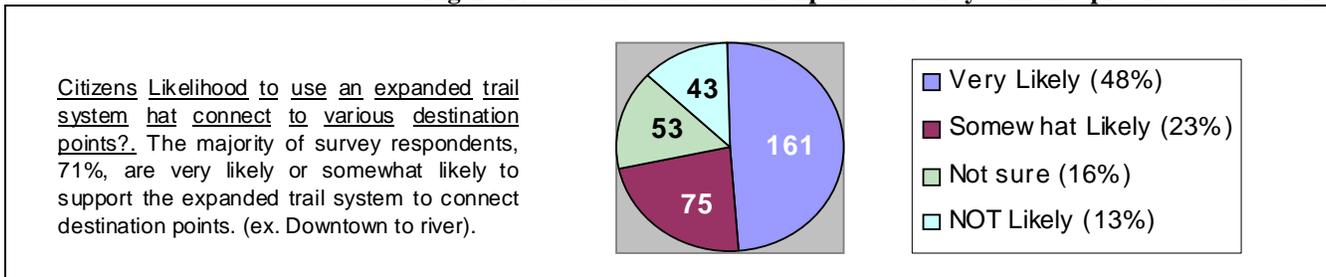
**Figure 15: Types of Land that Households would Support for Parkland acquisition**



**Figure 16: Likelihood to use an expanded trail system through undeveloped areas**



**Figure 17: Likelihood to use an expanded trail system that provides connections**



## List of Facility Priorities

Utilizing the Demand-Based methodology, the City through an informal survey, review of standards, public workshops, and Parks Board meetings developed the following priority list for parks and recreation facilities needed in the City of Bastrop.

### ***Park and Recreational Needs:***

#### ***Outdoor***

1. Hike/Bike/Walk Trails
2. Benches / Picnic Tables / BBQ pits
3. Playground Equipment
4. Pavilions
5. Water Facilities (Splash Pads)
6. Gardens with Xeriscaping and Shade Trees
7. Lighting for Security
8. Skate Park
9. Dog Park
10. Baseball Fields
11. Softball Fields
12. Soccer Fields
13. Football Fields
14. Water/Drinking Fountains
15. Restroom Facilities
16. Tennis Courts
17. Basketball Courts
18. Canoe / Boat Ramp
19. Fishing Platform/Canoe Launch
20. Outdoor swimming pool
21. Equestrian Facilities
22. Amphitheater

#### ***Indoor***

1. Weight Room
2. Aerobic Room
3. Multi-purpose Courts
4. Dance Room
5. Martial Arts Room
6. Meeting Room
7. Computer / Media Room
8. Arts & Craft Room
9. Kitchen
10. Indoor Pool

## Park and Trail Classification Systems

Most City park systems define the various types of parks in the community by size, primary use and general placement within the City. Using this system of classification, the City has identified each of its parks. This system will allow the City to better plan and identify the types of the parks needed. The following classification system follows guidelines similar to the system suggested by NRPA.

**Pocket Parks** are the smallest park classification and are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Examples of pocket parks include concentrated or limited populations; isolated development areas; unique recreational opportunities; landscaped public use areas; scenic overlooks; or, play areas adjacent to downtown shopping districts. Bastrop's pocket parks include Ferry Park.

**Neighborhood Parks** are the basic unit of the park system, which serve as a recreational and social focus of a neighborhood with both passive and active activities. They are not intended to be used for programmed activities that result in overuse, noise, parking problems and congestion. They should be geared for those living within the service area. A Neighborhood Park accommodates a variety of ages including children, adults and seniors. These parks are usually not smaller than 5 acres in size and are developed centrally within the neighborhood to encompass 1/2 mile service radius. Neighborhood Parks primarily facilitate recreational activities including play structures, sitting areas and open space. Ideally, these parks are linked to the neighborhood and to each other by a pathway system and respond to the need for basic recreational amenities close to home. Bastrop neighborhood parks include Kerr Community Park, Hill Street Park and Hunter's Crossing Subdivision Park.

**Community Parks** are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. They allow for group activities and offer other recreational opportunities not feasible, nor desirable, at the neighborhood level. As with neighborhood parks, they should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities. Optimal size for a community park should exceed 25 acres with a service radius of approximately 1 mile. Design features might include large play structures, informal fields for youth play, tennis courts, volleyball courts, shuffleboard courts, horseshoe areas, swimming pools, disc golf, trails, group picnic areas, open space and unique landscapes/features, nature study areas, ornamental gardens and facilities for cultural activities such as plays and concerts in the park. Bastrop community parks include Fisherman's Park and Bob Bryant Park.

## ***City of Bastrop, Texas***

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**Regional Parks** serve a larger purpose than community parks. Regional parks are larger and have more amenities than community level parks and will attract users for longer periods of time due to their size and features. Regional parks will typically include features which lend themselves to neighborhood level and community level activities such as playgrounds, shelters, walking trails and athletic facilities. Bastrop State Park serves as a Regional Park.

**Special Use Parks** are designed to serve the entire community with specialized facilities such as a sports complex, golf course or aquatic facility. Size is determined by the demand for the facilities located there and their space requirements. A golf course may require 150 acres, an athletic sports complex may require 100 acres and so on. Aquatic Centers which provide a variety of water recreational activities for tots to adults is another type of special use park. Location of special use parks has to be carefully planned to ensure that access, traffic control, lighting issues and noise issues do not negatively impact neighborhoods. Bastrop's special use parks are Fireman's Park, Rusty Reynolds Little League Complex, and Mayfest Park. Lovers Lane Fields, even though it not a designated City park, functions as a special use facility.

**School Parks** combine City-owned parks with school sites and fulfill the space requirements for other classes of close-to-home parks such a mini parks and neighborhood parks. Bastrop does not have any official school parks at this time, but the school playground equipment is often used as park facilities.

**Linear Parks** are areas that are developed for one or more varying modes of recreational use such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, canoeing, etc. Bastrop linear parks include Old Iron Bridge, Riverwalk Trail, and El Camino Real Trail.

**Undeveloped Land/Remnant Land** in the City's inventory has been acquired in a variety of ways. Sometimes, these sites can serve a useful purpose while other times they cannot. It is important that each parcel be evaluated for its usefulness as a valuable asset to the park system and developed accordingly. If there is no possibility of a useful purpose, it should be disposed of. Undeveloped land includes small parcels around town, and property located across the river from Ferry Park.

# INVENTORY OF PARK FACILITIES

## Combined Facilities

### **City Owned (all parks):**

- Trails (walking/biking)
- Paddling Trails
- Pavilion
- Playground
- BBQ Pits
- Bleachers
- Benches
- Picnic Tables
- Sand Volleyball
- Multi-purpose/Practice Field (Soccer)
- Football Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Concession Stand
- Restrooms
- Trash Cans
- Playground/Playscape
- Horseshoe
- T-ball
- Softball
- Boat Dock
- Fishing Dock
- Canoe Dock
- Batting Cages
- Baseball Practice Field (backstop)
- Swing Sets
- Four Square
- Drinking Fountains
- Gazebo
- Livestock Pavilion
- Pond
- Bridge
- Scenic Overlook

Table 18, below, shows the municipal owned facilities within City owned or operated parks.

Table 18: City Owned Parkland

	Bob Bryant	El Camino Real Paddling Trail	El Camino Real Trail	Ferry	Fireman's	Fisherman's	Hill Street	Hunter's Crossing	Kerr Community	Mayfest	Old Iron Bridge	Riverwalk Trail	Rusty Reynolds	Totals
Pavilion	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	1	1	--	--	1	--	6
Picnic Tables	9	--	--	6	--	21	2	4	5	3	--	4	--	54
BQ Pits	5	--	--	1	--	13	1	--	4	2	--	0	--	26
Gazebo	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	0	--	2
Benches	8	--	--	2	--	11	1	--	5	--	--	14	--	41
Bleachers	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Concession Stand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2
Restrooms	1	--	--	--	chemical toilet	chemical toilet-2	1	1	chemical toilet	1	--	--	2	10
Playground/scape	1	--	--	1	--	1	1	2	1	--	--	--	--	7
Horseshoe	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Swings	6	--	--	5	--	11	2	4	4	--	--	--	--	32
Tennis	1	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Sand Volleyball	1	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Baseball	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	4
T-ball	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
Softball	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2
Batting Cages	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	4
Football	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Multipurpose/practice field	1	--	--	--	--	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	3
Basketball	1	--	--	--	--	2	1	1.5	1	--	--	--	--	6.5
Four Square	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Rodeo	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
Show Barn	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
Boat Launch	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Trails/walkway	5,160 ft	--	5,013 ft	--	--	--	--	7,135 ft.	981 ft.	--	1,288 ft	2,688 ft	--	22265ft
Paddling Trails	--	6 Miles	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6 miles
Scenic Overlook	2	--	--	--	--	2	--	1	--	--	--	3	--	8
Canoe Launch	1	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Pond	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1
Bridge	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	2
Trash Cans	14	--	--	3	3	20	2	4	1	put out for events	--	11	25	79
Drinking Fountains	1	--	--	--	--	2	2	4	9	--	--	1	--	19

City Owned Parks

**City of Bastrop, Texas**

**Bastrop Independent School District (BISD) Owned Facilities:**

- Baseball Fields
- Football Stadium
- Running Track
- Basketball Goals on Parking lot
- Exercise Stations/Equipment
- Multi-purpose/Practice Fields
- Softball Fields
- Lighted Practice Fields
- Backstop
- Benches
- Picnic Tables
- Playground/Playscape
- Open Area used as Soccer Practice Fields
- Soccer Fields
- Tennis

Table 19, below, inventories all of the school owned facilities.

**Table 19: BISD Owned Facilities**

School Owned Facilities								
	Hill Elementary	Mina Elementary	Emile Elementary	Intermediate School	Middle School	High School	Athletic Field Complex	Totals
Picnic Tables	--	4	4	--	--	10	--	18
Backstop	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1
Benches	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Lighted Practice Fields	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	2
Exercise Equipment	--	--	--	--	--	6	--	6
Playground / scape	2	2	2	--	--	--	--	6
Football Stadium	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Track	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	2
Tennis	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	2
Baseball	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	3
Softball	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Multipurpose / practice field	--	1	3	1	1	1	--	7
Basketball	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1

Following pages contain a complete inventory of City Owned Parks.

**Bob Bryant Park**

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Ownership: City Owned  
 Address: 600 Charles Boulevard  
 Category: Community Park  
 Size: 22.8 acres

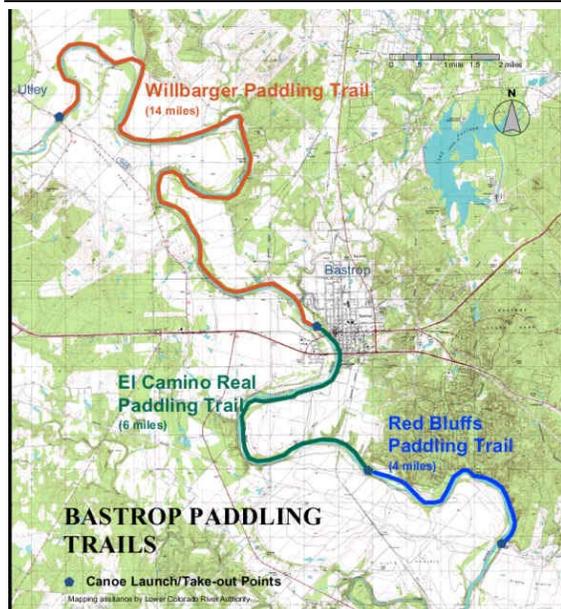
This Community Park is Bastrop’s newest Community Park dedicated in 2004. This park has great river access and has room to expand facilities.

Existing facilities include:

- Bridge
- Nature Trail length – 2,391 ft
- Total walkway area in park + Natural Trail – 5,160 ft
- 1 scenic overlook
- Tennis courts (not lighted)
- Fruit tree orchard in Nature area
- Canoe dock / Fishing Pier (not for boats)
- 2 horseshoe pits
- 6 swings
- 2 four square concrete pads
- 1 pavilion 50’x40’
- 1 Playground equipment, ages 2-12 years
- BBQ Pits
- 8 benches
- 9 picnic tables
- Sand volleyball court
- Multi-purpose field – 2 soccer goals and a backstop
- Basketball court
- 2 recycle stations
- Restroom facilities
  - Men – 2 urinals, 1 handicap
  - Women – 2 stalls, 1 handicap



## El Camino Real Paddling Trail



Ownership: City/Community Owned  
 Address: Colorado River from Fisherman’s Park to Lost Pines Nature Trails  
 Category: Linear Park/ Paddling Trail  
 Length: 6 Miles

This Paddling Trail was launched in November 2007. The Bastrop Paddling Trails project is a collaborative effort between local partners and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s (TPWD) Texas Paddling Trails program to bring 24 miles of designated paddling trails to the Bastrop community. This 6 mile trail provides paddling opportunities for residents of Bastrop from Fisherman’s Park to Lost Pines

Nature Trails. Each of these parks are with City of Bastrop’s planning area.

Existing facilities include:

- 6 miles within the Colorado River

## ***El Camino Real Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail***

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Ownership: City Owned  
Address: Hwy 71 to Old Iron Bridge  
Category: Linear Park  
Length: 5,013 Linear Feet

This Linear Park was completed in 2004. This trail provides connection from the west side of town to downtown Bastrop across the Colorado River. This trail extends from Highway 71 to the Old Iron Bridge. Phase II is to extend the trail to connect downtown to Bastrop State Park.

Existing facilities include:

- 5,013 linear feet
- Lighted trail
- Landscaping



**Ferry Park**

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Ownership: City Owned  
 Address: 502 Water Street  
 Category: Pocket Park  
 Size: <1 acre

This park has limited development, but provides important access to the Colorado River near the State Highway 71 bridge. This park is a trailhead for the June Page Riverwalk Trail that connects with Fisherman’s Park. This is a small pocket park that provides a great playground for children. This park was recently upgraded with a

swinging bench.

Existing facilities include:

- 1 playground, ages 2-12 years
- 6 picnic tables (3 concrete/3 webcoat)
- 2 benches
- 1 BBQ pit
- Swing Set, toddlers to 12 years
- 1 swinging bench
- 1 small gazebo
- 3 trashcans
- 1 chemical toilet



### **Fireman's Park**

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Ownership: City Owned  
Address: 600 Hill Street  
Category: Special Use  
Size: 2.54 acres

This park, centrally located, provides one lighted adult softball field used for league play. Although this park is classified as special use, it serves the surrounding neighborhood.

Existing facilities include:

- 1 Softball Field (lighted)
- 5 bleachers
- 3 trash cans
- 2 chemical toilets



**Fisherman's Park**



Ownership: City Owned  
 Address: 1500 Willow Street  
 Category: Community Park  
 Size: 20.0 acres

Part of the LCRA Colorado River Trail Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) Project

This City Park completed its most recent improvements in 2007 and is the City of Bastrop's most popular park by residents and visitors alike. Fisherman's Park recently added additional BBQ pits, benches, picnic tables and swings to the park facilities. The river bank within the park was also stabilized in 2000.

This park is also the starting point of the El Camino Real Paddling Trail, launched in November 2007, which is 6 miles ending at Lost Pines Nature Trail (Environmental Stewardship) This park has a connection to the Bastrop Public Library and is the start of the June Hill Pape Riverwalk Trail that connects to Ferry Park.

Existing facilities include:

- 1 Large pavilion (30' x 60') seating capacity for 50
- 2 Drinking Fountains
- 1 Playground equipment, 2-12 years
- 12 small BBQ pits
- 1 large 100 gallon pit
- 11 benches
- 21 picnic tables
- Sand volleyball court
- 1 Multipurpose field – backstop and 2 soccer goals
- Fishing pier
- 2 basketball courts
- Tennis courts – lighted
- Boat ramp
- Lights throughout park
- Canoe/boat dock
- 1 small pavilion (30' x 16') with removable picnic tables
- Nature trail –along the river
- 11 swings total
  - 3 bench swings
- 18 trash cans
- 2 recycle stations
- Restroom Facilities
  - men's – 2 urinals, 1 stall, 1 handicap
  - women's – 3 stalls, 1 handicap



## City of Bastrop, Texas

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### Hill Street Park

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Ownership: City Owned  
Address: 1209 Linden Street  
Category: Neighborhood Park  
Size: 1 acre

Located across from the Rusty Reynolds Little League Complex this Neighborhood Park is small but provides many amenities adjacent to the ball fields. The park has large shade trees and is also located next to the parking lot that serves the neighboring Little League Complex.

Existing facilities include:

- 2 Swings
- 1 Merry Go Round
- 2 Picnic Tables
- 2 Basketball Courts in parking lot
- 2 Small BBQ pits
- 1 Spring Saw Ride
- 2 Trash Cans



***Hunter’s Crossing Subdivision Park***



Ownership: City Owned  
 Address: 301 Hunters crossing Boulevard  
 Category: Neighborhood Park  
 Size: 6.6 acres

Developed as part of the Hunter’s Crossing Subdivision this neighborhood park is open to the public. The subdivision has several trails open to the public as well as playgrounds. The Home Owners Association (HOA) does own a community pool adjacent to the park/ playground that is not open to the public.

Existing facilities include:

- Pavilion with 2 ceiling fans
- 7,135 linear feet of walkway and trail system
- Gazebo and Outlook
- Pond
- 2 Playgrounds
  - Smaller set for ages 2-5 years (Burke Designed)
  - Larger set for ages 5-12 years (Burke Designed)
- Half Court Basketball court
- 4 Picnic Tables
- 4 Swings
- 2 Bike Racks
- Baseball field with dugouts in the back (Fenced)
- Fishing pier
- Restrooms – Limited access to public



**Kerr Community Park**

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Ownership: City Owned  
Address: 1308 Walnut Street  
Category: Neighborhood Park  
Size: 1.39 acres

Recently completed in 2006 this park is a reality thanks to the combined efforts between the City, Community donations and TPWD funding. This park is centrally located within the community and adjacent to the Kerr Community Center. This is a great neighborhood park that has several amenities.

Existing facilities include:

- 5 picnic tables
- 1 pavilion
  - 50' x 35'
  - seating for 20-40 people
- 981 feet of walkways
- 1 Playground designed by Playworld (5-12 year olds)
- 1 basketball court
- 4 BBQ pits
- 5 benches
- 4 swings
- 1 recycle station (aluminum and plastic)



**Lovers Lane Fields**



Ownership: City Owned, but not designated as a Municipal Park.  
 Address: Lovers Lane  
 Category: Functions as a Special Use Park  
 Size: 25.0 acres

In cooperation with local soccer and football associations this property is owned by the City but maintained and operated by the Bastrop Youth Soccer Association, FC Arsenal and Bastrop Youth Football Association. This is the primary location where football and soccer games are played. This property is not adopted/dedicated parkland under the City’s ordinances.

Existing facilities include:

- 1 Large Football Field
- 4 Multipurpose Fields with 8 soccer goals
- 3 Picnic Tables
- 5 Bleachers
- 1 Concession Stand
- 2 portable lights
- 2 movable BBQ pits
- 2 trash cans
- 1 chemical toilet



**Mayfest Park**

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Ownership: City Owned  
 Address: 25 American Legion Drive  
 Category: Special Use  
 Size: 26.74 acres

This park area is situated in the southeast area of town. Currently the park is used for special events.

Existing facilities include:

- Rodeo Area - Lighted
- Cover Show Barn
- 3 picnic tables
- 2 small BBQ pits
- Ticket booth
- Storage building
- Concession Area inside rodeo arena
- Trash Cans put out when events occur
- 14 electric / water hookups
- 11.01 acres of open space
- Restroom Facilities:
  - Men’s – 3 urinals, 1 stall, 1 handicap
  - Women’s – 4 stalls, 1 handicap



**Old Iron Bridge**

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Ownership: City Owned  
Address: 515 Chestnut Street  
Category: Linear Park  
Length: 1,288 linear feet

The old bridge to downtown, built 1890, has been restored for foot, skate or bicycle travel. Eventually, there will be trails on both sides of the river and the bridge will serve as the connection. Old Iron Bridge currently serves as the east to west connection for the El Camino Real Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail that connects the western portion of the city to downtown, and eventually will extend to Bastrop State Park.

Existing facilities include:

- Trail 1288 feet
  - 586 feet -Section I (from the entry gates to the actual bridge)
  - 584 feet -Section II (the actual bridge)
  - 118 feet -Section III (the end of the bridge to the exit gate)
- Some Landscaping

## ***June Hill Pape Riverwalk Trail***



Ownership: City Owned  
 Address: Colorado River between Fisherman's and Ferry Parks  
 Category: Linear Park  
 Length: 2,668 linear feet

Texas Parks & Wildlife Project. The trail connects Fisherman's Park with the Old River Bridge and Ferry Park. 2,688 linear feet of 10' wide concrete exposed aggregate. This park is a destination for walkers, runners, and joggers. Future plans are for this trail to connect to El Camino Real Trail at Old Iron Bridge.

Existing facilities include:

- 2,668 linear feet (Black Iron Fence in Fisherman's Park to Ferry Park)
- Pavilion with rock fireplace
- 1 swinging bench
- 14 black iron benches
- 4 concrete picnic tables
- 11 trash cans
- 1 drinking fountain
- 3 scenic overlooks/fishing piers (2 handicap accessible)
- Access point from City Library and City Hall
- 31 antique lights



## Rusty Reynolds Baseball Complex



Ownership: LCRA, leased to the City of Bastrop  
 Address: 2400 Hill Street  
 Category: Special Use  
 Size: 20.77 acres

This park, with a north central location, provides much of the City's current baseball/softball needs. Restrooms and concession buildings are shared throughout the complex. This is a special use park because there are no other park facilities other than baseball fields.

Existing facilities include:

- There is a total of 6 fields
    - 4 baseball
    - 1 T-ball
    - 1 softball
  - 4 batting cages
  - 5 scoreboards besides the t-ball field
  - Lion's field has 2 extra sets of bleachers in the outfield
  - 1 upper restroom and upper concession (open/accessible during events)
  - 1 lower restroom and lower concession stand (open/accessible during events)
1. **Vinlark Field:** bleachers, dugouts announcer booth, lighted, irrigated with 5 trash barrels (softball field)
  2. **Schaffer Field:** bleachers, dugouts, announcer booth, lighted, irrigated with 4 trash barrels (Jr. – Big League Field)
  3. **Lions Field:** dugouts, bleachers, announcer booth, irrigated, lighted with 2 trash barrels (coach pitch/pee wee field)
  4. **HEB Field:** dugouts, irrigated, lighted, bleachers, announcer booth, 4 trash barrels and 2 chemical toilets during the season (Regular sized little league field)
  5. **Covert Field:** dugouts, bleachers, announcer booth, irrigated, lighted with 6 trash barrels (Regular sized little league field)
  6. **T-Ball Field:** no specific name, bleachers, dug-outs, 1 trash barrel, no lights, no announcer booth



**State Owned Park****Bastrop State Park – 5,926 acres (fee use)**

**Activities:** The park provides opportunities for backpacking, camping, picnicking, canoeing (park rents canoes), swimming (pool), golfing, wildlife viewing, hiking, and interpretive programs.

**Biking** - Whether you are a beginner or an expert rider, you will find what you are looking for on Park Road 1C between Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. Enjoy the 12 mile scenic ride through the Lost Pines of East Central Texas. This roller coaster ride is part of the MS-150 (famed bike race from Houston to Austin.). The scenery is unmatched.

**Scenic Drives** (Field Trips on Wheels) - Get in the car and go for a leisurely drive along Park Road 1C between Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. This scenic 12-mile drive will take you through the beautiful Lost Pines of East Central Texas. Turn down the radio and enjoy the serenity of the forest along this quiet drive. Call the park for more information.

**Fishing** - Bring your pole and enjoy some good ol' fishing along the banks of Bastrop State Park Lake. If you can't reach them from the bank, you can rent one of the canoes and relax out in the open waters.

**Golf Course** - operated by the Lost Pines Golf Club, is one of the finest and most scenic 18-hole golf courses in Central Texas. The course is 6152 yards long, has Bermuda grass greens, is playable year-round, and has electric and pull carts available for rent

**Campsites & Other Facilities** -include restrooms with showers; picnic sites; backpack areas along an 8.5-mile hiking trail; 3.5 additional miles of hiking trails; campsites with water; campsites with water and electricity; cabins; lodges; group barracks; and a dining hall (accommodates 90); a swimming pool; an outdoor sports area; a trail area; a day-use dining hall (refectory) with a kitchen area, tables and chairs for 90, a patio area, air-conditioning, and two fireplaces; and a sponsored youth group area. Special rates are available. The rustic cabins, which accommodate two to six people, overlook a small lake and each has air-conditioning, a microwave and kitchen facilities (linens and towels are furnished, but no utensils, dishes, or silverware).

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Bastrop State Park is the 5th most visited State Park in Texas in 2001 according to Texas Park and Wildlife Department, *2005 Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan*. The Bastrop State Park had 448,899 in attendance in 2001. This park is located within the TPWD 60 mile buffer of major highways and is within the priority area. This park is also listed as a Priority State Park.

**STATE PARKS**

The priority state parks are within 90-minutes of the I-35/I-10/I-45 triangle, the Lower Rio Grande Valley or are destination parks – places where people are willing to travel greater distances and spend one or more nights. Some state parks may operate at or near capacity for part of the year and relatively undeveloped lands still exist adjacent to the sites.

*Criteria Used for Priority State Parks*

- Location – Proximity to urban population centers
- Natural Resource Value – Significant geographic, wildlife, plant resources present
- Recreational Value – Water features; visitation; accessibility; available activities
- Ability to Expand – Undeveloped adjacent lands
- Current Size of State Park
- Destinations

As stated in the *2005 Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan* (The Plan) recreation summary “demand for outdoor recreation is changing as the population becomes increasingly diverse and urban. The Plan evaluates all existing state parks, wildlife management areas, and historic sites to determine whether the sites need additional resources to meet the demands of its constituency or if the sites would be better managed by another entity. TPWD will focus its efforts to acquire additional land to improve access, recreational experience, wildlife habitat and resource protection on priority state parks and wildlife management areas. It will also strive to fully interpret, protect and appropriately market all priority historic sites.”

*Priority Sites*

Priority state parks and wildlife management areas are relatively large and have significant natural resource or recreation value. In the next ten years, TPWD will focus its efforts on expanding these sites where possible to improve access, recreation experience, wildlife habitat and resource protection. TPWD will evaluate each site to determine whether they also warrant improved or expanded public facilities, staffing or educational and interpretive programs

Bastrop State Park is located within the Priority Sites. The Plan identifies the need for more state parks to serve major urban areas. It sets goals for the Department to provide large, accessible state parks near areas experiencing significant population growth. The Plan also identifies the importance of continued support for

## City of Bastrop, Texas

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local park development through TPWD's grant programs. In addition, the Plan directs TPWD to work with landowners interested in increasing public access to their lands.

The Major Goals of the 2005 *Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan* are:

**Goal 1:** Improve access to the outdoors.

**Goal 2:** Conserve, manage, operate, and promote agency sites for recreational opportunities, biodiversity, and the cultural heritage of Texas.

■ TPWD underserves the most populous cities with Houston at 40.3 acres per 1,000 population followed by El Paso, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio with 9.9 acres per 1,000 population.

**Goal 3:** Assist landowners in managing their lands for sustainable wildlife habitat consistent with their goals.

■ To best serve the populations of Texas, a priority for TPWD is to focus acquisition efforts within 90-minute drives of San Antonio, Fort Worth, Dallas, Austin and the Valley areas, all of which are underserved.

**Goal 4:** Increase participation in hunting, fishing, boating and outdoor recreation.

**Revised Goal 5:** Enhance the quality of hunting, fishing, boating and outdoor recreation.

**Goal 6:** Improve science, data collection and information dissemination to make informed management decisions.

COMMUNITIES WITH FEWER THAN 20,000 PEOPLE ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO VARYING AMOUNTS OF RECREATIONAL LANDS

**Goal 7:** Maintain or improve water quality and quantity to support the needs of fish, wildlife and recreation.

■ The mean acres per 1,000 for cities under 20,000 population is 15.6 acres.

**Goal 8:** Continuously improve TPWD business management systems, business practices and work culture.

**Private / Quasi-Public Parks****Lake Bastrop – South Shore Park on Lake Bastrop – LCRA (Fee Use), 25 acres**

South Shore Park, the busier of the two Lake Bastrop parks, offers a variety of outdoor activities. The 900-acre lake contains bass, crappie, perch and catfish. Anglers can drop a line from the park's fishing pier or head out on a boat from the park's ramp.

Sailing, skiing and canoeing are other popular activities on Lake Bastrop. South Shore Park now offers on-site canoe rentals. On shore, park guests can go hike on three miles of trails or take the kids to the playground.

South Shore Park has 38 Universal Camp sites with water and electric hookups. 16 mini-cabins are available and will sleep up to five in two sets of bunk beds. Each cabin has electricity, an outside water spigot, heat and A/C, a ceiling fan, a front porch, a picnic table and a grill. Restrooms and showers are available for park guests.

- Canoe / Kayak Launch Site
- Hiking & Walking Trails
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Picnic Tables & Grills
- Group Picnic Pavilion - Day Use Only
- RV - Water & Electric
- RV - Dump Station
- Cabins / Mini-Cabins
- Restrooms
- Showers
- Boat ramp
- Boat dock
- Sand volleyball pit
- Playground

**Lake Bastrop – North Shore Park on Lake Bastrop – LCRA (Fee Use), 25 acres**

North Shore Park on 900-acre Lake Bastrop has features to appeal to campers, anglers and nature lovers.

A boat ramp and fishing pier provide fishing and water-based recreation. North Shore has 15 universal campsites available. Eight sites are available with 50 amp electric and water hookups, two sites include sewer hookups. Seven sites are available with 30 amp electric and water hookups. There are also picnic areas, a pavilion, rest rooms and showers available.

- Boat Ramp
- Canoe / Kayak Launch Site
- Hiking & Walking Trails
- Fishing
- Swimming

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- Picnic Tables & Grills
- Group Picnic Pavilion - Day Use Only
- RV - Water & Electric
- RV - Dump Station
- Tent Camping – water available
- Restrooms & Showers

### **Colorado River Refuge –Pines and Prairies Land Trust (1.5 miles of River Frontage on 60 acres)- Open to the Public**

On December 16, 2004, the Pines and Prairies Land Trust (PPLT) acquired more than 60 acres of Colorado River frontage through deed transfer from the Bastrop County Water Control and Improvement District #2 (BCWCID#2). The property, now called the Colorado River Refuge, is made up primarily of majestic old-growth riparian forest along 1.5 miles of the Colorado River in Bastrop, Texas. Unspoiled views and unusual geological outcrops adorn this peaceful stretch of the Colorado River. PPLT has developed a five-year management plan for the Colorado River Refuge which includes: riverbank stabilization, trash and debris clean-up, prohibition of motorized vehicular traffic, potential additional land acquisition (another 30 acres to be donated by the BCWCID#2), development of 3 miles of walking trails, and provision of educational and interpretive programs. The Colorado River Refuge anchors the downstream end of a 60-mile stretch of the Colorado River, a corridor under study by the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership. Improvement and rehabilitation of .75 miles of existing natural surface trail, including 800 feet of wheelchair-accessible trail from one accessible parking area to at least two river access points.

Future and existing trail improvements include:

- Construction of .9 mile of natural surface trail
- Construction of several short trail access points to the Colorado River
- Stabilization of all floodplain trail surfaces to prevent erosion and wash-out
- Closing off and re-vegetation of "informal" trails (due to erosion and poor location)
- Clearing of trailside undergrowth
- Three parking areas, accommodating up to 20 vehicles, at least 1 of which will be wheelchair accessible
- Three trailhead kiosks with educational information and property use requirements
- Twelve interpretive signs along the trail highlighting natural and cultural features
- Natural and cultural resource evaluation

### **Lost Pines Nature Trails –375 Riverside Drive**

#### **0.9 miles of River Frontage on 30 acres- Environmental Stewardship - Open to the Public**

The Lost Pines Nature Trails Project is a multi-phase project to develop recreational biking and walking trails on

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a 30 acre tract of land along the Lower Colorado River, adjoining and connecting to the 60 acres known as the Pines & Prairies Land Trust (PPLT) Colorado River Refuge. This project will initiate restoration of the wetland and riparian habitats, will restore the existing trails, and continue developing ADA accessible trails on the property. Once completed, the entire project will encompass nearly 90 acres of towering riparian forest land, wetlands, springs, majestic bald cypress, pecan trees, and unusual geological outcroppings along three miles of serene river frontage. Developing new recreational hike, bike and ADA trails will help reverse existing damage from flooding, erosion, and misuse. This segment of land is included in the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership and will provide multiple opportunities for locals and the traveling public to enjoy nature, tourism, recreation, and education.

Future and existing trail improvements include:

### **Phase I - (funded)**

- 2.1 miles of trails TOTAL
  - 0.5 miles of ADA trails
  - 0.9 miles hike/bike trails
  - 0.5 miles technical bike trails
  - 0.2 miles entrance trail
- River access point for Bastrop Paddling Trails
- Exit point for El Camino Real Paddling Trail
- Entrance point for Red Bluff Paddling Trail
- 2 ADA overlook / picnic sites with tables/BBQ
- Outdoor classroom area for student education.
- Light at Entrance.
- Wetlands/Riparian habitat restoration areas
- Reforestation

### **Phase II (unfunded)**

- Composting toilet facilities - ADA
- Playscape
- Pavilion
- Paved road/parking
- Wildlife observation stations.

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### ***Privately Owned Parks***

#### ***Pine Forest Golf Club (fee use) – 636 Riverside Drive***

- 18 hole golf course

#### ***ColoVista Golf Club (fee use) – 100 Country Club Drive***

- 18 hole golf course
- Tennis Courts
- Swimming Pool

#### ***Paul C. Bell Field –Maintained by the church***

- Baseball practice field with one backstop

#### ***Hunters Crossing – Home Owners Association (HOA)***

- Swimming Pool

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goals and objectives of the 2008 Master Park Plan Update are a direct result of the Citizen Involvement Process. Each goal and subsequent objective addresses the key issues identified by the community stakeholders.

***Goal: The provision of open space, trails, parks and recreational opportunities for the betterment and enhancement of the quality of life for the citizens and visitors to Bastrop.***

***Objectives:***

1. Promote improved health practices through the provision of facilities throughout the community that are within a reasonable distance from homes.
2. Provide opportunities for multi-generational activities and interaction.
3. Improve the opportunities to learn more about the community of Bastrop and its history.
4. Provide opportunities to learn more about the community's natural resources and opportunities to preserve, protect and enhance those resources.

***Goal: A park system that is maintained at a level which meets, or exceeds, citizen expectations.***

***Objectives:***

5. Increase the park maintenance budget to an amount which annually keeps pace with inflation so that the current maintenance standard is not reduced.
6. Evaluate and redirect assignments which prevent the park maintenance staff from spending more time in the park system.
7. Provide updated equipment to park maintenance staff which enables them to work more efficiently and effectively in the park system.

***Goal: Acquire additional land which provides for the City's future park development and recreational needs.***

***Objectives:***

1. Develop land use management standards for acquisition of park land in participation with the Planning & Zoning Commission for all new residential developments. (land dedication and/or in-lieu fees option)
2. Develop inter-local agreements with Bastrop County and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for acquisition of park land.
3. Preserve open space and greenbelt through the dedication of these areas in neighborhood, City and linear parks and through acquisition and dedication of floodplain lands to such.
4. Plan and construct parks to meet adopted standards (See Facilities Standards Document in the Appendix).

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**Goal: Adopt standards which clarify the future need for land, park types and facilities.**

**Objectives:**

1. Link facility standards to the need to balance indoor and outdoor facilities.
2. Link facility standards to citizen preferences for new facilities; e.g. adventure sports for young people, senior citizen recreational activities, dog parks and splash pads.
3. Link facility standards to the popularity (life cycle) of activities; e.g. athletic fields.

**Goal: A balanced recreation program which provides citizens of all ages with personal, social, economic and environmental benefits.**

**Objectives:**

1. Develop and/or strengthen volunteer sponsorship of recreational programs/activities/facilities.
2. Develop and provide large multi-use facilities that provide all necessary infrastructure for their use, for example: parking, sound equipment and electricity.
3. Develop and provide City sponsored recreational events; e.g. festivals, movies in the park, and other major events.

**Goal: Leverage the City's limited financial resources by identifying existing and future partnerships.**

**Objectives:**

1. Develop inter-local agreements with the Bastrop Independent School District (BISD), LCRA and the County for joint use of facilities.
2. Through grant programs (Texas Parks & Wildlife), City budget funds, volunteer efforts, donations, corporate sponsorships and local input the City will construct outdoor and indoor recreational facilities to bring into compliance with the adopted standards.
3. Develop efficient maintenance and funding schedules for existing facilities.

**Goal: Inform Bastrop citizens on the importance and availability of existing parks and recreational facilities and programs.**

**Objectives:**

1. Develop a network of citizens representative of all of the City to give input into Park and Recreation decisions above and beyond the Parks Board, for example: members of the Recreation Associations, church groups, corporate sponsors, real estate developers, etc.
2. Develop a usual circulation of information regarding Parks and Recreational opportunities in the school system, civic organizations, churches and the newspaper.
3. Improve and increase newspaper and radio coverage of all Parks and Recreation events with pictures and full stories.
4. Distribute bright colorful flyers in utility bills regarding upcoming events.
5. Expand the use of the City website to promote and advertise park and recreational events and activities.
6. Implement City Ordinance regarding special events by developing a special events plan, with details regarding utilities.

**Goal: A full time Parks and Recreation Department for the City of Bastrop.****Objectives:**

1. Create another department separate and distinct from the public works department with its own budget to maintain the park system and coordinate recreational programs for the City of Bastrop.
2. Provide an adequate staffing level to establish an effective Parks and Recreation Department that will grow in step with the City's operating budget to accommodate increasing service demands.
3. Incorporate the need for additional office space, meeting space and storage space into all future facility plans.
4. Provide continuing education by supporting participation in professional associations, on the job training and cross training.
5. Upgrade technology and mapping capabilities.

## PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on all the data collected and public input during the planning process, the consultant developed a number of policy recommendations which are intended to capture the future needs of Bastrop as it grows, changes demographically, and invests in its present and preferred future parks, open space and trail system. Taking into consideration that the City of Bastrop has limited funds with which to accomplish the business of running the City, all budgeted improvements must be carefully considered and every dollar leveraged as much as possible. Also, given the fact that currently a Parks and Recreation Department does not exist, the consultant has also provided several recommendations which the City can use to establish and shape the proposed department as an effective component of the municipal government structure. The Plan Recommendations are as follows:

### Identify Dedicated Funding Sources for Operating, Maintaining and Improving the Park System.

#### ***Dedicated Funding Source for Capital Improvements***

The City will identify a dedicated funding source for its park system capital improvements program (CIP). Options include the following:

- The City will choose to reinvest annually into its park system by calculating an amount which equals the depreciation of the park system as calculated for the annual GASB 34 Report; or
- The City will choose to reinvest annually into its park system by calculating an amount which is equal to 5% of the park system's asset value.

#### ***Funding Level for Park Maintenance***

The City will identify a dedicated funding source for the maintenance of the park system which results in a consistent level of funding and predictable results for the level of maintenance that citizens can expect.

#### ***Funding from Earned Income Opportunities***

The proposed Parks and Recreation Department will actively pursue other sources of income to supplement its annual budget. Options for earned income include:

- **Partnerships** – Joint use of BISD land and facilities by the public at large would greatly reduce the

amount of park land required to meet standards. The City will also work in cooperation with the LCRA and the County through inter-local agreements for the acquisition and development of parks. Likewise the City will continue working closely with recreation associations (i.e. Boys and Girls Club) to develop and strengthen programs and activities.

- **User Fees** - for certain recreation facilities.
- **Advertising Sales**
- **A Parks Foundation**
- **Park Development Fees and/or Land in Lieu of Fees**
- **Corporate and Private Sponsors** - The City in the development of its relationship with corporate and private sponsors should consider possible fund raising events with sponsors and/or private donations for park land or equipment.
- **Naming Rights for Park Facilities**
- **Economic Development Corporation** – The City through its EDC can budget for the acquisition and development of park land through the use of sales tax.
- **Private Donations** - The City in conjunction with the residents and participants in the Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities will elicit assistance from volunteers and associations for fundraisers and "sweat equity".

The demand for funds from all TPWD local grant programs are competitive; grants are awarded based on the most competitive proposals, not necessarily the greatest deficit of parklands or facilities. Grant assistance is based on a scoring system using criteria that were developed with extensive public input. The criteria help to assure that locally identified needs are met and that the grant program and criteria are consistent with the TPWD mission. The scoring and ranking criteria measure factors including:

- Performance on active and previous grants
- Local planning
- Increase in recreational diversity
- Water-related recreational opportunities
- Geographic distribution of park and recreation opportunities
- Conservation of significant natural resources through acquisition and stewardship
- Renovation of existing, obsolete park and recreation areas and facilities
- Wise use of natural resources
- Linear greenbelt linkages
- The appreciation and preservation of cultural resources
- The use of funds for park and recreation opportunities
- Opportunities for low income, minority, elderly and youth-at-risk
- Cooperation between government entities
- Partnerships between sponsors and the private sector

**Other Sources**

- The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to seek grants for trails and new facilities through sources such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Grants through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Recreation Grants Department, a biannual competition, is held between cities and counties for outdoor recreation funds of up to \$500,000 per project with 1:1 matching funds. The Parks and Wildlife Department also has an annual competition for Indoor Recreation. The projects can be up to \$1 million with half being in grant dollars and half match from the community.

**The Proposed Parks and Recreation Department will adopt Management Guidelines.**

- The Parks and Recreation Department will define the role that it should play in the delivery of services to the community. Options the Department can consider include the following:
  - **Direct Provider** – As a Direct Provider, the Parks and Recreation Department is offering summer camps for children, after school programs, adult athletic leagues and some special events. The recommendation is to utilize the methodology in the Cost Recovery Policy to ensure that current and future new programs are priced accordingly; consistent with the program

- demands that citizens, staff and elected officials are supportive of; and not duplicative of services being provided by others, unless duplication is acceptable due to high demand.
- **Facilitator** – As a Facilitator, the Parks and Recreation Department assists citizens as its resources allow. One primary example of its Facilitator Role, is the support provided to athletic field uses and the users organize and produce the program while the Department provides the facilities. The recommendation is that the Department’s primary focus should be as a Facilitator within the community and rely on volunteers to organize and produce programs.
- **Outreach Role** – In an Outreach Role, the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to offer reduced recreation program registration fees for those citizens whose financial condition meets the guidelines established by the Department.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will adopt three management policies to guide it. A model Cost Recovery Policy and model Partnership Policy are included in the **Appendix B and C.** of this report:
  - **Cost Recovery Policy** – A Cost Recovery Policy will be adopted to identify programs that should recover their cost.
  - **Partnership Policy** – A Partnership Policy will be adopted to formally recognize the contributions of both the City and its partners on programs and projects of mutual interest.
  - **Neighborhood Parks** – The City should consider a policy which requires developers to provide small neighborhood level parks, or the implementation of park development fees.

## Partnership Development.

- In recognition of the importance of leveraging the City’s resources with others such as the School District and the Athletic Field User Groups, a number of recommendations are made:
  - **Identify** – The Parks and Recreation Department will identify and record all existing partnerships and potential new partnerships which are necessary for it to meet its goals and to successfully implement this Master Plan.
  - **Partnership Agreements**- The Parks and Recreation Department will form partnership agreements consistent with the objectives of this Master Plan
  - **Major Users**– The Parks and Recreation Department will identify the major uses of City-owned facilities.

## Provide Equitable Access to the Park System.

- The City will formally adopt a policy which states that small neighborhood level parks will be provided by developers while the City’s emphasis will be on larger community level parks, facilities, trails and greenways.
  - **Locations** – The City will pursue the acquisition of land in the Central and Northeast quadrant to be developed for a community level park while emphasizing development of neighborhood and pocket parks in the Northwest and Southeast quadrants of the community.
  - **Linkage/Connectivity**- When possible, all parks will be acquired in areas which are capable of being linked to the existing and/or future trail and greenway system. Identified on **Map 4** of this report are four trail systems: existing trails, proposed inner loop trails, proposed outer loop trails and other proposed trails. For the purpose of this plan update, completing the needed linkages within the existing trail system and further developing the inner loop trails is given highest priority.

## Implement the Recommended Park and Recreational Facility Improvements

### **Existing Facilities Prioritized**

1. **El Camino Real Trail** – Proposed Improvements include water fountains and benches. (2009)
2. **June Hill Pape Riverwalk Trail** – Recommended Improvements entail improved access, additional picnic tables, more lighting, landscaping, video surveillance (security), and full implementation of ADA accessibility standards. (2009)
3. **Rusty Reynolds Little League Fields** – Planned facilities include a play area and 6-car parking lot. (2009)
4. **Fireman's Park** - Proposed Improvements include restroom facility, parking, softball field enhancements and water fountains. (2010)
5. **Ferry Park** – Proposed Improvements include restroom facility, landscape trail system and water fountains. (2010)
6. **Kerr Community Park** –Renovations completed in 2006. Additional facilities planned include public restrooms. (2010)
7. **Bob Bryant Park** – Park Completed in 2004. Additional facilities planned include landscaping, water fountains, and lighting (2011)
8. **Fisherman's Park** – Planned improvement include, video surveillance (security), restroom renovations, amphitheater, additional playground equipment, improve volleyball court, and proposed 20 car parking lot. (2012)
9. **Lovers Lane Fields** – Officially designate as a City park (multi-purpose sports complex) while maintaining the current agreement for the local soccer and football associations to operate and maintain the facility. Proposed Improvements include acquisition of additional acreage to construct a multi-purpose sports complex with more football, soccer fields, and softball fields along with restrooms, storage space, concession facilities and lighting. (2013) (**Refer to Map 4**)
10. **Mayfest Park** – No improvements recommended.

### **Proposed Facilities Prioritized (Refer to Map 4 – Future Parks, Trails & Facilities)**

1. **Neighborhood / Pocket Parks**- Actively implement primarily through an updated Subdivision Ordinance (park development fees/dedication) and secondly through future CIP plans in the general locations shown on **Map 4**.
2. **Splash Pads** – Proposed as an added recreation feature at Bob Bryant, Hill Street Park, and Fisherman’s Park. (2009)
3. **El Camino Real Trail** – Proposed Expansion of the Trail System to include Phase II - East from downtown to State Park 2nd phase (2010)
4. **June Hill Pape Riverwalk Trail to El Camino Real Trail** – Proposed connection between the Old Iron Bridge and existing trail system (2010)
5. **Dog Park** – Proposed canine recreation park located in or near Fisherman’ Park (2010)
6. **Skate Park** – Proposed park for youth skating activities. Three (3) general locations shown for possible consideration on **Map 4**. (2011)
7. **Piney Creek Park** - Proposed park with proposed facilities to include playground, trails and water fountains. (2012)
8. **Colorado River West Riverwalk/Smith Park** - Proposed park. Recommend Facilities to include pavilion, boat/fishing pier, BBQ pits, picnic tables, open play field, trails, showers, sand volleyball court,

sidewalk for pedestrian access to connect River Grove and Smith Parks, water fountain and parking. (2013)

9. **Community/Recreation Center/Complex** - Proposed community recreation center. Need approximately a 10,000 sq. ft. building, with multiple indoor uses such as indoor volleyball and handball courts, arts & craft classroom, kitchen, workout room with equipment and parking for at least 50 cars. Other adjacent activities to possibly include sports fields, splash pads and trails. A comprehensive facility that will have a wide variety of choices for the community. Three (3) general locations identified on **Map 4**. The proposed facility should be as centrally located as possible for easy access from every quadrant of the community. (2013)
10. **Aquatic Center** – Proposed to develop adjacent to or in conjunction with the proposed Community / Recreation Center. (2013)

## Identify Budgetary Costs for Proposed Improvements

As stated previously, the City of Bastrop will implement regulations that require developers of new residential subdivisions to dedicate land for Neighborhood or Pocket Parks or pay a development fee in-lieu of land dedications. This will allow the City to concentrate more on the development of Community and/or Special Use Parks, Recreation Facilities and Trails. The following table summarizes the estimated cost construction of new park facilities and amenities. These cost figures are approximate and are based on recent BWR Park Planning experience and current projects underway in BWR client municipalities.

**Table 20: 2008 Parkland Facility Costs**

Item	Opinion of Probable Cost	Comments
Playground	\$75,000	
Shelters/Pavilion	\$45,000-70,000	20'x20' to 40'x40'
Restrooms	\$100,000	
Splash Pads	\$100,000-200,000	
Skate Park	\$25-40 sq. ft.	Minimum size should be 10,000 sq. ft (tennis or basketball court) optimum size is 18,000-25,000 sq. ft. Includes skate surface and design only, not fencing, utilities etc.
Soccer Field	\$500,000	Cost of field with lights
Softball	\$500,000	Cost of field with lights
Baseball Field	\$1 million +	Cost of field with lights
Concession Stand	\$250,000	
Sports Complex	\$6 million +	Cost of field with lights and earthwork
Tennis Court	\$100,000	Lighted
Open Space/greenbelts	\$50 per acre	Mowing per acre
Indoor Recreation / Community Center (with aquatics)	\$350 per sq. ft.	
Indoor Recreation /Community Center (without aquatics)	\$200-250 per sq. ft.	

Costs are approximate 2008 dollars and include minimum construction costs only, based on current 2008 projects. Site/earthwork can change costs substantially. Proposed costs do not include land acquisition or bringing utilities to the site.

# ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS, SURVEYS, ETC

## **List of Maps**

1. Age by Census Block
2. Existing Parks and Trails
3. Neighborhood Parks GAPS Analysis
4. Future Parks, Trails & Facilities

## **Appendix A**

Informal Citizen Survey & Results

## **Appendix B**

Model Cost Recovery Policy

## **Appendix C**

Model Partnership Policy

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# LIST OF MAPS



- 1. Age by Census Block*
  - 2. Existing Parks and Trails*
  - 3. Neighborhood Parks GAPS Analysis*
  - 4. Future Parks, Trails & Facilities*
-



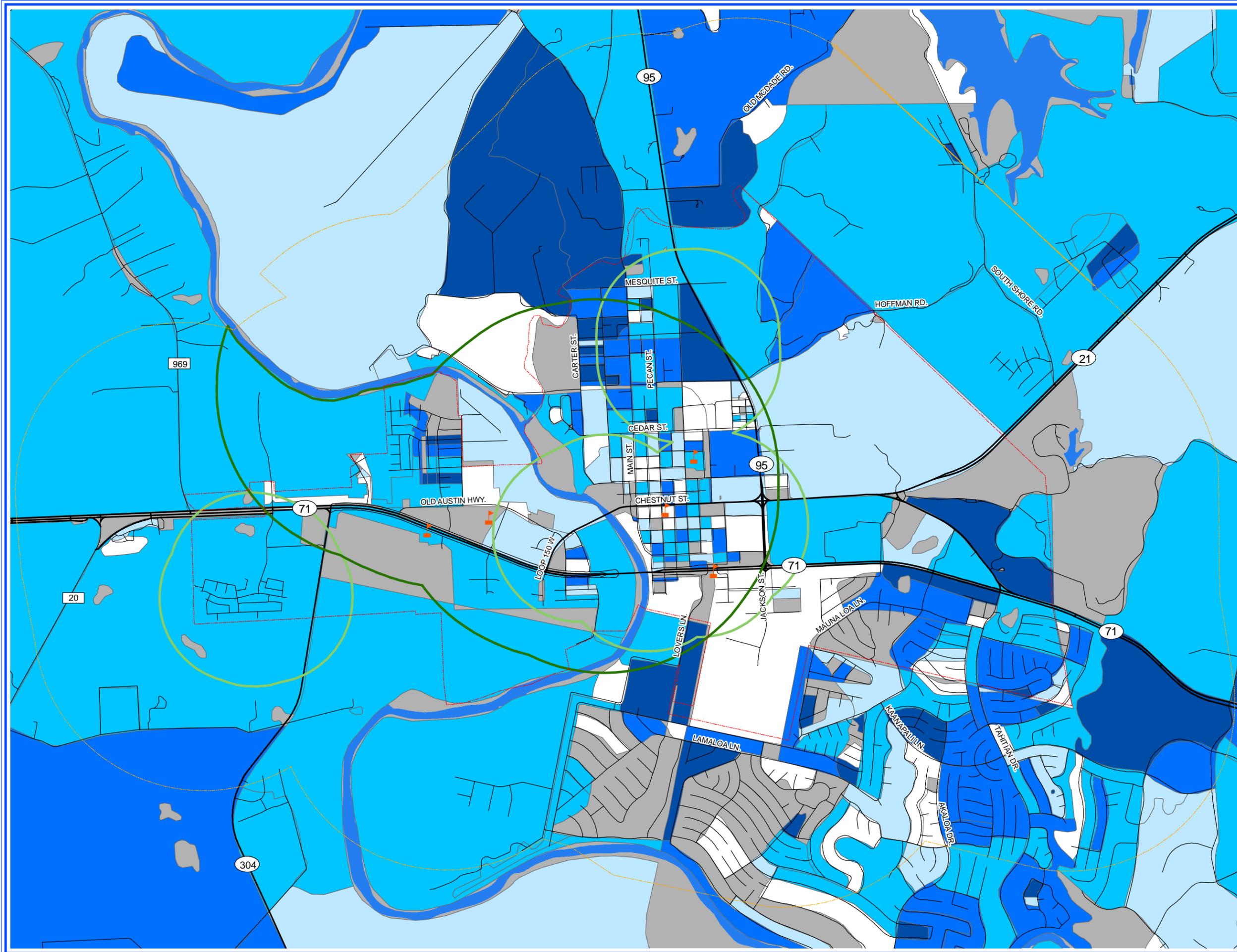
# City of Bastrop, Texas

## MAP 1

# AGE BY CENSUS BLOCK

### Legend

- Bastrop City Limits
  - 1-mile ETJ
  - Community Parks 1-mile Buffer
  - Neighborhood Parks 1/2-mile Buffer
  - Local Streets
  - State Highway
  - U.S. Highway
- Percent of Population Under 18**
- Under 10%
  - 10% - 20%
  - 20% - 30%
  - 30% - 40%
  - Over 40%
  - No Population
  - Schools



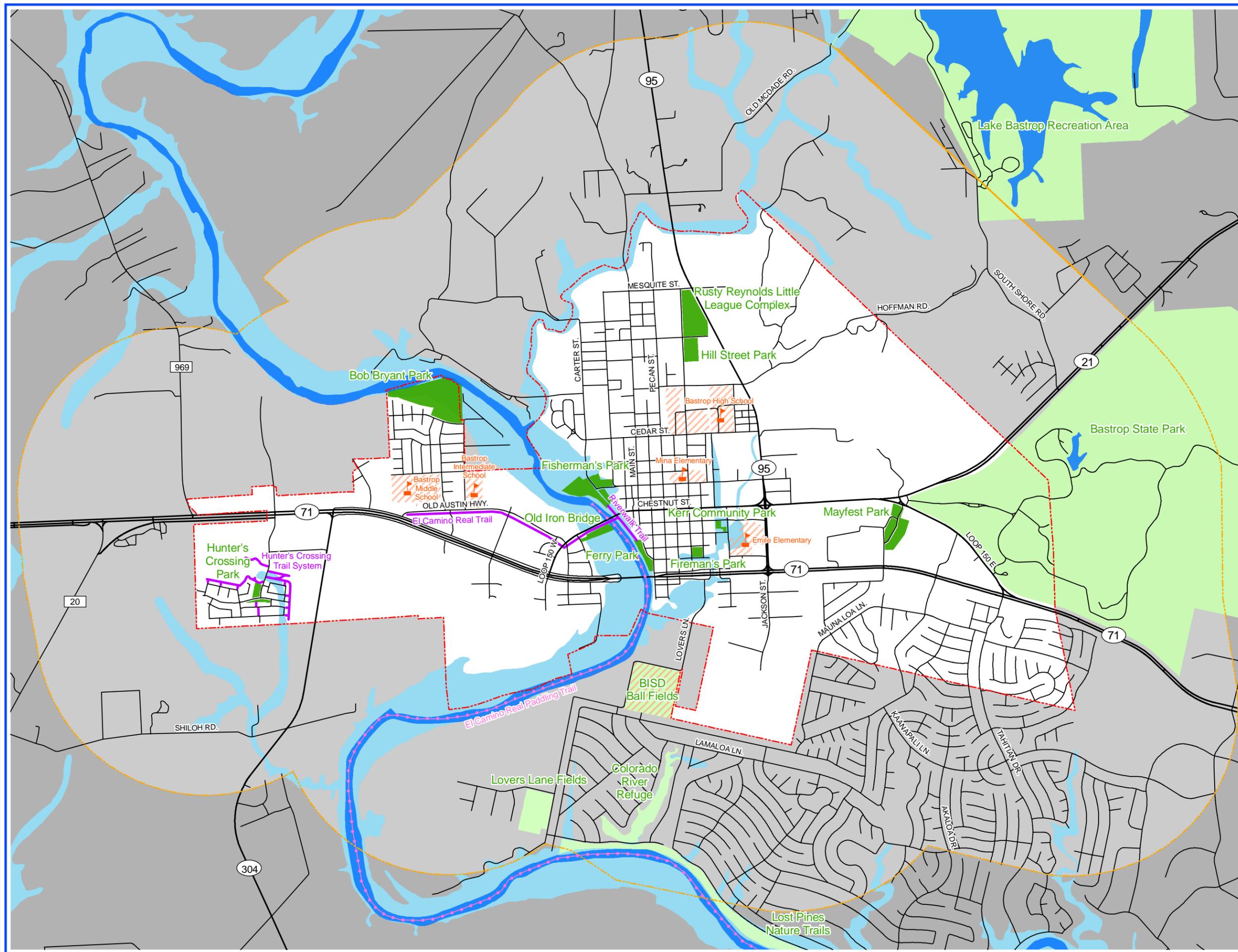


# City of Bastrop, Texas

## MAP 2 EXISTING PARKS & TRAILS

### Legend

- Bastrop City Limits
- 1-mile ETJ
- Local Streets
- State Highway
- Existing Trails
- Existing Paddling Trail
- School Property
- Existing City Parks
- Existing Other Recreation
- Lakes & Rivers
- 100-Year Floodplain



July 2008  
NAD83 State Plane  
Texas Central





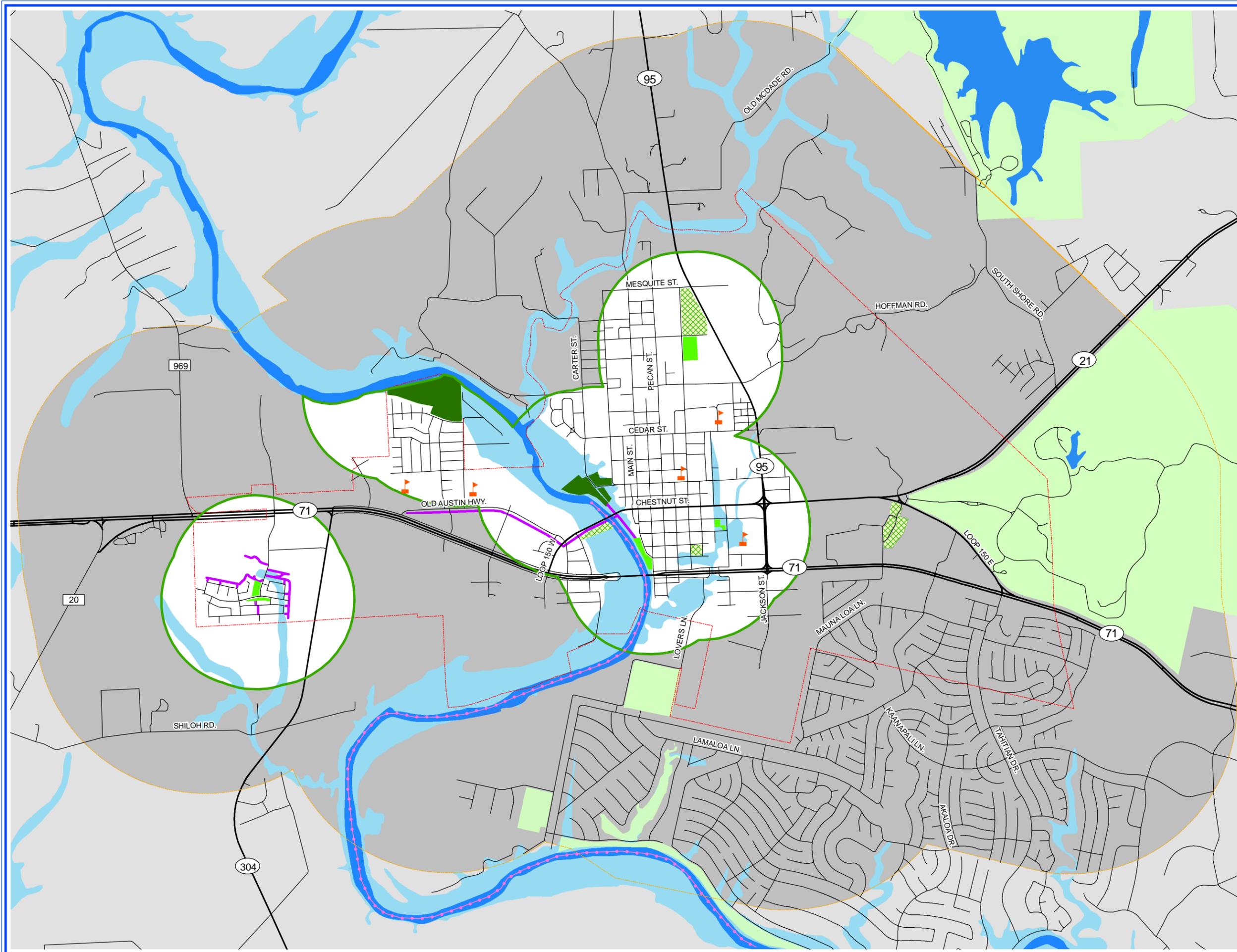
# City of Bastrop, Texas

## MAP 3 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS GAPS ANALYSIS

### Legend

- Neighborhood Parks 1/2-mile Buffer
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Under-Served Areas
- 1-mile ETJ
- Bastrop City Limits
- Local Streets
- State Highway
- U.S. Highway
- Existing Paddling Trail
- Lakes & Rivers
- Existing Trails
- Other Parks
- 100-Year Floodplain
- Schools

Note: Although Bob Bryant Park and Fisherman's Park are community parks, they provide the services of a neighborhood park and are therefore included in this gaps analysis.



July 2008  
NAD83 State Plane  
Texas Central



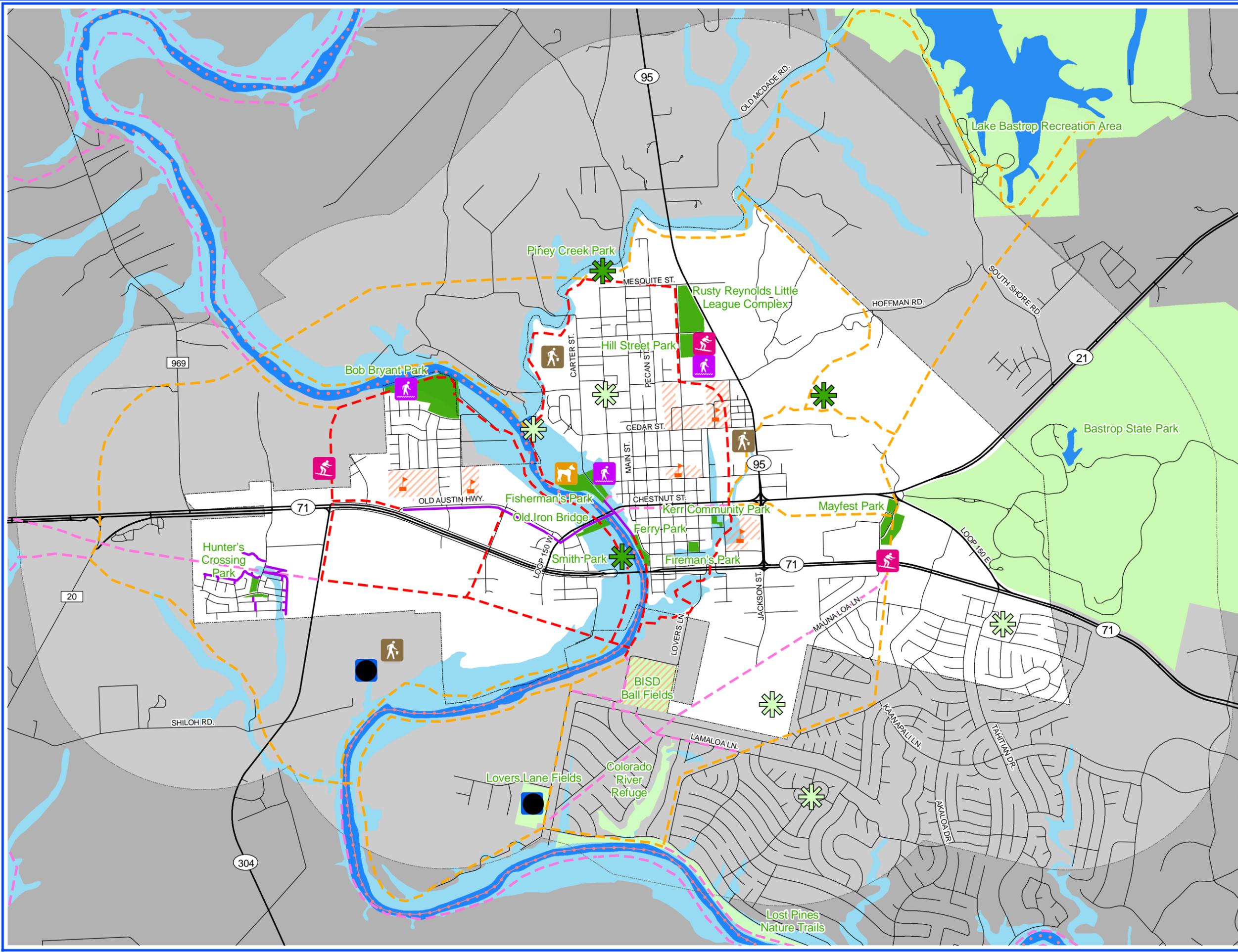
**MAP 4  
FUTURE PARKS,  
TRAILS & FACILITIES**

**Legend**

**Potential Future Parks & Facilities**

-  Community Rec./Aquatic Ctr.
-  Dog Park
-  Multi-Purpose Sports Complex
-  Skate Park
-  Splash Pad
-  Community Park
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Existing Trails
-  Proposed Inner Loop Trails
-  Proposed Outer Loop Trails
-  Proposed Other Trails
-  Existing Paddling Trail
-  Future Paddling Trail
-  1-mile ETJ
-  Bastrop City Limits
-  Local Streets
-  State Highway
-  U.S. Highway
-  School Property
-  Lakes & Rivers
-  Existing City Parks
-  Existing Other Recreation
-  100-Year Floodplain

Note: Location and types of future parks are approximate and do not represent the quantity required for each type of park.



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# APPENDIX A



## *Informal Citizen Survey & Results*

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# Community Interest And Opinion Survey: *Let your voice be heard!*

Para un examen en español, entre en contacto con por favor la ciudad de Bastrop en [recdept@cityofbastrop.org](mailto:recdept@cityofbastrop.org)

The City of Bastrop would like your input to help plan parks and recreation facilities and programs in the community. This survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey with your utility bill. Return the survey to the City by 5 pm December 14, 2007 and you will be eligible for a 'Best of Bastrop' gift basket, celebrating Bastrop businesses valued at over \$400! We greatly appreciate your time.

Are you a resident of the City of Bastrop?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Yes
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) No

1. Counting yourself, how many people live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are?

- |               |       |               |       |               |       |               |       |
|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Under 5 years | _____ | 15 - 19 years | _____ | 35 - 44 years | _____ | 65 - 74 years | _____ |
| 5 - 9 years   | _____ | 20 - 24 years | _____ | 45 - 54 years | _____ | 75+ years     | _____ |
| 10 - 14 years | _____ | 25 - 34 years | _____ | 55 - 64 years | _____ |               |       |

3. From the following list, please check ALL the City of Bastrop parks and trails you or members of your household have visited over the past 12 months.

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| _____ (1) Fisherman's Park          | _____ (6) Fireman's Park  |
| _____ (2) Bob Bryant Park           | _____ (7) Old Iron Bridge   |
| _____ (3) Rusty Reynolds Ball Field | _____ (8) Hill Street Park  |
| _____ (4) Mayfest Park              | _____ (9) Lovers Lane Soccer Field                                |
| _____ (5) Ferry Park                | _____ (10) River Trail  |
|                                     | _____ (11) None, we do not use any City of Bastrop park or trails |

4. Which THREE of the parks and trails listed in Question #3 do you and members of your household visit the most often? [Please write in the numbers below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices using the numbers in Question #3 above, or circle NONE.]

_____	_____	_____	_____
1 <sup>st</sup> Most	2 <sup>nd</sup> Most	3 <sup>rd</sup> Most	NONE
Often	Often	Often	

5. From the following list, please check ALL the recreation facilities found within City of Bastrop Parks you or members of your household have used or visited over the past 12 months.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| _____ (1) Walking and hiking trails | _____ (9) Historic areas                       |
| _____ (2) Biking trails             | _____ (10) Basketball courts                   |
| _____ (3) Soccer fields             | _____ (11) Nature and wildlife trails          |
| _____ (4) Softball fields           | _____ (12) Playgrounds                         |
| _____ (5) Football field            | _____ (13) Picnicking areas/shelters           |
| _____ (6) Tennis courts             | _____ (14) Outdoor pavilion                    |
| _____ (7) Fishing areas             | _____ (15) 4-square areas (concrete play pads) |
| _____ (8) Sand volleyball court     | _____ (16) other                               |



6. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks in the City of Bastrop you have visited?

- |           |           |           |  |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| _____ (1) | Excellent | _____ (4) | Poor                                       |
| _____ (2) | Good      | _____ (5) | Don't know. We have not visited any parks. |
| _____ (3) | Fair      |           |  |

7. Thinking about the park you visit the most often, please check the **THREE** improvements you would most like to have made to the park. [NOTE: If you do not currently use parks, then what improvements would encourage you to use the parks?]

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| ___ (1) Lighting        | ___ (8) Outdoor basketball courts                               |
| ___ (2) Shade trees     | ___ (9) Upgrading playground equipment                          |
| ___ (3) Signage         | ___ (10) Bike racks   |
| ___ (4) Landscaping     | ___ (11) Drinking fountains                                     |
| ___ (5) Picnic shelters | ___ (12) Benches/picnic tables                                  |
| ___ (6) Parking         | ___ (13) 'Natural' active features, i.e. climbing objects/walls |
| ___ (7) Walking trails  | ___ (14) Better maintenance                                     |
| ___ (8) Splash pad      | ___ (16) Other _____  |

8. Please indicate if **YOU or any member of your HOUSEHOLD** has a need for each of the parks and recreational facilities listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the park/facility.

If YES, please rate ALL the following parks and recreation FACILITIES of this type in City of Bastrop on a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means "100% Meets Needs" and 1 means "Does Not Meet Needs" of your household.

Type of Facility	Do You Have a Need for this Facility?		If YES You Have a Need, How Well Are Your Needs Being Met?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
A. Walking, hiking, and biking trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
B. Equestrian trails and centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
C. Nature trails and nature interpretive centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
D. Small neighborhood parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
E. Large regional parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
F. Picnicking areas and shelters	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
G. Boating and fishing areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
H. Outdoor swimming pools and splash pads	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
I. Dog parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
J. Children's playgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
K. Skate park and extreme sports parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
L. Recreation center with community rooms	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
M. Show barn and rodeo arena	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
N. Youth soccer fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
O. Youth softball and baseball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1



P. Youth football and lacrosse fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Q. Tennis courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
R. Basketball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
S. Wildlife habitats and natural areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
T. Overnight camping areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
U. Disc golf	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
V. Outdoor Amphitheater	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
W. Climbing walls, features, etc.	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
X. Exercise/fitness equipment (outdoor)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Y. Exercise/fitness equipment (indoor)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Z. Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

9. Which **FOUR** of the facilities from the list above are most important to your household? [Using the letters in the left hand column of Question #8 above, please write in the letters below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> choices, or circle 'NONE'.]

1st: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_... 4th: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE

10. Please check all the activities and programs you and members of your household participate in regularly. [Check ALL that apply]

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Adult basketball                    | <input type="checkbox"/> (17) Fishing                            | <input type="checkbox"/> (33) Swimming                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Adult leisure classes               | <input type="checkbox"/> (18) Fitness/aerobics                   | <input type="checkbox"/> (34) Teen programs                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Adult soccer                        | <input type="checkbox"/> (19) Gardening                          | <input type="checkbox"/> (35) Tennis                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Adult softball                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (20) Golf                               | <input type="checkbox"/> (36) Theater/performing arts                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Adult volleyball                    | <input type="checkbox"/> (21) Gymnastics                         | <input type="checkbox"/> (37) Trips and travel                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (6) After school programs               | <input type="checkbox"/> (22) Hiking                             | <input type="checkbox"/> (38) Visiting nature areas                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Athletic camps                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (23) Ice-skating/hockey                 | <input type="checkbox"/> (39) Walking/Jogging                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Bicycling                           | <input type="checkbox"/> (24) In-line skating /<br>Skateboarding | <input type="checkbox"/> (40) Youth baseball                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (9) BMX bicycling                       | <input type="checkbox"/> (25) Kickball                           | <input type="checkbox"/> (41) Youth basketball                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Boating                            | <input type="checkbox"/> (26) Martial arts                       | <input type="checkbox"/> (42) Youth football                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Bowling                            | <input type="checkbox"/> (27) Picnics                            | <input type="checkbox"/> (43) Youth _____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Canoeing/kayaking                  | <input type="checkbox"/> (28) Pre-school programs                | <input type="checkbox"/> (44) Youth soccer                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Cheerleading                       | <input type="checkbox"/> (29) Senior drop-in programs            | <input type="checkbox"/> (45) Youth softball                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (14) Disc golf                          | <input type="checkbox"/> (30) Special events                     | <input type="checkbox"/> (46) Other _____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (15) Dance                              | <input type="checkbox"/> (31) Special Olympics                   | <input type="checkbox"/> (99) Do not participate in any<br>activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (16) Environmental education<br>classes | <input type="checkbox"/> (32) Summer camps                       |   |

11. Which **FOUR** of the activities and recreation programs listed above do you and members of your household **currently participate in the most often**? [Using the letters in the left hand column of Question #10 above, please write in the letters below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> choices.]

1<sup>st</sup> Most  
Often

2<sup>nd</sup> Most  
Often

3<sup>rd</sup> Most  
Often

4<sup>th</sup> Most  
Often



19. The City of Bastrop is also considering expanding the current trail system to connect various destination points throughout the community, such as: a Downtown Loop connecting to the River Trail; and the extension of the El Camino Real Trail (from Bastrop Middle School in the west to downtown) from downtown to Mayfest Park and the State Park. How supportive are you of expanding the trail system in this manner?

\_\_\_ (1) Very likely    \_\_\_ (2) Somewhat likely    \_\_\_ (3) Not sure    \_\_\_ (4) Not likely

20. From the list below please check ALL the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using PARKS and RECREATION FACILITIES in the City of Bastrop and PROGRAMS sponsored by the City of Bastrop more often.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ___(1) Facilities are not well maintained         | agencies  |
| ___(2) Parks are not well maintained              | ___(12) Poor customer service by staff            |
| ___(3) Facilities do not have the right equipment | ___(13) I do not know locations of facilities     |
| ___(4) Security is insufficient                   | ___(14) We are too busy or not interested         |
| ___(5) Lack of quality programs                   | ___(15) I do not know what is being offered       |
| ___(6) Too far from our residence                 | ___(16) Facilities operating hours not convenient |
| ___(7) Waiting list/class full                    | ___(17) Registration for programs is difficult    |
| ___(8) Fees are too high                          | ___(18) Availability of parking                   |
| ___(9) Program times are not convenient           | ___(19) My physical capabilities hamper my usage  |
| ___(10) Program not offered                       | ___(20) Other _____                               |
| ___(11) Use facilities/programs of other          |   |

21. The following are some benefits that you and your household may receive from parks, trails, and recreation facilities and services. For each potential benefit, please indicate your level of agreement with the benefits being provided by Bastrop City parks, trails, and recreation facilities by circling the corresponding number.

<u><b>Parks, trails, &amp; recreation facilities and services</b></u>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
(A) Improves physical health and fitness	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(B) Helps reduce crime	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(C) Makes City of Bastrop a more desirable place to live	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(D) Preserves open space and the environment	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(E) Increases property values in surrounding areas	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(F) Improves mental health and reduces stress	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(G) Increases opportunities for people of different cultures to interact	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(H) Helps attract new residents and businesses	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(I) Protects historical attributes of the City	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(J) Promotes tourism to the City	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0
(K) Other: _____	5.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	0

22. Which THREE of the potential benefits listed in Question #21 are most important to you and members of your household? [Please write in the letters below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices using the letters in Question #21 above, or circle 'NONE'.]

1<sup>st</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE



23. Which **THREE** of the potential benefits listed in Question #21 are most important to the future of **City of Bastrop**? [Please write in the letters below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices using the letters in Question #21 above, or circle 'NONE'.]

1<sup>st</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE

24. Listed below are **some** actions that the City of Bastrop could take to improve the Parks and Recreation system. Please circle whether you would be very supportive, somewhat supportive, or not supportive of each action.

<u>How supportive are you of having the City of Bastrop:</u>	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Sure	Not Supportive
(A) Purchase land to preserve open space, natural, and historic areas.....	4	3	2	1
(B) Purchase land to develop neighborhood parks .....	4	3	2	1
(C) Purchase land for athletic fields .....	4	3	2	1
(D) Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields, including new lighting .....	4	3	2	1
(E) Upgrade existing parks, shelters, playground areas .....	4	3	2	1
(F) Develop a skatepark.....	4	3	2	1
(G) Develop additional athletic fields .....	4	3	2	1
(H) Develop new walking/biking trails and connect existing trails ..	4	3	2	1
(I) Develop new historical and cultural facilities .....	4	3	2	1
(J) Develop dog parks .....	4	3	2	1
(K) Develop splash pads .....	4	3	2	1
(L) Develop a recreation center with community rooms.....	4	3	2	1
(M) Other _____	4	3	2	1

25. Which **THREE** of these items would you be **most willing to fund** with your tax dollars? [Please write in the letters in the space below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, choices by using the numbers from the list in question #24 above or circle none.]

1<sup>st</sup> Most Willing
2<sup>nd</sup> Most Willing
3<sup>rd</sup> Most Willing
None

26. Compared to other City of Bastrop priorities such as police, fire, economic development and historic preservation, how important is it to make the improvements to the parks and recreation facilities that you indicated to be most important to you and your household?

\_\_\_ (1) Very likely    \_\_\_ (2) Somewhat likely    \_\_\_ (3) Not sure    \_\_\_ (4) Not likely

**Demographics**

27. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

28. Your gender: \_\_\_(1) Male \_\_\_(2) Female

29. How many years have you lived in the City of Bastrop? \_\_\_\_\_

30. Do you \_\_\_ rent or \_\_\_ own your residence? (check one) **Optional**

31. What is your household income? (check one) **Optional**

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ___ (1) Under \$25,000    | ___ (4) \$75,000-\$99,999 |
| ___ (2) \$25,000-\$49,999 | ___ (5) Over \$100,000    |
| ___ (3) \$50,000-\$74,999 |                           |



**This concludes the survey! Thank you for your time.**

**Return this survey with your utility bill or place in a 'Park Questionnaire' box at City Hall, Bastrop Library or other locations around town by 5 pm on December 14, 2007 and be entered into the drawing for the 'Best of Bastrop Businesses' gift basket, value of over \$400!!**

**Prize to be presented at the February 21, 2008 meeting.**

*Your personal information:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your response will remain Completely Confidential  
Your address and telephone information will be used for the prize drawing **ONLY**.  
This page will be removed and used for the drawing.

*Cut here and retain the bottom portion as your reminder.*

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Please mark your calendars and come to the Public Meeting to learn the results of this survey and more about Bastrop Parks and Recreation on **Thursday February 21, 2008 at 6:30 pm at City Hall, 904 Main Street, Bastrop**  
Gift basket presentation!

### **Questions:**

**Stacy Snell, [ssnell@cityofbastrop.org](mailto:ssnell@cityofbastrop.org), (512) 321-0457**

Director of Planning & Development, or

**Amanda Phillips, [recdept@cityofbastrop.org](mailto:recdept@cityofbastrop.org), (512) 321-3957**

Recreation Coordinator



# **Parks and Recreation Community Interest and Opinion Survey**



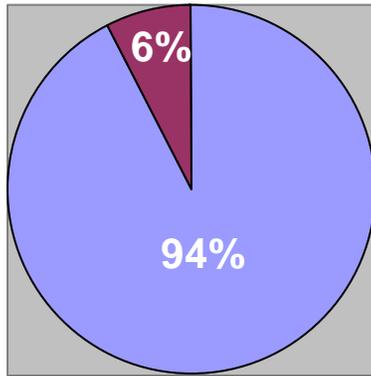
**City of Bastrop, Texas  
Focus Meeting  
January 30, 2008**

*Presented by:*

**Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation  
(BWR)**

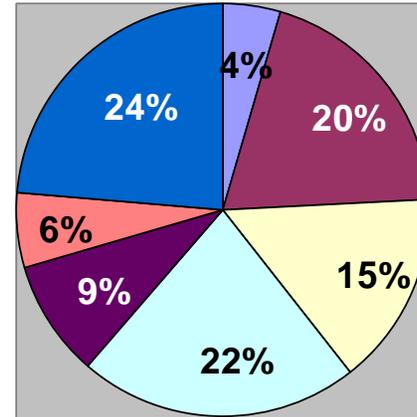
# Survey Results = 347 total Surveys

## Residents of Bastrop?



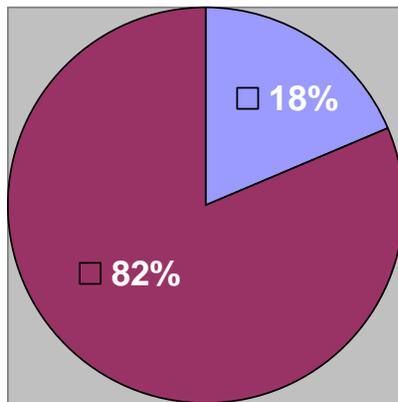
■ Yes (319) 94%  
■ No (26) 6%

## How many years have the respondents lived in Bastrop?



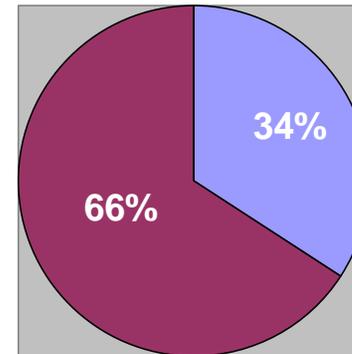
■ Less than 1 (4%)  
■ 1-2.9 (20%)  
■ 3-5.9 (15%)  
■ 6-10.9 (22%)  
■ 11-15.9 (9%)  
■ 16-20.9 (6%)  
■ Over 20 (24%)

## Own or Rent your Residence?



■ Rent  
■ Own

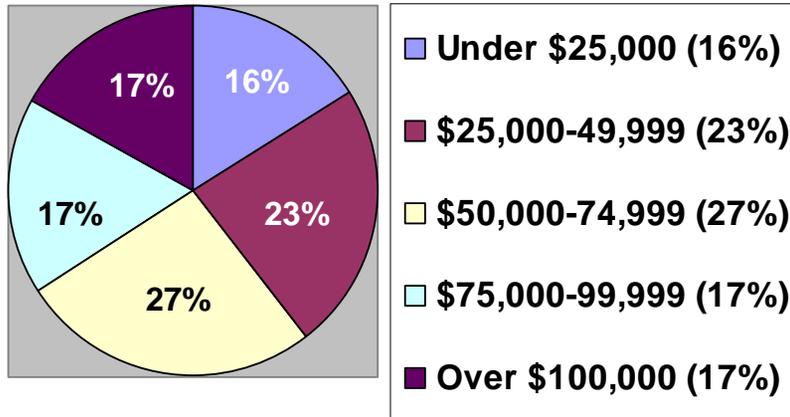
## Gender of Respondents?



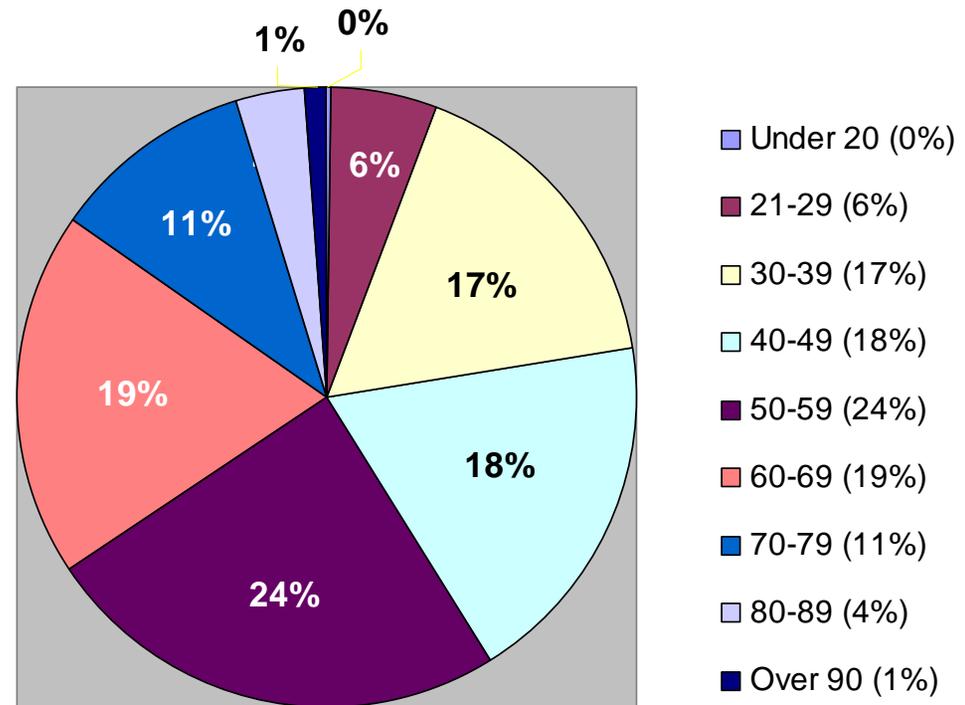
■ Male  
■ Female

# Survey Results Continued...

## Household Income of Respondents

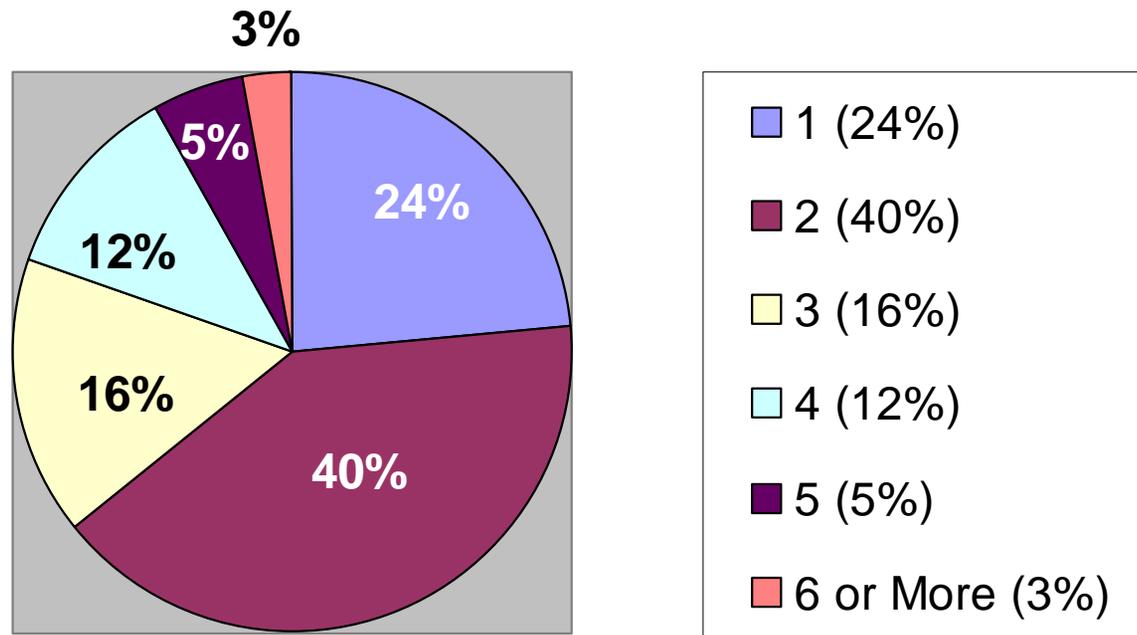


## Age of Survey Respondents



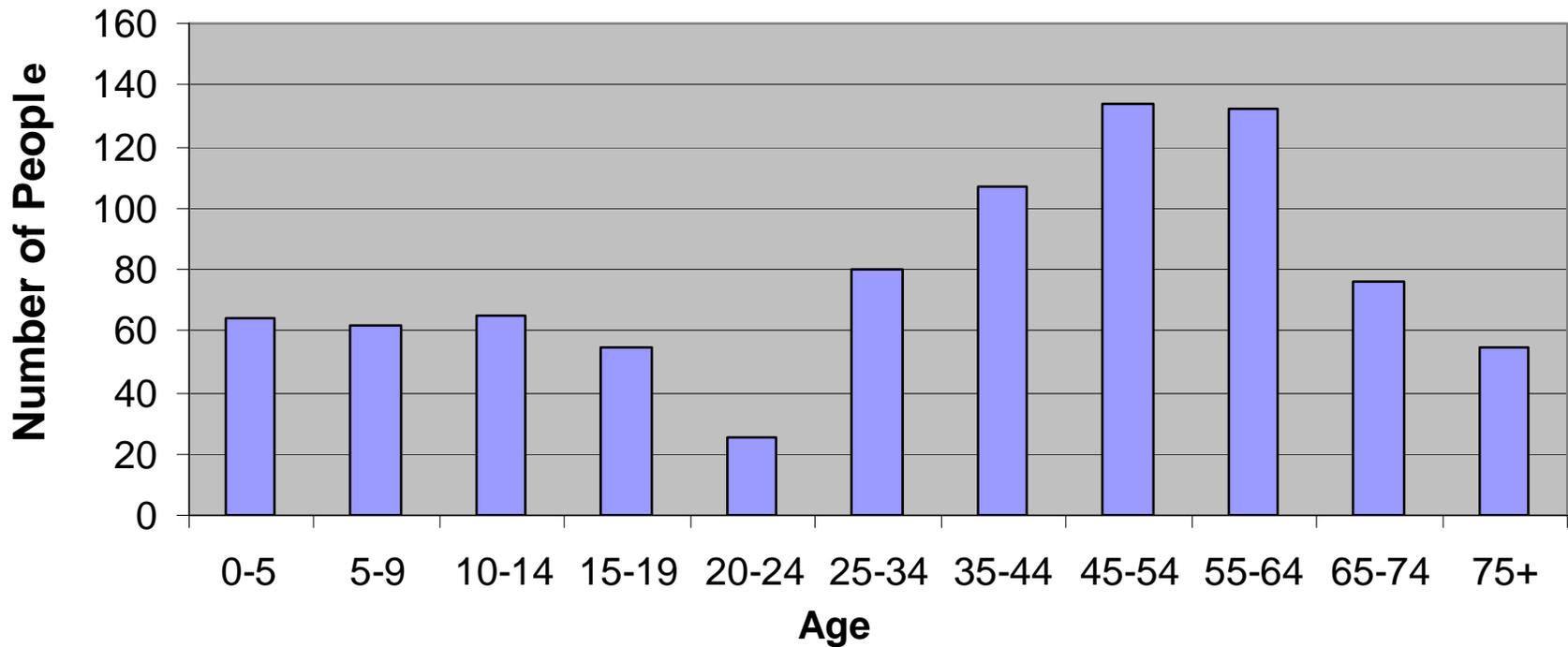
# *Survey Results Continued...*

**How many people live in your Household?**



# *Survey Results Continued...*

## **Ages of Respondant Households**



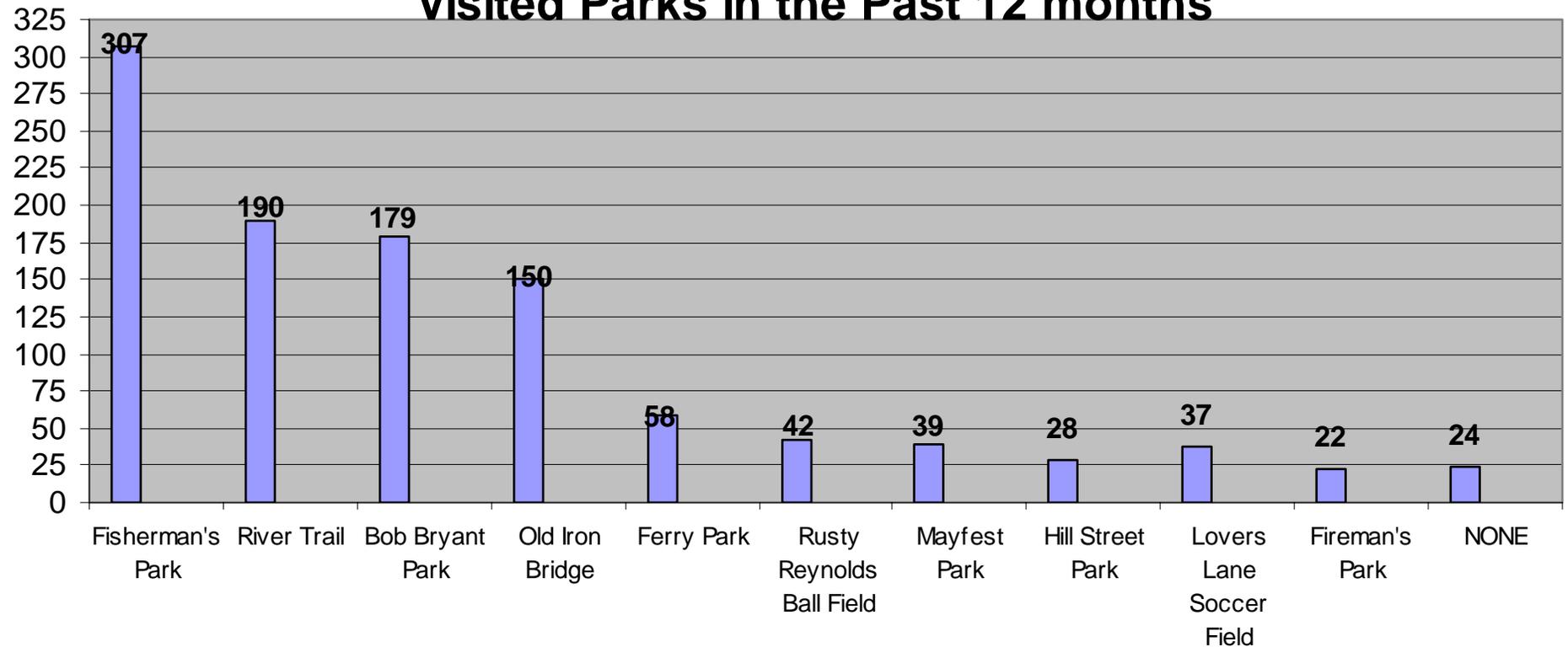


# City of Bastrop Parks Department



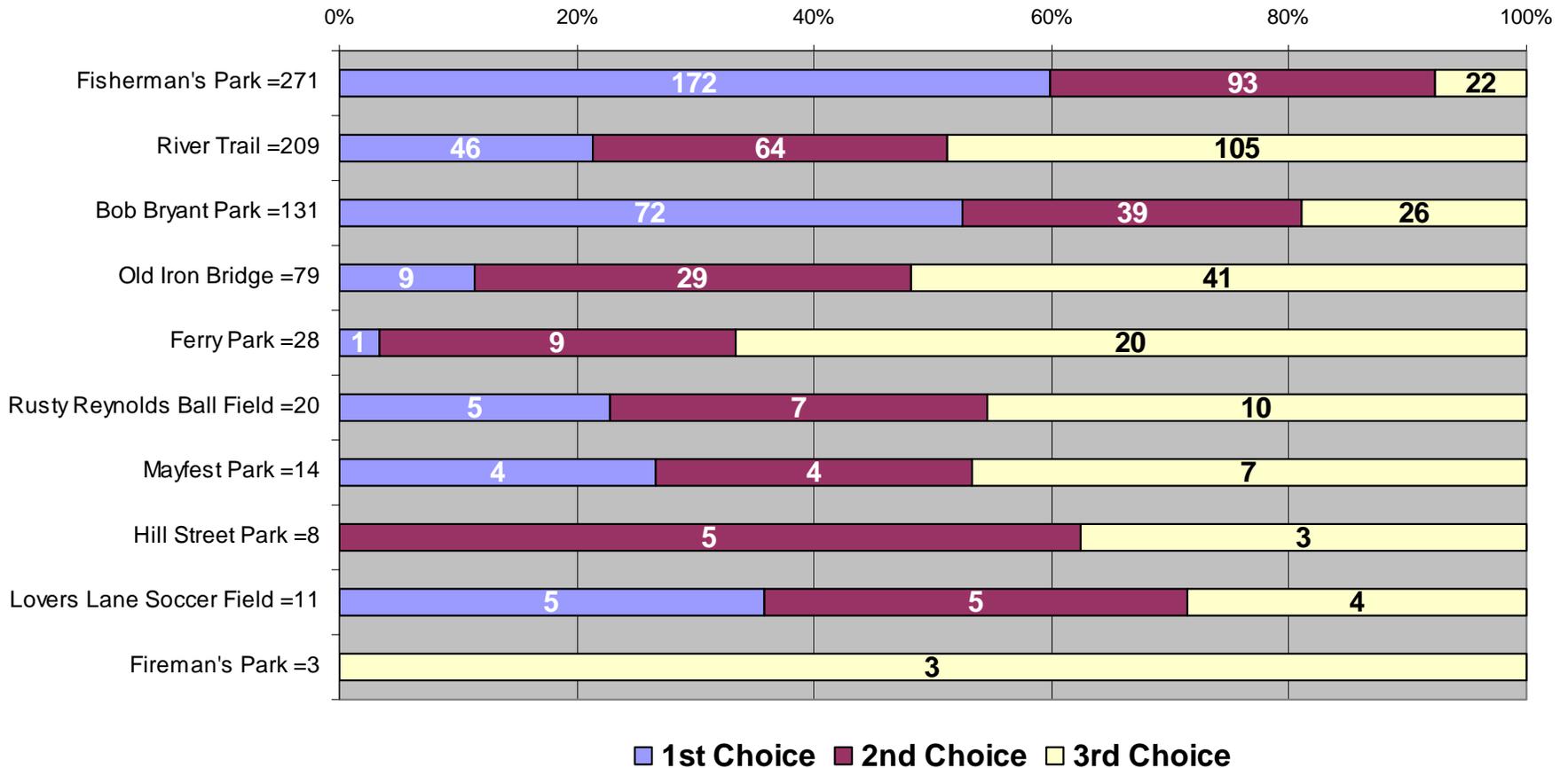
# *Survey Results Continued...*

## Visited Parks in the Past 12 months



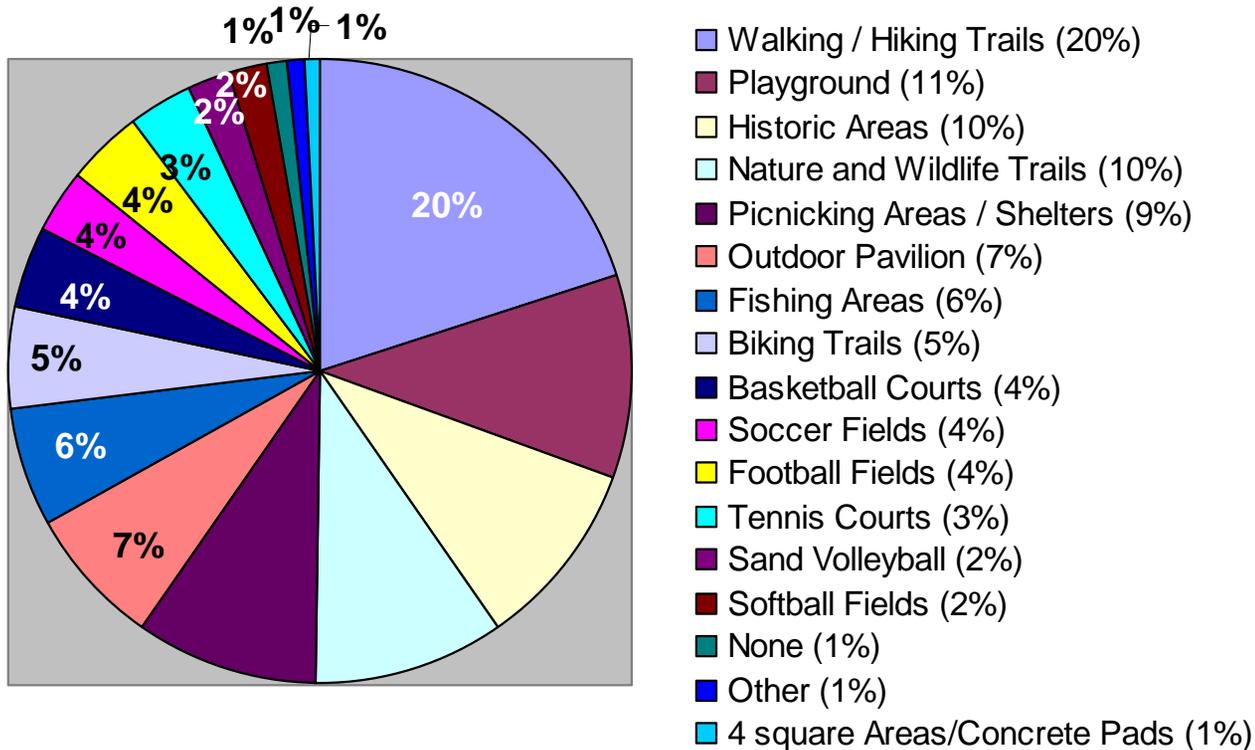
# Survey Results Continued...

## Top Three Parks visited by Households Most Often



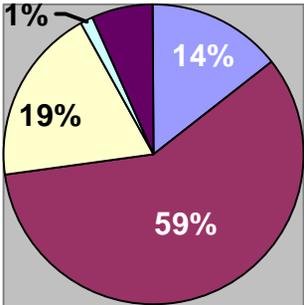
# Survey Results Continued...

## Recreation Facilities used within the past 12 months



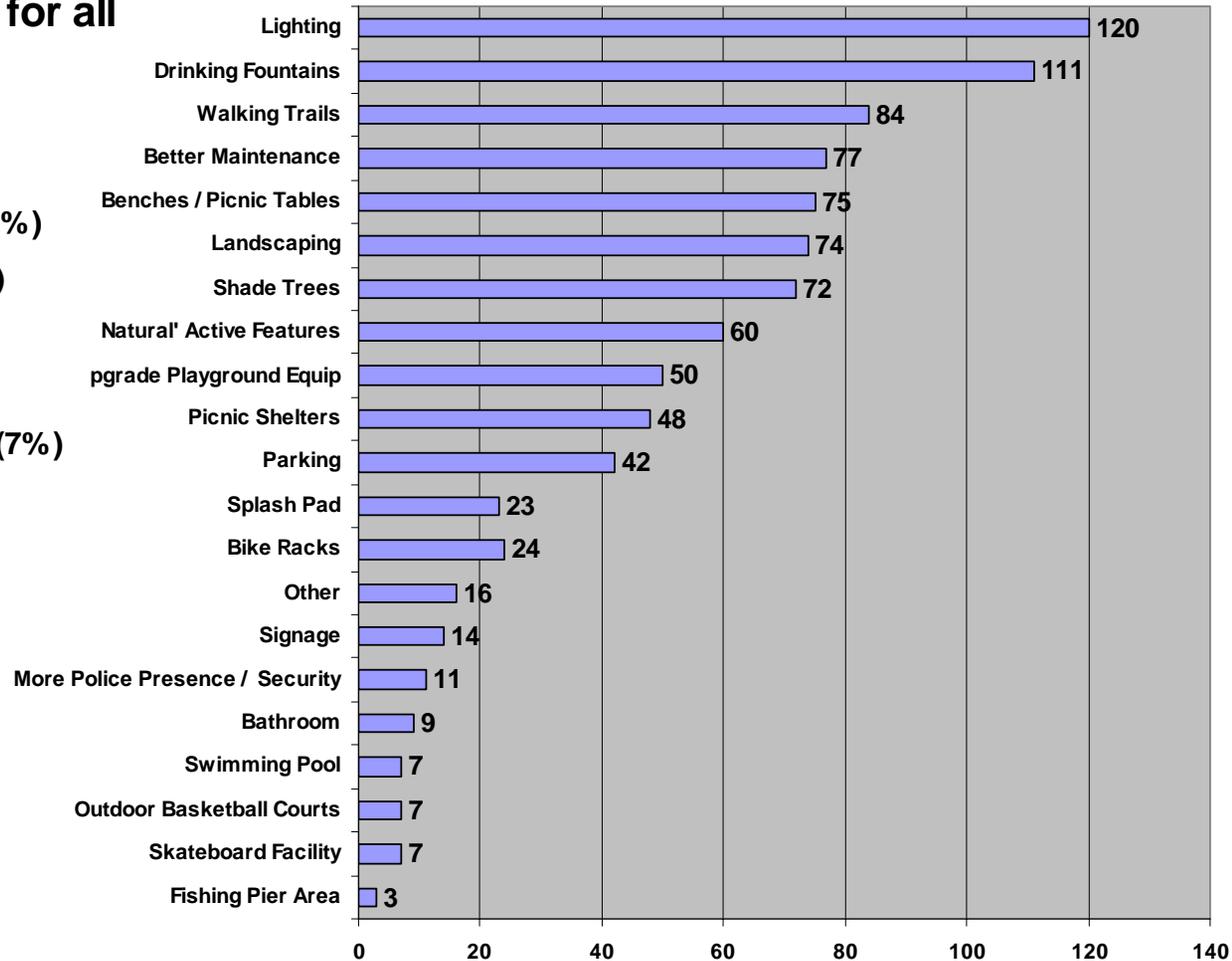
# Survey Results Continued...

## Rate Physical Condition for all Bastrop Parks



- Excellent (50) (14%)
- Good (202) (59%)
- Fair (66) (19%)
- Poor (5) (1%)
- Don't Know (23) (7%)

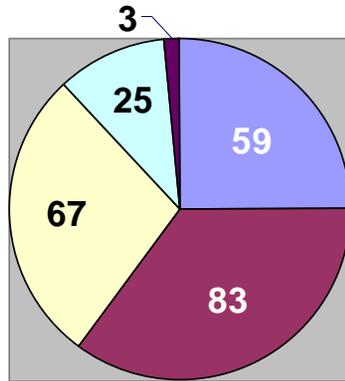
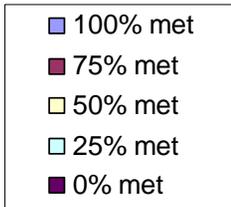
## Recommended Park Improvements



# Would You Use these facilities...

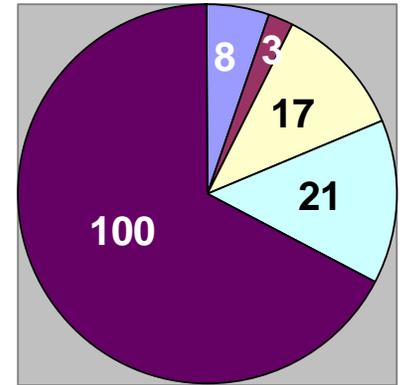
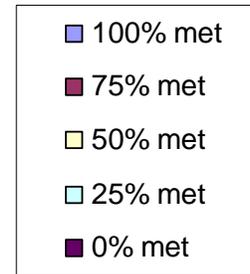
## Walking, Hiking and Biking Trails

266=Yes  
33=NO



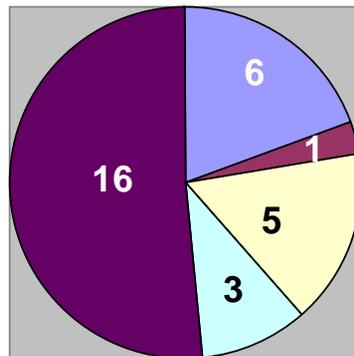
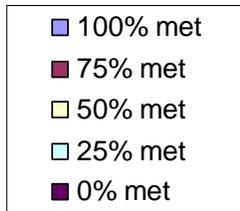
## Recreation Center w/ Community Rooms

165=Yes  
101=No



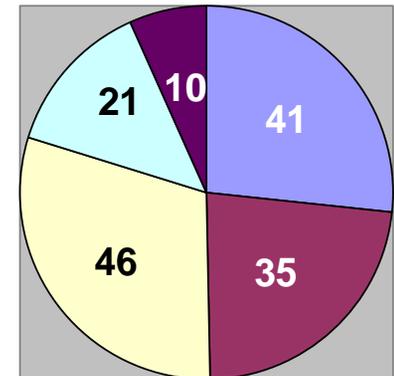
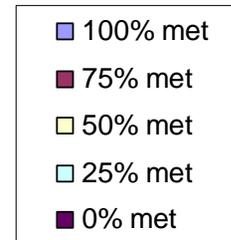
## Equestrian Trails and Centers

31=Yes  
212=No



## Small Neighborhood Parks

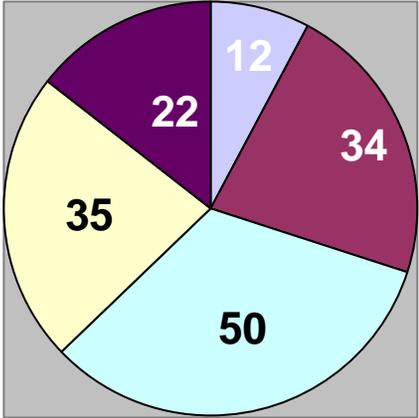
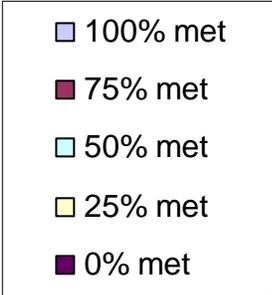
177=Yes  
93=No



### Nature Trails and Nature Interpretive Centers

173=Yes

84=No



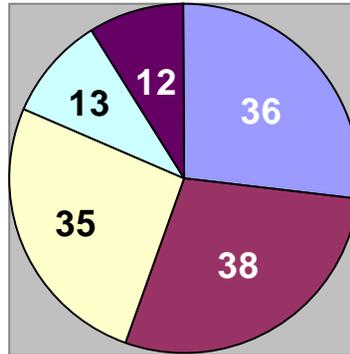
# *Would You Use these facilities...*

## Large Regional Parks

152=Yes

103=No

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

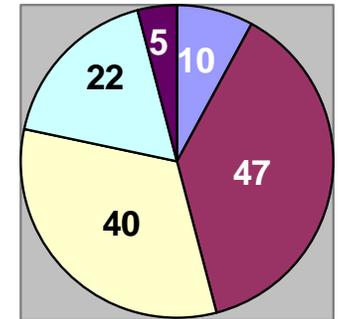


## Boating and Fishing Areas

133=Yes

118=No

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

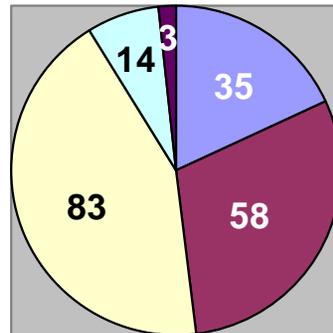


## Picnicking Areas and Shelter

184=Yes

77=No

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

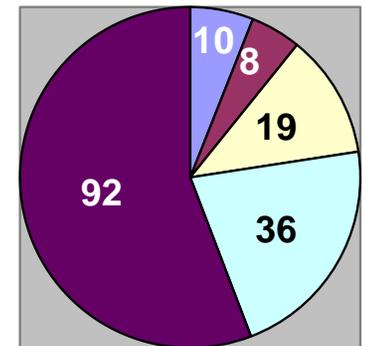


## Outdoor Swimming Pools and Splash Pads

176=Yes

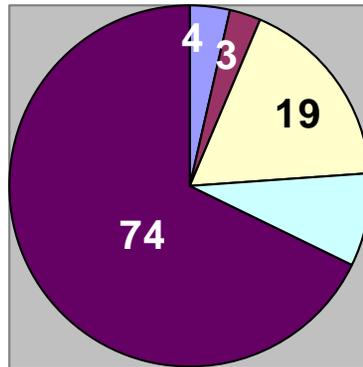
92=No

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

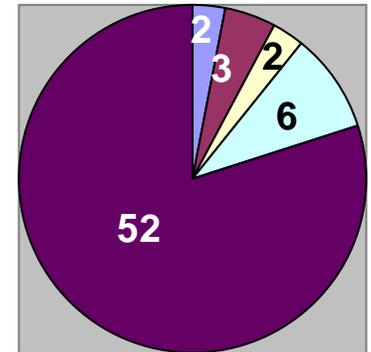


# *Would You Use these facilities...*

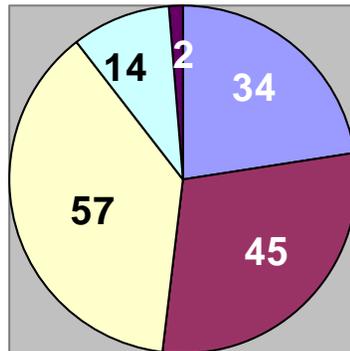
**Dog Parks**  
120=Yes  
146=No



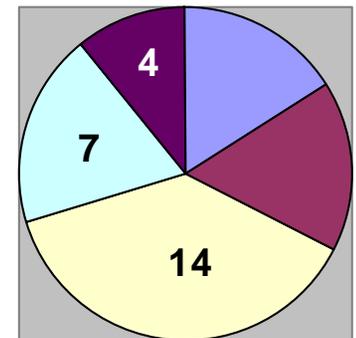
**Skate Park & Extreme Sports Parks**  
76=Yes  
172=No



**Children's Playgrounds**  
163=Yes  
125=No



**Show Barn & Rodeo Arena**  
47=Yes  
189=No



- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

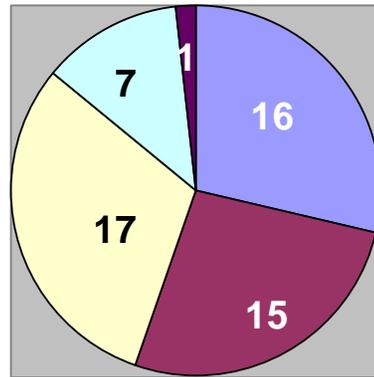
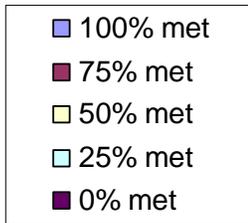
- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

# *Would You Use these facilities...*

## Youth Soccer Fields

63=Yes

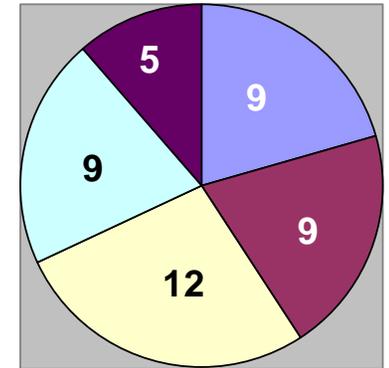
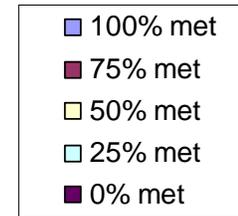
176=No



## Youth Football & Lacross Fields

48=Yes

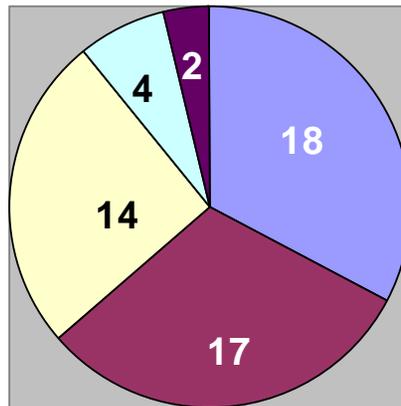
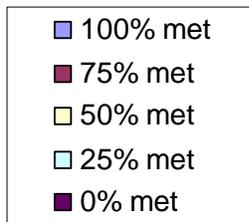
191=No



## Youth Softball & Baseball Fields

58=Yes

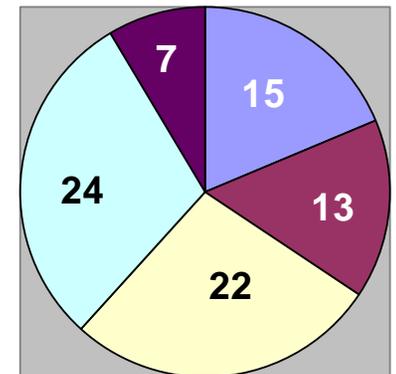
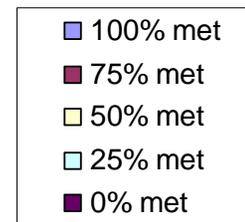
180=No



## Tennis Courts

89=Yes

156=No

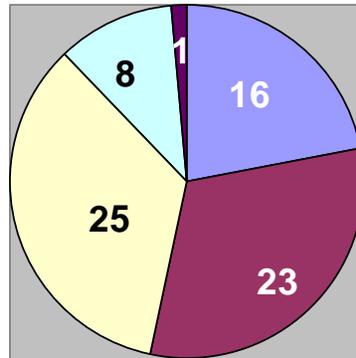
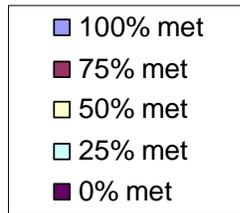


# *Would You Use these facilities...*

## Basketball Courts

80=Yes

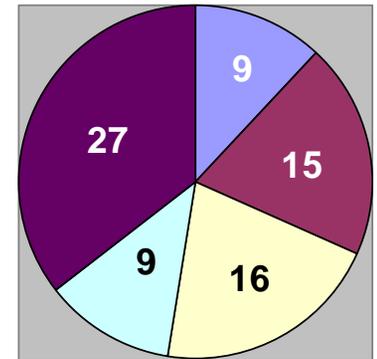
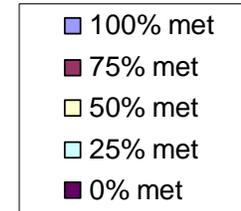
159=No



## Overnight Camping Areas

81=Yes

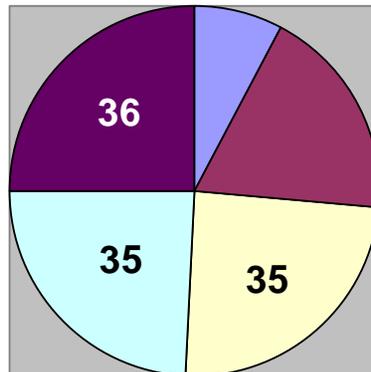
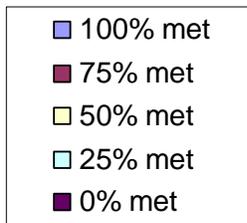
162=No



## Wildlife Habitats & Natural Areas

170=Yes

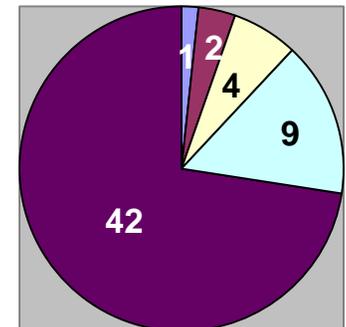
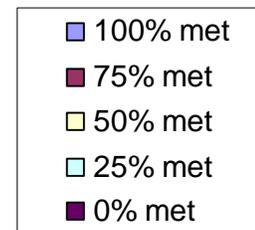
73=No



## Disc Golf

66=Yes

176=No



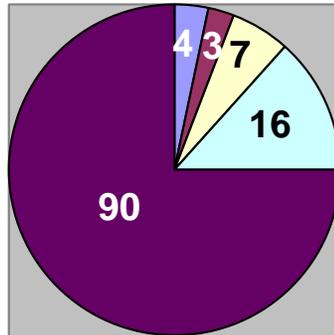
# Would You Use these facilities...

## Outdoor Amphitheater

148=Yes

106=No

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

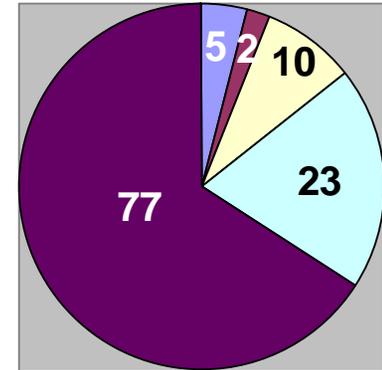


## Exercise/Fitness Equipment OUTDOOR

127=Yes

123=No

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

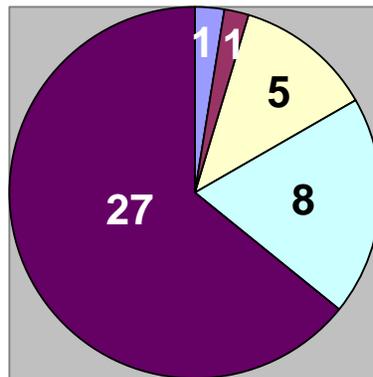


## Climbing Walls, Features, etc.

84=Yes

151=No

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met

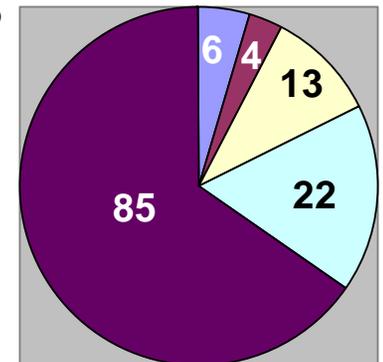


## Exercise/Fitness Equipment INDOOR

167=Yes

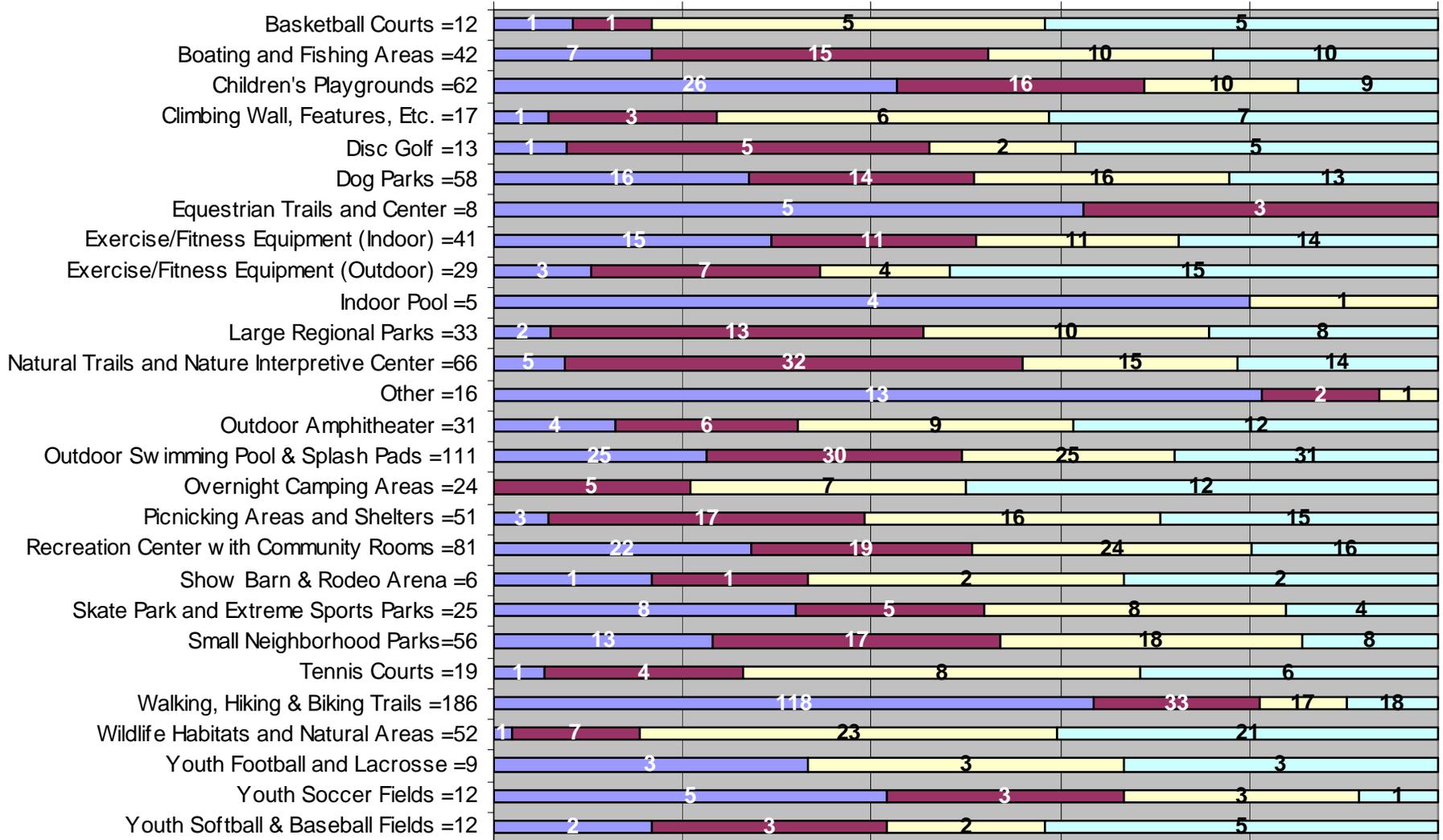
105=No

- 100% met
- 75% met
- 50% met
- 25% met
- 0% met



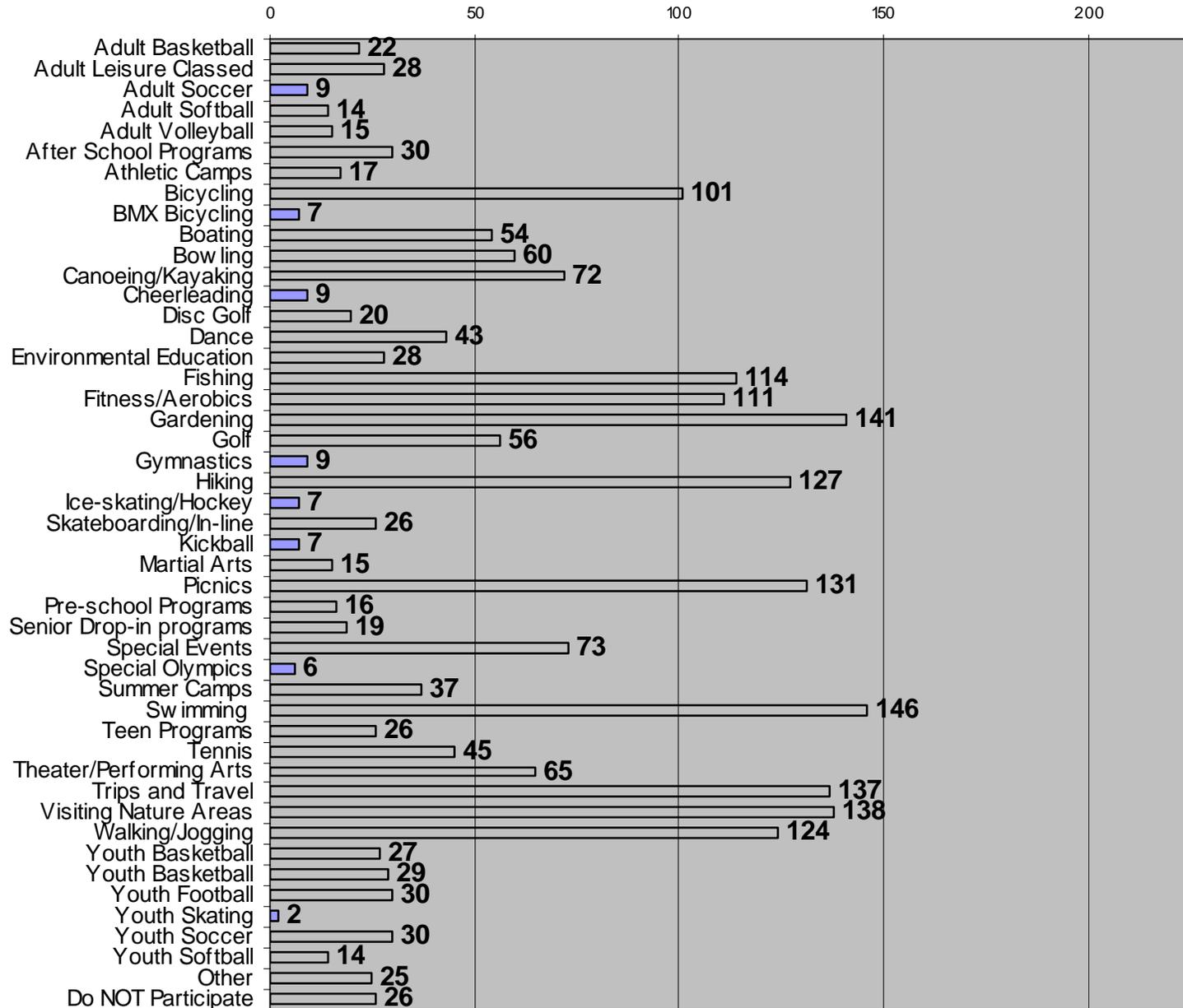
# Top 4 Most Important Facilities to each Household

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%



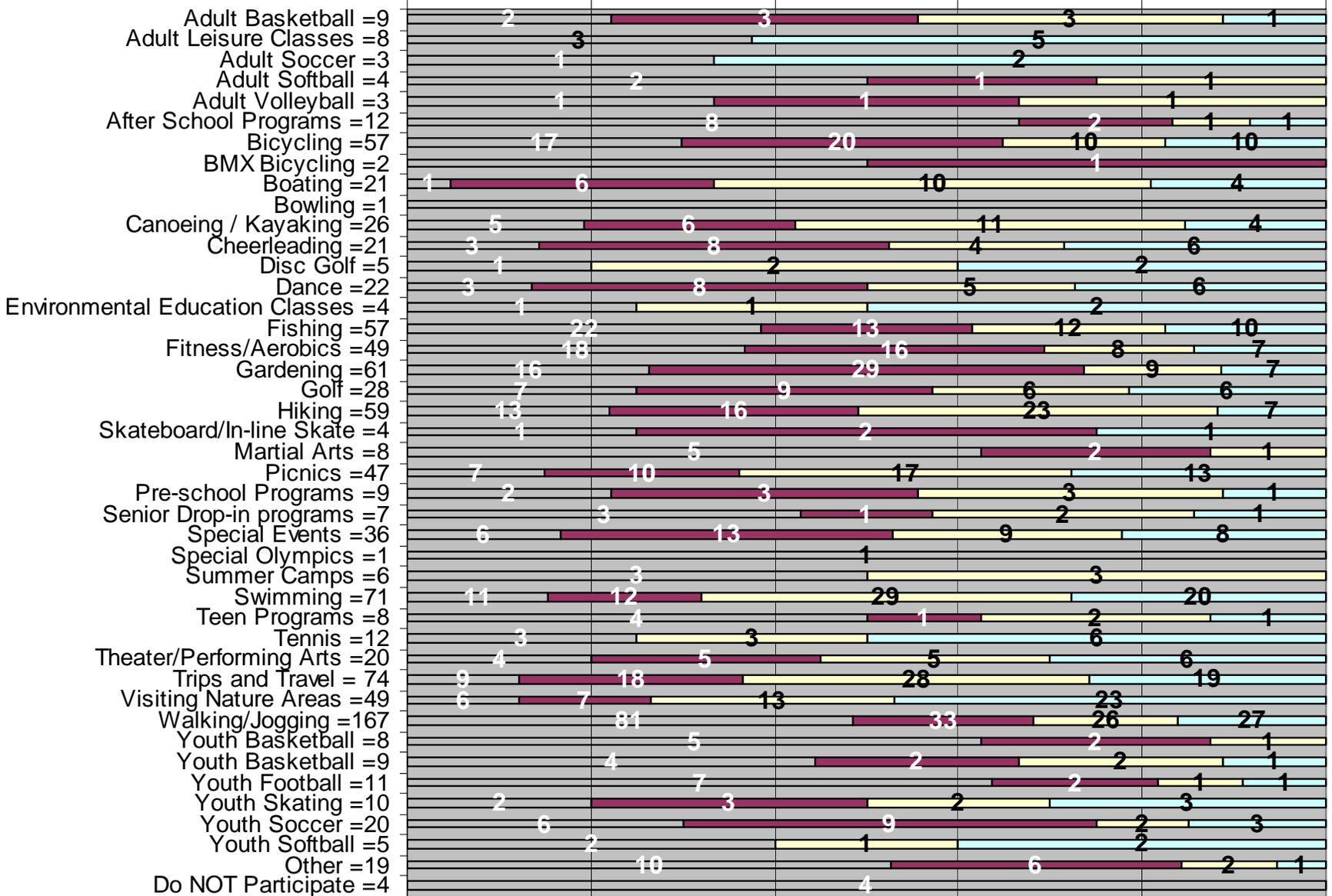
1st Choice 2nd Choice 3rd Choice 4th Choice

# Activities and Programs that Households Participate in Regularly



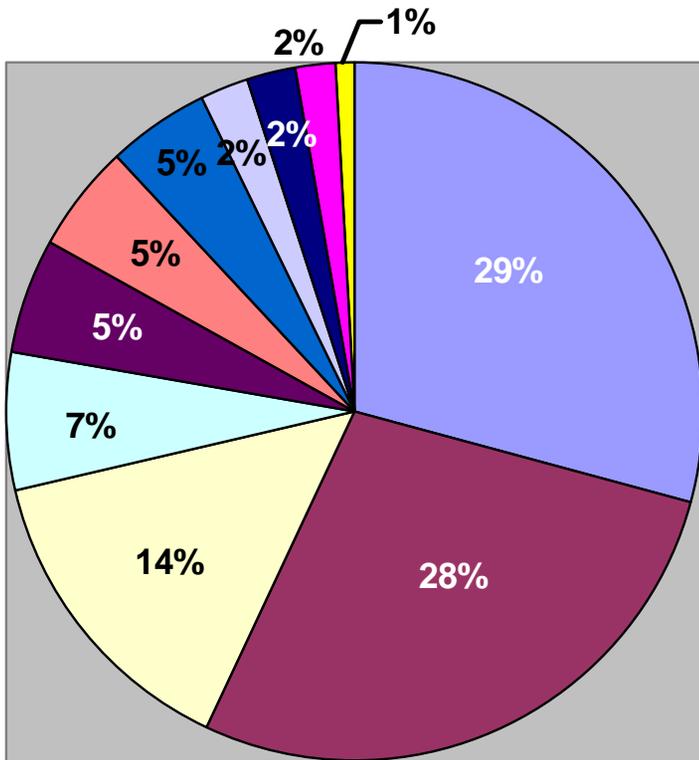
# Activities Participated in Most Often

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%



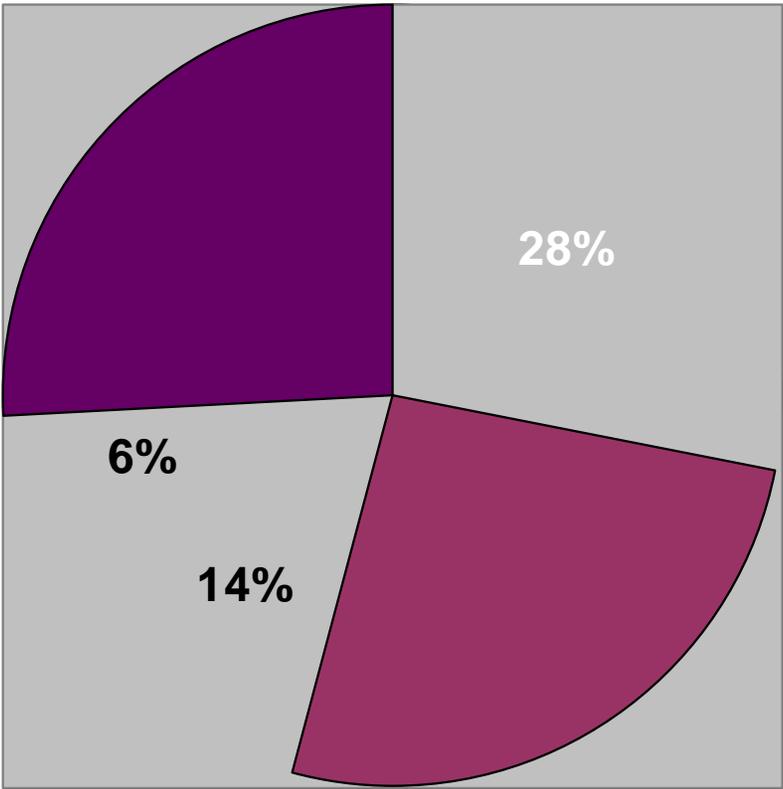
■ 1st Most Often ■ 2nd Most Often ■ 3rd Most Often ■ 4th Most Often

# How do you hear about Bastrop Parks and Rec Programs?



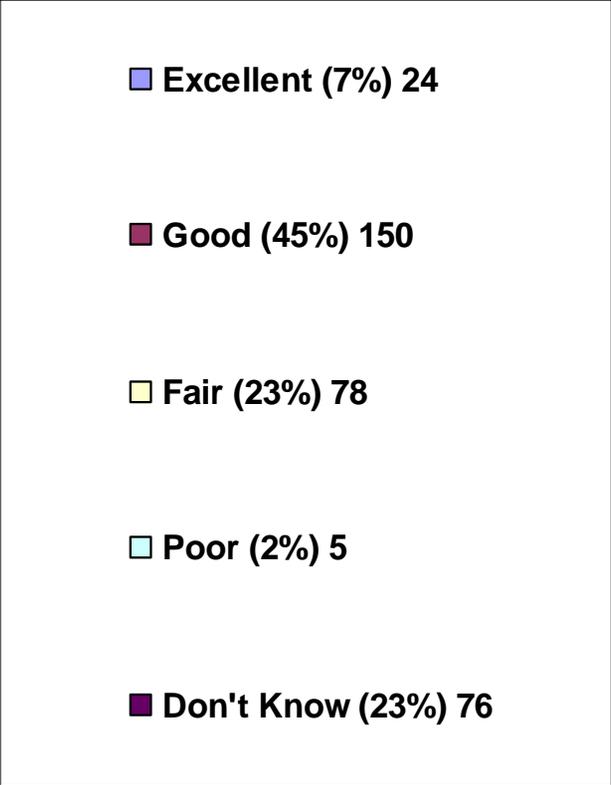
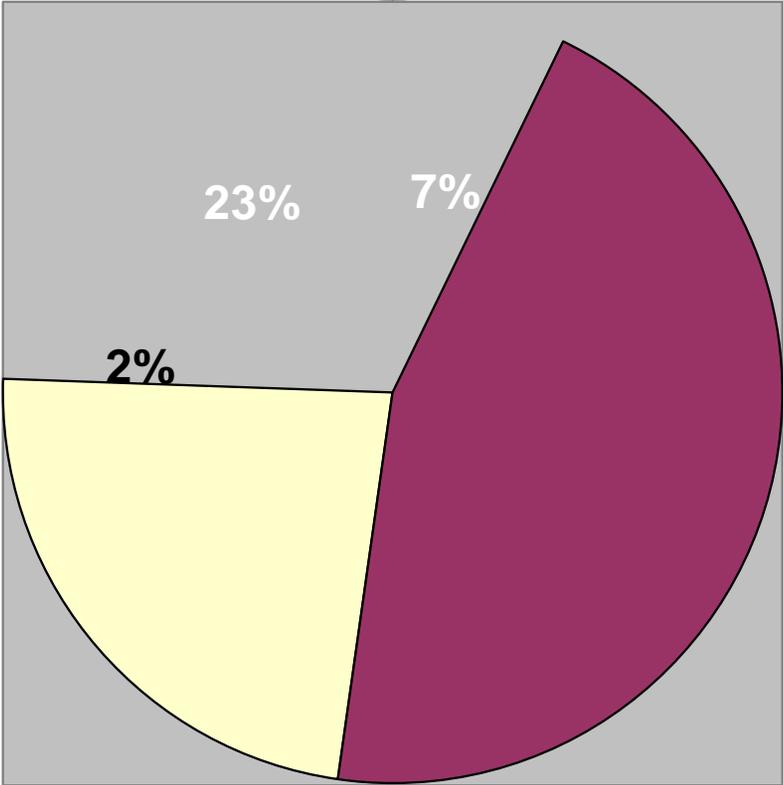
- Newspaper (29%)
- Word of Mouth (28%)
- Flyers/Brochures (14%)
- Catalog (7%)
- Cable TV (5%)
- Visit or Call the Parks/Rec Office (5%)
- Website (5%)
- Other (2%)
- Driving Around/Observation (2%)
- Radio (2%)
- None (1%)

# Programs Participated in during the past 12 Months

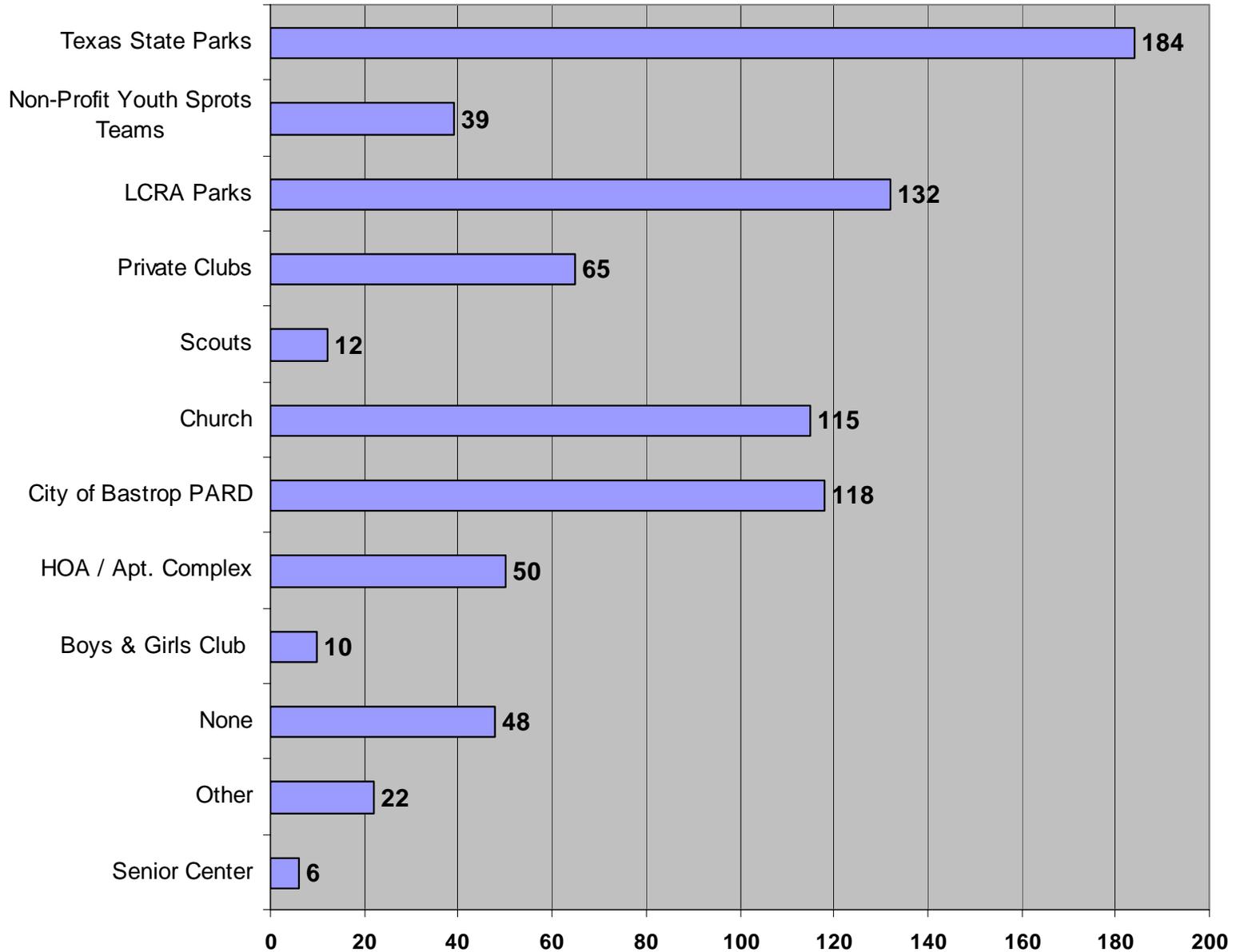


- Bastrop Library Programs =122
- Movies in the Park =115
- Dances/Concerts =59
- Basketball Program at BISD =28
- None =113

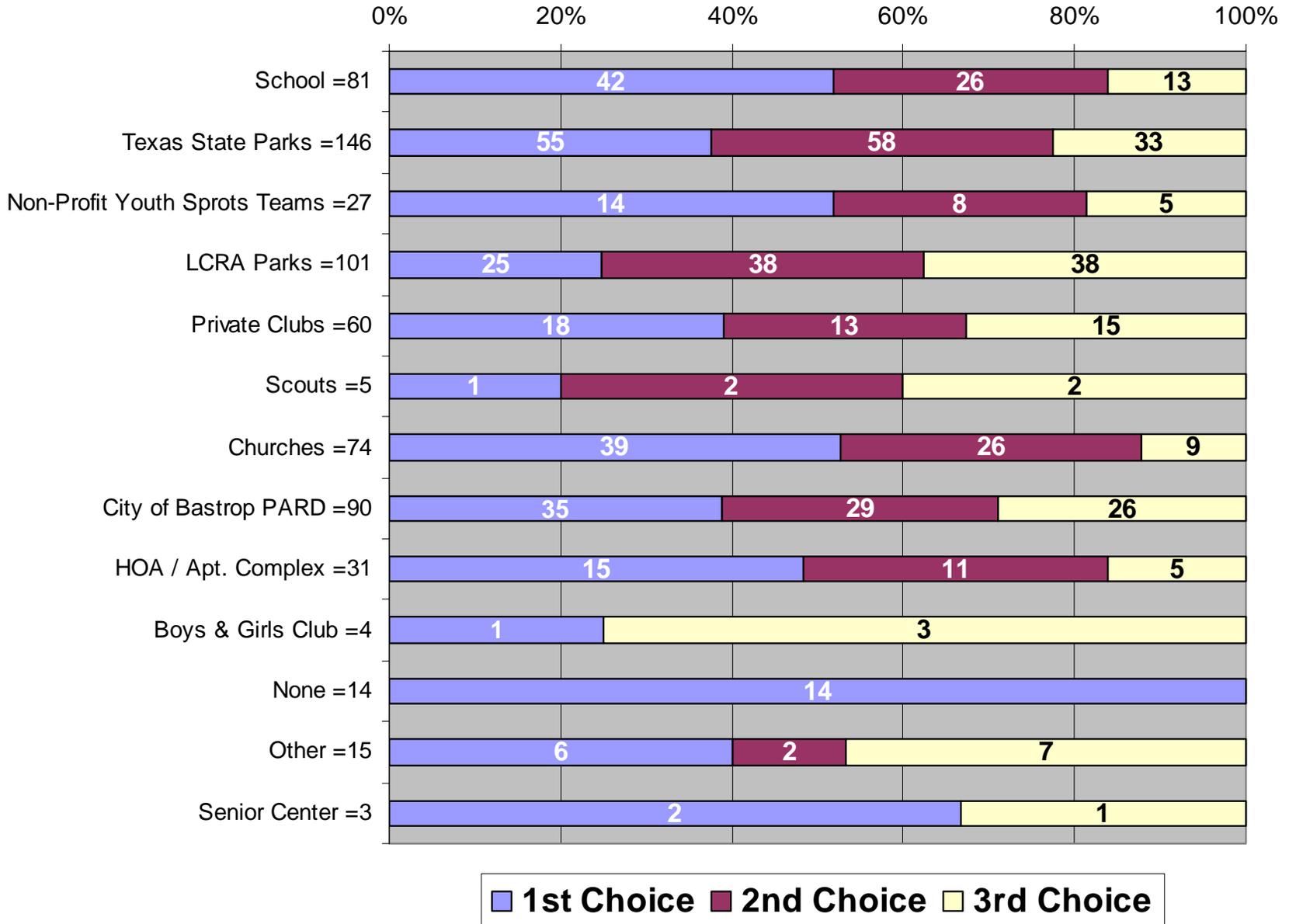
# Quality of the Recreation Programs Participated in



# Location/Organization used for Parks, Trails and Recreation Activities during the past 12 months

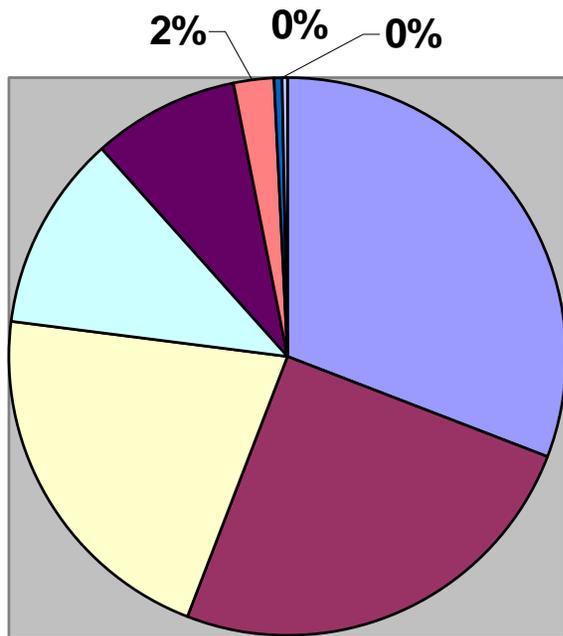


# Most Used Organizations in the past 12 Months



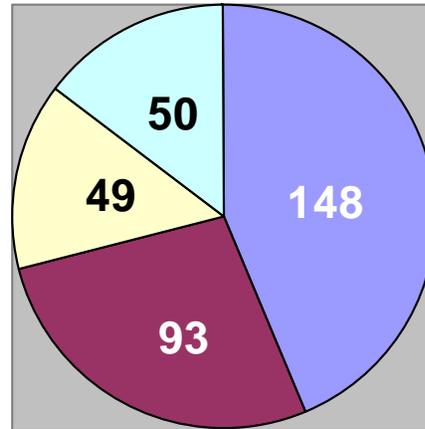
# *Survey Results Continued...*

## **Types of Land that Households would Support the City Acquiring for Parks**



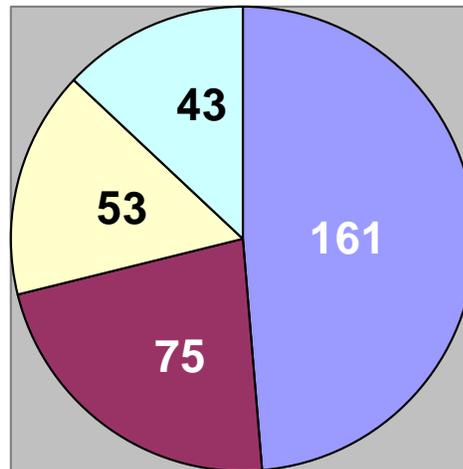
- Wooded Open Space =198 (32%)
- Usable Flat Areas =161 (25%)
- Floodplain Areas =135 (21%)
- Other =73 (11%)
- None =55 (9%)
- Any for Rec Center/Pool/Available =15 (2%)
- Pine Trees =3 (0%)
- Don't Know =2 (0%)

## Expansion of Trail System, Would you use in an undeveloped state?



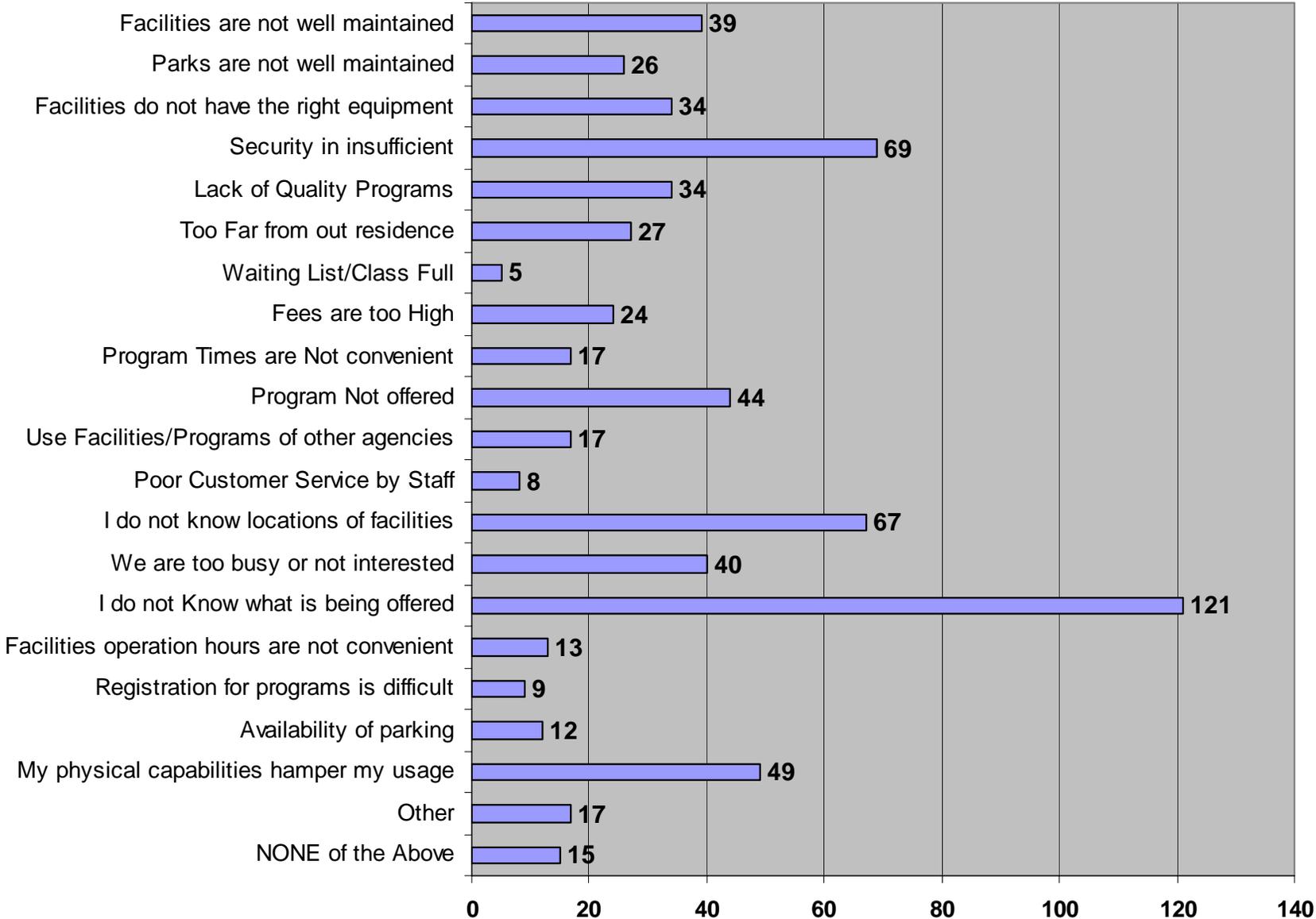
- Very Likely (44%)
- Somewhat Likely (27%)
- Not sure (14%)
- NOT Likely (15%)

## Expansion of Trail System, Would you use to connect destination points? (downtown to river)

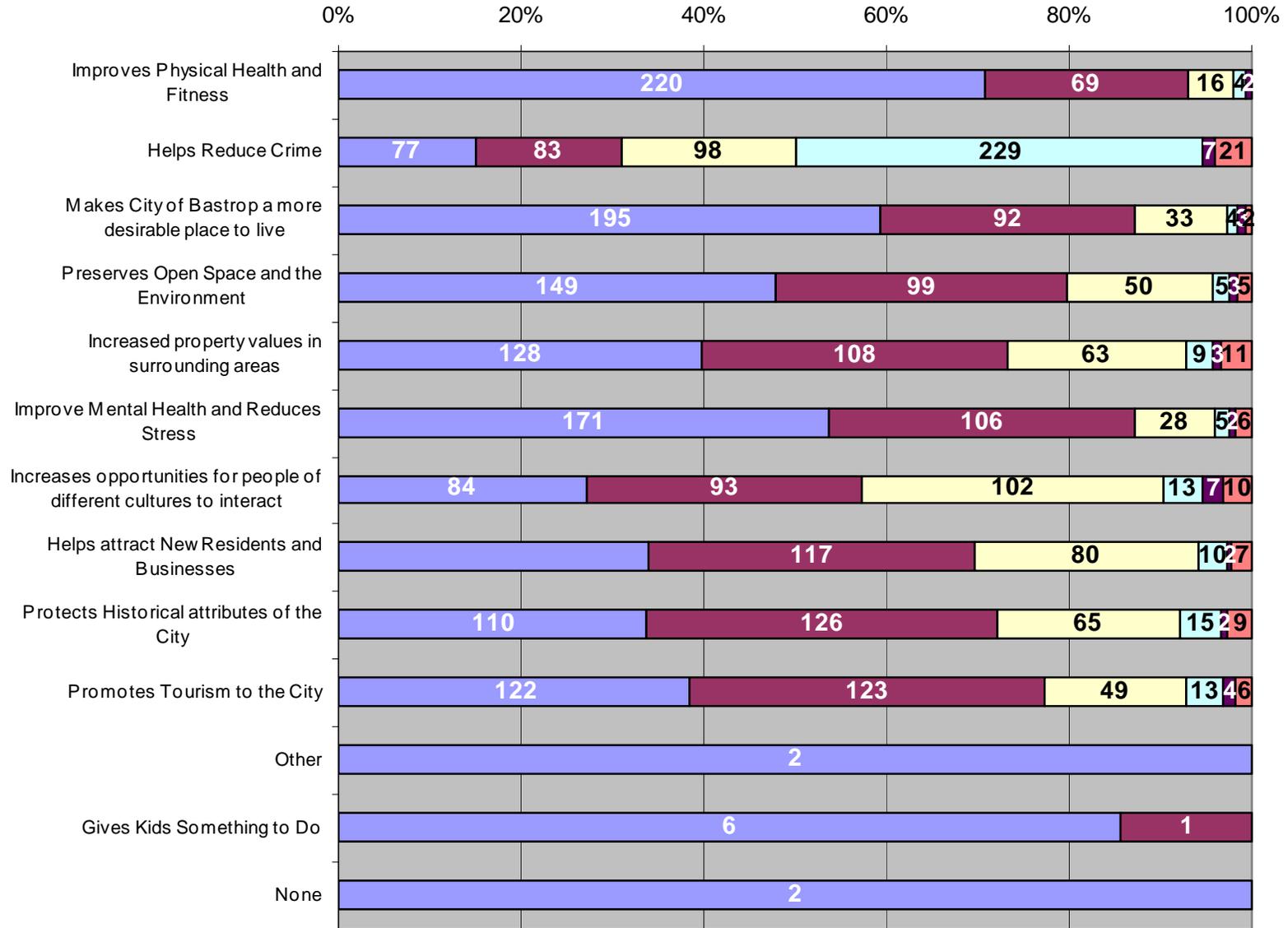


- Very Likely (48%)
- Somewhat Likely (23%)
- Not sure (16%)
- NOT Likely (13%)

# Reasons that prevent Households from using Parks and Rec Facilities and Programs in the City of Bastrop

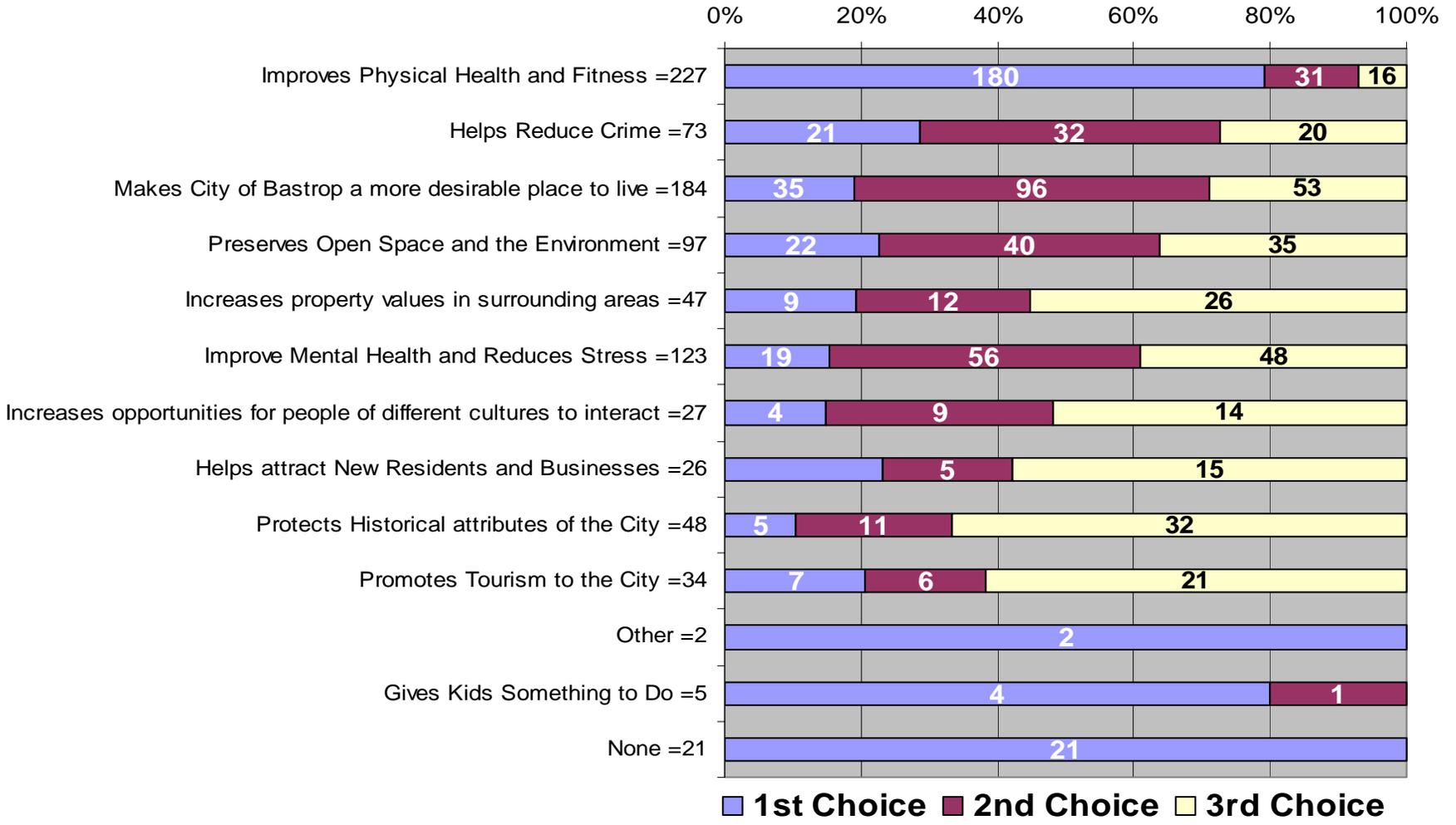


# Benefits from Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities and Services

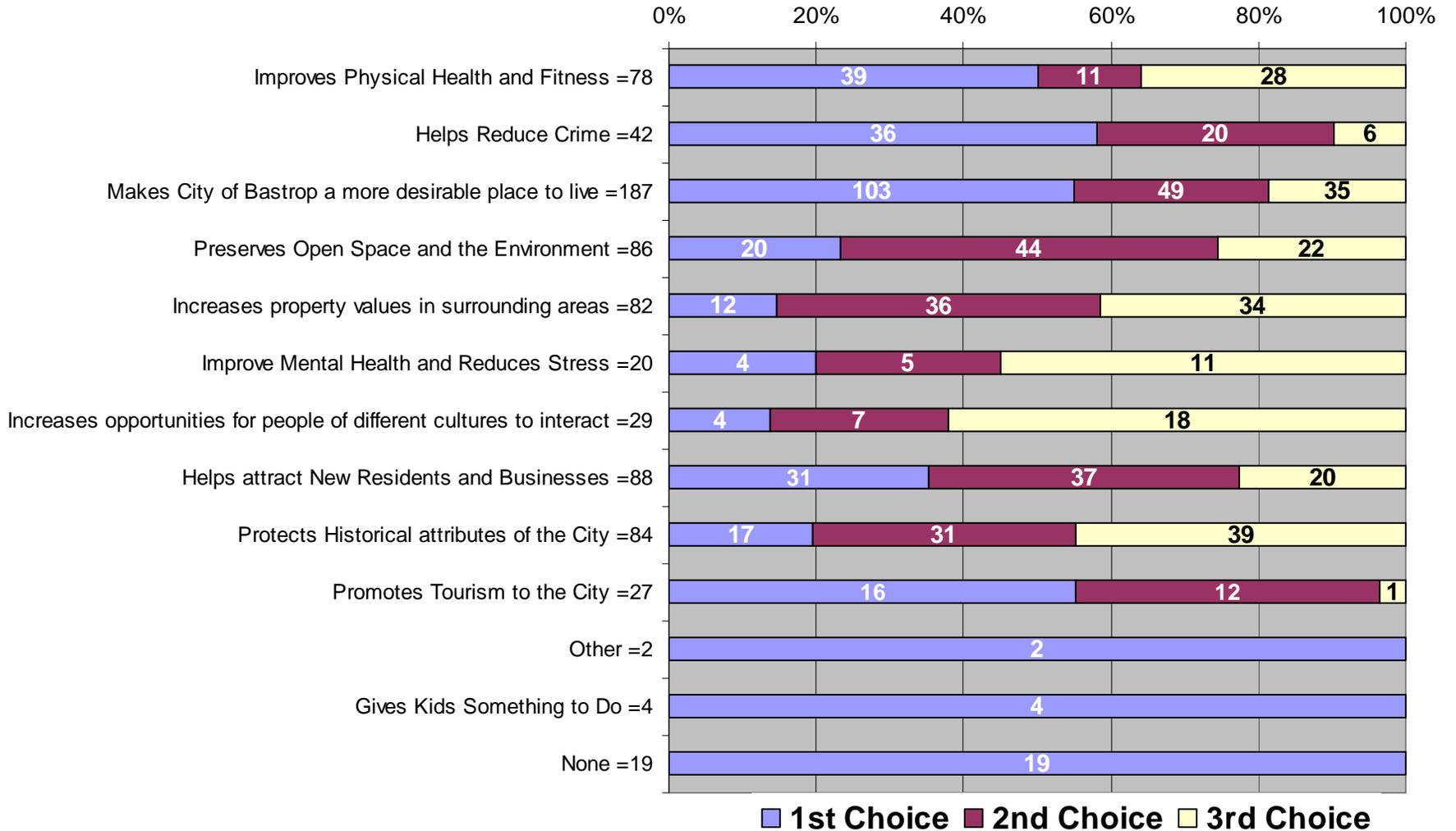


■ Strongly Agree   
 ■ Agree   
 ■ Neutral   
 ■ Disagree   
 ■ Strongly Disagree   
 ■ Don't Know

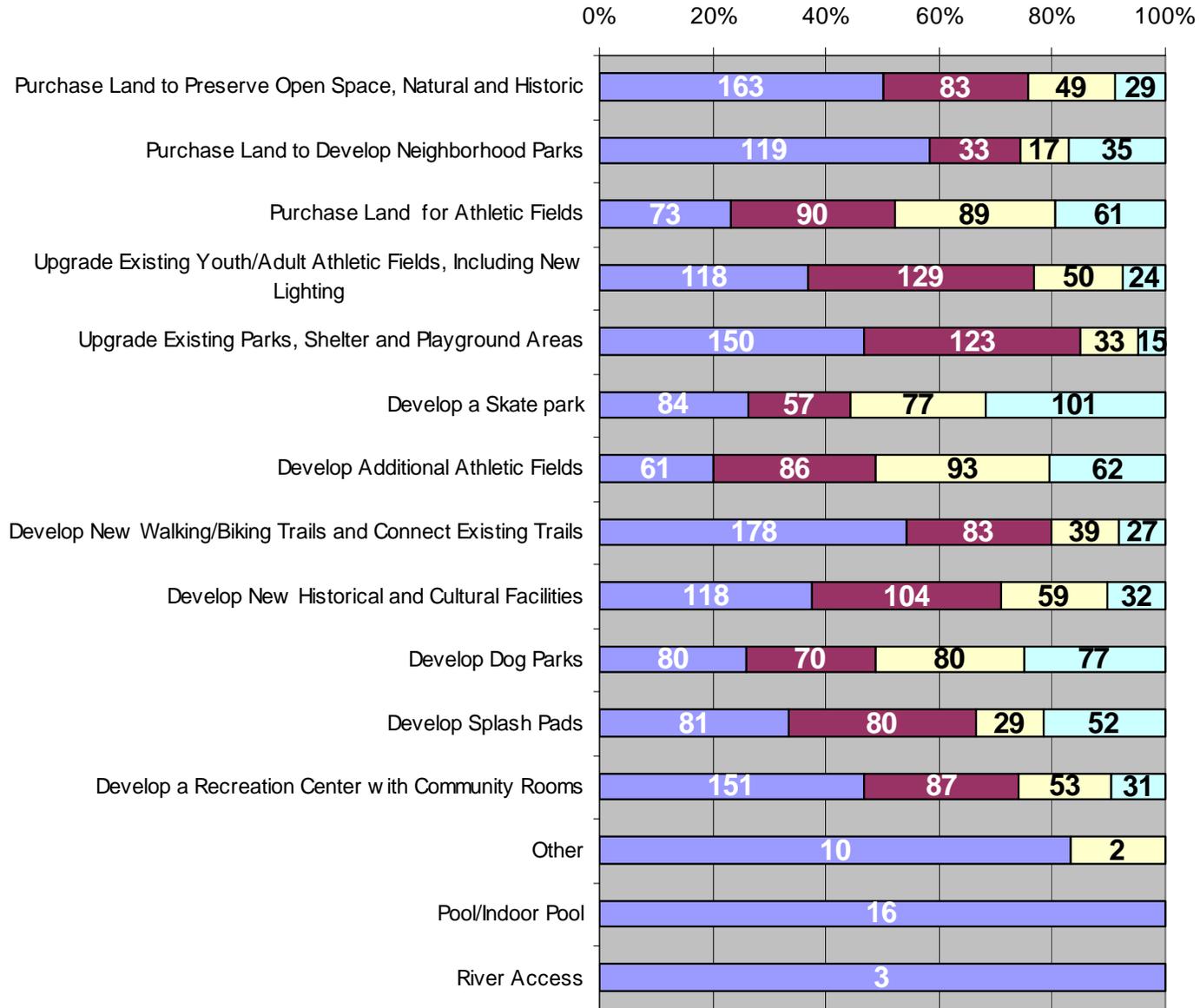
# Most Important Potential Benefit



# Most Important FUTURE Benefit for the City of Bastrop

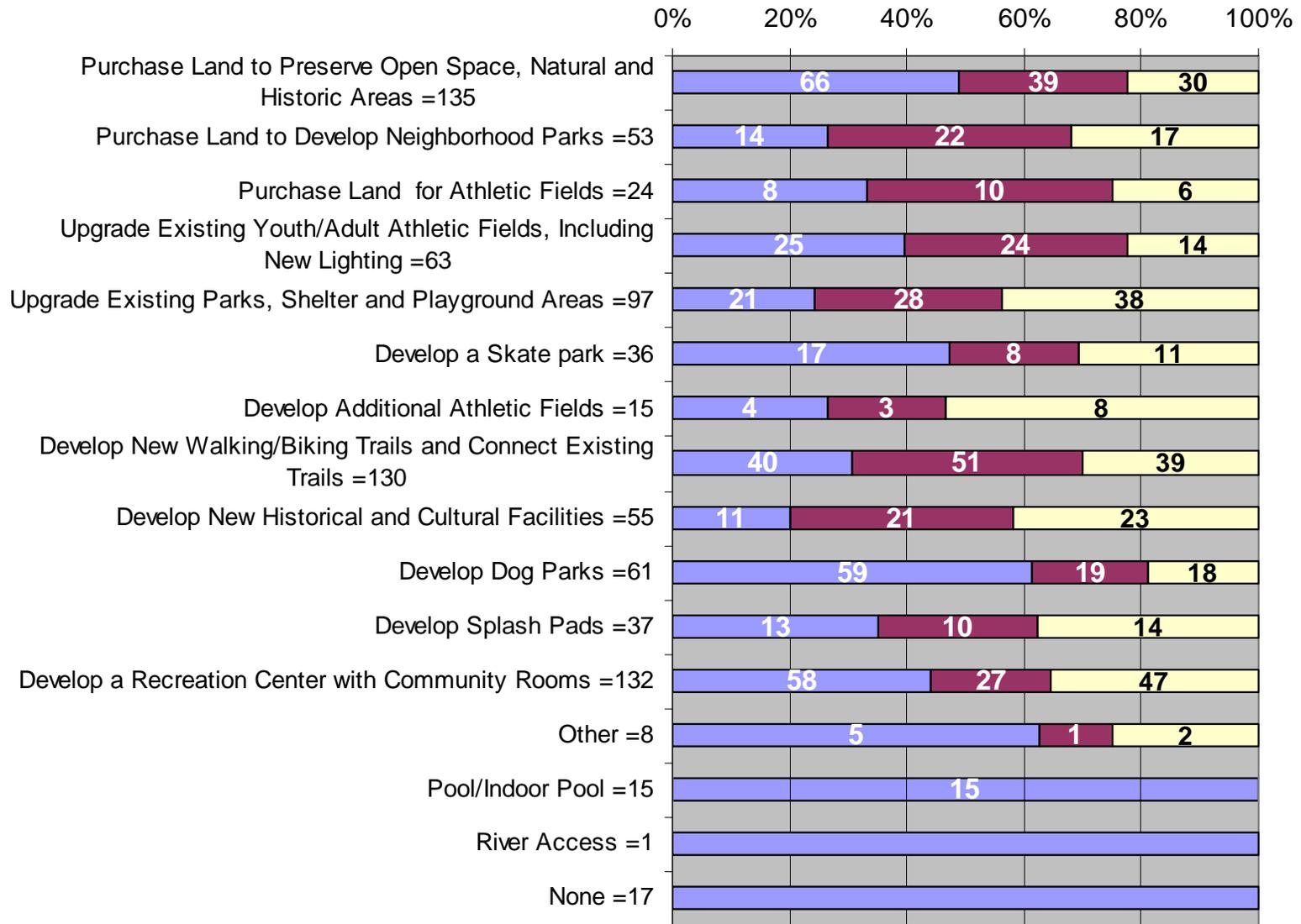


# Support for City of Bastrop Actions



■ Very Supportive 
 ■ Somewhat Supportive 
 ■ Not Sure 
 ■ Not Supportive

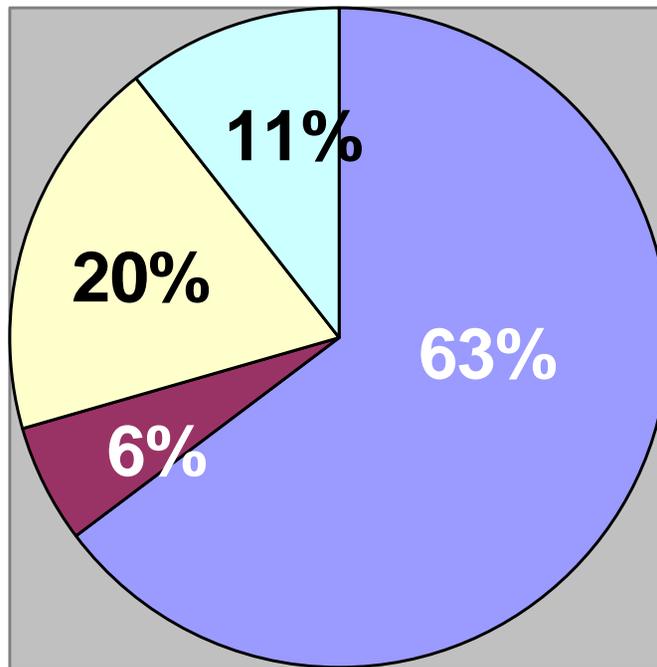
# Most Willing to Fund



■ 1st Choice ■ 2nd Choice ■ 3rd Choice

# *What this all means....*

**How Important is it to make Improvements to the Parks and Recreation Facilities?**



- Very Likely =136
- Somewhat Likely =12
- Not sure =40
- NOT Likely =22

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# APPENDIX B



## *Model Cost Recovery Policy*

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**Los Alamos County  
Parks and Recreation Department**

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# **Fees and Charges Policy**

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**April 1998**

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# Los Alamos County Parks and Recreation

## Fees and Charges Policy

### Executive Summary

This *draft* document represents the Parks and Recreation Department's proposal to balance the need for fiscal responsibility with the desires of the community for a broad range of recreational activities and parks when establishing user fees and charges. Many years of discussions, reviews, analysis, public input and three prior proposals have gone into the development of this version of the policy.

This department policy reflects the general philosophy and guidelines set forth in the Los Alamos County User Fee Policy. In addition, it considers the unique customers of the Parks and Recreation Department and their input and suggestions. Los Alamos County is most fortunate in having an active and contributive volunteer user population that has been instrumental in developing, maintaining and improving our many parks and recreation facilities for many years.

The current practice of establishing Parks and Recreation user fees and charges has informally been based upon sound management practices and general parks and recreation administrative principles. This policy will help to formally define those practices and establish goals, guidelines, definitions and procedures for considering and calculating fees and charges.

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<i>Executive Summary</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>1 Introduction</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>2 Purpose</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>3 Authority and Responsibility</i>	<i>3</i>
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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Los Alamos County is an active community and its leaders recognize the benefits of parks and recreation for its citizens. Individual, community, environmental and economic benefits of parks and recreation are well documented and essential to the high quality of life enjoyed in Los Alamos. Also documented through community surveys, is the high value the citizens have placed on parks and recreation and their contribution to the high quality of life desired and maintained in Los Alamos County. It is also those same benefits which provide the challenge for creating a Fees and Charges Policy when the goal is to provide access to the programs and services provided by the County through the Parks and Recreation Department as equitably and efficiently as possible.
- 1.2 The formative years for the organized parks and recreation movement saw recreation receiving financial support from compulsory taxes, usually ad valorem taxes. However, in view of the increasingly heavy demands for new and expanded services, the rapid increase in operating costs and capital expenditures, and because of limited access to tax revenue, it has become difficult to maintain existing levels of service. Current trends support the concept that "those who play should pay for their own recreation." Consequently, park and recreation agencies must develop sound and consistent policies that will serve as tools for evaluating services and establishing appropriate fees and charges. The use of fees and charges is the primary alternate method of generating revenue in an era when the public's demand and expectations for parks and recreation exceeds government's ability to offset it with its tax base.
- 1.3 On June 21, 1993, the County Council adopted a Los Alamos County User Fee Policy. The Policy was designed to outline the general approach in reviewing existing fees and establishing new fees for services provided by the County. Further, the Policy directed departments and enterprise funds to develop departmental user fee policies to address the unique requirements of their customers, including recovery percents.

## **2 Purpose**

- 2.1 To provide a department policy that will outline the general approach to be used in reviewing existing and potential fees and charges and establishing new fees and charges for services provided by Los Alamos County Parks and Recreation Department, that will ensure a fee structure which is appropriate, legal, fair and consistently applied;
- 2.2 To supplement the Los Alamos County User Fee Policy adopted by the County Council on June 23, 1993, and to address the unique requirements of the Parks and Recreation Department's customers;
- 2.3 To establish cost recovery percents for the various programs of the Parks and Recreation Department.

### **3 Authority and Responsibility**

- 3.1 The County Council will be the approving authority of this department policy and subsequent User Fees and Charges Schedule. When establishing fees and charges, the Council shall consider the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and its subcommittees, the County Administrator, the Budget Officer and the Parks and Recreation Department staff.
- 3.2 The Parks and Recreation Department will maintain appropriate records to substantiate the costs of providing services, including personal services, supplies, contracts, etc. User statistics and participant volumes will also be maintained by the Department.
- 3.3 The Director of the Parks and Recreation Department or his/her designee will be responsible for the compliance, enforcement, and adherence to this policy.

### **4 Statement of Philosophy**

- 4.1 The Parks and Recreation Department of Los Alamos County include user fees as an integral element of its budgetary plan. An important principle of any public park and recreation fiscal program is to offer the most diversified facilities and services possible, ensuring that all citizens have equal opportunity and choice in participation. More important, one basic tenant of the Los Alamos County User Fee Policy, 1993, is the cost of services which specifically benefit a few or a specific group of users should be paid for through user fees. The philosophy of this policy will be based on the need to balance the benefit to the community as a whole with the need to assess specific user fees. Fees must be thoroughly evaluated before adoption to integrate them into the fiscal matrix supporting public parks and recreation services, a matrix which includes general fund appropriations, capital improvements funds, grants, special gifts and donations, and in-kind services.

### **5 Goals and Guidelines**

It is the goal of Los Alamos County Parks and Recreation Department to:

- 5.1 Improve and maintain the quality of life for each individual within Los Alamos County through recreation, parks and other open space;
- 5.2 Provide and maintain safe and clean park and recreation facilities for use by the general public of Los Alamos County;
- 5.3 Provide the opportunity for all residents of Los Alamos County to participate in parks and recreation programs and services and to utilize the facilities of the department;

- 5.4 Provide non-residents of Los Alamos County the ability to participate in the same programs and services and enjoy the facilities at the same rate as residents;
- 5.5 Provide trained and qualified staff for supervision and instruction of participants in recreation programs and activities;
- 5.6 Involve the public in the planning, design, operation and evaluation of parks and recreation programs, activities, and facilities;
- 5.7 Establish user fees and charges that should not discourage the use of the Los Alamos County's Park system facilities and services and recreation programs;
- 5.8 Establish user fees that do not create a restrictive or exclusionary effect. The key principle in establishing Los Alamos County Parks & Recreation Department user fees is the principle of equity. It is the principle that "public goods" should be paid for out of general revenues while "private consumption" should be charged for;
- 5.9 Maintain the principle of accessibility for all user groups (physically challenged and seniors) and to encourage everyone to actively participate.
- 5.10 Recognize volunteer involvement in maintaining and improving facilities and consider their contribution while establishing user fees;
- 5.11 Provide an objective planning and operating management tool that provides the "real" costs of operating the department activities;

## **6 Definitions of Services**

- 6.1 **Basic Services** may be those as defined to promote both the physical and mental well being of the entire community, maintain clean and attractive parks and buildings, or provide recreation services to those persons who are unable to take advantage of the regular services because of either financial restrictions or physical or mental disabilities. Generally, basic services are offered to the public free. All costs for providing these basic services are paid from the appropriated General Fund budget primarily funded by tax revenues.

### **Examples of basic services**

- Free play in playgrounds or tot-lots
- Use of open space and trails for passive use
- Park planning, maintenance and capital improvement
- General park and recreation administration services

### **Examples of basic facilities**

- Unscheduled, unlighted, unmarked baseball, softball, and soccer fields
- Unscheduled tennis courts
- Unreserved picnic tables and shelters
- Trails & paths

- 6.2 **Public Services** – defined as services or products whose primary benefits are for the public at large. Typical public goods are openly available to all residents on an equal basis and there is little individual consumptive use of the service or product. Because public goods usually provide open, unrestricted access, non-consumptive use, and general community well being, there is usually no, or only a nominal fee or charge.

**Examples of public services**

- Neighborhood parks
- Festivals
- Ashley Pond
- Reserved picnic areas
- Restrooms
- Rental equipment

- 6.3 **Merit Services** – defined as service or products that partially benefit the individual and partially benefit the community. Typical merit goods are generally available to all residents but space, time or consumptive use restrictions may be present which limit an individual's ability to participate. The benefit allocation of a merit good may be difficult to assess in each individual program and therefore fees and charges could vary widely within a merit good category. It is common practice in merit goods for the participant user to pay a share of the total costs involved recognizing that there is a benefit to the community as a whole and also to the specific user.

**Examples of merit services**

- Youth learn-to-swim programs
- CPR classes
- Instructional level sports
- Reservation areas within parks

**Examples of merit facilities**

- Campgrounds
- Skate Park
- R/C Car Track
- Guaje Pines – maintenance
- Rose Garden - weddings

- 6.4 **Private Services** – defined as services or products whose benefits accrue directly to the individual. Private goods may be evenly available to the public but significant time, space, consumption, and costs limit the number of users at any one time.

**Examples of private services**

- Scuba & boating classes
- Cemetery - interments
- North Mesa Stables – manure removal
- Dance Lessons

**Examples of private facilities**

- Golf Course

- Community Garden plots
- Rodeo Arena pens
- Tennis Courts - Clinics

## 7 Definitions of Types of Fees and Charges

The Los Alamos County Parks and Recreation Department will utilize eleven (11) basic fees and charges. They are:

- 7.1 **Admission fees** may be charged for entry into a building, structure or park. Some type of program, event, demonstration, or exhibit to attract visitors is usually offered (concerts, craft fairs, festivals, etc.).
- 7.2 **Advertising fees** may be charged as established in the Los Alamos County Parks and Recreation Department Advertising Policy adopted by County Council on August 19, 1991.
- 7.3 **Contingency Fees** may be charged to cover unexpected program overruns, to provide sufficient funding for new program start - up costs, and / or to provide scholarship or gift funding.
- 7.4 **Parking fees** may be charged to control overcrowding, to minimize vandalism, and to provide patron safety (July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration, etc.).
- 7.5 **Permit or license fees** may be charged for the privilege to conduct a particular action. The action may be public and / or restricted access activities within park and recreation facilities. Activities may be non-profit or commercially oriented (special events, races, benefits, athletic competitions, etc).
- 7.6 **Rental or reservation fees** may be charged for the privilege of exclusively using tangible public property without consuming or injuring it in any way (picnic shelters).
- 7.7 **Sales fees** will be charged where unconditional ownership of merchandise or services passes from the Department to the user (golf merchandise).
- 7.8 **Special service fees** may be charged for supplying extraordinary articles, commodities, activities, or services where the benefits are specific to the individual or group which requests the service (special preparation of athletic fields)
- 7.9 **Surcharges** may be assessed for additional revenues to be used to cover specific improvements to the related facility, program or service. Surcharges will generally be limited term in nature and removed when a pre-determined revenue goal is achieved.
- 7.10 **User fees** may be charged for the use of any park and / or recreation facility or program or participation in an activity or for non-exclusive use of a facility. Numerous participants are usually involved in the activity or facility at the same time (swim lessons, adult softball).

- 7.11 Vending and exhibitor fees may be required for the privilege of selling goods and services on County property.

## 8 Definitions of Costs

- 8.1 Direct costs are defined as the departmental costs of providing an activity, program or service which can be directly identified with that activity, program or service. These are costs associated with the customers' or users' direct experience. These costs would typically include instructor costs, handouts, materials, room rental, brochure printing, postage, advertising, officials' salaries, equipment, field maintenance staff and other expenses, which can be directly attributed to the operation of the program.
- 8.2 Indirect costs are those department expenses that are not directly incurred by the program or facility but may be attributable to it. They include program support staff salaries, benefits, specific program staff training, office expenses and inter-departmental charges.
- 8.3 Fixed costs are those that may be viewed as overhead costs, for they are those costs that do not vary with the number of participants. Examples may include repayment of bonds or loans used to finance the construction of facilities, insurance payments, office equipment, and executive and administrative salaries.
- 8.4 Capital expenditure costs are those costs incurred in constructing a facility or making later modifications or improvements. Ordinarily, capital expenditures are covered in the Department's Capital Improvement Program Budget Requests or as a donation. Capital expenditures are not usually included in calculating the costs of a program.

## 9 Differential Pricing

- 9.1 Consistent with the County of Los Alamos' philosophy of ensuring all citizens equal opportunity to participate in recreation, this policy recognizes that paying fees or charges may result in inequities for individuals, groups, or situations. Therefore, the Parks and Recreation Department's Fees and Charges Policy and Schedule will be flexible and sensitive to the following four (4) alternatives for differential pricing:
- 9.1.1 User group – according to age ( children, seniors); income ( economically disadvantaged); or status (private, non-profit or commercial organizations);
- 9.1.2 Product – providing extra services and options which may be available at additional cost;
- 9.1.3 Time – services provided at non-peak times vs. peak times ( hours, days of week or season)

- 9.1.4 **Quantity discounts** – deductions from regular price that reflect economies of scale in large quantities.

## **10 Contract Instruction**

- 10.1 The Los Alamos County Parks and Recreation Department uses contracts for specialized instruction in activities such as arts and crafts, outdoor programs, lessons, and general instruction. Fees and charges for contract instruction will include the costs of materials and supplies, instructor's fee, and any direct costs related to the facility or support staff.
- 10.2 In contract instruction programs, a contract or formal agreement shall be created and approved between the Department and the instructor.
- 10.3 The instructor's fee will be a percentage of the fees and charges paid by the participants and may vary from program to program.

## **11 Commercial Use of Facilities**

Safeguards are necessary to ensure proper use of public facilities when requests are received by the Department to conduct commercial or promotional activities on park property or to utilize the names of public structures or facilities in advertising a product.

### 11.1 Requisites for Approval

- 11.1.1 Commercial and promotional activities in parks and recreation facilities should be authorized only if they provide a positive public service and meet a legitimate public need.
- 11.1.2 Commercial and promotional activities on park property should be permitted only when they are clearly not in conflict with ongoing Department sponsored programs, or if the program can be conducted without any restriction of public use for an unreasonable period of time.
- 11.1.3 Commercial or promotional use of public facilities including use of public names of structures should not be authorized if such use constitutes an expressed or implied endorsement of commercial products, services, or activities.
- 11.1.4 In some cases, the department may establish a formal bid process for commercial uses such as food and / or beverage vendors.

### 11.2 Authorization to Approve Requests

- 11.2.1 A request to conduct commercial or promotional activities on parks areas, to post forms of advertising on park premises, or to utilize the names of structures or facilities in advertising a product should be directed to the Director of Parks and Recreation

11.2.2 Approval should be granted by the Director or his / her designee for permission to post signs, banners, posters or any other forms of advertising on park facilities. All materials of this type must be consistent with the overall aesthetic appearance of the park. Advertising materials for specific activities must be taken down upon completion of the event. Such items donated for permanent use at a park facility must meet all of the aforementioned requirements for approval.

### 11.3 Charges for Commercial Activities

11.3.1 All costs incurred by the Department resulting from commercial use of a park or recreation facility should be recoverable as a part of the rental fee.

11.3.2 Groups or organizations conducting commercial activities on park or recreation facilities must pay the prevailing commercial use rental rates for use of the facility.

11.3.3 Sponsors of profit-making, commercial activities conducted on park and recreation property including all public lands must provide the Department with evidence of comprehensive general liability insurance sufficient to protect the County against risk, with a minimum of at least \$1.0 million for each occurrence, which names Los Alamos County as an additional insured, or Certificates of Insurance acceptable to the Director.

11.3.4 In addition to the commercial use rental fee and insurance, the sponsors of profit-making, commercial activities conducted on park and recreation property should pay Los Alamos County a percent of the gross receipts to be established in the Parks and Recreation Department's User Fee and Charges Schedule.

### 11.4 Charges for Charitable (non-sponsored) Activities

11.4.1 Charitable, non-profit community-serving organizations which conduct an event on park and recreation property for the purpose of raising funds, not sponsored by the Department, must pay only the facility rental fee.

11.4.2 Charitable, non-profit, community-serving organizations should also provide the Department with evidence of comprehensive general liability insurance sufficient to protect the County against risk, with a minimum of at least \$1.0 million for each occurrence, which names Los Alamos County as an additional insured, or Certificates of Insurance acceptable to the Director.

### 11.5 Charges for Charitable ( sponsored) Activities

11.5.1 Charitable, non-profit, community-serving organizations which conduct an event on park and recreation property for the purpose of raising funds, for department activities or projects, should not be required to pay any facility rental fees nor should they be required to provide insurance.

11.5.2 All revenues collected from these fund-raising activities on park and recreation facilities shall be turned over to the Department, deposited into the appropriate fund and credited as a gift or donation.

## 12 Waivers & Refunds

- 12.1 On rare occasions, fees and charges may be reduced or waived completely when such action is determined by the Director of Parks and Recreation to be in the best interest of the County of Los Alamos or the specific program. Refund procedures will be determined by the individual program or service and based upon the participant's prorated share of costs already attributable to the program. Additionally, the following will apply.
- 12.2 All requests for refunds must be made in writing to the Director of Parks and Recreation and any special circumstances will be determined by the Director,
- 12.3 No refund requests will be approved after the first 10% of the program sessions;
- 12.4 Instead of a refund, the Department may encourage participants to accept a credit good for twelve months from the date of issuance. The credit may be applied toward the cost of any activity offered by the Department.

## 13 Additional Revenue Sources

- 13.1 Los Alamos County encourages grants, gifts, service-in-kind, bequests, or donations to the County Parks and Recreation Department for the purposes of parkland acquisition, planning, development, maintenance, operations, and administration of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. The Department encourages the establishment of endowed funds and "Friends" associations to meet special needs or special interests
- 13.2 The Department will maintain a Scholarship Fund and / or Gift Fund that may provide a source of funding for fees and charges to users and participants recognized as indigent under the same guidelines as those used for the Indigent Health Care Fund, or users and participants that can demonstrate that they are unable to participate in programs without financial assistance.
- 13.3 Upon approval of the County Administrator, the Department may enter into lease agreements for such things as concession operations or key facilities.

## 14 Recovering Costs

- 14.1 **Recovering Partial Direct Costs** – The portion to be recovered per program will be established annually as a part of the budget process. When fees are assessed, they will be used to cover such items as basic supplies, equipment and / or instruction directly associated with the particular program. Fees may also be allocated under this category as a method to stabilize participation that might otherwise greatly fluctuate if the service were provided at no cost.

14.2 **Recovering Full Direct Costs** – Users will be charged fees to recover full direct costs to operate a program or service when it is deemed the program or service provides an individual benefit and a minor public benefit. These fees will be assessed to cover all costs directly associated with the program or service but allow indirect costs to be subsidized.

14.3 **Recovering Direct and Indirect Costs** – Users will be charged fees to recover full departmental direct and indirect costs for those programs that provide exclusive individual benefit and no measurable public benefit. These fees will be assessed to cover all direct and indirect charges. Some capital investment and replacement costs may be paid by the general fund.

## 15 Calculating “Fees and Charges”

15.1 Calculating and establishing fees and charges will be evaluated against seven (7) impact criteria:

- Service demand
- Quality of the parks and recreation experience
- Traditional or common practice indicators
- Anticipated amount of revenue
- Implementation costs
- Market analysis and elasticity
- Program life cycle ( growth, stability, or exit)

15.2 The following will apply to all **General Fund** programs and services:

15.2.1 **Job Costing** will be used to calculate the cost of offering programs and services

15.2.2 **Fixed Costs** (departments’ administration, debt service, depreciation, and general operating expenses / costs) **will not** be included when calculating the fee to be charges for a program or facility use.

15.2.3 **Direct Costs** (officials, instructors, equipment, advertising, and other expenses which can be directly attributed to this particular program or service) will be charged at 100% to the participant, user, or team.

15.2.4 **Indirect Costs** (expenses not directly incurred by the program or facility i.e.; supervision, secretarial assistance, telephone and general athletic field maintenance) will be charged to each program based on a percentage of the costs of each of these items.

15.2.5 **Capital Improvement Expenditures** will not be assessed against any program or services fees and charges.

- 15.2.6 **All other fees and charges** as defined in Section 7 of this policy may be charged dependent on the impact criteria listed in 15.1 above.
- 15.2.7 **In – kind services and donations** contributed by a specific user, participant or team may be considered when calculating appropriate fees and charges for their services or programs.
- 15.3 In addition, the following specific **General Fund** park and recreation programs will follow these cost recovery guidelines:
- 15.3.1 **Aquatics** – the overall cost recovery goal will be 30%.
- 15.3.2 **Ice Rink** - the overall cost recovery goal will be 70%.
- 15.3.3 **Stables** – the overall cost recovery goal will be 100%
- 15.3.4 **Adult Programs**– the overall cost recovery goal will be 100%
- 15.3.5 **Youth Programs** – the overall cost recovery goal will be 50%
- 15.4 The following will apply to the **Golf Course Enterprise Fund** programs and services:
- 15.4.1 **Job Costing** will be used to calculate the cost of offering programs and services
- 15.4.2 **Fixed Costs** (departments' administration, debt service, depreciation, and general operating expenses / costs) relating to the overall department **will not** be included when calculating the fee to be charged for a program or facility use. However, any fixed costs relating specifically to the golf course program will be included in fees and charges calculations.
- 15.4.3 **Direct Costs** (officials, instructors, equipment, advertising, and other expenses which can be directly attributed to this particular program or service) will be charged at 100% to the participant, user, or team.
- 15.4.4 **Indirect Costs** (expenses not directly incurred by the program or facility i.e.; supervision, secretarial assistance, telephone and general facility maintenance) will be charged 100% to the program.
- 15.4.5 **Capital Improvement Expenditures** may not be assessed against any program or services fees and charges.

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# APPENDIX C



## *Model Partnership Policy*

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# Sample Partnership Agreement

## Alliance Name

The following organization is entering into agreement with Park and Recreation Department:

## Contact Persons

Park and Recreation Division Responsible: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Partner Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## Location of Project/Program

Venue Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Venue?  Yes  No . . . If not, who owns? \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## Public Served (target market) by Project/Program

Families (parents and children together)  Yes  No

Age Group (check all that apply)  Youth (17 & under)  Young Adult (18-24)

Baby Boomer (25-50)  Senior (50 & over)

Sex (check only one)  Male Only  Female Only  Both Male and Female Geographic Target:

Other Demographics of Target Group:

## Start/End Date of Working Agreement

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Goal Measurement**

Park and Recreation Responsible: _____			
Park and Recreation's Goals (Desired Outcomes)	How Measured?	By Whom?	When?

Community Partner: _____			
Community Partner's Goals (Desired Outcomes)	How Measured?	By Whom?	When?

**Dollar Value of Contributions**

<b>Park and Recreation Dollar Value Contribution</b>		
<b>Personnel Services (staff consulting, labor, volunteer time, etc.)</b>	<b>Date Contribution Committed</b>	<b>Dollar Value of Contribution</b>
Full time staff time @ \$ /hour		
Seasonal staff time @ \$ /hour		
Volunteer time @ \$ /hour		
<b>Supplies/Material/Items (Consumable)</b>		
<b>Equipment (Non-Consumable</b>		
<b>Facilities</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
<b>Cash Commitment</b>	<b>Date Committed</b>	<b>Cash Amount</b>
<b>Total Park and Recreation Contribution</b>	<b>Grand Total (Cash + Dollar Value)</b>	

<b>Community Partner Dollar Value Contribution</b>		
<b>Personnel Services (staff consulting, labor, volunteer time, etc.)</b>	<b>Date Contribution Committed</b>	<b>Dollar Value of Contribution</b>
<b>Supplies/Material/Items (Consumable)</b>		
<b>Equipment (Non-Consumable)</b>		
<b>Facilities</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
<b>Cash Commitment</b>	<b>Date Committed</b>	<b>Cash Amount</b>
<b>Total Community Partner Contribution</b>	<b>Grand Total (Cash + Dollar Value)</b>	

**Expected Revenue**

Projected revenue to be kept for Park and Recreation: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected revenue to be kept for Community Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ongoing Communication**

Both parties agree to communicate in the following way: \_\_\_\_\_

At the following intervals: \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance**

Complete the insurance information requested below in effect for this agreement.

**Park and Recreation Department**

Type of insurance offered: \_\_\_\_\_

Who is covered: \_\_\_\_\_

Limits & Limitations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Partner**

Type of insurance offered: \_\_\_\_\_

Who is covered: \_\_\_\_\_

Limits & Limitations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Agreement Terms**

Both parties agree to the following:

- The intent of this agreement is to build and document mutually beneficial partnership between Park and Recreation Department and its partners.
- The projected dollar values of the services contributed are accurate.
- This agreement may be terminated by either party with seven (7) days written notice.
- The staff and personnel involved will at all times represent both parties in this partnership in a professional manner, and reflect the commitment of both parties to quality services and customer satisfaction.
- The commitment of personnel, facilities, supplies/materials, and cash will be honored according to the timetable agreed upon by both parties.

**Community Partner Signatures:**

**Park and Recreation Department Signatures:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Community Partner Executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Partner Project Contact

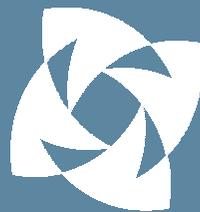
\_\_\_\_\_  
Park & Recreation Project Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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