DRIPPING SPRINGS
Texas

PARKS &COMMUNITY
CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS



City of Dripping Springs

PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

ADOPTION DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2025

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION (COMING SOON)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2026 Dripping Springs Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan was developed by the City of Dripping Springs with the technical support and design assistance of Halff, Mend Collaborative, and ETC Institute. A special thanks goes to the countless community members, property owners, staff members and community leaders for their insight and support during the duration of this study. And a sincere thank you to City of Dripping Springs for excellent photos and Dennis Baldwin for skatepark and skateboarder photos. The following individuals are recognized for their substantial contributions towards the creation of the 2026 Dripping Springs Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

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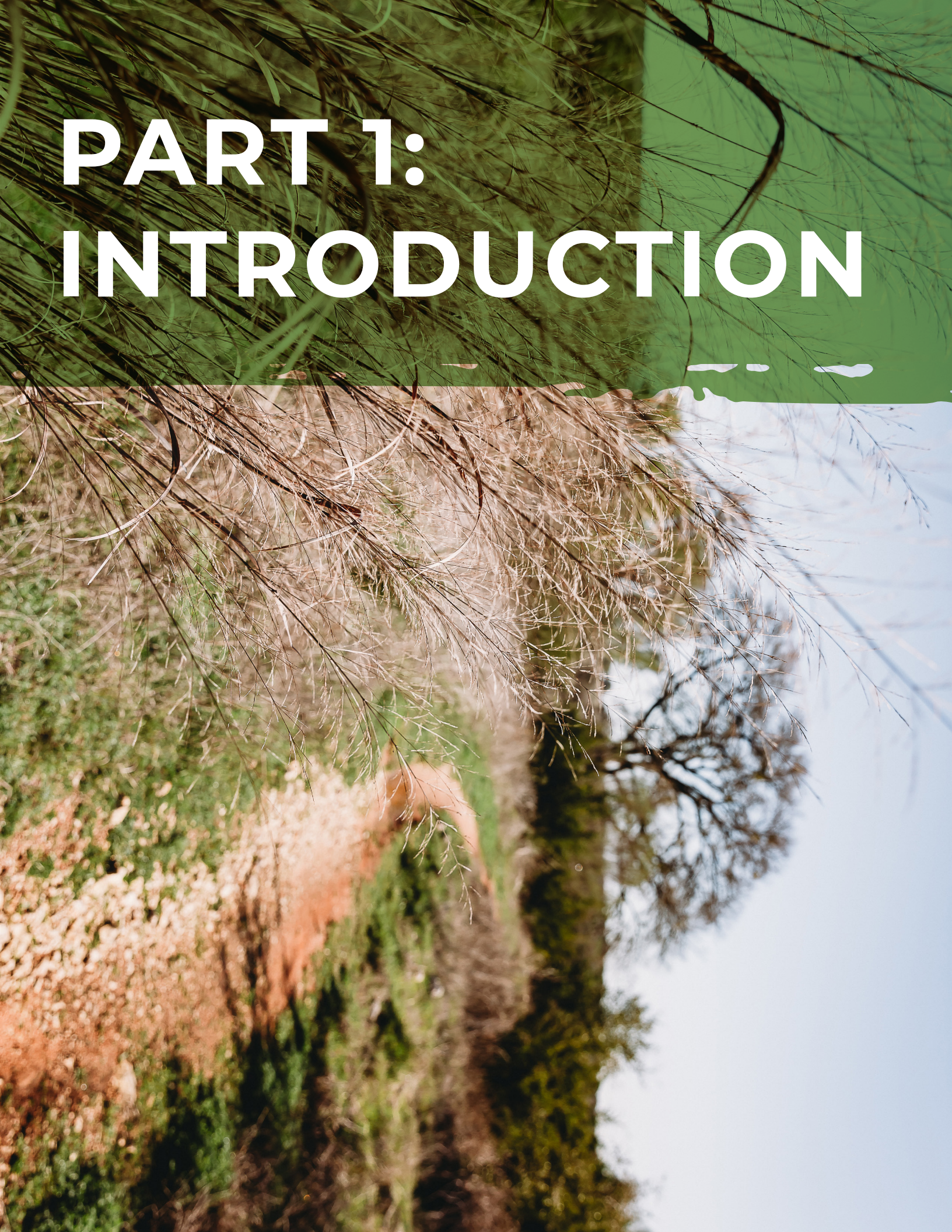
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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS PLAN

The 2026 Dripping Springs Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan was developed over a 12-month period through the dedicated efforts of Parks and Community Services staff, community stakeholders, and engaged residents. This Plan reflects the energy and aspirations of a community committed to excellence and a high quality of life. A local community's trust in its government stems from the city's ability to be good stewards of the community facilities, natural amenities, and capital resources. The quality and accessibility of these spaces directly shape how residents experience and value their community.

Thousands of residents contributed to the development of this Plan through stakeholder meetings, open houses, pop-up events at local festivals, online surveys, public meetings, and direct correspondence with the Parks and Community Services (PCS) Department. Their input underscores the vital role that parks and natural spaces play in Dripping Springs, reflecting a deep appreciation for the area's agricultural heritage and scenic landscape. As Dripping Springs continues to experience rapid growth, thoughtful parks and recreation planning becomes increasingly important. A proactive, long-range parks, recreation, and open space master plan is a vital tool that enables the City to anticipate future needs, identify opportunities for new parks, programs, and facilities, and align investments to meet community demand.



The Importance and Benefits of Park Planning

Parks play a vital role in promoting healthy lifestyles and fostering community well-being. As daily routines become more sedentary, parks provide essential spaces for both active and passive recreation that support physical and mental health. Beyond exercise, parks offer opportunities to connect with nature and engage in social activities, helping to reduce stress and build strong, supportive communities. Whether through casual conversations at a playground, participation in sports leagues, or volunteering, parks foster a sense of community that strengthens neighborhood ties.

In addition to their health and social benefits, parks contribute significantly to local economies and environmental conservation. They attract visitors and businesses, stimulate spending at nearby establishments, and increase property values through proximity to green spaces. Parks also provide safe, enriching environments for youth and support conservation efforts that protect natural resources and guide sustainable urban development. Thoughtfully located parks can guide responsible development, protect sensitive areas, and enhance tourism by hosting events and showcasing local culture and natural beauty. Together, these benefits make parks an essential part of Dripping Springs' identity, livability, and long-term success.



PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Dripping Springs Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan reflects a holistic approach to planning for parks, recreation, and open space by planning for individual parks, future parks, and the whole system comprehensively. Each park in Dripping Springs has a strong, unique identity and needs a tailored assessment, analysis, and recommendations. This approach ensures that each part of the Plan builds on the previous elements, culminating in a cohesive strategy that aligns with the community's priorities and aspirations.

Part 1: Introduction

Part 1 sets the stage for the Plan by outlining the unique context of Dripping Springs. This section explores the community's history, demographic trends, and the important community conversations that took place. This Plan includes a robust public engagement process where the community voiced how they would like to see the future of Dripping Springs. This citizen driven input formed the foundation for this plan. Important values, such as environmental stewardship, family-centric amenities and activities, and wellness. Part 1 culminates with the Plan's Guiding Principles which establish the long-term vision and guidance for a successful parks, recreation, and open space system.

Part 2: Park System

Part 2 outlines the detailed analysis and assessment of the parks, recreation, and open space system. This data-driven analysis combined with community desires provides the basis for the recommendations. Structuring this section into both system-wide analysis and park-by-park recommendations contributes to elevating the parks system while also respecting the individual "personality" of each park. Building on the Guiding Principles set forth in Part 1, Part 2 provides strategic recommendations that address individual parks.

Part 3: Implementation

Recognizing that planning must be paired with effective execution, Part 3 focuses on the mission and vision of the City's PCS Department and the steps necessary to realize the Plan's system-wide recommendations. Detailed action items and timelines promote accountability and enable the City to prioritize investments that offer the greatest community benefit.



Vendor at December Art Market

COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING

Dripping Springs is located in the heart of Central Texas, approximately 23 miles west of Austin along the US 290 corridor. The city offers scenic rolling hills, creeks, and a welcoming small-town atmosphere, and is the first International Dark Sky community in Texas.

Geographic Context

The area encompassed by this Plan includes Dripping Springs' 8.7 square miles of city limits and 112 square miles of extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), as shown in **Map 1.1, Regional Context**. Compared to most other Texas cities, Dripping Springs has an unusually large ETJ. Based on population, the standard determinant for ETJ size in Texas, Dripping Springs would have a 0.5-mile ETJ. However, in the 1980s, spurred by concerns regarding Austin's growth towards Dripping Springs, landowners in the area surrounding Dripping Springs voluntarily petitioned to join Dripping Springs' ETJ, prompting an agreement between the cities of Dripping Springs and Austin. The large size of Dripping Springs' ETJ presents unique considerations for the City because residents in the ETJ are not subject to City property (ad valorem) taxes but still use the City's parks, trails, and open spaces.



Park signage in Dripping Springs Ranch Park

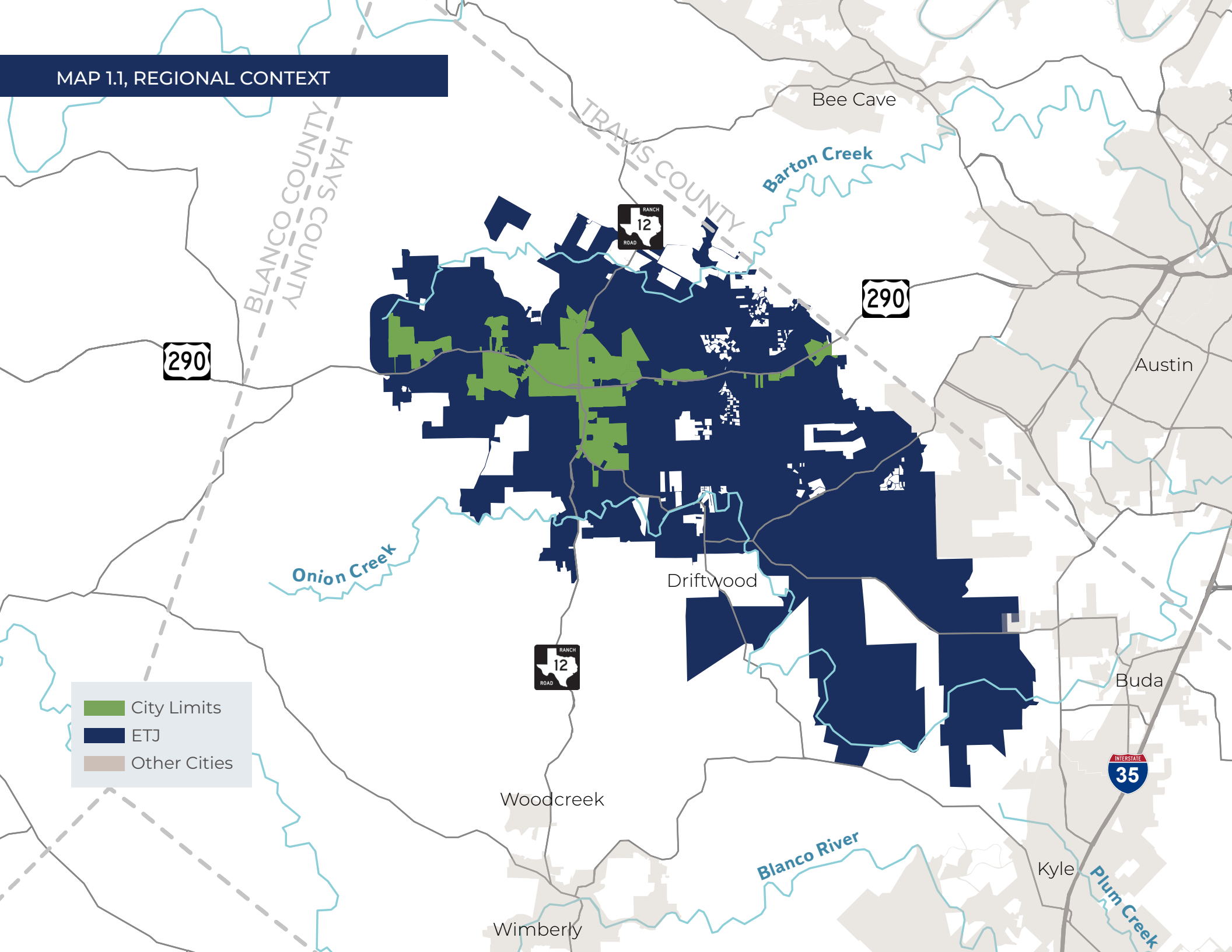
Cultural Context

Dripping Springs is deeply rooted in the cultural and natural heritage of Central Texas, and the PCS Department plays a significant role in preserving and sharing this culture. The city's history is reflected in preserved landmarks such as the Pound House Farmstead, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which offers a look into early settler life in the region. Charro Ranch Park features interpretive signage highlighting the area's ranching legacy and native ecology, while Dripping Springs Ranch Park regularly hosts equestrian and 4-H events, and community celebrations that honor the city's rural and agricultural traditions.

Local festivals such as the Founders Day Festival, Christmas on Mercer, and the Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival draw thousands to the city's parks and historic downtown, creating strong ties between public spaces and cultural identity. Together, these assets foster a sense of pride and continuity, making cultural and community experiences central to the parks and recreation system.



Hunter Jumper Show in Dripping Springs Ranch Park


MAP 1.1, REGIONAL CONTEXT
Bee Cave
Barton Creek
TRAVIS COUNTY
HAYS COUNTY
BLANCO COUNTY
290
290
RANCH 12 ROAD
RANCH 12 ROAD
Austin
Driftwood
Onion Creek
Buda
INTERSTATE 35
Woodcreek
Blanco River
Kyle
Plum Creek
Wimberly
City Limits
ETJ
Other Cities

Community Profile

Demographics

The following demographic data is based on 5-year estimates from the 2023 American Community Survey data provided by the US Census Bureau.

CURRENT POPULATION

	Dripping Springs (city limits only)	Hays County	Texas
2023	**8,689**	256,429	29,145,505

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

AGE	%
Persons under 5 years old	6.5
Persons under 18 years old	27.1
Persons between 19 - 64 years old	50.3
Persons 65 years and over	16.2
Female persons	47.9
Male persons	52.1



Children at the Rodeo

Median Household Income

The Median Household Income in Dripping Springs, Texas is $106,103 in 2023.

Employment

The Employment Rate for the civilian labor force 16 years of age or older in Dripping Springs, Texas is 63.8 percent. The Unemployment Rate is 3.1 percent.

Poverty

The Poverty Rate in Dripping Springs, Texas is 2.1 percent, compared to the State of Texas Poverty Rate of 13.7 percent.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

RACE	
Total Pop.	8,689
	%
One Race	
White	82
Black or African American	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	<1
Asian	9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0
Some Other Race	1
Two or More Races	7
HISPANIC OR LATINO	
Hispanic or Latino	13
Not Hispanic or Latino	77



Family at Eggstravaganza

HEALTH

POPULATION UNDER 65 YEARS	Total %
Persons With a Disability	4.3
Persons Without Health Insurance	8.7

EDUCATION

POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER	Total %
High School Graduate or Higher	96.3
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	63.1

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS HOUSEHOLDS

Total Households

2,475

Average Household Size

2.53

Average Family Size

3.14

Households with one or more people 65 years and over

30%

Households with one or more people under 18 years old

44%

If you were to write a "Google Review" of the Dripping Springs Parks, what would you say?

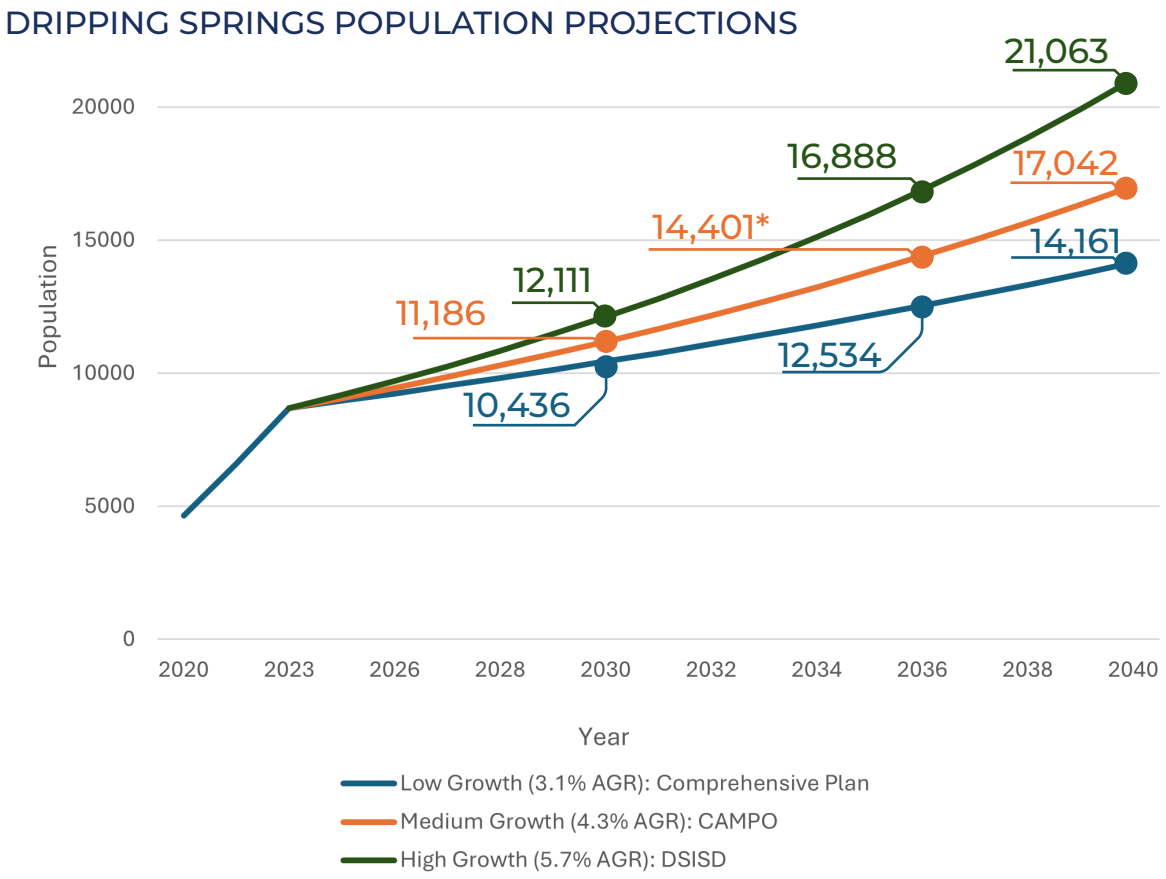
> Amazing facilities and 1st class employees.
>
> -Open House attendee

Population Projections

Utilizing data provided by the US Census, the 2023 population of Dripping Springs is estimated to be 8,689 people. Ten-year population projections were performed using three different projection data sources to represent high, medium and low growth scenarios. These sources include:

- **Low Growth:** The Dripping Springs Comprehensive Plan projected annual growth rate of 3.1 percent.
- **Medium Growth:** The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) projected annual growth rate of 4.3 percent.
- **High Growth:** The Dripping Springs Independent School District (DSISD) projected annual growth rate of 5.7 percent.

Under these scenarios, the projected 2036 population of Dripping Springs is estimated to range from 12,534 residents to 16,880 residents, representing an increase of 44.25 percent to 94.27 percent over the next ten years. For the purposes of this report, the 2036 population within Dripping Springs city limits is projected to be **14,401** based on CAMPO's projected annual growth rate.



Past Planning Efforts

This Plan is preceded by numerous prior planning efforts. Each of the following plans provided foundational support for the development of this Plan:

- **2014 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan**: The City established baseline inventory data, level-of-service standards, and community priorities that will still inform the priorities of this Plan.
- **2020 Dripping Springs Citywide Trails Plan:** The Trails Plan established an interconnected, multimodal network linking neighborhoods, schools, and commercial centers, laying the groundwork for safe, active transportation and regional trail connectivity. The Citywide Trails Plan is discussed in greater detail in Part 2.
- **2040 Comprehensive Plan**: This plan aligns parks and open-space goals with land-use, mobility, and economic-development policies to ensure that recreation resources grow in stride with the rapid development in the area.

Building on these community plans, the City adopted individual master plans for some larger parks including Founders Memorial Park, Dripping Springs Ranch Park, Charro Ranch Park, and Rathgeber Natural Resource Park. Each park-specific plan translated broad goals into tailored design concepts, programming strategies, and phasing schedules that respond to unique ecological assets and recreation needs. This Plan builds on the priorities of these previous efforts and the community's priorities today, responding to today's growth pressures, and guiding future investments.



Park signage at Dripping Springs Ranch Park



Dorian Zev Kweller Memorial Skatepark in Founders Memorial Park

Dripping Springs' Parks Inventory

Existing Parks System

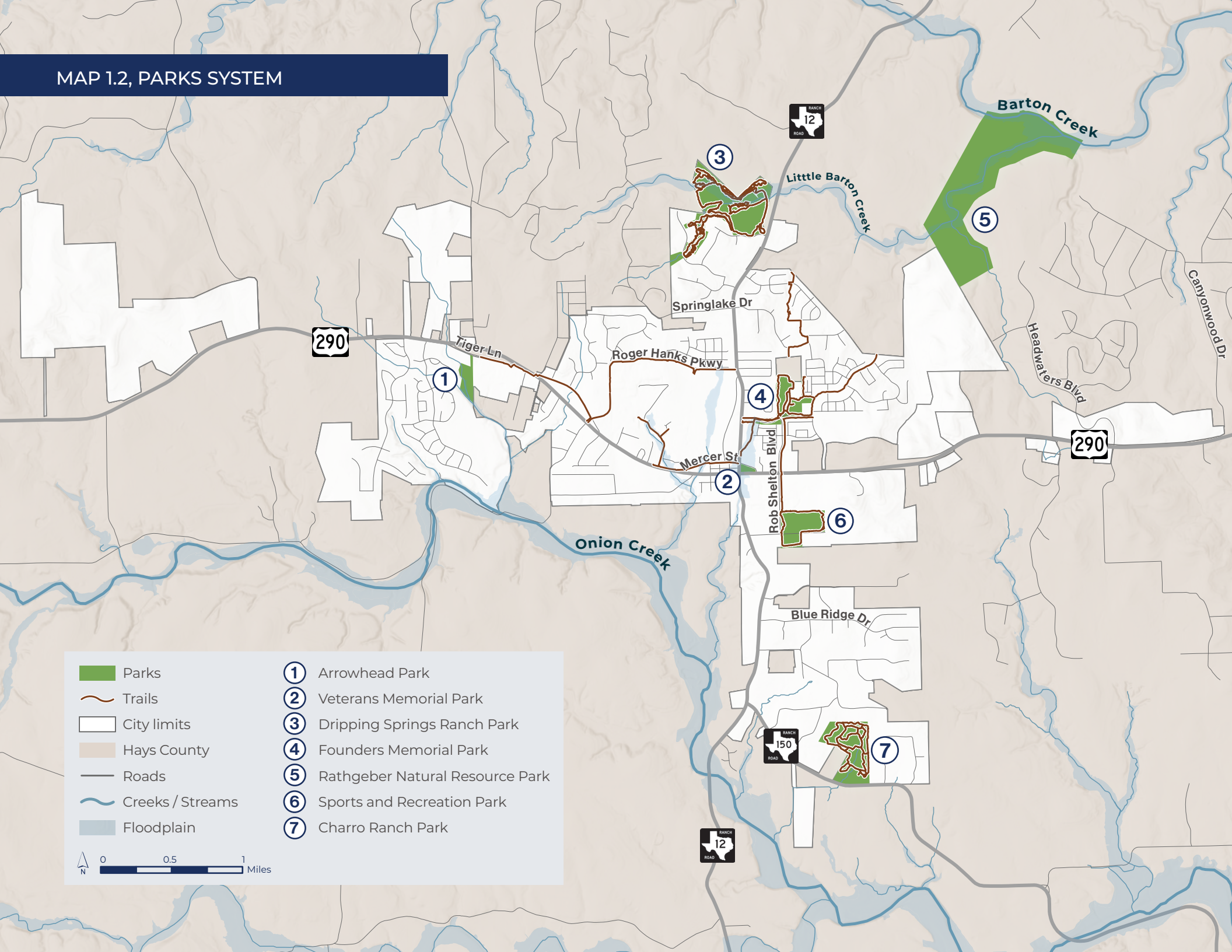
The City of Dripping Springs' park system is comprised of five developed parks that together account for roughly 261 acres and offer a variety of event, athletic, and passive open-space experiences. The parks system inventory, below, highlights some of the larger amenities found in each of these parks.

Additionally, there are two undeveloped parks that are within planning phases as of the date of this Plan. **Map 1.2, Existing Parks System** shows the location of all seven of these parks.

DRIPPING SPRINGS' PARKS SYSTEM INVENTORY

Park Name	Park Classification	Acres	Diamond Fields	Batting Cages	Rectangular Fields	Basketball Court (outdoor)	Sand Volleyball Court (outdoor)	Swimming Pools (outdoor)	Playground Areas	Skateparks	Walking / Hiking Trails	Equestrian Trails	Mountain Bike Trails	Pavilions	Restrooms	Parking	Picnic Tables	Wildlife Viewing Stations
Developed Parkland																		
Charro Ranch Park	Community	67.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.7	-	-	1	-	15	6	1
Founders Memorial Park	Community	33.5	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	1.5	-	-	1	2	195	24	-
DS Ranch Park	Special Use	118.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		6	✓	✓	-	2	241	6	1
Sports & Recreation Park	Community	39.8	4	6	17	1	1	-	1		1	-	-	-	2	220	23	-
Veterans Memorial Park	Special Use	1.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	5	-
	Total	261.4	4	6	19	1	1	1	3	1	11.2	-	-	2	6	721	64	2
Undeveloped Parkland																		
Arrowhead Park	Community	13.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rathgeber Natural Resource Park	Regional	299.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	313.7																
	Developed and Undeveloped Total	575.1																

MAP 1.2, PARKS SYSTEM



Natural Resources

A defining characteristic of Dripping Springs is its Hill Country features. An in-depth assessment of the city's existing natural resources was performed as part of this planning process. This section provides an overview of the environmental conditions found within Dripping Springs. Additional detail of features and conditions found in each of the individual parks is provided in Part 2.

Geology and Hydrology:

- The city is part of the Onion Creek-Colorado River watershed and lies within the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone.

Ecoregion:

- Dripping Springs is located within the Edwards Plateau ecoregion, characterized by rugged limestone.

Biodiversity:

- Hays County is home to 14 federally endangered and five federally threatened species, along with one state-endangered and nine state-threatened species.

Bird City

- Dripping Springs is designated through Bird City Texas, a program of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Audubon Texas, which helps the City promote bird conservation and environmental stewardship.

Dark Skies

- Dripping Springs is certified as an International Dark Sky Place by DarkSky International, recognizing its commitment to reducing light pollution and preserving the natural night sky.

Climate Challenges and Risk

- Hay's County climate is projected to become hotter and more extreme, with greater variability in temperature and precipitation.
- Wildfire risk is projected to rise. Higher temperatures and drier conditions will likely increase fire intensity, and prolonged droughts will likely extend periods of high fire danger.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

To ensure that this Plan embodies the community vision, an extensive public engagement process was completed to identify the needs and desires of the community. The information and feedback collected throughout this process created the foundation for this Plan and shaped the recommendations for future action. The key engagement efforts are highlighted in the following pages.

Stakeholder Sessions

The project team met with approximately 20 different local groups. During these stakeholder listening sessions, attendees discussed a wide range of topics related to parks and recreation in Dripping Springs. Generally, stakeholders expressed a desire for more sports and activities for families, opportunities to connect with nature, increased walking and biking infrastructure, and more community gathering spaces such as pavilions or an indoor recreation center.

Engagement Booths

To broaden community outreach beyond formal meetings, the project team hosted interactive engagement booths at three of Dripping Springs' signature events: the Farmers Market, Christmas on Mercer, and Founders Day. These booths offered residents an easy, informal way to learn about the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, receive survey information, and learn about upcoming open houses. Hands-on activities kept children engaged while parents shared ideas, ensuring that entire families could contribute feedback.

Parks Visioning Tour

The project team arranged a one-day park tour for the Dripping Springs City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission. The itinerary combined key sites within the City's own park system with benchmark parks in neighboring communities, giving participants a diverse cross-section of best practices in design, programming, and stewardship. Seeing these high-performing parks firsthand allowed decision-makers to assess real-world examples of parks performing well.



Participation at the Christmas on Mercer Engagement Booth



Participation at the Founders Day Festival Engagement Booth

Statistically Valid Survey

A survey was administered via mail to households within the city limits and available online to everyone. The survey was launched in January 2025 and closed in March 2025. Respondents could complete the survey in English or Spanish by phone, mail, or online. The resulting sample size of 222 households in the city limits, or approximately 10 percent of the population, have a +/-6.2 percent margin of error at the 95 percent level of confidence. For more information, refer to the **Appendix**.

Statistically Valid Survey Top Priorities for Investment

The statistically valid survey identified the community's top priorities for investment in several categories: facilities and amenities, programming and events, and trail features. To determine these priorities, survey respondents indicated the degree to which these needs are met and the importance of the program or facilities. The resulting priorities are categorized into three ratings:

- **Top Priorities:** Programs, amenities, facilities, and trail features that are of high importance to the community and/or have a higher unmet need. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on the greatest number of households.
- **Continued Emphasis:** Programs, amenities, facilities, and trail features that are of high importance to the community and/or the need for these amenities is partially or mostly met.
- **Lower Need:** Programs, amenities, and facilities that are of lower importance to the community or the need for these amenities is mostly satisfied. Improvements may be warranted if the needs of very specialized populations are being targeted.



FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

TOP PRIORITIES

1. Indoor community center
2. Trails
3. Restrooms
4. Tennis / pickleball
5. Nature / wildlife viewing
6. Shade
7. Splash pads
8. Playgrounds
9. Dog parks

CONTINUED EMPHASIS

10. Outdoor amphitheater
11. Swimming pools
12. Picnic shelter
13. Exercise stations
14. Inclusive access and amenities
15. Multipurpose fields
16. Mountain bike trails
17. Public art
18. Outdoor activities
19. Lighting
20. BBQ grills / benches
21. Signage
22. Event spaces
23. Basketball courts
24. Disc golf course

LOWER NEED

25. Equestrian facilities
26. Baseball / softball fields
27. Volleyball courts
28. Football fields
29. Skateparks

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

TOP PRIORITIES

1. Outdoor adventure
2. Special events / performances
3. Nature / environmental education
4. Fitness and wellness
5. Farmers market
6. Tennis / pickleball
7. Athletic programs
8. Outdoor public art
9. Sport leagues
10. Adult art / dance / performing arts

CONTINUED EMPHASIS

11. Continuing education
12. Teen programs
13. S.T.E.M.
14. Athletic special events
15. Senior programs
16. Before / after school programs
17. Equestrian / livestock
18. Youth art / dance / performing arts
19. Water fitness
20. Preschool programs
21. Swimming lessons

LOWER NEED

22. Geocaching
23. Gymnastics
24. Extreme sports
25. All abilities
26. Skateboarding

TRAIL FEATURES

TOP PRIORITIES

1. Trails connecting destinations
2. Nature trails
3. Restrooms
4. Shade
5. Water stations
6. Neighborhood access to trails
7. Internal park loop trails
8. Trailheads with parking
9. Benches and other seating areas
10. Bike lanes or paths on trails

CONTINUED EMPHASIS

11. Lighting and security amenities
12. Wayfinding signage
13. Fitness stations
14. Mountain bike trails
15. Equestrian trails

67%

of survey respondents participated in or attended a recreation program/activity, special event, or performance offered by the City of Dripping Springs in the last year. Nationally, only about 36% of respondents participate in City recreational programs.

Open Houses

Two open houses were held at Dripping Springs Ranch Park during the development of this Plan. These come and go style events gave people a chance to give input on important priorities for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in Dripping Springs. Information gathered at these open houses informed guiding principles, park recommendations, and recreational programming desires.

The first public open house took place on January 16, 2025. Attendees had opportunities to speak directly with members of the project team, ask questions, and learn about the planning process and future of parks in Dripping Springs. Multiple interactive stations allowed residents to explore potential improvements through hands-on activities, where they could prioritize amenities and suggest their preferences for certain aspects of each park.

The second open house took place on May 8, 2025. Dripping Springs residents were invited to the open house to review the draft guiding principles, recommend park improvements, and view concept plans for Arrowhead Park and Dripping Springs Ranch Park. Attendees also provided feedback on park project prioritization for Charro Ranch Park, Founders Memorial Park, and Sports and Recreation Park.

110+
open house attendees

30+
interactive stations



Open House Participants



Open House Participants

Themes from the Open Houses

Livestock Programming

Desired programming centered around agriculture, livestock, horses, outdoor adventure, and nature.

Dark Skies

Dark skies was the highest voted conservation, nature, and ecology component.

Recreational Facilities

People expressed interest in adding or improving sports courts, sports fields, and trails.

Nature

In general, there was a strong desire to maintain natural and undisturbed spaces.

Stewardship

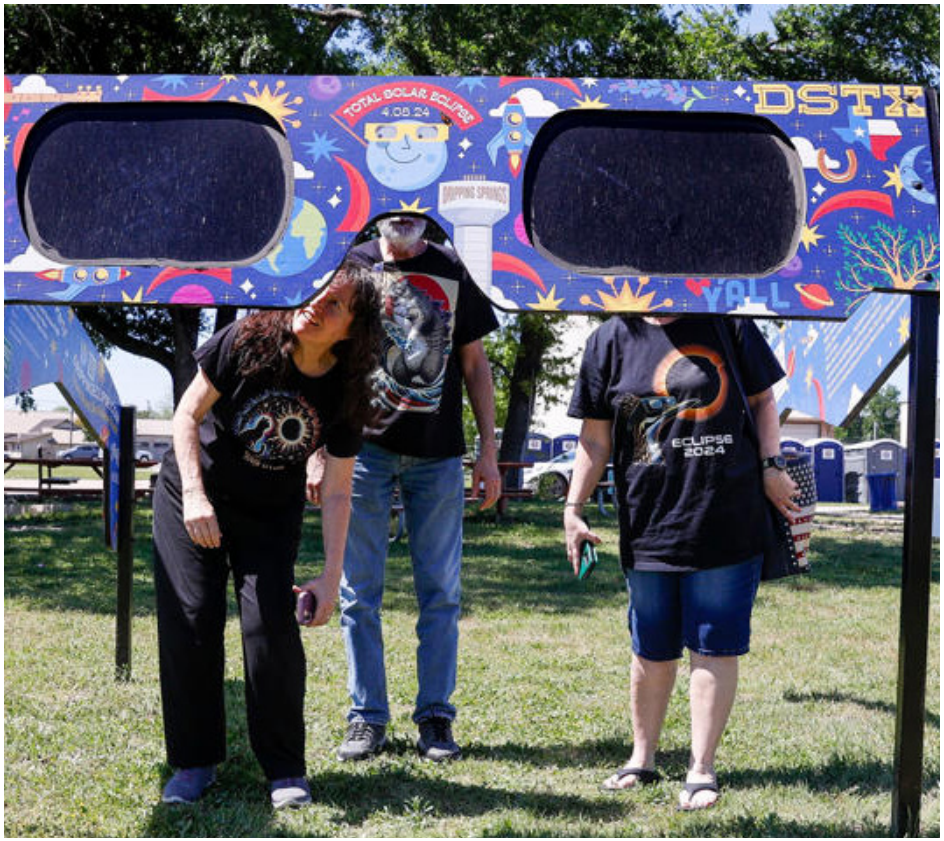
A theme heard from the open house was the desire of residents to maintain the natural spaces in Dripping Springs. As part of one open house, attendees were asked to share their top priorities for stewardship opportunities they could participate in. The top three stewardship volunteer priorities included:

- Planting trees and other native plants
- Picking up trash
- Seeding and restoring areas



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Guiding Principles of this Plan provide a lens through which this Plan's recommendations were developed and through which all future decision-making should be viewed. The four Guiding Principles, highlighted on the following page, are derived from the major themes continually heard from stakeholders and the Dripping Springs community throughout the engagement process. The Principles provide guideposts for the implementation of the detailed recommendations outlined in this Plan. Future improvements, development, and other initiatives of the parks and recreation system should be consistent with these Principles.



Eclipse Glasses in Veterans Memorial Park



Playground at Dripping Springs Ranch Park



Skateboarder at Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community

Provide a high level of service to support the growing community by strengthening existing parks and recreation amenities and developing new parks. Proactively identify opportunities for land acquisition and support the current system through improvements and expanded access.

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation

Ensure the successful maintenance, growth, and management of parks, trails, open spaces, and programming in Dripping Springs by maintaining a well-funded, staffed, and effectively managed Parks and Community Services Department.

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country

Elevate local pride of exceptional natural areas through thoughtful conservation practices. Ensure good stewardship of the signature spirit of the Hill Country in Dripping Springs through focused efforts related to water conservation, habitat preservation, and native landscaping.

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and culture into public spaces and programming

Cultivate and preserve the unique Dripping Springs culture and Hill Country heritage to balance continued community growth. Promote art installations, community events, and educational programming to showcase the community's music, art, Hill Country nature, and agricultural roots. Emphasize this culture through the unique identities and intentions of each individual park.



PART 2: PARKS SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

To comprehensively plan for the future of parks and recreation in Dripping Springs, it is essential to understand the current parks, recreation, and open space system both as a whole and as individual components. **Part 2, Parks System** provides a comprehensive assessment of the citywide system, including analysis of park access and level of service, and a deeper dive into each park's unique characteristics and needs. Recommendations for each individual park are discussed in this section but for system-wide recommendations please refer to **Part 3, Implementation**.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

There are a multitude of assessments that can be conducted to analyze how a parks and recreation system is serving the public. This Plan uses five key methods to assess current and future park needs. The Demand, Resource, and Level of Service Assessments follow the methodologies provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for park master plans. The Recreational Programming and Conditions-Based Assessments follow industry best practices to measure park quality and recreational programming.



Participants share their desires for Dripping Springs parks at the Founders Day Festival.

Demand-Based Assessment

The Demand-Based Assessment identifies needs and interests of the community. It identifies the types of facilities, amenities, and activities that the community would like to see enhanced or added to Dripping Springs' parks.

Resource-Based Assessment

The Resource-Based Assessment reviews the natural resources present in Dripping Springs and the region. A detailed Ecological Assessment was conducted for each individual park and is presented in the Park Profiles.

Level of Service Assessment

The Level of Service Assessment evaluates the current distribution of and access to parks and facilities throughout the system, identifying underserved areas and opportunities to reduce service gaps.

Recreational Programming Assessment

The Recreational Programming Assessment evaluates the existing recreational programs to identify new opportunities for programs, understand recreation trends, and inform future program planning for meeting the community's needs.

Conditions-Based Assessment

The Conditions-Based Assessment evaluates the condition of existing parkland, recreational facilities, and structures to assist in prioritizing anticipated near-term maintenance needs. It augments potential long-term capital investments in the community's parks system.

Demand-Based Assessment

The Demand-Based Assessment considers the expressed needs and interests of the community obtained through the Plan's public outreach process, which included a statistically valid survey, two open house events, stakeholder meetings, engagement booths at festivals, and a parks visioning tour. Refer to **Part 1, Introduction** for more details on the administration and results of the individual public input opportunities. Public feedback provides the foundation for the Plan recommendations to ensure the parks, recreation, and open space system meets the needs of the community. Public input is fundamental to the recommendations found in this section, **Part 3, Implementation**, and summarized in the **Appendix.**

For the demand-based assessment, the results from the statistically valid survey provide the greatest insight for the types of amenities and facilities that are in highest demand based on an identified Priority Investment Rating (PIR). PIR is a tool for guiding future investment by determining a rating for amenities and facilities based on both their importance to the survey participants and the level to which a need for the amenity is met or unmet. Details about the PIR tool, developed by ETC Institute, and the results from the statistically valid survey can be found in the **Appendix**.

For Dripping Springs, PIR was calculated for three categories of park and recreation items: priorities for facilities and amenities, programming and events, and trail features. The items in each category are sorted into one of three priority ratings: Lower Need, Continued Emphasis, or Top Priority. A higher rating indicates that investments to provide these items are in higher demand, as the community has indicated these items and amenities to be of greater importance and/or have a greater unmet need. The top three ranking items from each category of park and recreation items are shown to the right. For more information, refer to the **Appendix**.

Priorities for Facility/Amenity Investments



Indoor Community Center



Trails



Restrooms

Priorities for Program Investments



Outdoor Adventure



Special Events / Performances



Nature / Environmental Education

Priorities for Trail Feature Investments



Trails Connecting Destinations



Nature Trails



Restrooms

Recreation and Leisure Trends Analysis

Recreation and leisure trends are constantly evolving, shaped by shifting demographics, lifestyle changes, technological advancements, and growing awareness of health, equity, and sustainability. These changes directly influence how communities use public spaces and what they expect from parks and recreation services.

Walking, cycling, yoga, nature-based recreation, and non-traditional sports like pickleball and disc golf have surged in popularity. At the same time, there's a growing demand for inclusive and intergenerational programming, unstructured play, and spaces that support both mental and physical well-being.

During the planning process, the City assessed local and regional recreation and leisure trends. Below are a few of the trends observed within Dripping Springs. For a full list of the identified recreation and leisure trends, see the **Appendix**.

Local/Regional Trends

Recreational Facilities

Universal Design

- Accessible to individuals of all abilities
- Accommodating diverse needs
- Promoting inclusivity

Multi-use Spaces: Design

- Flexible spaces that can be used for a variety of purposes and accessed by all
- Versatility in programming, for recreation providers to adapt to changing trends

Pickleball Facilities

- Indoor and outdoor pickleball courts

Transportation Services

- Ensure easy access to recreational facilities from popular locations like schools, senior living communities, or downtown areas

Playgrounds and Play Areas

- Destination/thematic, nature, and water play
- Playable art, climbable seat walls, hill slides
- Dramatic, imaginative play areas with interpretive and interactive elements
- Universal design and accessible play
- Pop-up temporary play elements or play areas with moveable parts
- Game tables in parks
- Topography and plantings for places to hide, roll, and tumble
- Challenge play elements such as climbing walls and ziplines
- Safe, accessible, synthetic or pour-in-place safety surfacing
- Sand in designated play areas with transfer stations into sand play area

Programming

Pop-up Park Programming

- Targeted outreach to underserved communities
- Arts & Crafts
- Concerts
- Movies
- Sports

Multi-generational Fitness and Wellness Programs

Sports Sampling Programs

Out of School Time Programs

Outdoor Recreation Amenities

Multi-use Trails

- Creation of extensive networks of trails
- Hiking
- Biking
- Trail running

Waterfront Recreation

- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- Paddleboarding

Water Play

- Provide interactive fun for all ages as well as relief from the heat
- Splash pads
- Spray grounds

Skate Parks

- Skateboarding
- Roller blading
- BMX biking

Fitness Zones

- Outdoor fitness equipment along trails or within parks

Dog Parks

- Off-leash play
- Small and large breeds
- Agility courses
- Amenities catering to pet owners

Nature Trails and Obstacle Courses

- Nature trails featuring natural obstacles and fitness stations
- Offering a blend of hiking, trail running, and obstacle course challenges

Outdoor Learning

- Wildlife observation
- Environmental stewardship
- Learning through observation points, interactive features, or signage

Sports Fields and Courts

Providing Space for New Activities

- Pickleball
- Futsal
- Badminton
- Cricket

Multi-use Spaces

- Sports fields and courts designed for multi-use purposes, accommodating various sports and recreational activities to maximize usability.

Adding Lighting

- Extend playing hours
- DarkSky approved lighting solutions

Sustainability Initiatives

- Use of recycled materials
- Energy-efficient lighting
- Environmentally conscious landscaping

Technology Integration

- Smart lighting
- Digital scoreboards
- Online booking systems for efficient amenity management

Smart Maintenance Systems

- Automated irrigation systems
- Turf monitoring
- Predictive maintenance tools

Resource-Based Assessment

The Resource-Based Assessment examines the existing natural resources within Dripping Springs. While a detailed ecological assessment was conducted inside Dripping Springs' parks, the existing natural resources discussed here were noted for the region.

Geology and Hydrology

Dripping Springs sits atop the Upper Glen Rose Member of the Cretaceous Glen Rose Formation, known for its stair-step limestone terrain. This formation supports the Upper Trinity Aquifer, a shallow water system feeding local springs and seeps. The city lies within the Onion Creek–Colorado River watershed and the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone, where surface activity is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to protect vital recharge areas.

Ecoregion

Located in the Edwards Plateau, Dripping Springs features rugged limestone terrain shaped by water and elevation. Juniper-oak woodlands cover slopes, while riparian woodlands flourish along streams. Fire suppression and grazing have allowed Ashe Juniper to spread, diminishing historic grasslands. At the southeastern edge, the Plateau transitions into the Balcones Canyonlands, home to springs, canyons, and endemic deciduous species like bigtooth maple and escarpment black cherry. Baldcypress and sycamore still line major waterways.

Biodiversity

The Edwards Plateau supports rich biodiversity, including over 100 of Texas' endemic plant species such as Texas snowbells and Texas wild-rice. Hays County is home to 14 federally endangered and five federally threatened species, supported by the region's unique geology, varied habitats, and groundwater systems. Some species, like the Monarch Butterfly, are under consideration for federal protection.

Bird City

Dripping Springs is certified as a Bird City Texas community for its efforts to protect bird habitats through native plantings, habitat restoration, and public education. Partners like the Dripping Springs Birding Club and Texas Master Naturalists help lead these initiatives, which support both biodiversity and eco-tourism.

Dark Skies

Recognized as an International Dark Sky Place by DarkSky International, Dripping Springs is committed to reducing light pollution through smart lighting and public education. These efforts protect wildlife, support public health, and preserve the night sky for future generations, reinforcing the City's role as a leader in environmental stewardship.



Level of Service Assessment

Parkland Level of Service

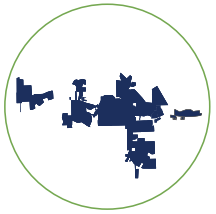
The purpose of the Parkland Levels of Service (LOS) assessment is to ensure that sufficient area is allocated for the outdoor recreation and open space needs of a community. Parkland LOS measures the amount of parkland a community provides per capita, often shown as 'X acres per 1,000 population.' The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) offers average LOS figures based on community population size. The national LOS averages are provided as guidance by NRPA through a national survey of participating communities across the country. According to the NRPA, communities with under 20,000 residents should have an average of 10 to 17 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Park Classifications

Parks, recreation, and open space systems include different park types to serve different geographic service areas, support different amenities, and address the needs of various user groups. Understanding the characteristics of different park types helps a community identify gaps and overlaps in the system and determine whether the placement of existing facilities meets the current needs of the community. This Plan identifies five park classifications applicable to Dripping Springs.



Founders Memorial Park is classified as a community park.



REGIONAL PARKS

- Typically over 100 acres, though sizes can vary significantly.
- Serve multiple communities or counties.
- Designed for multi-use and can accommodate large groups.
- Often include specialized facilities or amenities.



COMMUNITY PARKS

- Typically between 30 and 100 acres.
- Serve city residents and sometimes nearby communities.
- Support larger neighborhood and citywide events.
- May feature a mix of special-use facilities (e.g., athletic complexes, swimming pools, historical areas) and neighborhood amenities (e.g., playgrounds, sports courts, picnic areas).



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- Typically between 3 and 10 acres.
- Serve nearby neighborhoods within walking or biking distance.
- Usually do not include facilities like restrooms or parking lots.
- Offer a combination of passive and active amenities such as trails, playgrounds, pavilions, and benches.



MINI PARKS

- Typically under 1 acre in size.
- Located in highly developed or urban areas.
- Designed for passive recreation and brief visits.
- May include seating, small play features, or serve as green spaces around monuments or landmarks important to the surrounding community.



SPECIAL USE PARKS

- No standard size, as they are based on unique or specialized functions.
- Focused on single-purpose or specialized activities (e.g., golf courses, marinas, arboretums, zoos, plazas, community squares, historic sites).
- Primarily serve local users but may attract regional visitors depending on the feature or use.

Table 2.1, Current Parkland LOS (2025) shows the LOS for existing park acreage based on a 2025 population of 8,689. The "Current LOS" column reflects the number of park acres per 1,000 residents, while the "Target LOS Range" shows the NRPA's recommended standard. As of 2025, Dripping Springs exceeds the NRPA recommendation of 10 to 17 acres per 1,000 residents for communities under 20,000 in population.

However, the tables below show that the number of neighborhood park acres falls below NRPA guidelines. This is largely because many neighborhood parks in Dripping Springs are privately maintained. Currently, there are 12 such parks, which likely offset the apparent deficit and help meet the NRPA's recommended acreage for neighborhood parks.

Table 2.2, Future Parkland LOS (2036) includes future parkland and benchmarks against the projected 2036 population of 14,401 residents. With the assumption that Rathgeber Natural Resource Park and Arrowhead Park are opened by 2036, the Dripping Springs park system would exceed the NRPA guidelines for total acres of parkland.

It is important to note that all communities are unique, and the NRPA guidelines do not account for the overall quality of the parks or number of amenities that are provided. Furthermore, the definition of parkland may vary between communities, which could impact the system-wide LOS. The acreage per capita is a useful measurement tool but is just one determinant of a parks system's service to the community evaluated in this Plan.

TABLE 2.1, CURRENT PARKLAND LOS (2025)

Park Classification	Number of Parks	2025 Acreage	Current LOS	Target LOS Range	Recommended Target Acreage (2025)	Above or Below Target	
Regional	0	-	0.0	4 - 6	34.8	(34.8)	Below
Community	3	140.6	16.2	2 - 4	17.4	105.8	Above
Neighborhood	0	-	0.0	1 - 2	8.7	(8.7)	Below
Special Use	2	120.8	13.9	3 - 5	26.1	77.4	Above
Totals	**5**	**261.4**	**30.1**	**10 - 17**	**86.89**	**174.51**	**Above**

TABLE 2.2, FUTURE PARKLAND LOS (2036)

Park Classification	Number of Parks	2036 Acreage	Future LOS	Target LOS Range	Recommended Target Acreage (2036)	Above or Below Target	
Regional	1	299.8	20.8	4 - 6	57.6	213.4	Above
Community	4	154.5	10.7	2 - 4	28.8	96.9	Above
Neighborhood	0	-	0.0	1 - 2	14.4	(14.4)	Below
Special Use	2	120.8	8.4	3 - 5	43.2	48.8	Above
Totals	**7**	**575.1**	**39.9**	**10 - 17**	**144**	**431.1**	**Above**

Future Parks in Dripping Springs

Based on **Table 2.1, Current Parkland LOS (2025)** and **Table 2.2, Future Parkland LOS (2036),** Dripping Springs' park system is above the NRPA guidelines for acres of community and special use parks but falls short in regional and neighborhood park acreage. With the planned inclusion of Rathgeber Natural Resource Park, the City will meet the regional park acreage guidance, though this park may take more than 10 years to open to the public. When privately maintained neighborhood parks are considered, the City likely meets the neighborhood park acreage guidance as well.

However, Parkland LOS is only one measure and does not reflect park quality, amenities, or accessibility. While the parkland acreage may meet the guidelines, broader assessments and community feedback highlight additional needs. It is safe to assume that the "Open Spaces, Friendly Faces" community, would envision themselves as going above and beyond national guidelines for parks and open space.

Indeed, public input emphasized a strong desire for more natural areas, preservation efforts, enhanced amenities in existing parks, and new parks with athletic and gathering spaces. In response, this Plan recommends improving existing parks and pursuing opportunities for new parks to better serve the community and align with both national standards and local priorities.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Dripping Springs aspires to be a parks-focused community that not only meets but exceeds national standards.
- Although the Parkland Level of Service (LOS) analysis shows that current park acreage meets national standards, additional assessments (detailed on the following pages) reveal a need for more amenities and improved access to parks.
- The City should expand parks, develop new recreation facilities, connect parks with trails and sidewalks, and preserve open space as desired by the community and supported by the full assessment conducted for this Plan.

Walkability Analysis

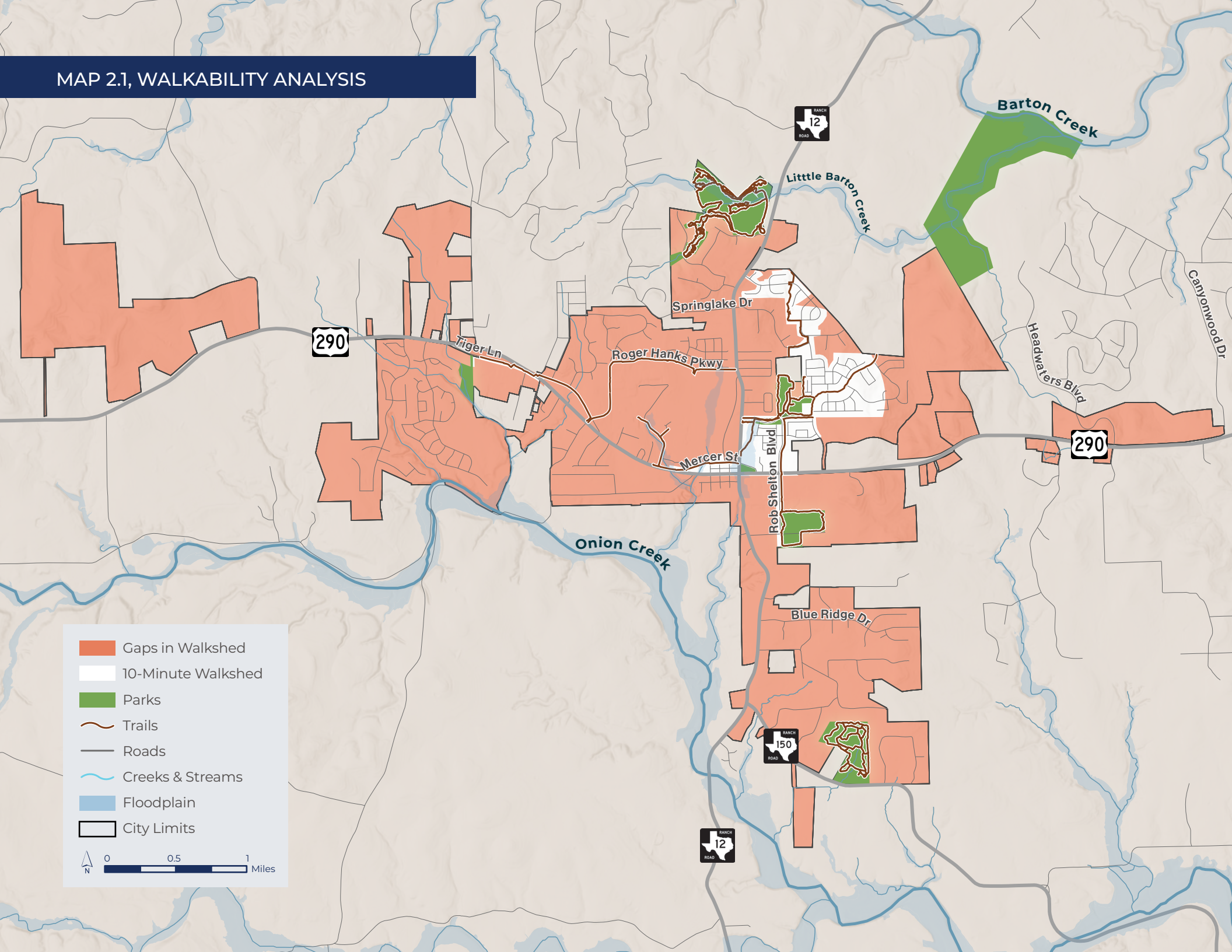
Evaluating park access by walkability provides a more equitable approach to determining where gaps exist in the parks system. A 10-minute walkshed equates to approximately a half-mile radius around a park. The walkshed takes into account the availability of pedestrian infrastructure such as sidewalks and trails as well as presence of physical barriers that limit access such as highways and waterways.

In Dripping Springs, only 10 percent of people can safely walk to a City park within 10 minutes. This is notably lower than the median for cities across the U.S., which is 74 percent. **Map 2.1, Walkability Analysis** on the following page illustrates the existing walksheds for the City parks system in Dripping Springs. On the map, areas shown in red fall outside of this 10-minute walkshed, highlighting parts of the city without convenient City park access. Most of these gaps occur due to a lack of sidewalks connecting people to their parks. While there are private neighborhood parks located in the gaps, from a system-wide standpoint walkability improvements are needed.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The City should prioritize connecting people to parks through the citywide trail network and sidewalk improvements. By adding trails or sidewalks in areas without walkable access to parks, the City can increase walkability and community quality of life.
- The City should seek opportunities to develop new parks in underserved areas or expand existing parks with added pedestrian and bike connections.

MAP 2.1, WALKABILITY ANALYSIS



Citywide Trails

Trails are an increasingly popular amenity desired by many communities. Trails improve the quality of life for residents, increase property values, and provide alternative transportation options. Trails contribute to individual and community health by encouraging an active lifestyle, providing spaces for socialization and gathering, and increasing exposure to and connections with nature, which has been shown to improve levels of mental wellbeing.

Dripping Springs currently has 11.32 miles of trails within parks and 8.63 miles of public trails across the city, as shown on **Map 2.2, Dripping Springs Trails Plan**. The Dripping Springs Trails Plan, developed by the City of Dripping Springs, envisions a trail system that will allow residents to access local destinations, connect to regional trail networks, and enjoy the outdoors.

Community interest in expanding the trail system was strongly affirmed during the public engagement process. Trails ranked as the second highest investment priority among survey respondents (see the **Appendix**), and this feedback helped inform recommended trail improvements and priority trail feature investments throughout this plan.

In support of walkability and connectivity goals, the City has regularly pursued funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which supports infrastructure for non-motorized transportation. Past and ongoing TAP-funded projects include sidewalks near Dripping Springs Middle School, Rob Shelton Boulevard, Mercer Street, Old Fitzhugh Road, and Sportsplex Drive. The City should continue to apply for TAP funding as frequently as eligible and proactively pursue additional grant and partnership opportunities to advance its trail network. Exploring funding from sources such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, regional MPOs, or public-private partnerships can further accelerate trail development and implementation of the Trails Plan.



Do You Want Multi-modal Routes to Everyday Destinations? Texas has funding for that!

What is the Transportation Alternatives Program?

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a funding opportunity offered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) that helps communities improve walking, biking, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. Whether it's building a new sidewalk, creating a safer crosswalk near a school, building trails, or adding a shared-use bike path, the TAP provides financial support for projects that make getting around without a car easier and safer.

In 2025, Texas has $137,331,804 available to award to community-identified projects.

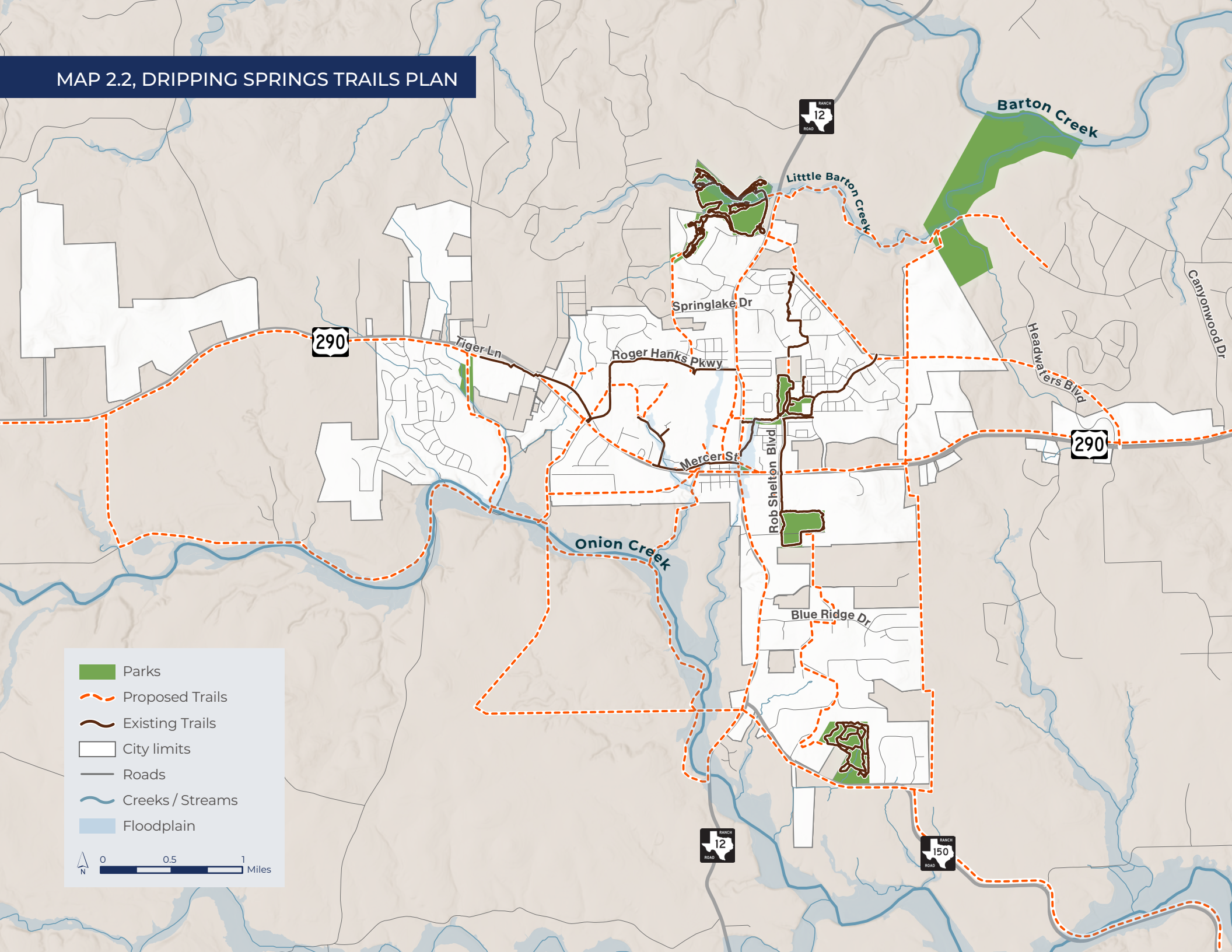
What kinds of projects are eligible?

Nearly 95 percent of dollars go to bicycling and walking projects including sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, Safe Routes to School projects (within approximately 2 miles of a school), and recreational trails. Other eligible projects include: inventory and removal of outdoor advertising; historic preservation; vegetation management; archaeological activities; turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas; environmental mitigation; and streetscape improvements related to other TAP projects.

How much does the TAP cover?

TAP funds can cover up to 80 percent of the total project cost. The community must provide at least 20 percent in matching funds, which can include local dollars, in-kind labor, or other non-federal funds. In some cases, TxDOT can provide assistance with the 20 percent local match.

MAP 2.2, DRIPPING SPRINGS TRAILS PLAN



Facilities Level of Service

As with parkland, the number of recreational facilities in relation to population can be measured to estimate public need. Communities often measure recreational facility needs as either a ratio, number of facilities per 1,000 residents or square footage per 1,000 residents. The national facility LOS averages are provided as guidance by NRPA through a national survey of participating communities across the country. The City's recreational facility LOS was calculated using the current population (8,689 residents) compared to the existing recreational facility inventory, shown in **Table 2.3, Recreational Facility LOS Comparison (2025)**.

The "Current LOS" column describes the number of facilities available today per 1,000 residents. The "2036 Additional Need" column outlines how many additional facilities will be needed based on the projected 2036 population of 14,401 residents. Similar to Parkland LOS, this table should be viewed as a guide for determining facility needs in conjunction with the expressed community interests for unmet needs. Currently, the community is not supported with an adequate amount of City-owned and publicly available facilities.

TABLE 2.3, RECREATIONAL FACILITY LOS COMPARISON (2025)

Amenity	Current Facilities	Current LOS	2036 Additional Need	Average LOS for Communities Less than 20,000	Above, Meets, or Below Target
Diamond fields	4	1 per 2,172	3	1 per 1,958	Below
Basketball courts	1	1 per 8,689	2	1 per 4,479	Below
Rectangular fields	19	1 per 457	0	1 per 2,578	Above
Tennis courts	0	N/A	4	1 per 3,500	Below
Pickleball courts	0	N/A	4	1 per 3,483	Below
Sand volleyball courts	1	1 per 8,689	1	1 per 7,057	Below
Multi-purpose courts	0	N/A	4	1 per 3,900	Below
Playgrounds	3	1 per 2,896	4	1 per 2,000	Below
Disc golf course	0	N/A	1	1 per 9,402	Below
Pavilions	2	1 per 4,345	2	1 per 4,000	Below
Skatepark	1	1 per 8,689	0	1 per 10,776	Meets
Swimming pools	1	1 per 8,689	0	1 per 9,745	Meets
Dog parks	0	N/A	1	1 per 10,188	Below
Indoor recreation center	0	N/A	1	1 per 9,875	Below

Privately Managed Facilities

In addition to publicly accessible parks maintained by the City, there are several publicly accessible neighborhood parks which are not maintained by the City. These parks are an important component to consider when thinking about free and accessible recreation in Dripping Springs because they fill a gap in service that is not currently met through City-owned parkland.

In addition to the neighborhood parks indicated in **Table 2.4, Privately Managed Recreational Facilities (2025)**, the Dripping Springs Independent School District also provides basketball courts, baseball/softball fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and football fields. However, these amenities are not open to the public except under some circumstances where they can be rented or reserved.

TABLE 2.4, PRIVATELY MANAGED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (2025)

	Founders Ridge	Belterra	Caliterra	Headwaters	Highpointe	Arrowhead	Parten	Reunion Ranch	Ledgestone	Goldenwood West	Hidden Springs	Big Sky
Trails	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Fishing Spot		2	X		X	X	X					
Playground	X	13	X	2	X	X	X	2	X			
Dog Park				X								
Pavilion		X								X		
Camp Site			X									
Gym					X							
Basketball Court		X										
Diamond Field		X			X							
Recreational Fields		X		X	X		X	X			X	
Swimming Pool		2	2	X	2	1	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wading Pool			1		1				X			
Splash Pad		1										
Amenity Center			X	X	X	X	X					X
Fitness Center		X		X	X							
Kayaks			X									
Tennis Courts						X		X		X		
Pickleball Courts								X				
Bocce Ball								X				
Zip Line				X								

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- By 2036, to keep up with nationally recognized guidance, the City will need to provide:
  - 2 additional pavilions
  - 1 disc golf course
  - 4 additional playgrounds
  - 4 multi-purpose courts
  - 4 tennis courts
  - 2 additional basketball courts
  - 1 additional sand volleyball court
  - 4 pickleball courts
  - 1 indoor recreation center
  - 3 additional diamond fields
  - 1 dog park
- Of these recommended amenities, diamond fields, sand volleyball courts, pavilions, and the indoor recreation center are not needed in 2025 but will be needed within the next 10 years as the population grows.
- Prioritization for construction of new facilities can be developed by factoring in the amenities available at private parks and facilities with an immediate current need.
- Therefore, the City should prioritize building:
  - 1 disc golf course
  - 4 multi-purpose courts
  - 1 basketball court
  - 2 pickleball courts



Community pool at Founders Memorial Park



Playground at Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Recreational Programming Assessment

The Dripping Springs PCS Department hosts many events and recreational programs for community members of all ages. Every year the PCS Department publishes an Explore Guide brochure which provides detailed information on parks, the PCS Department, programs, and events for that year. The brochure is available on the City website and printed copies are distributed throughout the community.

Program Participation

Between 2023 to 2025, according to monthly reports, the PCS department has observed the following trends: increased numbers of programs and events offered, increased participants in programs, increased Arena Memberships sold, increased room rentals at DSRP, and increased revenue as a department.

Events

Events provide opportunities to foster a sense of community and nurture civic pride. These events bring communities together and promote social interaction between neighbors and strangers. Many events center around arts and culture, physical recreation, holiday celebrations, or food. The PCS Department hosts six main events, listed below, as well as several smaller events such as kite festivals, BioBlitz wildlife counts, rodeos, and more.

- Eggstravaganza (spring)
- Founders Day (spring)
- Puppy Plunge (fall)
- Farmers Market (weekly)
- Western Wonderland (winter)
- Christmas on Mercer (winter)



Annual Eggstravaganza event (2025)

Recreational Programs

Recreational programs are another great way to strengthen community connections. Recreational programming provides children and adults with opportunities to stay active, build relationships, and learn new skills. Having a wide range of activities helps ensure that the City is best meeting the needs of its residents. The PCS Department hosts several recreational programs, listed in **Table 2.5, Recreational Programs**, for families, adults, or youth participants. The list includes well-known or more popular PCS Department operated programs and is not exhaustive of all programming available locally.

Demand for recreational programming changes with the season and can evolve with national trends. For example, the PCS Department has noted an increased interest in youth sports, camps, and programming. According to public engagement during the development of this Plan, the community is interested in more outdoor adventure programs, nature programming, fitness programs, and activities for senior citizens.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Given that almost all programs currently operated by the PCS Department are located in Dripping Springs Ranch Park (DSRP), this assessment suggests the City should consider hosting programs in other City-owned parks. Some examples could be nature programs in Charro Ranch Park or water coloring in Founders Memorial Park.
- Currently, the PCS Department does not offer any specific programming for senior citizens. The City should consider hosting programs targeted towards seniors such as water aerobics at the community pool or wildflower driving tours.
- Given the demand for additional programming and the limited resources available to the PCS Department, the City should strengthen partnerships with local organizations to co-provide programming.

TABLE 2.5, RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Program	Location	Target Age Group	Season
Family Nerf Night	DSRP	All ages	Year-round
Family Campout	DSRP	All ages	Winter/Spring/Fall
Star Parties	DSRP	All ages	Winter/Spring/Fall
Guided Nature & Bird Walks	DSRP & Charro Ranch	All ages	Year-round
Arrow Wranglers & Intro to Archery	DSRP	5-18	Winter/Spring/Fall
Family and Adult Archery	DSRP	All ages	Winter/Spring/Fall
Yoga with Lovie	DSRP	Teens & up	Winter/Spring
Drip Running Club	DSRP	Teens & up	Winter/Spring
Drip Running Yoga	DSRP	Teens & up	Monthly
1K/5K/10K Fun Runs	DSRP	All ages	Year-round
Nature Rangers at the Ranch: After-school program	DSRP	5-12	Winter/Spring/Fall
Nature Camp: Counselor in Training Program	DSRP	12-15	Summer
Art in Nature	DSRP	8-17	Winter
Cookie Canvas	DSRP	All ages	Winter/Spring
Tween Scene	DSRP	9-14	Year-round
Skate Camp	DSRP	6-13	Year-round
Coyote Kids Nature Camp	DSRP	6-11	Year-round
Swim Lessons	Founders Memorial	All ages	Summer
Creepy Crawlies	DSRP	5-12	Fall

Conditions-Based Assessment

For Dripping Springs' five existing parks, a detailed Conditions-Based Assessment was conducted to review the conditions of amenities, facilities, accessibility, and ability to serve users based on park classification. For this assessment, 15 categories pertaining to various park amenities and facilities were used. Details on the categories and the criteria reviewed are summarized in **Table 2.6, Conditions-Based Assessment Categories**, on the next page. The categories are not ranked or weighted but averaged as equal scoring components.

Conditions-Based Assessment Scoring

Existing parks were assigned a score based on the Conditions-Based Assessment performed in November 2024. If a category does not apply to the specific park, it was left unscored to avoid inaccurately lowering the parks assessment score. A conditions assessment was not performed for Arrowhead Park and Rathgeber Natural Resource Park as these parks are currently undeveloped and none of the 15 assessed categories are applicable. Each category was scored on a spectrum of 0 to 5, with a score of 1 indicating that significant improvements are necessary for the category and a score of 5 indicating that the amenities and facilities are in good condition and performing well. An average score was given to each park based on the cumulative scores for each category assessed for the individual park. The score range falls into three categories: poor (1.00-1.99), average (2.00-3.99), and good (4.00 or greater). It is important to note that these assessments are a snapshot in time and conditions at the park may change over time since the assessment was completed.

The overall score for the Dripping Springs system is considered to be average at 3.08. The highest scoring park was Founders Memorial Park with a score of 3.57 and the lowest scoring park was Veterans Memorial Park with a score of 2.22. Dripping Spring's overall park system scores in line with other geographically and contextually similar cities, as shown below.

- City of Buda Parks Master Plan - Overall Score: 2.8 out of 5
- City of Lockhart Parks Master Plan - Overall Score: 3.1 out of 5

Detailed conditions-based assessments, park profiles, and recommendations for each park can be found starting on page 39.



Park signage at the Dorian Zev Kweller Memorial Skatepark in Founders Memorial Park



Pavilion at Charro Ranch Park

TABLE 2.6, CONDITIONS-BASED ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES

Category	Key Attributes for Review
Sports Courts	Play surface, fencing, netting, striping, walls, and other non-removable facilities essential to support the activity and define the area of play.
Sports Fields	Play surface, fencing, netting, and other non-removable facilities essential to support the activity and define the field of play (striping not considered due to differing conditions depending on season).
Park Pathways/Trails	Surface condition, pathways/trail widths, vertical and horizontal clearance, crossing points, and ADA accessibility. Considers variations in pathways/trail type depending on the type of fitness, recreational, or transportation activities the trail is designed to support.
Public Gathering Spaces	Areas defined for public gathering including seating and shade structures (i.e., pavilions, picnic shelters).
Structured Play	Playscapes/playground equipment, surrounding surface areas, accessory structures to improve the comfort of users and attendants (i.e., seating areas, shade).
Open Play Areas	Surface conditions, landscaping, and access to shade for open lawn areas intended for unstructured play.
Parking	Condition of off-street parking areas including surface, striping, and accessibility. If off-street parking does not exist, availability of proximate on-street parking is considered.
General Fencing and Retaining Walls	Condition of physical structure.
General Site Facilities	General recreational and accessory structures (enclosed and open air) including elements such as restrooms, concession stands, bleachers, and special use facilities to support miscellaneous activities (i.e., shooting sports, archery, skating, etc.).
Additional Site Amenities	Accessory amenities serving general visitation including trash receptacles, pet waste stations, water fountains, benches, etc.
Plantings and Trees	Health, maintained condition, and coverage of trees and other landscaping including overgrowth. Strategic placement of vegetation to define park space.
Turf	Manicured lawn areas. This is cumulative of all surface in a park and may be included in previously listed categories such as sports fields and open play areas.
Signage	The general condition and accurate information displayed on identification, informational, and wayfinding signage.
Lighting	The placement and compliance with standards for lighting, condition of fixtures, and coverage of park area.
Park Accessibility	The overall accessibility for bicycles, pedestrians, and ADA compliance to, from, and within a park space.

PARK-BY-PARK ASSESSMENT

This section provides an in-depth review of each of Dripping Springs' parks. Each park profile is organized into the following sections.

Park Personality

Parks within Dripping Springs are perceived by the community as having unique intentions and characteristics. The park personality summarizes the sentiments heard from the community throughout this planning process about the park's identity.

Ecological Report

An ecological assessment of each of the parks was performed in November 2024. The assessment evaluates land health across geology, soils, hydrology, nutrients, and biodiversity. Each category is rated from Excellent to Poor, considering factors like erosion, vegetation, invasive species, and wildlife impacts.

What We Heard

Community members provided feedback throughout the planning process about what amenities they would like to see in each park.

Conditions Assessment

A Conditions-Based Assessment of each of the developed parks was performed in November 2024. This section highlights the individual park score and details some of the findings that contributed to the park's score.

Recommendations

This section provides recommendations tailored to the individual park which were informed by the Ecological Report, Conditions Assessment, Park Personality, and What We Heard. Recommendations are organized by the four Guiding Principles introduced in **Part 1, Introduction**. For citywide recommendations, refer to **Part 3, Implementation**.



Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Dripping Springs Ranch Park (DSRP) is a key component in maintaining the city's agricultural and ranching culture and is a source of pride for the community. As both a recreational park and event center, DSRP hosts thousands of users each year for the competitive and leisure equine events held at the park's equestrian arena and facilities. Not only is DSRP home to the Dripping Springs Fair and Rodeo and the DSRP Riding Series, DSRP offers the most programs of each of the City's parks, including youth camps, nature programs, skateboarding camps, and annual events such as the multi-day Western Wonderland holiday event. The park boasts six miles of equestrian trails and pedestrian trails and has a dedicated birdwatching area.

As the area surrounding Dripping Springs continues to grow, the community looks to DSRP as the embodiment of preserving the ranching and farming heritage of the area and for sharing these community traditions with new residents. Stakeholders identified a variety of potential improvements to the park's facilities that would enhance the capacity for community programming, additional equine events, and other revenue-generating opportunities to make DSRP the "gem" of the Hill Country.

Map 2.3, Dripping Springs Ranch Park highlights the existing site and assessed ecological zones (described in the following pages).

Key Facts:

- 1042 Event Center Drive
- Opened in 2008
- Acres: 118.9
- Trails: 6.09 miles

PARK PERSONALITY

- **Rugged and Versatile:** Embodies the spirit of the Texas Hill Country heritage with facilities that cater to equestrian and agricultural lifestyles.
- **Community-Centered:** Serves as a gathering place for events fostering connections among locals and visitors.
- **Active and Adventurous:** Encourages exploration and physical activity with trails, horse training areas, and bird watching.



MAP 2.3, DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK



Ecological Report

More than eight acres of the park are currently designated for wildlife conservation and a rainwater collection system supports sustainable water use. Situated in the environmentally sensitive Little Barton Creek Watershed, the park is entirely within the Edwards Aquifer contributing zone, with portions extending into the FEMA 100-year floodplain. Four main ecological zones were identified during the 2024 site visit and are shown on **Map 2.3, Dripping Springs Ranch Park**. The quality of each of these zones is in brackets next to the ecological type name.

- DS 1 - Midgrass Meadow / Open Savanna [Good-Fair]
- DS 2 - Oak-Juniper Mixed Woodland - transitions to Juniper Woodland on ridges [Good]
- DS 3 - Mown Meadow / Event Spaces Uses [Fair-Poor]
- DS 4 - Riparian Meadow / Woodland [Fair]

This is a special use park with lands dedicated to equestrian uses, thus the ecological function is lower due to the goals of the park. However, there are opportunities to increase ecological function, which will be discussed in the recommendations.



Pond and bird feeding station at Dripping Springs Ranch Park

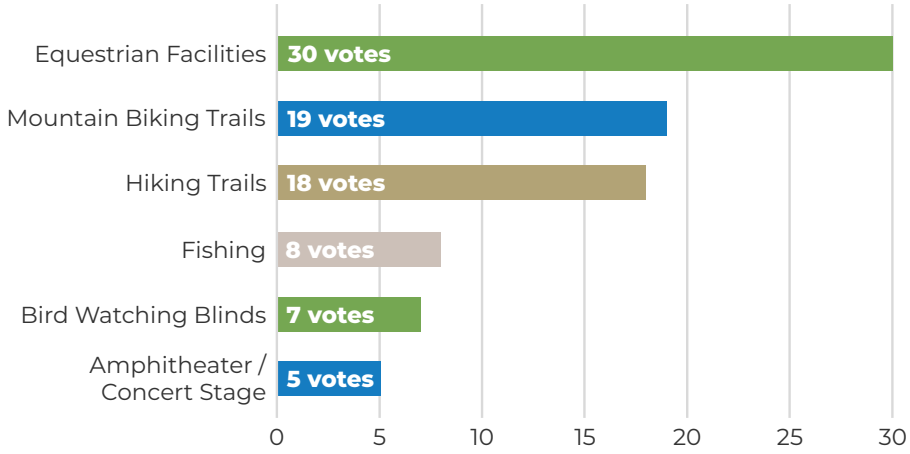
Soils	• Brackett-Rock outcrop-Comfort complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes
	  • Gravelly Clay Loam
	• Brackett-Rock outcrop-Comfort complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes
	  • Gravelly Clay Loam
	• Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Silty Clay
	• Doss silty clay, moist, 1 to 5 percent slopes
	  • Silty Clay
	• Purves clay, 1 to 5 percent slopes
	  • Clay
	• Sunev clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Clay Loam

Watershed	• **Sub Watershed** - Headwaters Barton Creek • **Watershed** - City of Austin-Colorado River • **Sub Basin** - Austin-Travis Lakes • **Basin** - Colorado River Basin
Hydrology	• Little Barton Creek enters the property from the west and flows east to a stormwater pond. At the time of the site assessment there was little water in the pond.
Plant Communities	• Midgrass Meadow / Open Savanna • Oak-Juniper Mixed Woodland - transitions to Juniper Woodland on ridges • Mown Meadow / Event Spaces Uses • Riparian Meadow / Woodland
Overall Ecological Function	• Good - Fair

What We Heard

Feedback received at open houses held in January and May closely aligned with comments received throughout the planning process. Stakeholders and citizens expressed a desire to strengthen the capacity of the park to host equestrian events and maximize the natural context of the park through improved and additional passive recreation amenities and nature education opportunities. Participants at the January open house indicated the below facilities and amenities as their top priorities for DSRP.

TOP COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR DSRP



> **Horses are an integral part of the character and community in the area, and this park is central to that ecosystem.**
>
> -Open house attendees



Bird viewing station at Dripping Springs Ranch Park



Annual rodeo event at Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Conditions Assessment

Because DSRP is a unique park, there are a variety of facilities and amenities found at the park that were not assessed in accordance with the categories below, and not all of the 15 assessed categories are applicable for DSRP. Overall, the park received an average score, indicating improvements are needed for several of the assessed categories.

CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT SCORING

Category	Score
Sports courts	
Sports fields	
Park pathways / trails	3
Public gathering spaces	
Structured play	3
Open play areas	
Parking (off-street & on-street)	3
General fencing & retaining walls	3
General site facilities	5
Additional site amenities	3
Planting and trees	4
Turf	3
Signage	2
Lighting	1
Park accessibility	1
Average score	**2.82**

Score category: Non-existent - gray, Poor - red, Average - orange, Good - blue

The following key observations were identified during the 2024 conditions assessment:

- **Park pathways:** Some trail areas require regrading due to erosion.
- **Structured play:** Structural and aesthetic repairs are needed for the play structure. Mulched areas require regrading and the addition of shade structures could improve user comfort.
- **Parking:** Striping is faint, directional signage is weak, and curbs are damaged. The unpaved overflow lot is severely eroded, posing hazards, especially after rain events.
- **General fencing:** Damaged fencing is present in various locations at the site.
- **Additional site amenities:** Picnic tables would benefit from improved placement and general aesthetic upgrades.
- **Signage:** Directional signage in parking areas and to park features or trailheads is lacking, and signage, where present, is unclear. Temporary signage, that was in need of repair, was also in place at the time of the assessment. Signage throughout the park is inconsistent with park system branding, and signage in several locations would benefit from maintenance and repair.
- **Lighting:** Lighting is minimal. Any future investments in or improvements to existing lighting should consider compliance with dark sky standards.
- **Park accessibility:** Pedestrian access from outside the park is limited.

DarkSky Lighting Compliance Audit

A 2025 lighting audit commissioned separately by the City determined the following:

- All 39 wall park lights are too bright and cool-toned.
- Four fluorescent strip lights and two dual fixture flood lights need to be shielded.
- A photometric study is recommended.

Recommendations

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

- Construct the outdoor arena and the storage building.
- Improve the playground area (e.g., repairs and upgrades to play structure and a path from the indoor arena to the playground).
- Consider adding an entry kiosk to provide park education, coordination during large events, and to collect any entry or use fees.
- Pursue indoor arena improvements such as enclosing the arena, installing HVAC, temperature-controlled water, more office space, and partitions for event space.
- Explore the feasibility of pond enhancements such as a path to the pond, adding a fishing pier, re-lining pond for improved water retention, stocking the pond with fish, and planting native riparian plants along the edge to create better bird habitat.
- Support additional equestrian programs and amenities such as rated horse shows (FEI, USEF, THJA), cross-country courses, and trail obstacles.
- Construct remaining recommendations from the 2025 DSRP Conceptual Plan including trailheads, nature education space, demonstration garden, archery range, park maintenance area, etc.

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

- Enhance riparian area along Little Barton Creek by introducing native plants, removing invasive species, and monitoring erosion.
- In Mown Meadow/Event Space areas (DS3), introduce low-mow zones and native wildflower plots to reduce maintenance costs and increase biodiversity.
- Continue to expand the rainwater collection system and evaluate the feasibility of greywater reuse for irrigation in landscaped and horse stall areas.
- In the Oak-Juniper Mixed Woodland (DS2), manage for structural diversity by thinning dense juniper in select areas and encouraging native understory development.
- Develop a pilot project to preserve the native prairie.
- Manage the southernmost parcel, located southwest of Bearkat Canyon Drive, as native habitat, monitor for invasive species, erosion, wildfire risk, etc.
- Replace 39 wall pack lights, add shields to florescent lights and flood lights, and conduct a photometric study.
- Consider the addition of dark sky compliant lighting in the parking lot or turtle lighting to trails to expand usable hours.

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

- Secure funding and construct the cover for the outdoor arena.
- Repair erosion damages on trails.
- Formalize and improve parking to include at a minimum, additional RV spaces, additional parking spaces, one-way enforcement and signage, and redesign or relocation of the dumpster area.
- Repair and/or replace fences throughout the site where fences are leaning or missing.
- Clean, repair, or replace picnic tables, trash receptacles, and other passive amenities as needed.
- Improve wayfinding, rules signage, and trail signage to be clearer and more consistent with other parks and City branding.

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and culture into public spaces and programming.

- Create dedicated space for recreational programming as most programming occurs in DSRP.
- Consider hosting or recruiting partners to increase the number and variety of equestrian shows and programming.

Conceptual Plan

Because of the significant role that DSRP plays for the community and the broad range of amenities, DSRP was chosen to be the subject of a conceptual plan. The focus for the design was not for a complete reimagining of the park but creating a plan outlining various current projects in different stages of design (e.g., storage building construction by ranch house and an additional arena) along with suggestions for future improvements. Future improvements include playground improvements, adding trailheads, an archery range, demonstration gardens, a park maintenance area, nature education space, a prairie preservation pilot project, equestrian obstacles, trail connections, pond enhancements, additional parking and improvements, and numerous improvements to the existing arena. The conceptual plan for DSRP, shown in **Map 2.4, Dripping Springs Ranch Park Conceptual Plan,** was created with the intent to provide a clear direction for future park development.

Design Process

The conceptual plan was created for DSRP through the development of two preliminary concepts based on community input from stakeholder interviews and recommendations from the public received during the January 16, 2025, open house. The two preliminary concepts were reviewed with stakeholders, City staff, and the Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure the concept was accurate and captured all input. After refining the two preliminary concepts, input was gathered from the public during the May 8, 2025, open house which guided the design to its next step. There were only slight differences between the two concepts as the direction desired for the park was clearly conveyed and locations for elements already thoroughly considered by stakeholders directly affiliated with DSRP. Stakeholder meetings, along with community feedback, further dictated the park design direction. The finalized concept was created and reviewed with stakeholders and City staff to refine the final concept and ultimately create a conceptual plan that addresses community and stakeholder wants and needs.

Conceptual Plan Highlights

- DSRP was chosen to have a conceptual plan created due to its significance as the largest open and most programmed park in Dripping Springs as well as the need to align ongoing projects with future community needs.
- Many of the park improvements are based on improvements which are planned or already exist in some form, such as the prairie preservation pilot project. This prairie has been preserved through conscious efforts from the PCS Department not to mow or disturb. However, if left unmanaged or undisturbed the prairie will naturally progress into woodlands. This pilot project is an opportunity for the PCS Department to test the maintenance load of actively managing prairies, meadows, or wildlands.
- While the community would like to be able to fish in the pond at DSRP, the feasibility of improving the pond to be able to retain the amount of water needed for fish needs to be explored further.
- The community would like this and all parks to be more water conscious, including more rainwater capture and reuse, low water landscaping, and other water conservation improvements.
- The most requested improvement for DSRP was to increase the number of equestrian amenities and programs.
- A formalized archery range was included as this activity is experiencing higher community interest and currently does not have a dedicated space and, as a result, is frequently canceled.

MAP 2.4, DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK CONCEPTUAL PLAN



Founders Memorial Park

Founders Memorial Park, shown in **Map 2.5, Founders Memorial Park**, is a community park that provides some of Dripping Springs' more unique facilities including the community pool, football fields, and the Dorian Zev Kweller Memorial Skatepark. The Pound House Farmstead and Museum, included on the National Register of Historic Places, is nestled on five acres adjacent to Founders Memorial Park. One of the park system's two gathering pavilions is located here, along with shaded play structures for multiple age groups. Combined with its central location, these amenities make the park an ideal spot for community gatherings.

Compared to other parks within the system, Founders Memorial Park has the greatest level of access to surrounding neighborhoods, which is further strengthened by the park's Katherine Berkley Cannon walking trail. The trail and central location mean this park plays a key role in providing park access to the growing neighborhoods surrounding the park.

Stakeholders and residents expressed interest in a variety of updates to the park. The large open space is currently utilized for youth sports programming, but this area could be considered for new potential programming opportunities, such as community festivals and events or the addition of recreational facilities like additional gathering spaces or sports courts. The Dorian Zev Kweller Memorial Skatepark is a valued feature, with requests for more lighting and seating to extend its use year-round.

Key Facts

- 419b Founders Park Road
- 33.5 acres
- Trails: 1.46 miles

PARK PERSONALITY

- **Family-Friendly Destination:** A favorite spot for families, with a pool, walking trails, and amenities for all ages.
- **Community Gathering Place:** A welcoming hub for picnics, events, and social connection under the large pavilion.
- **Scenic and Inclusive:** Peaceful trails and a variety of features offer something for everyone in a relaxing, accessible setting.



MAP 2.5, FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PARK



Ecological Report

The 2018-2023 Founders Memorial Park Master Plan addresses ongoing maintenance issues with low-lying sections of the decomposed granite trail that remain wet due to rain and irrigation runoff. It recommends exploring concrete paths as a solution while considering the balance of pervious and impervious surfaces for proper drainage. Additionally, the plan notes that the athletic fields were graded and established around 2010. Five main ecological zones were identified during the 2024 site visit and are shown in **Map 2.5, Founders Memorial Park**. The quality of each of these zones is in brackets next to the ecological type name, with the exception of Right-of-Way which was not scored due to the nature of the area.

- F 1 - Midgrass Meadow / Mixed Woodland Border [Fair]
- F 2 - Mown Meadow [Poor]
- F 3 - Mown Turf Fields / Shade Trees [Fair - Poor]
- F 4 - Juniper-Oak Mixed Woodland [Fair]
- F 5 - Right-of-Way

This park is focused more on sports and recreation, thus the ecological function is lower due to the goals of the park. However, there are opportunities to increase ecological function, which will be discussed in the recommendations.



Katherine Cannon walking trail at Founders Memorial Park

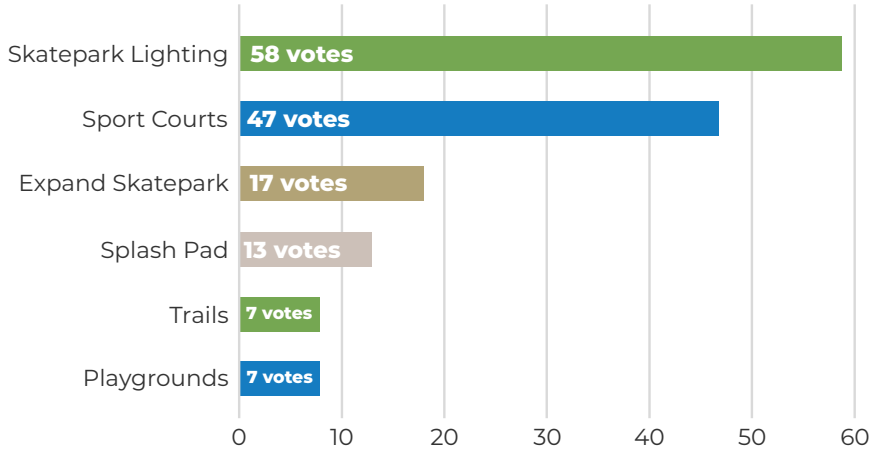
Soils	• Brackett-Rock outcrop-Comfort complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes
	  • Gravelly Clay Loam
	• Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Silty Clay
	• Doss silty clay, moist, 1 to 5 percent slopes
	  • Silty Clay
	• Krum clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Clay
	• Sunev clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Clay Loam
	• Tarpley clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Clay

Watershed	• **Sub Watershed** - Headwaters Onion Creek • **Watershed** - Onion Creek-Colorado River • **Sub Basin** - Austin-Travis Lakes • **Basin** - Colorado River Basin
Hydrology	• There is an ephemeral waterway that drains the southeast portion of the park and drains towards Founders Park Road to a large culvert. There was evidence of erosion and standing waters at the southeast corner of the site near a designed stormwater feature the meets the property.
Plant Communities	• Midgrass Meadow / Mixed Woodland Border • Mown Meadow (Bermuda Grass, KR Bluestem, Buffalo Grass, Frog Fruit) • Mown Turf Fields / Shade Trees • Juniper-Oak Mixed Woodland
Overall Ecological Function	• Fair

What We Heard

Feedback heard from the community centered around improvements to existing facilities including upgrades to the swimming pool to better accommodate competitive swim events and added lighting at the skatepark to extend use hours. Other interests centered on further enhancing trail connectivity and emphasizing natural areas at the park. Participants of the January open house indicated these facilities and amenities as their top priorities for Founders Memorial Park.

TOP COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PARK



Would love to see as much native vegetation be retained as possible, this would make trails and shaded picnic areas more pleasurable.

Rebuild the pool at competition length.

-Open house attendees



Katherine Berkley Cannon walking trail at Founders Memorial Park



Community pool at Founders Memorial Park

Conditions Assessment

Nearly every category assessed as part of this Plan's conditions assessment was applicable to Founders Memorial Park. With some of the most recently updated facilities and amenities available within the overall parks system, Founders Memorial Park is the highest scoring park in the Dripping Springs parks system.

CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT SCORING

Category	Score
Sports courts	
Sports fields	1
Park pathways / trails	4
Public gathering spaces	4
Structured play	4
Open play areas	3
Parking (off-street & on-street)	4
General fencing & retaining walls	4
General site facilities	3
Additional site amenities	4
Planting and trees	4
Turf	1
Signage	5
Lighting	4
Park accessibility	5
Average score	**3.57**

Score category: Non-existent - gray, Poor - red, Average - orange, Good - blue

The following key observations were identified during the 2024 conditions assessment:

- **Sports fields:** Fields have uneven surfaces, bare patches, and signs of erosion.
- **Park pathways:** Paved paths are mostly in excellent condition, though some cracking and heaving were observed. Decomposed granite trails require regrading in some areas due to erosion.
- **Public gathering spaces:** The pavilion exhibits rusting and requires minor maintenance.
- **Structured play:** Play structures show rusting and need minor repairs.
- **Open play areas:** Turf is uneven with bare spots throughout.
- **General site facilities:** Restrooms require some repairs.
- **Additional site amenities:** Trash receptacles exhibit signs of rusting.
- **Turf:** Erosion is present on slopes, particularly near open fields. Turf establishment efforts were underway at the time of assessment.
- **Lighting:** Some light fixtures need cleaning and maintenance. Additional lighting should be considered in areas such as the skatepark and parking lots, though any future improvements should consider dark sky compliance.
- **Park accessibility:** The park has a high level of accessibility due to strong trail and sidewalk connections with surrounding neighborhoods.

DarkSky Lighting Compliance Audit

A 2025 lighting audit commissioned separately by the City determined the following:

- 31 new pole mounted lights need shields.
- Building lights are not compliant with the City's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.
- A photometric study is recommended.

Recommendations

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

- Evaluate the potential for adding pickleball courts, basketball courts, a splash pad, additional pavilions, or potentially a multi-purpose amphitheater.
- Explore opportunities to expand the size of the park.
- Evaluate feasibility of updating the swimming pool to be competition length.
- Add exercise stations along the trail.

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

- Add shields to 31 new pole lights, replace building lights with dark sky compliant lighting, and conduct a photometric study.
- Consider adding DarkSky compliant lighting near the skatepark and in other parts of the park as needed, such as turtle lighting on trails.
- Stabilize the ephemeral waterway and address erosion and standing water near the designed stormwater feature that drains to the southeast edge of the site.
- In the Midgrass Meadow / Mixed Woodland Border (F1) and Juniper-Oak Woodland (F4) areas, increase biodiversity by planting native understory species and removing invasive species.
- Maintain irrigation zone separation, for both existing and future irrigation zones, so that naturalized areas receive less water than sports fields.

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

- Enhance current playground through minor repairs and maintenance.
- Continue efforts for soil stabilization and turf establishment.
- Update the restrooms including new stainless steel toilets and sinks, repair light fixture, toilet backsplash, and ensure restrooms are ADA compliant.
- Clean, repair, or replace as needed, benches, trash receptacles, and other passive amenities.
- Enhance landscaping around the skatepark.
- Renovate or rebuild the pool building, consider adding an event or party room.
- Upgrade pump room systems.
- Improve parking lot (e.g., repave, dumpster enclosure, and add spaces).

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and culture into public spaces and programming.

- Support educational camps that visit the Pound House Farmstead for pioneer crafts, activities, and games.
- Support opportunities for increased events in Founders Memorial Park due to its central location.

Sports & Recreation Park

Sports and Recreation Park is home to the park system's soccer fields, which range in size for ages 4-14, and diamond fields, used for both youth and adult softball and baseball. The park also features an in-park loop trail and the park system's only sand volleyball court and basketball court. **Map 2.6, Sports & Recreation Park** highlights some of these notable features.

Engagement efforts throughout this process highlighted the growth of youth sports in Dripping Springs. As the community and surrounding areas continue to grow, Sports and Recreation Park will likely continue to play an essential role in providing the facilities for these community activities. As such, community members expressed a desire for additional amenities supportive of sports tournaments (e.g., restrooms, concession options, bleacher seating). Further, community members highlighted this park as a potential location for additional recreation amenities including additional sports courts.

Key Facts:

- 27148 Ranch Road 12
- 39.8 acres
- Trails: 1.08 miles

PARK PERSONALITY

- **Competitive and Team-Oriented:** A space designed to foster sportsmanship, teamwork, and community spirit through various sports activities.
- **Dynamic and Engaging:** Balances organized sports with spaces for leisure and informal activities, like walking trails and sand volleyball.
- **Energetic and Active:** Always buzzing with movement and excitement, from games on the fields to activities on the court and playground.



MAP 2.6, SPORTS & RECREATION PARK



Ecological Report

The overall ecological function of the park is fair. Three main ecological zones were identified during the 2024 site visit and are shown in **Map 2.6, Sports & Recreation Park**. The quality of each of these zones is in brackets next to the ecological type name.

- SR 1 - Juniper-Oak Mixed Woodland Western Border [Good]
- SR 2 - Oak-Juniper Woodland Eastern Border [Fair]
- SR 3 - Mown Turf Fields / Shade Trees [Poor]

This park is focused more on sports and recreation, thus the ecological function is lower due to the goals of the park. However, there are opportunities to increase ecological function, which will be discussed in the recommendations.



Shaded gathering area at Sports and Recreation Park

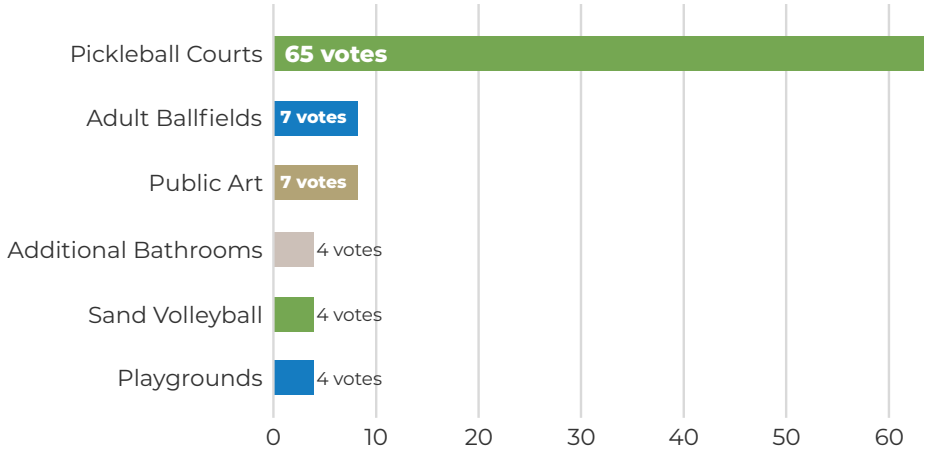
Soils	• Brackett-Rock outcrop-Comfort complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes
	  • Gravelly Clay Loam
	• Comfort-Rock outcrop complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes
	  • Stony Clay, Shallow Bedrock
	• Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Silty Clay
	• Doss silty clay, moist, 1 to 5 percent slopes
	  • Silty Clay

Watershed	• **Sub Watershed** - Headwaters Onion Creek • **Watershed** - Onion Creek-Colorado River • **Sub Basin** - Austin-Travis Lakes • **Basin** - Colorado River Basin
Hydrology	• N/A
Plant Communities	• Juniper-Oak Mixed Woodland (western border) • Oak-Juniper Woodland (Elbow Bush, Hackberry, Cedar Elm, Agarita, Greenbriar) (eastern border) • Mown Turf Fields / Shade Trees
Overall Ecological Function	• Fair

What We Heard

Stakeholders and community members expressed a desire for amenities that align with the sports and athletic focus of the park and facilities that support patrons of youth sports tournaments held here. Additional sports courts were also noted for this park as they align with the existing objectives of the park. Participants of the January open house indicated these facilities and amenities as their top priorities for Sports and Recreation Park.

TOP COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR SPORTS & RECREATION PARK



> **Love seeing how much people gather around the sports courts and seating areas at Sports & Recreation – if there were more of these available, would they get used more?**
>
> -Listening group stakeholder



Backstop of ballfield at Sports and Recreation Park



Soccer goal at Sports and Recreation Park

Conditions Assessment

Nearly every assessment category was applicable to Sports and Recreation Park, and overall, the park scored a low-average score. Many of the issues noted here pertained to the general site facilities which are specific to the athletic facilities located here.

CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT SCORING

Category	Score
Sports courts	3
Sports fields	2
Park pathways / trails	2
Public gathering spaces	3
Structured play	4
Open play areas	
Parking (off-street & on-street)	3
General fencing & retaining walls	2
General site facilities	2
Additional site amenities	3
Planting and trees	3
Turf	2
Signage	3
Lighting	3
Park accessibility	3
Average score	**2.71**

Score category: Non-existent - gray, Poor - red, Average - orange, Good - blue

The following observations were identified during the 2024 conditions assessment:

- **Sports courts:** Courts exhibit signs of cracked pavement, rusted basketball goals, and a damaged volleyball net.
- **Sports fields:** Fields are uneven with erosion and bare patches.
- **Park pathways:** Decomposed granite trails require maintenance and a defined path between fields would improve circulation.
- **Public gathering spaces:** Several benches and picnic tables require structural and aesthetic repairs. Picnic tables would benefit from improved placement.
- **Structured play:** The playground is in generally good condition but would benefit from cleaning and the addition of shade structures.
- **Parking:** Parking areas need to be paved and restriped where stripes have faded.
- **General fencing:** Fencing is leaning and rusting throughout the park.
- **General site facilities:** Facilities around the diamond fields require significant maintenance, including debris removal and repair of unused structures. The stone concession/restroom building is in good condition.
- **Additional site amenities:** Many amenities, including bleachers, picnic tables, and batting cages, require structural or aesthetic maintenance.
- **Planting and trees:** Tree limbs near public areas and play structures need trimming.
- **Turf:** Most turfed areas show signs of erosion and bare spots.
- **Lighting:** Conditions vary; some structures need maintenance or replacement.
- **Park accessibility:** While some pathways connect to and within the park, nearby residential access is limited.

DarkSky Lighting Compliance Audit

A 2025 lighting audit commissioned separately by the City determined the following:

- All 267 of the onsite lights need shields.
- All lights are not compliant with the City's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

Recommendations

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

- Evaluate the potential for adding pickleball courts, and more basketball courts and/or sand volleyball courts.
- Explore opportunities to expand the park.
- Improve and add new in-park trails, particularly defined and potentially paved paths between amenities and a path to the adult softball fields.
- Enhance the public gathering place (e.g., benches, picnic tables, pavilion, etc.) between the softball field and northernmost adult softball field.
- Remove the existing exercise area and add exercise stations at various spots along the trail.
- Consider adding a food truck courtyard near the concessions building.

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

- Refresh or regrade surfaces in the basketball court, outdoor volleyball court, and the baseball/softball bull pens.
- Replace volleyball and basketball nets.
- Clean up or remove old batting cage debris in the southwest corner of park.
- Regrade / level fields – both infields and outfields – and replenish pitching mounds as necessary.
- Repaint faded parking lines in the parking lot.
- Add barriers to restrict vehicles from entering pathways or fields.
- Repair and/or replace fences throughout site where fences are leaning or rusted.
- Clean, repair, or replace picnic tables, BBQ pits, bleachers, trash receptacles, and other passive amenities as needed.
- Update the restrooms including new stainless steel toilets and sinks and ensure restrooms are ADA compliant.
- Remove or renovate old and unused concessions and scorekeeping buildings at each baseball/softball field.
- Improve wayfinding, rules signage, and field identification to be clearer and more consistent with other parks and city branding.
- Enhance irrigation systems and irrigation coverage for all fields throughout complex.
- Add a boundary showing the regulation court size for the volleyball court.
- Repair eroded drainage channel near sports court.

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

- Replace or improve all pole lights with shields, replace building lights with dark sky compliant lighting, and conduct a photometric study.
- Consider adding turtle lighting to trails to expand usable hours.
- Pave the existing, unpaved parking lot and consider permeable pavement options, but ensure parking lot is ADA compliant and accessible.
- All new plantings, especially around picnic areas, parking lots, and trails, should prioritize native, drought-tolerant species to reduce irrigation demands.

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and culture into public spaces and programming.

- Host community sports events such as 5K runs, field days, or pick-up leagues for casual athletics.

Charro Ranch Park

Charro Ranch Park was donated to the City in 2008 and a master plan for the park was adopted in 2011. The mission of Charro Ranch Park is to create a natural setting for passive activities and for the enjoyment of nature, and as such, Charro Ranch Park, shown in **Map 2.7, Charro Ranch Park**, is the least manicured of Dripping Springs' developed parks. The park is characterized by land left mostly in its natural state and several special site features such as a bird viewing shelter, demonstration gardens, a Solstice Circle, and a Chimney Swallow shelter. Community partners, like the Hays County Master Naturalists, play a role in caring for this park through the maintenance of demonstration gardens and maintaining the bird feeders, and local Boy and Girl Scouts members have contributed to the passive site amenities found here.

Charro Ranch Park serves as the primary park within the Dripping Springs' park system for nature education and wildscape conservation, contributing to the preservation of the City's beloved Hill Country landscape.

Key Facts

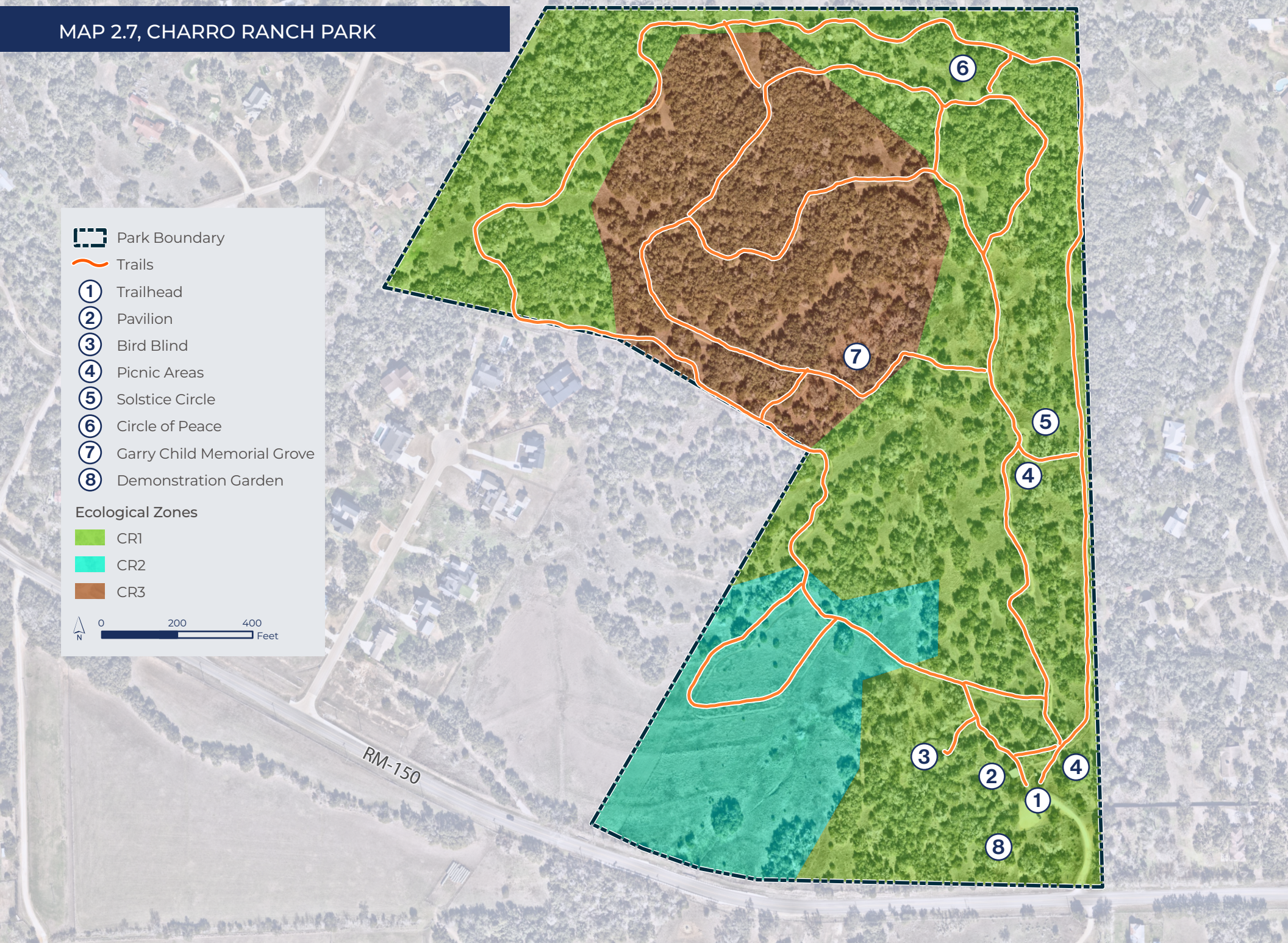
- 22690 West FM 150
- 67.3 acres
- Trails: 2.69 miles
- Donated to the City in 2008

PARK PERSONALITY

- **Wild and Untamed:** Embraces its natural beauty and raw, unmanicured landscape, providing an authentic outdoor experience.
- **Tranquil and Reflective:** A serene escape that encourages mindfulness and connection with nature.
- **Educational and Informative:** Offers insights into native plants, wildlife, and conservation through thoughtfully placed signage.
- **Ecological and Sustainable:** Showcases environmentally-friendly features like bird blinds, chimney swift houses, and gardens.



MAP 2.7, CHARRO RANCH PARK



Ecological Report

The 2011 Charro Ranch Park Master Plan focused on creating a destination for nature observation, birdwatching, and peaceful reflection. Efforts began with Oak Wilt treatment, followed by habitat preservation of its grasslands, Juniper-Oak Woodlands, and seasonal pond. The park's porous limestone supports aquifer recharge and a diverse array of native plants and migratory birds. Three main ecological zones were identified during the 2024 site visit and are shown on **Map 2.7, Charro Ranch Park**. The quality of each of these zones is in brackets next to the ecological type name.

- CR 1 - Open Juniper-Oak Woodland [Fair]
- CR 2 - Midgrass Meadow Community [Good]
- CR 3 - Mixed Woodland [Excellent]



No mow zone at Charro Ranch Park

Soils	• Real-Comfort-Doss complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes
	  • Gravely Loam and Stony Clay
	• Sunev clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Clay Loam

Watershed	• **Sub Watershed** - Gatlin Creek-Onion Creek • **Watershed** - Onion Creek-Colorado River • **Sub Basin** - Austin-Travis Lakes • **Basin** - Colorado River Basin
Hydrology	• An ephemeral creek and the site drains to a ponded area that holds water during wet weather and is able to support riparian species.
Plant Communities	• Open Juniper-Oak Woodland, Silver Bluestem and King Ranch Bluestem understory • Midgrass Meadow Community (Silver Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Prairie Tea, Indian Grass) • Mixed Woodland, Cedar Elm, Live Oak, Post Oak (drainage feature in this area)
Overall Ecological Function	• Good - Excellent

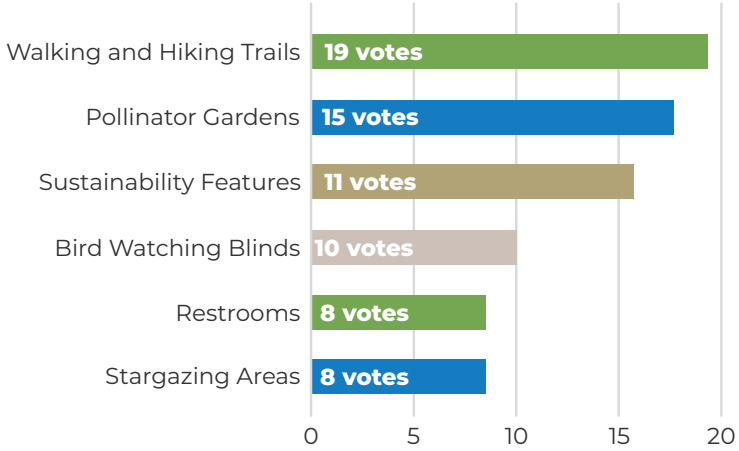
The park is not well-manicured and they're not meant to be well-manicured because they're meant to be wild and natural. Education about wildscapes is key, in that it's meant to be a different environment.

-Listening group stakeholder

What We Heard

Feedback received at both the January and May open houses and throughout the process centered around enhancing this park as a natural classroom and place to enjoy the native ecology of the Hill Country. Volunteer groups are responsible for various aspects of the upkeep of this park and there was very little interest in further programming Charro Ranch Park. Participants of the January open house indicated these facilities and amenities as their top priorities for Charro Ranch Park.

TOP COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR CHARRO RANCH PARK



Keep this park as undisturbed as possible, so native viewing - bird watching, etc is of better quality.

-Open house attendee



Bird viewing station at Charro Ranch Park



Solstice Circle at Charro Ranch Park

Conditions Assessment

As the least programmed park within the Dripping Springs parks system and because of the intentionally natural setting of the park, many of the categories listed below were not applicable for the conditions assessment of Charro Ranch Park.

CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT SCORING

Category	Score
Sports courts	
Sports fields	
Park pathways / trails	3
Public gathering spaces	5
Structured play	
Open play areas	
Parking (off-street & on-street)	2
General fencing & retaining walls	4
General site facilities	4
Additional site amenities	3
Planting and trees	4
Turf	
Signage	3
Lighting	
Park accessibility	1
Average score	**3.22**

Score category: Non-existent - gray, Poor - red, Average - orange, Good - blue

The following key observations were identified during the 2024 conditions assessment:

- **Park pathways:** Some trails near the entrance are bare or blocked by overgrown vegetation.
- **Parking:** The lot needs regrading to address low-lying areas.
- **General site facilities:** The only facility is a portable toilet. A permanent option, such as a composting restroom, may be worth considering.
- **Additional site amenities:** Picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles need minor structural and visual updates.
- **Planting and trees:** Downed trees are present but do not obstruct use or pathways, consistent with the park's natural setting.
- **Signage:** Signage needs maintenance and is inconsistent with the park system's branding.
- **Park accessibility:** Access is limited to a single vehicular entrance along a high-speed roadway, making pedestrian access unsafe.

DarkSky Lighting Compliance Audit

A 2025 lighting audit commissioned separately by the City. Charro Ranch Park does not currently have any lighting installed and therefore had no recommendations.

Recommendations

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

- Ensure this park remains as natural as possible with native plants and wildlife habitat.
- Explore opportunities to expand the park.

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

- Refresh mulch in bare spots of trails.
- Clean, repair, or replace as needed, benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, and other passive amenities.
- Recommend general cleanup of Solstice Circle area including regular weeding.
- Improve park signage to be clearer and more consistent with other parks and City branding.
- Consider installing a more permanent restroom such as a composting toilet.

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

- Add dark sky compliant lighting in the parking lot or turtle lighting along trails to expand usable hours.
- Regrade and resurface parking lot, consider permeable pavement options but ensure parking lot remains ADA compliant and accessible.
- Preserve and monitor the Mixed Woodland zone (CR 3), which includes drainage features and supports diverse upland and riparian species.
- In the Open Juniper-Oak Woodland (CR 1) zone, implement targeted restoration to remove invasive understory species like King Ranch Bluestem and Ligustrum.
- Support selective juniper thinning (where ecologically appropriate) to open the canopy and encourage native understory regeneration.
- Enhance the Midgrass Meadow (CR 2) with native seed mixes (e.g., Little Bluestem, Indian grass) and manage with seasonal mowing or prescribed fire to maintain prairie character.
- Regularly update the Oak Wilt treatment strategy and treat accordingly, especially in CR 1 and CR 3, to prevent future outbreaks and preserve tree canopy diversity.

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and culture into public spaces and programming.

- Build on the park's existing educational role by expanding nature programming, interpretive signage, guided nature walks, and citizen science programs (i.e., bird counts, iNaturalist, BioBlitz Days).
- Host an annual clean-up day for volunteers to weed, remove insect nests from signage, and ensure trails are clear of debris.

Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park, shown in **Map 2.8, Veterans Memorial Park**, serves a unique function as both a memorial to veterans of foreign wars and as a site of gateway monumentation into the city. Previously, the park was home to the weekly Dripping Springs Farmers Market. With the future expansion of Highway 290, adjacent to Veterans Memorial Park, this park is expected to significantly decrease in size. Additionally, any future improvements must take into account the presence of the floodplain at this park. With its location as a primary focal point into the city, there is great potential for this park to be enhanced as a signature entryway into Dripping Springs.

Stakeholders throughout this process expressed a desire to enhance this park but, given the forthcoming Highway 290 expansion, want to ensure resources are not invested into short-lived improvements. With the undefined reconfiguration of the site in conjunction with the highway expansion, community members suggested the relocation of the Veterans Memorial to other notable locations within the city, such as the Dripping Springs Community Library, City Hall, or the Stephenson Building.

Key Facts

- 130 East Mercer Street
- 1.9 acres

PARK PERSONALITY

- **Reflective and Peaceful:** A space designed to honor the contributions and sacrifices of veterans that have served their country.
- **Monumental and Visible:** This focal point welcomes all who enter into the heart of Dripping Springs and the Hill Country.



MAP 2.8, VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK



Ecological Report

Two main ecological zones were identified during the 2024 site visit and are shown on **Map 2.8, Veterans Memorial Park**. The quality of each of these zones is in brackets next to the ecological type name.

- VM 1 - Mown Turf / Shade Trees [Fair]
- VM 2 - Shade Trees / Mown Drainage Area [Poor]

This is a very small and constrained park, thus the ecological function is lower due to the limitations of the park. However, there are opportunities to increase ecological function, which will be discussed in the recommendations.



Shaded seating area at Veterans Memorial Park

Soils	• Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Silty Clay
	• Doss silty clay, moist, 1 to 5 percent slopes
	  • Silty Clay
	• Krum clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes
	  • Clay

Watershed	• **Sub Watershed** - Headwaters Onion Creek • **Watershed** - Onion Creek-Colorado River • **Sub Basin** - Austin-Travis Lakes • **Basin** - Colorado River Basin
Hydrology	• There is a creek that bisects the parcel, flowing from north to south under Highway 290. The waterway is mown on both banks with no vegetated buffer.
Plant Communities	• Mown Turf / Shade Trees • Shade Trees / Mown Drainage Area
Overall Ecological Function	• Fair-Poor

What We Heard

Stakeholders supported the idea of transforming this park into a gateway feature through murals, signage, or art, and strongly supported relocating the memorial to a permanent, respectful site where they could still gather.

Conditions Assessment

Currently designated as a special use park and the smallest of the parks in the Dripping Springs parks system, only a few of the 15 total categories were applicable to Veterans Memorial Park.

CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT SCORING

Category	Score
Sports courts	
Sports fields	
Park pathways / trails	
Public gathering spaces	2
Structured play	
Open play areas	
Parking (off-street & on-street)	1
General fencing & retaining walls	
General site facilities	3
Additional site amenities	3
Planting and trees	3
Turf	3
Signage	1
Lighting	3
Park accessibility	1
Average score	**2.22**

Score category: Non-existent - gray, Poor - red, Average - orange, Good - blue

The following key observations were identified during the 2024 conditions assessment:

- **Parking:** Parking area boundaries are in need of repair or replacement, and parking areas need to be regraded to minimize issues related to erosion and drainage.
- **General site facilities:** Power outlets located throughout the park could benefit from more visible demarcation to prevent tripping hazards, and the memorial structures could benefit from aesthetic maintenance. Given the proximity of the park to the roadway, the park should be regularly maintained for litter collection.
- **Additional site amenities:** Picnic tables would benefit from structural and aesthetic upgrades.
- **Plantings and trees:** Trees should be regularly maintained to remove dead limbs.
- **Turf:** Bare areas were present throughout turfed areas of the park.
- **Signage:** Parks system signage was not present and a sign pole near the parking areas was found to be removed.
- **Park accessibility:** Although Veterans Memorial Park is located in the heart of Dripping Springs, the park is bordered on all sides by heavily trafficked roadways and the locations of protected crossings and sidewalks are limited.

DarkSky Lighting Compliance Audit

A 2025 lighting audit commissioned separately by the City determined the following:

- Floodlights on the Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation (DSWSC) building are not compliant with the City's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

Recommendations

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

- Transform Veterans Memorial Park into a gateway feature by enhancing entry signage and potentially painting the Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation water tank or adding another distinctive feature.

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

- Maintain picnic tables or conduct other low-cost improvements until TxDOT confirms the boundaries of the Highway 290 expansion.
- Consider improving the parking lot.

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

- Maintain the health of trees through regular evaluation and trimming.
- Replace flood lighting on DSWSC building to be dark sky compliant.

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and culture into public spaces and programming.

- Relocate the memorial wall to another park, City property, Patriots' Hall, or other appropriate location.



Gateway Monuments

Gateway monuments, sometimes called entry monuments or city gateways, are prominent, often decorative, structures placed at key entrances to a city or community. These landmarks serve as visual cues that mark the transition into a defined place, welcoming visitors and residents alike. More than just signage, gateway monuments reflect a city's identity, culture, and aspirations, and play an important role in community branding and placemaking.

Gateway Monuments serve the following purpose:

- Create a sense of arrival and place. They establish a community's identity, giving new people a first impression of the city's character, whether that's historic, modern, artistic, or natural.
- Located at major entrances, often along highways like US 290, these structures help with orientation, providing a clear indication that one has entered a new jurisdiction or district.
- For residents, gateway monuments can reinforce the shared identity of the community and can become landmarks that appear on local postcards, social media posts, or promotional materials.
- A well-designed gateway can help attract visitors and investment. It signals a community that cares about its image and infrastructure, which can positively influence tourism, business relocation, and real estate development. Successful gateway signs often include the city's name, tagline, or logo, and may also integrate thematic elements (e.g., a tree symbol for a "green city," a train motif for a historic rail town).

Gateway monuments can do more than mark a boundary, they can tell the story of a community. When thoughtfully designed, these entry features elevate civic pride, convey identity, and make a powerful first impression. As cities grow and evolve, investing in meaningful gateways can be a lasting way to celebrate community and invite people in.



Gateway monumentation



Gateway monumentation

Arrowhead Park

Arrowhead Park is a future park that was acquired by the City through the parkland dedication process as part of a development agreement between the City and the Arrowhead Ranch subdivision. The future park is located south of Highway 290 between the Arrowhead Ranch neighborhood and Dripping Springs Middle School, as shown on **Map 2.9 Arrowhead Park**. As of the date of this Plan, the park is undeveloped and is in a development planning stage. Arrowhead Park is intended to be classified as a community park and, currently, will be the only park within the Dripping Springs park system to be located west of Ranch Road 12, making this park a significant factor in the provision of parkland to residents in this growing portion of the city.

This park boasts significant natural features (discussed in the following pages) and as such, is envisioned to be minimally programmed. As part of this planning process, community members and stakeholders had the opportunity to share their thoughts in shaping a conceptual plan created during this planning process. The conceptual plan is discussed in additional detail in the following pages.

Key Facts

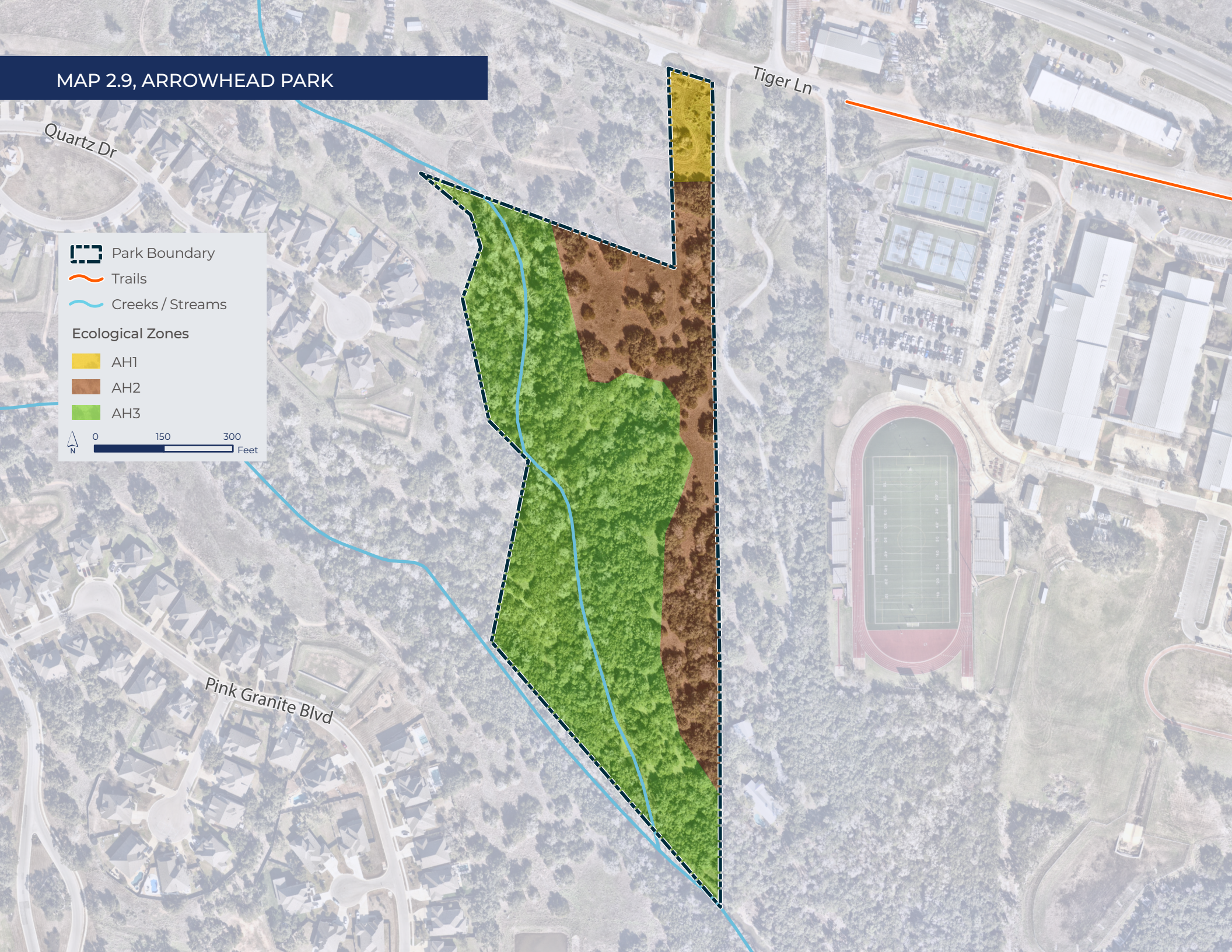
- 13.9 acres
- Unique geological features (canyon, grotto, and limestone outcrop)



PARK PERSONALITY

- **Naturally Distinctive:** Showcase the park's unique geological features and native landscape, highlighting the region's natural character.
- **Educational and Exploratory:** Offer an opportunity for discovery and learning, with a focus on environmental education.
- **Inclusive and Immersive:** Thoughtfully designed to welcome all ages and abilities, encouraging meaningful connections with nature.

MAP 2.9, ARROWHEAD PARK



Ecological Report

The overall ecological function of the park is good. A waterway enters the parcel and drops to a pool and the start of a small canyon. The geologic feature creates a unique riparian ecosystem at the base of the canyon including Maidenhair Fern, Sycamore, Roughleaf Dogwood, American Beautyberry, and Black Willow. Three main ecological zones were identified during the 2024 site visit and are shown on **Map 2.9, Arrowhead Park**. The quality of each of these zones is in brackets next to the ecological type name.

- AH 1 - Disturbed Shrubland / Midgrass Community [Fair]
- AH 2 - Midgrass Savanna Community [Good]
- AH 3 - Canyon / Riparian Bottomland Community [Excellent]



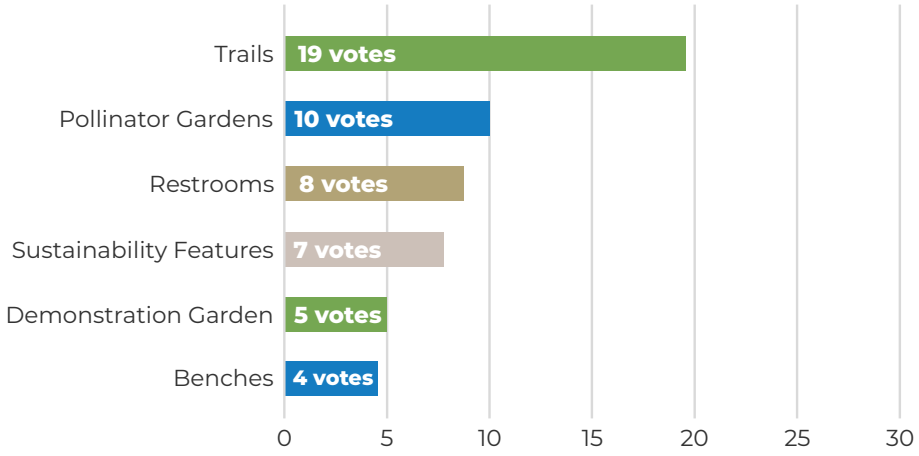
Vegetation and geologic feature observed at Arrowhead Park

Soils	• Comfort-Rock outcrop complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes • Stony Clay, Shallow Bedrock
Watershed	• **Sub Watershed** - Headwaters Onion Creek • **Watershed** - Onion Creek-Colorado River • **Sub Basin** - Austin-Travis Lakes • **Basin** - Colorado River Basin
Hydrology	• Waterway enters the site and drops 22 feet into a small pool, water flows 1,410 feet (30 feet change in elevation from pool to lowest point in ravine on south property boundary) offsite.
Plant Communities	• Disturbed Shrubland / Midgrass Prairie • Midgrass Oak-Juniper Savanna • Canyon / Riparian Bottomland
Overall Ecological Function	• Good

What We Heard

Feedback received at both the January and May open houses and throughout the process expressed a desire for Arrowhead Park to serve as an educational resource for the preservation of native habitats and unique geological features. This feedback informed the conceptual plan for the park, discussed in the following pages. Participants of the January open house indicated these facilities and amenities as their top priorities for Arrowhead Park.

TOP COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR ARROWHEAD PARK



Unique geological features within this park, focus on natural spaces and water preservation.

-Open house attendee

Conditions Assessment

Arrowhead Park is currently undeveloped and therefore could not be assessed. Once the park is developed, a conditions assessment should be performed to establish a baseline.



Vegetation and geologic feature observed at Arrowhead Park

Recommendations

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

- Construct the park according to community needs and desires as identified by the Arrowhead Park Conceptual Plan.

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

- Pursue funding resources to construct the park.
- Hire additional staff as needed to manage and maintain the park.

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

- For future development, locate improvements primarily within the Disturbed Shrubland / Midgrass Prairie (AH 1) and Midgrass Oak-Juniper Savanna (AH 2) zone.
- Use natural surface or permeable trail materials and avoid steep slopes or areas with thin soils.
- Implement vegetative stormwater management features, such as bioswales or vegetated buffers to protect the waterway and reduce downstream erosion.
- Monitor water quality during development to make sure control measures are in place and working to protect the waterway.
- Explore long-term conservation strategies such as acquiring property to protect the creek, using conservation easements, or partnering with local environmental groups for monitoring, technical guidance, and funding opportunities.

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and culture into public spaces and programming.

- Partner with Dripping Springs ISD and private schools for field trips and educational opportunities.
- Develop additional programming opportunities focused on nature education and all abilities access.
- Partner with Hays County Master Gardeners, Hays County Master Naturalists, and volunteers to maintain gardens in the park.

Conceptual Plan

Arrowhead Park is located next to Dripping Springs Middle School and with it's unique geological features and natural state, the focus for this park quickly evolved into nature education. A tributary for Onion Creek and steep canyon run through the center of this park, leaving only five to six acres of developable land. The recommended final concept, depicted on **Map 2.10, Arrowhead Park Conceptual Plan**, highlights ecological processes with educational nodes and emphasizes accessibility through features like canopy walks that offer views of natural landmarks such as the grotto and limestone outcrop.

Design Process

In the same process as the conceptual plan development for DSRP, a conceptual plan was created for Arrowhead Park. The conceptual plan was shaped by two preliminary designs based on stakeholder input and public feedback from open house events. These concepts were refined through collaboration with City staff, stakeholders, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Continued public and stakeholder engagement guided the design to its final form, ensuring it reflects community priorities.

Conceptual Plan Highlights

- Arrowhead Park had no prior planning efforts and was therefore selected for a conceptual plan.
- The community was split between wanting a fully programmed park or preserving Arrowhead Park as open space. Ultimately, being the only park on the west side of Dripping Springs led the concept plan to be more programmed. The conceptual plan balanced protection of the sensitive environmental features by focusing the programming on low impact uses (i.e., unpaved trails, playscapes made of natural materials, etc.) or nature education amenities.
- To protect the sensitive grotto and minimize runoff into Onion Creek, the proposed parking lot, which could be constructed with permeable pavers for additional runoff filtration, is placed farther from the creek.
- Rain gardens have been proposed between the parking lot and tributary to filter runoff and further minimize the risk to Onion Creek.
- In response to community input about the need for all-abilities amenities, a canopy walk was included to allow visitors of all ages and abilities to safely view the grotto.

MAP 2.10, ARROWHEAD PARK CONCEPTUAL PLAN



Rathgeber Natural Resource Park

Rathgeber Natural Resource Park was gifted to the City in December 2020 from Dick Rathgeber and Rathgeber Investment Company. In 2024, the City completed the Rathgeber Natural Resource Park Vision Plan, which was informed by a virtual site visit, surveys, environmental assessments, and public engagement opportunities. The Rathgeber Natural Resource Park is intended to honor the land's history as a former working ranch and to protect and steward the unique Hill Country native habitat, including the convergence of Barton Creek and Little Barton Creek.

Because the Rathgeber Natural Resource Park Vision Plan was completed shortly before this Plan, the Vision Plan heavily informed and guided this planning process's efforts related to Rathgeber Natural Resource Park. **Map 2.11, Vision Plan for Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (August 21, 2024),** from the Vision Plan, illustrates significant features planned for the park. Through selection of amenities and work shopping the Park Personality or Vision, public engagement for this Dripping Springs Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, confirmed the vision for the new park to be a regional community asset that focuses on preserving the environment and providing access and education for Dripping Springs.

Key Facts

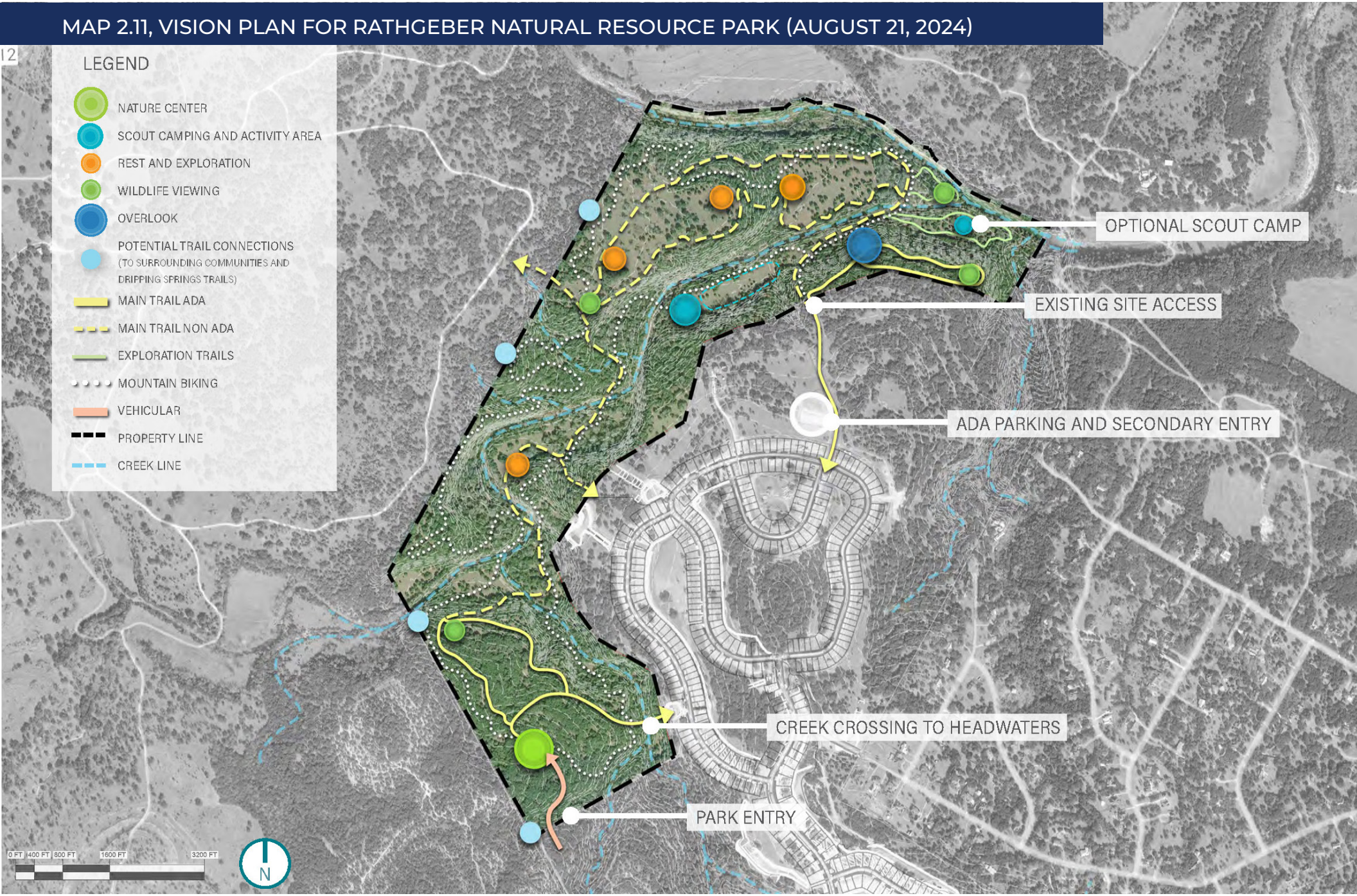
- 299.8 acres
- Donated to the City in 2020

PARK VISION

- **Environmental Preservation:** Strengthening the native qualities and natural systems of the land.
- **Resource Education:** Educate the public about the environment and history through iconic, interactive storytelling.
- **Equitable Accessibility:** Provide controlled public access to experiences in nature for people of all ages and abilities.
- **Low Impact Recreation:** creating opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors.



MAP 2.11, VISION PLAN FOR RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK (AUGUST 21, 2024)



Source: City of Dripping Springs' Rathgeber Natural Resource Park Vision Plan (August 21, 2024)

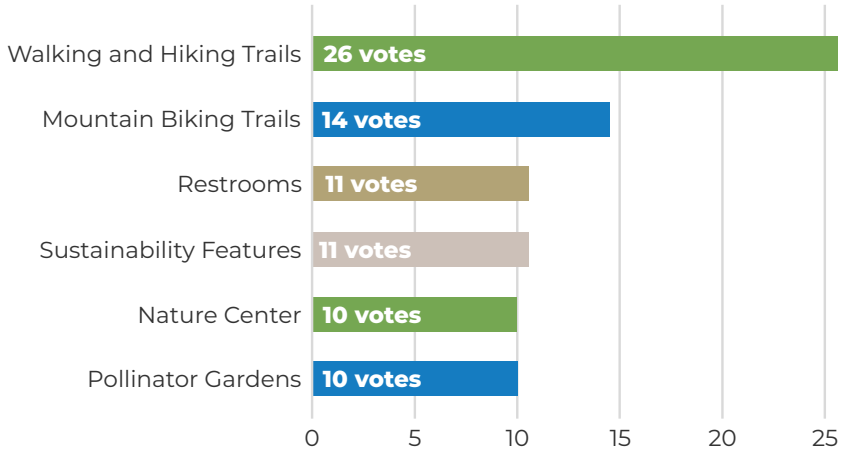
Ecological Report

Additional information regarding the ecological conditions at Rathgeber Natural Resource Park can be found in the City's 2024 Rathgeber Natural Resource Park Vision Plan.

What We Heard

Community members were asked to indicate their priorities for the future development of this park. The feedback received was consistent with the intended purpose of the park as a place for preserving the natural setting and providing educational opportunities. Participants of the January open house indicated these facilities and amenities as their top priorities for Rathgeber Natural Resource Park.

TOP COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK



> **Smaller version of Reimers Ranch Park would be perfect, geography and landscape seem similar, but smaller scale (creek and river). Hiking and biking trails.**
>
> -Open house attendee

Conditions Assessment

Rathgeber Natural Resource Park is currently undeveloped and therefore could not be assessed. Once the park is developed, a conditions assessment should be performed to establish a baseline.



Creek at Rathgeber Natural Resource Park

Recommendations

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

- Pursue funding to design and build essential park infrastructure (e.g., entry road, parking, utilities, lighting, etc.).
- Pursue funding to create final designs and build the Nature and Learning Center.
- Ensure this park remains as natural as possible with native plants and wildlife habitat while still supporting larger regional park features such as the nature center, camping facilities, and mountain bike trails.

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

- Prioritize the use of green infrastructure (e.g., solar panels, water recycling, rainwater harvesting, re-use of materials for construction, etc.).
- Ensure this park remains as natural as possible with native plants and wildlife habitat while also providing regional park amenities.
- Conduct an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and study of the species found at the park.

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

- Follow the vision and guidance established in the Rathgeber Natural Resource Park Vision Plan.
- Keep the community updated on the development of the park with annual updates on project status and timeline.
- Maintain transparency on cost to develop the park.

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and culture into public spaces and programming.

- Establish nature programming opportunities such as expansions of Coyote Kids, scout activities, family camp outs, etc.
- Establish outdoor adventure programming such as hiking, mountain biking, geocaching, wildlife viewing, and kayaking or fishing if possible.

PART 3: IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

It is through action, decision making, coordination, and monitoring that this Plan will come to fruition. **Part 3, Implementation** serves as the strategic framework for City staff, appointed and elected officials, and residents to implement the community's vision for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in Dripping Springs. The policies, guidance, and actions developed in this Plan will be the tools used to shape that future. To be successful, City representatives, department staff, and community members must all serve as "Champions" of the Plan, actively advocating for its priorities, seeking out opportunities to advance its goals, and ensuring future work remains aligned with the Guiding Principles that reflect community values.

This section outlines the actions necessary to implement the community's vision driven by the Guiding Principles. The Community's Action Plan, beginning on page 89 and summarized in the **Appendix**, should serve as a checklist for the City to track progress of Plan implementation over time. It is important to note this Plan is intended to be a living document that can adapt to changing community needs, funding availability, and emerging opportunities.

Ongoing communication between departments, elected leaders, and community partners will be essential to align efforts, secure resources, and build momentum. Regular evaluation and updates will help ensure accountability and keep the City focused on measurable progress toward long-term goals.

Plan Updates

Acknowledging that community desires change over time, the following updates are recommended to keep the Plan current and relevant as time passes.

- **Annual Progress Reports**: City staff should use the Community's Action Plan table as a checklist to document progress of the Plan. This progress report should be conducted annually, prior to budgeting processes, and presented to City Council and staff. Staff and elected and appointed officials should work together to determine if any amendments to the Community's Action Plan are needed.
- **Five-Year Update**: Undertaking an official plan update every five years allows the City to remain competitive in the TPWD grants process, as five-year updates are needed to ensure strong scores in the grant application point system. A five-year update should be conducted to update land use assumptions, parkland/facility inventories, conditions assessments, and also serves as an opportunity to solicit additional public opinion about recreational preferences.
- **10-Year Update**: Towards the end of this Plan's time horizon, it is recommended that the City prepare for a new master plan. While neither the five-year or 10-year update are strict requirements to continue qualification for grant funding, TPWD awards a higher point value for creating a new plan every 10 years.

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Dripping Springs PCS Department, with its community and staff partners, enriches community life by offering recreation, protecting natural resources, and hosting inclusive programs. This master plan defines a forward-looking vision, expressed in the PCS Department vision statement, mission statement, and core values shown on the following page. As the PCS Department leads the implementation of this Plan, in collaboration with community partners, these statements and core values help maintain direction and purpose in meeting the evolving needs of a growing city.

Core Values

The City of Dripping Springs is guided by seven core values that define its identity and inspire the work of all City employees. The City's core values are: **Community, Openness, Dependability, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Great Employees.**

In alignment with these, the PCS Department has established its own set of core values to guide its mission and vision, shown on the following page.

These core values embody the purpose of the PCS Department and support the staff's drive to raise the bar for parks, recreation, trails, and open space.



Vision Statement

A community known for exceptional parks, open space, trails, and programs that build community, support active and creative lifestyles, and preserve our unique environmental heritage for future generations.

Mission Statement

To connect people with nature, activities, and each other through visionary open space stewardship within safe and inclusive parks, and to deliver exciting, inspiring, and accessible opportunities for the community to gather, play and explore.

Core Values

Community Connection

We foster belonging, engagement, and shared experiences that bring people together.

Quality of Life

We enhance the well-being of residents through accessible, high-quality recreational and cultural opportunities.

Meaningful Experiences

We create lasting, positive impacts through memorable and diverse programs and events.

Environmental Stewardship

We are committed to protecting and enhancing the natural beauty and ecological health of the Hill Country.

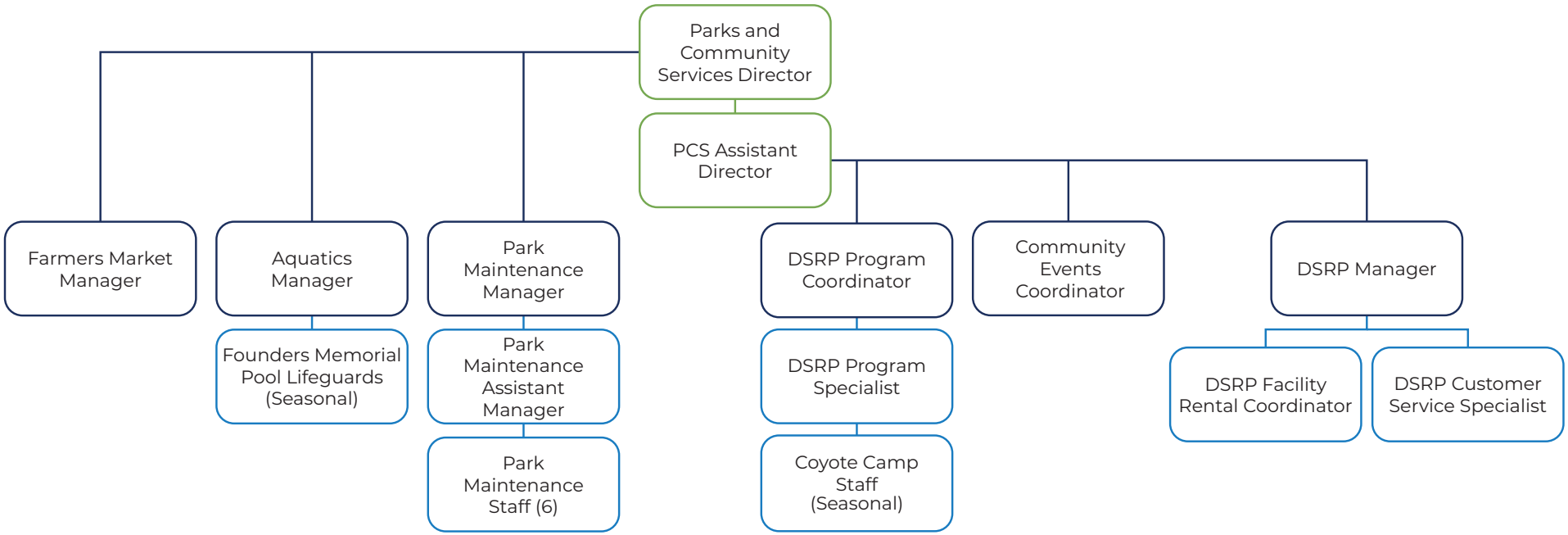
Safe Public Recreation

We prioritize safety, inclusivity, and excellence in the design and delivery of our parks and services.

Departmental Goals and Objectives

The PCS Department is organized into five divisions, each operating under the leadership of the Director and Assistant Director. Every division has developed its own set of goals and objectives, provided on the following page, aligned with its specific responsibilities. These goals and objectives go hand-in-hand with the Guiding Principles of this Plan. The objectives support the direction provided by the Guiding Principles by outlining specific, actionable steps across all areas of the PCS Department, and the PCS Department's operations bring this Plan's vision to life. With well-defined tactics, goals can be achieved efficiently, ensuring that staff, leadership, stakeholders, and residents remain engaged, informed, and able to hold the PCS Department accountable and focused. These goals are measurable and designed to track progress and performance over time. Collectively, they support the overall mission of the PCS Department by ensuring each division contributes effectively to departmental priorities and community service delivery.

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Park Maintenance

Goal: Maintain safe, clean, and attractive parks that encourage regular use.

- Improve response time to maintenance requests.
- Implement proactive maintenance technologies and strategies.
- Adopt environmental stewardship and sustainable maintenance practices citywide.
- Promote water conservation through xeriscaping, native plants, reclaimed water, etc.

Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Goal: Position DSRP as a premier Texas destination for equestrian events, recreation, and community gatherings.

- Preserve Dripping Springs' ranching/farming heritage through events and programming.
- Upgrade infrastructure (lighting, restrooms, arena footing) for enhanced user experience.
- Ensure a safe, well-maintained environment for all arena and park operations.

Aquatics

Goal: Deliver safe, inclusive, and high-quality aquatic services for all ages

- Offer seasonal swim lessons, water aerobics, and lifeguard certification with measurable success metrics.
- Strengthen lifeguard training to ensure safety and service excellence.
- Identify and address opportunities for facility and system improvements.

Recreation Programming

Goal: Provide diverse, engaging recreational opportunities for all residents.

- Develop dedicated spaces for programming and material storage.
- Improve infrastructure to support expanded programming.
- Partner with the community to identify unmet or underserved needs.
- Create programs that foster fitness, learning, social connection, and fun.

Community Events & Farmers Market

Goal: Deliver inclusive, safe, and impactful events that build civic pride and economic vitality.

- Track participation and economic impact of major events.
- Enhance event safety in coordination with Emergency Management.
- Create a robust calendar of signature events aligned with local identity and culture.
- Regularly assess and communicate event outcomes and benefits.



Dripping Springs Farmers Market

THE COMMUNITY'S ACTION PLAN

This Plan represents the City's commitment to preserving nature and providing recreation opportunities for a thriving and connected community. Central to this effort is the active involvement of residents, whose input, gathered through surveys, focus groups, public meetings, and open feedback, has shaped the direction and recommendations of the 2026 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The recommendations for implementing the community's vision are organized by the four Guiding Principles, shown on the following page, and have been informed by results of the various needs assessments conducted, and the industry's best practices.

An implementation program has been developed to realize each recommendation and to serve as a tool for the City to track progress over time. The program includes guidance for the type of action required, timing of implementation, and potential partners. Implementation tables are broken down by Guiding Principle on the following pages and a consolidated implementation table can be found in the **Appendix**.

Recommendation Type

The recommendations identified are comprised of a variety of recommendation types. The type listed will guide the City in how to initiate implementation of each recommendation and informs who will be the implementing agency. A combination of action types may be needed to achieve implementation. Action types include:

- **Investment**: New or adjusted capital or operational expenditures
- **Operation**: Requires a new or modified program or staffing arrangement
- **Partnership**: Agreement of informal pursuit of shared goals with external entities
- **Policy**: Requires a new or modified process or policy
- **Regulation**: Requires Council approved new ordinance or modification to City ordinance
- **Study**: Requires further analysis or investigation to determine most appropriate solution

Timeframe

A proposed timeframe for initiating each recommendation has been identified. As not all recommendations can be implemented at once, established timeframes will provide the City guidance to plan for implementation over time and track progress.

- **Short-Term**: Represents the recommendations that should be initiated in the next 1-3 years following adoption. These strategies have been determined to be feasible for implementation in the near term.
- **Mid-Term**: Represents the strategies that should be initiated in the next 3-6 years following plan adoption. These strategies require more complex planning and budgeting decisions.
- **Long-Term**: Represents the strategies that should be initiated in the next 6 or more years following adoption. These items support long-term visionary items and require significant planning and funding resources.
- **Ongoing**: Represents recommendations that do not have a specific timeframe and should be implemented over time or should be continually implemented on an established schedule.

Partners

Many recommendations have one or more potential partners identified. The support of the implementation partners is essential for optimal implementation of the recommendations. The partners that have been identified include an array of city departments and public and private entities. The implementation partners identified are not exhaustive, and additional partners may be identified throughout the timeframe of this Plan and the implementation process.



Top Priority Recommendation

These recommendations have been identified as priorities for implementation.

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

Provide a high level of service to support the growing community by strengthening existing parks and recreation amenities and developing new parks. Proactively identify opportunities for land acquisition and support the current system through improvements and expanded access.

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

Ensure the successful maintenance, growth, and management of parks, trails, open spaces, and programming in Dripping Springs by maintaining a well-funded, staffed, and effectively managed Parks and Community Services Department.

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

Elevate local pride of exceptional natural areas through thoughtful conservation practices. Ensure good stewardship of the signature spirit of the Hill Country in Dripping Springs through focused efforts related to water conservation, habitat preservation, and native landscaping.

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and character into public spaces and programming.

Cultivate and preserve the unique Dripping Springs culture and Hill Country heritage to balance continued community growth. Promote art installations, community events, and educational programming to showcase the community's music, art, Hill Country nature, and agricultural roots. Emphasize this culture through the unique identities and intentions of each individual park.



Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

Provide a high level of service to support the growing community by strengthening existing parks and recreation amenities and developing new parks. Proactively identify opportunities for land acquisition and support the current system through improvements and expanded access.

Recommendation 1.1

Evaluate potential to expand or build parks and conduct feasibility studies to determine cost, quality of land, and impact on the PCS Department.

The City should proactively seek opportunities to expand parks and potentially acquire land for new parks. The community would like to see several of the existing parks expanded to create more public parkland and amenities. Feasibility studies on potential land can help the City determine which land is suitable for parks, which land is a good value financially, and which land would be worth the City acquiring.

Recommendation 1.2

Identify locations in future parks for larger amenities such as a disc golf course, multi-purpose courts, basketball courts, or pickleball courts.

These amenities tend to be larger and as a result likely cannot fit into existing parkland. Should the City acquire any new parkland, they should consider including these amenities if the identity of the proposed park aligns with the needs of the amenity. There is potential to fit some of these amenities in existing parks, if aligned with park identity, however it would likely require reorganization or removal of existing amenities.

Recommendation 1.3

Identify locations in existing or future parks for additional small amenities requested by the community (i.e., demonstration gardens, additional play structures, pavilions, splash pads, or small covered picnic areas).

These amenities, which were requested by the public during the development of this Plan, may fit in some of the existing parks whose identity aligns with these amenities. For example, there could be space in Founders Memorial or Sports & Recreation Parks for these new amenities if some existing space was reorganized. Alternatively, these amenities could be located at future parks whose identities facilitate community gathering or gardening, such as Arrowhead Park.

Recommendation 1.4

Provide shade structures and seating at all existing and future playgrounds.

Hot weather can act as a deterrent to children and their families playing outside. Playground equipment and benches can be too hot to touch and prolonged, direct sun exposure can be a health hazard. Installing weather resistant shade structures that cover playground equipment and benches can encourage play during warmer months and provide a more comfortable experience. Benefits include keeping the playground equipment and playground visitors cool, reducing the likelihood of heat exhaustion and sunburns, encouraging longer visits to parks, and lowering the maintenance costs of long-term exposure to weather. It is important that the shade structures be made of weather resistant materials that can withstand prolonged sun exposure, high winds, and potential freezing temperatures during winter months.

Recommendation 1.5

Conduct a feasibility study for the development of an indoor recreation facility that identifies the appropriate size, multi-use programs, magnitude of costs, potential locations, and funding resources.

An indoor recreation facility was highly requested by various groups and residents during the public engagement process for this Plan. While one of the most expensive parks facilities a city can provide, indoor recreation centers are also highly used due to the lengthy, hot summers in Texas. The City should explore innovative funding opportunities, potential locations, and desired amenities for an indoor recreation center. Some amenities mentioned during the development of this plan include a competition length swimming pool, basketball court, tennis courts, pickleball courts, multi-generational program space, fitness center, outdoor amphitheater, and reservable community gathering space.

Development of indoor recreation facilities often goes through many iterations and can have long lead times prior to constructing a facility; therefore, early planning and consideration is essential. The feasibility study should make recommendations to establish the best fit for the community relating to the best possible site location, the operations, maintenance, and staffing needs, and the need to "right size" the facility by focusing on four key elements:

- Program: Defines the project's scope, objectives, and deliverables to ensure alignment with strategic goals and community needs.
- Total Project Budget: Breaks down all financial requirements, including capital costs and contingencies, to ensure financial adequacy.
- Proforma: Provides operational projections, including revenue forecasts, cost estimates, and staffing needs to evaluate the project's revenue potential and return on investment.
- Funding Resources: Analyzes project specifications to tie the project to specific grant or other funding opportunities.

Indoor Recreation Facility

A City-operated indoor and outdoor facility would give Dripping Springs a year-round hub for wellness, learning, and connection. Beyond courts and cardio rooms, the center can house after-school childcare, study rooms, flexible meeting and event suites, e-gaming lounges, and multipurpose studios for arts, music, and yoga—serving residents from toddlers to active older adults. Aquatic facilities at a community recreation center can include both competition-ready facilities and areas for leisure and children. A climate-controlled facility can ensure programs continue during summer heat or sudden weather events, while an attached outdoor green space can host outdoor pickleball leagues and festivals. Partnerships with Dripping Springs Independent School District, Dripping Springs Youth Sports Association / Tiger Splash Swim Team, the Hill Country Senior Center, and local non-profits can stretch capital dollars, share staffing, and tailor programming to evolving community needs. In short, an indoor recreation and community center is both an amenity and an essential civic anchor for any community.





Das Rec in New Braunfels, Texas

Recommendation 1.6

Partner with Great Springs Project and other trails groups to connect to regional trails (such as Great Springs Trail or Violet Crown Trail).

Several regional trail planning efforts are ongoing within Hays County such as the Great Springs Project and the Violet Crown Trail. The City of Dripping Springs should proactively coordinate with these and other trail planning groups to ensure that Dripping Springs can connect into future regional trail networks.

Recommendation 1.7

Ensure Dripping Springs' parks remain true to the established and accepted identity and any future redevelopment or improvement strengthens or supports park identities.

The Dripping Springs park system is unique in that each park has an established and community accepted identity for each park. Throughout the public engagement process for this plan, the community reiterated that they would like the identities of each park to remain strong and for future improvements to align with each park's identity. See pages 40 through 82 for existing park identities.

Recommendation 1.8

Routinely review and amend the Parkland Dedication Ordinance to support the future development of parkland.

Cities in Texas are granted authority to enact a parkland dedication ordinance to help ensure parks are developed as new development occurs. Dripping Springs currently has a parkland dedication ordinance in place requiring developers to dedicate acreage for parkland based on an established ratio or pay a fee in lieu of dedicating land. As part of this ordinance, developers are also required to pay a park development fee to provide for the amenities and trails in parks. To maintain a strong parkland dedication ordinance in continued support of increased access to parks for all residents, it is best practice to schedule regular reviews of the ordinance. Revisions should be made, as needed, to align with anticipated development patterns and ensure land value calculations have been updated.

Potential Regional Partner Spotlight: Great Springs Project

Great Springs Project is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to create a greenway of contiguous protected lands over the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone. Great Springs Project is working to develop a 100-mile trail network, the Great Springs Trail, a section of which will be built in Hays County. To develop this trail network, Great Springs Project is partnering with a multitude of local, regional, and state entities to leverage ongoing work and funding sources. Collaboration between Dripping Springs and Great Springs Project has the potential to enhance funding and trail planning opportunities, thereby furthering the goals of both entities to expand a regional trail network and conserve land within the Texas Hill Country.

great springs PROJECT



Walking trail in Founders Memorial Park

Recommendation 1.9

Continue to build out a connected, multi-use trail network.

Currently, only 10% of Dripping Springs residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, significantly lower than the national average of 74%. To improve access, the City should expand its network of sidewalks, trails, and bike paths. Where appropriate, include equestrian, mountain biking, running, and hiking routes with natural surfaces. Seek to enhance creekside trails and riparian corridors for both recreation and to support wildlife corridors and habitat. Funding opportunities are available through various sources, including Safe Routes to School grants, part of the Transportation Alternatives Program, which support pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure within two miles of schools.

How to Get Started

- [ ] Apply for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding to develop sidewalks and/or trails within a 2-mile radius of Dripping Springs schools.
- [ ] Explore additional funding resources for elements not covered by SRTS grants (i.e., utility relocation, trails outside of the 2-mile radius around schools).
- [ ] Develop engineering and design plans.
- [ ] Secure required permits, begin construction, and plan for ongoing maintenance.

Case Study: Trail Development in San Antonio, Texas

Beginning in 2000, voters in San Antonio, Texas approved a citywide one-eighth cent sales tax to fund the conservation of environmentally sensitive land over the Edwards Aquifer and the development of a linear park system, known as the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System. The tax, which was again approved by voters in 2005 and 2010, has helped fund the development of over 40 miles of trails along creeks and streams in San Antonio. With additional miles of planned trails, the overall system goal could yield 130 miles of hike and bike trails. The trails feature outdoor fitness stations, provide connections to community facilities and amenities, and are utilized for special events such as 5k runs and walking and running groups.

The trail network is supported by the Trail Watch Volunteer program, in which volunteers protect the flora and fauna along the trails, report vandalism, and assist trail users.

Similar voter-approved mechanisms could be utilized to develop trails within Dripping Springs and to protect sensitive land near creeks and riparian corridors.



The Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System in San Antonio, Texas

Recommendation 1.10

Identify a more visible location for the farmers market close to Mercer Street.

Stakeholders associated with the farmers market have advised that while the current location at DSRP provides shelter from the elements, it is far less visible from people passing by and therefore has seen a reduction in attendance. The City should explore new potential locations for the farmers market which are visible from the street to capture foot traffic but provide some protection during weather events.



Vendor at the Dripping Springs Farmers Market

Recommendation 1.11

Build new parks on undeveloped, City-owned land such as Arrowhead Park.

The City should leverage the existing publicly-owned parcel designated for Arrowhead Park to expand park access, preserve natural areas, and meet growing demand for outdoor recreation. Given the existing community support for Arrowhead Park, development of this site should be prioritized to fill gaps in the park system in the western portion of city limits and to enhance trail connectivity. In the development of Arrowhead Park, integrate low-impact development strategies such as native landscaping, rain gardens, bioswales, solar lighting, and permeable paving. Additionally, promote ecological restoration efforts and preserve existing natural features to enhance habitat value and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

How to Get Started

- [ ] Secure funding from various sources including grants, bonds, and formalized partnerships. To do so, research funding requirements including timing, match requirements, and key details.
- [ ] Survey the site to assess conditions like topography and access; re-engage the community if significant time has passed.
- [ ] Develop plans at 30%, 60%, and 90% design stages; finalize 100% construction documents with specs and cost estimates.
- [ ] Bid the project by issuing Requests for Bids to qualified, licensed contractors.
- [ ] Manage construction through site visits and meetings to keep work aligned with plans, budget, and schedule.

FOSTER THE GROWTH AND VIBRANCY OF THE DRIPPING SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY.				
Recommendation		**Type**	**Timeframe**	**Partners**
1.1	Evaluate potential to expand or build parks and conduct feasibility studies to determine cost, quality of land, and impact on the PCS Department.	Study, Investment	Ongoing	Planning & Development, PRC, Mayor / City Council
1.2	Identify locations in future parks for larger amenities such as a disc golf course, multi-purpose courts, basketball courts, or pickleball courts.	Study, Investment	Mid	PRC
1.3	Identify locations in existing or future parks for additional small amenities requested by the community (i.e., demonstration gardens, additional play structures, pavilions, splash pads, or small covered picnic areas).	Study, Investment	Ongoing	PRC
1.4	Provide shade structures and seating at all existing and future playgrounds.	Investment	Ongoing	N/A
1.5	Conduct a feasibility study for the development of an indoor recreation facility that identifies the appropriate size, multi-use programs, magnitude of costs, potential locations, and funding resources.	Study, Investment	Mid/Long	Outside technical groups
1.6	Partner with Great Springs Project and other trails groups to connect to regional trails (such as Great Springs Trail or Violet Crown Trail).	Partnership	Ongoing	Trail planning and development groups
1.7	Ensure Dripping Springs' parks remain true to the established and accepted identity and any future redevelopment or improvement strengthens or supports the parks identity.	Operation	Short	N/A
1.8	Routinely review and amend the Parkland Dedication Ordinance to support the future development of parkland.	Regulation	Short	Mayor / City Council, PRC, Planning & Development
1.9	Continue to build out a connected, multi-use trail network.	Investment	Ongoing	Planning & Development, Mayor / City Council
1.10	Identify a more visible location for the farmers market close to Mercer Street.	Study	Short	Planning & Development, PRC
1.11	Build new parks on undeveloped, City-owned land such as Arrowhead Park.	Investment	Mid/Long	Planning & Development, PRC, Mayor / City Council

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

Ensure the successful maintenance, growth, and management of parks, trails, open spaces, and programming in Dripping Springs by maintaining a well-funded, staffed, and effectively managed Parks and Community Services Department.

Recommendation 2.1

Apply for CAPRA accreditation.

Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation, offered by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), provides numerous benefits for municipal parks departments. For the public, it provides assurance that services meet professional standards, enhances transparency, and can lead to financial efficiencies. For municipalities, it offers public and political recognition, supports continual improvement through self-evaluation and benchmarking, strengthens staff engagement and pride, and encourages the regular review and documentation of policies and procedures.

CAPRA accreditation includes six (6) steps:

1. Agency submission of accreditation application with fee (new applicants only) or payment of annual fee or review fee if agency is reaccrediting
2. Training of agency staff and CAPRA volunteers on the accreditation process
3. Development of the agency self-assessment report
4. CAPRA volunteers complete initial review of self-assessment report to determine visit readiness
5. Agency hosts group of CAPRA volunteers for onsite or virtual visitation
6. CAPRA Commission review and decision at agency hearing during Commission's annual meeting

CAPRA Accreditation

The National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accredits parks and recreation agencies for excellence in community service and operational efficiency. CAPRA accreditation affirms that a parks and recreation agency provides its community with the highest level of service. This accreditation also indicates that the city has committed to providing its staff with the resources necessary to operate and maintain the parks and recreation system efficiently.

Why Dripping Springs should pursue CAPRA Accreditation

Although Dripping Springs PCS Department is not yet CAPRA-accredited, beginning the application process offers an immediate roadmap for excellence within the parks system. CAPRA's 154 best-practice standards help a growing city like Dripping Springs benchmark current operations, identify gaps, and prioritize upgrades in planning, finance, equity, and risk management. Additionally, accreditation positions Dripping Springs to compete for the NRPA Gold Medal Award, a national award that recognizes park systems demonstrating excellence in long-range planning, thereby marketing the community nationwide as a premier destination for families, outdoor enthusiasts, and employers seeking an exceptional quality of life.

Recommendation 2.2

Formalize volunteer efforts by establishing standard operating procedures, tracking volunteer hours, maintaining a list of opportunities, and establishing a volunteer point of contact/ manager.

Throughout the public engagement process for this Plan, the community expressed an interest in volunteering to help maintain or improve parks. Successful volunteer efforts rely on strong communication, organization, and recognition. The PCS Department should enhance the current approach to volunteerism by identifying recurring tasks suitable for volunteers, such as habitat restoration, trash pickup, event support, or invasive species removal, and create clear descriptions with associated standard operating procedures (SOPs). These SOPs should outline responsibilities, safety protocols, supervision expectations, and reporting methods.

To recruit volunteers effectively, the PCS Department should hold annual or bi-annual calls for volunteers and promote opportunities on their website, social media, and through partnerships with schools, civic groups, and local nonprofits. The City should consider providing some orientation and task-specific training which would ensure volunteers are well-prepared and understand their role. Tracking volunteer hours not only acknowledges contributions but also helps leverage in-kind support for grant applications. Maintaining a current database of volunteers and their interests makes it easier to match individuals with appropriate opportunities. Recognizing volunteer efforts through events, social media spotlights, or certificates fosters appreciation and long-term retention. If volunteering becomes more popular, the PCS Department may consider hiring a new position or assigning a staff member as a manager for volunteer efforts.

Recommendation 2.3

Separate park and facility rental fees for residents within the city limits and those in the ETJ to ensure that city taxpayers receive more favorable rates in recognition of their direct contribution to park funding and maintenance.

Currently the PCS Department charges fees to reserve amenities such as a pavilion, athletic fields, the pool, or to register for some programs. Fees are currently divided into resident, non-resident / non-profit organizations, and commercial entities. This proposal would separate the rate for people who live within the city limits to ensure that those who directly support parks through local taxes receive added value for their contributions.

Recommendation 2.4

Provide annual or bi-annual progress reports to City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission to inform the public of the implementation progress of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

These reports allow the City to track plan implementation, monitor pilot projects or the effectiveness of new policies, and budget for the upcoming year.

Recommendation 2.5

Provide a map with locations of mile markers along trails to appropriate emergency services (Police, Fire, EMS) so that people in need of emergency services can be quickly located.

Providing locations or a map of mile markers to first responders can help locate trail users in the event of an emergency. These markers allow trail users to quickly and accurately report their location along the trail and reduce response times. Mile markers also help trail users better navigate the trail network, as trails often lack consistent, identifiable landmarks. These markers can also be used by staff to pinpoint locations that require maintenance according to proximity to the marker.

Recommendation 2.6

Create lifecycle replacement schedules for playground equipment to identify and track timeframes for replacing outdated structures.

Creating and implementing lifecycle replacement schedules for playground equipment can improve longevity and maintain the safety and functionality of park amenities. These schedules proactively identify and track timeframes for replacing structures that may otherwise be unusable or unsafe. Proactively managing the replacement process allows the City to preemptively allocate funding during the budgeting process. These schedules encourage consistent quality of recreation equipment. Continuously improving playground equipment keeps facilities in line with current safety standards and evolving community needs.

Replacement Planning

A key implementation step after adoption of this Plan is the need to prepare a targeted replacement schedule for playground equipment. An assessment by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector will provide a more in-depth view of necessary upkeep versus replacement to ensure safety and viability of the playgrounds in Dripping Springs' parks. This assessment includes thorough inspections of all playground equipment, taking into account factors such as wear and tear, compliance with safety standards, and the introduction of innovative, inclusive design elements that reflect the evolving needs of our diverse community. By following this targeted replacement schedule and prioritizing safety and accessibility, the City can aim to provide a welcoming and enjoyable park experience for all residents.

Recommendation 2.7

Develop a 3-5 year Strategic Plan, stating how the PCS Department will achieve its mission, goals, and objectives.

Established in this Plan is an updated mission statement for the PCS Department and individual goals and objectives for each division or component of the PCS Department. Suggested measures for each goal have been included as well. As a component of achieving CAPRA Accreditation, this 3-5 year Strategic Plan will chart a path forward for the PCS Department to monitor and achieve its mission, goals, and objectives.

Recommendation 2.8

Conduct a comprehensive accessibility audit or ADA Transition Plan to identify and prioritize areas within existing parks that require physical or infrastructural improvement.

To ensure equitable access to all parks, recreation facilities, and amenities, the City should continue its efforts to secure funding, such as TAP funding, for a comprehensive Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assessment. This citywide assessment will identify physical and programmatic barriers that limit access for individuals with disabilities and provide a clear baseline for compliance with federal accessibility standards. Based on this assessment, the City should develop a phased plan for the removal of barriers at existing recreation facilities, parks, and amenities.



A comprehensive accessibility audit can help determine where improvements are needed to provide ADA accessibility.

Recommendation 2.9

Allocate resources for staff training to increase specialized and technical knowledge of staff and guide maintenance and management best practices.

Trainings for staff are essential for keeping up with industry standards and best practices. Identifying trainings in areas such as horticulture management, playground safety and maintenance, natural resources management, aquatic facility management, and recreational programming management will allow staff to be well-equipped to address the diverse needs typical of parks and recreation facilities and amenities. It is important to not only allocate resources to train staff to take on their responsibilities but to also implement a process for transferring institutional knowledge to reduce gaps in skills or requiring outsourcing. When developing the annual budget for parks and recreation, funding should be identified for training seminars, workshops, and other opportunities for increasing specialized knowledge. Investment in the skillsets of current staff will allow them to fulfill the responsibilities of their roles more effectively and minimize the need to outsource tasks.

Recommendation 2.10

Hire or contract services for a grant writer to assist the City in finding and applying for grants.

A grant writer that is dedicated to pursuing grant opportunities will reduce the current administrative burden of this responsibility on city staff. An individual that is specialized in grant writing has industry knowledge and expertise in identifying, applying for, and securing funding from diverse sources including federal, state, and private organizations. Relying on the expertise of a grant writing professional ensures that grant applications are not only submitted accurately but are written in a compelling manner. This will enhance the City's opportunities for a wider range of grants, significantly increasing the likelihood for additional funding.

Recommendation 2.11

Explore the use of an app-based system for online reservations to provide a more convenient process for securing and managing program registration and facility reservations.

The PCS Department currently uses an online portal for facility reservations and program registration. Adding a mobile app would enhance convenience by allowing residents to check availability, make reservations, and submit payments on their own schedules. Apps also increase engagement by sending notifications about programs and events.

For staff, introducing automated services like app-based reservation systems streamlines operations and reduces administrative burden, allowing staff to redirect focus to other responsibilities. The data collected by a mobile app provides valuable information about facilities and program usage and participation, which can be utilized to inform future allocation of funding, staffing, and other resources. The City can explore a number of mobile application options to determine which one best meets their needs and creates the ideal customer experience for park and recreation users.



Playground at Sports and Recreation Park

Recommendation 2.12

Develop an Operations and Maintenance Plan that includes best management practices, maintenance standards and regular maintenance schedule, and an analysis of existing policies that will maximize the effectiveness of the limited PCS Department resources.

To ensure the PCS Department operates efficiently and maximizes its limited resources, an Operations and Maintenance Plan should be developed. This plan should establish maintenance standards and best management practices tailored to the needs of different park types, facility uses, and levels of activity. It should include a routine maintenance schedule that prioritizes high-use areas, ensures safety and cleanliness, and promotes the long-term sustainability of parks and facilities. At the same time, the plan should recognize the value of low-maintenance strategies such as native landscaping, no-mow zones, and naturalized areas. The plan should also evaluate current policies and practices, including those related to parkland dedication and development, to ensure alignment with industry standards and evolving community expectations.

How to Get Started

- [ ] Track and inventory time and resources spent for regular maintenance activities of parks facilities.
- [ ] Identify areas of maintenance or processes that could be streamlined.
- [ ] Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for maintenance activities, including safety protocols. Distribute these SOPs to department leaders for quality assurance checks.
- [ ] Analyze current capacity of staffing, skills, and equipment. Identify gaps and determine where additional resources or training is needed.
- [ ] Establish a standard maintenance schedule, accounting for additional seasonal and/or event needs.
- [ ] Create an inspection and evaluation framework to monitor performance of maintenance procedures.

Recommendation 2.13

Develop a Recreational Programming Plan specifying program mix, seasonal schedules, underserved demographics, facility requirements, partnerships, and measurable success metrics.

The PCS Department should create a 2–3 year Recreational Programming Plan (RPP) to guide all recreation programs and services. This plan should outline how the PCS Department delivers inclusive, high-quality programming for individuals of all ages and abilities. It should also include a clear framework for the lifecycle of program offerings, detailing how programs are planned, implemented, evaluated, and, when necessary, phased out to ensure the PCS Department remains responsive to community needs and interests.

Recommendation 2.14

Ensure the PCS Department is adequately staffed and funded to maintain parkland, amenities/facilities, and programs.

The PCS Department has recently taken great strides in enhancing the parks maintenance operations, and to assist with addressing all maintenance needs, maintenance of certain parks facilities are outsourced to community partners. For example, the athletic fields are currently maintained by Dripping Springs Youth Sports Association (DSYSA) in exchange for use of the fields, but this agreement expires in 2026. Should the City take on maintenance of any facilities maintained by community organizations or open any new parkland, additional maintenance staff and budget will be required. Evaluating the staffing operations and budgets of other comparable cities can serve as a benchmark for the City to determine their future needs.

> **You can see how hard the parks maintenance staff works. They continually show up with a positive attitude and do a great job.**
>
> -Dripping Springs City Council member

SUPPORT THE PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO LEAD WITH EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION.				
Recommendation		**Type**	**Timeframe**	**Partners**
2.1	Apply for CAPRA accreditation.	Operation	Mid	City Administrator
2.2	Formalize volunteer efforts by establishing standard operating procedures, tracking volunteer hours, maintaining a list of opportunities, and establishing a volunteer point of contact/manager.	Operation	Short	Mayor / City Council, PRC, Community/Volunteers
2.3	Separate park and facility rental fees for residents within the city limits and those in the ETJ to ensure that city taxpayers receive more favorable rates in recognition of their direct contribution to park funding and maintenance.	Policy	Short	Mayor / City Council, City Administrator, PRC
2.4	Provide annual or bi-annual progress reports to City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission to inform the public of the implementation progress of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.	Operation	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council, City Administrator, PRC
2.5	Provide a map with locations of mile markers along trails to appropriate emergency services (Police, Fire, EMS) so that people in need of emergency services can be quickly located.	Investment	Mid	Planning & Development, Emergency Management
2.6	Create lifecycle replacement schedules for playground equipment to identify and track timeframes for replacing outdated structures.	Operation	Short	N/A
2.7	Develop a 3-5 year strategic plan, stating how the PCS Department will achieve its mission, goals, and objectives.	Study, Investment	Short	PRC
2.8	Conduct a comprehensive accessibility audit or ADA Transition Plan to identify and prioritize areas within existing parks that require physical or infrastructural improvement.	Study	Short	Planning & Development
2.9	Allocate resources for staff training to increase specialized and technical knowledge of staff and guide maintenance and management best practices.	Operation	Ongoing	N/A
2.10	Hire or contract services for a grant writer to assist the City in finding and applying for grants.	Investment, Operation	Short	Mayor / City Council
2.11	Explore the use of an app-based system for online reservations to provide a more convenient process for securing and managing program registration and facility reservations.	Operation	Mid	City Administrator

SUPPORT THE PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO LEAD WITH EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
2.12	Develop an Operations and Maintenance Plan that includes best management practices, maintenance standards and regular maintenance schedule, and an analysis of existing policies that will maximize the effectiveness of the limited PCS Department resources.	Study, Investment	Short	Outside technical groups
2.13	Develop a Recreational Programming Plan specifying program mix, seasonal schedules, underserved demographics, facility requirements, partnerships, and measurable success metrics.	Study, Investment	Short	N/A
2.14	Ensure the PCS Department is adequately staffed and funded to maintain parkland, amenities/facilities, and programs.	Operation	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council, City Treasurer, PRC



Use of an app-based reservation system can create a more efficient and convenient process for facilities reservations.

> **Expansion of the parks maintenance department has, so far, made a tremendous difference.**
>
> -Dripping Springs City Council member

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

Elevate local pride of exceptional natural areas through thoughtful conservation practices. Ensure good stewardship of the signature spirit of the Hill Country in Dripping Springs through focused efforts related to water conservation, habitat preservation, and native landscaping.

Recommendation 3.1

Develop a Land Management Plan to establish effective strategies to protect and preserve ecologically important lands.

The City should consider developing a Land Management Plan that prioritizes ecological health, habitat conservation, and resilience. This plan would serve as a blueprint for stewardship practices across all parklands, identifying key natural resources, outlining restoration goals, and recommending management actions. It would also help prioritize projects, guide resource allocation, and ensure consistent care across properties.

Recommendation 3.2

Consider hiring a dedicated conservation and/or land management specialist to manage natural areas and open spaces.

As the City acquires more natural areas and open space, it will be increasingly important to manage these lands. Hiring a dedicated conservation and/or land management specialist will provide the expertise needed to oversee and steward the growing acreage of natural space. This role can guide ecological restoration efforts, oversee vegetation management, and coordinate with external partners to ensure the long-term sustainability of natural resources.

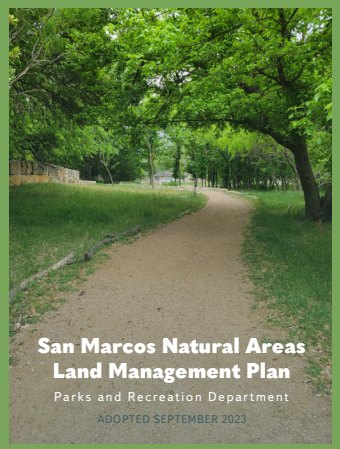
Recommendation 3.3

Strengthen relevant conservation policies to proactively support long-term conservation goals.

Updating and strengthening policies such as the City's tree preservation ordinance, water conservation policies, native landscaping requirements, and development buffers near natural areas can reinforce conservation goals. These proactive policies can help limit habitat fragmentation, conserve limited resources such as water, and ensure that future development is compatible with the City's environmental values.

San Marcos Natural Areas Land Management Plan

The San Marcos Natural Areas Land Management Plan, adopted in 2023, was initiated as a result of the City's 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan which provided several actions related to protecting and managing the City's natural areas. This plan establishes an inventory and framework for the preservation, management, restoration, and enhancement of the San Marcos Natural Areas and the natural, cultural, visual, archaeological, and recreational resources they provide. The goals of this plan call for the protection of natural systems as additional development occurs and the provision of an accessible, diverse, and connected network of parks and open spaces for the community.



Recommendation 3.4

Incorporate rainwater harvesting and strengthen smart water usage in City parks.

Pursue smart water solutions where possible in every City-owned park, such as installing rainwater harvesting systems, planting native or adapted species to reduce irrigation use and improve landscape resilience, and prioritizing permeable surfaces. These practices reduce water consumption, lower maintenance costs, and increase drought resilience, aligning with both sustainability and climate adaptation goals.

Recommendation 3.5

Partner with Hill Country Alliance, Trust for Public Land, and other conservation-focused entities for technical, funding support, and partnership opportunities.

Numerous entities who specialize in conservation can assist the City with technical guidance, grant opportunities, outreach support, and connections to regional conservation efforts. Land management can begin through self-performed land management activities in collaboration with local experts, such as the Master Naturalists or through the use of qualified contractors.

Recommendation 3.6

Prioritize permeable surfaces and light-touch, minimal-impact construction to preserve the natural character and ecological function of parks.

Using permeable materials for paths and facilities helps reduce stormwater runoff and maintain groundwater recharge. Similarly, limiting grading, paving, and extensive infrastructure helps retain the site's ecological integrity, especially in sensitive areas. These practices ensure that improvements blend with the landscape and support long-term ecosystem health. One important caveat to note is that permeable materials tend to not support access for people with disabilities. The City should work carefully to balance accessibility with inclusion of permeable surfaces. Additionally, permeable surfaces can have higher maintenance costs than non-permeable alternatives. For this reason, planning for maintenance operations and funding resources is essential.

Recommendation 3.7

Undergo a Fire Risk Assessment for parks in Dripping Springs.

Partner with the local Texas A&M Forest Service office or Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to initiate the process for assessing wildfire risk within City-owned parks. As part of this assessment, collaborate with North Hays County Fire and Rescue and other applicable fire response entities. To balance the ecological health of the park with fire risk, fire risk assessments should account for ecological and habitat health when considering factors such as fuel load analysis, recommendations for vegetation management, and strategies for protecting park infrastructure and visitors.

Potential Regional Partner Spotlight: Hill Country Alliance

"The mission of the Hill Country Alliance is to bring together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country."

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, works closely with communities located in the Hill Country region and similar conservation organizations to protect the unique natural resources of the area through education, advocacy, capacity-building, and developing partnerships. The HCA also provides resources such as the Friends of the Night Sky Resource Guide, the Hillside Stewardship Guide, and the Leading by Example Guidebook - a resource of ordinances and tools for growing Hill Country communities.

The knowledge and resources of the Hill Country Alliance can prove valuable to Dripping Springs for implementing policies that balance the growth of the city and steward its distinct Hill Country identity.

hill country alliance

CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TO CONSERVE THE HILL COUNTRY.				
Recommendation		**Type**	**Timeframe**	**Partners**
3.1	Develop a Land Management Plan to establish effective strategies to protect and preserve ecologically important lands.	Study	Long	Outside technical groups
3.2	Consider hiring a dedicated conservation and/or land management specialist to manage natural areas and open spaces.	Investment	Mid	Mayor / City Council
3.3	Strengthen relevant conservation policies to proactively support long-term conservation goals.	Policy	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council, PRC, Planning & Development
3.4	Incorporate rainwater harvesting and strengthen smart water usage in City parks.	Investment	Ongoing	N/A
3.5	Partner with Hill Country Alliance, Trust for Public Land, and other conservation-focused entities for technical, funding support, and partnership opportunities.	Partnership	Ongoing	Conservation groups
3.6	Prioritize permeable surfaces and light-touch, minimal-impact construction to preserve the natural character and ecological function of parks.	Policy	Short	N/A
3.7	Undergo a Fire Risk Assessment for parks in Dripping Springs.	Study	Mid	Texas A&M Forest Service

Natural beauty is so tied to Dripping Springs. The parks do a great job of capturing that, and people can experience the beauty of the Hill Country here.

-Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Commission member

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and culture into public spaces and programming.

Cultivate and preserve the unique Dripping Springs culture and Hill Country heritage to balance continued community growth. Promote art installations, community events, and educational programming to showcase the community's music, art, Hill Country nature, and agricultural roots. Emphasize this culture through the unique identities and functions of each individual park.

Recommendation 4.1

Work with local historic preservation groups to brainstorm additional heritage and cultural programs, art, or other signage in parks.

There are several groups operating in Dripping Springs that focus on history and local culture. These groups could help the PCS Department incorporate history and heritage into parks by aiding in developing interpretive signage, leading walking tours, and co-hosting educational events that deepen residents' and visitors' appreciation for the area's past. Perhaps eventually a Historical Society for Dripping Springs could be established to help preserve, celebrate, and share the unique history and heritage of the community. A dedicated organization could lead efforts to collect oral histories, archive historical documents and photographs, and preserve significant sites and structures.

Recommendation 4.2

Provide more nature education programs for all age groups such as bat education, plant identification, painting in the park, bird identification, etc.

During the development of this Plan, the community expressed a strong interest in more nature education programming. Programs like bat and bird identification, plant walks, and nature-inspired art classes could offer engaging, hands-on learning experiences that highlight the region's unique ecosystems. Both recreational and educational, these activities encourage families and individuals to spend more time in local parks, fostering a lifelong appreciation for nature. The PCS Department could diversify the nature programs already offered or coordinate with new local groups to expand programming.

Recommendation 4.3

Add cultural programming such as Shakespeare or other plays in the park, live music in the park, or community picnic days.

During the public engagement process for this Plan, the community expressed a desire for more family-friendly activities and opportunities to gather as a community. Cultural programming helps bring the community together by offering shared experiences that celebrate the arts and local traditions. Events like plays, concerts, and picnic gatherings create vibrant, inclusive spaces that strengthen community bonds and enhance the quality of life for residents. These types of programs can activate underused park spaces, support local artists and performers, and provide low-cost entertainment for families, seniors, and youth.



Bird viewing station at Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Recommendation 4.4

Consider hosting water safety programs, in addition to swim lessons, at the Dripping Springs Founders Memorial Pool.

The PCS Department currently offers swimming lessons at the Founders Memorial Pool. These programs could be expanded to include essential skills such as CPR, rescue strategies, and safe water practices, helping to ensure that all residents feel safe and well-prepared when enjoying aquatic amenities.

Recommendation 4.5

Establish programs for senior citizens such as water aerobics, picnics in the park, wildflower driving tours, or other accessible programs.

The PCS Department does not currently offer any programming specifically targeting the senior population in Dripping Springs. During the stakeholder interviews for this Plan, community members expressed an interest in activities that were accessible to older people such as water aerobics, picnics in the park, or wildflower driving tours with the new vans the PCS Department has acquired.

Recommendation 4.6

Expand and strengthen coordination with community organizations to implement new programs.

During the public engagement process for this Plan, the community expressed an interest in more recreational programming for all ages. To optimize resources and deliver a broader range of parks and recreation opportunities, the PCS Department should focus on strengthening partnerships with local organizations to expand the recreational programming available in Dripping Springs. Such organizations may include the YMCA, DSISD, the Dripping Springs Art League, the Hill Country Senior Center, the Chamber of Commerce, Dripping Springs Community Library, Hays County Master Naturalists, Hays County Master Gardeners, and the Pound House Farmstead and Museum. These partnerships ensure that residents have access to a more diverse and comprehensive set of programs and events. Collaborating with local organizations allows for shared expertise, resources, and facilities, leading to higher-quality offerings that are well-coordinated and aligned with community needs.

Recommendation 4.7

Develop a self-guided cultural tour with the locations of the Stars of Dripping Springs sculptures and other significant locations in or near City parks.

The Stars of Dripping Springs are a recent art initiative, through partnership of the City and the Dripping Springs Art League, to install sculptures celebrating local artists, history, and ecology. As the City continues to install these sculptures and build out the trail network, there is an opportunity to pair these features through the development of a self-guided walking tour showcasing this public art and the amenities Dripping Springs has to offer.



December Art Market

Recommendation 4.8

Provide Adopt-a-Trail and Adopt-a-Creek programs to promote the beautification of the trail systems and build community pride.

As recommended by the Comprehensive Plan, the City should provide and promote Adopt-a-Trail and Adopt-a-Creek programs to the community and its businesses. Adopt-a-Trail and Adopt-a-Creek programs are initiatives that encourage individuals, groups, or businesses to maintain and improve specific trails or creeks. Participants commit to regular upkeep of a designated trail section, fostering community pride and enhancing the trail experience.



Adopt-a-Trail programs can assist with care and maintenance of amenities like the Katherine Berkley Cannon trail at Founders Memorial Park.

Maintenance Cost Mitigation

Throughout this planning process, the PCS Department was commended for their dedication to providing high quality service and timely responses to maintenance needs within the parks system. However, as the parks system grows, the demands on the PCS Department staff are likely to grow as well. Routine care of the park facilities can be consuming, both in time and financially, and finding ways to mitigate these impacts can allow the PCS Department to utilize those resources for other needs. Additionally, the community expressed interest in volunteering time and effort to help maintain the parks system. Below are several ways the City can mitigate costs for parks maintenance. In addition to maintenance and physical contributions, these programs provide opportunities for fundraising to benefit the Dripping Springs parks system.

Adopt-a-Trail Programs: These are typically small-grant programs that fund new construction, repair or renovation, maps, trail brochures, and support facilities (bicycle racks, picnic areas, birding equipment, etc.), as well as provide maintenance support. These programs are similar to the popular "adopt-a-mile" highway programs most states utilize and can also accept cash contributions.

Adopt-a-Park Programs: These are small-grant programs that fund new construction and provide maintenance support. Adopt-a-Park programs can also accept cash contributions.

Operational Partnerships: Partnerships are operational funding sources formed from two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a public agency, or a private business and a public agency.

Recommendation 4.9

Host an annual or bi-annual citywide park cleanup day.

Citywide park cleanup days are great opportunities to encourage community gathering while beautifying parks and public spaces. These events offer residents a hands-on opportunity to contribute to the beautification of parks, trails, and natural areas while working alongside neighbors and friends. Cleanup days can also serve as educational moments, raising awareness about litter prevention, conservation, and the importance of caring for shared spaces.

Recommendation 4.10

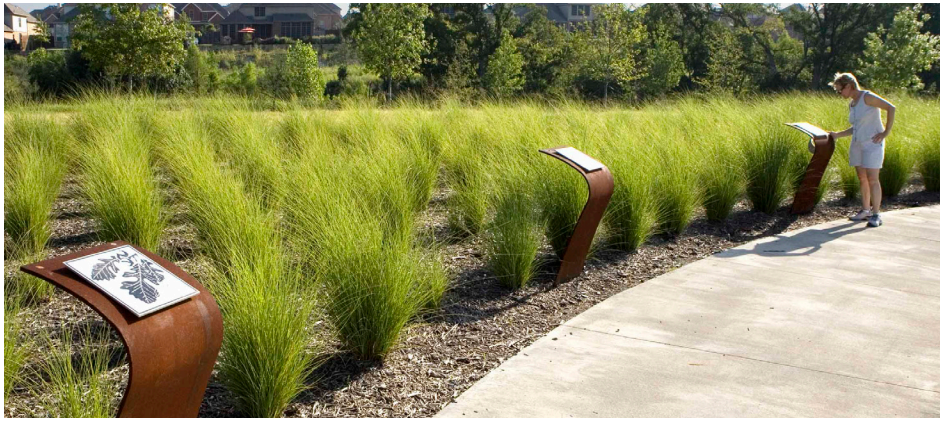
Provide outdoor adventure opportunities such as camping, hiking, kayaking, and day or overnight trips to nearby State Parks.

During the development of this Plan, citizens and survey respondents identified outdoor adventure as a top priority for programming investment, and local and regional trends call for outdoor recreation opportunities like trails and outdoor learning. The proximity of regional and State Parks like Pedernales Falls State Park, Blanco State Park, McKinney Falls State Park, and Westcave Preserve, all located within a one hour drive of Dripping Springs, provides an exceptional opportunity for expanding outdoor adventure programming beyond the city limits. Day and overnight trips to parks such as these foster recreation, skill-building, and appreciation for the Hill Country for users of all ages.

Recommendation 4.11

Integrate interpretive signage into parks and along trails to provide visitors with ecological, cultural, or historical information about the area.

Interpretive signage enhances visitor experience by providing ecological, historical, and/or cultural information about the surrounding community. The City should work with community groups that have interest in the natural environment, history, arts and culture to help identify appropriate information to be highlighted through the signage. Elements to consider when installing new interpretive signage include durability of materials, timeliness of information included, and use of accessible language for the everyday person to understand.





Example of interpretative signage

CULTIVATE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND PRESERVE LOCAL HERITAGE BY INCORPORATING HISTORY, ART, AND CULTURE INTO PUBLIC SPACES AND PROGRAMMING.				
Recommendation		**Type**	**Timeframe**	**Partners**
4.1	Work with local historic preservation groups to brainstorm additional heritage and cultural programs, art, or other signage in parks.	Partnership	Mid	Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), The Pound House Farmstead and Museum, Dripping Springs Community Library
4.2	Provide more nature education programs for all age groups such as bat education, plant identification, painting in the park, bird identification, etc.	Operation	Ongoing	DSISD, Dripping Springs Community Library, Hays County Master Naturalists
4.3	Add cultural programming such as Shakespeare or other plays in the park, live music in the park, movie nights, or community picnic days.	Operation	Mid	DSISD, Dripping Springs Community Library, Dripping Springs Art League
4.4	Consider hosting water safety programs, in addition to swim lessons, at the Dripping Springs Founders Memorial Pool.	Operation	Mid	N/A
4.5	Establish programs for senior citizens such as water aerobics, picnics in the park, wildflower driving tours, or other accessible programs.	Operation	Short	Hill Country Senior Center
4.6	Expand and strengthen coordination with community organizations to implement new programs.	Partnership	Ongoing	YMCA, DSISD, Dripping Springs Art League, Hill Country Senior Center, Chamber of Commerce, Dripping Springs Community Library, Hays County Master Naturalists, Pound House Farmstead and Museum
4.7	Develop a self-guided cultural tour with the locations of the Stars of Dripping Springs sculptures and other significant locations in or near City parks.	Operation	Mid	Dripping Springs Art League, HPC
4.8	Provide Adopt-A-Trail and Adopt-A-Creek programs to promote the beautification of the trail systems and build community pride.	Operation	Long	N/A
4.9	Host an annual or bi-annual citywide park cleanup day.	Operation	Ongoing	Local businesses, Community/ Volunteers
4.10	Provide outdoor adventure opportunities such as camping, fishing, hiking, kayaking, and day or overnight trips to nearby State Parks.	Operation	Short	N/A
4.11	Integrate interpretive signage into parks and along trails to provide visitors with ecological, cultural, or historical information about the area.	Investment	Ongoing	HPC, Dripping Springs Community Library, Pound House Farmstead and Museum, Hays County Master Naturalists

Community Partner Highlights

There are a number of localized community organizations active within Dripping Springs that play a role in providing programs and events to Dripping Springs residents. Many of these already have a partnership with the PCS Department, while others have expressed interest in forming a partnership or have the potential to become a partner. Each community partner brings a different focus, promoting a variety of programs and opportunities for community members to enjoy. Regardless of the scale of these partnerships, whether they cater to one specific group or interest or are involved in many aspects of the parks system, each community partner plays a valuable role in the implementation of this Plan. The following pages highlight several of these partners. Whereas the potential regional partners highlighted in the previous pages are active in the broader Central Texas area, these community partners have a localized focus within Dripping Springs or the immediate area. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive of the community partners, or their particular programs, and new partnerships may be formed over the life of this Plan.

Dripping Springs Art League

"The Dripping Springs Art League's vision is to establish itself as a dynamic and flourishing association of artists, galleries, and creative individuals. With a diverse and caring community at its core, the League strives to serve as the art community connection for the Dripping Springs area art scene, and to promote awareness as a vibrant and inspiring Hill Country Art Destination."

The Dripping Springs Art League (DSAL) partnered with the City and Destination Dripping Springs to create the Stars of Dripping Springs public art project. Star-shaped sculptures, painted by local artists, are placed along Mercer Street and celebrate the culture of Dripping Springs and its designation as a Dark Sky Place. The second round of this project, taking place in 2025, will be placed throughout the city, including in city parks.

Partnership with DSAL can create additional opportunities to showcase the city's heritage through public art in parks, art classes provided at city parks, and involvement in community events, such as a public art display at Christmas on Mercer or Founders Day Festival.



Dripping Springs Community Library

The Dripping Springs Community Library plays a key role in providing educational programming for the Dripping Springs community. Currently, the Library offers programs that connect families with nature through children's nature play time and "Master Gardeners on the Porch." Through collaboration with other community partners, such as the Hays County Master Naturalists or Dripping Springs Independent School District, the Library can help provide classes and events related to preserving and stewarding the Hill Country ecosystem, dark sky lighting, and much more. Partnership with the PCS Department can create unique experiences for families such as storybook walks through trails found in Dripping Springs Parks.

Dripping Springs Youth Sports Association and Tiger Splash Swim Team

The Dripping Springs Youth Sports Association and Tiger Splash Swim Team each provide competitive youth sports leagues for Dripping Springs and the surrounding areas, and with nearly 32 percent of the city's population under the age of 18, these organizations play a significant role in recreational programming for the city.

Both organizations utilize Dripping Springs parks facilities for fields and the community pool. Partnership with the PCS Department should continue to be strengthened and as new parks facilities are developed, DSYSA and Tiger Splash can play a role in providing programming and funding support.

Hays County Friends of the Night Sky

Hays County Friends of the Night Sky (HCFNS) utilizes advocacy, outreach, and educational efforts to engage the public and elected officials to keep night skies naturally dark and reduce light pollution.

HCFNS organizes the annual Lights Out Hays County program, incorporating businesses and individuals in efforts to preserve dark skies. The organization also provides technical assistance to the city and individuals for lighting-related issues.

Partnership opportunities may include collaboration with Dripping Springs Ranch Park for Star Party programs and providing educational programs for local residents.

Hays County Master Gardeners

The Texas Master Gardeners program is a volunteer program designed to share horticultural knowledge throughout the state through local community chapters. Hays County Master Gardeners provide thousands of volunteer hours of service each year to the Hays County community.

In Dripping Springs, the Hays County Master Gardeners provide information to the community in partnership with the Community Library's Master Gardeners on the Porch program and at the weekly Farmer's Market. Additional partnership opportunities between the PCS Department and the Hays County Master Gardeners include through stewardship of potential demonstration gardens and in educational programming for families.

Hays County Master Naturalists

Hays County is the second oldest chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program. Master Naturalists provide thousands of volunteer hours of service each year to preserve the natural resources of Hays County.

In Dripping Springs, the Hays County Master Naturalists play a significant role as stewards of flora and fauna at Charro Ranch Park. Continued partnership between the PCS Department and the Hays County Master Naturalists can lead to enhanced nature education programming for Dripping Springs and management of wildscapes or environmentally sensitive areas. Such programming or management could include interpretative signage in parks, installation of rainwater catchment systems, trail management, and support in organizing larger volunteer efforts.

Hill Country Senior Center

The Hill Country Senior Center's (HCSC) mission is to provide an inclusive community that gathers with opportunities to socialize, learn, volunteer, and recreate. With over 16 percent of Dripping Springs' population aged 65 or older, the Hill Country Senior Center is an important resource in providing recreational opportunities for the city's seniors.

Currently, the HCSC does not have programs in place that directly partner with the PCS Department due to a lack of accessible indoor recreational spaces in the city. However, there is great potential for additional activities and partnership opportunities. The provision of accessible indoor spaces can be used for classes that partner with the PCS Department, Dripping Springs Art League, and/or Master Naturalists such as crafting bird houses, landscape painting, or learning about native plantings. If a City-owned and operated indoor recreation center is developed, the inclusion of an indoor walking track and accessible gathering space should be considered for furthering partnership opportunities with the HCSC.

Pound House Farmstead & Museum

The Pound House Farmstead and Museum (Pound House), included on the National Register of Historic Places, is the home of Dr. Joseph M. Pound, who first arrived in Texas in 1847. The Pound House preserves the heritage of Dripping Springs by providing historical education and a gathering place for residents and visitors.

With the Pound House's location adjacent to Founders Memorial Park, The Pound House works closely with the PCS Department and hosts events such as "Summer Days" and "Christmas at the Pound House."

Continued partnership between the PCS Department and the Pound House may provide opportunities such as craft fairs and classes, event space for board meetings, or the creation of a Dripping Springs Historical Society. Partnership with other organizations such as the Dripping Springs Art League can provide further opportunities to blend history and art through classes and showcases.



APPENDIX



IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

FOSTER THE GROWTH AND VIBRANCY OF THE DRIPPING SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
1.1	Evaluate potential to expand or build parks and conduct feasibility studies to determine cost, quality of land, and impact on the PCS Department.	Study, Investment	Ongoing	Planning & Development, PRC, Mayor / City Council
1.2	Identify locations in future parks for larger amenities such as a disc golf course, multi-purpose courts, basketball courts, or pickleball courts.	Study, Investment	Mid	PRC
1.3	Identify locations in existing or future parks for additional small amenities requested by the community (i.e., demonstration gardens, additional play structures, pavilions, splash pads, or small covered picnic areas).	Study, Investment	Ongoing	PRC
1.4	Provide shade structures and seating at all existing and future playgrounds.	Investment	Ongoing	N/A
1.5	Conduct a feasibility study for the development of an indoor recreation facility that identifies the appropriate size, multi-use programs, magnitude of costs, potential locations, and funding resources.	Study, Investment	Mid	Outside technical groups
1.6	Partner with Great Springs Project and other trails groups to connect to regional trails (such as Great Springs Trail or Violet Crown Trail).	Partnership	Ongoing	Trail planning and development groups
1.7	Ensure Dripping Springs' parks remain true to the established and accepted identity and any future redevelopment or improvement strengthens or supports the parks identity.	Operation	Short	N/A
1.8	Routinely review and amend the Parkland Dedication Ordinance to support the future development of parkland.	Regulation	Short	Mayor / City Council, PRC, Planning & Development
1.9	Continue to build out a connected, multi-use trail network.	Investment	Ongoing	Planning & Development, Mayor / City Council
1.10	Identify a more visible location for the farmers market close to Mercer Street.	Study	Short	Planning & Development, PRC
1.11	Build new parks on undeveloped, City-owned land such as Arrowhead Park.	Investment	Mid/Long	Planning & Development, PRC, Mayor / City Council

SUPPORT THE PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO LEAD WITH EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
2.1	Apply for CAPRA accreditation.	Operation	Mid	City Administrator
2.2	Formalize volunteer efforts by establishing standard operating procedures, tracking volunteer hours, maintaining a list of opportunities, and establishing a volunteer point of contact/manager.	Operation	Short	Mayor / City Council, PRC, Community/Volunteers
2.3	Separate park and facility rental fees for residents within the city limits and those in the ETJ to ensure that city taxpayers receive more favorable rates in recognition of their direct contribution to park funding and maintenance.	Policy	Short	Mayor / City Council, City Administrator, PRC
2.4	Provide annual or bi-annual progress reports to City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission to inform the public of the implementation progress of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.	Operation	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council, City Administrator
2.5	Provide a map with locations of mile markers along trails to appropriate emergency services (Police, Fire, EMS) so that people in need of emergency services can be quickly located.	Investment	Mid	Planning & Development, Emergency Management
2.6	Create lifecycle replacement schedules for playground equipment to identify and track timeframes for replacing outdated structures.	Operation	Short	N/A
2.7	Develop a 3-5 year Strategic Plan, stating how the PCS Department will achieve its mission, goals, and objectives.	Study, Investment	Short	N/A
2.8	Conduct a comprehensive accessibility audit or ADA Transition Plan to identify and prioritize areas within existing parks that require physical or infrastructural improvement.	Study	Short	Planning & Development
2.9	Allocate resources for staff training to increase specialized and technical knowledge of staff and guide maintenance and management best practices.	Operation	Ongoing	N/A
2.10	Hire or contract services for a grant writer to assist the City in finding and applying for grants.	Investment, Operation	Short	Mayor / City Council
2.11	Explore the use of an app-based system for online reservations to provide a more convenient process for securing and managing program registration and facility reservations.	Operation	Mid	City Administrator

SUPPORT THE PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO LEAD WITH EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION.				
Recommendation		**Type**	**Timeframe**	**Partners**
2.12	Develop an Operations and Maintenance Plan that includes best management practices, maintenance standards and regular maintenance schedule, and an analysis of existing policies that will maximize the effectiveness of the limited PCS Department resources.	Study, Investment	Short	Outside technical groups
2.13	Develop a Recreational Programming Plan specifying program mix, seasonal schedules, underserved demographics, facility requirements, partnerships, and measurable success metrics.	Study, Investment	Short	N/A
2.14	Ensure the PCS Department is adequately staffed and funded to maintain parkland, amenities/facilities, and programs.	Operation	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council, City Treasurer

CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TO CONSERVE THE HILL COUNTRY.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
3.1	Develop a Land Management Plan to establish effective strategies to protect and preserve ecologically important lands.	Study	Long	Outside technical groups
3.2	Consider hiring a dedicated conservation and/or land management specialist to manage natural areas and open spaces.	Investment	Mid	Mayor / City Council
3.3	Strengthen relevant conservation policies to proactively support long-term conservation goals.	Policy	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council, PRC, Planning & Development
3.4	Incorporate rainwater harvesting and strengthen smart water usage in City parks.	Investment	Ongoing	N/A
3.5	Partner with Hill Country Alliance, Trust for Public Land, and other conservation-focused entities for technical, funding support, and partnership opportunities.	Partnership	Ongoing	Conservation groups
3.6	Prioritize permeable surfaces and light-touch, minimal-impact construction to preserve the natural character and ecological function of parks.	Policy	Short	N/A
3.7	Undergo a Fire Risk Assessment for parks in Dripping Springs.	Study	Mid	Texas A&M Forest Service

CULTIVATE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND PRESERVE LOCAL HERITAGE BY INCORPORATING HISTORY, ART, AND CULTURE INTO PUBLIC SPACES AND PROGRAMMING.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
4.1	Work with local historic preservation groups to brainstorm additional heritage and cultural programs, art, or other signage in parks.	Partnership	Mid	Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), The Pound House Farmstead and Museum, Dripping Springs Community Library
4.2	Provide more nature education programs for all age groups such as bat education, plant identification, painting in the park, bird identification, etc.	Operation	Ongoing	DSISD, Dripping Springs Community Library, Hays County Master Naturalists
4.3	Add cultural programming such as Shakespeare or other plays in the park, live music in the park, movie nights, or community picnic days.	Operation	Mid	DSISD, Dripping Springs Community Library, Dripping Springs Art League
4.4	Consider hosting water safety programs, in addition to swim lessons, at the Dripping Springs Founders Memorial Pool.	Operation	Mid	N/A
4.5	Establish programs for senior citizens such as water aerobics, picnics in the park, wildflower driving tours, or other accessible programs.	Operation	Short	Hill Country Senior Center
4.6	Expand and strengthen coordination with community organizations to implement new programs.	Partnership	Ongoing	YMCA, DSISD, Dripping Springs Art League, Hill Country Senior Center, Chamber of Commerce, Dripping Springs Community Library, Hays County Master Naturalists, Pound House Farmstead and Museum
4.7	Develop a self-guided cultural tour with the locations of the Stars of Dripping Springs sculptures and other significant locations in or near City parks.	Operation	Mid	Dripping Springs Art League, HPC
4.8	Provide Adopt-A-Trail and Adopt-A-Creek programs to promote the beautification of the trail systems and build community pride.	Operation	Long	N/A
4.9	Host an annual or bi-annual citywide park cleanup day.	Operation	Ongoing	Local businesses, Community/ Volunteers
4.10	Provide outdoor adventure opportunities such as camping, fishing, hiking, kayaking, and day or overnight trips to nearby State Parks.	Operation	Short	N/A
4.11	Integrate interpretive signage into parks and along trails to provide visitors with ecological, cultural, or historical information about the area.	Investment	Ongoing	HPC, Dripping Springs Community Library, Pound House Farmstead and Museum, Hays County Master Naturalists

Park-by-Park Recommendations

DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
DS.1	Construct the outdoor arena and the storage building.	Investment	Short	DSRP Board of Directors
DS.2	Improve the playground area (e.g., repairs and upgrades to play structure and a path from the indoor arena to the playground).	Investment	Short	Mayor / City Council, Public Works, DSRP Board of Directors
DS.3	Consider adding an entry kiosk to provide park education, coordination during large events, and to collect any entry or use fees.	Investment	Mid	Mayor / City Council, DSRP Board of Directors
DS.4	Pursue indoor arena improvements such as enclosing the arena, installing HVAC, temperature-controlled water, more office space, and partitions for event space.	Investment	Mid	Mayor / City Council, DSRP Board of Directors
DS.5	Explore the feasibility of pond enhancements such as a path to the pond, adding a fishing pier, re-lining pond for improved water retention, stocking the pond with fish, and planting native riparian plants along the edge to create better bird habitat.	Study	Long	DSRP Board of Directors
DS.6	Support additional equestrian programs and amenities such as rated horse shows (FEI, USEF, THJA), cross-country courses, and trail obstacles.	Operation	Short	Equestrian organizations
DS.7	Construct recommendations from the 2025 DSRP Conceptual Plan including trailheads, nature education space, demonstration garden, archery range, park maintenance area, etc.	Investment	Long	Mayor / City Council, DSRP Board of Directors

DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
DS.8	Secure funding and construct the cover for the outdoor arena.	Investment	Short	Mayor / City Council, DSRP Board of Directors
DS.9	Repair erosion damages on trails.	Investment	Short	N/A
DS.10	Formalize and improve parking to include at a minimum, additional RV spaces, additional parking spaces, one-way enforcement and signage, and redesign or relocation of the dumpster area.	Investment	Mid	DSRP Board of Directors
DS.11	Repair and/or replace fences throughout the site where fences are leaning or missing.	Investment	Ongoing	N/A
DS.12	Clean, repair, or replace picnic tables, trash receptacles, and other passive amenities as needed.	Investment	Ongoing	Community/Volunteers
DS.13	Improve wayfinding, rules signage, and trail signage to be clearer and more consistent with other parks and City branding.	Operation, Investment	Short	DSRP Board of Directors, PRC, People and Communications

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
DS.14	Enhance riparian area along Little Barton Creek by introducing native plants, removing invasive species, and monitoring erosion.	Investment	Ongoing	DSRP Board of Directors, Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers
DS.15	In Mown Meadow/Event Space areas (DS3), introduce low-mow zones and native wildflower plots to reduce maintenance costs and increase biodiversity.	Investment	Ongoing	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers

DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country (cont.).

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
DS.16	Continue to expand the rainwater collection system and evaluate the feasibility of greywater reuse for irrigation in landscaped and horse stall areas.	Study, Investment	Ongoing	DSRP Board of Directors, Public Works
DS.17	In the Oak-Juniper Mixed Woodland (DS2), manage for structural diversity by thinning dense juniper in select areas and encouraging native understory development.	Investment	Ongoing	DSRP Board of Directors
DS.18	Develop a pilot project to preserve the native prairie.	Operation	Short	DSRP Board of Directors, Hays County Master Naturalists
DS.19	Manage the southernmost parcel, located southwest of Bearkat Canyon Drive, as native habitat, monitor for invasive species, erosion, wildfire risk, etc.	Operation	Ongoing	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers
DS.20	Replace 39 wall pack lights, add shields to florescent lights and flood lights, and conduct a photometric study.	Study, Investment	Short	DSRP Board of Directors
DS.21	Consider the addition of dark sky compliant lighting in the parking lot or turtle lighting to trails to expand usable hours.	Investment	Mid	N/A

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and character into public spaces and programming.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
DS.22	Create dedicated space for recreational programming	Investment	Mid	DSRP Board of Directors
DS.23	Consider hosting or recruiting partners to increase the number and variety of equestrian shows and programming.	Partnership	Short	DSRP Board of Directors, Equestrian groups

FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PARK

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
F.1	Evaluate the potential for adding pickleball courts, basketball courts, a splash pad, additional pavilions, or potentially a multi-purpose amphitheater.	Investment	Short	PRC
F.2	Explore opportunities to expand the size of the park.	Study, Investment	Ongoing	Planning & Development
F.3	Evaluate feasibility of updating the swimming pool to be competition length.	Study	Mid	N/A
F.4	Add exercise stations along the trail.	Investment	Mid	N/A

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
F.5	Enhance current playground through minor repairs and maintenance.	Investment	Short	N/A
F.6	Continue efforts for soil stabilization and turf establishment.	Investment	Ongoing	N/A
F.7	Update the restrooms including new stainless steel toilets and sinks, repair light fixture, toilet backsplash, and ensure restrooms are ADA compliant.	Investment	Short	N/A
F.8	Clean, repair, or replace as needed, benches, trash receptacles, and other passive amenities.	Investment	Ongoing	Community/Volunteers
F.9	Enhance landscaping around the skatepark.	Investment	Short	Hays County Master Gardeners
F.10	Renovate or rebuild the pool building, consider adding an event or party room.	Investment	Long	N/A
F.11	Upgrade pump room systems	Investment	Mid	N/A

FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PARK

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation (cont.)

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
F.12	Improve parking lot (e.g., repave, dumpster enclosure, and add spaces).	Investment	Short	PRC

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
F.13	Add shields to 31 new pole lights, replace building lights with dark sky compliant lighting, install turtle lighting on trails and conduct a photometric study.	Study, Investment	Short	N/A
F.14	Consider adding DarkSky compliant lighting near the skatepark.	Investment	Short	PRC
F.15	Stabilize the natural waterway and address erosion and standing water near the stormwater feature that drains to the southeast edge of the site.	Investment	Mid	Public Works, Hays County Master Naturalists
F.16	In the Midgrass Meadow / Mixed Woodland Border (F1) and Juniper-Oak Woodland (F4) areas, increase biodiversity by planting native understory species and removing invasive species.	Investment	Mid	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers
F.17	Maintain irrigation zone separation, for both existing and future irrigation zones, so that naturalized areas receive less water than sports fields.	Investment	Short	Public Works

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and character into public spaces and programming.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
F.18	Support educational camps that visit the Pound House Farmstead for pioneer crafts, activities, and games.	Investment, Partnership, Operation	Mid	Pound House Farmstead and Museum, DSISD
F.19	Support opportunities for increased events in Founders Memorial Park due to its central location.	Operation	Mid	Community organizations

SPORTS AND RECREATION PARK

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
SR.1	Evaluate the potential for adding pickleball courts, and more basketball courts and/or sand volleyball courts.	Study, Investment	Mid	PRC
SR.2	Explore opportunities to expand the park.	Investment	Mid	Planning & Development, PRC
SR.3	Improve and add new in-park trails, particularly defined and potentially paved paths between amenities.	Investment	Mid	N/A
SR.4	Enhance the public gathering place (e.g., benches, picnic tables, pavilion, etc.) between the softball field and northernmost adult softball field.	Investment	Mid	PRC
SR.5	Remove the existing exercise area and add exercise stations at various spots along the trail.	Investment	Mid	N/A
SR.6	Consider adding a food truck courtyard near the concessions building.	Investment, Operation	Mid	DSYSA

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
SR.7	Refresh or regrade surfaces in the basketball court, outdoor volleyball court, and the baseball/softball bull pens.	Investment	Short	N/A
SR.8	Replace volleyball and basketball nets.	Investment	Short	N/A
SR.9	Clean up or remove old batting cage debris in the southwest corner of park.	Operation	Short	N/A

SPORTS AND RECREATION PARK

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation (cont.).

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
SR.10	Regrade / level fields – both infields and outfields – and replenish pitching mounds as necessary.	Investment	Short	N/A
SR.11	Repaint faded parking lines in the parking lot.	Investment	Short	Public Works
SR.12	Add barriers to restrict vehicles from entering pathways or fields.	Investment	Short	N/A
SR.13	Repair and/or replace fences throughout site where fences are leaning or rusted.	Investment	Mid	N/A
SR.14	Clean, repair, or replace picnic tables, BBQ pits, bleachers, trash receptacles, and other passive amenities as needed.	Investment	Mid	Community/Volunteers
SR.15	Update the restrooms including new stainless steel toilets and sinks and ensure restrooms are ADA compliant.	Investment	Mid	Public Works
SR.16	Remove or renovate old and unused concessions and scorekeeping buildings at each baseball/softball field.	Investment	Mid	N/A
SR.17	Improve wayfinding, rules signage, and field identification to be clearer and more consistent with other parks and city branding.	Investment, Policy	Mid	PRC
SR.18	Enhance irrigation systems and irrigation coverage for all fields throughout complex.	Investment	Long	Public Works
SR.19	Add a boundary showing the regulation court size for the volleyball court.	Investment	Short	N/A
SR.20	Repair eroded drainage channel near sports court.	Investment	Short	Public Works

SPORTS AND RECREATION PARK

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
SR.21	Replace or improve all pole lights with shields, replace building lights with dark sky compliant lighting, and conduct a photometric study.	Investment, Study	Short	N/A
SR.22	Consider adding turtle lighting to trails to expand usable hours.	Investment	Mid	N/A
SR.23	Pave the existing, unpaved parking lot and consider permeable pavement options, but ensure parking lot is ADA compliant and accessible.	Investment	Mid	N/A
SR.24	All new plantings, especially around picnic areas, parking lots, and trails, should prioritize native, drought-tolerant species to reduce irrigation demands	Investment	Ongoing	Hays County Master Naturalists

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and character into public spaces and programming.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
SR.25	Host community sports events such as 5K runs, field days, or pick-up leagues for casual athletics.	Investment, Operation	Mid	PRC, DSYSA, DSISD

CHARRO RANCH PARK

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
C.1	Ensure this park remains as natural as possible with native plants and wildlife habitat.	Policy	Ongoing	Hays County Master Naturalists
C.2	Explore opportunities to expand the park.	Study, Investment	Long	Planning & Development

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
C.3	Refresh mulch in bare spots of trails.	Investment	Short	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers
C.4	Clean, repair, or replace as needed, benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, and other passive amenities.	Investment	Mid	Community/Volunteers
C.5	Perform general cleanup of Solstice Circle area including regular weeding.	Operation	Short	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers
C.6	Improve park signage to be clearer and more consistent with other parks and City branding.	Investment, Policy	Mid	N/A
C.7	Consider installing a more permanent restroom such as a composting toilet.	Investment	Long	Public Works

CHARRO RANCH PARK

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
C.8	Add dark sky compliant lighting in the parking lot and turtle lighting along trails to expand usable hours.	Study, Investment	Mid	Mayor / City Council, PRC
C.9	Regrade and resurface parking lot, consider permeable pavement options but ensure parking lot remains ADA compliant and accessible.	Study, Investment	Mid	N/A
C.10	Preserve and monitor the Mixed Woodland zone (CR 3), which includes drainage features and supports diverse upland and riparian species.	Study, Operation	Ongoing	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers
C.11	In the Open Juniper-Oak Woodland (CR 1) zone, implement targeted restoration to remove invasive understory species like King Ranch Bluestem and Ligustrum.	Investment, Operation	Mid	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers
C.12	Support selective juniper thinning (where ecologically appropriate) to open the canopy and encourage native understory regeneration.	Investment, Operation	Mid	Hays County Master Naturalists
C.12	Enhance the Midgrass Meadow (CR 2) with native seed mixes (e.g., Little Bluestem, Indian grass) and manage with seasonal mowing or prescribed fire to maintain prairie character.	Investment, Operation	Ongoing	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers
C.13	Regularly update the Oak Wilt treatment strategy and treat accordingly, especially in CR 1 and CR 3, to prevent future outbreaks and preserve tree canopy diversity.	Investment, Operation	Ongoing	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and character into public spaces and programming.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
C.14	Build on the park's existing educational role by expanding nature programming, interpretive signage, guided nature walks, and citizen science programs (i.e., bird counts, iNaturalist, BioBlitz Days).	Policy, Operation	Ongoing	DSISD, Hays County Master Naturalists, Dripping Springs Birding Club
C.15	Host an annual clean-up day for volunteers to weed, remove insect nests from signage, and ensure trails are clear of debris.	Operation	Short	Hays County Master Naturalists, Community/Volunteers

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
V.1	Transform Veterans Memorial Park into a gateway feature by enhancing entry signage and potentially painting the Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation water tank or adding another distinctive feature.	Investment	Long	Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation, TxDOT, Dripping Springs Art League, Mayor / City Council, PRC

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
V.2	Maintain picnic tables and conduct other low-cost improvements until TxDOT confirms the boundaries of the Highway 290 expansion.	Operation	Ongoing	N/A
V.3	Consider improving the parking lot.	Investment	Mid	N/A

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country (cont.).

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
V.4	Maintain the health of trees through regular evaluation and trimming.	Operation	Ongoing	Hays County Master Naturalists
V.5	Replace flood lighting on DSWSC building to be dark sky compliant.	Investment	Mid	Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and character into public spaces and programming.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
V.6	Relocate the memorial wall to another park, City property, Patriots' Hall, or other appropriate location.	Investment, Operation	Long	Mayor / City Council, PRC, Local veterans organizations

ARROWHEAD PARK

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
A.1	Construct the park according to community needs and desires as identified by the Arrowhead Park Conceptual Plan.	Investment, Operation	Long	PRC

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
A.2	Pursue funding resources to construct the park.	Operation	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council, PRC
A.3	Hire additional staff as needed to manage and maintain the park.	Investment, Operation	Long	Mayor / City Council, PRC

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
A.4	For future development, locate improvements primarily within the Disturbed Shrubland / Midgrass Prairie (AH 1) and Midgrass Oak-Juniper Savanna (AH 2) zone.	Policy	Long	N/A
A.5	Use natural surface or permeable trail materials and avoid steep slopes or areas with thin soils.	Policy	Long	N/A
A.6	Implement vegetative stormwater management features, such as bioswales or vegetated buffers to protect the waterway and reduce downstream erosion.	Investment, Operation	Long	N/A
A.7	Monitor water quality during construction projects to make sure control measures are in place and working to protect the waterway.	Study, Operation	Long	Public Works
A.8	Explore long-term conservation strategies such as acquiring property to protect the creek, using conservation easements, or partnering with local environmental groups for monitoring, technical guidance, and funding opportunities.	Study, Partnership	Long	Conservation groups

ARROWHEAD PARK

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and character into public spaces and programming.

	Recommendation	Type	Timeframe	Partners
A.9	Partner with Dripping Springs ISD and private schools for field trips and educational opportunities.	Partnership, Operation	Ongoing	DSISD, Private schools
A.10	Develop additional programming opportunities focused on nature education and all abilities access.	Policy	Mid	DSISD, Hays County Master Naturalists
A.11	Partner with Hays County Master Gardeners, Hays County Master Naturalists, and volunteers to maintain gardens in the park.	Partnership	Ongoing	Hays County Master Gardeners, Hays County Master Naturalists

RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK

Foster the growth and vibrancy of the Dripping Springs parks and recreation system to support the community.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
R.1	Pursue funding to design and build essential park infrastructure (e.g., entry road, parking, utilities, lighting, etc.).	Investment, Operation	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council
R.2	Pursue funding to create final designs and build the Nature and Learning Center.	Investment, Operation	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council
R.3	Ensure this park remains as natural as possible with native plants and wildlife habitat while still supporting larger regional park features such as the nature center, camping facilities, and mountain bike trails.	Policy	Ongoing	PRC, Hays County Master Naturalists

Support the Parks and Community Services Department to lead with excellence and innovation.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
R.4	Follow the vision and guidance established in the Rathgeber Natural Resource Park Vision Plan.	Policy, Operation	Ongoing	PRC
R.5	Keep the community updated on the development of the park with annual updates on project status and timeline.	Policy, Operation	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council, PRC, People & Communications
R.6	Maintain transparency on cost to develop the park.	Policy	Ongoing	Mayor / City Council, PRC

Champion environmental stewardship to conserve the Hill Country.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
R.7	Prioritize the use of green infrastructure (e.g., solar panels, water recycling, rainwater harvesting, re-use of materials for construction, etc.).	Policy	Long	Planning & Development
R.8	Ensure this park remains as natural as possible with native plants and wildlife habitat while also providing regional park amenities.	Policy	Ongoing	PRC, Hays County Master Naturalists
R.9	Conduct an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and study of the species found at the park.	Study	Mid	Outside technical groups

RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK

Cultivate community spirit and preserve local heritage by incorporating history, art, and character into public spaces and programming.

Recommendation		Type	Timeframe	Partners
R.10	Establish nature programming opportunities such as expansions of Coyote Kids, scout activities, family camp outs, etc.	Investment, Operation	Long	N/A
R.11	Establish outdoor adventure programming such as hiking, mountain biking, geocaching, wildlife viewing, and kayaking or fishing if possible.	Investment, Operation	Long	N/A



RECREATION & LEISURE TRENDS

Trends for Recreation Facilities

Universal Design

- Accessible to individuals of all abilities
- Accommodating diverse needs
- Promoting inclusivity

Multi-use Spaces: Designing

- Flexible spaces that can be used for a variety of purposes and accessed by all
- Versatility in programming and for recreation providers to adapt to changing trends

Pickleball Facilities

- Indoor and outdoor pickleball courts

Transportation Services

- Ensure easy access to recreational facilities from popular locations like schools, senior living communities, or downtown areas

Trends for Outdoor Recreation Amenities

Multi-use Trails

- Creation of extensive networks of trails
- Hiking
- Biking
- Trail running

Waterfront Recreation

- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- Paddleboarding

Water Play

- Provide interactive fun for all ages as well as relief from the heat
- Splash pads
- Spray grounds
- Water pumps

Fitness Zones

- Outdoor fitness equipment along trails or within parks

Dog Parks

- Off-leash play
- Small and large breeds
- Agility courses
- Amenities catering to pet owners

Nature Trails and Obstacle Courses

- Nature trails featuring natural obstacles and fitness stations
- Offering a blend of hiking, trail running, and obstacle course challenges

Skate Parks

- Skateboarding
- Roller blading
- BMX biking

Outdoor Learning

- Wildlife observation, promote
- Environmental stewardship
- Learning through observation points, interactive features, or signage

Trends for Playgrounds and Play Areas

- Destination/Thematic, Nature, and Water Play
- Playable Art, Climbable Seat Walls, Hill Slides
- Dramatic, Imaginative lay Areas with Interpretive and Interactive Elements
- Universal Design and Accessible Play
- Pop-Up Temporary Play Elements or Play Areas with Moveable Parts
- Game Tables in Parks
- Topography and Plantings for Places to Hide, Roll, and Tumble
- Challenge Play Elements such as Climbing Walls and Ziplines
- Safe, Accessible, Synthetic or Pour-in-Place Safety Surfacing
- Sand in Designated Play Areas with Transfer Stations into Sand Play Area

Trends for Sports Fields and Courts

Providing Space for New Activities

- Pickleball
- Futsal
- Badminton
- Cricket

Multi-use Spaces: Sports fields and courts designed for multi-uose purposes, accommodating various sports and recreational activities to maximize usability.

Adding Lighting

- Extend playing hours.
- DarkSky approved lighting solutions

Sustainability Initiatives

- Use of recycled materials
- Energy-efficient lighting
- Environmentally conscious landscaping

Technology Integration

- Smart lighting
- Digital scoreboards
- Online booking systems for efficient amenity management

Smart Maintenance Systems

- Automated irrigation systems
- Turf monitoring
- Predictive maintenance tools

Trends for Support Amenities

Smart Lighting Solutions

Creative Shade Structures

- Solar-powered
- Artistic

Green Parking Solutions

- Eco-friendly and permeable parking surfaces
- Incorporate landscaping

Bike Friendly Amenities

- Repair stations
- Secure bike storage

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Outdoor Work Spaces

- Digital connectivity
- Comfortable seating
- Shade

Community Engagement Platforms

- Access information
- Participate in events
- Provide feedback

Trends in Programming

Pop-up Park Programming

- Targeted outreach to underserved communities
- Arts & Crafts
- Concerts
- Movies
- Sports

Multi-generational Fitness and Wellness Programs

Sports Sampling Programs

Out of School Time Programs



OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS

ARROWHEAD PARK

Master Plan Concept - Budget Opinion of Probable Construction Costs

DRIPPING SPRINGS Texas

halff

July-25

Plan / Item No.	Description (with unit price in words)	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Amount	Item Sub-Total
	SCHEDULE 100 - GENERAL SITE					
	MISC. SITE WORK / DEMOLITION / UTILITIES					$321,000.00
100.01	Site Prep, Clearing, and Grubbing	6	AC	$ 8,500.00	$ 51,000.00	
100.02	Wet Utility Allowance (water, wastewater)	1	LS	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	
100.03	Stormwater/Drainage Allowance	1	LS	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00	
100.04	Earthwork Allowance	1	LS	$ 90,000.00	$ 90,000.00	
100.05	Primary Electric Allowance	1	LS	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00	
100.06	Secondary Electric Allowance	1	LS	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	
	PARKING / ROADWAYS / TURNAROUND IMPROVEMENTS					$379,280.00
	PARKING LOT & ENTRY DRIVE (36 SPACES |Tiger Ln)					$285,500.00
100.07	Crosswalk - Continental style, Crosswalk Paint - Allowance	1	LS	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	
100.08	Parking Lot & Entry Drive (includes excavation, subgrade prep, base, asphalt & curbs,signage,striping)	1,800	SY	$ 100.00	$ 180,000.00	
100.09	Concrete Walkways (Along parking lots / road | includes sub-grade prep)	3,250	SF	$ 10.00	$ 32,500.00	
100.10	Shade Trees Allowance (includes installation, irrigation, soil, stakes & warranty)	1	LS	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	
100.11	Parking Lot Lighting - Allowance (12% total)	1	LS	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	
100.12	Revegetation: Wildflower Mix - Allowance	1	LS	$ 7,500.00	$ 7,500.00	
100.13	Park Entry Monument Signage (at parking lot) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	
	ROADWAY DRIVE & TURNAROUND					$93,780.00
100.14	Roadway Drive & Turnaround (includes excavation, subgrade prep, base, asphalt & curbs,signage,striping)	550	SY	$ 100.00	$ 55,000.00	
100.15	Thickened Speciality Concrete (6 IN) - Roundabout (includes sub-grade prep)	1,060	SF	$ 13.00	$ 13,780.00	
100.16	Shade Trees Allowance (includes installation, irrigation, soil, stakes & warranty)	1	LS	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00	
100.17	Parking Lot Lighting - Allowance (12% total)	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
100.18	Landscape & Irrigation Allowance	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
	SCHEDULE 200 - MISCELLEANOUS PARK AMENITIES / STRUCTURES					
	MISCELLEANOUS PARK AMENITIES / STRUCTURES					$2,826,550.00
	STRUCTURES					$635,000.00
200.01	Restroom (1000 SF) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 450,000.00	$ 450,000.00	
200.02	Large Pavilion (1400 SF) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 105,000.00	$ 105,000.00	
200.03	Metal Cistern (rainwater collection system) - Allowance	2	EA	$ 40,000.00	$ 80,000.00	
	ECOREGION EDUCATION NODE					$52,150.00
200.04	Speciality Concrete Walkway - at Education Node (includes sub-grade prep)	1,810	SF	$ 15.00	$ 27,150.00	
200.05	Kiosk Sign Allowance	1	EA	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00	
	WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION NODE					$175,300.00
200.06	Pavilion (1050 SF) - Allowance	1	EA	$ 80,000.00	$ 80,000.00	
200.07	Speciality Concrete Walkway - at Education Node (includes sub-grade prep)	2,020	SF	$ 15.00	$ 30,300.00	
200.08	Kiosk Sign Allowance	1	EA	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00	
200.09	Metal Cistern (rainwater collection system) - Allowance	1	EA	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00	
	DARK SKIES EDUCATION NODE					$29,500.00
200.10	Speciality Concrete Walkway - at Education Node (includes sub-grade prep)	300	SF	$ 15.00	$ 4,500.00	
200.11	Kiosk Sign Allowance	1	EA	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00	
	RAIN GARDENS					$360,000.00
200.12	Rain Garden (to filter parking lot runoff | includes landscape & install) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 360,000.00	$ 360,000.00	
	NATURE PLAYGROUND / TRAIL & WALKWAYS / MISC.					$1,574,600.00
200.13	Concrete Walkway - around amenities (includes sub-grade prep)	13,400	SF	$ 10.00	$ 134,000.00	
200.14	Decomposed Granite Trail System (5 ft wide + Furnishing Bumpouts | includes sub-grade prep)	16,000	SF	$ 6.00	$ 96,000.00	
200.15	Accessible Canopy Walk (300 ft. x 7 ft, across creek | elevated 20 feet max)	1	LS	$ 750,000.00	$ 750,000.00	
200.16	Stars of Dripping Springs: Star Sculpture - Allowance	1	EA	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	
200.17	Trailhead Signage (1 Sign) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	
200.18	Furnishings: Benches (along trail system) - Allowance	1	EA	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	
200.19	Furnishings: Water Fountain - Allowance	1	EA	$ 13,000.00	$ 13,000.00	
200.20	Furnishings: Picnic Tables (at pavilion/educational nodes) - Allowance	1	EA	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	
200.21	Trail Lighting - Single (poles / fixtures, conduit & wire to panel) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 125,000.00	$ 125,000.00	
200.22	Playground: Allowance (2,770 sf area | includes play equipment, playground surfacing & subgrade, furnishings, drainage, & electrical)	1	LS	$ 195,000.00	$ 195,000.00	
200.23	Pedestrain Gate - Controlled Access Allowance (4 ft leaf)	3	EA	$ 3,000.00	$ 9,000.00	
200.24	Perimeter Fence (Cedar 3 Rail)	2,315	LF	$ 40.00	$ 92,600.00	
200.25	Shade Trees Allowance (includes installation, irrigation, soil, stakes & warranty)	1	LS	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	
200.26	Revegetation: Wildflower Mix - Allowance	1	LS	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	
	SCHEDULE 300 - OTHER PROJECT COSTS					
	OTHER PROJECT COSTS					**$996,800.00**
300.01	Mobilization/De-Mob/General Requirements of Contract/SWPPP (6% Total Const. Cost)			$ 232,800.00	$ 232,800.00	
300.02	[3]Construction Site Development Contingency (10%)			$ 352,700.00	$ 352,700.00	
300.03	[4]Owner's Construction Contingency (10%)			$ 411,300.00	$ 411,300.00	
	TOTAL (SCHEDULES NO. 100 THROUGH 300 (Construction Costs):					**$4,523,630.00**
	[8]Professional Design and Support Services (Soft Costs)					**$542,900.00**
	TOTAL PROJECT COST					**$5,066,530.00**

Assumptions/Disclaimers:

1) All Opinion of Probable Construction Costs(OPCC) represent the Consultant and their Sub-Consultant(s) best judgement as professionals, familiar with the construction industry and current available unit pricing; Consultant/Sub-Consultant(s) do not guarantee that proposals, bids or actual project costs will not vary from its Opinion of Probable Construction Costs. Quantities are estimates only and the actual amount of work and/or materials are contingent upon final design of these facilities.

2) Unit pricing is based on average cost statewide and do not account for any site specific determinates that would effect costs of constuction (i.e.- unknown subsurface conditions, etc.). Unit pricing based on today's dollars and valid for 90 days.

3) 10% Construction Site Development Contingency included to cover unknown site development costs due to current schematic level of detail (unclassified earthwork, utilities, permantent reveg/BMPs, etc... unless otherwise noted).

4) 10% Owner's Construction Contingency included to cover unknown/unforseen site development conditions during construction.

5) This OPCC does not include utility adjustments/relocations/extensions/services for storm sewer, domestic water, sanitary sewer, gas, electric or communication utility lines off site.

6) This OPCC does not include property and/or easement acquistion.

7) Environmental and regulatory review, permitting, and fess are not included in this OPCC.

8) Soft costs (12% of total construction cost for: design, design survey, geotechnical, permitting, testing, owner fee's, etc..).

DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK

Master Plan Concept - Budget Opinion of Probable Construction Costs

August-25

Plan / Item No.	Description (with unit price in words)	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Amount	Item Sub-Total
	SCHEDULE 100 - GENERAL SITE					
	MISC. SITE WORK / DEMOLITION / UTILITIES					$2,355,000.00
100.01	Site Prep, Clearing, and Grubbing	10	AC	$ 8,500.00	$ 85,000.00	
100.02	Demo Allowance (hardscape,buildings, etc.)	1	LS	$ 720,000.00	$ 720,000.00	
100.03	Wet Utility Allowance (water, wastewater)	1	LS	$ 310,000.00	$ 310,000.00	
100.04	Stormwater/Drainage Allowance	1	LS	$ 210,000.00	$ 210,000.00	
100.05	Earthwork Allowance	1	LS	$ 510,000.00	$ 510,000.00	
100.06	Primary Electric Allowance	1	LS	$ 210,000.00	$ 210,000.00	
100.07	Secondary Electric Allowance	1	LS	$ 310,000.00	$ 310,000.00	
	PARKING / ROADWAYS / EXPANSION IMPROVEMENTS					$1,611,900.00
	PARKING LOT & DRIVE (to Bird Blind)					$302,000.00
100.08	Parking Lot & Entry Drive (includes excavation, subgrade prep, base, asphalt & curbs,signage,striping)	2,200	SY	$ 100.00	$ 220,000.00	
100.09	Concrete Walkways (Along parking lots to existing trail | includes sub-grade prep)	1,200	SF	$ 10.00	$ 12,000.00	
100.10	Shade Trees Allowance (includes installation, irrigation, soil, stakes & warranty)	1	LS	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	
100.11	Parking Lot Lighting - Allowance (12% total)	1	LS	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00	
100.12	Revegetation: Wildflower Mix - Allowance	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
	PARKING LOT & DRIVE (to Outdoor Arena)					$770,000.00
100.13	Parking Lot & Entry Drive (includes excavation, subgrade prep, base, asphalt & curbs,signage,striping)	6,400	SY	$ 100.00	$ 640,000.00	
100.14	Shade Trees Allowance (includes installation, irrigation, soil, stakes & warranty)	1	LS	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	
100.15	Parking Lot Lighting - Allowance (12% total)	1	LS	$ 70,000.00	$ 70,000.00	
100.16	Revegetation: Wildflower Mix - Allowance	1	LS	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	
	PARKING IMPROVEMENTS: EXPANSION & RV SPACES - EXISTING PARKING LOT (at DSRP Event Center)					$410,000.00
100.17	Parking Lot Expansion & RV Spaces (includes excavation, subgrade prep, base, asphalt & curbs,signage,striping)	2,800	SY	$ 100.00	$ 280,000.00	
100.18	Shade Trees Allowance (includes installation, irrigation, soil, stakes & warranty)	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
100.19	Parking Lot Lighting - Allowance (12% total)	1	LS	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00	
100.20	Revegetation: Wildflower Mix - Allowance	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
100.21	Dumpster Enclosure (Includes gates and walls | Redesign & Relocate) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00	
100.22	Entry Kiosk Structure (144 SF) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	
	PARKING LOT AT TRAILHEAD					$52,000.00
100.23	Trailhead Parking (includes excavation, subgrade prep, base, asphalt & curbs,signage,striping)	270	SY	$ 100.00	$ 27,000.00	
100.24	Concrete Walkways (Along trailhead | includes sub-grade prep)	1,000	SF	$ 10.00	$ 10,000.00	
100.25	Shade Trees Allowance (includes installation, irrigation, soil, stakes & warranty)	1	LS	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00	
100.26	Parking Lot Lighting - Allowance (12% total)	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
	OVERFLOW PARKING LOT					$77,900.00
100.27	Informal Overflow Parking Lot (includes excavation, subgrade prep, base, soil, hydromulch seed, signage & striping)	1,700	SY	$ 35.00	$ 59,500.00	
100.28	Decomposed Granite Walkway (6 ft wide from parking lot | includes sub-grade prep)	1,400	SF	$ 6.00	$ 8,400.00	
100.29	Parking Lot Lighting - Allowance (12% total)	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
	SCHEDULE 200 - MISCELLEANOUS PARK AMENITIES / STRUCTURES					
	MISCELLEANOUS PARK AMENITIES / STRUCTURES					$18,761,452.75
	[3]FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS (BY OTHERS)					$10,390,000.00
200.01	Facility Improvements (By Others | Improvements to include but not limited to: Main event room, Small event room, enclose, Air Condition, Temperature Controlled Water, More office space, partitons for event space, etc.	1	LS	$ 10,230,000.00	$ 10,230,000.00	
200.02	Metal Cistern (rainwater collection system) - Allowance	4	EA	$ 40,000.00	$ 160,000.00	
	[3]OUTDOOR ARENA (BY OTHERS)					$1,160,432.00
200.03	Outdoor Arena (300' x 200' | Current DSRP Project)	1	LS	$ 468,000.00	$ 468,000.00	
200.04	Future Arena Cover	1	LS	$ 532,432.00	$ 532,432.00	
200.05	Metal Cistern (rainwater collection system) - Allowance	4	EA	$ 40,000.00	$ 160,000.00	
	[3]PATH TO POND (BY OTHERS | Proposed DSRP Project)					$73,500.00
200.06	Path to Pond (By Others)	1	LS	$ 73,500.00	$ 73,500.00	
	[3]STORAGE BUILDING (30' x 40' | BY OTHERS)					$72,000.00
200.07	Storage Building (By Others | Current DSRP Project)	1	LS	$ 72,000.00	$ 72,000.00	
	[3]RANCH HOUSE (BY OTHERS)					$95,000.00
200.08	Ranch House (By Others)	1	LS	$ 95,000.00	$ 95,000.00	
	[3]PLAYGROUND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS (BY OTHERS)					$147,000.00
200.09	Playground Access Improvements (By Others | Proposed DSRP Project)	1	LS	$ 147,000.00	$ 147,000.00	
	PLAYGROUND AREA IMPROVEMENTS					$256,000.00
200.10	Demo/Remove Existing Playground surfacing (EWF | 3,000 sf)	1	LS	$ 6,000.00	$ 6,000.00	
200.11	Playground PIP Surfacing: Allowance (3,000 sf area |includes playground surfacing & subgrade, & drainage)	1	LS	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	
200.12	Playground Structure Allowance (3,000 sf)	1	LS	$ 150,000.00	$ 150,000.00	
	ARCHERY RANGE					$350,000.00
200.13	Archery Range (30,000 SF) - Allowance	1	EA	$ 350,000.00	$ 350,000.00	
	DEMONSTRATION GARDEN (10,000 SF)					$46,000.00
200.14	Landscape & Irrigation Allowance (includes plant mix, plants, materials, drip irrigation)	1	LS	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	
200.15	Internal Decomposed Granite Path (includes sub-grade prep)	1	LS	$ 6,000.00	$ 6,000.00	
200.16	Furnishing Allowance	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
	PARK MAINTENANCE AREA					$1,760,000.00
200.17	Parking Lot & Entry Drive (includes excavation, subgrade prep, base, asphalt & curbs,signage,striping)	900	SY	$ 100.00	$ 90,000.00	
200.18	Concrete Walkways (to Maintenance Area | includes sub-grade prep)	1,000	SF	$ 10.00	$ 10,000.00	
200.19	Maintenance Building (4,500 sf)	1	LS	$ 1,350,000.00	$ 1,350,000.00	
200.20	Maintenance Covered Dry Storage (1,000 sf)	1	LS	$ 300,000.00	$ 300,000.00	
200.21	Vehicle Gate Allowance (one-way - swing gate)	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
	[3]NATURE EDUCATION SPACE					$3,489,895.75
200.22	Construction Cost Estimate (2,650 SF) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 3,062,468.75	$ 3,062,468.75	
200.23	Design Fee Estimate	1	LS	$ 427,427.00	$ 427,427.00	

	PILOT PRAIRIE PRESERVATION					$50,000.00
200.24	Revegetation: Wildflower Mix - Allowance	1	LS	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	
	EQUESTRIAN FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS					$324,625.00
200.25	Demo Existing Facility	1	LS	$ 65,000.00	$ 65,000.00	
200.26	Equine Structure (300 SF) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 60,000.00	$ 60,000.00	
200.27	Equine Perimeter Fence (3 rail cedar)	1,300	LF	$ 40.00	$ 52,000.00	
200.28	Equine Double Gate (6 Feet Leaf | Metal Frame, Cedar Slats)	2	EA	$ 6,000.00	$ 12,000.00	
200.29	Equine Area - Rolled Sod Bermuda Latitude 36 Bermuda Grass)	8,450	SY	$ 4.50	$ 38,025.00	
200.30	Equine Area - Topsoil (4" Depth, import sandy/loam)	8,450	SY	$ 4.50	$ 38,025.00	
200.31	Equine Area - Spray Irrigation (Full Coverage)	8,450	SY	$ 3.50	$ 29,575.00	
200.32	Signage - Allowance	1	LS	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	
200.33	Trail Equestrian Obstacles - Allowance	1	LS	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00	
200.34	Revegetation: Wildflower Mix - Allowance - Outside Sodded Areas	1	LS	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	
	ENHANCE POND					$340,000.00
200.35	Fishing Pier - Allowance	1	LS	$ 225,000.00	$ 225,000.00	
200.36	Re-Line Pond	1	LS	$ 70,000.00	$ 70,000.00	
200.37	Stock Pond	1	LS	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00	
200.38	Riparian Planting	1	LS	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00	
	TRAILS (Connection to City Wide Trail System) & Miscelleanous Items					$207,000.00
200.39	Decomposed Granite Trail System - Connection to City Wide Trail System (6 ft wide | includes sub-grade prep)	375	LF	$ 40.00	$ 15,000.00	
200.40	Speciality Concrete Walkway - Trailheads (includes sub-grade prep)	5,000	SF	15.00	$ 75,000.00	
200.41	Trailhead Signage (2 Sign) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	
200.42	Trail Equestrian Obstacles - Allowance	1	LS	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00	
200.43	Revegetation: Wildflower Mix - Allowance	1	LS	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00	
200.44	Tree Buffer (north corner of property) - Allowance	1	LS	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00	
	SCHEDULE 300 - OTHER PROJECT COSTS					
	OTHER PROJECT COSTS					**$6,423,200.00**
300.01	Mobilization/De-Mob/General Requirements of Contract/SWPPP (6% Total Const. Cost)			$ 1,500,100.00	$ 1,500,100.00	
300.02	[3]Construction Site Development Contingency (10%)			$ 2,272,900.00	$ 2,272,900.00	
300.03	[4]Owner's Construction Contingency (10%)			$ 2,650,200.00	$ 2,650,200.00	
	TOTAL (SCHEDULES NO. 100 THROUGH 300 (Construction Costs):					**$29,151,552.75**
	[8]Professional Design and Support Services (Soft Costs)					**$2,065,700.00**
	TOTAL PROJECT COST					**$31,217,252.75**

Assumptions/Disclaimers:

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3) 10% Construction Site Development Contingency included to cover unknown site development costs due to current schematic level of detail (unclassified earthwork, utilities, permantent reveg/BMPs, etc... unless otherwise noted).

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5) This OPCC does not include utility adjustments/relocations/extensions/services for storm sewer, domestic water, sanitary sewer, gas, electric or communication utility lines off site.

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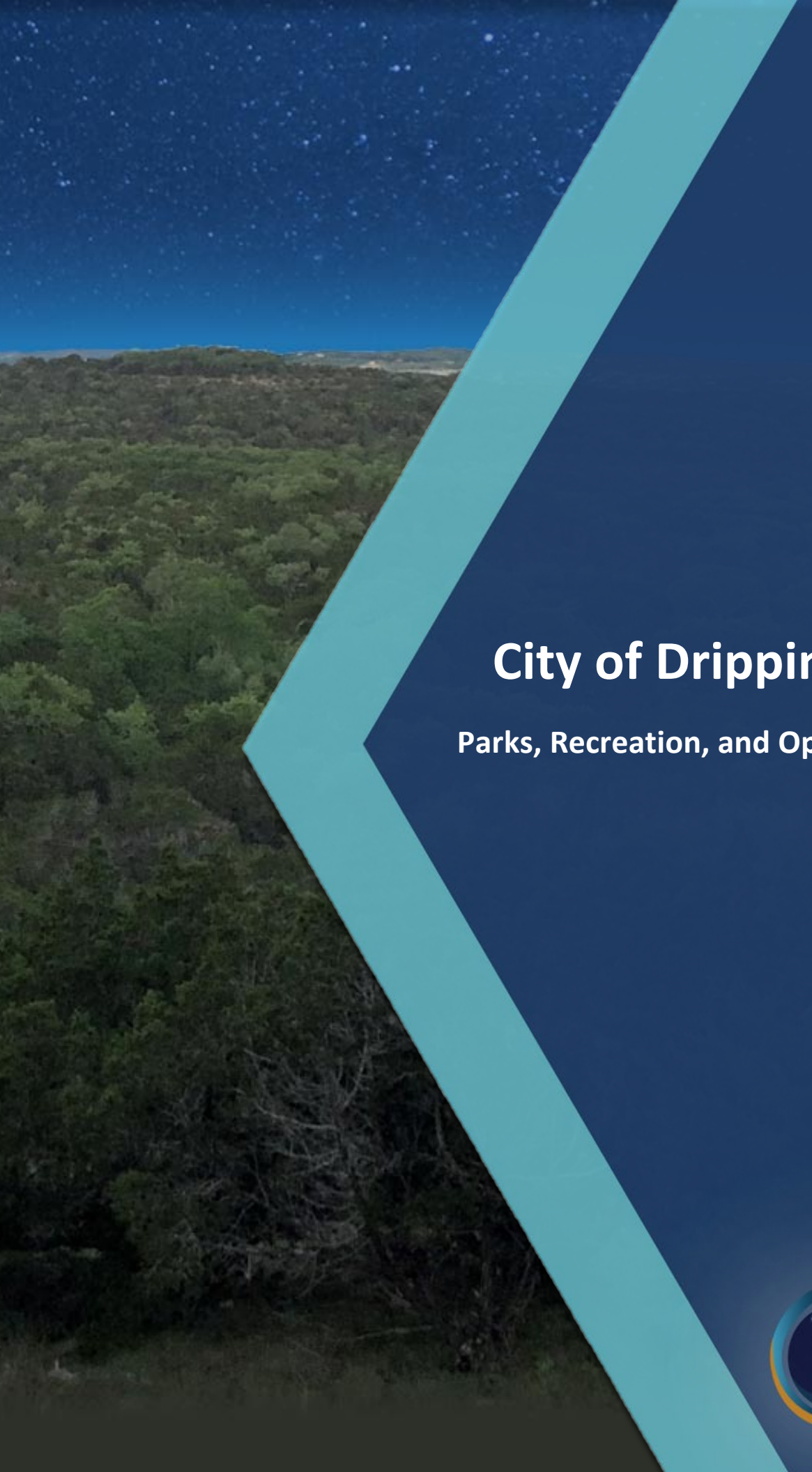
7) Environmental and regulatory review, permitting, and fess are not included in this OPCC.

8) Soft costs (12% of total construction cost for: design, design survey, geotechnical, permitting, testing, owner fee's, etc..).

9) Existing OPCC provided by Dripping Springs Parks & Community Services



STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY



2025

City of Dripping Springs, TX

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Community Survey

Findings Report

ETC INSTITUTE

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Executive Summary

2025 Dripping Springs Community Survey Executive Summary

Overview

ETC Institute administered a parks and recreation needs assessment survey for the City of Dripping Springs during the months of winter 2025. This survey will be used to gather input to help determine parks and recreation priorities for the community.

Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Dripping Springs. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at *DrippingSpringsSurvey.org*.

After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up with residents to encourage participation. To prevent people who were not residents of Dripping Springs from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not included in the final database for this report.

The goal was to collect a minimum of 200 surveys from residents. The goal was met with 222 surveys collected. The overall results for the sample of 222 surveys has a precision of at least +/-6.3 at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains the following:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 2)
- Priority Investment Rating (PIR) that identifies priorities for facilities and programs (Section 3)
- Benchmarks comparing data from Dripping Springs to national averages (Section 4)
- Importance-Satisfaction analysis that sets priorities for City services (Section 5)
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 6)
- Answers to open-ended questions (Section 7)
- A copy of the cover letter and survey instrument (Section 8)

The major findings of the survey are summarized in the following pages.

Major Findings

Parks Experience. Ninety-four percent of respondents report visiting City of Dripping Springs parks in the last year. The parks visited most often were Dripping Springs Ranch Park (85%), Founders Memorial Park (81%), and Sports and Recreation Park (51%). Of those who have visited parks, the highest percentage (43%) report visiting weekly followed by monthly (32%). The most common reasons respondents visit parks is for exercise or physical activity (70%), socializing or children's play (54%), or community events (52%). Most respondents (74%) rated the overall quality of parks as either "good" (57%) or "excellent" (17%).

Barriers to Parks. The most common reasons respondents do not visit Dripping Springs parks or do not visit more often are lack of amenities they want to use (40%), using other city/state/private facilities (27%), and old and outdates facilities (21%).

Program Participation. Just over two-thirds of households (67%) report participating in or attending a recreation program/activity, special event, or performance offered by the City of Dripping Springs in the last year. Of those participants, over half (54%) report participating in 2-3 programs. The most common reasons for participating were location of program facility (58%), friends participating in the program (37%), and dates the program was offered (31%). Most respondents (89%) rated the overall quality of the program as either "good" (70%) or "excellent" (19%).

Barriers to Participation. The most common reasons respondents did not participate in Dripping Springs programs/events was because they did not know what was offered (43%) followed by program they desired not being offered (18%) and too busy/lack of interest (18%).

Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation. Respondents were provided with a list of 18 aspects of parks and recreation and asked to rate their level of satisfaction with each. Respondents were most satisfied (rating "satisfied" or "very satisfied") with the overall feeling of safety in parks and on trails (76%), the quality of skate park (75%), and ease of registering for programs (64%). Respondents were then asked to select the three items most important to their household. The items selected most often were maintenance of City parks (39%), maintenance of City trails (33%), and overall quality of natural area restoration and upkeep (27%).

Communication Methods. Respondents most often learn about recreation facilities, programs, and services offered by the City of Dripping Springs via social media (55%), friends and neighbors (48%), or email blasts/newsletters (24%). Respondents most prefer social media (51%) and email blasts/newsletters (42%) to receive information.

Satisfaction with Overall Value. Over half of respondents (55%) rate their overall level of satisfaction with value they receive from the City of Dripping Springs parks and recreation department as either "somewhat satisfied" (44%) or "very satisfied" (11%).

Support for Improvements. The three improvements to parks and recreation respondents most support (rating "somewhat supportive" or "very supportive") are maintaining existing amenities in existing parks (88%), acquiring more land for preservation and conservation of natural areas (84%), and updating existing parks with new amenities (85%). The two improvements most important to households were acquiring more land for preservation and conservation of natural areas (49%) and building new parks or facilities throughout town (37%).

Importance of Parks and Recreation. Most respondents (83%) feel it is "very important" for the City of Dripping Springs to provide high quality parks, recreation facilities, and programs. The three benefits of parks, facilities, programs, and events respondents most often agree with (rating "agree" or "strongly agree") were that it preserves open space and protects the environment (87%), improves household's physical health and fitness (88%), and makes Dripping Springs a more desirable place to live (87%).

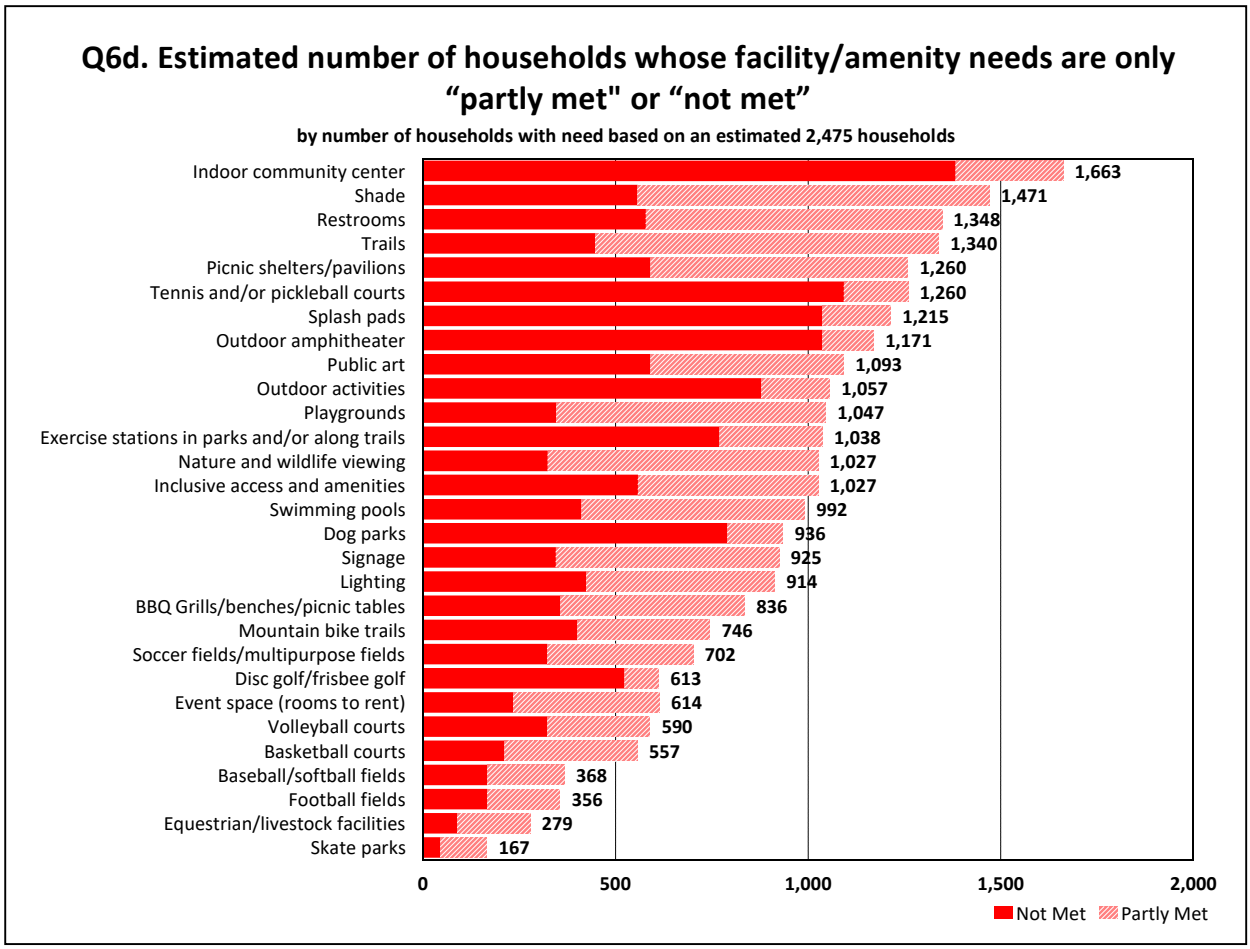
Recreation Facilities/Amenities Needs and Priorities

Amenity/Facility Needs: Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 29 facilities/amenities and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest "unmet" need for various facilities/amenities.

The three amenities/facilities with the highest percentage of households that have an unmet need:

1. Indoor community center – 1,663 households
2. Shade structures – 1,471 households
3. Restrooms – 1,348 households

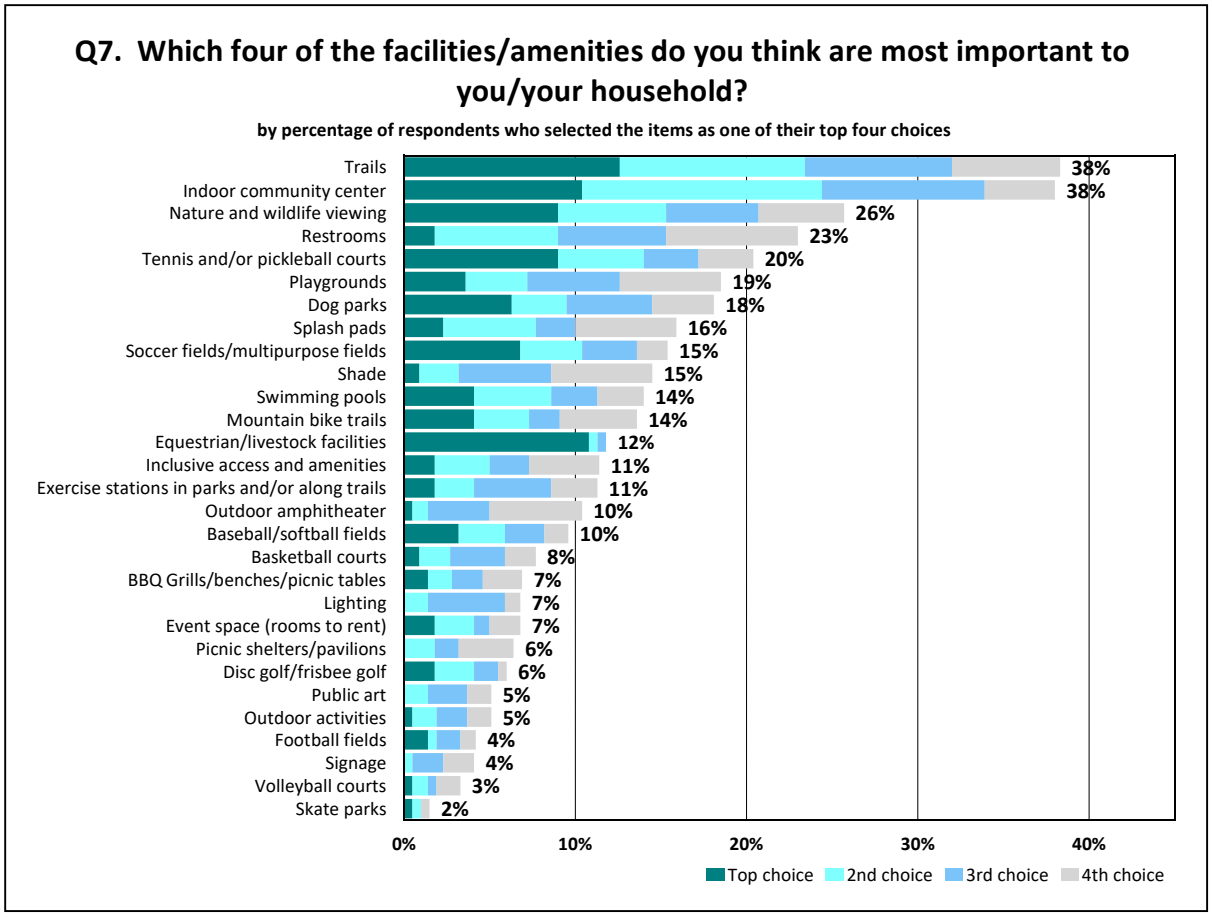
The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 29 facilities/amenities assessed is shown in the chart below.



Amenities/Facilities Importance: In addition to assessing the needs for each amenity/facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each item. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, these were the four amenities/facilities ranked most important to residents:

1. Trails (38%) and Indoor community center (38%)
2. Nature and wildlife viewing (26%)
3. Restrooms (23%)
4. Tennis/pickleball courts (20%)

The percentage of residents who selected each amenity/facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart below.

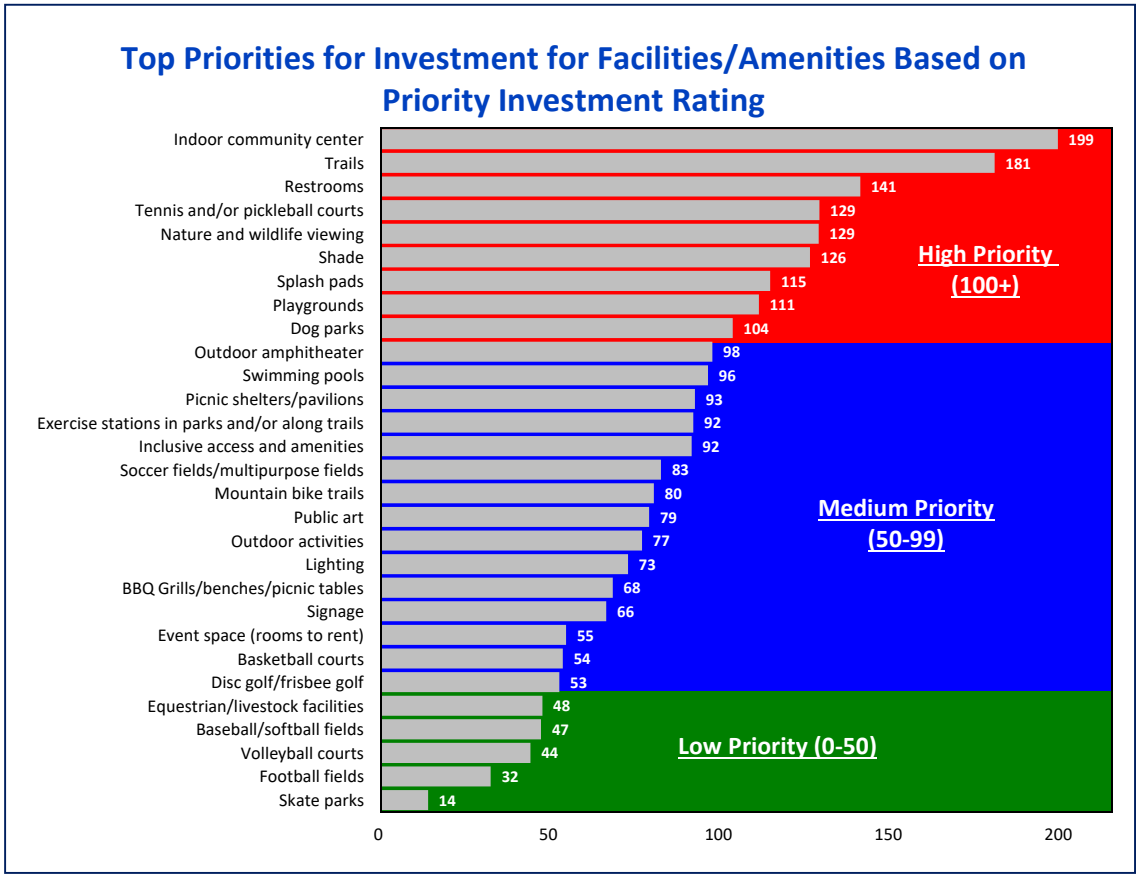


Priorities for Facility Investments: The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs (1) the importance that residents place on amenities/facilities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the amenity/facility. [Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 3 of this report.]

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following amenities/facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Indoor community center (PIR=199.2)
- Trails (PIR=180.6)
- Restrooms (PIR=141.1)
- Tennis and/or pickleball courts (PIR=129.1)
- Nature and wildlife viewing (PIR=128.9)
- Shade (PIR=126.3)
- Splash pads (PIR=114.6)
- Playgrounds (PIR=111.3)
- Dog parks (PIR=103.6)

The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 29 amenities/facilities assessed on the survey.



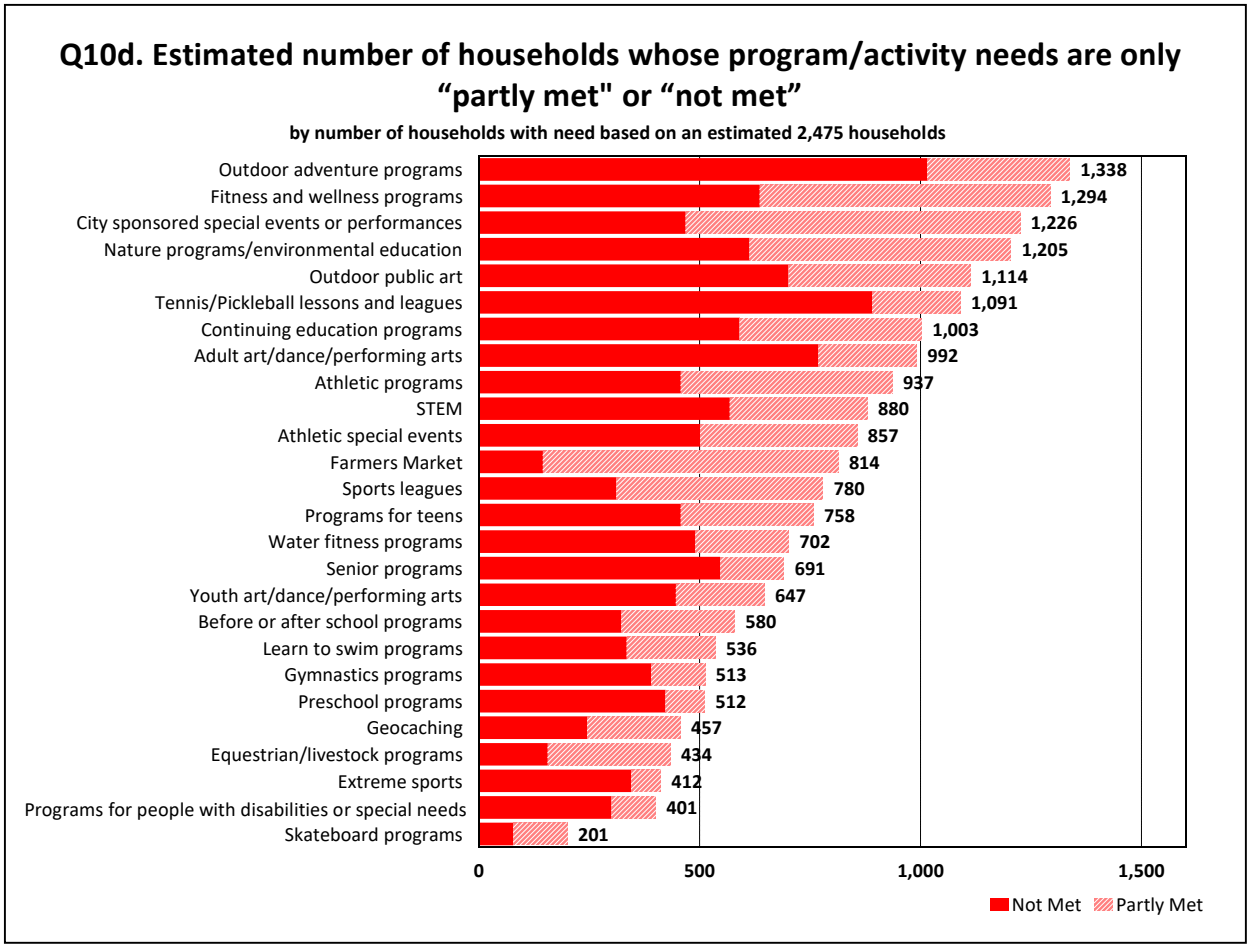
Recreation Program/Activity Needs and Priorities

Program Needs: Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 26 recreation programs and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest "unmet" need for various programs.

The three programs with the highest number of households that have an unmet need:

1. Outdoor adventure programs – 1,338 households
2. Fitness and wellness programs – 1,294 households
3. City-sponsored special events or performances – 1,226 households

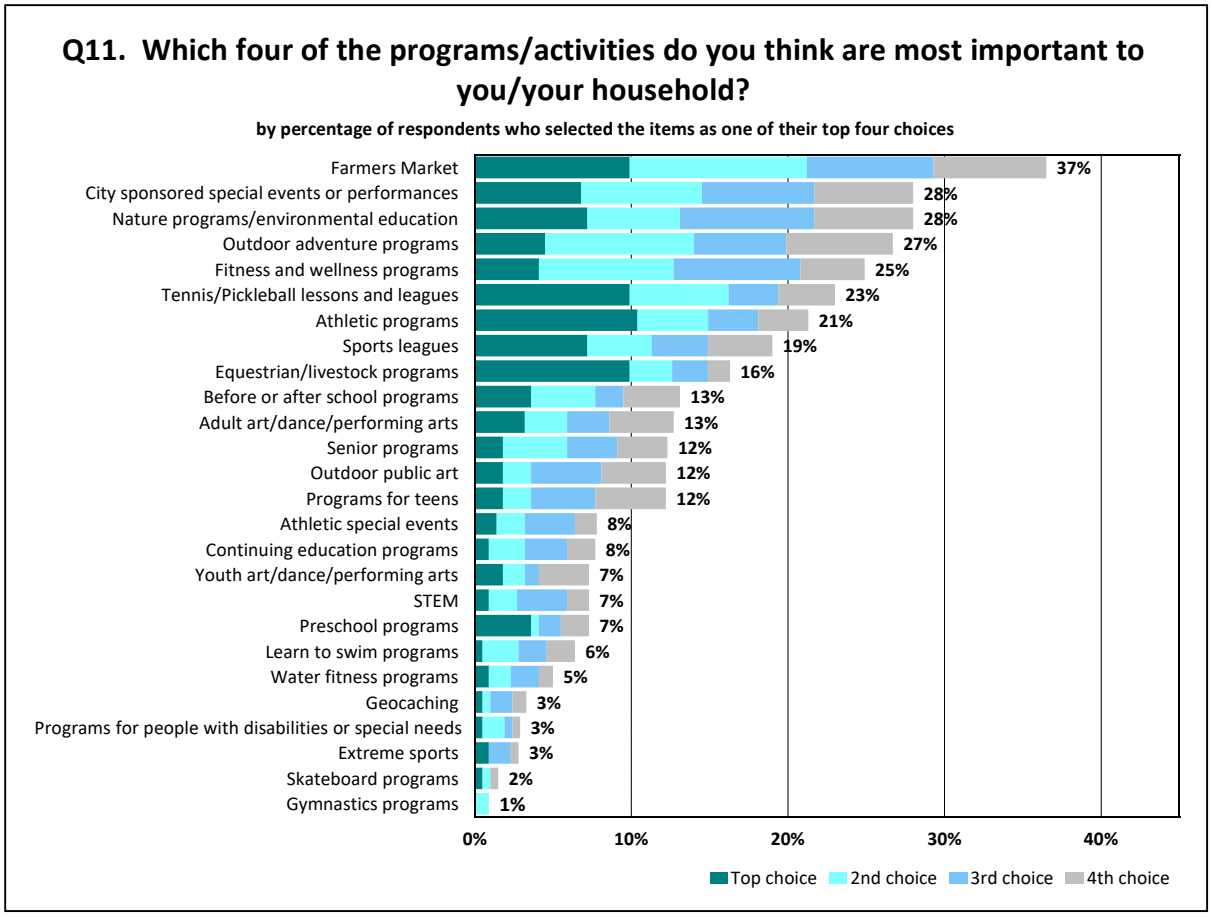
The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 26 programs assessed is shown in the chart below.



Programs Importance: In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each item. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, these were the four programs ranked most important to residents:

1. Farmers market (37%)
2. City-sponsored special events or performances (28%) and Nature programs/environmental education (28%)
3. Outdoor adventure programs (27%)
4. Fitness and wellness programs (25%)

The percentage of residents who selected each program as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart below.

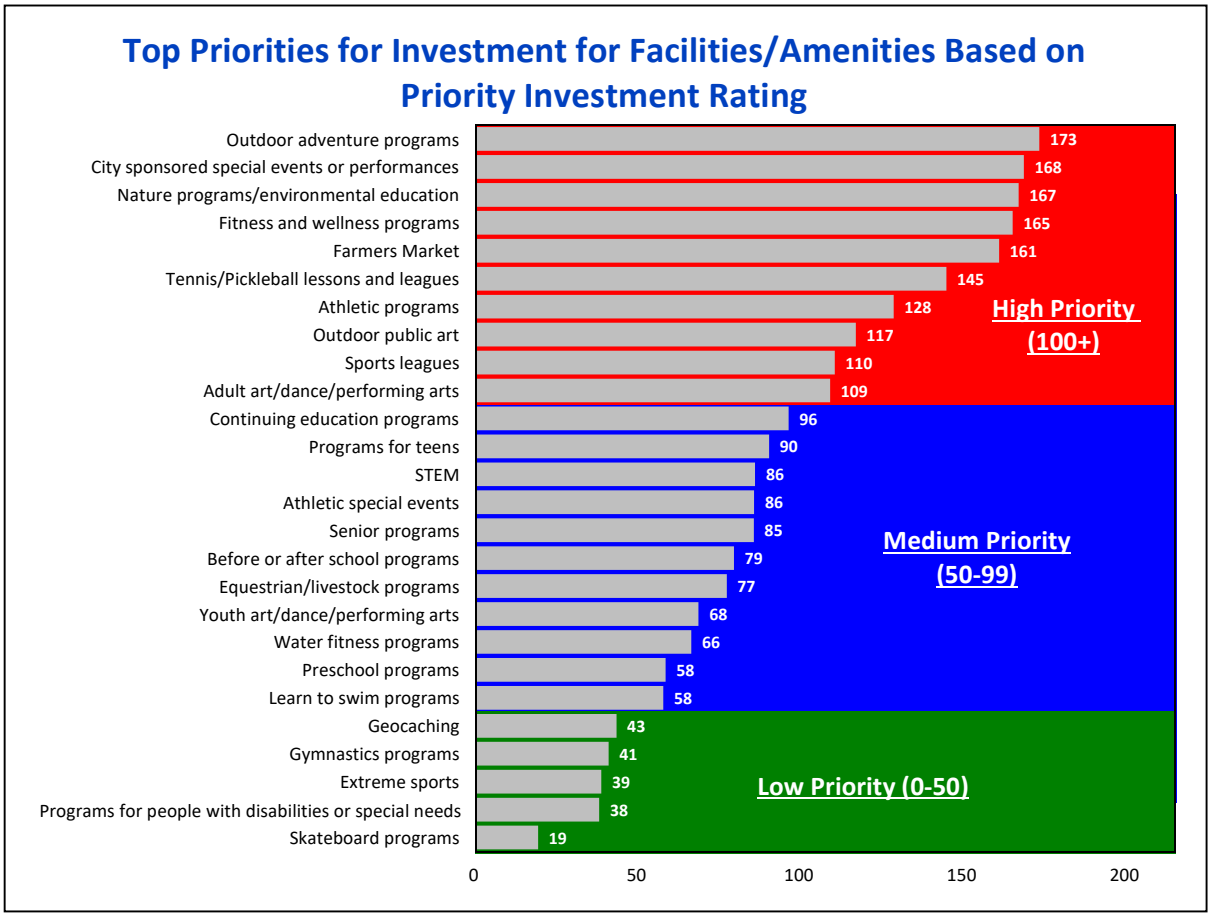


Priorities for Program Investments: The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs (1) the importance that residents place on programs and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the program. [Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 3 of this report.]

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following activities/programs were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Outdoor adventure programs (PIR=173.2)
- City sponsored special events or performances (PIR=168.4)
- Nature programs/environmental education (PIR=166.8)
- Fitness and wellness programs (PIR=165)
- Farmers Market (PIR=160.8)
- Tennis/Pickleball lessons and leagues (PIR=144.6)
- Athletic programs (PIR=128.4)
- Outdoor public art (PIR=116.8)
- Sports leagues (PIR=110.3)
- Adult art/dance/performing arts (PIR=108.9)

The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 26 programs assessed on the survey.



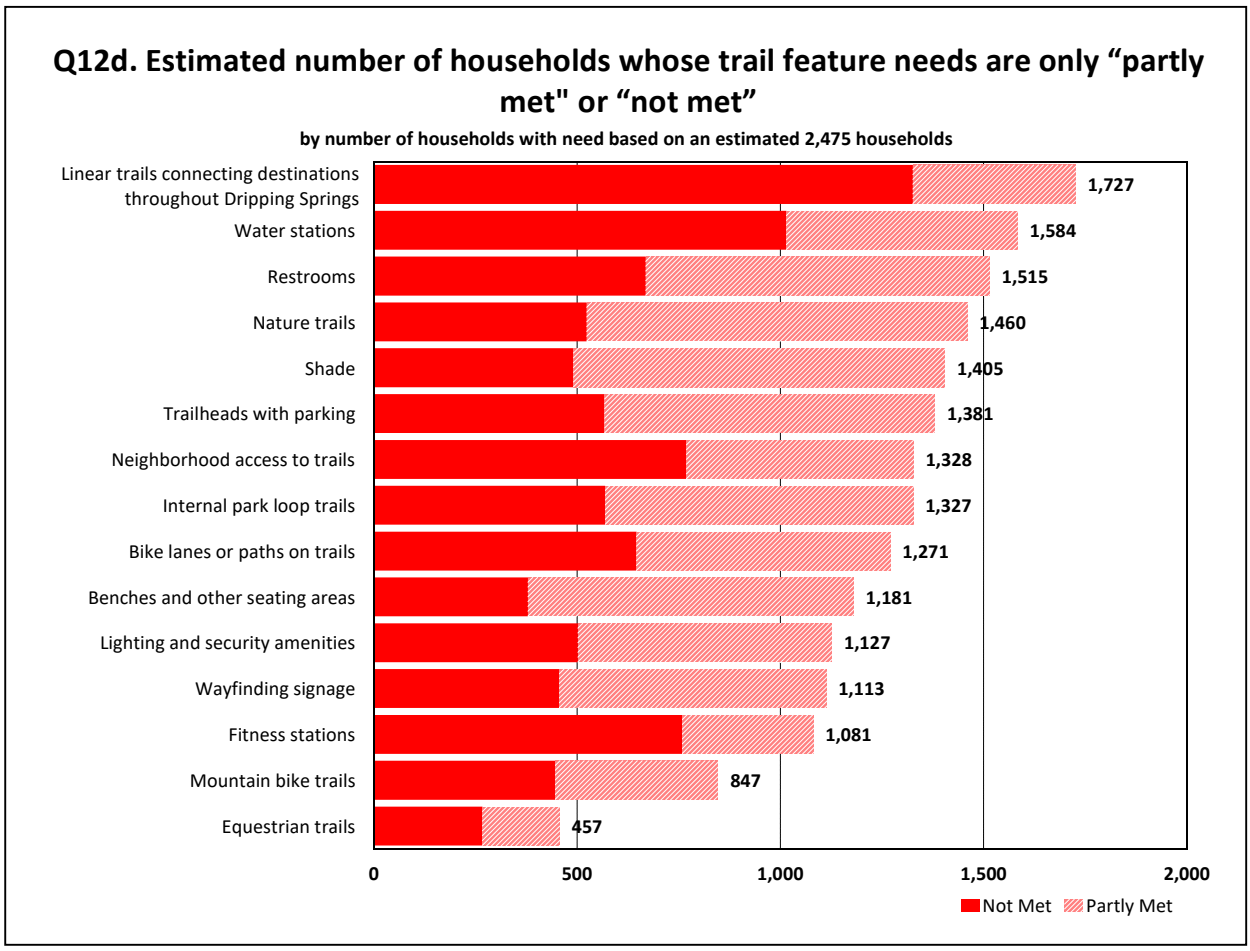
Trail Needs and Priorities

Trail Needs: Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 15 trail features and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest "unmet" need for various features.

The three trail features with the highest number of households that have an unmet need:

1. Linear trails connecting to destinations throughout Dripping Springs – 1,727 households
2. Water stations – 1,584 households
3. Restrooms – 1,515 households

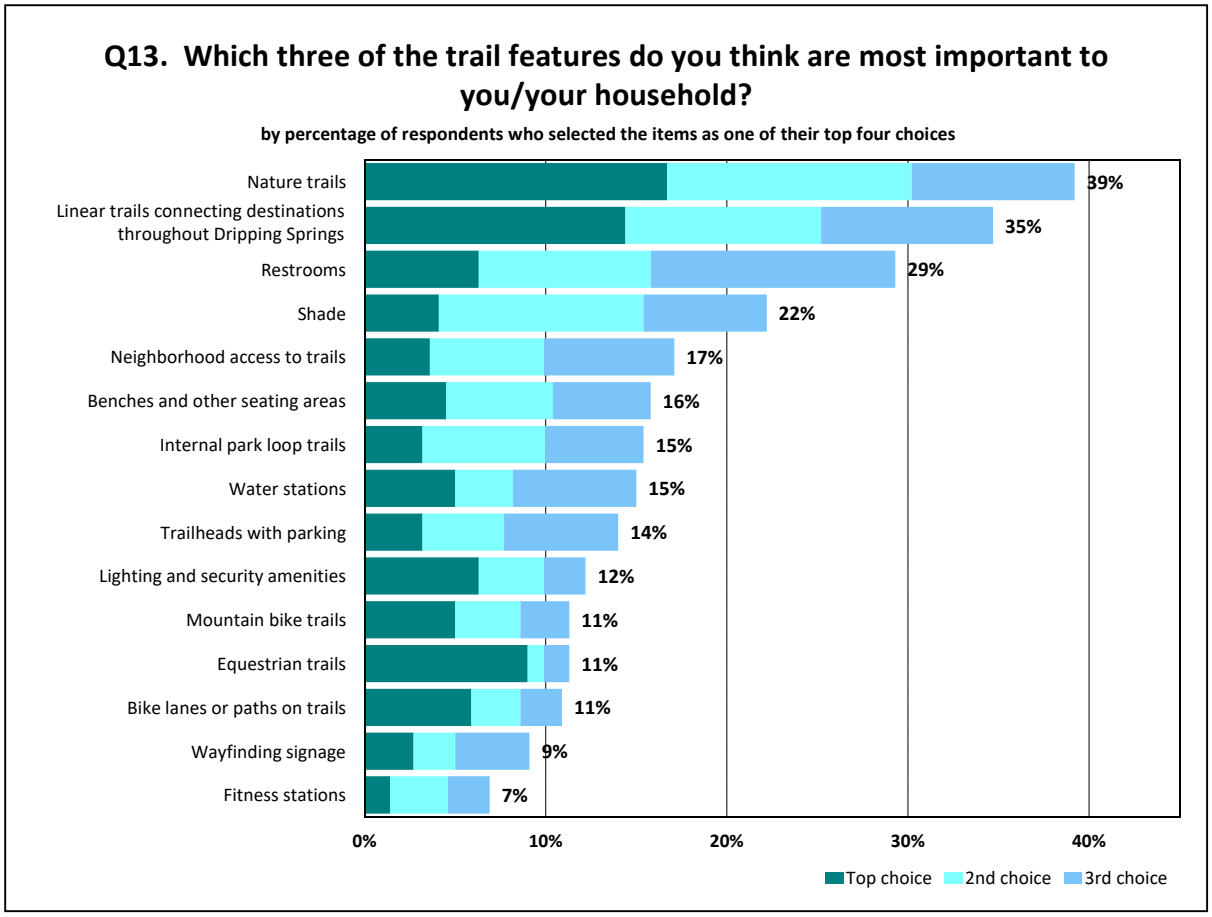
The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 15 trails assessed is shown in the chart below.



Programs Importance: In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each item. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, these were the four programs ranked most important to residents:

1. Nature trails (39%)
2. Linear trails connecting destinations throughout City (35%)
3. Restrooms (29%)
4. Shade (22%)

The percentage of residents who selected each trail feature as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart below.

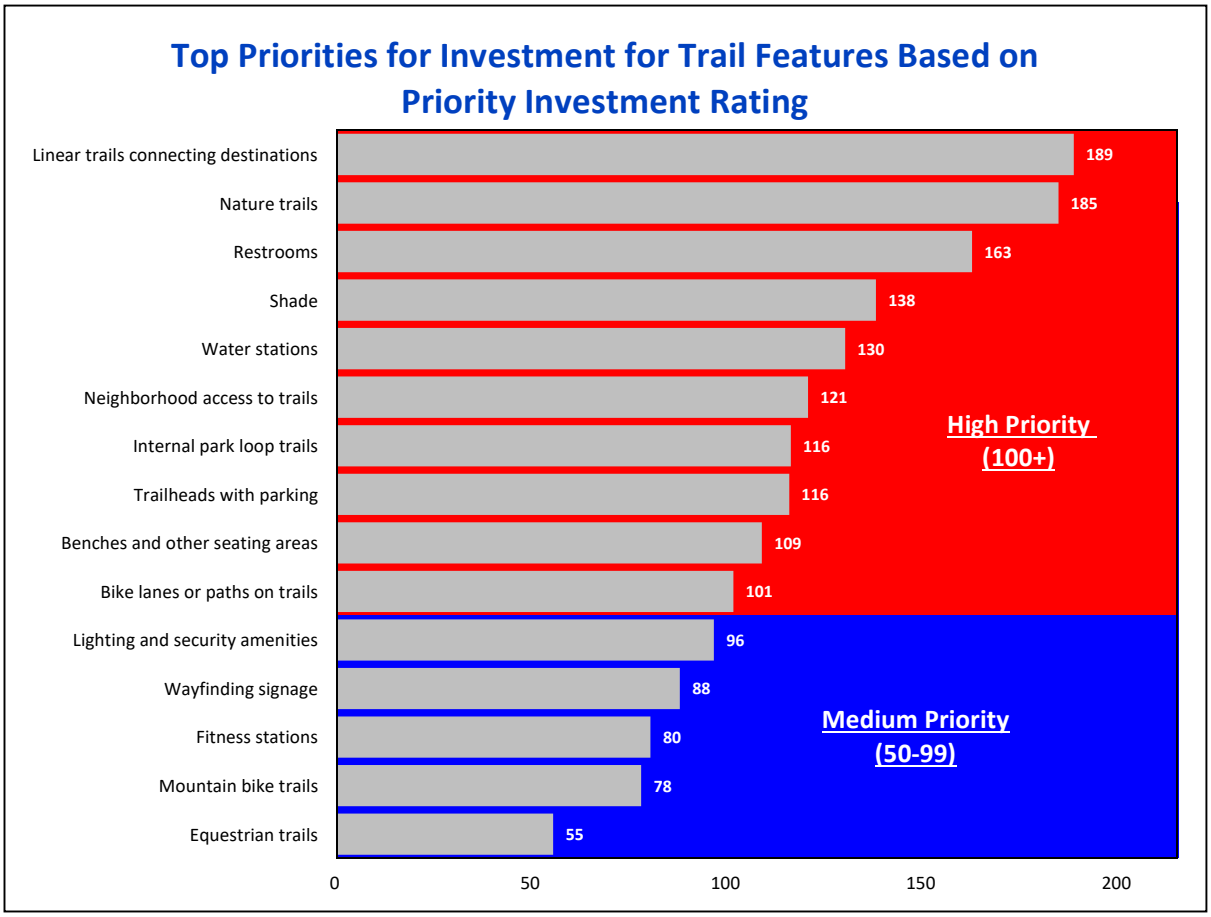


Priorities for Program Investments: The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs (1) the importance that residents place on programs and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the program. [Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 3 of this report.]

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following activities/programs were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Linear trails connecting destinations (PIR=188.5)
- Nature trails (PIR=184.6)
- Restrooms (PIR=162.5)
- Shade (PIR=137.9)
- Water stations (PIR=130)
- Neighborhood access to trails (PIR=120.5)
- Internal park loop trails (PIR=116.1)
- Trailheads with parking (PIR=115.7)
- Benches and other seating areas (PIR=108.7)
- Bike lanes or paths on trails (PIR=101.4)

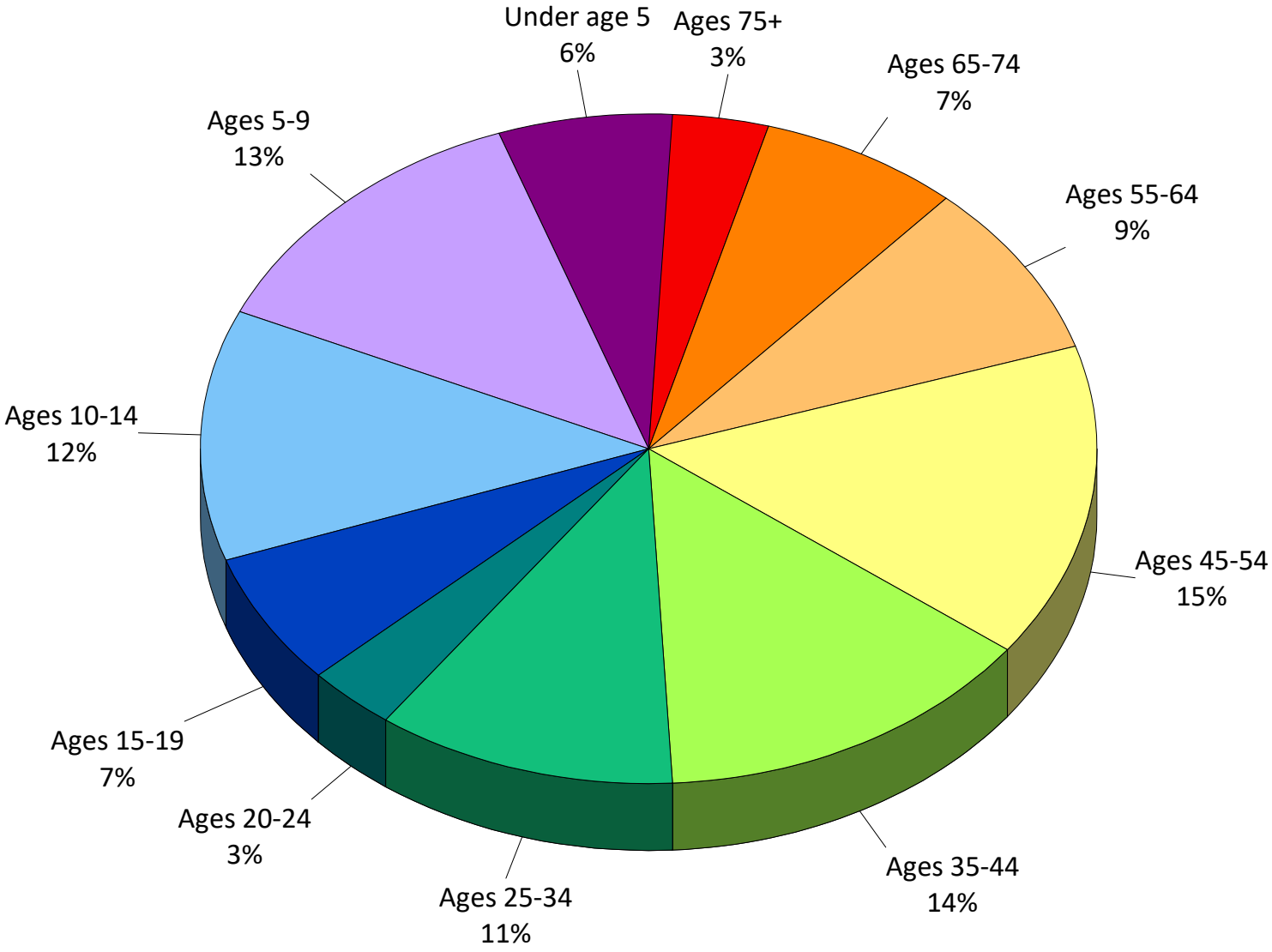
The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 15 programs assessed on the survey.



2 Charts & Graphs

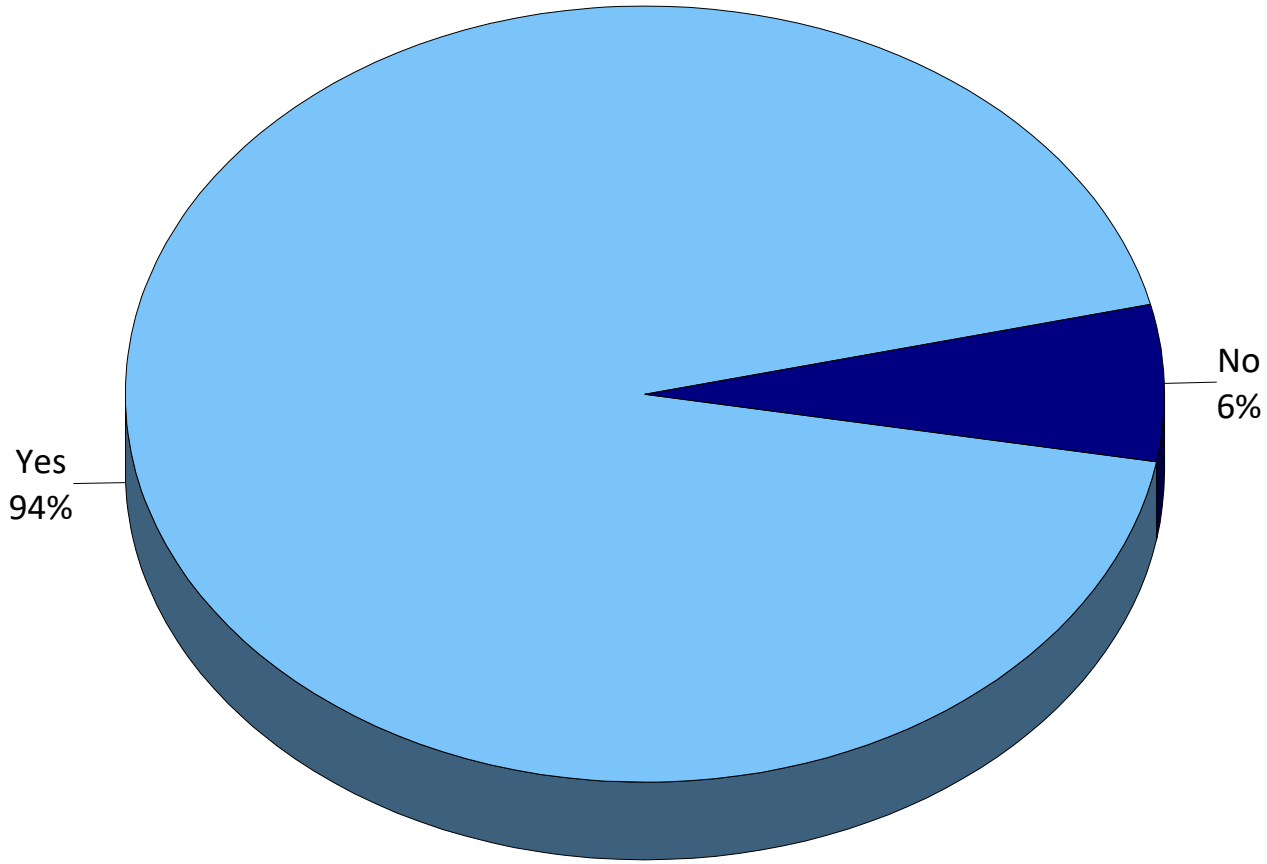
Q1. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

by percentage of persons in household



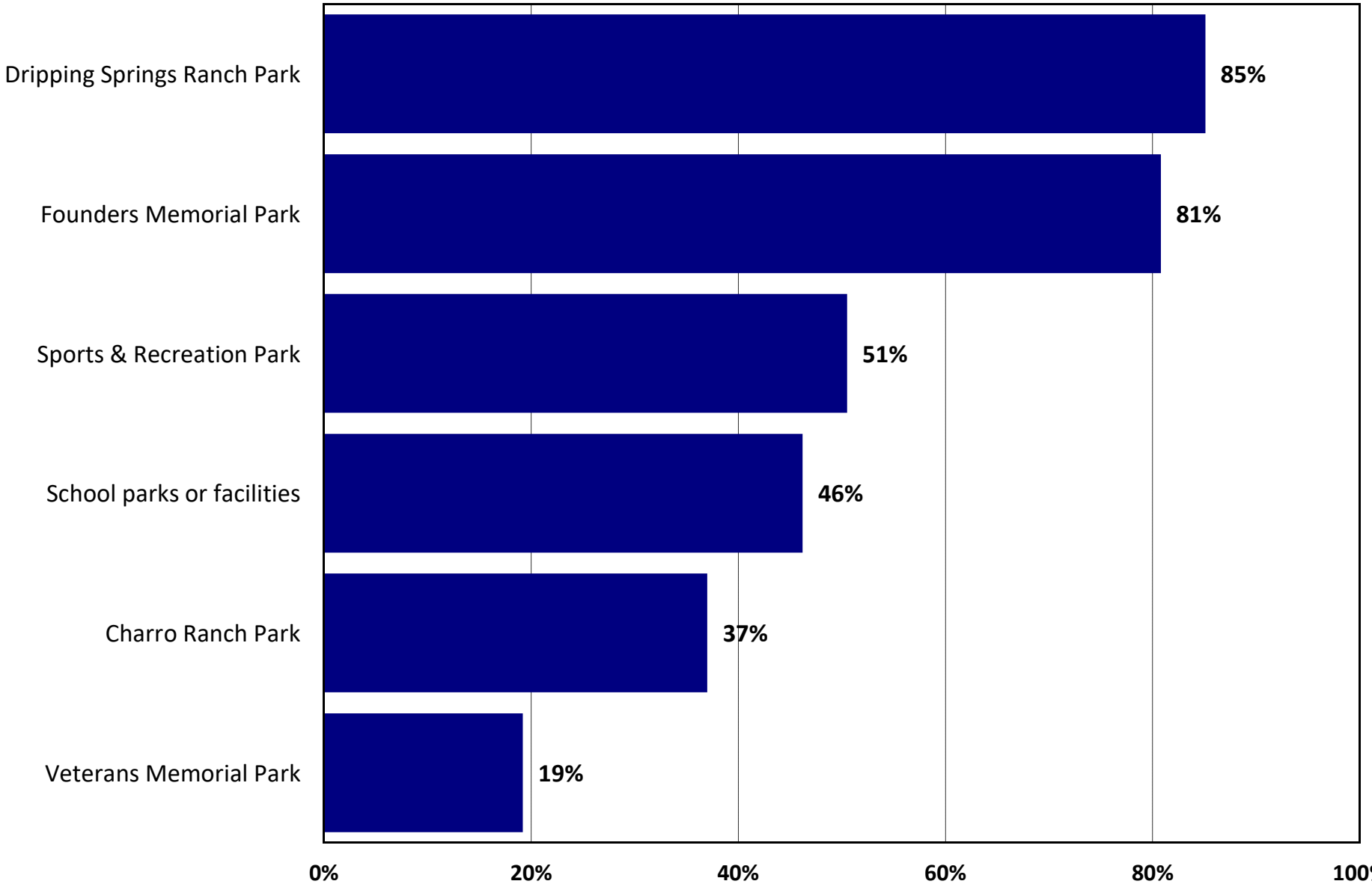
Q2. Have you or other members of your household visited any parks offered by the City of Dripping Springs during the past 12 months?

by percentage of respondents



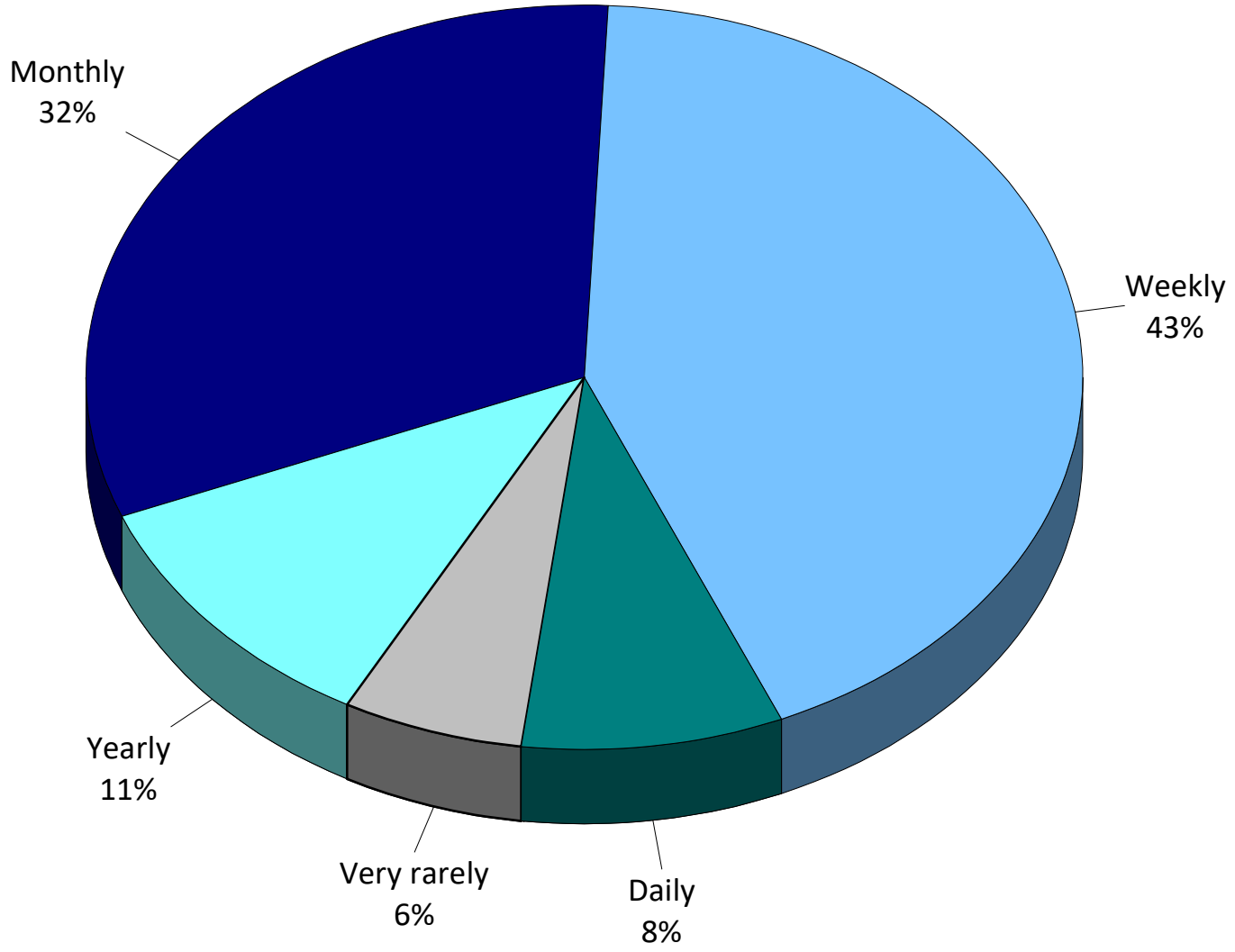
Q2a. Please check ALL the parks listed below that you or members of your household have visited during the past 12 months.

by percentage of respondents who answered "yes" to Q2 (multiple selections could be made)



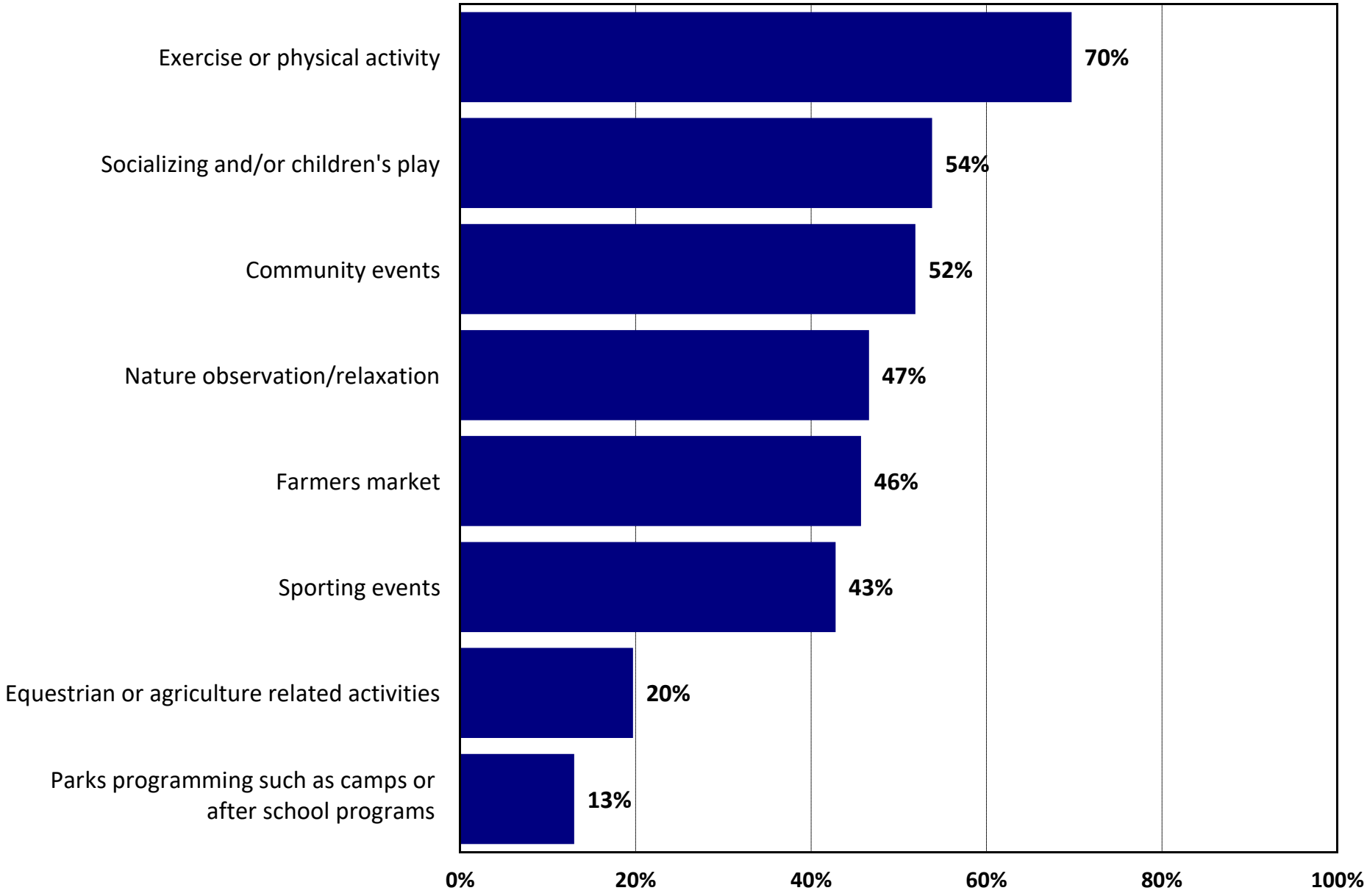
Q2b. On average, how often do you visit the parks you selected in Question 2a?

by percentage of respondents who answered "yes" to Q2 (excluding "not provided")



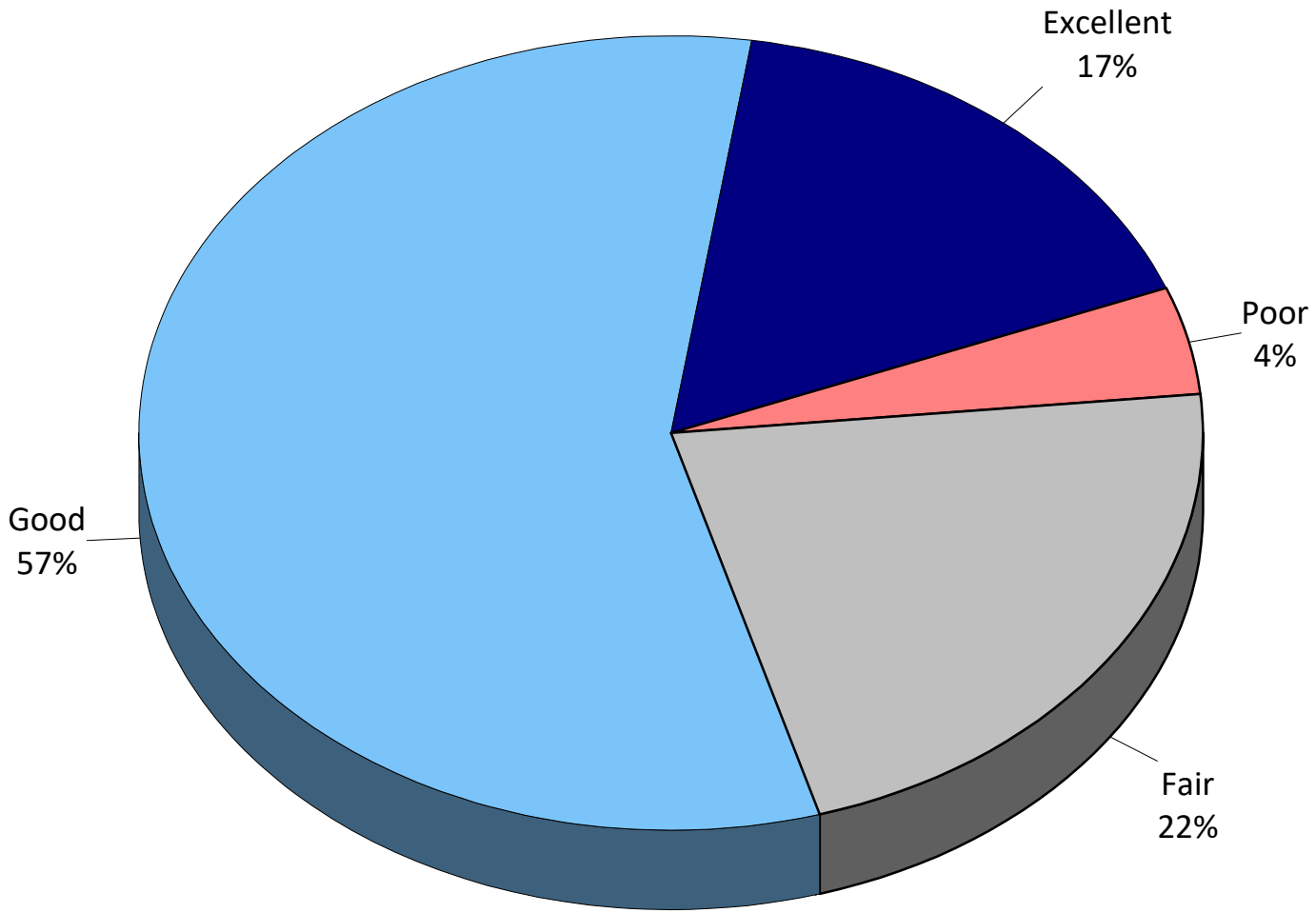
Q2c. Please check ALL the reasons you visit the parks you selected in Question 2a.

by percentage of respondents who selected parks in 2a (multiple selections could be made)



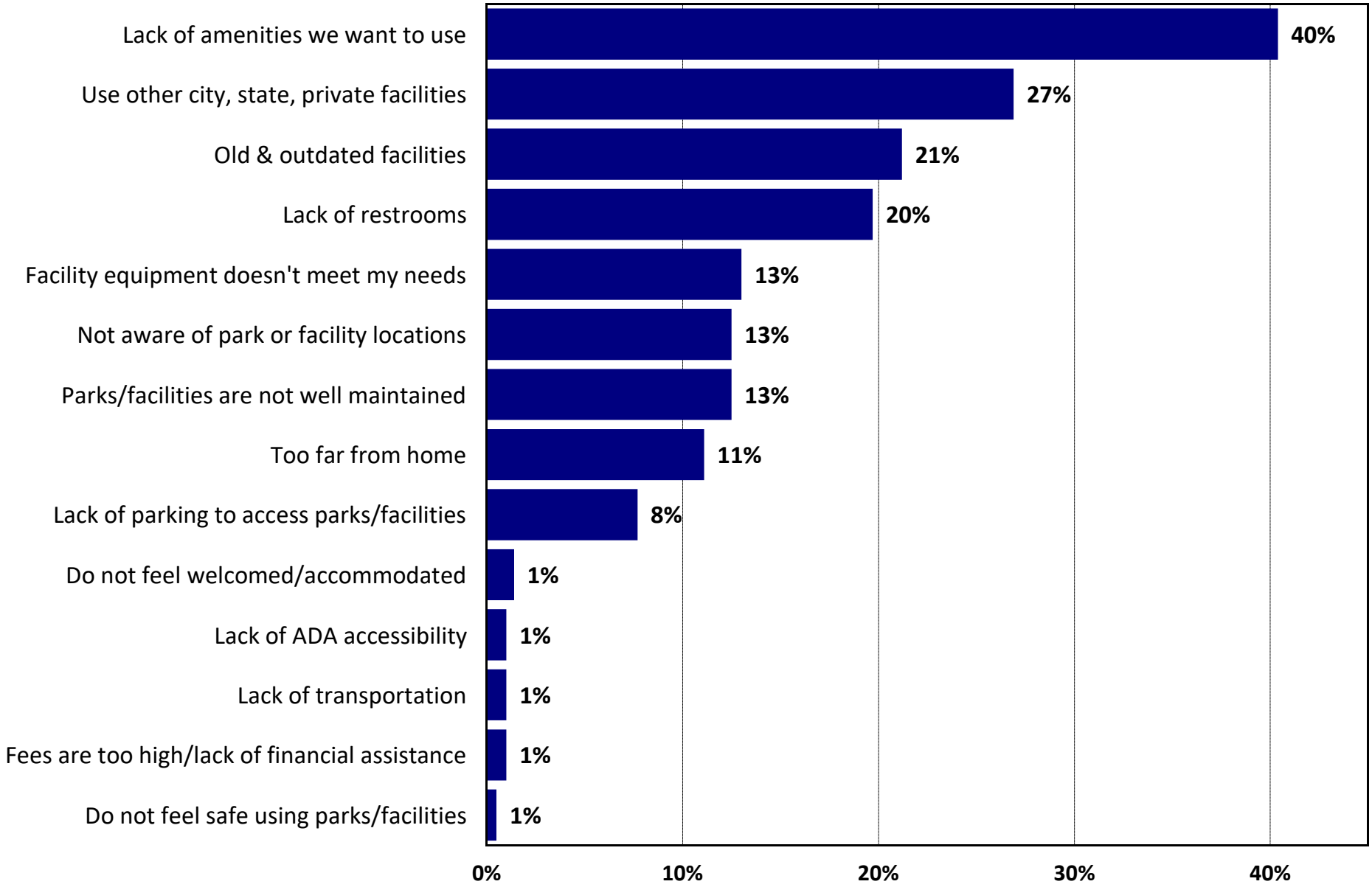
Q2d. How would you rate the overall quality of the City of Dripping Springs parks you or members of your household have visited during the past 12 months?

by percentage of respondents who answered “yes" to Q2



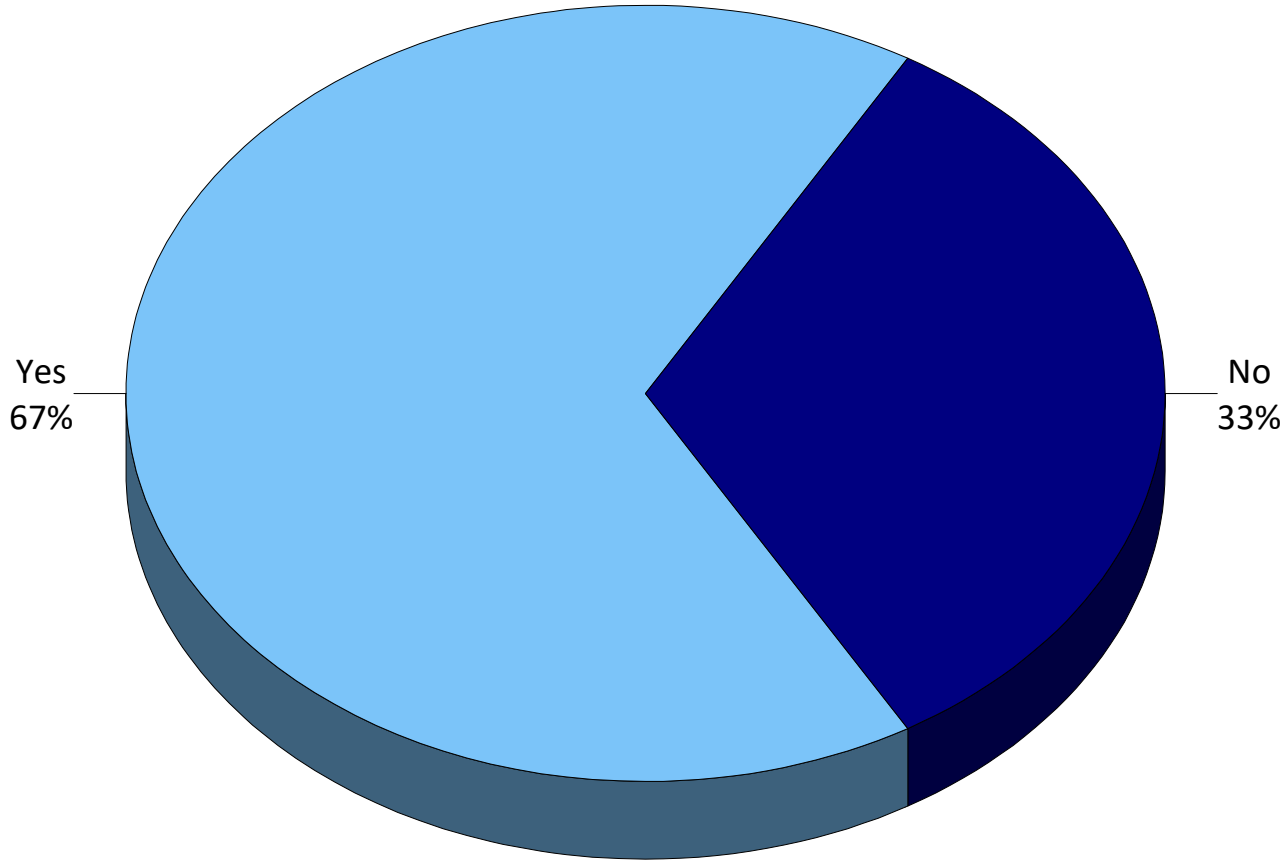
Q2e. Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household do not visit parks or why you do not visit more often.

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



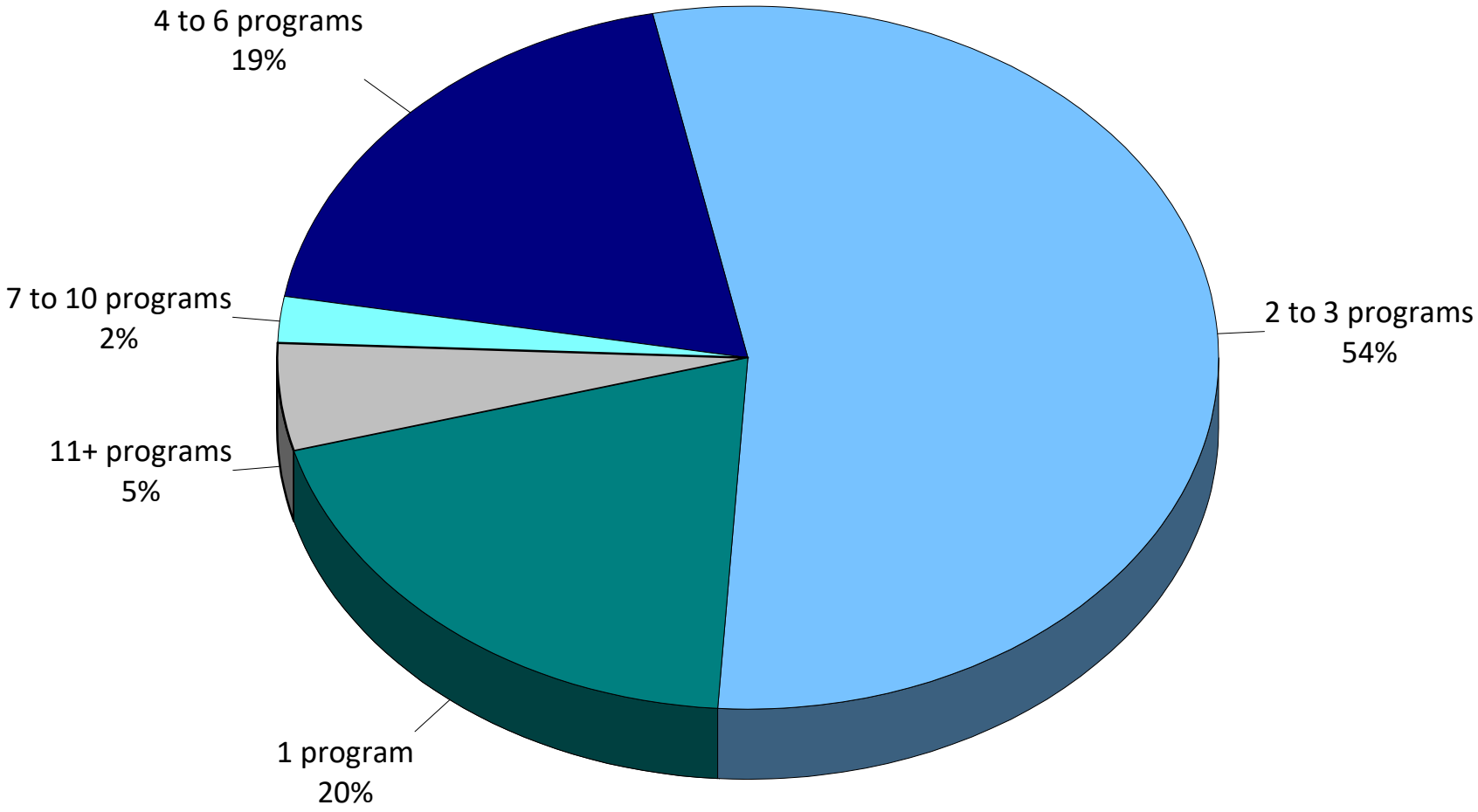
Q3. Have you or other members of your household participated in or attended any recreation programs/activities or special events or performances offered by the City of Dripping Springs during the past 12 months?

by percentage of respondents



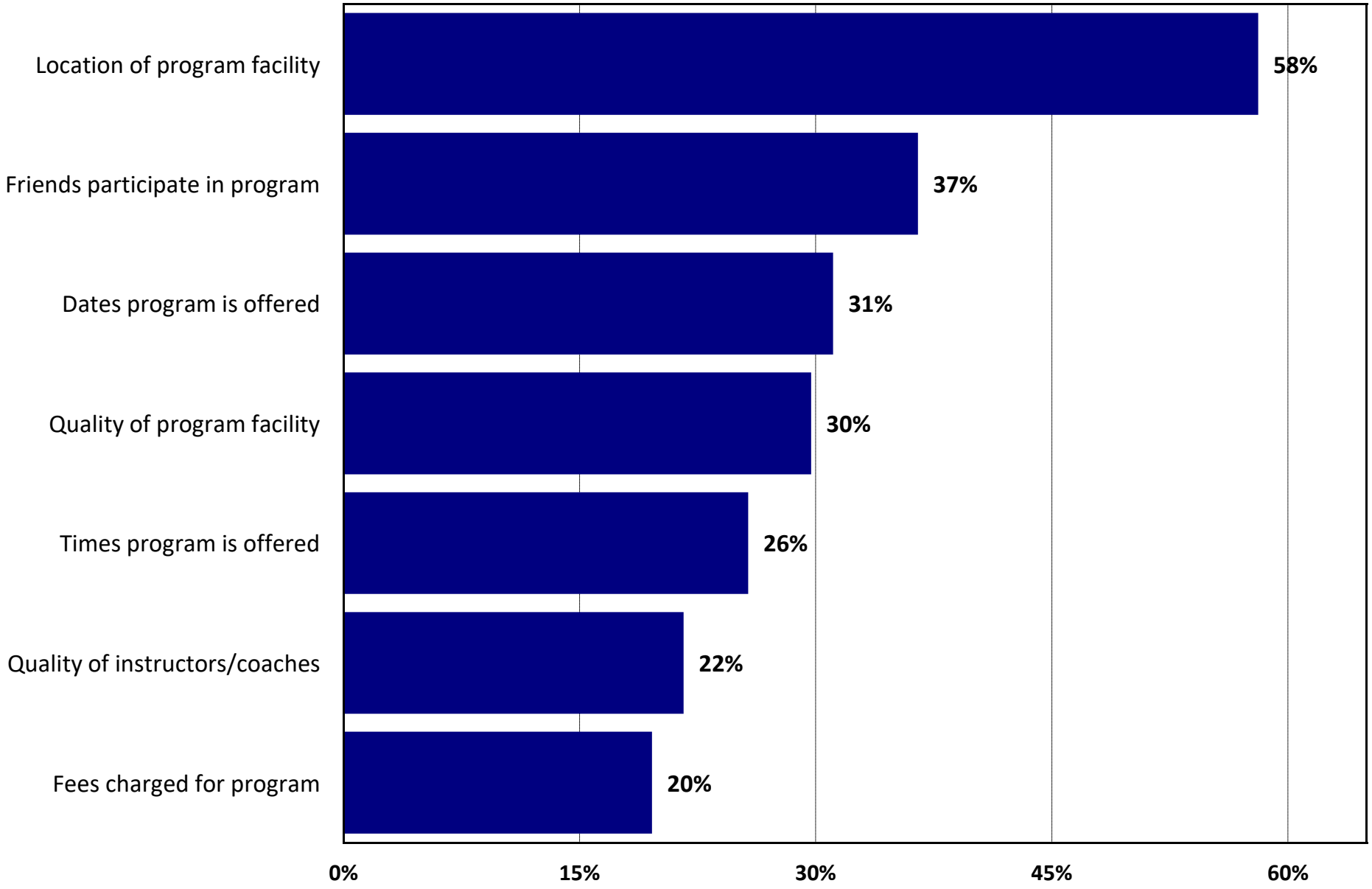
Q3a. Approximately how many different recreation programs/activities, special events or performances offered by the City of Dripping Springs have you or members of your household participated in or attended over the past 12 months?

by percentage of respondents who answered "yes" to Q3 (excluding "not provided")



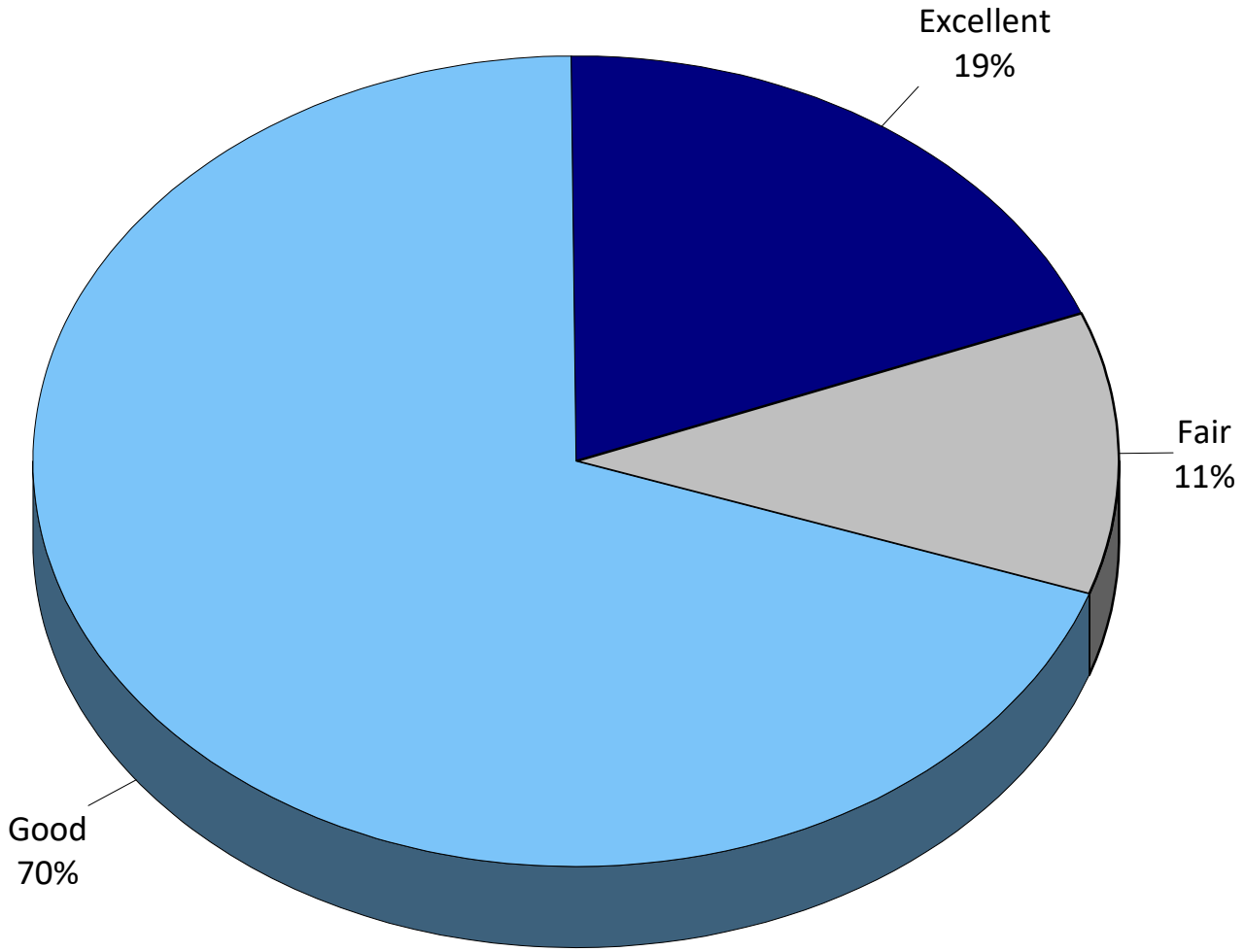
Q3b. Check the primary reasons why you/members of your household participate in programs/activities or attend special events or performances in Dripping Springs.

by percentage of respondents who answered "yes" to Q3 (multiple selections could be made)



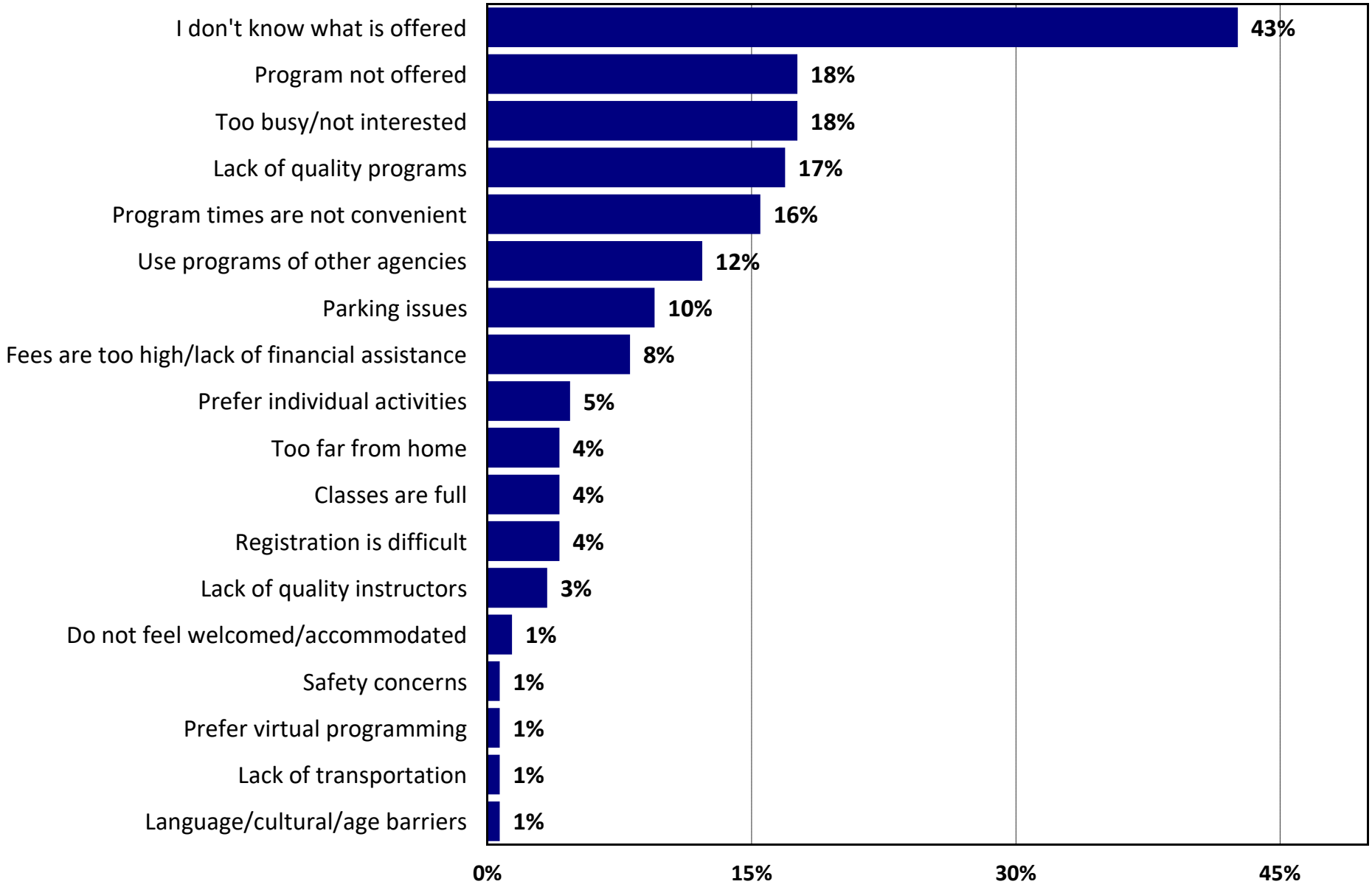
Q3c. How would you rate the overall quality of programs/activities that you or members of your household have participated in during the past 12 months?

by percentage of respondents who answered “yes" to Q3 (excluding "not provided")



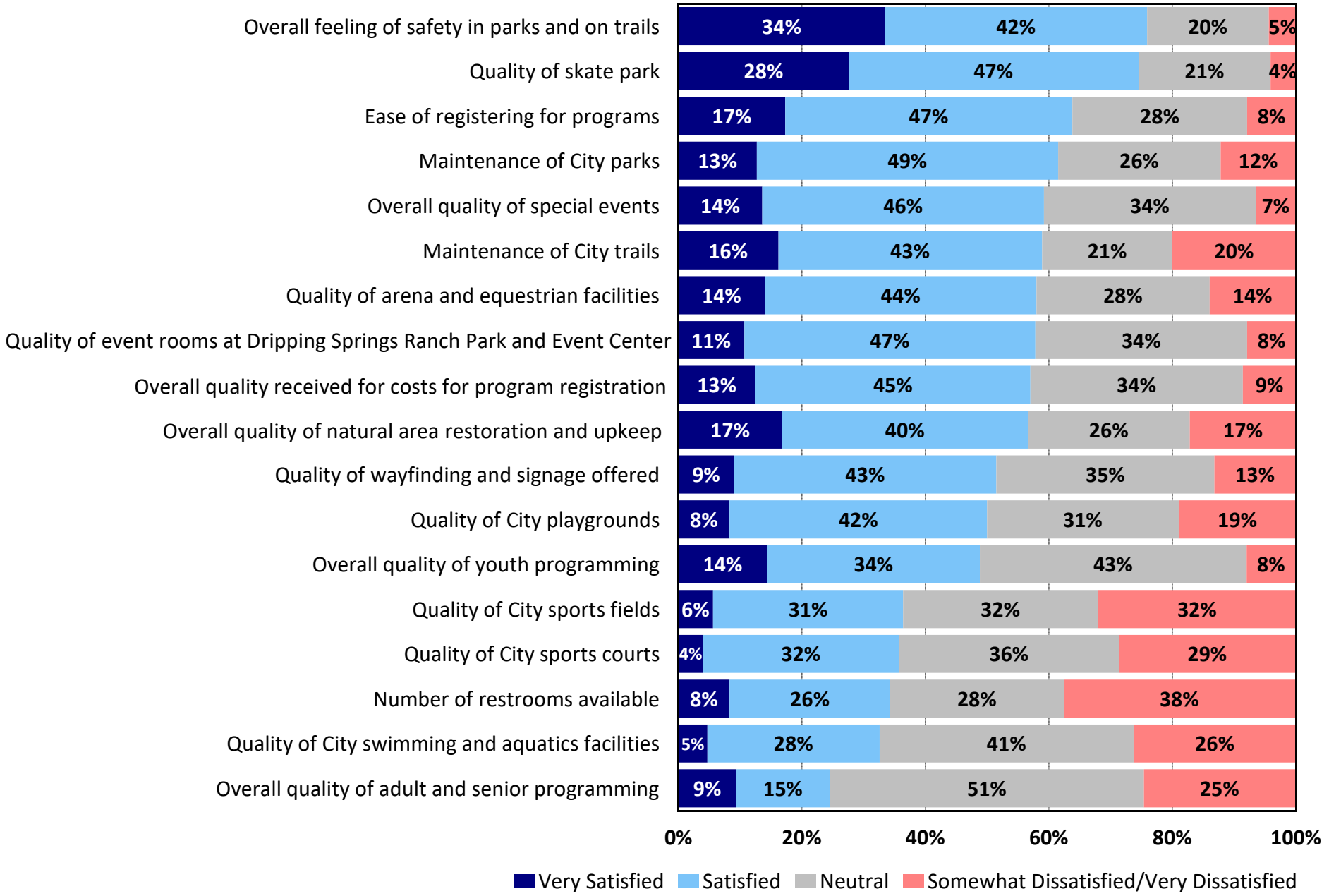
Q3d. Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household have not participated in programs or why you do not participate more often.

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



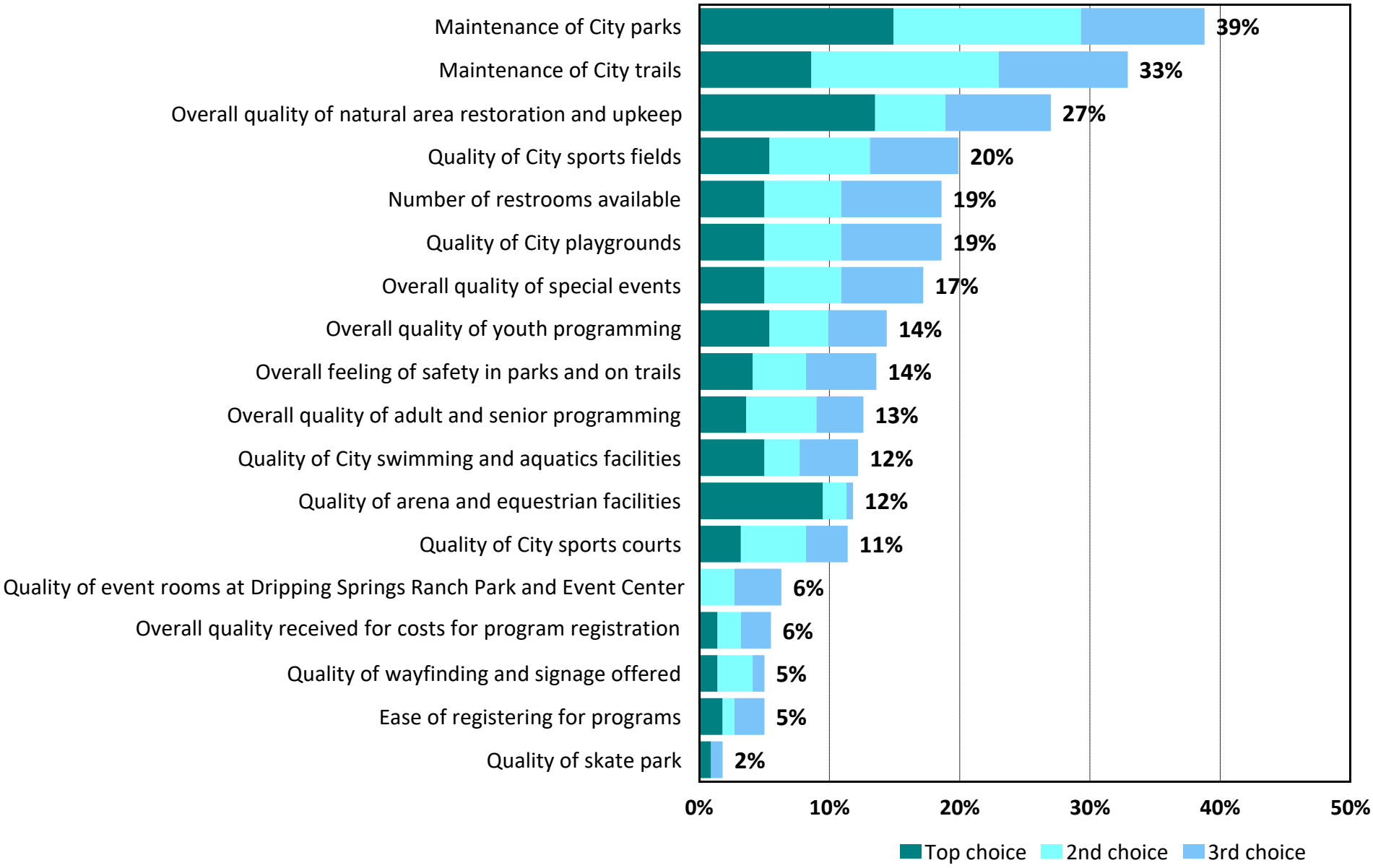
Q4. Satisfaction with Aspects of Parks and Recreation

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



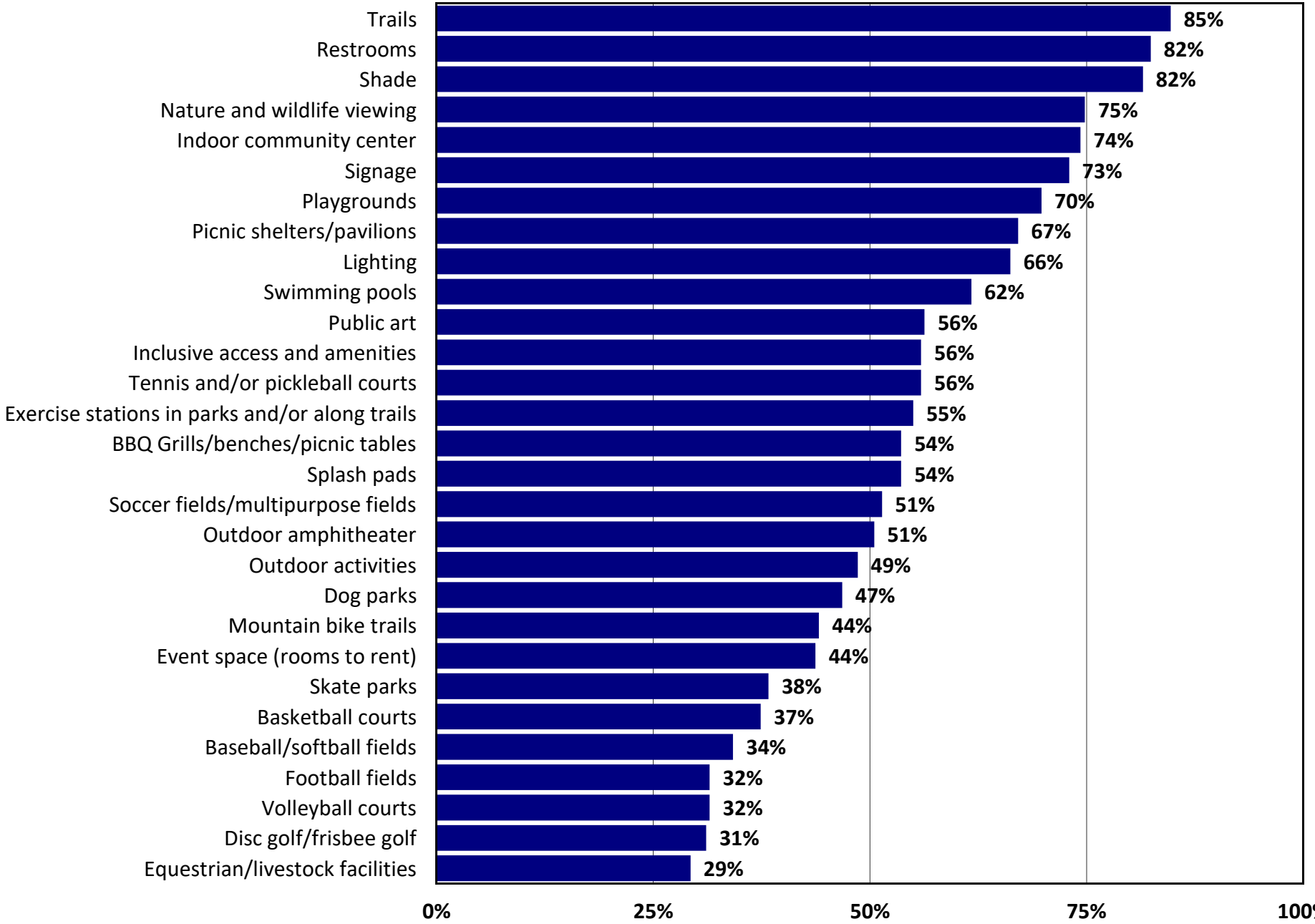
Q5. Which THREE of the items in Question 4 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT for the City of Dripping Springs to emphasize over the next 10 years?

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



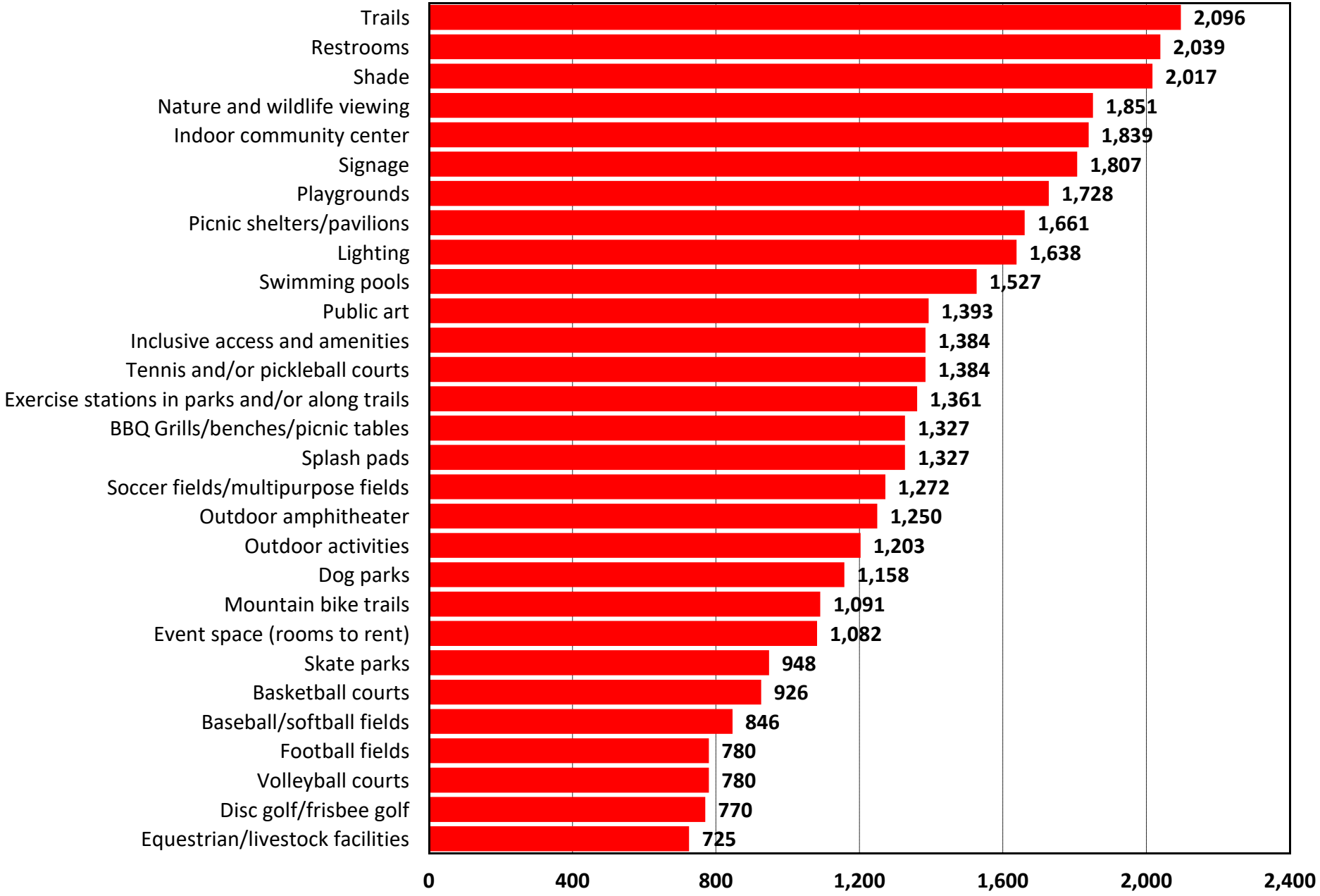
Q6. Need for Recreation Facilities/Amenities

by percentage of respondents who indicated need



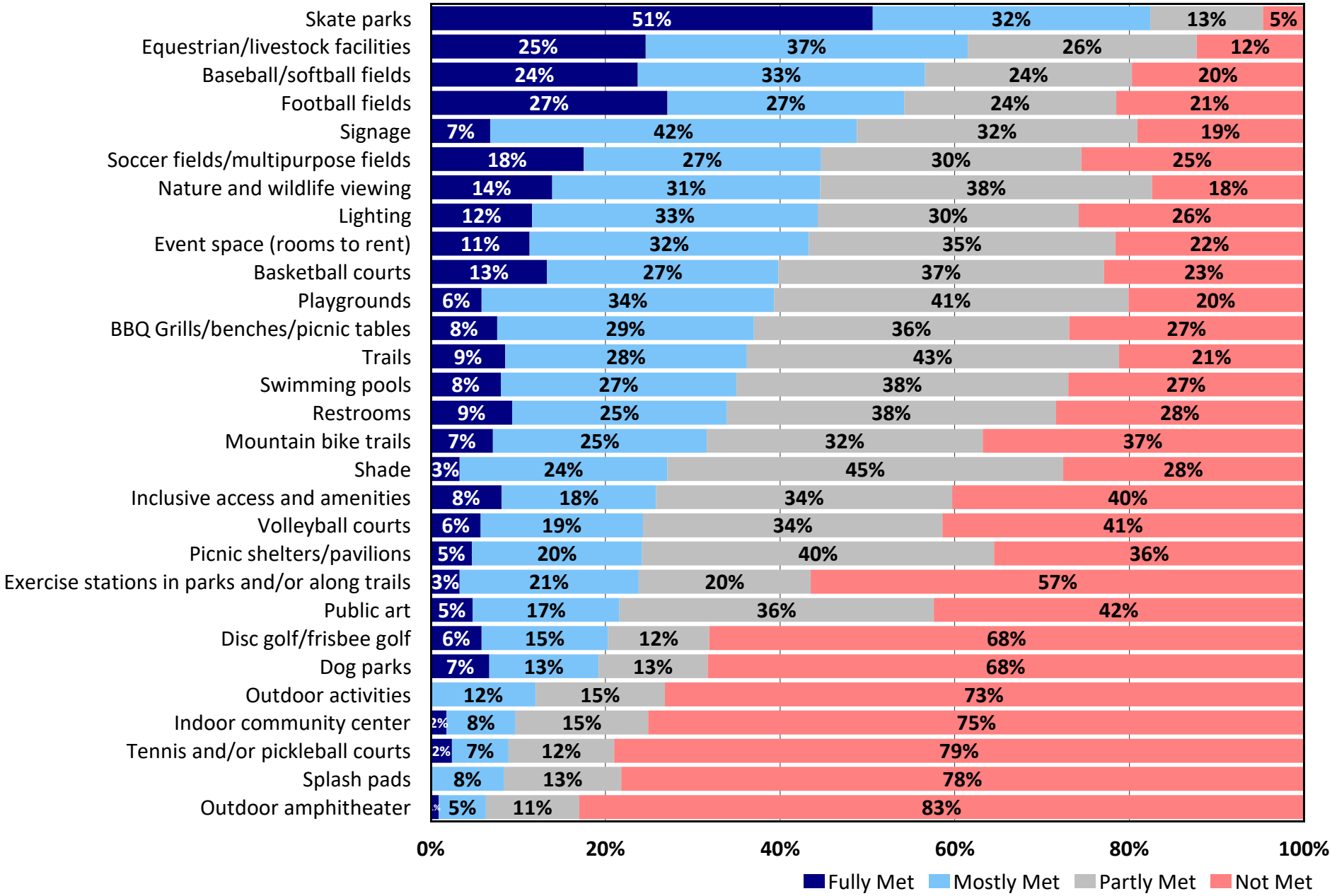
Q6b. Estimated number of households who have a need for facilities/amenities

by number of households based on an estimated 2,475 households



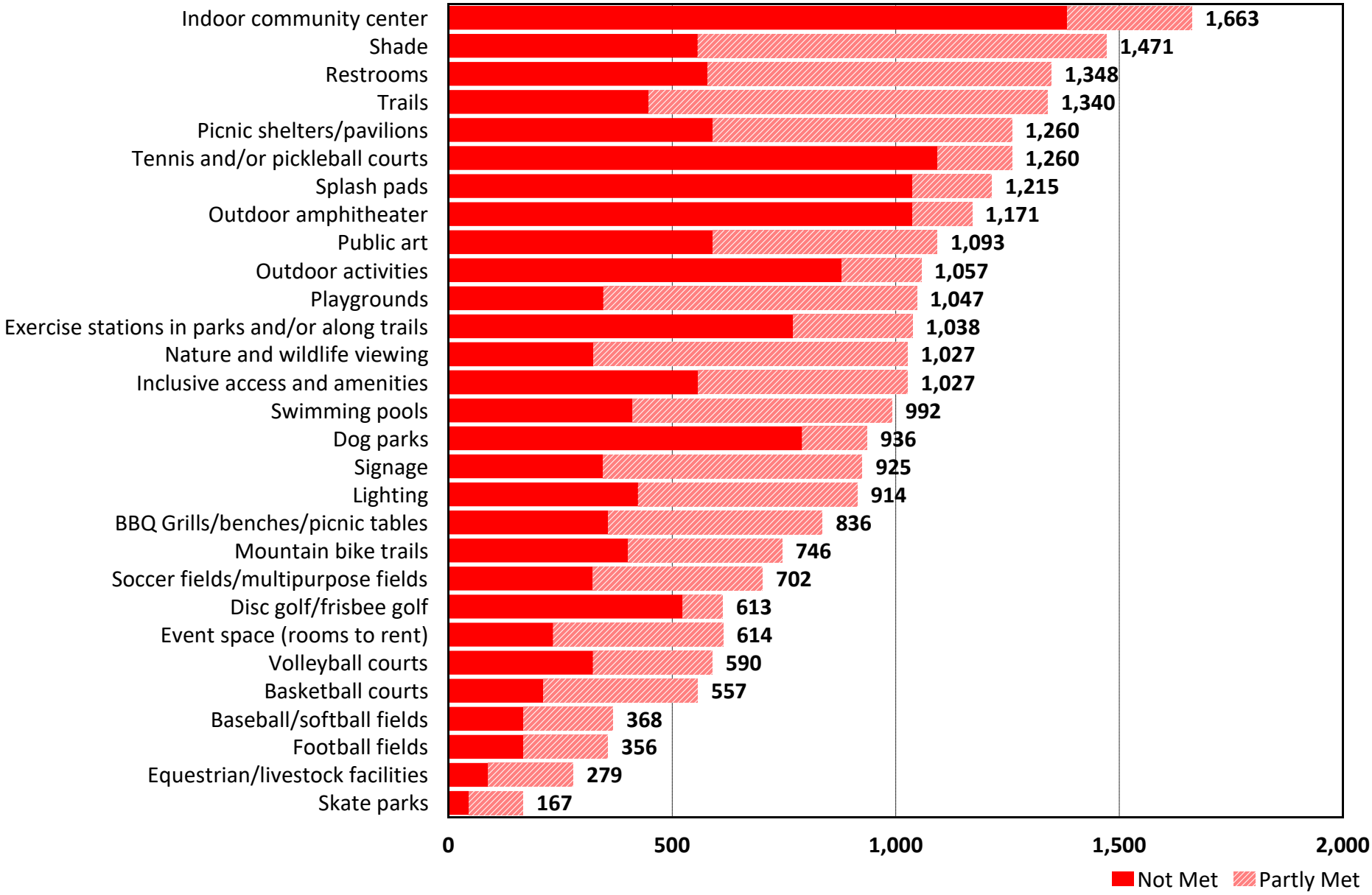
Q6c. Please indicate how well your needs are met for facilities/amenities.

by percentage of respondents (excluding "no need")



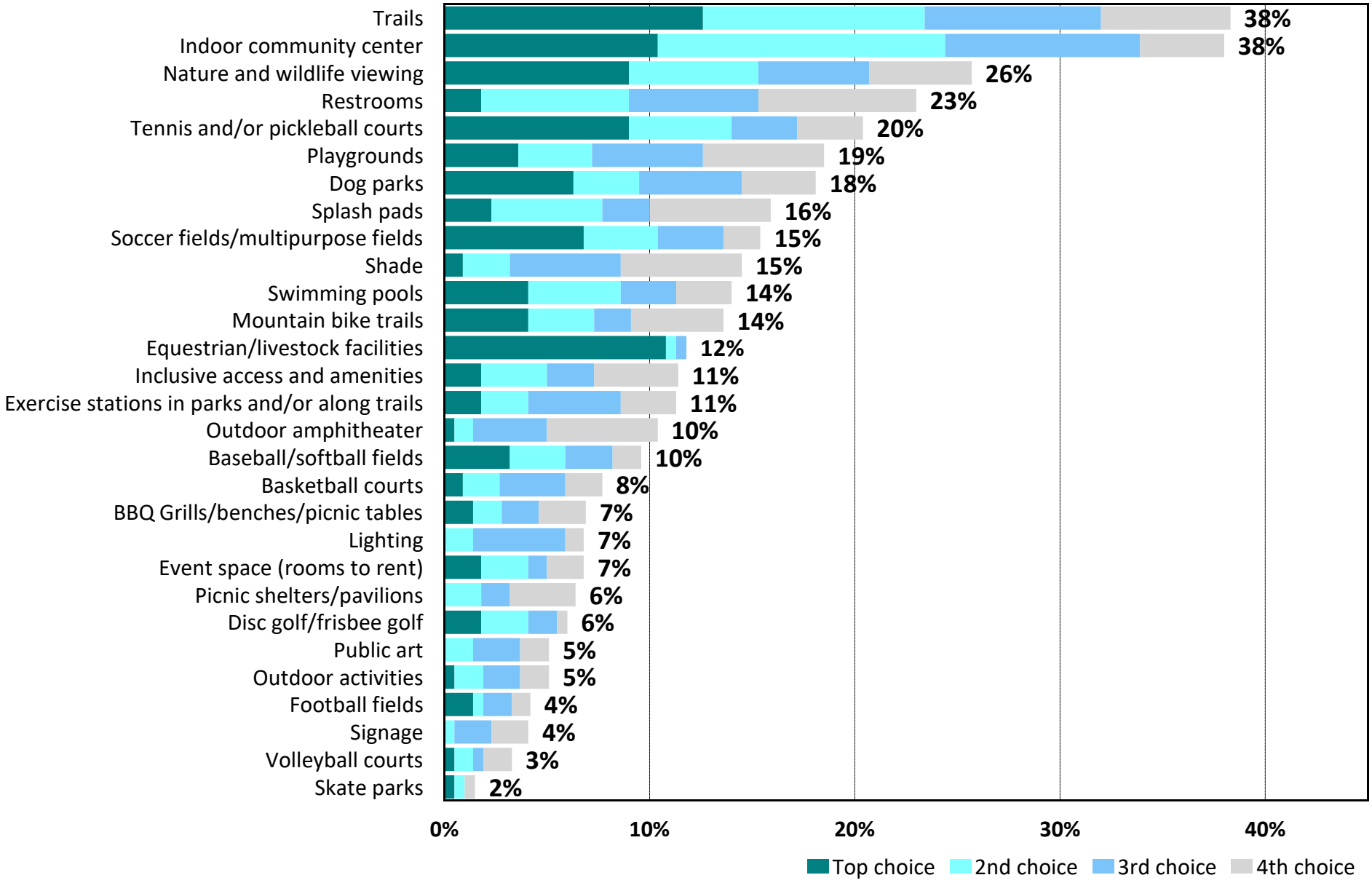
Q6d. Estimated number of households whose facility/amenity needs are only "partly met" or "not met"

by number of households with need based on an estimated 2,475 households



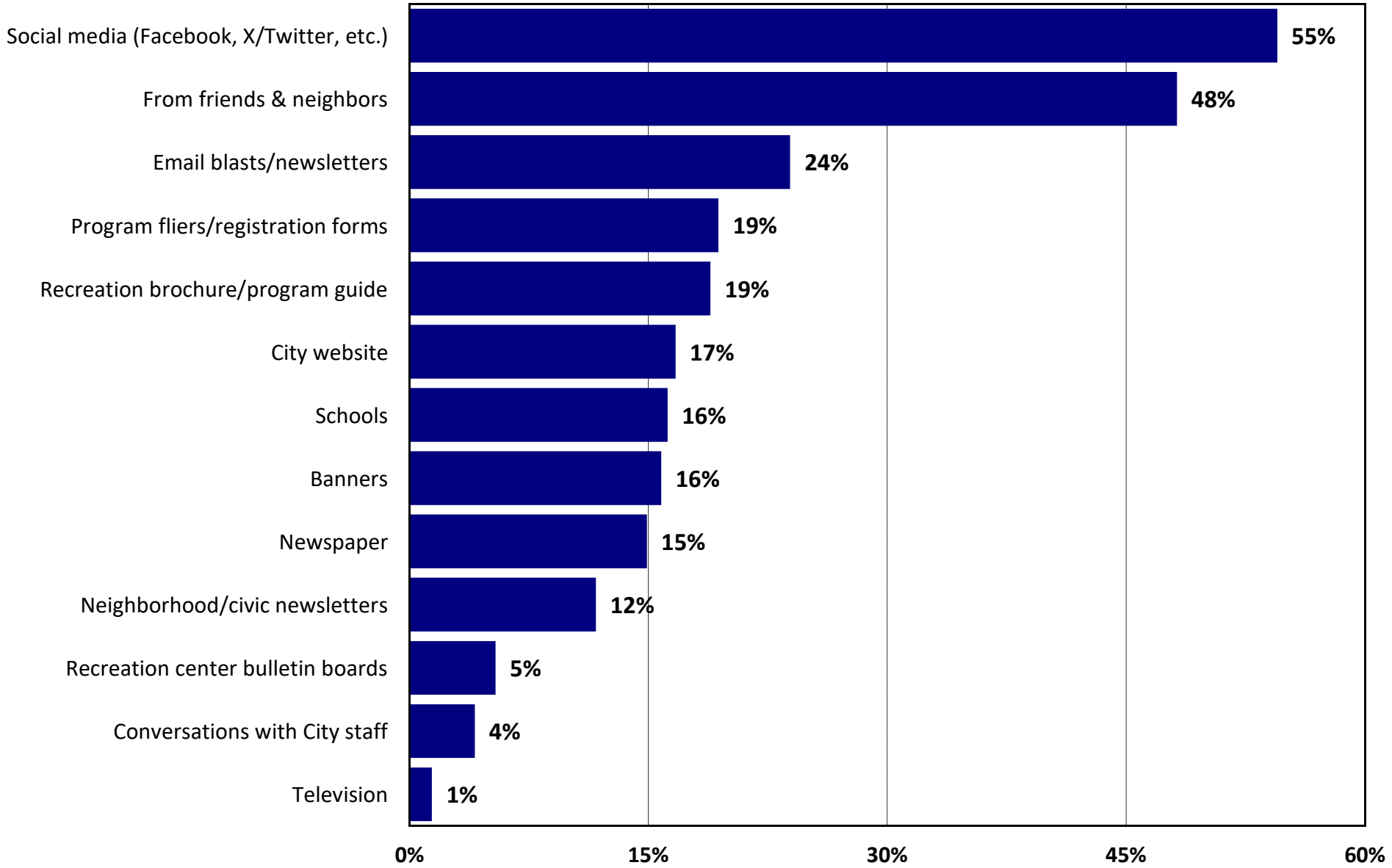
Q7. Which four of the facilities/amenities do you think are most important to you/your household?

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



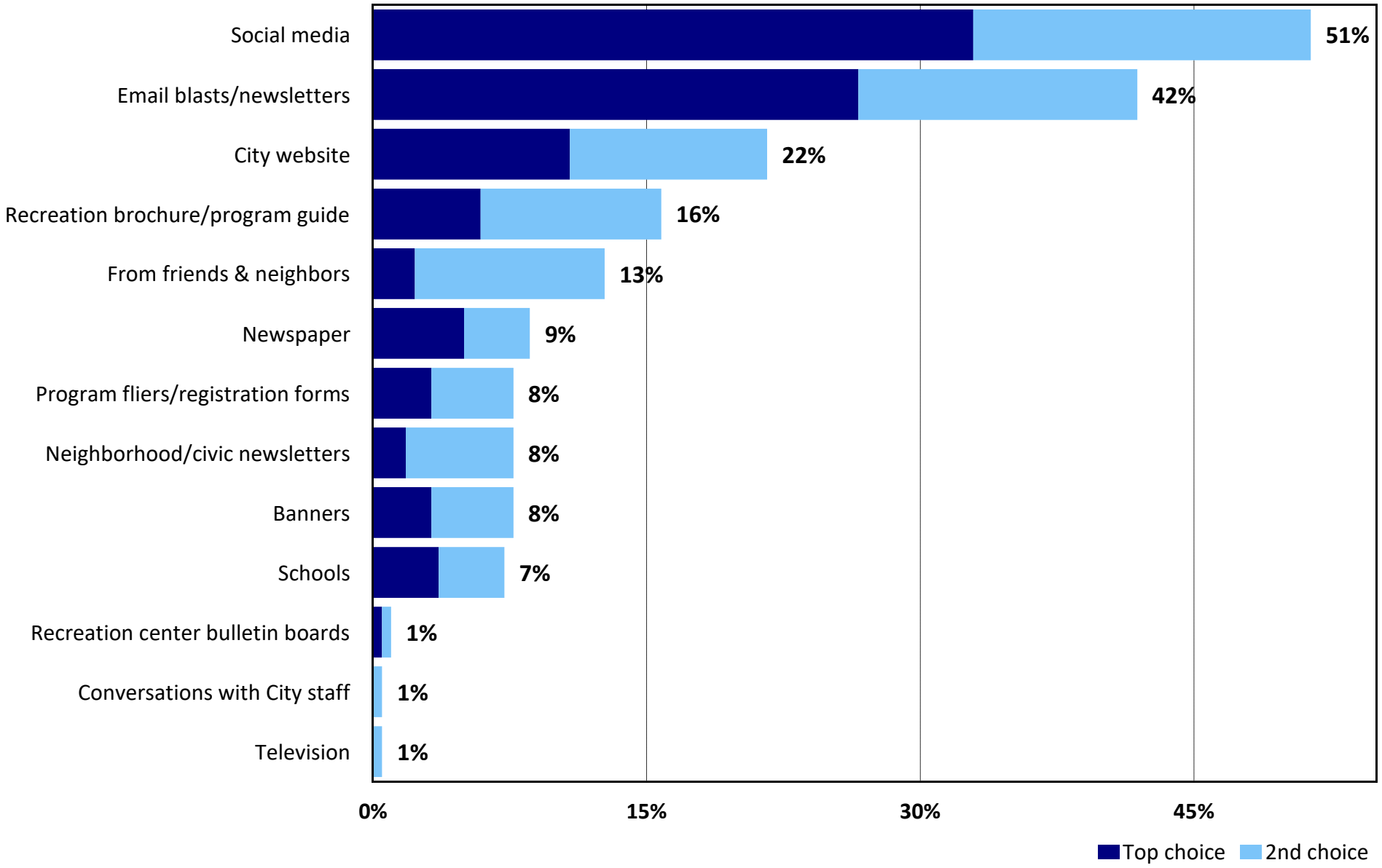
Q8. How do you currently learn about recreation facilities, programs, and services that are offered by the City of Dripping Springs?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



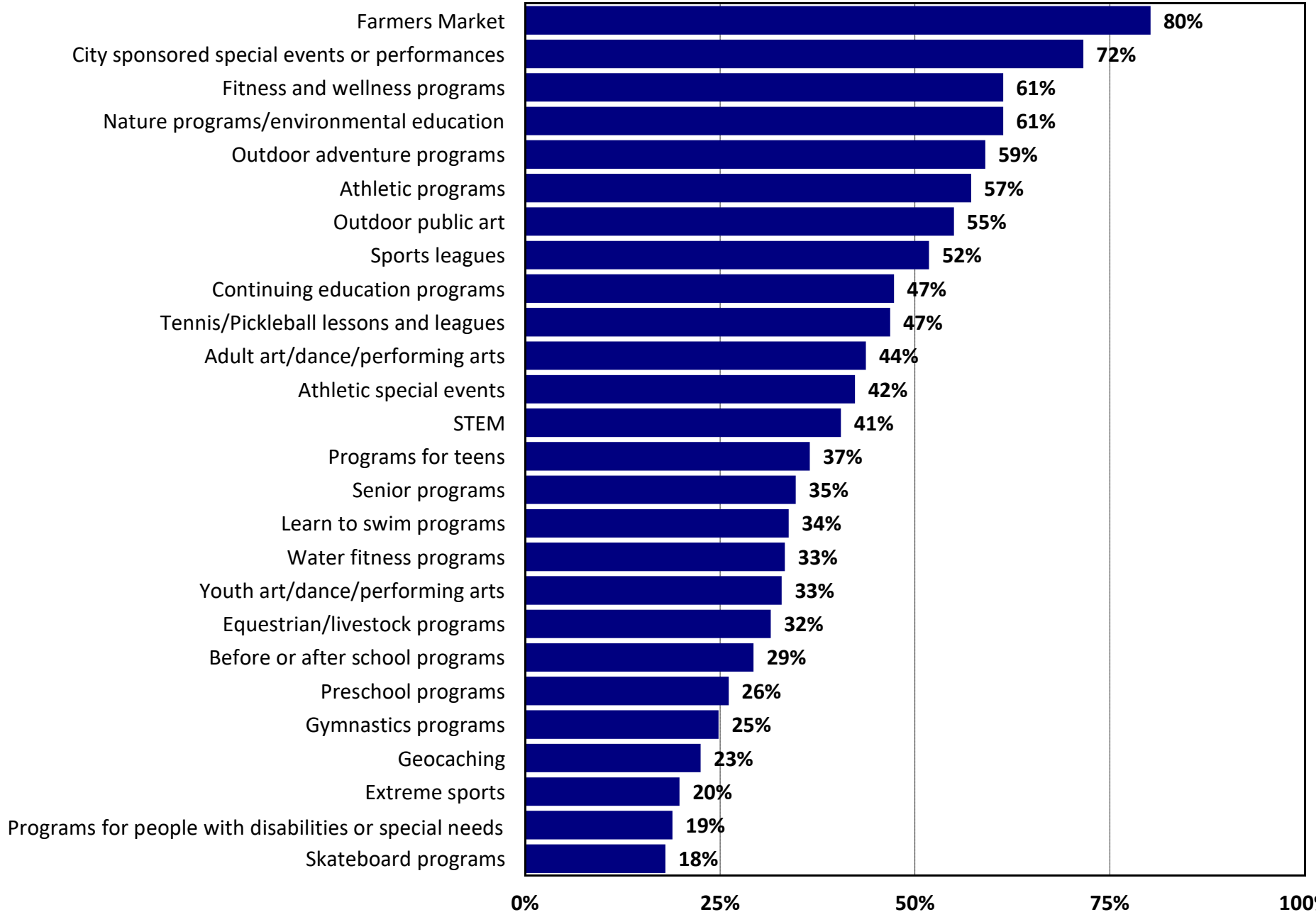
Q9. Which TWO of the sources of information listed in Question 8 do you MOST PREFER to use to get information?

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



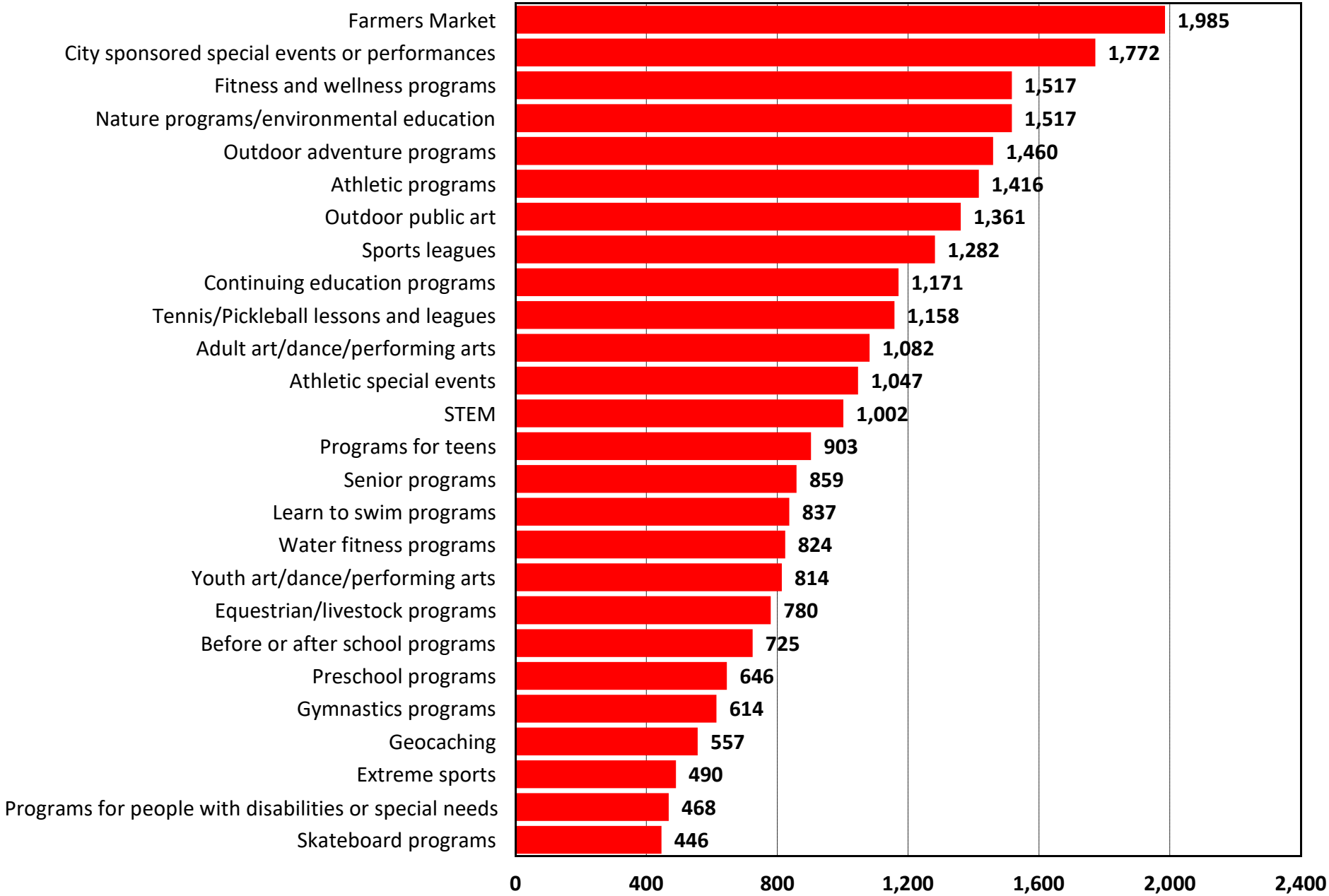
Q10. Need for Programs/Activities

by percentage of respondents who indicated need



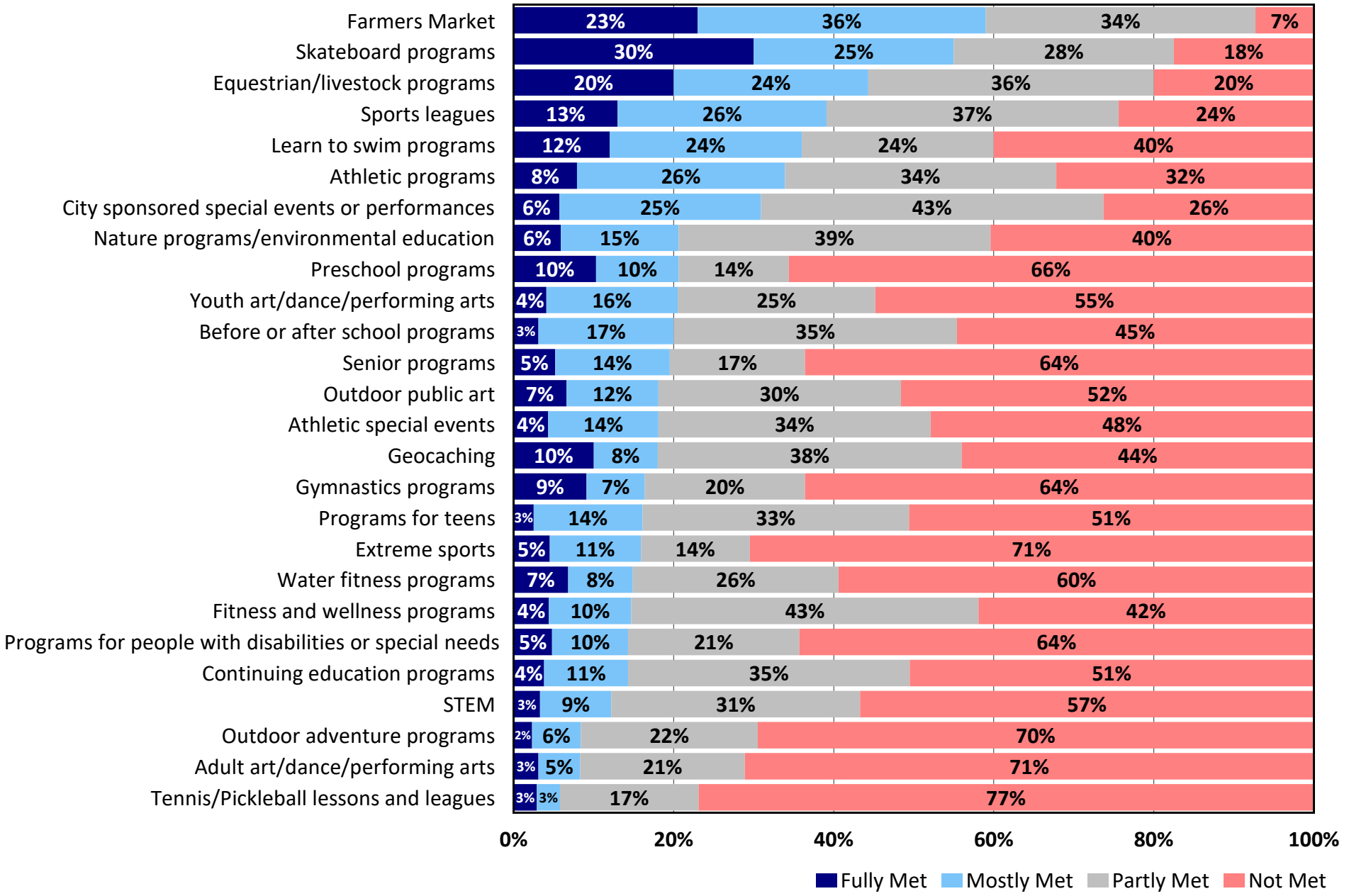
Q10b. Estimated number of households who have a need for programs/activities

by number of households based on an estimated 2,475 households



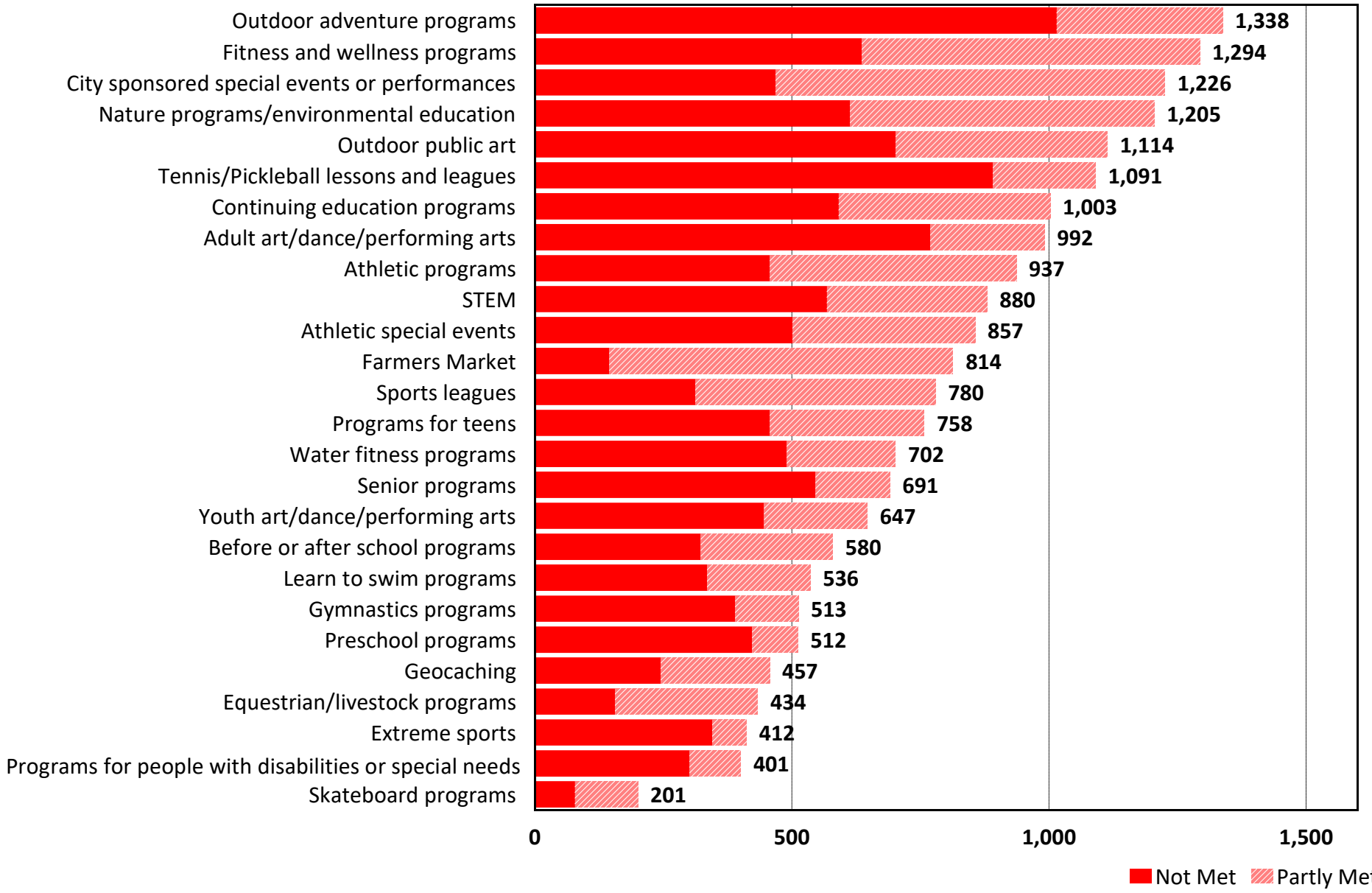
Q10c. Please indicate how well your needs are met for programs/activities

by percentage of respondents (excluding "no need")



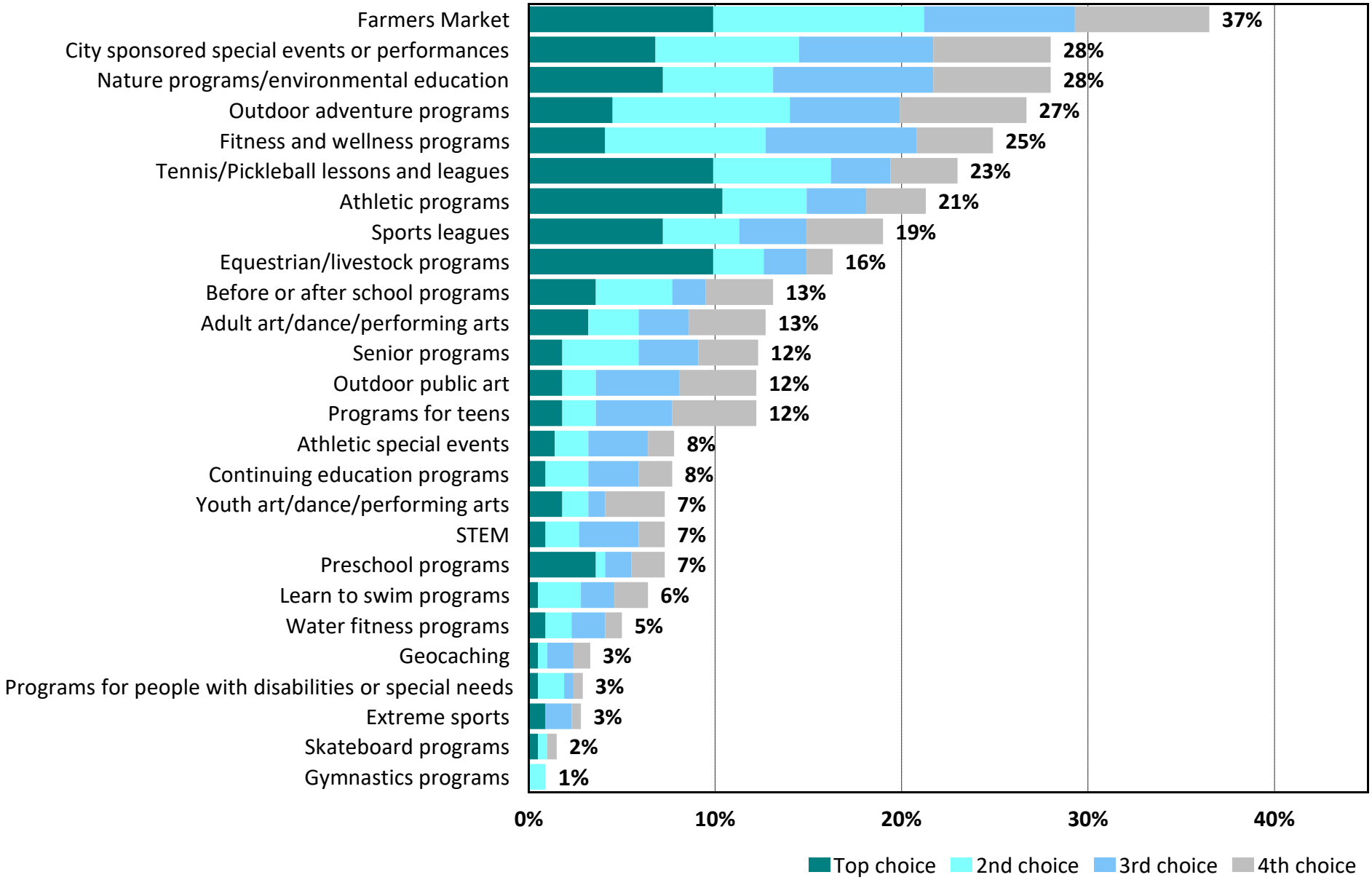
Q10d. Estimated number of households whose program/activity needs are only "partly met" or "not met"

by number of households with need based on an estimated 2,475 households



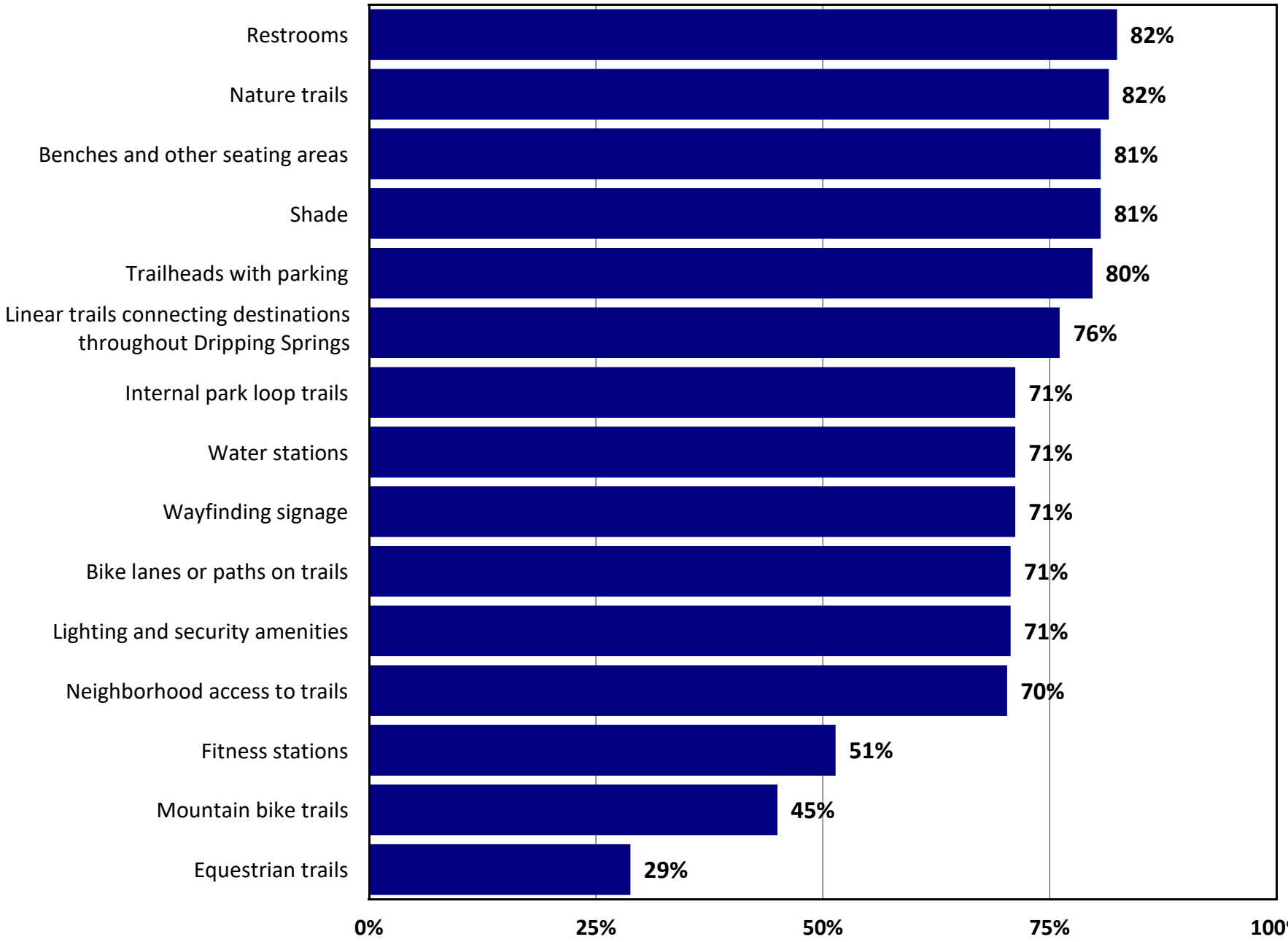
Q11. Which four of the programs/activities do you think are most important to you/your household?

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



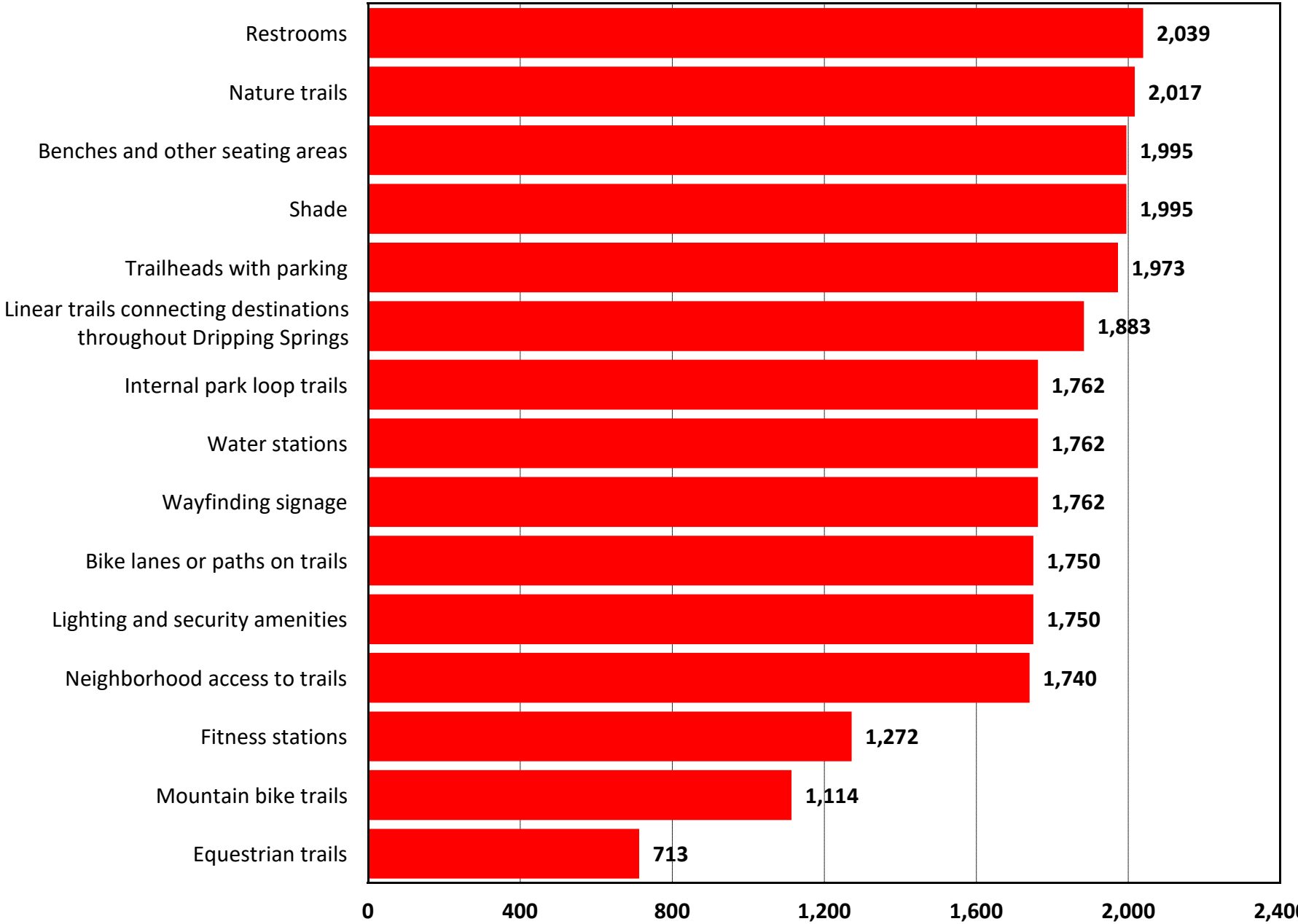
Q12. Trail Features

by percentage of respondents who indicated need



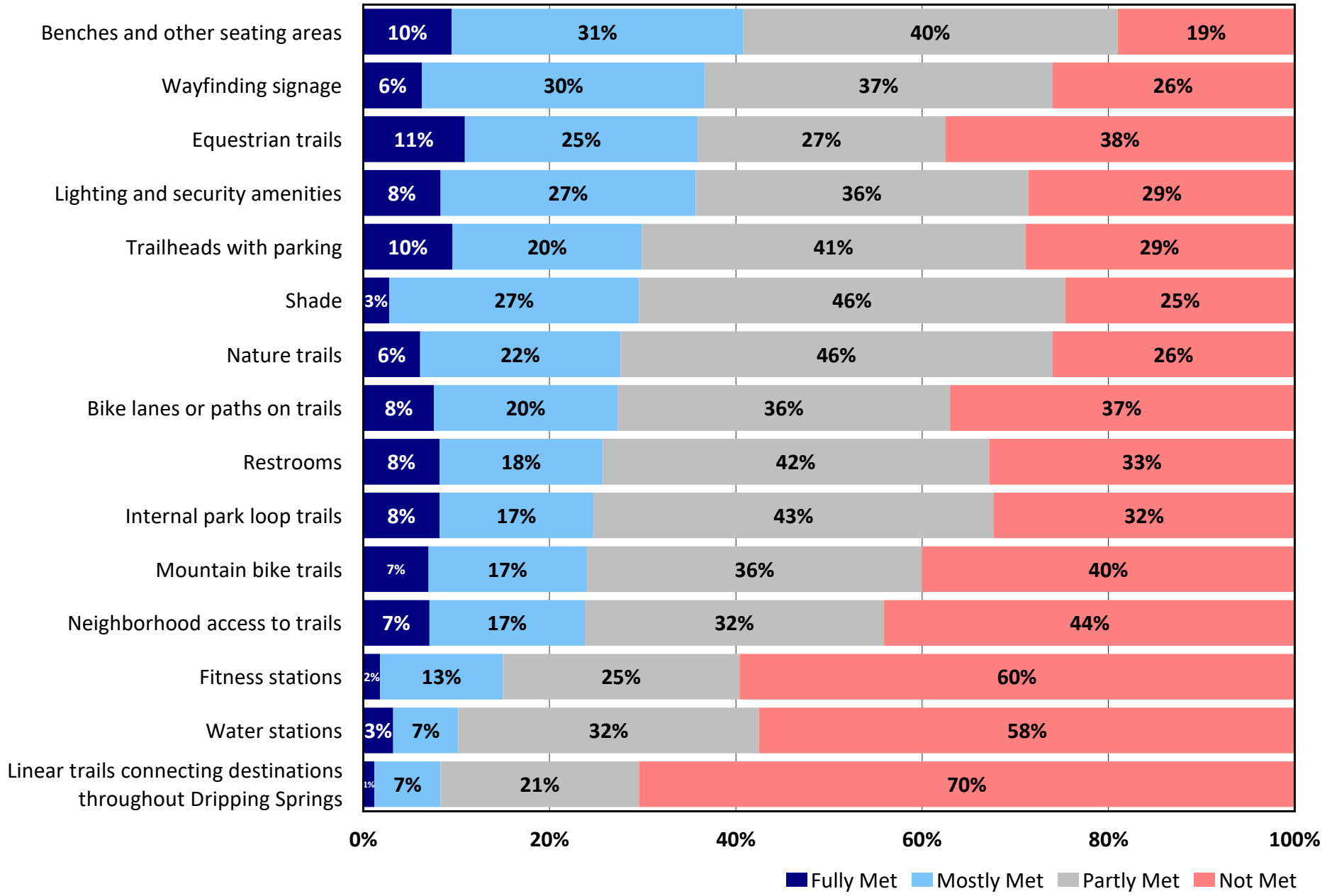
Q12b. Estimated number of households who have a need for trail featuers

by number of households based on an estimated 2,475 households



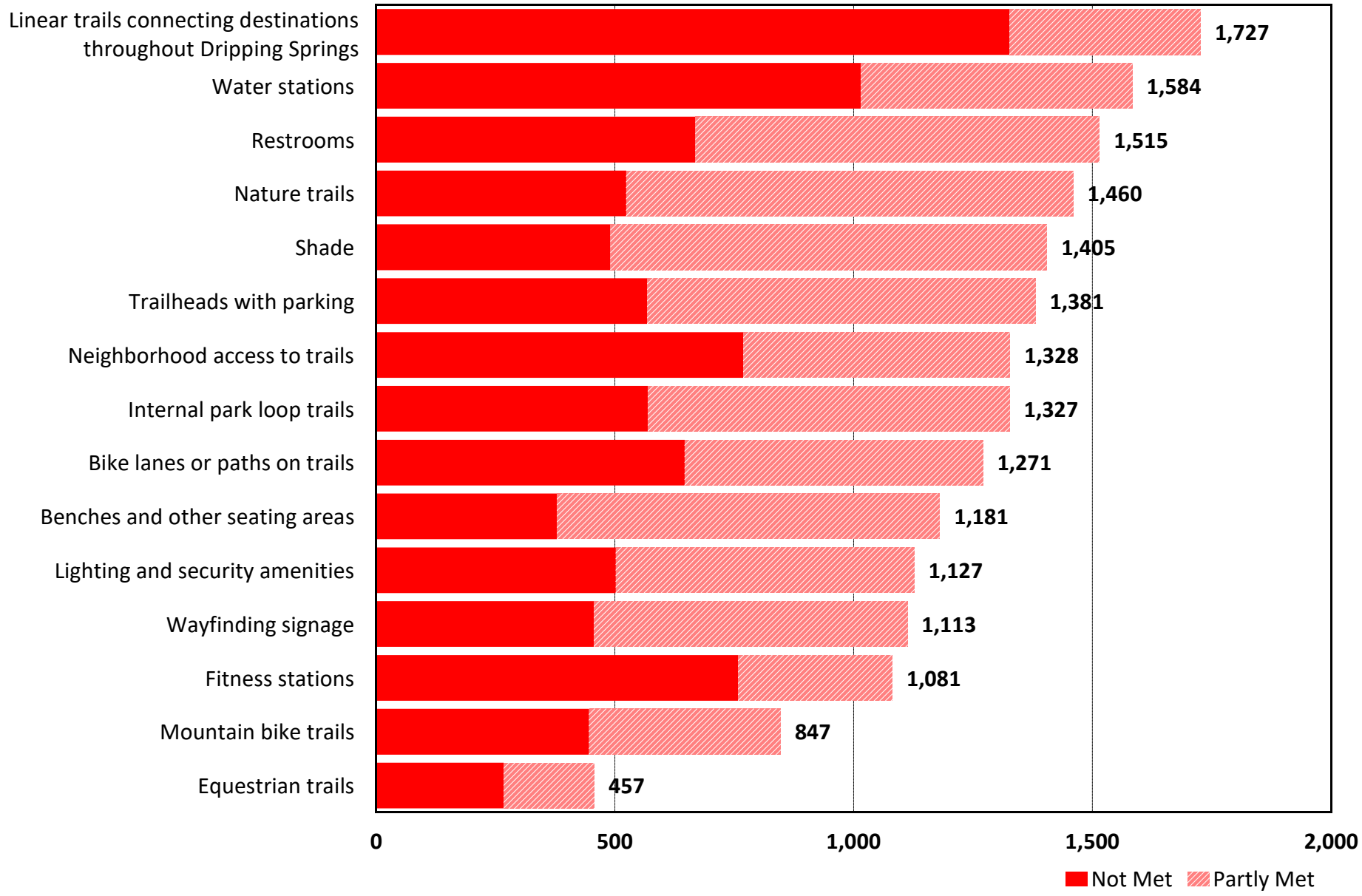
Q12c. Please indicate how well your needs are met for trail features

by percentage of respondents (excluding "no need")



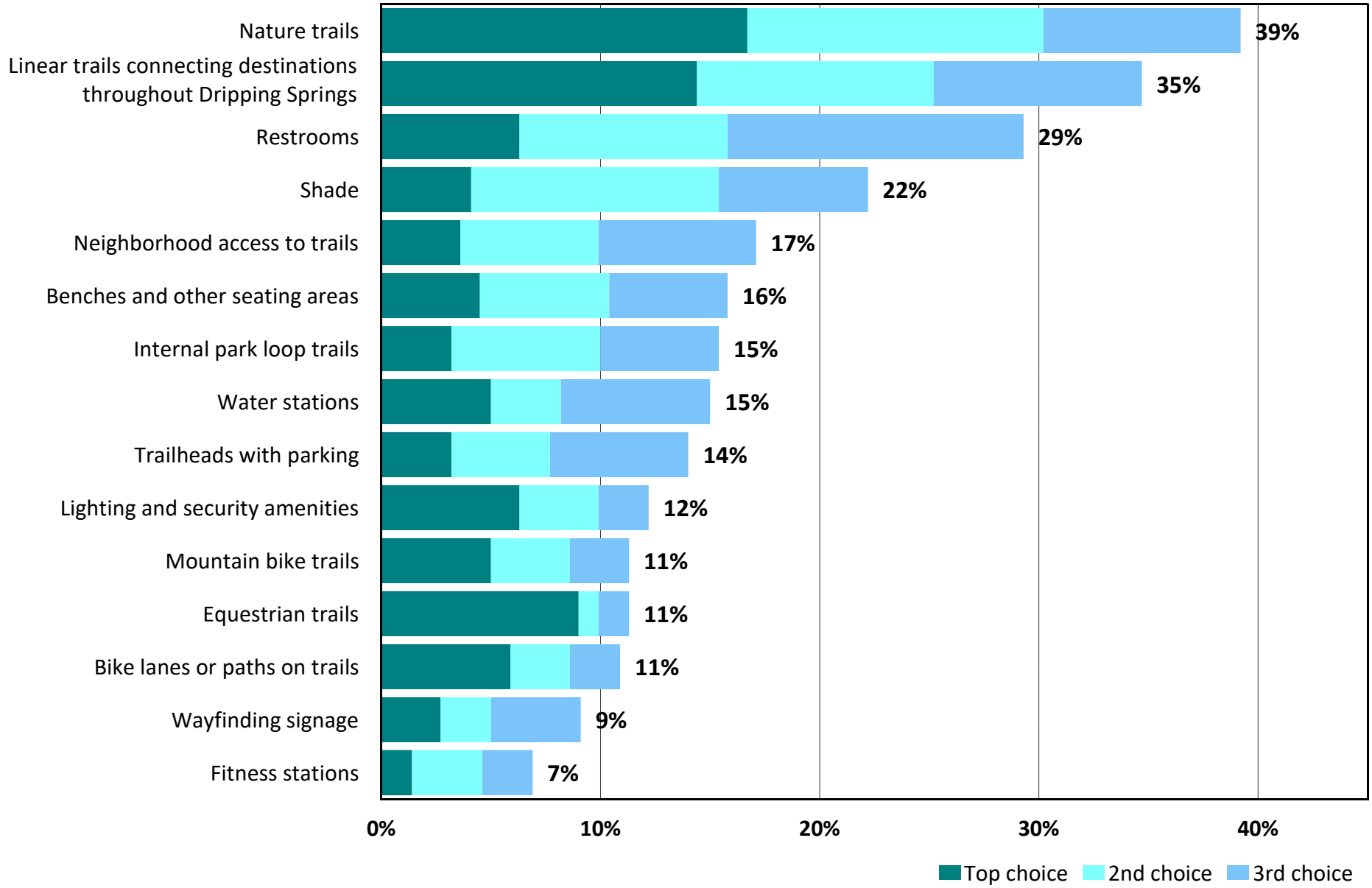
Q12d. Estimated number of households whose trail feature needs are only “partly met" or “not met”

by number of households with need based on an estimated 2,475 households



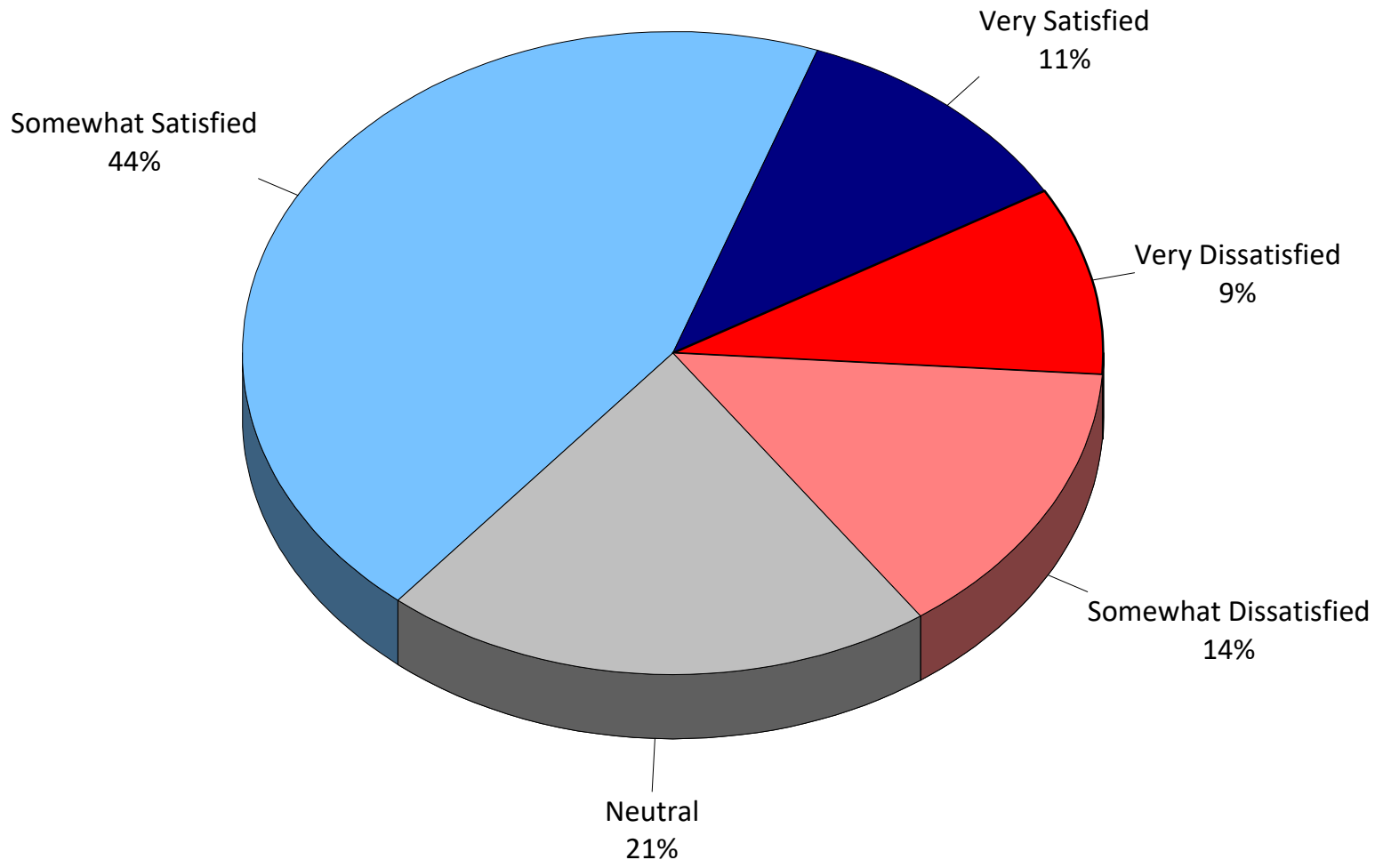
Q13. Which three of the trail features do you think are most important to you/your household?

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



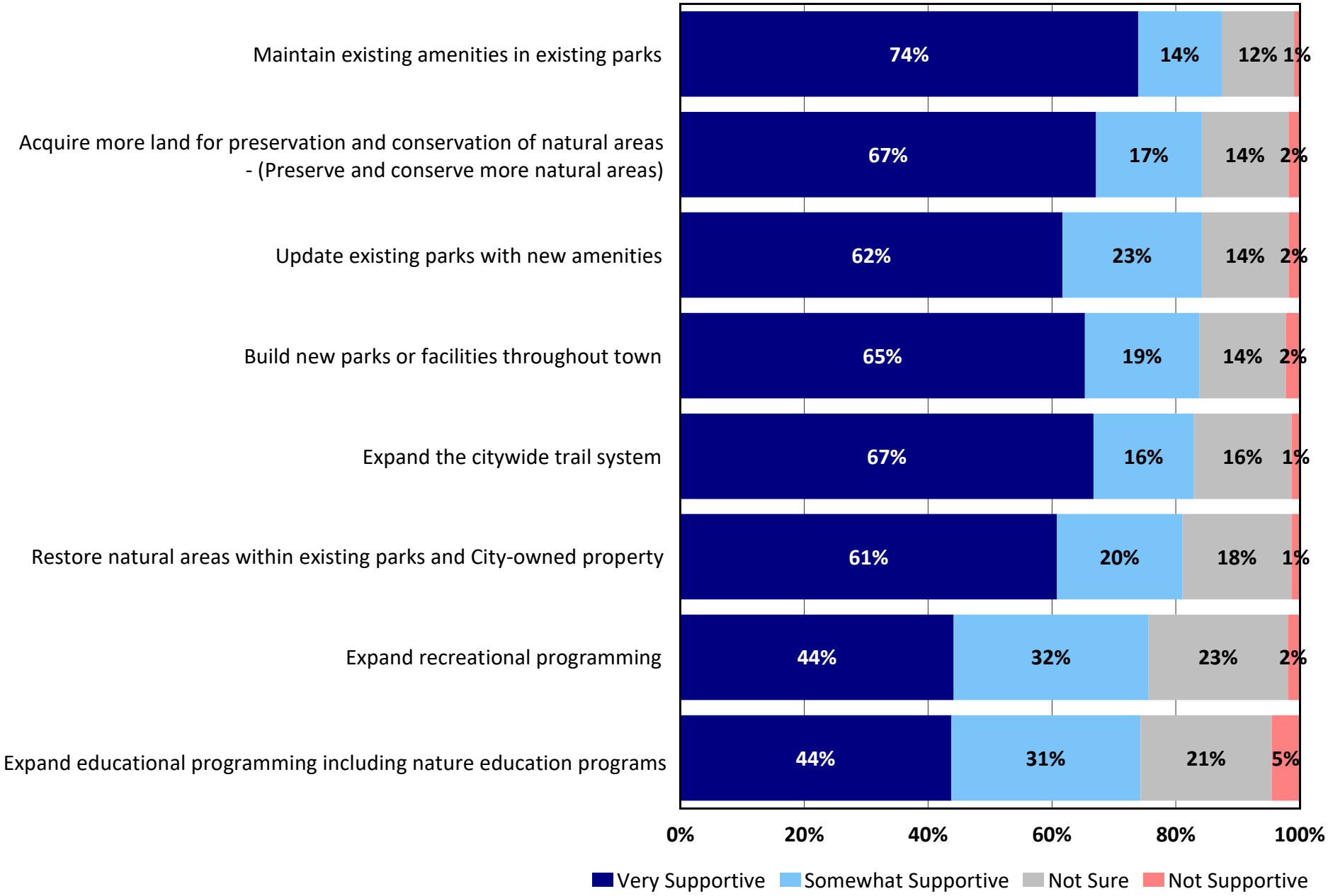
Q14. Satisfaction with Overall Value Received from the City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Department

by percentage of respondents(excluding "not provided")



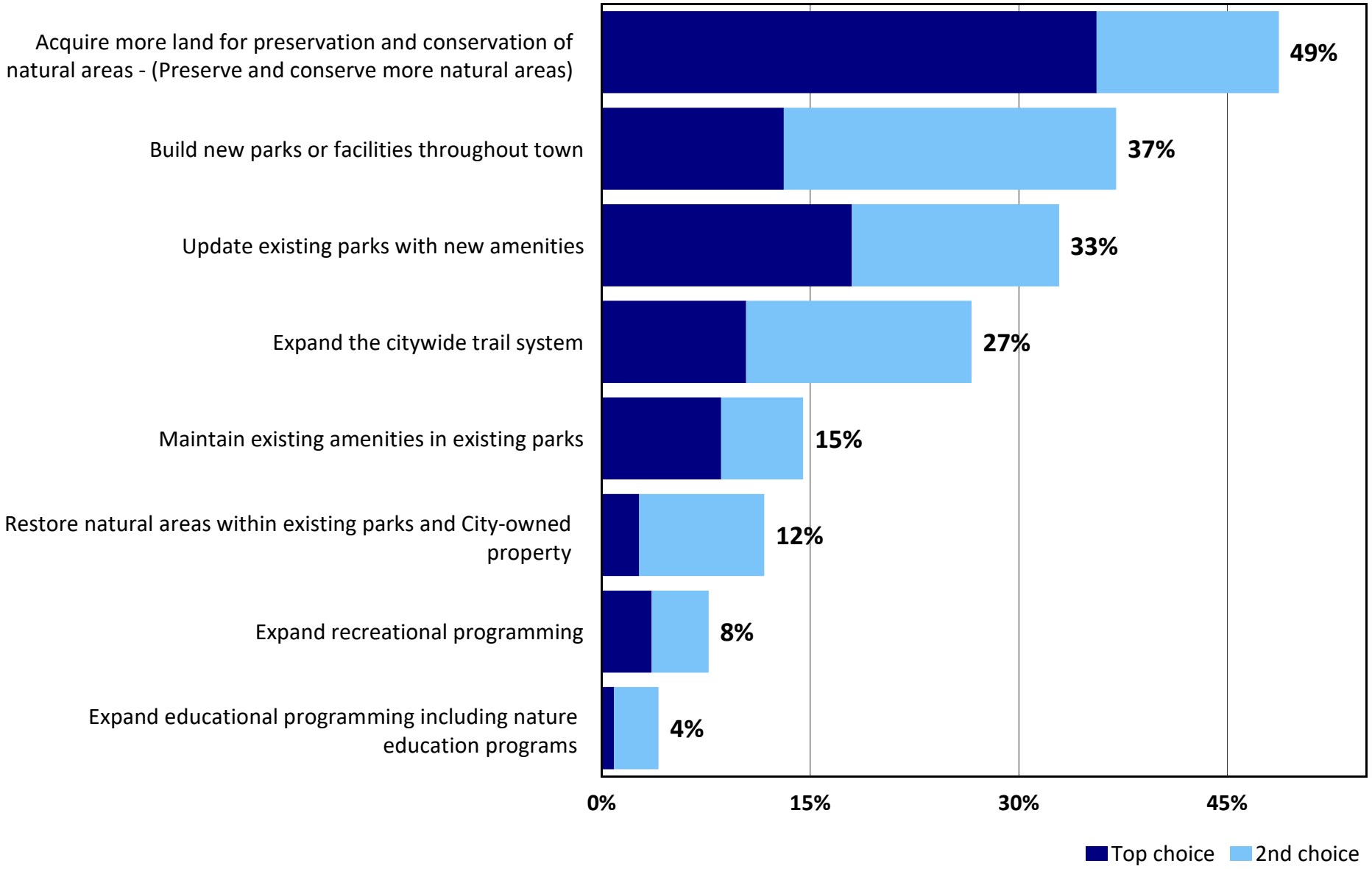
Q15. Support for Improvements to Parks and Recreation

by percentage of respondents



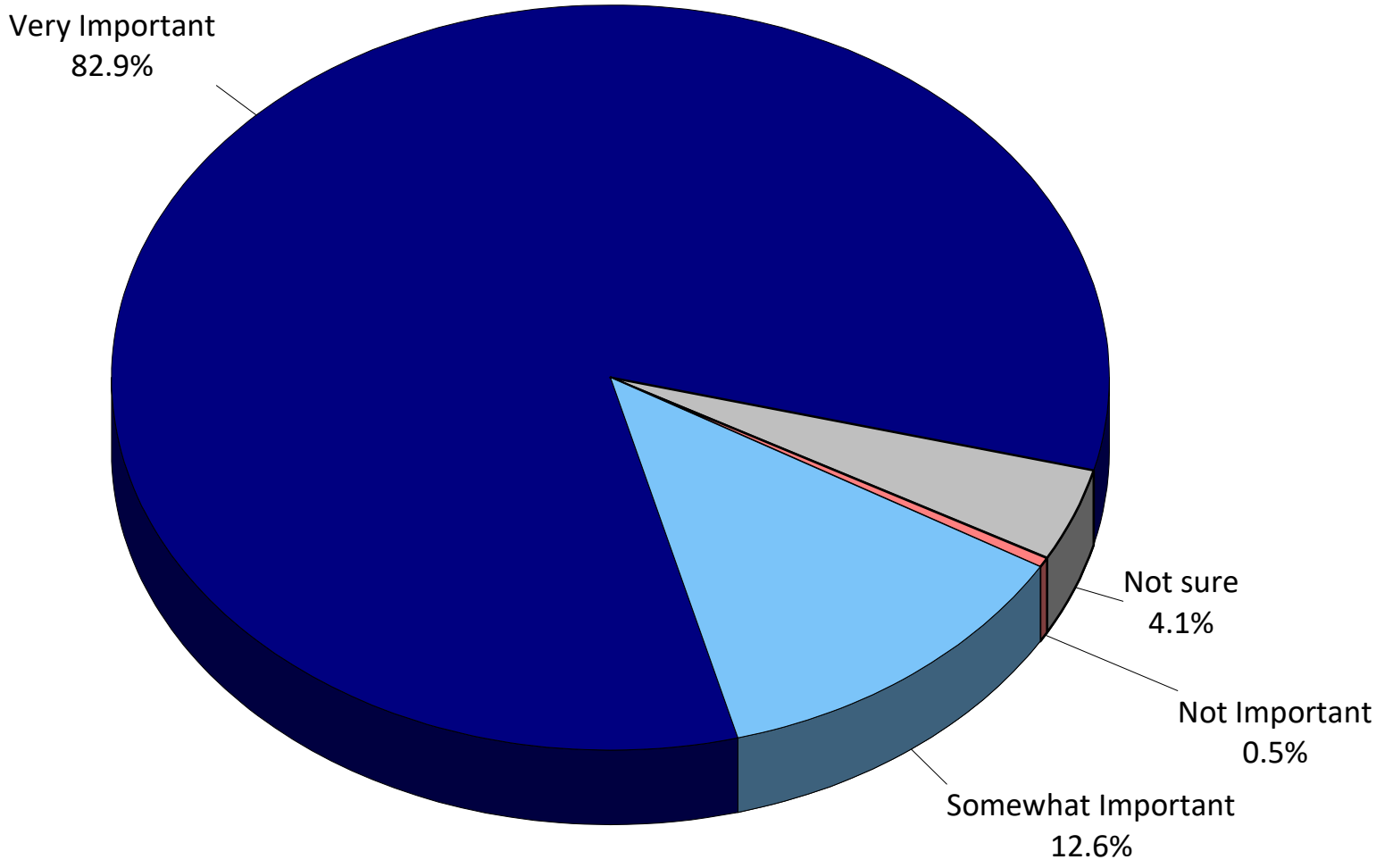
Q16. Which TWO improvements from the list in Question 15 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

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



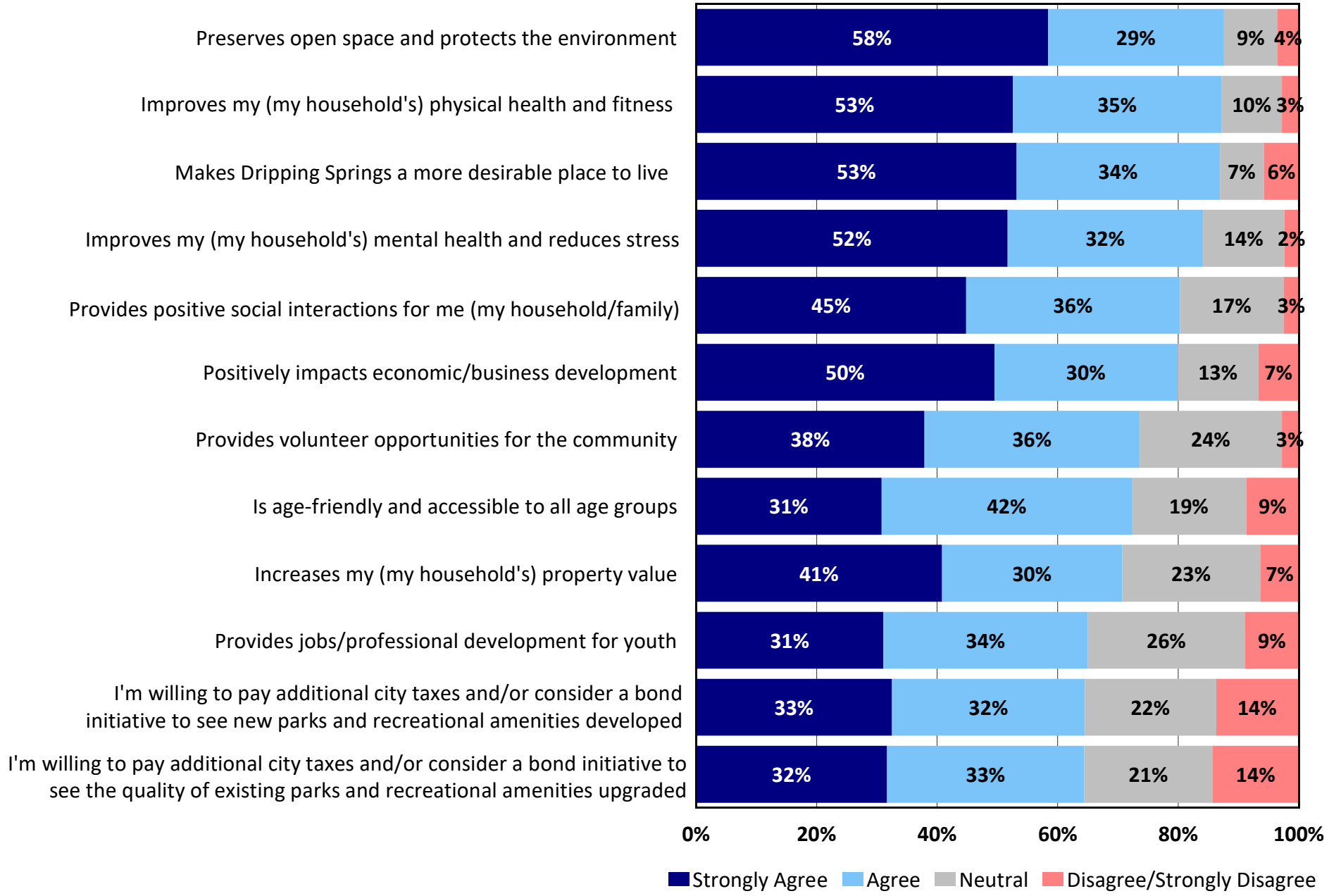
Q17. How important do you feel it is for the City of Dripping Springs to provide high quality parks, recreation facilities and programs?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



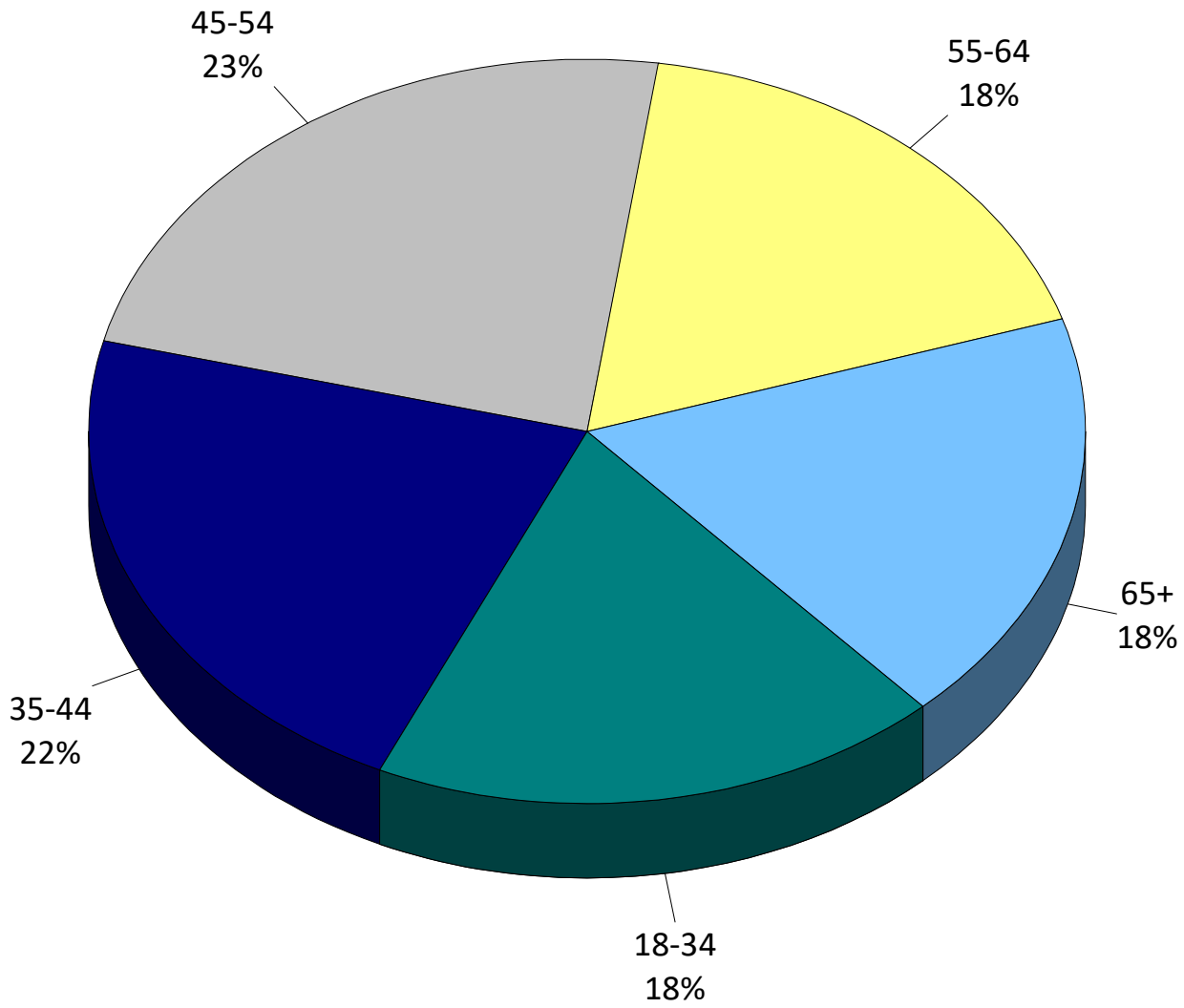
Q18. Benefits of Parks, Facilities, Programs, and Events

by percentage of respondents



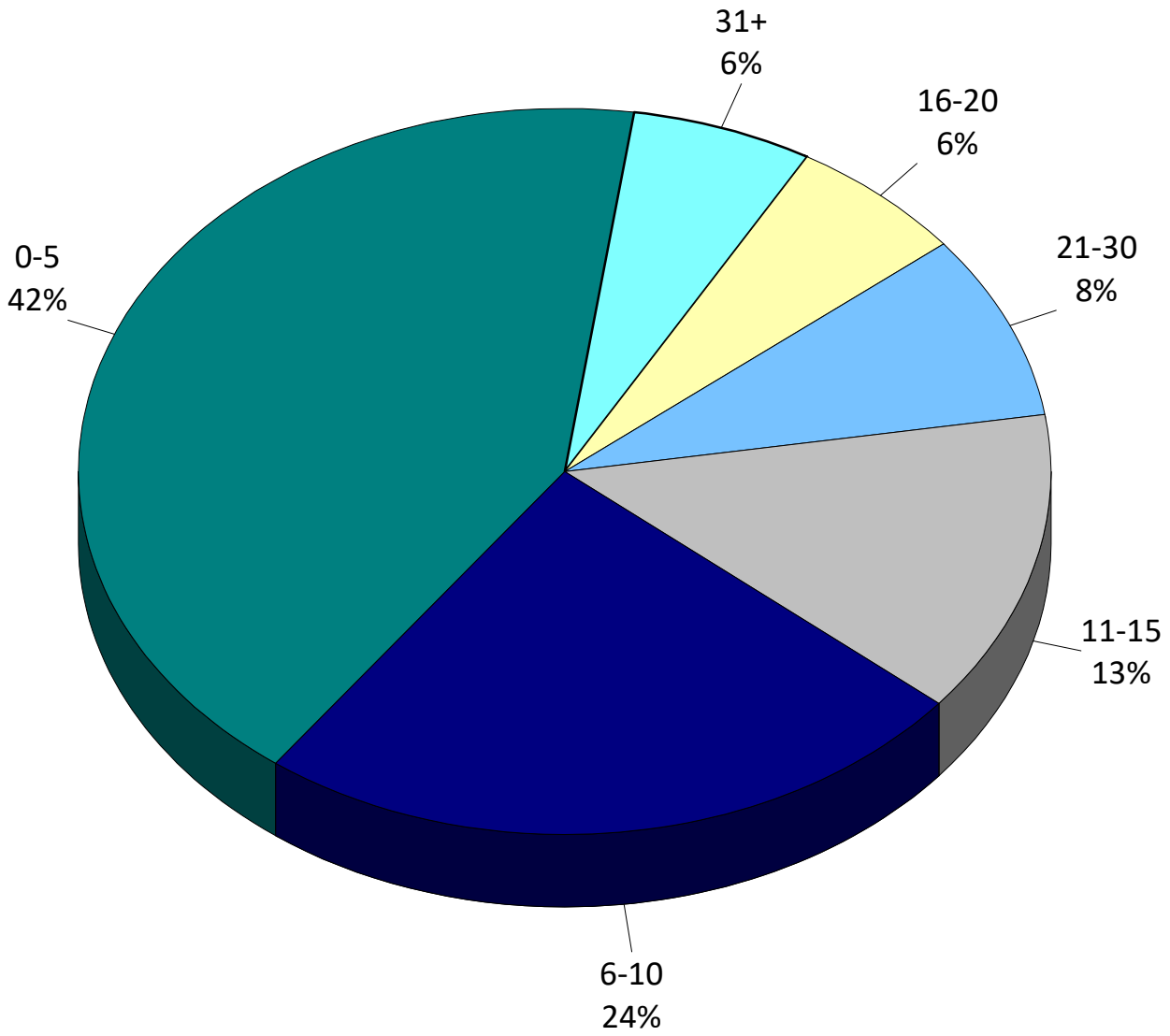
Q19. Your Age

by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided")



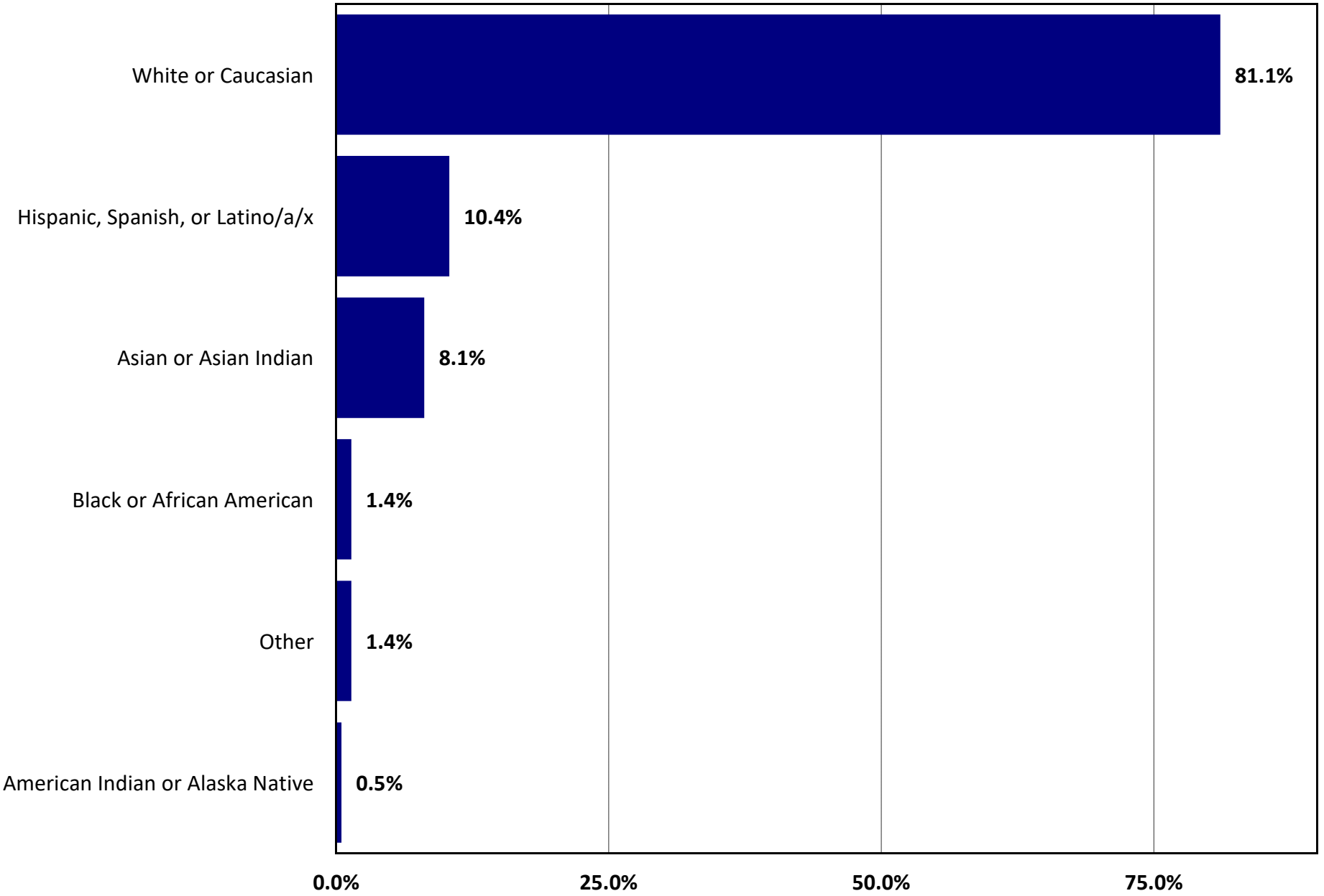
Q20. How many years have you lived in the Dripping Springs area?

by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided")



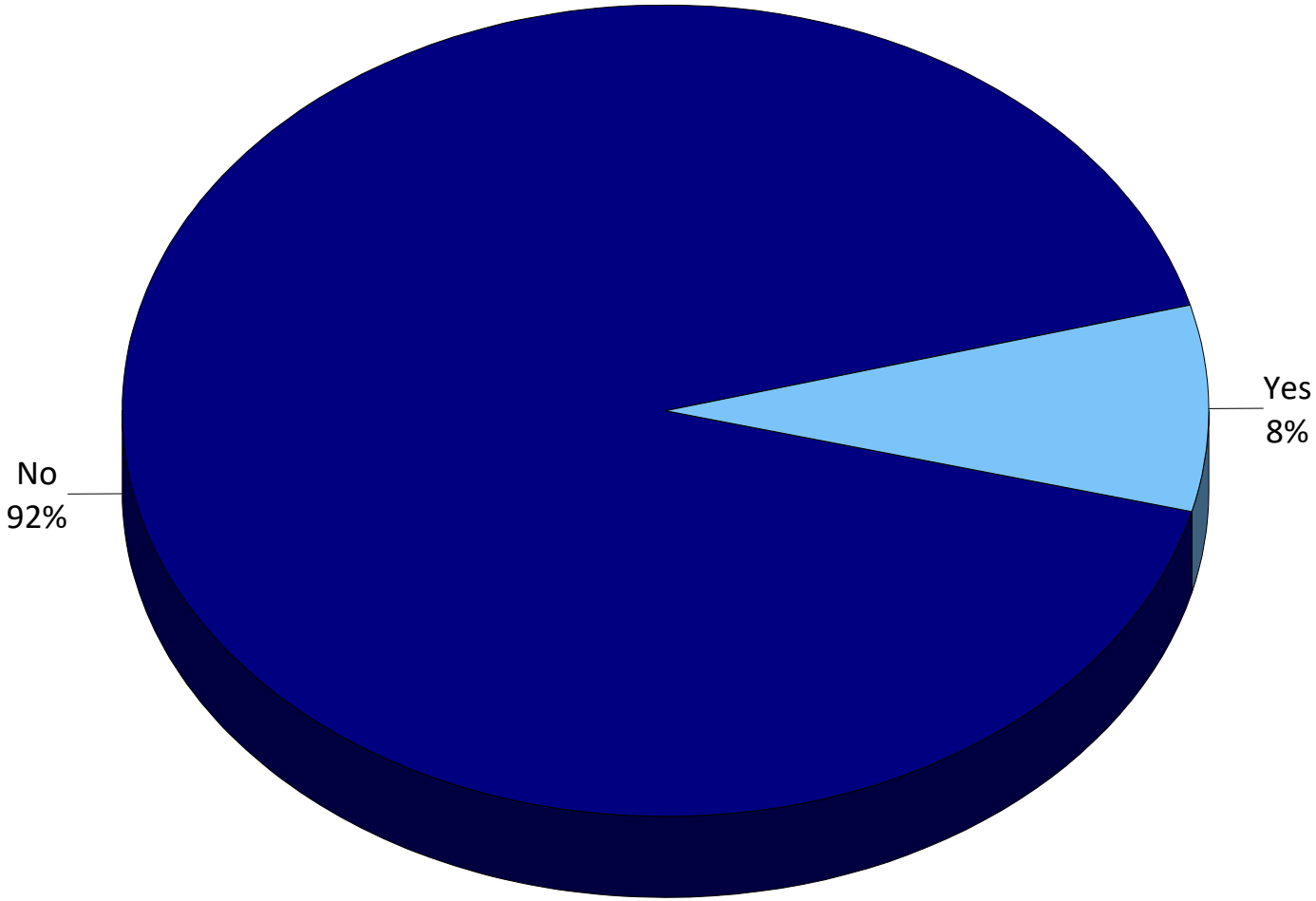
Q21. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

by percentage of respondents



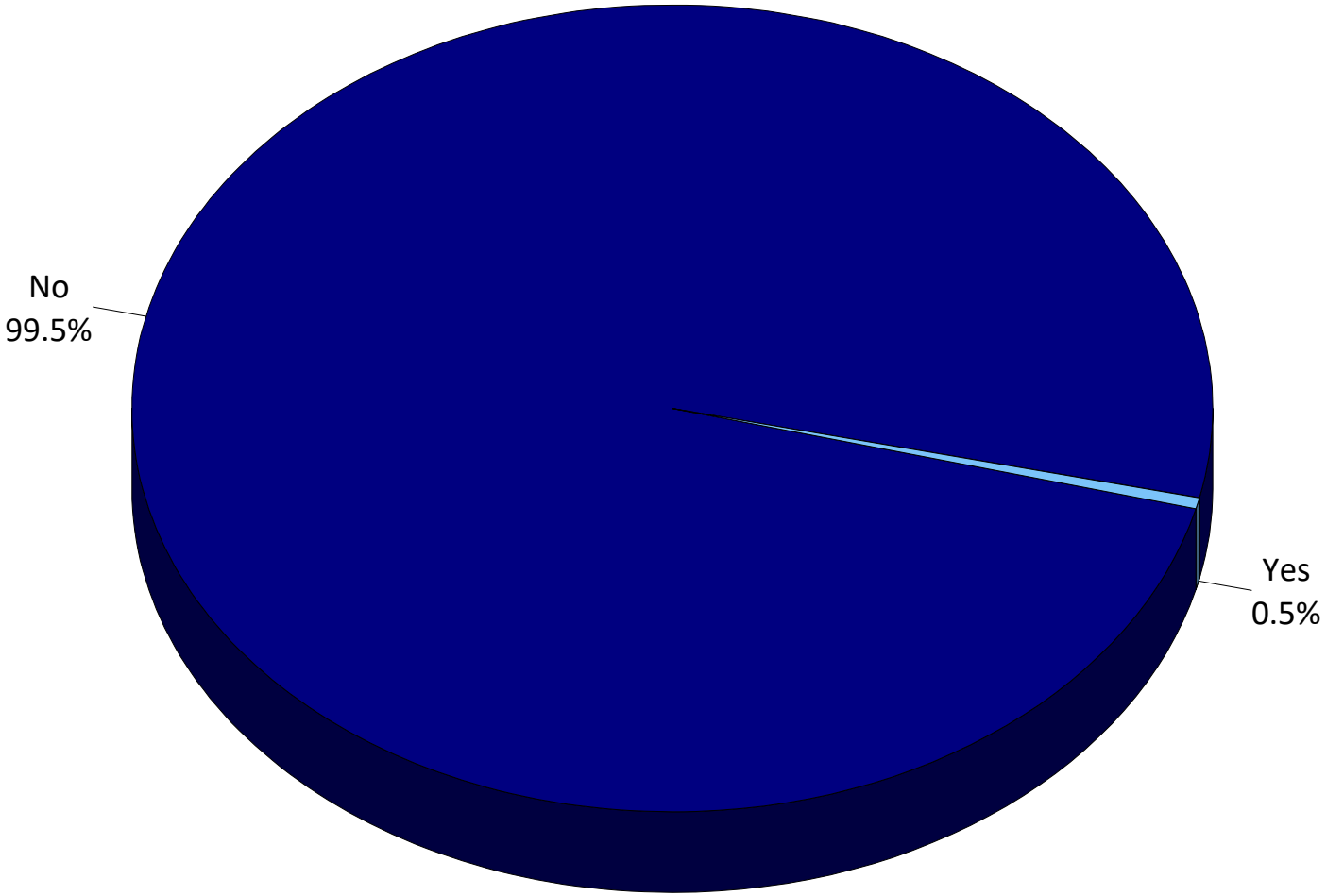
Q22. Do you or anybody in your family have a disability recognized by the American Disability Act (ADA)?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



Q23. Are you currently a City of Dripping Springs employee or elected official?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



3 Priority Investment Rating

Priority Investment Rating
Dripping Springs, TX

The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide governments with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating was developed by ETC Institute to identify the facilities and programs residents think should receive the highest priority for investment. The priority investment rating reflects the importance residents place on items (sum of top 3 choices) and the unmet needs (needs that are only being partly or not met) for each facility/program relative to the facility/program that rated the highest overall. Since decisions related to future investments should consider both the level of unmet need and the importance of facilities and programs, the PIR weights each of these components equally.

The PIR reflects the sum of the Unmet Needs Rating and the Importance Rating as shown in the equation below:

PIR = UNR + IR

For example, if the Unmet Needs Rating for playgrounds is 26.5 (out of 100) and the Importance Rating for playgrounds is 52 (out of 100), the Priority Investment Rating for playgrounds would be 78.5 (out of 200).

How to Analyze the Charts:

- **High Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of at least 100. A rating of 100 or above generally indicates there is a relatively high level of unmet need and residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on the greatest number of households.

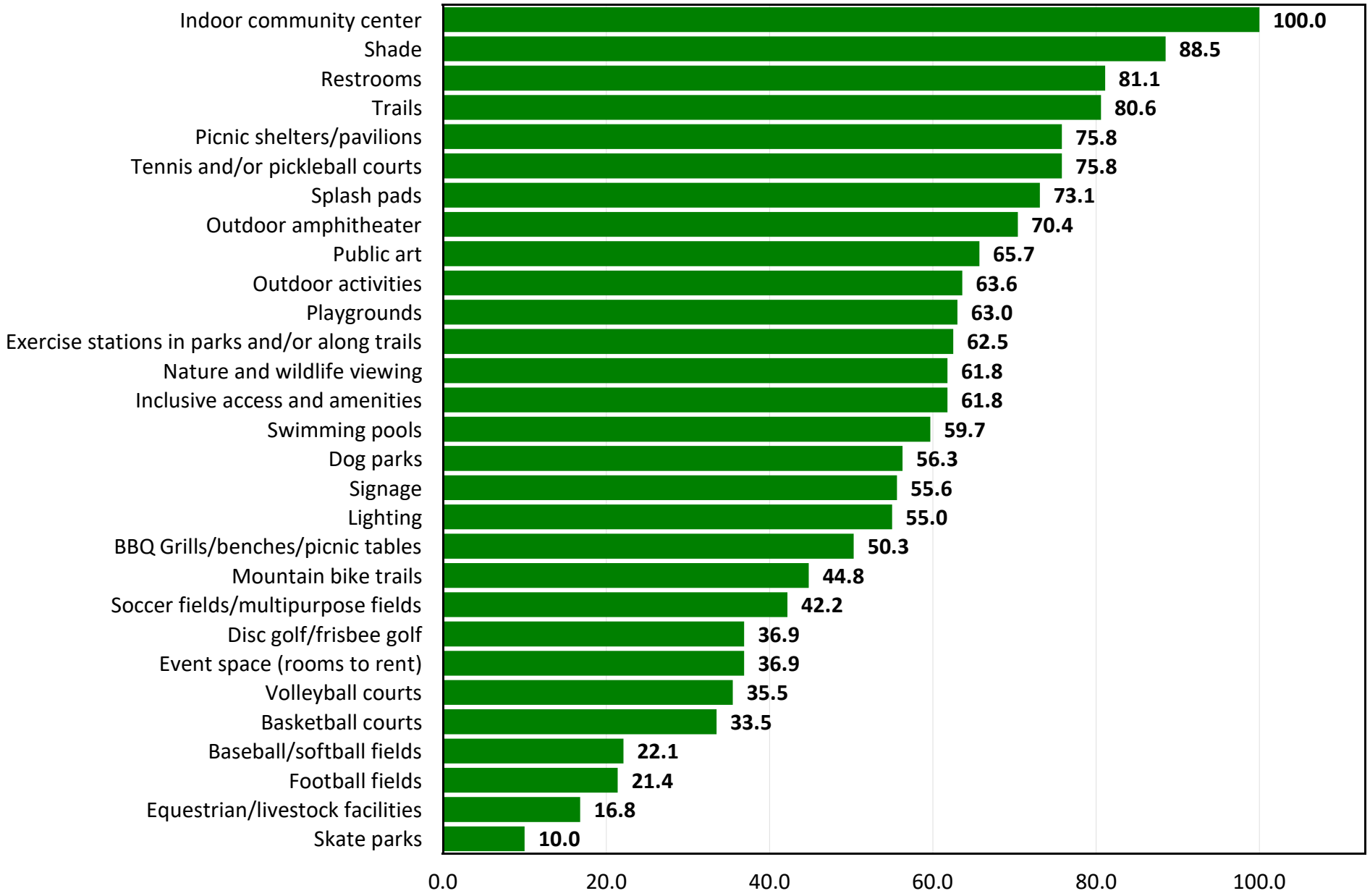
- **Medium Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of 50-99. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a medium to high level of unmet need or a significant percentage of residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas.

- **Low Priority Areas** are those with a PIR below 50. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a relatively low level of unmet need and residents do not think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements may be warranted if the needs of very specialized populations are being targeted.

The following pages show the Unmet Needs Rating, Importance Rating, and Priority Investment Rating for facilities and programs.

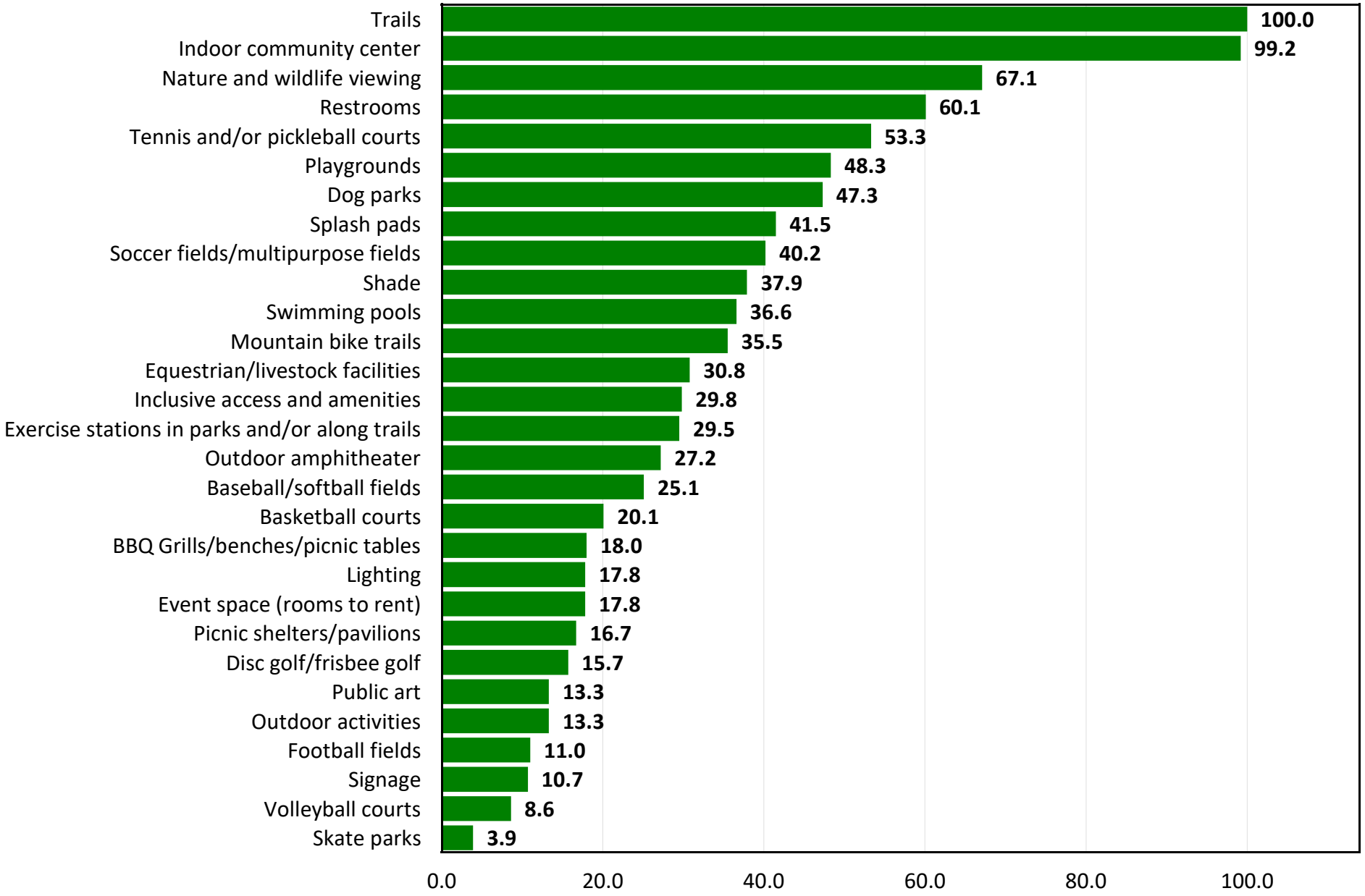
Unmet Needs Rating for Facilities/Amenities

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need

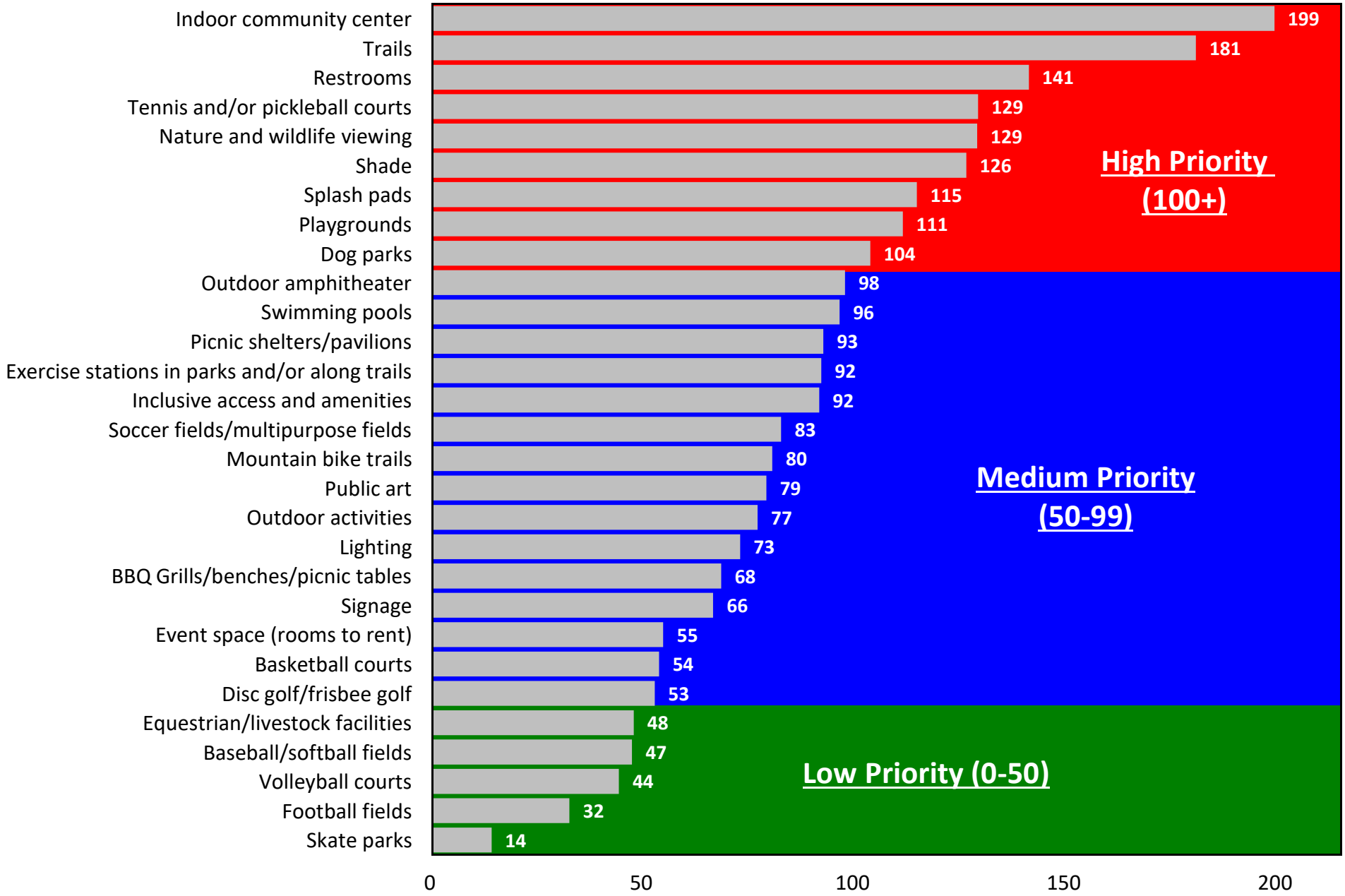


Importance Rating for Facilities/Amenitites

the rating for the item rated as the most important=100
the rating of all other items reflects the relative level of importance for each item compared to the item rated as the most important

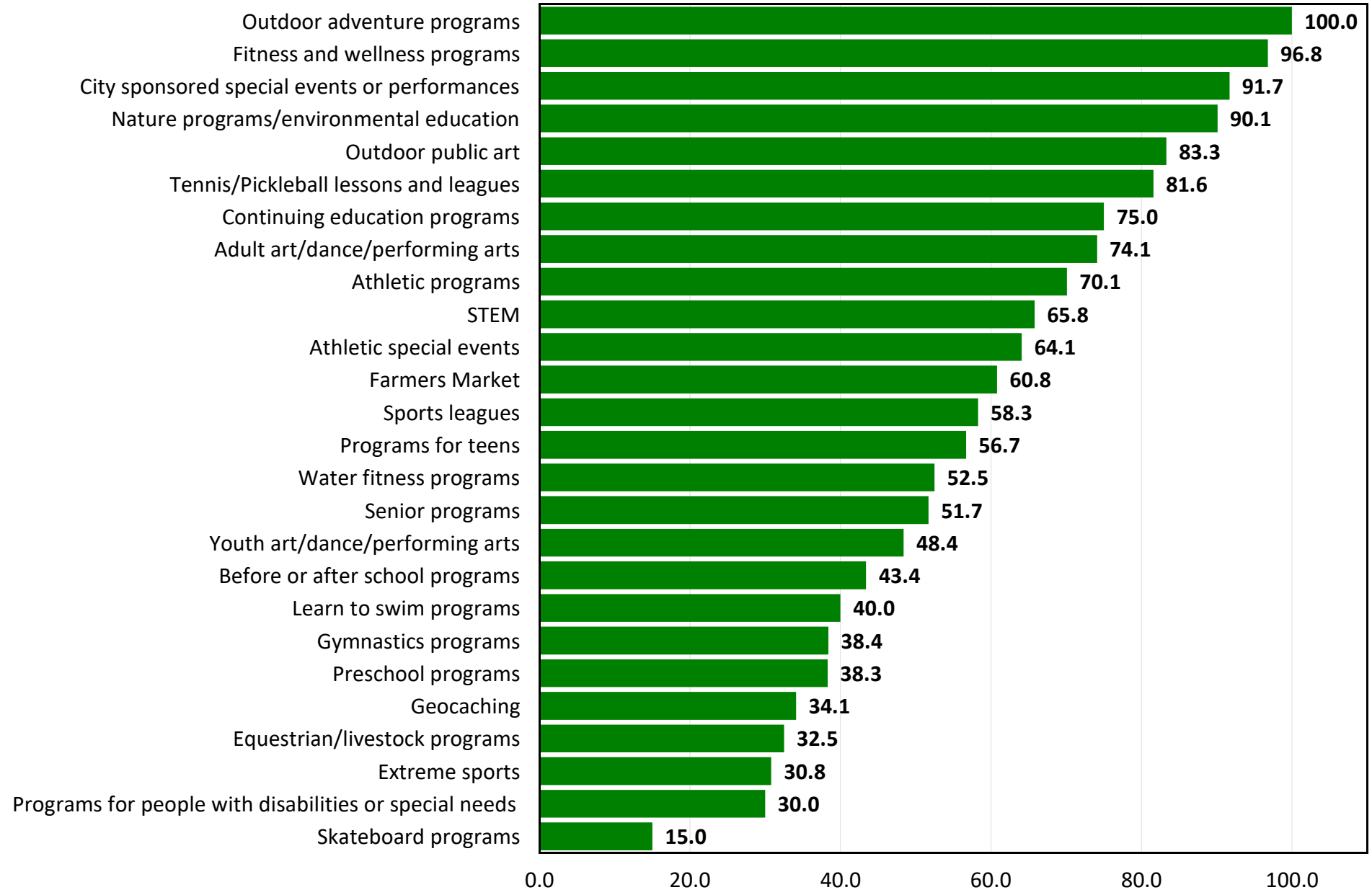


Top Priorities for Investment for Facilities/Amenities Based on Priority Investment Rating



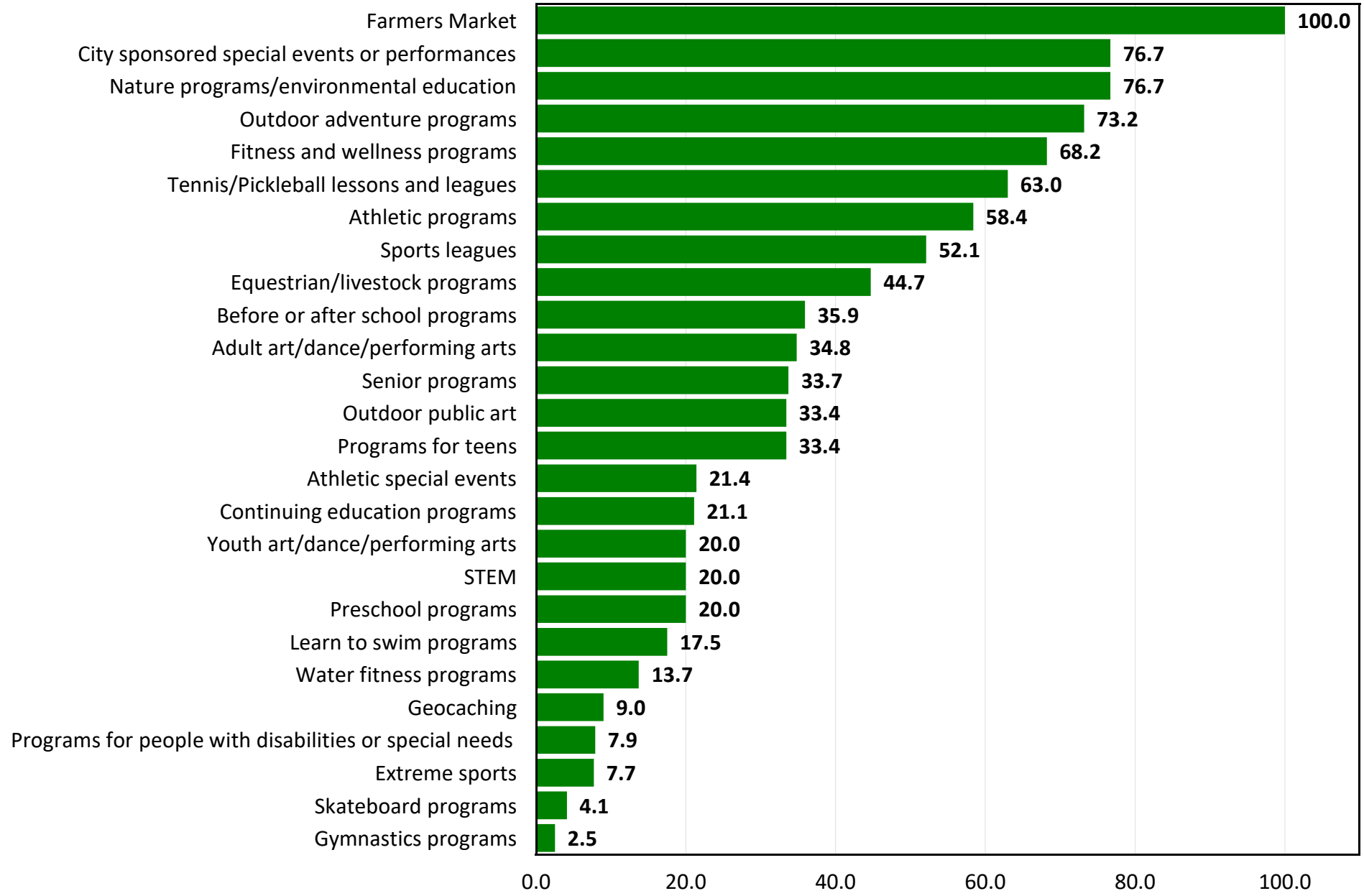
Unmet Needs Rating for Programs

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need

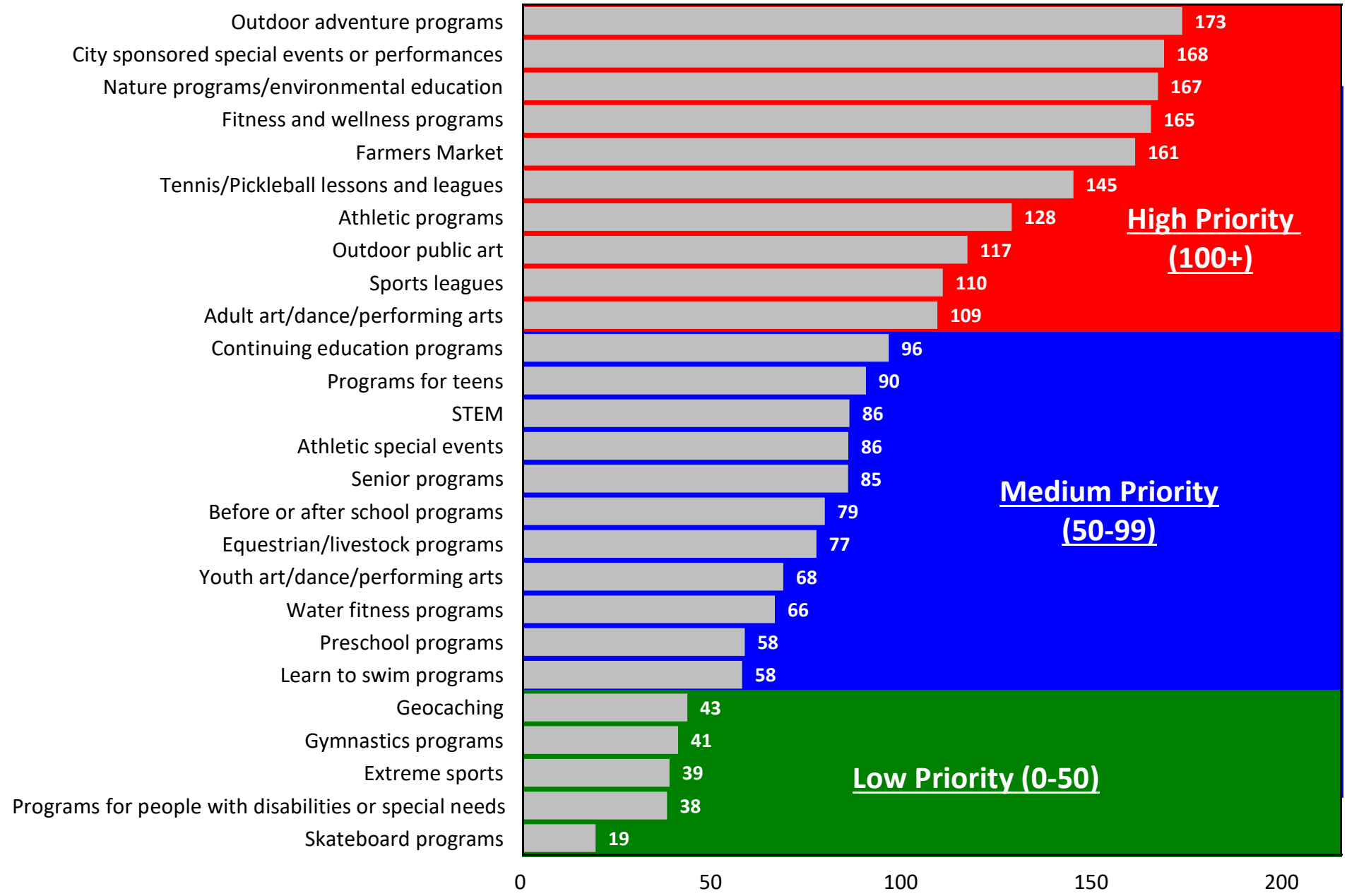


Importance Rating for Programs

the rating for the item rated as the most important=100
the rating of all other items reflects the relative level of importance for each item compared to the item rated as the most important

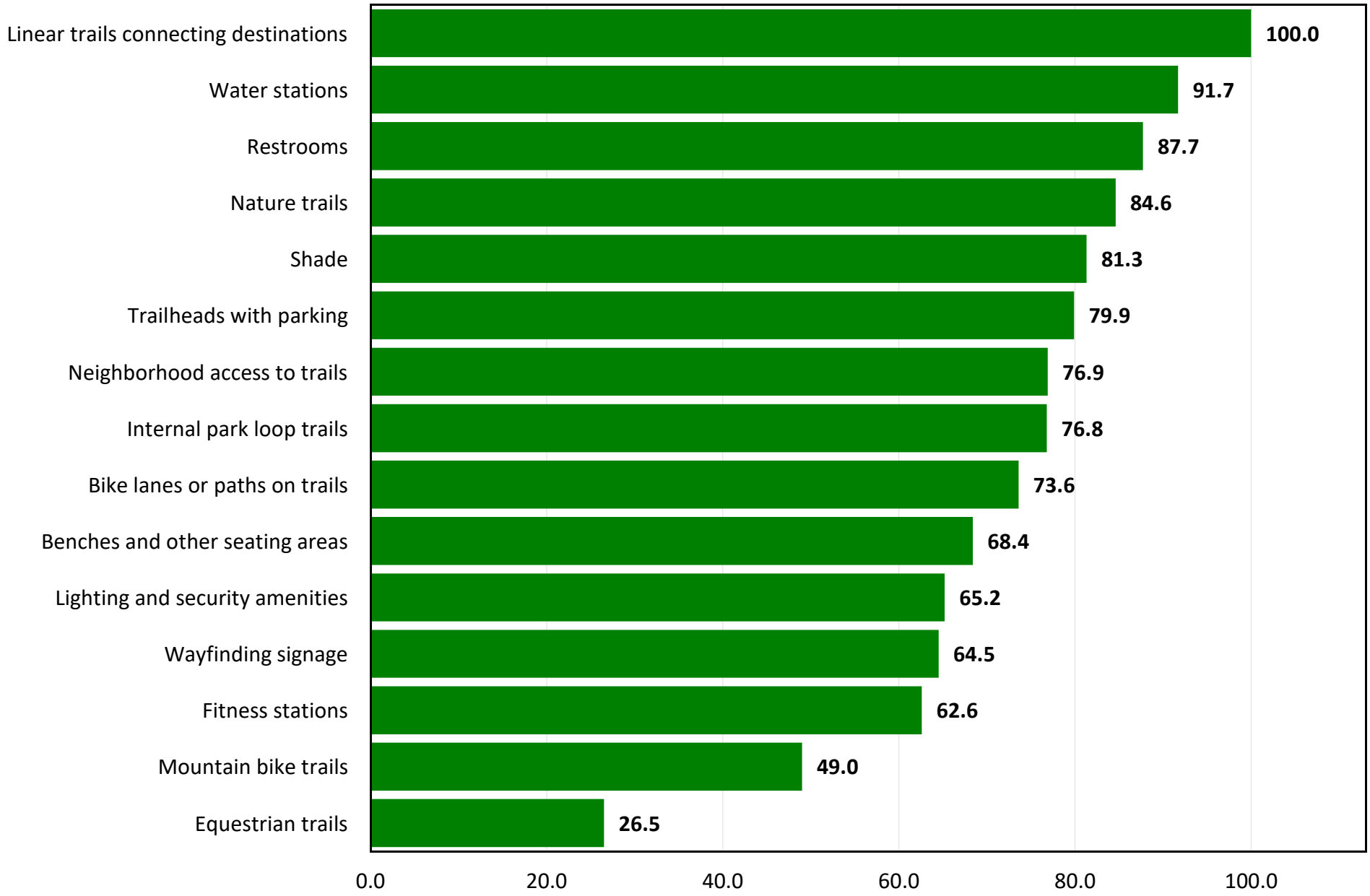


Top Priorities for Investment for Facilities/Amenities Based on Priority Investment Rating



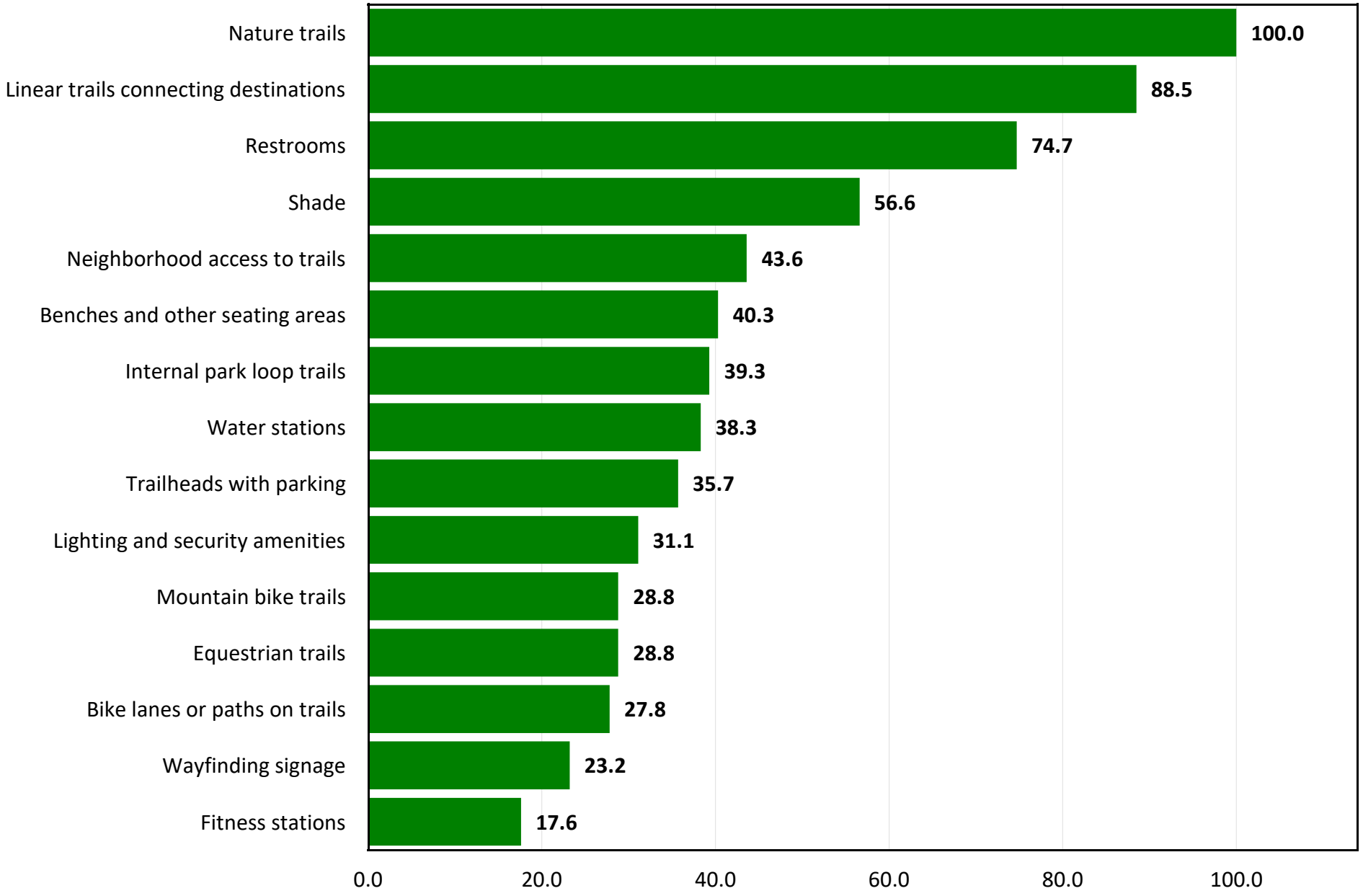
Unmet Needs Rating for Trail Features

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need

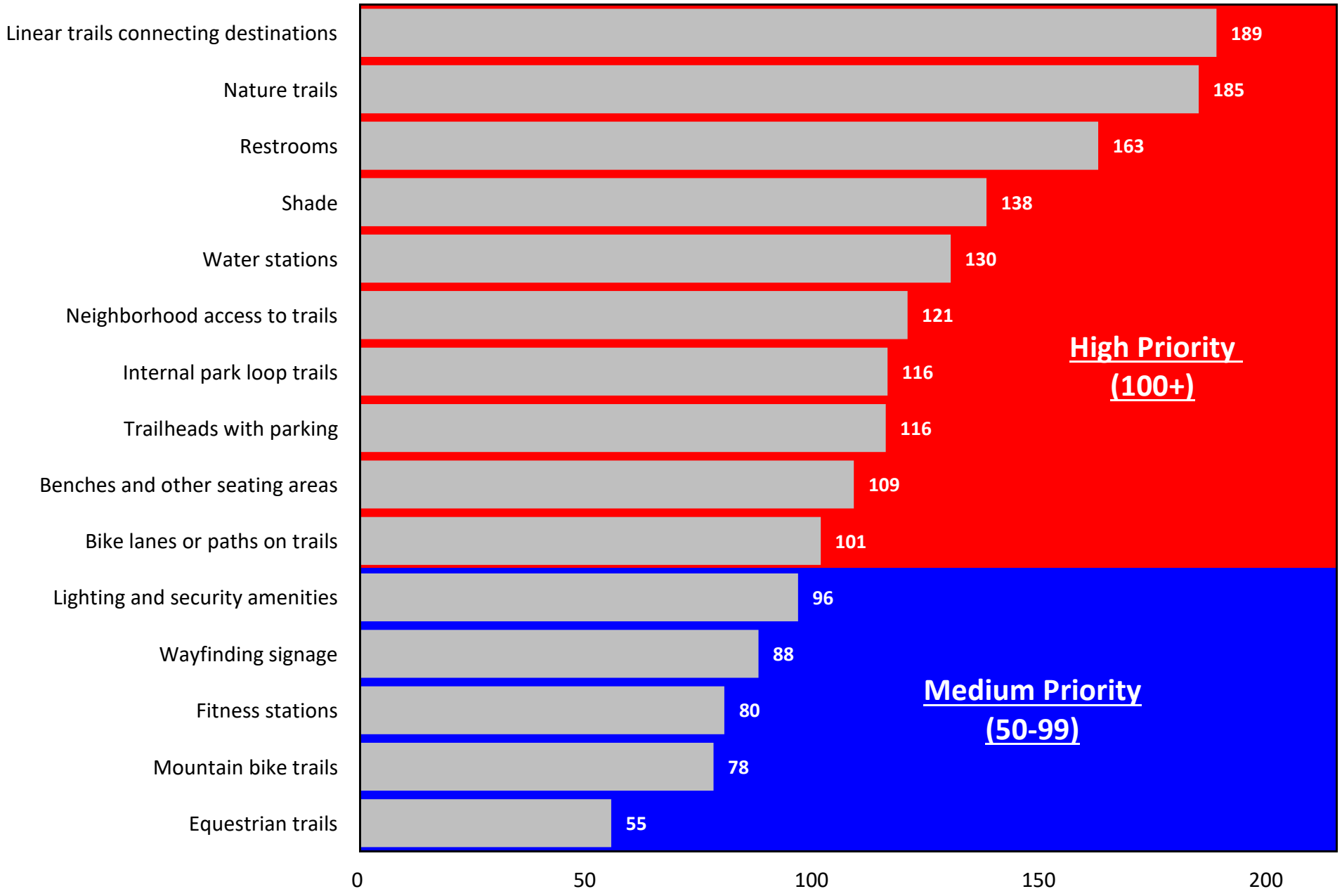


Importance Rating for Trail Features

the rating for the item rated as the most important=100
the rating of all other items reflects the relative level of importance for each item compared to the item rated as the most important



Top Priorities for Investment for Trail Features Based on Priority Investment Rating



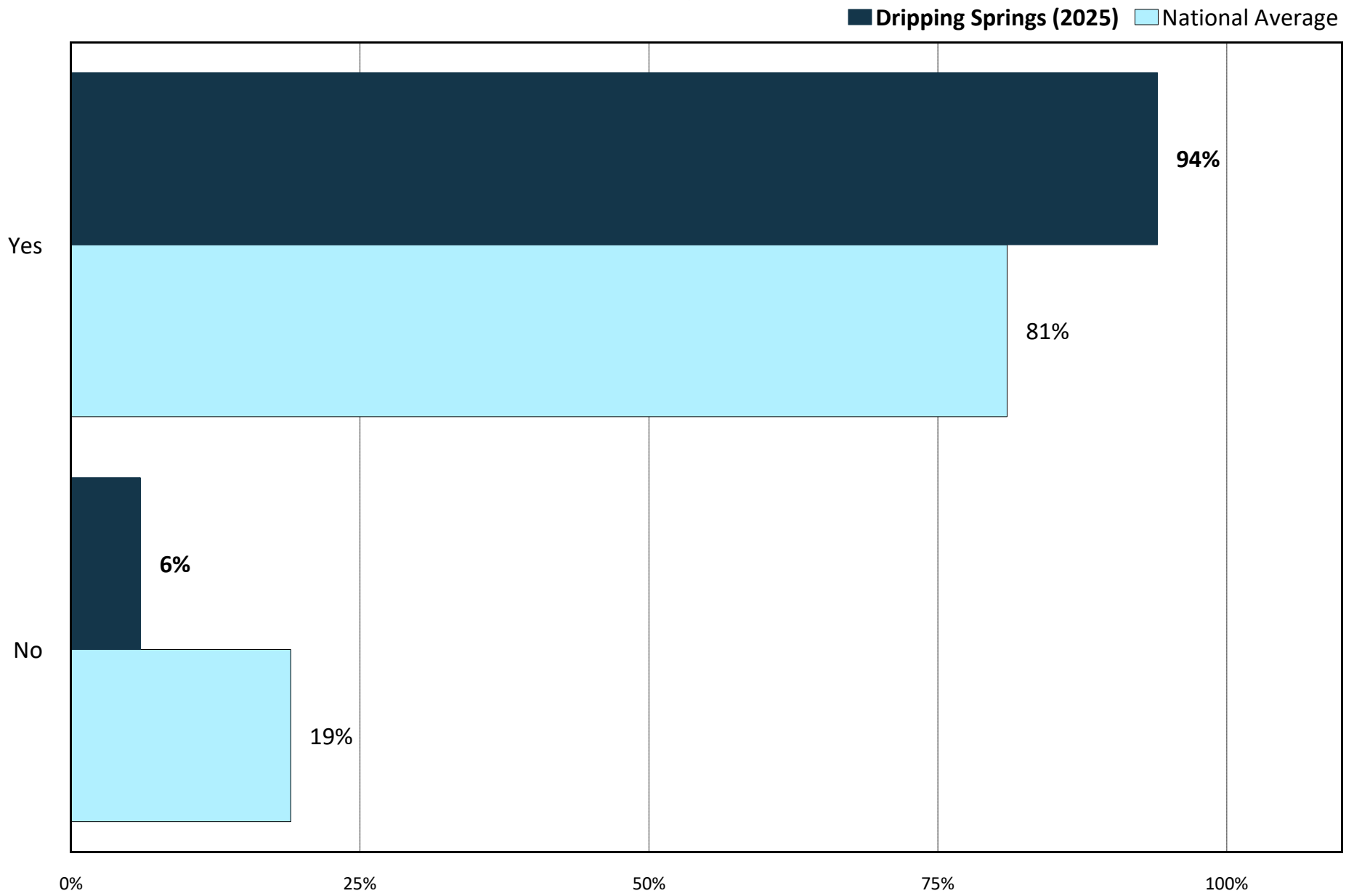
4 Benchmarks

National Benchmarks

Note: The benchmarking data contained in this report is protected intellectual property. Any reproduction of the benchmarking information in this report by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with City of Dripping Springs is not authorized without written consent from ETC Institute.

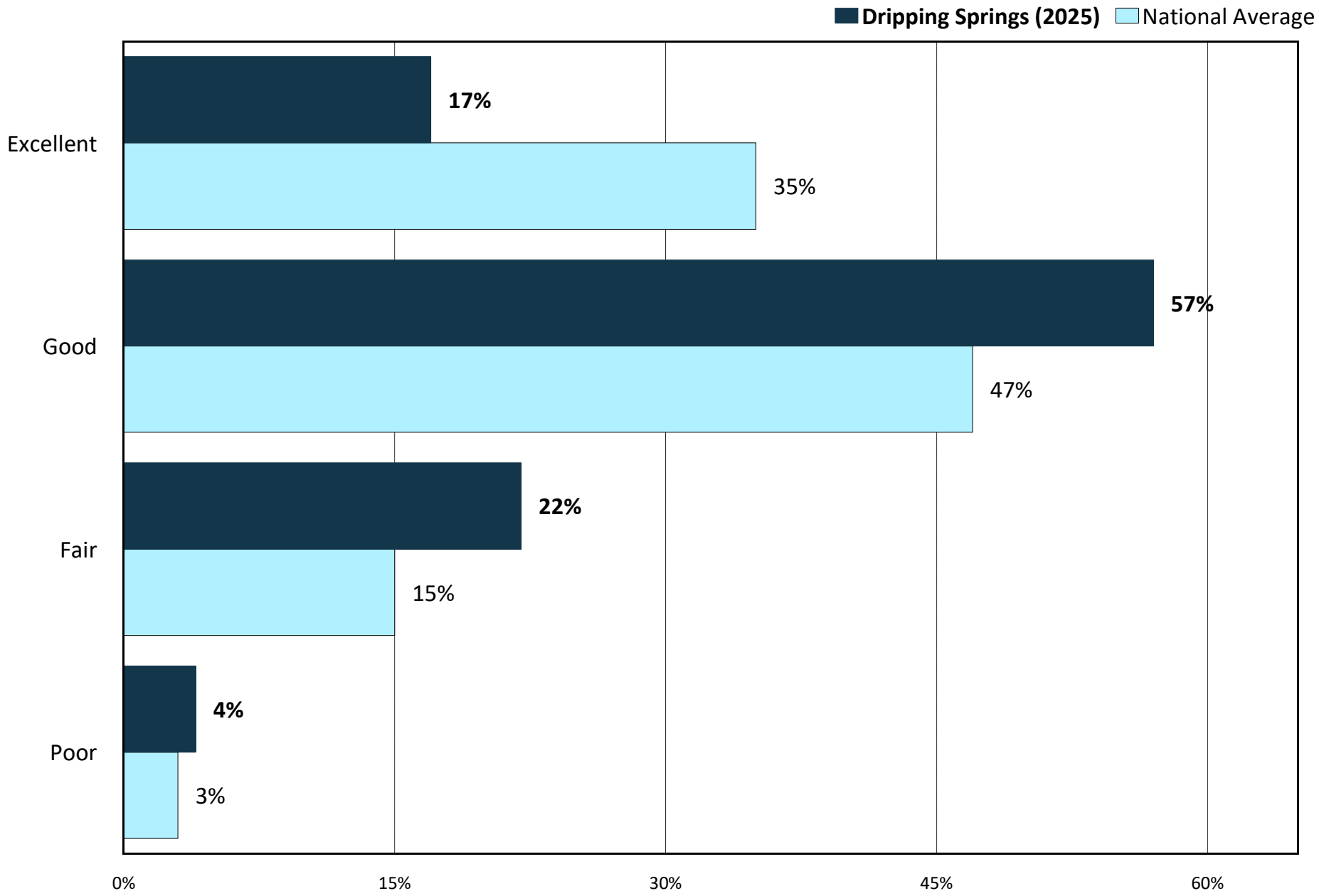
Have you or any members of your household visited any parks or recreation facilities or amenities in your community during the past year?

by % of respondents



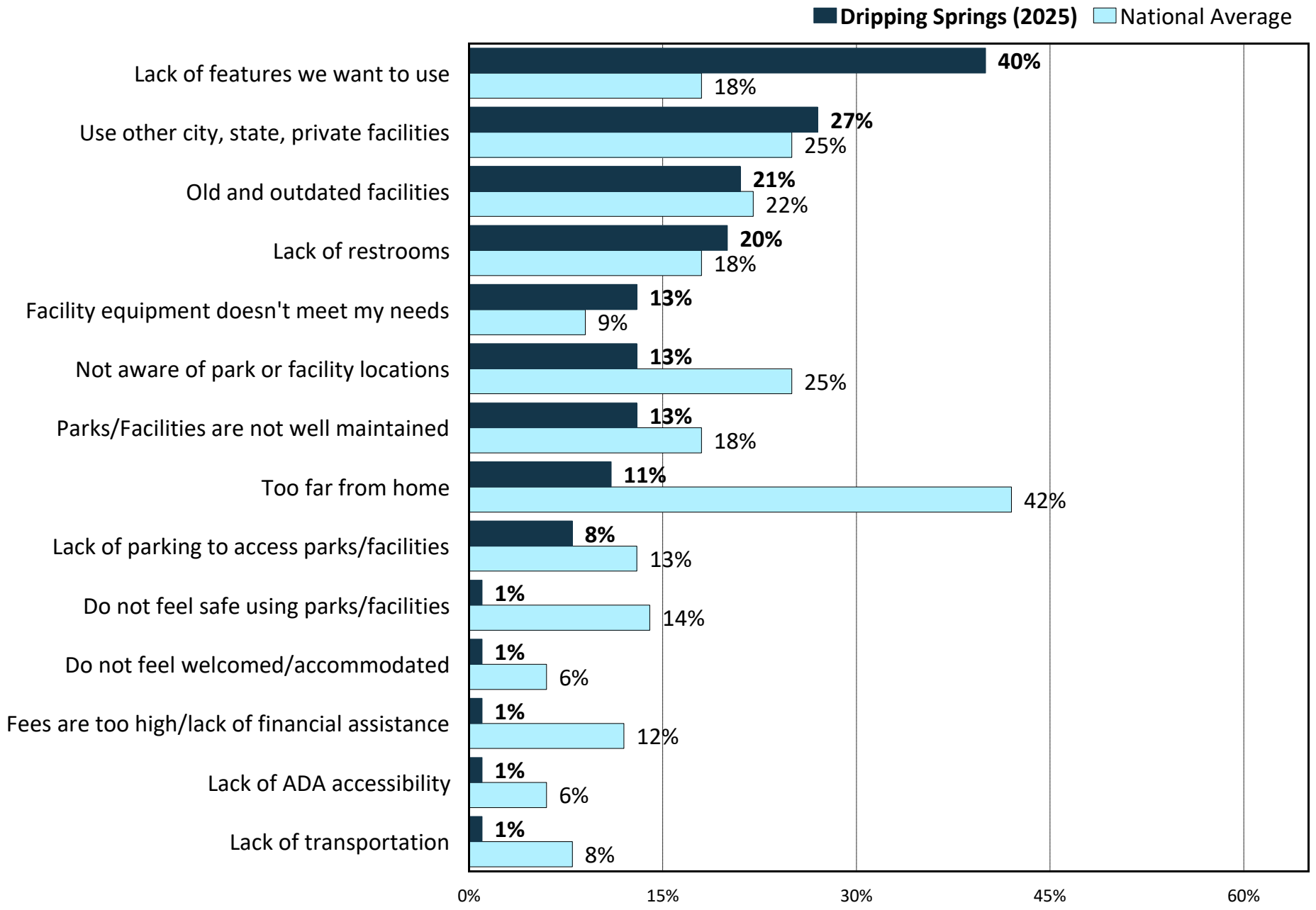
Rating Condition of Parks and Recreation Facilities

by % of respondents who report visiting facilities or amenities in the last year



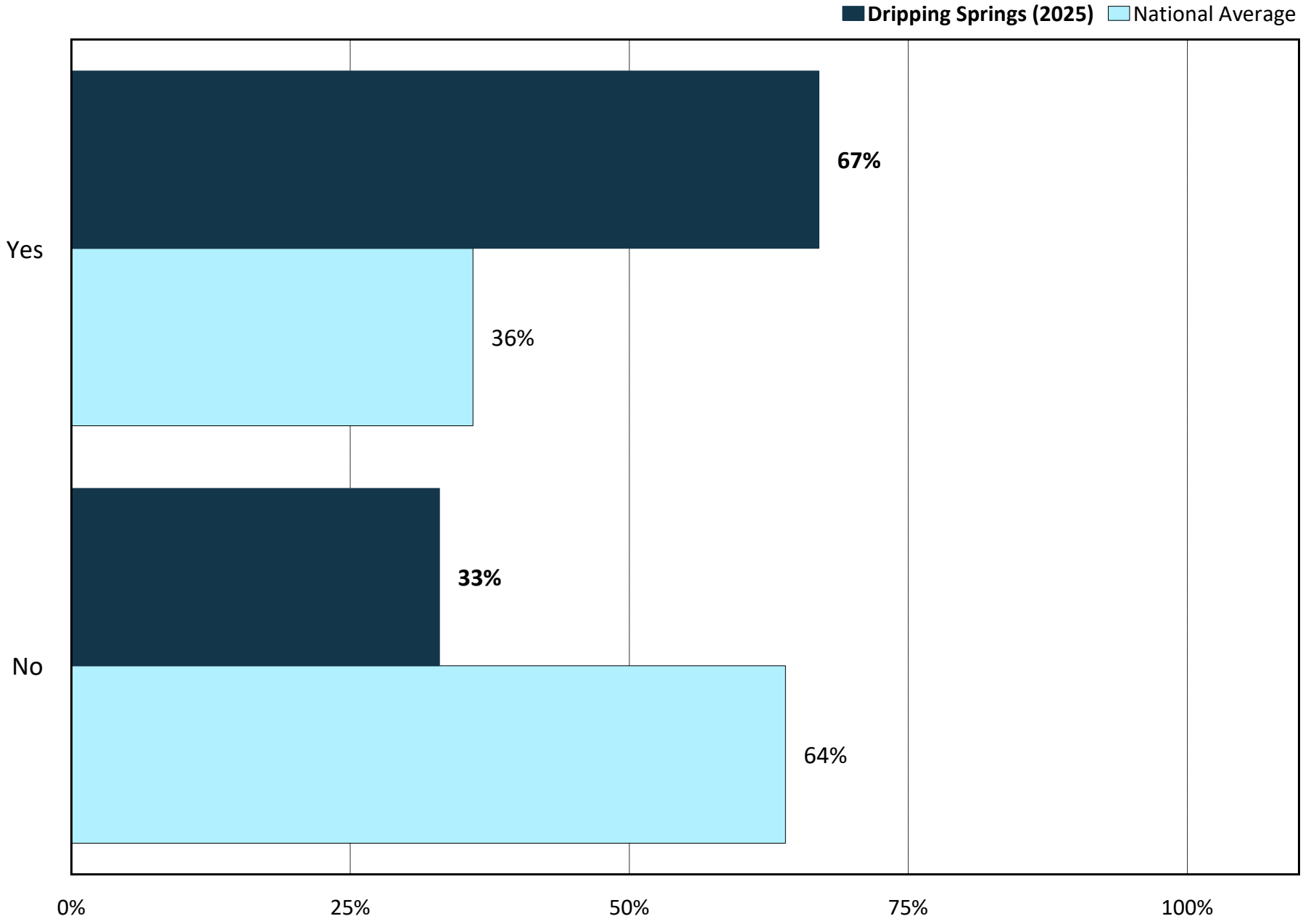
Barriers to Use of Parks and Recreation Facilities

by % of respondents



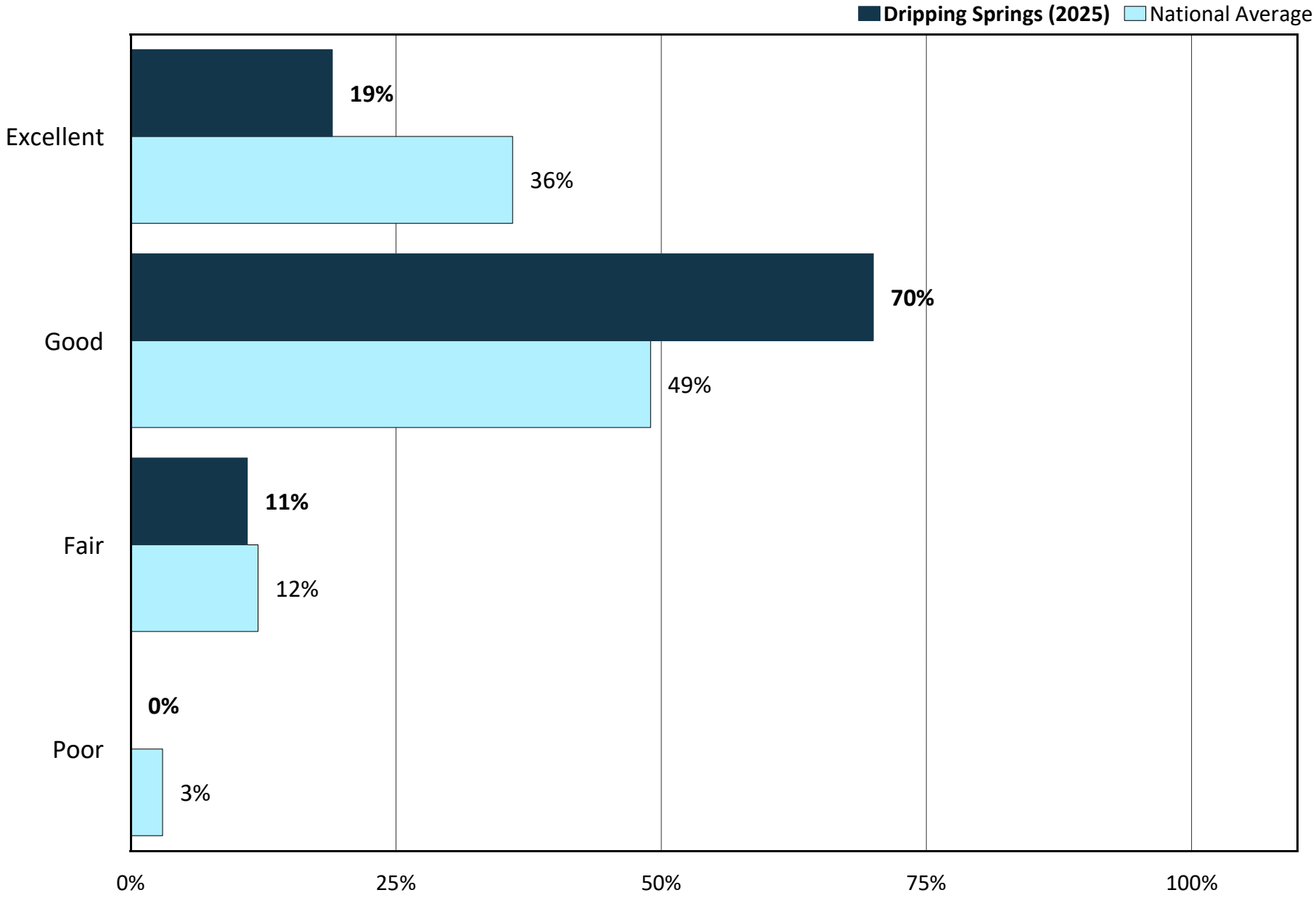
Have you participted in Dripping Springs programs in the last year?

by % of respondents

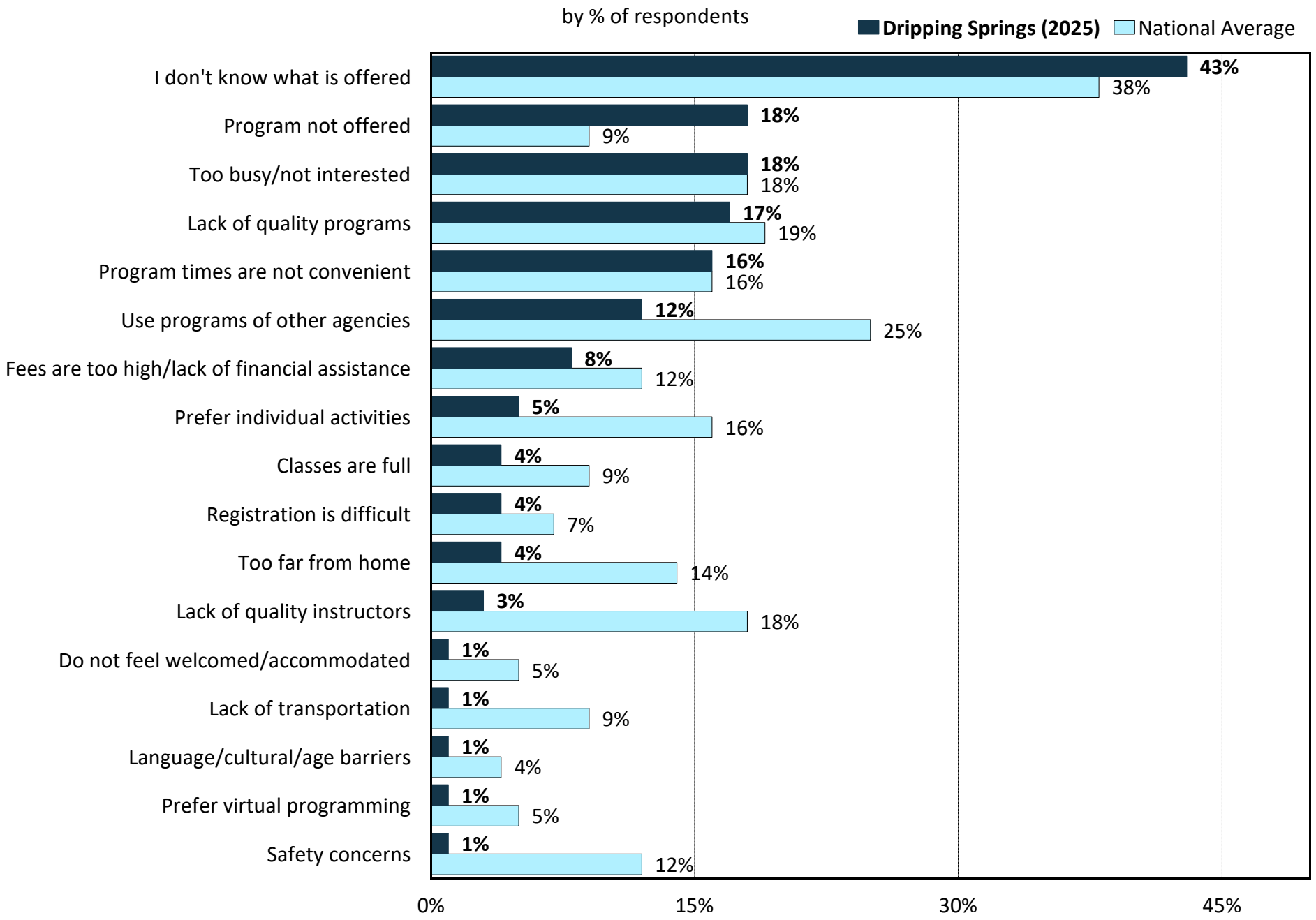


Rating Condition of Parks and Recreation Facilities and Amenities

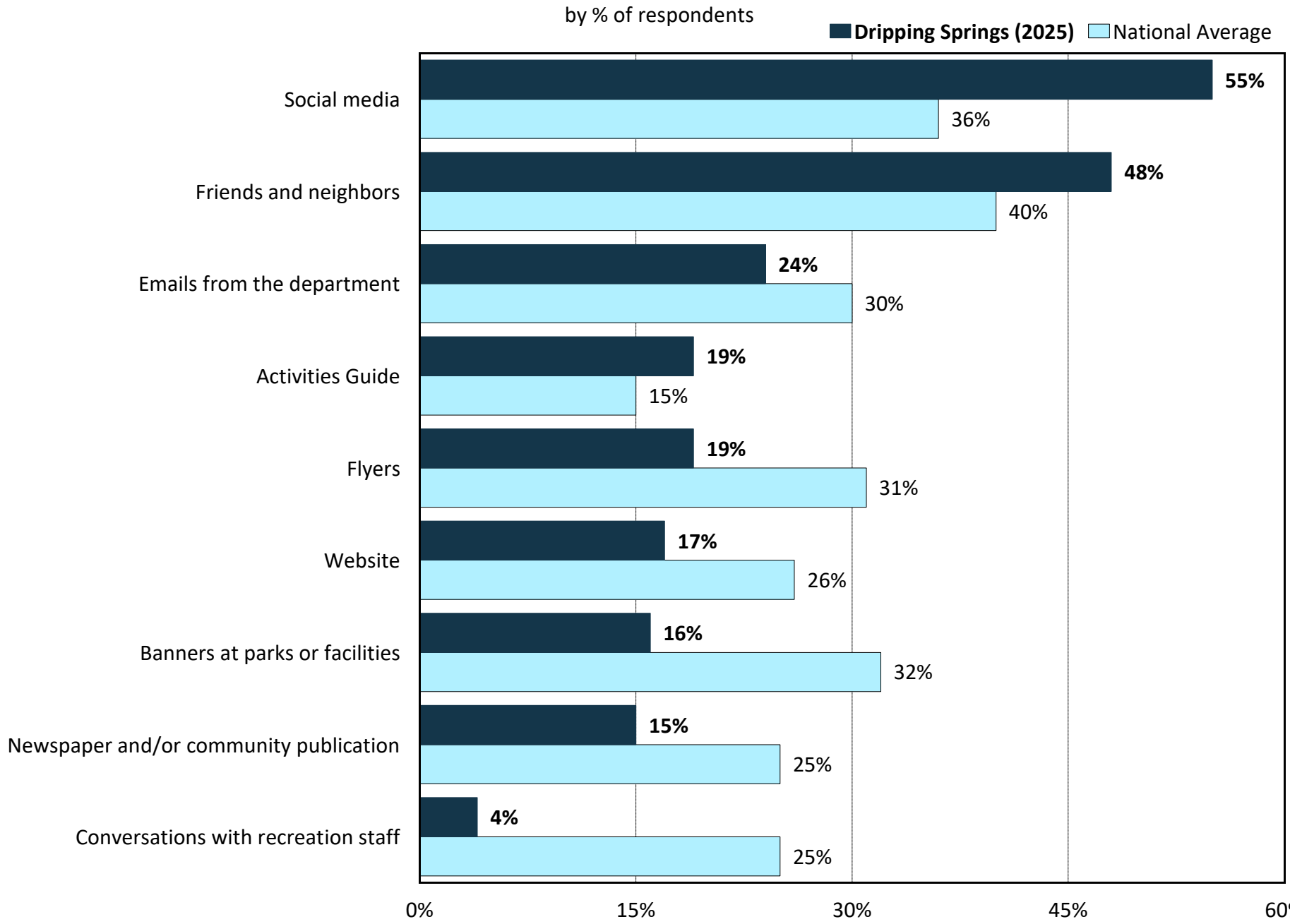
by % of respondents who report participating in programs in the last year



Barriers to Program and Activity Participation

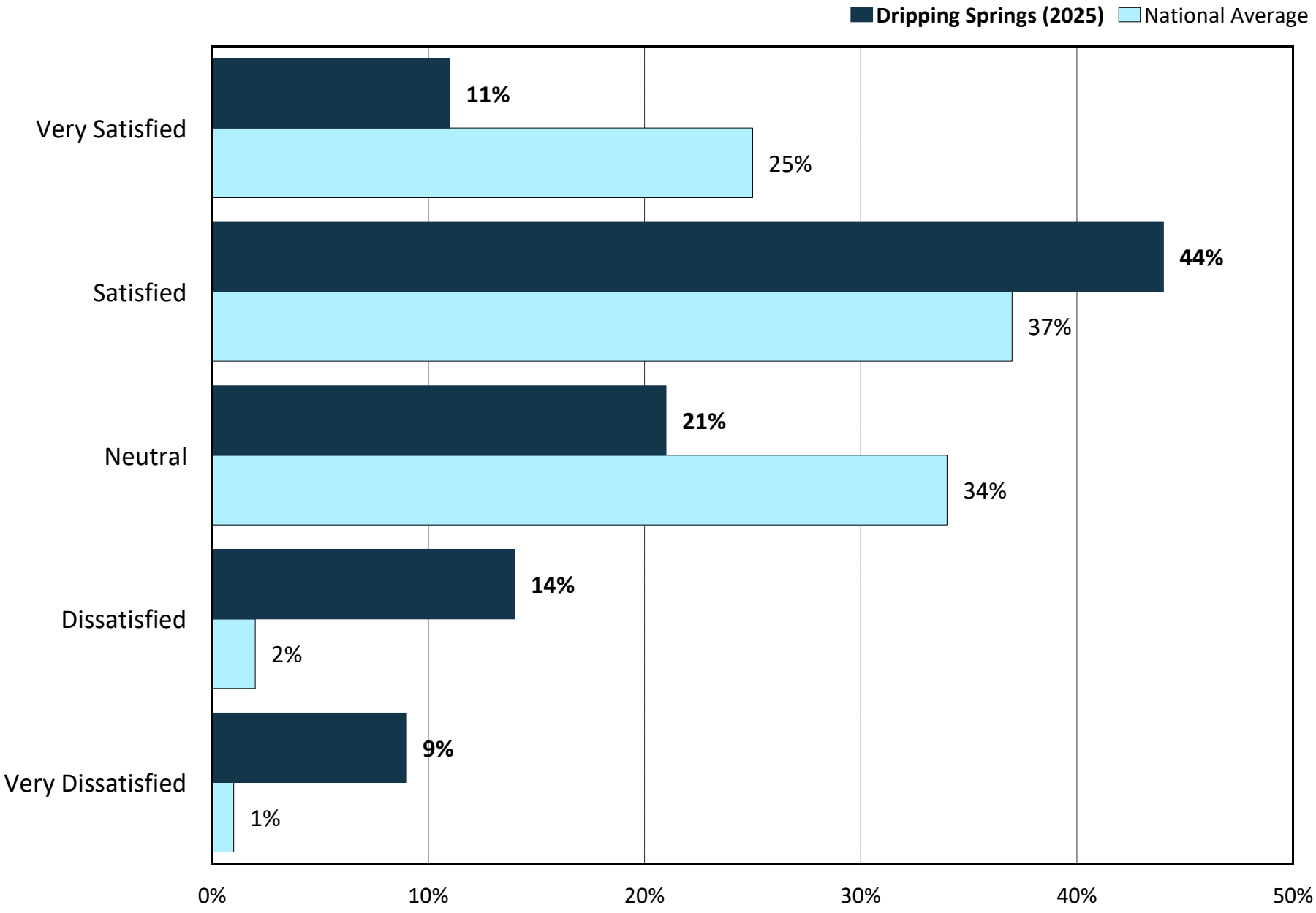


Sources Used for Information about Parks and Recreation



Satisfaction with Value Received from Parks and Recreation

by % of respondents



5 Importance-Satisfaction Rating

Importance-Satisfaction Analysis

Overview

Today, community leaders have limited resources which need to be targeted to activities that are of the most benefit to their citizens. Two of the most important criteria for decision making are (1) to target resources toward services of the highest importance to citizens; and (2) to target resources toward those services where citizens are the least satisfied.

The Importance-Satisfaction (I-S) rating is a unique tool that allows public officials to better understand both of these highly important decision-making criteria for each of the services they are providing. The Importance-Satisfaction (I-S) rating is based on the concept that public agencies will maximize overall customer satisfaction by emphasizing improvements in those areas where the level of satisfaction is relatively low, and the perceived importance of the service is relatively high.

The rating is calculated by summing the percentage of responses for items selected as the first, second, and third most important services for the City to emphasize over the next ten years. The sum is then multiplied by 1 minus the percentage of respondents who indicated they were positively satisfied with the City's performance in the related area (the sum of the ratings of 4 and 5 on a 5-point scale excluding "don't know" responses). "Don't know" responses are excluded from the calculation to ensure the satisfaction ratings among service categories are comparable.

I-S Rating = Importance x (1-Satisfaction)

Example of the Calculation

Respondents were asked to identify the categories of parks and recreation services that were most important to emphasize over the next ten years. Fourteen percent (14%) of the respondent households selected *"overall quality of youth programming"* as one of the most important services for the City to emphasize.

With regard to satisfaction, 49% of respondents surveyed rated *"overall quality of youth programming"* as a "4" or "5" on a 5-point scale (where "5" means "Very Satisfied") excluding "don't know" responses. The I-S rating was calculated by multiplying the sum of the most important percentages by one minus the sum of the satisfaction percentages. In this example, 14% was multiplied by 51% (1-0.49). This calculation yielded an I-S rating of 0.0737, which ranked ninth out of 18 categories of City services analyzed.

Importance-Satisfaction Analysis

The maximum rating is 1.00 and would be achieved when 100% of the respondents select an item as one of their top two choices of importance and 0% indicate they are positively satisfied with the delivery of the service.

The lowest rating is 0.00 and could be achieved under either of the following two situations:

- If 100% of the respondents were positively satisfied with the delivery of the service
- If none (0%) of the respondents selected the service as one of the two most important areas.

Interpreting the Ratings

Ratings that are greater than or equal to 0.20 identify areas that should receive significantly more emphasis over the next two years. Ratings from 0.10 to 0.20 identify service areas that should receive increased emphasis. Ratings less than 0.10 should continue to receive the current level of emphasis.

- *Definitely Increase* Emphasis (I-S > 0.20)
- *Increase* Current Emphasis (I-S = 0.10 - 0.20)
- *Maintain* Current Emphasis (I-S < 0.10)

A table showing the results for the City of Dripping Springs is provided on the following page.

2025 Importance-Satisfaction Rating
City of Dripping Springs
Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation

Category of Service	Most Important %	Most Important Rank	Satisfaction %	Satisfaction Rank	Importance-Satisfaction Rating	I-S Rating Rank
High Priority (IS .10-.20)						
Maintenance of City parks	39%	1	62%	4	0.1494	1
Maintenance of City trails	33%	2	59%	6	0.1352	2
Quality of City sports fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	20%	4	36%	14	0.1266	3
Number of restrooms available	19%	5	34%	16	0.1222	4
Overall quality of natural area restoration and upkeep (native hill-country landscape)	27%	3	57%	10	0.1172	5
Medium Priority (IS <.10)						
Overall quality of adult and senior programming	13%	10	25%	18	0.0951	6
Quality of City playgrounds	19%	6	50%	12	0.0930	7
Quality of City swimming and aquatics facilities	12%	11	33%	17	0.0822	8
Overall quality of youth programming	14%	8	49%	13	0.0737	9
Quality of City sports courts (basketball, sand volleyball)	11%	13	36%	15	0.0733	10
Overall quality of special events	17%	7	59%	5	0.0702	11
Quality of arena and equestrian facilities	12%	12	58%	7	0.0496	12
Overall feeling of safety in parks and on trails	14%	9	76%	1	0.0328	13
Quality of event rooms at Dripping Springs Ranch Park and Event Center	6%	14	58%	8	0.0266	14
Quality of wayfinding and signage offered	5%	16	52%	11	0.0243	15
Overall quality received for costs for program registration	6%	15	57%	9	0.0237	16
Ease of registering for programs	5%	17	64%	3	0.0181	17
Quality of skate park	2%	18	75%	2	0.0046	18

Note: The I-S Rating is calculated by multiplying the "Most Important" % by (1-'Satisfaction' %)

Most Important %: The "Most Important" percentage represents the sum of the first, second, and third most important responses for each item. Respondents were asked to identify the items they thought should receive the most emphasis from City leaders over the next ten years.

Satisfaction %: The "Satisfaction" percentage represents the sum of the ratings "5" and "4" excluding 'don't knows.' Respondents ranked their level of satisfaction with each of the items on a scale of 5 to 1 with "5" being Very Satisfied and "1" being Very Dissatisfied.

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6 Tabular Data

Q1. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...

	Mean	Sum
number	3.4	765
Under age 5	0.2	47
Ages 5-9	0.5	100
Ages 10-14	0.4	91
Ages 15-19	0.2	50
Ages 20-24	0.1	25
Ages 25-34	0.4	82
Ages 35-44	0.5	107
Ages 45-54	0.5	115
Ages 55-64	0.3	66
Ages 65-74	0.3	56
Ages 75+	0.1	26

Q2. Have you or other members of your household visited any parks offered by the City of Dripping Springs during the past 12 months?

Q2. Have your household members visited any City parks during past 12 months	Number	Percent
Yes	208	93.7 %
No	14	6.3 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q2a. Please check ALL the parks listed below that you or members of your household have visited during the past 12 months.

Q2a. All parks your household members have visited	Number	Percent
Charro Ranch Park	77	37.0 %
Dripping Springs Ranch Park	177	85.1 %
Founders Memorial Park	168	80.8 %
Sports & Recreation Park	105	50.5 %
Veterans Memorial Park	40	19.2 %
School parks or facilities	96	46.2 %
Total	663	

Q2b. On average, how often do you visit the parks you selected in Question 2a?

Q2b. How often do you visit the parks	Number	Percent
Daily	17	8.2 %
Weekly	88	42.3 %
Monthly	65	31.3 %
Yearly	23	11.1 %
Very rarely	12	5.8 %
Not provided	3	1.4 %
Total	208	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")

Q2b. On average, how often do you visit the parks you selected in Question 2a? (without "not provided")

Q2b. How often do you visit the parks	Number	Percent
Daily	17	8.3 %
Weekly	88	42.9 %
Monthly	65	31.7 %
Yearly	23	11.2 %
Very rarely	12	5.9 %
Total	205	100.0 %

Q2c. Please check ALL the reasons you visit the parks you selected in Question 2a.

Q2c. Reasons you visit the parks	Number	Percent
Exercise or physical activity	145	69.7 %
Socializing and/or children's play	112	53.8 %
Nature observation/relaxation	97	46.6 %
Sporting events	89	42.8 %
Equestrian or agriculture related activities	41	19.7 %
Community events	108	51.9 %
Parks programming such as camps or after school programs	27	13.0 %
Farmers market	95	45.7 %
Other	3	1.4 %
Total	717	

Q2c-9. Other:

Q2c-9. Other	Number	Percent
Dog walking	2	66.7 %
JUST PLAYING WITH MY BOYS	1	33.3 %
Total	3	100.0 %

Q2d. How would you rate the overall quality of the City of Dripping Springs parks you or members of your household have visited during the past 12 months?

Q2d. How would you rate overall quality of City parks your household members have visited	Number	Percent
Excellent	35	16.8 %
Good	118	56.7 %
Fair	46	22.1 %
Poor	9	4.3 %
Total	208	100.0 %

Q2e. Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household do not visit parks or why you do not visit more often.

Q2e. Reasons why your household members do not visit parks or visit them more often	Number	Percent
Use other city, state, private facilities	56	26.9 %
Too far from home	23	11.1 %
Not aware of park or facility locations	26	12.5 %
Parks/facilities are not well maintained	26	12.5 %
Old & outdated facilities	44	21.2 %
Lack of amenities we want to use	84	40.4 %
Lack of parking to access parks/facilities	16	7.7 %
Do not feel safe using parks/facilities	1	0.5 %
Facility equipment doesn't meet my needs	27	13.0 %
Lack of ADA accessibility	2	1.0 %
Do not feel welcomed/accommodated	3	1.4 %
Lack of transportation	2	1.0 %
Lack of restrooms	41	19.7 %
Fees are too high/lack of financial assistance	2	1.0 %
Other	9	4.3 %
Total	362	

Q3. Have you or other members of your household participated in or attended any recreation programs/activities or special events or performances offered by the City of Dripping Springs during the past 12 months?

Q3. Have your household members participated in or attended any recreation programs/activities or special events or performances	Number	Percent
Yes	148	66.7 %
No	74	33.3 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q3a. Approximately how many different recreation programs/activities, special events or performances offered by the City of Dripping Springs have you or members of your household participated in or attended over the past 12 months?

Q3a. How many different recreation programs/ activities, special events or performances have your household members participated in or attended	Number	Percent
1 program	29	19.6 %
2 to 3 programs	79	53.4 %
4 to 6 programs	28	18.9 %
7 to 10 programs	3	2.0 %
11+ programs	7	4.7 %
Not provided	2	1.4 %
Total	148	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")

Q3a. Approximately how many different recreation programs/activities, special events or performances offered by the City of Dripping Springs have you or members of your household participated in or attended over the past 12 months? (without "not provided")

Q3a. How many different recreation programs/ activities, special events or performances have your household members participated in or attended	Number	Percent
1 program	29	19.9 %
2 to 3 programs	79	54.1 %
4 to 6 programs	28	19.2 %
7 to 10 programs	3	2.1 %
11+ programs	7	4.8 %
Total	146	100.0 %

Q3b. From the following list, please check the primary reasons why you or members of your household participate in programs/activities or attend special events or performances in Dripping Springs.

Q3b. Primary reasons why your household members participate in programs/activities or attend special events or performances	Number	Percent
Quality of instructors/coaches	32	21.6 %
Location of program facility	86	58.1 %
Quality of program facility	44	29.7 %
Fees charged for program	29	19.6 %
Times program is offered	38	25.7 %
Friends participate in program	54	36.5 %
Dates program is offered	46	31.1 %
Other	4	2.7 %
Total	333	

Q3b-8. Other:

Q3b-8. Other	Number	Percent
Dog pool day at Founders	1	25.0 %
The DSRP Riding Series (Ranch and Dressage) are really quality events	1	25.0 %
Halloween House	1	25.0 %
We went to the Christmas Light display	1	25.0 %
Total	4	100.0 %

Q3c. How would you rate the overall quality of programs/activities that you or members of your household have participated in during the past 12 months?

Q3c. How would you rate overall quality of programs/activities your household members have participated in	Number	Percent
Excellent	28	18.9 %
Good	101	68.2 %
Fair	16	10.8 %
Not provided	3	2.0 %
Total	148	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")

Q3c. How would you rate the overall quality of programs/activities that you or members of your household have participated in during the past 12 months? (without "not provided")

Q3c. How would you rate overall quality of programs/activities your household members have participated in	Number	Percent
Excellent	28	19.3 %
Good	101	69.7 %
Fair	16	11.0 %
Total	145	100.0 %

Q3d. Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household have not participated in programs or why you do not participate more often.

Q3d. Reasons why your household members have not participated in programs or why you do not participate in them more often	Number	Percent
I don't know what is offered	63	42.6 %
Use programs of other agencies	18	12.2 %
Lack of quality instructors	5	3.4 %
Lack of quality programs	25	16.9 %
Prefer individual activities	7	4.7 %
Too far from home	6	4.1 %
Program times are not convenient	23	15.5 %
Classes are full	6	4.1 %
Safety concerns	1	0.7 %
Fees are too high/lack of financial assistance	12	8.1 %
Prefer virtual programming	1	0.7 %
Do not feel welcomed/accommodated	2	1.4 %
Program not offered	26	17.6 %
Registration is difficult	6	4.1 %
Lack of transportation	1	0.7 %
Too busy/not interested	26	17.6 %
Language/cultural/age barriers	1	0.7 %
Parking issues	14	9.5 %
Total	243	

Q4. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following.

(N=222)

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Q4-1. Ease of registering for programs	9.9%	26.6%	16.2%	4.1%	0.5%	42.8%
Q4-2. Maintenance of City parks	11.7%	45.0%	24.3%	5.4%	5.9%	7.7%
Q4-3. Maintenance of City trails	13.5%	35.6%	17.6%	12.6%	4.1%	16.7%
Q4-4. Number of restrooms available	7.2%	22.5%	24.3%	25.7%	6.8%	13.5%
Q4-5. Overall feeling of safety in parks & on trails	30.6%	38.7%	18.0%	2.7%	1.4%	8.6%
Q4-6. Overall quality of adult & senior programming	4.5%	7.2%	24.3%	9.5%	2.3%	52.3%
Q4-7. Overall quality of natural area restoration & upkeep (native hill-country landscape)	14.4%	34.2%	22.5%	11.3%	3.6%	14.0%
Q4-8. Overall quality of special events	10.4%	34.7%	26.1%	3.2%	1.8%	23.9%
Q4-9. Overall quality of youth programming	8.1%	19.4%	24.3%	3.2%	1.4%	43.7%
Q4-10. Overall quality received for costs for program registration	7.2%	25.7%	19.8%	3.6%	1.4%	42.3%
Q4-11. Quality of arena & equestrian facilities	6.3%	19.8%	12.6%	5.4%	0.9%	55.0%
Q4-12. Quality of City playgrounds	6.3%	31.5%	23.4%	10.8%	3.6%	24.3%
Q4-13. Quality of City sports courts (basketball, sand volleyball)	2.3%	18.0%	20.3%	11.7%	4.5%	43.2%

Q4. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following.

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Q4-14. Quality of City sports fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	3.6%	19.8%	20.3%	14.0%	6.8%	35.6%
Q4-15. Quality of City swimming & aquatics facilities	2.7%	16.2%	23.9%	11.7%	3.6%	41.9%
Q4-16. Quality of event rooms at Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center	6.8%	29.7%	21.6%	3.2%	1.8%	36.9%
Q4-17. Quality of skate park	12.2%	20.7%	9.5%	0.9%	0.9%	55.9%
Q4-18. Quality of wayfinding & signage offered	6.8%	32.0%	26.6%	8.1%	1.8%	24.8%

(WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")

Q4. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following. (without "don't know")

(N=222)

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Q4-1. Ease of registering for programs	17.3%	46.5%	28.3%	7.1%	0.8%
Q4-2. Maintenance of City parks	12.7%	48.8%	26.3%	5.9%	6.3%
Q4-3. Maintenance of City trails	16.2%	42.7%	21.1%	15.1%	4.9%
Q4-4. Number of restrooms available	8.3%	26.0%	28.1%	29.7%	7.8%
Q4-5. Overall feeling of safety in parks & on trails	33.5%	42.4%	19.7%	3.0%	1.5%
Q4-6. Overall quality of adult & senior programming	9.4%	15.1%	50.9%	19.8%	4.7%
Q4-7. Overall quality of natural area restoration & upkeep (native hill-country landscape)	16.8%	39.8%	26.2%	13.1%	4.2%
Q4-8. Overall quality of special events	13.6%	45.6%	34.3%	4.1%	2.4%
Q4-9. Overall quality of youth programming	14.4%	34.4%	43.2%	5.6%	2.4%
Q4-10. Overall quality received for costs for program registration	12.5%	44.5%	34.4%	6.3%	2.3%
Q4-11. Quality of arena & equestrian facilities	14.0%	44.0%	28.0%	12.0%	2.0%
Q4-12. Quality of City playgrounds	8.3%	41.7%	31.0%	14.3%	4.8%
Q4-13. Quality of City sports courts (basketball, sand volleyball)	4.0%	31.7%	35.7%	20.6%	7.9%

(WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")

Q4. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following. (without "don't know")

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Q4-14. Quality of City sports fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	5.6%	30.8%	31.5%	21.7%	10.5%
Q4-15. Quality of City swimming & aquatics facilities	4.7%	27.9%	41.1%	20.2%	6.2%
Q4-16. Quality of event rooms at Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center	10.7%	47.1%	34.3%	5.0%	2.9%
Q4-17. Quality of skate park	27.6%	46.9%	21.4%	2.0%	2.0%
Q4-18. Quality of wayfinding & signage offered	9.0%	42.5%	35.3%	10.8%	2.4%

Q5. Which THREE of the items in Question 4 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT for the City of Dripping Springs to emphasize over the next 10 years?

Q5. Top choice	Number	Percent
Ease of registering for programs	4	1.8 %
Maintenance of City parks	33	14.9 %
Maintenance of City trails	19	8.6 %
Number of restrooms available	11	5.0 %
Overall feeling of safety in parks & on trails	9	4.1 %
Overall quality of adult & senior programming	8	3.6 %
Overall quality of natural area restoration & upkeep (native hill-country landscape)	30	13.5 %
Overall quality of special events	11	5.0 %
Overall quality of youth programming	12	5.4 %
Overall quality received for costs for program registration	3	1.4 %
Quality of arena & equestrian facilities	21	9.5 %
Quality of City playgrounds	11	5.0 %
Quality of City sports courts (basketball, sand volleyball)	7	3.2 %
Quality of City sports fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	12	5.4 %
Quality of City swimming & aquatics facilities	11	5.0 %
Quality of skate park	2	0.9 %
Quality of wayfinding & signage offered	3	1.4 %
None chosen	15	6.8 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q5. Which THREE of the items in Question 4 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT for the City of Dripping Springs to emphasize over the next 10 years?

Q5. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Ease of registering for programs	2	0.9 %
Maintenance of City parks	32	14.4 %
Maintenance of City trails	32	14.4 %
Number of restrooms available	13	5.9 %
Overall feeling of safety in parks & on trails	9	4.1 %
Overall quality of adult & senior programming	12	5.4 %
Overall quality of natural area restoration & upkeep (native hill-country landscape)	12	5.4 %
Overall quality of special events	13	5.9 %
Overall quality of youth programming	10	4.5 %
Overall quality received for costs for program registration	4	1.8 %
Quality of arena & equestrian facilities	4	1.8 %
Quality of City playgrounds	13	5.9 %
Quality of City sports courts (basketball, sand volleyball)	11	5.0 %
Quality of City sports fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	17	7.7 %
Quality of City swimming & aquatics facilities	6	2.7 %
Quality of event rooms at Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center	6	2.7 %
Quality of wayfinding & signage offered	6	2.7 %
None chosen	20	9.0 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q5. Which THREE of the items in Question 4 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT for the City of Dripping Springs to emphasize over the next 10 years?

Q5. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Ease of registering for programs	5	2.3 %
Maintenance of City parks	21	9.5 %
Maintenance of City trails	22	9.9 %
Number of restrooms available	17	7.7 %
Overall feeling of safety in parks & on trails	12	5.4 %
Overall quality of adult & senior programming	8	3.6 %
Overall quality of natural area restoration & upkeep (native hill-country landscape)	18	8.1 %
Overall quality of special events	14	6.3 %
Overall quality of youth programming	10	4.5 %
Overall quality received for costs for program registration	5	2.3 %
Quality of arena & equestrian facilities	1	0.5 %
Quality of City playgrounds	17	7.7 %
Quality of City sports courts (basketball, sand volleyball)	7	3.2 %
Quality of City sports fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	15	6.8 %
Quality of City swimming & aquatics facilities	10	4.5 %
Quality of event rooms at Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center	8	3.6 %
Quality of skate park	2	0.9 %
Quality of wayfinding & signage offered	2	0.9 %
None chosen	28	12.6 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q5. Which THREE of the items in Question 4 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT for the City of Dripping Springs to emphasize over the next 10 years? (top 3)

Q5. Top choice	Number	Percent
Ease of registering for programs	11	5.0 %
Maintenance of City parks	86	38.7 %
Maintenance of City trails	73	32.9 %
Number of restrooms available	41	18.5 %
Overall feeling of safety in parks & on trails	30	13.5 %
Overall quality of adult & senior programming	28	12.6 %
Overall quality of natural area restoration & upkeep (native hill-country landscape)	60	27.0 %
Overall quality of special events	38	17.1 %
Overall quality of youth programming	32	14.4 %
Overall quality received for costs for program registration	12	5.4 %
Quality of arena & equestrian facilities	26	11.7 %
Quality of City playgrounds	41	18.5 %
Quality of City sports courts (basketball, sand volleyball)	25	11.3 %
Quality of City sports fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	44	19.8 %
Quality of City swimming & aquatics facilities	27	12.2 %
Quality of event rooms at Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center	14	6.3 %
Quality of skate park	4	1.8 %
Quality of wayfinding & signage offered	11	5.0 %
None chosen	15	6.8 %
Total	618	

Q6. A variety of recreation facilities and amenities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each facility or amenity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all.

(N=222)

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met	No need
Q6-1. Baseball/softball fields	8.1%	11.3%	8.1%	6.8%	65.8%
Q6-2. Basketball courts	5.0%	9.9%	14.0%	8.6%	62.6%
Q6-3. BBQ grills/benches/picnic tables	4.1%	15.8%	19.4%	14.4%	46.4%
Q6-4. Disc golf/frisbee golf	1.8%	4.5%	3.6%	21.2%	68.9%
Q6-5. Dog parks	3.2%	5.9%	5.9%	32.0%	53.2%
Q6-6. Equestrian/livestock facilities	7.2%	10.8%	7.7%	3.6%	70.7%
Q6-7. Event space (rooms to rent)	5.0%	14.0%	15.3%	9.5%	56.3%
Q6-8. Exercise stations in parks and/or along trails	1.8%	11.3%	10.8%	31.1%	45.0%
Q6-9. Football fields	8.6%	8.6%	7.7%	6.8%	68.5%
Q6-10. Indoor community center (indoor sports & fitness, indoor walking track, meeting rooms, indoor playground, childcare, senior programs, gym for volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	1.4%	5.9%	11.3%	55.9%	25.7%
Q6-11. Inclusive access & amenities (wide smooth sidewalks & trails, wheelchair-friendly swings, etc.)	4.5%	9.9%	18.9%	22.5%	44.1%
Q6-12. Lighting	7.7%	21.6%	19.8%	17.1%	33.8%
Q6-13. Mountain bike trails	3.2%	10.8%	14.0%	16.2%	55.9%
Q6-14. Nature & wildlife viewing	10.4%	23.0%	28.4%	13.1%	25.2%
Q6-15. Restrooms	7.7%	20.3%	31.1%	23.4%	17.6%
Q6-16. Outdoor activities (ping pong, bean bag toss, horseshoes, etc.)	0.0%	5.9%	7.2%	35.6%	51.4%
Q6-17. Outdoor amphitheater	0.5%	2.7%	5.4%	41.9%	49.5%

Q6. A variety of recreation facilities and amenities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each facility or amenity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all.

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met	No need
Q6-18. Picnic shelters/pavilions	3.2%	13.1%	27.0%	23.9%	32.9%
Q6-19. Playgrounds	4.1%	23.4%	28.4%	14.0%	30.2%
Q6-20. Public art	2.7%	9.5%	20.3%	23.9%	43.7%
Q6-21. Shade	2.7%	19.4%	36.9%	22.5%	18.5%
Q6-22. Signage (educational, wayfinding, mile markers, etc.)	5.0%	30.6%	23.4%	14.0%	27.0%
Q6-23. Skate parks	19.4%	12.2%	5.0%	1.8%	61.7%
Q6-24. Soccer fields/multipurpose fields	9.0%	14.0%	15.3%	13.1%	48.6%
Q6-25. Splash pads	0.0%	4.5%	7.2%	41.9%	46.4%
Q6-26. Swimming pools	5.0%	16.7%	23.4%	16.7%	38.3%
Q6-27. Tennis and/or pickleball courts	1.4%	3.6%	6.8%	44.1%	44.1%
Q6-28. Trails	7.2%	23.4%	36.0%	18.0%	15.3%
Q6-29. Volleyball courts	1.8%	5.9%	10.8%	13.1%	68.5%

(WITHOUT "NO NEED")

Q6. A variety of recreation facilities and amenities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each facility or amenity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. (without "no need")

(N=222)

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met
Q6-1. Baseball/softball fields	23.7%	32.9%	23.7%	19.7%
Q6-2. Basketball courts	13.3%	26.5%	37.3%	22.9%
Q6-3. BBQ grills/benches/picnic tables	7.6%	29.4%	36.1%	26.9%
Q6-4. Disc golf/frisbee golf	5.8%	14.5%	11.6%	68.1%
Q6-5. Dog parks	6.7%	12.5%	12.5%	68.3%
Q6-6. Equestrian/livestock facilities	24.6%	36.9%	26.2%	12.3%
Q6-7. Event space (rooms to rent)	11.3%	32.0%	35.1%	21.6%
Q6-8. Exercise stations in parks and/or along trails	3.3%	20.5%	19.7%	56.6%
Q6-9. Football fields	27.1%	27.1%	24.3%	21.4%
Q6-10. Indoor community center (indoor sports & fitness, indoor walking track, meeting rooms, indoor playground, childcare, senior programs, gym for volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	1.8%	7.9%	15.2%	75.2%
Q6-11. Inclusive access & amenities (wide smooth sidewalks & trails, wheelchair-friendly swings, etc.)	8.1%	17.7%	33.9%	40.3%
Q6-12. Lighting	11.6%	32.7%	29.9%	25.9%
Q6-13. Mountain bike trails	7.1%	24.5%	31.6%	36.7%
Q6-14. Nature & wildlife viewing	13.9%	30.7%	38.0%	17.5%
Q6-15. Restrooms	9.3%	24.6%	37.7%	28.4%
Q6-16. Outdoor activities (ping pong, bean bag toss, horseshoes, etc.)	0.0%	12.0%	14.8%	73.1%
Q6-17. Outdoor amphitheater	0.9%	5.4%	10.7%	83.0%

(WITHOUT "NO NEED")

Q6. A variety of recreation facilities and amenities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each facility or amenity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. (without "no need")

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met
Q6-18. Picnic shelters/pavilions	4.7%	19.5%	40.3%	35.6%
Q6-19. Playgrounds	5.8%	33.5%	40.6%	20.0%
Q6-20. Public art	4.8%	16.8%	36.0%	42.4%
Q6-21. Shade	3.3%	23.8%	45.3%	27.6%
Q6-22. Signage (educational, wayfinding, mile markers, etc.)	6.8%	42.0%	32.1%	19.1%
Q6-23. Skate parks	50.6%	31.8%	12.9%	4.7%
Q6-24. Soccer fields/multipurpose fields	17.5%	27.2%	29.8%	25.4%
Q6-25. Splash pads	0.0%	8.4%	13.4%	78.2%
Q6-26. Swimming pools	8.0%	27.0%	38.0%	27.0%
Q6-27. Tennis and/or pickleball courts	2.4%	6.5%	12.1%	79.0%
Q6-28. Trails	8.5%	27.7%	42.6%	21.3%
Q6-29. Volleyball courts	5.7%	18.6%	34.3%	41.4%

Q7. Which FOUR of the facilities and amenities listed in Question 6 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q7. Top choice	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball fields	7	3.2 %
Basketball courts	2	0.9 %
BBQ grills/benches/picnic tables	3	1.4 %
Disc golf/frisbee golf	4	1.8 %
Dog parks	14	6.3 %
Equestrian/livestock facilities	24	10.8 %
Event space (rooms to rent)	4	1.8 %
Exercise stations in parks and/or along trails	4	1.8 %
Football fields	3	1.4 %
Indoor community center (indoor sports & fitness, indoor walking track, meeting rooms, indoor playground, childcare, senior programs, gym for volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	23	10.4 %
Inclusive access & amenities (wide smooth sidewalks & trails, wheelchair-friendly swings, etc.)	4	1.8 %
Mountain bike trails	9	4.1 %
Nature & wildlife viewing	20	9.0 %
Restrooms	4	1.8 %
Outdoor activities (ping pong, bean bag toss, horseshoes, etc.)	1	0.5 %
Outdoor amphitheater	1	0.5 %
Playgrounds	8	3.6 %
Shade	2	0.9 %
Skate parks	1	0.5 %
Soccer fields/multipurpose fields	15	6.8 %
Splash pads	5	2.3 %
Swimming pools	9	4.1 %
Tennis and/or pickleball courts	20	9.0 %
Trails	28	12.6 %
Volleyball courts	1	0.5 %
None chosen	6	2.7 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q7. Which FOUR of the facilities and amenities listed in Question 6 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q7. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball fields	6	2.7 %
Basketball courts	4	1.8 %
BBQ grills/benches/picnic tables	3	1.4 %
Disc golf/frisbee golf	5	2.3 %
Dog parks	7	3.2 %
Equestrian/livestock facilities	1	0.5 %
Event space (rooms to rent)	5	2.3 %
Exercise stations in parks and/or along trails	5	2.3 %
Football fields	1	0.5 %
Indoor community center (indoor sports & fitness, indoor walking track, meeting rooms, indoor playground, childcare, senior programs, gym for volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	31	14.0 %
Inclusive access & amenities (wide smooth sidewalks & trails, wheelchair-friendly swings, etc.)	7	3.2 %
Lighting	3	1.4 %
Mountain bike trails	7	3.2 %
Nature & wildlife viewing	14	6.3 %
Restrooms	16	7.2 %
Outdoor activities (ping pong, bean bag toss, horseshoes, etc.)	3	1.4 %
Outdoor amphitheater	2	0.9 %
Picnic shelters/pavilions	4	1.8 %
Playgrounds	8	3.6 %
Public art	3	1.4 %
Shade	5	2.3 %
Signage (educational, wayfinding, mile markers, etc.)	1	0.5 %
Skate parks	1	0.5 %
Soccer fields/multipurpose fields	8	3.6 %
Splash pads	12	5.4 %
Swimming pools	10	4.5 %
Tennis and/or pickleball courts	11	5.0 %
Trails	24	10.8 %
Volleyball courts	2	0.9 %
None chosen	13	5.9 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q7. Which FOUR of the facilities and amenities listed in Question 6 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q7. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball fields	5	2.3 %
Basketball courts	7	3.2 %
BBQ grills/benches/picnic tables	4	1.8 %
Disc golf/frisbee golf	3	1.4 %
Dog parks	11	5.0 %
Equestrian/livestock facilities	1	0.5 %
Event space (rooms to rent)	2	0.9 %
Exercise stations in parks and/or along trails	10	4.5 %
Football fields	3	1.4 %
Indoor community center (indoor sports & fitness, indoor walking track, meeting rooms, indoor playground, childcare, senior programs, gym for volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	21	9.5 %
Inclusive access & amenities (wide smooth sidewalks & trails, wheelchair-friendly swings, etc.)	5	2.3 %
Lighting	10	4.5 %
Mountain bike trails	4	1.8 %
Nature & wildlife viewing	12	5.4 %
Restrooms	14	6.3 %
Outdoor activities (ping pong, bean bag toss, horseshoes, etc.)	4	1.8 %
Outdoor amphitheater	8	3.6 %
Picnic shelters/pavilions	3	1.4 %
Playgrounds	12	5.4 %
Public art	5	2.3 %
Shade	12	5.4 %
Signage (educational, wayfinding, mile markers, etc.)	4	1.8 %
Soccer fields/multipurpose fields	7	3.2 %
Splash pads	5	2.3 %
Swimming pools	6	2.7 %
Tennis and/or pickleball courts	7	3.2 %
Trails	19	8.6 %
Volleyball courts	1	0.5 %
None chosen	17	7.7 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q7. Which FOUR of the facilities and amenities listed in Question 6 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q7. 4th choice	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball fields	3	1.4 %
Basketball courts	4	1.8 %
BBQ grills/benches/picnic tables	5	2.3 %
Disc golf/frisbee golf	1	0.5 %
Dog parks	8	3.6 %
Event space (rooms to rent)	4	1.8 %
Exercise stations in parks and/or along trails	6	2.7 %
Football fields	2	0.9 %
Indoor community center (indoor sports & fitness, indoor walking track, meeting rooms, indoor playground, childcare, senior programs, gym for volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	9	4.1 %
Inclusive access & amenities (wide smooth sidewalks & trails, wheelchair-friendly swings, etc.)	9	4.1 %
Lighting	2	0.9 %
Mountain bike trails	10	4.5 %
Nature & wildlife viewing	11	5.0 %
Restrooms	17	7.7 %
Outdoor activities (ping pong, bean bag toss, horseshoes, etc.)	3	1.4 %
Outdoor amphitheater	12	5.4 %
Picnic shelters/pavilions	7	3.2 %
Playgrounds	13	5.9 %
Public art	3	1.4 %
Shade	13	5.9 %
Signage (educational, wayfinding, mile markers, etc.)	4	1.8 %
Skate parks	1	0.5 %
Soccer fields/multipurpose fields	4	1.8 %
Splash pads	13	5.9 %
Swimming pools	6	2.7 %
Tennis and/or pickleball courts	7	3.2 %
Trails	14	6.3 %
Volleyball courts	3	1.4 %
None chosen	28	12.6 %
Total	222	100.0 %

(SUM OF TOP 4 CHOICES)

Q7. Which FOUR of the facilities and amenities listed in Question 6 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? (top 4)

Q7. Top choice	Number	Percent
Baseball/softball fields	21	9.5 %
Basketball courts	17	7.7 %
BBQ grills/benches/picnic tables	15	6.8 %
Disc golf/frisbee golf	13	5.9 %
Dog parks	40	18.0 %
Equestrian/livestock facilities	26	11.7 %
Event space (rooms to rent)	15	6.8 %
Exercise stations in parks and/or along trails	25	11.3 %
Football fields	9	4.1 %
Indoor community center (indoor sports & fitness, indoor walking track, meeting rooms, indoor playground, childcare, senior programs, gym for volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	84	37.8 %
Inclusive access & amenities (wide smooth sidewalks & trails, wheelchair-friendly swings, etc.)	25	11.3 %
Lighting	15	6.8 %
Mountain bike trails	30	13.5 %
Nature & wildlife viewing	57	25.7 %
Restrooms	51	23.0 %
Outdoor activities (ping pong, bean bag toss, horseshoes, etc.)	11	5.0 %
Outdoor amphitheater	23	10.4 %
Picnic shelters/pavilions	14	6.3 %
Playgrounds	41	18.5 %
Public art	11	5.0 %
Shade	32	14.4 %
Signage (educational, wayfinding, mile markers, etc.)	9	4.1 %
Skate parks	3	1.4 %
Soccer fields/multipurpose fields	34	15.3 %
Splash pads	35	15.8 %
Swimming pools	31	14.0 %
Tennis and/or pickleball courts	45	20.3 %
Trails	85	38.3 %
Volleyball courts	7	3.2 %
None chosen	6	2.7 %
Total	830	

Q8. How do you currently learn about recreation facilities, programs, and services that are offered by the City of Dripping Springs?

Q8. How do you currently learn about recreation facilities, programs, & services	Number	Percent
Newspaper	33	14.9 %
City website	37	16.7 %
Email blasts/newsletters	53	23.9 %
Program fliers/registration forms	43	19.4 %
From friends & neighbors	107	48.2 %
Social media (Facebook, X/Twitter, etc.)	121	54.5 %
Schools	36	16.2 %
Recreation brochure/program guide	42	18.9 %
Conversations with City staff	9	4.1 %
Television	3	1.4 %
Neighborhood/civic newsletters	26	11.7 %
Recreation center bulletin boards	12	5.4 %
Banners	35	15.8 %
Other	1	0.5 %
Total	558	

Q8-14. Other:

Q8-14. Other	Number	Percent
Banners	1	100.0 %
Total	1	100.0 %

Q9. Which TWO of the sources of information listed in Question 8 do you MOST PREFER to use to get information?

Q9. Top choice	Number	Percent
Newspaper	11	5.0 %
City website	24	10.8 %
Email blasts/newsletters	59	26.6 %
Program fliers/registration forms	7	3.2 %
From friends & neighbors	5	2.3 %
Social media (Facebook, X/Twitter, etc.)	73	32.9 %
Schools	8	3.6 %
Recreation brochure/program guide	13	5.9 %
Neighborhood/civic newsletters	4	1.8 %
Recreation center bulletin boards	1	0.5 %
Banners	7	3.2 %
None chosen	10	4.5 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q9. Which TWO of the sources of information listed in Question 8 do you MOST PREFER to use to get information?

Q9. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Newspaper	8	3.6 %
City website	24	10.8 %
Email blasts/newsletters	34	15.3 %
Program fliers/registration forms	10	4.5 %
From friends & neighbors	23	10.4 %
Social media (Facebook, X/Twitter, etc.)	41	18.5 %
Schools	8	3.6 %
Recreation brochure/program guide	22	9.9 %
Conversations with City staff	1	0.5 %
Television	1	0.5 %
Neighborhood/civic newsletters	13	5.9 %
Recreation center bulletin boards	1	0.5 %
Banners	10	4.5 %
None chosen	26	11.7 %
Total	222	100.0 %

(SUM OF TOP 2 CHOICES)

Q9. Which TWO of the sources of information listed in Question 8 do you MOST PREFER to use to get information? (top 2)

Q9. Top choice	Number	Percent
Newspaper	19	8.6 %
City website	48	21.6 %
Email blasts/newsletters	93	41.9 %
Program fliers/registration forms	17	7.7 %
From friends & neighbors	28	12.6 %
Social media (Facebook, X/Twitter, etc.)	114	51.4 %
Schools	16	7.2 %
Recreation brochure/program guide	35	15.8 %
Conversations with City staff	1	0.5 %
Television	1	0.5 %
Neighborhood/civic newsletters	17	7.7 %
Recreation center bulletin boards	2	0.9 %
Banners	17	7.7 %
None chosen	10	4.5 %
Total	418	

Q10. A variety of recreation programs and activities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each program or activity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all.

(N=222)

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met	No need
Q10-1. Adult art/dance/performing arts	1.4%	2.3%	9.0%	31.1%	56.3%
Q10-2. Athletic programs	4.5%	14.9%	19.4%	18.5%	42.8%
Q10-3. Athletic special events (i.e., cross-country or running races)	1.8%	5.9%	14.4%	20.3%	57.7%
Q10-4. Before or after school programs	0.9%	5.0%	10.4%	13.1%	70.7%
Q10-5. City sponsored special events or performances	4.1%	18.0%	30.6%	18.9%	28.4%
Q10-6. Continuing education programs	1.8%	5.0%	16.7%	23.9%	52.7%
Q10-7. Equestrian/livestock programs	6.3%	7.7%	11.3%	6.3%	68.5%
Q10-8. Extreme sports	0.9%	2.3%	2.7%	14.0%	80.2%
Q10-9. Farmers market	18.5%	28.8%	27.0%	5.9%	19.8%
Q10-10. Fitness & wellness programs	2.7%	6.3%	26.6%	25.7%	38.7%
Q10-11. Geocaching	2.3%	1.8%	8.6%	9.9%	77.5%
Q10-12. Gymnastics programs	2.3%	1.8%	5.0%	15.8%	75.2%
Q10-13. Learn to swim programs	4.1%	8.1%	8.1%	13.5%	66.2%
Q10-14. Nature programs/environmental education	3.6%	9.0%	23.9%	24.8%	38.7%
Q10-15. Outdoor adventure programs (rock climbing/hikes/paddling & kayaking, etc.)	1.4%	3.6%	13.1%	41.0%	41.0%
Q10-16. Outdoor public art	3.6%	6.3%	16.7%	28.4%	45.0%
Q10-17. Preschool programs	2.7%	2.7%	3.6%	17.1%	73.9%
Q10-18. Programs for people with disabilities or special needs	0.9%	1.8%	4.1%	12.2%	81.1%

Q10. A variety of recreation programs and activities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each program or activity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all.

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met	No need
Q10-19. Programs for teens	0.9%	5.0%	12.2%	18.5%	63.5%
Q10-20. Senior programs	1.8%	5.0%	5.9%	22.1%	65.3%
Q10-21. Skateboard programs	5.4%	4.5%	5.0%	3.2%	82.0%
Q10-22. Sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)	6.8%	13.5%	18.9%	12.6%	48.2%
Q10-23. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)	1.4%	3.6%	12.6%	23.0%	59.5%
Q10-24. Tennis/pickleball lessons & leagues	1.4%	1.4%	8.1%	36.0%	53.2%
Q10-25. Water fitness programs	2.3%	2.7%	8.6%	19.8%	66.7%
Q10-26. Youth art/dance/performing arts	1.4%	5.4%	8.1%	18.0%	67.1%

(WITHOUT "NO NEED")

Q10. A variety of recreation programs and activities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each program or activity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. (without "no need")

(N=222)

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met
Q10-1. Adult art/dance/performing arts	3.1%	5.2%	20.6%	71.1%
Q10-2. Athletic programs	7.9%	26.0%	33.9%	32.3%
Q10-3. Athletic special events (i.e., cross-country or running races)	4.3%	13.8%	34.0%	47.9%
Q10-4. Before or after school programs	3.1%	16.9%	35.4%	44.6%
Q10-5. City sponsored special events or performances	5.7%	25.2%	42.8%	26.4%
Q10-6. Continuing education programs	3.8%	10.5%	35.2%	50.5%
Q10-7. Equestrian/livestock programs	20.0%	24.3%	35.7%	20.0%
Q10-8. Extreme sports	4.5%	11.4%	13.6%	70.5%
Q10-9. Farmers market	23.0%	36.0%	33.7%	7.3%
Q10-10. Fitness & wellness programs	4.4%	10.3%	43.4%	41.9%
Q10-11. Geocaching	10.0%	8.0%	38.0%	44.0%
Q10-12. Gymnastics programs	9.1%	7.3%	20.0%	63.6%
Q10-13. Learn to swim programs	12.0%	24.0%	24.0%	40.0%
Q10-14. Nature programs/environmental education	5.9%	14.7%	39.0%	40.4%
Q10-15. Outdoor adventure programs (rock climbing/hikes/paddling & kayaking, etc.)	2.3%	6.1%	22.1%	69.5%
Q10-16. Outdoor public art	6.6%	11.5%	30.3%	51.6%
Q10-17. Preschool programs	10.3%	10.3%	13.8%	65.5%
Q10-18. Programs for people with disabilities or special needs	4.8%	9.5%	21.4%	64.3%

(WITHOUT "NO NEED")

Q10. A variety of recreation programs and activities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each program or activity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. (without "no need")

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met
Q10-19. Programs for teens	2.5%	13.6%	33.3%	50.6%
Q10-20. Senior programs	5.2%	14.3%	16.9%	63.6%
Q10-21. Skateboard programs	30.0%	25.0%	27.5%	17.5%
Q10-22. Sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)	13.0%	26.1%	36.5%	24.3%
Q10-23. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)	3.3%	8.9%	31.1%	56.7%
Q10-24. Tennis/pickleball lessons & leagues	2.9%	2.9%	17.3%	76.9%
Q10-25. Water fitness programs	6.8%	8.1%	25.7%	59.5%
Q10-26. Youth art/dance/performing arts	4.1%	16.4%	24.7%	54.8%

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs or activities listed in Question 10 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q11. Top choice	Number	Percent
Adult art/dance/performing arts	7	3.2 %
Athletic programs	23	10.4 %
Athletic special events (i.e., cross-country or running races)	3	1.4 %
Before or after school programs	8	3.6 %
City sponsored special events or performances	15	6.8 %
Continuing education programs	2	0.9 %
Equestrian/livestock programs	22	9.9 %
Extreme sports	2	0.9 %
Farmers market	22	9.9 %
Fitness & wellness programs	9	4.1 %
Geocaching	1	0.5 %
Learn to swim programs	1	0.5 %
Nature programs/environmental education	16	7.2 %
Outdoor adventure programs (rock climbing/hikes/ paddling & kayaking, etc.)	10	4.5 %
Outdoor public art	4	1.8 %
Preschool programs	8	3.6 %
Programs for people with disabilities or special needs	1	0.5 %
Programs for teens	4	1.8 %
Senior programs	4	1.8 %
Skateboard programs	1	0.5 %
Sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)	16	7.2 %
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)	2	0.9 %
Tennis/pickleball lessons & leagues	22	9.9 %
Water fitness programs	2	0.9 %
Youth art/dance/performing arts	4	1.8 %
None chosen	13	5.9 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs or activities listed in Question 10 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q11. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Adult art/dance/performing arts	6	2.7 %
Athletic programs	10	4.5 %
Athletic special events (i.e., cross-country or running races)	4	1.8 %
Before or after school programs	9	4.1 %
City sponsored special events or performances	17	7.7 %
Continuing education programs	5	2.3 %
Equestrian/livestock programs	6	2.7 %
Farmers market	25	11.3 %
Fitness & wellness programs	19	8.6 %
Geocaching	1	0.5 %
Gymnastics programs	2	0.9 %
Learn to swim programs	5	2.3 %
Nature programs/environmental education	13	5.9 %
Outdoor adventure programs (rock climbing/hikes/ paddling & kayaking, etc.)	21	9.5 %
Outdoor public art	4	1.8 %
Preschool programs	1	0.5 %
Programs for people with disabilities or special needs	3	1.4 %
Programs for teens	4	1.8 %
Senior programs	9	4.1 %
Skateboard programs	1	0.5 %
Sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)	9	4.1 %
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)	4	1.8 %
Tennis/pickleball lessons & leagues	14	6.3 %
Water fitness programs	3	1.4 %
Youth art/dance/performing arts	3	1.4 %
None chosen	24	10.8 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs or activities listed in Question 10 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q11. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Adult art/dance/performing arts	6	2.7 %
Athletic programs	7	3.2 %
Athletic special events (i.e., cross-country or running races)	7	3.2 %
Before or after school programs	4	1.8 %
City sponsored special events or performances	16	7.2 %
Continuing education programs	6	2.7 %
Equestrian/livestock programs	5	2.3 %
Extreme sports	3	1.4 %
Farmers market	18	8.1 %
Fitness & wellness programs	18	8.1 %
Geocaching	3	1.4 %
Learn to swim programs	4	1.8 %
Nature programs/environmental education	19	8.6 %
Outdoor adventure programs (rock climbing/hikes/ paddling & kayaking, etc.)	13	5.9 %
Outdoor public art	10	4.5 %
Preschool programs	3	1.4 %
Programs for people with disabilities or special needs	1	0.5 %
Programs for teens	9	4.1 %
Senior programs	7	3.2 %
Sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)	8	3.6 %
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)	7	3.2 %
Tennis/pickleball lessons & leagues	7	3.2 %
Water fitness programs	4	1.8 %
Youth art/dance/performing arts	2	0.9 %
None chosen	35	15.8 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs or activities listed in Question 10 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q11. 4th choice	Number	Percent
Adult art/dance/performing arts	9	4.1 %
Athletic programs	7	3.2 %
Athletic special events (i.e., cross-country or running races)	3	1.4 %
Before or after school programs	8	3.6 %
City sponsored special events or performances	14	6.3 %
Continuing education programs	4	1.8 %
Equestrian/livestock programs	3	1.4 %
Extreme sports	1	0.5 %
Farmers market	16	7.2 %
Fitness & wellness programs	9	4.1 %
Geocaching	2	0.9 %
Learn to swim programs	4	1.8 %
Nature programs/environmental education	14	6.3 %
Outdoor adventure programs (rock climbing/hikes/ paddling & kayaking, etc.)	15	6.8 %
Outdoor public art	9	4.1 %
Preschool programs	4	1.8 %
Programs for people with disabilities or special needs	1	0.5 %
Programs for teens	10	4.5 %
Senior programs	7	3.2 %
Skateboard programs	1	0.5 %
Sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)	9	4.1 %
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)	3	1.4 %
Tennis/pickleball lessons & leagues	8	3.6 %
Water fitness programs	2	0.9 %
Youth art/dance/performing arts	7	3.2 %
None chosen	52	23.4 %
Total	222	100.0 %

(SUM OF TOP 4 RESPONSES)

Q11. Which FOUR of the programs or activities listed in Question 10 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? (top 4)

Q11. Top choice	Number	Percent
Adult art/dance/performing arts	28	12.6 %
Athletic programs	47	21.2 %
Athletic special events (i.e., cross-country or running races)	17	7.7 %
Before or after school programs	29	13.1 %
City sponsored special events or performances	62	27.9 %
Continuing education programs	17	7.7 %
Equestrian/livestock programs	36	16.2 %
Extreme sports	6	2.7 %
Farmers market	81	36.5 %
Fitness & wellness programs	55	24.8 %
Geocaching	7	3.2 %
Gymnastics programs	2	0.9 %
Learn to swim programs	14	6.3 %
Nature programs/environmental education	62	27.9 %
Outdoor adventure programs (rock climbing/hikes/ paddling & kayaking, etc.)	59	26.6 %
Outdoor public art	27	12.2 %
Preschool programs	16	7.2 %
Programs for people with disabilities or special needs	6	2.7 %
Programs for teens	27	12.2 %
Senior programs	27	12.2 %
Skateboard programs	3	1.4 %
Sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)	42	18.9 %
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)	16	7.2 %
Tennis/pickleball lessons & leagues	51	23.0 %
Water fitness programs	11	5.0 %
Youth art/dance/performing arts	16	7.2 %
None chosen	13	5.9 %
Total	777	

Q12. A variety of trail features are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each facility or amenity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all.

(N=222)

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met	No need
Q12-1. Benches & other seating areas	7.7%	25.2%	32.4%	15.3%	19.4%
Q12-2. Bike lanes or paths on trails	5.4%	14.0%	25.2%	26.1%	29.3%
Q12-3. Equestrian trails	3.2%	7.2%	7.7%	10.8%	71.2%
Q12-4. Fitness stations	0.9%	6.8%	13.1%	30.6%	48.6%
Q12-5. Internal park loop trails	5.9%	11.7%	30.6%	23.0%	28.8%
Q12-6. Lighting & security amenities	5.9%	19.4%	25.2%	20.3%	29.3%
Q12-7. Linear trails connecting destinations throughout Dripping Springs	0.9%	5.4%	16.2%	53.6%	23.9%
Q12-8. Mountain bike trails	3.2%	7.7%	16.2%	18.0%	55.0%
Q12-9. Nature trails	5.0%	17.6%	37.8%	21.2%	18.5%
Q12-10. Neighborhood access to trails	5.0%	11.7%	22.5%	31.1%	29.7%
Q12-11. Restrooms	6.8%	14.4%	34.2%	27.0%	17.6%
Q12-12. Shade	2.3%	21.6%	36.9%	19.8%	19.4%
Q12-13. Trailheads with parking	7.7%	16.2%	32.9%	23.0%	20.3%
Q12-14. Water stations	2.3%	5.0%	23.0%	41.0%	28.8%
Q12-15. Wayfinding signage	4.5%	21.6%	26.6%	18.5%	28.8%

(WITHOUT "NO NEED")

Q12. A variety of trail features are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each facility or amenity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. (without "no need")

(N=222)

	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met
Q12-1. Benches & other seating areas	9.5%	31.3%	40.2%	19.0%
Q12-2. Bike lanes or paths on trails	7.6%	19.7%	35.7%	36.9%
Q12-3. Equestrian trails	10.9%	25.0%	26.6%	37.5%
Q12-4. Fitness stations	1.8%	13.2%	25.4%	59.6%
Q12-5. Internal park loop trails	8.2%	16.5%	43.0%	32.3%
Q12-6. Lighting & security amenities	8.3%	27.4%	35.7%	28.7%
Q12-7. Linear trails connecting destinations throughout Dripping Springs	1.2%	7.1%	21.3%	70.4%
Q12-8. Mountain bike trails	7.0%	17.0%	36.0%	40.0%
Q12-9. Nature trails	6.1%	21.5%	46.4%	26.0%
Q12-10. Neighborhood access to trails	7.1%	16.7%	32.1%	44.2%
Q12-11. Restrooms	8.2%	17.5%	41.5%	32.8%
Q12-12. Shade	2.8%	26.8%	45.8%	24.6%
Q12-13. Trailheads with parking	9.6%	20.3%	41.2%	28.8%
Q12-14. Water stations	3.2%	7.0%	32.3%	57.6%
Q12-15. Wayfinding signage	6.3%	30.4%	37.3%	25.9%

Q13. Which THREE of the trail items listed in Question 12 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q13. Top choice	Number	Percent
Benches & other seating areas	10	4.5 %
Bike lanes or paths on trails	13	5.9 %
Equestrian trails	20	9.0 %
Fitness stations	3	1.4 %
Internal park loop trails	7	3.2 %
Lighting & security amenities	14	6.3 %
Linear trails connecting destinations throughout Dripping Springs	32	14.4 %
Mountain bike trails	11	5.0 %
Nature trails	37	16.7 %
Neighborhood access to trails	8	3.6 %
Restrooms	14	6.3 %
Shade	9	4.1 %
Trailheads with parking	7	3.2 %
Water stations	11	5.0 %
Wayfinding signage	6	2.7 %
None chosen	20	9.0 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q13. Which THREE of the trail items listed in Question 12 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q13. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Benches & other seating areas	13	5.9 %
Bike lanes or paths on trails	6	2.7 %
Equestrian trails	2	0.9 %
Fitness stations	7	3.2 %
Internal park loop trails	15	6.8 %
Lighting & security amenities	8	3.6 %
Linear trails connecting destinations throughout Dripping Springs	24	10.8 %
Mountain bike trails	8	3.6 %
Nature trails	30	13.5 %
Neighborhood access to trails	14	6.3 %
Restrooms	21	9.5 %
Shade	25	11.3 %
Trailheads with parking	10	4.5 %
Water stations	7	3.2 %
Wayfinding signage	5	2.3 %
None chosen	27	12.2 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q13. Which THREE of the trail items listed in Question 12 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

Q13. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Benches & other seating areas	12	5.4 %
Bike lanes or paths on trails	5	2.3 %
Equestrian trails	3	1.4 %
Fitness stations	5	2.3 %
Internal park loop trails	12	5.4 %
Lighting & security amenities	5	2.3 %
Linear trails connecting destinations throughout Dripping Springs	21	9.5 %
Mountain bike trails	6	2.7 %
Nature trails	20	9.0 %
Neighborhood access to trails	16	7.2 %
Restrooms	30	13.5 %
Shade	15	6.8 %
Trailheads with parking	14	6.3 %
Water stations	15	6.8 %
Wayfinding signage	9	4.1 %
None chosen	34	15.3 %
Total	222	100.0 %

(SUM OF TOP 3 RESPONSES)

Q13. Which THREE of the trail items listed in Question 12 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? (top 3)

Q13. Top choice	Number	Percent
Benches & other seating areas	35	15.8 %
Bike lanes or paths on trails	24	10.8 %
Equestrian trails	25	11.3 %
Fitness stations	15	6.8 %
Internal park loop trails	34	15.3 %
Lighting & security amenities	27	12.2 %
Linear trails connecting destinations throughout Dripping Springs	77	34.7 %
Mountain bike trails	25	11.3 %
Nature trails	87	39.2 %
Neighborhood access to trails	38	17.1 %
Restrooms	65	29.3 %
Shade	49	22.1 %
Trailheads with parking	31	14.0 %
Water stations	33	14.9 %
Wayfinding signage	20	9.0 %
None chosen	20	9.0 %
Total	605	

Q14. Please rate your satisfaction using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," with the overall value your household receives from the City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Department.

Q14. Your satisfaction with overall value your household receives from City Parks & Recreation Department

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	23	10.4 %
Somewhat satisfied	90	40.5 %
Neutral	42	18.9 %
Somewhat dissatisfied	29	13.1 %
Very dissatisfied	19	8.6 %
Don't know	19	8.6 %
Total	222	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")

Q14. Please rate your satisfaction using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," with the overall value your household receives from the City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Department. (without "don't know")

Q14. Your satisfaction with overall value your household receives from City Parks & Recreation Department

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	23	11.3 %
Somewhat satisfied	90	44.3 %
Neutral	42	20.7 %
Somewhat dissatisfied	29	14.3 %
Very dissatisfied	19	9.4 %
Total	203	100.0 %

Q15. The following is a list of actions the City of Dripping Springs could take to improve its parks and recreation system. Please indicate your support for each potential action.

(N=222)

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not sure	Not supportive
Q15-1. Acquire more land for preservation & conservation of natural areas-(preserve & conserve more natural areas)	67.1%	17.1%	14.0%	1.8%
Q15-2. Build new parks or facilities throughout town	65.3%	18.5%	14.0%	2.3%
Q15-3. Expand educational programming including nature education programs	43.7%	30.6%	21.2%	4.5%
Q15-4. Expand recreational programming	44.1%	31.5%	22.5%	1.8%
Q15-5. Expand citywide trail system	66.7%	16.2%	15.8%	1.4%
Q15-6. Maintain existing amenities in existing parks	73.9%	13.5%	11.7%	0.9%
Q15-7. Restore natural areas within existing parks & City-owned property	60.8%	20.3%	17.6%	1.4%
Q15-8. Update existing parks with new amenities	61.7%	22.5%	14.0%	1.8%

Q16. Which TWO improvements from the list in Question 15 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q16. Top choice	Number	Percent
Acquire more land for preservation & conservation of natural areas-(preserve & conserve more natural areas)	79	35.6 %
Build new parks or facilities throughout town	29	13.1 %
Expand educational programming including nature education programs	2	0.9 %
Expand recreational programming	8	3.6 %
Expand citywide trail system	23	10.4 %
Maintain existing amenities in existing parks	19	8.6 %
Restore natural areas within existing parks & City-owned property	6	2.7 %
Update existing parks with new amenities	40	18.0 %
None chosen	16	7.2 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q16. Which TWO improvements from the list in Question 15 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?

Q16. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Acquire more land for preservation & conservation of natural areas-(preserve & conserve more natural areas)	29	13.1 %
Build new parks or facilities throughout town	53	23.9 %
Expand educational programming including nature education programs	7	3.2 %
Expand recreational programming	9	4.1 %
Expand citywide trail system	36	16.2 %
Maintain existing amenities in existing parks	13	5.9 %
Restore natural areas within existing parks & City-owned property	20	9.0 %
Update existing parks with new amenities	33	14.9 %
None chosen	22	9.9 %
Total	222	100.0 %

(SUM OF TOP 2 CHOICES)

Q16. Which TWO improvements from the list in Question 15 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 2)

Q16. Top choice	Number	Percent
Acquire more land for preservation & conservation of natural areas-(preserve & conserve more natural areas)	108	48.6 %
Build new parks or facilities throughout town	82	36.9 %
Expand educational programming including nature education programs	9	4.1 %
Expand recreational programming	17	7.7 %
Expand citywide trail system	59	26.6 %
Maintain existing amenities in existing parks	32	14.4 %
Restore natural areas within existing parks & City-owned property	26	11.7 %
Update existing parks with new amenities	73	32.9 %
None chosen	16	7.2 %
Total	422	

Q17. How important do you feel it is for the City of Dripping Springs to provide high quality parks, recreation facilities and programs?

Q17. How important is it for City to provide high quality parks, recreation facilities & programs	Number	Percent
Very important	184	82.9 %
Somewhat important	28	12.6 %
Not important	1	0.5 %
Not sure	9	4.1 %
Total	222	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "NOT SURE")

Q17. How important do you feel it is for the City of Dripping Springs to provide high quality parks, recreation facilities and programs? (without "not sure")

Q17. How important is it for City to provide high quality parks, recreation facilities & programs	Number	Percent
Very important	184	86.4 %
Somewhat important	28	13.1 %
Not important	1	0.5 %
Total	213	100.0 %

Q18. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements concerning some potential benefits of the City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Department's parks, facilities, and recreation programs or events using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."

(N=222)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q18-1. Improves my (my household's) mental health & reduces stress	48.2%	30.2%	12.6%	1.4%	0.9%	6.8%
Q18-2. Improves my (my household's) physical health & fitness	50.0%	32.9%	9.5%	1.8%	0.9%	5.0%
Q18-3. Increases my (my household's) property value	36.9%	27.0%	20.7%	3.6%	2.3%	9.5%
Q18-4. Is age-friendly & accessible to all age groups	27.0%	36.5%	16.7%	6.8%	0.9%	12.2%
Q18-5. Makes Dripping Springs a more desirable place to live	49.1%	31.1%	6.8%	4.5%	0.9%	7.7%
Q18-6. Positively impacts economic/business development	43.2%	26.6%	11.7%	4.1%	1.8%	12.6%
Q18-7. Preserves open space & protects the environment	53.2%	26.6%	8.1%	1.8%	1.4%	9.0%
Q18-8. Provides jobs/ professional development for youth	25.2%	27.5%	21.2%	5.9%	1.4%	18.9%
Q18-9. Provides positive social interactions for me (my household/family)	41.0%	32.4%	15.8%	1.4%	0.9%	8.6%
Q18-10. Provides volunteer opportunities for the community	31.1%	29.3%	19.4%	1.8%	0.5%	18.0%

Q18. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements concerning some potential benefits of the City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Department's parks, facilities, and recreation programs or events using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q18-11. I'm willing to pay additional City taxes and/or consider a bond initiative to see quality of existing parks & recreational amenities upgraded	28.8%	29.7%	19.4%	7.7%	5.4%	9.0%
Q18-12. I'm willing to pay additional City taxes and/or consider a bond initiative to see new parks & recreational amenities developed	30.2%	29.7%	20.3%	6.3%	6.3%	7.2%

(WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")

Q18. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements concerning some potential benefits of the City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Department's parks, facilities, and recreation programs or events using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree." (without "don't know")

(N=222)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q18-1. Improves my (my household's) mental health & reduces stress	51.7%	32.4%	13.5%	1.4%	1.0%
Q18-2. Improves my (my household's) physical health & fitness	52.6%	34.6%	10.0%	1.9%	0.9%
Q18-3. Increases my (my household's) property value	40.8%	29.9%	22.9%	4.0%	2.5%
Q18-4. Is age-friendly & accessible to all age groups	30.8%	41.5%	19.0%	7.7%	1.0%
Q18-5. Makes Dripping Springs a more desirable place to live	53.2%	33.7%	7.3%	4.9%	1.0%
Q18-6. Positively impacts economic/business development	49.5%	30.4%	13.4%	4.6%	2.1%
Q18-7. Preserves open space & protects the environment	58.4%	29.2%	8.9%	2.0%	1.5%
Q18-8. Provides jobs/ professional development for youth	31.1%	33.9%	26.1%	7.2%	1.7%
Q18-9. Provides positive social interactions for me (my household/family)	44.8%	35.5%	17.2%	1.5%	1.0%
Q18-10. Provides volunteer opportunities for the community	37.9%	35.7%	23.6%	2.2%	0.5%

(WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")

Q18. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements concerning some potential benefits of the City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Department's parks, facilities, and recreation programs or events using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree." (without "don't know")

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q18-11. I'm willing to pay additional City taxes and/ or consider a bond initiative to see quality of existing parks & recreational amenities upgraded	31.7%	32.7%	21.3%	8.4%	5.9%
Q18-12. I'm willing to pay additional City taxes and/ or consider a bond initiative to see new parks & recreational amenities developed	32.5%	32.0%	21.8%	6.8%	6.8%

Q19. What is your age?

Q19. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	41	18.5 %
35-44	49	22.1 %
45-54	52	23.4 %
55-64	40	18.0 %
65+	40	18.0 %
Total	222	100.0 %

Q20. How many years have you lived in the Dripping Springs area?

Q20. How many years have you lived in Dripping Springs area	Number	Percent
0-5	91	41.0 %
6-10	52	23.4 %
11-15	29	13.1 %
16-20	13	5.9 %
21-30	18	8.1 %
31+	13	5.9 %
Not provided	6	2.7 %
Total	222	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")

Q20. How many years have you lived in the Dripping Springs area? (without "not provided")

Q20. How many years have you lived in Dripping Springs area	Number	Percent
0-5	91	42.1 %
6-10	52	24.1 %
11-15	29	13.4 %
16-20	13	6.0 %
21-30	18	8.3 %
31+	13	6.0 %
Total	216	100.0 %

Q21. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

Q21. Your race/ethnicity	Number	Percent
Asian or Asian Indian	18	8.1 %
Black or African American	3	1.4 %
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.5 %
White or Caucasian	180	81.1 %
Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x	23	10.4 %
Other	3	1.4 %
Total	228	

Q21-7. Self-describe your race/ethnicity:

Q21-7. Self-describe your race/ethnicity	Number	Percent
Mixed	1	33.3 %
More than one	1	33.3 %
Multiple races	1	33.3 %
Total	3	100.0 %

Q22. Do you or anybody in your family have a disability recognized by the American Disability Act (ADA)?

Q22. Do you or anybody in your family have a disability recognized by American Disability Act	Number	Percent
Yes	17	7.7 %
No	196	88.3 %
Not provided	9	4.1 %
Total	222	100.0 %

(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")

Q22. Do you or anybody in your family have a disability recognized by the American Disability Act (ADA)? (without "not provided")

Q22. Do you or anybody in your family have a disability recognized by American Disability Act	Number	Percent
Yes	17	8.0 %
No	196	92.0 %
Total	213	100.0 %

Q23. Are you currently a City of Dripping Springs employee or elected official?

Q23. Are you currently a City of Dripping Springs employee or elected official	Number	Percent
Yes	1	0.5 %
No	221	99.5 %
Total	222	100.0 %

7 Open-Ended Responses

Open-Ended Question Responses

Q2e—"Other": Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household do not visit parks or why you do not visit more often.

- Life is just too busy!
- Not enough equine activities. I would be there every week for exhibitions and competitions if they were available
- Not enough time with school events/sports.
- Our schedules
- Playscape areas and grounds are often plagued by ants.
- Trails are not maintained or walkable to neighborhoods.
- Walkability to/from the park
- We don't like sharing trails with dogs (especially when owners let them off-leash, even if they aren't supposed to), bikes, or horses.
- We hike and cycle. Trails don't offer distance. No biking trails.

8 Survey Instrument

Dear Dripping Springs Resident,

The City of Dripping Springs is conducting a survey to help determine parks and recreation priorities for our community and we want to hear from you. Our parks and community programming contribute significantly to our quality of life in Dripping Springs, and your opinions are very important to us.

We appreciate your time and realize this survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.
Each question is important. The time you invest in completing this survey will aid the City in taking a resident-driven approach to recreation planning to enhance our community and improve the quality of life for all residents.

You have been randomly selected.
We are using an outside firm to conduct this survey, and your responses will remain confidential and will be reported in group form only. Please return your completed survey within the next two weeks using the enclosed postage-paid return-reply envelope addressed to ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061. If you prefer to take the survey online, please visit **DrippingSpringsSurvey.org**.

At the end of this survey, you will have an opportunity to opt-in for a chance to win one (1) $500 prepaid Visa gift card for fully completing your survey.

If you have any questions, please contact ETC Institute's project manager Ryan Murray at *ryan.murray@etcinstitute.com* or at 913-254-4598.

Don't miss this opportunity to have your voice heard and help us meet the ever-changing parks and recreation needs of all community members.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Andrew Binz
Parks and Community Services Director

Si desea completar su encuesta en español, llame al 1-844-811-0411

2025 City of Dripping Springs Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Community Survey

The City of Dripping Springs would like your input to help determine park and recreation priorities for our community. This survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete. If you would like to complete this survey online, please go to ***DrippingSpringsSurvey.org***. We appreciate your time. **At the end of this survey, you will have an opportunity to opt-in for a chance to win one (1) $500 prepaid Visa gift card for fully completing your survey.**

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1. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are…

Under age 5: ____	Ages 15-19: ____	Ages 35-44: ____	Ages 65-74: ____
Ages 5-9: ____	Ages 20-24: ____	Ages 45-54: ____	Ages 75+: ____
Ages 10-14: ____	Ages 25-34: ____	Ages 55-64: ____	

2. Have you or other members of your household visited any parks offered by the City of Dripping Springs during the past 12 months?

____(1) Yes *[Answer Q2a-e.]* ____(2) No *[Skip to Q2e.]*

2a. Please check ALL the parks listed below that you or members of your household have visited during the past 12 months. *[Check ALL that apply.]*

____(1) Charro Ranch Park
____(2) Dripping Springs Ranch Park
____(3) Founders Memorial Park
____(4) Sports and Recreation Park
____(5) Veterans Memorial Park
____(6) School parks or facilities

2b. On average, how often do you visit the parks you selected in Question 2a?

____(1) Daily ____(2) Weekly ____(3) Monthly ____(4) Yearly ____(5) Very Rarely

2c. Please check ALL the reasons you visit the parks you selected in Question 2a. *[Check ALL that apply.]*

____(1) Exercise or physical activity
____(2) Socializing and/or children's play
____(3) Nature observation/relaxation
____(4) Sporting events
____(5) Equestrian or agriculture related activities
____(6) Community events
____(7) Parks programming such as camps or after school programs
____(8) Farmers market
____(9) Other (please specify): _____

2d. How would you rate the overall quality of the City of Dripping Springs parks you or members of your household have visited during the past 12 months?

____(4) Excellent ____(3) Good ____(2) Fair ____(1) Poor

2e. Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household do not visit parks or why you do not visit more often. *[Check ALL that apply.]*

____(01) Use other city, state, private facilities
____(02) Too far from home
____(03) Not aware of park or facility locations
____(04) Parks/Facilities are not well maintained
____(05) Old and outdated facilities
____(06) Lack of amenities we want to use
____(07) Lack of parking to access parks/facilities
____(08) Do not feel safe using parks/facilities
____(09) Facility equipment doesn't meet my needs
____(10) Lack of ADA accessibility
____(11) Do not feel welcomed/accommodated
____(12) Lack of transportation
____(13) Lack of restrooms
____(14) Language/Cultural/Age barriers
____(15) Fees are too high/lack of financial assistance
____(16) Other: _____

3. Have you or other members of your household participated in or attended any recreation programs/activities or special events or performances offered by the City of Dripping Springs during the past 12 months?

____(1) Yes *[Answer Q3a-d.]* ____(2) No *[Skip to Q3d.]*

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3a. Approximately how many different recreation programs/activities, special events or performances offered by the City of Dripping Springs have you or members of your household participated in or attended over the past 12 months?

____(1) 1 program ____(3) 4 to 6 programs ____(5) 11 or more programs
____(2) 2 to 3 programs ____(4) 7 to 10 programs

3b. From the following list, please check the primary reasons why you or members of your household participate in programs/activities or attend special events or performances in Dripping Springs. *[Check ALL that apply.]*

____(1) Quality of instructors/coaches ____(5) Times the program is offered
____(2) Location of the program facility ____(6) Friends participate in the program
____(3) Quality of the program facility ____(7) Dates the program is offered
____(4) Fees charged for the program ____(8) Other: _____

3c. How would you rate the overall quality of programs/activities that you or members of your household have participated in during the past 12 months?

____(4) Excellent ____(3) Good ____(2) Fair ____(1) Poor

3d. Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household have not participated in programs or why you do not participate more often. *[Check ALL that apply.]*

____(01) I don't know what is offered ____(10) Fees are too high/lack of financial assistance
____(02) Use programs of other agencies ____(11) Prefer virtual programming
____(03) Lack of quality instructors ____(12) Do not feel welcomed/accommodated
____(04) Lack of quality programs ____(13) Program not offered
____(05) Prefer individual activities ____(14) Registration is difficult
____(06) Too far from home ____(15) Lack of transportation
____(07) Program times are not convenient ____(16) Too busy/not interested
____(08) Classes are full ____(17) Language/Cultural/Age barriers
____(09) Safety concerns ____(18) Parking issues

4. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following.

	How satisfied are you with...	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
01.	Ease of registering for programs	5	4	3	2	1	9
02.	Maintenance of City parks	5	4	3	2	1	9
03.	Maintenance of City trails	5	4	3	2	1	9
04.	Number of restrooms available	5	4	3	2	1	9
05.	Overall feeling of safety in parks and on trails	5	4	3	2	1	9
06.	Overall quality of adult and senior programming	5	4	3	2	1	9
07.	Overall quality of natural area restoration and upkeep (native hill-country landscape)	5	4	3	2	1	9
08.	Overall quality of special events	5	4	3	2	1	9
09.	Overall quality of youth programming	5	4	3	2	1	9
10.	Overall quality received for costs for program registration	5	4	3	2	1	9
11.	Quality of arena and equestrian facilities	5	4	3	2	1	9
12.	Quality of City playgrounds	5	4	3	2	1	9
13.	Quality of City sports courts (basketball, sand volleyball)	5	4	3	2	1	9
14.	Quality of City sports fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	5	4	3	2	1	9
15.	Quality of City swimming and aquatics facilities	5	4	3	2	1	9
16.	Quality of event rooms at Dripping Springs Ranch Park and Event Center	5	4	3	2	1	9
17.	Quality of skate park	5	4	3	2	1	9
18.	Quality of wayfinding and signage offered	5	4	3	2	1	9

5. Which THREE of the items in Question 4 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT for the City of Dripping Springs to emphasize over the next 10 years? *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 4. If you don't believe any of these are important, circle "NONE."]*

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ NONE

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6. A variety of recreation facilities and amenities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each facility or amenity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. If you do not have a need for one of the items listed, please circle "9" for "No Need."

	Facilities and Amenities	Fully Met	Mostly Met	Partly Met	Not Met	No Need
01.	Baseball/softball fields	4	3	2	1	9
02.	Basketball courts	4	3	2	1	9
03.	BBQ Grills/benches/picnic tables	4	3	2	1	9
04.	Disc golf/frisbee golf	4	3	2	1	9
05.	Dog parks	4	3	2	1	9
06.	Equestrian/livestock facilities	4	3	2	1	9
07.	Event space (rooms to rent)	4	3	2	1	9
08.	Exercise stations in parks and/or along trails	4	3	2	1	9
09.	Football fields	4	3	2	1	9
10.	Indoor community center (indoor sports and fitness, indoor walking track, meeting rooms, indoor playground, childcare, senior programs, gym for volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	4	3	2	1	9
11.	Inclusive access and amenities (wide smooth sidewalks and trails, wheelchair-friendly swings, etc.)	4	3	2	1	9
12.	Lighting	4	3	2	1	9
13.	Mountain bike trails	4	3	2	1	9
14.	Nature and wildlife viewing	4	3	2	1	9
15.	Restrooms	4	3	2	1	9
16.	Outdoor activities (ping pong, bean bag toss, horseshoes, etc.)	4	3	2	1	9
17.	Outdoor amphitheater	4	3	2	1	9
18.	Picnic shelters/pavilions	4	3	2	1	9
19.	Playgrounds	4	3	2	1	9
20.	Public art	4	3	2	1	9
21.	Shade	4	3	2	1	9
22.	Signage (educational, wayfinding, mile markers, etc.)	4	3	2	1	9
23.	Skate parks	4	3	2	1	9
24.	Soccer fields/multipurpose fields	4	3	2	1	9
25.	Splash pads	4	3	2	1	9
26.	Swimming pools	4	3	2	1	9
27.	Tennis and/or pickleball courts	4	3	2	1	9
28.	Trails	4	3	2	1	9
29.	Volleyball courts	4	3	2	1	9

7. Which FOUR of the facilities and amenities listed above do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 6. If you don't believe any of these are important, circle "NONE."]*

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ 4th: ____ NONE

8. How do you currently learn about recreation facilities, programs, and services that are offered by the City of Dripping Springs? *[Check ALL that apply.]*

____(01) Newspaper
____(02) City website
____(03) Email blasts/newsletters
____(04) Program fliers/registration forms
____(05) From friends and neighbors
____(06) Social media (Facebook, X (Twitter), etc.)
____(07) Schools
____(08) Recreation brochure/program guide
____(09) Conversations with City staff
____(10) Television
____(11) Neighborhood/civic newsletters
____(12) Recreation center bulletin boards
____(13) Banners
____(14) Other: _____

9. Which TWO of the sources of information listed above do you MOST PREFER to use to get information? *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 8, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ NONE

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10. A variety of recreation programs and activities are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each program or activity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. If you do not have a need for one of the items listed, please circle "9" for "No Need."

	Programs and Activities	Fully Met	Mostly Met	Partly Met	Not Met	No Need
01.	Adult art/dance/performing arts	4	3	2	1	9
02.	Athletic programs	4	3	2	1	9
03.	Athletic special events (i.e., cross-country or running races)	4	3	2	1	9
04.	Before or after school programs	4	3	2	1	9
05.	City sponsored special events or performances	4	3	2	1	9
06.	Continuing education programs	4	3	2	1	9
07.	Equestrian/livestock programs	4	3	2	1	9
08.	Extreme sports	4	3	2	1	9
09.	Farmers Market	4	3	2	1	9
10.	Fitness and wellness programs	4	3	2	1	9
11.	Geocaching	4	3	2	1	9
12.	Gymnastics programs	4	3	2	1	9
13.	Learn to swim programs	4	3	2	1	9
14.	Nature programs/environmental education	4	3	2	1	9
15.	Outdoor adventure programs (rock climbing/hikes/paddling and kayaking, etc.)	4	3	2	1	9
16.	Outdoor public art	4	3	2	1	9
17.	Preschool programs	4	3	2	1	9
18.	Programs for people with disabilities or special needs	4	3	2	1	9
19.	Programs for teens	4	3	2	1	9
20.	Senior programs	4	3	2	1	9
21.	Skateboard programs	4	3	2	1	9
22.	Sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer, etc.)	4	3	2	1	9
23.	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	4	3	2	1	9
24.	Tennis/Pickleball lessons and leagues	4	3	2	1	9
25.	Water fitness programs	4	3	2	1	9
26.	Youth art/dance/performing arts	4	3	2	1	9

11. Which FOUR of the programs or activities listed above do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 10. If you don't believe any of these are important, circle "NONE."]*

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ 4th: ____ NONE

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12. A variety of trail features are listed below. Please indicate how well your needs for each facility or amenity are met on a scale of 4 to 1, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met" and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. If you do not have a need for one of the items listed, please circle "9" for "No Need."

	Trail Features	Fully Met	Mostly Met	Partly Met	Not Met	No Need
01.	Benches and other seating areas	4	3	2	1	9
02.	Bike lanes or paths on trails	4	3	2	1	9
03.	Equestrian trails	4	3	2	1	9
04.	Fitness stations	4	3	2	1	9
05.	Internal park loop trails	4	3	2	1	9
06.	Lighting and security amenities	4	3	2	1	9
07.	Linear trails connecting destinations throughout Dripping Springs	4	3	2	1	9
08.	Mountain bike trails	4	3	2	1	9
09.	Nature trails	4	3	2	1	9
10.	Neighborhood access to trails	4	3	2	1	9
11.	Restrooms	4	3	2	1	9
12.	Shade	4	3	2	1	9
13.	Trailheads with parking	4	3	2	1	9
14.	Water stations	4	3	2	1	9
15.	Wayfinding signage	4	3	2	1	9

13. Which THREE of the trail items listed in Question 12 do you think are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 12. If you don't believe any of these are important, circle "NONE."]*

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ 3rd: ____ NONE

14. Please rate your satisfaction using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," with the overall value your household receives from the City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Department.

____(5) Very satisfied ____(3) Neutral ____(1) Very dissatisfied
____(4) Somewhat satisfied ____(2) Somewhat dissatisfied ____(9) Don't know

15. The following is a list of actions the City of Dripping Springs could take to improve its parks and recreation system. Please indicate your support for each potential action by circling the corresponding number to the right.

	Types of Improvements	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Sure	Not Supportive
1.	Acquire more land for preservation and conservation of natural areas - (Preserve and conserve more natural areas)	4	3	2	1
2.	Build new parks or facilities throughout town	4	3	2	1
3.	Expand educational programming including nature education programs	4	3	2	1
4.	Expand recreational programming	4	3	2	1
5.	Expand the citywide trail system	4	3	2	1
6.	Maintain existing amenities in existing parks	4	3	2	1
7.	Restore natural areas within existing parks and City-owned property	4	3	2	1
8.	Update existing parks with new amenities	4	3	2	1

16. Which TWO improvements from the list in Question 15 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? *[Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 15, or circle "NONE."]*

1st: ____ 2nd: ____ NONE

17. How important do you feel it is for the City of Dripping Springs to provide high quality parks, recreation facilities and programs?

____(3) Very important ____(2) Somewhat important ____(1) Not important ____(9) Not sure

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18. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements concerning some potential benefits of the City of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Department's parks, facilities, and recreation programs or events using a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Strongly Agree" and 1 means "Strongly Disagree."

	The parks and recreation system in Dripping Springs...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
01.	Improves my (my household's) mental health and reduces stress	5	4	3	2	1	9
02.	Improves my (my household's) physical health and fitness	5	4	3	2	1	9
03.	Increases my (my household's) property value	5	4	3	2	1	9
04.	Is age-friendly and accessible to all age groups	5	4	3	2	1	9
05.	Makes Dripping Springs a more desirable place to live	5	4	3	2	1	9
06.	Positively impacts economic/business development	5	4	3	2	1	9
07.	Preserves open space and protects the environment	5	4	3	2	1	9
08.	Provides jobs/professional development for youth	5	4	3	2	1	9
09.	Provides positive social interactions for me (my household/family)	5	4	3	2	1	9
10.	Provides volunteer opportunities for the community	5	4	3	2	1	9
11.	I'm willing to pay additional city taxes and/or consider a bond initiative to see the quality of existing parks and recreational amenities upgraded	5	4	3	2	1	9
12.	I'm willing to pay additional city taxes and/or consider a bond initiative to see new parks and recreational amenities developed	5	4	3	2	1	9

Demographics

19. What is your age? _____ years

20. How many years have you lived in the Dripping Springs area? _____ years

21. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity? *[Check all that apply.]*

____(01) Asian or Asian Indian
____(02) Black or African American
____(03) American Indian or Alaska Native
____(04) White or Caucasian
____(05) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
____(06) Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x
____(99) Other: _____

22. Do you or anybody in your family have a disability recognized by the American Disability Act (ADA)?

____(1) Yes ____(2) No

23. Are you currently a City of Dripping Springs employee or elected official?

____(1) Yes ____(2) No

24. Would you like to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one (1) prepaid $500 Visa Gift Card for fully completing your survey? The gift card will be sent via email and is limited to one entry per household.

____(1) Yes *[Answer Q24a.]* ____(2) No *[END SURVEY.]*

24a. Please provide your contact information.

Name: _____ Mobile Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time!

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed return-reply envelope addressed to:
ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

Your responses will remain completely confidential. The information to the right will ONLY be used to help identify the level of need in your area. Thank you!

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