



City of
Evanston™

CITY OF EVANSTON

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE SCORE CARD

CITY OF EVANSTON CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION
NOVEMBER 28, 2016

THE LAKOTA GROUP | RECREATION RESULTS | GOODMAN WILLIAMS GROUP

WHY A SCORE CARD?

UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT STATE OF EVANSTON'S PUBLIC OPEN SPACES, AND IN THE FUTURE COMPARE TO PAST PERFORMANCE;

DETERMINE PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, STAFF, AND OTHER RESOURCES;

COMMUNICATE PRIORITIES INTERNALLY AMONG EMPLOYEES AND EXTERNALLY TO GOVERNING BOARDS, CITIZEN COMMITTEES, AND THE PUBLIC

MEASURE THE IMPACT OF PARK INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AND PARK MAINTENANCE EFFORTS.



City of
Evanston™



**Evanston/Skokie
School District 65**

**Lighthouse Park
District**



**Ridgeville
Park District**



**FOREST
PRESERVES**
of Cook County



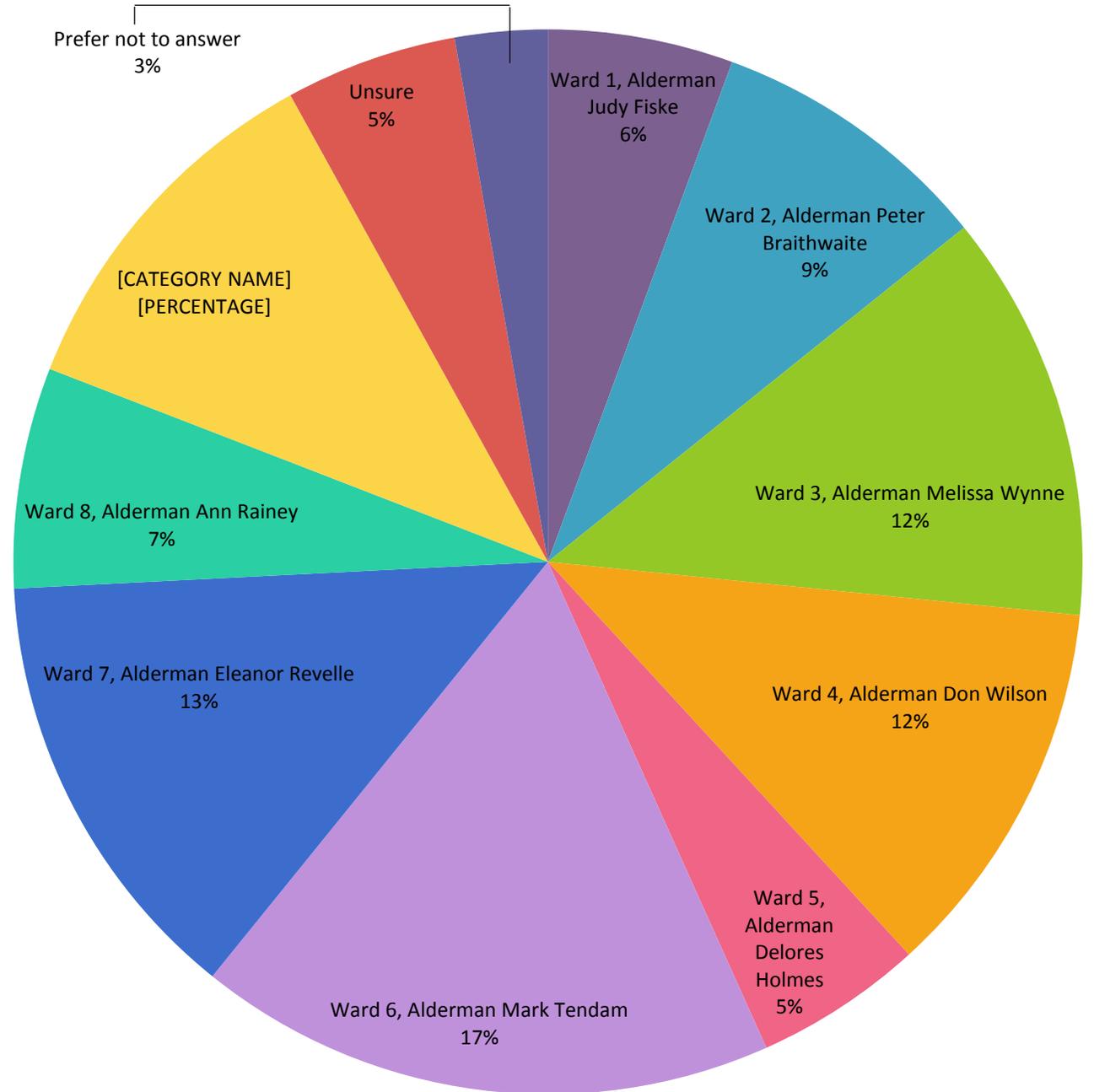
DATA COLLECTION

COMMUNITY
SURVEY

STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS

SITE
INSPECTIONS

- 1,859 responses
- Majority were long-term residents (62%)
- Survey respondents heavily weighted towards those with children
- The majority (71%) were between the ages of 35-54
- Frequent users of Evanston's parks; larger parks most frequented by survey respondents



95% of respondents indicate that public open spaces are important or very important to their family's health and well-being.

96% of respondents indicate that public open spaces are important or very important to their family's quality of life.

OVERALL **IMPORTANCE** OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Overall, respondents are more satisfied with Evanston's beaches than parks and school sites:

- 73% Satisfied or Very satisfied with beaches
- 66% Satisfied or Very satisfied with parks



PLAYGROUNDS



PATHS & TRAILS



RESTROOMS



ATHLETIC FIELDS

OPEN SPACE FEATURES RATED AS **MOST** **IMPORTANT**

OPEN SPACE FEATURES RATED AS **HIGHLY NEEDED**



PATHS & TRAILS



BEACHES



NATURAL AREAS



PLAYGROUNDS



ATHLETIC FIELDS



SWIMMING POOL



BEACHES



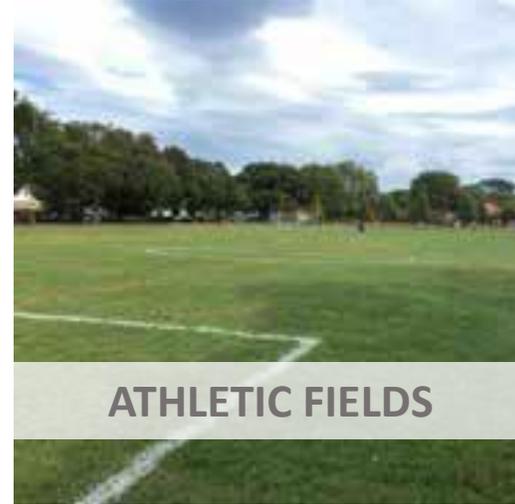
PLAYGROUNDS



TENNIS COURTS

EVANSTON OPEN SPACE WHERE COMMUNITY NEEDS ARE BEST MET

EVANSTON OPEN SPACE AMENITIES WHERE **NEEDS** **ARE NOT MET**



57% of respondents cited a need for improved Restroom facilities

39% of respondents cited a need for improved Athletic fields

Open Responses indicate a need for improvement of Athletic Fields and Courts;
Cleanliness and Maintenance;
Lighting; Landscaping;
Drinking Fountains

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT NEEDED AT PARKS

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT NEEDED AT BEACHES

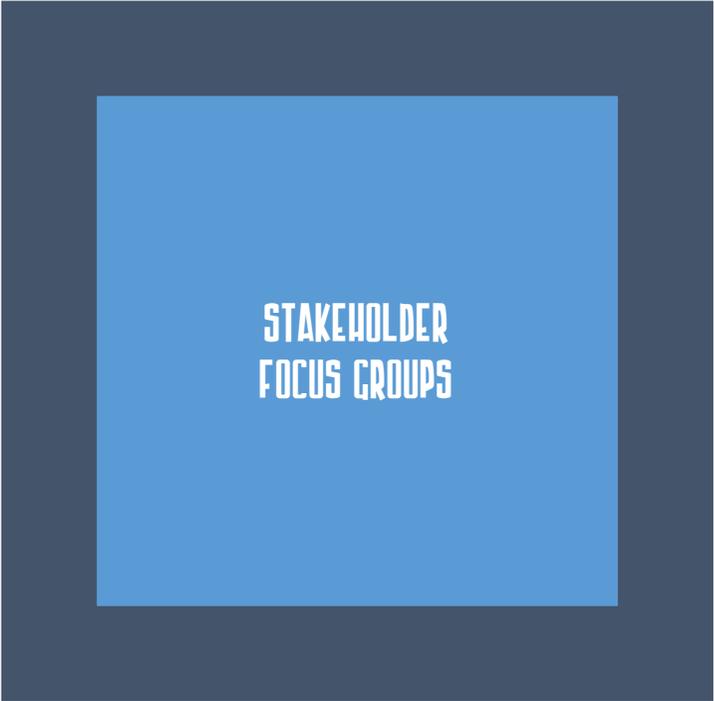
61% of respondents cited a need for the improvement of Restroom facilities.

18% of respondents cited the need for the improvement of Swimming Areas.

Open Responses indicate a need for improvements related to: Cost of Beach Access/Use of Tokens; Beach Policies/Rules and Staffing; Showers/Rinse Areas and Restrooms; Cleanliness and Maintenance; Size of Beach and Swimming Areas



COMMUNITY
SURVEY



STAKEHOLDER
FOCUS GROUPS



SITE
INSPECTIONS

STAKEHOLDERS

- CITY OF EVANSTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
- CITY OF EVANSTON GREENWAYS STAFF
- DISTRICT 65 GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE
- LIGHTHOUSE PARK DISTRICT
- RIDGEVILLE PARK DISTRICT
- EVANSTON COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION
- EVANSTON LACROSSE
- TEAM EVANSTON
- EVANSTON BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
- EVANSTON JUNIOR WILDKITS
- EVANSTON AYSO
- EVANSTON CRICKET

THEMES

- 1. QUALITY OF EXISTING ATHLETIC FIELDS**
- 2. CAPACITY OF FACILITIES**
- 3. INVESTMENT IN PARK MAINTENANCE**
- 4. INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL**

COMMUNITY
SURVEY

STAKEHOLDER
FOCUS GROUPS

SITE
INSPECTIONS

ESTABLISH LIST OF
SITES TO EVALUATE

ESTABLISH LIST OF
FEATURES WITHIN THE
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

INSPECT EACH
FEATURE BASED ON A
STANDARDIZED LIST
OF FEATURE
CONDITIONS AND
AMENITIES

112 SITES INSPECTED, CITY-WIDE



City of
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**Evanston/Skokie
School District 65**

**Lighthouse Park
District**



**Ridgeville
Park District**



ESTABLISH LIST OF
SITES TO EVALUATE



ESTABLISH LIST OF
FEATURES WITHIN THE
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE



INSPECT EACH
FEATURE BASED ON A
STANDARDIZED LIST
OF *CONDITIONS AND
AMENITIES*

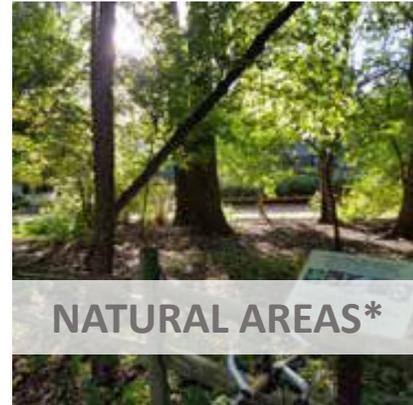
SITE FEATURES



ATHLETIC FIELDS



PLAYGROUNDS



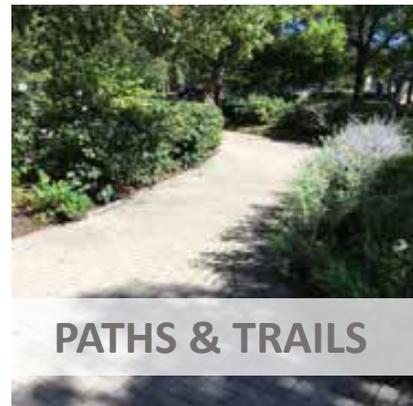
NATURAL AREAS*



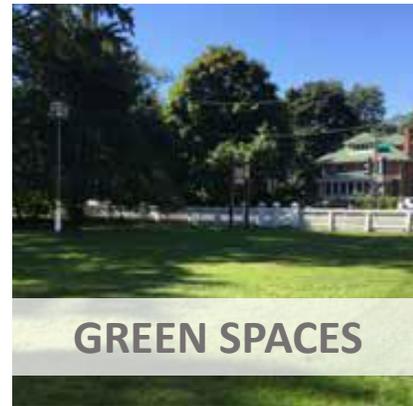
PARKING LOTS



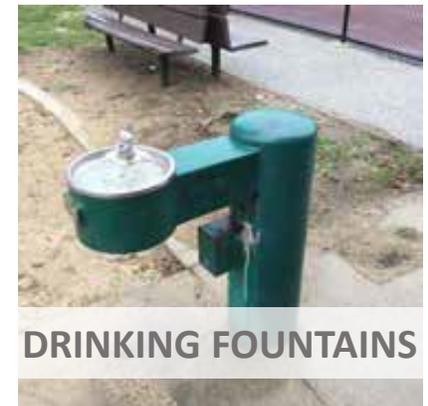
ATHLETIC COURTS*



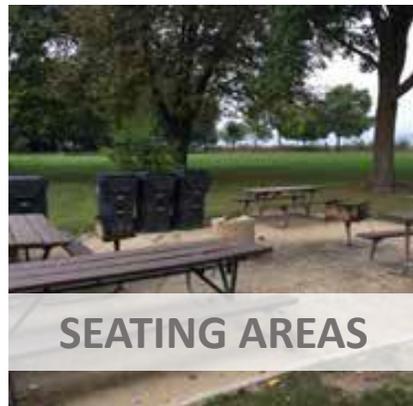
PATHS & TRAILS



GREEN SPACES



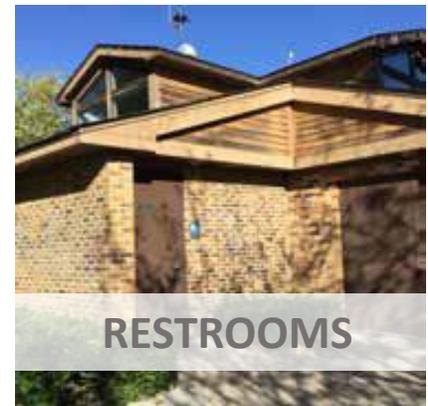
DRINKING FOUNTAINS



SEATING AREAS

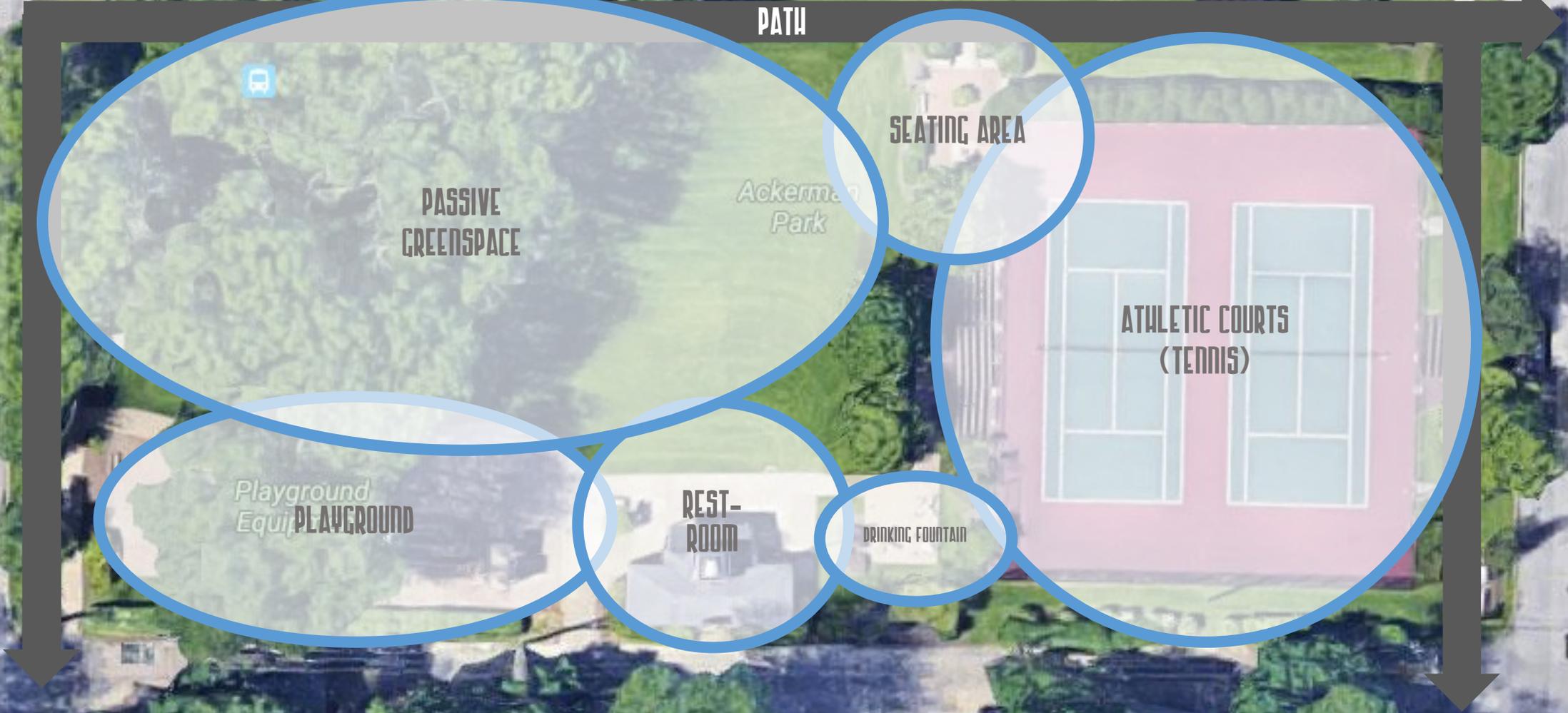


BEACHES*



RESTROOMS

ACKERMAN PARK



Modaniel Ave

Modaniel Ave

Central St

Central St

Central St

Central St

Central St

Elm Ave

Elm Ave

PATH

SEATING AREA

PASSIVE GREENSPACE

Ackerman Park

ATHLETIC COURTS (TENNIS)

Playground Equip
PLAYGROUND

REST-ROOM

DRINKING FOUNTAIN

ESTABLISH LIST OF
SITES TO EVALUATE



ESTABLISH LIST OF
FEATURES WITHIN THE
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE



INSPECT EACH FEATURE
BASED ON CRITERIA OF
*FEATURE AMENITIES AND
CONDITIONS*

FEATURE AMENITIES AND CONDITIONS

SEATING
FENCING
LIGHTING
LANDSCAPING
WATER BODIES

AVAILABILITY
MISSING ITEMS
FUNCTIONALITY
DETERIORATION

MAINTENANCE
SURFACING
LITTER
NATURAL DEBRIS
VANDALISM
SAFETY

*SURVEY DID NOT CONSIDER ADA ACCESIBILITY OR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

ACKERMAN PARK

Medaniel Ave



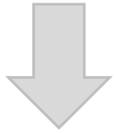
MAINTENANCE
SURFACING
LITTER
NATURAL DEBRIS
VANDALISM
SAFETY

AVAILABILITY
MISSING ITEMS
FUNCTIONALITY
DETERIORATION

SEATING
FENCING
LIGHTING
LANDSCAPING

DATA ANALYSIS

ESTABLISH LIST OF *SITES*
TO EVALUATE



ESTABLISH LIST OF
FEATURES WITHIN THE
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE



INSPECT EACH FEATURE
BASED ON A
STANDARDIZED LIST OF
FEATURE *AMENITIES*



DERIVE THREE CLASSES OF
SCORE ANALYSIS:

- FEATURE SCORE
- SITE SCORE
- OVERALL SYSTEM
SCORE



Each class of open space feature given a score based on an aggregation of feature conditions observed at individual sites. These scores *are not* weighted based on community priorities.



Each individual site given a score based on an aggregation of feature scores at the site. These scores *are weighted* based on community priorities.



Evanston's overall open space system given a score based on an aggregation of individual site scores.



RESULTS

FEATURE
SCORES

SITE
SCORES

SYSTEM
SCORE

SYSTEM-WIDE FEATURE SCORES

	SCORE
Athletic Courts	74 C
Athletic Fields	70 C-
Beaches	72 C-
Drinking Fountains	73 C
Green Spaces	80 B-
Natural Areas	84 B
Parking Lots	76 C
Paths	81 B-
Playgrounds	79 C+
Restrooms	70 C-
Seating Areas	74 C

HIGHEST RANKING FEATURES:

- NATURAL AREAS
- GREEN SPACES
- PATHS

LOWEST RANKING FEATURES:

- RESTROOMS
- ATHLETIC FIELDS
- BEACHES



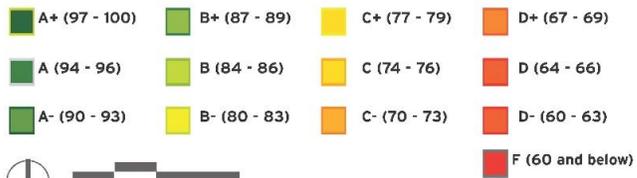
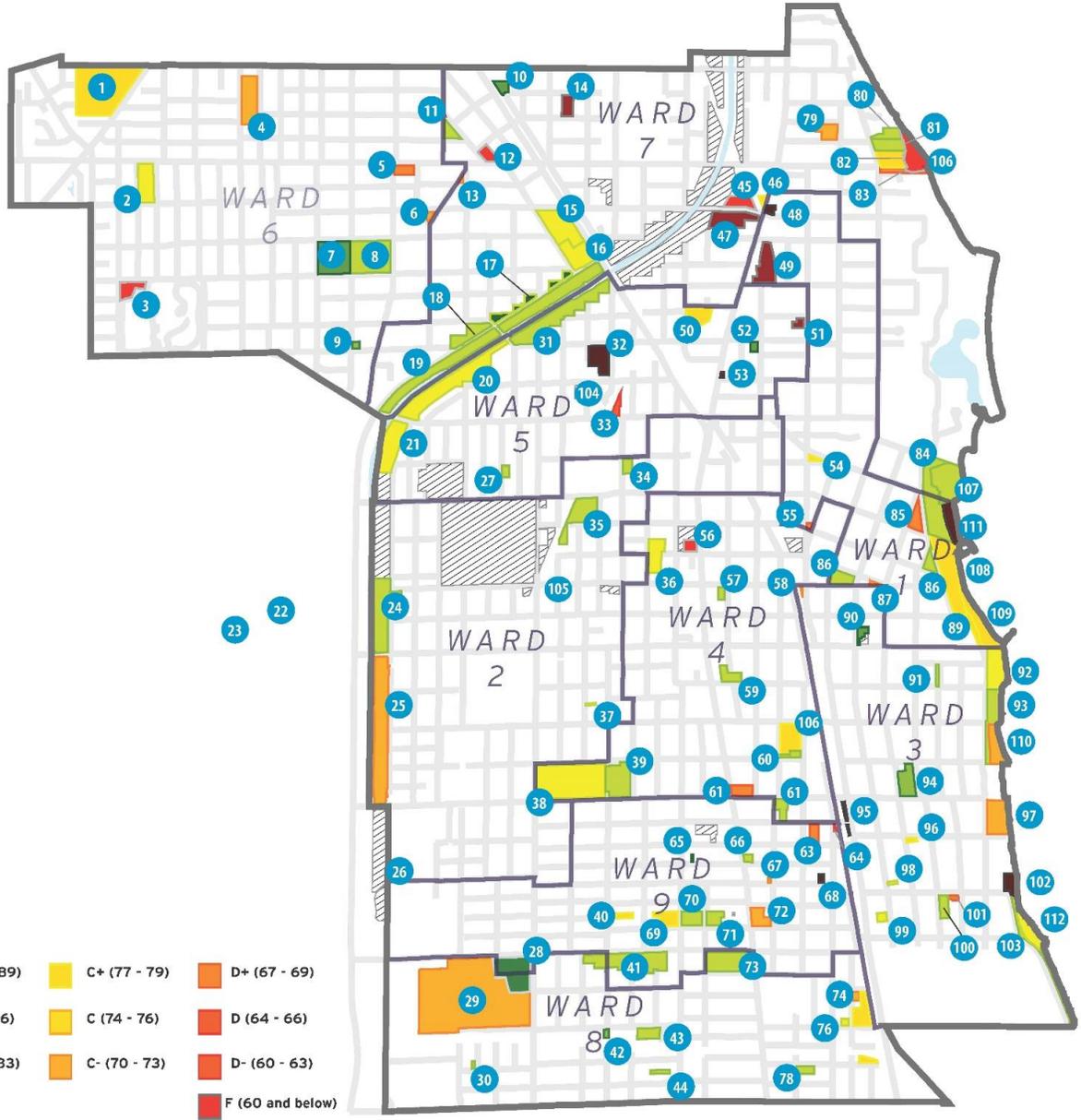
FEATURE
SCORE



SITE
SCORE



SYSTEM
SCORE

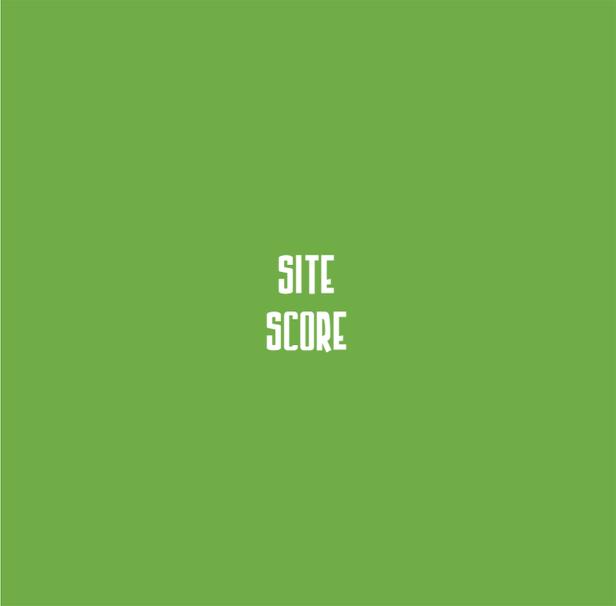


- HIGHEST RANKING SITES:**
- GRANDMOTHER PARK
 - DAWES ELEMENTARY
 - DWIGHT PERKINS FP
 - FIREMAN'S PARK
 - CURREY PARK
 - TORGERSON PARK

- LOWEST RANKING SITES:**
- FOSTER FIELD
 - HOBART PARK
 - FULLERTON PARK
 - ST. PAUL PARK



FEATURE
SCORE



SITE
SCORE



SYSTEM
SCORE

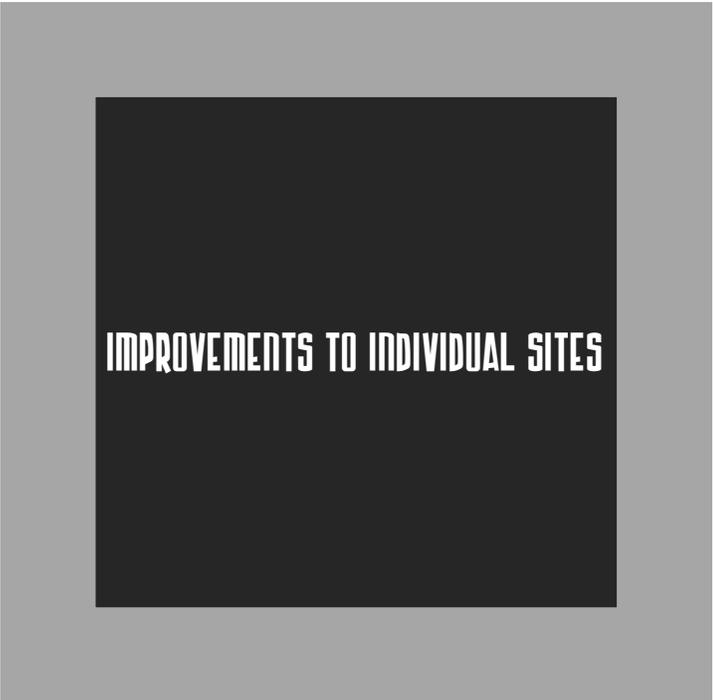
**OVERALL
SCORE: 77**



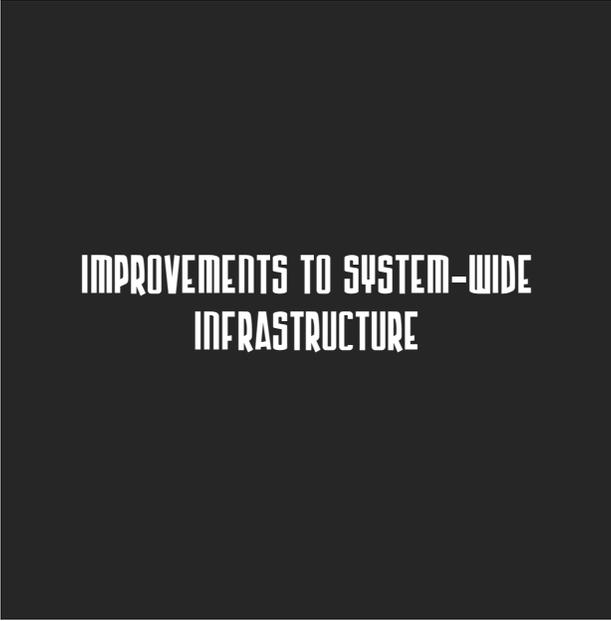
WHAT'S NEXT?



THE LAKOTA GROUP | RECREATION RESULTS | GOODMAN WILLIAMS GROUP



IMPROVEMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL SITES



**IMPROVEMENTS TO SYSTEM-WIDE
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**IMPROVEMENTS TO PARK MAINTENANCE
AND OPERATIONAL PRACTICES**

Evaluate future capital improvement plans for any parks receiving a score of C or below to ensure that the improvements address any issues covered in this report where possible.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE 40 INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OPEN SPACES WITH A SCORE OF "C" OR BELOW.

- Ackerman Park
- Alexander Park
- Cartwright Park
- Chandler Park
- Clark Square
- Congregational Park
- Dog Beach
- Eiden Park
- Elks Play Lot
- Ellingwood Park
- Fountain Square
- Foster Field
- Fullerton Park
- Garden Park
- Gilbert Park
- Greenwood Beach
- Grey Park
- Grosse Point Lighthouse
- Harbert Park
- Harper Garden
- Hobart Park
- Independence Park
- James Park
- Kelly Park
- Leahy Park
- Lee St Beach
- Lighthouse Beach
- Lunt Gardens
- McCulloch Park
- Morris Park
- Orrington Elementary School
- Philbrick Park
- Quinlan Park
- Reba Park
- Ridgeville Park
- Sargent Park
- St Paul Park
- Tallmadge Park
- Walker Elementary School
- Willard Elementary School

*35.7% of open spaces scored a "C" or below

IMPROVEMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL SITES

IMPROVEMENTS TO SYSTEM-WIDE
INFRASTRUCTURE

IMPROVEMENTS TO PARK MAINTENANCE
AND OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

Based on inspection results, addressing the following areas will have the *greatest impact* on improving park quality system-wide.

RESTROOMS:

- **REPAIR DETERIORATED EQUIPMENT**

ATHLETIC FIELDS:

- IMPROVE FENCING
- IMPROVE SURFACING
- IMPROVE DRAINAGE



BEACHES:

- IMPROVE FENCING
- IMPROVE LANDSCAPE



PLAYGROUNDS:

- REPAIR DETERIORATED EQUIPMENT



DRINKING FOUNTAINS:

- IMPROVE FUNCTIONALITY
- REPAIR DETERIORATING EQUIPMENT



IMPROVEMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL SITES

**IMPROVEMENTS TO SYSTEM-WIDE
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**IMPROVEMENTS TO PARK MAINTENANCE
AND OPERATIONAL PRACTICES**

Based on stakeholder feedback, there are a number of operational measures that could be undertaken that would positively impact park quality system-wide.

CONSIDER BUDGETING FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
TO INCREASE FIELD CAPACITY
SUCH AS DRAINAGE
IMPROVEMENTS, FIELD LIGHTING,
AND SYNTHETIC TURF.



DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT SITE
FURNISHING AND SIGNAGE
STANDARDS

MONROE
TOT LOT



City of
Evanston

Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry



JENNIFER
MORRIS
PARK
CITY OF EVANSTON

CONSIDER INCREASING THE
NUMBER STAFF DEDICATED TO
REGULAR PARK MAINTENANCE



VAULT
D65

**CONSIDER A FORMAL SHARED-USE
AGREEMENT AMONG OPEN SPACE
MANAGERS, AND IMPLEMENT
SYSTEM-WIDE SCHEDULING TOOL
FOR SHARED FACILITIES**

UPDATE THE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
SCORE CARD ON A REGULAR BASIS
TO TRACK PROGRESS.

אין תהיה הארץ והעיר
היא תהיה הארץ





QUESTIONS