



THE CITY OF EVANSTON

# Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan

JUNE 2024 DRAFT





# Acknowledgments

## Leadership Committee

- Audrey Thompson, Director, Parks and Recreation
- Edgar Cano, Public Works Agency Director
- Michael Callahan, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
- Matt Poole, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
- Lara Biggs, Capital Planning and Engineering Bureau Chief, Public Works Agency
- Noel Rodriguez, Public Services Bureau Chief
- Stephen Walker, Greenways Supervisor
- Stefanie Levine, Senior Project Manager, Parks and Facilities, Public Works Agency
- Emily Okallau, Public Services Coordinator, Public Works Agency

## Consulting Team

- Agency Landscape + Planning (Prime)
- Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC (Ecology and Maintenance)
- Recreation Results (Recreation Programming)
- ETC Institute (Community Survey)

Thank you to the many residents who guided plan recommendations by participating in surveys, sending emails, attending public meetings, and participating in small plan discussions.



# **Table of Contents**

<b>Introduction</b>	6
<b>Plan Process</b>	10
<b>Existing Conditions</b>	22
<b>Strategic Plan</b>	58
<b>Implementation</b>	94
<b>Appendix</b>	103



# 1



## INTRODUCTION

**The Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan will guide the City of Evanston’s planning of parks, facilities, and open spaces for the next ten years. The plan is a joint effort between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Agency. This plan will provide the City with a critical tool to achieve its ambitious vision to be the most livable city in America.**

# Introduction

The **Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan** is a tool the City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Agency will use to guide their management practices, capital investment priorities, and overall strategy for the next ten years. The last comprehensive strategic plan for Evanston Parks & Recreation was completed in 2001. In 2016, it was amended by the Parks Scorecard, which assessed the nearly 100 publicly owned open spaces in Evanston, evaluated trends, and gathered community and stakeholder input to develop ratings and recommendations. In recent years, the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Agency, who jointly manage Evanston's open spaces, have identified the need for a more strategic approach to how investment and resources are prioritized.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Evanston's parks system, like many around the country, has seen a substantial increase in usage that existing maintenance practices struggle to keep up with. Many of Evanston's legacy parks have not been renovated in over 25 years: amidst rapidly evolving community needs and climate priorities, the City is looking to transform its Capital Improvement Program strategy for parks, recreation, and natural resources to better anticipate the future.

Evanston is a diverse and well connected city that is positioning itself as a leader on progressive issues. In 2021, Evanston became the first U.S. city to commit to reparations for housing discrimination. The City set serious climate goals in the 2018 Climate Action Resilience Plan, including goals to "prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable while combating climate change." Like its residents, Evanston's open spaces are diverse. The City is blessed with unique landscapes, from its Lake Michigan shoreline, to the North Shore Channel, to a robust network of parks. Evanston aspires to be the "most livable city in America"; to do so, it must transform an under-performing public realm into one of its most important assets.

The Evanston Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Agency will use the plan that follows to:

- develop the parks and recreation system's capital investment program (CIP)
- apply for grants
- prioritize investments in infrastructure and amenities
- develop programming based on community needs and trends
- develop new strategies for the maintenance and care of natural lands

## How to read this document

The plan study area covers Evanston's 266 acres of city green spaces, including all city parks, parks the City manages (but does not own), and all outdoor facilities in those spaces (like playgrounds and open air pavilions). Indoor facilities are not included in the plan. Within Evanston city limits are Ridgeville and Lighthouse park districts (and Skokie park district to the west), one County-owned park, and many school district properties. While not the focus of this study, the plan touches on these due to their critical relationship with Evanston's parks and recreation system.

The Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan is a ten-year strategic framework for Evanston's parks, programs, and natural lands. At its core are a vision and five overarching goals. Each goal is supported by strategies and actions that chart the course to achieve them. The components that make up the strategic framework are designed to be flexible in order to support strategic decision making for the next decade while adapting to the evolving needs of the City of Evanston, its staff, and the Evanston community.

In the Strategic Plan section of the document, actions are not listed in order of priority, however any actions that were identified by the Evanston community and the City of Evanston as important to implement are highlighted as priority actions. Those actions should be considered first as part of this plan's implementation.

## LIST OF PARKS IN EVANSTON

1) Ackerman		33) Fullerton	LPD	65) McCormick	L
2) Alexander		34) Garden		66) McCulloch	
3) Baker		35) Gilbert		67) Megowen	
4) Bates	L	36) Grandmother		68) Merrick Rose Garden	
5) Beck	L	37) Grey		69) Monroe	
6) Bent		38) Grosse Point Lighthouse	LPD	70) Morris	
7) Brummel Park	R	39) Harbert Payne	L	71) North East	LPD
8) Brummel Richmond		40) Harper		72) Oldberg	
9) Burnham Shores		41) Hinman		73) Patriots	
10) Butler	L	42) Hobart		74) Penny	
11) Cartwright		43) Howell		75) Perkins Woods	C
12) Centennial		44) Independence		76) Perry	
13) Chandler		45) Ingraham		77) Philbrick	
14) Channelside	S	46) James		78) Play Lot	R
15) Clark Square		47) Kamen East	R	79) Pooch	S
16) Clyde-Brummel		48) Kamen West	R	80) Porter	
17) Congregational		49) Kay Lee Tot Lot	R	81) Quinlan	
18) Crown		50) Kelly		82) Raymond	
19) Currey		51) Ladd Arboretum	L	83) Reba	R
20) Dawes		52) Ladd Arboretum	L	84) Ridgeville	R
21) Dobson/Brummel		53) Lake-Dodge		85) Sargent	
22) Eggleston	L	54) Larimer		86) Smith	
23) Eiden		55) Lawson		87) Snyder	
24) Elks	R	56) Leah Lomar		88) South Blvd	
25) Elks Play Lot	R	57) Leahy		89) Southwest	
26) Ellingwood		58) Leider	R	90) St. Paul	
27) Elliott		59) Levinson		91) Stockham	
28) Emerson Square		60) Lighthouse Landing		92) Tallmadge	
29) Firefighters's		61) Lovelace		93) Torgerson	
30) Fitzsimons		62) Lunt		94) Trahan	
31) Foster	L	63) Mason		95) Twiggs	
32) Fountain Square		64) McCormick			

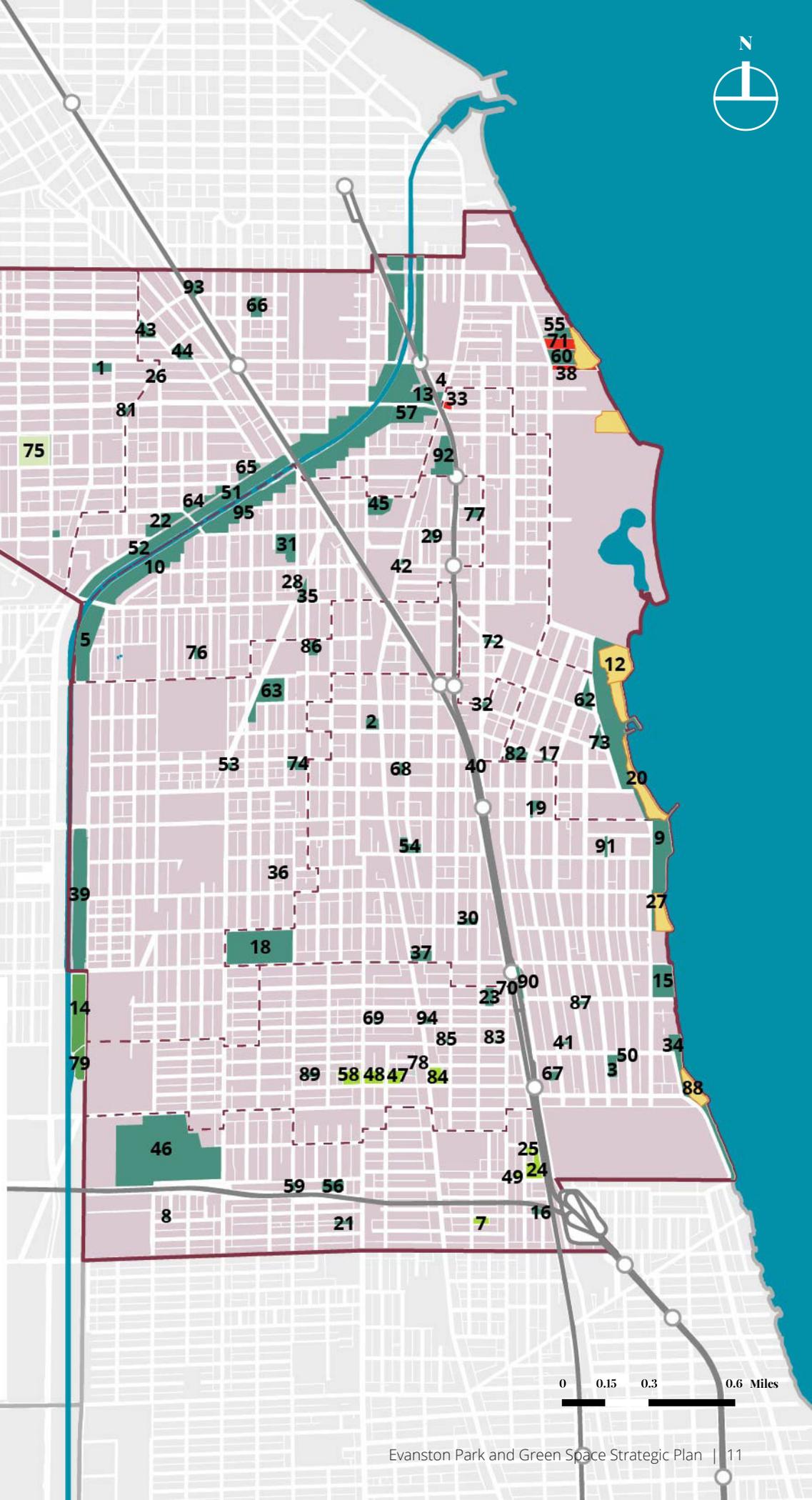
## PARK OWNERSHIP IF NOT CITY OF EVANSTON

L	Lease
C	Cook County
S	Skokie
LPD	Lighthouse Park District
R	Ridgeville Park District



**PARK SYSTEM**

-  City of Evanston
-  Wards
-  Railroads
-  Railroad Stations
-  Water Bodies
-  Beaches
- Park Managing Entity**
-  City of Evanston
-  Cook County Forest Preserve
-  Skokie Park District
-  Lighthouse Park District
-  Ridgeville Park District





# 2



## PLAN PROCESS

**The development of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategic Plan was completed over the course of 15 months. The process was a close collaboration between City staff, internal and external stakeholders, and the Evanston community, who were involved through a variety of methods, including open houses, a survey using random sampling, and virtual and on-site focus groups.**



# Project Timeline

Evanston Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan is the result of a 15-month collaborative process that engaged people from across the City, including residents, City staff, and visitors. Community engagement played a pivotal role in shaping the project timeline, ensuring that the needs of the community were actively sought and thoughtfully reflected throughout the planning effort.

The planning process unfolded across three distinct phases:

## 1 Set the stage

To explore Evanston's unique parks and green space system, the initial phase included a review of relevant previous planning studies, discussions with the staff leadership team, a community survey, and a public engagement plan.

## 2 Assess needs and values

In the second phase, the planning team gathered both qualitative and quantitative information to better understand the quality of existing parks and green spaces and access to those spaces from surrounding neighborhoods. The efforts included conducting a thorough inventory of parks and facilities, analyzing community and national trends, assessing community needs and level of service. The results of these analyses were informed and validated through public and staff review and comment.

## 3 Craft the plan and management briefs

Building on community input, the final phase established a vision, goals, and strategies for the plan. An implementation strategy and management briefs were created to identify priority projects and policy recommendations that address critical needs and goals identified through internal and external community input. Through thorough documentation, review processes, and approvals, these collective efforts culminated in the creation of the Evanston Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan.



### SET THE STAGE

- Project Kickoff
- Prior Plan Review
- Park System Inventory
- Research and Analysis

### ASSESS NEEDS AND VALUES

- Community Needs Survey
- Stakeholder Focus Groups
- Community Needs assessment
- Conditions Assessment
- Public Workshop #1

### CRAFT THE PLAN + MANAGEMENT BRIEFS

- Vision and goals
- Implementation Workshop
- Draft Strategic Plan Report
- Management Briefs
- Public Workshop #2
- A ten to twenty-year implementation plan
- Management briefs for major restoration projects
- Final report and approvals



4 Leadership Staff Meetings



469 Community Needs Survey Responses



18 Focus Group Meetings



2 Public Workshops

# Community Engagement Process

The plan was developed with extensive community and City involvement at each of the three key project milestones described above. To ensure the planning effort received and reflected feedback from a broad range of perspectives, a variety of tactics were employed throughout the community engagement process. Those methods are described in more detail below:

## Focus Group Meetings

Focus group meetings occurred during Spring 2023. These were a combination of virtual and in-person conversations with interest-based affinity groups. Topical experts at all levels served as great resources and provided insights to guide strategy and recommendation development on a wide range of specific issues. During the engagement process, a total of 18 focus group meetings took place, covering the following topics:

### ON-SITE CONVERSATIONS

- Equity/access
- Donors
- Stewards
- Environmental
- Sports
- Art/culture
- Ridgeville Park District
- Outdoor maintenance/greenways
- Reservation system
- Facilities
- Recreation management
- Business district

### VIRTUAL CONVERSATIONS

- Summer youth employees
- Seniors
- Summer Camp Kids and Teenage Counselors



## Public Workshops

The public had multiple chances to contribute their insights and collectively shape the plan at various milestones during the development process. In August and October of 2023, the planning team organized two public workshops to enhance in-person engagement with the community. Residents were encouraged to engage in interactive games, such as mapping activities and comment boards, fostering opportunities for both open-ended and targeted feedback. In total, 150 participants actively attended the workshops, generating a wealth of 500 ideas and comments. This substantial input played a pivotal role in significantly shaping the development of the plan.

## Community Needs Survey

The Community Needs Survey was a statistically valid survey, which means it was a randomly distributed survey large enough to accurately represent the population being surveyed in terms of race, age, gender, and

residence. The purpose of this survey was to gather feedback regarding park, facility, and program priorities, as well as identify barriers and unmet needs within the local community. The Community Needs Survey was distributed to a randomly selected sample of Evanston residents, and it was made available in both English and Spanish to ensure inclusion. In May 2023, a total of 469 surveys were gathered with a precision of at least +/- 4.5 at the 95% level of confidence. This approach provided an important dataset that mirrored the demographic composition of the entire city, providing a well-rounded perspective on various issues across the parks and green space system in Evanston.



18

focus group meetings



2

public workshops



3

months of survey

90+

participants

150+

participants

469

responses





# Key Themes

## A well-used and well-loved system

The parks and green space system in Evanston receive overall community support. According to the Community Needs Survey, 98% of residents having visited a park in the past year, surpassing the national average of 76%. This sentiment is consistently echoed in various conversations with the community, reflecting a deep appreciation for the system.

## Uneven conditions and outdated facilities

Despite the City's rich offering of parks, the system grapples with issues of uneven quality and outdated amenities. Community members, expressing a shared concern, have emphasized the need for enhanced park infrastructure and focus on daily maintenance, making it a top priority. Survey respondents highlighted improving existing park infrastructure as the most crucial improvement, underscoring frequent mentions during focus group discussions and public workshops regarding outdated restrooms, water fountains, and pathways.

## A desire for more natural experience

Natural experience are at a premium in a dense community like Evanston. The community survey, workshops, and focus group conversations all reinforced a consistent desire for more places to experience nature. Survey results indicate that naturalized landscapes, trees, and habitats rank high among residents' priorities. Beyond the survey, community members consistently express a yearning for additional places to enjoy naturalized landscapes, environmental programming, and spaces for natural play.

## Water access and cooling facilities

With Lake Michigan to the east and the North Shore Channel running north-south through the City, it comes as no surprise that many conversations with residents focused on water and water access. Beaches and waterfront supporting facilities emerge as the number one priority for facility investment according to the community survey. Indoor and outdoor pools, along with aquatic programming, also rank high in the community's wishlist for enhanced recreational facilities.

## Inclusion and access

Residents shared a variety of barriers that limited their participation in programs and park spaces. Chief among them was limited time and lack of awareness. Financial and physical constraints limit some residents' ability to engage with the City's parks and participate in programs. During focus group conversations with youth and senior residents, the community has expressed a shared desire for more inclusive programs and accessible facilities that cater to individuals of all ages and abilities, emphasizing the importance of diversity and accessibility in Evanston's park system.



# Related Plans

Evanston has been consistently working on different planning projects to ensure that it continues to meet community needs. This strategic plan was built upon the efforts of several planning projects:



Citywide&Regional  
Planning



Social&Environmental  
Resilience



Parks&Streets



Lakefront



Transportation

## 2000: CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2000 and is currently undergoing an update that began in 2023. The City Comprehensive Plan includes recommendations to ensure City parks and recreation facilities are high quality and accessible to all residents. The plan also includes goals to increase the number of parks, but acknowledges the limited land available for new parks. The plan also recommends ongoing maintenance for lakefront parks, the canal, and recreational amenities.

## 2001: PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

The Parks Plan proposed major renovations to the Robert Crown Center, construction of new basketball courts, renovation and irrigation of fields, and renovations to 14 park areas. The plan found significant maintenance issues with both indoor and outdoor facilities and proposed improvements throughout the system.

## 2007: LADD ARBORETUM MASTER PLAN

The Ladd Arboretum Master Plan was created to respond to deferred maintenance of the grounds and the building, policy and governance needs for the Arboretum and the need for standards for stewarding the Arboretum grounds.

## 2008: LAKEFRONT MASTER PLAN

To preserve and enhance the lakefront park system, the plan sought to address signs of overuse, environmental considerations, such as LEED ratings and “Dark Sky” lighting, and accessibility improvements. It emphasized creating a welcoming, visually accessible space along Lake Michigan.

## **2014: BIKE PLAN UPDATE**

Building on the City's efforts to upgrade and expand the cycling network to attract more riders in Evanston, the plan found that while the network had grown substantially since the previous plan in 2003, many corridors needed safety and comfort improvements. Recommendations were also made to enhance connectivity, especially to major destinations.

## **2016: PARKS SCORECARD**

The Open Space Score Card for Evanston was prepared through an extensive survey of community priorities, demographic trends, and rigorous field inspections of public open spaces in 2016. Recommendations included addressing infrastructure and maintenance issues, developing signage standards, improving drinking fountains, enhancing restroom facilities, and addressing playground equipment deterioration.

## **2017: COMPLETE AND GREEN STREETS POLICY**

Ranked among the best in the nation by Smart Growth America, Evanston Complete and Green Streets policy aims to enable safe and convenient movement across all transportation modes regardless of age or capability. The policy created an implementation framework to ensure the policy was incorporated into all new projects.

## **2019: CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE PLAN (CARP)**

Evanston faces numerous environmental challenges such as intense storms, invasive species, and temperature increases. The CARP aims for carbon neutrality by 2050, 100% clean and renewable electricity by 2030, zero waste by 2050, and emphasizes both climate mitigation and resilience efforts. The goal of zero combined sewer overflows through increased green infrastructure mitigation is especially salient to this work.





### **2019: STREETLIGHT MASTER PLAN**

The first streetlight study since 1979, the plan evaluated the 107 individual lighting systems that control approximately 6,000 lighting units throughout the City and made recommendations to establish more uniform standards, improve energy efficiency, and leverage smarter monitoring systems.



### **2019: STORMWATER MASTER PLAN**

Completed in 2019, the plan assessed the City sewer system's performance and identified capital improvements. The study evaluated potential sewer surcharge risks during storm events, recommending stormwater management actions, including regulatory updates and public system enhancements. Proposed improvements would address localized flooding and underperforming sewers, emphasizing green infrastructure for resilience and environmental benefits. The plan also suggests expanding water level monitoring for enhanced data acquisition.



### **2022: EVANSTON ADA TRANSITION PLAN**

A strategic initiative aimed at improving access for individuals with disabilities to City programs, services, parks, facilities, and public right-of-way. It focused on eliminating potential barriers that might hinder participation in the City's cultural and economic activities. The Plan sought to enhance accessibility and to instill a citywide culture of inclusivity by prioritizing ADA access.



### **2022: EVANSTON PROCESS FOR THE LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS**

EPLAN, the Evanston Project for the Local Assessment of Needs, was a five-year strategic initiative led by the City of Evanston Health and Human Services Department in collaboration with the Evanston Health Advisory Council. Engaging residents, community leaders, and health professionals, EPLAN identified and prioritized health concerns, resulting in a comprehensive plan with targeted interventions and community-driven strategies to enhance public health in Evanston.



### **2023: EVANSTON THRIVES**

Aiming to chart a course to reviving Evanston's struggling commercial and retail districts, the final adopted plan revised the former downtown plan, including a form-based code pilot study, zoning recommendations, an updated real estate market analysis, and a limited parking utilization study.

## ONGOING: EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS

Focused on Evanston's lakefront, this comprehensive initiative aimed to implement long-term capital improvements along the City of Evanston-owned shoreline. Emergency Lakefront Stabilization work in 2020 addressed urgent erosion issues; the City is now in a preliminary design phase for immediate shoreline improvement at various lakefront parks.



*Evanston  
Park and  
Green  
Space Plan*



# 3



## EXISTING CONDITIONS

**Evanston’s existing parks system will need to evolve to meet the needs of its growing and diversifying population. To understand what exists today, the team conducted research in three parts and analyzed how well what exists is or is not meeting the needs of Evanston’s current and future population. This included a detailed inventory and evaluation of existing parks and facilities (including peer comparison and population analysis), an ecological evaluation of existing habitat health (including analysis of the lakeshore), and a deep dive into recreation and programming offerings (including financial health and overall performance).**

# CITY HISTORY

The City of Evanston, nestled on the shores of Lake Michigan, boasts a rich history that has played a pivotal role in shaping its present character and culture. From its early days as a haven from the bustle of Chicago to the south, to what is now a vibrant, self-supporting city, Evanston's evolution is intricately connected to the planning and development of its parks and green spaces.

## Early Settlement and the Founding of

**Evanston:** Evanston was first settled in the 1830s, and it was officially incorporated as a town in 1863. Early residents recognized the importance of open spaces and began setting aside land for parks even in these early days.

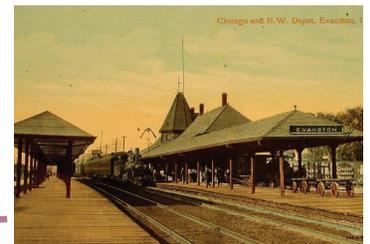
## Early Parks and the Formation of the Park

**Board:** In the late 19th century, Evanston's leaders established several small parks, including Fountain Square and Davis Street Park. However, it wasn't until 1894 that the Evanston Park Board was officially created to oversee the development and maintenance of the town's parks.

**Spaces for Gathering for Equality:** The City has a rich tradition of fostering progressive ideals, particularly in relation to women's rights and the temperance movement. Notable figures like Frances Willard, a prominent leader in the women's suffrage movement, have left lasting legacies in Evanston. The City was a pioneer in the prohibition movement, becoming a dry community in 1858, preceding the national prohibition era. Various green spaces and parks within the City, such as Cornelia Lunt Park, Harbert-Payne Park, Butler Park, Reba Park, McCulloch Park, and Stockham Place Park, have been dedicated to commemorating the contributions of influential women.

## 1863

The city was incorporated after Northwestern opened its doors in 1855



## 1870s

Economic and population boom brought by the railroad

Test

**Early Days of Public Recreation:** Evanston's beaches were not always considered desirable destinations: in the early 1900s, they were poorly maintained and suffered from relatively unrestrained waste dumping in Lake Michigan. Evanston's beaches, like many public places, were segregated and policed to restrict use and access by Evanston's growing black population. As the century went on, however, the waterfront was becoming increasingly accessible to white residents: new public facilities sprouted up, cleanup efforts began, and by 1912, "bathing beaches" were all the rage. Policing of access by race, however, became a defining factor of Evanston's waterfront. While not legally segregated,

"beach guards" were empowered to police who was and was not allowed on the beach: this de facto social enforcement (despite the lack of explicit segregation laws), intensified as the popularity of beach recreation grew. In the 1930s formal restrictions on beach access were passed that required residents to pay a fee to use city beaches.

**Civil Rights and Desegregation:** In the mid-20th century, Evanston, like many other communities, faced issues related to civil rights and integration. The park system played a role in addressing these challenges by providing spaces for community gatherings and events that promoted inclusion and diversity.

## 1890s

Pioneering city in women rights and prohibition movement



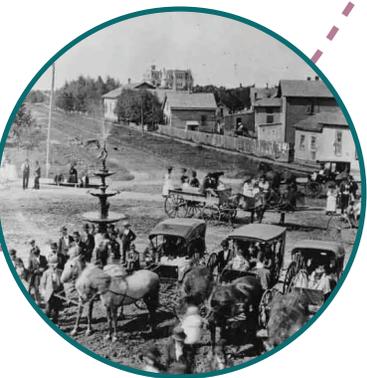
## 1900s

Lincoln Street Beach in 1936, around the time when the city started requiring beach tokens



## 1876

Fountain Square as one of the earliest parks in Evanston



Harbert Payne Park named in honor of female activists

# CITY HISTORY

**Charles Gates Dawes and His Impact:** One of the most significant figures in the history of Evanston's park system was Charles Gates Dawes, who served as the U.S. Vice President under Calvin Coolidge from 1925 to 1929. Dawes was a resident of Evanston and a strong advocate for parks and green spaces. He donated land and funds to create Dawes Park along the shores of Lake Michigan, which remains one of Evanston's most beautiful and prominent parks.

**Expansion and Development:** Over the years, Evanston continued to expand its park system, acquiring and developing new parkland. In 1935, the federal government decommissioned over 35 lighthouses throughout the country. Congress conveyed the Grosse Pointe Lighthouse grounds including the beach for public park purposes. The lighthouse itself was conveyed to Evanston by Act of Congress in 1941. Responsibility for the park went to the North East Park District and then to the City. To address the evolving recreational needs of residents in South Evanston, the Lighthouse Park District was formed in 1929, followed by the Ridgeville Park District in 1939.



**1935**

The federal government decommissioned over 35 lighthouses



**1939**

The Ridgeville Park District was formed

**Modernization and Improvements:** In recent decades, Evanston's park system has undergone some modernization efforts and improvements. Some parks have been renovated, and new amenities have been added to meet the changing needs and preferences of the community.

**Sustainability and Conservation:** Evanston has also placed a growing emphasis on sustainability and conservation within its park system. Initiatives include the planting of native species, the development of community gardens, and efforts to reduce the environmental impact of park facilities.

**Recreation and Programming:** The park system in Evanston provides a wide range of recreational opportunities for residents, including sports fields, playgrounds, tennis and pickleball courts, and cultural programs. Evanston's parks are often used for events, festivals, and community gatherings.

## 2018

Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center renovation



## 2018

Fountain Square improvements



## 2020

Harbert-Payne Park improvements



## 2020

Completed in 2020, Robert Crown Community Center is Evanston's newest community center, offering a wide variety of recreation and programming

# Community Snapshot

## A Growing Population

Today, Evanston is a thriving community that serves as a home to 78,110 residents, according to the 2020 US Census.

Demonstrating its unique beauty and strength, Evanston has witnessed nearly a 5% population growth over the last decade, equating to a total increase of 3,684 individuals. Anchored by Northwestern University, a top-tier academic institution, the City boasts a population of 16,000 full-time students.

As the community expands, it mirrors the national trend of increasing average age. Individuals of retirement age constituted 16.4% of the population in 2020, with this demographic continuing to grow. Simultaneously, teenagers and young children under 18 years old also contribute significantly to the community, comprising 19.1% of the population in 2020. This demographic diversity reflects Evanston's dynamic character and evolving population structure.

## A Diversifying Community

Evanston, like many American cities, has a complex history tied to redlining that disproportionately impacted minority communities in certain neighborhoods. In recent decades, the City has seen efforts to actively address historical inequities and experienced a transformation. As part of this ongoing evolution, Evanston's population has become more diverse. Notably, 42% of the City's residents identify as people of color based on the 2020 US Census. Today, 63.4% of Evanston's residents identify as white alone, significantly lower than the statewide average of 76.1% in Illinois. This demographic shift reflects a commitment to fostering a more inclusive community and creating a city that embraces its diverse population.



5%

Population growth rate in the last decade



78,110

Population during US Census, 2020



16,000

Full-time students at Northwestern University

36.2

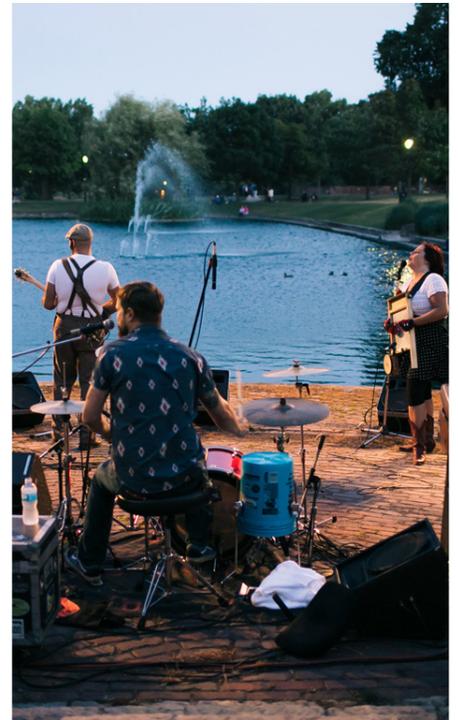
Median age

16.4%

of population 65 years and over

19.1%

of population under 18 years



5.2%

population with a disability under age of 65 years

42%

of the population identify as people of color

# PARKS AND FACILITIES



Dawes Park



Penny Park



Elliot Park

It is critical to understand the existing network of Evanston's open spaces, including the condition of parks and facilities, in order to drive future planning. To develop a robust understanding and assessment of existing parks and facilities, the team conducted an on-the-ground inventory alongside Parks and Recreation staff over the course of three days in December 2022. A detailed review of all parks, trails, natural lands, lakefront areas, and sports and recreation facilities resulted in both a complete quantitative inventory and a full evaluation using both quantitative and qualitative criteria. The inventory included fields, amenities (like playgrounds, lighting, and bike paths), furnishings (such as benches, trash receptacles, and drinking fountains), accessibility, and wayfinding. While on site, the team assessed the condition of each item inventoried using the following measurement criteria:

- **Excellent:** Parks and facilities within the first quartile of useful life. These had no visible defects (material/equipment condition or surfaces condition) and appeared updated or relatively new.
- **Good:** Park and facilities within 25-50% of useful life. These showed only minor defects or visible wear (material/equipment condition and surfaces condition) and only those that do not affect use.



Lighthouse Beach



Fountain Square

- **Fair:** These were at 50-100% of useful life and had a greater number of minor defects and visible wear (material/equipment condition and surfaces condition). Use was still possible, but affected.
- **Poor:** These were beyond useful life; parks and facilities with this rating had visible major defects or significant repair needed, were a safety concern, or displayed other conditions that limit their use like non-ADA compliance.

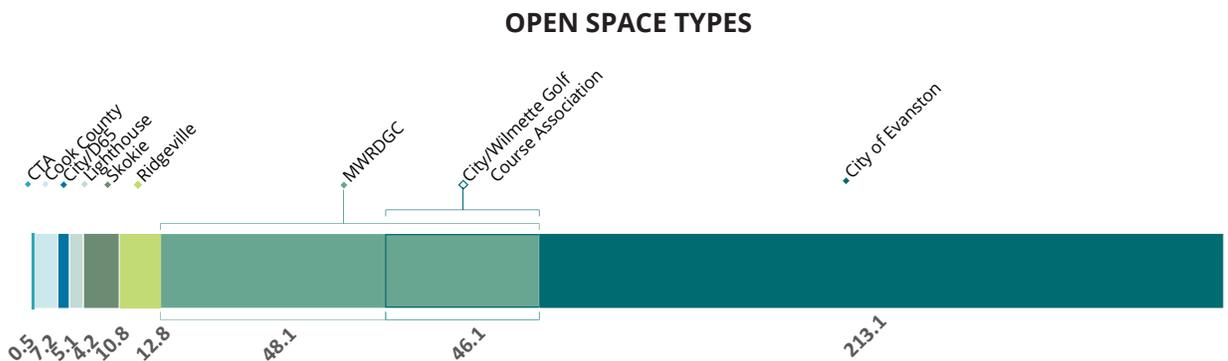
The rating for each element was determined by the lowest grade of any part. To ground truth our assessment of useful life and complete our condition analysis, the team gathered (where available) the installation or renovation year of all equipment, amenities, and facilities from the City of Evanston and determined useful life using the Illinois Department of Natural Resource’s definitions for recreation facilities. ADA compliance was also evaluated based on the City’s criteria and guidelines.

Evanston is a growing city with a vibrant and diverse population. The park system, spanning neighborhood and community parks, beaches, and community facilities, offers diverse recreational opportunities. While some facilities

are high quality, quality is unevenly distributed, and we found that two-thirds of facilities are in poor condition due to aging, highlighting the need for prioritized maintenance and increased funding for Evanston’s relatively small Parks and Recreation team.

## Evanston residents enjoy a large portfolio of parks

Evanston has a community-centric park system, with the majority of its open space serving at the neighborhood scale. Two hundred twenty-one acres of open space are neighborhood parks, which are defined as featuring active recreation fields, facilities, and playgrounds. Additionally, there are 63 acres designated for community parks, larger parks which offer active fields and diverse facilities in addition to specialized district uses and community facilities like a community center. Evanston provides 11.2 acres of beaches, 1.3 acres for tot lots, and 61 acres of undefined open space, ensuring a varied and inclusive recreational landscape for its residents. Undefined open spaces can provide similar access to relaxation and recreation, while contributing habitats, biodiversity, and stormwater resilience.



## Multiple parks districts and jurisdictions create complexity

This community-centric park system is sustained by various park owners, encompassing regional entities and park districts. The majority of parklands, totaling 213.1 acres, are under the ownership of the City of Evanston, but regional entities like the Metro Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC), Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and Cook County hold a significant portion of parklands, particularly along the channel and including Perkins Woods. Complicating the City of Evanston's ability to strategically meet community needs, different park districts within the City contribute to this expansive network of parks. Situated in different areas within the city, these park districts own and manage varying portions of parklands, including Ridgeville, Lighthouse, and Skokie.

## Almost all residents are within a 10-minute walk of a park

Examining Evanston through a geographical lens, the City takes pride in its well-distributed and accessible park system. Nearly all residents

enjoy the convenience of having a park within a 10-minute walk from their homes. According to the community survey, 98% of Evanston residents have visited one of the City's parks in the past year. This rate significantly surpasses the national average of 76%. The well-connected and accessible park system not only promotes physical activity and recreational opportunities but also fosters a sense of community, underscoring Evanston's efforts on the well-being and satisfaction of its residents.

98%

of survey respondents visited an Evanston park in the past year

5

acres of park in Evanston per 1000 residents, compared to 9 acres for peer median

987

residents per park in Evanston, compared to 1,496 for peer median



### Peer Cities List:

- Iowa City, IA
- Des Moines, IA
- Bloomington, IN
- Oak Park, IL
- Boulder, CO
- Champaign, IL
- Elgin, IL



- Buffalo Grove, IL
- Skokie, IL\*
- Cambridge, MA\*\*
- Ann Arbor, MI\*\*

\* 2014 data

\*\* Did not report data to NRPA; no financial data available, but amenity data gathered separately



WILMETTE

LAKE MICHIGAN

Central St

Ridge Ave

Northwestern University

Emerson St

DOWNTOWN EVANSTON

Church St

Dempster St

SKOKIE

Dodge Ave

Asbury Ave

Chicago Ave

Forest Ave

Main St

Oakton St

LAKE MICHIGAN

CHICAGO

**PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO PARKS**

City of Evanston

Wards

Railroads

Railroad Stations

Water Bodies

Beaches

**Park Managing Entity**

City of Evanston

Cook County Forest Preserve

Skokie Park District

Lighthouse Park District

Ridgeville Park District

**Park Service Area**

Park Location

5 min Walkshed

10 min Walkshed

15 min Walkshed

0 0.15 0.3 0.6 Miles

## Parks are highly accessible, but there is insufficient acreage per resident

In peer comparisons, cities have on average one park per 2,300 residents. Evanston (including the Ridgeville, Lighthouse, and Skokie park districts) has one park for every 987 residents. While there is excellent accessibility to a park, the supply does not necessarily meet the community's growing needs. In terms of total acreage, Evanston has 5 acres of parkland per thousand residents, a little more than half that of the national average.

## The system offers diverse amenities, unevenly distributed

Amenity mix is determined by calculating the number of a certain amenity per thousand residents. Overall, Evanston offers a greater quantity of amenities than peer cities, but those amenities are not evenly distributed. In the North Central and Southeast areas of Evanston, residents have access to over six types of amenities within walking distance, including things like ice skating rinks, dog parks, and tennis courts. Conversely, residents in areas further inland along the Skokie border have much less variety.

### PLAYGROUNDS



**Evanston**  
1,339  
residents/  
playground

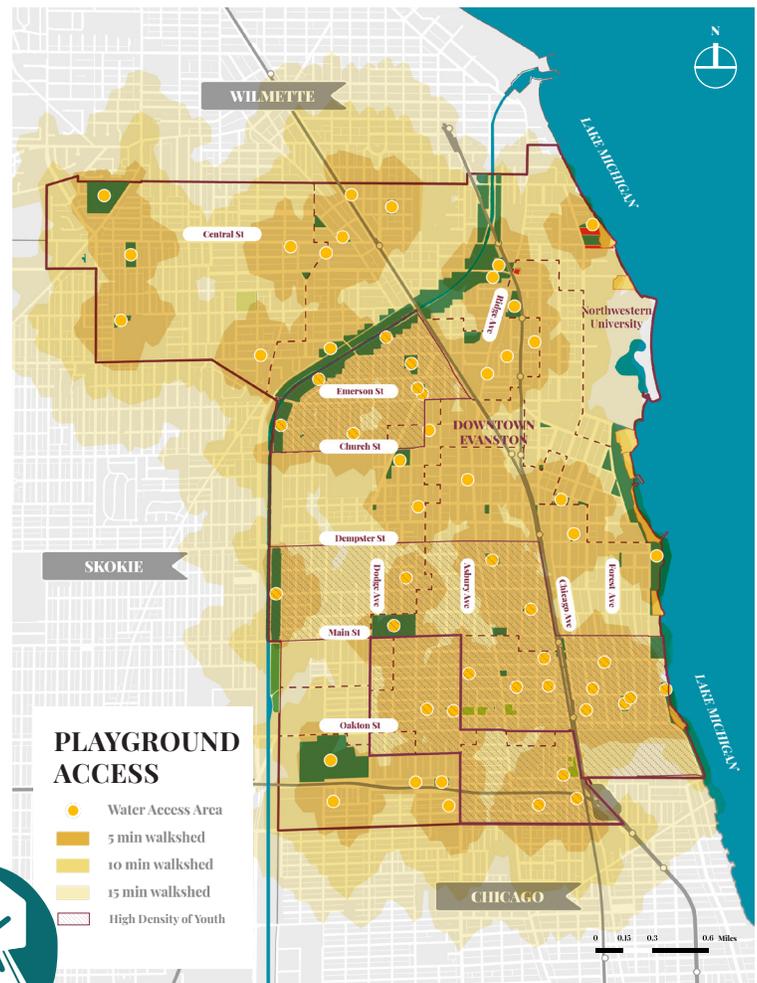


**of playgrounds are in poor condition**

Most playgrounds are well past the recommended lifespan and are ripe for reinvestment to improve quality and accessibility.

**Peers Median**  
2,706

**National Median**  
3,807



# EVANSTON INVENTORY



\* Including 12 mixed-use courts



\*\*Courts are mixed-use

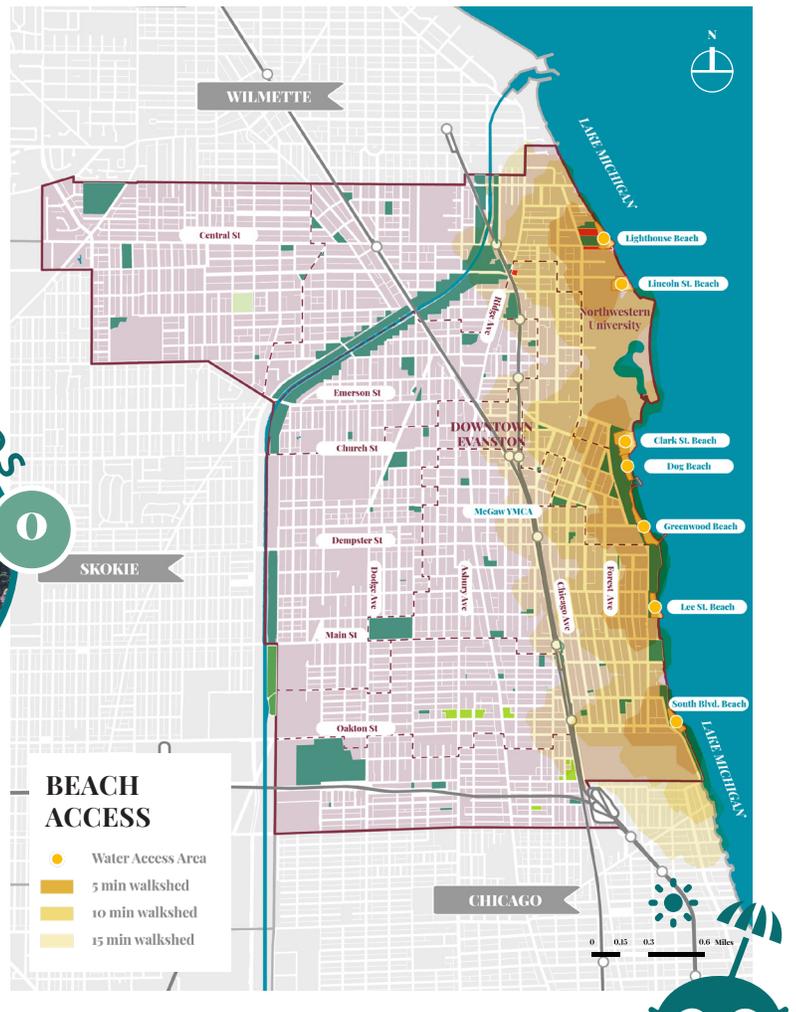
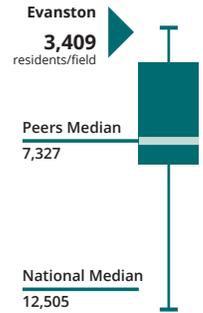
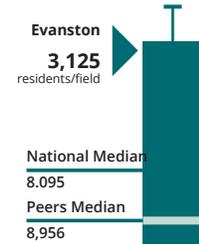
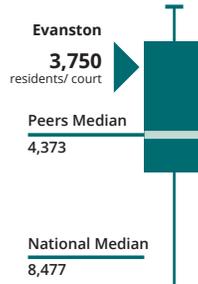
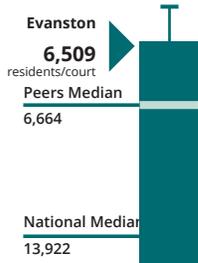
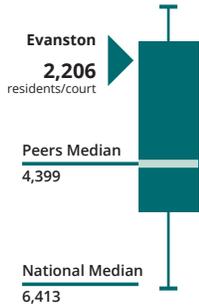


\*\*\*16 full courts and 13 partial courts



\*\*\*\*Including some smaller fields, and 2 run by Skokie District

## PEER CITY COMPARISON



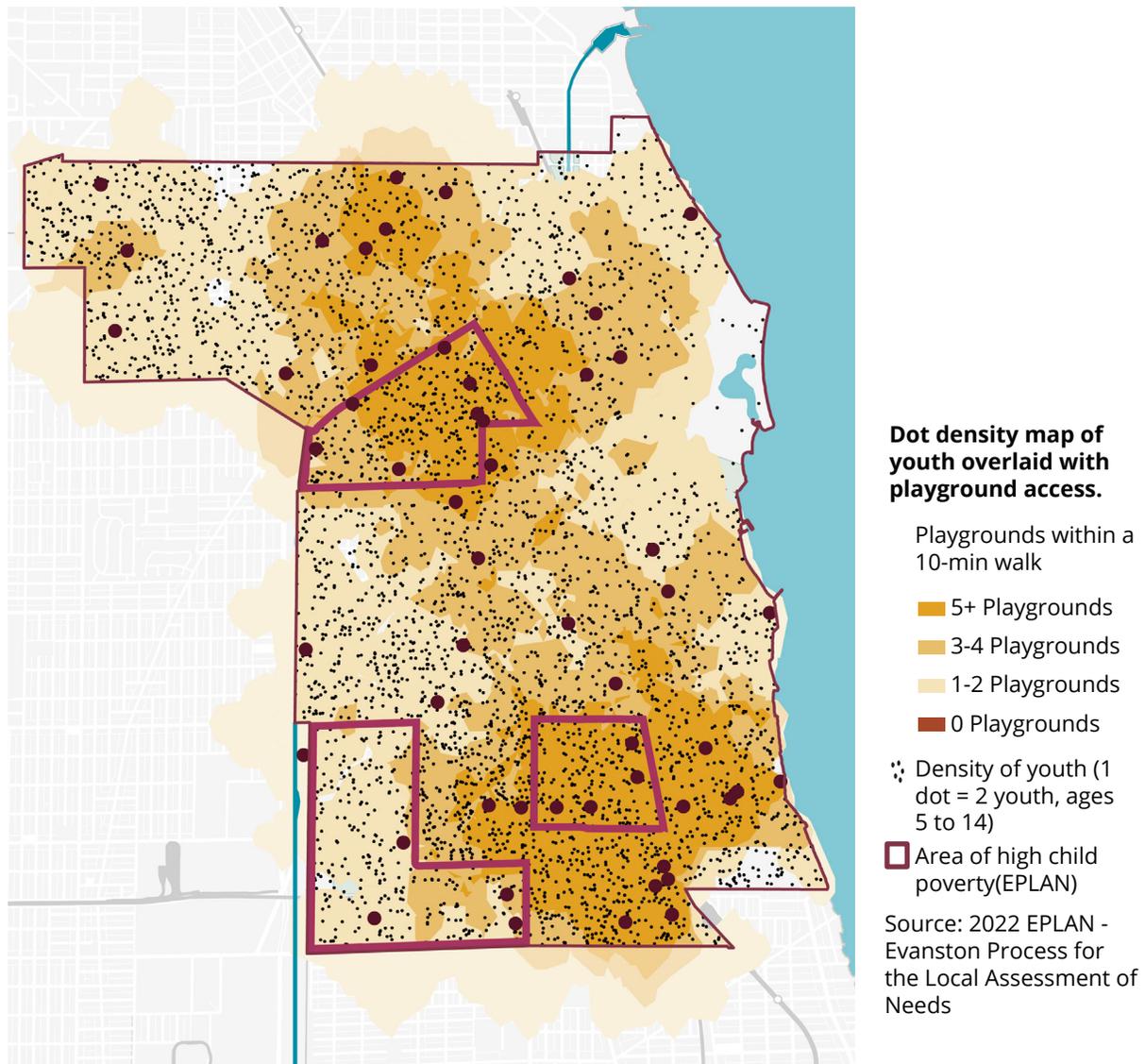
## Community engagement indicates high unmet needs for water and nature experiences

Community engagement across multiple inputs indicated a consistently high desire and unmet need for increased water access, including pools and beaches. Increased tree canopy and nature experiences (like rain gardens and wildlife areas) also ranked high. Facilities like athletic fields, picnic areas, and playgrounds ranked lower in community priority, indicating there is either a lower interest or that needs are already being met in Evanston today.

## Facilities need significant upgrades and maintenance

To better understand the condition of existing parks and facilities, a thorough conditions assessment of 154 park amenities was conducted, employing an integrative approach based on observed conditions during park inventory, the recommended lifecycle from Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Useful Life criteria, and ADA compliance outlined in the Evanston ADA Transition Plan.

Among 154 rated features based on our park inventory, overall about two thirds of facilities were rated poor or very poor, largely based

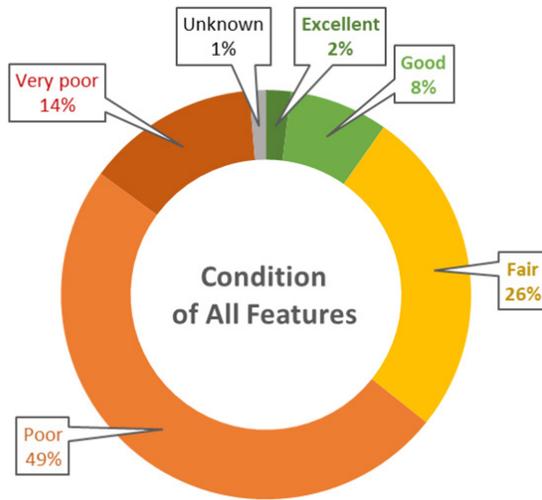


on ages that exceeded the recommended useful life. The current funding and maintenance levels are inadequate to replace a significant number of park amenities within recommended timeframes. Notably, numerous playgrounds, sports fields, and courts have surpassed their recommended lifespan. Playgrounds emerged as a distinct trend in the data since Evanston has substantially more

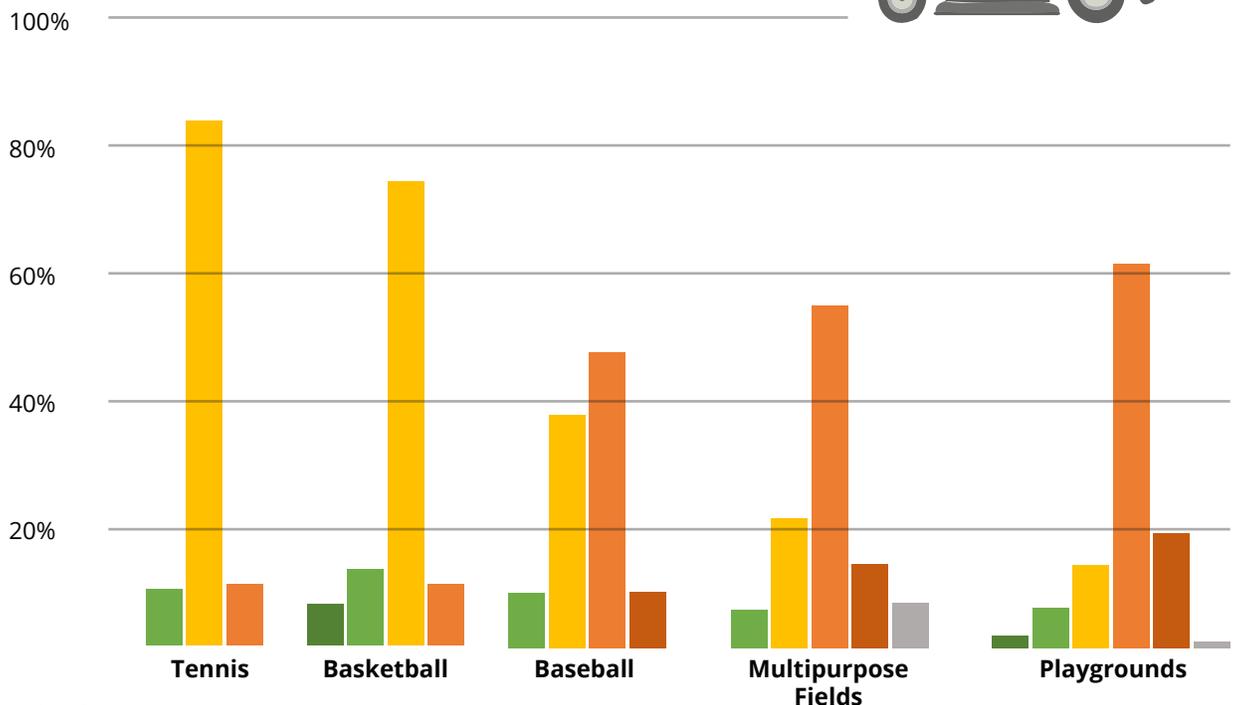
playgrounds than peers. While many residents have over four playgrounds within a 10-minute walk, a staggering 78% are currently in poor or very poor condition.

## Understaffed teams maintain a large portfolio

Evanston has a dedicated but relatively small team overseeing its many parks and facilities, when compared to similar sized communities within the region and across the country as well as compared to historic hiring and retention trends within the City of Evanston itself. Despite a positive perception of parks' overall condition by 85% of survey respondents, the demand for upkeep is substantial. Daily maintenance emerges as the community's foremost priority during the survey.



**Condition of All Assessed Features**  
Source: 2022 Inventory and Condition Assessment



**Rating by Feature Type**  
Source: 2022 Inventory and Condition Assessment, Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

# HABITAT & ENVIRONMENT

Cities are faced with a constant need to balance competing priorities, both in terms of budget outlays and use of public lands. In a mature city like Evanston, open space is at a premium. Typically, concerns like recreation, leisure, and stormwater infrastructure climb to the top of the priority list; naturalized areas, habitat, and greenspace fall to the bottom of the priority list and can remain under-funded for decades. In Evanston, there is competition between City departments for the limited funds that exist, resulting in a general lack of funding for the park system. The limited extent and low quality of naturalized landscapes and habitats reflects this lack of investment. Progress is seen at specific parks that are being restored by community volunteer groups, but these efforts typically lack a unified vision and coherent goals. This section summarizes the current state of naturalized areas in the City of Evanston, including historical forces that impact current conditions and can help direct future goals.

- Existing naturalized areas in the City of Evanston are small and fragmented and/or linear, which increases the negative effects of encroachment by surrounding urbanization.
- Areas currently being managed for a diversity of native species, typically by community volunteer groups, have a higher ratio of native to invasive species than areas that are currently unmanaged.
- Additional investments are needed in staffing and training in maintenance of the City's naturalized landscapes.
- Prioritizing strategic expansion of naturalized landscapes in City parks is necessary for Evanston to significantly

elevate the ecological quality and function of the City's naturalized landscapes.

- Evanston beaches can be divided into two general categories: wide and stable, with intact dunes anchored by native grasses, versus narrow and fluctuating, typically with hard armoring or other engineering solutions to prevent infrastructure damage and flooding.
- The City is engaged in planning (ending 2024) to improve the resilience and usability of several shoreline areas damaged by 2020 near-record lake levels.

## Diverse Ecological Underpinnings

The roads and building pattern of Evanston were shaped by the vegetation that had existed for several thousand years and was mapped by government surveyors in the early 1800s. Chicago Road and Sheridan Avenue (north of the University) traced the eastern edge of a large north-south running wet prairie. Ridge Avenue and the Metra line follow the narrow, oak-studded beach ridge created by post-glacial Lake Chicago. The North Shore Channel was excavated through the center of a vast wet prairie-sedge meadow complex.

The natural vegetation of Evanston when the first European settlers arrived, as surveyed in the 1810-1840 period.



Human development followed the vegetation and landscape, which had been shaped by the recent geology laid down during glacial action ten thousand years before, and molded by the later dynamics of post-glacial lakes.

From the University southward, a series of three notable oak-covered ridges and intervening wet prairie swales paralleled the big lake. At the coast, wide sandy beaches formed at indentations in the lakeshore—embayments. On more exposed shores, a small, eroding escarpment may have existed, especially where an ancient beach ridge met the lake. Marshes, wet prairies and sedge meadows may have occupied shallow depressions behind the beaches and dunes, as suggested by the USGS Soil Survey. Given the practices of the Potawatomi, who had lived here for several hundred years at the time of the government survey, widespread aboriginal burning would have maintained the oak ridges in a fairly open condition—as a savanna or woodland with a sparse understory. Without regular burning—stopped in the mid-1800s by roads and fields—the savannas and woodlands became shadier, multi-layered forests in the span of a few decades.

The northwest section of Evanston, also on glacial Lake Chicago, was wooded in the early 1800s. The flat terrain and proximity to Lake Michigan promoted a shallow water table. A slight change in elevation produced noticeable changes in the vegetation. In some places the extensive sands of the former lake plain blended with silts and clay, enabling water to pond in slight depressions after snowmelt and big storms. This situation created “flatwoods”—a mosaic of slight rises and low points that support a diverse mix of upland and lowland plant life. The county-owned Perkins Woods is an example of a flatwoods on Wesley fine sandy loam, whose water table in spring is half a meter below the land surface.

Also in the northwest corner of Evanston was a small upland prairie, the only one mapped by the surveyors. Since the surveyors mapped only prairies that crossed section lines (which were a mile apart), they missed the many dry

and moist sand prairies that probably existed on and adjacent to the ridges. Lastly, a small “swamp” existed on either side of Maple Avenue, from Grove south to Main Street. A swamp, to the surveyor, would have been a noticeably wet area, likely with standing water and distinctly different from the adjacent wooded uplands.

## **A Lens into Evanston’s Natural History**

Over time, natural areas in Evanston have been compressed and altered by urbanization. Very few “remnant” native plant communities still exist within the City. Existing plant assemblages are more correctly categorized as “naturalized areas” – they have been impacted by human development but were planted with native vegetation and managed at some point in time. However, well-managed naturalized areas have the potential to provide a range of ecosystem services, including habitat for native animals, stormwater management, erosion control, nutrient cycling, and human enjoyment. In order to set appropriate restoration goals for City naturalized areas, it is important for Evanston to understand the scope and condition of these naturalized areas as they exist currently.

### **HABITAT SURVEY**

To prepare for the field assessment of existing naturalized areas, the City of Evanston provided a map of ecologically significant parcels and locations of smaller areas (“points”) where native species were planted. The parcels and points are considered “naturalized areas”; that is, places impacted by human development but planted with native vegetation and managed to some extent. These are shown in the map on the previous page.

Using methods described in the Appendix, RES assessed the areas of interest and the additional points in a desktop analysis for their likelihood to support native vegetation. These areas of interest were visited and representative geotagged photographs were taken of each location. RES also

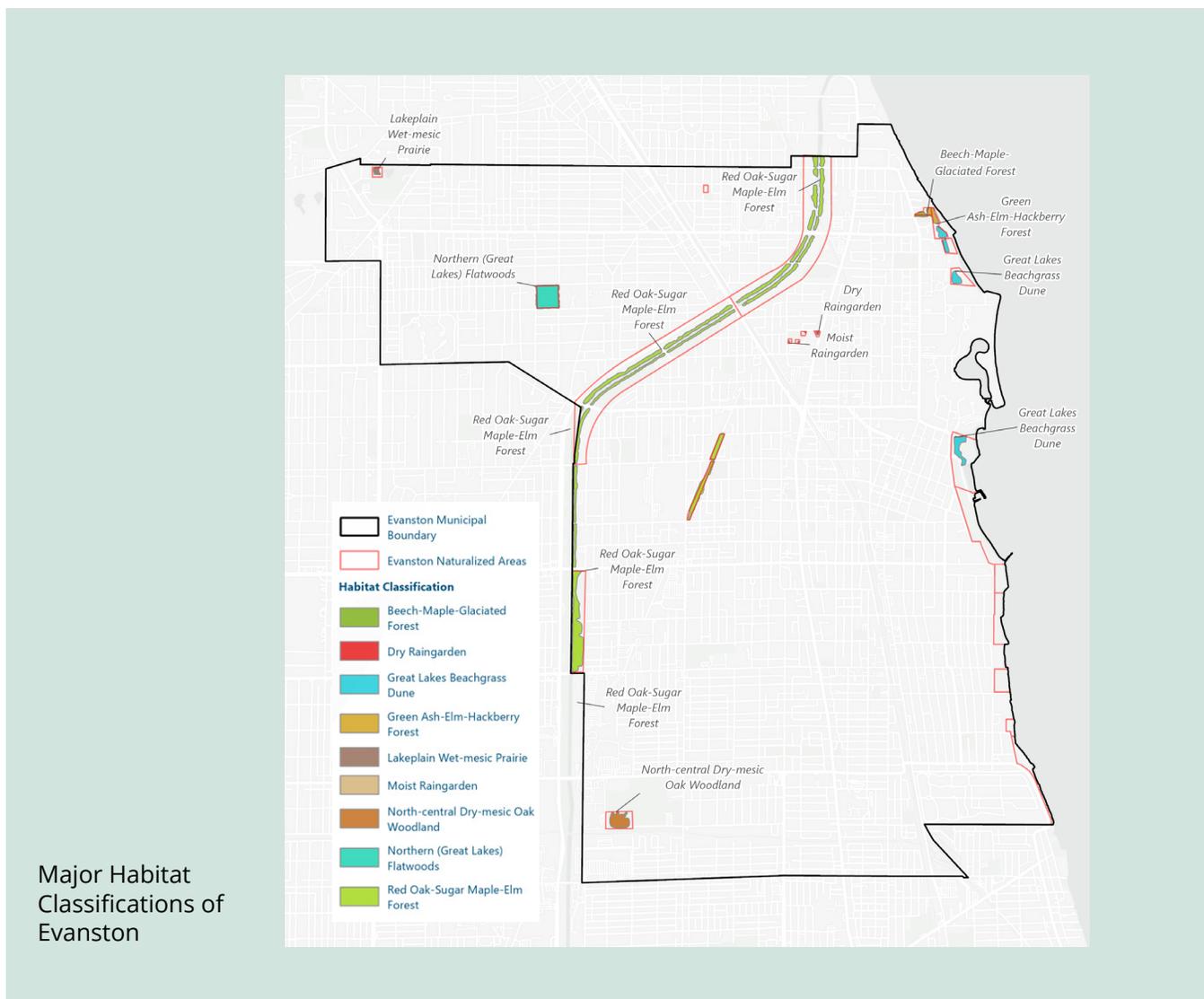
collected vegetation data at locations where a recognizable plant community existed: vegetation structure by layer, species composition and abundance, and dominant species. See the Appendix for details.

## EXISTING HABITATS

RES ecologists identified seven different native plant communities (or habitat types) present in Evanston. These were not remnant historical communities, but naturalized assemblages that resemble recognized native plant communities in the region. Plant community locations are shown on the following page, which includes the wet and dry rain gardens in Ingraham Park. The map also presents

the naturalized area polygons provided by the City prior to field inspections. In general, there is significant overlap between the areas identified independently by RES and those provided by the City. Many of the shoreline sections, however, are vegetated so sparsely that they do not qualify as a plant community. Additionally, most planted gardens contain native plants but lack the structure that is typical of a native plant community.

The naturalized plant communities in Evanston are summarized below. Full descriptions, taken from The Nature Conservancy's "Plant Communities of the Midwest," are in the Appendix.





Red oak/sugar maple/elm forest along North Shore Channel.



Beech/maple glaciated forest at Lawson Park (East).



Green ash/elm/hackberry forest at Lawson Park (West).

### **RED OAK/SUGAR MAPLE/ELM FOREST (MIDWESTERN MESIC OAK & OAK/MAPLE FORESTS)**

Where: North Shore Channel, Ladd Arboretum, Mason Park Expansion

Oak stands are generally found on either mesic sites protected from fire or on drier slopes, where historically fires were more prevalent, but where current fire protection is creating mesic conditions. The canopy is variable but typically closed (>80% tree canopy cover). The major tree dominants are sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), and red oak (*Quercus rubra*). Current stands may be shifting from oak dominance to maple, basswood (*Tilia americana*), and elm dominance.

### **BEECH/MAPLE GLACIATED FOREST**

Where: Lawson Park West

This community is found on flat to rolling topography (Braun 1950, Pell and Mack 1977). In the southern parts of its range, it is more likely to be found on steeper slopes than in the northern portion (Braun 1950). This community is characterized by a dense to moderately dense canopy of deciduous trees, a sparse shrub layer, and a moderately to well-developed herbaceous layer. The canopy and subcanopy greatly reduce the amount of light reaching the groundlayer vegetation. The canopy is composed primarily of sugar maple and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*).

### **GREEN ASH/ELM/HACKBERRY FOREST**

Where: Lawson Park East

Stands occur on upper floodplain terraces of rivers and streams and in upland ravine bottoms. The vegetation has an open to closed tree canopy that is dominated by green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and American elm. There is often a shrub layer and grass and lowland plants in the groundlayer.

### **NORTH-CENTRAL DRY-MESIC OAK WOODLAND**

Where: James Park

This system is common on rolling glacial moraines and outwash plains. The tree layer is composed predominantly of white oak (*Quercus alba*) and bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), with northern pin oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*) or black oak (*Quercus velutina*) more common on dry sites. This community may include

portions of stands also described as brushland (Grimm 1984, MNNHP 1993) or barrens (Bowles and McBride 1994, White 1994). Shrub cover is usually high (30-50%) with some stands forming impenetrable thickets. Typical shrubs include hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) and stiff dogwood (*Cornus foemina*). This community may also include stands described as 'closed savanna' or 'closed woodland' (Swink and Wilhelm 1994, Packard 1988). These stands experience low-intensity but moderately frequent fires that allow the establishment and growth to canopy size of moderately fire-tolerant tree saplings such as red oak and even black maple (*Acer nigrum*).

### **GREAT LAKES BEACHGRASS DUNE**

Where: Clark Street Beach, Lighthouse Beach

Component plant communities vary from sparsely vegetated, active dunes to communities dominated by grasses, shrubs, and trees, depending on the degree of sand deposition, sand erosion, stabilization, and distance from the lake. Canopy cover is sparse and variable. Depositional areas, where Great Lakes beachgrass dunes are found, are dominated by American beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), and to a lesser extent by switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*). Evergreen shrubs such as Jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) occupy the ground layer in the savanna edge of dunes; elsewhere, deciduous shrubs are dominant, including red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), common ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) and sandbar willow (*Salix interior*).

### **LAKEPLAIN WET-MESIC PRAIRIE**

Where: Lovelace Park

This community occurs on level sandy glacial outwash, sandy glacial lakeplains, and deposits of dune sand in silty/clayey glacial lakeplains. The vegetation of this community is dominated by tallgrass species typically 1-2 m high. Trees and shrubs are very rare. There is very little bare ground. Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), *Carex* species (including Bicknell's sedge (*Carex bicknellii*), Buxbaum's sedge (*Carex buxbaumii*), and woolly sedge (*Carex pellita* = *Carex lanuginosa*)), switchgrass, little bluestem, and Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) are the most abundant species.



North-central Dry-mesic Oak Woodland at James Park.



Great Lakes beachgrass dune at Clark Street Beach.



Lakeplain wet-mesic prairie at Lovelace Park.

## ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING OF NATURALIZED AREAS

The inventoried areas were categorized as ecologically functioning or less ecologically functioning, based on the dominant species (native or invasive) and current level of ecological management. A ratio of “Native to Non-Native” species was calculated for each area as a metric of quality, as summarized in the graph below.

The most ecologically functioning naturalized areas within the City of Evanston, based on a ratio of native to non-native species currently include:

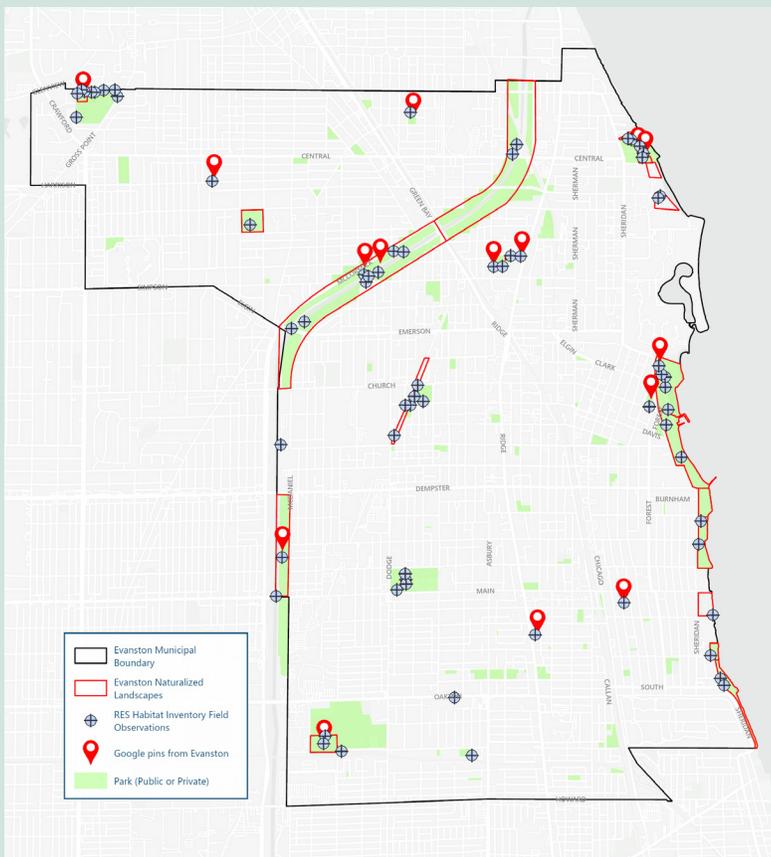
- Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary
- Lincoln Street Beach
- Ladd Arboretum (N)
- Lighthouse Beach

Additionally, the rain gardens located at Ingraham Park and at the northeast corner of the Civic Center building contain a high ratio of native to non-native species.

The less ecologically functioning naturalized areas within the City of Evanston, based on a ratio of native of non-native species currently include:

- North Shore Channel\*
- Ladd Arboretum (S)
- Lawson Park (E & W)
- Lovelace Park
- James Park
- Mason Park Expansion

In general, the most important predictor of high ecological functioning is active management. Ecologically functional means



Field Assessment Sites and Data Points

that a plant community is able to withstand disturbance without disintegrating, and recover from that disturbance through internal processes, like plant recolonization and growth. All of the sites denoted by green bars in the chart are actively managed, either by City staff or community volunteer groups. Some areas in the red section of the chart have received attention within the last five years, but RES would consider the management of these as inconsistent and incomplete.

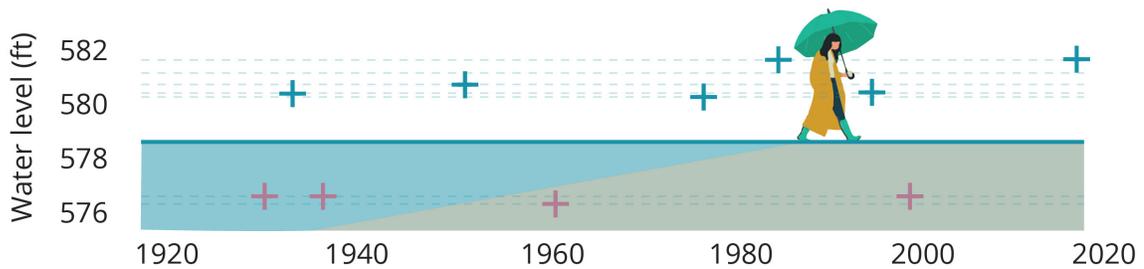
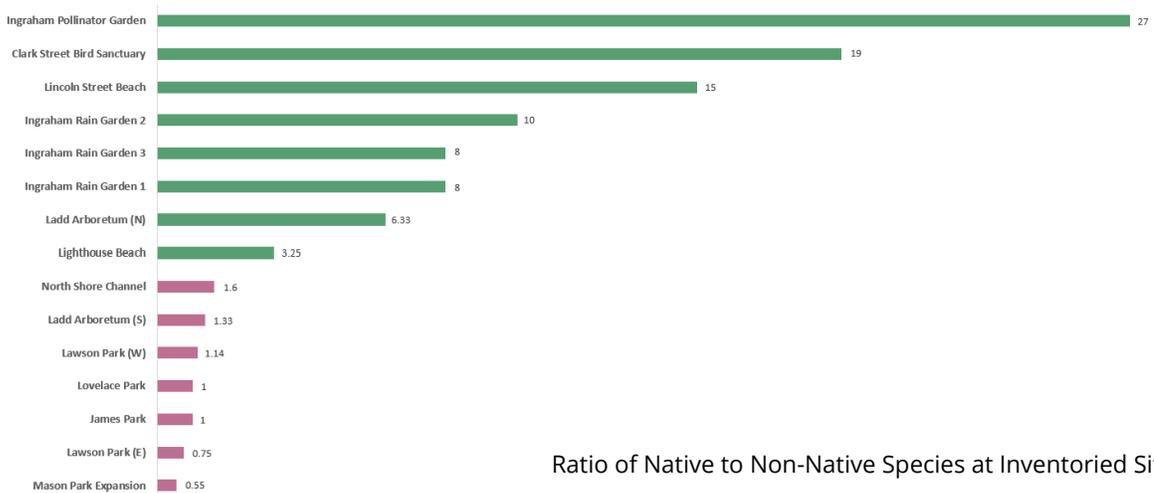
\* Data was collected along representative sections of the North Shore Channel. Not every park was sampled.

## An Ever-Changing Lakeshore

For over 100 years, Lake Michigan's water level has fluctuated with precipitation, temperature,

and ice cover, but sometimes stays high or low for years. For 20 years in the 1970s and 1980s it was above average, sometimes over three feet above average. For 15 years in the 2000s and early 2010s it was below average, sometimes up to three feet below average. This means lake levels can move up and down as much as six feet in the span of a decade or two. In 2020 the lake rose to 582.2 feet, almost reaching the October 1986 record of 582.35 feet. Noticeable low and high water periods usually last 3-5 years.

Human-built infrastructure and expectations, however, are grounded in an idea that nature does not change, and that what people build and program today will remain stable for decades. The history of structures collapsing into the lake, of boat moorings left high and dry, of harbors filling with sand, speak to the contrary. Moreover, natural



- + Higher than average water level
- + Lower than average water level
- Long-term average water level

Lake Michigan (and the connected Lake Huron) is an average 579 feet above sea level. A 100-year record low occurred in 2012 and a record high in 1986. The lake level in 2020 very nearly reached the 1986 record high.

lakeshore processes of erosion and sediment deposition—mediated by beaches, dunes and marshes that maintain shoreline stability—are disrupted by jetties, fill, and dredging. The changes in temperature, precipitation and ice cover expected with climate change will add more uncertainty to human endeavors along Evanston’s lakeshore.

At a public meetings and in online commentary during 2022 and 2023, the City learned from residents that swimming and beaches were a top concern, with a preference for naturalized, vegetated shorelines that had low repair and maintenance needs and costs[1]. Stabilization and naturalization strategies were proposed for these shorelines, all of which experienced erosion and flooding in the 2020 high water year.

- Dog Beach at Centennial Park
- Greenwood Beach & Dempster Street Boat Launch

- Elliot Park & Lee Street Beach
- Clark Square
- Sheridan Road Revetment
- Lincoln Street

Naturalization strategies proposed and positively received by participants were a) toe slope revetments with natural vegetation; b) headlands jutting into the lake to trap and hold sand; and c) offshore reefs that protect beaches from storm waves in high water years. Where feasible, shoreline retreat with dune-beachgrass construction was also proposed.

Several beaches in Evanston continue to exist without human addition of external sand; they recover their width after high water periods when the lake level drops (see Appendix for details). These stable beaches have three traits in common: a wide sand deposit offshore, a wide expanse of beach when lake levels are average (579 feet), and a high dune armored



Clockwise from top left: The beaches from Lighthouse Landing to Northwestern University have all the ingredients for stable beaches: wide offshore sand deposit, wide beach, and tall dune with beachgrass.

This tall dune on private land next to Lighthouse Beach withstood the 2020-2021 high water due to a beachgrass covered dune. The roots of beachgrass are visible on the wave-cut face of the dune.



Although the height of the dune is short, the grass-covered dune at Clark Street Beach resisted wave erosion in the 2020-2021 high water period.

RES ecologists stand amidst tillering beachgrass and resprouting red-osier dogwood, plants that are rebuilding the dune here.

with beachgrass. The replenishing sand comes from the north, carried by longshore currents, and is deposited offshore at stable beaches. Waves and winter ice pile sand on the beach, and wind works it into dunes that are colonized by beachgrass, which traps the sand and tolerates burial.

Offshore sediment can be trapped, and beaches maintained, by jetties that slow longshore currents and cause sand to fall to the lake bottom, as well as by created headlands that hold sand in place between them. Jetties, however, can starve down-current beaches of sand. A sediment budget analysis is needed to demonstrate that whatever is proposed will work; the sand deposited offshore, washed up on the beach, and swept away by longshore currents will still leave excess sand banked offshore to replenish sand lost from the beach during high water periods.

The inventory identified these beaches with

stable characteristics:

1. Lighthouse Landing/Private Beach
2. Lincoln Street Beach
3. Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary
4. Lee Street Beach
5. South Boulevard Beach

Where shoreline infrastructure and parkland suffered in the high water of 2020, the characteristics of stable beaches were generally lacking. Boat storage racks and foot traffic also prevent the development of stabilizing beachgrass dunes. It is also possible that parkland locations where flooding occurred were historically wet prairies and marshes that were filled to expand parkland acreage.

Clockwise from top left: The beach at Dawes Park is narrow and constrained by riprap, despite an offshore sand deposit.



Dempster Street beach around 1900. This area was probably marsh or wet prairie, perhaps with low dunes. It was filled with rubble, stumps, and other debris to create more parkland. (Photo retrieved by Dr. Jenny Thompson, Evanston History Center Archives)



Foot traffic, a walkway, and a boat storage area (for active recreation needs) limit the development of a beachgrass dune setup at Greenwood Street Beach.



Flooding at Elliot Park and similar settings during the 2020 high water year likely happened at locations that were marsh, wet prairie, or lake bottom in the mid-1800s. (Photo by Evanston City staff.)



# RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Evanston Parks and Recreation Department offers over 2,875 fitness, sports, aquatics, environmental, and recreation classes and special events to the community each year. This section of the report reviews insights into the size, scope, and health of the Department's recreation programs. Information from this report, combined with other community stakeholder feedback, will help shape recommendations for operational improvement and future recreation program offerings.

- Evanston runs a wide variety of programs from facilities that are well distributed across the City. Overall enrollment in programs has been growing, and program areas are well aligned with the Department's overall mission and goals.
- Facility availability and lack of amenities like restrooms/shelter limit the ability to expand programs like aquatic programs and summer camp that are high community priorities.
- Although it is not uncommon for park and recreation organizations' program offerings to be weighted more towards youth audiences, there are opportunities to increase teen-specific and adult programs, especially adult fitness.
- The Department could prioritize nurturing new programs and consider refreshing or eliminating programs that are nearing the end of their life cycle.

This recreation program summary reflects information and data collected from a variety of sources. Sources analyzed include:

- Recreation Program Offering and Registration Data from the Department's recreation software<sup>1</sup>
- Recreation Program Evaluations completed by Department staff
- Internal workshop and meetings with Department staff

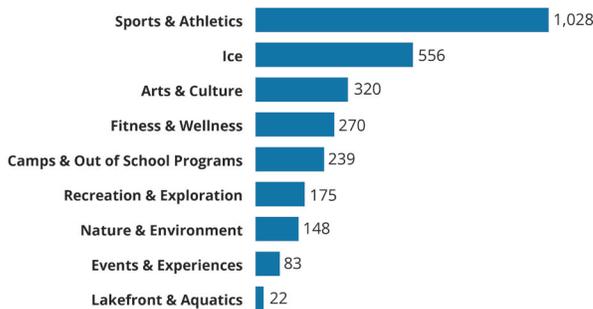
<sup>1</sup> It is important to note however, that this does not include other types of recreational activities and

programs facilitated by the Parks and Recreation Department, such as special events that do not require pre-registration or programs and leagues offered by sports affiliate groups that utilize a significant amount of green space managed by the City.

## A Broad Range of Program Offerings

The Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of recreation programs to its community, the majority falling under nine core program categories.

Data from the Department’s recreation software was used to create a more detailed inventory of these classes offered over the course of a year. The chart below showcases the frequency in which classes were offered in 2022 across the different core program categories.



### Program Offerings by Category

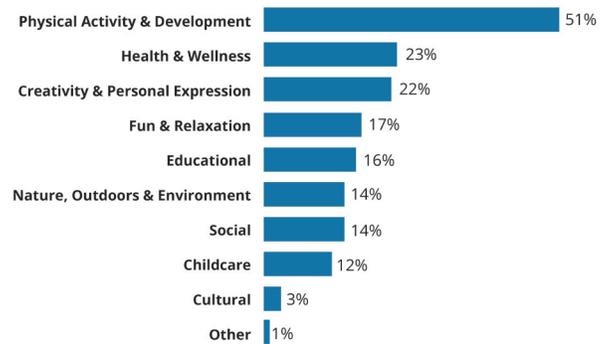
Source: Evanston Park & Recreation Department Recreation Software Data for 2022

While the Department offers a wide range of programs, without specialty recreation facilities such as a pool or golf course, some common recreation programs were absent from the list, most notably swimming lessons and a wider variety of adult fitness programs, and to a lesser extent, preschool, golf, and pet programs.

When combined, athletics, sports and ice programs made up 55% of the classes offered in 2022 by the Department.

## RECREATION ACTIVITY BENEFITS

As part of internal staff evaluations, input was collected about the unique activities the the Department offers. Staff were asked to share the primary and secondary benefits of each program based on their own analysis; staff had the opportunity to identify up to two benefits for each activity.



Based on staff evaluations, Department recreation programs provide a wide range of benefits to the public today.

### Program Offerings by Benefit They Provide

Source: Evanston Park & Recreation Department Staff Program Assessments.

Unsurprisingly, with the bulk of classes offered by the Department being related to sports and ice programs, the top user benefits were “Physical Activity & Development” and “Health & Wellness.”

It is a positive sign that “Creativity & Personal Expression,” which is quite different from the other top two benefits and again highlights the rich variety of recreation activities offered by the Department.

# Heavy Reliance on City Staff and Facilities to Run Programs

## RECREATION CLASS LOCATIONS

The Department relies heavily on its own facilities and parks to house recreation programs, with 94% of classes offered at a City-operated location.

While locations are well distributed throughout the City, most classes take place inside the City's recreation facilities (or their adjacent outside spaces). Nine percent take place within the City's parks and outdoor recreation spaces, with a small number utilizing schools, partner organizations, or other types of spaces.

During discussions with Department staff,

interest in expanding recreation program offerings (especially for summer camps) by locating more programs in parks was shared, but ultimately, a lack of park amenities such as restroom access and places to shelter during inclement weather made that challenging.

The map below shows the top five locations for classes offered by the Department at city-owned parks and facilities. These locations are well distributed throughout the City, and for some common recreation programs offered at multiple facilities, this may result in good geographical access for many. However, it should be noted that some of these facilities offer programs for specific audiences, such as



Top five park and facility locations for classes offered by the Department



the Levy Senior Center. Access to programs at those facilities may still be a barrier to participation for some.

### Recreation Class Locations

Source: Evanston Park & Recreation Department Recreation Software Data for 2022

## RECREATION CLASS TIMING THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AND YEAR

Each season, the Department offered a balanced number of programs, although with an expected higher number in the summer months (June-August) as is typical for parks and recreation organizations. Additionally, registration for programs seemed equally balanced across the seasons, meaning that the Department will be better positioned to recover financially if any single season suffers due continued bouts of poor weather or other conflicts that affect registration. For example, in 2022 the Department offered 32% of its classes in the summer months and received 31% of its overall registration for the year in those classes. Right now, each season reflects no more than 32% of the overall classes offered.

As was mentioned above, this data only reflects recreation programs where registration occurs, which would exclude some seasonal operations and large special events. Depending on the scale of these types of operations and offerings, the associated workload may reflect wider differences between seasons than the

data available for analysis revealed.

Programs offered by the Department were mainly scheduled in the mid-day, afternoon, and evening hours on weekdays, along with mid-day and early afternoon on Saturdays. This may result in barriers to participation amongst adults (and their households) who may be working or have other commitments during the daytime hours. In 2022, 27% of classes offered by the Department started between the hours of 10am-2pm.

## LENGTH OF RECREATION CLASSES

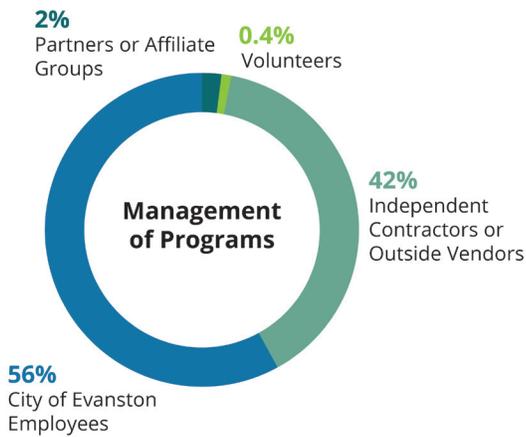
Recreation classes often vary in length due to several factors, including the time needed to instruct the specific activity, the scheduling needs of the participants, the attractiveness of the program to potential customers in terms of commitment level and pricing, as well as the park and recreation organization’s facility and staff availability.

While programs offered by the Department demonstrated a good variety of program lengths, staff are still finding success in longer class lengths with over half of classes offered lasting at least six weeks. Those longer classes also accounted for nearly 50% of the Department’s registrations for 2022 and included classes in many different program categories.

While the general assumption in the parks and recreation industry is that potential customers are looking for recreation opportunities that require less commitment (including shorter classes), this does not seem to be the case for the Department. However, if it is discovered that pricing or program length is a participation barrier for any specific target markets, this may be an area to evaluate, assuming shortening some classes could be done without negatively impacting the program experience. Half of the Department’s class offerings and registration are for programs lasting longer than a month.

## PROGRAM INSTRUCTION

Although Department staff are responsible for overseeing each program mentioned in



this report, park and recreation organizations can utilize a variety of approaches towards securing instructors and facilitators to produce the program experience for participants.

**Management of Programs**

Source: Evanston Park & Recreation Department Staff Program Assessments

At the City of Evanston, just over half of recreation programs are led by Department employees, with another 42% utilizing independent contractors or outside companies to lead much of the rest.

In addition to these two main approaches, there are also examples of the Department supporting or facilitating the offering of recreation services to the community through other avenues. For example, Department staff manage and permit sports fields and indoor facilities to affiliate groups, most notable being youth sports affiliates.

**While Offerings Are Diverse, There Are Gaps**

**AGE GROUPS OFFERINGS**

Although a variety of programs are offered for each customer group throughout the year, when taking a broad look at classes offered by category for each age group, some insights begin to emerge. For example, this confirms previously discussed data regarding the fact

that Sports & Athletics and Ice programs were the highest programmed categories. Additionally, it is noticeable that programs for youth also make up a large portion of the Department's program offerings.

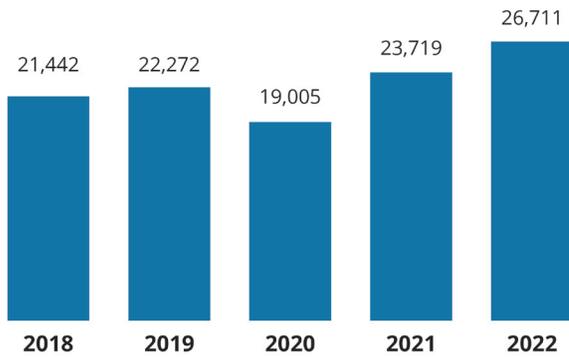
Adult programming exists in several areas, with fitness being the highest, although adults have the least amount of recreation classes offered for them (compared to other age groups). Additionally, while programs for teens are available, it is important to note that much of the programs offered for those age groups are instead programs for other age groups (youth and adults) which happen to overlap and allow teens to participate. However, as this age group has special interests and needs, they are likely not as well-served by programs also marketed for those other audiences.

In the areas where many recreation program options were available, such as with Sports & Athletics for youth, there was some noticeable duplication (or at least overlap) of recreation programs found during a review of Department recreation program brochures and the website.

For example, the Department offers four different classes featuring youth basketball instruction. Although some differences do exist between each of the programs, it also would be fairly easy to combine them all under one program description that included multiple sessions to accomplish the same result, but with less logistics and marketing needed (and likely also less confusion or overwhelm by potential customers reviewing their options).

**PROGRAM REGISTRATION TRENDS**

The Department reached a total enrollment in 2022 of 26,711 registrations, which was the highest registration total in the previous five years. Since emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, program enrollment has been increasing at a faster pace than before the pandemic. In 2022, registrations increased by



more than 12% over the previous year.

The Department's program enrollment has been on the rise since emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, and at a faster rate than before the pandemic.

**Total Program Registrations by Year**

Source: Evanston Park & Recreation Department Recreation Software Data for 2022

## The Program Portfolio is Healthy Overall, but a Few Programs May be Misaligned

Although program registration and other operational metrics mentioned above can provide some insight into the current state of recreation programs offered by the Department, they alone do not tell the whole story. To capture a fuller picture, additional analysis of the health of the program portfolio (slate of programs offered) was conducted.

To complete this analysis, Department staff answered a series of questions about a random sample of recreation programs offered in the past year. These questions concerned current program performance,



City event on the Lakefront.



Facilities, like the Levy Senior Center, support a range of programs and volunteer efforts.



Recreation camps and summer programs.

operations, audience, and benefits as well as staff's perspective about each programs' future direction. Recreation Results then compiled and analyzed their responses to share insights about the health of the Department's recreation program portfolio.

## **PROGRAM OPERATIONAL AND SERVICE ALIGNMENT**

Measuring the health of a recreation program portfolio can be difficult because park and recreation organizations are often tasked with meeting certain operational or business-related outcomes in addition to working to serve the community and meet their mission. Sometimes these two interests can even compete against each other. Using staff program assessment responses, Recreation Results evaluated programs from both a service/mission perspective as well as an operational/business perspective.

Each of the current program areas offered by the Department seem to be a good fit for the organization and are in alignment with overall operational and service goals. None of the categories performed well enough across all programs to be considered High Performers, but Early Childhood, Camps, and Events are close. On the opposite end, Visual & Performing Arts does show signs of its programs being low performers from an operational sense.

By taking a deeper look at individual program ratings, more variance is noted. Farewell Summer Mini Camp, the Community Garden Program, Citizenship in Society, and Winter Wonder Camp are some of the highest performing programs; these rate highest for being both a good fit with the Department's mission and operational goals, and if other pieces of the analysis also support the recommendation, are likely good candidates

for expansion.

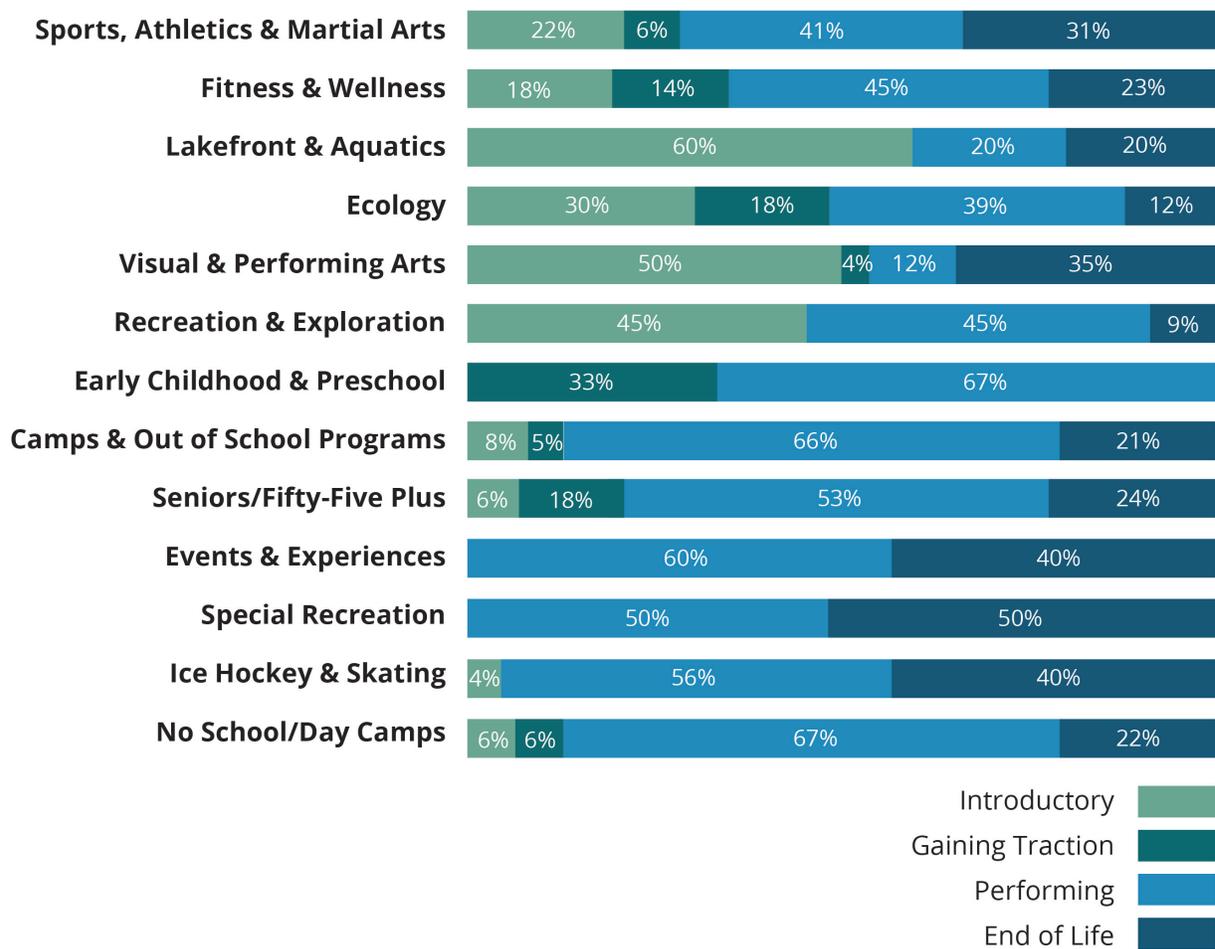
Boxing Basics for Youth, Boxing for Adults, Adult Expressive Drawing, Chinese Brushwork, Archery, and Art Through the Ages are the lowest performing programs. These are likely not (or are no longer) the best use of the Department's resources. Some, such as Boxing Basics for Youth and Adult Expressive Drawing rated high enough in the service alignment, that it may also be worth exploring finding partners or other ways to either lessen the workload in offering the programs or to boost its success.

## **More Than the Recommended Number of Programs Are in an End of Life Stage**

Another avenue used to evaluate the overall health of the Department's overall program offerings is to understand where programs fall on the program life cycle, which begins when a program is first introduced and continues until it reaches the end of its life. By looking at programs from this angle, it can help guide shape recommendations about current program offerings and future program development strategies.

The Department has close to the recommended portion of programs in the initial two stages, indicating a fresh flow of new programs in the portfolio. Staff should continue to nurture those Introductory stage programs to ensure that more reach the Gaining Traction stage (and hopefully, eventually also Performing stage). Within the last two stages, the Department is holding on to more programs than ideal which have reached or are nearing their end of life. Evaluating those that received that rating to

# Program Life Cycle Stages by Program Category



determine if they could be refreshed or if they should be eliminated would help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of staff's programming efforts.

Life Cycle Stages are defined using the graph on the next page.

## INTRODUCTION STAGE

Recreation programs falling into this stage are new or somewhat new recreation opportunities that are still working to gain a foothold. They require extra effort and attention to get off the ground and are not quite meeting participation or financial goals yet but still hold potential for success in this early stage.

## GAINING TRACTION STAGE

Recreation programs falling into this stage are ones that have really picked up steam. They are the immediate successes or somewhat newer programs that are showing growth and may

soon become a consistently well-performing program.

## PERFORMING

Recreation programs that have run long enough and successfully enough to be considered consistent performers fall into this stage. They no longer require the same amount of attention and effort as they did to meet participation and financial goals as they did when they were initially offered.

## END OF LIFE

Recreation programs falling into this stage are ones with declining participation, or ones that now need extra attention to get back to the participation and financial performance that they once had. They need to be renewed in some way to get them back on track or otherwise, they are likely to die out.



# 4



## STRATEGIC PLAN

**The strategic plan that follows lays out a ten-year vision composed of five overarching Goals developed in close collaboration with stakeholders and the public. Goals are supported by Strategies, each of which include recommended Actions to achieve them, including proposed improvements to parks, facilities, natural experiences, programming, and operations. Achieving the proposed goals requires close collaboration between the Department of Parks and Recreation and Public Works Agency along with internal and external partners.**

# Vision

The goals of this plan are to significantly enhance the quality of life for residents, contribute to the city's environmental sustainability, and ensure that the parks system remains vibrant and relevant for future generations. It reflects a citywide commitment to holistic community well-being, environmental stewardship, and proactive planning for the future and responds to the needs and desires of the many residents who participated in this planning process. The strategic plan includes five goals and 23 strategies, summarized here:

#1

**EQUITABLE  
ACCESS**

#2

**NATURE  
EXPERIENCES**

#3

**SUSTAINABLE  
OPERATIONS**

#4

**WELCOMING  
WATER ACCESS**

#5

**ADAPTABILITY**

## **EQUITABLE ACCESS**

Ensuring that all residents of Evanston, regardless of their background or where they live in the city, have high-quality, safe access to parks and open spaces is important to the health and well-being of this unique community. This means not only evenly distributing these areas throughout the city but also designing and maintaining parks, plazas, beaches, and other outdoor public spaces to be inclusive and accessible to people of different ages, abilities, and interests. This goal outlines six strategies to ensure equitable access that promotes social justice and enhances the quality of life for everyone.

---

## **NATURE EXPERIENCES**

Parks and open spaces provide invaluable opportunities for residents to connect with nature, which is essential for mental and physical well-being. In urban settings, these natural experiences can reduce stress, promote physical activity, and provide educational opportunities about local ecosystems and biodiversity. This goal includes four strategies focused on increased stewardship, education, and investments in urban habitats and natural landscapes throughout the City.

---

## **SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS**

The sustainability of parks is vital in terms of both environmental protection and long-term operational feasibility. This includes using clear standards and best practices in park maintenance, conserving water, promoting biodiversity, and implementing green infrastructure. It also means ensuring staff capacity is aligned with the expectations of the City to provide for valuable City spaces. This goal identifies four strategies that support the planning, design, and maintenance of Evanston's beloved places.

---

## **WELCOMING WATER ACCESS**

Access to water can greatly enhance the recreational and aesthetic value of parks. In Evanston, which is along Lake Michigan and the North Channel, ensuring that residents have access to water for activities like swimming and boating is important. Additionally, manufactured water access (like swimming pools or spraypads) can provide respite for community members on hot summer days and are of utmost importance to residents for future investment. This goal communicates four strategies to expand water access through City leadership and partnerships.

---

## **ADAPTABILITY**

As Evanston grows and as the impacts of climate change become more pronounced, parks must be designed to be flexible and resilient. This means planning for changing demographics and recreational needs, as well as preparing for environmental challenges such as increased temperatures, extreme weather events, and changing precipitation patterns. The plan envisions five strategies to respond to changing community needs and climate impacts.

---

# Goal #1: Equitable Access

**A system that closes equity gaps by encouraging all to participate.**

Ensuring that all residents of Evanston, regardless of their background or where they live in the city, have high-quality, safe access to parks and open spaces is important to the health and well-being of this unique community. This means not only evenly distributing these areas throughout the city but also designing and maintaining parks, open play and field spaces, plazas, beaches, and other outdoor public spaces to be inclusive and accessible to people of different ages, abilities, and interests. This goal outlines six strategies to ensure equitable access that promotes social justice and enhances the quality of life for everyone.

 **1.1**

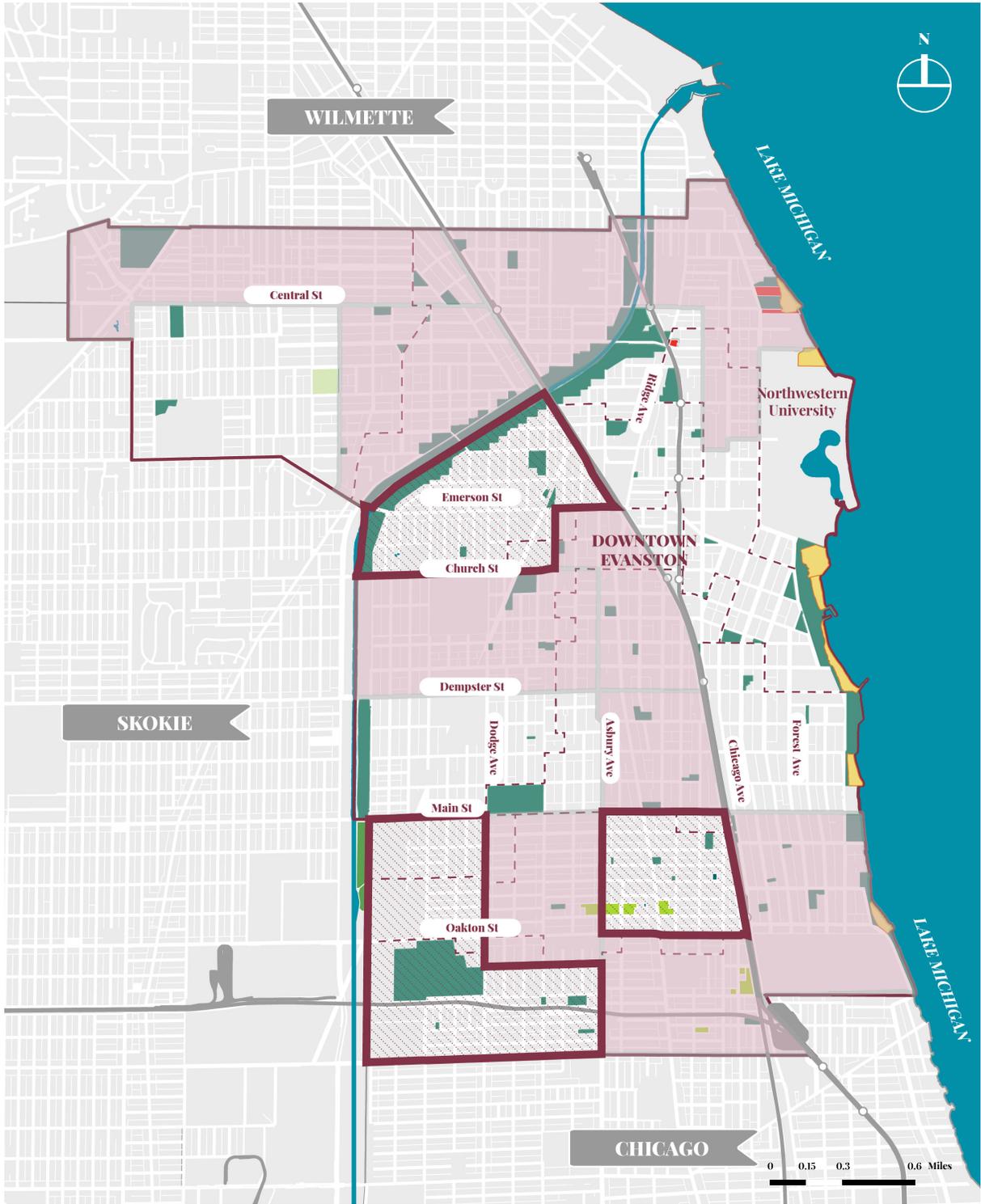
## **Recalibrate the system by prioritizing access and reducing barriers for residents with the highest unserved need.**

Limited strategic planning in previous years has allowed Evanston's parks and recreation facilities to grow haphazardly, with some areas overserved and others underserved. This stretches maintenance capacity at the department, creating lower quality facilities for all residents. The desire for better maintained facilities, especially bathrooms and indoor facilities at parks, was a consistent theme in public open houses.

In order to strategically balance and improve its portfolio of facilities and amenities, Evanston can work to better align physical investments with the City's priorities of equity and resilience while improving capacity to provide excellent services to all. This includes strategically prioritizing upgrades to parks with known accessibility barriers and focusing maintenance energy and improvements on facilities in neighborhoods with larger proportions of socially vulnerable populations. In well-served areas, such as neighborhoods with five or more playgrounds, the City can recalibrate the amenity mix to better balance the portfolio and mitigate excess maintenance costs. Barriers to programs must also be addressed: program participation support should be evaluated across offerings to ensure that offerings are accessible to those with the highest unserved need.

### **Actions**

- 1.1.A** • 1.1.A. Revisit schedule for maintenance of parks to increase daily care of parks in high-need areas. High-need areas are defined as areas that the 2020 census identifies as having higher prevalence of multi-family units and socially vulnerable populations (based on the Centers for Disease Control Social (CDC) Vulnerability Index (SVI)), where park use might be more valued.
- 1.1.B** • Prioritize park capital investments in high-need areas (higher prevalence of multi-family units, and vulnerable populations) where park use might be more valued, especially in areas with more park amenities beyond their recommended lifespan and lower diversity of park experiences
  - Renovate legacy parks to bring them up to date on basic standards and accessibility
  - Renovate playgrounds identified as poor or very poor condition in high needs, sequencing investments geographically to provide walkable playground access across all high-need areas.
  - Consider park investments tied to City and developer-led affordable housing projects.



## Priority Community Zones

Child Poverty Rate by Census Tract

Highest (above average, >19%)

Medium (4-8%)

Low (<4%)

Source: 2022 EPLAN - Evanston Process for the Local Assessment of Needs, 2020 US Census

- 1.1.C • Over time, rebalance Evanston’s portfolio of recreation amenities with sustainable replacement levels and funding so that replacement schedules are aligned with recommended recreation facility lifespans.
- 1.1.D • Develop an equity framework that identifies priority areas for capital improvements and maintenance of parks to support the implementation of this action.
- 1.1.E • Revisit current scholarship program to evaluate if current application methods and funding levels (50% of program fee) could be improved to increase accessibility (such as creating an online application form and moving to a sliding scale).
- 1.1.F • Support participation in programs that have high costs to participate beyond program fees (such as hockey by offering equipment packages for no/low cost for the length of the program/season).
- 1.1.G • Engage in habitat restoration to increase the equitable distribution of naturalized landscapes in the city.

## 1.2

### **Develop criteria to ensure programming meets Evanston’s equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals.**

The 2022 Evanston Process for the Local Assessment of Needs (EPLAN), created with the goal of improving public health by improving equity and resilience measures, identified the importance of ensuring that all residents have equitable opportunity to participate in community events and provide input in city decision making, regardless of age, language, or disability. This standard must be formalized for all public programs at the Parks and Recreation Department. Formalizing that commitment into both explicit Department standards that are integrated into regular program development and concrete metrics to evaluate progress towards achieving those standards will ensure that Evanston’s broader equity goals become a reality for Evanston residents.

#### **Actions**

- 1.2.A • Establish standards or requirements for affiliates related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (if they do not already exist)
- 1.2.B • Establish metrics to measure progress in meeting the goals of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility
- 1.2.C • Designate a “home” facility for special recreation programs suited for the needs of this community

## 1.3

### **Invest in strategic marketing of programs to better reach underserved populations and broaden public awareness.**

In a randomly selected survey, Evanston residents were asked what prevents them from participating in programs and special events offered by the city: 33% of respondents said they “don’t know what is offered.” Department staff feel that marketing is not specialized enough to reach target audiences effectively. In the survey, Asian respondents reported a lack of awareness more frequently than both Black and White respondents, while Black respondents more often reported that not feeling welcome was a major barrier. Strategic marketing to reach underserved populations who may not be hearing about programs is needed and will require investment to understand how to reach populations who are missed today. Similarly, prioritizing welcoming and inclusive marketing strategies, as well as investing in public communication about Evanston’s commitment to eliminating barriers to using programs, are critical steps to shifting those numbers.

#### **Actions**

- 1.3.A** • Develop a stand-alone website for parks and recreation with mobile functionality
- 1.3.B** • Invest in staffing to support a 50% to full time outreach and marketing coordinator
- 1.3.C** • Further invest in and highlight e-newsletters and social media as key communication channels.
- 1.3.D** • Develop equity guidelines for program marketing and create a statement of inclusion that accompanies program materials to let residents know all are welcome.

## 1.4

### **Increase youth professional and leadership development opportunities through parks and recreation programs.**

Teen programs emerged as an undermet need in Evanston by many households in a randomly sampled survey. In focus groups, many residents shared an interest in more mentorship and leadership opportunities for young people through involvement in Parks and Recreation. Today, the vast majority of the department’s leadership and employment opportunities for young people are concentrated in the summer. Additional opportunities for youth to engage and grow throughout the year can build on the existing infrastructure of summer youth programs for a more comprehensive youth development approach. Many residents expressed interest in engaging young people specifically in the management and care of Evanston’s parks and natural areas.

Offering opportunities to both learn about the stewardship of the natural environment and public leadership could leverage the Department's existing strengths to great effect. Towards the city's goal of ensuring that all city residents have equal opportunity to participate in city design making regardless of age, Evanston can replicate the success of peer cities in inviting young people to the table on the Parks and Recreation Board, whether through a separate youth council or youth representatives on the board itself. Young people can then guide the development of youth-centric programming and increased investment in youth leadership opportunities.

## Actions

- 1.4.A** • Leverage Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP) into a more comprehensive year-round, multi-year internship program
- 1.4.B** • Create a youth executive board for parks or engage a youth representative on the Evanston Parks and Recreation Board
- 1.4.C** • Create an Evanston Township High School (ETHS) "friends of parks" to volunteer in maintenance and beautification projects.



**The Evanston Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program participated in focused discussions with the plan team to identify opportunities for engaging youth in park planning and investments.**

## 1.5

### **Provide recreation facilities and programs for all ages that meet the needs of youth, teens, and seniors.**

In focus groups, older adults reported a desire for more indoor activities and spaces for seniors who are less physically able to participate in outdoor activities. Others expressed the need for more “youth-centric” park spaces and leadership and mentorship opportunities for young people. Expanding existing offerings can be a challenge for already under-resourced staff: to meet the diverse needs of residents while prioritizing equity and access, the department should focus on increasing partnership with existing arts, cultural, and sports organizations to build out new programs while balancing limited staff capacity. This will require improvements to how local organizations program city-owned spaces and facilities and investigation into barriers they face today. The lack of and poor quality of bathrooms is a major concern and was emphasized by teen counselors in focus groups. Staff reported that a lack of indoor facilities at parks is a regulatory barrier to increasing the number of spots available in summer camps, as bathrooms and storm shelters are required for on-site youth programming.

#### **Actions**

- 1.5.A** • Reduce barriers for local organizations to host diverse multi-generational programming .
- 1.5.B** • Create a public restroom task force with Evanston Libraries, School District 65 and 202, and other public facing departments and organizations to identify existing restroom availability, opportunities for future restroom investments, and policies related to restroom funding, operations, and management.



**Research shows that Sports & Athletics for youth are a top community priority in Evanston.**

## 1.6 **Employ acquisition, partnership, and policy tools to expand public access to non-Evanston owned parks and green spaces.**

While Evanston has more parks per resident than average compared to peers, it has almost half the amount of acres per resident. In a highly developed city like Evanston with little room to grow, closing that gap in parkland needs requires strategic and creative thinking. To meet the needs of residents, Evanston can consider three avenues: leveraging streets, squares, and the public right of way, partnering with other landowners like schools, and strategically planning to acquire new parkland in areas identified as a priority. In determining prioritization for increased parkland supply through any of the three methods, meeting the needs of the most unserved today should drive the department's approach. The 2022 Evanston Thrives Downtown Retail Plan identified a bottleneck with permit review and approval at the Department that may limit public private partnership in the activation of Downtown's streets and plazas. Some existing partnerships, like the management of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) lands, are already effective at increasing public access to green and open space and should continue or be expanded.

### **Actions**

- 1.6.A** • POLICY Consider partnership with Evanston's business districts to activate public space outside of parks, including street closures, parklets, and activation of public squares and plazas.
- 1.6.B** • ACQUISITION Consider opportunities to strategically acquire new parkland that enhances connectivity and access, especially in underserved/high-need areas. This could include fee simple acquisition, easements, and/or partnerships with affordable housing developments.
- 1.6.C** • PARTNERSHIP
  - Formalize partnerships with District 65, and District 202 to encourage public access to school playgrounds and fields when schools are not in use.
  - Continue collaboration with Ridgeville Park District, Skokie Park District, and Lighthouse Park District to support shared goals and recreation opportunities for Evanston residents.
  - Continue to manage Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) lands and share proposed improvements to MWRD lands with the organization to understand roles and responsibilities with new investments.

# Goal #2: Natural Experiences

**A system that is ecologically resilient and gives residents more places to experience naturalized landscapes.**

While natural systems and ecosystem function are limited to public parks and major waterways, Evanston continues to expand naturalized landscapes where those spaces can support a range of benefits to the city and residents, like runoff reduction, pollinator habitats, and urban heat island reduction. These naturalized landscapes can include rain gardens, vegetated swales, canal restoration, and more. These systems provide great ecological benefits; when they are properly designed they can offer considerable recreational and financial benefits as well. The following strategies identify ways that the city can expand natural experiences through capital investments, programs, and policies.

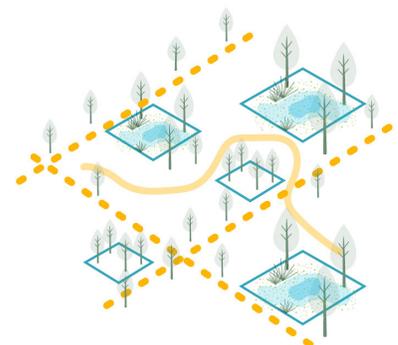
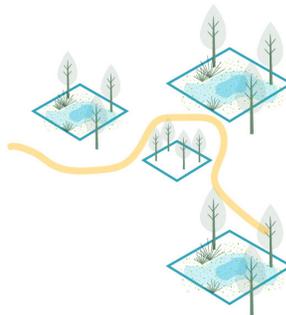
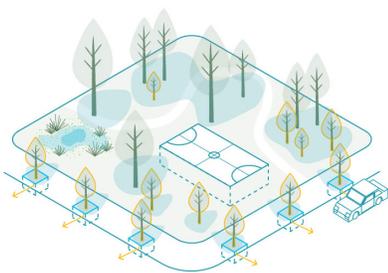
## 2.1

### Enhance existing naturalized landscapes in a coordinated effort to improve the connectivity, quality, and resilience of the network.

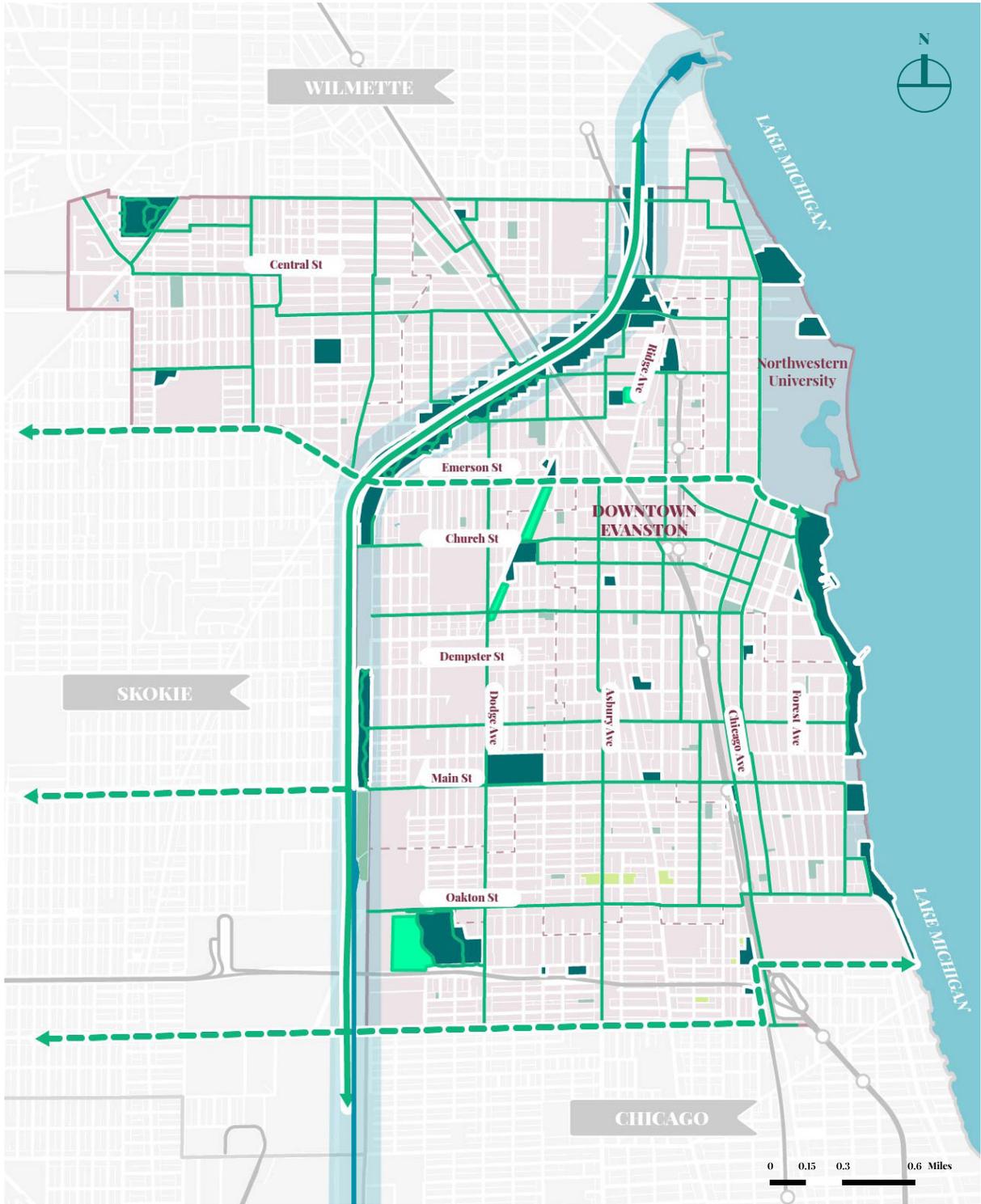
There are many active organizations invested in habitat restoration and management in Evanston, but little coordination between those stewards. Making this situation more challenging is insufficient staff resources to implement the current low level of natural resource management, much less an expanded, proactive plan. Moreover, the restoration and management of habitats at individual parks suffer from limited space and lack of visibility, which keeps them a low priority for funding and staffing. By implementing a unified vision and set of goals for naturalized areas using brief management plans, staff can better organize collaboration and deployment of City resources and better advocate for funding and staffing to implement the vision. This will allow the City to establish more diverse, efficiently managed naturalized areas that can withstand and recover from future inevitable changes in the environment and surrounding land uses.

#### Actions

- 2.1.A** • Deploy management briefs to guide and improve the protection, restoration, management, and monitoring of naturalized landscapes.
- 2.1.B** • Seek collaborative opportunities on public and adjacent private land to create a connected, more extensive system of naturalized landscapes over the next twenty years, with an emphasis on existing larger patches of vegetation.
- 2.1.C** • Identify locations where the conversion of turf to prairie can be accomplished in the next five years, with an emphasis on connection to existing natural areas and green stormwater management areas.
- 2.1.D** • Manage the North Shore Channel in separate ecological management units, each with a strategic direction, a desired outcome, a schedule, tasks, and partners/volunteers.
- 2.1.E** • In all City plantings, use native or locally adapted plant species where possible.



**Phase naturalized landscape improvements and investments over time, starting with pilot management areas.**



## Proposed Framework for a Connected Green System

- - - Proposed Regional Bikeways
- Existing Bikeways
- Parks along Bikeways
- Potential Naturalized Areas

Source: Northwest Municipal Conference Multimodal Transportation Plan

## 2.2

### **Use programs and technology to welcome everyone, make it easy to engage with natural areas, and raise the level of ecological knowledge in Evanston.**

Results of a poll of Evanston residents conducted as part of this planning process revealed a desire for better outreach and messaging about City programs and resources. The current Parks and Recreation website does a good job of highlighting some aspects of the parks system, but the link for “List of Evanston Parks” opens up an Excel table instead of something more intuitive like an interactive map. According to a Pew Research Center study published in 2021, over 85% of Americans own a smartphone. When residents and visitors are looking for nature opportunities in Evanston, a searchable mobile interface would be a powerful tool to match people with nearby opportunities that meet their needs. Additionally, increased programming and educational outreach will help residents engage with natural spaces, raise awareness of City resources, and celebrate and promote the City’s investments.

#### **Actions**

- 2.2.A** • Highlight City-selected natural areas to the public, and produce and disseminate educational information for those areas.
- 2.2.B** • Increase the frequency and regularity of nature experiences for youth. The Nature Conservancy, in collaboration with researchers from Stanford University and the University of California, Santa Cruz, conducted a study which revealed that being close to nature enhances various educational outcomes. This research found that children benefit in terms of increased attentional capacity, better impulse control, and improved cognitive development. The study focused on the impact of green spaces near schools, considering other significant factors such as race and poverty. By analyzing standardized test scores of fifth graders from nearly 500 schools in California, it was discovered that the beneficial effects of proximity to nature were even more significant than the adverse effects of poverty.
- 2.2.C** • Make digital maps of naturalized landscapes available for publicly used mobile devices. Mobile accessible maps of natural spaces can serve as more than just navigation and awareness-focused aids; they are tools for education, conservation, and community engagement, promoting a harmonious and informed relationship between Evanston residents and the naturalized landscapes around them. Maps of natural spaces provide a range of benefits to Evanston residents, including:
  - Environmental Education: By mapping completed management areas within the City, maps of naturalized landscapes can serve as educational tools, highlighting different types of landscapes, flora, and fauna.
  - Navigation and Accessibility: These maps make natural areas more accessible, offering detailed routes and trails. This is particularly helpful for hikers, bikers, and outdoor enthusiasts, allowing them to plan their routes effectively and safely.

- Awareness Building and Accountability: Spotlighting stewardship partners and volunteers responsible for the management or maintenance of these spaces enables the City to expand awareness of the existing nature-focused volunteer network and highlight volunteer success stories.

## 2.3

### **Effectively manage public volunteerism and partnerships to restore, manage, and monitor naturalized landscapes and habitat in alignment with the city's goals.**

Volunteerism and partnerships provide an indirect revenue source via donated time to assist the City in the management, maintenance, and programming of City spaces and events. Volunteerism in Evanston is focused in particular on naturalized landscape stewardship. Establishing and publicizing explicit goals can better direct public time and avoid misalignment in public effort and Department success metrics.

#### **Actions**

- 2.3.A** • Create a full-time volunteer coordinator staff position to oversee the volunteer program to restore naturalized areas in Evanston. The main responsibilities of this staff position will be to prepare annual work plans for areas under restoration, coordinate with volunteer stewards to organize restoration efforts, and direct volunteers to concrete work outcomes.
- 2.3.B** • Identify restoration tasks that volunteers are safely and effectively able to perform. Develop and implement a training program, led by the volunteer coordinator, to ensure that volunteers are correctly instructed how to safely perform tasks.
- 2.3.C** • Develop a volunteer website to both communicate with volunteers and track volunteer training and activity. Essential components of the site include a schedule of upcoming events, requirements to become a City-approved volunteer (including mandatory and supplemental trainings), notice of volunteer work needs for additional restoration areas, contact information for the volunteer coordinator, and formal volunteer agreements. Formal agreements for volunteers should clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of volunteers. Additional features could include an account login that would allow volunteers to track their activity, review their completed trainings, sign up for future events, complete workday release forms, and submit demographic information.
- 2.3.D** • Hold quarterly meetings with volunteers and stewards to orient them to the tasks at each site that are scheduled for completion in the upcoming quarter. City staff is responsible for reviewing the management briefs and soliciting feedback from the volunteers to determine the list of tasks for each site.
- 2.3.E** • At each quarterly meeting, the volunteer coordinator works with volunteers to develop a schedule of workdays and a list of materials and equipment needed in the upcoming quarter to execute the planned tasks.

The workday schedule is then uploaded to the website (see 2.3.C) and advertised in City communications. The schedule and list of materials and equipment is provided to City staff responsible for supporting volunteers so they can coordinate staff and resources appropriately. The volunteer coordinator will be available for any volunteer needs day of the volunteer event, and will coordinate with City staff to ensure that materials, equipment, and staff personnel are on site to manage volunteer work. While the City should determine the most appropriate method to identify on-site staff participation, considerations for appropriate engagement should take into account related job responsibilities to the volunteer work and frequency of participation in on-site volunteer activities, to ensure parity in staff engagement across the organization.

- 2.3.F • The volunteer coordinator will hold an annual meeting with the public and private entities who have a stake in the restoration and management of Evanston's naturalized areas. The volunteer coordinator will review the work completed in the previous year, present City priorities for the upcoming year, and seek input from stakeholders as part of the effort to protect, restore, manage, and monitor naturalized areas and habitats.

## 2.4 **Build the internal capacity to implement effective natural resource management practices.**

While both the Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation Department are both facing several challenges related to staff growth and skillset misalignments, which impact the care of Evanston's parks, the need to build capacity is most acutely felt in the Greenways division of Public Works. Today, the division consists of a mix of gardeners and landscape laborers, with landscape laborers outnumbering gardeners. A significant issue is the lack of required skills among many staff members. To address this, the division has grouped employees together to manage tasks collectively, such as attending to all planter beds. However, this approach has encountered challenges. The prevalence of staff lacking specialized skills poses a significant challenge to the City's efficiency and effectiveness in maintaining and enhancing the city's parks. The following actions outline ways to add additional capacity, grow skillsets, and increase proactivity across the division.

### **Actions**

- 2.4.A • Use management briefs as a tool to direct collaborative management of natural areas.
- 2.4.B • Provide consistent, regular updates of staff time and task allocations via an online dashboard.
- 2.4.C • Offer natural resource development opportunities to capital and maintenance staff.
- 2.4.D • Grow Greenways staff to exceed pre-reorganization numbers and align with reinvestments in parks. Pre-reorganization staffing included 24 individuals for greenways and 6 dedicated recreation maintenance staff. Today, 18 staff maintain parks and greenways.

# Goal #3: Sustainable Operations

**A system that is sustainable to operate, maintain, and renew.**

The sustainability of parks is vital in terms of both environmental protection and long-term operational feasibility. This includes using clear standards and best practices in park maintenance, conserving water, promoting biodiversity, and implementing green infrastructure. It also means ensuring staff capacity is aligned with the expectations of the City to provide for valuable City spaces. This goal identifies four strategies that support the planning, design, and maintenance of Evanston's beloved places.

## 3.1 Increase efficiencies in administering recreation services through improved processes, programs, and technology.

Simplifying and streamlining administrative processes can significantly improve the efficiency of delivering recreation services. City staff, recreation partners, and residents shared frustrations with the existing RecTrac software, citing barriers to completing all transactions within the system. Facility reservation requests go through RecTrac, but require that the City respond to the request over the phone and then reservation payments must be made in person. The reservation is difficult to use for most residents, which often means many requests for space are made via email or by phone, further focusing staff capacity and attention away from other recreation program needs. The following actions identify ways for the City to provide quicker, more user-friendly services, while also reducing administrative costs and inefficiencies. Using the right recreation program and registration software is crucial in increasing efficiencies. This can include online registration systems, mobile apps for facility booking and program information, and digital platforms for feedback and communication.

### Actions

- 3.1.A • Evaluate current processes through the development of customer journey maps and/or internal process maps and evaluate opportunities to improve and streamline recreation service administration.

*Defining customer interactions, needs, and feelings at each stage of their journey can help the Department pinpoint where hurdles, delays, and opportunities exist to improve the customer experience. These maps are often informed by customer feedback and other data related to customer visits, sales, and retention, as well as data about the length of time it takes to complete a service transaction or the time between steps in the process. The City of Evanston is effective at collecting and reviewing complaints, feedback, and suggestions. The City can also take advantage of software programs it already has access to, like RecTrac, to produce data to better understand service needs and opportunities.*

- 3.1.B • Streamline response times between internal service requests between various departments, including Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department. Efforts towards improving internal customer service, such as response times, should occur simultaneously with efforts to enhance external customer service delivery.
- 3.1.C • Develop criteria for excellent customer service to measure Department performance in this area. Develop the criteria based on customer research (see 3.1.A), going beyond output measures. Metrics may include Net Promoter Scores (NPS) collected via email, time to resolve customer issues, staff satisfaction, and retention and repurchase patterns. Criteria should be developed collaboratively between senior staff and revisited annually to ensure alignment with department goals.

- 3.1.D • Explore opportunities for fuller use of the Department’s recreation registration and facility management software (currently RecTrac) (and information stored within it) and to integrate it into the City’s website. This may include utilizing functionality and features already available to the Department, but not being used, updating the customer search/ shopping page design, as well shifting current Department practices to offer more online features and functionality to customers, such as allowing some facilities to be fully booked online.
- 3.1.E • Evaluate current programs and policies related to athletic field, park, and facility permits for affiliate and community groups to make the criteria and processes utilized to manage these efforts more transparent and sustainable. While a current affiliate program exists, Department staff have expressed that the demand for space often outweighs the supply, and that prioritizing the permitting of those spaces is challenging. Possible areas of evaluation may include the potential establishment of priority levels within the Community Affiliate program, standards related to the amount of athletic field space that should remain unpermitted (and open to the public or to allow the fields to rest) as well as the sustainability of current affiliate scheduling and fee structures.

## 3.2 Conduct in-depth needs assessments among staff in order to properly match funding and staffing to short-term and long-term priorities.

A needs assessment is the process of identifying the gap between the desired performance and the current performance of employees. After identifying that gap, a needs assessment is a process in which to work collaboratively with staff to explore the root causes for underperformance and identify methods for reducing or eliminating the gap. A complete needs assessment also considers the consequences for ignoring the gaps. The most significant gaps that were identified in this process were related to organization capacity and efficiency and funding and capital improvement misalignments.

### Actions

- 3.2.A • When budgeting and planning for new capital investments, quantify long-term maintenance costs and identify strategies for funding.
- 3.2.B • Work with Evanston City Council to create a dedicated fund/annual minimum budget allocation that is sufficient to sustain a high-quality park system.
- 3.2.C • Conduct an internal process to develop clear job responsibilities between department to ensure there are no duplicative efforts or that needed work falls through the gaps. Document ownership and make that information easily available to all current and new employees.

### **3.3 Refine internal processes to enable effective management of parkland and natural resources among multiple departments.**

Three separate departments within the City operate and maintain the City's many assets and spaces. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains restrooms, park facilities, and facility grounds. The Facilities and Fleet Management Division is within Administrative Services, and is responsible for city buildings including many of the buildings present in park spaces. Greenways is within the Public Works Agency and maintains parks, open spaces, and parking lots as well as the majority of the equipment within parks, like playgrounds. New and streamlined internal communication methods can benefit both existing and newly hired staff, especially as natural resource management capacity and responsibilities expand and evolve across departments.

#### **Actions**

##### **3.3.A**

- With the process proposed in Action 3.2.C, evaluate all existing and anticipated future maintenance needs and clearly define ownership and supporting roles between departments. This may require hard conversations about who is best suited to do the work (related to capacity, existing skillsets, and department priorities).

##### **3.3.B**

- Make it possible for departments to share and view calendars and activity schedules by park area to coordinate maintenance and avoid working at cross purposes.

##### **3.3.C**

- Schedule regular meetings with a clear agenda to share updates from various departments and leave space during the meeting for troubleshooting shared challenges and identifying collaboration opportunities.

### **3.4 Identify and establish standards related to park and facility maintenance, finishes, plant and tree selection, and capital improvements; and document and share these across departments to systemize and streamline efforts.**

While residents expressed overwhelming support for the maintenance and care of their parks and facilities, residents also acknowledged that City facilities are tired and in need of upgrades or additional care to align with City expectations for high quality park experiences. Today, the Greenways and Facilities departments have been working to align their methods for maintenance needs across the system. The City should create and confirm a series of maintenance, design and material standards to ensure consistency in the safety and quality of park spaces for sustainable park use.

Standards can provide consistency and uniformity across different sites, enhancing user experience and managing public expectations. Aesthetic standards maintain parks' visual appeal and reinforce a recognizable brand. Ultimately, these standards are vital for creating public spaces that are safe, sustainable, visually appealing, inclusive, and beneficial for the community, while also ensuring operational efficiencies across departments.

### **3.4.A**   **Actions**

- Create standards and best practices plan for facilities to include a confirmation of roles and responsibilities between different departments.

### **3.4.B**

- To ensure the City is responsive to community health and safety first, the City should organize requests to respond to maintenance needs into levels of priority aligned with the following conditions:
  - Tier 1 Priority: Park condition that poses an immediate life safety or property threat or failure (like a building failure or tree failure).
  - Tier 2 Priority: Park condition that presents a potential future emergency hazard (like a fire code issue).
  - Tier 3 Priority: Regular maintenance needs that preserve park conditions and ensure the longevity of park assets.
  - Tier 4 Priority: Requests for maintenance responses from the City Manager, Public Works Agency Director or Parks and Recreation Director.



**Management Brief Map for Lawson Park**

# Goal #4: Welcoming Water Access

**A system that  
increases safe access  
to water + waterfront  
experiences for all**

Water is a central part of life in Evanston, and the top priority for access among residents. Beaches and waterfront access were ranked #1 in the statistically valid resident survey; indoor and outdoor pools were both in the top four. Evanston has fewer pools and splash pads than peer municipalities of a similar size today. As the climate changes and temperatures increase, access to water will become even more important to residents' safety and wellbeing.

Evanston's beachfront is a valuable resource to the community that is in many ways still shaped by a long history of exclusion by race and income. Today, geographic access to water remains uneven, with Evanston's few places to access water limited to the lakefront or private indoor pools in athletic facilities. Residents report barriers to accessing programs to learn to swim. Both perceptions and real risks of water safety issues create additional challenges to increasing the public's access to water experiences. Public perception of the North Shore Channel varies, and few regard it as swimmable, despite suitable water quality to support swimming. Expanding programming, activation, and views of the water can help improve perceptions of the North Shore Channel.

Evanston has the opportunity to meet the growing public need for water and waterfront experiences with a strategic focus on equitable access that addresses past harms.

## **Case Study**

A 2018 study in the Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism found overlap between perceptions of water quality in Utah and participation in outdoor recreation. By improving recreation opportunities through free programming, and increased waterfront access, Evanston can improve perceptions of water quality while furthering equitable access to water recreation.

## 4.1

### **Invest in new offerings to meet community desires for swimming opportunities, splash pads, and waterfront views.**

As temperatures rise, investment in water resources will become a question not only of recreation, but public health. Today, gaps in water access are concentrated in land-locked areas of Evanston around Central Street in the North and between the canal and railroad south of Downtown. Interest in waterfront access among residents hinges not only on a desire to get in the water, but a desire to see and experience it (for example along the channel). While partnerships can fill some of these gaps, developing new amenities that allow residents to take in the beauty of water, swim, and cool off, will be critical. While interest in pools is high today, splash pads generally require less capital investment and produce less risk of drowning, avoiding the additional cost of lifeguards.

#### **Action:**

- 4.1.A • Develop lakefront amenities that balance the protection of the lakefront from damage during storms and high water and enhance user experiences and habitat to address public perceptions of lakefront exclusivity.
- 4.1.B • Build a new indoor pool for year-round resident and visitor use.
- 4.1.C • Make splash pad investments to parks with high reinvestment needs that are in areas with lower tree canopy.
- 4.1.D • Repair Fountain Square's water feature or commit to developing programming for it as a flexible space in other ways.

## 4.2

### **Better connect the community to the lakefront through a greater mix of programs and amenities.**

Across all races and incomes, residents agree that beaches and waterfront access are a top priority. At a 2022 public meeting regarding the stabilization of the lakefront, which has been consistently plagued with erosion issues, residents expressed a preference for naturalized shorelines that could also address environmental risk. Merging public interest in naturalized landscapes with public desire for increased access to the waterfront could create new opportunities for Evanston. Programming and activation done in partnership with community-based organizations is critical to undoing historic inequity in access to the lakefront so that all residents feel welcome.

#### **Action:**

- 4.2.A • Develop the infrastructure needed (such as improved lakefront field houses) to invest in more on-water and water-adjacent programs.

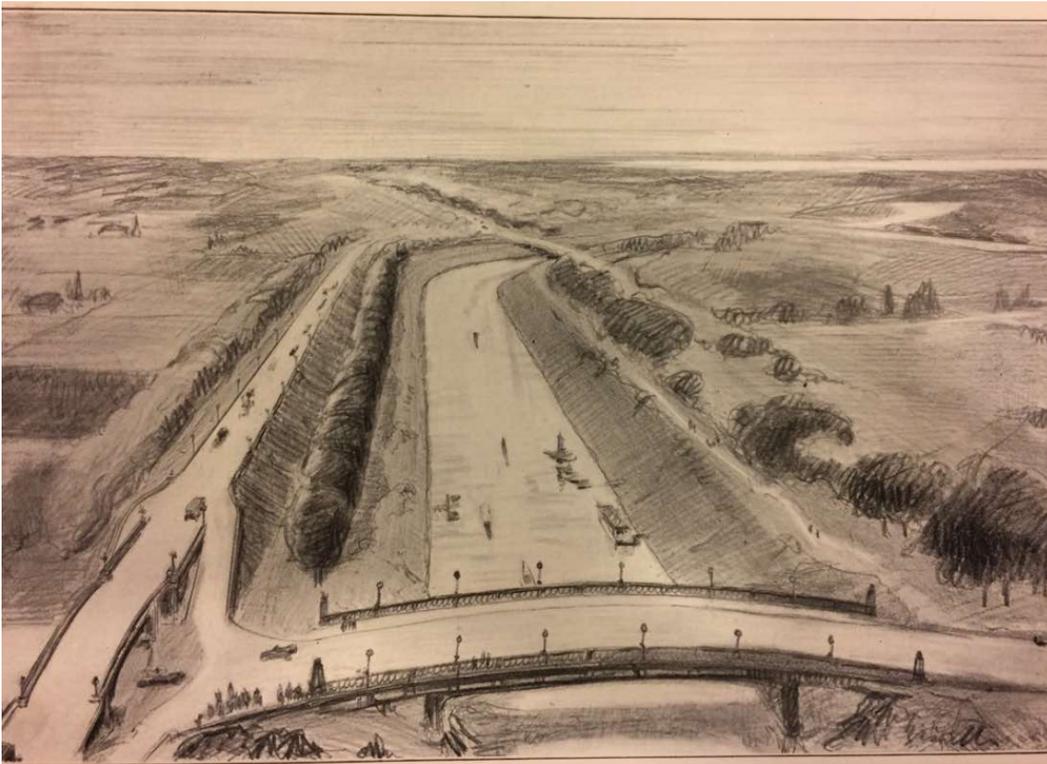
- 4.2.B • Make ADA improvements to lakefront facilities.
- 4.2.C • Expand lakefront community events and arts & cultural activities in collaboration with community-based organizations and the Office of Economic Development.
- 4.2.D • Expand lakefront nature-based programming.
- 4.2.E • Create cross-town shuttles to transport people from inaccessible neighborhoods to the beach during the summer and cool centers during heat emergencies.

### 4.3 Invest in the North Shore Channel as a critical resource for high-quality habitat and recreation.

The North Shore Channel is one of the least ecologically functioning naturalized areas in the city and has a particularly high percentage of non-native species. Open space within a mature city like Evanston is at a premium: the North Shore Channel is an underutilized amenity that could start to meet the community's dual needs of increased natural habitat and recreational amenities. To do so, the City must invest in stormwater management plans that maintain and improve water quality, especially during and after storms. The geographic location of the channel relative to the city offers a unique opportunity to better connect inland residents, who may have a harder time accessing the lakefront, with water recreation and views. By combining increased waterside amenities that create clear views of the water with public communication efforts that emphasize the channel's potential, the North Shore Channel could become a beloved "water trail" that expands access to water in Evanston.

#### Action:

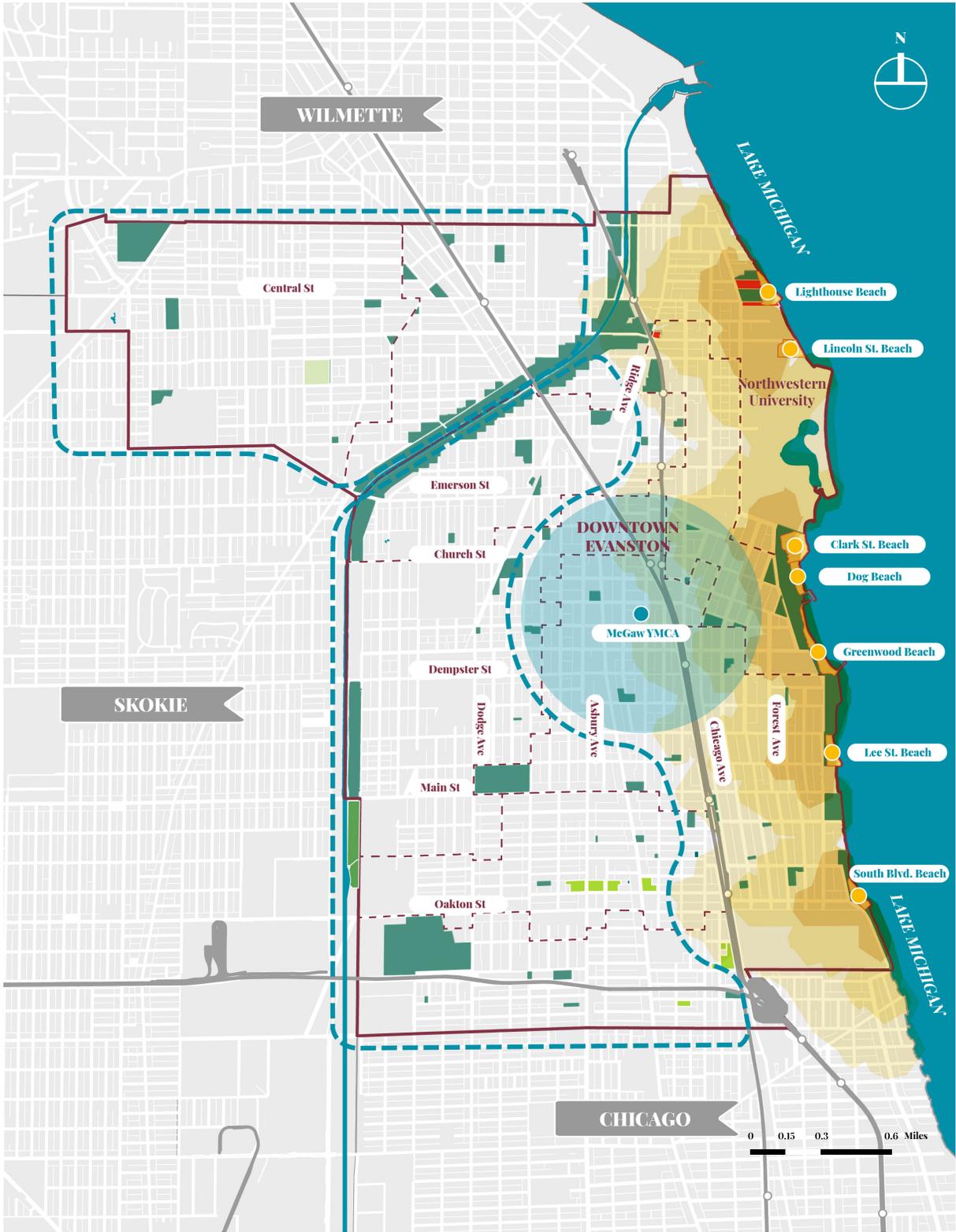
- 4.3.A • Implement management briefs for vegetation management to address invasives and poor soil
- 4.3.B • Implement best practices to reduce pollutant loading in storm sewers including phosphorus, bacteria and chlorides.
- 4.3.C • Increase waterside access and/or views of the channel by identifying locations to clear views and create publicly accessible amenities.
- 4.3.D • Publicize efforts to invest in the channel to educate the public about its potential and start to improve public perception of its recreation and habitat potential.
- 4.3.E • Increase public access to the water by human-powered watercraft (such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards) consistent with proposals by prior planning efforts. Utilizing the North Shore Channel will similarly address demands on the Dempster Street Sailing and Launch Facility which faces long vessel storage waitlists and launch use.



**From the 1917 Plan of Evanston, with Bridge Street in the foreground and Lake Michigan in the distance.** Source: Plan of Evanston(1917)



**Looking south along McCormick Boulevard from Green Bay Road, 1925.** Source: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)



### Existing Beach Access and Indoor Pool Access

- 5-minute walk
- 10-minute walk
- 15-minute walk
- YMCA School partnership pool
- Walkable Swim Access Opportunity Zone

## 4.4

### Broaden access to swimming programs, especially learn-to-swim programs.

Hiring seasonal lifeguards is a consistent challenge for municipalities and Evanston is no exception: increasing youth swim programs can serve as a pipeline into lifeguard training for Evanston youth. Today, the City closes beaches in August at the end of the public season. Even when swimming is not permitted, many residents continue to do so, highlighting the importance of easily accessible learn-to-swim and water safety programs. Some offerings already exist today: EvanstonSwims!, in partnership with the YMCA, offers free swimming lessons for Evanston school district students. This and other partnerships should be expanded to include offerings at additional facilities.

#### Action:

- 4.4.A • Leverage partnerships with like-minded organizations to broaden the aquatic program and facility offerings.
- 4.4.B • Develop low or no-cost swim lessons that encourage more youth to swim, educate youth about water safety, and support future needs for lifeguards.

## Cost Benefits of Pools vs. Splash Pads

Generally, the investment of a splash pad is less than a swimming pool, with less risk for drowning, negating the need for fencing, signage, and lifeguards as costs to consider



# Goal #5: Adaptability

**A system that readily responds to rapidly changing climate needs and recreation trends**

From changes in climate, to evolving community demographics and new national recreation trends, parks and green spaces face many shifting pressures. Adaptability is a key consideration for Evanston's parks, programs, and green space to ensure they can continue to meet community needs even as conditions change. This goal focuses specifically on strategies to increase Evanston's adaptability to 1) rising temperatures, 2) changing precipitation patterns, and 3) evolving recreation programming interests due to national trends and local demographic changes. The outcomes of implementing these strategies include enhanced user comfort, greater support for health and wellness, and increased efficiency. These strategies also contribute to accomplishing the vision of Evanston's Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP), including enhancing urban canopy and green space, incorporating green infrastructure, and planning for extreme heat. The final strategy included in goal 5 below addresses how this plan as a whole can remain relevant by providing a framework for updating recommendations.

## 5.1

### **Create cooler parks that provide relief from heat and that contribute to cooler surroundings by mitigating the urban heat island effect.**

Average summer temperature has risen by 1.4°F in the area since 1970, and climate projections anticipate this trend will continue, with an increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves. By mid-century, the EPA projects that the region could experience ten to fifteen more days over 95°F. Urban heat islands create disproportionate experiences on hot days. The urban heat island effect describes how less green areas magnify localized temperatures. On hot days, areas with more pavement and buildings, less tree canopy, and fewer parks, feel even hotter than the city's average temperature. Areas of hotter or cooler experiences can often be traced back to a neighborhood's history. Studies have shown, for example, that areas that were formerly redlined experience hotter temperatures today than non-redlined areas. Improving heat resilience is an important equity issue.

Evanston's parks and public works teams can play a two-part role in heat resilience: 1) heat relief: provide spaces to cool off on hot days and 2) long-term heat mitigation: support long-term cooler communities through increased tree canopy and green space. Importantly, while parks and green spaces can play a significant role in heat resilience, it's also a topic that suggests the importance of cross-departmental collaborations. While these strategies are beyond the scope of this plan, the City could consider complimentary tools like planning/zoning, development review, communication campaigns, and partnerships to support growing cooler communities and providing relief during heat waves.

#### **Actions:**

- 5.1.A** • Increase the tree canopy quality and extent in parks and rights-of-way in alignment with CARP goals, balancing the needs of recreational programming and broader natural resources goals. When determining planting locations and species, consider the user experience of park-goers (ie. creating shaded picnic areas and cooling pathways).
- 5.1.B** • Focus tree planting efforts on public land in high risk areas (areas with less tree canopy and higher vulnerability residents) in order to get historically disinvested neighborhoods up to par with high income areas.
- 5.1.C** • Prioritize maintenance of water features, including splash pads and pools, to prepare for more frequent hot days. (See related strategies in Goal #3)
- 5.1.D** • Provide cooling and warming resources in community centers and pavillions, prioritizing locations that serve high numbers of youth and older adults.

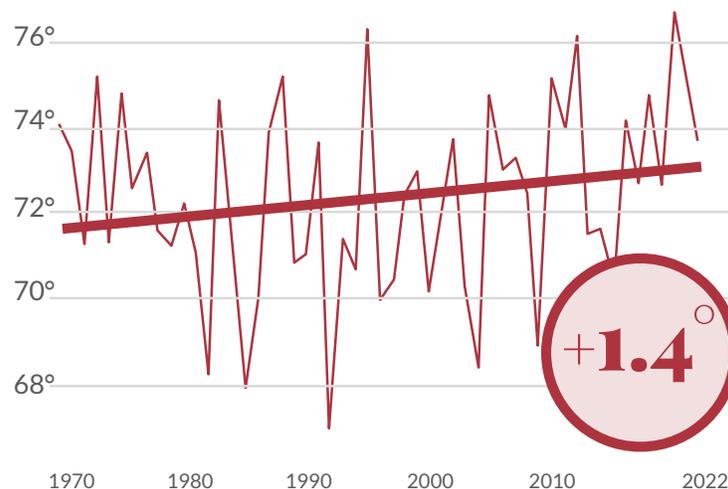
## 5.2

### Expand training and operational strategies to protect park users and staff health on days with dangerously high and low temperatures or especially poor air quality.

Extreme weather can be more than just an inconvenience. Heat can pose significant health risks, especially for community members who spend more time outdoors, are younger or older, or have certain types of health conditions like diabetes or heart disease that make them more susceptible to adverse health impacts in extreme weather. Heat is the top cause of weather-related deaths in the US, more than hurricanes, cold weather, floods, and other weather events. Increasing wildfires pose a different kind of threat; in 2023, Evanston closed its beaches for multiple days as the Air Quality Index (AQI) reached 250. To keep park users and staff safe on all high-risk days, the City can expand its existing heat emergency policies to include guidelines for other risks and to ensure that affiliates and partners operating on city-owned land or in city-owned facilities are well informed and supported in doing the same.

#### Actions

- 5.2.A** • Train staff to recognize symptoms of illness related to extreme weather events, including symptoms related to extreme heat and cold and respiratory issues caused by poor air quality. Prioritize training for staff who work with older adults and youth as well as outdoor maintenance employees.
- 5.2.B** • Develop operational plans for high-heat days, including, for example, more frequent breaks, shade, and water for outdoor workers.
- 5.2.C** • Develop operational plans for low air quality days or integrate air quality considerations into heat-related operational plans.
- 5.2.D** • Ensure that sports affiliate groups commit to city policies regarding play during high-heat days, including any special considerations for play on artificial turf.



**The average summer temperature in the region has risen by 1.4 degrees Farenheit since 1970**

## 5.3

### **Aligned with the goals of the City's Stormwater Master Plan, increase the capacity of parks and other lands to retain stormwater and prevent flooding through green infrastructure practices, naturalization of shorelines and lands, underground storage in suitable places, and planning for long-term maintenance.**

The coming decades are also projected to bring changing precipitation patterns, including more intense rainfall events. Evanston parks and green space can act as sponges, with green infrastructure and other stormwater strategies that help to absorb some of this rainfall before it enters the city's stormwater infrastructure network. The downstream effects of reducing runoff include cleaner water in receiving water bodies. In public workshops, increased green infrastructure was one of the most popular overall strategies proposed to the public.

#### **Actions**

##### 5.3.A

- Treat runoff from the 2-year storm before it enters the open waters and lowlands of parks, the North Shore Channel, and Lake Michigan.

##### 5.3.B

- Hold and infiltrate up to the 2-year storm volume in open waters and lowlands of parks, with minimal rise in water levels.

##### 5.3.C

- Identify locations and plan 20-year implementation of beach and dune restoration along the lakeshore.

##### 5.3.D

- Direct native plantings by volunteers that result in durable, weed-resistant vegetation, in tandem with a long-term management plan carried out by a named team of volunteers.

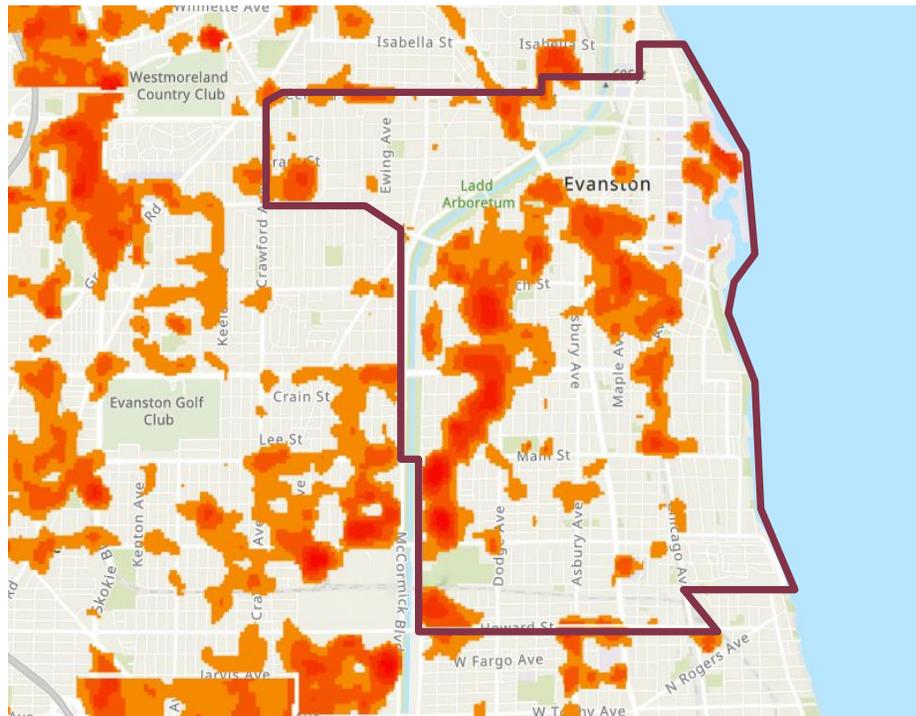
## 5.4

### **Support the expansion of recreation programs taking place outdoors, including summer day camps, with necessary facility upgrades and additions, such as restrooms, outdoor classrooms, open-air classrooms (with walls that can be opened or closed), and indoor spaces to accommodate participants during times of extreme heat or inclement weather.**

The COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the importance of flexibility with park facilities. When indoor spaces were closed, park systems with more flexible outdoor facilities could continue to offer programs more easily. The following strategies support increased flexibility across outdoor spaces to allow for expanded programs.

## Actions

- 5.4.A • Prioritize the maintenance and improvement of field houses.
- 5.4.B • Identify priority locations of existing facilities that can be leveraged for additional outdoor programming and increase maintenance investment in those locations.
- 5.4.C • Pilot increased outdoor programming with low-cost, flexible solutions.
- 5.4.D • Provide transportation to outdoor programming with alternative rain locations.
- 5.4.E • Leverage partnerships with community-based organizations to utilize their available outdoor spaces for programming or indoor facility space as alternate rain or inclement weather locations.



**Balance outdoor programming investments with accessible indoor spaces, especially in neighborhoods with a high urban heat island effect. (shown in red)**



## 5.5

### **Create a plan for updating the Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan, including frequency of updates, process, and internal roles.**

Over the next five to ten years and beyond, Evanston's park, recreation, and green space needs will continue to evolve. Changing community demographics, evolving climate projections, and new recreation trends will bring new needs for Evanston's parks. The following strategies outline a suggested schedule for revisiting the recommendations of this plan and updating them to ensure future investments will remain relevant to current community needs.

#### **Actions**

- 5.5.A** • Communicate a schedule to update the plan every 10 years, including it in budget and staff planning and targeting an RFP process 2 years prior.
- 5.5.B** • Update management briefs every five years.
- 5.5.C** • Review plan and implementation strategy annually in conjunction with budget development.



# 5



## IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter provides an implementation matrix, which is a framework for implementing the strategies described in the prior chapter. By implementing these strategies, Evanston parks can further support equitable access, nature experiences, sustainable operations, welcoming water access, and adaptability.

# IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

This table summarizes the strategies and actions described in the previous chapter. It identifies the strategy, timeframes, and high priority actions and is organized by each goal.

## EQUITABLE ACCESS

★ High Priority Actions

Strategy Number	Timeline	Strategy	Actions
1.1	Ongoing	Recalibrate the system by prioritizing access and reducing barriers for residents with the highest unserved need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ <b>EA-1.A:</b> Revisit schedule for maintenance of parks to increase daily care of parks in high-need areas (higher prevalence of multi-family units, low income residents, and/or communities of color) where park use might be more valued.</li> <li>★ <b>EA-1.B:</b> Prioritize park capital investments in high-need areas (higher prevalence of multi-family units, low income residents, and/or communities of color) where park use might be more valued, especially in areas with more park amenities beyond their recommended lifespan and lower diversity of park experiences</li> <li>★ <b>EA-1.C:</b> Over time, rebalance Evanston’s portfolio of recreation amenities with sustainable replacement levels and funding so that replacement schedules are aligned with recommended recreation facility lifespans.</li> <li>EA-1.D: Develop an equity framework that identifies priority areas for capital improvements and maintenance of parks to support the implementation of this action.</li> <li>EA-1.E: Revisit current scholarship program to evaluate if current application methods and funding levels (50% of program fee) could be improved to increase accessibility (such as creating an online application form and moving to a sliding scale).</li> <li>EA-1.F: Support participation in programs that have high costs to participate beyond program fees (such as hockey) by offering equipment packages for no/low cost for the length of the program/season.</li> <li>EA-1.G: Engage in habitat restoration to increase the equitable distribution of naturalized landscapes in the city.</li> </ul>

Strategy Number	Timeline	Strategy	Actions
1.2	Near-term	Develop criteria to ensure programming meets Evanston's equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals.	<p>EA-2.A: Establish DEIA standards/requirements for affiliates (if they don't already exist)</p> <p>EA-2.B: Establish metrics to measure progress in meeting DEIA goals</p>
1.3	Ongoing	Invest in strategic marketing of programs to better reach underserved populations and broaden public awareness.	<p>EA-3.A: Develop a stand-alone website for parks and recreation with mobile functionality</p> <p>EA-3.B: Invest in staffing to support a 50% to full time outreach and marketing coordinator</p> <p>EA-3.C: Further invest in and highlight e-newsletters and social media as key communication channels.</p> <p>EA-3.D: Develop equity guidelines for program marketing and create a statement of inclusion that accompanies program materials to let residents know all are welcome.</p>
1.4	Near-term	Increase youth professional and leadership development opportunities through parks and recreation programs.	<p>EA-4.A: Leverage Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) into a more comprehensive year-round, multi-year internship program</p> <p>EA-4.B: Create a youth executive board for parks or engage a youth representative on the Evanston Parks and Recreation Board</p> <p>EA-4.C: Create an Evanston Township High School (ETHS) "friends of parks" to volunteer in maintenance and beautification projects.</p>
1.5	Ongoing	Provide recreation facilities and programs for all ages that meet the needs of youth, teens, and seniors.	<p>EA-5.A: Reduce barriers for local organizations to host diverse multi-generational programming .</p> <p>EA-5.B: Create a public restroom task force with Evanston Libraries, School District 65 and 202, and other public facing departments and organizations to identify existing restroom availability, opportunities for future restroom investments, and policies related to restroom funding, operations, and management.</p>
1.6	Long-term	Employ acquisition, partnership, and policy tools to expand public access to non-Evanston owned parks and green spaces.	<p>EA-6.A: POLICY Consider partnership with Evanston's business districts to activate public space outside of parks, including street closures, parklets, and activation of public squares and plazas.</p> <p>EA-6.B: ACQUISITION Consider opportunities to strategically acquire new parkland that enhances connectivity and access, especially in underserved/high-need areas. This could include fee simple acquisition, easements, and/or partnerships with affordable housing developments.</p> <p>EA-6.C: PARTNERSHIP Formalize partnerships with schools to encourage public access to school playgrounds and fields when schools are not in use.</p>

# NATURE EXPERIENCES

## ★ High Priority Actions

Strategy Number	Timeline	Strategy	Actions
2.1	Ongoing	Enhance existing naturalized landscapes in a coordinated effort to improve the connectivity, quality, and resilience of the network.	<p>2.1.A: Deploy management briefs to guide and improve the protection, restoration, management, and monitoring of naturalized landscapes.</p> <p>2.1.B: Seek collaborative opportunities on public and adjacent private land to create a connected, more extensive system of naturalized landscapes over the next twenty years, with an emphasis on existing larger patches of vegetation.</p> <p>2.1.C: Identify locations where the conversion of turf to prairie can be accomplished in the next five years, with an emphasis on connection to existing natural areas and green stormwater management areas.</p> <p>2.1.D: Manage the North Shore Channel in separate ecological management units, each with a strategic direction, a desired outcome, a schedule, tasks, and partners/volunteers.</p> <p>2.1.E: In all City plantings, use native or locally adapted plant species where possible.</p>
2.2	Ongoing	Use programs and technology to welcome everyone, make it easy to engage with natural areas, and raise the level of ecological knowledge in Evanston.	<p>2.2.A: Highlight City-selected natural areas to the public, and produce and disseminate educational information for those areas.</p> <p>★ 2.2.B: Increase the frequency and regularity of nature experiences for youth.</p> <p>2.2.C: Make digital maps of naturalized landscapes available for publicly used mobile devices.</p>
2.3	Near-term	Effectively manage public volunteerism and partnerships to restore, manage, and monitor naturalized landscapes and habitat in alignment with the city's goals.	<p>★ 2.3.A: Create a volunteer program, including staffing and regularly updated annual goals to coordinate all volunteers and stewards working in naturalized landscapes and habitats.</p> <p>2.3.B: Adopt a software platform to assist in the management of the volunteer program, including recruiting, screening, training, coordinating, and retaining.</p> <p>2.3.C: Engage other public and private entities in a formal collaborative effort to protect, restore, manage, and monitor naturalized landscapes and habitats.</p>
2.4	Near-term	Build the internal capacity to implement effective natural resource management practices.	<p>2.4.A: Use management briefs as a tool to direct collaborative management of natural areas.</p> <p>2.4.B: Provide consistent, regular updates of staff time and task allocations via an online dashboard.</p> <p>★ 2.4.C: Offer natural resource management training stipends to capital and maintenance staff.</p> <p>2.4.D: Grow the number of Greenways staff to exceed pre-reorganization numbers.</p>

# SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

## ★ High Priority Actions

Strategy Number	Timeline	Strategy	Actions
3.1	Near-term	Increase efficiencies in administering recreation services through improved processes, programs, and technology.	<p><b>3.1.A:</b> Evaluate current processes through the development of customer journey maps and/or internal process maps and evaluate opportunities to improve and streamline recreation service administration.</p> <p>3.1.B: Evaluate, and as warranted, further develop criteria for excellent customer service and methods to consistently measure Department performance in this area.</p> <p>3.1.C: Explore opportunities for fuller use of the Department's recreation registration and facility management software (and information stored within it) and to integrate it into the City's website.</p> <p>3.1.D: Evaluate current programs and policies related to athletic field, park, and facility permits for affiliate and community groups to make the criteria and processes utilized to manage these efforts more transparent and sustainable.</p>
3.2	Near-term	Conduct in-depth needs assessments among staff in order to properly match funding and staffing to short-term and long-term priorities.	<p>★ <b>3.2.A:</b> When budgeting and planning for new capital investments, quantify long-term maintenance costs and identify strategies for funding.</p> <p><b>3.2.B:</b> Work with Evanston City Council to create a dedicated fund/ annual minimum budget allocation that is sufficient to sustain a high-quality park system.</p>
3.3	Ongoing	Refine internal processes to enable effective management of parkland and natural resources among multiple departments.	<p>3.3.A: Make it possible for departments to share and view calendars and activity schedules by park area to coordinate maintenance and avoid working at cross purposes.</p> <p>3.3.B: Schedule regular meetings with a clear agenda to share updates from various departments and leave space during the meeting for troubleshooting shared challenges and identifying collaboration opportunities.</p>
3.4	Long-term	Identify and establish standards related to park and facility maintenance, finishes, plant and tree selection, and capital improvements; and document and share these across departments to systemize and streamline efforts.	<p>3.4.A: Create a standards and best practices plan for facilities to include a confirmation of roles and responsibilities between different departments</p>

## WELCOMING WATER ACCESS

### ★ High Priority Actions

Strategy Number	Timeline	Strategy	Actions
4.1	Near-term	Invest in new offerings to meet community desires for swimming opportunities, splash pads, and waterfront views.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ <b>4.1.A:</b> Develop lakefront amenities that increase access to waterfront views and address public perceptions of lakefront exclusivity.</li> <li>★ <b>4.1.B:</b> Build a new indoor pool for year-round resident and visitor use.</li> <li>★ <b>4.1.C:</b> Make splash pad investments to parks with high reinvestment needs that are in areas with lower tree canopy.</li> <li>4.1.D: Consider investing in the repair of Fountain Square's water feature or commit to developing programming for it as a flexible space in other ways.</li> </ul>
4.2	Ongoing	Better connect the community to the lakefront through a greater mix of programs and amenities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.2.A: Develop the infrastructure needed (such as additional lakefront field houses) to invest in more on-water and water-adjacent programs.</li> <li>4.2.B: Make ADA improvements to lakefront facilities.</li> <li>★ <b>4.2.C:</b> Provide lakefront community events and arts &amp; cultural activities in collaboration with community-based organizations and the Office of Economic Development while balancing with opportunities for passive recreation and quiet enjoyment of the lakefront.</li> <li>★ <b>4.2.D:</b> Expand lakefront nature-based programming.</li> <li>4.2.E: Create cross-town shuttles to transport people from inaccessible neighborhoods to the beach during the summer and cool centers during heat emergencies.</li> <li>4.2.F: Something about lakefront restoration in conjunction with amenities?"</li> </ul>
4.3	Long-term	Invest in the North Shore Channel as a critical resource for high-quality habitat and recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.3.A: Implement management briefs for vegetation management to address invasives and poor soil</li> <li>4.3.B: Implement stormwater management plans to reduce pollutant loading from storm sewers to the channel, with a focus on phosphorus and bacteria.</li> <li>4.3.C: Increase waterside access and/or views of the channel by identifying locations to clear views and create publicly accessible amenities.</li> <li>4.3.D: Publicize efforts to invest in the channel to educate the public about its potential and start to improve public perception of its recreation and habitat potential.</li> </ul>
4.4	Near-term	Broaden access to swimming programs, especially learn-to-swim programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.4.A: Leverage partnerships with like-minded organizations to broaden the aquatic program and facility offerings.</li> <li>★ <b>4.4.B:</b> Develop low or no-cost swim lessons that encourage more youth to swim, educate youth about water safety, and support future needs for lifeguards.</li> </ul>

# ADAPTABILITY

## ★ High Priority Actions

Strategy Number	Timeline	Strategy	Actions
5.1	Ongoing	Create cooler parks that provide relief from heat and that contribute to cooler surroundings by mitigating the urban heat island effect.	<p>5.1.A: Increase the tree canopy quality and extent in parks and rights-of-way by aligning with CARP goals, while not compromising other natural resource goals.</p> <p>5.1.B: Focus tree planting efforts on public land in high risk areas (areas with less tree canopy and higher vulnerability residents) in order to get historically disinvested neighborhoods up to par with high income areas.</p> <p>5.1.C: Prioritize maintenance of water features, including splash pads and pools, to prepare for more frequent hot days. (See related strategies in Goal #3)</p> <p>5.1.D: Provide cooling and warming resources in community centers and pavillions, prioritizing locations that serve high numbers of youth and older adults.</p>
5.2	Near-term	Expand training and operational strategies to protect park users and staff health on days with dangerously high and low temperatures or especially poor air quality.	<p>5.2.A: Train staff to recognize symptoms of heat-related illnesses, especially staff who work with older adults, youth, and outdoor maintenance employees.</p> <p>5.2.B: Develop operational plans for high-heat days, including, for example, more frequent breaks, shade, and water for outdoor workers.</p> <p>5.2.C: Develop operational plans for low air quality days or integrate air quality considerations into heat-related operational plans.</p> <p>5.2.D: Ensure that sports affiliate groups commit to city policies regarding play during high-heat days, including any special considerations for play on artificial turf."</p>
5.3	Long-term	Increase the capacity of parks and other lands to retain stormwater and prevent flooding through green infrastructure practices, naturalization of shorelines and lands, underground storage in suitable places, and planning for long-term maintenance.	<p>5.3.A: Treat runoff from the 2-year storm before it enters the open waters and lowlands of parks, the North Shore Channel, and Lake Michigan.</p> <p>5.3.B: Hold and infiltrate up to the 2-year storm volume in open waters and lowlands of parks, with minimal rise in water levels.</p> <p>5.3.C: Identify locations and plan 20-year implementation of beach and foredune restoration along the lakeshore.</p> <p>5.3.D: Direct native plantings by volunteers that result in durable, weed-resistant vegetation, in tandem with a long-term management plan carried out by a named team of volunteers."</p>

Strategy Number	Timeline	Strategy	Actions
5.4	Ongoing	Position programming operations to be aware of and flexible to the evolving needs of the community.	<p>5.4.A: Consider opportunities to expand offerings or increase awareness of recreation programming in those areas identified as a current priority in the community needs assessment</p> <p>★ 5.4.B: Consistently collect and evaluate community &amp; stakeholder feedback and related data to inform recreation programming. (In alignment with 3.1.b)</p> <p>5.4.C: Where practical, move staff roles towards a system-wide approach (as opposed to the current facility-based approach) to programming core recreation offerings"</p>
5.5	Near-term	Support the expansion of recreation programs taking place outdoors, including summer day camps, with necessary facility upgrades and additions, such as restrooms, outdoor classrooms, open-air classrooms, and indoor spaces to accommodate participants during times of extreme heat or inclement weather.	<p>5.5.A: Prioritize the maintenance and improvement of field houses.</p> <p>5.5.B: Identify priority locations of existing facilities that can be leveraged for additional outdoor programming and increase maintenance investment in those locations.</p> <p>5.5.C: Pilot increased outdoor programming with low-cost, flexible solutions.</p> <p>5.5.D: Provide transportation to outdoor programming with alternative rain locations.</p> <p>5.5.E: Leverage partnerships with community-based organizations to utilize their available outdoor spaces for programming or indoor facility space as alternate rain or inclement weather locations.</p>
5.6	Ongoing	Create a plan for updating the Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan, including frequency of updates, process, and internal roles.	<p>5.6.A: Communicate a schedule to update the plan every 10 years, including it in budget and staff planning and targeting an RFP process 2 years prior.</p> <p>5.6.A: Update management briefs every five years.</p> <p>5.6.A: Review plan and implementation strategy annually in conjunction with budget development.</p>



# APPENDICES

**Management Briefs**

**Statistically Valid Survey Report**

# LIGHTHOUSE BEACH / LAWSON PARK / LINCOLN STREET

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Dune, Forest/Woodland, Woodland w/ Turf **Naturalized:** No

**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Dune, Forest/Woodland, Savanna **Naturalized:** No

**Primary Activity:** Enhancement

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** Lighthouse Beach and Lincoln Street End are historical Lake Michigan shoreline. Lighthouse Beach was a historical timber forest, but it is unknown if any of the existing trees are pre-settlement. Lincoln Street End is impacted by human activity.

**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Dune (1.8 ac); Forest/Woodland (0.9 ac); Woodland w/ Turf (1.3 ac)

**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** Lighthouse Beach is a restored dune community. Existing vegetation is primarily native and the dune is ecologically stable. Visitor activity has fragmented the dune with many walking paths. Weedy trees exist along the backdune. Lawson Park is primarily turf/park (not part of the project area) and the project area is Forest/Woodland with a mature canopy and an understory that is primarily non-native brush. Understory vegetation is primarily non-native or absent. Lincoln Street End is scheduled to become a savanna during a shoreline stabilization project.

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

#### *Dune*

- Dune community has somewhat low species diversity.
- Visitors have fragmented the vegetation with many walking paths.
- Weedy trees are colonizing the back dune.

#### *Forest/Woodland*

- Dense non-native brush, primarily common buckthorn and non-native honeysuckle.
- Shading has reduced understory plant cover, leading to bare soil and erosion.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefit.

### Goals

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- Transition turf to appropriate naturalized understory of native Savanna herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Renew canopy by planting appropriate native Savanna trees to replace existing canopy cover over time. Target is 10-50% tree canopy cover for Savanna.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### **Strategies**

##### *Dune*

- Plant native Dune forbs and shrubs to fill in smaller paths and increase diversity (water weekly in the first year to increase survival).
- Remove non-native and weedy native trees and shrubs.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant shrubs and plugs as needed.
- Protect and delineate foot traffic with fencing/rope and signage.

##### *Forest/Woodland*

- Remove non-native and dead/hazard trees and shrubs. Prune planted trees in increase light to understory.
- Install native Forest/Woodland seed mix and shrubs.
- Install native Forest/Woodland herbaceous plugs as needed to increase understory diversity.
- Assess canopy and plant native Forest/Woodland trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees, shrubs, and plugs as needed.

##### *Woodland with Turf*

- Remove turf and install appropriate native Savanna seed mix and shrubs.
- Assess canopy and plant native Savanna trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

---

At this site, adjacent properties managed by others could benefit from the actions described in this management brief. The City is encouraged to partner with others to improve the condition of those adjacent properties in order to elevate the overall quality of the environment at this location.

**RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT TASKS, TIMEFRAME, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, AND EFFORT**

Restoration/Management Task	Timeframe	Indicator of Success	Acres	Hours*
<i>Dune</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	1.8	75
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	1.8	75
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	1.8	30
Seeding (Dune)	Year 1	≥ 50% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	1.8	10
Planting Woody Species (Dune)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs	1.8	35
Planting Herbaceous Species (Dune)	Year 1	≥ 50% survival after 3 yrs; ≥ 4 planted species present	1.8	15
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	1.8	5
<i>Forest/Woodland</i>				
Tree Removal	Year 1	All target trees removed	0.9	125
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	0.9	50
Tree Pruning	Year 1	Decrease Norway maple shading by 50%	0.9	15
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	0.9	75
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	0.9	20
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	0.9	15
Seeding (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	0.9	8
Planting Herbaceous Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 50% survival after 3 yrs; ≥ 6 planted species present	0.9	8
Planting Woody Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 50-80% cover	0.9	20
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	0.9	4
<i>Woodland with Turf^</i>				
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	0.2	8
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	0.2	2
			<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>595</b>

\*The Opinion of Probable Effort represents the number of person-hours, or effort, needed to complete a task. It assumes that staff are trained to perform the task and have access to appropriate equipment. Woody removal effort includes piling cut material on site but not disposal by burning, chipping, or hauling away. The effort needed each year to maintain the site in good condition after restoration is estimated using the hours in the Understory Weed Management and Monitoring tasks.

^Initial restoration tasks are currently scheduled to be completed as part of another project, but monitoring and maintenance will still be required.



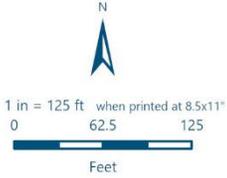
Tasks: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2b, 4, 6e, 7e, 7f, 7g

Tasks: 1b, 1d, 2b, 6a, 7a, 7b

- Evanston Municipal Boundary
- Proposed Management Areas
- City Owned
- Target Community
- Beach / Dune
- Forest / Woodland
- Managed By Volunteers
- No Management

**Figure 1a**  
Lawson Park-Lighthouse Beach

**City of Evanston**  
87.6758°W 42.0648°N



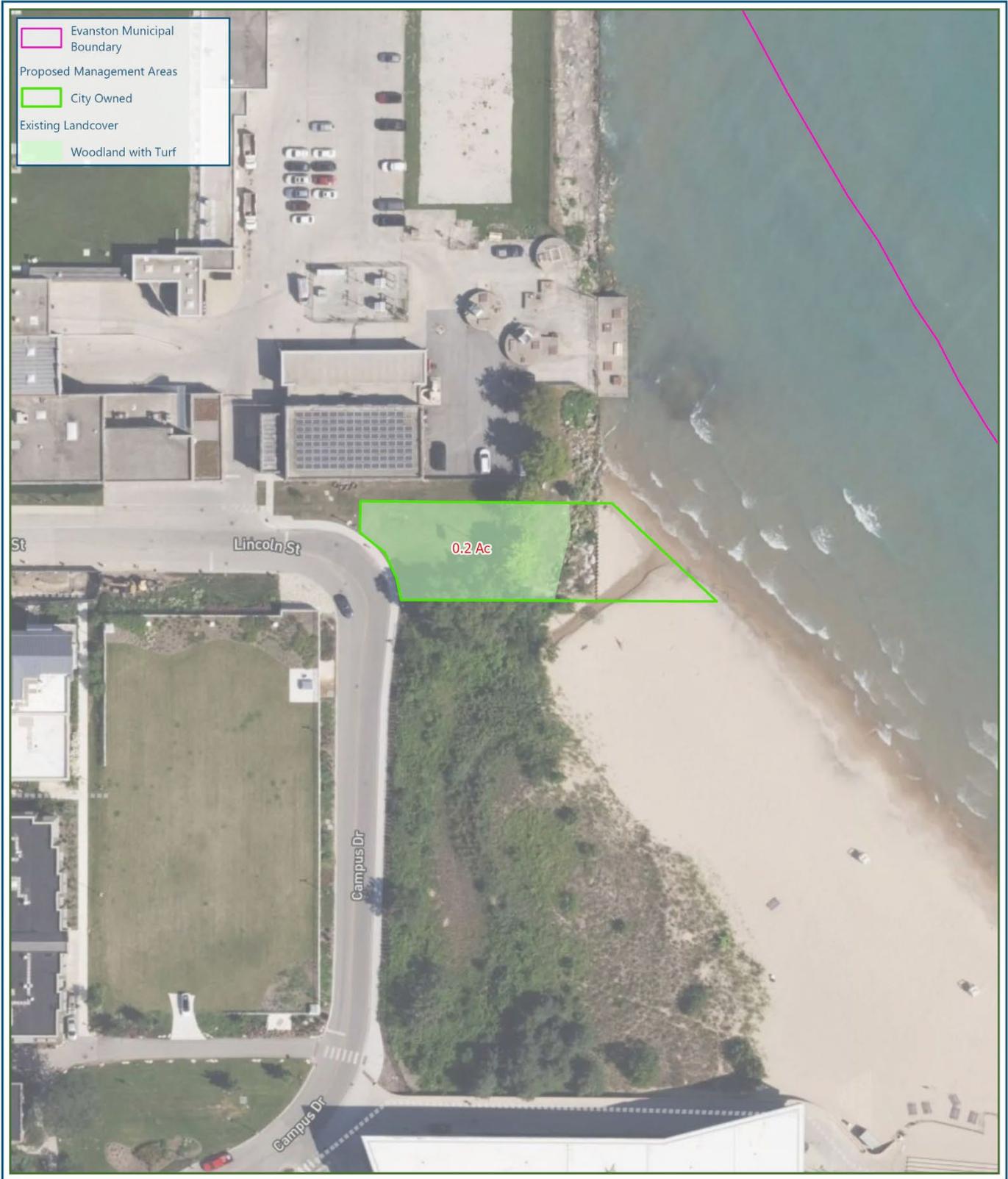
Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.

Data Source: XXXX

Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet

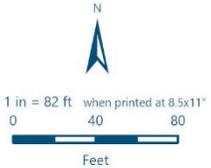


www.res.us



**Figure 1b**  
**Lincoln Street Beach**

**City of Evanston**  
 87.6738°W 42.0615°N



Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.  
 Data Source: XXXX  
 Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet





# LOVELACE PARK

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Woodland with Turf, Prairie

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Current):** 0.7

**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Savanna, Prairie

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Future):** 6.1

**Primary Activity:** Enhancement, Conversion

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** Lovelace Park is historical timber forest but none of the original habitat remains. The soils are heavily impacted by human use.

**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Woodland with Turf (5.4 ac); Prairie (0.7 ac)

**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** The majority of the park is Turf or Woodland with Turf (not a naturalized landscape). The planted Prairie in the northwest corner, installed in 2022, has native species present but also has some invasion from Kentucky bluegrass and other typical weed field species. North of the pond, a small area of Woodland with Turf has a planted garden that is primarily native species.

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

#### *Prairie*

- Small section of naturalized landscape is vulnerable to weed pressure.
- Lack of management has allowed weeds to establish and spread.

### Goals

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)*

- Transition turf to appropriate naturalized understory of native Forest/Woodland herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Remove dead or hazard trees. Renew or maintain canopy by planting native Forest/Woodland trees, target is 50-80% tree canopy cover.
- Maintain 6' of turf around paths and curb lines near savanna.
- Maintain turf around overlook.
- Maintain access to canal fence line.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)*

- Transition turf to native Savanna understory, including herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Renew canopy by planting native Savanna trees to replace existing cover over time. Target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Maintain 6' of turf around paths and curb lines near savanna.
- Maintain turf around overlook.
- Maintain access to canal fence line.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Prairie*

- Manage weeds, preserve existing native vegetation, and increase species diversity over time.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

## **Strategies**

### *Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)*

- Remove non-native and dead/hazard trees and shrubs.
- Remove turf and install native seed mix and shrubs for Forest/Woodland.
- Assess canopy and plant native Forest/Woodland trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

### *Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)*

- Remove turf and install native Savanna seed mix and shrubs.
- Assess canopy and plant native Savanna trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

### *Prairie*

- Control non-native herbaceous vegetation.
  - Increase native species diversity over time by planting native Prairie seed mix.
  - Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings.
-

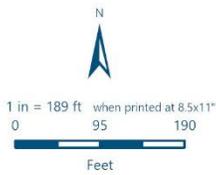
**RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT TASKS, TIMEFRAME, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, AND EFFORT**

Restoration/Management Task	Timeframe	Indicator of Success	Acres	Hours*
<i>Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	5.1	100
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	5.1	20
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	5.1	55
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	5.1	60
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	5.1	12
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of area burned ≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	5.1	70
Seeding (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	5.1	20
Planting Woody Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 50-80% cover	5.1	150
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	5.1	5
<i>Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	1.1	20
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	1.1	15
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	1.1	15
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	1.1	5
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of area burned ≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	1.1	15
Seeding (Savanna)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	1.1	7
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	1.1	30
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	1.1	3
<i>Prairie</i>				
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	0.7	20
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	0.7	6
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	0.7	10
Seeding (Prairie)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	0.7	5
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	0.7	2
			<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>645</b>

\* The Opinion of Probable Effort represents the number of person-hours, or effort, needed to complete a task. It assumes that staff are trained to perform the task and have access to appropriate equipment. Woody removal effort includes piling cut material on site but not disposal by burning, chipping, or hauling away. The effort needed each year to maintain the site in good condition after restoration is estimated using the hours in the Understory Weed Management and Monitoring tasks.



**Figure 2**  
**Lovelace Park**  
**City of Evanston**  
 87.7264°W 42.0678°N



Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.  
 Data Source: XXXX  
 Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet



# FULLERTON PARK / MCCORMICK PARK

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Woodland with Turf  
**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Savanna  
**Primary Activity:** Conversion

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Current):** 0.0  
**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Future):** 2.0

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** Fullerton Park and Bates Park are historical timber forest. The soils have been heavily impacted by human use, including constructing the berm for the railroad.

**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Woodland with Turf (2.0 ac) – 1.5 ac McCormick, 0.5 ac Fullerton

**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** Fullerton Park and McCormick Park are currently Woodland with Turf (not a naturalized landscape). Fullerton Park has a more closed canopy, while McCormick Park generally has a more open canopy.

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

*Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

*Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

### Goals

*Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)*

- Areas should be managed towards Forest/Woodland.
- Transition turf to appropriate naturalized understory of native Forest/Woodland herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Remove dead or hazard trees. Renew or maintain canopy by planting native Forest/Woodland trees, target is 50-80% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

*Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)*

- Areas to be managed towards Savanna.
- Transition turf to appropriate naturalized understory of native Savanna herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Renew canopy by planting appropriate native Savanna trees to replace existing canopy cover over time, target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

### Strategies

*Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)*

- Remove non-native and dead/hazard trees and shrubs.
- Remove turf and install native seed mix and shrubs for Forest/Woodland.
- Assess canopy and plant native Forest/Woodland trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees, shrubs, and plugs as needed.

*Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)*

- Remove turf and install native seed mix and shrubs for Savanna.
- Assess canopy and plant native Savanna trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

**RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT TASKS, TIMEFRAME, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, AND EFFORT**

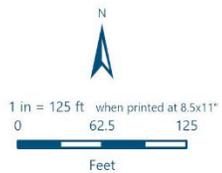
Restoration/Management Task	Timeframe	Indicator of Success	Acres	Hours
<i>Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)</i>				
Tree Removal	Year 1	All target trees removed	0.5	20
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	0.5	20
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	0.5	10
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	0.5	12
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	0.5	12
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	0.5	4
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of area burned	0.5	10
Planting Herbaceous Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 50% survival after 3 yrs; ≥ 6 planted species present	0.5	4
Seeding (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	0.5	5
Planting Woody Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 50-80% cover	0.5	12
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	0.5	2
<i>Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	1.5	25
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	1.5	20
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	1.5	20
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	1.5	6
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	1.5	20
Seeding (Savanna)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	1.5	5
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	1.5	45
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	1.5	3
			<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>255</b>

\* The Opinion of Probable Effort represents the number of person-hours, or effort, needed to complete a task. It assumes that staff are trained to perform the task and have access to appropriate equipment. Woody removal effort includes piling cut material on site but not disposal by burning, chipping, or hauling away. The effort needed each year to maintain the site in good condition after restoration is estimated using the hours in the Understory Weed Management and Monitoring tasks.



**Figure 3**  
Fullerton Park - McCormick Park

**City of Evanston**  
87.6844°W 42.062°N



Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.

Data Source: XXXX

Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet



Cartographer: cburke | POC: XXXX | Path: R:\Resgis\Projects\1107890\_Evanston Parks and Green Space Plan\PROJ\107890\_Evanston Parks and Green Space Plan.aprx | Layout: Fig 3 Fullerton-McCormick



# LADD ARBORETUM

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Woodland w/ Turf

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Current):** 4.5

**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Savanna

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Future):** 15.9

**Primary Activity:** Enhancement, Conversion

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** The Ladd Arboretum is historical wet prairie. The North Shore Channel was constructed in the early 1900s and the surrounding soils are heavily impacted by excavation, other disturbances, and subsequent human use.

**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Forest/Woodland (4.5 ac); Woodland with Turf (11.4 ac)

**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** The majority of the north side of the channel is currently managed by the Ladd Arboretum. They have been removing non-native brush and installing native understory and shrubs in the Forest/Woodland and the result is one of the highest quality naturalized landscapes in the City of Evanston. The tree canopy is relatively intact but there is little canopy regeneration. There is also a section of Forest/Woodland along the channel slope. The Forest/Woodland has dense non-native brush that shades the understory. The channel slopes are eroding due to bare soil that results from the deep shade. The canopy is fragmented due to dying trees and little forest succession is evident. Some sections of the Ladd Arboretum are Woodland with Turf, which is not a naturalized landscape.

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

#### *Forest/Woodland*

- The tree canopy is mature or dying and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Dense non-native brush, primarily common buckthorn and non-native honeysuckles.
- The tree canopy is mature or dying and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.
- Shading has reduced understory plant cover, leading to bare soil and erosion on slopes.

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

### Goals

#### *Forest/Woodland*

- Support Ladd Arboretum as they continue to remove non-native brush and install native Forest/Woodland herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Remove dead or hazard trees. Renew or maintain canopy by planting native Forest/Woodland trees, target is 50-80% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Transition to native Savanna understory, including herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Renew canopy by planting native Savanna trees to replace existing canopy over time. Target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)*

- Transition turf to appropriate naturalized understory of native Forest/Woodland herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Remove dead or hazard trees. Renew or maintain canopy by planting native Forest/Woodland trees, target is 50-80% tree canopy cover.
- Maintain 6' of turf around paths and curb lines near savanna.
- Maintain turf around overlook.
- Maintain access to canal fence line.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)*

- Transition turf to native Savanna understory, including herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Renew canopy by planting native Savanna trees to replace existing cover over time. Target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Maintain 6' of turf around paths and curb lines near savanna.
- Maintain turf around overlook.
- Maintain access to canal fence line.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

### **Strategies**

#### *Forest/Woodland*

- Remove non-native and dead or hazard trees and shrubs.
- Install native Forest/Woodland seed mix and shrubs.
- Assess canopy and plant native Forest/Woodland trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees, shrubs, and plugs as needed.

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Remove non-native and dead or hazard trees and shrubs.
- Install native seed mix and shrubs for Savanna, including the Channel Slope seed mix.
- Assess canopy and plant native Savanna trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees, shrubs, and plugs as needed.

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)*

- Remove turf and install native seed mix and shrubs for Forest/Woodland.
- Assess canopy and plant native Forest/Woodland trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

#### *Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)*

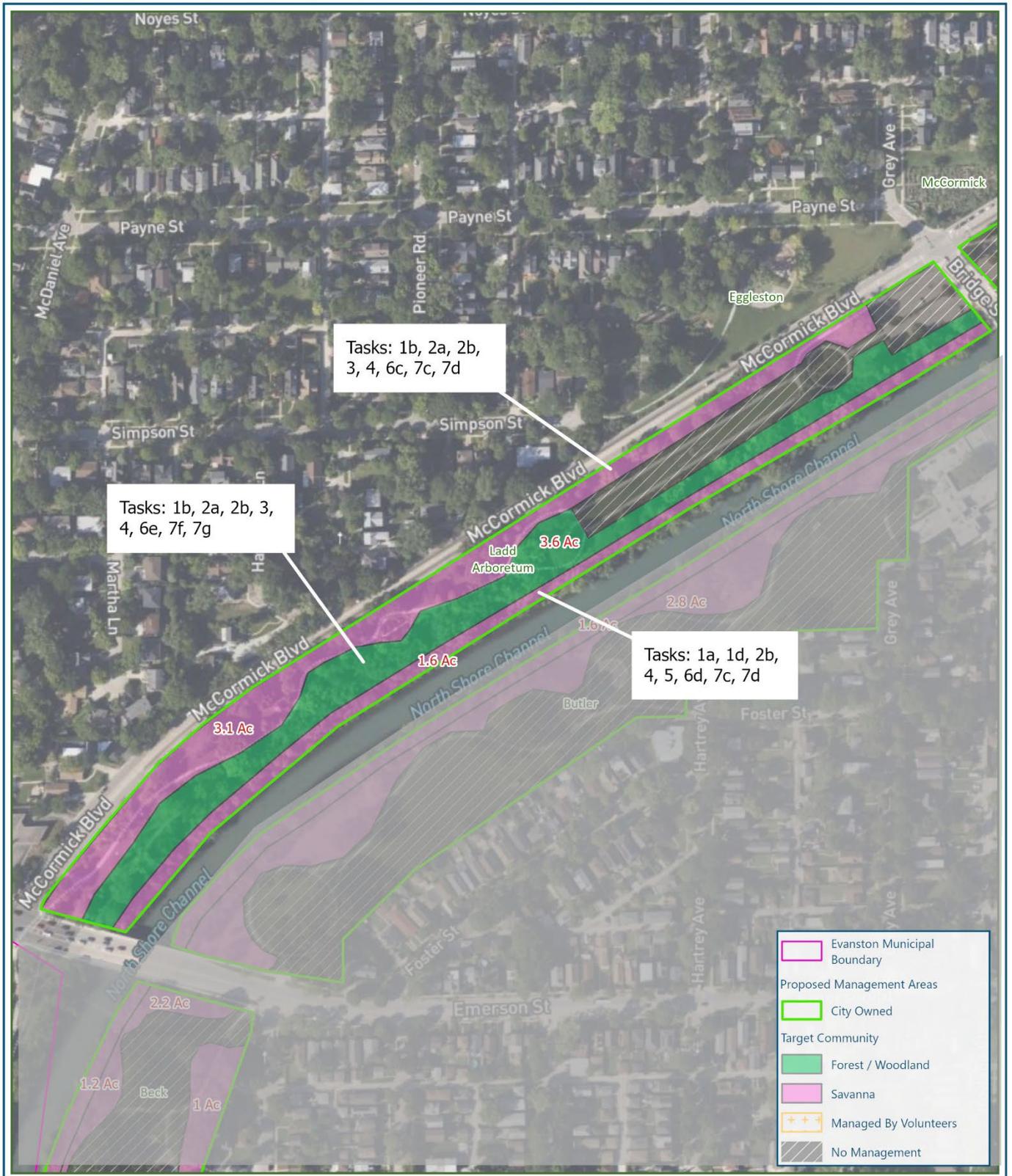
- Remove turf and install native Savanna seed mix and shrubs.
  - Assess canopy and plant native Savanna trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
  - Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.
-

**RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT TASKS, TIMEFRAME, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, AND EFFORT**

Restoration/Management Task	Timeframe	Indicator of Success	Acres	Hours*
<i>Forest/Woodland</i>				
Tree Removal	Year 1	All target trees removed	1.6	75
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	1.6	50
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	1.6	30
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	1.6	25
Seeding (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	1.6	15
Planting Herbaceous Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 50% survival after 3 yrs; ≥ 6 planted species present	1.6	15
Planting Woody Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 50-80% cover	1.6	40
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	1.6	5
<i>Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)</i>				
Tree Removal	Year 1	All target trees removed	2.9	500
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	2.9	250
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	2.9	50
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	2.9	45
Erosion Control	Year 1	Few signs of microerosion evident (microrills and pillars, surface rocks, washes, soil plumes and deltas)	2.9	125
Seeding (Channel Slope)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	2.9	25
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	2.9	100
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	2.9	5
<i>Woodland with Turf (to Forest/Woodland)</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	7.4	150
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	7.4	85
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	7.4	90
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	7.4	18
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	7.4	105
Seeding (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	7.4	30
Planting Woody Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	7.4	225
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	7.4	7
<i>Woodland with Turf (to Savanna)</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	4.0	50
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	4.0	45
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	4.0	50
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	4.0	10
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	4.0	55
Seeding (Savanna)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	4.0	15
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	4.0	115
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	4.0	5
			<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>2,410</b>

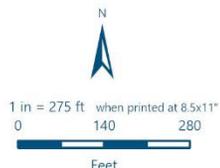
\* The Opinion of Probable Effort represents the number of person-hours, or effort, needed to complete a task. It assumes that staff are trained to perform the task and have access to appropriate equipment. Woody removal effort includes piling cut material on site but not disposal by burning, chipping, or hauling away. The effort needed each year to maintain the site in good condition after restoration is estimated using the hours in the Understory Weed Management and Monitoring tasks.





**Figure 4b**  
Ladd Arboretum S

**City of Evanston**  
87.7051°W 42.0545°N



Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.  
 Data Source: XXXX  
 Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet

	Evanston Municipal Boundary
	Proposed Management Areas
	City Owned
	Target Community
	Forest / Woodland
	Savanna
	Managed By Volunteers
	No Management



# TWIGGS PARK / BUTLER PARK

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Woodland with Turf

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Current):** 3.0

**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Savanna

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Future):** 7.5

**Primary Activity:** Conversion

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** Twiggs Park and Butler Park are historical wet prairie. The North Shore Channel was constructed in the early 1900s and the surrounding soils are heavily impacted by excavation, other disturbances, and subsequent human use.

**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Forest/Woodland (3.0 ac); Woodland with Turf (4.5 ac)

**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** The majority of Twiggs Park and Butler Park is currently Woodland with Turf (not a naturalized landscape). Along the North Shore Channel, the Forest/Woodland has dense non-native brush that shades the understory. The channel slopes are eroding due to bare soil that results from the deep shade. The canopy is fragmented due to dying trees and little forest succession is evident.

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Dense non-native brush, primarily common buckthorn and non-native honeysuckles.
- The tree canopy is mature or dying and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.
- Shading has reduced understory plant cover, leading to bare soil and erosion on slopes.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

### Goals

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Channel slope areas should be managed towards Savanna, with the goal of establishing dense native groundcover to reduce erosion. Target is to see few signs of microerosion on slopes.
- Remove dead/hazard trees. Renew or maintain canopy by planting native Savanna trees, target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- Transition turf to a naturalized Savanna understory of native herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Renew canopy by planting native Savanna trees to replace existing canopy cover over time. Target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Maintain 6' of turf along all paths.
- Maintain access to canal fence line.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

## Strategies

### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Remove non-native and dead/hazard trees and shrubs.
- Install seed mix and shrubs for savanna, including the Channel Slope seed mix.
- Assess canopy and plant trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees, shrubs, and plugs as needed.

### *Woodland with Turf*

- Remove turf and install native Savanna seed mix and shrubs.
- Assess canopy and plant trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees, shrubs, and plugs as needed.

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT TASKS, TIMEFRAME, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, AND EFFORT

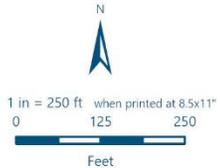
Restoration/Management Task	Timeframe	Indicator of Success	Acres	Hours
<i>Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)</i>				
Tree Removal	Year 1	All target trees removed	3.0	500
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	3.0	250
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	3.0	50
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	3.0	45
Erosion Control	Year 1	Few signs of microerosion evident (microrills and pillars, surface rocks, washes, soil plumes and deltas)	3.0	125
Seeding (Channel Slope)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	3.0	25
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	3.0	100
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	3.0	6
<i>Woodland with Turf</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	4.5	50
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	4.5	50
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	4.5	55
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	4.5	12
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	4.5	60
Seeding (Savanna)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	4.5	15
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	4.5	125
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	4.5	7
			<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>1,475</b>

\* The Opinion of Probable Effort represents the number of person-hours, or effort, needed to complete a task. It assumes that staff are trained to perform the task and have access to appropriate equipment. Woody removal effort includes piling cut material on site but not disposal by burning, chipping, or hauling away. The effort needed each year to maintain the site in good condition after restoration is estimated using the hours in the Understory Weed Management and Monitoring tasks.



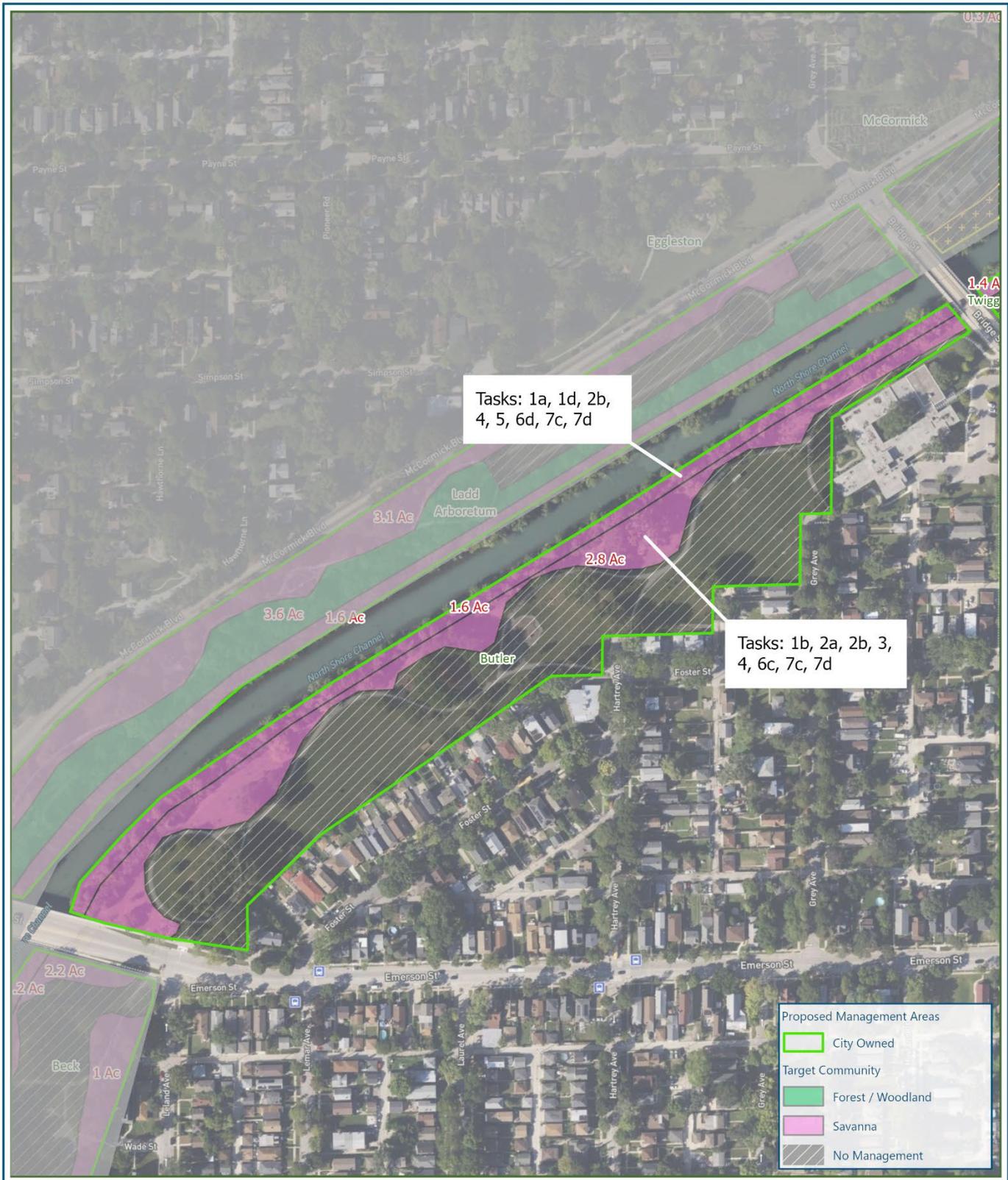
**Figure 5a**  
Twiggs-Butler

**City of Evanston**  
87.6974°W 42.0574°N

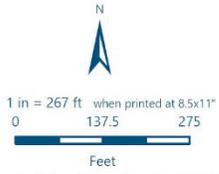


Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.  
 Data Source: XXXX  
 Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet





**Figure 5b**  
**Twigg's-Butler**  
**City of Evanston**  
 87.7044°W 42.0542°N



Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.  
 Data Source: XXXX  
 Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet



Cartographer: cburke | POC: XXXX | Path: R:\ResGIS\Projects\LV\107890\_Evanston Parks and Green Space Plan\PRO\107890\_Evanston Parks and Green Space Plan.aprx | Layout: Fig 5b Twigg's-Butler

# BECK PARK

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Woodland with Turf

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Current):** 1.2

**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Savanna

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Future):** 4.4

**Primary Activity:** Enhancement, Conversion

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** Beck Park is historical wet prairie. The North Shore Channel was constructed in the early 1900s and the surrounding soils are heavily impacted by excavation, other disturbances, and subsequent human use.

**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Forest/Woodland (1.2 ac); Woodland with Turf (3.2 ac)

**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** The majority of Beck Park is currently Woodland with Turf (not a naturalized landscape). Along the North Shore Channel, the Forest/Woodland has dense non-native brush that shades the understory. The channel slopes are eroding due to bare soil that results from the deep shade. The canopy is fragmented due to dying trees and little forest succession is evident.

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Dense non-native brush, primarily common buckthorn and non-native honeysuckles.
- The tree canopy is mature or dying and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.
- Shading has reduced understory plant cover, leading to bare soil and erosion on slopes.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

### Goals

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Channel slopes should be managed towards Savanna, with the goal of establishing dense native groundcover to reduce erosion. Target is to see few signs of microerosion on slopes.
- Remove dead or hazard trees. Renew or maintain canopy by planting native Savanna trees, target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- Transition turf to appropriate naturalized understory of native Savanna herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Renew canopy by planting appropriate native Savanna trees to replace existing canopy cover over time. Target is 10-50% tree canopy cover for Savanna.
- Maintain 6' turf edge around all walking paths.
- Maintain access to canal fence line.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

### Strategies

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Remove non-native and dead/hazard trees and shrubs.
- Install native seed mix and shrubs for Savanna, including the Channel Slope seed mix.
- Assess canopy and plant native Savanna trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

# BECK PARK

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Woodland with Turf  
**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Savanna  
**Primary Activity:** Enhancement, Conversion

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Current):** 1.2  
**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Future):** 4.4

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** Beck Park is historical wet prairie. The North Shore Channel was constructed in the early 1900s and the surrounding soils are heavily impacted by excavation, other disturbances, and subsequent human use.

**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Forest/Woodland (1.2 ac); Woodland with Turf (3.2 ac)

**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** The majority of Beck Park is currently Woodland with Turf (not a naturalized landscape). Along the North Shore Channel, the Forest/Woodland has dense non-native brush that shades the understory. The channel slopes are eroding due to bare soil that results from the deep shade. The canopy is fragmented due to dying trees and little forest succession is evident.

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Dense non-native brush, primarily common buckthorn and non-native honeysuckles.
- The tree canopy is mature or dying and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.
- Shading has reduced understory plant cover, leading to bare soil and erosion on slopes.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

### Goals

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Channel slopes should be managed towards Savanna, with the goal of establishing dense native groundcover to reduce erosion. Target is to see few signs of microerosion on slopes.
- Remove dead or hazard trees. Renew or maintain canopy by planting native Savanna trees, target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- Transition turf to appropriate naturalized understory of native Savanna herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Renew canopy by planting appropriate native Savanna trees to replace existing canopy cover over time. Target is 10-50% tree canopy cover for Savanna.
- Maintain 6' turf edge around all walking paths.
- Maintain access to canal fence line.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

### Strategies

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Remove non-native and dead/hazard trees and shrubs.
- Install native seed mix and shrubs for Savanna, including the Channel Slope seed mix.
- Assess canopy and plant native Savanna trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

### Woodland with Turf

- Remove turf and install appropriate native Savanna seed mix and shrubs, depending on location.
- Assess canopy and plant native Savanna trees, depending on location, to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

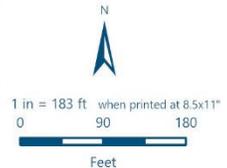
### RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT TASKS, TIMEFRAME, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, AND EFFORT

Restoration/Management Task	Timeframe	Indicator of Success	Acres	Hours
<i>Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)</i>				
Tree Removal	Year 1	All target trees removed	1.2	200
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	1.2	100
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	1.2	20
Erosion Control	Year 1	Few signs of microerosion evident (microrills and pillars, surface rocks, washes, soil plumes and deltas)	1.2	50
Seeding (Channel Slope)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	1.2	10
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	1.2	40
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	1.2	2
<i>Woodland with Turf</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	3.2	40
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	3.2	35
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	3.2	35
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	3.2	8
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	3.2	40
Seeding (Savanna)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	3.2	10
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	3.2	85
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	3.2	5
			<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>680</b>

\* The Opinion of Probable Effort represents the number of person-hours, or effort, needed to complete a task. It assumes that staff are trained to perform the task and have access to appropriate equipment. Woody removal effort includes piling cut material on site but not disposal by burning, chipping, or hauling away. The effort needed each year to maintain the site in good condition after restoration is estimated using the hours in the Understory Weed Management and Monitoring tasks.



**Figure 6**  
**Beck Park**  
 City of Evanston  
 87.7083°W 42.05°N



Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.  
 Data Source: XXXX  
 Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet



Cartographer: cburke | POC: XXXX | Path: R:\Resgis\Projects\IL\107890\_Evanston Parks and Green Space Plan\PRO\107890\_Evanston Parks and Green Space Plan.aprx | Layout: Fig 6 Beck

# HARBERT PARK

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Woodland with Turf

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Current):** 6.4

**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Savanna

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Future):** 8.8

**Primary Activity:** Enhancement, Conversion

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** Harbert Park is a historic wet prairie. The North Shore Channel was constructed in the early 1900s and the surrounding soils are heavily impacted by excavation, other disturbances, and subsequent human use.

**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Forest/Woodland (6.4 ac), Woodland with Turf (2.4 ac)

**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** Approximately one-third of Forest/Woodland (between Greenleaf St. and Lee St.) is currently managed by volunteers who have removed non-native brush and installed native shrubs and (apparently) native herbaceous vegetation. In addition, the volunteers have installed and maintained woodchipped trails. In the non-managed areas, dense non-native brush shades out the understory and bare soil is common. In both areas, the canopy is fragmented due to dying trees and little forest succession is evident. The remaining area of Harbert Park is Woodland with Turf, which is not a naturalized community.

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

#### *Forest/Woodland*

- The currently unmanaged areas are dense with non-native brush, primarily common buckthorn and non-native honeysuckles.
- The tree canopy is mature or dying and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.
- In the currently unmanaged areas, shading has reduced understory plant cover, leading to bare soil and erosion on slopes.

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Dense non-native brush, primarily common buckthorn and non-native honeysuckles.
- The tree canopy is mature or dying and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.
- Shading has reduced understory plant cover, leading to bare soil and erosion on slopes.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- The understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

### Goals

#### *Forest/Woodland*

- Support volunteer efforts to clear non-native brush and install native Forest/Woodland shrubs and herbaceous vegetation.
- Renew canopy by planting native Forest/Woodland trees, target is 50-80% tree canopy cover.
- Channel slopes should be managed towards Forest/Woodland, with the goal of establishing dense native groundcover to reduce erosion. Target is to see few signs of microerosion on slopes.
- Maintain/surround overlook with turf.
- Maintain 6' turf edge around all walking paths.
- Maintain access to canal fence line.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Transition to native Savanna understory, including herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Renew canopy by planting native Savanna trees to replace existing canopy over time. Target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- Transition turf to appropriate naturalized understory of native Forest/Woodland herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Remove dead or hazard trees. Renew or maintain canopy by planting native Forest/Woodland trees, target is 50-80% tree canopy cover.
- Maintain 6' of turf around paths and curb lines near savanna.
- Maintain turf around overlook.
- Maintain access to canal fence line.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

### **Strategies**

#### *Forest/Woodland*

- Remove non-native and dead/hazard trees and shrubs.
- Install seed mix and shrubs for Forest/Woodland, including the Channel Slope mix.
- Assess canopy and plant trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees, shrubs, and plugs as needed.

#### *Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)*

- Remove non-native and dead or hazard trees and shrubs.
- Install native seed mix and shrubs for Savanna, including the Channel Slope seed mix.
- Assess canopy and plant native Savanna trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees, shrubs, and plugs as needed.

#### *Woodland with Turf*

- Remove turf and install native seed mix and shrubs for Forest/Woodland.
  - Assess canopy and plant native Forest/Woodland trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
  - Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.
-

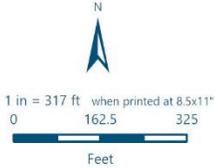
**RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT TASKS, TIMEFRAME, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, AND EFFORT**

Restoration/Management Task	Timeframe	Indicator of Success	Acres	Hours
<i>Forest/Woodland</i>				
Tree Removal	Year 1	All target trees removed	4.7	200
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	4.7	50
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	4.7	250
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	4.7	90
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	4.7	75
Seeding (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	4.7	45
Planting Herbaceous Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 50% survival after 3 yrs; ≥ 6 planted species present	4.7	45
Planting Woody Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 50-80% cover	4.7	120
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	4.7	5
<i>Forest/Woodland (Channel Slope)</i>				
Tree Removal	Year 1	All target trees removed	1.7	300
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	1.7	170
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	1.7	30
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	1.7	25
Erosion Control	Year 1	Few signs of microerosion evident (microrills and pillars, surface rocks, washes, soil plumes and deltas)	1.7	85
Seeding (Channel Slope)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	1.7	15
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	1.7	60
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	1.7	5
<i>Woodland with Turf</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	2.4	50
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	2.4	30
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	2.4	30
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	2.4	6
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of focal area burned (burn half of an area at any one time)	2.4	35
Seeding (Forest/Woodland)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	2.4	10
Planting Woody Species (Forest/Woodland)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 50-80% cover	2.4	75
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	2.4	4
			<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>1,810</b>

\* The Opinion of Probable Effort represents the number of person-hours, or effort, needed to complete a task. It assumes that staff are trained to perform the task and have access to appropriate equipment. Woody removal effort includes piling cut material on site but not disposal by burning, chipping, or hauling away. The effort needed each year to maintain the site in good condition after restoration is estimated using the hours in the Understory Weed Management and Monitoring tasks.



**Figure 7**  
**Harbert Park**  
 City of Evanston  
 87.709°W 42.0373°N



Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.  
 Data Source: XXXX  
 Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet



Cartographer: cburke | POC: XXXX | Path: R:\Resgis\Projects\VL\107890\_Evanston Parks and Green Space Plan\PROV\107890\_Evanston Parks and Green Space Plan.aprx | Layout: Fig 7 Harbert

# JAMES PARK

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Forest/Woodland, Shrubland, Turf/Weeds      **Naturalized Landscape Acres (Current):** 3.3  
**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Savanna, Prairie      **Naturalized Landscape Acres (Future):** 3.9  
**Primary Activity:** Enhancement, Conversion

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** James Park is historical wet prairie. The project area is a covered landfill with disturbed soils.  
**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Forest/Woodland (2.3 ac); Shrubland (1.0 ac); Turf/Weeds (0.6 ac)  
**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** The restoration area at James Park is a re-naturalized landfill. The Forest/Woodland area is shaded out by mature buckthorn and native canopy is lacking. The understory is sparse and bare ground is common. The shrubland area was likely a planted prairie that has been invaded by woody brush over time. The main sledding path on the north face is a mix of weedy vegetation and bare soil with obvious signs of erosion.

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

#### *Forest/Woodland*

- Dense cover of tall common buckthorn shades the understory.
- The tree canopy is mostly planted pines and mature cottonwoods. Native canopy cover is low.
- Buckthorn shading has impacted the understory; bare ground is common.

#### *Shrubland*

- Shrubs are primarily staghorn sumac and some common buckthorn from Forest/Woodland. Fire suppression has led to aggressive woody growth; small trees are common.
- Understory is primarily non-native or weedy native species.

#### *Turf/Weeds*

- Main sledding hill consists of non-native and weedy native herbaceous species and bare dirt with obvious erosion. The side slopes are mowed turf grass, which provides no ecological benefit.

### Goals

#### *Forest/Woodland*

- Manage towards Savanna.
- Remove non-native brush, primarily common buckthorn.
- Transition to a naturalized Savanna understory of native herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Plant native Savanna trees to replace existing canopy cover over time, target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Shrubland*

- Manage towards Savanna.
- Remove adventive woody species.
- Transition to a naturalized Savanna understory of native herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Plant native Savanna trees to create canopy over time, target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Turf/Weeds*

- Manage weedy slope to Prairie, convert turf grass to Prairie.
- Reduce erosion in areas of bare soil.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

## **Strategies**

### *Forest/Woodland*

- Remove non-native and dead/hazard trees and shrubs.
- Install native savanna seed mix, shrubs, and trees.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

### *Shrubland*

- Remove non-native and weedy native trees and shrubs.
- Remove non-native herbaceous vegetation.
- Install savanna seed mix, shrubs, and trees.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

### *Turf/Weeds*

- Convert weeds to native Prairie grasses and forbs. Install erosion control while natives establish.
  - Remove turf and install Prairie seed mix.
  - Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings.
-

**RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT TASKS, TIMEFRAME, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, AND EFFORT**

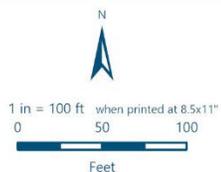
Restoration/Management Task	Timeframe	Indicator of Success	Acres	Hours
<i>Forest/Woodland</i>				
Tree Removal	Year 1	All target trees removed	2.3	50
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	2.3	50
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	2.3	200
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	2.3	45
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	2.3	8
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of area burned	2.3	35
Seeding (Savanna)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	2.3	25
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	2.3	60
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	2.3	5
<i>Shrubland</i>				
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	1.0	80
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	1.0	20
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	1.0	5
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of area burned	1.0	15
Seeding (Savanna)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	1.0	10
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	1.0	25
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	1.0	4
<i>Turf/Weeds</i>				
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	0.6	15
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	0.6	20
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	0.6	6
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of area burned	0.6	10
Erosion Control	Year 1	Few signs of microerosion evident (microrills and pillars, surface rocks, washes, soil plumes and deltas)	0.6	35
Seeding (Prairie)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	0.6	5
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	0.6	2
			<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>730</b>

\* The Opinion of Probable Effort represents the number of person-hours, or effort, needed to complete a task. It assumes that staff are trained to perform the task and have access to appropriate equipment. Woody removal effort includes piling cut material on site but not disposal by burning, chipping, or hauling away. The effort needed each year to maintain the site in good condition after restoration is estimated using the hours in the Understory Weed Management and Monitoring tasks.



**Figure 8**  
James Park

**City of Evanston**  
87.7053°W 42.0236°N



Reference: Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.  
Data Source: XXXX  
Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet



# CLARK STREET BEACH / LUNT PARK / CENTENNIAL PARK

---

## IDENTIFIERS & BASIC INFORMATION

**Primary Habitat Type(s):** Dune, Woodland with Turf

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Current):** 1.8

**Desired Habitat Type(s):** Dune, Savanna

**Naturalized Landscape Acres (Future):** 8.4

**Primary Activity:** Enhancement, Conversion

---

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Site History:** Clark Street Beach is historical Lake Michigan shoreline. Lunt and Centennial Parks are historical timber forests and some of the existing oaks may be pre-settlement remnants. Soils are heavily impacted by human activity.

**Existing Vegetation Type (Size):** Dune (1.8 ac); Woodland with Turf (6.6 ac)

**Current Condition (Dec 2022):** Clark Street Beach is a restored dune community. Volunteers have been performing restoration activities including installing native grasses and forbs and planting native shrubs. Weedy trees exist along the backdune/adjacent to Centennial Park. Lunt and Centennial Parks are mowed turf with planted trees (not a naturalized landscape).

---

## RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

### Issues

#### *Dune*

- Dune community has somewhat low species diversity.
- Planted shrubs are not always appropriate for this Dune community.
- Weedy trees are colonizing the back dune.
- Sand deposition can encroach on programming space.

#### *Woodland with Turf (Lunt and Centennial)*

- Understory is mowed turf, which provides minimal ecological benefits.
- The tree canopy is mature and there are few successional trees to replace or fill canopy.

### Goals

#### *Dune*

- Maintain restored Dune and preserve previous efforts.
- Increase native diversity, especially dune forbs.
- Preserve and bolster native shrub community in the mid-dune and backdune.
- Revegetate dune areas impacted by installation of dog beach access path.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

#### *Woodland with Turf (Lunt and Centennial)*

- Transition turf to a naturalized Savanna understory of native herbaceous vegetation and shrubs.
- Protect sight lines for adjacent neighbors.
- Plant native Savanna trees, including hybrid oak from Lunt Park, to replace existing canopy cover over time; target is 10-50% tree canopy cover.
- Maintain 6' turf edge around all walking paths.
- Support Parks and Recreation programming and educational activities.

## Strategies

### *Dune*

- Remove non-native and weedy native trees and shrubs. Ensure planted shrubs are appropriate native Dune species.
- Increase native herbaceous diversity with Dune seeding and planting.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant shrubs and plugs as needed.

### *Woodland with Turf (Lunt and Centennial)*

- Remove turf and install Savanna seed mix and shrubs except at picnic grove areas.
- Assess canopy and plant Savanna trees to fill existing and anticipated canopy gaps.
- Monitor existing vegetation and make management adjustments based on annual findings. Replant trees and shrubs as needed.

---

At this site, cyclical changes in lake level affect natural processes of plant succession and foredune erosion. In low water years the beachgrass-foredune system migrates onto the beach, and in high water years, the beachgrass-foredune system is pushed inland by waves and ice. To maintain enough space for recreation, the foredune must be managed. This can be done by mimicking the foredune erosion of high water years and removing the advancing edge of the foredune. The location of the foredune edge can be monitored by mapping with GPS each year. Grading would be triggered when the foredune edge moves lakeward beyond the high water edge of the foredune. The excess sand can be piled on the foredune to raise its elevation or trucked away for placement at another beach. The graded slope of the foredune should be the angle of repose for sand (30-35 degrees) or 1:1.5 (rise:run).

**RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT TASKS, TIMEFRAME, INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, AND EFFORT**

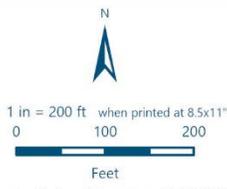
Restoration/Management Task	Timeframe	Indicator of Success	Acres	Hours
<i>Dune</i>				
Brush Removal	Year 1	≤ 5% cover target species	1.8	60
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	1.8	30
Seeding (Dune)	Year 1	≥ 50% seeded native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	1.8	10
Planting Woody Species (Dune)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs	1.8	30
Planting Herbaceous Species (Dune)	Year 1	≥ 50% survival after 3 yrs; ≥ 4 planted species present	1.8	15
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	1.8	2
<i>Woodland with Turf</i>				
Tree Thinning	Year 4+	All target trees removed	6.6	75
Turf Removal	Year 1	≥ 95% of turf killed	6.6	80
Understory Weed Management	Year 1	≤ 5% cover non-native species	6.6	75
Mowing	Year 4+	Vegetation between 4" and 8" tall	6.6	18
Prescribed Burning	Year 4+	≥ 80% of area burned	6.6	90
Seeding (Savanna)	Year 1	≥ 75% seeding native cover after 3 yrs; 50% of seeded species present and well distributed	6.6	25
Planting Woody Species (Savanna)	Year 4+	≥ 75% survival after 3 yrs; tree canopy between 10-50% cover	6.6	185
Monitoring	Year 1	Adaptive management recommendations in annual report	6.6	5
			<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>700</b>

\* The Opinion of Probable Effort represents the number of person-hours, or effort, needed to complete a task. It assumes that staff are trained to perform the task and have access to appropriate equipment. Woody removal effort includes piling cut material on site but not disposal by burning, chipping, or hauling away. The effort needed each year to maintain the site in good condition after restoration is estimated using the hours in the Understory Weed Management and Monitoring tasks.



**Figure 9**  
Clark Street Beach

**City of Evanston**  
87.6734°W 42.0482°N



*Reference:* Project limits are approximate. The property boundaries depicted on this map have not been surveyed and are for prospect assessment purposes only. This information is not to be used as final legal boundaries.

*Data Source:* XXXX

*Spatial Reference:*  
NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East FIPS 1201 Feet



## **APPENDIX A. TASK RUBRIC FOR MAPS**

### Category 1: Woody Plant Removal

- 1a. Tree removal. Remove non-native and hazard trees. Treat cut stumps with herbicide.
- 1b. Tree thinning. Remove established non-native and weedy/hazardous native trees over time. Treat cut stumps with herbicide.
- 1c. Tree pruning. Remove tree branches to increase light to understory.
- 1d. Brush removal. Remove all non-native woody vines, all non-native shrubs, and non-native and weedy native trees under 4" DBH. Treat cut stumps with herbicide.

### Category 2: Herbaceous Plant Removal

- 2a. Turf removal. Kill existing turf grasses with two or more broadcast applications of non-specific herbicide. Alternately, cover area to be converted with black plastic tarp until turf grasses die.
- 2b. Understory weed management. Treat all herbaceous invasive species and invasive woody resprouts and seedlings. Spot herbicide application is preferred. Spot mowing/hand pulling can be used for small populations. Mowing is recommended to treat annual weeds when or before flowering to prevent seed maturation.

### Category 3: Mowing

- 3. Annual mowing. Mow entire prairie with flail-type mower in years without a prescribed burn to reduce thatch buildup and create favorable growing conditions for shorter/slower-growing native species. Mow in spring before the start of the growing season or in fall after the last flowering plants set seed. Every third year, mow in mid-summer after spring-blooming plants set seed.

### Category 4: Prescribed Burning

- 4. Prescribed burning. Burn standing vegetation every 3-4 years to reduce thatch buildup and create favorable growing conditions for fire-adapted native species.

### Category 5: Erosion Control

- 5. Erosion control. Install 2-3 rows of sediment logs parallel to channel (top of slope, mid-slope, bottom of slope) to prevent soil runoff following tree and shrub removal.

### Category 6: Seeding

- 6a. Install Dune seed mix. Install seed mix by drill-seeding or broadcast seeding with raking.
- 6b. Install Prairie seed mix. Install seed mix by drill-seeding or broadcast seeding with raking. If needed or desired, overseed after each prescribed burn to increase species diversity.
- 6c. Install Savanna seed mix. Install seed mix by drill-seeding or broadcast seeding with raking. If needed or desired, overseed after each prescribed burn to increase species diversity.

6d. Install Channel Slope seed mix. Install seed mix by hydroseeding if possible or broadcast seeding with raking and coir log installation. If feasible, install erosion control blanket after broadcast seeding to keep seed in place.

6e. Install Forest/Woodland seed mix. Install seed mix by drill-seeding or broadcast seeding with raking.

### Category 7: Planting

7a. Install Dune herbaceous plugs. Install American beachgrass at base of the foredune. Install dune forbs in groups of multiple species(pods), with like species planted in small clusters of 3-5 individuals, to re-vegetate unwanted paths and discourage further use. Water forb pods weekly during entire first growing season, unless at least ¼ inch of rain or more occurs that week.

7b. Install Dune shrubs. Install dune shrubs with like species planted in small clusters of 3-5 individuals to block unwanted paths and discourage further use.

7c. Install Savanna shrubs. At year 4 or after savanna seed mix is well established, install savanna shrubs in pods to provide habitat and structure.

7d. Install Savanna trees. Install savanna trees as needed to maintain savanna structure.

7e. Install Forest/Woodland herbaceous plugs. At year 4 or after forest/woodland seed mix is well established, install forest/woodland forbs in pods to increase diversity, habitat, and aesthetic appeal.

7f. Install Forest/Woodland shrubs. At year 4 or after forest/woodland seed mix is well established, install forest/woodland shrubs in pods to provide habitat and structure.

7g. Install Forest/Woodland trees. At year 4 or after forest/woodland seed mix is well established, install forest/woodland trees as needed to maintain forest/woodland structure.

## APPENDIX B. PROPOSED SEED MIXES

Goals for each type of managed area are laid out in the management briefs. The species mixes below are designed to help achieve the goals of each managed area, as explained in the management briefs. The overarching goal of all restoration work is to establish a stable vegetation structure and native species composition that will persist and predictably change under the appropriate management regime, despite long term changes in climate, land use, and the people involved in managing a site.

Each mix was designed to establish a matrix of dominant native plants typical of the target plant community in each managed area. The species mixes also contain native forbs (non-grassy flowering plants) to support pollinators and provide food for animals that eat seeds and fruits. The species mixes were also designed to work in a broad range of soil moisture and shade conditions, to ensure that some species will always establish, assuming weed control is diligently maintained in the first 3-5 years after seeding. After the vegetation structure and a native matrix for a target plant community are firmly established, specific habitat elements can be added to favor target birds, mammals, insects, or other desired species. Targeting individual animal species, however, is secondary to getting each plant community on an ecologically positive trajectory by focusing first on vegetation structure and establishing native species dominance and composition.

Table B-1. Forest/Woodland Seed Mix

Scientific Name	Common Name	Oz/Acre	Lbs/Acre	% by Wt	Seeds/Sq Ft
<i>Ageratina altissima</i>	White snakeroot	1.00	0.06	0.7	3.4
<i>Bromus pubescens</i>	Hairy woodland brome	3.00	0.19	2.1	0.5
<i>Carex blanda</i>	Common woodland sedge	2.00	0.13	1.4	0.6
<i>Carex molesta</i>	Troublesome sedge	2.00	0.13	1.4	1.1
<i>Carex sprengei</i>	Sprengel's sedge	2.00	0.13	1.4	0.5
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge	1.50	0.09	1.0	3.4
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wild rye	44.00	2.75	30.6	5.3
<i>Elymus hirtellus</i>	Bottlebrush grass	4.00	0.25	2.8	0.7
<i>Elymus villosus</i>	Silky wild rye	6.00	0.38	4.2	0.8
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wild rye	56.00	3.50	38.9	5.4
<i>Festuca subverticillata</i>	Nodding fescue	1.00	0.06	0.7	0.5
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Common rush	0.25	0.02	0.2	5.7
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Path rush	0.25	0.02	0.2	5.7
<i>Muhlenbergia mexicana</i>	Leafy satin grass	1.00	0.06	0.7	4.0
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	16.00	1.00	11.1	5.5
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden alexanders	4.00	0.25	2.8	1.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>144.00</b>	<b>9.00</b>		<b>44.2</b>

Potentially weedy species: White snakeroot

Table B-2. Savanna Seed Mix

Scientific Name	Common Name	Oz/Acre	Lbs/Acre	% by Wt	Seeds/Sq Ft
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side-oats grama	32.00	2.00	18.2	4.4
<i>Bromus kalmii</i>	Arctic brome	6.00	0.38	3.4	1.1
<i>Carex brevior</i>	Short beak sedge	2.00	0.13	1.1	1.3
<i>Carex molesta</i>	Troublesome sedge	2.00	0.13	1.1	1.1
<i>Carex sprengei</i>	Sprengell's sedge	2.00	0.13	1.1	0.5
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wild rye	36.00	2.25	20.5	4.3
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wild rye	46.00	2.88	26.1	4.4
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Junegrass	1.00	0.06	0.6	4.6
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	14.00	0.88	8.0	4.8
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie dropseed	3.00	0.19	1.7	1.1
<b>Total Graminoids</b>		<b>144.00</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>27.7</b>
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	0.25	0.02	0.1	1.0
<i>Ageratina altissima</i>	White snakeroot	0.35	0.02	0.2	1.2
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Red columbine	1.25	0.08	0.7	1.1
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed	4.50	0.28	2.6	0.4
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple prairie clover	3.00	0.19	1.7	1.2
<i>Drymocallis arguta</i>	Prairie cinquefoil	0.25	0.02	0.1	1.3
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Common ox-eye	10.00	0.63	5.7	0.8
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild bergamot	0.80	0.05	0.5	1.3
<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>	Stiff goldenrod	1.50	0.09	0.9	1.4
<i>Penstemon pallidus</i>	Pale beardtongue	0.35	0.02	0.2	1.4
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	1.50	0.09	0.9	3.2
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Old field goldenrod	0.20	0.01	0.1	1.4
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy goldenrod	0.60	0.04	0.3	1.3
<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i>	Heath aster	0.30	0.02	0.2	1.4
<i>Symphyotrichum oolentangiense</i>	Sky-blue aster	0.70	0.04	0.4	1.3
<i>Symphyotrichum urophyllum</i>	Arrowleaf aster	0.45	0.03	0.3	1.4
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary vervain	2.00	0.13	1.1	1.3
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden alexanders	4.00	0.25	2.3	1.0
<b>Total Forbs</b>		<b>32.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>23.5</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>176.00</b>	<b>11.00</b>		<b>51.2</b>

Potentially weedy species: Yarrow, White snakeroot

Table B-3. Prairie Seed Mix

Scientific Name	Common Name	Oz/Acre	Lbs/Acre	% by Wt	Seeds/Sq Ft
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats grama	34.00	2.13	21.8	4.7
<i>Bromus kalmii</i>	Arctic brome	6.00	0.38	3.8	1.1
<i>Carex brevior</i>	Short beak sedge	2.50	0.16	1.6	1.7
<i>Carex molesta</i>	Troublesome sedge	2.50	0.16	1.6	1.4
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wild rye	40.00	2.50	25.6	4.8
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Junegrass	1.00	0.06	0.6	4.6
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	6.00	0.38	3.8	1.9
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	14.00	0.88	9.0	4.8
<i>Sporobolus compositus</i>	Tall dropseed	7.00	0.44	4.5	4.8
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie dropseed	3.00	0.19	1.9	1.1
<b>Total Graminoids</b>		<b>116.00</b>	<b>7.25</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>30.9</b>
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	0.25	0.02	0.2	1.0
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed	3.75	0.23	2.4	0.4
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly milkweed	2.00	0.13	1.3	0.2
<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>	Canada milk vetch	2.50	0.16	1.6	1.0
<i>Dalea candida</i>	White prairie clover	1.50	0.09	1.0	0.7
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple prairie clover	2.50	0.16	1.6	1.0
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	Canada tick trefoil	4.00	0.25	2.6	0.5
<i>Drymocallis arguta</i>	Tall cinquefoil	0.25	0.02	0.2	1.3
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Common ox-eye	9.00	0.56	5.8	0.7
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough blazing star	1.25	0.08	0.8	0.5
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild bergamot	0.75	0.05	0.5	1.2
<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>	Stiff goldenrod	1.25	0.08	0.8	1.2
<i>Penstemon pallidus</i>	Pale beardtongue	0.30	0.02	0.2	1.2
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow coneflower	1.75	0.11	1.1	1.2
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	1.50	0.09	1.0	3.2
<i>Sisyrinchium campestre</i>	Blue-eyed grass	0.50	0.03	0.3	0.5
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy goldenrod	0.65	0.04	0.4	1.4
<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i>	Heath aster	0.30	0.02	0.2	1.4
<i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth blue aster	1.00	0.06	0.6	1.3
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary vervain	2.00	0.13	1.3	1.3
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden alexanders	3.00	0.19	1.9	0.8
<b>Total Forbs</b>		<b>40.00</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>21.8</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>156.00</b>	<b>9.75</b>		<b>52.8</b>

Potentially weedy species: Yarrow

Table B-4. Channel Slope Seed Mix

Scientific Name	Common Name	Oz/Acre	Lbs/Acre	% by Wt	Seeds/Sq Ft
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats grama	34.00	2.13	18.1	4.7
<i>Carex brevior</i>	Short beak sedge	2.00	0.13	1.1	1.3
<i>Carex molesta</i>	Troublesome sedge	1.75	0.11	0.9	1.0
<i>Carex sprengei</i>	Sprengel's sedge	2.00	0.13	1.1	0.5
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge	2.00	0.13	1.1	4.6
<i>Cinna arundinacea</i>	Sweet wood reed	1.00	0.06	0.5	1.3
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wild rye	40.00	2.50	21.3	4.8
<i>Elymus riparius</i>	Riverbank wild rye	24.00	1.50	12.8	1.6
<i>Elymus villosus</i>	Silky wild rye	6.00	0.38	3.2	0.8
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wild rye	50.00	3.13	26.6	4.8
<i>Glyceria striata</i>	Fowl manna grass	1.25	0.08	0.7	4.6
<i>Juncus dudleyi</i>	Dudley's rush	0.10	0.01	0.1	7.3
<i>Juncus interior</i>	Inland rush	0.10	0.01	0.1	6.4
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Path rush	0.25	0.02	0.1	5.7
<i>Muhlenbergia mexicana</i>	Leafy satin grass	1.05	0.07	0.6	4.2
<i>Poa palustris</i>	Fowl bluegrass	1.50	0.09	0.8	4.5
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	13.00	0.81	6.9	4.5
<i>Sporobolus compositus</i>	Composite dropseed	8.00	0.50	4.3	5.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>188.00</b>	<b>11.75</b>		<b>68.1</b>

Table B-5. Dune Seed Mix

Scientific Name	Common Name	Oz/Acre	Lbs/Acre	% by Wt	Seeds/Sq Ft
<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>	Sand reed grass	3.00	0.19	2.6	1.2
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wild rye	65.00	4.06	56.0	7.8
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	24.00	1.50	20.7	7.7
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	24.00	1.50	20.7	8.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>116.00</b>	<b>7.25</b>		<b>24.9</b>

## APPENDIX C. PROPOSED PLANTING LISTS

Herbaceous species proposed for planting include typical native species for the target plant communities that are difficult to establish from seed. Woody species proposed for planting include typical native species that provide essential structure for the target plant communities. As described in Appendix B, these species are intended to establish a matrix of dominant native plants, as well as support pollinators and provide food for animals that eat seeds and fruits.

Table C-1. Forest/Woodland Forbs

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Form	Place in Habitat
<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	Thimbleweed	Oak forest	Forb	Less common, dry woods
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild columbine	Oak forest	Forb	Common, woods
<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>	Sweet Joe Pye weed	Oak forest	Forb	Common, open woods
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild geranium	Oak forest	Forb	Common, woods
<i>Helianthus strumosus</i>	Woodland sunflower	Oak forest	Forb	Common, open woods
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-eyed Susan	Oak forest	Forb	Common, moist woods
<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	Early meadow rue	Oak forest	Forb	Common, woods
<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	Rue anemone	Oak forest	Forb	Common, woods
<i>Triosteum perfoliatum</i>	Late horse gentian	Oak forest	Forb	Less common, dry woods
<i>Viola pubescens</i>	Downy yellow violet	Oak forest	Forb	Common, dry woods
<i>Viola sororia</i>	Common violet	Oak forest	Forb	Common, woods

Table C-2. Forest/Woodland Shrubs

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Form	Place in Habitat
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda dogwood	Oak forest	Tall shrub	Less common, in understory
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American hazelnut	Oak forest	Tall shrub	Common
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch-hazel	Oak forest	Tall shrub	Less common; flowers in fall/winter
<i>Prunus americanus</i>	American plum	Oak forest	Tall shrub	Less common, early flowering
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke cherry	Oak forest	Tall shrub	Common, early flowering
<i>Rubus ideaus</i> var. <i>strigosus</i>	Wild red raspberry	Oak forest	Short shrub	Common, excellent berries

Table C-3. Forest/Woodland Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Form	Place in Habitat
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy serviceberry	Oak forest	Short tree	Common, early spring flowering shrub
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut hickory	Oak forest	Tall tree	Common in canopy
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark hickory	Oak forest	Tall tree	Common in canopy
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky coffeetree	Oak forest	Tall tree	Less common in canopy
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Ironwood	Oak forest	Short tree	Common in understory; leaves persist over winter
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry	Oak forest	Tall tree	Common in canopy, early successional species
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak	Oak forest	Tall tree	Dominant in canopy
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red oak	Oak forest	Tall tree	Dominant in canopy
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black oak	Oak forest	Tall tree	Common in canopy
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	Oak forest	Short tree	Common in understory, especially forest edges
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American basswood	Oak forest	Tall tree	Less common in canopy

Table C-4. Savanna Shrubs

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Form	Place in Habitat
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Leadplant	Oak savanna	Short shrub	Common
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey tea	Oak savanna	Short shrub	Common
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American hazelnut	Oak savanna	Tall shrub	Abundant, forms thickets
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Pasture rose	Oak savanna	Short shrub	Common
<i>Prunus americanus</i>	American plum	Oak savanna	Tall shrub	Less common, earliest flowering shrub, forms thickets
<i>Salix humilis</i>	Prairie willow	Oak savanna	Short shrub	Common

Table C-5. Savanna Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Form	Place in Habitat
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak	Oak savanna	Tall tree	Common
<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	Northern pin oak	Oak savanna	Tall tree	Common
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur oak	Oak savanna	Tall tree	Common
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red oak	Oak savanna	Tall tree	Common
<i>Quercus x</i>	Hybrid oak	Oak savanna	Tall tree	From Lunt Park

Table C-6. Dune Grass

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Form	Place in Habitat
<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	American beachgrass	Dune	Grass	Abundant, foredune

Table C-7. Dune Forbs

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Form	Place in Habitat
<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	Common wormwood	Dune	Forb	Abundant, foredune
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed	Dune	Forb	Common, backdune
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Sand coreopsis	Dune	Forb	Relatively common, backdune
<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>	Beach pea	Dune	Forb	Less common, excellent for bees, foredune
<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>	Starry false Solomon's seal	Dune	Forb	Relatively common, backdune
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Horse mint	Dune	Forb	Relatively common, foredune
<i>Solidago simplex</i>	Gillman's goldenrod	Dune	Forb	Relative common, foredune

Table C-8. Dune Shrubs

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Form	Place in Habitat
<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	Beach wormwood	Dune	Short shrub	Relatively common, foredune
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red osier dogwood	Dune	Short shrub	Relatively common, foredune
<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>	Shrubby cinquefoil	Dune	Short shrub	Less common, backdune
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark	Dune	Short shrub	Relatively common, backdune
<i>Prunus pumila</i>	Sand cherry	Dune	Short shrub	Relatively common, backdune

## APPENDIX D. REMOVALS

Table D-1. Invasive Planted/Adventive Tree Species to Remove or Prune

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur maple	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	Invades forests; prune only
<i>Morus alba</i>	White mulberry	Invades savannas, floodplain forests
<i>Populus alba</i>	White poplar	Spreads from planted trees
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery pear	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian elm	Invades grasslands, savannas

Table D-2. Invasive Planted/Adventive Shrub Species to Remove

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese barberry	Invades forests
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental bittersweet	Invades dunes, grasslands, savannas
<i>Eleagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn olive	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Winged euonymus	Invades grasslands, savannas, forests
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Glossy buckthorn	Invades herbaceous wetlands, wet forests
<i>Lonicera mackii</i>	Amur bush honeysuckle	Invades grasslands, savannas, forests
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow's honeysuckle	Invades grasslands, savannas, forests
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tartarian honeysuckle	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common buckthorn	Invades savannas, forests
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora rose	Invades grasslands, savannas

Table D-3. Invasive Planted/Adventive Herbaceous Species to Remove

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comment
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	Declines in competition with native plants
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Common burdock	Invades grassland and savanna plantings
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth brome grass	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	Spotted knapweed	Invades dunes, grasslands, savannas
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	Invades herbaceous wetlands, wet grasslands
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	Invades grasslands, herbaceous wetlands
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Common teasel	Invades dunes, grasslands, savannas
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser celandine	Invades moist forests
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Creeping Charlie	Invades grassland and savanna plantings
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's rocket	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	Invades herbaceous wetlands, wet grasslands
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White sweet clover	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow sweet clover	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild parsnip	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass	Invades herbaceous wetlands, wet grasslands
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Giant reed	Invades herbaceous wetlands, wet grasslands
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky bluegrass	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Reynoutria cuspidatum</i>	Japanese knotweed	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock	Invades grassland and savanna plantings
<i>Securigera varia</i>	Crown vetch	Invades grasslands, savannas
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common tansy	Invades dunes, grasslands, savannas
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaf cattail	Invades herbaceous wetlands, wet grasslands
<i>Typha x glauca</i>	Hybrid cattail	Invades herbaceous wetlands, wet grasslands
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser periwinkle	Invades forests

## APPENDIX E. INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Annual weeds include all unwanted herbaceous species that grow for a single year, set seed, and die. The goal when treating annual weeds is to prevent seed production, either by reducing/eliminating flowering or removing flowers before seed set. Biennial weeds include all unwanted herbaceous species that grow for two years. In the first year, as much biomass as possible is produced in order to store energy in roots. In the second year, the stored energy is used to produce seed. Biennial plants can be treated effectively in either year of growth. Perennial weeds include all unwanted herbaceous and woody species that persist for multiple years after germination. Management strategies for common weeds in the City of Evanston are included below.

### MANUAL REMOVAL

Table E-1. Management Strategies for Invasive Species Removal

Life History Strategy	Typical Species	Management Strategy
Annual Weed	Giant ragweed, Horseweed	Prevent flowering by mechanical removal using spot-mowing or hand-pulling. Bag and remove material if plant is in flower or seed is maturing.
Biennial Weed	Burdock, Dame's rocket, Garlic mustard, Yellow sweet clover	In the first year of growth, mechanically remove plant or treat with herbicide to kill roots. In the second year, treat the same as annual weeds (above).
Perennial Weed	Buckthorn, Canada thistle, Cattails (non-native), Reed canary grass	Cut or spot-mow to prevent seed production. Herbicide treatment is usually required to eliminate perennial plants, but repeat cutting can be used for many woody species. Small areas of turf can be managed by covering with black plastic.

### HERBICIDE

Table E-2. Potential Invasive and Nuisance Woody Species and Common Herbicides

Woody Species	Herbicide*	Application Window
Boxelder ( <i>Acer negundo</i> )	triclopyr	Apr 15 – June 15
Winged euonymus ( <i>Euonymus alatus</i> )	triclopyr	Apr 15 – June 15, Oct 1 – Nov 1
Asian bush honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera</i> spp.)	glyphosate	Apr 15 – June 15, Oct 1 – Nov 1
White mulberry ( <i>Morus alba</i> )	triclopyr	Apr 15 – June 15
Common buckthorn ( <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> )	triclopyr	Apr 15 – June 15, Oct 1 – Nov 1
Multiflora rose ( <i>Rosa multiflora</i> )	triclopyr	Apr 15 – June 15
Brambles ( <i>Rubus</i> spp.)	triclopyr	Apr 15 – June 15
Sandbar willow ( <i>Salix interior</i> )	triclopyr	Apr 15 – June 15
Siberian elm ( <i>Ulmus pumila</i> )	triclopyr	Apr 15 – June 15, Oct 1 – Nov 1
Wayfaring tree ( <i>Viburnum lantana</i> )	triclopyr	Apr 15 – June 15, Oct 1 – Nov 1

Herbicide	Trade Names
Glyphosate	Aqua Neat, Rodeo, Roundup
Triclopyr	Element 3A, Garlon 3A

\* All herbicide application must be completed by an Illinois licensed applicator.

\* All herbicide application shall follow label directions for the target species and site conditions.

Table E-3. Potential Invasive and Nuisance Herbaceous Species and Common Herbicides

Herbaceous Species	Herbicide*	Application Window
Garlic mustard ( <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> )	triclopyr	Mar 1 – June 1
Giant ragweed ( <i>Ambrosia trifida</i> )	2-4, D	May 1 – Aug 1
Lesser burdock ( <i>Arctium minus</i> )	2-4, D or aminopyralid	Apr 1 – June 1 or Oct 1 – Nov 1
Poison hemlock ( <i>Conium maculatum</i> )	2-4, D or triclopyr	Apr 1 – July 15
Common teasel ( <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> )	2-4, D or aminopyralid	May 1 – July 1
Horseweed ( <i>Erigeron canadensis</i> )	2-4, D	Apr 1 – June 15
Ground ivy ( <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> )	triclopyr	Mar 1 – June 1
Dame’s rocket ( <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> )	triclopyr	Mar 1 – June 1
Purple loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> )	triclopyr	June 1 – Aug 1
Sweet clover ( <i>Melilotus</i> spp.)	2-4, D or aminopyralid	May 1 – June 15
Reed canary grass ( <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> )	glyphosate	Apr 1 – June 15 or Oct 1 – Nov 1
Common reed ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> )	imazapyr	June 15 – Sept 15
Kentucky bluegrass ( <i>Poa pratensis</i> )	glyphosate	June 15 – Sept 15
Narrow-leaf cattail ( <i>Typha angustifolia</i> )	glyphosate or imazapyr	June 15 – Sept 1
Herbicide	Trade Names	
2-4, D	Generic	
Aminopyralid	Milestone	
Glyphosate	Aqua Neat, Rodeo, Roundup	
Imazapyr	Habitat, Polaris	
Triclopyr	Element 3A, Garlon 3A	

\* All herbicide application must be completed by an Illinois licensed applicator.

\* All herbicide application shall follow label directions for the target species and site conditions.







**2023**

**City of Evanston, Illinois**

**Parks and Green Spaces Community Survey**

**Findings Report**



**ETC**  
INSTITUTE

# Contents

<b>Section 1: Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Section 2: Charts and Graphs.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Section 3: Priority Investment Rating .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Section 4: National Benchmarks.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Section 5: Tabular Data.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Section 6: Survey Instrument.....</b>	<b>111</b>



# Executive Summary

---

# 2023 City of Evanston Parks and Green Spaces Community Survey Executive Summary

---

## Overview

ETC Institute administered a Parks and Green Spaces Community Survey for the City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Department during spring 2023. The survey will help the City of Evanston determine park and green space priorities for the community.

## Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in the City of Evanston. 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 *EvanstonParkSurvey.org*.

After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up with residents to encourage participation. To prevent people who were not residents of Evanston 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 complete a minimum of 400 completed surveys from City residents. The goal was met with 469 completed surveys collected. The overall results for the sample of 469 households have a precision of at least +/-4.5 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 Evanston to national averages (Section 4)
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 5)
- Answers to open-ended questions (Section 6)
- A copy of the survey instrument (Section 7)

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

## Evanston Parks and Recreation Facilities

**Use of Parks/Facilities:** Respondents were asked to indicate if their household had visited any parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other parks and recreation facilities operated by the city during the past 12 months. Most respondents (98%) visited one of these facilities. The highest percentage of respondents (43%) visited parks or facilities multiple times a week followed by 21% visiting weekly. Most respondents (85%) rated the overall condition of these facilities as either excellent (29%) or good (56%).

**Barriers to Use:** The top reasons respondents did not utilize Evanston parks and recreation beaches, parks, recreation centers, and other facilities more often were busy schedules (34%), lack of restrooms (20%), and old and outdated facilities (17%).

**Transportation Methods:** Respondents were asked to rate how often they use five types of transportation to visit City of Evanston parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other facilities. Respondents said they “most often” walk (62%) followed by drive in a personal vehicle for 10 minutes or less (36%).

## Evanston Parks and Recreation Activities

**Activity Participation:** Respondents were asked to indicate if their household participated in any activities offered by the City of Evanston during the past year. Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents participated in the last year. Almost half of respondents (47%) had participated in 2-3 activities and almost a quarter (23%) did 4-6 activities. Most respondents (93%) rated these programs as either good (62%) or excellent (31%).

**Barriers to Participation.** Respondents were asked to select all the reasons they had not participated in Evanston recreation programs more during the past year. Respondents most often listed that they were too busy (34%), didn’t know what was offered (33%), or prefer individual activities (23%).

**Ways Households Learn about Parks and Recreation News, Events, Programs, and Activities:** Respondents were asked to select all the ways they currently receive information about Evanston Parks and Recreation. The highest number of respondents use the city website (76%), eNewsletters (69%), or word of mouth (55%). Respondents would most prefer that the city use eNewsletters (63%), the website (60%), or social media (32%) to communicate about Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities.

## Benefits of Parks & Recreation and Support for Improvements

**Benefits of Parks and Recreation.** Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement on 15 statements about benefits of parks and recreation in Evanston. The highest percentage of respondents agreed (rating “agree” or “strongly agree”) that parks and recreation improves the quality of life in the city (96%), helps preserve open space and the environment (93%), and improves the health, wellbeing, and fitness of the community (91%). Respondents were then asked to select the three benefits most important to their household and most important to the future of Evanston. The same four items were selected as most important to households and the community:

- Improves health, wellbeing, and fitness of the community
- Improves the overall quality of life in the city
- Contributes to a sense of community
- Helps preserve open space and the environment

**Potential Improvements:** Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for 18 potential improvements and developments to parks and facilities. Respondents most supported (rating “very supportive” or “somewhat supportive”) focus on daily maintenance of existing parks and facilities (91%), improving existing parks infrastructure (91%), and renovating or upgrading aging parks and facilities (89%). Respondents were then asked to select the three potential improvements most important to their household. These were the three items selected most often:

- Improve existing parks infrastructure (39%)
- Focus on daily maintenance of existing parks and facilities (31%)
- Enhance bike and pedestrian access to parks/facilities (26%)

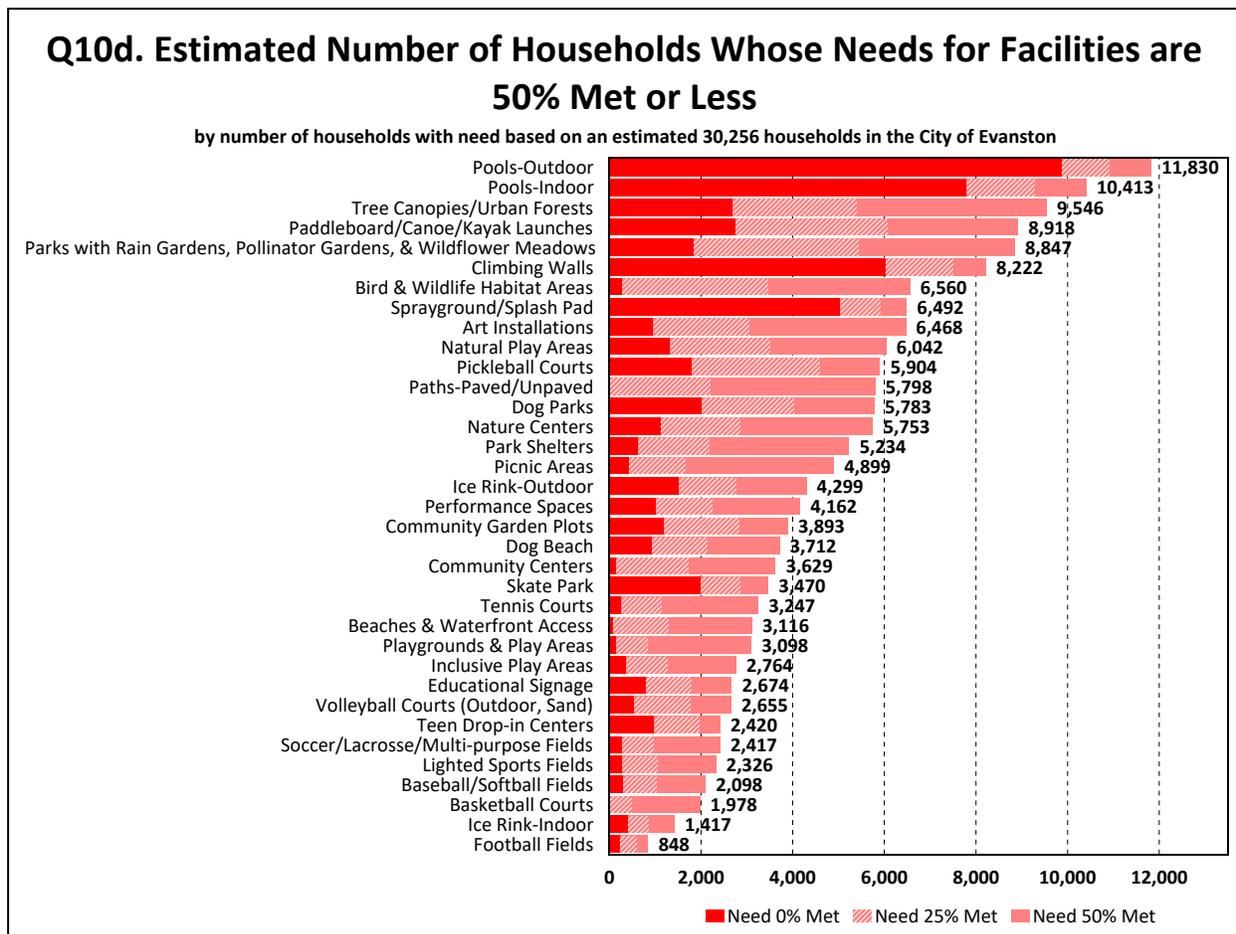
## Parks and Recreation Facilities Needs and Priorities

**Facility Needs:** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 35 parks and recreation facilities 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 parks and recreation facilities/amenities with the highest percentage of households that have an unmet need:

1. Outdoor Pools – 11,830 households
2. Indoor Pools – 10,413 households
3. Tree Canopies/Urban Forests – 9,546 households

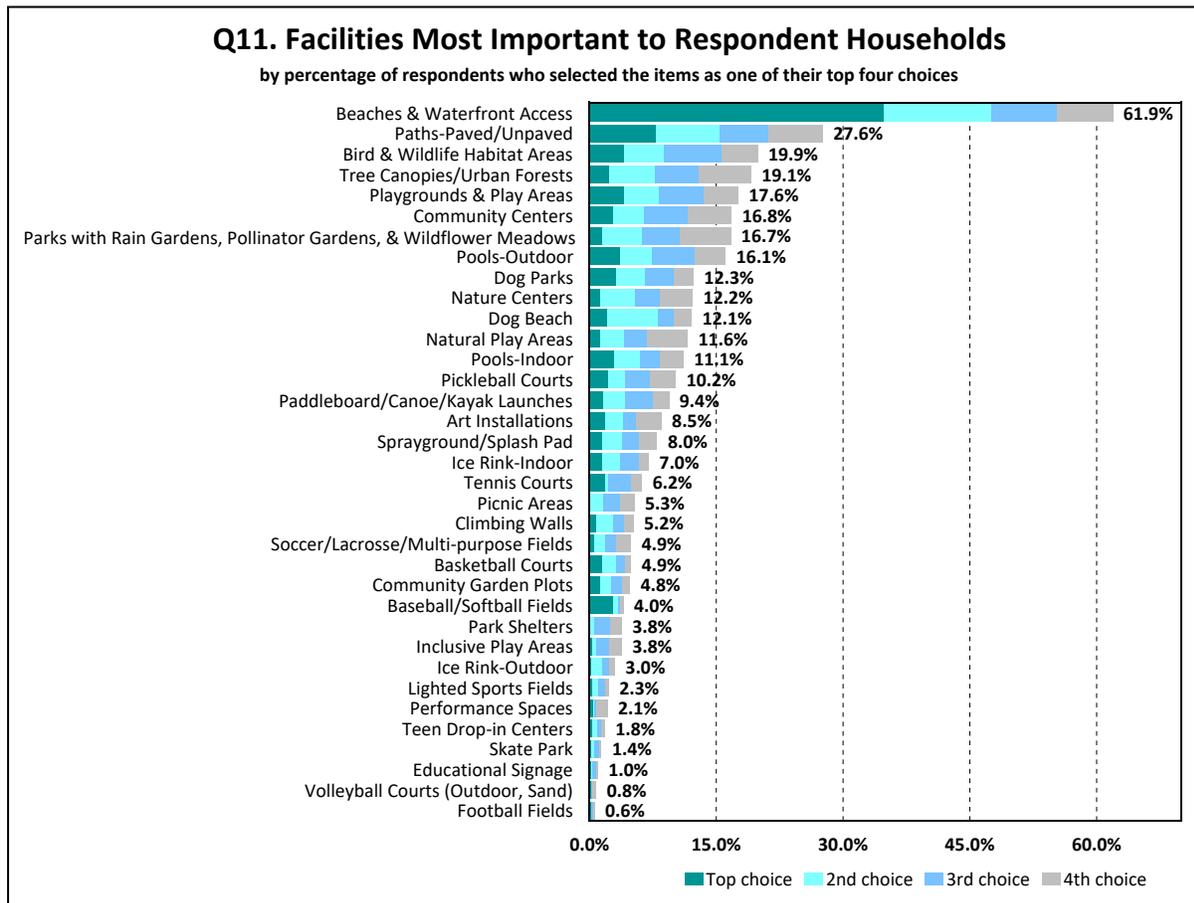
The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 35 parks and recreation facilities assessed is shown in the chart below.



**Facilities and Amenities Importance:** In addition to assessing the needs for each parks and recreation 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 facilities ranked most important to residents:

1. Beaches & Waterfront Access (62%)
2. Paths—Paved/Unpaved (28%)
3. Bird & Wildlife Habitat Areas (20%)
4. Tree Canopies/Urban Forests (19%)

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

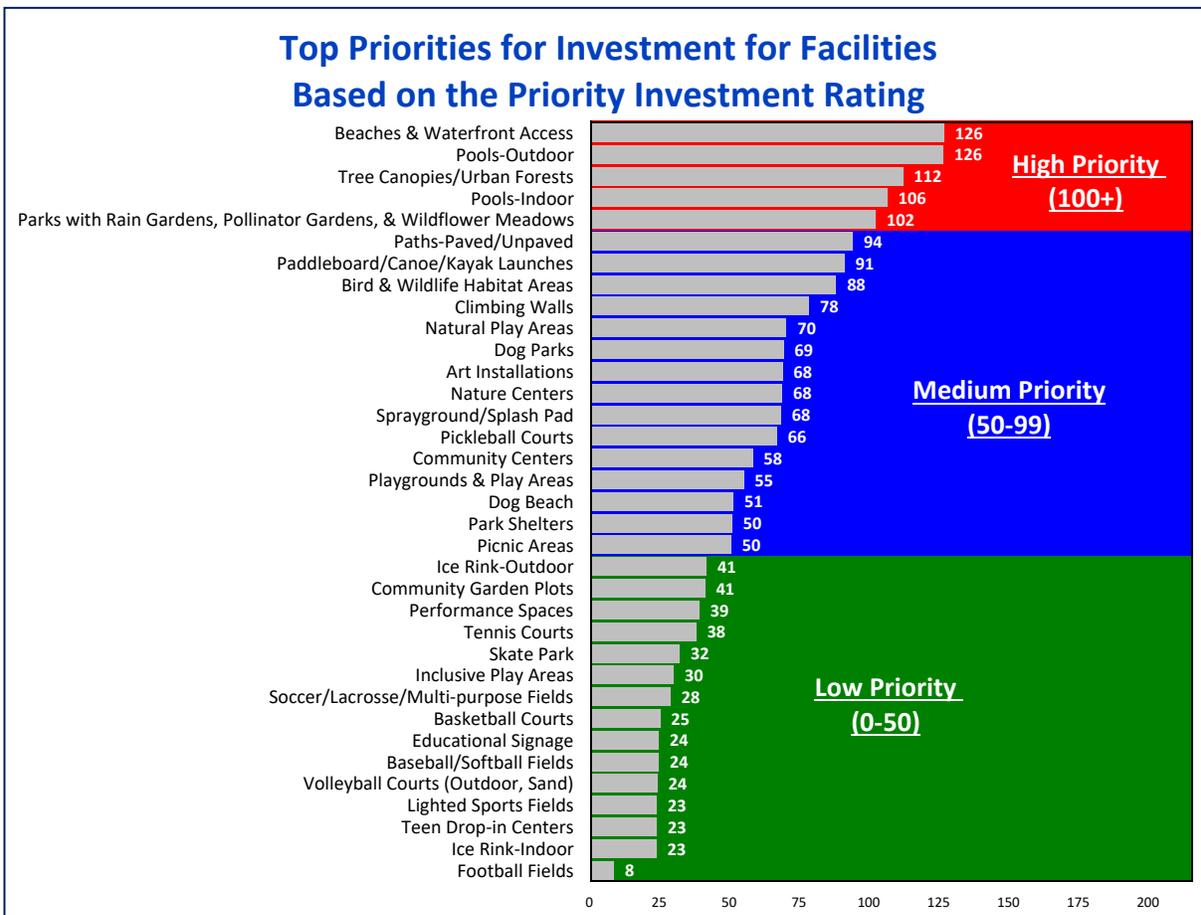


**Priorities for Facility Investments:** The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs (1)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

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following parks and recreation facilities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Beaches and Waterfront Access (PIR= 126)
- Outdoor Pools (PIR= 126)
- Tree Canopies/ Urban Forests (PIR= 112)
- Indoor Pools (PIR= 106)
- Parks with Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, and Wildflower Meadows (PIR= 102)

The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 35 recreation facilities assessed in the survey.



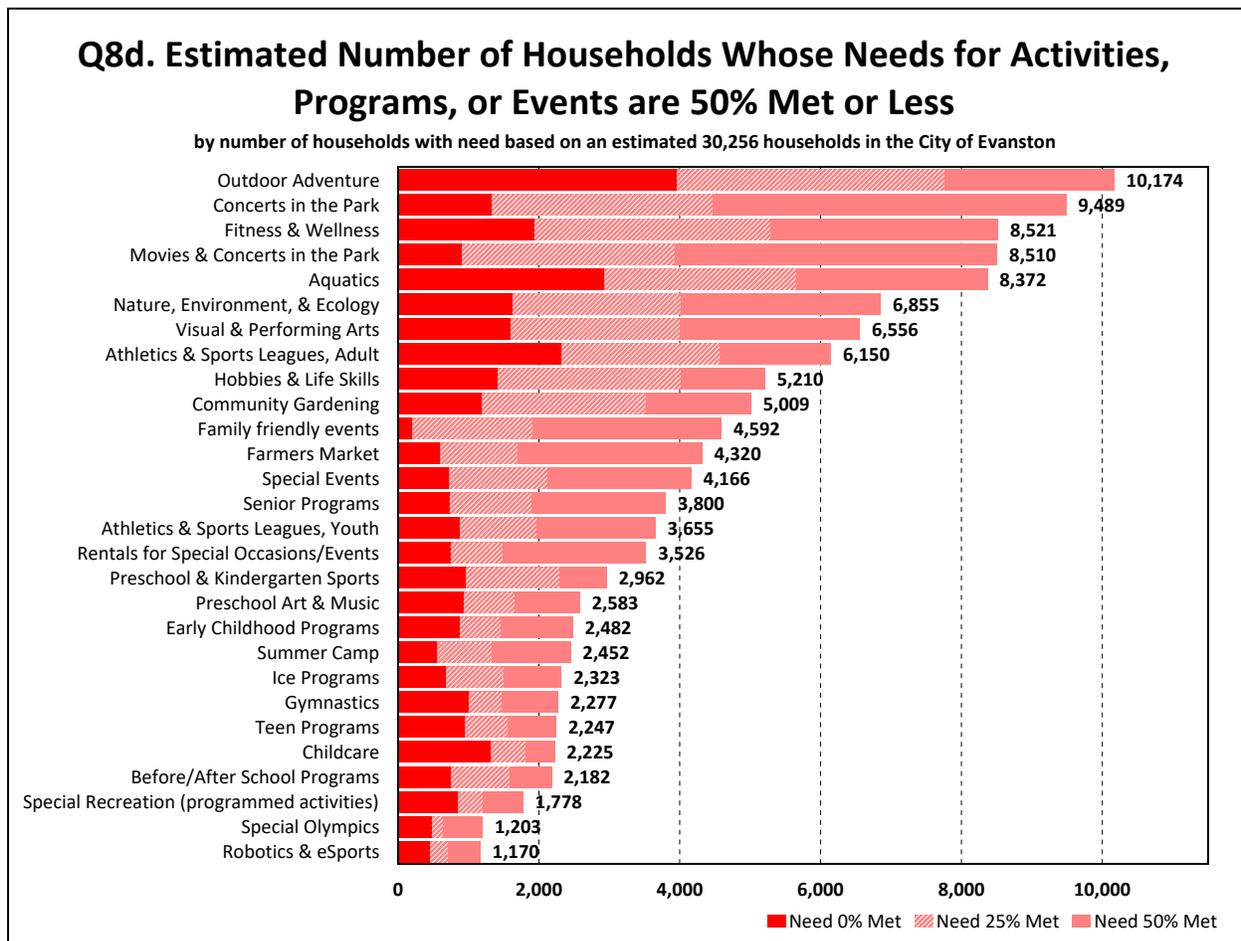
## Evanston Programs, Activities, and Events Needs and Priorities

**Program Needs:** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 28 programs, activities, and events 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 recreation programs.

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

1. Outdoor adventure – 10,174 households
2. Concerts in the Park – 9,489 households
3. Fitness and Wellness – 8,521 households

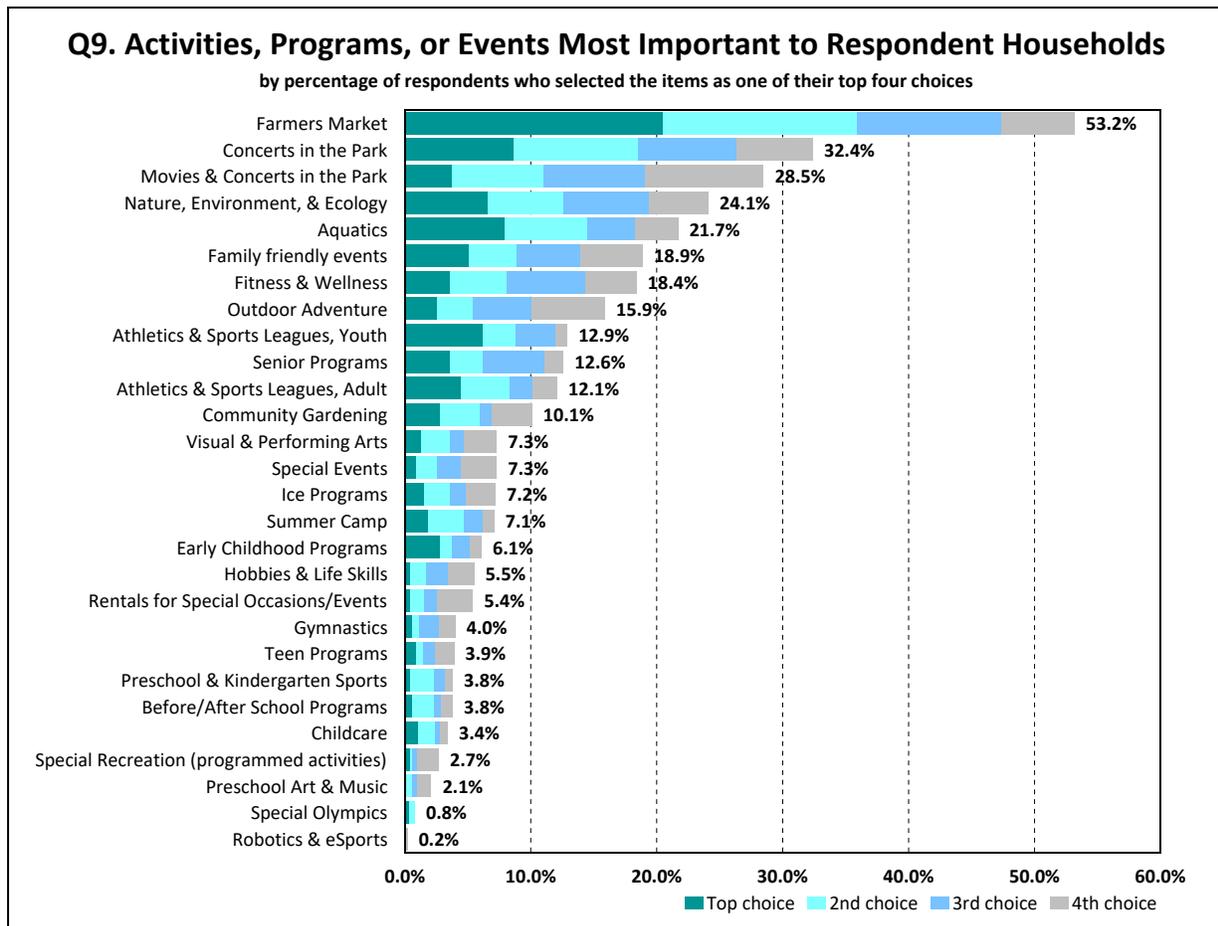
The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 28 parks and recreation program, activities, and events assessed is shown in the chart below.



**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 are the four most important programs to residents:

1. Farmers market (53%)
2. Concerts in the Park (32%)
3. Movies & Concerts in the Park (29%)
4. Nature, Environment, and Ecology (24%)

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

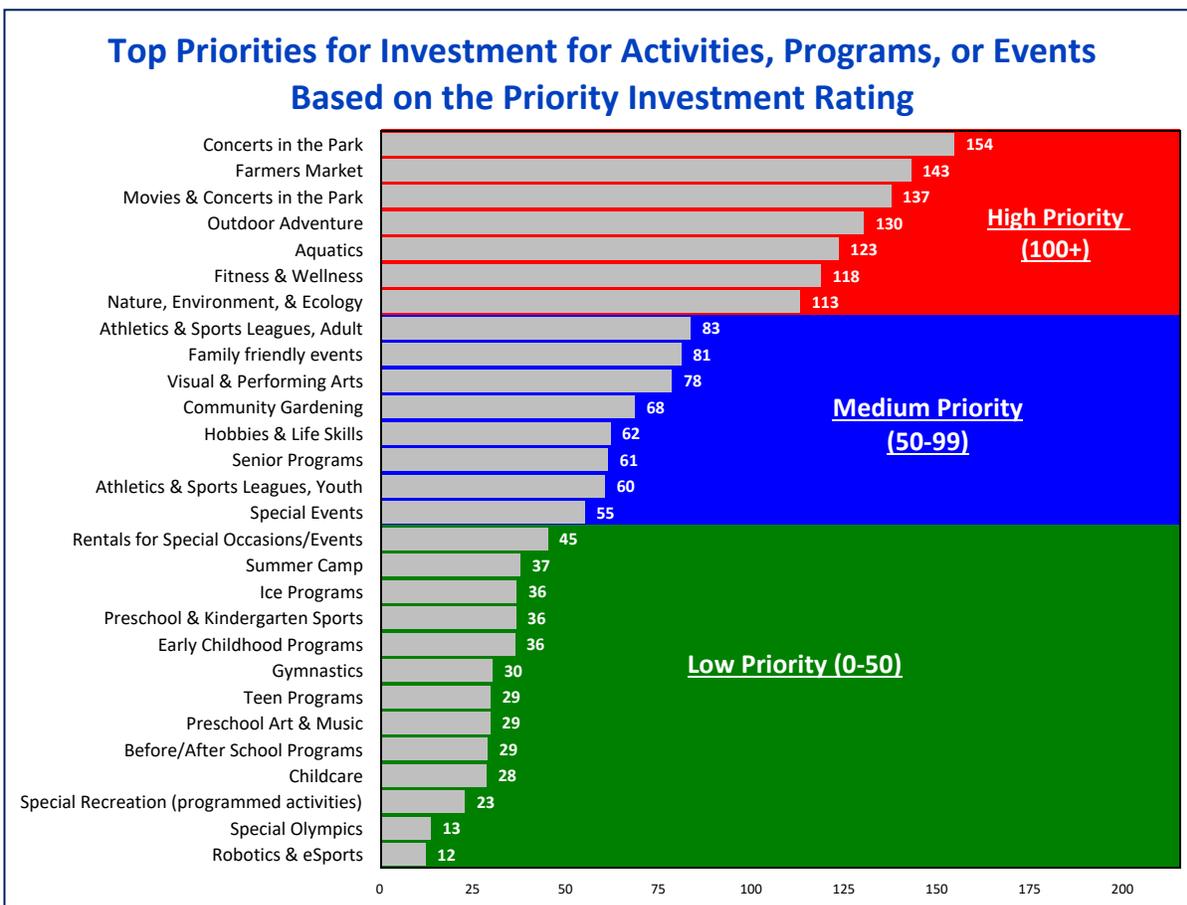


**Priorities for Program Investments:** The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on each program 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 Evanston programs were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Concerts in the Park (PIR=154)
- Farmers Market (PIR=143)
- Movies and Concerts in the Park (PIR=137)
- Outdoor adventure (PIR=130)
- Aquatics (PIR=123)
- Fitness & Wellness (PIR=118)
- Nature, Environment, and Ecology (PIR=113)

The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 28 programs assessed.

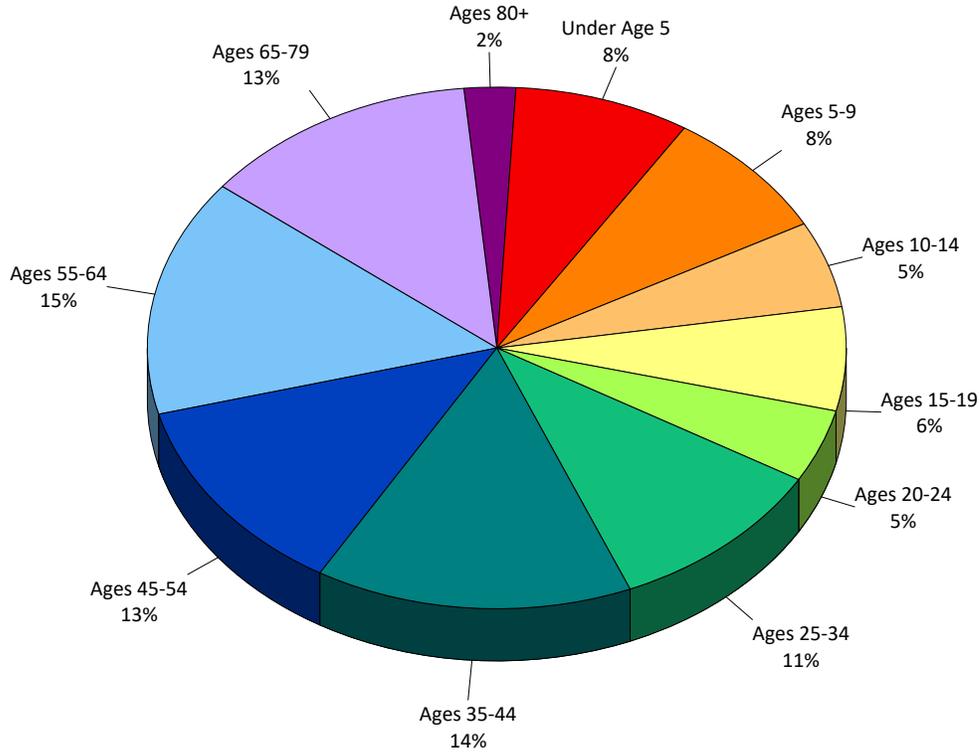


# 2

## Charts & Graphs

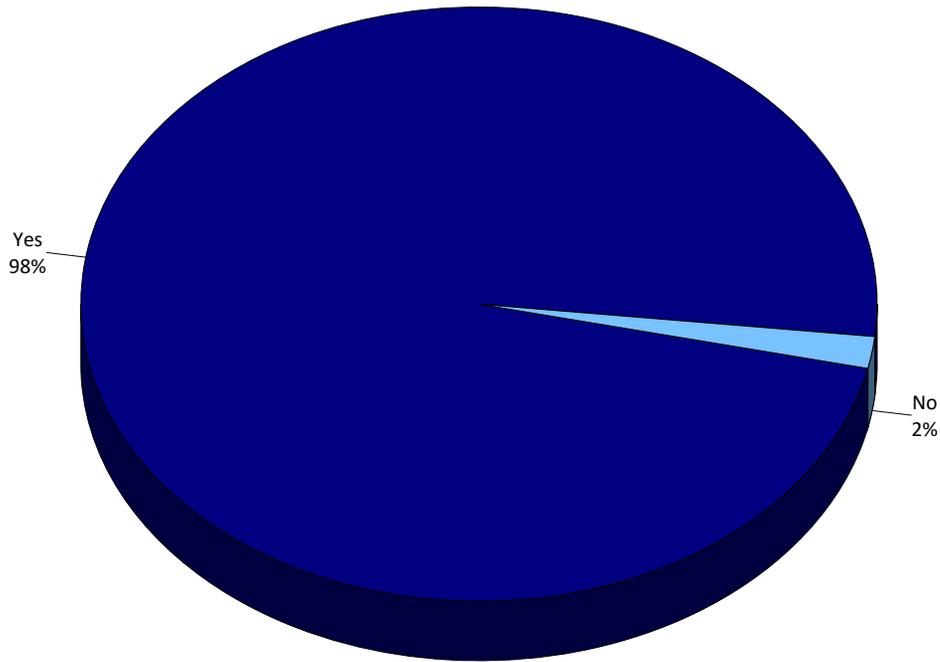
# Q1. Including yourself, how many people in your household are in the following age groups?

by percentage of persons in household



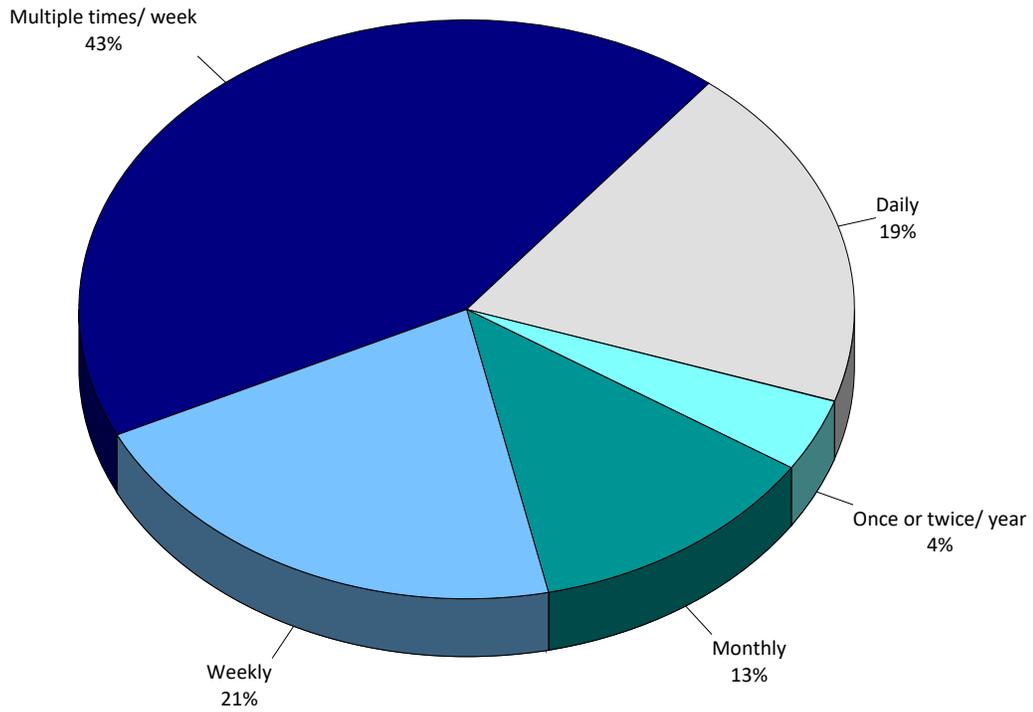
**Q2. Have you or anyone in your household visited any of the parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities operated by the City of Evanston during the past 12 months?**

by percentage of respondents



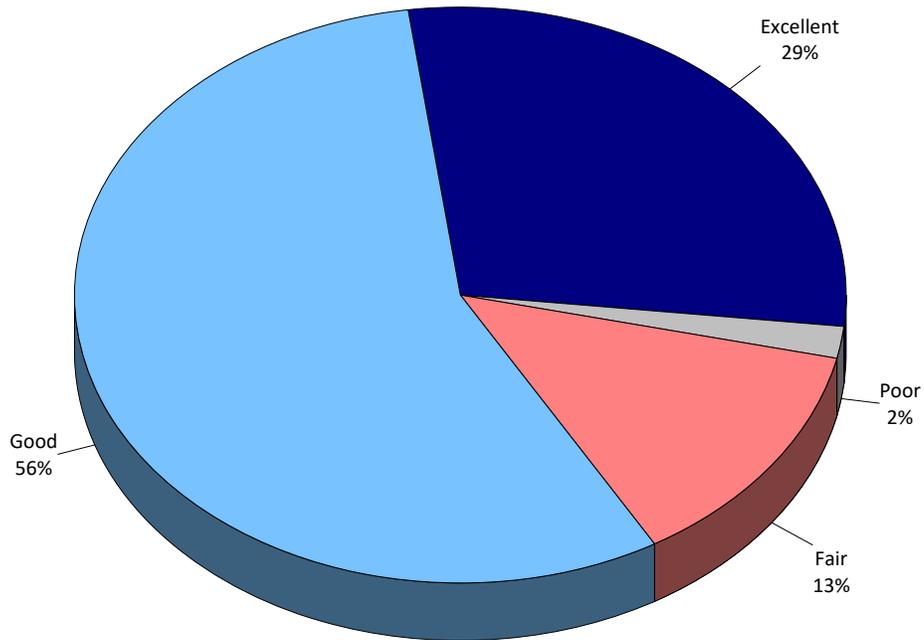
**Q2a. Approximately how often have you or anyone in your household visited any of the parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities operated by the City of Evanston during the past 12 months?**

by percentage of respondents



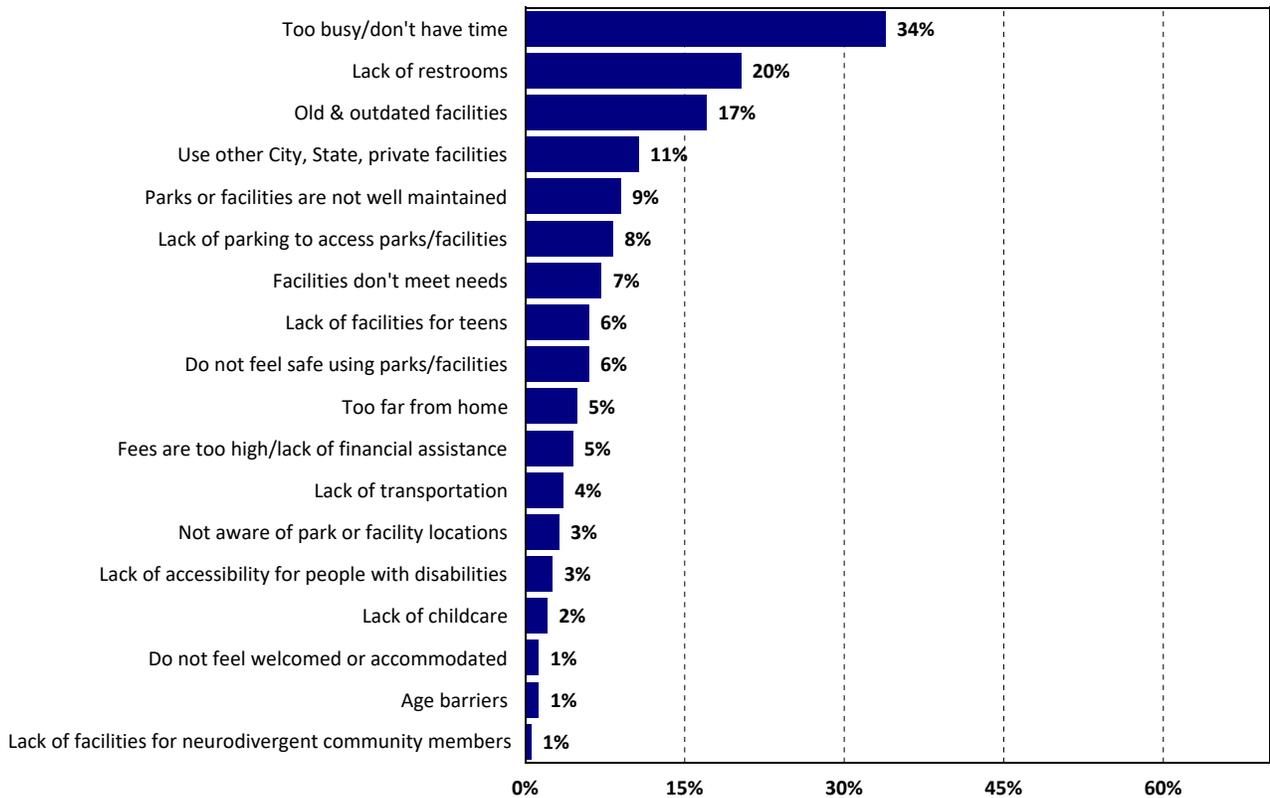
**Q2b. Overall, how would you rate the quality of ALL the City of Evanston parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities that you and members of your household have used?**

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



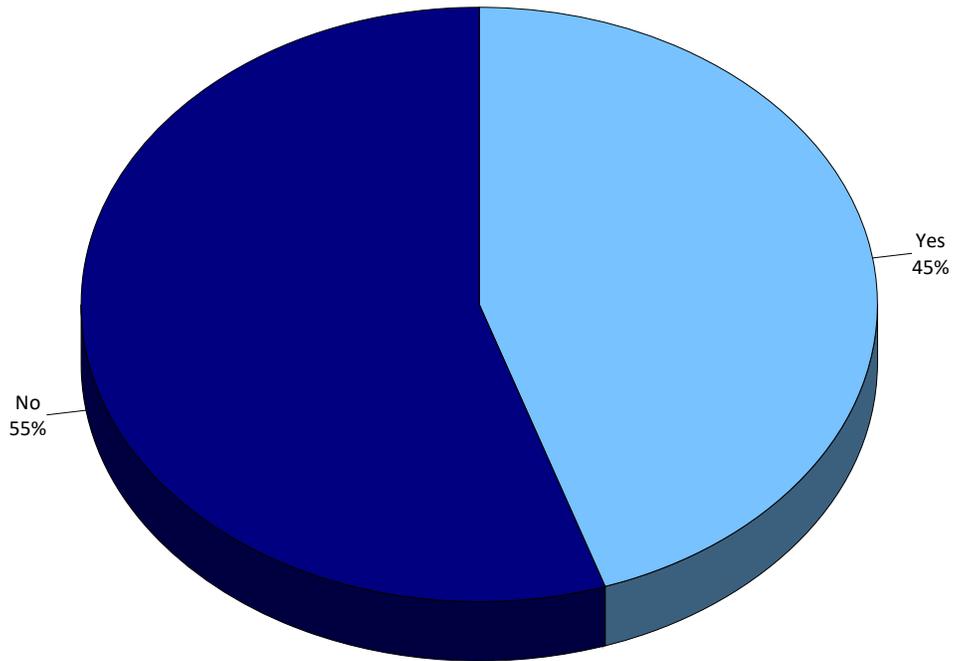
**Q2c. Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household don't visit or don't visit more often the parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities offered by the City of Evanston.**

by percentage of respondents



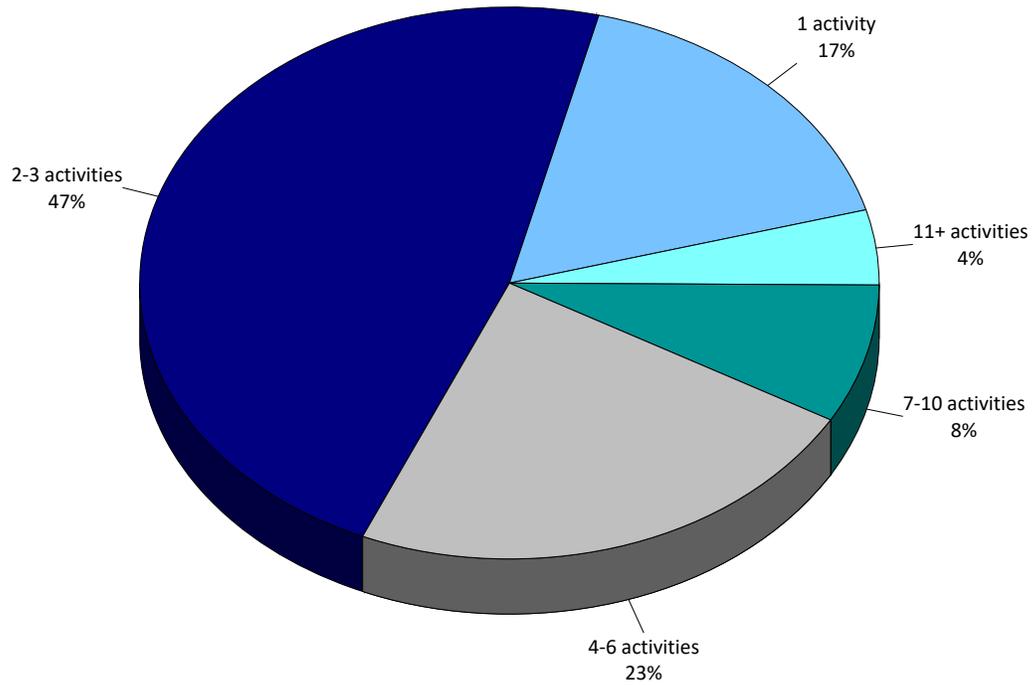
**Q3. Have you or other members of your household participated in any activities (such as programs, sports leagues, or events) offered by the City of Evanston during the past 12 months?**

by percentage of respondents



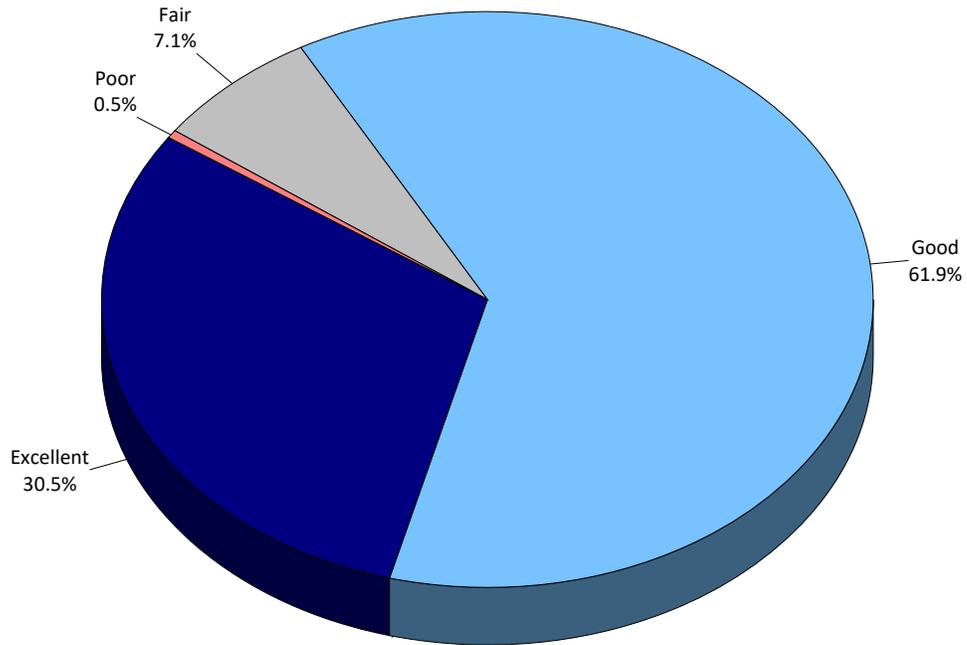
**Q3a. Approximately how many different activities (such as programs, sports leagues, or events) offered by the City of Evanston have you or members of your household participated in over the past 12 months?**

by percentage of respondents



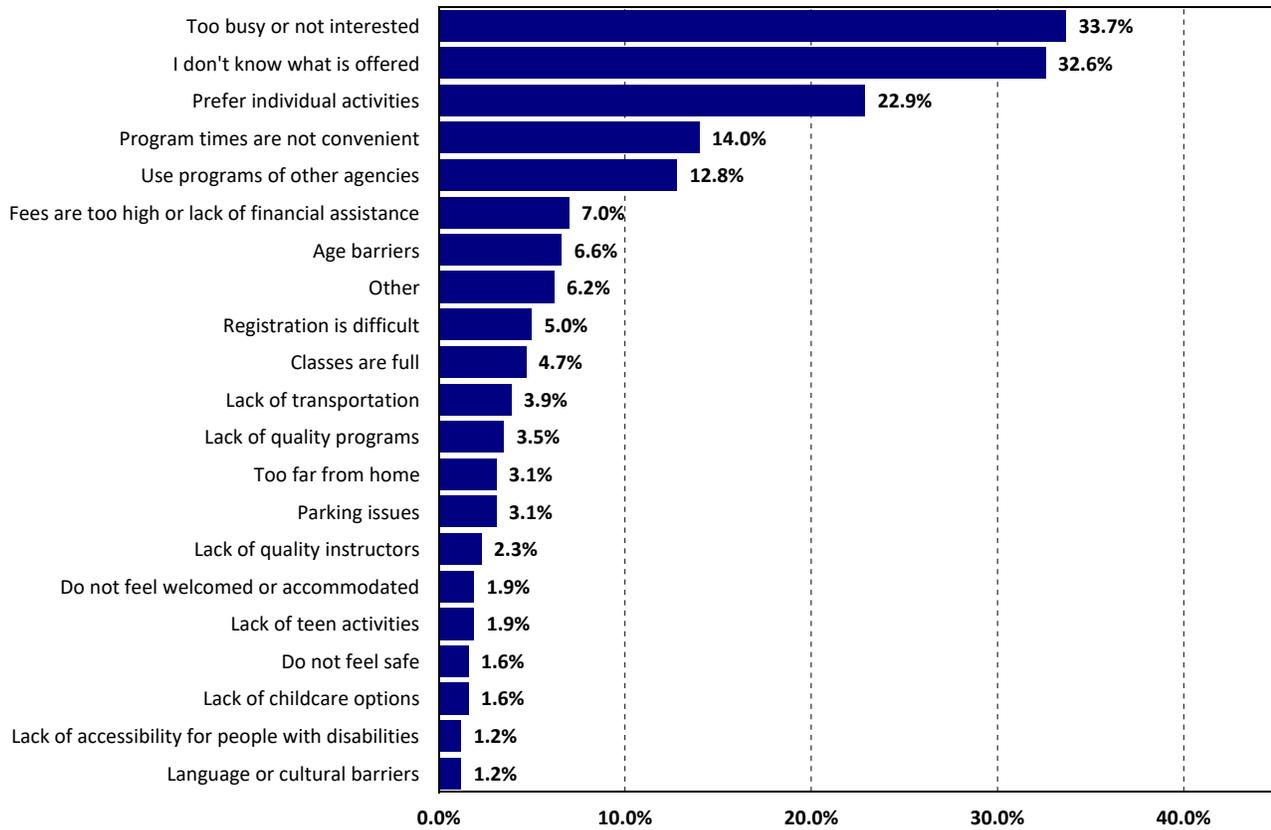
### Q3b. Overall, how would you rate the quality of ALL the activities offered by the City of Evanston that you have participated in?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



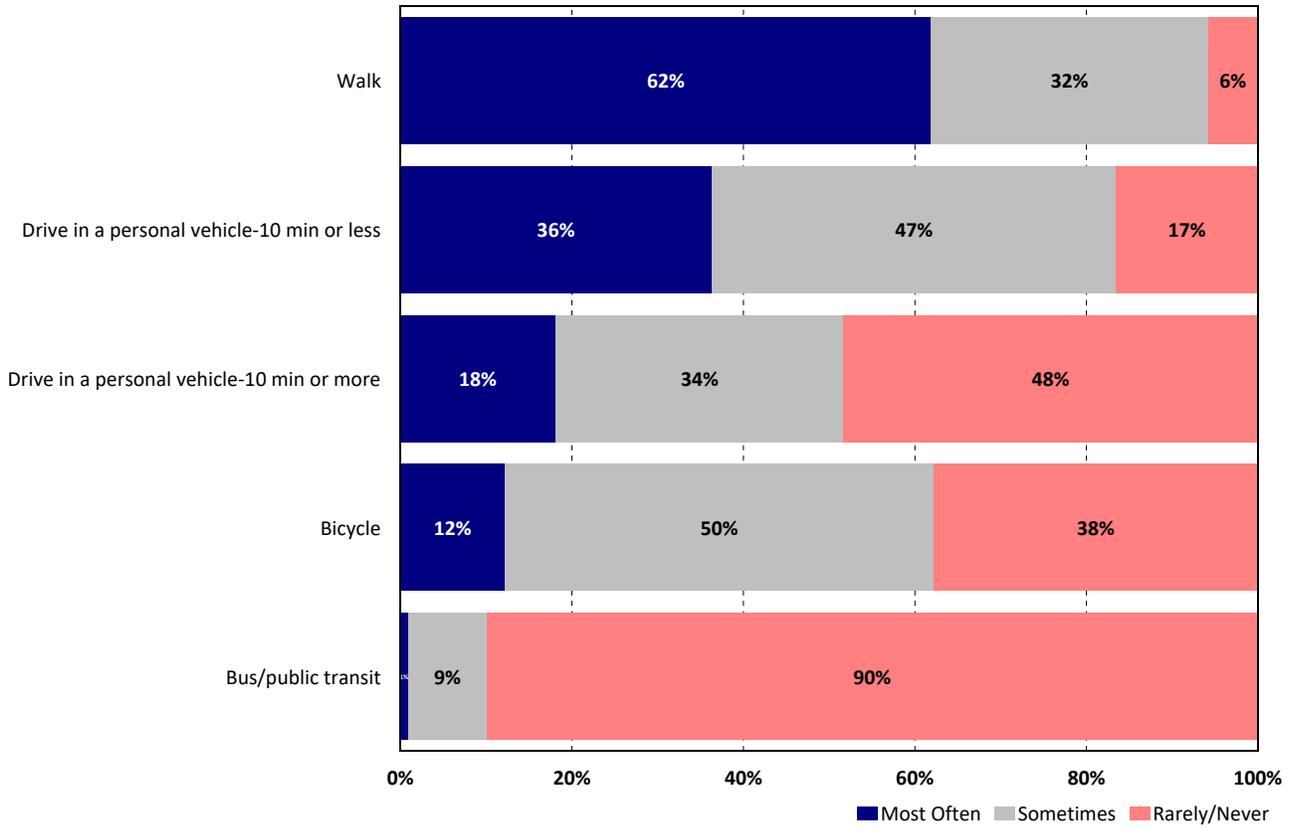
**Q3c. Please check ALL of the reasons why you and the members of your household don't participate or don't participate more often in the activities offered.**

by percentage of respondents



### Q4. How do you typically travel to visit City of Evanston parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities?

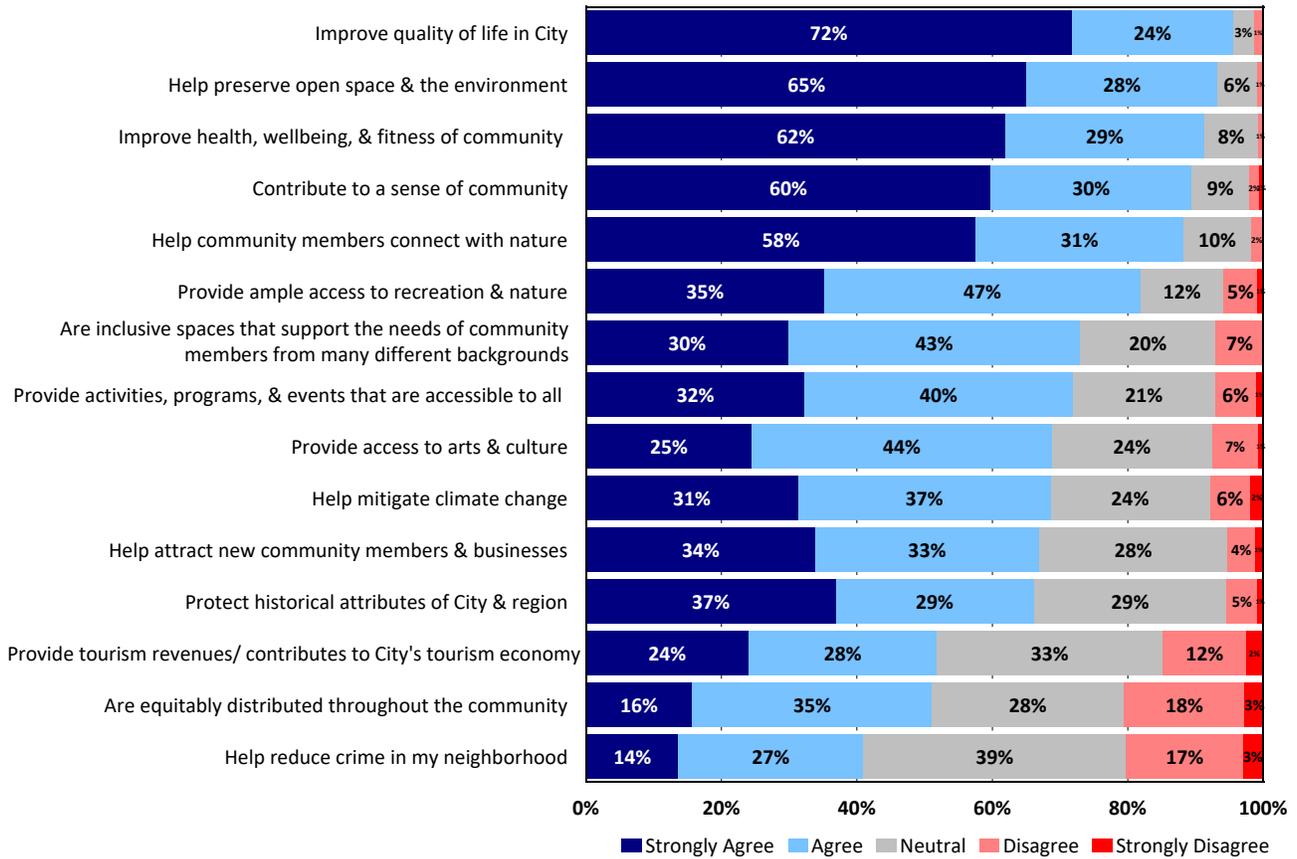
by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



ETC Institute (2023)

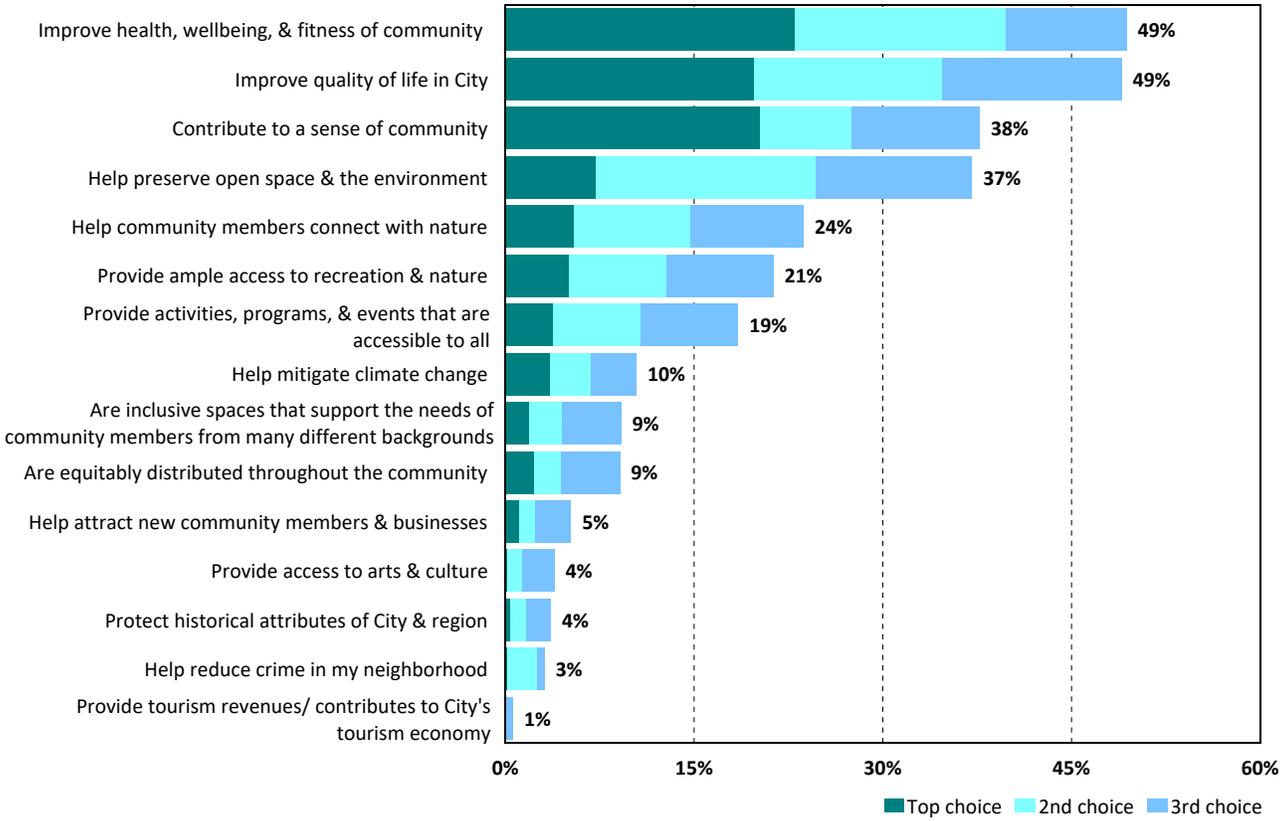
## Q5. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements

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



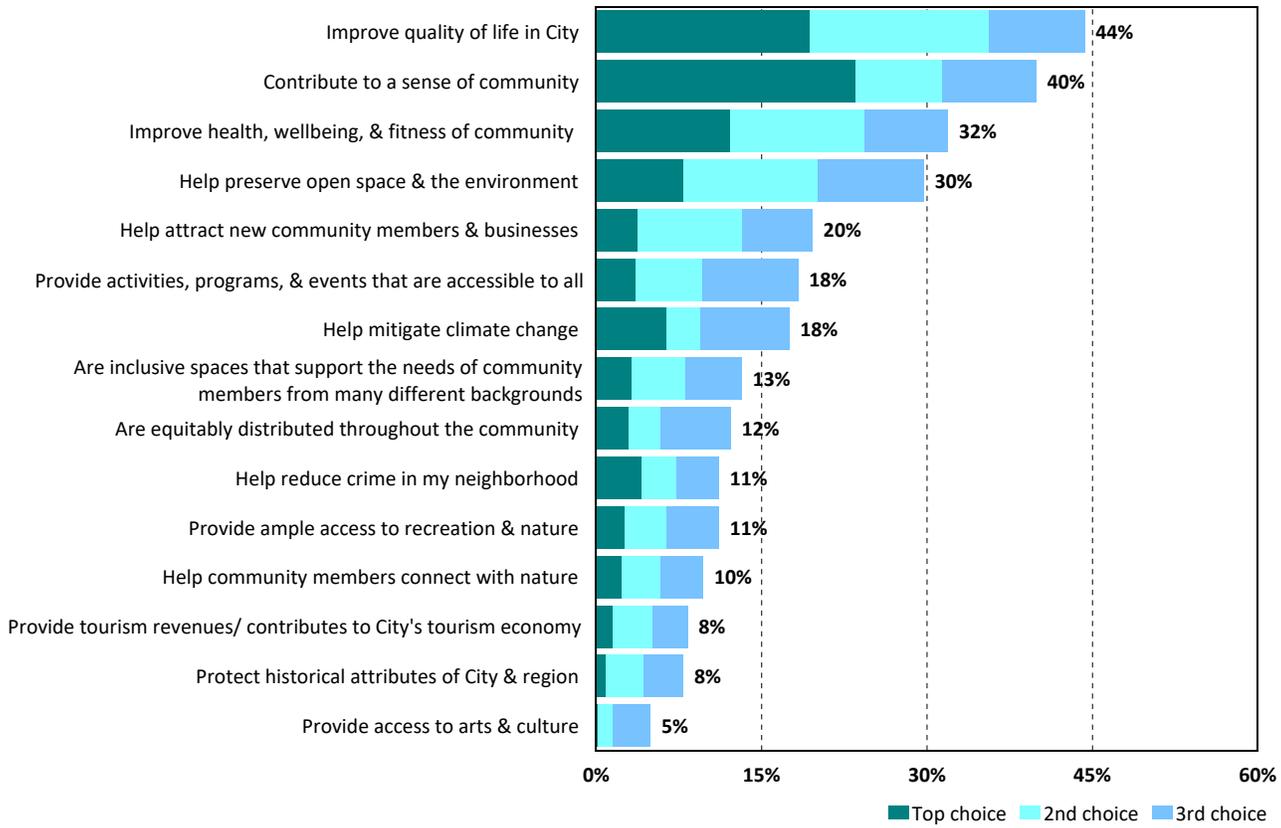
## Q6. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

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



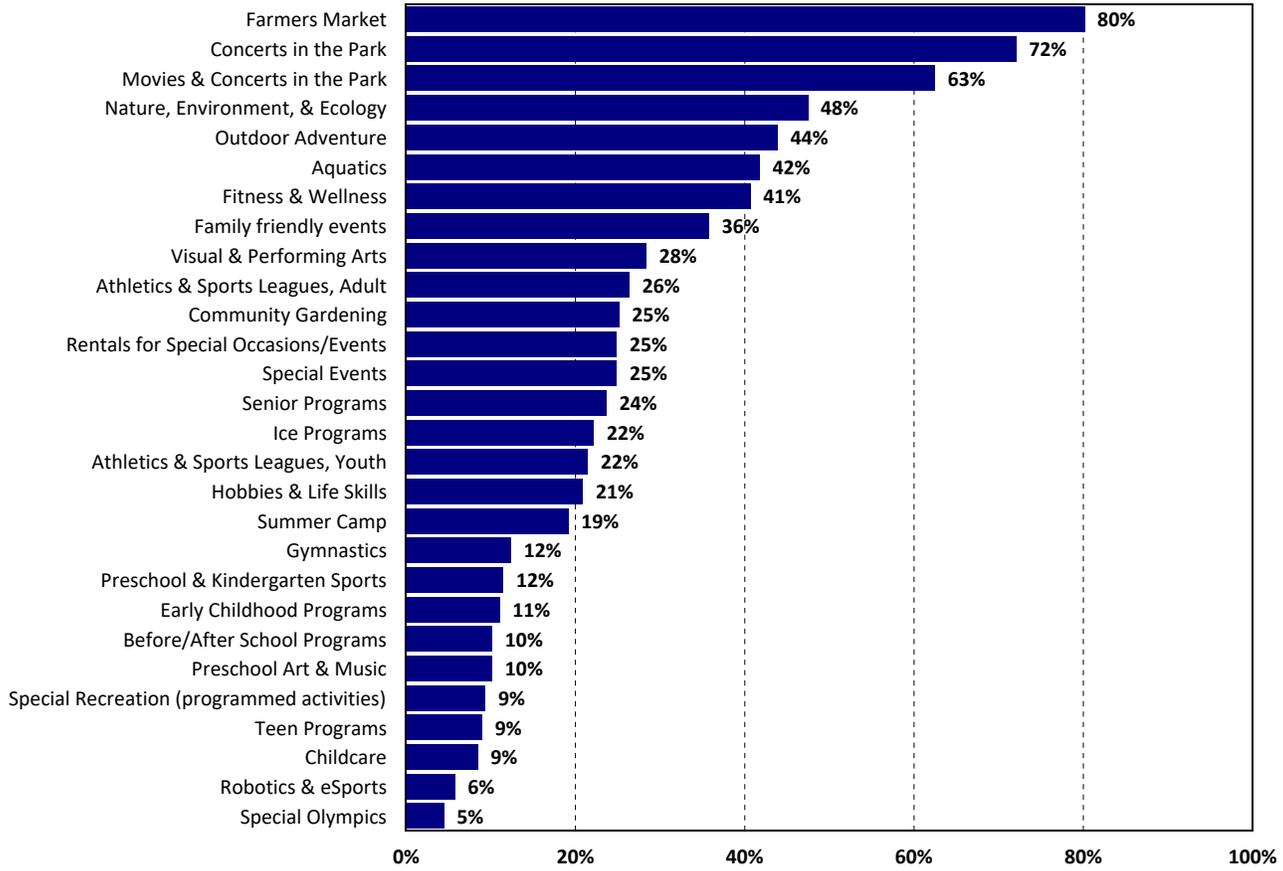
## Q7. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to the future of the City of Evanston?

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



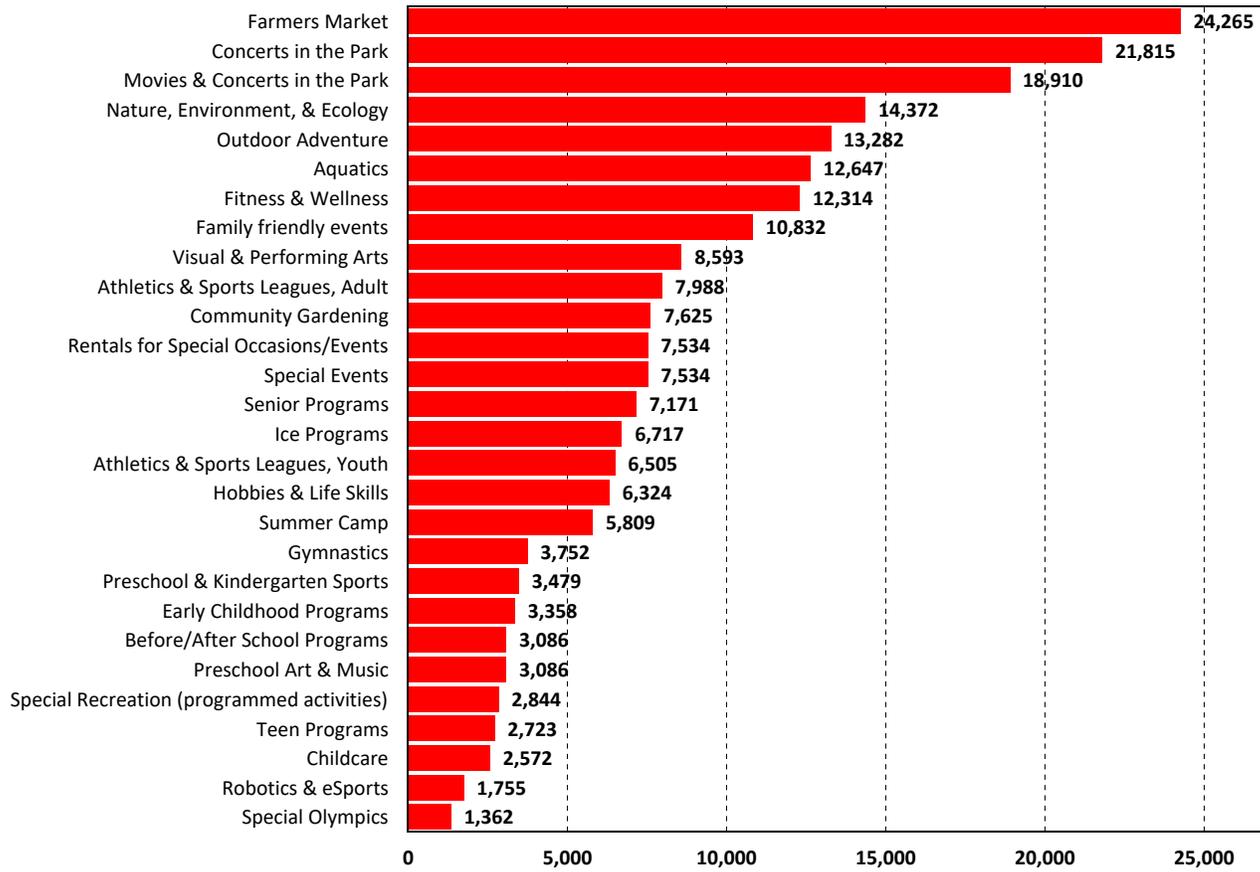
## Q8. Respondents With Need for Activities, Programs, or Events

by percentage of respondents



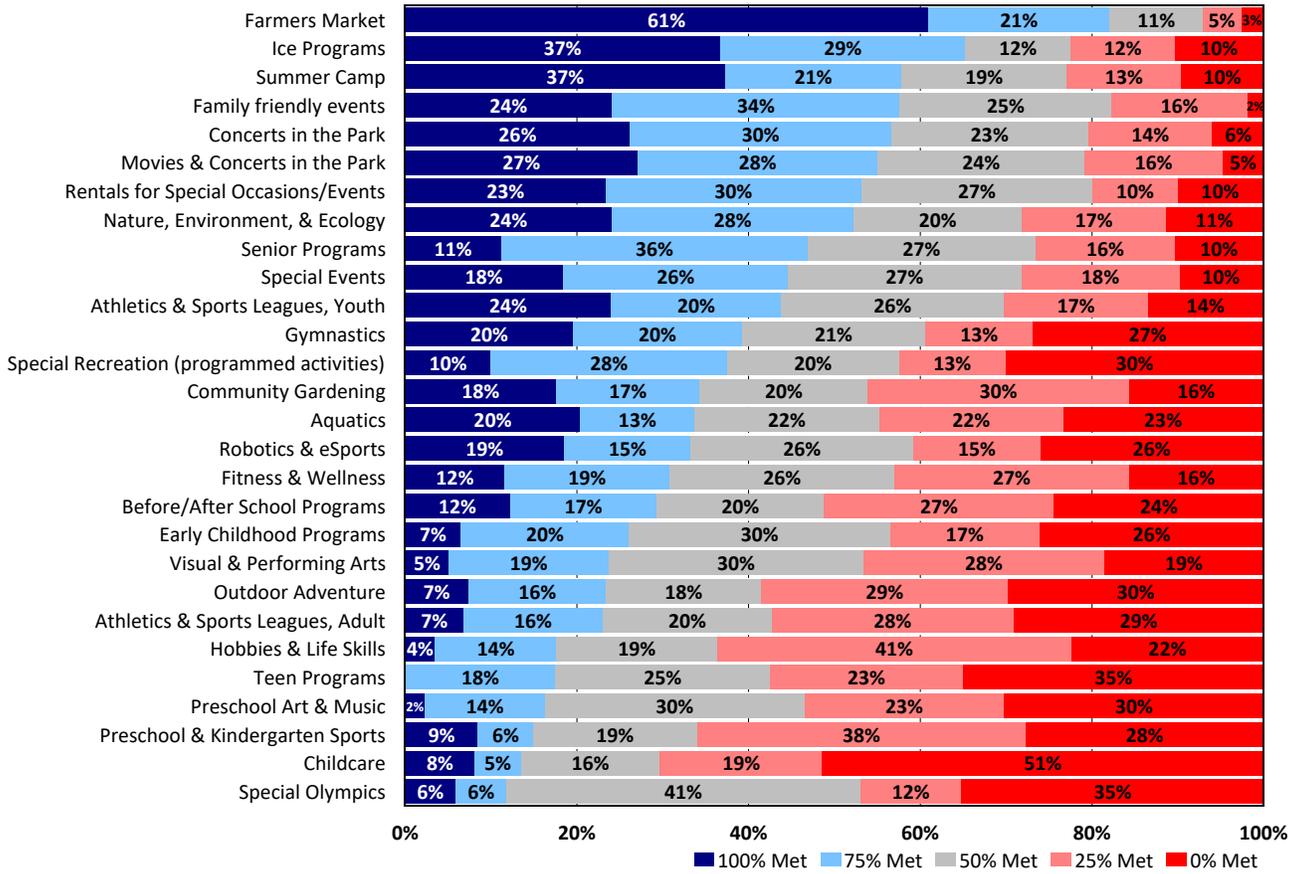
### Q8b. Estimated Number of Households With Need For Activities, Programs, or Events

by number of households based on an estimated 30,256 households in the City of Evanston



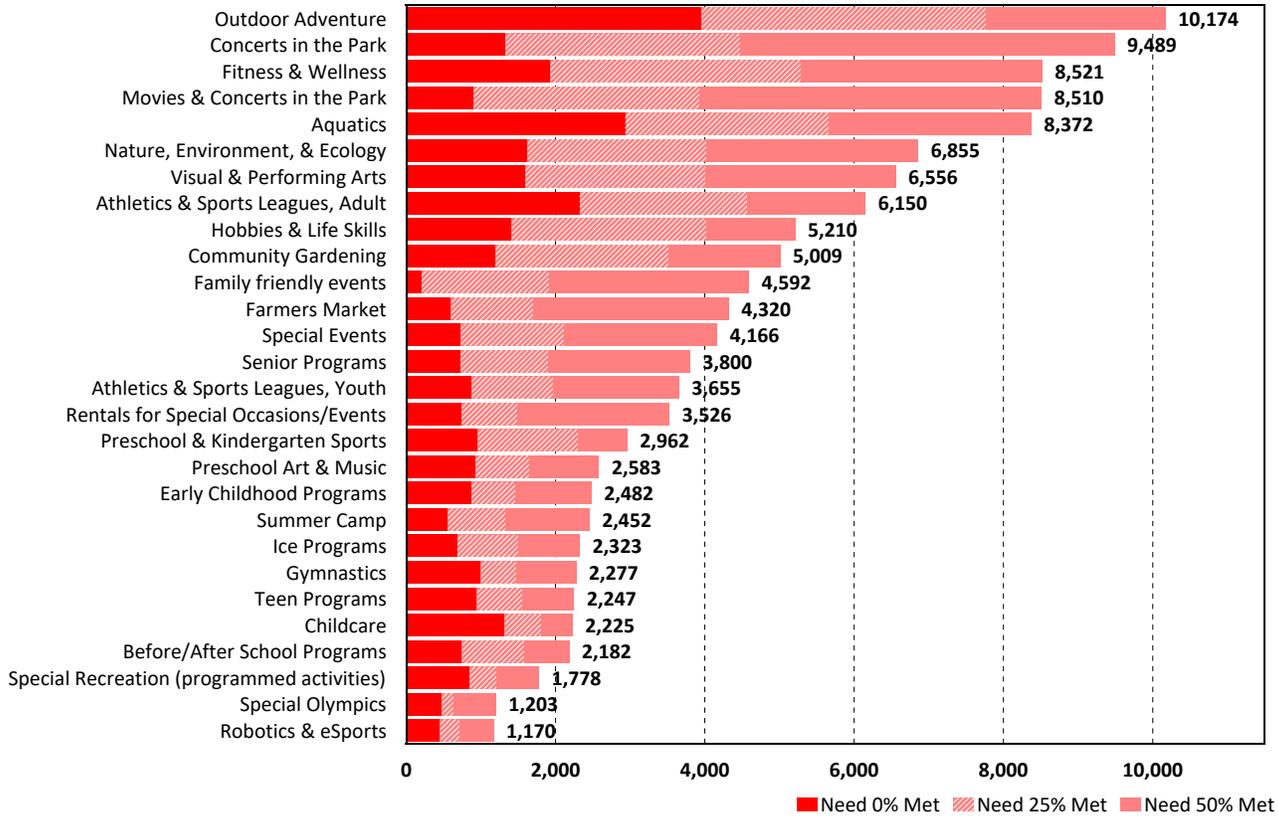
### Q8c. How Well Households' Needs Are Being Met

by percentage of respondents who indicated their household had a need for the activity, program, or event



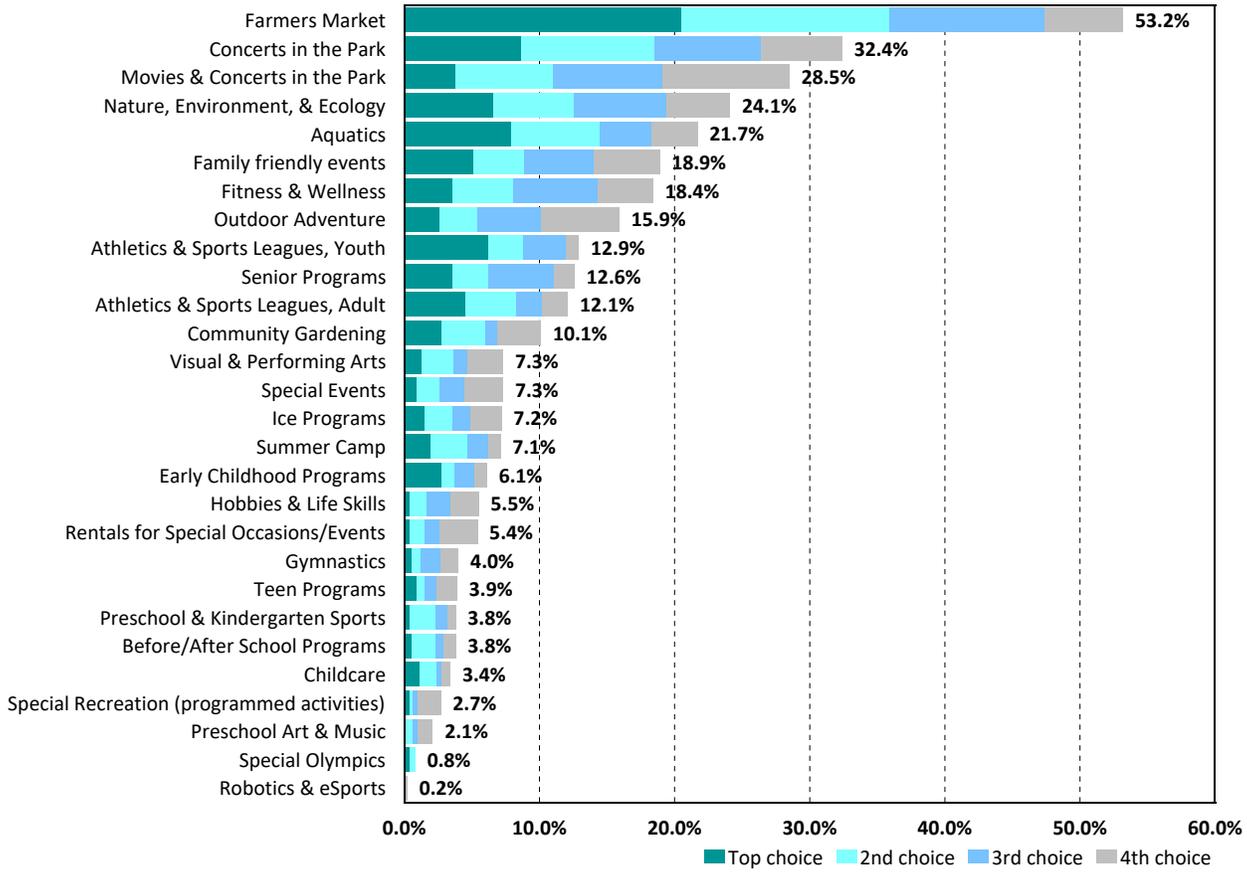
## Q8d. Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Activities, Programs, or Events are 50% Met or Less

by number of households with need based on an estimated 30,256 households in the City of Evanston



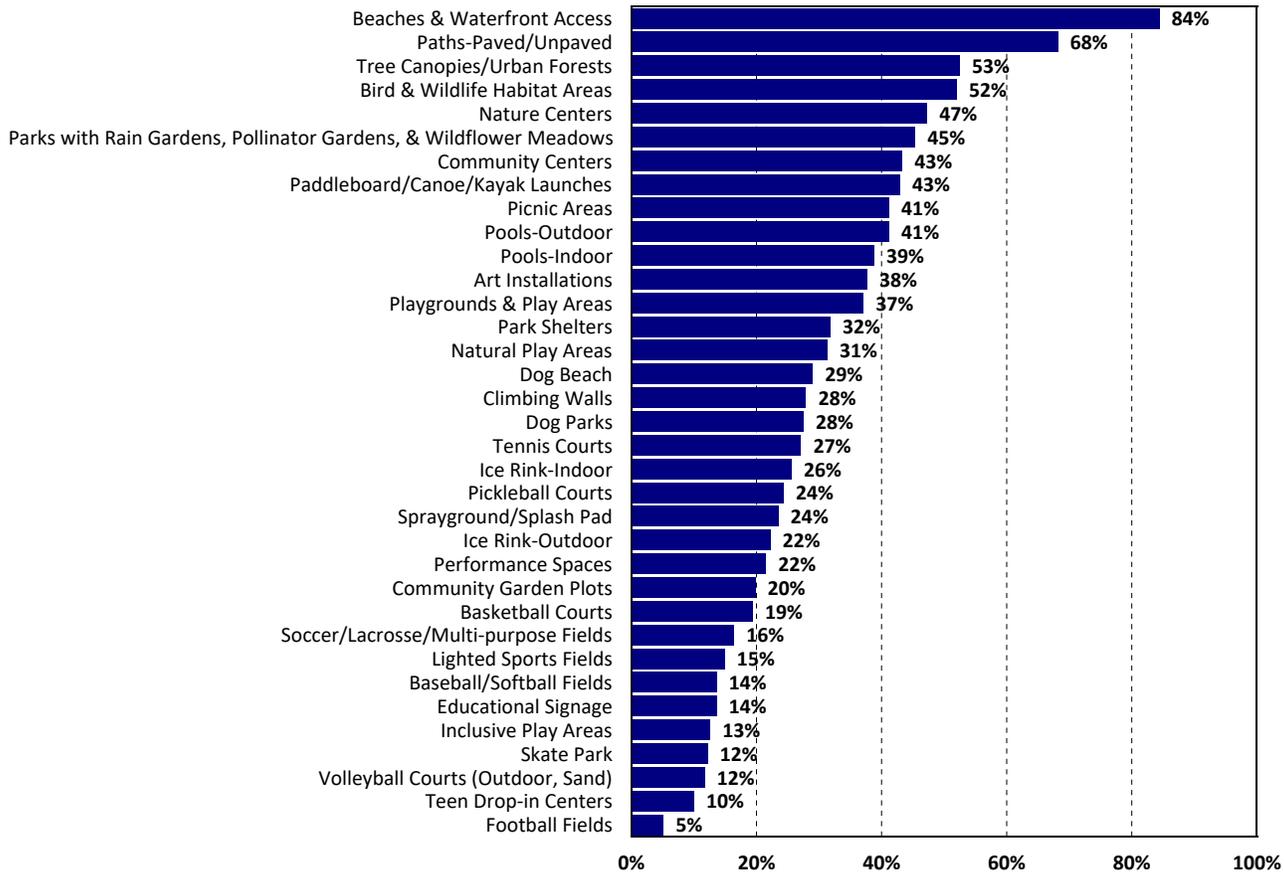
### Q9. Activities, Programs, or Events Most Important to Respondent Households

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



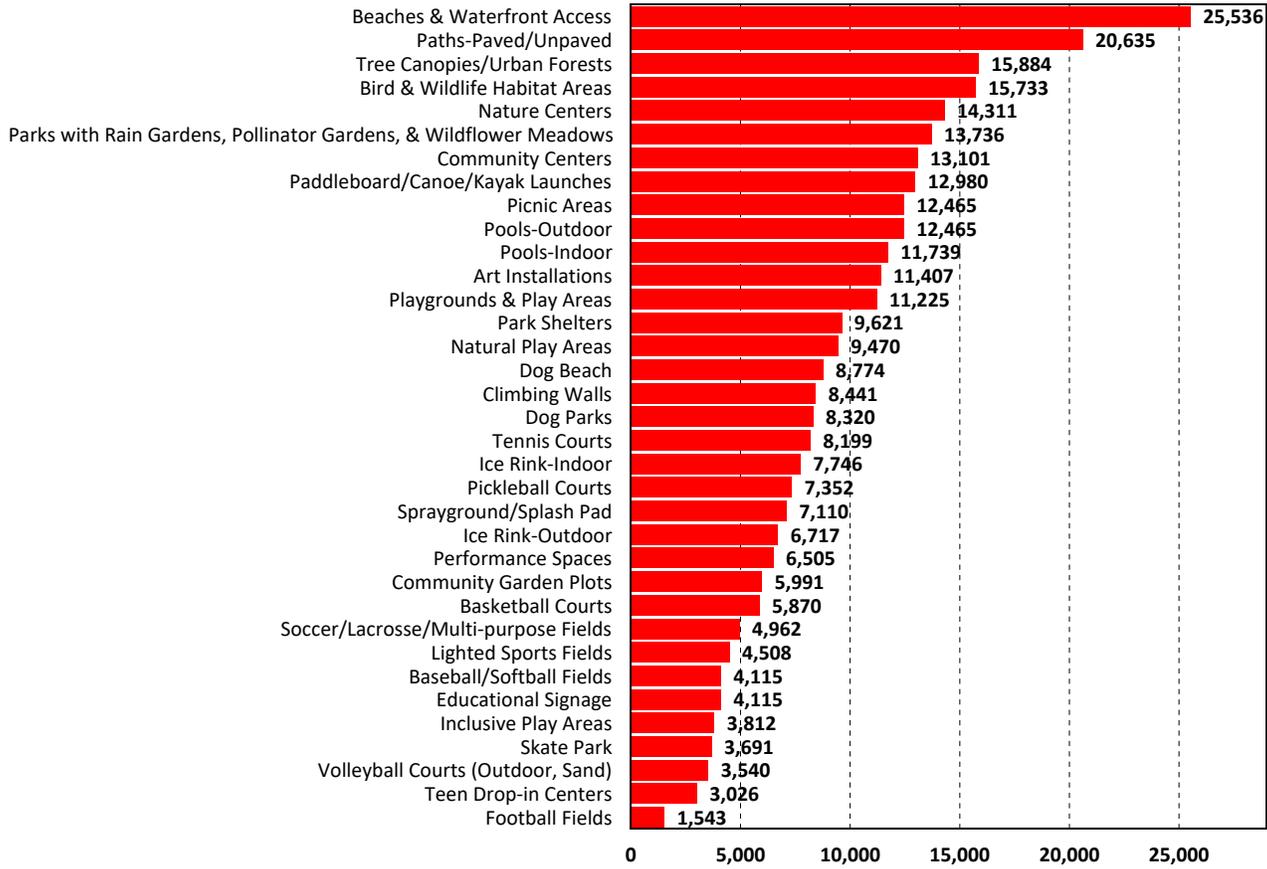
## Q10. Respondents With Need for Facilities

by percentage of respondents



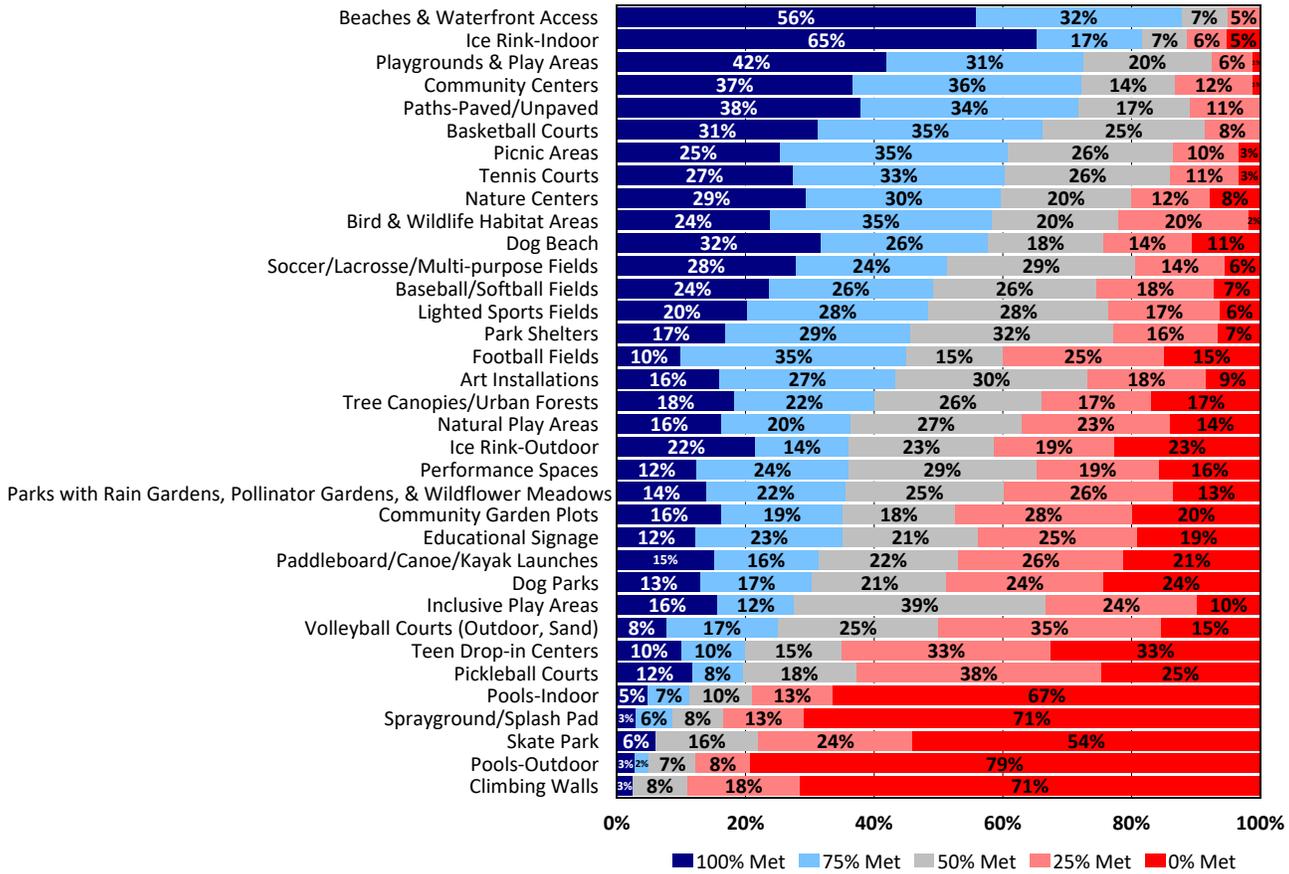
### Q10b. Estimated Number of Households With Need For Facilities

by number of households based on an estimated 30,256 households in the City of Evanston



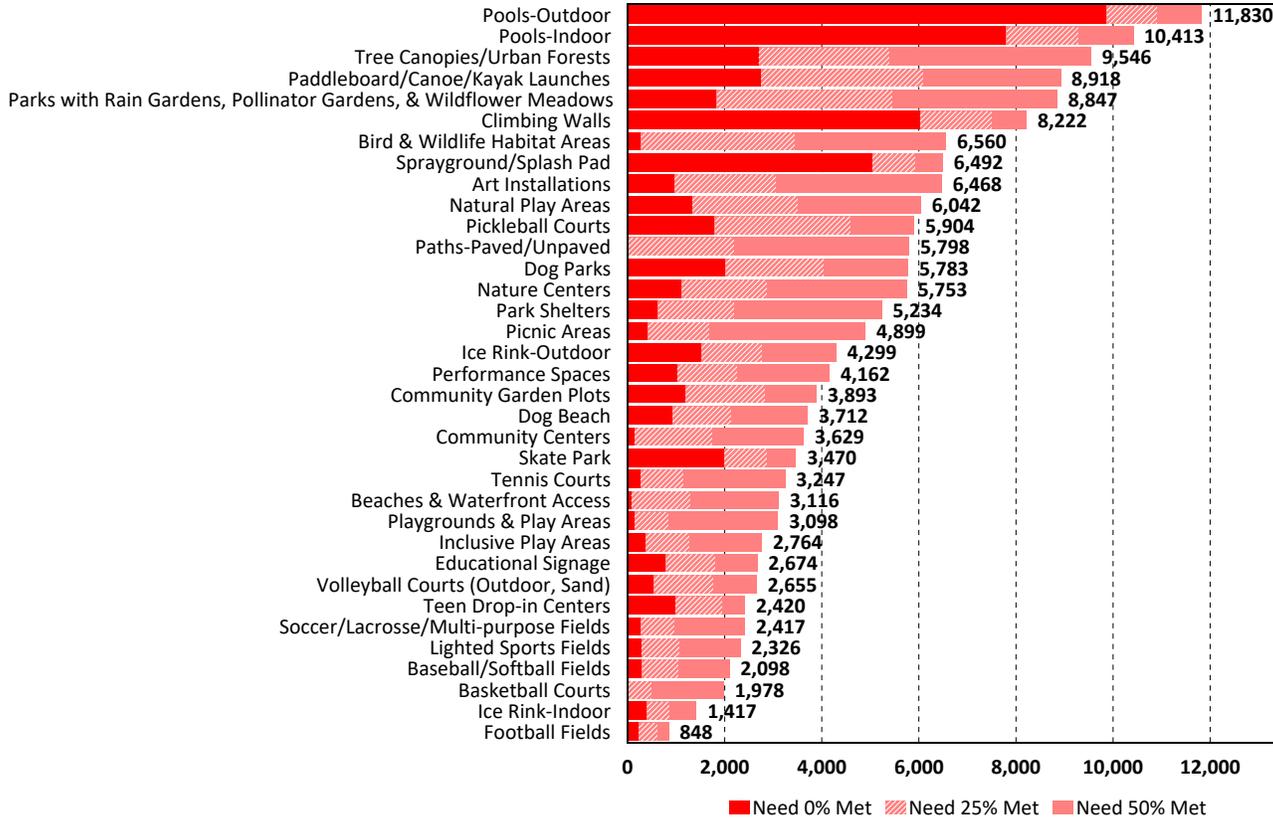
### Q10c. How Well Households' Needs Are Being Met

by percentage of respondents who indicated their household had a need for the facility



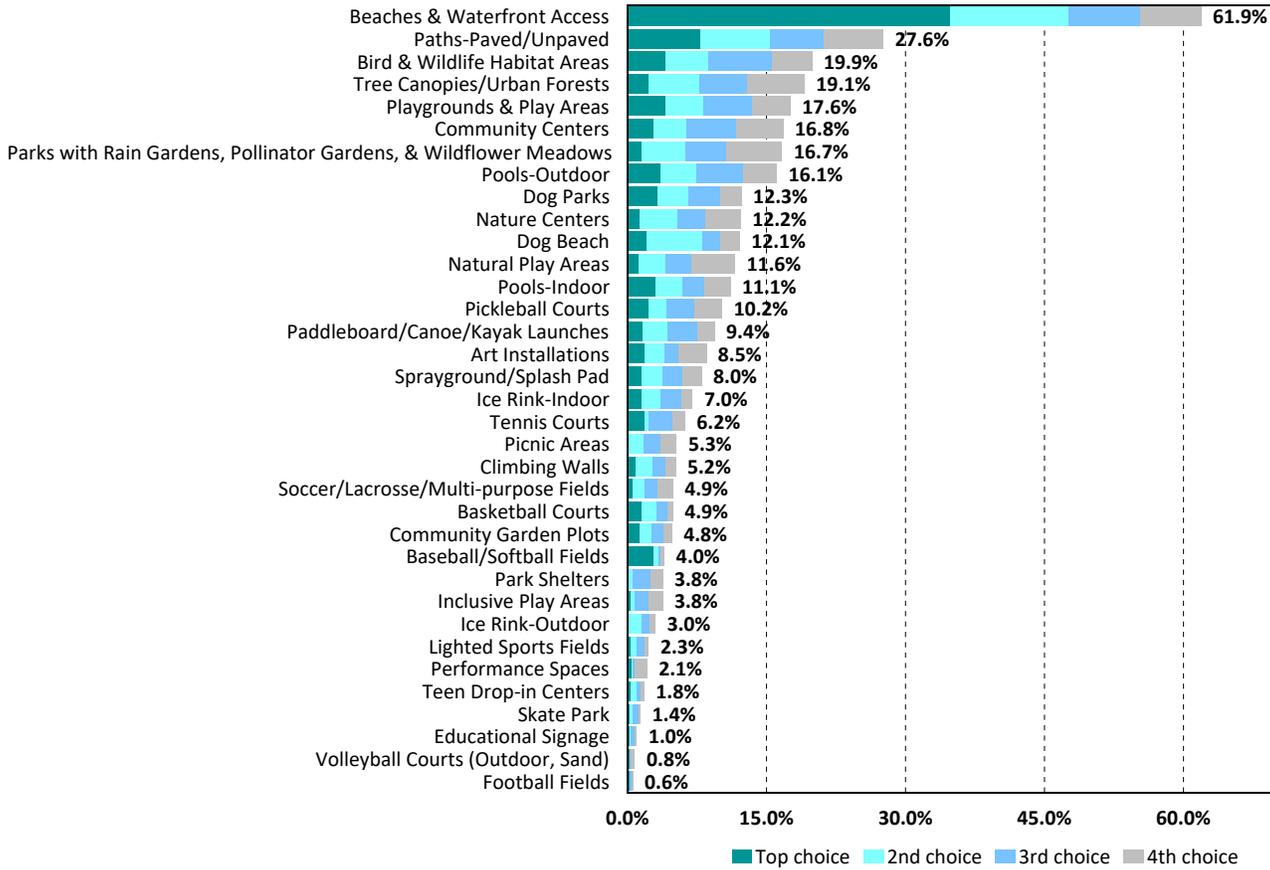
## Q10d. Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Facilities are 50% Met or Less

by number of households with need based on an estimated 30,256 households in the City of Evanston



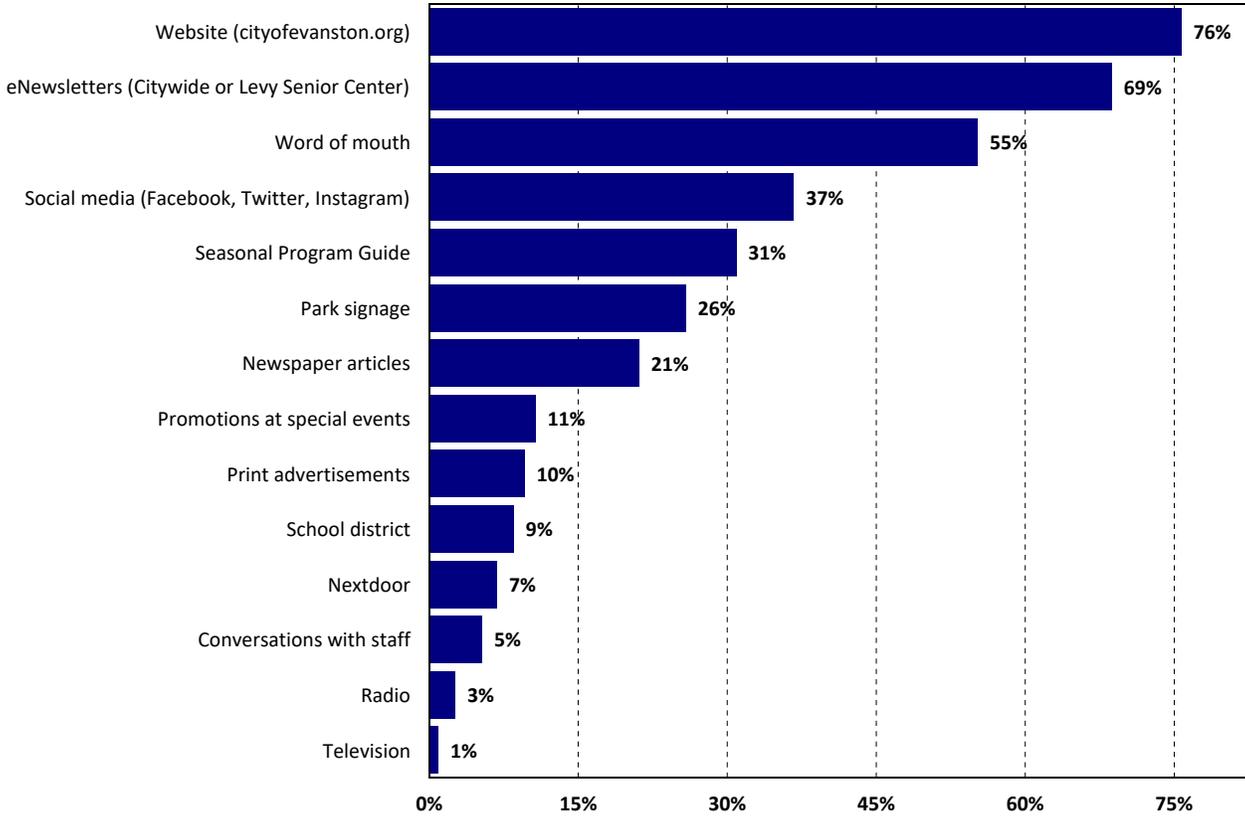
### Q11. Facilities Most Important to Respondent Households

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



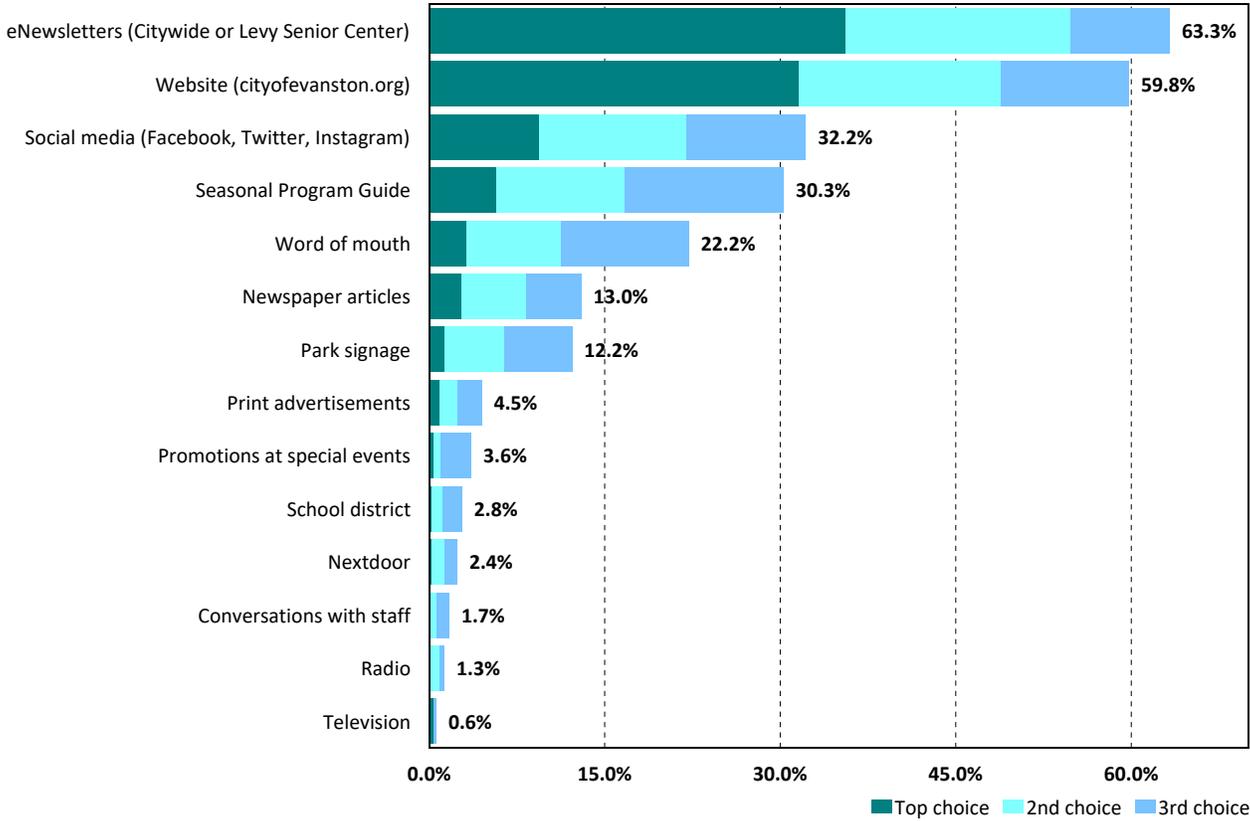
### Q12. Please check ALL of the following ways you currently use to learn about City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities.

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections could be made)



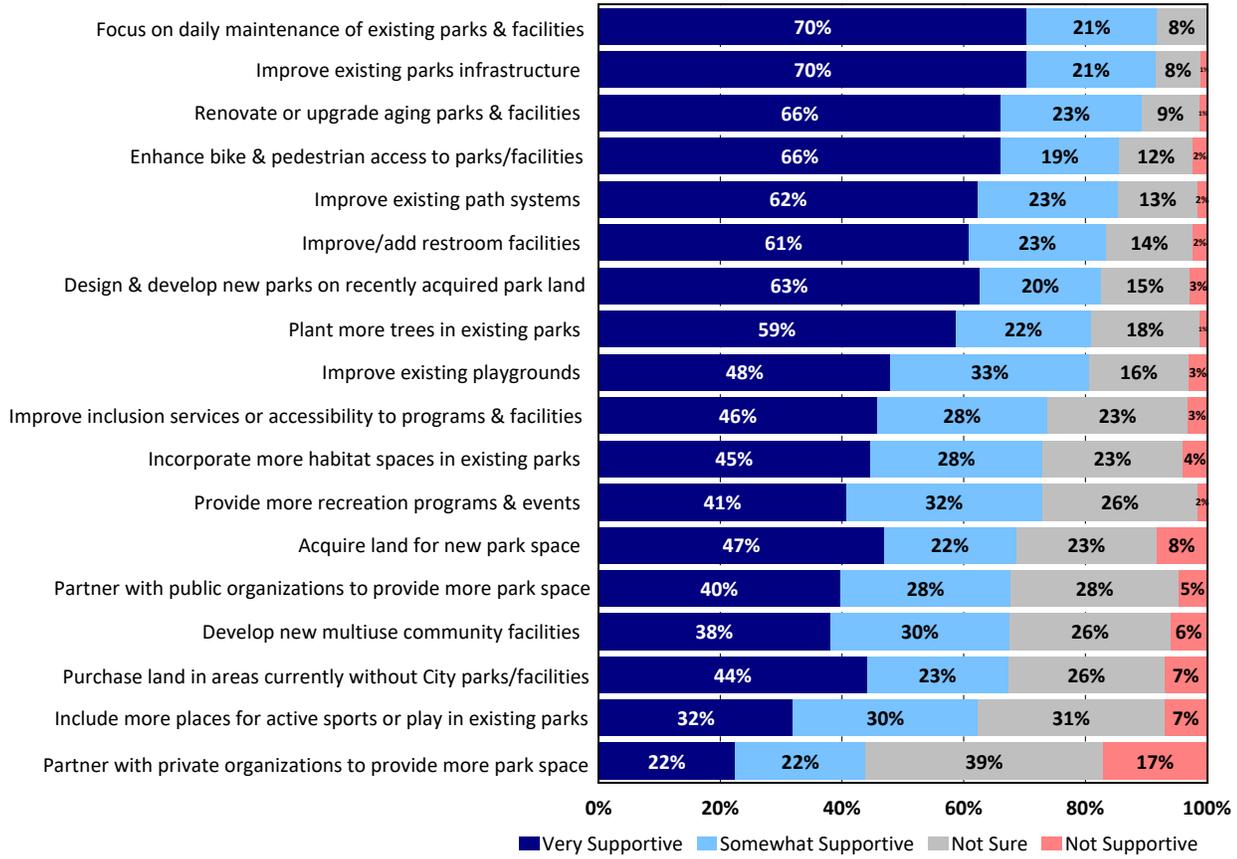
### Q13. Which THREE sources are YOUR MOST PREFERRED SOURCES for learning about the City's Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities?

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



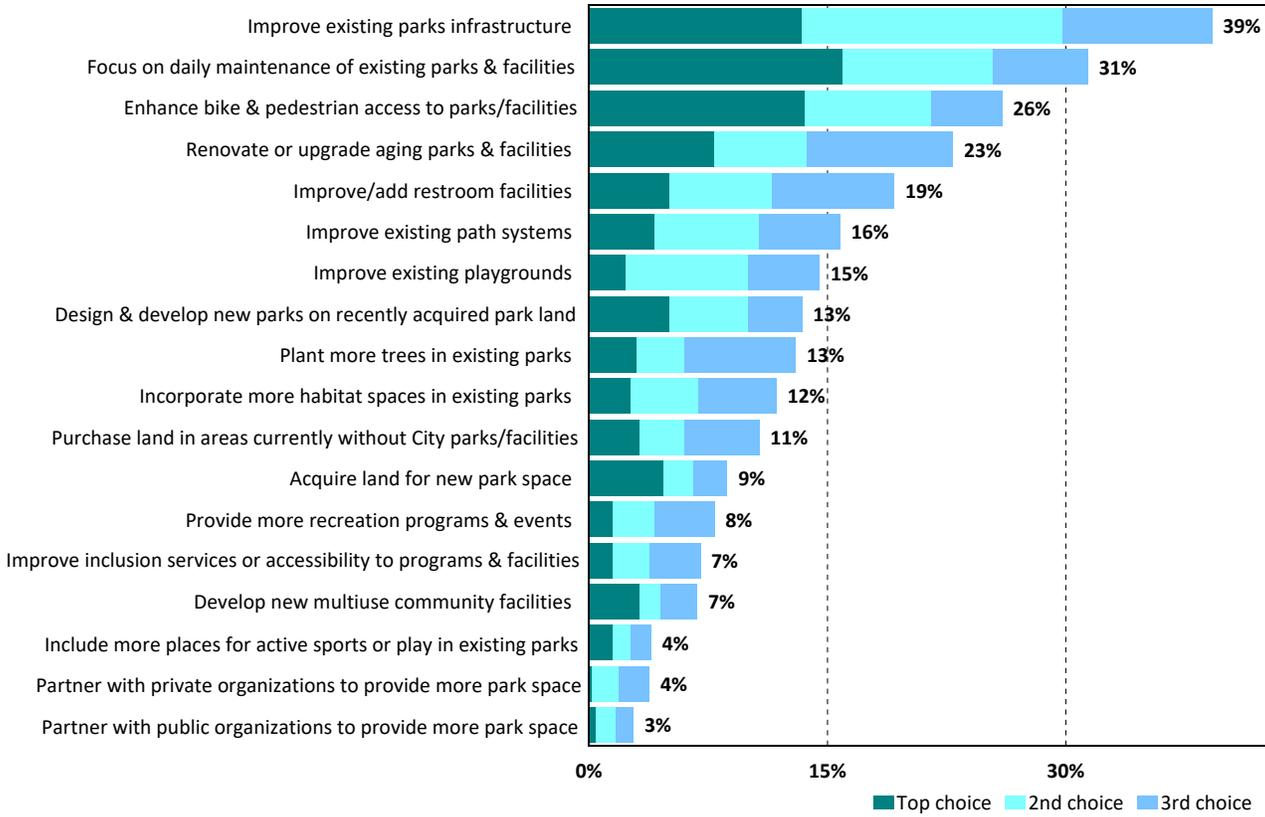
### Q14. Please indicate your support for each potential action

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



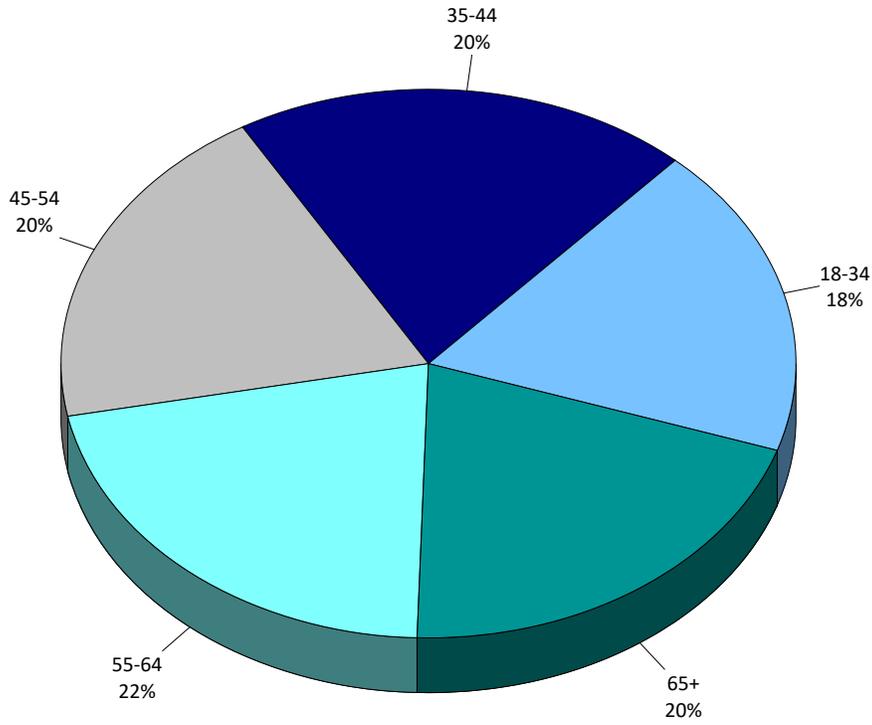
### Q15. Which THREE of the potential improvements from the list in Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?

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



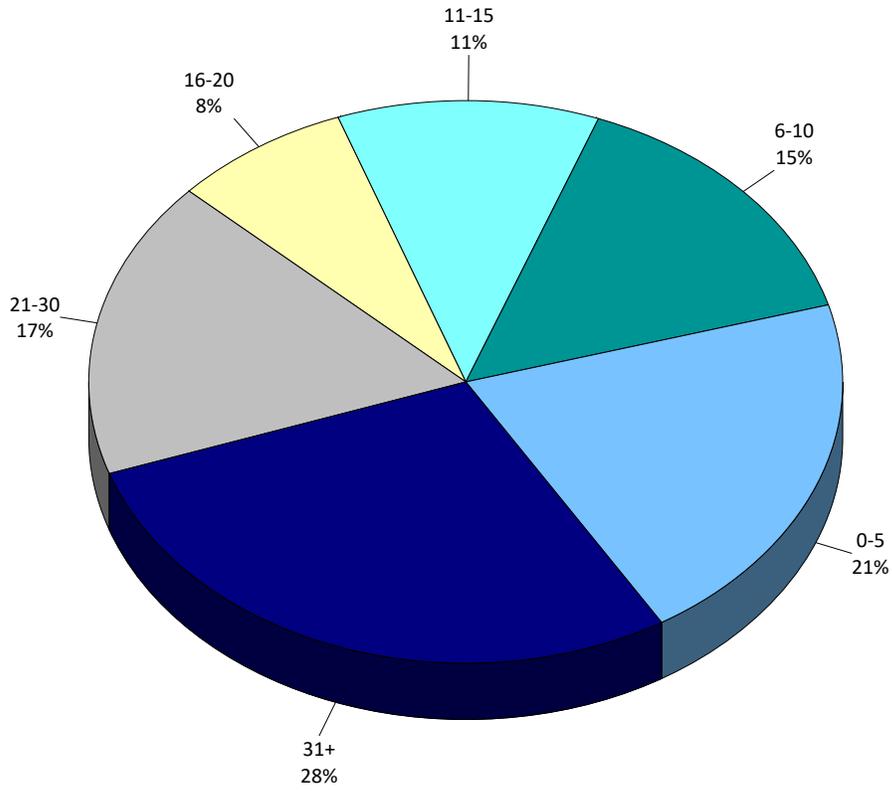
## Q16. What is your age?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



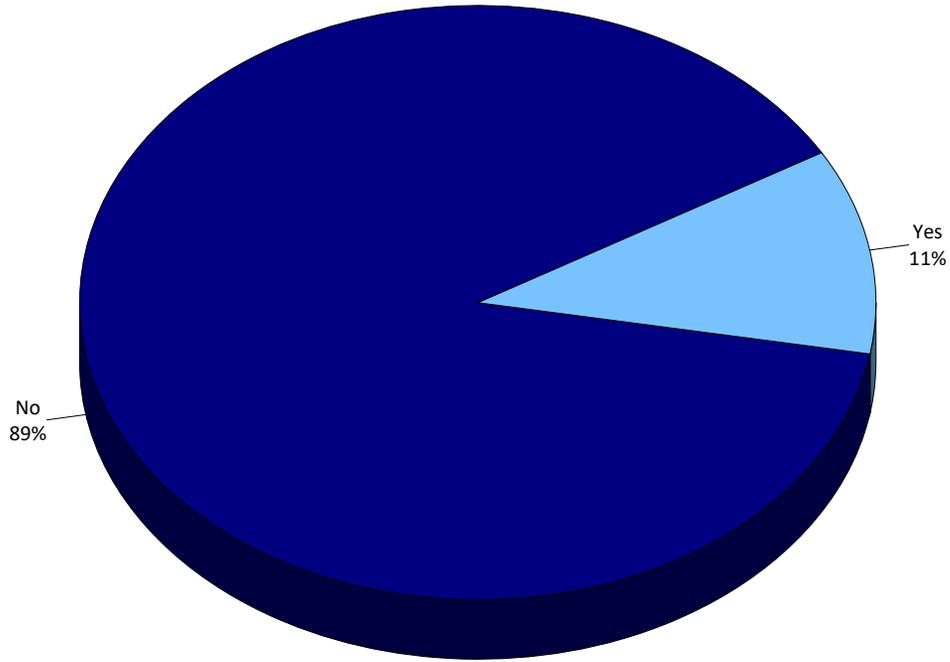
# Q17. How many years have you lived in the City of Evanston?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



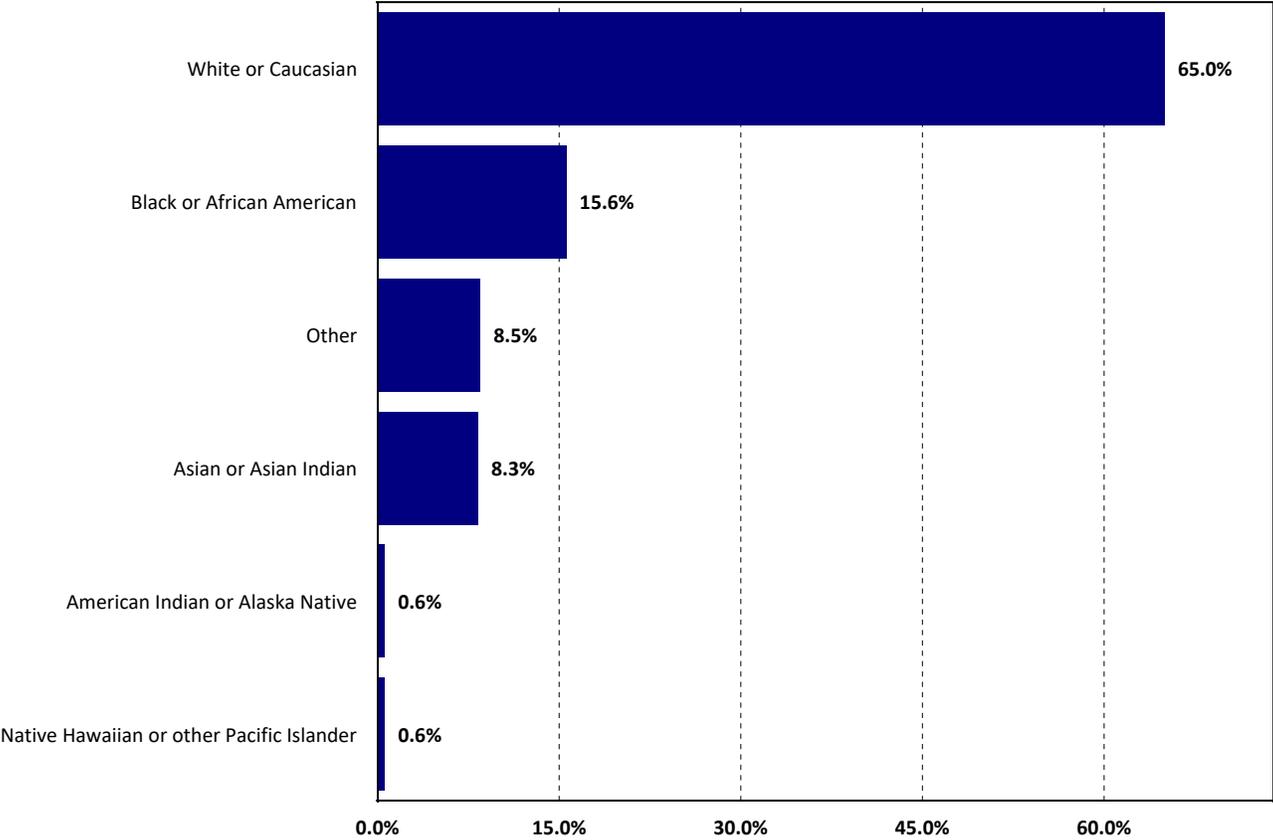
### Q18. Are you or any members of your family of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x ancestry?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



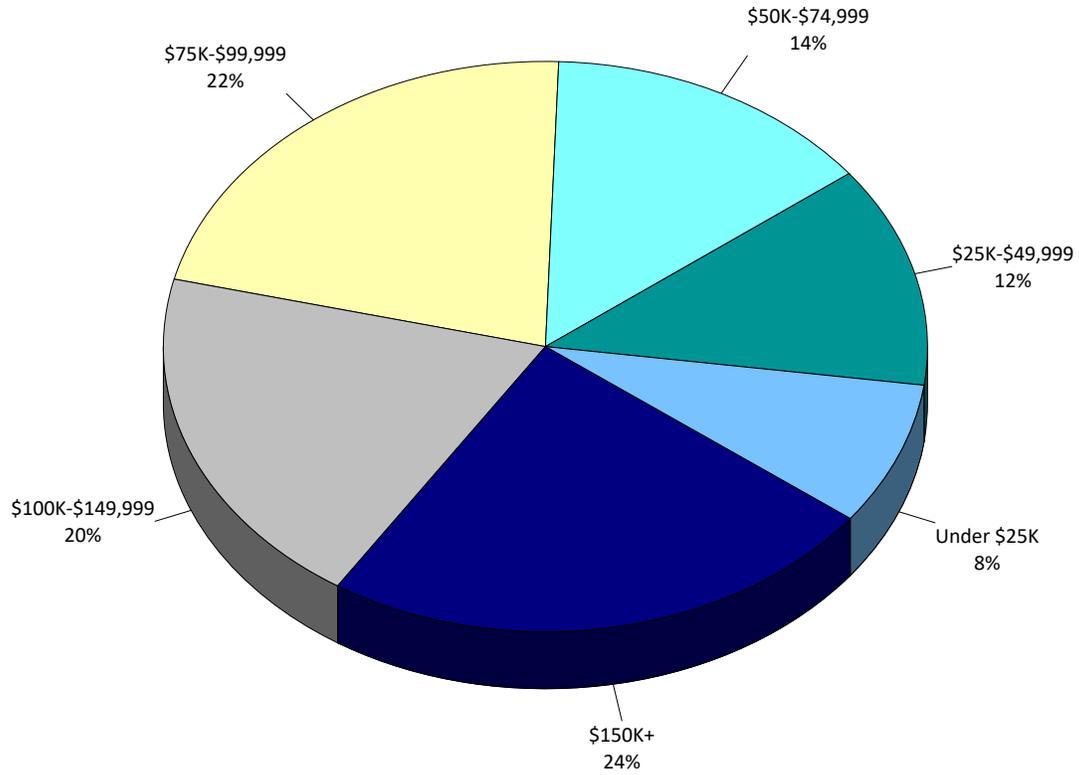
# Q19. Which of the following best describes your race?

by percentage of respondents



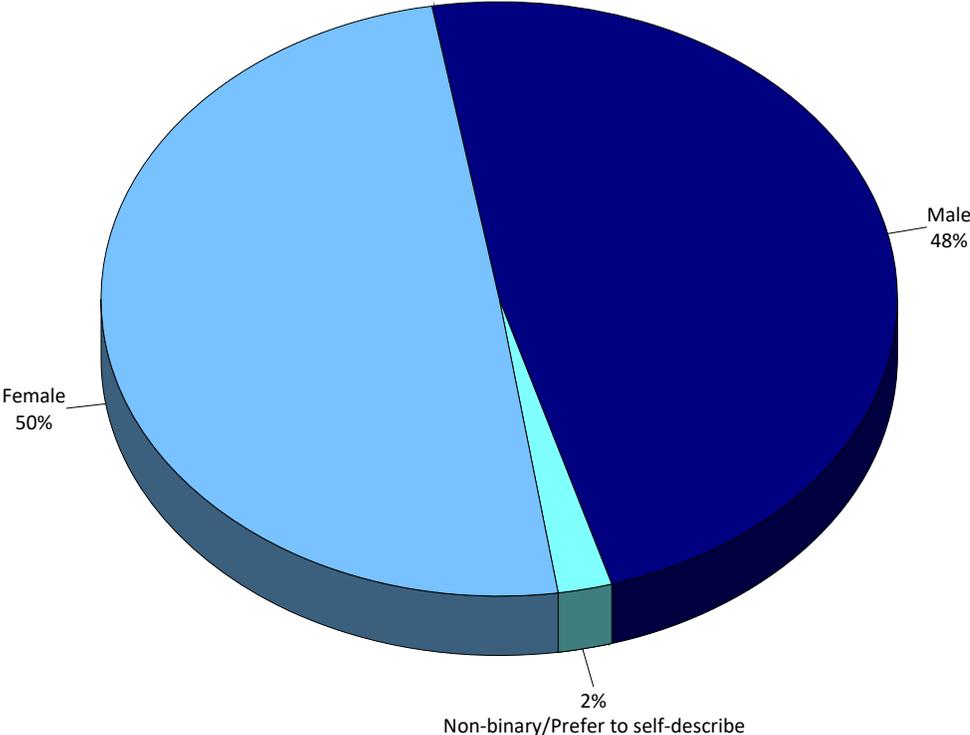
## Q20. What is your household income?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



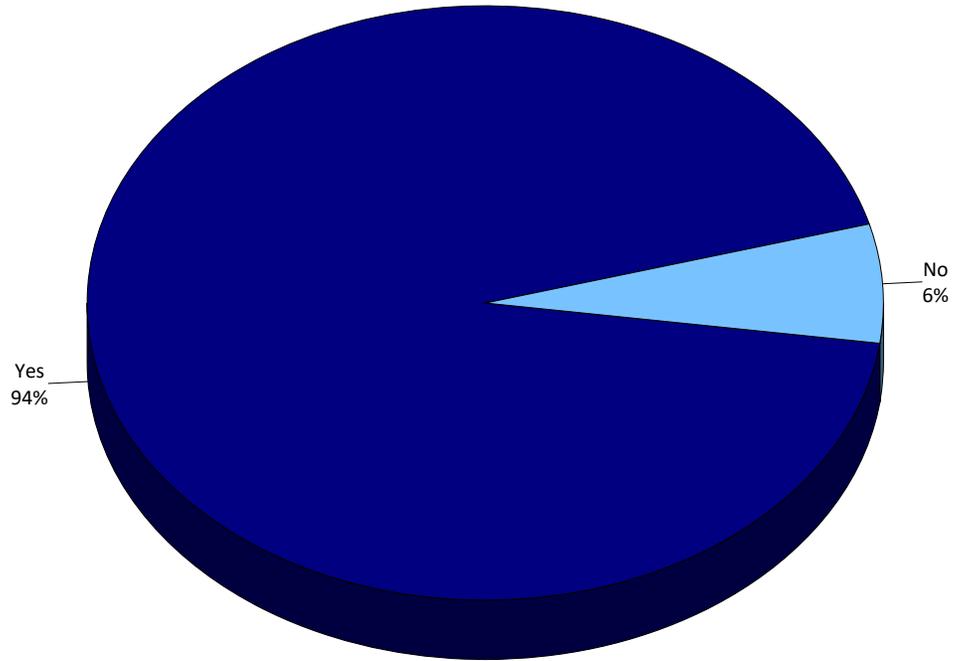
### Q21. What is your gender?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



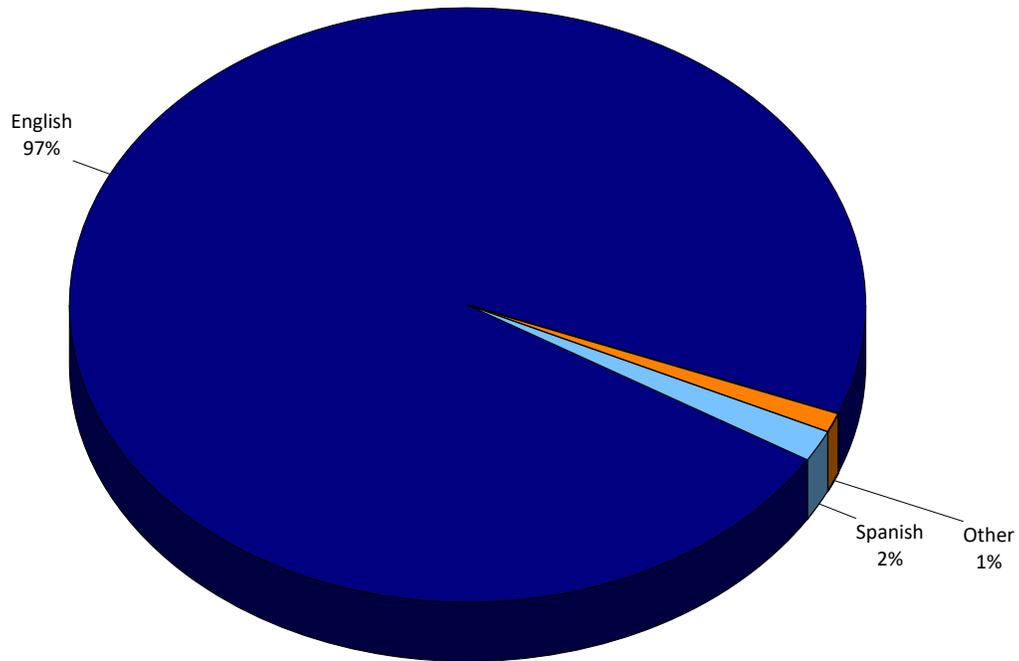
## Q22. Does your household own a vehicle?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



## Q23. What is the primary language spoken in your home?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")





# Priority Investment Ratings

---

# Priority Investment Rating

## Evanston, Illinois

---

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 4 choices) and the unmet needs (needs that are not met or only partly 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:

$$\text{PIR} = \text{UNR} + \text{IR}$$

For example, if the Unmet Needs Rating for Community Gardens were 98.9 (out of 100) and the Importance Rating for Community Gardens were 21.6 (out of 100), the Priority Investment Rating for the Farmer's Market would be 120.5 (out of 200).

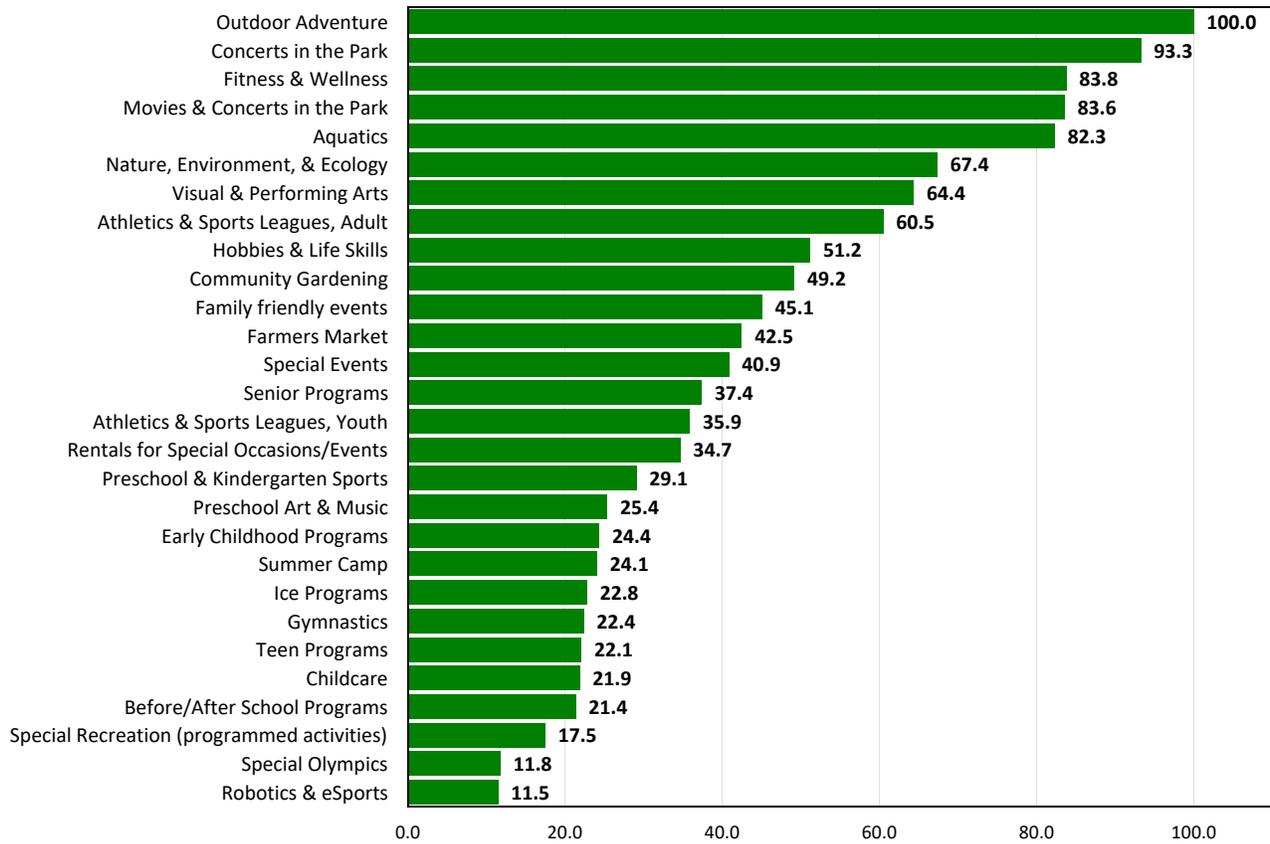
### How to Analyze the Charts:

- **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 Activities, Programs, or Events

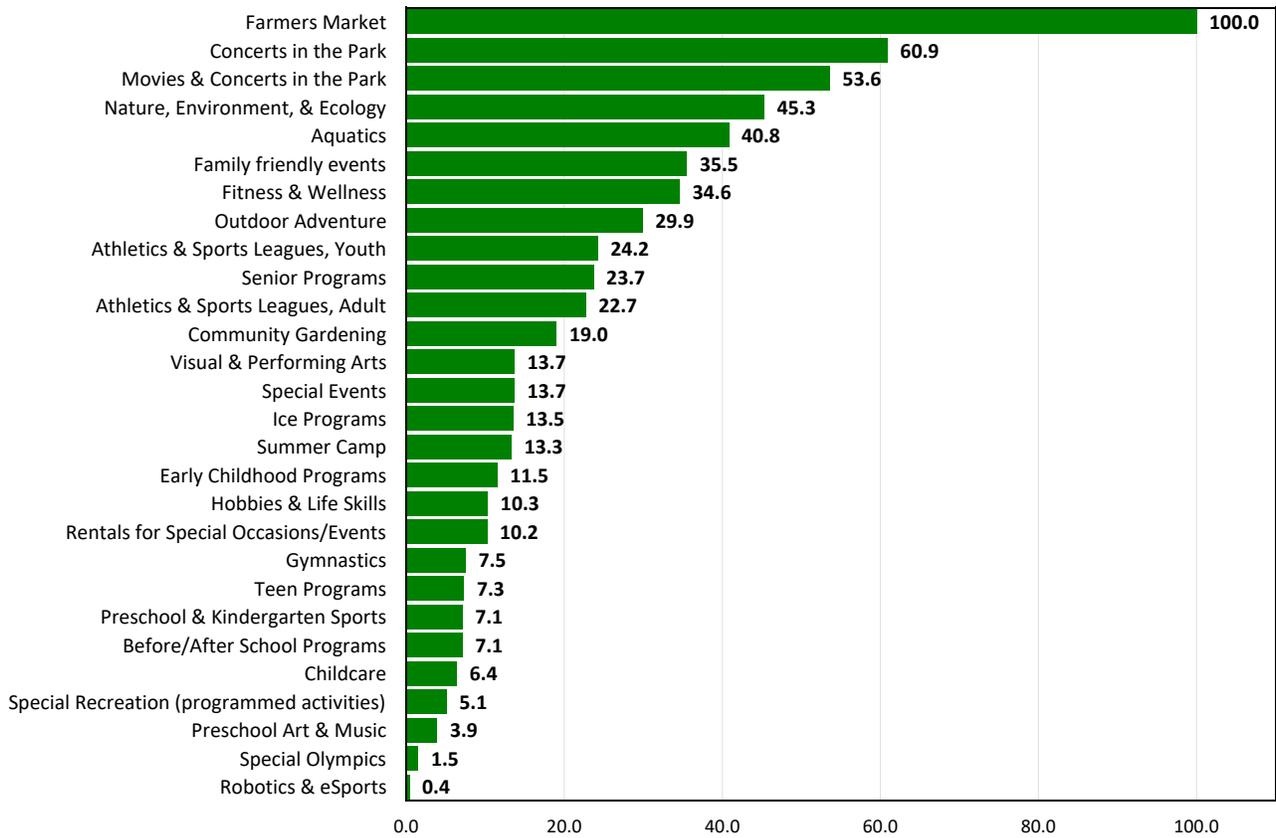
the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100  
 the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



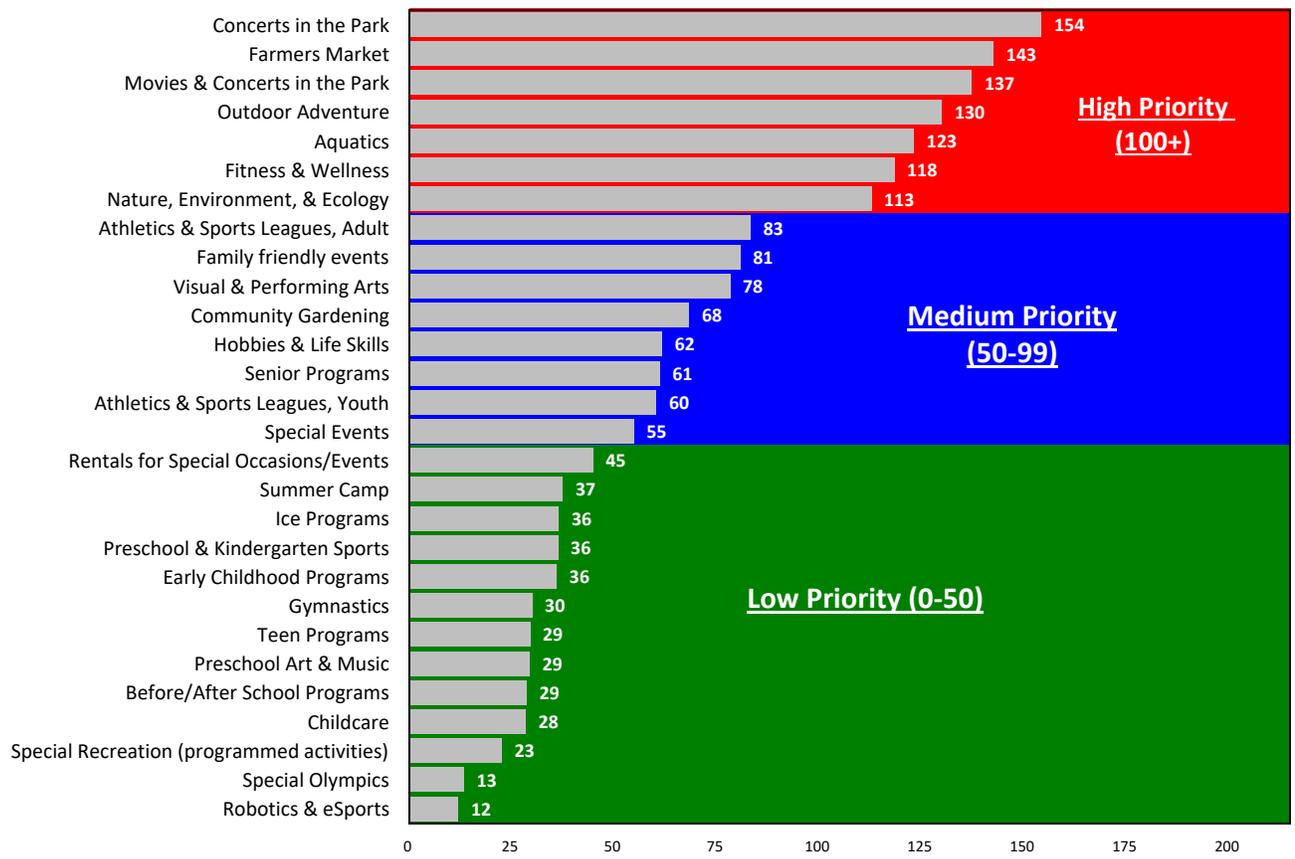
ETC Institute (2023)

# Importance Rating for Activities, Programs, or Events

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



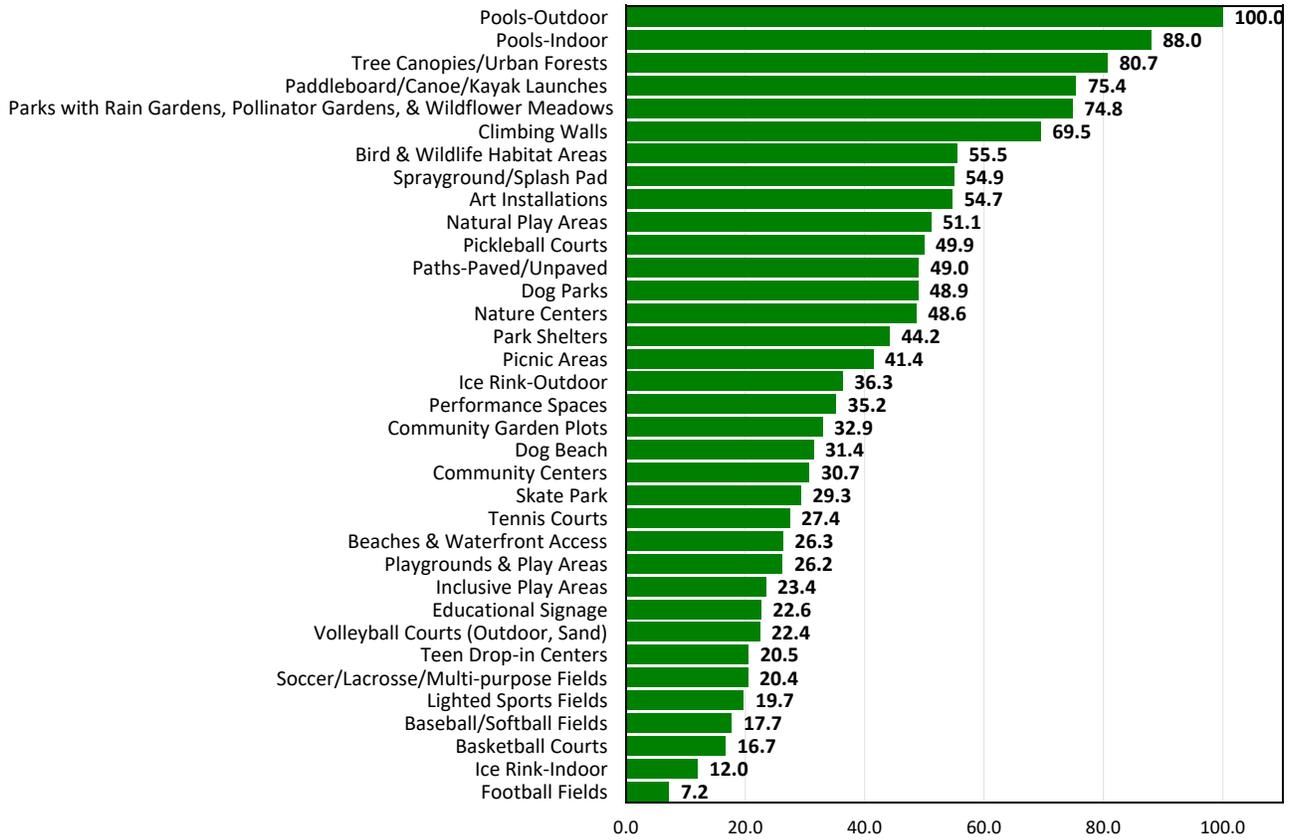
## Top Priorities for Investment for Activities, Programs, or Events Based on the Priority Investment Rating



ETC Institute (2023)

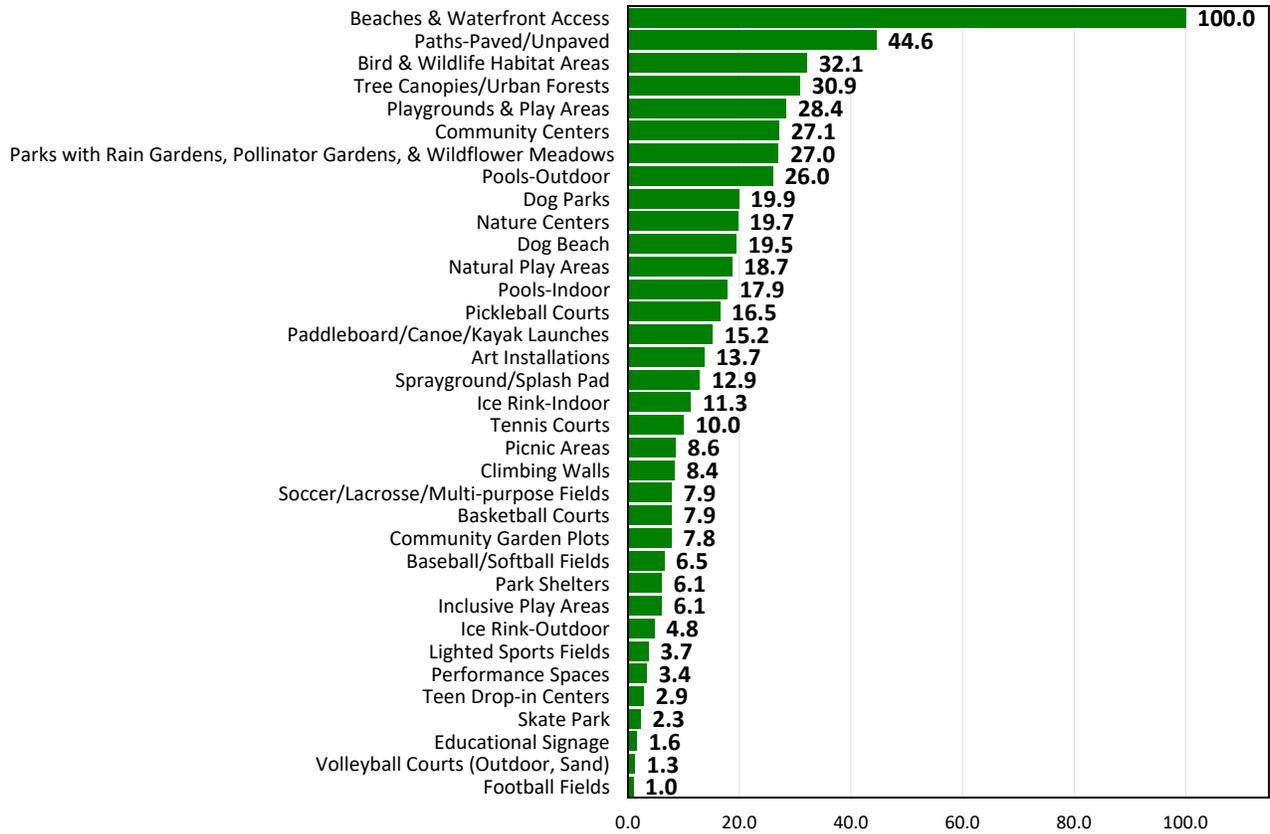
# Unmet Needs Rating for Facilities

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

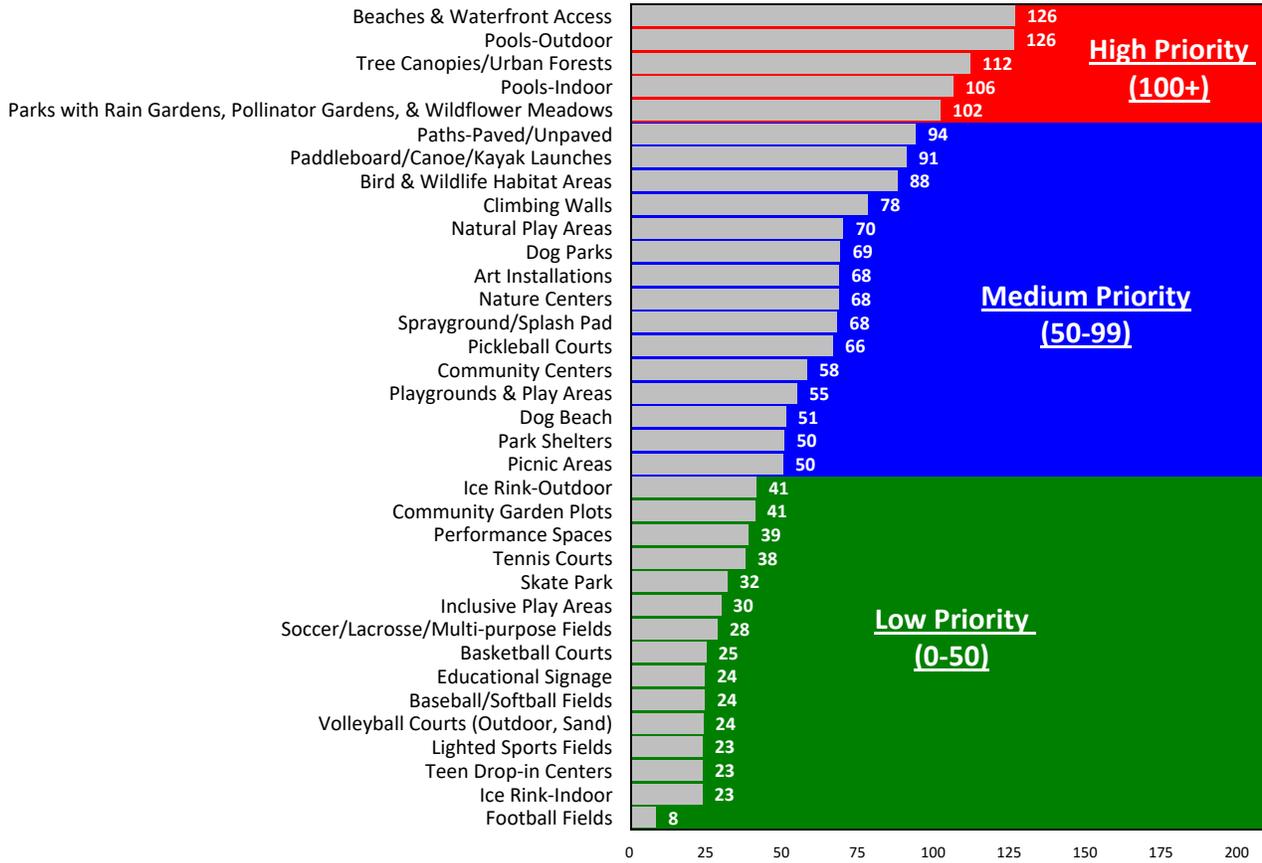


# Importance Rating for Facilities

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 Based on the Priority Investment Rating



ETC Institute (2023)

# 4

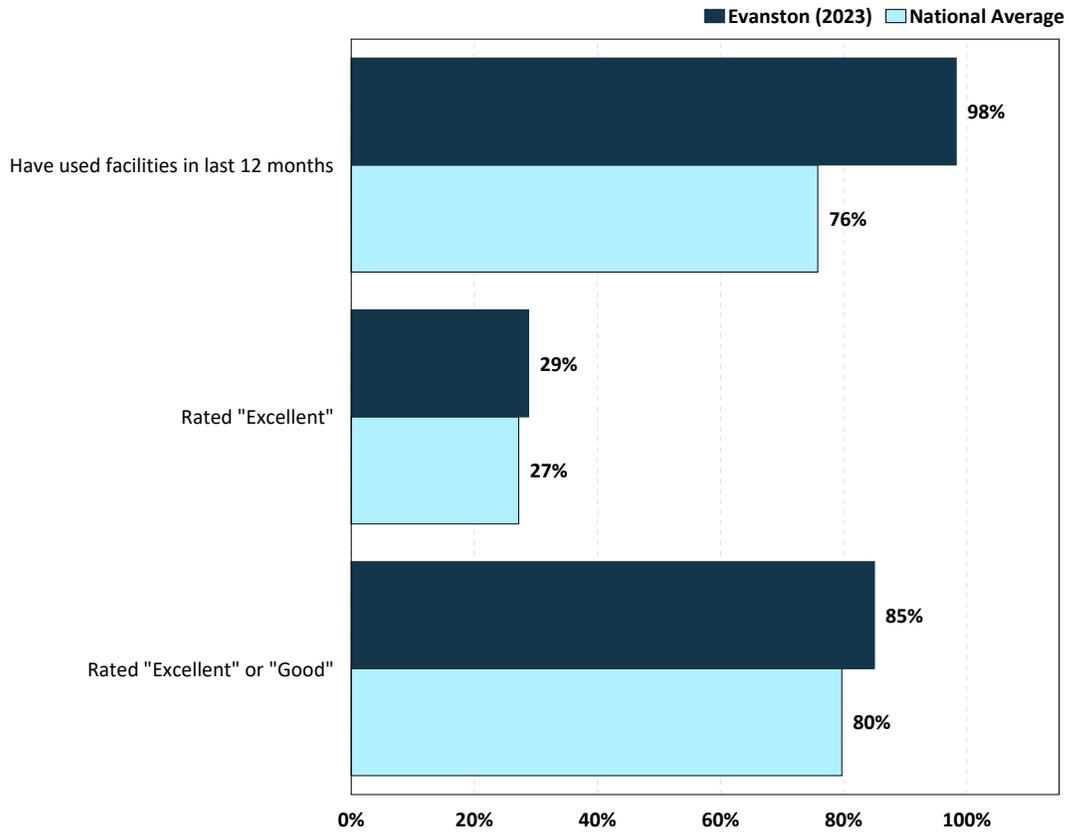
# Benchmarks

# 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 the City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Department is not authorized without written consent from ETC Institute.**

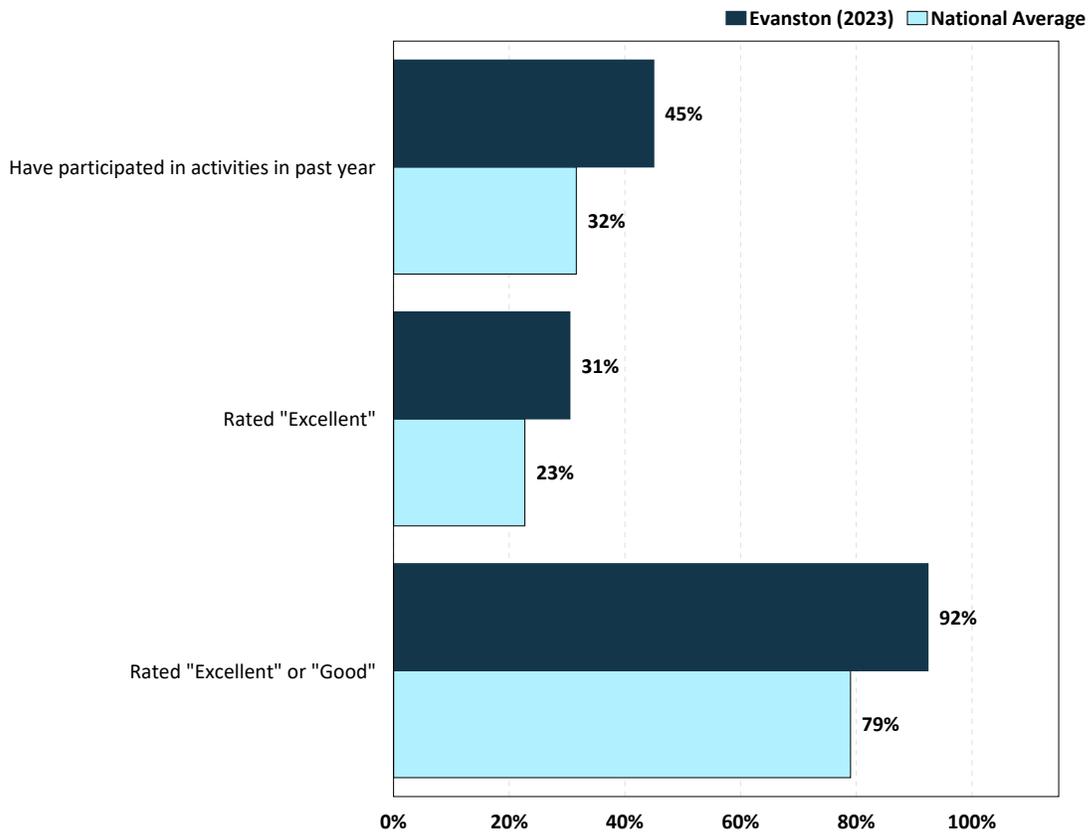
# Use and Rating of Parks and Recreation Facilities

by percentage of respondents



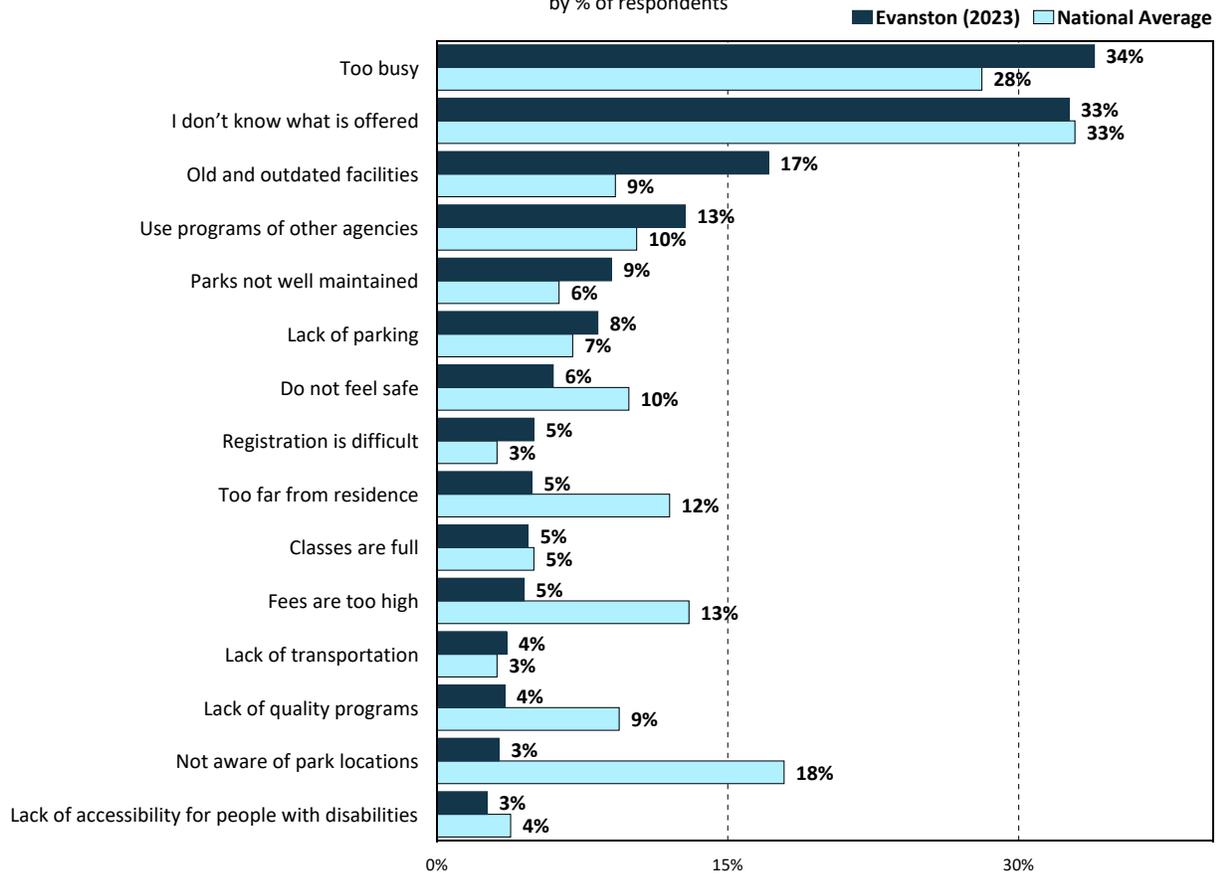
# Use and Rating of Parks and Recreation Activities/Programs

by percentage of respondents



## Barriers to Facilities and Programs Use

by % of respondents

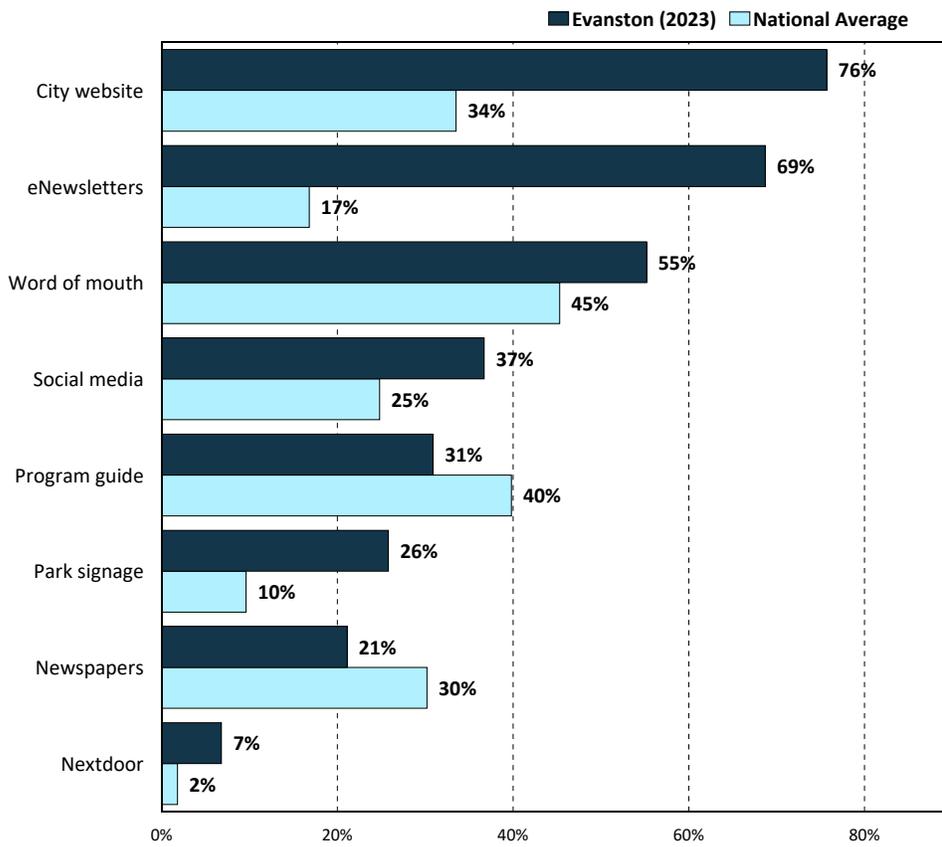


ETC Institute (2023)

61

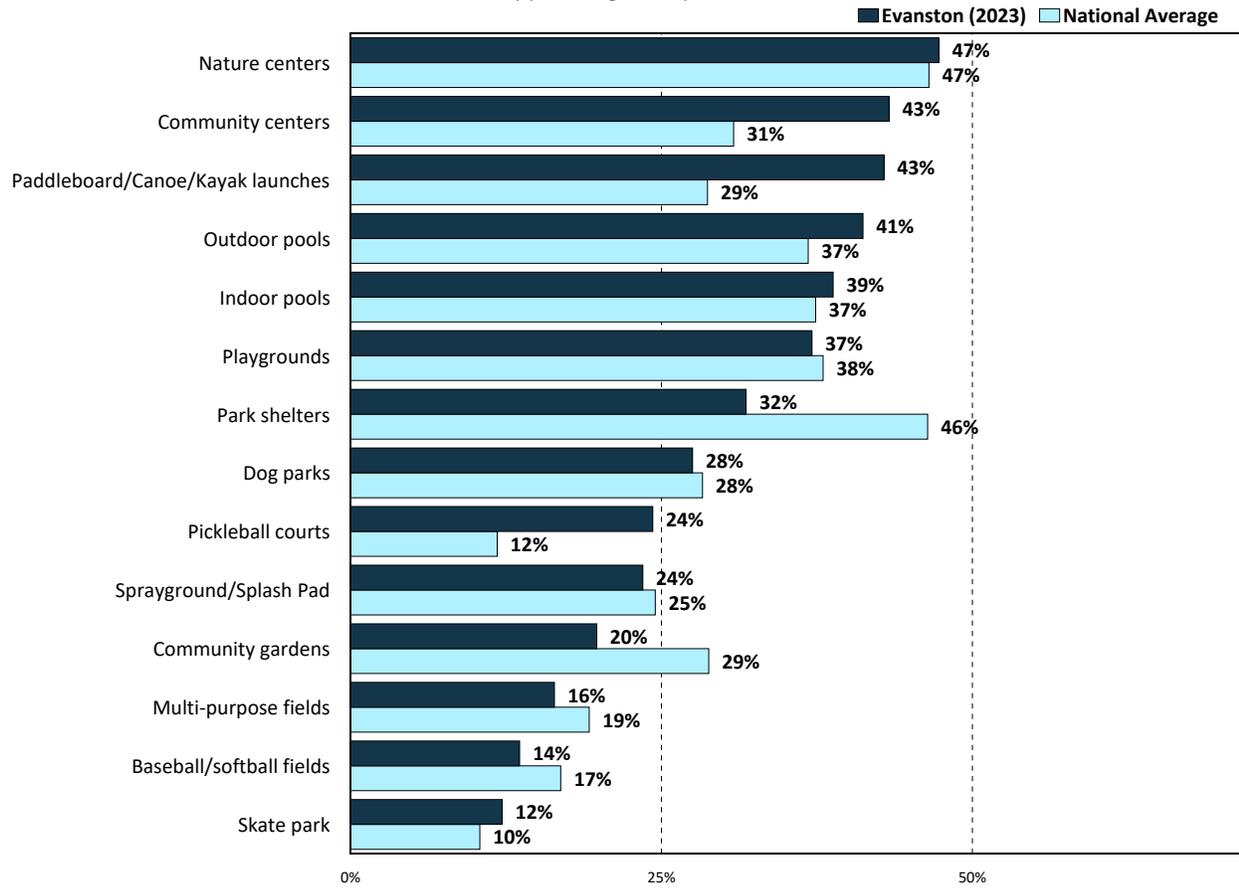
# Ways Households Learn About Activities and Events

by percentage of respondents



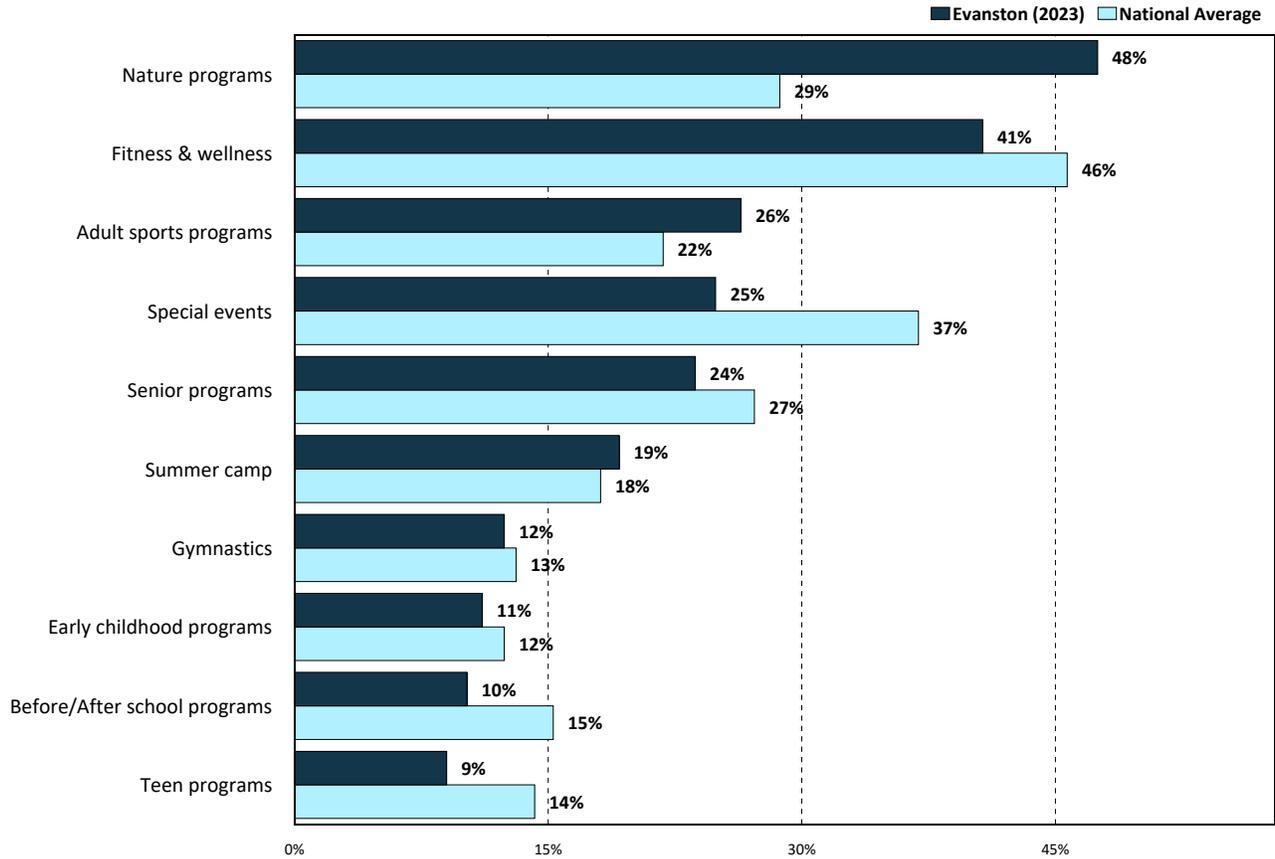
## Respondents with Need for Facilities

by percentage of respondents



## Respondents with Need for Recreation Programs

by percentage of respondents



ETC Institute (2023)

64

# 5

## Tabular Data

**Q1. Please complete this survey with all household members in mind. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...**

	Mean	Sum
number	2.8	1271
Under age 5	0.2	103
Ages 5-9	0.2	105
Ages 10-14	0.1	68
Ages 15-19	0.2	79
Ages 20-24	0.1	58
Ages 25-34	0.3	134
Ages 35-44	0.4	184
Ages 45-54	0.4	161
Ages 55-64	0.4	185
Ages 65-79	0.4	165
Ages 80+	0.1	29

**Q2. Have you or anyone in your household visited any of the parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities operated by the City of Evanston during the past 12 months?**

Q2. Have you visited any City parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park & recreation facilities during past 12 months

	Number	Percent
Yes	461	98.3 %
No	8	1.7 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q2a. Approximately how often have you or anyone in your household visited any of the parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities operated by the City of Evanston during the past 12 months?**

Q2a. How often have you visited any parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park & recreation facilities

	Number	Percent
Daily	89	19.3 %
Multiple times per week	197	42.7 %
Weekly	98	21.3 %
Monthly	58	12.6 %
Once or twice per year	19	4.1 %
Total	461	100.0 %

**Q2b. Overall, how would you rate the quality of ALL the City of Evanston parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities that you and members of your household have used?**

Q2b. How would you rate quality of all City parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park & recreation facilities

	Number	Percent
Excellent	132	28.6 %
Good	258	56.0 %
Fair	61	13.2 %
Poor	8	1.7 %
Not provided	2	0.4 %
Total	461	100.0 %

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")**

**Q2b. Overall, how would you rate the quality of ALL the City of Evanston parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities that you and members of your household have used? (without "not provided")**

Q2b. How would you rate quality of all City parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park & recreation facilities

	Number	Percent
Excellent	132	28.8 %
Good	258	56.2 %
Fair	61	13.3 %
Poor	8	1.7 %
Total	459	100.0 %

**Q2c. Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household don't visit or don't visit more often the parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities offered by the City of Evanston.**

Q2c. All the reasons why your household doesn't visit or doesn't visit more often parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park & recreation facilities

	Number	Percent
Use other City, State, private facilities	50	10.7 %
Too far from home	23	4.9 %
Too busy/don't have time	159	33.9 %
Not aware of park or facility locations	15	3.2 %
Parks or facilities are not well maintained	42	9.0 %
Old & outdated facilities	80	17.1 %
Lack of facilities for teens	28	6.0 %
Lack of parking to access parks/facilities	39	8.3 %
Do not feel safe using parks/facilities	28	6.0 %
Facilities don't meet needs	34	7.2 %
Lack of accessibility for people with disabilities	12	2.6 %
Do not feel welcomed or accommodated	6	1.3 %
Lack of facilities for neurodivergent community members	3	0.6 %
Lack of transportation	17	3.6 %
Lack of restrooms	95	20.3 %
Fees are too high/lack of financial assistance	21	4.5 %
Age barriers	6	1.3 %
Lack of childcare	10	2.1 %
Other	32	6.8 %
Total	700	

**Q3. Have you or other members of your household participated in any activities (such as programs, sports leagues, or events) offered by the City of Evanston during the past 12 months?**

Q3. Have you participated in any City activities during past 12 months	Number	Percent
Yes	211	45.0 %
No	258	55.0 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q3a. Approximately how many different activities (such as programs, sports leagues, or events) offered by the City of Evanston have you or members of your household participated in over the past 12 months?**

Q3a. How many different activities has your household participated in	Number	Percent
1 activity	36	17.1 %
2-3 activities	100	47.4 %
4-6 activities	49	23.2 %
7-10 activities	17	8.1 %
11+ activities	9	4.3 %
Total	211	100.0 %

**Q3b. Overall, how would you rate the quality of ALL the activities (such as programs, sports leagues, or events) offered by the City of Evanston that you have participated in?**

Q3b. How would you rate quality of all activities you have participated in	Number	Percent
Excellent	64	30.3 %
Good	130	61.6 %
Fair	15	7.1 %
Poor	1	0.5 %
Not provided	1	0.5 %
Total	211	100.0 %

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")**

**Q3b. Overall, how would you rate the quality of ALL the activities (such as programs, sports leagues, or events) offered by the City of Evanston that you have participated in? (without "not provided")**

Q3b. How would you rate quality of all activities you have participated in	Number	Percent
Excellent	64	30.5 %
Good	130	61.9 %
Fair	15	7.1 %
Poor	1	0.5 %
Total	210	100.0 %

**Q3c. Please check ALL of the reasons why you and the members of your household don't participate or don't participate more often in the activities (such as programs, sports leagues, and events) offered by the City of Evanston.**

Q3c. All the reasons why your household doesn't participate or doesn't participate more often in City activities

	Number	Percent
I don't know what is offered	84	32.6 %
Use programs of other agencies	33	12.8 %
Lack of quality instructors	6	2.3 %
Lack of quality programs	9	3.5 %
Prefer individual activities	59	22.9 %
Too far from home	8	3.1 %
Program times are not convenient	36	14.0 %
Classes are full	12	4.7 %
Do not feel safe	4	1.6 %
Lack of accessibility for people with disabilities	3	1.2 %
Fees are too high or lack of financial assistance	18	7.0 %
Do not feel welcomed or accommodated	5	1.9 %
Lack of teen activities	5	1.9 %
Registration is difficult	13	5.0 %
Lack of transportation	10	3.9 %
Lack of childcare options	4	1.6 %
Too busy or not interested	87	33.7 %
Language or cultural barriers	3	1.2 %
Age barriers	17	6.6 %
Parking issues	8	3.1 %
Other	16	6.2 %
Total	440	

**Q4. How do you typically travel to visit City of Evanston parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities?**

(N=469)

	Most often	Sometimes	Rarely/never	Not provided
Q4-1. Walk	57.1%	29.9%	5.3%	7.7%
Q4-2. Bicycle	9.8%	40.1%	30.3%	19.8%
Q4-3. Bus/public transit	0.6%	6.6%	64.6%	28.1%
Q4-4. Drive in a personal vehicle-10 minutes or less	32.8%	42.6%	14.9%	9.6%
Q4-5. Drive in a personal vehicle-10 minutes or more	13.4%	24.9%	35.8%	25.8%
Q4-6. Other	0.0%	71.4%	28.6%	0.0%

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")****Q4. How do you typically travel to visit City of Evanston parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities? (without "not provided")**

(N=469)

	Most often	Sometimes	Rarely/never
Q4-1. Walk	61.9%	32.3%	5.8%
Q4-2. Bicycle	12.2%	50.0%	37.8%
Q4-3. Bus/public transit	0.9%	9.2%	89.9%
Q4-4. Drive in a personal vehicle-10 minutes or less	36.3%	47.2%	16.5%
Q4-5. Drive in a personal vehicle-10 minutes or more	18.1%	33.6%	48.3%
Q4-6. Other	0.0%	71.4%	28.6%

**Q4-6. Other**

Q4-6. Other	Number	Percent
Skateboard, rollerblade, scooter	1	14.3 %
Via electric scooter	1	14.3 %
Car share	1	14.3 %
Ride with friends	1	14.3 %
Jog	1	14.3 %
Electric scooter	1	14.3 %
Roller skate	1	14.3 %
Total	7	100.0 %

**Q5. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements by circling the corresponding number.**

(N=469)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q5-1. Contribute to a sense of community	58.6%	29.0%	8.3%	1.5%	0.6%	1.9%
Q5-2. Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	60.6%	28.8%	7.7%	0.4%	0.4%	2.1%
Q5-3. Improve quality of life in City	70.4%	23.5%	3.0%	1.1%	0.2%	1.9%
Q5-4. Help community members connect with nature	56.3%	29.9%	9.8%	1.3%	0.4%	2.3%
Q5-5. Help preserve open space & the environment	63.1%	27.3%	5.8%	0.6%	0.2%	3.0%
Q5-6. Protect historical attributes of City & region	34.8%	27.5%	26.9%	4.3%	0.9%	5.8%
Q5-7. Help attract new community members & businesses	31.8%	30.9%	26.0%	3.8%	1.1%	6.4%
Q5-8. Provide tourism revenues/contributes to City's tourism economy	21.1%	24.5%	29.4%	10.9%	2.1%	11.9%
Q5-9. Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	11.7%	23.2%	33.3%	14.7%	2.6%	14.5%
Q5-10. Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	29.2%	35.8%	19.0%	5.5%	0.9%	9.6%
Q5-11. Provide ample access to recreation & nature	33.9%	45.0%	11.7%	4.9%	0.9%	3.6%
Q5-12. Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	26.7%	38.4%	17.7%	6.0%	0.4%	10.9%

**Q5. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements by circling the corresponding number.**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q5-13. Provide access to arts & culture	22.8%	41.2%	22.0%	6.4%	0.6%	7.0%
Q5-14. Are equitably distributed throughout the community	13.2%	29.9%	23.9%	15.1%	2.3%	15.6%
Q5-15. Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	26.7%	31.8%	20.0%	5.1%	1.7%	14.7%
Q5-16. Other	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	33.3%	0.0%

**(WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW")****Q5. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements by circling the corresponding number. (without "don't know")**

(N=469)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Q5-1. Contribute to a sense of community	59.8%	29.6%	8.5%	1.5%	0.7%
Q5-2. Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	61.9%	29.4%	7.8%	0.4%	0.4%
Q5-3. Improve quality of life in City	71.7%	23.9%	3.0%	1.1%	0.2%
Q5-4. Help community members connect with nature	57.6%	30.6%	10.0%	1.3%	0.4%
Q5-5. Help preserve open space & the environment	65.1%	28.1%	5.9%	0.7%	0.2%
Q5-6. Protect historical attributes of City & region	36.9%	29.2%	28.5%	4.5%	0.9%
Q5-7. Help attract new community members & businesses	33.9%	33.0%	27.8%	4.1%	1.1%
Q5-8. Provide tourism revenues/ contributes to City's tourism economy	24.0%	27.8%	33.4%	12.3%	2.4%
Q5-9. Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	13.7%	27.2%	38.9%	17.2%	3.0%
Q5-10. Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	32.3%	39.6%	21.0%	6.1%	0.9%
Q5-11. Provide ample access to recreation & nature	35.2%	46.7%	12.2%	5.1%	0.9%
Q5-12. Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	29.9%	43.1%	19.9%	6.7%	0.5%
Q5-13. Provide access to arts & culture	24.5%	44.3%	23.6%	6.9%	0.7%
Q5-14. Are equitably distributed throughout the community	15.7%	35.4%	28.3%	17.9%	2.8%
Q5-15. Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	31.3%	37.3%	23.5%	6.0%	2.0%
Q5-16. Other	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	33.3%

**Q6. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

<u>Q6. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Contribute to a sense of community	95	20.3 %
Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	108	23.0 %
Improve quality of life in City	93	19.8 %
Help community members connect with nature	26	5.5 %
Help preserve open space & the environment	34	7.2 %
Protect historical attributes of City & region	2	0.4 %
Help attract new community members & businesses	5	1.1 %
Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	1	0.2 %
Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	18	3.8 %
Provide ample access to recreation & nature	24	5.1 %
Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	9	1.9 %
Provide access to arts & culture	1	0.2 %
Are equitably distributed throughout the community	11	2.3 %
Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	17	3.6 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>5.3 %</u>
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q6. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

<u>Q6. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Contribute to a sense of community	34	7.2 %
Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	79	16.8 %
Improve quality of life in City	70	14.9 %
Help community members connect with nature	43	9.2 %
Help preserve open space & the environment	82	17.5 %
Protect historical attributes of City & region	6	1.3 %
Help attract new community members & businesses	6	1.3 %
Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	11	2.3 %
Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	33	7.0 %
Provide ample access to recreation & nature	36	7.7 %
Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	12	2.6 %
Provide access to arts & culture	5	1.1 %
Are equitably distributed throughout the community	10	2.1 %
Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	15	3.2 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>5.8 %</u>
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q6. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

Q6. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Contribute to a sense of community	48	10.2 %
Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	45	9.6 %
Improve quality of life in City	67	14.3 %
Help community members connect with nature	42	9.0 %
Help preserve open space & the environment	58	12.4 %
Protect historical attributes of City & region	9	1.9 %
Help attract new community members & businesses	13	2.8 %
Provide tourism revenues/contributes to City's tourism economy	3	0.6 %
Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	3	0.6 %
Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	36	7.7 %
Provide ample access to recreation & nature	40	8.5 %
Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	22	4.7 %
Provide access to arts & culture	12	2.6 %
Are equitably distributed throughout the community	22	4.7 %
Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	17	3.6 %
None chosen	32	6.8 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(SUM OF TOP 3)**

**Q6. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? (top 3)**

Q6. Top choice	Number	Percent
Contribute to a sense of community	177	37.7 %
Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	232	49.5 %
Improve quality of life in City	230	49.0 %
Help community members connect with nature	111	23.7 %
Help preserve open space & the environment	174	37.1 %
Protect historical attributes of City & region	17	3.6 %
Help attract new community members & businesses	24	5.1 %
Provide tourism revenues/contributes to City's tourism economy	3	0.6 %
Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	15	3.2 %
Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	87	18.6 %
Provide ample access to recreation & nature	100	21.3 %
Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	43	9.2 %
Provide access to arts & culture	18	3.8 %
Are equitably distributed throughout the community	43	9.2 %
Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	49	10.4 %
None chosen	25	5.3 %
Total	1348	

**Q7. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to the future of the City of Evanston?**

<u>Q7. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Contribute to a sense of community	110	23.5 %
Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	57	12.2 %
Improve quality of life in City	91	19.4 %
Help community members connect with nature	11	2.3 %
Help preserve open space & the environment	37	7.9 %
Protect historical attributes of City & region	4	0.9 %
Help attract new community members & businesses	18	3.8 %
Provide tourism revenues/contributes to City's tourism economy	7	1.5 %
Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	19	4.1 %
Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	17	3.6 %
Provide ample access to recreation & nature	12	2.6 %
Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	15	3.2 %
Provide access to arts & culture	1	0.2 %
Are equitably distributed throughout the community	14	3.0 %
Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	30	6.4 %
None chosen	26	5.5 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

**Q7. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to the future of the City of Evanston?**

<u>Q7. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Contribute to a sense of community	37	7.9 %
Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	57	12.2 %
Improve quality of life in City	76	16.2 %
Help community members connect with nature	17	3.6 %
Help preserve open space & the environment	57	12.2 %
Protect historical attributes of City & region	16	3.4 %
Help attract new community members & businesses	44	9.4 %
Provide tourism revenues/contributes to City's tourism economy	17	3.6 %
Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	15	3.2 %
Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	28	6.0 %
Provide ample access to recreation & nature	18	3.8 %
Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	23	4.9 %
Provide access to arts & culture	6	1.3 %
Are equitably distributed throughout the community	13	2.8 %
Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	14	3.0 %
None chosen	31	6.6 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

**Q7. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to the future of the City of Evanston?**

<u>Q7. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Contribute to a sense of community	40	8.5 %
Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	35	7.5 %
Improve quality of life in City	41	8.7 %
Help community members connect with nature	18	3.8 %
Help preserve open space & the environment	45	9.6 %
Protect historical attributes of City & region	17	3.6 %
Help attract new community members & businesses	30	6.4 %
Provide tourism revenues/contributes to City's tourism economy	15	3.2 %
Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	18	3.8 %
Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	41	8.7 %
Provide ample access to recreation & nature	22	4.7 %
Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	24	5.1 %
Provide access to arts & culture	16	3.4 %
Are equitably distributed throughout the community	30	6.4 %
Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	38	8.1 %
None chosen	39	8.3 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

**(SUM OF TOP 3)**

**Q7. Which THREE of the items listed in Question 5 are MOST IMPORTANT to the future of the City of Evanston? (top 3)**

<u>Q7. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Contribute to a sense of community	187	39.9 %
Improve health, wellbeing, & fitness of community members	149	31.8 %
Improve quality of life in City	208	44.3 %
Help community members connect with nature	46	9.8 %
Help preserve open space & the environment	139	29.6 %
Protect historical attributes of City & region	37	7.9 %
Help attract new community members & businesses	92	19.6 %
Provide tourism revenues/contributes to City's tourism economy	39	8.3 %
Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	52	11.1 %
Provide activities, programs, & events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	86	18.3 %
Provide ample access to recreation & nature	52	11.1 %
Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	62	13.2 %
Provide access to arts & culture	23	4.9 %
Are equitably distributed throughout the community	57	12.2 %
Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water & air quality & provide cool spaces on hot days)	82	17.5 %
None chosen	26	5.5 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>1337</b>	

**Q8. Please indicate if YOU or any members of your household currently ATTEND or WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND each of the activities, programs, or events listed below.**

(N=469)

	Yes	No
Q8-1. Aquatics	41.8%	58.2%
Q8-2. Athletics & Sports Leagues, Adult	26.4%	73.6%
Q8-3. Athletics & Sports Leagues, Youth	21.5%	78.5%
Q8-4. Before/After School Programs	10.2%	89.8%
Q8-5. Childcare	8.5%	91.5%
Q8-6. Community Gardening	25.2%	74.8%
Q8-7. Concerts in the Park	72.1%	27.9%
Q8-8. Early Childhood Programs (up to age 5)	11.1%	88.9%
Q8-9. Family friendly events	35.8%	64.2%
Q8-10. Farmers Market	80.2%	19.8%
Q8-11. Fitness & Wellness (i.e., Group Fitness Classes & Personal Training)	40.7%	59.3%
Q8-12. Gymnastics	12.4%	87.6%
Q8-13. Hobbies & Life Skills (i.e., cooking, budgeting, & computer skills)	20.9%	79.1%
Q8-14. Ice Programs (skating, hockey, etc.)	22.2%	77.8%
Q8-15. Movies & Concerts in the Park	62.5%	37.5%
Q8-16. Nature, Environment, & Ecology (i.e., bird watching, nature learning activities)	47.5%	52.5%
Q8-17. Outdoor Adventure (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, & camping)	43.9%	56.1%
Q8-18. Preschool & Kindergarten Sports	11.5%	88.5%

**Q8. Please indicate if YOU or any members of your household currently ATTEND or WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND each of the activities, programs, or events listed below.**

	Yes	No
Q8-19. Preschool Art & Music	10.2%	89.8%
Q8-20. Rentals for Social Occasions/ Events (such as spaces for birthday parties)	24.9%	75.1%
Q8-21. Robotics & eSports	5.8%	94.2%
Q8-22. Senior Programs (ages 55 & up)	23.7%	76.3%
Q8-23. Special Events	24.9%	75.1%
Q8-24. Special Olympics (competition)	4.5%	95.5%
Q8-25. Special Recreation (programmed activities)	9.4%	90.6%
Q8-26. Summer Camp	19.2%	80.8%
Q8-27. Teen Programs (ages 13 to 17)	9.0%	91.0%
Q8-28. Visual & Performing Arts (such as dance & music classes)	28.4%	71.6%

**Q8. If "Yes," please indicate how well your needs are being met.**

(N=456)

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q8-1. Aquatics	20.4%	13.3%	21.5%	21.5%	23.2%
Q8-2. Athletics & Sports Leagues, Adult	6.8%	16.2%	19.7%	28.2%	29.1%
Q8-3. Athletics & Sports Leagues, Youth	24.0%	19.8%	26.0%	16.7%	13.5%
Q8-4. Before/After School Programs	12.2%	17.1%	19.5%	26.8%	24.4%
Q8-5. Childcare	8.1%	5.4%	16.2%	18.9%	51.4%
Q8-6. Community Gardening	17.6%	16.7%	19.6%	30.4%	15.7%
Q8-7. Concerts in the Park	26.2%	30.4%	23.0%	14.4%	6.1%
Q8-8. Early Childhood Programs (up to age 5)	6.5%	19.6%	30.4%	17.4%	26.1%
Q8-9. Family friendly events	24.1%	33.5%	24.7%	15.8%	1.9%
Q8-10. Farmers Market	60.9%	21.2%	10.8%	4.5%	2.5%
Q8-11. Fitness & Wellness (i.e., Group Fitness Classes & Personal Training)	11.6%	19.2%	26.2%	27.3%	15.7%
Q8-12. Gymnastics	19.6%	19.6%	21.4%	12.5%	26.8%
Q8-13. Hobbies & Life Skills (i.e., cooking, budgeting, & computer skills)	3.5%	14.1%	18.8%	41.2%	22.4%
Q8-14. Ice Programs (skating, hockey, etc.)	36.7%	28.6%	12.2%	12.2%	10.2%
Q8-15. Movies & Concerts in the Park	27.1%	27.9%	24.2%	16.0%	4.8%
Q8-16. Nature, Environment, & Ecology (i.e., bird watching, nature learning activities)	24.1%	28.1%	19.7%	16.7%	11.3%
Q8-17. Outdoor Adventure (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, & camping)	7.4%	16.0%	18.1%	28.7%	29.8%
Q8-18. Preschool & Kindergarten Sports	8.5%	6.4%	19.1%	38.3%	27.7%

**Q8. If "Yes," please indicate how well your needs are being met.**

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q8-19. Preschool Art & Music	2.3%	14.0%	30.2%	23.3%	30.2%
Q8-20. Rentals for Social Occasions/ Events (such as spaces for birthday parties)	23.4%	29.7%	27.0%	9.9%	9.9%
Q8-21. Robotics & eSports	18.5%	14.8%	25.9%	14.8%	25.9%
Q8-22. Senior Programs (ages 55 & up)	11.2%	35.7%	26.5%	16.3%	10.2%
Q8-23. Special Events	18.4%	26.2%	27.2%	18.4%	9.7%
Q8-24. Special Olympics (competition)	5.9%	5.9%	41.2%	11.8%	35.3%
Q8-25. Special Recreation (programmed activities)	10.0%	27.5%	20.0%	12.5%	30.0%
Q8-26. Summer Camp	37.3%	20.5%	19.3%	13.3%	9.6%
Q8-27. Teen Programs (ages 13 to 17)	0.0%	17.5%	25.0%	22.5%	35.0%
Q8-28. Visual & Performing Arts (such as dance & music classes)	5.1%	18.6%	29.7%	28.0%	18.6%

**Q9. Which FOUR activities, programs or events from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

<u>Q9. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Aquatics	37	7.9 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Adult	21	4.5 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Youth	29	6.2 %
Before/After School Programs	3	0.6 %
Childcare	5	1.1 %
Community Gardening	13	2.8 %
Concerts in the Park	41	8.7 %
Early Childhood Programs (up to age 5)	13	2.8 %
Family friendly events	24	5.1 %
Farmers Market	96	20.5 %
Fitness & Wellness (i.e., Group Fitness Classes & Personal Training)	17	3.6 %
Gymnastics	3	0.6 %
Hobbies & Life Skills (i.e., cooking, budgeting, & computer skills)	2	0.4 %
Ice Programs (skating, hockey, etc.)	7	1.5 %
Movies & Concerts in the Park	18	3.8 %
Nature, Environment, & Ecology (i.e., bird watching, nature learning activities)	31	6.6 %
Outdoor Adventure (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, & camping)	12	2.6 %
Preschool & Kindergarten Sports	2	0.4 %
Rentals for Social Occasions/Events (such as spaces for birthday parties)	2	0.4 %
Senior Programs (ages 55 & up)	17	3.6 %
Special Events	4	0.9 %
Special Olympics (competition)	2	0.4 %
Special Recreation (programmed activities)	2	0.4 %
Summer Camp	9	1.9 %
Teen Programs (ages 13 to 17)	4	0.9 %
Visual & Performing Arts (such as dance & music classes)	6	1.3 %
None chosen	49	10.4 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

**Q9. Which FOUR activities, programs or events from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

Q9. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Aquatics	31	6.6 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Adult	18	3.8 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Youth	12	2.6 %
Before/After School Programs	8	1.7 %
Childcare	6	1.3 %
Community Gardening	15	3.2 %
Concerts in the Park	46	9.8 %
Early Childhood Programs (up to age 5)	4	0.9 %
Family friendly events	18	3.8 %
Farmers Market	72	15.4 %
Fitness & Wellness (i.e., Group Fitness Classes & Personal Training)	21	4.5 %
Gymnastics	3	0.6 %
Hobbies & Life Skills (i.e., cooking, budgeting, & computer skills)	6	1.3 %
Ice Programs (skating, hockey, etc.)	10	2.1 %
Movies & Concerts in the Park	34	7.2 %
Nature, Environment, & Ecology (i.e., bird watching, nature learning activities)	28	6.0 %
Outdoor Adventure (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, & camping)	13	2.8 %
Preschool & Kindergarten Sports	9	1.9 %
Preschool Art & Music	3	0.6 %
Rentals for Social Occasions/Events (such as spaces for birthday parties)	5	1.1 %
Senior Programs (ages 55 & up)	12	2.6 %
Special Events	8	1.7 %
Special Olympics (competition)	2	0.4 %
Special Recreation (programmed activities)	1	0.2 %
Summer Camp	13	2.8 %
Teen Programs (ages 13 to 17)	3	0.6 %
Visual & Performing Arts (such as dance & music classes)	11	2.3 %
None chosen	57	12.2 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q9. Which FOUR activities, programs or events from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

Q9. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Aquatics	18	3.8 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Adult	9	1.9 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Youth	15	3.2 %
Before/After School Programs	3	0.6 %
Childcare	2	0.4 %
Community Gardening	4	0.9 %
Concerts in the Park	37	7.9 %
Early Childhood Programs (up to age 5)	7	1.5 %
Family friendly events	24	5.1 %
Farmers Market	54	11.5 %
Fitness & Wellness (i.e., Group Fitness Classes & Personal Training)	29	6.2 %
Gymnastics	7	1.5 %
Hobbies & Life Skills (i.e., cooking, budgeting, & computer skills)	8	1.7 %
Ice Programs (skating, hockey, etc.)	6	1.3 %
Movies & Concerts in the Park	38	8.1 %
Nature, Environment, & Ecology (i.e., bird watching, nature learning activities)	32	6.8 %
Outdoor Adventure (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, & camping)	22	4.7 %
Preschool & Kindergarten Sports	4	0.9 %
Preschool Art & Music	2	0.4 %
Rentals for Social Occasions/Events (such as spaces for birthday parties)	5	1.1 %
Senior Programs (ages 55 & up)	23	4.9 %
Special Events	9	1.9 %
Special Recreation (programmed activities)	2	0.4 %
Summer Camp	7	1.5 %
Teen Programs (ages 13 to 17)	4	0.9 %
Visual & Performing Arts (such as dance & music classes)	5	1.1 %
None chosen	93	19.8 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q9. Which FOUR activities, programs or events from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

Q9. 4th choice	Number	Percent
Aquatics	16	3.4 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Adult	9	1.9 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Youth	4	0.9 %
Before/After School Programs	4	0.9 %
Childcare	3	0.6 %
Community Gardening	15	3.2 %
Concerts in the Park	28	6.0 %
Early Childhood Programs (up to age 5)	4	0.9 %
Family friendly events	23	4.9 %
Farmers Market	27	5.8 %
Fitness & Wellness (i.e., Group Fitness Classes & Personal Training)	19	4.1 %
Gymnastics	6	1.3 %
Hobbies & Life Skills (i.e., cooking, budgeting, & computer skills)	10	2.1 %
Ice Programs (skating, hockey, etc.)	11	2.3 %
Movies & Concerts in the Park	44	9.4 %
Nature, Environment, & Ecology (i.e., bird watching, nature learning activities)	22	4.7 %
Outdoor Adventure (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, & camping)	27	5.8 %
Preschool & Kindergarten Sports	3	0.6 %
Preschool Art & Music	5	1.1 %
Rentals for Social Occasions/Events (such as spaces for birthday parties)	13	2.8 %
Robotics & eSports	1	0.2 %
Senior Programs (ages 55 & up)	7	1.5 %
Special Events	13	2.8 %
Special Recreation (programmed activities)	8	1.7 %
Summer Camp	4	0.9 %
Teen Programs (ages 13 to 17)	7	1.5 %
Visual & Performing Arts (such as dance & music classes)	12	2.6 %
None chosen	124	26.4 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(SUM OF TOP 4)****Q9. Which FOUR activities, programs or events from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? (top 4)**

Q9. Top choice	Number	Percent
Aquatics	102	21.7 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Adult	57	12.2 %
Athletics & Sports Leagues, Youth	60	12.8 %
Before/After School Programs	18	3.8 %
Childcare	16	3.4 %
Community Gardening	47	10.0 %
Concerts in the Park	152	32.4 %
Early Childhood Programs (up to age 5)	28	6.0 %
Family friendly events	89	19.0 %
Farmers Market	249	53.1 %
Fitness & Wellness (i.e., Group Fitness Classes & Personal Training)	86	18.3 %
Gymnastics	19	4.1 %
Hobbies & Life Skills (i.e., cooking, budgeting, & computer skills)	26	5.5 %
Ice Programs (skating, hockey, etc.)	34	7.2 %
Movies & Concerts in the Park	134	28.6 %
Nature, Environment, & Ecology (i.e., bird watching, nature learning activities)	113	24.1 %
Outdoor Adventure (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, & camping)	74	15.8 %
Preschool & Kindergarten Sports	18	3.8 %
Preschool Art & Music	10	2.1 %
Rentals for Social Occasions/Events (such as spaces for birthday parties)	25	5.3 %
Robotics & eSports	1	0.2 %
Senior Programs (ages 55 & up)	59	12.6 %
Special Events	34	7.2 %
Special Olympics (competition)	4	0.9 %
Special Recreation (programmed activities)	13	2.8 %
Summer Camp	33	7.0 %
Teen Programs (ages 13 to 17)	18	3.8 %
Visual & Performing Arts (such as dance & music classes)	34	7.2 %
None chosen	49	10.4 %
Total	1602	

**Q10. Please indicate if YOU or any members of your household currently USE or WOULD LIKE TO USE each of the facilities listed below.**

(N=469)

	Yes	No
Q10-1. Art Installations	37.7%	62.3%
Q10-2. Baseball/Softball Fields	13.6%	86.4%
Q10-3. Basketball Courts	19.4%	80.6%
Q10-4. Beaches & Waterfront Access	84.4%	15.6%
Q10-5. Bird & Wildlife Habitat Areas	52.0%	48.0%
Q10-6. Climbing Walls	27.9%	72.1%
Q10-7. Community Centers	43.3%	56.7%
Q10-8. Community Garden Plots	19.8%	80.2%
Q10-9. Dog Beach	29.0%	71.0%
Q10-10. Dog Parks	27.5%	72.5%
Q10-11. Educational Signage	13.6%	86.4%
Q10-12. Football Fields	5.1%	94.9%
Q10-13. Ice Rink-Indoor	25.6%	74.4%
Q10-14. Ice Rink-Outdoor	22.2%	77.8%
Q10-15. Inclusive Play Areas (e.g., full access for people with disabilities)	12.6%	87.4%
Q10-16. Natural Play Areas	31.3%	68.7%
Q10-17. Nature Centers	47.3%	52.7%
Q10-18. Paddleboard/Canoe/Kayak Launches	42.9%	57.1%
Q10-19. Park Shelters	31.8%	68.2%
Q10-20. Parks with Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, & Wildflower Meadows	45.4%	54.6%

**Q10. Please indicate if YOU or any members of your household currently USE or WOULD LIKE TO USE each of the facilities listed below.**

	Yes	No
Q10-21. Paths-Paved/Unpaved	68.2%	31.8%
Q10-22. Lighted Sports Fields	14.9%	85.1%
Q10-23. Performance Spaces	21.5%	78.5%
Q10-24. Pickleball Courts	24.3%	75.7%
Q10-25. Picnic Areas	41.2%	58.8%
Q10-26. Playgrounds & Play Areas	37.1%	62.9%
Q10-27. Pools-Indoor	38.8%	61.2%
Q10-28. Pools-Outdoor	41.2%	58.8%
Q10-29. Skate Park	12.2%	87.8%
Q10-30. Soccer/Lacrosse/Multi-purpose Fields	16.4%	83.6%
Q10-31. Sprayground/Splash Pad	23.5%	76.5%
Q10-32. Teen Drop-in Centers	10.0%	90.0%
Q10-33. Tennis Courts	27.1%	72.9%
Q10-34. Tree Canopies/Urban Forests	52.5%	47.5%
Q10-35. Volleyball Courts (Outdoor, Sand)	11.7%	88.3%

**Q10. If "Yes," please indicate how well your needs are being met.**

(N=458)

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q10-1. Art Installations	15.9%	27.4%	29.9%	18.3%	8.5%
Q10-2. Baseball/Softball Fields	23.6%	25.5%	25.5%	18.2%	7.3%
Q10-3. Basketball Courts	31.3%	34.9%	25.3%	8.4%	0.0%
Q10-4. Beaches & Waterfront Access	55.8%	32.0%	7.1%	4.8%	0.3%
Q10-5. Bird & Wildlife Habitat Areas	23.8%	34.5%	19.7%	20.2%	1.8%
Q10-6. Climbing Walls	2.5%	0.0%	8.4%	17.6%	71.4%
Q10-7. Community Centers	36.7%	35.6%	14.4%	12.2%	1.1%
Q10-8. Community Garden Plots	16.3%	18.8%	17.5%	27.5%	20.0%
Q10-9. Dog Beach	31.7%	26.0%	17.9%	13.8%	10.6%
Q10-10. Dog Parks	13.0%	17.4%	20.9%	24.3%	24.3%
Q10-11. Educational Signage	12.3%	22.8%	21.1%	24.6%	19.3%
Q10-12. Football Fields	10.0%	35.0%	15.0%	25.0%	15.0%
Q10-13. Ice Rink-Indoor	65.2%	16.5%	7.0%	6.1%	5.2%
Q10-14. Ice Rink-Outdoor	21.6%	14.4%	22.7%	18.6%	22.7%
Q10-15. Inclusive Play Areas (e.g., full access for people with disabilities)	15.7%	11.8%	39.2%	23.5%	9.8%
Q10-16. Natural Play Areas	16.3%	20.0%	26.7%	23.0%	14.1%
Q10-17. Nature Centers	29.4%	30.4%	20.1%	12.3%	7.8%
Q10-18. Paddleboard/Canoe/Kayak Launches	15.1%	16.2%	21.8%	25.7%	21.2%
Q10-19. Park Shelters	16.9%	28.7%	31.6%	16.2%	6.6%
Q10-20. Parks with Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, & Wildflower Meadows	13.9%	21.6%	24.7%	26.3%	13.4%

**Q10. If "Yes," please indicate how well your needs are being met.**

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q10-21. Paths-Paved/Unpaved	37.9%	33.9%	17.4%	10.7%	0.0%
Q10-22. Lighted Sports Fields	20.3%	28.1%	28.1%	17.2%	6.3%
Q10-23. Performance Spaces	12.4%	23.6%	29.2%	19.1%	15.7%
Q10-24. Pickleball Courts	11.8%	7.8%	17.6%	38.2%	24.5%
Q10-25. Picnic Areas	25.3%	35.4%	25.8%	10.1%	3.4%
Q10-26. Playgrounds & Play Areas	41.9%	30.6%	20.0%	6.3%	1.3%
Q10-27. Pools-Indoor	4.8%	6.6%	9.6%	12.6%	66.5%
Q10-28. Pools-Outdoor	2.8%	2.2%	7.3%	8.4%	79.2%
Q10-29. Skate Park	6.0%	0.0%	16.0%	24.0%	54.0%
Q10-30. Soccer/Lacrosse/Multi-purpose Fields	27.8%	23.6%	29.2%	13.9%	5.6%
Q10-31. Sprayground/Splash Pad	2.9%	5.8%	7.8%	12.6%	70.9%
Q10-32. Teen Drop-in Centers	10.0%	10.0%	15.0%	32.5%	32.5%
Q10-33. Tennis Courts	27.3%	33.1%	25.6%	10.7%	3.3%
Q10-34. Tree Canopies/Urban Forests	18.3%	21.7%	26.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Q10-35. Volleyball Courts (Outdoor, Sand)	7.7%	17.3%	25.0%	34.6%	15.4%

**Q11. Which FOUR recreation facilities and amenities from the list in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

Q11. Top choice	Number	Percent
Art Installations	9	1.9 %
Baseball/Softball Fields	13	2.8 %
Basketball Courts	7	1.5 %
Beaches & Waterfront Access	163	34.8 %
Bird & Wildlife Habitat Areas	19	4.1 %
Climbing Walls	4	0.9 %
Community Centers	13	2.8 %
Community Garden Plots	6	1.3 %
Dog Beach	10	2.1 %
Dog Parks	15	3.2 %
Educational Signage	1	0.2 %
Football Fields	1	0.2 %
Ice Rink-Indoor	7	1.5 %
Ice Rink-Outdoor	1	0.2 %
Inclusive Play Areas (e.g., full access for people with disabilities)	2	0.4 %
Natural Play Areas	6	1.3 %
Nature Centers	6	1.3 %
Paddleboard/Canoe/Kayak Launches	8	1.7 %
Parks with Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, & Wildflower Meadows	7	1.5 %
Paths-Paved/Unpaved	37	7.9 %
Lighted Sports Fields	2	0.4 %
Performance Spaces	2	0.4 %
Pickleball Courts	11	2.3 %
Playgrounds & Play Areas	19	4.1 %
Pools-Indoor	14	3.0 %
Pools-Outdoor	17	3.6 %
Skate Park	1	0.2 %
Soccer/Lacrosse/Multi-purpose Fields	3	0.6 %
Sprayground/Splash Pad	7	1.5 %
Teen Drop-in Centers	2	0.4 %
Tennis Courts	9	1.9 %
Tree Canopies/Urban Forests	11	2.3 %
Volleyball Courts (Outdoor, Sand)	1	0.2 %
None chosen	35	7.5 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q11. Which FOUR recreation facilities and amenities from the list in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

Q11. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Art Installations	10	2.1 %
Baseball/Softball Fields	3	0.6 %
Basketball Courts	8	1.7 %
Beaches & Waterfront Access	60	12.8 %
Bird & Wildlife Habitat Areas	22	4.7 %
Climbing Walls	9	1.9 %
Community Centers	17	3.6 %
Community Garden Plots	6	1.3 %
Dog Beach	28	6.0 %
Dog Parks	16	3.4 %
Educational Signage	1	0.2 %
Ice Rink-Indoor	10	2.1 %
Ice Rink-Outdoor	6	1.3 %
Inclusive Play Areas (e.g., full access for people with disabilities)	2	0.4 %
Natural Play Areas	13	2.8 %
Nature Centers	19	4.1 %
Paddleboard/Canoe/Kayak Launches	12	2.6 %
Park Shelters	3	0.6 %
Parks with Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, & Wildflower Meadows	22	4.7 %
Paths-Paved/Unpaved	35	7.5 %
Lighted Sports Fields	3	0.6 %
Performance Spaces	1	0.2 %
Pickleball Courts	9	1.9 %
Picnic Areas	8	1.7 %
Playgrounds & Play Areas	19	4.1 %
Pools-Indoor	14	3.0 %
Pools-Outdoor	18	3.8 %
Skate Park	2	0.4 %
Soccer/Lacrosse/Multi-purpose Fields	6	1.3 %
Sprayground/Splash Pad	11	2.3 %
Teen Drop-in Centers	3	0.6 %
Tennis Courts	2	0.4 %
Tree Canopies/Urban Forests	26	5.5 %
None chosen	45	9.6 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q11. Which FOUR recreation facilities and amenities from the list in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

Q11. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Art Installations	7	1.5 %
Baseball/Softball Fields	1	0.2 %
Basketball Courts	5	1.1 %
Beaches & Waterfront Access	36	7.7 %
Bird & Wildlife Habitat Areas	32	6.8 %
Climbing Walls	6	1.3 %
Community Centers	25	5.3 %
Community Garden Plots	6	1.3 %
Dog Beach	9	1.9 %
Dog Parks	16	3.4 %
Educational Signage	2	0.4 %
Football Fields	1	0.2 %
Ice Rink-Indoor	11	2.3 %
Ice Rink-Outdoor	4	0.9 %
Inclusive Play Areas (e.g., full access for people with disabilities)	7	1.5 %
Natural Play Areas	13	2.8 %
Nature Centers	14	3.0 %
Paddleboard/Canoe/Kayak Launches	15	3.2 %
Park Shelters	9	1.9 %
Parks with Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, & Wildflower Meadows	21	4.5 %
Paths-Paved/Unpaved	27	5.8 %
Lighted Sports Fields	4	0.9 %
Performance Spaces	1	0.2 %
Pickleball Courts	14	3.0 %
Picnic Areas	9	1.9 %
Playgrounds & Play Areas	25	5.3 %
Pools-Indoor	11	2.3 %
Pools-Outdoor	24	5.1 %
Skate Park	3	0.6 %
Soccer/Lacrosse/Multi-purpose Fields	6	1.3 %
Sprayground/Splash Pad	10	2.1 %
Teen Drop-in Centers	2	0.4 %
Tennis Courts	12	2.6 %
Tree Canopies/Urban Forests	24	5.1 %
Volleyball Courts (Outdoor, Sand)	1	0.2 %
None chosen	56	11.9 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q11. Which FOUR recreation facilities and amenities from the list in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

Q11. 4th choice	Number	Percent
Art Installations	14	3.0 %
Baseball/Softball Fields	2	0.4 %
Basketball Courts	3	0.6 %
Beaches & Waterfront Access	31	6.6 %
Bird & Wildlife Habitat Areas	20	4.3 %
Climbing Walls	5	1.1 %
Community Centers	24	5.1 %
Community Garden Plots	4	0.9 %
Dog Beach	10	2.1 %
Dog Parks	11	2.3 %
Educational Signage	1	0.2 %
Football Fields	1	0.2 %
Ice Rink-Indoor	5	1.1 %
Ice Rink-Outdoor	3	0.6 %
Inclusive Play Areas (e.g., full access for people with disabilities)	7	1.5 %
Natural Play Areas	22	4.7 %
Nature Centers	18	3.8 %
Paddleboard/Canoe/Kayak Launches	9	1.9 %
Park Shelters	6	1.3 %
Parks with Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, & Wildflower Meadows	28	6.0 %
Paths-Paved/Unpaved	30	6.4 %
Lighted Sports Fields	2	0.4 %
Performance Spaces	6	1.3 %
Pickleball Courts	14	3.0 %
Picnic Areas	8	1.7 %
Playgrounds & Play Areas	19	4.1 %
Pools-Indoor	13	2.8 %
Pools-Outdoor	17	3.6 %
Skate Park	1	0.2 %
Soccer/Lacrosse/Multi-purpose Fields	8	1.7 %
Sprayground/Splash Pad	10	2.1 %
Teen Drop-in Centers	2	0.4 %
Tennis Courts	6	1.3 %
Tree Canopies/Urban Forests	29	6.2 %
Volleyball Courts (Outdoor, Sand)	2	0.4 %
None chosen	78	16.6 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(SUM OF TOP 4)****Q11. Which FOUR recreation facilities and amenities from the list in Question 10 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? (top 4)**

<u>Q11. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Art Installations	40	8.5 %
Baseball/Softball Fields	19	4.1 %
Basketball Courts	23	4.9 %
Beaches & Waterfront Access	290	61.8 %
Bird & Wildlife Habitat Areas	93	19.8 %
Climbing Walls	24	5.1 %
Community Centers	79	16.8 %
Community Garden Plots	22	4.7 %
Dog Beach	57	12.2 %
Dog Parks	58	12.4 %
Educational Signage	5	1.1 %
Football Fields	3	0.6 %
Ice Rink-Indoor	33	7.0 %
Ice Rink-Outdoor	14	3.0 %
Inclusive Play Areas (e.g., full access for people with disabilities)	18	3.8 %
Natural Play Areas	54	11.5 %
Nature Centers	57	12.2 %
Paddleboard/Canoe/Kayak Launches	44	9.4 %
Park Shelters	18	3.8 %
Parks with Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, & Wildflower Meadows	78	16.6 %
Paths-Paved/Unpaved	129	27.5 %
Lighted Sports Fields	11	2.3 %
Performance Spaces	10	2.1 %
Pickleball Courts	48	10.2 %
Picnic Areas	25	5.3 %
Playgrounds & Play Areas	82	17.5 %
Pools-Indoor	52	11.1 %
Pools-Outdoor	76	16.2 %
Skate Park	7	1.5 %
Soccer/Lacrosse/Multi-purpose Fields	23	4.9 %
Sprayground/Splash Pad	38	8.1 %
Teen Drop-in Centers	9	1.9 %
Tennis Courts	29	6.2 %
Tree Canopies/Urban Forests	90	19.2 %
Volleyball Courts (Outdoor, Sand)	4	0.9 %
None chosen	35	7.5 %
Total	1697	

**Q12. From the following list, please check ALL of the following ways you currently use to learn about City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities.**

Q12. All the ways you currently use to learn about City Parks & Recreation Department news, events, programs, & activities

	Number	Percent
Website (cityofevanston.org)	355	75.7 %
Television	4	0.9 %
Newspaper articles	99	21.1 %
Radio	12	2.6 %
Word of mouth	259	55.2 %
Park signage	121	25.8 %
eNewsletters (Citywide or Levy Senior Center)	322	68.7 %
Conversations with staff	25	5.3 %
Print advertisements	45	9.6 %
Nextdoor	32	6.8 %
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	172	36.7 %
School district	40	8.5 %
Promotions at special events	50	10.7 %
Seasonal Program Guide	145	30.9 %
Other	14	3.0 %
Total	1695	

**Q12-15. Other**

Q12-15. Other	Number	Percent
Libraries	2	14.3 %
Evanston Roundtable	2	14.3 %
Drive/bike around the city	1	7.1 %
City texting program	1	7.1 %
Library bulletin board	1	7.1 %
Emails	1	7.1 %
Traveling around the city	1	7.1 %
Evanston review	1	7.1 %
Google maps	1	7.1 %
Evanston Now Site	1	7.1 %
Email	1	7.1 %
Online newspaper articles	1	7.1 %
Total	14	100.0 %

**Q13. Which THREE sources from the list in Question 12 are YOUR MOST PREFERRED SOURCES for learning about the City's Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities?**

Q13. Top choice	Number	Percent
Website (cityofevanston.org)	148	31.6 %
Television	2	0.4 %
Newspaper articles	13	2.8 %
Word of mouth	15	3.2 %
Park signage	6	1.3 %
eNewsletters (Citywide or Levy Senior Center)	167	35.6 %
Print advertisements	4	0.9 %
Nextdoor	1	0.2 %
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	44	9.4 %
School district	1	0.2 %
Promotions at special events	2	0.4 %
Seasonal Program Guide	27	5.8 %
None chosen	39	8.3 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q13. Which THREE sources from the list in Question 12 are YOUR MOST PREFERRED SOURCES for learning about the City's Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities?**

Q13. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Website (cityofevanston.org)	81	17.3 %
Newspaper articles	26	5.5 %
Radio	4	0.9 %
Word of mouth	38	8.1 %
Park signage	24	5.1 %
eNewsletters (Citywide or Levy Senior Center)	90	19.2 %
Conversations with staff	3	0.6 %
Print advertisements	7	1.5 %
Nextdoor	5	1.1 %
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	59	12.6 %
School district	4	0.9 %
Promotions at special events	3	0.6 %
Seasonal Program Guide	51	10.9 %
None chosen	74	15.8 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q13. Which THREE sources from the list in Question 12 are YOUR MOST PREFERRED SOURCES for learning about the City's Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities?**

Q13. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Website (cityofevanston.org)	51	10.9 %
Television	1	0.2 %
Newspaper articles	22	4.7 %
Radio	2	0.4 %
Word of mouth	51	10.9 %
Park signage	27	5.8 %
eNewsletters (Citywide or Levy Senior Center)	40	8.5 %
Conversations with staff	5	1.1 %
Print advertisements	10	2.1 %
Nextdoor	5	1.1 %
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	48	10.2 %
School district	8	1.7 %
Promotions at special events	12	2.6 %
Seasonal Program Guide	64	13.6 %
None chosen	123	26.2 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(SUM OF TOP 3)**

**Q13. Which THREE sources from the list in Question 12 are YOUR MOST PREFERRED SOURCES for learning about the City's Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities? (top 3)**

Q13. Top choice	Number	Percent
Website (cityofevanston.org)	280	59.7 %
Television	3	0.6 %
Newspaper articles	61	13.0 %
Radio	6	1.3 %
Word of mouth	104	22.2 %
Park signage	57	12.2 %
eNewsletters (Citywide or Levy Senior Center)	297	63.3 %
Conversations with staff	8	1.7 %
Print advertisements	21	4.5 %
Nextdoor	11	2.3 %
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	151	32.2 %
School district	13	2.8 %
Promotions at special events	17	3.6 %
Seasonal Program Guide	142	30.3 %
None chosen	39	8.3 %
Total	1210	

**Q14. The following is a list of actions the City of Evanston could take to improve its parks and greenspace offerings. Please indicate your support for each potential action by circling the corresponding number to the right.**

(N=469)

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not sure	Not supportive	Not provided
Q14-1. Acquire land for new park space	46.9%	21.7%	23.2%	8.1%	0.0%
Q14-2. Design & develop new parks on recently acquired park land	62.7%	19.8%	14.7%	2.8%	0.0%
Q14-3. Develop new multiuse community facilities	38.0%	29.6%	26.4%	6.0%	0.0%
Q14-4. Enhance bike & pedestrian access to parks/ facilities	66.1%	19.4%	12.2%	2.3%	0.0%
Q14-5. Focus on daily maintenance of existing parks & facilities	70.4%	21.1%	8.3%	0.2%	0.0%
Q14-6. Improve existing parks infrastructure (e.g., benches, shade structures, water fountains, resurface courts)	70.4%	21.1%	7.5%	1.1%	0.0%
Q14-7. Improve existing path systems (increasing connectivity/ accessibility)	62.3%	23.0%	13.2%	1.5%	0.0%
Q14-8. Improve existing playgrounds	48.0%	32.6%	16.4%	3.0%	0.0%

**Q14. The following is a list of actions the City of Evanston could take to improve its parks and greenspace offerings. Please indicate your support for each potential action by circling the corresponding number to the right.**

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not sure	Not supportive	Not provided
Q14-9. Improve inclusion services or accessibility to programs & facilities	45.8%	27.9%	23.2%	3.0%	0.0%
Q14-10. Improve/add restroom facilities	60.8%	22.6%	14.3%	2.3%	0.0%
Q14-11. Include more places for active sports or play in existing parks	32.0%	30.3%	30.7%	7.0%	0.0%
Q14-12. Incorporate more habitat spaces in existing parks	44.6%	28.4%	23.0%	4.1%	0.0%
Q14-13. Partner with private organizations to provide more park space (e.g., developers)	22.4%	21.5%	39.0%	17.1%	0.0%
Q14-14. Partner with public organizations to provide more park space (e.g., school districts)	39.7%	28.1%	27.5%	4.7%	0.0%
Q14-15. Plant more trees in existing parks	58.6%	22.4%	17.7%	1.3%	0.0%
Q14-16. Provide more recreation programs & events	40.7%	32.2%	25.6%	1.5%	0.0%
Q14-17. Purchase land in areas currently without City parks/facilities	44.1%	23.2%	25.8%	6.8%	0.0%
Q14-18. Renovate or upgrade aging parks & facilities	66.1%	23.2%	9.4%	1.3%	0.0%
Q14-19. Other	6.2%	0.2%	0.6%	0.0%	93.0%

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")**

**Q14. The following is a list of actions the City of Evanston could take to improve its parks and greenspace offerings. Please indicate your support for each potential action by circling the corresponding number to the right. (without "not provided")**

(N=469)

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not sure	Not supportive
Q14-1. Acquire land for new park space	46.9%	21.7%	23.2%	8.1%
Q14-2. Design & develop new parks on recently acquired park land	62.7%	19.8%	14.7%	2.8%
Q14-3. Develop new multiuse community facilities	38.0%	29.6%	26.4%	6.0%
Q14-4. Enhance bike & pedestrian access to parks/facilities	66.1%	19.4%	12.2%	2.3%
Q14-5. Focus on daily maintenance of existing parks & facilities	70.4%	21.1%	8.3%	0.2%
Q14-6. Improve existing parks infrastructure (e.g., benches, shade structures, water fountains, resurface courts)	70.4%	21.1%	7.5%	1.1%
Q14-7. Improve existing path systems (increasing connectivity/accessibility)	62.3%	23.0%	13.2%	1.5%
Q14-8. Improve existing playgrounds	48.0%	32.6%	16.4%	3.0%
Q14-9. Improve inclusion services or accessibility to programs & facilities	45.8%	27.9%	23.2%	3.0%
Q14-10. Improve/add restroom facilities	60.8%	22.6%	14.3%	2.3%
Q14-11. Include more places for active sports or play in existing parks	32.0%	30.3%	30.7%	7.0%
Q14-12. Incorporate more habitat spaces in existing parks	44.6%	28.4%	23.0%	4.1%
Q14-13. Partner with private organizations to provide more park space (e.g., developers)	22.4%	21.5%	39.0%	17.1%
Q14-14. Partner with public organizations to provide more park space (e.g., school districts)	39.7%	28.1%	27.5%	4.7%

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")**

**Q14. The following is a list of actions the City of Evanston could take to improve its parks and greenspace offerings. Please indicate your support for each potential action by circling the corresponding number to the right. (without "not provided")**

	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not sure	Not supportive
Q14-15. Plant more trees in existing parks	58.6%	22.4%	17.7%	1.3%
Q14-16. Provide more recreation programs & events	40.7%	32.2%	25.6%	1.5%
Q14-17. Purchase land in areas currently without City parks/facilities	44.1%	23.2%	25.8%	6.8%
Q14-18. Renovate or upgrade aging parks & facilities	66.1%	23.2%	9.4%	1.3%
Q14-19. Other	87.9%	3.0%	9.1%	0.0%

**Q15. Which THREE of the potential improvements from the list in Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

Q15. Top choice	Number	Percent
Acquire land for new park space	22	4.7 %
Design & develop new parks on recently acquired park land	24	5.1 %
Develop new multiuse community facilities	15	3.2 %
Enhance bike & pedestrian access to parks/facilities	64	13.6 %
Focus on daily maintenance of existing parks & facilities	75	16.0 %
Improve existing parks infrastructure (e.g., benches, shade structures, water fountains, resurface courts)	63	13.4 %
Improve existing path systems (increasing connectivity/ accessibility)	19	4.1 %
Improve existing playgrounds	11	2.3 %
Improve inclusion services or accessibility to programs & facilities	7	1.5 %
Improve/add restroom facilities	24	5.1 %
Include more places for active sports or play in existing parks	7	1.5 %
Incorporate more habitat spaces in existing parks	12	2.6 %
Partner with private organizations to provide more park space (e.g., developers)	1	0.2 %
Partner with public organizations to provide more park space (e.g., school districts)	2	0.4 %
Plant more trees in existing parks	14	3.0 %
Provide more recreation programs & events	7	1.5 %
Purchase land in areas currently without City parks/ facilities	15	3.2 %
Renovate or upgrade aging parks & facilities	37	7.9 %
None chosen	50	10.7 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q15. Which THREE of the potential improvements from the list in Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

<u>Q15. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Acquire land for new park space	9	1.9 %
Design & develop new parks on recently acquired park land	23	4.9 %
Develop new multiuse community facilities	6	1.3 %
Enhance bike & pedestrian access to parks/facilities	37	7.9 %
Focus on daily maintenance of existing parks & facilities	44	9.4 %
Improve existing parks infrastructure (e.g., benches, shade structures, water fountains, resurface courts)	77	16.4 %
Improve existing path systems (increasing connectivity/ accessibility)	31	6.6 %
Improve existing playgrounds	36	7.7 %
Improve inclusion services or accessibility to programs & facilities	11	2.3 %
Improve/add restroom facilities	30	6.4 %
Include more places for active sports or play in existing parks	5	1.1 %
Incorporate more habitat spaces in existing parks	20	4.3 %
Partner with private organizations to provide more park space (e.g., developers)	8	1.7 %
Partner with public organizations to provide more park space (e.g., school districts)	6	1.3 %
Plant more trees in existing parks	14	3.0 %
Provide more recreation programs & events	12	2.6 %
Purchase land in areas currently without City parks/ facilities	13	2.8 %
Renovate or upgrade aging parks & facilities	27	5.8 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>12.8 %</u>
Total	469	100.0 %

**Q15. Which THREE of the potential improvements from the list in Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household?**

<u>Q15. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Acquire land for new park space	10	2.1 %
Design & develop new parks on recently acquired park land	16	3.4 %
Develop new multiuse community facilities	11	2.3 %
Enhance bike & pedestrian access to parks/facilities	21	4.5 %
Focus on daily maintenance of existing parks & facilities	28	6.0 %
Improve existing parks infrastructure (e.g., benches, shade structures, water fountains, resurface courts)	44	9.4 %
Improve existing path systems (increasing connectivity/ accessibility)	24	5.1 %
Improve existing playgrounds	21	4.5 %
Improve inclusion services or accessibility to programs & facilities	15	3.2 %
Improve/add restroom facilities	36	7.7 %
Include more places for active sports or play in existing parks	6	1.3 %
Incorporate more habitat spaces in existing parks	23	4.9 %
Partner with private organizations to provide more park space (e.g., developers)	9	1.9 %
Partner with public organizations to provide more park space (e.g., school districts)	5	1.1 %
Plant more trees in existing parks	33	7.0 %
Provide more recreation programs & events	18	3.8 %
Purchase land in areas currently without City parks/ facilities	22	4.7 %
Renovate or upgrade aging parks & facilities	43	9.2 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>17.9 %</u>
Total	469	100.0 %

**(SUM OF TOP 3)****Q15. Which THREE of the potential improvements from the list in Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? (top 3)**

Q15. Top choice	Number	Percent
Acquire land for new park space	41	8.7 %
Design & develop new parks on recently acquired park land	63	13.4 %
Develop new multiuse community facilities	32	6.8 %
Enhance bike & pedestrian access to parks/facilities	122	26.0 %
Focus on daily maintenance of existing parks & facilities	147	31.3 %
Improve existing parks infrastructure (e.g., benches, shade structures, water fountains, resurface courts)	184	39.2 %
Improve existing path systems (increasing connectivity/ accessibility)	74	15.8 %
Improve existing playgrounds	68	14.5 %
Improve inclusion services or accessibility to programs & facilities	33	7.0 %
Improve/add restroom facilities	90	19.2 %
Include more places for active sports or play in existing parks	18	3.8 %
Incorporate more habitat spaces in existing parks	55	11.7 %
Partner with private organizations to provide more park space (e.g., developers)	18	3.8 %
Partner with public organizations to provide more park space (e.g., school districts)	13	2.8 %
Plant more trees in existing parks	61	13.0 %
Provide more recreation programs & events	37	7.9 %
Purchase land in areas currently without City parks/ facilities	50	10.7 %
Renovate or upgrade aging parks & facilities	107	22.8 %
None chosen	50	10.7 %
Total	1263	

**Q16. What is your age?**

Q16. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	84	17.9 %
35-44	92	19.6 %
45-54	90	19.2 %
55-64	99	21.1 %
65+	94	20.0 %
Not provided	10	2.1 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")****Q16. What is your age? (without "not provided")**

Q16. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	84	18.3 %
35-44	92	20.0 %
45-54	90	19.6 %
55-64	99	21.6 %
65+	94	20.5 %
Total	459	100.0 %

**Q17. How many years have you lived in the City of Evanston?**

Q17. How many years have you lived in City of

Evanston	Number	Percent
0-5	96	20.5 %
6-10	70	14.9 %
11-15	51	10.9 %
16-20	36	7.7 %
21-30	79	16.8 %
31+	132	28.1 %
Not provided	5	1.1 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")****Q17. How many years have you lived in the City of Evanston? (without "not provided")**

Q17. How many years have you lived in City of

Evanston	Number	Percent
0-5	96	20.7 %
6-10	70	15.1 %
11-15	51	11.0 %
16-20	36	7.8 %
21-30	79	17.0 %
31+	132	28.4 %
Total	464	100.0 %

**Q18. Are you or any members of your family of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x ancestry?**

Q18. Are you or any members of your family of

Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x ancestry	Number	Percent
Yes	50	10.7 %
No	405	86.4 %
Not provided	14	3.0 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")****Q18. Are you or any members of your family of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x ancestry? (without "not provided")**

Q18. Are you or any members of your family of

Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x ancestry	Number	Percent
Yes	50	11.0 %
No	405	89.0 %
Total	455	100.0 %

**Q19. Which of the following best describes your race?**

Q19. Your race

	Number	Percent
Asian or Asian Indian	39	8.3 %
Black or African American	73	15.6 %
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	0.6 %
White or Caucasian	305	65.0 %
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	3	0.6 %
Other	40	8.5 %
Total	463	

**Q19-6. Self-describe your race:**

Q19-6. Self-describe your race	Number	Percent
Hispanic	30	75.0 %
Mixed	2	5.0 %
Middle Eastern and White	1	2.5 %
Peruvian	1	2.5 %
Puerto Rican	1	2.5 %
Polish	1	2.5 %
European	1	2.5 %
Jewish	1	2.5 %
Mexican	1	2.5 %
Mexican, White, & Middle Eastern	1	2.5 %
Total	40	100.0 %

**Q20. What is your household income?**

Q20. Your household income	Number	Percent
Under \$25K	33	7.0 %
\$25K-\$49,999	50	10.7 %
\$50K-\$74,999	57	12.2 %
\$75K-\$99,999	88	18.8 %
\$100K-\$149,999	79	16.8 %
\$150K+	96	20.5 %
Not provided	66	14.1 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")****Q20. What is your household income? (without "not provided")**

Q20. Your household income	Number	Percent
Under \$25K	33	8.2 %
\$25K-\$49,999	50	12.4 %
\$50K-\$74,999	57	14.1 %
\$75K-\$99,999	88	21.8 %
\$100K-\$149,999	79	19.6 %
\$150K+	96	23.8 %
Total	403	100.0 %

**Q21. Your gender:**

Q21. Your gender	Number	Percent
Male	222	47.3 %
Female	229	48.8 %
Non-Binary	6	1.3 %
Prefer to self-describe	4	0.9 %
Not provided	8	1.7 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")****Q21. Your gender: (without "not provided")**

Q21. Your gender	Number	Percent
Male	222	48.2 %
Female	229	49.7 %
Non-Binary	6	1.3 %
Prefer to self-describe	4	0.9 %
Total	461	100.0 %

**Q21-4. Self-describe your gender:**

Q21-4. Self-describe your gender	Number	Percent
Agender	1	25.0 %
Fluid	1	25.0 %
Transmale	1	25.0 %
Trans	1	25.0 %
Total	4	100.0 %

**Q22. Does your household own a vehicle?**

Q22. Does your household own a vehicle	Number	Percent
Yes	435	92.8 %
No	29	6.2 %
Not provided	5	1.1 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")****Q22. Does your household own a vehicle? (without "not provided")**

Q22. Does your household own a vehicle	Number	Percent
Yes	435	93.8 %
No	29	6.3 %
Total	464	100.0 %

**Q23. What is the primary language spoken in your home?**

Q23. What is the primary language spoken in your home	Number	Percent
English	451	96.2 %
Spanish	8	1.7 %
Other	5	1.1 %
Not provided	5	1.1 %
Total	469	100.0 %

**(WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED")****Q23. What is the primary language spoken in your home? (without "not provided")**

Q23. What is the primary language spoken in your home	Number	Percent
English	451	97.2 %
Spanish	8	1.7 %
Other	5	1.1 %
Total	464	100.0 %

**Q23-3. Other:**

<u>Q23-3. Other</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Native language	1	20.0 %
Russian	1	20.0 %
German	1	20.0 %
French	1	20.0 %
Serb Coratian	1	20.0 %
Total	5	100.0 %

# 6 Survey Instrument

Dear Evanston Resident,

***Your response to the enclosed survey is extremely important!***

The City of Evanston is conducting a survey to help determine park and green space priorities for our community. The feedback from this survey will also inform recommendations made in the City's Park and Green Space Plan effort. Your household has been selected at random to receive this survey, so your participation is very important.

**We appreciate your time and realize that this survey will take approximately 12 – 15 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 park and green space planning to enhance our community and improve the quality of life for all residents.

We have selected an independent research firm, ETC Institute, to conduct this survey. Your response will remain entirely confidential. Once the data has been gathered and analyzed, ETC will present us with a report of findings that will be made available to the public.

Please return your completed survey within the next two weeks in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061. If you prefer to take the survey online, the address is **[EvanstonParkSurvey.org](https://www.EvanstonParkSurvey.org)**.

If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Murray, ETC Institute's Project Manager, at 913-254-4598 or [Ryan.Murray@etcinstitute.com](mailto:Ryan.Murray@etcinstitute.com).

Don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard and help us meet the ever-changing needs and interests of all community members. For more information about the plan process and to stay up to date on other ways to engage, head to [www.CityofEvanston.org/ParksStrategicPlan](http://www.CityofEvanston.org/ParksStrategicPlan)

Sincerely,

Audrey Thompson  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
City of Evanston

## 2023 Evanston Parks and Green Spaces Community Survey

The City of Evanston would like your input to help determine park and green space priorities for our community. This survey will take 12-15 minutes to complete. We greatly appreciate your time. If you would prefer to complete the survey online, please go to [EvanstonParkSurvey.org](https://www.cityofevanston.org/evanstonparksurvey.org). Your responses will remain completely confidential.

**1. Please complete this survey with all household members in mind. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are...**

Under age 5: \_\_\_\_      Ages 15-19: \_\_\_\_      Ages 35-44: \_\_\_\_      Ages 65-79: \_\_\_\_  
 Ages 5-9: \_\_\_\_      Ages 20-24: \_\_\_\_      Ages 45-54: \_\_\_\_      Ages 80+: \_\_\_\_  
 Ages 10-14: \_\_\_\_      Ages 25-34: \_\_\_\_      Ages 55-64: \_\_\_\_

**2. Have you or anyone in your household visited any of the parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities operated by the City of Evanston during the past 12 months?**

*[If you are unsure about whether the facilities or amenities you use are operated by the City please visit the parks and beaches map on the following website to view all City operated facilities and amenities: <https://www.cityofevanston.org/about-evanston/maps/>]*

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes *[Answer Q2a-2c.]*      \_\_\_\_ (2) No *[Go to Q2c.]*

**2a. Approximately how often have you or anyone in your household visited any of the parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities operated by the City of Evanston during the past 12 months?**

\_\_\_\_(1) Daily      \_\_\_\_ (3) Weekly      \_\_\_\_ (5) Once or twice per year  
 \_\_\_\_ (2) Multiple times per week      \_\_\_\_ (4) Monthly

**2b. Overall, how would you rate the quality of ALL the City of Evanston parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities that you and members of your household have used?**

\_\_\_\_ (4) Excellent      \_\_\_\_ (3) Good      \_\_\_\_ (2) Fair      \_\_\_\_ (1) Poor

**2c. Please check ALL the reasons why you and the members of your household don't visit or don't visit more often the parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities offered by the City of Evanston. *[Check ALL that apply.]***

____ (01) Use other city, state, private facilities	____ (12) Do not feel welcomed or accommodated
____ (02) Too far from home	____ (13) Lack of facilities for neurodivergent community members
____ (03) Too busy/don't have the time	____ (14) Lack of transportation
____ (04) Not aware of park or facility locations	____ (15) Lack of restrooms
____ (05) Parks or facilities are not well maintained	____ (16) Language or cultural barriers
____ (06) Old and outdated facilities	____ (17) Fees are too high/lack of financial assistance
____ (07) Lack of facilities for teens	____ (18) Age barriers
____ (08) Lack of parking to access parks/facilities	____ (19) Lack of childcare
____ (09) Do not feel safe using parks/facilities	____ (20) Other: _____
____ (10) Facilities don't meet needs	
____ (11) Lack of accessibility for people with disabilities	

**3. Have you or other members of your household participated in any activities (such as programs, sports leagues, or events) offered by the City of Evanston during the past 12 months?**

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes *[Answer Q3a-3c.]*      \_\_\_\_ (2) No *[Go to Q3c.]*

**3a. Approximately how many different activities (such as programs, sports leagues, or events) offered by the City of Evanston have you or members of your household participated in over the past 12 months?**

\_\_\_\_ (1) 1 activity      \_\_\_\_ (3) 4-6 activities      \_\_\_\_ (5) 11 or more activities  
 \_\_\_\_ (2) 2-3 activities      \_\_\_\_ (4) 7-10 activities

**3b. Overall, how would you rate the quality of ALL the activities (such as programs, sports leagues, or events) offered by the City of Evanston that you have participated in?**

\_\_\_(4) Excellent    \_\_\_(3) Good    \_\_\_(2) Fair    \_\_\_(1) Poor

**3c. Please check ALL of the reasons why you and the members of your household don't participate or don't participate more often in the activities (such as programs, sports leagues, and events) offered by the City of Evanston. [Check ALL that apply.]**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ___(01) I don't know what is offered                       | ___(11) Fees are too high or lack of financial assistance |
| ___(02) Use programs of other agencies                     | ___(12) Do not feel welcomed or accommodated              |
| ___(03) Lack of quality instructors                        | ___(13) Lack of teen activities                           |
| ___(04) Lack of quality programs                           | ___(14) Registration is difficult                         |
| ___(05) Prefer individual activities                       | ___(15) Lack of transportation                            |
| ___(06) Too far from home                                  | ___(16) Lack of childcare options                         |
| ___(07) Program times are not convenient                   | ___(17) Too busy or not interested                        |
| ___(08) Classes are full                                   | ___(18) Language or cultural barriers                     |
| ___(09) Do not feel safe                                   | ___(19) Age barriers                                      |
| ___(10) Lack of accessibility for people with disabilities | ___(20) Parking issues                                    |
|  | ___(21) Other: _____                                      |

**4. How do you typically travel to visit City of Evanston parks, recreation centers, beaches, or other park and recreation facilities?**

Mode of Travel	Most Often	Sometimes	Rarely/Never
1. Walk	3	2	1
2. Bicycle	3	2	1
3. Bus/public transit	3	2	1
4. Drive in a personal vehicle - 10 minutes or less	3	2	1
5. Drive in a personal vehicle - 10 minutes or more	3	2	1
6. Other: _____	3	2	1

**5. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements by circling the corresponding number.**

The City's parks and green spaces....	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
01. Contribute to a sense of community	5	4	3	2	1	9
02. Improve the health, wellbeing, and fitness of community members	5	4	3	2	1	9
03. Improve the quality of life in the City	5	4	3	2	1	9
04. Help community members connect with nature	5	4	3	2	1	9
05. Help preserve open space and the environment	5	4	3	2	1	9
06. Protect historical attributes of the City and region	5	4	3	2	1	9
07. Help attract new community members and businesses	5	4	3	2	1	9
08. Provide tourism revenues/contributes to the City's tourism economy	5	4	3	2	1	9
09. Help reduce crime in my neighborhood	5	4	3	2	1	9
10. Provide activities, programs, and events that are accessible to all community members regardless of age, ability, or other factors	5	4	3	2	1	9
11. Provide ample access to recreation and nature	5	4	3	2	1	9
12. Are inclusive spaces that support the needs of community members from many different backgrounds	5	4	3	2	1	9
13. Provide access to arts and culture	5	4	3	2	1	9
14. Are equitably distributed throughout the community	5	4	3	2	1	9
15. Help mitigate climate change (such as improve water and air quality and provide cool spaces on hot days)	5	4	3	2	1	9
16. Other: _____	5	4	3	2	1	9

6. Which **THREE** of the items listed in Question 5 are **MOST IMPORTANT** to you and the members of your household? [Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 5, or circle "NONE."]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ NONE

7. Which **THREE** of the items listed in Question 5 are **MOST IMPORTANT** to the future of the City of Evanston? [Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 5, or circle "NONE."]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ NONE

8. Please indicate if **YOU** or any member of your household currently **ATTENDS** or **WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND** each of the activities, programs, or events listed below. If "YES," please answer the questions to the right of the activity, program, or event regarding how well your need for each is currently being met in the City of Evanston. For example, if you indicate you use or would like to attend sports leagues, but you are not aware of any open sports leagues near your home then your need may only be 25% or 0% met.

Type of Recreation Activity, Program, Event	Do you attend or would you like to attend?		If "Yes," how well are your needs being met?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01. Aquatics	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02. Athletics & Sports Leagues, Adult	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03. Athletics & Sports Leagues, Youth	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04. Before/After School Programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05. Childcare	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06. Community gardening	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07. Concerts in the park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08. Early Childhood Programs (up to age 5)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09. Family friendly events	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10. Farmers Market	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11. Fitness and Wellness (i.e., Group Fitness Classes and Personal Training)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12. Gymnastics	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13. Hobbies and Life Skills (i.e., cooking, budgeting, and computer skills)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14. Ice Programs (skating, hockey , etc.)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15. Movies and concerts in the park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16. Nature, Environment, and Ecology (i.e., bird watching, nature learning activities)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17. Outdoor Adventure (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, and camping)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18. Preschool and kindergarten Sports	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19. Preschool art and music	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20. Rentals for special occasions/events (such as spaces for birthday parties)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21. Robotics and E-Sports	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
22. Senior Programs (ages 55 and up)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
23. Special Events	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
24. Special Olympics (competition)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
25. Special Recreation (programmed activities)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
26. Summer Camp	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
27. Teen Programs (ages 13 to 17)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
28. Visual and Performing Arts (such as dance and music classes)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

9. Which **FOUR** activities, programs or events from the list in Question 8 are **MOST IMPORTANT** to you and the members of your household? [Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 8, or circle "NONE."]

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

**10. Please indicate if YOU or any member of your household currently USE or WOULD LIKE TO USE each of the facilities listed below. If "YES," please answer the questions to the right of the facility regarding how well your need for each type of facility is currently being met.**

Type of Facility/Amenity	Do you use or would you like to use?		If "Yes," how well are your needs being met?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01. Art Installations	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02. Baseball/Softball Fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03. Basketball Courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04. Beaches and Waterfront Access	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05. Bird and wildlife habitat areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06. Climbing Walls	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07. Community Centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08. Community garden plots	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09. Dog beach	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10. Dog Parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11. Educational signage	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12. Football Fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13. Ice Rink - Indoor	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14. Ice Rink - Outdoor	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15. Inclusive Play Areas (e.g., full access for people with disabilities)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16. Natural Play Areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17. Nature Centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18. Paddleboard/Canoe/Kayak Launches	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19. Park Shelters	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20. Parks with raingardens, pollinator gardens, and wildflower meadows	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21. Paths - Paved/Unpaved	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
22. Lighted Sports Fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
23. Performance spaces	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
24. Pickleball Courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
25. Picnic Areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
26. Playgrounds & Play Areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
27. Pools - Indoor	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
28. Pools - Outdoor	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
29. Skate park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
30. Soccer/Lacrosse/Multipurpose Fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
31. Sprayground/Splash Pad	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
32. Teen drop-in centers	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
33. Tennis Courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
34. Tree canopies/urban forests	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
35. Volleyball Courts (Outdoor, Sand)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

**11. Which FOUR recreation facilities and amenities from the list in Question 10 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, or circle "NONE."]**

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

**12. From the following list, please check ALL of the following ways you currently use to learn about City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities. [Check ALL that apply.]**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Website (cityofevanston.org)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Print advertisements                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Television                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Nextdoor                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Newspaper articles                             | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Radio  | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) School district                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Word of mouth                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Promotions at special events                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Park signage                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> (14) Seasonal Program Guide                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) E-newsletters (Citywide or Levy Senior Center) | <input type="checkbox"/> (15) Other: _____                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Conversations with staff                       |   |

**13. Which THREE sources from the list in Question 12 are YOUR MOST PREFERRED SOURCES for learning about the City's Parks and Recreation Department news, events, programs, and activities? [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 12, or circle "NONE."]**

1st: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE

**14. The following is a list of actions the City of Evanston could take to improve its parks and greenspace offerings. 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
01.	Acquire land for new park space	4	3	2	1
02.	Design and develop new parks on recently acquired park land	4	3	2	1
03.	Develop new multiuse community facilities	4	3	2	1
04.	Enhance bike and pedestrian access to parks/facilities	4	3	2	1
05.	Focus on daily maintenance of existing parks and facilities	4	3	2	1
06.	Improve existing parks infrastructure (e.g., benches, shade structures, water fountains, resurface courts)	4	3	2	1
07.	Improve existing path systems (increasing connectivity/accessibility)	4	3	2	1
08.	Improve existing playgrounds	4	3	2	1
09.	Improve inclusion services or accessibility to programs and facilities	4	3	2	1
10.	Improve/Add restroom facilities	4	3	2	1
11.	Include more places for active sports or play in existing parks	4	3	2	1
12.	Incorporate more habitat spaces in existing parks	4	3	2	1
13.	Partner with private organizations to provide more park space (e.g., developers)	4	3	2	1
14.	Partner with public organizations to provide more park space (e.g., school districts)	4	3	2	1
15.	Plant more trees in existing parks	4	3	2	1
16.	Provide more recreation programs and events	4	3	2	1
17.	Purchase land in areas currently without city parks/facilities	4	3	2	1
18.	Renovate or upgrade aging parks and facilities	4	3	2	1
19.	Other: _____	4	3	2	1

**15. Which THREE of the potential improvements from the list in Question 14 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and the members of your household? [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 14, or circle "NONE."]**

1st: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE

**16. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years**

**17. How many years have you lived in the City of Evanston? \_\_\_\_\_ years**

**18. Are you or any members of your family of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino/a/x ancestry?**

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

**19. Which of the following best describes your race? [Check ALL that apply.]**

\_\_\_(01) Asian or Asian Indian

\_\_\_(04) White or Caucasian

\_\_\_(02) Black or African American

\_\_\_(05) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

\_\_\_(03) American Indian or Alaska Native

\_\_\_(99) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**20. What is your household income?**

\_\_\_(1) Under \$25,000

\_\_\_(3) \$50,000-\$74,999

\_\_\_(5) \$100,000-\$149,999

\_\_\_(2) \$25,000-\$49,999

\_\_\_(4) \$75,000-\$99,999

\_\_\_(6) \$150,000 or more

**21. Your gender:**

\_\_\_(1) Male

\_\_\_(4) Prefer to self-describe: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_(2) Female

\_\_\_(5) Prefer not to answer

\_\_\_(3) Non-Binary

**22. Does your household own a vehicle? \_\_\_(1) Yes \_\_\_(2) No****23. What is the primary language spoken in your home?**

\_\_\_(1) English

\_\_\_(2) Spanish

\_\_\_(3) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**24. Would you be willing to participate in future surveys sponsored by the City of Evanston?**

\_\_\_(1) Yes [Answer Q24a.] \_\_\_(2) No

**24a. Please provide your contact information.**

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 response will remain completely confidential.  
The address information printed to the right will  
ONLY be used to help identify areas with special  
interests. Thank you.

