

# Pekin Park District

Community-Wide  
Recreation Interests Study

**August 2017**

**Completed for  
The Pekin Park District**



**Office of Recreation & Park Resources  
University of Illinois  
1206 S. Fourth Street, Champaign, IL 61820**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Pekin Park District contacted the Office of Recreation & Park Resources to assist with an assessment of community needs and recreation planning within the Pekin community. Focus group interviews with key stakeholders within the Pekin community were conducted to assist in the development of a community-wide recreation interest questionnaire. Researchers within the Office of Recreation & Park Resources worked alongside the staff and board of the Pekin Park District to develop a questionnaire that met the needs of all parties. Once developed, the questionnaire was mailed to 3,000 households within the Pekin Park District. The intent of the questionnaire was to gather residents' opinions, attitudes, and preferences regarding Pekin's park areas, programs, and facilities.

A mailing of approximately 3,000 questionnaires was sent to residents during the months of May & June (2017). A total of 326 usable (completed) questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 10.9% producing a precision of at least +/- 5%. The questionnaires were analyzed for the development of the report between June 2, 2017 and July 20, 2017.

Objectives for the study were established during the initial stages of the project by the Pekin Park District in cooperation with the Office of Recreation & Park Resources. Questions in the survey were developed to meet the following objectives:

- The residents' satisfaction with current parks, programs, and facilities.
- The residents' current patterns of participation with existing parks, programs, and facilities.
- The residents' attitudes and preferences with the District's marketing and publicity methods.
- Obtain feedback from residents on the future recreation needs (i.e., expansion or development of new parks, programs, and/or facilities) within the Pekin Park District.
- Obtain feedback on the residents' willingness to support future expansion/development of recreation parks or facilities.
- Obtain demographic characteristics of the Pekin Park District's residents.

The following is a brief overview of the results of the data analysis regarding the objectives.

### **RESIDENTS' CURRENT PATTERNS OF PARTICIPATION**

Key findings from the study include:

- During the past year, 45.2% of the households had participated in at least one Pekin Park District recreation program.

- 48.0% of the households had visited a Pekin Park District indoor recreation facility within the last 12 months.
- 78.6% of the households had visited a Park District park area within the last 12 months.
- Neighboring park districts were the most widely utilized non-Pekin Park District service provider with 55.3% of respondents indicating they had used/visited neighboring park districts in the past year.

***Consultant Notes***

The recreation program participation rate for the Pekin Park District is slightly below other park and recreation agencies throughout the state. Attendance at Pekin Park District indoor facilities appears to be consistent with other community recreation providers within the state of Illinois. Visitor rates for the Pekin Park District park areas appear to be slightly higher than other agencies in the state.

**RESIDENTS’ PREFERENCES WITH THE PEKIN PARK DISTRICT’S MARKETING/PUBLICITY**

Key findings from the study include:

- The Pekin Park District “Play Guide” (55.8%) is the most widely utilized method to learn about recreation programs and services.
- Friends and neighbors (53.7%) were also utilized by households to learn about the District’s recreation programs and services.

***Consultant Notes***

The Play Guide is the most preferred marketing tool for the residents of Pekin. Thus, it appears the Pekin Park District should ensure any new programming or recreation services are marketed through the Play Guide. “Word of mouth” advertising from “Friends & Neighbors” is also widely utilized method for informing the community about the District’s recreational opportunities. It is also worth noting that Pekin’s “word of mouth” advertising from “Friends and Neighbors” (53.7%) is significantly higher than other public park and recreation agencies in Illinois who have been found to be at/below 20%.

**RESIDENTS’ SATISFACTION WITH EXISTING PARKS, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES MAINTENANCE, & STAFF**

Key findings from the study include:

- Of those respondents who are aware or utilize the District’s services, an overwhelming majority of them are satisfied with the Pekin Park District’s recreation programs (82.0%), facilities (92.8%), park maintenance (92.8%), and staff & commissioners (95.0%).

- 90.0% of residents are satisfied with the days/times existing programs are offered and the convenience of registering for programs (90.1%).
- With the exception of the Pekin Park District restrooms (69.0% satisfaction rating), a large majority of households are satisfied or very satisfied (+80%) with the facilities managed by the Pekin Park District. Facilities receiving the highest satisfaction levels (+95%) include the Lick Creek Golf Course (98.0%), Veterans Memorial Arena – Dance Room (97.9%), Baseball/Softball Fields (97.3%), Football Fields (97.0%), Soccer Fields (96.9%), Miller Senior Center (96.4%), Soldwedel Program Center (95.4%), and Parkview Golf Course (95.0%).
- Similar to the District’s recreation facilities, a large majority of households are satisfied or very satisfied (+90%) with the maintenance of the District’s park areas. Only two areas received satisfaction ratings below 80%: Restrooms (71.1%) and Parking Lots & Roads (72.1%).
- An overwhelming majority of households are satisfied with the park board and staff.
- When asked about the District’s effectiveness on a variety of items (involvement of community in planning efforts, partnering w/other agencies, providing a diversity of programming, etc.), a large number of residents (+30%) were unsure or “Didn’t Know”.
- Over 80% of residents feel the Pekin Park District is important to the community and their household.

### ***Consultant Notes***

While the data found a significant number of respondents who “Don’t Use” some of the District’s programs, facilities, etc., those that had used these services were generally satisfied or very satisfied with their experiences. While satisfaction levels were high among current users/visitors, a few areas with slightly lower satisfaction levels were in the (deferred) maintenance areas (restrooms, roads, parking lots, etc.).

In addition, the data found a significant number of respondents who “Didn’t Know” how to evaluate the District’s effectiveness on a variety of items. However, those residents that did provide an evaluation perceived the District to be effective or very effective in these areas. Overall, the data tends to suggest the District might benefit from additional efforts to inform the community of their services and engage them in the District’s planning activities. Nearly 70% of residents feel the Pekin Park District services are a good value for the program fees/charges and the taxes they pay. Interestingly, the data suggests the residents are not particularly supportive of selling facility naming rights to businesses/organizations as an alternative revenue source.

## **FUTURE RECREATION INTERESTS WITHIN THE PEKIN COMMUNITY**

Key findings from the study include:

- Over 30% of residents ranked walking/biking trails (38%), indoor walking track (37%), and restrooms (30%) as their household's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> most desired facility development/renovation.
- Wildlife/Natural areas and various park amenities (shelters, small neighborhood parks, playground equipment, etc.) also received modest support (~20%) from respondents as their household's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> most desired facility development/renovation.
- 22% of the respondents identified adult fitness/wellness programs as their first, second, third, or fourth choice for an expanded/developed program for the Pekin Park District. Another 22% of respondents indicated that no additional programming was needed at this time, suggesting the District continue focusing on successfully managing their existing programs.
- 32.5% of respondents indicated a willingness to support a tax increase for the development of additional walking/biking trails.

### ***Consultant Notes***

Consistent with opinions expressed by other community park and recreation agencies in Illinois, the expansion/development of walking/biking trails and the development of indoor fitness and exercise facilities were identified as prioritized needs for Pekin residents. Other project areas receiving support centered on maintaining the amenities within the Mineral Springs Park area. This data suggests the District continue efforts to take care of their current parks and amenities. It is also worth noting that 30.9% of respondents were unwilling to support a tax increase for any projects.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS & OBSERVATIONS**

- **Take care of what we have.** Residents appear to be satisfied with the Pekin Park District's services. In addition, the Park District serves as a strategic asset for the City of Pekin through the provision of desired amenities and services that increase the quality of life for residents. Respondents highlighted the need to "take care of what we have." We believe this to include both the maintenance and care of newly developed amenities and facilities, as well as evaluating aging facilities and parklands.
- **Prioritization of deferred maintenance projects.** We would suggest the detailed evaluation of facilities and parklands in the most need of repair, some of which were highlighted in the survey response. After gathering information from our personal observations, interviews, focus groups, meetings with staff and commissioners and the survey response, we would judge that the potential cost for

investment in deferred maintenance to be high. It will be important for the Pekin Park District to highlight and itemize their needs and develop an effective plan to slowly repair the areas of greatest need by priority.

- **Linking need interests, needs and renovation/restoration plans.** In light of the deferred maintenance needs, it is also important to consider the interests and needs of the community. The response mirrors the response of other communities: Passive recreation opportunities (i.e. biking/walking trails, park amenities) may be of the highest interest for residents. When prioritizing investments in current and future infrastructures and programming, it will be important to consider matching the financial commitment and program of work to the needs and desires of residents.
- **Review marketing efforts.** In our last ten years of surveys, the Pekin Park District is the first agency to see “Word of mouth” as being one of the top two ways that a resident hears about the Park District’s offerings (>50%). Normally, we see this response near 10%-20%. Despite a number of your respondent’s checking the “don’t know or don’t use” box often, we still believe people understand and know your work if this many people hear about your services from a friend. According to other survey results, a program guide typically reaches 75% to 85% of residents. PPD’s lower than average response in this category, coupled with a higher than average “word of mouth” response may mean this is an opportunity to explore new marketing methods. Over 46% of participants preferred the current Play Guide format and delivery. However, when compared with other park district’s response to similar questions it may be worth investigating other park district’s methods for marketing.
- **Directing Resources.** Mineral Springs Park appears to be a highly valued resource in Pekin and was one of the top amenities where residents would invest their tax dollars. Similar to other survey responses, trails and pathways was noted as the number one way to invest. On the programming side of things, adult fitness and wellness and nature/environmental programming were the top two areas of interest. Over 30% of residents did note that they were unwilling to support any tax increases at this time, which continues to feed into the narrative of taking care of current resources to build toward the future.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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### **OVERVIEW**

The provision of recreational services is recognized as an essential component of a community's strategic plan. Residents want opportunities for participation in quality recreation services, attractive parks, and modern recreation facilities. Only through local government provisions can recreation truly be made available to all residents. Local government sponsorship provides the major opportunity for many people and the only opportunity for some people, to have access to recreational facilities, parks, and programs.

The Pekin Park District, like many other communities, is most important to residents who view recreation as a fundamental part of daily living, rather than a fringe consideration. A recent study discovered that the average U.S. citizen has approximately 32 hours available for recreation each week. Using this figure as a base, one can estimate that the +33,000 residents of Pekin have over 1.05 million hours available for recreation each week, or more than 54.9 million hours per year. This tremendous pool of hours available for recreation in Pekin, coupled with the increased expectations placed by residents, has created a heightened demand for long-range planning in the operations of the Pekin Park District's programs, facilities, and parks.

In response to this need, the Pekin Park District collaborated with the Office of Recreation & Park Resources (ORPR) to assist with a localized assessment of the Pekin Park District's parks, programs, and facilities.

### **PURPOSE**

The ORPR project team assisted the Pekin Park District in developing and administering a community-wide recreation study. The purpose of the study was to assess the residents' participation rates, attitudes, priorities, & future interests for the Pekin Park District's parks, programs, and facilities. Furthermore, the results of the study seek to provide the Pekin Park District with accurate information that can be used in the short-term and long-range planning efforts.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Based on the purpose of the study, the following objectives were established:

To design, develop, and administer a community-wide survey to assess the Pekin Park District's park and recreation services. It is expected that the study will provide insight into the following areas:

- The residents' satisfaction with current parks, programs, and facilities.
- The residents' current patterns of participation with existing parks, programs, and facilities.
- The residents' attitudes and preferences with the District's marketing and publicity methods.
- Obtain feedback from residents on the future recreation needs (i.e., expansion or development of new parks, programs, and/or facilities) within the Pekin Park District.
- Obtain feedback on the residents' willingness to support future expansion/development of recreation parks or facilities.
- Obtain demographic characteristics of the Pekin Park District's residents.

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## **STUDY PROCEDURES**

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A stratified random sample of three thousand households in the Pekin Park District were selected to participate in the study. The primary data collection instrument for the study was an online and a mail-back questionnaire. Detailed information regarding the study population, questionnaire development, and response rate is presented in the following sections.

### **STUDY POPULATION**

According to the United States Census Bureau, the Pekin Park District has a population of 33,038 residents that reside in 14,714 households. 49.1% of the residents are male and 50.9% are female. A community survey was mailed to a stratified random sample of 3,000 households in the District. An adult member of the household was asked to complete the survey.

### **QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPMENT**

A six-page questionnaire was developed to collect information to meet the study's objectives. Information within the questionnaire included participation rates, marketing, satisfaction with services, future programming and facility preferences, and demographic characteristics. The Office of Recreation & Park Resources worked closely with the Pekin Park District in developing the questionnaire to ensure the needs of the community were addressed. A detailed overview of the specific procedures is provided in the following sections.

### **INITIAL MEETING(S)**

Pekin Park District administrators, staff and commissioners met with the ORPR project team to discuss the District's interests. In an effort to address the Pekin Park District's needs, ORPR partnered with the District to identify the specific purpose, techniques, and procedures of the community-wide survey to obtain a clear planning direction for the future recreational services within the community.

### **STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS**

In an effort to collect background information on current issues, anticipated needs, and future trends impacting the Pekin Park District area, focus group interviews with several stakeholders (i.e., community leaders) were conducted by members of the ORPR project team during the months of November (2016) thru February (2017). A list of the stakeholder interview questions is provided in Appendix A.

## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

Based upon the information collected during the stakeholder interviews, a questionnaire was developed to collect information that would meet the stated objectives of the study. The initial draft was submitted to the Pekin Park District for review. Based upon the feedback obtained from the District's administration and commissioners, a final community-wide recreation interests questionnaire was developed (Appendix B).

## **DATA COLLECTION**

The data collection involved the use of a stratified random sample of 3,000 households within the Pekin Park District. In particular, the sample was stratified based on children in the household. This was done in an effort to encourage participation by all age groups and to eliminate any bias from one particular age group. The mailing included an advance notice postcard that was mailed on May 9, 2017. Next, a cover letter, the questionnaire, and a return envelope were mailed on May 16, 2017. Finally, a follow-up (reminder) postcard was mailed on May 23, 2017. Data collection was terminated on June 2, 2017. Once the questionnaires were received, the ORPR project team checked the data for completeness and accuracy prior to analysis.

## **QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE RATE**

Following the procedures outlined above, a mailing of 3,000 households was selected to participate in the study. Of these households, 326 usable questionnaires were returned for an overall response rate of 10.9% producing a precision of at least +/- 5% (i.e., the true population value is within +/- 5% of the sample value). This response rate was consistent with studies that utilize similar data collection methods.

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## **STUDY FINDINGS**

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The findings of the study are reported in this section. The findings are organized into the following sections:

- The residents' current patterns of participation with existing parks, programs, and facilities.
- The residents' preferences with the Pekin Park District's marketing and publicity methods.
- The residents' satisfaction with current parks, programs, and facilities.
- The residents' feedback on the future recreation interests within the community.
- The demographic characteristics of the respondents.

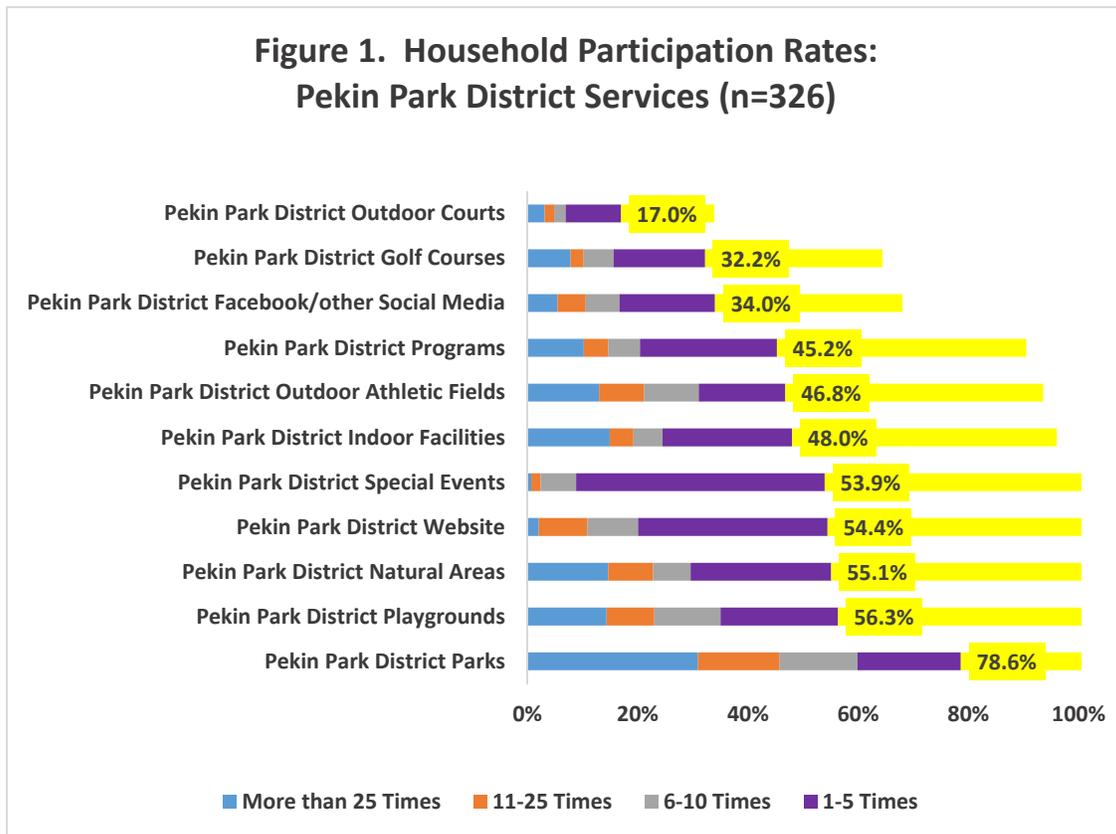
## CURRENT PATTERNS OF PARTICIPATION WITH EXISTING PARKS, PROGRAMS, AND FACILITIES

The first question on the community-wide interests survey asked households how many times (in the past 12 months) members of their household visited or participated in various Pekin Park District programs, parks, and facilities. The results to this item are provided in the following section.

### HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES: PEKIN PARK DISTRICT SERVICES

Respondents were asked, “During the last 12 months, approximately how many times have members in your household visited/participated in the following Pekin Park District services?” The respondents were asked to select from one of the five categories: none, 1-5 times, 6-10 times, 11-25 times, or more than 25 times.

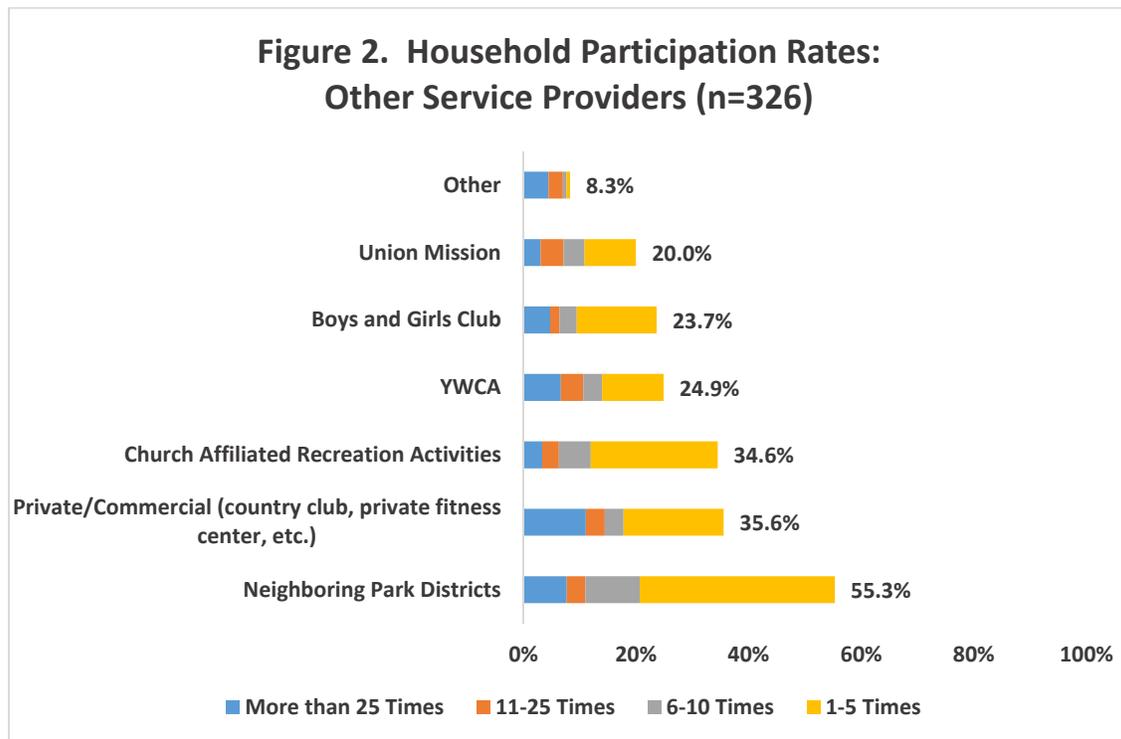
During the past 12 months, 78.6% (n=326) of the respondents had visited a park managed by the Pekin Park District, with 30.9% visiting these parks more than 25 times. Other services receiving +50% usage/visitation rates during the past year include: playgrounds (56.3%), natural areas (55.1%), website (54.4%), and special events (53.9%). Complete results are provided in Figure 1.



## HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES: OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

In addition to asking respondents about their participation patterns with Pekin Park District services, the survey also inquired about participation patterns associated with other recreation service providers. In particular, the survey item asked, “During the last 12 months, approximately how many times have members in your household visited or used the following service providers: neighboring park districts, private/commercial (i.e., country club, private fitness center, etc.), church affiliated recreation activities, YWCA, boys and girls club, Union Mission, or other. The respondents were asked to select from one of the five categories: none, 1-5 times, 6-10 times, 11-25 times, or more than 25 times.

The results indicate 55.3% (n=326) of respondents had visited or utilized neighboring park district service during the past 12 months. Of the 55.3% who had visited another park district, 34.7% of them had visited 1-5 times over the past 12 months; 9.7% had visited 6-10 times; 3.3% visited 11-25 times, and; 7.7% visited more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 2.



**Note: The written responses listed throughout the entire report appear exactly as written by survey respondents. No alterations were made to these statements by the research team during compilation of this document. Names have been omitted.**

#### **Other Providers I use:**

Creation Dance Studio  
Country Club  
Peoria Skeet and Trap  
South Pekin Grade School Gym  
Pekin Archers  
Traveling ball games for grandchildren teams  
Flying Dragons Pole Vault Club, Normal, IL  
Camping  
Peoria Soccer League  
Dog park  
Avanti's Dome-Walking  
Golf  
Bike trail  
Organization  
Gold's Gym

#### **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THESE PROVIDERS ANSWERED IN QUESTION 2 (n=192)?**

- For the swimming pool. Lap swim and free swim.
- older parks have no swimming, time of facilities for grownups
- close to home
- only option
- They had the programs and facilities we were looking for.
- church community; cost effective
- basketball programs for girls under age 12
- Friends live near other parks. I like the East Peoria Bike trail, it goes through more wooded areas.
- PCSA Softball
- at the time they were offering other stuff that park district don't offer
- was out of town at time visiting family
- cost, convenience, and they had what I needed.
- cost for gym \$9.99 a month with a small annual fee
- Free
- family events
- choices not available in Pekin Park District
- special activities, or with others who are out of town

- running, biking, hiking, walking, swimming
- child care at YWCA  
sports at B & G Club
- Stopped while traveling
- Belong to Silver Sneaker Program, Y-rescues, church service
- children and grandchildren activities.
- It is safer and we know everyone.
- someone else chose, I just attend.
- cost
- walking, children's ball games
- Karate for Y, required by friends in other nearby towns
- Community swim night, followed tumbling teacher
- We participate in music concerts and baseball/softball programs every year.
- Facilities and Offerings
- swim lessons, sports activities for kids
- grandchildren
- golf
- Indoor Swim lessons, and athletic programs
- Fitness Center - cost. No monthly membership  
Country Club - better facilities, condition
- grandchildren
- vacations
- Invites from friends in area, family functions
- Golds Gym - cost and no contract
- enjoyment for younger children
- Social and time
- Convenience of location
- they offered something the park didn't have
- Art shows and meetings. Parades and patriotic events. Fairs and auctions.
- local
- biking trails/paths in the area
- No range locally
- The Riverplex has lap swimming year round for wife. Gold's offers more for money for husband.  
YWCA - swim lessons offered year round. Peoria Central allows swim programs for adults and kids.
- We have grandchildren in sports
- Walks and the pool
- I work there
- Reasonably priced
- time of events
- They have local preserves and miles and miles of walking paths.
- Cheaper fitness plans; better sports leadership/training
- swim, workout room
- know people there

- We have children who use the programs offered.
- lower fees
- Boys and Girls Club -sports are cheap and they make it fun and they are easy to work with, really care about the kids
- water aerobics and social programs
- attend sporting events; low monthly fees
- to help on having better park
- YWCA has year round swim lessons; Golds Gym is near my work; enjoy bow shooting
- to meet friends for play dates
- schedule games, church affiliation
- hiking
- events happening there that we wanted to attend
- school activities
- close to work
- Grandchildren activities
- Attending events with friends.
- something different
- they are free
- specialized Pole Vault training
- We have not been happy with park district baseball program in the past.
- cleaner people and the overall quality of the facilities
- Because my husband is a registered sex offender & by law cannot be on property so we go to private gym.
- amount of people it would hold.
- cost
- membership and/or special events/gatherings
- YWCA - convenient hours for childcare, B & G / Mission more competitive sports
- swim lesson for special needs
- Family Activities
- wrestling, private swim lessons
- Granddaughter plays soccer and husband team physician
- Splash Down in East Peoria
- family nearby
- Because the Pekin Park sponsored the Boxing team, of which I coached. X was president of the park board.
- Enjoy the parks in summer
- shooting range, rifle, pistol, clay pigeons - Darnalls Bloomington, None in Pekin
- They fit our interest
- don't use
- ones we have been to.
- Tried PPD Indoor Facility but decided to join Anytime Fitness instead
- special events
- family gathering

- cause you asked them
- Away ball games.
- Because my grandkids playing basketball
- quality facilities; invited by a friend; used in the past
- work related event.
- Swimming - Y  
Picnic @ North Pekin  
Church events @ Riverplex
- They go to Boys and Girls Club after school.
- We have our church picnics and activities there, household member works @ the Union Mission
- UM for bball and softball; other parks because of location
- N/A, didn't use
- grandchildren involved in some activities, some golf in Peoria with league
- pool exercises
- nice baseball program for kids
- We like the "YWCA" pool. For family fun, affordable, boys and girls club encourages all kids, good price.
- Golf tournament at country clubs, Grand-kids at union mission
- Family picnic, physical therapy
- Fitness center \$10 a month
- program is good
- I like the services they provide for the youth.
- I was not involved in the process of choosing where the events were held.
- close/family function/visiting town
- special events
- N/A
- they had things we wanted to do
- In Bartonville where grand-kids live.
- word of mouth - their website
- private parties that I was invited to
- Swim program offered
- change of scenery
- golf variety
- cheaper gym
- cost
- We participate in travel baseball.
- I go to the indoor pool at the YWCA in the winter.
- swimming services provided at the YWCA are year round
- Golfing or softball
- Y - water aerobics  
CC - member
- Y for swimming - others grandchildren activities
- convenience, quality programs
- My son worked for the Union Mission

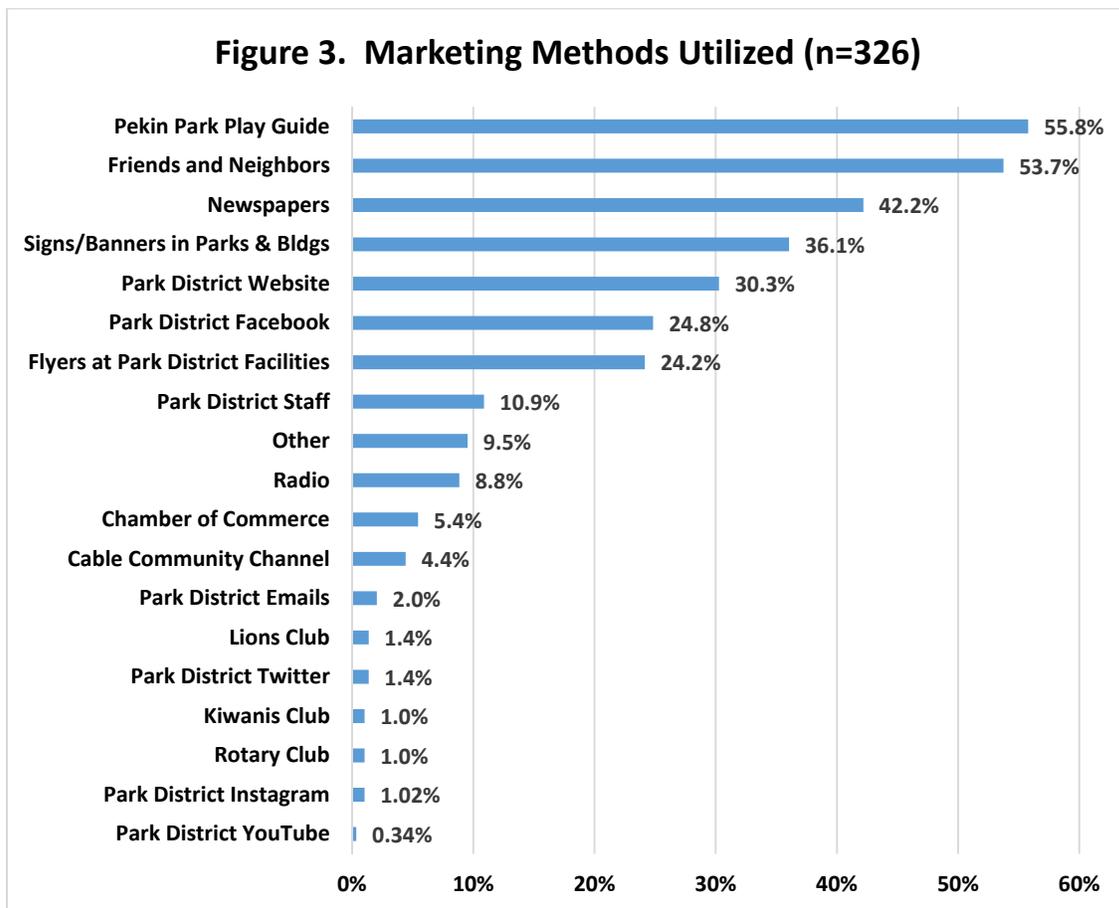
- Because that's the way it is
- Different play areas
- our church occasionally has family events in park pavilions and swimming area
- active in my church
- Park districts - musical events. YWCA - swimming. Private Country Club - golf member
- 24-hour fitness club
- convenient; close to home!
- none
- My grand-daughters are older now but still have 3 under 17 years.
- N/A
- Grandchildren involved
- Stepson played baseball.
- Family members lived in that city, used their choice to meet.
- More variety. New things to try.
- Grandchild lives in another town.
- For variety
- my husband works out at Golds Gym.
- golf course is close to our house
- age does not allow us to participate
- Something different
- I am a member and use them.
- cost
- Because they supply the level of competition I want for my children in sports
- N/A
- proximity to home mostly
- stay fit
- We use private fitness places. We also attend the zoo, playhouse, wildlife prairie park, other waterparks, etc.
- cheaper
- it was church affiliated
- YWCA - Insurance covers programs - will be using more now.
- Softball
- My great grandson's baseball
- because a park cop doesn't follow me around at those places.
- Convenience or variety
- Available for my needs
- 1. Mature Adult Yoga classes
- 2. Grandchildren playing at parks
  
- Nephew plays tball in manito and we do adult activities at our church
- Just for some experience in another town/city
- Availability of indoor pool for lap swim; cheap rates for fitness center
- Where there attending softball tournaments.

- Boys and Girls Club traveling basketball. Neighboring park districts have female youth competitive softball leagues, tournaments and double headers that we participate in.
- Used other park area to run my remote control cars.
- They were close & offered the activities that we were looking for
- My children enjoy programs they offer.
- Indoor swimming, birthday parties, tot time
- Attended for family in other areas
- Affordability and accessibility
- Because the fishing is better at Peoria Park Lagoon , than at Pekin Park Lagoon ( the fishing sucks here in Pekin)
- Hours of operations - late evening for fitness centers; other sporting events – EastSide; other golf courses
- Church
- The programs offered fit our "season of life"
- convenient
- No fitness programs running on holidays.
- Playgrounds and walking trail close to home.
- Because they were the options given and they seemed to fit with what I can recall.

## PEKIN PARK DISTRICT'S MARKETING & PUBLICITY METHODS

The next question of the recreation interests questionnaire asked respondents about the marketing and publicity methods of the Pekin Park District. From a list of nineteen options, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ways they have learned about the District's programs and services. The following summarizes key findings:

Respondents identified the Pekin Park Play Guide (55.8%) as the most widely utilized method for learning about the District's recreation programs and services, followed closely by friends and neighbors (53.7%). Other methods receiving moderate support included newspapers (42.2%), signs/banners in the parks (36.1%), and the Park District website (30.3%). Complete results are provided in Figure 3.



**Other (please specify)**

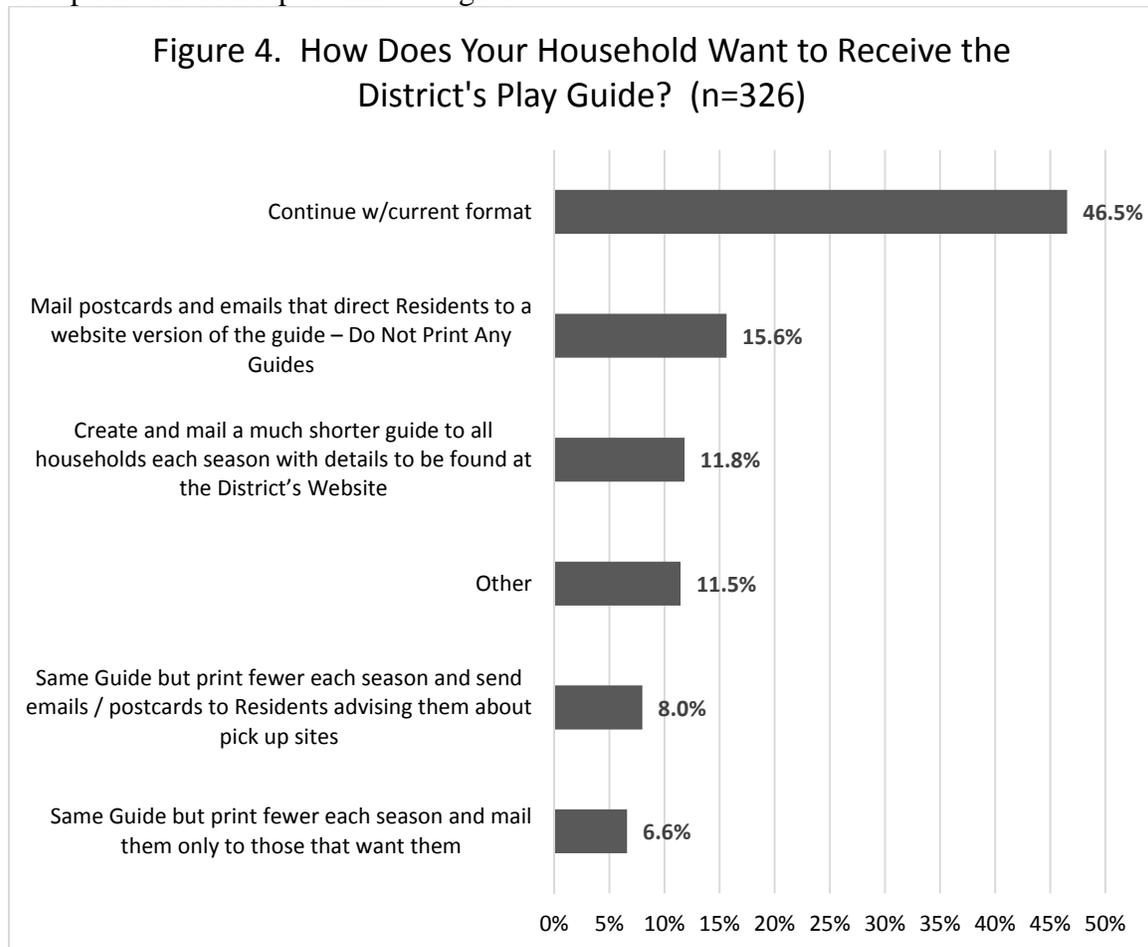
- haven't
- school

- by chance
- school
- school flyers
- Ambucs - Arena
- school
- Flyers at school
- Library
- Ambucs
- Moose Club
- Flyers at her school
- School sends home park info
- school
- school / daycares
- don't use
- church
- Softball Schedule
- don't use
- driving around
- school sends info
- flyers from my son's school
- Newspaper
- Mailings
- High School
- none
- My daughter X worked for the Park District 16 years.
- Facebook friend invites
- Flyers sent home from school

A follow-up question was also developed to determine residents' preferences with the distribution methods of the Pekin Park Play Guide. Specifically, respondents were asked, "How does your household want to receive the District's Play Guide?" The respondents were asked to select from one of the six categories:

- continue w/current format,
- mail postcards and emails that direct residents to a web-version of the guide,
- create and mail a much shorter guide to all households each season with details to be found at the District's website,
- identify an "other" option,
- same guide but print fewer each season and send emails/postcards to residents advising them about pick up sites, and
- same guide but print fewer each season and mail them only to those that want them.

The results indicate 46.5% (n=326) of respondents prefer the Pekin Park District continue distributing the Pekin Park Play Guide in the same format. Of the 11.5% that selected “Other”, the most popular suggestion was to post the Play Guide online (n=11). Complete results are provided in Figure 4.



**Other. Here's how I want to receive the Play Guide:**

- Put on website, Facebook, etc. Ask for them to be printed if needed
- Post link on Facebook - we look it up if we want to look at it
- I really don't do this stuff
- website (access a PDF if we want to)
- Send to the oldest school child in 108 AND Mail postcards and emails that direct Residents to a website version of the guide - Do no print any guides
- List activities in newspaper
- none
- I would not use it.
- leave at places like grocery stores
- no opinion
- I pick them up at the Arena.
- don't care
- download PDF

- TV - Radio - Large signs
- don't need
- Downloadable online
- does not matter
- don't need it.
- not necessary to mail as I visit Parkside frequently and can obtain a copy there.
- Newspaper
- I have no children or grandchildren in area so am only interested in special adult programs
- don't
- take to grocery stores
- no
- Have 2 Play Guides, mail to those who want them mailed, one guide is for families with all info and the other is for seniors, adults - Not children. (I prefer #2).
- I would like to see a digital version shared on Facebook. We have a 2 year old so school doesn't reach us and mass mailings are a waste of paper and money.
- I always just look online for it
- Disperse a flyer to school age children that provides the website of where the guide can be found. On the website give an option for those who would like to receive by email. In addition, have the guides as well as flyers for upcoming activities at the recreation office as you do now and each of the concession stands in Mineral Springs and Sports Complex.
- mail postcards and emails that direct Residents to a website version of the guide. Print a smaller number of a more limited guide (pamphlet style) for distribution at local businesses to build awareness/attract residents
- all electronic after initial notification
- Online guide, easy to read and access, easy to keep track of. Copies available at area park offices, postcards sent to all kindergarten student families advising of where they can access online and where they can pick up hard copy.
- Email information or post on Social Media
- Print 5000 -7000 and distribute them to school children, then send out an email/postcard alerting that the guides are available for pickup, and then have the option of an online guide in case you run out. The park district has to print less, the kids are still getting their guides, and people who don't have a computer can still pick one up.

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## **SATISFACTION WITH THE DISTRICT'S PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, PARK MAINTENANCE, & STAFF**

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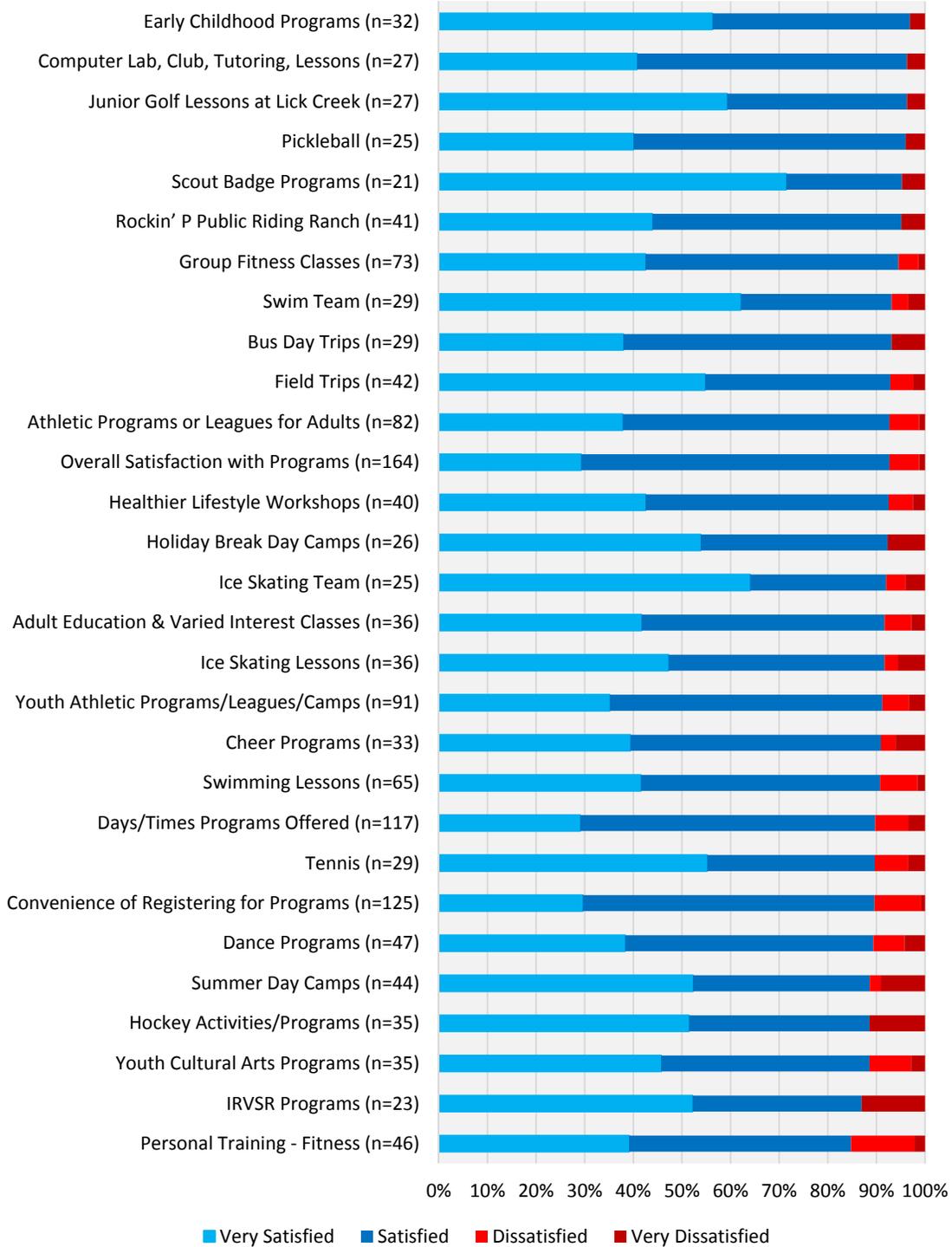
A series of questions on the survey asked respondents how satisfied their household was with the Pekin Park District's programs, facilities, park maintenance, and staff. Twenty-nine items were used to assess the respondents satisfaction with the District's programs; twenty-seven items were used to assess Pekin Park District facilities; thirty items were used to assess park maintenance; and; twenty items were used to assess Pekin Park District staff. Respondents rated each item on a 5-point satisfaction scale (0=don't know/don't use, 1=very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, and 4=very satisfied). For purpose of presentation, the respondents selecting, "don't know/don't use" were removed from the analyses. The following sections summarize the key findings:

### **SATISFACTION WITH PEKIN PARK DISTRICT RECREATION PROGRAMS**

Twenty-nine items were used to assess household's satisfaction with the Pekin Park District's recreation programs. Respondents rated each item on a 5-point satisfaction scale (0=don't know/don't use, 1=very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, and 4=very satisfied).

Of the respondents who participated in the District's programs, nearly 90% of residents are satisfied or very satisfied with the convenience of registering for programs (89.6%) and the days/times the programs are offered (89.7%). In addition, 92.7% of residents expressed an overall satisfaction (satisfied or very satisfied) with the existing programs provided by the Pekin Park District. Satisfaction levels with individual programs are also consistently strong with satisfaction levels ranging from 84.8% to 96.9%. Complete results are provided in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Residents' Satisfaction w/Pekin Park District Programs

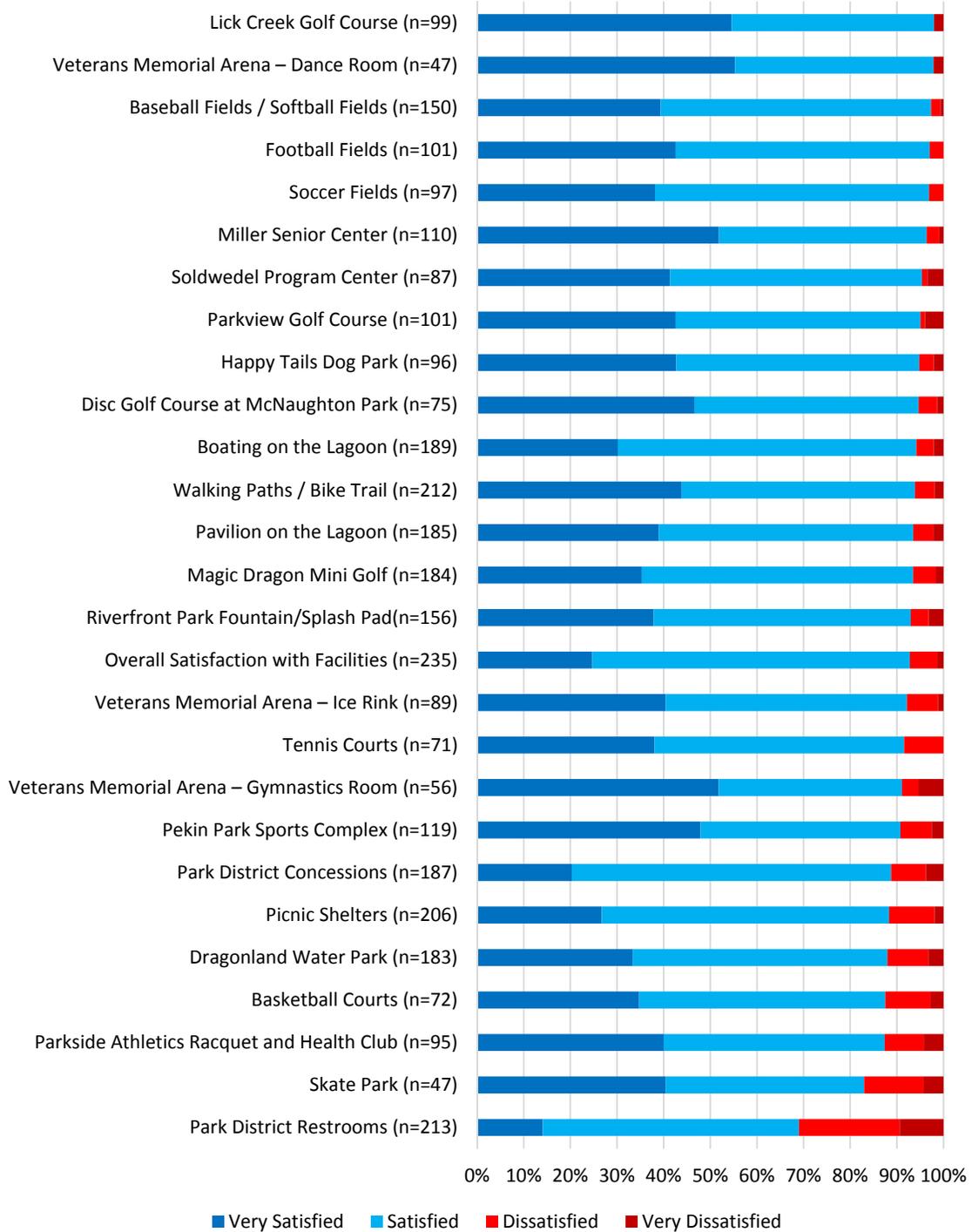


## **SATISFACTION WITH PEKIN PARK DISTRICT FACILITIES**

The next item on the community-interests survey examined household's satisfaction with the Pekin Park District's facilities. Twenty-seven items assessed respondents' satisfaction with the District's parks and facilities. Respondents rated each item on a 5-point satisfaction scale (1 = very dissatisfied, 2 = dissatisfied, 3 = satisfied, 4 = very satisfied, and 5 = don't use/don't know). In an effort to accurately represent households' satisfaction levels for each item, the "don't use/don't know" responses were removed from subsequent analysis. For example, within the item, "Lick Creek Golf Course", 202 respondents selected "don't use/don't know". These 202 respondents were removed from the frequency analysis (for this item only) resulting in a sample size of 99 for this particular item. Before examining the data for the next item, the 202 respondents were re-integrated back into the study sample. This process was repeated for each of the twenty-seven items.

The findings identified a moderate to strong satisfaction levels across the District's facilities. In particular, nearly 70% of respondents (69.0%) were satisfied or very satisfied with the District's restrooms while nearly 100% (98.0%) were satisfied or very satisfied with the Lick Creek Golf Course. In addition, 92.8% of residents expressed an overall satisfaction with the Pekin Park District's facilities. Complete results are provided in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Residents' Satisfaction w/Pekin Park District Facilities

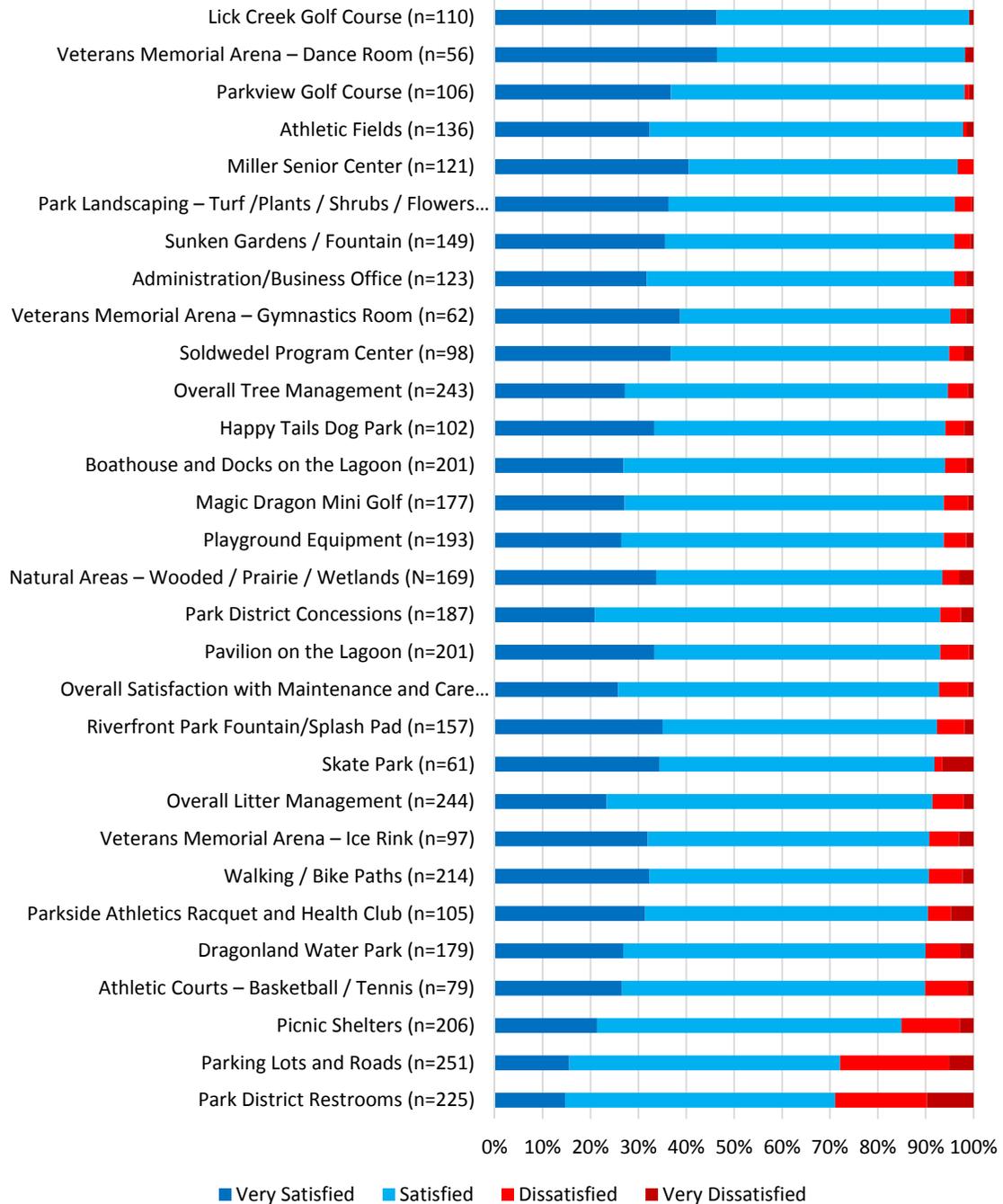


## **SATISFACTION WITH PEKIN PARK DISTRICT PARK MAINTENANCE**

The residents' satisfaction with park maintenance across the District's parks was also measured. Specifically, thirty items were developed to assess respondents' satisfaction with the District's park maintenance program. Respondents rated each item on a 5-point satisfaction scale (1 = very dissatisfied, 2 = dissatisfied, 3 = satisfied, 4 = very satisfied, and 5 = don't use/don't know). Consistent with all of the satisfaction items in the community-wide survey, the "don't use/don't know" responses were removed from subsequent analysis. For example, within the item, "Park District Restrooms", 83 respondents selected "don't use/don't know". These 83 respondents were removed from the frequency analysis (for this item only) resulting in a sample size of 225 for this particular item. Before examining the data for the next item, the 83 respondents were re-integrated back into the study sample. This process was repeated for each of the thirty items.

Park maintenance scores were strong with all but two items receiving satisfaction levels (very satisfied or satisfied) at/above 85.0%. The only two items receiving satisfaction levels below 85.0% were "Park District Restrooms" (71.1%) and "Parking Lots and Roads" (72.1%). Complete results are provided in Figure 7.

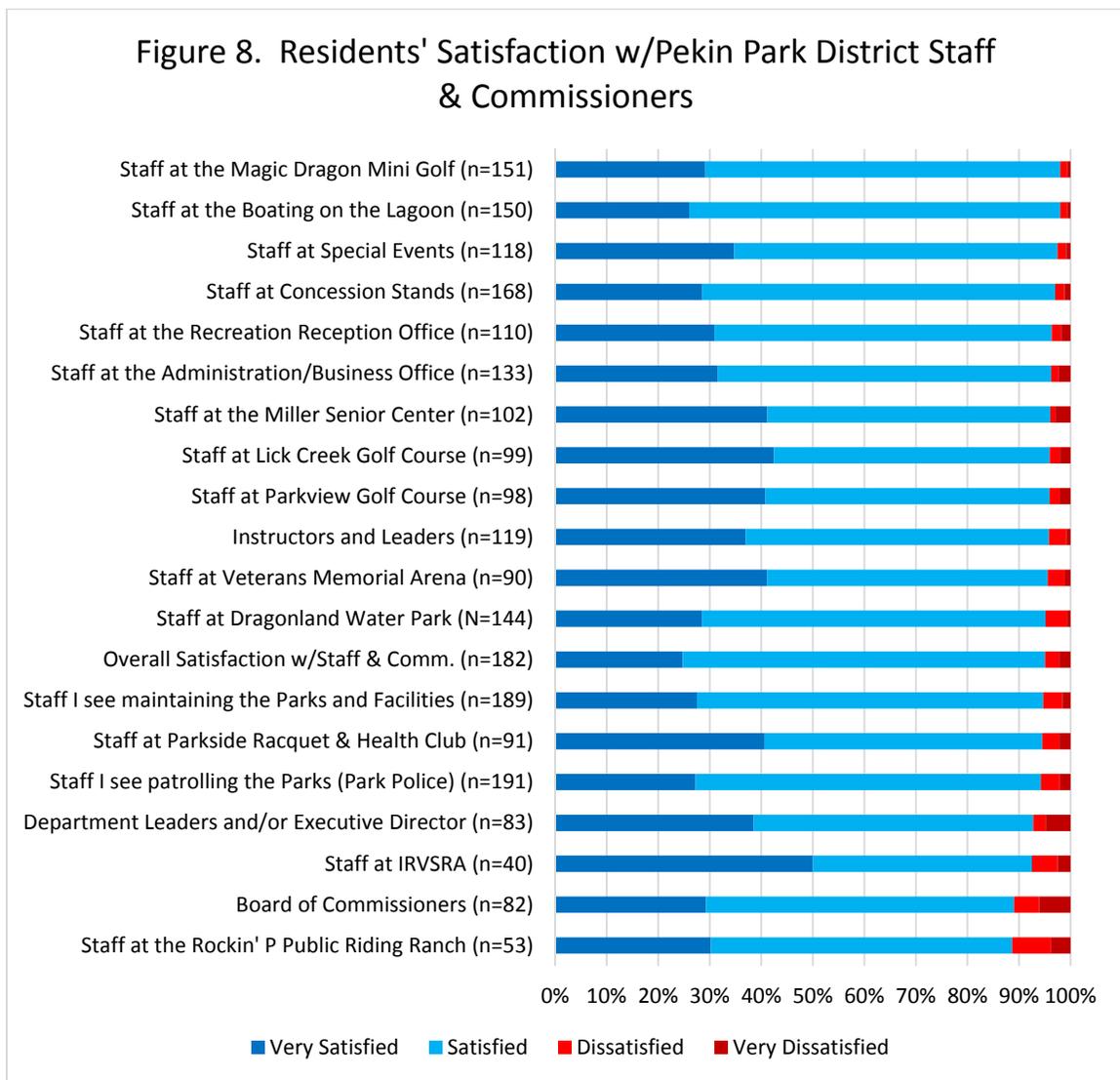
Figure 7. Residents' Satisfaction w/Pekin Park District Park Maintenance



## SATISFACTION WITH PEKIN PARK DISTRICT STAFF

Twenty items measured the residents' satisfaction with the Pekin Park District's staff and commissioners. Respondents rated each item on a 5-point satisfaction scale (1 = very dissatisfied, 2 = dissatisfied, 3 = satisfied, 4 = very satisfied, and 5 = don't use/don't know). The "don't use/don't know" responses were removed from subsequent analysis. For example, within the item, "Staff at Special Events", 181 respondents selected "don't use/don't know". These 181 respondents were removed from the frequency analysis (for this item only) resulting in a sample size of 118 for this particular item. Before examining the data for the next item, the 181 respondents were re-integrated back into the study sample. This process was repeated for each of the twenty items.

Overall, it appears residents are satisfied with the Pekin Park District's staff and commissioners with all of the staffing areas receiving satisfaction levels (very satisfied or satisfied ratings) near/above 90%. Complete results are provided in Figure 8.



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## **RECREATION INTERESTS AND FUTURE NEEDS WITHIN THE PEKIN COMMUNITY**

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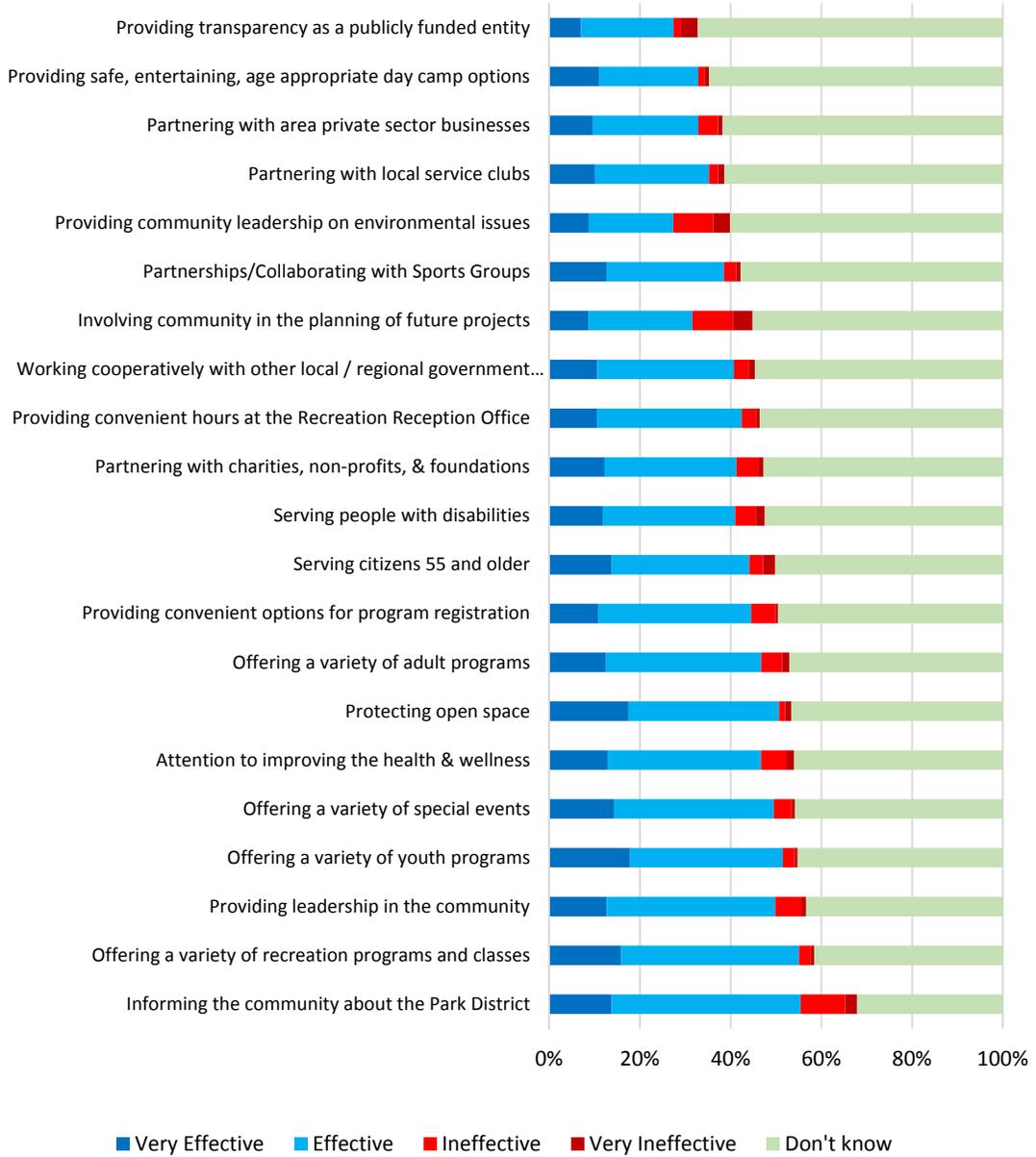
Respondents were asked to share their rankings on the District's effectiveness within a variety of management functions as well as their opinions concerning recreational opportunities, in general, and facility and programming interests, in particular, within the community. To assess the residents' feedback in these areas, a series of questions were developed. The first question asked respondents to rank the District's effectiveness across twenty-one areas. The next question presented respondents with eight opportunities and asked respondents to share their opinion across these areas of opportunity. Two separate questions were developed to measure respondents' specific facility and programming interests. Finally, a series of questions were presented to measure respondents' support for the funding of future project(s). The results of these questions are presented in the following sections.

### **PEKIN PARK DISTRICT'S PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS**

Twenty-one items were developed in an effort to measure the District's effectiveness performing various management-related functions. Respondents were presented with this list of twenty-one items and asked to rank the District's effectiveness in performing the specific task. In particular, respondents were asked, "How effective is the Pekin Park District as it relates to:" Respondents were then presented with twenty-one statements and asked to rate the District's effectiveness for each statement on a 5-point scale (0=don't know, 1=very ineffective, 2=ineffective, 3=effective, and 4=very effective).

According to the findings, a large number of respondents were unsure (i.e., "don't know" rating) of the District's effectiveness across many of the management-related tasks. For instance, 67.2% of respondents "don't know" how effective the District is at "Providing transparency as a publicly funded entity". However, the findings also indicate that, of those residents who perceive to know about the District's level of effectiveness, they believe the District to be effective or very effective (across these twenty-one management tasks). Complete results are provided in Figure 9.

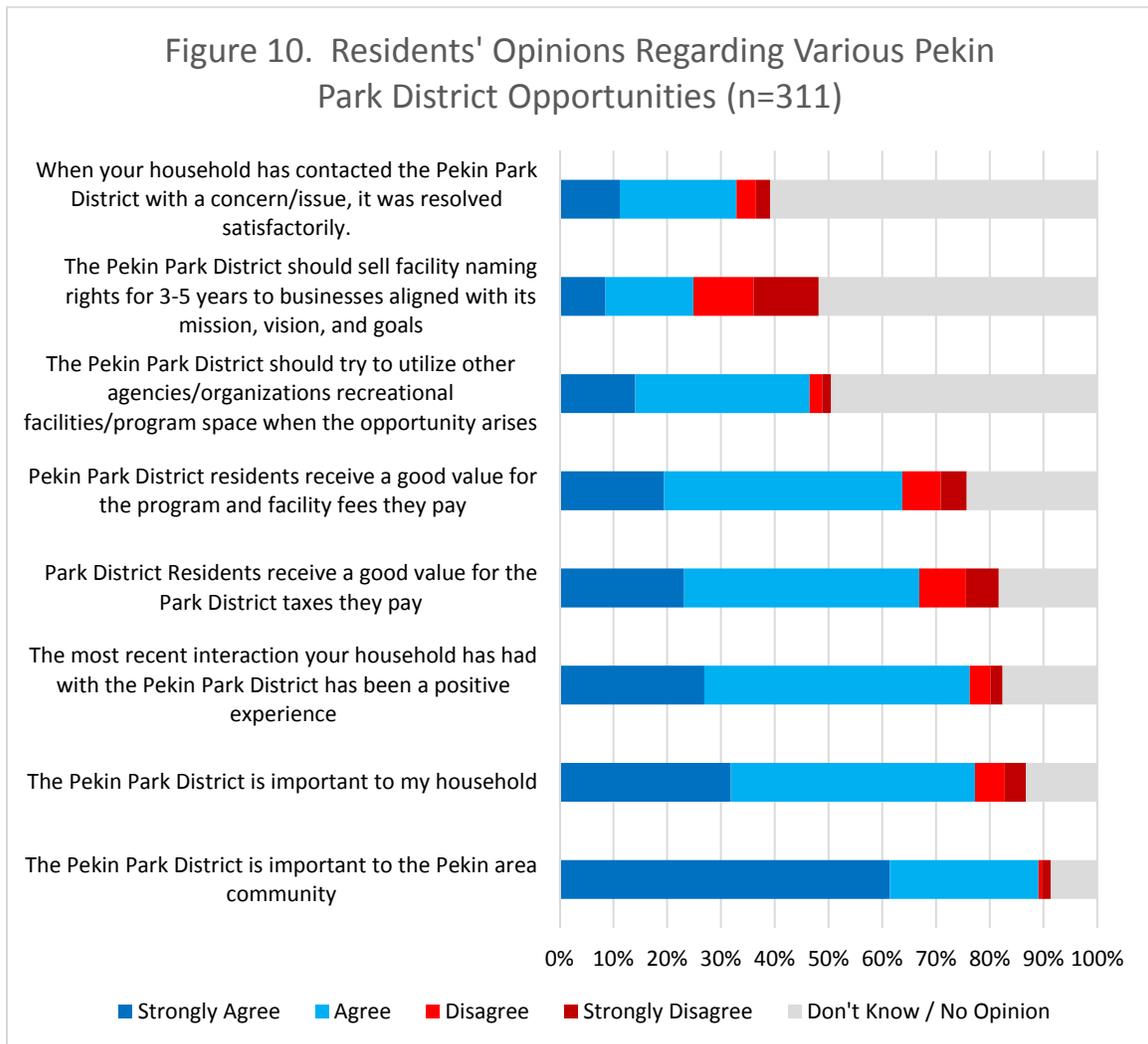
Figure 9. How Effective is the Pekin Park District as it Relates to...(n=307)



## OPINIONS CONCERNING RECREATIONAL ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

The next question of the community-wide recreation interest survey asked respondents for their “opinion concerning the recreational issues and opportunities within the Pekin Park District.” Respondents were presented with eight issues and/or opportunities and asked to indicate their level of agreement with each statement. Respondents rated each issue and/or opportunity on a 5-point agreement scale (0=don’t know/no opinion, 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=agree, and 4=strongly agree).

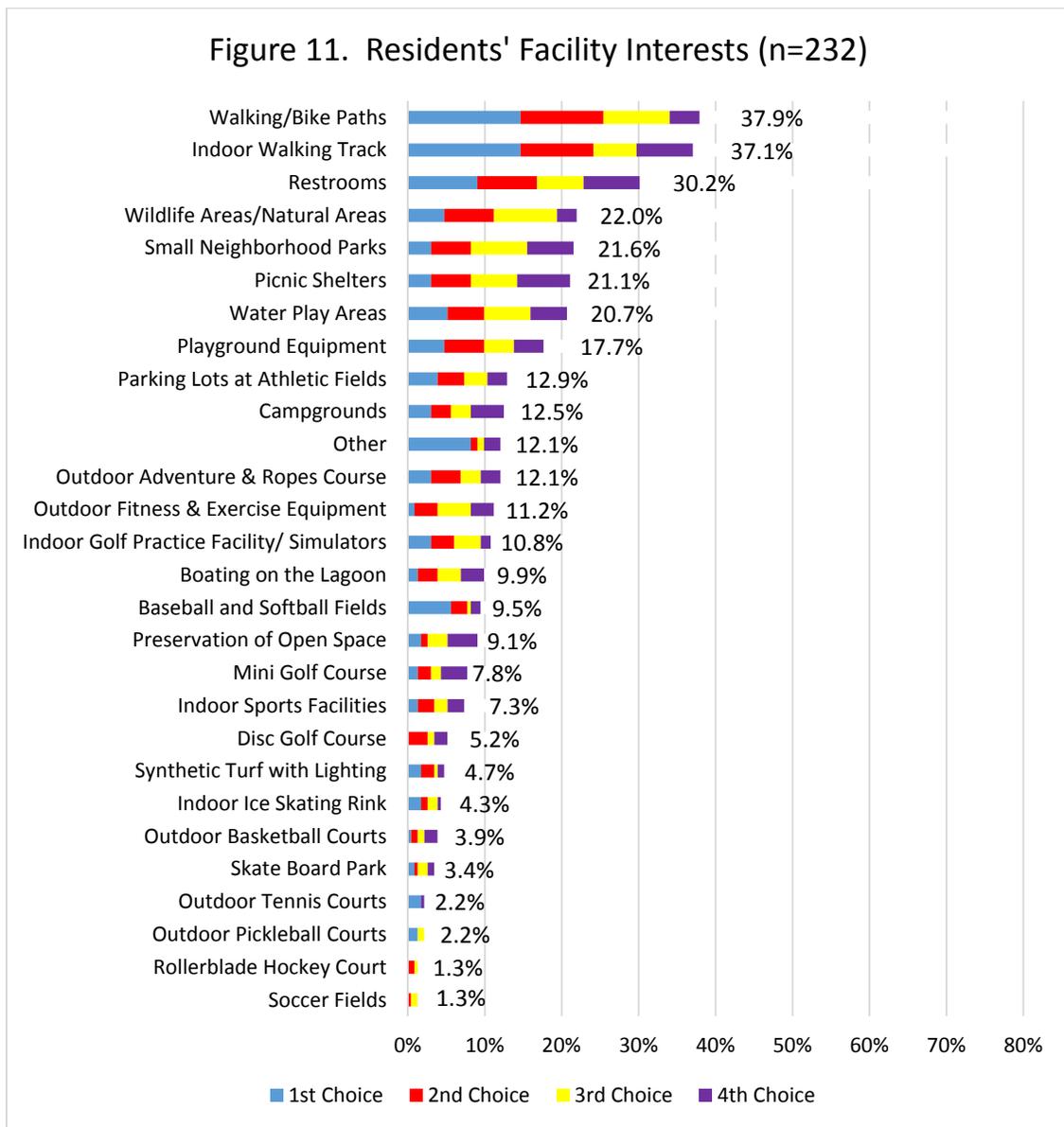
89.1% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Pekin Park District is important to the Pekin community while 77.3% of the respondents agreed (or strongly agreed) that the Pekin Park District is important to their household. In contrast, only 24.9% of respondents felt (agreed or strongly agreed) the Pekin Park District should sell facility naming rights for 3-5 years to businesses aligned with its mission, vision, and goals. Complete results are available in Figure 10.



## FUTURE FACILITY INTERESTS WITHIN THE PEKIN COMMUNITY

An item on the community-wide recreation interests survey asked households to identify and prioritize facility amenity needs within the Pekin Park District. Respondents were presented with twenty-eight facilities and/or amenities and asked to identify which ones their household would most like to see developed/enhanced. Specifically, respondents were asked to rank the top four facilities and/or amenities they felt were the most needed for their household.

37.9% of the respondents identified walking/bike paths as their household’s first, second, third, or fourth choice for future facility development/enhancement. 37.1% of respondents ranked an indoor walking track as their household’s first, second, third, or fourth choice. Complete aggregate results are provided in Figure 11.



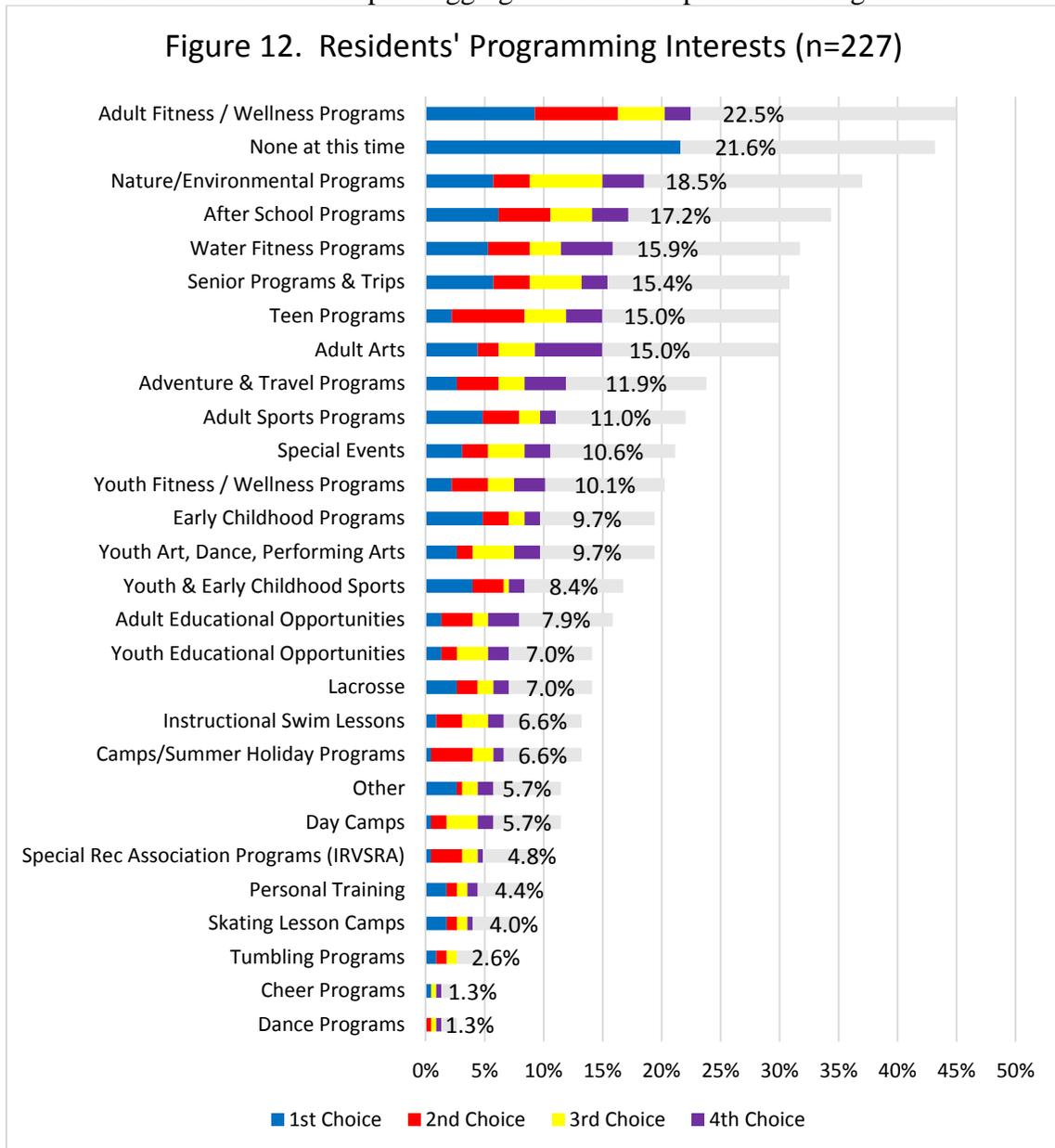
### **“Other” Facility Interests:**

- a public pool.
- Senior Swimming and exercise stuff
- no preference
- Roads
- Roads
- Dragonland Sucks!
- All purpose entertainment Shell in Mineral Spring Park
- Indoor Pool for community
- Indoor Tennis
- Dog Training area / dog park
- Art Museum
- Indoor or outdoor lap swimming available to public. Dragonland doesn't work. High School is not good enough because they don't allow the public to use it!
- Larger lap pool
- Tumbling Program for ages 6 - 18
- Major Extension of Walking Path / New Paths
- Concerts in the park
- no opinion
- warm water pool for arthritis
- Clean the Riverfront Pier!
- none
- Band Shell
- none
- Dog park could use a port-a-potty
- don't have time
- Large Feature for Pekin. Example: 50 ft slide/zip-line/trampoline room
- Indoor basketball / volleyball facility. Form and run youth leagues and tournaments!
- Miller Center
- Lick Creek Golf Course is one of the best in the area but has terrible practice facilities compared to other top tier courses. Elevation changes on driving range and lack of good targets makes it less than ideal for good players looking to dial in. Also needs a short game area (not just a putting green) where pitch/chip shots and bunker shots can be practiced. The practice facilities at Metamora Fields are a good example of what better players are looking for. The park also needs to find a way to provide indoor basketball courts and leagues for children and adults alike. This is a missed opportunity for the park as churches and youth clubs have plenty of participation from both age groups.
- Indoor baseball batting cages, pitcher's mound, etc.
- Indoor pool or water park-year round swimming fitness and play. Indoor playground/recreation for kids and families. Bathroom or outhouse at every park-know the hassle of taking 3-8 year olds to parks without facilities.

## FUTURE PROGRAMMING INTERESTS WITHIN THE PEKIN COMMUNITY

An item on the community-wide recreation interests survey asked households to identify and prioritize programming needs within the Pekin Park District. Respondents were presented with twenty-eight programming options and asked to identify which ones their household would most like to see developed/enhanced. Specifically, respondents were asked to rank the top four programs they felt were the most needed for their household.

22.5% of the respondents identified adult fitness/wellness programs as their household's first, second, third, or fourth choice for future programming development/enhancement. It is also worth noting that 21.6% of respondents ranked "none at this time" as their household's first choice. Complete aggregate results are provided in Figure 12.



### **“Other” Programming Interests:**

- no preference
- Hockey camps/programs
- adult dance
- roller hockey league
- Adult Golf and Tennis Programs
- Indoor Pool - Like Riverside
- water polo
- Home-school Activities
- 1 - Adult Jazzercise
- 2 - Calligraphy Class
- monthly firework at dusk
- don't feel qualified to answer
- Adult Golf Lessons
- The park district NEEDS to have a PGA Professional at Lick Creek Golf Course to provide guidance for the course and also offer teaching opportunities.

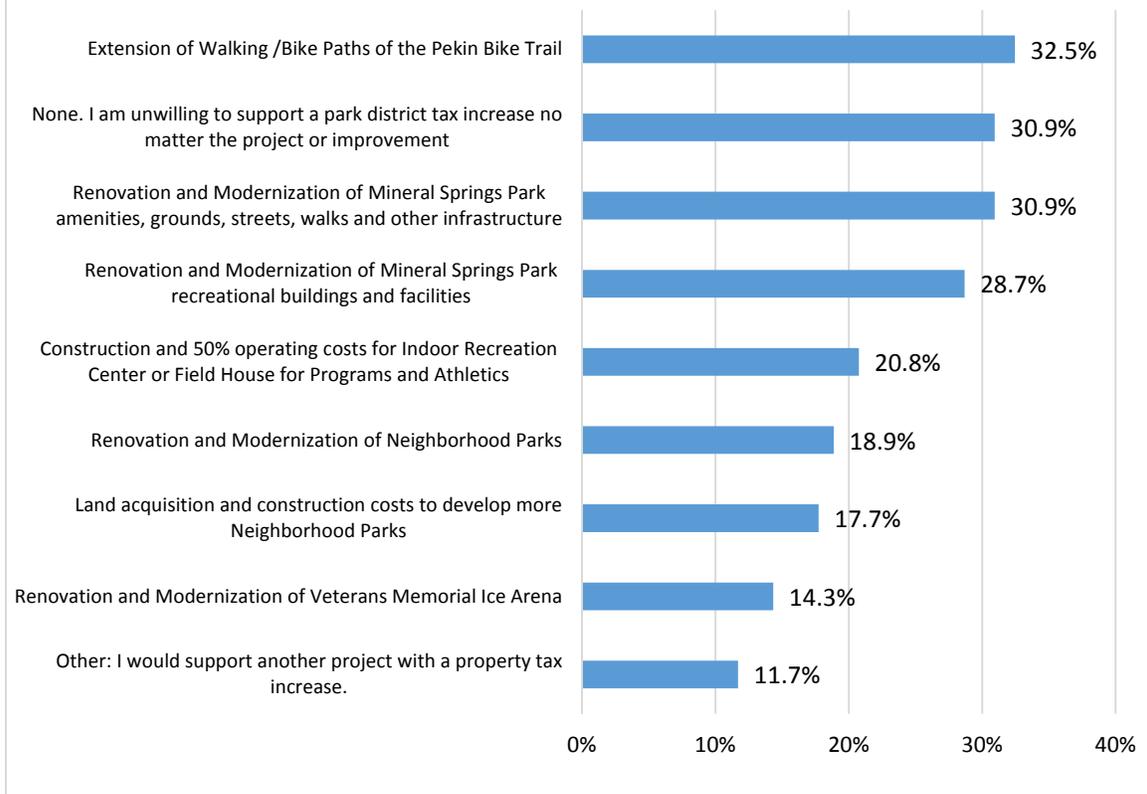
### **FUNDING SUPPORT FOR PEKIN PARK DISTRICT PROJECTS**

Two questions of the recreation interests survey asked respondents for their feedback on funding support for Pekin Park District projects. The first item asked respondents to indicate their willingness to support a list of eight capital projects. The next question asked those respondents who were willing to support a project to indicate their level of financial support. The results for each of these items are presented in the paragraphs below.

Respondents were presented with a list of eight capital projects (and one option for “none”) asked to indicate their level of support for each project. In particular, respondents were asked, “Which of the following projects would your household support with a tax increase?”. Respondents were asked to select “all that apply” (i.e., respondents could select more than one option).

“Extension of walking/bike paths of the Pekin Bike Trail” (32.5%), “None. I am unwilling to support a Park District tax increase no matter the project or improvement.” (30.9%), and “Renovation and modernization of Mineral Springs Park amenities, grounds, streets, walks, and other infrastructure.” (30.9%) were the most popular responses when asked to identify projects households would be most willing to support with a tax increase. The percentages for each of the options are provided in Figure 13.

**Figure 13. Which of the Following Projects Would Residents Support w/a Tax Increase (n=265)**



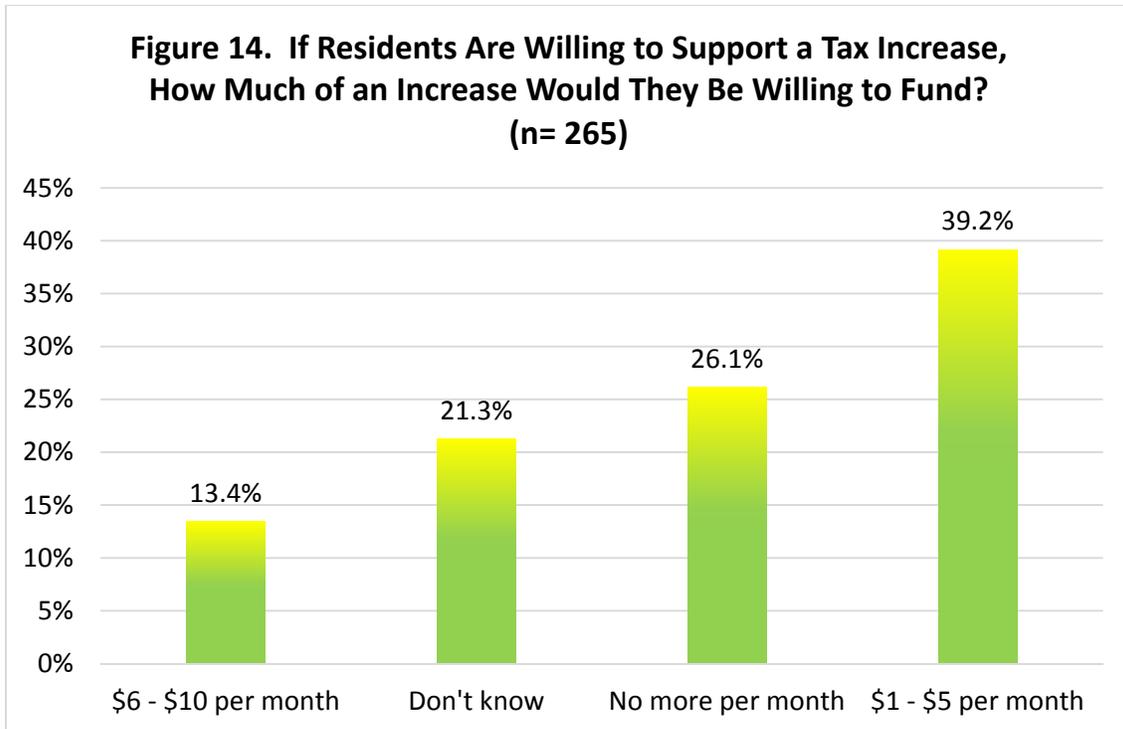
**If you selected "Other", what project would you support with a property tax increase:**

- redoing Dragon Mini Golf
- Add lagoon swings, garbage cans
- Any renovations or relevant new programs
- Indoor Walking / Swimming Pool
- Further development of Independence/Dirkson Bike Trails
- tennis courts
- Walking path from Maple Park to Rt 91
- Govt. grant and finally NOT tax people!
- more summer activities for kids with low-income
- Redneck fish tournament like Bath, IL River Fishing Tournaments! Bring in out of towners like Bath, IL! Once a month throughout the summer! "3x"
- Green energies / recycling centers
- Band Shell and Indoor Swimming Pool
- Would be nice if the bike trail didn't cross so many streets. Hard to ride with little kids.
- Parkview cart path improvement
- bathroom updates
- Keeping the cuss words off playground equipment
- Expansion of baseball fields for youth

- indoor walking track
- Redesign of Putt the Magic Dragon or Paddle Boat upgrade
- Water Park
- More parking on special events
- Better skate park / Dirt jumps
- I feel that there is a board that will make a more informed decision because they know more about current issues and costs. I do not know street/culvert situations or the cost to maintain, upgrade, or build.
- not getting hit with fireworks in the arena!
- Rebuliding outhouse restroom facilities at Tante and McNaughton Parks.
- More parking at to 5th/koch st location
- Upgrades of Lick Creek Golf Course mentioned above.
- Indoor pool and recreation amenities to benefit the community (think Riverplex-something for people who aren't "team sport oriented")
- Modernized restrooms, and concession stands, building renovations
- Cut programs that are not being used and switch funding to other programs. Already pay large tax.

As a follow-up question, respondents were asked to indicate their specific level of funding support for a capital project. In particular, respondents were asked, “How much of an tax increase would your household be willing to support?”. Respondents were presented with four options: no more per month, \$1 - \$5 per month, \$6 - \$10 per month, and don’t know.

According to the findings, 39.2% of respondents would be willing to contribute an additional \$1 - \$5 per month for District projects while 26.1% indicated they would not be willing to provide additional tax support. Complete results are presented in Figure 14.



## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The final section of the community-wide recreation interests survey assessed respondent and household characteristics. The following sections summarize the key findings:

### RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Respondent characteristics obtained with this study included: gender, age, and years lived in the Pekin community. The respondent characteristics are provided in Table 1.

<b>Table 1. Respondent Characteristics (n=326)</b>		
	<b>Respondent/Sample Value</b>	
<b>Who Completed the Survey?</b>		
Male	39.9%	
Female	60.1%	
<b>Age</b>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Pekin Census Data</u>
	Under 21 = 0.0%	Under 20 = 23.1%
	22 to 30 = 4.2%	22 to 30 = 14.1%
	31 to 40 = 19.4%	31 to 40 = 13.2%
	41 to 50 = 22.7%	41 to 50 = 13.1%
	51 to 60 = 16.2%	51 to 60 = 13.9%
	61 to 70 = 18.1%	61 to 70 = 11.3%
	71 to 80 = 13.9%	71 to 80 = 5.8%
	+81 = 5.5%	+81 = 5.4%
<b>Years Lived in Pekin</b>	Mean: 10.7 years	

## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Household characteristics obtained with this study included: type of family unit, individuals with special needs residing in household, awareness of Pekin Park District Foundation, number of people in the household and total household income. The household characteristics are provided in Table 2.

<b>Table 2. Household Characteristics (n=326)</b>	
	<b>Respondent/Sample Value</b>
<b>Family Unit</b>	
Single, no children (or in home)	21.4%
Single, with children	5.5%
Married/Couple, no children at home	37.0%
Married/Couple, with children at home	36.0%
<b>Do You Have a Person w/Special Needs Living in Your Household?</b>	
Yes	8.0%
No	92.0%
<b>Are You Aware of the Pekin Park District Foundation?</b>	
Yes	24.8%
No	75.2%
<b>Number of Children Living at Home</b>	
	<b>Respondent/Sample Value</b>
Under 2yrs of age (n=20)	Mean = 1.2
Pre-School age (n=31)	Mean = 1.1
Grade K – 3 (n=48)	Mean = 1.2
Grade 4 – 6 (n=38)	Mean = 1.0
Junior High School (Grade 7 thru 8) (n=24)	Mean = 1.0
High School (Grade 9 thru 12) (n=48)	Mean = 1.2
Over 18 years of age (n=43)	Mean = 1.2
<b>Household Income (Before Taxes) in 2016</b>	
	<b>Respondent/Sample Value</b>
Less than \$50,000	33.5%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	38.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	19.8%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	6.1%
\$200,000 to \$249,999	0.8%
+\$250,000	1.5%

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## ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS AT THE END OF THE SURVEY

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- Too old to participate, 91 and 95
- I am senior citizen. I don't use parks.
- Thank You
- Most of the programs for adults assume you can go in the middle of the day but people work. We used to go to park district programs all the time when our daughter was little but now that she is a teenager, there is nothing for her.
- The park maintenance crew is fantastic. I would love to see funds appropriated to restrooms and picnic areas, as they require the most attention. Also, a better pool would be nice for older kids.
- Personally, I would like to see Pekin park do an indoor and outdoor driving range. Also, bring back automated batting cages. Add to Dragonland. Build bigger and better watersides to attract more people and bring in more revenue for the park!
- The mini golf has really gone downhill. It needs to be remodeled and possibly making it more like the old goofy golf.
- Love the pavilion but the rules were a bit strict for the money.
- Update & maintain what we have, don't add more. Fix roads, parking lots, trim trees, maintain light poles, swings, etc. Paint outside buildings. Get volunteers to help clean and spruce up - girl scouts, boy scouts, etc.
- I love our park district and feel blessed to have this in my community. I worked at the park for 5 years and have had at least 7 family members work there over the years. I support PPD!
- Good job keeping Laggon sidewalk clear in winter. Grandkids like the scarecrows in Fall. Pretty Park. Cut down dead trees, looks bad.
- The park district was one of the main reason we purchased a house in Pekin. My husband has been active with hockey for 30+ years. We use the parks, trails/paths, and enjoy the Marigold hunt and other park events.
- Dragonland needs to be updated and expanded. Its rundown and not suitable for entertainment for all ages. Add new features and maintain current facilities to draw larger crowds.
- We have a wonderful Park District. When our children and grandchildren were young, we enjoyed what was offered. We are retired and not in good health. I didn't fill the other pages, because we don't participate anymore.
- I would appreciate more adult recreational opportunities, whether at Park District facilities or in cooperation with schools or other available locations. I enjoy volleyball but have few opportunities to participate in that aspect in Pekin, so I go elsewhere.
- I love the park district programs and staff.
- We have great programs for kids, we need more than just softball for adults. Expand on bike trail and look at making a campground with activities for families.
- Work two jobs with special needs individuals, would like to see them more involved in the community and park district
  - reserve off Broadway trail in terrible shape
  - Coal Miner Park and McNaughton parking lot/roads in terrible shape
  - Park Website down/no children - no information from park district, not aware of services/events available
  - liked idea of campgrounds and high ropes team building course, would use regularly

- would like running program in Pekin area, currently drive to Peoria/East Peoria/Peoria Heights to use theirs in partnership with Running Central
- enjoy Pekin band/community band at lagoon (found out about by accident)
- need better information, Facebook presence
- need donation boxes at places in the community, those who use Park District Services are willing to give more, others may be unwilling to raise taxes
- Our family would love to see more care and money put into the ice arena. I have used this arena for the Past 27 years and feel at times it gets pushed aside. I understand it. Does not get used like other park facilities. The kids that do use it love it and the game of hockey and deserve it.
- Not enough concentration on something you might do well. More money for more with less quality is not needed. You have access to about 15 baseball/softball fields. When are you going to have a tournament and generate your own revenue? You have no organization, especially PCSA, that will do it or do it right. You don't need more tax money; you need to get smarter! Use your facilities better!
- Pekin is one of the few city park districts that are as beautiful and offer as much as Pekin has. We, as a community, need to help maintain this treasure.
- Keep up the good work
- Would love to enjoy more activities, but the cost of things like paddle boats, swimming, and goofy golf are too expensive. The boats sit there all day and don't go out. Why not charge \$2/person and have them being used? What ever happened to free movie night? Need more family events for cheap/free. Many people around here have limited incomes. I would use Parkside - but I can't afford it.
- My kids got too old fast but I would have used the arena more if the cost of hockey in local - not travel - leagues were available - still would love to see my youngest try that and having lived in NY (Rochester) many years I miss roller hockey and most of all - Lacrosse.
- We are very fortunate to have the Pekin Park District on our community. The Mineral Springs Park is a gem and a valued family tradition used for so many activities and opportunities! None like it!
- Outlying parks need land management (mowing and path maintenance). It needs to be more frequently. Focus on maintaining a high level of management of current properties versus acquiring more. Do enjoy special events - like bike historical trips around town. Would like to see more aquatic offerings for seniors - early morning lap swims, morning water fitness classes, and evening swim for seniors only once a month or so. The park is an integral part of our community and family. It has been well managed over the years and we hope the forward thinking process continues for its prosperity.
- McNaughton Park needs a new restroom. Coal Miners Park needs more garbage cans along the trails. A few are missing.
- I feel the Park District is too big. I think they need to sell a lot of the land that is being used for little neighborhood parks and land that is not being used. Pekin Park District is too big and needs to down-size. I can be contacted at XXX-XXX-XXXX.
- We have always used and enjoyed our park from T-ball to High School sports. Boating, golf, and fishing. Larry's Casting Kids is great. Sitting in swings and enjoying the days. Keep up good programs. We love are parks.
- Restrooms need attention at park and Dragonland. Overall, we have an excellent park system. Parkside rates are extremely expensive.

- I have a hard time supporting a tax increase when over \$1 million is spent watering the grass. In addition to paying taxes, I also have to pay a user fee when utilizing a program with a very small discount for being a resident.
- Park District needs to be competitive with Golds Gym both in monthly fees and flexible membership - golfers don't workout year round, need off-season membership.
- The Park District is doing a great job. This town needs no additional taxes. Get the schools and the city to get their act together and maybe the town will grow and provide more tax revenue!
- Even though I personally don't use the park very much, I knew it is a jewel and very important part of Pekin - I would support a tax increase.
- I feel that the park district should further invest in their hiking/biking trails at Independence and Dirksen Parks through trail maintenance and development.
- Two things on my wishlist... a splash-pad/fountain in Mineral Springs Park and a bicycle safety town for kids. Also would LOVE Coal Miners' Trail to be extended.
- Quit forming alliances with other districts and businesses. Close the ice skating rink and replace it with an art museum. Take the space, staff, and expenditures from the rink and apply them to a local art museum. For mercy sakes, double the paved (gravel) parking at the Koch street ball fields. Let's have more parks and less recreation. Get Koehler out of the Miller Center. Get the need lunch program out of the Miller Center.
- As current members of Parkside Athletics, my wife and I would like to see a lower level membership plan as we don't use tennis courts and classes. At 600/yr for a couple, this is the most expensive option in the area. Also, housekeeping at Parkside has diminished over time. This needs to be improved if we are to continue our membership!!!
- X did an incredible job and will be hard to replace, same for X. Need to give some serious attention to outdoor tennis court maintenance and additional outdoor tennis courts.
- Stop people from parking along 5th St, Koch to Hanna Drive. If too many events are scheduled for available parking, then don't schedule them. I hope no one is injured along 5th St. Especially a child! Work with traffic community of Pekin.
- We need more trails! Connect to north side of town. Online registration would be nice. Adults deserve a nice swim facility for fitness. The YWCA is not good for lap swimming. Our youth deserve a facility for competitive swimming. The High School limits access to Dragon Aquatics. Pekin needs to be able to host real USA Swimming swim meets. It's a sport that our community can do for a lifetime. I have to drive to Peoria to be on a Masters Swim team because Pekin doesn't have the facilities for it. Dragon Aquatics would run the program but can't because of facilities.
- Start keeping up all restrooms and concessions "all" year long. Winter is a preferred time of year for many to enjoy the parks, but there are no restrooms or concessions open.
- I would love to expand adult sports leagues and would happily pay more to do that, but raising taxes is wrong.
- Pekin Park Programs are not competitive with other programs/fitness clubs/arts/dance/sports - this is the main reason I have answered 'don't use' questions 6/7 and 8. I believe there should not be a tax hike until this is addressed and the park district is looking into making economies.
- Need new walking paths to bring Pekin into the new century - Need math and reading labs to also help the youngsters. Need to make Pekin a place people want to relocate. Thanks.

- Pekin Park and others look great
- I don't use the park like when the kids were young, but I think it is a great park district. Just don't see much for seniors other than walking the park areas.
- When we were raising our 5 children, we used the park facilities extensively and frequently - lessons, parks, day camp, ball diamonds, etc. We still live in Pekin but are seldom home. Our children and grandchildren do not live in the area. I would support a tax increase for the parks to ensure that others are able to use the Park District facilities. The park is one of Pekin's best amenities.
- I live by myself and I hardly ever leave the house or go anywhere. So, I don't think it would be worth-while for me to fill out this survey. Sorry
- The park district has been a big part of our lives since moving here 40 years ago. We are very proud of it's beautiful setting - a place for the whole family. Thank you!
- Coal Miners' Walking Trail area is overgrown, full of mosquitos. What happened? Coal Miners Parking low, what happened? Lots of overgrowth and a general lack of care to lots and trails. I voiced concerns every year and have been told its a staffing issue.
- 90 years old; In Pekin Manor
- We love Mineral Springs Park and fountain for our children and I remember going a lot as a child also. Great park for the Pekin Community.
- Retired - children grown and moved away. When children were at home, they were involved in park programs: dance, gymnastics, ice skating.
- Keep up the good work
- We appreciate and use Mineral Springs Park frequently and will utilize more programs and services as our kids get older. Overall, we really enjoy the park!
- I believe all of Pekin has a tendency to communicate only with the people/groups they know/are park of - including Park District. This is a tendency for all communities but especially noticeable in Pekin (have lived in several other locales).
- You have a lot of park space to hold concerts or movies in the park. Both are a great way to bring money to our town.
- I would like to see the road at McNaughton Park resurfaced. I know the riverfront park is hard to keep clean and maintained due to the flooding but I would like to see more done here.
- The facilities and programs offered by the park district are excessive for the size of our community. I fear property taxes (one of the most regressive taxes) will be raised to provide additional entertainment and recreation for a narrow population group.
- We love to rent the pavilion for special events. The park is very pretty and I enjoy taking pictures of the flowers, butterflies, and hummingbirds. I really like the burnt orange containers. Are they new? I never noticed them before.
- Pekin Park is an exceptional park! Beautiful!
- I have always had positive experiences with the Pekin Park District and am supportive of all the things they do, even if we don't participate/use all the places/programs. Having an active, well-funded park district definitely enriches the community we live in; I would say it's one of the nicest parts about Pekin. :)
- I believe that handicapped swings would be a definite plus to our park. Also, more 0-5 playgrounds would be great. Also be great if kids over 5 were not allowed to play on small childrens park equipment. One of the little kids is going to really get hurt. Or maybe someone to monitor the equipment to ensure the safety of younger kids. My 2 1/2 year old granddaughter does not care if big kids are climbing up the slide anymore. She slides anyway and has knocked their feet out from under them. No parent in sight though. I don't sure the park much anymore.

- As Seniors, we don't use the parks at all - NO MORE TAXES.
- Many people don't feel safe walking the trails and taking their kids to park district parks. We want to have a positive experience and not have to encounter unruly kids because their parents don't supervise. Why we rather go to Morton or other surrounding parks.
- I am a child and adolescent Master's level counselor who works with disadvantaged low-income youth in Pekin and Peoria area. I have been referring children to the Peoria Playbook for years to help parents keep kids busy in the summer. I did not even know there was a playbook for Pekin even though I live here! I see why no after reading this it is probably because we do not have children.

There are a lot of low-income in Pekin who do not have wifi or computers so you definitely need to continue printing paper copies and sending them home with children but it might be a good idea to make them available to anyone who works with youth - Tazwood, OSF Child and Adolescent Clinic, Methodist (Unity Point) Child outpatient center, Children's Home, foster care agencies. Even though many of these places are in Peoria, the children we service live in Pekin.

These answers come from my time as a child and adolescent therapist in the area, NOT as a resident.

I am willing to pay more taxes to help the children of our community. However, anyone with a registered sex offender who owns property in the area probably does not. Why would they want to pay taxes on something they cannot even have access to? I am sure I am the exception to the rule here. Keep that in mind.

- We love the care and attention and accessibility of the wooded parks / trails. Love Dragonland and Mineral Springs Park. The park district does a fantastic job!
- Good luck! ;)
- It would be best if someone that uses the park for this survey. I'm not young, a widow, and no children.
- I think we pay enough Real Estate Tax. Almost .50
- I feel like I just don't know what the park district has to offer. I don't know where good parks are to take my small children - looking online didn't help. I may need to drive around to find what all there is to offer!
- I have been to parks around the world and this is the NICEST park I have seen in terms of FACILITIES and ACTIVITIES by far!!!
- Please clean Riverfront Pier after floods! Turn the Asian Carp problem into fun and dollars like Bath, IL! sponsor several river fishing tournaments with entry fee, shore, boat, bands, food, etc. Once again, like Bath, IL Redneck Fish Tournament! Also, clean up litter on Riverfront daily - Park Police enforce litter laws there. It's a disgrace! Take all the "no's" off of Pier sign.
- I think Mineral Springs Park is one of the nicest and prettiest parks that I have seen and my wife and I have traveled extensively in the US and many other countries abroad.
- As our child or children get older, we would significantly increase our use of the Pekin Park District.
- Don't use or need anything Park District offers. Anything to reduce taxes. Let those who use it pay for it.

- Also, I would support a community-run Greenhouse and Garden to help feed the homeless and needy. If you are interested in having me help/donate, call me at XXX-XXX-XXXX. Thank you, X.
- You might consider eliminating the staff fighting in front of the public on Koch St. Park. That being said, I believe we are blessed to have such a great park with so many opportunities for the children in our city. Thank you.
- We investigated the indoor wellness center at Mineral Springs Park 4 or 5 years ago, but found it difficult to get any answers from the staff on duty and subsequently joined Anytime Fitness instead.
- All in all my experience with the Pekin Park District has been positive and beneficial. There is always more to be done however, so I'm glad to see and respond to this survey. :)
- We are new to the area. We have used Mineral Springs park for family gatherings and have been please with the facilities. Restrooms could use updating, but they are usually clean. I would like to receive a copy of the Play Guide but do not know how to get one. We would probably use the facilities and attend programs if we knew about them.
- I think the Park District should build a band shelter with restrooms at the site of the obsolete bike park to support fine arts in the community
  - site is flat, openspace, shade, and parking nearby
  - could be used for concerts, movies, other performances
  - would be great addition for Marigold Festival
- Summer concerts would be something we would enjoy. Other communities have done this. Jazz, sock hop. Music for 40 year olds and older.
- My daughter takes dance and tumbling classes each week. X is always nice and says hi! And she remembers my daughter even with hundreds of kids. X is also a TERRIFIC tumbling instructor! Also, thank you for replacing one of the recreation receptionists. The one no longer there was always short and rude at the simplest question.
- Koch St. parking lots are unbearable; not enough parking at times; tough to get out of; some spaces are a long walk to fields.
- Need to pave walk path at Athletic field on Koch Street. That needed to be done instead of spending money on redoing the soccer field at Coal Miner park which looks to be very expensive. Did not look to be tax money well spent!
- Need to keep the lagoon side walk cleaner and lagoon bathrooms.
- I love the Park Book and look through it thoroughly to plan activities. Love the Lagoon and Fountain Areas - Prettiest park in Illinois. :)
- Only program we have been satisfied with was Ice Hokey. The tot programs are crap and a joke and a waste of time. Only thing good is the park property. Special Rec has lack of coaching and no dedication to the special population.
- I don't think many know about the Foundation and its purpose. All the streets and roads in the Park need to be repaired. The Park needs to replace the bus that transports children. The Park needs to have a larger senior bus for use at the Miller Center. Instead of acquiring more land, the Park should use their tax money to maintain what they have and not raise taxes. An electronic sign should be purchased for the Miller Center. We are seniors so do not use many of the facilities, only Parkside and Miller Center.
- Every time I go to a sports activity, I always sit by a smoker. I'm forced to leave. Should be smoke-free.  
\*Diamond Two - The entry should be made for two way - in and out. (Stupid drive) -

You have plenty of room to do so.

\*Enforce Dogs not on Leash.

\*Why pay tax dollars for all this when I can't use them. I'm handicapped. Haven't been satisfied for a long time. If the dogs don't run me off, the smoke does.

- - We love the Park! Fix roads, parking lots, and bathrooms
- Nice to have more parks (woods, trails) outside of city limits
- bike trail is great! Wish Pekin had more
- better maps of parks and trails
- The Park District needs to scale back and reduce tax burden to residents. All programs should be paid by those who use them by charging fees to cover costs.
- When my 3 children in school, the 2 boys were fishing in lagoon many times a week. We are only 5 blocks from lagoon. We had many meals from the lagoon. All three enjoyed swimming. The band concerts have always been fun.
- Maintain the wooded areas better. Lick Creek bottoms is an absolute disgrace... Fallen trees and storm debris have accumulated over the past few years has developed into an absolute eyesore. Maintain what we already have better before expanding anything!
- The only one we use is Mineral Springs. We love it and are satisfied with it.
- I do have grandchildren that I support in their Park District activities.
- The path around the fields at Koch St. Park needs to be paved, better for strollers and small toddlers on bikes. Also, the cuss words carved into the play equipment is awful!
- The parking lots by the Lagoon need to be improved, too many pot holes.
- Parkside would do better if they matched Golds Gym prices for couples.
- Pekin Park District grounds look amazing. Would like more info. on seed sharing/retrieving days; and special days for special needs children.
- Handicapped parking more needed / and enforcement of law.
  - Did not receive our Play Guide this year at all.
  - Pavilion on the Lagoon: need more handicapped parking (closer)
  - Picnic Shelters: check for electrical hazard's; never enough plug-ins
  - Walking/Bike Paths: goose dropping all over
  - Natural Areas: How about a bus tour offered to see all them
  - Park District Bathrooms: rebuild the older ones (please)
- Schools raised tax levy, City raised tax levy and increase fees that didn't exist five years ago. Parks are great in Pekin but can't afford further increases in town where incomes are not increasing at same rate as cost.
- I have been a member at Parkside for over 20 years. Same maintenance on equipment seems to take longer than necessary. Thank you!
- We just moved back to Pekin, and I don't know a lot about programs offered. I have always used the Park for kids and grandkids.
- My mother got run over by a car in the Koch St. Athletic Park. Better signs and traffic flow might avoid future accidents.
- I would utilize an indoor track and think an indoor sports complex would be a great addition. Maybe a membership card that you had to insert to get in after hours and I would be willing to pay a tax increase and an under \$10 monthly membership fee for something like that. Also, I feel more outdoor activities would be good like the outdoor adventure and rope course. I was not sure if McNaughton Park was part of the Pekin Park district.
- I would love to see the walking/bike trail extended to Veterans Dr.

- To whom ever planted the Tall plants around the beautiful fountain - you can not clearly see it. Plants are ugly!
- I use Parkside on a daily basis and the facility is run down with aging equipment. It also takes an extensive period of time to fix anything if it becomes broken. Very frustrated with amount paid in taxes and membership fees for the service provided.
- Senior disabled. Love our park. Growing up used it all the time so did our children. It's beautiful!  
-Very proud of our park. Just driving past it is a pleasure. I can remember when you could walk into the Lagoon. It had no sides.
- Keep up the great work you are doing
- I am glad Pekin has a Park District. It has been there in the raising of my kids and provided sports for them both to be involved in and now employment opportunities! Thank you so much!
- I am interested in the old GM & O depot. My grandfather was agent (and only employee) retiring in the late 50's. (X). I have an ash tray, paper weight, and pictures I offered to the park with no reply. Might be a good area for a small museum on our railroads. I know the district is only interested in sports - i.e. moving the Dirksen statue to a back corner where it cannot be found by visitors.
- We have been active in the Relay for Life cancer activities in Pekin. I was deeply disappointed that it was held in East Peoria. I have heard that a \$1,000 charge was asked for in additions to taxes we pay. I also heard that interest and participation had decreased. I have no proof of either rumor!
- It would be nice to have an afterschool program for kids to be til parents get off work. Parents can pay for services. Every week we play softball and part of the fun is having popcorn. The clerk says no one has trained her how to make popcorn - Really? By diamond #1 on Monday nights.
- My greatest dissatisfaction is in the deferred/lack of maintenance of the roads and especially the lagoon area. The lagoon water and walks are filthy. Pekin would benefit by replacing abandoned buildings and lots with Park landscaping. Overall, the City of Pekin could benefit from the park management and care.
- Taking care of disabled mother
- It's sad at the Golf Courses advertise the military discount but don't give it because one has to be active only. Not retired! The signs say "military only"! Sad. Also, so many snapper turtles in the lagoon!! And not good for fishing if disabled or old!!
- Relay for Life had held an event at Mineral Springs Park for the past several years. The now retired person representing the park district was very hard to deal with and at time unreasonable, finally a Park Board member was contacted and looked into the matter. That member was treated nice and Relay for Life was able to hold the fundraiser as it always had. This year (2017) the Relay for Life event was moved out of Pekin.
- No tax increase!
- We do have a beautiful park here in Pekin but this town has nothing else to offer. Sad! Sad! Sad!
- I absolutely love our park! It's postcard material! It is so so beautiful! Even in the winter months! Would love to see changes that make it even more beautiful! Good luck!
- The parks are important to us for my grandchildren and great grandchildren.
- need to do more stuff for older people
- I would like to see more programs geared to adults - esp. seniors. I would like info. on how to participate in special events - as in a how to be a vendor at Marigold Festival

for instance made easily known. I would like more programs for limited mobility people. I would like the program schedules to be easily accessible to people in the Pekin area. I would like to see more programs that address the issue of our community being low income - perhaps have more programs that are donation-based or are for groups to meet and share info, time, or items like a community garage sale held monthly - where those who have apartments, or live in the country, can rent for a small price - or bring their own - table, and sell items, for a very small fee, as many who would participate have maybe under \$100 items they can sell - but might not sell all so \$10 would be a fair price, and attractive enough. With all the Pawn shops our city has - there is a large interest in antique/vintage items. With our population being largely baby boomers - parents of those inherit many items they really don't need but would like to sell. I would participate in such a function, as living where I do, I cannot have a garage sale and know no one in city at a home where I can share yard. I am sure I am not the only one as my friends in apartments cannot have garage sales - and look at all the people with storage lockers. Many with items they would like to sell. Information of these events should be made especially available to be successful, and in advance so potential vendors can be notified. Some date that is consistent - 1st Friday of the month - each month - for instance so people can look forward to it. :) Donations could be sold by volunteers for park district too for additional money - thereby keeping the table cost low for participants. I think once this catches on - you will find surrounding small city and town residents will shop too - I would also like to see more programs - available that have both morning, afternoon, and evening options - such as Tai Chi, yoga, jewelry making (wire wrapping), various craft classes, poet barnstorming/sharing groups, perhaps a partnership with T.A.P.S. where seniors or adults can walk dogs around the lagoon - exercise for kenneled dogs, exercise for adults plus interaction with an animal that they may have no way to have any other way (apts, cost, etc.) it also could be good not only for socializing the dogs wanting to be adopted, but allows others to see them (especially if walkers have a vest stating dog is up for adoption), smaller dogs perhaps for seniors, larger ones for stronger adults. Some of us have trained dogs before - so could result in a better dog to be adopted.

I miss the recycling plant we used to have in Pekin, if park district notified others, they could accept glass, paper, cans - donations - paper could be used at T.A.P.S., glass if colored in glass art classes (moziac) maybe as stepping stones in gardens?, cans as extra cash - to take to Peoria to recycle. We could have a beginning/restarting bike group, for seniors who want to bike, but have not for awhile and are hesitant on joining marathons because of limitations, just having others there wanting the same thing can be helpful. Limited mobility group or something - Adults with children would like to participate in some programs but no sitters hold them back. Free sitting during art classes, programs, etc. (that have a fee) may stir moms who otherwise would have to pass on such programs, I think cooking classes could be popular - maybe concentrating on things like diabetes, 5 ingredients or less, G.E.R.D. friendly, alkaline food choice recipes, or ethnic recipes, maybe programs that help people learn how to use ebay or Paypal selling or things like this. I would like to see craft classes like spinning clay pots, basket weaving, rugs on looms, fairy homes (or toad homes), maybe we could have a home gardeners - plant thinning exchange wher eon a certain date early summer gardeners can bring "x" plants to exchange for others - flowers and herbs - perennials? Maybe some farm classes, like beginning bees, beginning chickens? Where we could go to farms that have chickens or bees and hear firsthand from farmers what they know? Maybe we could have a city-wide donation

day - anything still functional - would be curbed and available to be picked up - by city or residents? Ideas = I hope some can be implemented. Thank you! Let's make Pekin awesome!

- It would be nice if the mini golf were open in the spring and fall, even if it is weekends only. It is still beautiful weather in Fall, we hate to see it closed. The skate park is great, but it is closed too much. It's already been repaired, however in April I took my child there only to be disappointed that it was closed. So she asked to play mini golf and that was closed too. It was on a Friday in late April. Disappointed child. The bathrooms at Riverfront are super bad! No toilet paper, dark and cold water in the sink and no soap! Dirty too! Mineral Springs bathrooms are bad, dirty, and dark too.
- When I was younger, I used the park a lot. Now, I am 90. Too old to use the facility now.
- I have always been very pleased with our Park District. I feel it offers a great variety for all ages. Keep up the good works.
- Pekin needs a golf driving range besides Lick Creek, with more space, yardage, markers, or pins to aim at. Could also improve the current one.
- No increase in taxes or fees
- I was slow with this because I shouldn't even receive this survey. I just don't use the park much anymore. Do enjoy looking at the lagoon and especially the summer flower beds!! They are lovely!
- The lack of ADA accessibility is appalling. The parking lot at Pekin Sports Complex (5th and Koch) was poorly designed and constructed. Having to bring in port-a-potty's at that facility is sad. Again, poorly thought out. The trail around that facility is unusable after any rainfall. Needs paved. Not that sorry gravel used in the parking lot which doesn't meet ADA for being a hard surface. Same goes for the parking lot at Coal Miners. Need to work with City of Pekin for recycling. Every facility should have recycling available.
- Sent this at bad time, people getting ready for holiday.
- I have been on my own 37 years having a very hard time making it. Will be using some of the programs for younger children now (for granddaughter).
- Park cops harass people / Park is profiled for the upper class. Bathrooms need fixed!
- I have no plans to take my children to Dragonland as the cleanliness has really gone down. You are losing money to Tremont and Morton as their pools are much cleaner.
- Attend grandchildren's events, Marigold festival, use Pavilion and Miller Center. Love Pekin parks, all the many opportunities for everyone.
- I love the Pekin Parks and wish for them to be keep well maintained and/or expanded.
- Pekin has a wonderful park system. The biggest problem that I see, is the lack of maintenance. Diamond 1 needs work done on it. Many of the outdoor grills at the main park, Tante and McNaughton are so lopsided they are unusable. The outhouses/restrooms at Tante and McNaughton have fallen to disrepair. Both parks are beautiful places for families to spend the day, but not usable due to the lack of restrooms. I used to walk laps around the lagoon, but the geese have gotten so bad, I am not comfortable walking there anymore. I really wish the Park District would go back to allowing dogs on the side walk around the lagoon to keep the geese away. I also like the Potawatomi trail (for hiking not horseback riding). But, not all of the trail markings on the map are marked on the trail itself. I could not even find where to begin from the Route 98 entrance. I would love to see the Park District put up some signage and markings. In my opinion, before the Park starts any major projects, they would better serve the community to make current facilities usable and family friendly.

- Would like to see more diamonds for youth softball. Currently the single youth softball user is provided 1 1/2 fields per week at the sports complex. The organization runs successful tournaments using Pekin Park fields, has 11 teams and over 80 families (95% of whom are residents) in the organization. Difficult to schedule home games or a league filling the diamonds with teams that would join throughout Tazewell / Peoria counties. Initially, diamonds 8,9,10 were scheduled for softball. Then, baseball organizations would fill remaining open slots. Yet, not anymore. This softball organization had 48 double headers scheduled in its first year 2011-2012 with less teams that it currently has in 2016-2017. Now, they have scheduled approximately 25 double headers due to scheduling constraints. This organization will more than likely part ways with the Pekin Park District, including the use of the LRB and Parkside Athletics if the field use status does not change starting in 2017-2018. Yet we feel confident that the Pekin Park District will work with us. We really do not want to go anywhere else.
- I and many other residents are extremely dissatisfied with the current parking situation with the baseball/softball games going on at the new sports fields on Koch St. I am unable to park in front of my home when I get off work, and there is also unsafe parking on the sides of 5th St.
- The Pekin Park areas could look very nice if the maintenance & upkeep were kept up on. An example of this is along Parkway on the treeline & by the small stone brick bridge overgrown grass is everywhere & shows that nothing has been trimmed but other areas have been taken care of. This is an area where people drive through everyday & know that this is apart of the park. This makes a bad impression on the Park District. This is the case for many areas. I would utilize the walking/bike trails if I felt that it was a safe environment. I have witnessed & heard of alarming people hanging out along the trails which make a lot of people not want to use them. The landscaping is not always kept up as well. It would be nice to see the park district officers patrolling the walking/bike trails more instead of just sitting in their cars so that more citizens feel safe. I also find it disgusting the amount of litter that is floating in the lagoon & even inappropriate items are floating in an area that families walk with their kids daily. If this is supposed to be a kid friendly environment then why are things like this not kept up on. The last time I was walking the lagoon with my husband a guy was peeing in the lagoon in front of little children. No park cops were to be found. I refuse to expose my family to an environment like this. I refuse to support adding additional areas within the park until issues like this are handled.
- There should be more focus on cleaning/skimmming the garbage from the lagoon and washing the duck feces from the sidewalk around the lagoon on a regular (daily, if not every other day) basis.
- 60% poverty level town with a large, beautiful park system. It should be respected and maintained, but should serve everybody.
- We have always enjoyed the Park and facilities over the years.
- Used to enjoy walking at Mineral Springs but was attacked by goose. There are so many and you can't walk without getting goose poop on your shoes. So I no longer walk at park. That's a shame.
- We would like the price of Parkside Athletics to be more in line with other fitness facilities in the surrounding area. I can get a family membership for 4 people at \$15 less per month than Parkside (\$180 per year). They could also team up with businesses and offer corporate discounts (Other local gyms do already) for Parkside if they have to keep the price higher (ie Caterpillar, OSF, etc).

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## **APPENDIX A: STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

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**PEKIN PARK DISTRICT  
STAKEHOLDER & FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

1. Introductions of Project Team
2. Board member introductions:
  - a. Name
  - b. Term on Board
  - c. How did you become interested in public service?
3. There are three basic purposes of the park district – provide parks, provide recreation facilities and provide recreation programs and activities. The mix or balance of these is developed by the board and staff working together and listening and responding to the community. We would like to hear your thoughts and comments on three general areas.
  - a. What are three to five things the Pekin Park District does very well?
  - b. What are areas of concern? What are the challenges?
  - c. What is your vision for the future? (direction, opportunities, etc.?)

**PEKIN PARK DISTRICT  
STAKEHOLDER & FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS  
PEKIN PARK DISTRICT STAFF**

1. Tell me about your position with the Pekin Park District.
2. In your opinion what are the core businesses of the Park District?
3. Tell me a few things the Park District does very well.
4. What is your vision of the future of the District? (concerns, opportunities, challenges)
5. What evidence is there that the parks, recreation programs and facilities are enjoyed and appreciated by the participants and residents?
6. What recreation program(s) are needed in the community that is not currently available?
7. What recreation facility/facilities are needed in the community that is not currently available?
8. Think about parks and open space in the Pekin Park District boundaries. What are the open space needs for the district?
9. What are the two or three most important needs in your Department or division?
10. What are two or three important needs of other Departments?
11. What are some issues or trends that are or will be affecting the community, the District?
12. Do you have any thoughts you would like to express that have not been discussed in this conversation?

**PEKIN PARK DISTRICT  
STAKEHOLDER & FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS  
COMMUNITY LEADERS & STAFF OF LOCAL AGENCIES, BUSINESSES**

1. In what ways do you and your organization use the Park District?
2. Describe current communication and/or marketing strategies utilized by you, your organization and the Park District.
3. In your opinion, what is the core purpose of the Park District today?
4. What are the Park District's greatest strengths right now?
5. What are the park district's areas of concern? Challenges?
6. What recreation programs or facilities are needed that are not currently being offered?...or perhaps that need updating?
7. In your opinion, what is the most important priority for the Park District right now?
8. What is your opinion about how the park District should be funded in the coming years?
9. What are some issues or trends that are or will be affecting Pekin and/or the Park District in the coming years?
10. Do you have any thoughts you would like to express that have not been discussed in this interview/focus group session?

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**APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY-WIDE RECREATION  
INTERESTS SURVEY**

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**Time Sensitive – Please complete and return ASAP Thank you very much!**

UIN: xxxxx



## Pekin Park District Attitude & Interest Survey

**Project Coordinated By: Office of Recreation & Park Resources, University of Illinois**

1. During the last 12 months, approximately **HOW MANY TIMES** have members in your household visited or participated in the following: *(Check one box that best applies for each service area.)*

Household Participation	More than 25 times	11-25 times	6-10 times	1-5 times	None
Pekin Park District Programs					
Pekin Park District Indoor Facilities					
Pekin Park District Parks					
Pekin Park District Natural Areas					
Pekin Park District Playgrounds					
Pekin Park District Outdoor Athletic Fields					
Pekin Park District Outdoor Courts					
Pekin Park District Golf Courses					
Pekin Park District Special Events					
Pekin Park District Website					
Pekin Park District Facebook/other Social Media					

2. During a typical year, approximately **HOW MANY TIMES** does your household utilize the following other local providers for parks and recreation services? *(Check one box for each service provider.)*

Service Provider	More than 25 times	11-25 times	6-10 times	1-5 times	None
Neighboring Park Districts					
Private/Commercial <i>(country club, private fitness center etc.)</i>					
YWCA					
Church Affiliated Recreation Activities					
Boys and Girls Club					
Union Mission					
Other? <i>(please list):</i>					

3. **WHY** did you choose these providers answered in question 2? \_\_\_\_\_

4. **HOW** has your household found out about the programs and services offered by the Park District? *(Check all that apply.)*

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pekin Park Play Guide              | <input type="checkbox"/> Park District Staff     | <input type="checkbox"/> Chamber of Commerce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Park District Emails    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lions Club          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers at Park District Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Park District Website   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotary Club         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs/Banners in Parks & Bldgs     | <input type="checkbox"/> Park District Facebook  | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiwanis Club        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cable Community Channel            | <input type="checkbox"/> Park District YouTube   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other? _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Park District Twitter   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends and Neighbors              | <input type="checkbox"/> Park District Instagram |  |

5. **HOW DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE our Play Guide?** A detailed 36 to 44 page Program Guide/Pekin Park Play Guide is printed twice each year: approximately 10,000 guides for the Fall / Winter and the Spring / Summer. Many guides are dispersed to school age children to be taken home. What is your opinion regarding possible changes to how we inform residents? *(Please check only the option you like best.)*

- Continue as described above
- Mail postcards and emails that direct Residents to a website version of the guide – Do Not Print Any Guides
- Create and mail a much shorter guide to all households each season with details to be found at the District’s Website
- Same Guide but print fewer each season and mail them only to those that want them
- Same Guide but print fewer each season and send emails / postcards to Residents advising them about pick up sites
- Other ? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Please rate your household’s general level of **SATISFACTION** with the Pekin Park District’s **programs and services offered.** *(Check one box for EACH area listed.)*

Program Service Area	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Use
Athletic Programs or Leagues for Adults					
Athletic Programs, Leagues or Camps for Youth					
Group Fitness Classes					
Healthier Lifestyle Workshops					
Personal Training - Fitness					
Youth Cultural Arts Programs Drama / Music / Art					
Dance Programs					
Cheer Programs					
Early Childhood Programs					
Summer Day Camps					
Holiday Break Day Camps					
Field Trips					
Scout Badge Programs					
Hockey Activities/Programs					
Computer Lab, Club, Tutoring, Lessons					
Adult Education, Recreation & Varied Interest Classes					
Junior Golf Lessons at Lick Creek Golf Course					
Ice Skating Team					
Ice Skating Lessons					
Illinois River Valley Special Recreation Programs					
Bus Day Trips					
Swimming Lessons					
Swim Team					
Rockin' P Public Riding Ranch					
Tennis					
Pickleball					
Days and Times of Programs and Activities Offered					
Convenience of Registering for Programs					
Overall Satisfaction with Programs					

7. Please rate your household's general level of **SATISFACTION** with the Pekin Park District's **facilities**.  
*(Check one box for EACH area listed.)*

Park District Facilities	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Use
Baseball Fields / Softball Fields					
Football Fields					
Soccer Fields					
Tennis Courts					
Basketball Courts					
Walking Paths / Bike Trail					
Picnic Shelters					
Boating on the Lagoon					
Dragonland Water Park					
Magic Dragon Mini Golf					
Veterans Memorial Arena – Ice Rink					
Veterans Memorial Arena – Gymnastics Room					
Veterans Memorial Arena – Dance Room					
Miller Senior Center					
Pekin Park Sports Complex					
Parkside Athletics Racquet and Health Club					
Happy Tails Dog Park					
Park District Facilities	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Use
Parkview Golf Course					
Lick Creek Golf Course					
Soldwedel Program Center					
Pavilion on the Lagoon					
Riverfront Park Fountain/Splash Pad					
Skate Park					
Disc Golf Course at McNaughton Park					
Park District Restrooms					
Park District Concessions					
Overall Satisfaction with Facilities					

8. In regard to the **Maintenance and Care of Facilities and Parks** at Pekin Park District, rate your household's general level of **SATISFACTION**. *(Check one box for EACH area listed.)*

General Maintenance & Care of Facilities	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Use
Administration/Business Office					
Miller Senior Center					
Veterans Memorial Arena – Ice Rink					
Veterans Memorial Arena – Gymnastics Room					
Veterans Memorial Arena – Dance Room					
Soldwedel Program Center					
Pavilion on the Lagoon					
Boathouse and Docks on the Lagoon					
Dragonland Water Park					
Riverfront Park Fountain/Splash Pad					
Picnic Shelters					
Skate Park					

<b>General Maintenance &amp; Care of Facilities</b>	<b>Very Satisfied</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Don't Use</b>
Parking Lots and Roads					
Playground Equipment					
Walking / Bike Paths					
Athletic Courts – Basketball / Tennis					
Athletic Fields – Baseball / Softball / Football / Soccer					
Parkside Athletics Racquet and Health Club					
Natural Areas – Wooded / Prairie / Wetlands					
Parkview Golf Course					
Lick Creek Golf Course					
Sunken Gardens / Fountain					
Magic Dragon Mini Golf					
Happy Tails Dog Park					
Park District Restrooms					
Park District Concessions					
Overall Litter Management					
Overall Tree Management					
Park Landscaping – Turf /Plants / Shrubs / Flowers					
Overall Satisfaction with Maintenance & Care					

9. Please rate your household’s general level of **SATISFACTION** with the Pekin Park District’s **Staff and Commissioners**.  
*(Check one box for EACH area listed.)*

<b>Park District Staff &amp; Commissioners</b> <i>Are you Satisfied with the Service they Provide?</i>	<b>Very Satisfied</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	<b>No Contact with</b>
Staff at the Administration / Business Office					
Staff at Dragonland Water Park					
Staff at IL River Valley Special Recreation Association					
Staff at Lick Creek Golf Course					
Staff at Parkview Golf Course					
Staff at the Veterans Memorial Arena					
Staff at the Miller Senior Center					
Staff at the Magic Dragon Mini Golf					
Staff at the Recreation Reception Office					
Staff at the Boating on the Lagoon					
Staff at the Rockin’ P Public Riding Ranch					
Staff at Parkside Athletics Racquet and Health Club					
Staff at Special Events					
Staff at Concession Stands					
Staff I see maintaining the Parks and Facilities					
Staff I see patrolling the Parks and Facilities (Park Police)					
Instructors and Leaders for Programs/Activities in which your Household has Participated					
Department Leaders &/or Executive Director					
Board of Commissioners (elected officials)					
Overall Satisfaction with Staff & Commissioners					

10. How **EFFECTIVE** is the Pekin Park District as it relates to: (*Check one box for EACH statement.*)

Statement	Very Effective	Effective	Ineffective	Very Ineffective	Don't Know
Providing leadership in the community					
Working cooperatively with other local / regional government units					
Partnering with area private sector businesses					
Partnering with charities, non-profits, & foundations					
Partnering with local service clubs (Rotary / Lions / Kiwanis etc)					
Attention to improving the health & wellness of area residents					
Serving people with disabilities					
Providing convenient options for program registration					
Providing convenient hours at the Recreation Reception Office					
Providing safe, entertaining, age appropriate day camp options					
Offering a variety of recreation programs and classes					
Offering a variety of adult programs					
Offering a variety of youth programs					
Offering a variety of special events					
Informing the community about the Park District					
Involving community in the planning of future projects					
Protecting open space					
Providing community leadership on environmental issues such as recycling, storm water / flood management, eco restoration, wildlife etc					
Providing transparency as a publicly funded entity					
Partnerships or Collaborating with Sports Groups/Affiliates (PCSA, JFL, Pride, Gamers, Boys/Girls Club, Union Mission, etc.)					
Serving citizens 55 and older					

11. What is your **OPINION** regarding the following? Please indicate your level of agreement. (*Check one box for EACH statement.*)

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do Not Know No Opinion
Parkin District Residents receive a good value for the Park District taxes they pay					
Pekin Park District residents receive a good value for the program and facility fees they pay.					
The Pekin Park District is important to my household					
The Pekin Park District should sell facility naming rights for 3-5 years to businesses aligned with its mission, vision, and goals					
The most recent interaction your household has had with the Pekin Park District has been a positive experience					
When your household has contacted the Pekin Park District with a concern/issue, it was resolved satisfactorily.					
The Pekin Park District should try to utilize other agencies/organizations recreational facilities/program space when the opportunity arises					
The Pekin Park District is important to the Pekin area community					

12. Are there **FACILITIES** that you feel the Pekin Park District should **DEVELOP (new) OR EXPAND (current)? IF SO,**

**INDICATE** which facilities your household would like to see developed or expanded by **RANKING THE TOP 4 FACILITIES** most important to your household. (**ONLY place a 1 = top choice; 2 = second choice; 3 = third choice, & 4 = fourth choice.**)

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball and Softball Fields     | <input type="checkbox"/> Campgrounds                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Fitness and Exercise Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Pickleball Courts        | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Golf Practice Facility/ Simulators | <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Golf Course                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Synthetic Turf with Lighting     | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground Equipment                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Fields                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Basketball Courts        | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Neighborhood Parks                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Ice Skating Rink                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Tennis Courts            | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Areas/Natural Areas              | <input type="checkbox"/> Rollerblade Hockey Court               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Adventure & Ropes Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of Open Space                | <input type="checkbox"/> Skate Board Park                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Play Areas                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Shelters                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Walking Track                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating on the Lagoon            | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrooms                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other? _____                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/Bike Paths               | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Lots at Athletic fields           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disc Golf Course                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Sports Facilities                  |   |

13. Are there **PROGRAMS** that you feel the Pekin Park District should **DEVELOP (new) OR EXPAND (current)? IF SO, INDICATE** which programs your household would like to see developed or expanded by **RANKING THE TOP 4 PROGRAMS** most important to your household. (**ONLY place a 1 = top choice; 2 = second choice; 3 = third choice, & 4 = fourth choice.**)

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Arts                        | <input type="checkbox"/> After School Programs                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Programs                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Educational Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Skating Lesson Camps                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Day Camps                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Fitness/Wellness Programs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Instructional Swim lessons    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Sports Programs             | <input type="checkbox"/> Camps/Summer Holiday Programs             | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Fitness Programs        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure & Travel Programs       | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Rec Association Programs (IRVSRA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Training             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Programs & Trips           | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Programs                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature/Environmental Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Art, Dance, Performing Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Educational Opportunities           | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Programs                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Fitness/Wellness Programs           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tumbling Programs             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheer Programs                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth & Early Childhood Sports            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other? _____                  |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> None at this time             |

14. **WHICH** of the following projects or improvements would you be willing to support with a park district tax increase? (**Check all that apply.**)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land acquisition and construction costs to develop more Neighborhood Parks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation and Modernization of Mineral Springs Park amenities, grounds, streets, walks and other infrastructure  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation and Modernization of Neighborhood Parks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation and Modernization of Mineral Springs Park recreational buildings and facilities (Parkside Athletics, Veterans Memorial Arena, Robert N. Blackwell Administration Building and Dragonland Water Park) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation and Modernization of Veterans Memorial Ice Arena   | <input type="checkbox"/> Another project I would support with a property tax increase: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Walking /Bike Paths of the Pekin Bike Trail  | <input type="checkbox"/> None. I am unwilling to support a park district tax increase no matter the project or improvement   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction and 50% operating costs for Indoor Recreation Center or Field House for Programs and Athletics at the corner of 5 <sup>th</sup> St and Koch St |  |

15. If you are willing to support a tax increase, how much of an increase would you be willing to fund the cost of what you checked in questions #14? (**Please circle one**)

\$1 - \$5 per month      \$6 - \$10 per month      No more per month      Don't know

The following information will be used to describe different groups of households, which is helpful when addressing management and planning issues. Your answers will only be used for statistical purposes and classification. No data will be linked to personal responses.

