

# Frankfort Square Park District Master Plan

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Prepared for  
Frankfort Square Park District

Office of Recreation & Park Resources  
University of Illinois  
Champaign, IL 61820

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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The publication of this report culminates an intensive effort by the Office of Recreation & Park Resources and the Frankfort Square Park District to evaluate and make recommendations for the master plan of parks, recreation areas, facilities and programs of the Frankfort Square Park District. Through questionnaires, structured interviews, and other information-gathering methods, members of the Frankfort Square Park District administration, staff, and community have played a central role in delineating key issues and in suggesting various options for improvement.

Public park and recreation administration is immediately concerned with the methods of providing effective parks, facilities, and recreational opportunities to all residents of the community in as efficient and effective manner as possible. Ensuring the organization, implementation, operation, and maintenance of all public recreation areas and services is part of the Frankfort Square Park District's obligation.

Today, the provision of recreational services and facilities is recognized as an essential component of a community's master 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 of the people, for access to many recreational facilities such as parks, natural areas, recreation centers, tennis courts, softball and baseball diamonds, swimming pools, and other specialized facilities.

Local government sponsorship of recreational services also enables participation by all ages, races, ethnic groups, and backgrounds, during all seasons of the year. It is democratic and inclusive. Community-sponsored public park and recreation agencies allow resources to be pooled to meet a wide variety of recreation interests and skills. Through financing with taxes and fees, community recreation facilities and programs are made available to residents at the lowest possible cost. Thus, the provision for recreation services by the Frankfort Square Park District provides a comparatively inexpensive and practical means of making recreational opportunities available to all people.

### **FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT MISSION**

It is the mission of the Frankfort Square Park District to provide accessible, non-discriminatory recreational services, facilities, and open space in an environmentally conscious, fiscally responsible manner.

### **PURPOSE OF MASTER PLAN**

The purpose of this report is to present a master plan for parks, recreational areas, facilities, programs and services for the Frankfort Square Park District. The Frankfort Square Park District has as its mission to provide accessible, non-discriminatory recreational services, facilities, and open space in an environmentally conscious, fiscally responsible manner. This mission addresses not only the provision of opportunities for participation in recreation and leisure

services, but also the acquisition of resources needed to make these opportunities available. Attainment of the Park District mission is dependent upon the acquisition of land, the development of facilities, and acquiring needed financing and other resources to provide parks and recreation opportunities. Similarly, the programs and services demanded by residents dictate the direction and level of resource development by the Frankfort Square Park District. In order to meet the mission, a comprehensive plan for parks and recreation areas and facilities must be developed and implemented.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The methodology used to conduct this Master Plan included an analysis of the agency and its parks, natural resources areas, facilities, and programs, the participants and the community. Data were gathered through household surveys, program appraisals, parks and operations evaluations, visits to recreation sites, a site inventory of all parks and facilities, a review of written material, reports, surveys, maps and plans, and an extensive set of interviews with the Park District staff.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

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A study team from the Office of Recreation and Park Resources, Champaign, Illinois conducted an evaluation of the parks, programs, facilities, and overall operations of Frankfort Square Park District. The purpose of this assessment is to present a Master Plan for parks, recreational areas and facilities for the District. The study team worked alongside the staff of the Frankfort Square Park District in completing on-site inspections of facilities, parks and operations; conducting interviews with staff; and, reviewed written materials, documents, policies, reports, surveys, maps, and plans.

It is the mission of the Frankfort Square Park District to provide accessible, non-discriminatory recreational services, facilities, and open space in an environmentally conscious, fiscally responsible manner. In order to meet the mission, a comprehensive plan for parks and recreation areas and facilities must be planned and implemented. This section summarizes the processes used to complete the 2014 Master Plan and the findings obtained by the Office of Recreation and Park Resources:

### METHODS

The methods used to conduct this Master Plan included an analysis of the agency and its parks, natural resources areas, facilities, and programs; the participants and; the community. Data were gathered through household surveys, program appraisals, parks and operations evaluations, visits to recreation sites, a site inventory of all parks and facilities, a review of written material, reports, surveys, maps and plans, and an extensive set of interviews with the staff.

The recommendations and conclusions identified in the 2014 Master Plan for the Frankfort Square Park District were obtained through a collaborative planning process involving the District's residents, community leaders and partners, Board, and staff. Key tasks completed throughout this collaborative process included:

- A review of contemporary literature and background on the value of community parks and recreation services in society, leading to the identification of trends and issues impacting their delivery.
- An agency-level profile for the Frankfort Square Park District. A review of the agency's history and scope of services was conducted.
- A community profile for the area served by the Frankfort Square Park District. Information gathered under each of the following headings was collected: 1.) geopolitical, 2.) demographic, 3.) social, 4.) economic, 5.) government, and 6.) stakeholders.
- Analysis of data obtained from the 2012-2013 community-wide needs assessment study. Results of the study included information pertaining to the Frankfort Square Park District residents' current participation patterns, future needs, and interests.



- An inventory and assessment of existing natural resource areas managed by the Frankfort Square Park District.
- An inventory and assessment of existing parks and facilities managed by the Frankfort Square Park District.
- Comparisons of Frankfort Square Park District's parks and facilities to neighboring park districts and communities.
- An inventory and assessment of existing recreation programs provided by the Frankfort Square Park District.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Drawn from the review of the data and subsequent analyses, general recommendations were developed and summarized below:

### ***General Administration & Planning***

- Continue to promote and strengthen intergovernmental collaborations. The Frankfort Square Park District has a long and successful history of collaborating with all surrounding governmental agencies. These agencies include, but are not limited to: Summit Hill School District 161, Lincoln-Way School District 210, Will County, Cook County, Frankfort Township, South Suburban Special Recreation Association, Village of Frankfort, Frankfort Public Library, and the Village of Tinley Park. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District continue to strengthen these relationships as the District looks for ways to further improve efficiency and service quality for its residents.
- Continue to "Take care of what you have." The Frankfort Square Park District has a history of sound planning and development activities that support the needs and interests of its residents. To ensure the successful continuation of these services and resources, the Frankfort Square Park District should continue to systematically monitor its existing resources. Consistent record keeping and inventorying should be continued for all areas. Where appropriate, replacement schedules should be developed and followed.
- Prioritization of Department Project Lists. Project lists for each department or unit have been developed. The Frankfort Square Park District is to be commended for this focus on collaborative and shared internal governance as it relates to resource development and allocation. To further organize the Departmental/Unit project lists, the Frankfort Square Park District should consider holding regularly scheduled meetings (i.e., annual, bi-annual, quarterly, etc.) to review and prioritize these lists. Once prioritized, a formal plan can be established to meet the needs identified on the list.

- Consider the establishment of a Park Foundation. While the Frankfort Square Park District has been very successful in securing external funding for several capital projects, the establishment of a Park Foundation could further strengthen the District's ability to raise funds through improved advocacy, support, and project-specific fund raising efforts.
- Maintain pulse on agency financials. The Frankfort Square Park District has maintained records of excellent financials. A 2013 "Standards & Poor's" rating report issued an "A/Stable" rating to the Frankfort Square Park District. Consistency was found as evidenced by the District's previous rating of "A/Stable". In describing the Frankfort Square Park District's financial condition, the report stated, "fiscal year-end, April 30, 2012, the park district showed a use of reserves of \$484,024 across the combined general and recreation funds, bridging the two total available cash balances between the two funds to \$217,751, or 6% of reserves, which we consider adequate, on a modified cash basis of accounting." This report is further supported by the Frankfort Square Park District's 5-year debt service schedule that indicates total debt payments ranging from \$1.1 million in FY '15 to \$1.08 million in FY '19. Capital expenditures also highlight consistent and diligent financial planning with annual totals of \$162,500 in 2014 to \$160,000 in 2018. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District maintain a close pulse on the trends and issues in the area and the forecasted revenue projections (from both tax and fees/charges) in the District to maintain this solid financial footing.
- Maintain focus on community trends and changing demographics. The Frankfort Square Park District needs to be proactive in its preparation for community trends and changing demographics. Trends such as the exponential growth of aging populations and increased ethnic diversity need to be at the forefront of the District's planning and resource development activities. The Frankfort Square Park District should be preemptive in its planning to ensure its facilities and programs address the values and lifestyle choices of these growing populations.
- Investment in human resources. Staff is arguably the most critical asset for park and recreation agencies. Generally representing more than 60% of park and recreation agencies' yearly operating budget, human resources put the material resources (i.e., financial and physical) into use and convert them into recreation programs and services. Most park and recreation professionals must possess or develop competencies in several areas such as, planning, finance, communications, programming, natural resources, parks and recreation management, maintenance and marketing to effectively deliver recreation services to a diverse constituency with ever-changing needs and interests. These unique qualities create dynamic environments for park and recreation professionals as their job activities can fluctuate weekly, daily, and even hourly, depending on the needs and interests of those they serve. Developing systems to effectively manage park and recreation employees' performance, needs, expectations, idiosyncrasies, and legal rights, should be at the forefront of the Frankfort Square Park District's planning efforts. The Frankfort Square Park District needs to continue its investments in its human resources through sound recruitment, selection, placement,

evaluation, and compensation functions. Activities such as support for continuing educational opportunities should also be maintained.

### ***Recreation Programming***

- Marketing and community awareness. The results from the 2012-2013 community-wide recreation interests survey indicated a majority of residents utilize the Frankfort Square Park District programming brochure to keep informed of the District's programs and services. Despite the overwhelming support for the programming brochure, a small pocket of residents indicated they were unaware of all of the District's activities and programs (see qualitative data from 2012-2013 community-wide recreation interests survey). The Frankfort Square Park District might want to consider the development and publication of a periodic informational piece that can serve as a supplement to the tri-annual program brochure. A utility bill insert may be another option.
- Prepare for growth in senior programming. The Frankfort Square Park District currently has a limited number of programs specifically targeting this age group. Although several programs are offered for this age group, the District might wish to consider being a bit more intentional in its targeting of this growing population.

### ***Parks & Facilities***

- Prioritize established five-year plan. The Frankfort Square Park District has developed a five-year plan for park-related projects. The result is an 8-page list of projects, by park, that are of interest to the District. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District determine a prioritized list of these projects, leading to the development of a structured work plan for completing these projects.
- No new major facilities. At the present time, it does not appear the Frankfort Square Park District should pursue the development of any new (major) facilities. Current programming and services are supported by the existing facilities and the ongoing agreements with the two area school districts. Resources should be directed to maintaining existing facility areas (see "Take care of what you have" recommendation above).
- Maintain success with Square Links Golf Course. In 2007, a master plan was developed for the Square Links Golf Course. The plan included a variety of recommendations and goals for the facility. The Square Links Golf Course has made successful strides since the plan was finalized in August 2007. To continue this success, it is recommended that the plan be updated in the next few years. Data to be collected in formulating this plan should include: hole-by-hole descriptions, facility/amenity inventories, assessment of A La Cart Family Diner, financial assessment and projections, organizational assessment, and recommendations and goals.

- Consider tobacco free parks. A recent trend in communities is the implementation of tobacco-free outdoor (public) areas. Premised on the negative (individual and community) health effects of tobacco-related products, some public park and recreation agencies have sought to serve as role models for residents and their communities by prohibiting tobacco use in outdoor recreational areas. It is suggested that the Frankfort Square Park District review its current policies and consider the potential application of a tobacco-free policy within its outdoor public spaces.
- Maintain ADA compliance. Residents with a disability have the right to participate in the most integrated recreation setting. The Frankfort Square Park District should continue to work closely with partnering agencies and the manufacturers and designers to help create playgrounds and other recreation areas that support the inclusion and integration of individuals with disabilities. Examination of appropriate surface materials (i.e., poured-in-place materials vs. mulch, etc.) and equipment should be systematically examined and updated as needed.
  - The Frankfort Square Park District conducted the required assessment of all existing park district facilities and park sites to comply with the 2010 ADA regulations. In order to both maintain accessibility standards as well as anticipate future needs, it is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District conduct an accessibility assessment of their facilities and park sites every 5 years. Any future needs can be addressed through the overall maintenance and facility plans.
- Neighborhood assessment. All residents should have a park within walking distance of their residence. Potential barriers, both man-made and natural, should also be examined. As residential development continues in the community, the Frankfort Square Park District needs to be aware of this growth and plan accordingly to promote recreational opportunities for all residents.

### *Natural Areas*

- Consider possible trail expansion and interconnectivity. Trails and greenways are becoming increasingly popular in communities and provide various functions to a community including environmental health and economic benefits. Support for this increased demand and use is also found in the results of the 2012-2013 community-wide recreation interests study. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District continue to participate in both public and private partnerships to create an interconnected and expanded trail and greenway system in the community.
- Continued maintenance and assessment of natural areas. Since the last Master Plan, the size and scope of the Frankfort Square Park District's natural areas have undergone significant expansion. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District support plans for maintaining these expanded areas and perform ongoing assessments of these natural areas to identify any issues or needs (i.e., invasive plant/species removal, preservation needs, restoration activities, etc.). The plans to support habitat

for native plants and wildlife, ecosystem functions (i.e., soil and water retention), and outdoor classrooms/educational centers should be supported.

- Continue to foster partnerships & collaborations: The Frankfort Square Park District owns and maintains an above average amount of natural area acreage when compared with other communities. Partnerships and collaborations have been an essential piece of the puzzle for the FSPD to improve the quality of life for its residents. In order to maintain their high quality amenities and service it is important to continue to facilitate strong relationships with other agencies and volunteer organizations. Consideration should be given to partnering with the following examples:
  - The University of Illinois Extension offices through programs such as master naturalists and master gardeners.
  - The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center also trains citizens in science activities through their River Watcher program, which may be a valuable tool to get citizens involved in wetlands, stream and pond management.

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## VALUE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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### ROLE OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN SOCIETY

Community park and recreation services in the United States resulted from several social movements occurring in the latter half of the nineteenth century. All were somewhat related to industrialism and urbanism, the emergence of a system of mass production, and mass consumption. For instance, in 1832 the United States witnessed a cholera epidemic within its cities. A primary cause of this epidemic centered on the overcrowding in urban areas leading to unsanitary living conditions for residents. In efforts to remedy this problem, city leaders came to the conclusion that urban areas lacked open space. Recognizing the need for open space areas, city administrators purchased open space and developed parklands for people to visit as an escape from the city and as an outlet for recreative purposes. Initially, these park areas were primarily considered not as places for the pursuit of leisure activities per se, but rather places of natural, scientific and historic significance. Parks were places where people could visit to enjoy and obtain an understanding of the values for which these national treasures were created and were to be preserved.

Over time, the initial purpose of community parks evolved in an effort to more fully address the growing presence of social ills within the poor working-class areas. In their current state, these areas offered few places for recreation. Children, in particular, were extremely limited in the number of safe places to play. Responding to the children's lack of safe recreational areas, sand gardens and other more structured recreation facilities were created for the youth. The establishment of a national association of park and recreation professionals also emerged as the field expanded. These advancements were pivotal in establishing the value and importance of recreation in the United States and aided in the development of a formalized training program to adequately prepare play and recreation leaders. These park and recreation association advocates contended that recreation was vital in enhancing the quality of life and prevention of acts of social deviance. Building on these arguments, the construction of recreation facilities and areas increasingly became a government function, with substantial support from tax funds. Programs offered by the governmental agencies became more diverse, resulting in leadership shifting from volunteer/part-time basis to full-time professional leaders. As a result, community park systems became increasingly prevalent in the United States during the nineteenth century.

As the twentieth century progressed, however, public park and recreation agencies experienced significant changes in size and scope. Largely in response to the tax revolt of the 1970s and 1980s, public park and recreation agencies often became confronted with increasing pressures of limited budgets and fiscal conservatism from the electorate. Faced with these challenges and in order to keep pace with the changing needs of the publics they served, many park and recreation agencies sought alternative financing sources to supplement property taxes. These changes brought an increased focus on efficiency and economy for public park and recreation agencies with many agencies seeking opportunities for agency and community collaboration, partnerships, and other resource sharing practices. Despite these changing times, public park and recreation agencies have maintain a commitment to diverse

recreation program opportunities for a variety of ages in areas such as sports, visual and performing arts, hobbies, health and fitness, natural resource education, social activities, and aquatics; instill a sense of community pride and ownership among the residents; operate with financial efficiency; and serve as a community resource for recreational opportunities and special events, attracting local residents and tourists alike. Public park and recreation agencies of today continue the lineage introduced centuries ago by improving the mental, physical, social, and emotional health and wellbeing of all citizens of the community. Parks and recreation agencies also add to the overall economic health of a community.

## **SOCIETIAL TRENDS RELATED TO PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **AGING POPULATION**

There are currently over 76 million “Baby Boomers” between 47 and 65 years of age in the United States, representing almost 30% of the U.S. population (US Census, 2010). Furthermore, the number of people between the ages of 55 and 64 is projected to increase by 15.9 million, or more than 66 percent by 2015 (US Census, 2010)! With more than 10,000 people turning 65 every day, the U.S. is in the midst of an unprecedented aging of the population.

During the 1990s, “Baby Boomers” represented a significant portion of the workforce, were in their peak earning and spending years, and were key ingredients in the economic growth during the decade. Now, many from this generation are at or near the retirement stage in their careers and are searching for opportunities in fitness, sports, arts and cultural events, and other activities that suit their vibrant lifestyles. However, a 2012 study conducted by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging found that a majority of local governments do not yet have the programs and facilities in place to promote the quality of life for this older adult population. Thus, public park and recreation agencies need to become increasingly proactive in their planning to ensure their facilities and programs address the values and lifestyle choices of this growing population.

### **RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT SHIFT**

Traced back to the Industrial Era, recreation facilities were originally established by social activists such as Jane Adams, Luther Gulick, and Joseph Lee to address deplorable social conditions of the time. Located generally in urban slum areas and densely populated immigrant neighborhoods, community recreation facilities were designed to provide wholesome recreation opportunities, to serve as a hub for various community services and to promote neighborly cooperation.

Driven by this desire to develop social values and enhance community building within neighborhoods, recreation facilities were developed by local government at an unprecedented rate during the early twentieth century. Consider recreation centers as an example. These recreation centers were generally modest in size (~25,000 square feet) and were typically located within the residential areas (i.e., neighborhoods) of the community. Although described as “community” recreation centers, these centers were typically neighborhood-based

due to their smaller physical size and location where they were not readily visible to residents living outside the given neighborhood area. As a result, it was not uncommon for one city to manage several “community” recreation centers, each tucked within a different neighborhood.

However, the operational scope of today’s recreation facilities has expanded and so have the criteria for their location. Trends in recreation facility design have led many agencies to develop fewer, but larger facilities that include several recreation amenities rather than building multiple specialized facilities. This approach to recreation facility development has placed an increased importance on site location. Choosing a site for a new recreation facility is of growing importance and is a key factor in the successful execution of the programs and image for the community. Recent trends, research, and planners have identified the following criteria agencies consider when determining a site location for a new recreation facility:

1. **Existing & Future Housing:** The recreation facility should serve multiple neighborhoods. Careful consideration should be given to the site’s location in relationship to existing and future housing development. Research has repeatedly shown that recreation facility users desire a site that is in close proximity to their residence.
2. **Community Asset:** It is also important the recreation facility has a “street presence” from the standpoint of being visible and presenting an open, welcoming gesture to the community. What a recreation facility looks like makes a statement, and that statement directly reflects the quality of life in the community. Open, airy, and light atriums with large windows oftentimes occupy the front entrance of the recreation facility to create an inviting atmosphere. Thus, the recreation facility should be an eye-catching jewel within the city that is built in a physically attractive location.
3. **Visibility:** The extent to which the recreation facility is visible to the public is one of the most important criteria to consider when determining a site. The site’s location must have the ability to capture visitors’ attention while not being overwhelmed (visually) by adjacent structures or buildings. The overall attractiveness of the site and the immediate surroundings should also be considered when determining a recreation facility’s location. The recreation facility sign and building should be clearly visible from major thoroughfares within the community.
4. **Site Access:** A recreation facility should be located in an area that provides convenient access for the public. The site should have adequate ingress and egress with traffic signals, turn lanes, and driveways in and out of the recreation facility. Issues such as, the convenience of the site’s location for residents, the extent of any barriers which inhibit travel to the site, and public transportation schedules to and from the site should be considered.
5. **Transportation & Community Traffic Circulation:** The site should be served by arterial and collector streets and easily accessible throughout the city. The locations of bikeways and walkways in relationship to the site should also



be reviewed. Specifically, what is the duration/distance of travel involved to and from these areas to the site?

- 6. Parking:** The extent to which the site provides a safe and secure parking environment should be addressed. Parking capacity should also be considered. Specifically, will the site allow enough space for an adequate number of parking stalls? Would additional parking space be needed (and available) for special events within the recreation facility?
- 7. Site Size:** An adequate site size is needed. For example, a multi-purpose indoor recreation center typically requires a site of at least 7-10 acres. The site should also have the potential to support possible future development, public or commercial, within the site in response to the evolving nature of communities and the diverse needs of its residents.
- 8. Demographics:** Research the characteristics of the community. An assessment of the community's demographics can assist in developing a recreation facility with programs and services that are appealing to many different kinds of people. No segment of the population should be overlooked in the planning and development of the recreation facility. Collecting information on the community's demographics (ages, aging trends, general population trends, ethnic origin, religion, education, social, cultural, vocational, household income, household size, etc.), population density, resource availability, recreation interests, and previous programming success can help the park and recreation agency more adequately plan for the programming and service needs within the recreation facility while identifying possible physical or psychological barriers associated with the site. The collection of this information can also shed light on the placement of current parks and recreation facilities within the community and their relationships to the site and the community's demographic characteristics. Specifically, does the site assist the park and recreation agency in maintaining (or improving) equivalent placement of parks, programs, and facilities throughout the community to meet all residents' needs?
- 9. Intangibles:** Some intangibles associated with the site should also be considered. Possible risks, such as, natural disasters, crime rates, and other possible adverse events on the site should be examined. Depending upon the recreation facility's financial model, the potential of the site location to produce a profit (or loss) should be assessed by the agency. Finally, the extent to which the site represents a novel location within the community should be considered. Does the site have the potential to serve as a centerpiece for the community, creating a vibrant gathering place that succeeds in meeting the needs of its diverse citizens?
- 10. High Use/Public Active Area:** The site should be located in an area receiving high volumes of public traffic. Both vehicular and pedestrian traffic circulation

should be considered. Locations near highways, retail sites, and other leisure-time activities are recommended.

- 11. Employment Center:** As communities are developing creative zoning requirements (i.e., blending residential, commercial, and recreation developments within one area) with the intentions of improving an area's public access and activity, the impact from nearby businesses on the recreation facility (and vice versa) is of growing importance. This relatively new zoning concept has positively impacted areas by creating a sense of community identity and value for the developed area that has increased customer traffic for businesses and has built vital connections between the businesses and community. In addition, the recreation facility should also be located near local businesses/employment centers to provide easy access for meetings, conferences, banquets, etc. The site's potential for corporate membership programs for recreation facility use, especially from nearby businesses, should also be considered.
- 12. Driving Time & Distance:** Driving time to the site should be 15 minutes or less for the majority of the population. A majority of the recreation facility's daily users will reside within three miles of the site.
- 13. Partnership:** The site's potential for partnerships with nearby schools, businesses and civic/community organizations should be considered. Does the site provide the opportunity for assistance from one of these organizations? What about the possibility of any joint-use or similar agreements for programs relating to health, art, child care, conference facilities, etc.?
- 14. Reputation:** The site's reputation is an important factor when considering the development of a recreation facility. In particular, what is the site's reputation among the members of the community (i.e., residents, businesses, stakeholders, etc.) compared to other potential sites.

In summary, trends in recreation facility development suggest these resources should be viewed as a strategically located, community-wide facility, rather than serving a well-defined neighborhood or area. In addition to serving as the location for the majority of park and recreation agency programs and services, the recreation facility is a direct representation of the agency (and community) to the public. Therefore, the need to effectively develop a center that enhances the social interaction, education, health, and quality of life for the community is crucial.

## YOUTH OBESITY EPIDEMIC

Another alarming trend is the increase in youth obesity and health-related conditions affecting today's youth. Almost 20%, or seven million, youth aged 6-17 are seriously overweight and these numbers have steadily increased since the 1980s. In combating this growing

demographic, researchers have developed the *Physical Activity Guidelines for Children*, which call for at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day for pre-adolescents.

Despite the evidence supporting physical activity and its relationship to health and the quality of life in youth, many schools have experienced cutbacks in their physical education, health, and after-school curriculums. For example, a 2011 survey by the American Alliance found that more than 75% of after-school programs in the U.S. were full or overcrowded as a result of programming cuts and increased need. In an effort to address these reductions, many advocates have called for an increased reliance on public agencies and their facilities and programs to meet the needs of the youth in their community. Coupled with research findings documenting nearly 30% reductions in juvenile arrests after a city has built a new youth recreation center, public park and recreation agencies have the opportunity to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce crime among today's youth through their facilities and programs.

### **PUBLIC/PRIVATE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS & DEVELOPMENT**

Cooperation among public and private business has a long history in the United States. Many of the early cooperative agreements centered on public agencies allowing private companies to operate gift shops, equipment rentals, or concessions within their parks or facilities. However, in recent years, these partnerships have increased in numbers and sophistication. From the development of cultural facilities (i.e., aquariums, performing arts centers, museums, etc.) to entertainment venues (i.e., retail, hospitality, restaurants, etc.), public agencies have begun partnering with private enterprise to not only meet the needs of their users, but spur economic growth, increase tourism, revitalize neighborhoods, and improve the overall image of their communities. Areas such as, San Antonio's River Walk, Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco, the Brewery District in Columbus, and the Great Plaza in Philadelphia have each been driven by public sector leadership that has fostered private development opportunities within these areas.

The effects of these partnerships have been significant as economic research has repeatedly shown the hybrid service model, or areas of both public and private cooperation, holds great promise for solving many financial problems facing communities. These hybrid models provide a means to combine the efficiency and expertise of the business world with public interest, accountability, and broader planning of government. Although a concept that is still in its infancy within the municipal sector, many state and federal agencies have utilized this approach for many years with much success. For example, the United States Forest Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority have both utilized public-private partnerships for many decades. In other public arenas, such as state universities, public-private collaboration has led to many capital development projects, including research-business parks. Although located on public land, many of these facilities are occupied by private businesses where research has repeatedly found these research parks to foster economic growth and development in the area.

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## FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT AGENCY PROFILE

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### HISTORY OF THE FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT

The Frankfort Square Park District was incorporated in 1974 by a small group of determined and dedicated residents for the specific purposes of meeting the recreational needs of friends and family, and establishing parks by accepting open space available from home developers.

In the FSPD's early years of existence, and with minimal funds available, commissioners served this bedroom community of 2,000 homes in unincorporated Frankfort Township in the County of Will, by acting as programmers, referees, park maintenance workers, and stewards of the limited tax dollars provided by a supportive community.

The referendum to incorporate provided the seed money to establish basic services that included the first athletic fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and various landscape improvements. The initial referendum and supporting state grant was not allowed to be used for a park district building. However, the approval of the small, 1,200 square foot concession stand, located on Rosewood Drive adjacent to what is now known as Mary Drew Elementary School/SHSD 161 District Office, allowed limited room for a concession stand, meeting space, and park district office.

Surrounded by cornfields, the park district emulated close-knit communities typical of the original farm communities in Illinois. Barbeque grills would appear at baseball games, and ponds would be cleared with shovels for winter skating. The FSPD, being one of the few governing bodies of this small group, continued to gain support as a representative organization.

Commissioners remained the representative force behind all park activities and functions until the first part time director was hired, leading to the first full time park director in 1982. Recreation expanded as the community grew. Capital development was severely limited, and with an annual budget of less than \$187,000, the Park Board, staff, and community were exceptionally resourceful.

The baseball league negotiated a land lease from Joliet Diocese, securing a 7-acre site for the development of two much-needed ball diamonds. Records indicated that Pella Windows in Elk Grove Village donated a window to the park district to allow the first cross ventilation of the concession stand/ Community Center that remained a non-air-conditioned space until the early 90s. This first building was renovated in 2003, and is still in use today as a concession stand and popular community location for many Scout organizations. Photographs of the original construction are on display in the building, providing a glimpse into the district's early days. Commissioners would adopt a park close to their homes and be personally responsible for park maintenance, which included mowing and emptying garbage cans.

In 1985, the park district finalized its borders, adding unincorporated lands to the south and east. The expansion was questioned at the time, due to the fact that the Catholic Church owned over 660 acres of annexed property. In the future, all land would be sold, with property being developed as both residential and commercial. The property was sold by the Catholic Church and developed commercially by the Manheim Auto Auction, the largest commercial development within the park district. Of the original 660 acres, 440 acres remain undeveloped, and are still available for commercial development.

The park district built its final home in 1990, with the use of non-referendum bonds securing \$1,000,000 for the construction of a Community Center that would house park offices, designed space for the Early Learning Center (ELC) preschool, a large community room, and space for maintenance equipment. The move was expedited when the local sewer service backed up into the original FSPD building, rendering it uninhabitable for a period of time. In the interim, park district staff was housed in a large closet located in the Summit Hill Junior High School. The ELC was allowed occupancy prior to construction completion.

The park district was approached by residents after a local municipality had acquired the privately owned sewer and water utility service that serviced its residents. The village had imposed a capital charge on the unincorporated area to fund this asset acquisition. Park district residents believed this action was inherently unfair, and they solicited the park district to begin discourse on the matter, and eventually pursue legal recourse. A corporate rate increase referendum was offered to residents to provide a funding source for legal action that was resoundingly approved. The park district and residents lost the litigation, but the village settled, resolving the disagreement by imposing the capital charge against all village and non-residents equally.

Once the litigation was over, the park district, through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, solicited signatures necessary to add a non-binding question to the ballot, allowing the FSPD to continue the corporate rate tax increase previously used for the “water fight”, for park district purposes. This non-binding referendum was not required to continue the expanded corporate tax assessment, but was necessary to ensure residents had the opportunity to object or reject the new direction. Once again, the residents supported this issue and resoundingly approved the advisory measure. The park district benefitted from this new funding source, enabling the addition of much needed capital funds for a myriad of improvements throughout park properties.

The FSPD began working with developers of a 2,000 home subdivision, Brookside Glen, in the mid-80s, and again negotiated a complex donation agreement of over 250 acres of open space and various physical improvements for the long term benefit of the Frankfort Square community. The developer, a proponent of recreation, realized the importance of incorporating walking paths with immediate access to open space in the design of this hugely successful subdivision. The FSPD relinquished financial impact fee compensation in exchange for maximum land donation, and secured 60+ acres of open space immediately adjacent to the original park district concession stand, now known as Union Creek Park.

In 1996, the previously mentioned impact ordinance led to the acceptance and development of Island Prairie Park by Jacque Engles, owner of Lafayette Nursery. Many considered Jacque

Engles to be the father of native restoration in Illinois. This inaugural native development of a mesic/wet mesic prairie is now reflected as a first step in Illinois' restoration efforts, and is nationally recognized as a mission of advocacy and development of green landscape throughout our community.

This mission started in a very inconspicuous manner when the sea of 6' giant ragweed was killed with Roundup herbicide in preparation for the first of many controlled burns. "Controlled" burn became a misnomer when the Lafayette Fire Department members, who were contracted to complete the burn, ignited the prairie, creating a runaway burn that culminated with a 100' vortex of flame in the center of Island Prairie, prompting responses from Frankfort, Tinley Park, Mokena and Matteson fire departments. The safeguard of a cool season grass border surrounding the site was successful in preventing fire and flames from threatening adjacent residents' homes. The subsequent fire did initiate peat fires that were dug and smothered over the week that followed.

The tiny Frankfort Square Park District, realizing the importance of natural areas, has employed three park naturalists in its history. The first was a Canadian native, Sue Plankis, who brought a passion and knowledge to the FSPD's parks in their early stages of development. JF New, and their employee, Clayton Wooldridge, worked cooperatively on natural areas within the district, which led to Clayton being employed for a short time as the FSPD's Park Naturalist. Currently, park district resident, Julie Arvia, has the longest tenure of service, bringing a unique energy to the natural areas within the district.

In 1995, the FSPD commissioned the services of Dr. Anthony Zito, Professor at the University of St. Francis, with the support of his students, to conduct the first needs assessment and master plan. This led to an ongoing process of evaluation and planning, further detailed in this report.

Findings from this research indicated strong community support for the largest capital development in the history of the district. The "Something for Everyone" referendum asked and received resounding community support for over \$5,000,000 in capital development funds to replace, add, or improve much-needed park assets throughout the district.

Diversity of opportunities best describes the numerous projects completed with these referendum proceeds. New construction included 36 separate improvements highlighted by a baseball/softball complex, the largest outdoor skate park in the south suburbs, an NHL-style inline hockey skate rink, Frisbee golf course, new playgrounds, and picnic shelters, many of which are located at local schools, doubling as outdoor classrooms. Improvements took place at all park properties throughout the community.

Grants totaling \$4,122,733 played a huge role in maximizing financial resources and securing monetary support of park improvements. One key addition was the completion of 9.9 miles of bike/walking paths, initiated with park and state grant funding. The path system was further developed through cooperative efforts with Frankfort Township, wherein the park district applied for grant funding on the Township's behalf, providing additional mileage that connects to existing FSPD trails.

The park district became recognized nationally, named a finalist for the prestigious National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Award in 2004. This would be the first of five finalist recognitions, with the FSPD receiving the Grand Award in 2007.

After taking ownership, the park district worked with the Frankfort Township Road Commissioner Fred Rauch to expand the adjacent St. Francis Road, improving public safety, and installing an extensive planted retaining wall that enhanced the property and community. The cost of this landscaped wall was in excess of \$750,000.

The FSPD held a contest, requesting residents to name the new golf course, and the winner was Square Links Golf Course and Driving Range. The park district improved all areas of the golf course and facility. It became an attractive public course and learning facility where thousands of residents and non-residents alike have benefited from this affordable opportunity on an annual basis.

The FSPD established an annual college scholarship tournament that has generated \$64,000 in college scholarship funds. Since 2006, 64 students have benefited from this fund. Annually, \$10,000 is generated, providing \$1,000 scholarships for ten graduating seniors.

Resident ideas, combined with park district facilities, have resulted in numerous popular community events benefitting worthy causes. The American Cancer Society's Bark for Life, the International Rett Syndrome Strollathon, and the Indoor Triathlon benefitting the Crisis Center of South Suburbia have become annual events made possible by dedicated residents. By providing facilities and staff expertise, the park district also supports local cross country meets, scouting races, the Summit Hill Family Fun Run, the Phoenix Phun Run, and the Lincoln-Way North Homecoming Parade.

Residents of the Frankfort Square Park District have always valued recreation programming, with strong participation in early childhood, youth, adult, performing arts, athletic, and fitness offerings. Special events, including the daddy/daughter date night, seasonal lunches, fishing derby, community garage sale, and toy and clothing resale are treasured annual events. In 2009, the park district realized a long-term goal of providing quality before and after school care to residents with the BAS program. As with other programming, cooperation with the local school districts was critical. In order to best serve the students of the Summit Hill Elementary School District, Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210 provided bus transportation, allowing students to be safely transported by existing bus routes between school and the park district's community center. Students are welcomed into a highly structured program featuring certified teachers offering homework assistance and designed space for gross motor activities, arts and crafts, a computer lab, and Wii game systems. BAS participants also routinely enjoy facilities adjacent to the community center, including the Splash Park, two playgrounds, Nature Center, Interpretive Gardens, and open space. Program scholarships are made available for residents with financial need, so everyone may apply for the opportunity to participate.

The FSPD and Frankfort Square Baseball League were notified by the Joliet Diocese that property leased and developed in the 80s had been sold to a local land developer, and these fields developed through bake sales and resident contributions would be lost. The FSPD attempted to purchase the property in the past, but the asking price was prohibitive.

The fields were abandoned, pending development. Within the year, the developer and economy had taken a downturn, and the property was lost to the bank. The park district acted quickly, making a low cash offer for purchase, and after nearly thirty years, the community had secured a permanent home for youth baseball and softball games. The park district re-engineered the fields, by improving drainage and adding landscaping.

Furthering its environmental mission, the FSPD constructed a Nature Center, greenhouse, interpretive gardens, boardwalk, and bandshell at the Island Prairie Park site. The development was funded with available state grants, and within one year of its development, the interpretive gardens site was recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness, receiving the Conservation and Native Landscaping award.

The Island Prairie Nature Center plays host to environmental programming, highlighted by the FSPD's annual Earth Day Celebration. FSPD's staff harvests seed from local native plants, and annually propagates 30,000 native plugs hardened off in the adjacent arbor and planted throughout various park locations.

120% of electricity needed for the Nature Center is provided by wind/solar power. Through grants available from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation (ICECF), the park district secured funding for high efficiency fixtures at the Community Center. In addition, ICECF grant funds enabled the addition of a wind turbine and solar panels, providing a perfect community demonstration project at the FSPD's Nature Center facility. Energy production from solar and wind are monitored, providing a permanent record of electricity production.

The FSPD is, and has been successful in attracting quality caring individuals to serve as elected commissioners. In the park district's history, forty-four residents have committed to volunteering time and talents to their park district. Ken Blackburn has been recognized as the longest serving commissioner, completing his 25<sup>th</sup> year as a Park Board Member in 2013.

The park district employs the best and the brightest, with 180 individuals filling part time, permanent part time, and seasonal positions to make the diverse library of programs, offerings, facilities, and services available.

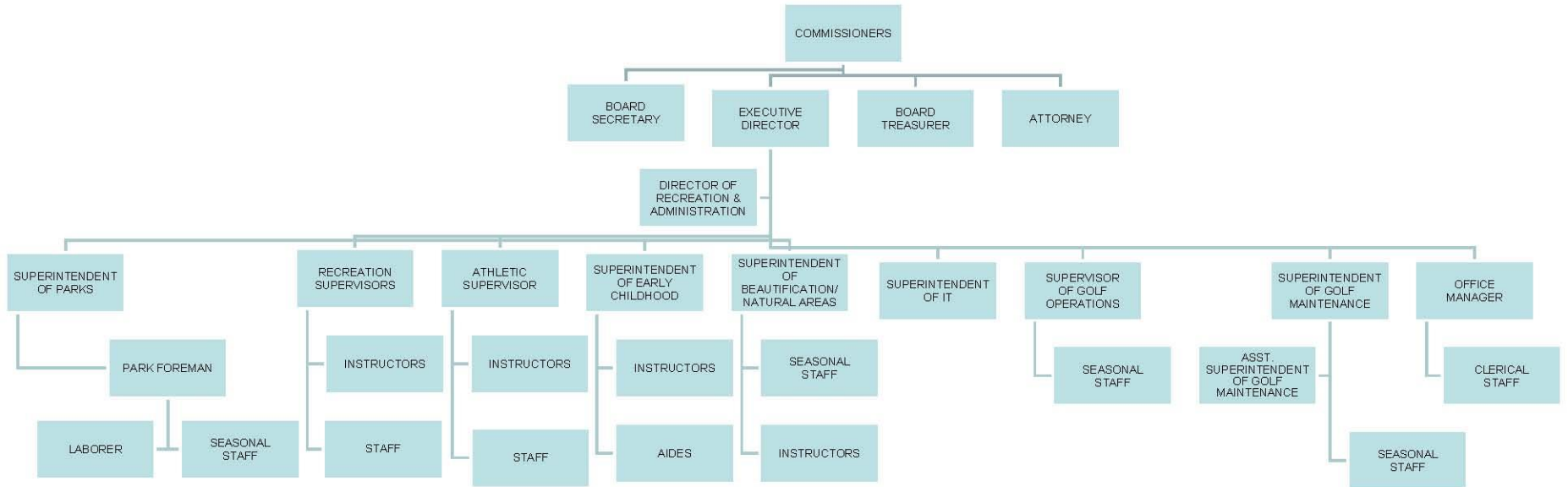
Full time FSPD employees come uniquely qualified, graduating from various universities with diverse backgrounds and expanded professional training. Staff members are certified park professionals, graduates of NRPA Director, Maintenance, Green, and Golf Management Schools. Staff members have attended hundreds of local and state workshops, and frequently are represented at the state convention and national congress. All personnel receive advanced CPR/AED training by park staff, with 115 employees and coaches completing certification to date.



The park district has embraced technology throughout the district, from employee work stations run by a main server, to surveillance cameras ensuring safer use of various facilities, computer labs for program participants, online registration, and the park district's website and social media venues that keep residents fully informed on park district programming and events. A 9-terminal computer lab is available to park participants and staff. These and many other expansive technological advances, too numerous to mention, ensure the FSPD services the community with the highest level of efficiencies.

Most importantly, the mission displayed and applied to all areas of operation along with the motto "the friendly park district", serve as critical models of the service that is provided by the Frankfort Square Park District.

## FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## **COLLABORATIONS**

Communities in Illinois have become more acutely aware of the need to collaborate in recent times. Today partnerships are necessary in order to provide the capacity to achieve what may not be possible for single agencies acting alone. Government agencies, specifically park districts and park and recreation departments that had developed collaborative relationships prior to the recession have continued to strengthen their already positive connections. The Frankfort Square Park District is no exception. Its varied relationships include partnerships, both formal and informal, intergovernmental cooperation and other collaborative efforts. Collaborations have not only made the Frankfort Square Park District stronger, but also have extended its reach and value to the betterment of its community.

FSPD collaborations have economically impacted the community by maximizing tax dollars through minimizing the duplication of facilities and services which has become a proven formula that provides residents with facility usage, programming space, and added security and safety. These varied relationships are each individually unique in the breadth and depth of their scope. Agencies, organizations, districts, departments, businesses, contractors and clubs such as the Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210, the Summit Hill School District 161, Will County Sheriff's Department, the Village of Tinley, the Village of Tinley Park and SSSRA have all shared unifying common goals, needs and philosophies with Frankfort Square Park District. As resident health, recreation, space, programming and facility needs continue to increase, so too will the importance of collaborations with the Frankfort Square Park District continue to grow.

### **SUMMIT HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT 161**

The Frankfort Square Park District has worked jointly with all surrounding government agencies since its inception. One of FSPD's most valuable relationships has been established with Summit Hill School District 161. Since the beginning, the two organizations have established a mutually beneficial arrangement, supporting each other with available facilities, land, staff, and equipment.

Without programming space, the park district was allowed free access to all Summit Hill schools. The FSPD was permitted access to gymnasiums, classrooms, and campuses equal to park districts of much greater size. In exchange, the FSPD developed school campuses with playgrounds and athletic fields, and provided summer and winter maintenance at these expansive campuses. FSPD has also leased much-needed land to SHSD 161 in the past at Union Creek Park, enabling construction of Dr. Julian Rogus Elementary School. The school brought necessary utilities and parking to the new site, lowering the FSPD's future improvement costs. This is one of a few instances where a park district provided land to a school district. With greater frequency, the reverse is true. Conservative estimates project land acquisition savings for SHSD 161 in excess of \$2.5

million. The park district saved \$750,000 in parking lot construction and necessary utility infrastructure; the proverbial win-win situation.

In 2005, SHSD 161 sought and gained approval for a new junior high. Summit Hill Junior High School offers many recreational opportunities, with a campus adjacent to the existing Hunter Prairie Park, ensuring best use of existing green space and parking. The school also includes a competitive track, soccer/football field, and softball and baseball fields. Indoor improvements available to the FSPD include two collegiate-style gymnasiums, fitness center, and a cafetorium. The latter is a unique combination of cafeteria and auditorium.

Throughout the history of both the FSPD and SHSD 161, neither organization has had a referendum fail. It is believed that this tremendous community support is based on the practical nature of both organizations, and also that school and park district facilities would be available through park programs to all members of the community. This concept led to future referendum success that enabled the construction of Lincoln-Way North High School. Lincoln-Way North also provides access to opportunities not available to districts 10 times the size of the FSPD.

## **FRANKFORT & MOKENA PARK DISTRICTS**

Prior to the construction of Lincoln-Way North High School, the park district had successfully worked cooperatively with the Frankfort and Mokena Park Districts, forming the Lincoln-Way Area Parks (L.A.P.) program. L.A.P. provided recreation program opportunities at the Lincoln-Way East High School campus for District 210 residents. The Lincoln-Way East High School campus offered wonderful recreation space that included a field house with three full court basketball courts, 1/9 mile track, Olympic-sized swimming and diving pool, fitness center, and dance studio.

## **LINCOLN-WAY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 210**

The latest and greatest collaboration for the FSPD was the successful passage of a new high school referendum in 2006. In August of 2008, Lincoln-Way North High School opened its doors, and the FSPD was granted exclusive use and scheduling of the indoor and outdoor athletic facilities. The park district formed the Frankfort Square Park District Activities at North (F.A.N.) program providing District 210 residents with access to open gyms, fitness center, and weight room activities.

The new North campus offers outdoor programming opportunities on its 90 acre campus that includes a synthetic surface soccer/football field in a 5,000 seat stadium, ¼ mile track, three lighted baseball fields, two lighted softball fields, and three soccer/football fields. All of these amenities are available for use by the park district.

The new campus also has a Performing Arts Center with professional acoustics, seating for 800, and is home to the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra. This space is frequently used

by the park district for preschool Christmas shows and the spring dance recital. The park also promotes Lincoln-Way District 210's Performing Arts Senior, Spotlight, and Children's Series programming.

The park district has enjoyed key access to state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor school facilities at no charge in exchange for green area maintenance, snow plowing, and various facility improvements. This level of cooperation fostered resident support for both school and park district referenda, enabling the construction and expansion of outstanding facilities, dramatically enhancing the opportunities that are available within the community.

### **WILL & COOK COUNTIES, FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP & THE VILLAGES OF FRANKFORT & TINLEY PARK**

FSPD worked with Will and Cook Counties, Frankfort Township, and the Villages of Frankfort and Tinley Park to establish a comprehensive impact fee ordinance that proved to be a model for surrounding jurisdictions. The ordinance provided 5.5 acres of improved park property per one thousand residents. The FSPD also has the option to negotiate cash in lieu of land donation, if the area to be developed is already serviced by existing park property. The park district would also accept non-buildable detention/retention land for development of the sites as recreation space, or cash for the perpetual maintenance of accepted properties. This land/cash in lieu of the donation ordinance has provided over 400 acres of improved park property and cash contributions, exceeding \$400,000. All cash proceeds from developer impact fees have been used for capital improvements throughout the district.

### **SOUTH SUBURBAN SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

The Frankfort Square Park District provides services for residents with special needs through the South Suburban Special Recreation Association (SSSRA). SSSRA is a therapeutic recreation program that is an extension of eight park districts and three recreation and parks departments. It is organized to provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to be involved in year-round recreation programs. The park district has been a member of SSSRA since 1989.

FSPD demonstrated its commitment to its residents with disabilities through its partnership with SSRA. In 2002, the FSPD donated park property within the district's largest 45-acre park site, Union Creek Park, to provide a new home for SSSRA's administrative offices. This partnership has given the association greater stability and visibility in the community, and has saved valuable time and money previously spent on frequent relocation. The park district's executive director drafted an agreement with the member districts to complete the sale of alternate bonds in the amount of \$750,000, which provided the necessary funding for building design and construction.

## **CORLANDS**

The park district saved Hickory Creek Golf Course from residential development in 2002. CorLands, a non-profit agency, worked cooperatively with the park district to purchase the site from a local bank when the previous owner defaulted on its capital improvement loan. CorLands then sold the property to the FSPD. The CorLands acquisition enabled the FSPD to pursue and receive state grant funds for the acquisition and development of the property.

## **FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP**

Recently, 9.9 miles of bike/walking paths were developed through park and state grant funding. These trails were further developed through cooperative efforts with the Frankfort Township, wherein the park district applied for grant funding on the Township's behalf, which provided the additional mileage that connects Township trails to existing FSPD trails.

## **WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT & TINLEY PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The FSPD cooperates with local law enforcement agencies and municipalities to preserve the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents. The Will County Sheriff's Department, through a mutual agreement, is authorized to control certain activities on park district-owned properties. The Tinley Park Police Department has cooperated with the park district on a variety of issues, including contracted service for special events and increased patrols in heavily trafficked park sites.

## **VILLAGE OF TINLEY PARK**

The park district also works jointly with the Village of Tinley Park through an agreement that allows parking enforcement at Union Creek Park/Hilda Walker School. Another cooperative agreement by and between the Village of Tinley Park and the Frankfort Square Park District provides monetary reimbursement from the Village in exchange for green area maintenance, and upkeep of bike/walking paths of mutually served properties located in Tinley Park within the boundaries of the Frankfort Square Park District. The Tinley Park Park District also allows the residents of the Frankfort Square Park District to use their community's pool at a special rate.

## **MARTIN IMPLEMENT**

The first commercial tractor was purchased in 1982 from Martin Implement. Martin Implement continues to service the park district until the present day. This dedication and cooperative effort with supporting contractors and businesses became a key to the continued success and efficiency of the FSPD. The tractor was funded with an installment

contract provided by Frankfort State Bank. The second Ford 340B tractor loader, purchased in 1985 for \$16,500, is still owned and used daily by the park district.

### **HUTCHINSON, ANDERS & HICKEY**

The law firm of Hutchison, Anders & Hickey has functioned as park counsel since the district's incorporation in 1974. Dick Hutchison served as park attorney for 28 years.

### **WERMER, ROGERS, DORAN AND RUZON**

Greg Miller, CPA, has completed annual park district audits for over 30 years. Greg has worked for three separate firms, most recently for Wermer, Rogers, Doran and Ruzon.

### **FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSION**

FSPD has worked cooperatively with the Frankfort Township Highway Commission to complete an asphalt lot at the Union Creek Community Park. This asphalt lot will not only provide space for parking, but also be the home of a public use wood chip recycling area.

### **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & FRANKFORT AREA JAYCEES**

The FSPD has worked cooperatively with the State of Illinois to register, restore, and stock fish at various park district ponds. Working with the IDNR fishery biologist, the FSPD has improved water quality through catch and release, and the installation of fish walls. After completing an extensive fish inventory, it was discovered that the park district ponds supported one walleye and two northern pike, in addition to many catfish, largemouth bass, bluegill, and sunfish. The walleye and pike were relocated to Woodlawn Pond. Prior to state-supported stocking, the Frankfort Area Jaycees provided funding for private stocking of Island Prairie Pond, and the installation of the first flag pole at the Park District's Community Center.

### **SCOUT ORGANIZATIONS**

FSPD works with local scouting groups on numerous projects, some of which include installation of fishing piers, wood duck homes, and United States and Illinois Flag poles. The scouting groups also help with native plant restoration and other worthwhile service-related projects. Annually, Boy Scout Troop 237, sponsored by the FSPD for over thirty years, leads the Super Scout Clean-Up, readying the parks for spring and summer use.

## **FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY**

FSPD's competent staff and volunteers plant and supply the Frankfort Township Food Pantry with fresh lettuce and micro greens, a healthy alternative to the standard canned and boxed food products.

## **OTHER COLLABORATIONS**

The park district supports a myriad of public organizations, providing locations and logistics for local school and non-profit organizations. These include weekly meeting spaces for scouting and homeowners groups at park district facilities. The Frankfort Square Baseball League, Frankfort Square Wildcats Football League, and many more local youth and adult athletic organizations are given scheduled practice and game time at athletic fields and gymnasiums. The park district presents young musicians, including the Summit Hill Summer Band and Lincoln-Way Youth Strings, annually during its Local Music Showcase at the Island Prairie Park Band shell.



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## COMMUNITY PROFILE

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The Community Profile is intended to provide an ongoing assessment of the relevant aspects within the Frankfort Square Park District, effecting park and recreation services through the collection and interpretation of data. Information gathered under each of the following headings is collected in the Community Profile: 1.) geopolitical, 2.) demographic, 3.) social, 4.) economic, 5.) government, and 6.) stakeholders. Following is a summary of the Frankfort Square Park District's community profile.

### GEOPOLITICAL ASSESSMENT

#### OVERVIEW

The geopolitical assessment for the Frankfort Square Park District starts by examining the physical characteristics of the community, including natural features (parks, streams, rivers, forests, protected areas, etc.), man-made features (highways, railways, transportation, developments, etc.), city zones (industrial, commercial, residential, and public land use), and other areas (school districts, historic districts, landmarks, other city and/or county districts, etc.).

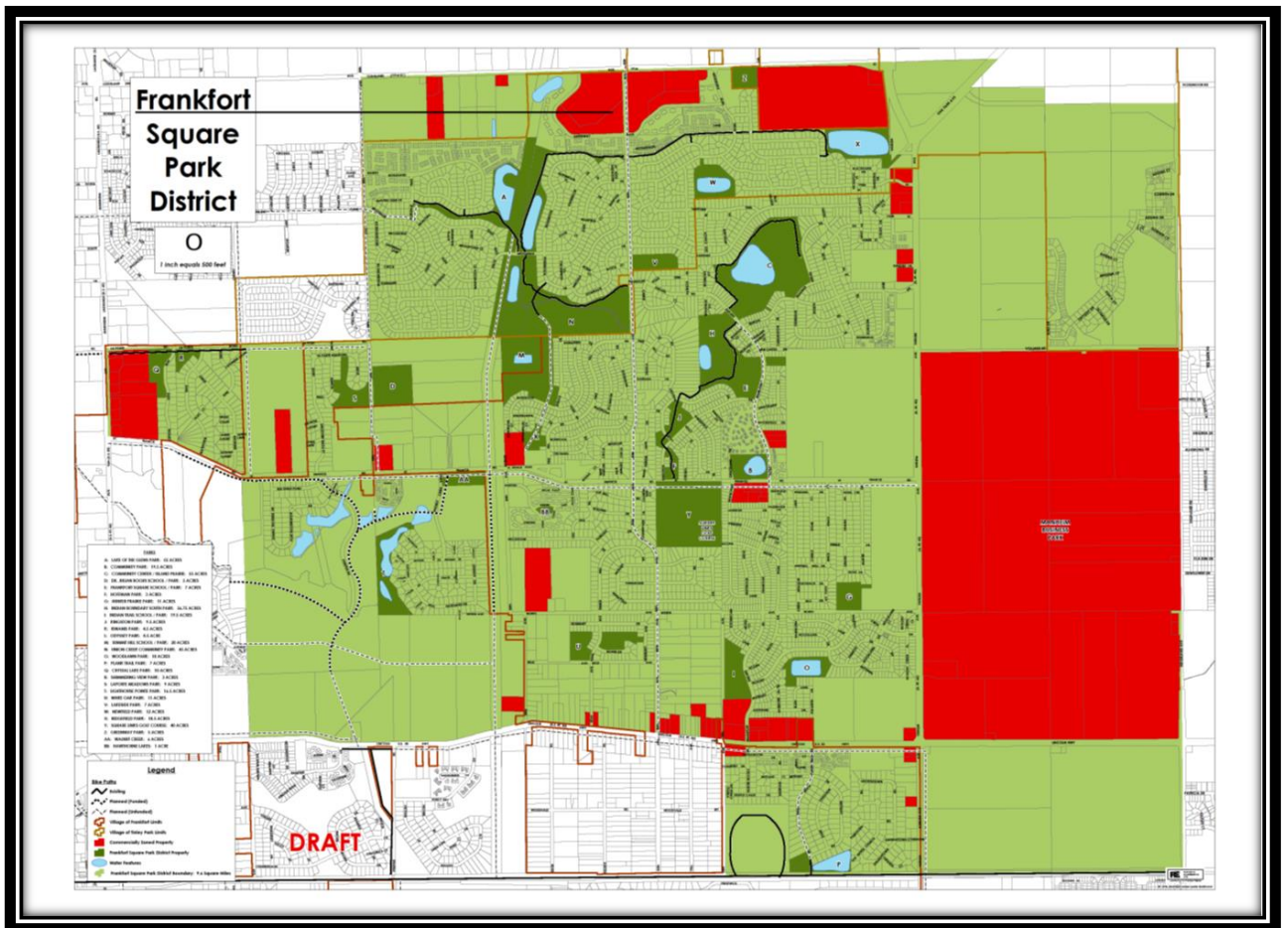
Once the relevant information has been collected, a map can be made that designates the natural, man-made, and geopolitical boundaries and/or landmarks. A map will allow the Frankfort Square Park District the ability to identify distributions, relationships, and residential trends that might not have been clearly defined before.

#### FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT GEOPOLITICAL ASSESSMENT

The Frankfort Square Park District was incorporated in 1974 by a small group of determined and dedicated residents for the specific purposes of meeting the recreational needs of friends and family, and establishing parks by accepting open space available from developers. Surrounded by cornfields, the Frankfort Square Park District emulated close-knit communities typical of the original farm communities in Illinois. Barbeque grills would appear at baseball games and ponds would be cleared with shovels for winter skating. The Frankfort Square Park District being one of the few governing bodies of this small community, continued to gain support as a representative organization.

Recognized as a strategic asset, the Frankfort Square Park District has a long and successful history of collaborating with all surrounding governmental agencies. These agencies include, but are not limited to: Summit Hill School District 161, Lincoln-Way School District 210, Will County, Cook County, Frankfort Township, South Suburban Special Recreation Association, Village of Frankfort, Frankfort Public Library, and the Village of Tinley Park.

The Frankfort Square Park District is 9.6 square miles in size. While heavily zoned for residential development, the Frankfort Square Park District includes areas of commercially zoned property. The boundaries of the Frankfort Square Park District also overlap the political boundaries of both the Village of Frankfort and the Village of Tinley Park. The Frankfort Square Park District includes approximately 21 man-made water features; borders a combination of residential, commercial/industrial, and agricultural areas; contains no major railways, airports, or interstate systems; and, includes two school districts.



Map Source: <http://www.fspd.org/>

## **DEMOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT**

### **OVERVIEW**

As a public park and recreation agency, programs and services should be designed to appeal to many different kinds of people. No segment of the population should be overlooked in planning the Frankfort Square Park District's park and recreation services and programs. Lack of careful assessment of the District's demographics can lead to the disproportionate placement of park facilities and recreation programs, ultimately leading to social problems in the community.

The main purpose in collecting demographic information about the Frankfort Square Park District is to use this information to help plan programs, future parks and facilities. Information such as resident ages, sex, ethnic origin, religion, education, social, cultural, vocational, household income, and household size should be gathered. This information can help identify important issues such as aging trends, population trends, and the Frankfort Square Park District's ability to support the acquisition of park acreage or recreation facilities within the community. In addition, the demographic information can identify potential issues such as inadequate spread of parkland and facilities within the community or that the past placement of certain parks and recreation facilities is no longer adequate for continuing operations.

## FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

The table below provides an overview of the demographic characteristics of the Frankfort Square Park District:

Frankfort Square Park District: General Demographic Characteristics*	
Demographic Characteristic	2010 Statistic
<b>Population</b>	18,500 residents
<b>Age</b>	
Under 18 years	32.7%
18-64 years	62.1%
+65 years	5.2%
<b>Race</b>	
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.2%
Asian	1.6%
Black/African American	4.2%
Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin	6.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%
White/Caucasian	86.2%
Other	1.8%

\* Source: National Recreation & Park Association Proragis  
([https://www.iisecure.com/INRPA/PRORAGIS/Profile\\_Summary.asp](https://www.iisecure.com/INRPA/PRORAGIS/Profile_Summary.asp))

Demographic information for the Frankfort Square area was also collected from the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data. Due to the unique political and boundary structures of the Frankfort Square area, the U.S. Census Bureau data does not provide a 100% match to the area serviced by the Frankfort Square Park District. Rather, the U.S. Census Bureau data represents the Frankfort Square “Census-Designated Place” (CDP) which is a smaller geographical area compared to the Frankfort Square Park District. Despite this slight variation, the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data can provide some insight into general demographic trends and shifts impacting the community.

\* Source: U.S. Census Bureau ([www.uscensus.gov](http://www.uscensus.gov))

<b>Frankfort Square Census Designated Place (CDP): General Demographic Characteristics &amp; Trends*</b>		
<b>Demographic Characteristic</b>	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>2010 Census</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	50.6%	50.4%
Male	49.4%	49.6%
<b>Household Status</b>		
Married/Couple Family	85.4%	82.9%
Nonfamily Household	14.6%	17.1%
Average Household Size	3.29	3.10
<b>Housing Status</b>		
Owner-Occupied Housing	95.8%	94.5%
Renter-Occupied Housing	4.2%	5.5%
<b>Education Level (25 years and over)</b>		
Less than HS Graduate	7.6%	6.5%
HS Graduate	35.1%	31.8%
Some College or Associate's Degree	31.7%	8.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	19.5%	21.0%
Graduate or Professional Degree	6.7%	9.9%
<b>Median Earnings</b>		
Median Household Income	\$69,459	\$83,289
Overall Poverty Rate	2.4%	2.8%
<b>Poverty Rate by Sex</b>		
Female Living at/below Poverty Level	3.6%	4.5%
Male Living at/below Poverty Level	3.6%	0.9%
<b>Poverty Rate by Race</b>		
American Indian/Alaska Native	--	0.0%
Asian	--	0.0%
Black/African American	--	25.7%
Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin	--	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	--	0.0%
White/Caucasian	--	2.4%
Other	--	0.0%
Overall Unemployment Rate		3.3%

## SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

### OVERVIEW

A public park and recreation agency aiming to develop a master plan that is representative of the people within the community must attempt to learn as much as possible about the residents and social organizations, especially those leisure-related human service organizations. Variables for assessment within this content area include programs for at-risk populations, variety of age groups, environment, conservation, beautification, and safety. Although the size of the Frankfort Square Park District community is an essential factor for planning recreation needs, numbers of people alone are not the determinant, but who these people are and what social trends are occurring in the community is. For example, a community with a population of 11,500 in a depressed region of this country would raise very different social demands than a community of comparable size in a more affluent setting. Thus, the Frankfort Square Park District must be aware of these social trends and have the foresight to ensure that future planning and development will attempt to match probable future needs and community composition.

Collecting information regarding the Frankfort Square community's social organizations and current trends occurs in a variety of areas. Education records and reports from the local school district(s) can represent a vital source of information about the youth in the Frankfort Square community. An assessment of current partnerships with other social service agencies should be conducted to locate possible areas of joint programming.

Persons with disabilities are a population often unintentionally ignored. The Frankfort Square Park District should review recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities in their community. Individuals in the Frankfort Square Park District living below poverty level should also be reviewed to help identify where low cost or free programming should be provided by the agency. Scholarships for individuals on public assistance have often been utilized by park and recreation agencies. Individuals of different ethnic backgrounds should also be identified to assist in creating or expanding existing programming such as culture fests, plays, and unique sporting events can be planned based on the culture and ethnic background of the constituency. Gathering information about diversity trends can be of great importance in addressing current and/or future language barriers, special needs/accommodations of individuals with mental/physical disabilities, and aging trends. As the Frankfort Square Park District's park and recreation programs and services aim to accurately represent its constituents, identifying possible barriers such as language is crucial to current and future planning.

## FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

The Frankfort Square Park District maintains a rich history of intergovernmental collaboration with multiple local agencies. Descriptions of these key partnerships are provided below:

*Schools:* Frankfort Square Park District offerings are enhanced through unique cooperative efforts with the local school districts, Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210 and Summit Hill School District 161. The park district enjoys keyed-access to state-of-the-art

indoor and outdoor school facilities at no charge in exchange for green area maintenance, snow plowing, and various facility improvements. This level of cooperation fosters resident support for both school and park district referenda, enabling the construction and expansion of outstanding facilities, dramatically enhancing the opportunities that are available within the community.

*Law Enforcement & Municipalities:* The FSPD cooperates with local law enforcement agencies and municipalities to preserve the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents. The Will County Sheriff's Department, through a mutual agreement, is authorized to control certain activities on park district-owned properties. The Tinley Park Police Department has cooperates with the park district on a variety of issues, including contracted service for special events and increased patrols in heavily trafficked park sites.

*Local Communities:* The park district also works jointly with the Village of Tinley Park through an agreement that allows parking enforcement at Union Creek Park-Hilda Walker School site. A cooperative agreement by and between the Village of Tinley Park and the Frankfort Square Park

District provides monetary reimbursement from the Village in exchange for green area maintenance, and upkeep of bike/walking paths of mutually served properties located in Tinley Park within the boundaries of the Frankfort Square Park District.

Maximizing tax dollars by minimizing duplication of facilities and services has been a proven formula that provides residents with facility usage, programming space, and added security and safety.

*Special Recreation Providers:* An ongoing partnership has been maintained with the South Suburban Special Recreation Association (SSSRA). The SSSRA is a special recreation program that is an extension of the Frankfort Square Park District. SSSRA is organized to provide individuals with special needs or disabilities the opportunity to be involved in year round recreation programs. SSSRA programs are for individuals from birth through adult who are in special education classes, sheltered workshops, or have recreational needs not met by traditional park district programs. Professional staff with experience in the field of special recreation supervises all SSSRA programs. They are assisted by individuals who are trained by SSSRA staff in specific areas of therapeutic recreation.

In addition to reviewing and maintaining the agreements outlined above, the Frankfort Square Park District must also be concerned with any societal trends or shifts in the community. Several key indicators are provided in the data tables presented in the Demographics section of this report. Additional education key indicators worthy of consideration are provided in the table below:

<b>Trends and Shifts in the Frankfort Square Area School Districts: Districts 161 &amp; 210*</b>		
<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Frankfort Square (Districts 161 &amp; 210)</b>	<b>Illinois Average</b>
<b>Average Primary &amp; Secondary School Class Size</b>		
Kindergarten	21.3	21.1
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	21.6	21.5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	21.6	21.5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	23.9	21.9
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	24.5	22.5
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	25.7	22.5
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	26.0	23.1
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	23.3	22.3
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	22.1	22.2
High School	21.2	19.2
<b>Attendance Rate</b>	96.0%	94.2%
<b>Percentage of Low-Income Students</b>	5.3% (Dist. 161)	49.9% (K-8)
	12.1% (Dist. 210)	49.0% (9-12)
<b>Percentage Limited English Proficient</b>	2.2% (Dist. 161)	9.5% (K-8)
	0.6% (Dist. 210)	9.4% (9-12)
<b>Percentage Receiving Individualized Education Programs</b>	12.7% (Dist. 161)	9.5% (K-8)
	11.4% (Dist. 210)	13.6% (9-12)
<b>High School Dropout Rate</b>	0.6%	2.5%

\* Source: 2013 Illinois District Report Card



## **ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT**

### **OVERVIEW**

The economic strength of the taxing body for the Frankfort Square Park District is one way of measuring the economic health of the community. The sustained wealth and economic opportunities measured at the local, state, and federal levels are important to measure because they can help shed light on the economic status of the local community. Property and land values, assessed valuation, housing, outstanding bond issues, unemployment rates and the probability of the community to support capital expenditures are great indicators within the community for park and recreation facility development.

Gathering comparative information on national and community workforce figures such as the unemployment rate and poverty trends, occupation statistics (construction, trade, industry, professional, etc), income and wages, and commuting characteristics can provide the Frankfort Square Park District with a better understanding of current and possible future community needs.

### **FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT**

The table below provides an overview of the economic characteristics of the Frankfort Square Park District:

Frankfort Square Census Designated Place (CDP): General Demographic Characteristics & Trends*		
Economic Characteristic	2000 Census	2010 Census
<b>Workforce Type</b>		
Management (Business, Science, & Arts)	31.6%	34.9%
Service Occupations	9.1%	12.2%
Sales & Office Occupations	31.1%	27.7%
Natural Resources/Construction/Maintenance	13.0%	13.7%
Production/Transportation/Material Moving	15.2%	11.5%
<b>Commuting Stats</b>		
Personal Vehicle	80.8%	81.0%
Carpool	4.4%	7.8%
Public Transportation (excluding taxicab)	10.9%	7.9%
Walked	0.5%	0.3%
Other Means	0.9%	0.4%
Worked from Home	2.5%	2.6%
<b>Mean Travel Time to Work</b>	34.9 minutes	29.7 minutes
<b>Household Income Breakdown</b>		
Less than \$10,000	1.3%	1.6%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1.3%	0.5%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	5.8%	3.7%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	5.1%	7.0%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	11.2%	8.5%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	30.9%	22.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	25.0%	21.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17.2%	21.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2.2%	10.8%
\$200,000 or more	0.0%	3.2%

\* Source: U.S. Census Bureau ([www.uscensus.gov](http://www.uscensus.gov))

## GOVERNMENT & LEGAL ASSESSMENT

### OVERVIEW

To better understand the Frankfort Square Park District's development and possible growth, it is necessary to understand the organization of the community, county, and other governmental units. Legislation in Illinois permits park districts to take on various planning activities such as the acquisition, development, and operation of park and recreation areas and management for public services. In addition, some states' legislation requires that communities perform certain planning acts.

Reviewing and keeping updated on state legislation allows the Frankfort Square Park District to prepare for any possible facility updates/renovations, staffing issues,

development opportunities, taxing issues, and other pertinent legislation. As the Frankfort Square Park District implements its master plan, it is important to understand what issues, such as ADA facility compliancy and possible Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) funding, will affect the Frankfort Square Park District's financial resources and future development projects. Assessing the Frankfort Square Park District's support history on relevant issues, such as school improvement programs, park and recreation referendums, and pertinent taxing issues, can also provide the agency with strategic information for future planning and development projects. Understanding how and why the community has supported various projects can be advantageous during the Frankfort Square Park District's master planning and implementation phases.

Obtaining grant information is of great value to the Frankfort Square Park District as an increasing majority of park and recreation development projects involve the usage of grant monies, partnerships, and/or private donor funds. Working closely with various local, state, and federal officials and departments can allow the Frankfort Square Park District to explore projects for which possible grant funding or other partnerships are available. This is an important strategy to incorporate into the park and recreation plan as it can open the door to (grant) funding that might not have been initially available due to possible agency limitations or grant requirements.

### **FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT GOVERNMENT & LEGAL ASSESSMENT**

Grants have played a huge role in maximizing financial resources. The FSPD has secured \$4,122,733 of additional monetary support for park improvements. One key addition was the completion of 9.9 miles of bike/walking paths, initiated with park and state grant funding. The path system was further developed through cooperative efforts with Frankfort Township, wherein the park district applied for grant funding on the Township's behalf, providing additional mileage that connects to existing FSPD trails. Information on the availability of future grants can be obtained from various entities. It is recommended the Frankfort Square Park District maintain contact with its local, county, and state offices for state and federal funding possibilities.

Throughout the history of both the Frankfort Square Park District and Summit Hill School District 161, neither agency has had a referendum fail. Directly aligned with tremendous community support stemming from the effective and efficient management of both agencies, a 2006 referendum that allowed for the construction of Lincoln-Way North High School was approved. This project provided Frankfort Square Park District residents access to opportunities not previously available.

## STAKEHOLDERS ASSESSMENT

### OVERVIEW

Park and recreation agencies, including the Frankfort Square Park District, were created by the will of the people to serve the people. This gives the Frankfort Square Park District a completely different perspective than other not-for-profit (i.e., YMCA, YWCA, Boys and Girls Club, etc.) or leisure service businesses that originated simply for production and profit. The Frankfort Square Park District must be concerned with satisfying a diverse public whose needs and wants usually differ dramatically from one special interest group to the next. For this reason, the planning stage of the Frankfort Square Park District should attempt to understand who are the people it serves, what are their needs and wants, and how the Frankfort Square Park District can best meet the recreation needs of the community.

Community residents' opinions are of one of the most important pieces of information to gather. They are the largest group of external stakeholders. Together they may have the influence to direct some of the Frankfort Square Park District's management decisions. The satisfaction of the residents is one of the most critical measurements of the success of the services provided by the Frankfort Square Park District. The politicians' decisions on law, policy, and taxes are directly related to the Frankfort Square Park District and how it may operate. Their decisions may influence tax dollars the Frankfort Square Park District receives, thus greatly shaping the capacities of the District to provide quality programs, services and facilities. Information on the community's views can be best gathered by accessing previous voting records (on pertinent issues), attending neighborhood meetings and other civic/public gatherings, community surveys and by creating advisory board(s).

Several other external stakeholders surround and influence the Frankfort Square Park District. These stakeholders are government, representatives of the private and not-for profit sector, financial, health, and religion. Constant flow of information and influence exist between these stakeholders and the Frankfort Square Park District. Recognizing these stakeholders' influence, power, and service overlap, is critical due to the Frankfort Square Park District often being judged on how well it uses the resources available. Thus, the Frankfort Square Park District must be aware and sensitive to changes and trends of these influential stakeholders.

On a larger scale, the Frankfort Square Park District should lead the effort to coordinate all community organizations that provide recreational facilities, programs, and services. Examination of these stakeholders is important in avoiding duplication and overlap of services in some neighborhoods (whereas in others there might be marked shortages of programs and facilities). Keeping active and open communication patterns

with these local organizations and businesses can help in developing possible joint planning and/or co-sponsorship arrangements.

Other external stakeholders to assess are the Frankfort Square Park District's neighboring communities. Often, neighboring communities have an interest and influence in projects and development of their neighbors. From bikeway development to waterpark development, neighboring communities can play a significant role in the development or maintenance of these projects. Neighboring communities can often provide great influence on the residents of the Frankfort Square Park District that will directly impact the District. Information on the neighboring communities can be gathered by attending their civic and organizational meetings, viewing previous voting records, and continual communication with the neighboring park and recreation staff and board members.

Assessment of the Frankfort Square Park District's internal stakeholders and their level of influence and importance should also be considered as these individuals and departments create an organizational culture, influencing your agency's daily and long-term operations. Consideration of the Frankfort Square Park District's culture is important as it can provide insight and better understanding of the District's possible reactions to change and/or external influences.

Internal stakeholders should be examined on an individual level (i.e., Executive Director, Athletics Supervisor, etc.) and a departmental level as they each encompass varying degrees of influence and importance to the Frankfort Square Park District and community.

## **FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT**

Key stakeholders of the Frankfort Square Park District are listed below:

### ***External Stakeholders***

- Residents of the Frankfort Square Park District
- South Suburban Special Recreation Association
- Grade School District
- High School District
- Village of Frankfort and allied services
- Will County Forest Preserve District
- Village of Tinley Park and allied services
- Mokena and allied services
- Matteson and allied services
- Frankfort Square Baseball
- Frankfort Square Wildcats Football

## ***Internal Stakeholders***

- Board of Commissioners
- Frankfort Square Park District Staff and Departments:
  - Office: The purpose of the Frankfort Square Park District Office is to provide an accessible, welcoming, and professional environment where all residents are treated with dignity and respect. The Park District Office has knowledgeable staff with vast informational resources that are vital to the Park District's success.
  - Maintenance: The purpose of the Frankfort Square Park District Maintenance Department is to develop and maintain quality parks and facilities. This department completes numerous tasks including, but are not limited to turf management, athletic field maintenance, playground safety, facility maintenance, asphalt maintenance, and snow and ice removal. Well-trained and well-informed employees are vital to accomplish cost-effective, safe, and efficient maintenance operations.
  - Beautification: The Beautification Sub Department of the Frankfort Square Park District creates and maintains landscaped areas within park sites and facilities. The projects range from descriptive signs to facility landscapes.
  - Natural Areas: The Natural Areas Sub Department of the Frankfort Square Park District restores and maintains over 250 acres of natural areas within its boundaries. Historically, these open spaces have been set aside during the development phase for recreation and storm water management needs.
  - Before & After School: The Before and After School program (BAS) provides a safe and nurturing program for local grade school students from kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade whose parents are not able to be home immediately before or after school. Alternative care, Day-Off Escapades, is offered on days when school is not scheduled.
  - F.A.N.: The purpose of the Frankfort Square Park District Activities at North (F.A.N.) program is to enhance the quality of life for the Lincoln-Way community. This opportunity for health and fitness programming is made possible through a cooperative intergovernmental agreement by and between Lincoln-Way High School District 210 and the Frankfort Square Park District. The intent of Lincoln-Way Community School District Board 210 is to make school district facilities and campus areas *available* for community use. The F.A.N. program, and the park district's scheduling of indoor and outdoor athletic space for District 210 travel teams, is reflective of both agencies' commitment to achieving this goal.
  - Square Links Golf Course: Square Links Golf Course and Driving Range provides the community with an accessible recreational service, facility, and open space in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner. The family-friendly atmosphere challenges golfers of all skill levels. The 10 hole, par 3 course is perfect for beginners, and also provides expanded options from the blue tees for the more experienced golfer. Although 20 power carts are available, the course length allows those looking for exercise to walk while enjoying this lifetime sport.

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## COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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The availability and quality of a community's park and recreation programs, facilities, and parks represents one of the most important criteria individuals consider when relocating. Visitors and residents want opportunities for participation in quality recreation programs, attractive parks, and effective and safe recreation facilities. Local government provides the primary opportunity for many people, and sometimes the only available opportunity, for access to recreational facilities such as parks, recreation centers, tennis courts, softball and baseball diamonds, swimming pools, and other specialized facilities. In remaining accountable for expenditures and to meet residents' needs, public park and recreation agencies are responsible for accurately identifying the park and recreation interests within the community.

The Frankfort Square Park District contacted the Office of Recreation & Park Resources at the University of Illinois to assist the agency with an assessment of the district's needs and recreation planning. Meetings with the Frankfort Square Park District administration were conducted to assist in the development of a community-wide recreation attitude and interest questionnaire. Researchers within the Office of Recreation & Park Resources worked alongside members of the district to develop a questionnaire that met the needs of all parties. Once developed, the questionnaire was mailed to every household within the Frankfort Square Park District. The intent of the questionnaire was to gather residents' opinions, attitudes, and preferences regarding Frankfort Square Park District's park areas, programs, and facilities.

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

- Identify resident/ member priorities toward potential improvement projects.
- To investigate the willingness of the Frankfort Square Park District residents to support or spend for recreational services.
- Evaluate the overall performance of and demand for parks, facilities, programs and cultural arts/fine arts opportunities.
  - Evaluate for what purpose the parks, programs and facilities are being used.
  - Measure overall satisfaction with parks, programs and facilities.
- Draw awareness to parks and facilities that are in need of updates.
- To determine how residents are being made aware of the Park District's offerings and opportunities and to determine how to most effectively reach Park District residents with information.

## **COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES**

All of the households in the Frankfort Square Park District were selected to participate in the study. A mail-back questionnaire served as the primary data collection method for the study. An overview of the study population, questionnaire development, and response rate is presented in the following sections.

### **STUDY POPULATION**

The population consisted all of the ~7,400 households that were located within the boundaries of the Frankfort Square Park District. The attitude & interest community survey was mailed to each of the households. An adult member of each 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, satisfaction with services, marketing, future programming and facility preferences, and demographic characteristics. The Office of Recreation and Park Resources, worked closely with the Frankfort Square Park District in developing the questionnaire to ensure the needs of the district were addressed.

### **DATA COLLECTION**

The data collection involved the use of a mailing to all (~7,400) households in the Frankfort Square Park District. The mailing included a cover letter, the questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. A raffle for three (\$100) cash prizes was awarded to three respondents in an effort to increase the response rate. The mailing was sent out during the final week of October, 2012. Data collection was terminated on December 19, 2012. Once the questionnaires were received, the Office of Recreation and Park Resources staff checked the data for completeness and accuracy prior to analysis.

### **QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE RATE**

Following the procedures outlined above, a mailing of ~7,400 households was selected to participate in the study. The data collection process yielded 588 usable questionnaires (8% response rate), producing a precision of at least +/-5% (e.g., the true population value is within +/-5% of the sample value).

## **COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

The discussion below will follow the order in which the questions were placed on the needs assessment questionnaire. The questionnaire is found in the Appendix. Only summary figures and tables will be provided in this section due to the magnitude of the data collected. Should a more in-depth examination of the data and results be needed, readers should refer to the 2013 *Frankfort Square Park District Attitude & Interest Community Survey: Final Report*.



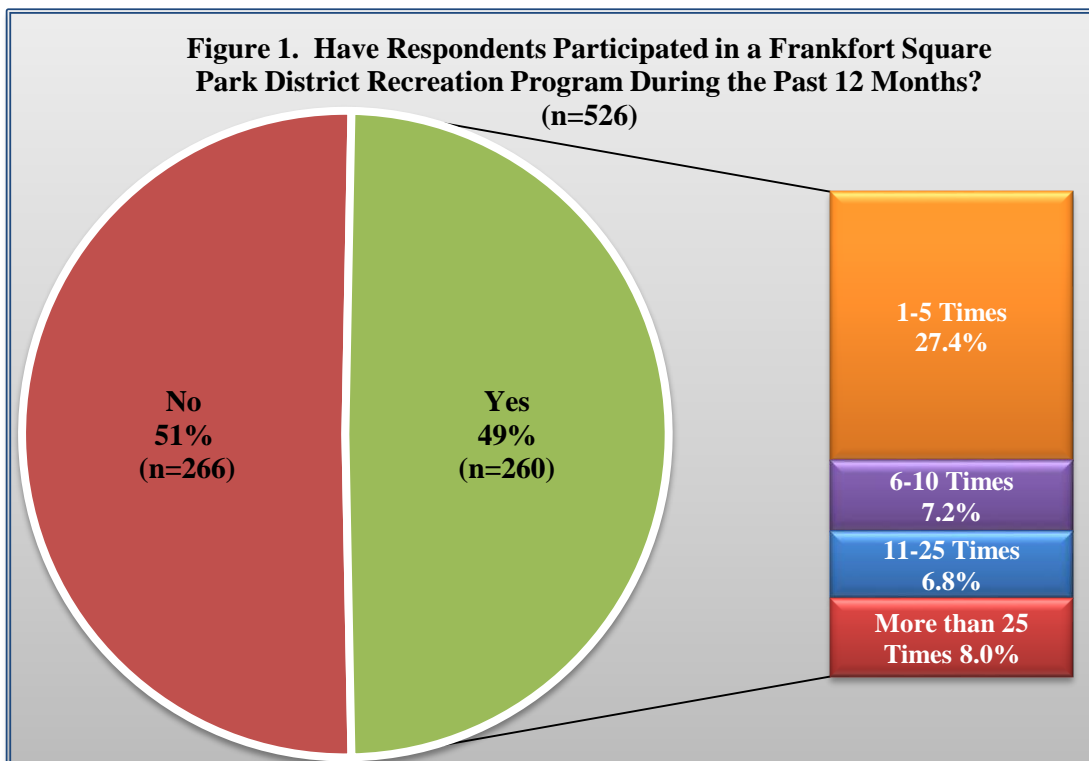
## CURRENT PARTICIPATION PATTERNS & ATTITUDES

The first question on the needs assessment survey asked households how many times (in the past 12 months) members of their household visited or participated in Frankfort Square Park District recreation programs, facilities, or park areas. The results to this item are provided in the following sections.

### *Frankfort Square Park District Recreation Programs*

Respondents were asked, “During the last 12 months, approximately how many times have members in your household visited or participated recreation programs at the Frankfort Square Park District?” 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.

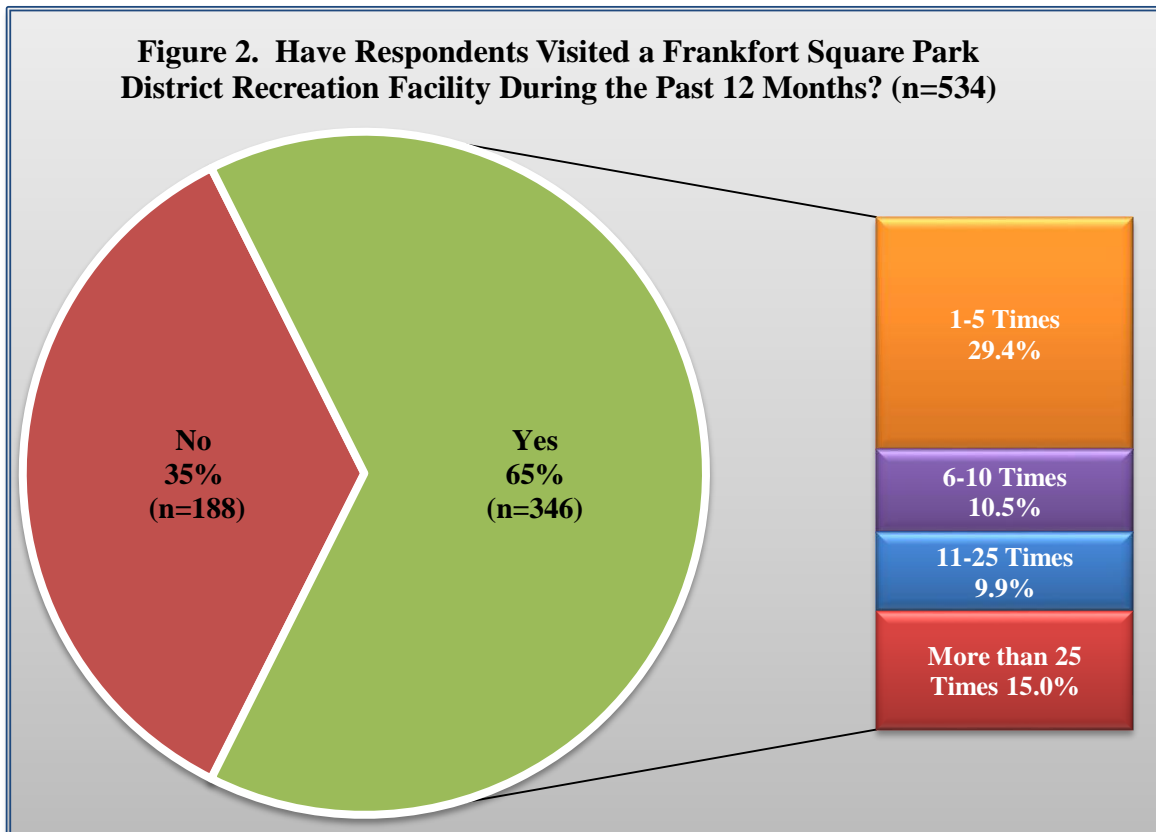
During the past 12 months, 49% (n=260) of the respondents had participated in at least one recreation program delivered by the Frankfort Square Park District. Of the 49% who have participated in Frankfort Square Park District recreation programs, 27.4% of them had participated in 1-5 programs over the past 12 months; 7.2% had participated in 6-10 times; 6.8% participated 11-25 times, and 8.0% participated more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 1.



### ***Frankfort Square Park District Recreation Facilities***

Question 1 of the recreation interests and attitude survey also asked, “During the last 12 months, approximately how many times have members in your household visited a recreation facility at the Frankfort Square Park District?” 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.”

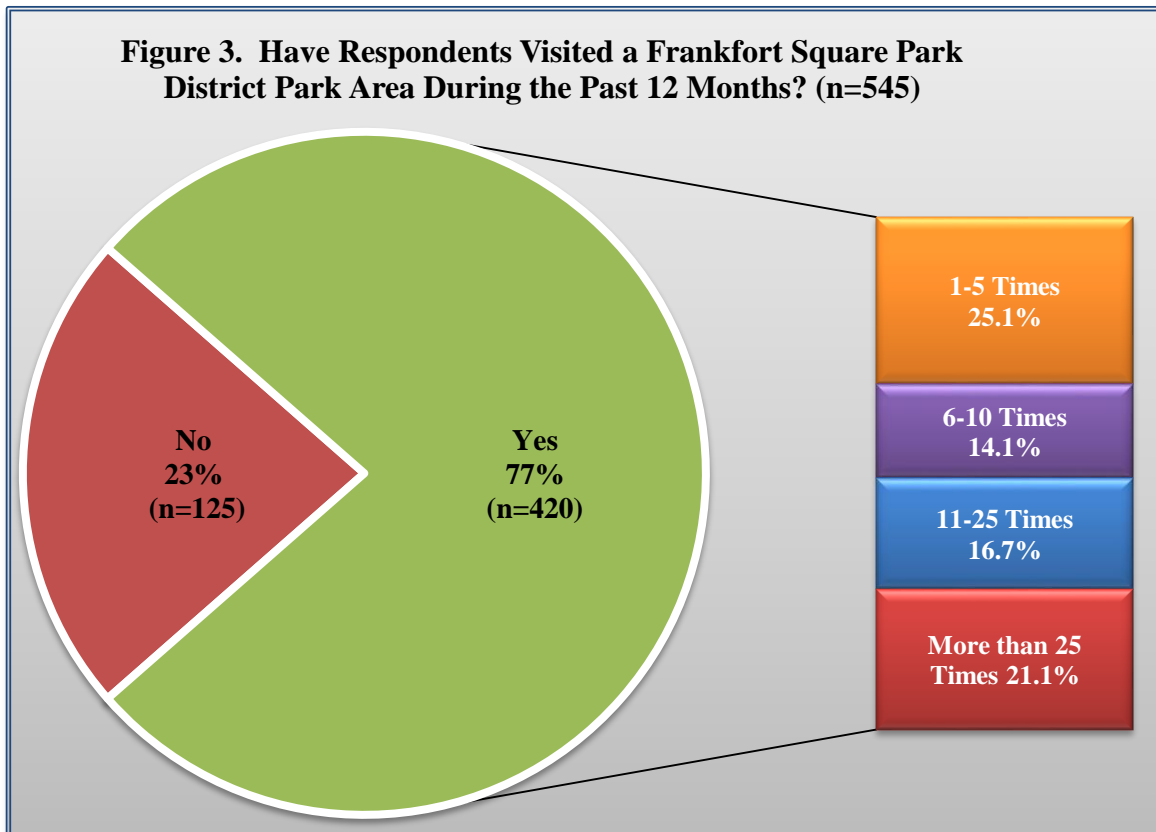
The results indicate 65% (n=346) of respondents had visited at least one of the Frankfort Square Park District’s recreation facilities during the past 12 months. Of the 65% who had visited a Frankfort Square Park District facility, 29.4% of them had visited 1-5 times over the past 12 months; 10.5% had visited 6-10 times; 9.9% visited 11-25 times; and 15% visited more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 2.



### ***Frankfort Square Park District Park Areas***

The final section of question 1 of the recreation interests and attitude survey asked, “During the last 12 months, approximately how many times have members in your household visited a park area at the Frankfort Square Park District?” 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 77% (n=420) of respondents had visited at least one of the Frankfort Square Park District’s park areas during the past 12 months. Of the 77% who had visited a Frankfort Square Park District park, 25.1% of them had visited 1-5 times over the past 12 months; 14.1% had visited 6-10 times; 16.7% visited 11-25 times, and; 21.1% visited more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 3.



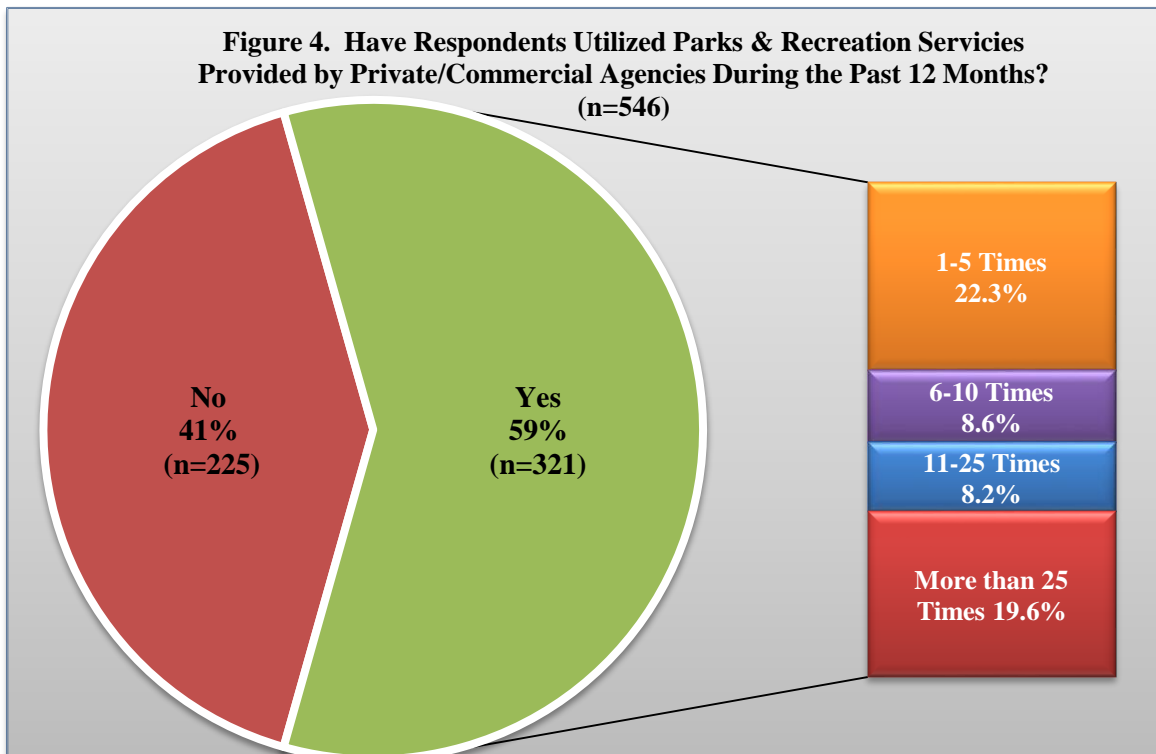
## PARTICIPATION RATES AMONG OTHER LEISURE SERVICE PROVIDERS

The second question of the recreation interests and attitude survey sought to obtain insight on the residents' participation patterns among other area leisure service providers. Specifically, the question asked households how many times (during the past 12 months) members of their household utilized services provided by the following other agencies: private/commercial, neighboring park districts, county forest preserve districts, church affiliated activities, public/private school-based recreation activities, and other agencies.

### *Private/Commercial Agencies*

Respondents were asked, "During a typical year, about how many times do you or members in your household utilize private or commercial agencies (e.g., golf course, private fitness center, day care, etc.) for parks and recreation services?" 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.

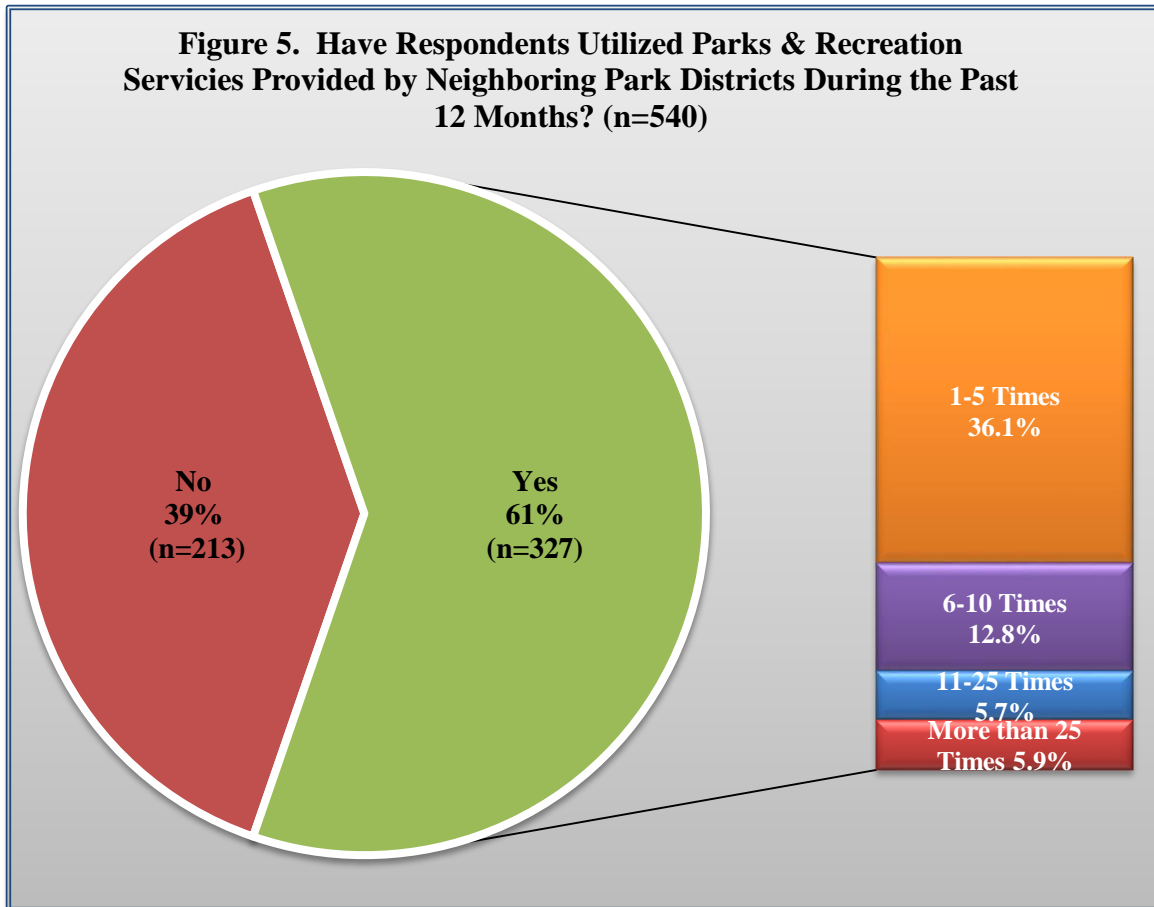
The results indicate 59% (n=321) of respondents had utilized parks and recreation services provided by private or commercial agencies during the past 12 months. Of the 59% who had utilized a private or commercial recreation service, 22.3% utilized them 1-5 times over the past 12 months; 8.6% visited/utilized them 6-10 times; 8.2% visited/utilized 11-25 times; and 19.6% visited/utilized more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 4.



### ***Neighboring Park Districts***

Respondents were asked, “During a typical year, about how many times do you or members in your household utilize neighboring park districts (e.g., Mokena, Frankfort, Tinley Park etc.) for parks and recreation services?” 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.

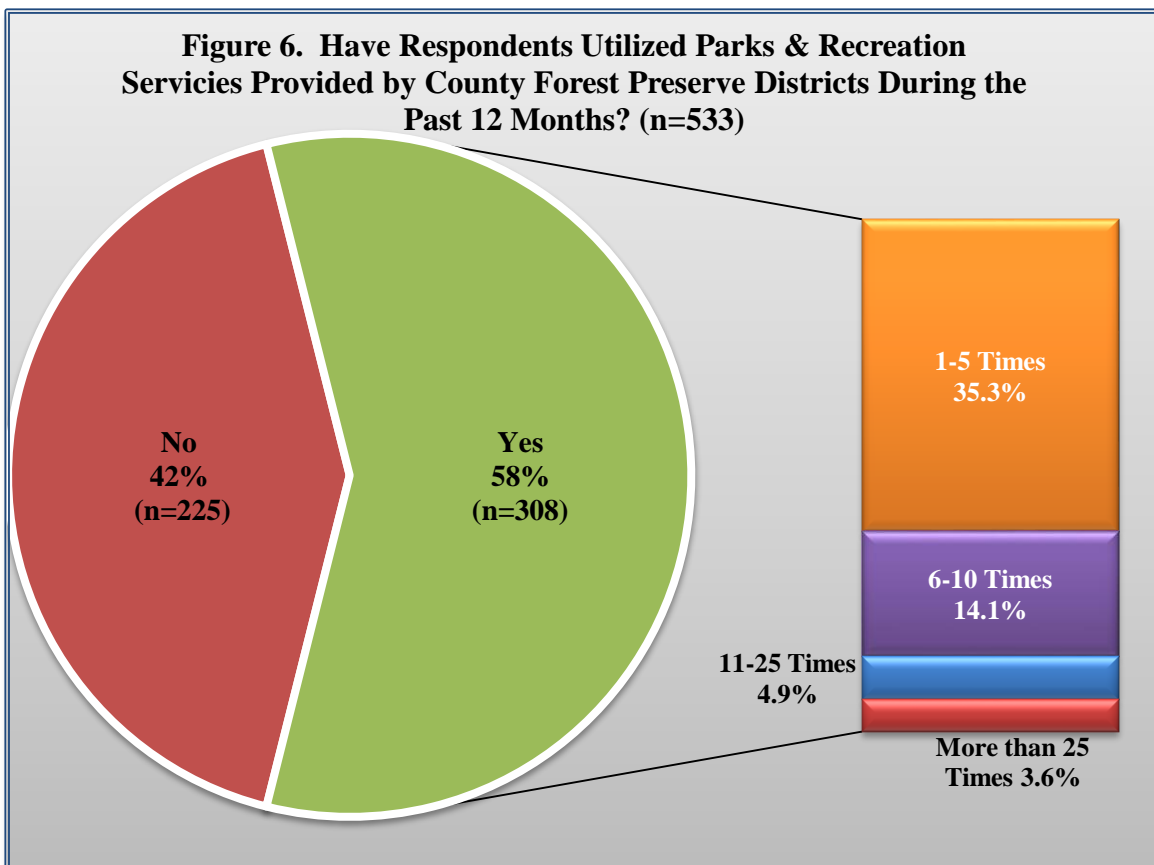
The results indicate 61% (n=327) of respondents had utilized parks and recreation services provided by neighboring park districts during the past 12 months. Of the 61% who had utilized neighboring park districts’ recreation service, 36.1% utilized them 1-5 times over the past 12 months; 12.8% visited/utilized them 6-10 times; 5.7% visited/utilized 11-25 times, and; 5.9% visited/utilized more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 5.



### County Forest Preserve Districts

Respondents were asked, “During a typical year, about how many times do you or members in your household utilize county forest preserve districts (Cook, Will, etc.) for parks and recreation services?” 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.

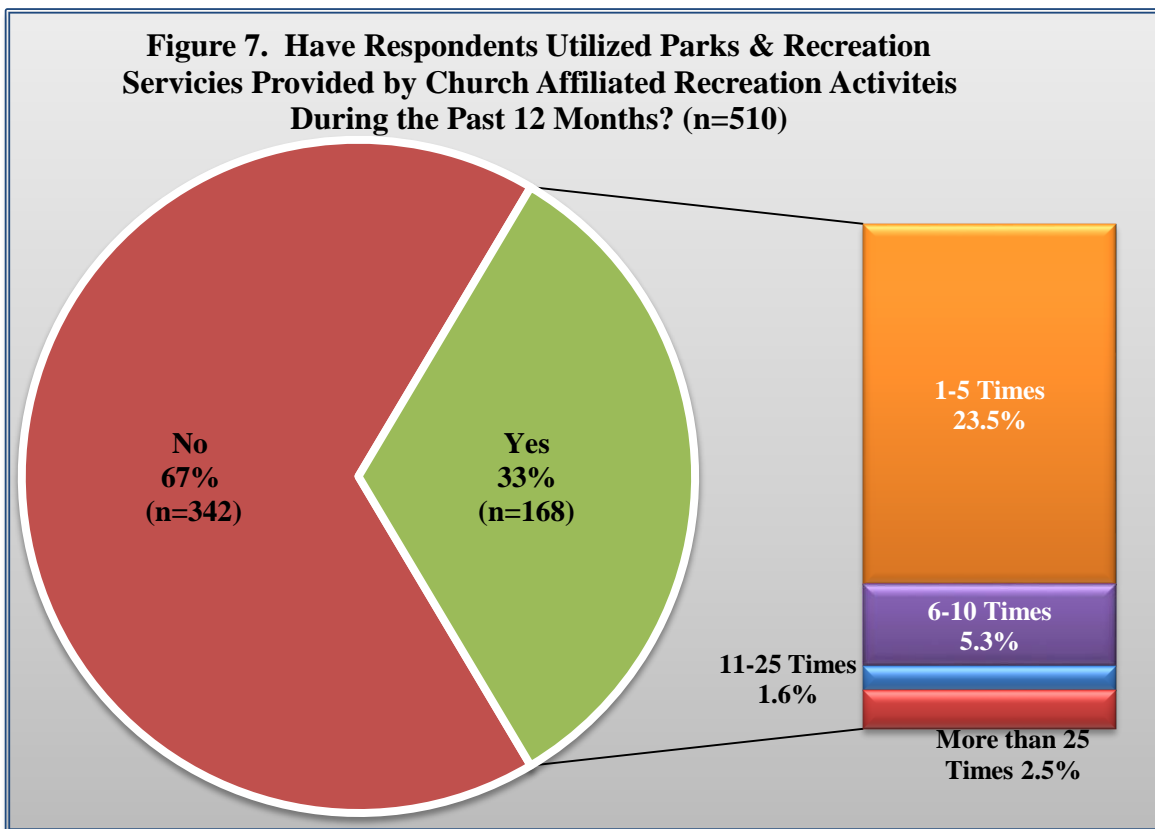
The results indicate 58% (n=308) of respondents had utilized parks and recreation services provided by county forest preserve districts during the past 12 months. Of the 58% who had utilized county forest preserve districts’ recreation service, 35.5% utilized them 1-5 times over the past 12 months; 14.1% visited/ utilized them 6-10 times; 4.9% visited/ utilized 11-25 times; and 3.6% visited/ utilized more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 6.



### ***Church Affiliated Recreation Activities***

Respondents were asked, “During a typical year, about how many times do you or members in your household utilize church affiliated recreation activities for parks and recreation services?” 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.

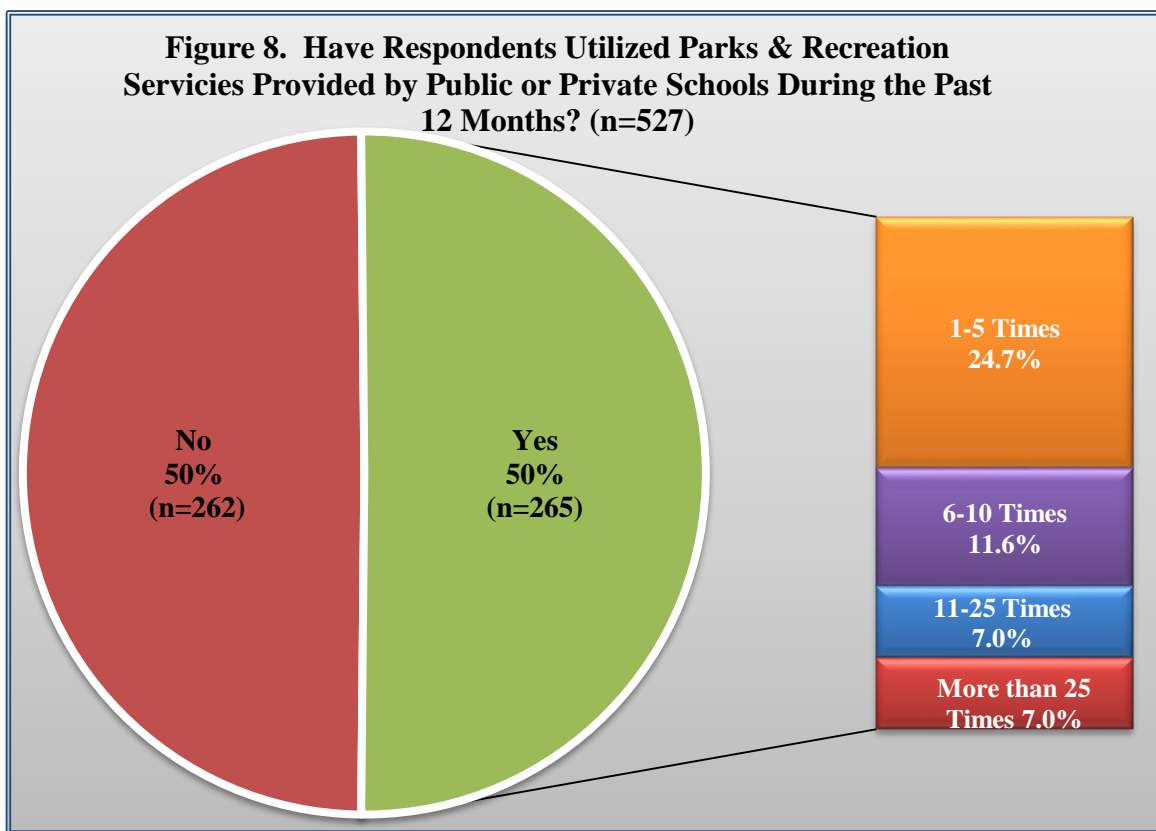
The results indicate 33% (n=168) of respondents had utilized church affiliated recreation activities during the past 12 months. Of the 33% who had utilized church affiliated recreation activities, 23.5% utilized them 1-5 times over the past 12 months; 5.3% visited/utilized them 6-10 times; 1.6% visited/utilized 11-25 times; and 2.5% visited/utilized more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 7.



### ***Public or Private School***

Respondents were asked, “During a typical year, about how many times do you or members in your household utilize public or private school-based recreation activities for parks and recreation services?” 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 50% (n=265) of respondents had utilized public or private school-based recreation activities during the past 12 months. Of the 50% who had utilized public or private school-based recreation services, 24.7% utilized them 1-5 times over the past 12 months; 11.6% visited/utilized them 6-10 times; 7.0% visited/utilized 11-25 times, and; 7.0% visited/utilized more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 8.

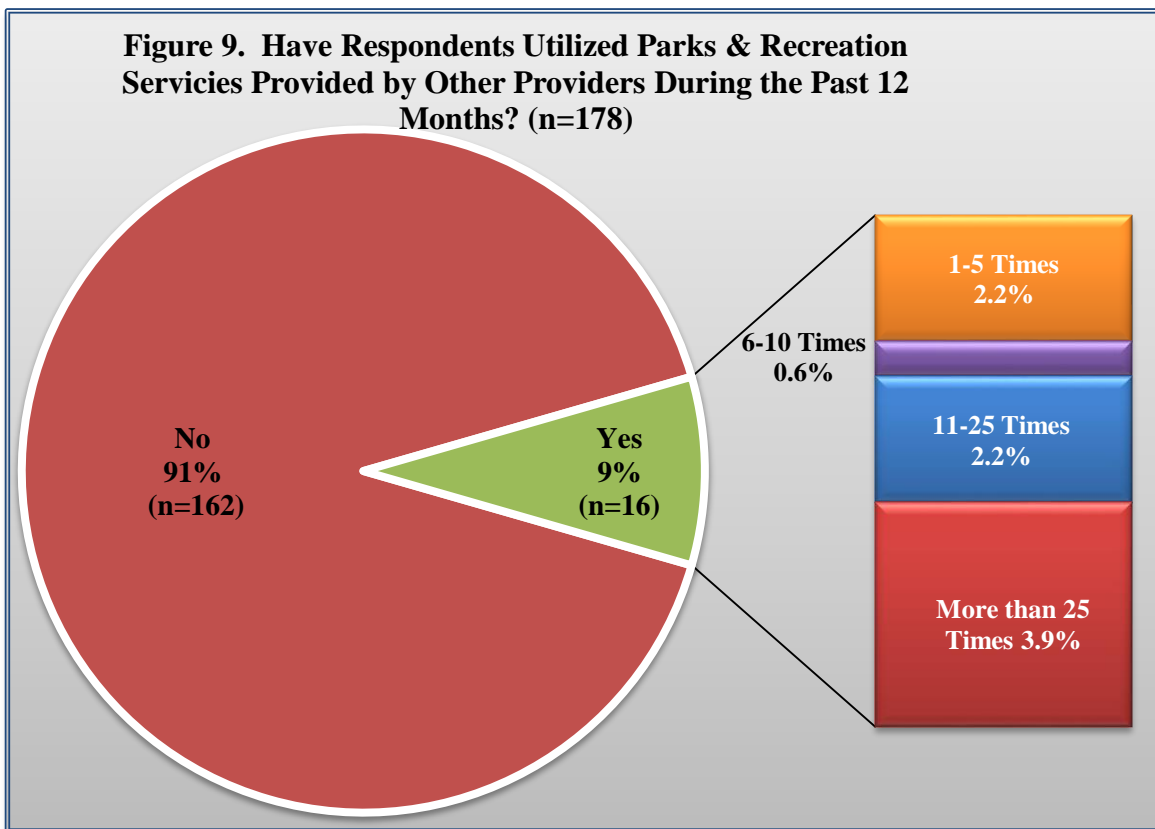




### ***Other Recreation Agencies***

Respondents were asked, “During a typical year, about how many times do you or members in your household utilize other providers for parks and recreation services?” 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 9% (n=16) of respondents had utilized other providers for parks and recreation services during the past 12 months. Of the 9% who had utilized other providers, 2.2% utilized them 1-5 times over the past 12 months; 0.6% visited/utilized them 6-10 times; 2.2% visited/utilized 11-25 times; and 3.9% visited/utilized more than 25 times. Complete results are provided in Figure 9.

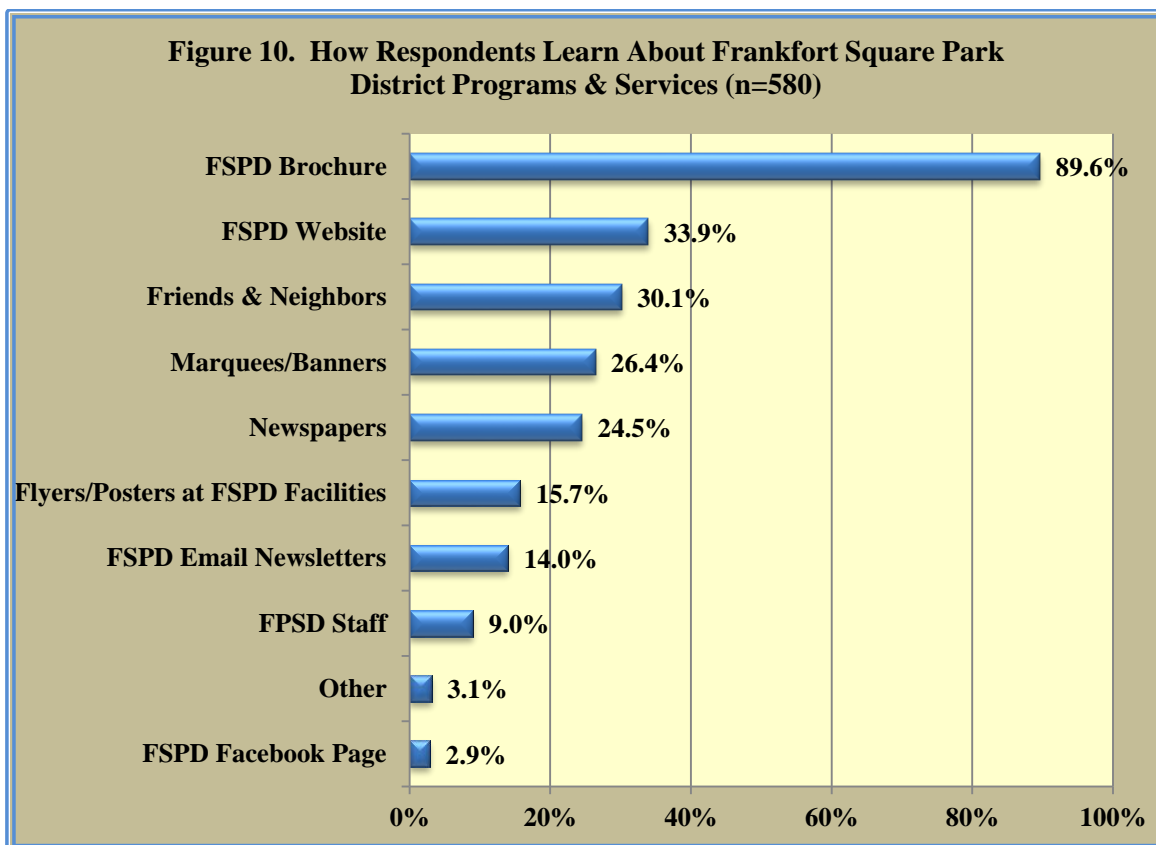


## FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT'S MARKETING & PUBLICITY METHODS

Questions 3 and 4 of the recreation attitude and interest survey sought to obtain information regarding household's preferences with the Frankfort Square Park District's marketing and publicity methods. Question 3 asked respondents to identify all the ways they learned about the Frankfort Square Park District's programs and services. Question 4 asked respondents to indicate their preferred method for receiving the district's programming and service brochure.

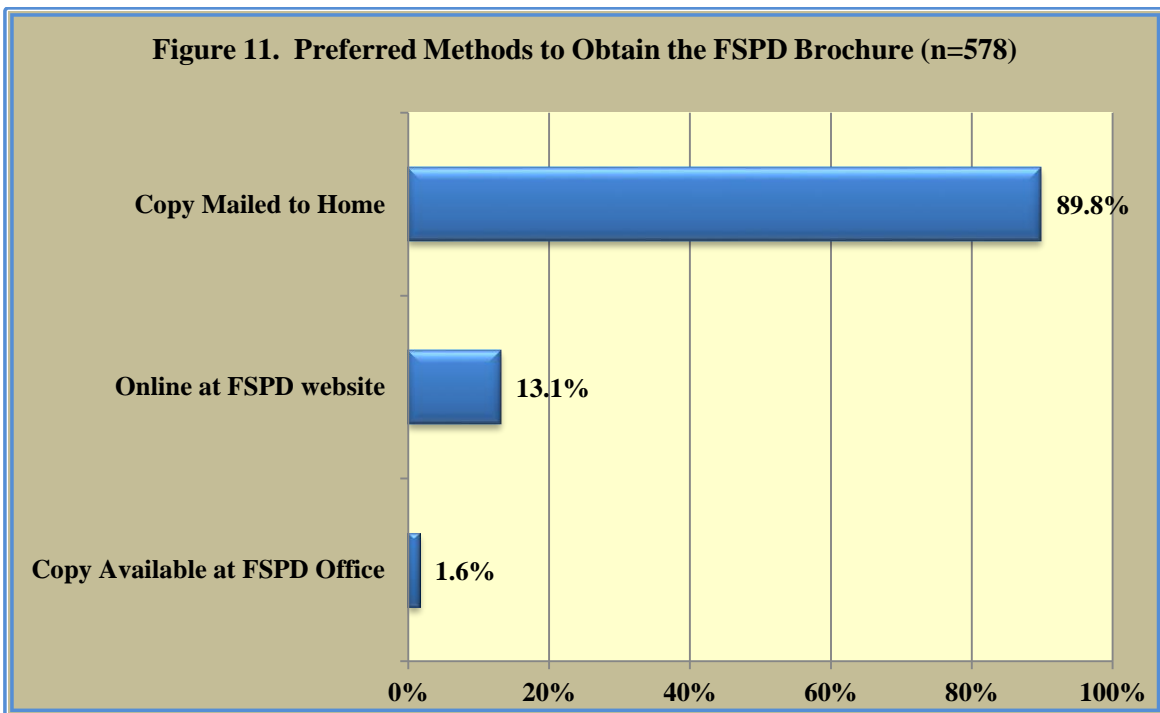
Respondents were asked, "How have you or members of your household found out about the programs and services offered by the Frankfort Square Park District?" A list of 10 options was provided with respondents being asked to indicate all the ways they have learned about the district's programs and services.

The results indicated almost 90% of respondents utilized the Frankfort Square Park District brochure for learning about the district's recreation programs and services. A significant difference was identified between the most popular marketing method (FSPD brochure) and the other nine options. Complete results are provided in Figure 10.



Respondents were asked, “How do you prefer to access brochure information?” A list of 3 options (copy mailed to your home, copy available at Frankfort Square Park District Administrative Office, and online at the Frankfort Square Park District website) was provided with respondents being asked to indicate their household’s most preferred option.

The results identified unanimous support for mailing the brochure to the residents’ homes. In particular, 89.9% of respondents preferred to have the brochure mailed to their home; only 1.6% preferred to have a copy of the brochure available at the Frankfort Square Park District Administrative Office, and; 13.1% preferred to have a copy of the brochure available at the Frankfort Square Park District’s website. Complete results are provided in Figure 11.



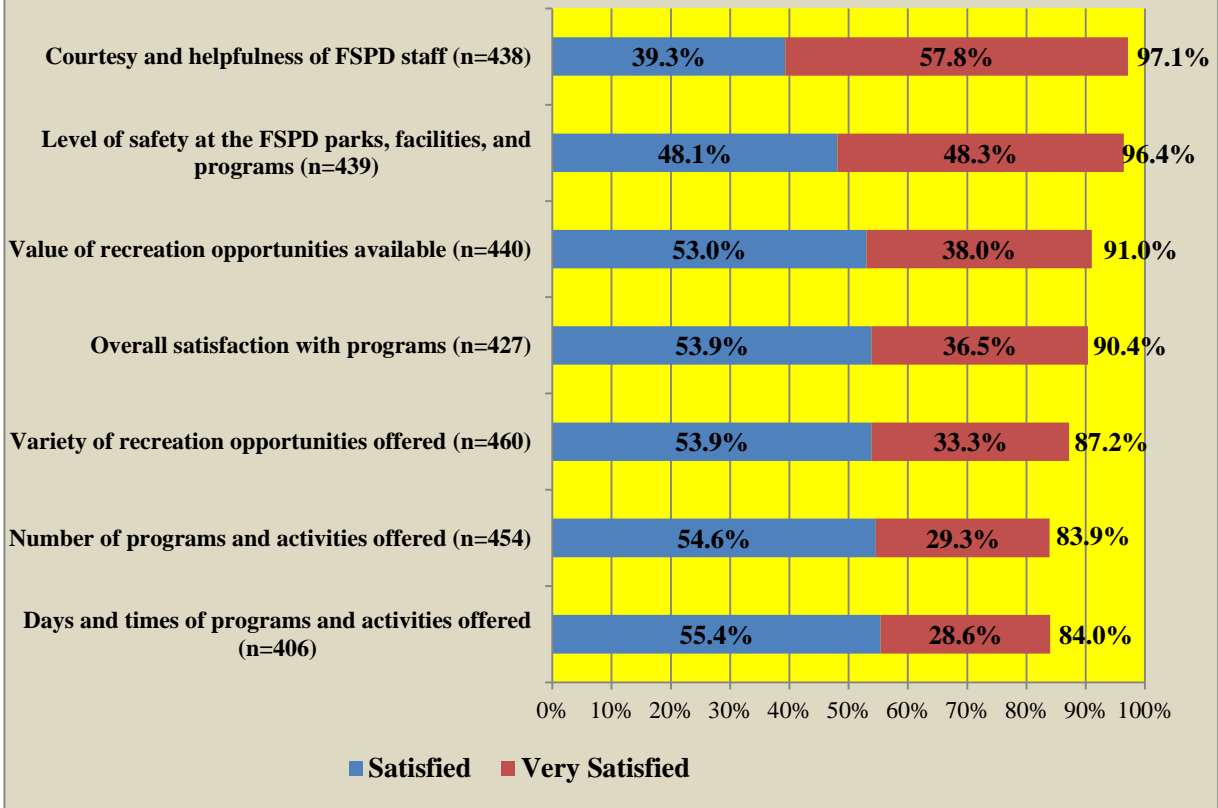
## **SATISFACTION WITH THE FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT'S OPERATIONS**

Question 5 of the attitude and interests survey examined household's satisfaction with the Frankfort Square Park District's operations. Eight items assessed respondents' satisfaction with the general operations of the district; twenty-three items assessed respondents' satisfaction with existing park areas and facilities; six items assessed respondents' satisfaction with the district's maintenance; and eight items assessed respondents' satisfaction with the district's personnel.

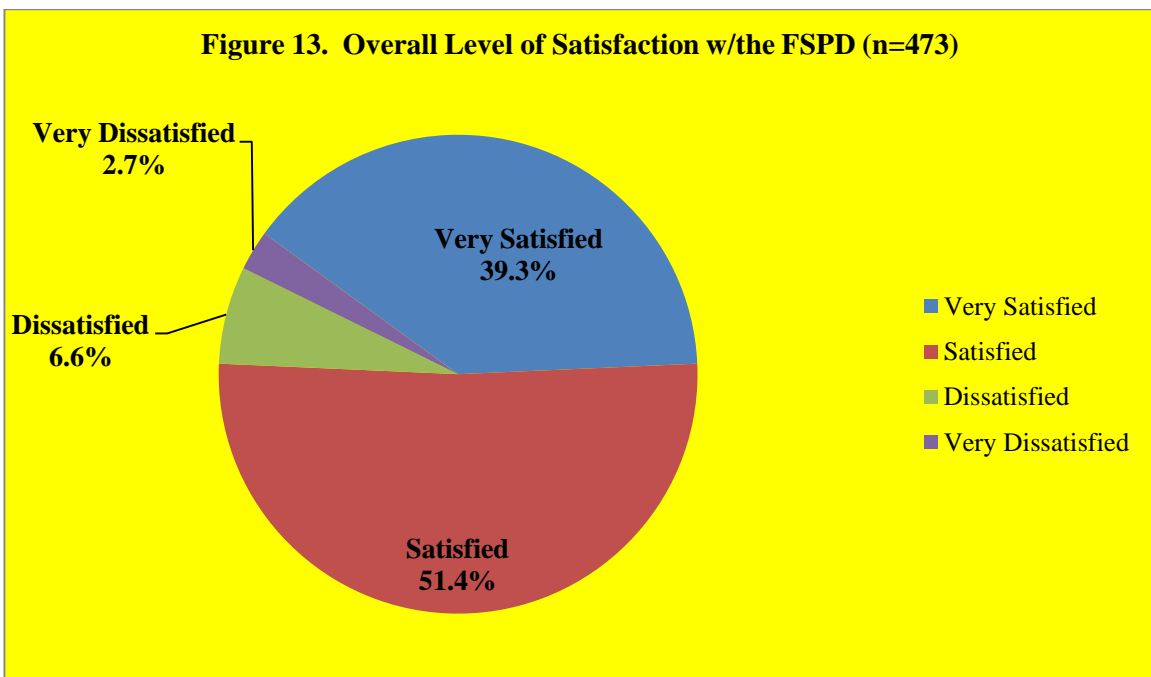
Eight items from question 5 were used to assess households' overall satisfaction with the Frankfort Square Park District's operations. Respondents rated each item on a 5-point satisfaction scale (1 = very unsatisfied, 2 = unsatisfied, 3 = satisfied, 4 = very satisfied, and 5 = don't use/don't know). 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, "Courtesy and helpfulness of the FSPD staff", 134 respondents selected "don't use/don't know". These 134 respondents were removed from the frequency analysis (for this item only) resulting in a sample size of 438 for this particular item. Before examining the data for the next item, the 134 respondents were re-integrated back into the study sample. This process was repeated for each of the eight items.

The findings identified +90% satisfaction levels (satisfied or very satisfied) for five of the eight items. Two of the items, "Level of safety at the FSPD parks, facilities, and programs" and "Courtesy and helpfulness of FSPD staff", received satisfaction ratings of +95%. Complete results are provided in Figures 12 & 13.

**Figure 12. General Satisfaction w/the FSPD's Operations**



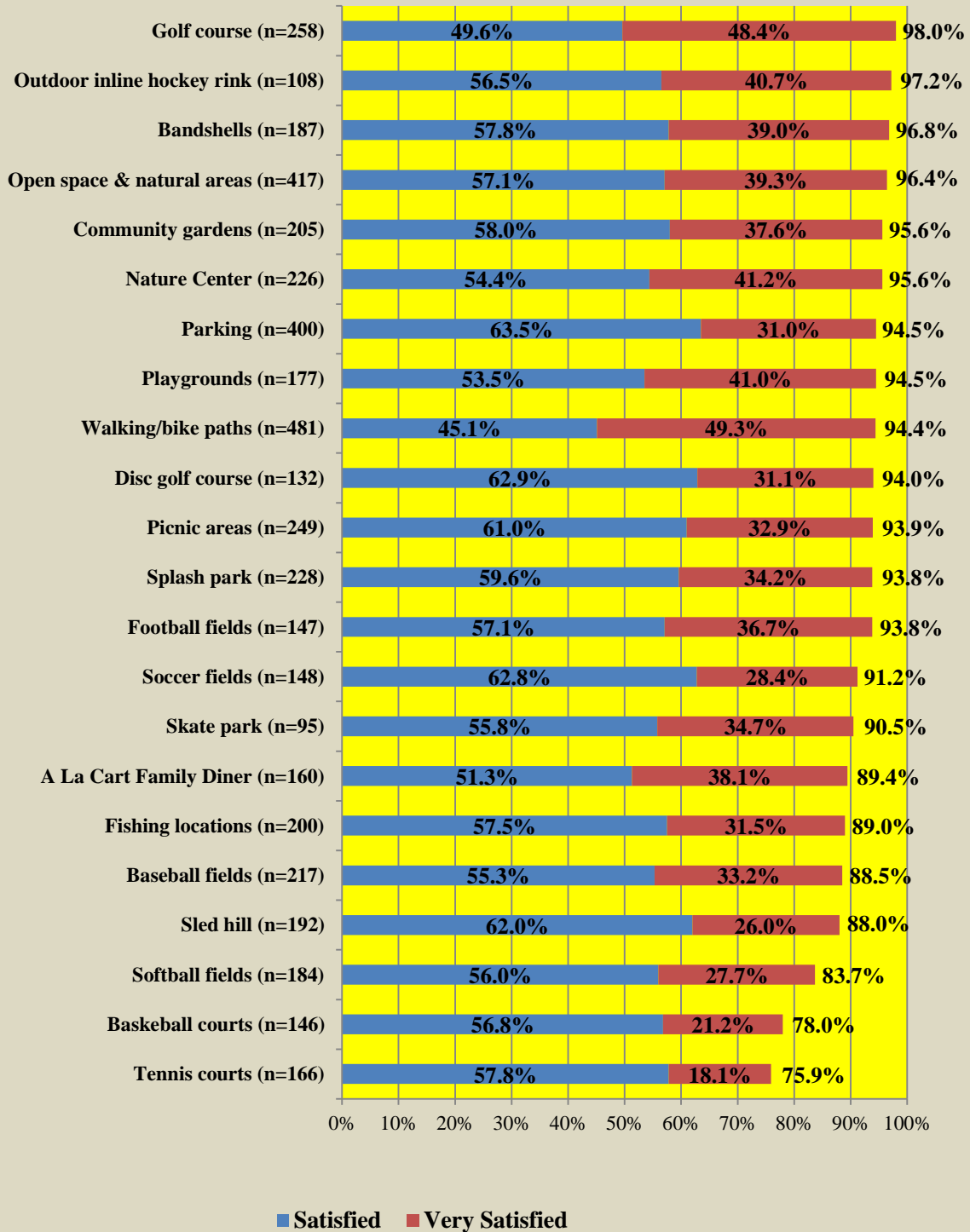
**Figure 13. Overall Level of Satisfaction w/the FSPD (n=473)**



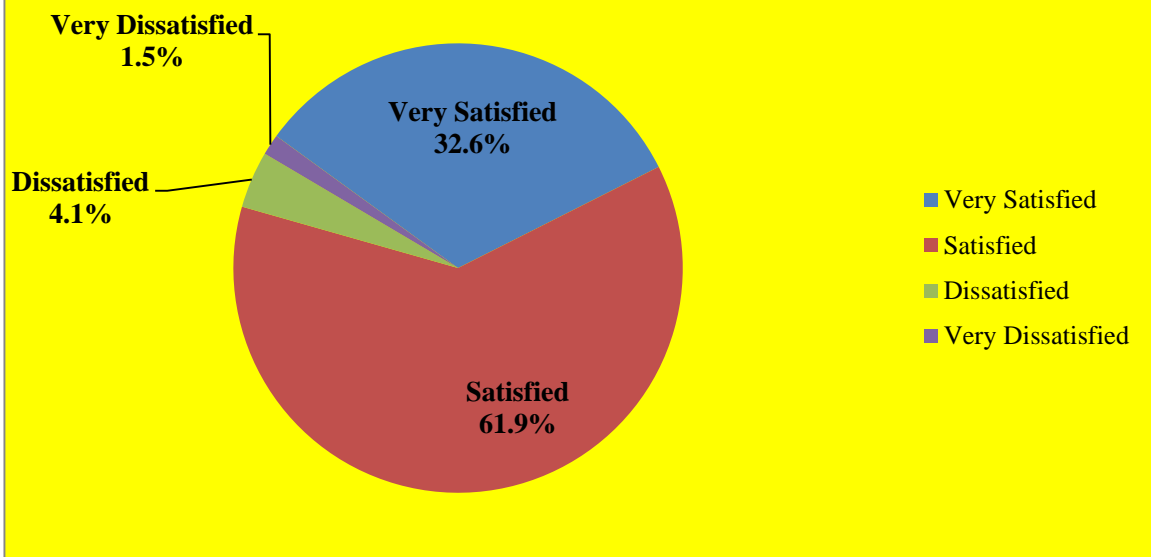
Twenty-three items from question 5 were used to assess respondents' satisfaction with existing park areas and facilities. Respondents rated each item on a 5-point satisfaction scale (1 = very unsatisfied, 2 = unsatisfied, 3 = satisfied, 4 = very satisfied, and 5 = don't use/don't know). In an effort 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, "Golf course", 305 respondents selected "don't use/don't know". These 305 respondents were removed from the frequency analysis (for this item only) resulting in a sample size of 258 for this particular item. Before examining the data for the next item, the 305 respondents were re-integrated back into the study sample. This process was repeated for each of the twenty-three items.

The findings identified all but three facilities and/or park areas (tennis courts, basketball courts, and softball fields) received ~90% (or higher) satisfaction levels (satisfied or very satisfied). 94.5% of the respondents expressed an overall satisfaction (satisfied or very satisfied) with the Frankfort Square Park District's facilities and park areas. Complete results are provided in Figures 14 & 15.

**Figure 14. Satisfaction w/the FSPD's Facilities & Park Areas**



**Figure 15. Overall Level of Satisfaction w/the FSPD's Facilities & Park Areas (n=341)**

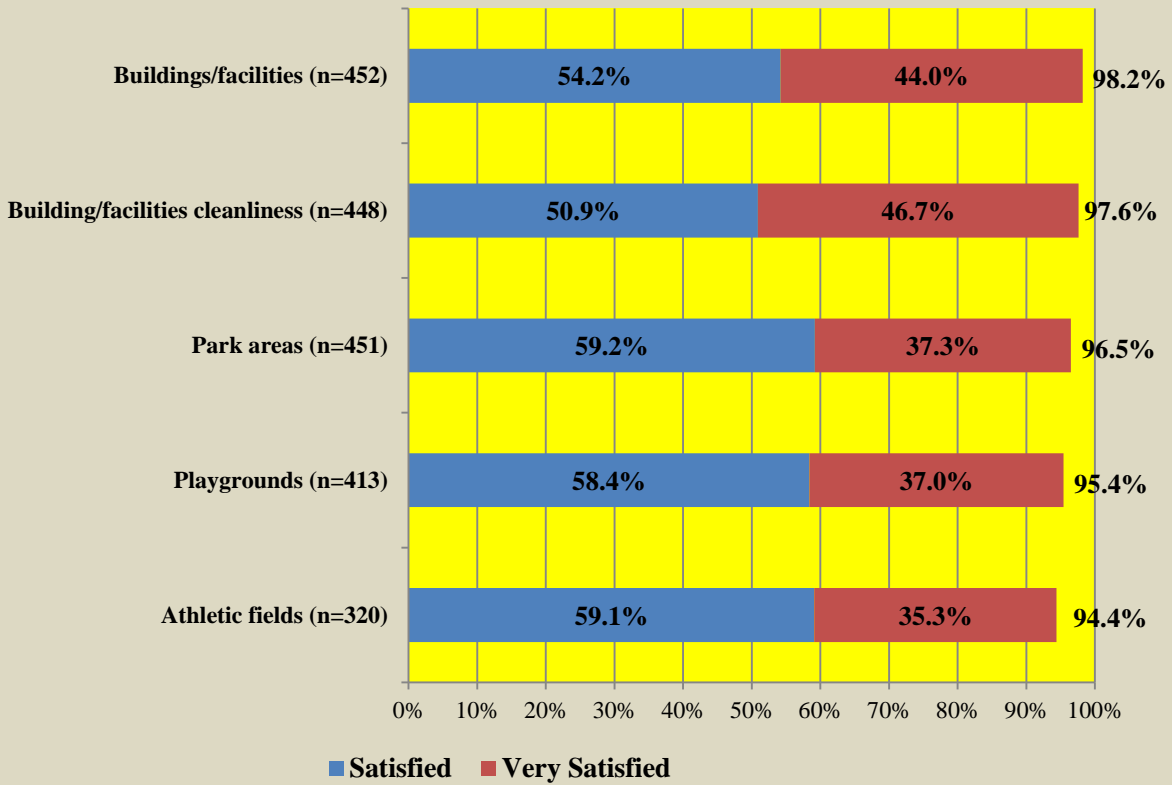


Six items from question 5 were used to assess households' satisfaction with the district's maintenance. Respondents rated each item on a 5-point satisfaction scale (1 = very unsatisfied, 2 = unsatisfied, 3 = satisfied, 4 = very satisfied, and 5 = don't use/don't know). In an effort to accurately represent households' satisfaction levels for each item, the "don't use/don't know" responses were removed from subsequent analysis. For example, within the item, "Buildings/facilities", 119 respondents selected "don't use/don't know". These 119 respondents were removed from the frequency analysis (for this item only) resulting in a sample size of 452 for this particular item. Before examining the data for the next item, the 119 respondents were re-integrated back into the study sample. This process was repeated for each of the eight items.

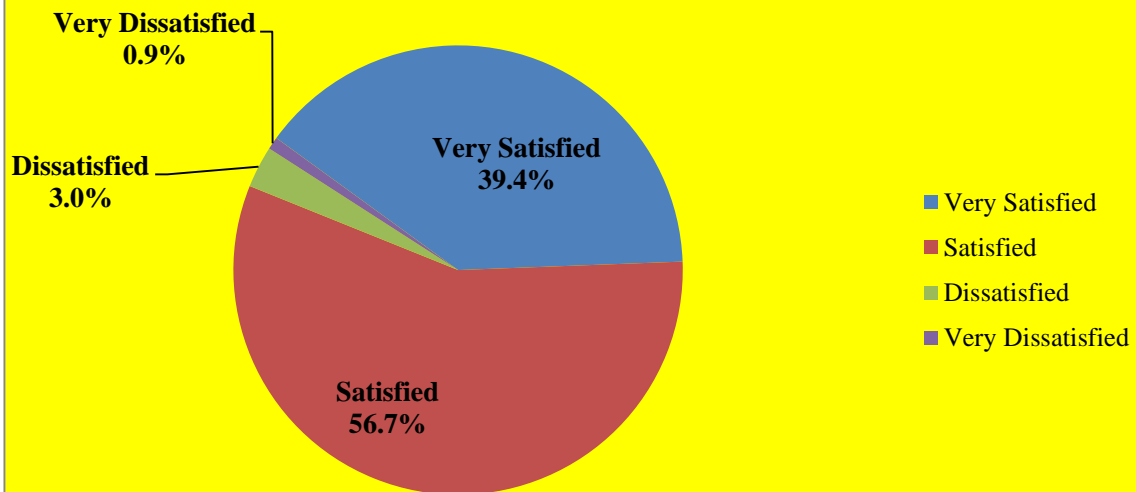
Over 90% of households are satisfied or very satisfied with the Frankfort Square Park District's maintenance program. Specifically, the findings identified nearly 95% or higher satisfaction levels (satisfied or very satisfied) for each of the individual items. 96.1% of the respondents expressed an overall satisfaction (satisfied or very satisfied) with the Frankfort Square Park District's maintenance. Complete results are provided in Figures 16 & 17.



**Figure 16. Satisfaction with the FSPD's Maintenance**

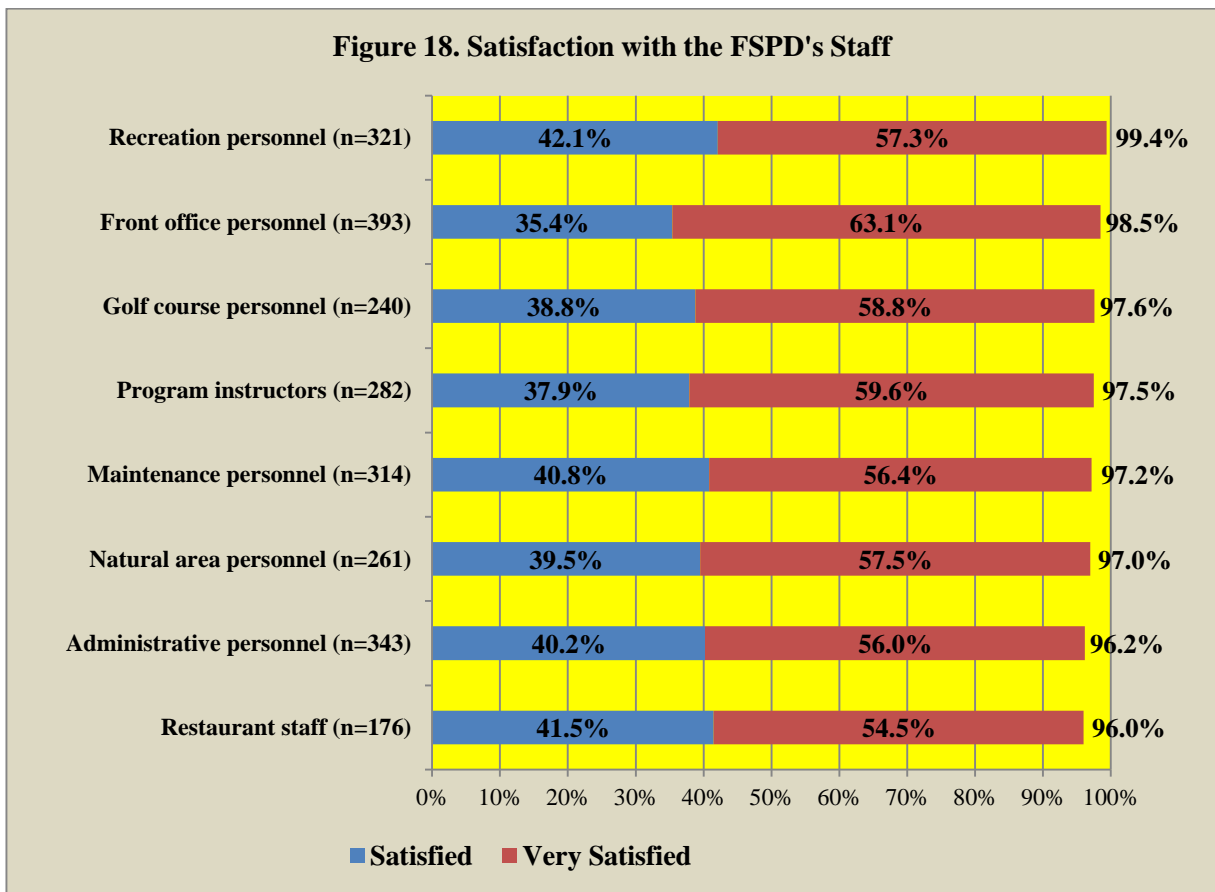


**Figure 17. Overall Level of Satisfaction with the FSPD's Maintenance (n=467)**



Eight items from question 5 were used to assess household satisfaction with the park district staff. Respondents rated each item on a 5-point satisfaction scale (1 = very unsatisfied, 2 = unsatisfied, 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, "Recreation personnel", 237 respondents selected "don't use/don't know". These 237 respondents were removed from the frequency analysis (for this item only) resulting in a sample size of 321 for this particular item. Before examining the data for the next item, the 237 respondents were re-integrated back into the study sample. This process was repeated for each of the eight items.

Over 95% of households are satisfied or very satisfied with the Frankfort Square Park District's personnel. Specifically, the findings identified nearly 95% or higher satisfaction levels (satisfied or very satisfied) for each of the individual items. Complete results are provided in Figure 18.



Respondents were provided an opportunity to provide narrative comments/feedback regarding any dissatisfaction they had towards the existing parks, programs, maintenance, facilities, and staff of the Frankfort Square Park District. The open ended question was located at the end of question 5 and 92 respondents provided feedback. A thematic analysis was employed in an effort to identify and organize potential themes among the 92 responses.

Narrative data obtained from this open-ended question yielded four primary themes (see Appendix B for complete list of narrative responses):

**#1 Theme - Program and/or Service-Related Concerns.** Fifty-two (52) respondents expressed concerns or frustrations related to the quality of the Frankfort Square Park District's programming and/or services. Typical comments within this theme included: "need more programs for adults", "need to expand dance/arts/exercise – adult education for kids ages 13 – 18; you have to wait until you are 18 to do exercise, yoga, etc. and not enough sessions too", "personnel can be friendly, they can be cold", and "restaurant is not personable! Always burn the food."

**#2 Theme - Maintenance.** Twenty-nine (29) respondents expressed concerns over the quality of maintenance within the Frankfort Square Park District. Typical comments within this theme included: "Can't walking paths be plowed during winter?", "athletic fields are AWFUL. Baseball, softball, football, and even soccer surprised more kids don't get hurt. Fields work 2<sup>nd</sup> rate – brutal.", "Girls softball fields are horrible! Park District playground is poor and outdated.", and "It seems they have cut back on their maintenance staff, which used to be top notch."

**#3 Theme - Time.** Six (6) respondents indicated concerns over the timing of the Frankfort Square Park District's programs and services. Typical comments within this theme included: "a lot of the times of programs are too early on days during work week" and "both parents work so any children classes before 6pm don't work. I am looking for more parent and child together programs."

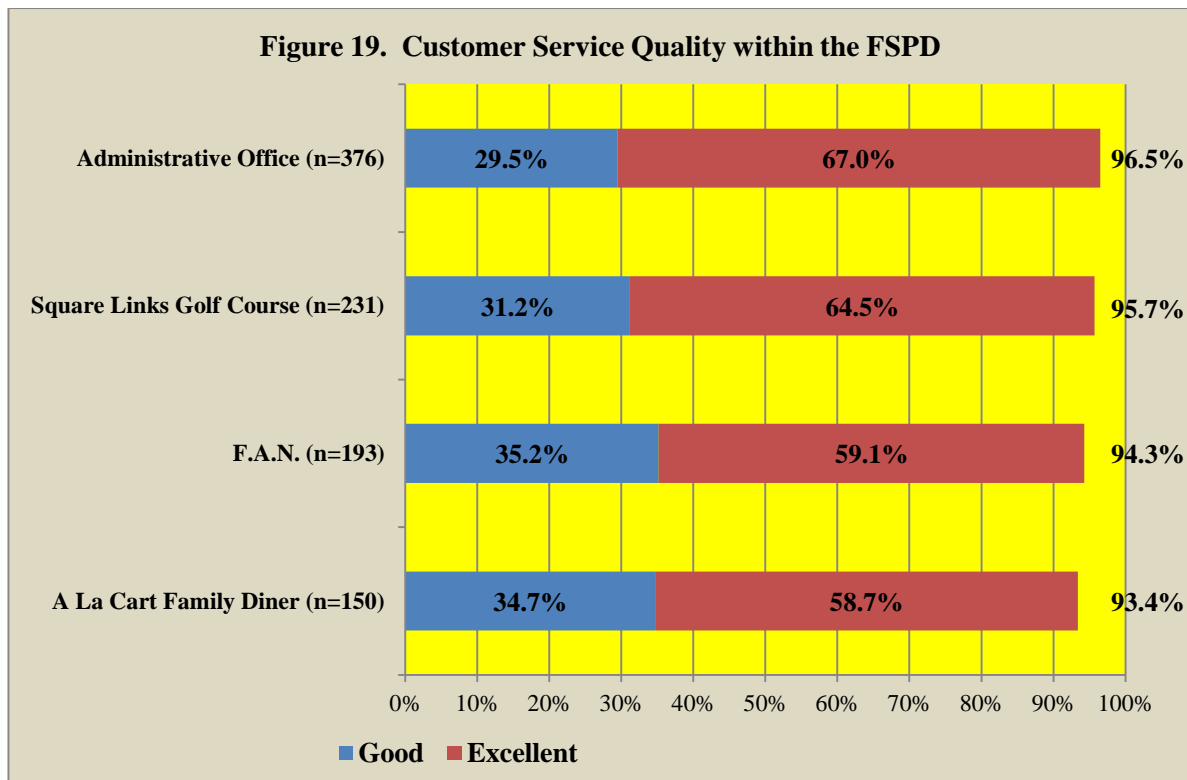
**#4 Theme - Inefficient.** Five (5) respondents indicated concerns over the efficiency of the Frankfort Square Park District and its operations. Typical comments within this theme included: "I felt that the community gardens were a waste of money and is only used by a few not a majority!" and "As far as the nature center on Braemar Lane, we think that was a waste of our tax payer money. OUR taxes are high enough and our house has gone down and not worth what they are!! Furthermore we never received any letters of this happening so we can vote! We didn't need a nature center, there is plenty of nature on the walking paths."

## CUSTOMER SERVICE AND EFFECTIVENESS WITHIN THE FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT

Questions 6 & 7 of the attitude and interests survey examined household perception of customer service and operational effectiveness within the Frankfort Square Park District’s operations. Four items were developed to assess the customer service levels within the district and eleven items assessed the Frankfort Square Park District’s effectiveness.

Respondents were asked to rate the quality of customer service within four areas of the Frankfort Square Park District: The Administrative Office, Square Links Golf Course, F.A.N., and the A La Cart Family Diner. To assess customer service quality, respondents were asked to “Rank the quality of customer service within each Frankfort Square Park District facility area.” Respondents rated the quality of customer service on a 5-point service quality scale (0 = don’t use, 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, and 4 = excellent). In an effort to accurately represent the households’ perceived customer service levels for each area, the “don’t use/don’t know” responses were removed from subsequent analysis.

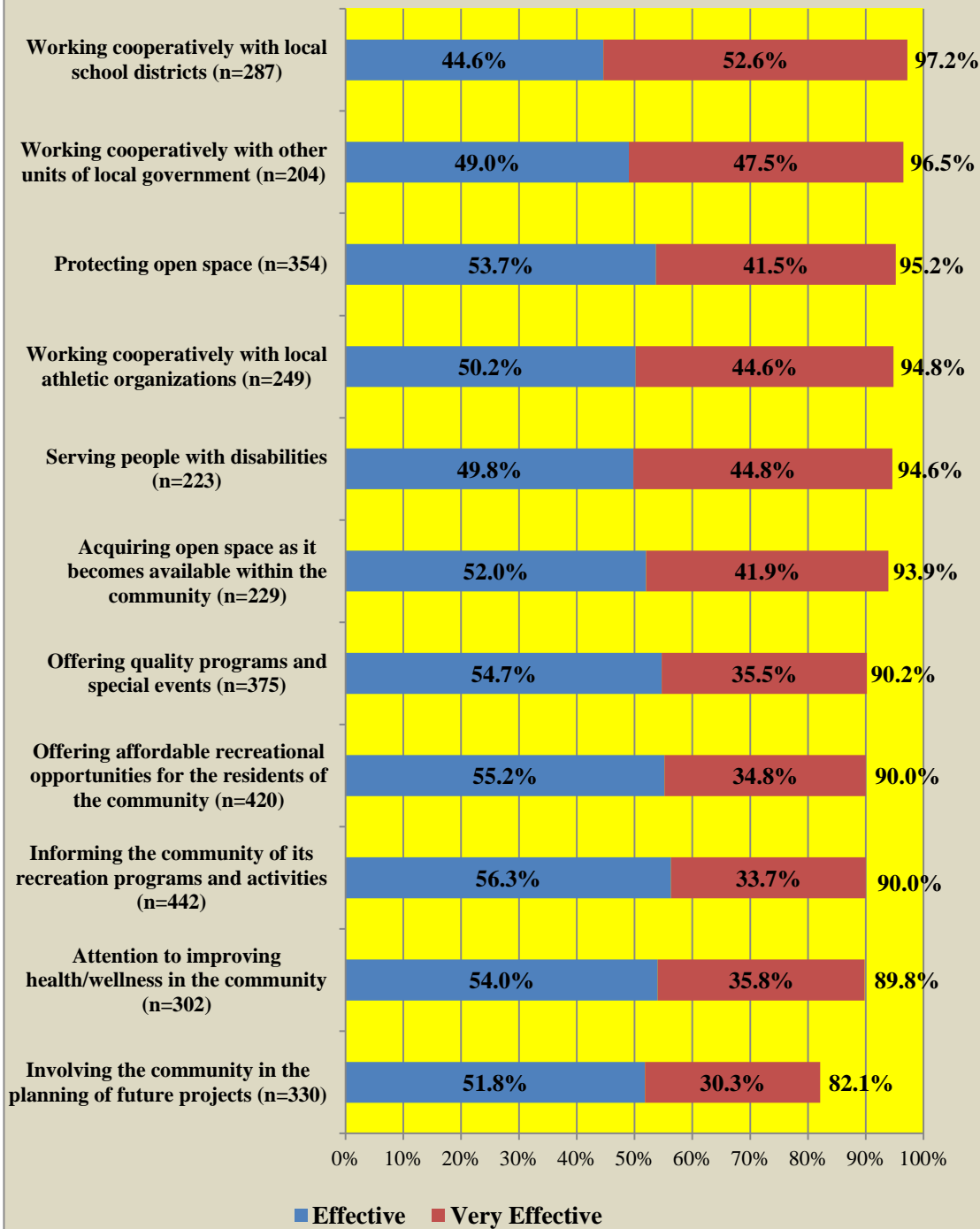
Of those respondents who had visited a Park District facility area, a very strong majority of households (+93%) felt the quality of customer service was excellent or good. Complete results are provided in Figure 19.



Respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of the Frankfort Square Park District in key areas of operation. Specifically, respondents were asked, “How effective is the Frankfort Square Park District as it relates to:”. Respondents rated the District’s effectiveness on a 5-point effectiveness scale (0 = don’t know, 1 = very ineffective, 2 = ineffective, 3 = effective, and 4 = very effective). In an effort to accurately represent the households’ perceptions of effectiveness for each item, the “don’t use/don’t know” responses were removed from subsequent analysis.

Two areas receiving the highest effectiveness ratings were “Working cooperatively with local school districts” (97.2%) and “Working cooperatively with other units of local government” (96.5%). Complete results are provided in Figure 20.

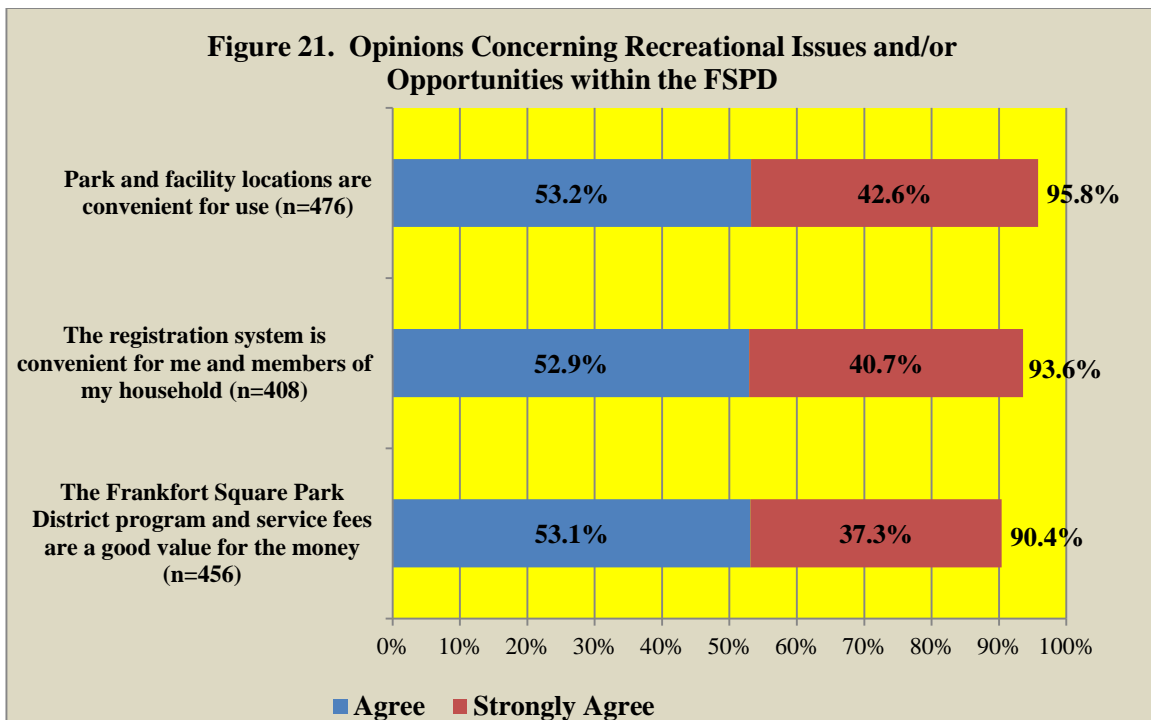
**Figure 20. Perceived Effectiveness of the FSPD**



## OPINIONS CONCERNING RECREATIONAL ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT

Question 8 of the attitude and interests survey asked respondents for their “opinion concerning the recreational issues and opportunities within the Frankfort Square Park District.” Respondents were presented with three 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 use/no opinion, 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = agree, and 4 = strongly agree). In an effort to accurately represent the households’ perceptions of effectiveness for each item, the “don’t use/don’t know” responses were removed from subsequent analysis.

90.4% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Frankfort Square Park District program and service fees are a good value for the money. Almost 95% of respondents agreed (or strongly agreed) the registration system is convenient for their household (93.6%) and the park and facility locations are convenient for use (95.8%). Complete results are available in Figure 21.



## **FUTURE RECREATION FACILITY & PROGRAM NEEDS**

Questions 9 and 10 on the attitude and interests survey asked households to identify and prioritize recreation facility needs (question 9) and program needs (question 10) within the Frankfort Square Park District. Respondents were asked to select from a list of 28 various park and recreation facilities and identify which ones were of need to their household. Specifically, respondents were asked to rank the top four facilities they felt were the most needed for their household.

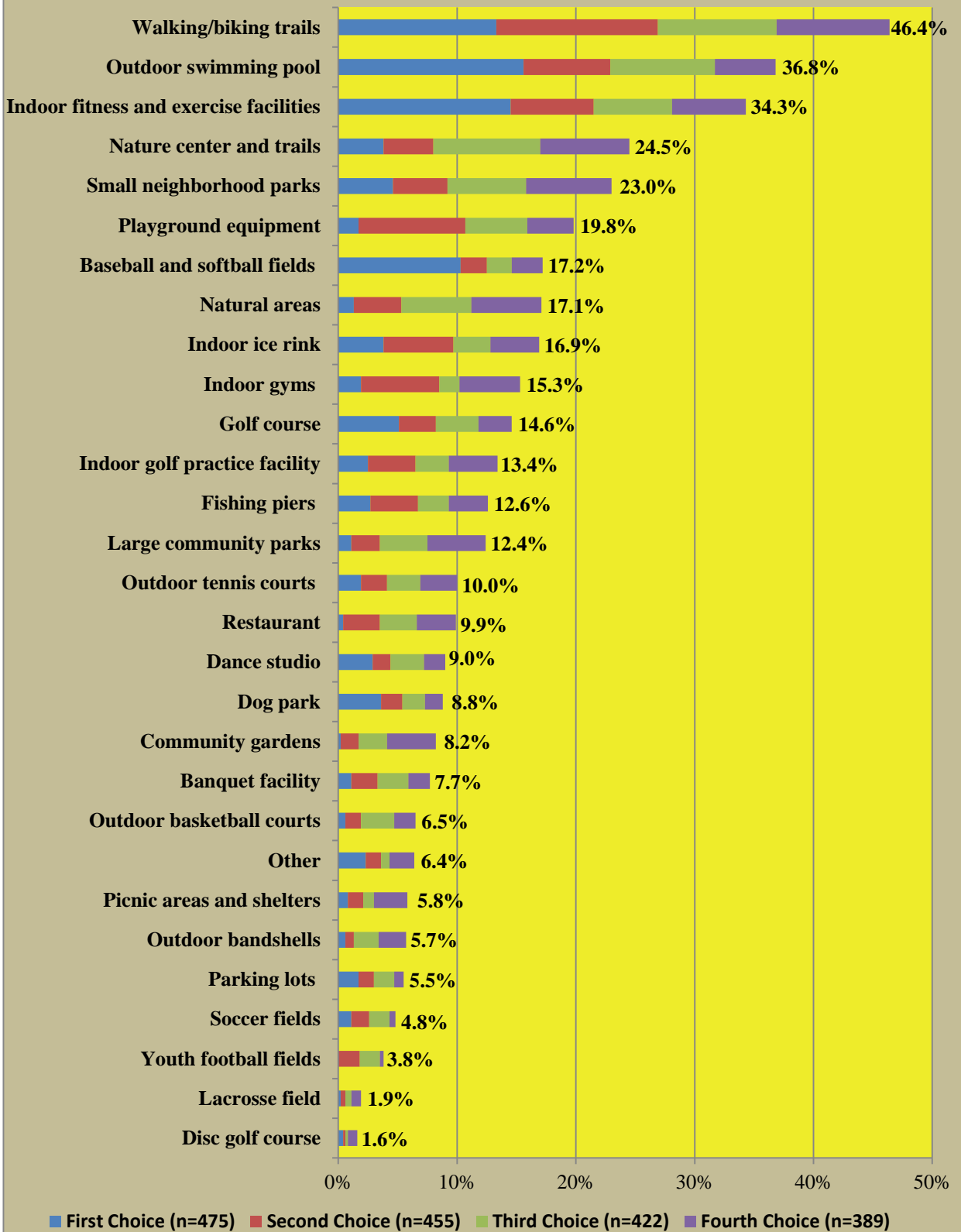
Respondents were asked to select from a list of 23 programs and identify the programs of need to their household. Then the respondents were asked to rank these top four programs according to their perceived level of need to the household.

46.4% of the respondents identified walking/biking trails as their household's first, second, third, or fourth choice for a new/expanded recreation facility in the Frankfort Square Park District. An outdoor swimming pool was next with 36.8% followed by indoor fitness and exercise facilities (34.3%) and nature center and trails (24.5%). Complete aggregate results are provided in Figure 22.



**Figure 22. Future Recreation Facility Needs - Aggregate Summary**

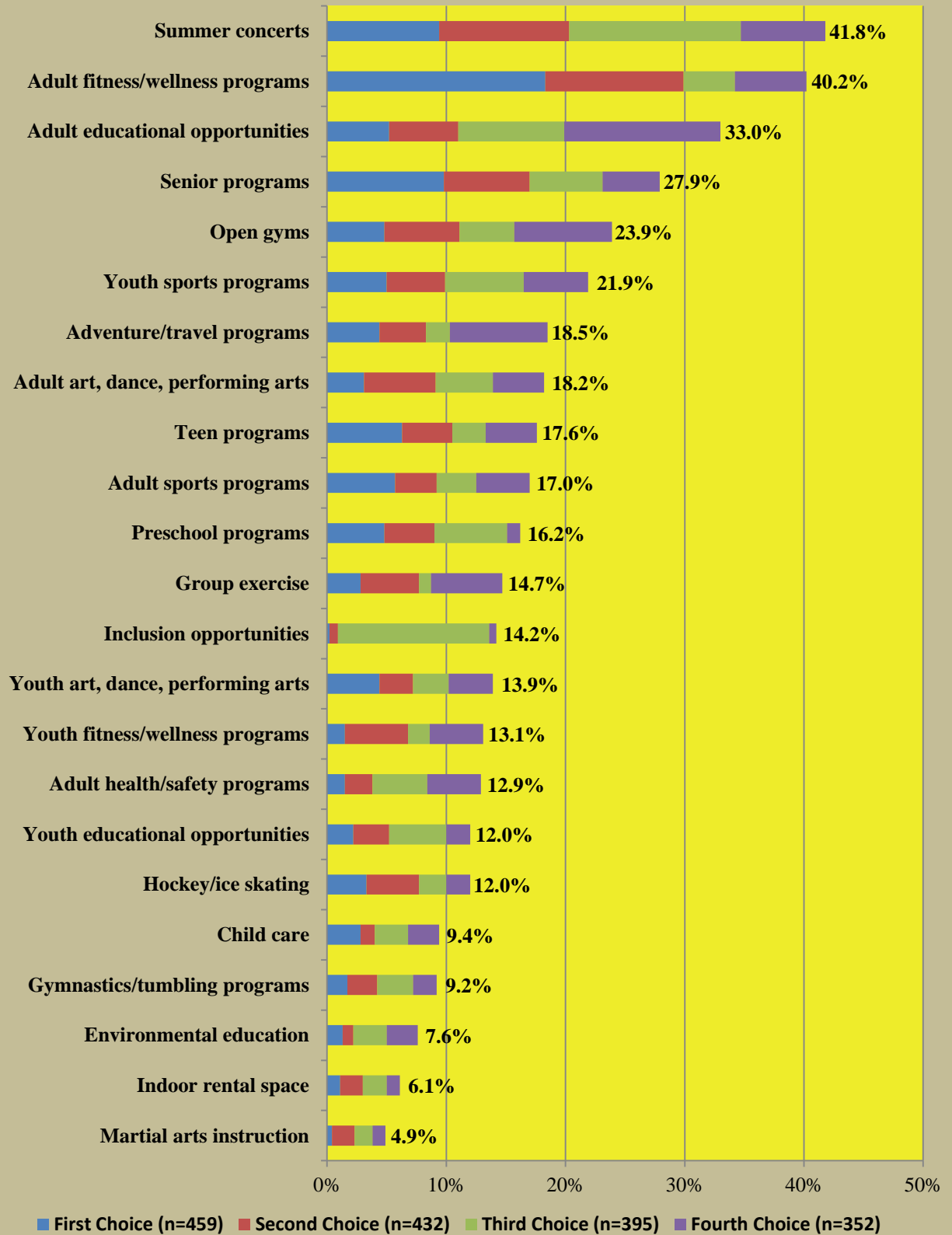
*% of respondents selecting facility as household's 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th choice*



Over 40% of the respondents identified summer concerts (41.8%) as their household's first, second, third, or fourth choice for a new/expanded recreation program in the Frankfort Square Park District. Adult fitness/wellness programs were next (40.2%) followed by adult educational opportunities (33.0%) and senior programs (27.9%). Complete aggregate results are provided in Figure 23.

**Figure 23. Future Recreation Program Needs - Aggregate Summary**

*% of respondents selecting program as household's 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th choice*



In addition to the list of twenty-eight (28) facility areas and twenty-three (23) programs, respondents were provided an opportunity to provide narrative comments/feedback regarding future facility and/or programming needs within the Frankfort Square Park District. Specifically, question 11 of the attitude and interests survey asked, “Are there programs/facilities NOT LISTED above that you would like the Frankfort Square Park District to offer for you or members of your household? If so, please list here:”

The open ended question yielded a total of 97 facility and programming recommendations. Subsequent analyses identified recommendations for 73 programming improvements and 24 facility areas. Complete results of the 97 recommendations/feedback are provided in the following sections:

***Narrative Feedback Regarding Future Programming Needs.*** 73 respondents identified a variety of programming needs for the Frankfort Square Park District. The complete list is provided below (In an effort to avoid misrepresenting the respondents’ views, the comments have been checked for spelling but no additional copy editing has been performed):

- Activities/programs for autistic and disabled children and adults
- Adult floor hockey
- Adult sewing classes, computer classes
- Adult walking groups, trips to local events
- Adult wind ensemble or jazz band
- Adults programs in general
- After school/volunteering/community service for tweens/teens- in conjunction with PAWS, shelters, food drives, etc.
- Arts and crafts
- Arts/drawing/painting for kids
- Bilingual education/ Spanish for grammar school kids and adults. CPR for kids and adults
- Bingo
- Cake decorating - tole painting
- Classes for seniors- crocheting, quilting, sewing, exercise for seniors
- Classes need pizzazz
- Climbing class for 0-4 (Example: Lockport PD)
- Cooking Classes for adults & kids
- Couples golf league
- Day trips or excursions
- Deer hunting
- Drawing classes during regular season (not summer)
- Duathlon
- Eliminate the Lincoln Way North homecoming parade!
- Everything ok
- Family activities, performances, programs
- Fishing derby

- Floor hockey league- not just instructional
- Game night, board & card games
- I have no comment because I feel there is plenty of options no complaints
- I know several members of the community that would be interested in an adult photography class :)
- I would like tennis leagues
- I would like to see a lot more senior programs day/night offered.
- In general the offerings and facilities are great. I would like to ? myself of park district programs more often. However it seems as if few classes are offered in the evening. I want to take yoga and aerobics classes
- Infant programs that begin after 5pm for working moms
- Jazzercise or aerobics
- Kids karate with belt levels
- Knitting classes
- Major concerts such as what New Lenox has done the past 3 yrs. for its residents (Heart, Southerners, Cheap Trick) or like what Frankfort does with its Sunday night Briend free concerts - family entertainment night
- More adult crafts like clothes transfers, stain glass, decorating classes
- More adult program
- More adult programs
- More evening programs for preschool-aged kids
- More open swim
- More open swim, patrol walk paths
- More outdoor fitness programs (i.e. boot camp)
- More senior programs
- Morning hours on the weekend for LWN track
- Music lessons, group or private
- Music programs- fine art programs for 6-15 year olds
- Musical program
- Need more adult programs
- One day bus trips for adults
- Open gyms with basketball & volleyball
- Programs for 3 year olds sports
- Running club
- Self-defense classes, jazzercise classes
- Senior trips
- Senior volleyball
- Softball leagues
- Some programs need larger size so there is no waiting list
- Step or zumba classes in pm
- Summer swim lessons for kids!!
- Toddler programs
- Toddler programs

- Very limited kids programs - noticeably baby to toddler; fitness classes for adults; summer events
- Volleyball programming/leagues--youth/adult
- Walking and/or light exercise for seniors
- When my child was a young teen there were very few programs offered for teens
- Would like a map sent out of all areas to utilize with a wheelchair
- Yoga/adult dance
- Youth baseball/tee ball for ages 5 and up
- Youth dances - junior high
- Youth foreign language classes- Frankfort P.D. & Tinley P.D. has these
- Zumba, day trips to places, movie in the park

***Narrative Feedback Regarding Future Facility Needs.*** 24 respondents identified several facility needs for the Frankfort Square Park District. The complete list is provided below (In an effort to avoid misrepresenting the respondents' views, the comments have been checked for spelling but no additional copy editing has been performed):

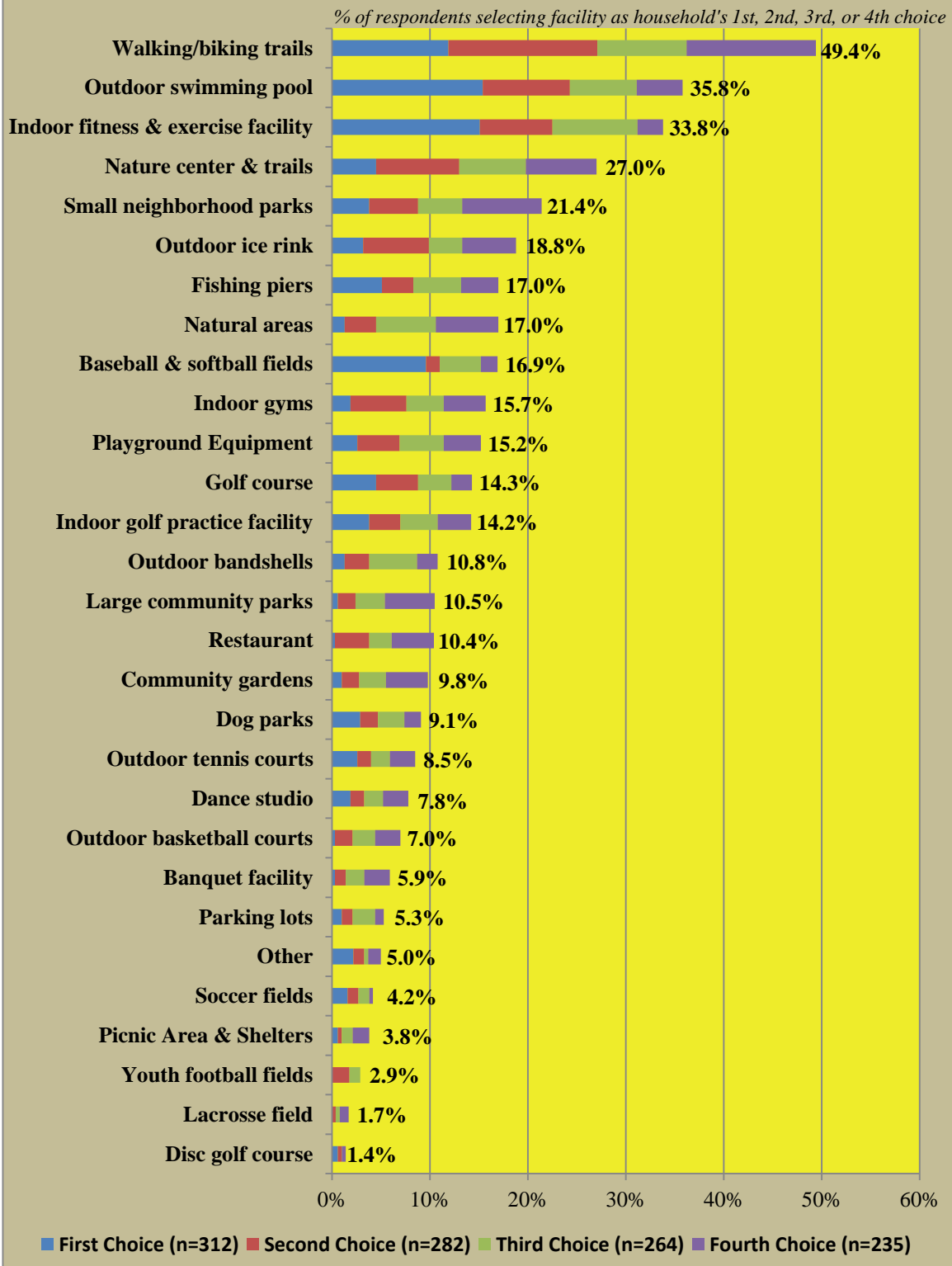
- Adult fitness center 18 or older
- Community outdoor pool
- Dog park
- Dog park - water in park area not outside
- Golf, indoor pistol range
- Indoor dog walking/playing area for winter and summer days that are too hot/rainy etc.
- Indoor racquet club
- Indoor walking facility w/ gym like the Oaks in Mokena
- Indoor walking trail for people with breathing disorders and have trouble walking
- Indoor walking/exercise equip that can be used during day
- Indoor water park/fitness center
- Lincoln Way North Fieldhouse. 2 to 4 hours a week for rental.
- More tennis opportunities for children and adults. A backboard for tennis at courts on north ave.
- Outdoor pool
- Outdoor pool - water park
- Outdoor pool/waterpark/ice-skating/roller-skating
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Public pool
- Recreation Center
- Tear down the buildings and return the land to its original state.
- Water park for people older than 3
- Water park/pool
- Workout center/lap walking - too often not available had to join health club
- Yucca, adults volleyball sand courts, & gym

## **RANKING & FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT**

Question 12 of the attitude and interests survey asked respondents to rank the top four development and expansion projects and indicate the level of financial support their household would be willing to provide. A list of 28 facility areas/projects was provided. Respondents were first asked to rank their top four facility areas/projects they would like to see developed or expanded. Next, respondents were asked to indicate their level of financial support for each of the four facility areas/projects using the following scale: 1 = \$5-\$20, 2 = \$21-\$50, 3 = \$51-\$75, and 4 = \$76-\$100. An additional checkbox was also provided for respondents to select the statement, "Please check here if you are unable to financially support any development or expansion projects."

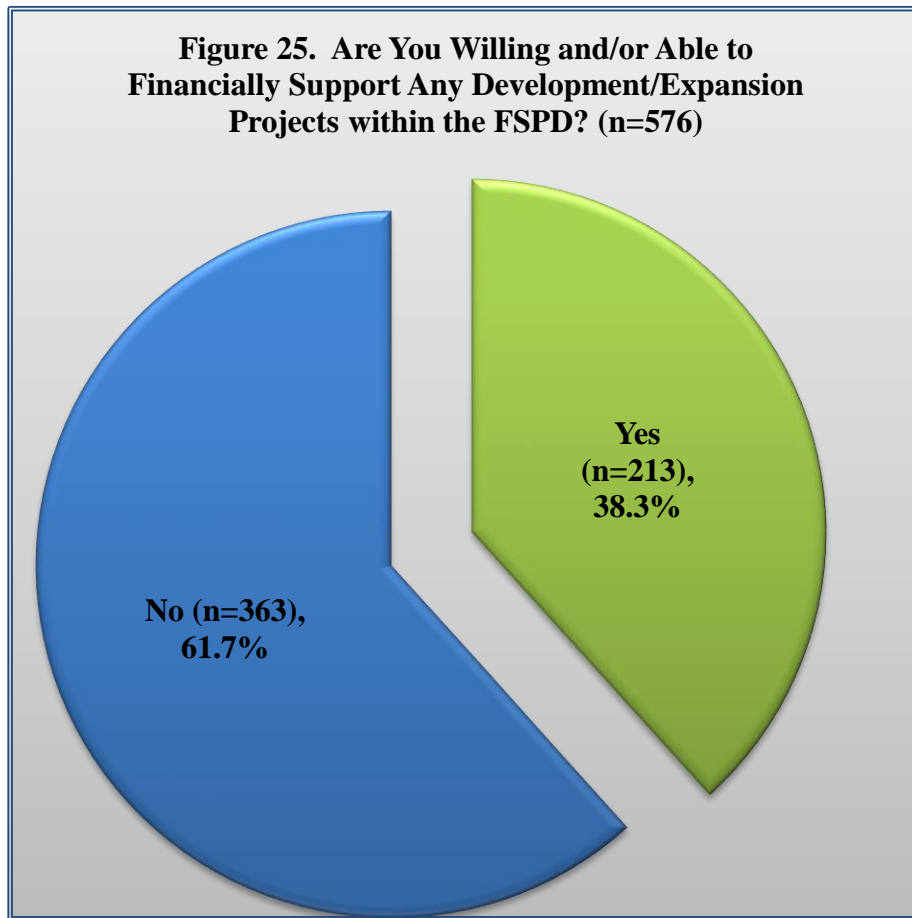
Nearly identical to question 9, almost 50% (49.4%) of the respondents ranked walking/biking trails as their household's first, second, third, or fourth choice for a new/expanded recreation facility in the Frankfort Square Park District. An outdoor swimming pool was next (35.8%) followed by indoor fitness and exercise facilities (33.8%) and nature center and trails (27.0%). Complete aggregate results are provided in Figure 24.

**Figure 24. Future Recreation Facility Needs - Ranked Choices**

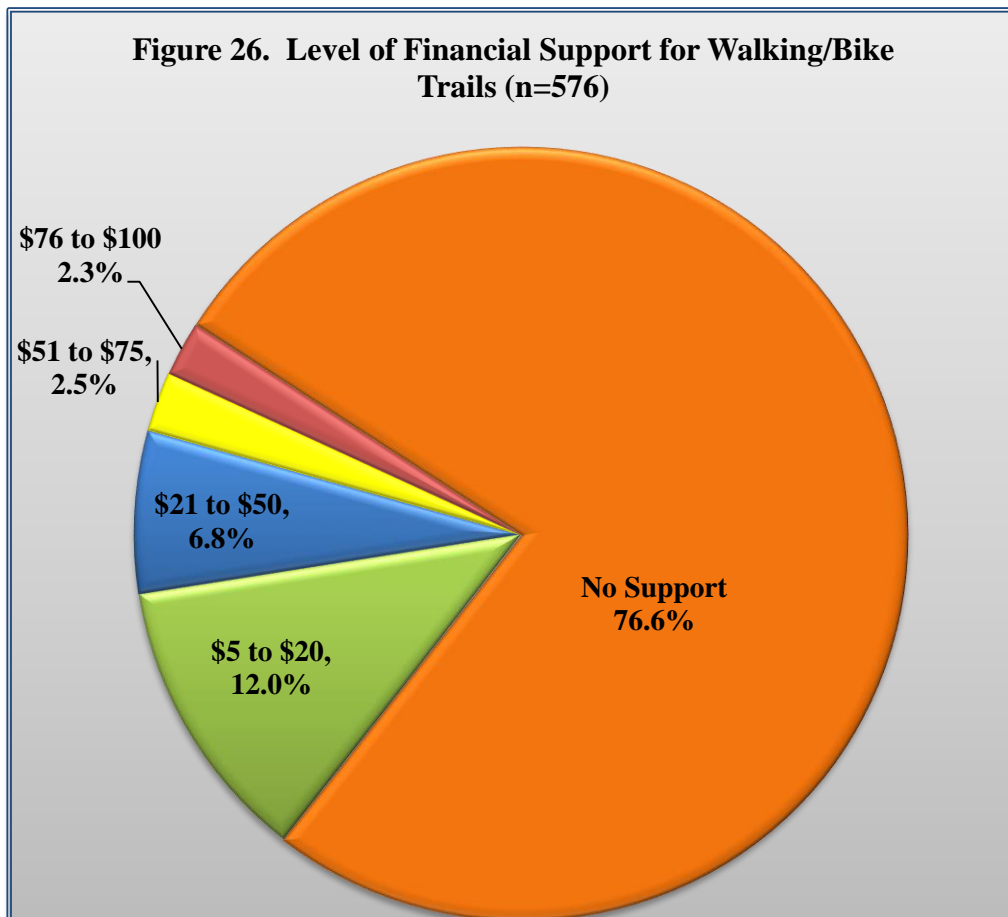




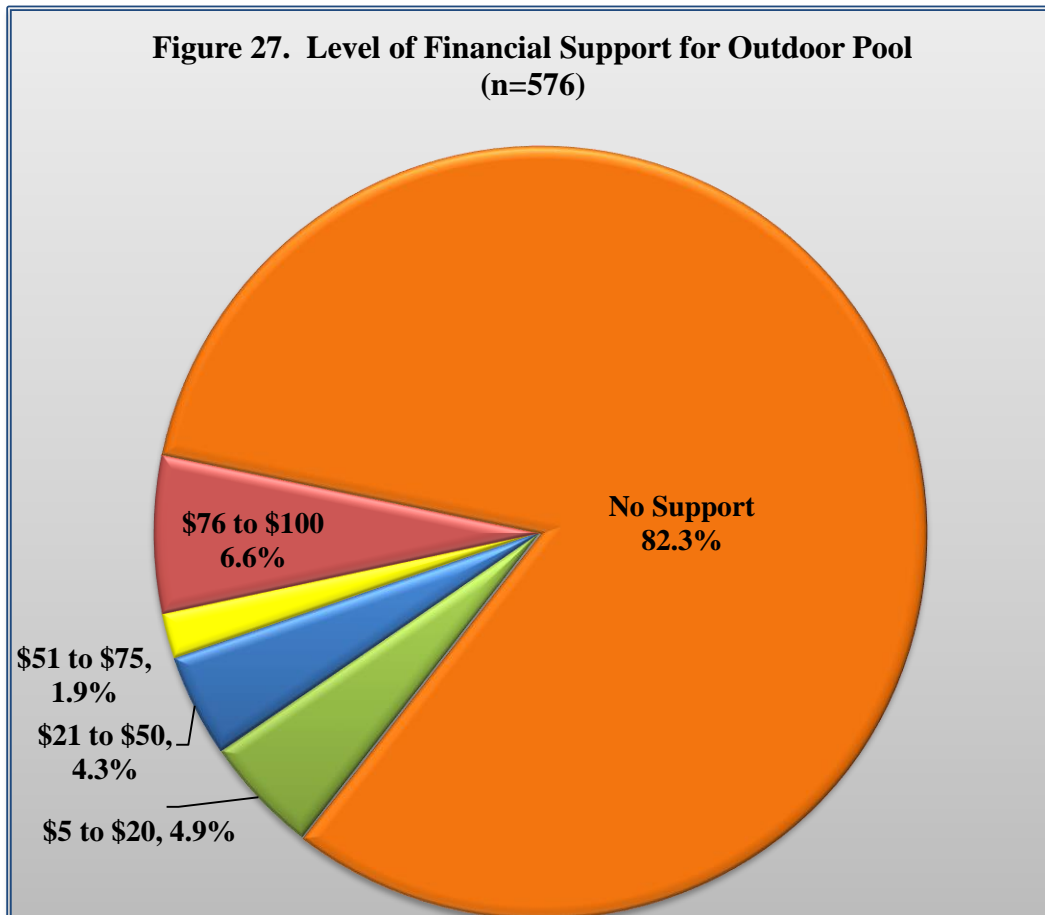
When asked about their level of financial support, 61.7% of the respondents indicated that they were not able or willing to financially support any development or expansion projects (see Figure 25). See Figure 25 for complete results.



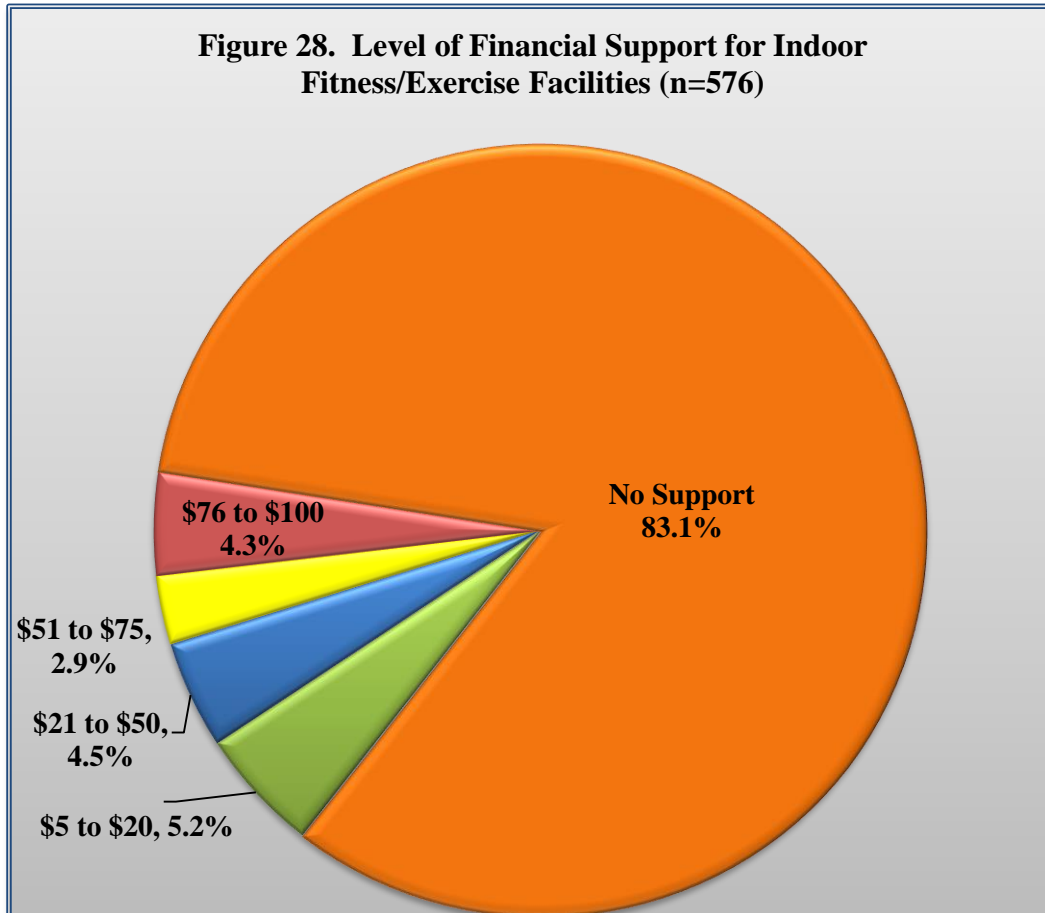
Additional analyses were conducted among to determine the specific levels of financial support for the top four ranked facility areas (walking/bike trails, outdoor swimming pool, indoor fitness & exercise facilities, and nature center & trails). For the top ranked facility area, walking & bike trails, 76.6% of the respondents indicated they would not be willing to provide support for development/expansion projects in this area; 12% would be willing to provide \$5-\$20; 6.8% were willing to provide \$21-\$50; 2.5% would provide \$51-\$75, and; 2.3% would provide \$76-\$100. Results are provided in Figure 26.



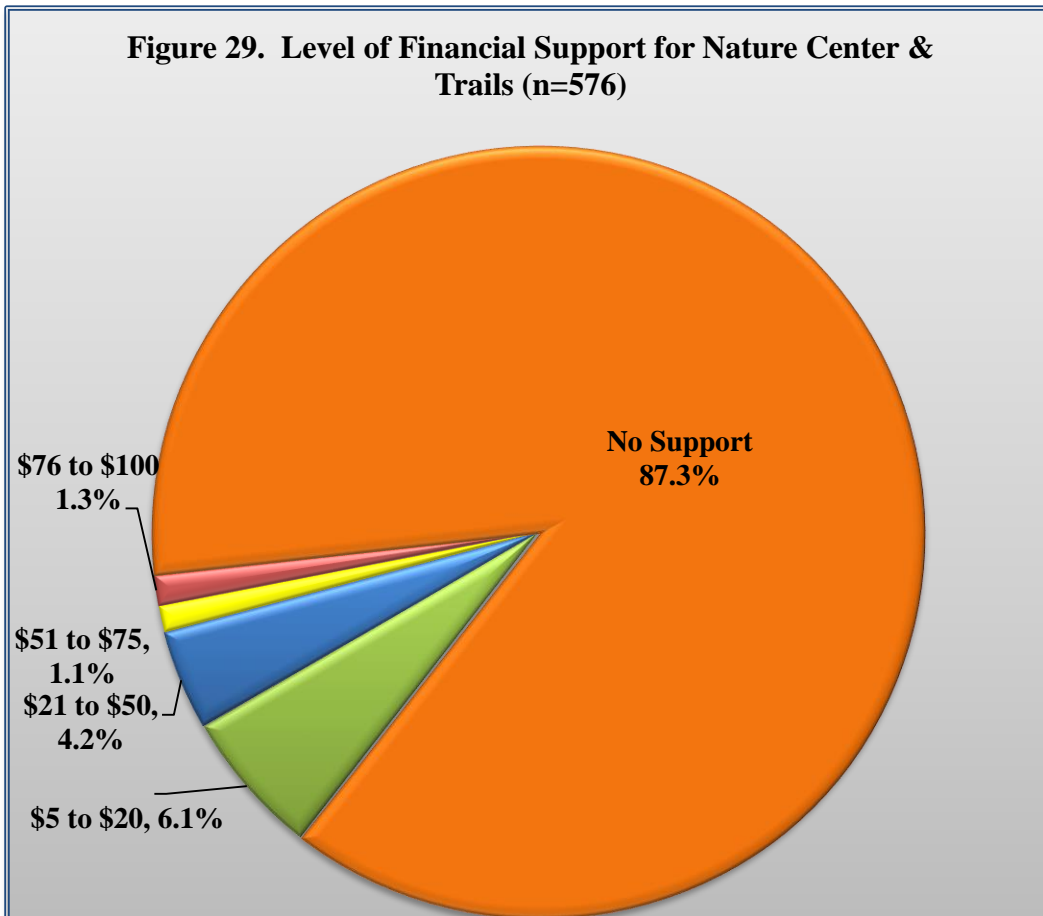
For the second ranked facility area, outdoor swimming pool, 82.3% of the respondents indicated they would not be willing to provide support for development/expansion projects in this area; 4.9% would be willing to provide \$5-\$20; 4.3% were willing to provide \$21-\$50; 1.9% would provide \$51-\$75, and; 6.6% would provide \$76-\$100. Complete results are provided in Figure 27.



For the third highest ranked facility area, indoor fitness and exercise facilities, 83.1% of the respondents indicated they would not be willing to provide support for development/expansion projects in this area; 5.2% would be willing to provide \$5-\$20; 4.5% were willing to provide \$21-\$50; 2.9% would provide \$51-\$75, and; 4.3% would provide \$76-\$100. Complete results are provided in Figure 28.



For the fourth highest ranked facility area, nature center and trails, 87.3% of the respondents indicated they would not be willing to provide support for development/expansion projects in this area; 6.1% would be willing to provide \$5-\$20; 4.2% were willing to provide \$21-\$50; 1.1% would provide \$51-\$75, and; 1.3% would provide \$76-\$100. Complete results are provided in Figure 29.



## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Questions 13 thru 19 of the community-wide attitude and interest survey assessed respondent and household characteristics. Household characteristics obtained with this study included: type of family unit, number of people in the household, and total household income. A majority of the respondents were married/couple, with children (58.6%). Over a quarter of respondents (28.0%) had a total household annual income between \$100,001 and \$150,000. The household characteristics are provided in Table 1.

<b>Table 1. Household Characteristics (n=588)</b>	
<b>Household Characteristic</b>	<b>Respondent/Sample Value</b>
<b>Family Unit</b>	
Single, no children	10.7%
Single, with children	4.1%
Married/Couple, no children	26.7%
Married/Couple, with children	58.6%
<b>Total Household Income</b>	
Less than \$20,000	3.3%
\$20,001 to \$40,000	10.0%
\$40,001 to \$60,000	12.1%
\$60,001 to \$80,000	19.5%
\$80,001 to \$100,000	16.1%
\$100,001 to \$150,000	28.0%
More than \$150,000	11.1%
<b>Number in Household</b>	
Under 2 years old	0 = 91.8%
	1 = 7.1%
	2 = 1.1%
Pre-School age	0 = 85.2%
	1 = 12.5%
	2 to 3 = 2.4%
K – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	0 = 83.2%
	1 = 14.7%
	2 = 2.2%
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	0 = 83.9%
	1 = 14.8%
	2 to 3 = 1.3%
Middle School	0 = 84.2%
	1 = 13.2%
	2 to 4 = 2.6%
High School	0 = 82.2%
	1 = 14.5%
	2 to 3 = 3.3%
Over 18 Years	0 = 79.9%
	1 = 13.2%
	2 to 3 = 6.9%

Respondent characteristics obtained with this study included: gender, age, race/ethnicity, and years lived in the Frankfort Square Park District. Over 50% of the respondents were between the ages of 35 and 54 and had lived in the Frankfort Square Park District for 14.2 years. The respondent characteristics are provided in Table 2.

<b>Table 2. Respondent Characteristics (n=588)</b>	
<b>Respondent Characteristic</b>	<b>Respondent/Sample Value</b>
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	30.3%
Female	69.7%
<b>Age</b>	
	18 to 34 = 11.8%
	35 to 44 = 25.0%
	45 to 54 = 27.6%
	55 to 64 = 17.5%
	+65 = 18.2%
<b>Years Lived in the Frankfort Square Park District</b>	
	Mean: 14.2 years
	Standard Deviation: 9.8 years
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.1%
White	92.4%
American Indian	0.6%
Middle Eastern	0.0%
Black/African American	1.7%
Hispanic/Latino	2.6%
Other	0.9%

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## NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

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### THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURAL AREAS AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

The landscape of Northern Illinois was once comprised of a mosaic of prairies, wetlands, forests, and savannas. Agriculture, industry and development have significantly altered the landscape in the past century. At one time, prairies covered Illinois. Now, only one-hundredth of one percent (.01 %) of the original prairie land area is left. As a result of these factors, the latent benefits of these landscapes were never fully realized. Free and open to the public, these redeveloped natural areas display these benefits through native Illinois wetland and prairie plants that prevent flooding, protect water quality, create greenways for native fauna, and provide opportunities for hiking, fishing and bird watching. The unique natural areas of the FSPD provide non-traditional recreational opportunities for the entire community, as well as a place for spiritual, scientific, and educational study.

Restoration is the word most often associated with the management of natural areas. Natural areas increase biodiversity by creating greenways that provide a safe haven for mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and beneficial insects. They also sustain an environment where native Illinois plants can thrive, and if needed, be successfully reintroduced.

Healthy natural areas also offer substantial economic benefits to communities. Wetlands help with flood protection and the removal of pollutants from the water supply. Homes located near park spaces often hold higher values. *Habitat Quarterly* estimates that once natural areas are established "the maintenance of a natural landscape can be as little as one-seventh the cost of a traditional park landscape."

Properly restored and managed natural areas result in a diversity of native plants that possess unique characteristics, which lead to many health-related benefits. Studies have shown that exposure to green space can help reduce stress and anxiety and is important for the promotion of physical activity through diverse opportunities for recreation. Natural areas may also harbor the potential for the treatment of illness and disease. Approximately half of the drugs currently in use contain derivatives of wild plants, yet only a small percentage of all plants have been investigated for their potential in such uses.

Ultimately, damage has been done to the ecosystem in Northern Illinois, but communities with a sense of purpose can and are taking action to keep these damages from becoming irreparable.



## **PURPOSE OF FSPD'S NATURAL AREA DEPARTMENT**

The Natural Areas Department of the Frankfort Square Park District (FSPD) actively restores and maintains over 250 acres of natural areas within its boundaries. The 2010-2011 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) found that communities with similar population size to the FSPD average 169 natural area acres. At 81 acres above average and growing, the FSPD and its residents demonstrate continued stewardship of its community's natural resources and its coinciding recreation and education activities. The FSPD's open space has traditionally been land set aside during the development process for passive open space, which often includes stream buffers, forested areas, prairies, floodplains, wetlands, areas of steep slopes, and other areas that are less likely to be developed. The open space has also been set aside for storm water management purposes.

The Frankfort Square Park District owns and maintains unique and diverse natural areas throughout incorporated boundaries of the Park District, including, but not limited to, mesic and wet mesic prairies, wetlands, woodlands, ponds, basins, designed constructed wetlands, and retention/detention areas. Most natural areas in the district could be defined as recovering and need additional work to restore native plants that could provide wildlife with food and shelter. The deep roots of these native plants could also stabilize shorelines and prevent fertilizer runoff, keeping the basins free of silt and algae. Specially trained park staff work to continually improve the diversity of these sites. By utilizing existing staff to execute Best Management Practices (BMPs) of these areas, costs are reduced and better results are obtained. BMP techniques employed throughout the season include prescribed burns, exotic invasive species removal, native seed collection, plugging of native flora, seeding of native flora, and monitoring of areas

## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES**

### **GOALS**

Natural areas owned and maintained by the Park District provide a myriad of benefits that mirror that Natural Area Department's goals:

- The creation of sustainable landscapes
- Protection and enhancement of natural resources
  - The proliferation of wildlife habitat
  - Increased biodiversity
  - Protection of threatened or endangered species
- Provision of opportunities for passive recreation and health-related outcomes
- Improvement of water quality
- Supportive measures in flood mitigation
- Compensatory water storage

- Erosion control
- Elimination of nitrogen-based fertilizers
- Reduction of chemical herbicide usage

## OBJECTIVES

### *Short-Term Objectives*

1. Remove exotic invasive plants.  
Flora management techniques are applied to remove exotic invasive plants. This is the first step in restoring the ecological diversity of a site. Removal reduces the non-native seed source as well as plant competition. This is an ongoing annual process.
2. Perform site-specific ecological inventories and monitoring.  
The Park District needs to know what it has in order to implement the most effective restoration plan for a particular site. These inventories and subsequent monitoring supply data necessary to facilitate long-term management objectives and levels of restoration needed.
3. Work to eliminate encroachment onto park property.  
Encroachment: *"To take another's possessions or rights gradually or stealthily encroach on a neighbor's land."* Acts of encroachment violate the natural aspect of an area, introduce exotic plants, suppress native plants, and present liability issues for the Frankfort Square Park District. Encroachment can be placed into four categories.
  - a) Mowing - cutting Park property without a signed mowing agreement.
  - b) Dumping -landscape waste, sod, spoils and/or garbage.
  - c) Structures - physical objects such as trampolines, bird feeders and gardens.
  - d) Plantings - unauthorized plantings of trees or shrubs which become a mowing hazard or obstacle.

### *Long-term Objectives*

1. Re-establish native species to increase diversity and ecological value of the area.  
Due to the degraded status of some of our natural areas, planting of indigenous native flora suitable to the site is necessary.
2. Educate the community on naturalization benefits.  
Natural areas can be platforms for outdoor education. Natural area education serves to protect the environment, reduce costs, and increase community awareness. When educated on the environmental, ecological, and economic benefits of naturalization residents start to appreciate natural areas as a positive.

## MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

### *Flora*

Invasive exotic species are a constant threat to Illinois' native flora. Without insects and disease, from their country of origin to keep them in check, exotics have a competitive advantage over native plants. Often exotic invasives create a mono culture within natural areas pushing out desirable native plants. Native plants create biodiversity and are best suited to FSPD's region, and over the long-term reduce maintenance cost per acre.

The following are several techniques used to manage undesirable plants while allowing Illinois native, plants to flourish. Using an Integrated Pest Management System (IPM) and incorporating all of these techniques will increase the odds of success and make a positive ecological impact.

1. Physical - Prescribed Burns
  - a) Fire is the principal tool when managing native areas. It is acre for acre, the most efficient/effective management tool available.
  - b) The technique of using fire is referred to as a prescribed burn. It is a planned process with clear objectives. Trained staff led by an individual who has obtained his or her Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification (now required in Illinois unless resident is burning on his or her own private property) conducts the burns only after considering the time of year, weather, fuel conditions, appropriate burn techniques and above all else safety. A permit is required by the EPA, as well as notification of neighbors, police, and local fire departments.
  - c) Prescribed burns are used because native plants have historically evolved with fire. The Northern Illinois ecosystem relied heavily on fire to maintain its character. Fire recycled nutrients, controlled woody vegetation, improved habitat, increased plant growth and reduced the risk of uncontrolled large fires. With European settlement and agriculture, fire was taken out of the equation. This allowed exotic species to spread over the landscape and disrupt the native ecosystem.
  - d) "Torching" is another tool that directs fire to small populations of undesired vegetation with a propane tank attached to a small bell device used to direct flame. This should not be done during dry conditions (when prescribed burns are done); rather it is for small, directed heat which affect some non-native vegetation. Usually this task is done in the

summer, or in areas where a prescribed burn was not effective due to non-natives being too green.

## 2. Mechanical - mowing, weed eating and hand pulling

- a) Mechanical control methods are labor intensive but warranted in certain situations. They are used where fire cannot be introduced or to remove specific plants. Plants that are not deterred by fire, areas with little fuel and very wet areas are prime candidates for mechanical removal.
- b) Certain plants are not affected enough by chemicals to be killed, nor respond adversely to fire when it is reintroduced. Thereby, making some vegetation extremely difficult to be controlled. All techniques listed in this section must be properly timed as part of the Weed Management Plan in order to be controlled. Sweet clovers are an example of non-desirable vegetation that may warrant mechanical control.

## 3. Chemical- herbicide

- a) There are two types of herbicides used to control plants; selective and non-selective herbicides.
- b) Selective herbicides kill plants in a specific family such as broadleaf weeds or woody plants. Selective herbicides are used to manipulate the type of plants that are desired to grow in a given area.
- c) Non-selective herbicides kill any plant to which they are applied.

## 4. Biological- insects and bacteria

- a) Currently approved biological control methods are limited. Investigations are underway to combat specific problem plants. An example is the Galerucella or Purple Loosestrife Beetle as it is commonly known, which has been successfully introduced to control Purple Loosestrife in wetlands. To date, no biological controls have been used by the District to control unwanted plants, but FSPD will entertain the use of cost efficient and successfully proven methods in the future.

## MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Plant management in the Park District's natural areas is the greatest challenge. Each site has its own characteristics and predisposition. The District's initial approach is general and is intended to control the predominant problem of invasive undesirable plants.

### *Prairie Invasives*

Illinois prairies were once a mix of numerous native forbs and grasses. Today exotic invasive species such as Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) and Sandbar Willow (*Salix interior*) invade the landscape.

### *Wetland Invasives*

Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), and Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*) are non-native invasive species that need to be addressed in the wetlands sites.

### *Woodland Invasives*

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Multi Flora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) are major exotic invasives in woodlands sites. These are understory plants that shade out native forest floor flora reducing diversity.

### *Invasive Management Practices*

- 1) Prescription Burn: If the woodland is dominated by oaks (whose leafs produce an insulating effect for natives over the winter), a spring burn is recommended. However, if the majority of ground leaf litter is not oak and is open enough for grass to grow, it may be possible to burn in the fall (depending on density of non-native woody vegetation).
- 2) Mechanical: Mowing/weed eating/hand pulling of undesirable vegetation prior to seed production.
- 3) Selective Chemical control: Use appropriate herbicide management techniques to control remaining exotic invasive and undesirable species.
- 4) Brushing: Unwanted woody vegetation that survives the burn/foliar treatment should be removed mechanically and stumps treated with appropriate herbicide to prevent re-growth (in the winter).
- 5) SeedPlug: Introduction of additional desirable species in spring or fall to increase native density, diversity, and competition for resources preventing undesirable vegetation.
- 6) Monitor the area, evaluate and document results.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Short-term objectives are completed in-house. Removing exotic invasive plants, site-specific ecological inventories and eliminating encroachments can be done on a scheduled basis with District staff. Once the District's Management Practices have begun, it will take 3-5 years for native flora and grasses to mature. To maintain recovery continued monitoring and application of management techniques will be required.

This monitoring and maintenance is commonly referred to as stewardship.

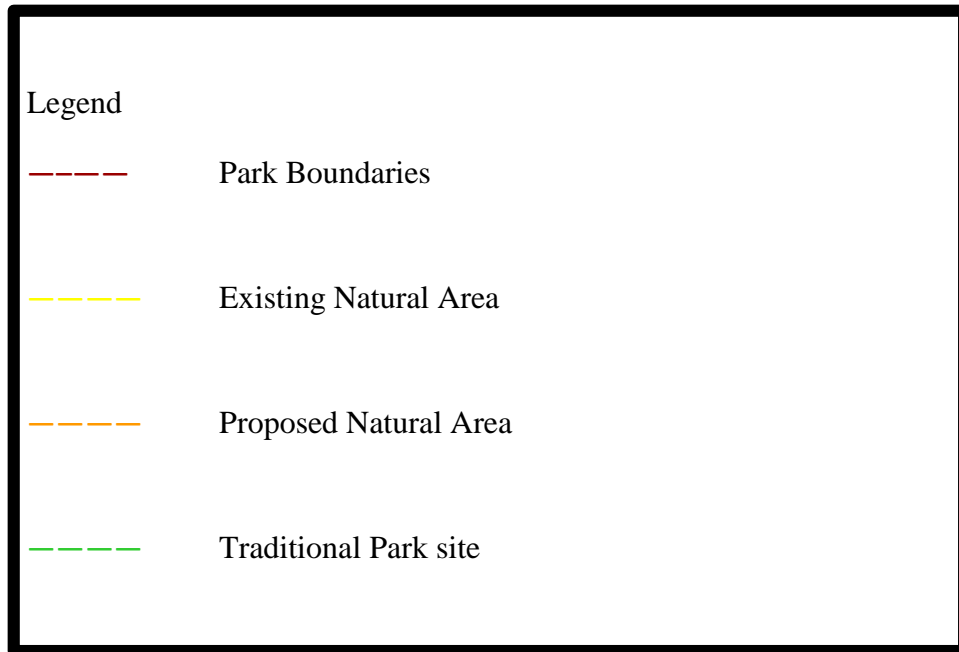
## **TIMELINE**

FSPD is presently in the process of maintaining its existing naturalized areas and restoring those that are evaluated as recovering. The process is a continuous effort and each existing and new park site is evaluated for naturalization. Natural area management is a fluid process due to multiple variables. Therefore, it is important for the FSPD to continue its investment in the yearly natural area master planning process. Vigilant evaluation and monitorial care, as evidenced by current staff and culture, will be an essential component to maintain and to restore current and future natural resources.

## **SITE SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The site specific actions and recommendations for 2014 can be found in the FSPD's Natural Area Management Plan (pg 9 –pg 23). Site specific actions and recommendations should be updated yearly in the natural areas master plan, which should be developed after site evaluations each year.

## SELECTIVE NATURAL AREA MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

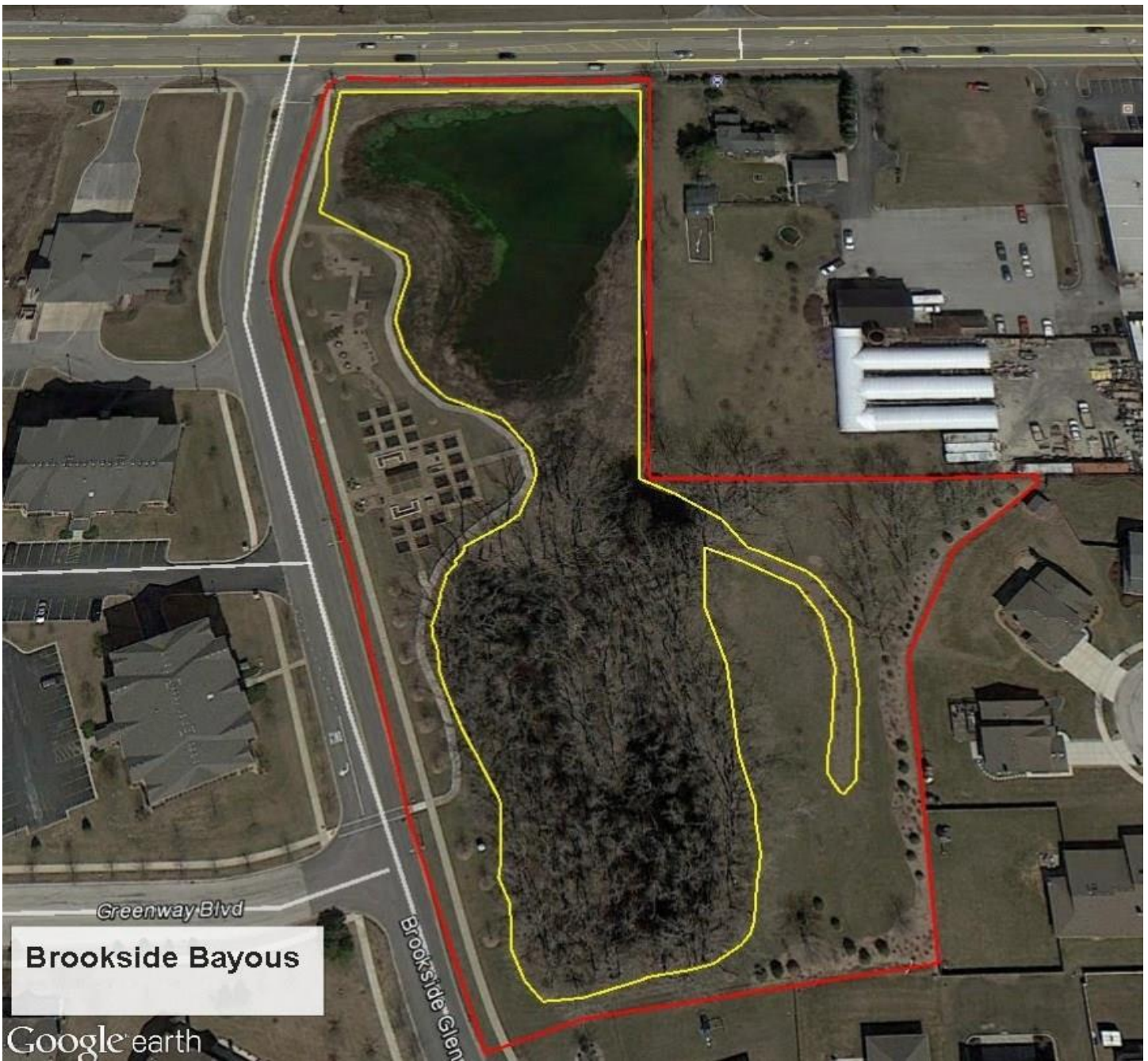




## ARBOR PARK

7.23 acres of Natural Area including designed constructed wetland with and prairie buffer.





## **BROOKSIDE BAYOUS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS PARK**

3.29 acres of Natural Area including wetland, basin, wooded wetland and Bioswale





## ISLAND PRAIRIE PARK

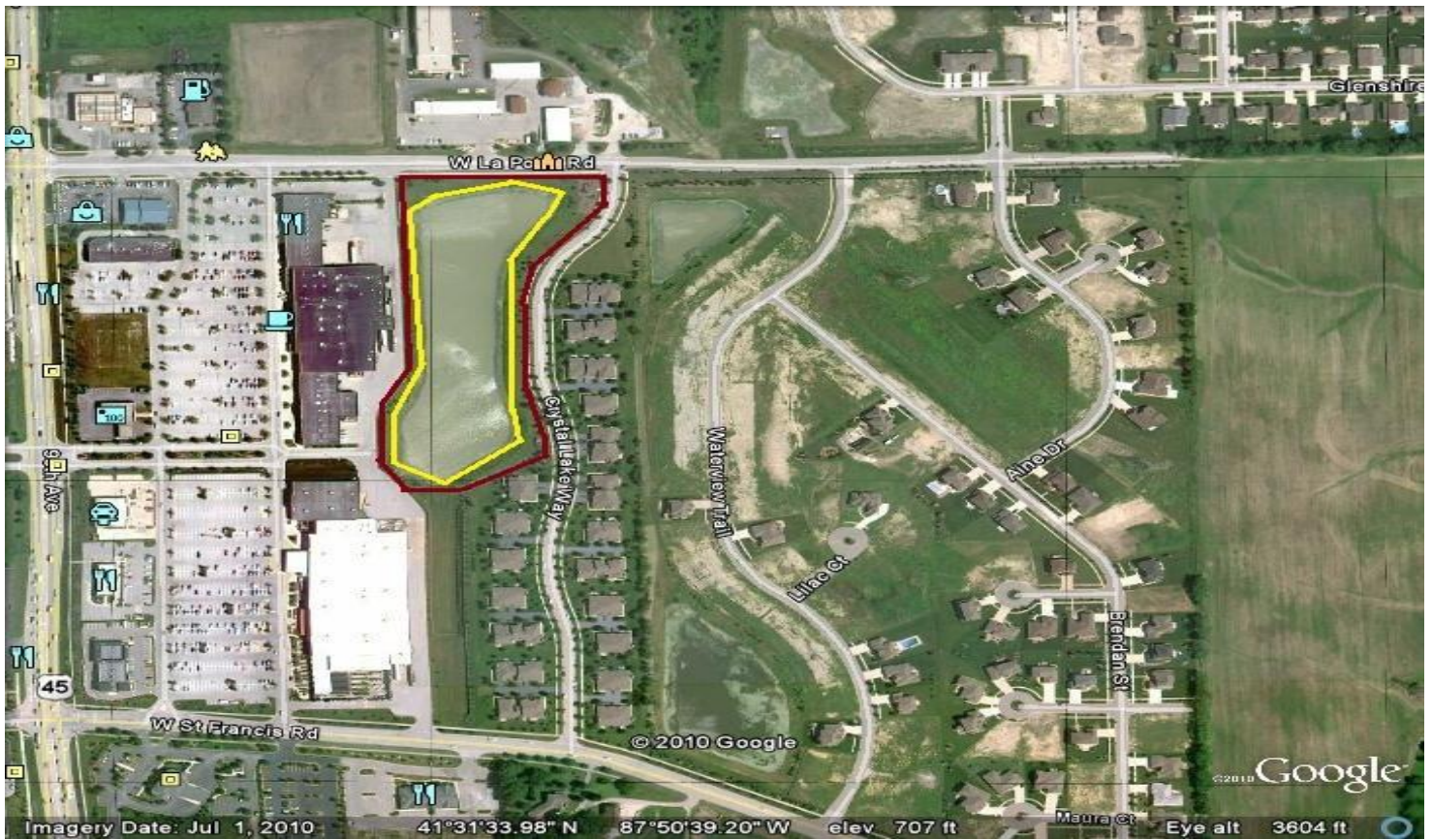
42 acres of naturalized area within 55 acre park site. Natural area #1 consist of Wet Mesic Prairie, Emergent marsh, and open water. Natural area #2 consists of the Island Prairie Nature Center Demonstration Gardens





## COMMUNITY PARK

3.58 acres consisting of basin and current restoration of native prairie buffer.



## CRYSTAL LAKE PARK

6.5 acres of naturalized area within 10 acre park site. Natural areas consist of Mesic Prairie buffer, emergent wetland/open water basin.





## INDIAN BOUNDARY SOUTH PARK

9.75 acres of naturalized area within 30 acre park site. Natural area consists of Marsh Meadow and emergent marsh. Future Naturalized area installation to consist of Mesic Prairie buffer, emergent wetland, and open water.

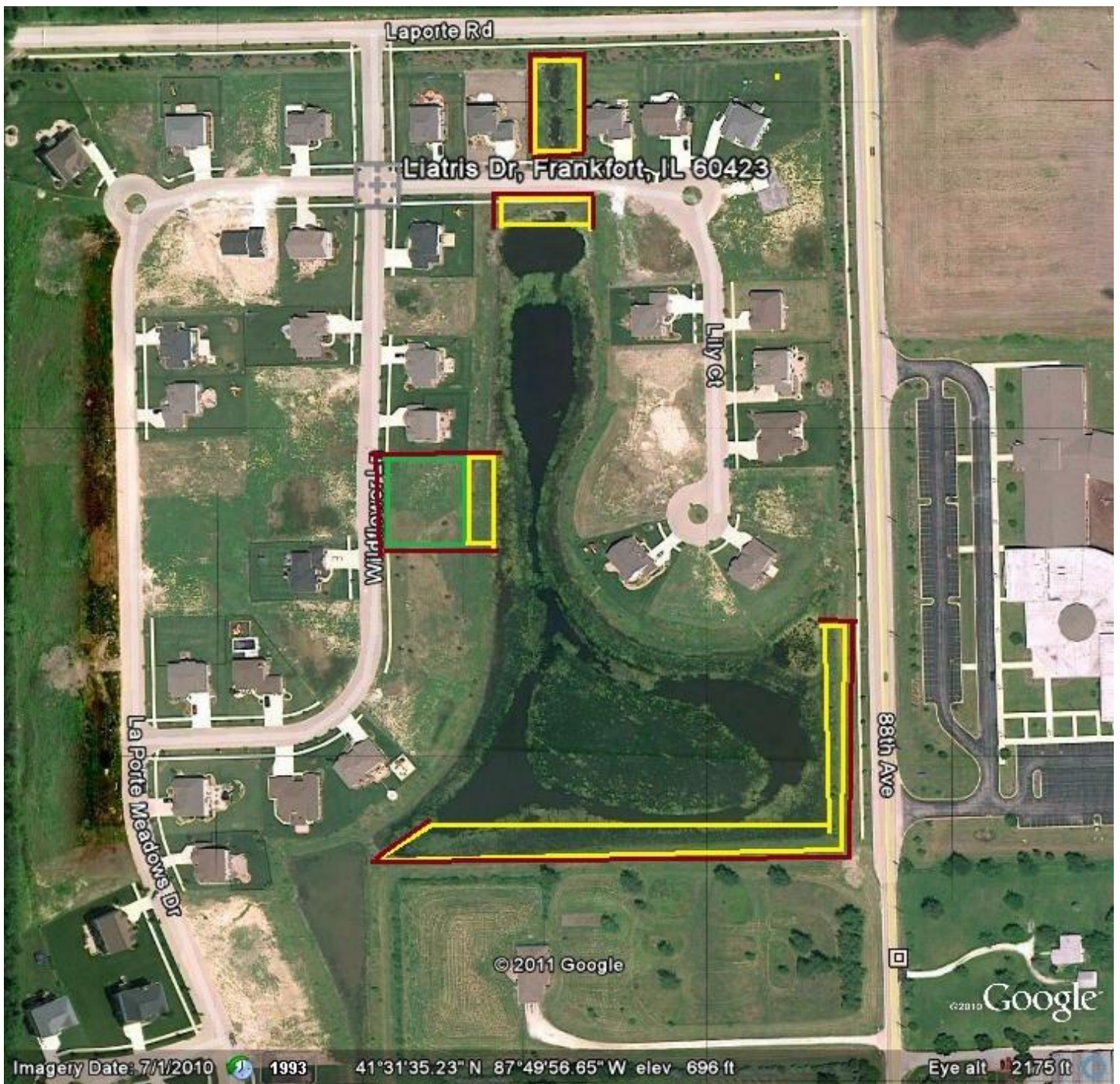




## LAKE OF THE GLENS PARK

16.86 acres of naturalized area within 34.50 acre park site. Natural areas consist of Mesic Prairie buffer, emergent wetland/open water basin.





## LAPORTE MEADOWS PARK

6.74 acres of Natural area Park owned property as shown. Areas behind homes is conservation easement and determined to extend into water by HOA in 2012. Natural area as consist of Mesic Prairie buffer, emergent wetland and open water.





## LIGHT HOUSE POINT PARK

64.11 acres of naturalized area within 90 acre park site. Natural areas consist of Mesic Prairie buffer, emergent wetland/open water basins.





**LINCOLNWAY NORTH PARK**

0.32 acres of naturalized area within 1.5 acre park site. Natural area consists of Mesic Prairie planting.



## OLD PLANK TRAIL SOUTH PARK

7.65 acres of naturalized area within 7.65 acre park site. Minimal turf grass buffer around retention basin natural area consists of woodland.





## RIDGEFIELD PARK

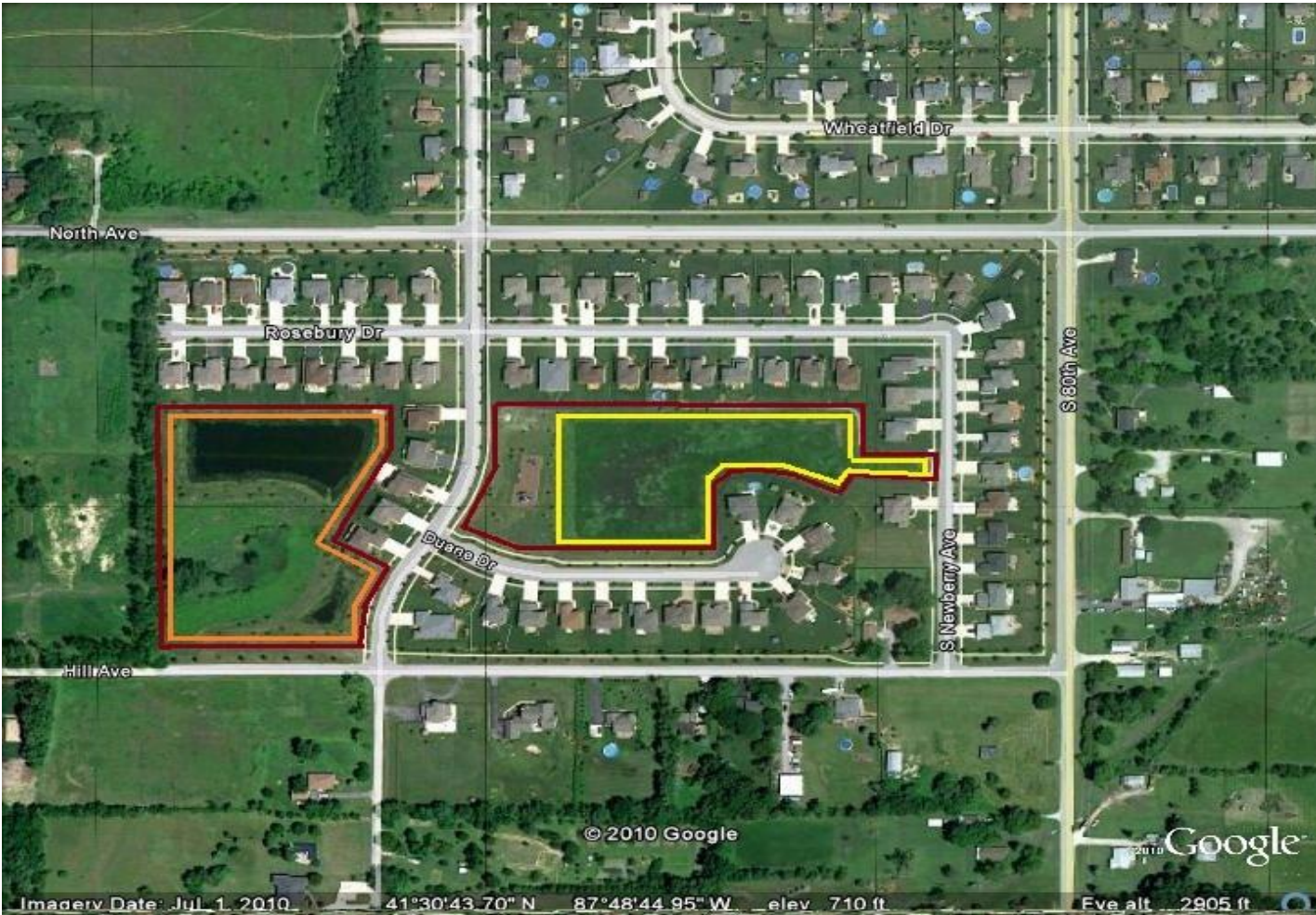
9.80 acres of naturalized area within the 18.5 acre park site. Natural area consists of Mesic Prairie buffer, emergent wetland/open water basin and woodland.



## UNION CREEK COMMUNITY PARK

12.48 acres of naturalized area within 70 acre park site. Natural area consists of prairie buffer, woodland and riparian buffer along Union Ditch.





## WHITE OAK PARK

8.51 acres of naturalized area within 11 acre park site. Natural areas consist of prairie buffer wet mesic prairie and woodland.

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## **PARKS & FACILITIES**

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### **OVERVIEW**

The Frankfort Square Park District has had a long-standing commitment to assure adequate and quality open space is available throughout the community for both active and passive use by the District's residents. The decision on where to locate a park is closely tied to the development patterns of a community. Neighborhood parks, tot lots, and similar areas are only appropriate in residential areas. Community and district parks should be close enough to residents so they are easily accessible but do not necessarily have to be directly located in residential areas. In some cases it may be necessary to obtain land zoned other than residential for park use if this is the only land available to serve developed residential areas. It is also important to protect whatever natural diversity is available within the District, i.e., wet lands, waterways, prairies, etc.

There has been a long history of cooperation between the Frankfort Square Park District and the Summit Hill School District #161 and the Lincoln-Way North School District #210. These partnerships have been for mutually beneficial use of lands and facilities. Several park/school sites exist within the Frankfort Square Park District with many of these school district sites providing a variety of recreational opportunities. Furthermore, these school sites with playgrounds, athletic fields, indoor recreation facilities, and open space help to fill the gaps in the service areas of the parks and facilities. They fill a very complementary role to the system of parks and facilities in the Frankfort Square Park District.

In maintaining a high service quality to its residents, it is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District establish a classification system for the various types of parks and open space within the District. A suggested approach is the utilization of a classification system that is consistent with National Recreation & Park Association's Parks, Open Space and Recreation Standards. An outline of these standards is provided in the table below:

**Proposed Parks/Open Space Guidelines for the Frankfort Square Park District**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Optimum Size</b>	<b>Service Radius</b>	<b>Features</b>
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	5-10 acres	¼ mile	Playgrounds Picnic Areas Outdoor Basketball Courts Trees Natural Areas Paths
<b>Community Park</b>	+25 acres	½ mile to entire community	Softball Complex Community Gardens Athletic Fields Soccer Fields Recreation Centers Swimming Pools Special Features Picnicking Trails Trees & Shrubs Open Space Natural Areas
<b>Hiking/Biking Trails</b>	Variable	Entire community	Surfaced & unsurfaced trails Signage
<b>Greenway/Open Space</b>	Variable	Entire community	Drainage Areas Stream Tree Strips Ponds Natural Areas
<b>Special Use – Historical/Cultural/Scenic/Interpretive/etc.</b>	Variable	Entire community	Wildlife Historic Buildings or Structures Scenic Areas

**PROPOSED PARKS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE FRANKFORT  
SQUARE PARK DISTRICT**

<b>Proposed Parks/Open Space Classifications for the Frankfort Square Park District</b>	
<b>Type</b>	<b>Existing FSPD Parks</b>
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	Arbor Park, Brookside Bayou Park, Candle Creek Park, Champions Park, Crystal Lake Park, FS School Park, Hawthorne Lakes Park, Hoffman Park, Hunter Prairie Park, Kingston Park, Lakeside Park, LaPorte Meadows Park, Magnolia Park, Odyssey Park, Plank Trail North Park, Plank Trail South Park, Ridgefield Park (Far East), Rogus School Park, White Oak Park, Woodlawn Park
<b>Community Park</b>	Island Prairie, Community Park, Indian Boundary South Park, Indian Trail School Park, Kiwanis Park, Lake of Glens Park, Lighthouse Pointe Park, Lincoln Way North School Park, Lincoln Way North Park, Summit Hill Junior High School Park, Union Creek Community Park,
<b>Hiking/Biking Trails</b>	Arbor Park, Brookside Bayou Park, Candle Creek Park, Crystal Lake Park, FS School Park, Hoffman Park, Indian Boundary South Park, Kingston Park, Lake of Glens Park, Lighthouse Pointe Park, Lincoln Way North Park, Plank Trail South Park, Ridgefield Park (Far East), Summit Hill Junior High School Park, Union Creek Community Park, White Oak Park
<b>Greenway/Open Space</b>	Candle Creek Park, Hawthorne Lakes Park, Indian Boundary South Park, Lakeside Park, Lake of Glens Park, Lighthouse Pointe Park, Magnolia Park, Plank Trail North Park, Ridgefield Park (Far East), White Oak Park
<b>Special Use – Historical/Cultural/Scenic/Interpretive/etc.</b>	Island Prairie Nature Center Square Links Golf Course





<b>Park</b>																				
<b>Lighthouse Pointe Park</b>	90									3	1.9	1						3	1	4
<b>Lincoln Way North School Park</b>	87	5			3															
<b>Lincoln Way North Park</b>	1.5										.10									
<b>Magnolia Park</b>	1.2																			
<b>Odyssey Park</b>	.50											1							1	
<b>Plank Trail North Park</b>	2.26																			1
<b>Plank Trail South Park</b>	7.65										.08	1							1	1
<b>Ridgefield Park (Far East)</b>	18.5										.88									1
<b>Rogus School Park</b>	5					2						1								1
<b>Square Links Golf Course</b>	40										.33		1							
<b>Summit Hill Junior High School Park</b>	25	2			1	1			1		1.44		1							
<b>Union Creek Community Park</b>	70	6	1		2		1		1		.31	4	5		1	1	1		4	2
<b>White Oak Park</b>	5.29										.44		1							2
<b>Woodlawn Park</b>	10												1							1

### FACILITIES INVENTORY\*

Facility or School	Square Footage (in feet)	Type	Multi-Purpose Rooms	Kitchen	Offices	Greenhouse	Multi-Purpose Building
<b>Community Center @ Island Prairie</b>	18,639	Community Center	7	2	8		2
<b>Nature Center Facility</b>	3,020	Interpretive Center	1		1	1	

*\* The Frankfort Square Park District has an intergovernmental agreement with the Summit Hill School District #161 and the Lincoln-Way North School District #210. This agreement allows for the Frankfort Square Park District and both school districts to support each other with available facilities, staff, and equipment.*

**PARKS & FACILITIES SUMMARIES FOR THE FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK  
DISTRICT**

**ARBOR PARK**

12 Acres

Deeded Date: 2007

One Pond

Dimensions: 5.73 acres

Two Fountains in season

Installed Date: 2008

One Playground

Installed Date: Fall 2007

Dimensions: 5421 square feet

One section is for ages 2-5

One section is for ages 5-12

One large picnic shelter

Installed Date: Fall 2007

Dimensions: 20 feet x 30 feet (600 square feet)

Picnic Tables - 5 tables

Installed Date: Fall 2007

One Small Picnic Shelter

Installed Date: Fall 2007

Dimensions: 12 feet x 12 feet (144 square feet)

Two Bocce Ball Courts

Installed Date: Fall 2007

Dimensions: 12 feet x 75 feet (900 square feet)

Walking Path

Installed Date: Fall 2007

Dimensions: .50 miles x 10 feet

Exercise Equipment: 10 Pieces

Installed Date: Fall 2007

Park Benches: 6 Benches

Installed Date: Fall 2007

Water Fountain

Installed Date: Fall 2007

**BROOKSIDE BAYOU PARK**

5 Acres

Deeded Date: June 2010

Exercise Equipment: 3 pieces

Installed Date: Fall 2011

One picnic shelter with green roof

Installed Date: Fall 2011

Dimensions: 16 feet x 24 feet (384 square feet)

Picnic Tables - 5 Tables

Installed Date: Fall 2011

Park Benches - 3 Benches

Installed Date: Fall 2011

Walking/Biking Path

Installed Date: Fall 2011

Dimensions: 6 feet x 310 feet

Boardwalk

Installed Date: Fall 2011

Dimensions: 6 feet x 660 feet (wasn't long enough to do in miles)

23 Community Gardens

Installed Date: Fall 2011

Dimensions: 10 feet x 10 feet each

One pond

Dimensions: 1 acre

Water Spickets - 3 Spickets

## **CANDLE CREEK PARK**

3 Acres

Deeded Date: July 2005

One Small Path: .09 miles

One pond

Dimensions: .86 acres

## **CHAMPIONS PARK**

15 Acres

Deeded Date: September 1978

Mary Drew Elementary School/District Office

Date Built: John Has

Dimensions: 77, 103 square feet

Parking Lot # 1

Dimensions: 29, 700 square feet

Number of Spaces: 53

Parking Lot #2

Dimensions: 30, 456 square feet

Number of Spaces: 39

One Playground

Installed Date: Fall 2007

Dimensions: 4569 square feet

One very section is for ages 2-5

One bigger section is for ages 5-12

One picnic shelter

Installed Date: Fall 2007  
Dimensions: 24' x 28' (672 square feet)  
Picnic Tables - 3 Tables  
Installed Date: Fall 2007  
One paved play area  
Installed Date: Fall 2007  
Dimensions: 15, 606 square feet  
One lighted ice rink  
Installed Date: 1995  
Dimensions: 66 feet x 140 feet (8800 square feet)  
One Meeting/Concession Building  
Installed Date: 1974  
Dimensions: 1500 square feet  
One enclosed tennis areas with two courts - lighted from May 1 until November 1 until 10:00pm  
Installed Date: 1975  
Dimensions: 104 feet x 120 feet (12, 475 square feet)  
West Field - T-Ball/Instructional, two bleachers  
South Field - Adult sized field and lighted.  
Dimensions: 1.88 acres  
Underground water well for irrigation  
Football Field – Wildcat's practice area - one big practice field - one practice area - both lighted

## **COMMUNITY CENTER/ISLAND PRAIRIE**

55 Acres  
Deeded Date: December 1980  
Community Center Building  
Installed Date: 1991  
Dimensions: 18, 639 square feet  
Community Room  
Community Room Kitchen  
Five Preschool Rooms  
Two Public Bathrooms  
Eight Offices  
Board Room  
Board Room Kitchen  
Maintenance Garage  
Parking Lot  
Installed Date: 1991  
Dimensions: 30, 260 square feet  
Number of Spaces: 63  
Maintenance Pole Barn #1  
Installed Date: 1998  
Dimensions: 45 feet x 96 feet (4320 square feet)  
Maintenance Pole Barn #2

Installed Date: 2005  
Dimensions: 32 feet x 96 feet (3072 square feet)

Splash Park  
Installed Date: 2003  
Dimensions: 3300 square feet

Picnic Shelter  
Installed Date: 2003  
Dimensions: 20 feet x 30 feet (600 square feet)

Picnic Tables - 8 Tables  
Installed Date: 2003

One 2-5 Preschool Playground  
Installed Date: 2003  
Dimensions: 7076 square feet

Park Benches - 7 Benches  
Installed Date: 2003

One playground section is for ages 5-12  
Installed Date: 2002 - Reinstalled 2005 after fire  
Dimensions: 3734 square feet

Illuminated/Changeable letter sign  
Installed Date: 2003

One Pond  
Dimensions: 1 acre

Nature Center  
Installed Date: Summer 2008  
Dimensions: 3020 square feet  
Meeting Room  
Two Bathrooms  
Office  
Storage Closet/Workroom  
Green House

Picnic Shelter  
Installed Date: Summer 2008  
Dimensions: 800 square feet

Picnic Tables - 6 Tables  
Installed Date: Summer 2008

Band Shell  
Installed Date: Summer 2009  
Dimensions: 835 square feet

Interpretive Gardens

Walking/Bike path  
Installed Date: 1998  
Dimensions: .90 miles x 10 feet

Boardwalk  
Installed Date: Spring 2010  
Dimensions: .15 miles x 6 feet

## **COMMUNITY PARK**

9 Acres

Deeded Date: 1974

One 2-5 Playground

Installed Date: Summer 2002

Dimensions: 60 feet x 70 feet (4200 Square Feet)

Park Benches: 5 Park Benches

Installed Date: 4 in Summer 2002

1 in Spring 2011

One picnic shelter

Installed Date: Summer 2002

Dimensions: 22 feet x 27 feet (594 square feet)

Picnic Tables: 1 Table

Installed Date: Summer 2002

Two Grills

Installed: Summer 2002

One enclosed tennis area with two courts

Installed Date: 1975

Dimensions: 104 feet x 120 feet (12,480 square feet)

Walking/Biking Path

Installed Date: September 2007

Dimensions: .25 Miles x 10 feet

Illuminated/Changeable letter sign

Installed Date: 2003

Three flag poles

Installed Date: 2003

One Pond

Dimensions: 3.16 acres

One Fountain

Installed Date: Spring 2010

Fishing Pier

Installed Date: 1998

Dimensions: 739 square feet

Parking Lot

Installed Date: 1975

Dimensions: 7850 square feet

Number of Spaces: 24

## **CRYSTAL LAKE PARK**

8.5 Acres

Deeded Date: February 2009

One playground is for ages 5-12



Installed Date: Fall 2005  
Dimensions: 4240 square feet  
Park Benches - 1 Bench  
Installed Date: Fall 2005  
Walking/Biking Path  
Installed Date: 2002  
Dimensions: .06 miles (6 feet x 325 feet)  
One small gazebo  
Installed Date: 2002  
Dimensions: 105 square feet  
One Pond  
Dimensions: 5.25 acres  
Two Fountains  
Installed Date: Summer 2007

## **FRANKFORT SQUARE SCHOOL PARK**

4.5 Acres  
Frankfort Square Elementary School  
Date Built: John Has  
Dimensions: 43,401 square feet  
Parking Lot  
Dimensions: 47089 square feet  
Number of Spaces: 71  
Playground Section  
One playground is for ages 2-5  
Installed Date: 1995  
Dimensions: 2100 square feet  
One playground is for ages 5-12  
Installed Date: 1995  
Dimensions: 7500 square feet  
One basketball goal  
Installed Date: 1995  
One Asphalt Play Area  
Installed Date: 1995  
Dimensions: 90 feet x 170 feet (15,300 square feet)  
One picnic shelter  
Installed Date: 1995  
Dimensions: 25 feet x 30 feet (750 square feet)  
Picnic Tables - 1 table  
Grills - 2 grills  
Biking/Walking path  
Installed Date: Fall 2005  
Dimensions: .20 miles x 10 feet

Ball field Section  
One T -Ball/Instructional field

### **HAWTHORNE LAKES PARK**

.50 Acres  
Deeded Date: August 2007  
One playground is for ages 2-5  
Installed Date: 2003  
Dimensions: 3800 square feet  
Park Benches - 2 benches  
Installed Date: 2003

### **HOFFMAN PARK**

3.45 Acres  
Deeded Date: December 1975  
One 2-5 Playground  
Installed Date: 1997  
Dimensions: 5000 square feet  
Park Benches - 2 benches  
Installed Date: 1997  
Walking/Biking Trail  
Installed Date: Fall 2005  
Dimensions: .20 miles x 10 feet

### **HUNTER PRAIRIE PARK**

7.36 Acres  
Deeded Date: December 1979  
Playground Section  
One playground is for ages 2-5  
Installed Date: 1999  
Dimensions: 4000 square feet  
Park Benches - 4 benches  
Installed Date: 1999  
One parking lot  
Installed Date: 1975  
Dimensions: 20,230 square feet  
Parking Spaces: 54  
Two basketball goals  
Installed Date: 1999  
One enclosed tennis area with two courts  
Installed Date: 1975  
Dimensions: 104 feet x 120 feet (12,480 square feet)

One picnic shelter  
    Installed Date: 1999  
    Dimensions: 24 feet x 28 feet (672 square feet)  
Picnic Tables - 2 tables  
    Installed Date: 1999  
Grills - 2 grills  
Ball field/Soccer Section  
    One Pony/Colt field - John will include  
Four widget soccer fields

## **INDIAN BOUNDARY SOUTH PARK**

30 Acres  
Deeded Date: December 1975  
Parking Lot section  
    One Frisbee golf course  
    Installed Date: Summer 2006  
Parking Lot  
    Installed Date: 1998  
    Dimensions: 22,700 square feet  
    Number of Spaces: 70  
One Pond  
    Dimensions: 2.35 acres  
One U8-U 10 Soccer field  
Walking/Bike Path  
    Installed Date: Spring 2010  
    Dimensions: .74 miles x 10 feet  
Open space

## **INDIAN TRAIL SCHOOL PARK**

19.50 Acres  
Indian Trail Elementary School  
    Year Built  
    Dimensions: 57,750 square feet  
Parking Lot # 1  
    Dimensions: 24,229 square feet  
    Number of Spaces: 40  
Parking Lot #2  
    Dimensions: 16,525 square feet  
    Number of Spaces: 52  
Parking Lot #3  
    Dimensions: 30,044 square feet  
    Number of Spaces: 25

## Playground

Installed Date: 2001

Dimensions: 7300 square feet

## Park Benches - 3 benches

Installed Date: 2001

## One picnic shelter

Installed Date: 2001

Dimensions: 24 feet x 28 feet (672 square feet)

## Picnic Tables - 1 table

Installed Date: 2001

## One basketball goal

Installed Date: 2001

## Three T-Ball Fields

## One full size girls' softball field

## **KINGSTON PARK**

5.40 Acres By Itself - 7.82 Acres including Kingston/Laurel and Mallory Laurel Corners

Deeded Date: December 1975

## One playground is for ages 2-5

Installed Date: 2002

Dimensions: 3300 square feet

## Park Benches - 2 benches

Installed Date: 2002

## Bike/Walking Path

Installed Date: Fall 2005

Dimensions: .18 miles x 10'

## **KIWANIS PARK**

10.75 Acres

Deeded Date: December 1980. Ball fields: January 2010

## Three T -Ball/Instructional/Minor Fields

## One Lighted Parking Lot

## One concession trailer

## One 2-5 Playground

Installed Date: 2003

Dimensions: 3552 square feet

## Park Benches - 2 benches

Installed Date: 2003

## **LAKESIDE PARK**

6.59 Acres

Deeded Date: 2006  
Open space

### **LAKE OF THE GLENS PARK**

34.50 Acres

Deeded Date: 2001

Open space

One Pond

Dimensions: 6.12 acres

Walking/Biking Path

Installed Date: 2002 - 2005

Dimensions: .54 miles x 10'

Playgrounds

One 2-5 playground is for ages

Installed Date: Summer 2002

Dimensions: 1134 square feet

One 5-12 playground is for ages

Installed Date: Summer 2002

Dimensions: 4081 square feet

Park Benches - 2 benches

Installed Date: Summer 2002

North Pond

Dimensions: 2.67 acres

South Pond

Dimensions: 1.15 acres

Walking/Biking Path

Installed Date: 1998

Dimensions: .69 miles

### **LAPORTE MEADOWS PARK**

9 Acres

Deeded Date: October 2008

One playground is for ages 2-5

Installed Date: Fall 2011

Dimensions: 2700 square feet

Pond section

One Pond

Dimensions: 5.80 acres

### **LIGHTHOUSE POINTE PARK**

90 Acres

Deeded Date: August 2009

Fountain Pond

One Pond

Dimensions: 3.95 acres

Native Areas

Townhouse Pond

Dimensions: 1.15 acres

Walking/Biking path

Installed Date: 2007

Dimensions: .34 miles x 10 feet

Native Areas

Pfieffer Road Pond

Dimensions: .60 acres

Walking/Biking path

Installed Date: 2007

Dimensions: .56 miles x 12 feet

Native Areas

One playground is for ages 5-12

Installed Date: Summer 2011

Dimensions: 4042 square feet

Exercise Stations - 3 stations

Installed Date: Summer 2011

One Picnic Shelter with green roof

Installed Date: Summer 2011

Dimensions: 18 feet x 24 feet

Picnic Tables - 3 Tables

Installed Date: Summer 2011

Two horseshoe pits

Installed Date: Summer 2011

Dimensions: 302 square feet

One bean bag game

Installed Date: Summer 2011

Dimensions: 115 square feet

Walking/Biking path

Installed Date: Summer 2011

Dimensions: .44 miles x 10 feet

Parking Lot

Installed Date: Summer 2011

Dimensions: 2900 square feet

Number of Spaces: 9

East/West Walking/Biking Path

Installed Date: 2007

Dimensions: .55 miles x 12 feet

East/West Native Areas

East/West Pond

Dimensions: 2.32 acres

## **LINCOLN WAY NORTH SCHOOL PARK**

87 Acres

Lincoln Way North High School

Year Built: 2008

Parking Lot #1 - Front Lot

Dimensions: 141,632 square feet

Number of Spaces: 165

Parking Lot #2 - Fieldhouse

Dimensions: 102,886 square feet

Number of Spaces: 168

Parking Lot #3 - Back Drive

Dimensions: 127,226 square feet

Number of Spaces: 207

Parking Lot #4 - Fine Arts Center

Dimensions: 92,337 square feet

Number of Spaces: 215

Two Pony/Colt Lighted ball fields

One Lighted Varsity Girls' Softball Field

Two Lighted Community Girls' Softball Fields

One irrigated full size soccer field

One full size soccer field

One full size football field with extra practice areas

## **LINCOLN WAY NORTH PARK**

1.5 Acres

Deeded Date: December 1980

Walking/Bike Path

Installed Date: Summer 2008

Dimensions: .10 miles x 10 feet

## **MAGNOLIA PARK**

1.2 Acres

Deeded Date: October 1996

Open space

## **ODYSSEY PARK**

.50 Acres

Deeded Date: 2000

One playground is for ages 2-5

Installed Date: 2001

Dimensions: 3311 square feet  
Picnic Tables - 2 Tables  
Installed Date: 2001

### **PLANK TRAIL NORTH PARK**

2.26 Acres  
Deeded Date: June 2005  
One Pond - 1 acre  
One Fountain  
Installed Date: 2008

### **PLANK TRAIL SOUTH PARK**

7.65 Acres  
Deeded Date: June 2005  
One Pond  
Dimensions: 3.07 acres  
Two fountains  
Installed Date: 2008  
Playground  
Installed Date: 2006  
Dimensions: 5504 square feet  
Park Benches - 2 Benches  
Installed Date: 2006  
Walking/Biking Path  
Installed Date: 2006  
Dimensions: .08 Miles  
One Gazebo  
Installed Date: 2006  
Dimensions: 100 square feet

### **RIDGEFIELD PARK (FAR EAST)**

18.5 Acres  
Deeded Date: 2006  
One Pond  
Dimensions: 7 acres  
Bike/Walking Path  
Installed Date: 2005  
Dimensions: .88 miles



## **ROGUS SCHOOL PARK**

5 Acres - plus soccer fields

Open Space

Dr. Julian Rogus School

Year Built:

Dimensions: 121, 554 square feet

Parking Lot # 1 - Back

Dimensions: 38,005 square feet

Number of Spaces: 103

Parking Lot #2 - Gymnasium

Dimensions: 32,808

Number of Spaces: 83

Parking Lot #3 - Front

Dimensions: 68,900

Number of Spaces: 96

One playground

Installed Date: Summer 2002

Dimensions: 6500 square feet

One picnic shelter

Installed Date: Summer 2002

Dimensions: 25 feet x 25 feet (625 square feet)

Grills - 1 Grill

Installed Date: Summer 2002

Soccer section

Installed Date: Summer 20 10

Two mid-sized soccer fields

## **SQUARE LINKS GOLF COURSE**

40 Acres

Deeded Date: November 2004

## **SUMMIT HILL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARK**

25 Acres

Summit Hill Junior High School

Year Built: 2007

Dimensions: 110,336 square feet

Parking Lot #1 - West Lot

Dimensions: 99,858

Number of Spaces: 200

Parking Lot #2 - East Lot

Dimensions: 76,173 square feet

Number of Spaces: 76  
One irrigated Pony/Colt ball field  
One irrigated girl's softball field  
One storage building  
One full sized irrigated soccer field  
One High School sized track  
Walking/Biking Path  
    Installed Date: 2008  
    Dimensions: .33 Miles

## **UNION CREEK COMMUNITY PARK**

70 Acres  
Deeded Date: November 1998  
SSSRA section: 7 acres  
    SSSRA Administration Building  
        Installed Date: 2002  
        Dimensions: 6200 square feet  
    Garage  
        Installed Date: 2011  
        Dimensions: 4325 square feet  
    One ADA accessible playground  
        Installed Date: 2003  
        Dimensions: 3440 square feet  
    One 5-12 Playground  
        Installed Date: 2003  
        Dimensions: 9735  
    One playground is for ages 2-5  
        Installed Date: 2003  
        Dimensions: 4790 square feet  
    Park Benches - 5 Benches  
        Date Installed: 2003  
    One picnic shelter with two bathrooms and meeting room  
        Installed Date: 2003  
        Dimensions: 1500 square feet  
    Two Small Picnic Shelters  
        Installed Date: 2003  
        Dimensions: 144 square feet  
    Picnic Tables - 10 Tables  
        Installed Date: 2003  
    Grills - 2 Grills  
        Installed Date: 2003  
    One NHL In-line/Ice rink (Lighted)  
        Installed Date: 2003  
        Dimensions: 90 feet x 182 feet (16,380 square feet)

One Sledding Hill (Lighted)  
 Two dog parks  
     Installed Date: Summer 2005  
 Dog drinking/washing station  
     Installed Date: Summer 2005  
 One parking lot  
     Installed Date: 2003  
     Dimensions: 36,641 square feet  
     Number of Spaces: 83  
 Walking/Biking Path  
     Installed Date: 1999  
     Dimensions: .40 Miles  
 SSSRA to Brookside Glen Drive Section: 11 acres  
     Walking/Biking Path  
         Installed Date: 1999  
         Dimensions: .55 Miles  
 One Pond (Becker Pond)  
     Dimensions: 1.83 acres  
 Park Benches: 2 Benches  
 Open space  
 Football Section: 4.83 acres  
     One full sized irrigated football field  
         Installed Date: Summer 2002  
         Dimensions: 1.95 acres  
     One downsized irrigated and lighted football practice field  
         Installed Date: Summer 2002  
         Dimensions: 1.24 acres  
     One two story viewing tower  
         Installed Date: Summer 2002  
     One concession stand/storage  
         Installed Date: 2002  
         Dimensions: 845 square feet  
 Concession Stand/Storage  
 Two Bathrooms  
 One storage facility  
     Installed Date: 2005  
     Dimensions: 300 square feet  
 One 750 person bleacher  
     Installed Date: Summer 2002  
     Dimensions: 2700 square feet  
 Walking/Biking Path  
     Installed Date: Summer 2002  
     Dimensions: .15 Miles  
 UC#5 Section: 3.82 acres  
     One irrigated Pony/Colt field

Dimensions: 1.73 acres (1.33 without infield)  
 One parking lot  
     Installed Date: 2002  
     Dimensions: 113,654 square feet  
 Walking/Biking path  
     Installed Date: Summer 2002  
     Dimensions: .07 Miles  
 One free standing two stall restroom facility  
     Installed Date: 2002  
     Dimensions: 100 square feet  
 Skate Park Section: 11 acres  
     One skate park  
         Installed Date: Summer 2002  
         Dimensions: 17, 103 square feet  
     One large picnic shelter  
         Installed Date: 1999  
         Dimensions: 70 feet x 170 feet )(11,900 square feet)  
     Two Bathrooms  
     Storage Room  
     Picnic Tables - 14 Tables  
         Installed Date: 1999  
     Grills - 2 grills  
     One playground  
         Installed Date: 1999  
         Dimensions: 5578 square feet  
     Park Benches: 2 Benches  
         Date Installed: 1999  
     One sand volleyball court  
         Installed Date: 1999  
         Dimensions: 3700 square feet  
     One T-Ball field  
     Walking/Biking path  
         Installed Date: 1999  
         Dimensions: .06 miles  
     Walking Bridge  
         Installed Date: 1999  
     One parking lot  
         Installed Date: 1999  
         Dimensions: 120.555  
         Number of Spaces: 103  
     One basketball goal  
         Installed Date: 1999  
 UC Top Section: 22.31 acres  
     Two T-Ball/Minor/Major irrigated and lighted baseball/softball fields  
     Two T-Ball/Minor/Major irrigated baseball/softball fields  
     One concession stand/storage area/two bathroom facility

Installed Date: 1999  
Dimensions: 30 feet x 45 feet (1350 square feet)  
Concession Stand  
Two Bathrooms  
Two Storage Rooms  
Two enclosed batting cages  
Installed Date: 2000  
One free standing storage unit  
Open space  
One pond  
Dimensions: 2.22 acres  
Walking/Biking path  
Installed Date: 2007  
Dimensions: .21 miles

## **WHITE OAK PARK**

11 Acres  
Deeded Date: August 2005  
East Pond  
Dimensions: 1.99 acres  
Walking/Biking path  
Installed Date: 2003  
Dimensions: .31 miles  
One Playground  
Installed Date: Summer 2005  
Dimensions: 4915 square feet  
Park Benches: 2 Benches  
Date Installed: Summer 2005  
West Pond  
Dimensions: 1.49 acres  
One Detention Area  
Dimensions: .22 acres  
Open space

## **WOODLAWN PARK**

10 Acres  
Deeded Date: December 1980  
One Pond  
Dimensions: 3.85 acres  
One fishing pier  
Installed Date: Summer 2008  
Dimensions: 633 square feet

Walking/Biking Path

Installed Date: 1995

Dimensions: .44 Miles

One Playground Area

Installed Date: 1995

Dimensions: 4237 square feet

One 2-5 playground

One 5-12 Playground

Park Benches: 6 Benches

Installed Date: 1995

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## RECREATION PROGRAMS

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### OVERVIEW

Public park and recreation agencies are responsible for providing their community quality recreation opportunities. Agencies must ensure their residents have the opportunity to participate in quality recreation programs, attractive parks, and effective and safe recreation facilities. In turn, these services can promote a stronger sense of community identity, improve the quality of life for their residents, and create a positive social impact within the community.

A public park and recreation agency's services are typically divided into three areas – parks, program, and facilities. To successfully deliver these services, agencies must be concerned with the scope and quality within these three areas. This section of the Master Plan focuses on the programming arm of the Frankfort Square Park District. One method for ensuring the programming provided by the Frankfort Square Park District is meeting or exceeding the community's needs is through the use of a comprehensive program analysis. A comprehensive program analysis studies current programming practices, operations, and programs to determine the most feasible level and mix of recreation programs which are appropriate to the mission of the Frankfort Square Park District.

A recreation program is effective to the extent that the stated goals or benefits of participation are achieved. The impact of a program analysis investigates the extent to which the targeted market was served and the degree to which the program made a difference compared to other programs or no program. In some instances, cost-benefit calculations of a program should also be completed to fully understand the cost of each unit of outcome or benefit produced. Taken collectively, the program analysis data can be used to judge whether or not the benefit achieved was worth the associated cost and effort expended.

### FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT RECREATION PROGRAMMING

To complement the extensive number of parks and facilities, the Frankfort Square Park District continues to deliver quality recreation programs that provide structured activities and informative, instructive courses for all residents. Similar to the opportunities and challenges

facing the Frankfort Square Park District's parks and facilities, providing the right mix of programs is a continual task that balances resources with meeting the desires of residents.

Determining and maintaining the right balance is a more difficult task for programs than for facilities. While the concept of efficient management based on informed decisions also applies to programs, the quantity of program types is even more vast than the quantity of park facility types the Frankfort Square Park District can offer. As a result, the method for making these decisions can, at times, be truly challenging. The methodology used to analyze the recreation programs provided by the Frankfort Square Park District was a modified professional judgment technique. A professional judgment method typically involves one or more of the following data collection and analysis techniques: personal observation, interviews, and/or reviews of documentation. A combination of all three of these techniques was used to review the Frankfort Square Park District's recreation programs. Specific tasks undertaken to assess the Frankfort Square Park District's recreation programs included:

- On site visits where recreation programming occurred.
- A majority of parks and recreation facilities were toured.
- The executive director for the Frankfort Square Park District was interviewed multiple times regarding programming practices, procedures, and policies.
- The Director of Recreation and Administration for the Frankfort Square Park District was interviewed (in person and by phone) regarding programming practices, procedures, and policies.
- Frankfort Square Park District programming brochures and marketing materials for the past 12 months were reviewed and appraised.
- Operating manuals, policies, and procedures of the Recreation Department were reviewed.
- Community survey data from a separate component of this study were analyzed and interpreted in regards to current and future programming operations, interests, and practices.

## **ANALYSIS OF FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT RECREATION PROGRAMMING**

The following sections highlight the key findings of the recreation program analysis for the Frankfort Square Park District.

## **APPRAISAL OF THE FSPD'S PROGRAM BROCHURES AND MARKETING**

Reviews of the Frankfort Square Park District's recreation programming brochures, website, flyers, and general program marketing materials were reviewed. Overall, the recreation program marketing materials are very well done. Materials such as the seasonal brochures are clear and cleverly written to encourage participation, but still provide detailed program descriptions and information about what the attendee can expect from participating in the program. Although there are a large number of programs contained in the brochure, the use of headliner titles, sufficient white space, and a good indexing system enable one to find programs in a reasonable manner.

In addition to being informative, the Frankfort Square Park District's marketing materials are attractive. Color is used well and the images/photos provide excellent visuals of participants engaged and having fun. As having fun is recognized as one of the primary contributors to participant satisfaction, the images/photos selected have captured what people are likely seeking from participation. It is recommended that this strategy be continued in the Frankfort Square Park District's program marketing.

## **APPRAISAL OF THE FSPD'S PROGRAM FEES AND PRICING STRATEGIES**

Interview data collected from the Frankfort Square Park District staff suggests a formalized cost-recovery level categorization is not warranted. The Frankfort Square Park District has a track record of successful recreation programming that has not historically been driven by cost recovery targets. Rather, the Frankfort Square Park District's programming has primarily sought to meet the recreation needs of the community. The Frankfort Square Park District has been able to adopt this need-based approach as a result of efficiency. In particular, the Frankfort Square Park District has established several partnerships, intergovernmental agreements with area school districts, and several other resource sharing activities.

## **APPRAISAL OF THE FSPD'S CURRENT RECREATION PROGRAMMING POLICY AND PROCEDURAL MANUALS**

A review of a sample of the Frankfort Square Park District's recreation programming policy and procedural manuals indicated high levels of organization. Policy and procedural information reviewed were detailed. Information regarding training needs and activities for programming staff are also present.

## **APPRAISAL OF THE FSPD'S CURRENT PROGRAMMING AREAS**

The following provides a brief summary of the general types of programming offered by the Frankfort Square Park District.

**Aquatics Programming.** *Currently three aquatics programs are being offered by the Frankfort Square Park District. All three programs are affiliated with the Frankfort Square Park District Activities at North (F.A.N.) and are available for all age groups.*

**Cultural Arts Programming.** *Nearly 40 cultural (arts and crafts and performing arts) programs are offered to residents of the Frankfort Square Park District. Frankfort Square Park*



*District residents are provided the opportunity to participate in musical theater, dance, and arts and crafts activities. The variety of programs allows for participation by various age groups and those with a range of experiences.*

**Athletic Leagues & Sports Programming.** *One of the more traditional programming areas, the Frankfort Square Park District offers league play and instructional classes for all age groups. The range of athletic activities offered include: karate, gymnastics, bowling, tennis, tumbling, floor hockey, golf, badminton, volleyball, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, and softball. The variety of programs provides opportunities for everyone from the novice, to the occasional participant to those residents dedicated to a particular activity.*

**Special Events.** *Fourteen special events occur in neighborhood and community parks throughout the Frankfort Square Park District. The events provide a combination of educational, athletic, social, and holiday-related activities for all residents in the community.*

**Senior Programming.** *One of the largest growing populations in the world, the Frankfort Square Park District currently has a limited number of programs specifically targeting this age group. Although several programs are offered for this age group, the District might wish to consider being a bit more intentional in their targeting of this growing population.*

**Educational Programming.** *Thirty educational programs are offered by the Frankfort Square Park District. These programs range from scientific-based activities (e.g., movie making, engineering, magic, robotics, computers, etc.) and social and psychomotor development to general education experiences (e.g., sign language, boating, babysitting, etc.). Currently, a majority of these programs are targeted for youth in the community.*

**Fitness Programming.** *Nineteen fitness programs are available to residents of the Frankfort Square Park District. Many of these programs are class-based, such as Zumba, Kick-Fit, Cardio, and Yoga while some of the programs utilize a drop-in program format (e.g., open gym, weight/fitness room, 40+ open gym, etc.). The variety of programs provides opportunities for everyone from the beginner to those residents dedicated to a particular fitness routine.*

**Nature Programming.** *Thirteen nature-based programs are offered to Frankfort Square Park District residents. These programs are diverse and serve all ages. Program topics range from plant and wildlife activities to community gardening.*

**Tiny Tots/Preschool/Day Camp Programming.** *One of the largest and most popular programming areas for the Frankfort Square Park District, tiny tots, preschool, and day camp programming is available year-round to residents. Tiny tots and preschool programs, such as 3 & 4 year old pre-school and seasonal activities (e.g., holiday sign along, elf help, pumpkin pals, St. Patty's party, etc.), target children from birth to 7 years of age while youth programs, such as BAS and Escapades, are offered for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade residents. While these programs target a specific cohort of the population, the topics and activities are diverse and should appeal to a variety of interests.*

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

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Drawn from the review of the data and subsequent analyses, general recommendations were developed and summarized below:

### *General Administration & Planning*

- Continue to promote and strengthen intergovernmental collaborations. The Frankfort Square Park District has a long and successful history of collaborating with all surrounding governmental agencies. These agencies include, but are not limited to: Summit Hill School District 161, Lincoln-Way School District 210, Will County, Cook County, Frankfort Township, South Suburban Special Recreation Association, Village of Frankfort, Frankfort Public Library, and the Village of Tinley Park. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District continue to strengthen these relationships as the District looks for ways to further improve efficiency and service quality for their residents.
- Continue to “Take care of what you got.” The Frankfort Square Park District has a history of sound planning and development activities that support the needs and interests of their residents. To ensure the successful continuation of these services and resources, the Frankfort Square Park District should continue to systematically monitor their existing resources. Consistent record keeping and inventorying should be continued for all areas. Where appropriate, replacement schedules should be developed and followed.
- Prioritization of Department Project Lists. Project lists for each Department or Unit have been developed. The Frankfort Square Park District is to be commended for this focus on collaborative and shared internal governance as it relates to resource development and allocation. To further organize the Departmental/Unit project lists, the Frankfort Square Park District should consider holding regularly scheduled meetings (i.e., annual, bi-annual, quarterly, etc.) to review and prioritize these lists. Once prioritized, a formal plan can be established to meet the needs identified on the list.
- Consider the establishment of a Park Foundation. While the Frankfort Square Park District has been very successful in securing external funding for several capital projects, the establishment of a Park Foundation could further strengthen the District’s ability to raise funds through improved advocacy, support, and project-specific fund raising efforts.
- Maintain pulse on agency financials. The Frankfort Square Park District has maintained records of excellent financials. A 2013 “Standards & Poor’s” rating report issued an “A/Stable” rating to the Frankfort Square Park District. Consistency was found as evidenced by the District’s previous rating of “A/Stable”. In describing the Frankfort Square Park District’s financial condition, the report stated, “fiscal year-end, April 30, 2012, the park district showed a use of reserves of \$484,024 across the combined general and recreation funds, bridging the two total available cash balance between the two funds to \$217,751, or 6% of reserves, which we consider adequate, on a modified cash basis of accounting.” This

report is further supported by the Frankfort Square Park District's 5-year debt service schedule that indicates total debt payments ranging from \$1.1 million in FY '15 to \$1.08 million in FY '19. Capital expenditures also highlight consistent and diligent financial planning with annual totals of \$162,500 in 2014 to \$160,000 in 2018. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District maintain a close pulse on the trends and issues in the area and the forecasted revenue projections (from both tax and fees/charges) in the District to maintain this solid financial footing.

- Maintain focus on community trends and changing demographics. The Frankfort Square Park District needs to be proactive in its preparation for community trends and changing demographics. Trends such as the exponential growth of aging populations and increased ethnic diversity need to be at the forefront of the District's planning and resource development activities. The Frankfort Square Park District preemptive in their planning to ensure their facilities and programs address the values and lifestyle choices of these growing populations.
- Investment in human resources. Arguably the most critical asset for park and recreation agencies, staff is a critical asset for these agencies. Generally representing more than 60% of park and recreation agencies' yearly operating budget, human resources put the material resources (i.e., financial and physical) into use and convert them into recreation programs and services. Most park and recreation professionals must possess or develop competencies in several areas such as, planning, finance, communications, programming, and marketing to effectively deliver recreation services to a diverse constituency with ever-changing needs and interests. These unique qualities create dynamic environments for park and recreation professionals as their job activities can fluctuate weekly, daily, and even hourly, depending on the needs and interests of those they serve. Developing systems to effectively manage park and recreation employees' performance, needs, expectations, idiosyncrasies, legal rights, and high potential should be at the forefront of the Frankfort Square Park District's planning efforts. The Frankfort Square Park District needs to continue its investments in their human resources through sound recruitment, selection, placement, evaluation, and compensation functions. Activities such as, support for continuing educational opportunities should also be maintained.

### ***Recreation Programming***

- Marketing and community awareness. The results from the 2012-2013 community-wide recreation interests survey indicated a majority of residents utilize the Frankfort Square Park District programming brochure to keep informed of the District's programs and services. Despite the overwhelming support for the programming brochure, a small pocket of residents indicated (see qualitative data from 2012-2013 community-wide recreation interests survey) they were unaware of all of the District's activities and programs. The Frankfort Square Park District might want to consider the development and publication of a periodic informational piece that can serve as a supplement to the tri-annual program brochure.

- Prepare for growth in senior programming. One of the largest growing populations in the world, the Frankfort Square Park District currently has a limited number of programs specifically targeting this age group. Although several programs are offered for this age group, the District might wish to consider being a bit more intentional in their targeting of this growing population.
- Increased ethnic diversity. In addition to growing senior populations, a growth in ethnic diversity is projected. The Frankfort Square Park District needs to be proactive in meeting these diverse needs. The formation of focus groups can be a useful strategy to help identify the specific needs of diverse groups.

### ***Parks & Facilities***

- Prioritize established five-year plan. The Frankfort Square Park District has developed a five-year plan for park-related projects. The result is an 8-page list of projects, by park, that are of interest to the District. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District determine a prioritized list of these projects, leading to the development of a structured work plan for completing these projects.
- No new major facilities. At present time, it does not appear the Frankfort Square Park District should pursue the development of any new (major) facilities. Current programming and services are supported by the existing facilities and the ongoing agreements with the two area school districts. Rather, resources should be re-directed to maintaining existing facility areas (see “Take care of what you got” recommendation above).
- Maintain success with Square Links Golf Course. In 2007, a master plan was developed for the Square Links Golf Course. The plan included a variety of recommendations and goals for the facility. The Square Links Golf Course has made successful strides since the plan was finalized in August, 2007. To continue this success, it is recommended that the plan be updated in the next few years. Data to be collected in formulating this plan should include: hole-by-hole descriptions, facility/amenity inventories, assessment of A La Cart Family Diner, financial assessment and projections, organizational assessment, and recommendations and goals.
- Consider tobacco free parks. A recent trend in communities is the implementation of tobacco-free outdoor (public) areas. Premised on the negative (individual and community) health effects of tobacco-related products, some public park and recreation agencies have sought to serve as role models for residents and their communities by prohibiting tobacco use in outdoor recreational areas. It is suggested that the Frankfort Square Park District review their current policies and consider the potential application of a tobacco-free policy within their outdoor public spaces.
- Maintain ADA compliance. Residents with a disability have the right to participate in the most integrated recreation setting. The Frankfort Square Park District should continue to work closely with partnering agencies and the manufacturers and designers to help create playgrounds and other recreation areas that support the inclusion and integration of

individuals with disabilities. Examination of appropriate surface materials (i.e., poured-in-place materials vs. mulch, etc.) and equipment should be systematically examined and updated as needed.

- The Frankfort Square Park District conducted the required assessment of all existing park district facilities and park sites to comply with the 2010 ADA regulations. In order to both maintain accessibility standards as well as anticipate future needs, it is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District conduct an accessibility assessment of their facilities and park sites every 5 years. Any future needs can be addressed through the overall maintenance and facility plans.
- Neighborhood assessment. All residents should have a park within walking distance of their residence. Potential barriers, both man-made and natural, should also be examined. As residential development continues in the community, the Frankfort Square Park District needs to be aware of this growth and plan accordingly to promote recreational opportunities for all residents.

### *Natural Areas*

- Consider possible trail expansion and interconnectivity. Trails and greenways are becoming increasingly popular in communities and provide various functions to a community including environmental and economic benefits. Support for this increased demand and use is also found in the results of the 2012-2013 community-wide recreation interests study. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District continue to participate in both public and private partnerships to create an interconnected and expanded trail and greenway system in the community.
- Continued maintenance and assessment of natural areas. Since the last Master Plan, the size and scope of the Frankfort Square Park District's natural areas have undergone significant expansion. It is recommended that the Frankfort Square Park District formalize plans for maintaining these expanded areas and perform ongoing assessments of these natural areas to identify any issues or needs (i.e., invasive plant/species removal, preservation needs, restoration activities, etc.). Formal plans to support habitat for native plants and wildlife, ecosystem functions (i.e., soil and water retention), and outdoor classrooms/educational centers should be developed.
- Continue to foster partnerships & collaborations: The Frankfort Square Park District owns and maintains an above average amount of natural area acreage when compared with other communities. Partnerships and collaborations have been an essential piece of the puzzle for the FSPD to improve the quality of life for its residents. In order to maintain their high quality amenities and service it is important to continue to facilitate strong relationships with other agencies and volunteer organizations. Consideration should be given to partnering with the following examples:
  - The University of Illinois Extension offices through programs such as master naturalists and master gardeners.

- The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center also trains citizens in science through their River Watcher program, which may be a valuable tool to get citizens involved in wetlands, stream and pond management.

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## APPENDICES

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### APPENDIX A: DEPARTEMENTAL/UNIT “PROJECT LISTS”

The following project lists have been developed by each department/unit of the Frankfort Square Park District. The list is presented in alphabetical order, by department/unit.

#### **Before and After School**

- 1 GenMove Multigoal Activity Pack #9405MGA
- 2 Additional storage
- 3 Large tables for older children in BAS program
  - a. Furniture 4 Kids 30" x 72" table #6413JCE
  - b. 6-pack Mahar chairs #MMC-16CHR
- 4 Computerized health and allergy monitoring system
- 5 Portable and locked storage for medical supplies

#### **Early Learning Center**

- 1 New carpets for preschool classrooms
- 2 School library
- 3 GenMove Multigoal Activity Pack #9405MGA
- 4 Institute day for teachers
- 5 Furniture 4 Kids Sand & water table #SWP1030T
- 6 Computerized health and allergy monitoring system
- 7 Increased storage for supplies-shelving/storage units
- 8 Training in new Common Core educational standards

#### **Recreation**

- 1 Answering machine w/remote access-Champions Park concession stand
- 2 Portable storage carts for Summer Day Camp and F.A.N. programs
- 3 Gross motor GenMove Multigoal Activity Pack
- 4 Additional controller to raise and lower basketball hoops
- 5 New scoreboard control panel for Summit Hill Junior High
- 6 Portable sound system with iPod dock
- 7 RecClix Mobile RecTrac - Schedule reminder, cancellation notices, re-schedule updates, off-site activity roster inquiries, facility/pass check-in
- 8 Software to organize children's medical info
- 9 Bus and qualified driver for program transportation

### **Office**

- 1 Two (2) new CPU's-replacing front registers
- 2 Card reader and coded swipe cards for passes-F.A.N./Dog Park/Splash Park
- 3 Employee swipe cards and software to replace key code access and time card machine
- 4 FinTrac software
- 5 iPad
- 6 New phone system
- 7 Desktop scanner
- 8 Mobile RecTrac access
- 9 Digital signage
- 10 Light sensors in office and server room
- 11 Organized electrical and computer cords-relocate cash drawer under counter

### **Golf Course**

- 1 Renovation of restrooms
- 2 Connect ponds between Holes 3 & 6-Install bridge
- 3 Smoker for kitchen
- 4 New range ball washer
- 5 Surround sound stereo system in clubhouse
- 6 Outdoor television monitor at clubhouse
- 7 Credit card swipe range ball machine
- 8 Covered structure with heat lamp over artificial range stations
- 9 Net system to collect balls hit from artificial range
- 10 Renovation of garage area/golf simulators
- 11 LED marquee

### **Beautification and Natural Areas**

- 1 Maintain existing sites
- 2 Formation of Friends of the Frankfort Square Park District Foundation 2014
- 3 Install bio swale behind Frankfort Square School 2014
- 4 Mowed pathways in Island Prairie Park
- 5 Continued restoration of Community Park basin buffer 2014-2016
- 6 Restoration of bandshell shoreline, begin installation in 2015
- 7 Community gardens at Community Park 2015
- 8 Woodlawn Park buffer restoration 2015-2018
- 9 Revitalization of Indian Trail School garden for new Garden Club 2015-2016
- 10 Interpretive signage of Nature Center's solar, wind, and green roof
- 11 Interpretive signage at Brookside Glen basins
- 12 Bio swale at Union Creek Park across bridge by ball fields 2017
- 13 Restoration of Indian Boundary South Park basin buffer 2019-2021
- 14 Rotary mower for tractor-rear articulated mower



- 15 Complete installation of Nature Center's green roof 2014

### Maintenance

- 1 Replace 2003 truck models
- 2 Computerized irrigation at Union Creek Park (all fields) and Champions Park
- 3 Computer for Pole Barn #1 for Fleet Maintenance
- 4 Fleet Management software
- 5 Rear discharge 6' mower
- 6 Infield groomer to maintain ball fields
- 7 Tool boxes for each truck
- 8 Long reach garbage pickers for each mower
- 9 Shovels, spades, rakes, etc.
- 10 Water jugs for each truck
- 11 **Arbor Park** - Replace trees in the park that have died off. Especially at the entrance and path that leads into the park and repair erosion issues on the two culverts on the east side of the pond.
- 12 **Brookside Bayou Park** - Yearly water sealing of all concrete and the boardwalk. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park.
- 13 **Candle Creek Park** - Ornamental pruning of the trees and bushes. Establish a turf management plan. It needs to be aerated, seeded, and fertilized to re-establish healthy turf.
- 14 **Champions Park**
  - i. Concession Stand
    1. o Repair damage to the front entrance.
    2. o Repaint the exterior of the building.
  - ii. Repaint and add reflective tape to the guardrail around the ice rink.
  - iii. Repair the cracked pipe on the used to control the flow of water.
  - iv. Re-grade the area from the South Ball Field through the ice rink so that water flows around the ice rink in the summer and allows for flooding and freezing in the winter.
  - v. Repair/Replace bad lighting on the ice rink. Currently, only one light is working.
  - vi. Replace damaged and worn out fencing down the left field line of the South Ball Field.
  - vii. Create management plan to control weeds that are encroaching on West Ball Field.
  - viii. Repair/Replace tennis court surfacing
  - ix. If the West Ball Field will continued to be used in the future:
    - o Install an asphalt path from the parking lot to the ball field
    - o Improve the bleacher areas – concrete under them?
    - o Add additional infield mix – red aggregate
    - o Establish a turf management plan to improve the quality of turf on this field
- 15 **Community Center/Island Prairie Park**
  - i. Resurface existing parking lot and repaint all parking spaces.
  - ii. Remove and replace existing sidewalks in front of and leading up to Community Center.

- iii. Repair/Replace the roof on the Community Center.
- iv. Repair/Replace the fascia, soffit, and gutters on the Community Center.
- v. Upgrade the existing lighting on the Community Center.
- vi. Expand heated indoor storage for maintenance equipment.
- vii. Expand storage throughout the Community Center.
- viii. Replace illuminated changeable letter sign w/digital computer-generated sign.
- ix. Water seal permeable surface of the Splash Park.
- x. Add additional lighting or replace lighting in both pole barns.
- xi. Upgrade heating system in Pole Barn #2.
- xii. Re-grade turf area behind the homes on Benton and between creek.
- xiii. Install irrigation system to include the turf area in front of the band shell.
- xiv. Establish a turf management plan for this area.
- xv. Continue to add on to the boardwalk to navigate throughout the native areas in Island Prairie.

**16 Community Park**

- i. Replace illuminated changeable letter sign w/digital computer generated sign.
- ii. Install metal permanent picnic tables underneath the picnic shelter.
- iii. Remove the sand box. Re-purpose with native flower bed.
- iv. Update/Improve lighting to the flag poles.
- v. Install new “Welcome to Frankfort Square” sign on the corner of St. Francis and Frankfort Square Road. Also, improve and add on to this planted area. Replace existing lighting.
- vi. East Driveway
  - a. Option #1 – Eliminate this drive up. Repair erosion.
  - b. Option #2 – Repair erosion. Paint and reflective tape the guardrail.
    - i. Repair/Replace existing asphalt drive.
    - ii. Remove tennis courts. Replace with Community Gardens.
    - iii. Repair/Replace asphalt parking lot and paint parking spaces.

**17 Crystal Lake Park** - Sand/Paint/Stain gazebo. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park.

**18 Frankfort Square School Park**

- i. Shingle/roof picnic shelter.
- ii. Install metal permanent picnic tables underneath the picnic shelter.
- iii. Repair/Replace the brick paver wall on the north side of the playground.
- iv. Add additional infield mix to Field #10 – red aggregate.
- v. Install asphalt path from existing path to Field #10 – create a seating area out of asphalt or concrete.

**19 Hawthorne Lakes Park** - Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park.

**20 Hoffman Park**

- i. Remove weeds/dirt/debris from concrete bottom culvert. Remove concrete bottom?
- ii. Remove weeds/dirt/debris from both ends.
- iii. Repair/Replace/Repaint existing guardrails at the ends of the culverts and add reflective tape.

- iv. Repair/Replace existing erosion control (rip rap) at both ends of the creek.
- v. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park.

**21 Hunter Prairie Park**

- i. Re-shingle/re-roof picnic shelter.
- ii. Install metal permanent picnic tables underneath the picnic shelter.
- iii. Reset basketball goals.
- iv. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park primarily the ball field and soccer field areas.
- v. Repair/Replace damaged fencing on the ball field.
- vi. Add additional infield mix – red aggregate.

**22 Indian Boundary South Park**

- i. Raise path on the south west side of the park that is always under water.
- ii. Repair/Replace existing “tees” on the Frisbee Golf Course.
- iii. Repair/Replace/Improve the “holes” on the Frisbee Golf Course.
- iv. Repair/Replace existing bridge across the creek.
- v. Remove bushes that were installed to border the mulch bins. Transplant to another location.
- vi. Install parking bumpers on the west end of the parking lot where the mulch bins had previously been.
- vii. Re-grade area north of the parking lot that holds water between the parking lot and the homesite.
- viii. Repair/Replace/Repaint existing guardrails at the ends of the culverts. Also, add reflective tape.
- ix. Repair erosion by the “fish gate” on the northwest side of the pond.
- x. Complete tree pruning and cleanup of entire creek line on west edge of park.

**23 Indian Trail School Park**

- i. Re-shingle/re-roof picnic shelter.
- ii. Install metal permanent picnic tables underneath the picnic shelter.\ Add additional infield mix – red aggregate.
- iii. Remove weeds/dirt/debris from concrete bottom culvert. Remove concrete bottom?
- iv. Remove weeds/dirt/debris from both ends of the creek.
- v. Repair/Replace/Repaint existing guardrails at the ends of the culverts and add reflective tape.

**24 Kinston Park (Kingston/Laurel Corner, Mallory Corner)**

- i. Remove weeds/dirt/debris from concrete bottom culvert. Remove concrete bottom?
- ii. Remove weeds/dirt/debris from both ends of the creek.
- iii. Repair/Replace/Repaint existing guardrails at the ends of the culverts and add reflective tape.
- iv. Remove sandbox.
- v. Re-grade the east side of playground. Return to original grade.
- vi. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park.

**25 Lakeside Park** - Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park. Remove debris from culverts. Replace existing rip rap at the end of culverts.

**26 Lake of the Glens Park**

- i. Repair damaged asphalt to the west of the playground.
- ii. Establish a plan for the management of the weeds that have grown in the low area of the far west section.
- iii. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf at the front section of this park and around the playground area.
- iv. Install a small picnic shelter like the two 10x10 shelters that are at the front of UC to provide a shaded area for parents to sit.

**27 Brookside Glen East Section**

- i. Establish a tree maintenance plan for the growth to the west of the path. Brush cut/prune Mark Tracy corner where trees and weeds have greatly encroached on the path.
- ii. Repair/replace the bike path from the far north corner heading east to 80<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Mark Tracy Corner).

**28 LaPorte Meadows Park** - Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park.

**29 Lighthouse Pointe Park** - Tree clearing, brush cutting, and tree pruning on the west end of the park running along the playground. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park. Remove bollard anchor and repair asphalt.

**30 Lincoln Way North Park** - Replace lighting in front of both of the signs, ground level only.

**31 Magnolia Park** - Improve the drainage of the swale that runs directly behind the **Laurel Drive**. There is a culvert on one side, and the water does not go anywhere.

**32 Odyssey Park**

- i. Install a sidewalk/path from existing sidewalk to the playground.
- ii. Address the low area in front of the playground. Re-grade and seed.
- iii. Improve the few tree groves with additional landscaping/borders/mulch.
- iv. Improve the landscaping around the arborvitaes on the south side of the park.
- v. Install two park benches by the playground.

**33 Plank Trail North Park** - Replace the damaged electrical box for the fountain.

**34 Plank Trail South Park** - Sand/stain or paint the gazebo. Remove the bollard and ground anchor. Repair the asphalt. Establish a turf that is sustainable in heavily shaded areas under mature trees.

**35 Ridgefield Park** - Tree clearing, brush cutting, and tree pruning on far northwest section of park. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park. Install multiple park benches along this site and along the path that extends west to 80th Ave.

**36 Rogus School Park**

- i. Remove erosion control wall on the south section of soccer area.
- ii. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass in the undeveloped southeast section of turf.
- iii. Install concrete/asphalt path from front Rogus School parking lot to the playground.
- iv. Improve landscaping around two established beds that were installed by the school at the south end of the soccer area.
- v. Establish a turf management plan to continually improve the turf grass on existing

soccer area. Still needs to be graded and seeded to fill in low areas and undulations.

**37 Summit Hill Junior High School Park**

- i. Repair/repaint/re-anchor the big soccer goals on the big field.
- ii. Paint the football goals on the big football field. Re-grade the low areas on the right field foul line of the boy's baseball field
- iii. Improve the drainage on the warning track of the girl's softball field.
- iv. Install the foul poles on the Girl's Softball Field.

**38 Union Creek Community Park**

**SSSRA Section**

- i. Re-surface and repaint the lines on the parking lot.
- ii. Install a new park identification sign at the front of the playground path.
- iii. Improve the turf areas leading into the playground area.
- iv. Install new landscape beds at front entrance to the playground area.
- v. Replace existing ADA parking signs.
- vi. Install an asphalt path from the north path behind the homes to the playground area.
- vii. Install new bridge leading from SSSRA building to Wildcat Football fields.
- viii. Install asphalt path from SSSRA to the bridge and from the bridge to the existing walking path by the Wildcat football fields.
- ix. Replace small sidewalk that leads from asphalt path to picnic shelter.
- x. Establish a turf management plan to improve the turf grass around the three playgrounds.
- xi. Remove the "musical" instruments around the playground area.

**39 Wildcat Football Section**

- i. Replace damaged and missing football goals on football practice field.
- ii. Tree clearing, brush cutting, and tree pruning on along the entire creek line throughout this section.
- iii. Install a large picnic shelter over the concrete area by the concession stand to provide and storm safety for spectators.

**40 Union Creek #5 Section**

- i. Remodel/paint/improve the small bathrooms by the ball field.
- ii. Replace/repair damaged fencing throughout this ball field.
- iii. Install a warning track on this field.
- iv. Establish turf management plan to improve turf grass around ball field.
- v. Install a small picnic shelter (10'x10') to provide minimal shade for spectators watching the game.

**41 Union Creek Skate Park Section**

- i. Remove all boulders from around the band shell and the fire pit.
- ii. Replace/repair dirty granite parking area on outer loop of parking lot.
- iii. Recut the outside of the sand volleyball court. Add additional sand and replace the existing net.
- iv. Repair/replace damage asphalt path leading into the picnic shelter storage area.

#### **42 Union Creek Top Section**

- i. Replace/repair/resurface all asphalt throughout this section.
- ii. Install “Welcome to Union Creek Ball Field” sign just across the bridge.
- iii. Include a landscape bed.
- iv. Repair/replace turf on the outside of the ball fields.
- v. Repair/replace damaged fencing on all four ball fields.
- vi. Provide shaded areas either through the planting of trees or installing a picnic shelter or canopy.
- vii. Install indestructible informational signage on the concession stand.
- viii. Move batting cages to the grass area to the west of Field #4.
- ix. FSBL to construct a permanent storage area to eliminate housing equipment in the concession stand.
- x. Replace dead/damaged trees along far west path leading into complex.
- xi. Install mister apparatus to provide cooling areas during summer, which
- xii. would be like a spray park feature tied into irrigation system.

#### **43 White Oak Park**

- i. Establish a turf management plan to improve turf grass throughout this park.
- ii. Replace/Repaint park identification sign.

#### **44 Woodlawn Park**

- i. Install asphalt path around park.
- ii. Remove bike rack.
- iii. Update all existing signage (i.e, fish rules, park rules, etc.)

#### **45 Multiple Parks**

- i. Update all park identification signs so that they are all new and uniform.
- ii. Include park rules on or near these signs to eliminate multiple posts throughout the parks.
- iii. Install new digital information signs at Community Center, Community Park, Union Creek Park, and Square Links Golf Course to replace changeable letter signs.
- iv. Repair/repaint/replace the safety posts along Mary Drew Parkway and the parking lot of Skate Park section at Union Creek and bike path on St. Francis Road.
- v. Repair/replace/reset all playground timbers at all parks.
- vi. Repair/replace/re-paint all picnic tables in all parks.
- vii. Repair/replace/re-paint all park benches in all parks.

## APPENDIX B: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This section encompasses a comparative analysis of regional of Park District amenities and capacities. The rationale behind this investigation is that a localized comparison offers a more accurate analysis of needs and potential deficiencies. It should serve as a tool to benchmark amenities and services and to encourage agencies to maintain their own unique features and quality of life. This approach is consistent with National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recommendations.

Since the FSPD community still has the capacity to grow, this type of comparison could be considered important because districts/communities that are still developing and growing may be able to make significant additions to amenity offerings. This opportunity is due to the fact that FSPD's land acquisition potential is not as limited as other suburban locations. The comparison also provides a good understanding of the FSPD's current offerings to residents.

The comparison includes recreation and park agencies that are adjacent or in regional proximity to the FSPD, comparable in demographics to the FSPD or agencies that are in mature communities.

The comparison includes the quantification of amenities that are traditionally found in recreation and park agencies and common to most of those agencies included in the analysis. It also includes specialty amenities that some residents of the FSPD have identified as wants or needs. The population of each and the number of total acres of park lands provide a viable comparison.

When preparing an assessment comparing the offerings of park and recreation agencies, it is important to recognize that side by side comparisons of the quantity of any amenity is not a comparison that is viable or even appropriate unless the population numbers of the districts are almost identical. Clearly a community of 8,000 people is likely to have fewer soccer fields than a community of 50,000; a difference that translates to any amenity. Therefore, it is important to compare the FSPD to other agencies based on the ratio of an amenity to the population. As such, the two columns in the Comparative Analysis Chart that are of key importance are the Average per 1000 Population and the FSPD per 1000 Population, where the ratio of amenities to population are definitive.

For this analysis, the population, acreage and amenities are totaled and then divided by the 22 communities or districts in this analysis to get an average for each comparison element. The acreage and amenities are then divided by the average population (in thousands) to provide the ratio of each amenity that is compared with the FSPD.

The comparison analysis does assume some minor measure of inconsistency given a variety of types of a single amenity that are simply identified on district web-sites and promotional materials, as an amenity without differentiating the type. For example, the reporting of a basketball facility could include a full court or be a simple three-way basket often found at elementary school parks. In all cases, unless specific alternative documentation was readily

available, the Illinois Association of Park District's listing of amenities, as provided by the individual districts, was used for comparison purposes.

The FSPD is shown to provide an amenity to population service ratio that is higher than the average of the twenty-two agencies in most categories. These results are based on the FSPD's commitment to meeting community needs that have been expressed throughout the years as the FSPD areas have been developed. When these results are combined with the overall quality of these same facilities, it is evident that the FSPD offers its residents facilities and amenities that are relevant and fit the needs of the community.

While other facilities and amenities are provided in some agencies that the FSPD does not have, there is not a perceived deficiency or public expression of need for many of these facilities or amenities. Public opinion, in fact, expressed a desire to maintain the un-built open space now offered and to focus on maintaining and enhancing existing facilities and amenities first. As such, the ability of the the FSPD to provide above-average amenity to population ratios in most categories which are important to its residents is a noteworthy accomplishment.



## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC RECREATION AMENITIES

	Addison	Bensenville	Buffalo Grove	Des Plaines	Downers Grove	Elk Grove	Glen Ellyn	Glenview	Lisle	Lombard	Mt. Prospect	Northbrook	Oak Brook	Rolling Meadows	Schaumburg	Streamwood	Wheaton	Wood Dale	Elmhurst	Morton Grove	Frankfort Square Park District	Mokena	Tinley Park	Totals	Average Per Public Rec. Agency	National Average Public Rec. Per 1,000 P	
<u>Population (in 1,000's)</u>	45	25	44	59	50	35	35	53	33	42	58	35	9	20	72	37	55	14	44	23	18	23	50	879	38.22	36.5	
<u>Total Acres</u>	340	330	419	381	603	474	326	739	392	441	507	506	428	164	1,183	354	851	156	462	50	700	252	431	10,489	456.04	11	
<u>Natural Area Acres</u>	55	25		100	175	20	161	180	90	50	2	14	200	7	250	50	227	21	30	17	250	0	67	1,991	86.57	0.45	
<u>Total Operating Budget (in millions)</u>	10	9	18	14	11	26	12	32	9	8	17	23	8	5	23	3.5	30	5	17	5	4	7	9	306	13.28		
<b>Amenity:</b>																											
Park Sites	25	20	49	54	49	43	29	50	36	18	26	21	9	11	105	42	54	14	25	14	36	21	40	791	34.39		
Ball Fields	25	17	36	18	17	29	31	55	41	22	41	25	6	10	49	14	30	12	32	13	20	21	41	605	26.30	0.672	
Soccer	6	4	30	5	14	29	17	37	10	14	33	13	13	8	17	8	25	5	34	5	8	6	25	366	15.91	0.396	
Tennis Courts	22	5	26	20	17	19	8	51	24	11	19	22	30	15	43	7	17	4	33	11	15	8	6	433	18.83	0.488	
Basketball Courts	12	9	40	18	12	25	5	36	14	5	14	5	9	5	29	13	13	5	14	10	2	8	12	315	13.70	0.382	
Playgrounds	2	10	51	27	24	33	21	39	28	15	21	16	7	9	57	53	24	11	18	13	33	22	30	564	24.52	0.626	
Pools/Aquatics	2	1	2	3	2	4	2	3	0	1	3	2	3	2	4	3	1	1	3	2	1	0	2	47	2.04	0.053	
Skate Parks	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	15	0.65	0.015	
Indoor Ice Rink	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0.30	0.008	
Outdoor Ice Skating	5	2	6	5	4	3	3	2	1	2	3	3	1	0	14	1	6	0	0	0	2	0	2	65	2.83	0.082	
Golf Courses	0.5	2	0	1.5	0.5	1	0	1.5	0.5	0.5	1	2	1	0	2	0	1.5	1	0.5	0	1	0	0	18	0.78	0.021	