

Parks Master Plan Updates: Survey 1 and Public Meeting 1 Results

Maggie Study

Strategic Parks Planning and Assessment Intern

June 17, 2026

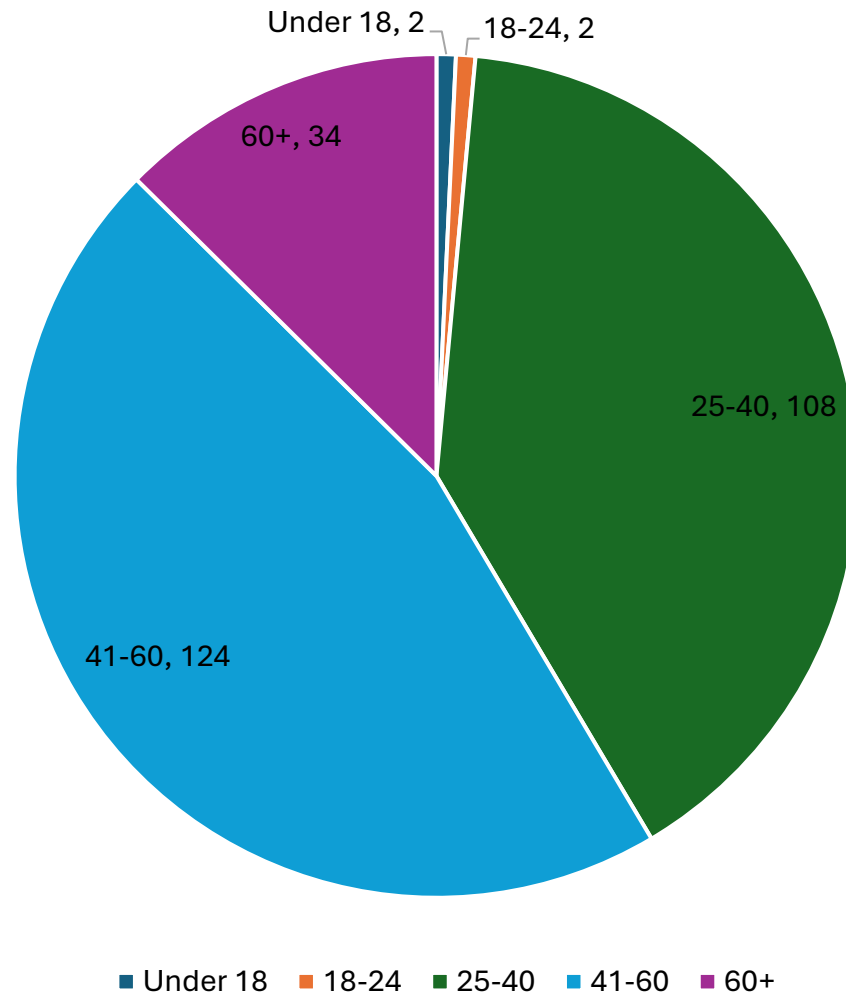
Survey Overview

270 Respondents

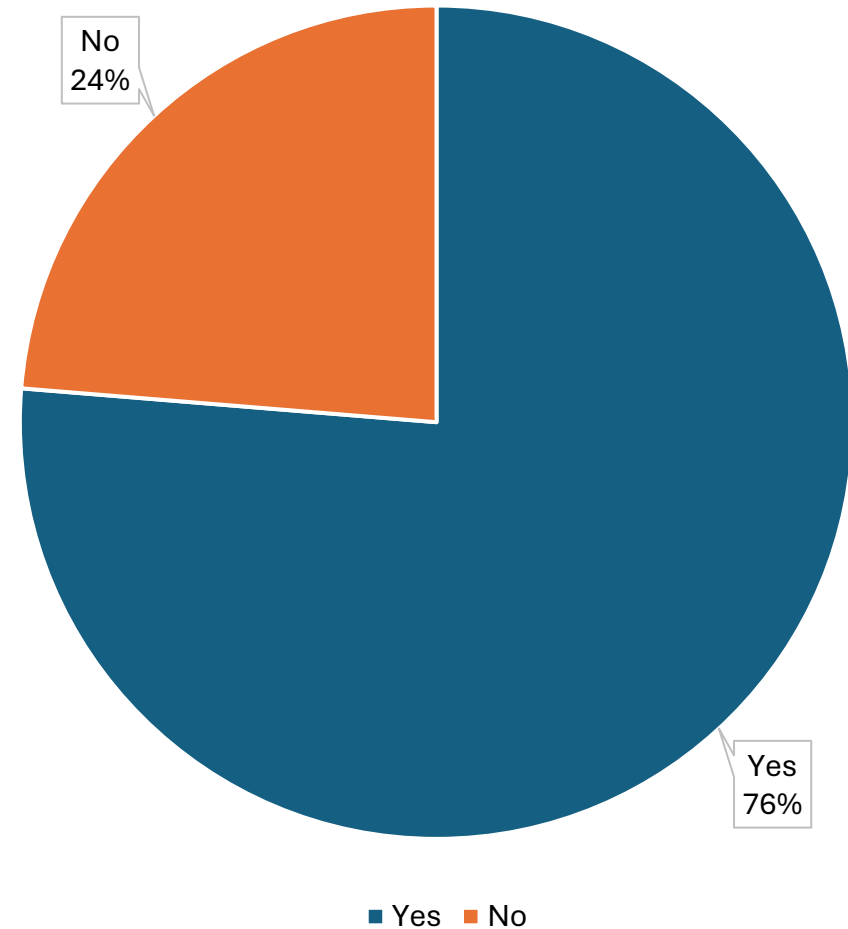
The survey was
open from April 1-
May 1.

Age Demographics

Age Range

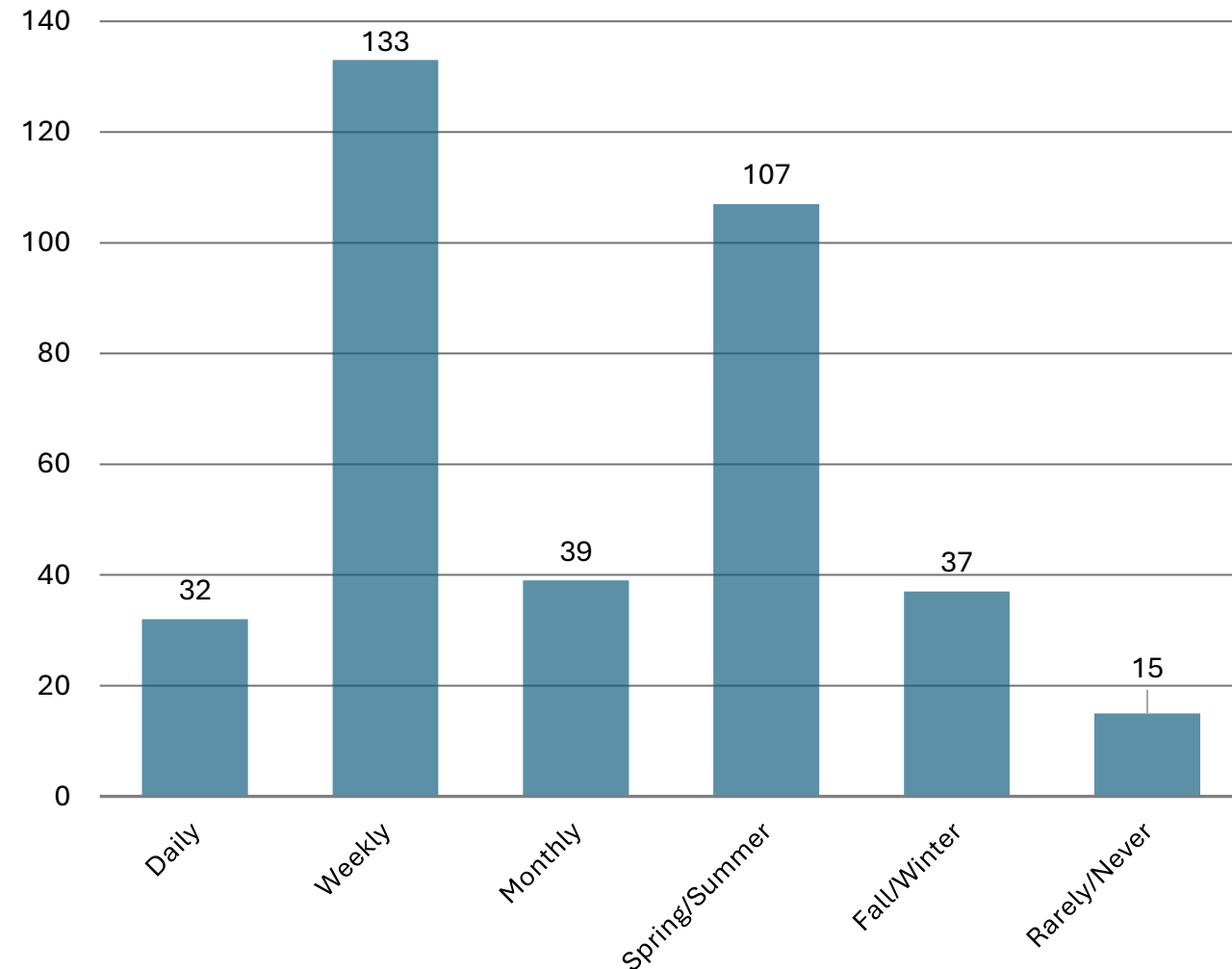


Do You Have Children Under 18 In Your Household?

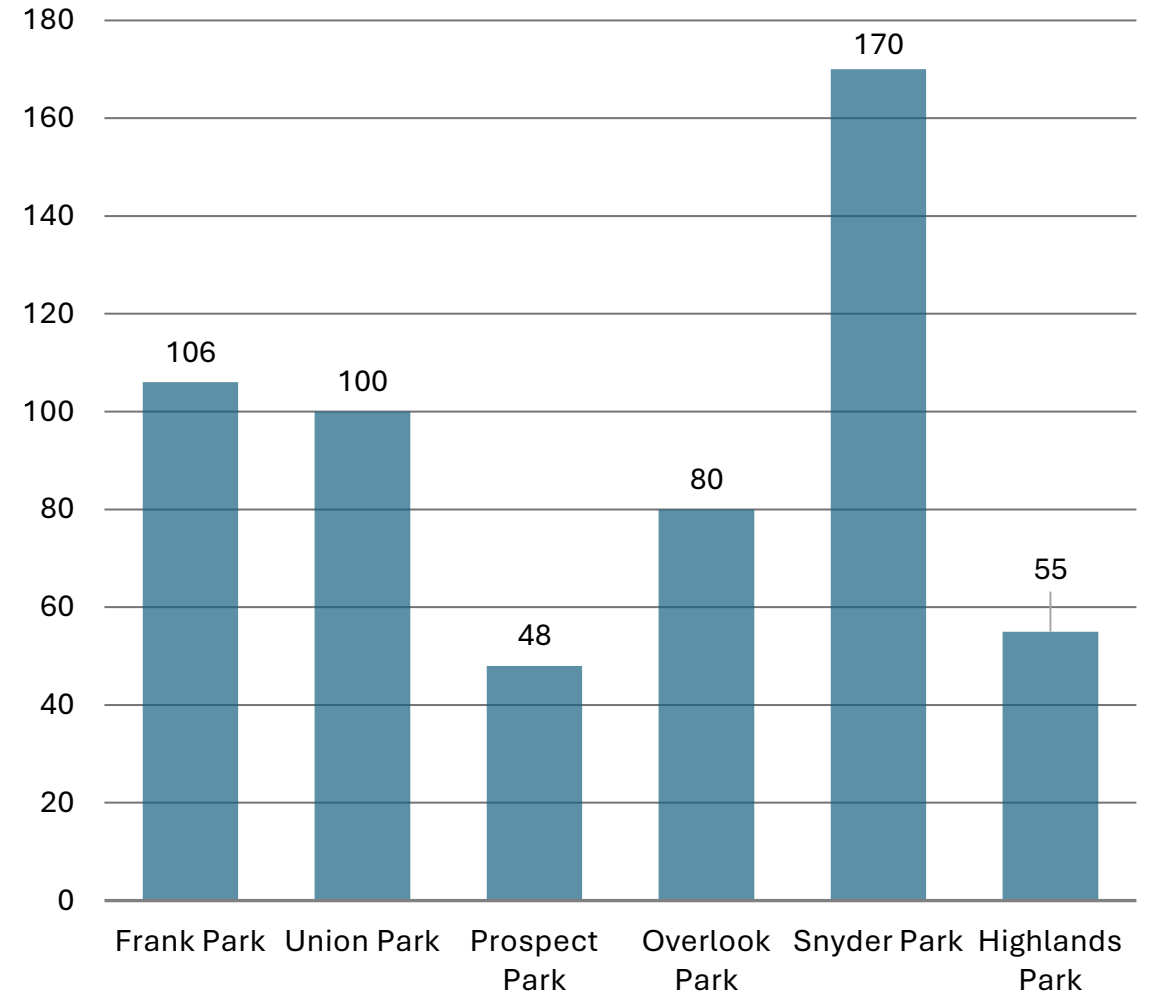


Frequency of Use

How Often do you Use Whitehall Parks?

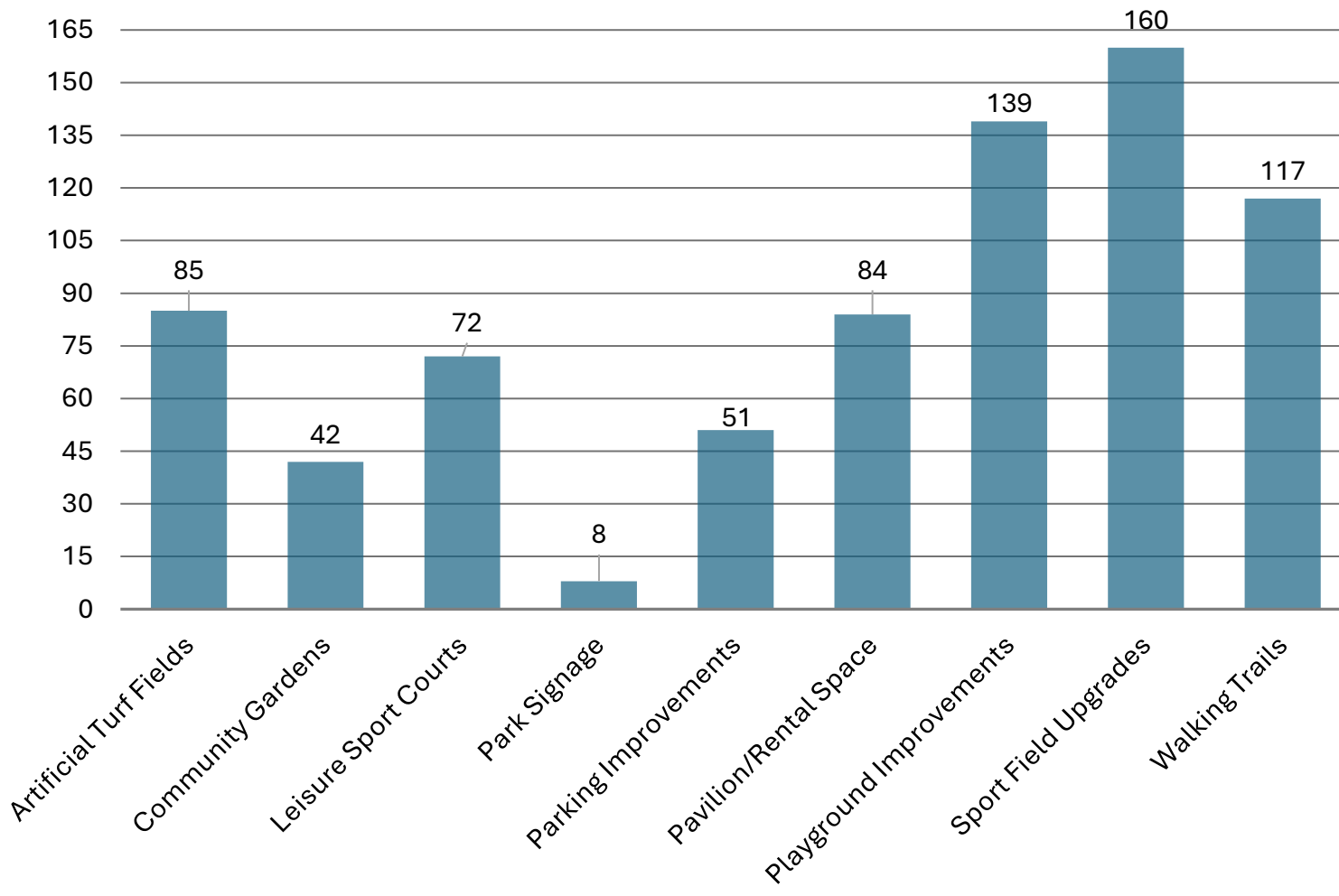


Which Parks do you Visit the Most?

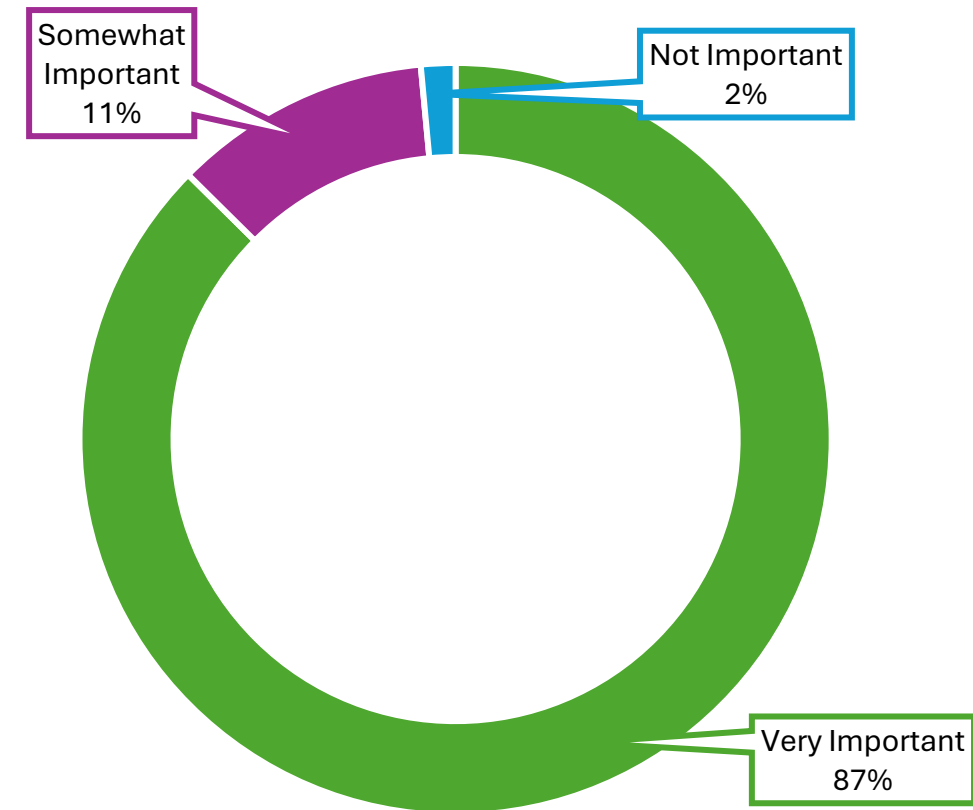


Importance of Programs

What Are the Most Important Park Projects?
(Choose up to 3)

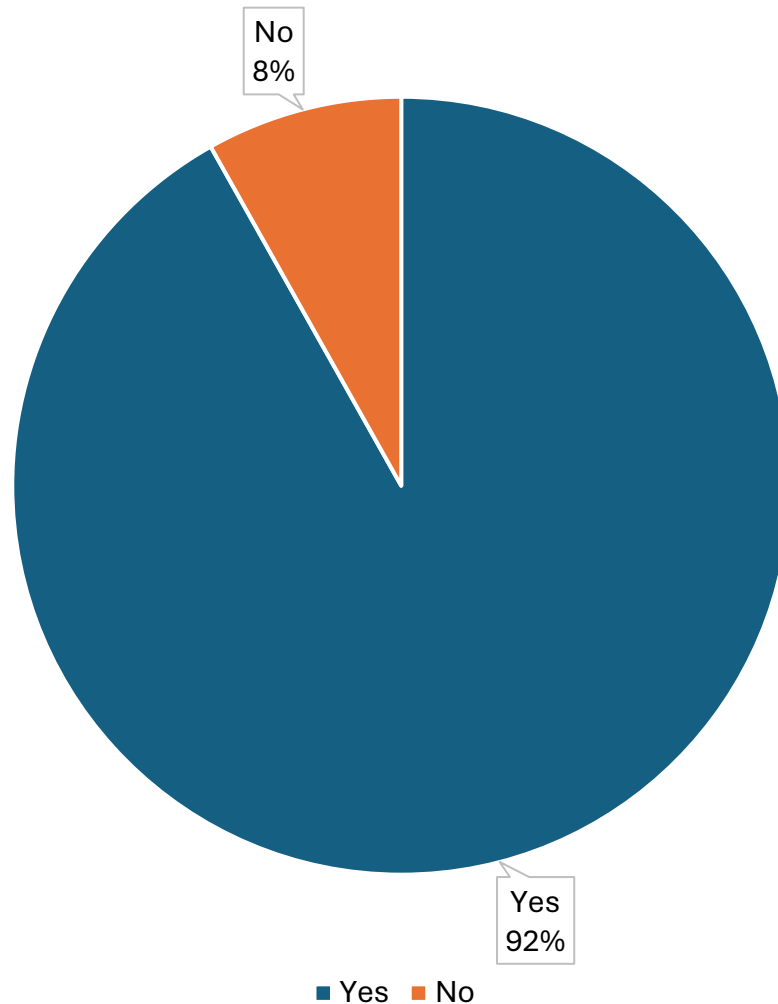


How Important are Parks, Recreation Programs, and Open Space to You?



Safety

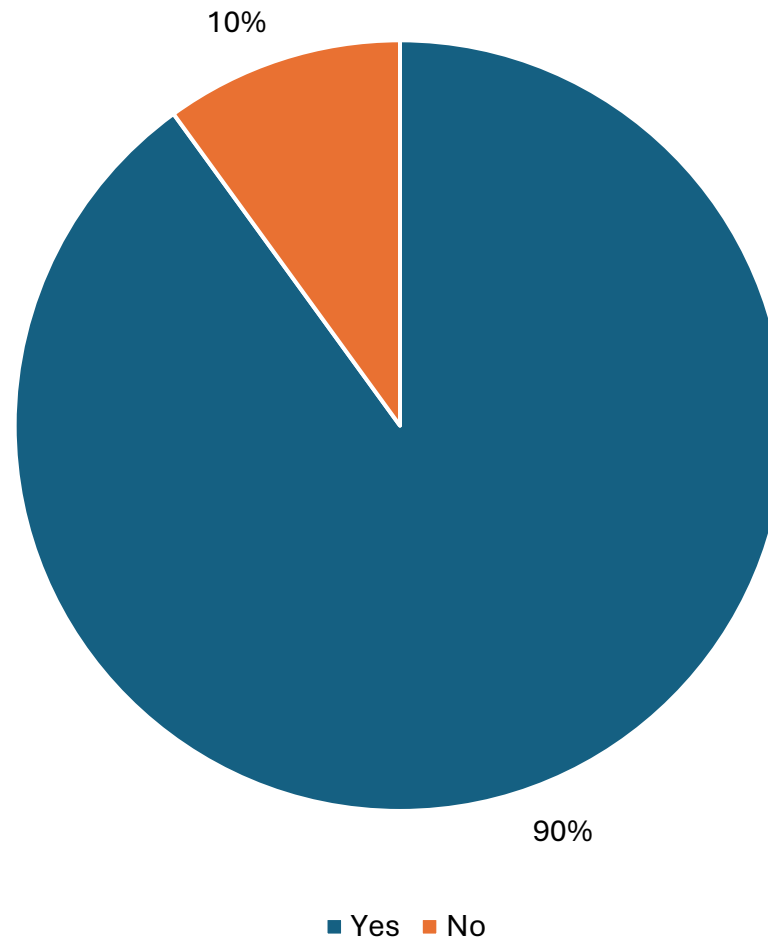
Do You Feel Safe in the Parks?



- No: 8% (22 respondents)
- Yes: 92% (248 respondents)
- 24 respondents feel unsafe at Prospect Park.
 - Reasons provided include feeling uncomfortable, not wanting to leave kids alone, and uneasy during kid's sports practices and games.
- 5 respondents feel unsafe at Snyder Park.
 - Reasons provided include unsafe and old playground equipment.
- 1 respondent stated that Overlook Park needs more lighting to improve safety.

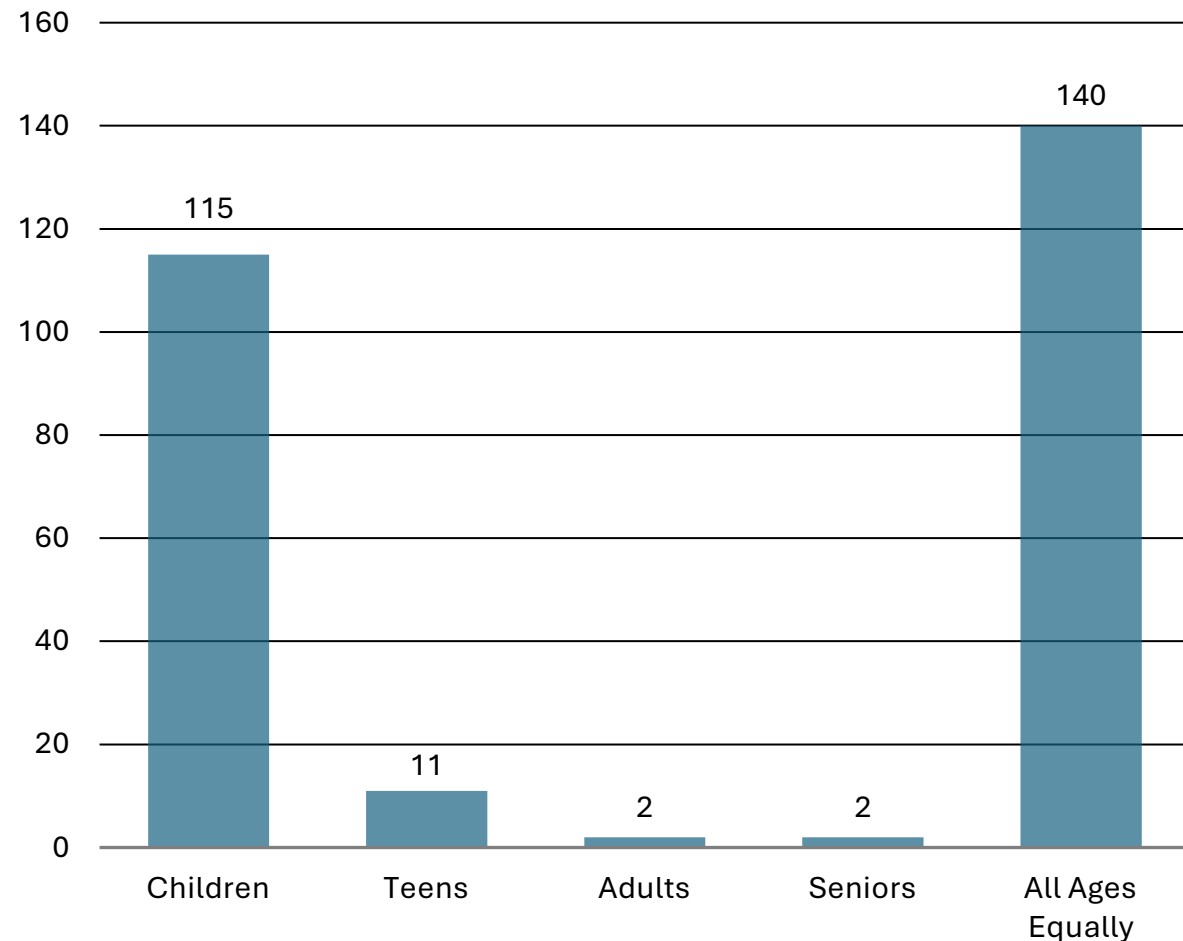
Lighting

Should the Parks Have Lighting?

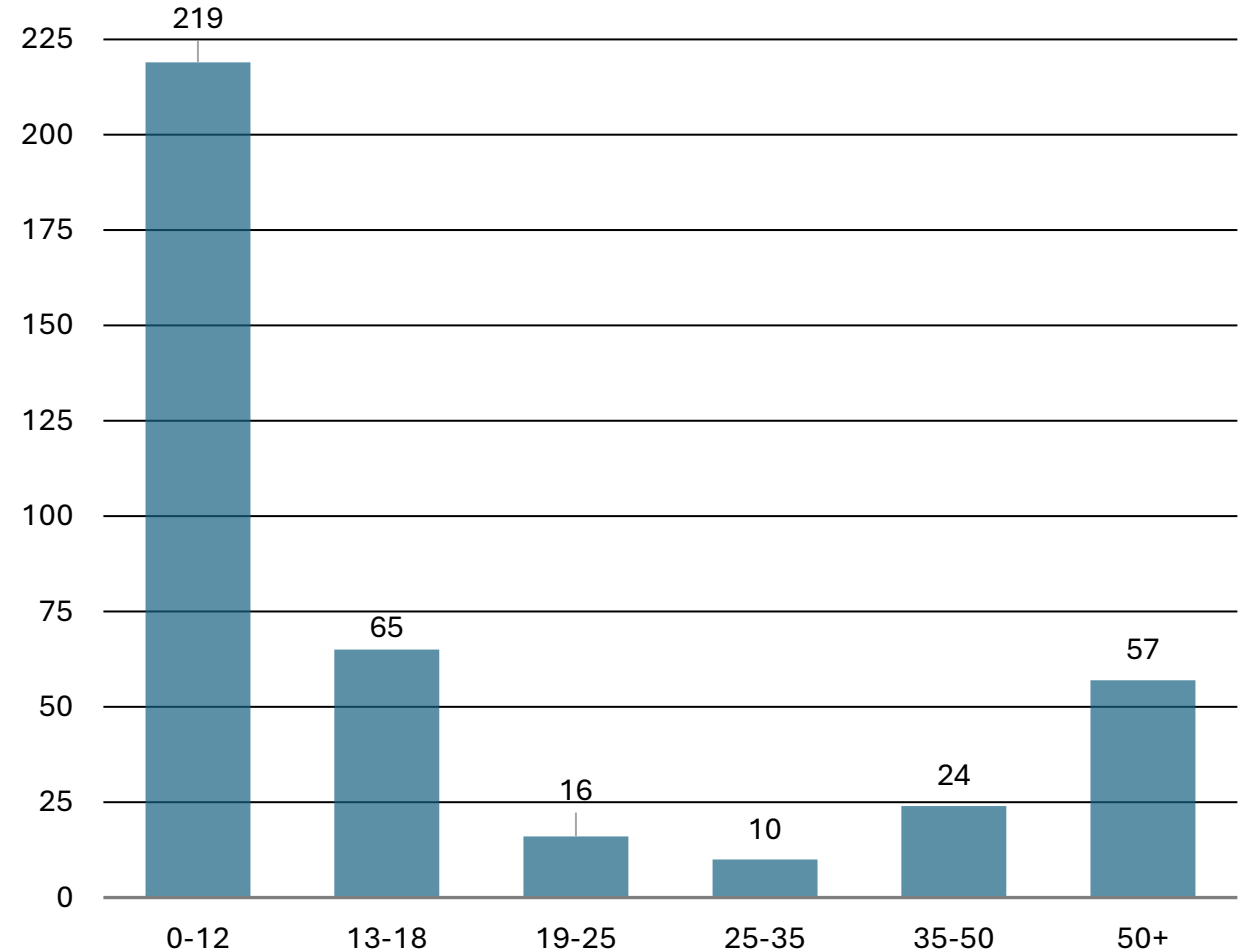


Age-Oriented Amenities

What Age Groups Should Parks Serve the Most?

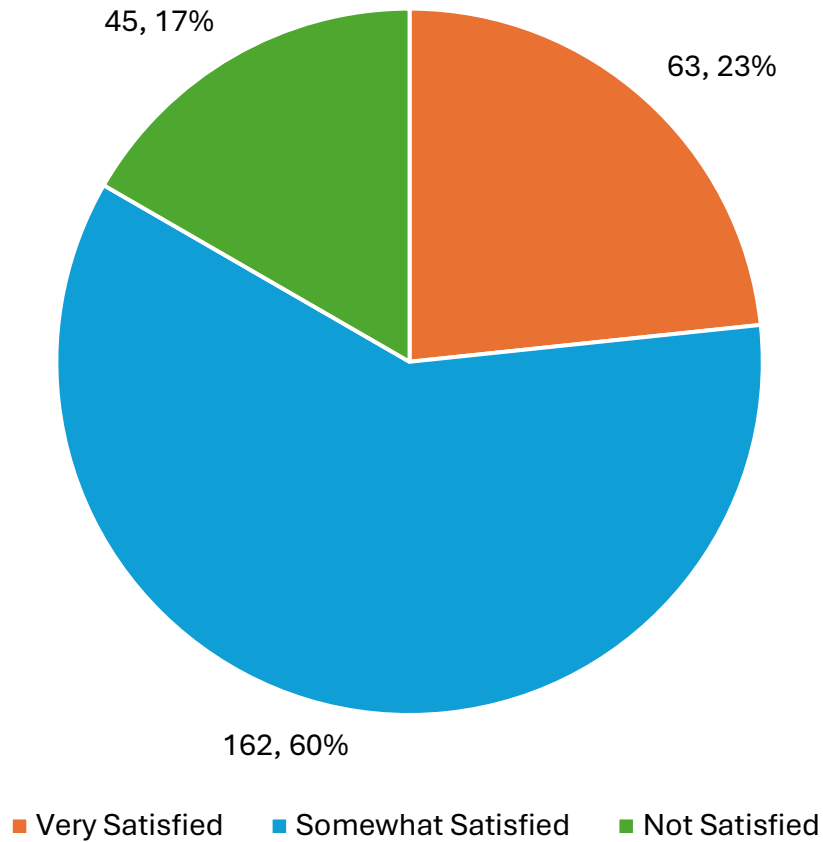


What Age Groups Are the Best Served Currently? (Select All that Apply)

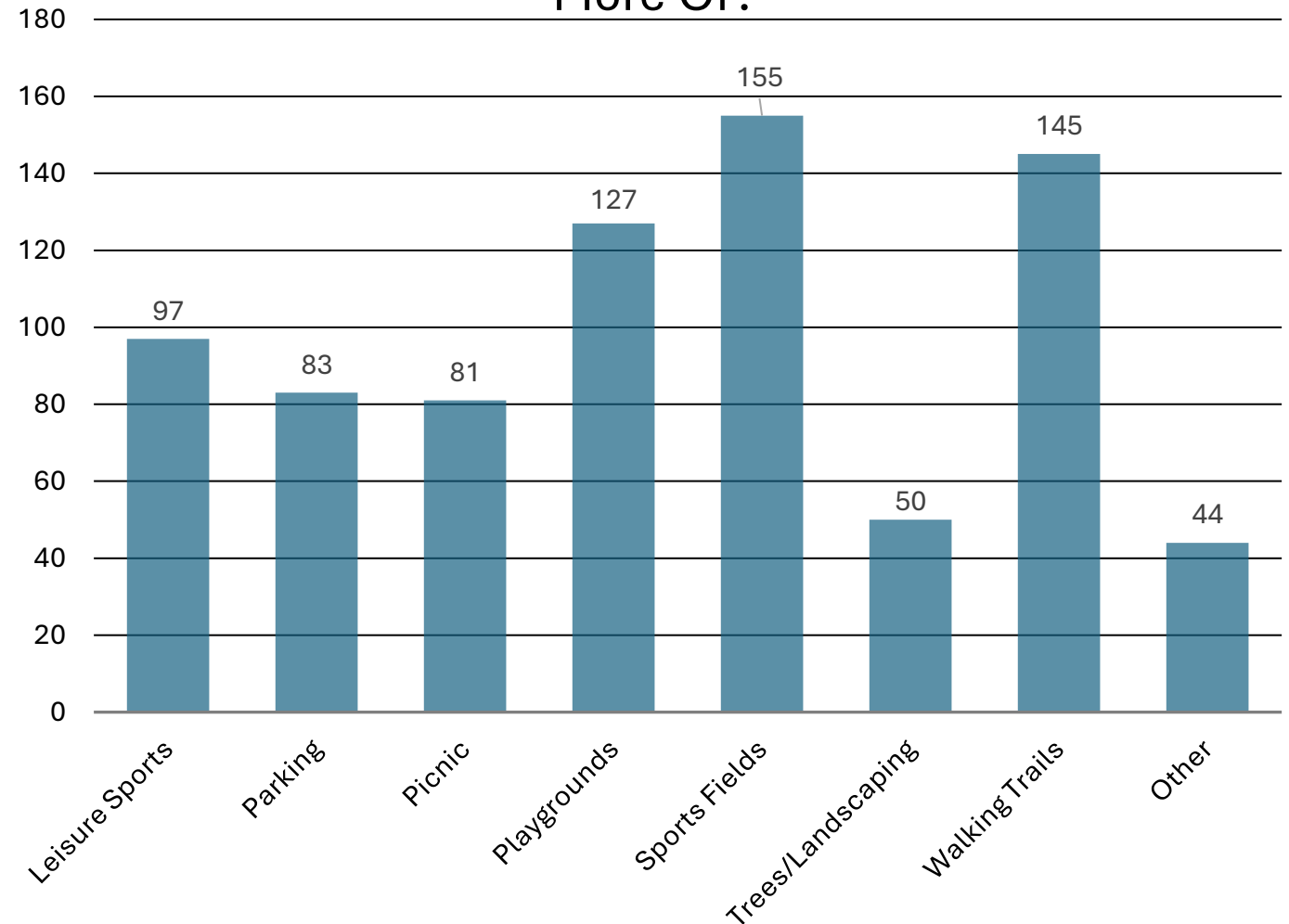


Satisfaction and New Amenities

What is your Overall Satisfaction with the Whitehall Borough Parks System?

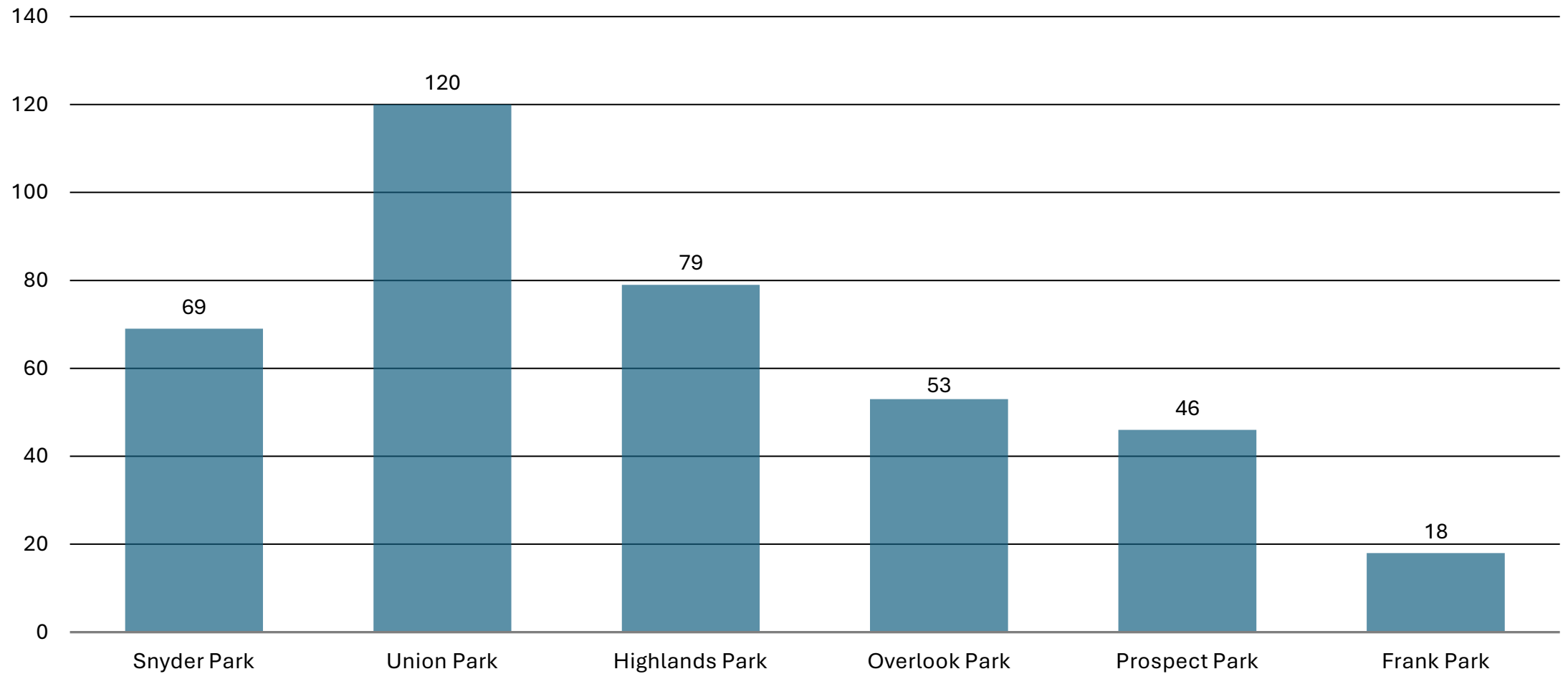


What Amenities do Whitehall Parks Need More Of?



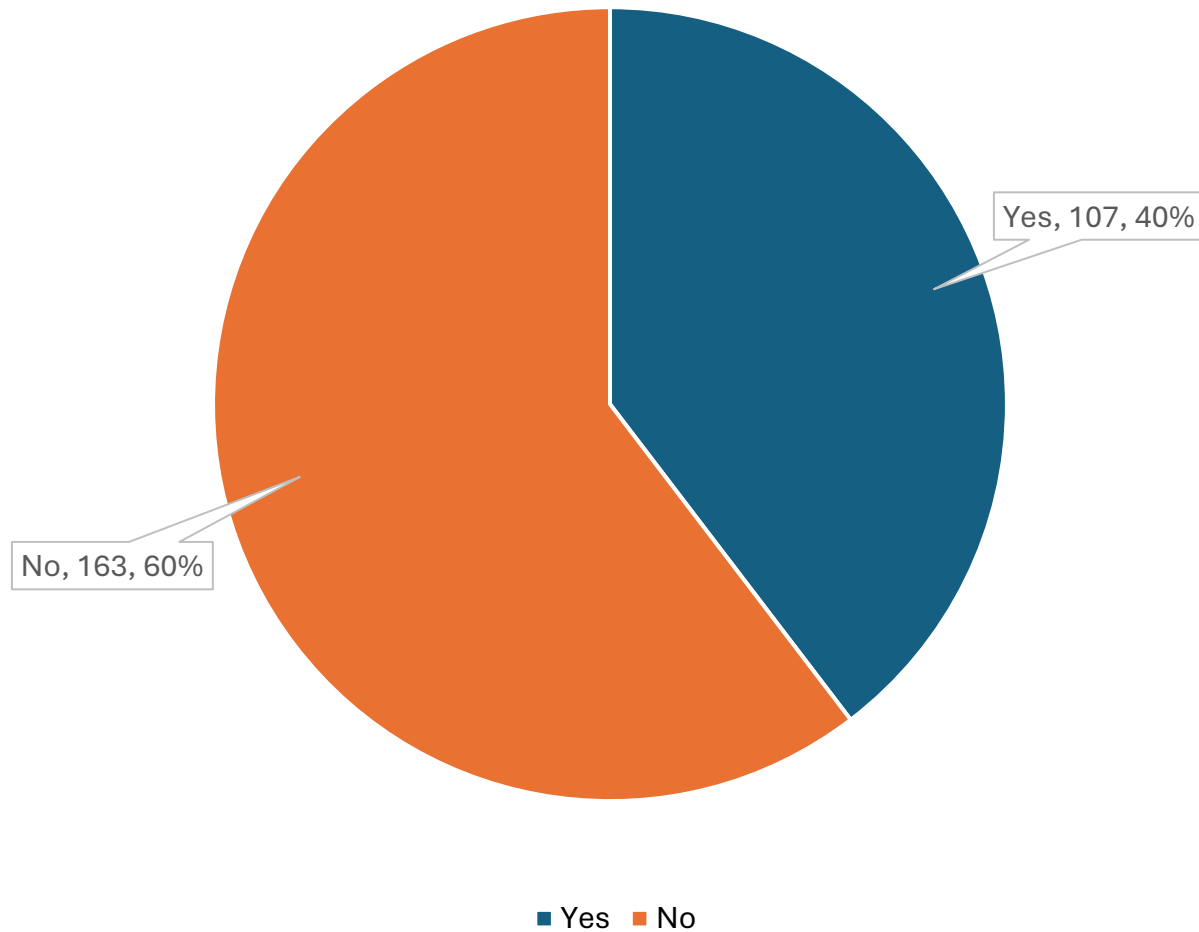
Sports Fields

What Park Has the Best Sports Fields? (Choose up to 2)

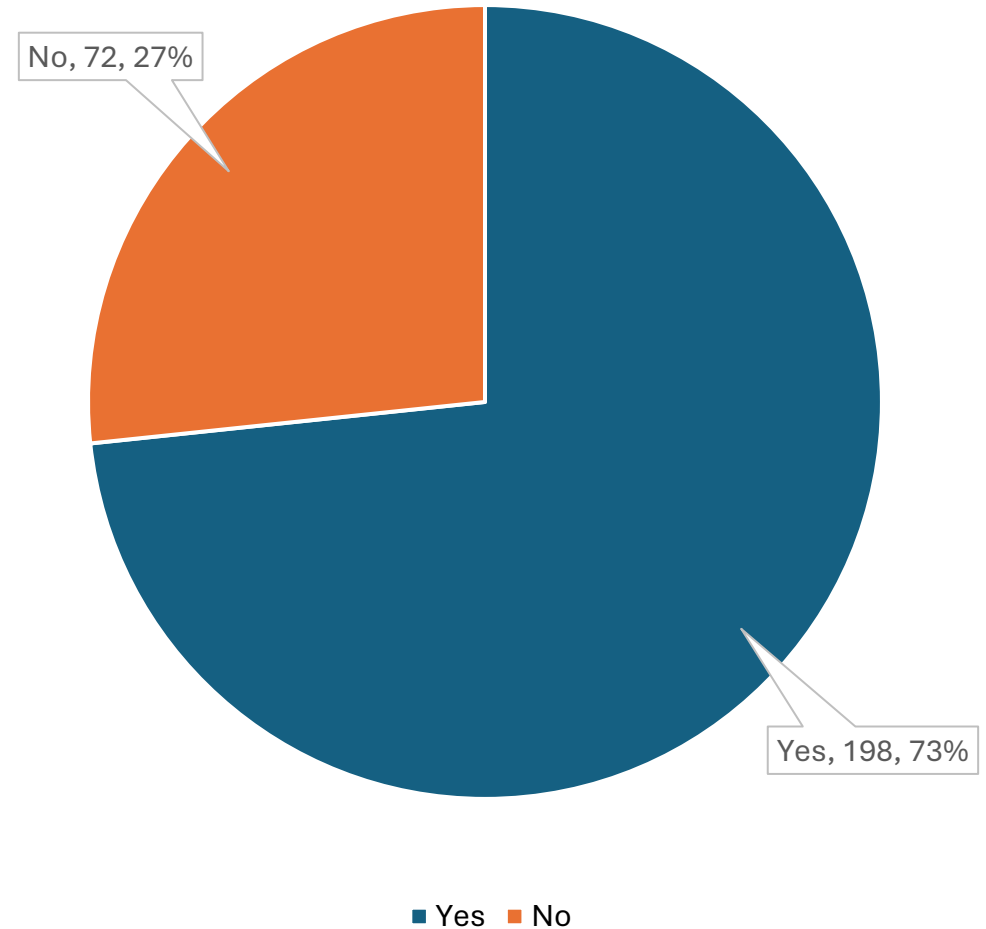


Sports Fields cont.

Should Each Park have a Baseball Field?

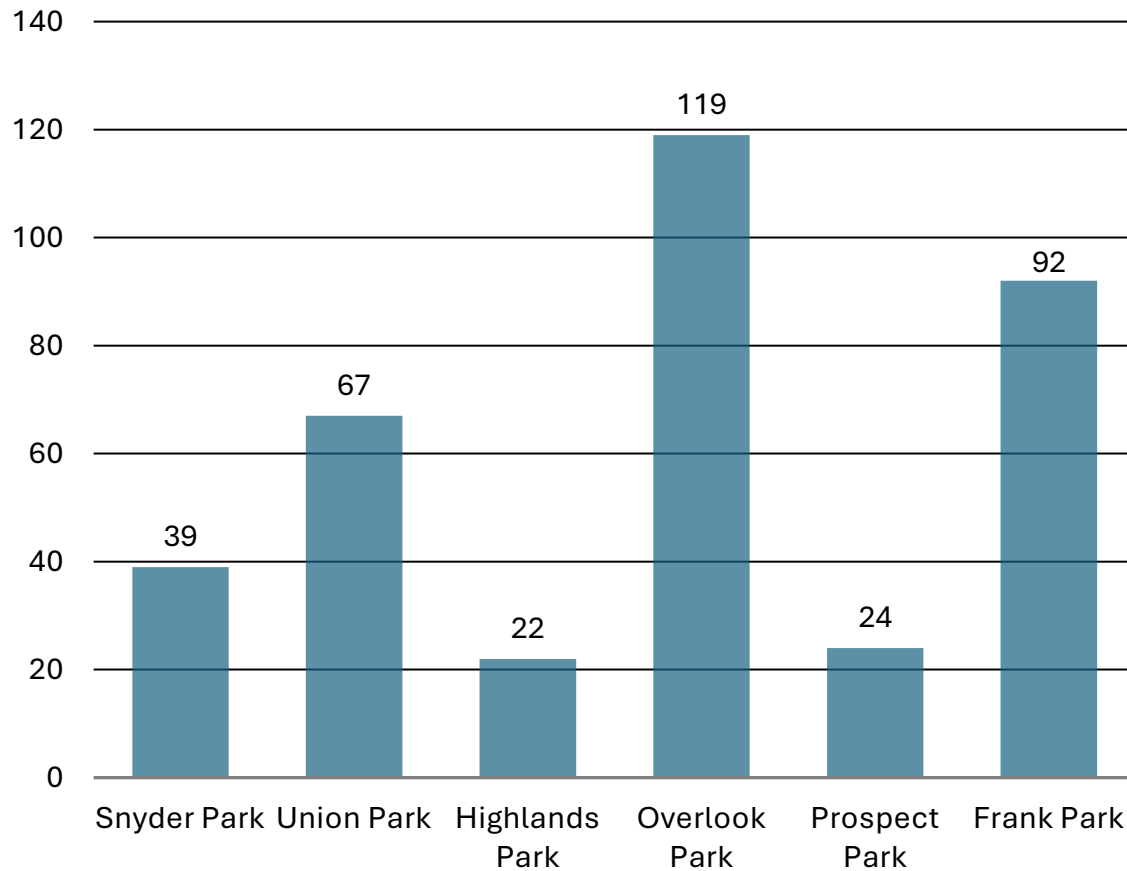


Should Each Park have a Sports Field?

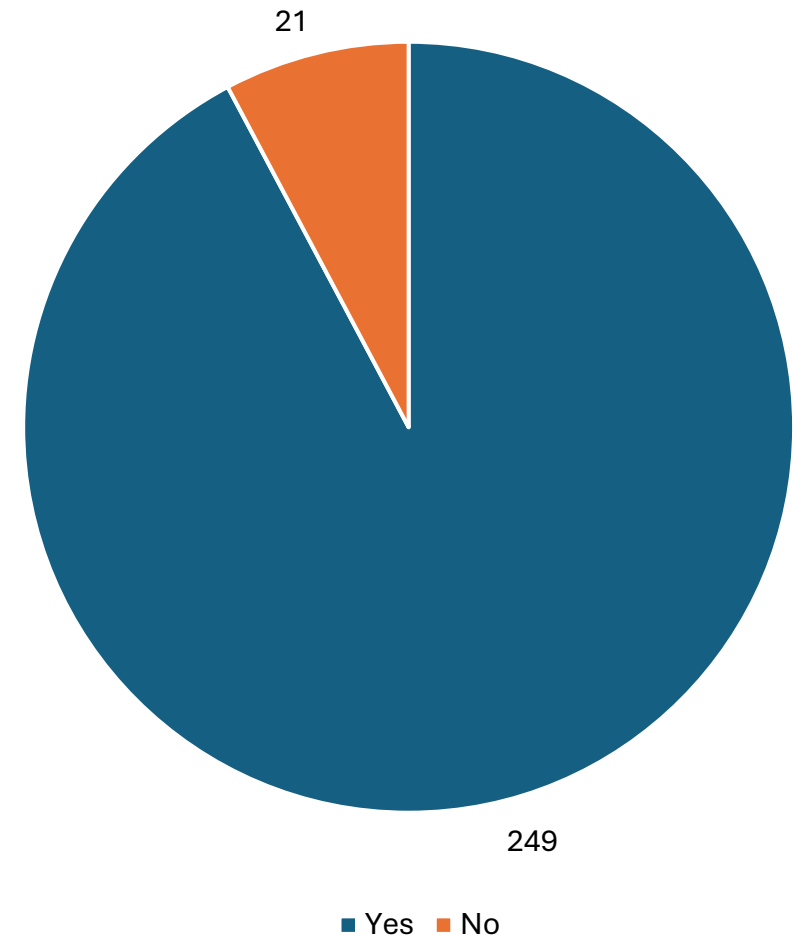


Playgrounds

What Park has the Best Playground?
(Choose up to 2)

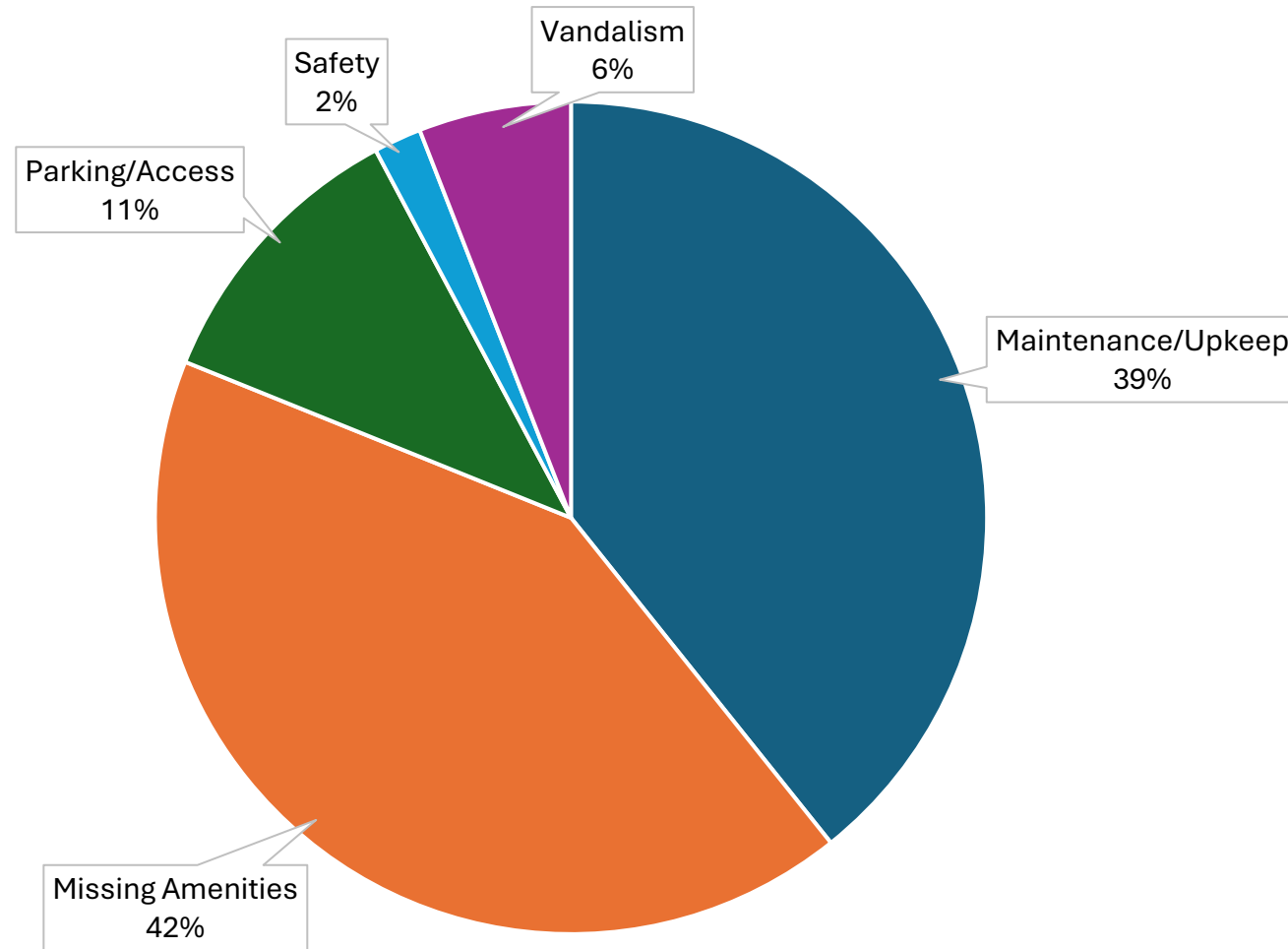


Should Each Park have a Playground?



Perceived Issues in the Parks Systems

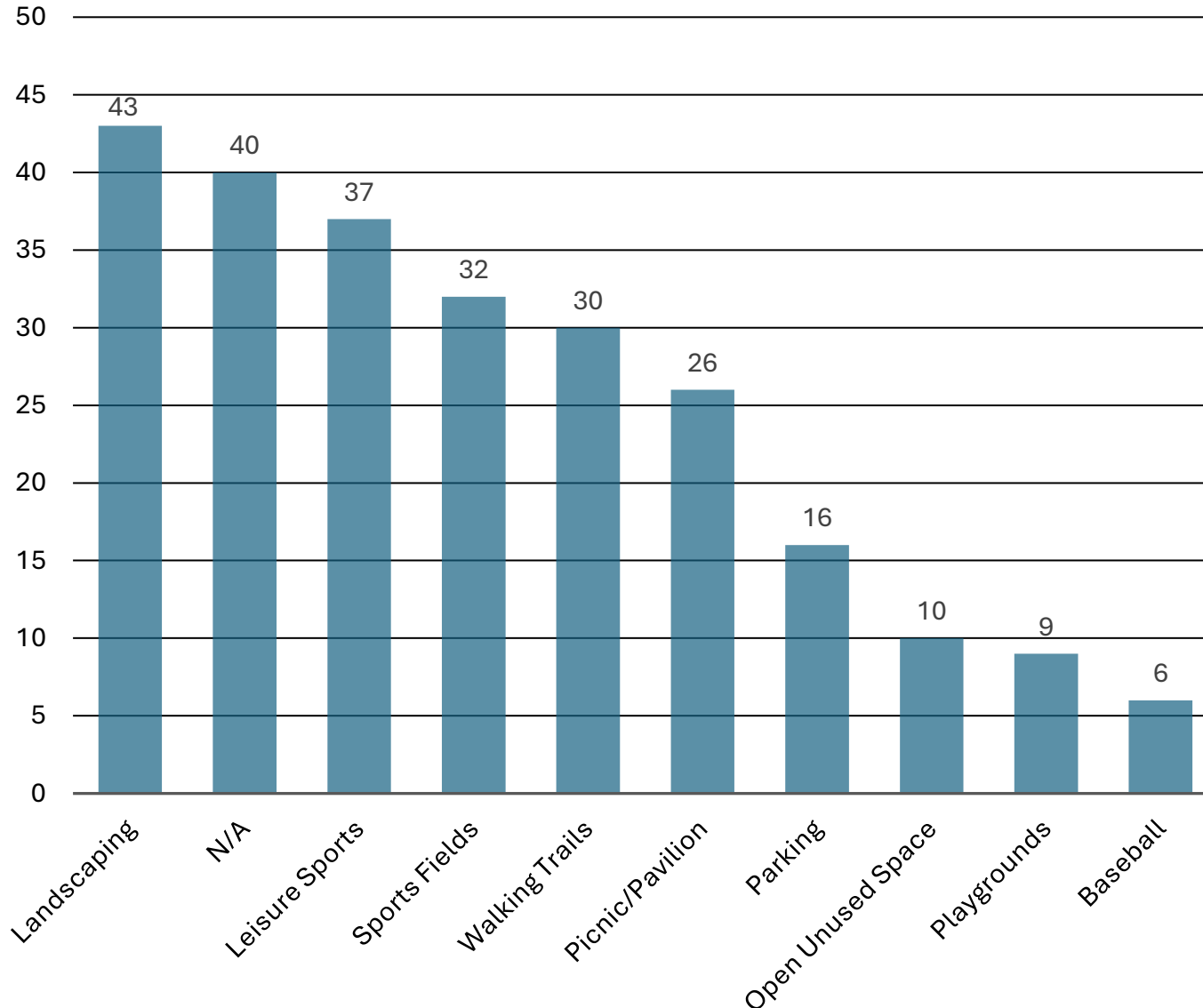
What is the Biggest Issue the Park System Faces?



■ Maintenance/Upkeep ■ Missing Amenities ■ Parking/Access ■ Safety ■ Vandalism

Open-Ended Survey Questions

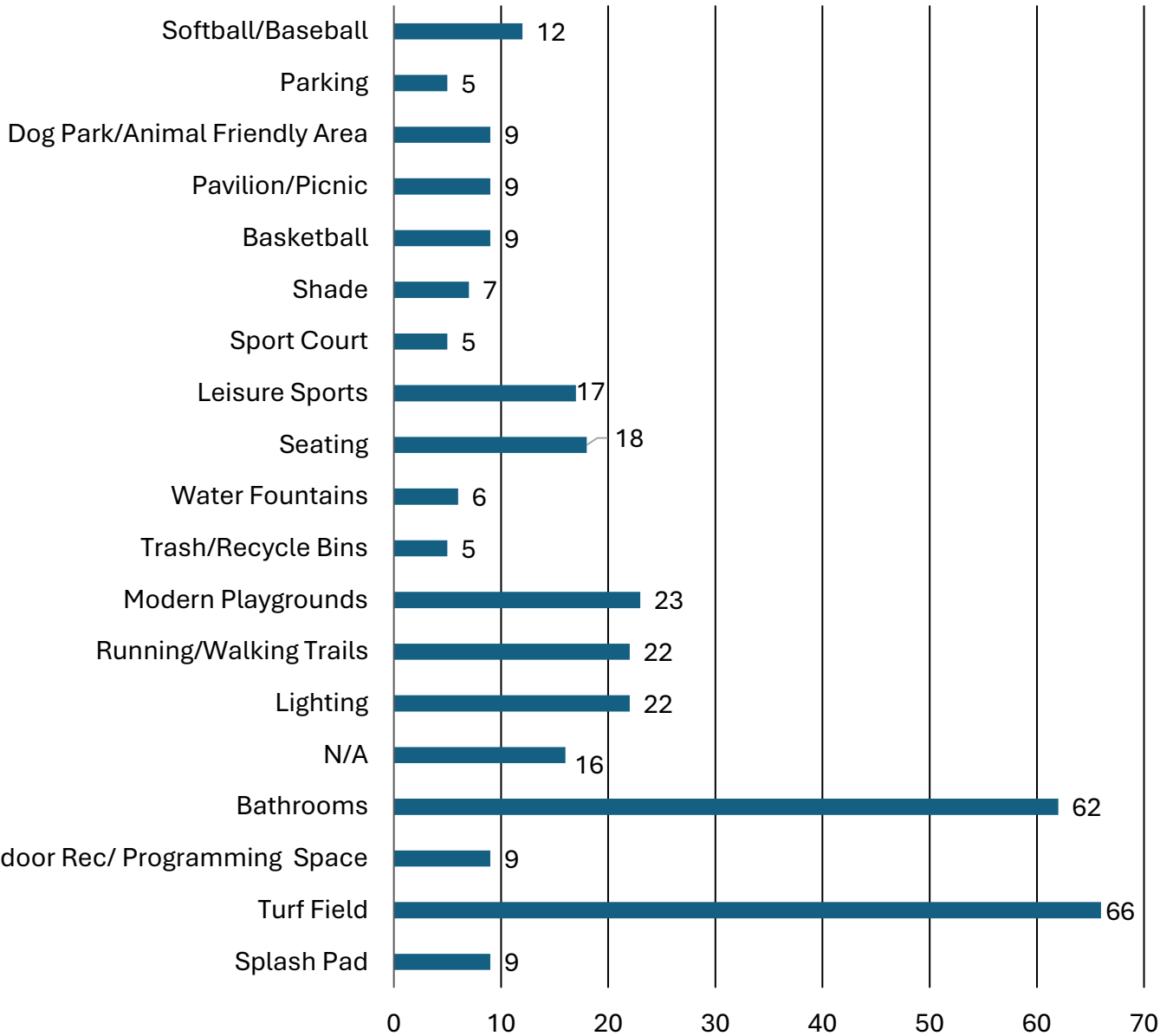
What is the LEAST Important to You at a Park?



4 or less each of the following responses:

- Water fountain
- Fountains
- Basketball
- Dog Areas
- Benches
- Skate Park
- Zipline
- Fences
- Concessions
- “Muddy areas”
- Lighting
- Volleyball courts
- Signage

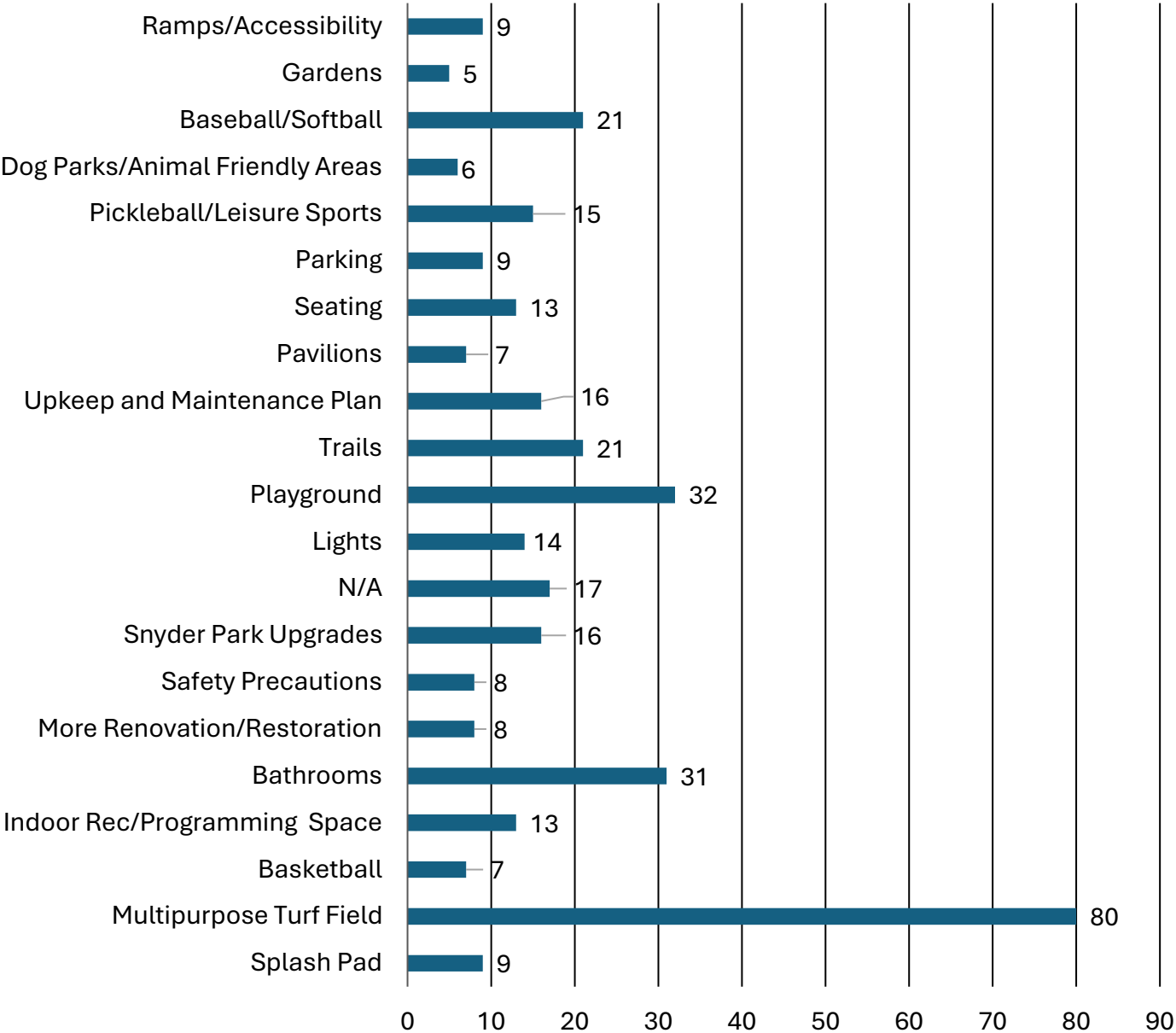
What Amenities Are Needed But Currently NOT Provided?



4 or less each of the following responses:

- Open space
- Signage
- Climbing structures
- Bike trails
- Accessible equipment
- Skate park/pump track
- Swings
- Gardens
- Landscaping
- Volleyball nets
- Sidewalks
- Fitness equipment

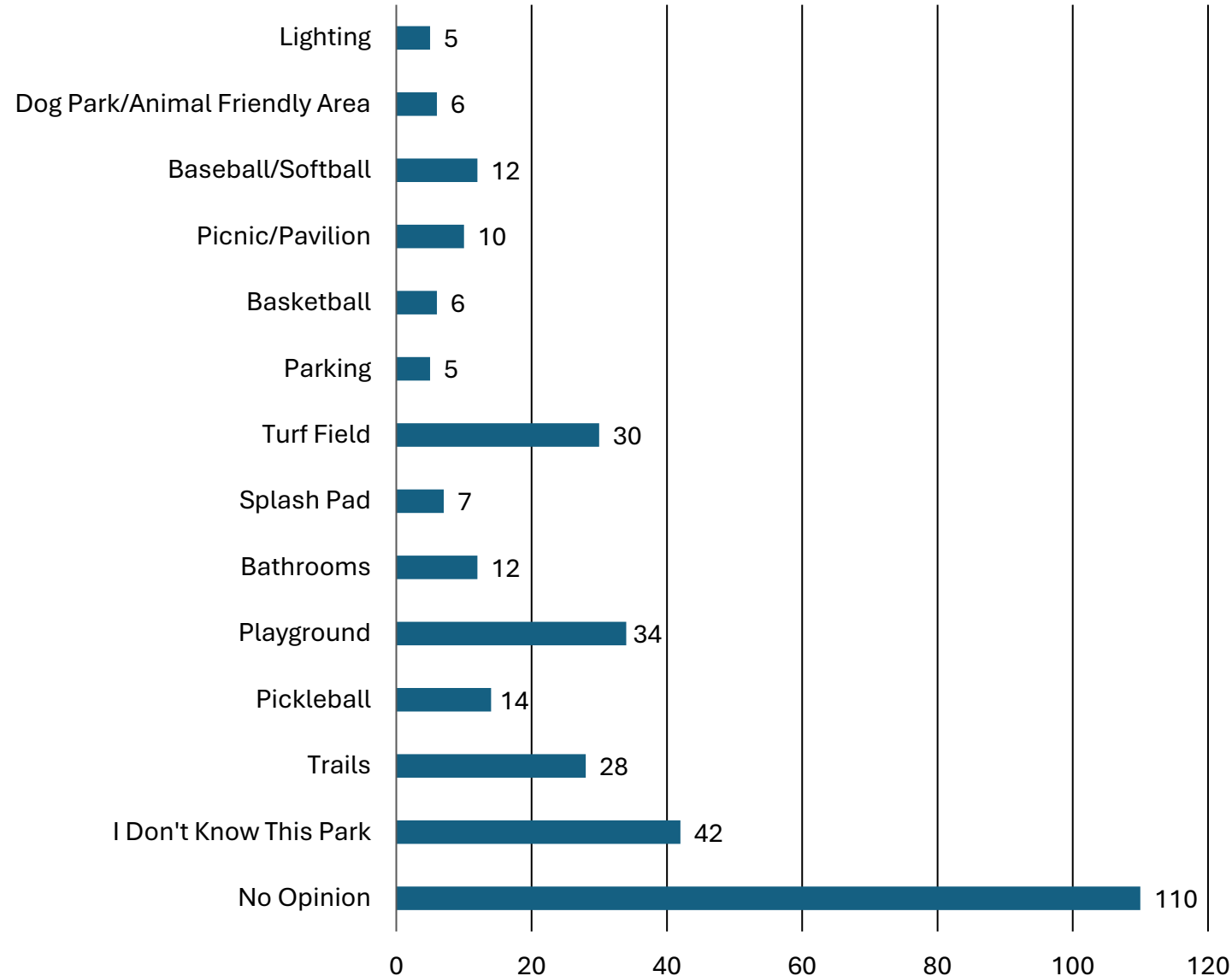
What Should Be Included in the Parks Master Plan Update?



4 or less each of the following responses:

- Dugouts, batting cages
- Multi-use spaces
- Trash/recycling bins
- Sustainability goals
- Water fountain
- Fences
- Shade
- Climbing structures
- Prospect upgrades
- Purchase land for more parks
- Union upgrades
- Online reservation system
- Better signage
- Hockey
- Swings
- Timelines for improvements
- More rec. programming

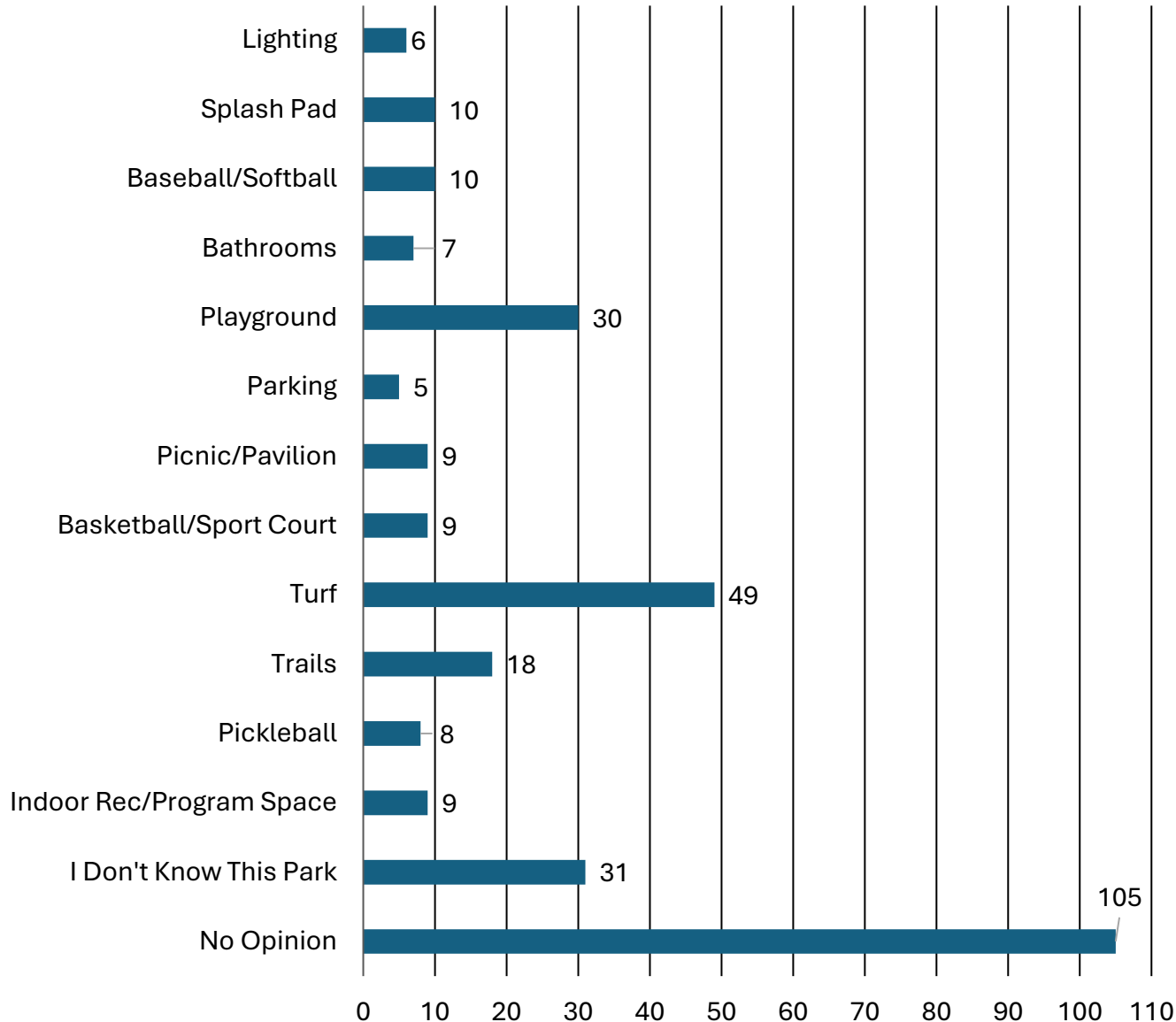
What Types of Amenities Would You Like to See at Steeplechase Park?



4 or less each of the following responses:

- Leave it as open space.
- Accessible areas
- Volleyball
- Gardens
- Water fountains
- Bird sanctuary
- Seating
- Courts
- Indoor rec center
- Track
- Shade
- Water features
- Trash/recycling bins
- Exercise equipment

What Types of Amenities Would You Like to See at Provost Park?



4 or less each of the following responses:

- Nature park
- Water fountains
- Volleyball
- Shade
- Trash/recycling cans
- Accessible features
- Gardens
- Leave as is
- Dog areas
- Hockey
- Seating
- Track
- Grill/fire pit
- Water feature

“Mixed use amenities. We love when there is a playground, field, and walking/biking trail all at one location. This meets the needs of everyone in our family. We love the idea of paved walking trail for learning to ride bikes/roller blades for kids and exercise for adults. Fields with playgrounds are fantastic as well for one kid in sports and another not in sports. Bathrooms!!”

First Public Meeting



Benefits

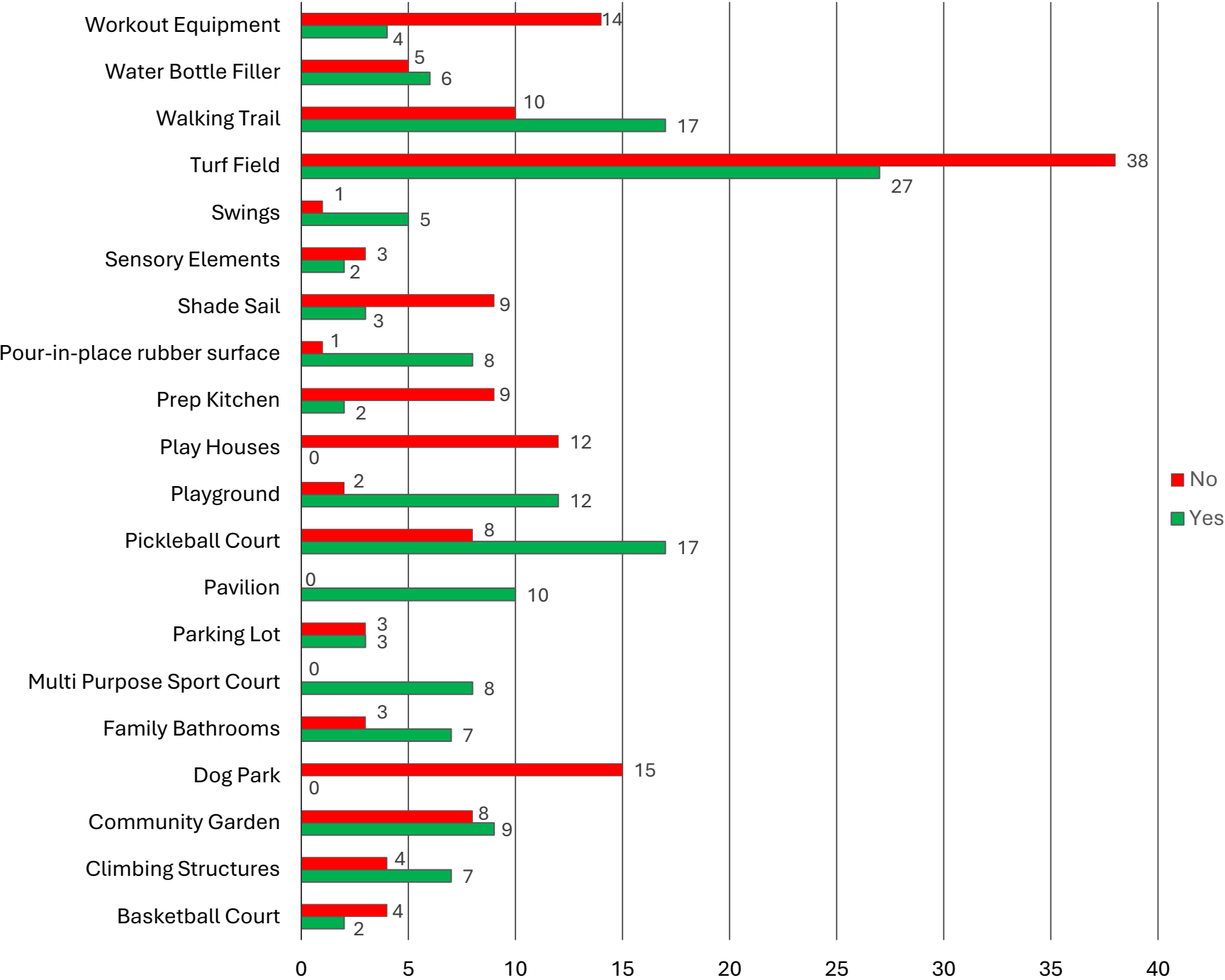
- We presented the amenity additions objectively.
 - No specific park was paired with the amenity options.
- Each amenity picture rendering followed the same style.
 - Created a uniform visualization.
- Great discussion and ideas from participants.

Challenges

- Low turnout.
- Many differing wants and needs from community members in attendance.

Public Meeting Activity 1

- 20 potential park amenities.
- Each attendee was given five red dots and five green dots.
- They were assigned to place the dots on rendered image examples of potential new park amenities.
- Green identified that they would like the amenity, and red identified that they would not prefer the amenity to other options.



Results:

DOG PARK



TURF FIELD



WALKING TRAIL

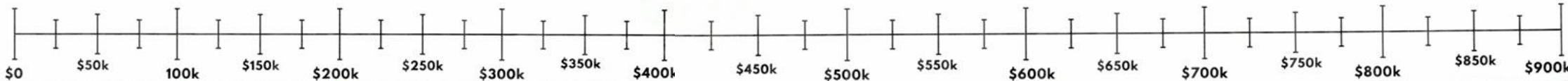


PICKLEBALL SPORT COURT



Public Meeting Activity 2

- Participants were asked to guess the prices of five different park amenities.
- This allowed for discussion about costs, feasibility, grants, and more.



Walking Trail

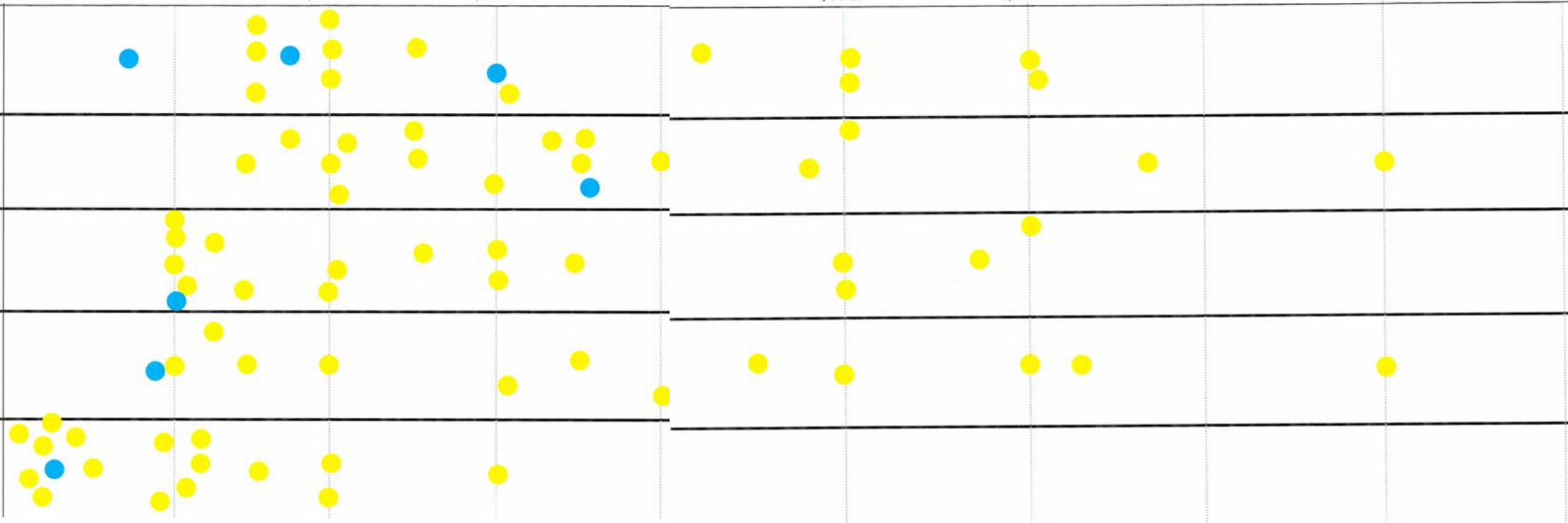
(1 mile long, 4' wide)

Playground

Pavilion

2 Pickleball Courts

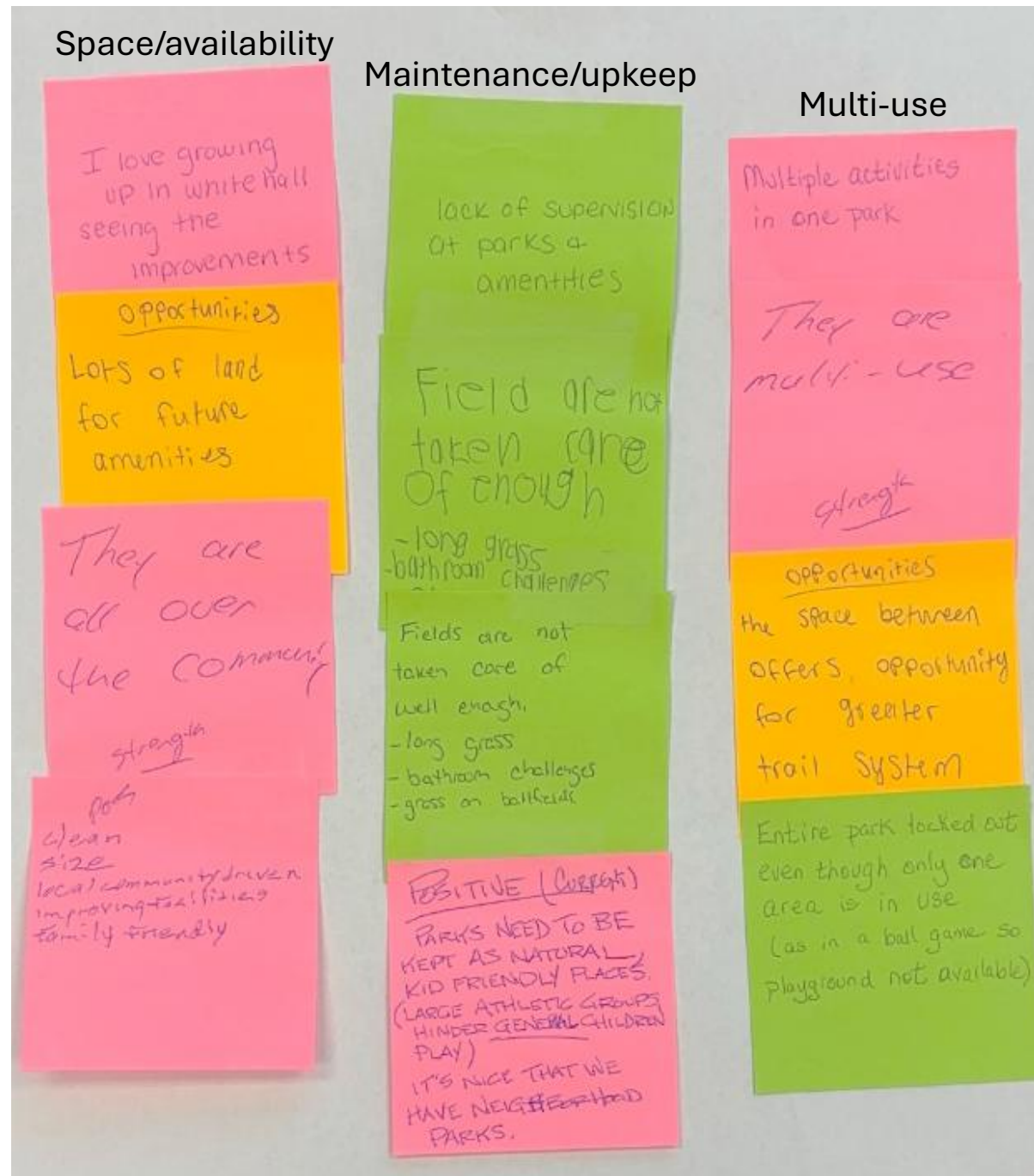
5 Picnic Tables



Public Meeting Activity 3

Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities

- Participants were given three different colored sticky notes.
- Each color represented either a strength (pink), weakness (green), or opportunity (orange) for Whitehall Parks.
- Participants wrote their thoughts or feelings on the notes, and once collected, we grouped the notes by similar responses.
- This showed that residents have different views on what may be a strength, weakness, or future opportunity for our parks systems.



Summary and Observations

- Competing interests between youth recreation sports and adult leisure sports.
- Interest for mixed-use amenities at the parks.
- Interest for less structured amenities.
- Many value safety, healthy living, and a family-oriented third space provided by neighborhood parks.