



City of Hudson, Ohio

# Parks Master Plan

December 2020





# Acknowledgements

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# Executive Summary

The city of Hudson, Ohio is a community of 22,000 people located halfway between Cleveland and Akron. With 20 parks, the City of Hudson offers 1,128 acres of active and passive recreation, as well as conservation and preservation.

The Hudson Parks Master Plan was drafted in 2000, and nearly two decades later, the community has grown substantially and the way its residents recreate and utilize the parks has evolved over time. As a result, the Park Board and City of Hudson staff worked with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands to rewrite the Parks Master Plan to ensure the Hudson Parks system is being managed in a way that matches the community's wants and needs.

## Goal for the Plan

**The goal of the 2020 Hudson Parks Master Plan is to identify and communicate ways to make the inventory of parks, facilities, and natural resources in Hudson and related community connections best align with the desires, needs and usage of Hudson residents.**

The objectives of this Parks Master Plan are to:

- Report on public awareness and interest in Hudson's park offerings.
- Report public perception of the parks.
- Report whether Hudson's parks provide a good balance of recreational activities for all ages and physical abilities.
- Identify recreation trends of similar suburban communities and relevance to Hudson.
- Report what residents view as the highest priorities for Hudson Parks.
- Assess whether there is enough balance between conservation and recreational facilities in Hudson's Parks. Rate the natural resource qualities of existing park land and evaluate the potential recreational use of undeveloped park land and to a lesser extent developed parks.
- Shape recommendations of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan to endorse, alter or replace them.



# Master Plan Process and Timeline

The process of developing the plan began in 2019 with Hudson's hiring of the ETC Institute to create and administer a community interest and opinion survey. That survey was administered over the winter of 2019 and a findings report was issued in early 2020.

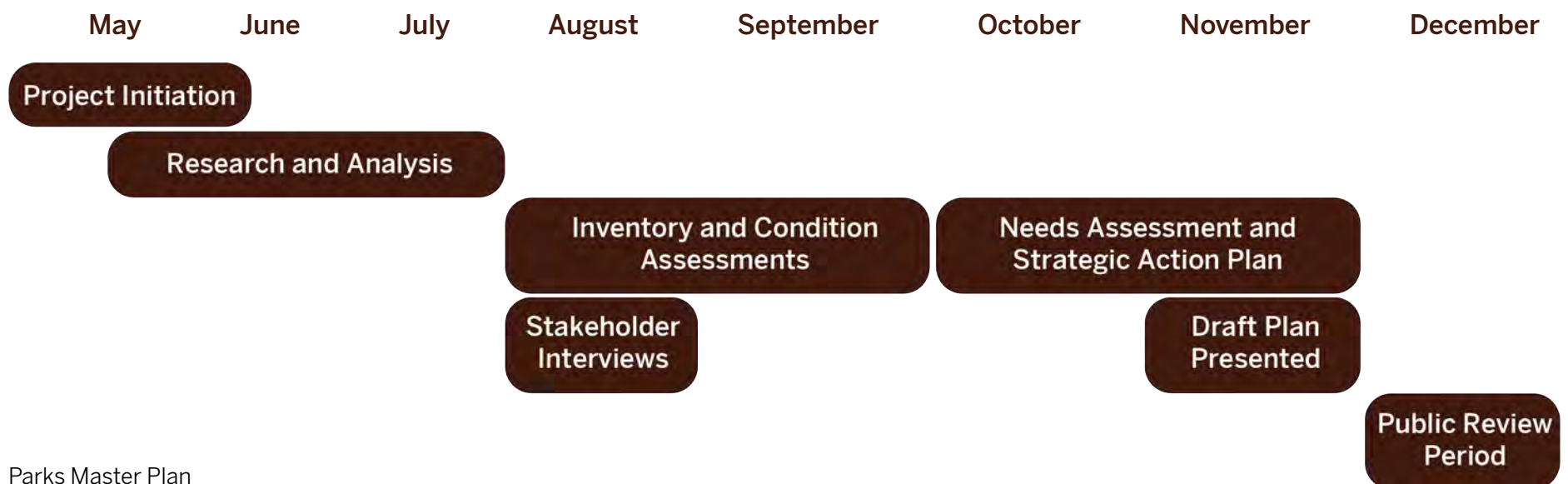
The Eppley Institute began working with the City of Hudson and the Park Board to develop the master plan in May 2020.

Early project activities included a kickoff meeting as well as a thorough examination of city and community resources and current planning documents. Original project timelines and engagement methods then had to be adjusted due to travel and group gathering restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virtual group stakeholder interviews were conducted in August. In August and September, parks and facilities were assessed, including a physical examination of each facility for amenities, quality, and accessibility. Surveys were administered to other Ohio communities for the purposes of comparing Hudson's amenities, operations, and budget with those of similar communities.

These data gathering efforts were followed by a comprehensive analysis, assessment of needs, and development of a strategic action plan that established goals and a timeline for strategic actions. The draft plan was presented to the Park Board in November and available for public review and comment in December.

**Figure 1: Project Timeline**



# Community Input

Public involvement in citywide planning and decision-making efforts are critical to their success. This public feedback allows the city of Hudson and Park Board to plan future projects that respond to the needs and desires of the community.

The following engagement methods were used during this master plan process to gather community input on Hudson's parks:

- **Community interest and opinion survey** (conducted by ETC Institute in 2019)
- **Stakeholder and key partner interviews**
- **Master Plan project website**
- **Farmers Market booth**
- **Public draft plan review and comment period**

## Community Interest and Opinion Survey

In the winter of 2019 the ETC Institute conducted a public survey for the City of Hudson to gather resident input on park usage, likes and dislikes, unmet needs and balance among recreation pursuits and nature conservation. The survey included a random sample of 2,500 households and non-random sample survey promoted through the City of Hudson website and social media. A total of 485 residents completed the random sample survey and 139 residents completed the non-random sample survey. A summary of the survey findings is included later in this document, and the full report can be found in Appendix A.

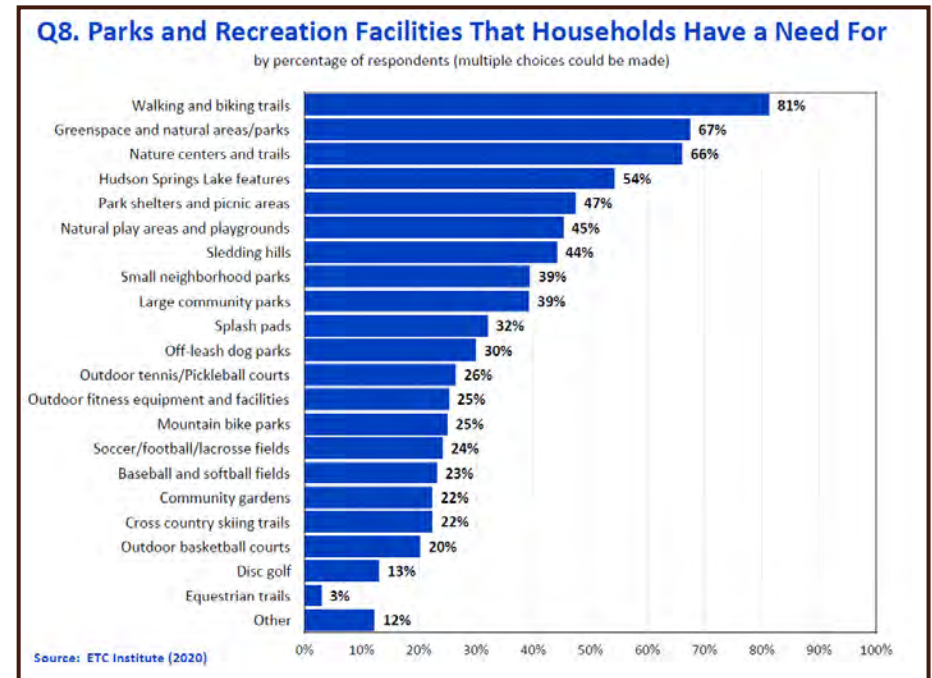


Figure 2: Survey Results Sample (ETC Institute, 2020)

## Stakeholder and Key Partner Interviews

In August 2020 the project team conducted interviews with focused stakeholder groups and key partners who are frequent users of Hudson's parks. The Park Board assisted with the identification of stakeholders and partners, and interviews were scheduled with the following groups:

- Friends of Hudson Parks
- Hudson Community Education and Recreation and Hudson Community Education and Recreation Youth Representatives
- Hudson Community First and Hudson Community First Youth Board
- Hudson United Soccer

- Soccer4All
- Hudson Baseball Association
- Kiwanis Baseball

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and safety requirements, the interviews were conducted virtually using the Zoom Meeting platform. Additional responses were submitted via email by members of stakeholder groups who were unable to attend a scheduled interview. The interviews were conducted in small groups and lasted approximately one hour. Interviewers asked open-ended questions and allowed individuals or groups to respond and discuss the topic at length. See Appendix B for a full list of questions used in the interviews and response results.

### Master Plan Project Website

The project team kept the public informed and updated throughout the master plan process through the project website. From the time of its launch and throughout the project, the site contained:

- General information about the parks system master planning process.
- A project timeline and information about major milestones.
- Link to the community interest and opinion survey results.
- News and updates on the master plan process.
- Information about how to participate in the public engagement process.

The URL for the website is <https://hudsonparks.eppley.org/>.

The screenshot shows the 'Contact Us' page of the Hudson Parks Master Plan website. The header includes the Hudson logo and navigation links: Home, About the Master Plan, Survey, News & Updates, Project Timeline, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled 'Contact Us' and is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Send us your feedback/comments:', contains input fields for 'First Name\*', 'Last Name\*', 'Your Email\*', 'Your Phone\*', and a 'Comments' text area. The right column, titled 'You can also contact the planning team at:', provides contact information for the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, including the address (501 N. Morton St., Suite 101, Bloomington, IN 47404) and phone number ((812) 855-3095).

Figure 3: Master Plan Project Website

### Farmers Market Booth

Members of the Hudson Park Board and the Friends of Hudson Parks group staffed an information booth at the October 10, 2020 Hudson Farmers Market. Community members were able to ask questions about the master plan process and submit comments that were given to the Eppley master plan team.

### Public Draft Plan Review and Comment Period

Limits on public gatherings during COVID-19 impacted the public master plan delivery process. Instead of holding a public draft plan review meeting, the draft plan was presented virtually at the November 2020 Park Board meeting. This was followed by posting of the draft plan on the project website. Residents were able to review the draft plan over a two week review period and submit feedback to the project team via the project website. Information on how to access the draft plan was publicized through the City of Hudson's website and social media channels. See Appendix C for public comments received.



# Accessibility Evaluation

A member of the Eppley Institute project team visited Hudson in September 2020 to conduct a two-day accessibility evaluation of park facilities. This evaluation included a walk-through of the parks and photographic and written documentation of observed ADA deficiencies, accessibility barriers, and suggestions for improvement.

Appendix D summarizes the evaluation findings and outlines approaches to remove accessibility barriers and make Hudson's park facilities more universally accessible to all people.

## Undeveloped Land Analysis

As part of the planning process, the master plan team analyzed the qualities of undeveloped park land in Hudson for conservation or development.

The following Hudson parks properties were considered "undeveloped" for this analysis:

- Doc's Woods
- DiNovi Woods
- High Point Park
- MaLaren Woods
- Robinson Field Park

Data and information from a variety of sources including city geographic information systems (GIS) data, observations from site visits, previous Hudson Parks Master Plans, community survey and stakeholder interview results, and communications with the Park Board.

Appendix E summarizes the information collected from these sources and recommends future uses for each of the undeveloped parks in Hudson.

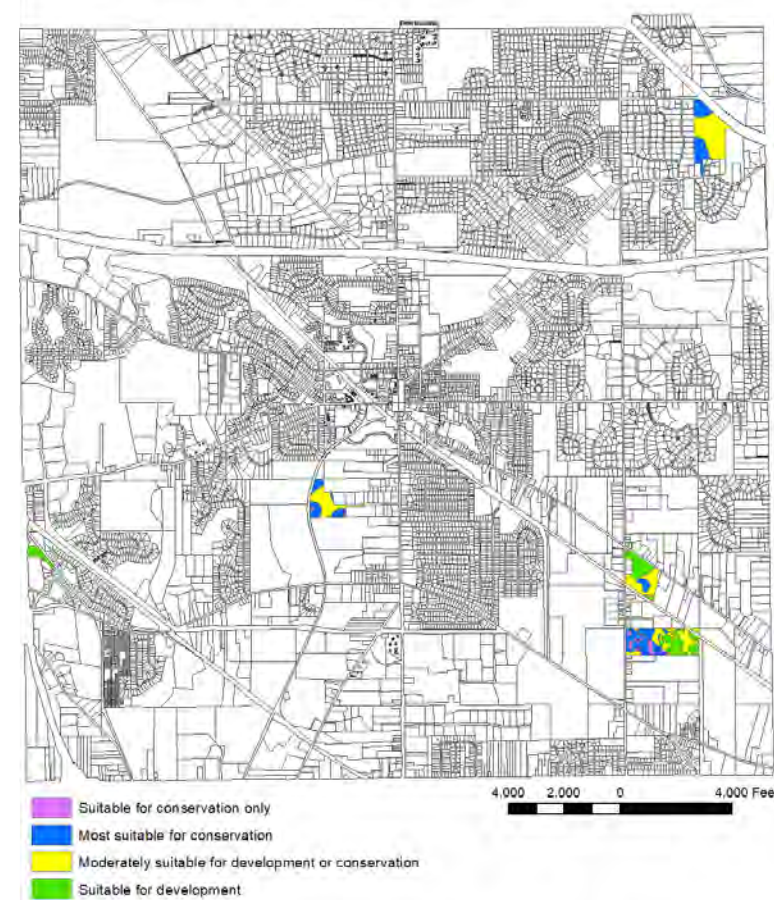


Figure 4: GIS Analysis of Undeveloped Parkland Suitable for Development or Conservation

# Benchmarking

Benchmarking compares the city of Hudson to other similar communities in the region. These communities are similar to, but not necessarily identical to the city of Hudson. The communities used for benchmark analysis were:

- Marysville, Ohio
- Solon, Ohio
- Stow, Ohio
- Twinsburg, Ohio

Some common points of comparison are included in the table below. A detailed benchmarking analysis appears later in this report.



Figure 5: Benchmark Communities

City	Service Area Population	County	Median Income (Dollars)	Median Age (Years)	Total Operating Budget	Total Number of Parks	Total Acres Managed by Agency	Total Trail Miles
<b>Hudson</b>	<b>22,237</b>	<b>Summit</b>	<b>\$128,638</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>\$1,957,955</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>12.7</b>
Marysville	24,667	Union	\$70,793	34.5	\$1,200,000	18	570	13.7
Stow	34,785	Summit	\$72,782	40.3	\$838,212	10	313	20.3
Solon	22,779	Cuyahoga	\$104,625	43.7	\$3,972,187	5	426	Not provided
Twinsburg	18,856	Summit	\$77,021	44.5	\$3,000,000	4	2,000	18

Table 1: Benchmarking Comparison Summary

# Master Plan Strategic Areas and Goals

Throughout the planning process, information was collected from the public, from city and Park Board staff, and from invested stakeholders. By analyzing this information, the needs, desires, and priorities of Hudson residents could be understood and an action plan with specific strategies could be created to provide the highest quality park system possible. This planning effort will allow the city of Hudson and Park Board to continue and strength the system by paving a path forward for maintaining quality and enhancing offerings where needed based on community needs.

Five strategic area themes emerged from the community engagement, data gathering, and assessment process. Overarching goals for each strategic area are included here. Specific strategies and actions along with expected timeframes for completion for each are outlined in the Strategic Action Plan later in this document.



## Strategic Area 1: Maintain and Protect Assets

### Goals:

- Protect park infrastructure through preventative and routine maintenance.
- Anticipate future facility and amenity maintenance and repair needs.
- Control invasive species within the park system.
- Maintain undeveloped park inventory to address future community needs.





## Strategic Area 2: Respond to Changing Community Needs

### Goals:

- Provide highest rated community needs expressed in 2019 community survey and stakeholder interviews
- Provide an interconnected trail network that allows users to safely recreate and travel between parks, schools, and neighborhoods throughout the city
- Re-assess the needs of the community on a regular basis
- Fulfill outstanding goals from current planning efforts including the 2015 City Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Downtown Hudson Trail and Greenway Concept Plan, and 2018 Connectivity Plan Update
- Comprehensively update the Parks Master Plan at least every five years



## Strategic Area 3: Parks and Recreation Opportunities for All

### Goals:

- Provide opportunities for children with and without disabilities to play together in an integrated setting.
- Provide opportunities for intergenerational families and groups to recreate together.
- Increase opportunities to participate in sports and recreation programs to a wider population and in a wider range of weather conditions.
- Provide accessible parking areas and restrooms at each park that provides these amenities.
- Provide paved routes to at least one of each type of amenity at each park location.



#### Strategic Area 4: Partnerships for Community Benefit

##### Goals:

- Coordinate with other city planning groups and organizations to align goals and objectives of past and future planning efforts such as the Comprehensive Plan, Connectivity Plan, Trail and Greenway Concept Plan, and Parks Master Plan
- Provide Hudson residents a wide variety of recreation opportunities, regardless of provider
- Provide high-quality support for recreation service providers
- Secure private funding partnerships



#### Strategic Area 5: Communications, Information Sharing, and Orientation

##### Goals:

- Provide system maps, park and trail maps, and detailed park and trail information in a user friendly, easy to access online location.
- Install wayfinding, park and trail maps, and park and trail information signage throughout the system.
- Implement system to collect public feedback on parks.
- Integrate digital and virtual park experiences.
- Ensure full accessibility of parks website, printed materials, signage, and other communication methods.



# Background and Context

## Community Profile

This profile examines Hudson's government structure, natural setting, historical setting, transportation networks, and relevant demographics, setting the stage for and offering context to a further analysis of the parks system and how it fits within the community.

### **Governmental Structure**

The City Charter establishes Hudson in a "Mayor- Council-Manager" model with the Mayor and City Council members elected by voters and a City Manager appointed by the City Council. The Mayor serves as the official and ceremonial



head of government and presides over Council meetings but does not have a Council vote. The City Council is comprised of 7 members with 4 being elected from their respective wards and 3 elected at-large. The Council is the legislative body for the City, creating city ordinances and resolutions, and passing annual budgets. The City Manager acts as the Administrative head of city government and implements policies and programs passed by the Council (City of Hudson, 2020a).

In 1995, the town of Hudson merged with Hudson Township to create a single government for the city of Hudson.



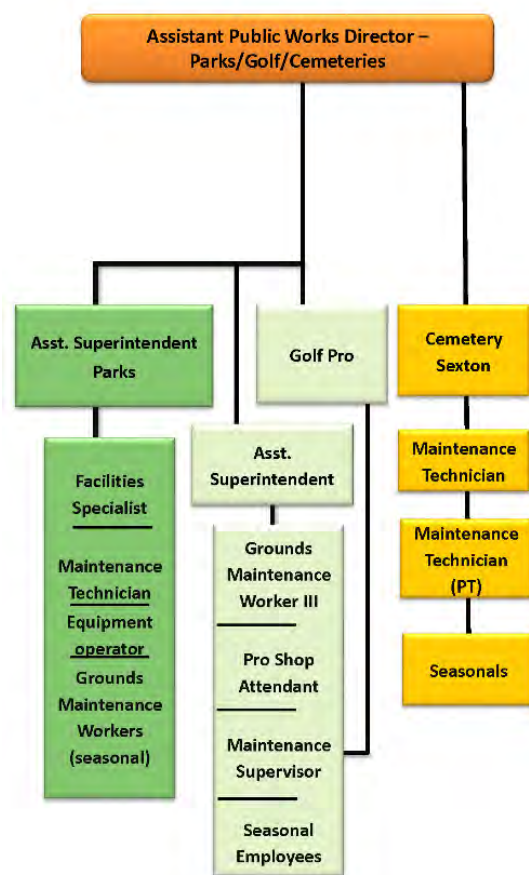


Figure 6: Department of Public Works Organizational Chart

Public Works/Parks

Hudson Parks are operated as a division of the Public Works Department with a Park Board to advise the City Council in parks related matters. In the staff hierarchy, the Assistant Superintendent for Parks reports to the Assistant Public Works Director for Golf/Parks/Cemeteries who, in turn, reports to the Assistant City Manager. All of Hudson’s 20 parks and open space properties are managed by the

Assistant Superintendent for Parks. Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course is on a separate branch of the organizational chart and is managed by the Golf Professional and Assistant Superintendent who also reports to the Assistant Public Works Director. Each of these subdivisions of Public Works has its own budget and staff (City of Hudson, 2020b).

Natural Setting

Location

The city of Hudson is located in Summit County in northeast Ohio, 20 miles south-southeast of Cleveland and 13 miles north of Akron.



Figure 7: Hudson, Ohio

Geology and Topography

The geology of northeast Ohio is shaped by glaciation and glacial melting with marshland and small lakes dotting the landscape. Drainage is toward Lake Erie to the north. Many underground deposits of water, natural gas, and oil exist and are accessed by operating wells throughout the region. Deposits of clay, sand, gravel, shale, and limestone have been quarried throughout the area (Brose, n.d.).

While Hudson itself is relatively flat, a significant geological feature that exists near Hudson is the Cuyahoga River valley to the west, characterized by deep ravines and falls.

Regional Protected Areas

Hudson is adjacent to federal and state protected areas. These protected areas provide additional recreation and conservation resources for Hudson residents and bring tourism and economic opportunity to the region. Significant protected areas are highlighted here.

### *Cuyahoga Valley National Park*

At 33,000 acres, Cuyahoga Valley National Park is the largest public recreation site in Northeast Ohio and its border is located approximately one mile west of Hudson. The park contains significant natural and cultural resources centered around a long history of agricultural and industrial development. Over 250 historic structures exist within the park including the Ohio-Erie Canal and Valley Railway. Cuyahoga Valley is open year round recreation opportunities include over 140 miles of hiking, equestrian, and bike trails, fishing, canoeing, skiing and snowshoeing, and a scenic train ride (National Park Service, 2020).

### *Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve*

Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve is a unit of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources located approximately one mile northeast of Hudson. The preserve is primarily wetlands and has lakes and bottomland forest and abundant wildlife. Hiking trails wind through the site for recreational opportunities.

## **Cultural and Historical Setting**

The land that makes up the city of Hudson today was first home to many American Indian and indigenous peoples. The area has a rich history of native American habitation from prehistoric times until European settlement and was home to many tribes and groups throughout history.

A party of surveyors from Connecticut led by Daniel Hudson settled in the area of Hudson in 1799. At the time, the area was part as what was known as the “Western Reserve,” having been claimed by the State of Connecticut until sold to land speculators. Hudson established a permanent residence

there in 1800. The settlement was named after him in 1802.

In 1994, the city of Hudson merged with Hudson Township, boosting population from just over 5,000 to over 22,000 and creating the Hudson that exists today (City of Hudson, 2020c).

## **Transportation**

### **Highways**

Hudson is served by several interstate (U.S) highways and two state highways in its vicinity with connections just outside of city limits. Interstate 80, also known as the Ohio Turnpike is a toll road that travels east-west through Hudson with exits just to the east and west of the city. Interstates 480 and 271 pass just outside of city limits and are major north-south corridors. Interstates 71, 76, and 77 are also within a short distance of Hudson. State Route 8 (SR 8) is a four-lane controlled access highway on the western edge of the Hudson that travels north into Cleveland and south through Akron, connecting to I-77. SR 8 also provides Hudson’s nearby access point for the Ohio Turnpike (I-80). State Route 303 passes from east to west through downtown Hudson.

### **Rail Transportation**

Hudson is not served by any direct passenger or commercial rail service though the city is crossed by a Norfolk Southern line.

### **Bus Transportation**

The METRO Regional Transit Authority provides bus service to Summit County and into the City of Cleveland. Several routes pass through Hudson with stops throughout the city (Metro Regional Transit Authority, 2020)

Social and Economic Factors

Population

In the census immediately following Hudson's consolidation in 2000, the population was 22,439 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013). According to the 2010 Census, Hudson population was 22,262 and has fluctuated between 22,236 and 22,278 annually since then, a range of just 41 residents (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).

Hudson's population peaks in the 45 to 54 age bracket (17.5%). 11.5% of Hudson residents are ages 35-44 and 9.9% are 55-59 (U.S Census Bureau, 2020b). Compared to the statewide age, Hudson is older than the state as a whole in median age (46.5 versus 39.5) but is mostly consistent the rest of Ohio in age distribution. Statewide, the same three age brackets represent the largest percentage of the population (U.S Census Bureau, 2020c). Differences occur at the upper end of the distribution where 24.9% of Hudson's residents are over age 60 (U.S Census Bureau, 2020b) compared to 23.9% statewide (U.S Census Bureau, 2020c) and the younger end where 30.4% of Hudson residents are 24 or younger (U.S Census Bureau, 2020b) compared to 31.2% statewide (U.S Census Bureau, 2020c).

Hudson's residents are a majority white (93.9%) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020b). Other races and ethnicities account for 6.1% of the city's population including 5.1% of the population being of Asian descent (U.S Census Bureau, 2018b). The state of Ohio's population is 80.9% white, 12.6% Black or African American, and other races and ethnicities making up 6.4% of the population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).

Education

Hudson's population is highly educated with just over 72% of adults having a Bachelor's or higher degree and 28.7% have a Graduate or professional degree (U.S Census Bureau, 2020b). These are significantly higher than the state's average of 29.3% with a Bachelor's or higher and 11.1% with a Graduate level or professional degree (U.S Census Bureau, 2020c). Just 1.2% of Hudson's adult population has not graduated from high school (U.S Census Bureau, 2020b) compared to 9.2% statewide (U.S Census Bureau, 2020c).

Economic

Household income in Hudson is well above the state's average. On average, the median household income in Hudson is \$128,638 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020b), compared to Ohio overall at \$58,642 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020c). Only .9% of all Hudson households have an income below the poverty level (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020c).

	Ohio	Hudson
Median household income (dollars)	\$58,642	\$128,638
Mean household income (dollars)	\$79,505	\$167,699

Table 2: Household Income



## Employment

Educational services, health care, and social assistance is the largest employment sector in Hudson, accounting for 25.1% of all jobs within the city. Manufacturing (16.6%) and professional services (16.1%) are additional sectors with over 10% of the city's employment (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020b). National companies with headquarters in Hudson include Little Tykes, JOANN Fabric, Ramco Specialties, and ForTec Medical. (City of Hudson, 2020d). Figure 5 demonstrates the percentage of employment in Hudson by industry sector, as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau; these sectors are defined in Table 3.

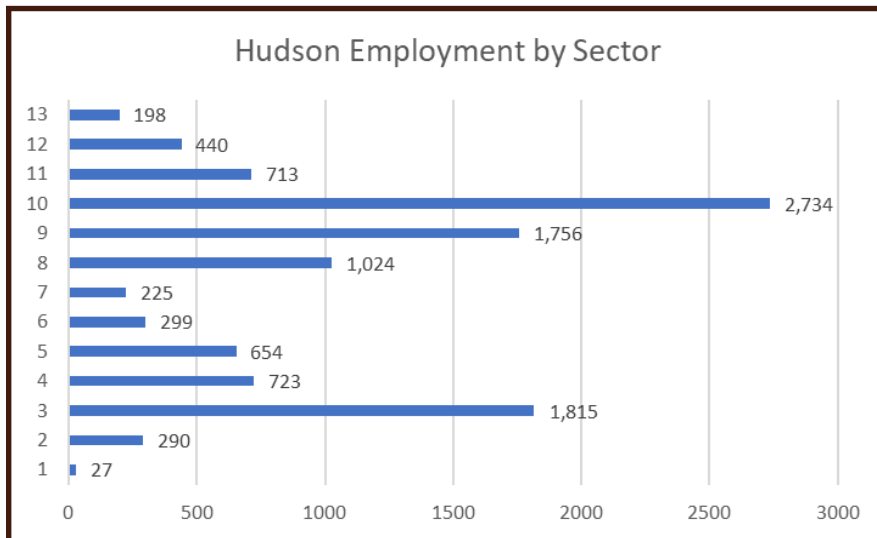


Figure 8: Employment by Sector (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020)

Index Number	Sector Name
1	Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining
2	Construction
3	Manufacturing
4	Wholesale trade
5	Retail trade
6	Transportation and warehousing and utilities
7	Information
8	Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing
9	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services
10	Educational services, and health care and social assistance
11	Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services
12	Other services, except public administration
13	Public administration

Table 3: Key for Employment Sectors

# Previous Parks Master Plan and other City Planning Efforts

## 2000 Parks Master Plan

The plan represents the last major parks master planning effort in Hudson. It was completed by firm URS and published in June 2000. Updates include:

### 2005 Five Year Review of the Parks Master Plan

### 2009-2010 Master Plan Review

### 2012 Parks Master Plan Update

## Hudson Comprehensive Plan 2015

Hudson's city-wide comprehensive plan was last updated in 2015. This plan outlines the following goal for Hudson's parks, open spaces, and environmental features: "preserve and enhance an integrated network of parks, open spaces, and trails that strengthen the quality of life, protect the environment, and improve community health."

Specific objectives under listed under this goal of the comprehensive plan are to:

- Plan and budget for improvements to existing parks, and update the 2000 Parks Master Plan.
- Recognizing that many residents desire a Community Recreation Center, consider the feasibility, cost of constructions, and required financing (construction and operation) of a Community Recreation Center that could serve all residents
- Support Summit Metro Parks as it continues to develop additional park space within Hudson, such as TenBroeck



Metro Park and Maple Grove Metro Park.

- Work to establish Hudson as a regional recreation destination.
- Identify locations for new neighborhood or pocket parks.
- Explore ways to strengthen programs for the community's youth and senior citizens at parks, at the Barlow Community Center, and at identified common spaces.
- Continue to require parkland dedication or a "Funds-in-Lieu-of-Parks Fund" contribution for all new residential developments.
- Encourage or require private park or open space dedications within large industrial or commercial developments for employee usage.
- Work with neighboring municipalities and Summit County to develop regional trail connections, such as the Veterans Trail, that can increase connectivity both within Hudson and the greater region.
- Establish local trails or pathways between subdivisions that can increase access to parks, schools, Downtown, and open space and reduce the need to walk or bike along busier roadways.

- Support the mission of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the usage of conservation easements to prevent development of environmentally sensitive and rural areas.
- Minimize development impacts on natural features such as wetlands, ponds, and mature trees, where applicable.
- As development occurs, incrementally bury overhead utility lines to avoid potential conflicts with trees as they grow and mature.
- Evaluate changes to development regulations based on recommendations included in the Brandywine Creek Watershed Plan, such as establishing steep slope protections, developing a mitigation plan for wetland and riparian impacts, permitting flexible development by right, and implementing a low impact development ordinance.
- Work with regional and local partners to preserve, protect the function of, and prevent contamination of the four watersheds in which Hudson is located.
- Minimize localized flooding in neighborhoods and commercial areas through investment in local detention facilities, green infrastructure, and traditional stormwater systems and watershed management.
- Work towards maintaining a tree canopy of 40% of the area of the City, as recommended by the Tree Commission.

### **Downtown Hudson Trail & Greenway Concept Plan 2017**

This study was completed to determine the best route for the Veterans Trail through downtown Hudson, and other greenway connections within the city.

### **2018 Connectivity Plan and 2020 Connectivity Plan Update**

The 2020 Connectivity Plan Update was in progress concurrent with the development of this Parks Master Plan. The master plan team reviewed drafts of the connectivity plan during plan development. The Connectivity Plan represents the continued effort to provide safe and practical community-wide bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in Hudson. This goal aligns with and is necessary to fulfill the goals of this Parks Master Plan. This has resulted in significant cross-plan priorities and actions between these two efforts.





# Community Interest and Opinion Survey

In the winter of 2019 The ETC Institute, a market research and survey organization, conducted a public survey on parks and recreation for the City of Hudson. The survey included a random sample of 2,500 households and non-random sample survey promoted through the city of Hudson website and social media. The surveys were identical and included questions on park and facility use, park and facility conditions, barriers to facility use, satisfaction with Hudson services, facility needs, program space needs, park and recreation priorities, and information dissemination. A total of 485 residents completed the random sample survey and 139 residents completed the non-random sample survey.

The following findings were all collected from that ETC Institute survey report. The full report can be found in Appendix A.

## Key Findings

While residents used other park and recreation organizations (Cuyahoga Valley National Park [80%], Summit County Parks [60%], and Private fitness clubs [48%]), a majority (77%) used city of Hudson facilities as well. Across age groups the city of Hudson parks were used more than other organizations. The Hudson parks and facilities that were used the most included these six facilities.

- Hudson Springs Park (89%)
- Barlow Farm Park (60%)
- Veterans Way Park (59%)
- Cascade Park (51%)
- Colony Park (39%)
- Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club (28%)

The majority of respondents (83%) who used Hudson parks services were largely satisfied with their value. Across all parks, most of respondents rated their condition as good or higher. Those parks that were rated fair or poor in condition by about a third of the population (between 33%-39%) included Middleton Park, DiNovi Park, Oak Grove Park, and Robinson Field Park.

The majority of residents were also satisfied with the number of parks and trails, the maintenance of the facilities, and the amount of parking. Those services that respondents were dissatisfied with included the number of tennis and pickleball courts (37%), the quality of facilities for adults age 55 and older (25%), and the availability of information about facilities (25%).

For those residents who did not use the parks and facilities as much as they may have liked to, they indicated the barriers to use included the following four factors.

- Lack of knowledge about opportunities (32%)
- Time constraints (25%)
- Preferred facility unavailable or non-existent (24%)
- Lack of knowledge about facility locations (24%)

When asked how they were receiving information about parks and recreation programs and activities, residents were most often receiving information by word of mouth (59%) and the newspaper 58%, followed by Facebook (35%), the city website (28%), city newsletters (24%), and the parks guide (20%).

The most important facilities to residents included trails, greenspace, nature centers, lake features, and playgrounds. A determination of unmet recreation facility needs among households included nature centers and trails, in addition to sledding hills, off-leash dog parks, and outdoor tennis and pickleball courts as priorities.

When asked what they felt the priorities for funding were, residents identified these four facility types:

- Walking and biking trails
- Nature centers and trails\*
- Sledding hills
- Off-leash dog parks

As for program spaces, residents indicated they would use nature trails, an outdoor adventure course, arts and cultural areas, a dog exercise area, and a rock climbing and bouldering wall. Approximately 47% thought that nature trails were important to develop, while 28% thought developing an outdoor adventure course, 24% thought a dog exercise area, and 23% thought arts and cultural areas were important.

Respondents overall felt the city should focus its efforts on increasing the number of walking and biking trails (43%), maintenance of parks (38%), providing information about facilities (19%), and community special events (19%). They also generally supported maintenance over the acquisition and construction of new facilities.

## Summary and Recommendations

The survey findings indicated several areas of focus for the city of Hudson.

- **Maintenance of Parks:** While the survey highlighted interest in the development of new facilities, residents prioritized maintenance of parks first. Maintenance efforts could focus on those parks that the condition was rated fair or poor.
- **Information Availability:** Some of the barriers to use included lack of knowledge about opportunities and facility locations. Twenty-five percent of residents were dissatisfied with the availability of information about facilities. Currently, residents receive information predominantly through word of mouth communication and newspapers, but it could be helpful to gather data on how they prefer to receive information to best meet their needs.
- **Continuation of Existing Facilities:** Residents were satisfied with the value of parks and trails. They felt that the most important facilities were trails, greenspace, nature centers, lake features, and playgrounds and that trails should be a priority. A focus on continuing to offer the existing trails, greenspace, lake features, and playgrounds would help to meet the needs of residents.
- **Development of New Facilities:** Twenty-four percent of respondents shared that their preferred facility was unavailable or non-existent. Unmet recreation facility needs included nature centers and trails, sledding hills, off-leash dog parks, and outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. All were identified as high funding priorities for residents as well except for tennis and pickleball courts which were listed as a medium funding priority. In



addition, residents were dissatisfied with the number of tennis and pickleball courts and the quality of facilities for adults age 55 and older. Finally, respondents felt that the City of Hudson should focus on increasing the number of walking and biking trails. All of this information suggests that additional trails and facilities for adults age 55 and older are needed. In addition, consideration of new facilities, specifically nature centers, sledding hills, off-leash dog parks, and outdoor tennis and pickleball courts should be considered.

The recommendations from the survey are one important piece of the public engagement process which will be combined with other datasets to determine recommended actions for the city of Hudson.

\*It should be noted that nature centers and trails were listed together as one item in the survey, and thus it cannot be determined whether respondents thought funding priority should be given to both nature centers and trails, only nature centers, or only trails when that response was indicated. It can be inferred from the responses to other questions that increasing trail access is a priority for Hudson residents, but it remains unclear on whether there is an unmet need for nature centers. Due to the availability of nature centers in the surrounding area and responses from the public comment period it is believed that respondents were indicating the need for and funding priority of trails and not nature centers.





# Parks Inventory

The city of Hudson maintains fifteen developed parks and trails, five undeveloped park properties, and one golf course totaling approximately 1182 acres.



## Hudson Springs Park

Hudson Springs Park is the headline outdoor recreational facility for Hudson's residents. The 260-acre park contains the following features and amenities:

- Paved parking lot with space for 90 vehicles
- 18-hole disc golf course
- 50-acre lake
- Observation deck
- Boat ramp
- Two boat launch docks
- Canoe rentals
- Walking trails
- Three pavilions with picnic tables and grills
- Large playground with swing sets, slides, play train, spiderweb climber, climbing wall, climbing sets, and ground level features
- Sand volleyball court
- Bean bag game court
- Two bocce courts
- Picnic tables throughout the park
- Standing bench swings
- Grills throughout the park
- Memorial garden with chess table
- Full restroom facility with plumbing and electrical service
- Amphitheater with firepit and bench seating
- Open fields
- Maintenance facility

## Barlow Farm Park

Barlow Farm Park is the primary active-use park and center of recreational and competitive sports in Hudson. The park contains the following:

- Two paved parking areas with space for 100 and 200 vehicles, respectively
- Four full-sized competitive-use ball fields, two lighted and two unlighted
- Large soccer complex with fields from youth to full-sized
- Playground
- Two pavilions with picnic tables and adjacent grills
- Approximately two miles of walking trails
- Large open field
- Small fishing pond with two small decks and a boardwalk
- Central building with full restrooms with plumbing and electrical service and a concessions booth



## Oak Grove Park

This park has similar recreational components to other parks but has one fully-fenced, lighted ball field. The park is also home to a Jaycees run, seasonally-open haunted house. Features of the park include:

- One paved parking area with space for 21 vehicles, second paved parking area for haunted house with space for approximately 45 vehicles, and large gravel parking area with space for approximately 250 vehicles
- Lighted ball field
- Paved trail
- Shelter with picnic tables and grills
- Playground with a swing set, climbing set, and ground level elements
- Two additional non-fenced, non-lighted ball fields
- Vault toilets

## Middleton Park

Middleton is a neighborhood park with the following features:

- Compacted aggregate parking area with space for approximately 20 vehicles
- Open field
- Ball field
- Basketball half-court
- Shelter with picnic tables and grills
- Playground with two swing sets, metal slide, climbing sets, merry-go-round, and ground-level elements



## Veterans Way Park

Veterans Way Park is the newest park in the Hudson system and is the closest park to downtown. Features include:

- Three paved parking areas: one parking area with space for 10 vehicles, one parking area with space for 42 vehicles, and one parking area with space for 33 vehicles
- Playground with swing set
- Playground with swing set, slides, climbing sets, ground level elements, and tables with shade umbrellas
- Splash pad
- Pavilion shelter
- Wetland area with trails (compacted crushed stone and boardwalk) and limited interpretive signage
- Compacted crushed stone and mowed grass trails
- Skate park
- Basketball courts
- Small pond with boardwalk
- Small amphitheater with stone seating
- Full restroom with plumbing and electrical service





## Cascade Park

Cascade Park is a larger neighborhood park located to the southwest of downtown. Features include:

- Large, paved parking area with space for approximately 75 vehicles
- Open field
- Three ballfields
- Area for ice rink in winter
- Playground with two swing sets, a climbing wall, metal slide, spiderweb climber, climbing sets, and ground-level elements
- Shelter with picnic tables and grills
- Gravel trails
- Exercise equipment
- Basketball hoops in parking lot
- Vault toilets



## Colony Park

Colony Park is a large neighborhood park in the southeastern part of Hudson with the following features:

- Large, paved parking area with space for approximately 120 vehicles
- Large open field set up for field hockey and lacrosse
- Three ball fields
- Shelter with picnic tables and grills
- Playground with two swing sets, a metal slide, climbing sets, and ground-level elements
- Sand volleyball court
- Vault toilets
- Paved access trail

### Bicentennial Woods Park

Bicentennial Woods is located across from Hudson Springs Park and contains a compacted crushed stone trail that connects to the neighborhood to the west. The trail is well maintained and is lined with interpretive signage. The property is heavily wooded and very scenic.



### Boston Mills Park

This small park sits along Lake Forest and a small commercial park and apartment complex. There are picnic tables at the gravel parking area. The main trail travels from the parking area toward the lake with a grassy sitting area at the lakeside.



### Darrow Road Park

This park is located just to the north of downtown and consists of an open field with a prairie restoration in progress and woods with trails behind the field. There is a picnic table area at the gravel parking lot. There is a compacted crushed stone loop trail through the woods that also connects to the neighborhood to the east.



### Maple Grove Park

Maple Grove is a neighborhood facility with no dedicated parking. The park's significant feature is a compacted crushed stone trail through a heavily wooded area. There are benches along the trail. The east side of the park is bordered by train tracks.





### Nicholson Trail

The Nicholson Trail serves primarily as a connector trail between Cascade Park and the neighborhood to the west of Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course, extending to Barlow Road.



### Trumbull Woods Park

Trumbull Woods is located in the northeast corner of Hudson, on the east side of Interstate 480. There is a grassy picnic area at the trailhead and a trailhead information sign. The trail is rugged and scenic and consists of gravel, some mowed grass, and wooden bridges.



### Turnpike Trail

The Turnpike trail begins across from Hudson Springs Park and connects to Hudson-Aurora Road on the west end, running along Interstate 80. This trail is paved with asphalt.



### Wildlife Woods

This park is located outside of Hudson approximately two miles to the west of city limits, inside the boundaries of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This property was the first Hudson park. The park contains a wooded trail that connects to other National Park trails.





### **Doc's Woods**

Undeveloped parcel with no access or parking. It is located north of Oak Grove Park and east of the Wood Hollow Metro Park. Woods and wetlands are the primary features of the property.

### **DiNovi Woods**

Undeveloped wooded area located in a developed neighborhood adjacent to Metro Parks' Bike and Hike Trail.

### **High Point Park**

Undeveloped parcel adjacent to Trumbull Woods. Contains a small pond, fields, and woodlands.

### **Robinson Field Park**

Undeveloped level parcel with no access or parking in the southeast corner of the city.

### **MacLaren Woods**

Undeveloped, heavily-wooded parcel in the center of the city with no access or parking. Across the railroad tracks from Cascade Park and Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course.



### **Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course**

Ellsworth Meadows is one of three golf courses in Hudson and the only course operated by the City. The course hosts approximately 40,000 rounds of golf each year and is a site for PGA Jr. League tournaments. Recent improvements to the course include a new drainage system throughout and paved cart paths.

The clubhouse is slated to be either replaced or renovated during the planning period of this master plan. Improvements will include enlarging the building and adding golf simulators for winter use.

# Benchmark Analysis

## Introduction and Inclusion Criteria

Benchmarking is a vital process that allows organizations to compare their assets, programs, policies, and other criteria to those of peer organizations. In this analysis, initial criteria were selected by the master planning team in conjunction with the City of Hudson. Additional points of interest were identified from data provided by the selected peer agencies and compiled for this report.

The City of Hudson's population has been steady for a number of years and Hudson residents maintain a high quality of life, in which the parks system is a critical component. The parks system provides and maintains attractive and forward-looking facilities that meet community needs and desires. Since trends in recreation shift and evolve over time, Hudson seeks to recognize current trends and update the parks system and the parks planning process to remain current. Taking a broader view of these trends by analyzing park and recreation offerings in cities similar to Hudson is part of that process. With the city's needs and goals in mind, the master planning team selected peer benchmarking cities for comparison based on geographical location, population size similar to Hudson, median resident income above the

state's 75th percentile, and other comparable factors such as city land area and layout in order to gauge the level of service that exists in towns and cities similar to Hudson.

Using these criteria, eight peer agencies in Ohio were identified as suitable for comparison. The agencies were: Avon, Avon Lake, Marysville, Medina, Solon, Stow, Twinsburg, and Wadsworth. These agencies were contacted to complete a survey of approximately 45 questions. The following four cities are included in this final analysis:

- Marysville, Ohio
- Solon, Ohio
- Stow, Ohio
- Twinsburg, Ohio

To ensure consistent comparison across cities, data from the 2018 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates were used. We acknowledge that these figures may not be as precise as the decennial census (last conducted in 2010) or as up-to-date as local calculations. However, the American Community Survey allowed us to strike a balance between these two concerns, as the data were recent as well as standardized. Land area figures were taken from the most current U.S. Census Quick Facts.

In the analysis below, the City of Hudson can be compared to each individual agency and also to the descriptive statistics of the comparison group. Specifically, we calculated the mean and the median when applicable. Where data was not provided by an agency for a given data point, the means and medians were calculated using data from those agencies that were able to provide it. In instances where the collective data roughly follows a normal distribution, the average of the data points best represents the selected criterion. However,

City	Service Area Population	Land Area (Square Miles)	Population per Square Mile	County	County Population	Median Income (Dollars)	Median Age (Years)
<b>Hudson</b>	<b>22,237</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>Summit</b>	<b>541,781</b>	<b>\$128,638</b>	<b>38.8</b>
Marysville	24,667	16.3	1,358	Union	58,988	\$70,793	34.5
Stow	34,785	17.1	2,039	Summit	541,781	\$72,782	40.3
Solon	22,779	20.3	1,147	Cuyahoga	1,235,072	\$104,625	43.7
Twinsburg	18,856	13.8	1,365	Summit	541,781	\$77,021	44.5
<b>Benchmark Mean (Average)</b>	<b>25,272</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>1,476</b>	-	<b>612,280</b>	<b>\$81,305</b>	<b>40.8</b>
<b>Benchmark Median (Middle)</b>	<b>23,723</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>1,392</b>	-	<b>541,781</b>	<b>\$74,902</b>	<b>42.1</b>

**Table 4: Population and Demographic Characteristics of Peer Cities**

in the case of outliers—that is, when individual figures do not fit normally with the rest of the given data—the median provides a better snapshot, as it represents the midpoint of the sample.

Survey participants also returned qualitative data in the form of self-descriptions, which are also provided for analysis. Data points are only as accurate as the information provided by each agency. Data collection was completed from August through October of 2020. It is important to remember that despite our best attempts to standardize data, agencies may report figures differently.

The selected peer cities are all in the state of Ohio, which has a total population of 11,689,100.

Hudson's population in the most recent American Community Survey estimate is 22,237, squarely in the middle of the benchmarking group. The groups are all similarly sized, and therefore can easily be compared without factoring in size differences. The largest city in the group, Stow, which

is located directly south of Hudson, had a 2018 population estimate of 34,785. Twinsburg is the smallest community in the group, with a population of 18,856.

In terms of land area, Hudson is larger than all other communities in the group at 25.6 square miles, and it also has the lowest population density at 870 residents per square mile. The benchmark average of 17.1 square miles (range: 13.8-20.3) is significantly smaller than Hudson. Stow has both the largest population in the group and the highest population density at 2,039 residents per square mile.

The median age in Hudson, 38.8 years, is below the benchmark average of 40.8 and above only Marysville (34.5). The median income in Hudson, \$128,638, is well above the benchmark average of \$81,305. This was expected as Hudson has one of the highest median incomes in Ohio, and no peer communities with other comparable features were identified in the search process.



City	Total Number of Parks	Residents per Park	Total Acres Managed by Agency	Total Acres of Developed Parks	Total Acres of Open Space	Park Acres per 1000 Residents	Total Paved Trail Miles	Total Unpaved Trail Miles	Trail Miles per 1000 Residents
Hudson	15	1,112	1,182	844	175	37.9	1.5	11.2	0.57
Marysville	18	1,370	570	350	220	14.2	10.4	3.3	0.56
Stow	10	3,479	313	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	20.3	0	0.58
Solon	5	4,559	426	127	215	5.6	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Twinsburg	4	4,714	2,000	200	1,800	10.6	2	16	0.95
Benchmark Mean (Average)	9.3	3,531	827.3	225.7	745	10.2	10.9	6.4	0.66
Benchmark Median (Middle)	7.5	1,236	498	200	220	10.6	10.4	3.3	0.56

Table 5: Baseline Characteristics of Peer Agencies

Agency Characteristics and Staffing

Directly comparing information such as total number of parks or acres managed by an agency does not provide a full picture of how much parkland is available to residents, as it does not take into account the service area population (i.e., how many residents share use of that parkland). Computing total park acres per 1,000 residents, therefore provides a more useful figure when comparing agencies. The City of Hudson manages both the most developed park acres (844) and highest park density by far at 37.9 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. The community with the next highest developed park ratio is Marysville with 14.2 acres per 1,000 residents while the benchmark group average is 10.2 acres per 1,000. Hudson also has five additional open space properties with development potential so that ratio could increase if any of these properties were to be developed as parks and not preserved as open space. All peer communities that reported acreage also maintain an inventory of undeveloped open space, with

Twinsburg holding the most open space at 1,800 acres—80 percent of their park land.

Trails provide excellent opportunities for physical activity, recreation, social interaction, and connectivity. Hudson maintains slightly fewer miles of trails per 1,000 residents than the peer

City	Number of Full-Time Employees	Number of Part-Time Employees	Population per Full-Time Employee	Volunteer Hours
Hudson	9	100	2,470	1500
Marysville	7	12	3,523	300-500
Stow	5	35	6,957	Not provided
Solon	14	Not provided	1,627	Not provided
Twinsburg	14	273	1,346	5,000
Benchmark Mean (Average)	10	106.7	2,527	2,750
Benchmark Median (Middle)	10.5	135	2,575	2,750

Table 6: Staffing Levels of Peer Agencies

group average of .66 miles. Twinsburg leads the group with .95 miles of trails per 1,000 residents. While Hudson is not lacking in trails, almost all trails, with the exception of the Turnpike Trail and portions of the Nicholson Trail, are inside of park boundaries and are recreational in nature and not built for transportation or connectivity.

In organizations of all shapes and sizes there is variability in human resources. Peer agencies track staffing levels differently, making it difficult to provide a consistent benchmark. Even though agencies were also asked to report part-time employees as full-time equivalents, or FTEs, none of the agencies utilized this form of human resources reporting. As a result, we were unable to calculate population per full-time equivalent. Instead, we used a proxy of population per full-time employee. Even this measure can be an unreliable assessment of agency staffing since agencies can utilize part-time employees and volunteers in various ways to meet the needs of the community. With that in mind, Hudson, at 2,470 residents per full-time employee is very close to the peer group mean of 2,327 and median

of 2,575 residents per full-time employee. The group range, however, varies greatly from Twinsburg at 1,346 to Solon at 6,957 residents per full-time employee. Hudson does not offer recreation programming services directly and relies on community partners to provide programs. The addition of a recreation portfolio would increase the ratio of staff to residents. It should be noted that Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course has a separate staff and budget from Hudson parks and is not included in this analysis.

### Agency Budgets & Funding

The following definitions were provided to peer agencies on the survey:

- Total Operating Budget: From ALL sources. Please use and indicate the most recently completed fiscal year.
- Percent of Budget from Fees and Charges: all fees and charges; programs, rentals, contract fees
- Percent of Budget from Taxes: commonly property and/or local option income tax

City	Total Operating Budget	Operating Budget per Capita	Percent of Budget from Fees and Charges	Percent of Budget from Taxes	Tax Cost per Capita	Percent of Budget from All Other Sources	Average Capital Budget
Hudson	\$1,957,955	\$88.05	1%	97%	\$85.53	2%	\$746,000
Marysville	\$1,200,000	\$48.65	0%	100%	\$48.65	0%	\$150,000
Stow	\$838,212	\$24.09	40%	60%	\$14.46	0%	\$65,000
Solon	\$3,972,187	\$174.38	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	3%	\$28,557
Twinsburg	\$3,000,000	\$159.10	66%	34%	\$54.09	7.7%	\$225,000
<b>Benchmark Mean (Average)</b>	<b>\$2,252,600</b>	<b>\$101.56</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>64.7%</b>	<b>\$39.07</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>\$117,139</b>
<b>Benchmark Median (Middle)</b>	<b>\$2,100,000</b>	<b>\$103.85</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>\$26.14</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>

Table 7: Review of Peer Agencies' Budgets

- Percent of Budget from All Other Sources: For Example: food and beverage, operations or capital, unrestricted, etc.
- Average Capital Budget: An average of the annual capital budget from the last five years.

One of the major benefits of surveying communities across the state of Ohio is seeing the variation in approaches to parks and recreation budgeting. In our analysis, we standardized budget-related data to the greatest extent possible, but it is important to note that every municipality operates differently, reported their data to us according to their own bookkeeping standards, and may not be consistent with each other in the data tables. Peer agencies were also asked to report dedicated levies, other dedicated taxes, and sponsorships. However, most peer agencies were unable to report on these figures or they were included in the budget's other sources column so that data is not helpful to this analysis. As noted in the staffing analysis, Hudson's Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course has a separate budget from Hudson's parks. In order to view the communities in this benchmarking analysis as consistently as possible, Ellsworth Meadows is not included in this budget comparison.

Because of variations in accounting practices and community profiles, a direct comparison of reported agency budgets is less useful than per capita expenditures. Hudson, for example, does not offer recreation programming directly so does not have to budget for recreation staff or equipment. Among the peer group, Hudson falls in the middle in total budget and budget per capita. Hudson budgets \$88.05 per resident for parks. The peer group ranges from Solon at the high end with \$174.38 per resident to Stow at the low end, spending \$24.09 per resident.

Since Hudson provides no recreation programming, it also has no programming income. Its fees and charges revenue is derived from shelter and other amenity rentals. There is great variance in revenue models within the peer group. Marysville reported collecting none of its revenue from fees and charges or from other sources with 100% of its budget derived from taxes. Stow receives 40% of its revenue from fees and charges while Twinsburg receives 66% from fees and charges and only 34% from taxes. Solon did not report a revenue breakdown. Since Stow has the lowest budget and a sizable portion of that budget from fees, it is not surprising that it also has the lowest tax burden for parks with only \$14.46 per resident from taxes. Hudson's collects \$85.53 per resident in taxes, more than any community in the peer group. The average among the group was \$39.07 per resident.

Hudson also has a higher average capital budget than any of the peer group. It should be noted that Hudson provided the projected capital budget for the next five years, including 2020, and not the previous five years and that Hudson had significant capital expenditures (\$1,620,000) in 2020 that will not be repeated that raised its five-year average substantially. Hudson's anticipated five-year capital budget for parks is \$746,000. Without the 2020 capital expenditures, Hudson would still be the highest among the peer group. The group average for capital expenditures is \$242,911. Highest among the peer group on Twinsburg with \$225,000. Stow reported a \$65,000 capital budget while Solon reported only \$28,557. Given that Solon also has the highest operating budget of the group, the low capital expenditures may reflect differences in accounting or reporting practices.



City	Recreation/ Community Centers	Recreation/ Community Centers (sq. ft.)	Square Feet of Rec. Centers per Capita	Recreation Centers per 20,000	Other Non- Maintenance Buildings (sq. ft.)
Hudson	0	0	0	0	3,600
Marysville	0	0	0	0	0
Stow	0	0	0	0	0
Solon	1	94,000	4.12	0.88	0
Twinsburg	2	100,000	5.3	2.1	10,000
<b>Benchmark Mean (Average)</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>48,500</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Benchmark Median (Middle)</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>2,500</b>

Table 8: Buildings and Facilities

City	Aquatic Facilities (Indoor)	Aquatic Facilities (Outdoor)	Aquatic Facilities (Spray Pads)	Total Number of Pools	Pools per 10,000
Hudson	0	0	1	0	0
Marysville	0	1	1	1	0.41
Stow	0	0	0	0	0
Solon	1	2	0	3	1.3
Twinsburg	1	1	0	2	1.1
<b>Benchmark Mean (Average)</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.59</b>
<b>Benchmark Median (Middle)</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.75</b>

Table 9: Aquatic Facilities

### Agency Facilities

Hudson offers no indoor recreation facilities or community centers and relies on private commercial and non-profit providers for indoor recreation and fitness space. Neither Marysville nor Stow have recreation centers. Solon has one building measuring 94,000 square feet while Twinsburg has two indoor centers totaling 100,000 square feet.

Benchmark peers were asked about aquatic facilities including indoor and outdoor pools and spray or splash pads. Hudson does not have an indoor or outdoor pool but does have a spray pad at Veterans Way Park. Among the peer group, only Stow reported no aquatic facilities. Marysville has one outdoor pool and one spray pad, Solon has three pools—one indoor and two outdoor—and Twinsburg has one indoor and one outdoor pool.

City	Basketball Courts (Indoor)	Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	Basketball Hoops per 10,000	Pickleball (Indoor)	Pickleball (Outdoor)	Tennis (Outdoor Lighted)	Tennis (Outdoor Unlighted)	Tennis Courts per 10,000	Volleyball (Indoor)	Volleyball (Outdoor)	Baseball/ Softball Diamonds	Ball Diamonds per 10,000	Disc Golf Courses	Rectangular Fields (Football/ Soccer)	Other
Hudson	0	4	1.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	6.2	1	8	Skate Park, Golf Course
Marysville	0	8	3.2	0	4	4	0	1.6	0	2	5	2	1	5	
Stow	0	3	0.86	0	4	0	4	1.1	0	0	7	2	0	6	Golf Course
Solon	2	3	2.2	4	4	6	4	4.4	2	2	11	4.8	0	0	Skate Park, Golf Course
Twinsburg	3	2	2.7	0	6	2	1	1.6	3	1	11	5.8	0	2	
<b>Benchmark Mean (Average)</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	
<b>Benchmark Median (Middle)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	

Table 10: Athletic and Recreation Facilities

City	Community Garden Plots	Park Shelters	Playgrounds	Playgrounds per 10,000	Outdoor Fitness Stations	Permanent Stage/ Amphitheater	Mobile Stage	Other
Hudson	0	11	7	3.1	1	0	0	Senior Center
Marysville	0	10	14	5.7	1	1	1	Dog Park
Stow	120	2	9	2.6	0	0	1	Senior Center, 2 Lodges, Campground
Solon	0	6	6	2.7	0	0	0	
Twinsburg	250	5	11	5.8	0	1	0	Senior Center
<b>Benchmark Mean (Average)</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	
<b>Benchmark Median (Middle)</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	

Table 11: Baseline Characteristics of Peer Agencies

Hudson compares well with the peer group in some outdoor facilities, leading the peer group in ball diamonds, rectangle fields (soccer, football, lacrosse), and disc golf courses. Hudson has 14 diamonds for a ratio of 6.2 per 10,000 residents compared to an average of 3.7 per 10,000 residents for the group. Twinsburg has the next highest ratio at 5.8 diamonds per 10,000 while Solon has 4.8 and Marysville and Stow both have 2 per 10,000. Marysville has the only other disc golf course in the group. Hudson has 8 fields for soccer, football, or lacrosse, Stow has 6, Marysville 5, Twinsburg 2, and Solon 0. In addition, Hudson and Solon have the only skate parks and Hudson, Solon, and Stow have publicly-owned golf courses. It should be noted however that each city follows different operations and budget procedures for their golf courses, and it is not believed that the golf courses were included in the budgets provided. Hudson is below the group average in basketball courts with 4, 1.8 per 10,000 residents. The group average is 2.1 and only Stow has fewer courts per population. Hudson has only one sand volleyball court, compared to the group average of 2.3. Stow is the only peer not to offer volleyball courts. Hudson has no pickleball or tennis courts and is the only member of the group not to offer these amenities.

A complete parks system includes facilities and amenities other than active recreation or sports venues. Facilities such as community gardens and fitness stations provide for community health, playgrounds are social venues as well as recreational places for children, and shelters and stages are gathering locations that add to a community's overall quality of life. In small cities such as those participating in this benchmarking analysis, maintaining a complete set of all of these amenities proves to be difficult due to limitations on funding and staffing to build and maintain them and may not even be prioritized by community residents.

Hudson has more park shelters, 11, than any other member of the peer group. Marysville is right behind with 10. The group average is 5.8. Stow has only two shelters but also maintains two lodges, which serve as indoor gathering and meeting spaces. Hudson is one of two communities in the comparison that has outdoor fitness stations, in addition to Marysville. Three of the peer group have stages for performing arts. One of them, Twinsburg, has a permanent stage. Stow has a mobile stage, while Marysville is the only community in the group with both. Hudson has neither in its parks inventory. Hudson is slightly below the group average in playgrounds with 7, or 3.1 per 10,000 residents compared to an average of 3.8 playgrounds per 10,000 residents for the peer group. Marysville (5.7 per 10,000) and Twinsburg (5.8 per 10,000) are far ahead of Stow (2.6 per 10,000) and Solon (2.7 per 10,000).

Other facilities not specifically polled for benchmarking but otherwise identified include three communities with senior centers managed by parks departments, Hudson, Stow, and Twinsburg. Marysville has a dog park and Stow has a campground in addition to the two lodges.





# Needs Assessment

## Background

The needs assessment brings together the information and data gathered through earlier stages of the park master planning process to identify a path forward for the agency. The needs assessment is valuable because it allows for consideration of the unique situation of the city of Hudson and its residents and helps tailor the plan to best fit their needs. This needs assessment uses two methods to identify recommendations: level of service (LOS) standards and issues analysis.

The National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration developed a formula for assessing the level of service that a park and recreation agency provides based on a ratio of acres managed to population (Mertes & Hall, 1995). This metric helps an agency decipher if more park land is needed given estimates of the community's future population.

Level of service also includes service area and the access that residents have to park lands. In addition, level of service can be applied to the facilities that a park and recreation agency provides. The Trust for Public Land's (TTPL) City

Park Facts and NRPA's 2020 Agency Performance Review all include metrics and averages for the number of facilities in relation to the population (NRPA, 2020; TTPL, 2020). This section will use these factors to assess the level of service that the City of Hudson Parks Department is providing.

While analyzing level of service is valuable for providing an overview of the numeric situation of a park system, it is not capable of adequately capturing the perceptions and desires of leadership and residents or prominent trends in the park and recreation industry. For this reason, the needs assessment will also include an issues analysis which identifies needs and problems and discusses options for their resolution. The issues analysis will be used to ensure that key stakeholders and the public's opinions, as well as policy and social trends, are accounted for. Together, these two components of the needs assessment will help identify potential gaps in the system and inform recommendations to ensure a bright and sustainable future for City of Hudson Parks.

## Parks and Greenways

City of Hudson Parks provides 20 different parks (see Table 12) which cover approximately 1,029 acres of land and 15 trails totalling 12.7 miles. In addition, the city owns and operates Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course which spans 163 acres.

The level of service as of 2019 for park land provided by Hudson Parks was 46.27 acres per 1,000 residents (see Table 13). If undeveloped park land is excluded, the level of service becomes 38.40 acres per 1,000 residents. These numbers are well above the median of 9.9 acres per 1,000 residents identified by NRPA (2020) for park agencies across the

Park	Number of Acres
Barlow Farm Park	60
Bicentennial Woods Park	33
Boston Mills Park	8
Cascade Park	75
Colony Park	34
Darrow Road Park	63
Dinovi Woods	6
Doc's Woods	59
High Point Park	52
Hudson Springs Park	260
MacLaren Woods	27
Maple Grove Park	100
Middleton Park	9
Nicholson Trail	58
Oak Grove Park	30
Robinson Field Park	31
Trumbull Woods Park	18
Turnpike Trail	10
Veterans Way Park	38
Wildlife Woods	58

Table 12: Hudson Parks System

country. When considering the median of agencies serving a population between 20,000 to 49,999, as the City of Hudson does, the national median becomes 9.6 acres per 1,000 residents (NRPA, 2020), suggesting the city of Hudson is well beyond the average amount of park land available to residents across the country in similar size cities.

Unit of Analysis	Acreage/ Mileage	2019 LOS	6-year LOS	Recommended LOS
All Park Land	1,029	46.27	49.15	No Change
Developed Park Land	854	38.40	40.79	No Change
Trails	12.7	0.58	0.61	3.29 miles

Table 13: Level of Service for Parks and Trails

Looking ahead, the city of Hudson has been showing a slight trend for a declining population over time. From 2010 to 2019 the population declined at a rate of 0.01% based on percent growth rate. If this trend continues at the average rate that it occurred from 2010 to 2019, and no adjustments are made to the park system, then the level of service is likely to increase. By 2025 the level of service for developed park land would become 40.79 acres per 1,000 residents.

Hudson Parks currently has 12.7 miles of trails within the park system. According to NRPA (2020), the average park and recreation department has 11 miles of trails within its network. Departments serving cities similar in size to Hudson provide 8.5 miles of trail on average (NRPA, 2020). This indicates that Hudson is above average in trail mileage available to residents. The level of service for trails provided by City of Hudson Parks as of 2019 was 0.58 miles per 1,000 residents (see Table 2). Given the trend toward a decreasing population in the City of Hudson this level of service is likely to increase in the next six years. The projected level of service for 2025 would be 0.61 miles per 1,000 residents. The Trust for Public Land (2020) identified the national average for trail mileage as 0.20 miles. Thus, the city of Hudson compares well to other cities in its provision of trail mileage.

In terms of distribution, The Trust for Public Land (2018) estimates that 38% of residents in Hudson live within a 10 minute walk of a park. Nationally, 55% of residents live



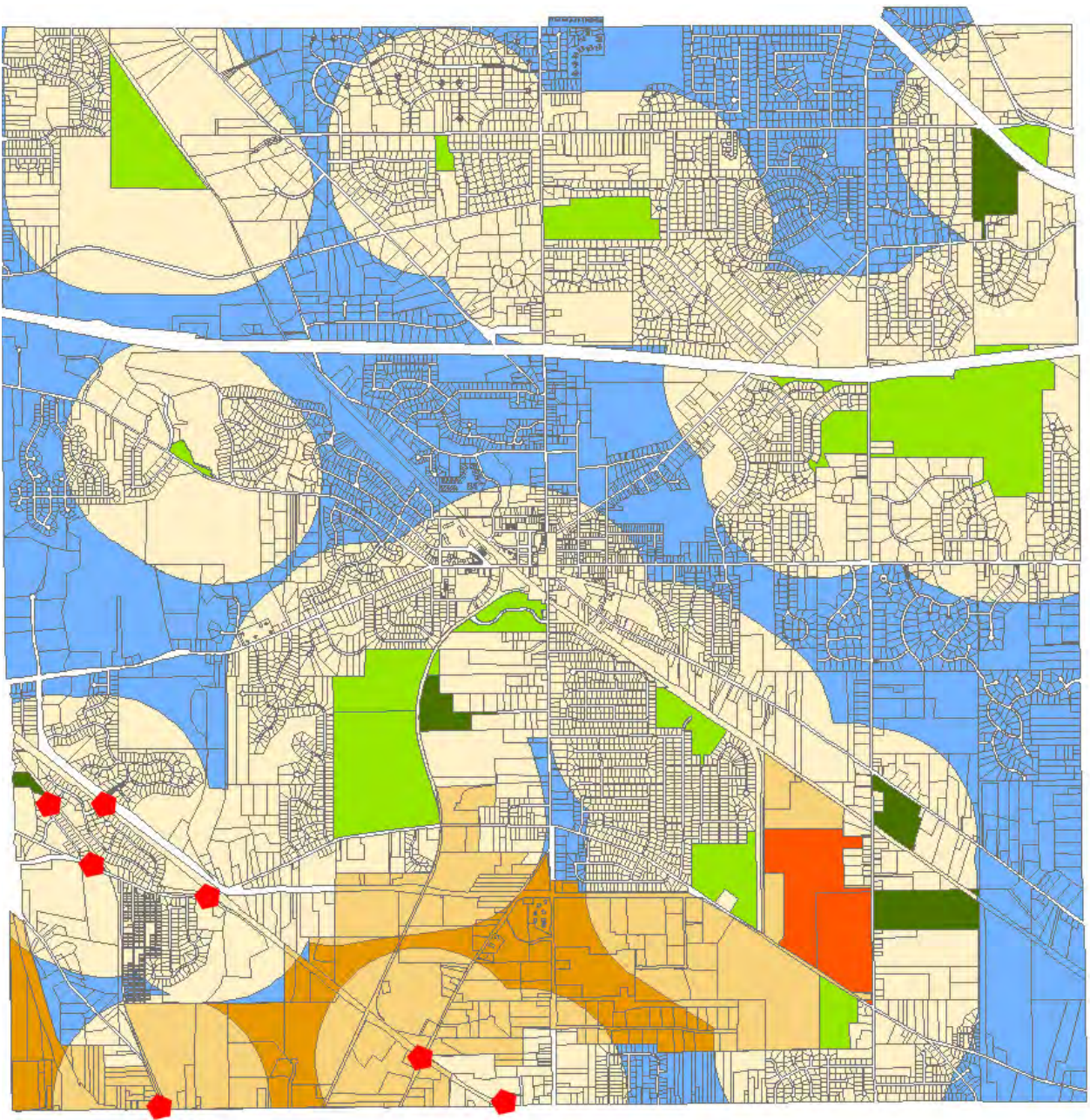


Figure 9 Legend

- Hudson Parks
- Undeveloped Parks
- Wood Hollow Metro Park
- Bike and Hike Trail Access Points
- Within .5mi buffer
- Outside .5mi buffer
- Industrial Business Park

Figure 9: Ten Minute Walking Distance to Developed Parks in Hudson



within a 10 minute walk of a park (TTPL, 2018). The map of the 10 minute walking distance (0.5 miles) to parks (Figure 9) shows that there may be some areas where an additional park could improve access for residents. The following are areas that could be considered.

1. Northeast corner of the city between Darrow Road Park and Trumbull Woods Park
2. Mid-city on the east side between Hudson Springs Park and Colony Park
3. Mid-city on the west side

Although additional parks could improve access, several key stakeholders felt that parks were adequately distributed throughout the city. Moreover, 86% of respondents in the survey were satisfied with the number of parks and when allocating a hypothetical \$100 to facilities, survey respondents allocated the least amount of spending to acquisition of new park land and open space and about twice the amount to improvements and maintenance of existing facilities. Key stakeholders also felt the continual maintenance of parks was more important than new parks. While some key stakeholders were supportive of developing existing parks, they did not independently bring up the need for new parks in the interviews.

Overall, key stakeholders were satisfied with Hudson parks. They felt that there was a sufficient number and diversity of parks and that they were clean, safe, and well-maintained. The public agreed, with 83% stating that they were satisfied with the value of Hudson Parks and 87% stating that they were satisfied with the maintenance of parks. Stakeholders and the public also felt that the city of Hudson should focus on maintaining and developing existing resources prior to considering new developments. Areas of focus for maintenance could be Middleton Park and Oak Grove Park

which were rated fair or poor in condition by 33% and 37% of the population, respectively. DiNovi Woods and Robinson Field Park were also rated lower in condition, but this likely reflects the fact that both are currently undeveloped and inaccessible. Several stakeholders also noted the inability to access some of the undeveloped parks (Doc's Woods, MacLaren Woods, and Robinson Field Park). The undeveloped land analysis revealed that both Doc's Woods and MacLaren Woods are better suited for preservation due to their ecology, but Robinson Field Park and DiNovi Woods could be good options for future development. Since community members agree that new parks should be a secondary priority, this plan recommends park acquisitions as a long-term goal, beyond the scope of this plan. Thus, no change is recommended to the parkland level of service.

When it comes to trails both stakeholders and community members felt that more should be built. Community members in the survey indicated that trails were the most important facilities to their households and that walking and biking trails (81%) and nature centers and trails (66%) were something their households needed. In an analysis of unmet facility needs, both nature centers and trails and walking and biking trails were ranked highly as unmet. Walking and biking trails were also ranked highly as a service focus area for the city of Hudson. In addition, walking and biking trails and nature centers and trails were identified as the two highest priority investments for Hudson Parks. In interviews, stakeholders emphasized the importance of connectivity, especially between parks and downtown, and suggested expanding the Darrow Road Park trail, expanding the Cascade Park trail, and connecting Trumbull Woods trails and another longer trail. There could be an opportunity to connect Trumbull Woods with the undeveloped High Point Park, which was identified as suitable for trail development in the undeveloped land analysis. Stakeholders also brought

up the importance of long trails, noting this was a gap in Hudson’s system since most trails were short. Some stakeholders also suggested Hudson trails could be made more accessible to those with disabilities.

Trails have a variety of benefits, including economic and health benefits, for communities and residents. One study found that every dollar invested in trail construction and use resulted in a reduction of individual medical costs by approximately \$2.94 (Wang et al., 2005). Another found that paved trails, unpaved trails, and wooded areas significantly predicted the likelihood of people engaging in physical activity (Kaczynski et al., 2008). A study investigating two counties that include parts of the Virginia Creeper Rail Trail found that tourists spent \$1.2 million in the two-county area (Bowker et al., 2007). Although the amount of money spent varies by the size of the county and existing economy, Moore, Gitelson, and Graefe (1994) found that on a rural trail, visitor expenditures had a higher impact than trails in other areas.

Since trails are important to the health of Hudson residents, could have positive impacts on the economy, and are highly valued by the community, this plan recommends a slight increase in the miles of trails offered. While an increase in the current level of service is not necessary to meet national averages, it seems likely to meet the specific needs of the City of Hudson. This recommendation fits with existing plans to expand trails in the community based on high priority as noted in the City of Hudson’s 2018 connectivity plan.

The stakeholders also noted that many residents were unaware of all of the parks and trails in the system. In the public surveys, 32% of respondents shared that they lacked knowledge about opportunities and 24% shared that they lacked knowledge of facility locations. These were among the top barriers to use of the parks. This finding reveals a need to ramp up marketing to aid with awareness of the parks and trails available in the city of Hudson.

Recreation Facilities

The city of Hudson offers a variety of facilities throughout the park system (see Table 14).

Facility Type	Quantity
Parking lots	16
Restrooms	6
Lakes/Ponds	7
Boat Ramps	1
Boat Docks	2
Observation Deck	1
Splash Pad	1
Ball Fields	14
Rectangle Fields	8
Basketball Courts	4
Volleyball Courts	2
Bocce Ball Courts	2
Bean Bag Court	1
Playgrounds	8
Skate Park	1
Disc Golf Course	1
Fitness Equipment	5
Amphitheater	2
Shelters	11
Picnic Tables	9 parks
Chess Table	1
Community Center	1 (not managed by Hudson Parks)
Golf Course	1

Table 14: Hudson Parks Facilities

Table 15 provides a summary of the current level of service for facilities with metrics from the National Recreation and Park Association's 2020 Agency Performance Review and The Trust for Public Land's 2020 City Park Facts Data.

City of Hudson parks facilities offer a level of service above both the TTPL level of service averages and the NRPA quantity averages in all categories that Hudson provides except basketball hoops, where the city falls just below the TTPL standard. Since the Hudson parks department does not provide a recreation center, pickleball courts, tennis courts, a dog park, a community garden, swimming pools, or nature centers, it falls below national averages in these facilities, most notably with tennis courts. It's important to note that Hudson Parks is not the only provider of recreation facilities for the City of Hudson. Organizations from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors all play a role in offering facilities that relate to parks and recreation as well as nearby parks and recreation providers. For example, Summit County Parks offers a nature center near Hudson and public and private providers offer swimming pools in the City of Hudson.

Key stakeholders were mostly satisfied with the city of Hudson's parks facilities and emphasized the amount of use they receive. Specifically, they mentioned an appreciation for the skate park, Parks Master Plan

Facility Type	Qty	Hudson LOS <sup>1</sup>	TTPL Median LOS <sup>2</sup>	NRPA Median Qty <sup>3</sup>	Recommendation
Ball Diamonds	14	6.3	1.6	8.0	No Change
Rectangle Fields	8	3.6	2.4	6.2	No Change
Basketball Hoops/ Courts	6 hoops/ 4 courts	2.7/ 1.8	3.2 hoops	3.0 courts	No Change
Playgrounds	8	3.6	2.6	5.9	No Change
Volleyball Courts	2	9.0	4.2	-	No Change
Disc Golf Course	1	4.5	0.4	-	No Change
Golf Course	1	4.5	0.7	-	No Change
Skate Park	1	4.5	0.6	0.5	No Change
Splash Pad	1	4.5	1.3	-	No Change
Amphitheater	2	1.8	-	0.4	No Change
Community Center	1	0.9	-	0.8	No Change
Restrooms	6	2.7	1.5	-	No Change
Recreation Center	0	0.0	0.7	0.7	No Change
Pickleball Courts	0	0.0	0.6	-	1 new pickleball court
Tennis Courts	0	0.0	1.7	4.4	1 new tennis court
Dog Park	0	0.0	1.2	0.5	1 new dog park
Community Garden	0	0.0	0.3	0.7	No Change
Swimming Pools	0	0.0	1.8	0.6	No Change
Nature Centers	0	0.0	0.4	0.2	No Change

**Table 15: Level of Service for Facilities**

<sup>1</sup> LOS is per 10,000 residents for ball diamonds, rectangle fields, basketball hoops/courts, playgrounds, restrooms, and tennis courts; per 20,000 residents for amphitheaters, community centers, recreation centers, and pickleball courts; and per 100,000 residents for volleyball courts, disc golf course, golf course, skate park, splash pad, dog park, swimming pools, and nature centers based on the Trust for Public Land's 2020 City Park Facts Data and the 2019 population estimate of 22,237 from the U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> TTPL Median LOS is based on the median level of service from 100 cities provided in The Trust for Public Land's 2020 City Park Facts Data.

<sup>3</sup> NRPA standard calculated through the median number of residents per facility in the NRPA 2020 Agency Performance Review.



playgrounds, and upgrades to older facilities. They noted some concerns with facilities as well, namely a continual need for upkeep, parking at busy parks such as Hudson Springs Park, and recreation opportunities for teens, seniors, and children with disabilities. While they felt maintaining existing facilities was the most important thing, they had some recommendations for new facilities. These included additional parking, maps at parks, accessible restrooms, fitness equipment, pickleball courts, basketball courts, a recreation center, an outdoor pool, a turf field, field lights, and equipment rentals (e.g., frisbees and kayaks).

The public echoed the value of Hudson's facilities. Survey respondents felt that nature centers and trails, lake features, and playgrounds were the most important facilities. Compared to key stakeholders, survey respondents were satisfied with the amount of parking. The services that survey respondents were less satisfied with included the number of tennis/pickleball courts, the quality of facilities for adults age 55 and older, and the availability of information about facilities. In a question about barriers, 24% of survey respondents indicated the reason they did not use facilities more often was that the facility type they preferred was not offered. This suggests that incorporating some new facilities could help to better meet community needs. As for new amenities, the public agreed with stakeholders that maintenance and renovations should be considered first, but they felt that sledding hills, nature centers and trails, off-leash dog parks, and outdoor tennis/pickleball courts were unmet recreation needs. In addition, all of these facilities were rated as high priorities for funding except for tennis/pickleball courts, which were rated as medium. The results of the survey suggest facilities for adults age 55 and older and nature centers, sledding hills, off-leash dog parks, and outdoor tennis/pickleball courts should be considered.

The accessibility assessment also identified some improvements to facilities which are of immediate concern or easy to resolve. Suggestions included designating accessible parking, accessible routes from parking lots to park facilities, playground surfacing and elevation, shelter routes and surfacing elevation, trail surfacing and slope, accessible information and signage, restroom accessibility at Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course, relocation of trash receptacles to pathways, relocation of benches to firm and stable routes, repairs to playground and crushed stone trail surfacing, removal of a seat at the Veteran's Way playground table, removal of overgrowth on trails like Veteran's way, and resurfacing concrete pads and bridges to create even surfaces, among other changes. For a full list of accessibility recommendations consult Appendix D.

Since the city of Hudson is largely meeting industry averages for facilities and there is consensus among all stakeholders to focus on maintenance and renovation, limited changes are recommended for facilities in this plan. While a recreation center is unmet in industry averages and was suggested by key stakeholders, it did not arise as a priority from the community survey. Given the expense of the facility and the fact that it is being met by other community providers it is not recommended. Pickleball courts and tennis courts were listed as an unmet need and area of dissatisfaction for residents in the survey and came up in key stakeholder interviews. Since these two courts can overlap and the installation of one would help meet industry averages, this is suggested as a new facility to meet community needs. Off-leash dog parks also arose as a priority area in the survey and a facility that Hudson does not yet offer. The ease of the development of a dog park given the amount of undeveloped space that Hudson has makes this an easy opportunity for the city of Hudson. The inclusion of one dog park in

the system is recommended. Swimming pools and nature centers are met by other providers at the moment and can be considerations for future planning processes if they are still indicated as large needs. Accessibility updates should also be a priority among renovations to ensure that reasonable access is being provided to all community members. In addition to updates the continued observation and study of some facility types should be implemented. An examination of wayfinding and signage and information provision online should be considered in terms of comprehensiveness and access. In addition, study of the use of specific facilities across the system could be valuable for identifying unused facilities for the next plan. The removal or change to facilities could alleviate some of the concerns for maintenance and improvement.

### **Park and Recreation Providers and Partners**

Hudson Parks is not the only entity which provides park and recreation facilities and programs in the area. There are a variety of other groups which also help to fill the role. Some of these organizations are listed below. Many of these groups partner with Hudson Parks to better meet the needs of residents.

#### **Summit County Metro Parks**

Summit County Metro Parks manages 14,000 acres which include 16 parks and additional conservation areas. The system also includes 150 miles of trails. Several of the parks are within close distance of the city of Hudson including Wood Hollow Metro Park, the Bike & Hike Trail, and Liberty Park. Together these places provide the following facilities to Hudson residents: trails for walking, dog-walking, biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing; shelters; picnic tables;

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baseball and softball fields; a playground; an archery facility; places for boating and fishing; and a nature center.

#### **Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve**

Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve is a state-owned swamp and marshland park. The park consists of 355 acres of land, 15 acres of water, and 4 miles of trails. Visitors can enjoy activities such as fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing, and wildlife viewing.

#### **Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

Cuyahoga Valley National Park is about 10 minutes by car from the City of Hudson. Cuyahoga Valley National Park spans 32,950 acres of land, 19,113 acres of which are federally-owned. The park includes 250 historic structures, the Ohio and Erie Canal, and the Scenic Railroad. In addition it boasts 140 miles of hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding trails. There are two visitor centers: the Boston Mill Visitor Center and the Canal Exploration Center. The park consistently provides interpretive programs, educational programs, and school programming. The park also hosts events such as the annual Ohio Special Olympics.

#### **Friends of Hudson Parks**

Friends of Hudson Parks is a non-profit organization that supports Hudson Parks through volunteering, advocacy, and funding. This group handles many programs and events that occur in Hudson parks such as races, story walks, and geocaching. The group has also been spearheading the development of a Pollinator Meadow at Darrow Road Park.

#### **Hudson City Schools & Hudson Community Education & Recreation (HCER)**

The public school system in the City of Hudson administers sports fields and playgrounds designed for students from

kindergarten through 12th grade. The middle school offers sports including track, basketball, football, volleyball, lacrosse, field hockey, soccer, cross country, and wrestling. High school sports include field hockey, soccer, golf, football, cheerleading, volleyball, tennis, cross country, basketball, gymnastics, wrestling, bowling, ice hockey, swimming and diving, softball, baseball, track and field, lacrosse, and rugby. In addition, the school system also offers community education and recreation opportunities such as childcare, youth basketball, and adult sports leagues. Eastwoods Elementary offers one of the three pools in the city which is used by the competitive swim team Hudson Explorers Aquatic Team (HEAT).

### **Youth Outreach Groups: Hudson Community First**

Hudson Community First is an organization created in 1995 based on 40 developmental assets important to positive youth development. The organization engages youth in programming and provides resources about opportunities available for youth development.

### **Private Health Clubs and Gyms**

The city of Hudson features private health clubs and gyms where people can pay annual or monthly fees in order to use the facilities. Examples of these facilities include LifeCenter Plus, Fitness Works, Fitness Together, Summa Health Wellness Center, Evolve Fitness, and CrossFit Cadre. Most of the facilities provide exercise equipment and weights, and some offer personal training or recreation classes.

### **Houses of Worship**

A wide variety of religions are represented in the City of Hudson, and many of the churches, the synagogue, and other houses of worship feature recreation facilities. Some are as simple as rooms for crafts, while others include outdoor gathering spaces.

### **Other**

There are many independent clubs that organize sporting events utilizing department facilities and those of other recreation providers throughout the City of Hudson. Some examples include:

*Kiwanis Baseball:* The Hudson Kiwanis Club operates youth recreational baseball opportunities at Barlow Farm Park, Cascade Park, Colony Park, and Oak Grove Park.

*Hudson Baseball Association:* This organization plans and offers competitive traveling baseball opportunities to youth.

*Hudson United Soccer:* This organization organizes youth, teen, and adult recreational and travel soccer leagues at Barlow Farm Park.

*Soccer4All:* Geared toward children aged 4–25 with special needs, Soccer4All offers soccer opportunities at Barlow Farm Park.

These providers and partners help to fulfill the needs of the community. Stakeholders in the City of Hudson felt additional partnerships could be explored with the schools by holding classes in parks, philanthropic organizations, local businesses, Hudson libraries by placing free libraries in parks, and civic organizations. In addition, working on opportunities for citizens and organizations to donate through memorial plaques on benches in parks was mentioned. Some stakeholders also felt that organizations providing sports lessons such as skating or pickleball could be a good partnership. Developing these partnerships could assist with funding for new trails or facilities or create additional opportunities for visitors to engage with the parks system.



# Strategic Action Plan

Based on the research findings, community input, and assessments, the parks system in Hudson is utilized, appreciated, and supported by the community. The findings also revealed opportunities to strengthen the system to better meet the needs of the community and protect existing investments. To meet evolving needs, a strategic action plan is proposed below. It is recommended that this action plan be reviewed annually to track progress and update priorities, and comprehensively reviewed and updated every five years to appropriately respond to and stay current on the community's changing needs.

The actions outlined in the plan address five strategic areas identified through the community survey and stakeholder interviews:

- **Maintain and Protect Assets**
- **Respond to Changing Community Needs**
- **Parks and Recreation Opportunities for All**
- **Partnerships for Community Benefit**
- **Communications, Information Sharing, and Orientation**



## Timeframes

An implementation timeframe is provided for each action. These timeframes are intended to aid in the transition from the planning process to implementing the action plan, recognizing that funding, staff, community need, and other factors will likely impact the proposed timeframes. As such, the timeframes and action items should be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The timeframes presented in the tables are as follows:

- Immediate: less than 1 year
- Short-term: 1–2 years
- Mid-term: 3–7 years
- Long-term: more than 7 years

Note actions with an asterisk (\*) can be addressed quickly, in-house, and with limited resources.

Long-range projects with no estimated timeframe are listed in a separate table at the end of the action plans.

## Strategic Area 1: Maintain and Protect Assets

Hudson has a large existing inventory of parks and park amenities that provide residents with a choice of high-quality recreation opportunities. Maintenance of these facilities and amenities for continued quality, safety, and longevity is critical and renovations and upgrades should be made where and as needed to continue to provide Hudson residents these excellent opportunities. Responses to the community survey and stakeholder interviews all identified this area as a high priority for and concern of Hudson residents.

### Goals:

- Protect park infrastructure through preventative and routine maintenance.
- Anticipate future facility and amenity maintenance and repair needs.
- Control invasive species within the park system.
- Maintain undeveloped park inventory to address future community needs.

### Action Table for Maintain and Protect Assets

Action	Timeframe	Notes
Purchase core harvester	Immediate	Project 6 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025
Colony Park trunk storm replacement in parking lot	Immediate	Project 4 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$200,000 in 2021)
Hudson Springs Park lake refill well and pump repair	Immediate	Project 5 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$30,000 in 2021)
Hudson Springs Park shop purchase equipment lift	Immediate	Project 7 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$9,000 in 2021)
Hudson Springs Park develop Dam Safety Plan	Immediate	Project 8 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$15,000 in 2021)
Boston Mills Park improve or remove picnic table area at parking lot	Immediate*	Remove vegetative growth and improve ground surfacing beneath picnic tables
Hudson Springs Park replace boat dock	Short-term	Project 14 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$5,000 in 2022)
All parks repair picnic tables	Short-term	Replace warped and deteriorated boards

Action	Timeframe	Notes
<b>Develop long-term maintenance plans for primary assets</b>	Short-term	With input from public works superintendent, and facility users; primary assets to include ballfields, playgrounds, trails, soccer fields, buildings, and all new construction projects
<b>Develop invasive species management plan</b>	Short-term	In coordination with Friends of Hudson Parks: plan to address immediate needs and long-term management strategies. Plan will require inventory of invasive species at each park property.
<b>Coordinate with community groups to establish young adult and youth conservation internships to complete high priority invasive species management work</b>	Short-term	In coordination with Friends of Hudson Parks and in partnership with Student Conservation Association or similar youth conservation organization. Possible future partnerships with HCER and Garden Club to create a part-time naturalist position with resource management and programming duties, who could also supervise interns.
<b>Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course irrigation valve replacement</b>	Short-term	Project 2 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$25,000 per year in 2021,2022)
<b>Hudson Springs Park repave area around and to recently-installed boat dock</b>	Short-term	Deterioration and erosion have created changes in level and uneven surfacing
<b>Boston Mills Park define trail routing and resurface trails</b>	Short-term	Import crushed stone surfacing and identify trail route; create loop trail
<b>Park truck replacement</b>	Mid-term	Project 19 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (estimated \$40,000)
<b>Middleton, Colony, and Oak Grove Parks pavilion renovation/replacement</b>	Mid-term	Renovate aging pavilions and make fully ADA compliant including accessible routes, outlet heights, and overhead clearance
<b>Golf Course irrigation update</b>	Mid-term	Project 20 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (estimated \$550,000)
<b>Maintain undeveloped parkland for future park and facility needs</b>	Long-term	Including Robinson Field Park, MacLaren Woods

Table 16: Maintain and Protect Assets



## Strategic Area 2: Respond to Changing Community Needs

The needs of the Hudson community have changed since the development of the first Parks Master Plan and will continue to change in the future. While there is broad support for maintaining and protecting existing park assets, strategic additions should be incorporated based on community input.

### Goals:

- Provide highest rated community needs expressed in 2019 community survey and stakeholder interviews
- Provide an interconnected trail network that allows users to safely recreate and travel between parks, schools, and neighborhoods throughout the city
- Re-assess the needs of the community on a regular basis
- Fulfill outstanding goals from current planning efforts including the 2015 City Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Downtown Hudson Trail and Greenway Concept Plan, and 2018 Connectivity Plan Update
- Comprehensively update the Parks Master Plan at least every five years

### Action Table for Respond to Changing Community Needs

Action	Timeframe	Notes
<b>Veteran's Trail Phase 4 construction</b>	Immediate	Project 9 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$380,000 in 2021, ODNR grant for \$500,000)
<b>W. Barlow Road sidewalk construction</b>	Immediate	Project 3 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$875,000 in 2021)
<b>Boston Mills Road trail connection design</b>	Immediate	Project 10 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$175,000 in 2021)
<b>Off-leash dog park construction</b>	Short-term	Recommended location: Colony Park lacrosse field; secondary location: Oak Grove back ballfields
<b>Tennis and pickleball facility design and construction</b>	Short-term	Recommended location: Barlow Farm Park; secondary location: Oak Grove Park
<b>Hudson Springs Park increase parking capacity</b>	Short-term	Design and construction
<b>Hudson Springs Park increase boat storage</b>	Short-term	Increase number of boat racks

Action	Timeframe	Notes
<b>Veteran's Trail Phase 3 construction</b>	Short-term	Project 12 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$1,000,000 in 2022)
<b>Boston Mills Road trail connection construction</b>	Short-term	Project 11 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$900,000 in 2022)
<b>Valley View &amp; Hunting Hollow connectivity project construction</b>	Short-term	Project 16 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$580,000 in 2023)
<b>Golf Course purchase golf simulators for clubhouse</b>	Short-term	
<b>Parks Master Plan project status and priorities update</b>	Short-term and yearly	To be completed by Park Board in coordination with Public Works Department once a year
<b>Improve safety of pedestrian access to parks</b>	Mid-term	In partnership with the Traffic Safety Committee. Priority areas include entrances to Hudson Springs Park and Oak Grove Park.
<b>Barlow Farm Park install playground swings</b>	Mid-term	Location between existing playground and storage building
<b>E. Barlow Road connector path project construction</b>	Mid-term	Project 17 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$750,000 in 2023, does not include Norfolk Southern costs)
<b>Oak Grove Park development of underused central parking lot area</b>	Mid-term	Options may include restoration to natural meadow/conservation area or save for potential future development need such as community recreation center or sports fields
<b>Prospect Street turnpike pedestrian bridge design</b>	Mid-term	Project 18 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$40,000 in 2023)
<b>Administer community survey on park and trail usage and needs</b>	Mid-term, Long-term	Every five years — 2024, 2029
<b>Parks Master Plan comprehensive update</b>	Mid-term, Long-term	Every five years — 2025, 2030
<b>Revisit whether additional park land acquisitions are necessary at every Parks Master Plan five year update</b>	Mid-term, Long-term	Every five years — 2025, 2030
<b>Connect parks and create opportunities for longer recreation routes through city-wide connectivity initiatives</b>	Long-term	Integrate parks as crucial elements of city-wide Connectivity Plan

Table 17: Respond to Changing Community Needs

### Strategic Area 3: Parks and Recreation Opportunities for All

Parks, trails, and natural areas provide Hudson residents mental health and wellness benefits in addition to physical exercise, gathering, and socializing opportunities. These benefits should be available to all Hudson residents. Hudson is committed to providing high quality parks and recreation opportunities for all ages, abilities, and interests regardless of socioeconomic status. This commitment includes ensuring all park amenities and sites comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, increasing recreation opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and older adults, providing opportunities for families and groups to recreate together, and continuing to provide opportunities for high quality recreation experiences at no or low cost.

#### Goals:

- Provide opportunities for children with and without disabilities to play together in an integrated setting.
- Provide opportunities for intergenerational families and groups to recreate together.
- Increase opportunities to participate in sports and recreation programs to a wider population and in a wider range of weather conditions.
- Provide accessible parking areas and restrooms at each park that provides these amenities.
- Provide paved routes to at least one of each type of amenity at each park location.

#### Action Table for Parks and Recreation Opportunities for All

Action	Timeframe	Notes
Add crushed stone surfacing material to remove changes in level at concrete pads (pavilions, ball field bench pads) and bridges (Hudson Springs Park)	Immediate*	From full accessibility report list of easy improvements
Hudson Springs Park cut opening into bocce court edging to create access point	Immediate*	From full accessibility report list of easy improvements
Barlow Farm Park fill expansion joints in concrete at pavilion shelters	Immediate*	Fill gaps greater than ½ inch. From full accessibility report list of easy improvements
All parks rearrange picnic tables within pavilions	Immediate*	To make accessible tables more easily identifiable; from full accessibility report list of easy improvements



Action	Timeframe	Notes
<b>All parks relocate amenities so they are within reach of or accessible from accessible routes and do not block access to other features</b>	Immediate* and Short-term	From full accessibility report list of easy improvements; amenities include trash and recycling receptacles, picnic tables, dog waste bag dispensers, benches, planters
<b>Hudson Springs and Veterans Way Parks install tactile restroom identification signs next to the doors for flush toilet restrooms</b>	Immediate*	From full accessibility report list of easy improvements
<b>Veterans Way Park remove seat from second table at playground</b>	Immediate*	From full accessibility report list of easy improvements
<b>Crushed stone pathway vegetation management</b>	Immediate* and yearly	Noted at Barlow Farm Park and Veterans Way Park
<b>Repair crushed stone pathway surfacing to remove soft spots and depressions caused by erosion</b>	Immediate* and yearly	From full accessibility report list of easy improvements
<b>Repair playground surfacing at all playgrounds to remove soft spots and depressions</b>	Immediate* and yearly	From full accessibility report list of easy improvements; Interim action for long term action to replace surfacing with unitary surface
<b>All parks with playgrounds playground updates (Replace aging playground structures with structures containing accessible ground level play components)</b>	Immediate and Long-term	Project 1 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$30,000 per year from 2021–2025); replace with structures complying with ADA requirements including ground level play components
<b>Add ADA contact (city accessibility coordinator) information and complaint submittal procedure to parks website</b>	Short-term	Coordinate with appropriate city departments
<b>All parks with parking repair accessible parking ground surfacing and striping</b>	Short-term	From full accessibility report list of high-priority deficiencies and barriers
<b>All parks with parking correct accessible parking vertical signage</b>	Short-term*	Add or correct depending on location, from full accessibility report list of easy improvements
<b>Hudson Springs Park add additional barrier on bottom of fishing pier/overlook</b>	Short-term*	Reduce gap to maximum 4 inches; from full accessibility report list of easy improvements
<b>Colony Park replace drinking fountain or add additional fountain</b>	Short-term	New drinking fountain to comply with ADA standards
<b>Colony Park trail paving</b>	Short-term	Project 15 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$100,000 in 2022)

Action	Timeframe	Notes
<b>Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course clubhouse update/replacement</b>	Short-term	Project 13 on Five Year Capital Plan 2021–2025 (planned \$75,000 in 2022); Renovate restrooms to meet ADA standards compliance
<b>Oak Grove Park improve route to restroom</b>	Short-term	Create paved route to access restroom and remove fencing
<b>Improve trail surface and reduce slope of naturally surfaced trails</b>	Mid-term and ongoing	Where possible remove tree roots and rocks to reduce changes in level and reroute trails to avoid steep sections
<b>Boston Mills Park viewing area improvements</b>	Mid-term	Install accessible seating and picnic area at lake overlook
<b>Construct paved routes to pavilions</b>	Mid-term	Priority for parks that currently do not have paved routes to any pavilions (Middleton, Colony, Oak Grove); may be in conjunction with pavilion renovation/replacement project
<b>Construct routes to playgrounds, picnic areas, sports and activity fields and courts, team seating areas, and spectator areas</b>	Mid-term	Must meet ADA accessible route requirements
<b>Increase number of hard-surface trails</b>	Mid-term	Prioritize paving trails that receive the most use, such as sections of Hudson Springs trail, are frequently washed out, or are located in areas without access to other paved trail options
<b>Construct intergenerational universal access playground</b>	Mid-term	Recommended location: Colony Park
<b>All playgrounds replace playground surfacing with poured in place unitary surfacing</b>	Long-term	May be in conjunction with playground equipment updates
<b>Complete other required and recommended accessibility improvements</b>	Long-term, Ongoing	Maintain progress on recommendations outlined in full accessibility report (Appendix B)

Table 18: Parks and Recreation Opportunities for All





Parks Master Plan





## Strategic Area 4: Partnerships for Community Benefit

Hudson has a strong history of city-wide planning efforts and leveraging partnerships that benefit the community. However, when a community undergoes multiple planning efforts they must coordinate with and inform each other to ensure they best meet the community's needs. This coordination allows resources to be used efficiently, projects to proceed more smoothly, and the city to address community needs in a comprehensive way. Residents view the parks, trails, and city infrastructure in Hudson as interrelated and want connections that allow greater access and longer networks. Strengthened partnerships will be necessary to provide these connections and to continue to provide high quality recreation programming for Hudson residents.

### Goals:

- Coordinate with other city planning groups and organizations to align goals and objectives of past and future planning efforts such as the Comprehensive Plan, Connectivity Plan, Trail and Greenway Concept Plan, and Parks Master Plan
- Provide Hudson residents a wide variety of recreation opportunities, regardless of provider
- Provide high-quality support for recreation service providers
- Secure private funding partnerships

### Action Table for Partnerships for Community Benefit

Action	Timeframe	Notes
<b>Hold yearly meeting with all recreation service providers that utilize Hudson Parks</b>	Immediate* and yearly	Information gathering and relationship building sessions for city staff and Park Board to better understand needs of recreation service providers
<b>Establish Grant Opportunities sub-committee of Park Board</b>	Immediate* and ongoing	Sub-committee responsible for identifying park and trail grant opportunities and coordinating submission of grant applications
<b>Solicit private funding partnerships for major capital improvements</b>	Immediate and ongoing	In partnership with Friends of Hudson Parks
<b>Park Board membership on Hudson Connectivity committee</b>	Immediate* and ongoing	Continuing action
<b>Encourage Summit Metro Parks developments in Hudson to create longer trail networks</b>	Immediate and ongoing	Including TenBroeck property
<b>Establish Friends of Hudson Parks liaison to Park Board</b>	Short-term*	Regular attendance at Park Board meetings by Friends of Hudson Parks representative for collaboration and initiative updates



Action	Timeframe	Notes
Work with Summit Metro Parks to connect Hudson's Maple Grove Park trail with to planned Summit Metro Parks Maple Grove Park	Short-term and ongoing	Metro Parks site will include parking, providing greater access to Hudson's existing Maple Grove trail to residents
DiNovi Woods pocket park and Bike and Hike alternate route with fitness equipment (design and construction)	Mid-term	In partnership with Summit Metro Parks
Park Board representation on Hudson Comprehensive Plan update committee	Mid-term	Hudson has updated its comprehensive plan approximately every 10 years and will be due for update in 2025

Table 19: Partnerships for Community Benefit



## Strategic Area 5: Communications, Information Sharing, and Orientation

Open communication between residents, stakeholders, city staff, and the Park Board is crucial for the success of the Parks Master Plan. The community survey results and stakeholder interviews both expressed a desire for more accessible information on park offerings. There was also an expressed need for ways to submit feedback and communicate with parks staff and the Park Board. Other initiatives in this area include providing clear wayfinding signage throughout the park system and adapting to new and emerging methods of public engagement through digital and virtual means.

### Goals:

- Provide system maps, park and trail maps, and detailed park and trail information in a user friendly, easy to access online location.
- Install wayfinding, park and trail maps, and park and trail information signage throughout the system.
- Implement system to collect public feedback on parks.
- Integrate digital and virtual park experiences.
- Ensure full accessibility of parks website, printed materials, signage, and other communication methods.

### Action Table for Communications, Information Sharing, and Orientation

Action	Timeframe	Notes
Reprint and replace signs and bulletins in information kiosks with larger font size	Immediate*	From full accessibility report list of easy improvements. Friends of Hudson Parks could be a partner in this effort.
Create online public comment or feedback board to report park issues with review as standing item at Park Board meetings	Short-term*	Ensure all information and communication technology is fully accessible
Publicly publish availability calendar for reservable fields and facilities	Short-term*	Ensure all information and communication technology is fully accessible
Install trailhead identification signage at Turnpike Trail, Nicholson Trail, and unnamed trails used to access parks	Short-term	Friends of Hudson Parks could be a partner in this effort.
Create trail maps for all park trails and comprehensive Hudson trail and connectivity network	Short-term	Include Connectivity Plan routes and other connecting sidewalks, where appropriate. Friends of Hudson Parks could be a partner in this effort.

Action	Timeframe	Notes
<b>Install updated park map signage</b>	Short-term (priority parks) Mid-term (other parks)	Priority parks: Hudson Springs and Barlow Farm. Friends of Hudson Parks could be a partner in this effort.
<b>Install wayfinding signage</b>	Short-term (priority parks) Mid-term (other parks)	Priority parks: Hudson Springs and Barlow Farm. Also consider installing wayfinding signage between parks as connectivity routes are achieved. Friends of Hudson Parks could be a partner in this effort.
<b>Post trail accessibility information on website and at trailheads</b>	Mid-term	Provide information based on ABA Accessibility Standards requirements for trailhead information signs
<b>Create user friendly website or online application with park maps and park and trail information</b>	Mid-term	Ensure all information and communication technology is fully accessible
<b>Create digital content such as interactive maps, virtual tours, and activity guides for Hudson parks</b>	Mid-term	Upgrade to user friendly website or online application with park maps and park and trail information; engage Hudson youth in this project

Table 20: Communications, Information Sharing, and Orientation

## Long-Range Projects

These projects are long-range projects, either because they were identified as a community need through the community survey and stakeholder interviews but not as a high priority, or because of the level of coordination, funding, planning, and site design required for their implementation. It is anticipated as Hudson achieves the immediate, short-, and mid-term actions outlined in this plan, these long-range projects will become major priorities for Hudson residents. Since the community's needs may change over time, the need for these projects should be regularly revisited.

### Long-Range Projects

Action	Strategic Areas	Notes
<b>Provide access to park facilities and programs for people with disabilities</b>	Parks and Recreation Opportunities for All	Begin by completing other required and recommended accessibility improvements outlined in full accessibility report (Appendix B); may require full accessibility audit
<b>Develop extended trail networks in Hudson including linkages to and between county trails</b>	Respond to Changing Community Needs; Partnerships for Community Benefit	Continue to find opportunities for linkages between Metro Parks properties and trails to Hudson parks and trails system
<b>High Point Park mixed-use park development</b>	Respond to Changing Community Needs; Partnerships for Community Benefit	Mountain bike trail system, viewing areas, and nature trails; opportunity to build connections to nearby Metro Parks properties
<b>Doc's Woods nature trail extension from Wood Hollow Metro Park</b>	Respond to Changing Community Needs; Partnerships for Community Benefit	In partnership with Summit Metro Parks
<b>Multipurpose artificial turf field with lights</b>	Respond to Changing Community Needs; Parks and Recreation Opportunities for All	With low pile height suitable for adaptive sports, also usable to extend season for field sports such as soccer, lacrosse, etc.
<b>Community Recreation Center</b>	Respond to Changing Community Needs; Parks and Recreation Opportunities for All	Identified need in stakeholder interviews, in previous Parks Master Plan, 2015 Comprehensive Plan, community survey, and stakeholder interviews. Would allow for increased recreation opportunities during winter months. Capital and operating cost analysis and user demand study necessary to assess financial feasibility.
<b>Continue to maintain Robinson Field Park and MacLaren Woods in park inventory for development based on future needs</b>	Respond to Changing Community Needs	

Table 21: Long-Range Projects



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# Appendices

Appendix A: Community Interest and Opinion Survey

Appendix B: Public Comments

Appendix C: Stakeholder Interviews Summary Report

Appendix D: Accessibility Evaluation Report

Appendix E: Undeveloped Park Land Report



# City of Hudson Community Interest and Opinion Survey

## Findings Report

**Submitted to the City of Hudson, Ohio**

**by:**

ETC Institute  
725 W. Frontier Lane,  
Olathe, Kansas  
66061

**January 2020**



*...helping organizations make better decisions since 1982*



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# Hudson Community Interest and Opinion Survey

## Executive Summary

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### Overview

ETC Institute administered a community interest and opinion survey for the City of Hudson during the winter of 2019. The survey was conducted as a part of the Parks Department Master Plan update. The purpose of the survey was to establish priorities for the future improvement of parks, facilities and services within the community.

### Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of 2,500 households in the City of Hudson. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at [www.hudsonsurvey.org](http://www.hudsonsurvey.org).

Ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent emails to the households that received the survey to encourage participation. The emails contained a link to the online version of the survey to make it easy for residents to complete the survey. To prevent people who were not residents of Hudson from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not counted.

The goal was a completion of 300 surveys. This goal was far exceeded, with a total of 485 residents completing the survey. The overall results for the sample of 485 households have a precision of at least +/-4.4% at the 95% level of confidence.

In addition to administering the statistically valid survey to a random sample of City residents, ETC Institute also opened the survey to the general public (non-random survey). The City promoted the non-random survey through their website and social media, and any City resident could voluntarily complete the survey. A total of 139 residents completed the non-random survey. Although the results of the non-random survey provide anecdotal information, since the respondents for the non-random survey were not selected at random, the results are not statistically valid. ETC Institute provided the City with the results for the non-random survey separately from the statistically valid survey.

The data in this report is statistically valid and is based on the random sample of 485 completed surveys. This report contains the following:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 1)
- Priority Investment Rating (PIR) that identifies priorities for parks and facilities (Section 2)
- Benchmarking analysis comparing the City’s results to national results (Section 3)
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 4)
- A copy of the survey instrument (Section 5)

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

## **Park/Facility Usage and Ratings**

When respondents were asked which City of Hudson parks and facilities their household had used during the past 12 months, the parks/facilities that were used most included: Hudson Springs Park (89%), Barlow Farm Park (60%), Veterans Way Park (59%), Cascade Park (51%), Colony Park (39%), and Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club (28%).

## **Information Sources**

Fifty-nine percent (59%) of respondents surveyed indicated that they learn about City of Hudson Parks and Recreation programs and activities by word of mouth; 58% learn about them through the newspaper, 35% through Facebook, 28% through the City website, 24% through City newsletters, and 20% through the parks guide.

## **Organizations Used for Recreation Activities**

Respondents were asked to indicate which organizations their household has used for indoor and outdoor recreation activities during the past 12 months. Cuyahoga Valley National Park (80%), City of Hudson (77%), Summit County Parks (60%), and private fitness clubs (48%) were the four organizations respondents indicated they have used most during the past 12 months.

## **Barriers Preventing Use of Recreation Facilities**

Respondents were asked to indicate various reasons preventing them from using recreation facilities more often. The reasons given most often included: *“I do not know what is being offered”* (32%), *“no time to participate”* (25%), *“facility not offered”* (24%), and *“I do not know locations of facilities”* (24%).

## **Satisfaction With Overall Value Received for Parks Services**

Most respondents (83%) indicated they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the overall value their household receives from the City of Hudson regarding parks services; 12% gave a “neutral” response, 4% were “somewhat dissatisfied” and only 1% were “very dissatisfied.”



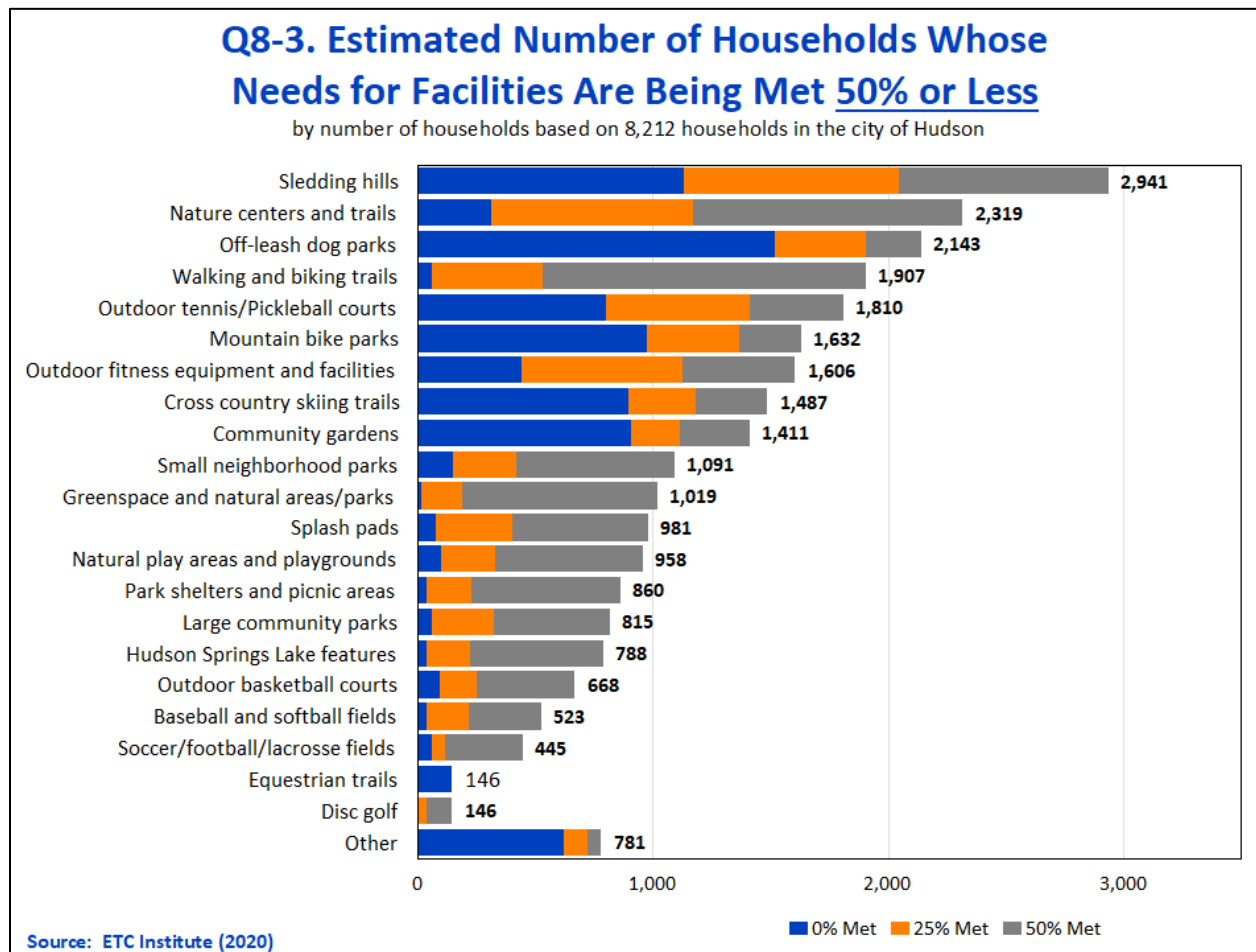
# Facility Needs and Priorities

**Facility Needs.** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 22 types of parks and recreation facilities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had “unmet” needs for each park/facility.

The types of parks/facilities with the highest number of households with an unmet need were:

1. Sledding hills – 2,941 households
2. Nature centers and trails – 2,319 households
3. Off-leash dog parks – 2,143 households
4. Walking and biking trails – 1,907 households
5. Outdoor tennis/Pickleball courts – 1,810 households

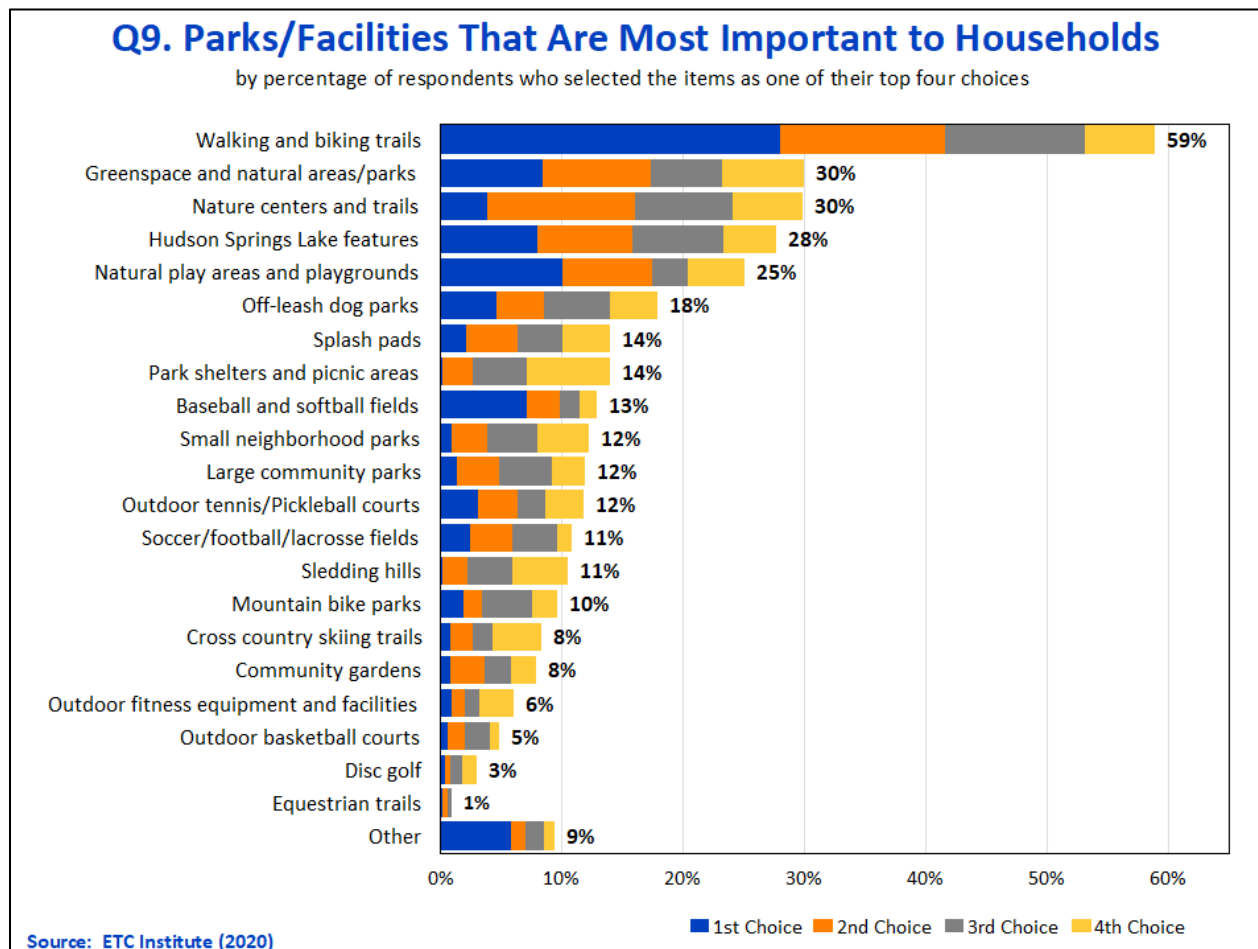
The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 22 types of parks and facilities that were assessed is shown in the chart below.



**Facility Importance.** In addition to assessing the needs for each park/facility, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents place on each. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the most important parks/facilities to households were:

1. Walking and biking trails (59%)
2. Greenspace and natural areas/parks (30%)
3. Nature centers and trails (30%)
4. Hudson Springs Lake features (28%)

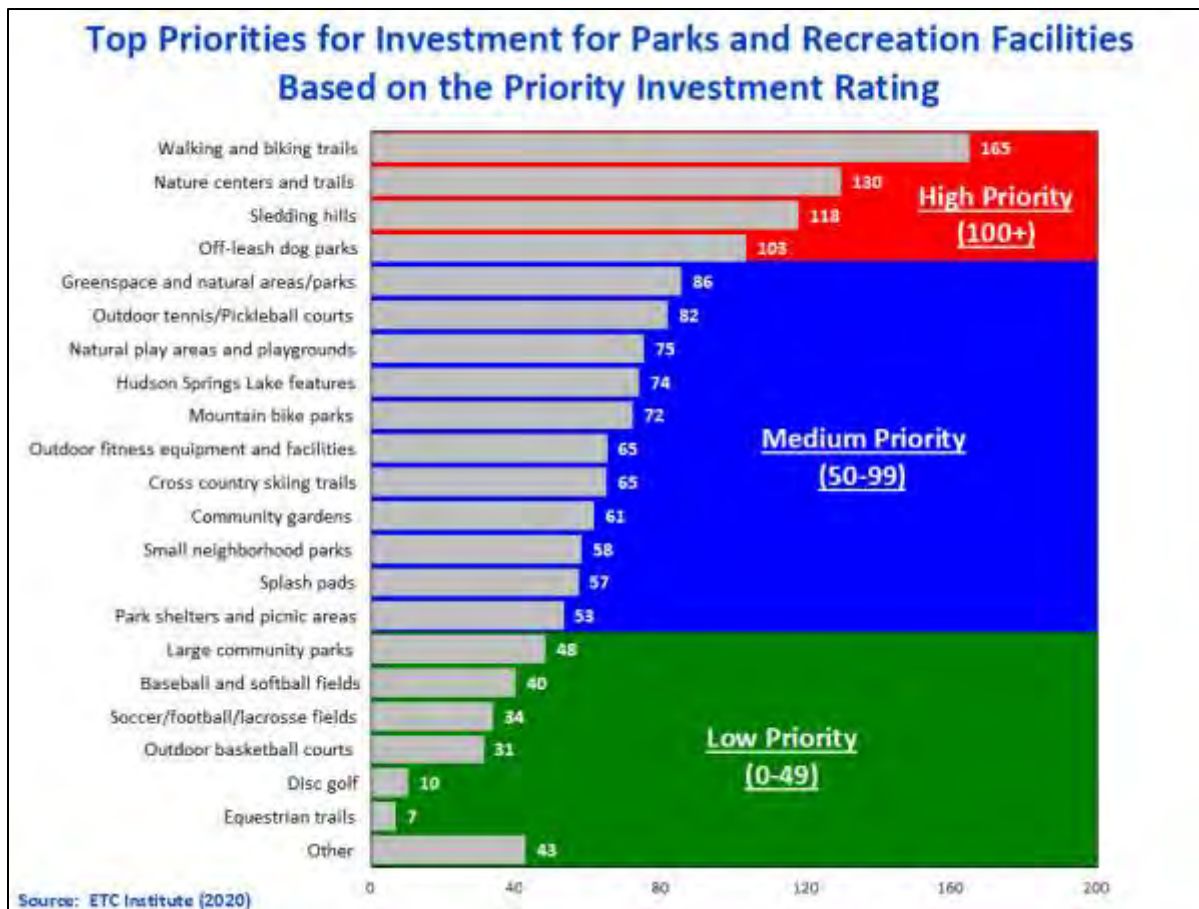
The percentage of households who selected each facility as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart below.



**Priorities for Parks and Recreation Facility Investments.** Based the priority investment rating (PIR), which is described in more detail in Section 2 of this report, the following four facilities were rated as “high priorities” for investment:

- Walking and biking trails (PIR=165)
- Nature centers and trails (PIR=130)
- Sledding hills (PIR=118)
- Off-leash dog parks (PIR=103)

The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating (PIR) for each of the 22 types of parks and recreation facilities that were rated.



## Additional Findings

- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of respondents indicated they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the maintenance of parks in Hudson. Other parks and recreation services that residents were satisfied with include: number of parks (86%), available parking at parks (85%), amount of open spaces (78%), and number of walking/biking trails (72%). The parks and recreation services that residents were least satisfied with include customer assistance by staff via Facebook (29%) and number of tennis courts/pickleball courts (29%).
- Based on the sum of their top three choices, the parks and recreation services that respondents thought should receive the most attention from City officials were: 1) number of walking/biking trails, 2) maintenance of parks, and 3) availability of information about facilities.
- Sixty percent (60%) of respondents surveyed indicated their household would use nature trails if they were offered as a potential programming space. Other potential programming spaces households would use include: outdoor adventure course (44%), arts and culture areas (37%), dog exercise area (35%), and rock climbing/bouldering wall (33%).
- Based on the sum of their top three choices, the potential programming items that residents indicated were most important to develop were: 1) nature trails, 2) outdoor adventure course, and 3) dog exercise area.
- Respondents to the survey were asked how they would prioritize \$100 for City of Hudson parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities. The respondents indicated they would allocate funding in the following ways: improvements/maintenance of existing parks and recreation facilities (\$22.98), acquisition of new park land and open space (\$11.77), construction of new sports facilities (\$15.81), acquisition and development of pathways and greenways (\$19.53), and other improvements (\$29.91).

## Conclusions

Eighty-three percent (83%) of respondents indicated they are either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the overall value their household receives from Hudson regarding parks services. To ensure the City continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community, ETC Institute recommends that they sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as “high priorities” by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR). The parks and recreation facilities with the highest PIR ratings are listed below.

### Park/Facility Investments

- Walking and biking trails (PIR=165)
- Nature centers and trails (PIR=130)
- Sledding hills (PIR=118)
- Off-leash dog parks (PIR=103)



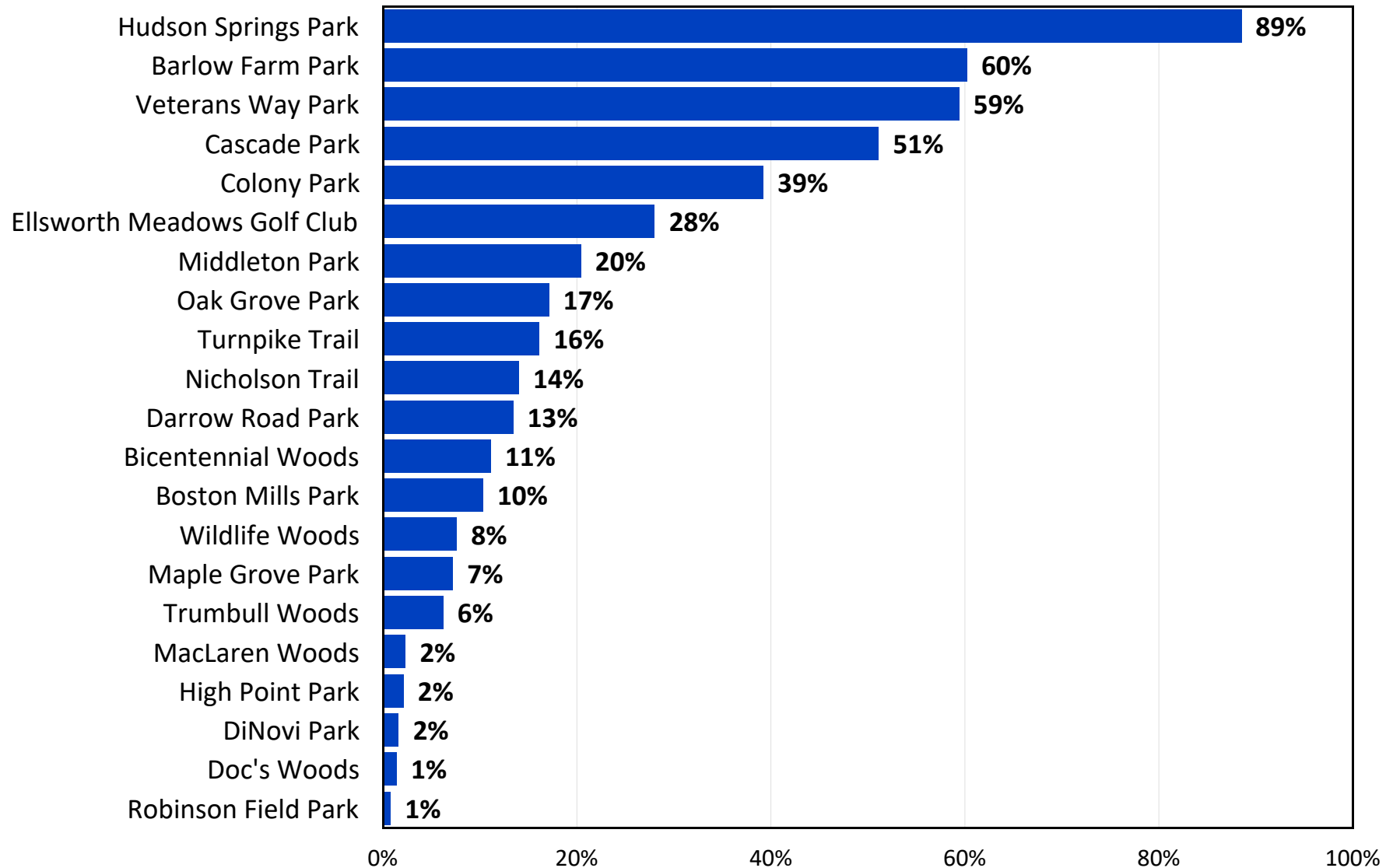
## **Section 1:**

# **Charts and Graphs**

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## Q1. Parks/Facilities Households Have Used During the Past 12 Months

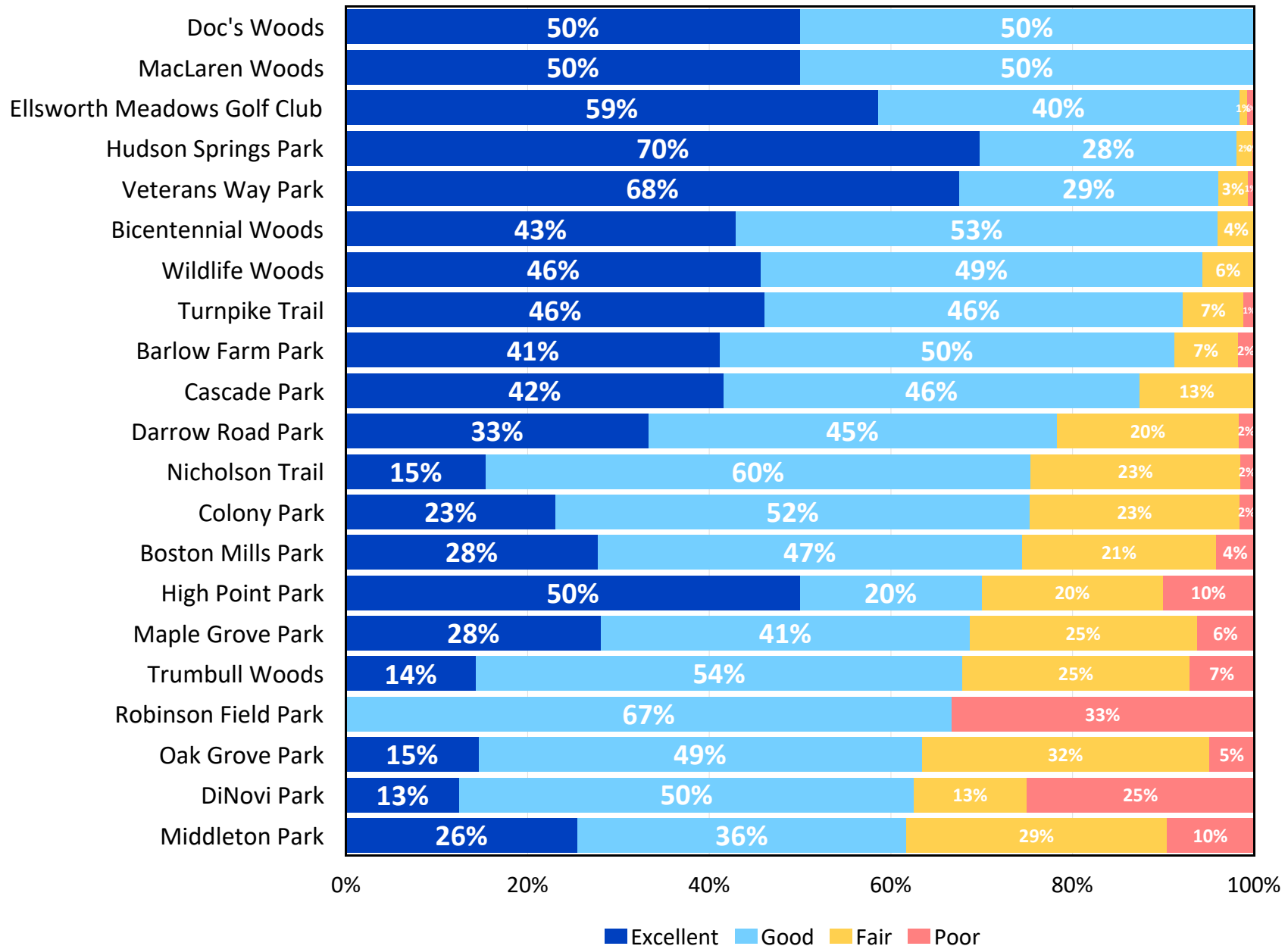
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q1. Condition of Park/Facility

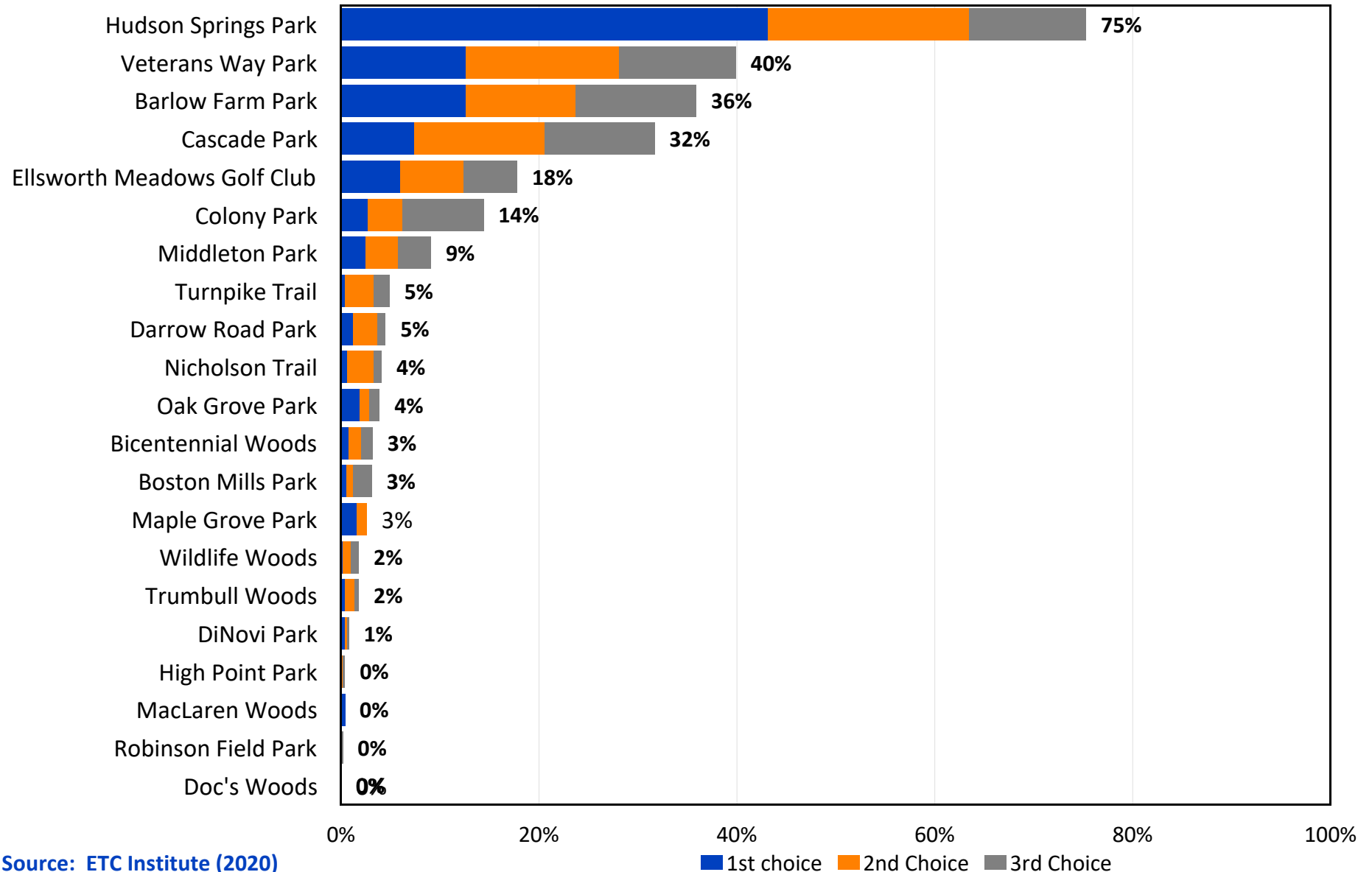
by percentage of respondents who indicated they have used the park/facility



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q2. Which three parks/facilities have you or members of your household used the most during the past year?

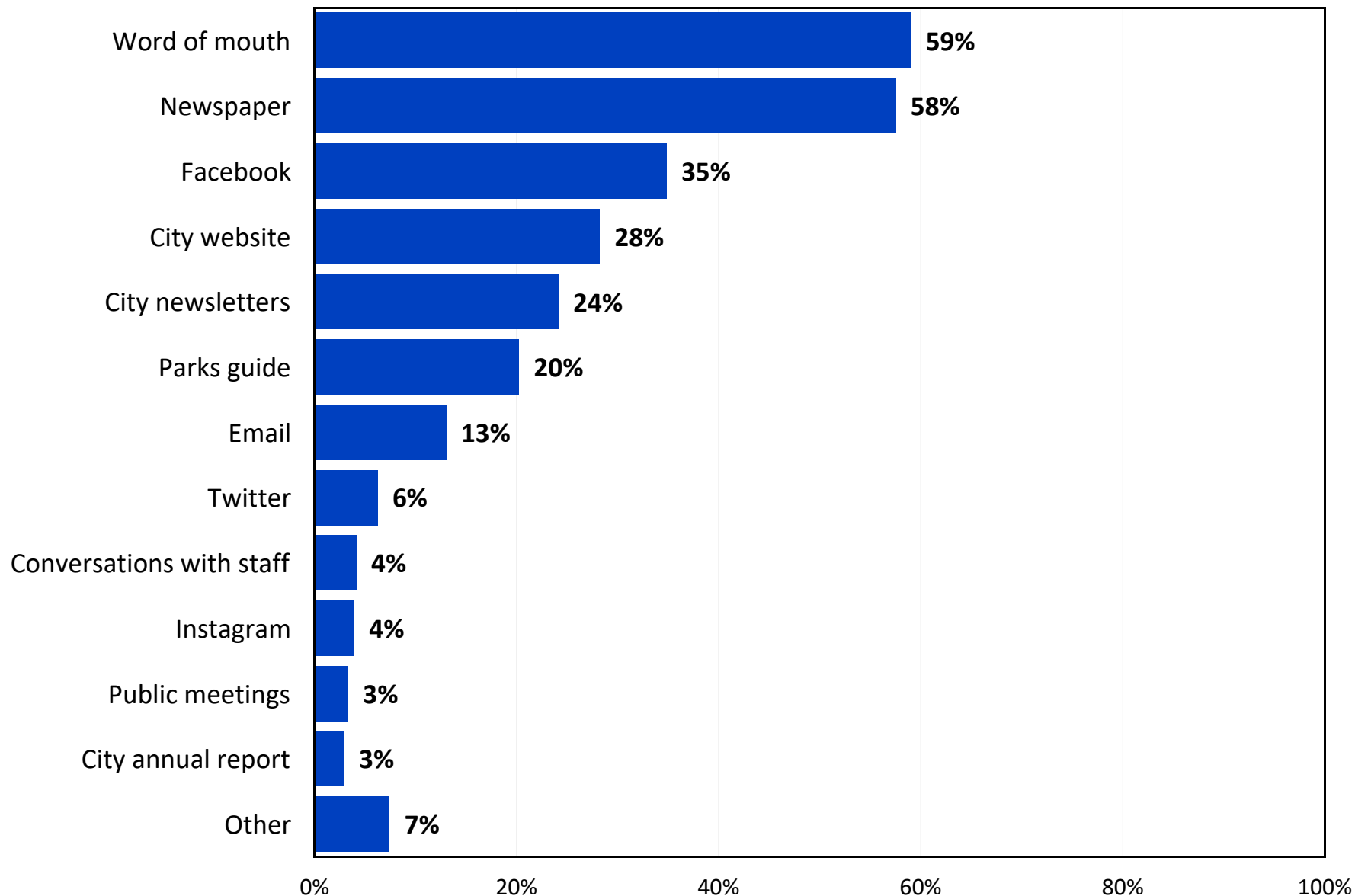
by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices





## Q3. Ways Households Learn About City of Hudson Parks and Recreation Programs and Activities

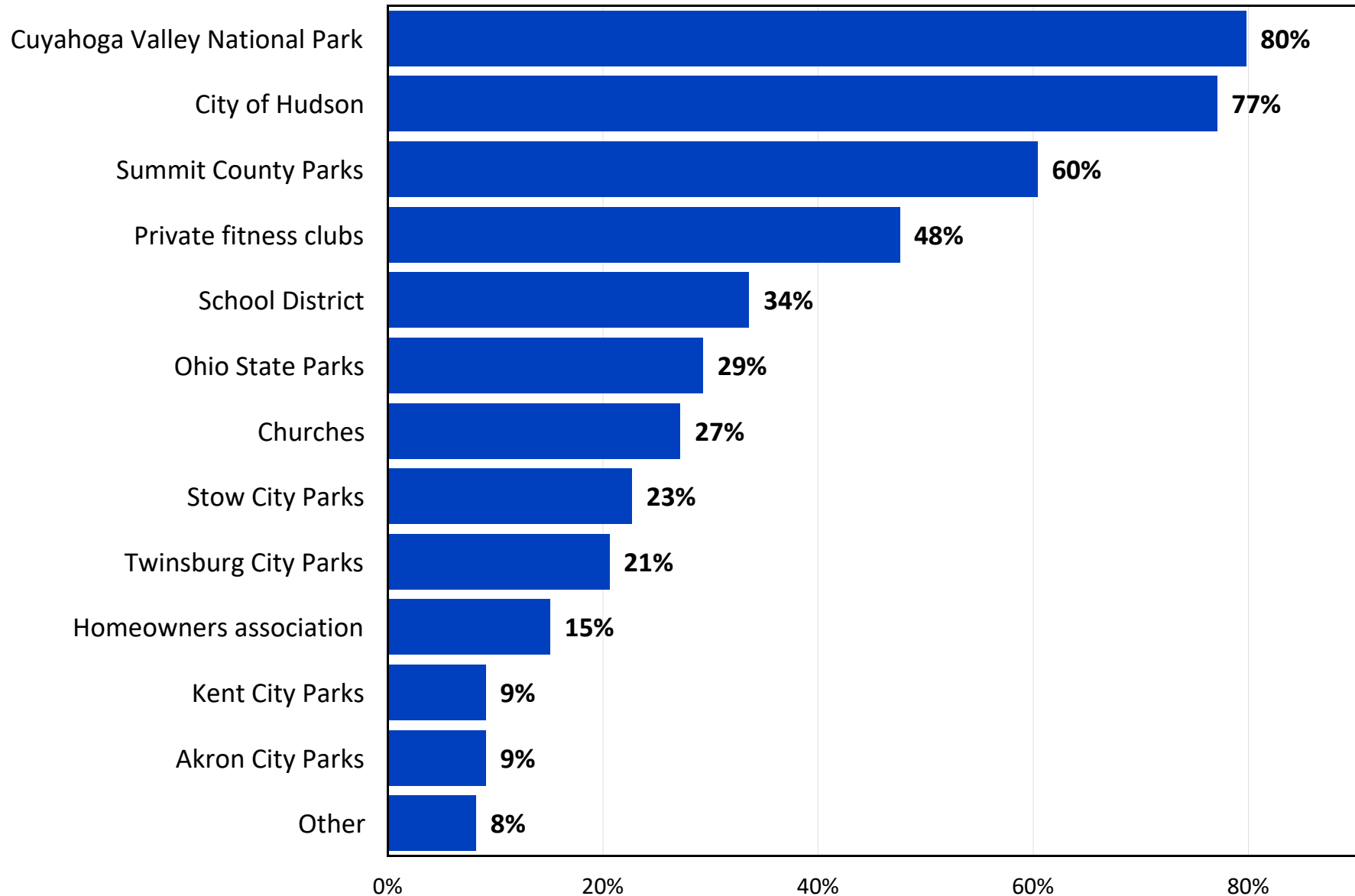
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q4. Organizations Households Have Used for Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Activities During the Past 12 Months

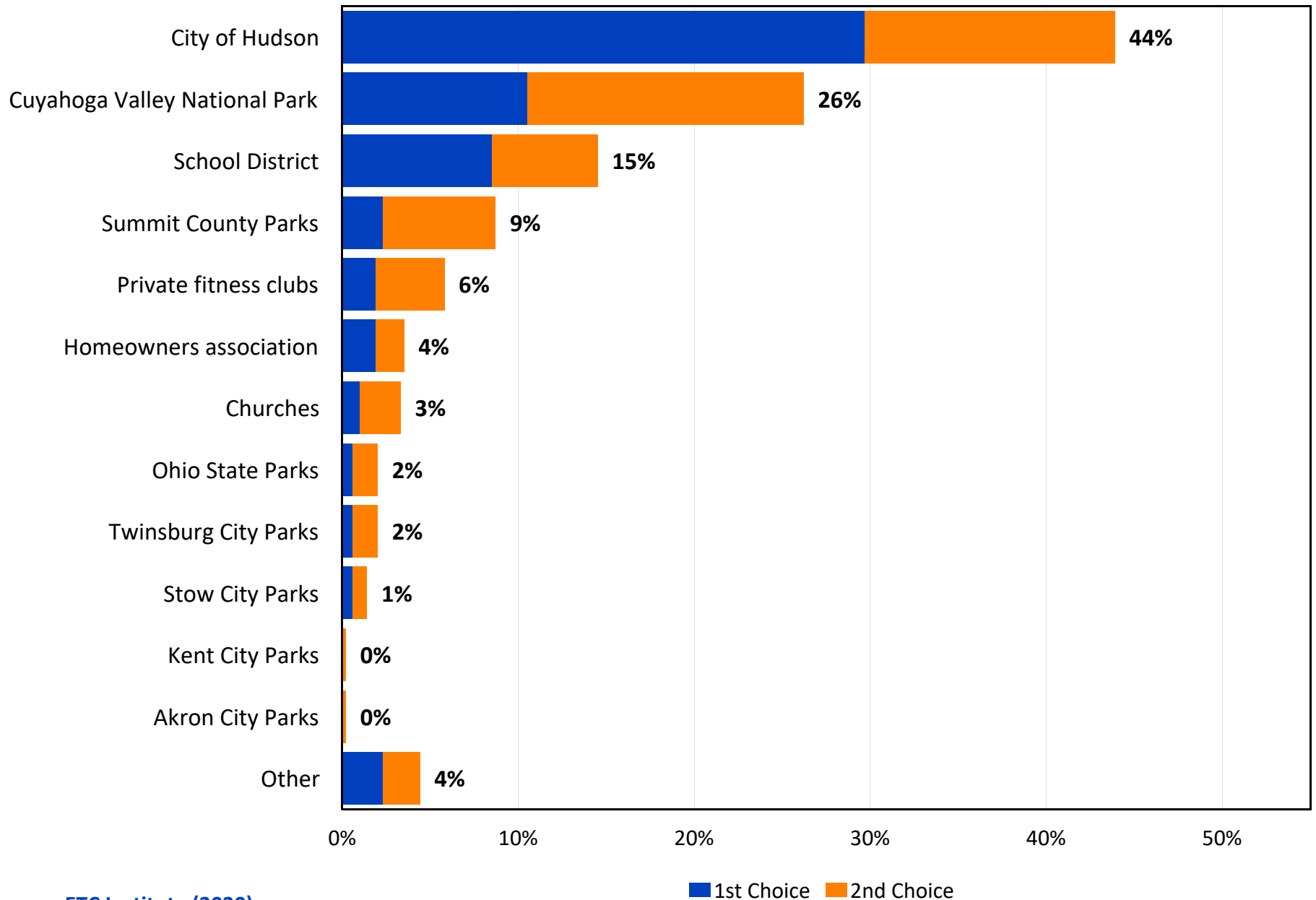
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q5. Organizations Used Most By Ages 0 to 17 Years

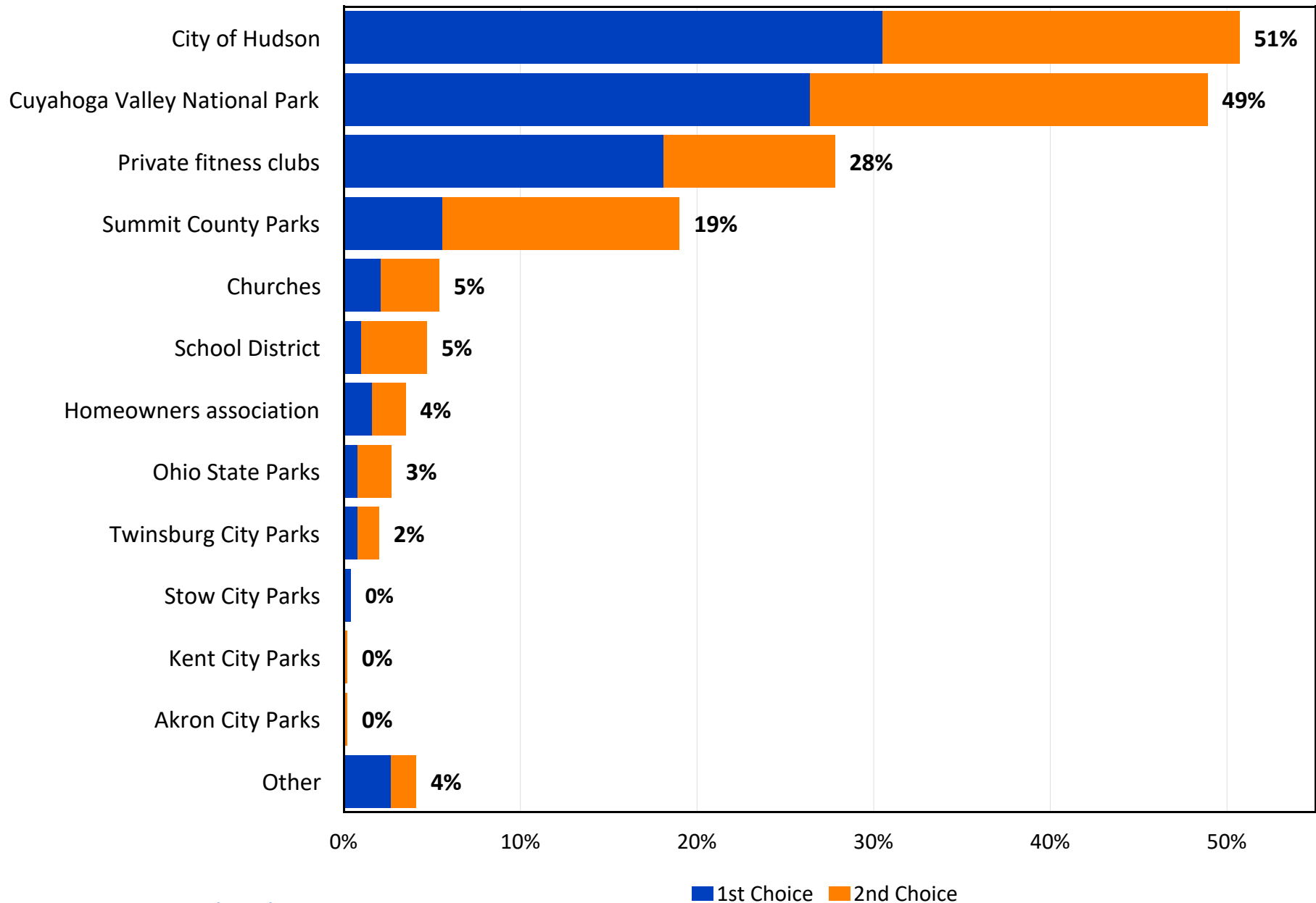
by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top two choices



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q5. Organizations Used Most By Ages 18 Years and Older

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

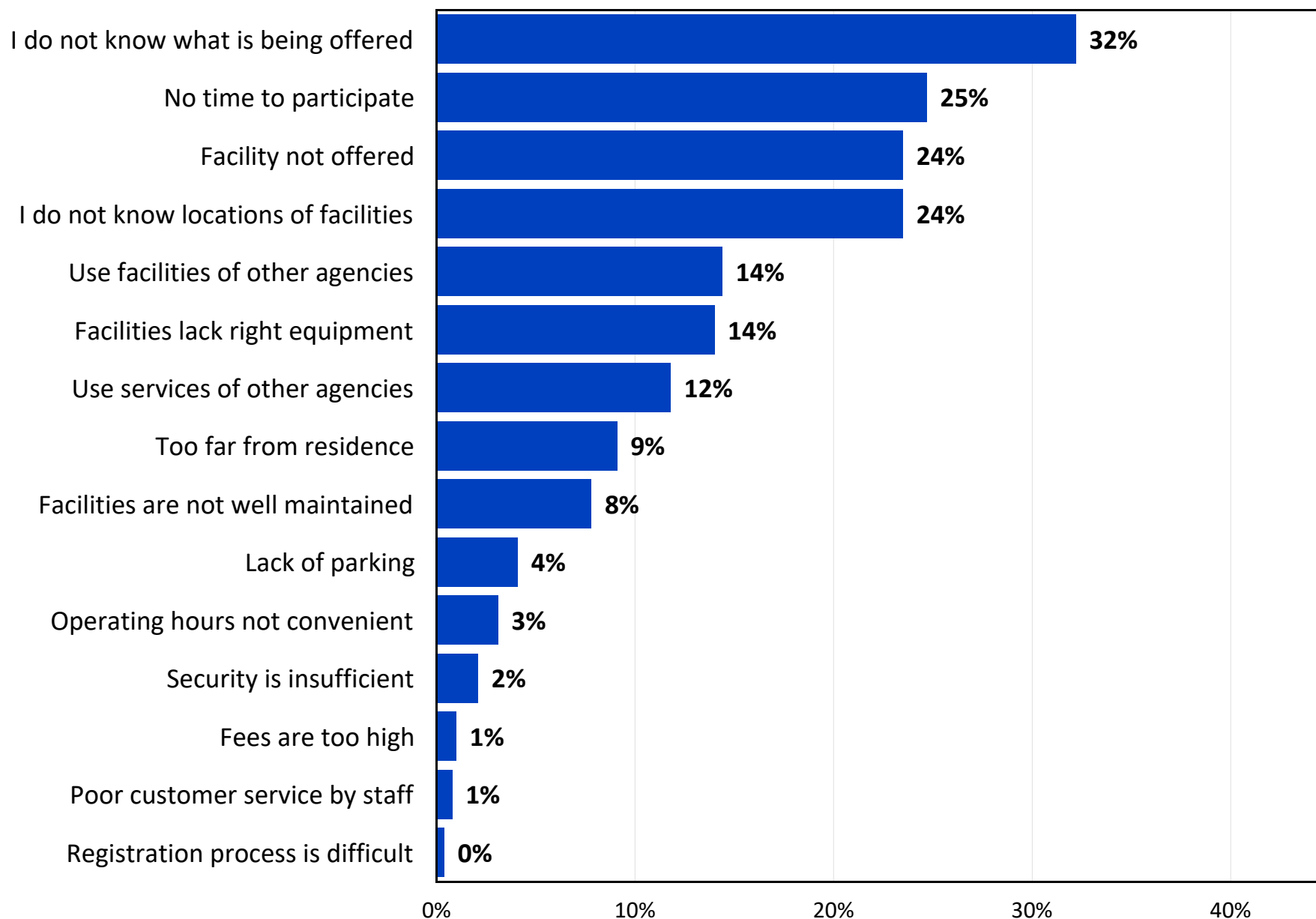


Source: ETC Institute (2020)



## Q6. Reasons Preventing Use of Recreation Facilities More Often

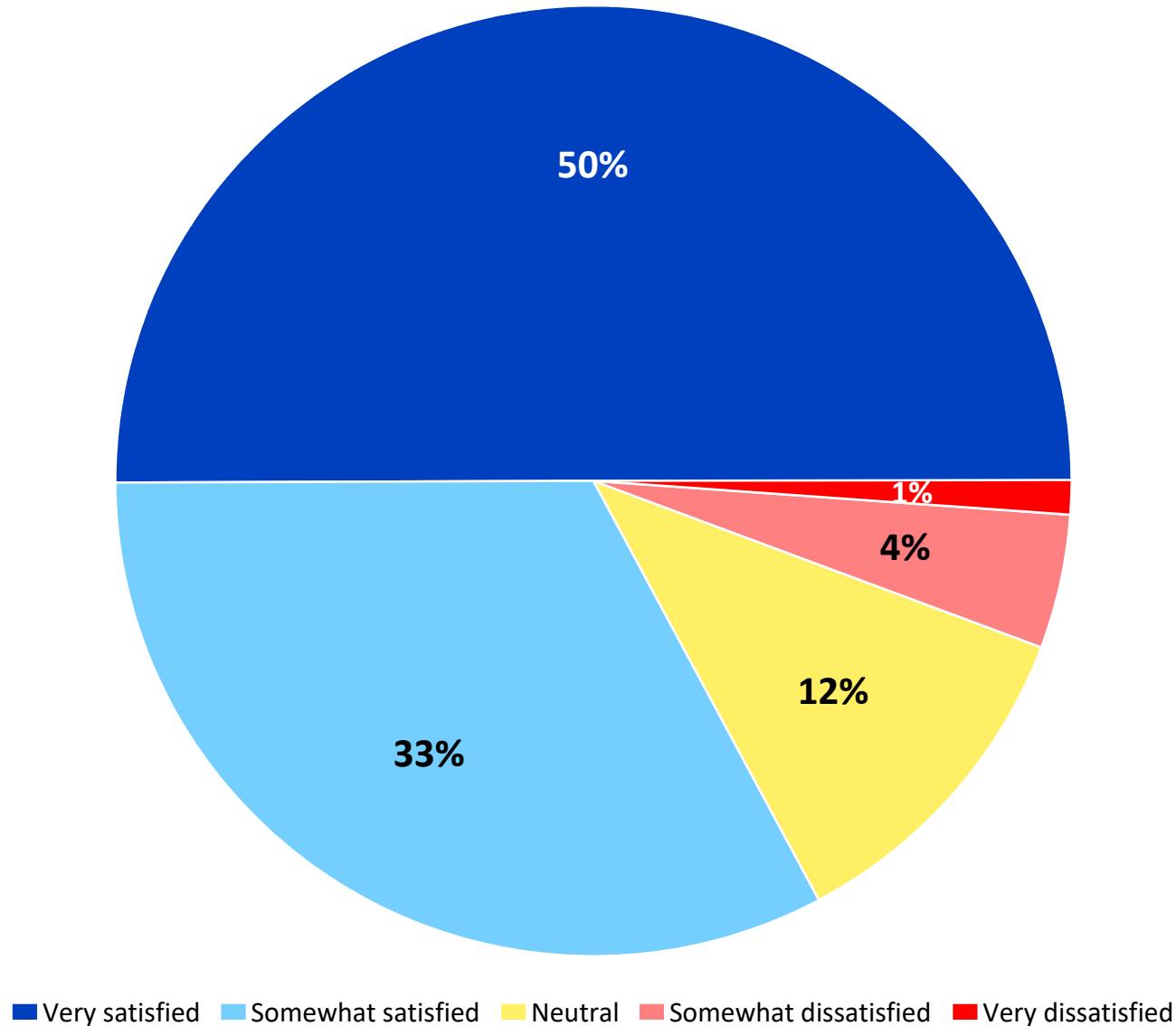
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q7. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the overall value that your household receives from Hudson regarding parks services

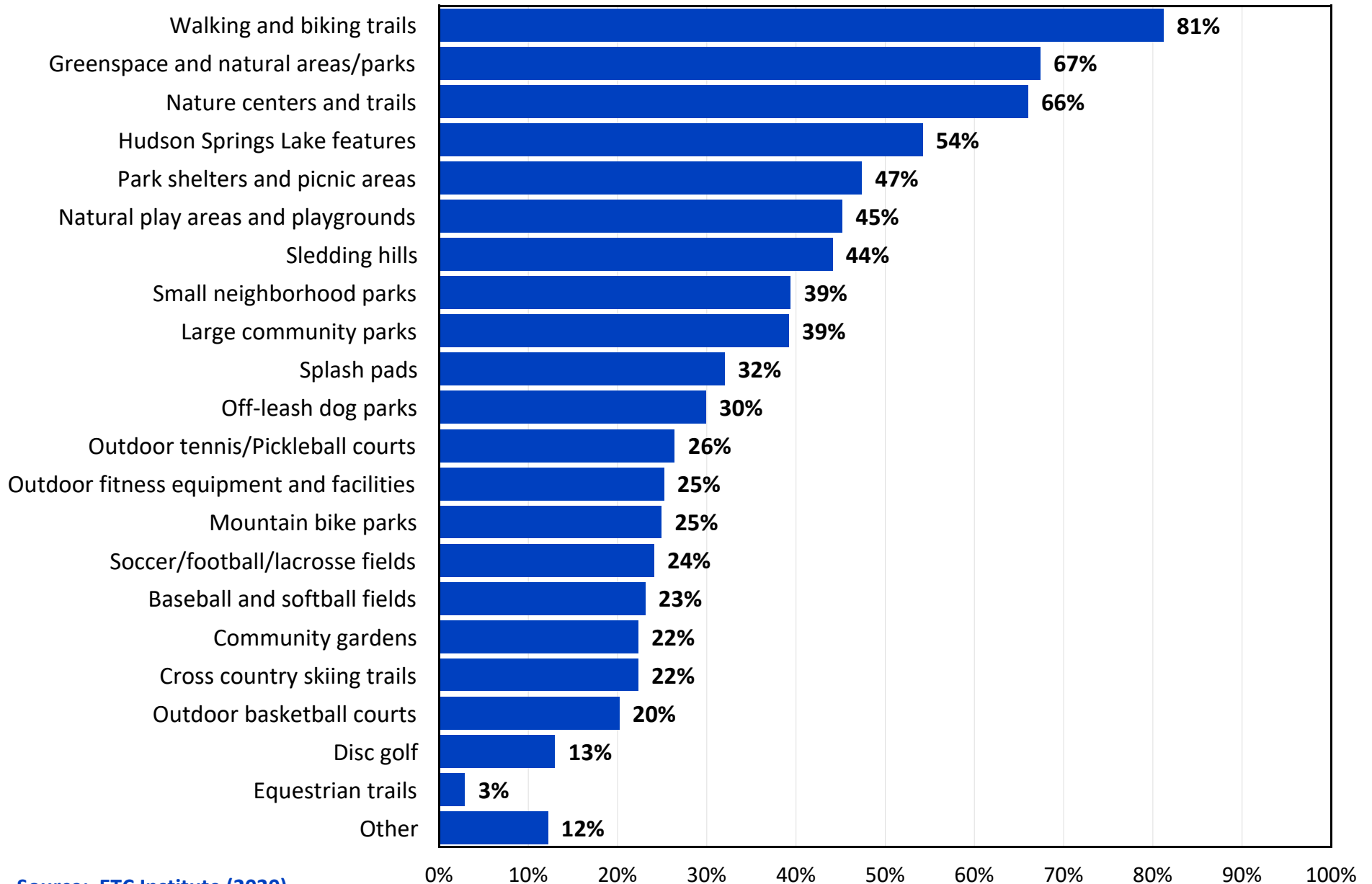
by percentage of respondents (excluding “don’t know”)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q8. Parks and Recreation Facilities That Households Have a Need For

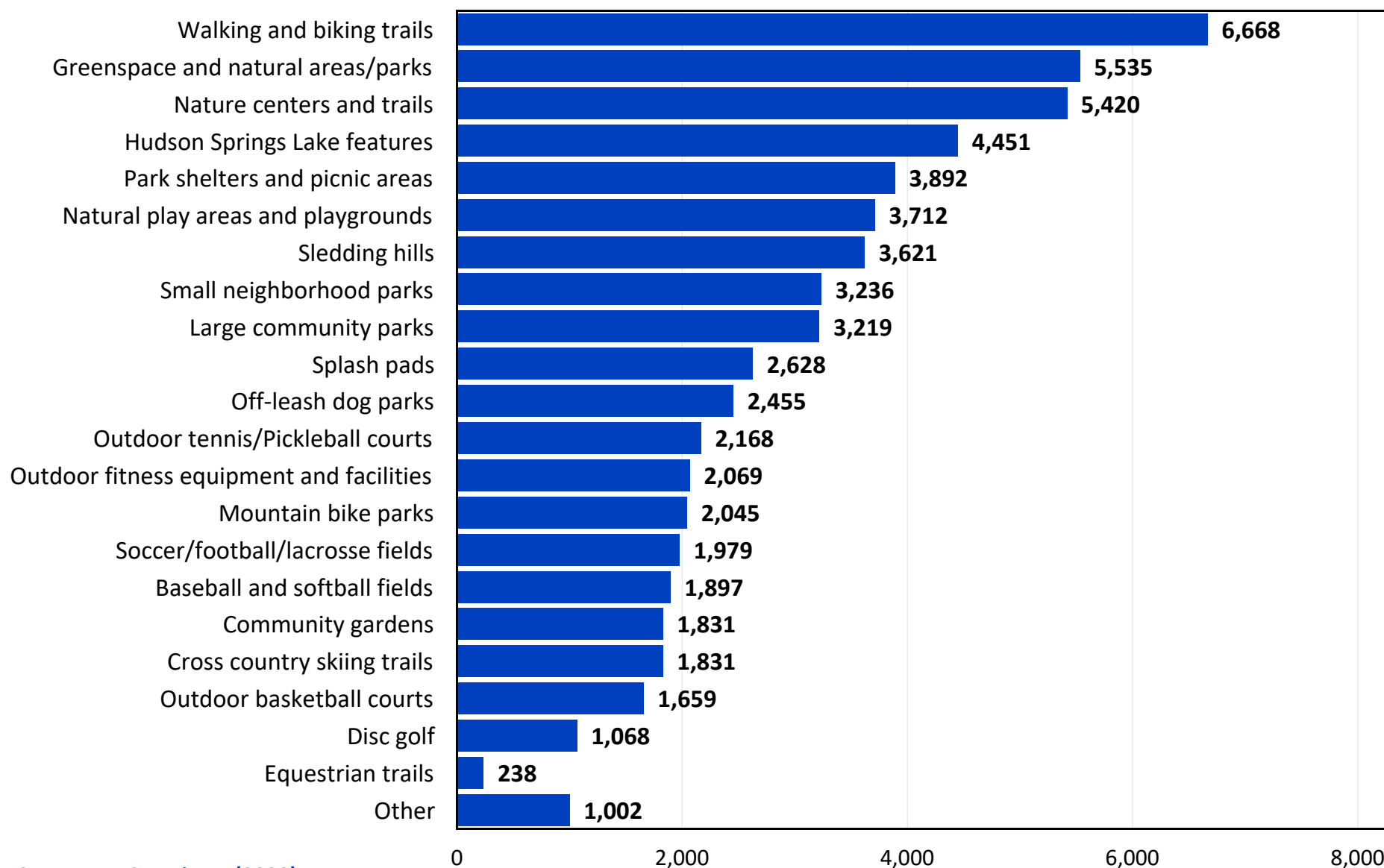
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q8-1. Estimated Number of Households That Have a Need for Various Facilities

by number of households based on 8,212 households in the City of Hudson

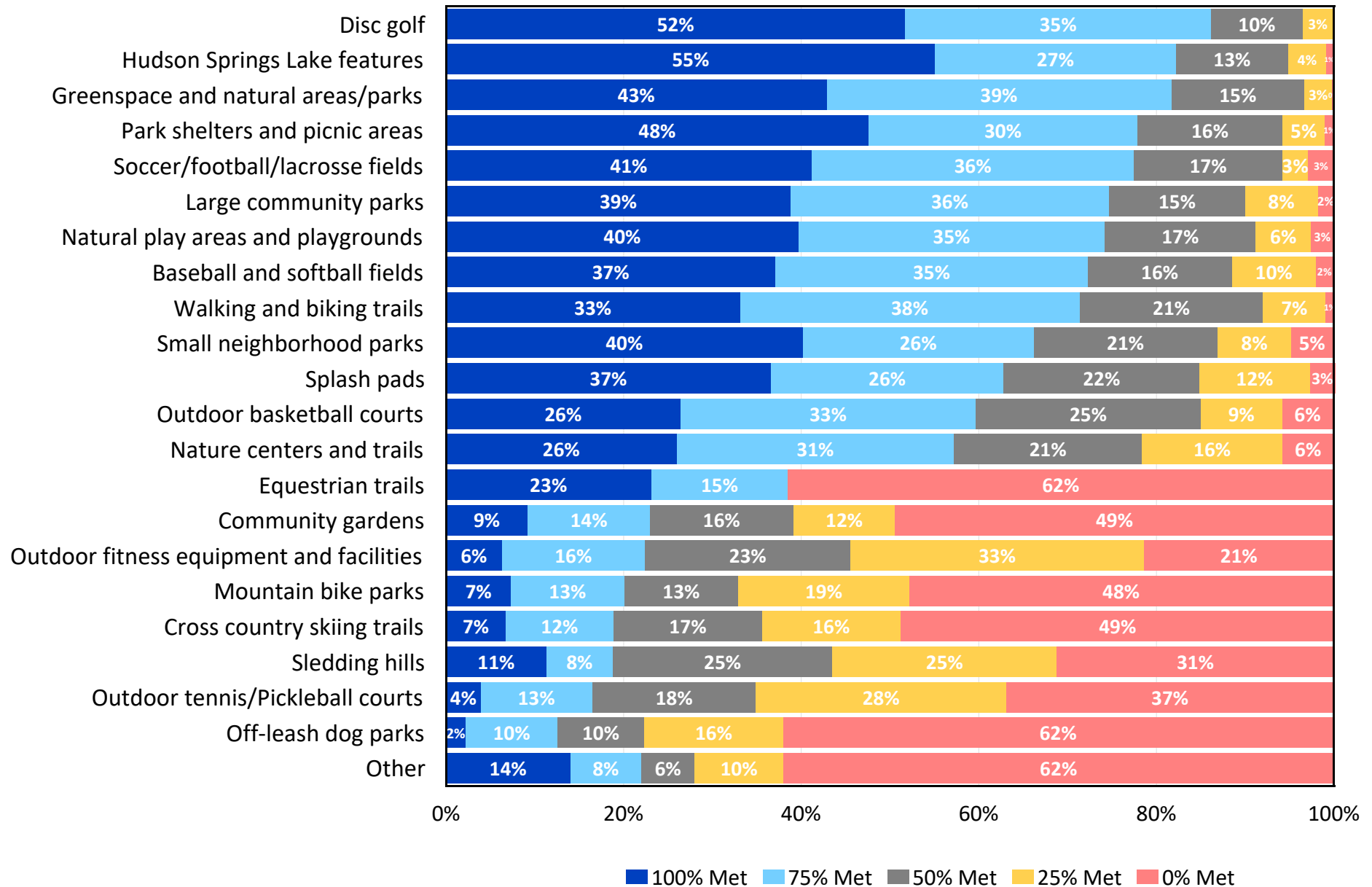


Source: ETC Institute (2020)



## Q8-2. How Well Facilities Meet the Needs of Households

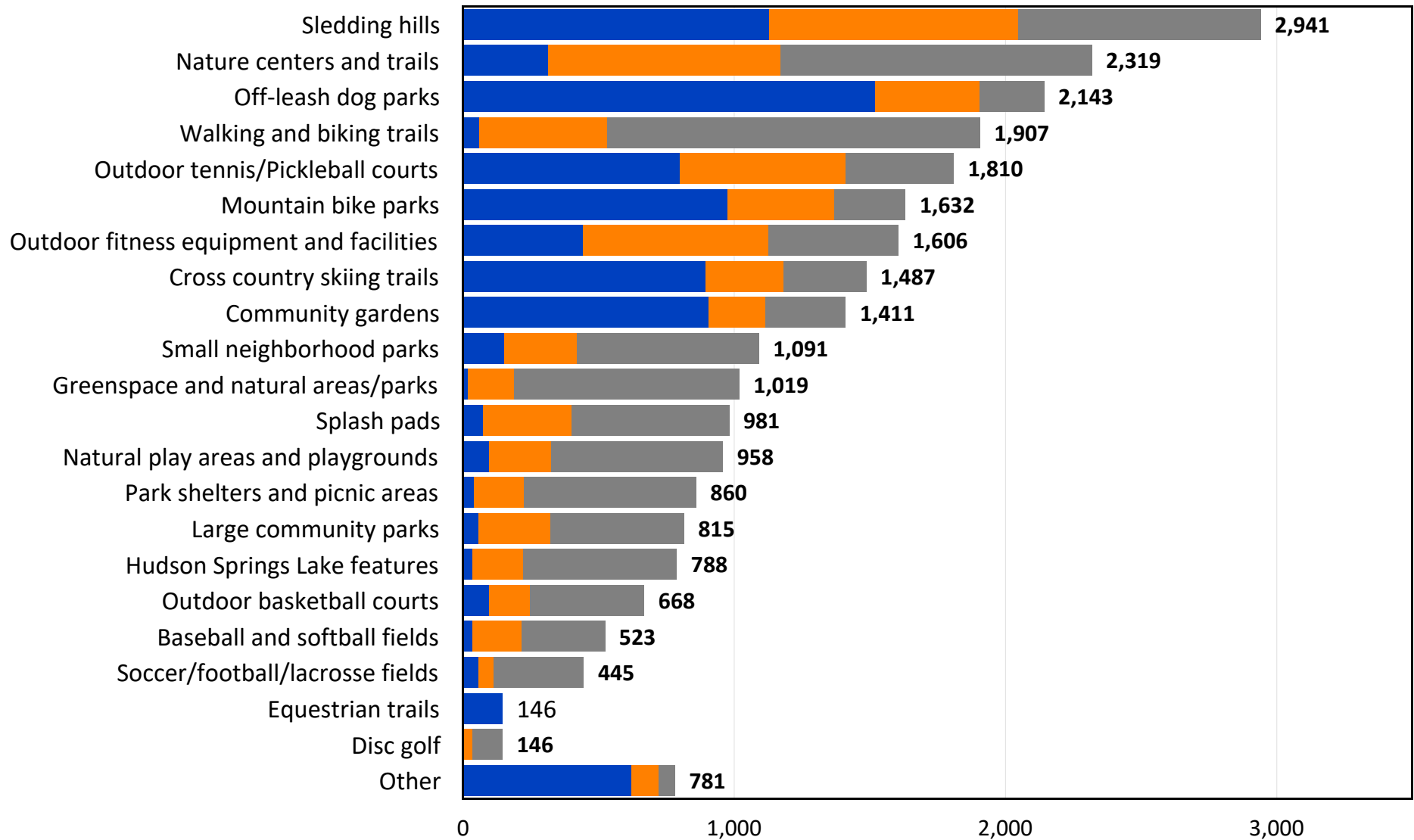
by percentage of respondents with a need for facilities



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q8-3. Estimated Number of Households Whose Needs for Facilities Are Being Met 50% or Less

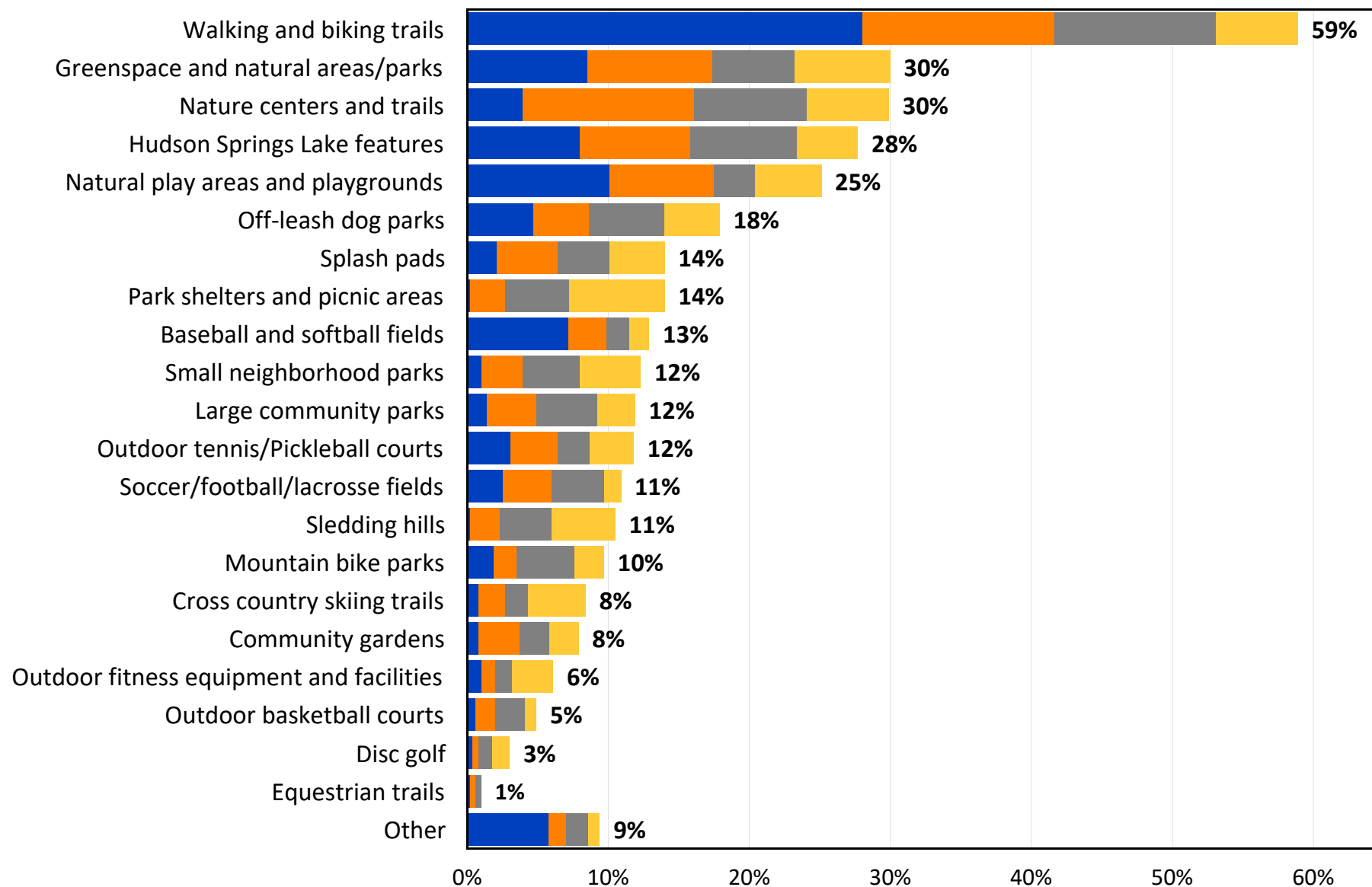
by number of households based on 8,212 households in the city of Hudson



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q9. Parks/Facilities That Are Most Important to Households

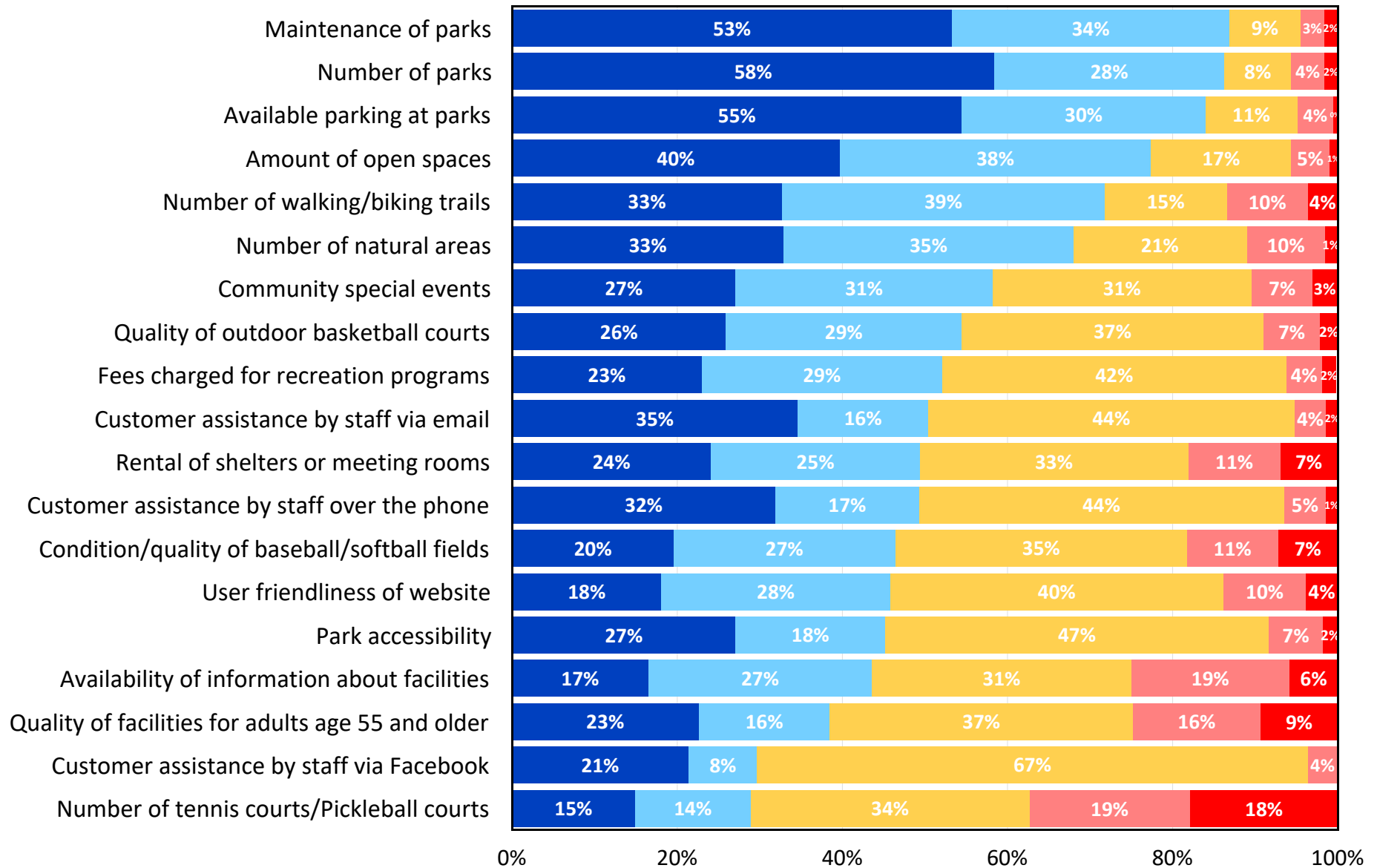
by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q10. Level of Satisfaction With Parks and Recreation Services

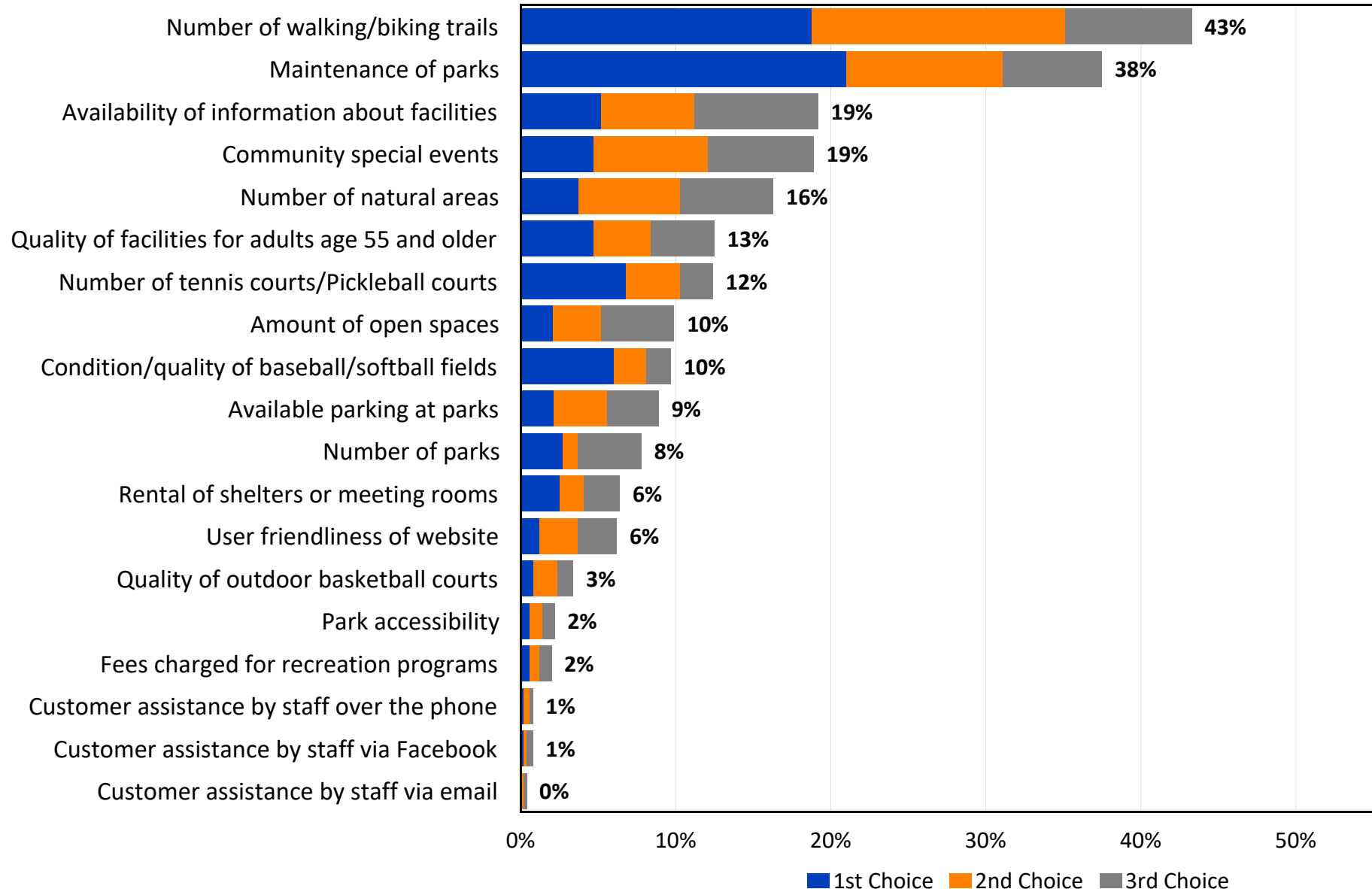
by percentage of respondents (excluding “don't know”)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q11. Parks and Recreation Services That Should Receive the Most Attention From City of Hudson Officials

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

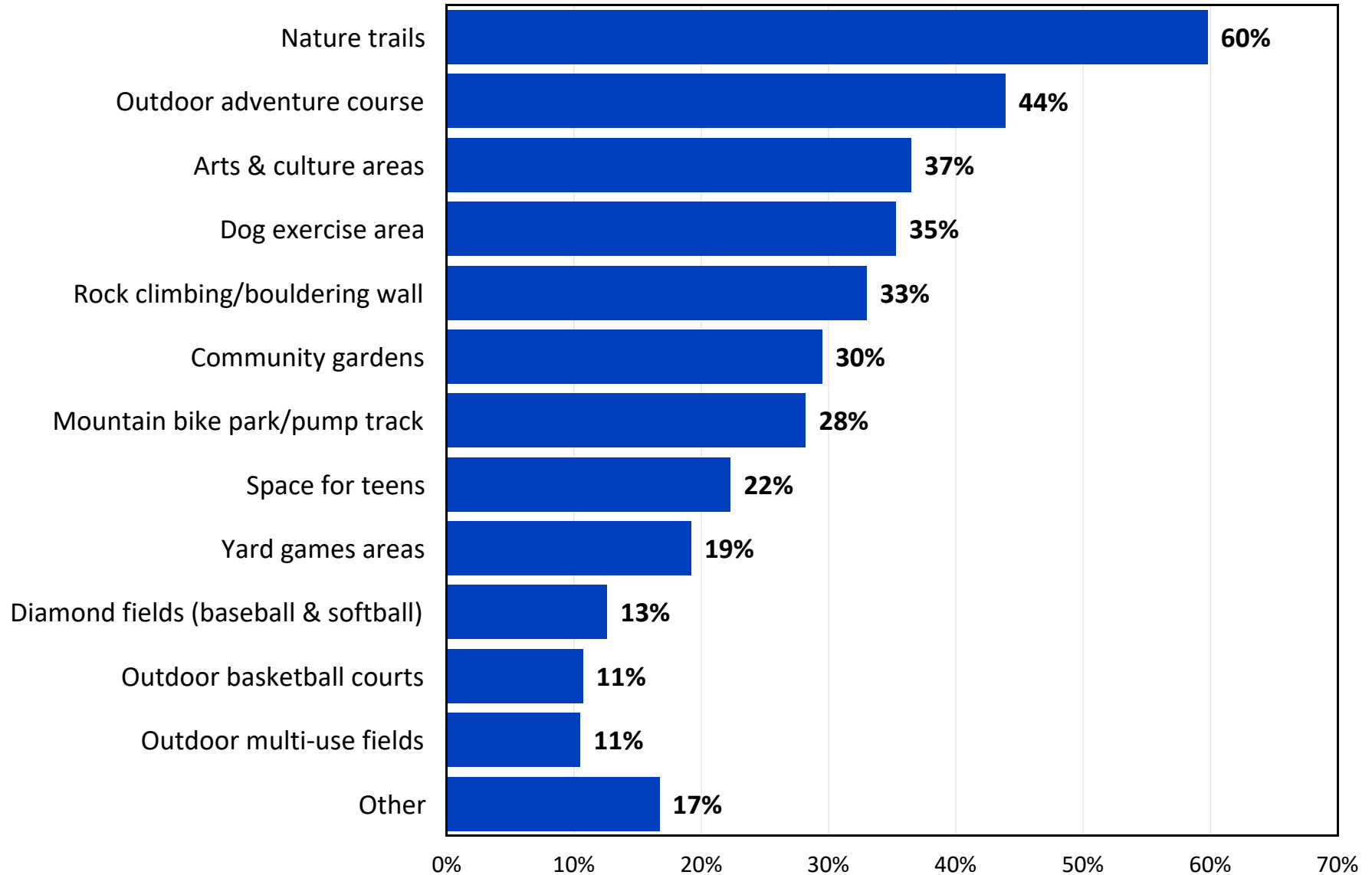


Source: ETC Institute (2020)



## Q12. Potential Programming Spaces That Households Would Use

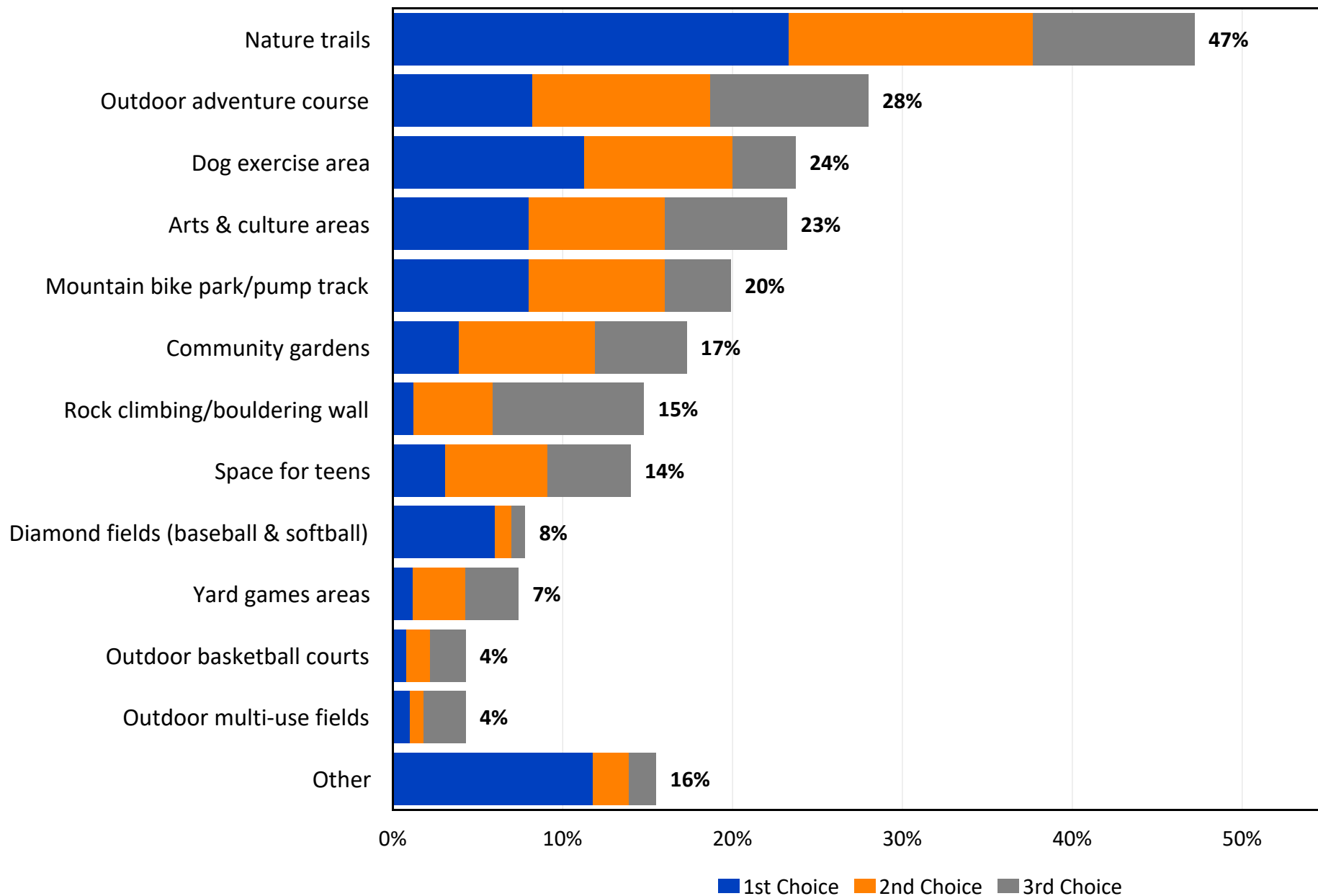
by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q13. Potential Programming Items Most Important to Develop

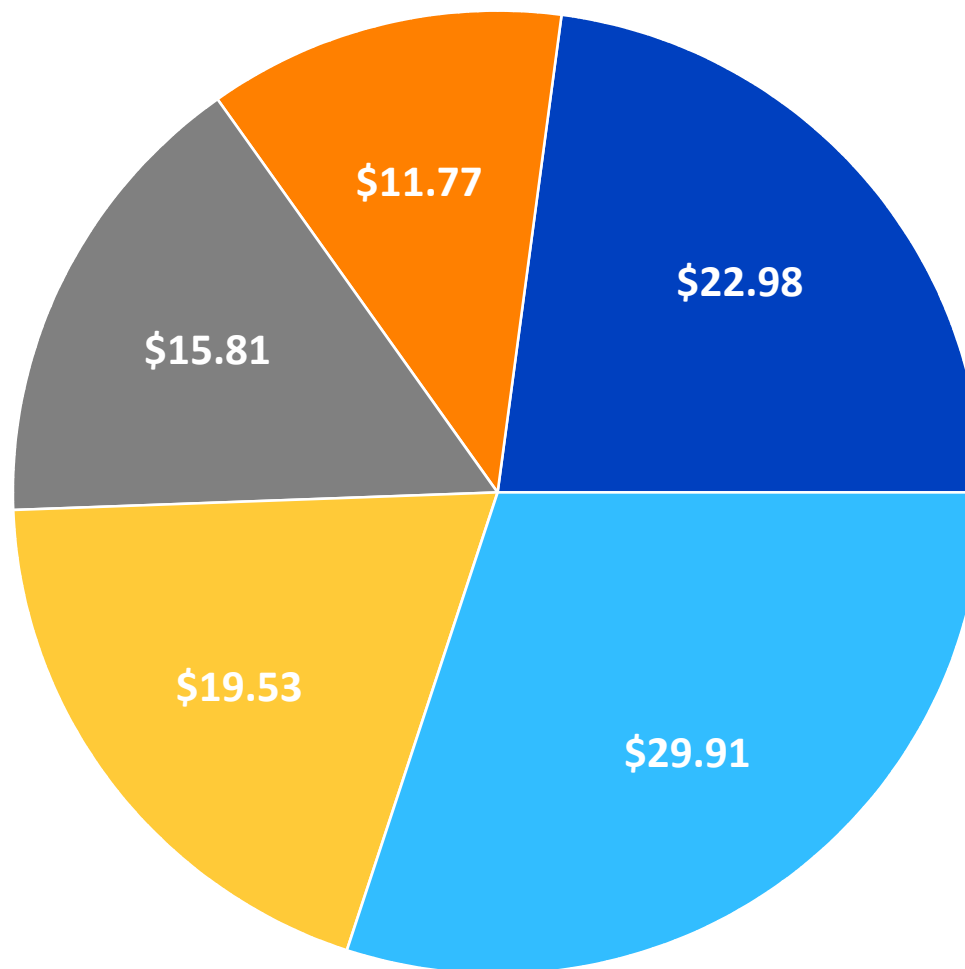
by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top three choices



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q14. How Residents Would Allocate \$100 for City of Hudson Parks, Trails, Sports, and Recreation Facilities

by percentage of respondents

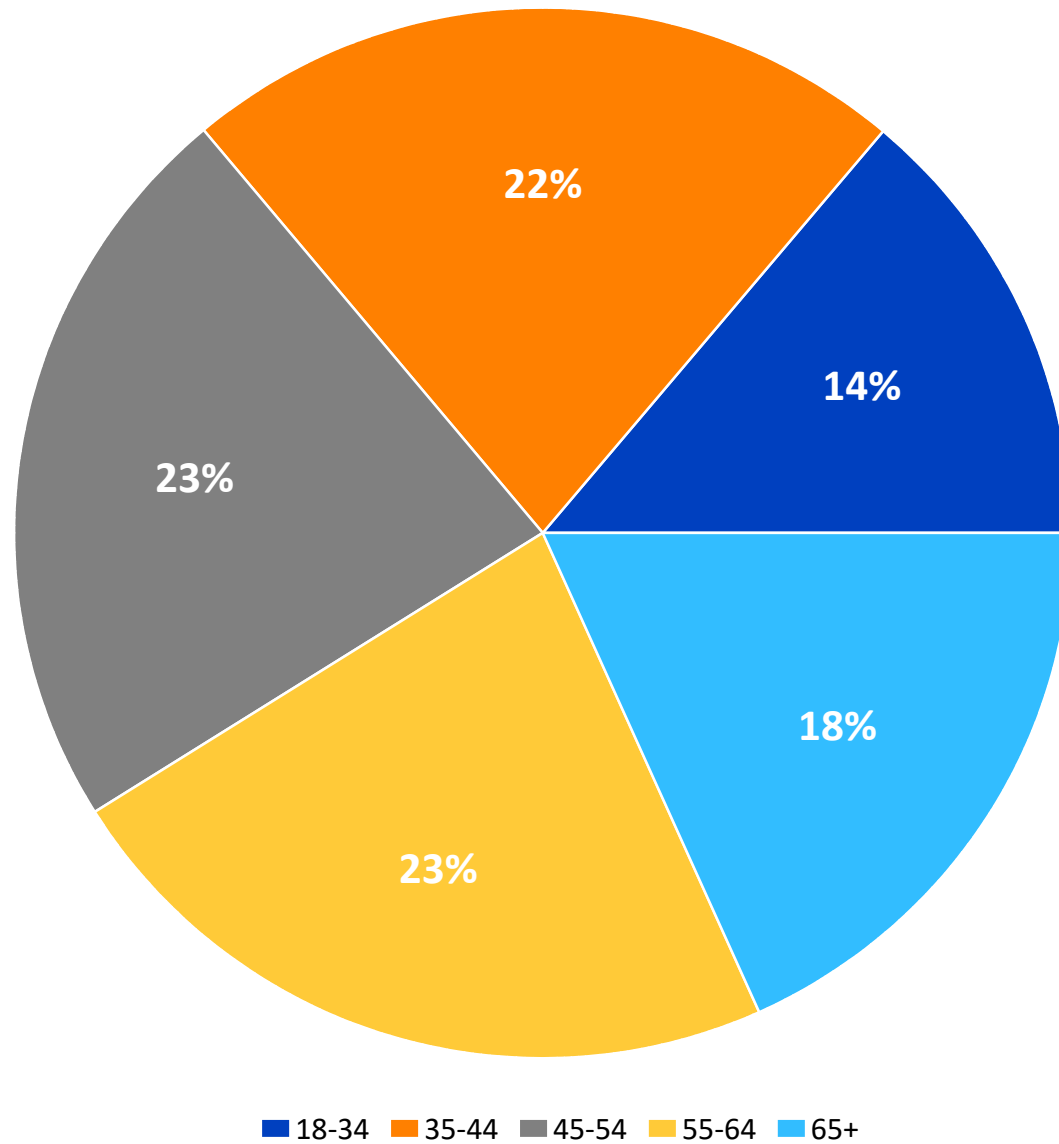


- Improvements/maintenance of existing parks & recreation facilities
- Acquisition of new park land and open space
- Construction of new sports facilities
- Acquisition and development of pathways and greenways
- Other

Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q15. Demographics: Age of Respondent

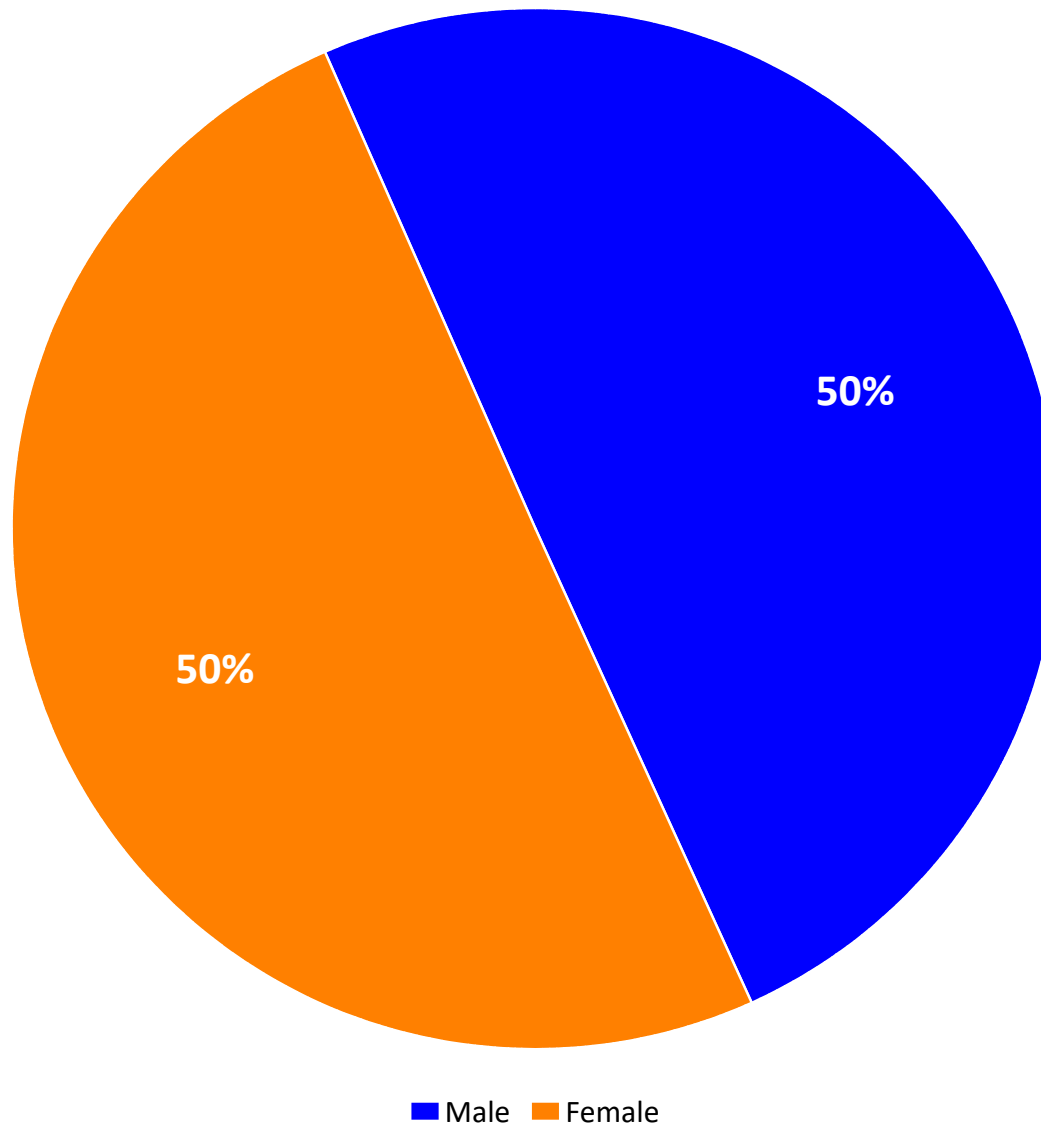
by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q16. Demographics: Gender

by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)



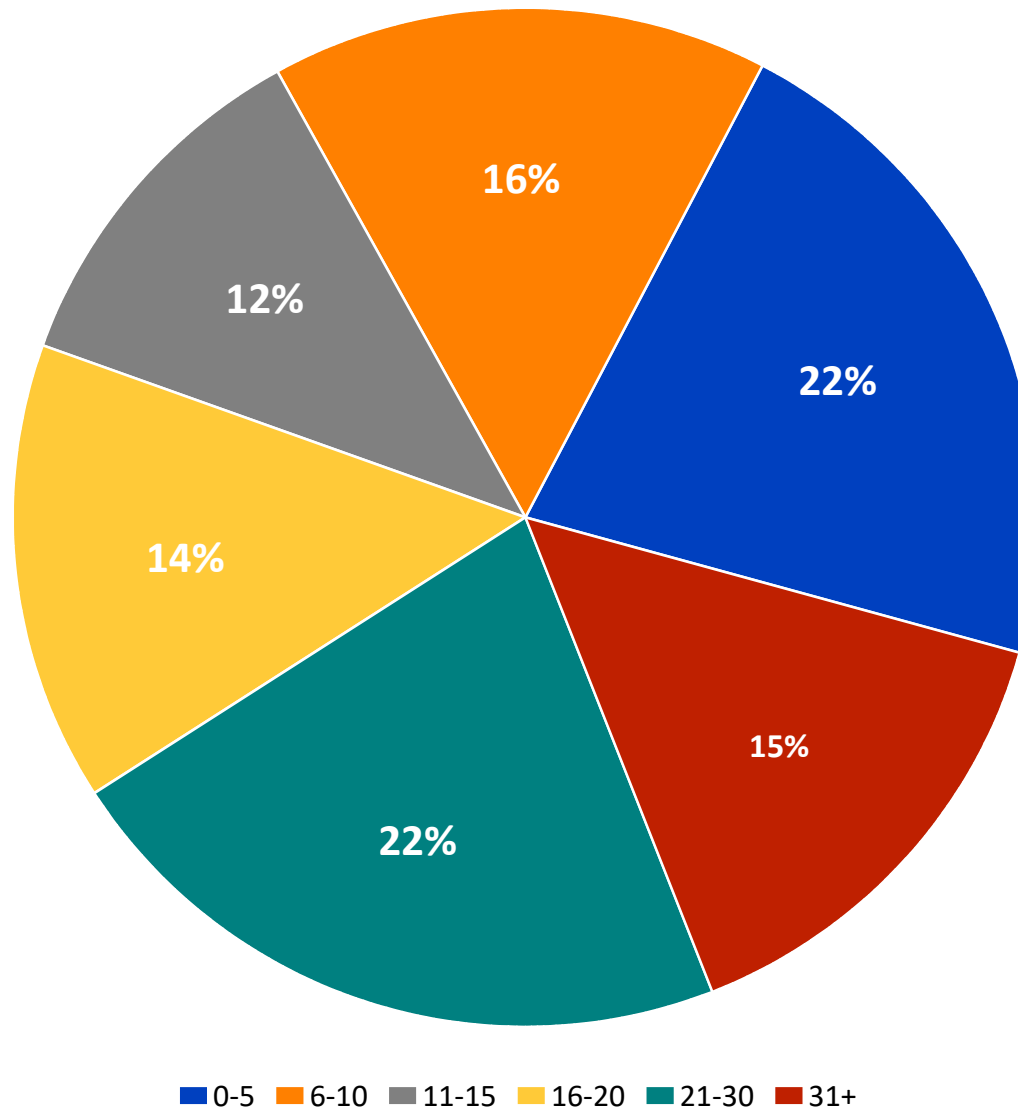
Source: ETC Institute (2020)

ETC Institute (2020)



## Q17. Demographics: Number of Years Lived in the City of Hudson

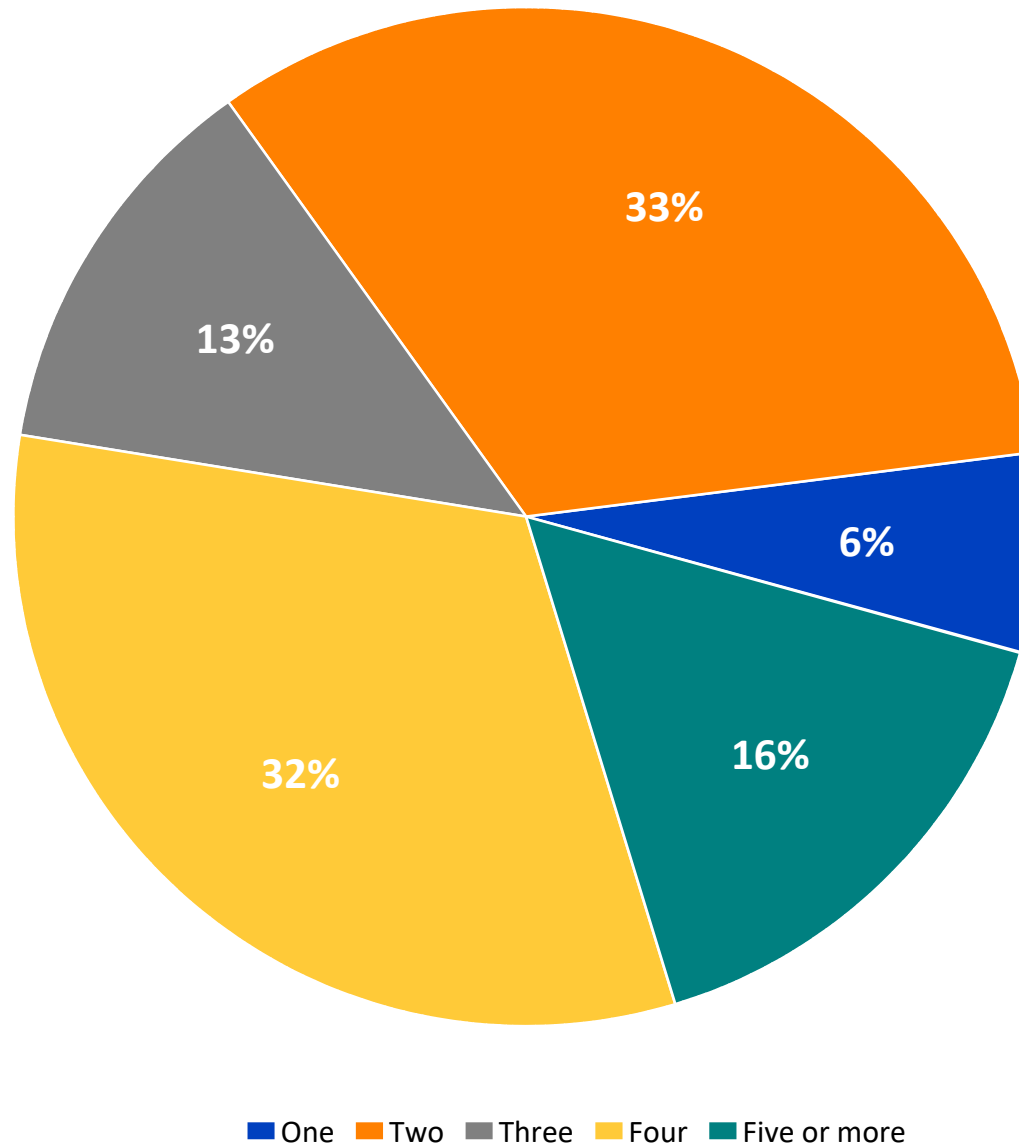
by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q18. Demographics: Number of People in Household

by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)

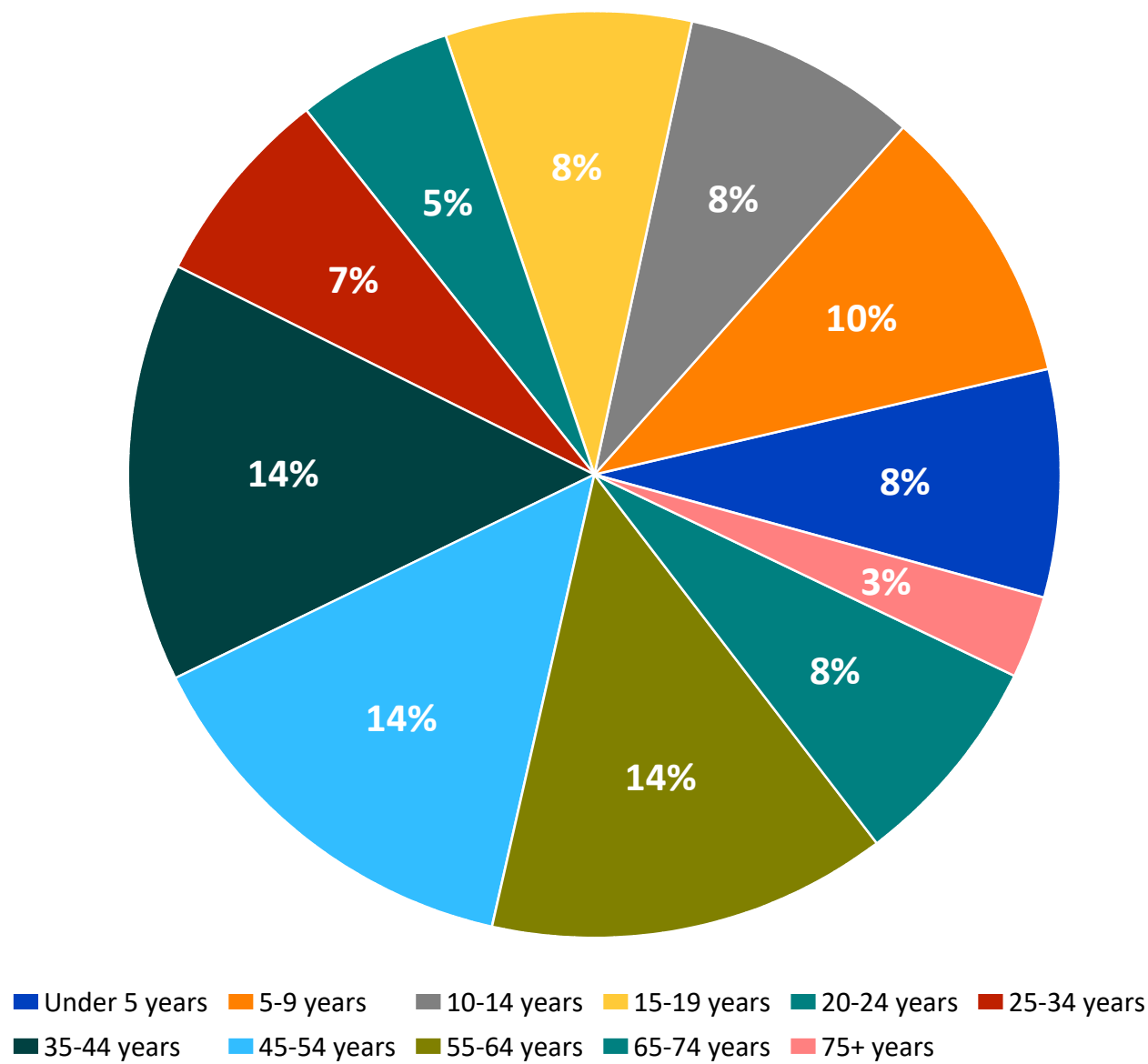


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

ETC Institute (2020)

## Q19. Demographics: Ages of People in Household

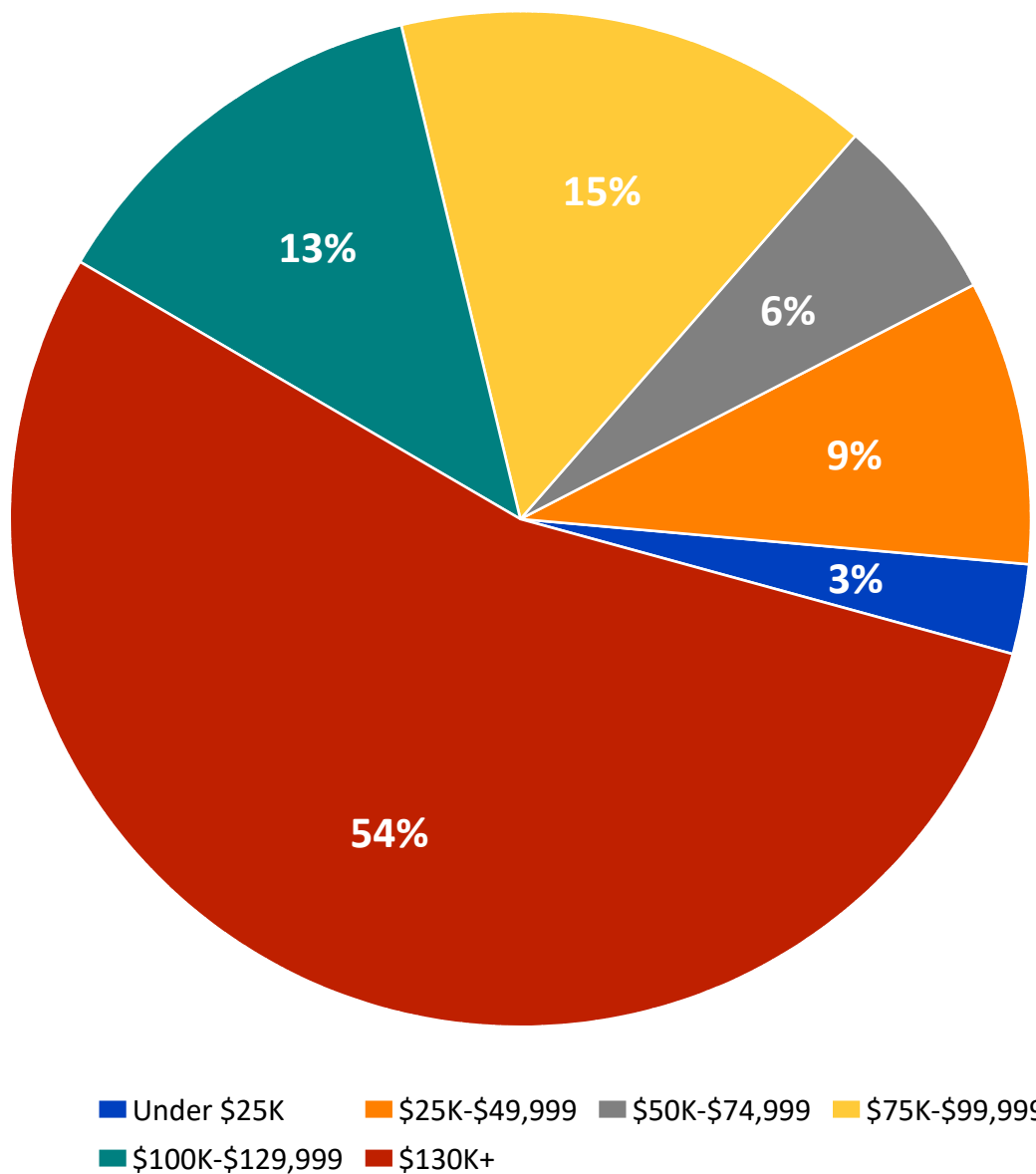
by percentage of household occupants (excluding “not provided”)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Q20. Demographics: What is your annual household income?

by percentage of respondents (excluding “not provided”)



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Section 2: **Priority Investment Rating**



## Priority Investment Rating

### Hudson, Ohio

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The **Priority Investment Rating (PIR)** was developed by ETC Institute to provide governments with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on parks and recreation investments. The PIR identifies the facilities and programs residents think should receive the highest priority for investment. The priority investment rating reflects the importance residents place on items (sum of top 4 choices) and the unmet needs (needs that are only being partly met or not met) for each facility/program relative to the facility/program that rated the highest overall. Since decisions related to future investments should consider both the level of unmet need and the importance of facilities and programs, the PIR weights each of these components equally.

The PIR reflects the sum of the Unmet Needs Rating and the Importance Rating as shown in the equation below:

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

For example, suppose the Unmet Needs Rating for playgrounds is 26.5 (out of 100) and the Importance Rating for playgrounds is 52 (out of 100), the Priority Investment Rating for playgrounds would be 78.5 (out of 200).

#### How to Analyze the Charts:

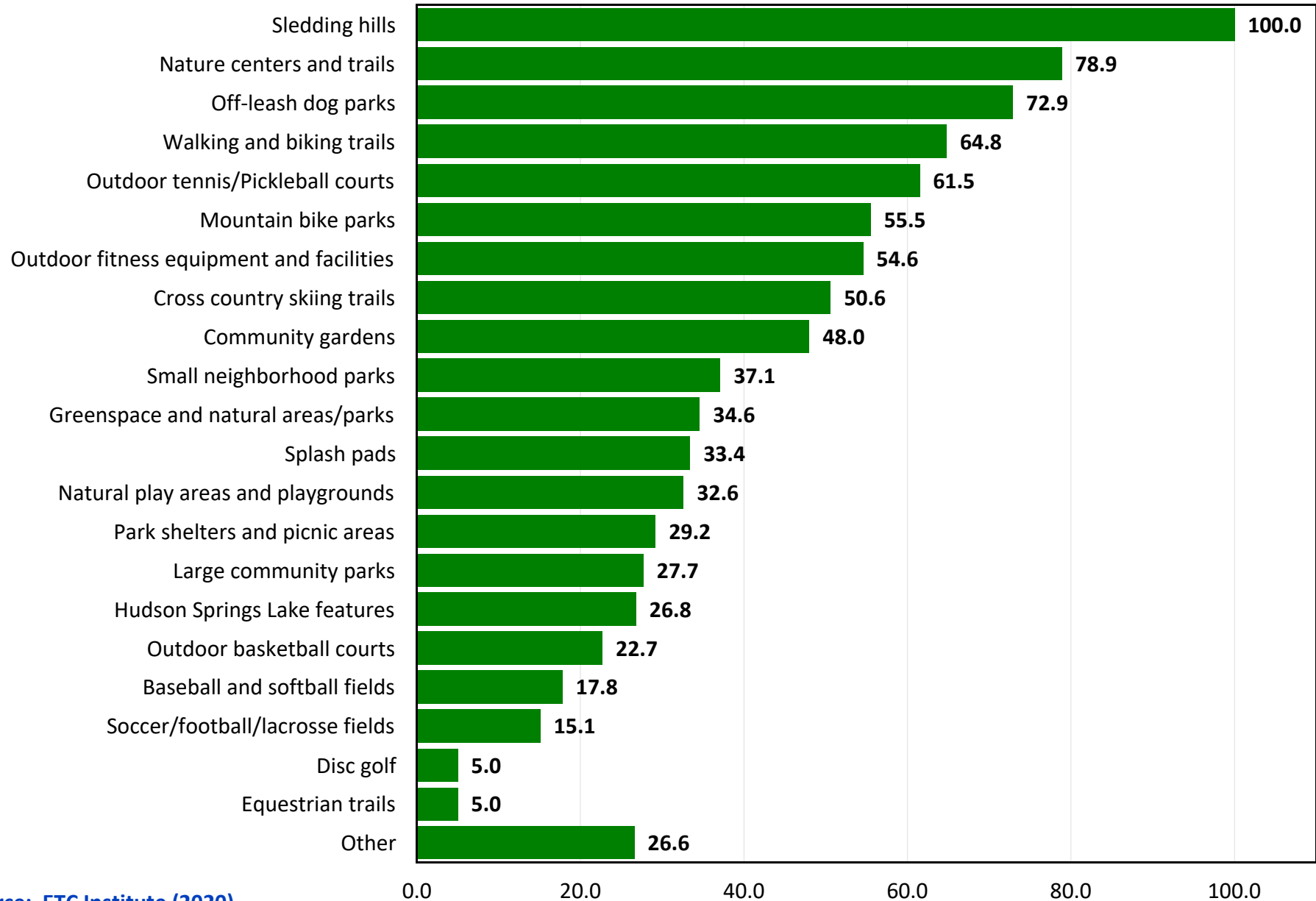
- **High Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of at least 100. A rating of 100 or above generally indicates there is a relatively high level of unmet need and residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on the greatest number of households.
- **Medium Priority Areas** are those with a PIR of 50-99. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a medium to high level of unmet need or a significant percentage of residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas.
- **Low Priority Areas** are those with a PIR below 50. A rating in this range generally indicates there is a relatively low level of unmet need and residents do not think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements may be warranted if the needs of very specialized populations are being targeted.

The following pages show the Unmet Needs Rating, Importance Rating, and Priority Investment Rating for facilities.

## Unmet Needs Rating for Parks and Recreation Facilities

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

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

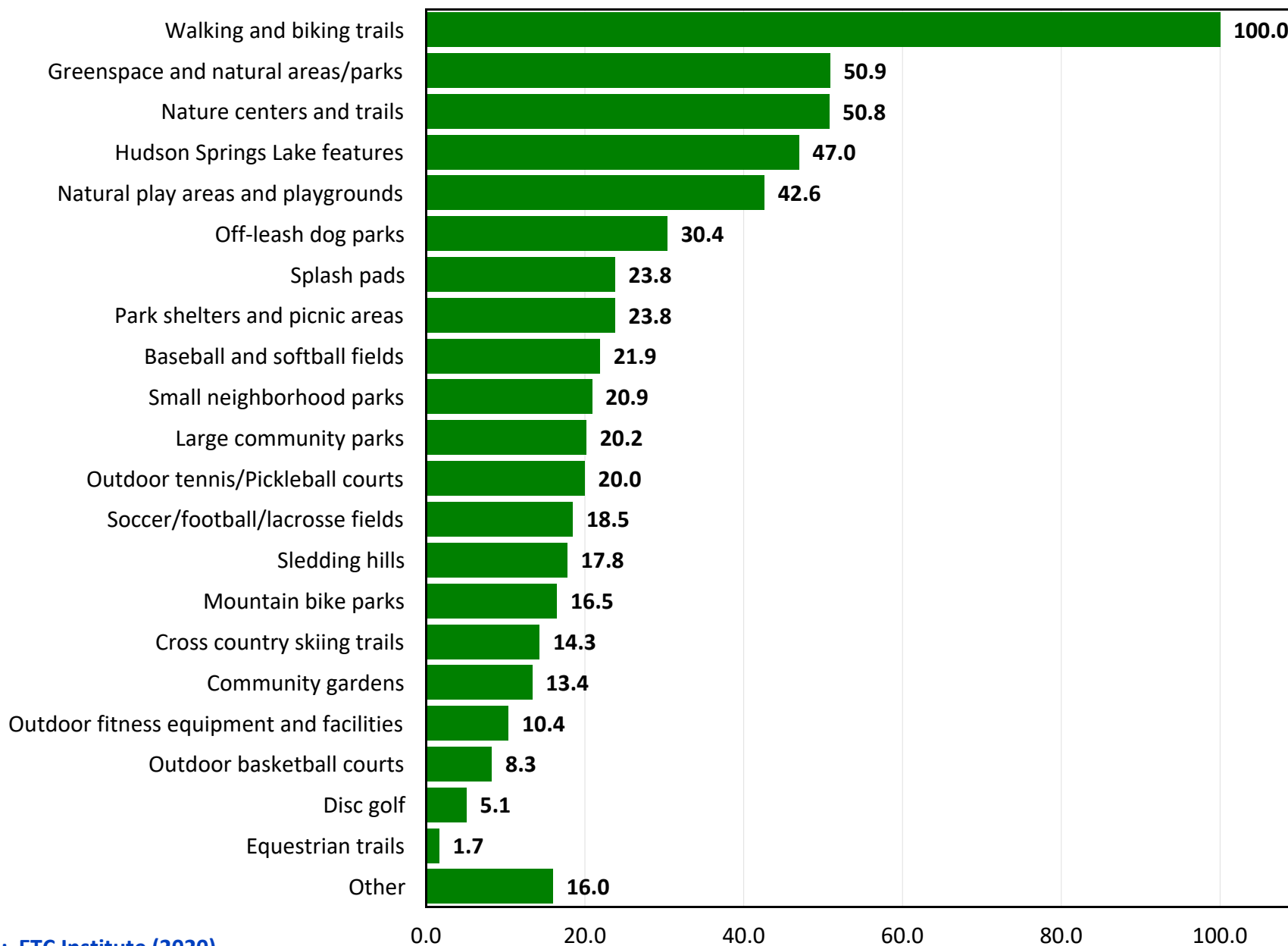


Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Importance Rating for Parks and Recreation Facilities

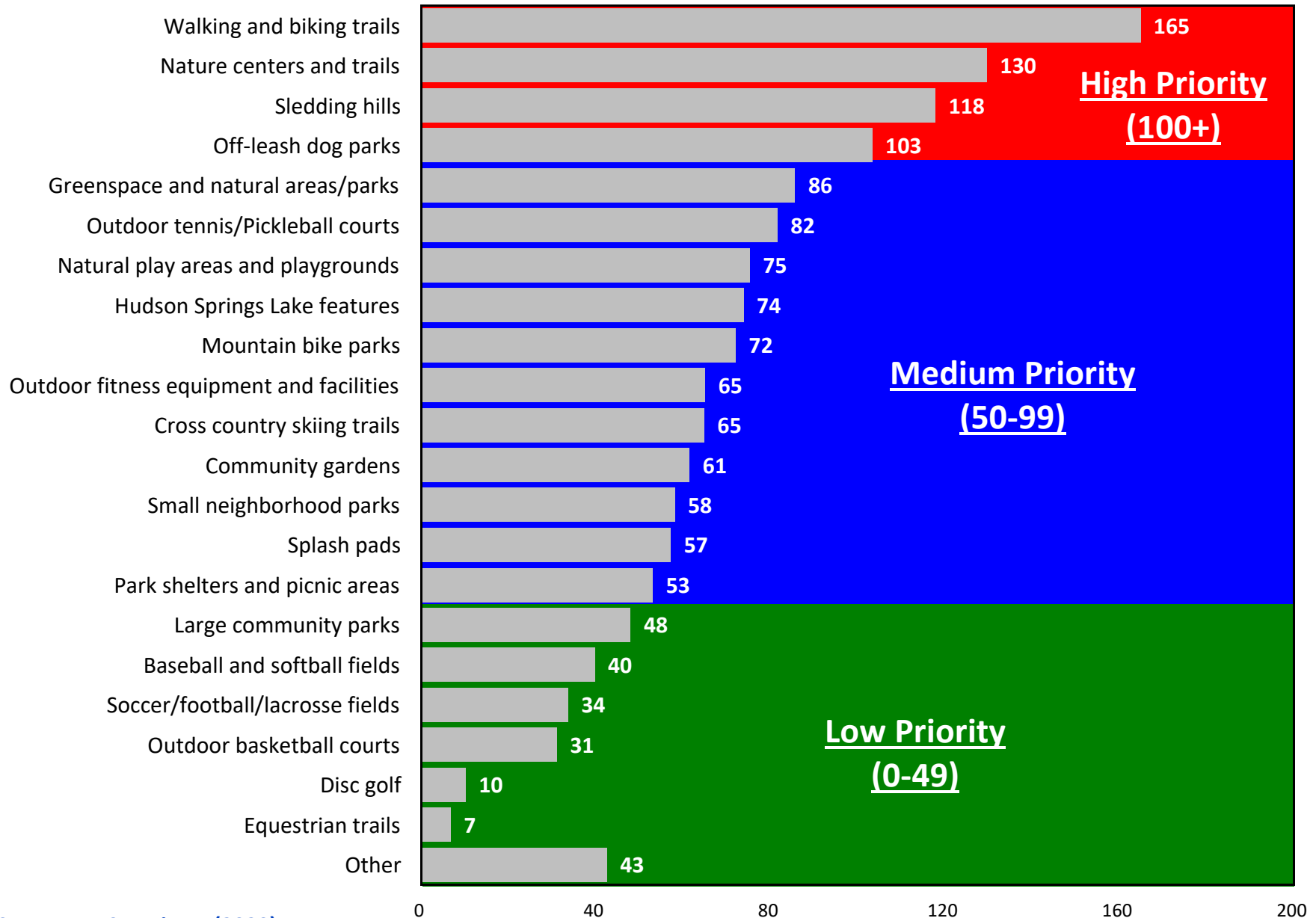
the rating for the item rated as the most important=100

the rating of all other items reflects the relative level of importance for each item compared to the item rated as the most important



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Facilities Based on the Priority Investment Rating



Source: ETC Institute (2020)

## **Section 3:**

# **Benchmarking Analysis**

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## Benchmarking Summary Report

### Hudson, Ohio

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***Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 400 communities in 49 states across the country.***

The results of these surveys has provided an unparalleled data base of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to “National Averages” and therefore provide a unique tool to “assist organizations in better decision making.”

Communities within the data base include a full-range of municipal and county governments from 20,000 in population through over 1 million in population. They include communities in warm weather climates and cold weather climates, mature communities and some of the fastest growing cities and counties in the country.

***“National Averages” have been developed for numerous strategically important parks and recreation planning and management issues*** including: customer satisfaction and usage of parks and programs; methods for receiving marketing information; reasons that prevent members of households from using parks and recreation facilities more often; priority recreation programs, parks, facilities and trails to improve or develop; priority programming spaces to have in planned community centers and aquatic facilities; potential attendance for planned indoor community centers and outdoor aquatic centers; etc.

***Results from household responses for Hudson, Ohio were compared to National Benchmarks to gain further strategic information.*** A summary of all tabular comparisons are shown on the following page.

**Note: The benchmarking data contained in this report is protected intellectual property. Any reproduction of the benchmarking information in this report by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with the City of Hudson, Ohio is not authorized without written consent from ETC Institute.**

# City of Hudson Community Interest and Opinion Survey: Findings Report

Benchmarking for Hudson, Ohio		
	<i>National Average</i>	<i>Hudson 2019</i>
<b>Ways respondents learn about recreation programs and activities</b>		
Conversations with staff	6%	4%
Parks guide	52%	20%
Email	9%	13%
City newsletters	30%	24%
Newspaper	38%	58%
City website	22%	28%
Word of mouth	42%	59%
<b>Organizations used for parks and recreation programs and facilities</b>		
Churches	29%	27%
Homeowners Association	14%	15%
Private fitness clubs	14%	48%
School District	28%	34%
<b>Reasons preventing the use of parks and recreation facilities and programs more often</b>		
Facilities do not have right equipment	7%	14%
Facilities are not well maintained	7%	8%
Operating hours are not convenient	7%	3%
Fees are too high	13%	1%
I do not know location of facilities	12%	24%
I do not know locations of facilities	15%	24%
I do not know what is being offered	23%	32%
Lack of parking	5%	4%
Poor customer service by staff	3%	1%
Registration process is difficult	3%	0%
Security is insufficient	8%	2%
Too far from residence	13%	9%
Use facilities of other agencies	15%	14%
Use services of other agencies	9%	12%
No time to participate	34%	25%
<b>Parks and recreation facilities that respondent households have a need for</b>		
Baseball and softball fields	15%	23%
Community gardens	32%	22%
Equestrian trails	12%	3%
Large community Parks	55%	39%
Mountain bike parks	22%	25%
Greenspace and natural areas/parks	50%	67%
Nature centers and trails	53%	66%
Off-leash dog parks	27%	30%
Outdoor basketball courts	24%	20%
Park shelters and picnic areas	53%	47%
Natural play areas and playgrounds	43%	45%
Small neighborhood parks	60%	39%
Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	22%	24%
Splash pads	27%	32%
Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts	26%	26%
Disc golf	13%	13%
Walking and biking trails	69%	81%

Benchmarking for Hudson, Ohio		
	<i><b>National Average</b></i>	<i><b>Hudson 2019</b></i>
<b>Most important parks and recreation facilities (sum of top choices)</b>		
Baseball and softball fields	4%	13%
Community gardens	9%	8%
Equestrian trails	3%	1%
Large community Parks	19%	12%
Mountain bike parks	6%	10%
Greenspace and natural areas/parks	17%	30%
Nature centers and trails	19%	30%
Off-leash dog parks	13%	18%
Outdoor basketball courts	5%	5%
Park shelters and picnic areas	16%	14%
Natural play areas and playgrounds	19%	25%
Small neighborhood parks	28%	12%
Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	8%	11%
Splash pads	8%	14%
Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts	7%	12%
Disc golf	3%	3%
Walking and biking trails	42%	59%
<b>Satisfaction with the overall value received from the parks and recreation department</b>		
Very Satisfied	27%	49%
Somewhat Satisfied	34%	32%
Neutral	20%	11%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	6%	4%
Very Dissatisfied	3%	1%
Don't Know	10%	3%

**Section 4:**  
**Tabular Data**

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**Q1. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has used any of the following Hudson parks/facilities during the past 12 months.**

(N=485)

	Yes	No
Q1-1. Barlow Farm Park	60.2%	39.8%
Q1-2. Bicentennial Woods	11.1%	88.9%
Q1-3. Boston Mills Park	10.3%	89.7%
Q1-4. Cascade Park	51.1%	48.9%
Q1-5. Colony Park	39.2%	60.8%
Q1-6. Darrow Road Park	13.4%	86.6%
Q1-7. DiNovi Park	1.6%	98.4%
Q1-8. Doc's Woods	1.4%	98.6%
Q1-9. Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club	28.0%	72.0%
Q1-10. High Point Park	2.1%	97.9%
Q1-11. Hudson Springs Park	88.5%	11.5%
Q1-12. MacLaren Woods	2.3%	97.7%
Q1-13. Maple Grove Park	7.2%	92.8%
Q1-14. Middleton Park	20.4%	79.6%
Q1-15. Nicholson Trail	14.0%	86.0%
Q1-16. Oak Grove Park	17.1%	82.9%
Q1-17. Robinson Field Park	0.8%	99.2%
Q1-18. Trumbull Woods	6.2%	93.8%
Q1-19. Turnpike Trail	16.1%	83.9%
Q1-20. Veterans Way Park	59.4%	40.6%
Q1-21. Wildlife Woods	7.6%	92.4%



**Q1. If "YES," please rate the condition of this park/facility.**

(N=470)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Q1-1. Barlow Farm Park	41.2%	50.0%	7.0%	1.8%
Q1-2. Bicentennial Woods	42.9%	53.1%	4.1%	0.0%
Q1-3. Boston Mills Park	27.7%	46.8%	21.3%	4.3%
Q1-4. Cascade Park	41.6%	45.8%	12.6%	0.0%
Q1-5. Colony Park	23.1%	52.2%	23.1%	1.6%
Q1-6. Darrow Road Park	33.3%	45.0%	20.0%	1.7%
Q1-7. DiNovi Park	12.5%	50.0%	12.5%	25.0%
Q1-8. Doc's Woods	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Q1-9. Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club	58.6%	39.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Q1-10. High Point Park	50.0%	20.0%	20.0%	10.0%
Q1-11. Hudson Springs Park	69.8%	28.3%	1.7%	0.2%
Q1-12. MacLaren Woods	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Q1-13. Maple Grove Park	28.1%	40.6%	25.0%	6.3%
Q1-14. Middleton Park	25.5%	36.2%	28.7%	9.6%
Q1-15. Nicholson Trail	15.4%	60.0%	23.1%	1.5%
Q1-16. Oak Grove Park	14.6%	48.8%	31.7%	4.9%
Q1-17. Robinson Field Park	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%
Q1-18. Trumbull Woods	14.3%	53.6%	25.0%	7.1%
Q1-19. Turnpike Trail	46.1%	46.1%	6.6%	1.3%
Q1-20. Veterans Way Park	67.5%	28.6%	3.2%	0.7%
Q1-21. Wildlife Woods	45.7%	48.6%	5.7%	0.0%

**Q2. Which THREE of the parks/facilities listed in Question 1 have you or members of your household USED MOST during the past year?**

Q2. Top choice	Number	Percent
Barlow Farm Park	61	12.6 %
Bicentennial Woods	4	0.8 %
Boston Mills Park	3	0.6 %
Cascade Park	36	7.4 %
Colony Park	13	2.7 %
Darrow Road Park	6	1.2 %
DiNovi Park	2	0.4 %
Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club	29	6.0 %
Hudson Springs Park	209	43.1 %
MacLaren Woods	2	0.4 %
Maple Grove Park	8	1.6 %
Middleton Park	12	2.5 %
Nicholson Trail	3	0.6 %
Oak Grove Park	9	1.9 %
Trumbull Woods	2	0.4 %
Turnpike Trail	2	0.4 %
Veterans Way Park	61	12.6 %
Wildlife Woods	1	0.2 %
None chosen	22	4.5 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q2. Which THREE of the parks/facilities listed in Question 1 have you or members of your household USED MOST during the past year?**

Q2. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Barlow Farm Park	54	11.1 %
Bicentennial Woods	6	1.2 %
Boston Mills Park	3	0.6 %
Cascade Park	64	13.2 %
Colony Park	17	3.5 %
Darrow Road Park	12	2.5 %
DiNovi Park	1	0.2 %
Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club	31	6.4 %
High Point Park	1	0.2 %
Hudson Springs Park	99	20.4 %
Maple Grove Park	5	1.0 %
Middleton Park	16	3.3 %
Nicholson Trail	13	2.7 %
Oak Grove Park	5	1.0 %
Trumbull Woods	5	1.0 %
Turnpike Trail	14	2.9 %
Veterans Way Park	75	15.5 %
Wildlife Woods	4	0.8 %
None chosen	60	12.4 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q2. Which THREE of the parks/facilities listed in Question 1 have you or members of your household USED MOST during the past year?**

Q2. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Barlow Farm Park	59	12.2 %
Bicentennial Woods	6	1.2 %
Boston Mills Park	9	1.9 %
Cascade Park	54	11.1 %
Colony Park	40	8.2 %
Darrow Road Park	4	0.8 %
DiNovi Park	1	0.2 %
Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club	26	5.4 %
High Point Park	1	0.2 %
Hudson Springs Park	57	11.8 %
Middleton Park	16	3.3 %
Nicholson Trail	4	0.8 %
Oak Grove Park	5	1.0 %
Robinson Field Park	1	0.2 %
Trumbull Woods	2	0.4 %
Turnpike Trail	8	1.6 %
Veterans Way Park	57	11.8 %
Wildlife Woods	4	0.8 %
None chosen	131	27.0 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**SUM OF TOP 3 CHOICES**

**Q2. Which THREE of the parks/facilities listed in Question 1 have you or members of your household USED MOST during the past year? (top 3)**

Q2. Sum of top 3 choices	Number	Percent
Barlow Farm Park	174	35.9 %
Bicentennial Woods	16	3.3 %
Boston Mills Park	15	3.1 %
Cascade Park	154	31.8 %
Colony Park	70	14.4 %
Darrow Road Park	22	4.5 %
DiNovi Park	4	0.8 %
Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club	86	17.7 %
High Point Park	2	0.4 %
Hudson Springs Park	365	75.3 %
MacLaren Woods	2	0.4 %
Maple Grove Park	13	2.7 %
Middleton Park	44	9.1 %
Nicholson Trail	20	4.1 %
Oak Grove Park	19	3.9 %
Robinson Field Park	1	0.2 %
Trumbull Woods	9	1.9 %
Turnpike Trail	24	4.9 %
Veterans Way Park	193	39.8 %
Wildlife Woods	9	1.9 %
None chosen	22	4.5 %
Total	1264	

**Q3. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the ways your household learns about City of Hudson parks and recreation programs and activities.**

Q3. Ways your household learns about City parks & recreation programs & activities	Number	Percent
Parks guide	98	20.2 %
City annual report	14	2.9 %
Conversations with staff	20	4.1 %
Email	63	13.0 %
Newspaper	279	57.5 %
Public meetings	16	3.3 %
Word of mouth	286	59.0 %
City newsletters	117	24.1 %
City website	137	28.2 %
Twitter	30	6.2 %
Facebook	169	34.8 %
Instagram	19	3.9 %
Other	36	7.4 %
Total	1284	

**Q4. Please CHECK ALL the organizations you or members of your household have used for indoor and outdoor recreation activities during the past 12 months.**

Q4. Organizations you have used for indoor & outdoor recreation activities during past 12 months	Number	Percent
City of Hudson	374	77.1 %
Summit County Parks	293	60.4 %
Ohio State Parks	142	29.3 %
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	387	79.8 %
Kent City Parks	44	9.1 %
Akron City Parks	44	9.1 %
Twinsburg City Parks	100	20.6 %
Stow City Parks	110	22.7 %
School District	163	33.6 %
Churches	132	27.2 %
Private fitness clubs	231	47.6 %
Homeowners association	73	15.1 %
Other	40	8.2 %
Total	2133	

**Q4-13. Other**

<u>Q4-13. Other</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Country Club	4	10.0 %
Metroparks	3	7.5 %
Lake Forest Country Club	3	7.5 %
MACEDONIA REC CENTER	2	5.0 %
Friends of Hudson Parks	2	5.0 %
Aurora's Sunny Lake Park	1	2.5 %
Girl Scouts, Hudson United Soccer, Hudson Moms Club	1	2.5 %
Family membership at Macedonia Community Center	1	2.5 %
City of Cuyahoga Falls	1	2.5 %
Synagogue	1	2.5 %
Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Rec	1	2.5 %
Hudson United Soccer Club	1	2.5 %
City of Cuyahoga Falls, Village of Boston Heights	1	2.5 %
University of Akron Fitness Center	1	2.5 %
Broadview Heights Splash Park is incredible	1	2.5 %
Goldfish swim school for swim lessons for my two kids	1	2.5 %
Silver Creek Park in Barberton (Metroparks)	1	2.5 %
Cuyahoga Falls Parks	1	2.5 %
Cub scouts campgrounds at Manatoc and Butler	1	2.5 %
SHAKER HEIGHTS THORNTON PARK INDOOR SKATING RINK	1	2.5 %
LAUREL LAKE ACTIVITIES	1	2.5 %
STREETSBORO CITY PARK	1	2.5 %
MY OWN HOME GYM	1	2.5 %
NC SOCCER HUDSON	1	2.5 %
COMMUNITY REC CENTERS SILVER SPRINGS QUIRK CTR	1	2.5 %
CAMP LEDGEWOOD	1	2.5 %
National and State Parks	1	2.5 %
Community based teams	1	2.5 %
Cleveland Metro Parks	1	2.5 %
WRA	1	2.5 %
Seton Catholic	1	2.5 %
Total	40	100.0 %

**Q5. For age group of 0 to 17, please indicate which TWO of the organizations listed in Question 4 you and your household USE MOST for recreation programs and services.**

<u>Q5. Top choice (ages 0-17)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
City of Hudson	144	29.7 %
Summit County Parks	11	2.3 %
Ohio State Parks	3	0.6 %
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	51	10.5 %
Twinsburg City Parks	3	0.6 %
Stow City Parks	3	0.6 %
School District	41	8.5 %
Churches	5	1.0 %
Private fitness clubs	9	1.9 %
Homeowners association	9	1.9 %
Other	11	2.3 %
None chosen	195	40.2 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q5. For age group of 0 to 17, please indicate which TWO of the organizations listed in Question 4 you and your household USE MOST for recreation programs and services.**

<u>Q5. 2nd choice (ages 0-17)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
City of Hudson	69	14.2 %
Summit County Parks	31	6.4 %
Ohio State Parks	7	1.4 %
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	76	15.7 %
Kent City Parks	1	0.2 %
Akron City Parks	1	0.2 %
Twinsburg City Parks	7	1.4 %
Stow City Parks	4	0.8 %
School District	29	6.0 %
Churches	11	2.3 %
Private fitness clubs	19	3.9 %
Homeowners association	8	1.6 %
Other	10	2.1 %
None chosen	212	43.7 %
Total	485	100.0 %



**SUM OF TOP 2 CHOICES**

**Q5. For age group of 0 to 17, please indicate which TWO of the organizations listed in Question 4 you and your household USE MOST for recreation programs and services. (top 2)**

<u>Q5. Sum of top 2 choices (ages 0-17)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
City of Hudson	213	43.9 %
Summit County Parks	42	8.7 %
Ohio State Parks	10	2.1 %
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	127	26.2 %
Kent City Parks	1	0.2 %
Akron City Parks	1	0.2 %
Twinsburg City Parks	10	2.1 %
Stow City Parks	7	1.4 %
School District	70	14.4 %
Churches	16	3.3 %
Private fitness clubs	28	5.8 %
Homeowners association	17	3.5 %
Other	21	4.3 %
None chosen	195	40.2 %
Total	758	

**Q5. For age group of 18 years and older, please indicate which TWO of the organizations listed in Question 4 you and your household USE MOST for recreation programs and services.**

<u>Q5. Top choice (ages 18 &amp; older)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
City of Hudson	148	30.5 %
Summit County Parks	27	5.6 %
Ohio State Parks	4	0.8 %
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	128	26.4 %
Twinsburg City Parks	4	0.8 %
Stow City Parks	2	0.4 %
School District	5	1.0 %
Churches	10	2.1 %
Private fitness clubs	88	18.1 %
Homeowners association	8	1.6 %
Other	13	2.7 %
None chosen	48	9.9 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q5. For age group of 18 years and older, please indicate which TWO of the organizations listed in Question 4 you and your household USE MOST for recreation programs and services.**

<u>Q5. 2nd choice (ages 18 &amp; older)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
City of Hudson	98	20.2 %
Summit County Parks	65	13.4 %
Ohio State Parks	9	1.9 %
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	109	22.5 %
Kent City Parks	1	0.2 %
Akron City Parks	1	0.2 %
Twinsburg City Parks	6	1.2 %
School District	18	3.7 %
Churches	16	3.3 %
Private fitness clubs	47	9.7 %
Homeowners association	9	1.9 %
Other	7	1.4 %
None chosen	99	20.4 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**SUM OF TOP 2 CHOICES**

**Q5. For age group of 18 years and older, please indicate which TWO of the organizations listed in Question 4 you and your household USE MOST for recreation programs and services. (top 2)**

<u>Q5. Sum of top 2 choices (ages 18 &amp; older)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
City of Hudson	246	50.7 %
Summit County Parks	92	19.0 %
Ohio State Parks	13	2.7 %
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	237	48.9 %
Kent City Parks	1	0.2 %
Akron City Parks	1	0.2 %
Twinsburg City Parks	10	2.1 %
Stow City Parks	2	0.4 %
School District	23	4.7 %
Churches	26	5.4 %
Private fitness clubs	135	27.8 %
Homeowners association	17	3.5 %
Other	20	4.1 %
None chosen	48	9.9 %
Total	871	

**Q6. Please CHECK ALL the reasons that currently prevent you or other members of your household from using recreation facilities of the City of Hudson more often.**

<u>Q6. Reasons that currently prevent you from using City recreation facilities more often</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Facilities are not well maintained	38	7.8 %
Facility not offered	114	23.5 %
Facilities lack right equipment	68	14.0 %
Security is insufficient	10	2.1 %
Too far from residence	44	9.1 %
Fees are too high	5	1.0 %
Use facilities of other agencies	70	14.4 %
Poor customer service by staff	4	0.8 %
I do not know locations of facilities	114	23.5 %
Use services of other agencies	57	11.8 %
I do not know what is being offered	156	32.2 %
Operating hours not convenient	15	3.1 %
Registration process is difficult	2	0.4 %
Lack of parking	20	4.1 %
No time to participate	120	24.7 %
Total	837	

**Q7. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the overall value that your household receives from Hudson regarding parks services.**

Q7. Your level of satisfaction with overall value that your household receives from Hudson regarding parks services

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	236	48.7 %
Somewhat satisfied	154	31.8 %
Neutral	55	11.3 %
Somewhat dissatisfied	21	4.3 %
Very dissatisfied	5	1.0 %
Don't know	14	2.9 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"****Q7. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the overall value that your household receives from Hudson regarding parks services. (without "don't know")**

Q7. Your level of satisfaction with overall value that your household receives from Hudson regarding parks services

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	236	50.1 %
Somewhat satisfied	154	32.7 %
Neutral	55	11.7 %
Somewhat dissatisfied	21	4.5 %
Very dissatisfied	5	1.1 %
Total	471	100.0 %

**Q8. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need for each of the facilities listed below.**

(N=485)

	Yes	No
Q8-1. Baseball & softball fields	23.1%	76.9%
Q8-2. Community gardens	22.3%	77.7%
Q8-3. Cross country skiing trails (groomed/ ungroomed)	22.3%	77.7%
Q8-4. Disc golf	13.0%	87.0%
Q8-5. Equestrian trails	2.9%	97.1%
Q8-6. Greenspace & natural areas/parks	67.4%	32.6%
Q8-7. Hudson Springs Lake features (fishing, boating)	54.2%	45.8%
Q8-8. Large (15-50 acres) community parks	39.2%	60.8%
Q8-9. Mountain bike parks	24.9%	75.1%
Q8-10. Natural play areas & playgrounds	45.2%	54.8%
Q8-11. Nature centers & trails	66.0%	34.0%
Q8-12. Off-leash dog parks	29.9%	70.1%
Q8-13. Outdoor basketball courts	20.2%	79.8%
Q8-14. Outdoor fitness equipment & facilities	25.2%	74.8%
Q8-15. Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts	26.4%	73.6%
Q8-16. Park shelters & picnic areas	47.4%	52.6%
Q8-17. Sledding hills	44.1%	55.9%
Q8-18. Small (2-10 acres) neighborhood parks	39.4%	60.6%
Q8-19. Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	24.1%	75.9%
Q8-20. Splash pads (above ground water play)	32.0%	68.0%
Q8-21. Walking & biking trails	81.2%	18.8%
Q8-22. Other	12.2%	87.8%

**Q8. If "YES," please rate ALL of the Parks and Recreation facilities of this type in Hudson using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means the needs of your household are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met."**

(N=472)

	100% met	75% met	50% met	25% met	0% met
Q8-1. Baseball & softball fields	37.1%	35.2%	16.2%	9.5%	1.9%
Q8-2. Community gardens	9.2%	13.8%	16.1%	11.5%	49.4%
Q8-3. Cross country skiing trails (groomed/ ungroomed)	6.7%	12.2%	16.7%	15.6%	48.9%
Q8-4. Disc golf	51.7%	34.5%	10.3%	3.4%	0.0%
Q8-5. Equestrian trails	23.1%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	61.5%
Q8-6. Greenspace & natural areas/parks	42.9%	38.8%	15.0%	3.1%	0.3%
Q8-7. Hudson Springs Lake features (fishing, boating)	55.1%	27.1%	12.7%	4.2%	0.8%
Q8-8. Large (15-50 acres) community parks	38.8%	35.9%	15.3%	8.2%	1.8%
Q8-9. Mountain bike parks	7.3%	12.8%	12.8%	19.3%	47.7%
Q8-10. Natural play areas & playgrounds	39.7%	34.5%	17.0%	6.2%	2.6%
Q8-11. Nature centers & trails	26.0%	31.2%	21.2%	15.8%	5.8%
Q8-12. Off-leash dog parks	2.2%	10.4%	9.7%	15.7%	61.9%
Q8-13. Outdoor basketball courts	26.4%	33.3%	25.3%	9.2%	5.7%
Q8-14. Outdoor fitness equipment & facilities	6.3%	16.1%	23.2%	33.0%	21.4%
Q8-15. Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts	3.9%	12.6%	18.4%	28.2%	36.9%
Q8-16. Park shelters & picnic areas	47.6%	30.3%	16.3%	4.8%	1.0%
Q8-17. Sledding hills	11.3%	7.5%	24.7%	25.3%	31.2%
Q8-18. Small (2-10 acres) neighborhood parks	40.2%	26.0%	20.7%	8.3%	4.7%
Q8-19. Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	41.2%	36.3%	16.7%	2.9%	2.9%
Q8-20. Splash pads (above ground water play)	36.6%	26.2%	22.1%	12.4%	2.8%
Q8-21. Walking & biking trails	33.1%	38.3%	20.6%	7.1%	0.9%
Q8-22. Other	14.0%	8.0%	6.0%	10.0%	62.0%



**Q8-22. Other**

<u>Q8-22. Other</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pool	5	8.5 %
Recreation center	4	6.8 %
Golf course	4	6.8 %
Swimming pool	4	6.8 %
Ice skating	3	5.1 %
Skate park	3	5.1 %
SKATEBOARD PARK	2	3.4 %
INDOOR FITNESS	2	3.4 %
Running trails	2	3.4 %
More unpaved running/walking trails	1	1.7 %
Lacrosse fields on Malson	1	1.7 %
Controlled archery deer hunting	1	1.7 %
Wheelchair accessible trails, playground, swimming pool	1	1.7 %
Rec center and pool	1	1.7 %
Pump track and a bike park	1	1.7 %
City Rec center	1	1.7 %
Indoor swimming pool and walking/running track	1	1.7 %
Tennis courts	1	1.7 %
Fitness center group exercise, weights, inside walking/running	1	1.7 %
Skate park, pool	1	1.7 %
Outdoor pool or lazy river, lake swimming with beach	1	1.7 %
SKATING RINK	1	1.7 %
DOG PARK	1	1.7 %
Skateboard park, rock climbing, community pool, pump track	1	1.7 %
POOL REC FACILITY	1	1.7 %
ELLWORTH MEADOWS	1	1.7 %
KAYAKING	1	1.7 %
JOGGING TRAILS	1	1.7 %
SWIMMING POOL AND REC CENTER	1	1.7 %
SHOOTING ARCHERY RANGE	1	1.7 %
Running	1	1.7 %
COMMUNITY POOL CENTER	1	1.7 %
FITNESS CTR	1	1.7 %
COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL	1	1.7 %
BALLROOM FACILITY	1	1.7 %
REC CTR POOL AND FITNESS CTR	1	1.7 %
Pickleball	1	1.7 %
HOCKEY RINK	1	1.7 %
ICE RINK	1	1.7 %
Total	59	100.0 %

**Q9. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

<u>Q9. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Baseball & softball fields	35	7.2 %
Community gardens	4	0.8 %
Cross country skiing trails (groomed/ungroomed)	4	0.8 %
Disc golf	2	0.4 %
Equestrian trails	1	0.2 %
Greenspace & natural areas/parks	41	8.5 %
Hudson Springs Lake features (fishing, boating)	39	8.0 %
Large (15-50 acres) community parks	7	1.4 %
Mountain bike parks	9	1.9 %
Natural play areas & playgrounds	49	10.1 %
Nature centers & trails	19	3.9 %
Off-leash dog parks	23	4.7 %
Outdoor basketball courts	3	0.6 %
Outdoor fitness equipment & facilities	5	1.0 %
Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts	15	3.1 %
Park shelters & picnic areas	1	0.2 %
Sledding hills	1	0.2 %
Small (2-10 acres) neighborhood parks	5	1.0 %
Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	12	2.5 %
Splash pads (above ground water play)	10	2.1 %
Walking & biking trails	136	28.0 %
Other	28	5.8 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>7.4 %</u>
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q9. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

<u>Q9. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Baseball & softball fields	13	2.7 %
Community gardens	14	2.9 %
Cross country skiing trails (groomed/ungroomed)	9	1.9 %
Disc golf	2	0.4 %
Equestrian trails	2	0.4 %
Greenspace & natural areas/parks	43	8.9 %
Hudson Springs Lake features (fishing, boating)	38	7.8 %
Large (15-50 acres) community parks	17	3.5 %
Mountain bike parks	8	1.6 %
Natural play areas & playgrounds	36	7.4 %
Nature centers & trails	59	12.2 %
Off-leash dog parks	19	3.9 %
Outdoor basketball courts	7	1.4 %
Outdoor fitness equipment & facilities	5	1.0 %
Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts	16	3.3 %
Park shelters & picnic areas	12	2.5 %
Sledding hills	10	2.1 %
Small (2-10 acres) neighborhood parks	14	2.9 %
Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	17	3.5 %
Splash pads (above ground water play)	21	4.3 %
Walking & biking trails	66	13.6 %
Other	6	1.2 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>10.5 %</u>
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q9. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

<u>Q9. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Baseball & softball fields	8	1.6 %
Community gardens	10	2.1 %
Cross country skiing trails (groomed/ungroomed)	8	1.6 %
Disc golf	5	1.0 %
Equestrian trails	2	0.4 %
Greenspace & natural areas/parks	28	5.8 %
Hudson Springs Lake features (fishing, boating)	37	7.6 %
Large (15-50 acres) community parks	21	4.3 %
Mountain bike parks	20	4.1 %
Natural play areas & playgrounds	14	2.9 %
Nature centers & trails	39	8.0 %
Off-leash dog parks	26	5.4 %
Outdoor basketball courts	10	2.1 %
Outdoor fitness equipment & facilities	6	1.2 %
Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts	11	2.3 %
Park shelters & picnic areas	22	4.5 %
Sledding hills	18	3.7 %
Small (2-10 acres) neighborhood parks	20	4.1 %
Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	18	3.7 %
Splash pads (above ground water play)	18	3.7 %
Walking & biking trails	56	11.5 %
Other	8	1.6 %
<u>None chosen</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>16.5 %</u>
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q9. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?**

<u>Q9. 4th choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Baseball & softball fields	7	1.4 %
Community gardens	10	2.1 %
Cross country skiing trails (groomed/ungroomed)	20	4.1 %
Disc golf	6	1.2 %
Greenspace & natural areas/parks	33	6.8 %
Hudson Springs Lake features (fishing, boating)	21	4.3 %
Large (15-50 acres) community parks	13	2.7 %
Mountain bike parks	10	2.1 %
Natural play areas & playgrounds	23	4.7 %
Nature centers & trails	28	5.8 %
Off-leash dog parks	19	3.9 %
Outdoor basketball courts	4	0.8 %
Outdoor fitness equipment & facilities	14	2.9 %
Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts	15	3.1 %
Park shelters & picnic areas	33	6.8 %
Sledding hills	22	4.5 %
Small (2-10 acres) neighborhood parks	21	4.3 %
Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	6	1.2 %
Splash pads (above ground water play)	19	3.9 %
Walking & biking trails	28	5.8 %
Other	4	0.8 %
None chosen	129	26.6 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**SUM OF TOP 4 CHOICES****Q9. Which FOUR facilities from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? (top 4)**

Q9. Sum of top 4 choices	Number	Percent
Baseball & softball fields	63	13.0 %
Community gardens	38	7.8 %
Cross country skiing trails (groomed/ungroomed)	41	8.5 %
Disc golf	15	3.1 %
Equestrian trails	5	1.0 %
Greenspace & natural areas/parks	145	29.9 %
Hudson Springs Lake features (fishing, boating)	135	27.8 %
Large (15-50 acres) community parks	58	12.0 %
Mountain bike parks	47	9.7 %
Natural play areas & playgrounds	122	25.2 %
Nature centers & trails	145	29.9 %
Off-leash dog parks	87	17.9 %
Outdoor basketball courts	24	4.9 %
Outdoor fitness equipment & facilities	30	6.2 %
Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts	57	11.8 %
Park shelters & picnic areas	68	14.0 %
Sledding hills	51	10.5 %
Small (2-10 acres) neighborhood parks	60	12.4 %
Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	53	10.9 %
Splash pads (above ground water play)	68	14.0 %
Walking & biking trails	286	59.0 %
Other	46	9.5 %
None chosen	36	7.4 %
Total	1680	



**Q10. Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," with the following Parks and Recreation services provided by Hudson.**

(N=485)

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Q10-1. Maintenance of parks	49.7%	31.3%	8.0%	2.7%	1.4%	6.8%
Q10-2. Number of parks	53.6%	25.6%	7.4%	3.7%	1.4%	8.2%
Q10-3. Available parking at parks	50.7%	27.4%	10.3%	4.1%	0.4%	7.0%
Q10-4. Number of walking/biking trails	30.1%	36.1%	13.6%	9.1%	3.3%	7.8%
Q10-5. Quality of outdoor basketball courts	10.1%	11.1%	14.2%	2.7%	0.8%	61.0%
Q10-6. Condition/quality of baseball/softball fields	8.5%	11.5%	15.3%	4.7%	3.1%	56.9%
Q10-7. Amount of open spaces	33.6%	32.0%	14.4%	3.9%	0.8%	15.3%
Q10-8. Number of tennis courts/pickleball courts	6.8%	6.4%	15.5%	8.9%	8.2%	54.2%
Q10-9. Number of natural areas	28.5%	30.3%	18.1%	8.2%	1.2%	13.6%
Q10-10. Community special events	19.6%	22.5%	22.7%	5.4%	2.1%	27.8%
Q10-11. Availability of information about facilities	13.4%	22.1%	25.6%	15.7%	4.7%	18.6%
Q10-12. Quality of facilities for adults age 55 & older	10.5%	7.4%	17.1%	7.2%	4.3%	53.4%
Q10-13. Rental of shelters or meeting rooms	12.4%	13.0%	16.7%	5.8%	3.5%	48.7%
Q10-14. User friendliness of website	9.7%	14.8%	21.6%	5.4%	2.1%	46.4%
Q10-15. Fees charged for recreation programs	10.9%	13.8%	19.8%	2.1%	0.8%	52.6%

**Q10. Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," with the following Parks and Recreation services provided by Hudson.**

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Q10-16. Park accessibility (ADA compliant access)	8.7%	5.8%	14.8%	2.1%	0.6%	68.0%
Q10-17. Customer assistance by staff over the phone	9.1%	4.9%	12.6%	1.4%	0.4%	71.5%
Q10-18. Customer assistance by staff via email	9.5%	4.3%	12.2%	1.0%	0.4%	72.6%
Q10-19. Customer assistance by staff via Facebook	3.7%	1.4%	11.5%	0.6%	0.0%	82.7%

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q10. Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," with the following Parks and Recreation services provided by Hudson. (without "don't know")**

(N=485)

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Q10-1. Maintenance of parks	53.3%	33.6%	8.6%	2.9%	1.5%
Q10-2. Number of parks	58.4%	27.9%	8.1%	4.0%	1.6%
Q10-3. Available parking at parks	54.5%	29.5%	11.1%	4.4%	0.4%
Q10-4. Number of walking/biking trails	32.7%	39.1%	14.8%	9.8%	3.6%
Q10-5. Quality of outdoor basketball courts	25.9%	28.6%	36.5%	6.9%	2.1%
Q10-6. Condition/quality of baseball/softball fields	19.6%	26.8%	35.4%	11.0%	7.2%
Q10-7. Amount of open spaces	39.7%	37.7%	17.0%	4.6%	1.0%
Q10-8. Number of tennis courts/pickleball courts	14.9%	14.0%	33.8%	19.4%	18.0%
Q10-9. Number of natural areas	32.9%	35.1%	21.0%	9.5%	1.4%
Q10-10. Community special events	27.1%	31.1%	31.4%	7.4%	2.9%
Q10-11. Availability of information about facilities	16.5%	27.1%	31.4%	19.2%	5.8%
Q10-12. Quality of facilities for adults age 55 & older	22.6%	15.9%	36.7%	15.5%	9.3%
Q10-13. Rental of shelters or meeting rooms	24.1%	25.3%	32.5%	11.2%	6.8%
Q10-14. User friendliness of website	18.1%	27.7%	40.4%	10.0%	3.8%

**WITHOUT "DON'T KNOW"**

**Q10. Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied," with the following Parks and Recreation services provided by Hudson. (without "don't know")**

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Q10-15. Fees charged for recreation programs	23.0%	29.1%	41.7%	4.3%	1.7%
Q10-16. Park accessibility (ADA compliant access)	27.1%	18.1%	46.5%	6.5%	1.9%
Q10-17. Customer assistance by staff over the phone	31.9%	17.4%	44.2%	5.1%	1.4%
Q10-18. Customer assistance by staff via email	34.6%	15.8%	44.4%	3.8%	1.5%
Q10-19. Customer assistance by staff via Facebook	21.4%	8.3%	66.7%	3.6%	0.0%

**Q11. Which THREE Parks and Recreation services listed in Question 10 do you think should receive the MOST ATTENTION from City of Hudson officials over the next TWO years?**

Q11. Top choice	Number	Percent
Maintenance of parks	102	21.0 %
Number of parks	13	2.7 %
Available parking at parks	10	2.1 %
Number of walking/biking trails	91	18.8 %
Quality of outdoor basketball courts	4	0.8 %
Condition/quality of baseball/softball fields	29	6.0 %
Amount of open spaces	10	2.1 %
Number of tennis courts/pickleball courts	33	6.8 %
Number of natural areas	18	3.7 %
Community special events	23	4.7 %
Availability of information about facilities	25	5.2 %
Quality of facilities for adults age 55 & older	23	4.7 %
Rental of shelters or meeting rooms	12	2.5 %
User friendliness of website	6	1.2 %
Fees charged for recreation programs	3	0.6 %
Park accessibility (ADA compliant access)	3	0.6 %
Customer assistance by staff over the phone	1	0.2 %
Customer assistance by staff via Facebook	1	0.2 %
None chosen	78	16.1 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q11. Which THREE Parks and Recreation services listed in Question 10 do you think should receive the MOST ATTENTION from City of Hudson officials over the next TWO years?**

Q11. 2nd choice	Number	Percent
Maintenance of parks	49	10.1 %
Number of parks	20	4.1 %
Available parking at parks	17	3.5 %
Number of walking/biking trails	79	16.3 %
Quality of outdoor basketball courts	8	1.6 %
Condition/quality of baseball/softball fields	10	2.1 %
Amount of open spaces	15	3.1 %
Number of tennis courts/pickleball courts	17	3.5 %
Number of natural areas	32	6.6 %
Community special events	36	7.4 %
Availability of information about facilities	29	6.0 %
Quality of facilities for adults age 55 & older	18	3.7 %
Rental of shelters or meeting rooms	8	1.6 %
User friendliness of website	12	2.5 %
Fees charged for recreation programs	3	0.6 %
Park accessibility (ADA compliant access)	4	0.8 %
Customer assistance by staff over the phone	2	0.4 %
Customer assistance by staff via email	1	0.2 %
Customer assistance by staff via Facebook	1	0.2 %
None chosen	124	25.6 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q11. Which THREE Parks and Recreation services listed in Question 10 do you think should receive the MOST ATTENTION from City of Hudson officials over the next TWO years?**

Q11. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Maintenance of parks	31	6.4 %
Number of parks	20	4.1 %
Available parking at parks	16	3.3 %
Number of walking/biking trails	40	8.2 %
Quality of outdoor basketball courts	5	1.0 %
Condition/quality of baseball/softball fields	8	1.6 %
Amount of open spaces	23	4.7 %
Number of tennis courts/pickleball courts	10	2.1 %
Number of natural areas	29	6.0 %
Community special events	33	6.8 %
Availability of information about facilities	39	8.0 %
Quality of facilities for adults age 55 & older	20	4.1 %
Rental of shelters or meeting rooms	11	2.3 %
User friendliness of website	12	2.5 %
Fees charged for recreation programs	4	0.8 %
Park accessibility (ADA compliant access)	4	0.8 %
Customer assistance by staff over the phone	1	0.2 %
Customer assistance by staff via email	1	0.2 %
Customer assistance by staff via Facebook	2	0.4 %
None chosen	176	36.3 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**SUM OF TOP 3 CHOICES**

**Q11. Which THREE Parks and Recreation services listed in Question 10 do you think should receive the MOST ATTENTION from City of Hudson officials over the next TWO years? (top 3)**

Q11. Sum of top 3 choices	Number	Percent
Maintenance of parks	182	37.5 %
Number of parks	53	10.9 %
Available parking at parks	43	8.9 %
Number of walking/biking trails	210	43.3 %
Quality of outdoor basketball courts	17	3.5 %
Condition/quality of baseball/softball fields	47	9.7 %
Amount of open spaces	48	9.9 %
Number of tennis courts/pickleball courts	60	12.4 %
Number of natural areas	79	16.3 %
Community special events	92	19.0 %
Availability of information about facilities	93	19.2 %
Quality of facilities for adults age 55 & older	61	12.6 %
Rental of shelters or meeting rooms	31	6.4 %
User friendliness of website	30	6.2 %
Fees charged for recreation programs	10	2.1 %
Park accessibility (ADA compliant access)	11	2.3 %
Customer assistance by staff over the phone	4	0.8 %
Customer assistance by staff via email	2	0.4 %
Customer assistance by staff via Facebook	4	0.8 %
None chosen	78	16.1 %
Total	1155	



**Q12. The City of Hudson is studying the possibility of developing new programmable spaces. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the potential programming spaces you and members of your household would use that are not currently being fulfilled by the City of Hudson.**

Q12. All potential programming spaces you would use  
that are not currently being fulfilled by City

	Number	Percent
Arts & culture areas	177	36.5 %
Community gardens	143	29.5 %
Diamond fields (baseball & softball)	61	12.6 %
Dog exercise area	171	35.3 %
Mountain bike park/pump track	137	28.2 %
Nature trails	290	59.8 %
Outdoor adventure course	213	43.9 %
Outdoor basketball courts	52	10.7 %
Outdoor multi-use fields	51	10.5 %
Rock climbing/bouldering wall	160	33.0 %
Space for teens	108	22.3 %
Yard games areas	93	19.2 %
Other	81	16.7 %
Total	1737	

**Q13. Which THREE of the items from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household for the City to develop?**

<u>Q13. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Arts & culture areas	39	8.0 %
Community gardens	19	3.9 %
Diamond fields (baseball & softball)	29	6.0 %
Dog exercise area	55	11.3 %
Mountain bike park/pump track	39	8.0 %
Nature trails	113	23.3 %
Outdoor adventure course	40	8.2 %
Outdoor basketball courts	4	0.8 %
Outdoor multi-use fields	5	1.0 %
Rock climbing/bouldering wall	6	1.2 %
Space for teens	15	3.1 %
Yard games areas	6	1.2 %
Other	57	11.8 %
None chosen	58	12.0 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q13. Which THREE of the items from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household for the City to develop?**

<u>Q13. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Arts & culture areas	39	8.0 %
Community gardens	39	8.0 %
Diamond fields (baseball & softball)	5	1.0 %
Dog exercise area	42	8.7 %
Mountain bike park/pump track	39	8.0 %
Nature trails	70	14.4 %
Outdoor adventure course	51	10.5 %
Outdoor basketball courts	7	1.4 %
Outdoor multi-use fields	4	0.8 %
Rock climbing/bouldering wall	23	4.7 %
Space for teens	29	6.0 %
Yard games areas	15	3.1 %
Other	10	2.1 %
None chosen	112	23.1 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**Q13. Which THREE of the items from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household for the City to develop?**

Q13. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Arts & culture areas	35	7.2 %
Community gardens	26	5.4 %
Diamond fields (baseball & softball)	4	0.8 %
Dog exercise area	18	3.7 %
Mountain bike park/pump track	19	3.9 %
Nature trails	46	9.5 %
Outdoor adventure course	45	9.3 %
Outdoor basketball courts	10	2.1 %
Outdoor multi-use fields	12	2.5 %
Rock climbing/bouldering wall	43	8.9 %
Space for teens	24	4.9 %
Yard games areas	15	3.1 %
Other	8	1.6 %
None chosen	180	37.1 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**SUM OF TOP 3 CHOICES****Q13. Which THREE of the items from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household for the City to develop? (top 3)**

Q13. Sum of top 3 choices	Number	Percent
Arts & culture areas	113	23.3 %
Community gardens	84	17.3 %
Diamond fields (baseball & softball)	38	7.8 %
Dog exercise area	115	23.7 %
Mountain bike park/pump track	97	20.0 %
Nature trails	229	47.2 %
Outdoor adventure course	136	28.0 %
Outdoor basketball courts	21	4.3 %
Outdoor multi-use fields	21	4.3 %
Rock climbing/bouldering wall	72	14.8 %
Space for teens	68	14.0 %
Yard games areas	36	7.4 %
Other	75	15.5 %
None chosen	58	12.0 %
Total	1163	

**Q14. How would you prioritize \$100 (breakout) for City of Hudson parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities? Please show how you would allocate the funds among the categories of funding listed below in specific dollar amounts.**

	Mean
Improvements/maintenance of existing parks & recreation facilities	40.02
Acquisition of new park land & open space	20.50
Construction of new sports facilities (softball, soccer, baseball, tennis/pickleball courts, etc.)	27.54
Acquisition & development of pathways & greenways (walking & biking trails)	34.01
Other	52.08

**Q15. What is your age?**

Q15. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	66	13.6 %
35-44	105	21.6 %
45-54	108	22.3 %
55-64	108	22.3 %
65+	87	17.9 %
Not provided	11	2.3 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"**

**Q15. What is your age? (without "not provided")**

Q15. Your age	Number	Percent
18-34	66	13.9 %
35-44	105	22.2 %
45-54	108	22.8 %
55-64	108	22.8 %
65+	87	18.4 %
Total	474	100.0 %

**Q16. What is your gender?**

Q16. Your gender	Number	Percent
Male	239	49.3 %
Female	241	49.7 %
Not provided	5	1.0 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"****Q16. What is your gender? (without "not provided")**

Q16. Your gender	Number	Percent
Male	239	49.8 %
Female	241	50.2 %
Total	480	100.0 %

**Q17. How many years have you lived in the City of Hudson?**

Q17. How many years have you lived in City of Hudson	Number	Percent
0-5	102	21.0 %
6-10	73	15.1 %
11-15	55	11.3 %
16-20	68	14.0 %
21-30	103	21.2 %
31+	71	14.6 %
Not provided	13	2.7 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"****Q17. How many years have you lived in the City of Hudson? (without "not provided")**

Q17. How many years have you lived in City of Hudson	Number	Percent
0-5	102	21.6 %
6-10	73	15.5 %
11-15	55	11.7 %
16-20	68	14.4 %
21-30	103	21.8 %
31+	71	15.0 %
Total	472	100.0 %

**Q18. Counting yourself, how many people live in your household?**

Q18. How many people live in your household	Number	Percent
1	29	6.0 %
2	155	32.0 %
3	60	12.4 %
4	151	31.1 %
5	63	13.0 %
6	10	2.1 %
7+	4	0.8 %
Not provided	13	2.7 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"****Q18. Counting yourself, how many people live in your household? (without "not provided")**

Q18. How many people live in your household	Number	Percent
1	29	6.1 %
2	155	32.8 %
3	60	12.7 %
4	151	32.0 %
5	63	13.3 %
6	10	2.1 %
7+	4	0.8 %
Total	472	100.0 %

**Q19. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:**

	Mean	Sum
number	3.2	1529
Under age 5	0.2	118
Ages 5-9	0.3	152
Ages 10-14	0.3	126
Ages 15-19	0.3	127
Ages 20-24	0.2	84
Ages 25-34	0.2	109
Ages 35-44	0.5	221
Ages 45-54	0.5	221
Ages 55-64	0.4	210
Ages 65-74	0.2	117
Ages 75+	0.1	44

**Q20. What is your annual household income?**

Q20. Your annual household income	Number	Percent
Under \$25K	11	2.3 %
\$25K-\$49,999	35	7.2 %
\$50K-\$74,999	24	4.9 %
\$75K-\$99,999	59	12.2 %
\$100K-\$129,999	51	10.5 %
\$130K+	213	43.9 %
Not provided	92	19.0 %
Total	485	100.0 %

**WITHOUT "NOT PROVIDED"****Q20. What is your annual household income? (without "not provided")**

Q20. Your annual household income	Number	Percent
Under \$25K	11	2.8 %
\$25K-\$49,999	35	8.9 %
\$50K-\$74,999	24	6.1 %
\$75K-\$99,999	59	15.0 %
\$100K-\$129,999	51	13.0 %
\$130K+	213	54.2 %
Total	393	100.0 %



## **Section 5:**

# **Survey Instrument**

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*A Few Minutes of Your Time Will Help Make the  
City of Hudson a Better Place to Live, Work and Play!*

December 2019

Dear Hudson Resident:

***Your response to the enclosed survey is extremely important...***

The City of Hudson Parks Department is in the midst of a updating its Parks Master Plan, and resident input is a critical component of this effort. To that end, we are conducting a Community Interest and Opinion Survey to establish priorities for the future improvement of our parks, facilities and services within the community. Your household was one of a limited number selected at random to receive this survey, therefore, it is very important that you participate.

***We appreciate your time...***

We realize the survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete, but each question is important. The time you invest providing us with your input will help us develop a community-driven approach to making decisions that will guide the future of our parks system and facilities, enriching the lives of our residents and enhancing our City. If there is more than one adult (aged 18 or older) living in your household, please have the adult who most recently had a birthday complete this survey.

***Please complete and return your survey within the next two weeks...***

We are working with ETC Institute, an independent consulting company, as our partner to administer this survey. They will compile the data received and present the results to the City. **Your responses will remain confidential.** Please return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061. If you would prefer to take the survey online, you can do so at [www.hudsonsurvey.org](http://www.hudsonsurvey.org)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Trent Wash, at 330-342-1711 or [twash@hudson.oh.us](mailto:twash@hudson.oh.us). Please take this opportunity to let your voice be heard!

Sincerely,  
Trent Wash  
Assistant Director of Public Works  
Parks•Golf•Cemeteries

The City of Hudson seeks your input to help determine park and recreation priorities for our community. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If you prefer, you can complete the survey online at [www.hudsonsurvey.org](http://www.hudsonsurvey.org). Thank you for helping us to create naturally exciting opportunities for our community!

1. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has used any of the following Hudson parks/facilities during the past 12 months by circling either "Yes" or "No".

If "Yes", please rate the condition of the site by circling the corresponding number to the right.

Park/Facility	Do you use this park/facility?		If "Yes", please rate the condition of this park/facility.			
	Yes	No	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
01. Barlow Farm Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
02. Bicentennial Woods	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
03. Boston Mills Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
04. Cascade Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
05. Colony Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
06. Darrow Road Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
07. DiNovi Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
08. Doc's Woods	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
09. Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
10. High Point Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
11. Hudson Springs Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
12. MacLaren Woods	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
13. Maple Grove Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
14. Middleton Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
15. Nicholson Trail	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
16. Oak Grove Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
17. Robinson Field Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
18. Trumbull Woods	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
19. Turnpike Trail	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
20. Veterans Way Park	Yes	No	4	3	2	1
21. Wildlife Woods	Yes	No	4	3	2	1

2. Which **THREE** of the parks/facilities listed in Question 1 have you or members of your household **USED MOST** during the past year? *[Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 1.]*

1st: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_

3. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the ways your household learns about City of Hudson parks and recreation programs and activities.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Parks Guide              | <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Public Meetings  | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Facebook     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) City Annual Report       | <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Word of Mouth    | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Instagram    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Conversations with Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> (08) City Newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Email                    | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) City Website     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Newspaper                | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Twitter          |  |

4. Please CHECK ALL the organizations you or members of your household have used for indoor and outdoor recreation activities during the past 12 months.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) City of Hudson                | <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Stow City Parks        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Summit County Parks           | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) School District        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Ohio State Parks              | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Churches               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Cuyahoga Valley National Park | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Private Fitness Clubs  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Kent City Parks               | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Homeowners association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Akron City Parks              | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Other: _____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Twinsburg City Parks          |  |

5. For each of the age groups shown below, please indicate which TWO of the organizations listed in Question 4 you and your household USE MOST for recreation programs and services. [Write in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 4. If there is no-one in your household ages 0 to 17, please write "NONE".]

	<u>Agency Used Most:</u>	<u>Agency Used 2nd Most:</u>
Ages 0 to 17 years	_____	_____
Ages 18 years and older	_____	_____

6. Please CHECK ALL the reasons that currently prevent you or other members of your household from using recreation facilities of the City of Hudson more often.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Facilities are not well maintained  | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) I do not know locations of facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Facility not offered                | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Use services of other agencies        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Facilities lack the right equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) I do not know what is being offered   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Security is insufficient            | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Operating hours not convenient        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Too far from residence              | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Registration process is difficult     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Fees are too high                   | <input type="checkbox"/> (14) Lack of parking                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Use facilities of other agencies    | <input type="checkbox"/> (15) No time to participate                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Poor customer service by staff      |   |

7. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the overall value that your household receives from Hudson regarding parks services.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Very Satisfied     | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Somewhat Dissatisfied |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Somewhat Satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Very Dissatisfied     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Neutral            | <input type="checkbox"/> (9) Don't Know            |

8. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need for each of the facilities listed below by circling either "Yes" or "No".

If "Yes", please rate ALL of the Parks and Recreation facilities of this type in Hudson using a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means the needs of your household are "100% Met" and 1 means "0% Met".

Type of Facility:	Do you have a need for this facility?		If "Yes", how well are your needs being met?				
			100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
01. Baseball and softball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
02. Community gardens	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
03. Cross country skiing trails (groomed/ungroomed)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
04. Disc golf	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
05. Equestrian trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
06. Greenspace and natural areas/parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
07. Hudson Springs Lake features (fishing, boating)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
08. Large (15-50 acres) community parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
09. Mountain bike parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
10. Natural play areas and playgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
11. Nature centers and trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
12. Off-leash dog parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
13. Outdoor basketball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
14. Outdoor fitness equipment and facilities	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
15. Outdoor tennis/Pickleball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
16. Park shelters and picnic areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
17. Sledding hills	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
18. Small (2-10 acres) neighborhood parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
19. Soccer/football/lacrosse fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
20. Splash pads (above ground water play)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
21. Walking and biking trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
22. Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

9. Which **FOUR** facilities from the list in Question 8 are **MOST IMPORTANT** to your household?  
[Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 8, or circle "NONE".]

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ 4th: \_\_\_\_ NONE

- 10. Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 means "Very Satisfied" and 1 means "Very Dissatisfied", with the following Parks and Recreation services provided by Hudson.**

Services:	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
01. Maintenance of parks	5	4	3	2	1	9
02. Number of parks	5	4	3	2	1	9
03. Available parking at parks	5	4	3	2	1	9
04. Number of walking/biking trails	5	4	3	2	1	9
05. Quality of outdoor basketball courts	5	4	3	2	1	9
06. Condition/quality of baseball/softball fields	5	4	3	2	1	9
07. Amount of open spaces	5	4	3	2	1	9
08. Number of tennis courts/Pickleball courts	5	4	3	2	1	9
09. Number of natural areas	5	4	3	2	1	9
10. Community special events	5	4	3	2	1	9
11. Availability of information about facilities	5	4	3	2	1	9
12. Quality of facilities for adults age 55 and older	5	4	3	2	1	9
13. Rental of shelters or meeting rooms	5	4	3	2	1	9
14. User friendliness of website	5	4	3	2	1	9
15. Fees charged for recreation programs	5	4	3	2	1	9
16. Park accessibility (ADA compliant access)	5	4	3	2	1	9
17. Customer assistance by staff over the phone	5	4	3	2	1	9
18. Customer assistance by staff via email	5	4	3	2	1	9
19. Customer assistance by staff via Facebook	5	4	3	2	1	9

- 11. Which THREE Parks and Recreation services listed in Question 10 do you think should receive the MOST ATTENTION from City of Hudson officials over the next TWO years? [Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 10, or circle "NONE".]**

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ NONE

- 12. The City of Hudson is studying the possibility of developing new programmable spaces. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the potential programming spaces you and members of your household would use that are not currently being fulfilled by the City of Hudson.**

____(01) Arts and culture areas	____(08) Outdoor basketball courts
____(02) Community gardens	____(09) Outdoor multi-use fields
____(03) Diamond fields (baseball and softball)	____(10) Rock climbing/bouldering wall
____(04) Dog exercise area	____(11) Space for teens
____(05) Mountain bike park/pump track	____(12) Yard games areas
____(06) Nature trails	____(13) Other: _____
____(07) Outdoor adventure course	

- 13. Which THREE of the items from the list in Question 12 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household for the City to develop? [Write-in your answers below using the numbers from the list in Question 12, or circle "NONE".]**

1st: \_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_ NONE

14. **How would you prioritize \$100 (breakout) for City of Hudson parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities? Please show how you would allocate the funds among the categories of funding listed below in specific dollar amounts. [Please be sure your total adds up to \$100.]**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Improvements/maintenance of existing parks and recreation facilities  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Acquisition of new park land and open space  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Construction of new sports facilities (softball, soccer, baseball, tennis/pickleball courts, etc.)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Acquisition and development of pathways and greenways (walking and biking trails)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$100 TOTAL**

15. **What is your age?** \_\_\_\_\_ years
16. **What is your gender?** \_\_\_\_ (1) Male \_\_\_\_ (2) Female
17. **How many years have you lived in the City of Hudson?** \_\_\_\_\_ years
18. **Counting yourself, how many people live in your household?** \_\_\_\_\_ people
19. **Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:**

Under age 5: _____	Ages 15-19: _____	Ages 35-44: _____	Ages 65-74: _____
Ages 5-9: _____	Ages 20-24: _____	Ages 45-54: _____	Ages 75+: _____
Ages 10-14: _____	Ages 25-34: _____	Ages 55-64: _____	

20. **What is your annual household income?**

____ (1) Under \$25,000	____ (4) \$75,000-\$99,999
____ (2) \$25,000-\$49,999	____ (5) \$100,000-\$129,999
____ (3) \$50,000-\$74,999	____ (6) \$130,000 or more

21. **Please share any additional comments that could assist Hudson with improving parks, trails, open space, or recreational programs and services.**

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**This concludes the survey – Thank you for your time.**

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed return-reply envelope addressed to:  
ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

Your responses will remain completely confidential. The address information to the right will ONLY be used to help identify areas with special interests.  
Thank you.



# Appendix B: Stakeholder Interviews Summary Report

## Summary

The Eppley Institute project team conducted interviews with focused stakeholder groups composed of frequent users of Hudson parks from August 17 through August 28, 2020.

The Hudson Park Board assisted with the identification of stakeholder groups. The stakeholder groups identified for the interviews were Friends of Hudson Parks, Hudson Community Education and Recreation, Hudson Community Education and Recreation Youth Representatives, Hudson Community First, Hudson Community First Youth Board, Hudson United Soccer, Soccer4All, Hudson Baseball Association, and Kiwanis Baseball.

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and safety requirements, the interviews were conducted virtually using the Zoom meeting platform. Additional responses were submitted via email by members of stakeholder groups who were unable to attend a scheduled interview. Five interviews were scheduled for the nine groups (similar organizations were grouped together), and two open interviews were scheduled for those unable to attend their group's scheduled time. An unexpected last minute commitment resulted in Hudson Community Education and Recreation representatives not attending their scheduled interview.

Four interviews were conducted and attended with representation from Friends of Hudson Parks, Hudson Community First and the Hudson Community First Youth Board, Hudson United Soccer and Soccer4All, and the Hudson Baseball Association and Kiwanis Baseball.

In total, sixteen participants attended an interview and two

participants provided responses via email.

This report summarizes the interview questions and stakeholder responses and then analyzes the responses for common themes and recurring issues. Note that responses were tallied based on the number of times a response was stated by a unique participant. The same participant stating a response more than once was only counted once. Not all participants answered every question and some participants provided multiple responses to distinct questions so the total number of responses per question can be lower or higher than eighteen, but there can be no more than eighteen incidences of any individual response.

## Interview Questions

**Q1: What are your impressions of Hudson Parks as a whole (facilities, amenities, and/or administration)?**

**Q2: What are your opinions on the quality of the parks and recreation facilities provided in Hudson?**

**Q3: What are your thoughts on the trails and trail system in Hudson?**

**Q4a: In what areas do you think Hudson Parks are successful in meeting the community's needs?**

**Q4b: In what areas could they improve?**

**Q4c: Would you like to see or is there a demand for certain facility types that aren't currently available in Hudson?**

**Q5: How do you feel about the level of community support for Hudson Parks?**

**Q6a: What partnerships exist for parks and recreation programming?**

**Q6b: Are there potential partnerships that you know of that have not yet materialized?**

**Q7: Are there populations or age groups whose recreation programming or facility needs are not being met?**

**Q8a: In your opinion, how does the relationship between Hudson Parks and the different recreation service providers (Friends of Hudson Parks, sports organizations, Hudson Community Education and Recreation, Hudson Community First, etc.) work for the community?**

**Q8b: Should the City of Hudson offer/manage any recreation programs or continue to work with groups like these partners?**

**Q9a: Keeping in-mind the limitations of public funding, what should the priority be if Hudson is forced to choose: Conserving and preserving wooded or wetland natural areas or developing new facilities at these sites?**

**Q9b: Developing new facilities or maintaining existing infrastructure at a high level?**

**Q10a: If YOU were in charge of Hudson Parks, what would you do differently?**

**Q10b: What would you make sure to do that's the same?**

## Response Summary

**Q1: What are your impressions of Hudson Parks as a whole (facilities, amenities, and/or administration)?**

- Most stated response (33% - 6 participants):
  - There are a decent number and variety.
- 5 participants:
  - They are clean.
- 3 participants each:
  - They are well maintained.
  - They are pretty good.
  - Certain parks can't be accessed (Doc's Woods, Robinson, MacLaren).
- 2 participants each:
  - Parks are dispersed throughout the city.
  - Parks are well-used and especially packed since COVID.
- 1 participant each:
  - Some amenities available in other communities are lacking in Hudson.
  - Users of parks take ownership of them.
  - It's good that some parks have a lot of different activities within one park.
  - They've improved over the years.
  - The city provides very limited resources.
  - There are access issues due to lack of paved pathways.
  - The parks department responds quickly.
  - They build good facilities but do not maintain them.

- Parks staff is great but city staff is more rigid.
- Park funds are going towards things not originally part of the parks, such as the golf course and sidewalks.
- There are good open spaces and natural settings.
- The Park Board is amenable to conservation, preservation, and restoration in addition to active recreation.
- Some trails aren't what they could be so aren't as well-used.
- They could use more parking facilities and better trails.
- Barlow is less busy than it used to be due to COVID.
- There are opportunities to further develop.
- They are upgraded regularly.
- They are a tremendous resource.

**Q2: What are your opinions on the quality of the parks and recreation facilities provided in Hudson?**

- Most stated response (44% - 8 participants):
  - They are generally well-kept/maintained.
- 4 participants each:
  - They have done recent upgrades to facilities that were aging.
  - They keep them safe.
- 2 participants each:
  - They are clean.
  - They are generally lacking in upkeep.
  - They probably need more restroom facilities that are accessible.

- What is there is very good/outstanding.
- 1 participant each:
  - After recent updates, fields look better than they ever have.
  - Pathways need improved access for the elderly or young children.
  - Hudson Springs is just a great park.
  - The trail at Hudson Springs is a big attraction.
  - Oak Grove is a good baseball facility.
  - Parking is an issue at many parks.
  - They are beginning to restore habitat and remove invasives but probably did not do a good job of this until now.
  - They could use habitats to do education programs and also bring schools in.
  - I worry they will not maintain recent investment of baseball/softball upgrades properly.

**Q3: What are your thoughts on the trails and trail system in Hudson?**

- Most stated response (22% - 4 participants):
  - They are not as appealing as other places.
- 3 participants each:
  - We tend to travel outside Hudson to use trails.
  - They need more connections between parks and trails and downtown.
- 2 participants each:
  - Hudson trails are for short walks, people don't know about some of the trails.

- Some are wide, which is nice with COVID.
- There are accessibility issues: need to pave more trails and paths from parking lots to amenities.
- They are outstanding/great.
- Would love to see some longer walkable trails in the park system.
- Darrow Road is interesting and a longer path could go in there.
- Could create longer paths in Cascade.
- Would be nice for Trumbull Woods to connect to longer trail.
- Connectivity between parks and areas of town could result in longer routes.
- There are conflicts between bikers and hikers.
- 1 participant each:
  - For the most part they are kept up.
  - Would be nice for them to connect to other trail systems outside the city.
  - They are in good shape.
  - They are clean.
  - They are maintained.
  - They are fun even though they are short.
  - Glad we have them.
  - No good city-wide trail or connection plan; the current plan leaves many unsafe options.
  - City allows a few vocal people to stop a plan after it has been approved; they try too hard to please everyone and end up pleasing no one.

- Need more pathways through woods, meadows, and other beautiful things.
- Veterans Trail progress has been very slow.
- We shouldn't let previous master plan trail plans stop.
- There are probably still trails my family hasn't experienced or discovered.

**Q4a: In what areas do you think Hudson Parks are successful in meeting the community's needs?**

- Most stated response (22% - 4 participants):
  - There is a lot of variety throughout the community.
- 2 participants each:
  - The Parks Department is very responsive.
  - They are easy to work with for organizing and scheduling.
  - The skateboard park is packed.
  - They do a great job with playgrounds and they are busy.
- 1 participant each:
  - They prioritize community organizations for access to fields.
  - They are good for parents of younger kids.
  - They are good for older people.
  - They update older facilities.
  - They maintain golf course very well.
  - They have created amenities that bring people into Hudson like the skate park and splash pad.
  - Splash pad is nice for little kids.

- Cascade is a hidden park but it is busy.
- Availability of facilities.
- There is a park in almost every neighborhood.

#### **Q4b: In what areas could they improve?**

- Most stated response (22% - 4 participants):
  - Create website/app with maps, park events, activities to do in the parks, and exercise suggestions.
- 3 participants each:
  - Maintain facilities instead of waiting for them to deteriorate.
  - Create maps of Hudson parks and post in the parks.
  - Partner to provide lessons for using different amenities (for example, skate lessons, pickleball lessons, gaga ball lessons).
  - Parking at Hudson Springs.
- 2 participants each:
  - Need facility for winter.
  - Could be more proactive instead of reactive.
  - Evaluate what is going on in other communities and replicate their successes. They don't have a lot for teenagers or older kids.
  - They could use more basketball areas.
  - More equipment rentals (frisbees, kayaks).
  - Consult with experts on design of facilities (for example, soccer people on soccer fields, baseball on baseball fields, etc.).
- 1 participant each:
  - Regularly get feedback from the community on changing needs and wants.

- Cut grass more regularly on playing fields.
- Improve drainage at the parks.
- Separate runners and walkers on some trails.
- Provide age-appropriate baseball facilities (currently too big for youth), could add more fields in same amount of space and reduce maintenance costs by consolidating resources.
- Add a family-friendly park/intergenerational playground.
- Use golf course expertise to better maintain other fields.
- Create a Challenger field, possibly from one of the fields at Oak Grove.
- Other communities have better facilities than Hudson.
- Instructions about proper hiking and biking in the parks.
- Managing, preserving, or restoring natural resources.
- Add a nature center.
- Let people use Youth Development Center property.
- Would like to see pavilions in all the parks.
- More benches on the trails (one every ¼ mile).
- Need more full-time staff.

#### **Q4c: Would you like to see or is there a demand for certain facility types that aren't currently available in Hudson?**

- Most stated response (39% — 7 participants):
  - Community recreation center.
- 3 participants each:

- Place to recreate in winter.
- Work out equipment.
- 2 participants each:
  - Lights on fields.
  - Public turf field.
  - Pickleball.
  - More parking at busy parks.
  - More kayaking.
  - Improved/added trails for biking by paving or more compacted rock.
  - Community outdoor pool.
- 1 participant each:
  - Could use a second splash pad.
  - More water fountains, pavilions, and cooking places.
  - Ropes course.
  - Community pool (indoor vs outdoor not specified).
  - More public use of schools facilities.
  - Better management of land.
  - Beach volleyball court at Colony Park does not seem to be maintained.

**Q5: How do you feel about the level of community support for Hudson Parks?**

- Most stated responses (17% - 3 participants each):
  - People are more appreciative of parks since COVID.
  - Everybody uses them.
- 2 participants each:
  - Community has always been supportive.

- They have pretty good support.
- 1 participant each:
  - People always have positive things to say about Hudson parks.
  - People like them and hate them.
  - People get hung up on pet projects and Hudson staff reach to these.
  - If the community has a cause, everyone rallies around it (for example, fireworks).
  - Residents do not think of everything that goes into making the parks work.
  - Hard to get volunteers outside of core groups.
  - Good that funding comes from income tax now and not bonds.

**Q6a: What partnerships exist for parks and recreation programming?**

- Most stated response (39% - 7 participants):
  - Those you are interviewing (Friends of Hudson Parks, Hudson Community First, HCER, Kiwanis Baseball, Hudson Baseball Association, Hudson United Soccer, Soccer4All).
- 1 participant each:
  - Local business owners/ sponsorships.
  - Hudson Diamonds.
  - A few learn-to-play programs.
  - Travel baseball/softball programs.
  - Garden club.
  - Hudson Community Foundation.
  - Free programming from Friends of Hudson Parks.

- Paid programming from HCER.
- Private facilities exist instead of recreation center.

**Q6b: Are there potential partnerships that you know of that have not yet materialized?**

- Most stated response (11% - 2 participants):
  - Schools (could hold classes in the parks).
- 1 participant each:
  - Philanthropic groups.
  - Local business owners.
  - Hudson Library (little free libraries).
  - Better working agreements between city and non-profit event sponsors (all events/sales that can raise funds).
  - Incorporate non-profits into key events like Taste of Hudson.
  - Every civic organization could be tapped.
  - Citizens and organizations would pay to put names on benches.

**Q7: Are there populations or age groups whose recreation programming or facility needs are not being met?**

- Most stated responses (11% - 2 participants each):
  - Bigger issue is no group's needs are met in the winter.
  - Seniors.
  - Teenager and young adults.
  - Children with disabilities/handicapped children.
  - Older or less athletic individuals.
- 1 participant:
  - Appropriate field size for young children.

**Q8a: In your opinion, how does the relationship between Hudson Parks and the different recreation service providers (Friends of Hudson Parks, sports organizations, Hudson Community Education and Recreation, Hudson Community First, etc.) work for the community?**

- Most stated response (28% - 5 participants):
  - It works well.
- 2 participants:
  - Park Board responsiveness has varied over the years/ need allies on Park Board.
- 1 participant each:
  - It has been this way as long as anyone can remember.
  - It has improved recently.
  - It would be nice to be able to view a schedule they could learn from the schools how to maintain fields.
  - It works okay but little coordination.
  - it seems to have resulted in a well-developed park system with a wide range of available activities.

**Q8b: Should the City of Hudson offer/manage any recreation programs or continue to work with groups like these partners?**

- Most stated response (33% - 6 participants):
  - No, it is working now.
- 1 participant each:
  - No, government entities get bogged down in red tape and are inefficient.
  - No, but need better collaboration.
  - No, if city provided a little more flexibility and



coordinated assistance it can work.

- No, community voted on that years ago and it was defeated.
- No, it doesn't seem to be necessary with HCER (1 response each).
- A top level "recreation" experience would require the city building a Rec Center or fully incorporating with school system so it is open to taxpayers.
- Most of it is working, but could add some nature programming.
- This interview is mostly with older adults — younger families might have a different opinion.

**Q9a: Keeping in-mind the limitations of public funding, what should the priority be if Hudson is forced to choose: Conserving and preserving wooded or wetland natural areas or developing new facilities at these sites?**

- Most stated response (22% — 4 participants):
  - Hybrid: conserve areas but add trails in them.
- 3 participants:
  - Hybrid: conserve areas but add amenities if there is a demand.
- 2 participants each:
  - Facilities: there are enough green spaces.
  - Funding priority should be accessibility and access to fields and viewing areas for multiple generations.
- 1 participant each:
  - Conservation is important but not the role of parks.
  - The city must address preservation.

**Q9b: Developing new facilities or maintaining existing infrastructure at a high level?**

- Most stated response (17% — 3 participants):
  - Maintaining what we have.
- 2 participants each:
  - Balance of both.
  - A few new facilities added to existing parks based on need.
  - Maintain environmental quality.
- 1 participant each:
  - A few tweaks could make facilities excellent.
  - Maintain what we have but gather community input on needs for new facilities.
  - It is better to do something really well in a few places than spread too thin.

**Q10a: If YOU were in charge of Hudson Parks, what would you do differently?**

- Most stated response (28% — 5 participants):
  - Regularly assess the needs of the community and get feedback.
- 3 participants each:
  - Publicize parks more and create more public awareness of what is available.
  - Have a park ranger go into schools to talk about the parks and the junior ranger program.
- 2 participants each:
  - Multipurpose turf field with lights.
  - Online community updates board or a way to post

park issues like down trees, bees nests, and broken equipment.

- Spend less money on skate park.
- More programming at Veteran's Way amphitheater.
- Better general maintenance of existing facilities to protect their investment.
- Community garden location hasn't been successful.
- Direct more funds for maintenance.
- 1 participant each:
  - Field house or community center for winter.
  - Establish regular communication with community groups to get feedback.
  - Duplicate things that are successful in other cities' parks.
  - Add interpretive signs in parks.
  - Refill dog waste bags more frequently.
  - More communication for seeing what is available and scheduling.
  - More accessibility and paving.
  - More collaboration with people who already know how to maintain facilities like schools for fields maintenance and other experts in community.
  - Centralized online source that all event occurring in parks can be posted on.
  - Work with city to reduce red tape and restriction on events in parks.
  - If parks are to include sidewalks, they should be in control of connectivity plan and split funding, or sidewalks should be replaced with multipurpose trails or fully fund sidewalks outside of park budget.

- Pull golf course outside of parks department to operate independently or be sold.
- Staff Park Board with people with specialties related to park needs such as environmental, recreation, health, etc.
- Find someone to activity run the concession stand at Barlow Farm Park.

#### **Q10b: What would you make sure to do that's the same?**

- Most stated response (17% — 3 participants):
  - Take care of what you have.
- 1 response each:
  - Continue to be responsive to community input.
  - Continue to update older facilities.
  - Keep the facilities clean.
  - Keep the employees within the department—they work very hard with a number of different outside groups and departments within the city.
  - Friends of Hudson parks have done a great job with programming.
  - The park board is very open to ideas.
  - Parks department is very responsive even though they are understaffed.
  - Ambassadors program by the Friends of Hudson Parks.
  - Stay free of charge.

## Response Analysis

This section of the report groups, synthesizes, and analyzes the responses to provide a clearer overview of the major themes and key issues identified by stakeholders for each question.

### Q1: What are your impressions of Hudson Parks as a whole (facilities, amenities, and/or administration)?

Of the 40 total responses to this question, 30 can be viewed as generally positive impressions, 8 as negative, and 2 as neutral. The responses are grouped into these three categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Positive:
  - There are good open space and natural settings. (1)
  - There is a decent number and variety. (6)
  - Good that some parks have a lot of different activities within one park. (1)
  - The parks are dispersed throughout the city. (2)
  - They've improved over the years. (1)
  - They are well maintained. (3)
  - They are clean. (5)
  - They are pretty good. (3)
  - Parks are well-used and especially packed since COVID. (2)
  - Users of parks take ownership of them. (1)
  - They are upgraded regularly. (1)
  - They are a tremendous resource. (1)
  - The parks department responds quickly. (1)

- Parks staff is great but city staff is more rigid. (1)
- The park board is amenable to conservation, preservation, and restoration in addition to active recreation. (1)
- Negative:
  - Some amenities available in other communities are lacking in Hudson. (1)
  - The city provides very limited resources. (1)
  - They build good facilities but do not maintain them. (1)
  - Park funds are going towards things not originally part of the parks such as golf course and sidewalks. (1)
  - Some trails aren't what they could be so aren't as well used. (1)
  - There are access issues due to lack of paved pathways. (1)
  - They could use more parking facilities and better trails. (1)
  - Certain parks can't be accessed — Doc's Woods, Robinson, MacLaren.
- Neutral:
  - Barlow is less busy than it used to be due to COVID. (1)
  - There are opportunities to further develop. (1)

The positive impressions indicate the stakeholders are satisfied with the variety and dispersion of the parks, which are generally well maintained and clean, and that the parks department is responsive and has improved over time. The negative impressions indicate there is some feeling that facilities are not maintained as well as they could be,

there is a need for better access through trail and path improvements, and that Hudson does not provide the level of amenities available in other communities.

**Q2: What are your opinions on the quality of the parks and recreation facilities provided in Hudson?**

Of the 32 total responses to this question, 25 can be viewed as generally positive towards the quality of Hudson parks, 6 as negative views or suggested areas for improvement, and 1 as not applicable to the question asked. The responses are grouped into these three categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Positive:
  - They are generally well-kept/maintained. (8)
  - What is there is very good/outstanding. (2)
  - They keep them safe. (4)
  - They are clean. (2)
  - They have done recent upgrades to facilities that were aging. (4)
  - After recent updates, fields look better than they ever have. (1)
  - Hudson Springs is just a great park. (1)
  - The trail at Hudson Springs is a big attraction. (1)
  - Oak Grove is a good baseball facility. (1)
  - They are beginning to restore habitat and remove invasives, probably did not do a good job of this until now. (1)
- Negative/areas for improvement:
  - They are generally lacking in upkeep. (2)
  - I worry they will not maintain recent investment of

baseball/softball upgrades properly. (1)

- Pathways need improved for access for elderly or young children. (1)
- Parking is an issue at many parks. (1)
- They probably need more restroom facilities that are accessible. (1)
- Not applicable:
  - Could use habitats to do education programs and also bring schools in. (1)

The positive responses indicate, similar to the responses in Q1, that the parks are well-kept, clean, and safe. The responses also indicate that Hudson has recently completed needed upgrades. The negative responses indicate a concern that Hudson does not always maintain facilities once they are put in. Needs for more parking, improved pathways, and restrooms were also expressed.

**Q3: What are your thoughts on the trails and trail system in Hudson?**

Of the 43 total responses to this question, 11 can be viewed as generally positive towards Hudson trails, 20 as negative, and 12 as neutral or offering suggestions for improvement. The responses are grouped into these three categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Positive:
  - They are outstanding/great. (2)
  - Glad we have them. (1)
  - For the most part they are kept up. (1)
  - They are in good shape. (1)

- They are maintained. (1)
- They are clean. (1)
- Some are wide which is nice with COVID. (2)
- They are fun even though they are short. (1)
- There are probably still trails my family hasn't experienced or discovered. (1)
- Negative:
  - They are not as appealing as other places. (4)
  - We tend to travel outside Hudson to use trails. (3)
  - Need more connections between parks and trails and downtown. (3)
  - Connectivity could connect parks and areas of town resulting in longer routes. (2)
  - Would be nice for them to connect to other trail systems outside the City. (1)
  - No good city-wide trail or connection plan- the current plan leaves many unsafe options. (1)
  - There are accessibility issues. need to pave more trails and paths from parking lots to amenities. (2)
  - City allows a few vocal people to stop a plan after it has been approved- they try too hard to please everyone and end up pleasing no one. (1)
  - There are conflicts between bikers and hikers. (2)
  - Veterans Trail progress has been very slow. (1)
- Neutral/suggestions:
  - Hudson trails are for short walks. people don't know about some of the trails. (2)
  - Would love to see some longer walkable trails in the park system. (2)

- Need more pathways through woods, meadows, and other beautiful things. (1)
- Darrow Road is interesting and a longer path could go in there. (2)
- Could create longer paths in Cascade. (2)
- Would be nice for Trumbull Woods to connect to longer trail. (2)
- We shouldn't let previous master plan trail plans stop. (1)

The lower percentage of positive responses to this question indicate that elements of the trails and trail system in Hudson are a concern of the stakeholders and should be a priority for this master plan. While the positive responses indicate stakeholders are happy with the existing trails, the negative responses overwhelmingly indicate a desire for a longer, more connected trail network. The neutral responses are primarily offering suggestions on how to create longer trails and trail connections.

#### **Q4a: In what areas do you think Hudson Parks are successful in meeting the community's needs?**

Of the 21 total responses to this question, 12 refer to the variety of or specific amenities that meet the community's needs, 8 refer to elements of the park administration and working with the park administration, and 1 comment does not fit into these categories. The responses are grouped into these three categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Amenities offered
  - There is a lot of variety throughout the community. (4)
  - There is a park in almost every neighborhood. (1)

- They do a great job with playgrounds and they are busy. (2)
- They maintain golf course very well. (1)
- The skateboard park is packed. (1)
- Splash pad is nice for little kids. (1)
- They are good for parents of younger kids. (1)
- They are good for older people. (1)
- Administration
  - The parks department is very responsive. (2)
  - They are easy to work with for organizing and scheduling. (2)
  - They prioritize community organizations for access to fields. (1)
  - availability of facilities. (1)
  - They update older facilities. (1)
  - They have created amenities that bring people into Hudson like the skate park and splash pad. (1)
- Other
  - Cascade is a hidden park but it is busy. (1)

The responses indicate that Hudson offers several specific amenities, such as the playgrounds, skateboard park, and splash pad that are successfully meeting the community's needs. The dispersion of Hudson parks is also viewed as being a community benefit. Two responses indicate that needs are met for some user groups, but suggest that they may not meet the needs of other user groups. The responses focusing on the parks administration suggest that stakeholders are generally satisfied working with the parks department and that the department updates and builds new facilities that are community assets.

#### Q4b: In what areas could they improve?

The 46 responses to this question can be grouped into four themes: maintenance and upkeep, communication and access to park information, improvements to existing facilities, and unmet needs. The responses are grouped into these four categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Maintenance and upkeep
  - Maintain facilities instead of waiting for them to deteriorate. (3)
  - Could be more proactive instead of reactive. (2)
  - Cut grass more regularly on playing fields. (1)
  - Use golf course expertise to better maintain other fields. (1)
  - Evaluate what is going on in other communities and replicate their successes. (2)
  - Need more full-time staff. (1)
- Communication and access to park information
  - Regularly get feedback from the community on changing needs and wants. (1)
  - Create website/app with maps, park events, activities to do in the parks, and exercise suggestions. (4)
  - Create maps of Hudson parks and post in the parks. (3)
  - Instructions about proper hiking and biking in the parks. (1)
  - Consult with experts on design of facilities (for example, soccer people on soccer fields, baseball on baseball fields, etc.). (2)



- Improvements to existing facilities
  - They could use more basketball areas. (2)
  - Improve drainage at the parks (water tends to stay in them). (1)
  - Have a way to separate runners and walkers on some trails. (1)
  - Parking at Hudson Springs. (3)
  - Would like to see pavilions in all the parks. (1)
  - More benches on the trails- one every ¼ mile. (1)
  - Other communities have better facilities than Hudson. (1)
  - Managing, preserving, or restoring natural resources. (1)
  - More equipment rentals (frisbees, kayaks). (2)
  - Let people use Youth Development Center property. (1)
- Unmet needs
  - Partner to provide lessons for using different amenities (for example, skate lessons, pickleball lessons, gaga lessons). (3)
  - They don't have a lot for teenagers/older kids. (2)
  - Need facility for winter. (2)
  - provide age appropriate baseball facilities (currently too big for youth), could add more fields in same amount of space and reduce maintenance costs by consolidating resources. (1)
  - Add a family friendly park/ intergenerational playground. (1)
  - Create a Challenger field- possibly from one of the

fields at Oak Grove. (1)

- Add a Nature Center. (1)

The responses focused on maintenance and upkeep suggest a desire for Hudson to protect its investments through preventative maintenance instead of waiting for facilities to reach a point of needing corrective repairs. Responses focused on communication and park information suggest a need for more park maps and usage information and a way for the public to access that information. The improvements to existing facilities comments all focus on specific elements needing improvements within the parks. The unmet needs outlined each suggest specific facility types that are not currently offered in Hudson.

**Q4c: Would you like to see or is there a demand for certain facility types that aren't currently available in Hudson?**

The 34 responses to this question can be grouped into two categories: new facilities and improvements or additions to existing facilities. The responses are grouped into these two categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- New facilities
  - Community recreation center. (7)
  - Place to recreate in winter. (3)
  - Community outdoor pool. (2)
  - Community pool (indoor vs outdoor not specified). (1)
  - Pickleball courts. (2)
  - Ropes course. (1)
- Improvements or additions to existing facilities:
  - Turf field open to the public. (2)



- Lights on fields. (2)
- More parking at busy parks. (2)
- Work out equipment. (3)
- More kayaking. (2)
- Improved/added trails for biking by paving or more compacted rock. (2)
- Could use a second splash pad. (1)
- More water fountains. more pavilions and cooking places. (1)
- More public use of schools facilities. (1)
- Better management of land. (1)
- Beach volleyball court at Colony Park does not seem to be maintained. (1)

The large percentage of responses for a community recreation center and place to recreate in winter indicate the stakeholder's feelings that Hudson parks are not filling residents' needs for year-round recreation spaces. The several responses for lights on fields and turf field indicate that there are not options to extend playing time past dark or during inclement weather for sports outside of baseball/softball.

#### **Q5: How do you feel about the level of community support for Hudson Parks?**

The 17 responses to this question can be grouped into three categories: those indicating high levels of community support, those that identify issues with the community's support, and responses on the Hudson community in general. The responses are grouped into these three categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- High levels of support indicated
  - People are more appreciative of parks since COVID. (3)
  - Everybody uses them. (3)
  - Community has always been supportive. (2)
  - They have pretty good support. (2)
  - People always have positive things to say about Hudson parks. (1)
- Issues with community support
  - People like them and hate them. (1)
  - Residents do not think of everything that goes into making the parks work. (1)
  - People get hung up on pet projects and Hudson staff reach to these. (1)
  - Hard to get volunteers outside of core groups. (1)
  - Good that funding comes from income tax now and not bonds. (1)
- Hudson community in general
  - If the community has a cause, everyone rallies around it (for example, fireworks). (1)

The majority (11) of responses indicate high levels of community support and appreciation for the parks. The identified issues with community support suggest that there is an opportunity to further engage the community and increase awareness of park operations and regularly get feedback from the community.

#### **Q6a: What partnerships exist for parks and recreation programming?**

Over half (9 of 16) responses to this question stated the

stakeholder groups interviewed as part of this master plan process. The other 7 responses each identified other users of the parks or community groups. The responses are grouped into these two categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- The stakeholder groups you are interviewing
  - Those you are interviewing (Friends of Hudson Parks, Hudson Community First, HCER, Kiwanis Baseball, Hudson Baseball Association, Hudson United Soccer, Soccer4All). (7)
  - Free programming from Friends of Hudson Parks. (1)
  - Paid programming from HCER. (1)
- Other groups:
  - Hudson Diamonds. (1)
  - A few learn-to-play programs. (1)
  - Travel baseball/softball programs. (1)
  - Local business owners/ sponsorships. (1)
  - Garden club. (1)
  - Hudson Community Foundation. (1)
  - Private facilities exist instead of recreation center. (1)

The responses generally confirmed that the groups identified for these interviews were the key stakeholders and users of Hudson parks. The other responses do indicate that Hudson parks are used by many smaller groups who would have an interest in park facilities and plans.

**Q6b: Are there potential partnerships that you know of that have not yet materialized?**

Only nine responses were received for this question, and the responses were divided into potential programming

partnerships and potential partnerships for fundraising, sponsorships, or volunteer pools. The responses are grouped into these two categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Programming partnerships
  - Schools- hold classes in the parks. (2)
  - Hudson Library — little free libraries. (1)
  - Better working agreements between city and non-profit event sponsors (all events/sales that can raise funds). (1)
  - Incorporate non-profits into key events like Taste of Hudson. (1)
- Fundraising, sponsorship, or volunteer partnerships
  - Philanthropic groups. (1)
  - Local business owners. (1)
  - Citizens and organizations would pay to put names on benches. (1)
  - Every civic organization could be tapped. (1)

The range of programming partnership recommendations suggest that there are many different types of organizations that might be interesting in offering programming in Hudson parks. The fundraising, sponsorship, and volunteer recommendations also suggest that there are a variety of groups and individuals in the Hudson community who would have an interest in and the ability to fund or donate labor to different park initiatives.

**Q7: Are there populations or age groups whose recreation programming or facility needs are not being met?**

Eleven total responses were received for this question. The responses were wide-ranging and thus are not grouped

but listed and sorted by age group below. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Bigger issues is no group's needs are met in the winter. (2)
- Seniors. (2)
- Older or less athletic individuals. (2)
- Teenager and young adults. (2)
- Children with disabilities/handicapped children. (2)
- Appropriate field size for young children. (1)

The responses to this question were varied across the stakeholder groups, and the responses generally matched with the interests of each group or individual. The span of the responses to include almost all age ranges suggests that Hudson is not providing too many facilities or programs for any group, and instead should focus on increasing offerings as opposed to removing existing ones. The responses stating no group's needs being met in the winter align with responses given to Q4c.

**Q8a: In your opinion, how does the relationship between Hudson Parks and the different recreation service providers (Friends of Hudson Parks, sports organizations, Hudson Community Education and Recreation, Hudson Community First, etc.) work for the community?**

Of the 12 total responses to this question, 7 can be viewed as generally positive and expressing views that the relationship works well, 1 is a neutral statement, and 4 expressing negative views or suggest areas for improvement. The responses are grouped into these three categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Positive

- It works well. (5)
- It seems to have resulted in a well-developed park system with a wide range of available activities. (1)
- It has improved recently. (1)
- Neutral
  - It has been this way as long as anyone can remember. (1)
- Negative or areas for improvement
  - Park Board responsiveness has varied over the years/ need allies on Park Board. (2)
  - It would be nice to be able to view a schedule they could learn from the schools how to maintain fields. (1)
  - It works okay but little coordination. (1)

The negative responses or those that suggest areas for improvement all focus on Hudson Parks role in the relationship with partners. It should be noted that since all participants were members of a partner group, they would be less likely to relate issues with the relationship from the partner side.

**Q8b: Should the City of Hudson offer/manage any recreation programs or continue to work with groups like these partners?**

Of the 14 total responses to this question, the majority (11) felt that Hudson should not offer its own recreation programs and should continue to partner for those opportunities. Two additional responses stated suggestions on additional programs that should be offered, but still did not suggest Hudson manage all of the recreation programming. One comment can be categorized as related but not a direct

answer to the question. The responses are grouped into these three categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- No/ continue to work with partners
  - No, it is working now. (6)
  - No, government entities get bogged down in red tape and are inefficient. (1)
  - No, but need better collaboration. (1)
  - No, if city provided a little more flexibility and coordinated assistance it can work. (1)
  - No, it doesn't seem to be necessary with HCER. (1)
  - No, community voted on that years ago and it was defeated. (1)
- Should offer some programs
  - A top level recreation experience would require the city building a rec center or fully incorporating with school system so it is open to taxpayers. (1)
  - Most of it is working, but could add some nature programming. (1)
- Not applicable
  - this interview is mostly with older adults- younger families might have a different opinion. (1)

The stakeholders overwhelmingly expressed views that Hudson should not offer recreation programming and should continue to partner for these services. The variety of explanations on “no” answers suggests that there is room for improvement to the current model, but that generally speaking the stakeholders are not interested in a complete Hudson Parks and Recreation Department that would handle most recreation programming. It should be

noted, however that all interview participants are part of a programming partner group and thus may be more likely to value the current model than the general public. The last “not applicable” comment also addresses this potential disconnect between that stakeholder group and the general Hudson population.

**Q9a: Keeping in-mind the limitations of public funding, what should the priority be if Hudson is forced to choose: Conserving and preserving wooded or wetland natural areas or developing new facilities at these sites?**

Of the 13 total responses to this question, about half (7) felt that a hybrid approach that addressed both issues was best. There was one response prioritizing conservation and preservation. Five responses prioritized new facilities, but all with different reasoning. The responses are grouped into these three categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Hybrid
  - Hybrid — conserve areas but add trails in them. (4)
  - Hybrid — conserve areas but add amenities if there is a demand. (3)
- Conserving and preserving
  - The city must address preservation. (1)
- New facilities
  - Facilities — there are enough green spaces. (2)
  - Funding priority should be accessibility and access to fields and viewing areas for multiple generations. (2)
  - Conservation is important but not the role of parks. (1)

Since over half of the responses felt that a hybrid approach

was best, this suggests that the two approaches in the question were not a dichotomous as the Eppley Institute believed they would be. Those that prioritized new facilities primarily did so because they would NOT prioritize conservation and preservation or did not think it was the role of Hudson Parks. This contrasts with a small group that is very focused on conservation and preservation, as evident in this response and the responses to other questions.

**Q9b: Developing new facilities or maintaining existing infrastructure at a high level?**

Of the 12 total responses to this question, about half (7) expressed a desire to maintain existing infrastructure. The remainder of the responses indicated a hybrid approach, and no responses indicated developing new facilities alone as a priority. The responses are grouped into the two categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Maintaining infrastructure at high level
  - Maintaining what we have. (3)
  - maintain environmental quality. (2)
  - A few tweaks could make facilities excellent. (1)
  - It is better to do something really well in a few places than spread too thin. (1)
- Both/ hybrid response:
  - Balance of both. (2)
  - A few new facilities added to existing parks based on need. (2)
  - Maintain what we have but gather community input on needs for new facilities. (1)

The responses to this question are similar to concerns

identified in earlier questions. The stakeholders interviewed expressed views across several questions that maintaining existing facilities and amenities at a high level of quality is a priority. Even for those who would like to have some additional facilities, a hybrid response was given indicating these stakeholders still feel strongly about maintaining existing infrastructure.

**Q10a: If YOU were in charge of Hudson Parks, what would you do differently?**

The 39 responses to this question can be grouped into five themes: administration, communication and collaboration, new facilities, existing facilities, and programming. The responses are grouped into these five categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parentheses.

- Administration
  - Direct more funds for maintenance. (2)
  - Work with City to reduce red tape and restriction on events in parks. (1)
  - Staff Park Board with people with specialties related to park needs such as environmental, recreation, and health. (1)
  - Find someone to actively run the concession stand at Barlow Farm Park. (1)
- Communication and collaboration
  - Regularly assess the needs of the community and get feedback. (5)
  - Establish regular communication with community groups to get feedback. (1)
  - Publicize parks more and create more public

- awareness of what is available. (3)
- Online community updates board or a way to post park issues like down trees, bees nests, and broken equipment. (2)
- More communication for seeing what is available and scheduling. (1)
- Centralized online source that all events occurring in parks can be posted on. (1)
- More collaboration with people who already know how to maintain facilities like schools for fields maintenance and other experts in community. (1)
- New facilities
  - Multipurpose turf field with lights. (2)
  - Field house or community center for winter. (1)
  - More accessibility and paving. (1)
  - Duplicate things that are successful in other cities' parks. (1)
- Existing facilities
  - Better general maintenance of existing facilities to protect their investment. (2)
  - Spend less money on skate park. (2)
  - Community garden location hasn't been successful. (2)
  - Refill dog waste bags more frequently. (1)
  - If parks are to include sidewalks, they should be in control of connectivity plan and split funding, or sidewalks should be replaced with multipurpose trails or fully fund sidewalks outside of park budget. (1)
  - Pull golf course outside of parks department to

operate independently or be sold. (1)

- Programming
  - Have a park ranger go into schools to talk about the parks and the junior ranger program. (3)
  - More programming at Veteran's Way amphitheater. (2)
  - Add interpretive signs in parks. (1)

The stakeholder responses to this question represent a summary of issues identified throughout the interviews and indicate there are several recurring priorities for Hudson residents. The most responses were given in the area of communication and collaboration, indicating that Hudson has the most room to improve in this category.

#### **Q10b: What would you make sure to do that's the same?**

The 12 responses to this question can be grouped into four themes: upkeep and maintenance, responsiveness, staffing and partnerships, and other. The responses are grouped into these four categories below and organized by topic. The number of responses is included in parenthesis.

- Upkeep and maintenance
  - Take care of what you have. (3)
  - Continue to update older facilities. (1)
  - Keep the facilities clean. (1)
- Responsiveness
  - Continue to be responsive to community input. (1)
  - The Park Board is very open to ideas. (1)
  - Parks Department is very responsive even though they are understaffed. (1)
- Staffing and partnerships



- Keep the employees within the department- they work very hard with a number of different outside groups and departments within the city. (1)
- Ambassadors program by the Friends of Hudson Parks. (1)
- Friends of Hudson parks have done a great job with programming. (1)
- Other
  - Stay free of charge. (1)

The responses to this question highlight a general approval of the staff and their ability to address issues that come up. It also circles back around to an earlier questions about what the parks do well.

### Key Recommendations

Stakeholder responses indicated that participants believe Hudson parks are clean, safe, and provide dispersed choices of recreation opportunities for residents of Hudson. Parks department staff are viewed as easy to work with, very responsive, and hardworking despite their limited number of staff. The Park Board is seen as being receptive to input shared by community members. In analyzing the other responses, common recommended actions began to emerge. The Eppley Institute has synthesized the following key recommendations based on the stakeholder interview responses. Note these stakeholder interview key recommendations were considered along with other data gathered to inform the recommendations of the final master plan.

### Prioritize Maintenance and Upkeep

Maintain existing facilities at a high level and to avoid spreading resources too thin with new amenities.

### Solicit Regular Feedback

The stakeholders both expressed a desire for future feedback options and were grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback through these interviews. Community and stakeholder feedback should be solicited on a regular basis through surveys, interviews, and other methods.

### Improve Communication

Increase communication between and among parks department, various stakeholder groups, and the public. Create an online resource for public and stakeholder groups to get information on the parks.

### Improve Connections

The trail network will become more desirable and have greater use by adding connections between existing trails and existing parks. This includes increasing accessibility to park elements for people with disabilities and older residents by creating more accessible pathways within parks.

### Indoor Facility

A strong desire for a facility that provides opportunities for recreation in winter, inclement weather, and a public space for other gatherings was expressed. Stakeholders also expressed an understanding of the complex variables involved in the development of a facility. This issue should continue to be evaluated regularly.





## Appendix C: Public Comments

The draft Parks Master Plan was posted for public comment from November 30 - December 13, 2020. Comments were collected through the project website. The following comments were received:

*Invasive species management. The Friends of Hudson Parks will be pleased to partner with the park board, the City of Hudson, and other organizations to pursue this initiative. We've made a good start by developing monarch gardens and the pollinator meadow at Darrow Road Park. The parks staff and the park board have been excellent partners in these endeavors. However, much more work needs to be done. An inventory of problematic invasive species in each park needs to be undertaken and an action plan for each park created to eliminate the invasive plants before they crowd out native species and create sterile monocultures. This will require funding and co-ordination of volunteers and park personnel to accomplish the plan's goals. We look forward to identifying future projects that foster conservation and preservation.*

*Naturalist. The Friends of Hudson Parks is an all-volunteer organization. Although we are very willing to partner with the city, we feel strongly that investing in a full or part-time naturalist, such as an environmental conservation specialist (with a background in botany, biology or related fields) who could serve in both environmental education and park conservation, should be a high priority for the city. This would provide a proactive resource for maintaining park property and serve as an educational resource for the community. The cost of hiring such an individual would be minimal.*

*Establish young adult and youth conservation internships. Our organization is mentioned as a partner in this activity. We would be interested in participating. This concept needs more definition. It would appear that other organizations such as the schools and Hudson Garden Club, as well as the city, would have to be involved in this initiative.*

*Trails and Nature Center. We were pleased that trails and nature center were rated as high priorities by Hudson residents. Because they were grouped together, it's difficult to distinguish whether people were more inclined to support additional trails or a nature center. We feel strongly that the overwhelming majority of respondents would support new trails and very few would support a nature center. The Friends of Hudson Parks strongly support trail improvement as well as new trail creation. Some area parks have trails that are degraded and need funding for repairs, and other parks' trails are overused. More trails need to be developed in those parks to enable citizens to have a less crowded experience while using them. While our organization is very much in favor of nature programs and adding additional resources such as a park naturalist, we do not support a brick-and-mortar nature center at this time. It would be very expensive and probably underutilized.*

*Budget. Several comments were made about the high cost of various projects. Concern was raised that too much of the budget will be dedicated to new projects and not enough to ongoing maintenance. As our parks age, as utilization increases, and the need for preservation becomes more critical, the need for additional maintenance funding has already increased and will continue to do so. Comments were also made concerning golf course expenditures and whether the parks budget should be used for such expenses.*

*Veterans Trail and park connectivity. Although the Friends of*

*Hudson Parks strongly supported the Veterans Trail concept when it was first introduced, we are somewhat confused about the current status. We believe that others in the community are confused as well. If this is a key park board initiative, it would be helpful to include the most recent map or description in the master plan. This should specify which sections are sidewalks, stand-alone multi-purpose paths, shared road lanes, etc. (It would also be helpful to include descriptions of other proposed trails such as West Barlow, Boston Mills, Valley View/Hunting Hollow, etc.).*

*We were pleased to see that the Master Plan mentions coordination with the city concerning connectivity plans. This will be critical in future plans for both our city and the parks system. Funding will be a major part of this discussion. It appears that much of the parks budget will be used for sidewalks outside of park property. We feel that the parks budget should only be used for activities within the parks.*

*Accessibility and safety. We were pleased to see that accessibility has been given a high priority. One safety concern that we have identified is the need for a pedestrian walkway(s) across Stow Road. This would be for crossing from Hudson Springs Park to Bicentennial Woods and the Turnpike Trail . Although there are crosswalks at those locations, they are frequently ignored. Perhaps crosswalks with activated lights, similar to those in downtown Hudson, would be appropriate.*

*Former YDC property. The plan identifies the need to develop plans to integrate Maple Grove and the adjacent Metro Parks property (formerly the northern section of the YDC property). It is our understanding that the property has been leased to Summit County Metro Parks and that they will control the development of that property. Development*

*of this park does not appear to be a high priority for Metro Parks and is still not usable for Hudson citizens. Our current large parks are suffering from overuse and this large tract of land would be invaluable to Hudson residents. If Hudson can get a commitment to developing that property, it would provide a tremendous opportunity to increase the number of available trails within the City of Hudson.*

*Undeveloped Park Land. We were pleased that the Park Board is reassessing undeveloped park property. The biggest barrier to developing most of these areas is lack of access, especially in High Point Park and MacLaren Woods. Increased parking and/or access from Cascade Park will be required to develop those areas. Preservation and conservation (by removing invasive species) of these undeveloped areas should be included in any future plans for maintaining and conserving park properties.*

*Communications/Information Sharing/Orientation. It's vitally important that this area be given a high priority. Enhanced communications with the citizens of Hudson will be mutually beneficial. Many of the written materials and parks signage could be updated and improved. This is an area that the Friends of Hudson Parks may be willing to assist with.*

# Appendix D: Accessibility Evaluation Summary Report

## Assessment Dates

September 23 - September 24, 2020

## Purpose

The Eppley Institute Accessibility Evaluation - Site Inspection is designed to identify barriers to facilities and program participation for people with disabilities and propose recommendations for barrier removal and improved access in order to assist parks personnel in long-term planning.

Eppley utilizes the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standard for program access as a guiding principle for viewing the department's programs, activities, and services, in their entirety, when considering barrier removal. The inspector looks critically at all programs from the point of view of persons who have impairments to vision, hearing, mobility, and/or cognitive processes. This approach focuses the inspection on the experiential components of a site as opposed to compliance with minimum design standards. Eppley views the physical environment as a catalyst for program access and thus forms recommendations for barrier removal with program access at the forefront of investigative and reporting processes.

## Summary

A member of the Eppley Institute project team visited Hudson in September 2020 to conduct a two-day accessibility evaluation of park facilities. This evaluation included a walk-through of the parks listed below and photographic and written documentation of observed ADA deficiencies, accessibility barriers, and ideas for improvement.

This report summarizes the evaluation findings and outlines approaches to remove accessibility barriers and make Hudson's park facilities more universally accessible to all people. These findings will be further analyzed and incorporated into the final action plan.

## Sites Assessed

The following parks, facilities, and trails in Hudson were reviewed as part of this accessibility evaluation:

- Hudson Springs Park
- Barlow Farm Park
- Oak Grove Park
- Middleton Park
- Veteran's Way Park
- Cascade Park
- Colony Park
- Bicentennial Woods Park
- Boston Mills Park
- Darrow Road Park
- Maple Grove Park
- Nicholson Trail
- Trumbull Woods Park
- Turnpike Trail
- Wildlife Woods
- Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course

Several Hudson Parks were not included in the accessibility evaluation, due to a lack of existing infrastructure or amenities at these sites. If these sites are developed in the future, utilize the guidelines outlined in this report and consult with accessibility specialists to ensure all new infrastructure and

amenities are accessible to Hudson residents and visitors. The sites not assessed were:

- Doc's Woods
- DiNovi Woods
- High Point Park
- MacLaren Woods
- Robinson Field Park

### Hudson Parks Features

The most significant public features of Hudson Parks (in no particular order) include:

- Parking areas
- Restrooms (built facilities, vault toilets)
- Drinking fountains
- Playgrounds
- Sports facilities (baseball/softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, multi-use)
- Fitness facilities and exercise equipment
- Picnic areas and pavilion shelters
- Disc golf course
- Trails
- Trail maps and orientation signage
- Splash pad
- Interpretive areas
- Dog waste stations
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Concessions stand
- Benches
- Golf course
- Boat launch
- Boat rental
- Skate park

### Required Improvements for 2010 ADA Standards Compliance

These improvements are required based on the minimum standards outlined in the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design. This section outlines requirements, highlights barriers that were recurring throughout the Hudson parks system, and outlines several site-specific barriers that must be addressed.

#### Building Blocks

- Relocate/repair features (e.g., trash and recycling receptacles, dog waste stations, electrical outlets in pavilion shelters) that are out of reach range (generally, 48 inches or more above the ground or those located greater than 10 inches beyond the edge of an accessible route).
- Repair changes in level (above ¼ inch) and openings (above ½ inch) within route surfaces.
  - In Hudson these were observed at cracks in asphalt, erosion lines in compacted aggregate, and transitions between two different surfaces, such as concrete and compacted aggregate.
- Accessible surfaces are firm, stable, and slip resistant, meaning the surface resists deformation or displacement when a rotational surface is applied. Some outdoor surfaces (i.e., loose gravel, soft wood chips) do not meet this requirement.
- Any site feature that requires user operation (e.g., drinking fountains, door handles, etc.) shall be within accessible reach range (generally between 15-48 inches above the floor or ground, with some exceptions), operable with a closed fist, and require no more than five pounds of force

to operate.

- Objects that protrude more than four inches into the path of travel between 27 and 80 inches above the finish floor or ground surface are considered protruding objects and must include some form of cane detection to guide an individual with a visual impairment away from and around the potential hazard (examples of cane detection include installing a barrier beneath the protruding object.
- This was prevalent in the older-style pavilion shelters located in several parks. The support beams were less than 80 inches above the ground, creating a hazard for those who are blind or have low vision.

### Accessible Routes

Accessible routes connect points of arrival (i.e., parking areas) to recreation facilities (e.g., athletic field, playground, etc.) of a park site. Accessible routes have a maximum cross slope of 2.08% and maximum running slope of 5%. All accessible routes shall maintain a clear width of 36 inches minimum.

- The route to the boat launch at Hudson Springs from the nearby asphalt loop has a significant drop off. This route should be repaired to remove changes in level and provide an accessible route to the boat launch dock.
- The swing set area at Veteran's Way has a concrete curb around it and no accessible route to the swing set area. A ramp should be added or the curb modified or removed.
- Trails are pedestrian routes developed primarily for outdoor recreational purposes that connect to a trailhead or other trail segment. Accessible trails have different technical specifications for slope and are identified in the resources section of this document. Some park sites

have identified that "trails" connect certain features at a park site. In most instances, the ADA does not permit this distinction. Arguing that the natural terrain of an area would not permit compliance with the technical specifications for accessible routes is also not permitted. It is critical to be able to distinguish between the two types of routes in order to apply the correct standard when evaluating existing facilities or undergoing new construction.

### Parking Areas

Each accessible parking space shall include its own identification sign. Most of the accessible parking areas do not meet this requirement.

Parking signs shall include the International Symbol of Accessibility and be installed a minimum of 60 inches above the ground, measured to the bottom of the sign.

Spaces that are designed for van parking shall include the designation "van accessible." Most park facilities lack "van accessible" signage.

Accessible parking spaces and access aisles shall have a maximum slope of 2.08% in all directions. This slope allowance is sufficient for drainage. Some parking facilities appear to have slope greater than 2.08%.

Site specific deficiencies:

- Hudson Springs Park:
  - An appropriate number (4) of accessible parking spaces is provided, but each accessible parking space must have an access aisle (okay for two spaces to share).



- Add vertical signage so all accessible parking spaces are marked.
- Indicate at least one space as “van accessible.”
- Trumbull Woods Park
  - Designate one “van accessible” parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope.
- Darrow Road Park
  - Designate one “van accessible” parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope.
    - Note: Since the parking lot is very loose gravel, either resurface or add fine crushed stone and compact the area designated for the accessible parking space
- Middleton Park
  - Designate one “van accessible” parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope.
- Wildlife Woods
  - Designate one “van accessible” parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope.
    - Note: Since the parking lot is loose gravel, either resurface or add fine crushed stone and compact the area designated for the accessible parking space
- Boston Mills Park
  - Designate one “van accessible” parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope.
    - Note: Since the parking lot is loose gravel, either resurface or add fine crushed stone and compact the area designated for the accessible parking space
- Cascade Park
  - Only two accessible parking spaces are designated. Parking lots with 51-75 spaces must have a minimum of three accessible parking spaces.
    - Designate at least one more parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope.
  - Indicate at least one space as “van accessible.”
- Veteran’s Way
  - The parking lot closest to the skate park has two accessible spaces designated with pavement markings, but they do not have vertical identification signage. Add appropriate signage for both spaces and designate one of the spaces as “van accessible” with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope.
- Colony Park
  - Only four accessible parking spaces are designated. Parking lots with 101-150 spaces must have a minimum of five accessible parking spaces.



- Designate at least one more parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope.
  - The two accessible parking spaces closest to the vault toilet have a running slope that may exceed the maximum 2.08% allowed for accessible parking spaces. Relocate the spaces to an area of the parking lot that does not exceed the maximum slope.
  - The existing accessible spaces are indicated with pavement markings, but they do not have vertical identification signage. Add appropriate vertical signage for all four spaces.
  - Indicate at least one space as “van accessible.”
- Oak Grove Park
    - Designate one “van accessible” parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope in the northern lot closest to the large ball field.
    - Designate at least two accessible parking spaces- one “van accessible” parking space and one standard accessible parking space- with appropriate dimensions, access aisles, signage, and slope in the paved lot closest to the haunted house.
      - Note: This number is based on a parking lot with a capacity of 26-50 vehicles. If additional parking is used for the haunted house, the minimum number of accessible spaces will increase.
    - Designate one “van accessible” parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisle, signage, and slope in the small lot closest to the vault toilet.
- Note: Since the parking lot is loose gravel, either resurface or add fine crushed stone and compact the area designated for the accessible parking space
- Designate at least three accessible parking spaces - one “van accessible” parking space and two standard accessible parking spaces- with appropriate dimensions, access aisles, signage, and slope in the parking lot closest to the pavilion, playground, and ballfields.
    - Note: This number is based on a parking lot with a capacity of 51-75 vehicles. If additional parking is used for the amenities at the southern end of the park, the minimum number of accessible spaces will increase.
  - Note: Since the parking lot is loose gravel, either resurface or add fine crushed stone and compact the area designated for the accessible parking space
- Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course
    - There appears to be an appropriate number of designated accessible parking spaces for a total capacity of 201-300 cars (minimum seven are required).
    - Some of the currently marked accessible parking spaces have running or cross slope that may exceed the maximum 2.08% allowed for accessible parking spaces. Relocate the spaces to an area of the parking lot that does not exceed the maximum slope.
    - The accessible spaces do not have vertical

identification signage. Add appropriate vertical signage for all spaces and designate one of every six spaces as “van accessible” with appropriate dimensions, access aisles, signage, and slope.

- The drop off area near the club house is not level.
- Barlow Farm Park
  - If the community garden area continues to be used, designate one “van accessible” parking space with appropriate dimensions, access aisles, signage, and slope in the adjacent parking area.
  - In the east parking lot, there are an appropriate number of accessible parking spaces, but the vertical identification signs do not meet the minimum height requirement. The signs should be raised so that the bottom of each sign is at least 60 inches above the ground surface.

## Restrooms

- In each park with a vault toilet, there was a change in level between the vault toilet concrete pad and the compacted aggregate surfacing in front of the pad. Consider paving these transition areas or ensure the surfacing is maintained to remove the change in level.
- Each vault toilet had a planter placed on the ground in between the two doors. This planter blocks the required clear ground space around the door required to open the door and for a user who is blind to read the tactile sign. Remove the planters.
- The restrooms at Ellsworth Meadows do not have any accessible features and are out of compliance. Renovating these restrooms should be done as soon as possible.

- There was no tactile vertical identification signage at the doors of the restrooms with flush toilets. These should be purchased and installed in compliant locations.
- The interior of restrooms at Hudson Springs, Veteran’s Way, and Barlow Farm parks and vault toilets at Cascade, Colony, and Oak Grove parks, appeared to have no critical deficiencies at the walk-through level, but each restroom and vault toilet should be evaluated for full accessibility compliance including, but not limited to, location of restroom signage, size of wheelchair compartments, toilet centerline, lavatory counter height and knee clearance, mirror height, grab bar positioning, reach range to common-use features, turning space, and all features inside the wheelchair accessible compartment.

## Drinking Fountains

- Wherever drinking fountains are provided, 50% must be designed for wheelchair access and 50% must meet requirements for standing persons who have difficulty bending or stooping. Where a single low drinking fountain unit is provided, an additional unit for standing persons is required. No units for standing persons were present in the park locations with existing drinking fountains. Either add an additional unit in each of these locations, or replace with a combination unit that has both a lower unit for wheelchair access and a higher unit for standing persons.
- The clear ground space at low drinking fountain units shall be level (less than 2.08% slope) and free of obstructions (changes in level and/or openings).
- The drinking fountain at Colony Park did not meet the requirements for either a standing unit or access for persons using wheelchairs. A combination unit or two

separate units meeting these requirements should be added.

Playgrounds

- At least one of each type of play component provided at ground level must be on an accessible route and include an associated clear ground space (wheelchair parking space) at the feature. Different “types” of play components are based on the general experience provided (e.g., rocking, swinging, climbing, spinning, sliding). Clear ground space is 30x48 inches minimum and is free of slope or obstructions.
- The number of ground level components required is based on the number of elevated components provided. Very few of Hudson’s playgrounds meet this fundamental requirement.

Number of elevated play components provided	Minimum number of ground-level play components required to be on accessible route	Minimum number of different types of ground-level play components required to be on accessible route
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2 to 4	1	1
5 to 7	2	2
8 to 10	3	3
11 to 13	4	3
14 to 16	5	3
17 to 19	6	3
20 to 22	7	4
23 to 25	8	4
More than 25	8 plus 1 for each additional 3 over 25, or fraction thereof	5

Table 22: Elevated and Ground Level Play Components

- Accessible ground surfaces in play areas must be firm, stable, slip resistant (ASTM F 1951-99) and impact attenuating (ASTM F 1292-04). Mulch does not meet either requirement for accessible play areas. Engineered wood fiber has been shown to meet these standards in a controlled lab environment under specific installation specifications that are both very difficult to replicate in an outdoor environment. It requires very frequent maintenance to ensure it does not develop soft spots, displace, or have changes in level. It is recommended that Hudson create a plan and begin replacing the playground surfacing throughout all its playgrounds. As an interim measure, increase maintenance on the playground surfaces to remove soft spots and depressions.

Sports Facilities

- An accessible route is required to connect to the boundary of each area of sport activity from site arrival points. Examples of areas of sport activity include: baseball fields, soccer fields, volleyball courts, lacrosse fields, basketball courts, bocce courts, skate parks, and skating rinks. Where multiple sports fields or courts are provided, an accessible route is required to each field or area of sport activity.
- The accessible route should extend to provide wheelchair seating at team and/or spectator seating, where provided.
  - Most of the baseball/ softball fields in Hudson have concrete under the team seating area. These concrete areas are large enough to provide the required clear ground space next to each bench to provide wheelchair seating space, but at Colony, Cascade, Middleton, and Oak Grove (two back southern fields) parks the benches are not positioned correctly on

the pads, leaving a space that is too narrow. The benches should be repositioned to leave a clear space measuring 30 inches wide by 48 inches long on one side of each bench.

- At Barlow Farm Park, there are significant changes in level up to the concrete pads in the player dugouts. These should be reduced so the change in level is ¼ inch maximum.

### **Fitness Facilities & Exercise Equipment**

- Outdoor fitness equipment was noted along the trail at Cascade Park. There is no accessible route provided to this feature.
- When installing an accessible route, a clear ground space shall be provided at each type of fitness equipment. The clear space is permitted to be shared between two pieces of equipment. The position of the clear ground space may vary greatly depending on the use of the equipment or machine. For example, to provide access to a shoulder press machine or stationary bike, clear floor space next to the seat would be appropriate to allow for transfer. Clear floor space for a bench press or hand-cycle machine designed for use by an individual seated in a wheelchair, however, will most likely be centered on the operating mechanisms.

### **Fishing Pier and Overlook Platforms**

- The way the rail around the fishing pier and overlook platform on the south side of the lake at Hudson Springs Park is positioned leaves a 5-6 inch gap between the lowest board and the deck surface. This does not meet the requirement for edge protection. Reposition the boards or add additional edge protection to reduce the

gap to less than 4 inches.

- There is no handrail on the stairway down to the lowest fishing/overlook area at Barlow Farm Park. Handrails should be added to this stairway.

### **Recommended Improvements for ADA Program Access Compliance**

The City of Hudson shall operate each service, program, or activity so that the service, program, or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The recommendations contained herein are suggestions for equitable integration and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in recreation activities that are available for public participation. These suggestions are intended to assist Hudson in meeting their legal obligation to provide program accessibility as established by the ADA:

**“No qualified individual with a disability shall, because a public entity’s facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by individuals with disabilities, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity.”**

### **Americans with Disabilities Act Title II § 35.149**

The barrier removal recommendations on the following pages are based on the ADA requirement that public entities, such as Hudson, provide access to their facilities, amenities, and programs for people with disabilities. This requirement covers facilities, amenities, and programs that are not specifically addressed in the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, meaning that there is no mandate on how to provide access to these facilities and programs. In these situations, the Eppler Institute has proposed solutions based on industry best practices and considering the most

equitable use of the facilities. It is up to the City of Hudson to determine whether they will implement these solutions or other solutions that provide access to the facilities, amenities, and programs discussed. This section highlights barriers that were recurring throughout the Hudson parks system and outlines several site-specific barriers.

### Building Blocks

- The opening force for an interior door is 5 pounds maximum. Exterior door closers should be adjusted to achieve as close to 5 pounds as possible.

### Picnic Areas

- In each location where picnic tables are provided (i.e., shelter vs. individual units on the grounds), 20% but no less than two tables should be accessible to people who use wheelchairs.
  - It was noted that in most parks, Hudson had several accessible picnic tables, but they were indistinguishable from the other picnic tables or were not on an accessible route.
- A minimum of 36 inches of clear space should be provided on all sides of accessible picnic tables, measured from the back edge of the benches.
  - Note: Anchoring picnic tables to the ground surface generally assists in the preservation of clear space around all usable sides
- This clear space should connect to a firm and stable route that eventually connects to the park entrance/ parking.
  - Only the newest pavilion shelters at Hudson Springs (1), Barlow (2), and Cascade (1) parks had a firm and stable route to them, and the uncovered picnic areas

all had picnic tables that were in the grass with no route to any tables.

- Picnic tables shall provide at least one unobstructed wheelchair space for each 24 linear feet of usable table surface perimeter.
- Routes to and within picnic areas may be subject to the Outdoor Recreation Access Route specifications addressed in the Outdoor Developed Areas Standards where an accessible route cannot be established.

### Grills

- In each picnic area where grills are provided, at least two of the grills (if two or more are provided) should be accessible to people with disabilities:
  - A minimum of 48 inches of clear space, with a firm and stable surface, should be provided around all sides of accessible grills.
  - The fire-building and cooking surface height of grills should be evaluated for compliance with best practice guidelines (fire building surface should be at least 9 inches high and the cooking surface should be 15-34 inches above the ground)
  - Routes to grills, stoves, and fire rings may be subject to the Outdoor Recreation Access Route specifications addressed in the Outdoor Developed Areas Standards where an accessible route cannot be established.

### Trails

- Generally the compacted crushed rock surfacing used throughout the Hudson trail system meets the standards

for an accessible trail. In some locations erosion has created depressions and soft spots in the trail surface that should be repaired.

- Improvement of natural surface trails and other outdoor route segments is needed to reduce slopes, remove obstacles such as tree roots, and meet recommendations for firmness and stability (i.e., surface is not significantly displaced when vertical and rotational force is applied). Hudson should investigate reroutes of steep sections of trail to bring them closer to the accessible trail standards.
- The trail bridge over the railroad near Colony Park has numerous openings and gaps creating a hazard for users of mobility devices and white canes. The gaps should be reduced to a maximum ½ inch. This bridge was also very steep with no resting areas. In the event the bridge is repaired or replaced in the future, investigate ways to reduce the running slope and add level landings between steep sections.
- A detailed, comprehensive trail assessment is recommended in order to inform current maintenance needs, future projects, and gather the required content for trail information signs.

### Trailheads

- There is a narrow opening between the gate at Boston Mills Park and an adjacent tree. The opening is further reduced by tree roots. The gate should be modified or another clear access point provided.
- Some of the neighborhood trail access points have narrow gates that may prevent passage by a user with a mobility device or stroller. Some of the access points also have stairs.

- Routes to and within trailheads may be subject to the Outdoor Recreation Access Route specifications addressed in the Outdoor Developed Areas Standards where an accessible route cannot be established

### Bulletin Boards/Kiosks

- Some of the information posted on bulletin boards and information kiosks is not in a large enough font to be readable by many individuals with low vision. Additionally, the information is not available in alternate formats for those who cannot read the printed text. The existing bulletins and information should be replaced with ones conforming to the publications section of the Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media, which includes font recommendations such as a minimum 18 pt. font for body text. All information posted should also be made available in a centralized location on the Hudson Parks website in alternate formats, such as an electronic file that can be downloaded and read with a screen reader or converted to braille. Provide a statement at the bulletin case that informs visitors where they can obtain these alternate formats of the same information.
- Many of the bulletin boards and information kiosks are located in the grass far away from a nearby path and do not have a firm and stable level landing in front of them.

### Trail Maps/Orientation Signage

- Accessibility information is not consistently or intuitively located at trailheads.
- Trail information signs containing (1) Length of the trail or trail segment; (2) Surface type; (3) Typical and minimum tread width; (4) Typical and maximum running slope; and (5) Typical and maximum cross slope should



be developed and installed, and the information should be provided on a city website.

- Where trail signs are provided, they provide limited information. At visitor orientation areas and at clearly defined and established trailheads, site maps, including a tactile map of the immediate area and trail system, should be provided.
- As noted previously, information kiosks throughout the Hudson parks system are installed off of the accessible route in a natural surface which could make the information inaccessible to some individuals with disabilities. Some kiosks are installed high above the ground, which could be an accessibility barrier for individuals who are seated or of short stature.
- Amenities information including the availability of seating areas, shade structures, fitness equipment, interpretive features, restrooms, and others, is not provided on trail signs.

### **Community Gardens**

- The surface of the routes through the community gardens are grass and not firm, stable, or slip resistant. These routes are subject to the standards for accessible routes as identified in the ADA.

### **Benches**

- Accessible benches include back support and at least one arm rest. Most of the bench designs throughout Hudson park properties include back support but not an arm rest. As benches in accessible locations are replaced, they should be replaced with models containing at least one arm rest.

- The benches around the splash pad at Veteran's Way Park are located in the grass outside of the concrete area of the splash pad. Relocate some of the benches or extend a firm, stable, and slip resistant surface, such as concrete, to and under several existing benches to provide space for companion seating.

### **Boat Launch**

- There are no accessible routes to the boat storage area or adjacent boat launch at Hudson Springs Park. These routes should be created, with a priority on access to 5% of the storage spaces and to the launch. One approach to investigate is grass matting or other ways to create a firm and stable grass surface.

### **Disc Golf**

- A minimum of 9-holes on the disc golf course should be accessible to people with disabilities including such features as accessible routes, reach ranges, clear ground space, maneuvering clearance, cane detection, and others. Full 18-hole access is preferred, if practicable.
- Priority should be given to the creation of accessible routes to teeing areas.

### **Interpretive Areas**

- Interpretive signage and waysides should include sans or simple serif font, have font size of 24 pt. minimum, include limited use of italics, provide sufficient contrast between text and background color, and integrate interactive or tactile components, where appropriate or necessary to convey the interpretive message.
- All interpretive areas, such as the trail through Bicentennial Woods and the nature trail at Veteran's Way



Park should include an audio component to meet the needs of individuals who are blind or have low vision. One option to consider are solar-powered audio boxes for interpretive waysides.

- The overall interpretive program in Hudson parks sites should be evaluated in coordination with interpretative service providers to determine where tactile, interactive, audio, and other sensory elements would be meaningful to individuals with a variety of disabilities including impairments to vision, hearing, mobility, and cognition.

### **Policies/Practices**

- Hudson does not advertise policy relating to service animals or other power-driven mobility devices. If these policies exist, they should be prominently available to the public. If such policies do not exist, they shall be created as soon as possible as they are required components of ADA legislation.
- There is no policy in place to convert primary or secondary publications to alternate formats including Braille, large print, audio, and electronic files. A small quantity of Braille and large print formats for primary publications such as park maps shall be kept in-stock and available for patrons to take home on an as-needed basis.
- Accessibility information is not centralized on the department's website or via other communication or marketing methods. It is recommended that the parks department create a centralized location for patrons to easily locate accessibility-related information related to existing facilities, scheduled improvements, and policies that welcome patrons with disabilities to Hudson parks.
- It is unknown if the city of Hudson has an accessibility

coordinator or accessibility point of contact. If Hudson does not have a designated accessibility coordinator, this role should be created to provide the public a resource for accessibility related park information.

### **Accessible Surfacing for Special Events**

- In order to maintain the aesthetic of landscaped areas during times of low or regular visitation, compliance with the minimum standards for accessible design is permitted. However, during sports tournaments, and other special or temporary events, it may be necessary to provide a higher level of accessibility, including but not limited to firm and stable walking surfaces. For this reason, it is recommended that the parks department purchase temporary roll-out matting that can be utilized on an as-needed basis to provide an appropriate level of accessibility to public areas during special and/or temporary events that occur on park property.

### **Other**

- It is recommended that all permanent staff receive disability awareness and inclusion training. A similar training protocol for seasonal staff should also be implemented.

## Summary

### The following list outlines the highest priority accessibility deficiencies and barriers for Hudson to address:

- Lack of designated accessible parking at many parks and/or accessible parking that does not meet the appropriate signage and access aisle requirements.
- Lack of accessible routes from site arrival points to and through amenities such as information kiosks, pavilions, picnic areas, playgrounds, sports and activity fields and courts, benches, and spectator areas.
- Lack of ground level play components at playgrounds.
- Playground surfacing is not firm and stable and has many depressions.
- Shelters do not have routes to them, exhibit changes in level at concrete pads, and have electrical outlets that are too high.
- Trail surface and slope of natural surface trails.
- Lack of available accessibility information and signage.
- Ellsworth Meadows restrooms do not have required accessible features.

### The following are easy or quick improvements that Hudson can implement in house with limited resources:

- Relocate trash and recycling receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers to within reach of firm and stable routes.
- Relocate some benches so they can be accessed from firm and stable routes instead of through grass.
- Repair loose fill playground surfacing and crushed stone

trail surfacing to remove depressions.

- Remove seat from second table at Veteran's Way playground to provide at least two tables with wheelchair seating spaces.
- Repair overgrown areas of crushed stone trails, such as at Veteran's Way.
- Add surfacing material to remove change in level at all concrete pads (at pavilions, ball fields, benches, etc.) and bridges.
- Add compacted stone surfacing material to extend routes to interpretive signs located along trails.
- Fill expansion joints in concrete at Barlow Farm pavilion shelters to remove openings greater than ½ inch.
- Reprint and replace signs in information kiosks with larger font size.
- Post information about trail conditions for all trails, whether they meet accessibility standards or not (create trail information signs). These should be posted on site and online.
- Create trail maps and post with the information above.
- Move planters in front of vault toilets (Colony, Oak Grove, and Cascade parks) outside of maneuvering clearance at doors.
- Cut opening into bocce court edging to create access point.
- Rearrange picnic tables within shelters to more easily identify accessible tables.

- Add an additional barrier on the bottom of the Hudson Springs fishing pier/ overlook so the maximum gap is 4 inches.
- Install vertical accessible parking signs.
- Install tactile restroom identification signs next to the doors for the permanent/ flush toilet restrooms.

## Resources

### Laws

[Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Regulations](#)

[2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#)

### Technical Assistance Guides

[ADA Update: A Primer for State and Local Governments](#)

[ADA Requirements: Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices \(OPDMDs\)](#)

[ADA Requirements: Effective Communication](#)

[ADA Requirements: Service Animals](#)

[A Planning Guide for Making Temporary Events Accessible to People with Disabilities](#)

[Accessibility Guides on Recreation Facilities](#)

### Best Practices

[Outdoor Developed Areas – Final Guidelines \(ABA\)](#)

[Guide to the Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas](#)

- Note: The Outdoor Developed Areas (ODA) Accessibility Guidelines are not enforceable for state/local agencies; however, the document is considered a best practice for achieving program access—the legal mandate establishing nondiscrimination of people with disabilities—as established under the ADA. ODA guidelines must be followed in the instance where federal funds are allocated to a project. The ODA includes accessible design guidance for Trails, Picnic Areas, Camping Areas, Beach Access, Viewing Areas, and Outdoor Constructed Features (e.g., picnic tables, grills, benches, etc.).

### Research

[National Trail Surface Study \(2014\)](#)

# Appendix E: Undeveloped Park Land Report

## Purpose

To document and analyze the qualities of undeveloped park land in Hudson for conservation or development.

## Summary

The Eppley Institute utilized data and information from a variety of sources to inform this analysis including city geographic information systems (GIS) data, observations from site visits, previous Hudson Parks Master Plans, community survey and stakeholder interview results, and communications with the parks board.

This report summarizes the information collected from these sources and recommends future uses for each of the undeveloped parks in Hudson. These recommendations will be further analyzed, incorporated, and prioritized, along with the data provided by Hudson or gathered by the Eppley Institute through the master planning process, into the final master plan.

## Undeveloped Park Land Sites

The following Hudson parks properties were considered “undeveloped” for this analysis:

- Doc’s Woods
- DiNovi Woods
- High Point Park
- MaLaren Woods
- Robinson Field Park

As a baseline, the master plan team analyzed three factors that impact suitability for development or conservation in each of the five parks using existing GIS data. The factors analyzed were:

- Locations outside of or within a 330 foot buffer around streams and ponds (The Nature Conservancy, 2015),
- Locations outside of or within wetlands, and
- Locations outside of or within ½ mile of existing developed Hudson parks sites.

Areas outside of these factors were rated most suitable for development. Areas within these factors were rated most suitable for conservation. The individual analyses can be seen in the maps on the next two pages, followed by a map that combines these analyses to weigh all three factors.



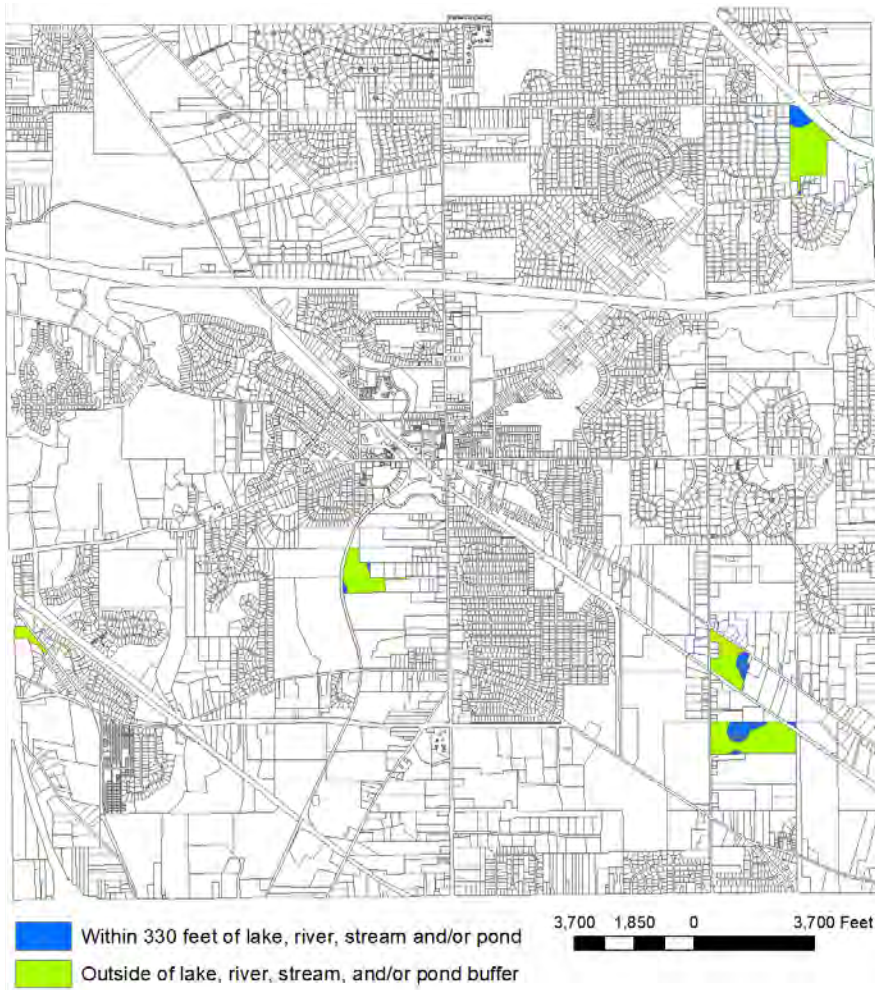


Figure 10: Streams and Ponds Analysis

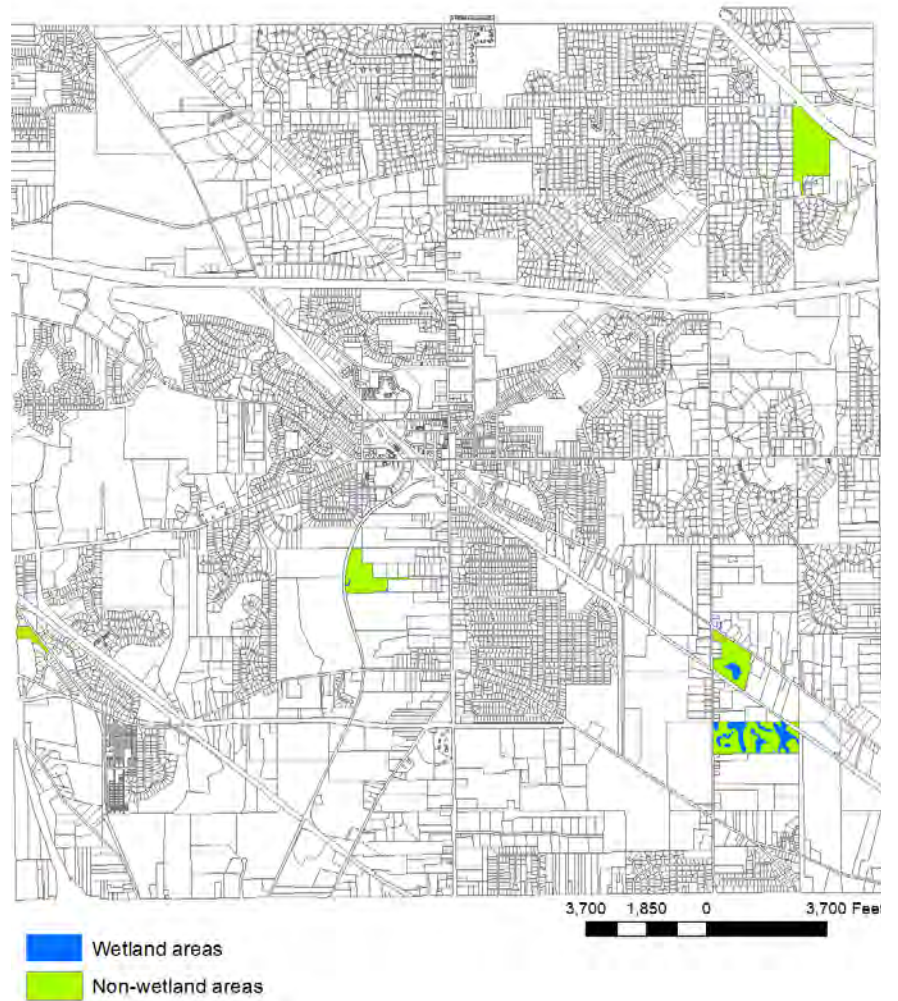


Figure 11: Wetlands Analysis



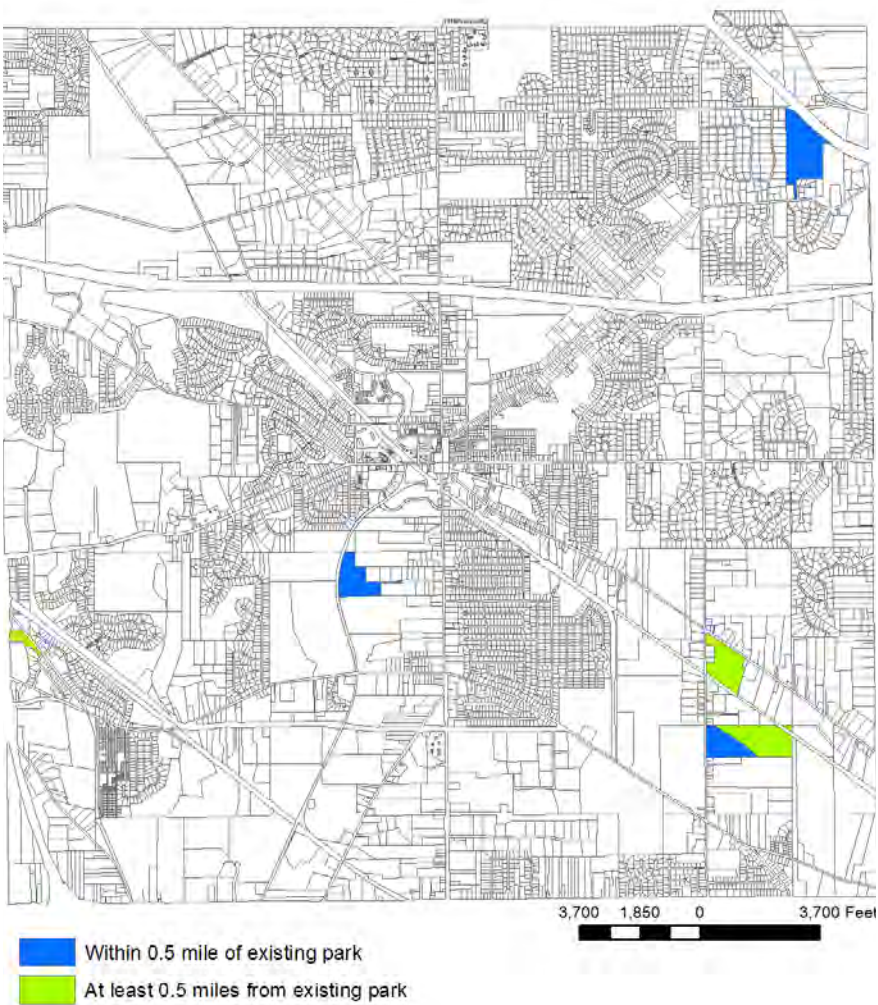


Figure 12: Proximity to Developed Parks Analysis

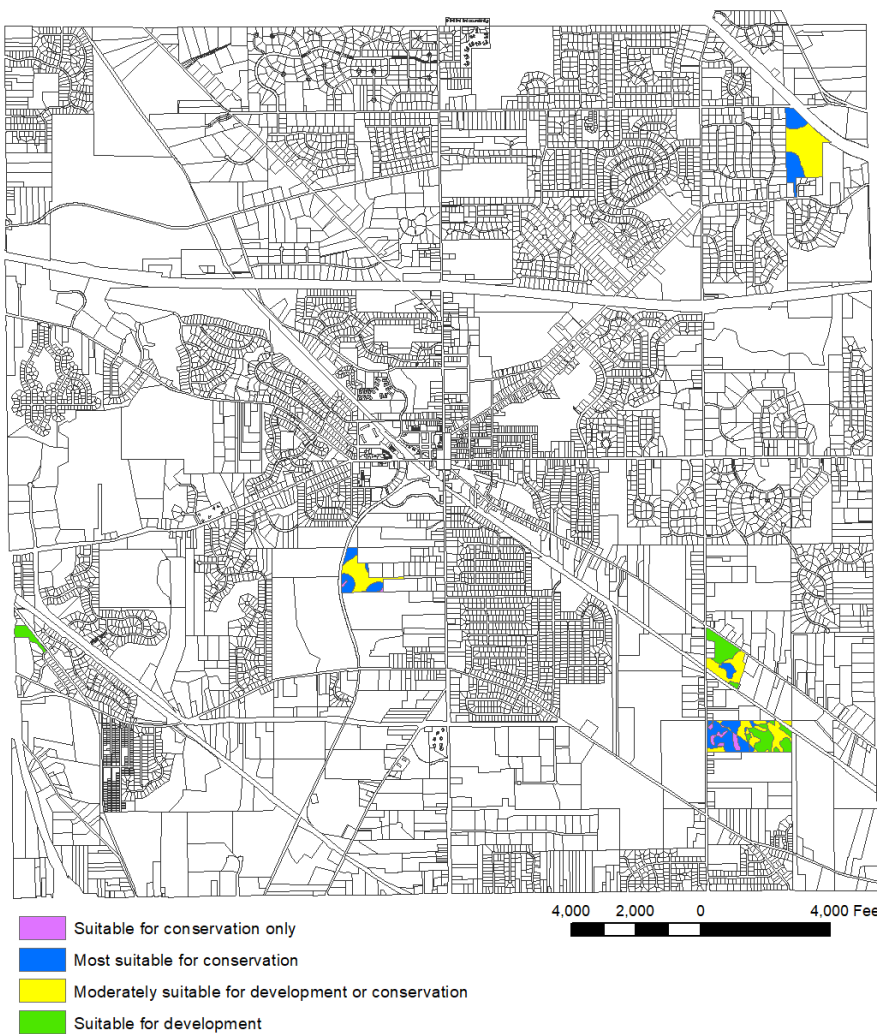


Figure 13: Compiled Analysis

As seen in the maps, the results of this analysis suggest the areas most suited for development are Robinson Field Park and DiNovi Woods. Areas within Doc's Woods and High Point Park are best suited for conservation, although each does contain areas that are suitable for development. MacLaren Woods was in the middle, with a large area in the center of the park suitable for development but outlying areas better suited for conservation. These results were considered, among the other factors outlined in the summary section above, in the recommendations for each site discussed on the following pages.

### **Doc's Woods – 5769 Stow Road**

This undeveloped 59-acre parcel, with no access or parking, is located north of Oak Grove Park and east of the Wood Hollow Metro Park along Stow Road. Robinson Field Park is located just north of this property. Woods and wetlands are the primary features of Doc's Woods.

#### **Assessment**

- This parcel's natural features, including wetlands, streams, vegetation, and wildlife make it a very valuable habitat and unsuitable for many types of development.
- There is limited access to this parcel from most of Hudson and the connectivity plan does not recommend the creation of any connections to the area of Doc's Woods.
- This property is adjacent to Wood Hollow Metro Park and has possible connections to that site. Development of a connection will require coordination with Summit Metro Parks.
- The community survey identified that trails were a facility need that was being unmet, and that trails, greenspace,

and natural areas were important to residents. This location has the potential to address these needs.

- This area is best suited for conservation according to GIS analysis, but contains areas that would be suitable for development.

#### **Recommendations**

- This area should be managed as a nature preserve with a primary focus on habitat restoration and preservation.
- Work with Friends of Hudson Parks to continue to maintain and improve habitat quality and environmental quality in this park.
- Recommended future project to construct nature trail with viewing areas to provide access to the parcel for Hudson residents for wildlife viewing and nature experiences in this unique habitat. Trail alignment should be studied to ensure limited disruptions to sensitive habitats and use of minimally invasive trail construction methods and materials, such as boardwalks with helical piers.
- A connection from this trail across Stow Road to Wood Hollow Metro Park trail could help create a long nature trail in Hudson—a need expressed by residents in both stakeholder interviews and the community survey. This could also connect Doc's Woods to the rest of Hudson through the planned Barlow Farm to Wood Hollow connection. It would also remove the need for extensive parking on the Doc's Woods property, as many users would park at Wood Hollow Metro Park.



### DiNovi Woods – Abbyshire Drive

This small six-acre parcel runs parallel to the Summit Metro Parks Bike and Hike Trail and is bordered by SR 8 on the west and a residential neighborhood to the east. It is wooded and undeveloped.



#### Assessment

- The condition of DiNovi Woods was rated as one of the lowest of Hudson's parks by users in the community survey.
- There is a lack of community parks in this area of Hudson.
- Adjacency to the Bike and Hike Trail makes it accessible to many Hudson residents and trail users.
- Once the funded section of Veteran's Trail from SR 91 to Barlow is built (slated for 2021), this parcel will easily

connect through the Bike and Hike Trail, to Veteran's Trail, and to many areas of Hudson.

- This area is suitable for development based on GIS analysis.
- Development of this site will require coordination with Summit Metro Parks.

#### Recommendations

- Creation of a small pocket park and nature trail for neighborhood users and Bike and Hike Trail users.
- Creation of a parallel nature trail to the Bike and Hike Trail that Bike and Hike users can take as an alternate route through DiNovi Woods to connect back to Bike and Hike Trail.
- Place outdoor fitness equipment along this trail for users of the Bike and Hike Trail.
- Create a small playground and picnic area. This would allow families using the Bike and Hike Trail to stop for rest and for children to enjoy the playground.

### High Point Park – 3100 Middleton Road

This 52-acre parcel is located in the northeast corner of Hudson between Middleton and Hudson-Aurora Roads. It was purchased in 1998. The property was timbered but much of the area is now wooded. The property also contains a wetland pond and rolling meadow.

#### Assessment

- This property was identified in the 2000 Master Plan as appropriate for development as a mixed-use park. There are no active recreation areas in this part of town.
- A sidewalk connection along Middleton Road from the



funded Spine Trail to High Point Park is the highest unfunded priority project outlined in the city's draft connectivity plan. This suggests other city-wide efforts to increase access to this parcel are underway.

- This location could be used by students and athletes at Hudson High School.
- There is already potential connectivity (but no parking) through easement on south side to Hudson Aurora Road.
- Walking and biking trails ranked as a top priority in nearly every question in which they were a potential response in the community survey.
- Hudson does not have designated mountain bike trails. Residents have to drive to access mountain bike trails in nearby Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The addition of mountain bike trails in Hudson will draw visitors

into Hudson, supporting businesses, and provide opportunities for Hudson youth to engage in the sport.

- Areas of High Point Park are moderately suited for development but also have conservation value based on GIS analysis.

### Recommendations

- Develop as a mixed-use nature preserve with multi-user trail system.
- Recommended to design trails to allow mountain bike use, a trail type that is not currently offered in Hudson. This would allow Hudson residents to access mountain bike trails from their homes instead of driving to nearby towns and Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
- Potential to highlight wildlife viewing around pond and along trails.
- Create parking area along Middleton Road, and trailhead at Hudson-Aurora Road.

### MacLaren Woods – 90 John Clark Lane

Undeveloped, heavily wooded 27-acre parcel with areas of mature forest and no access or parking and currently managed as a nature preserve. It is located in the center of Hudson across the railroad tracks from Cascade Park and Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course.

### Assessment

- Area is not addressed in the draft connectivity plan, but its location at the center of Hudson and near existing trails in Cascade Park provides the opportunity to create a longer trail network. However, existing plans for Veteran's Trail Phase 3, which will connect Veteran's park to Cascade to Barlow Road, will provide some of this

needed connection, and the cost of a railroad crossing may make it cost prohibitive to develop this connection.

- Has connectivity through John Clark Lane to downtown Hudson via sidewalks.
- Moderately suited for development based on GIS analysis.

### **Recommendations**

- Continue to manage as a nature preserve. Work with Friends of Hudson Parks to create plan for habitat and invasive species management.
- If community desire and funds become available, consider constructing a bridge over railroad to connect to Cascade Park and constructing nature trails in MacLaren Woods.

### **Robinson Field Park – 2600 Ravenna Road**

This 31-acre undeveloped parcel currently has no access or parking. It was purchased in 1998. This property is mainly open field but is becoming wooded. It is located at the southeast corner of Stow and Ravenna Roads.

### **Assessment**

- Identified in 2000 Master Plan as appropriate for development as an active-use park.
- It is located in the southeast corner of Hudson, which nearby parks of Barlow Farm and Oak Grove have made the primary active sporting-use area of Hudson.
- Condition was rated as one of the lowest of Hudson's parks by users in the community survey.
- Community survey showed a need for tennis and

pickleball courts, but no other active uses were high priorities at this time.

- GIS analysis suggests this area is best suited for development.

### **Recommendations**

- This site should be the primary location for development of new active use facilities, such as new sporting fields and courts.
- Since tennis and pickleball courts are being planned within existing developed parks, there is not a need to develop Robinson Field Park at this time. Hudson should continue to maintain this property in its inventory for potential future use as a developed park when the need arises.
- Efforts are already underway in existing developed park locations to build new facilities such as a dog park and tennis and pickleball courts. If the existing planned locations do not prove ideal for these amenities, then Robinson field can be considered as a potential location.

### **Other Underused or Underdeveloped Park Sites**

These locations, although considered developed, were identified as underused or underdeveloped by the master plan committee. These sites were also analyzed in the inventory section of master plan, but several recommendations related to future development are included below. The locations are:

- Oak Grove Park
- Maple Grove Park
- Boston Mills Park



## Oak Grove Park – 2200 Barlow Road

This park encompasses 30 acres and contains a lighted ball field, the Jaycees-run seasonal haunted house, a pavilion, a playground, and two youth ball fields. These facilities all surround a very large, level parking area.



### Assessment

- Designated in the previous master plan as an active-use park.
- The two youth ball fields are short and only suitable for youth in the younger age brackets. There is a steep slope to these fields that does not meet ADA accessibility requirements.
- Condition was rated as one of the lowest of Hudson's parks by users in the community survey.

- The parking area is far larger than needed for existing uses.

### Recommendations

- The central parking lot area should be developed based on community needs. This is one of the few level, already cleared, and unused areas within the Hudson Parks inventory that can be developed with minimal site work.
- This development of this site should be completed in conjunction with developments at Barlow Farm Park. Active use needs that are not constructed at Barlow Farm can be located at Oak Grove, such as tennis and pickleball courts and a potential future lighted multipurpose field.
- Consider conversion of youth baseball site to a dog park if the recommended Colony Park location is not developed. This would require relocating youth baseball fields to another, more suitable location.
- The central parking area could also replace the lacrosse fields planned for conversion to a dog park at Colony Park.
- If no development uses are needed, the central parking area could be restored to a natural meadow.

## Maple Grove Park – 934 Farnham Way

This park encompasses 100 acres of mostly mature forest, with some wetlands and fields. It contains some of the oldest trees in Hudson and has strong environmental value. The property was purchased in 2000 and contains a one-mile loop trail accessed from an adjacent neighborhood.



### Assessment

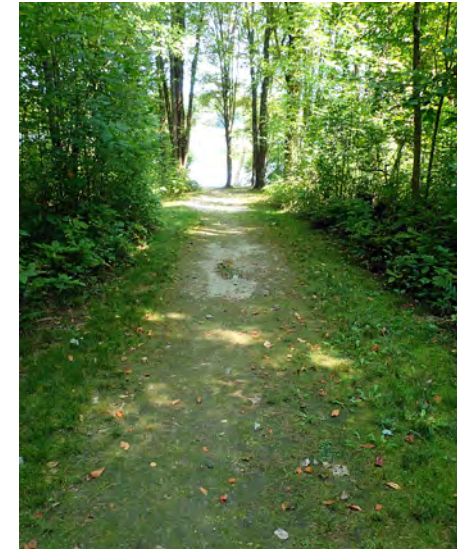
- As one of the largest mature forest tracts in Hudson, this property has strong conservation value.
- There is currently no designated parking for this site.
- There were former plans to develop a Summit Metro Parks site adjacent and south of this property.

### Recommendations

- Continue to manage as a natural area with trail.
- Management and future development of this park should be in conjunction with developments to the adjacent property to the south on Hines Hill Road. If this site is developed as a park, then the Maple Grove Trail should connect to the new park to provide residents access to longer trail networks.
- These developments will require City of Hudson and the park board to work with Metro Parks and the project developer on any development of the property.

### Boston Mills Park – 505 Boston Mills Road

This eight-acre park borders Lake Forest and includes a short walking trail and viewing area for the lake. Two picnic tables are set up in the parking area and the lake overlook area includes a bench next to the lake.



### Assessment

- This is one of the few waterfront parks in Hudson.
- The mature forest has high conservation value.
- The existing trails are short, dead-end, and confusing.
- The viewing area is minimally developed.

### Recommendations

- Create a more developed picnic and viewing area along the lake.
- Extend the trails so that they create a loop or connect to other trail systems around the lake. Consider partnerships with Lake Forest Country Club.
- Add trail signage.

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