

# Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Summary of Previous Feedback
- Project Schedule
- Preliminary Public Survey Results
- Benchmarking and Service Gaps
- Breakout Groups
- Next Steps



# Project Committee

Laura Ballek Cole	Mayor's Office
Rebecca Kiss	COA Board of Recreation
Nancy Wilt	COA Board of Recreation
Dave Syder	COA Board of Recreation
Candida Affa	City Council
CeCe Gerlach	City Council
Natalie Santos	COA Council Representative
Christian Brown	COA Shade Tree Commission and Planning Commission
Tony Hanna	Resident
Carol Robb	Volunteer
Darren Benson Jr	Allentown A's (AYOUTH)
Shaniqua Leak / Rashard Wilkerson	H.D.Y.A. (AYOUTH)
Kevin Ervin / Marlon Thomas	East Side Youth Center (AYOUTH)
Jessica French / Peter Allen	Mountainville Memorial Association (AYOUTH)
Kim Schaffer	Community Bike Works

ALLENTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT – 610.437.7757

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Lucinda Wright, Deputy Director  
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Bryne Heffner-Bair, Project Coordinator  
[Bryne.Heffner@allentownpa.gov](mailto:Bryne.Heffner@allentownpa.gov)



# Committee, continued...

Scott Slingerland	CAT Lehigh Valley
Simon Moore	Parknership
Rosario Stoops	Friends of Allentown Parks
Rick Daugherty	Lehigh Valley Active Life
Leslie Billowitch / Neil Novak	Lehigh Valley Road Runners
Ana Tiburcio / Randy Atiyeh	Allentown School District
Janet Roth	Trexler Trust
John Leonard	COA Police
Efrain Agosto	COA Fire
Julio Guridy	Allentown Housing Authority
Becky Bradley, AICP	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Christian Martinez	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Scott Greenly	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Susan Myerov	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Liz Rosencrans / Brit Kondravy	D&L Heritage Corridor

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# Committee, continued.....

Darian Colbert	Cohesion
Shannon Fugate	Allentown Arts Commission
Andrew Atiyeh	KNT Basketball
Kyle Edwards	A True L.O.V.E. Story
Daniel Bosket	Community Action Development Allentown
Samantha Shaak	Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health
Flor and Robert Velez	Puertorrican Culture Preservation
Carmen Bell / Jose Rivera	United Way of Greater Lehigh Valley
Fatima Nabavian	Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
Marci Klinger	Lehigh Valley Disc Club
Christina DiPierro	Valley Youth House
Abigail Goldfarb	Conference of Churches

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# Project Team

SIMONE COLLINS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE – 610.239.7601

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William Collins, RLA, Principal

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PROFESSIONALS

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# Parks and Recreation Team

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Lucinda Wright, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation  
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Bryne Heffner-Bair, Program Coordinator for Capital Projects  
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Chris Hendricks, Recreation Manager  
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Christian Bianco, Parks Supervisor  
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# Previous Feedback – CHATT

- The community would like to see more programming during off-seasons and more free family activities/events.
- Several parks present cleanliness and safety issues for visitors.
- Parking is an issue at many parks.
- The community would like to see upgrades to playgrounds and better seating for parents near playgrounds.
- It is important to keep parks free and open to the public!



# Previous Feedback – Safe Streets for All

- The number one safety concern on Allentown streets is speeding motorists.
- The community would like more bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Drivers often do not yield to pedestrians in crosswalks or when turning.
- ADA infrastructure needs improvement.
- Road diets and speed bumps are highly desired.



# Previous Feedback – Stevens Park

- The most requested improvements include:
  - More play equipment, especially swings
  - Full basketball court
  - Spray park
- Safety and security are a top concern for visitors.
- Other requested improvements include benches and water fountains.



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# Initial Analysis

# Public Opinion Survey



## City of Allentown Open Space & Recreation Plan

### Survey Introduction

Thank you for your interest in assisting with the planning of the City of Allentown's Park system, recreation programming, and open space needs. Over the next year, the City will develop a Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, which will serve the following purposes:

- Determine growth opportunities for the parks and recreation system.
- Evaluate the city's management of its recreation programs and facilities.
- Establish goals and objectives for the city and its Parks and Recreation Department.
- Identify the steps needed to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan.

In addition, the City is also developing separate master site plans for Bucky Boyle Park, Fountain Park and Roosevelt Park.

This opinion survey is a vital part of the planning process and will take **approximately 15 minutes to complete**. The survey asks residents to consider existing strengths and future opportunities for the City's parks, recreation, and open space needs. The survey will be available until June 1, 2025.

Residents will also have the opportunity to provide feedback at several public meetings to be held during the course of the planning process. Please check the City's website and notices for meeting dates.

Thank you for your time and participation.

<https://qrco.de/allentownrecplansurvey>

<https://qrco.de/allentownrecreacionencuesta>

# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

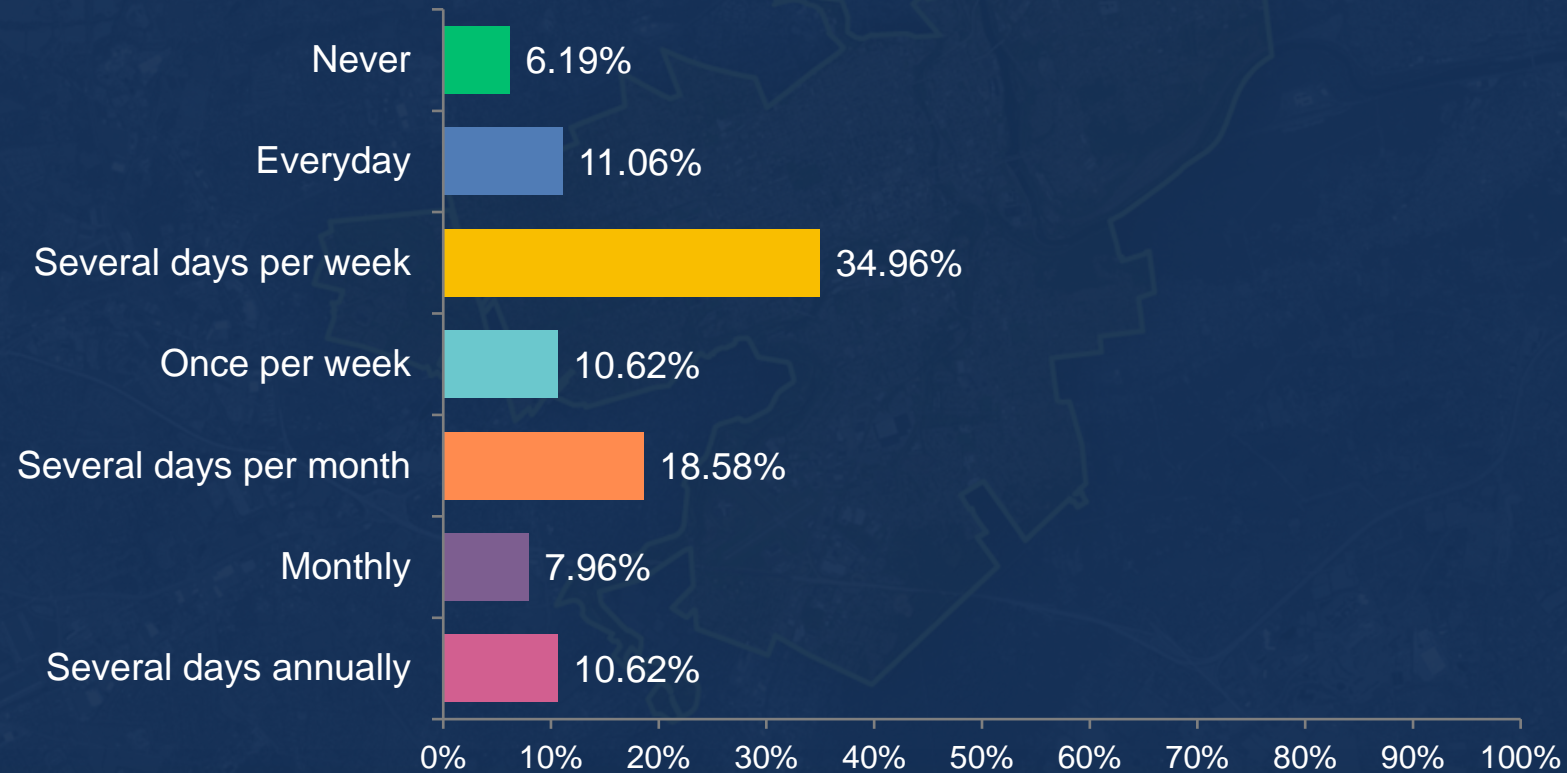
- **226** responses to date
  - 217 English language survey
  - 9 Spanish language survey
- **31%** reside in Zip Code 18104
  - Parks include: Allentown Golf Course, Cedar Creek Parkway, Cedar Beach Park, Daddona Lake and Terrace Park, Rose Gardens, Trexler Memorial Park
- **19%** in 18103
  - Parks include: Roosevelt Park, Alton Park Playlot, Lehigh Parkway, Mack Pool, Percy Ruhe Park, South Mountain Reservoir
- **18%** in 18102
  - Parks include: Bucky Boyle Park, Fountain Park, Franklin Park, Jackson St. Community Park, Jordan Meadows, Old Fairgrounds Playground/5<sup>th</sup> St. Spray Park, Stevens Park, West Park
- **50%** of respondents have lived in their communities for 20+ years



# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

## Q1: Generally, how often do people in your household visit parks in the City of Allentown?

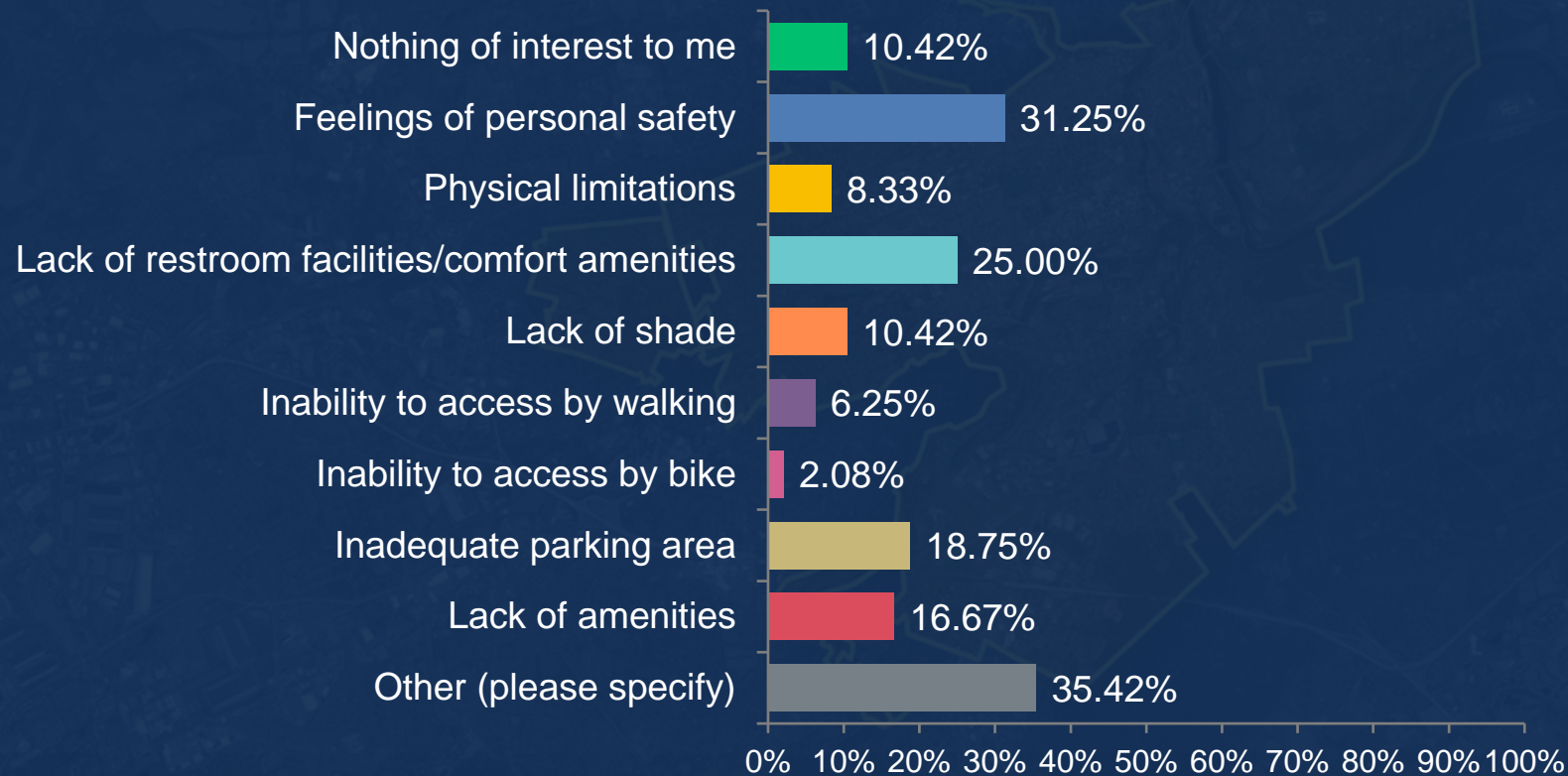
Answered: 226 Skipped: 0



# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

**Q2: If you answered 'Never' in Question 1, what are the primary reasons that you DO NOT visit parks in the City of Allentown? Select all that apply.**

Answered: 48 Skipped: 178



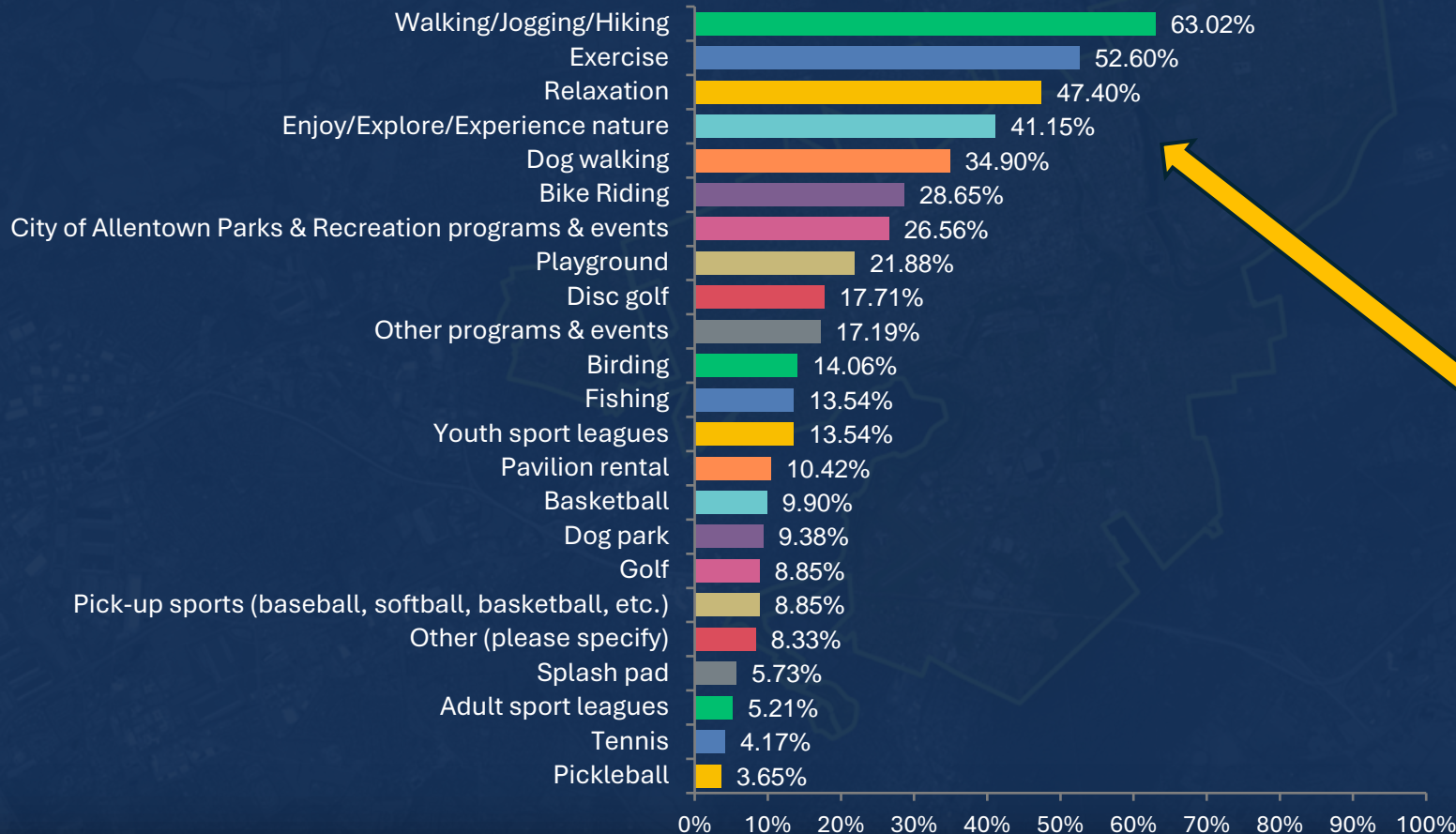
- Other responses include:
- “Just [doesn’t] feel safe for my daughter to play there”
  - Upkeep
  - Cleanliness
  - Broken playground, graffiti, crowded
  - Lack of bike trails to get to the parks.



# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

**Q5: For what purpose(s) do people in your household visit park/recreation sites in the City of Allentown? Select all that apply.**

Answered: 192 Skipped: 35



Other responses include:

- Concerts, seasonal and holiday events
- Art Spaces
- Cedar Beach Pool
- No interest. Reason: safety

**Top 5 Responses**

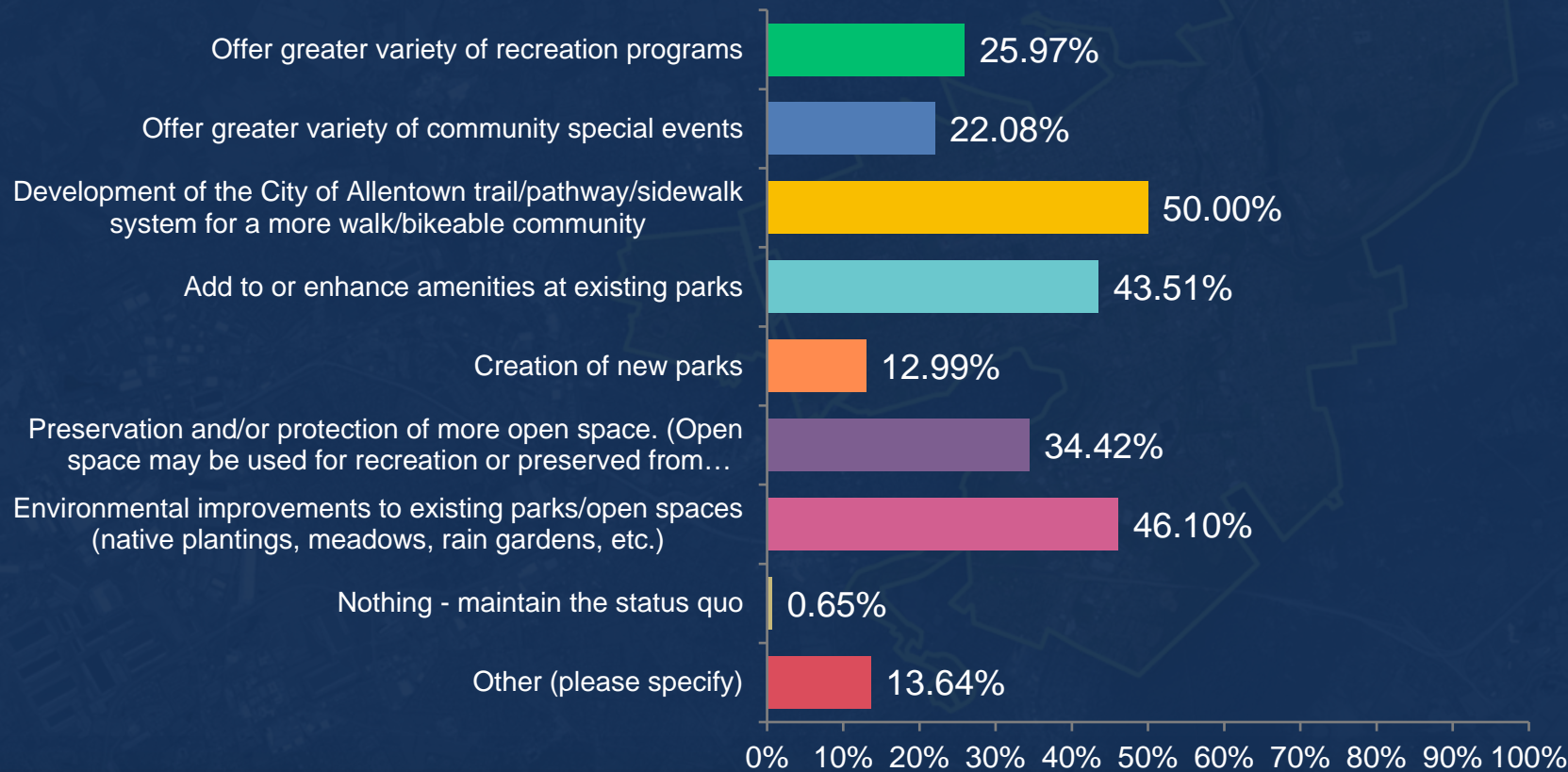
1. *Walking/Jogging/Hiking*
2. *Exercise*
3. *Relaxation*
4. *Enjoy/Explore/Experience nature*
5. *Dog walking*

*27% said they visit for Parks & Recreation programs and events*

# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

**Q31: Over the next 3 to 5 years, where should the City of Allentown's recreational / park / open space priorities be? Select up to three (3).**

Answered: 154 Skipped: 73



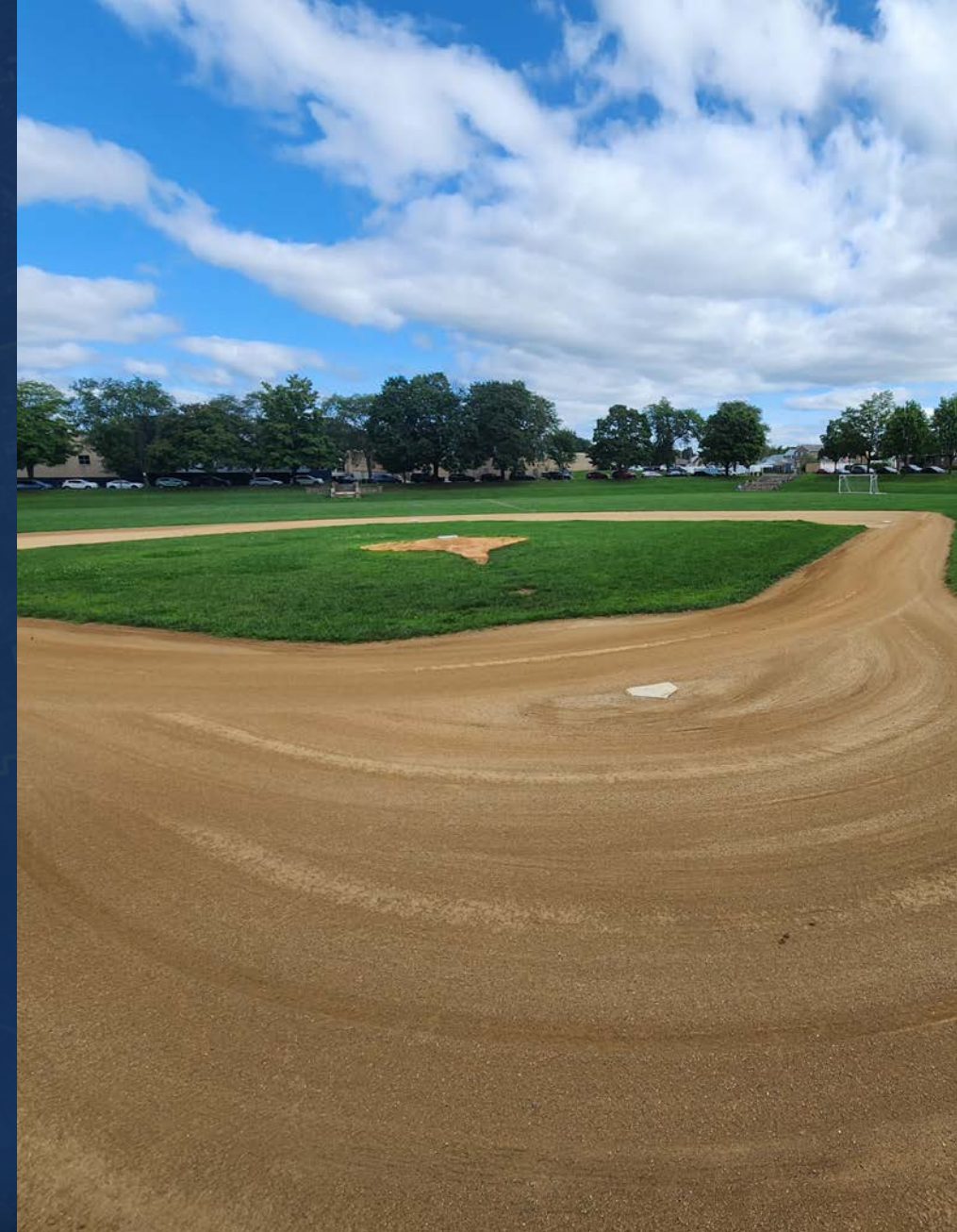
Other responses include:

- More engagement for local kids in the community
- More activities for seniors
- Keeping the parks clean, one more dog park, cutting dead trees down along the creeks/river planting new trees
- Improve maintenance schedule for bathrooms.

# NRPA Benchmarking

*Does the City have an adequate number of recreational facilities to meet the needs of its current and future population?*

- The park system was benchmarked against National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards to find out.
  - The NRPA provides park and recreation metrics to assist professionals in the management and planning of their recreational resources.
  - The NRPA understands that there is no single set of standards for parks and recreation to address the uniqueness of a community.



# NRPA Benchmarking

## PLAYGROUNDS



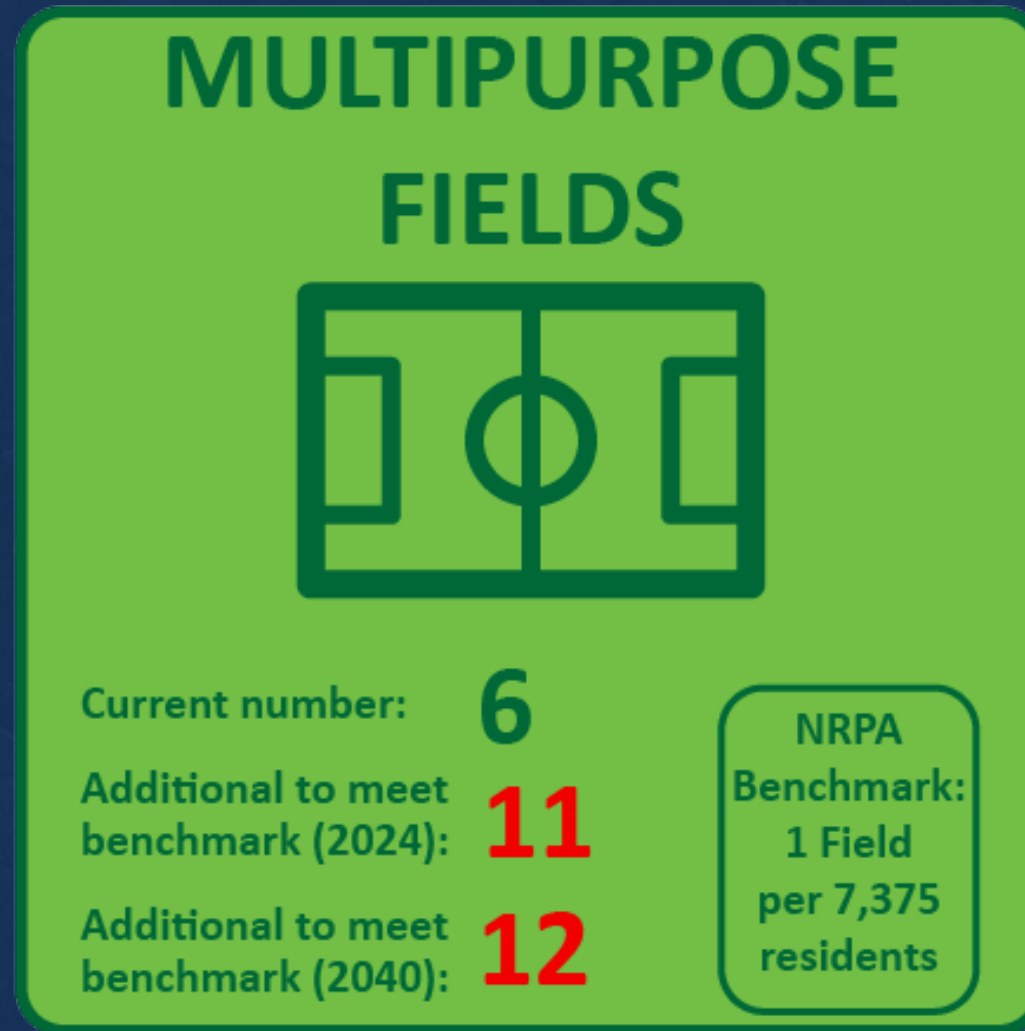
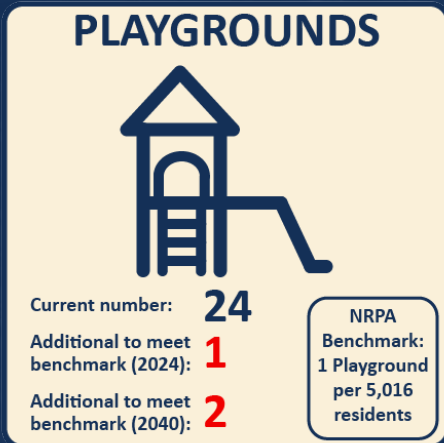
Current number: **24**

Additional to meet benchmark (2024): **1**

Additional to meet benchmark (2040): **2**


NRPA  
Benchmark:  
1 Playground  
per 5,016  
residents

# NRPA Benchmarking



# NRPA Benchmarking


### PLAYGROUNDS



Current number: **24**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2024): **1**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2040): **2**

NRPA Benchmark:  
1 Playground per 5,016 residents

### BASEBALL FIELDS




Current number: **25**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2024): **0**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2040): **0**

NRPA Benchmark:  
1 field per 6,821 residents

Amount above 2024 benchmark: **6**

### MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS



Current number: **6**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2024): **11**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2040): **12**

NRPA Benchmark:  
1 Field per 7,375 residents

# NRPA Benchmarking

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## BASKETBALL COURTS



Current number: **23**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2024): **0**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2040): **0**

NRPA Benchmark:  
1 Court per 9,643 residents

Amount above 2024 benchmark: **10**

## MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS



Current number: **6**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2024): **11**  
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## BASEBALL FIELDS



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1 field per 6,821 residents

Amount above 2024 benchmark: **6**

## POOLS



Current number: **3**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2024): **0**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2040): **0**

NRPA Benchmark:  
1 Pool per 65,697 residents

## MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS



Current number: **6**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2024): **11**  
Additional to meet benchmark (2040): **12**

NRPA Benchmark:  
1 Field per 7,375 residents

## BASKETBALL COURTS



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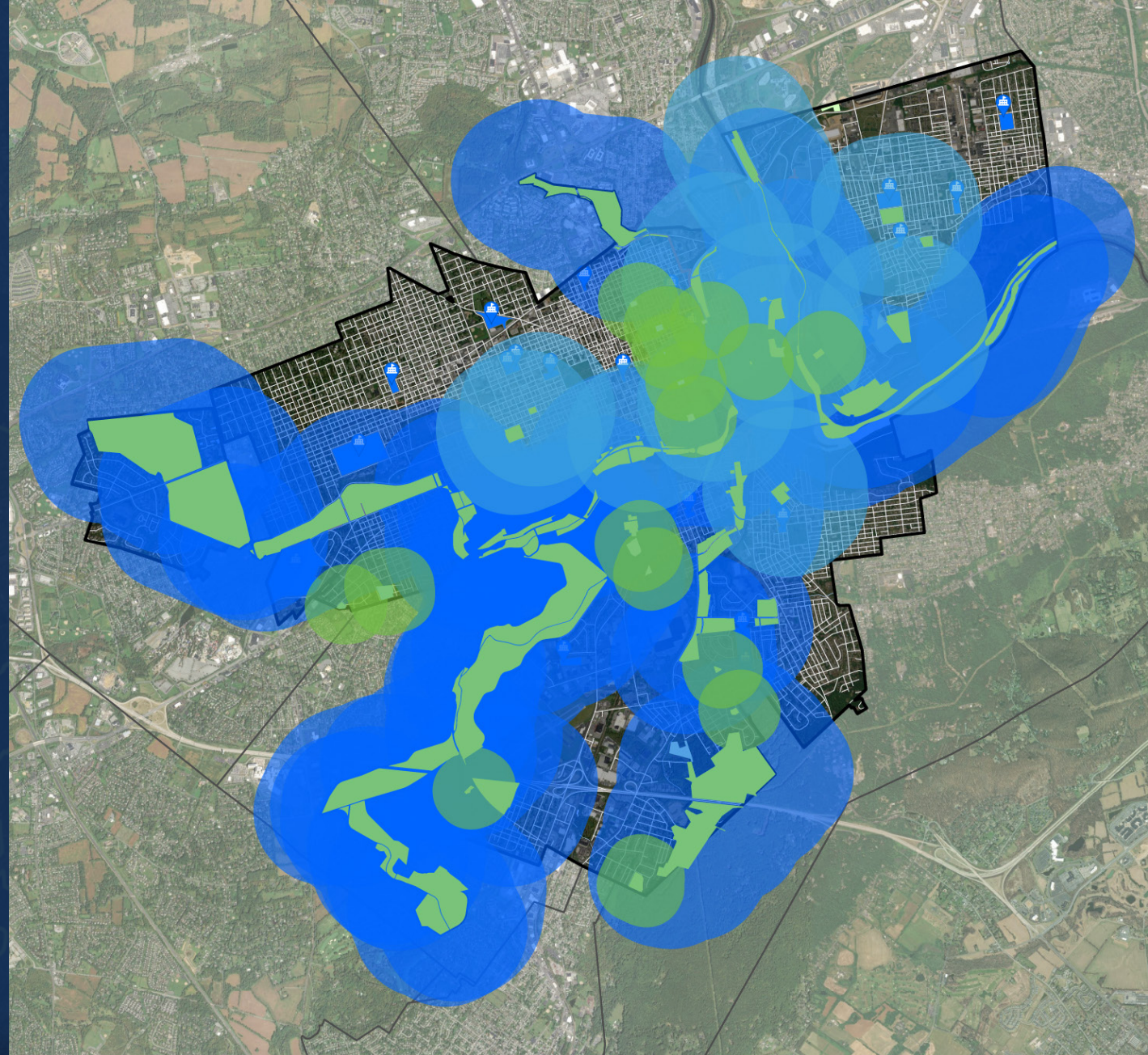


# Park Service Areas Analysis

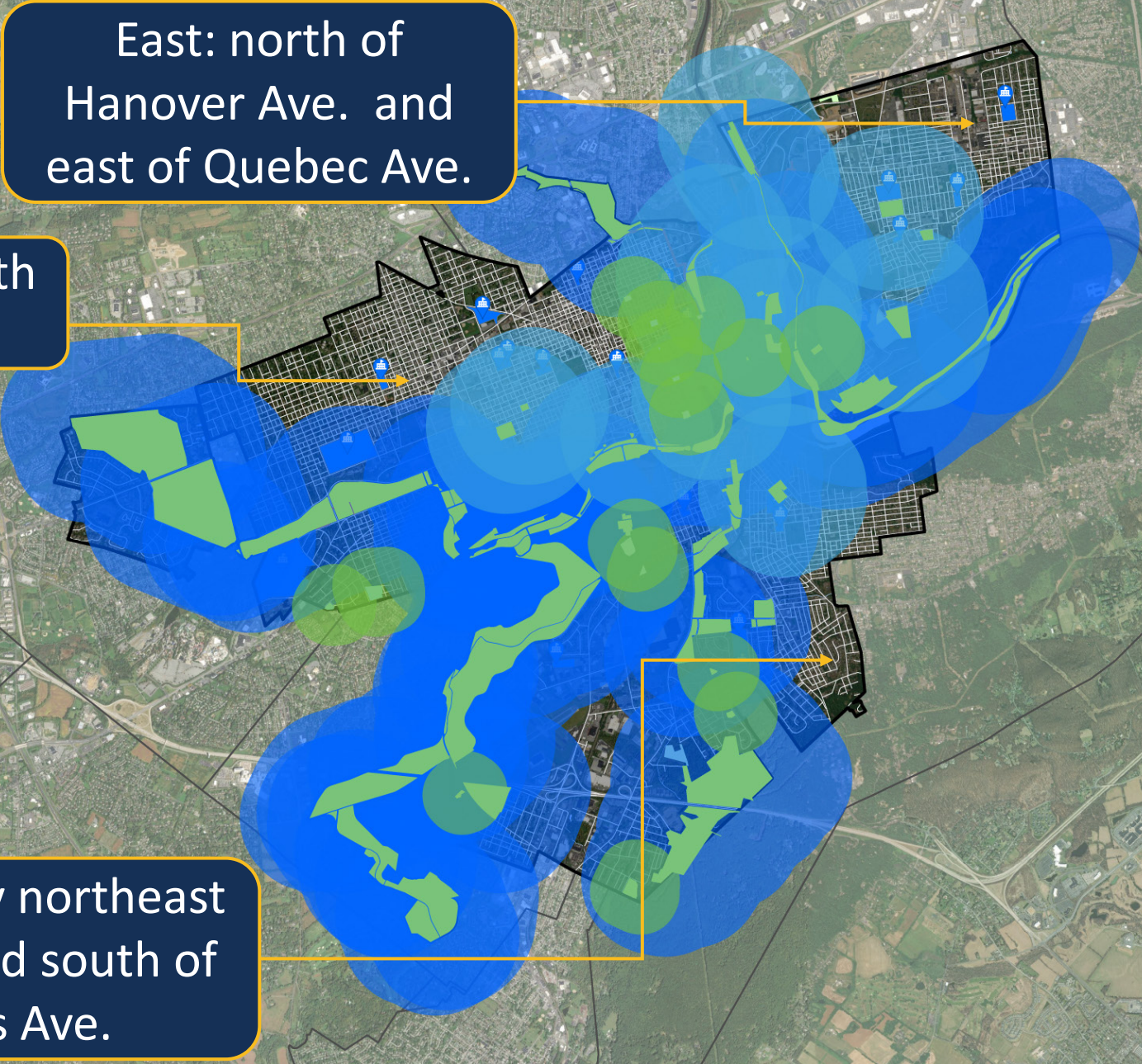
Miniparks serve a specific function or age group, or a limited population area; also called pocket parks.

Neighborhood parks focus on informal recreation that serves neighborhood recreation needs.

Community/regional parks are larger, multi-use parks that serve a community or multiple communities within a region.



# Park Service Areas Analysis: Where are the service gaps?



South: mainly northeast of S 5<sup>th</sup> St. and south of Emmaus Ave.

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# Breakout Sessions

# Breakout Stations

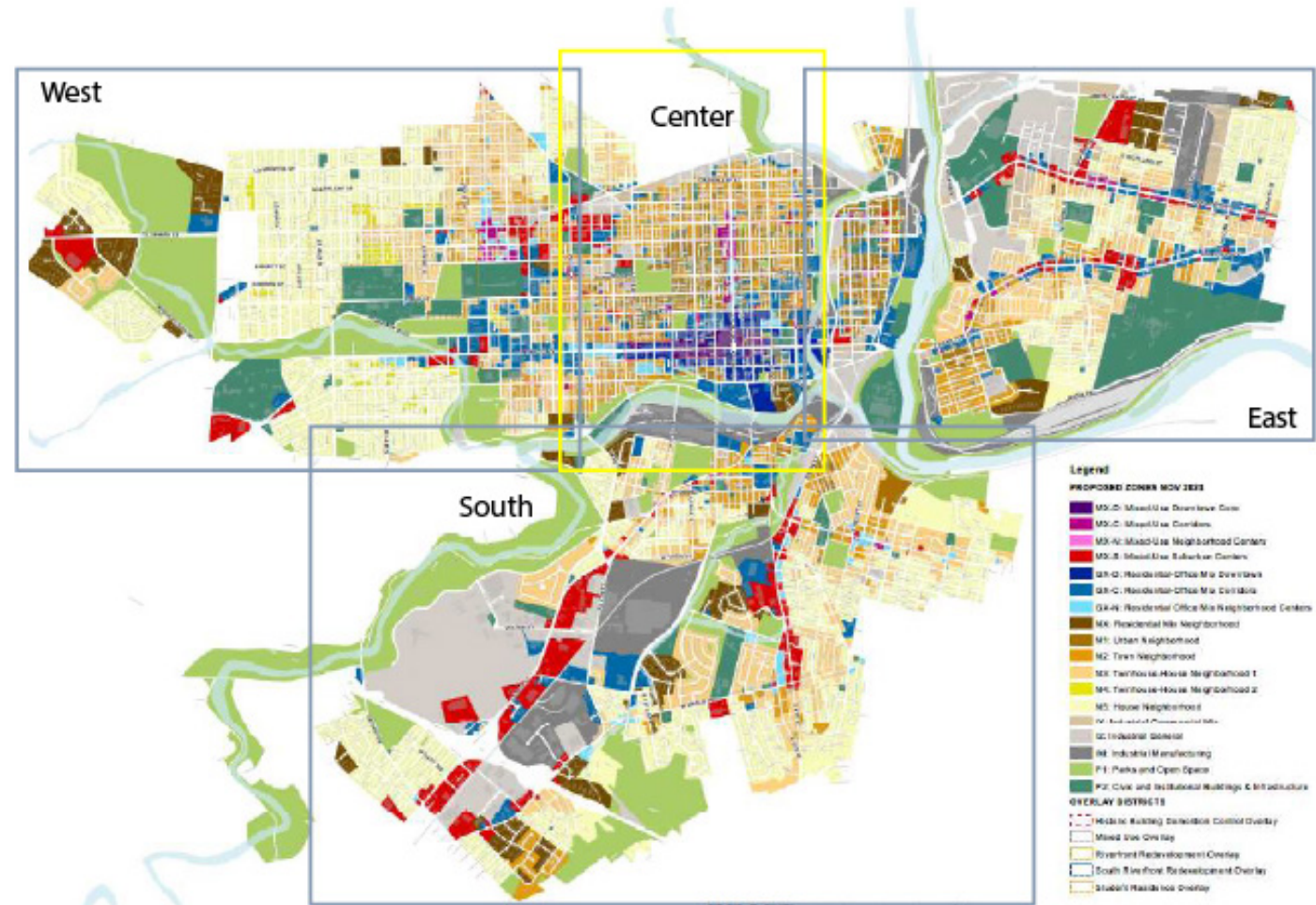
## 4 Neighborhoods:

- West
- East
- South
- Center

## Recreational Programming

### Questions for discussion include:

- What do you like best about the parks?
- What are your favorite memories?
- How do these parks benefit the communities they are in?
- What are the obstacles in getting to the parks?
- Where do you think new trails should be added?
- Who else should we listen to or talk to?



# Project Schedule

Meeting Type	Date	Time
Committee Meeting #1	Wednesday, September 25, 2024	7pm-9pm
Public Meeting #1	Wednesday, November 13, 2024	6pm-8pm
Committee Meeting #2	Monday, December 9, 2024	7pm-9pm
Public Meeting #2	Wednesday, January 8, 2025	6pm-8pm
Committee Meeting #3	Wednesday, January 22, 2025	7pm-9pm
Public Meeting #3 <i>Ripple Church</i>	Wednesday, February 26, 2025	6pm-8pm
Committee Meeting #4	Wednesday, April 9, 2025	7pm-9pm
Public Meeting #4 <i>Theatre514</i>	Wednesday, April 30, 2025	6pm-8pm
Key Person Interviews (20)	TBD	TBD
Committee Meeting #5	Wednesday, June 11, 2025	7pm-9pm
Online Public Opinion Survey	October 2024 – May 2025	
Public Meeting #5 <i>Fearless Fire Co.</i>	Wednesday, June 25, 2025	6pm-8pm
Committee Meeting #6	Wednesday, September 10, 2025	7pm-9pm
City Council Meeting (to Adopt Plan – TBD)	October 2025	
City Staff Meetings	Estimated 1 per month	Virtual



# Next Steps - Simone Collins team

- Engagement for Master Planned Parks
- Key Person Interviews
- Continued analysis
- Additional site visits



# Thank You!

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