



# Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Public Meeting #2 Recap
- Preliminary Survey Results
- Capital Projects List
- Concurrent Planning Efforts
- Parks & Recreation Partnership Network
- Park Classifications
- Environmental Justice Areas
- 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, Parks & Recreation Committee Chair
Natalie Santos	City Council
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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# Committee, continued...

Scott Slingerland	CAT Lehigh Valley
Simon Moore	Parknership
Rosaria 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

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## Public Meeting #2 Recap



# Review of Public Meeting #2

- East Breakout Group ideas
  - Andre Reed Park needs improvements to define it as a park. These improvements should provide multi-generational opportunities that would keep the park busy throughout the day.
  - Canal Park needs improvements to water access and other areas to make it feel more like a park than an open space.
  - The D&L Trail would benefit from safety upgrades, increased policing, improved lighting and signage.





# Review of Public Meeting #2

## West Breakout Group ideas

- Participants emphasized the need to extoll the virtues of Allentown's parks and were happy to see some repairs at Union Terrace Park.
- In general, heavy traffic makes accessing parks on foot and by bicycle feel unsafe.
- New trails to connect greenways and other points of interest are needed.





# Review of Public Meeting #2

## South Breakout Group ideas

- Lighting at Percy Ruhe Park is an issue. Visitors reported using car lights for football practice.
- Participants reported that trash dumping and ATVs cause major issues at South Mountain Reservoir.
- Arrangements with Allentown School District should be formalized to establish standard expectations for everyone.

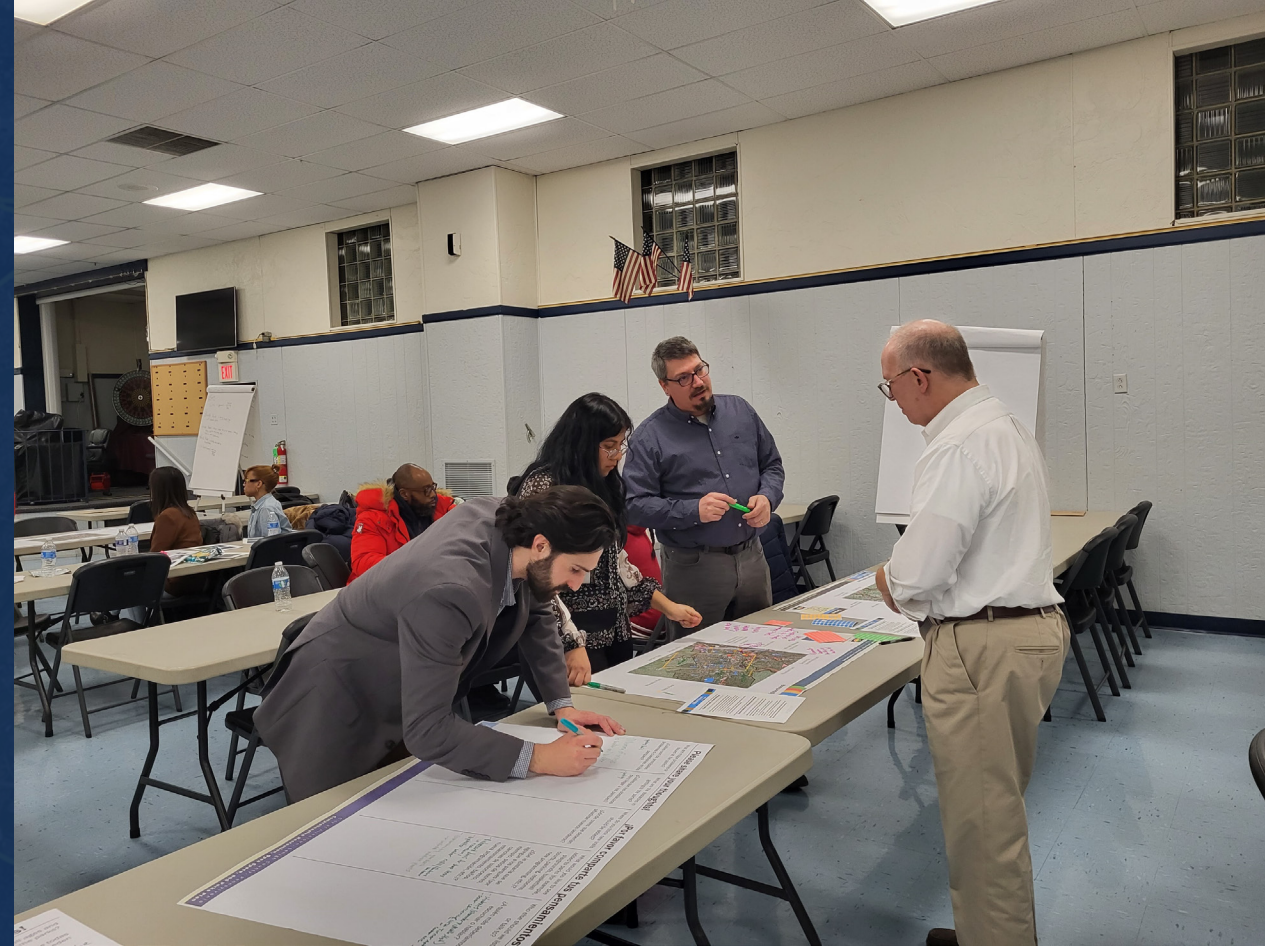




# Review of Public Meeting #2

## Center Breakout Group ideas

- Community ownership of parks is important to establish. This includes communication with the community.
- Participants identified parking and access to water vs water quality and damage to the ecosystem as major issues at parks.
- Connectivity from greenways to downtown is very difficult.

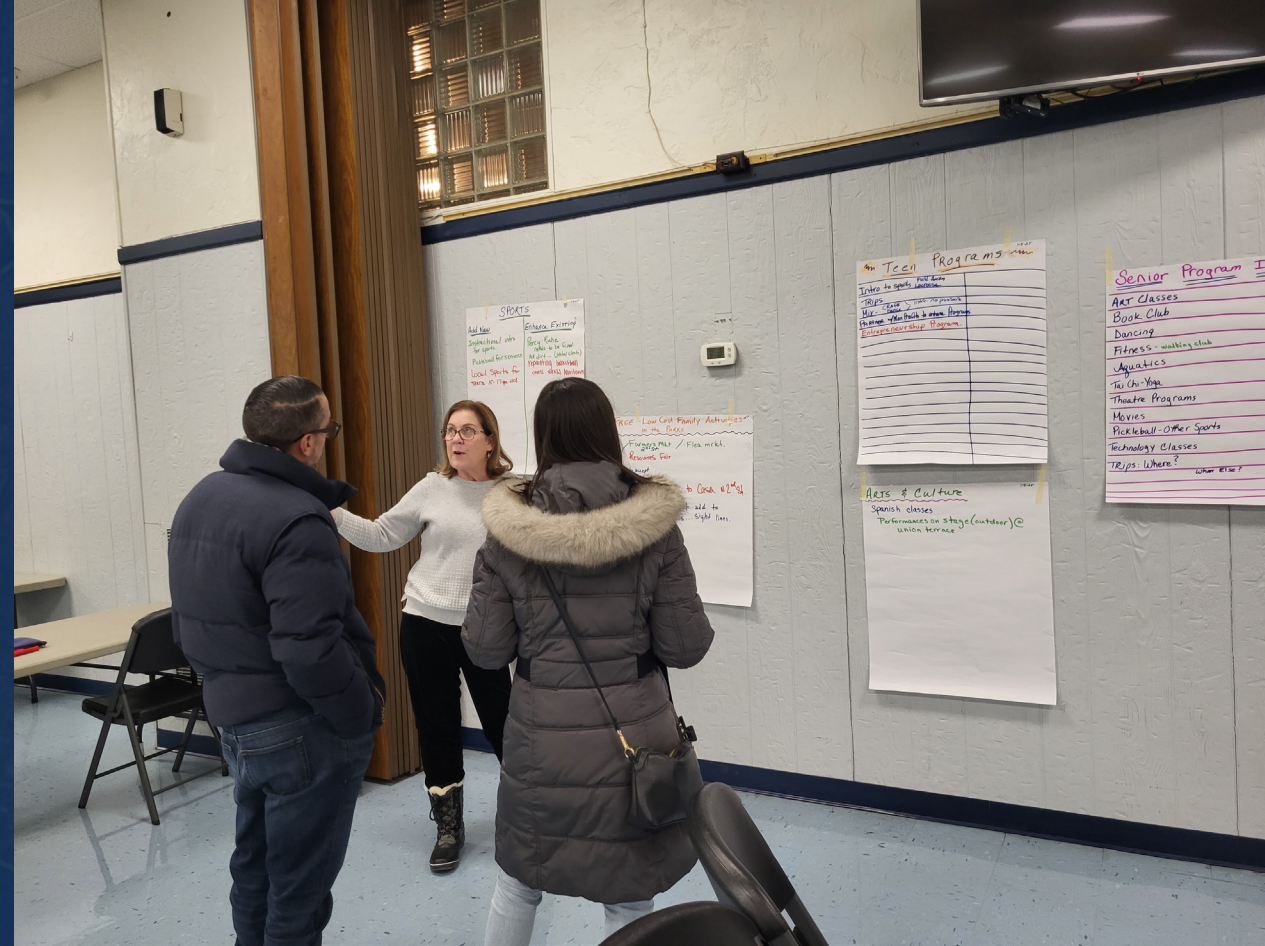




# Review of Public Meeting #2

## Recreation Breakout Group ideas

- Participants would like more free / low-cost family programming in parks, including a farmers' market for 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, which should accept WIC checks.
- Safety and security are concerns throughout the park system.
- Participants recommended holding a listening session in the morning so seniors would attend.





# Review of Public Meeting #2

## Online Breakout Group ideas

- Roads do not feel safe for accessing parks as a pedestrian or bicyclist.
- Participants would like to see more places to sit and feed the ducks in parks.
- Participants reported valuing the mental health benefits of parks through activities such as yoga, meditation, and walking.







# Public Opinion Survey Results



# 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

- **284** responses to date (58 responses since 01/08)
  - 270 English language survey
  - 9 Spanish language survey
- **33%** 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
- **20%** in 18103
  - Parks include: Roosevelt Park, Alton Park Playlot, Lehigh Parkway, Mack Pool, Percy Ruhe Park, South Mountain Reservoir
- **19%** 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

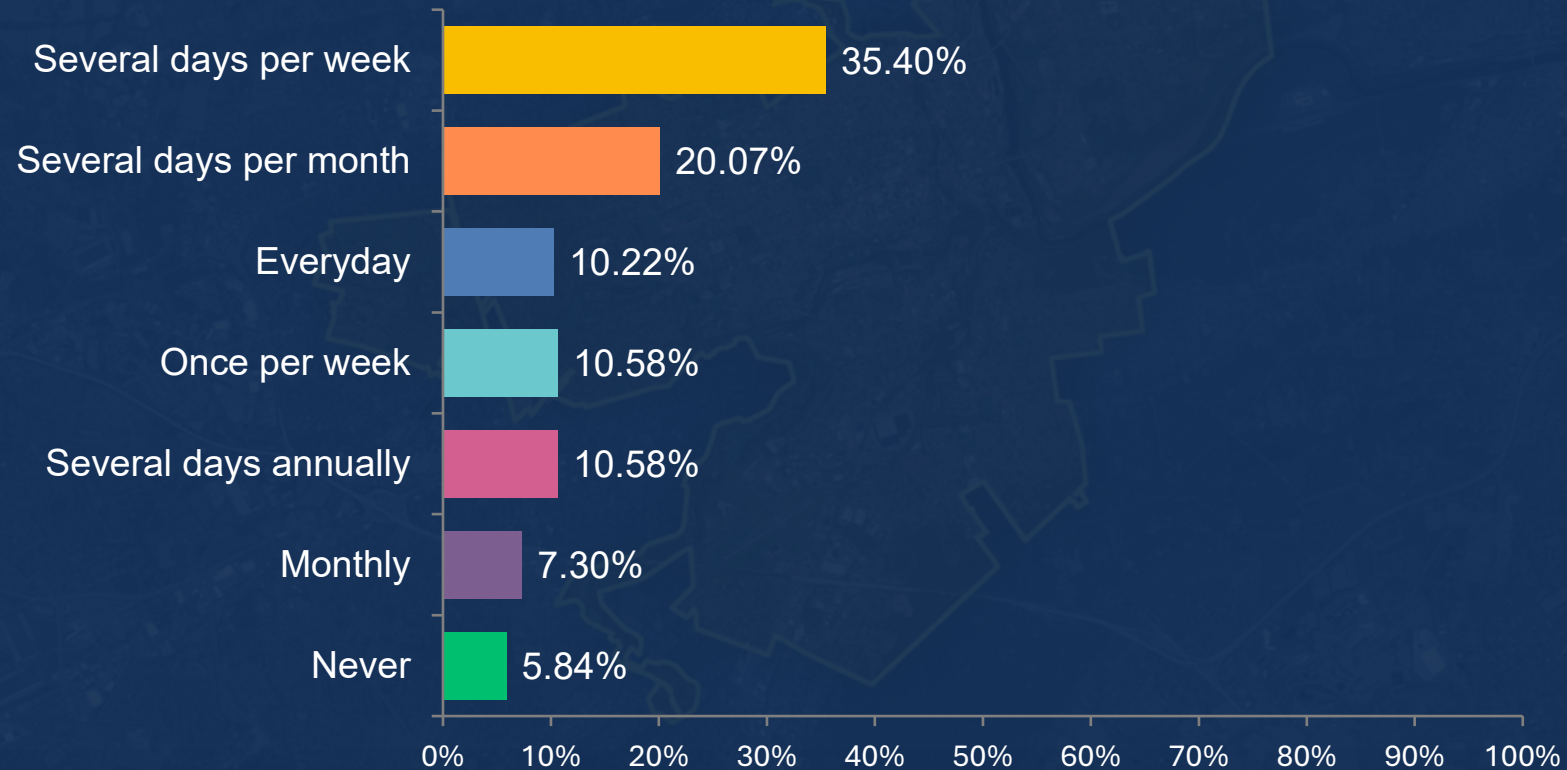




# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

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

Answered: 274 Skipped: 1

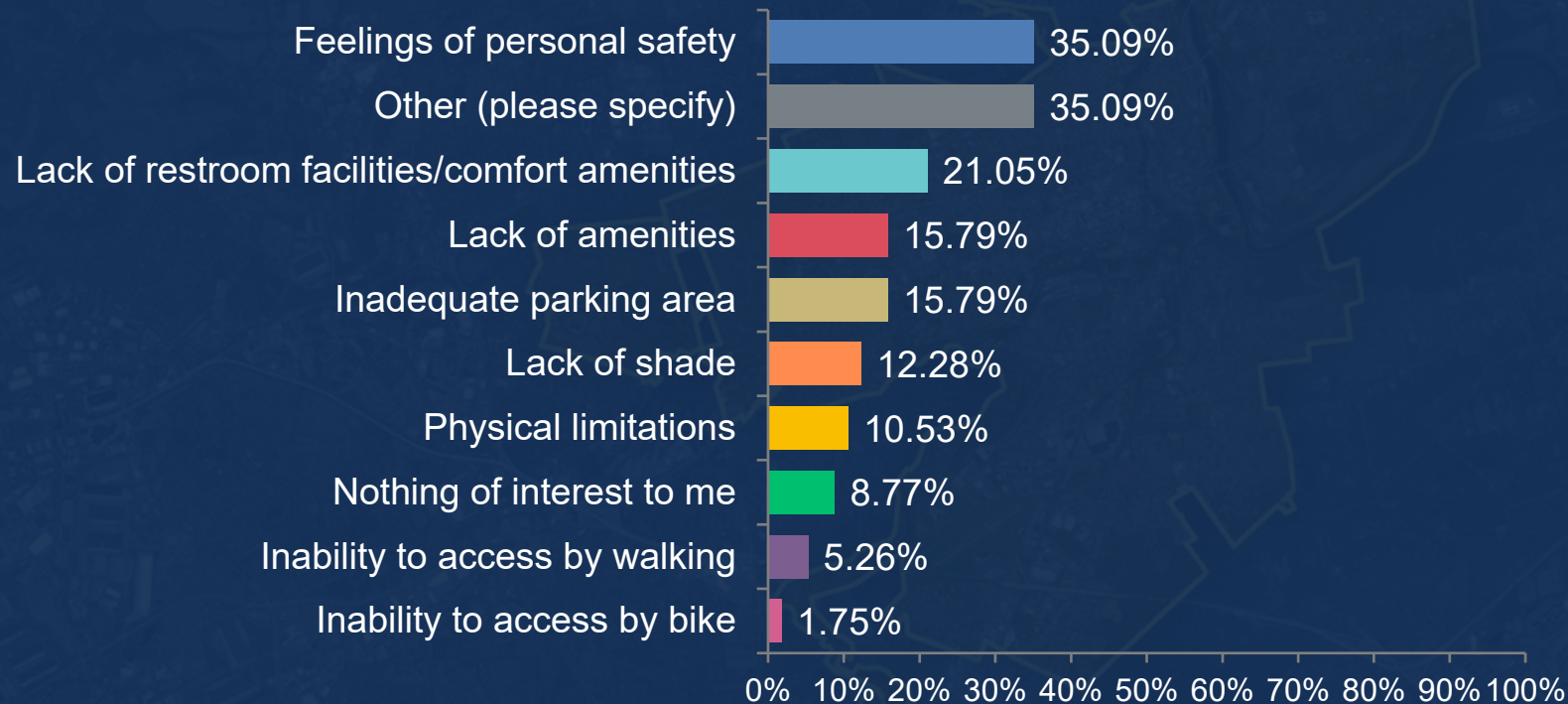




# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

**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: 57 Skipped: 218



- 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

**Q3: If you answered 'Never' in Question 1 (How often do people in your household visit parks in the City of Allentown?), what are the primary reasons that you DO NOT participate in Allentown programs or rent facilities in the City of Allentown? Select all that apply.**

Answered: 45 Skipped: 230



Other responses include:

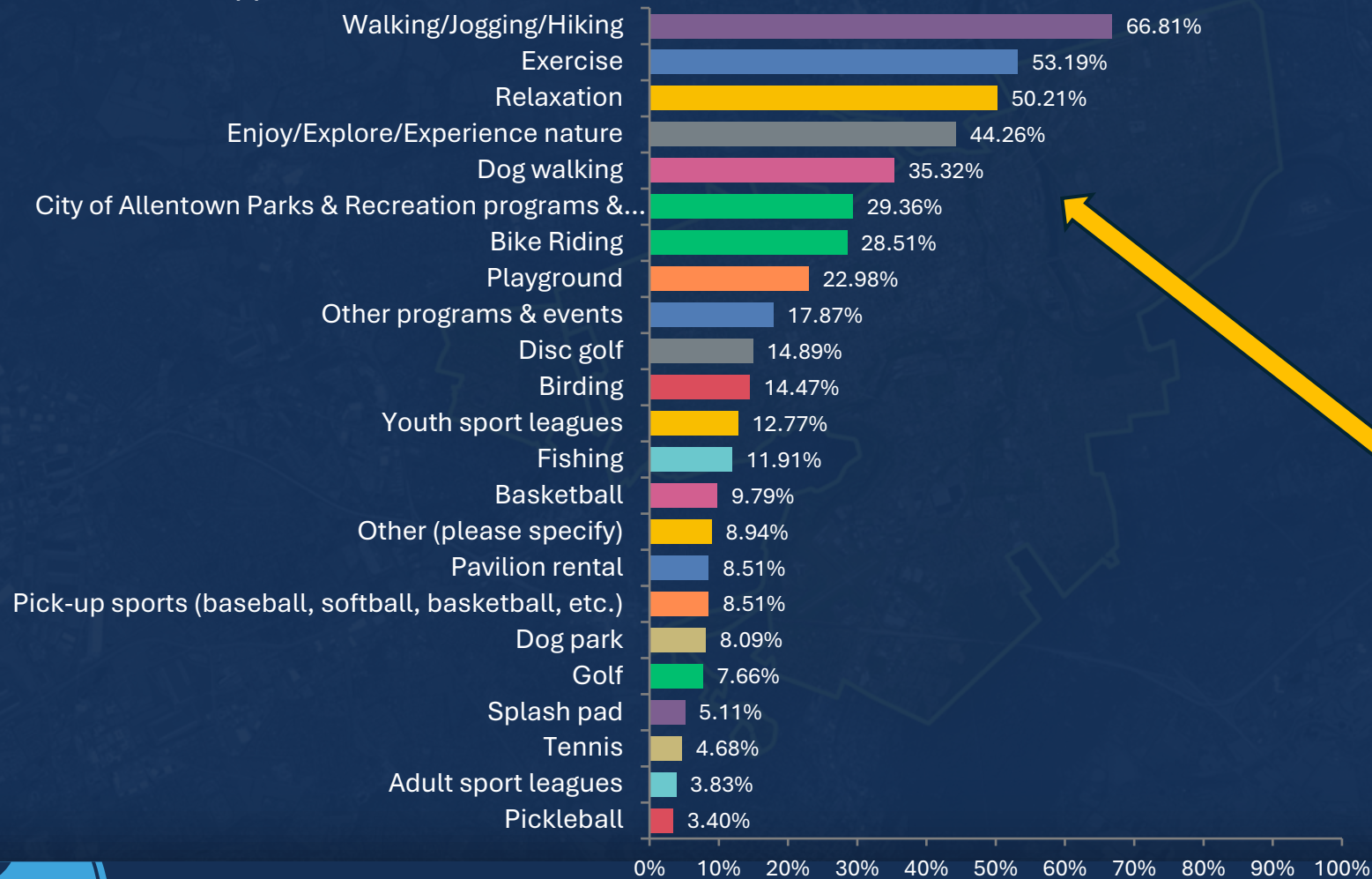
- *“Not wheelchair friendly with flat and stable surfaces and access”*
- *“Too far to drive”*
- *“Not enough notice ... newspaper has AFTER program happened”*



# 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: 230 Skipped: 40



- 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*

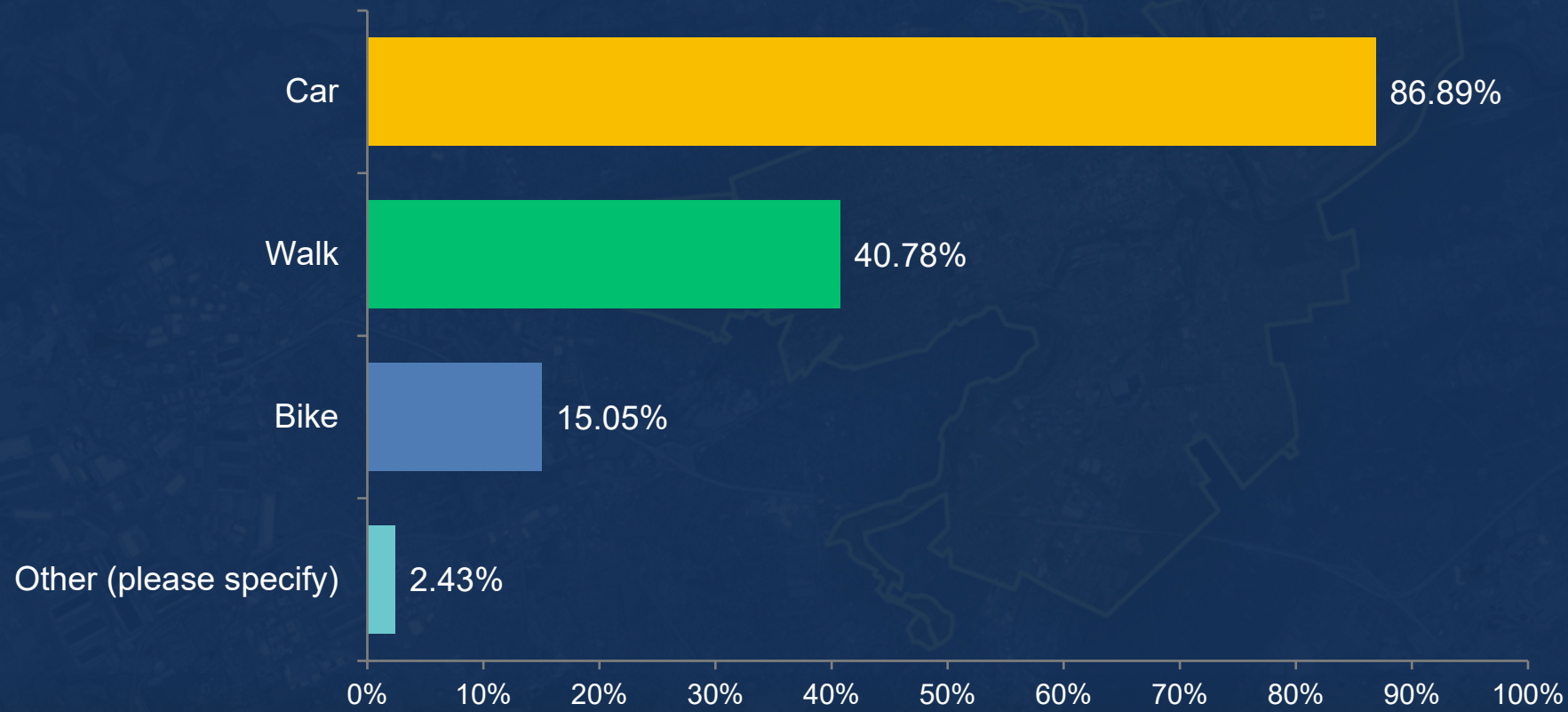
*27% said they visit for Parks & Recreation programs and events*



# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

## Q6: How do you typically travel to park/recreation sites in the City of Allentown?

Answered: 206 Skipped: 69

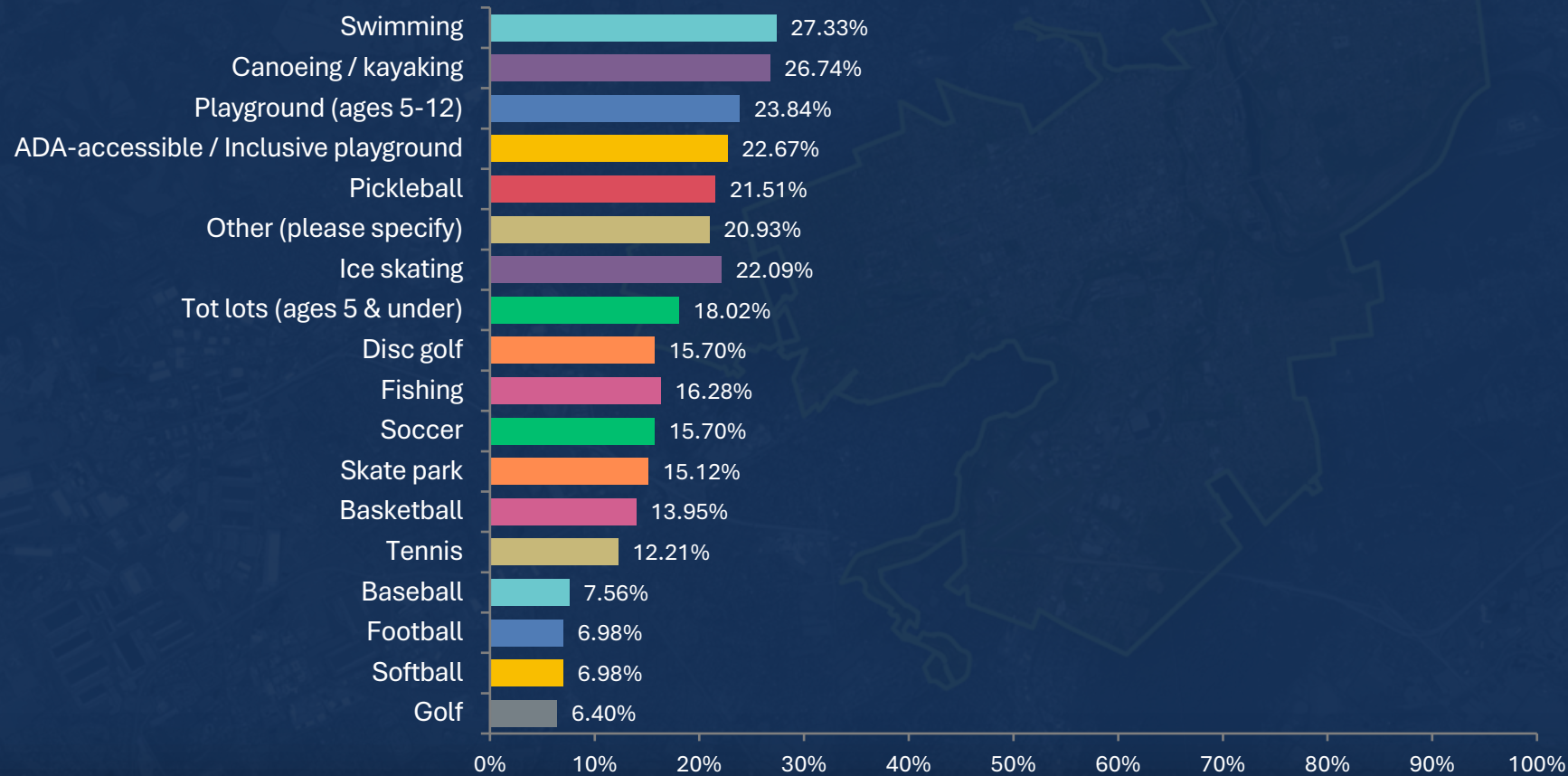




# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

**Q11: Do you believe the City of Allentown needs more active recreational facilities? Select all that apply.**

Answered: 168 Skipped: 102



Other responses include:

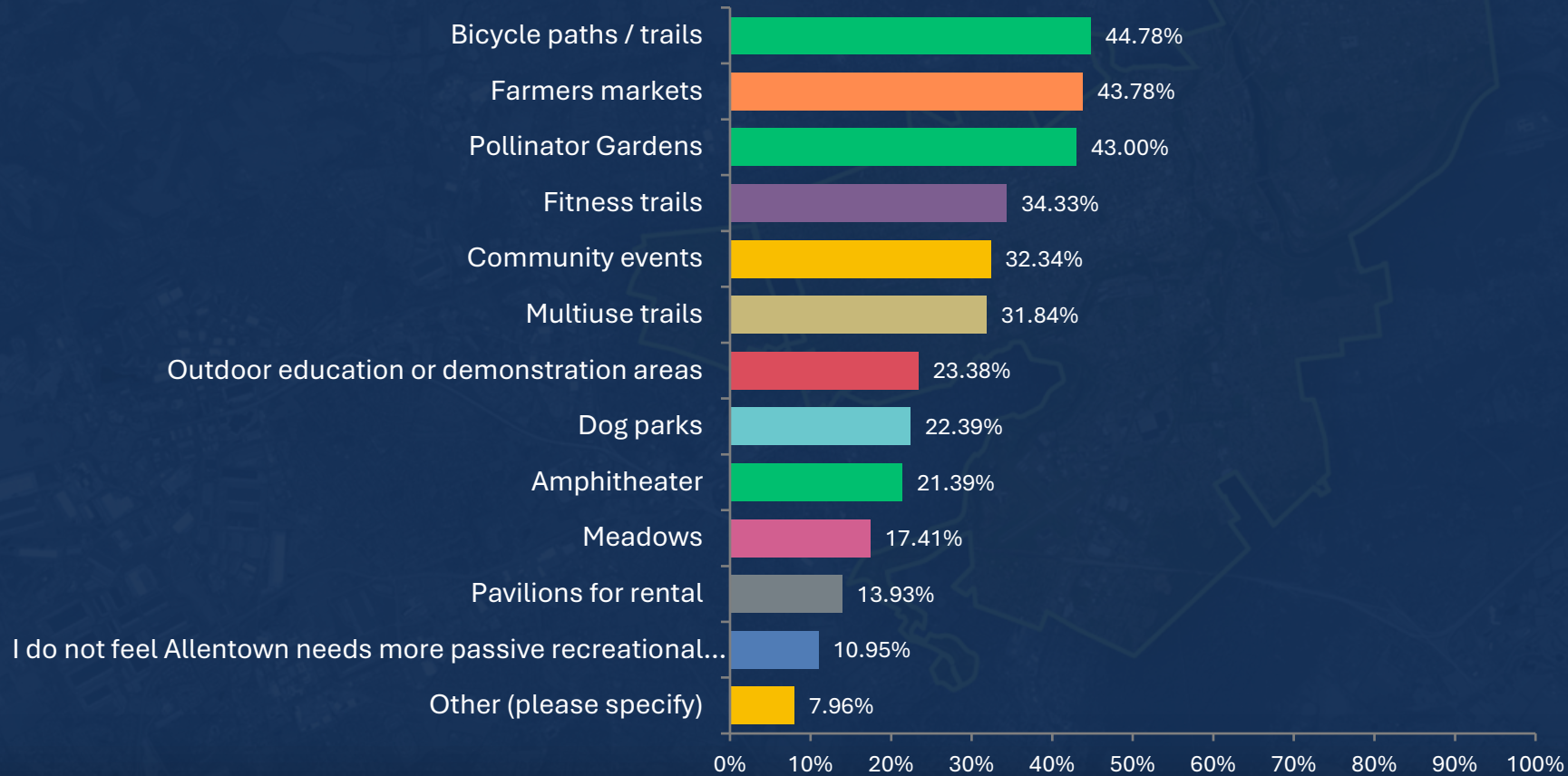
- Senior activities / programming
- Indoor community space
- Disc golf



# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

**Q12: Do you believe that the City of Allentown needs more passive types of activity options? Passive recreational activities are more leisurely and do not require strenuous physical activity. Select all that apply.**

Answered: 196 Skipped: 74



Other responses include:

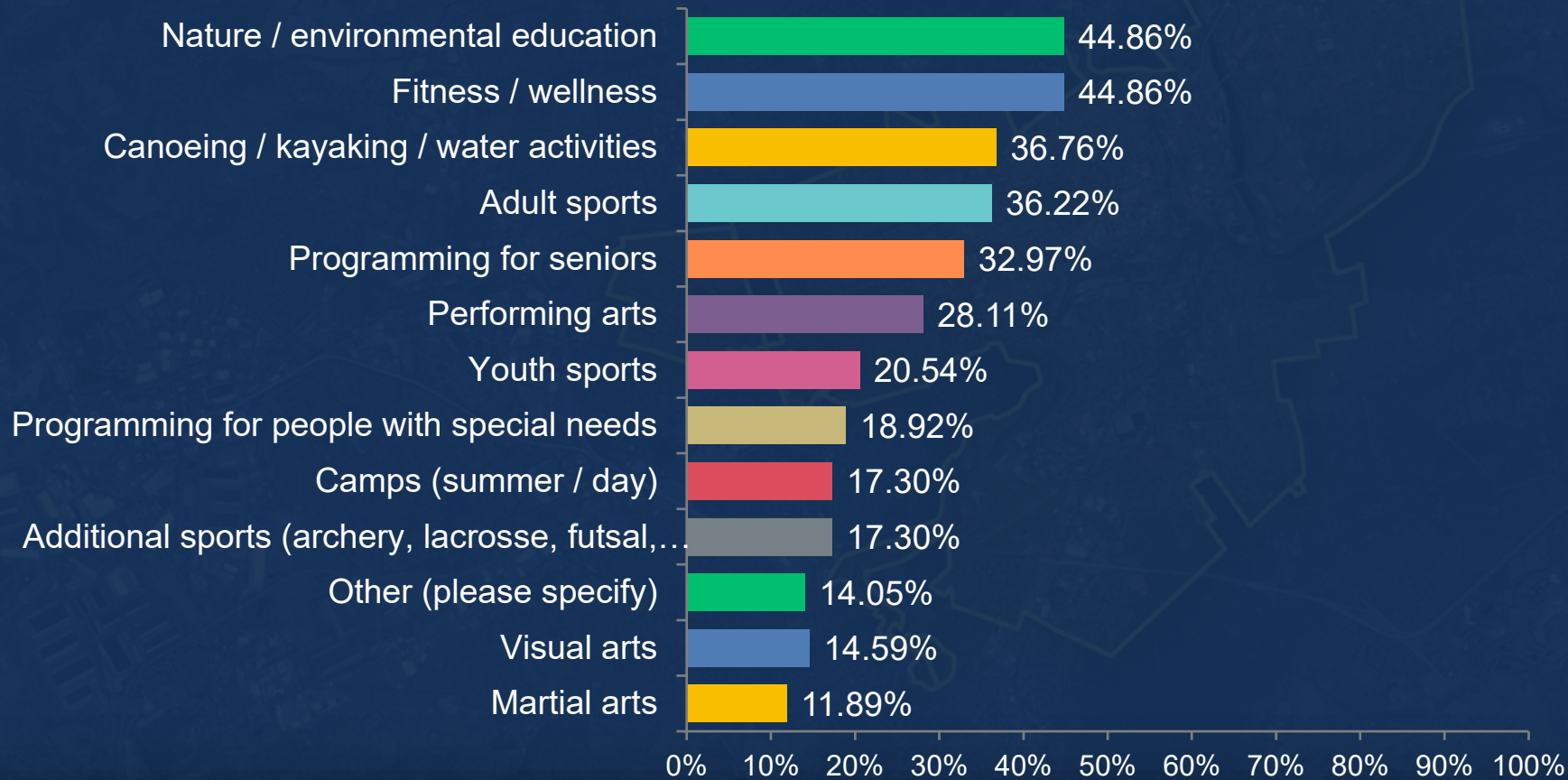
- More shade
- More seating
- ADA-accessible trails



# Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Results

## Q14: What additional programming opportunities would you like to see introduced in the City of Allentown Parks & Recreation System?

Answered: 179 Skipped: 89



Other responses include:

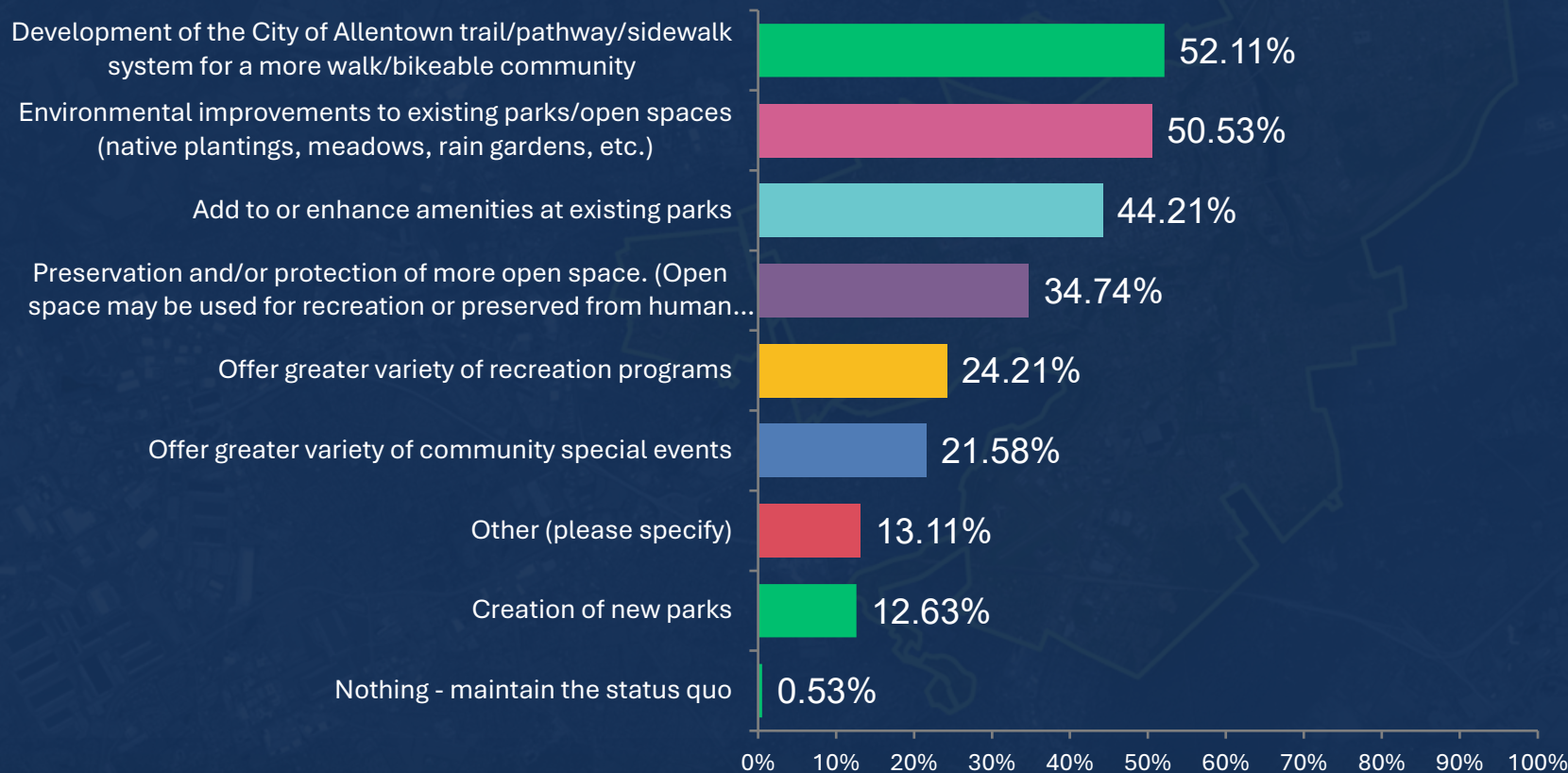
- *“More things offered on the East side of Allentown.”*
- Concerts and amateur musicians



# 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: 183 Skipped: 85



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.



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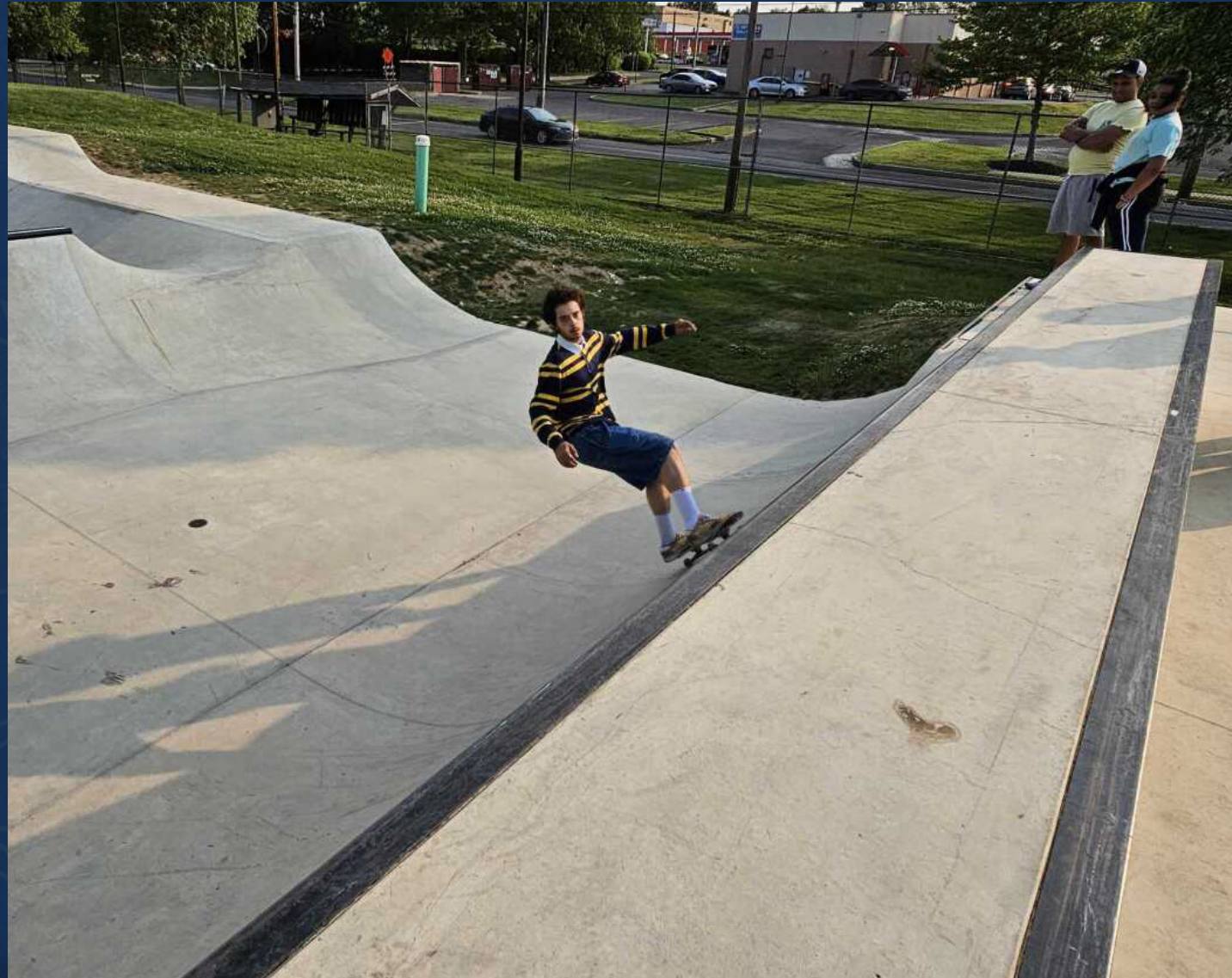


# Capital Projects



# Capital Projects – Currently Funded (as of 2025)

- Jordan Skate Park Phase 2
- Union Terrace WPA Renovations
- Bogert's Bridge Construction
- Dixon St. Pedestrian Bridge
- Parks Master Plans
- D&L Trail Design & Construction
- Jordan Meadows Mini-Pitch Construction
- Franklin Park Design
- MLK Trail Phase 2 Design
- MLK Trail Phase 3 Feasibility
- Rose Garden Improvements
- Canal Park Site Plan
- Roosevelt Park Building Demolition + New Pavilion
- Fountain Park Mural
- USFS Urban Forestry Plan





# Capital Projects – Awaiting Funding

- Mack Pool Renovations
  - Have concept plan
- Franklin Park Construction
  - Have funding for design
- MLK Trail Phase I Construction
  - Design completed
- Park Maintenance Facility
  - Design in progress
- Cedar Creek Bridges
- Lehigh Parkway WPA Renovations
- Canal Park Construction





# Capital Projects – Recently Completed

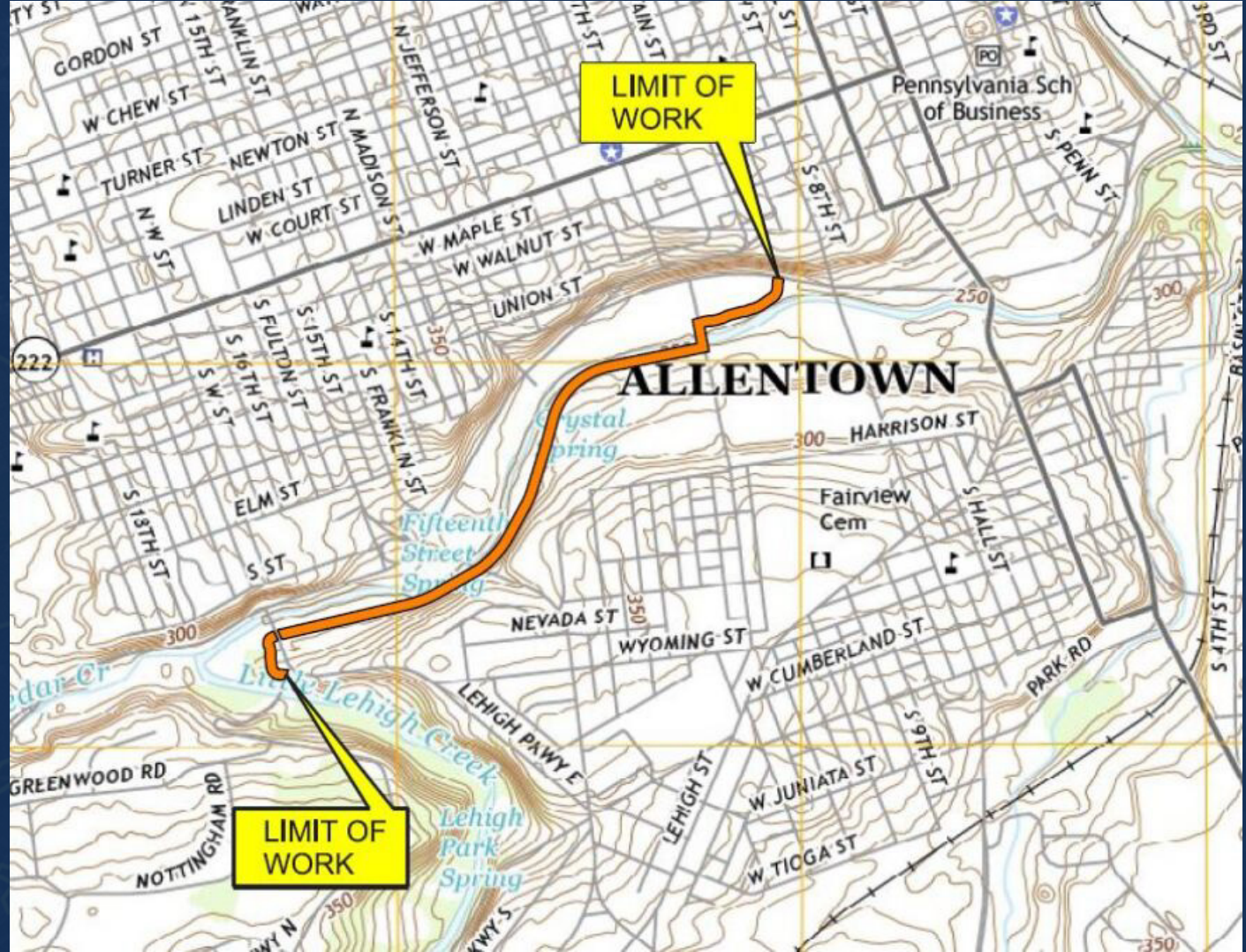
- Jordan Creek Greenway
- Irving Pool
- Cedar Beach Improvements
  - Court resurfacing
  - Basketball hoops
  - Sound
- Bucky Boyle Improvements
  - Court resurfacing
  - Garbage cans
  - Player benches
  - Scorer tables
  - Drinking fountain





# MLK Trail Phase I

- City awarded \$1.25 million from DCED MTF program toward Phase 1 construction
- Extension project will ultimately connect Lehigh Parkway to Fountain Park
- Proposed as a 10-foot-wide multi-use path
- Additional improvements include rapid flashing beacons, crosswalks, pavement markings, street lighting and stormwater management





# Concurrent Planning Efforts

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A) – Ongoing as of 2025
  - A USDOT program that provides grants to communities for planning and implementation activities to prevent deaths and serious injuries on roadways – City received \$312,000 to prepare a Plan
  - City adopted Vision Zero policy in 2024 with a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe traffic-related injuries by 2030
  - City was awarded a \$384,000 SS4A Demonstration Grant to implement and observe temporary safety measures
- Active Transportation Plan (ATP) – Ongoing as of 2025
  - A comprehensive resource that documents existing conditions and guides the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of bicycle and pedestrian programs and infrastructure improvements – City received \$35,000 from WalkWorks to create an ATP
  - Input from community members will be important to help achieve the overall goal of increasing connectivity





# Partnership Network

## Abbreviation Key

- ACCHS: Allentown Central Catholic High School
- AFD: Allentown Fire Department
- ASD: Allentown School District
- CADA: Community Action Development Allentown
- COH: Commission on Homelessness
- DCED: Department of Community and Economic Development
- DCNR: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- DEP: Department of Environmental Protection
- EAC: Environmental Advisory Council
- EEACS: Executive Education Academy Charter School
- HDYA: Hardwork Dedication Youth Association
- LPPIH: Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health
- LVCIL: Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
- LVPC: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
- MMA: Mountainville Memorial Association
- PCP: Puertorican Culture Preservation
- PennDOT: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- RCCS: Roberto Clemente Charter School
- UWGLV: United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
- WEYO: West End Youth Organization







# Classification of Parks



# MiniParks

MiniParks are usually small parks with very minimum programming – usually 1-3 elements that do not require much space. While sometimes these minimum programmed spaces lie within larger parcels, most mini parks are generally less than 1.25 Acres.

Examples of Allentown MiniParks:

- Arts Park
- Benton Street Playlot
- Ithaca Playlot
- Keck Triangle





# Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks can be 1-10 acres, though some larger park spaces with minimum programming can be considered as a neighborhood park. Most neighborhood parks use the limited space available to fill many different programming needs.

Examples of Allentown Neighborhood Parks:

- West Park
- Roosevelt Park
- Franklin Park
- Stevens Park





# Community Parks

Community Parks are larger parcels of 10+ acres that can provide both passive and active recreation. Some larger parks may only have one program such as passive park with an extensive trail system or a municipal golf course, but the one thing all community parks have in common is that these parks are typically destination parks that can bring in visitors outside the municipality.

## Examples of Allentown Community Parks:

- Cedar Creek Park
- Bucky Boyle Park
- Trexler Memorial Park
- Andre Reed Park and Irving Pool





# Greenways

Greenways may contain park elements for recreation but are primarily devoted to larger regional connections for both conservation and recreation.

Examples of Allentown Greenways:

- Cedar Creek Parkway
- D&L Trail
- Little Lehigh Parkway












# Environmental Justice Areas

An Environmental Justice Area is an area of a community disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.





## Legend

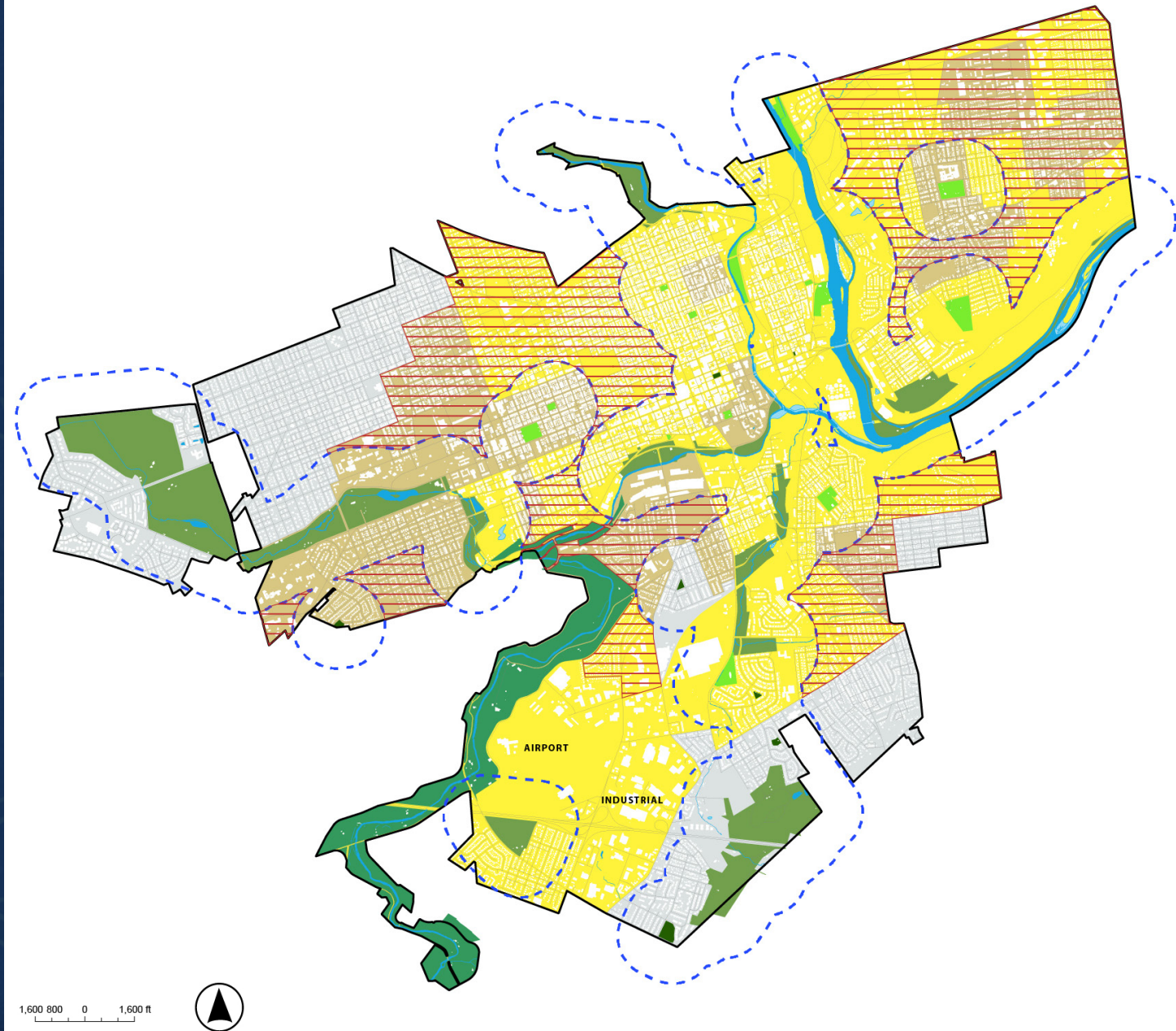
Existing	
	Local Roads
	Streams
	Municipal Boundary

Park Classifications	
	Greenways
	Community Parks
	Neighborhood Parks
	MiniParks

Analysis	
	Parks Service Area (0.25 mi)
	Environmental Justice Areas 80-90th Percentile Shown
	Environmental Justice Areas 90-100th Percentile Shown (Most at risk)
	Environmental Justice Areas Outside of Parks Service Area





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# Breakout Sessions



# Breakout Stations

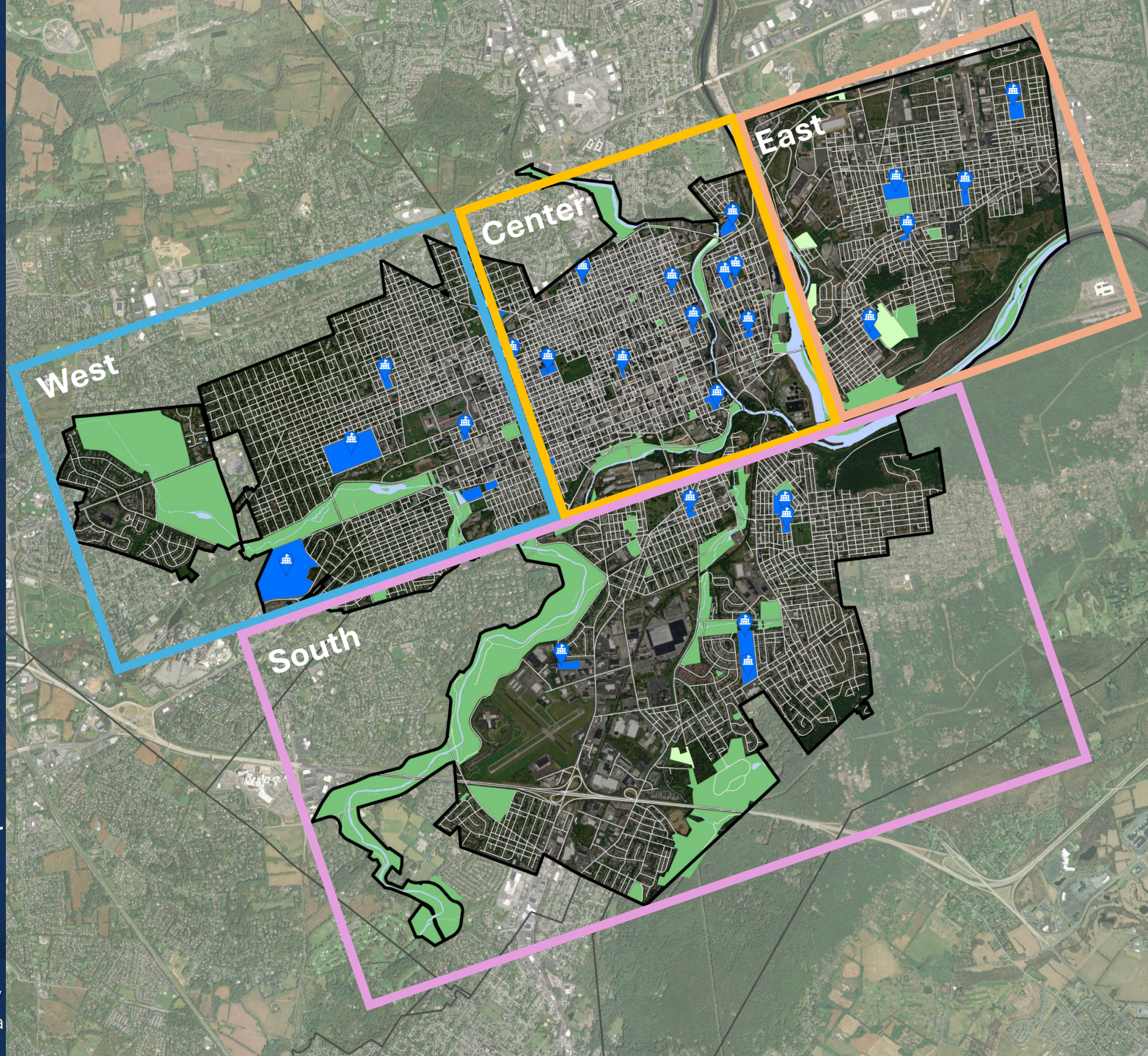
## 4 Neighborhoods:

- West
- East
- South
- Center

## Recreational Programming

### Questions for discussion include:

- What do you like best about the parks?
- What are your favorite memories?
- What would you like to see added to the parks?
- What are the obstacles in getting to the parks without a car?
- Who else could be considered a partner for the parks?





# 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	Wednesday, February 26, 2025	6pm-8pm
Committee Meeting #4	Wednesday, April 9, 2025	7pm-9pm
Engagement for Master Planned Parks <i>Easter Egg Hunt at Bucky Boyle Park</i>	Saturday April 19, 2025	
Engagement for Master Planned Parks <i>Earth Day Celebration at Cedar Beach Park</i>	Saturday April 26, 2025	
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**



# Next Steps - Simone Collins team

- Engagement for Master Planned Parks
  - April 19<sup>th</sup>: Easter Egg Hunt at Bucky Boyle Park
  - April 26<sup>th</sup>: Earth Day Celebration at Cedar Beach Park
- Key Person Interviews
- Continued analysis





# Thank You!

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