



OpenSpacePGH



APPENDIX C

**QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH REPORT
CAMPOS, INC.**

**City of Pittsburgh Comprehensive
Open Space, Parks and Recreation Plan
Online Survey**

**For
MIG, Inc.**

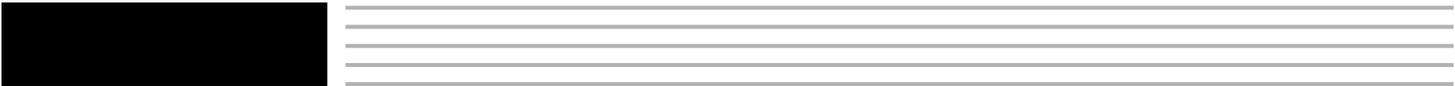
Job #09-303

October 20, 2010



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Background and Methodology

Background

MIG, Inc. was selected by the City of Pittsburgh as the primary consultant for addressing the Open Space, Parks and Recreation (OSPR) chapter of the city's first Comprehensive Plan. The OSPR chapter includes but is not limited to parks, greenways, trails, urban farming, green lots (temporal open space), sensitive environmental areas, steep slopes, athletic fields, swimming pools, senior community centers, and other recreation facilities and programs. The goal of the OSPR Plan is to provide the city clear direction in land use and infrastructure decisions including those decisions related to our green infrastructure (parks, greenways, urban tree canopy, etc.), and in recreation facility infrastructure and associated programming.

A four-phase approach was outlined by MIG, Inc. for developing the OSPR Plan:

- Phase 1 – Understanding the Context: During this phase, we will define the baseline and begin engaging the community in the planning process.
- Phase 2 – Assessing Community Needs: During Phase 2, we will conduct a technical analysis using the baseline of information developed during Phase 1. We will also review best practices and their applicability to Pittsburgh, as well as continue the community engagement process.
- Phase 3 – Developing a Plan of Action: In this phase, the MIG Team will develop a plan of action, identifying draft recommendations and actions and building a model to evaluate economic impacts and return on investment.
- Phase 4 – Refining and Adopting the Plan: During the project's final phase, the MIG team will work closely with City staff to obtain plan approval.

Although many of the tasks associated with each of the respective phases were/ will be performed by MIG, Inc., several tasks included in Phase 2 were dependent on quantitative polling of City of Pittsburgh residents. Consequently, Campos Inc was contracted by MIG Inc. to conduct a city-wide survey among a random sample mirroring the general population of the City of Pittsburgh.

Objectives

The objectives of the survey among City of Pittsburgh residents included:

- Determining the types of recreational activities being performed by city residents and/or their families.
- Measuring current usage of parks and other recreational facilities for such activities.
- Determining residents' perceptions of the importance of parks to the quality of life in local communities and the Pittsburgh area.
- Determining residents' perceptions on the quality of maintenance of the local and Pittsburgh area parks.
- Measuring levels of support for proposed initiatives to balance the quality and quantity of facilities at local and city area parks.
- Identifying residents' priorities and perceived needs of parks, community and recreation facilities, programs, and services in the City of Pittsburgh.
- Developing a profile of participating residents based on demographic information such as age, gender, race, children, household income, etc.

Background and Methodology

Methodology

Campos Inc designed the survey instrument with input and approval from MIG, Inc. based on the learnings from Phase I: Understanding the Context. A random sample of respondents was recruited using Campos Inc's Voice of the Region (VOR) panel.

In total, 410 interviews were conducted by Campos Inc from September 2 through September 21, 2010 as follows:

	Completes
Online	379
Telephone	31
Total	410

As noted above, a multi-modal data collection methodology was utilized and VOR panel members were invited to participate as follows:

- All respondents were initially sent an email—containing a link for the online survey and their unique password—inviting them to participate in the study at their own convenience. Approximately one week following the initial request, reminder email invitations were sent to those who had not yet completed the survey.
- After a second week had passed, the online sample did not match the census data with respect to African-American representation. Therefore, Campos Inc obtained additional targeted sample for African-American respondents and contacted them by telephone during regular business hours. Respondents were given the option to either complete the survey over the phone or, if they preferred, request to have a final email invitation re-sent so that they could complete the survey online.

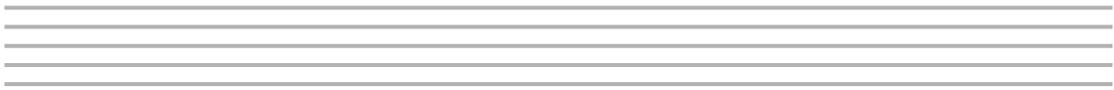
The Campos Inc Voice of the Region sample, which targeted City of Pittsburgh wards/voting districts by zip code, yielded an overall incidence of 49.8% due to quota limits set for the purpose of obtaining a distribution representative of the population of the area according to U.S. Census statistics. The average interview length was 9.6 minutes both online and by phone.

Background and Methodology

A copy of the questionnaire can be found in the Appendix section of the report. All completed interviews were edited, coded, computer tabulated, and analyzed by Campos Inc.

Analytical Notes

- For this study, the total sample size of 410 yielded results with a statistical accuracy of $\pm 4.84\%$ at the 95% confidence level. This means that there is a 1 in 20 chance that the "true" measurement will fall outside of this range.
- In certain cases (noted in the report), caution should be used when interpreting the results of subgroup analysis due to small sample sizes. While subgroups may be too small to draw statistically valid conclusions, patterns may emerge that can be useful.
- Throughout the report, percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding and/or multiple responses.
- The term *net* is used in some tables in this report. *Net* is the summary of a group of related responses and represents the percentage of *respondents* who made one or more comments in that category/group.
- *Base* is the number of respondents who were asked a particular question. At times, questions are skipped by some respondents based on their answers to previous questions.
- A *top-two box* score refers to the two highest responses on a rating scale (for example, *excellent* and *very good*), that have been combined for reporting purposes.
- Several tables throughout the report show only the most frequently mentioned responses. For a complete listing of responses, please refer to Computer Tables, furnished under a separate cover.



Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Respondent Profile

As shown in the table below, the total respondent sample closely reflected the 2000 census data for the City of Pittsburgh (pittsburghareaconnect.com). Please note that while similar, the census data age category for those less than 35 years of age does not exactly match the one used in our study.

Sample and Census Demographics

	Total Sample	City of Pittsburgh 2000 Census Data
Base:	410	334,563
Gender		
Male	35.1%	47.6%
Female	64.9%	52.4%
Age		
18-34 (Census Data: 15-34)	34.6%	39.1%
35-54	35.3%	31.5%
55+	30.0%	29.3%
Race		
White/Caucasian (non-Hispanic)	64.9%	67.6%
Black/African-American (non-Hispanic)	22.2%	27.2%
Other	12.3%	5.2%
Children in Household		
Yes	27.0%	24.8%
No	72.9%	75.2%

Executive Summary

Key Findings

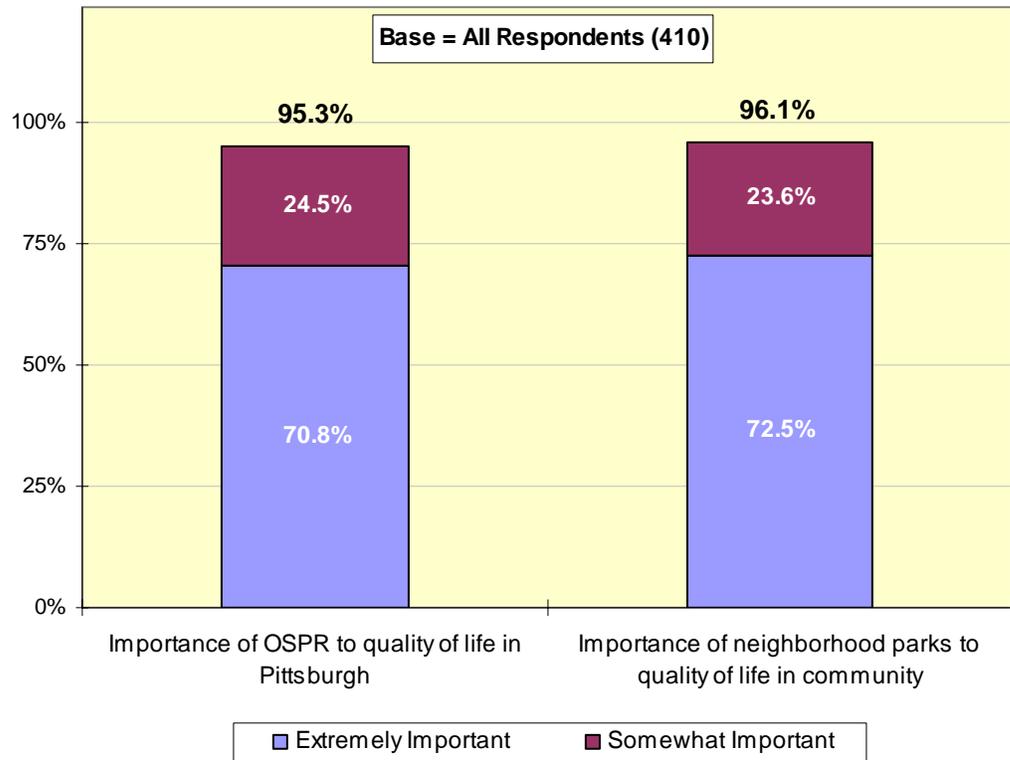
A random sample of Pittsburgh residents were interviewed regarding their usage, perceptions, and attitudes of open spaces, parks, and recreation services (OSPR) in the Pittsburgh Region and at their local parks. This summary highlights findings from the research across the following key areas:

- Perceptions of OSPR
- Usage of OSPR
- Maintenance of OSPR
- Changes to the OSPR System

Perceptions of OSPR

Nearly all Pittsburgh residents view OSPR as either *extremely* or *somewhat* important to the quality of life in the Pittsburgh region and/or their local community (95.3% and 96.4%, respectively).

Importance to Quality of Life



Executive Summary

Usage of OSPR

Local park access and usage is extremely high among respondents. Of the 87.3% of respondents with a park in their neighborhood, 79.9% used their neighborhood park.

- Although there were significant differences within some demographic groups, usage is high across the board with close to three out of four respondents in every demographic category having used their local park.

Usage of Local Park by Demographics

	Use Local Park
Total Respondents	79.9%
Ethnic Background	
Caucasian	78.3%
African-American	78.2%
All Other	91.1%
Gender	
Male	85.6%
Female	76.8%
Age	
18-34	80.6%
35-54	83.3%
55+	74.5%
Children in household	
Yes	87.0%
No	77.1%
Education	
Less than a 4 year degree	71.6%
College Degree	77.4%
Post-graduate education	90.5%
Income	
Less than \$75K	74.5%
More than \$75K	88.9%
Significantly greater	

- Among respondents who didn't use the local park for specific activities a lack of awareness may be to blame; 48.8% don't know where any are and 14.6% don't know what's available at them.

Executive Summary

Three activities/facilities rose to the top as the most vital to the small/neighborhood parks. These were *playgrounds*, *picnic areas*, and *ball fields* (81.7%, 60.5%, and 50.2%; respectively) indicating that these were the most important activities/facilities to be available at every small/neighborhood park.

- Fewer than one-fourth each selected *swimming pools* (25.4%), *spray parks* (*fountains*) (15.6%) and *tennis courts* (11.0%) as most important.

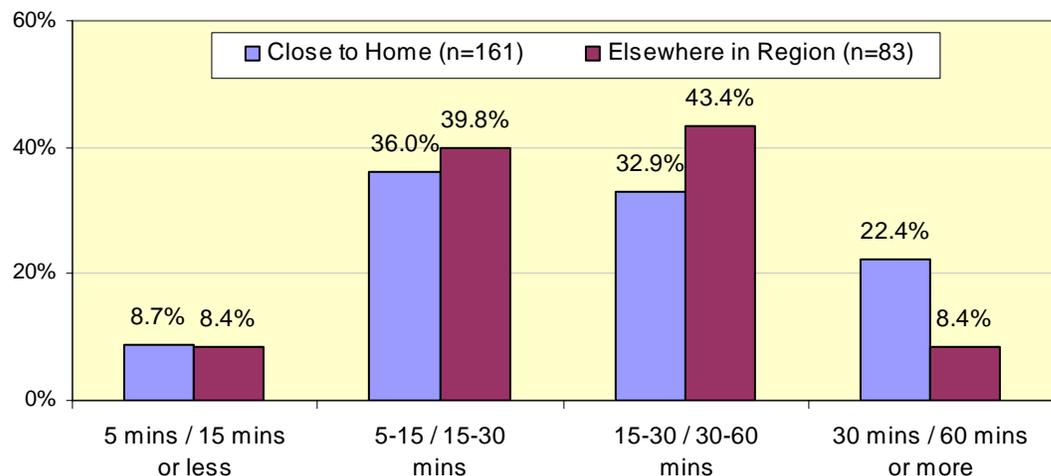
Important Activity/Facility Choice

	Total
Bases:	410
Playground	81.7%
Picnic Area	60.5%
Ball field (baseball/ softball, soccer, etc.)	50.2%
Basketball Court	30.5%
Swimming Pool	25.4%
Spray Park (Fountains)	15.6%
Tennis Court	11.0%

In fact, *swimming* was one of the activities in which a majority of respondents was willing to travel a relatively further distance to participate.

- For swimming close to home, the majority were willing to travel *15-30 minutes* (32.9%) or *30+ minutes* (22.4%).
- Similarly, of those who participate elsewhere in the region the majority were willing to travel *30–60 minutes* (43.4%) or *60+ minutes* (8.4%).

Willingness to Travel for Swimming



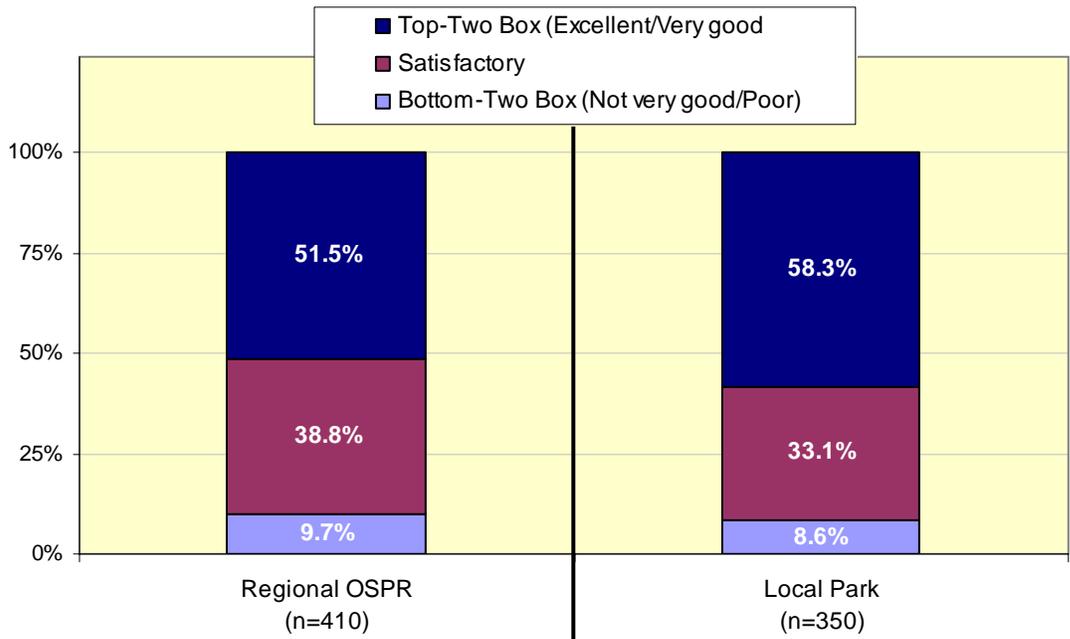
Executive Summary

Maintaining the OSPR

In general, respondents are relatively satisfied with the level of maintenance of local and regional OSPR.

- While not shown below, top-two box ratings were driven primarily by very good ratings for both regional OSPR and local parks (42.8% and 46.3%, respectively) with far fewer excellent ratings (8.7% and 12.0%, respectively).

Satisfaction with Overall Quality of Maintenance



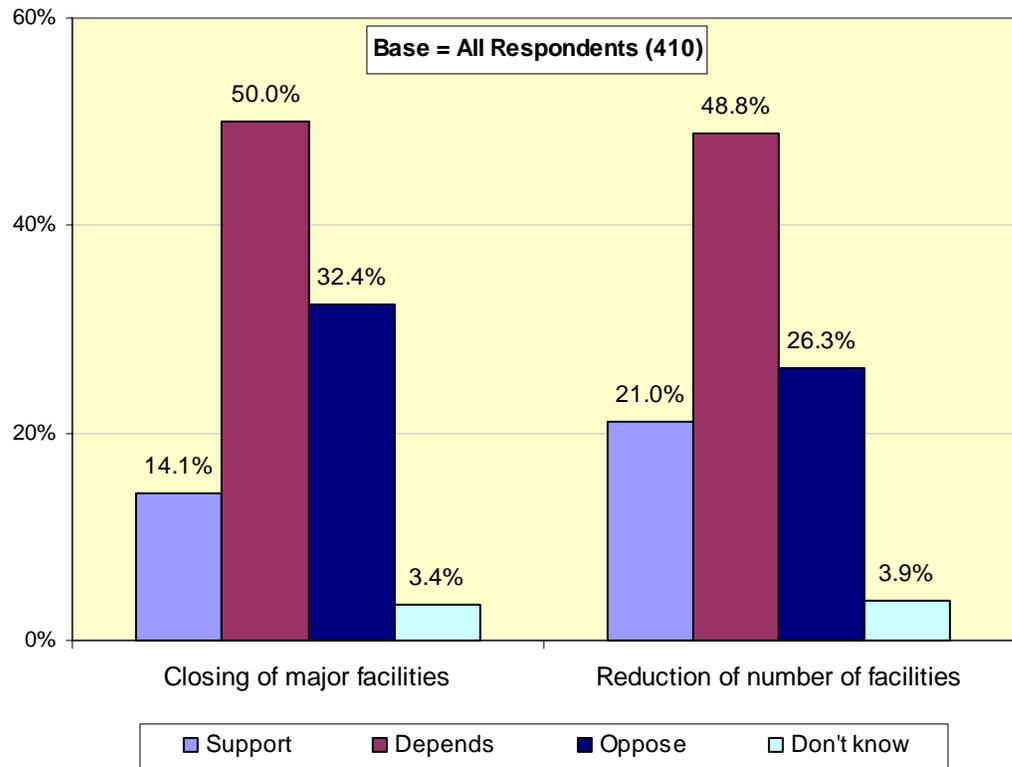
- The most commonly cited reasons for poor or low quality of maintenance ratings were appearance/environment related (open ended responses). Commonly cited reasons included *litter*, *graffiti*, and *dirty*ness.

Executive Summary

Changes to the OSPRS System

Respondents were not favorable to the notion of closing facilities at small parks to maintain major facilities at larger parks nor reducing the number of facilities at smaller/neighborhood parks to maintain the entire park.

Support of Changes to OSPR System



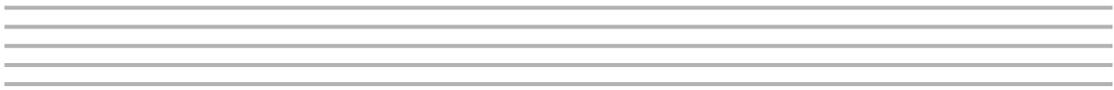
Respondents were most favorable to the ideas of *park sponsorship* (58.0%) and *volunteer maintenance crews* (52.2%) as ways to support facilities at smaller/neighborhood parks.

- For the vacant, under-used and abandoned properties in the city, *agricultural uses* were the most commonly selected idea for redevelopment (51.2%).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The park system is valued by the Pittsburgh community and, as a result, individuals will be resistant to major changes to the OSPR system and neighborhood parks. When modifying the current OSPR system the City of Pittsburgh should consider the following recommendations:

- Create a public dialogue. Over half of respondents stated that their support or opposition to changes in facilities would depend on which parks/facilities were impacted. Keep the public informed about proposed changes.
- Take advantage of public enthusiasm for the OSPRS system. Respondents favored park sponsorship and volunteer maintenance crews as ways to maintain the current park system. Reach out to residents as volunteers and businesses as sources of sponsorship as a way to support local parks.
- When possible, maintain playgrounds, picnic areas, and ball fields at local neighborhood parks. Respondents consider these as the most important facilities and activities for neighborhood parks.
- Swimming pools, tennis courts, and spray fountains are facilities which are seen as less essential to neighborhood parks. Consider these as opportunities for cost savings and as facilities that could potentially be removed from smaller parks and centralized at larger parks.



Detailed Findings

Detailed Findings

Question 5.

In the past year, which of the following recreational activities, if any, have you and/or your family members participated in?

Total Participation

Note:

Q5 was asked of all respondents. Multiple mentions were accepted.

	Total	Have Children	No Children
Bases:	410	111	299
Walking	73.7%	67.6%	75.9%
Gardening	45.9%	45.0%	46.2%
Swimming (Pool)	45.4%	64.0%	38.5%
Picnicking	41.0%	51.4%	37.1%
Dog Walking/Dog Parks	38.3%	47.7%	34.8%
Playground (Visit/Play)	35.9%	62.2%	26.1%
Jogging/Running	35.4%	39.6%	33.8%
Biking (Road/Street/Paved trails)	35.1%	46.8%	30.8%
Nature walking/Birdwatching	34.6%	36.9%	33.8%
Yoga/Pilates	22.9%	11.7%	27.1%
Hiking (Off-Road/Mountain)	22.2%	21.6%	22.4%
Baseball/Softball	18.8%	29.7%	14.7%
Basketball	18.5%	33.3%	13.0%
Tennis	14.9%	15.3%	14.7%
Ice Skating/Ice Hockey	14.6%	18.0%	13.4%
Fishing	14.4%	25.2%	10.4%
Other Field Sports	13.4%	20.7%	10.7%
Sled Riding	13.2%	27.9%	7.7%
Soccer	13.2%	24.3%	9.0%
Rowing/Paddling/Canoeing	12.4%	11.7%	12.7%
Biking (Off-road/Mountain)	10.0%	11.7%	9.4%
Skateboarding	3.9%	9.9%	1.7%
Biking (BMX)	2.4%	5.4%	1.3%

Significantly greater

Findings

Participation in recreation activities in the past year varied from a high of 73.7% of respondents participating in *walking* to a low of 2.4% of respondents participating in *biking (BMX)*. For ease of discussion, the rest of this report will only speak to the activities in which greater than 15% of the respondents indicated participation.

Q5. continued →

Detailed Findings

- The most commonly selected activities included *walking* (73.7%), *gardening* (45.9%), *swimming* (45.5%), and *picnicking* (41.0%).

Differences by Group

- As shown on the previous table, respondents that indicated having children in their household were significantly more likely to have participated in a number of activities relative to respondents without children in their household. These included *swimming*, *picnicking*, *dog walking/dog parks*, and *playground (visit/play)*.
- Additionally, females were significantly more likely than males to have participated in *walking* (78.2 % vs. 65.3 %, respectively) and *yoga* (27.8% vs. 13.9%, respectively). Males were significantly more likely to have participated in *baseball/softball* than females with 27.1% and 14.3% indicating participation, respectively.

Detailed Findings

Question 6. When participating in these activities, do you and/or your family members primarily use parks/ sites close to home, elsewhere in the city or region, or a combination of the two?

Note:

Q6 was asked for each activity named in Q5.

The base sizes shown reflect the number of participants who answered for each activity.

Participation Location

	% of Total (From Q5):	Bases:	Close to Home	Elsewhere	Both
Walking	73.7%	302	57.6%	2.0%	40.1%
Gardening	45.9%	188	94.1%	2.1%	3.7%
Swimming (Pool)	45.4%	186	55.4%	13.4%	31.2%
Picnicking	41.0%	168	36.9%	15.5%	47.6%
Dog Walking/Dog Parks	38.3%	157	67.5%	4.5%	28.0%
Playground (Visit/Play)	35.9%	147	60.5%	4.8%	34.7%
Jogging/ Running	35.4%	145	74.5%	2.8%	22.8%
Biking (Road/ Street/ Paved trails)	35.1%	144	47.2%	8.3%	44.4%
Nature walking/ Birdwatching	34.6%	142	35.2%	13.4%	51.4%
Yoga/ Pilates	22.9%	94	90.4%	2.1%	7.4%
Hiking (Off-road/ Mountain)	22.2%	91	19.8%	30.8%	49.5%
Baseball/ Softball	18.8%	77	51.9%	9.1%	39.0%
Basketball	18.5%	76	65.8%	5.3%	28.9%
Average		→	58.2%	8.8%	33.0%

Above average for column

Findings

In general, respondents participated in activities *close to home* more than *elsewhere in the city or region*.

- For two activities, gardening (94.1%) and yoga/pilates (90.4%), over 90% of respondents indicated that they participated *close to home*. Other activities with greater than average participation *close to home* included jogging/running (74.5%), basketball (65.8%), dog walking/dog parks (67.5%), and playground (visit/play) (60.5%).
- Hiking (off-road/mountain) was the one activity with a greater percentage of respondents indicating that they participated *elsewhere in the city or region* than indicated that they participated *close to home* (30.8% vs. 19.8%, respectively). Other activities with greater than average participation *elsewhere in the city/region* were picnicking (15.5%), swimming (13.4%), nature walking/birdwatching (13.4%), and baseball/softball (9.1%).

Q6. continued →

Detailed Findings

- Walking, picnicking, biking (road/street/paved trails), nature walking/birdwatching, and hiking (off-road/mountain) were the five activities with greater than 40% of respondents indicating that they participated both *close to home* and *elsewhere in the region*.

Detailed Findings

Question 7. For what reasons do you not use parks/sites close to home for [INSERT ACTIVITY]? Select all that apply.

Reasons for Lack of Use

	Total	Use Local Park	Don't Use Local Park
Bases:	124	83	41*
Don't Know where any are	36.3%	30.1%	48.8%
Lack necessary features/facilities	33.9%	33.7%	34.1%
Don't know what's available at them	16.1%	16.9%	14.6%
Too crowded	16.1%	14.5%	19.5%
Safety concerns	13.7%	15.7%	9.8%
Poorly maintained	12.1%	8.4%	19.5%
Too far away	8.1%	6.0%	12.2%
No reason in particular	25.8%	25.3%	26.8%
Significantly greater			

Note:

Q7 was asked for activities in Q5 where elsewhere in region was selected in Q6. The data was collapsed across all activities.

*Caution: Small sample size

Findings

Don't know where any are (36.3%) and *lack necessary features/facilities* (33.9%) were the most commonly cited reasons for not using parks/sites close to home for particular activities.

Differences by Group

- Individuals who indicated that they did not use their local park were significantly more likely to indicate that they *don't know where any are* than individuals who did use their local park (48.8% vs. 30.1%, respectively).

Detailed Findings

Question 8. How long are you willing to travel to reach parks/sites close to home for [INSERT ACTIVITY]?

Distance Willing to Travel (Close to Home)

Note:

Q8 was asked for activities in Q5 where close to home or both was selected in Q6. The base sizes shown reflect the number of respondents who answered for each activity.

Less than 5 minutes and 5-15 minutes combined. 15-30 minutes and 30+ minutes combined.

	% of total (close to home or both)	Bases:	0-15 mins	15-30+ mins
Walking	72.0%	295	57.3%	42.7%
Gardening	44.9%	184	85.3%	14.7%
Swimming (Pool)	39.3%	161	44.7%	55.3%
Dog Walking/Dog Parks	36.6%	150	64.0%	36.0%
Picnicking	34.6%	142	16.2%	83.8%
Jogging/Running	34.4%	141	67.4%	32.6%
Playground (Visit/Play)	34.1%	140	52.8%	47.2%
Biking (Road/ Street/ Paved trails)	32.2%	132	38.6%	61.4%
Nature walking/ Birdwatching	30.0%	123	29.3%	70.7%
Yoga/ Pilates	22.4%	92	64.1%	35.9%
Basketball	17.6%	72	55.5%	44.4%
Baseball/ Softball	17.1%	70	40.0%	60.0%
Hiking (Off-road/Mountain)	15.4%	63	12.7%	87.3%
Average			48.3%	51.7%
			Above average for column	

Findings

In general, the distance that respondents were willing to travel varied by activity.

- The vast majority of participants in gardening (85.3%) were willing to travel only 0-15 minutes to participate. Similarly, over 60% of participants in dog walking/dog parks (64.0%), jogging/running (67.4%), and yoga/pilates (64.1%) were willing to travel only 0-15 minutes.
- In contrast, the vast majority of participants in hiking and picnicking were willing to travel 15-30+ minutes to participate (87.3% and 83.8%, respectively). Other activities with over 60% of participants willing to travel 15-30+ minutes included nature walking/birdwatching (70.7%), biking (61.4%), and baseball/softball (60.0%).

Detailed Findings

Question 9. How long are you willing to travel to reach parks/sites elsewhere in the city or region for [INSERT ACTIVITY]?

Distance Willing to Travel (Elsewhere in City/Region)

Note:

Q9 was asked for activities in Q5 where elsewhere in region or both was selected in Q6.

The base sizes shown reflect the number of respondents who answered for each activity.

Less than 15 minutes and 15-30 minutes combined.

	% of total (<u>elsewhere in region</u> or <u>both</u>)	Bases:	0-30 mins	30-60 mins	60+ mins
Walking	31.0%	127	52.8%	28.3%	18.9%
Picnicking	25.9%	106	24.5%	48.1%	27.4%
Nature walking/ Birdwatching	22.4%	92	31.5%	32.6%	35.9%
Swimming (Pool)	20.2%	83	48.2%	43.4%	8.4%
Biking (Road/Street/Paved trails)	18.5%	76	44.7%	26.3%	28.9%
Hiking (Off-road/Mountain)	17.8%	73	13.7%	28.8%	57.5%
Average			35.9%	34.6%	29.5%
			Above average for column		

Findings

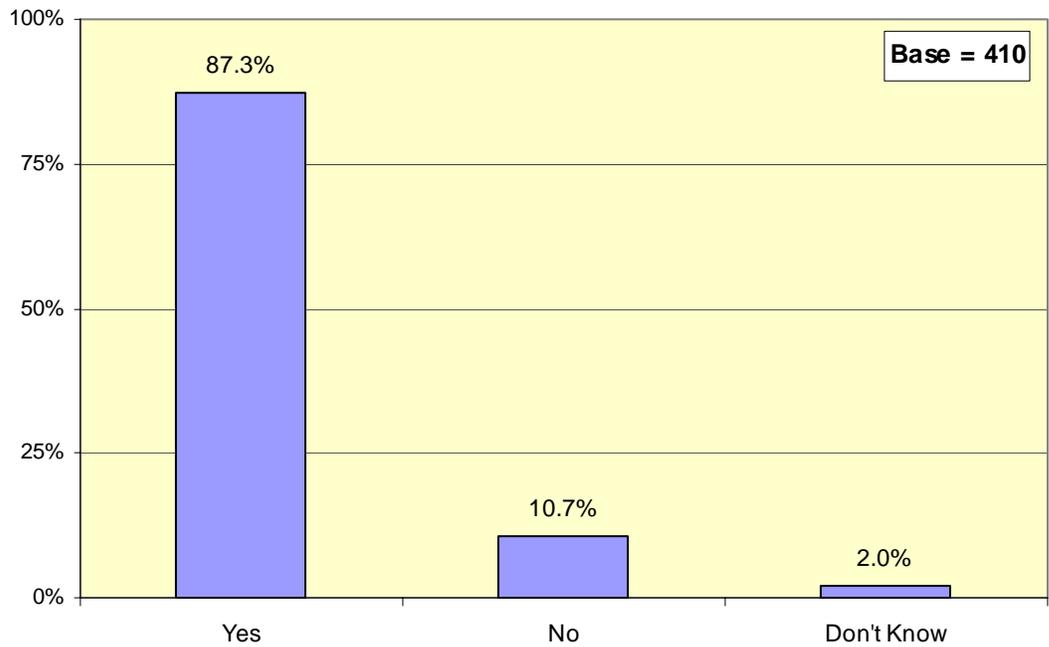
For activities participated *elsewhere in the region* or *both*, the distance that respondents were willing to travel also varied by activity.

- The majority of individuals who participated in walking (52.8%) were willing to travel *0-30 minutes* for participation.
- Close to half of the respondents who participated in picnicking said they were willing to travel *30-60 minutes*.
- Participants in nature walking/birdwatching were split with close to one third of respondents selecting each of the three time periods.
- Both swimming and biking were activities with over 40% of respondents indicating that they were willing to travel *0-30 minutes* (48.2% and 44.7%, respectively).
- Hiking was the one activity with over half of the respondents indicating a willingness to travel *60+ minutes* (57.5%).

Detailed Findings

Question 10. Do you have a park in your neighborhood?

Park in Neighborhood



Note:

Q10 was asked of all respondents.

Findings

The vast majority of respondents (87.3%) indicated there was a park in their neighborhood.

Detailed Findings

Question 10a. Do you use it?

Use Neighborhood Park

	Total	Gender		Children		Education			Income	
		Male	Female	Yes	No	Less than College	College	Post-Grad	Less than \$75K	More than \$75K
Bases:	358	125	233	100	258	116	124	116	220	126
Yes	79.9%	85.6%	76.8%	87.0%	77.1%	71.6%	77.4%	90.5%	74.5%	88.9%

Significantly greater

Note:

Q10 was asked of respondents who indicated having a park in their neighborhood in Q10.

Findings

Of the participants with a park in their neighborhood, 79.9% indicated that they use their park.

Differences by Group

- Males (85.6%) were significantly more likely to indicate using their neighborhood park than females (76.8%).
- Respondents with children in the home (87.0%) were significantly more likely to use their park than respondents without children (77.1%).
- Individuals with a post-graduate education (90.5%) were significantly more likely to use their park than those with a college degree (77.4%) or those with less than a college degree (71.6%).
- Individuals with a household income above \$75K (88.9%) were significantly more likely to use the park than individuals with a household income below \$75K (74.5%).

Detailed Findings

Question 11. How important are the open spaces, parks and recreation services to the quality of life in the Pittsburgh Area?

Importance to Quality of Life-OSPRS

	Total	Use Local Park	Don't Use Local Park
Bases:	408	286	122
Extremely important	70.8%	79.0%	51.6%
Somewhat important	24.5%	18.2%	39.3%
Top-Two Box	95.3%	97.2%	91.0%
No opinion	3.2%	2.1%	5.7%
Not very important	1.2%	0.7%	2.5%
Not important at all	0.2%	0.0%	0.8%

Significantly greater

Note:

Q11 was asked of all respondents. Don't know responses were removed from analysis.

Findings

The vast majority of respondents (95.3%) indicated that the open spaces, parks, and recreation services were either *extremely* or *somewhat important* to the quality of life in the Pittsburgh area. Of these respondents, 70.8% indicated that the parks were *extremely important*.

Differences by Group

- Individuals who used their local park were significantly more likely to choose *extremely important* than those who didn't use their local park (79.0% vs. 51.6%, respectively).

Detailed Findings

Question 12.

How would you rate the overall quality of maintenance of the open spaces, parks and recreation services in the Pittsburgh Area?

Overall Maintenance Quality

	Total	Use Local Park	Don't Use Local Park
Bases:	402	285	117
Excellent	8.7%	10.5%	4.3%
Very good	42.8%	44.9%	37.6%
Top-Two Box	51.5%	55.4%	41.9%
Satisfactory	38.8%	36.5%	44.4%
Not very good	8.0%	7.4%	9.4%
Poor	1.7%	0.7%	4.3%

Significantly greater

Note:

Q12 was asked of all respondents. Don't know responses were removed from analysis.

Findings

Over half of respondents gave a top-two box rating (51.5%) for the overall quality of maintenance of Pittsburgh open spaces, parks, and recreation services compared to slightly less than half that selected *satisfactory* (38.8%), *not very good* (8.0%), or *poor* (1.7%).

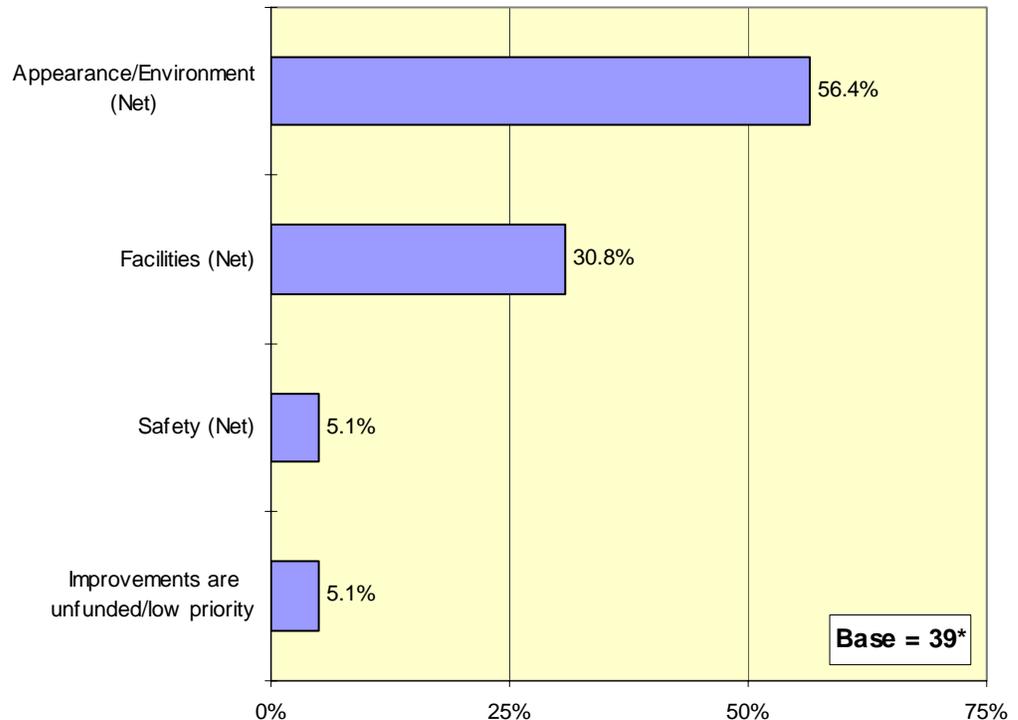
Differences by Group

- Individuals who used their local parks were significantly more likely to indicate that the quality of maintenance was *excellent* than individuals who did not use their local park (10.5% vs. 4.3%, respectively).
- A small but significantly greater percentage of respondents who do not use their local park selected *poor* (4.3%) than those who do use their park (0.7%)
- In addition, respondents without children felt that the level of maintenance was better than individuals without children; a significantly greater number of respondents without children in the home indicated a top-two box rating than did respondents with children in the home (56.3% vs. 38.5%).
- Respondents with children were significantly more likely to indicate *satisfactory* than those without children (48.6% vs. 56.3%).

Detailed Findings

Question 12a. Why do you feel this way?

Open Ended Reason for Poor Maintenance



Note:

Q12 was asked, in an open ended format, to those who responded not very good or poor in Q12.

*Caution: Small sample size

Findings

Responses to the open ended questions were coded and classified into categories.

- For the few people who indicated that the overall maintenance of the parks/services in the Pittsburgh area was not very good or poor, the most commonly cited reasons was that the appearance/environment of the parks (56.4%). This included mentions of *litter*, *graffiti*, and *poor landscaping*.

Three in ten respondents (30.8%) mentioned facilities as the reason for the not very good or poor maintenance. This included mentions of *old equipment*, *poorly maintained trails*, and *old signage*.

Please refer to the computer tables for a complete list of responses.

Detailed Findings

Question 13. How important are neighborhood parks to the quality of life in local communities?

Importance to Quality of Life -Neighborhood Parks

Note:

Q13 was asked of all respondents. Don't know responses were removed from analysis.

	Total	Use Local Park	Don't Use Local Park
Bases:	407	286	121
Extremely important	72.5%	78.3%	58.7%
Somewhat important	23.6%	19.2%	33.9%
Top-Two Box	96.1%	97.6%	92.6%
No opinion	2.7%	2.4%	3.3%
Not very important	1.0%	0.0%	3.3%
Not important at all	0.2%	0.0%	0.8%

Significantly greater

Findings

The vast majority (96.1%) of respondents indicated that the neighborhood parks were either *extremely important* (72.5%) or *somewhat important* (23.6%) to the quality of life in local communities.

Differences by Group

- Individuals who use their local parks were more likely to indicate that the neighborhood parks were *extremely important* than those who did not use their parks (78.3% vs. 58.7%, respectively).
- Conversely, individuals who did not use their local parks were more likely to indicate that the neighborhood parks were *somewhat important* (33.9% vs. 19.2%, respectively) or *not important at all* (0.8% vs. 0.0%, respectively) than those who did not use their local park.

Detailed Findings

Question 14. How would you rate the overall quality of maintenance of the parks near your home?

Quality of Maintenance-Neighborhood Parks

Note:

Q14 was asked of all respondents who indicated having a park in their neighborhood in Q10.

	Total	Use Local Park	Don't Use Local Park
Bases:	350	285	65
Excellent	12.0%	12.6%	9.2%
Very good	46.3%	47.7%	40.0%
Top-Two Box	58.3%	60.4%	49.2%
Satisfactory	33.1%	32.3%	36.9%
Not very good	6.9%	6.7%	7.7%
Poor	1.7%	0.7%	6.2%
Significantly greater			

Findings

Nearly six in ten (58.3%) respondents indicated that the quality of maintenance in their neighborhood parks was either *excellent* (12%) or *very good* (46.3%).

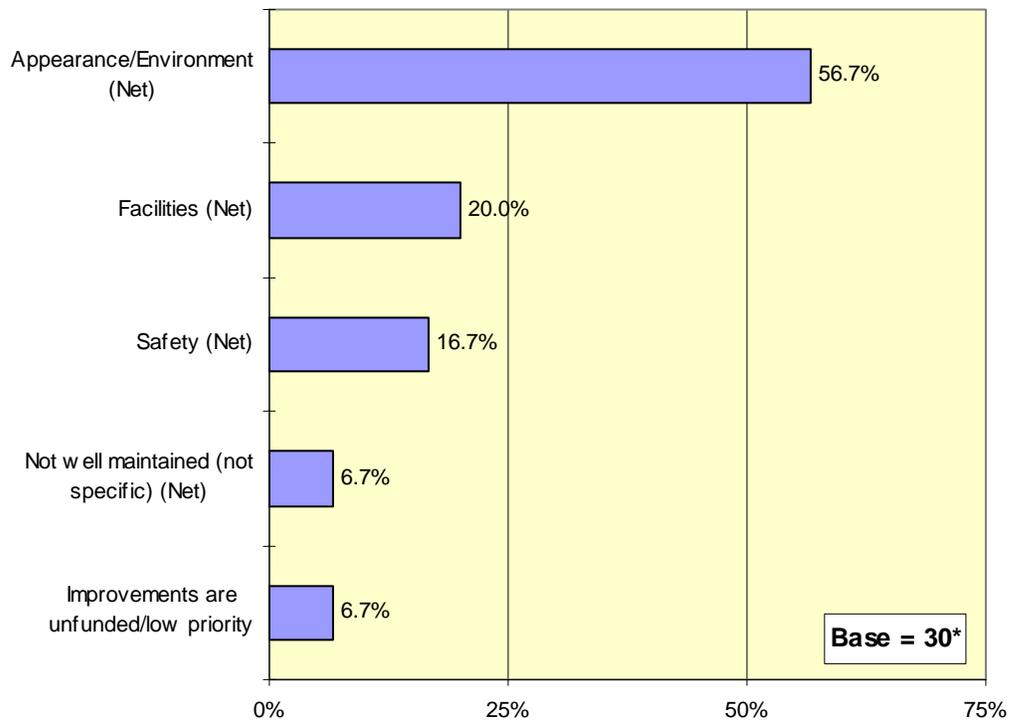
Differences by Group

- Individuals who did not use their local park were significantly more likely to indicate that the quality of maintenance was *Poor* than those who did use the park (6.2% vs. 0.7%, respectively).
- In addition, respondents without children felt that the level of maintenance was better than individuals with children; a significantly greater number of respondents without children in home indicated a top-two box rating than did respondents with children in the home (63.6% vs. 44.3%, respectively).
- Respondents with children were significantly more likely to indicate *satisfactory* than those without children (45.4% vs. 28.5%, respectively).

Detailed Findings

Question 14a. Why do you feel this way?

Reason for Low Maintenance Opinion



Note:

Q14a was asked, in an open ended format, to respondents who selected not very good or poor in Q14.

*Caution: Small sample size

Findings

Responses to the open-ended questions were coded and classified into categories.

- For the few people who indicated that the overall maintenance of their neighborhood parks/services was not very good or poor, the most commonly cited reasons was that the appearance/environment of the parks (56.7%). This included mentions of *litter*, *dirty*, and *graffiti*.
- One in five respondents (20.0%) mentioned *facilities* as the reason for the not very good or poor maintenance. This included mentions of *old* and *outdated equipment*.
- Please refer to the computer tables for a complete list of responses.

Detailed Findings

Question 15.

Would you support or oppose the closing of major facilities (i.e., swimming pools, tennis courts, etc.) at smaller/neighborhood parks so that major facilities at larger recreational areas/parks in the city could be improved and sufficiently maintained?

Support Closing Facilities

	Total	Use Local Park	Don't Use Local Park
Bases:	410	286	124
Support	14.1%	12.9%	16.9%
Depends on which parks/facilities	50.0%	48.6%	53.2%
Oppose	32.4%	35.7%	25.0%
Don't know	3.4%	2.8%	4.8%

Significantly greater

Note:

Q15 was asked of all respondents.

Findings

There was limited support for the closing of major facilities at smaller parks to maintain larger parks; 14.1% of respondents chose *support*, while 50.0% indicated that it *depended on which parks/facilities would be closed*.

Differences by Group

- Significantly more respondents who used their local park indicated *oppose* than those who didn't use the neighborhood park (35.7% vs. 25.0%, respectively).

Detailed Findings

Question 16.

Would you support or oppose a reduction in the number of facilities at smaller/neighborhood parks so that the money and labor saved by the reductions could be used to maintain the entire park and its remaining facilities even better?

Support Reducing Facilities

	Total	Use Local Park	Don't Use Local Park
Bases:	410	286	124
Support	21.0%	22.4%	17.7%
Depends on which parks/facilities	48.8%	45.5%	56.5%
Oppose	26.3%	29.4%	19.4%
Don't know	3.9%	2.8%	6.5%

Significantly greater

--

Note:

Q16 was asked of all respondents.

Findings

One in five respondents (21.0%) *supported* reducing the number of facilities at smaller parks to maintain the entire park, while the majority indicated that it *depends on which parks/facilities* (48.8%).

Differences by Group

- Significantly more individuals who use their local park stated that it *depends* than those who use their local park (56.5% vs. 45.5%, respectively)
- One in four respondents (26.0%) *opposed* a reduction in the number of facilities with a significantly greater percentage of individuals who used their local parks voicing opposition (29.4%) than those who did not use their local park (19.4%).

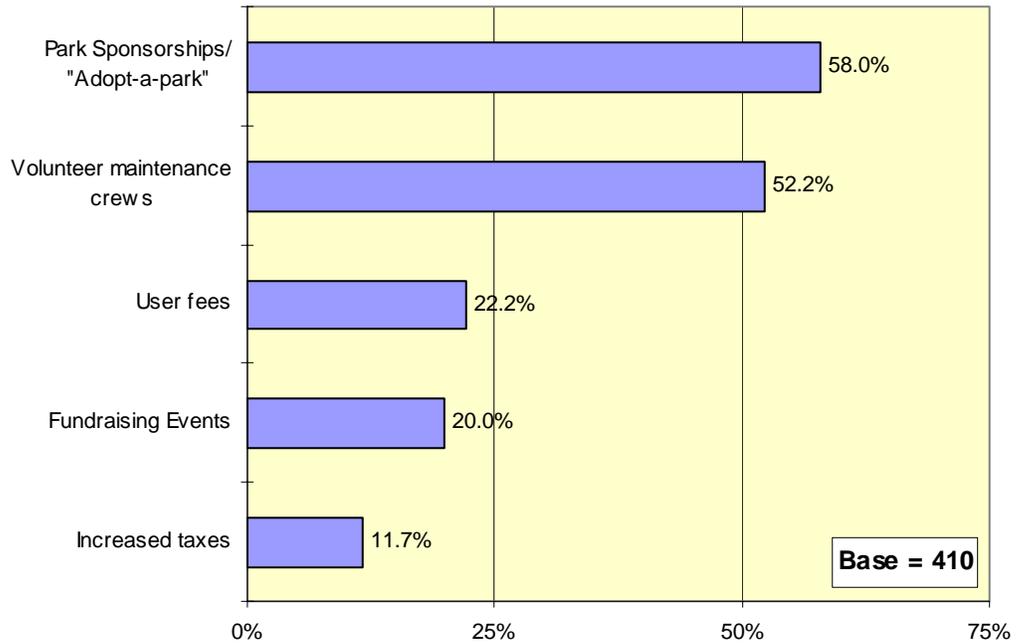
Detailed Findings

Question 16a. How would you suggest supporting facilities at either smaller/neighborhood or larger recreational areas/parks in the city so that reductions do not have to occur and they remain properly maintained?

Note:

Q16 was asked of all respondents. Multiple mentions were accepted.

Support Options



Findings

When presented with options for how to support park facilities, over 50% each of respondents selected *park sponsorships* (58.0%) and *volunteer maintenance crews* (52.2%).

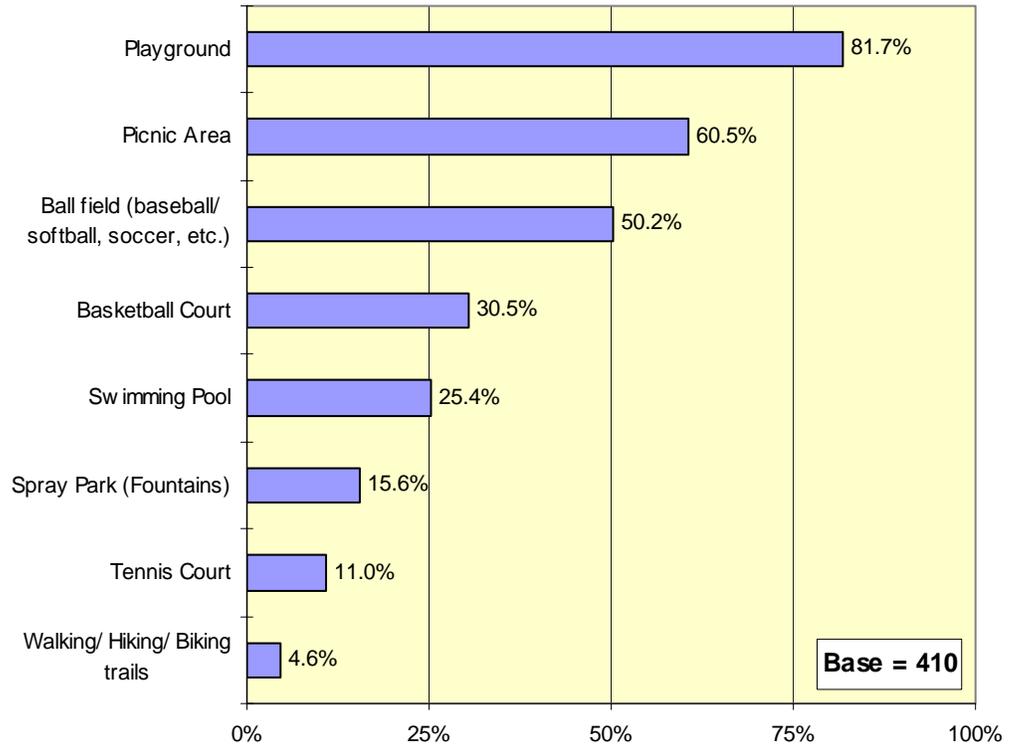
- *User fees* and *fundraising events* were selected by approximately one in five respondents (22.2% and 20.0%, respectively) while *increased taxes* was selected by only 11.7% of respondents.
- Please refer to the computer tables for a complete list of *other* responses.

Detailed Findings

Question 17.

In addition to open-space/green-space, what do you feel are the three most important activities/ facilities that should be available at every small/neighborhood park?

Most important activities/facilities



Note:

Q17 was asked of all respondents. Respondents selected three answers.

Findings

Playgrounds (81.7%) were by far the most important activity/facility to respondents.

- Picnic areas (60.5%) and ball fields (50.2%) followed playgrounds as the next most important activities/facilities that should be available in small/neighborhood parks.

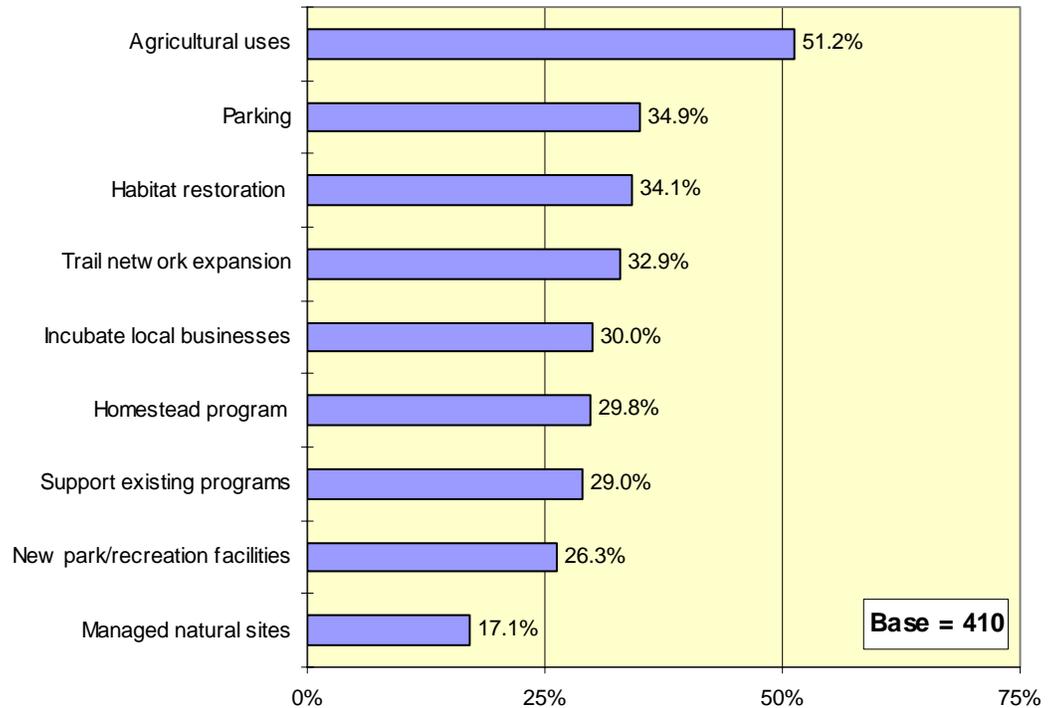
Detailed Findings

Question 18. Keeping in mind the limited resources available for proper maintenance, of the following ideas (generated from public input so far) for improving/redeveloping the many vacant, under-used and abandoned properties in the city, which three do you feel would be the most beneficial to the region as a whole?

Note:

Q18 was asked of all respondents. Respondents selected three answers.

Uses for Under-used and Open Space



Findings

The greatest percentage of respondents selected *agricultural uses* (51.2%) as the most beneficial usage of under-used space, while the fewest percentage of respondents selected *managed natural sites* (17.1%).

- All other responses were selected by close to 30% of respondents.

Detailed Findings

Question 19. **Is there anything else you would like to tell us about open space, parks and recreation in the Pittsburgh area?**

Note:

Q19 was asked of all respondents.

Please refer to the appendix section of this report for a complete list of responses.

Detailed Findings

Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 20.

Respondent Profile

Note:

Q1-4, 20 were asked of all respondents. On Q20, a response was not required.

	Total
Base:	410
Gender	
Male	35.1%
Female	64.9%
Age	
18-34	34.6%
35-54	35.3%
55+	30.0%
Race	
White/Caucasian (non-Hispanic)	64.9%
Black/African-American (non-Hispanic)	22.2%
East Asian/ Chinese/ Japanese	5.6%
Hispanic	3.4%
All Other	3.3%
Children in Household	
Yes	27.0%
No	72.9%
Marital Status	
Single	35.4%
Married	44.1%
Living with Partner	8.5%
Divorced	8.0%
Widowed	3.9%

Detailed Findings

Questions 22, 23, 24, 25, 26.

Respondent Profile (continued)

Note:

Q22–26 were asked of all respondents. A response was not required.

	Total
Education	
Base:	408
Less than College Graduate	34.4%
College Graduate	33.2%
Post Graduate Studies/Degree	32.0%
Employment	
Base:	410
Employed full-time	58.3%
Employed part-time	10.0%
Self-employed	6.3%
Unemployed	10.0%
Retired	15.1%
Income	
Base:	396
Up to \$50,000	39.3%
\$50K - \$100K	41.4%
\$100K+	19.1%
Zip Code	
Base:	410
15206	10.7%
15212	9.0%
15217	8.5%
15213	6.1%
15221	5.1%
15201	4.1%
15224	3.9%
15210	3.7%
15216	3.4%
15220	3.2%
15203	3.2%
15218	3.2%
15208	2.9%
15232	2.9%
15214	2.7%
15227	2.7%
15205	2.7%
15236	2.7%
15226	2.4%
15207	2.4%
15219	2.0%
15211	2.0%
15222	1.7%
15204	1.7%
15147	1.2%
15233	1.0%
15234	0.7%
15136	0.7%
15215	0.2%
No Response	3.2%

Detailed Findings

Question 21. What is the name of the neighborhood that you live in?

Neighborhood

- Allegheny (1 respondent)
- Allentown (1 respondent)
- Arlington (3 respondents)
- Avalon (1 respondent)
- Baldwin (6 respondents)
- Banksville (5 respondents)
- Beechview (8 respondents)
- Beechwood (1 respondent)
- Bellevue (1 respondent)
- Blackridge (1 respondent)
- Bloomfield (8 respondents)
- Bon Air (1 respondent)
- Brentwood (4 respondents)
- Brighton Heights (9 respondents)
- Brookline (8 respondents)
- California-Kirkbride (1 respondent)
- Carrick (7 respondents)
- Castle Shannon (1 respondent)
- Charles Street area (1 respondent)
- Churchill (2 respondents)
- Dormont (5 respondents)
- Crafton (5 respondents)
- Danton Heights (1 respondent)
- Downtown (4 respondents)
- Duquesne Heights (1 respondent)
- Duquesne Place (1 respondent)
- East Hills (1 respondent)
- East Liberty (7 respondents)
- Edgewood (4 respondents)
- Fineview (1 respondent)

Note:

Q21 was asked of all respondents. A response was not required.

Q21. continued →

Detailed Findings

- Forest Hills (4 respondents)
- Frick Park (1 respondent)
- Friendship (7 respondents)
- Garfield (2 respondents)
- Green Tree (5 respondents)
- Greenfield (11 respondents)
- Hazelwood (1 respondent)
- Highland Park (18 respondents)
- Hill District (4 respondents)
- Homewood (4 respondents)
- Ingram (1 respondent)
- Kennedy Township (1 respondent)
- Knoxville (1 respondent)
- Lawrenceville (7 respondents)
- Lincoln Place (1 respondent)
- Manchester (4 respondents)
- Marshall-Shadeland (3 respondents)
- McKees Rocks (1 respondent)
- Mexican War Streets (1 respondent)
- Morningside (8 respondents)
- Mt. Washington (1 respondent)
- Mt. Lebanon (4 respondents)
- Mt. Washington (6 respondents)
- Mt. Oliver City (1 respondent)
- Murdoch Farms (1 respondent)
- North Hills (1 respondent)
- Oakland (21 respondents)
- Point Breeze (12 respondents)
- North Shore (3 respondents)
- North Side (7 respondents)
- Oak Hill (1 respondent)
- Observatory Hill (5 respondents)
- O'Hara (1 respondent)

Q21. continued →

Detailed Findings

- Overbrook (1 respondent)
- Penn Hills (3 respondents)
- Pennsbury (1 respondent)
- Perry (3 respondents)
- Pittsburgh (4 respondents)
- Pleasant Hills (3 respondents)
- Polish Hill (2 respondents)
- Regent Square (3 respondents)
- Reserve (3 respondents)
- Robinson (3 respondents)
- Schenley Farms (1 respondent)
- Scott Township (1 respondent)
- Shadyside (20 respondents)
- Sheraden (4 respondents)
- Schenley Heights (1 respondent)
- South Park (1 respondent)
- South Side (12 respondents)
- Squirrel Hill (29 respondents)
- Stanton Heights (7 respondents)
- Strip District (2 respondents)
- Summerset at Frick Park (1 respondent)
- Swisshelm Park (1 respondent)
- Swissvale (6 respondents)
- The fringe (1 respondent)
- Troy Hill (3 respondents)
- Urban City (1 respondent)
- Verona (2 respondents)
- Wallace Park (1 respondent)
- West End (3 respondents)
- Westwood (3 respondents)
- Whitehall (5 respondents)
- Wilkinsburg (8 respondents)
- Wind Gap (2 respondents)
- No answer/Refused (20 respondents)



Appendix A – Questionnaire

**Open Space, Parks and Recreation Plan Survey
Voice of the Region
Campos Inc Job #09-303
September 15, 2010**

Thank you for taking part in our survey. Click **CONTINUE** to begin survey.

Section I: Tell us about yourself.

S1. Are you a full-time resident of the City of Pittsburgh (i.e., are you eligible to vote in mayoral elections based on where you live)?

- Yes 1
- No 2 **TERMINATE**
- Don't know 3 **TERMINATE**

1. What is your age?

- 18 to 24..... 1
- 25 to 34..... 2
- 35 to 44..... 3
- 45 to 54..... 4
- 55 to 64..... 5
- 65 to 74..... 6
- 75 or older 7

2. Are you a...?

- Male..... 1
- Female 2

3. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

- White/Caucasian (non-Hispanic)..... 1 **TERMINATE**
- Black/African-American (non-Hispanic)..... 2
- Hispanic/Latino 3
- East Asian/Chinese/Japanese..... 4
- West Asian/Indian/Egyptian 5
- Native American/American Indian/Alaskan Native 6
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 7
- Other (SPECIFY) _____ 8

4. Do you have children living in your household for three or more months in the year in the following age groups? **Select All That Apply**

- Under the age of 5..... 1
- 5 to 10 years old 2
- 11 to 15 years old..... 3
- 16 to 18 years old..... 4
- No children in the household 5

Section 2: Usage of Parks

5. In the past year, which of the following recreational activities, if any, have you and/or your family members participated in?

Select All That Apply

Baseball/Softball.....	01
Basketball.....	02
Biking (BMX).....	03
Biking (Off-road/Mountain)	04
Biking (Road/Street/Paved trails).....	05
Dog walking/Dog parks	06
Fishing.....	07
Gardening.....	08
Hiking (Off-road/Mountain).....	09
Ice skating/Ice Hockey	10
Jogging/Running	11
Nature walking/Birdwatching.....	12
Other field sports (Rugby, Football, Kickball, Ultimate).....	13
Picnicking	14
Playground (Visit/Play).....	15
Rowing/Paddling/Canoeing	16
Skateboarding	17
Sled riding.....	18
Soccer.....	19
Swimming (Pool)	20
Tennis.....	21
Yoga/Pilates	22
Walking.....	23
Other (Specify).....	24
Other (Specify).....	25
Other (Specify).....	26
EXC --None, I do not participate in any recreational activities	27

SKIP to Q10

Programmer Note: For Q6, use an Answer Grid and ONLY ask for activities selected in Q5.

6. When participating in these activities, do you and/or your family members primarily use parks/sites close to home, elsewhere in the city or region, or a combination of the two?

	Close to Home	Elsewhere in Region	Both
Baseball/Softball.....	1	2	3
Basketball.....	1	2	3
Biking (BMX).....	1	2	3
Biking (Off-road/Mountain)	1	2	3
Biking (Road/Street/Paved trails).....	1	2	3
Dog walking/Dog parks	1	2	3
Fishing.....	1	2	3
Gardening.....	1	2	3
Hiking (Off-road/Mountain).....	1	2	3
Ice skating/Ice Hockey	1	2	3
Jogging/Running	1	2	3
Nature walking/Birdwatching.....	1	2	3
Other field sports (Rugby, Football, Kickball, Ultimate).....	1	2	3
Picnicking	1	2	3
Playground (Visit/Play).....	1	2	3
Rowing/Paddling/Canoeing	1	2	3
Skateboarding	1	2	3
Sled riding.....	1	2	3
Soccer.....	1	2	3
Swimming (Pool)	1	2	3
Tennis.....	1	2	3
Yoga/Pilates	1	2	3
Walking.....	1	2	3
Other (Specify).....	1	2	3
Other (Specify).....	1	2	3
Other (Specify).....	1	2	3

Programmer Note: For Q7, ONLY ask for activities selected in Q5 where ELSEWHERE IN REGION (2) was selected in Q6, otherwise SKIP to Q8a.

7. For what reasons do you not use parks/sites close to home for **[INSERT ACTIVITY]**?
Select All That Apply

- Don't know where any are 1
- Don't know what's available at them 2
- Lack necessary features/facilities..... 3
- Poorly maintained (i.e., trash/liter, sanitation, etc.) 4
- Safety concerns (i.e., crime, equipment/facilities, etc.) 5
- Too crowded..... 6
- Too far away/difficult to get to..... 7
- Other (Specify)..... 8

EXC--No reason in particular 9

Programmer Note: For Q8, ONLY ask for activities selected in Q5 where either CLOSE TO HOME (1) or BOTH (3) was selected, otherwise SKIP to Q9.

8. How long are you willing to travel to reach parks/sites close to home for **[INSERT ACTIVITY]**?

- 5 minutes or less..... 1
- 5 to 15 minutes..... 2
- 15 to 30 minutes..... 3
- 30 minutes or more..... 4

Programmer Note: For Q9, ONLY ask for activities selected in Q5 where either ELSEWHERE IN REGION (2) or BOTH (3) was selected, otherwise SKIP to Q10.

9. How long are you willing to travel to reach parks/sites elsewhere in the city or region for **[INSERT ACTIVITY]**?

- 15 minutes or less 1
- 15 to 30 minutes..... 2
- 30 to 60 minutes..... 3
- 60 minutes or more..... 4

10. Do you have a park in your neighborhood?

- Yes 1
- No..... 2
- Don't know..... 3

SKIP to Q11
SKIP to Q11

10a. Do you use it?

- Yes 1
- No..... 2
- Don't know..... 3

Section 3: Perceptions of Parks

Now we are going to explore open spaces, parks and recreation in Pittsburgh on a broader level.

11. How important are the *open spaces, parks and recreation services* to the quality of life in the Pittsburgh Area?

- Extremely important..... 5
- Somewhat important..... 4
- No opinion 3
- Not very important..... 2
- Not important at all 1
- Don't know 6

12. How would you rate the overall quality of maintenance of the open spaces, parks and recreation services in the Pittsburgh Area?

- Excellent..... 5 **SKIP to Q13**
- Very good..... 4 **SKIP to Q13**
- Satisfactory 3 **SKIP to Q13**
- Not very good..... 2
- Poor 1
- Don't know 6 **SKIP to Q13**

12a. Why do you feel this way?

13. How important are *neighborhood parks* to the quality of life in local communities?

- Extremely important..... 5
- Somewhat important..... 4
- No opinion 3
- Not very important..... 2
- Not important at all 1
- Don't know 6

Programmer Note: ONLY ask Q14 if selected YES (1) in Q10, otherwise SKIP to Q15.

14. How would you rate the overall quality of maintenance of the parks near your home?

- Excellent..... 5 **SKIP to Q15**
- Very good..... 4 **SKIP to Q15**
- Satisfactory 3 **SKIP to Q15**
- Not very good..... 2
- Poor 1
- Don't know 6 **SKIP to Q15**

14a. Why do you feel this way?

Section 4: Impact of Changes to the Park System

Due to the fact that the population of the City of Pittsburgh is now half as large as it once was, the city’s resources are no longer adequate enough to sustain the open spaces, parks and recreation services of the past. Therefore, difficult decisions must be made regarding the number and distribution of many recreational facilities/activities across the entire park system to create a sustainable system that best serves the community. Decisions about this balance of quantity and quality will be guided by public input.

15. Would you *support* or *oppose* the closing of major facilities (i.e., swimming pools, tennis courts, etc.) at smaller/neighborhood parks so that major facilities at larger recreational areas/parks in the city could be improved and sufficiently maintained?

- Support..... 1
- Oppose..... 2
- Depends on the which parks/facilities would be effected 3
- Don’t know 4

16. Would you *support* or *oppose* a reduction in the number of facilities at smaller/neighborhood parks so that the money and labor saved by the reductions could be used to maintain the entire park and its remaining facilities even better?

- Support 1
- Oppose. 2
- Depends on what facilities would be removed..... 3
- Don’t know 4

Programmer Note: ONLY ask Q16a if did NOT select **SUPPORT (1) in both Q15 and Q16; otherwise **SKIP** to Q17.**

16a. How would you suggest supporting facilities at either smaller/neighborhood or larger recreational areas/parks in the city so that reductions do not have to occur and they remain properly maintained? **Select All That Apply**

- Increased taxes..... 1
- Park sponsorships/”Adopt-a-Park” 2
- User fees..... 3
- Volunteer maintenance crews 4
- Other (Specify)_____ 5
- EXC**---Don’t know 6

17. In addition to open-space/green-space, what do you feel are the *three most* important activities/facilities that should be available at every small/neighborhood park?

Please Select Three (3)

- Ball Field (baseball/softball, soccer, etc.) 01
- Basketball Court 02
- Hockey Court 03
- Picnic Area 04
- Playground..... 05
- Skate Park..... 06
- Spray Park (Fountains)..... 07
- Swimming Pool..... 08
- Tennis Court 09
- Other (Specify)_____ 10
- Other (Specify)_____ 11
- Other (Specify)_____ 12

EXC--Don't know..... 13

18. Keeping in mind the limited resources available for proper maintenance, of the following ideas (generated from public input so far) for improving/redeveloping the many vacant, under-used and abandoned properties in the city, which *three* do you feel would be the most beneficial to the region as a whole?

Please Select Three (3)

- Agricultural uses (i.e., community gardens, farms, etc.)01
- Habitat restoration (i.e., forests, streams, etc.).....02
- Homestead program to bring in new homeowners03
- Incubate local businesses, entrepreneurs, and non-profits04
- Keep/Landbank property with future development potential.....05
- New park/recreation facilities06
- Parking for neighborhood business districts that need it.....07
- Managed natural sites that contain/clean stormwater or run-off08
- Support existing programs/uses to work faster/better.....09
- Trail network expansion (walking, hiking, and/or biking)..... 10
- Other (Specify)_____ 11
- Other (Specify)_____ 12
- Other (Specify)_____ 13

19. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about open space, parks and recreation in the Pittsburgh Area?

Section 5: Demographics

Programmer Note: Program Q20–Q25 as “Not Required”

20. What is your Zip Code? _____

21. What is the name of the neighborhood that you live in?

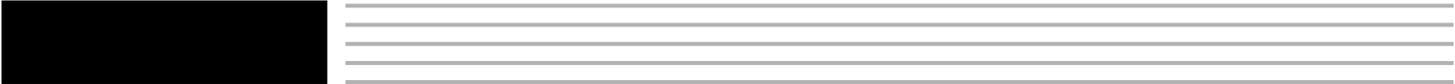
22. Are you...?
- Single..... 1
 - Married..... 2
 - Living with partner..... 3
 - Divorced..... 4
 - Widowed..... 5

23. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?
- Less than high school 1
 - High school graduate 2
 - Some college/technical or trade school..... 3
 - College graduate 4
 - Post graduate studies/degree 5

24. Which of the following best describes your employment status?
- Employed full-time..... 1
 - Employed part-time..... 2
 - Self-employed..... 3
 - Unemployed..... 4
 - Retired..... 5

25. Which of the following contains your household’s total income?
- Less than \$25,000 1
 - \$25,000-\$50,000 2
 - \$50,000-\$75,000 3
 - \$75,000-\$100,000 4
 - \$100,000-\$125,000..... 5
 - \$125,000 or more 6

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!



Appendix B – Open-End Responses

Q19. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about open space, parks and recreation in the Pittsburgh Area?

i appreciate all the efforts made to maintain them - there are a lot of acres out there
City can't maintain roads, roadsides, bridges. Mayor going to sacrifice parking structures to prevent state from taking over bloated pension plan for city workers so he can get reelected. Don't see a lot of hope for parks. Survey useless without knowing what demand and use is for parks.
The parks are one of the best reasons to stay in Pittsburgh. If you want people to stay, keep the parks open. I live in Squirrel Hill between Frick and Schenley Parks. It's hard to consider even moving as far as Shadyside because the parks are such a major part of the quality of life in Squirrel Hill. The smaller parks in other neighborhoods must stay open too. In my answer to the last question, I listed homesteading and entrepreneurship as the things that I think would be most beneficial to the region. I think those would be most financially beneficial and would bring more people into Pittsburgh. However, the things I would enjoy most would be more parks, trails, and community gardens.
I frequently visit local parks in the East End of Pittsburgh for exercise and recreational use. I highly enjoy the time that I spend at these parks and feel that they are beneficial to the community.
It's important for families. We need to all help out on this one.
Maintain weed control and trash.
I feel it extremely important to have local parks for the children. There are too few vents for the children as it is.
Even if some facilities have to be closed, maintain the open spaces as parks.
VISITED BY UNDESIRABLES
If I won a big lottery, I would donate funds for rehabbing the major city parks.
THE AREAS HAVE A LOT OF CRIME,
Try to keep them from being dump sights!
Overall, I think most of them are in pretty good shape, but there is room for improvement.
We have a number of spaces to relax. Scrap the small ones that need a lot of help and ask that the businesses help with the maintainance if possible.. A buy in plan.
It is very important!
It is very necessary to have open spaces in order to keep attracting newcomers to our area.
Maintain Westinghouse Park. All parks should be equally well-maintained. Preserve open spaces. Plant and maintain trees along neighborhood streets.
I would like to see a significant increase in dog park type resources. I've seen a large number of dog owners without nearby facilities
Good parks are essential to city living.
Some seem to be over run with family reunions and day care center children. Parking is an issue with the in city parks -- where can you park without getting a ticket in Schenley Park -- it's so close to CMU and Pitt that going there is a big parking nightmare. Mellon Park gets kind of creepy at night -- lighting should be more pronounced.
Clean up the litter and debris in the parks and hillsides of Pittsburgh.
most are nice some are shit holes...
I stringly believe the areas with the lowest economic population absolutely need good open spaces/parks for recreation.
keep folks in oownnwihborhoods and make them clean up after themselves
I think having open space for our children to play in and learn about nature is a wonderful way to learn about the world around us.
Increase calls for volunteer help to maintain them.
Please find a way to keep them open! We need them!
Pittsburgh has good parks for a city its size. I especially appreciate parks with trails and woods areas (e.g. Schenley Park/ Riverview Park). I like to be able to have chances to be in nature while in the city, since I don't get outside of the city much.
They are most important for our youth and senior populations. Transportation is an issue so local facilities must be maintained.

Q19. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about open space, parks and recreation in the Pittsburgh Area?

It vastly improves the neighborhood.

I really like the chance to get away from the urban city sprawl by going to places like South Park - it is close, but offers such enjoyment and stress relief.

I think these areas should also have cameras or police presence to keep the parks safe and drug free.

More green space and more parking and less vacant lots will make Pittsburgh an even better city.

More police surveillance

Having open space and parks and recreation in the Pittsburgh area is very important especially when you have grandchildren. I'm glad the Pittsburgh area has plenty of parks that I can take my grandchildren to.

One of the great statements about Pittsburgh is the fact that it is so green. Many visitors comment about the fact that there is so much green in a city. Please,lets not lose that to illeagle activity

the areas that are maintained are LOVELY and Pittsburgh offers many many nice things for the residents. however, the city needs to make this more equitable. if we can only have one or two major parks then the city need to operate shuttles and patrol people to bring residents there. if I'm working i can't take my child to the pool. if there isn't a pool in beechview my child can't go swimming or can't do art cart or movies in the park.

Less sleeping areas for the City of Pittsburgh parks and recreation workers to sleep!

Frick Park is wonderfully maintained and a great place to hike, walk your dog, play at the playground, etc.

Open spaces need to be used more efficiently

Local park and recreation areas are very important to the community.

Open space and parks need to be maintained, especially in the city where people don't have ready access to nature. Perhaps sponsorship by major (and minor) corporations could be elicited.

Thank you for getting public input on the problems of maintenance

YOU NEED TO HAVE PLACES FOR THE FAMILIES TO TAKE THEIR KIDS AND BE MAINTAINED. IF POLITICIANS WOULD GET THEIR HANDS OUTTA THE COOKIE JAR THEN THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH MONEY TO GO AROUND TO TAKE CARE OF THE PARKS ETC.

I would love to see more organized, designated dog parks in the Pittsburgh Area.

Plant more trees.

Greater commitment from the Mayor's Office and greater emphasis on maintenance/renewal in disadvantaged neighborhoods. For example, the section of Mellon Park next to PCA is well-maintained but the part along Penn Avenue needs much improvement.

it is so important, sometimes on a bad day it is the only thing that keeps me going. keep the parks beautiful!

As trees are lost, please replace them, especially lining streets. Also, be sure there are plenty of trashcans available on the streets/parks to help us keep the place picked up. Could urban versions of homeowners associations be helpful or are there too many rentals to make it work? Neighborhood sponsorship of their local mini-parks (e.g. playgrounds and such that are smaller than 1 acre).

There needs to be more recreation centers located centrally to communities

Need more trash cans

I would like to see some public spaces/ parks better policed. I sometimes do not feel safe walking my dog. There are often people sleeping in these spaces, and while mostly they seem harmless, they sometimes seem to be mentally ill and in need of help. They often ask me for money. The police seem to just ignore these people.

Q19. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about open space, parks and recreation in the Pittsburgh Area?

The green space is important to the health of the city residence. Pittsburgh's parks and hiking trails allow people an opportunity to relax, to let go of their stresses and helps contribute to an overall healthier city. There is a nice sense of community and a social atmosphere enjoyed by residents who use the parks to keep physically fit. We have become a society where people come home from work, watch TV and never even interact with their neighbors. Individuals that use the park regularly develop a sense of community that has been lost by most neighborhoods. I am grateful that the city of Pittsburgh has so many wonderful green spaces. I believe the city parks are part of the reason people find it desirable to move back into the city. People leave cities that are devoid of nature and green space. The city parks make the city of Pittsburgh an amazing place to live.

I DO BELIEVE THE PARKS SHOULD STAY BECAUSE MOST OF THE KIDS WANT TO PLAY ON PLAYGROUND AND ENJOY THEMSELVES. ALSO MOST OF PEOPLE LIKE TO TAKE LONG WALK. IT IS BEST ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL OF FAMILIES AT THE PARKS

I enjoy them and hope that at least some remain open to the public.

I think Pittsburgh is very fortunate to have so many park options and really appreciate having them, as a city dweller. I would be sad if some of the spaces had to close but if that meant that our larger parks (Frick, Schenley) could be on a par with, for example, Central Park in NYC, I could be in favor of it.

It seems difficult to classify the best uses for all vacant/abandoned/underused properties, given that the surrounding environment of each means that it would be more useful situationally. For example, a vacant building with little to recommend to it's rehabilitation, situated next to an emerging business, may be a prime space for a parking lot or other business development, but not an urban farm or neighborhood garden. A focus on the best use of each space, assuming the house/property is not supported by the housing market or the market for business development could slowly improve each neighborhood/business district.

Even though I rated the parks only satisfactory on facilities and maintenance, it has improved markedly from the poor condition found when the PPC first started and the City was running them. My comments only related to city parks not county parks which I don't really use but feel that both North and South Parks are very important to the community.

Keep the parks and keep them free. No taxes to pay for parks!

most are poorly maintained, with very little police protection, also most people walking their pets ignore leash laws and let their dogs run free which could be very unsafe to thopse that have their pets leashed. the public facilities are lited with garbage and evidence of drug use in the public restrooms which are extremely unattended to. How sad for these parks were beautiful once and properly maintained.

We enjoy them very much

I think the parks and public spaces are an important part of the region and provide and outlet and recreation for children and adults.

Giving fines to people who litter and also ticket events that leave the park a mess.

There are many parks in Pittsburgh, some are better maintained than others and some are under used because of safety concerns, but to close smaller parks is unacceptable. When the swimming pools were closed a few years ago there seemed to be an increase in crime & mischief because the children didn't have any where to go. Not all parents are able to drive their children to the park during the day. Many of us have to work.

I swam at city pools this summer and they were very cold. the same thing last year. overly cold water is not refreshing. for that reason alone i did not swim as much as in prior years.

Please do not chop trees, let the beauty of Pittsburgh remain

we need a dog park downtown. we need to clean point park and get the fountain back on. we need trails from highland park, through the strip district to downtown, and out to the south side and beyond

letting the Neville rink go was a travesty

Please try to keep the parks as nice as they are. thank you

I love how GREEN Pittsburgh is - even in a span of seven years, there are more and more opportunities to bike or walk my way around the city.

Q19. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about open space, parks and recreation in the Pittsburgh Area?

Maintain the existing ones before embarking on new!

The city should focus on open space, parks ,and trails and stop doing more development or funding of private developers. And then PROMOTE these assets to the city and the country. Work with local news media to include things like boating conditions for rowing/kayaking or golfing so people now that there is an active lifestyle here.

we need more fenced-in dog park areas

I think the trails in Frick and Schenley Park (the two parks I frequent most often) are kept up very well. I really enjoy the frisbee golf course in Schenley as well. I don't have any complaints.

Property owners are probably willing to pay to develop and maintain local neighborhood open space including tree plantings, underground utilities etc. But this planning must be done at a local level and not be mandated by Grant Street.

Rather than take away from smaller parks and add facilities to major (larger) city parks, why not try to stretch the resources so that everyone can enjoy. For example, eliminate some facilities from larger parks and move (or maintain) them in smaller parks.

I get that the trails in Schenley need basic maintenance, but their rustic quality is also a major benefit, we don't need to be spending resources on paving trails there or anything. I strongly support turning old parks into community gardens, which are not only fun to be a part of, but provide fresh, healthy food to local residents who may not otherwise regularly consume such food.

I understand the need to balance a reduction in population and funds to support parks/recreation, but I also think that the city needs to keep these things in place, as well as make better use of abandoned/under-used property, as a way to attract more people back to the city.

Schenley Park is amazing

They are necessary. Pittsburgh is far behind other cities such as Minneapolis. Minneapolis has unlimited bike trails that are highly respected and utilized. It is time for Pittsburgh to catch up with health conscious cities.

Start early with the kids on environmental stewardship, litter free spaces, etc
clean

There is not enough open space and too many abandoned and run down buildings.

There is a large number of families that live in apartments, townhouses or urban developments which do not have yards and/or green space. Even worse, many school districts are cutting after school programs that could usually compensate for sporting and other recreational activities. These areas are also vital to socialization and the health of children. Children learn many skills from outdoor recreational activities.

I am glad that there are many parks and open spaces to go. Being in a city sometimes offers limited spaces for certain events so it's important to have places to go. America is getting fat and too connected to machines and should enjoy the outside from time to time.

I love our parks.

keep the play area clean and secured

Maintain public safety a first priority

parks and recreational centers need to be more taken care of. more playgrounds and spray parks need to be built in more local neighborhoods and areas.

Underused, vacant and abandoned properties should be made available to private citizens and/or non profits to annex as side yards or use to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods, particularly low-income neighborhoods.

Employ young people. As soon as you can get a work permit offer them a job. Give them a couple dollars to clean up and give them a better life

The green space is very important, as much as possible without concrete and pavement. Natural green space is important.

The use of parks is uplifting and gives the kids a lot to do in the summer. It is something they can look forward to doing. Dogwalking is a big thing around here

Q19. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about open space, parks and recreation in the Pittsburgh Area?

They could use the color blue in those areas (flower arrangement gardens, etc) and blue backgrounds etc because blue is the most coherent with the environment and has a coherent effect on the people. By this I mean using color therapy. Use blue colored flora. You might be able to benefit and make a positive impact on people.

I think that they should just have better cleanup of all the parks. Some are messier than others. Educate the people in the neighborhood to keep their parks clean, send out flyers or something to tell them how to take care of the parks. I like my parks and I like to see them clean.

Recently in Downtown Pittsburgh they have put in more green spaces and now there are several which is very important because they combat pollution. They produce oxygen which we need. The one thing I think is not very important is solar energy because it doesn't work at night.

It would be nice to see either the parks that are close to peoples home restored or have something like an arena. I'm sure a lot of people wouldn't mind travelling to it and they could turn it into a park/recreation area.

We need more open spaces to make a happier world as a whole. It is a place for children to go to keep them out of trouble.

I would really like to see it be cleaned up, meaning all these empty spaces as they are empty and neglected with just weeds and trees growing up all wild. Also like to see the streets cleaned on at least monthly basis.

I think there should be more exercise spots for seniors where they can walk and sit and play checkers etc and bocce ball. Something that doesn't need much supervision.

There are older teens in the parks and the parks are not made for them and the little kids, when they go there, are kinda pushed away by the older ones who are smoking and such. Then the little ones start copying off of the older ones. I think the senior citizens should become more involved in the parks. They have something like generation 'something or other' which doesn't seem to be doing much and I'd like to see them doing something about it. Also they cut down weeds and just leave them staying on the side of the sidewalks. A couple of people in motorized wheelchairs have to go out in the streets because of the sticks and leaves laying in the sidewalks.

I hope if they do cut back that they cut as little as possible. Try not to cut too drastically.

They need to clean up those areas. They are doing a decent job now but they need to do a better job of cleaning up the area. It would be beneficial to people looking to move in to the area. I would like to see some of these vacant lots built on with new decent homes which people could move in to. I own properties where the gas bills that people get are astronomical because of the size of the houses. These homes that are vacant are vacant because the people can't keep them maintained and the bills paid. The next thing you know the house is abandoned and people go in and tear it to pieces. They need to build some more greener newer homes for people to move into because the people in this newer generation are not having a lot of kids and they don't need a large home.

I have enjoyed the parks since I lived here, it is a place you can escape the rushing around of the city. I think it attracts a lot of people to the city, it is one of our biggest attractions. They help with reducing pollution (open/green spaces)

Put more money into the parks and cleanup a lot of the old stuff out of here. We need to clean up some of the garbage around and put more stuff into the parks for the kids to do.

I just hope we can preserve them

availability and parking are sometimes limited

if we have to remove some things to improve the quality of what we have I'm all for it