

CHAPTER 5

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PLANNING PROCESS

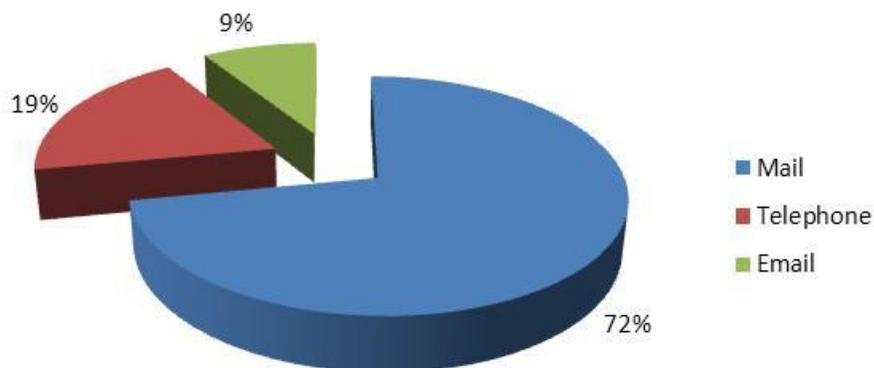
In the spring of 2011, as part of the planning process for this Park and Open Space Plan update, the Village's park planning consultant, Public Research Group along with their sub-consultant, Design Perspectives Inc. began gathering data to be used to assist the community in identifying the Village's future park and recreational needs. A series of open meetings, visioning sessions and survey opportunities were provided by the Public Research Group for the Village residents, RecPlex members, Village Board, Park and Recreation Commissions and Village staff to offer input and share information regarding the existing and future needs of the Village's park and recreational facilities. Each section below provides details regarding the public participation activities conducted and the responses provided by the participants regarding the Village's park and recreational system.

COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY

The public opinions of the park and recreational service information were gathered through the conduct of a community-wide survey as shown in Appendix A that was compiled through mail, telephone and email surveys administered by the Public Research Group in July and August of 2011. Since this survey was also used for gathering information for the RecPlex Recreation Master Plan, the community-wide survey also included some City of Kenosha residents who were RecPlex members that live just outside of the Village's corporate limits. The primary focus of the park and recreational survey was to obtain information related to: the Village's park and recreational services, the respondent's recommendations to improve the parks and beaches, the specific amenities that the community would like to see added to the parks and the park project priorities.

Number of Responses by Survey Method: The community-wide written survey was administered to a random sample of 1,500 mail-to addresses, from which 405 households responded. The telephone survey was administered to 200 land line households, from which 105 households responded. An email survey was sent to 300 email addresses provided through the RecPlex membership listing, from which 53 responded. See Figure 5.1 below.

**FIGURE 5.1
NUMBER OF RESPONSES BY SURVEY METHOD**



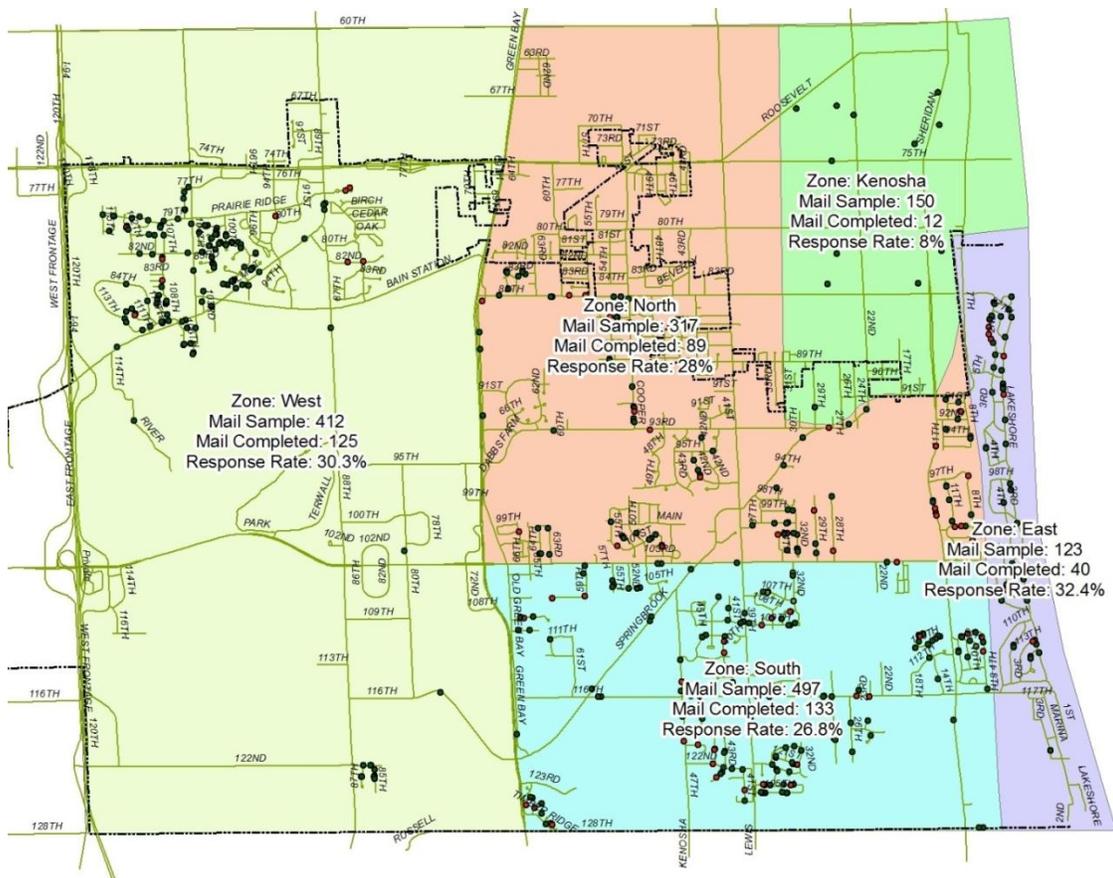
The 563 total responses suggest that the community-wide survey was a representative sampling of the park and recreational facility usage behaviors and attitudes of the community within a margin of error of 4% at a 95% confidence level. The questions that were analyzed in this chapter were highlighted in yellow in the survey results as shown in Appendix A.

Methodology: There are two (2) primary methods of analyzing survey responses: quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative methods are a statistical analysis of survey response where the response can be assigned numeric values and statistics applied. There are many complicated forms of statistical analysis, but in this Plan, the analysis applied uses frequency distributions, one-sample and independent-sample means testing.

Qualitative methods use non-statistical analysis of the responses where statistics cannot be applied. These are where questions require open-ended narratives by the respondents. In the qualitative analysis, similar themes or like ideas are used when there is a recurring message or concept being presented.

Demographics of the Respondents: In the community-wide survey, the samples were drawn from both the Village and a small area of the City of Kenosha located in proximity to the northeastern corner of the Village. The following Map 5.1 below identifies the generalized location where the mail and telephone survey respondents reside. The sample survey population is shown as black dots within each of the five (5) zones on the map. The zones were created in the sampling process to verify that each area of the community would be represented in the survey.

**MAP 5.1
GENERALIZED LOCATIONS OF MAILED SURVEY RESPONSES RETURNED**



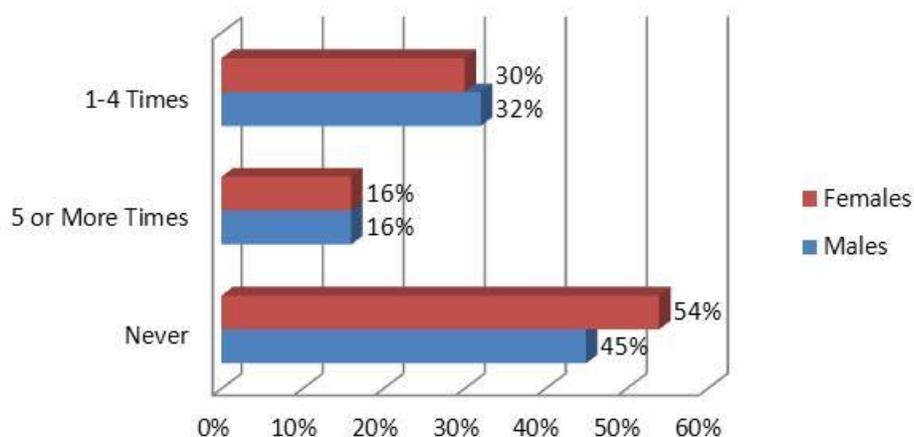
The survey respondents were asked demographic questions which included: the respondent's age, the age of the other persons in the household, the respondents gender, how long they had lived in the Village and how far they commuted to work. The following table shows the average responses received. Table 5.1 below indicates that about two-thirds of all mail, telephone and email respondents were females, the average age of the respondents was 54.06 years and that the respondents lived in the Village an average of 16.77 years.

**TABLE 5.1
DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS**

Demographic Questions	Percent Responding	Average
Respondent's Age	96%	54.06 years
Respondent's Gender	99%	66% Female 34% Male
How Long Have you Lived in Pleasant Prairie?	97%	16.77 years

Due to the popularity of Prairie Springs Park, one of the initial questions focused on Lake Andrea in the Park. The survey respondents were asked, "Whether anyone in the household used the beach at Lake Andrea?" Figure 5.2 below provides the responses. The findings show that 30% of females reported that someone in their household visited the Lake Andrea beach 1-4 times per year compared to only 32% of the males that reported the same 1-4 times per year. Responses to the use of the Lake Andrea beach 5 or more times a year were 16% for both females and males. A higher percentage or 54% of females compared to the 45% of males said no one in their household had ever visited the beach within the past year. One (1) percent of the respondents did not answer the question.

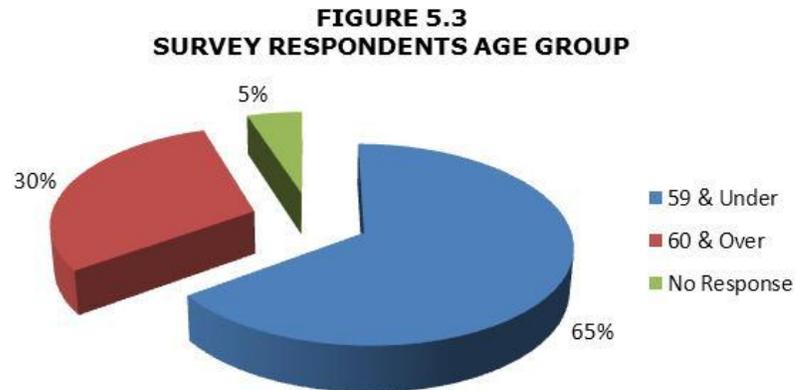
**FIGURE 5.2
USE OF LAKE ANDREA AND BEACH BY GENDER**



Note: 7% of males did not respond to this question.

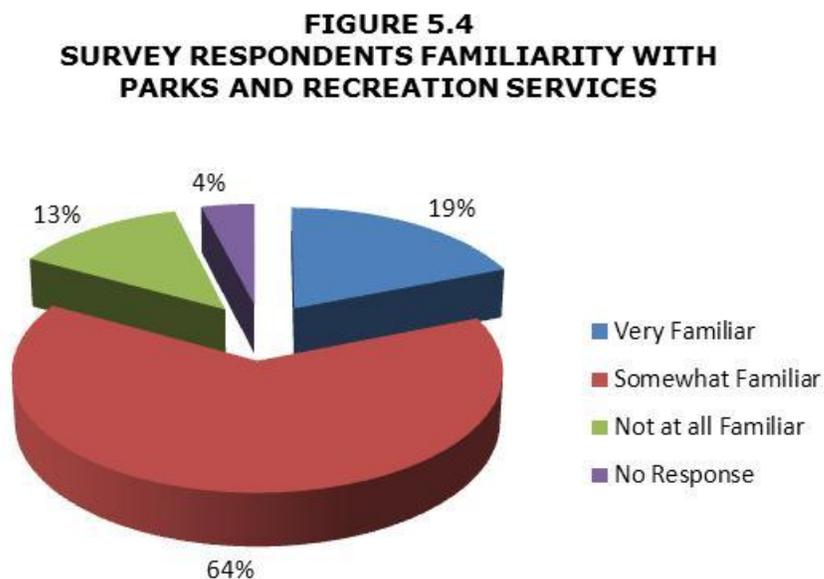
For survey analysis purposes, the age of the respondent does sometimes make a difference in behavior-type questions. Public Research Group has chosen the age 60 to be utilized and defined as the cut-off for an older respondent for survey analysis purposes. Further discussion will be provided in this chapter when comparisons are made between age groups.

Figure 5.3 below shows that the survey respondents age 59 and younger comprised 65% of the survey sample, while those survey respondents age 60 and over comprised 30% of the sample. A total of 5% of the sample did not respond to the question. The survey indicates that the survey is a good representative sampling of the age distribution in the community.



Communication and Visibility: Communication and visibility of the Village’s park and recreational system are important to the overall usage of the park system. If the community residents are unaware of the public amenities or opportunities that are available to them, it is likely that those facilities will be underutilized.

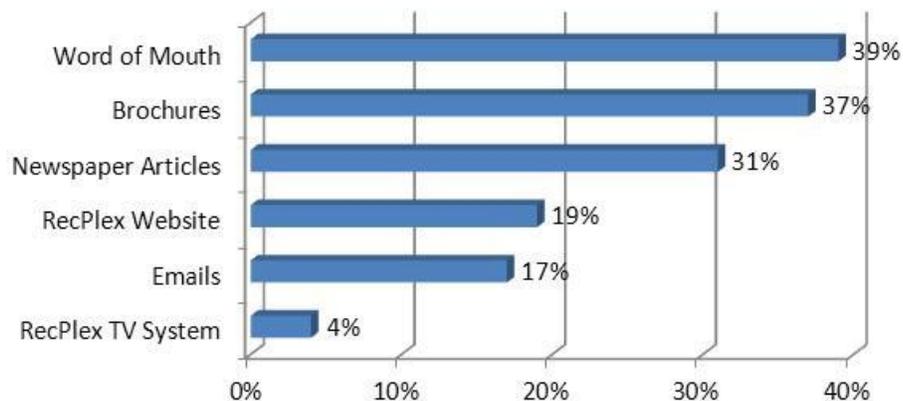
Question 1 of the community-wide survey asked respondents “If they were familiar with the parks and recreation services offered by the Village”. Figure 5.4 below indicates that 19% of mail, telephone and email respondents said they were very familiar compared to 64% of



the respondents who were somewhat familiar and 13% who were not at all familiar with the Village’s parks and recreation facilities. Four (4) percent did not respond to the question.

Question 2 of the survey asked, “How do the respondents or other members of their household hear about the Village’s parks and recreation services?” Figure 5.5 below shows that that the “word of mouth” response at 39% is the leading method for residents to hear about the Village’s parks and recreation services, followed by brochures at 37% and newspaper articles at 31%. The Village’s website and emails are used by the residents, but to a lesser extent. Based upon experiences learned by Public Research Group through other communities, marketing materials such as program brochures or the Village’s monthly newsletter which is direct-mailed to the resident households is often times the leading method for making residents aware of opportunities in their own community.

**FIGURE 5.5
HOW DO RESPONDENTS HEAR ABOUT PARKS
AND RECREATION SERVICES**



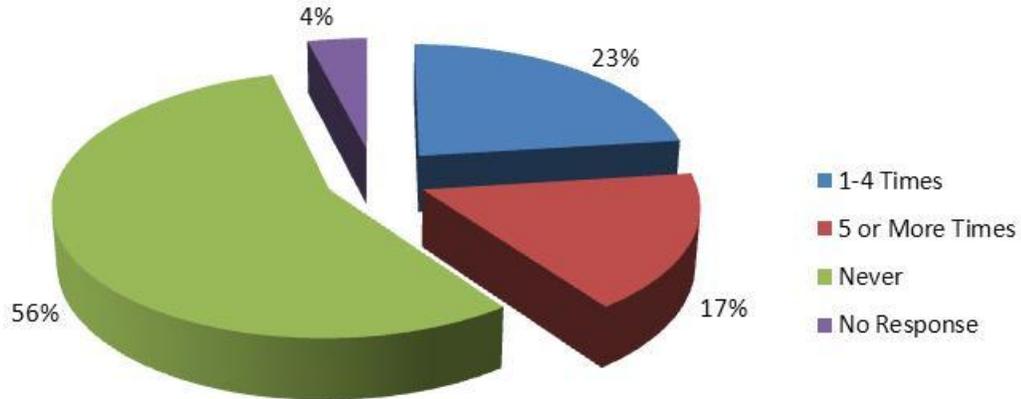
Park Usage: Question 11 of the survey asked, “How many times they would estimate that someone in their household used the Village’s parks and beaches?” The specific parks that were included in the community survey question were: Pleasant Prairie Park, Rolling Meadows Park, Becker Park, Carol Beach Park and Prairie Springs Park/Veterans Memorial Park. For those persons that responded to the question and indicated that they used the parks 1-4 times in the past 12 months are being defined in this survey as infrequent users. Those respondents that said they used the parks five (5) or more times are considered being defined in this survey as frequent users. Those respondents that said they never used the parks are considered non-users.



Veterans Memorial at Prairie Springs Park

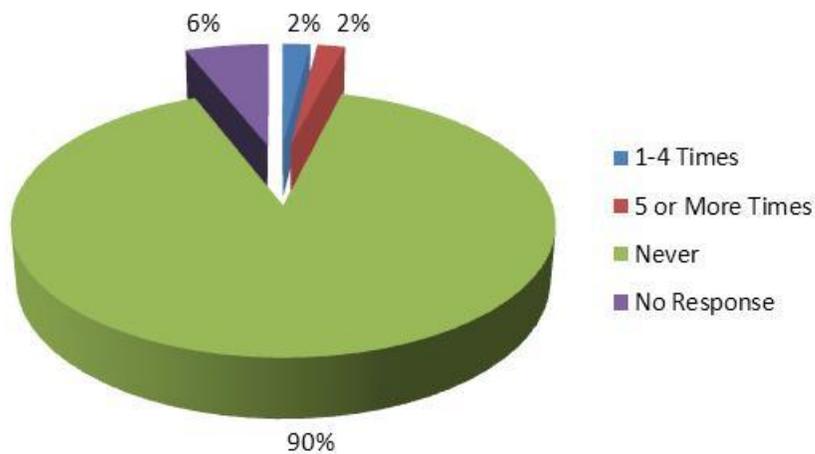
The pie chart in Figure 5.6 below shows that 40% of the respondents said they used Pleasant Prairie Park, located at the intersection of 104th Avenue and Bain Station Road, at least once during the past year, 23% use the park infrequently and 17% use the park frequently. Twenty persons did not respond to the question.

**FIGURE 5.6
PLEASANT PRAIRIE PARK USAGE**

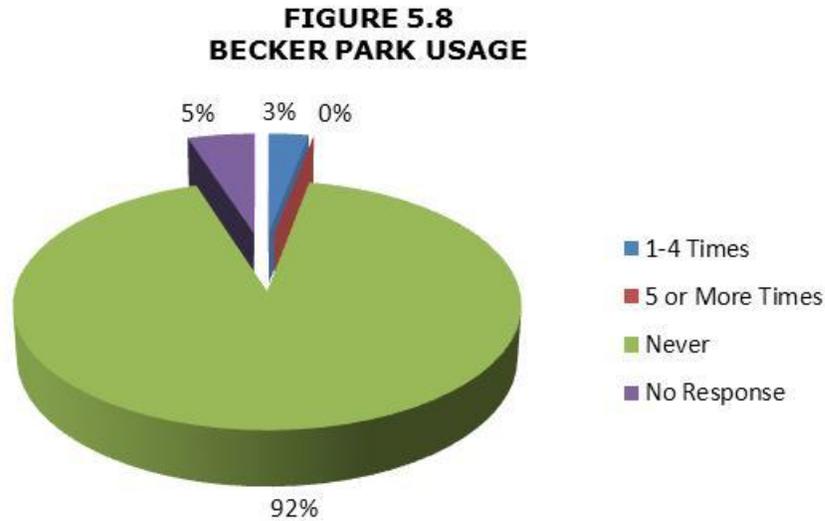


The pie chart in Figure 5.7 below shows that only 4% of the respondents said they used Rolling Meadows Park located at the intersection of 100th Street and 32nd Avenue at least once during the past year and 90% indicated they never used the park. A total of 6% did not respond to the question.

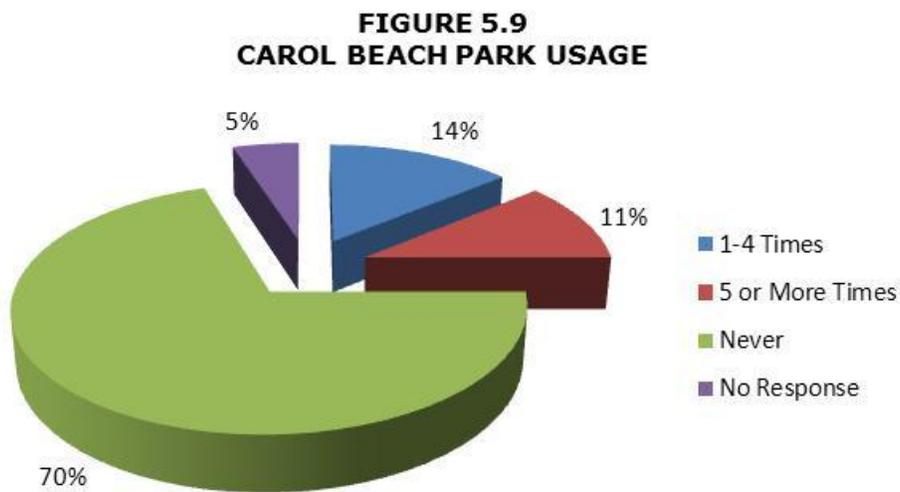
**FIGURE 5.7
ROLLING MEADOWS PARK USAGE**



The pie chart in Figure 5.8 shows that only 3% of the respondents said they used Becker Park located at the intersection of 76th Street and 48th Avenue at least once during the past year and 92% indicated they never used the park. A total of 5% did not respond to the question.

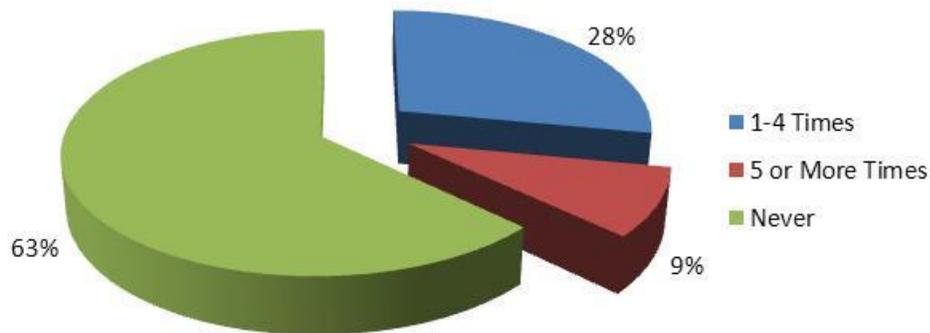


The pie chart in Figure 5.9 shows that 25% of the respondents said they used Carol Beach Park located at the intersection of 111th Street and 9th Avenue at least once during the past year, 14% use the park infrequently and 11% use the park frequently. A total of 5% did not respond to the question.



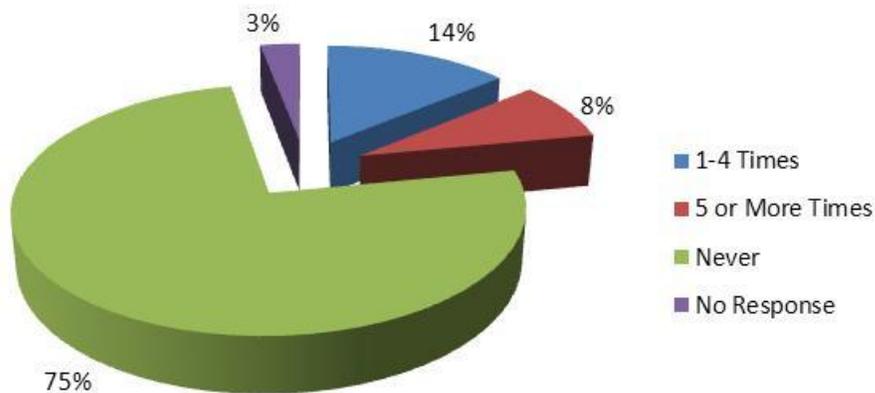
The pie chart in Figure 5.10 shows that 37% of the respondents said that they used Prairie Springs Park/Veteran’s Memorial located at the intersection of Terwall Terrace and 104th Street at least once during the past year, with 28% using the park infrequently and 9% using the park/memorial frequently. A total of 63% of the respondents indicated that they never have used the park, which is somewhat concerning due to the fact that this park/memorial is the largest and most visible community park in the Village and most of the organized recreational activities take place at this location.

**FIGURE 5.10
PRAIRIE SPRINGS PARK/VETERAN'S MEMORIAL USAGE**



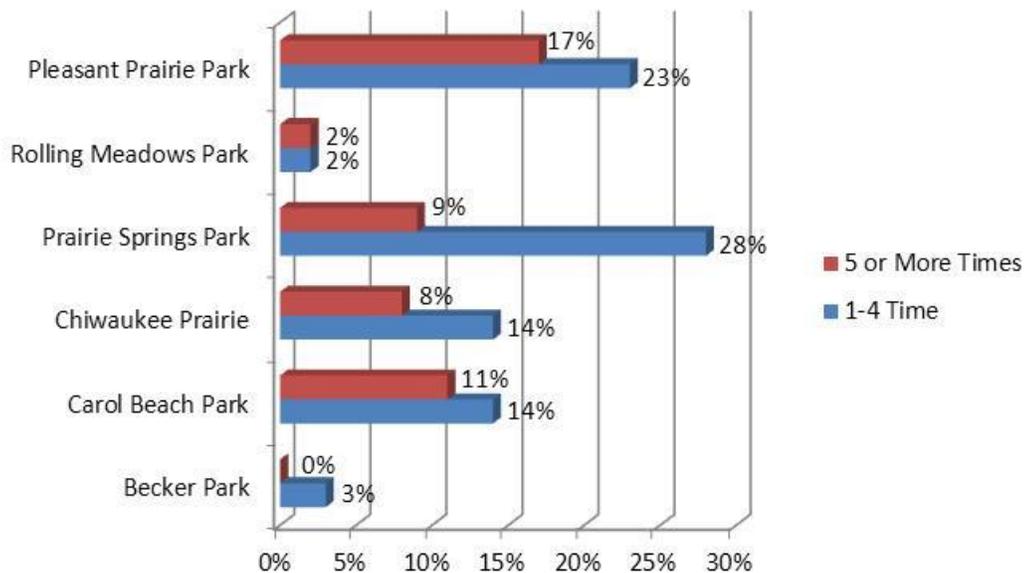
The pie chart in Figure 5.11 below indicates that 22% of the respondents said they used Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area located south of 116th Street and west of Lake Michigan at least once during the past year, 14% use the park infrequently and 8% use the park frequently. The Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area had lower usage than Prairie Springs Park and Pleasant Prairie Park. Again, it is interesting that 75% of the community never visited this environmentally impressive area of State and National significance in their own community. Three (3) percent of the respondents did not answer the question.

**FIGURE 5.11
CHIWAUKEE PRAIRIE STATE NATURAL AREA**



In order to calculate the usage of parks on an annual basis, the percentages of infrequent and frequent users can be multiplied by the number of households in the Village to determine how many of the households used each park. Figure 5.12 below compiles this information by park. These estimates can provide an indication as to which parks are being utilized by its residents and may provide some direction in prioritizing the Village's budgetary dollars when making expenditures on park capital improvements.

**FIGURE 5.12
PLEASANT PRAIRIE HOUSEHOLDS USING EACH
PARK DURING THE YEAR**



Note: The lower usage in Prairie Springs Park may result from respondents not knowing the official name of the park this is the site of the RecPlex, Lake Andrea and many other outdoor amenities.

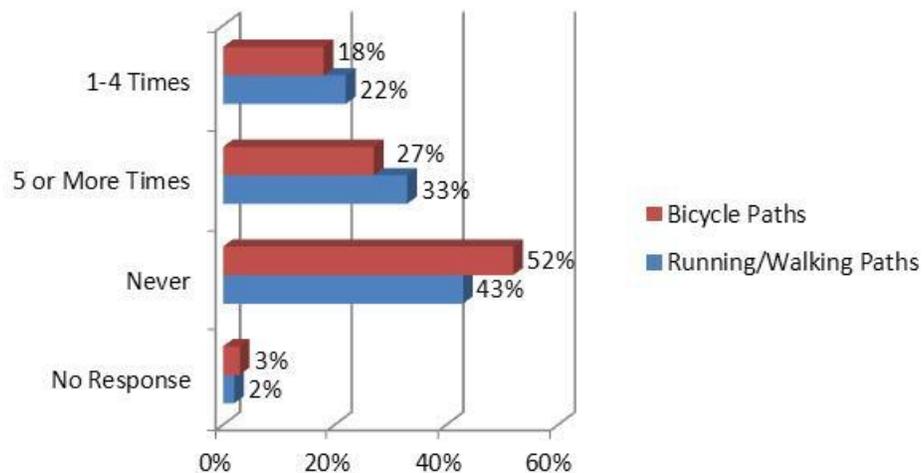
Park Amenity Usage: Park amenities are the physical, educational, and recreational improvements constructed in the parks, which draws the users to the parks. Certain park amenities as discussed in the community-survey questions include the pedestrian and bicycle paths, playgrounds, picnic shelters, ball diamonds, beaches and archery ranges. Question 12 of the survey asked respondents, "How frequently they used each amenity, either 1-4 times over the past year, 5 times or more, or never".



Lake Andrea at Prairie Springs Park

For the purpose of this survey, bike and pedestrian (running/walking) paths are considered the same amenities but are used for different purposes. The following bar chart in Figure 5.13 below shows the usage of paths in the Village. The graph indicates that 18% of households have used the paths for bicycling 1-4 times during the past year or infrequent usage, compared to 27% of the respondents who were frequent users and 52% who were non-users. A greater percentage of runners/walkers or 55% used the paths over the bicyclists or 45% who used the paths.

**FIGURE 5.13
TYPES OF PATHS USED BY RESPONDENTS**



To determine if the bicyclists are the same users as the runners/walkers, a correlational analysis was performed on the respondents who said they never bicycled on the paths or ran or walked on the paths. By using a bivariate analysis, one can determine what percentage of respondents would have answered no to both questions. That percentage represents the true non-users of the paths because some respondents may have used the paths for biking and others for running/walking and others for both. The respondents who answered no to both would be counted.



Multi-use Trail around Lake Andrea

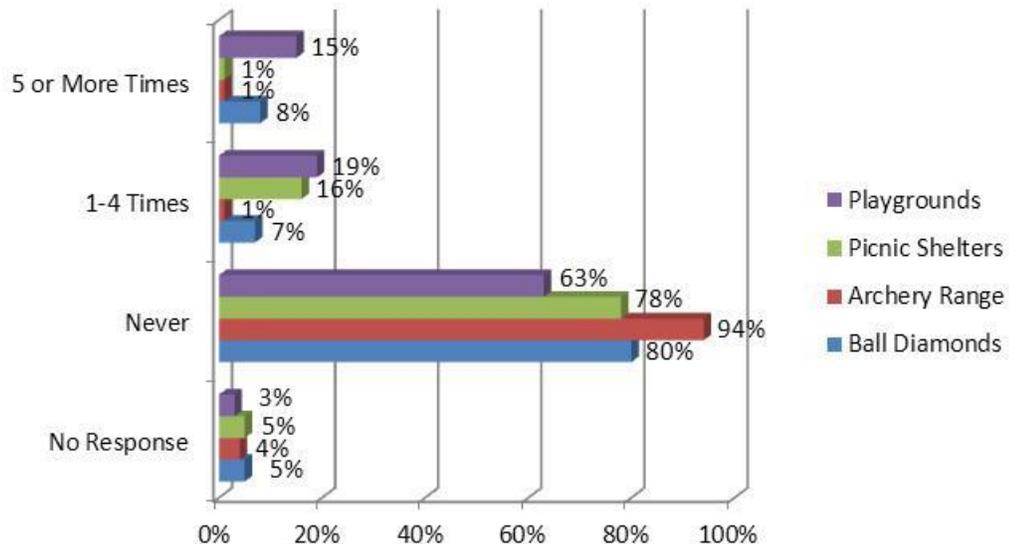
In this case, the Pearson Correlation Coefficient analysis completed by the Consultant was moderately strong at .452, suggesting that 45% of the respondents answered that they never used the paths for biking or running/walking. In other words, 55% of those who said they never ran or walked on the paths could have bicycled on them, and 55% who said they bicycled on the paths also ran or walked on them. Based upon the survey results, a conclusion can be drawn that the paths are a significant element to the community's park and recreational system for biking, running and walking.

Other amenities, such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, archery range and ball diamonds do not have nearly the same usage as the paths, but their significance to responders is shown in Figure 5.14. The graph shows that playgrounds at 34% and picnic shelters at 17% are the most frequently used park amenities after the paths. The highest usage of picnic shelters is in the 1-4 times a year category and playground usage is split between frequent usage (1-4 times a year) at 19% and infrequent usage (5 or more times a year) at 15%. Ball diamonds were reported to be used by 15% of the community-wide survey respondents at least one time a year. The archery range located in Prairie Springs Park was used by only 2% of respondents and 94% said they had never used the archery range.



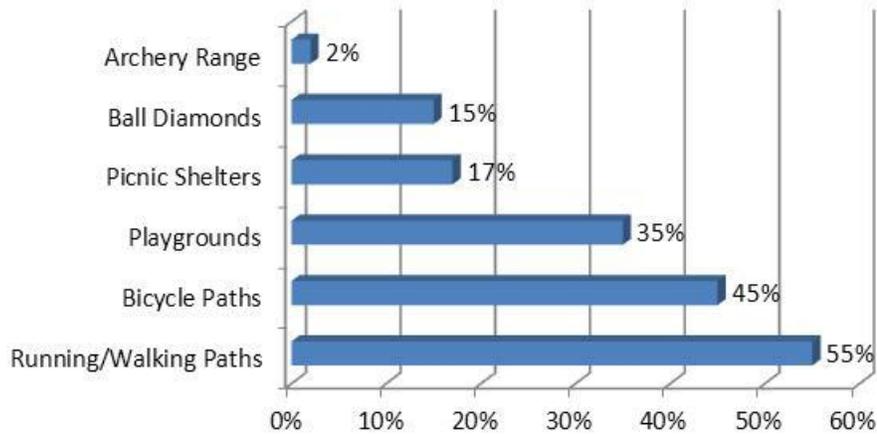
Ball Fields Pavilion area during Prairie Family Days

**FIGURE 5.14
PLAYGROUNDS, PICNIC SHELTERS, ARCHER RANGE
AND BALL DIAMOND USAGE**



The following bar graph shown in Figure 5.15 below compares the overall usage of the six (6) park amenities in survey Question 12 by totaling the frequent and infrequent usage of them. A total of 55% of the community-survey respondents indicated that they use the running/walking paths in the parks. Based upon the number of respondents answering this question, it appears that running/walking paths and bicycle paths should be a priority in both maintenance and upgrades in planning for improvements to park amenities in the Village’s park and recreation system.

**FIGURE 5.15
TOTAL PARK AMENITY USAGE**



Picnic Area 1 at Prairie Springs Park



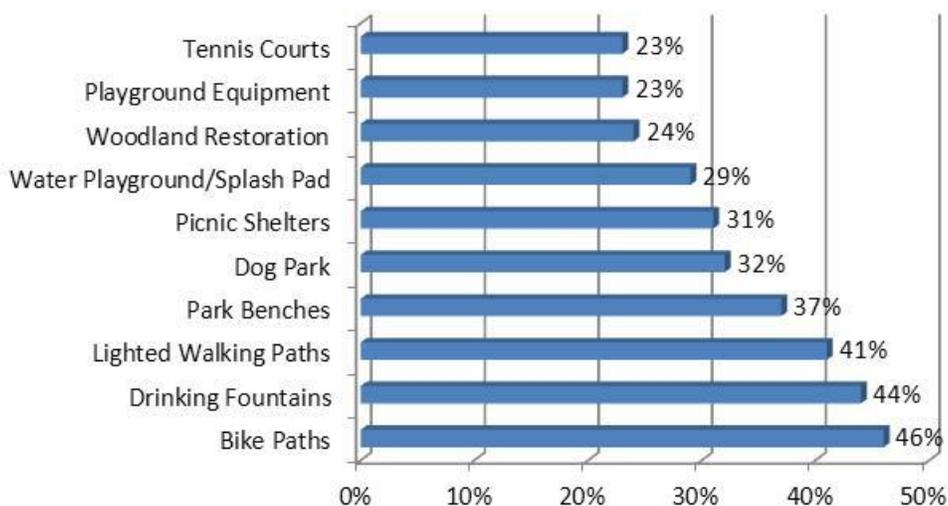
Paved Path at Prairie Springs Park



Playground at Prairie Springs Park

Preferences for New Park Amenities: Question 18 asked, “Which of the following amenities that the community-wide survey respondents would like to see added and/or renovated in the parks in the next five (5) years?” The list included a range of selections with the top ten identified in Figure 5.16 below. The graph shows that the top 10 answers provided by the respondents indicate that there is a strong interest in constructing more bike paths at 46%; drinking fountains at 44%; lighted walking paths at 41%; park benches at 37%; a dog park at 32%, picnic shelters at 31%; a water playground/splash pad at 29%; woodland restoration efforts at 24%; playground equipment at 23% and tennis courts at 23%. The additional responses are summarized below.

**FIGURE 5.16
RESPONDENTS TOP TEN RECOMMENDED NEW PARK
AMENITIES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS**

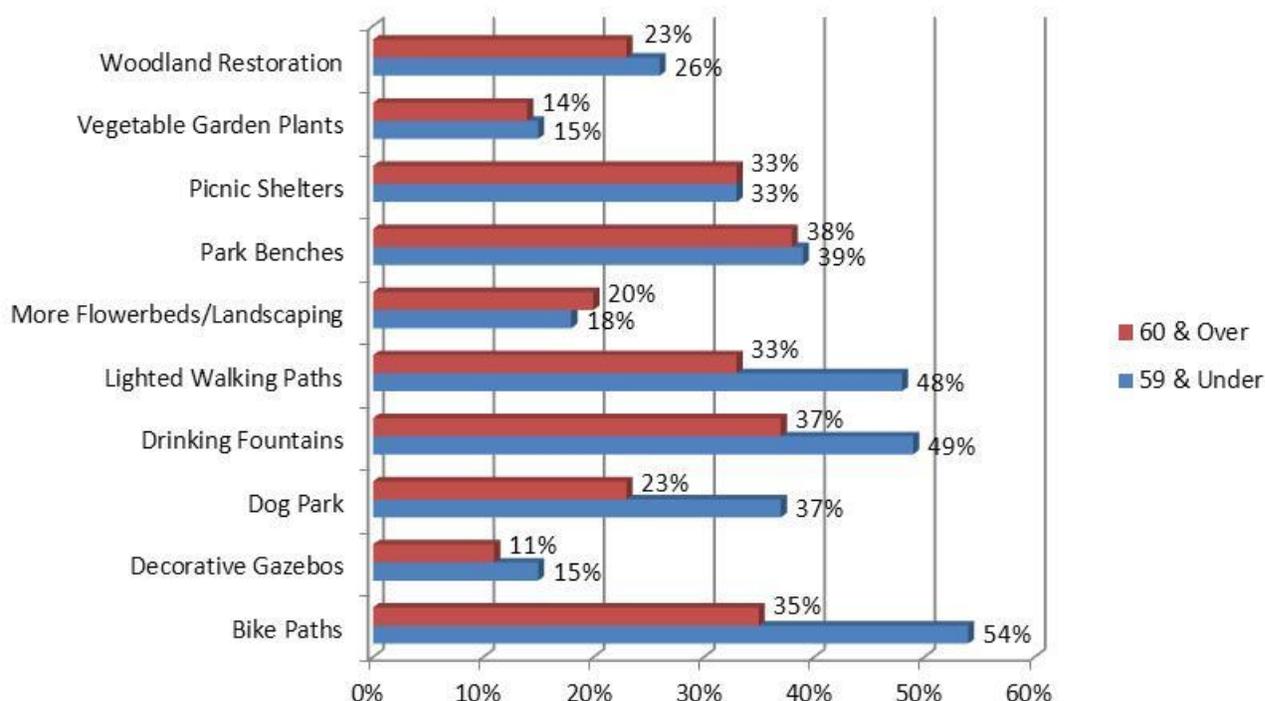


OTHER COMMENTS/RESPONSES:

- Bicycle Lanes and paths adjacent to main roadways.
- Campground with resident membership fees.
- Climbing wall.
- Concessions facilities at the baseball parks.
- Cross-country ski trails.
- Dog park and swim area.
- Fencing along the east walking path adjacent to Lake Andrea.
- Gun and trap shooting range.
- Horseback riding trails.
- Indoor soccer fields with turf.
- Lacrosse field.
- Nature trails.
- Outdoor pool.
- Park beautification features such as water features, sculptures, gardens.
- Performance pavilion.
- Ping pong tables.
- Plant additional shade trees along paths.
- Public golf course driving range and practice area.
- Restrooms in the parks near playgrounds and ball fields.

While the findings suggests that certain park facilities would have stronger support if they were built, the Village should examine and analyze a wide range of possibilities to accommodate many activities and interests in the park’s system. To test this statement, the passive recreation amenities were sorted by two (2) age categories--the respondents’ age being 59 and younger and those over 60 years of age. Figure 5.17 below indicates that while most park amenities had similar desires by both of the age groups, the bike paths, lighted walking paths, dog parks, and drinking fountains received slightly higher responses by the 59 and under age group. Certain answers that were nearly identical between the age groups were the more passive and cultural park amenities including picnic shelters, park benches, vegetable garden plots, more flower beds/landscaping and woodland restoration, indicating that all age groups desire a balance of both active and passive amenities and community beautification in the parks.

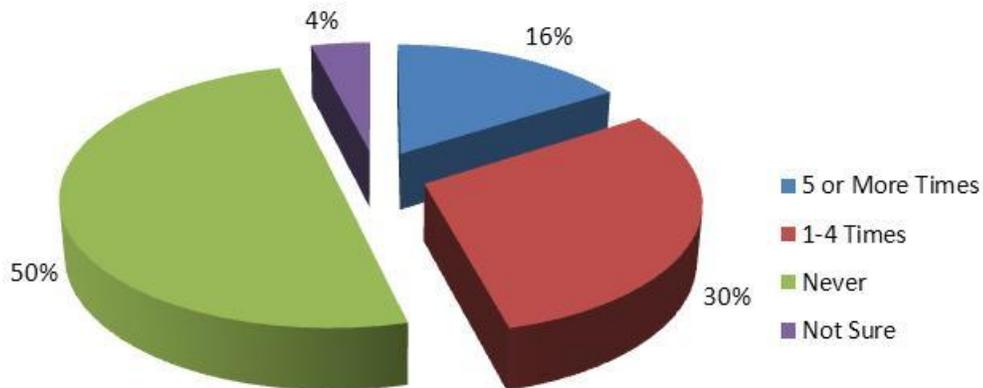
**FIGURE 5.17
PASSIVE PARK AMENITIES USAGE BY AGE GROUP**



Beach Usage: Question 11 asked, “About how many times would the survey respondents estimate they or members of their family used the Lake Andrea beach and the Lake Michigan Park/beach?” These parks/facilities were selected because they are popular water features and associated beach areas in the community. While the Lake Andrea beach tracts attendance, it is difficult to track the park and beach attendance at Lake Michigan Park/beach, therefore, asking these beach usage questions provides an opportunity to project a calculated attendance by multiplying the percentages of respondent households multiplied by the number of households in the Village.

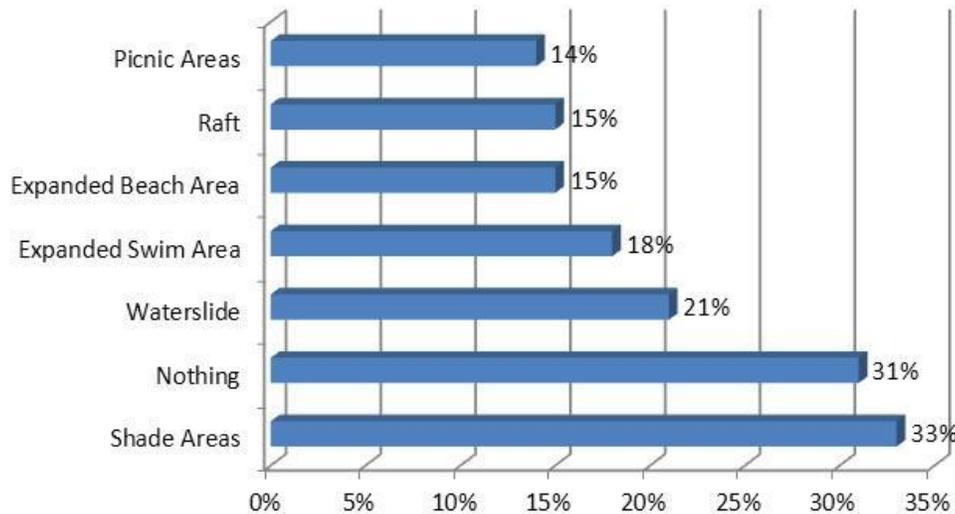
The pie chart in Figure 5.18 below shows the general public use of Lake Andrea to be 46%, of which 30% are frequent users (5 or more times per year) and 16% are infrequent users (1-4 times per year). This high percentage of Lake Andrea beach users could be attributed to the fact that a RecPlex Membership provides unlimited access to the Lake Andrea beach as a membership benefit without incurring additional entrance fees.

**FIGURE 5.18
RESPONDENTS USAGE OF LAKE ANDREA BEACH**



Question 14 asked, "What amenities would survey respondents like to see added to the Lake Andrea beach that would cause them to use the beach more frequently?" Respondents responded to the following amenities list shown in Figure 5.19 below. The bar graph shows that a total of 33% of the respondents indicated shade areas, 31% indicated "nothing"; 21% indicated a waterslide; 18% indicated an expanded swim area; 15% indicated an expanded beach area; 15% indicated a raft-type pier; and 14% indicated picnic areas. The most significant of these responses appears to be that respondents want more shade areas

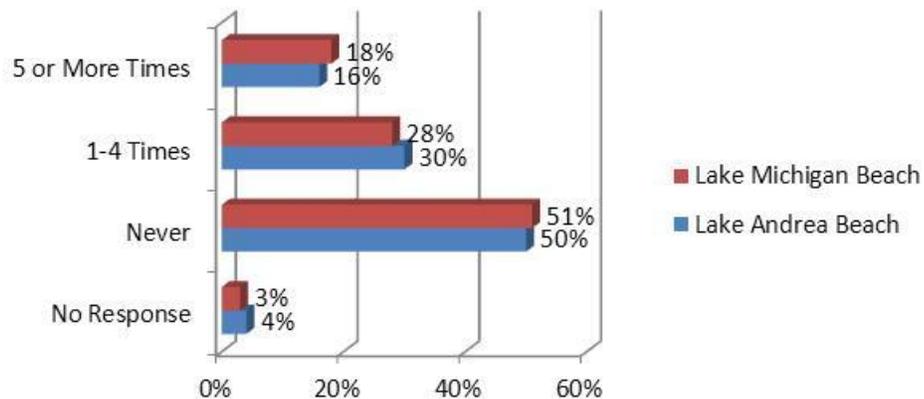
**Figure 5.19
RESPONDENTS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
IMPROVEMENTS TO LAKE ANDREA BEACH**



at the beach. Currently there are really no opportunities to be at the beach in a shaded area unless beach umbrellas are brought. Also, about one-third of the respondents indicated that no new improvements would affect whether they increased beach usage.

Question 11 of the community wide survey asked, "How many times did the respondent or Members of their household use Lake Michigan Beach over the past 12 months?" The respondents were allowed to choose that they used it 1-4 times, they used it 5 or more times or they never used the beach. The following graph shown in Figure 5.20 compares the usage of Lake Michigan Beach to Lake Andrea Beach. The graph shows nearly comparable usage for the two (2) beaches among the respondents, suggesting that even though Lake Michigan beach has many fewer park amenities, it is a popular destination during the warm summer months. And the fact that there is no admission charge, it may attract many more general public attendees than Lake Andrea Beach where there is an admission charge for non-RecPlex members. If the Village were to make Lake Michigan Park/Beach improvements, they would likely benefit a larger segment of the population, especially non-RecPlex Members.

**FIGURE 5.20
COMPARATIVE USAGE OF LAKE MICHIGAN AND
LAKE ANDREA BEACHES**



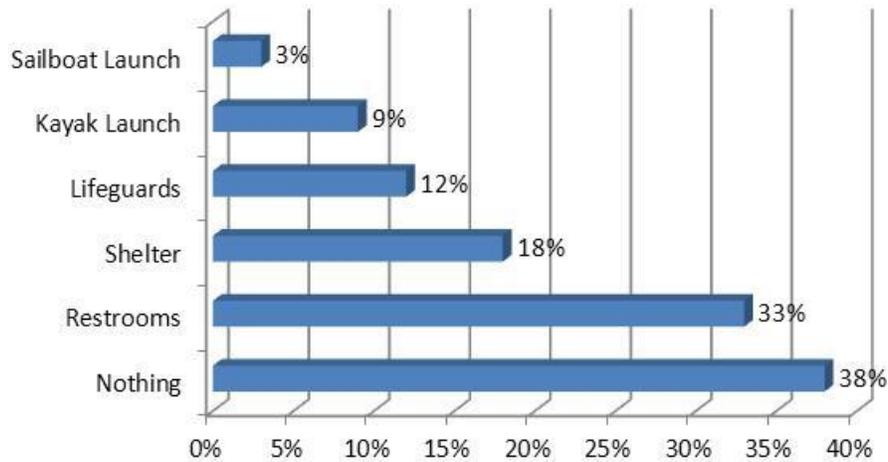
Lake Andrea Beach Prairie Springs Park



Lake Michigan Beach

Question 15 specifically asked about, "What type of Lake Michigan beach improvements would the respondents recommend to encourage them to use the Beach more frequently?" Figure 5.21 below shows that 38% of the respondents indicated that nothing or no improvements were recommended. Interestingly, lifeguards were only suggested by 12% of the respondents. Restrooms were the most popular response at 33% and a shelter was suggested by 18% of the respondents. If funding allowed for some park/beach amenities to be constructed, it is recommended that restrooms and a shelter be considered.

**FIGURE 5.21
RESPONDENTS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
IMPROVEMENTS TO LAKE MICHIGAN BEACH**

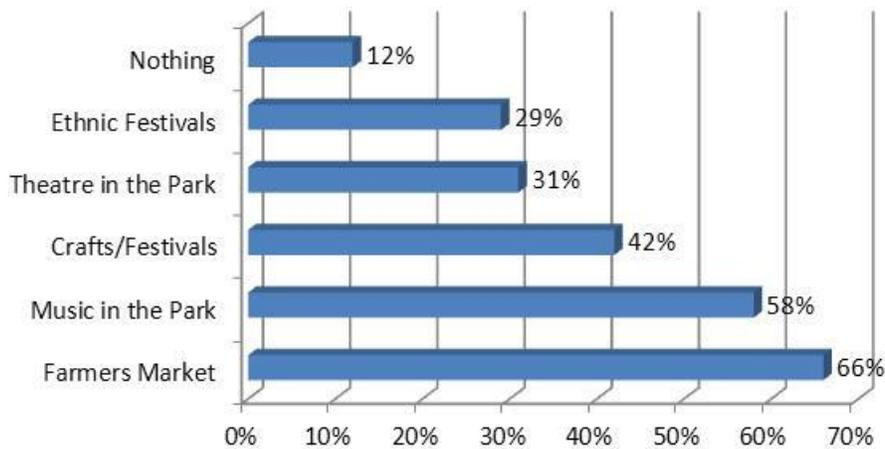


Special Events in the Parks: Question 16 of the community-wide survey asked the respondents, “What activities that they would like to see in the parks in the future?” The results as shown in Figure 5.22 indicate that 66% of the respondents would like to see farmers markets, 58% indicated music in the park; 42% indicated crafts/festivals; 31% indicated theater in the park; 29% indicated ethnic festivals and 12% indicated nothing.

These responses are very significant in that one-third to two-thirds of the respondents felt that the Village is missing out on different types of creative and more inclusive park and recreational opportunities to expand the usage of the parks beyond the active, organized sports activities coordinated by the Recreation Department.

Also, even though the Village has operated a community-wide festival for 16 years, it appears that either the annual festival needs to be reinvented or redefined, the community is seeking something new and different which is focused on a different target audience or the market is saturated with the same or similar type of summer events during the time period.

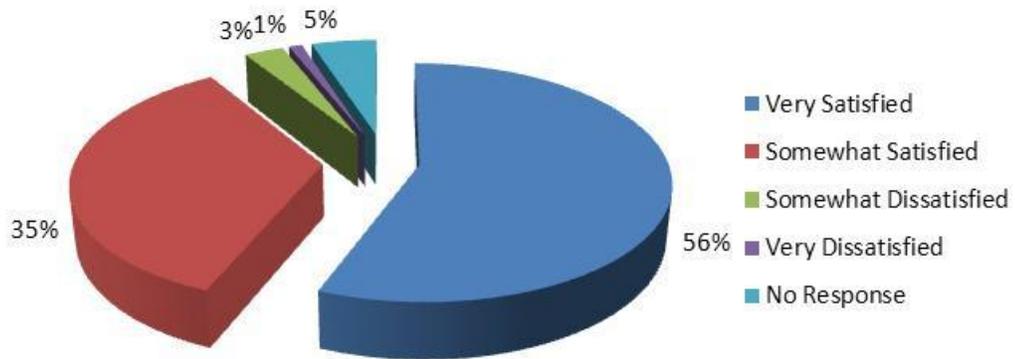
**FIGURE 5.22
RESPONDENTS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW
ACTIVITIES IN THE PARKS**



Areas of Improvement: Question 21 asked the respondents to, “Discuss any unpleasant experiences that they had at the parks or recreational facilities in the past year.” These responses are compiled into general categories and listed in Appendix B of this Plan. Generally, the responses indicate that many of the concerns were about the RecPlex recreational facility and pertained to parking and children’s behaviors at the facility. Some of the more minor issues related to facility maintenance and clean-up.

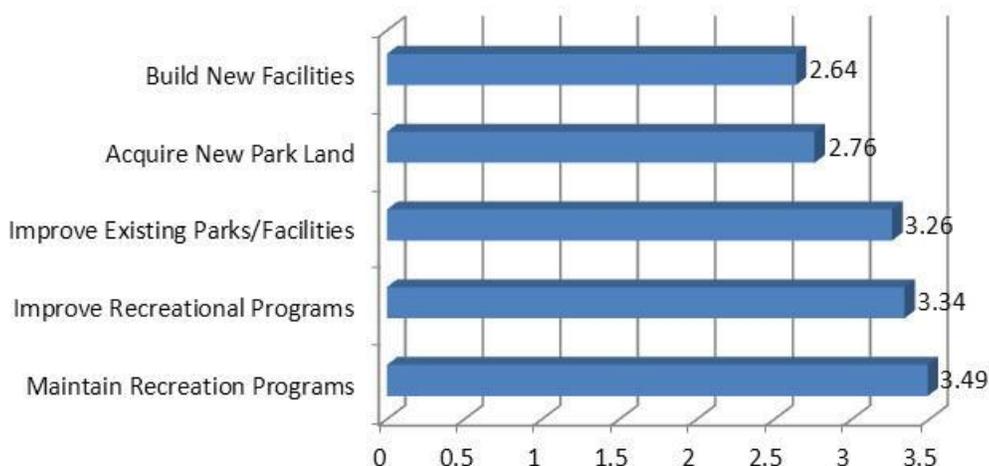
Maintenance of the Parks and Recreational Facilities: In Question 13, the respondents were asked, “How satisfied were the respondents with the condition and maintenance of the parks and recreational facilities?” Respondents were provided with the following possible answers: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied. The pie chart in Figure 5.23 below shows that 91% of those surveyed were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with park and recreational facilities maintenance. Only 4% were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the maintenance, indicating that the Village’s Park Department is doing a very good work in keeping the Village’s parks and recreational facilities maintained.

**FIGURE 5.23
RESPONDENTS SATISFACTION WITH PARKS AND
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**



Priorities for the Future: Question 17 in the community-wide survey asked the respondents to, "Rate the importance of maintaining the existing recreation programs, improving the recreation programs, acquiring new park land, improving existing parks and facilities, and building new facilities on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 was the most important. The following bar graph in Figure 5.24 compares the priorities. The graph shows the highest priorities are maintaining the existing recreation programs, improving the existing recreation programs and improving the existing parks and recreation facilities.

Figure 5.24
RESPONDENTS PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE



While maintaining the existing park infrastructure was a priority, overall the respondents indicated that it was also important to plan for the future and examine the acquisition of new park land and build new facilities. It is likely that the respondents were somewhat reluctant or concerned with the costs associated with new parks and amenities during the current economic recession and the worries about frozen budget levy limits and placing any additional tax burdens on the residents for the parks and amenities. That being said, there are various opportunities open to the Village through donations, dedications, grants and other special programs that could assist the Village in acquiring and developing new park lands without placing an undue burden on the Village tax payers.

Also, there was support by the respondents in the community-wide survey to adding additional bicycle and walking/running paths and beach amenities at Lake Michigan and Lake Andrea beaches. The survey further supported some very specific recommendations including adding non-capital intensive passive amenities to the parks such as farmers markets, and theater and music in the park special events.

Final Comments: Additional open ended comments were provided by many of the respondents. Generally, the comments provided a great deal of good feedback regarding the Village's parks and recreational programs. Overall, the survey indicated that the Village residents are pleased with the Village parks and the direction that the Village is going in providing parks services. Many respondents identified specific concerns along with amenities, and services that they would like to see addressed in the Village's parks in the future. These responses are summarized in Appendix B.

VISIONING SESSIONS

Parks Department: Public Research Group held a brainstorming visioning session with the Parks Department staff on July 12, 2011 to gather input on Village park maintenance and improvements matters. The four (4) most significant issues recommended by the Park's Department staff included:

- Develop a five-year capital improvements and maintenance plan which includes projects associated with specific maintenance projects for each park and improvements for new park developments.
- Prepare detailed park maintenance guidelines and standards for the Village's park and outdoor recreational facilities.
- Re-evaluate the Park's Department staffing levels based upon the existing and proposed acreages and facilities of the Village's park and outdoor recreational facilities.
- Identify and examine opportunities for education and training for the park and recreational facilities equipment and machinery.

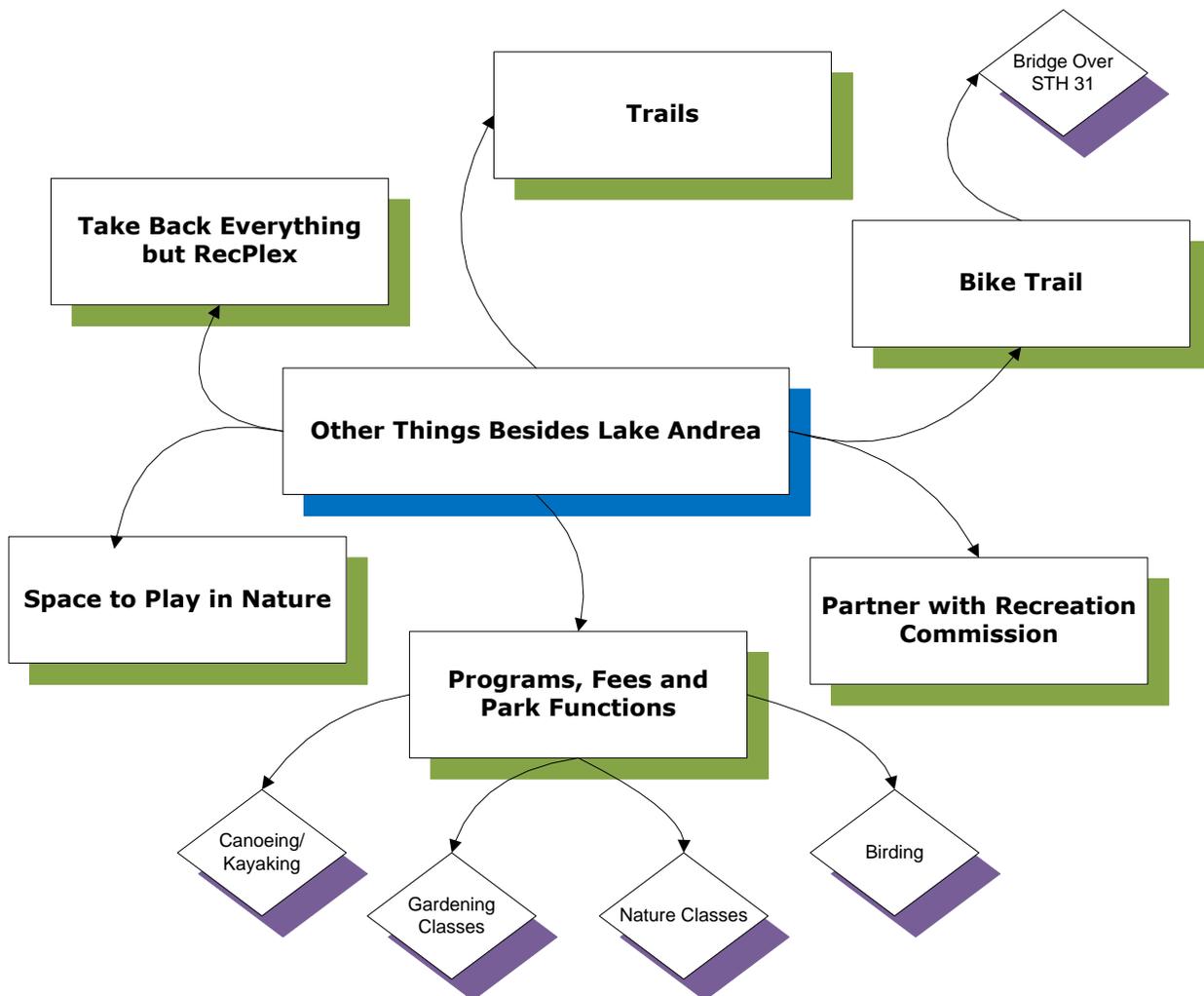
Park Commission and Recreation Commission: Public Research Group held the first Park Commission visioning session in June, 2011, wherein the potential community-wide survey questions were evaluated and discussed.

A second meeting was held in July, 2011 and focused on a visioning workshop session. The primary discussion points that were covered included:

- What methods should the Village utilize to attract residents to the Village parks?
- As the Village grows and becomes more diverse, actions need to be taken to understand the future demands for park and recreational services.
- Current economic conditions will require communities to be more creative in acquiring and maintaining their park and recreational systems.
- The Village needs to develop standards and guidelines for annual maintenance to the existing park and recreational facilities system.
- Park planning, especially community and neighborhood parks are essential to serve the needs of the growing Village community.
- Each park should establish its own unique identity and draw from the community.
- The Village parks and community centers need to be interconnected with a network of bicycle and walking/running paths.

At the meeting, the Research Group conducted a mind mapping exercise and had the group conceptualize ideas within the Village’s park system outside of the Prairie Springs Park/Lake Andrea regional park amenities. Figure 5.25 below sets for the activities discussed.

**FIGURE 5.25
OTHER IDEAS OUTSIDE OF
PRAIRIE SPRINGS PARK/LAKE ANDREA**



A final exercise conducted by the Research Group with the Park Commission focused on concerns expressed by the group. Generally, the Park Commission reiterated the same concerns as set forth at the last visioning event. The primary new additional issue that when funding allows, that the Park Commission should encourage and promote activities that enhance the park maintenance and development and exploring opportunities to adding new activities and special events within the Village's Park's system. In addition, the Park Members recommended that as a policy recommending body to the Village Board, that a Mission Statement be prepared to identify and share a common vision for the Village's Parks with the community. The Park Commission Mission Statement is provided below:

"In partnership with our citizens, the function and duty of the Village of Pleasant Prairie Park Commission is to provide for an enhanced quality of life for all residents and members of the community by facilitating the acquisition, development, preservation, protection, maintenance, management and promotion of park lands, open space areas, recreational facilities and natural resources in an orderly and uniform process. The Commission, as stewards, shall provide long-term and short-term planning and supervision of park-related development projects and shall support the implementation of those plans. The Commission shall promote the wellness benefits of park lands in the best long-term interests and benefits of the Village and its residents of all ages, abilities and for those people with handicaps or disadvantages. The Commission will strive to enhance parks and open spaces to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations through the provision of safe and secure environments."

A third and final meeting was held in September, 2011 and was a joint meeting with both the Park Commission and the Recreation Commission. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the community-wide survey findings and proposed recommendations to be included in this Plan and presented in this Chapter.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Public Information Meetings were held by the Village on July 20 and August 17, 2011 wherein members of the Park and Recreation Commissions were in attendance, along with the Village staff and members of the public. These meetings provided for the opportunities to have open discussions on the issues surrounding the future of parks and open spaces in the Village. An overview of the considerations and recommendations in preparing the Park and Open Space Plan Update is listed below. Interesting to note, many of these same concepts have been introduced through the previous park planning processes associated with this update:

- Evaluate the existing parks maintenance and develop guidelines for regular, ongoing maintenance activities.
- Interconnect the existing and future parks and community gathering spaces via a network of bicycle and pedestrian paths.
- Review the survey results to determine whether there are additional underserved park-related needs in the community.
- Work closely with new developments to coordinate the dedication and donation of future park and open space lands with the community.
- Re-examine the parks facilities for developing new special event programs and activities.

- Investigate various grant opportunities with the State and federal government and to obtain funding to further develop the Village parks and bicycle and pedestrian transportation network.
- Continue marketing efforts to identify and promote the Village's park and open spaces and recreational facilities and special events to the residents.
- Examine opportunities to create unique active (dog parks) and passive (community gardens) recreational opportunities in the Village parks. Not all parks need to have the same amenities.
- Create new opportunities for passive recreational opportunities to improve the existing features in existing Village parks such as community gardens, floral gardens, and woodland and wetland restoration projects.

The results of all of the public participation efforts completed and discussed in this Chapter contributed to the development of the goals, objectives and standards described in Chapter 2, the recommendations for the analysis of the existing park and recreational facilities in Chapter 6 and corresponding new Conceptual Plans developed in Chapter 7 of this Plan.