



**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND
COMMUNITY AND SENIOR
RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT
October 2020**



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MAYOR AND CITY OF COLLEGE PARK CITY COUNCIL

Patrick L. Wojahn, Mayor
S.M. Fazlul Kabir, District 1
Kate Kennedy, District 1
P.J. Brennan, District 2
Monroe S. Dennis
Robert W. Day, Sr. District 3
John Rigg, District 3
Denise C. Mitchell, District 4
Maria E. Mackie, District 4

CITY OF COLLEGE PARK STAFF

Scott Somers, City Manager
Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager
Ryna Luckert Quiñones, Communications Coordinator
Kiaisha Barber, Director Youth, Family and Senior Services

CONSULTANT TEAM

GreenPlay, LLC
RRC Associates

*For more information about this document, contact GreenPlay, LLC
At: 1021 E. South Boulder Road, Suite N, Louisville, Colorado 80027, Telephone: 303-439-8369
Toll Free: 866-849-9959 Email: info@greenplayllc.com www.greenplayllc.com*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Executive Summary**1
- Purpose of This Report 1
- Methodology of this Planning Process..... 1
- Recommendations..... 2

- I. The Assessment Context**5
- A. Purpose of this Report 5
- B. Assessment Methodology 6

- II. Demographic Profile of College Park 9

- III. Parks and Recreation Influencing Trends Related to College Park**19
- Part I: Recreation Behavior and Expenditures of College Park Households 19
- Part 2: Parks and Recreation Trends Relevant to College Park..... 22

- IV. City of College Park, MD Overview**29

- V. Information Gathered During Public Engagement.**.....31

- VI. Community Needs Assessment Survey**37

- VII. Current Programs, and Facilities.**.....49

- VIII. Senior and Community Transportation.**.....51

- IX. Alternative Providers**57

- X. Findings**59

- XI. Recommendations**61
- A. Key Challenges and Opportunities 61
- B. Summary of Recommendations & Action Plan Table 61
- C. Action Plan 62

- Appendix A: Community Needs Assessment Summary**73
- Appendix B: Key Issue Matrix**89

TABLE OF FIGURES

- Figure 1: College Park Population Boundary Map. 9
- Figure 2: City of College Park Demographic Overview 10
- Figure 3: Population Projected Annual Growth Rates (2010 – 2019) 10
- Figure 4: Projected Population Trends from 2000 to 2035..... 11
- Figure 5: Median Age of City of College Park between 2010 and 2024 11
- Figure 6: 2019 Age Distribution in City of College Park 12
- Figure 7: Age Distribution of Residents 50+ in College Park. 13

Figure 8: 2019 Racial/Ethnic Diversity of City of College Park	14
Figure 9: Median Household Income Distribution in City of College Park	15
Figure 10: Employment Overview in City of College Park, Maryland	16
Figure 11: County Health Ranking Model	17
Figure 12: Outdoor Recreation Behavior of College Park compared to the State of Maryland. . .	20
Figure 13: Fitness and Wellness Participation of College Park compared to the State of Maryland	21
Figure 14: Generational Breakdown in College Park from 2018/2023	22
Figure 15: Years Participants Have Been a Resident of College Park	32
Figure 16: Top Survey Findings	38
Figure 17: Survey Demographic Profile	39
Figure 18: District Location of Survey Respondents	40
Figure 19: Satisfaction Rate for College Park’s Programs, Facilities, and Parks.	41
Figure 20: Rate for College Park Residents Using Other Service Providers.	41
Figure 21: Effectiveness of College Park’s Communication	42
Figure 22: Top Communication Methods Identified by Survey Respondents.	42
Figure 23: Top 3 Priorities Related to Programs, Facilities, and Parks	43
Figure 24: Top 5 Priorities Related to Programs, Facilities, and Parks by District	44
Figure 25: Percentage of Seniors Retired and Working	45
Figure 26: Percentage of Seniors with Reliable Transportation	46
Figure 27: Percentage of Seniors Who May Use Services More with Reliable Transportation . . .	46
Figure 28: Participation by Seniors in Senior Social/Recreational Programs Provided College Park	47
Figure 29: Participation by Seniors in Senior Social/Recreational Trips Provided College Park. . .	47
Figure 30: Satisfaction of Seniors Related to Social/Recreational Programs and Services	48
Figure 31: Map of College Park, MD Parks, Playgrounds, and Facilities	52
Figure 32: M-NCPPC Properties and Other Recreation Around College Park MD	53
Figure 32: Map #3 Parks, Playgrounds & Transportation in College Park MD.	55
Figure 33: College Park Key Issues Matrix	59

TABLE OF TABLES

Table 1: City of College Park Gender Distribution Compared to State and National Averages . . .	11
Table 2: Percentage of 50+ Residents in College Park.	12
Table 3: 2019 City of College Park Educational Attainment	14

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment focuses on the community's needs and desires related to recreation and senior recreation programs, facilities and transportation. Our team conducted a full Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment with public and stakeholder engagement which will inform future planning for the City of College Park for Community Recreation and for Senior Recreation for the Youth, Family and Senior Services Departments as well as the City as a whole.

To complete this project, GreenPlay, along with RRC Associates, engaged the public, select stakeholders, and staff to identify desired programming, facilities, service needs, along with transportation aspects.

Project Vision

The College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment Project will inform future planning for Community and Senior Recreation in the City of College Park through a comprehensive engagement process with the public and stakeholders.

METHODOLOGY OF THIS PLANNING PROCESS

The project consisted of the following tasks:

- Strategic kick-off meeting
- Review of relevant information and documents (full listing can be found in The Assessment Context section of the report)
- Facilities tour
- Stakeholder meetings, staff meetings, focus groups, community meetings, and project team meetings
- Public forum
- Needs assessment survey
- Findings Presentation for the project team
- Vision Session with the project team
- Draft report
- City Council presentation
- Final report

RECOMMENDATIONS

An analysis of input received in stakeholder meetings, staff interviews, facility and site tours, market analysis, as well as demographic and trends research identified residents' were considered in the development of the solutions to meet senior and community recreation needs for the City of College Park residents. The following Goals and Objectives have been developed:

GOAL #1: CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND ENHANCE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

- Objective 1.1:** Plan for the growth of the City.
- Objective 1.2:** Improve and enhance partnerships with M-NCPPC, the County, community services providers including churches and other organizations to increase program and service delivery for residents.
- Objective 1.3:** Improve and enhance senior focused communications, promotion, and social media presence in targeting senior residences to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities.
- Objective 1.4:** Maximize the potential of Joint Use Agreements with community organizations.
- Objective 1.5:** Improve maintenance standards and plans.
- Objective 1.6:** Develop improved communications focused towards parents, to include promotion, and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities.

GOAL #2: CONTINUE TO IMPROVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

- Objective 2.1:** Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase programs and services available to City of College Park residents.
- Objective 2.2:** Add and enhance special events.
- Objective 2.3:** Focus on Senior Recreation Programming and Services.
- Objective 2.4:** Focus on Youth Recreation Programming and Services.

GOAL #3: CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND ENHANCE FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

- Objective 3.1:** Consider renting or acquiring vacant store front space to use for meeting spaces and programming spaces.
- Objective 3.2:** Identify and explore additional land acquisition and preservation opportunities.
- Objective 3.3:** Improve existing trails and add new trails and pathways to increase connectivity.
- Objective 3.4:** Address aging infrastructure by updating and adding new amenities to parks and facilities.
- Objective 3.5:** Increase access to a multi-generational community center.

GOAL #4: IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS AND OTHERS WHO LACK TRANSPORTATION

- Objective 4.1:** Expand and Improve senior focused communications, promotion, and social media presence targeting senior residences to raise awareness of available transportation options.
- Objective 4.2:** Consider alternative options for those who cannot reliably get to parks and recreation facilities (possibly vouchers for Uber, Lyft, or taxis).
- Objective 4.3:** Develop a Trail and Pathway Master Plan.

Complete details including the action plan are included in *Section XI. Recommendations*

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I. THE ASSESSMENT CONTEXT

A. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment focuses on the communities needs and desires related to recreation and senior recreation programs, facilities, and transportation. Our team conducted a full Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment with public and stakeholder engagement which will inform future planning for the City of College Park for Community Recreation and for Senior Recreation for the Youth, Family, and Senior Services Department as well as the City as a whole.

Project Vision

The College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment will inform future planning for Community and Senior Recreation in the City of College Park through a comprehensive engagement process with the public and stakeholders.

To complete this project, GreenPlay, along with RRC Associates, engaged the public, select stakeholders, and staff to identify desired programming, facilities, service needs, along with transportation.

The purpose of this study was to determine the needs and desires of the College Park community and specifically seniors, and to develop goals, objectives, and recommendations including an implementable action plan to include priorities for recreation programs, facilities, transportation, and services.

The following Critical Success Factors and Performance Measures were developed to guide this study:

Critical Success Factors	Performance Measures
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Facilitate Community Engagement within the City of College Park related to the needs and desires for community and senior recreation needs related to programs, facilities, transportation, amenities, and services to assure residents, user groups, associations, and other stakeholders are provided an opportunity to participate in the process.2. Identify potential solutions based upon community feedback and previous planning documents. This project will provide a vision for recreation programs, facilities, transportation, and services and establish strategic direction for the City.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Engage the community by conducting a minimum of four (4) senior focused groups/stakeholder interviews and a minimum of four (4) community focused groups/stakeholder interviews, two (2) community meetings. Additionally, a demographic and trends study will be conducted to guide the analysis of potential programming.2. Develop goals, objectives, and recommendations including an implementable action plan to include priorities for recreation programs, facilities, transportation, and services.

B. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

This project has been guided by the GreenPlay team, including RRC Associates and the City of College Park project team, staff, stakeholders, and community members provided input to the GreenPlay consulting team throughout the planning process. The project consisted of the following tasks:

Strategic Kick-Off Meeting

- Series of calls between the GreenPlay Project Manager and the College Park Project Manager, culminating in an on-site meeting with the entire project team to discuss the scope of the project and expectations.

Review of Information Gathered

GreenPlay collected and reviewed all documents provided by the City of College Park staff along with other relevant information to help determine the comprehensive and inclusive needs in the community that could inform the recommendations for the study. The following is a partial listing of information reviewed:

- College Park 2017 Community Survey Report
- Review of the City Website
- Review of other City Planning documents including Municipal Property Maps
- Review Prince's George County 2040 Vision and Framework document
- Review other Maryland – National Capital Park and Planning Commission documents

Onsite Project Team Meeting and Facility Tour

- Meeting with City of College Park project team
 - Facility tours
- Stakeholder Interviews with 7 participants
- 7 Focus Groups with over 125 participants
 - 4 senior meetings scheduled in different locations throughout the City
 - 3 community meetings scheduled in different locations throughout the City
 - Conducted small group sessions
 - Users/community members
 - Seniors
 - Staff
 - Members of Recreation Board
 - Maryland – National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)
 - College Park Seniors Committee
 - City Council members
 - Public Forum

Market Assessment

- Demographic Study
- Trends Study
- Transportation analysis

Needs Assessment Survey

- Statistical valid - invitation only
- On-line open link – available to all members of the community

Findings and Visioning Session - (due to COVID – 19 this was conducted with the project team)

- Findings Presentation for the project team
- Visioning Session with the project team

Draft Report and Presentation

- City Council presentation
- A Draft Report for review, edits, and comments to be included in the Final Report

Final Report

- Final Report

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II. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF COLLEGE PARK

By analyzing population data, trends emerge that can inform decision making and resource allocation strategies for the provision of parks, recreation, and open space management. This demographic profile was compiled in September 2019 from a combination of sources including the ESRI Business Analyst, American Community Survey, and U.S. Census. The following topics will be covered in detail in this report:

Population

Age and Gender
Distribution

Ethnic/Racial
Diversity

Household
Income

Educational
Attainment

Health Ranking

Figure 1: College Park Population Boundary Map

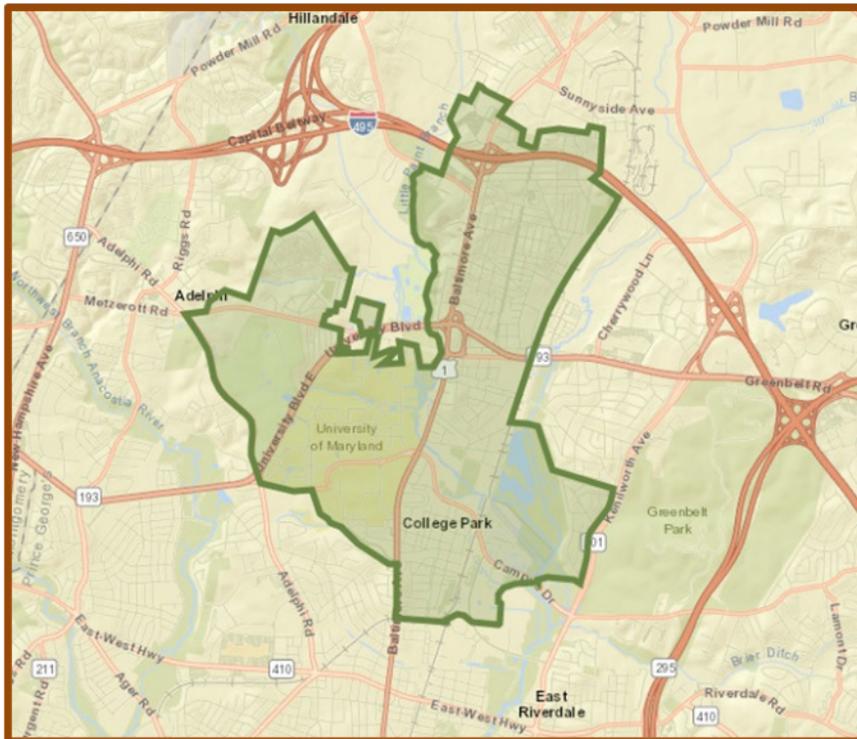
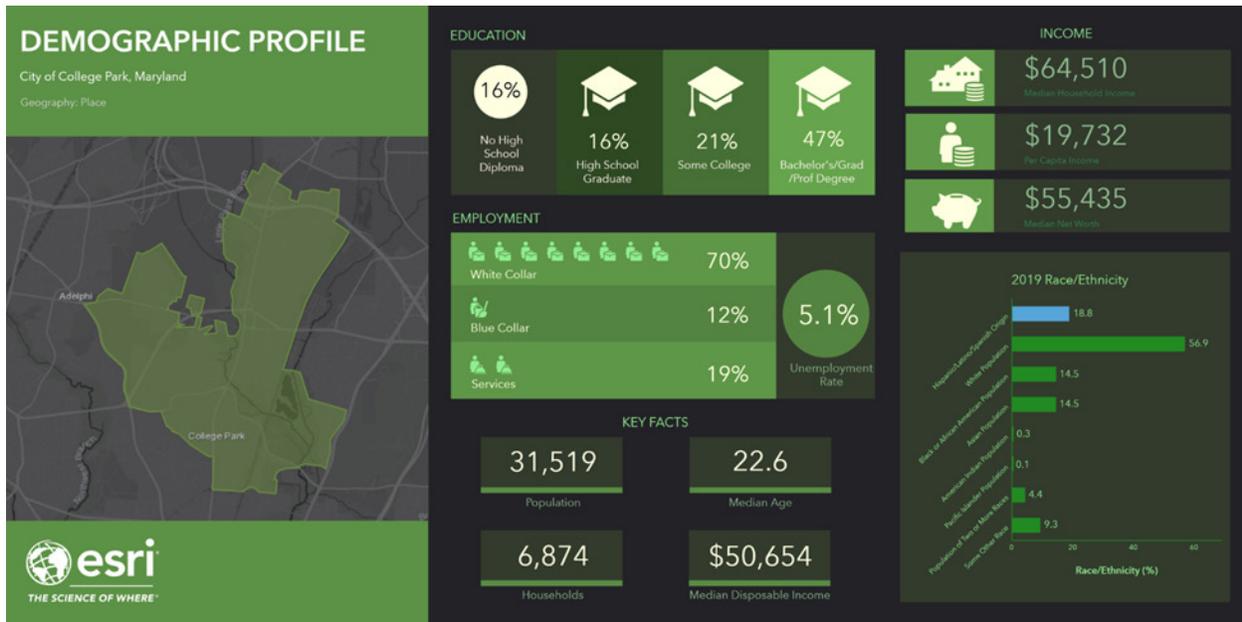


Figure 2: City of College Park Demographic Overview



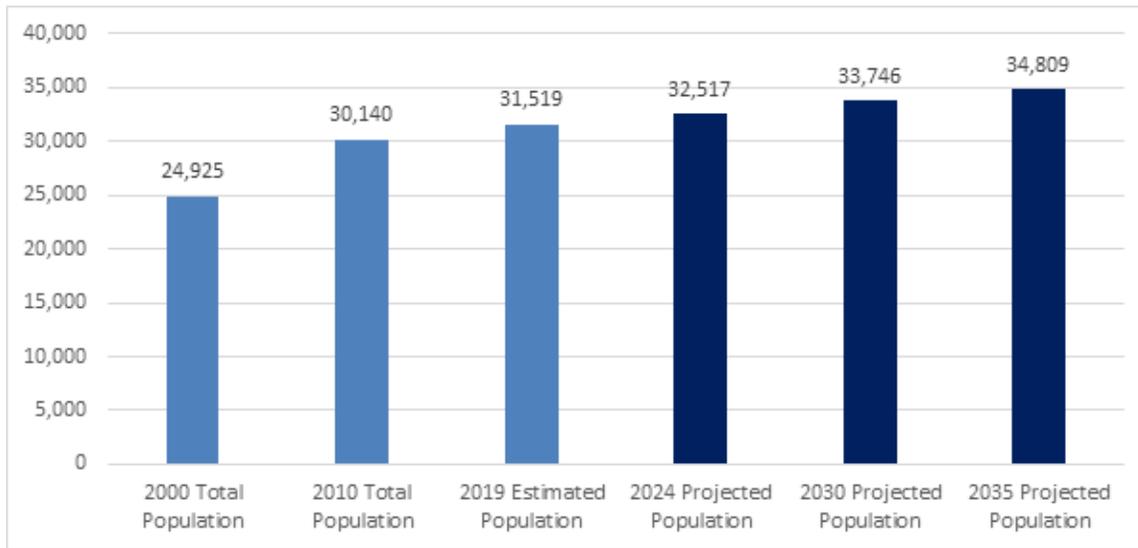
POPULATION

Growth rates can be a strong comparative indicator of an area’s potential for economic development. From 2000 to 2010, the annual compound growth rate in College Park was 1.92 percent. The City was projected to slow to 0.48 percent between 2010 and 2019. The City of College Park is growing at a slower rate than Prince George’s County (0.64%) and the State of Maryland (0.63%). **Figure 3** below shows a visual representation of the population growth rate between 2010 and 2019. The population is projected to reach over 34,000 people in 2035 if growth rates continue as expected, as seen in **Figure 4**.

Figure 3: Population Projected Annual Growth Rates (2010 – 2019)



Figure 4: Projected Population Trends from 2000 to 2035



Source: Esri Business Analyst; Population Projections based on U.S. Census projected 2019 – 2024 growth rate of 0.63%.

AGE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

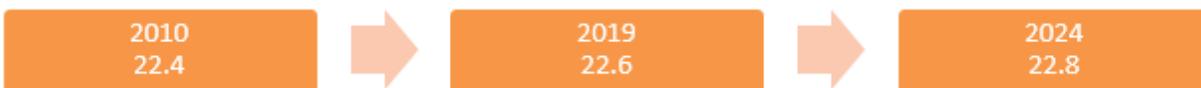
City of College Park has more males (53%) than females (47%). Gender distribution in Maryland and the United States is more evenly balanced.

Table 1: City of College Park Gender Distribution Compared to State and National Averages

	City of College Park	Maryland	USA
2019 Female Population (%)	47.00%	51.53%	50.75%
2019 Male Population (%)	53.00%	48.47%	49.25%

The median age in the City of College Park in 2019 was 24.5 years old, significantly younger than the State of Maryland (36.6) and the United States (39.2). The median age in College Park is expected to increase slightly to 22.8 years old in 2024.

Figure 5: Median Age of City of College Park between 2010 and 2024

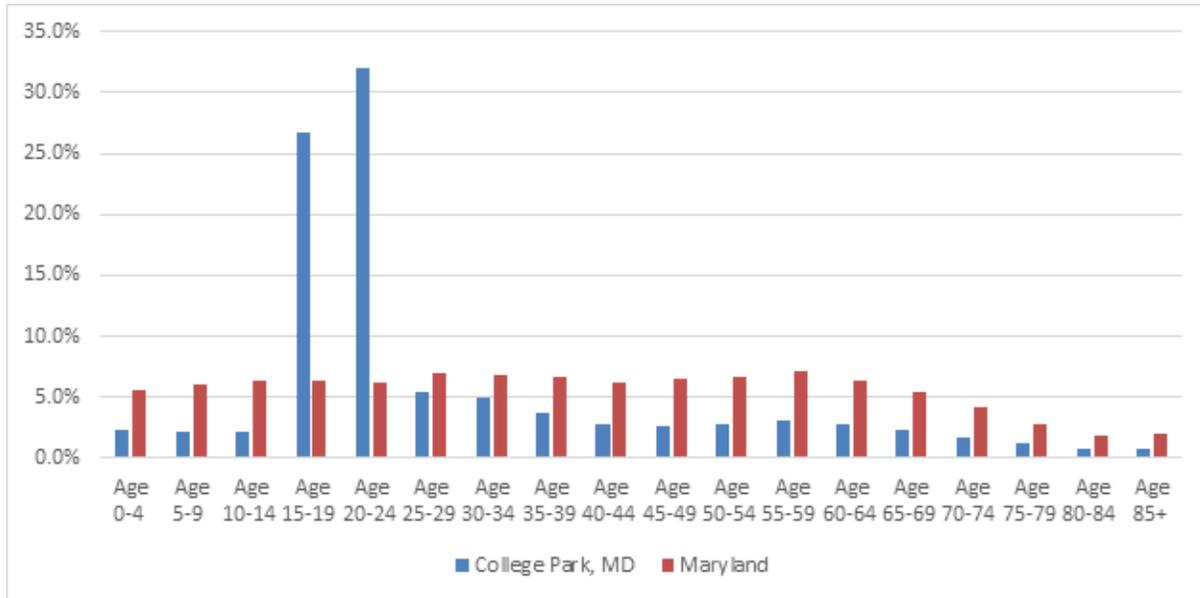


Looking at the population age breakdown by five-year increments in the Figure below, there are a few key conclusions.

- The City of College Park has a very high concentration of those between 15 and 24 years old (may be a reflection of the impact of the University of Maryland). This age range made up 62.24 percent of the population in 2010; in 2019, it is estimated that this group decreased in size but still made up 58.8 percent of the population.
- All other age groups, except 25 to 39-year olds (5.4%) made up less than five percent of the population.

- The age distribution is expected to stay relatively the same from 2019 to 2024 for all other age groups besides 15 to 24-year olds. The major changes that are expected are only within 2 percentage points.

Figure 6: 2019 Age Distribution in City of College Park



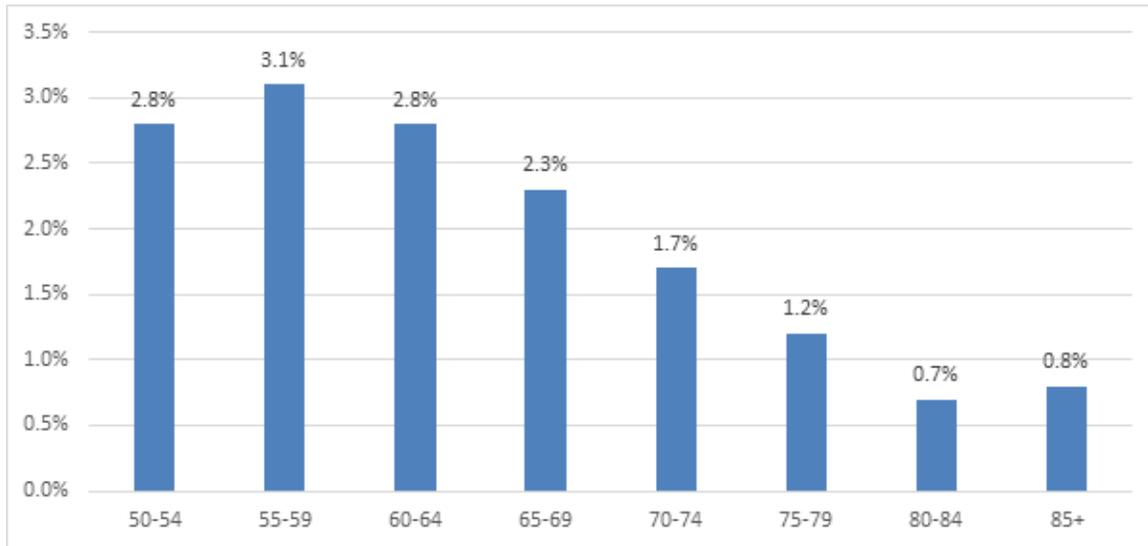
Residents 50 and older made up about 15.3 percent of the total population in 2019 (may be a reflection of the impact of the University of Maryland), up about two percentage points since 2010. Those that are 50 plus are predicted to increase to 15.9 percent of the population in 2024.

Table 2: Percentage of 50+ Residents in College Park

	2010	2019	2024
Total Population	30,140	31,519	32,517
Population 50 +	3,913 (12.9%)	4,829 (15.3%)	5,166 (15.9%)

Of those over 50, 55 to 59-year olds make up the largest percentage of the population at 3.1 percent. Those 70 and older only make up 4.4 percent of the total population.

Figure 7: Age Distribution of Residents 50+ in College Park

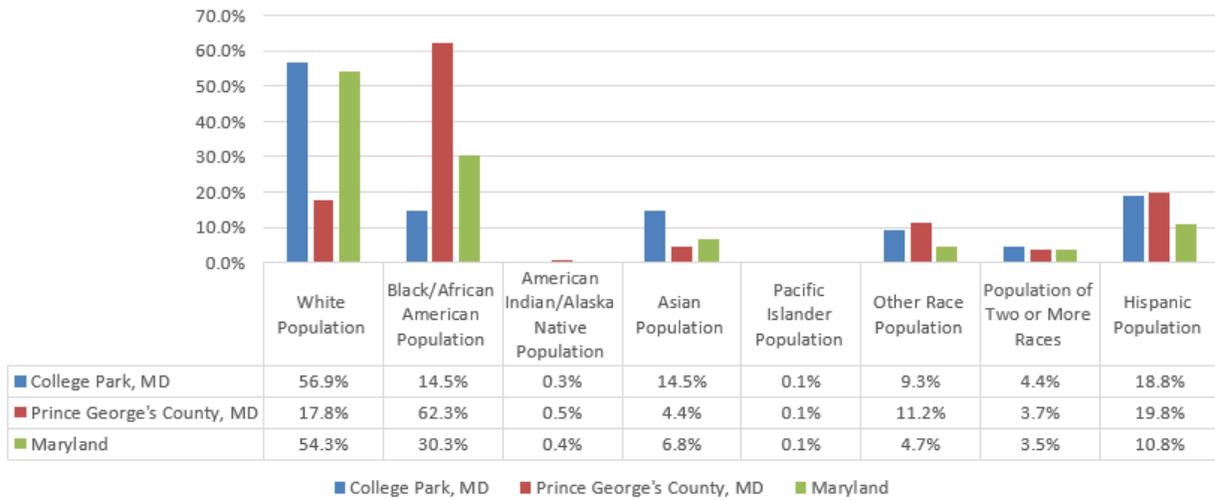


RACE/ETHNIC CHARACTER

In the United States, communities are generally becoming more diverse. Before comparing this data, it is important to note how the U.S. Census classifies and counts individuals who identify as Hispanic. The Census notes that Hispanic origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before arrival in the United States. In the U.S. Census, people who identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish are included in all of the race categories. **Figure 8** reflects the approximate racial/ethnic population distribution.

- The City of College Park is significantly less diverse than the Prince George's County. The minority population in the City of College Park is 50.88 percent, with 14.5 percent each identifying as Asian and African American. Prince George's County is made up of 62.3 percent African Americans.
- Those that identify as Hispanic make up 18.8 percent of the total population in the City. This is higher than all other neighboring geographies, as well as the United States (18.6%).

Figure 8: 2019 Racial/Ethnic Diversity of City of College Park



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The chart below shows the percentage of residents (18+) that obtained various levels of education. The City of College Park ranked higher than the United States in higher education. Approximately 24.60 percent of City residents 25 years and older had earned a graduate/professional degree, compared to 12.5 percent of United States citizens. However, The City of College Park had a higher percentage of those without a high school education, at 8.51 percent, compared to the United States average of 4.9 percent.

Table 3: 2019 City of College Park Educational Attainment

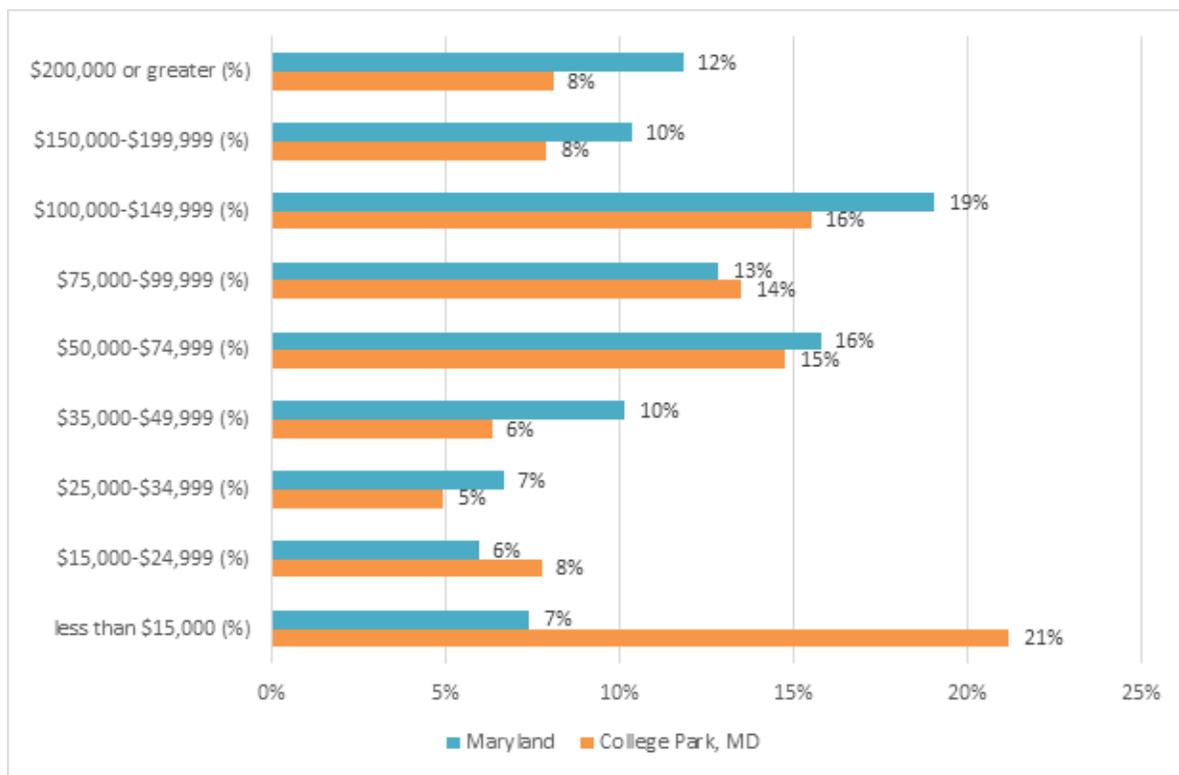
Level of Education	City of College Park	Prince George's County	Maryland	USA
Less than 9th Grade	8.51%	7.00%	3.89%	4.90%
9-12th Grade/No Diploma	7.60%	6.71%	6.13%	6.74%
High School Diploma	13.57%	22.07%	21.02%	23.13%
GED/Alternative Credential	1.99%	2.82%	3.08%	3.90%
Some College/No Degree	16.09%	22.14%	18.84%	20.23%
Associate's Degree	5.02%	6.39%	7.01%	8.58%
Bachelor's Degree	22.62%	18.81%	21.53%	19.98%
Graduate/Professional Degree	24.60%	14.07%	18.49%	12.54%

HOUSEHOLD DATA

- The median household income in College Park in 2019 is \$64,510 (the median household income may be affected by the high number of students attending the University of Maryland). This was lower than Prince George's County (\$81,800), the State of Maryland (\$81,440) and the United States (\$60,548). Approximately 21 percent of residents make less than \$15,000 year. Residents that are 55 and older have a higher household income of \$71,412 compared to the overall household income (\$64,510).

- Approximately 35 percent of all households in College Park are owned by those 55 and older.
- The median home value in the City of College Park is \$288,072, compared to Maryland (\$325,388) and the United States (\$234,154).
- The average household size is 2.85 in the City of College Park, compared to 2.63 in Maryland, and 2.59 in the United States.
- Approximately 8.6 percent of households in the City of College Park receive food stamps, compared to the rate in the County of 10.65 percent, and the State of Maryland at approximately 10.87 percent.
- Approximately 15.85 percent of residents live with some sort of hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, and/or independent living difficulty. This is lower than the national average (25%).

Figure 9: Median Household Income Distribution in City of College Park

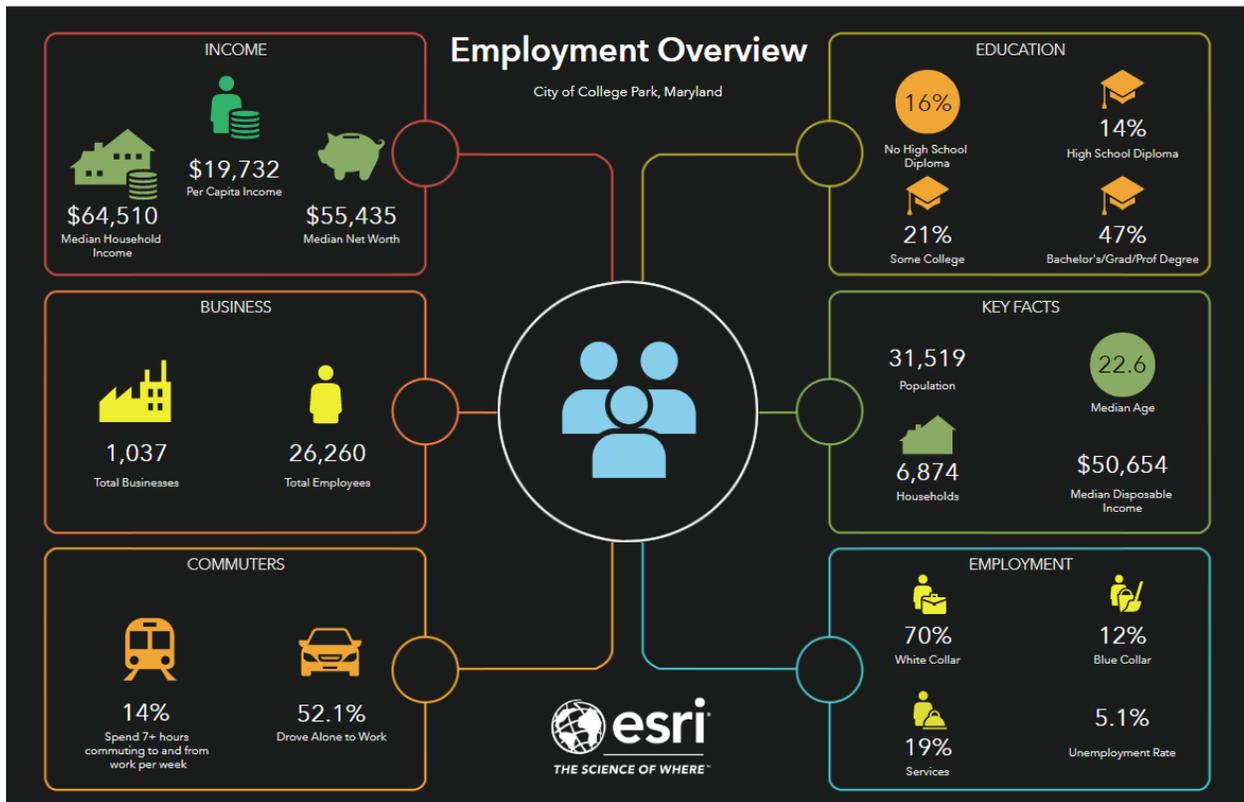


Source: Esri Business Analyst

EMPLOYMENT

- Roughly 70 percent of the full time employed population over 16 years old is employed in white collar positions, which typically performs managerial, technical, administrative, and/or professional capacities. Approximately 12 percent were employed by blue collar positions, such as construction, maintenance, etc. About 19 percent of residents were employed by the service industry.
- Approximately 5.1 percent of the population was unemployed in 2019, compared to the rate of Maryland (4.4%) and the United States (4.6%).
- In terms of commuting, about 14 percent of workers spend seven or more hours commuting back and forth to work each week, and 52.1 percent of commuters drive alone in a car to work.

Figure 10: Employment Overview in City of College Park, Maryland

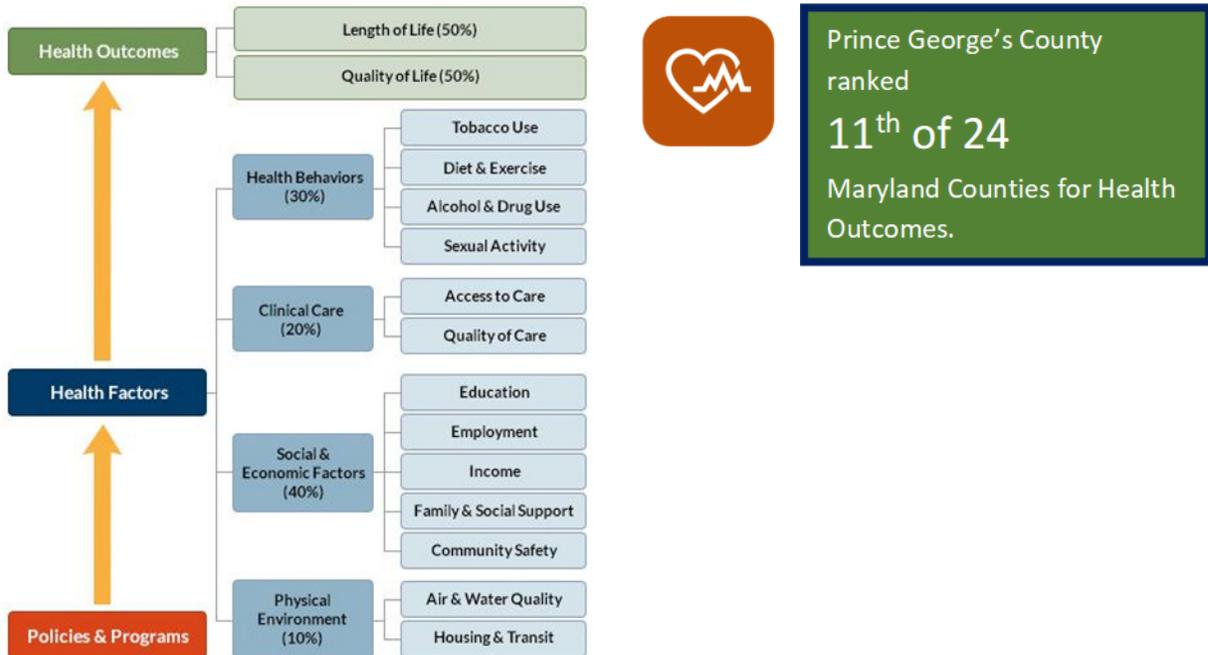


Source: Esri Business Analyst

HEALTH RANKINGS

Understanding the status of the community's health can help inform policies related to recreation and fitness. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings and Roadmaps provide annual insight on the general health of national, state, and county populations. The 2019 Rankings model shown in **Figure 11** highlights the topic areas reviewed by the Foundation.

Figure 11: County Health Ranking Model



The health ranking for College Park gauged the public health of the population based on “how long people live and how healthy people feel while alive,” coupled with ranking factors including healthy behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors.¹

State Health Ranking

In 2018, the United Health Foundation’s *America’s Health Rankings Annual Report* ranked Maryland as the 19th healthiest state nationally. The health rankings consider and weigh social and environmental factors that tend to directly impact the overall health of state populations. The state moved down three position in the ranking since 2017.

¹ University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute & Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, County Health Rankings 2019, <http://www.Countyhealthrankings.org>

Summary of Senior Health Changes

of Maryland include:

- In the past year, poverty increased 12% from 7.3% to 8.2% of adults ages 65+
- In the past two years, low-care nursing home residents decreased 14% from 7.4% to 6.4% of residents
- In the past four years, falls increased 22% from 23.4% to 28.6% of adults ages 65+
- In the past four years, suicide increased 16% from 11.8 to 13.7 deaths per 100,000 adults ages 65+
- In the past five years, smoking decreased 22% from 9.2% to 7.2% of adults ages 65+

STRENGTHS

of Maryland Health include:

- Low prevalence of smoking
- Low prevalence of frequent physical distress
- Low percentage of children in poverty

CHALLENGES

of Maryland Health include:

- High violent crime rate
- High infant mortality rate
- High incidence of chlamydia

III. PARKS AND RECREATION INFLUENCING TRENDS RELATED TO COLLEGE PARK

The changing pace of today's world requires analyzing recreation trends from both a local and national level. Understanding the participation levels of town residents using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, combined with research of relevant national recreation trends, provides critical insights that help to plan for the future of parks and recreation. These new shifts of participation in outdoor recreation, sports, and cultural programs are an important component of understanding and serving your community.

PART I: RECREATION BEHAVIOR AND EXPENDITURES OF COLLEGE PARK HOUSEHOLDS

- Local Recreational Expenditures
- Outdoor Recreation Behavior
- Fitness and Health Behavior
- Generational Changes

PART 2: PARKS AND RECREATION TRENDS RELEVANT TO COLLEGE PARK

- Active Transportation
- ADA Compliance
- Community Gardens
- Dog Parks
- Generational Fitness Trends
- National Healthy Lifestyle Trends
- Older Adults and Senior Programming
- Outdoor Fitness Trails
- Preventative Health
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Walk with a Doc

PART I: RECREATION BEHAVIOR AND EXPENDITURES OF COLLEGE PARK HOUSEHOLDS

LOCAL RECREATIONAL EXPENDITURES

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides insights about consumer expenditures per household in 2019. The following information was sourced from ESRI Business Analyst, which provides a database of programs and services where College Park residents spend their money. The table below shows the average dollars spent on various recreational products/services. Money spent on fees and admissions related to entertainment and recreation generated the highest revenues of \$5 million in College Park.

Table 4: Recreational Expenditures in City of College Park, Maryland

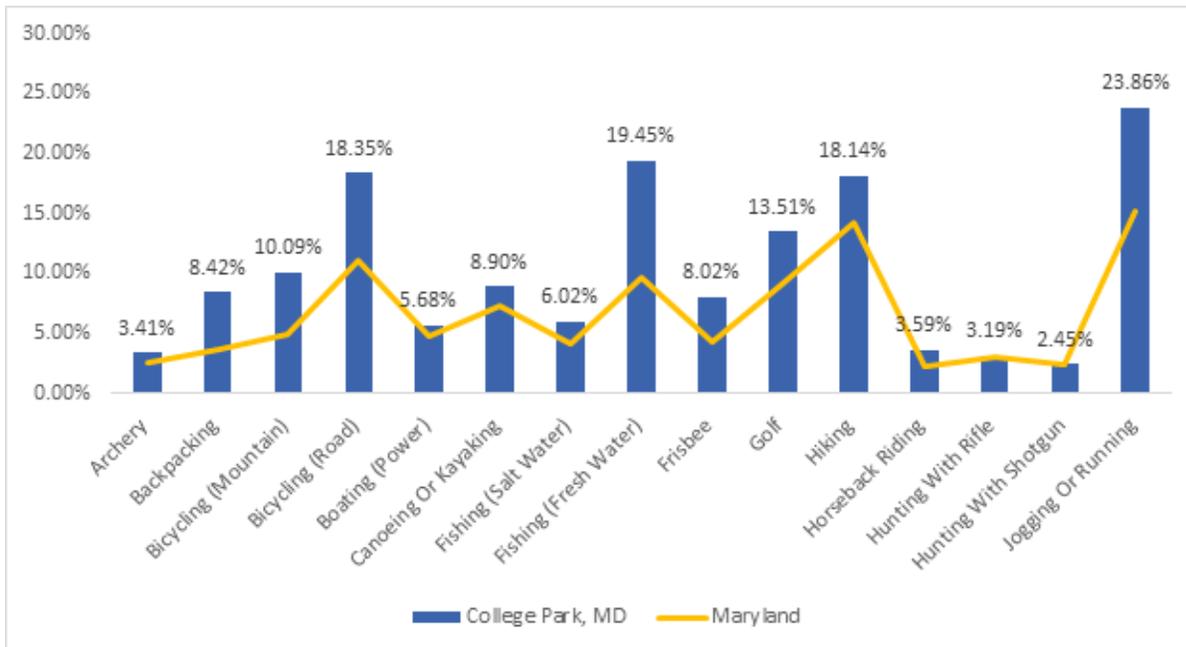
Expenditure	Average	Total
Entertainment/Recreation - Fees & Admissions	\$736.37	\$5,061,785
Membership Fees for Social/Recreation/Civic Clubs	\$249.77	\$1,716,917
Entertainment/Recreation -Sports/Rec/Exercise Equipment	\$195.88	\$1,346,486
Fees for Recreational Lessons	\$144.08	\$990,382
Entertainment/Recreation - Toys/Games/Crafts/Hobbies	\$120.54	\$828,583
Camp Fees	\$76.76	\$527,614
Hunting & Fishing Equipment	\$65.13	\$447,693
Pet Services	\$63.58	\$437,077
Bicycles	\$30.74	\$211,314
Rental of Boats/Trailers/Campers/RVs	\$22.71	\$156,123
Camping Equipment	\$18.74	\$128,825
Winter Sports Equipment	\$7.15	\$49,163
Water Sports Equipment	\$7.06	\$48,503

OUTDOOR RECREATION BEHAVIOR

In **Figure 12**, data from ESRI Business Analyst shows popular outdoor recreation activity participation by households in College Park. Participation was also pulled from the State of Maryland for comparison. The most popular activities in the City of College Park included:

- Jogging or Running (23.9%)
- Fresh Water Fishing (19.5%)
- Road Biking (18.4%)
- Hiking (18.1%)

Figure 12: Outdoor Recreation Behavior of College Park compared to the State of Maryland



The previous graphic shows that jogging or running was the highest rated activity for College Park households for recreation and suggests the need for a focus on trail and path connectivity.

FITNESS AND HEALTH BEHAVIOR

The figure below shows household participation in various fitness activities. One interesting data point is the walking for exercise activity. Typically, data around the country shows that walking for exercise is the most popular form of exercise. This was true for the state of Maryland, but not for College Park. Swimming is the most popular sport in College Park, with 22 percent household participation. The figure below shows household participation in various fitness activities. Participation was highest for the following activities:

- Swimming (21.09%)
- Walking for Exercise (20.12%)
- Weight Lifting (11.69%)

Figure 13: Fitness and Wellness Participation of College Park compared to the State of Maryland

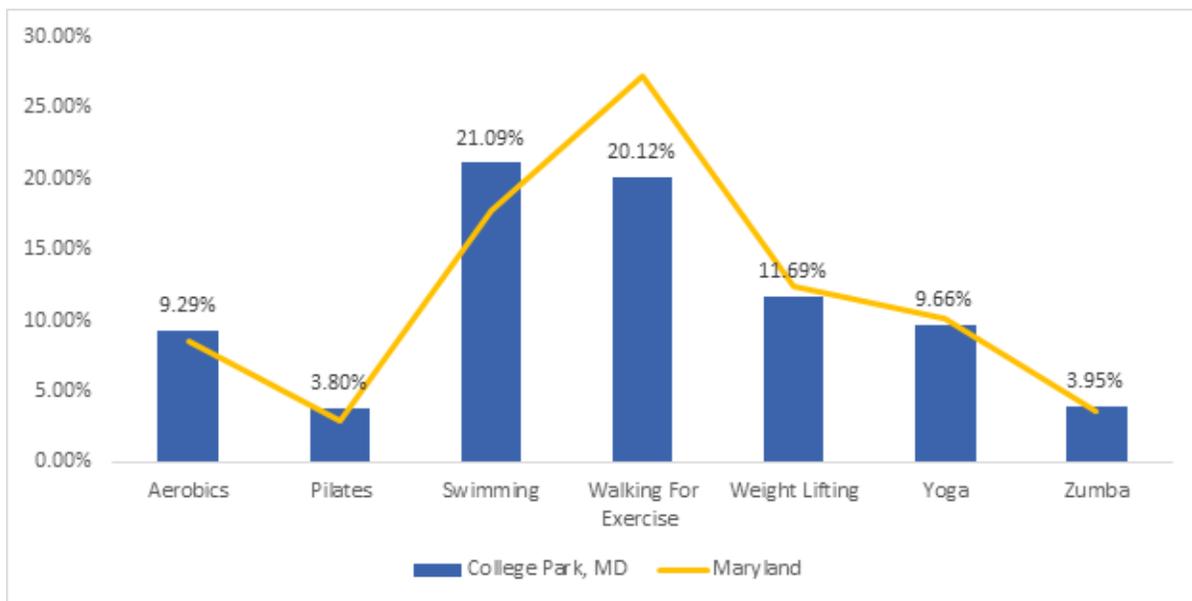


Figure 13 above shows that walking for exercise was the second highest rated activity for College Park households for fitness and suggests the need for a focus on trail and path connectivity.

GENERATIONAL CHANGES

Activity Participation varies based on age, but it also varies based on generational preferences. In 2018, almost 70 percent of College Park residents belonged to the Millennial and Generation Z populations. Maryland and the United States had similar percentages of all generations, with no major differences. Baby Boomers and those in Generation X were much more common state and nationwide.

Figure 14: Generational Breakdown in College Park from 2018/2023

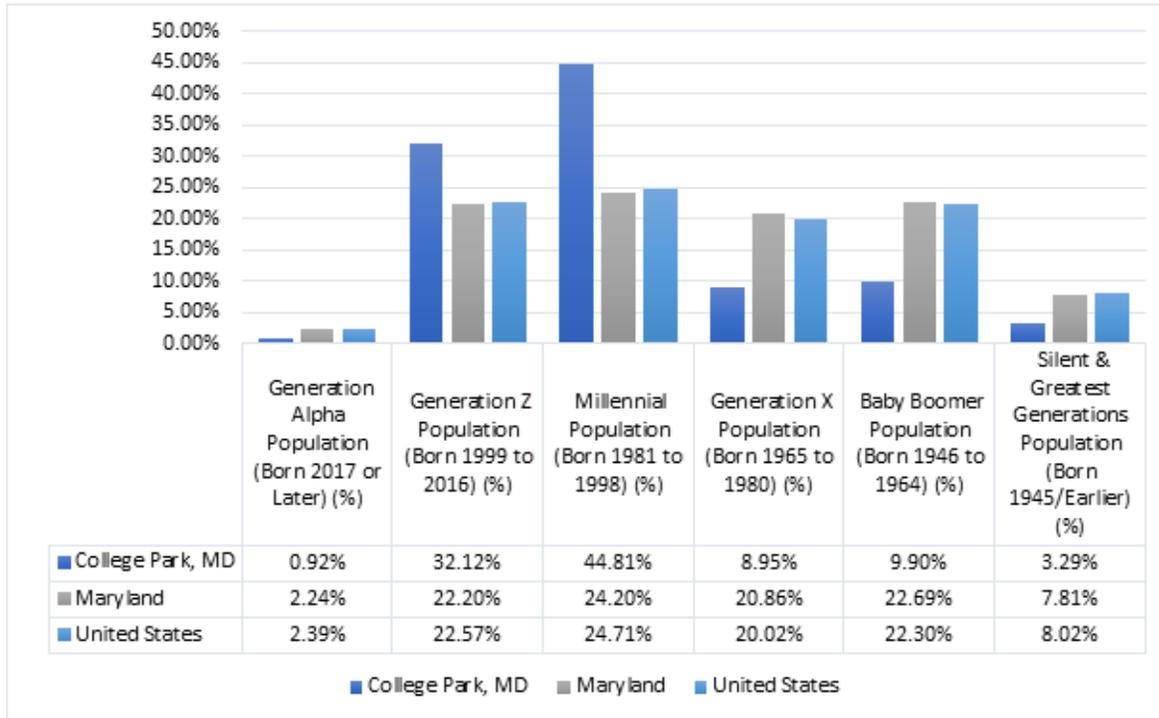


Figure 14 above shows that almost 70 percent of College Park residents belonged to the Millennial and Generation Z populations and suggests the need for a focus on programming for these age groups (4 – 39 year olds).

PART 2: PARKS AND RECREATION TRENDS RELEVANT TO COLLEGE PARK – ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION – BICYCLING AND WALKING



In many surveys and studies on participation in recreational activities, walking, running, jogging, and cycling are nearly universally rated as the most popular activities among youth and adults. Walking, jogging, and running are often the recreational activity with the highest level of participation and cycling often ranks as the second or third most popular activity.

These activities are attractive as they require little equipment, or financial investment, to get started, and are open to participation to nearly all segments of the population. For these reasons, participation in them is often promoted as a means of spurring physical activity and increasing public health.

NATIONAL HEALTHY LIFESTYLE TRENDS

The population of the United States is becoming more diverse. As demographics are experiencing an age and ethnic shift, so too are landscapes, daily lifestyles, and habits changing. The number of adults over the age of 65 has increased, and lifestyle changes have encouraged less physical activity; collectively these trends have created profound implications for the way local governments conduct business.

Below are examples of trends and government responses. Local governments are increasingly accepting the role of providing preventative health care through park and recreation services. The following facts are from an International City/County Management local government survey:²

- Eighty-nine percent (89%) of respondents believe that parks and recreation departments should take the lead in developing communities conducive to active living.
- Eighty-four percent (84%) had already implemented recreation programs that encourage active living in their community.
- The highest priority selected for the greatest impact on community health and physical inactivity was a cohesive system of parks and trails and accessible neighborhood parks.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE

On July 26, 1990, the federal government officially recognized the needs of people with disabilities through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This civil right law expanded rights for activities and services offered by both state and local governmental entities (Title II) and non-profit/for-profit entities (Title III). Parks and Recreation agencies are expected to comply by the legal mandate; which means eliminating physical barriers to provide access to facilities, and providing reasonable accommodations in regard to recreational programs through inclusive policies and procedures.

It is a requirement that agencies develop an ADA Transition Plan, which details how physical and structural barriers will be removed to facilitate access to programs and services. The Transition Plan also acts as a planning tool for budgeting and accountability.³

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Communities around the country are building community gardens for a number of far-reaching environmental and social impacts. According to Greenleaf Communities, which supports scientific research in environmental and human health, community gardens offer benefits including:⁴

Environmental	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing waste through composting• Improving water infiltration• Increasing biodiversity of animals and plants• Improve air and soil quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase intake of vegetables and fruits• Promotes relaxation and improves mental health• Increases physical activity• Reduces risk of obesity and obesity-related diseases

² "Active Living Approached by Local Government: Survey," International City/County Management Association, <http://bookstore.icma.org/freedocs/Active%20Living%20and%20Social%20Equity.pdf>, 2004.

³ Mark Trieglaff and Larry Labiak, National Recreation and Park Association: "Recreation and the Americans with Disabilities Act," Accessed August 2019: <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2016/august/recreation-and-the-americans-with-disabilities-act/>

⁴ Katie DeMuro, "The Many Benefits of Community Gardens" *Greenleaf Communities*, <https://greenleafcommunities.org/the-many-benefits-of-community-gardens>, accessed January 2019

Some studies show that community gardens can improve the well-being of the entire community by bringing residents together and creating social ties.

DOG PARKS

Dog parks continue to see high popularity and have remained among the top planned addition to parks and recreational facilities over the past three years. They help build a sense of community and can draw potential new community members and tourists traveling with pets.⁵

OLDER ADULTS AND SENIOR PROGRAMMING

Many older adults and seniors are choosing to maintain active lifestyles and recognize the health benefits of regular physical activities. With the large number of adults in these age cohorts, many communities have found a need to offer more programming, activities, and facilities that support the active lifestyle this generation desires.

As Baby Boomers enter retirement, they will be looking for opportunities in fitness, sports, outdoors, arts and cultural events, and other activities that suit their lifestyles. With their varied life experiences, values, and expectations, Baby Boomers are predicted to redefine the meaning of recreation and leisure programming for mature adults. Boomers are second only to Generation Y and Millennials in participation in fitness and outdoor sports.⁶

Boomers will look to park and recreation professionals to provide opportunities to enjoy many life-long hobbies and sports. When programming for this age group, a customized experience to cater to the need for self-fulfillment, healthy pleasure, nostalgic youthfulness, and individual escapes will be important. Recreation trends will shift from games and activities that boomers associate with senior citizens. Ziegler suggests that activities such as bingo, bridge, and shuffleboard will likely be avoided because Boomers relate these activities with old age.

Public parks and recreation agencies are increasingly expected to be significant providers of such services and facilities. The American Academy of Sports Medicine issues a yearly survey of the top 20 fitness trends.⁷ Programs including Silver Sneakers, a freestyle low-impact cardio class, and water aerobics are becoming increasingly popular as Americans are realizing the many benefits of staying active throughout life. According to the National Sporting Goods Association, popular senior programming trends include hiking, birding, and swimming.

OUTDOOR FITNESS TRAILS

A popular trend in urban parks with trail use for health, wellness, and fitness activities is to install outdoor fitness equipment along the trails. These kinds of exercise stations have been modernized to withstand weather and heavy use. These can be spaced out or a more popular option is to cluster the fitness apparatus just off the trail with a peaceful and pleasing view of nature or playgrounds.



5 Joe Bush, "Tour-Legged-Friendly Parks, *Recreation Management*, February 2, 2016.

6 Physical Activity Council, 2012 Participation Report, 2012.

7 American College of Sports Medicine, "Survey Predicts Top 20 Fitness Trends for 2015," <http://www.acsm.org/about-acsm/media-room/news-releases/2014/10/24/survey-predicts-top-20-fitness-trends-for-2015>, accessed January 2015.

PREVENTATIVE HEALTH

Research has shown conclusively that parks and recreation agencies have a beneficial effect on modifiable health factors by helping to address:

- Increase physical activity
- Enhance social and parental engagement
- Improve nutrition
- Better transportation and access to facilities and spaces
- Perceptions of personal and community safety
- Reductions of smoking, alcohol, and drug use

These factors can be addressed through collaborations with a variety of community partners or “actors,” such as schools, public health, medical, other governmental agencies, private and non-profit sectors.⁸



(Penbrooke, 2017)

⁸ Penbrooke, T.L. (2017). Local parks and recreation agencies use of systems thinking to address preventive public health factors. (Doctoral Dissertation). North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. Retrieved from: <http://www.gpred.org/resources/> under PhD Dissertations.

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) established that persons with disabilities have the right to the same access to parks and recreation facilities and programming as those without disabilities. In 2004, The National Council on Disability (NCD) issued a comprehensive report, “Livable Communities for Adults with Disabilities.”⁹ This report identified six elements for improving the quality of life for all citizens, including children, youth, and adults with disabilities. The six elements are:

1. Provide affordable, appropriate, accessible housing
2. Ensure accessible, affordable, reliable, safe transportation
3. Adjust the physical environment for inclusiveness and accessibility
4. Provide work, volunteer, and education opportunities
5. Ensure access to key health and support services
6. Encourage participation in civic, cultural, social, and recreational activities

Therapeutic Services bring two forms of services for persons with disabilities into play, specific programming and inclusion services. Individuals with disabilities need not only functional skills but to have physical and social environments in the community that are receptive to them and accommodating individual needs. Inclusion allows individuals to determine their own interests and follow them.

Many park and recreation departments around the country are offering specific programming for people with disabilities, but not as many offer inclusion services. In “Play for All—Therapeutic Recreation Embraces All Abilities,” an article in *Recreation Management Magazine*,¹⁰ Dana Carman described resources for communities looking to expand their therapeutic recreation services.

WALK WITH A DOC

Also popping up in parks around the country are “Walk with a Doc” programs. These programs encourage people to join others in a public park to learn about an important health topic, get a health assessment, e.g. blood pressure and to take a healthy walk along a scenic trail, led by a physician, cardiologist or pediatrician. This is a great way to make the important connection between people, parks, and physical and mental health. Key takeaways from the trends study:

- Jogging or running was the highest rated activity for College Park households for recreation and suggests the need for a focus on trail and path connectivity
- Almost 70 percent of College Park residents belonged to the Millennial and Generation Z populations and suggests the need for a focus on programming for 4-year-olds to 39-year-olds
- Local governments are increasingly accepting the role of providing preventative health care through park and recreation services.
- Eliminating physical barriers to provide access to facilities and providing reasonable accommodations in regard to recreational programs through inclusive policies and procedures is the law.
- Community gardens offer many benefits.
- Dog parks help build a sense of community and can draw potential new community members.
- Many older adults and seniors recognize the health benefits of regular physical activities and are looking for more programming, activities, and facilities that support their active lifestyle.
- Research has shown conclusively that parks and recreation have a beneficial effect on modifiable health factors.

⁹ National Council on Disability, *Livable Communities for Adults with Disabilities*, December 2004, <http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2004/12022004>.

¹⁰ *Recreation Management*, February 2007, <http://recmanagement.com/200710fe03.php>, accessed on February 25, 2015.

- Therapeutic Services bring two forms of services for persons with disabilities into play, specific programming and inclusion services.

These key takeaways will be addressed in ***Section XI: Recommendations***.

The full trends report is included as an appendix.

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IV. CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, MD OVERVIEW

The City's population is 33,000 and parks and recreation needs are served by both the City of College Park and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). The City maintains nine playgrounds in the City limits while M-NCPPC owns and operates 15 facilities in the greater area including a community center, skating rink, golf complex and dog park. The City has a Council-appointed Recreation Board with a staff liaison from the Department of Public Services, but no full-time staff dedicated to parks and recreation. City facilities are maintained by the Department of Public Works.

City of College Park Mission Statement

"The City of College Park provides open and effective governance and excellent services that enhance the quality of life in our community."

Knowing the history of the City helped guide the development of the process and the final recommendations for the Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment Report.

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V. INFORMATION GATHERED DURING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public Engagement



125+ Participants

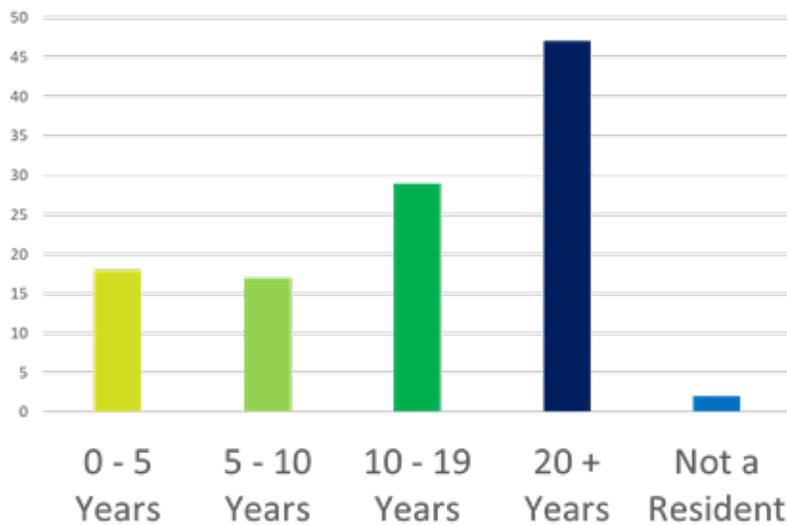
7 Total Focus Groups
4 Senior Meetings
3 Community Meetings

Focus groups, stakeholder interviews, and a public forum were conducted during August 26th and 28th, 2019. These meetings were held throughout the City. The goal of these sessions was to gather information that would guide the provision of recreational facilities, amenities, programs and services. Participants included:

- Users/community members
- Seniors
- Staff
- Members of Rec Board
- MCPPC
- Association Board Members
- City Council

A summary of responses follows. Responses are not prioritized. It should be noted that some participants chose not to respond to some of the questions during the sessions.

Figure 15: Years Participants have been a resident of College Park



Strengths of College Park as they relate to recreational programs, facilities, and services

- Affordability
- After school programs and other programs
- Athletic Fields
- College Park Community Center
- Connecting and Socializing
- Great Senior Staff
- Lake Artemesia
- Monthly Senior Newsletter
- Number of City Parks
- Programs through county as well as senior homes
- Recent Improvements to Playgrounds
- Senior Trips
- Various Special Events throughout the Year
- Walking and Biking Paths

Recreational weaknesses that need to be addressed through the Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment project

Overall

- Additional assistance for seniors needed on a 1-on-1 Basis
- Awareness and communication need significant improvements
- More service opportunities like “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”
- Need Partnerships w/ nearby agencies
- Neighborhoods are strong but still seem segmented
- Recreation Board Needs Assistance
- Consider adding childcare services during programs

Programs

- Communication of Programs is lacking
- Lack of programs for young children
- Lack of sports and programs for post-college grads and for active adults
- Times and dates inconvenient

Facilities

College Park Community Center has potential for greater collaboration, programming

- Lack of facilities
- Need additional investment in maintenance of grounds
- No central location for programs
- No off-leash area for dogs
- Not enough space for classes and meetings
- Programs fill up quickly at College Park CC
- Trails are underutilized

Additional recreational activities desired

Lifelong Learning

- Art Classes
- Clean Up Days
- Computer Classes
- Crochet, Knitting
- Dancing Classes
- Historical Programs
- Intergenerational Programs
- Mentoring Programs
- Trash to Treasure Craft

Health/Fitness

- Access to Health Services
- Active Adult Programs
- Bike Rides
- Kid Open Gym
- Personal Training
- Pickleball Classes
- Senior Counseling Services
- Service Dogs
- Social Sports (Golf, Tennis, Bocci, Pickleball, Ultimate Frisbee)
- Socializing space for card games, bingo
- Swimming
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Wellness Checks
- Yoga/Cardio Space

Entertainment

- Build on Youth EXTREME Program
- Community Wide Yard Sales
- Concerts in the Park
- Free Movie Nights
- Interest Clubs
- Programs for young kids, pre-teens, teens, etc.
- Senior Trips (Increase Capacity, Extend Trips)
- Summer Programs
- Winter Market

New recreational amenities desired

Amenities/Facilities

- ADA Access
- Cardio/Aerobic Space
- Community Gardens
- Community/Senior Center in North College Park
- Computer Lab
- Dog Parks
- Fitness Gym/Equipment
- Gymnasium
- Improved Park Amenities (bathrooms, water fountains, trash/recycling)
- Indoor Pool
- Makerspace
- Meeting Space
- Outdoor Basketball Courts
- Permanent Gallery Space
- Recreation Room
- Senior Playground
- Storm Shelter
- Teaching Kitchen
- Volleyball Court

Equipment

- Computer
- Bike Racks
- Horseshoe Pit
- Fitness Equipment
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Ping Pong Table/Fusbol

Transportation assistance desired related to recreation

Current Strengths

- Good Bus System
- Need to Build on Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Desires

- Additional Year-Round Trips
- Emergency Equipment/Oxygen on Buses
- Greater communication about service
- Lack of safe access for cycling and walking
- Limited Service and Capacity
- Longer Distance Travel
- More Frequent Service on Weekends
- Need access across 193 on Rhode Island for biking and walking
- Need transportation to other Community Centers
- Not Always Available During Program Times
- Possible Partnership with Uber/Lyft

Underserved Populations of the Community

- Homebound Seniors
- People with Disabilities
- Active Adults
- Hispanic Population
- Teens and Tweens
- Young Children
- Young Adults
- West College Park
- North College Park

Financial Considerations

- Continue Financial Agreement with City to Share Costs
- County and State Funding
- Development Impact Fees
- Grants
- Increase in User Fees
- Partnerships
- Private Donors
- Tax Incentives
- Concern around additional tax increase/what specific benefits to the community

Key Issues and Values the City of College Park needs to consider

- Access
- Affordability
- Aging Population and Younger Families
- Awareness and Communication
- Balance of Active Adults and Elderly Senior Programs
- Beltway Widening – Displacement
- Capture diversity of the community
- Making Seniors a Priority
- Safety
- Transient Populations
- Transportation

Potential Partners

- Boys and Girls Club
- College Parks Arts Exchange
- Exploration on Aging
- Fitness Facilities, such as Posh Cycling
- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)
- Mom's Organic Market
- Local Businesses, such as Proteus Bicycles
- School District
- State of Maryland
- Technology Firms
- University of Maryland
- Various Associations

Other Suggestions

- Research more about the recreation center and operations model of Greenbelt, MD
- Council members should consider additional listening opportunities to the public
- Program promotion/marketing needs to start earlier to provide ample opportunity for participation
- Need additional visitor parking in senior homes
- Some community members suggested repurposing older facilities that are not being used as a senior center
- Look to nearby Community Centers that may offer similar amenities

Top Priorities for recreation for City of College Park based on initial public input sessions

- Affordability
- Communication
- Focus on Health and Wellness
- Focus on Recreation
- Greater Coordination Between Neighborhoods
- Livable Place to Retire
- Maintain and Improve What We Already Have
- Successful and Strategic Partnerships
- Safe, Comfortable, and Welcoming
- Senior Center/Space
- Variety and Unique Programs

VI. COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Survey Final Report

April 2020



The purpose of this survey was to gather community feedback on The City of College Park’s facilities, trails, amenities, programs, future planning, communication, and more. Furthermore, there was a need to assess senior program offerings specifically. This survey research effort and subsequent analysis were designed to assist The City of College Park in developing a plan to reflect the community’s desires, needs, and priorities for the future. The goal was to ensure all residents had a chance to voice their opinion in this process.

Methodology

Primary methods:

1 = Statistically Valid (Invitation Survey)
Mailed survey with an option to complete online

2 = Open Link Survey
Online survey available to all residents

3,500 Mailings Sent to City of College Park Residents



The Invite Survey represents the randomly sampled results of The City of College Park residents. A sample size of 497 completed invite surveys leads to a margin of error of +/- 4.4%. Further, senior residents were oversampled as there was an entire part of the survey that only assessed senior programs. Sample sizes are displayed with each graph. Graphs that have approximate sample sizes fluctuate slightly if multiple questions are displayed. In these cases, sample size ranges are presented. Because of the lower sample size for the Open Link survey, results should be interpreted with caution.



The underlying data from the invitation survey were weighted by race of respondent to adjust for the known demographics of The City of College Park residents across different demographic cohorts in the sample. Using U.S. Census Data, the race distribution in the sample were adjusted to more closely match the population profile of The City of College Park residents.

The following figures show the top survey findings related to programs and facilities satisfaction and participation, awareness, communication, trail and pathway connectivity, and transportation for seniors and the community.

Figure 16: Top Survey Findings

Top Findings



Current offerings are generally perceived as meeting needs

All facilities that were rated as above-average importance are also rated as meeting the needs of the community well. However, there is some disconnect between different organizations and what each offers.



Increasing awareness may lead to higher participation

Seniors, especially, are not as likely to be aware of what is offered. These individuals may seek out recreation opportunities if they are more easily accessible to find.



Satisfaction is moderate among respondents

Parks, programs, and senior recreation options are more positive than negative, but there does appear to be areas of desired improvements.



Preferred communication methods are diverse

From social media to emails to the Weekly Bulletin, respondents seek a diversity of online and traditional promotional materials. This is even more important as different ages prefer different communication methods.

Top Findings



Most parks and programs receive use by a small segment of people

Special events are used most often by respondents, but even then, only 35% participated in the past 12 months. Overall there may be ways to increase use at a variety of facilities.



Trail and pathway connectivity ranks high in future priorities

Along with open space / natural areas, trail connectivity was chosen as the number one priority to improve/expand in the near future for The City of College Park.



Further partnering with other recreation providers may be useful for residents

Residents do use The City of College Park facilities and programs, but there are a number of other organizations and facilities they use too. Matching up how to best serve residents may be best done through partnering with these other organizations to improve offerings.



Seniors are interested and willing to participate in trips and programs

Many seniors who responded to the survey had not yet participated in programs or trips, but they expressed a desire to try both out in the future. Shifting program times and/or reaching out to a wider range of residents may be useful.

Figure 17: Survey Demographic Profile

Demographic Profile

50% of respondents are working full time while 36% are retired.



57% of respondents' households earn under \$100k per year.



33% of respondents' households have children at home.



10% require ADA-accessible facilities and services in The City of College Park.



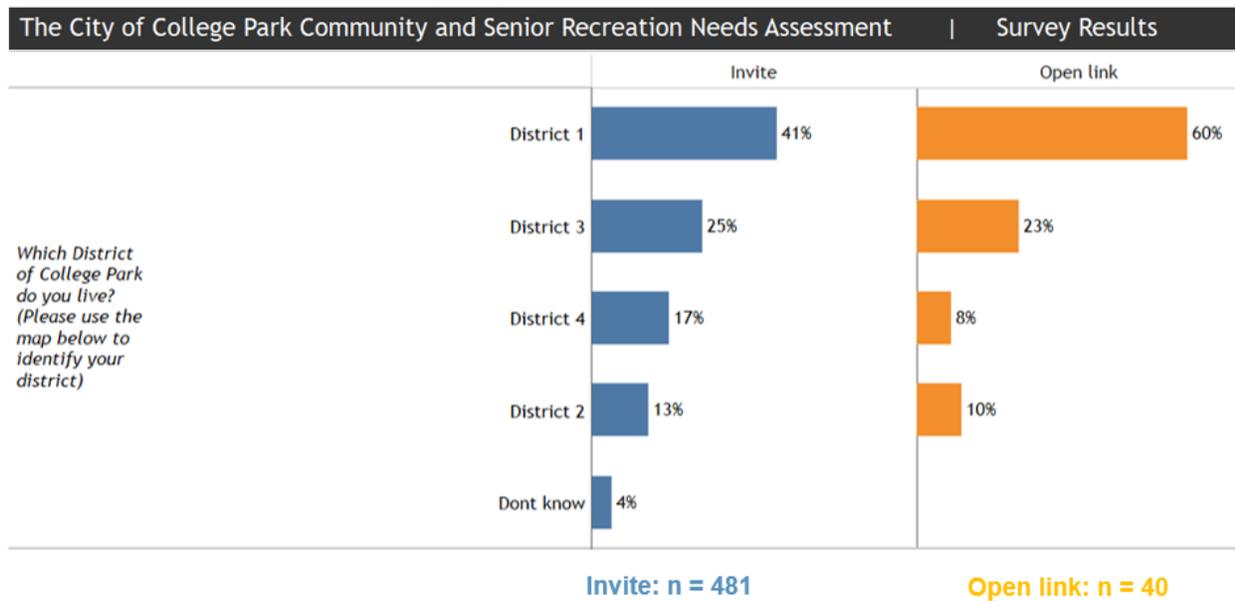
29% have lived in the City of College Park less than 10 years.



Figure 17 above shows that age is distributed across the range with most respondents 55 and older (62%). Because of the nature of this study, respondents' age leans older. Invite respondents are more likely to be female (50%), a common finding in survey research. Most invite respondents are couples with children at home (26%) followed by singles without children (23%). In total, approximately 33% of invite households have children at home.

Respondents were provided a District map and asked which of the four districts their residence is located. The largest share of respondents live in District 1 (41%), with 25% in District 3, 17% in District 4, and 13% in District 2. A small percentage (4%) were not sure which District they lived in. Open link results are similar but leans more towards District 1 residency. Figure 18 shows the District location of survey respondents.

Figure 18: District Location of Survey Respondents



Usage over the past 12 months of The City of College Park parks/playgrounds or services is varied among invite respondents. The most frequently used amenity are special events where 39% of respondents have attended in the past 12 months. Duvall Field and playground saw 35% usage with Hollywood playground seeing 32% usage among invite respondents. Overall, most facilities are only regularly used by a small segment of respondents.

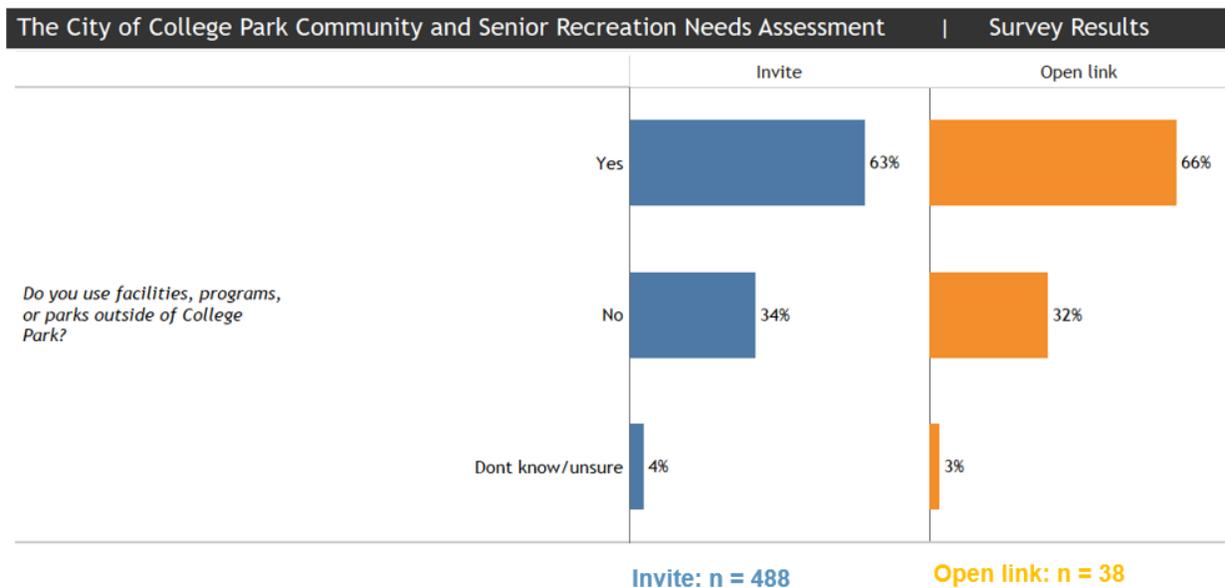
When asked about their satisfaction of multiple aspects, parks (3.9 average) is rated the highest, followed by playgrounds (3.8), and senior programs/trips (3.3). There are not a large volume of respondents who are “dissatisfied” with parks and playgrounds, but there are 29% of invite respondents who rated senior programs/trips as a 1 or 2 out of 5. **Figure 19** shows the satisfaction rate for College Park’s programs, facilities, and parks.

Figure 19: Satisfaction Rate for College Park’s Programs, Facilities, and Parks



Almost 2/3rd (63%) of respondents use facilities, programs, or parks outside of College Park. This is similar in the open link sample as well. This may signal that there are specific needs that are filled outside of what is operated by The City of College Park that residents rely on too. **Figure 20** below shows the rate for College Park residents using programs, facilities, and parks of other service providers.

Figure 20: Rate for College Park Residents Using Other Service Providers



Respondents perceive the communication of The City of College Park is somewhat mixed with most respondents rating the effectiveness as 3 out of 5. Approximately 38 percent rate the effectiveness either a 1 or 2 out of 5, and 27 percent rate it as a 4 or 5 out of 5. There appears to be a wide range of opinions on communication that could be further addressed in the City. Awareness is a common theme in other question results too. **Figure 21** below shows the effectiveness of College park’s communication related to programs, facilities, and parks. **Figure 22** shows the top communication methods identified by survey respondents.

Figure 21: Effectiveness of College Park’s Communication Related to Programs, Facilities, and Parks

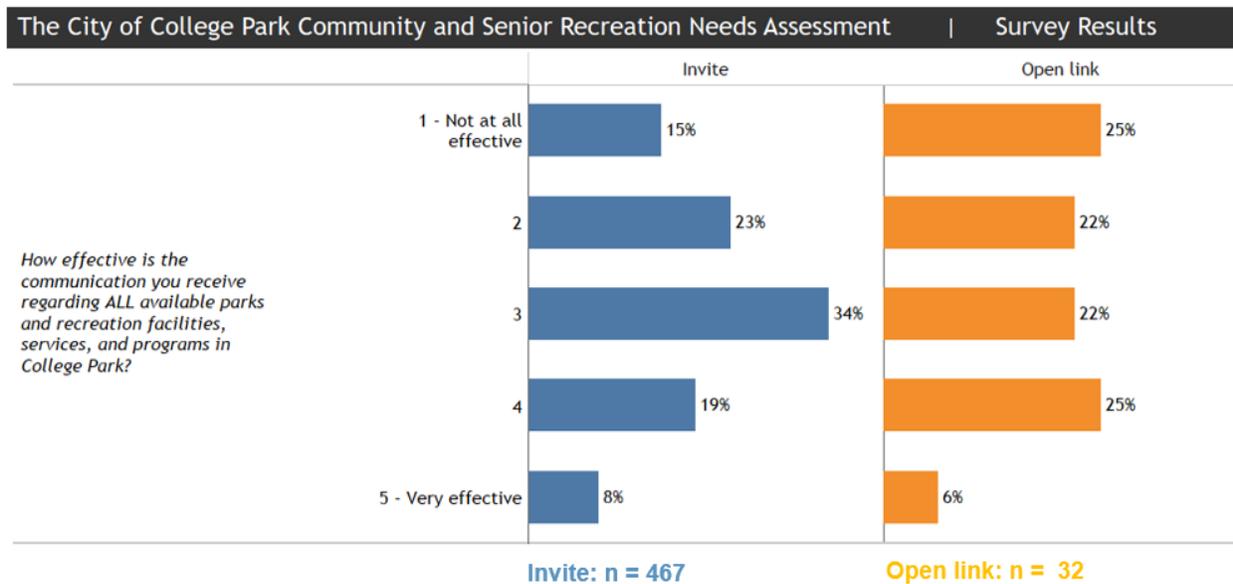
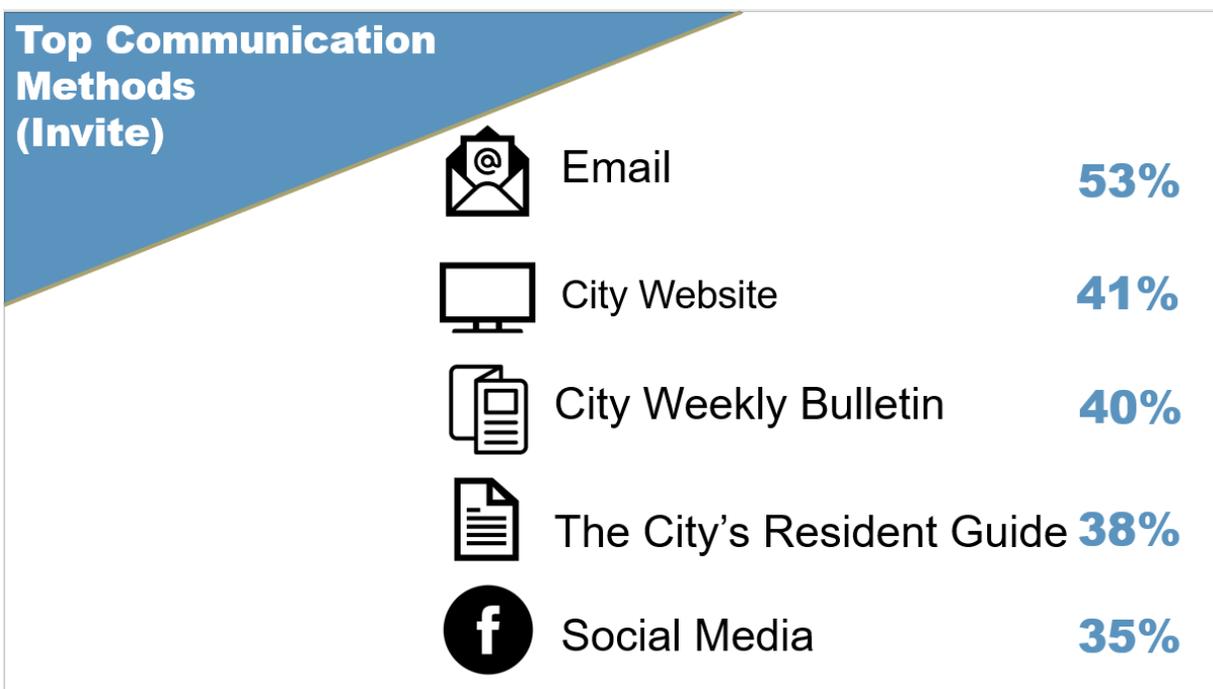


Figure 22: Top Communication Methods Identified by Survey Respondents



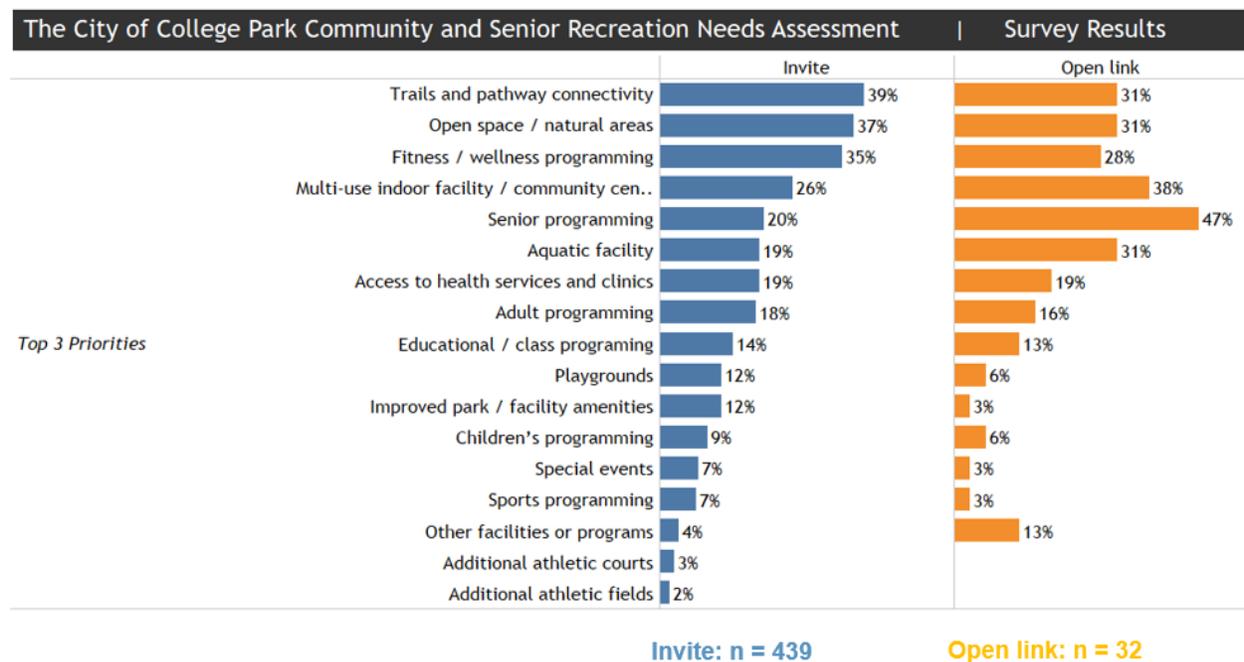
The City of College Park’s invite respondents prefer emails from the City (53%), followed by the City website (41%), City Weekly Bulletin (40%), the City Resident’s Guide (38%), and social media (35%) as the best options for receiving information about parks and recreation. There are a variety of other options preferred in addition to these top options such as word of mouth, at the site location, and local media. These all bring to light the need to diversify communication materials.

Respondents see a variety of improvements and additions as important for the future. In fact, little variation exists within the data and many priorities are rated between 3.6-3.9 out of 5.0. That said, trail and pathway connectivity (4.1), open space/natural areas (3.9), fitness/wellness programming (3.9), and a multi-use indoor facility/community center/senior center (3.8) top the list. Open link results trended similar.

Towards the middle-to-bottom of the list are senior programming (3.6) and an aquatic facility (3.5). Respondents see the least important priorities for the future to be additional athletic fields (2.2) and additional athletic courts (2.9).

When asked to choose their top three priorities from the future needs, respondents selected trail and pathway connectivity (39%), open space/natural areas (37%), and fitness/wellness programming (35%) as the most important to focus on right now. A multi-use indoor facility (26%) and senior programming (20%) also rated quite high on the list of priorities. **Figure 23** below shows the top three priorities related to programs, facilities, and parks.

Figure 23: Top 3 Priorities Related to Programs, Facilities, and Parks

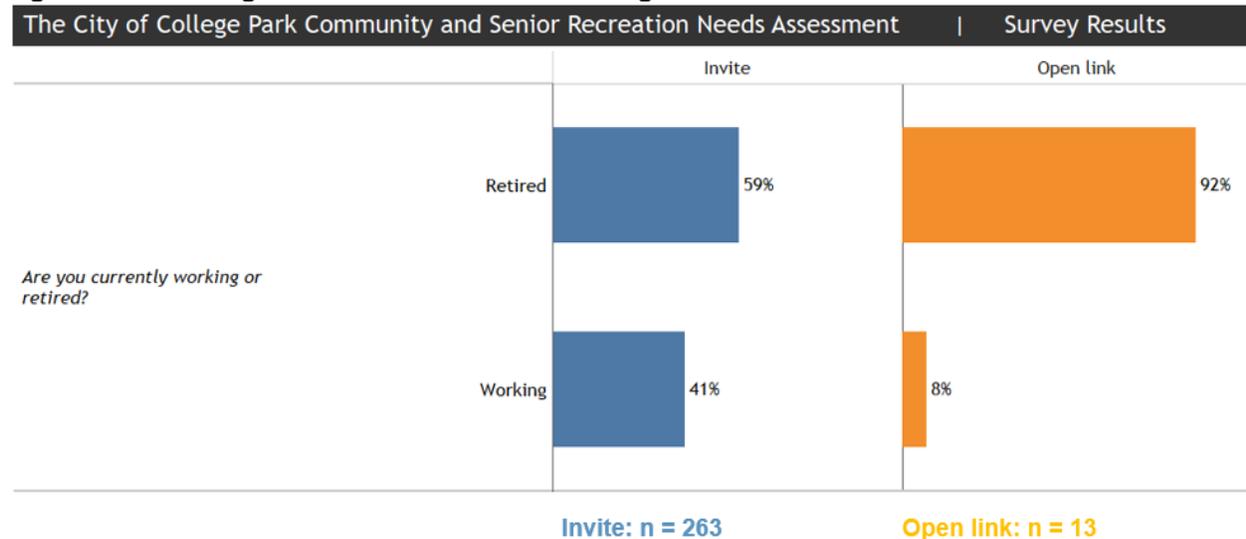


SENIOR RECREATION

At the end of the survey, respondents who were aged 62 (the age the City used to identify seniors) and older were asked to answer an additional page of questions. A secondary goal of the survey process was to assess senior trips and offerings provided by the City of College Park. Thus, questions were developed that would best position the City to improve and/or expand what is offered to seniors. Questions were designed to gauge are unique needs to address in order to increase participation in senior programs and trips. The following section discusses results of these additional questions.

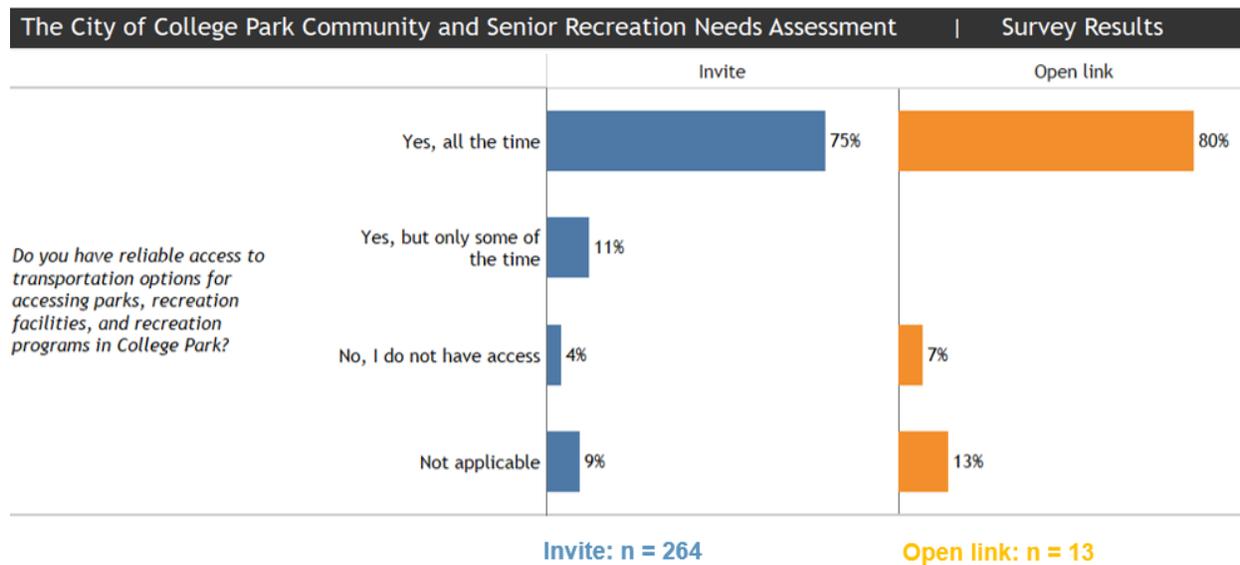
Over half (59%) of seniors in the sample are retired with 41 percent that are still working right now. This question further identifies the need to consider potentially different time periods to offer programming in The City of College Park as some seniors may not be able to attend due to work conflicts. Open link respondents albeit a low response rate are much more likely to be retired (92%). **Figure 25** below shows percentage of seniors retired and working.

Figure 25: Percentage of Seniors Retired and Working



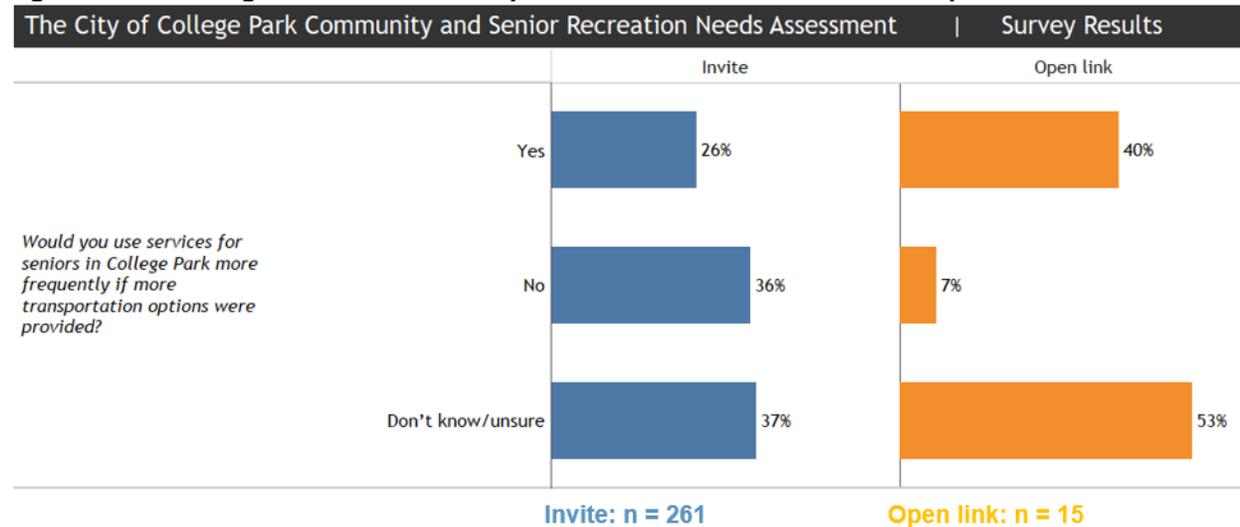
Approximately 75 percent of invite respondent seniors have access to reliable transportation all the time. However, 11 percent have access only some of the time and four percent don't have reliable access. Thus, it may be a smaller portion of the community, but it is still important to consider alternative options for those who cannot reliably get to parks and recreation facilities. **Figure 26** shows percentage of seniors with reliable transportation.

Figure 26: Percentage of Seniors with Reliable Transportation



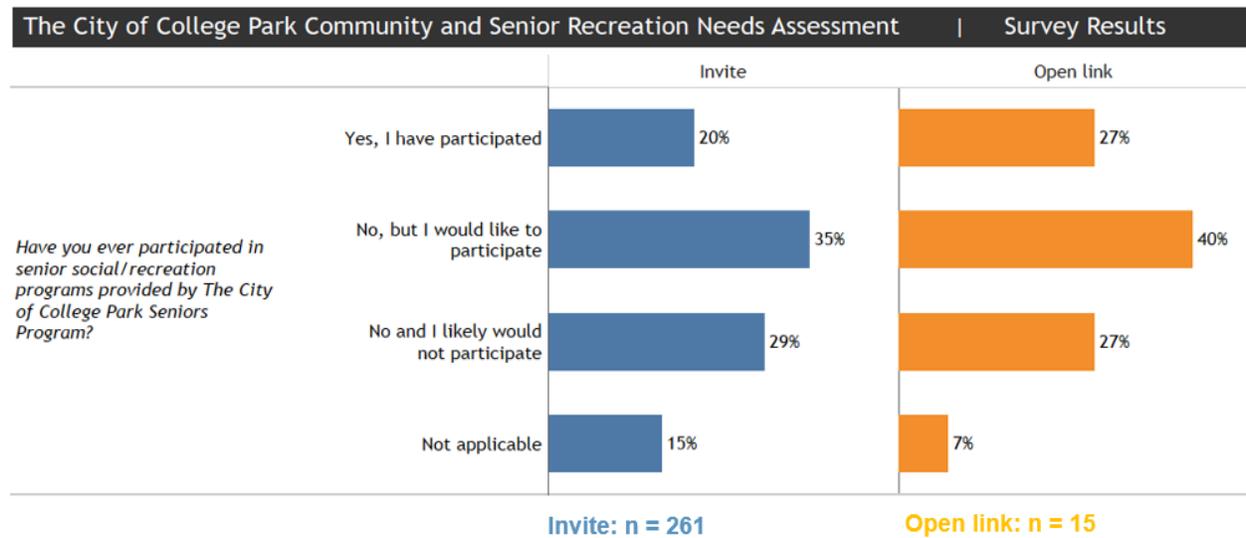
There is a decent share of respondents who would use services for seniors more frequently (26%) if there were more transportation options provided in The City of College Park. While 36 percent would likely not participate more, there are an additional 37 percent that are unsure at this time. Therefore, the percentage of those who would participate more may actually increase if alternative options are provided. Further, there may be those that suddenly need transportation depending on the situation. **Figure 27** below shows percentage of seniors who may use services more if reliable transportation was available.

Figure 27: Percentage of Seniors Who May Use Services More if Reliable Transportation was Available



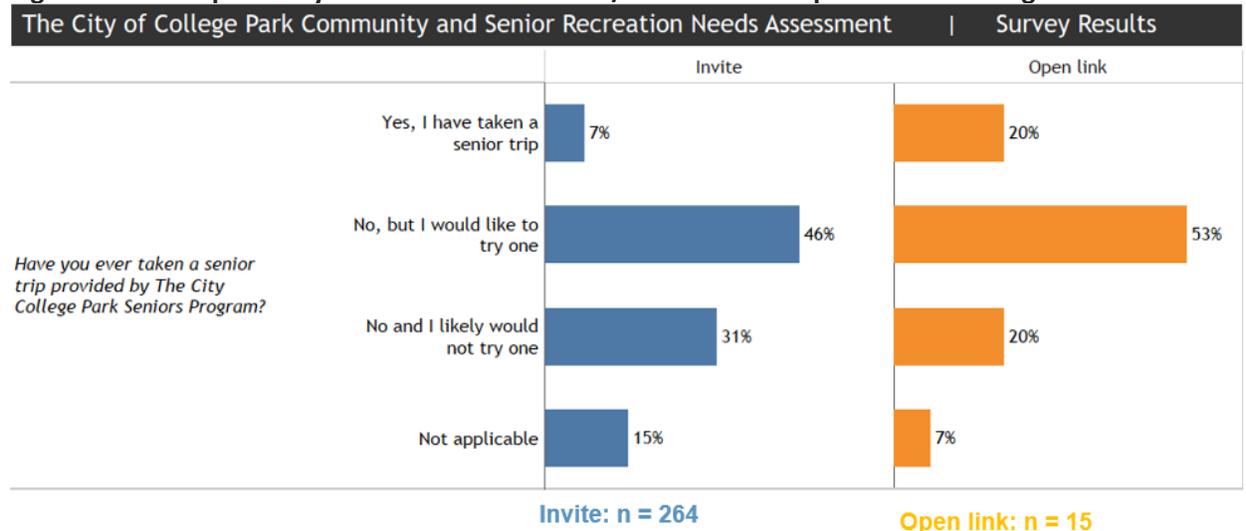
When asked if they had participated in senior social/recreational programs provided, 20 percent of invite respondents had participated, but another 35% would like to participate yet haven't yet. Nearly 30 percent would not likely participate, and 15 percent said it's not applicable right now. But, there is an optimistic group that would like to participate in the future. These individuals may just need the right information to get started. Comments discussed the need to seek out information because they were unsure what was offered yet. **Figure 28** below shows participation by seniors in senior social/recreational programs provided College Park.

Figure 28: Participation by Seniors in Senior Social/Recreational Programs Provided College Park



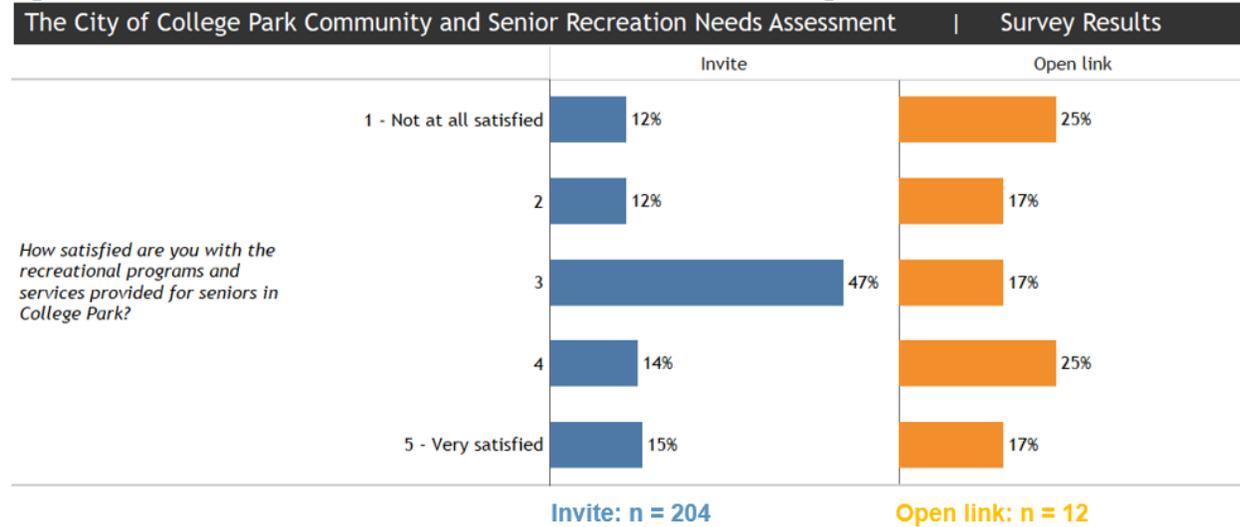
Similar to programs, a smaller number of invite respondents have taken a senior trip (7%), but almost 50 percent of the sample would like to try one (46%). An additional 31 percent are not likely to try, but again, the majority are interested in participated or already have in the past. Results further reinforce the need to distribute information to these groups as they may want to participate and are unaware of what is offered. **Figure 29** below shows participation by seniors in senior social/recreational trips provided College Park.

Figure 29: Participation by Seniors in Senior Social/Recreational Trips Provided College Park



Most respondents are neutral in their satisfaction of senior programs and services. In total, 47 percent of invite respondents rated their satisfaction a 3 out of 5 for senior programs and services in the City of College Park. This may be due to fewer using what is offered currently and not forming an opinion yet. Nearly equal shares are satisfied (29% rated 4 or 5) compared to 24% who are not satisfied (rated 1 or 2). **Figure 30** below shows satisfaction of seniors related to social/recreational programs and services provided College Park.

Figure 30: Satisfaction of Seniors Related to Social/Recreational Programs and Services



Senior Programming

Respondents were asked to expand on their response to the previous question and some select quotes are presented. A comprehensive listing of comments from this question is included in the appendix.

Although I am working and cannot take advantage of the current activities, I am aware they are not sufficient for active seniors. Nor are they in a location which is available to them most of the day.

It would be nice if there is an indoor pool.

I have not received information about senior programs in the area.

I am not sure at this juncture just what the programs are! Both my wife and I will be retiring within the next year and will most likely become familiar with and take advantage of such programs.



Finally, respondents rated how important priorities for senior recreation are for The City of College Park. Similar to the community-wide survey, more/improved open spaces and natural areas (3.9) topped the list with an increased focus on health and wellness (3.9) tied. More/improved indoor facilities (3.8) and additional active adults programs (3.8) followed.

VII. CURRENT PROGRAMS, AND FACILITIES

The City of College Park does not have a traditional Parks and Recreation Department that provides, programs, facilities, services, and parks for residents and visitors. Four City Departments work together to provide these services.

- The Youth, Family and Senior Services Department provides community outreach as well as family counseling for youth and families to enhance family functioning.
- The Department of Planning, Community & Economic Development prepares local park plans, as needed, and the coordinates planning efforts with other agencies including the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)
- The Department of Public Services provides administrative support to the Recreation Board.
- The Department of Public Works is responsible for building maintenance, recreational facilities maintenance, turf, tree, and landscape maintenance.

The Youth, Family and Senior Services Department coordinates senior programs and trips, utilizes space from a local church for senior recreation and offers senior trips to local points of interest, and refers seniors to other volunteer/ nonprofit organizations for assistance as appropriate. The Boys and Girls Club provides programs at Duvall Field & Playground and other parks and facilities. Public Services coordinates request for facility and park reservations. The City hosts events for the community such as festivals, concerts, movie nights, and other special events.

City residents support the M-NCPPC through their taxes and in turn, rely on this agency to provide programs, facilities, services, and parks.

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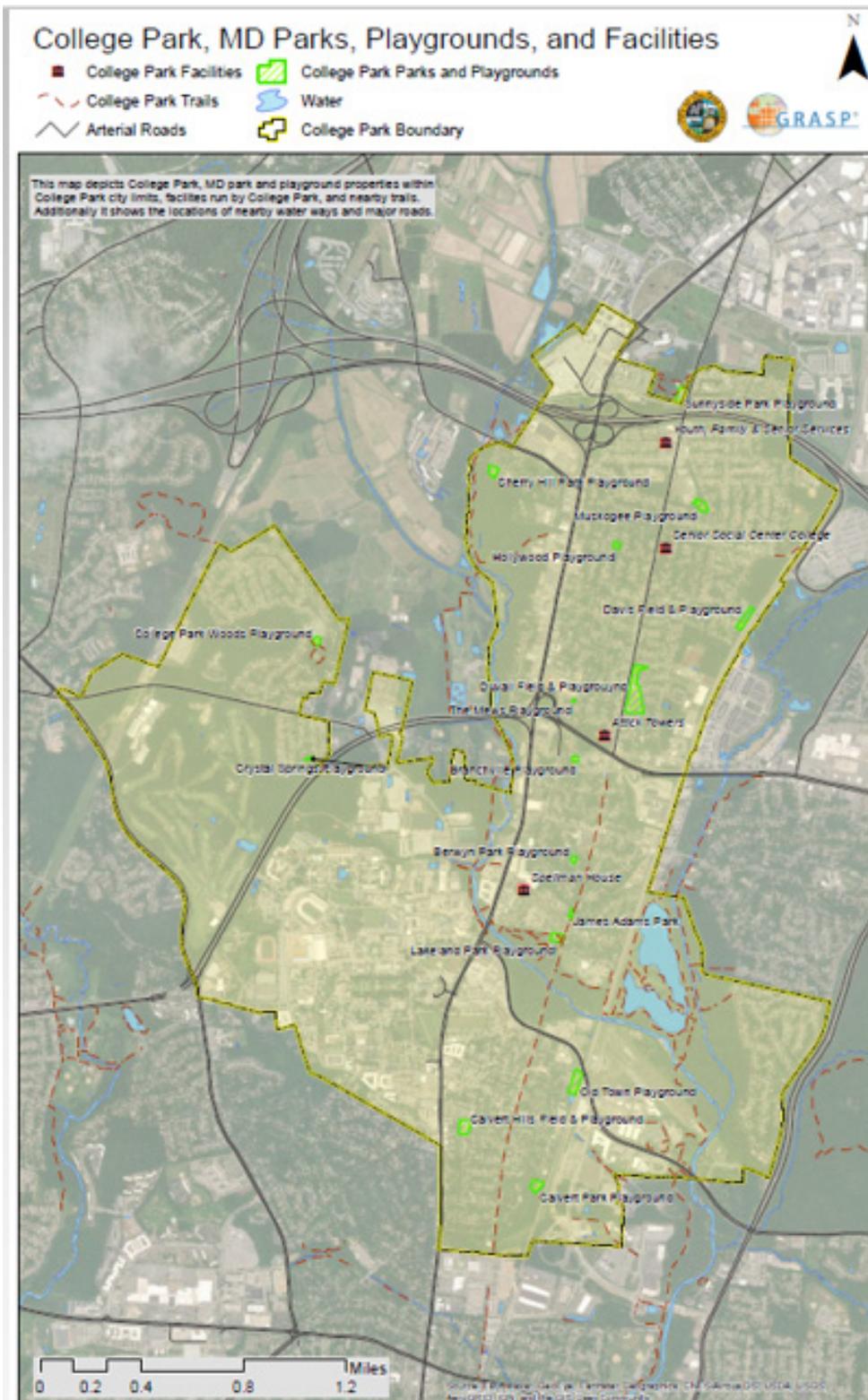
VIII. SENIOR AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

Community members expressed that transportation resulted in minimal barriers to participation and access to City parks, recreation facilities and services. In terms of transportation, a majority of survey respondents currently use their own car to get to facilities; however, some respondents expressed an interest in using alternative means of transportation – walking, biking, and using public transportation. Special concern for access to facilities by youth and older adults was expressed.

Three maps were developed to show the parks, recreation facilities and services available to residents along with available transportation options.

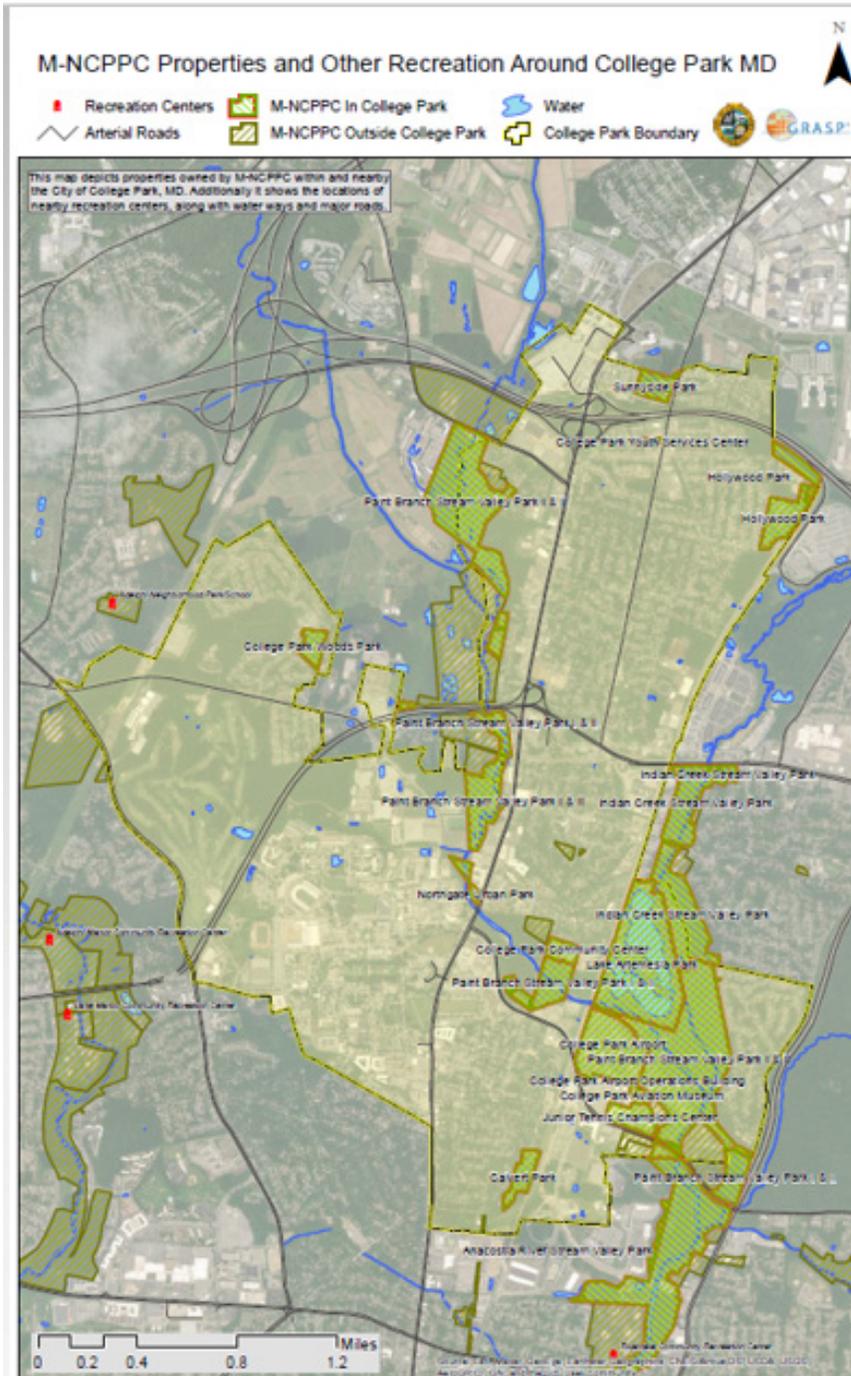
Map #1 of College Park, MD Parks, Playgrounds, and Facilities shows what is available within city limits. The map shows indoor facilities run by College Park, in addition to nearby trails, water ways, and major roads. There is distribution of city parks on the east side of town between Old Town and Hollywood with sparse trail systems connecting the north and south ends of the City. There are few City managed parks West of Baltimore Avenue, although the University likely also provides accessible parks and green space. City Park indoor facilities all fall east of Baltimore Ave. and north of the Paint Branch Stream, leaving Old Town and West of Baltimore Ave. without an indoor space.

Figure 31: Map of College Park, MD Parks, Playgrounds, and Facilities



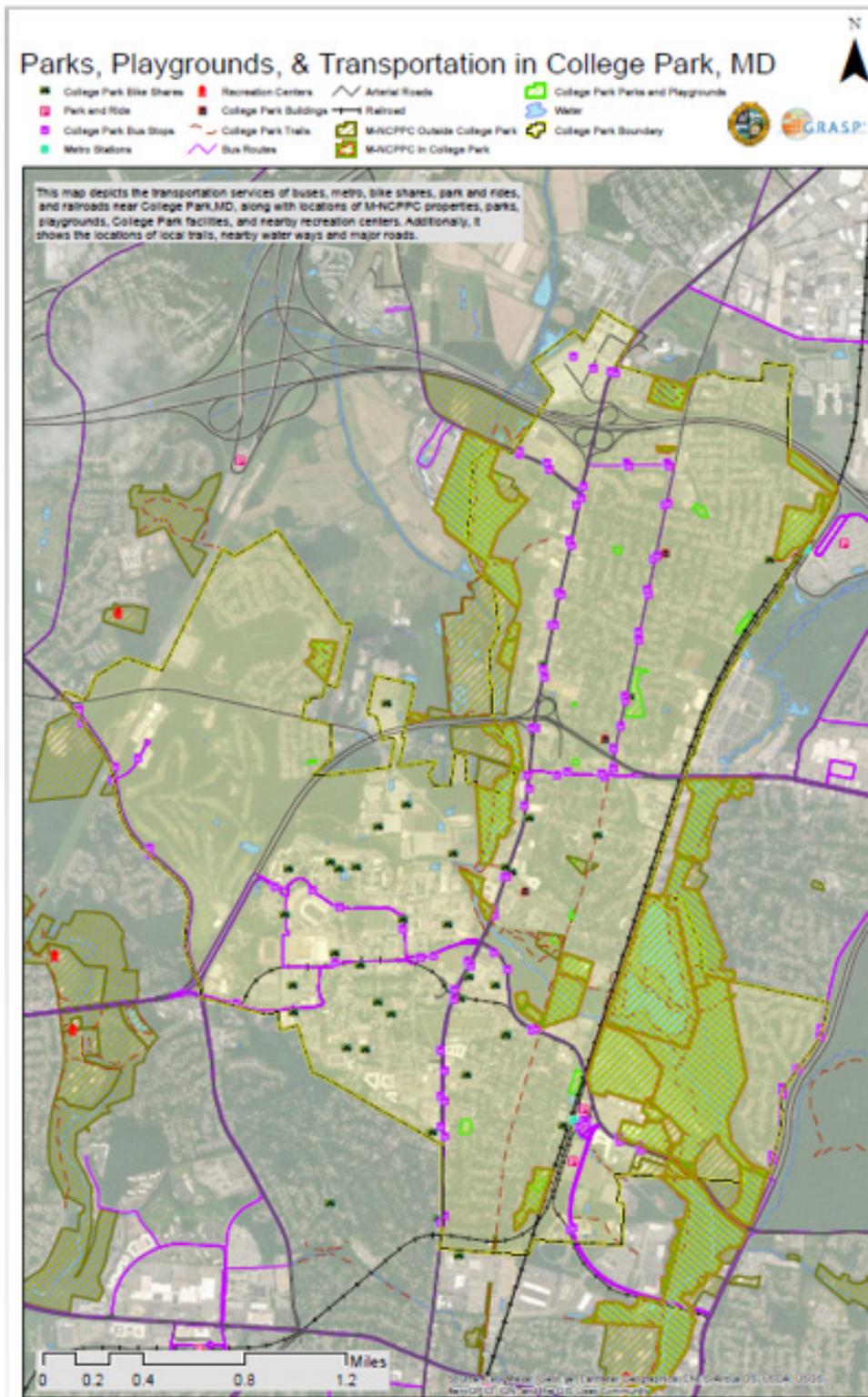
Map #2 of M-NCPPC Properties and Other Recreation Around College Park depicts properties owned by M-NCPPC within and nearby the City of College Park, MD, nearby recreation centers, along with water ways and major roads. This map shows that there are many opportunities for recreation programs, services, and facilities.

Figure 32: M-NCPPC Properties and Other Recreation Around College Park MD



Map #3 of Parks, Playgrounds & Transportation in College Park shows that the City of College Park has good coverage for parks, playgrounds, and transportation, but does lack indoor recreation facilities. This map of transportation services including buses, metro, bike shares, park and rides, and railroads near College Park. Also shown are all M-NCPPC and College Park parks and playgrounds, College Park facilities, nearby recreation centers, as well as local trails, nearby water ways and major roads. There appears to be good coverage of bus routes along N-S thoroughfares. Bike shares are at the University and surrounding area. Access to the Metro station is limited to two stops. While there are many parks and four indoor facilities, there are no City indoor recreation centers within College Park.

Figure 32: Map #3 Parks, Playgrounds & Transportation in College Park MD



While there are many parks and four indoor recreation facilities owned and operated by others, there are no City owned and operated indoor recreation centers within the City of College Park.

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IX. ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS

There are a variety of alternative providers of related services in and around College Park. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is a bi-county agency, empowered to acquire, develop, maintain and administer a regional system of parks in a defined metropolitan district within the Montgomery and Prince George's counties, Maryland. The City of College Park is part of the Metropolitan District and residents pay tax to M-NCPPC. M-NCPPC administers a park system that currently contains over 59,000 acres. It is composed of stream-valley parks, large regional parks, neighborhood parks, and park-school recreational areas. Its staff consists of over 1,975 career employees—planners, park and recreation administrators, park police, and administrative staff. In addition, it employs approximately 4,880 seasonal workers, primarily for its numerous park and recreation programs. The operating and administrative functions of M-NCPPC are financed primarily by property taxes levied by the two counties. M-NCPPC has the authority to sell general obligation bonds to fund approved park acquisition and development projects. M-NCPPC's board consists of ten members, five appointed by Montgomery County and five by Prince George's County. Responsibility for public recreation in Prince George's County and the County Recreation Department was transferred to M-NCPPC in July 1970 as a result of legislative action. This legislation provided that taxes to support recreation be imposed countywide and that the County Council may require M-NCPPC to institute new recreation programs.

It is important to note that the Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County is one of the largest, most highly sophisticated, and most award-winning agencies in the nation. The Department has a large amount of resources dedicated to planning, analysis, marketing, communications, and administration. Recognized for their outstanding efforts in program design and development by organizations such as the National Recreation and Park Association Council on Accreditation for Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association, the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation has established itself as one of the leading agencies in recreation service provision in the United States.

In September 2008, the Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County embarked on The Parks & Recreation: 2010 and Beyond planning effort, a community needs assessment, visioning, and strategic planning project. The purpose of the project was to proactively plan for Prince George's County's present and future recreation programs, parks, trails, and open space needs. A result of this planning effort was the development of The 2040 Vision and Framework document that provides a vision to guide the development of the parks and recreation system into the future, looking to when the county is anticipated to be largely built-out in 30 years. Included in the 2040 Vision and Framework document is a recommendation for the M-NCPPC to add facilities in the College Park Northwest area.

M-NCPPC is beginning a feasibility study to determine how best to add 10,000 sq. ft. of indoor recreational space to the North College Park area. They are conducting preliminary site selection analysis in advance of preparing a Scope of Work/Task Order for a feasibility study to determine how to achieve this goal. Additionally, the MNCPPC is in the process doing a feasibility study for the next Multigenerational Center in Prince George's County.

In addition to the M-NCPPC, City of College Park residents have at their disposal a multitude of recreation service providers. These alternative providers include agencies and organizations representing the public, non-profit, and private sectors. They offer a breadth of recreation services including but not limited to youth sports, health and wellness activities, older adult services, aquatics activities and facilities, golf, natural resource provision, arts and culture, and community/recreation centers.

The analysis of alternative service providers available to the City of College Park residents indicates that coordination with these alternative service providers and improved communication related to what is offered by alternative service providers should be a focus for the City to address community and senior recreation needs for residents.

X. FINDINGS

An analysis of input received in stakeholder meetings including the Senior Committee, staff interviews, facility and site tours, market analysis, demographic and trends research, and the needs assessment survey identified the City residents' many key issues and values, and a list of priorities related to community and senior recreation.

The consultant team determined that the facilities and parks provided by the City of College Park are not heavily used - sources included focus groups, stakeholder meetings, survey, consultant observations from multiple visits to College Park for this project and the Duvall Field project, staff interviews and conversations with other service providers, including M-NCPPC, University of Maryland and private providers. The consultant team determined that the regular recreation participation of College Park residents does not strain capacity for available City of College Park facilities. The majority of recreation participation from College Park residents (60+ percent of survey respondents) does occur in neighboring communities and with other service providers, and there is not a need for College Park to provide these services because the demand for these services are being met. University of Maryland recreational offerings are primarily for students, faculty, staff and alumni. While College Park residents can participate in many University of Maryland recreational offerings, they cannot participate in all, such as intramural recreation leagues, and facility availability is limited with priority going to students, faculty, and staff.

While a typical outcome of a survey and public engagement might show a community's desire for a new community center, there is a difference between desire and actual need. Members of the community through focus groups, stakeholder meetings and the survey (50 percent of survey respondents placed a community center as their fourth priority), expressed a desire for a community center and a recreation center. The assessment did not show a need for the City of College Park to solely build a large community recreation center, and instead showed that the City could benefit from providing meeting/multi-purpose space that could occur in a small community center, or by renting store front spaces in strip malls as indicated in the recommendations. The assessment further indicated that College Parks facilities are not being used to full capacity which could be do to insufficient communication, and promotion of programs and services. A combination of lack of promotion of current facilities, programs and services, lack of dedicated staff to customize programs and services, and current design of indoor facilities, all contribute to resident's reluctance to use current City facilities for recreation. A proposed new center should be funded by the M-NCPPC and the County, as City residents currently pay taxes for the provision of recreation services.

A Key Issues Matrix was developed to identify key issues, the source and priority rating and to develop initial recommendations. **Figure 33** below shows a snapshot of a section of the Key Issues Matrix.

Figure 33: College Park Key Issues Matrix

College Park MD Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment	Qualitative Data			Quantitative Data			Consultant's Analysis and Professional Expertise
 Key Issue - Rating Scale a - priority b - opportunity to improve c - minor or future issue blank means the issue didn't come up or wasn't addressed	Staff Input	Public Input	Leadership Interviews	Community Survey	Other City Documents	Consultant Team	 The Leading Edge In Parks, Recreation, And Open Space Consulting Preliminary Recommendations
	Organizational						
Population anticipated to increase by about 3,300 by 2035	b	b	b	b	b	b	Partnerships with M-NCPPC, County, community services providers including churches and other organizations, and university should be considered to address projected population increases.
College Park has large numbers of 15 - 19 and 20 - 24 year olds possibly because of U of MD	b	b	b	b	b	b	Direct University students to University programs, services and facilities
College Park has large numbers of 20 - 24 and 25 - 29 year olds	b	a	b	a		a	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase programs for 20 - 24 and 25 - 29 year olds
Residents are not aware of available programs, services and facilities	a	a	a	a		a	Increasing communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities may lead to higher participation
Seniors, especially, are not as likely to be aware of what is offered. These individuals may seek out recreation opportunities if they are more easily accessible to find	a	a	a	a		a	Develop senior focused communications, promotion, and social media presence in senior living facilities to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities may lead to higher participation
Survey respondents seek a diversity of different communication method depend on age	a	a	a	a		a	Preferred communication methods need to be diverse and include social media posts, emails, website updates, updates in the Weekly Bulletin
Residents are requesting additional programs, services and facilities	a	a	a	a	a	a	Matching up how to best serve residents may be best done through partnering with these other organizations to improve offerings
50% of survey respondents are working full time while 36% are retired	b	b	b	b	b	b	Program offerings should include daytime, evening and weekend options
33% of respondents' households have children at home	b	b	b	b	b	b	Programming offerings should include specific programs for adults with children and family specific programs. Child care options should be also considered
Over half (59%) of seniors responding to the survey are retired with 41% that are still working right now	a	a	a	a		a	Senior program offerings should include daytime, evening and weekend option
11% of seniors responding to the survey have access to reliable transportation only some of the time and 4% don't have reliable access	b	b	b	b		b	Consider alternative options for those who cannot reliably get to parks and recreation facilities (possibly vouchers for Uber, Lyft or taxis)
The majority of survey respondents use a private vehicle as their primary mode of transportation	b	c	b	c		c	Consider developing a ride share online board to assist those with out transportation

The entire Key Issues Matrix is included as **Appendix B**.

The following recurring key issues and values and top priorities were identified:

Recurring Key Issues and Values

- Affordability
- Awareness
- Aging Population
- Young Families
- Communication
- Safe Access
- Unifying Relationships
- College Park's lack of available land

Top Priorities

- Affordability of Programs
- Partnerships with M-NCPPC
- Focus on Health and Wellness
- Greater Communication
- Senior Center Space/Socializing Hub
- Strong Partnerships with County and University
- Variety and Uniqueness of Programs

The following solutions to address these key issues and values, and top priorities related to community and senior recreation were developed and will be detailed in the recommendations section that follows.

Solutions to Meet Senior and Community Recreation Needs

- Partnerships with M-NCPPC
- Focus on Health and Wellness
- Variety and Uniqueness of Programs
- Greater Communication
- Senior Center Space/Socializing Hub/Meeting Spaces
- Strong Partnerships with County and University

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Key challenges and opportunities were identified using several tools including review of existing plans and documents, focus groups, stakeholder meetings including the Senior Committee, a community survey, program analysis, transportation analysis, and level of service analysis. The information gathered from these sources was evaluated, and the recommendations were developed that address the key issues and values, and top priorities:

RECURRING KEY ISSUES & VALUES	TOP PRIORITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affordability• Awareness• Aging Population• Young Families• Communication• Safe Access• Unifying Relationships• College Park's lack of available land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affordability of Programs• Partnerships with M-NCPPC• Focus on Health and Wellness• Greater Communication• Senior Center Space/Socializing Hub• Strong Partnerships with County and University• Variety and Uniqueness of Programs

B. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTION PLAN TABLE

The action plan identifies specific objectives for the solutions to meet senior and community recreation needs:

SOLUTIONS TO MEET SENIOR AND COMMUNITY RECREATION NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnerships with M-NCPPC• Focus on Health and Wellness• Variety and Uniqueness of Programs• Greater Communication• Senior Center Space/Socializing Hub/ Meeting Spaces• Strong Partnerships with County and University

C. ACTION PLAN

CONTEXT

Residents and community leaders are increasingly recognizing that parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services are becoming more and more essential in planning efforts for long term investments in economic sustainability and planning the vitality of desirable communities. The City of College Park is committed to providing quality living experiences for their residents and the following recommendations will assist the City in moving forward.

MOVING FORWARD-RECOMMENDATIONS

After analyzing the findings from the Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment study, including the Key Issues Matrix, a summary of all research, the qualitative and quantitative data captured, and input assembled for this study, a variety of recommendations have emerged to provide guidance to assist the City in ensuring that high quality programs, parks, facilities and services are available for residents. This section describes ways to enhance the level of service and the quality of life with improvements through efficiencies, enhanced communication, partnering with alternative service providers for program and service delivery, facilities, and amenities.

Goals, Objectives, and Action Items for the recommendations are drawn from the public input, findings feedback, and other information gathered with a primary focus on high quality programs, parks, facilities, and services.

Timeframe to complete is designated as:

- Short-term (up to 3 years)
- Mid-term (4-6 years)
- Ongoing (occurs on a continuous basis)

Goal 1: Continue to Improve and Enhance Organizational Efficiencies			
Objective 1.1: Plan for the continued growth of the City			
<i>As noted in the demographics and trends, growth will continue slow growth through 2035, which in turn places increased demand for programs, parks, facilities, and services. College Park has large numbers of 15 - 19 and 20 - 24 year olds, largely because of University of Maryland.</i>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
1.1.a Partnerships with M-NCPPC, County, community services providers including churches and other organizations, and university should be considered to address projected population increases.	N/A	Staff time	Short-Term/ Ongoing

GOALS

1.1.b Direct University students to university programs, services, and facilities. Work with University leaders to seek assistance regarding promotion of available services for U of M students, faculty, and alumni.	N/A	Staff time	Short-Term/ Ongoing
1.1.c Develop a staffing plan for future growth to include staffing resources needed to address recreational services provided by the City	N/A	Staff time/ cost of future positions	Short-Term/ Ongoing
<p>Objective 1.2: Improve and enhance partnerships with M-NCPPC, County, community services providers including churches and other organizations to increase program and service delivery for residents.</p> <p><i>City of College Park residents' taxes include a portion that is provided to the M-NCPPC to provide programs, services, and facilities.</i></p>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
1.2a Continue to submit annual requests for programs, services, and facilities to the M-NCPPC each October on behalf of the City of College Park Residents.	N/A	Staff Time	Ongoing
<p>Objective 1.3: Improve and enhance senior focused communications, promotion, and social media presence in targeting senior residences to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities.</p> <p><i>Residents, especially seniors, indicated they are not aware of what programs, services, parks or facilities are offered. These individuals may seek out recreation opportunities if they are more easily accessible to find.</i></p>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
1.3.a Increasing communications, promotion, and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities.	N/A	Staff time/Cost of promotional materials	Short-Term/ Ongoing
1.3.b Develop new senior focused communications, promotion, and social media presence in senior living facilities to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities.	N/A	Staff time/Cost of promotional materials	Short-Term/ Ongoing
1.3.c Preferred communication methods need to be diverse and include social media posts, emails, website updates, updates in the Weekly Bulletin.	N/A	Staff time/Cost of promotional materials	Short-Term/ Ongoing

Objective 1.4: Maximize the potential of Joint Use Agreements with community organizations.

The City should look to maximize potential usage of facilities as a key component of any joint operating agreement. Work with schools, County, community services providers including churches and other organizations, and university to access existing facilities and to provide programs and services.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
1.4.a Look for partnerships with new community services providers including churches and other organizations to increase programs and services offered.	N/A	Staff time	Short-Term/ Ongoing
1.4.b Strengthen existing partnership with M-NCPPC, County, community services providers including churches, other organizations, and the university.	N/A	Staff time	Short-Term

Objective 1.5: Improve maintenance standards and plans.

The City of College Park's Department of Public Works does an excellent job maintaining facilities and parks. To continue with the high level of service, regular review and updating of the existing maintenance plan should be a priority for the department. This should ensure the provision of high-quality facilities, well-maintained parks and grounds, and sustainable maintenance practices.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
1.5.a Continue with the existing maintenance plan in that includes weekly, monthly, and seasonal preparations and regular maintenance. Review annually and adjust accordingly.	\$0	Staff time may increase with the addition of new or expanded tasks	Ongoing
1.5.b Regular inspections based on the adopted schedule should continue to monitor the condition of existing parks, facilities, trails, and pathways.	\$0	Staff time	Ongoing

Objective 1.6: Develop improved communications focused toward parents, to include promotion, and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities.

Residents, especially parents, indicated they are not aware of what programs, services, parks or facilities are offered for youth. These individuals may seek out recreation opportunities if they are more easily accessible to find.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
1.6.a Increasing communications, promotion, and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities.	N/A	Staff time/Cost of promotional materials	Short-Term/ Ongoing
1.6.b Develop new youth focused communications, promotion, and social media presence directed towards parents to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities.	N/A	Staff time/Cost of promotional materials	Short-Term/ Ongoing
1.6.c Preferred communication methods need to be diverse and include working with the schools, social media posts, emails, website updates, updates in the Weekly Bulletin.	N/A	Staff time/Cost of promotional materials	Short-Term/ Ongoing

Goal 2: Continue to Improve Programs & Service Delivery

Objective 2.1: Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase programs and services available to City of College Park residents.

The City does not have a traditional Parks and Recreation Department nor facilities and staff to provide recreation programs and facilities for residents. City residents pay taxes that support the M-NCPPC. The M-NCPPC provides recreation services including but not limited to youth sports, health and wellness activities, older adult services, aquatics activities and facilities, golf, natural resource provision, arts and culture, and community/recreation centers.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
2.1.a Request through the M-NCPPC additional Lifelong Learning programs for seniors. Possible programs include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Classes • Computer Classes • Crochet, Knitting • Dancing Classes • Historical Programs • Intergenerational Programs • Mentoring Programs • Trash to Treasure Craft 	N/A	Staff time/cost of promotional materials	Short-Term/ Ongoing

<p>2.1.b Request through the M-NCPPC additional Health/Fitness programs and services for all age groups. Possible programs include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Health Services • Active Adult Programs • Bike Rides • Kid Open Gym • Personal Training • Pickleball Classes • Senior Counseling Services • Service Dogs • Social Sports (Golf, Tennis, Bocci, Pickleball, Ultimate Frisbee) • Socializing space for card games, bingo • Swimming • Therapeutic Recreation • Wellness Checks • Yoga/Cardio 	N/A	Staff time/cost of promotional materials	Short-Term/ Ongoing
<p>Objective 2.2: Add and enhance special events.</p> <p><i>As identified by focus groups and survey respondents, expanding opportunities, and enhancing special event programming was identified as a priority. The City should work with other service providers to explore new special events, possibly themed by the community or season of the year. The City should continue to look for opportunities to expand community events and activities based on community demand and trends.</i></p>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
<p>2.2.a Work with the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to add community and special events for all age groups. Possible events include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Wide Yard Sales • Concerts in the Park • Free Movie Nights • Interest Clubs • Special events themed for young kids, pre-teens, teens, etc. • Senior Trips (Increase Capacity, Extend Trips) • Summer Programs • Winter Market 	N/A	Staff Time/Cost of Promotional Materials	Short-Term/ Ongoing

2.2.b Considering trends and demand, look for opportunities to expand and build a sense of community through special event programming. (seasonal, celebrations, monthly concerts, food, and beverage festivals)	N/A	Staff Time	Ongoing
Objective 2.3: Focus on Senior Recreation Programming and Services			
<i>As identified by focus groups, conversations with the Senior Committee, and survey respondents, seniors are interested and willing to participate in trips and programs.</i>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
2.3.a Need to improve senior recreation program offering. Adjust times and types of programs, services, and trips based on current trends and demands. Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase senior programs.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing
2.3.b Improve senior focused communications, promotion, and social media presence in senior living facilities to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities may lead to higher participation	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing
2.3.c Work with community service providers to identify available services. Consider financial assistance programs such as reduced priced fees or vouchers for programs and services for those demonstrating financial need.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing
Objective 2.4: Focus on Youth Recreation Programming and Services			
<i>As identified by focus groups, conversations with the parents, and survey respondents, youth are interested and willing to participate in programs and services.</i>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
2.4.a Need to improve youth recreation program offering. Adjust types of programs and services, based on feedback from parents and youth, and current trends and demands. Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including places of worship and other organizations, to increase youth programs.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing

2.4.b Improve parent focused communications, promotion, and social media presence to raise awareness of youth programs and services may lead to higher participation.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing
2.4.c Work with community service providers to identify available services. Consider financial assistance programs such as reduced priced fees or vouchers for programs and services for those demonstrating financial need.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing

Goal 3: Continue to Improve and Enhance Facilities and Amenities			
Objective 3.1: Consider renting or acquiring vacant store front space to use for meeting spaces and programming spaces.			
<i>The City does not have enough space to meet the requests of residents for classes and meetings.</i>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
3.1.a Consider providing space in existing City facilities for community meetings as available.	N/A	Additional Staff Time/Cost For Supervision and Setup, Cleaning	Short-Term/ Ongoing
3.1.b Consider renting or acquiring vacant store front space within this area to use for meeting spaces and programming spaces.	Cost of renting space and any desired renovations	Additional Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing
Objective 3.2: Identify and explore additional land acquisition and preservation opportunities.			
<i>The City does not have an inventory of available land for future park development. With the City being almost fully developed, land preservation will be important for future greenspace opportunities whether they are for preservation or development. Open space/natural areas to be added and maintained in College Park was highly requested by survey residents (37% of respondents).</i>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
3.2.a The City should look to acquire any available non developed land to be added and maintained as open space/natural areas.	Cost of acquiring land	Additional Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing
3.2.b Identify and explore opportunities to acquire additional land as it becomes available.	Cost of acquiring land	Additional Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing

Objective 3.3: Improve existing trails and add new trails and pathway to increase connectivity.

Trails, fitness, wellness, and connectivity were identified through the needs assessment process as being important to residents. With current trends and demand, the City should look for opportunities to partner with the County and the M-NCPPC to improve existing and add new trails and pathway to increase connectivity.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
3.3.a Work with the County and the M-NCPPC to develop and expand trails and safe pathways to connect communities, neighborhoods, and parks.	Varies based on partnership agreements, construction and material costs	TBD	Ongoing

Objective 3.4: Address aging infrastructure by updating and adding new amenities to parks and facilities.

The City should continue to monitor the condition of existing parks, trails and pathways, and facilities, as these facilities have been identified by residents as being of high importance. It is important to ensure continuous upkeep and long-term maintenance. Regular inspections of all facilities, parks, trails, and open spaces should continue. Maintenance projects and annual maintenance needs should continue to be funded on a regular schedule to address the aging infrastructure. Priorities for future maintenance projects for these areas should be developed and reviewed bi-annually. Capital improvement plans, costs, and phasing recommendations and implementation plans should be developed. Appropriate funding should be provided to address the capital improvement plans.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
3.4.a Look for opportunities to replace existing equipment with parks, add shade shelters, and new amenities within existing parks and spaces.	Varies based on equipment and amenities	TBD	Ongoing

Objective 3.5: Increase access to a multi-generational community center.

A multi-use indoor facility/community center/senior center to be built in College Park was highly requested by survey residents (3.8 on a 5.0 scale). Work with M-NCPPC and the County to address this need, as a stand-alone facility solely operated by the City may not be financially feasible nor necessary since residents of College Park already pay taxes to M-NCPPC for such facilities.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
3.5.a Work with M-NCPPC and the County to address this need, as a stand-alone facility solely operated by the City may not be financially feasible nor necessary since residents of College Park already pay taxes to M-NCPPC for such facilities.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing

<p>3.5.b The City should continue to participate in the Prince George’s County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) public forums each fall to provide comments on the Commission’s budget for planning, parks, and recreation in Prince George’s County.</p>	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing
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Goal 4: Continue to Improve and Enhance Facilities and Amenities

Objective 4.1: Expand and enhance senior focused communications, promotion, and social media presence targeting senior residences to raise awareness of available transportation options.

As identified by focus groups, conversations with the Senior Committee, and survey respondents, there is a lack of information about available transportation options for seniors and the general community.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
<p>4.1.a Expand and enhance senior focused communications, promotion, and social media presence targeting senior residences to raise awareness of available transportation options.</p>	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing

Objective 4.2: Consider alternative options for those who cannot reliably get to parks and recreation facilities (possibly vouchers for Uber, Lyft, or taxis).

As identified by focus groups, conversations with the Senior Committee, and survey respondents, there is a lack of available transportation options for seniors and the general community, especially in the evening and on weekends.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
<p>4.2a Consider alternative options for those who cannot reliably get to parks and recreation facilities (possibly vouchers for Uber, Lyft or taxis).</p>	N/A	Staff Time/Cost of Vouchers	Ongoing

Objective 4.3: Develop a Trail and Pathway Master Plan.

Resident, especially seniors, indicated a lack of safe access for cycling and walking through out College Park.

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
4.3.a Develop a Trail and Pathway Master Plan	\$25,000 - \$35,000 for consultant	Staff Time	Mid-Term
4.3.b Work with M-NCPPC and the County to improve access for cycling and walking through out College Park.	\$25,000 - \$35,000 for consultant	Staff Time	Mid-Term
3.5.b The City should continue to participate in the Prince George’s County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) public forums each fall to provide comments on the Commission’s budget for planning, parks, and recreation in Prince George’s County.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term/ Ongoing

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APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY



The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Survey Final Report

April 2020

CITY OF COLLEGE PARK
MARYLAND

GREENPLAY LLC
The Leading Edge In Parks, Recreation And Open Space Consulting

RRC
ASSOCIATES
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The purpose of this survey was to gather community feedback on The City of College Park’s facilities, trails, amenities, programs, future planning, communication, and more. Furthermore, there was a need to assess senior program offerings specifically. This survey research effort and subsequent analysis were designed to assist The City of College Park in developing a plan to reflect the community’s desires, needs, and priorities for the future. The goal was to ensure all residents had a chance to voice their opinion in this process.

Methodology

Primary methods:

1 = Statistically Valid (Invitation Survey)
Mailed survey with an option to complete online

2 = Open Link Survey
Online survey available to all residents

3,500 Mailings Sent to City of College Park Residents



The Invite Survey represents the randomly sampled results of The City of College Park residents. A sample size of 497 completed invite surveys leads to a margin of error of +/- 4.4%. Further, senior residents were oversampled as there was an entire part of the survey that only assessed senior programs. Sample sizes are displayed with each graph. Graphs that have approximate sample sizes fluctuate slightly if multiple questions are displayed. In these cases, sample size ranges are presented. Because of the lower sample size for the Open Link survey, results should be interpreted with caution.



The underlying data from the invitation survey were weighted by race of respondent to adjust for the known demographics of The City of College Park residents across different demographic cohorts in the sample. Using U.S. Census Data, the race distribution in the sample were adjusted to more closely match the population profile of The City of College Park residents.

Top Findings



Current offerings are generally perceived as meeting needs

All facilities that were rated as above-average importance are also rated as meeting the needs of the community well. However, there is some disconnect between different organizations and what each offers.



Increasing awareness may lead to higher participation

Seniors, especially, are not as likely to be aware of what is offered. These individuals may seek out recreation opportunities if they are more easily accessible to find.



Satisfaction is moderate among respondents

Parks, programs, and senior recreation options are more positive than negative, but there does appear to be areas of desired improvements.



Preferred communication methods are diverse

From social media to emails to the Weekly Bulletin, respondents seek a diversity of online and traditional promotional materials. This is even more important as different ages prefer different communication methods.

Top Findings



Most parks and programs receive use by a small segment of people

Special events are used most often by respondents, but even then, only 35% participated in the past 12 months. Overall there may be ways to increase use at a variety of facilities.



Trail and pathway connectivity ranks high in future priorities

Along with open space / natural areas, trail connectivity was chosen as the number one priority to improve/expand in the near future for The City of College Park.



Further partnering with other recreation providers may be useful for residents

Residents do use The City of College Park facilities and programs, but there are a number of other organizations and facilities they use too. Matching up how to best serve residents may be best done through partnering with these other organizations to improve offerings.



Seniors are interested and willing to participate in trips and programs

Many seniors who responded to the survey had not yet participated in programs or trips, but they expressed a desire to try both out in the future. Shifting program times and/or reaching out to a wider range of residents may be useful.

Demographic Profile

50% of respondents are working full time while 36% are retired.



57% of respondents' households earn under \$100k per year.



33% of respondents' households have children at home.



10% require ADA-accessible facilities and services in The City of College Park.

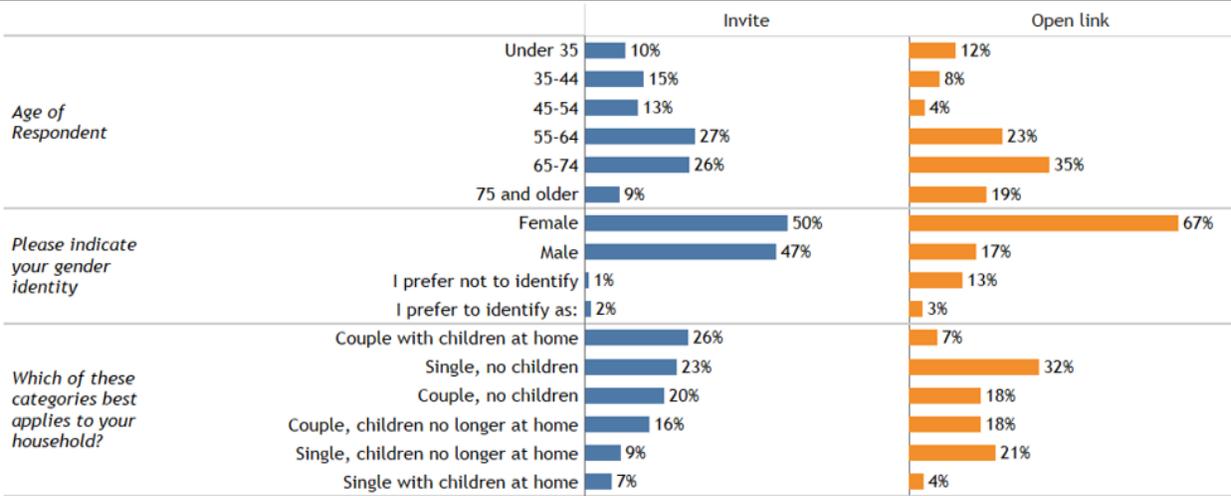


29% have lived in the City of College Park less than 10 years.



Age is distributed across the range with most respondents 55 and older (62%). Because of the nature of this study, respondents' age leans older. Invite respondents are more likely to be female (50%), a common finding in survey research. Most invite respondents are couples with children at home (26%) followed by singles without children (23%). In total, approximately 33 percent of invite households have children at home.

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results

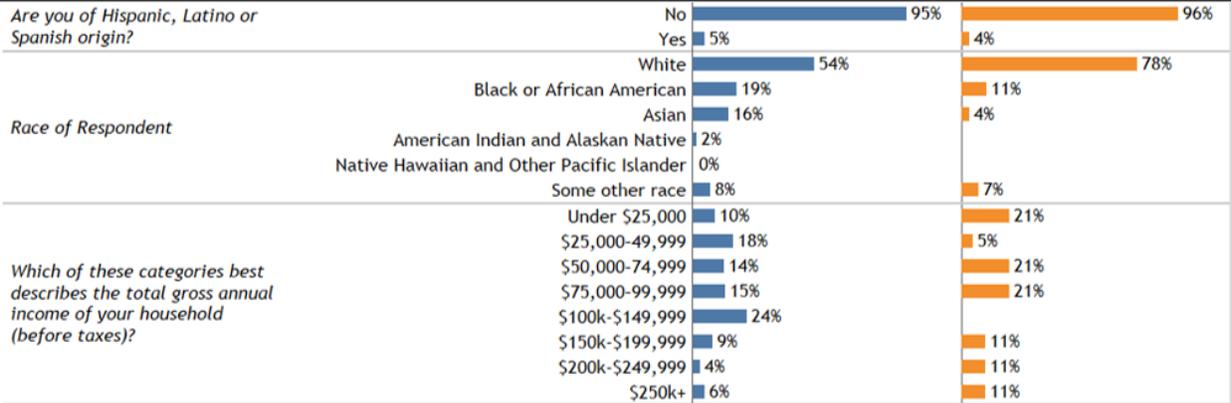


Invite: n = 479

Open link: n = 26

Approximately five percent of invite respondents identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin, compared to 4% of open link respondents. Furthermore, 54% of invite respondents identify as White with 19% identifying as Black or African American, 16% Asian, 2% American Indian and Alaskan Native, and 8% some other race. Further, most invite respondents (57%) earn under \$100k. Open link respondents are more likely to identify as White (78%).

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results

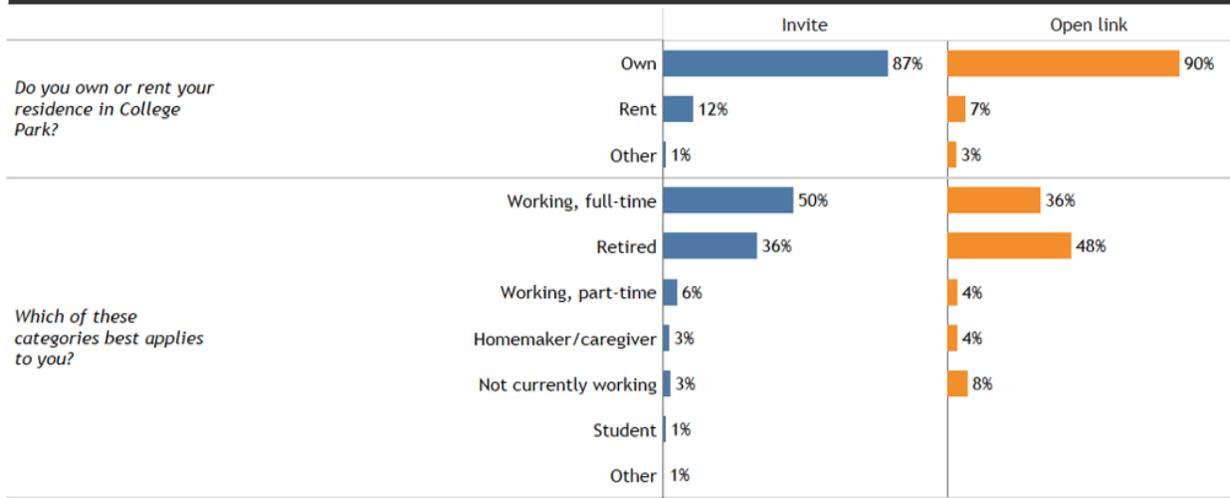


Invite: n = 467

Open link: n = 26

Of invite respondents, 87 percent own their home, with 12 percent renting and one percent with some other housing agreement. Approximately 50 percent of invite respondents are working full-time currently with 36 percent retired. About six percent are working part-time with three percent identifying as a homemaker/caregiver, three percent are not currently working, and one percent are students. Open link respondents are slightly more likely to own their home compared to invite respondents.

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results

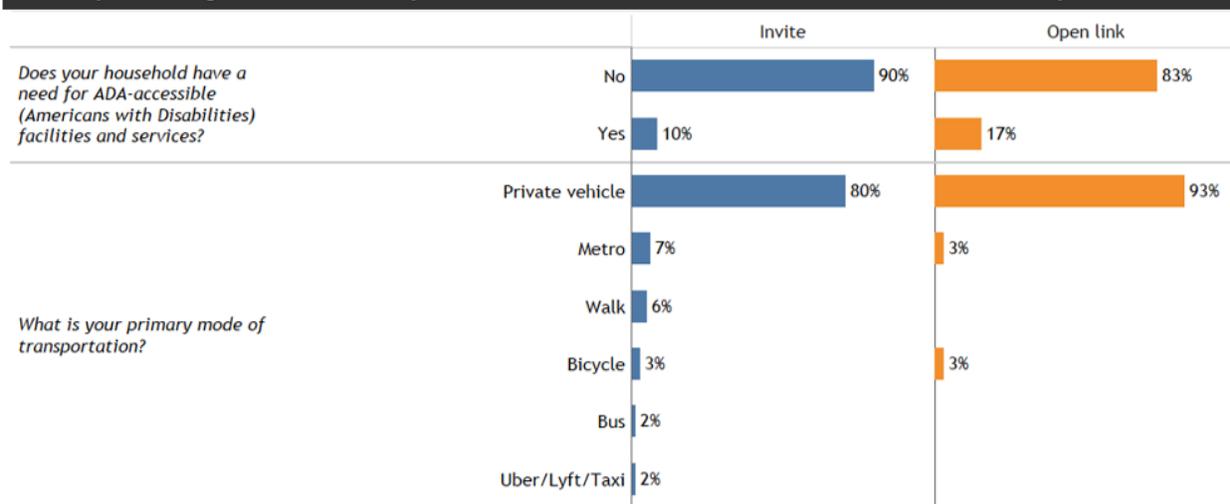


Invite: n = 371

Open link: n = 25

Approximately 10 percent of invite respondents require ADA-accessible services and facilities in the City of College Park. Of open link respondents, 17 percent require ADA accessibility. Respondents were also asked what their primary mode of transportation was in the City of College Park. In total, 80 percent of invite respondents use a private vehicle, seven percent use the metro, six percent walk, three percent bicycle, two percent use the bus, and two percent use ride-sharing services such as Uber/Lyft or a taxi.

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results

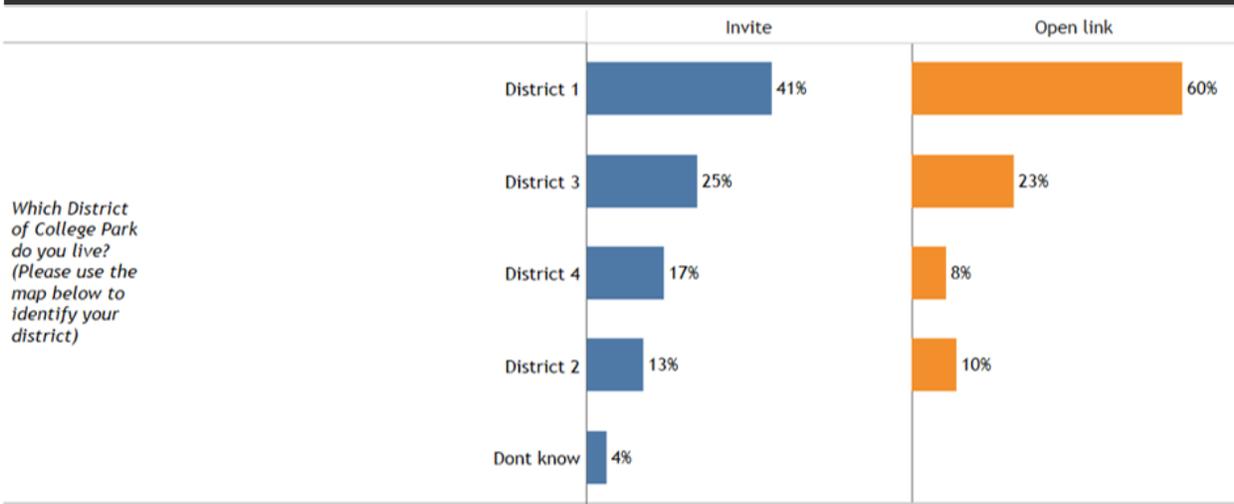


Invite: n = 486

Open link: n=29

Respondents were provided a District map and asked which of the four districts their residence is located. The largest share of respondents live in District 1 (41%), with 25 percent in District 3, 17 percent in District 4, and 13 percent in District 2. A small percentage (4%) were not sure which District they lived in. Open link results are similar but leans more toward District 1 residency.

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results



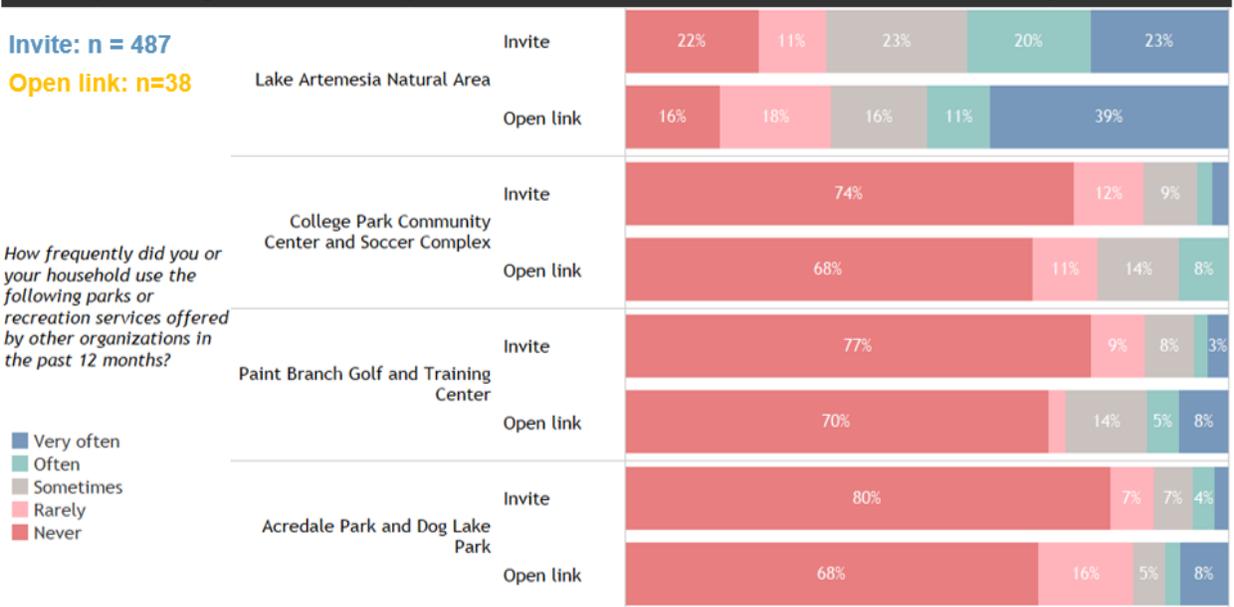
Invite: n = 481

Open link: n = 40

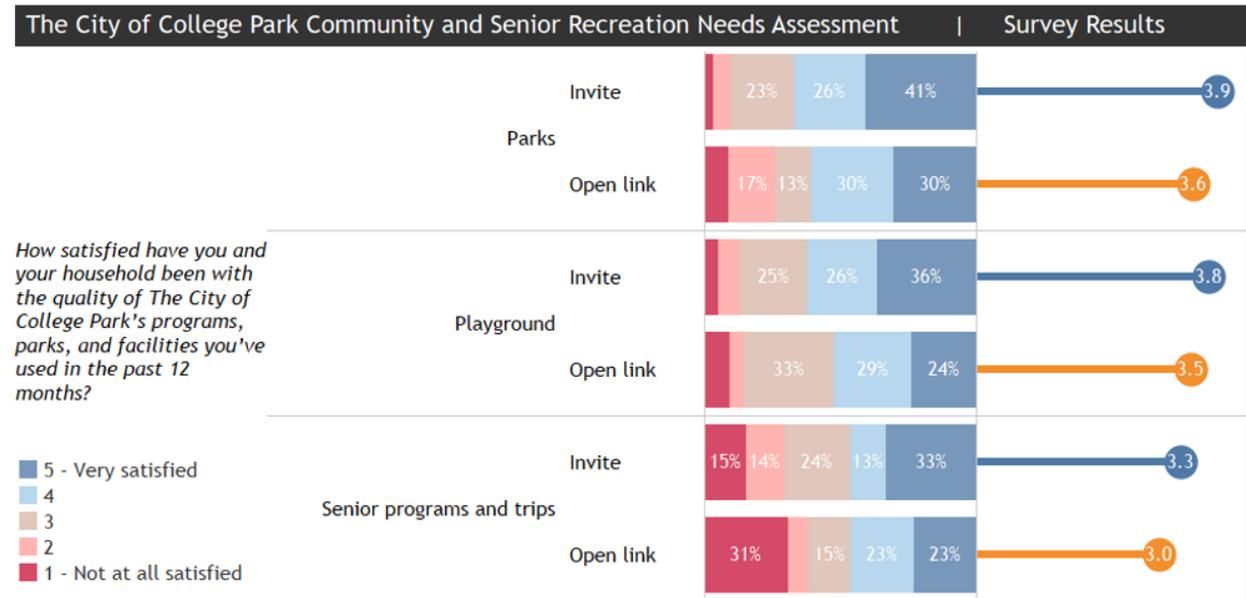
Usage over the past 12 months of The City of College Park parks/playgrounds or services is varied among invite respondents. The most frequently used amenity are special events where 39 percent of respondents have attended in the past 12 months. Duvall Field and playground saw 35 percent usage with Hollywood playground seeing 32 percent usage among invite respondents. Overall, most facilities are only regularly used by a small segment of respondents.

Lake Artemesia Natural Area is used by the largest share of respondents (78%) despite being managed by another organization. All other facilities are not used frequently by most respondents, similar to those offered by The City of College Park.

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results

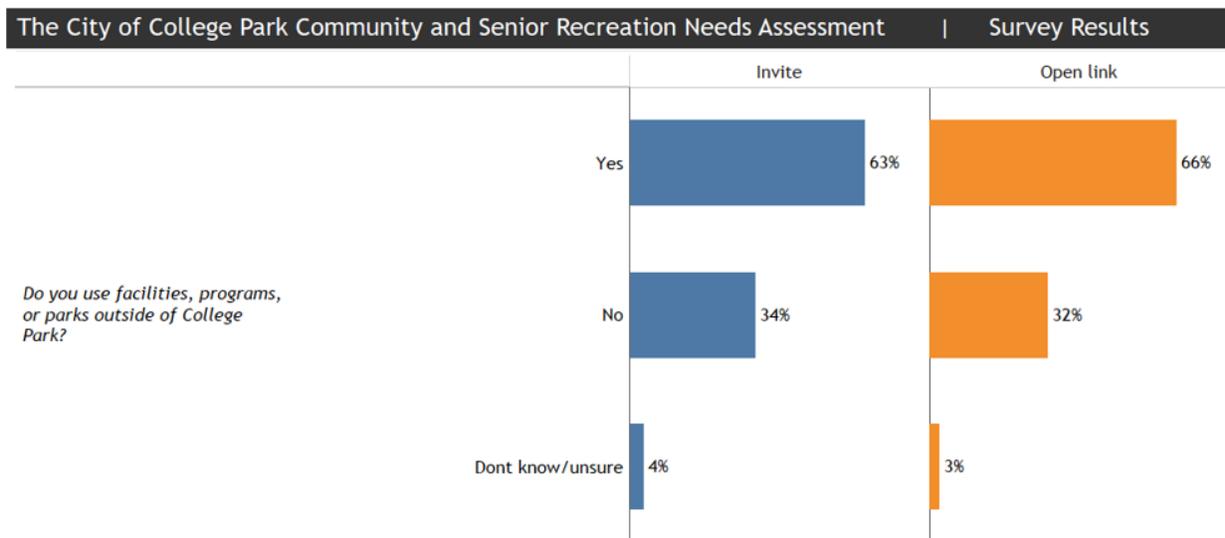


When asked about their satisfaction of multiple aspects, parks (3.9 average) is rated the highest, followed by playgrounds (3.8), and senior programs/trips (3.3). There are not a large volume of respondents who are “dissatisfied” with parks and playgrounds, but there are 29 percent of invite respondents who rated senior programs/trips as a 1 or 2 out of 5.



Invite range: n = 83 (Senior programs) to 342 (parks) Open link: n = 37

Almost 2/3rd (63%) of respondents use facilities, programs, or parks outside of College Park. This is similar in the open link sample as well. This may signal that there are specific needs that are filled outside of what is operated by The City of College Park that residents rely on too.



Invite: n = 488 Open link: n = 38

Respondents were asked to provide comments on what would improve offerings in College Park. Respondents highlighted “more programs,” “trail connections,” “more senior activities,” and more to improve services in College Park.

Importance / Performance Matrix

High importance/ Low needs met

These are key areas for potential improvements. Improving these facilities/programs would likely positively affect the degree to which community needs are met overall.

Low importance/ Low needs met

These “niche” facilities/programs have a small but passionate following, so measuring participation when planning for future improvements may prove to be valuable.

High importance/ High needs met

These amenities are important to most respondents and should be maintained in the future but are less of a priority for improvements as needs are currently being adequately met.

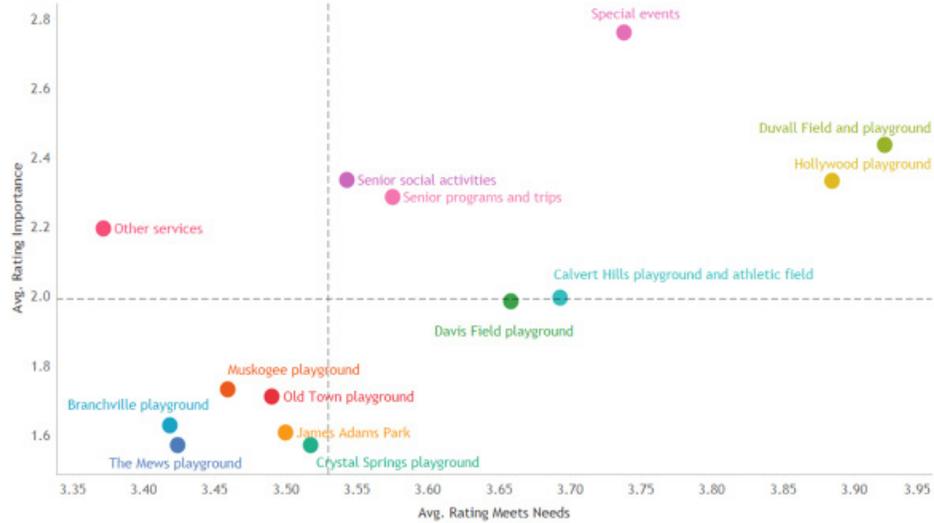
Low importance/ High needs met

Current levels of support appear to be adequate. Future discussions evaluating whether the resources supporting these facilities/programs outweigh the benefits may be constructive.

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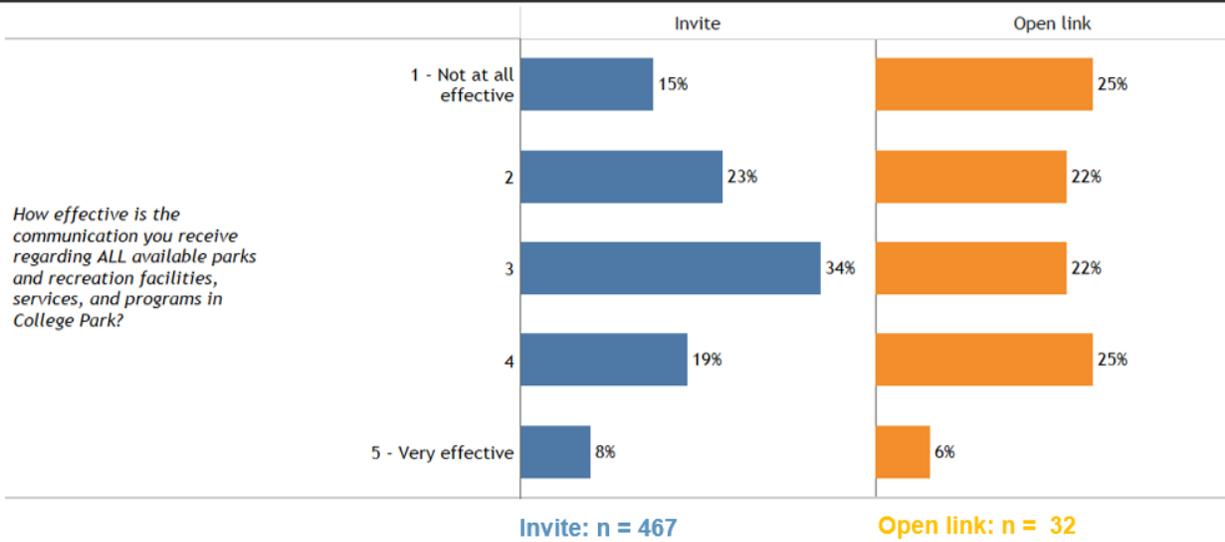
Importance / Performance Matrix (Invite Only)

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results

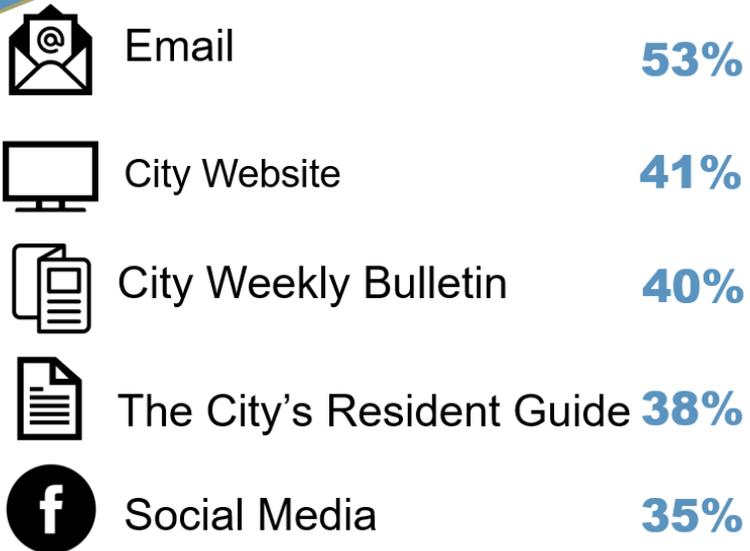


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Respondents perceive the communication of The City of College Park is somewhat mixed with most respondents rating the effectiveness as 3 out of 5. Approximately 38 percent rate the effectiveness either a 1 or 2 out of 5 and 27 percent rate it as a 4 or 5 out of 5. There appears to be a wide range of opinions on communication that could be further addressed in the City. Awareness is a common theme in other question results too.

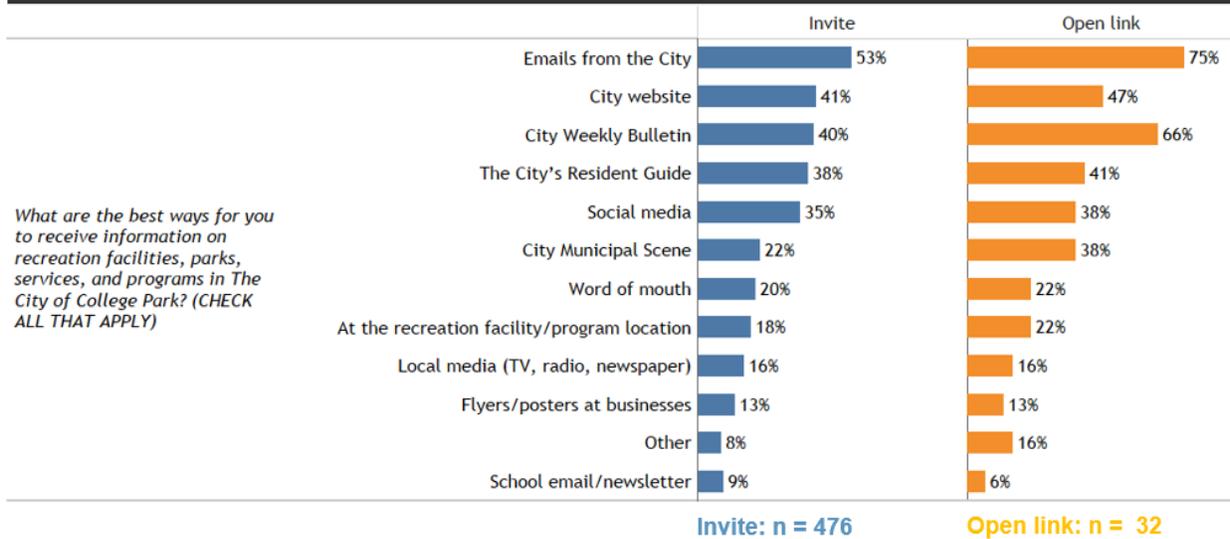


Top Communication Methods (Invite)



The City of College Park’s invite respondents prefer emails from the City (53%), followed by the City website (41%), City Weekly Bulletin (40%), the City Resident’s Guide (38%), and social media (35%) as the best options for receiving information about parks and recreation. There are a variety of other options preferred in addition to these top options such as word of mouth, at the site location, and local media. These all bring to light the need to diversify communication materials.

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results

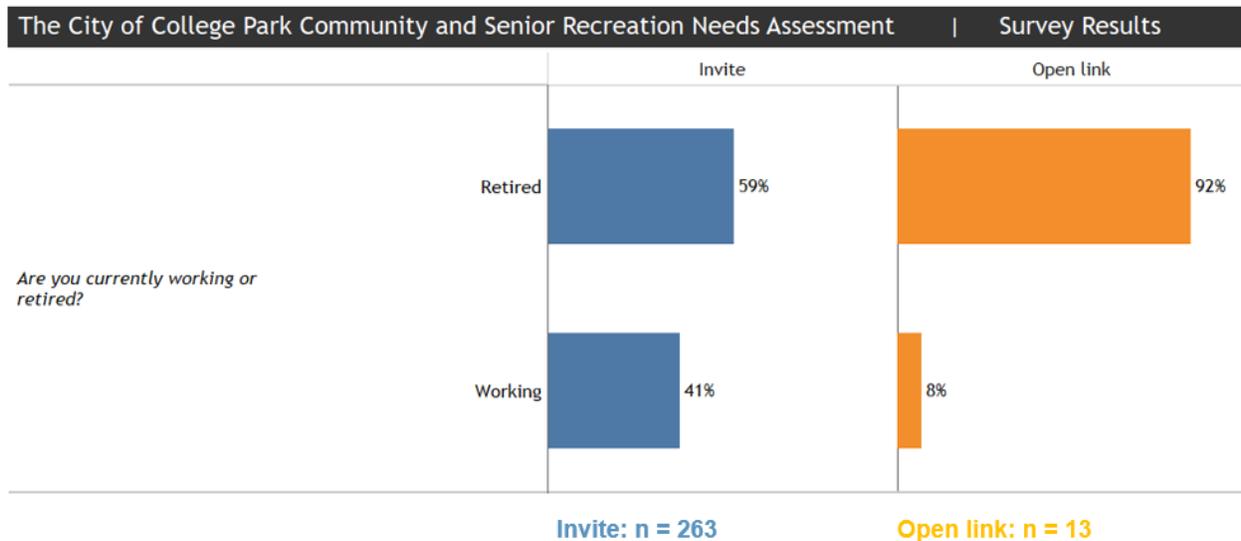


Respondents see a variety of improvements and additions as important for the future. In fact, little variation exists within the data and many priorities are rated between 3.6-3.9 out of 5.0. That said, trail and pathway connectivity (4.1), open space/natural areas (3.9), fitness/wellness programming (3.9), and a multi-use indoor facility/community center/senior center (3.8) top the list. Open link results trended similar.

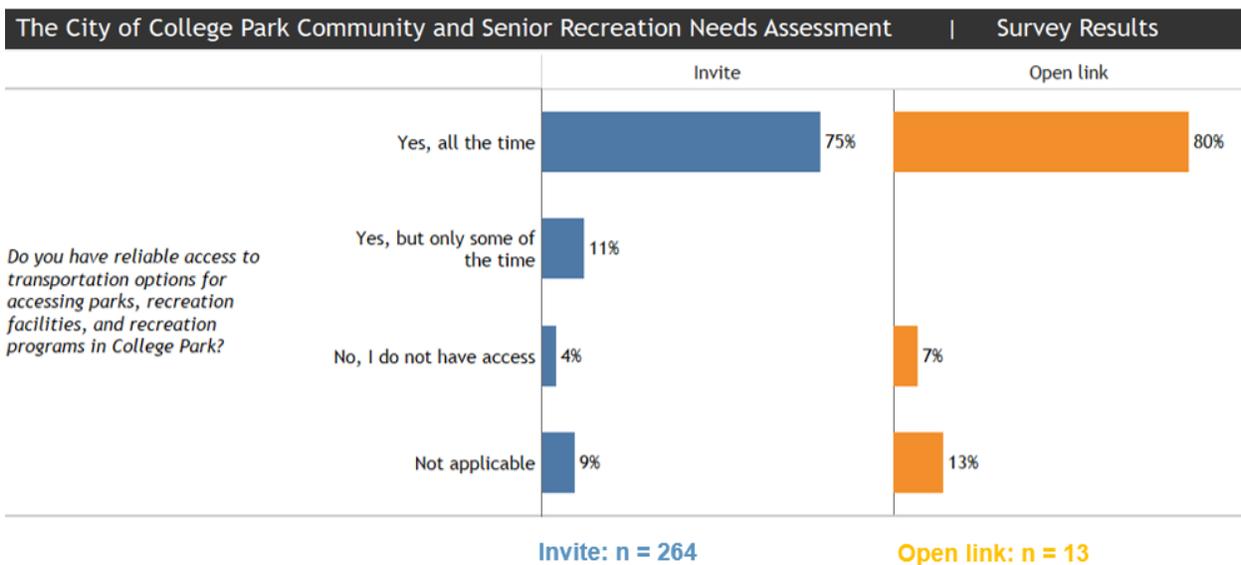
Towards the middle-to-bottom of the list are senior programming (3.6) and an aquatic facility (3.5). Respondents see the least important priorities for the future to be additional athletic fields (2.2) and additional athletic courts (2.9).

When asked to choose their top three priorities from the future needs, respondents selected trail and pathway connectivity (39%), open space/natural areas (37%), and fitness/wellness programming (35%) as the most important to focus on right now. A multi-use indoor facility (26%) and senior programming (20%) also rated quite high on the list of priorities.

Over half (59%) of seniors in the sample are retired with 41 percent that are still working right now. This question further identifies the need to consider potentially different time periods to offer programming in The City of College Park as some seniors may not be able to attend due to work conflicts. Open link respondents are much more likely to be retired (92%).

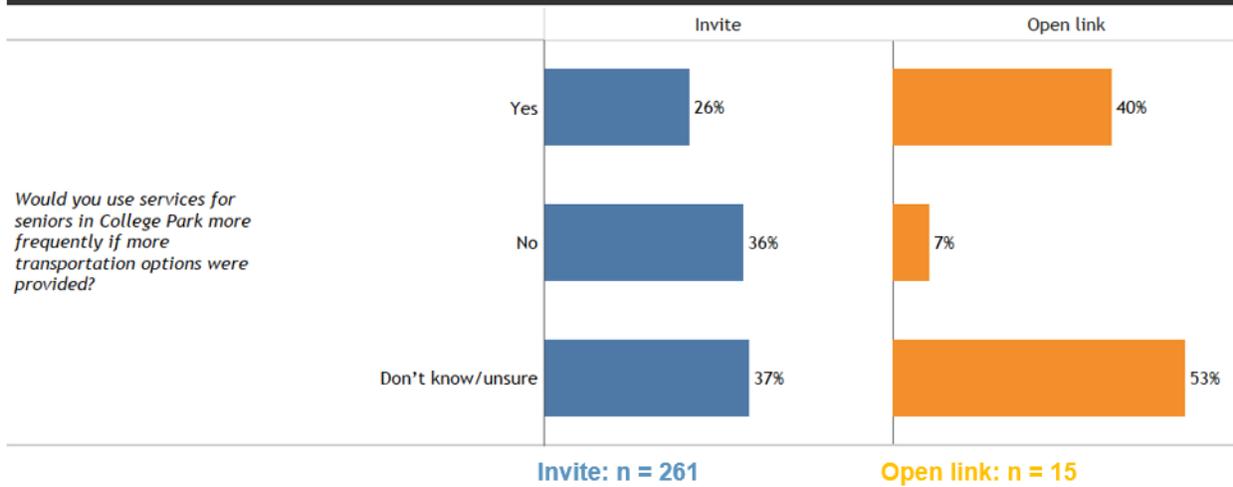


Approximately 75 percent of invite respondent seniors have access to reliable transportation all the time. However, 11 percent have access only some of the time and 4% don't have reliable access. Thus, it may be a smaller portion of the community, but it is still important to consider alternative options for those who cannot reliably get to parks and recreation facilities.



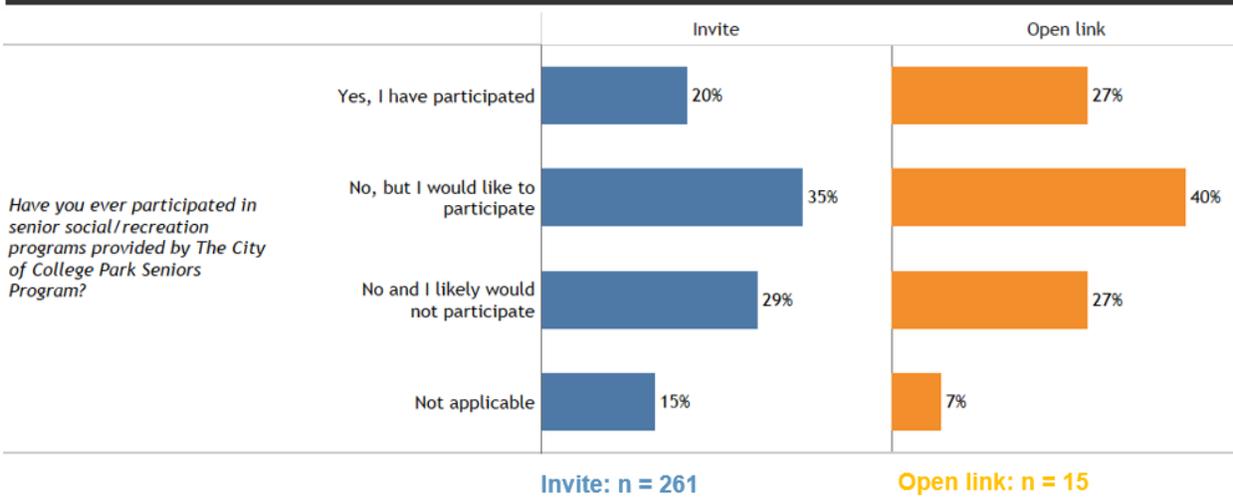
There is a decent share of respondents who would use services for seniors more frequently (26%) if there were more transportation options provided in The City of College Park. While 36 percent would likely not participate more, there are an additional 37% that are unsure at this time. Therefore, the percentage of those who would participate more may actually increase if alternative options are provided. Further, there may be those that suddenly need transportation depending on the situation.

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results



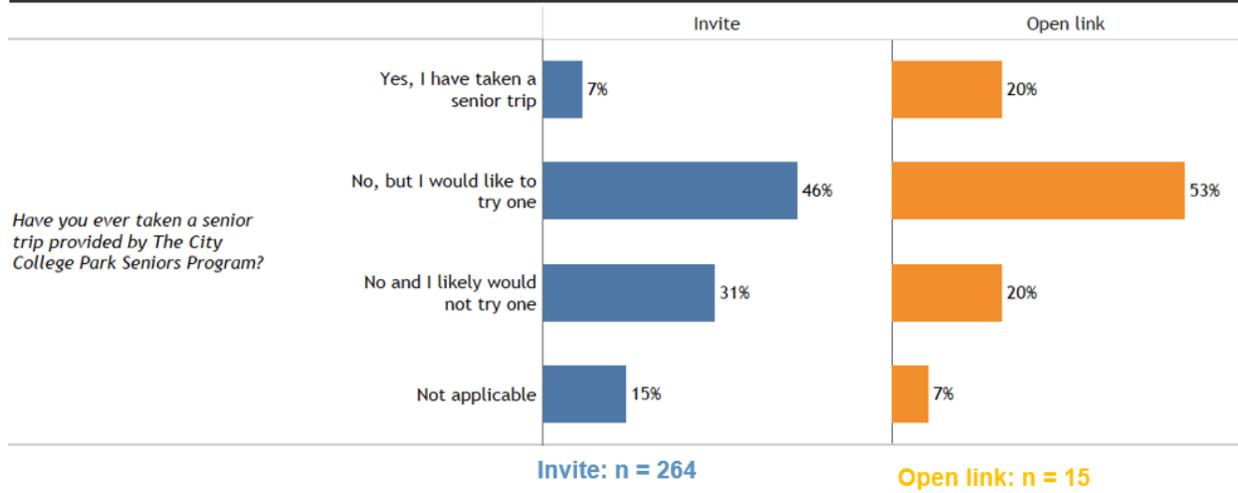
When asked if they had participated in senior social/recreational programs provided, 20 percent of invite respondents had participated, but another 35 percent would like to participate yet haven't yet. Nearly 30 percent would not likely participate and 15 percent said it's not applicable right now. But, there is an optimistic group that would like to participate in the future. These individuals may just need the right information to get started. Comments discussed the need to seek out information because they were unsure what was offered yet.

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results



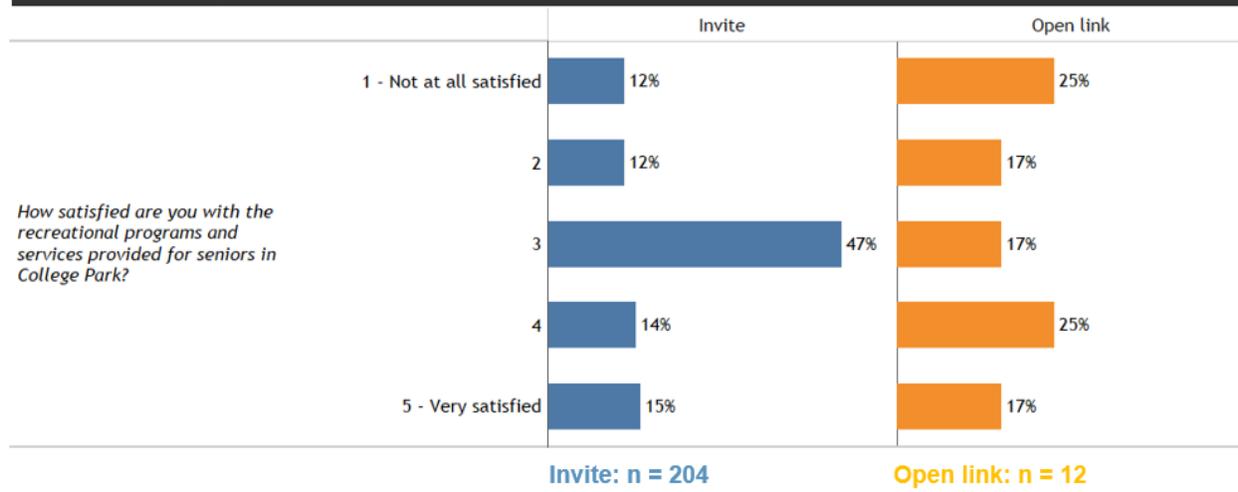
Similar to programs, a smaller number of invite respondents have taken a senior trip (7%), but almost 50 percent of the sample would like to try one (46%). An additional 31 percent are not likely to try, but again, the majority are interested in participated or already have in the past. Results further reinforce the need to distribute information to these groups as they may want to participate and are unaware of what is offered.

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results



Most respondents are neutral in their satisfaction of senior programs and services. In total, 47 percent of invite respondents rated their satisfaction a 3 out of 5 for senior programs and services in The City of College Park. This may be due to fewer using what is offered currently and not forming an opinion yet. Nearly equal shares are satisfied (29% rated 4 or 5) compared to 24% who are not satisfied (rated 1 or 2).

The City of College Park Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment | Survey Results



APPENDIX B: KEY ISSUE MATRIX

College Park MD Community and Senior Recreation Needs Assessment	Qualitative Data			Quantitative Data			Consultant's Analysis and Professional Expertise
 <p>CITY OF COLLEGE PARK Key Issue - Rating Scale</p> <p>a - priority b - opportunity to improve c - minor or future issue blank means the issue didn't come up or wasn't addressed</p>	Staff Input	Public Input	Leadership Interviews	Community Survey	Other City Documents	Consultant Team	 <p>GREENPLAY LLC The Leading Edge In Parks, Recreation, And Open Space Consulting</p> <p>Preliminary Recommendations</p>
Organizational							
Population anticipated to increase by about 3,300 by 2035	b	b	b	b	b	b	Partnerships with M-NCPPC, County, community services providers including churches and other organizations, and university should be considered to address projected population increases.
College Park has large numbers of 15 - 19 and 20 - 24 year olds possibly because of U of MD	b	b	b	b	b	b	Direct University students to University programs, services and facilities
College Park has large numbers of 20 - 24 and 25 - 29 year olds	b	a	b	a		a	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase programs for 20 - 24 and 25 - 29 year olds
Residents are not aware of available programs, services and facilities	a	a	a	a		a	Increasing communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities may lead to higher participation.
Seniors, especially, are not as likely to be aware of what is offered. These individuals may seek out recreation opportunities if they are more easily accessible to find.	a	a	a	a		a	Develop senior focused communications, promotion, and social media presence in senior living facilities to raise awareness of programs, services, and facilities may lead to higher participation.
Survey respondents seek a diversity of different communication method depend on age.	a	a	a	a		a	Preferred communication methods need to be diverse and include social media posts, emails, website updates, updates in the Weekly Bulletin.
Residents are requesting additional programs, services and facilities	a	a	a	a	a	a	Matching up how to best serve residents may be best done through partnering with these other organizations to improve offerings.
50% of survey respondents are working full time while 36% are retired	b	b	b	b	b	b	Program offerings should include daytime, evening and weekend options
33% of respondents' households have children at home.	b	b	b	b	b	b	Programming offerings should include specific programs for adults with children and family specific programs. Child care options should be also considered.
Over half (59%) of seniors responding to the survey are retired with 41% that are still working right now.	a	a	a	a		a	Senior program offerings should include daytime, evening and weekend option.
11% of seniors responding to the survey have access to reliable transportation only some of the time and 4% don't have reliable access.	b	b	b	b		b	Consider alternative options for those who cannot reliably get to parks and recreation facilities (possibly vouchers for Uber, Lyft or taxis).
The majority of survey respondents use a private vehicle as their primary mode of transportation.	b	c	b	c		c	Consider developing a ride share online board to assist those with out transportation.
Recreation Board Needs Assistance	b	b	b			b	Consider providing training from an outside consultant for the Recreation Board. Encourage the Recreation Board members to join NRPA and the Maryland NRPA State Association.
Lack of programs for young children	b	b	b	b		b	Programming offerings should include specific programs for young children.
Lack of sports and programs for post-college grads and for active adults	b	a	b	b		b	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase programs for 20 - 24 and 25 - 29 year olds.
Programs and Service Delivery							
Request for additional Lifelong Learning programs expressed by seniors.	a	a	a	a		a	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase programs. Market and promote these opportunities. Possible programs include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Art Classes •Computer Classes •Crochet, Knitting •Dancing Classes •Historical Programs •Intergenerational Programs •Mentoring Programs •Trash to Treasure Craft

 CITY OF COLLEGE PARK Key Issue - Rating Scale a - priority b - opportunity to improve c - minor or future issue blank means the issue didn't come up or wasn't addressed	Staff Input	Public Input	Leadership Interviews	Community Survey	Other City Documents	Consultant Team	 GREENPLAY LLC <i>The Leading Edge in Parks, Recreation, And Open Space Consulting</i> Preliminary Recommendations
Request for additional Health/Fitness programs and services expressed by all age groups.	b	b	b	b		b	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase programs and services. Market and promote these opportunities. Possible programs include the following: •Access to Health Services •Active Adult Programs •Bike Rides •Kid Open Gym •Personal Training •Pickleball Classes •Senior Counseling Services •Service Dogs •Social Sports (Golf, Tennis, Bocci, Pickleball, Ultimate Frisbee) •Socializing space for card games, bingo •Swimming •Therapeutic Recreation •Wellness Checks •Yoga/Cardio
Request for additional community and special events were expressed by all age groups.	b	b	b	b		b	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase community and special events. Market and promote these opportunities. Possible events include the following: •Community Wide Yard Sales •Concerts in the Park •Free Movie Nights •Interest Clubs •Special events themed for young kids, pre-teens, teens, etc. •Senior Trips (Increase Capacity, Extend Trips) •Summer Programs •Winter Market
Adults with children expressed a concern with lack of child care preventing participation in programs.	b	b	b	b		b	Consider adding childcare services during programs
College Park has large numbers of 20 - 24 and 25 - 29 year olds	b	a	b	a		a	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase programs for 20 - 24 and 25 - 29 year olds.
Swimming and walking for exercise are popular activities in College Park and participants requested more programs and opportunities.	b	b	b	b		b	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers to increase swimming opportunities. Increase trail connectivity and add walking paths where possible.
Fitness sports, outdoor sports and individual sports are the most popular in College Park	b	b	b	b		b	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers to increase Fitness sports, outdoor sports and individual sports. Consider adding special events such as small fun runs, tough mudders, tri-athlons, and other fitness related competitions.
Most programs receive use by a small segment of people	b	b	b	b		b	Increasing communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities may lead to higher participation.
Further partnering with other recreation providers may be useful for residents	a	a	a	a	a	a	Matching up how to best serve residents may be best done through partnering with these other organizations to improve offerings.
Seniors are interested and willing to participate in trips and programs	a	a	a	a	a	a	Shifting program times and/or reaching out to a wider range of residents may result in greater participation.
29 percent of invite respondents who rated senior programs/trips as a 1 or 2 out of 5	a	a	a	a	a	a	Need to improve senior program offers. Adjust times and types of trips based on current trends and demands. Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase senior programs.
Almost 2/3rd (63%) of respondents use facilities, programs, or parks outside of College Park.	b	b	b	b		b	This situation can actually be considered a positive since the City doesn't need to provide the facilities and programs. Consider improved promotion of what facilities, programs, or parks outside of College Park are available.
Request for more Senior programming, almost 50% of the survey respondents would like to try one and are unaware of what is offered.	a	a	a	a		a	Develop senior focused communications, promotion and social media presence in senior living facilities to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities may lead to higher participation
Additional assistance for seniors needed on a 1-on-1 Basis	b	b	b	b		b	Work with community service providers to identify available services. Consider financial assistance programs for those demonstrating financial need.
Facilities and Amenities							
Most parks receive use by a small segment of people	b	b	b	b		b	Increasing communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of parks may lead to higher participation.
Further partnering with other recreation providers may be useful for residents	a	a	a	a	a	a	Matching up how to best serve residents may be best done through partnering with Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations to improve offerings.

 CITY OF COLLEGE PARK Key Issue - Rating Scale a - priority b - opportunity to improve c - minor or future issue blank means the issue didn't come up or wasn't addressed	Staff Input	Public Input	Leadership Interviews	Community Survey	Other City Documents	Consultant Team	 GREENPLAY LLC <i>The Leading Edge in Parks, Recreation, And Open Space Consulting</i> Preliminary Recommendations
Trail and pathway connectivity ranks high in future priorities	a	a	a	a	a	a	Develop a Trail and Pathway Master Plan
Lake Artemisia Natural Area is used by the largest share of respondents (78%) despite being managed by another organization	c	c	c			c	Increasing communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities provided by others that are available to College Park residents may lead to higher participation.
Almost 2/3rd (63%) of respondents use facilities, programs, or parks outside of College Park	c	c	c	c		c	Increasing communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities provided by others that are available to College Park residents may lead to higher participation.
A multi-use indoor facility/community center/senior center to be built in College Park was highly requested by survey residents (3.8 on a 5.0 scale).	b	b	b	b		b	Work with M-NCPPC and the County to address this need as a stand-alone facility operated solely by the City may not be financially feasible nor necessary.
An aquatic facility to be built in College Park was highly requested by survey residents (3.5 on a 5.0 scale).	b	b	b	b		b	Work with M-NCPPC and the County to address this need as a stand-alone facility operated solely by the City may not be financially feasible nor necessary.
Open space/natural areas to be added and maintained College Park was highly requested by survey residents (37% of respondents).	b	b	b	b		b	Work with M-NCPPC and the County to address this need as a stand-alone facility operated solely by the City may not be financially feasible nor necessary.
Open space/natural areas (37%)	b	b	b	b		b	The City should look to acquire any available non developed land to be added and maintained as open space/natural areas.
Old Town and West of Baltimore Ave. without an indoor space.	b	b	b	b		b	Consider renting or acquiring vacant store front space within this area to use for meeting spaces and programming spaces. Increasing communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities provided by others that are available to College Park residents.
Lack of facilities	b	b	b	b		b	Consider renting or acquiring vacant store front space within this area to use for meeting spaces and programming spaces (computer lab, small fitness area, counseling/educational space, maker space). Increasing communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities provided by others that are available to College Park residents.
Need additional investment in maintenance of grounds	b	b	b	b		b	Conduct a study to determine the magnitude of needs related to ongoing and deferred maintenance. Consider adding restrooms, water fountains and other amenities to parks. Add the results from the study into the City's Capital Improvement Plan.
No central location for programs	b	b	b	b		b	Consider making the new City Hall the location for information distribution regarding programs, facilities and services offered by both the City and the other service providers. Provide additional training and information for front line staff that would be receiving requests for information.
No off-leash area for dogs	b	b	b	b		b	The City should look to acquire any available non developed land to be added potential developed as a large dog park with off-leash areas.
Not enough space for classes and meetings	b	b	b	b		b	Consider providing space in existing City facilities for community meetings as available. Consider renting or acquiring vacant store front space within this area to use for meeting spaces and programming spaces. Increasing communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of programs, services and facilities provided by others that are available to College Park residents.
Level of Service							
Underserved population includes: Active Adults, Homebound Seniors, people without transportation	a	a	a	a		a	Work with M-NCPPC, the County and community service providers including churches and other organizations, to increase programs for these populations.
Transportation							
Lack of information about available transportation options for seniors and the general community.	b	b	b	b		b	Develop senior focused communications, promotion and social media presence in senior living facilities to raise awareness of available transportation options.
Lack of safe access for cycling and walking through out College Park.	b	b	b	b		b	Develop a Trail and Pathway Master Plan
Need more frequent transportation service on weekends for seniors and others.	b	b	b	b		b	Consider alternative options for those who cannot reliably get to parks and recreation facilities (possibly vouchers for Uber, Lyft or taxis).
Need access across 193 on Rhode Island for biking and walking.	b	b	b	b		b	Consider adding a cross walk with lights that can stop on-coming traffic to allow bike and pedestrian crossing.
Need transportation to other Community Centers.	b	b	b	b		b	Develop focused communications, promotion and social media presence to raise awareness of available transportation options. Consider alternative options for those who cannot reliably get to parks and recreation facilities (possibly vouchers for Uber, Lyft or taxis).