

**Municipality of Anchorage
Parks and Recreation Department
Report by Van Le, Park Planner**

Community Recreation Survey Report

Sampling Frame and Data Collection

Data were collected through a mailed survey to a random sample of Anchorage residents. The sample was developed from purchased voter registration lists. A total of 1600 residents were in the initial sample frame; 10.12% of the surveys were undeliverable, resulting in an effective mailing of 1437 surveys (see Table 1). An automated phone call reminder and 1 subsequent mailing with an additional survey were sent to non-respondents to encourage them to participate.

Table 1. Summary of Sampling Frame and Response Rate.

| | Number | Percent (%) |
|---|---------------|--------------------|
| Initial sampling frame | 1600 | 100 |
| Undeliverable addresses | 163 | 10.12 |
| Valid addresses | 1437 | 89.8 |
| Effective Mailing list | 1437 | 100 |
| Returned surveys before 4/13 | 249 | 17.3 |
| Returned survey after 4/13 (not used in analysis) | 41 | 2.9 |
| Non-respondents | 1147 | 79.8 |

1. In the past 12 months, have you or any member of your household visited any Anchorage Parks? (Please circle ONE response)

| Respondents who have visited Parks in the past 12 Months | % |
|---|----------|
| Yes | 91.9 |
| No | 8.1 |

a. If yes, how many times during the past year?

| Q1a | Park Visits in the Past Year | % |
|------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| | at least once/week | 36.0 |
| | a few times/mo | 24.9 |
| | at least once/mo | 13.8 |
| | a few times/year | 25.4 |

b. Which 3 parks did you visit the most?

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| Q1b | Parks most visited |
| 1 | Kincaid Park |
| 2 | Far North Bicentennial Park |
| 3 | Delaney Park Strip |
| 4 | Russian Jack Springs Park |
| 5 | Coastal Trail |
| 6 | Valley of the Moon |
| 7 | Westchester Lagoon |
| 8 | Lyn Ary |
| 9 | Hillside Park |
| 10 | University Lake |

c. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks in the Municipality of Anchorage that you have visited?

| | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------|
| Q1c | Physical Condition of Parks | % |
| | excellent | 10.7 |
| | good | 57.9 |
| | fair (needs improvements) | 24.8 |
| | poor (needs many improvements) | 2.3 |
| | no opinion | 4.2 |

2. Have you or other members of your household participated in any programs offered by Parks and Recreation over the past 12 months? (Please circle ONE response)

| | | |
|----|--|----------|
| Q2 | program participation in the past 12 months | % |
| | Yes | 18.5 |
| | No | 80.1 |

a. If yes, how would you rate the quality of the recreation programs you and your household participated in?

| | |
|--|----------|
| Satisfaction rating with program participants | % |
| excellent | 12.2 |
| good | 63.3 |
| fair | 16.3 |
| no opinion | 8.2 |

b. Where did you learn about Anchorage’s Parks and Recreation Programs? (Please circle ALL that apply)

| Methods of Program Advertising | % |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| word of mouth | 35.5 |
| newspaper | 19.4 |
| activity guide | 22.6 |
| visited/called P&R office | 3.2 |
| school flyers | 3.2 |
| Other (past participation etc.) | 16.1 |

1. For each of the following functions performed by Parks & Recreation, please CIRCLE the number that corresponds to your level of support on a scale of 1 to 4 with 4 as “Very Supportive” and 1 as “No Opinion”.

Support for Parks and Recreation Department Functions

| 1 | building trails | % |
|----------|------------------------|----------|
| | no opinion | 4.7 |
| | not supportive | 12.1 |
| | somewhat supportive | 21.6 |
| | very supportive | 61.6 |

| 2 | develop nbh parks in city | % |
|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| | no opinion | 6.8 |
| | not supportive | 10.3 |
| | somewhat supportive | 32.9 |
| | very supportive | 50.0 |

| 3 | acquire new parks/open space | % |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| | no opinion | 7.2 |
| | not supportive | 17.7 |
| | somewhat supportive | 33.3 |
| | very supportive | 41.8 |

| 4 | provide more children's programs | % |
|----------|---|----------|
| | no opinion | 19.7 |
| | not supportive | 12.0 |
| | somewhat supportive | 42.9 |
| | very supportive | 25.3 |

| 5 | improve indoor pools | % |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | no opinion | 22.1 |
| | not supportive | 14.7 |
| | somewhat supportive | 32.5 |
| | very supportive | 30.7 |

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 6 | develop athletic fields | % |
| | no opinion | 13.8 |
| | not supportive | 22.4 |
| | somewhat supportive | 42.2 |
| | very supportive | 21.6 |
| 7 | develop/expand indoor recreation facilities | % |
| | no opinion | 12.6 |
| | not supportive | 28.3 |
| | somewhat supportive | 40.4 |
| | very supportive | 18.7 |
| 8 | develop off-leash dog parks | % |
| | no opinion | 16.7 |
| | not supportive | 34.8 |
| | somewhat supportive | 23.2 |
| | very supportive | 25.3 |
| 9 | develop skateboard/inline facilities | % |
| | no opinion | 18.9 |
| | not supportive | 24.5 |
| | somewhat supportive | 42.1 |
| | very supportive | 14.6 |
| 10 | provide environmental education programs | % |
| | no opinion | 14.5 |
| | not supportive | 20.5 |
| | somewhat supportive | 44.0 |
| | very supportive | 20.9 |
| 11 | provide landscaping enhancements to parks | % |
| | no opinion | 6.0 |
| | not supportive | 19.1 |
| | somewhat supportive | 43.8 |
| | very supportive | 31.1 |
| 12 | provide after school programs in community schools | % |
| | no opinion | 10.3 |
| | not supportive | 15.9 |
| | somewhat supportive | 42.1 |
| | very supportive | 31.8 |
| 13 | build outdoor speed skating facility | % |
| | no opinion | 21.8 |
| | not supportive | 33.3 |
| | somewhat supportive | 33.8 |
| | very supportive | 11.1 |

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 14 | develop the Anchorage Park Foundation to raise private donations | % |
| | no opinion | 9.8 |
| | not supportive | 7.7 |
| | somewhat supportive | 39.7 |
| | very supportive | 42.7 |

| | | |
|----|--|------|
| 15 | increase user fees for special use groups | % |
| | no opinion | 12.3 |
| | not supportive | 25.1 |
| | somewhat supportive | 40.0 |
| | very supportive | 22.6 |

4. Which FOUR of the functions from the list above would you be most willing to support with your tax dollars? Please write the corresponding number from the above list.

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| Q4 | Most willing to support with Tax Dollars | % |
| 1 | Building multi-purpose trails | 42.3 |
| 2 | Developing neighborhood parks throughout the city | 17.7 |
| 3 | Acquire properties to develop new parks/open space | 12.0 |
| 4 | Develop the Anchorage Park Foundation to raise private donations | 11.4 |
| | Providing landscaping & landscape enhancements to city parks & trails | 11.4 |
| | Developing neighborhood parks throughout the city | 11.4 |

Please rate your satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is “Very dissatisfied” and 5 is “Very Satisfied”) with the following Parks & Recreation services.

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|------|
| 5A | Youth Athletic programs | % |
| | very dissatisfied | 2.2 |
| | somewhat dissatisfied | 7.0 |
| | neutral | 68.4 |
| | somewhat satisfied | 16.2 |
| | very satisfied | 6.1 |

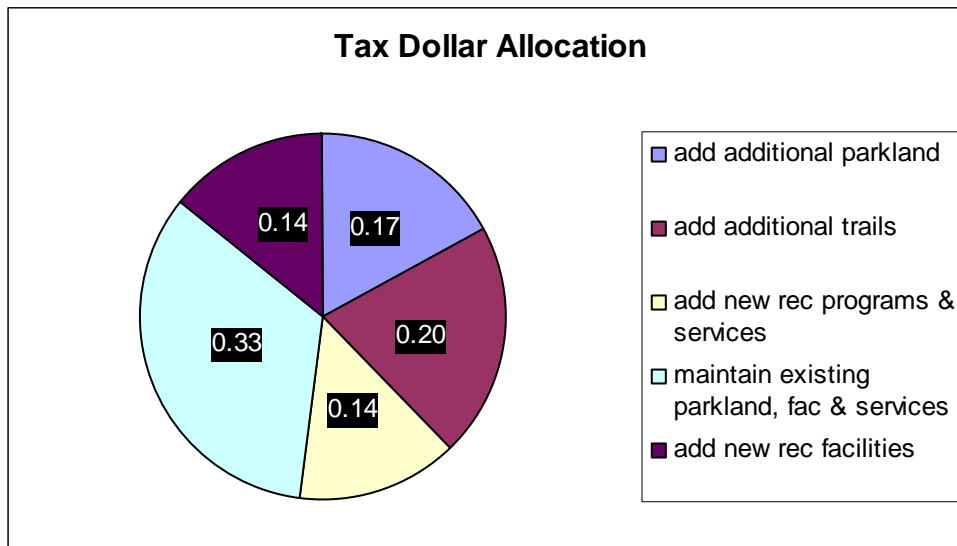
| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------|
| B | Adult Recreation Programs | % |
| | very dissatisfied | 3.9 |
| | somewhat dissatisfied | 7.0 |
| | neutral | 62.4 |
| | somewhat satisfied | 19.2 |
| | very satisfied | 7.4 |

| | | |
|---|--|------|
| C | Other recreation programs, special events & classes | % |
| | very dissatisfied | 3.5 |
| | somewhat dissatisfied | 7.0 |
| | neutral | 63.0 |
| | somewhat satisfied | 18.9 |
| | very satisfied | 7.5 |

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| D | Ease of Registering for programs | % |
| | very dissatisfied | 3.1 |
| | somewhat dissatisfied | 7.5 |
| | neutral | 63.2 |
| | somewhat satisfied | 19.7 |
| | very satisfied | 6.6 |

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| E | Fees charged for recreation programs | % |
| | very dissatisfied | 3.9 |
| | somewhat dissatisfied | 7.9 |
| | neutral | 60.1 |
| | somewhat satisfied | 16.7 |
| | very satisfied | 11.4 |

6. Given that some property tax dollars are collected for parks and recreation purposes in Anchorage, how would you prefer to see the parks and recreation budget money spent? Please allocate 100% to the categories below any way you like.



7. What are the most important reasons you recreate? (Please circle all responses that apply)

| Q7 | Most Important Reasons Respondents Recreate | % |
|----|--|------|
| 1 | Health Benefits | 71.8 |
| 2 | To have fun | 64.0 |
| 3 | Get into Nature | 63.5 |
| 4 | Spend time with family | 49.4 |
| 5 | To be with friends | 39.4 |
| 6 | Learn new skills | 11.2 |

**8. What are the most important reasons you do NOT recreate more?
(Please circle all responses that apply)**

| Q8 | Most Important Reasons Respondents Do NOT Recreate More | % |
|----|---|------|
| 1 | Not enough time | 61.0 |
| 2 | Lack of information about recreation opportunities | 14.0 |
| 3 | Other (safety/age/laziness) | 12.8 |
| 4 | Lack of money | 11.2 |
| 5 | Lack of facilities (no trails/parks nearby) | 11.2 |
| 6 | Lack of interest | 11.2 |
| 7 | Lack of ability/skill | 10.8 |
| 8 | Poor health | 8.4 |
| 9 | No childcare | 3.6 |
| 10 | Lack of transportation | 2.0 |

9a. Please indicate if you OR your household has a need for each of the parks and recreation facilities listed below by CIRCLING YES or NO next to the facility.

If YES, please rate the following parks and recreation facilities on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means “Does not Meet” and 5 means “Completely Meets ” the needs of your household. Please CIRCLE one response.

| Q9 | Recreation Need | % Respondents | Satisfaction Rating |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 | paved walking & biking trails | 74.6 | 3.59 |
| 2 | natural areas/nature parks | 71.2 | 3.43 |
| 3 | non-paved walking & biking trails | 69.1 | 3.51 |
| 4 | small nbh parks | 67.0 | 3.37 |
| 5 | large community parks | 61.2 | 3.59 |
| 6 | wildlife viewing | 59.7 | 3.26 |
| 7 | indoor swimming pools/water parks | 51.1 | 2.92 |
| 8 | picnic shelters/areas | 51.1 | 3.37 |
| 9 | outdoor ice skating rinks & lakes | 49.1 | 3.36 |
| 10 | groomed x-c trails | 48.7 | 3.64 |

10a. Listed below are various programs and activities available to Anchorage residents. For each program or activity please WRITE how many members of your household participate in the program and CIRCLE approximately how often you participate(d) in the activity in the past 12 months.

| Q10 | Participation | N |
|-----|---|-----|
| 1 | running/hiking/walking on city trails | 117 |
| 2 | visiting nature areas | 105 |
| 3 | bicycling on paved trails | 104 |
| 4 | x-c skiing on groomed trails | 92 |
| 5 | biking on non-paved trails | 87 |
| 6 | adult hockey | 67 |
| 8 | senior citizen programs | 65 |
| 9 | outdoor tennis | 62 |
| 10 | adult softball | 58 |
| 11 | ski-joring | 57 |
| 12 | outdoor ice skating rinks & lakes | 55 |
| 13 | dog walking in parks or off-leash areas | 54 |
| 14 | special events in parks | 53 |
| 15 | recreational swimming programs | 51 |
| 16 | golf | 49 |
| 17 | dog mushing on city trails | 44 |
| 18 | adult classes (art, ceramics etc.) | 39 |
| 19 | Summer Playground program | 34 |
| 20 | health & fitness classes | 33 |
| 21 | swim lessons | 31 |
| 22 | competitive swimming programs | 30 |
| 23 | youth soccer | 29 |
| 24 | skateboarding | 28 |
| 25 | ice skating at indoor rinks | 25 |
| 26 | frisbee disc golf | 25 |
| 27 | using gyms for basketball/volleyball | 22 |
| 28 | summer camp programs | 20 |
| 29 | roller/inline skating on city trails | 20 |
| 30 | youth softball | 16 |
| 31 | football | 13 |
| 32 | youth basketball | 12 |
| 32 | riding horses on city trails | 12 |
| 33 | speedskating | 12 |
| 34 | youth hockey | 11 |
| 35 | youth classes | 10 |
| 36 | Youth baseball/little league | 8 |

11. How would you prioritize the facilities and services of the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department? (Please circle ONE response for each of the questions below.)

| Q11 | Priorities | Mean |
|-----|---|------|
| 1 | preserve natural open space | 3.04 |
| 2 | trails in greenbelts/open spaces | 2.97 |
| 3 | after school programs | 2.95 |
| 4 | recreational sports programs | 2.69 |
| 5 | winter sports facilities | 2.63 |
| 6 | picnic areas/shelters in parks | 2.62 |
| 7 | flowers in city parks | 2.61 |
| 8 | youth recreation programs | 2.61 |
| 9 | small neighborhood parks closer to home | 2.57 |
| 10 | programs for "youth at risk" | 2.55 |
| 11 | enhance appearance of park areas | 2.53 |
| 12 | programs for special needs individuals | 2.47 |
| 13 | adult recreation programs | 2.43 |
| 14 | specialized facility (pools, ice rinks) | 2.41 |
| 15 | senior recreation programs | 2.40 |
| 16 | competitive sports programs | 2.33 |
| 17 | sports facilities in parks | 2.31 |
| 18 | turf fields for rec play/practices | 2.27 |

Scale:

1 = No Priority

2 = Nice to have

3 = Priority Service

4 = Must Have

12. Currently the Anchorage School District has 88 schools in the Anchorage Municipality. Should the school facilities (indoor & outdoor) be more accessible to the public for summer, evening, and weekend recreational activities when not used for school-related programs? Please circle ONE response.

| Q12 | Increase Public Access to school facilities | % |
|-----|---|------|
| | only outdoor facilities | 19.1 |
| | only indoor facilities | 1.0 |
| | both indoor & outdoor | 69.9 |
| | no school facilities for public use | 1.9 |
| | no opinion | 8.1 |

13. How long have you lived in Alaska?

14. How long have you lived in Anchorage?

15. How long have you lived at your present address?

| | DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION | |
|-----|--|------------|
| | | Avg. Years |
| Q13 | Length of Residence in Alaska | 24.4 |
| Q14 | Length of Residence in Anchorage | 25.0 |
| Q15 | Length of Residence at present address | 13.9 |

16. What is your Home Zip Code?

| Q16 | Respondents by Zip Code | % |
|-----|-------------------------|------|
| | 99501 | 7.9 |
| | 99502 | 11.2 |
| | 99503 | 2.9 |
| | 99504 | 11.6 |
| | 99507 | 16.6 |
| | 99508 | 13.3 |
| | 99509 | 0.4 |
| | 99515 | 7.9 |
| | 99516 | 11.2 |
| | 99517 | 12.4 |
| | 99518 | 4.1 |
| | 99695 | 0.4 |

17. Do you live in a: (Please circle ONE response)

| Q17 | Dwelling Type | % |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------|
| | detached single family home | 79.2 |
| | duplex, apartment, townhouse or condo | 18.3 |
| | mobile home | 1.7 |
| | other | 0.8 |

18. Do you rent or own your home?

| Q18 | Home Ownership vs. Rent | % |
|-----|-------------------------|------|
| | rent | 7.5 |
| | own | 92.5 |

19. What is your gender?

| Q19 | Gender | % |
|-----|--------|------|
| | male | 45.1 |
| | female | 54.9 |

20. What is your race/ethnicity based on these US Census categories? (Please circle ONE response)

| Q20 | Race/Ethnicity of Respondents | % |
|-----|--------------------------------|------|
| | White (non-Hispanic) | 87.0 |
| | Hispanic | 0.8 |
| | Black/African American | 1.7 |
| | Alaskan Native/American Indian | 5.0 |
| | Asian | 2.1 |
| | Other | 3.4 |

21. What is your highest level of formal education? (Please circle ONE response)

| Q21 | Level of Formal Education | |
|-----|---------------------------------|------|
| | high school graduate or less | 8.8 |
| | some college, no degree | 26.3 |
| | associate's degree | 6.3 |
| | bachelor's degree | 29.2 |
| | graduate or professional degree | 29.6 |

22. How many people are in your household?

| Q22 | Number of Household Members | % |
|-----|-----------------------------|------|
| | 1 | 14.6 |
| | 2 | 42.7 |
| | 3 | 13.0 |
| | 4 | 18.8 |
| | 5 | 5.0 |
| | 6 | 4.2 |
| | 7 | 0.4 |
| | 8 | 0.4 |
| | 9 | 0.8 |

23. What is YOUR age group?

| Q23 | Age Group of Respondent | % |
|-----|-------------------------|------|
| | 0-10 | 0.8 |
| | 20-25 | 4.6 |
| | 26-30 | 2.5 |
| | 31-35 | 5.0 |
| | 36-40 | 7.5 |
| | 41-50 | 26.4 |
| | 50-60 | 24.7 |
| | 61-70 | 16.3 |
| | 70+ | 12.1 |

24. What are the age groups in your HOUSEHOLD? (Please circle ALL that apply)

| Q24 | Age Group of Household Members | N | % Of total Respondents |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|------------------------|
| | 0-10 | 29 | 11.6 |
| | 10-15 | 34 | 13.7 |
| | 16-20 | 24 | 9.6 |
| | 20-25 | 25 | 10 |
| | 26-30 | 19 | 7.6 |
| | 31-35 | 17 | 6.8 |
| | 36-40 | 27 | 10.8 |
| | 41-50 | 78 | 31.3 |
| | 50-60 | 79 | 31.7 |
| | 61-70 | 49 | 19.7 |
| | 70+ | 38 | 15.3 |

