

Community Input

One of the most important aspects of a community's Recreation Master Plan is the inclusion of the resident's opinions about how they view the future of their parks and recreation system. The City of Charlevoix created a community survey to gather the information which would guide their parks and recreation program for the next 5 years. A complete tabulation of the results is available for review in Appendix C. The text below provides a description of significant results.

Overall, the survey had 19 questions, and there were a total of 546 responses. The City advertised the community input survey on the City website, the City Facebook page, and put out a targeted advertisement on Facebook. The online survey was available from July 17, 2016 to September 7, 2016, at charlevoixrecreation.com.

A second means of input was provided during the required public review period ____ and the public hearing ____.

Survey Results

The following explanations are selected results from the survey, that are most interesting and pertinent. To view a complete report of results, please reference Appendix C.

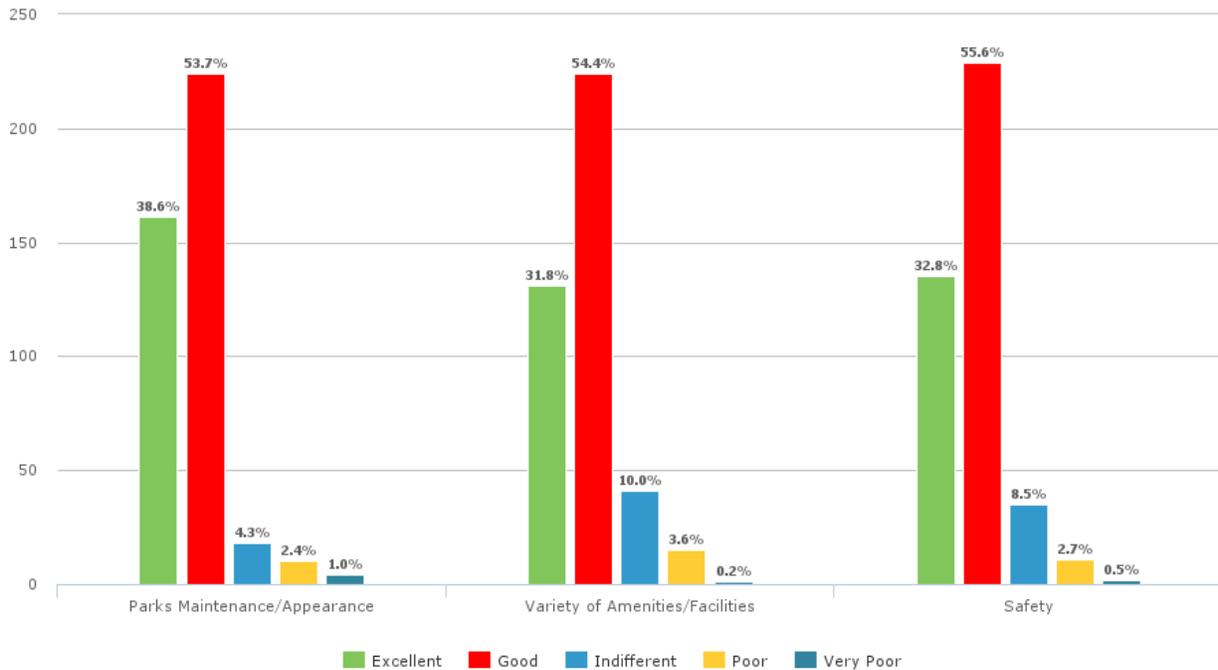
Of the 546 responses to the survey, 29% of respondents had a primary residence in the city, 22% lived in Charlevoix Township, and 10% live in Marion Township. Of all the respondents the top three age groups who participated in the survey were 45 -54 years old (21%), 55 -64 years old (18%), and 35 – 44 years old (17%).

The top 10 reasons why respondents visit City of Charlevoix parks is for

1. Walking
2. Swimming
3. Music/Entertainment
4. Annual Events/ Festivals
5. Picnics
6. Nature Enjoyment/Bird Watching
7. Boating
8. Playgrounds
9. Skiing/Snowboarding
10. Bicycling

Overall the respondents from the survey seem to be very pleased with the parks and recreation options in Charlevoix. The following chart highlights how respondents rated park maintenance/appearance, variety of amenities/facilities, and safety from Excellent to Very Poor. For each of the three categories, over 30% of the respondents ranked them as Excellent, and similarly for each category over 50% of respondents ranked the characteristics as Good. This totals to over 80% for each category where respondents were happy and thought the facilities were in Good or Excellent condition.

Figure 4 - Rating of Park Facilities

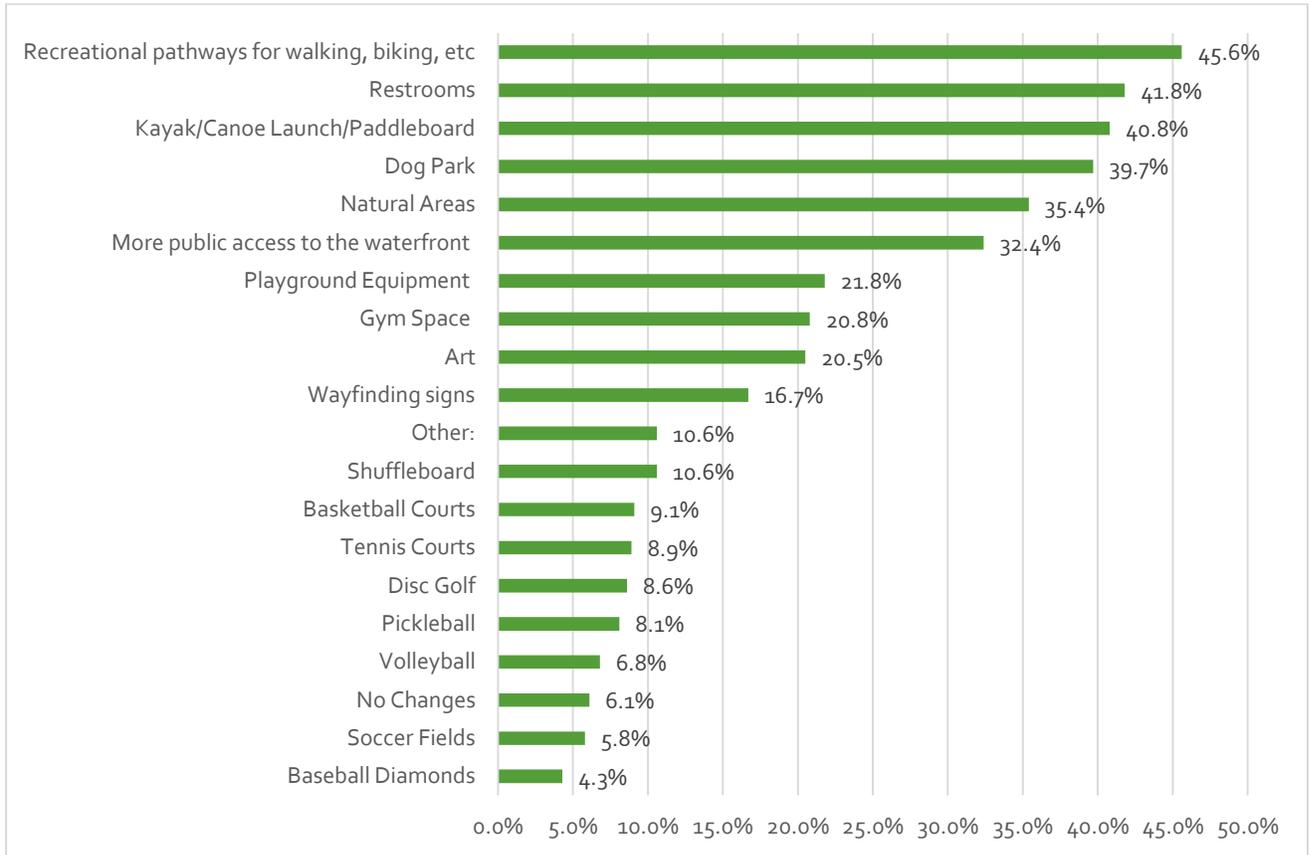


Respondents were also asked their opinion on several recreation statements, to see the full list please reference Appendix C, however a few are explained here. Fifty-one percent of respondents and 35% of respondents Strongly Agree and Agree, respectively, that Charlevoix should promote public access to lakes. Fifty-six percent of respondents and 36% of respondents Strongly Agree and Agree, respectively, that Charlevoix should promote public access to trails. Sixty-three percent of respondents and 30% of respondents Strongly Agree and Agree, respectively, that it is important to provide outdoor recreation facilities, athletic fields, and courts. Finally, 57% of respondents and 29% of respondents Strongly Agree and Agree, respectively, that it is important the Charlevoix’s parks have non-motorized paths and trails.

Respondents were also asked what facilities or amenities they would like to see added to parks and recreation facilities. All of the results can be found in Figure 5 below, however the top 5 responses were

1. Recreation pathways for walking, biking, etc.
2. Restrooms
3. Kayak/Canoe Launch/Paddleboards
4. Dog Parks
5. Natural Areas

Figure 5 - Additional facilities or Amenities respondents would like to see added to the parks.



Respondents also had the option to type in their own responses, there were a total of 42 answers, and they are highlighted in Table 4 on the following page.

Table 4 – Other Responses

Response	Number
Accessibility amenities	3
City Golf Course/ Update Clubhouse	3
Maintenance	3
Pickleball Courts	3
Water Safety (Lifeguards, information etc.)	3
Better quality/Expand skate park	2
Ice Rink downtown	2
Non-motorized paths	2
Bike racks at parks and playgrounds	1
Camping Sites	1
Changing Rooms at beach	1
Channel Jumping	1
Groom trails for cross country skiing	1
Historical Markers	1
Indoor ice arena	1
Koi Ponds	1
Lighthouse	1
More seating at stage	1
More transient dock slips	1
Mountain Biking/Snowmobiling Trails	1
Playground	1
Sailing Club	1
Shade	1
Small boat dockage	1
Soccer	1
Stargazing Area	1
Three season pavilion	1
Water features at beaches	1

Finally, the respondents were asked if the City should have an ice rink that is more centrally located to the downtown area? A total 60% of respondents stated yes it should be closer to downtown.