



# River Bend Residents' Interests Survey Results

Conducted Feb-Mar 2024

Presented by Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

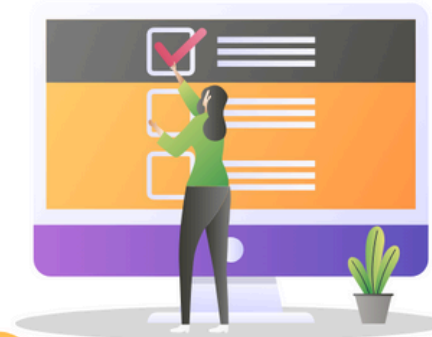
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# Overview

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was tasked with surveying River Bend residents to ascertain their use of parks, involvement in recreational activities and their interest in expanding opportunities.

A survey was created online and launched February 9, 2024 on the River Bend Facebook Community Page and NextDoor. Additionally, a paper survey was included in the Town's March 8 water bill mailing and residents were asked to drop off their surveys at Town Hall. The deadline for completing surveys—online or paper—was March 30.

## Parks & Recreation Online Survey



Tell us what you think about our current parks and programs!

And just as important, what you want to see in the future!

Just follow the link below to fill out the survey.

**It will only take a few minutes to have your voice heard!**

# Responses



The Advisory Board received **336** total responses\*



Online surveys accounted for 201 or 60% of responses



Paper responses submitted to Town Hall accounted for 84 or 25%

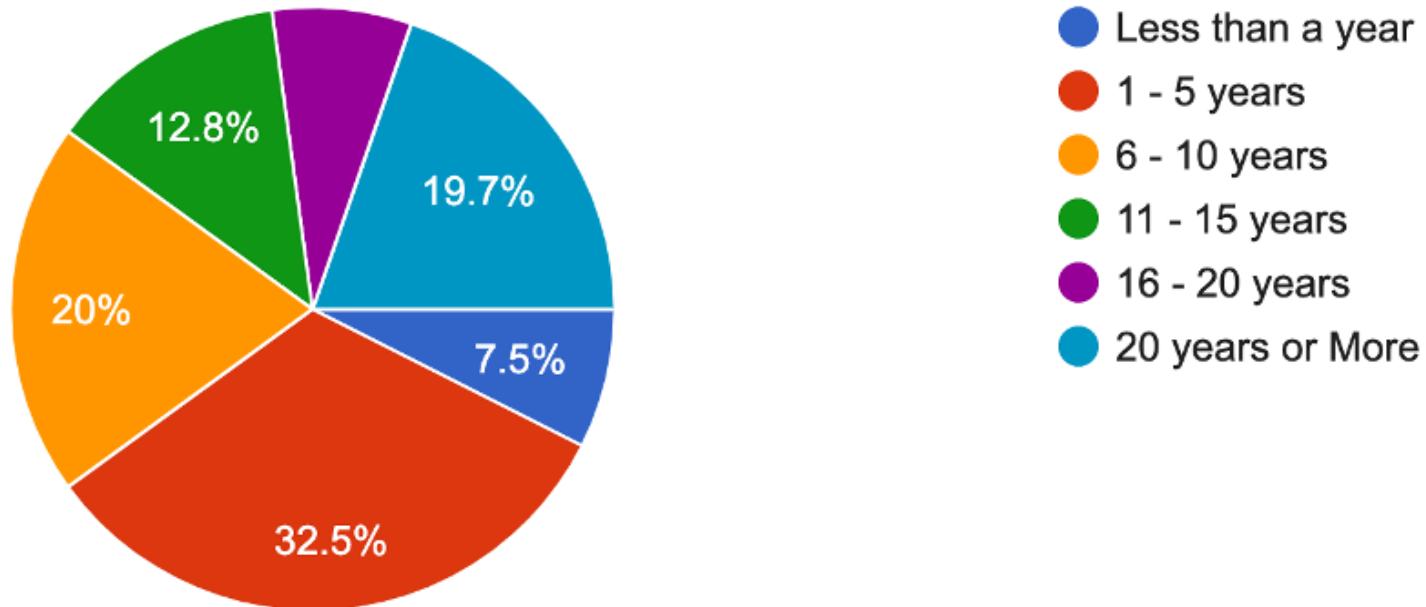


There were 51 surveys previously filled out by residents attending National Night Out (2023) or 15% of total responses

- According to 2020 Census data for the Town of River Bend, there are 2902 residents. With 336 responses, that represents approximately 12% of the population. Given that in many cases only one person per household filled out the survey, we may also assume a greater percentage is reflected.

# Residency

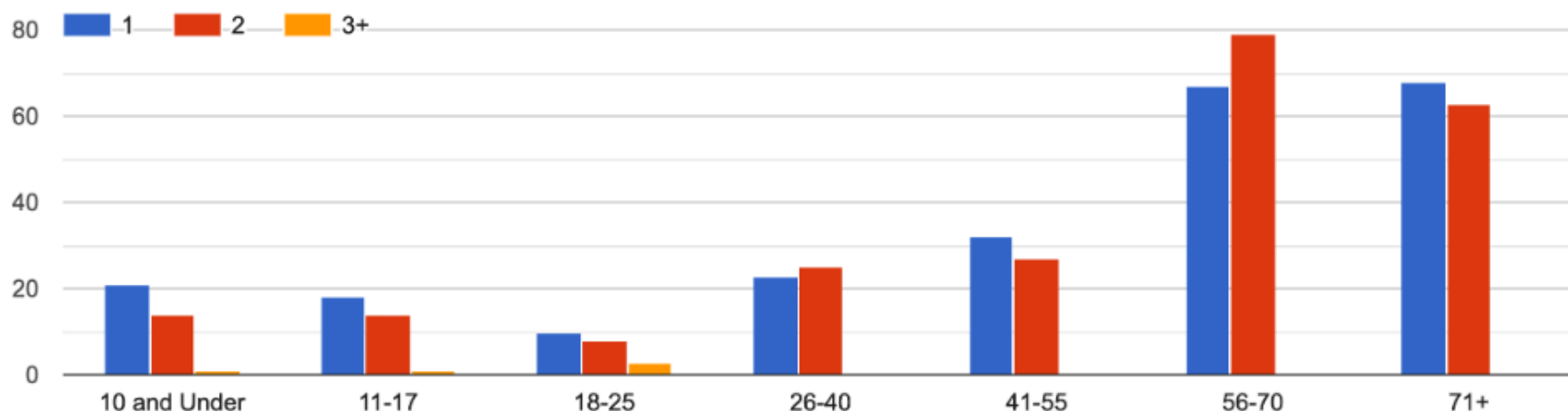
The greatest number of responses came from those residing in River Bend 10 years or less (60%). And overall, the largest group were respondents who've resided in River Bend one to five years (33%).



# Respondents by Age Group

The cohort with the greatest number of respondents is the 56+ age group which is reflective of the population according to Census data.

With a median age of 57 and 27% of the population in the 45-64 category and an even greater 37% that are 65 or older, the survey well represented these age categories.



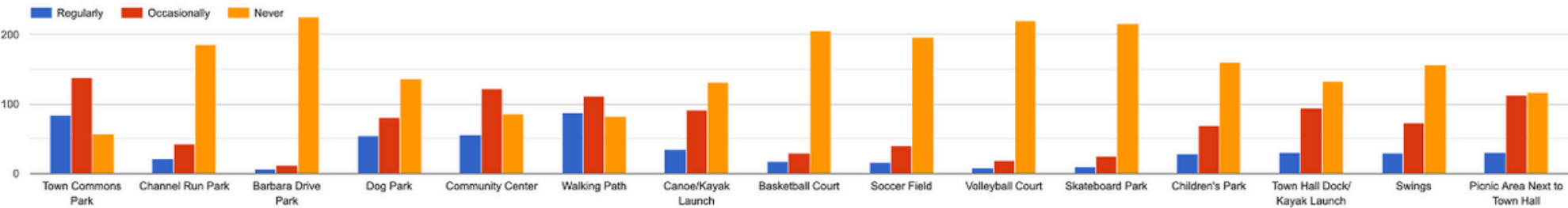
# Park Participation

86% of total respondents visited at least one of the parks with Town Commons the most frequently noted, though mostly occasionally.

Channel Run and Barbara Drive had a higher incidence of residents who’ve never visited, while the dog park, community center and walking path were more frequently visited than all others.

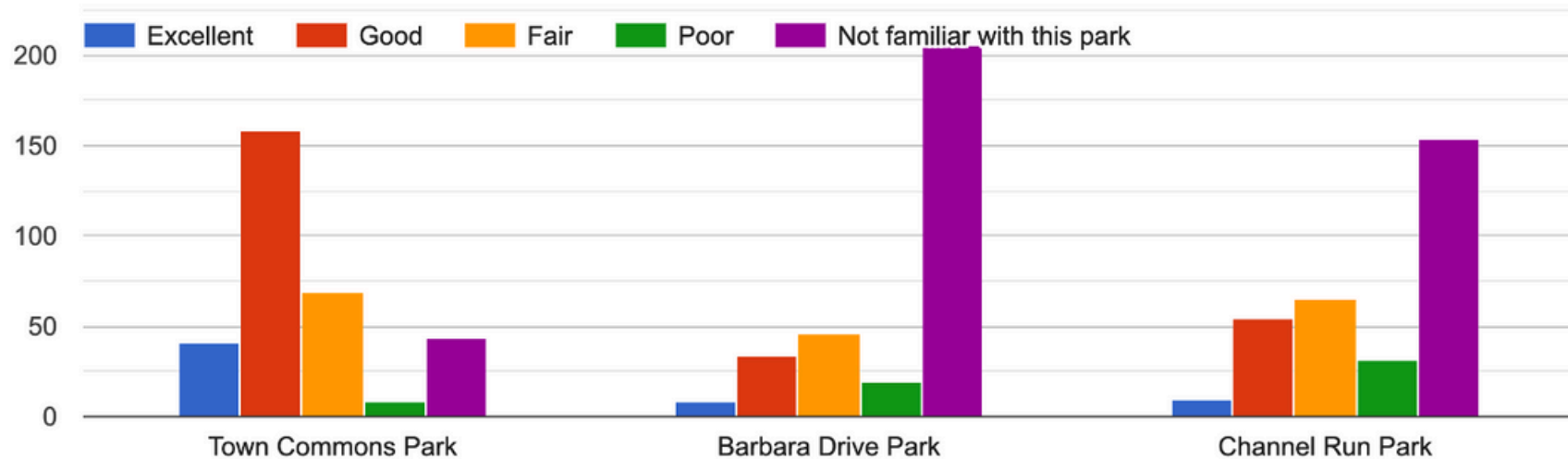
Of the 49 respondents that did not visit the parks, almost half were simply not interested (46%), a smaller percentage noted health limitations (16%) and others didn’t have enough time (15%).

When asked what facilities residents frequented outside of River Bend, the greatest number cited the YMCA, as well as, Martin Marietta, Creekside, Cottle and Union Point Parks.



# Rating the Parks

Residents were also asked to rate the three main parks. Town Commons was deemed Good overall, while the majority of respondents were not familiar with Channel Run or Barbara Drive Parks. Of those who were familiar with these two, Fair for each was the greater response.



# Residents Would Like...

The amenities residents were most interested in were Outdoor/Indoor Swimming Pools, a Fitness Facility and a Pickleball Court. Results are as follows:

**Outdoor Swimming Pool (60%)**

**Fitness Facility (52%)**

**Pickleball Court (47%)**

**Indoor Swimming Pool (47%)**

**Court Games (38%)**

**Larger Covered Picnic Area (31%)**

**Outdoor Performance Area (28%)**

**Splash Pad (26%)**

**Outdoor Playground (21%)**

**Tennis Court (17%)**

**Disc Golf (14%)**

**Teen Center (11%)**

**Baseball/Softball Field (9%)**



Pools



Fitness Facility



Pickleball Court

# Participation in P&R Activities

Of the 266 residents who responded that they'd participated in town-sponsored parks and recreation activities, the three most popular activities were the Independence Day Celebration (81%), Community Yard Sale (67%) and the Holiday Tree Lighting (53%).



# Workshops & Game Days

Only 22% of respondents had taken part in workshops and game days, but the most cited activity was the creation of the holiday globes.



# Suggestions

The following represents the most often noted suggestions for future workshops and activities..

## General Interest

Games/Bingo/Bunco/Scrabble

Movies in the Park

Evening in the Park w/Music

Arts & Crafts Fair/Art Walk/Arts Festival

Block Party w/Music & Food Trucks

Front Porch Music/Porch Fest

Holiday/Christmas Parade

## Workshops/Learning Opportunities

Craft Workshops

Art & Music Classes

Baking/Cookie Decorating Workshops

Information Panels/Lectures

Home Improvement/How to Events

Gardening

## Athletic/Active

Chair Yoga

Fitness Classes

Fishing Tournament for Kids



# Expanding Opportunities

Residents were asked if they would vote to expand recreational opportunities and an overwhelming majority, 93%, were in favor. The method supported by the greatest number was through Grants. Not surprisingly, Taxes were the least favored.



⑤ **Grants (87%)**

⑤ **Contributions/Donations (72%)**

⑤ **User/Registration Fees (59%)**

⑤ **Special/General Purpose Foundation (49%)**

⑤ **Partnerships (48%)**

⑤ **Project-Specific Bond Referendums (43%)**

⑤ **Taxes (30%)**

# Resident Suggestions for Amenities & Equipment

The amenity most frequently requested by residents was to move, expand and enhance the Children's Playground to include equipment and activities for all ages. The current equipment is seen as tired and insufficient to accommodate children at different stages of physical development.

The Dog Park was the second most requested amenity. This would include expanding/enhancing the current, creating an additional park and providing shelter.

All manner of fitness—walking/nature trails, fitness equipment and sports fields—were also repeatedly mentioned. Pickleball and a Fitness Facility were written in again, even though they were offered as an option on a previous question, signaling a great interest for residents.



Playground



Dog Park



Fitness/Trails

# P&R Advisory Board Recommendations

The following are amenity recommendations based on both multiple choice and open-ended responses, as well as, Advisory Board members' research and input. Our recommendations are based on the belief that expanding and enhancing amenities, especially at Town Commons, not only raises the quality of residents' lives, but also showcases a vibrant and involved community for residents and visitors alike.

- ▶▶ Relocate children's playground to a safer, more prominent location, as well as, expand and update equipment to address children's play at various stages of development.
- ✦ New equipment could include Activity Panels for Toddlers, Sliding & Swinging for Preschoolers and Climbing Towers for School Age children.
- ✦ Consider motion play equipment which includes merry-go-rounds and see saws, as well as, modern versions that encourage inclusivity of children with disabilities.
- ✦ Incorporate adventure play elements such as wooden structures or a Pirate Ship that would provide an imaginative and interactive experience for children, as well as, a visually interesting landmark at Town Commons.

# P&R Advisory Board Recommendations

- Expand dog park amenities and add a dog park located at Channel Run. Due to flooding conditions at various times of the year and lack of parking, this latter park does not lend itself to more than a green space with limited equipment and amenities.
  - ✧ Add a gazebo or other shelter to protect dog owners from the sun and rain.
  - ✧ Add crawl tunnels and agility hurdles for interactive activities for dogs.
- Create an area to install a Pickleball court with a plan to add more if usage is as expected.
- Re-purpose the Old Public Works building as a Fitness Facility as this was requested by half of the respondents. Equipment can be limited to a treadmill, stationary bike, rowing machine and free weights to begin.
- Provide more shaded areas throughout Town Commons. This becomes especially important as we plan more outdoor amenities and activities.
- Improve and expand restroom facilities.
- Create a space for court games such as Bocce ball, Cornhole, Horse Shoes, etc.

## P&R Advisory Board Recommendations

- ▶▶ Explore ways to create interlinked walking/nature trails perhaps enhanced with markers noting flora and fauna. And update/refurbish the existing walking/exercise circuit as it's outdated and could use a facelift.
- ▶▶ Refurbish or replace faded and rusted equipment at Barbara Drive Park. Provide some type of shelter or cover for existing benches. This park was unfamiliar to the great majority of respondents and none of the residents of the subdivision filled out the survey, therefore we don't see this as a priority or a need to allocate deep resources especially given the lack of parking and residents crossing a busy highway is probably not attractive.



We should note that while an outdoor pool was the most desired amenity by 60% of respondents—and almost half checked off an indoor pool—we are excluding pools from our recommendations as we understand feasibility and budget constraints. Nevertheless, several residents did note that a partnership or negotiated rates with the country club to access their pool could be a solution.

# P&R Advisory Board Communications Recommendations

- ▶▶ Purchase an Outdoor Programmable Digital sign to eliminate the continuous cost of individual event signage. A high-quality sign with text, graphics and animation capabilities can be used by organizers from all of the Boards and Committees for events and programs and can greatly enhance residents' awareness of and participation in same.
- ▶▶ Provide new residents with information about the parks with an easy-to-access map on the Town website to increase visibility of the parks and amenities offered. There is currently only a map of the Walking Trail around Town Commons and it is not easily identified as a link. The vast majority of the respondents were not aware of Channel Run or Barbara Drive Parks, even those who have lived here for years.



Thank you for this opportunity to present our survey findings and for your consideration of our recommendations. Most of all, we appreciate your dedication to this community and to its continued growth and improvement.