



C H A P T E R F I V E

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



## 5.1 Introduction

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Parks and recreational facilities greatly improve the wellbeing and quality of life of Baltimore County residents. They are important for physical and mental health, providing spaces where people can spend their leisure time. They improve environmental health, by preserving permeable surfaces and trees that reduce summer heat. And they enhance a sense of community by providing spaces to gather and programs for residents. As the County grows in population and as recreational preferences change, it is important for the County to adapt and set new goals for land acquisition, facilities creation, and maintenance. This section details the goals that Baltimore County has set based on the results of our analysis of existing facilities, community needs, and concerns of equity, as well as updates on our goals since the 2017 LPPRP.

## 5.2 County Goals

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### 1. Acquire a variety of parklands and recreation sites to achieve parkland acquisition goals and meet public recreation needs.

**Utilize Program Open Space (POS) as a key funding source for the acquisition of parkland. Support efforts to secure the utilization of 100% of State real estate transfer tax for land preservation programs, as was the intent when the tax was enacted.**

*Sixteen properties were purchased for park and open space purposes in the period comprising calendar years 2017 through 2021, resulting in the acquisition of over 360 acres of land. Nearly \$18.9 million in POS funding contributed to these parkland acquisitions (including pending project applications). The present County Executive and his administration have made park acquisition a high priority, resulting in six acquisitions taking place in calendar year 2021 alone, with an investment of more than \$9.2 million in POS funding within those purchases. The County's outstanding share of past diversions to POS, whereby POS funding was redirected through State legislation to other uses, is nearly \$3.9 million. The Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, as well as other members of the Maryland Association of Counties Parks and Recreation Administrators (MACPRA) affiliate, remain dedicated to having the diverted POS funding restored and returned to the counties.*

**Strategically target available park acquisition funding resources to areas of existing and projected future needs, and to protect and preserve key environmental and natural resource lands.**

*Many of the County's park acquisitions over the past five years have helped to fulfill recommendations of the 2017 LPPRP, support efforts to meet existing and future recreational needs, provide additional parkland in RPD groups with lower-than average access to parklands, and/or preserve environmentally sensitive natural resources. Two properties acquired in the Towson community, along the Six Bridges Trail, support both the demand for additional green space and places to walk, jog, and cycle. Ten of the sixteen properties purchased for park and open space use are within areas that serve the RPD groups with the lowest satisfaction ratings for "availability of undeveloped open/green space" in the 2016 public survey completed for the 2017 LPPRP. Two sites acquired – the Windlass Woods Property in Middle River and the Rock Point Park addition on the Back River Peninsula – preserved nearly 100%-wooded properties and areas of wetlands. Three properties viable for community or neighborhood park development were acquired in the Bird River corridor, an area that continues to experience some of the strongest population growth in the County. The 61+ acre Gwynnbrook Property in Owings Mills provides another park site in an area that has experienced significant residential growth over the past several decades.*

# Acquisitions: January 2017 - January 2022

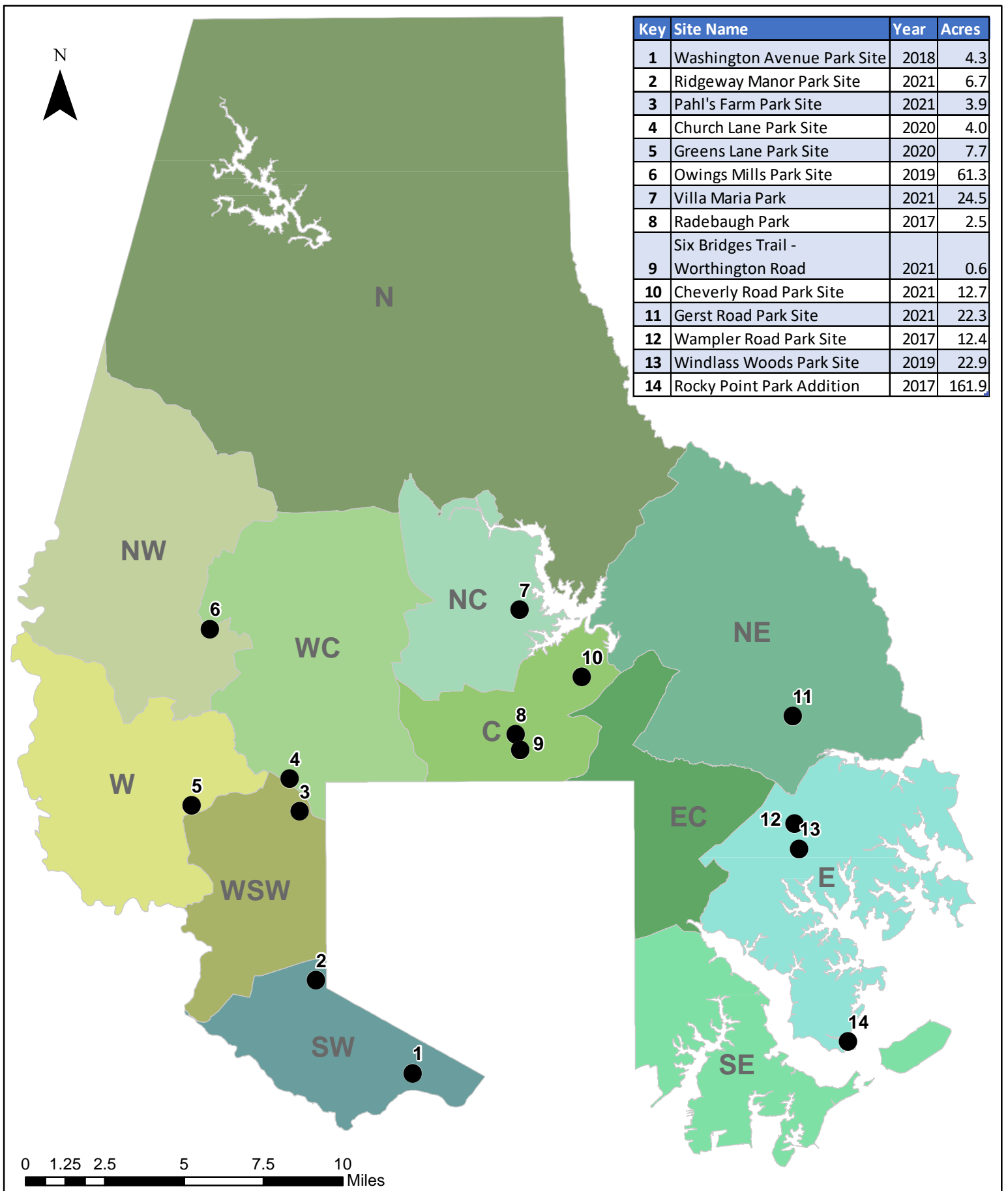


Figure 92. Acquisitions: January 2017 - January 2022

Employ the Baltimore County development process to provide quality local open space, obtain fees-in-lieu where appropriate (to help fund park acquisition and development), and to secure vital greenway connections.

*A total of nine local open space dedications to the County took place within fiscal years 2017 through 2021, involving just under nineteen acres of land (does not count greenway dedications, reported later in this section).*

Work cooperatively with partner agencies to provide additional parks, recreation sites, and green spaces for the use of the citizenry.

*One additional public school recreation center, Honeygo Elementary School Recreation Center, was constructed and opened since the formulation of the prior LPPRP. Additionally, leases have been extended or are in the process of being extended at sites such as Wilson Point Park (partially leased from Maryland Aviation Administration), Campus Hills Park (State Highways Administration), and Kingsville and Millers Island Parks (Maryland Department of Natural Resources).*

Exercise all means necessary for the acquisition of key prospective park sites, up to and including the powers of master plan conflict and condemnation.

*While it has not been necessary to use the power of condemnation in more than a decade, a more aggressive approach has been taken within the park acquisition program. In multiple instances, properties acquired were proposed for development, and the County was able to instead broker agreements for site acquisition for parks and open space purposes.*

Pursue other avenues for the acquisition of parkland and green space, such as land donations, cooperative ventures with non-profits and other organizations with similar missions, recreation site leases and access easements, and tax sale opportunities.



*One land donation, involving a residential property that was donated to provide the main access for the Radebaugh Park Site in Towson, was added to the County's park inventory. Multiple lease extensions, securing continued access to recreational amenities on State and private properties, were executed since the time of the 2017 LPPRP. DRP and Baltimore County continue to support the efforts of the non-profit conservation organization NeighborSpace of Baltimore County through both funding support, and cooperative agreements associated with green spaces in the urban portion of the County's Urban – Rural Demarcation Line (URDL).*

## **2. Develop, enhance, and rehabilitate parks to meet the recreational needs and demands of citizens of all ages and abilities, to attract visitors, and to support the organized recreation programs of the partner recreation and parks councils.**

Provide a sufficient quantity of traditional outdoor recreation facilities such as ball diamonds, athletic fields, sports courts, playgrounds and picnic areas.

*The development of Radebaugh Park was the first new park project since the 2017 LPPRP. The majority of non-acquisition capital resources over the past five years have been invested within critical park and facility renovation programs, as well as a number of facility upgrades and replacement programs. Seven synthetic turf fields have been constructed in place of existing work grass athletic fields, better allowing the fields to meet the recreational needs of County residents.*

**Provide sufficient indoor facilities to meet expanding demands for year-round recreation, to serve recreation council programs that require indoor space, and to facilitate use by community and civic organizations.**

*One indoor recreation facility, the indoor equestrian arena at the Baltimore County Agricultural Resource Center and Farm Park, was constructed since the time of the 2017 LPPRP. Three community center design jobs are presently underway, each with designs that expand upon previously developed facilities, which will thereby allow them to better meet recreational demands.*



**Construct additional trails and paths to meet growing demands for linear-based recreation (walking, jogging, bicycling, etc.), and work with County and State agencies to establish pedestrian and bicycle connections between parks, residential areas and other points of interest.**

*No new trails were constructed at County parks within the past five years. A number of trail and path renovation projects have been completed or are underway, including a significant trail renovation project at the Milford Mill Trail (presently under design). Additional segments of the Northeast Trail, a multi-use paved side path along Perry Hall Boulevard have been constructed by developers of residential subdivisions along that corridor, with another segment proposed as part of an upcoming subdivision. The non-profit organization Catonsville Rails-to-Trails has constructed additional segments of trail along the Catonsville Short Line Trail, through a license agreement with the County. The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) has also worked on sidewalk, path, and bicycle lane and infrastructure improvements to help enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.*

**Provide new types of recreational facilities, where appropriate, and where sufficient demand has been expressed by County citizens.**

*Indoor and outdoor equestrian arenas were constructed at the Baltimore County Agricultural Resource Center and Farm Park, providing the County's first dedicated public equestrian facilities. Design is presently underway for the County's second concrete skate park, to be situated in the Rosedale community of eastern Baltimore County, and strategically situated to complement the Sandy Hills Skate Park in Lansdowne, one of the oldest and most esteemed skate parks in the United States. Finally, the demand for pickleball courts has increased immensely in recent years, and resulted in DRP having tennis court lines added at twenty outdoor and indoor sports court sites, and converting one set of courts to dedicated (pickleball only) courts.*





**Seek out opportunities to provide recreational facilities through the local open space and greenway regulations of the County's development process, and utilize LOS waiver fees to support capital development and enhancement projects.**

*As indicated in the trails progress summary, additional segments of the Northeast Trail, along the edge of Perry Hall Boulevard have been constructed through development agreements. Another essential segment of that trail will be developed within an upcoming residential subdivision. Dedicated funds deriving from Planned Unit Development (PUD) Resolutions contributed to improvements at Towson Manor Park (a specific public request listed in the 2017 LPPRP), walkway construction at Southland Hills Park and Soukup Arena, comfort station construction at Angel Park, synthetic turf field construction at Milford Mill Academy School Recreation Center, and screening plantings at Gough Park. More than one million dollars in LOS waiver fee revenues have been dedicated to a variety of capital jobs over the past five years, ranging from park acquisitions, to synthetic turf field construction, to playground replacements, to new park development at Radebaugh Park, to various park improvements at multiple sites.*



**Renovate, rehabilitate, and enhance parks and recreational facilities to address issues such as facility aging and wear, outdated recreational infrastructure, and changes in recreational demands.**

*A significant annual investment continues to be made within assorted ongoing park and facility renovation programs, such as those for sports courts, playgrounds, and ball diamonds and athletic fields (and associated backstops, safety fences, and player benches). The DRP FY22 capital budget included \$4.4 million for such programs. More than \$2.4 million was also invested in individual facility renovation jobs within the past five years, funding a wide variety of work including recreation structure renovations, correction of drainage and erosion issues, pedestrian bridge repairs, fishing pier renovations, utility system repairs, and more.*



**Continue to invest in older, established communities, and support community revitalization programs and initiatives.**

*Increased park and recreation equity, including access to parks, recreational facilities, and recreation programs/opportunities, is a key objective of the County and agency administrations, as well as the County's Strategic Enterprise Plan. The Greens Lane property acquisition was completed in response to resident demands for more parks and green space, voiced as part of the Liberty Road Corridor Study. Numerous other park acquisitions took place within designated Sustainable Communities, helping to fulfill park and recreation related recommendations in the associated Sustainable Community plans. A new Local Park Comprehensive Enhancement Program was created within the DRP FY22 capital budget for the purpose of renovating and enhancing older community and neighborhood parks, the vast majority of which are situated in older, established communities.*

### 3. Enhance public access to the natural environment, including the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and seek to increase public knowledge of and appreciation for nature.

Provide an assortment of recreational facilities at the County's waterfront parks, ranging from water-specific facilities such as boat ramps, fishing piers, and canoe/kayak launches, to general amenities including picnic pavilions, playgrounds and paths.

*An additional pier was constructed at Cox's Point Park, in conjunction with a shoreline restoration – living shoreline project that took place at that park. Design of a pavilion for nature program and general use is underway at Marshy Point Park and Nature Center. Also under planning and/or design are boat ramp replacement and canoe/kayak launch construction at Merritt Point Park, playground replacements at Cox's Point and Watersedge Park, and pavilion and pier renovations and path extensions at Fleming Park.*

Utilize the County's interpretive centers to not only provide recreational opportunities, but to help educate visitors about the natural environment.

*The County's five major interpretive centers – nature centers at Oregon Ridge, Marshy Point, and Cromwell Valley Parks, the historical museum at Banneker Historical Parks, and the agricultural center at the Baltimore County Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park – continue to improve their facilities and programs, each helping to provide a better appreciation and knowledge of the natural environment.*



Continue to procure greenway reservations and easement through the County's development process or other means such as purchase, and – where appropriate – make improvements such as trails within the greenways.

*Twelve land parcels were acquired without cost through the County's greenways program, preserving over 42 acres of land along greenways including Red Run, Stemmers Run, and Honeygo Run. Early stage discussions on developing strategies for creating minimal impact trails and paths within greenways and other environmentally sensitive lands, through cooperative planning with EPS and other County agencies, are underway.*

### 4. Work with Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) to improve environmental conditions at the County's parks and recreation sites, and to help protect and preserve the natural environment.

Work with Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) to improve water quality, protect tidal areas and public waterfront lands and facilities, and make progress towards Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas associated mandates.





*DRP and EPS continue to work together on park-based improvements that improve water quality, help to reduce flooding problems, protect parklands, and earn credits towards Critical Areas mandates. Such projects as stream restoration, shoreline restoration, and tree/forest plantings continue to take place, where appropriate, on County parkland. Completed or underway (in design) restoration jobs include stream work at Overlook, West Hills, and Hammershire Parks, and shoreline work at Cox's Point, Watersedge, Chesterwood, and Rocky Point Parks.*

**Work with Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) to expand and improve the health of forest resources within parks and other recreation sites.**

*While some relatively small scale forest planting projects have occurred, and forest management plans have been created for parks, the lack of a substantial funding stream has largely limited the County's and agency's ability to implement plans. Volunteer groups, including multiple park councils, have performed volunteer work such as limited invasive vegetation eradication.*

## **5. Pursue alternative means for providing recreational opportunities through partnerships with other agencies and organizations.**

**Aggressively pursue grant opportunities.**

*In addition to Program Open Space (POS) grants, the County and DRP have successfully secured and utilized significant grant funding through a number of other sources. More than \$6.1 million in State of Maryland funding has been secured through 23 individual capital grants and bond bills. This funding contributed to park development and enhancements at both parks and school recreation centers. Examples of funded projects include synthetic turf fields at Perry Hall High School Recreation Center (SRC), New Town High SRC, and Pikesville High SRC, park renovation and enhancement jobs at Double Rock Park and Linover Park, and new park design and construction (including underway jobs) at Radebaugh Park, Hazelwood Park, and the Sparrows Point Park Site. Finally, DRP received its first State and Federal waterways and boating funding in more than a decade, securing nearly \$900,000 in funding support for the replacement of the Merritt Point Park two-lane boat ramp, and construction of a soft launch for kayaks, canoes, and other paddle-driven watercraft.*



**Solicit businesses and citizens for donations, enabling them to contribute to the quality of life in the jurisdiction in which they live and do business.**

*While the rules associated with soliciting donations have been tightened up in the County, outside parties have contributed funding for a number of projects that are completed or underway. These include the Baltimore Ravens' donation of \$500,000 towards a themed destination playground and challenge course at Northwest Regional Park, recreation council and advocate donations for smaller scale jobs at Hannah More Park's dog park, the outdoor equestrian ring at the County's Agricultural Resource Center and Farm Park, and a sign replacement at Parkville Center. Additional recreation council donations are anticipated for a number of other underway capital projects.*

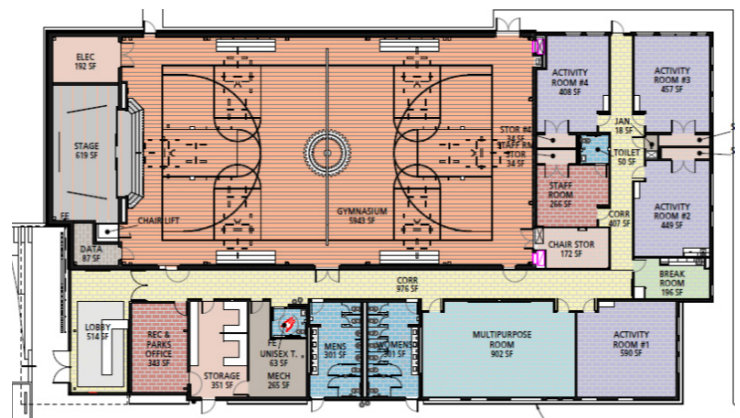


Enter into appropriate manage-lease agreements to provide citizens with recreational opportunities that are outside the scope of what may feasibly be offered by the County.

*No new lease agreements have been executed since the writing of the 2017 LPPRP. However, a number of leases have been or are in the process of being amended or extended, including those associated with Cromwell Valley Park, Millers Island Park, Wilson Point Park, Sandy Hills Park, and Kingsville Park.*

Continue to work cooperatively with Baltimore County Public Schools and the Board of Education through the long established joint-use agreement to provide recreational opportunities at all public school recreation centers with recreational facilities.

*The joint-use agreement continues to be an essential component of the County's public recreation delivery model. One additional school recreation center, Honeygo Elementary School Recreation Center, has been constructed since the prior LPPRP, on a previously POS-funded site that was made available after a POS conversion was approved. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) has, in a number of cases, coordinated with DRP on large scale school replacement projects, seeking to minimize adverse impacts on recreational facilities both indoors and outdoors. Additionally, BCPS and DRP are presently working together to enable the extension of the Catonsville Short Line Trail through the edge of the Catonsville Elementary School Recreation Center property.*



Work with the Baltimore County Police Department to combine resources to staff and operate Police Athletic League (PAL) Centers, complementing recreational opportunities offered through the traditional programs of local recreation councils.

*The PAL recreation center model has changed over the years, with a gradual decline in active Police Department involvement. DRP is presently working on revised concept that offers youth – particularly in communities of high social vulnerability – expanded access to enriching recreational opportunities. Center hours have been expanded, and two new centers with larger structural footprints including multipurpose gymnasiums with stages, are presently under design for the Middle River and Rosedale communities.*

## 6. Expand opportunities for citizens to participate in and experience arts and cultural programs and events, and work to preserve historically and culturally significant sites for the appreciation and enjoyment of County citizens and visitors.

Rehabilitate and upgrade the County's arts facilities.

*Limited facility renovation/enhancement jobs have taken place at Oregon Ridge Park's concert shell, North Point Government Center's auditorium, and the Lurman Woodland Theater stage at Catonsville High School Recreation Center. A planned park improvement project at Holt Park and Center for the Arts will likely result in enhancements to the existing small amphitheater at the park.*

**Provide additional strategically sited venues for the arts throughout the County.**

*No new arts venues have been developed, though DRP has recently initiated a program that will incorporate public art features into new park development and park enhancement projects.*

**Provide arts and cultural programs and special events at local, regional and countywide levels.**

*A wide range of arts and cultural programs and events are offered through DRP, including those provided by staff at the County's interpretive centers in cooperation with park councils ("Juneteenth" at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum being an example), to special events hosted at County parks by recreation and parks councils and outside groups, or through partnerships (concerts at Lurman Woodland Theater, Oregon Ridge Park, Hannah More Park, and other parks; festivals at Patriot Plaza at the Towson Courts plaza, Dundalk Heritage Park, countywide and regional parks, and other parks; and a variety of ongoing arts programs offered through recreation councils). Programming at Holt Park and Center for the Arts has been significantly expanded since 2017, combining art and nature in many of their offerings. The Sky is the Limit theater program, run through DRP's Therapeutic Recreation Office, recently marked thirty years since its inception.*

**Help protect sites of cultural and historical significance, and provide applicable interpretive facilities, displays and programs.**

*Since the time of the writing of the 2017 LPPRP, renovations to the replica cabin and gardens at Banneker Historical Park and Museum have taken place. Interpretive facility enhancements and renovations have likewise been completed at parks such as Oregon Ridge Nature Center (which includes historical buildings and resources associated with the property's industrial heritage as a mining site), Cromwell Valley Park, and Marshy Point Park. A cannon refurbishment project was completed at Fort Howard Park, and ongoing renovations and improvements are taking place at Battle Acre Park, a historical site associated with the Battle of North Point.*



**7. Continue to partner with affiliated citizen organizations, and participate in various partnerships in an effort to enhance public recreation access for Baltimore County citizens and visitors.**

**Partner with the volunteer-based recreation and parks councils to provide quality recreational opportunities.**

*A number of recreation councils have disbanded or been decertified over the past five years, resulting in the consolidation of their associated service areas with those of remaining councils. In some circumstances, the councils are struggling with volunteer recruitment, and have experienced often related decreases in program registration, as well as program elimination. DRP continues to work with the remaining recreation and parks councils to ensure that quality organized recreational opportunities are available to all County residents, in a safe and welcoming manner. Efforts are also underway to create more agency-driven programs and recreational opportunities, particularly in communities with struggling recreation councils, and/or underserved populations.*



Utilize the Board of Recreation and Parks as an integral link between the citizens of Baltimore County, the recreation and parks councils, the County Council, and DRP.

*The Board of Recreation and Parks continues to function as an essential appointed entity that has helped to support efforts to establish and enforce standards and rules that apply to the recreation and parks councils.*

Participate in committees, workgroups, and other partnership opportunities that may result in enhanced public recreation access.

*DRP regularly participates in various partnerships, committees, workgroups, and the like. Some examples in recent years include a cooperative venture with Baltimore County Public Libraries to create “storybook trails” at various parks, a pending agreement with the Ripken Foundation to build a synthetic turf field at a County park, and participating in multi-agency planning efforts such as the County Master Plan, Sustainable Communities Plans, and the Liberty Road Corridor Study. The agency has a “technical advisor” seat on the County’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC), and will soon be working with Baltimore City on a connectivity study aimed at better connecting City and County parks and trails.*



## 5.3 State Goals

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The State of Maryland has set goals for land preservation, parks and recreation, including:

- Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties and the State more desirable places to live, work, play and visit.
- Use state investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

## 5.4 Priorities by RPD Group

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While there are overarching goals for recreation and parks for Baltimore County and the State of Maryland, there is also a need to analyze priorities at a finer spatial scale, recognizing differences in existing amenities, population density, recreation preferences, and stated desires of residents. Below, results of the analysis performed in Chapters 3 and 4, Measuring Demand and Level of Service, are presented by RPD Group.

For each RPD Group, there is a figure representing the responses to the survey question, "Choose up to five types of public parks or recreational facilities that you'd like to have provided at a level greater than is presently available. If you believe that none are needed, please select "none" at the end of the list of facilities." This question had 33 possible selections including "none" or "other" but only the top 10 selected amenities are displayed in the figures.

There is also a figure for each RPD Group representing the responses to the survey question, "If you were given \$100 to spend on Baltimore County's park system, how would you budget it? Please fill in dollar amounts, totaling \$100." There were nine possible responses and all of them are displayed.

The presentation of survey results is followed by a list of specific improvements requested by residents and staff members to specific parks and recreation facilities in each RPD group.



## Central RPD Group

The Central RPD Group lies within the URDL and is densely populated, with the fewest athletic fields per capita in the county. It is the third worst served in terms of neighborhood and community parks per capita, though it does contain the nearly 450-acre Lake Roland Park and the 455-acre Cromwell Valley Park. The Park Equity Mapper identifies this region as an area of high park equity.

This region had the third highest response rate for the survey, with residents primarily expressing an interest in greater amenities for non-organized recreation including bicycling and walking. Residents also commonly chose undeveloped green spaces and open grassy areas as desired amenities, reflecting the relatively low amount of open space in this densely populated area. Residents are also interested in additional pickleball courts, reflecting a countywide trend. In survey comments, residents expressed an overall interest in additional greenspace and playing fields, especially with lights and turf.

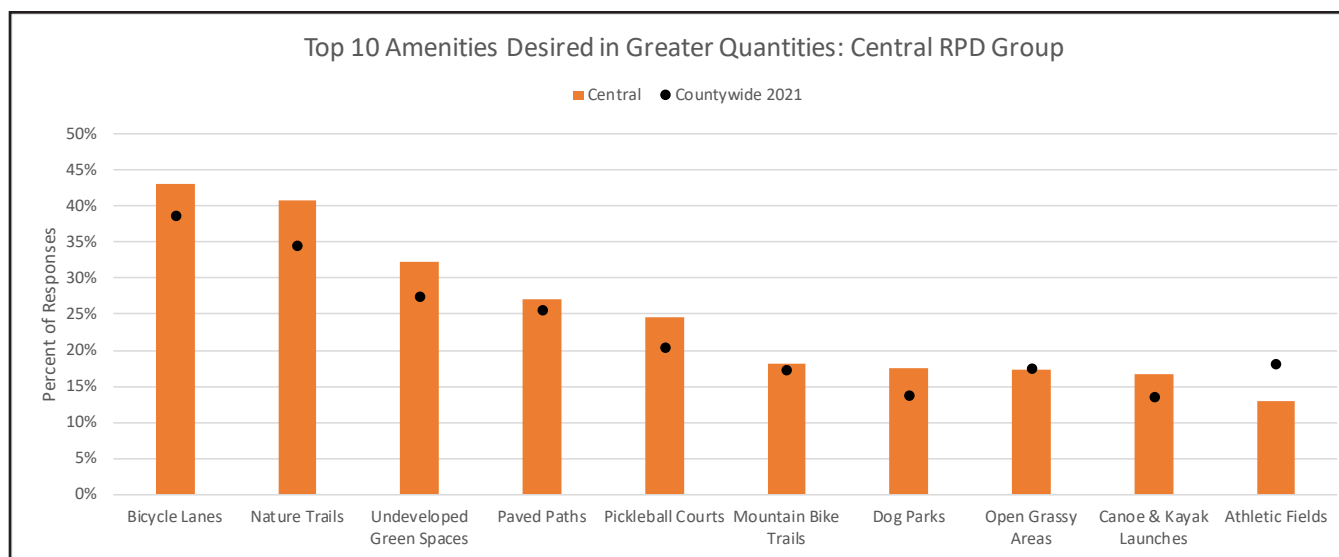


Figure 93. Top 10 Amenities Desired, Central RPD Group

Reflecting the low amount of neighborhood and community parks, respondents from the Central RPD group put the greatest amount of money toward park acquisition in their hypothetical budget. They also allocated an above average amount to Green and Open Space. Other popular categories were maintenance and repair and diverse recreational facilities.

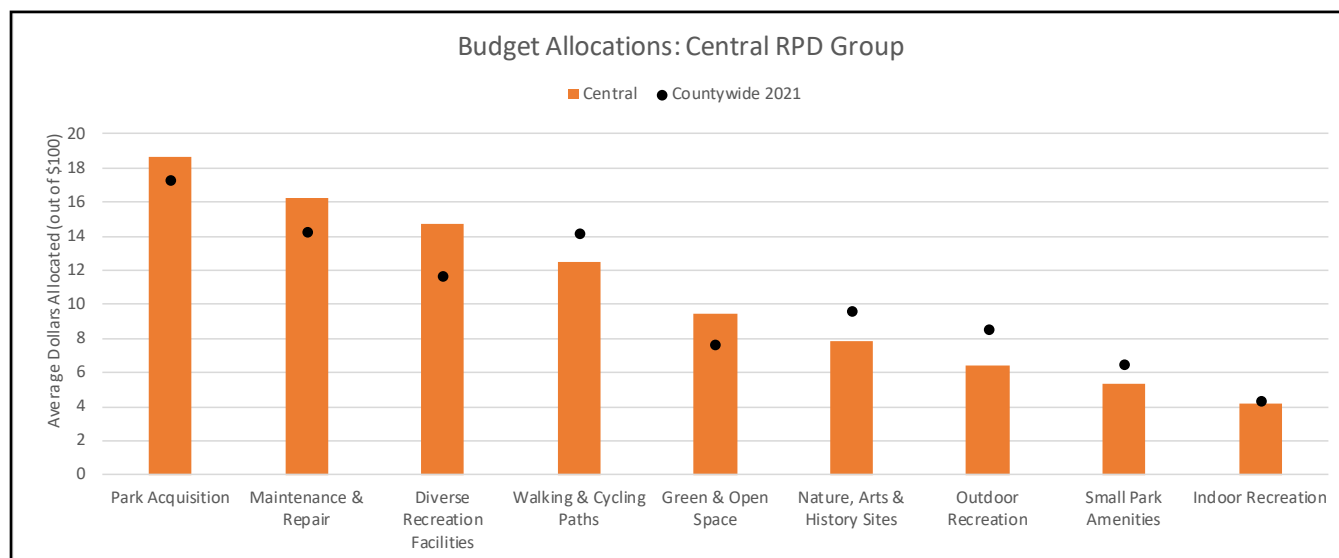


Figure 94. Budget Allocations, Central RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Cromwell Valley Park:** Trail improvements and erosion control
- **Forge Park:** Line tennis courts for pickleball
- **Glendale Park:** Line tennis courts for pickleball or create dedicated pickleball courts
- **Hillendale PAL Center:** Replace gym floor; lighting on outdoor basketball court
- **Idlewylde/Idlewood Park:** Additional tree plantings
- **Lake Roland Park:** Trail improvements and drainage; new path next to light trail tracks; add ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch
- **Loch Raven Center:** Replace gym floor; install air conditioning; make stage ADA accessible
- **Overlook Park:** Additional tree plantings



# East RPD Group

The East RPD Group is less densely populated than many areas of Baltimore County, but is anticipated to see among the highest growth rates in the next 10 years. Comments from the planning process for MP 2030 indicated that residents are interested in having more small recreation parks, rather than a large regional facility.

This RPD Group received fewer than 100 survey responses. While responses from the East RPD Group reflected countywide trends, with the greatest interest in bicycle lanes, nature trails, and undeveloped open spaces, there were some unique popular responses. Residents wanted canoe and kayak launches much more strongly than residents of other areas in the county and were also above the average for requesting athletic fields, dog parks, nature centers, indoor sports fields, and indoor arts facilities. The East RPD group is coastal, with several waterfront parks, making canoe and kayak launches more feasible and more desired.

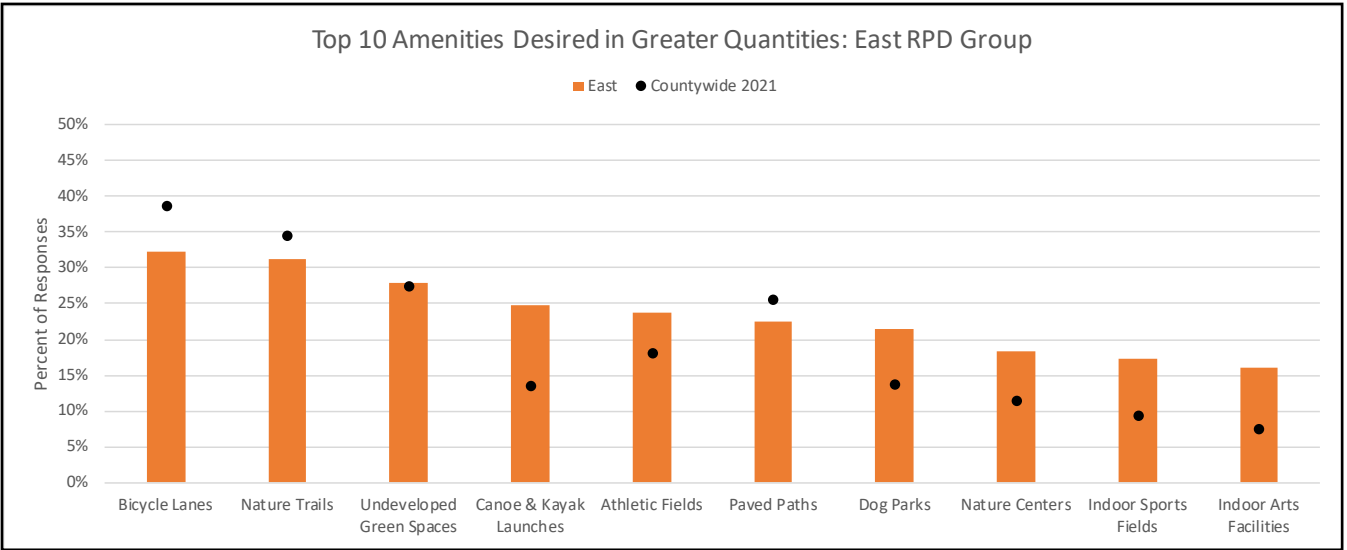


Figure 95. Top 10 Amenities Desired, East RPD Group

Compared to the rest of the county, residents of the East RPD group allocated more funds in their hypothetical budget to maintenance and repair and outdoor recreation, while allocating less than the countywide average to park acquisition and diverse recreational facilities. The need for maintenance and repairs is reflected in the requested park improvements below, which detail several parks where amenities are in need of upgrades.

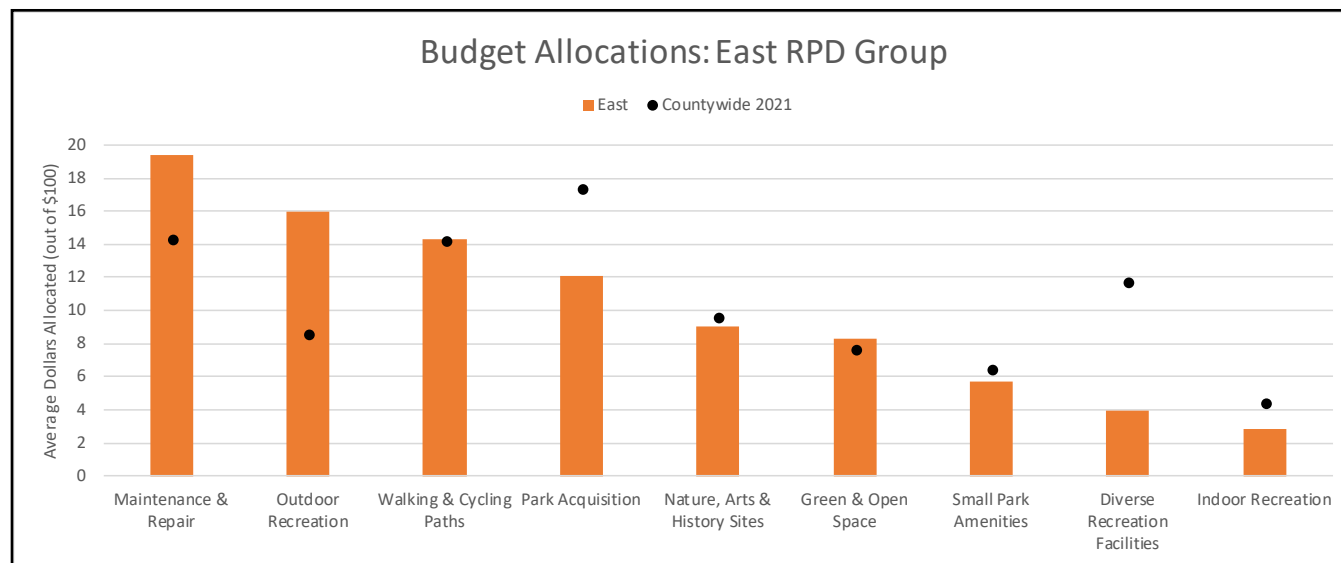


Figure 96. Budget Allocations, East RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Cox's Point Park:** Refurbish buildings, ramps, and piers; replace playground
- **Eastern Regional Park:** Extend path past baseball fields to make walking loop
- **Hawthorne/Midthorne Park:** Replace playground
- **Mars Estates PAL Center:** Widen path to PAL Center
- **Marshy Point Park:** Connect to East County Regional Greenway Trail; improve dock and kayak launch; add pollinator gardens
- **Miami Beach Park:** Repair existing boardwalk and add boardwalk to frequently flooded trails
- **Middle River Middle School Recreation Center:** Renovate comfort station
- **Rocky Point Park:** Renovate comfort station to make accessible and more functional; add ADA accessible kayak launch
- **Victory Villa Community Center:** General renovations and refurbishment
- **Victory Villa Elementary School Recreation Center:** Repaint parking lot and add security lighting



## East Central RPD Group

The East Central RPD Group is among the most densely populated in Baltimore County and is anticipated to have among the highest population growth in the next ten years. The level of service analysis showed that it has a roughly average amount of recreational amenities, including sports facilities, trails, and open space.

The most requested amenity in the survey was nature trails. This RPD Group also showed an above average desire for canoe and kayak launches and fishing areas. While there is only a small waterfront area contained within this RPD Group, it is near the Southeast and East RPD Groups, both of which have long shorelines suitable for these activities.

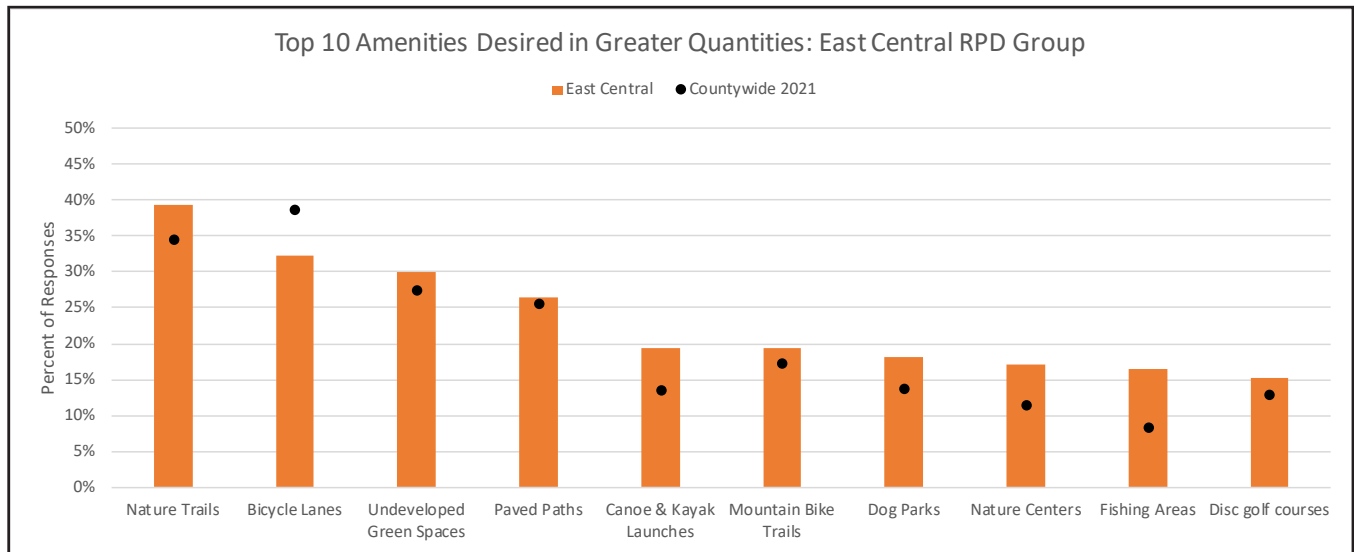


Figure 97. Top 10 Amenities Desired, East Central RPD Group

The hypothetical budget allocations of the East Central RPD Group generally reflected countywide averages, with park acquisition, maintenance and repair, and walking and cycling paths receiving the highest allocations. There was a greater than average interest in nature, arts, and history sites and a lower interest in diverse recreational facilities.

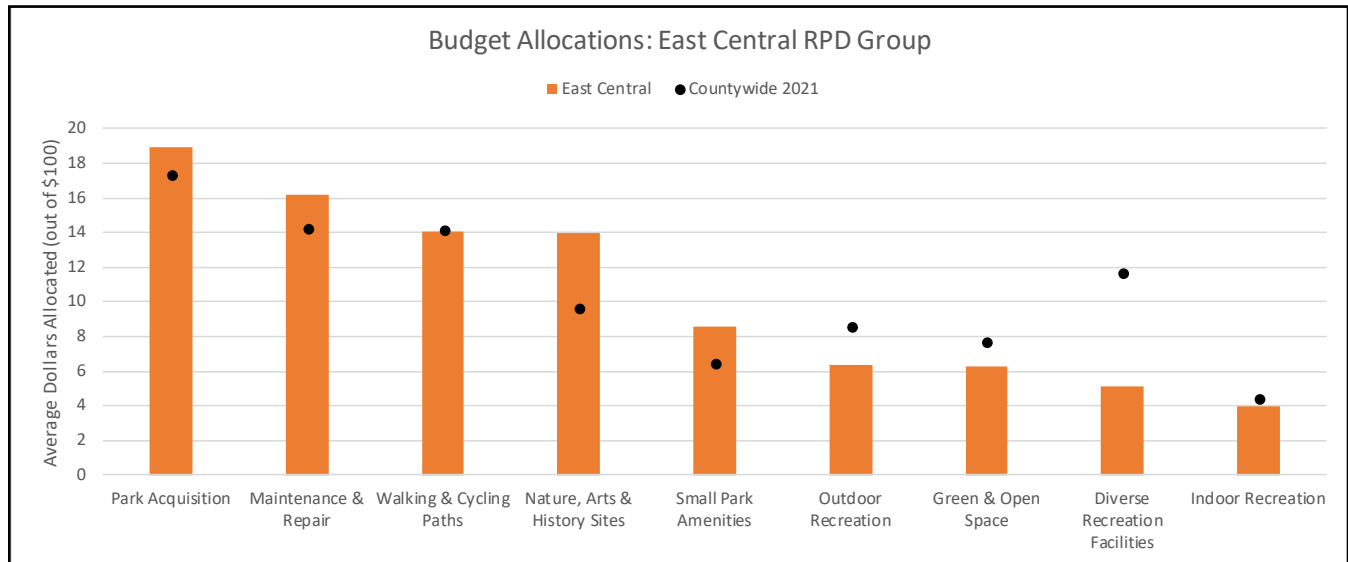


Figure 98. Budget Allocations, East Central RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Belmar Park:** Add walking path; line multipurpose courts for pickleball and add baskets; expand parking
- **Double Rock Park:** Add 1-mile paved walking path; additional tree plantings; improve pavilions
- **Golden Ring Park:** General maintenance and updates
- **Holt Park:** Expand parking and connect trails to Overlea High School
- **Linover Park:** Add parking; Add lighting to athletic fields; convert field to turf
- **Parkville High School Recreation Center:** Line multipurpose court for pickleball
- **Parkville Middle School Recreation Center:** Make stage ADA accessible
- **Pine Grove Elementary School Recreation Center:** Expand disc golf course
- **Putty Hill Park:** Remove comfort station and add parking; make baseball field accessible
- **Northeast Regional Recreation Center:** Add lights and a sidewalk to parking lot for increased safety
- **Shady Spring PAL Center:** Create educational kitchen; lighting on outdoor courts

# North RPD Group

The North RPD Group is the least densely populated area of Baltimore County. Residents rated the availability, condition, and diversity of recreational activities around the average for the county and rated the amount of undeveloped open space the highest for the county. There are many agricultural and conservation easements in this region of the county, likely contributing to this rating. The North RPD Group has an about average provision of most recreational amenities for the county. However, because the region is geographically large, many people do not have access to these facilities within a one, or even three, miles. The North RPD Group is the worst served in terms of playgrounds per capita.

Unsurprisingly, given its rural nature, the North RPD Group registered a lower than average interest in undeveloped greenspace than the countywide average. More developed amenities, like athletic fields and indoor sports fields, were desired in greater quantities. While School Recreation Centers and some local parks do provide these amenities, many residents likely have to travel a significant distance to access them.

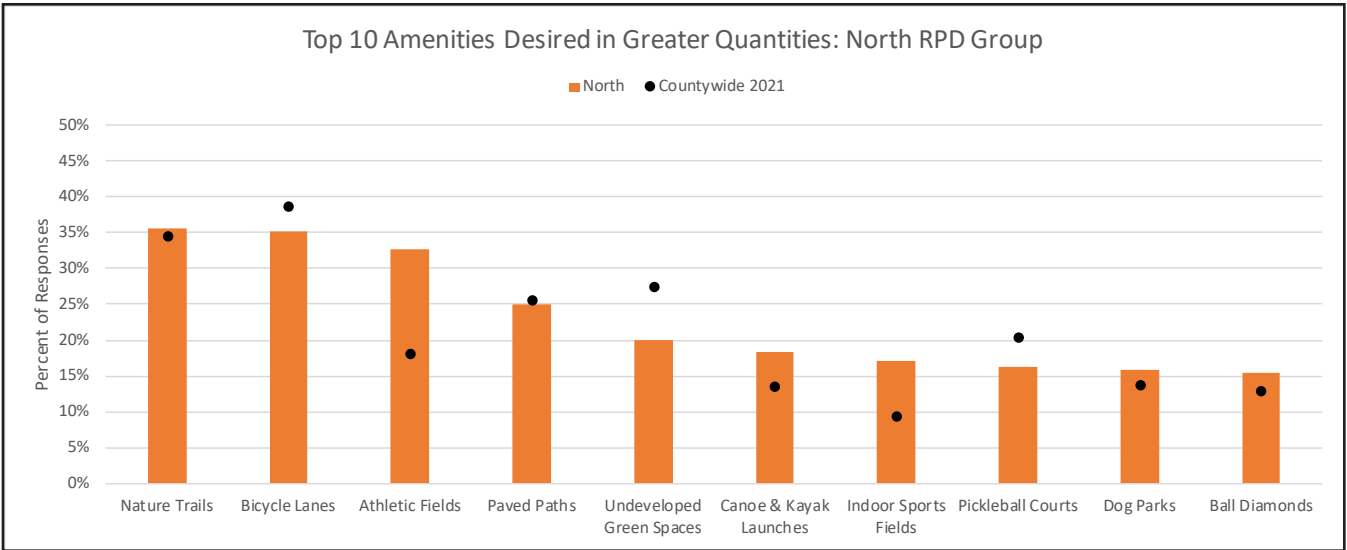


Figure 99. Top 10 Amenities Desired, North RPD Group



Residents of the North RPD Group allocated the greatest funds in their hypothetical budget to park acquisition and walking and cycling paths. They allocated a greater than average amount to diverse recreation facilities, which were enumerated in the survey as "dog parks, skateboard parks, community gardens and disc golf courses." Although the North RPD Group, the least populated in the county, has a significant amount of undeveloped land and some traditional outdoor recreation facilities, it has few amenities that could be classified as diverse recreation facilities.

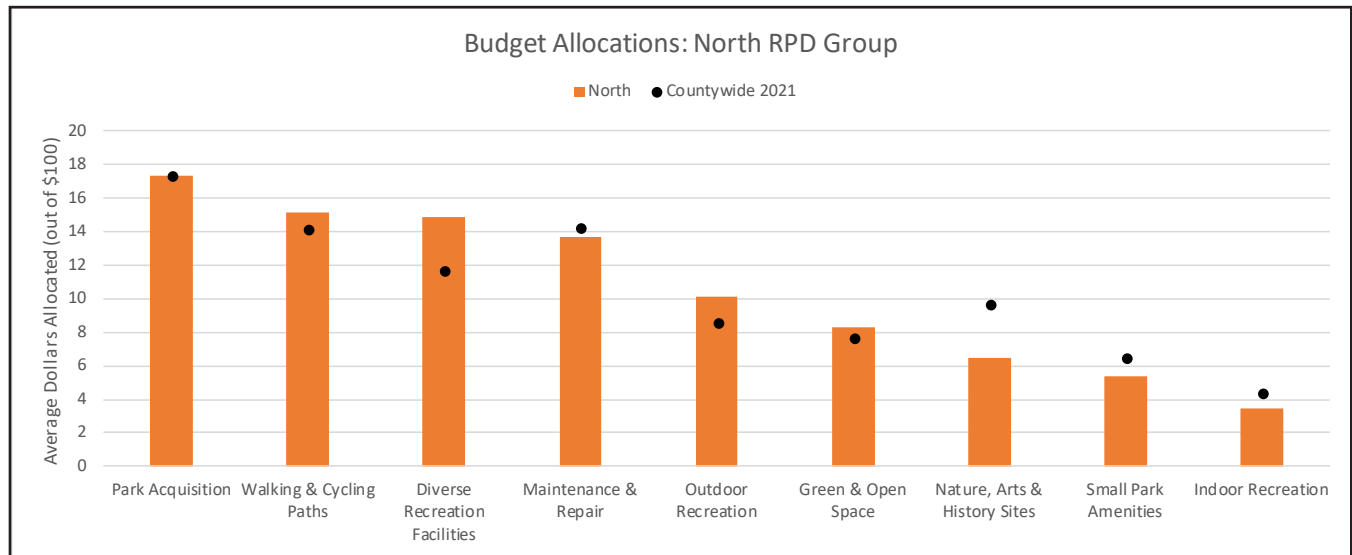


Figure 100. Budget Allocations, North RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Carroll Manor Elementary School Recreation Center:** Replace backboard for basketball; line tennis court for pickleball
- **Jacksonville Elementary School Recreation Center:** Replace dance studio floor; resurface basketball court and replace hoops; enlarge parking area; add dedicated pickleball court
- **Sparks Park:** Currently underutilized and in need of general maintenance and improvements
- **Sweet Air Park and Jacksonville Community Center:** Add turf field with lights

# North Central RPD Group

The North Central RPD Group had the highest survey response rate in the county. This area is best served in terms of tennis courts and miles of trail, though it is worst served for picnic facilities. In the planning process for MP 2030, residents expressed that they want parks with walking trails, which is consistent with the survey results, in which bicycle paths, nature trails, and paved paths were the most commonly requested amenity. In survey comments and staff interviews, there was an overall interest in playgrounds at parks, indoor recreation space, pickleball, and a 90' lighted ball diamond.

The top 10 amenities for the North Central RPD Group were very similar to countywide averages, which is expected given that a relatively high percentage of all responses came from residents of this area. The most desired amenities were bicycle lanes, nature trails, and paved paths.

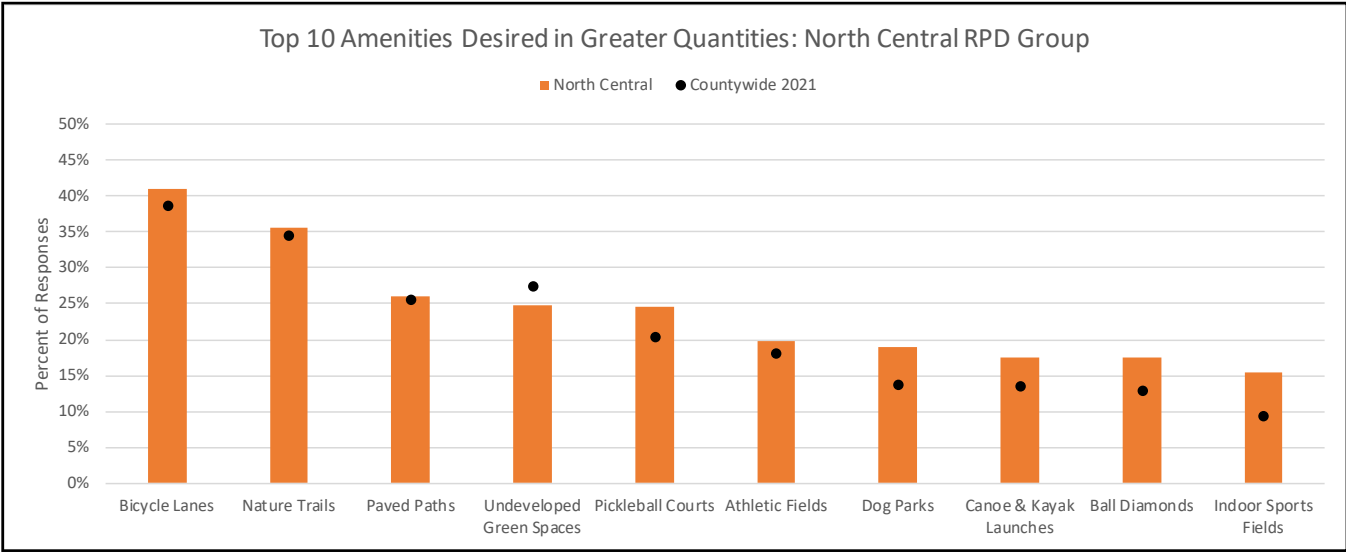


Figure 101. Top 10 Amenities Desired, North Central RPD Group

Residents of the North Central RPD Group created hypothetical budgets similar to the county average, with a slightly higher preference for diverse recreation facilities and lower priority for park acquisition, though it remained the number one response for the area. The North Central RPD Group has a skate park and community garden at County Home Park, but does not have any dog parks or disc golf courses.

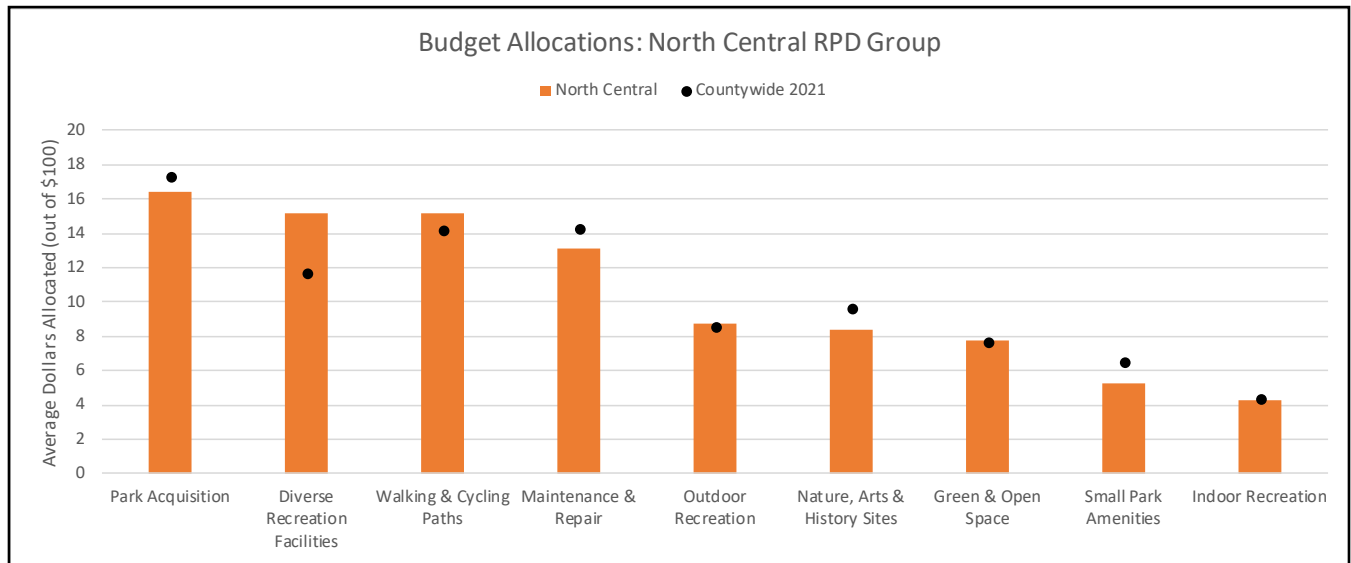


Figure 102. Budget Allocations, North Central RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **County Home Park:** Renovate concession stand; add benches, pavilions, and grills; install permanent pickleball nets; establish hillside trails; additional parking; onsite water source for community gardens; stock ponds with fish
- **Dulaney Springs Park:** Currently underutilized and in need of general maintenance and improvements
- **Hampton Elementary School Recreation Center:** Add basketball hoops to court
- **Orchard Hills Park:** Line multipurpose courts for pickleball
- **Seminary Park:** Update lighting
- **Valley Fields Park South:** Add athletic fields with lights
- **Villa Maria Park:** Add fast pitch softball diamond
- **Warren Place Park:** Add parking to accommodate full use of fields



## Northeast RPD Group

The Northeast RPD Group had the highest rating in the county for the availability of parks and recreation facilities, the condition of parks and recreation facilities, and recreation diversity. This region has access to the extensive Gunpowder Falls State Park and the Baltimore City owned Loch Raven Reservoir. The Northeast is well served in terms of local parkland, though it is poorly served with multipurpose courts and indoor recreation spaces relative to the rest of the county, which is reflected in the desire for pickleball (about average) and indoor sports fields (above average) expressed in the survey.

Residents of the Northeast RPD Group expressed a lower than average interest in bicycle lanes and nature trails, though both, along with paved paths, were among their top three desired amenities. There was also a higher than average interest in canoe and kayak launches.

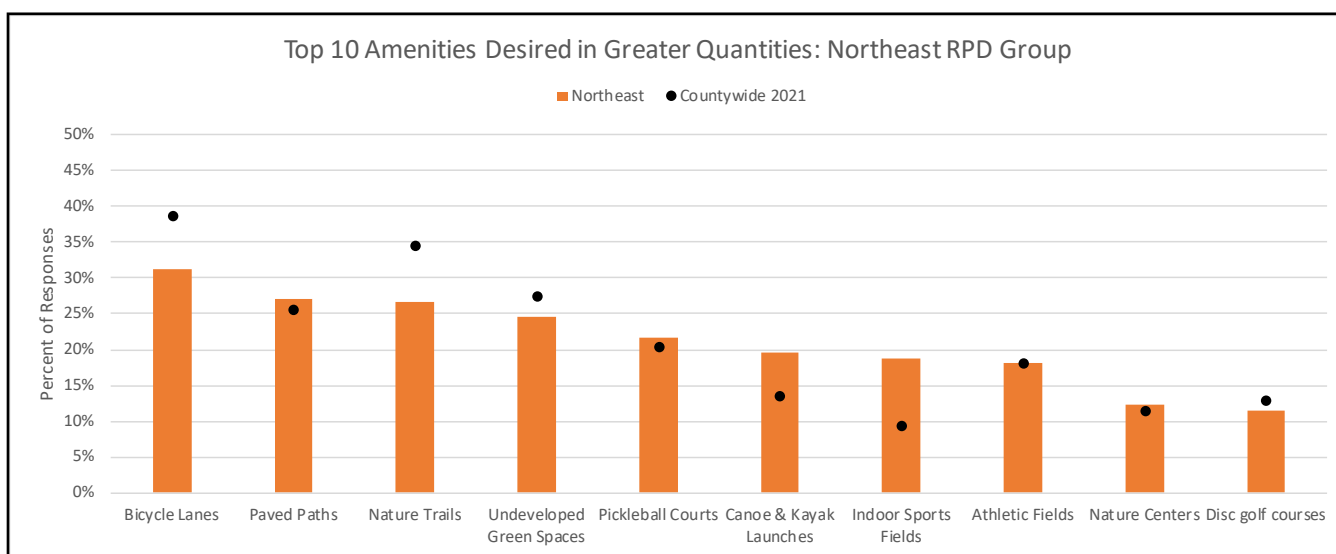


Figure 103. Top 10 Amenities Desired, Northeast RPD Group

The Northeast RPD Group differed from countywide averages most strongly by allocating \$12.43 to outdoor recreation facilities, compared with the countywide average of \$8.55. There was a slightly lower than average allocation of the hypothetical budget to park acquisition, though it remained the highest priority.

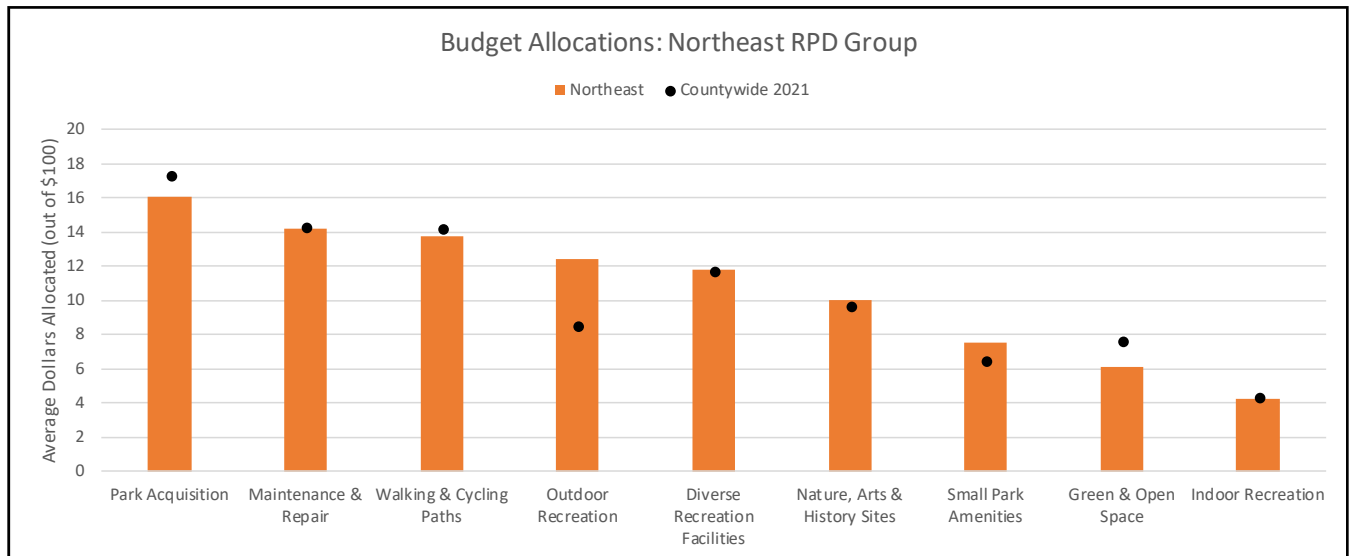


Figure 104. Budget Allocations, Northeast RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Cowenton Ridge Park:** Convert fields to turf
- **Hydes Road Park:** Expand comfort station and parking; add field lighting
- **Loreley Community Center:** Resurface basketball court and field; additional parking
- **Mount Vista Park:** Many ideas for future park development including dog park, 90' diamond, turf field, additional tree plantings, community garden, disc golf course, and mountain biking park
- **Perry Hall Park:** Update lights; convert to turf
- **Snyder Lane Park:** Add pavilion; add playground

# Northwest RPD Group

The Northwest RPD Group is anticipated to have among the highest population growth in the next ten years and residents expressed in the MP2030 planning process that they want additional greenspace to accommodate this future growth. In the survey comments, public meeting, and staff interviews, there was a strong overall interest in an indoor recreation center. In the Park Equity Mapper, this RPD Group has portions that are considered among the lowest equity in the county.

Survey respondents in the Northwest expressed an above average interest in bicycle lanes, nature trails, and pickleball courts, which were the top three requested amenities. There was also an above average interest in nature centers and recreation/community centers, showing a desire for more indoor facilities, though these were only ranked number nine and ten, respectively.

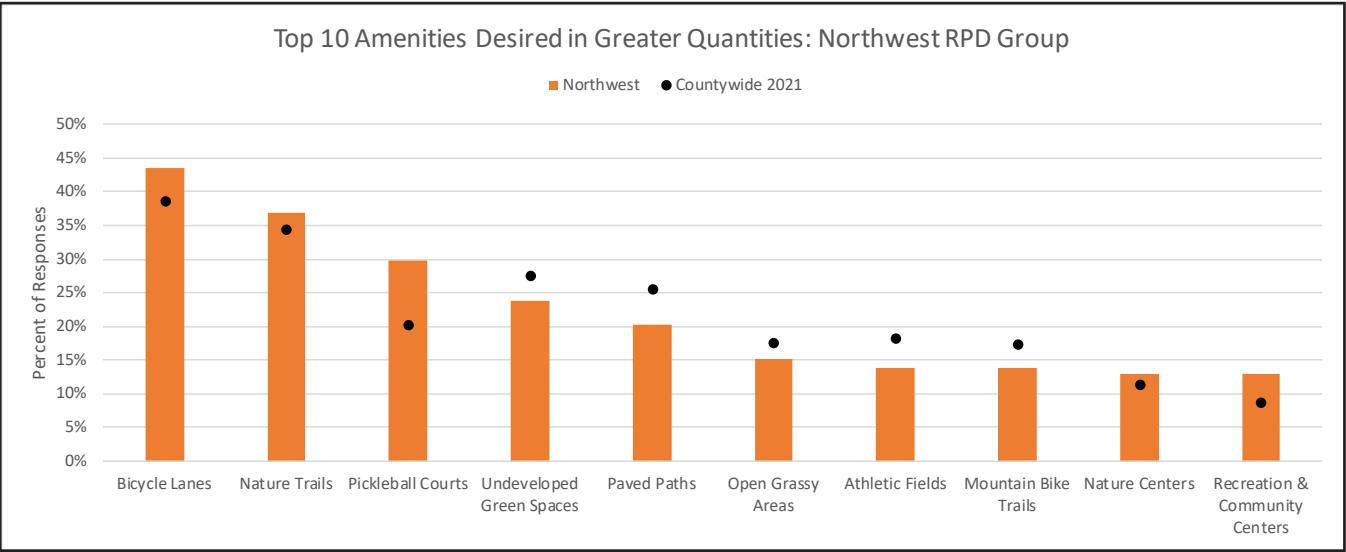


Figure 105. Top 10 Amenities Desired, Northwest RPD Group

Respondents in the Northwest RPD Group allocated \$21.74 of their hypothetical \$100 budget to park acquisition, compared to the countywide average of \$17.36. While the current provision of parklands is close to the countywide average, this region is expected to have a growing population, making park acquisition appropriate. Respondents allocated a slightly lower amount to outdoor recreation on average, reflecting the fact that there is a good provision of traditional outdoor recreation facilities.

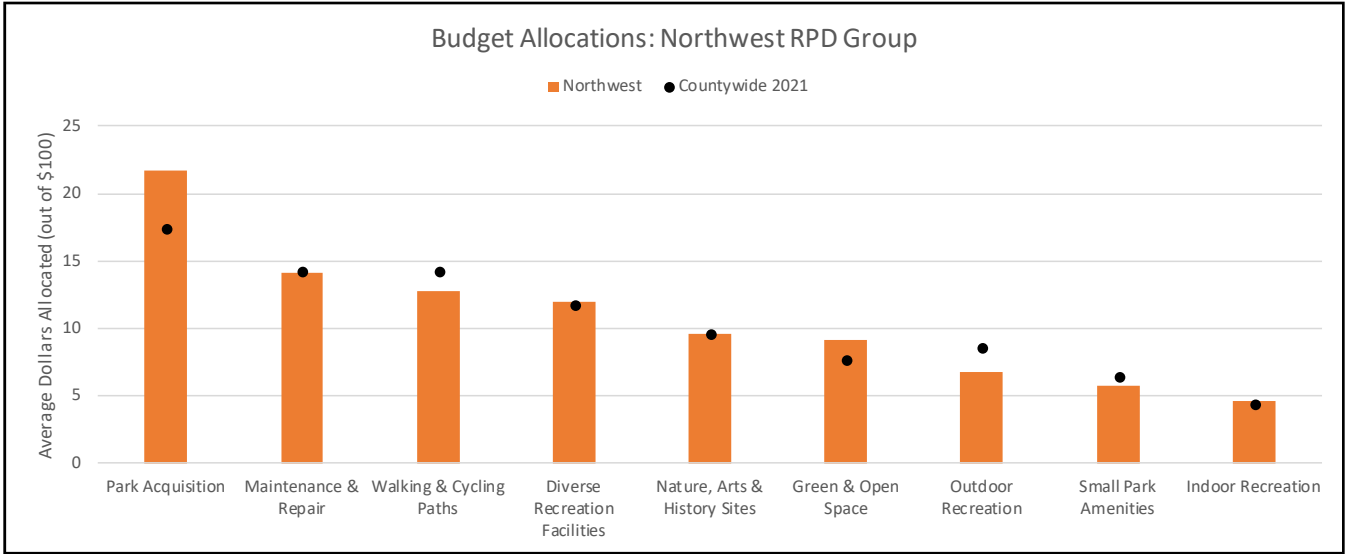


Figure 106. Budget Allocations, Northwest RPD Group

### Requested Park Improvements

- **Franklin Elementary School Recreation Center:** Expand and improve woods trails
- **Hannah More Park:** Replace playground
- **Reisterstown Regional Park:** Add pavilion or gazebo



# Southeast RPD Group

The Southeast RPD Group received fewer than 100 survey responses and had the lowest rating for the condition of recreation and parks facilities. Survey respondents in the Southeast gave the second lowest rating for places to walk, jog, and bike.

Despite being among the best served in the county in terms of athletic fields, the Southeast RPD Group expressed an above average desire for athletic fields. There is a much greater interest in this area in canoe and kayak launches, boat ramps, and fishing areas, reflecting its coastal location. There is also an above average desire for dog parks and indoor pools.

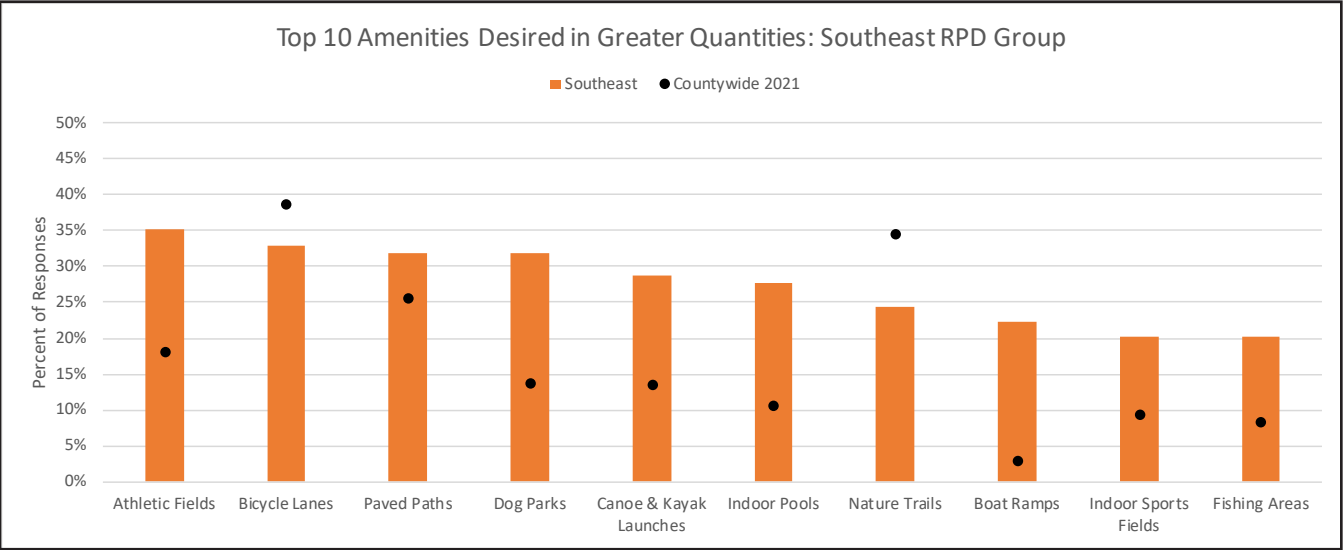


Figure 107. Top 10 Amenities Desired, Southeast RPD Group

Residents in the Southeast RPD group allocated an above average amount of their hypothetical budget to walking and cycling paths (\$25.72 compared to the countywide average of \$14.19 out of \$100). This is in line with the low rating of places to walk and cycle expressed elsewhere in the survey. The hypothetical budget included much less than the countywide average for maintenance and repair (\$18.28 compared with the countywide average of \$14.26), which is surprising given that the Southeast received the lowest rating in the county for the condition of parks and recreation facilities. It is possible that residents estimated that the needed updates to improve existing parks' conditions would not be very costly, but that the construction of new walking and cycling paths would be expensive.

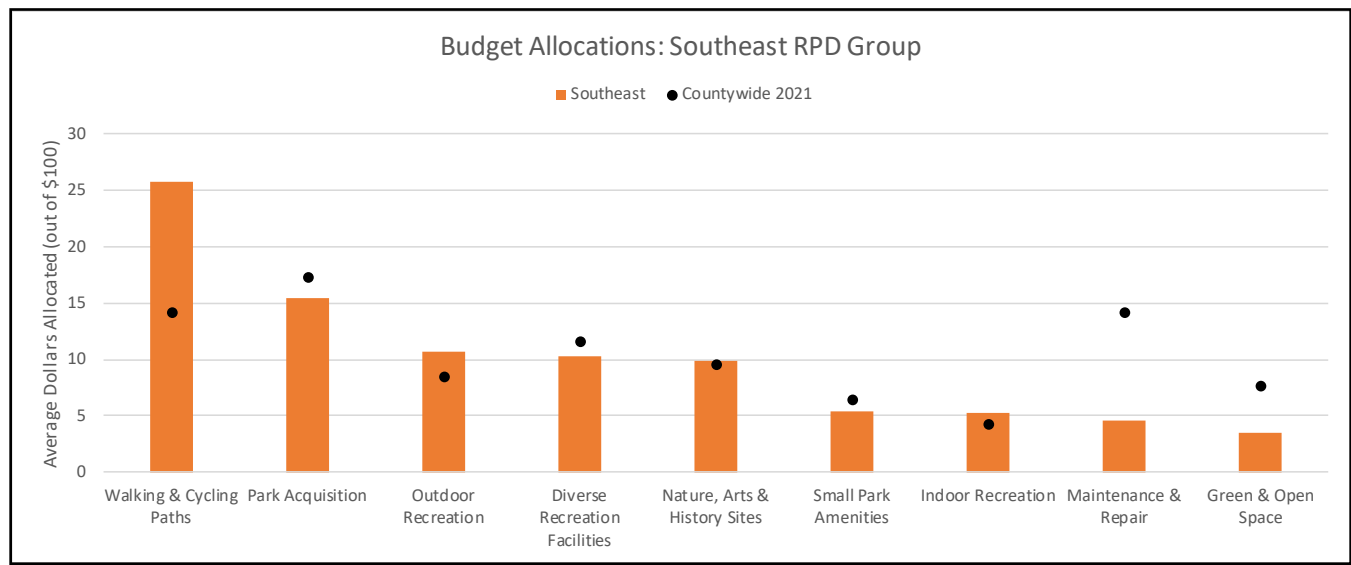


Figure 108. Budget Allocations, Southeast RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Berkshire Elementary School Recreation Center:** Install storage building at upper fields
- **Berkshire Park:** Replace playground
- **Chesterwood Park:** Add comfort station; add turf field
- **Dundalk Community Center and PAL Center:** Repaint indoor recreation center
- **Dundalk Heritage Park:** Add playground
- **Fort Howard Park:** Resurface parking lot and access roads; renovate restrooms; plant pollinator garden; add signage and historical markers
- **Holabird Middle School Recreation Center:** Build 90' ball diamond
- **Inverness Center:** Resurface multipurpose courts and replace baskets; add fencing at ball diamonds
- **Inverness Park:** Add comfort station; add walking paths; replace playground
- **Merritt Point Park:** Upgrade pavilions; replace playground
- **Millers Island Park:** Replace playground
- **Sollers Point Multi-purpose Center:** Repair drainage issues; resurface track; resod football field
- **Sparrows Point High School and Middle School Recreation Center:** Replace field house with building for concessions, storage, and restrooms
- **Stansbury Park:** Allow fishing and non-motorized boating
- **Watersedge Community Center:** Add lights to athletic fields; renovate restrooms; add walking paths

## Southwest RPD Group

The Southwest RPD Group is among the most densely populated in the county and had the third highest survey response rate. Residents expressed in the MP2030 planning process that they want improvements to existing parks and community gardens.

This region's most desired amenities reflect countywide trends: bicycle lanes, nature trails, undeveloped greenspace, and paved paths. There was also a demand well above average for dog parks, indoor pools, and playgrounds or tot lots. In the survey comments and staff interviews, there was an overall interest expressed in community gardens, pickleball, and skateparks, as well as trail connections between Oella and Ellicott City. Within this RPD Group, there is an organized movement for the County to purchase the Catonsville Armory, currently owned by the State of Maryland, and convert it to an indoor recreation space. Indoor pools was the only indoor facility that made the list of top 10 amenities for this area.

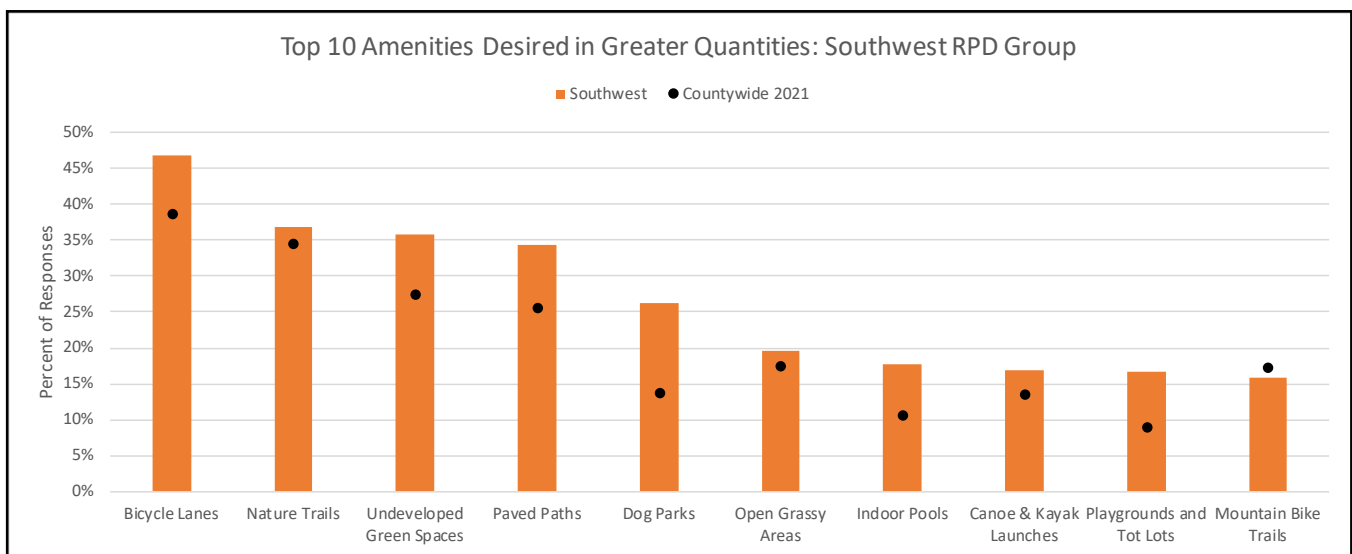


Figure 109. Top 10 Amenities Desired, Southwest RPD Group

Survey respondents in the Southwest RPD Group allocated more than the countywide average to maintenance and repair, which was the item with the highest amount allocated in the hypothetical budget, followed closely by park acquisition. They allocated less than the countywide average to diverse recreational facilities and outdoor recreation, which is in line with the answers to the previous question, in which athletic fields was not among the top ten amenities desired in greater quantities.

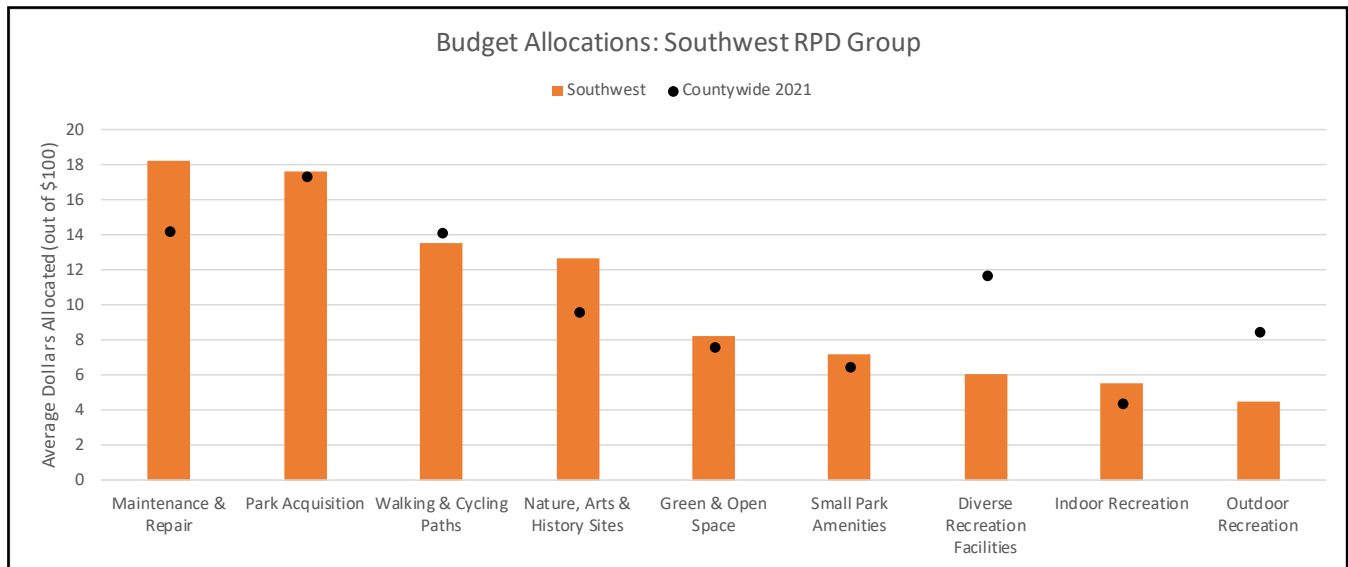


Figure 110. Budget Allocations, Southwest RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Arbutus Elementary School Recreation Center:** Build comfort station for girls' sports fields
- **Banneker Community Center:** Replace floor and add adjustable basketball hoops
- **Gay Oaks Park:** General maintenance and improvements needed; additional tree plantings
- **Halethorpe Community Center and Park:** Install updated air conditioning and wifi; upgrade pavilions and add grills; add a dog park
- **Hillcrest Park:** Repave walking path and add fencing for safety
- **Lansdowne Community Park:** Add community garden with water access
- **Old Catonsville Elementary School Site:** Renovate building for indoor recreation
- **Sandy Hills Park:** Maintain and renovate skate park
- **Southwest Area Park:** Resurface parking lot



# West RPD Group

The West RPD Group is identified as an area with low park equity and is among the worst served for playgrounds, trail miles, and local parkland. Residents expressed in the MP2030 planning process a desire for dog parks, which is reflected in the survey.

This region registered a desire for outdoor amphitheaters and stages and indoor arts facilities well above the countywide average. However, the survey response rate was the lowest in the county, with only 26 responses in a region with an estimated 2020 population of almost 58,000 people. There were a total of 13 responses for amphitheaters and 8 for indoor arts. Additional outreach to the communities in the West RPD Group is needed to better understand recreational needs.

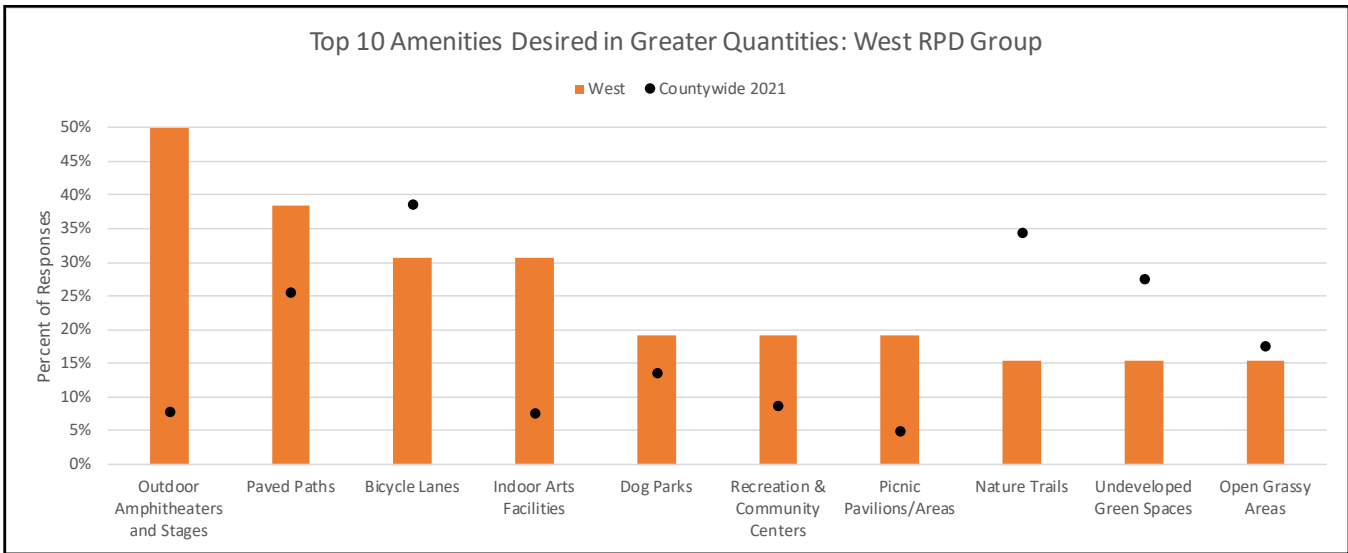


Figure 111. Top 10 Amenities Desired, West RPD Group

Respondents from the West RPD group allocated more than twice as much of their hypothetical budget to outdoor recreation than the countywide average (\$17.38 compared to the countywide average of \$8.55 out of \$100). The West RPD group's responses deviated from the countywide average in several other ways, with more allocated to green and open space and small park amenities and less allocated to park acquisition, walking and cycling paths, nature, arts, and history sites, and diverse recreational facilities. These deviations from the countywide averages may reflect a real difference in recreational preferences or they may be largely a product of the small sample size, with relatively few survey respondents and additional outreach is needed.

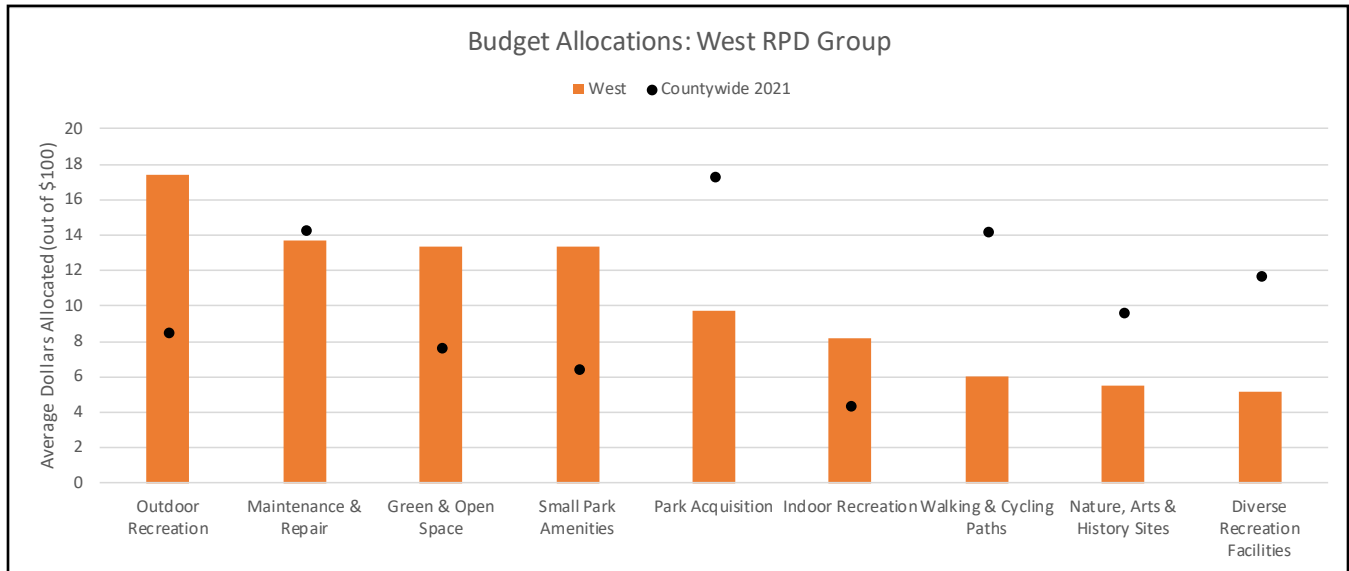


Figure 112. Budget Allocations, West RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Carriage Hills Park:** Build community garden; add comfort station
- **Northwest Regional Park:** Add lighting to driveway and ball diamonds; add woods trail, fitness trail, bike trail; add pavilions
- **Randallstown Community Center:** Resurface track; build storage areas

## West Central RPD Group

The West Central RPD Group registered the lowest rating for availability of parks and recreation facilities and residents expressed in the MP 2030 planning process that there is a need to address a current lack of accessible greenspace. This reflects that this area is the worst served with local parkland, though Oregon Ridge Park, an 1100 acre countywide park is located in the Northeast corner of this RPD group. It is also the worst served with ball diamonds, multipurpose courts, tennis courts, and indoor recreation space. The area is shown as having low park equity on the Park Equity Mapper.

The survey responses for amenities desired in greater quantities largely reflected countywide averages, though there was a much greater response for pickleball courts than average. In survey comments and staff interviews, there was an overall interest in indoor recreation space, though no indoor facilities made the top 10 requested amenities. Within this RPD Group, there is an organized movement to convert the Pikesville Armory, which is currently owned by the State of Maryland, to a recreational space that might include indoor recreation.

Given the lack of parklands and many facilities, the West Central RPD group should be a high priority area for additional outreach and recreation and parks investments, particularly in smaller neighborhood parks.

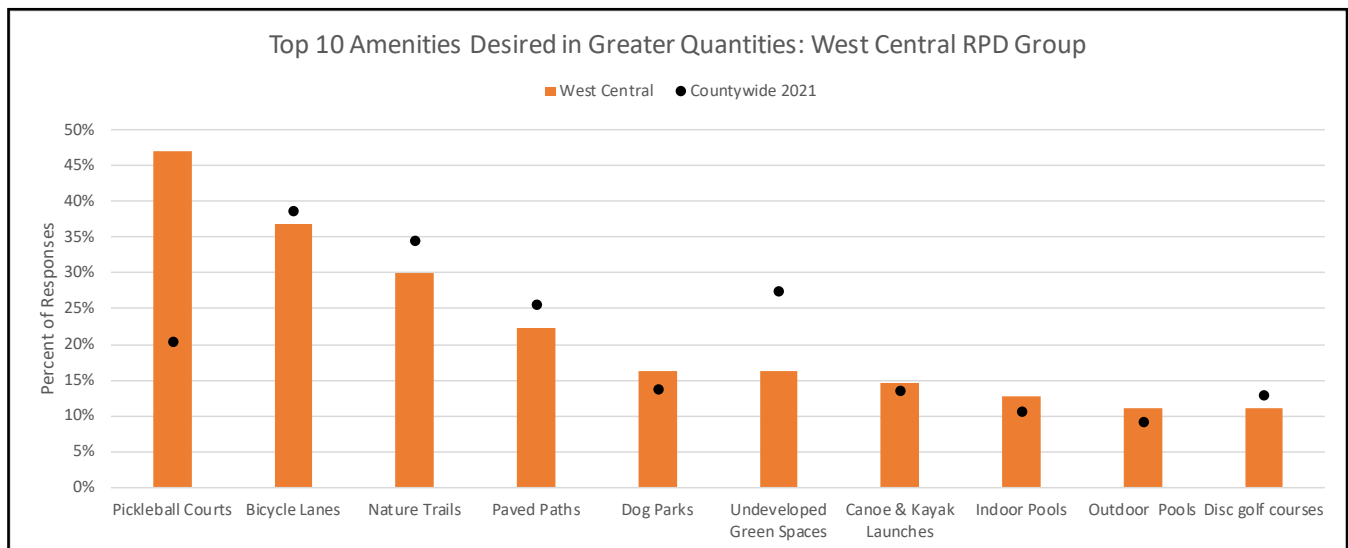


Figure 113. Top 10 Amenities Desired, West Central RPD Group

Survey respondents in the West Central RPD Group allocated more than the countywide average to diverse recreation facilities (like dog parks, skate parks, and community gardens) in their hypothetical budgets. Respondents allocated much less to maintenance and repair (\$8.45 compared to the countywide average of \$14.26). Park acquisition was the second priority in hypothetical budgets for the West Central, which is in line with the fact that the region has fewer local parks than most areas of the county.

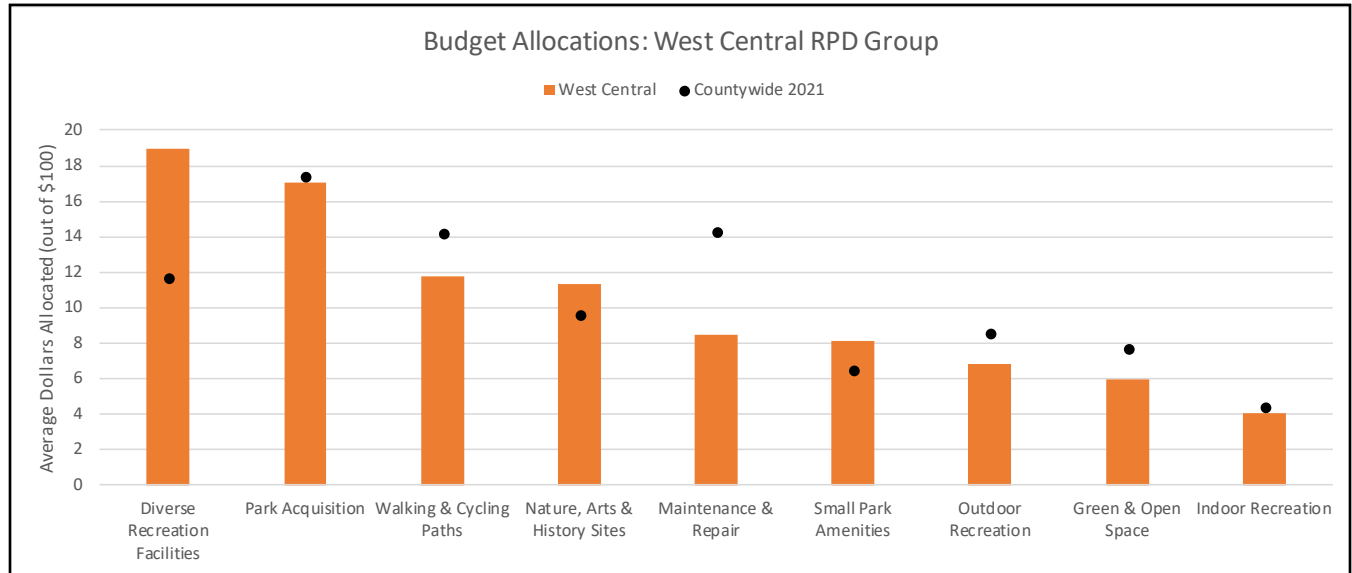


Figure 114. Budget Allocations, West Central RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Meadowood Regional Park:** Replace fence around turf; divert water from entrance road
- **Oregon Ridge Park:** Improve trails to prevent erosion; improve nature center building including adding air conditioning; add 90' diamond to Shawan Roads fields. This park is currently undergoing a comprehensive master planning process.



# West Southwest RPD Group

The West Southwest RPD Group is among the most densely populated and is identified in the Park Equity Mapper as an area of low park equity. This region had the second lowest survey response rate. The responses received rated the area lowest in the county for recreation diversity, undeveloped open space, and places to walk, jog, and bike.

In the MP2030 planning process, residents expressed a need for parks with walkable connections, which is reflected in the above average desire for paved paths. Residents also expressed a desire well above county averages for indoor pools, outdoor amphitheaters and stages, and picnic pavilions. Like in the West RPD Group, this may reflect an actual difference in residents' desires or may largely be due to the relatively low survey response rate.

Given the low survey response, the low equity scores, and the lack of many facilities, the West Southwest RPD group should be a high priority area for additional outreach and recreation and parks investments.

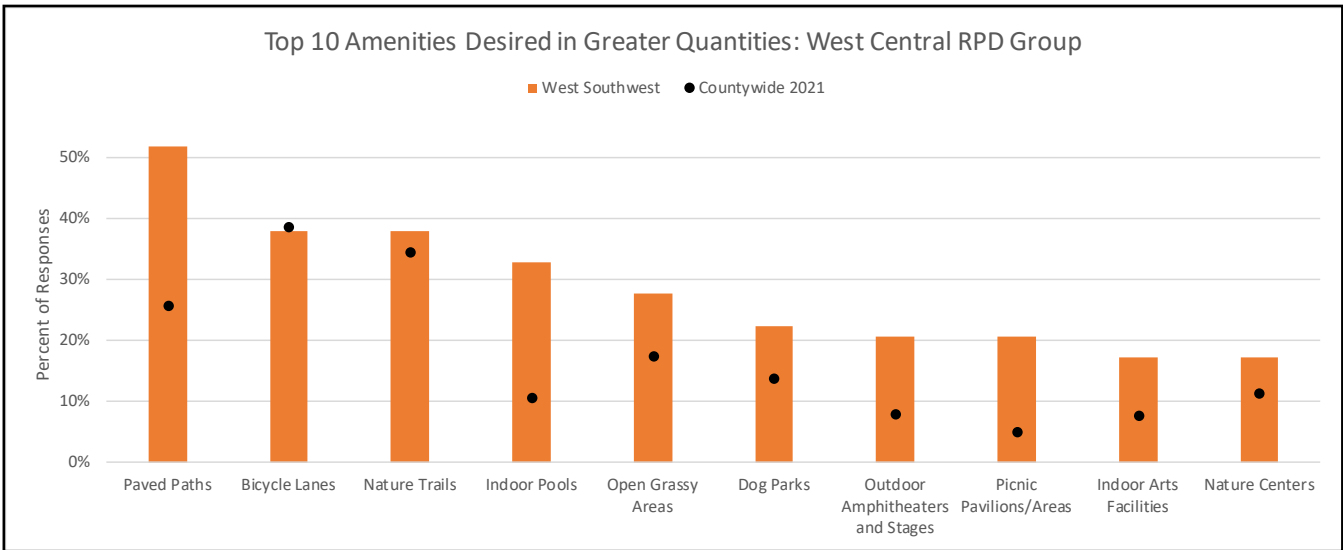


Figure 115. Top 10 Amenities Desired, West Southwest RPD Group

Residents of the West Southwest RPD Group allocated slightly more than the countywide average to park acquisition, which was the top priority in the hypothetical budget. They allocated less to maintenance and repair and to diverse recreation facilities. Walking and cycling paths received the second highest allocation of funds in the hypothetical budget, followed by outdoor recreation and small park amenities. Respondents in this RPD Group allocated more to indoor recreation than average, possibly reflecting that there are several PAL facilities in the area that would benefit from updates, detailed below. Given the low survey response rate, additional outreach is needed, but the desire for new park acquisition and walking and cycling paths is in line with the current relatively low provision of these amenities in the West Southwest.

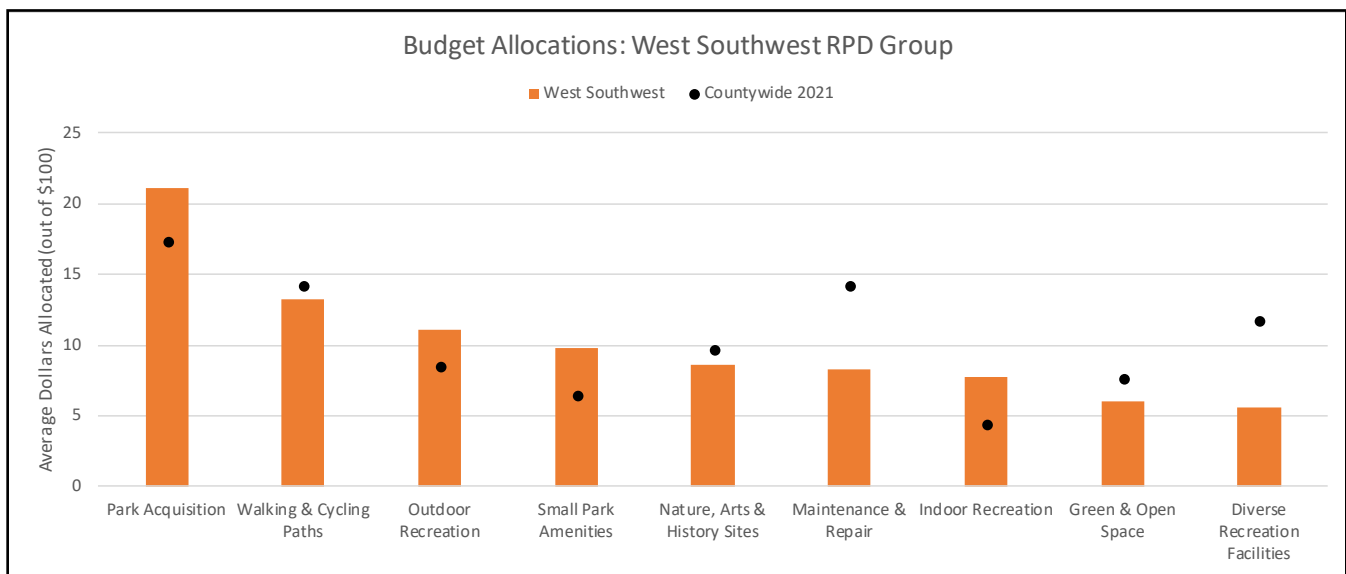


Figure 116. Budget Allocations, West Southwest RPD Group

## Requested Park Improvements

- **Banneker Historic Park:** Expand indoor programming space
- **Burnside Park:** Add comfort station
- **Diamond Ridge Family Park:** Replace footbridge (in process)
- **Edmondson Heights Park:** General maintenance and improvements needed
- **Gwynn Oak Park:** Upgrade comfort stations and pavilions
- **Gwynnvale Park:** Add community garden
- **Rockdale Park:** Add walking trail; improve community garden drainage; replace ball diamond with accessible playground
- **Sudbrook Park:** Add pavilions and comfort station
- **Trolley Line Number Nine Trail:** Repave surface and add benches
- **Western Hills Park:** Add comfort station; build community center; additional tree plantings
- **Westview Park:** Add comfort station; build community garden
- **Winfield PAL:** Add a full-sized gym
- **Woodlawn Memorial Park:** add comfort station
- **Woodmoor PAL:** Replace gym floor; expand gym; renovate outdoor court