

C H A P T E R T H R E E

# MEASURING USER DEMAND



## 3.1 Introduction

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When planning for the future of Recreation and Parks in Baltimore County, it is important to understand how residents are currently using parks and amenities and what their additional needs are. The DRP gathered feedback from the public in multiple ways to capture as much relevant information as possible. Below are the results of this information gathering process, which included interviews with recreation staff, examination of program participation records, comments from public meetings hosted by the DRP and the Baltimore County Department of Planning, and an online survey. This section provides a general summary of comments. Chapter 5, Goals and Objectives, details comments on specific parks in each RPD group.

## 3.2 Interviews with Recreation Staff

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Some staff members of the Department of Recreation and Parks are directly involved in coordinating with Recreation Councils and running programs. Each recreation region has a regional coordinator and community supervisors. In addition, special sites like Nature Centers and PAL Centers have coordinators who oversee programming. All of these staff members have a deep knowledge of their communities' priorities and their region's facilities and capacities.

Regional coordinators, community supervisors and managers of special sites were contacted for short interviews. While each interview varied depending on the individual's role and location, the overarching goal of each interview was the same: to assess what programs and facilities were working well for the community and what improvements and capital investments were needed. Respondents were asked about their opinions from the field, as well as about what they had heard from members of the public.

Many of the recreation staff shared concerns about specific facilities, which are enumerated in Chapter 5. There were common themes throughout the interviews which have a more general application to our recreation and parks system, such as:

- There is a strong need for indoor recreation facilities in the county. Current plans for new facilities are welcome, though there are even more communities that need space. Existing facilities are also in need of maintenance and renovations to better provide programming.
- Recreation programs are increasingly incorporating technology, such as virtual reality, programming, and gaming. Future plans, particularly for indoor facilities, should have space for these kinds of activities.
- Performing arts is a growing segment of recreation programming, with several robust dance and music programs. There is a need for indoor rehearsal space and indoor and outdoor stages for performances.
- To improve programming for teens and adults, there is a need for full-sized gymnasiums and 90 foot diamonds. Many communities have gyms and ball diamonds, but they are too small to serve some residents' needs.
- Athletic fields with lights and turf are highly valued by communities because they make it possible to play after sunset and after rainstorms. Additional turf fields and lighting upgrades are desired.
- There are many places within the County's system that are not accessible. Renovations, new buildings, and other facilities like playgrounds should plan for people with mobility challenges, as well as those who are vision impaired.
- Diverse recreational facilities, such as skate parks, performing arts centers, community gardens, and pickleball are highly valued by communities.
- Many indoor and outdoor recreation facilities lack storage, which inhibits programming.
- There are many playgrounds and restroom facilities in need of replacement.

### 3.3 Program Participation

Much of the recreational programming in Baltimore County is carried out by volunteer Recreation Councils, who do not report their program participation rates to the County. The sports leagues, fitness classes, and other recreational programs run by each council are generally well attended and appreciated by community members. They vary widely across the county, depending on the capacity of the council, the facilities available, and the preferences of community members.

Some programs, including those held at PAL Centers and Nature Centers are carried out by staff of DRP, and have been tracked over the last two fiscal years. These years were heavily impacted by the pandemic, with programs shutting down in March of FY20 and gradually reopening throughout FY21. Despite this impact, there were 1,180 and 774 programs with over 110,000 and over 75,000 registrants in FY20 and FY21, respectively. We expect that programs and events will return to pre-pandemic levels in the following years.

Table 5. Programs and Registrants in FY20 and FY21

	July 2019 - June 2020	June 2020 - July 2021
Nature Programs	110	125
All Programs	1,180	774
Therapeutic Recreation Registrants	778	505
All Program Registrants	111,569	76,909
Special Events	110	41



## 3.4 Other Park Use

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Casual park use, including walking, hiking, cycling, pickup sports games, playground use, and general enjoyment of parks for relaxation and leisure, is difficult to measure, especially in smaller neighborhood and community parks. There are typically no staff on site and park users may access the sites at any time from a variety of entrances. Park staff estimate that in FY21, there were about 10.9 M visits to our parks for non-programmed activities, including unscheduled play (8.5 M), outside group gatherings (about 5,500), and pavilion/picnic grove use (about 42,250). While these estimates are not exact, it is clear that there are many casual visits to Baltimore County parks for casual, non-programmed use.

In addition to this rough estimate, a survey conducted in 2021 asked residents about their typical park use. Many of the most common activities, including walking/hiking, picnicking, using a playground/tot lot, boating, and swimming at a beach, would be classified as unscheduled activities. The results of this survey are described further in section 3.6 under "Reported Use of Recreation and Park Sites."

## 3.5 Public Meetings and Written Input

### LPPRP Public Meeting

A public meeting focused on the LPPRP was held on Thursday, November 18, 2021. An announcement of this meeting was sent to recreation council presidents, community association leaders, and members of the Baltimore County Council, who forwarded the message to interested parties. It was also added to the countywide listing of public meetings and advertised on the social media of Baltimore County and the DRP. Due to ongoing concerns from the coronavirus pandemic, this meeting was held virtually on Webex. There were 67 participants, who were able to speak to the group or submit comments by chat.



The most common theme for the comments was to have greater connectivity of trails, paths, and biking routes and to have them connect to public transportation routes. The LPPRP process is happening simultaneously with the Master Plan 2030 and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, both of which address pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure on parklands and non-parklands. Another broad theme was that parks in Baltimore County should be designed to serve people with a variety of ages, abilities, and interests in an equitable manner. Several residents also expressed concerns with specific parks, including issues with invasive species, poor maintenance, and poor access. Parks mentioned included Edmondson Heights Park, Golden Ring Park, and Villa Nova park. Residents advocated for more greenspace and recreation facilities, especially in Pikesville (West Central) and the 6th District (mostly East Central and East RPD groups). Residents also expressed a desire for additional facilities for pickleball and mountain biking.

Residents were invited at the meeting and on our website to submit comments by phone or email to DRP. Many of the comments received in this way reflected those expressed at the public meeting. Additionally, people wrote in supporting hunting in the County, improvements to open space regulations for developments, new indoor recreation centers, expanding environmental education, expanding programming for teens and adults, and further emphasizing the importance of equity and accessibility in parks and recreation.

## Master Plan 2030 Meetings

Additional public comments were incorporated from the Master Plan 2030 (MP2030) planning process, which was happening concurrently. MP2030 includes components of recreation and parks, and so relevant citizen input was shared between the Baltimore County Department of Planning and DRP. In June, July, and August, the Department of Planning held public meetings and asked residents to respond to specific questions about the current strengths of Baltimore County and what they would like to see happen in the next ten years. The following is a summary of feedback on recreation, parks and open space at the countywide level from the MP2030 process.

- Residents greatly value open space and community parks. They would like for existing open space and parks to remain, and for additional properties to be converted to publicly accessible greenspace.
- Residents value both small community parks and larger, interconnected parks and open spaces.
- Residents value the strong Recreation Councils that offer programs for kids, adults, and seniors. Several people expressed a desire for increased activities for kids, teens, and seniors.
- There were some concerns about the pressure that new recreation facilities could put on communities, such as additional traffic, light pollution, and noise.

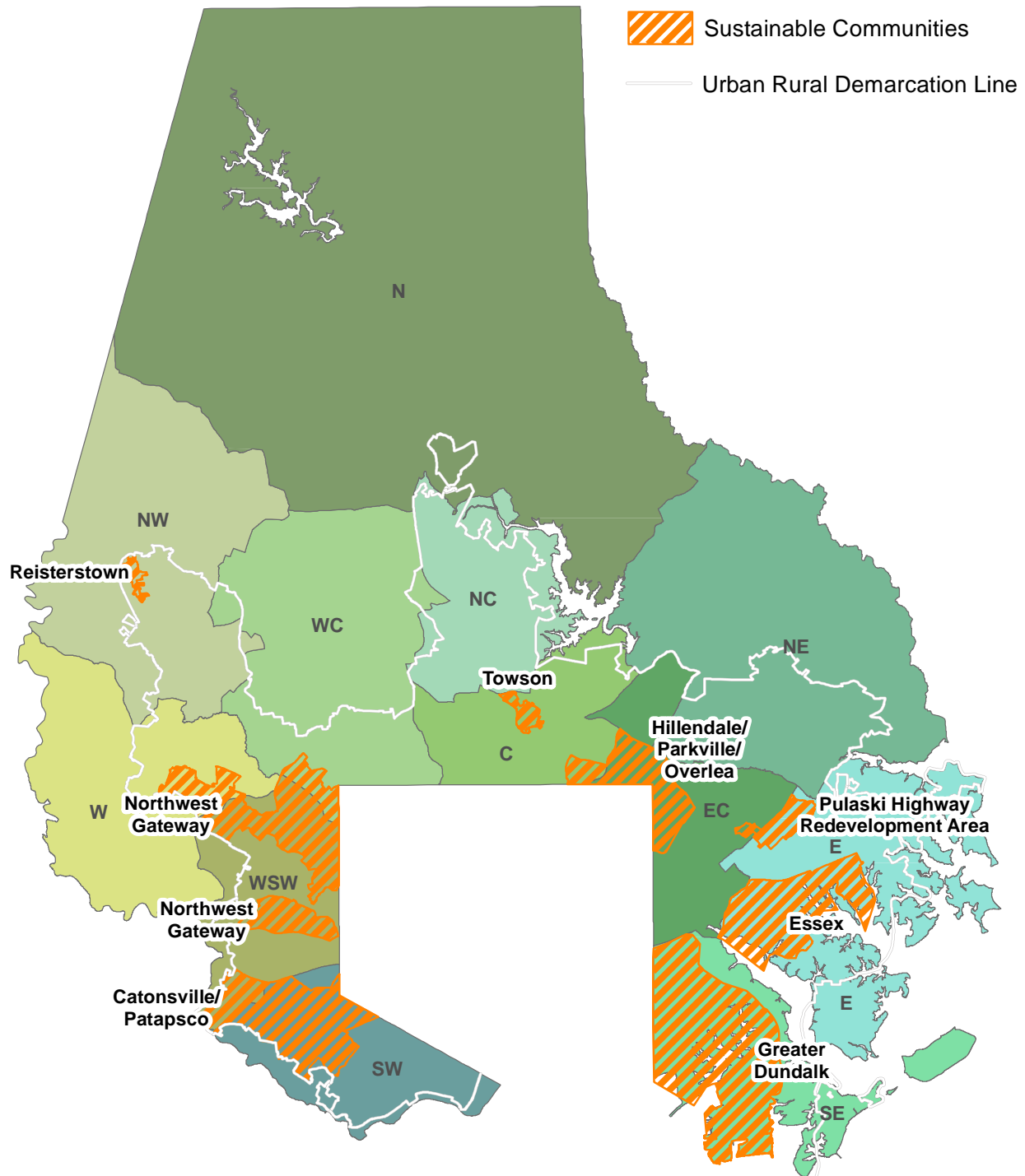
Overall, residents expressed a desire for more parks and open space in their communities. There were several comments that were specific to certain regions. Using the RPD group geography, people expressed that they would like to see the following in their communities:

- East: more small areas for recreation
- North: public parks and playing fields
- North Central: parks with walking trails
- Northwest: additional greenspace to accommodate future growth
- Southwest: improvements to existing parks and a community garden
- West: dog parks
- West Central: address the current lack of accessible green space
- West Southwest: parks with walkable connections



## Sustainable Community Plans

In addition to the Master Plan, Baltimore County has areas that have adopted [Sustainable Communities Plans](#). Currently, Baltimore County has nine approved Sustainable Community Plans for: Arbutus; Catonsville and Patapsco; Essex; Greater Dundalk and Sparrows Point; Hillendale, Parkville and Overlea; Northwest Gateways; Pulaski Highway Redevelopment Area; Reisterstown Main Street; and Towson. All of these communities are within the Urban Rural Demarcation Line.

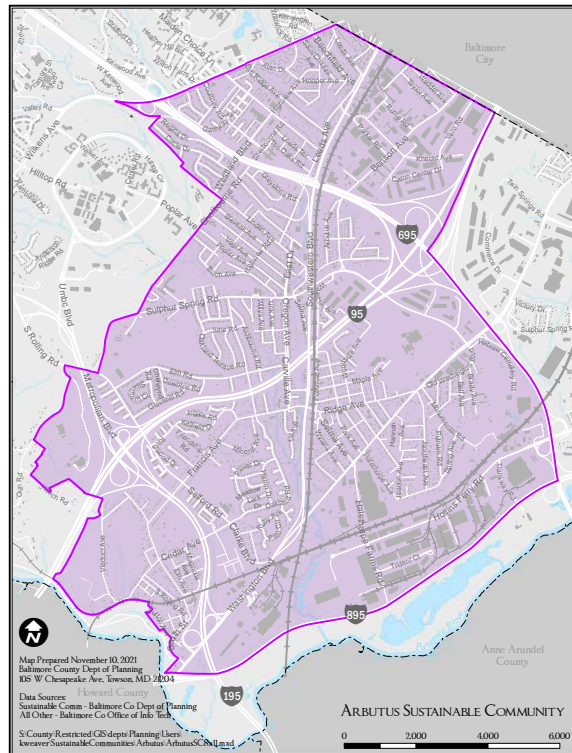


The 2010 Sustainable Communities Act defines Sustainable Community Areas as places where public and private investments and partnerships achieve:

- Development of a healthy local economy
- Protection and appreciation of historical and cultural resources
- A mix of land uses
- Affordable and sustainable housing, and employment options
- Growth and development practices that protect the environment and conserve air, water and energy resources, and encourage walkability and recreational opportunities
- Creation of access to transit where available

Each plan must address environmental topics, which may include

"quality of land, water, air or watersheds, increased tree canopy, mitigation or adaptation to issues related to sea level rise, reduction of carbon footprint, improved energy conservation, access to local foods, green infrastructure, stormwater infrastructure or management, construction of parks, trails and other recreation facilities, recycling, improved water and sewer capacity, etc."



Several of these subjects are directly relevant to land preservation, parks, and recreation and therefore it is helpful to examine the recommendations of the Sustainable Community Plans.

Each plan addresses the need for additional tree cover. Parks and other preserved lands play a part in this effort in Baltimore County by preserving forested areas and acquiring land that may be planted with additional trees. Other action items relevant to DRP include:

- Creating community gardens
- Adding pollinator gardens
- Using greenspace for outdoor arts activities
- Expanding youth recreation programming
- Creating pedestrian and bike connections through parks
- Providing additional benches, tables, grills, and signage at parks
- Acquiring additional park sites and enhancing existing parks



## 3.6 Online Survey

To understand Baltimore County residents' current park uses and recreational needs, the Department of Recreation and Parks conducted an online survey. This survey was posted in English and Spanish to Baltimore County's homepage, the DRP's homepage, the MP2030 webpage and shared through social media. It was also disseminated by email to recreation councils and community groups. Fliers with a QR code and link were placed in recreation centers. The survey received nearly 2,500 responses. It was open to responses from October 4 to December 1, 2021. This was not a statistically valid survey and there was no mechanism to prevent multiple submissions from a single person. Nevertheless, it was a useful method and many of the results of the survey reinforce the conclusions of other forms of analysis for the LPPRP.

To enable comparisons between years, the survey conducted in 2021 was nearly identical to the survey conducted in 2016. Due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, any reference to "in the last 12 months" was changed to "in an average year." Pickleball, spraygrounds/splashpads, and disc golf, which have risen in popularity over the last five years, were added as options for multiple questions, and there were additional opportunities for free responses.

Respondents were asked for their zip codes, which were used to map responses. The table below shows the groupings used for survey responses based on how well the RPD group aligns with each zip code.

Table 6. Regional Planning District Groups' associated zip codes

RPD Group	Zip Codes
Central	21204, 21210, 21212, 21239, 21286
East	21220, 21221
East Central	21206, 21234, 21237
North	21053, 21074, 21102, 21111, 21120, 21131, 21152, 21155, 21161
North Central	21030, 21031, 21093
Northeast	21013, 21051, 21057, 21082, 21085, 21087, 21128, 21156, 21162, 21236
Northwest	21117, 21136
Southeast	21052, 21219, 21222, 21224
Southwest	21225, 21227, 21228, 21229, 21230
West	21104, 21133, 21163
West Central	21208, 21209, 21215
West Southwest	21043, 21207, 21244

# Survey Response Rates

There were 2,497 survey responses, including 2,249 responses from Baltimore County residents. This was a 165% increase from the survey conducted in 2016. Despite the great overall response rate, the distribution of survey participants is uneven, from just 26 responses in the West RPD Group to 384 in the North Central RPD Group.

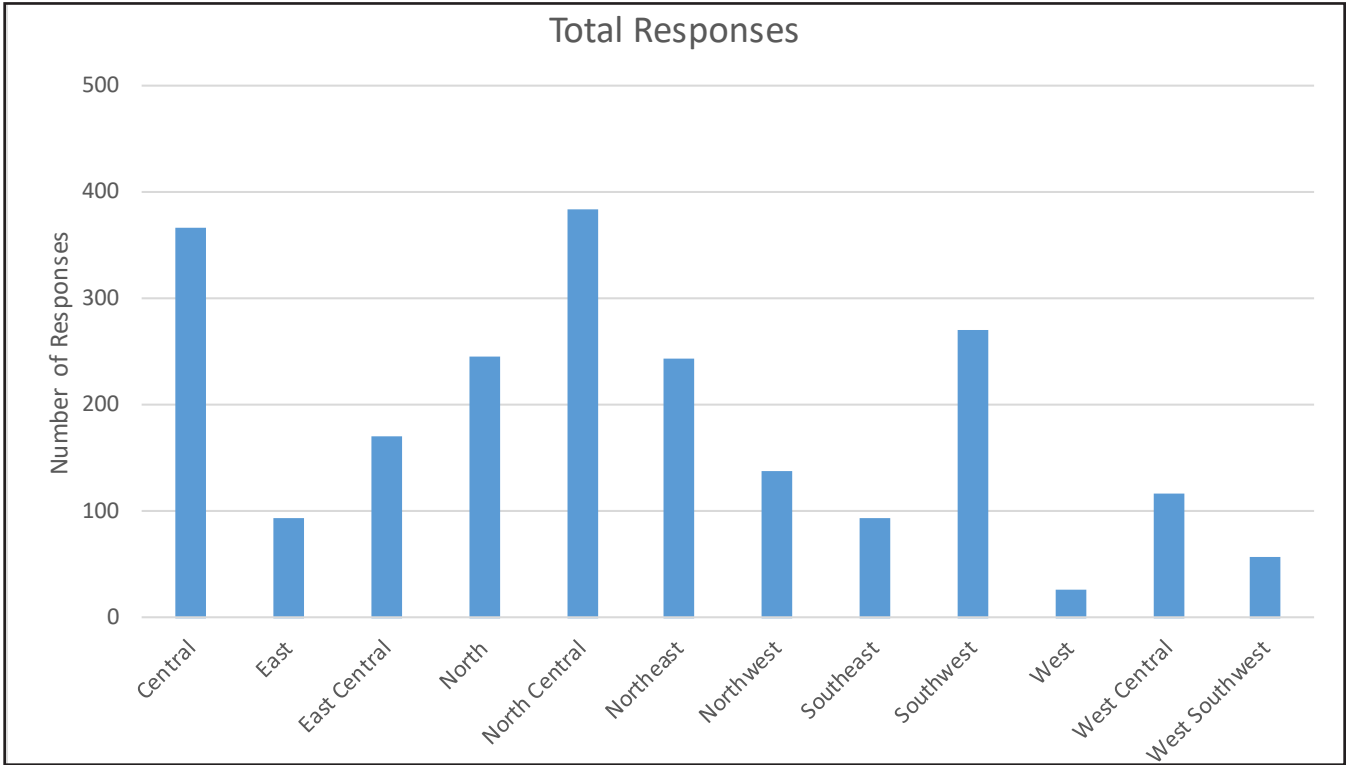


Figure 36. Survey Responses by RPD Group

When accounting for population in each RPD group, there are still wide divisions in response rate. The North Central, North, and Central RPD Groups were best represented with approximately 71, 63, and 48 survey responses per 10,000 residents, respectively. The West, West Southwest, and East, were the least represented, with approximately 10 or fewer responses per 10,000 residents, respectively. These areas may require more targeted outreach to understand community needs. The following chapter will show that these are areas of low park equity, making greater outreach especially important.

# Survey Response Rate

(responses per 10,000 Residents)

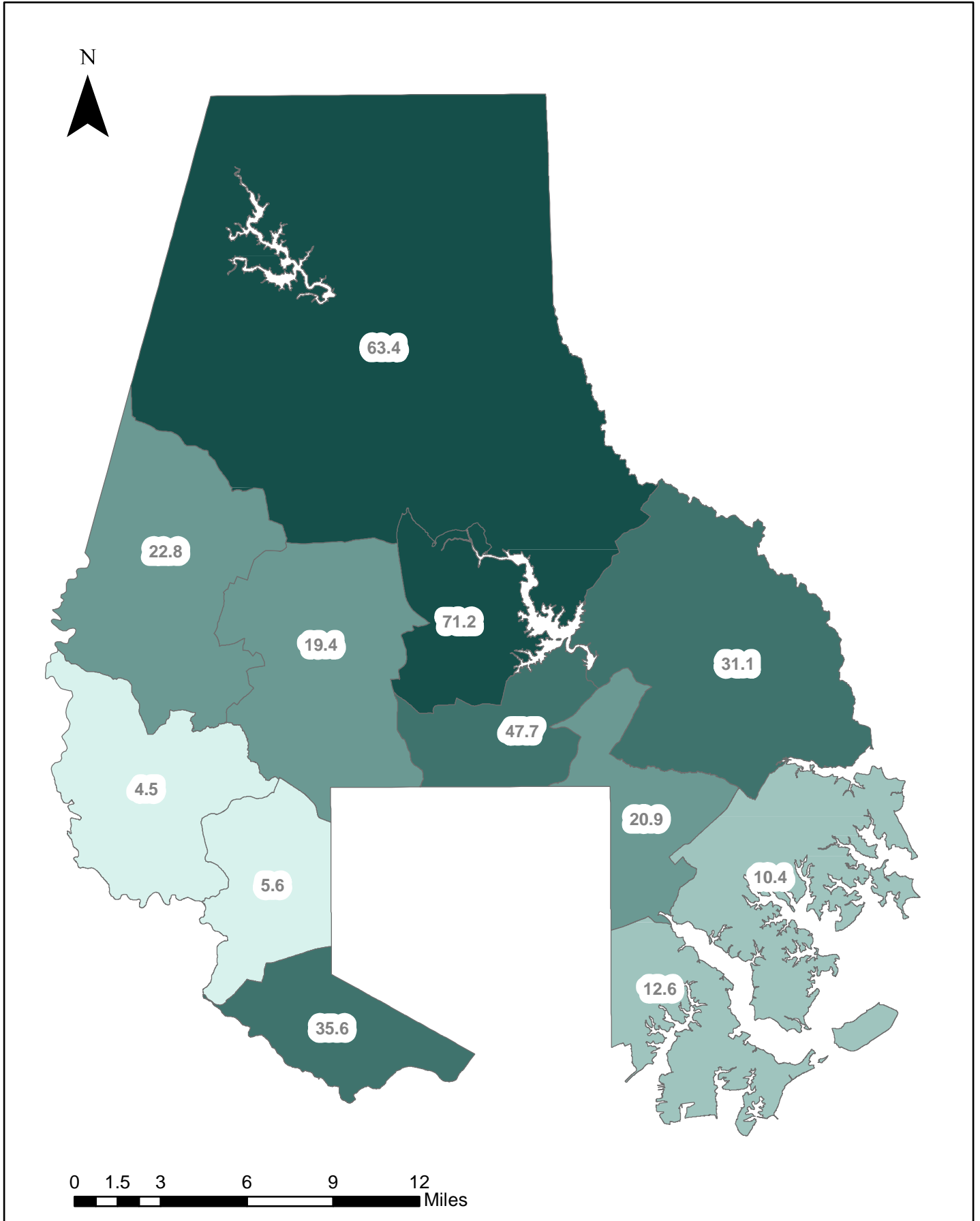


Figure 37. Survey Response Rate per 10,000 Residents

As shown above, the survey failed to capture input from all regions of the county. In addition, the race of survey respondents does not reflect the race of all county residents. Of the 2,500 survey respondents, 2,075 self-identified their race. The options reflected options given on the 2019 American Community Survey conducted by the US Census.

Compared to the actual racial composition of Baltimore County, respondents who identified as White were overrepresented (86.7% of respondents versus 60.2% of county residents). Black or African American residents were significantly underrepresented (6.3% of survey respondents versus 30.3% of county residents), as were Asian residents, to a lesser degree (1.7% of survey respondents versus 6.3% of county residents). Respondents who identified as "Other," "American Indian or Alaska Native," or "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" responded at rates roughly equivalent to the actual County composition.

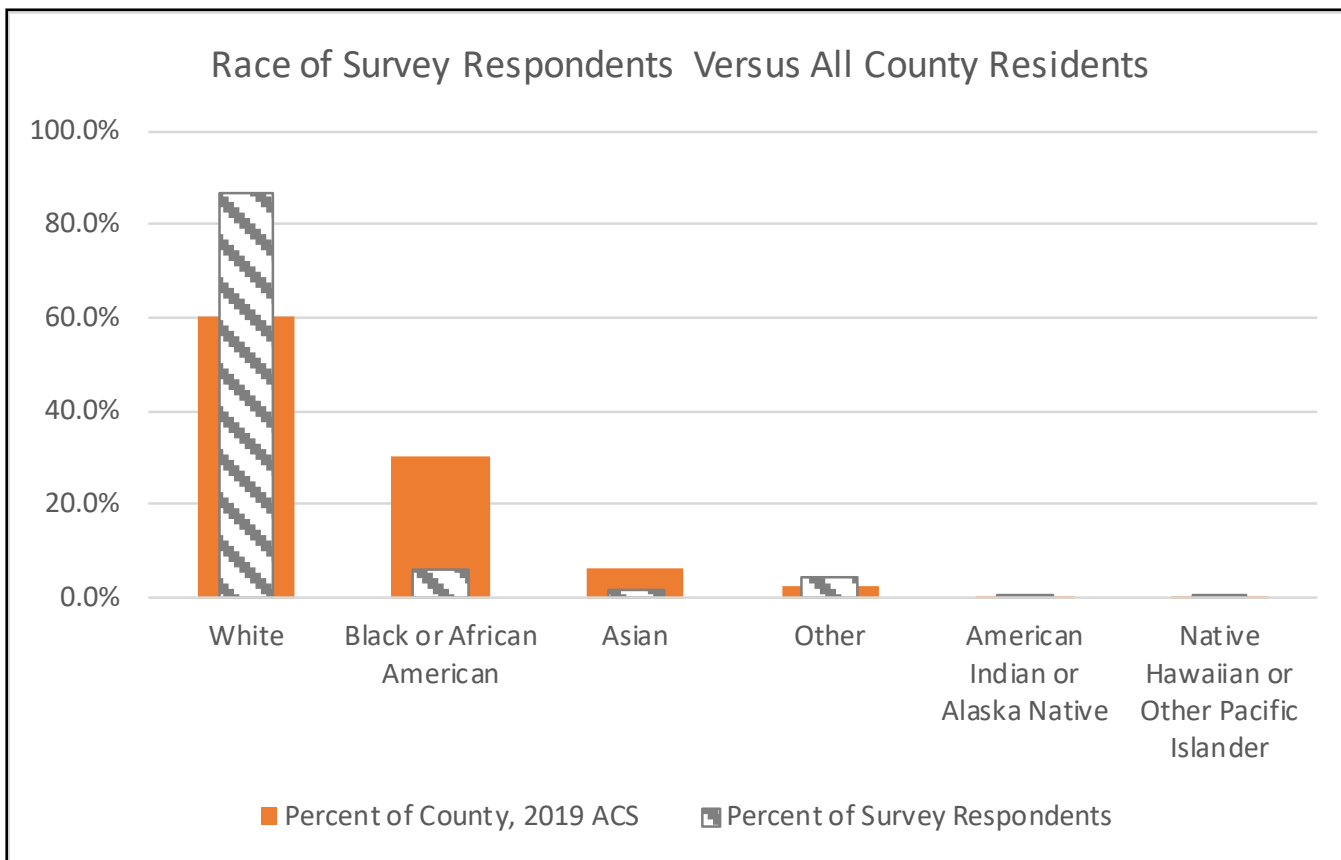


Figure 38. Race of Survey respondents Versus All County Residents

It is clear that the results of our survey do not fully represent all residents, as certain geographic and demographic segments of Baltimore County's population are underrepresented, while others are overrepresented. These imbalances make it clear that more targeted outreach is needed and that the survey results presented below must be taken with a grain of salt. They represent the views of many, but not all, County residents.

## Reported Use of Recreation and Park Sites

Of residents who responded to the survey, 98.4% responded that they had visited a Baltimore County park or public recreation site for leisure or recreation purposes. Respondents were then asked which activities they have participated in while visiting a park or recreation site, with the following options:

- Attended a special event such as a concert, festival or fireworks display
- Participated in an organized program that took place on a single day or session
- Participated in an organized multi-day youth (under 18) program that took place indoors
- Participated in an organized multi-day adult (18 and over) program that took place indoors
- Participated in an organized multi-day youth (under 18) program that took place outdoors
- Participated in an organized multi-day adult (18 and over) program that took place outdoors
- Visited a nature or interpretive center at Oregon Ridge, Marshy Point, Cromwell Valley, the Agricultural Resource Center and Farm Park or Banneker Historical Park
- Visited a waterfront park
- Reserved and used a picnic pavilion or group picnic area
- Participated in an unscheduled activity such as walking, cycling, using a playground or shooting hoops
- Volunteered for a recreation program or event
- Other (please specify)

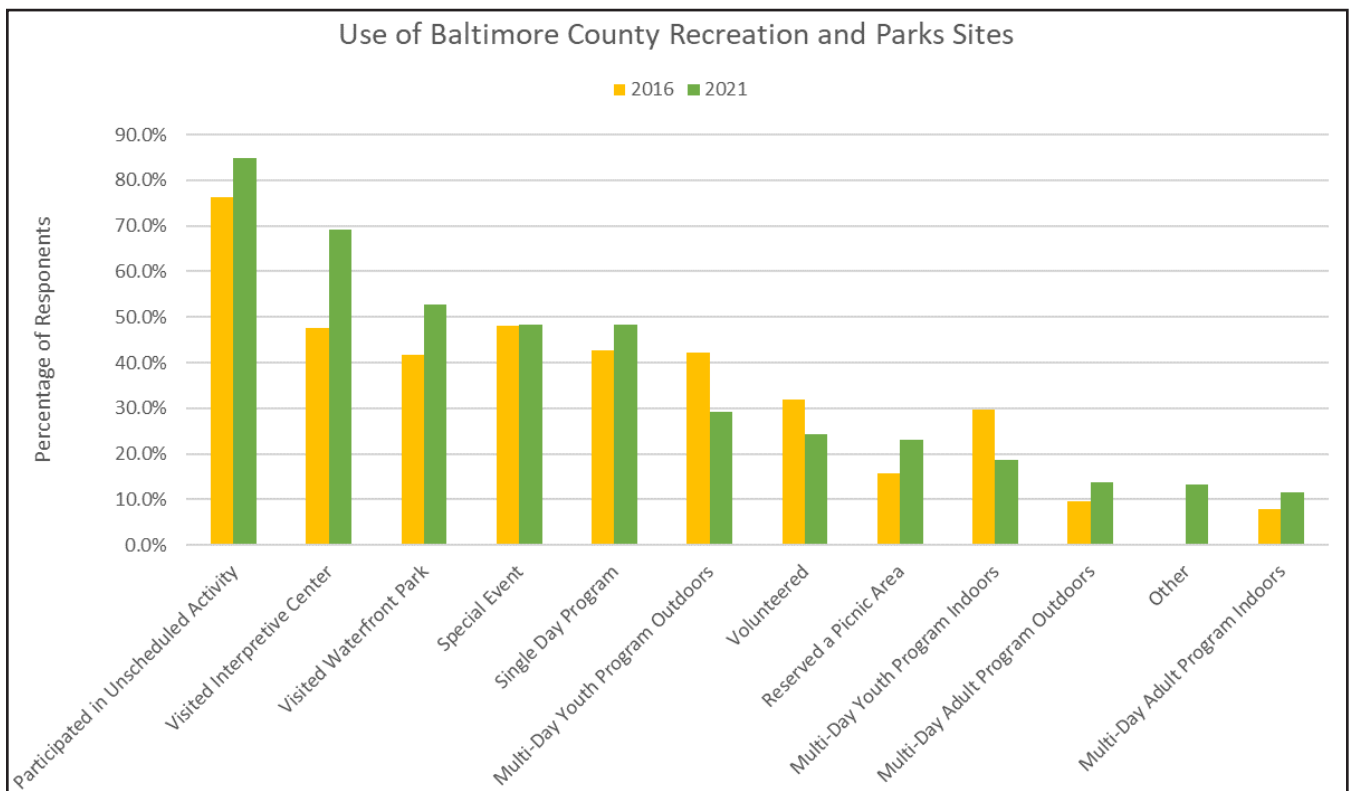


Figure 39. Use of Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Sites, 2016 and 2021

As in 2016, the most common use was for unscheduled activities (84.9%). This was followed by visiting an interpretive center (69.2%) and visiting a waterfront park (52.8%). Multi-day program participation for youth was down from 2016 for both indoor and outdoor activities, due partially to coronavirus restrictions and the broader reach of our 2021 survey.

It is notable, but not surprising, that unscheduled activity remained the most common use for both years. This is the most difficult number to verify using methods other than residents' self-reporting. Several respondents selected "other" and shared specific activities, many of which could be categorized as unscheduled activities. These include:

- Drove around and parked to relax
- Played tennis
- Hiking, nature photography
- Mountain biked
- Exercise
- Used picnic tables
- Organized dance recital
- Played on the playgrounds
- Just to sit and relax outdoors
- Lots of dog walks and bike rides
- Played pickleball with a group
- Played disc golf
- Our scout troop uses county parks frequently
- Model rocket launch

The survey also asked residents about their recreational activities and where they did those activities. The figure below shows the activities that respondents reported most frequently participating in using public parks, recreation centers or public schools. Walking/hiking, picnicking (both within and outside pavilions), using playgrounds, and boating with a canoe/kayak/rowboat were some of the most common answers. All are typically individual, non-organized activities, reflecting the responses to the question above.

Outdoor soccer was the most popular organized sport typically played at public facilities, followed by pickleball and baseball. Indoor versions of sports tended to be much less than common than outdoor versions, which is consistent with the number of facilities that Baltimore County has. While some activities, particularly organized programs like visual and performing arts, yoga, and gymnastics, received only a few responses, there were no activity options that received zero responses from residents.

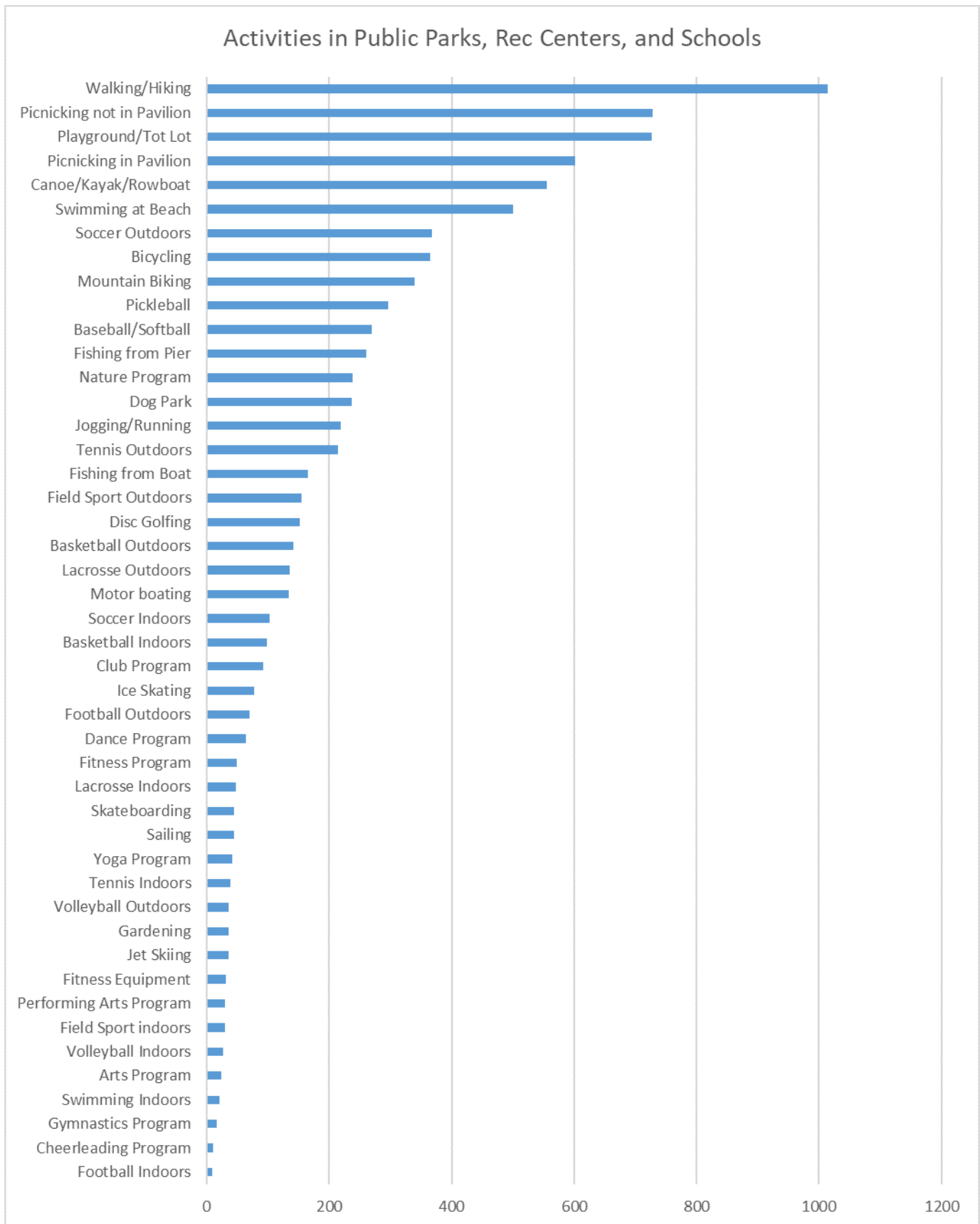


Figure 40. Activities in Public Parks, Rec Centers, and Schools

## Ratings of Recreation and Park Assets

Survey participants were asked to rate aspects of Baltimore County's recreation and parks assets on a scale from Very Poor (1) to Excellent (5). The categories were:

- Availability of County parks and recreation facilities near where you live
- Condition of the County parks and recreation facilities you've visited
- Diversity of recreational facilities and opportunities offered at the County parks you've visited
- Amount of undeveloped or preserved open space and green space near where you live
- Opportunities to safely walk, jog or bicycle near where you live

The following section shows residents' average ratings for each category on a scale out of 5. There is also a comparison between ratings given in the 2016 survey and the 2021 survey. When examining these comparisons, it is important to note the vast differences in survey responses between the two surveys. While differences in ratings may reflect a real change in opinion, they may also reflect the fact that more people, with a wider range of opinions, influenced the ratings in the more recent survey.

5. Please rate each of the following. Please leave blank if you have no opinion or do not know.

	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Availability of County parks and recreation facilities near where you live	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Condition of the County parks and recreation facilities you've visited	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diversity of recreational facilities and opportunities offered at the County parks you've visited	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amount of undeveloped or preserved open space and green space near where you live	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to safely walk, jog or bicycle near where you live	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Ratings of Parks and Recreation Availability

The Northeast RPD group registered the highest rating for parks and recreation availability, with an average rating of 4.0 and the West Central had the lowest rating, at 3.1 out of 5. As will be shown in the Level of Service analysis, the West Central RPD group has the least amount of local parklands, tennis courts, multipurpose courts, ball diamonds, and indoor recreation facilities for its population. The actual provision of parks and recreation aligns with the residents' perceptions and demonstrates a need for additional facilities. The ratings in 2016 and 2021 were relatively similar, with the North RPD group seeing the biggest change, from 2.4 to 3.5. The countywide average was 3.40 in 2016 and 3.50 in 2021.

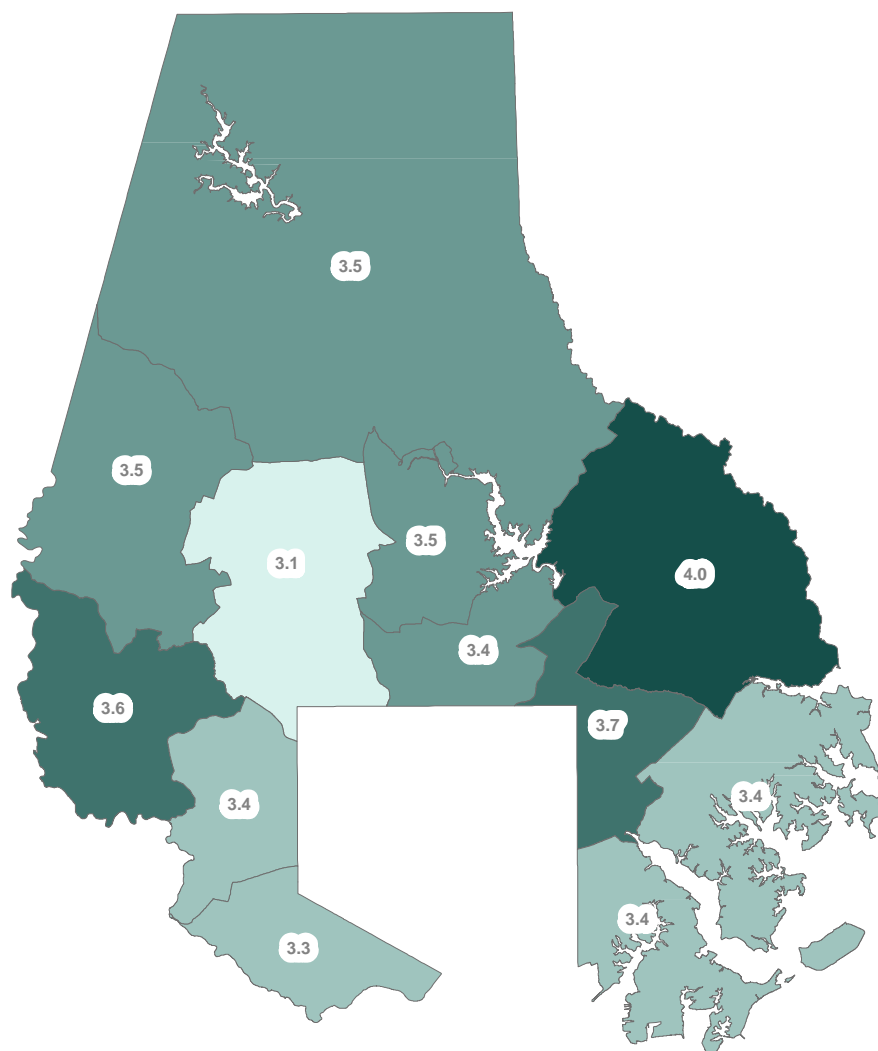


Figure 41. Ratings of Parks and Recreation Availability by RPD Group

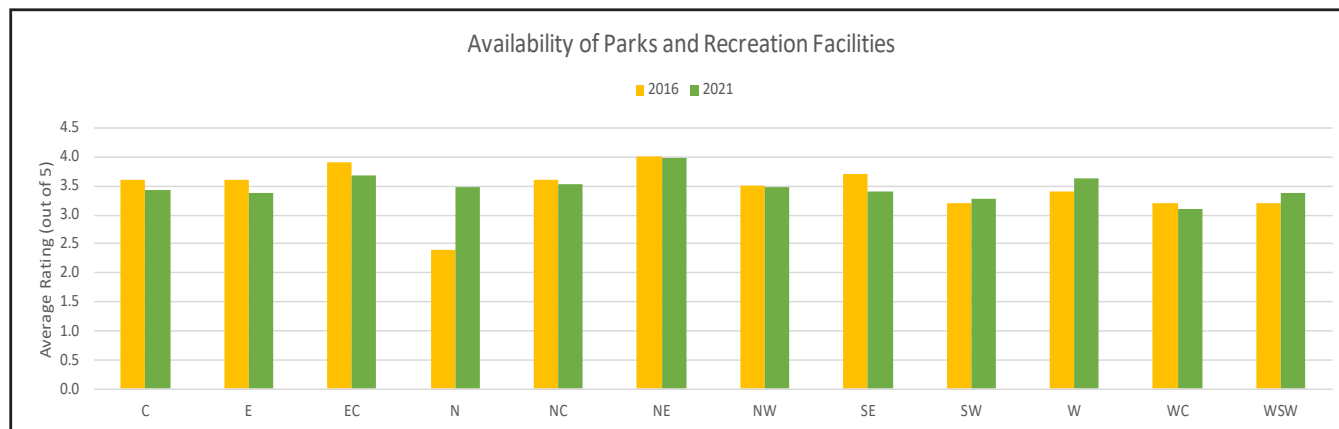


Figure 42. Ratings of Parks and Recreation Availability, 2016 and 2021

# Ratings of Parks and Recreation Facilities' Condition

The West and Northeast RPD groups rated the condition of their parks and recreation facilities the highest, at 3.8. The Southeast had the lowest rating, at 3.1, which was down from the 2016 rating of 3.4. The Southwest and West Southwest had the next lowest ratings, both at 3.3. Compared with 2016, the results were relatively similar. More RPD Groups saw increases than decreases in their ratings since 2016. The countywide average was 3.45 in 2016 and 3.53 in 2021.

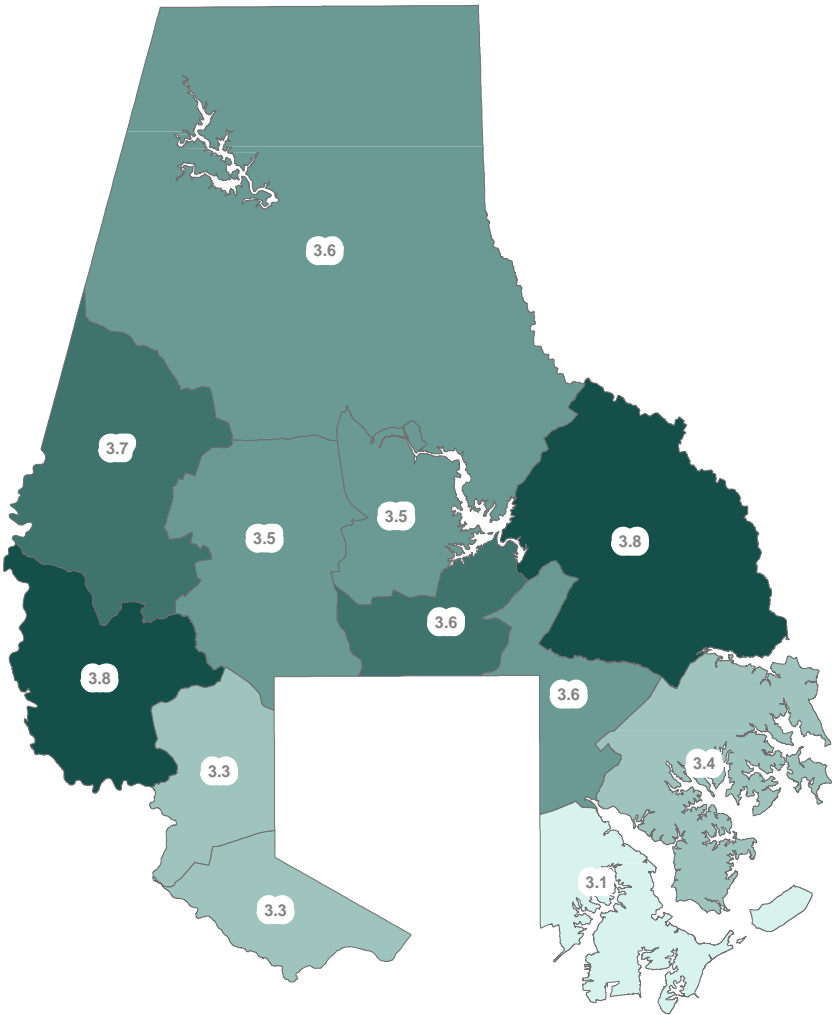


Figure 43. Ratings of Parks and Recreation Facilities Condition by RPD Group

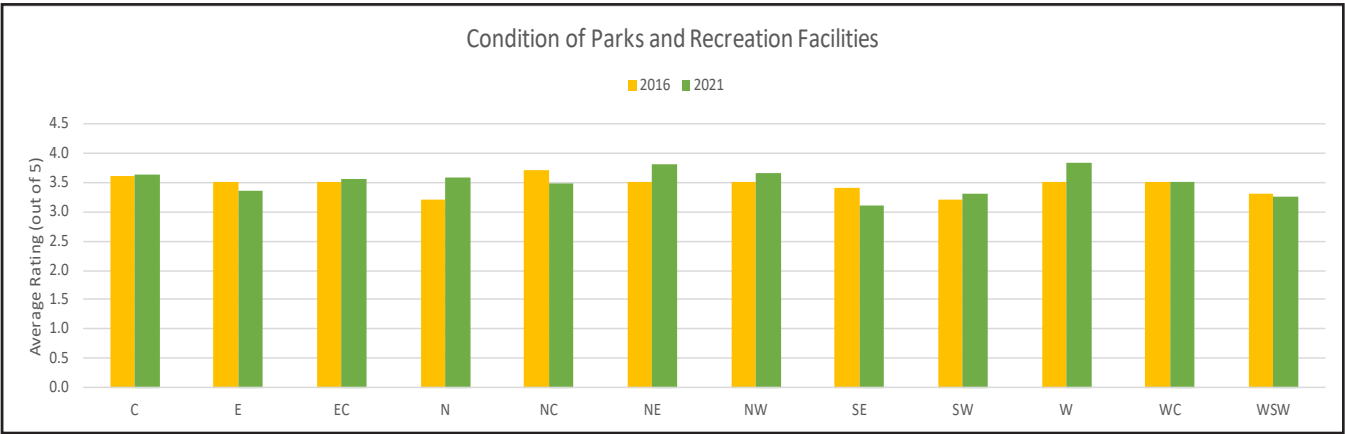


Figure 44. Ratings of Parks and Recreation Facilities Condition, 2016 and 2021

## Ratings of Recreation Facility and Opportunity Diversity

This question aimed to understand resident's ratings of the diversity of recreation facilities and opportunities. A good diversity would likely include access to non-organized recreation like walking and biking, as well as playing fields or gyms for sports and possibly more unique recreational features like skate parks, community gardens, or boat launches. The Northeast RPD group again had the highest rating for recreational diversity, at 3.5. The West Southwest rated its recreational diversity lowest, at 2.8. This was followed by the Southwest and West Central, each with a rating of 3.0. These results were similar to the results of the 2016 survey, with the North RPD group seeing the biggest positive change. The countywide average rating was 3.25 in both 2016 and 2021.

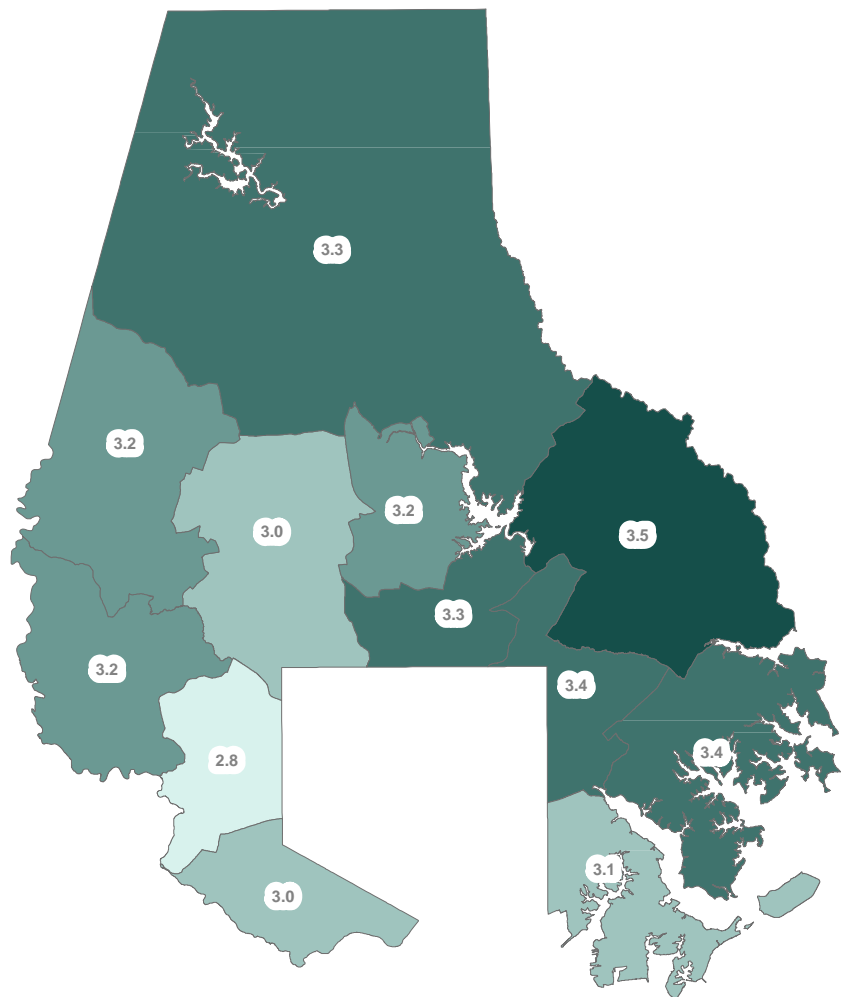


Figure 45. Ratings of Recreation Facility and Opportunity Diversity by RPD Group

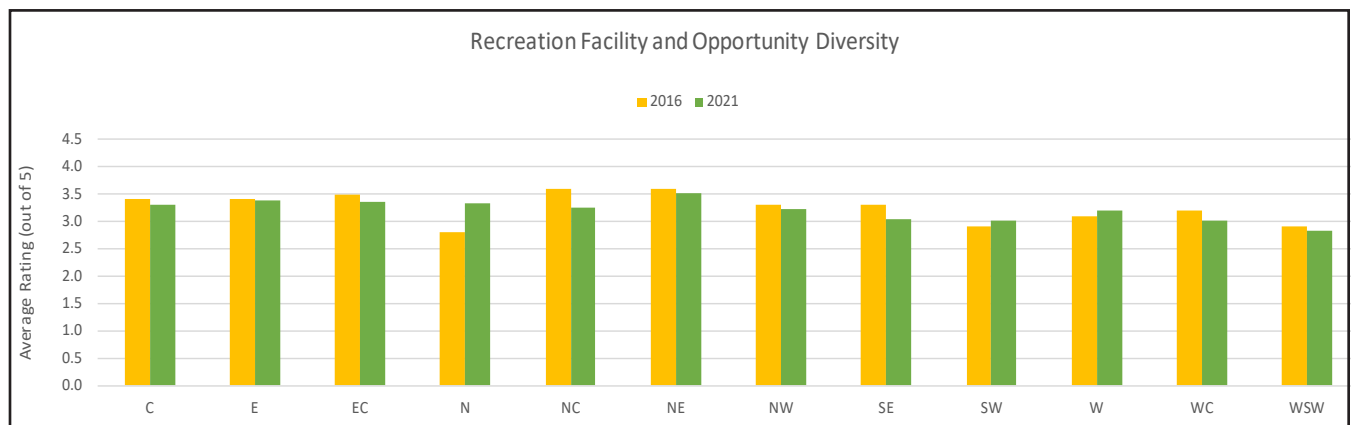


Figure 46. Ratings of Recreation Facility and Opportunity Diversity, 2016 and 2021

# Ratings of Amount of Undeveloped Open Space

Unsurprisingly, the North RPD group, which likes nearly entirely in the rural area of the county, received the highest rating for the amount of undeveloped open space at 3.8. Likewise, the Northeast and West, which are farther from Baltimore City, received the 2nd and 3rd highest ratings, both of 3.6. The West Southwest and Central RPD groups, both of which are densely populated, received scores below 3.0. These results are consistent with those of 2016, when the North had the highest rating and the Central and West Southwest received the two lowest scores. The countywide average was 3.20 in 2016 and 3.21 in 2021.

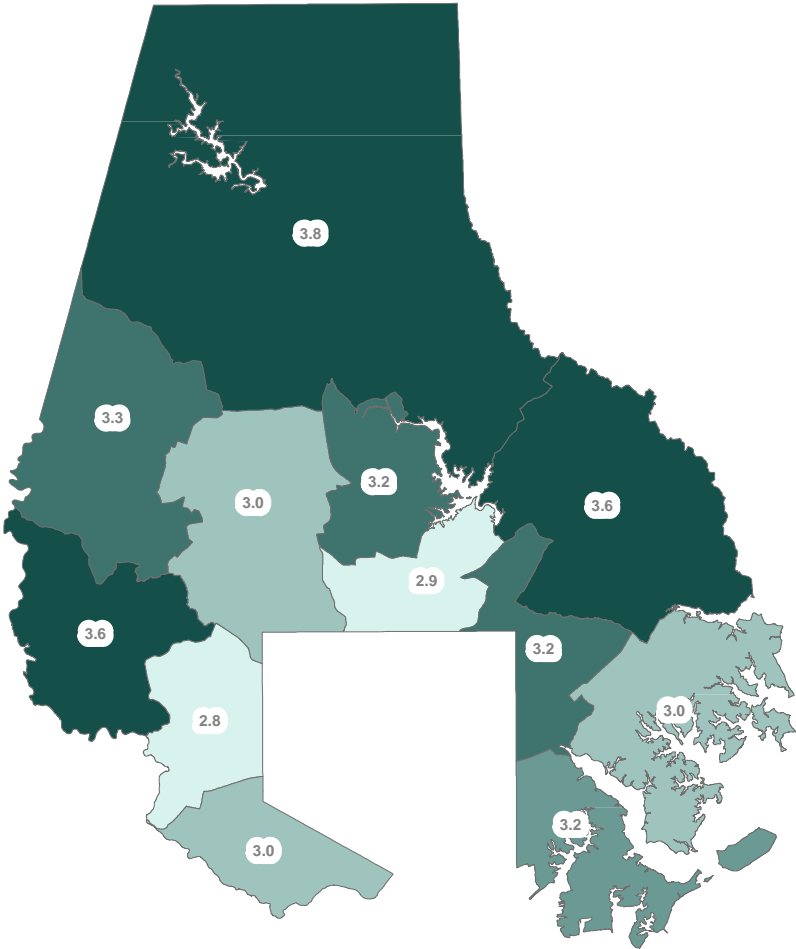


Figure 47. Ratings of Amount of Undeveloped Open Space by RPD Group

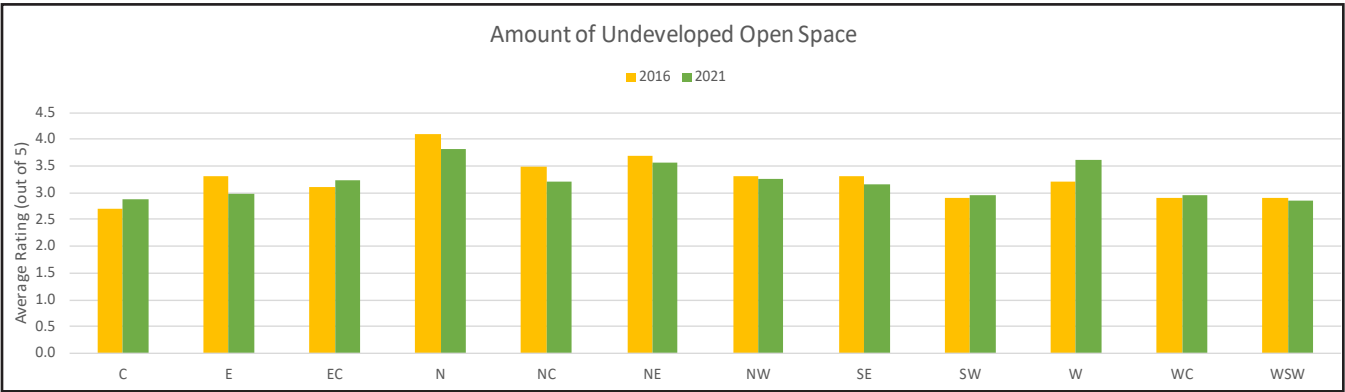


Figure 48. Ratings of Amount of Undeveloped Open Space, 2016 and 2021

## Ratings of Places to Walk/Jog/Bike

The North, North Central, and Northeast RPD Groups received the top three ratings for places to walk, jog, and bike. The West Southwest and Southeast, both of which received the lowest ratings in other categories, received the lowest rating for this question. This question received the lowest overall rating in both 2016 and 2021, with ratings of 3.00 and 3.08, respectively. The following section focused on amenities that residents desire in greater quantities reflects this result, with many residents interested in walking and biking paths.

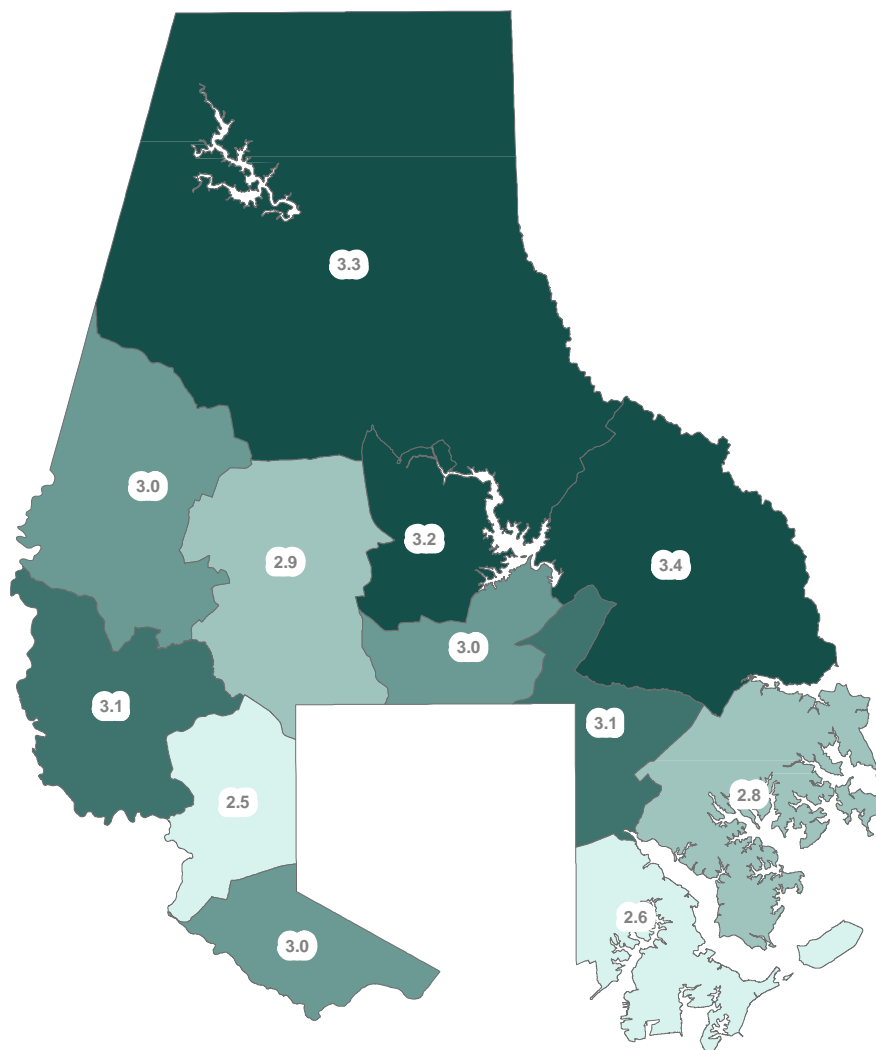


Figure 49. Ratings of Places to Walk/Jog/Bike by RPD Group

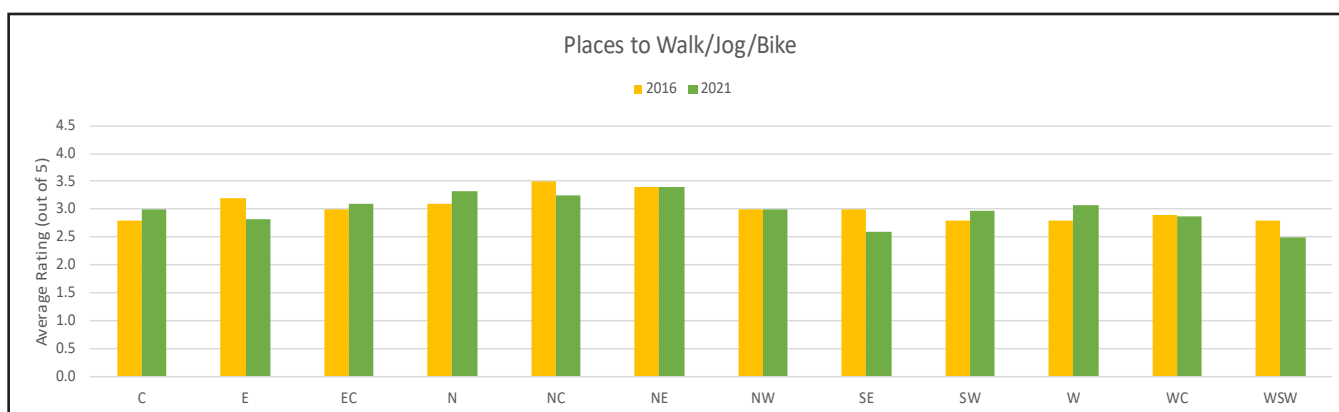


Figure 50. Ratings of Places to Walk/Jog/Bike, 2016 and 2021

# Amenities Desired in Greater Quantity

Survey respondents were instructed, "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." The figures below show the percent of responses for each possible selection in 2016 and 2021. Pickleball Courts, Spraygrounds/Splashpads, and Disc Golf Courses were options only in 2021. They are presented in order from greatest to least percentage, based on 2021 responses.

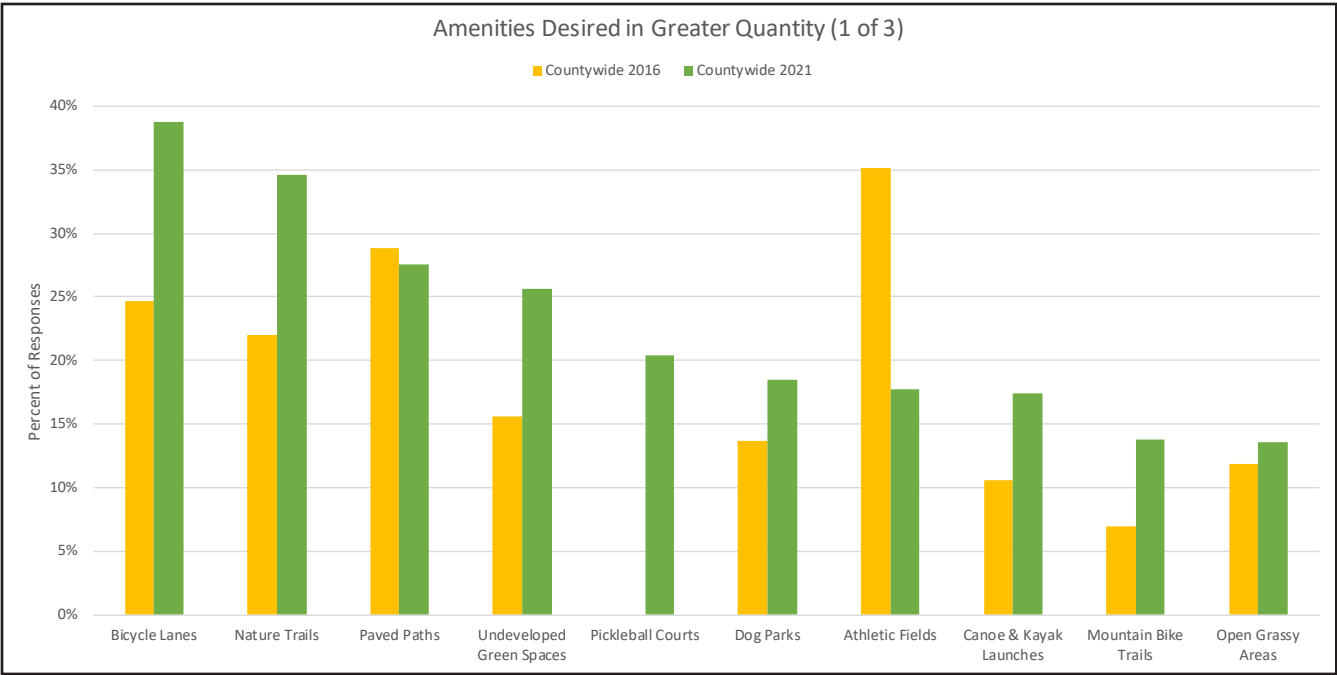


Figure 51. Top 10 Amenities Desired in Greater Quantity, 2016 and 2021

The top four responses - bicycle lanes, nature trails, paved paths, and undeveloped greenspaces - are all amenities for non-organized forms of recreation and all except paved paths are desired more greatly than they were in 2016. Another four of the top ten responses - dog parks, canoe and kayak launches, mountain bike trails, and open grassy areas - are for non-organized recreational activities. While the demand for athletic fields remains in the top 10 most requested items, the demand was nearly cut in half from the 2016 survey - from 35% to just 18% in 2021. This may reflect the construction of additional athletic fields in the last five years, as well as changing trends in recreation, partially impacted by the pandemic and a shift from organized sports to individual recreation.

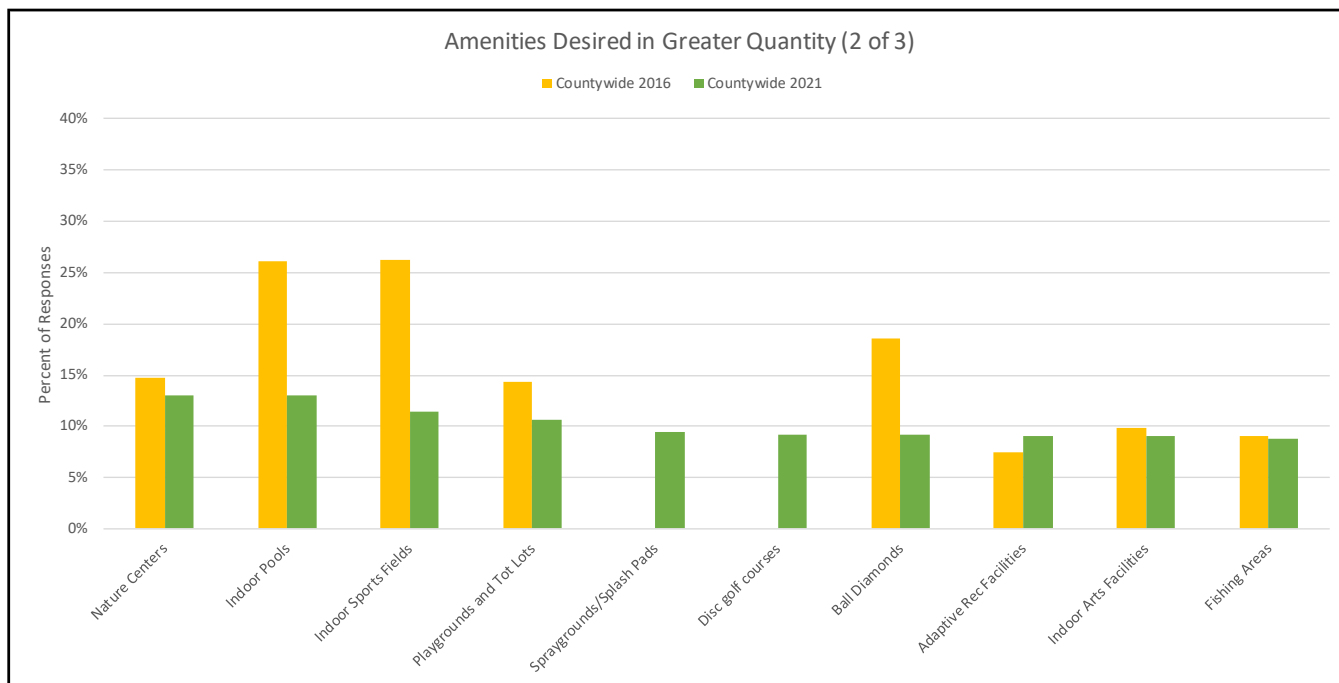


Figure 52. Middle 10 Amenities Desired in Greater Quantity, 2016 and 2021

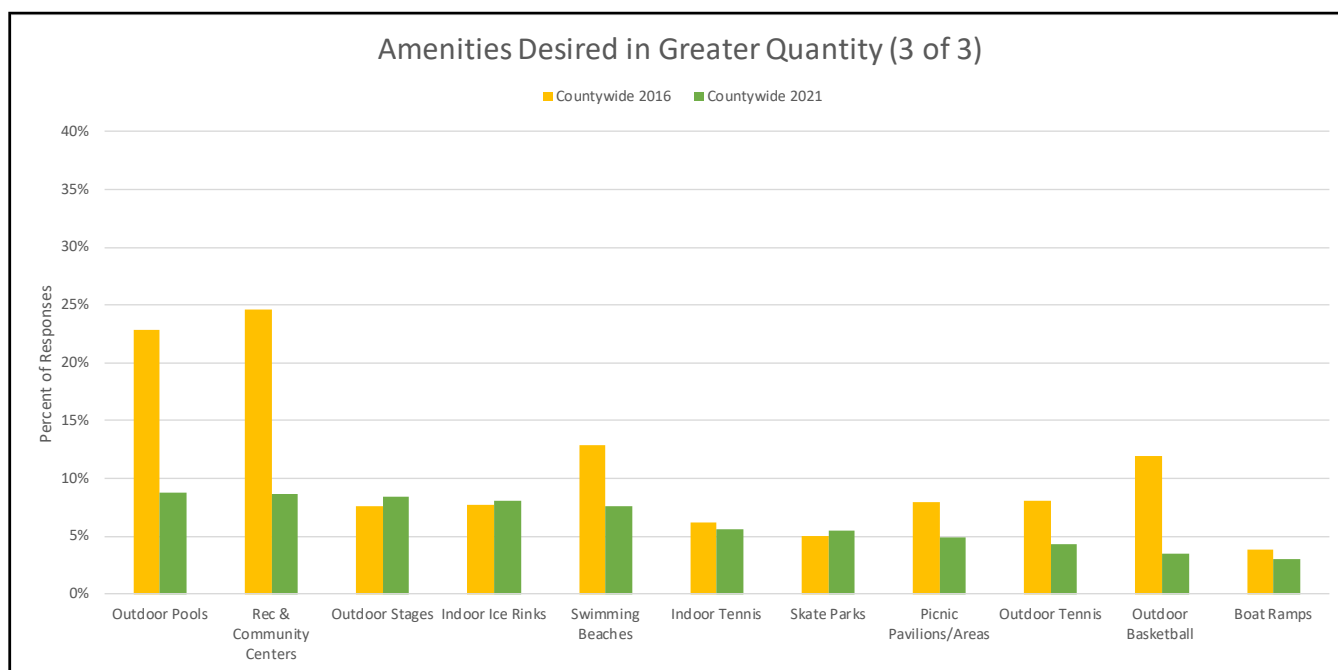


Figure 53. Bottom 11 Amenities Desired in Greater Quantity, 2016 and 2021

Seventeen amenities were selected by less than 10% of respondents. Spraygrounds/splashpads and disc golf courses, both new options for this survey, registered 9.3% and 9.4% of responses, respectively, indicating that these relatively new recreational amenities are already desired by many residents. Ball diamonds, outdoor pools, and recreation and community centers area all down from the 2016 survey, further demonstrating a shift in demand away from organized sports.

This question also had a free response option for indicating desired amenities beyond those listed. Multiple respondents indicated a desire for hunting areas and shooting/archery ranges (6), historical and agricultural centers (5), community gardens (4), additional parking (3), performing arts facilities (3), model rocket and drone areas (3), and golf and mini golf facilities (2), The results of this question varied spatially and are detailed by RPD group in Chapter 5, Goals and Objectives.

## Hypothetical Budget Allocations

Survey respondents were asked, "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." They were given the following options:

- Acquire additional sites for the sole purpose of preserving more green or open space
- Acquire additional sites on which to construct parks
- Improved maintenance and repair of existing parks and recreation facilities
- Provide additional diverse recreational facilities such as dog parks, skateboard parks, community gardens and disc golf courses
- Provide additional indoor recreation facilities such as recreation centers, gymnasiums and indoor sports fields
- Provide additional places to walk, jog or bicycle, including trails and paved paths
- Provide additional small-scale park amenities such as playgrounds, tot lots, picnic pavilions and picnic areas
- Provide additional traditional outdoor sports facilities such as ball diamonds, athletic fields and sports courts
- Provide more facilities dedicated to nature, the arts, history and culture, such as nature centers, theaters and outdoor stages

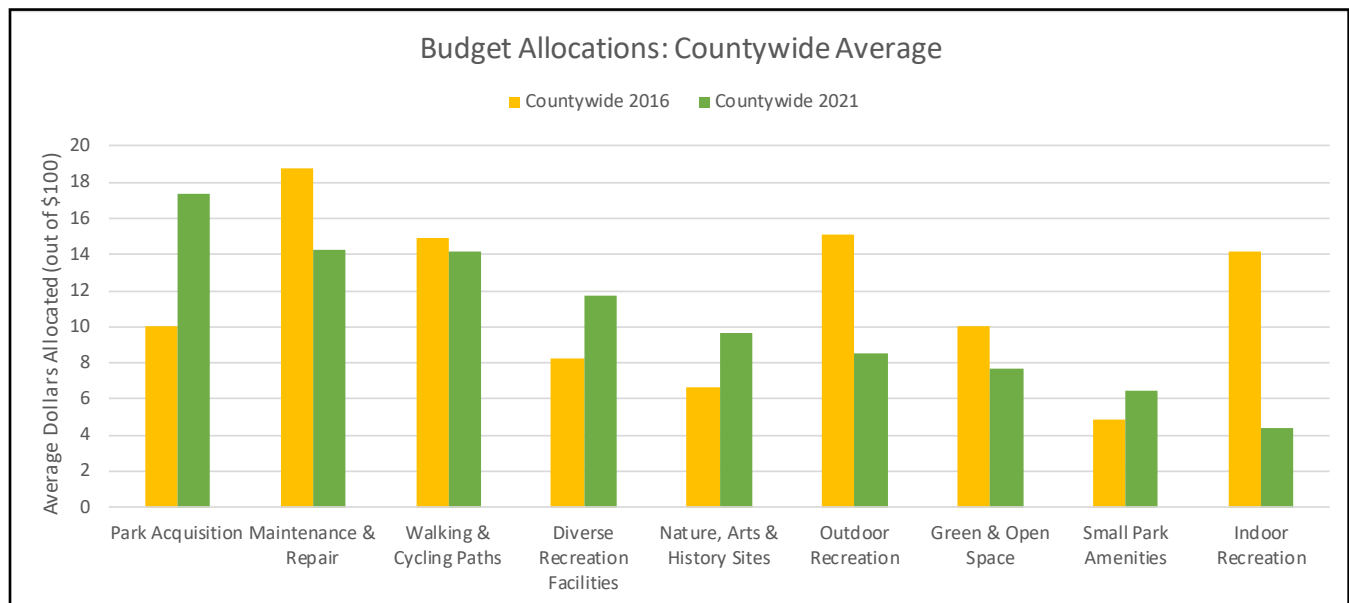


Figure 54. Average Budget Allocations, 2016 and 2021

Countywide, the category to which respondents allocated the highest dollar amount was park acquisition, followed by maintenance and repair, and walking and cycling paths. The desire for park acquisition increased significantly from 2016 (from \$10.05 to \$17.36 on average out of \$100). Maintenance and repair, which was valued highest in 2016 decreased (from \$18.76 to \$14.27), though it remains the number two priority for survey respondents.

There were significant decreases in the dollars allocated to outdoor and indoor sports facilities in respondents' hypothetical budget. This is in line with responses to the question of what amenities are desired in greater quantities, where the interest in additional athletic fields decreased. The results of this question varied spatially and are detailed by RPD group in Chapter 5, Goals and Objectives.