

# Open Space Meeting

## City of Bridgeport Plan of Conservation and Development





# AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. About “Plan Bridgeport”
3. Overview of the City’s Open Space
4. Interactive Survey
5. Open Space Case Studies
6. Break Out Sessions
7. Next Steps and Other Events



# Introduction to the Plan Bridgeport Team



City of Bridgeport Office of Planning and Economic Development: Project Management



Fitzgerald & Halliday: Lead Planning Consultant



Horsley Witten: Open Space Planning




# About Plan Bridgeport

- Plan Bridgeport is the process driving the creation of the City's Master Plan of Conservation and Development
- This plan is a guiding document that establishes a vision for growth and determines strategies to achieve that vision.
- The plan examines how economic development, housing, transportation, infrastructure, sustainability, public health, and the environment interact throughout Bridgeport.
- The plan allows for coordinated development that will protect and enhance the general welfare and prosperity of Bridgeport's residents, it's environment and amenities, and overall livability.

# Project Website and Survey

[www.planbridgeport.com](http://www.planbridgeport.com)



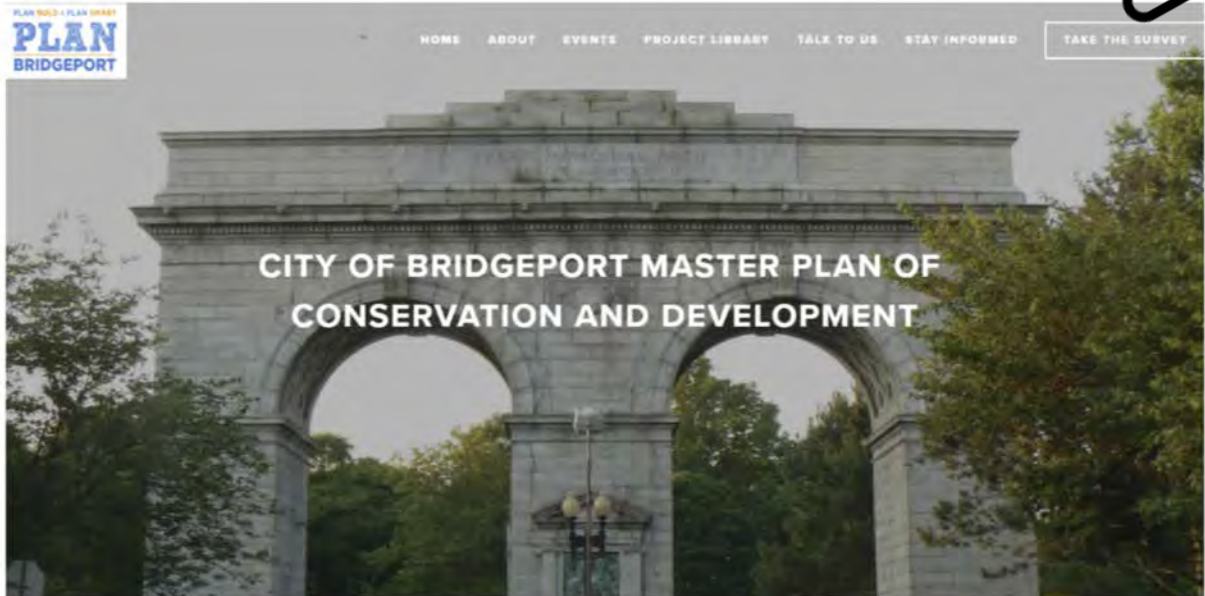
**TAKE OUR SURVEY**

A City's Master Plan of Conservation and Development is a guiding document that establishes a vision for growth and determines strategies to achieve that vision. This survey is designed to gain your input on economic development, housing, transportation, infrastructure, sustainability, public health, and the environment and how you hope to see Bridgeport grow over the next ten years and beyond. Your responses will help guide policy decisions for the 2018 City of Bridgeport Master Plan of Conservation and Development update.

We would love to hear from you!

Please click the button below to provide your thoughts and feedback on Bridgeport's vision for the next ten years.

[SURVEY](#)



**PLAN BRIDGEPORT**

HOME ABOUT EVENTS PROJECT LIBRARY TALK TO US STAY INFORMED [TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT MASTER PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**MASTER PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

A City's Master Plan of Conservation and Development is a guiding document that establishes a vision for growth and determines strategies to achieve that vision. The Master Plan examines how economic development, housing, transportation, infrastructure, sustainability, public health, and the environment interact throughout Bridgeport.

The Master Plan of Conservation and Development allows for coordinated development that will protect and enhance the general welfare and prosperity of Bridgeport's residents, its environment and amenities, and overall livability.

**PLAN BRIDGEPORT**

Curious about what your neighbors think of @CityofBptCT? Use the mapping tool to sort through other peoples pins a...

<https://t.co/WGV0Glxv9>

An hour ago



# Bridgeport's Open Space

The City has diverse and extensive open space resources:

- Parks
- Plazas
- Playgrounds
- Athletic Fields
- Conservation Areas
- Waterfront
- Beaches
- Private Open Space



# Bridgeport's Open Space

- The City's park system is comprised of 1,346 acres and more than 45 parks and playgrounds.
- This is 16% of Bridgeport's land area
- *This would cover almost half of the Town of Derby and is twice the area of New York's Central Park*





# Bridgeport's Open Space

- The Parks administration and maintenance budget is \$2.95 million in fiscal year 2019
- This represents 0.5% of the City's annual budget





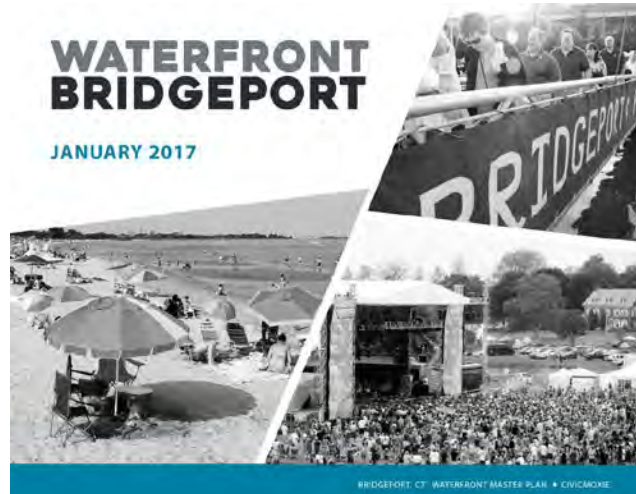
# Bridgeport's Open Space

Bridgeport has a strong legacy of planning for and preserving its open space system and environment:

- 2011 Parks Masterplan
- 2017 Waterfront Masterplan
- BGreen 2020



**BGreen 2020**  
A Sustainability Plan  
for Bridgeport, Connecticut



# Planning for Bridgeport's Open Space

- Bridgeport's plan will identify goals for the Open Space system and will specify the strategies and actions necessary to realize those goals
- The plan will build upon prior planning work and will prioritize the recommendations of those studies
- Public input via this workshop, the project survey, and other public events will shape the plan and its recommendations
- Tonight's meeting will help shape the City's priorities for its open space system



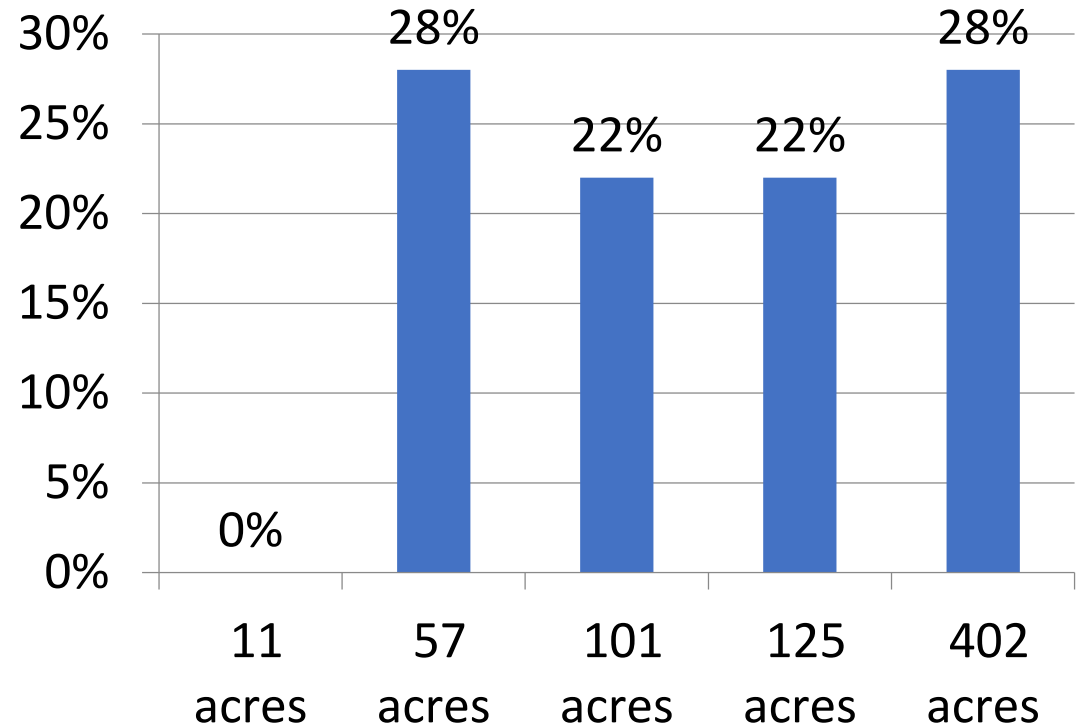
# Interactive Survey

- Use numbered keys only
- Select the number that corresponds with your selection on the slide
- To change your selection, select another number



# TRIVIA: How many acres is Beardsley Park?

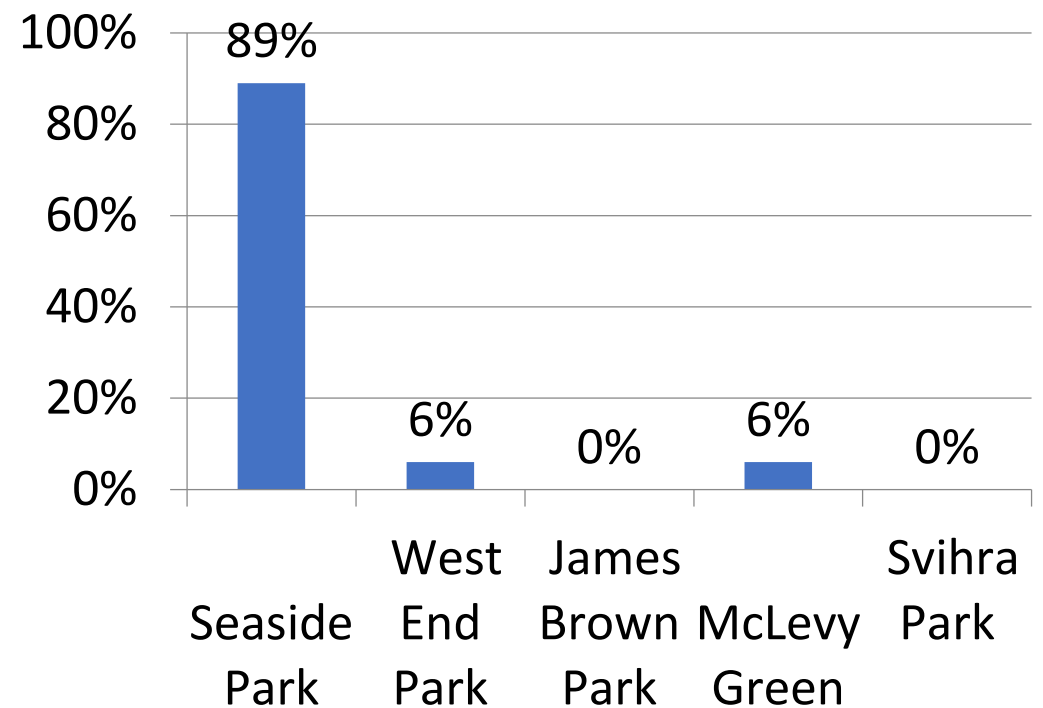
1. 11 acres
2. 57 acres
3. 101 acres
4. 125 acres
5. 402 acres





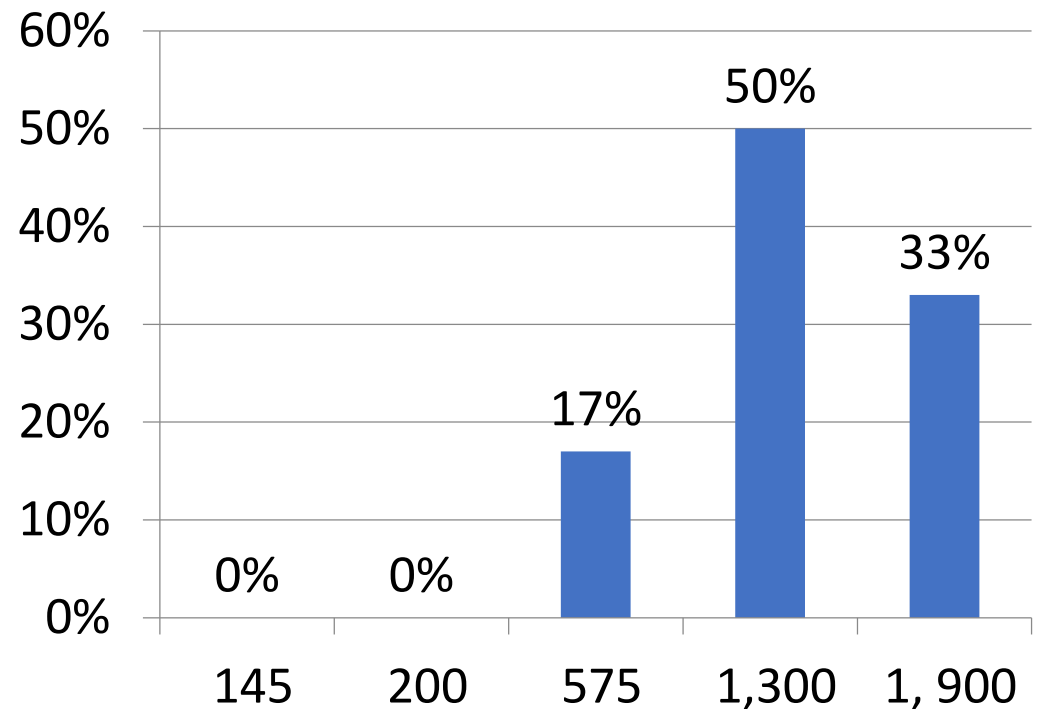
# TRIVIA: Frederick Law Olmsted designed Central Park, he also designed....

1. Seaside Park
2. West End Park
3. James Brown Park
4. McLevy Green
5. Svihra Park



# TRIVIA: Bridgeport is named the “Park City”, how many acres of public space does it have?

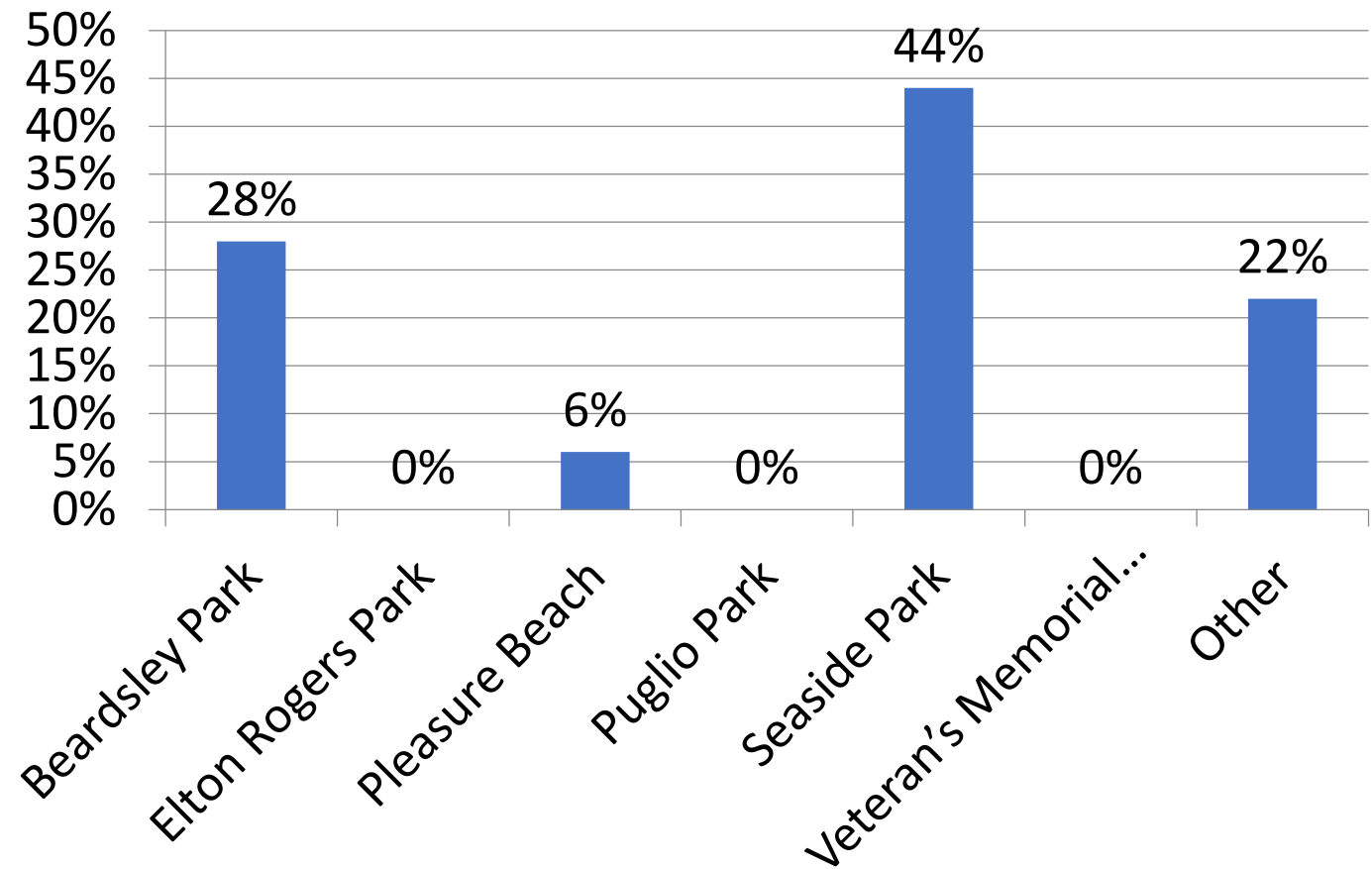
1. 145
2. 200
3. 575
4. 1,300
5. 1,900





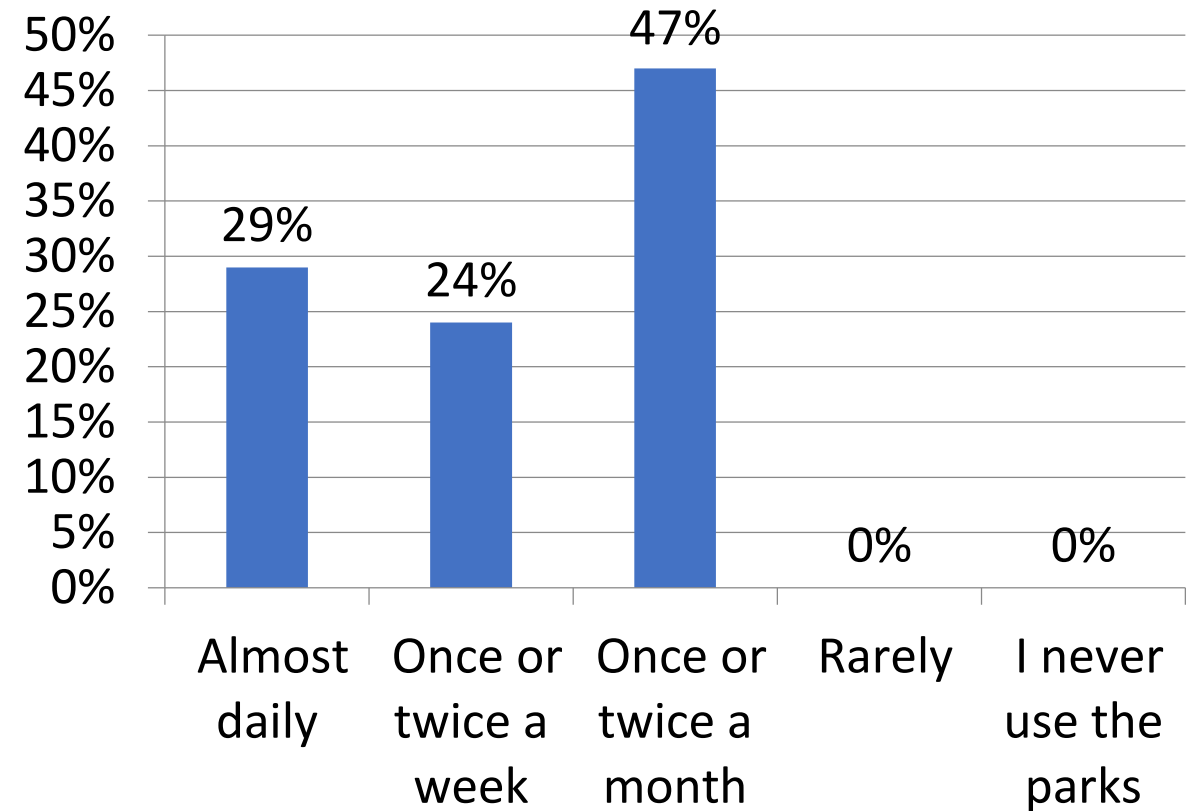
# What parks do you use the most?

1. Beardsley Park
2. Elton Rogers Park
3. Pleasure Beach
4. Puglio Park
5. Seaside Park
6. Veteran's Memorial Park
7. Other



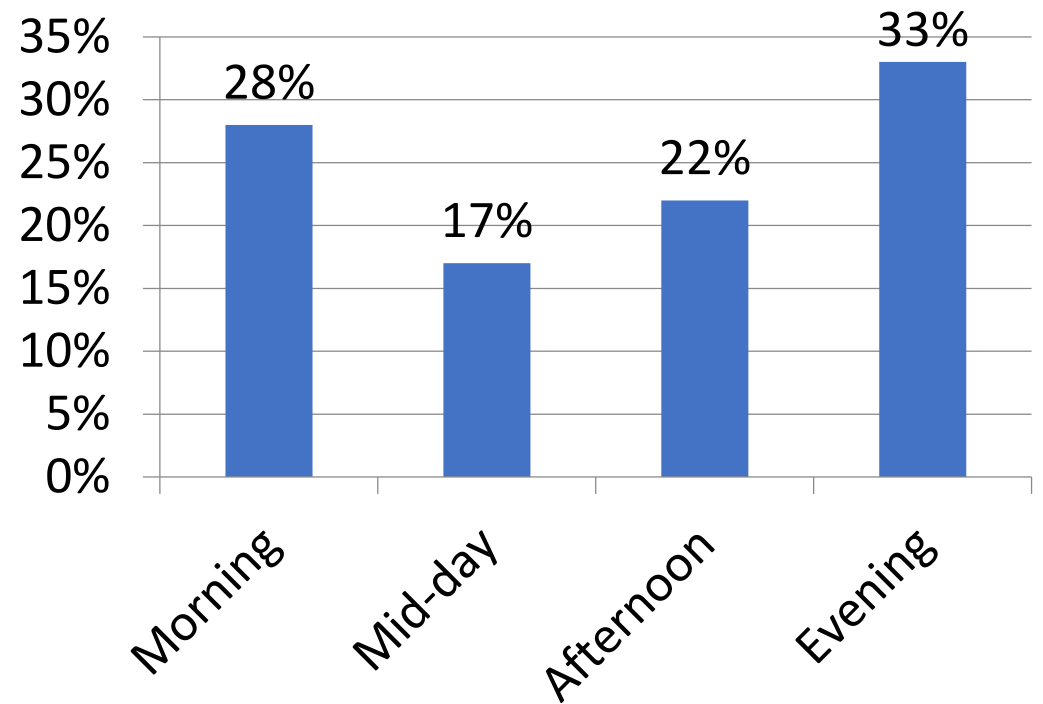
# How often do you use the parks?

1. Almost daily
2. Once or twice a week
3. Once or twice a month
4. Rarely
5. I never use the parks



# What hours do you typically use the parks?

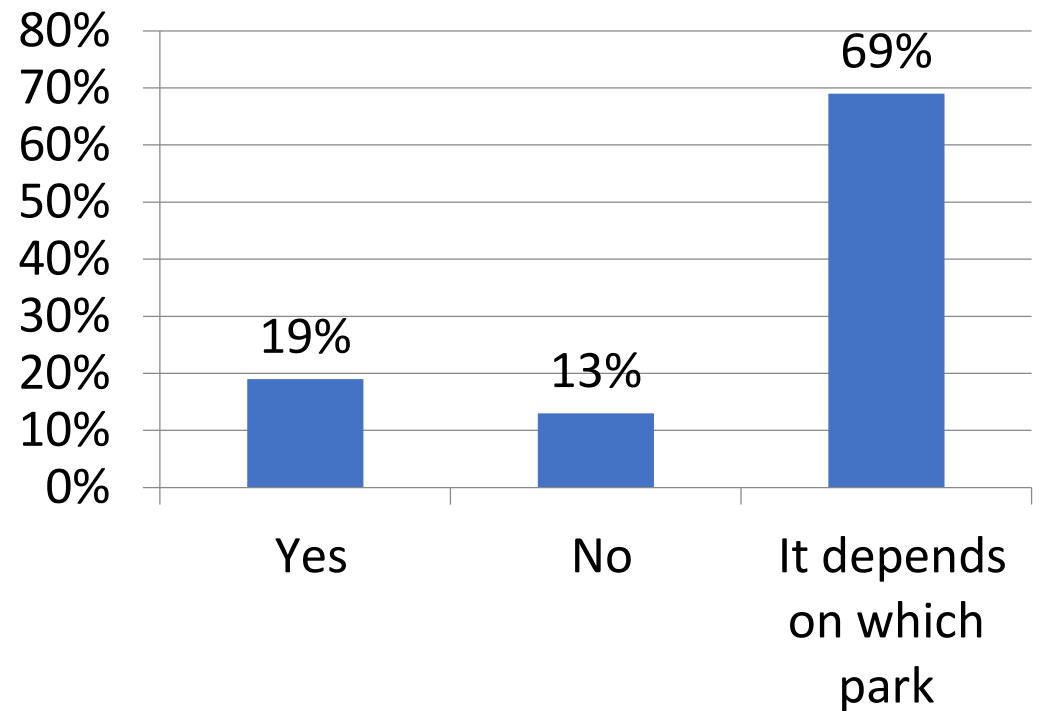
1. Morning
2. Mid-day
3. Afternoon
4. Evening





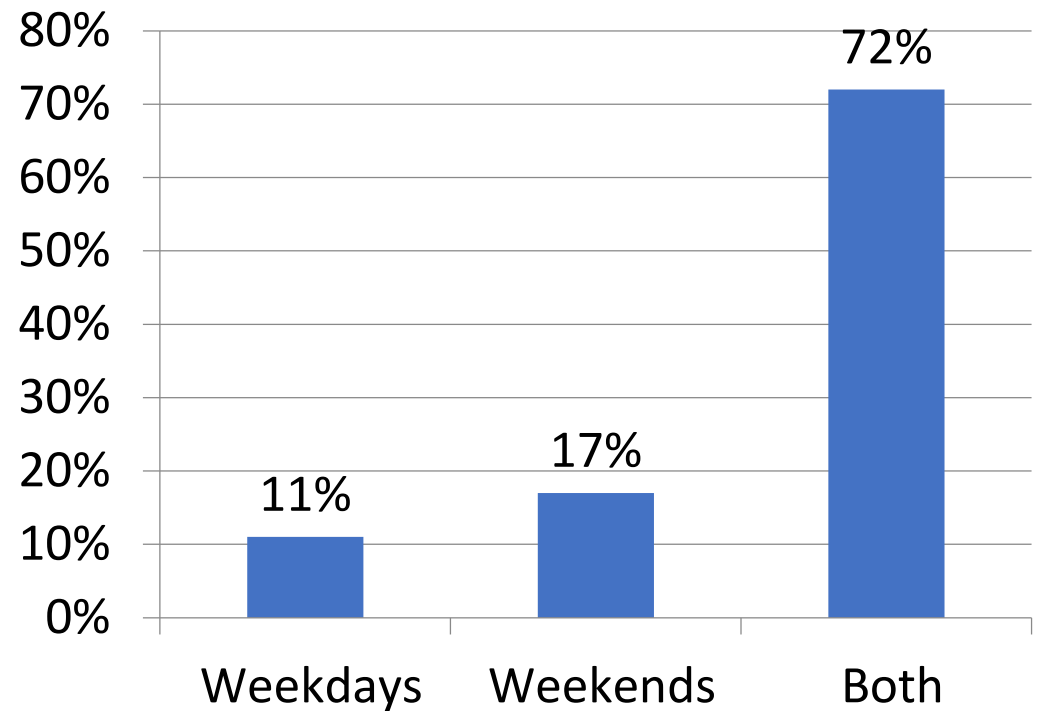
# Should park hours be expanded?

1. Yes
2. No
3. It depends on which park



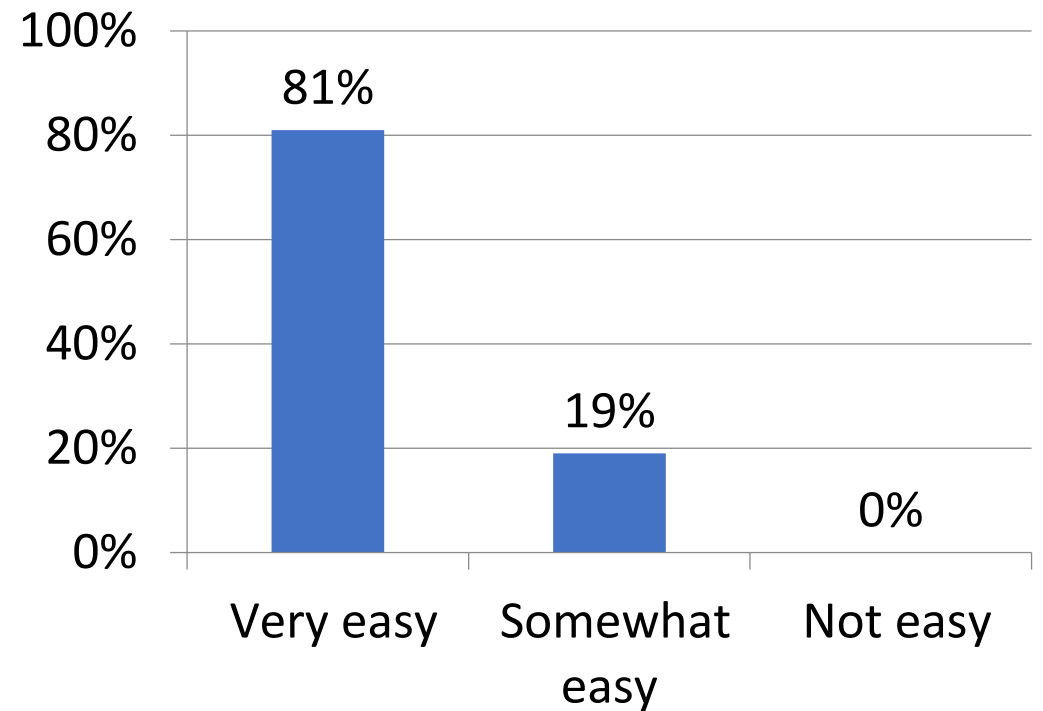
# What days do you typically use the parks?

1. Weekdays
2. Weekends
3. Both



# How easy is it for you to get to the parks?

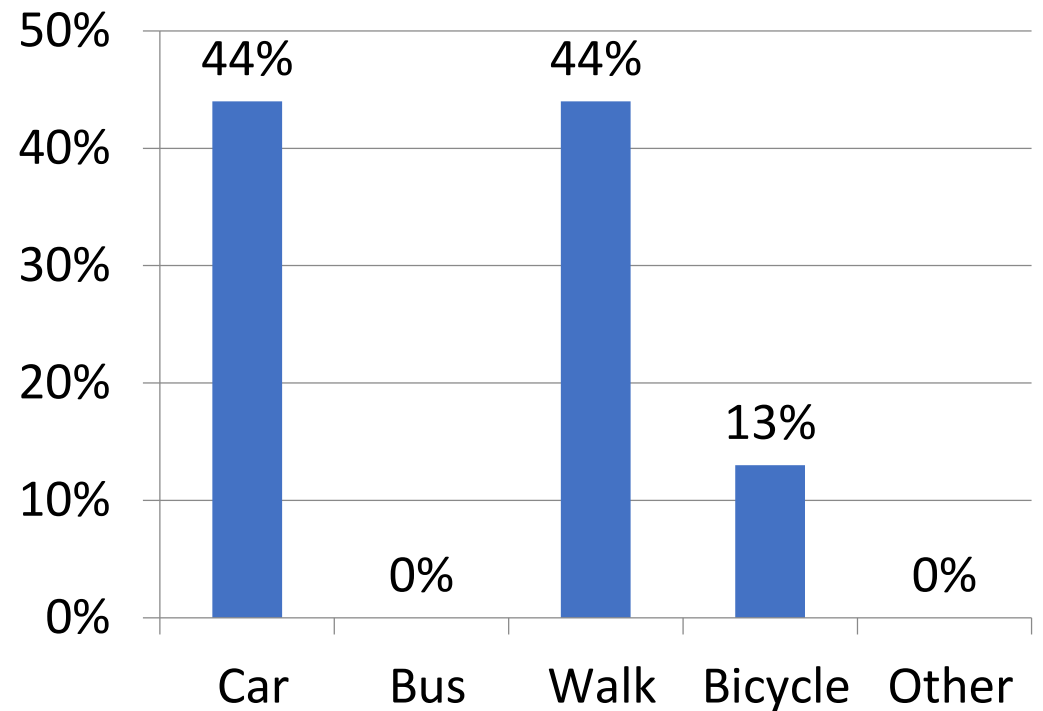
1. Very easy
2. Somewhat easy
3. Not easy





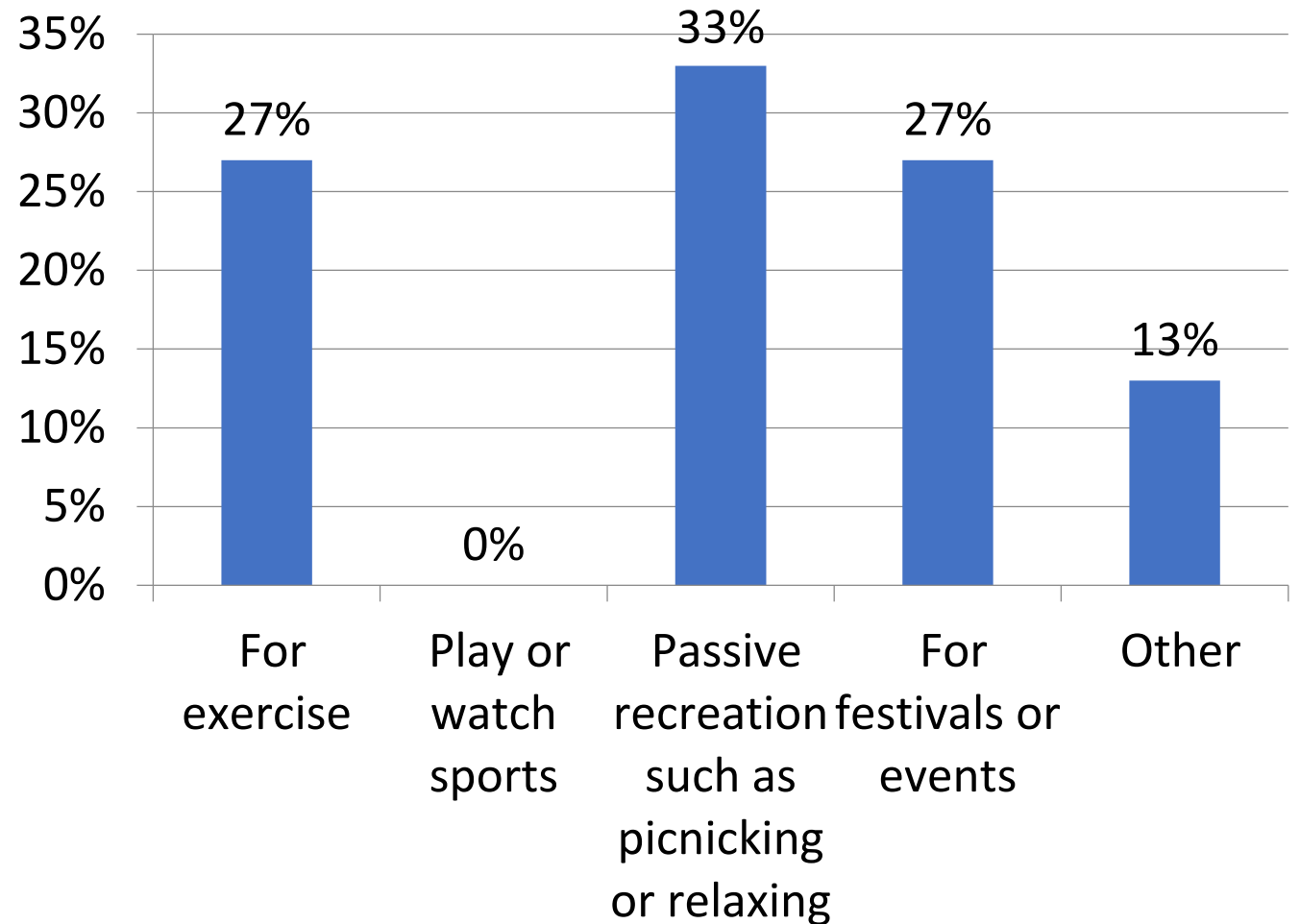
# How do you usually get to the parks?

1. Car
2. Bus
3. Walk
4. Bicycle
5. Other



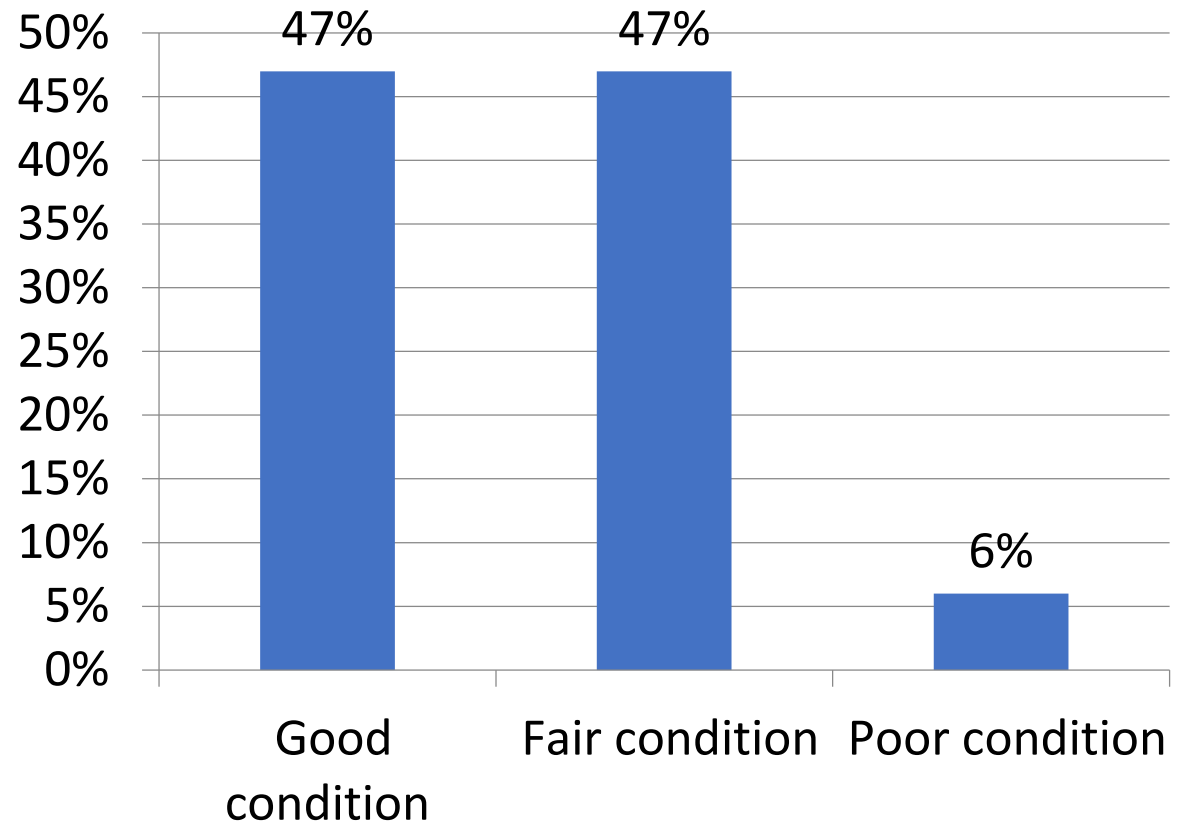
# How do you typically use the parks?

1. For exercise
2. Play or watch sports
3. Passive recreation  
such as picnicking or  
relaxing
4. For festivals or events
5. Other



# How would you rate the condition of the parks?

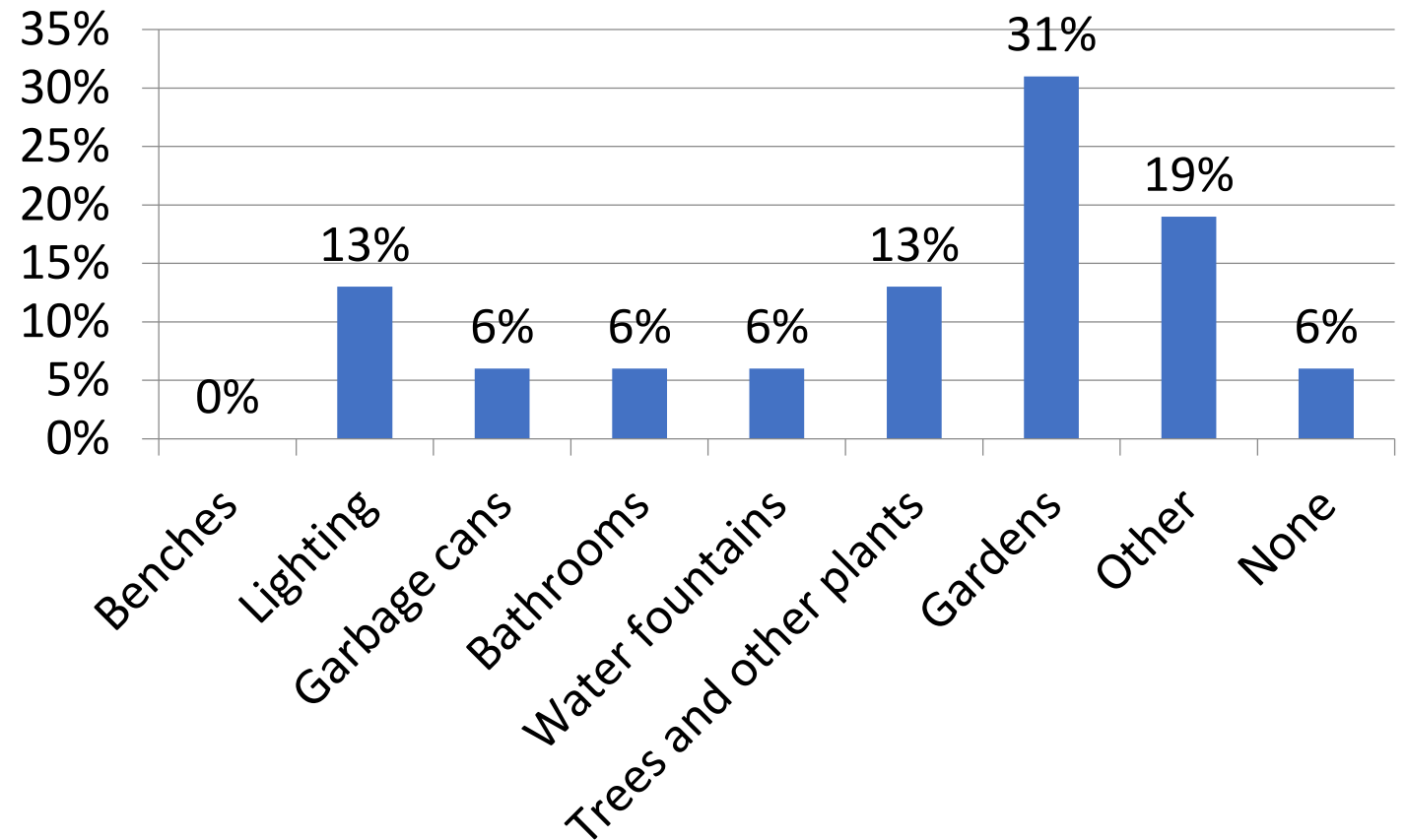
1. Good condition
2. Fair condition
3. Poor condition





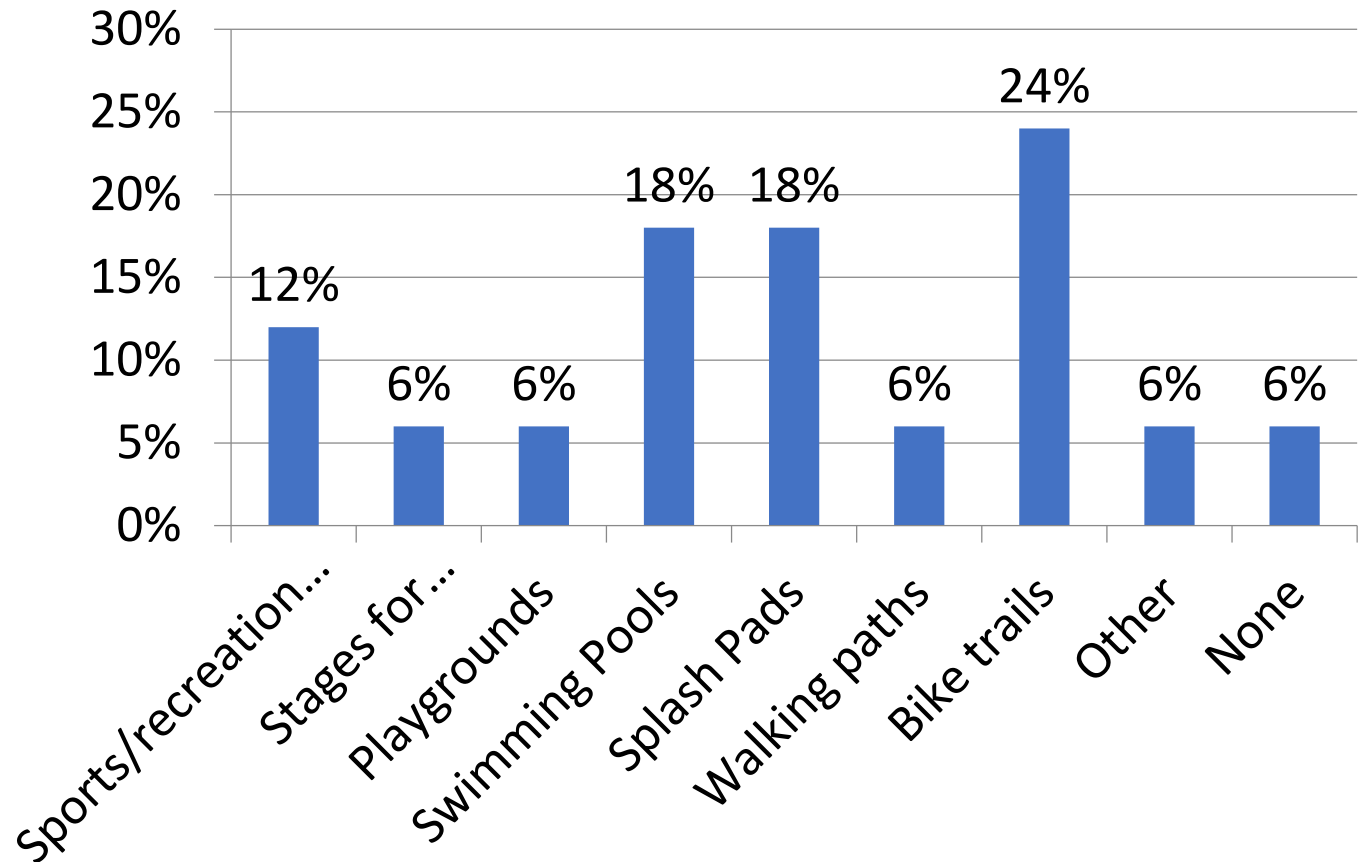
# What amenity is most needed in the parks?

1. Benches
2. Lighting
3. Garbage cans
4. Bathrooms
5. Water fountains
6. Trees and other plants
7. Gardens
8. Other
9. None



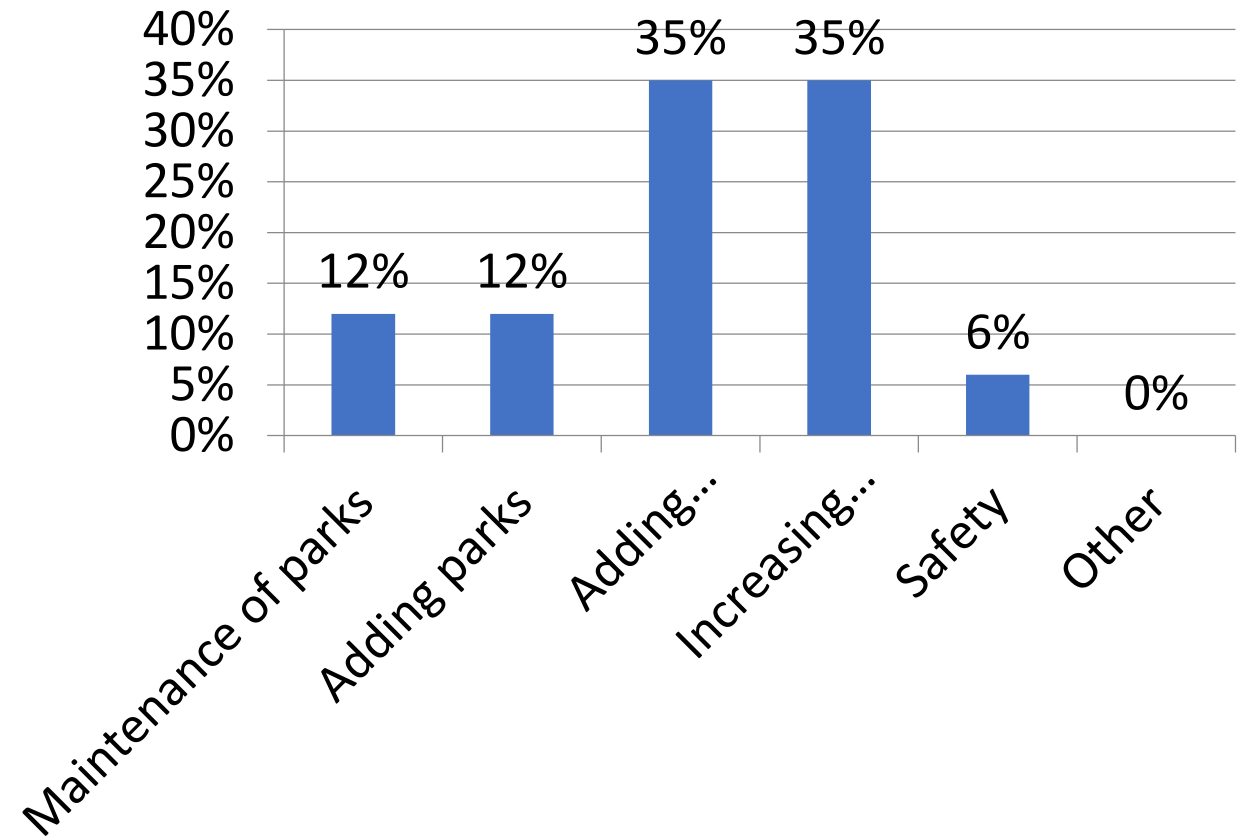
# What type of park facility is most needed in the parks?

1. Sports/recreation fields
2. Stages for performances
3. Playgrounds
4. Swimming Pools
5. Splash Pads
6. Walking paths
7. Bike trails
8. Other
9. None



# What should the City's top priority be regarding the parks?

1. Maintenance of parks
2. Adding parks
3. Adding trails/greenways
4. Increasing recreation programs/ services
5. Safety
6. Other





# Great Job!

*We will now collect “clickers”*



# Case Studies in Open Space Planning





# Programming

## Providence Parks

- Partnership for Providence Parks – over 30 partnering groups working on programming and design
- Downtown Parks Conservancy – Focuses on the Downtown core.
- Providence Parks (municipal) – Core programming for recreation and maintenance.



# (Intense) Community Outreach

## Middletown on the Move

- Examining Brownfields as potential Recreation Assets
- Intensive Public Outreach
  - Community Meetings
  - Bus Tours
  - Pop Up Events (parks and parklets)





# Parks as Infrastructure

## Boston Parks Green Infrastructure Guide

- Boston Parks wanted to “rethink” the idea of Green Infrastructure
- Move away from just small-scale stormwater quality treatment
- Think about flood storage and potentially bigger solutions
- Think about ecosystem benefits

Design Guidelines

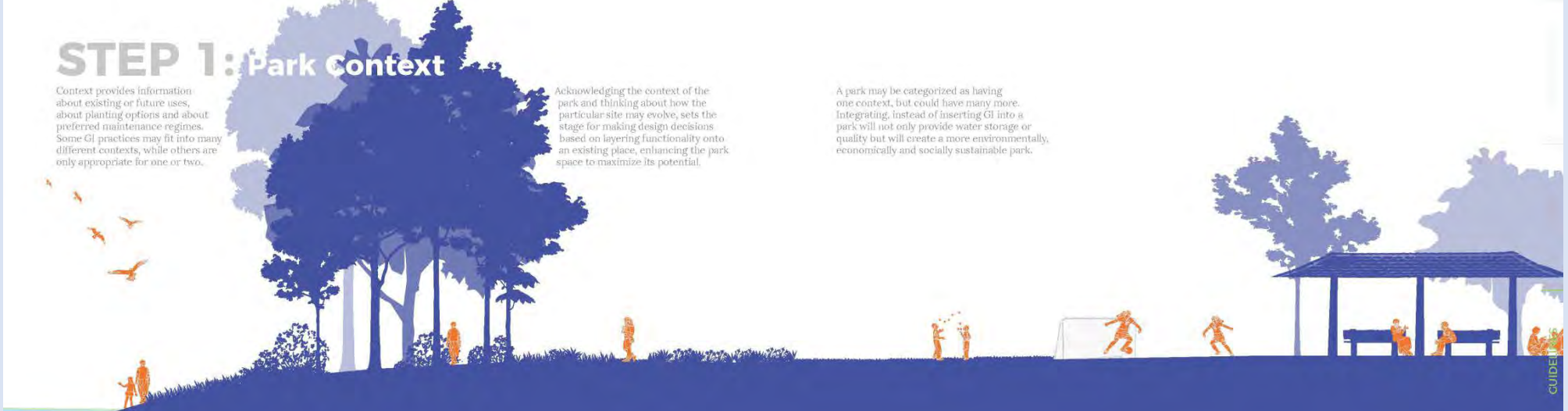


# STEP 1: Park Context

Context provides information about existing or future uses, about planting options and about preferred maintenance regimes. Some GI practices may fit into many different contexts, while others are only appropriate for one or two.

Acknowledging the context of the park and thinking about how the particular site may evolve, sets the stage for making design decisions based on layering functionality onto an existing place, enhancing the park space to maximize its potential.

A park may be categorized as having one context, but could have many more. Integrating, instead of inserting GI into a park will not only provide water storage or quality but will create a more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable park.



## WATERFRONT

Waterfronts are the interface between parks and rivers, ponds, lakes, and the ocean.

## WOODLAND

Woodlands are defined by areas of dense tree plantings, typically with high, closed tree canopy and a sparse understory.

## MEADOW

Meadows are areas of diverse grass species that are maintained by seasonal or infrequent mowing. They can cover large areas or serve as edge conditions between other spaces.

## OPEN LAWN

Open lawns are typically medium to large areas within a park where visitors participate in passive recreation, informal activities: kite-flying, informal ball games, and event gatherings.

## SPORTS FIELD

Sports facilities are designated areas for playing a single sport or game, such as soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, bocce, etc.

## STRUCTURE

Structures are often incorporated into park landscapes as covers for visitor amenities such as seating or restrooms. They can also include maintenance buildings or sites of historical interest.

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GUIDELINES | PAGE 19



## PLAYGROUND

Playgrounds are designated areas for children that can include a wide array of play equipment or a splash pad. Areas vary in size and number according to the neighborhood's requirements.

## DOG PARK

Dog parks are enclosed areas where dogs can play in a secure off-leash environment. Areas vary in size and number according to the neighborhood's requirements.

## GARDEN

Gardens consist of designed and maintained planting areas. These spaces can include perennial beds, shrubs and woody plantings or community gardens. They are typically mulched and often irrigated.

## HARDSCAPE

Hardscapes can include plazas, seating areas, and paved surfaces. These areas typically include amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, and lighting.

## PARKING LOT

Parking lots are typically large areas of paved park surface with lighting and both pedestrian and vehicular accessibility.

## RIGHT-OF-WAY

Right-of-ways (ROWS) can exist along small residential streets to large boulevards or arteries. ROWs can include street curbs, sidewalks, street trees, and landscape edges.

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GUIDELINES | PAGE 21

GUIDELINES

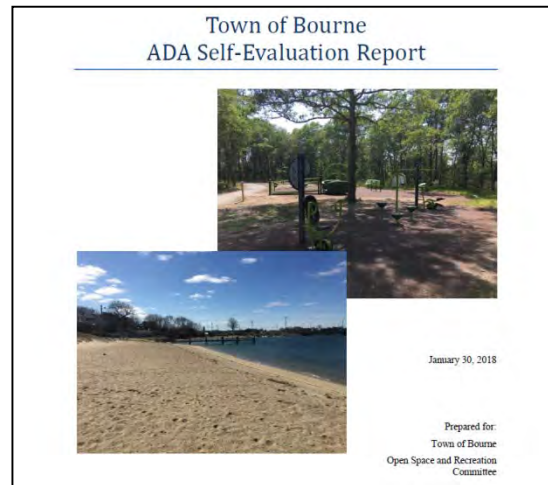
GUIDELINES

IMPLEMENTATION

# Parks Accessibility

## Bourne, Massachusetts

- Working town-wide to identify problems with accessibility at every municipal facility.
- Develop a comprehensive “Transition Plan” for each property.
- Take an incremental approach recognizing limits in funding and human resources.



Facility Inventory		Location: Canal Crossing Park / Inclusive Playg
ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes Access to Open Spaces Yes Back and Arm Rests Yes Adequate number Yes
	Grills N/A	Height of Cooking Surface
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
	Picnic Shelters N/A	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Trails		Surface material Paved / packed gravel Dimensions 4' Rails No Signage (for visually impaired) No
Swimming Facilities	Pools N/A	Entrance
	Beaches N/A	Location from accessible parking Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired Location from accessible path into water Handrails Location from accessible parking Shade provided
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all Yes
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes Enough space between equipment for wheelchair Yes
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes N/A	Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Equipment N/A	Berm cuts onto courts Height Dimensions Spectator Seating



# Partnerships/Communication

## (Open Space and Recreation Plan/Recreation Master Plan - Dedham, MA)

### Partnerships:

- Worked with local watershed associations (Neponset River Watershed Association and Charles River Watershed Association)
  - Evaluate open space/park sites appropriate for improved water quality via stormwater retrofits
  - Provide pedestrian/boat access (including universal access)

### Communication:

- Updating Open Space and Recreation Plan to include Communication goal:
  - Communication across municipal departments, Boards/Commissions, Parks and Recreation website (program listing, registration, etc.)
  - Communication with private open space/recreation organizations to share common agendas



# Alternatives Analysis

## (National Grid Easement Trail Feasibility Study – Warren/Bristol, RI)

Towns of Warren and Bristol, RI worked with national Grid to evaluate feasibility of an off-road trail system to improve safety and access of residents utilizing busy Metacom Avenue.

- Evaluated access to/from residential neighborhoods.
- Evaluated destinations/nodes along the easement.
- Coordinated with operational needs of utility.



# Public Health

## Rhode Island Health Equity Zones Initiative

Mission: To eliminate health disparities using place-based strategies to promote healthy communities.

- Use place-based strategies to promote healthy communities.
- Collaborate with 10 Health Equity Zones throughout Rhode Island to implement work plans over a four year period that began in 2015.
- Support innovative approaches to prevent chronic diseases, improve birth outcomes, and improve the social and environmental conditions of neighborhoods across the state.
- Develop community needs assessments and work plans.
- Engage the community to reach the identified public health goals.

# Public Health

## Bristol Health Equity Zones Initiative

- Completed Baseline Assessment of Health Needs in the Community.
- Conducted Interviews and Focus Groups to identify gaps in services/programming.
- Established Collaborative of social service agencies, decision-makers, business owners, and residents.
- Established Working Groups under four primary topic areas.
- Created Work Plan that included strategies/initiatives to fill the gaps in services/programming and meet the needs of residents.





# Public Health

**Physical Activity Working Group...to address mobility, connectivity, and access across the community:**

- Conducted Pre-Walk and Bike Audits to better understand what to evaluate
- Conducted Walk and Bike Audits
- Held Public Workshop to convey findings/rally support for Resolution/Ordinance.
- Developing Green/Complete Streets Plan for the Town.

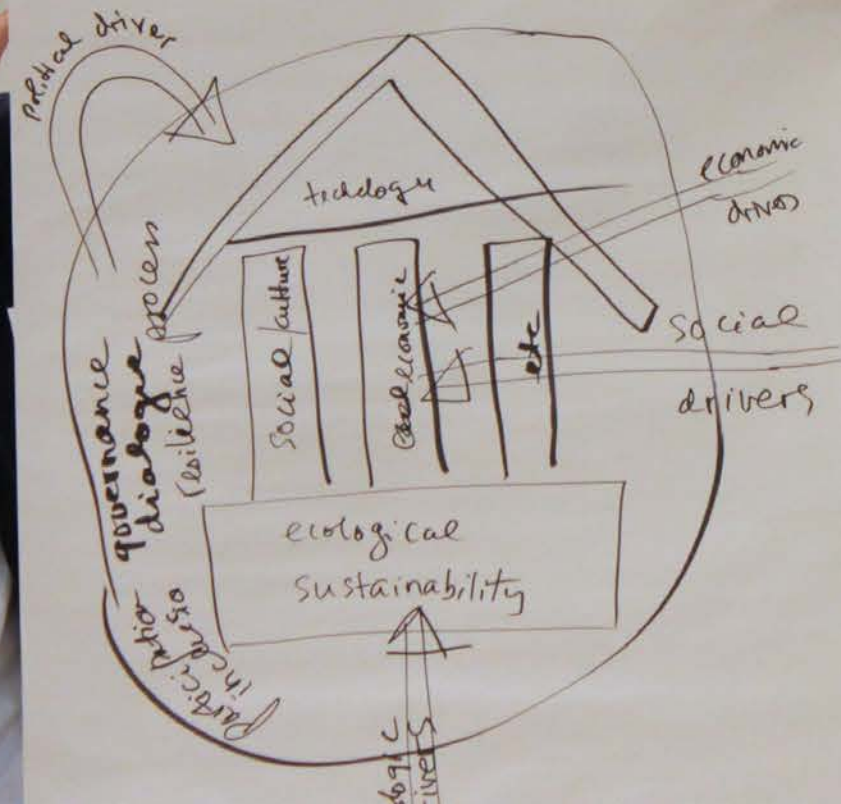


## Break Out Sessions

Break into groups of 10 or less people







Please report  
your findings





OUR VISION FOR THE  
OF BRIDGEPORT?

# Upcoming Events





# Upcoming Pop-up Events

▲ WHAT

📅 WHEN

📍 WHERE

Annual Senior BBQ

September 5

Seaside Park



# Upcoming Thematic Meetings

 THEME	 WHEN	 WHERE
Transportation Meeting	6PM, Thursday, September 6	10 Middle Street
Quality of Life/Equity Meeting	10AM, Saturday, September 8	Ralphola Taylor Community Center
Economic Development Meeting	6PM, Wednesday, September 12	Beardsley School
Arts and Culture Meeting	10AM, Saturday, September 15	University of Bridgeport, Tower Room
Housing Meeting	6PM, Wednesday, September 19	Johnson School



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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