



**Sycamore Park District  
Community Survey-DRAFT**

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Prepared for Sycamore Park District  
Produced by Northern Illinois University, Center for Governmental Studies



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**Center for Governmental Studies**

*Outreach, Engagement, and Regional Development*



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# ***Executive Summary***

The Sycamore Park District commissioned the Center for Governmental Studies (CGS) at Northern Illinois University to conduct a survey of a random sample of households to gather their opinions about the Sycamore Park District's facilities, programs, and services, and to determine residents' recreation needs. The findings of the survey will be used for strategic planning. A total of 516 households completed the survey.

## **Perceptions of the Sycamore Park District**

- A large majority of respondents stated that the Sycamore Park District is valuable both to their community and to their own household.
  - Almost all (95.9%) reported that the Park District is very or somewhat valuable to their *community*.
  - 89.5% indicated that the Park District is very or somewhat valuable to their *household*.
- Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement 'Members of my household feel we belong at the Sycamore Park District'. Overwhelmingly, 85.8% respondents agreed with the statement.
- Only respondents who identify with a disability or have a member of their household who identifies with a disability were asked to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the statement 'The Sycamore Park District has effectively provided accommodations'. Of the 31.1% of respondents who answered the question, the majority (74.7%) agreed that the Park District had effectively provided accommodations.

## **Awareness and Use of the Sycamore Park District**

- The majority of respondents were aware of the parks, facilities, and services asked about in the survey. The Kishwaukee Special Recreation partnership and the financial assistance scholarship for programs received the lowest response proportions for both awareness and likely use.
  - Four-fifths or more of respondents were aware of the golf course (94.8%), neighborhood parks and playgrounds (89.8%), community center/pathway fitness (84.9%), and splash pad (80.0%).
  - Respondents indicated their household would be most likely to use in the next 12 months the trail systems (79.1%), neighborhood parks and playgrounds (76.8%), and natural areas (74.4%).

## **Support for Improvements or Additions to Parks, Facilities and Programming**

- Respondents reported being supportive of all suggested improvements or additions; at least 77% were very or somewhat supportive of each of the 6 types of suggested improvements.

- The options which received the greatest proportions of 'very supportive' responses were trail and pathways developments (70.1%) and buying or acquiring land for future parks of recreation facilities (58.6%).

### **Park District Funding**

- Respondents were asked if they would support or oppose a referendum that cost a homeowner with a home value of \$300,000 an additional \$199 per year for twenty years to build a new aquatics facility in Sycamore. A plurality (46.8%) of respondents responded that they would support such a referendum, 29.5% of respondents indicated they would oppose it, and nearly one-fourth (23.7%) of respondents were unsure if they would support or oppose the potential referendum.
- The majority (70.5%) of respondents believe the portion of their property taxes paid to the Sycamore Park District is 'reasonable' when considering the value of Park District services. Interestingly, more respondents (19.7%) believe the property tax levy is 'too low' than 'too high' (7.4%).

### **Sources of Information About the Park District**

- The greatest percentages of respondents receive information about Sycamore Park District from the program catalog that is mailed seasonally (77.8%), word of mouth; for instance, from friends or neighbors (55.6%), and the Park District Website (46.7%).

# ***Introduction***

## **Background and Purpose**

The Sycamore District commissioned the Center for Governmental Studies (CGS) at Northern Illinois University to conduct a survey of residents to gather their opinions about the Sycamore Park District's facilities, programs, and services, and to determine residents' recreation needs. A multi-mode survey (online, mail, and telephone reminder calls) was conducted with a random sample of households in the Park District's service area. The findings of the survey will be used for strategic planning.

## **Methodology**

### ***Questionnaire***

A 22-question questionnaire was developed by CGS and the Sycamore Park District staff.

The following topics were included in the questionnaire:

- Awareness and use of Sycamore Park District
- Future Direction of the Sycamore Park District
- Perceptions of Sycamore Park District
- Value of Sycamore Park District
- Information/Communication about the Sycamore Park District
- Respondent's Personal and Household Characteristics

The questionnaire may be found in Appendix A.

### ***Sample***

A random sample of 2,000 households within the Sycamore Park District service area was provided by the Marketing Systems Group, a survey sampling firm. The sample included names, email addresses, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers.

### ***Pretest***

CGS pretested the questionnaire with approximately 20 households. The pretest was designed to gauge whether the respondents understood the questions being asked and could provide the necessary information.

## ***Data Collection***

Each household in the random sample was sent an invitation email with a unique ID code and a link to the survey. This email may be found in Appendix A.

Follow-up communications are important to get responses from as high a proportion of the sample as possible, as harder to reach respondents often have different experiences and responses than easier to reach respondents. Therefore, CGS sent up to six reminder emails to those who did not respond after the initial email. The questionnaire and a cover letter were mailed to those who did not complete the survey online (See Appendix B for cover letter). Reminder calls were made to those who did not complete either the survey online or through the mail (See Appendix A for reminder call script).

The survey was open from March 11, 2024 to May 8, 2024.

A total of 516 completed surveys were received. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.2 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence.

## ***Data Analysis***

### ***Weighting***

The Sycamore Park District community survey data was weighted on age, gender, ethnicity and annual household income using information from the 2018-2022 American Community Survey. Data weighting on key demographic variables ensures that respondents to the survey are representative of the population of all adults in the Sycamore Park District service area and that the findings can be generalized to the total adult population.

### ***Frequency Analysis***

This report provides frequency analysis of quantitative variables and summaries of qualitative responses.

For qualitative variables (open-ended questions), summaries are provided where they are relevant. Where necessary, these variables have been coded by CGS staff. The full text of all qualitative variables can be found in Appendix B.



## Analysis by Demographic Variables

This report also provides analysis by the following demographic variables.

### *Household characteristics*

- By household's location within the Sycamore Park District
- By whether any household members are children under the age of 18
- By whether any household members are adults aged 65 or greater
- By whether someone in the household identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender
- By whether someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino
- By the 2023 household income

### *Respondent demographic characteristics*

- By respondent's gender
- By respondent's age
- By years living in the Park District service area

Additionally, the question about the potential referendum by the pool was analyzed by several other variables:

- By whether the respondent considers the amount of taxes paid to the Park District to be too high, reasonable, or too low
- By perception of the Park District's value *to their community*
- By perception of the Park District's value *to their household*
- By whether household members feel they belong at the Park District
- By whether the household agrees that the Park District has effectively provided accommodations to a household member with a disability

When results for these comparisons are presented, they are meaningful and statistically significant at the  $p \leq 0.05$  level. Results for these comparisons which were not meaningful and/or statistically significant are not presented in this report.

Comparisons between small groups are not statistically reliable. Therefore, in this study, few comparisons by ethnicity could be made; the only ethnicity which was able to support reliable comparisons by was whether or not any household member was Hispanic or Latino. Additionally, comparisons could not be made by the primary language spoken in the household.

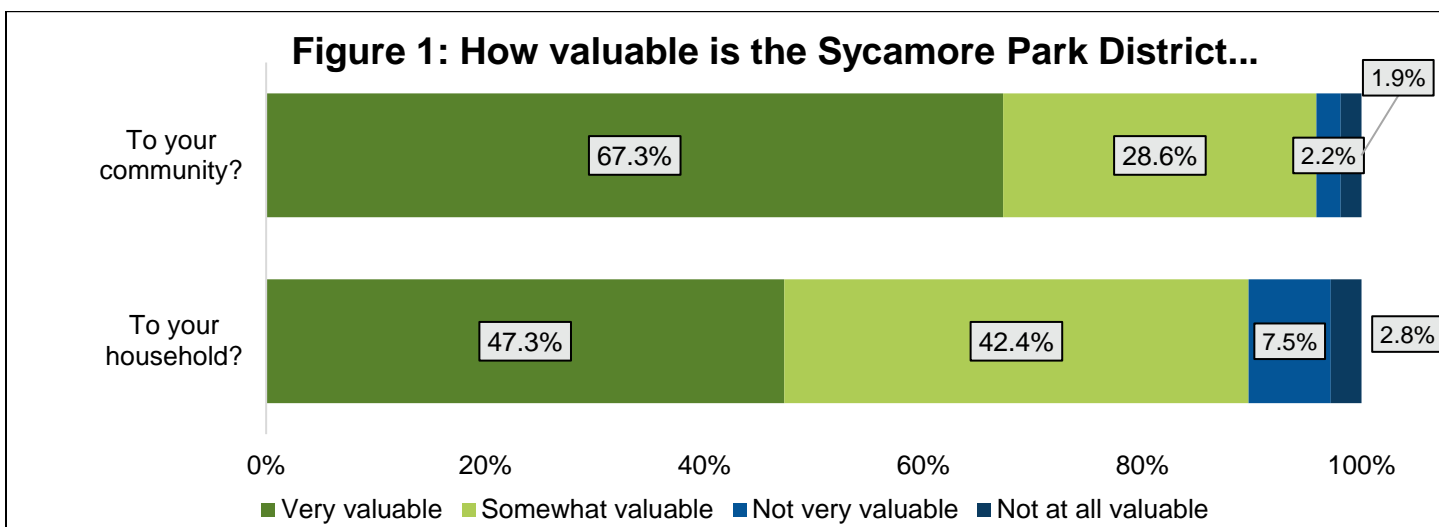
# Survey Findings

## Perceptions of the Sycamore Park District

### *Value of the Sycamore Park District*

Respondents were asked how valuable Sycamore Park District is to their community and to their household. (Figure 1).

A large majority of respondents stated that the Sycamore Park District is valuable both *to their community* and to *their own household*. Almost all respondents (95.9%) said the Park District is either very (67.3%) or somewhat (28.6%) valuable *to the community*. Nearly 9 in 10 (89.7%) said the Park District is very (47.3%) or somewhat (42.4%) valuable *to their household*.



### Value of Park District to Community by Demographic Characteristics

Overall, 67.3% of respondents reported that the Park District is very valuable *to their community*. However, differences were found in the *likelihood of considering the Park District to be very valuable to their community* by some demographic characteristics.

#### Household Demographic Characteristics (Table 1, next page)

- Respondents who have someone in their household greater than 65 years of age were *more likely* than respondents who do not have someone in their household greater than 65 years of age to indicate that the Park District is very valuable *to their community*,
- Respondents who have someone in their household who identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender are *less likely* than respondents who do not have someone in

their household who identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender to indicate that the Park District is very valuable to *their community*, and

- The percentage of respondents who indicate that the Park District is very valuable to *their community increases* as household income increases.

Table 1: Value of Park District to Community by Household Demographic Characteristics			
<b>Household includes adults aged 65 or greater</b>		<b>Very Valuable</b>	<b>Somewhat Valuable, Not Very Valuable, or Not At All Valuable</b>
	Yes, household includes adults aged 65 or greater	77.0%	23.0%
	Household does not include adults aged 65 or greater	63.8%	36.2%
<b>Someone in then household identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender</b>		<b>Very Valuable</b>	<b>Somewhat Valuable, Not Very Valuable, or Not At All Valuable</b>
	Yes, someone in the household identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender	47.6%	52.4%
	No one in the household identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender	68.1%	31.9%
<b>2023 Household Income</b>		<b>Very Valuable</b>	<b>Somewhat Valuable, Not Very Valuable, or Not At All Valuable</b>
	Less than \$25,000	48.4%	51.6%
	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	67.2%	32.8%
	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	66.7%	33.3%
	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	68.3%	31.7%
	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	77.0%	23.0%
	\$150,000 or more	75.2%	24.8%

Respondent Characteristics (Table 2)

- The percentage of respondents who indicate that the Park District is very valuable to *their community increases* as respondent’s age increases, and
- Respondents who had lived in the Park District for more than 2 years to 5 years were *more likely* to say that the Park District is very valuable to *their community* than any other age group.

Table 2: Value of Park District to Community by Respondent Demographic Characteristics			
<b>Age</b>		<b>Very Valuable</b>	<b>Somewhat Valuable, Not Very Valuable, or Not At All Valuable</b>
	18-29	49.5%	50.5%
	30-49	67.1%	32.9%
	50-64	77.0%	23.0%
	65+	77.9%	22.1%

Table 3, Continued: Value of Park District to Community by Respondent Demographic Characteristics		
Years in Sycamore Park District service area	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable, Not Very Valuable, or Not At All Valuable
2 years or less	62.5%	37.5%
More than 2 years to 5 years	81.7%	18.3%
More than 5 years to 10 years	57.9%	42.1%
More than 10 years	67.4%	32.6%

Value of Park District to Household by Demographic Characteristics

Overall, 47.3% of respondents reported that the Park District is very valuable to their household. However, differences were found in the likelihood of considering the Park District to be very valuable to their household by some demographic characteristics.

Household Demographic Characteristics (Table 3)

- Households where someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino were *more likely* to say that the Park District is very valuable to their households, and
- Households with annual incomes of less than \$50,000, and particularly households with annual incomes of less than \$25,000, were *less likely* than higher income households to respond that the Park District is very valuable to their household.

Table 3: Value of Park District to Household by Household Demographic Characteristics		
Someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable, Not Very Valuable, or Not At All Valuable
Yes, someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino	64.1%	35.9%
No one in the household is Hispanic or Latino	47.4%	52.6%
2023 Household Income	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable, Not Very Valuable, or Not At All Valuable
Less than \$25,000	26.2%	73.8%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	43.8%	56.3%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	61.1%	38.9%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	48.8%	51.2%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	54.0%	46.0%
\$150,000 or more	50.0%	50.0%

Respondent Characteristics (Table 4)

- Households in the Park District for 5 years or less were *more likely* than households in the Park District for more than 5 years to see the Park District as very valuable to their household

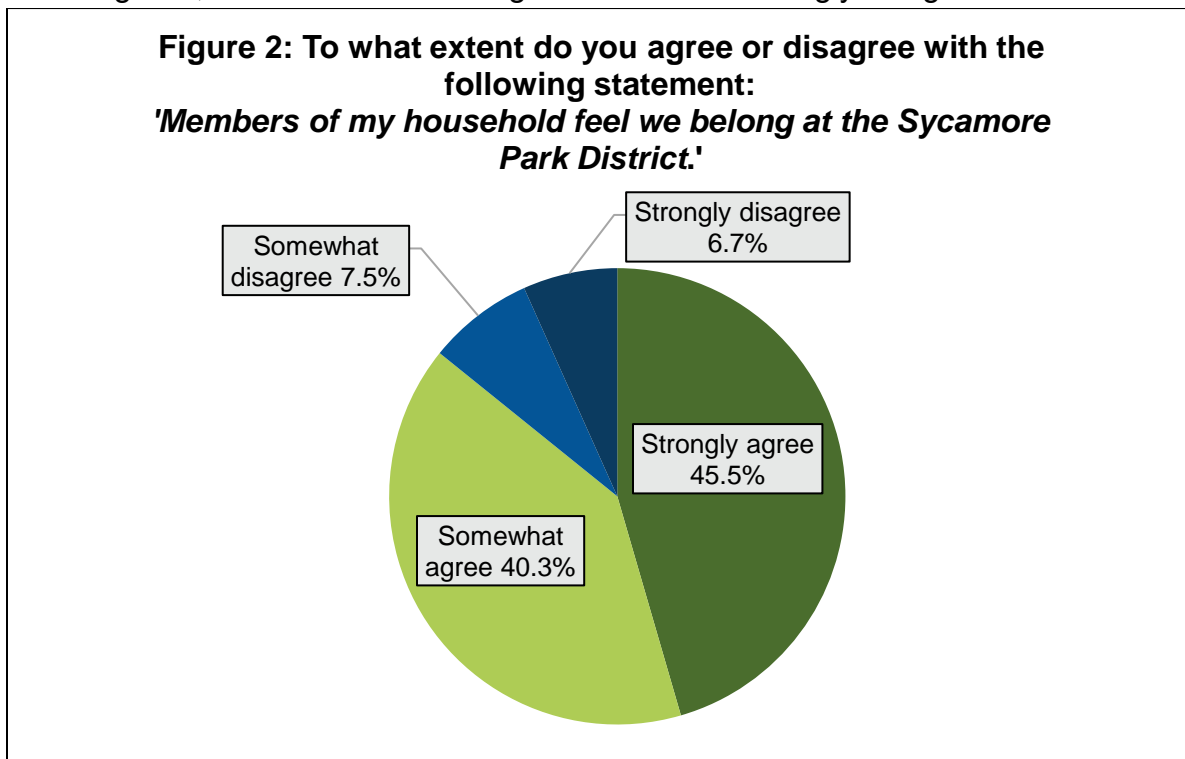
Table 4: Value of Park District to Household by Respondent Demographic Characteristics		
Years in Sycamore Park District service area	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable, Not Very Valuable, or Not At All Valuable
2 years or less	63.3%	36.7%
More than 2 years to 5 years	60.9%	39.1%
More than 5 years to 10 years	42.3%	57.7%
More than 10 years	44.5%	55.5%

*Belonging at the Park District*

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement '*Members of my household feel we belong at the Sycamore Park District.*'

Overwhelmingly, respondents agreed (85.8%) with the statement; 45.5% strongly agreed and 40.3% somewhat agreed. (Figure 2)

Only 14.2% disagreed; 7.5% somewhat disagreed and 6.7% strongly disagreed.



*Feel Belong at the Park District by Demographic Characteristics*

Overall, 45.5% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement “Members of my household feel we belong at the Sycamore Park District”. However, differences were found in the *likelihood of strongly agreeing that their household feels they belong at the Park District* by some demographic characteristics.

Household Demographic Characteristics (Table 5)

- Respondents with households located in Area 5 were *less likely* than those in other areas to strongly agree that they feel they belong at the Park District, and
- Respondents in households with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 and households with annual incomes of \$75,000 to less than \$100,000 were *less likely* to strongly agree that they feel that they belong at the Park District.

Table 5: Feel Belonging at the Park District by Household Demographic Characteristics			
Location of Household		Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree, or Strongly Disagree
	Area 1	46.2%	53.8%
	Area 2	50.0%	50.0%
	Area 3	47.7%	52.3%
	Area 4	57.3%	42.7%
	Area 5	31.6%	68.4%
2023 Household Income		Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree, or Strongly Disagree
	Less than \$25,000	25.0%	75.0%
	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	45.0%	55.0%
	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	47.1%	52.9%
	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	37.5%	62.5%
	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	52.9%	47.1%
	\$150,000 or more	56.3%	43.8%

No statistically significant differences were found by any of the respondent demographic characteristics.

## Effective Accommodations for People with Disabilities at the Park District

Respondents were asked:

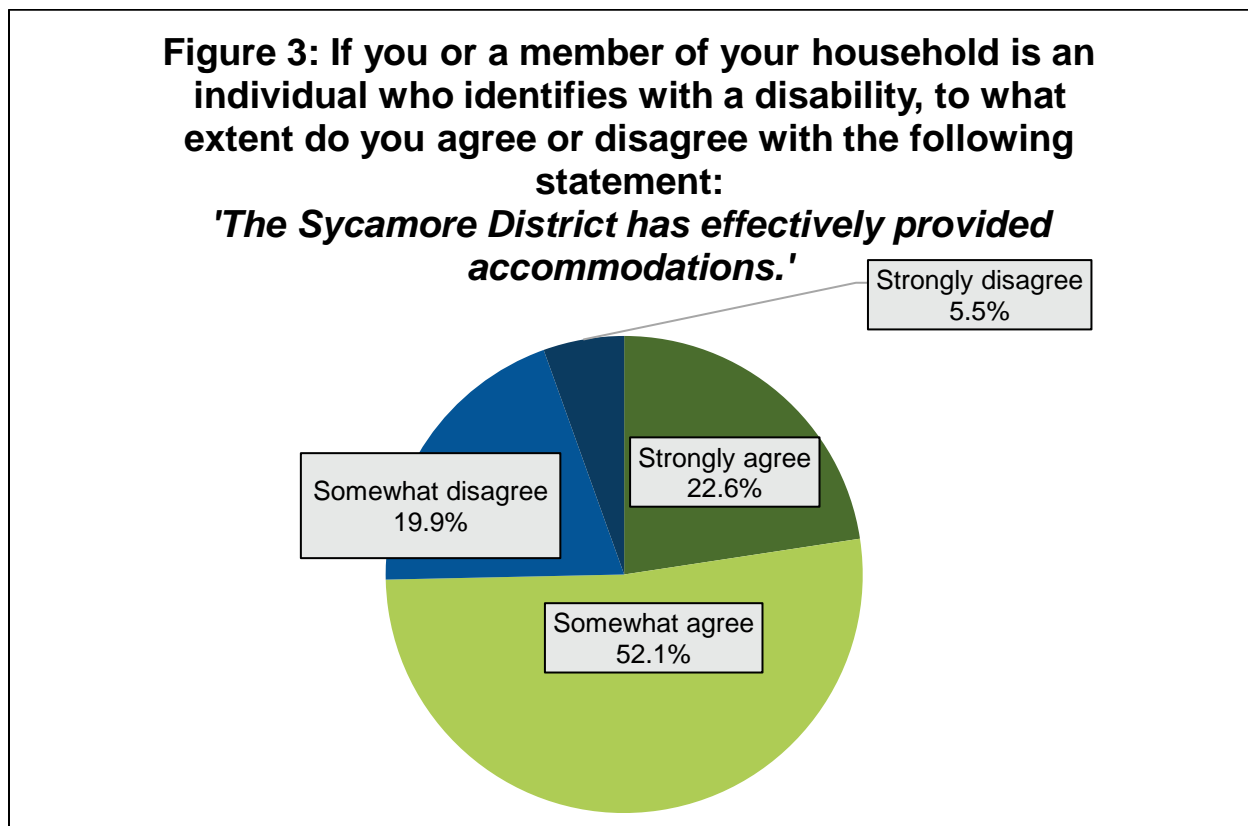
“If you or a member of your household is an individual who identifies with a disability, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The Sycamore Park District has effectively provided accommodations.”

For many (68.9%) respondents, this question *‘did not apply’* to their household.

Of the 31.1% of households to which the question applied, about three-quarters (74.7%) agreed, either strongly (22.6%) or somewhat (52.1%), that the Park District had effectively provided accommodations.

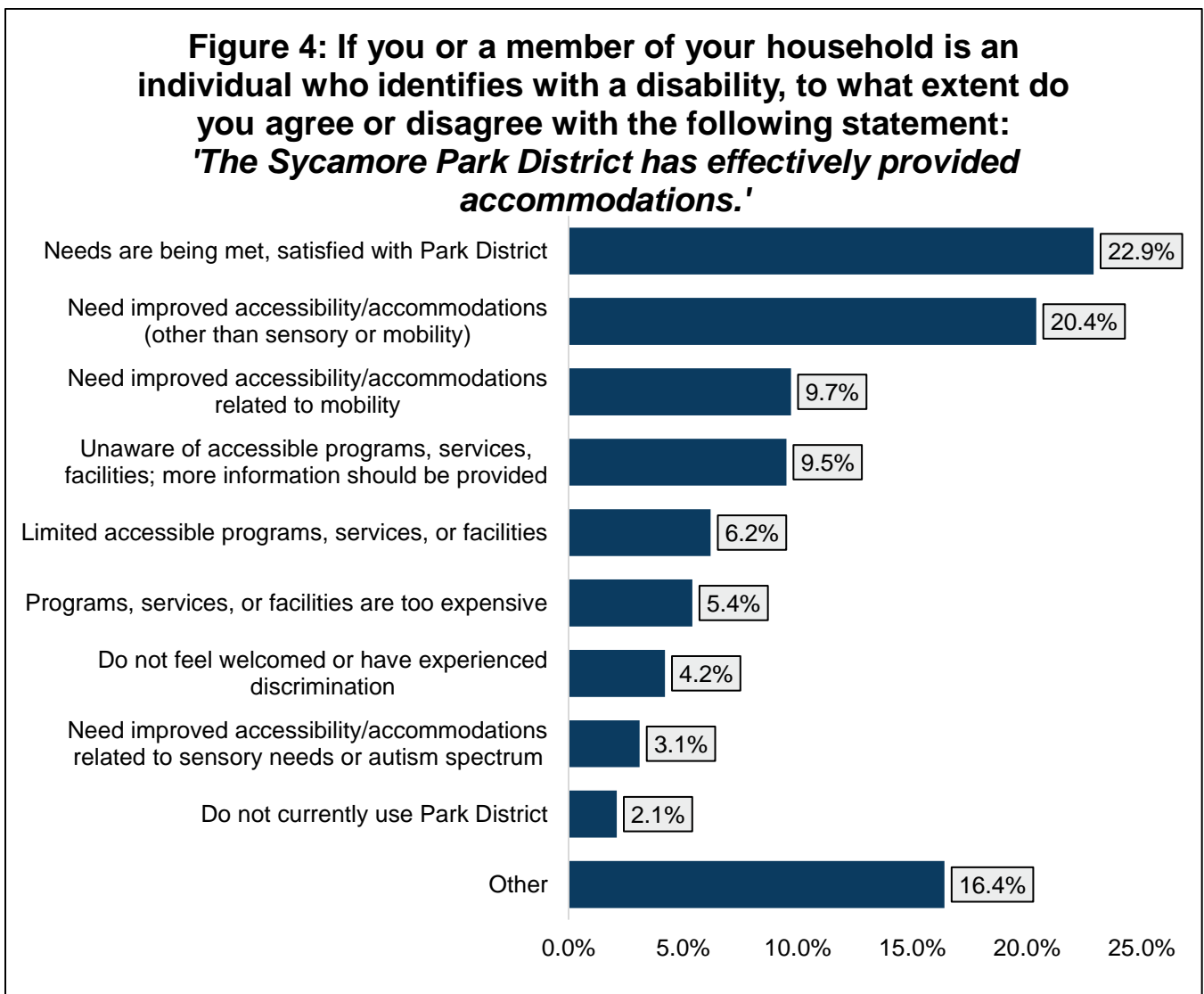
One quarter (25.4%) disagreed, either strongly (5.5%) or somewhat (19.9%), that effective accommodations had been provided. (Figure 3)



These respondents were asked to provide more detail about whether effective accommodations had been provided; 58.2% did so.

The most common responses were:

- Needs are being met, satisfied with Park District (22.9%),
- Need improved accessibility or accommodations (other than mobility or sensory) (20.4%),
- Need additional or improved accessibility or accommodations related to mobility (9.7%),
- Unaware of accessible programs, services, facilities; Park District should provide more information about accessibility” (9.5%), and
- Limited accessible programs, services, or facilities; accessible programs, services or facilities are not of interest (6.2%).





## Park District has Provided Effective Accommodations by Demographic Characteristics

Overall, 74.7% of respondents who answered the question strongly or somewhat agreed that the Sycamore Park District has effectively provided accommodations. However, differences were found in the *likelihood of agreeing that the Park District has provided effective accommodation* by some demographic characteristics.

### Household Demographic Characteristics (Table 6)

- Respondents in households with adults aged 65 or greater were *less likely* than respondents in households without someone aged 65 or greater to agree that the Park District has provided effective accommodations, and
- Respondents in households with annual incomes of less than \$50,000 were *less likely* than respondents in households with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more to agree that the Park District has provided effective accommodations.

Table 6: Park District has Provided Effective Accommodations by Household Demographic Characteristics			
Household includes adults aged 65 or greater		% Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Somewhat or Strongly Disagree
Yes, household includes adults aged 65 or greater		64.0%	36.0%
Household does not include adults aged 65 or greater		80.2%	19.8%
2023 household income		Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Somewhat or Strongly Disagree
Less than \$25,000		62.5%	37.5%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000		60.0%	40.0%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000		92.9%	7.1%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000		90.0%	10.0%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000		76.2%	23.8%
\$150,000 or more		77.8%	22.2%

### Respondent Characteristics (Table 7)

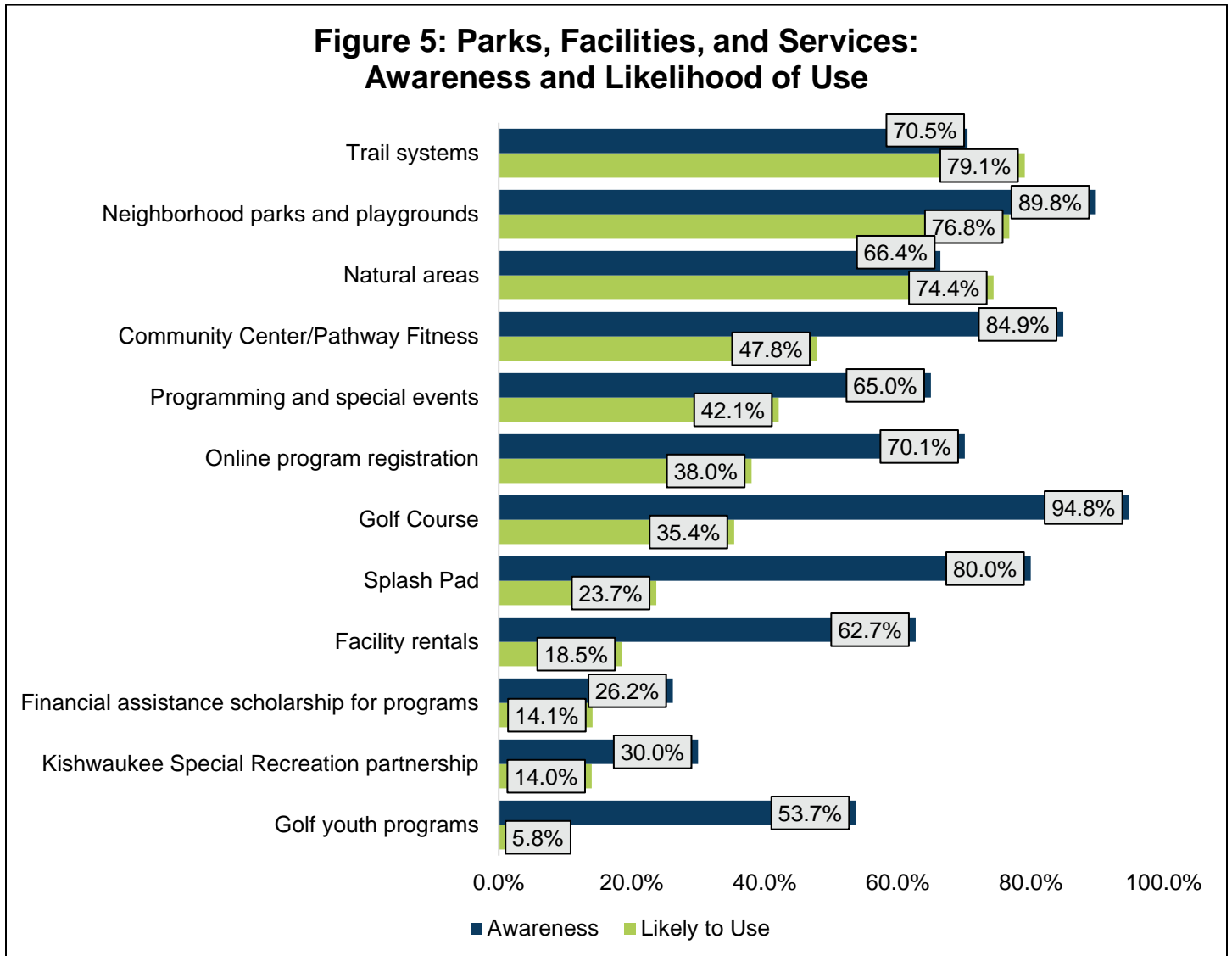
- Respondents aged 30 or older were *less likely* than respondents aged 18 to 29 to agree that the Park District has provided effective accommodations

Table 7: Park District has Provided Effective Accommodations by Respondent Demographic Characteristics			
Age		Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Somewhat or Strongly Disagree
18-29		100.0%	0.0%
30-49		68.0%	32.2%
50-64		73.7%	26.3%
65+		65.6%	34.4%

## **Awareness and Use of the Sycamore Park District Parks, Facilities, and Services**

Respondents were asked if they were aware of 12 Sycamore Park District parks, facilities, and services.

Then, they were asked whether their household would be very likely to use those parks, facilities, and services during the next 12 months. (Figure 5).



## *Awareness of Park District Parks, Facilities, and Services*

The majority of respondents were aware of all 12 of the parks, facilities, and services mentioned in the survey.

Four-fifths or more of respondents were aware of the following parks, facilities, and services:

- Golf course (94.8%),
- Neighborhood parks and playgrounds (89.8%),
- Community Center/Pathway Fitness (84.9%), and
- Splash pad (80.0%).

## *Awareness of Facilities, Programs, and Services by Demographic Characteristics*

Some facilities, programs, and services, such as the golf youth programs, are meant for specific groups, so awareness may be higher among these groups.

- Households with children were *somewhat more likely* to be aware of the splash pad than households without children
  - 89.4% of households with children were aware of it, and
  - 74.9% of households without children were aware of it.
- Households with children were *somewhat more likely* to be aware of the golf youth program than households without children
  - 60.0% of households with children were aware of it, while
  - 50.1% of households without children were aware of it.

No statistically significant differences in awareness of the financial assistance scholarships were found by income group—awareness of these scholarships was low across all income groups.

Awareness of some parks and facilities varied by income; respondents whose household income is less than \$50,000 are less likely than respondents whose household income is \$50,000 or more to be aware of the following parks, facilities, and services.

- Trail systems
  - 51.1% of those with incomes of less than \$50,000, compared to
  - 76.6% of those with incomes of \$50,000 or more
- Neighborhood parks and playgrounds
  - 84.4% of those with household incomes of less than \$50,000 were aware, compared to
  - 93.4% of those with incomes of \$50,000 or more
- Natural areas
  - 56.2% of those with household incomes of less than \$50,000, compared to
  - 71.6% of those with incomes of \$50,000 or more

- Community Center/Pathway Fitness
  - 68.9% of those with household incomes of less than \$50,000, compared to
  - 90.4% of those with incomes of \$50,000 or more

### *Use of Park District Parks, Facilities, and Services*

Respondents also indicated the parks, facilities, or services their households would be most likely to use in the next 12 months. The most commonly selected were:

- Trail systems (79.1%),
- Neighborhood parks and playgrounds (76.8%), and
- Natural areas (74.4%).

The programs least likely to be used were the Kishwaukee Special Recreation partnership and the financial assistance scholarship for programs. Notably, awareness of both services is also low.

### *Use of Facilities, Programs, and Services by Demographic Characteristics*

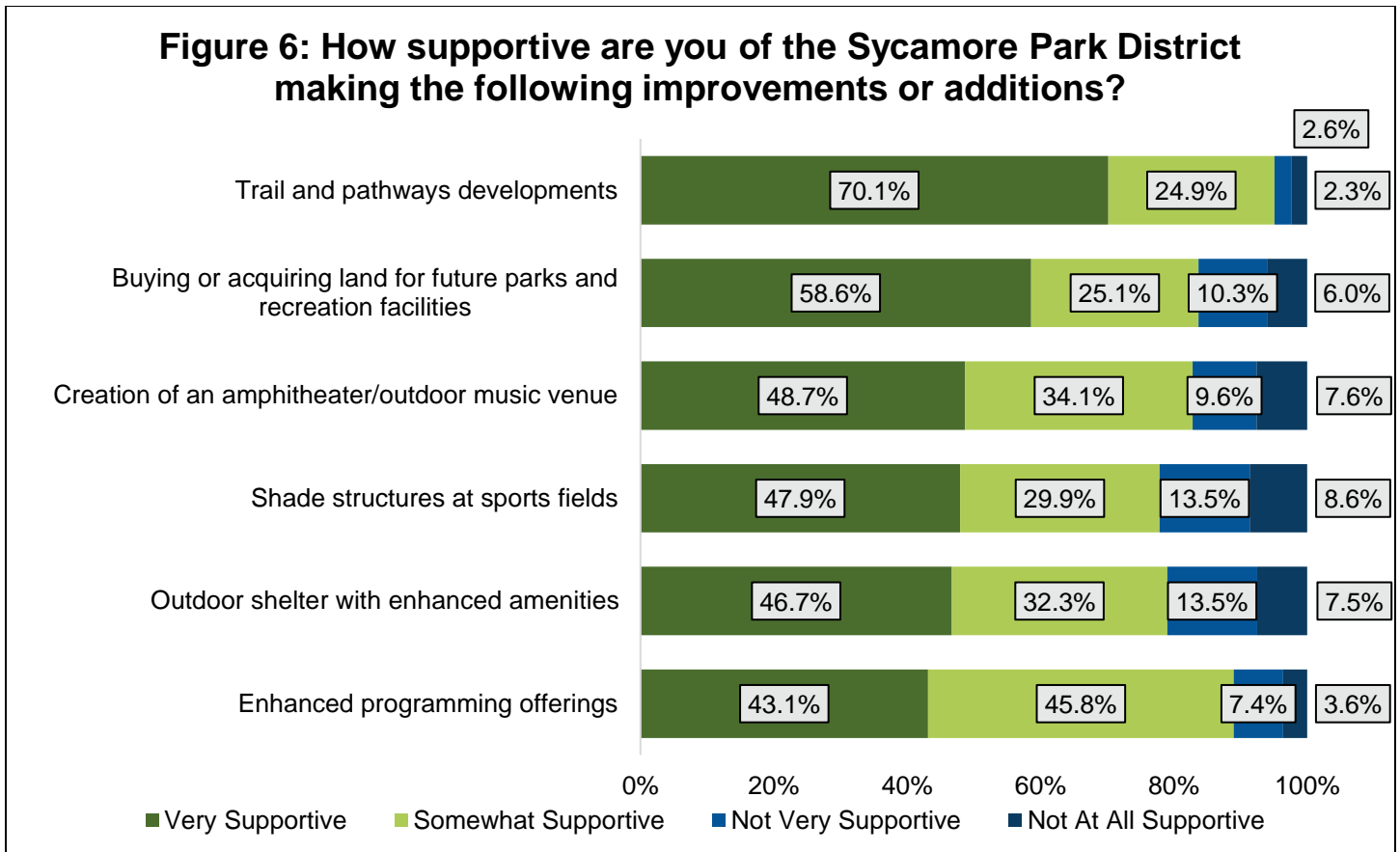
Again, certain Park District facilities, programs, and services are meant to be used by specific groups, so likely use may be higher among these groups.

- Households with children were much *more likely* than households without to say that their household would be very likely to use the splash pad
  - 46.4% of households with children said they would use the splash pad, compared to
  - Only 11.7% of households without children
- Households with children were also *more likely* to say that they would be very likely to use golf youth programs
  - 13.8% of households with children would be likely to use this program, compared to
  - 1.5% of households without children
- Use of the financial assistance scholarship varied by income:
  - 47.0% of households with incomes of less than \$25,000 said they would be very likely to use a financial assistance scholarship,
  - 17.1% of households with incomes of \$25,000 to less than \$50,000 would use scholarships, and
  - No more than 9.8% of any income group of \$50,000 or more would use scholarships.

## Support for Improvements or Additions to Parks, Facilities, and Programming

### Support for Improvements or Additions

Respondents were asked to indicate how supportive they are of the Sycamore Park District making the following improvements or additions. (Figure 6).



Generally, respondents reported being supportive of all suggested improvements or additions; at least 77% were *very or somewhat supportive* of each of the 6 types of suggested improvements.

Respondents were mostly likely to be very or somewhat supportive of:

- Trail and pathways developments (95% were very/somewhat supportive), and
- Enhanced programming offerings (88.9% were very/somewhat supportive).

Though most respondents were *very or somewhat supportive* of each of the 6 types of improvements, more differences were seen in the percentage who were *very supportive* of any given type of improvement. The high percentage of very supportive responses was found for:

- Trail and Pathways Developments (70.1% were very supportive), and
- Buying or acquiring land for future parks of recreation facilities (58.6% were very supportive).

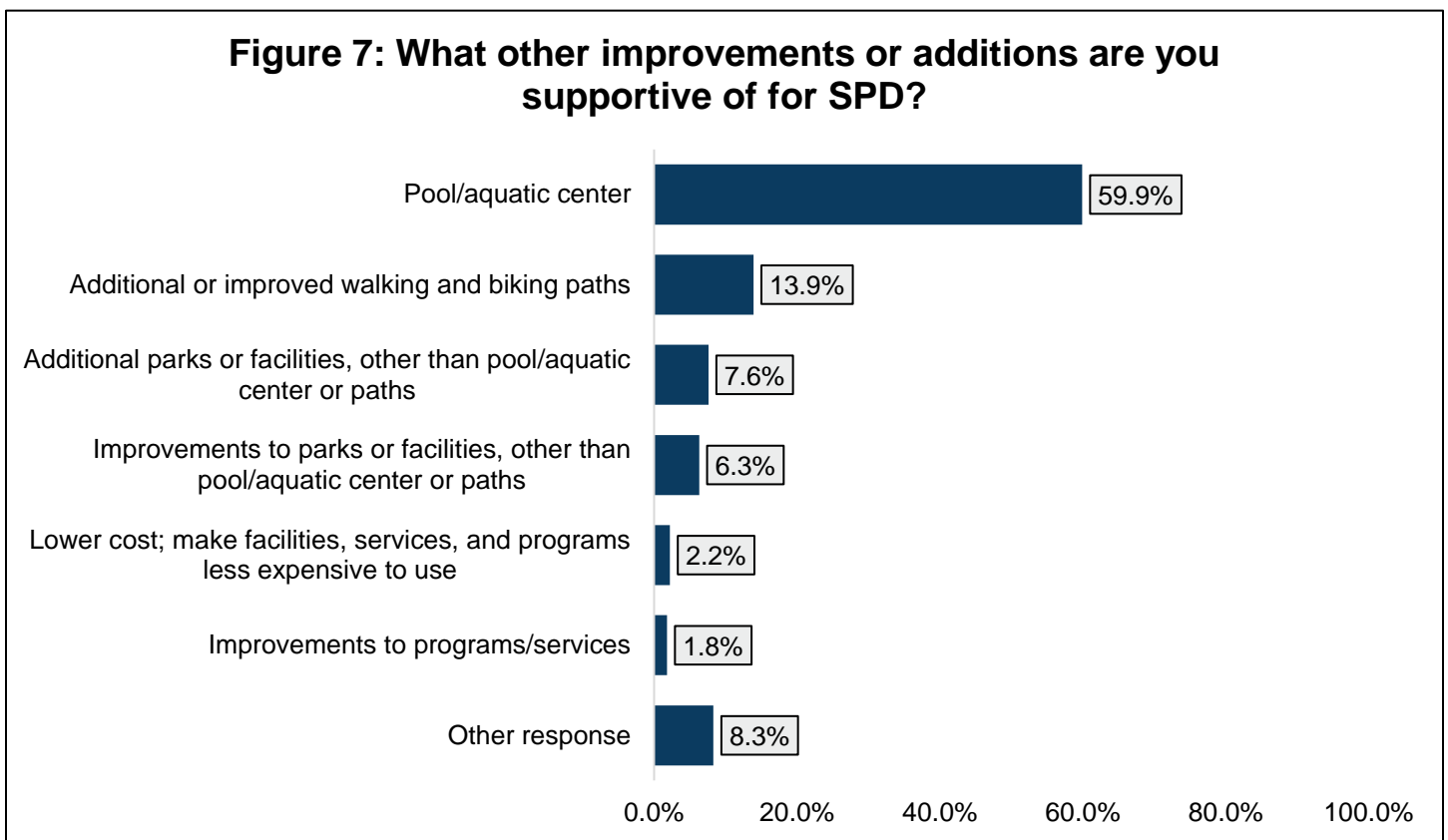
## Other Suggestions for Improvements or Additions

Respondents were also able to write in a response for other improvements or additions that the Park District should implement; 32.9% of respondents provided such a suggestion.

Among those who provided a write-in response for other Sycamore Park District improvements or additions, the most popular theme was “pool/aquatic center” (59.9%).

Other ideas included:

- Additional or improved walking and biking paths (13.9%),
- Additional parks or facilities, other than pool/aquatic center or paths (7.6%), and
- Improvements to parks or facilities, other than pool/aquatic center or paths (6.3%).



## Support for Improvements or Additions by Demographic Characteristics

Broadly speaking, respondents are supportive of all 6 types of improvements. However, differences were found in the *likelihood of being very supportive of improvements or additions* by some demographic characteristics.

### Household Demographic Characteristics (Table 8)

Overall, though not for every improvement or addition:

- Households with children were *more likely* than households without children to be very supportive of improvements or additions,
- Households with adults 65 and older were *less likely* than households without adults aged 65 and older to be very supportive of improvements or additions, and
- Households where someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino were *more likely* than households where no one in the household is Hispanic or Latino to be very supportive of improvements or additions.

**Table 8: Support Improvements or Additions to Park District  
by Household Demographic Characteristics**

All households		% Very Supportive of Trail or Pathway Development	% Very Supportive of Buying or Acquiring Land	% Very Supportive of Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue	% Very Supportive of Shade Structures at Sports Fields	% Very Supportive of Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities	% Very Supportive of Enhanced Program Offerings
All households		70.1%	58.6%	48.7%	47.9%	46.7%	43.1%
Location of Household		Trail or Pathway Development	Buying or Acquiring Land	Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue	Shade Structures at Sports Fields	Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities	Enhanced Program Offerings
Area 1		-- <sup>1</sup>	--	--	65.7%	--	--
Area 2		--	--	--	51.2%	--	--
Area 3		--	--	--	42.1%	--	--
Area 4		--	--	--	47.9%	--	--
Area 5		--	--	--	34.4%	--	--

<sup>1</sup> "--" indicates that no statistically significant difference was found in likelihood of support of this type of improvement by this demographic characteristic

**Table 8, Continued: Support Improvements or Additions to Park District  
by Household Demographic Characteristics**

Household includes children under age 18		Trail or Pathway Development	Buying or Acquiring Land	Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue	Shade Structures at Sports Fields	Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities	Enhanced Program Offerings
Yes, household includes children	--	65.3%	--	58.6%	--	58.2%	
Household does not include children	--	55.1%	--	42.1%	--	34.5%	
Household includes adults aged 65 or greater		Trail or Pathway Development	Buying or Acquiring Land	Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue	Shade Structures at Sports Fields	Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities	Enhanced Program Offerings
Yes, household includes adults aged 65 or greater	54.0%	46.9%	39.2%	--	--	33.9%	
Household does not include adults aged 65 or greater	76.2%	63.0%	52.2%	--	--	46.6%	
Someone in the household identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender		Trail or Pathway Development	Buying or Acquiring Land	Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue	Shade Structures at Sports Fields	Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities	Enhanced Program Offerings
Yes, someone in the household identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender	95.2%	--	--	--	--	--	
No one in the household identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender	68.6%	--	--	--	--	--	
Someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino		Trail or Pathway Development	Buying or Acquiring Land	Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue	Shade Structures at Sports Fields	Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities	Enhanced Program Offerings
Yes, someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino	--	75.0%	71.8%	76.3%	75.0%	70.3%	
No one in the household is Hispanic or Latino	--	59.1%	48.0%	46.5%	45.8%	41.5%	



**Table 8, Continued: Support Improvements or Additions to Park District  
by Household Demographic Characteristics**

2023 household income	Trail or Pathway Development	Buying or Acquiring Land	Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue	Shade Structures at Sports Fields	Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities	Enhanced Program Offerings
Less than \$25,000	--	77.0%	--	--	--	23.0%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	--	53.8%	--	--	--	44.4%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	--	65.2%	--	--	--	51.7%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	--	44.4%	--	--	--	33.3%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	--	62.4%	--	--	--	50.0%
\$150,000 or more	--	59.6%	--	--	--	50.5%

Respondent Characteristics (Table 9)

Generally speaking, though not for every type of improvement or addition:

- Respondents aged 18 to 29 were *more likely* than those aged 30 or greater to be very supportive of improvements or additions to the Park District
- Respondents who had lived in the Park District for 2 years or less were *more likely* than those who had lived in the Park District for more than 2 years to be very supportive of improvements or additions to the Park District

**Table 9: Support for Improvements or Additions to Park District  
by Respondent Demographic Characteristics**

All households	% Very Supportive of Trail or Pathway Development	% Very Supportive of Buying or Acquiring Land	% Very Supportive of Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue	% Very Supportive of Shade Structures at Sports Fields	% Very Supportive of Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities	% Very Supportive of Enhanced Program Offerings
All households	70.1%	58.6%	48.7%	47.9%	46.7%	43.1%
Gender	Trail or Pathway Development	Buying or Acquiring Land	Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue	Shade Structures at Sports Fields	Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities	Enhanced Program Offerings
Male	--	--	44.3%	--	--	--
Female	--	--	54.1%	--	--	--

**Table 9, Continued: Support for Improvements or Additions to Park District  
by Respondent Demographic Characteristics**

<b>Age</b>		<b>Trail or Pathway Development</b>	<b>Buying or Acquiring Land</b>	<b>Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue</b>	<b>Shade Structures at Sports Fields</b>	<b>Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities</b>	<b>Enhanced Program Offerings</b>
	18-29	89.6%	86.5%	69.3%	--	59.8%	58.4%
	30-49	74.8%	61.3%	47.6%	--	46.6%	50.7%
	50-64	63.8%	50.4%	44.4%	--	43.8%	30.8%
	65+	52.6%	36.7%	36.3%	--	40.0%	34.1%
<b>Years in Sycamore Park District service area</b>		<b>Trail or Pathway Development</b>	<b>Buying or Acquiring Land</b>	<b>Amphitheater/ Outdoor Music Venue</b>	<b>Shade Structures at Sports Fields</b>	<b>Outdoor Shelters with Enhanced Amenities</b>	<b>Enhanced Program Offerings</b>
	2 years or less	--	84.4%	84.4%	84.8%	87.5%	84.4%
	More than 2 years to 5 years	--	64.3%	58.1%	47.5%	55.7%	53.7%
	More than 5 years to 10 years	--	51.4%	56.0%	51.4%	41.4%	44.4%
	More than 10 years	--	56.5%	41.7%	43.4%	42.1%	36.4%

## **Park District Funding**

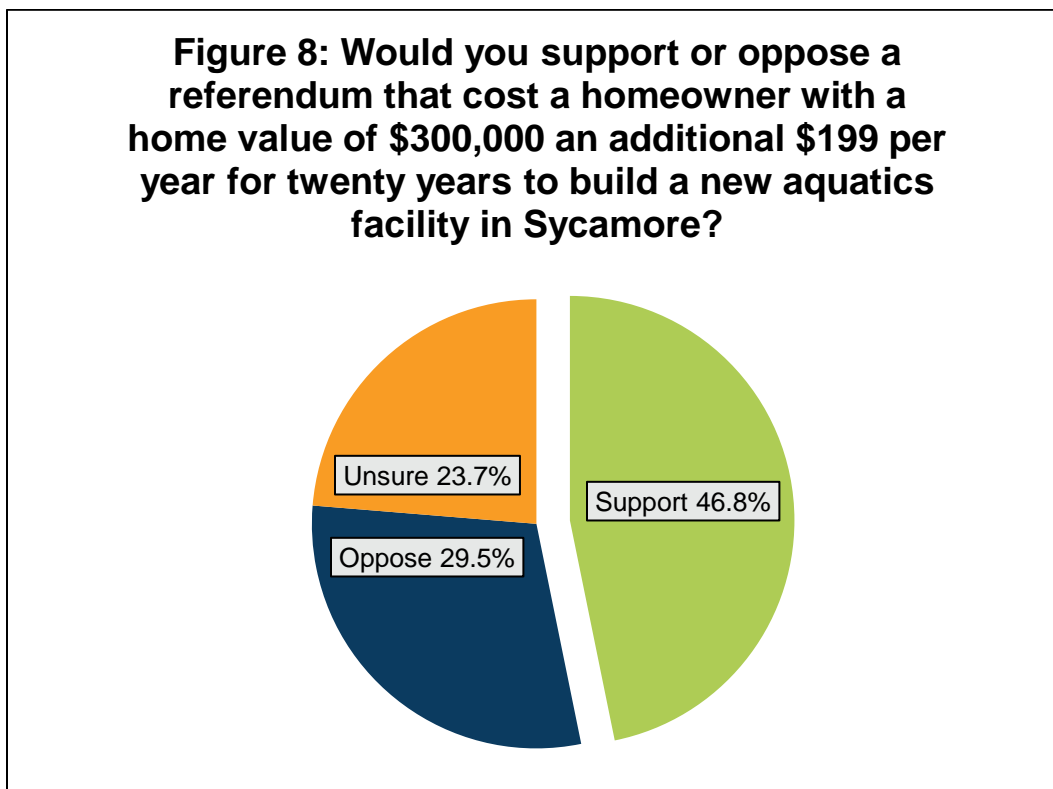
### *Support for Potential Pool Referendum*

Respondents were shown the following:

“The Sycamore Park District’s pool, which closed in 2022, sits in a floodplain which prohibits construction and expansion due to cost and regulations of the IL Department of Natural Resources. The Park District therefore needs to find a new site to build an aquatics facility.

The estimated cost of building a new pool is \$16 million (property acquisition, engineering, and construction) and would require a referendum. Would you support or oppose a referendum that cost a homeowner with a home value of \$300,000 an additional \$199 per year for twenty years to build a new aquatics facility in Sycamore?”

A plurality (46.8%) of respondents responded that they would support such a referendum, and just under a third (29.5%) of respondents indicated they would oppose it. Nearly one-fourth (23.7%) of respondents were unsure if they supported or opposed the potential referendum. (Figure 8)



## Support for Referendum by Demographic Characteristics

Overall:

- 46.8% of residents surveyed said they would support the potential referendum,
- 29.5% said they would oppose it, and
- 23.7% were unsure

However, differences were found in the support/opposition for the potential referendum by some demographic characteristics.

### Household Demographic Characteristics (Table 10)

Statistically significant differences were found:

- By the household's location
  - Respondents in households in Area 2, Area 4, and Area 5 were *more likely to oppose* a potential referendum than respondents in households in Area 1 and Area 3, and
  - Respondents in households in Area 1, Area 2, and Area 3 were *more likely to be unsure* of their support for a potential referendum than respondents in households in Area 4 or Area 5
- By the household income
  - Respondents in households with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 were *less likely to support* a potential referendum than respondents in households with annual incomes of \$25,000 or more,
  - Respondents in households with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 and those with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more were *more likely to oppose* a potential referendum than those in other income groups, and
  - Respondents in households with annual incomes of \$25,000 to less than \$75,000 and those in households with incomes of \$150,000 or more were *more likely to be unsure* of their support for a potential referendum than those in other income groups.

No statistically significant differences were found:

- By whether any household members are children under the age of 18,
- By whether any household members are adults aged 65 or greater,
- By whether someone in the household identifies as transgender, gender non-binary, or another gender, or
- By whether someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino

**Table 10: Support for Potential Referendum  
by Household Demographic Characteristics**

Location of Household		Support	Oppose	Unsure
Area 1		46.3%	20.4%	33.3%
Area 2		40.2%	32.9%	26.8%
Area 3		47.5%	21.7%	30.8%
Area 4		52.5%	41.3%	6.3%
Area 5		40.8%	40.8%	18.4%
2023 Household Income		Support	Oppose	Unsure
Less than \$25,000		37.3%	40.3%	22.4%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000		50.7%	11.6%	37.7%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000		55.6%	20.8%	23.6%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000		51.2%	31.7%	17.1%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000		49.4%	35.6%	14.9%
\$150,000 or more		46.1%	28.4%	25.5%

Respondent Characteristics (Table 11)

Statistically significant differences were found:

- By years in the Sycamore Park District service area
  - Respondents who had lived in the Park District for 5 years or less and those in the Park District for more than 10 years were *more likely to support* a potential referendum than those who had lived in the Park District for more than 5 years to 10 years, and
  - Respondents who had lived in the Park District for 2 years or less and those who had lived in the Park District for more than 5 years to 10 years were *more likely to be unsure* if they would support a potential referendum than those living in the Park District for more than 2 years to 5 years, or for more than 10 years

No statistically significant differences were found:

- By the respondent’s gender
- By the respondent’s age

**Table 11: Support for Potential Referendum  
by Respondent Demographic Characteristics**

Years in Sycamore Park District service area	Support	Oppose	Unsure
2 years or less	57.6%	18.2%	24.2%
More than 2 years to 5 years	48.4%	34.4%	17.2%
More than 5 years to 10 years	35.1%	24.7%	40.3%
More than 10 years	48.4%	30.5%	21.1%

## Other Characteristics (Table 12, next page)

Statistically significant differences were found:

- By whether the respondent considers the proportion of taxes paid to the Park District to be too high, reasonable, or too low
  - Respondents who perceive the proportion of property taxes paid to the Park District to be too low were *much more likely* to support a potential referendum than those who thought the Park District's proportion of property taxes to be too high or reasonable,
  - Respondents who perceive the proportion of property taxes paid to the Park District to be too high were *more likely* to oppose a proposed referendum than those who think it is reasonable or too low, and
  - Respondents who perceive the proportion of property tax to be reasonable or too low were *more likely to be unsure* of their support for a potential referendum than those who consider it to be too high.
- By perception of the Park District's value *to their community* and *to their household*
  - Respondents who consider the Park District to be valuable to their community, as well as those who consider it to be valuable to their household were *much more likely* to indicate support for a potential referendum than those who say it is not very or not at all valuable to their community or household, and
  - Likewise, respondents who consider the Park District not very or not at all valuable to their community, as well as those who consider it not very or not at all valuable to their household were *more likely to oppose or be unsure of their support* for a potential referendum.
- By whether household members feel they belong at the Park District
  - Households where members agree that they feel they belong at Sycamore Park District were *more likely to say they would support* a potential referendum, and
  - Households where members disagree that they feel that they belong at the Park District were *more likely to oppose* a potential referendum.
- By whether the household agrees that the Park District has effectively provided accommodations to a household member with a disability
  - Households that agree that Sycamore Park District has effectively provided accommodations for a household member who identifies with a disability were *more likely to support* a potential referendum, while
  - Households that disagree that the Park District has effectively provided accommodations were *more likely to oppose* a potential referendum.

**Table 12: Support for Potential Referendum  
by Household Demographic Characteristics**

Think the amount of taxes paid to the Park District is...		Support	Oppose	Unsure
Too high		41.2%	50.0%	8.8%
Reasonable		42.0%	32.8%	25.2%
Too low		71.6%	9.8%	18.6%
Value of Park District to your community		Support	Oppose	Unsure
Very or somewhat valuable		59.2%	19.8%	21.0%
Not very or not at all valuable		23.8%	45.1%	31.1%
Value of Park District to your household		Support	Oppose	Unsure
Very or somewhat valuable		63.7%	20.3%	16.0%
Not very or not at all valuable		33.6%	37.0%	29.4%
"Members of my household feel we belong at the Sycamore Park District"		Support	Oppose	Unsure
Agree		51.6%	24.3%	24.1%
Disagree		30.4%	53.6%	15.9%
"The Sycamore Park District has effectively provided accommodations"		Support	Oppose	Unsure
Agree		66.1%	14.7%	19.3%
Disagree		38.9%	33.3%	27.8%

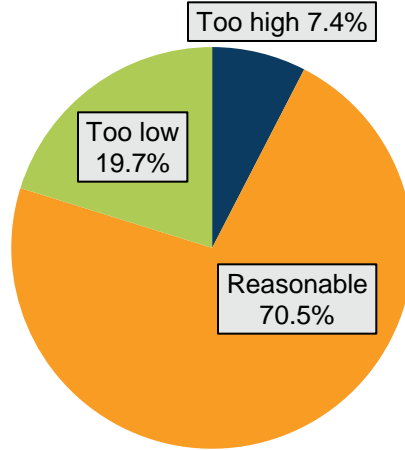
### *Current Park District Property Tax Levy*

Respondents were asked the following question about the portion of their property taxes paid to the Park District:

“For every dollar you pay in property taxes, \$.06 is paid to the Park District. Considering the services offered by the Sycamore Park District, do you think this amount is... [too high, reasonable, or too low]?”

A broad majority of respondents (70.5%) believe the levy to be ‘reasonable’ when considering the value of SPD services. Interestingly, more respondents (19.7%) believed the levy is ‘too low’ than ‘too high’ (7.4%). (Figure 9 next page)

**Figure 9: For every dollar you pay in property taxes, \$.06 is paid to the Park District. Considering the services offered by the Sycamore Park District, do you think this amount is...?**



*Opinion on Amount of Taxes Paid to Park District by Demographic Characteristics*

Overall:

- 7.4% of respondents considered the proportion of taxes paid to the Park District to be too high,
- 70.5% said it was reasonable, and
- 22.1% considered it to be too low

However, differences were found in the *opinion about the proportion of taxes paid to the Park District* by some demographic characteristics.



Household Demographic Characteristics (Table 13)

- Respondents in households with children under the age of 18 were *more likely* to indicate that the proportion of taxes paid to the Park District is too high, and
- Respondents in households without children under the age of 18 were *more likely* to perceive the proportion of property taxes as reasonable than households with children

Table 13: Opinion on Amount of Taxes Paid to Park District by Household Demographic Characteristics				
Household includes children under age 18		Proportion of Property Taxes is Too High	Proportion of Property Taxes is Reasonable	Proportion of Property Taxes is Too Low
Yes, household includes children		13.5%	60.9%	25.6%
Household does not include children		4.2%	75.5%	20.3%

Respondent Characteristics (Table 14)

- By the respondent’s age
  - Respondents aged 50 or greater were *more likely* than those under 50 to feel that the proportion of property taxes is reasonable
  - Respondents belonging to younger age groups (under 50) were slightly *more likely* to perceive the proportion of property taxes as too low than respondents aged 50 or greater

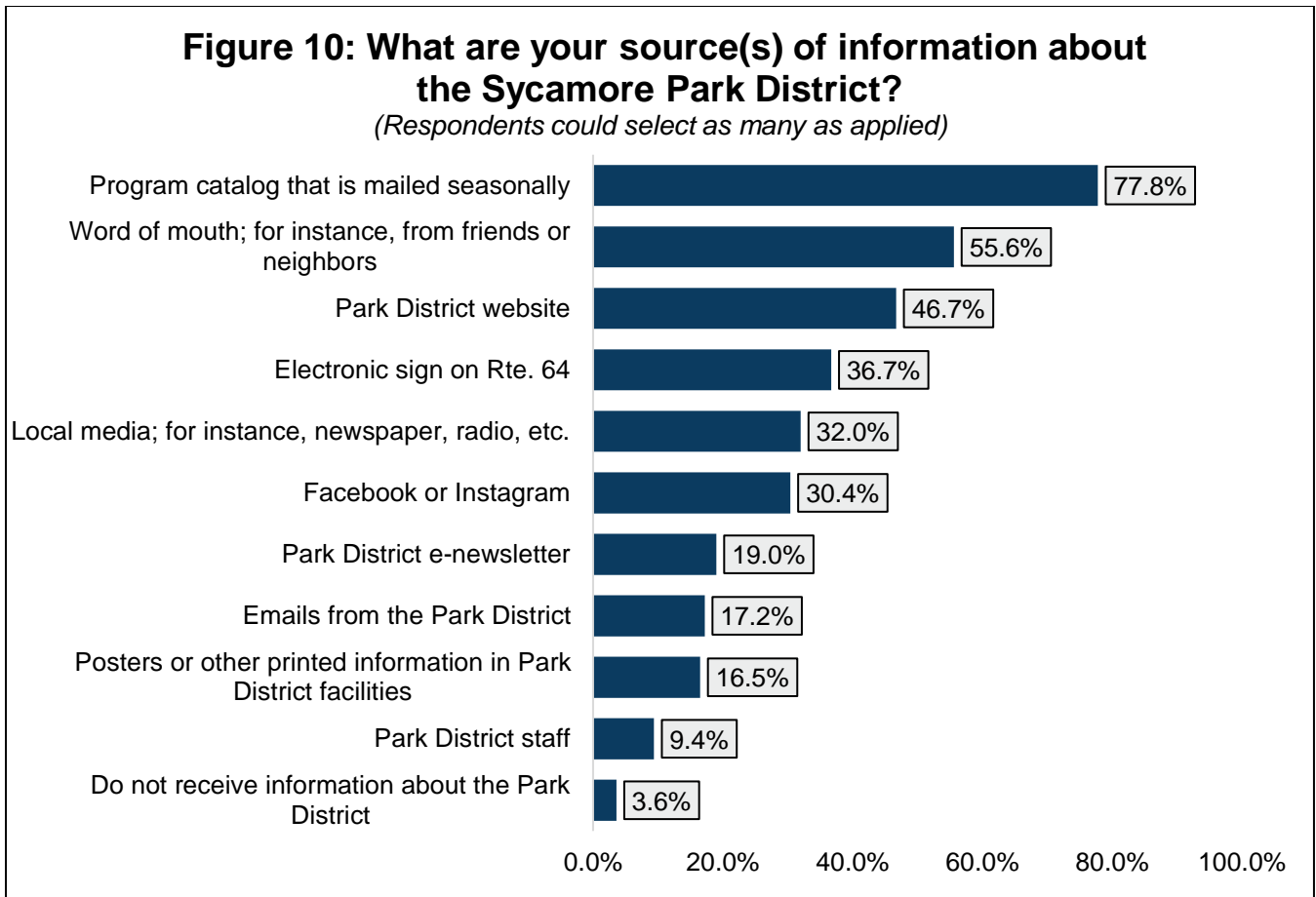
Table 14: Opinion on Amount of Taxes Paid to Park District by Respondent Demographic Characteristics			
Age	Proportion of Property Taxes is Too High	Proportion of Property Taxes is Reasonable	Proportion of Property Taxes is Too Low
18-29	7.0%	67.0%	26.0%
30-49	10.2%	59.9%	29.9%
50-64	2.6%	78.9%	18.4%
65+	7.5%	81.7%	10.8%

## Sources of Information About the Park District

Respondents were asked about their sources of information about Sycamore Park District. (Figure 10)

The greatest percentages of respondents receive information about Sycamore Park District from the following sources:

- Program catalog that is mailed seasonally (77.8%),
- Word of mouth; for instance, from friends or neighbors (55.6%), and
- Park District Website (46.7%).



They were also asked to indicate their preferred language for receiving information about the Sycamore Park District; nearly all (99.7%) preferred English, while 0.3% preferred Spanish. 5% of Hispanic respondents prefer Spanish.

## Information Sources About the Park District by Demographic Characteristics

### Household Demographic Differences

- The percentage of respondents who receive information about the Sycamore Park District from Sycamore Park District website increases with respondent household income
  - 17.4% of respondent households with incomes less than \$50,000 reported receiving information about SPD from Sycamore Park District website, compared to
  - 55.6% of respondent households with incomes greater than \$50,000 reported receiving information about SPD from Sycamore Park District website.
- The percentage of respondents who receive information about the Sycamore Park District from Sycamore Park District social media accounts increases with respondent household income
  - 20.0% of respondent households with incomes less than \$50,000 reported receiving information about SPD from SPD social media accounts, compared to
  - 39.6% of respondent households with incomes greater than \$50,000 reported receiving information about SPD from Sycamore Park District social media accounts.

### Respondent Demographic Differences

- The percentage of respondents who receive information about Sycamore Park District from *word of mouth* decreases as respondent's age increases
  - 81.1% of those 18-29 years of age receive information from word of mouth, in comparison to
  - 58.1% of those 30-49 years of age,
  - 48.3% of those 50-64 years of age, and
  - 46.0% of those 65 years of age or greater.
- The youngest (18-29) and oldest (65 years or age or greater) age groups of respondents were *less likely* than those aged 30 to 64 to receive information from the Park District's website
  - 34.9% of respondents aged 18-29 received information from the website,
  - 57.8% of respondents aged 30-49,
  - 55.9% of respondents aged 50-64, and
  - 39.0% of respondents aged 65 and greater
- Households where someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino are *more likely* than households where no one is Hispanic or Latino to receive information about Sycamore Park District from the Park District's social media accounts
  - 55.0% of households where someone in the household is Hispanic or Latino receive information about the Park District from SPD social media accounts, compared to
  - 30.7% of households where no one in the household is Hispanic or Latino.

## **Demographic Characteristics**

Respondents were asked questions about themselves and their households.

### ***Respondent Demographic Characteristics***

Respondents answered questions about themselves, including their age, gender, ethnicity language, and years residing in Sycamore Park District’s service area. (Table 15)

<b>Table 15: Respondent Characteristics</b>		
<b>Age</b>		
	18-29 Years	21.0%
	30-49 Years	33.0%
	50-64 Years	25.9%
	65 + Years	20.0%
<b>Gender</b>		
	Female	54.4%
	Male	45.6%
<b>What is your ethnicity? (Respondents could check as many responses as applied)</b>		
	White	92.7%
	Asian	3.8%
	Black or African American	1.9%
	Caribbean	0.1%
	Hispanic or Latino	6.4%
	Native American or Alaska Native	1.0%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%
	Other	0.2%
	Prefer to self-describe	4.8%
<b>How long have you lived in the Sycamore Park District’s service area?</b>		
	2 years or less	6.4%
	More than 2 years to 5 years	12.5%
	More than 5 years to 10 years	14.9%
	More than 10 years	66.2%

### ***Household Characteristics***

They also answered questions about their household, including where they live and whether they live with children or senior individuals, the ethnic and gender make-ups of their households, as well as 2023 household income. (Table 16, next page)

**Table 16: Household Characteristics**

**Does anyone in your household identify as one of the following?**

*(Respondents could check as many responses as applied)*

Transgender	1.0%
Gender non-binary	3.0%
Another gender identity, not listed here	0.3%
None of these	95.7%

**Are there any children under the age of 18 living in your household?**

Yes	35.1%
No	64.9%

**Are there any adults 65 years of age or greater living in your household?**

Yes	26.3%
No	73.7%

**What are the ethnicities of others in your household?**

*(Respondents could check as many responses as applied)*

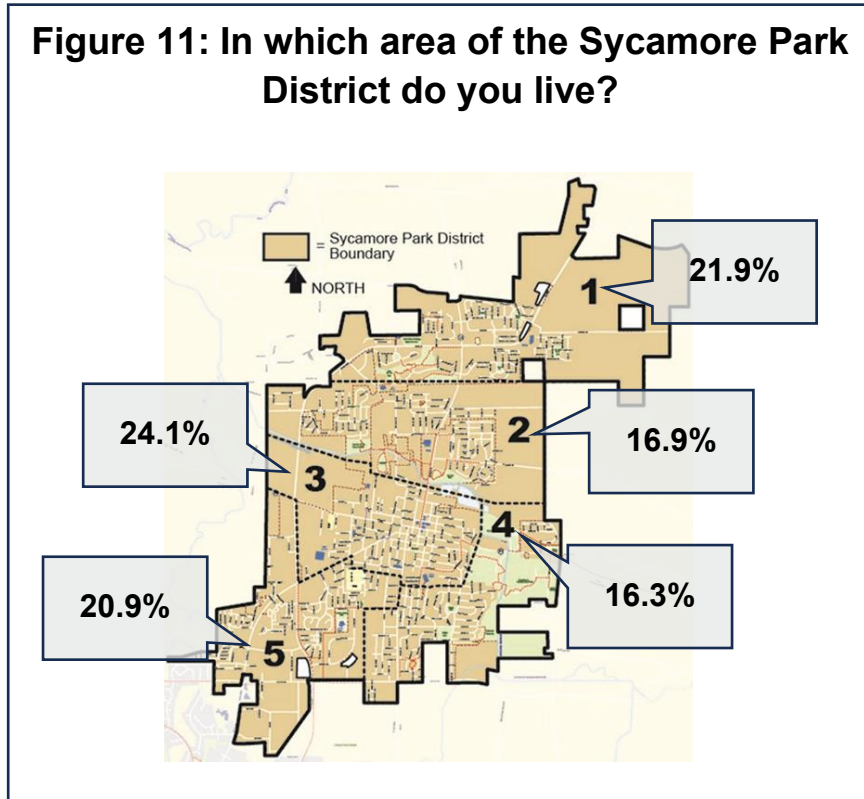
White	93.5%
Asian	2.7%
Black or African American	2.4%
Caribbean	0.0%
Hispanic or Latino	8.7%
Native American or Alaska Native	1.1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.3%
Other	0.6%

**Please consider all sources of income, before taxes, for everyone living with you in 2023. What was your 2023 household income?**

Less than \$25,000	12.9%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	13.4%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	14.1%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	8.0%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	16.9%
\$150,000 or more	19.8%
Prefer not to answer	14.9%

Household Location Within Park District Area

**Figure 11: In which area of the Sycamore Park District do you live?**



# Conclusions

## Perceptions of the Park District

The respondents have a positive perception of Sycamore Park District. A large majority of respondents think that the Sycamore Park District is valuable both to *their community* (95.9%) and to their own household (89.5%). Most (85.8%) respondents feel members of their household belong at Sycamore Park District. The majority (74.7%) of respondents who identify with a disability or have a member of their household who identifies with a disability agree that the Park District has effectively provided accommodations.

## Awareness, Use, and Support for Improvements

Overall, awareness of the parks, facilities, and services is high. The Kishwaukee Special Recreation partnership and the financial assistance scholarship for programs received the lowest response proportions for awareness. Likelihood of future use of parks, facilities, and services is highest for trail systems (79.1%) and lowest for golf youth programs (13.8% for households with children under the age of 18).

Awareness of several parks, facilities, and services was lower for respondents with household incomes less than \$50,000, including parks and playgrounds, natural areas, trail systems, and community center/pathway fitness. No statistically significant differences in awareness of the financial assistance scholarships were found by income group. In fact, awareness of these scholarships was low across all income groups, which suggests there may be an awareness gap for this service: 47.0% of households with incomes of less than \$25,000 said they would be very likely to use a financial assistance scholarship, and 17.1% of households with incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999 reported they would use scholarships, suggesting that more lower-income respondents might be interested in using the scholarships if they were aware of them.

Generally, respondents reported being supportive of all suggested improvements or additions; all improvements received generally supportive responses of 77% or more. The options which received the greatest proportions of 'very supportive' responses were trail and pathways developments (70.1%) and buying or acquiring land for future parks or recreation facilities (58.6%). Open-end response themes further support investment in trail development; 13.9% of responses fell into the category 'improved walking and biking paths.' This evidence from the survey suggests the Park District should consider prioritizing trail and pathways developments and buying and acquiring land for future parks or recreation facilities.

### **Park District Funding/Potential Pool Referendum**

Most respondents (70.5%) believe the property tax levy for the Park District to be 'reasonable' for the services offered, suggesting the Park District's tax level is appropriate. However, more respondents (19.7%) believed the levy is 'too low' than those who believed the levy is 'too high' (7.4%). Younger age groups (18-29 and 30-49) were slightly more likely to believe the tax levy is too low (26.0% and 29.9%, respectively). Older age groups 50-64 (78.9%) and 65+ (81.7%) and households *without* children (75.5%) were among those more likely to believe the tax levy is *reasonable as is*. The low proportion of respondents with opinions that the levy is too high considering the value of services could be interpreted to suggest the Park District could slightly increase the tax levy without fear of resident protest.

Residents generally report being more supportive than not supportive of a new aquatic facility. Among those who provided an 'Other' write-in response to a survey question asking for other Sycamore Park District improvements or additions, the most popular theme was "pool/aquatic center" (59.9%). A plurality (46.8%) indicated they would support a referendum which supports building a new facility. Less than a third (29.5%) of respondents indicated they would oppose a referendum as it is presented in the survey, and less than a one-fourth (23.7%) of respondents indicated they were 'unsure'. Additionally, respondents who selected 'not very valuable' or 'not at all valuable,' when asked about the value of the Sycamore Park District to their community and household were more likely to be unsure (29.4%) how they would respond to the referendum question. The Park District should consider marketing the new pool to try to change the minds of those residents who are on the fence about the referendum and then consider moving ahead with a referendum.

### **Sources of Information About the Park District**

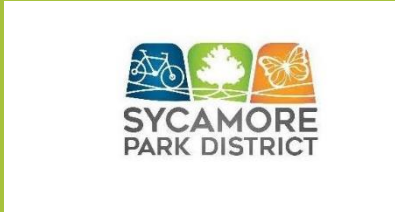
The greatest proportion of respondents (77.8%) included the Park District catalog among their preferred source of Sycamore Park District information. Getting information from neighbors, friends, and family was also selected as a popular source (55.6%). The ways respondents receive information about the Park District varies by demographic group. The Park District should continue using a variety of communication methods. Respondents whose household income is less than \$50,000 have lower awareness of several of the Park District parks, facilities and services and are less likely to receive information about the Park District electronically. The Park District should explore non-electronic methods to reach this group.



# Appendix A: Community Survey Materials

## Email Invitation

- From: schneiderman@niu.edu via SurveyMonkey
- Date: March 11, 2024
- Subject: Sycamore Park District Community Survey



## Sycamore Park District Community Survey

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

We would like to hear from you!

The Sycamore Park District has commissioned the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University to conduct a survey of residents. The Sycamore District is interested in residents' opinions of the Park District parks, facilities, and services and residents' recreation needs. This information collected will help plan for the future.

Your household is one of a limited number of households that has been randomly selected to participate, so your responses to the survey are very important to us. **We want to hear from residents from across the Sycamore Park District's service area, so even if you do not use Park District parks, facilities, or services, we still want to hear your opinions.**

Your responses will be confidential. All information you provide will be reported in summary form only, so your answers will be added to the responses of others and will not be shared individually.

On average, the survey takes about 10 minutes, although it may be longer or shorter depending on your answers.

To complete the survey please click the "Begin Survey" button below.

If you have any questions about this survey, please email Mindy Schneiderman at the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University at [schneiderman@niu.edu](mailto:schneiderman@niu.edu).

Thank you for your participation.

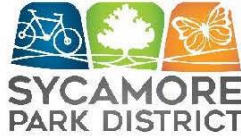
Sincerely,

Jonelle Bailey  
Executive Director  
Sycamore Park District

[Begin Survey](#)

Please do not forward this email as its survey link is unique to you.

[Privacy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



April 2024

Dear Sycamore Park District Resident,

We would like to hear from you!

The Sycamore Park District has commissioned the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University to conduct a survey of residents. The Sycamore District is interested in residents' opinions of the Park District parks, facilities, and services and residents' recreation needs. This information collected will help plan for the future.

Your household is one of a limited number of households that has been randomly selected to participate, so your responses to the survey are very important to us. **We want to hear from residents from across the Sycamore Park District's service area, so even if you do not use Park District parks, facilities, or services, we still want to hear your opinions.**

Your responses will be confidential. All information you provide will be reported in summary form only, so your answers will be added to the responses of others and will not be shared individually.

Please return the completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University or complete the survey online at:

<https://www.research.net/r/SycamoreParkDistrictCommunitySurvey>

To access the online survey, you will need to enter your 5-digit identification number located in the top right-hand corner of this letter.

On average, the survey takes about 10 minutes, although it may be longer or shorter depending on your answers. Please complete the survey before May 8, 2024.

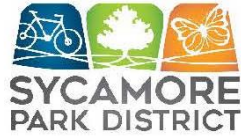
If you have any questions about this survey, please email Mindy Schneiderman at the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University at [schneiderman@niu.edu](mailto:schneiderman@niu.edu).

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Jonelle Bailey

Executive Director  
Sycamore Park

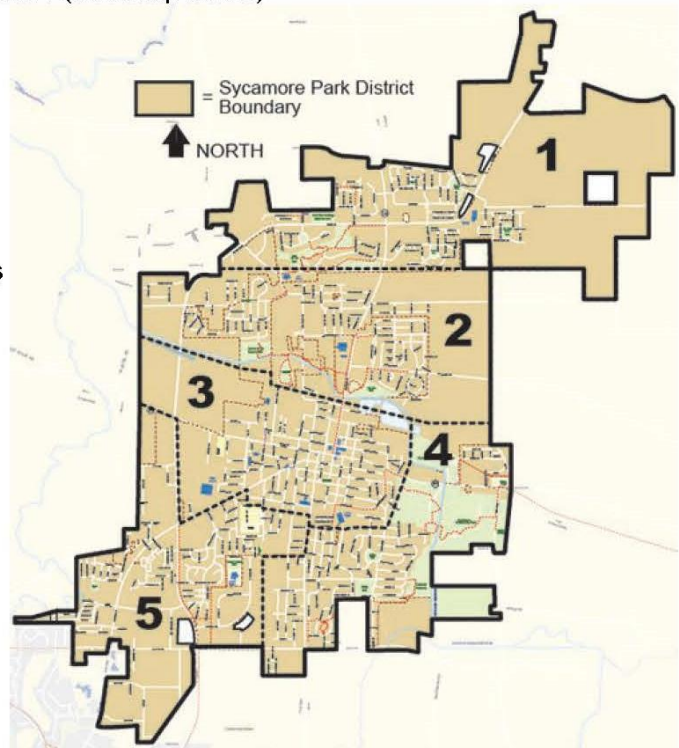


## SYCAMORE PARK DISTRICT COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Sycamore District is interested in residents' opinions of the Park District parks, facilities, and services and residents' recreation needs. This information will be used to help plan for the future.

1. In which area of the Sycamore Park District do you live? (See map below)

- Area 1
- Area 2
- Area 3
- Area 4
- Area 5
- None of the above (Thank you, but for purposes of this survey you must live in the Sycamore Park District service area.)



### I. Awareness and Use of the Sycamore Park District

- 2a. Are you aware of each of the following Sycamore Park District parks, facilities, and services?  
 2b. During the next 12 months, would your household be very likely to use each of the following Sycamore Park District parks, facilities, and services?

	a. Aware		b. Very Likely to Use	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
a. Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Natural Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Trail Systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Community Center/Pathway Fitness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	a. Aware		b. Very Likely to Use	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
e. Golf Course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Splash Pad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Golf Youth Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Programming and Special Events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Facility Rentals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Online Program Registration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Financial Assistance Scholarship for Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Kishwaukee Special Recreation Partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**II. Future Direction of the Sycamore Park District**

3. How supportive are you of the Sycamore Park District making the following improvements or additions?

Level of Support					
	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Very Supportive	Not At All Supportive	Not Sure
a. Trail and Pathways Development (improvements, accessibility, and connections)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Creation of an Amphitheater/Outdoor Music Venue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Enhanced Programming Offerings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Outdoor Shelter with Enhanced Amenities: Kitchen, Gas Grill, Counter Space, Flush Toilets, Etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Shade Structures at Sports Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Buying or Acquiring Land for Future Parks and Recreation Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Other improvements or additions (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____					

4. The Sycamore Park District's pool which closed in 2022 sits in a floodplain which prohibits construction and expansion due to cost and regulations of the IL Department of Natural Resources. The Park District therefore needs to find a new site to build an aquatics facility.

The estimated cost of building a new pool is \$16 million (property acquisition, engineering, and construction) and would require a referendum. Would you support or oppose a referendum that cost a homeowner with a home value of \$300,000 an additional \$199 per year for twenty years to build a new aquatics facility in Sycamore?

- Support
- Oppose
- Unsure

### III. Perceptions of the Sycamore Park District

5. Belonging describes the feeling of being welcomed, included, accepted, or valued as part of a group. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"Members of my household feel we belong at the Sycamore Park District."

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

6a. If you or a member of your household is an individual who identifies with a disability, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"The Sycamore District has effectively provided accommodations."

- Strongly agree (GO TO QUESTION 6b)
- Somewhat agree (GO TO QUESTION 6b)
- Somewhat disagree (GO TO QUESTION 6b)
- Strongly disagree (GO TO QUESTION 6b)
- Don't know (GO TO QUESTION 7)
- Does not apply (GO TO QUESTION 7)

6b. Why do you feel this way? \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. Value of the Sycamore Park District

7. How valuable is the Sycamore Park District to your community?

- Very valuable
- Somewhat valuable
- Not very valuable
- Not at all valuable
- Not sure

8. How valuable is the Sycamore Park District to your household?

- Very valuable
- Somewhat valuable
- Not very valuable
- Not at all valuable
- Not sure

9. For every dollar you pay in property taxes, \$.06 is paid to the Park District. Considering the services offered by the Sycamore Park District, do you think this amount is...?

- Too high
- Reasonable
- Too low
- Unsure



## V. Information Sources About the Sycamore Park District

10. What are your source(s) of information about the Sycamore Park District? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Program catalog that is mailed seasonally
- Park District e-newsletter
- Park District website
- Emails from the Park District
- Electronic sign on Rte. 64
- Posters or other printed information in Park District facilities
- Park District staff
- Park District social media accounts: Facebook or Instagram
- Local media; for instance, newspaper, radio, etc.
- Word of mouth; for instance, from friends or neighbors
- Do not receive information about the Park District

11. What is your preferred language for receiving information about the Sycamore Park District?

- English
- Spanish
- Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)  
\_\_\_\_\_

## VI. Demographics

Finally, we would like to know about you and your household. The Sycamore Park District works to provide services to everyone in the community, and all the information in this section will help us make sure our data is representative of people living in the service area.

12. How long have you lived in the Sycamore Park District's service area?

- 2 years or less
- More than 2 years to 5 years
- More than 5 years to 10 years
- More than 10 years
- Not sure
- Prefer not to answer

13. Are you...?

- Male
- Female
- Gender non-binary
- Another gender identity, not listed here
- Prefer not to answer

14. Does anyone in your household identify as one of the following? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Transgender
- Gender non-binary
- Another gender identity, not listed here
- Prefer not to answer
- None of these

15. What is your age?

- 18-29
- 30-49
- 50-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to answer

16. Are there any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

- Yes  No

17. Are there any adults 65 years of age or greater living in you household?

- Yes  No

18. What are the ethnicities in your household? Please indicate a) your ethnicity and b) the ethnicities of others in your household. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	a. Yourself	b. Others in Your Household
Asian	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Black/African American	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Caribbean	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hispanic or Latino	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Native American or Alaska Native	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
White	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (PLEASE SPECIFY)	<input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> _____
Prefer Not to Answer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. Please consider all sources of income, before taxes, for everyone living with you in 2023. What was your 2023 household income?

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than \$25,000             | <input type="radio"/> \$50,000 to less than \$75,000  | <input type="radio"/> \$100,000 to less than \$150,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$25,000 to less than \$50,000 | <input type="radio"/> \$75,000 to less than \$100,000 | <input type="radio"/> \$150,000 or more                |
|  |   | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to answer             |

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION. PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY IN THE POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE TO THE CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES.**

## **Telephone Reminder Call Script**

### **Voicemail message**

Hi, I'm calling from NIU on behalf of the Sycamore Park District. We'd like to know your household's recreational needs and your opinions about the Park District.

To share your thoughts, please take a few minutes to complete the online survey at [tinyurl.com/SycamoreParkDistrict](http://tinyurl.com/SycamoreParkDistrict) On the first page of the survey, please enter the following 5-digit code: (ID #).

Thanks for your time and have a great (day/evening)!

### **If a person answers the telephone**

Hi, I'm calling from NIU on behalf of the Sycamore Park District. How are you today?

We are working with the Park District to conduct a survey of Sycamore residents to find out their households' recreational needs and their opinions of the Park District's parks, programs, and services, which will help the Park District plan for the future.

It doesn't look like anyone in your household has completed the survey yet, so I'm calling to ask if you would take a few minutes to take the survey.

If you would like, I can give you the link to the survey, either over the phone now or by email.

*If needed:*

I could also send you a paper copy of the survey in the mail, or you can complete the survey with me over the phone.

*If they need the link:*

If you'd like to take the survey online, you can go to [tinyurl.com/SycamoreParkDistrict](http://tinyurl.com/SycamoreParkDistrict) On the first page of the survey, please enter the following 5-digit code: (ID #).

*If they want an email:*

What is the best email address to send the survey link?

*If they want a paper copy of the survey:*

What address should I send the survey to?

Thank you for your time today! Have a great day/evening!



# ***Appendix B: Verbatim Responses to Open-Ended Questions***

**Note:** Numbers in parentheses are number of respondents who gave the response.

## **Future Direction of the Sycamore Park District**

*How supportive are you of the Sycamore Park District making the following improvements or additions: Other improvements or additions*

### Pool/aquatic center

- A pool; kids need a place local to go.
- A community pool
- A community pool might be nice.
- A new community pool would be outstanding!
- A new pool would be really nice.
- A pool! We need a community pool.
- A pool.
- A swimming pool for the kids is very important to me. They need a place to go during the summer. I know that is where I was every day during the summer when I was growing up.
- A swimming pool. (2)
- An indoor or outdoor pool. I know we had one, but it closed.
- An inground lap pool at the community center would be nice.
- Aquatic center.
- Bring the pool back.
- Building an indoor pool to have aquatics classes all year long.
- Community pool facilities similar to Sunset Pool in Geneva.
- Community pool. (11)
- Creation of a community pool like Otter Cove Aquatic Park in St. Charles.
- Fix the pool.
- How about a pool? It's absolutely ridiculous that our town/park district doesn't have a pool or any plan in place to give the residents of Sycamore a pool. Where is all of our tax \$ going?
- I would love to have a pool again in Sycamore.
- Improve the existing pool. It has been fine for years.
- Indoor and an outdoor pool.
- Indoor/outdoor swimming.
- More events for adults and kids at parks; swimming pool.

- Need a new community pool.
- New community pool. (3)
- New pool construction priority.
- New pool. (4)
- New pool/water park
- Open a pool.
- Outdoor pool needs to be one of the park districts' top priorities.
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Please bring back the pool! We would love our kids to be able to enjoy the pool over the summer, not just the splash pad.
- Please build a new pool!
- Pool and indoor water park.
- Pool for families indoor and outdoor with special hours for lap swimming with lap roping.
- Pool needed!
- Pool would be nice
- Pool. (15)
- Pool/aquatic center.
- Public pool. (4)
- Public swimming pool.
- Reopen swimming pool.
- Replace the swimming pool. (2)
- Return of an outdoor community pool.
- Swimming pool. (13)
- Sycamore needs a pool. (2)
- The closing of the pool is very sad for our community; we are looking for a way to bring it back.
- The community needs a public pool for lower-income families.
- The town needs a pool.
- There should be a pool in the district.
- Water park beyond a splash pad.
- We need a community pool. (4)
- We need a pool again!
- We need a pool or someplace our children (teens specifically) can hang out during the summer months. There is nothing in Sycamore that ages 12-16 can really go to hang out at. They are suffering and getting into trouble at times because there is nothing and nowhere, they can go to just hang out and have fun. They're too old to go to playgrounds because those are for little kids. The trails aren't very captivating for them to hang out on a daily basis. We need more for our teen youth.
- We need a pool. (2)

### Additional or improved walking and biking paths

- Areas are limited, but it would be nice to have more access to nature trailways for hiking, perhaps along the Kish.
- Biking, walking, running trails. More trails so families can bike from point A to point B. The little parks with a small path are not sufficient for a good bike, walk, hike, etc.
- Complete the bike path on Bethany Rd. so that it connects to the Peace Rd. bike path.
- Extend the bike trail system and interconnect it.
- Garbage cans along the new part of the Great Western Trail.
- I am very interested in more information on natural trails for running and walking longer distances, bike trails.
- Link north of Plank/Peace to the bike paths safely.
- More places nearby to simply go for a walk besides along roads.
- More trails and bike paths connecting all of Sycamore.
- More trails and wintertime golf simulators.
- Pathways in my neighborhood to connect trails so we can safely bike in our neighborhoods.
- Raise grade of bike path where it floods between Larson Park and Sycamore Lake next to the river.
- Sidewalk on Brickville Road from North Ave to the park trails. Please!

### Additional parks or facilities, other than pool/aquatic center or paths

- Add a pump track, more shade at parks, toddler park, zip line, nature park, and more activities for stay-at-home parents and young kids.
- Better parks and pool.
- Build disc golf course
- More parks for young children, like toddlers 2-4 years old.
- More tennis courts. The two courts near me by the golf course are often being used or in the past few years used for classes and with the popularity now of pickleball, it is even harder to get a court. Please build some more tennis courts.
- Pickleball courts with lights that are free to the public
- Pickleball courts.
- Skateboard park.
- Skatepark.
- Tennis board for practicing.
- You need a music pavilion downtown in the old Henderson Parking lot.

### Improvements to parks or facilities, other than pool/aquatic center or paths

- A new roof on the historic shelter house near the 15th green.
- Baseball field improvements and expansion.
- Better restrooms at airport park fields. At least keep them serviced more often.
- Dog park improvements; more lights, more shade.
- Expand Dog park; add more shade, shelter, and more animal events like Ice cube day on a hot day. Dogs love ice cubes.
- Larger field numbers to view from road
- More landmarks would be nice. Like little signs around the forestry areas about the plants and wildlife that are there. I walk around the parks a lot and there isn't much for me to really read other than along the Great Western Trail, but that gets old pretty fast. Maybe if you could implement other signposts like those in some other places or, like I said, just have info of the nature around us.
- Planting trees strategically and specifically so parks and playgrounds can be shaded. Improvements to the playground at Kiwanis Prairie Park, in front of South Prairie School, include better playground mulch, a possible drainage system, and updated structures.
- Please continue to enhance soccer fields like they have baseball fields, install a flagpole at the soccer fields. More bike paths.
- Safety nets for foul balls at baseball/softball fields. There are too many spectators that get hit/injured.
- Small playground or swing set added back to Larson Park
- The community center sports court space feels like it may have been too small from the day the building opened.
- The golf course badly needs a new clubhouse.

### Lower cost, make facilities, services, and programs less expensive to use

- Cheaper community center.
- Making the walking track in the rec building free to use.

### Improvements to programs/services

- Extend the 21 bus to the park by the golf course.
- Longer concert series. More weeks. May 15 till end of August.

### Other response

- 9 more holes of disc golf! An 18-hole layout will allow for tournaments in Sycamore.
- Another 9 holes.

- Better concessions at youth baseball/softball games and better concession personnel (not very pleasant).
- Can we get some public severe storm/tornado shelters please? So many people around here do not have access to a basement. It's stupid that we live in tornado alley and there are no public emergency shelters. Really?
- Do not want a new swimming pool.
- Don't buy the farmland, buy closed buildings.
- Drinking water for people and dogs
- I can't afford any that Sycamore has to offer, not even my own home so if adding to the park district means raising my already too high taxes, then the answer is no.
- I'd be interested in using the neighborhood park in Reston Ponds.
- It is difficult to tell where my zone is on the map you provided. So, it is hard for me to say what I would personally want based on where I live.
- Love Good Tymes Shelter for music agenda.
- More/improved disc golf courses.
- No to a pool; waste of money.
- Supportive of any and all improvements that the staff deem necessary and are fiscally responsible.
- Swimming lessons.
- Take care of what we already have.
- We are all for supporting our community. Whatever we can do without having to raise our taxes any higher.

### **Perceptions of the Sycamore Park District**

*Why do you feel this way (in response to the question "If you or a member of your household is an individual who identifies with a disability, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'The Sycamore Park District has effectively provided accommodations.'?")*

#### **Needs are being met/satisfied with Sycamore Park District**

- All my needs are met.
- All our interactions have been positive.
- Ease of use and improvements over the past 5 years.
- Everything is very accessible, and all the facilities and bathrooms within the park District are always clean.
- Everywhere I notice where there should be a handicap accessible entrance, there is.
- Having used many of the facilities for various needs, it has always been a pleasurable experience-no complaints. I feel like for a small community, we have a wonderful park district system.

- I believe the park has all the essentials such as bathrooms and parking. People are generally polite in Sycamore.
- It's very good, love it.
- Most parks you can get close with a vehicle.
- No complaints.
- Ok.
- Other than the closing of the pool, I have enjoyed the park district.
- Special rec programs for my daughter who has CP have been wonderful. I would like to see more and more accommodations.
- Sycamore has become more accessible to anyone with disabilities whether physically or mentally.
- Taken part in various events and activities.
- There are plenty of parks kept in great shape.
- We have always had a great experience with the park district when our kids were growing up.
- We love the park district. My kids have been involved in programs since they were babies. Everyone is amazing, and it's a great value.

Need additional or improved accessibility or accommodations (Other than mobility or sensory/autism spectrum)

- Accessibility.
- Accessible programs for elderly.
- As we age, easier accessibility is necessary.
- I am not sure all your parks are easily accessible to people with disabilities.
- I think areas where accessibility improvements could enhance/increase participation should be identified, and a plan developed to move forward making the improvements.
- My son is autistic and requires alternate means of transportation to enjoy the trails.
- None of the parks have felt like they were designed with young toddlers in mind. Many are near roads or don't make sense for a young child, such as the park off Borden Ave., which is right next to the road and not fenced in. The Sycamore community park for toddlers is surrounded by sand, which toddlers throw or eat, and is dated. There's also a large reflective surface at this park that gets so hot in the summer that it burns people. I actually drive 30 minutes away to Huntley for a park that is better for my 2-year-old. That being said, there's currently a new park being built in Reston Ponds that we hope will be better for our son.
- Not enough accessibility.
- Not handicapped friendly everywhere.
- Older mother and accommodations for activities does not always factor in the appropriate amount of support and comfort for her.
- The handicapped person doesn't rush to use the park district facilities.
- The pool was never very accessible for older people or the handicapped, but it could provide excellent exercise for that group.

- There are areas of trailer etc., that are not accessible to those with disabilities. We can always improve when it comes to accessibility.
- There is very little to none of adaptive equipment in the playgrounds. Not 100% sure but I don't remember ever seeing programs offered for kids on the spectrum.
- Trails that have gravel or commonly slip below floodwater are not very accommodating.
- What changes we have seen feel more aesthetic rather than to suit purpose and utility. I know it'll be expensive, but we must do something to keep and bring younger families here.

Need additional or improved accessibility or accommodations: Mobility

- Baseball diamonds can be a long walk from the parking lot. A shuttle or a way to drop off spectators would be nice. We've driven thru the grass many times, not knowing if that was acceptable or not.
- Most places are accessible, however some of the nature trails and pathways aren't as easily accessible for people in a wheelchair.
- Need more for people with wheelchairs or canes or walkers.
- Parking at youth softball/baseball fields does not suit handicap people who need to park in the gravel parking lot. No walking path to the fields.
- The only things offered for kids in wheelchairs are sidewalks and a swing at a few parks. Where is the play equipment for them?
- We are still exploring here, but it seems to me that everywhere we go the handicap parking is very far from the entrance.
- With golf pass, we are unable to buy one that includes a golf cart. Many members are seniors with walking concerns. Please consider next year having a pass that we pay a little more but is with a golf cart. My old course found that members were willing to pay more for this

Unaware of accessible programs, services, or facilities; more information should be provided

- Natural areas and trails are very clean and easily accessible – however, there are some things I feel could be either more accessible or more advertised, so we are aware of their presence in the community.
- Perhaps more is provided than I am aware of?
- They have met our needs when we reached out but not much publicity.

Accessible programs, services, or facilities are limited, not interesting, or not appropriate for person with disability

- I am a stay-at-home mom, and I would love the park district to offer more programs for young kids and parents.
- I have had a family member with disabilities that lived with me. She did not participate in park district disabilities as she is an adult and there was little that interested her.
- My daughter had to do Special Olympics throughout OH as KSRA doesn't offer things that she wanted to do (sports).

- My young adult son is gravely disabled with a serious mental illness. He is stable on medication but there are no supervised groups or social activities that are for people like him. I would be willing to pay to have him be able to go to a special event like playing chess, doing an art or craft, making something, playing cards for an hour or two with a small group of people with a psychosis spectrum disorder, but who are not intellectually challenged.
- They do provide limited programming in the summer for children with special needs.
- Very little options for adults with disabilities
- What programming or facilities are there for the disabled?

#### Programs, services, or facilities are too expensive

- Expensive. In other towns the splash pad is free.
- I couldn't afford the fitness center due to my disability.
- Only been to the park 10 times in last 25 years; can't afford Family Membership. Over the past few years, it has started to look like a place for elite groups only.
- Pool too expensive.

#### Do not feel welcomed or have experienced discrimination

- Feeling welcomed depends on the staff.
- I'm African American, so I have experienced racism.

#### Need additional or improved accessibility or accommodations: Sensory or autism spectrum

- My child has participated in programs and no accommodations have ever been offered for their sensory needs due to her disability. Specifically, when they were enrolled in the Homeschool Wednesday's group. Their sensory sensitivities were described, and nothing was addressed or even responded to.
- Our son is autistic. When he was younger, we had to rely heavily on private swim lessons or DeKalb to get him water safe. Sycamore, at that time, offered lessons in the now closed pool but the locker rooms made it impossible for me to help my child get changed after the lesson.
- Where are the sensory parks for those with Autism?

#### Do not currently use Park District

- Do not use facilities.
- Don't use the park.
- When the pool was there, my daughter was able to use it easily. We don't use many facilities now though.



### Other response

- Because anything I do is too far to walk and I'm old and don't have any young children; it's unnecessary.
- Because the workout room at the community center is way too small, my husband is not happy about that at all!
- I identify as a dolphin... and need a pool.
- I moved out of state in 2016, but returned in 2023 to find that the park district has built a new community center and expanded/improved existing facilities.
- I think the Sycamore Park District needs to focus on maintaining what presently exists. A multi-million-dollar taxpayer funded pool makes little sense in today's economy. Taxpayers are being hit from every side. A new pool is a "want", not a "need", and something that is used for a very limited part of the year, by a small sliver of Sycamore's residents.
- I think too much money is spent on the ball fields, so travel teams can use them more than Park district League. I spend too much money for my kid to play a few weeks of ball in a couple weeks of practice before leagues start and then they can't even have practices once game start because there's just no place for them to practice due to all the travel teams.
- Need pool.
- Participate in KSRA.
- The community center for all members of the community.
- The county shows a stronger direction of support.
- The degree of security and facility for other than sports related use of the properties doesn't feel like a priority.
- They do a nice job but some of the teachers doing the programs shouldn't have been teaching kids. One of them retired.
- We don't see anyone with disabilities using current facilities. This may be that we just don't know about their disabilities, however.

### Don't know/not sure

- Unsure.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Center for  
Governmental Studies**

*Outreach, Engagement, and Regional Development*