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# Hillsboro Parks and Recreation System Plan Community Survey

Prepared on behalf of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation

by PKS International Community Engagement Liaison Services and Stamberger Outreach Consulting

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>PROJECT CONTEXT &amp; METHODS</i> .....	3
<i>SURVEY RESULTS AT A GLANCE</i> .....	4
<i>DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS</i> .....	7
1. <i>Characteristics of survey respondents</i> .....	7
2. <i>What respondents like about Hillsboro’s parks, facilities and programs</i> .....	11
3. <i>Access to outdoor space at home</i> .....	12
4. <i>Barriers to accessing parks and recreation</i> .....	14
5. <i>Recommendations for improving specific parks</i> .....	20
6. <i>Requests for future parks and recreation facilities</i> .....	24
7. <i>Requests for future parks and recreation classes, programs, and events</i> .....	30
8. <i>Involvement in parks and recreation planning</i> .....	37
9. <i>Community engagement and support recommendations</i> .....	41
10. <i>Information preferences</i> .....	46

## *APPENDIX A. RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS*

## *APPENDIX B. FULL LIST OF PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT*

# PROJECT CONTEXT & METHODS

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## Context

Hillsboro Parks and Recreation contracted with PKS International to gather diverse community input to help inform the new Hillsboro Parks and Recreation System Plan – a document that will guide parks and recreation program development in Hillsboro for the next 50 years. PKS International helped with survey development, provided survey and results translations, and conducted community specific survey outreach and promotion. PKS subcontracted with Stamberger Outreach Consulting to lead survey development, manage survey implementation, analyze resulting data, and prepare this project report.

## Survey delivery and recruitment

1,607 residents completed the survey.

The survey was delivered online and programmed into the online survey platform, Alchemer. The CELs team translated the survey into eight languages: Hindi, Arabic, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, Taiwan Chinese, Russian, Spanish and English. Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs) and the City of Hillsboro promoted the survey in person, at events, by email and social media, and through flyers and post-cards throughout Hillsboro. Survey respondents had the option to enter a raffle to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards. 1,100 people opted-in to the raffle, and 5 winners were selected using a Microsoft Excel random number generator. The CELs team contacted winners and sent gift cards.

## Equity-based sampling approach

We took an equity-based approach to survey promoting and recruitment which included extra effort to encourage responses from people with diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds who are often overlooked in community planning processes. In addition to common survey promotion methods reaching all Hillsboro residents, we also promoted the survey through intentional engagement with historically underrepresented groups.

We achieved our goal of diverse survey recruitment. 1,322 of 1,607 survey respondents provided information about their racial, ethnic, or cultural identity. Respondents could select as many options as fit their identity and could also opt out of the question. About half of survey respondents indicated they identify as Black, Indigenous, or other people of color, recent immigrants, or refugees, LGBTQIA+, and about one quarter (409) indicated they are differently abled or living with a chronic condition. Additionally, 16% of surveys were completed in a language other than English (See Appendix A. for demographic details about survey respondents).

## Results and statistical significance

The survey results cannot be said to be statistically representative of Hillsboro residents or any demographic group. Our equity-based survey recruitment approach was not random and over-sampled for historically

underrepresented groups. Therefore, although this survey yielded rich and actionable results that will be used to create a more responsive and equitable parks system in Hillsboro, the results cannot be said to be statistically representative.

# SURVEY RESULTS AT A GLANCE

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**Total survey responses:** 1,607

## **The top three things respondents like about Hillsboro parks, facilities, and programs**

Trees, playgrounds, and trails

## **Access to outdoor space at home**

About two thirds of survey respondents have access to an outdoor space at home.

## **Barriers to accessing parks and recreation facilities, classes, programs, and events**

Many respondents said they do not face any barriers accessing Hillsboro parks or recreation programs. The most reported barriers were lack of knowledge of parks and recreation programs, nice parks being too far away, not having the types of things respondents are interested in and being too expensive. 314 respondents (20%) wrote in additional answers to the barriers question. Themes from these responses were access issues for people with disabilities, lack of safe way to get to parks and recreation, homelessness concerns, parking difficulties, not being able to attend parks and recreation programs at times they are offered, and that parks and facilities are too crowded.

Respondents with health conditions and disabilities report physical limitations and not being able to get to parks and recreation easily as barriers at much higher rates than other groups. Residents with health conditions and disabilities experience barriers differently, and we see a lot of variation in the barriers they report facing, with many also saying they face no barriers.

Primary barriers among racial, ethnic, and cultural groups were generally in alignment with the barriers of the full group of respondents. However, close consideration shows possible differences among groups. It is important consider these differences when creating community-specific programs.

## **Recommendations for improvements to specific parks**

The five parks that received the most suggestions were: Shute Park, Hidden Creek Park East (formerly 53rd Ave Community Park), Orenco Woods Nature Park, Noble Woods Park, and Rood Bridge Park. Themes for these five parks are included in the details survey results section of this report, and a full list of recommendations for each park is included in Appendix B.

## **Parks facilities respondents hope to see more of in the future**

The most selected in a multiple-choice list were trails (54%), aquatic centers (45%), water parks/splash parks (41%), and protected forest areas for wildlife (41%). 172 respondents wrote in another answer that was not included in the multiple-choice question. The most common themes among the “other” responses were elaborations on the need for additional pools and aquatic centers, requests for covered areas and indoor areas to allow activities rain or shine, requests for more accessible facilities for people with disabilities, young kids and seniors, more access to clean restrooms, requests for more connected paths and trails, requests related to dogs, requests for more bike paths and mountain biking facilities, and skating rinks. The most requested sports facilities were a roller rink, tennis courts, disc golf courses, skateparks, pickleball courts, cricket fields and chess playing areas. Other types of facilities requested less often included bbq facilities, more playgrounds and interactive parks, exercise equipment, and a Veterans’ memorial or park.

### **Parks and recreation classes, programs, and events respondents would like to see more of in the future**

Respondents most selected music events (43%), kid’s classes and camps (40%), and movies in the park (38%).

The most common themes from “other” responses about classes were problems with class availability and cost, many requests for more swimming classes, and requests for more classes for young kids, teens, and seniors. The most requested language classes were English and Spanish, although many languages were suggested.

The most common themes from “other” responses about events included problems with events, including events happening during working hours making it difficult to attend, not knowing about events, and that events are too crowded. More inclusive events were also requested, as were community and family-friendly events, events for kids and teens, more events in fall and winter, and more social events.

We asked respondents who selected cultural events from the multiple-choice question what types of cultural events they would like to see. 273 respondents shared their ideas and requests.

The primary themes included:

- Multicultural events representing multiple cultures at once or individual events focusing on many other cultures was the most popular. There seemed to be a genuine interest in cross-cultural connection and learning among respondents who wrote in about cultural events.
- Next most popular was culturally specific celebrations like festivals and holidays.
- Also popular were cultural events focused on food, dance, music, art and fashion.

The most requested culturally specific events were:

- Native American (most requested)
- Pacific Islander or Polynesian
- Latino/a/e or Hispanic
- African and/or African American
- Arab Culture (Eid mentioned)

### **Previous experience with public involvement for Hillsboro Parks and Recreation**

A large majority of respondents (78%) had never participated in parks and recreation planning with the city.

Respondents identifying as white alone reported previous involvement at a much higher rate than any other racial, ethnic, or cultural group. Groups reporting the least participation were Middle Eastern / North African, Asian, and recent immigrants or refugees.

### **Barriers to public involvement in parks and recreation planning**

Not knowing how to be involved was the most mentioned barrier across all survey respondents. Being too busy was the next most common. Although reported at about half the rate of being too busy, quite a few survey respondents said they feel the city won't listen to them.

Similar to all respondents, racial, ethnic and cultural groups also cited not knowing how to be involved as the most mentioned barrier. Being too busy was also cited often, and quite a few said they don't believe the city will listen to them. Respondents identifying as Middle Eastern or North African reported involvement not being offered in their language as the second highest barrier they face, a much higher rate than other groups. It is important to consider each group's specific concerns when working to increase their participation.

### **Community engagement and support recommendations**

The most common overall themes from this open-ended question were gratitude for the Hillsboro Parks and Recreation facilities and the people at the city who make them great. There was also a large positive response to this survey. Respondents were happy to have been asked for their opinion and felt this survey was a good way to engage the community. Requests and recommendations included better advertisement of parks and recreation services, asking communities directly, including diverse voices, engaging with communities through organizations that serve them, and facilitating meetings with community members and parks staff. Specific recommendations were made for many communities and can be found in the detailed survey results in this report.

### **Information preferences**

Respondents most said they prefer to receive information via social media, email, and websites. Slightly more than 80 respondents said they prefer information in a language other than English. 72 respondents wrote in another information preference that was not included in the multiple-choice options. Themes included: print materials and text messages. For most racial, ethnic, and demographic groups, email, social media, and websites are the most preferred methods of receiving information. However, there are some notable differences that should be considered when conducting outreach to specific communities.

# DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

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## Total survey respondents: 1,607

**A note on “n” values** – Most of the survey results below are given as percentages. Because survey respondents did not all answer each question, questions had differing numbers of responses. Also, some demographic groups had far fewer total respondents than others. The “n” values for each question indicate how many people answered that question, providing additional context for survey results.

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## 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

### Respondent relationship to Hillsboro

*Most survey respondents live in Hillsboro, about two-thirds visit, shop or play there, and about one-third work in Hillsboro. Respondents were required to mark one of these answers to proceed to the survey.*

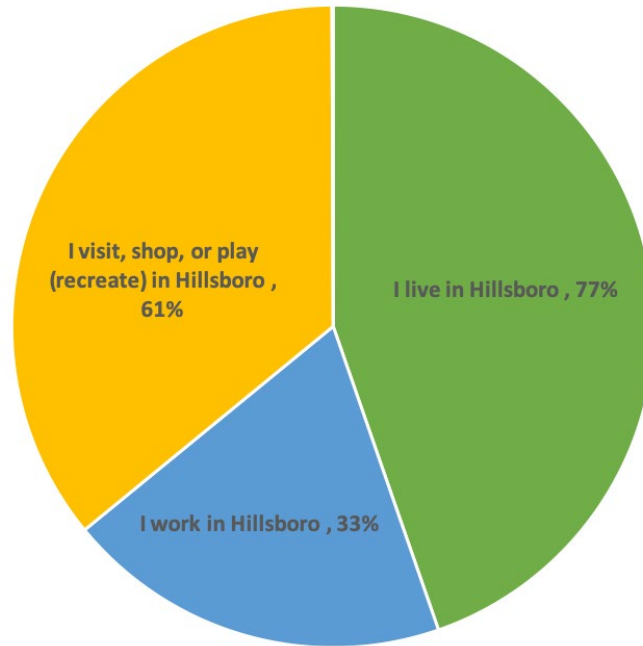


Figure 1. Survey respondent relationship to Hillsboro, n = 1,605

## Types of parks and recreation facilities used

We looked at the use of parks and recreation amenities reported by all respondents, for respondents indicating they live with a disability or health condition, and by race, ethnicity, and cultural group.

### All respondents

*Public parks, natural areas, trails, and attending large city events were most reported among respondents.*



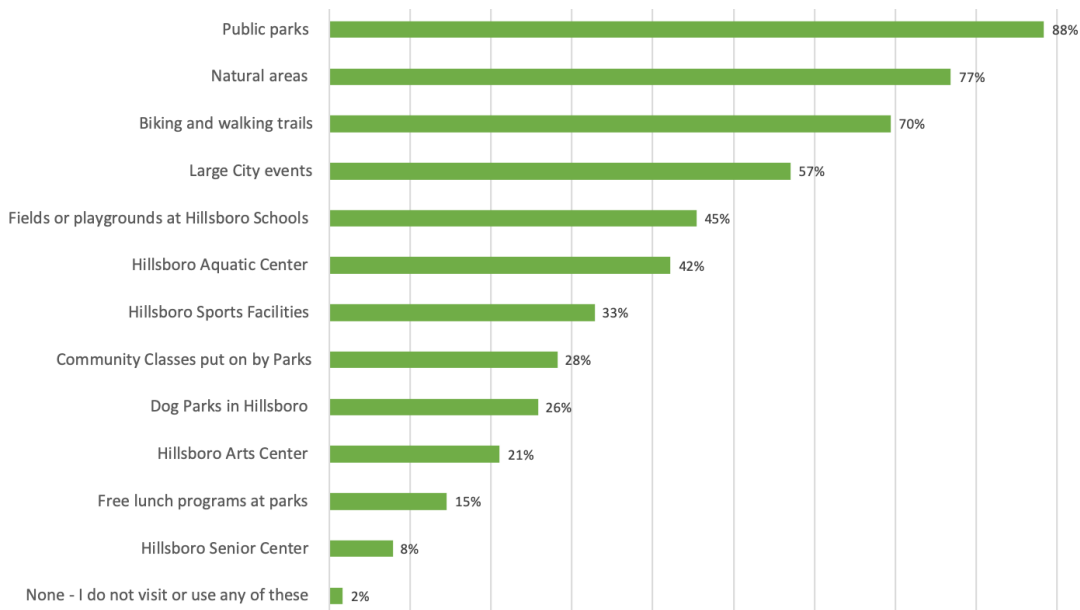


Figure 2. Types of parks and recreation facilities used, all respondents, n = 1,596

**Use by respondents with health conditions or disabilities - very similar to overall respondent trends**

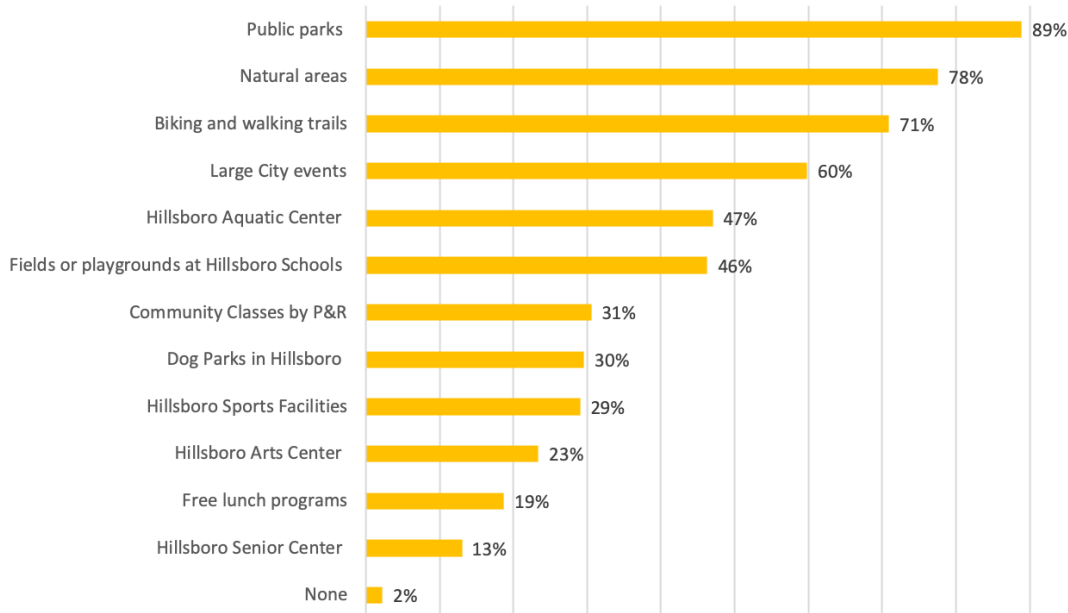


Figure 3. Types of parks and recreation facilities used by respondents with health conditions or disabilities, n = 406

**Parks and recreation facilities use by race, ethnicity, cultural group** – Trends by demographic group in blue, trends per amenity type in yellow.

	Native American or Alaska Native (n=59)	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (n=33)	Black or African American (n=51)	Hispanic, Latino/a/e, or Spanish Origin (n=195)	Asian (n=215)	Middle Eastern or North African (n=67)	Slavic (n=43)	Recent immigrant or Refugee (n=15)	LGBTQIA+ (n=91)	White alone (n=638)
Public parks	93%	79%	73%	88%	87%	66%	93%	87%	91%	94%
Biking and walking trails	81%	70%	45%	64%	66%	30%	74%	53%	82%	81%
Natural areas	80%	82%	47%	74%	76%	40%	74%	67%	85%	86%
Fields or playgrounds at Hillsboro Schools	59%	64%	47%	46%	42%	36%	35%	40%	37%	51%
Hillsboro Aquatic Center	58%	49%	39%	49%	39%	18%	26%	47%	31%	47%
Large City events	56%	61%	39%	63%	47%	40%	61%	33%	63%	64%
Hillsboro Sports Facilities	46%	42%	33%	44%	28%	16%	33%	47%	21%	35%
Community Classes by P&R	39%	42%	28%	33%	26%	21%	42%	33%	22%	28%
Dog Parks in Hillsboro	31%	27%	24%	32%	21%	10%	35%	7%	34%	28%
Hillsboro Arts Center	20%	21%	22%	28%	15%	10%	35%	20%	19%	23%
Free lunch programs	17%	21%	20%	28%	14%	9%	9%	7%	9%	13%
Hillsboro Senior Center	14%	6%	20%	16%	3%	15%	14%	0%	2%	7%
None	0%	3%	8%	0%	4%	0%	5%	7%	4%	0%

Figure 4. Types of parks and recreation used by race, ethnicity, cultural group

## Closest school or park to where respondents live, work, visit, or play

Each of 73 of Hillsboro’s parks, recreation facilities, and schools was mentioned by at least one survey respondent as being the closest. We’ve included for this report the top 10 parks, natural areas, or schools near where respondents live, work or play.

*Top 10 parks, natural areas, or schools near survey respondents are Shute Park, Hidden Creek Park East, Orenco Woods Nature Park, Brookwood Elementary, Amberglen Park, Rood Bridge Park, Butternut Creek Park, Jackson Elementary, Century High School, and Orenco Elementary.*

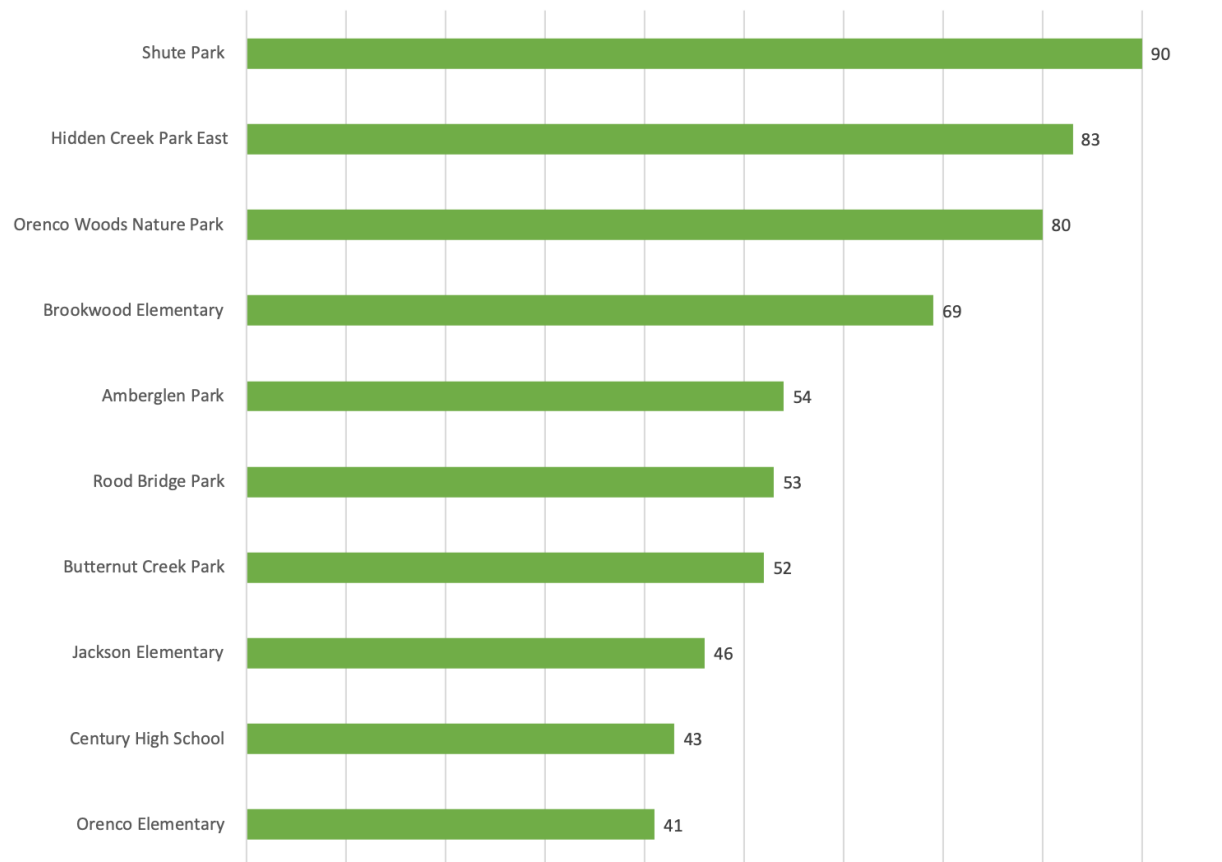


Figure 5. Top 10 Parks near survey respondents, n = 1,578



### 3. ACCESS TO OUTDOOR SPACE AT HOME

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We also looked at the access to outdoor space at home reported by all respondents, for respondents indicating they live with a disability or health condition, and by race, ethnicity, and cultural group.

#### All Respondents

Overall, about two thirds of survey respondents have access to an outdoor space at home, while about one quarter do not.

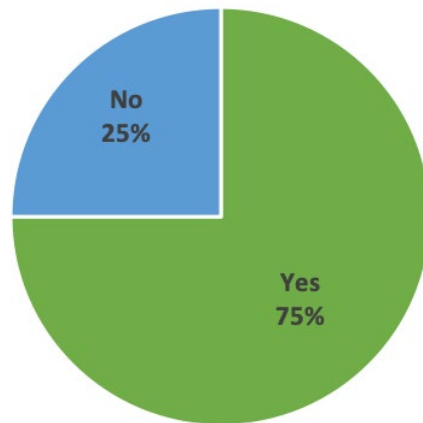


Figure 7. Access to outdoor space at home - all respondents (n=1,588)

#### Access to outdoor space at home for respondents with health conditions or disabilities

Respondents with health conditions or disabilities reported about five percent less access to outdoor space at home than did all respondents.

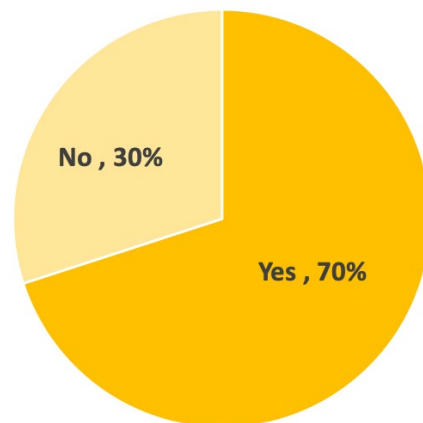


Figure 8. Access to outdoor space at home, respondents with health conditions or disabilities, n = 406

### Access to outdoor space at home by racial, ethnic, and cultural group

Respondents who identified as Middle Eastern or North African, and Hispanic, Latino/a/e, or Spanish origin reported the least access to outdoor space where they live. Respondents who identified as white alone reported the most.

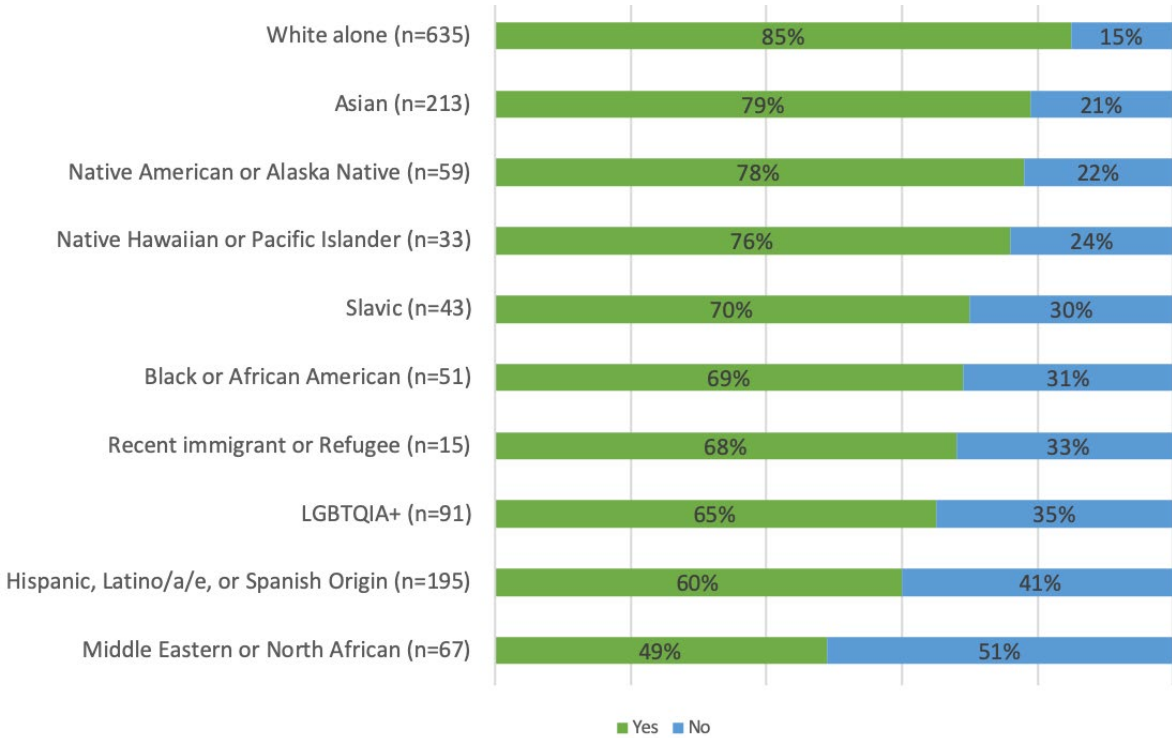


Figure 8. Access to outdoor space at home by race, ethnicity, cultural group.

## 4. BARRIERS TO ACCESSING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES, CLASSES, PROGRAMS, & EVENTS

We asked survey respondents which, if any, of the following things keep them, or their friends or family, from visiting parks or going to parks programs. We looked at barriers for all respondents, for racial, ethnic and cultural identity groups, and for residents with health conditions or disabilities.

### All respondents:

Many respondents said they do not face any barriers accessing Hillsboro parks or recreation programs. The most reported barriers were lack of knowledge of parks and recreation programs, nice parks being too far away, not having the types of things respondents are interested in and being too expensive. About twenty percent of respondents to this question wrote in another answer. Within the “other” category, trends emerged about parking problems, classes and event schedules not being convenient, and crowding and were added to the chart.

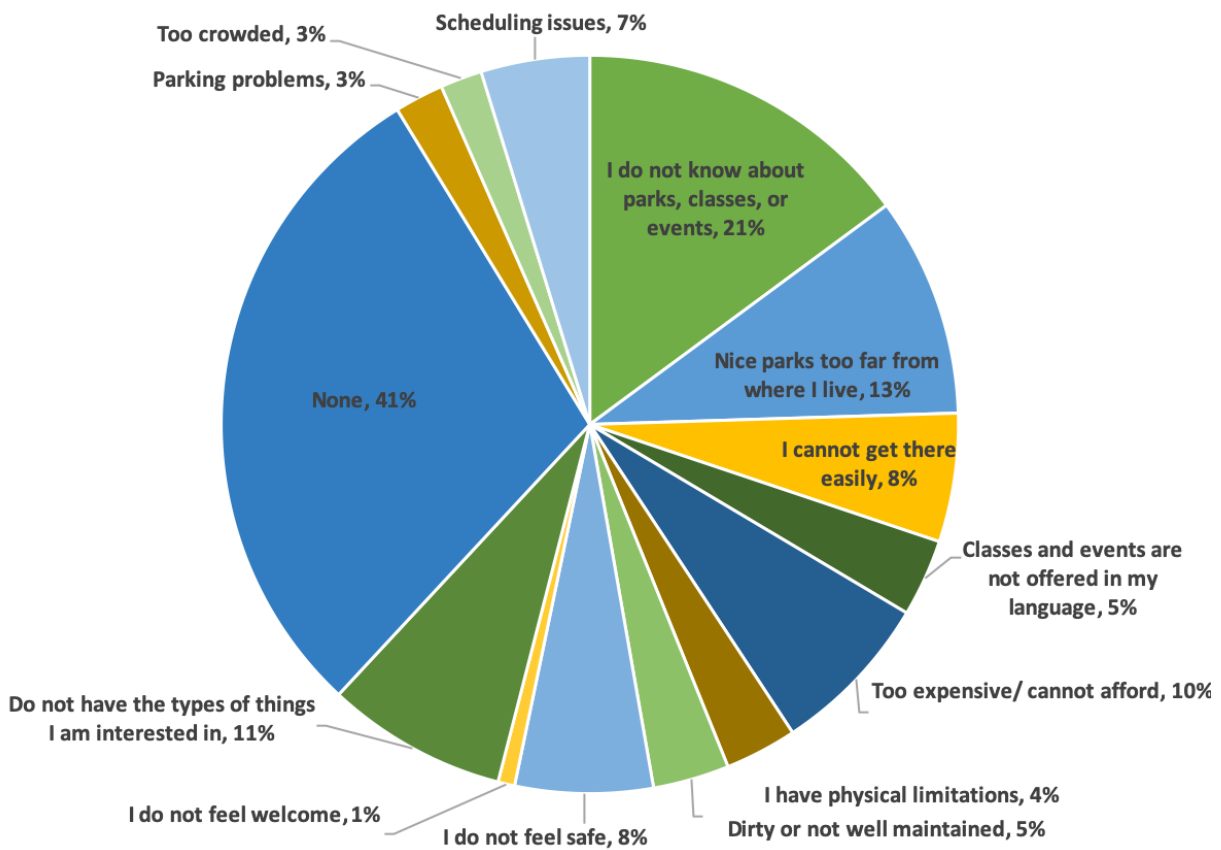


Figure 9. Barriers to accessing parks and recreation facilities and programs, n = 1,577

# Themes from “other” response category: barriers

314 (20% of all respondents) who answered the question about barriers wrote in another answer that was not included in the multiple-choice question. The most common themes among the “other” responses were access issues for people with disabilities, lack of safe way to get to parks and recreation, homelessness concerns, parking difficulties, not being able to attend parks and recreation programs at times they are offered, and that parks and facilities are too crowded.

## 1. SAFETY CONCERNS AND HOMELESSNESS

Safety concerns in and around parks were the most mentioned theme among written-in responses. The majority of safety concerns were associated with the presence of homeless residents in and around parks, causing respondents to feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Homelessness at Shute Park was mentioned often. Some respondents mentioned concerns about criminal activity and drug use, also often linked to concerns about homelessness. Quite a few respondents said they want the city to keep homeless people out of the parks, while a smaller number want the city to improve services to help the homeless. Some requested additional police or security presence at the parks. Some also said there is not enough lighting in parks and requested more be added.

*“There's gang activity at some of the parks. Drug deals happening. Homeless people hanging around. Breaking into cars. Don't feel comfortable taking kids and dogs due to shady people hanging around. No one is around to help if needed. Need security around.”*

*“Please, please, please ban homeless camping in the parks. Utilize the unoccupied building for the homeless, get them off our streets and parks so hard-working taxpayers can safely enjoy the parks they pay taxes for without worrying about needles and walking in human waste. Let's not be another Portland.”*

*“If you're going to house the homeless then they should have rules and should have to help in the place they live and they should be clean and not on drugs. I feel you guys have brought a lot of danger to Hillsboro creating free places for them to live while high on drugs. Maybe put more effort into clean & sober living and create more places for those who want to get clean from drugs can have those resources available to them. I work and own my own business by Shute Park and every day, I see people high on something and have had many come at me or pretend to throw something or have come into my place of business I have had to get bear spray to keep in my office to feel safe.”*

## 2. PARKS AND RECREATION SCHEDULING ISSUES

Many respondents also mentioned difficulty accessing parks and recreation classes, programs, and events because of when they are scheduled. These respondents, especially working parents, said they cannot access classes that are offered during work hours and would like more classes and events offered on weekday evenings or on the weekends. Many scheduling issues were associated with classes filling up too quickly. Several said the parks scheduling website is confusing or difficult to use.

*“Parks and Rec classes have such small availability, and a small number of classes, that I can hardly get my kids into anything, even if I'm enrolling the minute registration opens. Especially swimming lessons. And the open swim hours are very inconvenient.”*



*“Most of the classes are held during the week and during the day. It makes it tough for working parents.”*

*“The times offered don't match my availability, the number of spaces are limited, and the classes I want fill up before I can sign up.”*

### **3. ACCESS-RELATED BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Respondents shared a range of disability-related access barriers in Hillsboro's parks and recreation facilities and programs. Primary concerns include the lack of accessibility for wheelchair users, including insufficient accessible parking spaces, uneven sidewalks, and a lack of wheelchair-friendly areas. Parents of children with autism highlight the need for quieter, less crowded, and fenced-in park spaces. There is also a notable desire for more inclusive programs and activities for both children and adults with special needs. Some comments emphasize the necessity of improvements in facilities to cater to those with learning disabilities. Additionally, some respondents requested accommodation for large events, with a focus on wheelchair-accessible parking. The overarching theme is the need for increased accessibility, inclusivity, and safety for individuals with disabilities, whether due to mobility, sensory, or other challenges.

*“My son is a full-time wheelchair user. Some parks and trails are not wheelchair friendly. There are not any adult size changing tables and I have to change his diaper on the floor in the bathroom.”*

*“I'd love to see their playground, and all others, surrounded by fences with a gate so that parents can bring young children who are experiencing disabilities. Many of these kids will suddenly run off when they're in public. Attractive gated fences would bring so much peace of mind for parents who bring their kids to the playground.”*

*“Please fix the sidewalks between the Max station and Hidden creek community center. It is downright dangerous in a wheelchair and has made getting to the center by max impossible, and I don't have a vehicle that accommodates my powerchair, so I am not able to use my membership. Curb cuts are great but not if they are so narrow that you have to wheel into traffic to use it (example- 1st and Main intersection). There are a LOT of sidewalks in the area that are in such bad shape, from large "steps" caused by trees (like the NW sidewalk at Main and Connell intersection), to sidewalks that are literally falling apart (like in-front of the American Legion post 6). It would really be great if non-wheelchair user employees spent a week in a wheelchair trying to wheel around the neighborhoods and parks to see just how inaccessible a lot of it is. You can't know how bad it is unless you experience it. Accessibility shouldn't be an afterthought and it feels like it is.”*

### **4. PARKING ISSUES**

Quite a few respondents said lack of available parking keeps them from accessing parks and recreation as much as they would like. Many of these requested additional or improved parking, including several requests for improving the parking area for the ball fields at the Washington County Fairgrounds. A few mentioned needing additional wheelchair-accessible van parking at parks.

*“What is frustrating is that there is no parking. I have no limits to get to the place but sometimes I drive around so many times looking for parking and if I can't find it, I better go home. I might as well go home. I can't always get there early.”*

*Parking, or lack of it, is a huge problem for giving access to large events, such as the Celtic Fantasy Faire. We LOVE this event but don't feel welcome because we need to have parking for our wheelchair van.*

## 5. LACK OF SAFE WAYS TO GET TO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Pedestrian safety and lack of sidewalks and bike lanes were the most common themes in the safe access category. Some respondents said they need to cross dangerous intersections or walk in the road to access parks and recreation. Several references mention a lack of access to cars and the need to rely on public transportation, which can be unreliable, requiring them to walk a significant distance from bus stops.

*“I live north of Noble Woods, and it is very hard to cross Main street in front of the park without a crosswalk. It's also hard to get to other parks because they are not alongside frequent services bus routes or the max line.”*

*“Walking my dog from my home is very difficult. There are very few sidewalks, only 1 small bike lane on SE Johnson (that is often blocked by trash cans, construction signs, etc.) and sidewalks along TV highway are always littered with glass.”*

*“If anything, please consider a sidewalk on 15th to the park. It's such a shame we have to dodge cars trying to get to the city park. Vehicles do not slow down, and someone is going to get hit walking thru that area where no sidewalks are. The city just put in new ADA curbs there, but what good are they without a continuing sidewalk for people to walk on vs in the street?”*

## 6. PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES ARE TOO CROWDED

Crowded facilities and events were a barrier mentioned by quite a few respondents. Crowding was mentioned often in relation to newer and “nicer” parks and the SHARC aquatic center. Some requested more facilities to help with crowding.

*“Classes are often full, parks can be crowded during community events. For someone with children that can get overestimated, it doesn't help.”*

*“The new park is too packed! You need to build many, many more! :-)”*

*“The SHARC pool is packed and over busy - need another pool.”*

## Barriers faced by respondents with health conditions and disabilities

Respondents in these groups report physical limitations and not being able to get to parks and recreation easily as barriers at much higher rates than other groups. Residents with health conditions and disabilities experience barriers differently, and we see a lot of variation in the barriers they report facing, with many also saying they face no barriers.

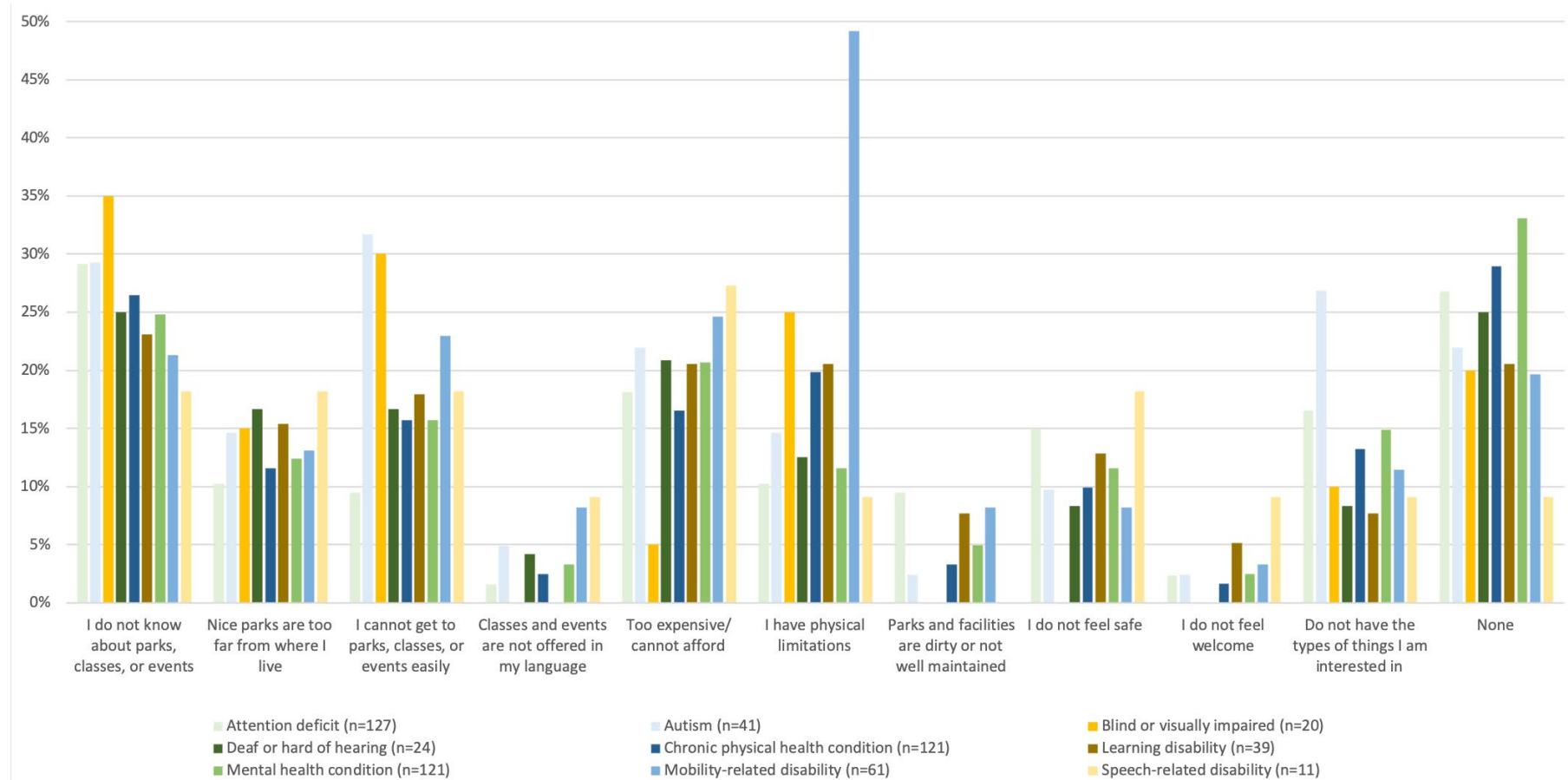


Figure 10. Barriers faced by respondents with health conditions and disabilities

### Barriers by race, ethnicity, cultural group:

Primary barriers among racial, ethnic, and cultural groups were generally in alignment with the barriers of the full group of respondents. However, close consideration shows possible differences among groups. It is important consider these differences when creating community-specific programs.

Segment	Native American or Alaska Native (n=59)	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (n=33)	Black or African American (n=51)	Hispanic, Latino/a/e, or Spanish Origin (n=195)	Asian (n=212)	Middle Eastern or North African (n=67)	Slavic (n=43)	White alone, no other category (n=685)	Recent immigrant or Refugee (n=15)	LGBTQIA+ (n=91)
I do not know about the parks, classes, or events	19%	36%	16%	18%	27%	36%	23%	17%	33%	30%
Classes and events are not offered in my language	5%	3%	2%	8%	8%	22%	16%	1%	20%	2%
I cannot get to parks, classes, or events easily	15%	15%	10%	9%	10%	15%	7%	5%	13%	19%
I do not feel safe	19%	9%	8%	6%	8%	0%	5%	9%	7%	7%
I do not feel welcome	7%	6%	0%	0%	1%	3%	0%	0%	7%	3%
I have physical limitations	8%	6%	4%	3%	1%	10%	5%	5%	7%	10%
Nice parks are too far from where live	20%	21%	18%	14%	19%	28%	23%	8%	20%	20%
None	34%	21%	49%	44%	34%	24%	37%	44%	33%	27%
Dirty or not well maintained	10%	12%	6%	4%	7%	6%	7%	3%	13%	1%
Do not have things I am interested in	12%	9%	6%	10%	13%	7%	16%	10%	20%	16%
Too expensive/cannot afford	22%	18%	10%	14%	10%	10%	2%	9%	13%	19%

Figure 11. Barriers by racial, ethnic, cultural group. Top three barriers per group in green, top one to three groups per barrier outlined in yellow.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING SPECIFIC PARKS

We asked survey respondents to select up to three parks or recreation facilities they think should be improved. *The top five parks with suggestions include: Shute Park, Hidden Creek Park East (formerly 53rd Ave Community Park), Orenco Woods Nature Park, Noble Woods Park, and Rood Bridge Park.*

Park or Recreation Facility	Recommendations
Shute Park	342
Hidden Creek Park East (formerly 53rd Ave Community Park)	160
Orenco Woods Nature Park	145
Noble Woods Park	132
Rood Bridge Park	117
Amberglen Park	89
Hondo Dog Park	88
Dairy Creek Park	78
Rock Creek Trail	74
Frances Street Park	70
Butternut Creek Park	67
Bagley Park	57
Evergreen Park	56
Jerry Willey Plaza at Orenco Station	50
Shadywood Park	48
Magnolia Park	46
Orchard Park	45
Griffin Oaks Park	44
Reedville Creek Park	43
Central Park	43
Turner Creek Park	41
Walnut Street Park	40
Hamby Park	35
Paula Jean & Trachel Meadows (Powerline) Parks	29
Century Oaks Park	29
Bicentennial Park	28
Tamarack Park	24
Cornell Creek Park	22
McKinney Park	20
Gordon Faber Recreation Complex	20
Tom Hughes Civic Center Plaza	19
Rosebay Park	10
Magnolia Meadows Park	10
Glencoe Creek Park	9
Cherry Lane Trailhead	9
Harold Eastman Rose Garden	6

Figure 12. Number of times each Hillsboro Park was mentioned as needing improvement.

**Respondents were then asked to make suggestions to each park for improvement. We have analyzed the primary themes for each of the five most mentioned parks. See Appendix X for a full list of improvement suggestions for all Hillsboro Parks.**

## SHUTE PARK

- **Safety and Security** was by far the most mentioned for Shute Park. Most concerns were related to homelessness and camping in and around the park, causing parks users to feel unsafe. They mentioned a need for more security and addressing homelessness. A few safety concerns were about improving lighting in the park.

*“Prioritize Shute park area and making it safe again. Too many drug deals, fights, overdoses, gang violence, shootings etc., that area has become soooo sketchy, we will not use the pool, library, shut park etc. without my husband with us. We won't even frequent Jim's ice cream without him, and it breaks my heart, but it is too unsafe of an area.”*

*“Also, specifically Shute Park has become dangerous. There were glass shards in the bark chips, and I and my toddler were followed by two men to my car until they noticed my husband there.”*

*“The homeless that congregate around some of the parks, Shute Park in particular make me feel too uncomfortable to have my kids around.”*

- **Pools and Swimming** was the next most mentioned, including requests for more pools, a bigger pool, and more swimming classes.

*“The swim center at Shute Park is pretty small for the amount of people who use it. The high school teams have to practice outdoors in the winter because the facility is far too small to have them practice inside. Building a new swim center could be very beneficial to the city, not only for high school sports but also for people in the community.”*

*“Please build a second pool, been waiting for 20 years, lap swim is near impossible to know if room, same as getting swim lessons, this diverse community deserves swimming options, also for highs schools teams practicing at 5:30am is nuts.”*

- **A Cleaner Park** was also mentioned often, with particular reference to cleaning up after homeless campers, cleaning the restrooms more regularly, maintenance and regular upkeep.
- **More and Better Parking** was also requested, including improved parking facilities, additional parking spaces, and better management of parking, especially during peak times and events in the park.

## HIDDEN CREEK PARK EAST

- **Park is Extremely Well-Liked** among survey respondents. Many like the play equipment and trails, including Oro the Forest Giant, and many said they appreciate the inclusivity and accessibility of the park. Many said they would like to see more parks like this added to Hillsboro.

*“The all-inclusive style parks you've begun putting in, SO many cool features other parks don't have, and we LOVE it! We've gone to the new Hidden Creek park probably 15 times since it's opened already.”*

*“I love seeing my tax dollars being put to good use and the new Hidden Creek park is amazing!”*

- **Adding a Pool** was the most requested item for Hidden Creek Park East.

*“I thought the new Hidden Creek facility would be another SHARC-like facility. Since it is missing the pool, I cannot do my water aerobics at a closer facility to my home. Getting to SHARC from the Tanasbourne area can take upwards of 20 minutes. That's a lot of time driving to and from for a 45 -minute class. I would like to see either a pool installed inside the Hidden Creek facility, or a new facility built for those of us on the east side of Hillsboro. We are not Beaverton residents, so we are not considered residents at the Tualatin Hills facilities.”*

- **Adding Shaded and Covered Areas** was also a very popular recommendation for improvement.
- **More Pickleball Courts** were requested, including one suggestion that the tennis courts do not get used often and could instead be used for pickleball.
- **Changes to the Tennis Courts** were also requested by a few people, including covering them, adding lighting, and resurfacing them.

## ORENCO WOODS NATURE PARK

- **Bigger and Better Playgrounds and Play Structures** was the most common request for Orenco Woods Nature Park. Several respondents requested natural play structures be added.
- **Adding Shade Over Sand Pit** was a common request for this park, with respondents citing very hot summer temperatures in the sand pit area.
- **Address Rules about Dogs on Trails** – dogs were mentioned fairly often, with some wanting better access and features for dogs including fenced off-leash areas, allowing leashed dogs on trails, and wanting a dog water fountain, while other respondents wanted better regulation of dogs at the park.

*“Allow dogs to walk on the trails. The no dogs on trails rules causes a lot of fights with people trying to break the rules and others trying to enforce them.”*

- **Improving and Adding Water Features** was mentioned by some, including making sure the water feature in the sand pit works properly, adding more water features, and adding water fountains.

*“Put a mesh cover in front of the water spicket on the rock so kids can't jam rocks in there and clog it up.”*

*“Fix the water features in sand area to put out a little more water.”*

## NOBLE WOODS PARK

- **Adding a Playground** was the most common request for Noble Woods Park.
- **More Parking** was a common request for Noble Woods Park.
- **Increasing Safety** at the Park was also commonly mentioned, including the need for improved safety measures, enhanced lighting, security, and measures to prevent car break-ins and address general safety concerns associated with the presence of homeless individuals, as well as a desire for clearer safety signage.

*“More parking and monitoring of the park. Doesn't always feel safe with homeless population.”*

*“Fencing and bridges need maintenance (missing fences, bridges without non-slip stickers).”*

- **Increasing Signage** at the park was also requested by a number of respondents, including safety signage on trails, rules and regulations, and educational signage about nature and plants.

*“Maybe some added signage when the trail switches from paved to rocky path. My first hike on this trail I fell badly. Caught my hiking shoe on a rock sticking up on the path.”*

*“Lighting, safety. People sleep in cars here. Signs maybe? Maybe signs saying max parking is 2 hours?”*

## **ROOD BRIDGE PARK**

- **Water Features** were most mentioned at Rood Bridge, specifically wanting the creek water feature to be turned back on, especially in the summer. A few people mentioned concerns about the pond, including wondering if it is safe, a bad odor, and algae concerns.

*“Restore the beautiful water feature that was part of the park's original design. The water adds beauty, serenity, and calm for one walking in the park.”*

- **Trail Improvements** were next most mentioned, including adding lighting, making trails safer, adding seating and bathrooms along trails
- **Better Bathrooms** was also mentioned for this park, including requests for year-round availability, cleanliness, and the installation of more bathrooms throughout the park's trails.
- **New Playgrounds and Improving Existing Play Structures** was also mentioned for Rood Bridge.

*“The playground can be expanded to add more sensory features, play structures, sand pits, and adult play structures like those in other parks (such as Hidden Creek West).”*

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## 6. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

We asked respondents what parks and recreation facilities they would like to see more of in the future.

*Respondents most said they hope to see more trails (54%), aquatic centers (45%), water parks/splash parks (41%), and protected forest areas for wildlife (41%).*

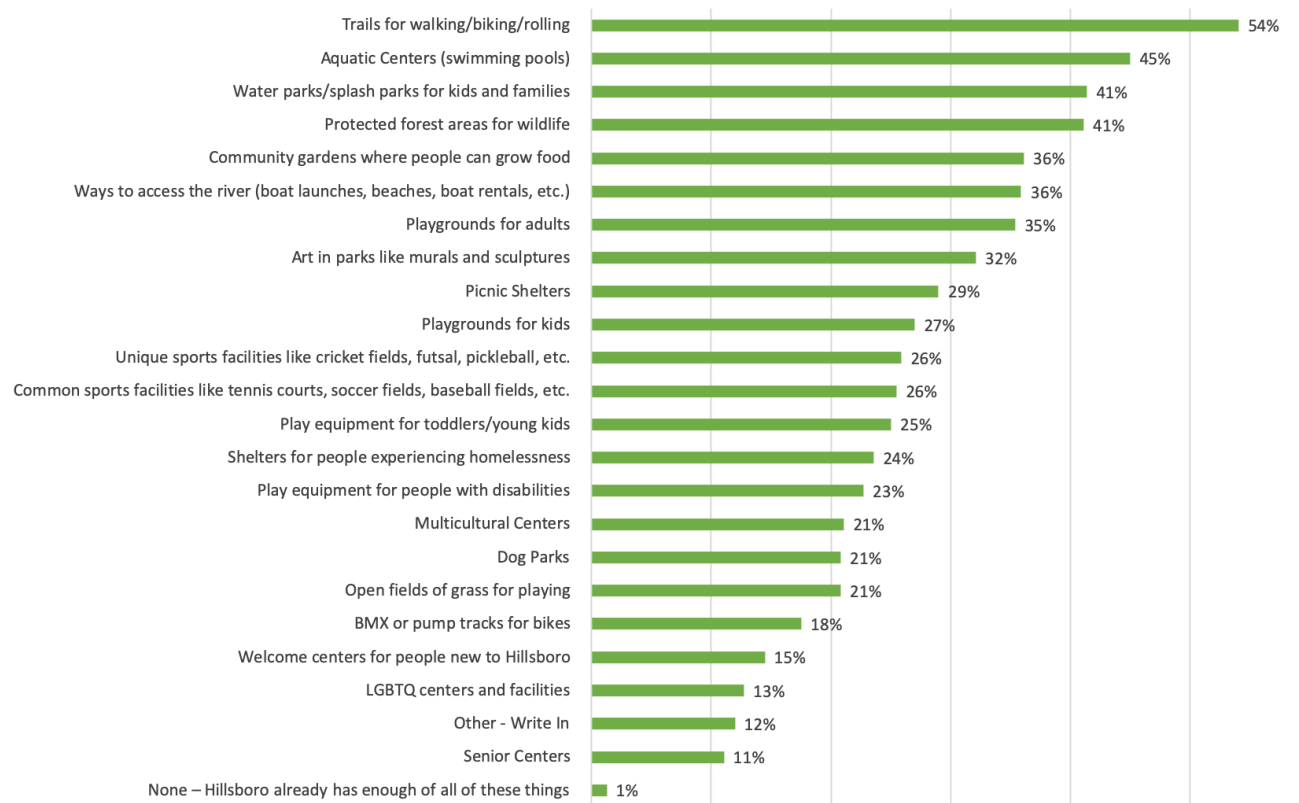


Figure 13. Types of parks and recreation facilities respondents would like added in the future, n = 1,439.

### Themes from “other” response category: facilities

172 respondents wrote in another answer that was not included in the multiple-choice question. The most common themes among the “other” responses were elaborations on the need for additional pools and aquatic centers, requests for covered areas and indoor areas to allow activities rain or shine, requests for more accessible facilities for people with disabilities, young kids and seniors, more access to clean restrooms, requests for more connected paths and trails, requests related to dogs, requests for more bike paths and mountain biking facilities, and skating rinks. The most requested sports facilities were a roller rink, tennis courts, disc golf courses, skateparks, pickleball courts, cricket fields and chess playing areas. Other types of facilities requested less often included bbq facilities, more playgrounds and interactive parks, exercise equipment, and a Veterans’ memorial or park.

## POOLS AND AQUATIC CENTERS

Many respondents who wrote in additional answers requested additional public pools or aquatic centers. This was the most selected option in the multiple choice and the most mentioned in written in responses. Many respondents want to bring their kids to the pool and enroll them in swimming classes but feel the SHARC center is too crowded, and the swimming classes fill up too quickly. A number of respondents expressed their feeling that Hillsboro is too big of a city to just have one pool. Some respondents requested a pool at the new Hidden Creek facility. A smaller number of people requested more water parks including splash parks.

*“Definitely need another swim facility with all the new homes and people. Swim classes have been hard to get into for years and the limited facility space is a big issue. I know it's expensive but I feel it's over due and necessary.”*

*“Swimming pools are a difficult resource to find in the area and the city only has one aquatic center. It is consistently busy and closes for an entire month per year. Swimming lessons that could save lives are difficult to get into. This is an area that the city could greatly improve.”*

## COVERED FACILITIES

Having covered facilities to use rain or shine was the next most common theme in the written in responses to this question. Many of these responses requested shade structures at the park. Others requested cover for rainy days to allow them to use the parks year-round.

*“Parks: love going to parks but tend to limit to early morning/evening hours due to lack of shade, and don't go at all much of the rest of the year because of rain. Some kind of covering, at least in main play areas, would make such a huge difference!”*

*“Shade and rain cover for playground equipment! In the summer the equipment gets too hot and in the winter it's always wet. We could play year round if a few playgrounds were given cover.”*

## MORE INCLUSIVE FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, SENIORS, AND YOUNG KIDS

**Requests for facilities or modifications to increase access for people with disabilities included:**

- Consulting with experts and caregivers in designing inclusive spaces
- more disability-friendly bathrooms
- wheelchair accessible event spaces, parks, and playgrounds
- fenced play areas for children with autism
- providing scooters at rec centers
- dedicated play areas for children with disabilities
- increased ADA access at parks and facilities

*“The parks are designed for people who have no special needs. When I take a group of children with learning disabilities it is very challenging that there is no facility in Lis park for these children. Like swings or a padded floor for them to lie down and play on.”*

*“I am in a wheelchair and having assessable places to hold festivals and farmers market etc. is important!! And plenty of disabled bathrooms and parking can always help.”*

**Requests for seniors included:**

- additional places to sit and relax in parks
- senior-specific exercise areas or equipment
- softer walking surfaces

*“I would like to have more trails that are mulch or dirt. It is painful to walk on concrete and challenging to share trails/sidewalks with bikes; their riders often don't take into account the slower reaction time and less agility of seniors.”*

**Requests for young kids (toddlers/babies) included:**

- softer playground surfaces without bark chips for crawling kids
- more fenced areas
- lower basketball hoops for young kids

## **BATHROOMS: MORE ACCESS, CLEANER**

Quite a few respondents mentioned improvements to bathrooms at parks and recreation facilities. Most comments requested that bathrooms be kept open, or open longer and that they be cleaned more often.

*“I've been disappointed by restroom facilities at parks, especially in the winter when the physical buildings are closed. Sometimes no portable restroom is available, and if there is one, it needs to be cleaned out more often, especially if it is used frequently by houseless individuals.”*

*“I wish the restrooms weren't closed. It's tough for the kids. My grandkids' friends have stopped at my house to use my restroom!”*

## **MORE AND CONNECTED PATHS AND TRAILS**

The primary themes about trails in the write-in responses were the need for additional trails and the need to connect the trails that exist to improve access to parks and transportation. A few people requested additional running trails, and a few requested walking only trails.

*“A long-term plan to connect neighborhoods to parks and larger trail systems would be great, something like a designated path or bike lane sufficiently safe for kids and adults. We'd like to bike to more areas of Hillsboro but feel isolated as the larger roads would not be as safe (we live near Glencoe High but would enjoy access to Orenco and Cornell area, Gordon Faber, Hidden Creek).”*

*“I am really excited to see bike lanes added to more streets and I would like to have Hillsboro be a safe place for me and my kids to ride our bikes or walk without being afraid of being run over by cars. Designated bike parking would be nice at all the parks.”*

## DOG RELATED REQUESTS

Responses in this category describe tension between dog owners who want to exercise their pets and people who are afraid of dogs. This theme included about half requests for additional dog parks and off-leash areas and half complaints about encountering off-leash dogs at parks and being afraid of dogs. A few people requested dog-free parks. A few additional people said people not picking up their dog waste at the parks is a problem.

*“I have neighbors who don't go to public parks because there are a lot of dogs off leash and their owners don't train them to stay away from other people. People I know have been bitten by dogs just because they went for a walk. I think there should be laws about putting dogs on a leash when you take them for a walk in public.”*

*“Off leash “wild space areas/parks”, that are not small, confined, fenced spaces called “Dog Parks - like Hondo”, where dogs are not able to really run freely, fetch balls, exercise, engage with some distance between each other, and play freely without being confined by leashes. Dogs NEED to run to be healthy, mentally and physically, and jump and play with each other and dog parks here are confining and do not allow off lead in wild spaces, which most responsible dog owners want.”*

## BIKING TRAILS AND MOUNTAIN BIKING FACILITIES

In addition to the requests for BMX and pump tracks, quite a few respondents wrote in requests for additional bike paths and lanes and mountain biking trails.

*“I think of how big of city Hillsboro is becoming, and how little of a mountain biking scene there is. We have very little from what I've seen actual trails, with most being walking parks with a little feature or two. For me being a younger kid almost becoming an adult, I would love to have some closer trails near me rather than needing to drive 30 mins to an hour to reach something noteworthy... I'm becoming more busy and can't always dedicate that much time. I think many other younger kids and even adults in Hillsboro would appreciate some more mountain biking action close by. Northwest trail alliance is known for helping build mountain bike trails in the northwest area, I think if the city of Hillsboro got in contact with them about potential trails that would be awesome.”*

## SKATING RINKS

Another theme mentioned by about 30 respondents was the desire for a roller rink that can accommodate roller skating, roller derby, and roller hockey. There were quite a few requests for bringing roller derby to Hillsboro and providing a place for teams to practice, which is in short supply locally. A few respondents requested an ice-skating rink as well.

*“We need a skating rink. An event space willing to host roller derby matches would be great as well. Portland has a great roller derby community/following. I would like to show that Hillsboro/Washington county can do it too! A lot of local leagues are looking for practice/event spaces.”*

## IMPROVED OUTDOOR SEATING

A few respondents requested more benches and outdoor seating be added to parks, including covered areas. Some requested seating specifically for people with disabilities or mobility issues, and one requested more seating for small kids.

*“More, and comfortable, sitting areas near play areas for parents to watch children. Covered from rain and hot sun options. I love the swinging benches and wood lounges at Oro park. Those with cover/shades would be awesome at other parks and more near Oro. Many parents still read books and do this while watching our kids. Seating for this is needed. Thanks.”*

## OTHER REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC SPORTS FACILITIES

The most commonly requested types of facilities were for specific sports.

**Aside from a roller rink, the six most popularly requested other types of sports facilities (with 7-16 mentions each) included:**

- More tennis courts, hours, and covered tennis courts
- More disc golf fields and courses
- Skate parks (skateboarding)
- More pickleball courts and hours (need more access to courts at hidden creek park)
- Cricket fields
- Chess playing areas, classes, club

**Other sports and facilities requested less often included:**

Soccer  
Yoga  
Volleyball  
Badminton  
Rugby  
Softball  
Baseball  
Basketball  
Tai chi  
Rock climbing  
Horseshoe courts  
Cornhole  
Running track  
Geocaching  
Handball  
Lacrosse  
Motorsports  
Ping pong

Parkour park  
Skimboarding park

## OTHER TYPES OF FACILITIES REQUESTED

Many types of facilities were requested, including more of certain types. Other types of facilities requested in order of popularity, included the following. Note that none of these had very many mentions overall. The most requested on the list had 11 total mentions.

BBQ facilities  
More playgrounds  
Interactive parks, sculptures, events etc  
More parks  
More natural areas  
Themed parks  
Exercise equipment, stations  
More gardens  
More open space  
More greenspace  
Native plant gardens  
Nature playgrounds  
More recreation centers  
Art center  
Community center  
Food carts  
Museum  
Cannabis areas  
Dog classes  
Veterans' park  
Multicultural center  
Peaceful areas  
Sand play areas  
Small parks  
Athletic center  
Covered bike paths  
Camping park  
Dog trails  
Saltwater swimming pool  
Stadiums

# 7. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSES, PROGRAMS, AND EVENTS

We asked respondents what types of parks and recreation classes, programs, and events they would like to see more of in the future.

*Respondents most selected music events (43%), kid's classes and camps (40%), and movies in the park (38%).*

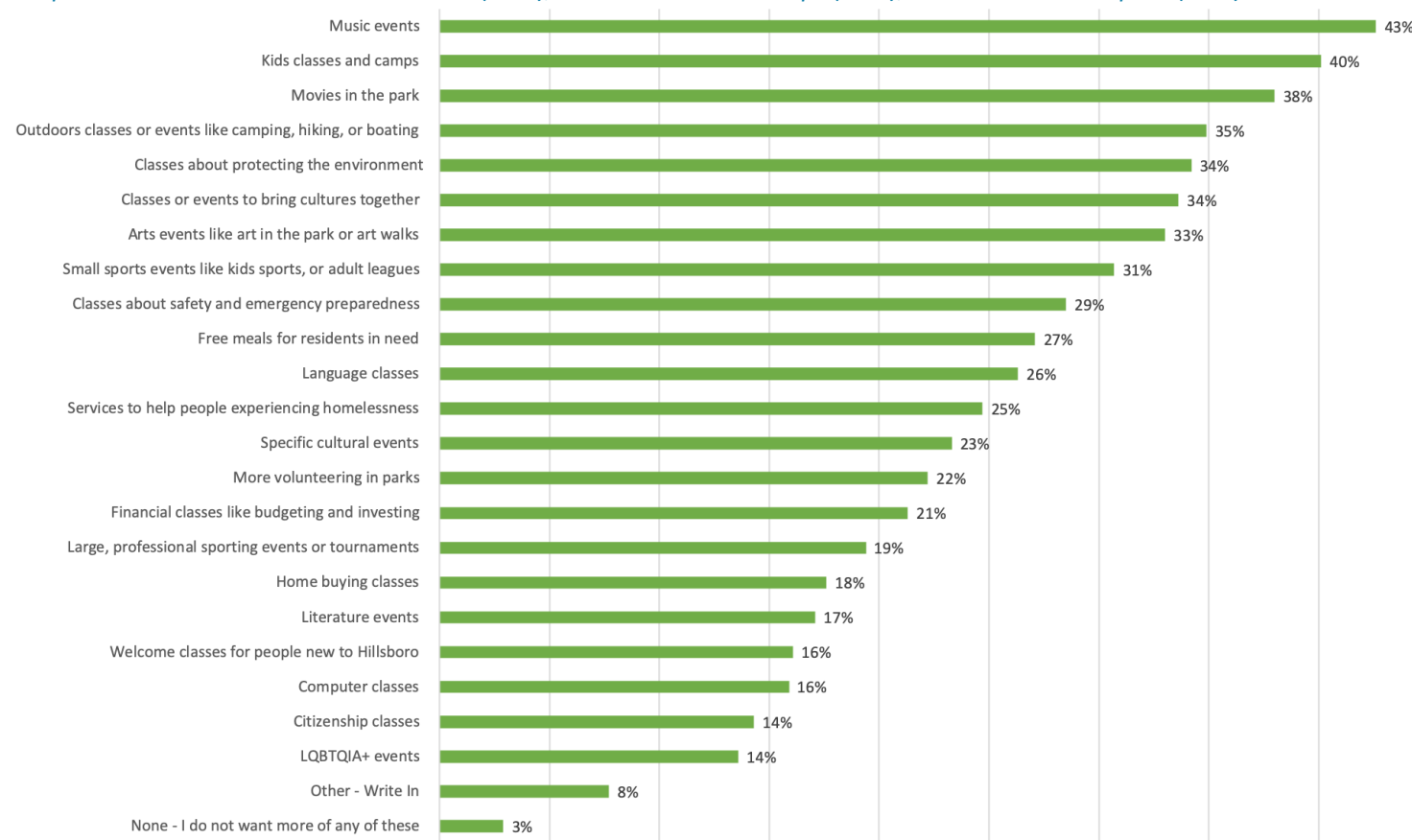


Figure 14. Types of classes, programs, and events requested by respondents, n = 1,423.

# Themes from “other” response category: classes/events

## CLASSES

The most common themes from “other” responses about classes were problems with class availability and cost, many requests for more swimming classes, and requests for more classes for young kids, teens, and seniors. The most requested language classes were English and Spanish, although many languages were suggested.

### PROBLEMS WITH CLASS AVAILABILITY AND COST

The most common theme among the “other” responses was frustration that the parks and recreation classes fill up too quickly. Many requested additional class offerings and classes on weekends and evenings. Additionally, a number of respondents requested free, cheaper, or more affordable class registration fees.

*“Please offer more kids activities and camps. The ability to get into those is horrible. Even people signed in at 8:00am can't access these programs.”*

*“Classes for children or adults in the sports facilities: you have to register, and the cost is high. If we can't pay, the kids don't have anything to do during the Summer. They just waste time on the internet. We need programs to keep them occupied.”*

### MORE SWIMMING CLASSES

Swimming classes were by far the most requested specific class of the more than 30 types of classes mentioned. The classes at the SHARC are very full. Many parents want to enroll their children in swim classes and find it very difficult.

*“There are not enough classes for swim lessons. I can't get my child into them even registering right when registration opens.”*

### OTHER REQUESTED CLASSES

#### 10 most requested specific classes in order of popularity included:

1. Swimming classes
2. Art classes, including crafts and photography
3. Outdoor and nature classes
4. Cooking classes
5. Dance classes
6. Gardening classes
7. Financial classes (including one financial professional who volunteered to teach)
8. First aid, emergency preparedness classes
9. Classes in the trades for young people (electrical, woodworking, sewing, etc.)
10. Exercise and health classes



### Other classes suggested less often included:

Yoga	Babysitting class
Gymnastics	Ballet classes
Tennis	Belly dance class
Legal classes	Boxing, kickboxing classes
Anti-scam classes (phone, internet scams)	Cultural classes
Classes for new immigrants	Internet class
Enviro education	Kangaroo jumping classes
Music classes	Anti-racism class
Soccer	Book club
Driving classes	Square dancing
Home repair classes	Basketball
Water safety class	Pickleball
Adult literacy classes	Horseback riding
African classes	

## MORE CLASSES FOR YOUNG KIDS, TEENS, AND SENIORS

Another common theme among written responses were requests more age-specific classes including for very young kids (babies, toddlers), for teens, and for seniors. Parents of kids ages 2 and younger want to see more availability of classes for the toddler/baby age group. Parents of teens want more classes and programs for this age group citing the benefits of getting them engaged socially, getting them away from phone and computer screens, and keeping them out of trouble. Respondents also requested more classes and activities specifically for elders, including social activities, ballet classes, cooking classes, and volunteer opportunities.

*“Out of everything, the teenagers in this town are struggling emotionally. As a mom of a teenager, I want to see more teenage only activities. We only have Ohana at Hidden creek and classes at facilities, but we need to be more inclusive. Instead of all ages, the teens need to have more things outside. Teen free lunch and hangout or something similar. Post pandemic they need more city support.”*

## LANGUAGE CLASS REQUESTS

We asked respondents who selected language classes from the multiple-choice question which languages they would like to see offered. 359 respondents shared their ideas and requests.

From their responses, Spanish and then English were by far the most requested. Many languages were suggested.

### 10 most requested languages in order of number of requests included:

1. Spanish
2. English (including 8 ESL)
3. French
4. Japanese
5. Chinese (includes 3 Cantonese, 39 Mandarin)
6. American sign language
7. Arabic
8. German
9. Italian
10. Russian

### Other languages suggested included:

Korean	Greek
Vietnamese	Hebrew
Hindi	Igbo
Native American languages (includes Chinuk Wawa, Creek)	Khmer
Farsi	Latin
Polish	Norwegian
Portuguese	Somali
Tagalog	Swahili
Swedish	Tamil
Ukrainian	Urdu
Braille	Akan
Estonian	Telugu
Gaelic	

## EVENTS

### Problems with event scheduling, lack of event information, and crowded events

Some respondent mentioned problems with events, including events happening during working hours making it difficult to attend, not knowing about events, and that events are too crowded. Requests included offering events outside of work hours, better advertising about events, and offering smaller events. A few people requested keeping large events away from smaller neighborhoods, and one person suggested warming stations for winter events.

*“I would like to know about events before they happen. Seeing them announced or posted ahead of time would help me to plan on attending. Most of the time I find out after they have happened.”*

*“I would love to see more organization for holiday events to make it less chaotic so more people can enjoy the fun. I know that there seems to be more people coming out for these events so it gets a little crazy and not a lot of direction giving for when and where people should be. More crowd control might be nice so people are not packed on top of one another. We really enjoy these events but it's getting harder to bring out the little ones.”*

## **MORE INCLUSIVE EVENTS**

More inclusive events were also requested including entertainment and events specifically for families with children with disabilities like autism, accessible events for people in wheelchairs and with difficulty walking, shorter events, and free events that are welcoming to everyone.

*“Inclusive social groups for teens with Autism as they often don't have as many friends, or social opportunities.”*

*“I do see events for special needs kids, but it would be cool to see some that only allow a very limited number of kids and maybe the times spaced out more to accommodate anyone interested.”*

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS AND EVENTS FOR FAMILIES, KIDS, AND TEENS**

Some respondents requested events for the whole community and family-friendly events, and some requested more events specifically for kids and teens.

## **FALL AND WINTER EVENTS**

Some respondents (n=16) requested more events in fall and winter to provide activities in darker, colder months.

*“I would like to see classes or activities in the Winter or Fall. The weather in Oregon is depressing if there are no activities. Children become more irresponsible and unhelpful. We say they are lazy, but we don't give them any work or tasks.”*

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

A request for more social events to build connections and community also arose as a theme from the “other” category. Respondents requested events that connect them with others such as interest group meet-ups, singles events, events for elders to connect, social events for teens, social clubs, and music, dance, and art events with a social component.

*“In general, I am looking for opportunities to connect with other adults in my community.”*

*“Live music events in parks and recreation centers where people get to know each other, share cultural traditions etc.”*

## **CULTURAL EVENTS**

We asked respondents who selected cultural events from the multiple-choice question what types of cultural events they would like to see. 273 respondents shared their ideas and requests.

#### **The primary themes included:**

- Multicultural events representing multiple cultures at once or individual events focusing on many other cultures was the most popular. There seemed to be a genuine interest in cross-cultural connection and learning among respondents who wrote in about cultural events.
- Next most popular was culturally specific celebrations like festivals and holidays.
- Also popular were cultural events focused on food, dance, music, art and fashion.

*“Hillsboro is more diverse, and it would be great to see some of the historic cultures of the area, like Swiss, and the newer, like Hispanic in its many forms, celebrated with food, music and dance.”*

*“Maybe rotating between cultures, but it would be awesome to have a celebration for each culture, maybe a booth for information about the culture, have music, food, art, all around the specific culture.”*

#### **The most requested culturally specific events were:**

- Native American (most requested)
  - Powwow (multiple mentions)
  - Indigenous market
  - Gathering, gardening
  - Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
  - Indigenous Peoples’ Day
- Pacific Islander or Polynesian
  - Luau
  - Food festival
  - Polynesian festival
- Latino/a/e or Hispanic
  - Offer other Latin culture events in addition to Mexican events (multiple mentions)
  - Guatemalan
  - Mexican
  - Dia de los Muertos
  - Cinco de Mayo
  - South American
  - Spanish (Spain)
- African and/or African American
- Arab Culture (Eid mentioned)

#### **Additional types of culturally specific events mentioned less often included:**

BIPOC-specific events (Black, Indigenous, and Other people of Color)

Filipino

Indian (Diwali, Holi – Festival of Color)

Lunar New Year (multiple mentions)

Korean

Chinese

Japanese

Guatemalan

Scandinavian

Scottish

Celtic

Vietnamese

American Holidays like Easter and Halloween

Jewish

Mexican

European (Michaelmas)

South American

Spanish

Norwegian

German/ Oktoberfest

Russian

Swiss

Mardi Gras

## OTHER SPECIFIC EVENT REQUESTS

“Other” responses also included additional types of events that were not included in the multiple-choice question. Food events, sports-related events, volunteer events, and farmers’ and vendors’ markets were mentioned the most.

### **Food events**

### **Sport events, tournaments, races, professional sports**

### **Volunteer events**

### **Farmers and vendors markets**

Running events

Animal shows

Astronomy events

Events to connect with police

Renaissance faire

Speeches, talks

Roller: skating, derby, hockey, disco

Events to honor Veterans

Air show

Appliance repair events

Block parties

Fairs, carnivals

Harvest, seasonal festival

Job fairs

Storytelling

History and historical tours

Renaissance faire

# 8. INVOLVEMENT IN PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNING

We asked respondents if they had ever shared their ideas or advice about Parks or Parks programming with the City of Hillsboro.

### All Responses

A large majority of respondents (78%) had never participated in parks and recreation planning with the city.

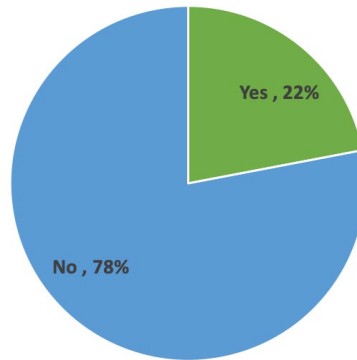


Figure 15. Overall previous participation in City of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation planning, n = 1,429.

### Responses by demographic group

Respondents identifying as white alone reported previous involvement at a much higher rate than any other racial, ethnic, or cultural group. Groups reporting the least participation were Middle Eastern / North African, Asian, and recent immigrants or refugees.

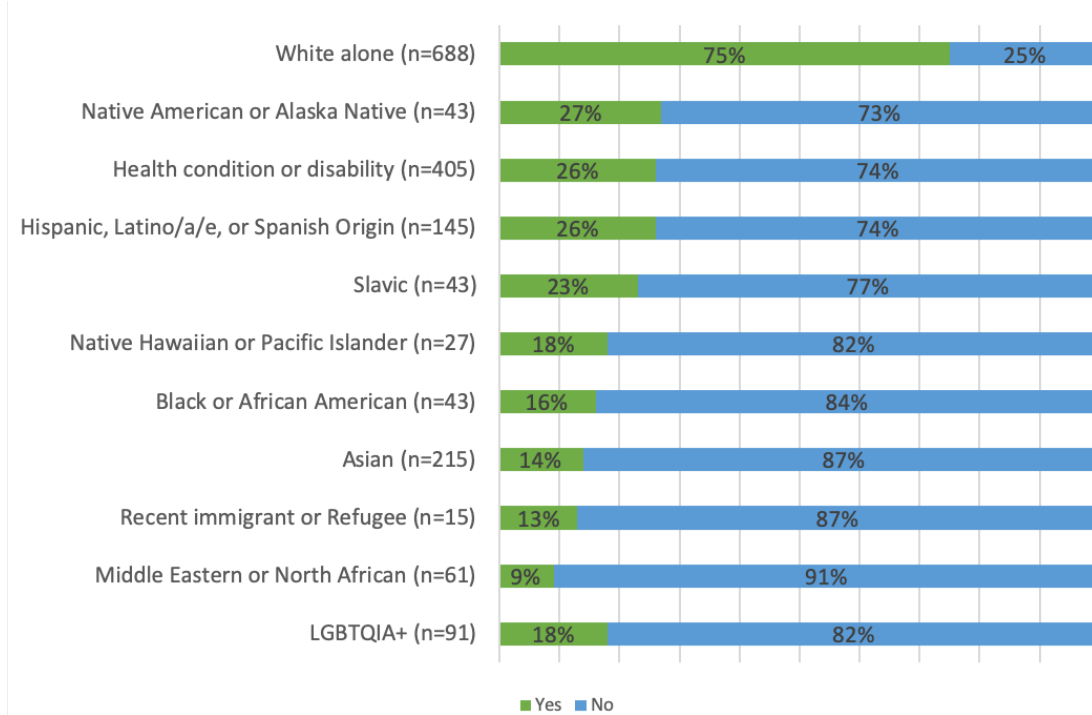


Figure 16. Previous involvement by race, ethnicity, and cultural group.

## Barriers to involvement in parks and recreation planning

We asked survey respondents which, if any, of the following things keep them from wanting to be involved in parks and recreation planning efforts. We looked at barriers for all respondents and for racial, ethnic and cultural identity groups.

### All Responses

*Not knowing how to be involved was the most mentioned barrier across all survey respondents. Being too busy was the next most common. Although reported at about half the rate of being too busy, quite a few survey respondents said they feel the city won't listen to them.*

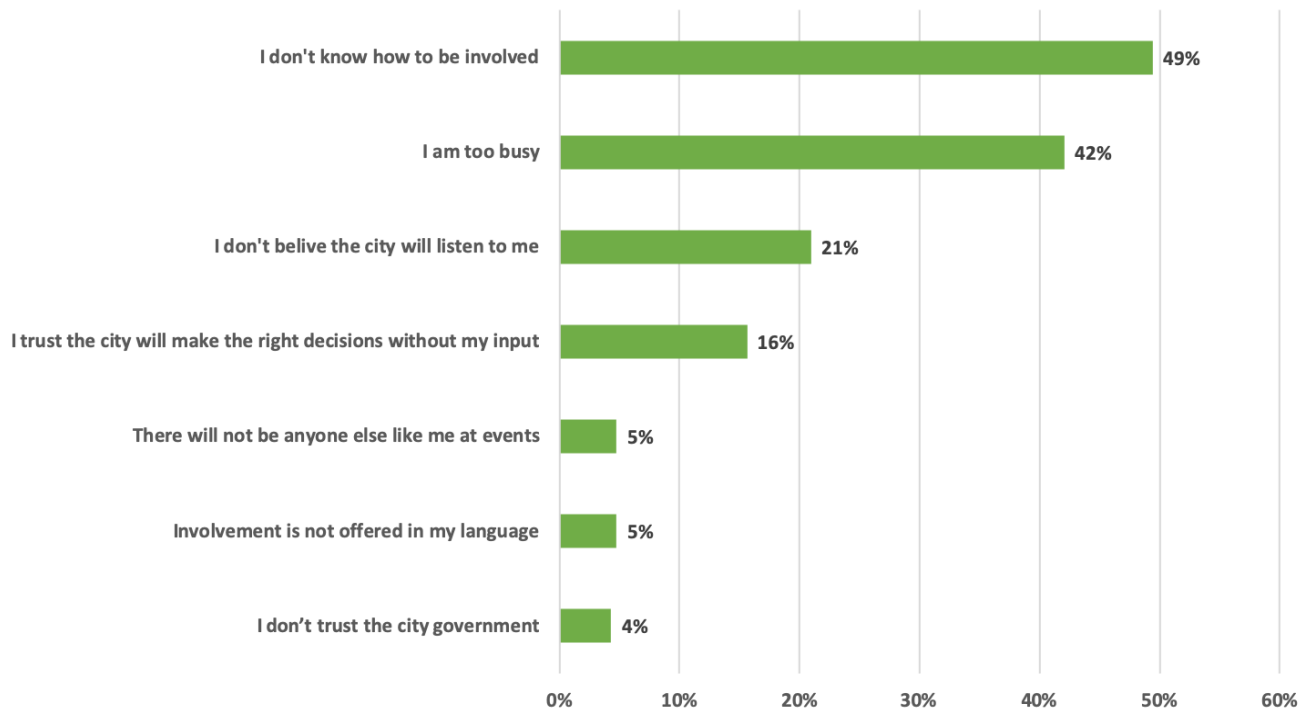


Figure 17. Barriers keeping respondents from being involved in parks and recreation planning efforts. (n=1,346)

# Themes from “other” response category: barriers to involvement

134 respondents wrote in another answer that was not included in the multiple-choice question.

## The most mentioned additional barriers included:

- physical disabilities
- anxiety or social discomfort
- not being sure their input would be helpful
- scheduling issues

## Less mentioned additional barriers included:

- new to the area
- never thought to become involved
- age
- political divisions
- mistrust or previous bad experiences
- can't get there easily
- anonymity concerns
- not using technology
- needing remote participation options
- not being asked

*“I am 17 and tend to be brushed off regarding my ideas. I am in youth advisory council, but I think adults disregard my opinions about the city sometimes. Especially regarding economics.”*

*“Government has a storied history of getting involvement from communities of color and then ignoring it.”*

*“The meetings that I have attended felt superficial. The outcome or decisions had already been made to fit preconceived agendas of narrow set of people. I was abruptly cut off when my opinion did not reflect their chosen results.”*



**Barriers to involvement in parks and recreation planning by race, ethnicity, and cultural group, as well as health condition or disability**

Similar to all respondents, racial, ethnic and cultural groups also cited not knowing how to be involved as the most mentioned barrier. Being too busy was also cited often, and quite a few said they don't believe the city will listen to them. Respondents identifying as Middle Eastern or North African reported involvement not being offered in their language as the second highest barrier they face, a much higher rate than other groups. It is important to consider each group's specific concerns when working to increase their participation.

	Native American or Alaska Native (n=59)	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (n=32)	Black or African American (n=48)	Hispanic, Latino/a/e or Spanish Origin (n=186)	Asian (n=204)	Middle Eastern or North African (n=65)	Slavic (n=40)	White Alone (n=581)	Recent immigrant or Refugee (n=15)	LGBTQIA + (n=87)	Health condition or disability (n=385)
I am too busy	48%	31%	33%	38%	48%	23%	35%	45%	40%	45%	35%
I don't know how to be involved	37%	47%	50%	54%	51%	72%	60%	46%	53%	56%	54%
I don't believe the city will listen to me	31%	28%	17%	22%	14%	8%	23%	21%	27%	22%	25%
There will not be anyone else like me at events	17%	16%	6%	5%	9%	5%	5%	3%	13%	10%	7%
I trust the city will make the right decisions without my input	9%	6%	23%	21%	17%	11%	8%	15%	33%	9%	16%
I don't trust the city government	7%	3%	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%	3%	0%	2%	6%
Involvement is not offered in my language	3%	3%	0%	10%	10%	26%	5%	1%	13%	0%	4%

Figure 18. Barriers to involvement by race, ethnicity, culture, and health condition or disability. Top three barriers per demographic in green, trends per barrier outlined in yellow.

## 9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

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The final survey question asked if respondents had anything else they wanted to share about how Hillsboro Parks and Recreation can better connect with or serve their community.

650 people responded to this question.

### PRAISE FOR HILLSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION

The most common overall theme from this open-ended question was praise for Hillsboro’s parks and recreation facilities and programs and gratitude for the Parks and Recreation Department. Many respondents are very happy with Hillsboro’s parks and recreation facilities.

*“We absolutely love the parks and recreation facilities and offerings in Hillsboro! As a family with a young child it is fantastic to have so many parks, community centers and classes to try. Thank you for making our community a beautiful place to live!”*

*“I have worked in municipal government for 20 years. I currently live in Hillsboro and work for the City of Forest Grove. I think you all may be one of the best parks departments in the entire country. Please know that your work is so deeply appreciated and you all do an absolutely fantastic job at it. I am thankful for you.”*

*“We moved here 5 years ago. We absolutely love Hillsboro. We love all of the events and sense of community. The parks and libraries are wonderful. The clear efforts made to improve facilities for family are so appreciated. We also really appreciate surveys such as this one. We have a two year old and we feel very fortunate to be raising her here. Thank you for all that you do!”*

### SURVEY THANKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Many respondents were happy to have been asked their opinion about Hillsboro’s parks and recreation. Some said they felt the survey was a good tool, and a few asked that the results be made publicly available. Some said they had seen the survey signs in the parks and thought that was a good way to collect responses. Some said they had seen the survey through social media and encouraged that type of promotion.

*“This is a great survey. Other cities in the area should do the same using the work done by Hillsboro.”*

*“Appreciate the ability to voice an opinion. Please publish the full results of this survey (and top line summaries) so all can review and gain a better understanding of where we are as a community.”*

*“This was a really well thought out survey, well done guys! Putting the QR codes in the parks was a good idea - that’s how I found this. Hope you get lots of good input.”*

*“Sending city wide surveys is just one of many ways they show they care about the community. Excited to hear the results of this survey and if any positive changes may come of it. Keep up the great work!”*

## **BETTER PROMOTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

Quite a few respondents said parks and recreation should increase and improve advertising about their programs and services. The most recommended methods were signs in parks, increased social media presence, providing more information about events, and continuing to provide print copies of newsletters and event calendars. Other suggestions included getting better ads, posting in community locations such as markets, and sending information by mail.

*“The flyers in the mail are amazingly helpful that we get from the city and that's a major way we stay aware of events. Updating website information regularly and with detailed info for events or when registering for classes. I've had it where sometimes it's unclear or I have to call to get clarity on event details like days/times or the process for signing up for classes isn't as easily found.”*

*“Personally, I think a better social media presence across multiple platforms such as Instagram and tiktok would help me, and I'm sure a lot of the younger demographic to stay informed and involved.”*

## **ASKING COMMUNITIES FOR INPUT DIRECTLY**

Some respondents suggested direct engagement with community leaders and members through citizen advisory groups, meeting the community in their own neighborhood, and talking to people in parks.

*“As weird as it sounds go around the community and get to know the people, and their needs. See the conditions they come from and see how they get around places. It may take time and a team of people to do it but I think it would help. Because words can o my do so much. Take me for example, the area I live in is amazing, but we have had our share of shootings, and the unwanted homeless drug dealers. The kids in our area spend 99% of their day inside because of everything going on out there. We need places and activities to Lee these kids safe, and off the streets.”*

*“Involve leaders of sports clubs and other organizations that use the parks. Hold meetings where community members can be involved. Do so in the evenings and include childcare and interpretive services. Advertise the meetings across different platforms.”*

## **NATIVE AMERICAN RESPONDENTS**

Native American respondents provided suggestions for better connecting with and serving Hillsboro's Indigenous community. Recommendations included:

- Increasing Native American culture and representation in parks and recreation, including art
- Providing events and classes specifically for or by Native Americans
- Sponsoring powwows
- Returning land to Indigenous people

- Building a Native American Center

*“You reside on Native American land. You want to name schools and stuff after the first people of this land within the Hillsboro and Washington County area, but you don't want to offer many art or cultural events that surround this native community, and I think it's time that you need to start doing that you need to add more Native American Events around Hillsboro. Our Native American Community is growing and they're feeling left out. It's bad enough the Hillsboro Hops have already made us feel erased once again by the way they recognized us when they host Indigenous peoples. Don't make us feel erased again - offer more things within the community. You do so much for the Latino Community, it's time to step up and doing more for your Native American Community since you reside on our land.”*

*“I think the parks and recreation program can incorporate more tribal information plaques around parks detail indigenous history and knowledge.”*

*“More education about indigenous people. My daughter was told at school by another student that they thought we were all dead. "I thought you were all killed off." That was shocking for her.”*

## **NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER RESPONDENTS**

Specific suggestions from respondents who identify as Pacific Islanders were to hire Pacific Islander staff and to promote parks and recreation within the Pacific Islander community.

## **BLACK AND AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY RESPONDENTS**

Specific suggestions from respondents who identify as Black or African American included:

- Providing African food and music
- Holding events that will bring together Black immigrants
- Protecting the environment and keeping it clean
- Recognition of Veterans (Parks, discounts on memberships, ceremonies, city memorial for veterans, etc.)

## **LATINO/A/E AND HISPANIC COMMUNITY RESPONDENTS**

Suggestions from Latino/a/e and Hispanic respondents included:

- Posting information in Latino markets, clinics, and schools
- Improving safety at parks in high Latino population neighborhoods
- Offer more events in Spanish
- Offer more evening events
- Connect with Latino community members to “promote culture and community integration”
- Better promote parks activities and events to the community
- Continue providing family-friendly and kids events and parks
- Support low-income community members

*“Make improvements to the parks in the Latinx community. Shute Park isn't very safe because of the large number of houseless people. More security guards are needed, please. In Brookwood Park, the marijuana smell is strong in the evenings. Many people use drugs in that park. More security guards, please.”*

## **ASIAN COMMUNITY RESPONDENTS**

Quite a few suggestions were made by respondents who identify as Asian. Asia is a large and diverse place, and care should be taken to recognize the diversity of Asian people.

- Have staff who speak Vietnamese
- Offer programs and materials in Asian languages
- Increase facilities and services in South Hillsboro
- Working with organizations that serve recent immigrants like Lutheran community services, IRCO, and Oregon Department of Human Services
- Support a local Asian market/grocery

*“The nearest large Asian market is in Beaverton such as Uwajimaya, Ranch 99, and Asian Family Center. Please consider the growing Asian community in Hillsboro that would benefit from a closer Asian market/ grocery center. Thank you!”*

## **SLAVIC COMMUNITY RESPONDENTS**

Recommendations from Slavic respondents included:

- Creating a multicultural center
- Working with organizations that serve recent immigrants like Lutheran community services, IRCO, and Oregon Department of Human Services
- Public informal meetings with kids and teens

## **RESPONDENTS WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS AND DISABILITIES**

Suggestions and requests from respondents with health conditions and disabilities included:

- More all-abilities playgrounds
- Work with experts and caregivers to design
- More wheelchair-accessible parking
- Parks with fences for children with disabilities
- Mobility scooters or wheelchairs at SHARC
- Universal and intersectional access planning
- Programs specifically for kids and adults with disabilities, including autism
- Keep engaging with people of all ability levels
- Better transit service to parks
- Add more peaceful and tranquil areas to enjoy nature

- Collaborate with organizations serving people with disabilities such as United Cerebral palsy organization and, Oregon deaf blind project, Shriners hospital (recreation program), and Adventures Without Limits
- Improve sidewalks for wheelchair accessibility
- Softer trail surfaces like mulch or dirt
- Boat and bike rentals for wheelchair users

*\*Note: Middle Eastern or North African and LGBTQIA+ respondents did not provide community specific engagement recommendations.*

## **CONCERN ABOUT LGBTQIA+ PRIDE PROMOTION IN PARKS**

A few respondents said they are unhappy with the displays of support for the LGBTQIA+ community in parks and recreation facilities. They feel this is unfair to other groups and promotes division between groups in the city. They requested that parks and facilities not display LGBTQIA+ materials.

*“Please remember there are many in our community that have deep moral values that do not align with LGBTQ. When taking into consideration inclusivity please remember to include all that call Hillsboro home.*

*\*Where a lot of flags flown are divisive our city, state, and country flags are something we all share.”*

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# 10. INFORMATION PREFERENCES

We asked respondents how they prefer to receive information.

## All Respondents

Respondents most said they prefer to receive information via social media, email, and websites. Slightly more than 80 respondents said they prefer information in a language other than English.

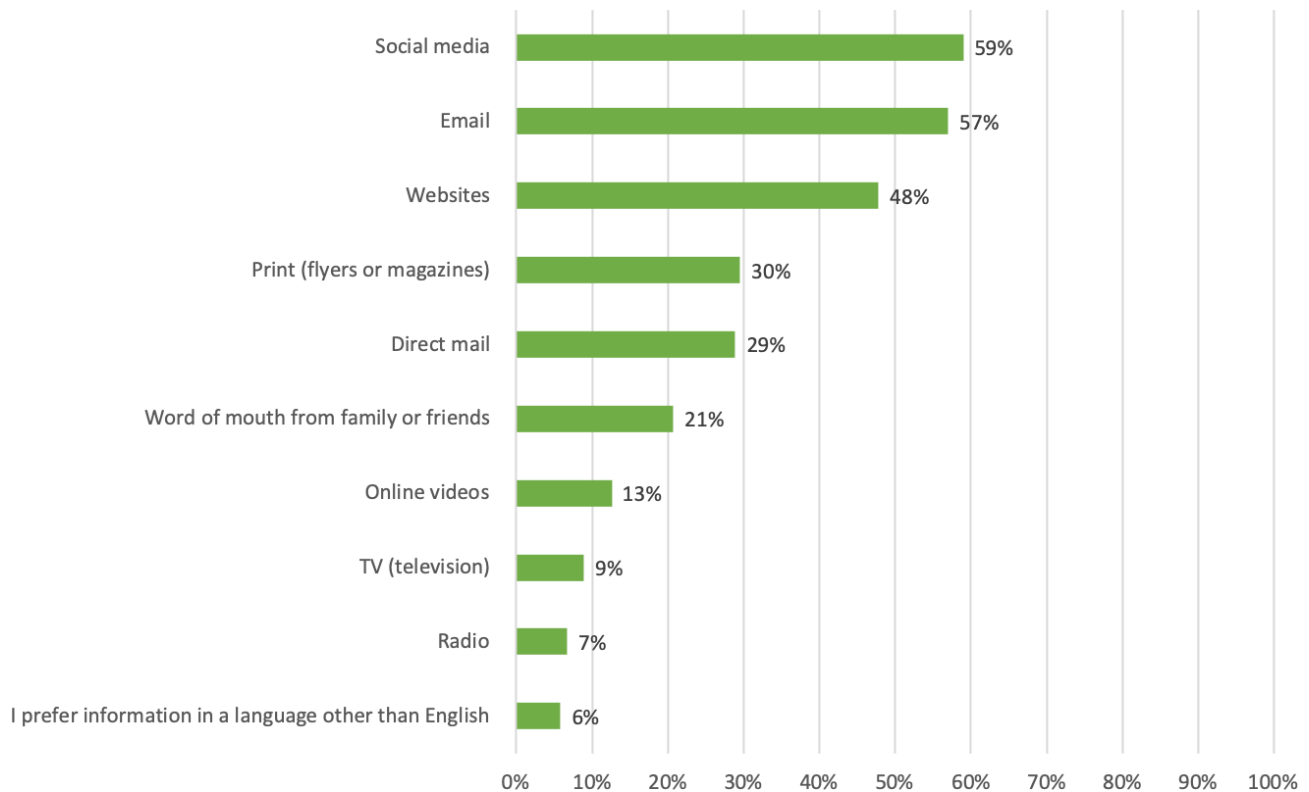


Figure 19. Information preferences, all respondents, n=1,423.

## Themes from “other” response category: information preferences

72 respondents wrote in another information preference that was not included in the multiple-choice options. Themes included:

- Print materials like newsletters and flyers sent in the mail
- Text messages
- Several people said they don’t use the internet
- Several recommended improving the parks events calendar and registration website online

### Information preferences by race, ethnicity, cultural group

For most groups, email, social media, and websites are the most preferred methods of receiving information. However, there are some notable differences that should be considered when conducting outreach to specific communities.

	Native American or Alaska Native (n=59)	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (n=33)	Black or African American (n=51)	Hispanic, Latino/a/e, or Spanish Origin (n=195)	Asian (n=212)	Middle Eastern or North African (n=67)	Slavic (n=43)	White alone (n=689)	Recent immigrants or refugees (n=15)	LGBTQIA+ (n=91)
<b>Email</b>	54%	49%	59%	45%	56%	51%	58%	62%	53%	59%
<b>Social media</b>	54%	61%	49%	72%	62%	37%	81%	58%	73%	68%
<b>Online videos</b>	22%	21%	10%	23%	12%	13%	16%	9%	27%	18%
<b>TV (television)</b>	15%	18%	10%	26%	8%	2%	0%	5%	0%	4%
<b>Radio</b>	15%	9%	2%	19%	5%	0%	2%	5%	0%	1%
<b>Print (flyers or magazines)</b>	36%	33%	18%	39%	26%	15%	19%	30%	33%	32%
<b>Websites</b>	44%	49%	47%	51%	45%	13%	65%	51%	20%	57%
<b>Direct mail</b>	36%	36%	28%	27%	23%	24%	14%	32%	27%	31%
<b>Word of mouth from family or friends</b>	24%	27%	22%	15%	21%	28%	21%	21%	27%	25%
<b>I prefer information in a language other than English</b>	5%	9%	6%	15%	13%	16%	9%	0%	7%	0%

Figure 20. Information preferences by race, ethnicity, cultural group. Top three per group in orange, trends per information type outlined in yellow.



# APPENDIX A. RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Race, Ethnicity, Cultural Identity	Percent of Total	Count
Native American or Alaska Native	4.46%	59
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2.50%	33
Black or African American	3.86%	51
Hispanic, Latino/a/e, or Spanish Origin	14.75%	195
Asian	16.26%	215
Middle Eastern or North African	5.07%	67
Slavic	3.25%	43
White alone	52.19%	690
Recent immigrant or Refugee	1.13%	15
LGBTQIA+	6.88%	91
Other racial, ethnic, or cultural identity	2.19%	29
<b>Total respondents answering race, ethnicity question</b>		<b>1322</b>
<b>Total indicating disability or chronic health condition</b>		<b>406</b>

Other races, ethnicities and cultural identities

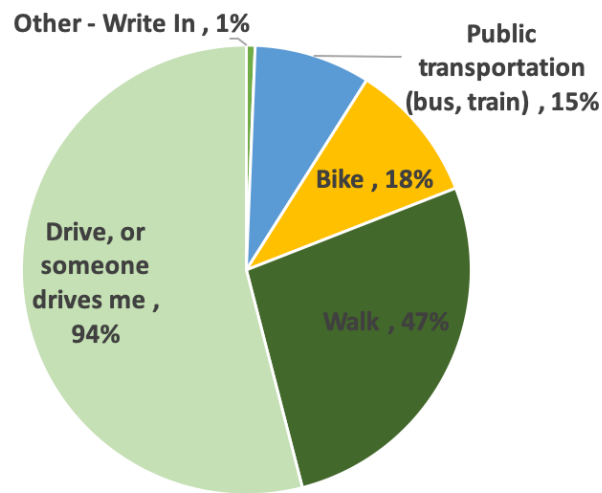
Figure 21. Race, cultural identity of respondents, and health conditions and

Afghan (2)	
Jewish, Ashkenazi Jew (4)	
Biracial (White/Indian Asian)	
Chinese	
Greek/Irish	
half white and half Hispanic	
Indian	
Irish	
Islander	
Norwegian, English & Irish	
Part Polish	
Senior Citizen	
With multicultural family	
Language	Responses
English	1,356

ethnicity, and survey respondents with disabilities

Spanish	99
Arabic	63
Russian	39
Chinese (Taiwan)	25
Chinese (simplified)	6
Vietnamese	19
Hindi	0

Figure 22. Number of respondents per survey language



**“Other” responses (15)**

EV
I have on and off mobility issues and cannot rely on other forms of transportation.
I only drive because I do not feel it is safe to walk or take public trimet due to homelessness issue in our areas
I'd love to walk, but everything is too far away (especially with young children).
Longboard
Mobility scooter
Motorcycle
My care taker drives me I don't ride public transportation do to drugs on there
Para transit, rideshare
Scooter
We only have one car, my husband has to drive the car to work
Wheelchair (manual and power)

Would like Hillsboro to become more walkable and public transit friendly

Would like to bicycle more

Figure 23. How respondents usually get around, n=1,411.

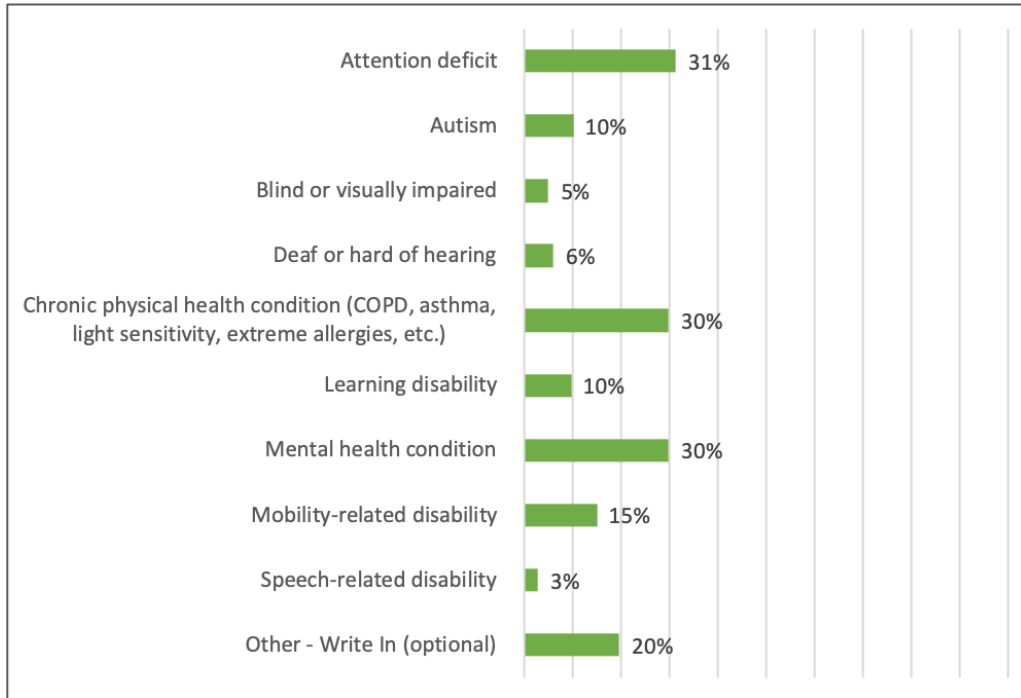


Figure 24. Respondents with health conditions and disabilities, n=406.

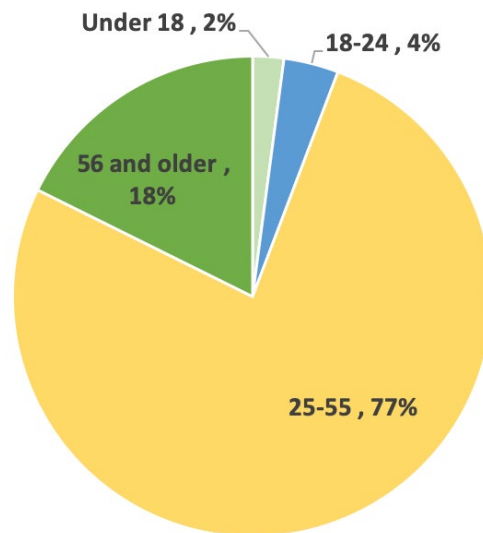


Figure 25. Respondent age, n= 1,412.