



Recreation and Parks Board - Oct 01 2026 Agenda

Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Chesapeake Building, 41770 Baldrige St., Leonardtown, MD

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. MINUTES

4. DIRECTORS UPDATE

2

[10 1 2026 director updates.pdf](#)

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Presentation
Presenting:

7

Jessica Hale, Deputy Director

Art Thatcher, Berry Dunn

[St Mary's County LPPRP Draft - BerryDunn 10.01.26.pdf](#)

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. ADJOURN

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with special needs will be provided upon request. In order to meet these requirements, we respectfully ask for one week's prior notice. Please contact Christina Bishop at 301-475-4200, Ext. 1811. Proceedings are televised live and/or recorded for later broadcast on television. All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the Commissioners' meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image.

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Chaptico Skatepark

Carver Recreation Center Boys and Girls Club Ribbon Cutting



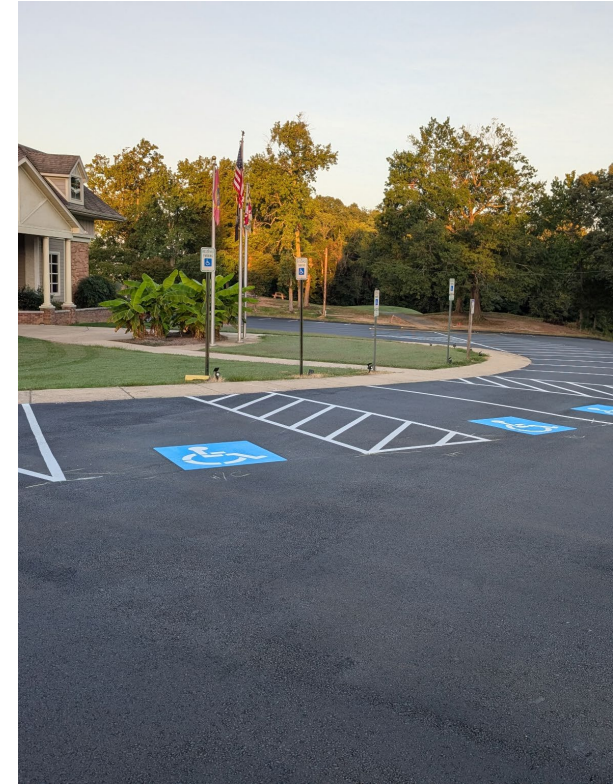
Monthly Report Stats

- Fun Fact: For the Fall Season over 14,550 permit requests were reviewed from 50 organizations

Athletic Field Use					
Month	Fields Used	User Groups	RSVP	Hours	Lights On Hours
August 2026	92	38	1,505	5,642	196
August 2025	94	45	1,250	4,808	185
August 2024	91	38	1,273	4,589	188

**RSVP=Reservations*

Wicomico Shores Improvement Project





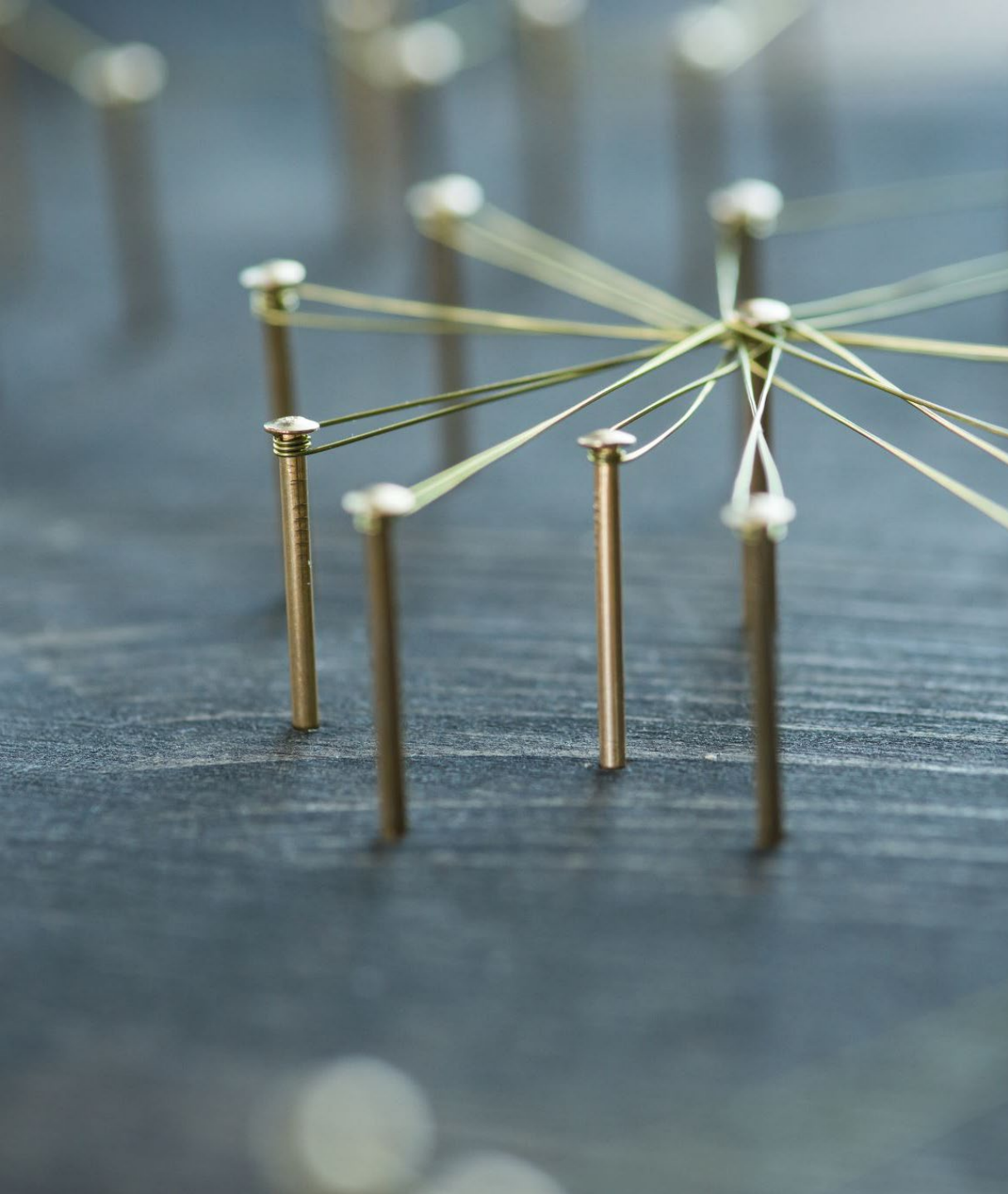
St Mary's County, MD Draft Presentation

Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Update



October 1, 2026





Agenda

- ▲ Project Approach and Schedule
- ▲ Project Goals and Objectives
- ▲ Goals Activity: Tool Kit
- ▲ Project Branding and Theme
- ▲ Mind Mapping Exercise
- ▲ Map Activity
- ▲ Equitable Engagement

Project Schedule

Phase / Months	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Ongoing Project Management	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Phase 1: Discovery	●	●													
Phase 2: Engagement		●	●	●											
Phase 3: Analysis			●	●											
Phase 4: Visioning			●	●	●										
Phase 5: Draft and Finalization						●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



Project Goals



Project Goals and Objectives



The following are the goals and objectives for this project:



Equitable Access

Ensure all residents have fair access to parks, recreation facilities, and programs



Strategic Investment

Plan and invest in parks and amenities based on community demand and sustainability



Natural Resource Protection

Conserve forests, waterways, and environmentally sensitive lands



Agricultural Preservation

Protect farmland and sustain rural character and the local agricultural economy

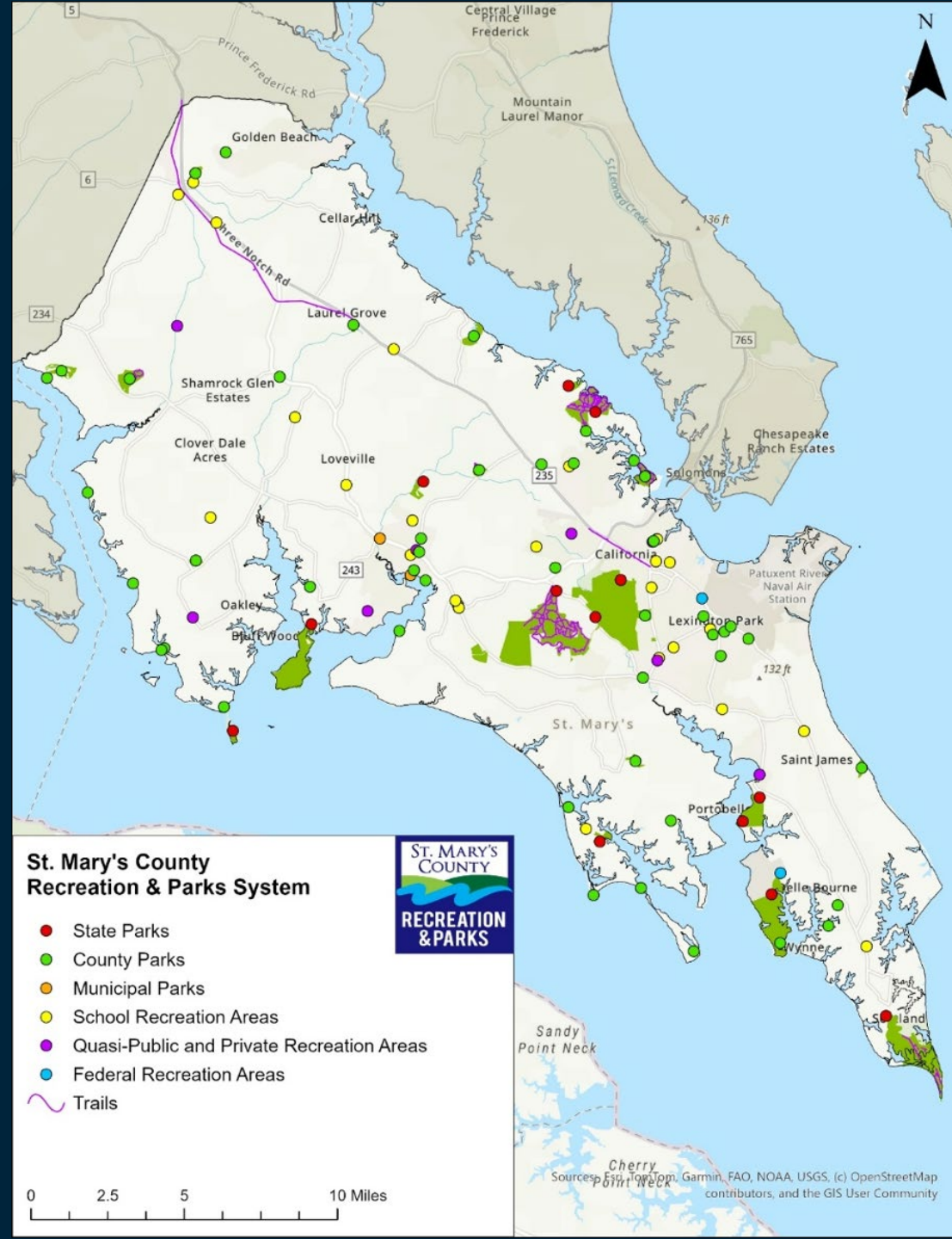


Policy & Funding Alignment

Align County actions with state requirements and funding programs

Current Conditions





St. Mary's County Parks and Recreation System Snapshot

Key Statistics for Level of Service and Planning

POPULATION SERVED



116,469
Residents

Baseline population for parkland, staffing, facilities, and service level planning.

COUNTY LAND AREA



359
Square Miles

Large geographic service area requiring consideration of drive times, rural access, and equitable distribution of facilities.

COUNTY PARK SYSTEM



23
Parks

Diverse system of regional, community, athletic, waterfront, trail, and specialty recreation assets.

PARKLAND INVENTORY



2,763
Acres
23.7

Acres per 1,000 Residents

Provides a substantial recreation land base while highlighting the importance of access, proximity, and facility mix.

INDOOR & SUPPORT FACILITIES



17
Buildings

Supports recreation programming, aquatics, administration, maintenance operations, cultural resources, and community services.

KEY ACCESS & RECREATION RESOURCES



Parks & Open Space



Trails & Pathways



Water Access Sites



Athletic Fields & Courts



Indoor Recreation Facilities



Historic & Cultural Resources

Supports a multidimensional Level of Service approach that evaluates access, quality, equity, capacity, and community demand.



PLANNING TAKEAWAY

St. Mary's County maintains a robust recreation system serving more than 116,000 residents through 23 parks, 2,763 acres of parkland, and 17 facilities. Future planning should emphasize equitable access, asset reinvestment, trail connectivity, water access, and facility capacity while preserving the County's unique natural and cultural resources.

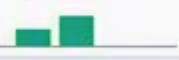


Sources: 2020 U.S. Census; St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks Inventory (2025)

Note: Population based on 2020 Census. Land area includes all land and water area within St. Mary's County.

Benchmarking Summary

St. Mary's County compared with Calvert County and Charles County

	St. Mary's	Calvert	Charles
 Population	116,469	92,525	170,527
 Operating Expenditures Per Capita	\$124 	\$169 	\$96 
 Revenue Per Capita	\$104 	\$72 	\$12.47 
 Full-Time Employees	44	66	83
 Non-Full-Time Employees	468	290	77
 Parks	25	40	21
 Park Acres	2,763	2,293	4,194
 Operated Buildings	17	24	3

Key takeaway: St. Mary's has substantial acreage and strong revenue generation, but operates with fewer full-time employees and heavier reliance on non-full-time staffing.

St. Mary's County Parks & Recreation: 2025 SYSTEM UTILIZATION



STRONG USE. VIBRANT PLACES. HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

From programs and parks to facilities and waterfront destinations—our system delivers for all.



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



56,257

TOTAL PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS



3,291

SWIM LESSON PARTICIPANTS



2,450

GYMNASTICS PARTICIPANTS



≈1,100

YOUTH BASKETBALL PARTICIPANTS



VISITATION & ATTRACTIONS



14,083

WATERFRONT PARK VISITORS



29,377

MUSEUM VISITS



33,362

ROUNDS OF GOLF AT THE 18-HOLE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE



29,300

RIVERVIEW RESTAURANT VISITS



EVENTS & FIELD USE



6,489

SPECIAL EVENT ATTENDEES



41,411

ATHLETIC FIELD USE HOURS



MORE THAN

49

YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED



SYSTEM ASSETS



23

PUBLIC PARKS



15

PUBLIC LANDINGS



8

RECREATION FACILITIES



TRAILS



MUSEUMS



ATHLETIC FIELDS



WATERFRONT RECREATION AMENITIES



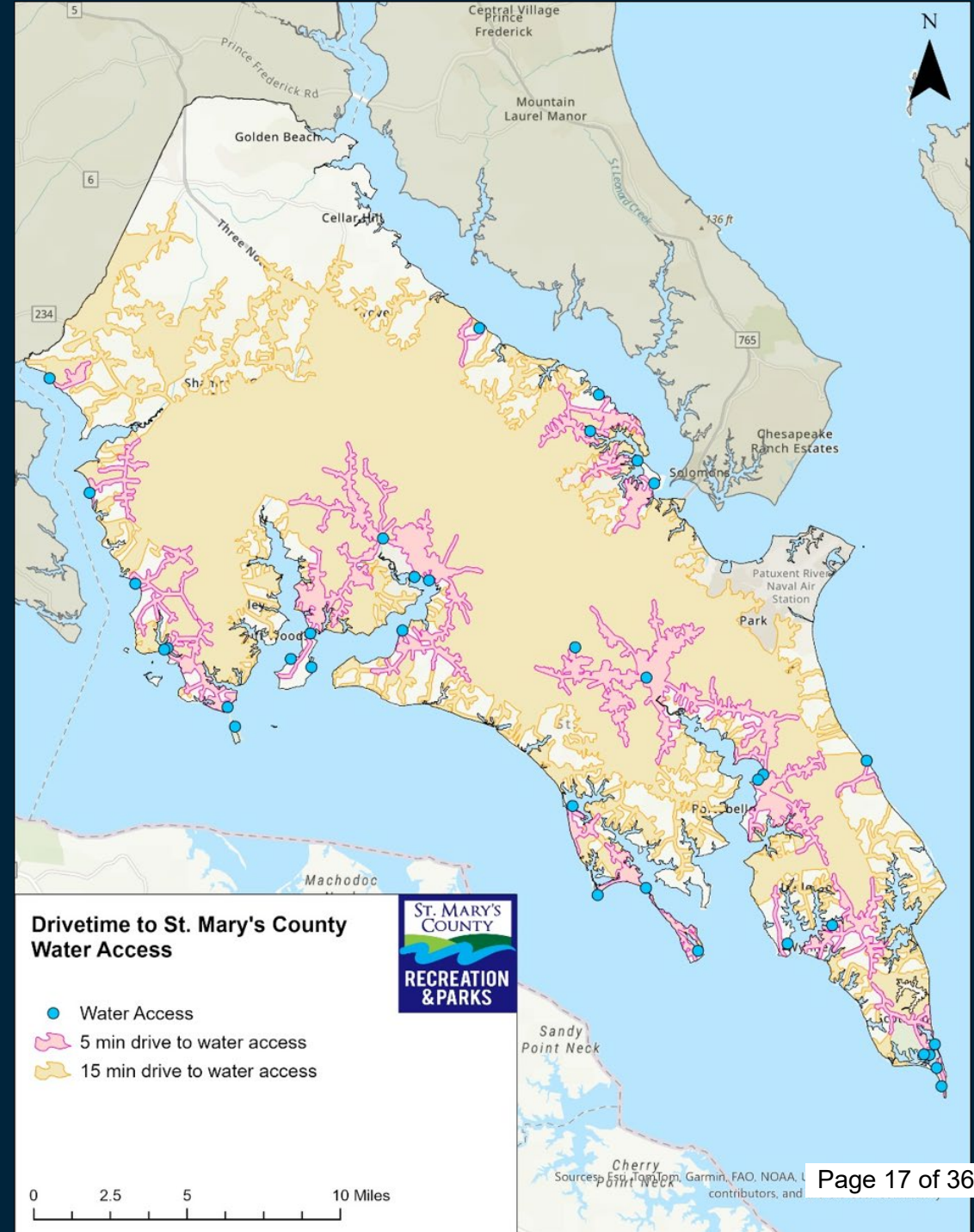
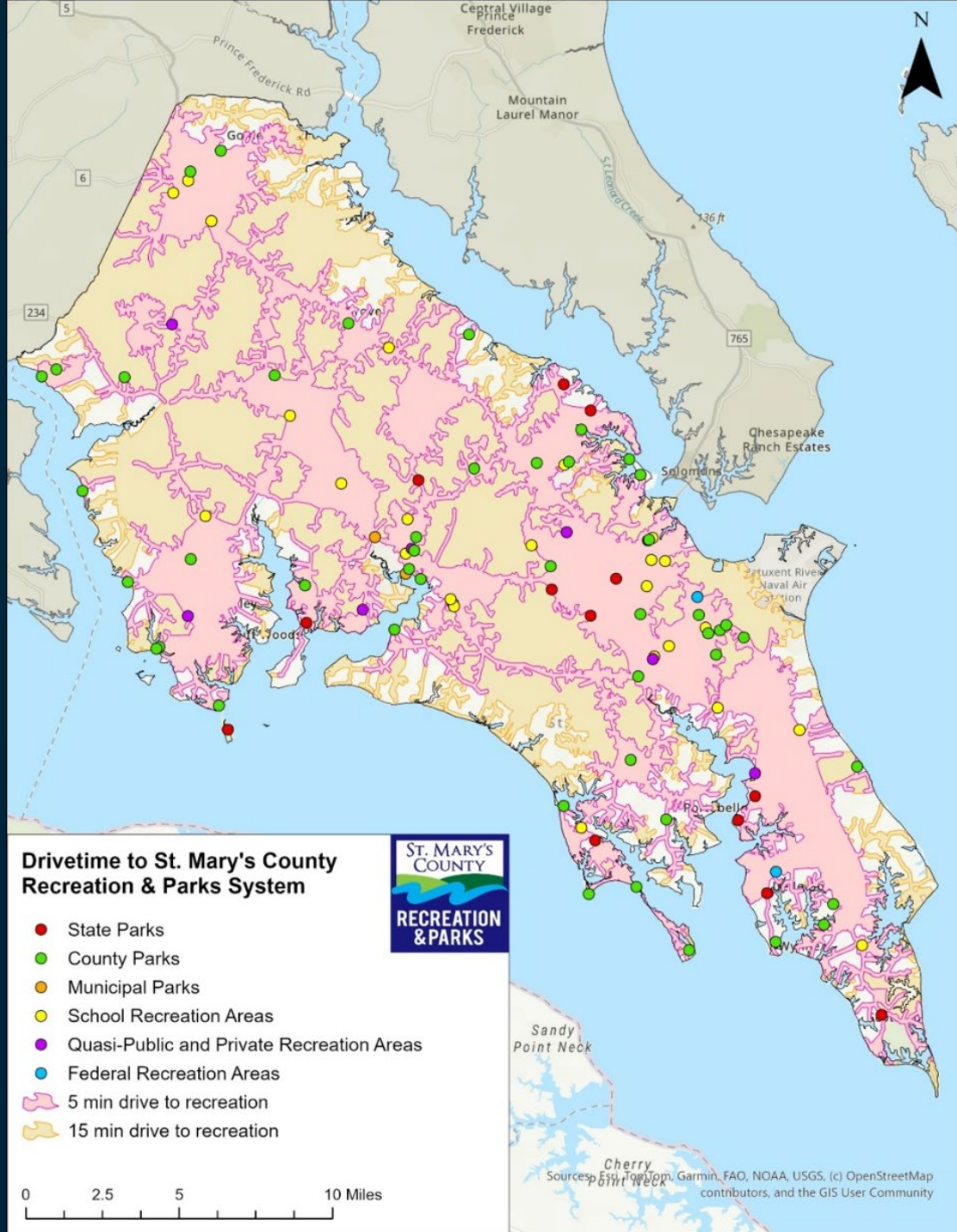
**A SYSTEM THAT SERVES.
A COMMUNITY THAT THRIVES.**

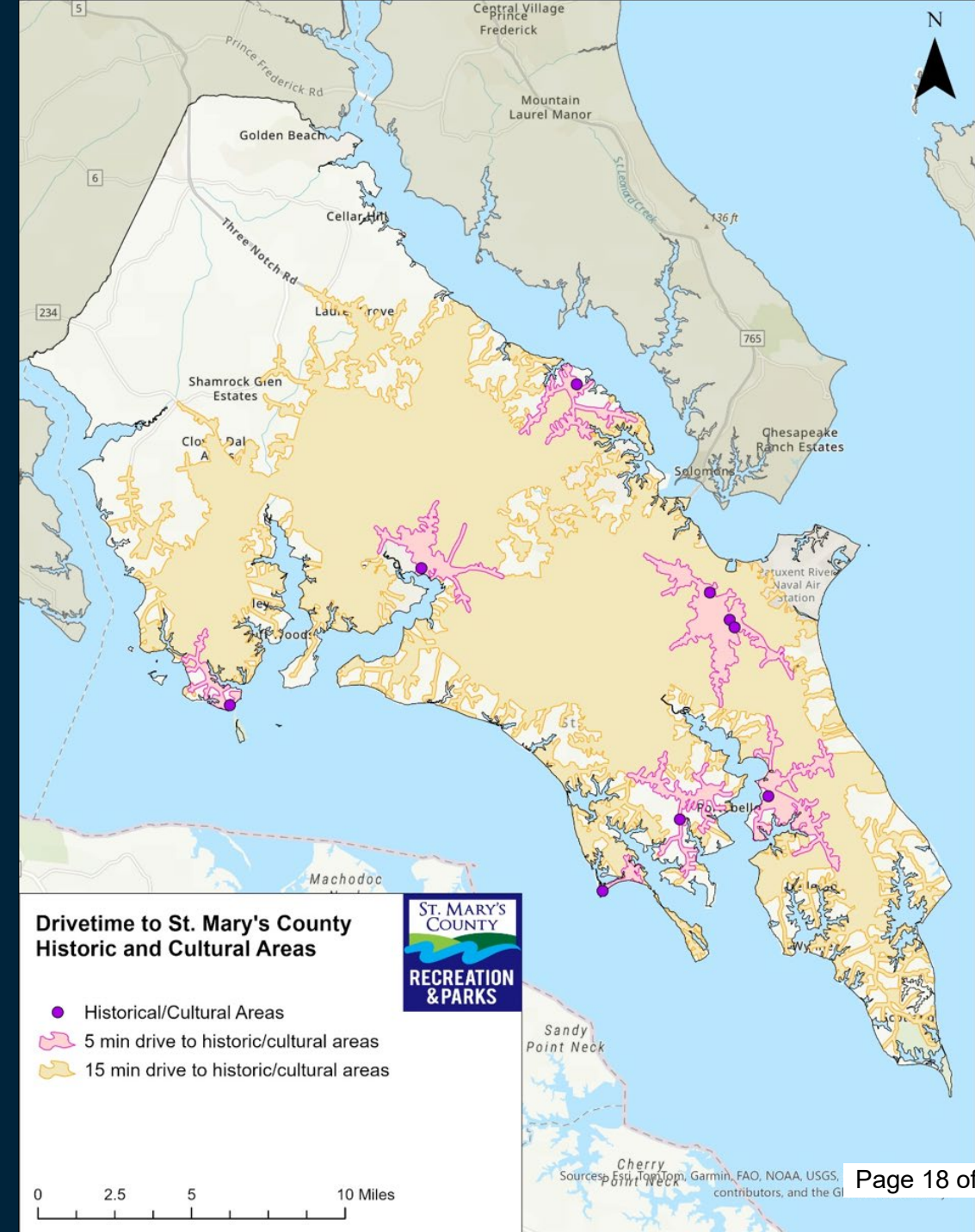
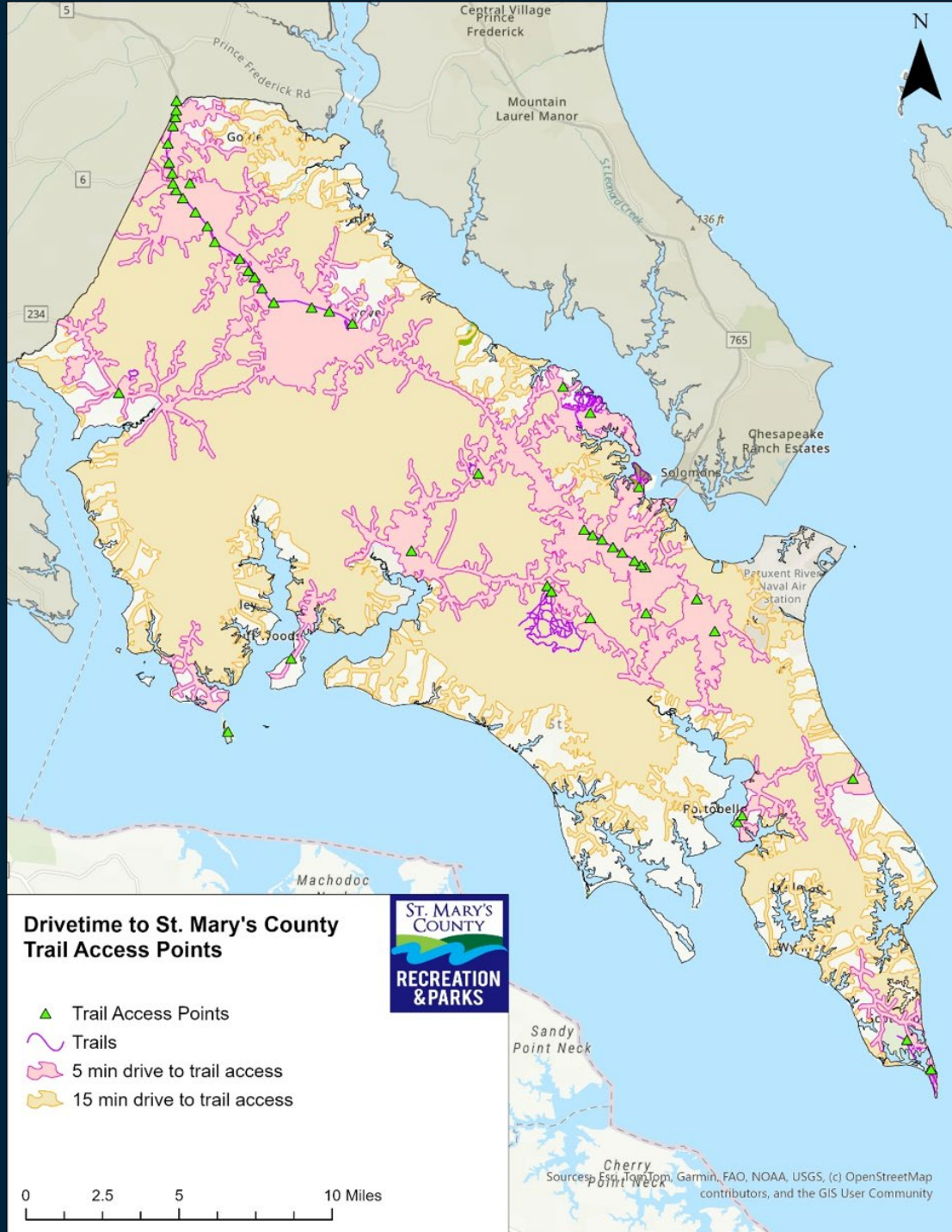
Thank you to our residents, partners, and visitors for making St. Mary's County a great place to live, work, and play.



**WIDE REACH.
LASTING IMPACT.**







Level of Service Findings Summary

Estimated population within 15-minute service areas



Equity Insight



Lower-income areas and areas with higher concentrations of minority residents are generally within the parks and recreation service area, with potential gap areas south and east of Lexington Park.

Planning direction: No countywide parkland deficiency; focus on targeted access gaps, facility quality, trail and water access, and equity-informed investment.

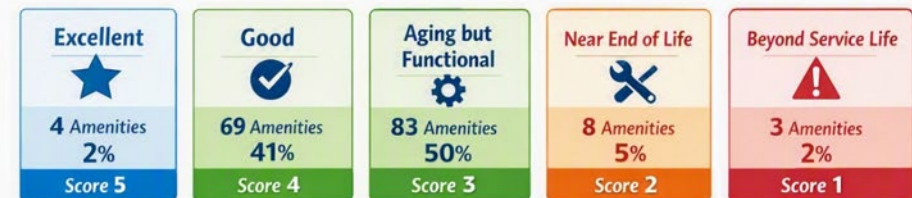
Amenity Condition Assessment Summary

Condition ratings for 167 evaluated amenities

91% Good or Aging but Functional



7% Near End of Life or Beyond Service Life



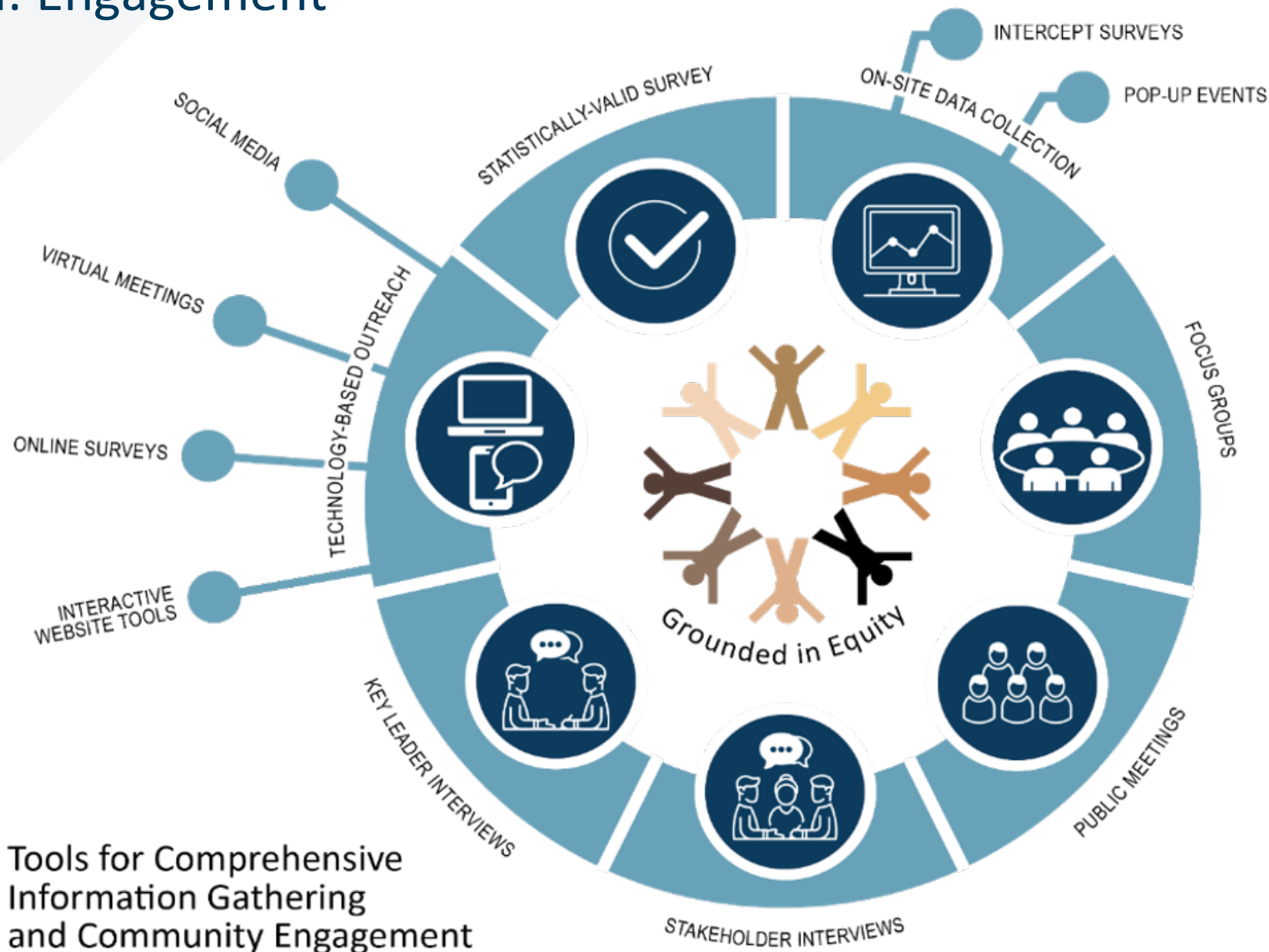
Capital planning direction: maintain good assets, plan medium-term renewal for aging amenities, and prioritize near-term reinvestment for assets nearing or beyond service life.

Inclusive Engagement

Reaching your community



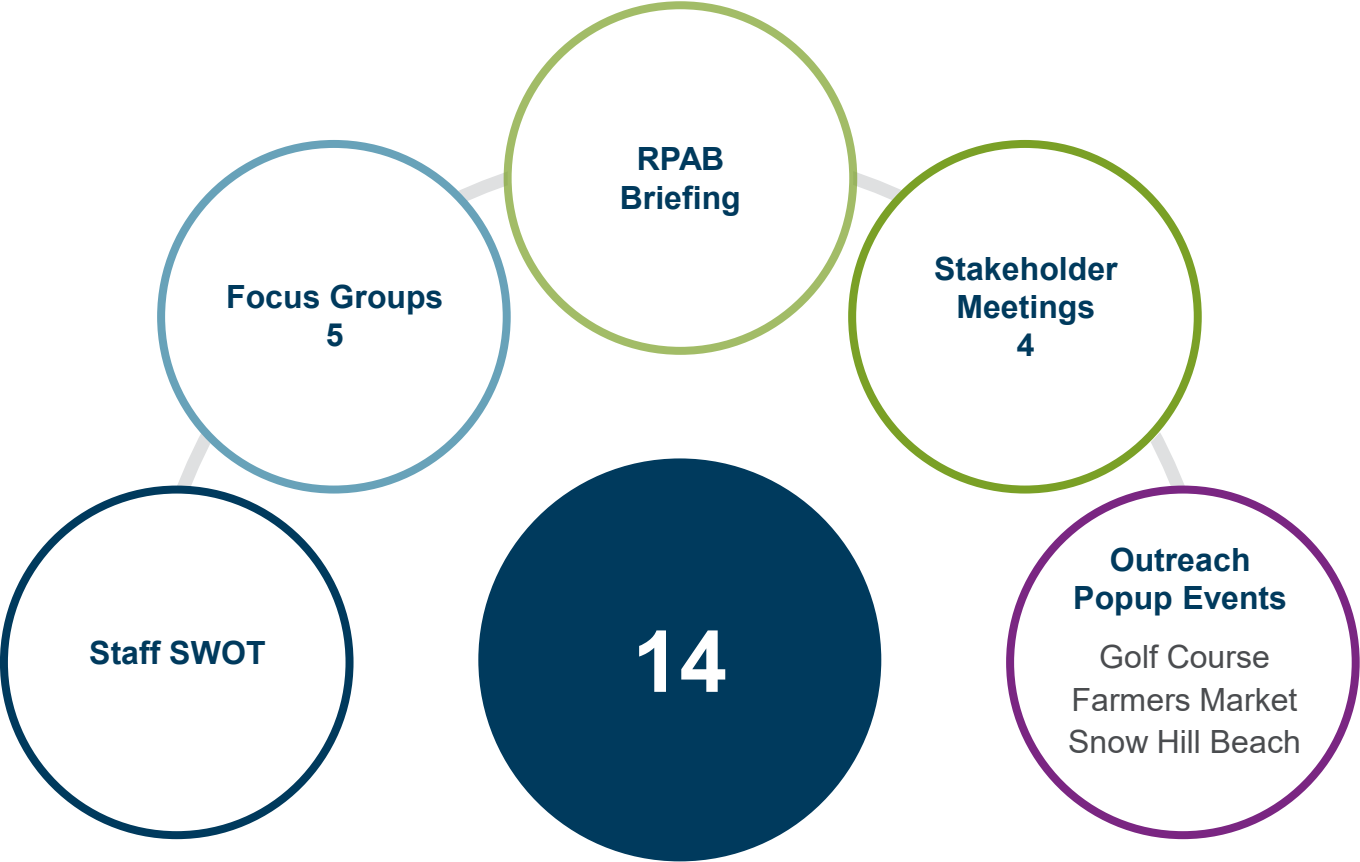
Project Approach: Engagement



Tools for Comprehensive
Information Gathering
and Community Engagement



In-Person Engagement Opportunities



User Demand and Engagement Findings

Community priorities from the 2026 LPPRP engagement process.



Top Budget Priorities

	Maintain & Improve Existing Facilities	\$4,066
	Bikeways, Pedestrian, and Natural Pathways	\$3,423
	Preserve Natural Areas	\$2,935
	New Outdoor Parks & Recreation Facilities	\$2,646
	Programs & Special Events	\$1,144

Planning direction: reinvest first, expand trails and water access, address field capacity, improve communications, and reduce barriers to participation.

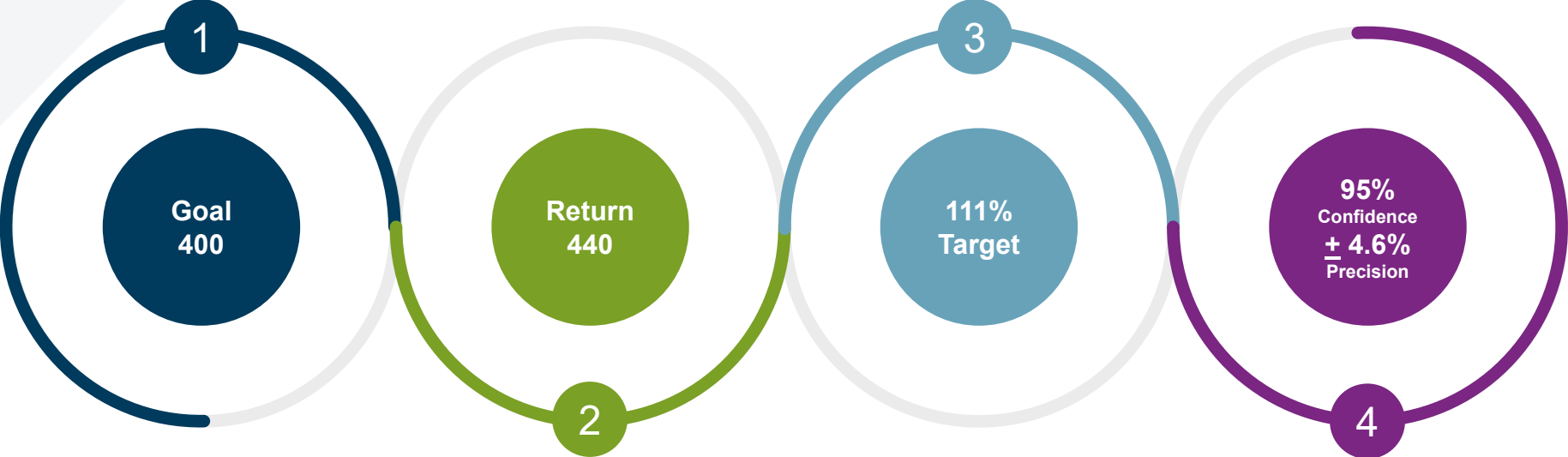
Leadership & Stakeholder Interview Key Themes

St. Mary's County LPPRP



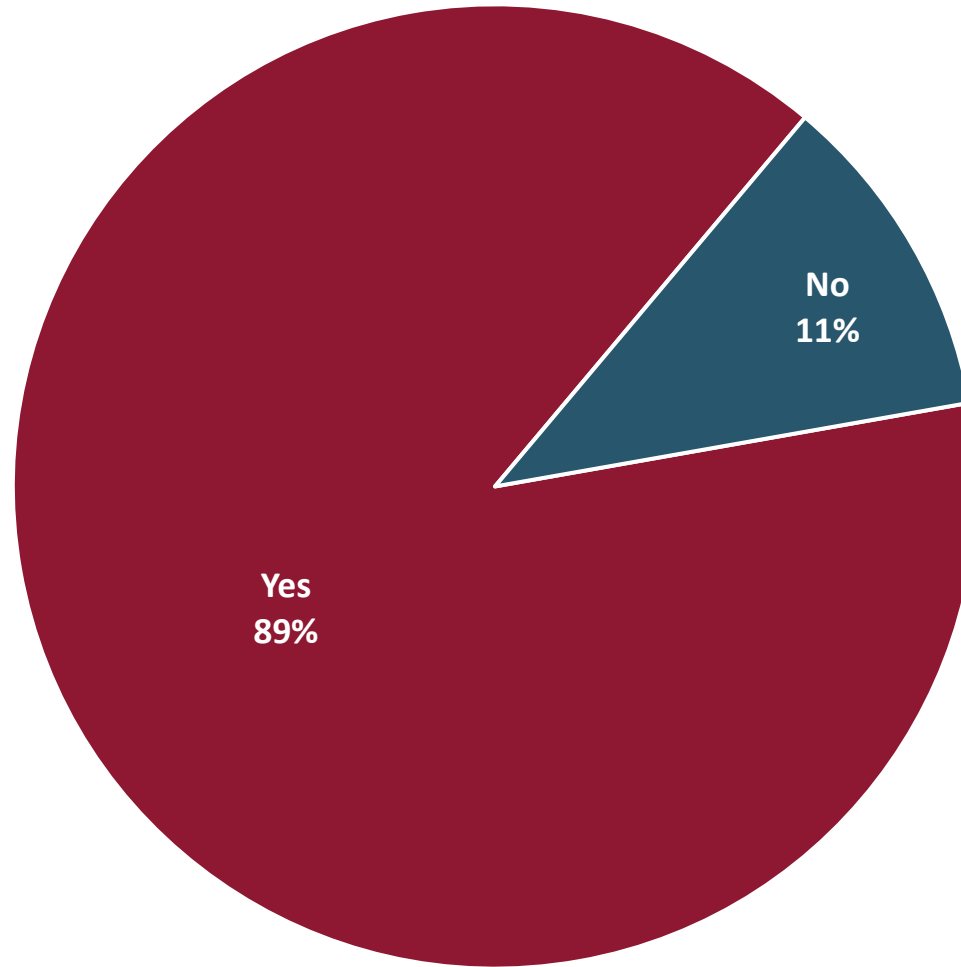
Community Survey

Random Sample, Mailed – First for an LPPRP



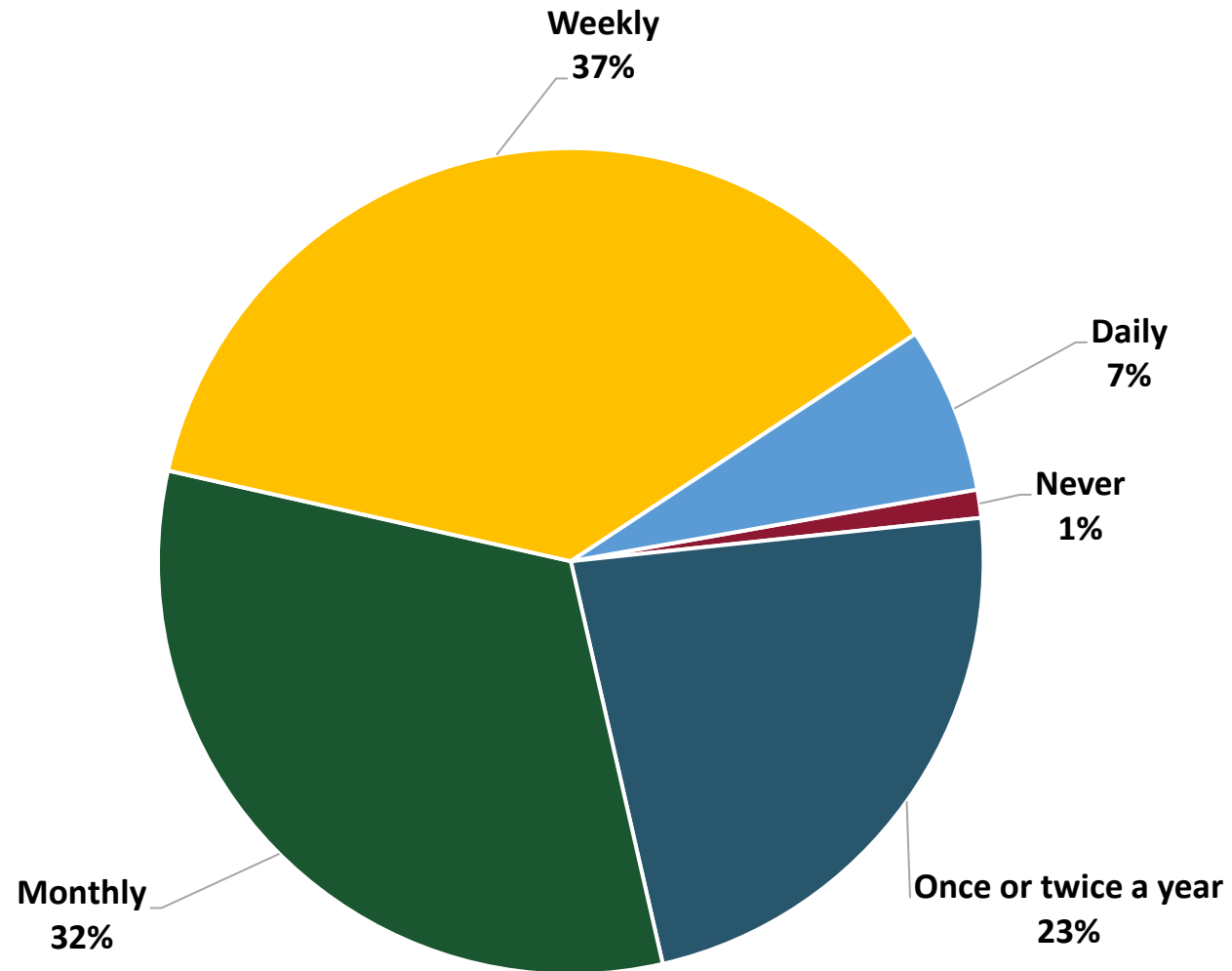
During a typical year, do you or anyone in your household visit the parks or facilities offered by St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks?

by percentage of respondents



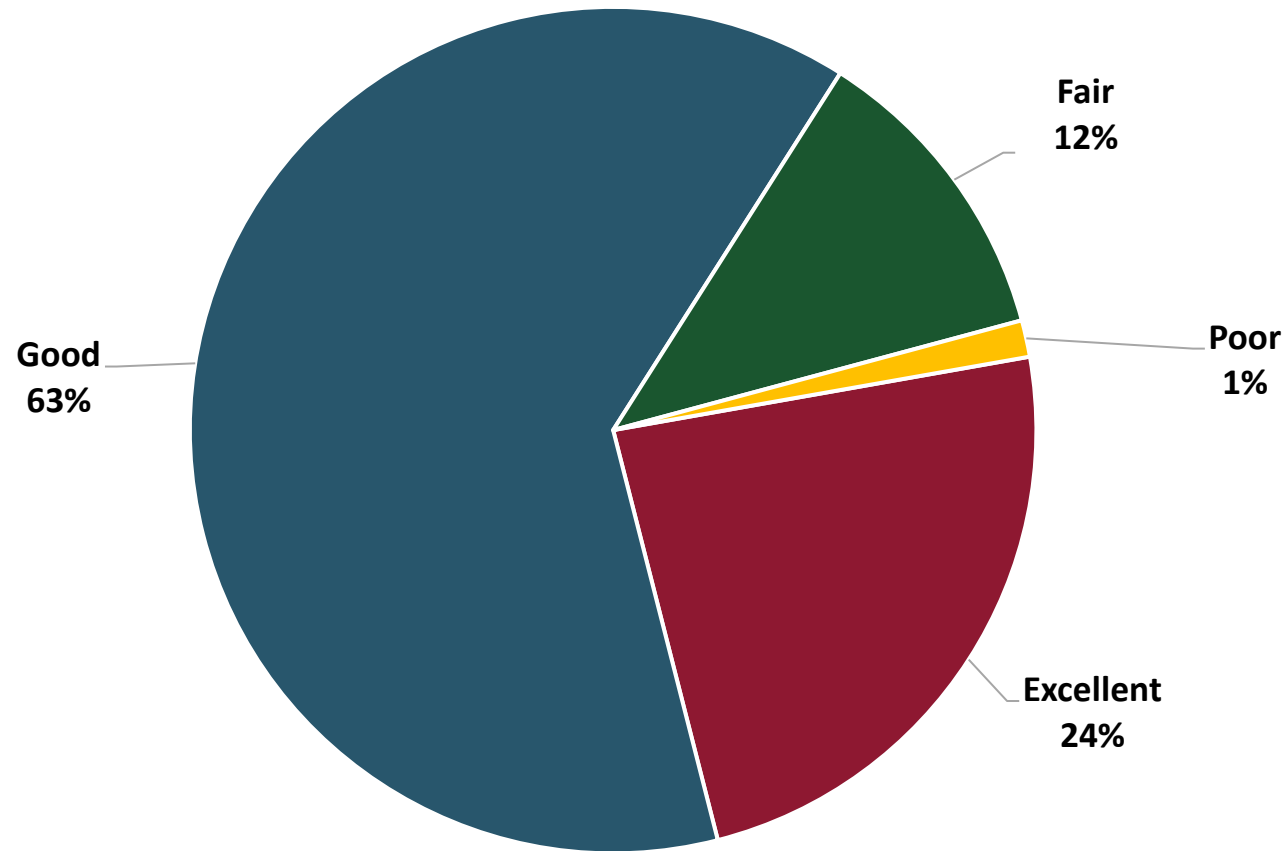
How often do you or others in your household visit a St. Mary's County park?

by percentage of respondents who have visited (excluding “not provided”)



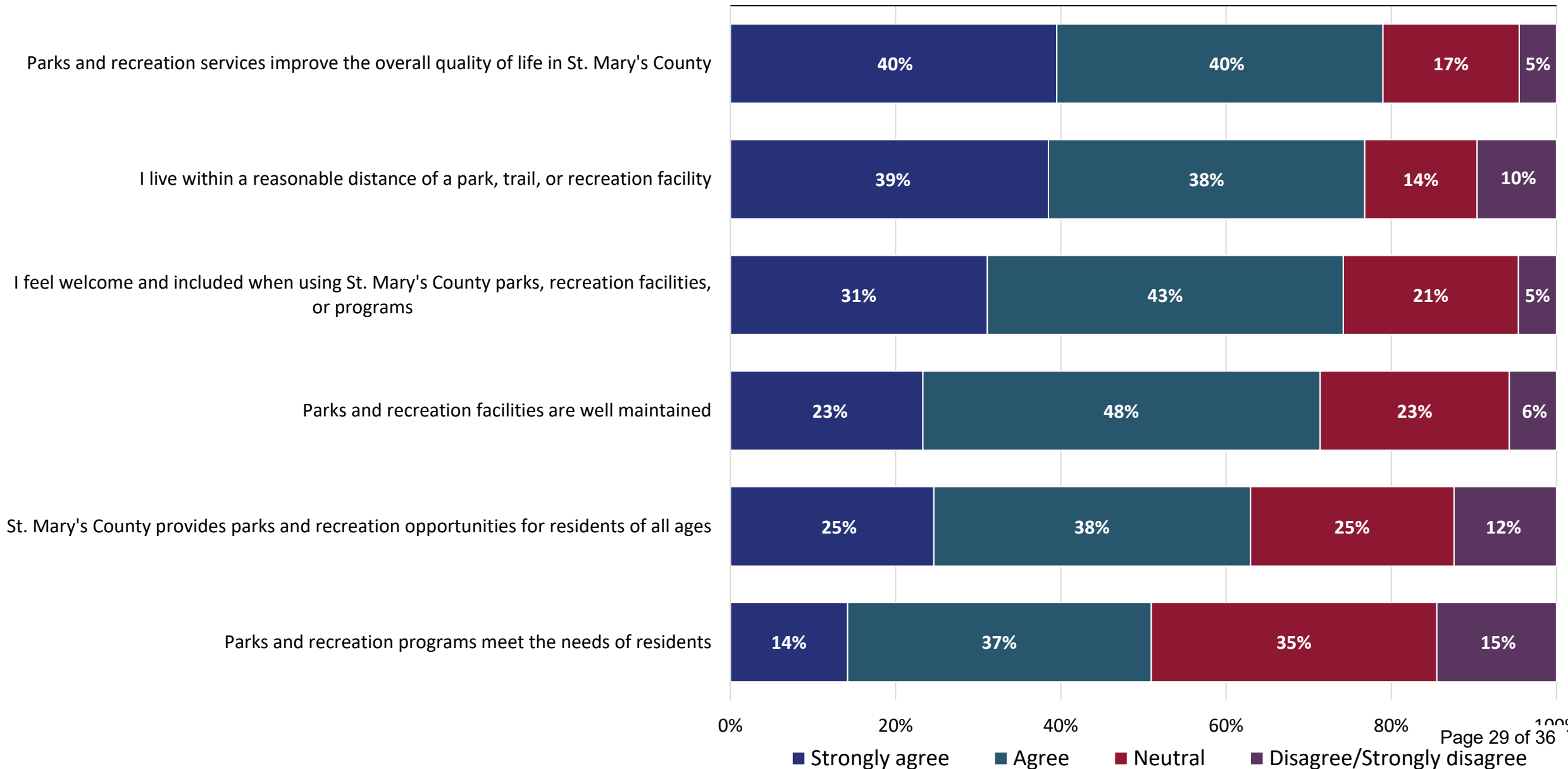
Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of the St. Mary's County parks you have visited?

by percentage of respondents who have visited (excluding "not provided")



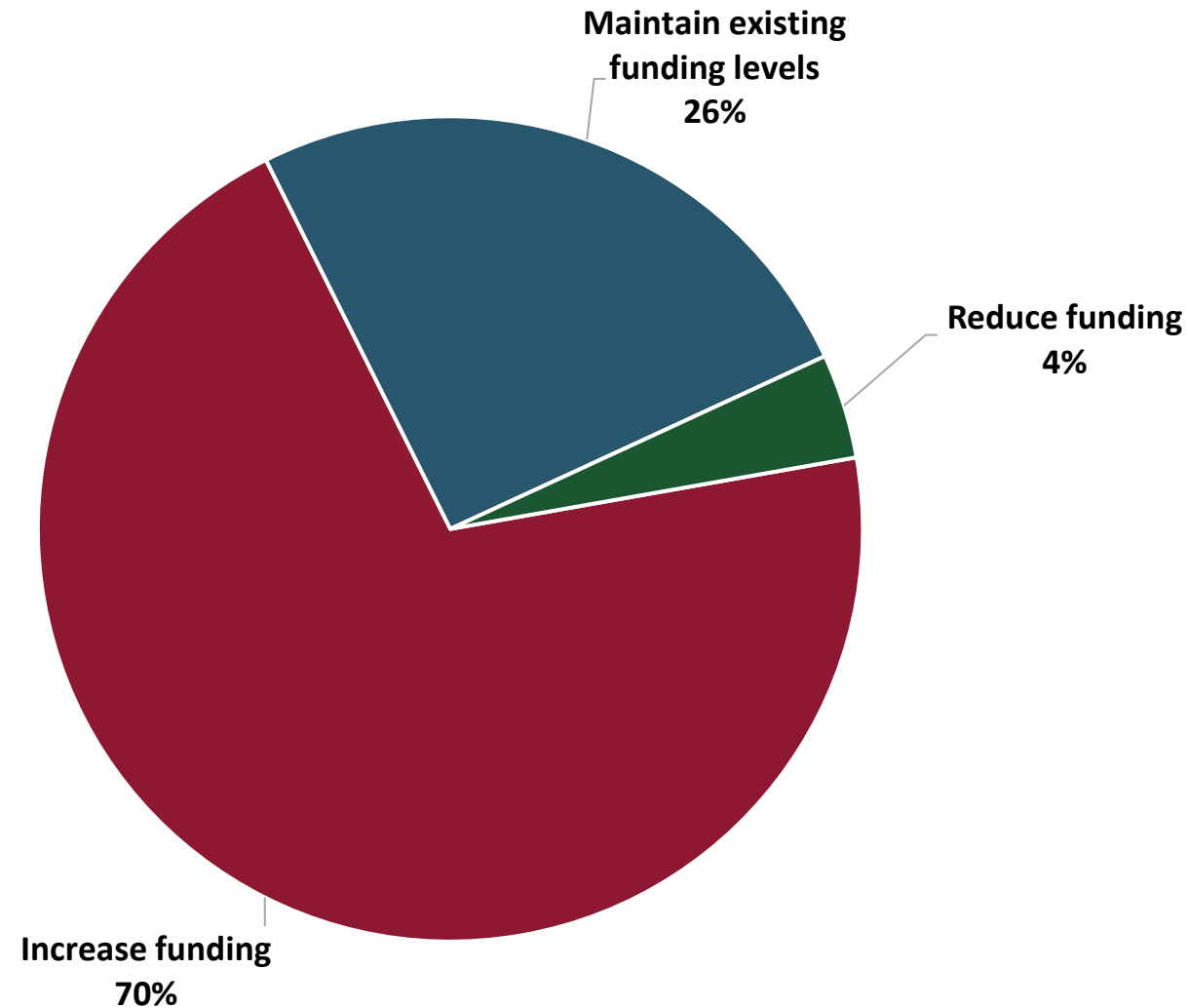
Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements

by the percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



Q18. Based on your perception of value in Question 17, please select which action you support regarding funding for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources?

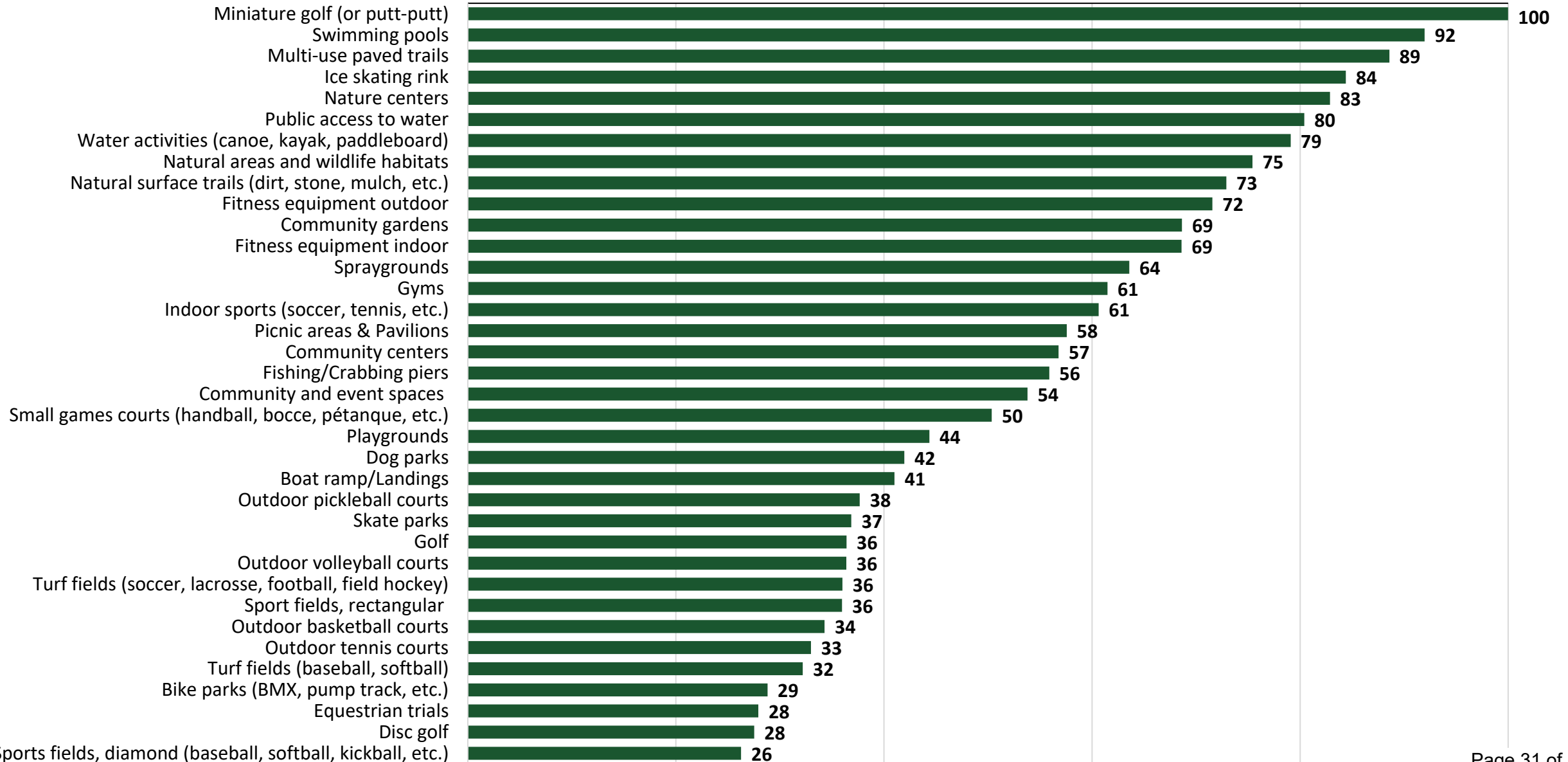
by percentage of respondents (excluding "not sure")



Unmet Needs Rating for Facilities/Amenities

the rating for the item with the most unmet need=100

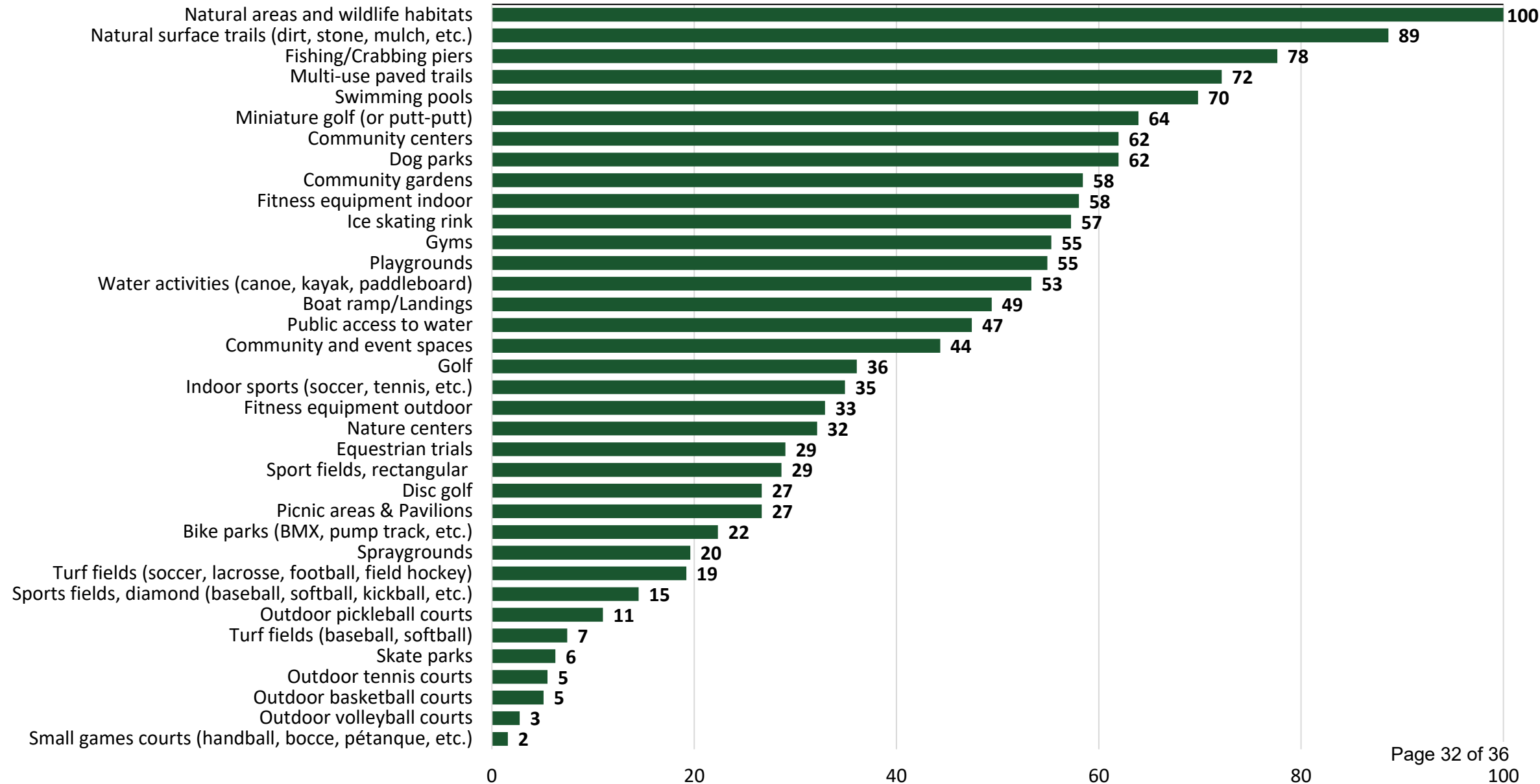
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of unmet need for each item compared to the item with the most unmet need



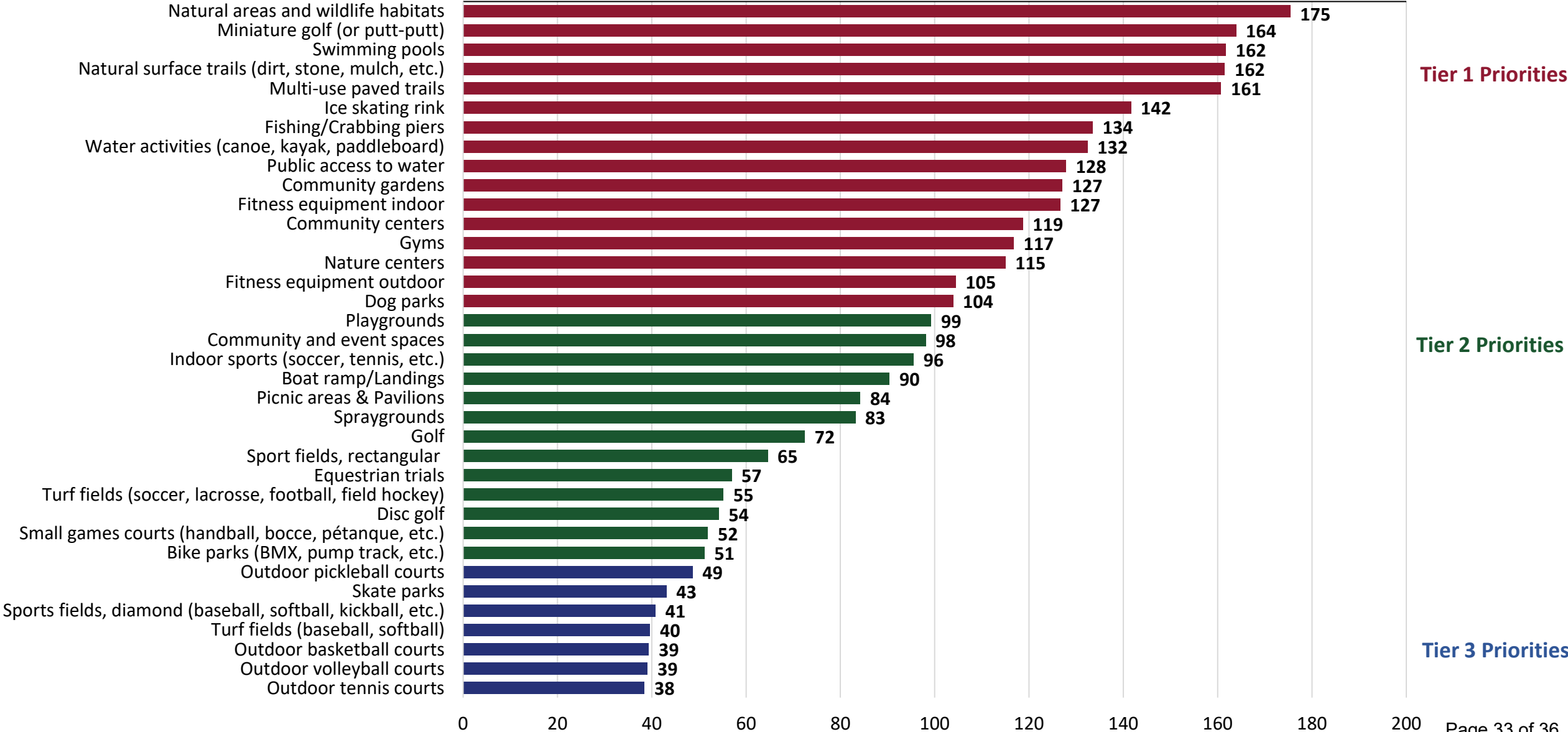
Importance Rating for Facilities/Amenities

the rating for the item with the most importance=100

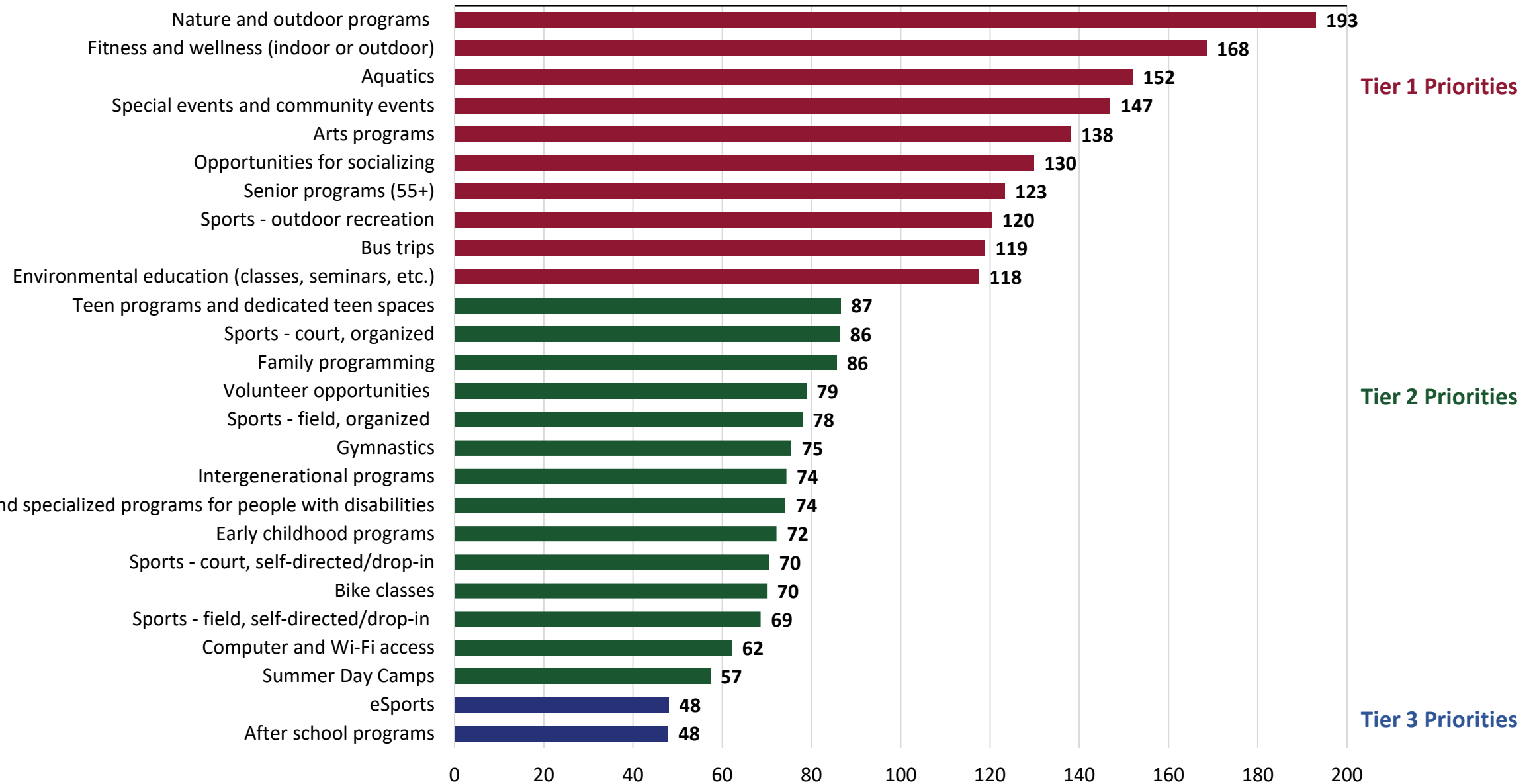
the rating of all other items reflects the relative amount of importance for each item compared to the item with the most importance



Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Facilities/Amenities Based on Priority Investment Rating



Top Priorities for Investment for Parks and Recreation Programs Based on Priority Investment Rating



LPPRP Goals for Parks and Recreation



EIGHT GOALS FOR PARKS & RECREATION

A VISION FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE, VIBRANT PLACES, AND A STRONG COMMUNITY

1



MAINTAIN & REINVEST

Lifecycle maintenance, accessibility, safety, amenities, restrooms, lighting, shade, parking, renewal.



2



EXPAND EQUITABLE ACCESS

Parks, trails, water, facilities, gaps, acquisition, partnerships, transportation connections.



3



STRENGTHEN TRAIL NETWORKS

Trails, bikeways, pedestrian and natural pathways, wayfinding, safety, trailheads, natural areas.



4



INCREASE WATER ACCESS

Kayak, canoe, fishing, swimming, beaches, shoreline access, stewardship, resiliency, safety.



5



ADDRESS OUTDOOR FACILITY CAPACITY

Fields, lighting, scheduling, maintenance, baseball, softball, rectangular fields, courts, disc golf, pickleball.



6



PLAN FOR INDOOR & YEAR-ROUND RECREATION

Aquatics, indoor courts, multipurpose space, fitness, climbing, ice or specialty facilities, community recreation space.



7



EXPAND INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

Youth, adults, older adults, families, disabilities, neurodivergent youth, financial and transportation barriers.



8



PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES

Conservation, habitat, shoreline resiliency, environmental education, forests, farms, waterways, scenic landscapes.





OUR MISSION: ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH INNOVATIVE PARKS AND RECREATION EXPERIENCES THAT CONNECT PEOPLE, NATURE, AND COMMUNITY.







Open Q&A