Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

Online Survey Results Summer 2020

Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan Community Survey Results Summer 2020

Bastrop County is currently drafting a 10 years Parks and Open Space Master Plan to guide the development of County owned parks in the unincorporated area, which include Stony Point Park, Cedar Creek Park and the Bastrop County Nature Park. As part of this an online survey was conducted to gain input from county residents during the month of May, 2020.

This survey comprised the initial round of public consultation for the plan. It was conducted over the course of 1 month and was available online in English and in Spanish. 161 responses were received, of which 2 were in Spanish

Unfortunately, the in-person component of the public outreach was delayed due to COVID-19, and will be replaced with digital workshops commencing Fall 2020.

The responses from the survey will be used to identify specific capital improvements for the park, as well as ideas for the long term management and maintenance of the parks, programming, and volunteering partnerships.

1. Which choice best represents how often you visit a County Park?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Every day	5.59%	9
About once a week	17.39%	28
A few times a month	27.33%	44
Once a month	9.94%	16
A few times a year	24.84%	40
Once a year	3.73%	6
Never	11.18%	18
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0
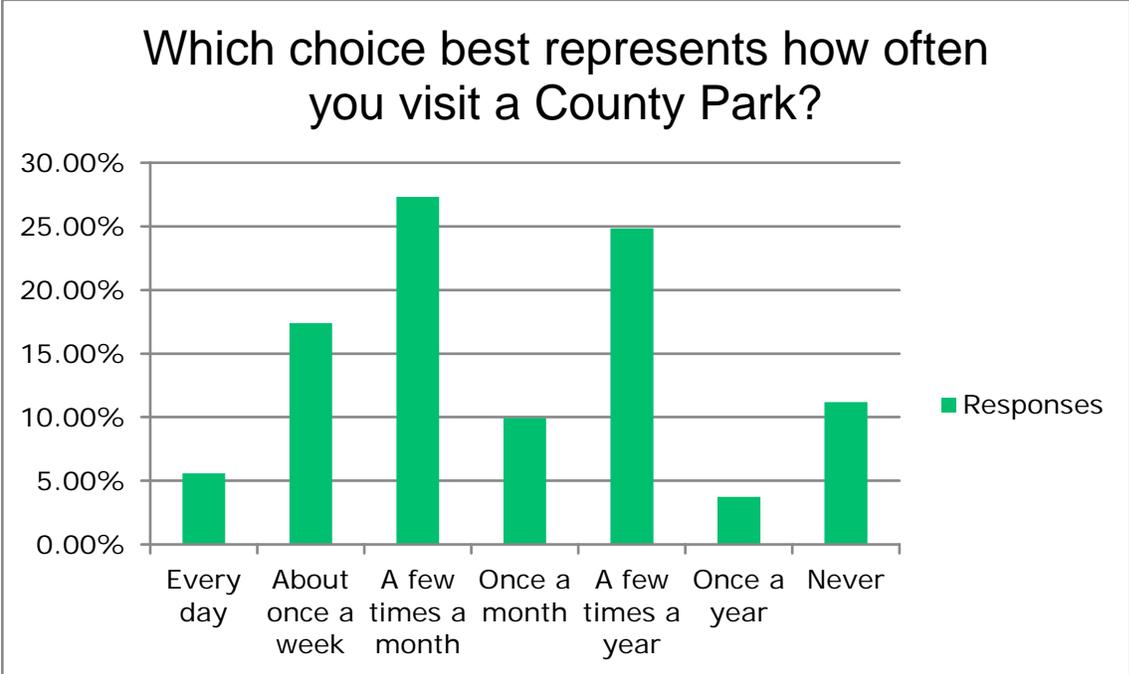
2. If you visit County Parks, which parks do you visit? Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Bastrop County Nature Park (formerly named Lost Pines Nature Trails)	63.98%	103
Stony Point Park	8.07%	13
Cedar Creek Park	19.25%	31
I don't know	7.45%	12
I don't visit County Parks	16.15%	26
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0
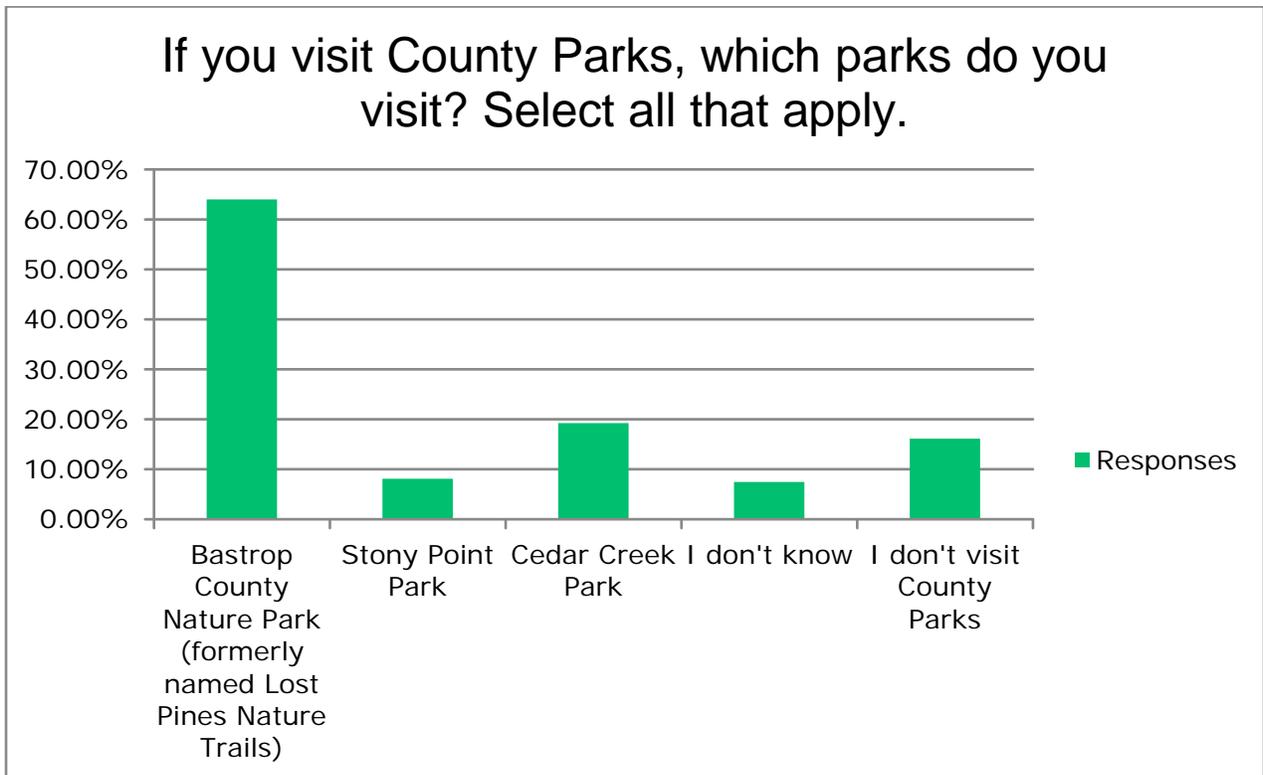
3. Which statement best represents County Parks near you? Select all that apply.

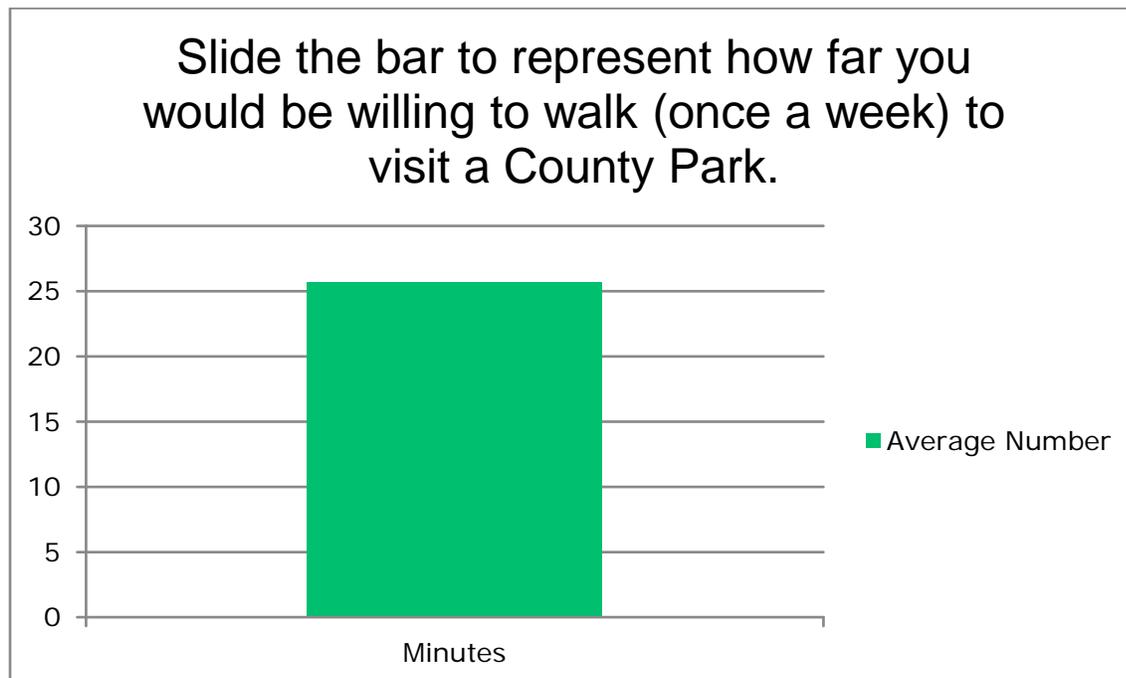| Answer Choices	Responses	
The closest County Park is too far from my home	11.18%	18
There is a County Park near my home that I like, or would like to go to	37.89%	61
There is a County Park near my home that I do not like, or would not like to go to	0.62%	1
There are physical barriers making it difficult for me to go to the closest County Park	0.62%	1
The park I use the most is not a County Park (It is another type of park, such as a city park, homeowners association park, LCRA park, or state park)	59.01%	95
I don't know	5.59%	9
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0
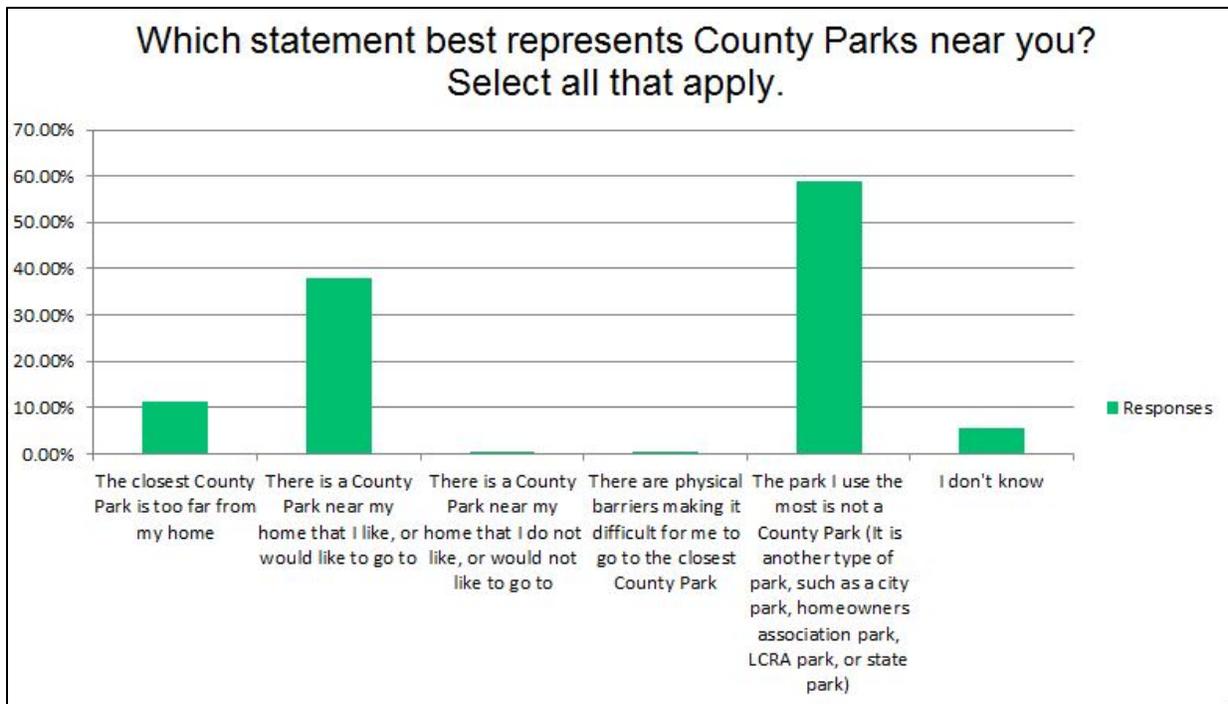
4. If you go or would like to go to a County Park, how would you typically get there? Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Drive	95.03%	153
Public Transportation	0.00%	0
Walk	10.56%	17
Bike	8.07%	13
Ride Share	1.24%	2
I don't go to County Parks	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.24%	2
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0

If you go or would like to go to a County Park, how would you typically get there? Select all that apply.
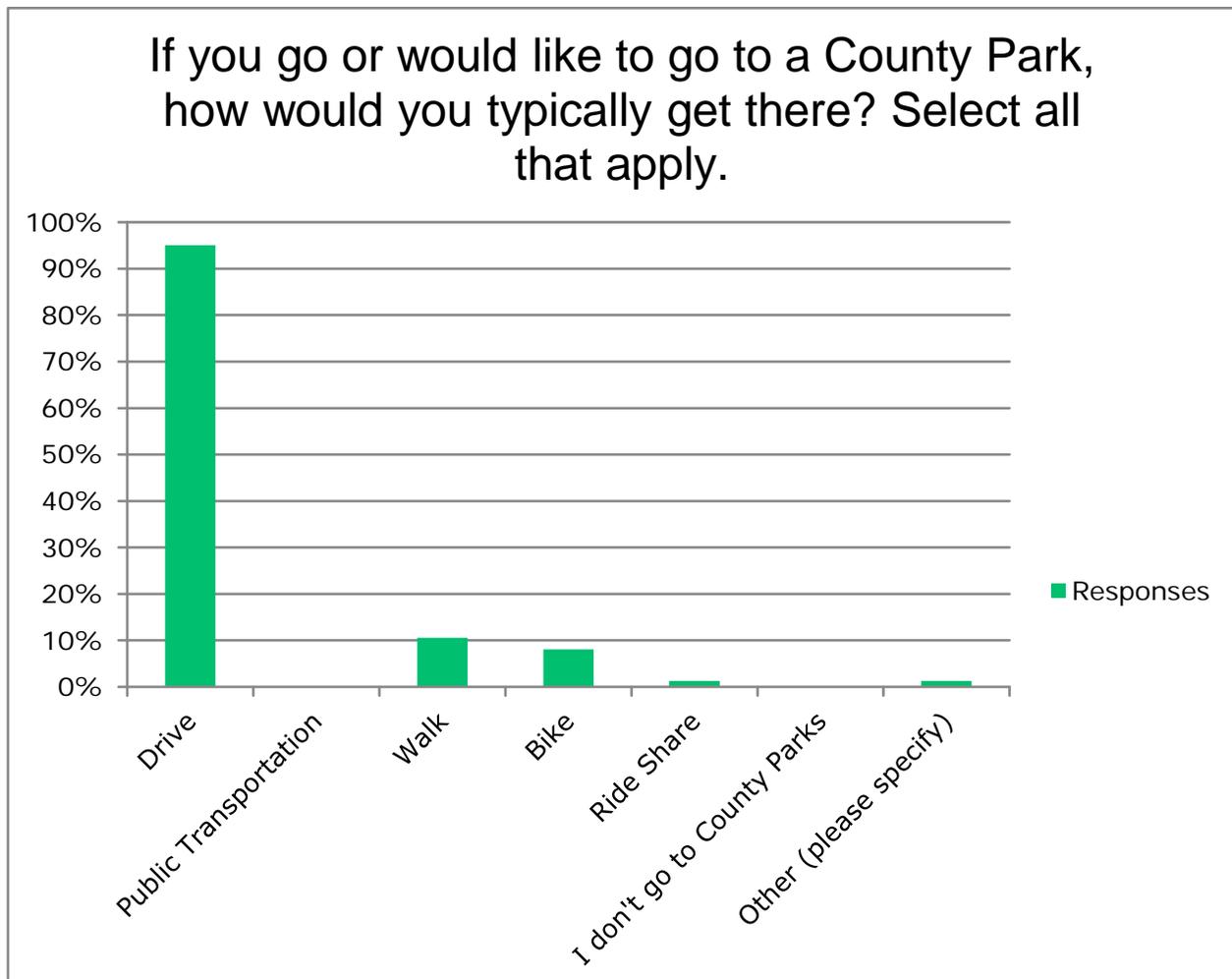
5. Slide the bar to represent how far you would be willing to walk (once a week) to visit a County Park.

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	
Minutes	25.7012987	3958	100.00%	154
			Answered	154
			Skipped	7

Slide the bar to represent how far you would be willing to walk (once a week) to visit a County Park.
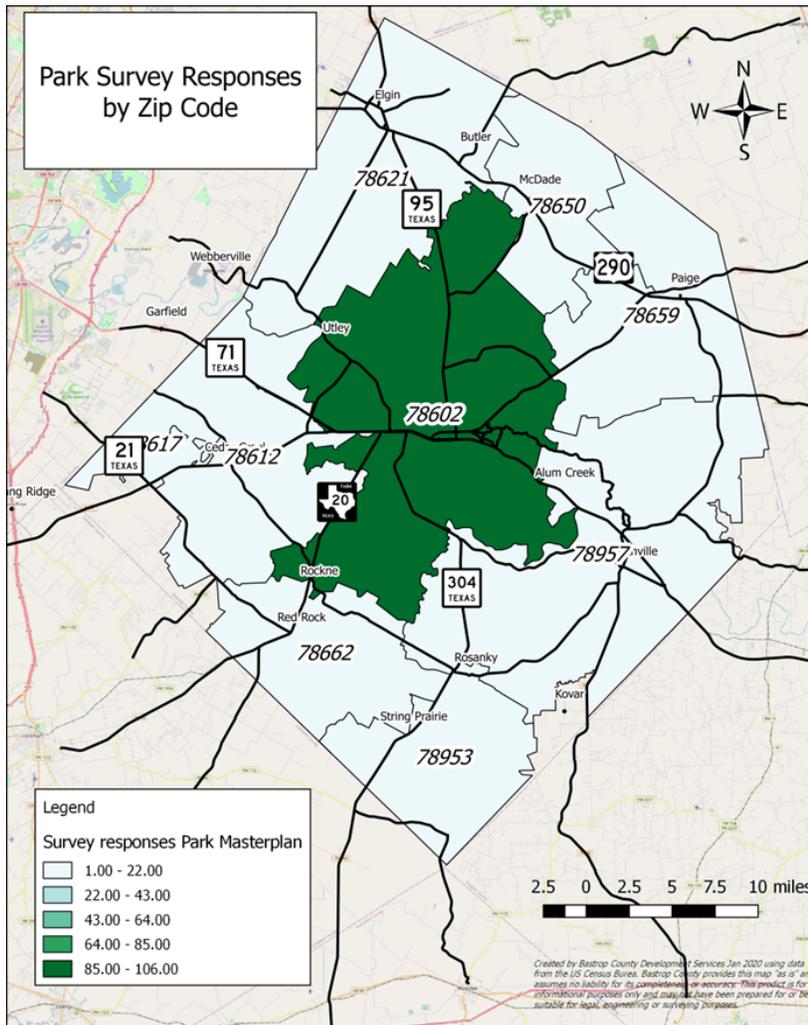
6. Slide the bar to represent how far would you be willing to drive (once a week) to visit a County Park.

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	
Minutes	31.85	5096	100.00%	160
			Answered	160
			Skipped	1

Slide the bar to represent how far would you be willing to drive (once a week) to visit a County Park.
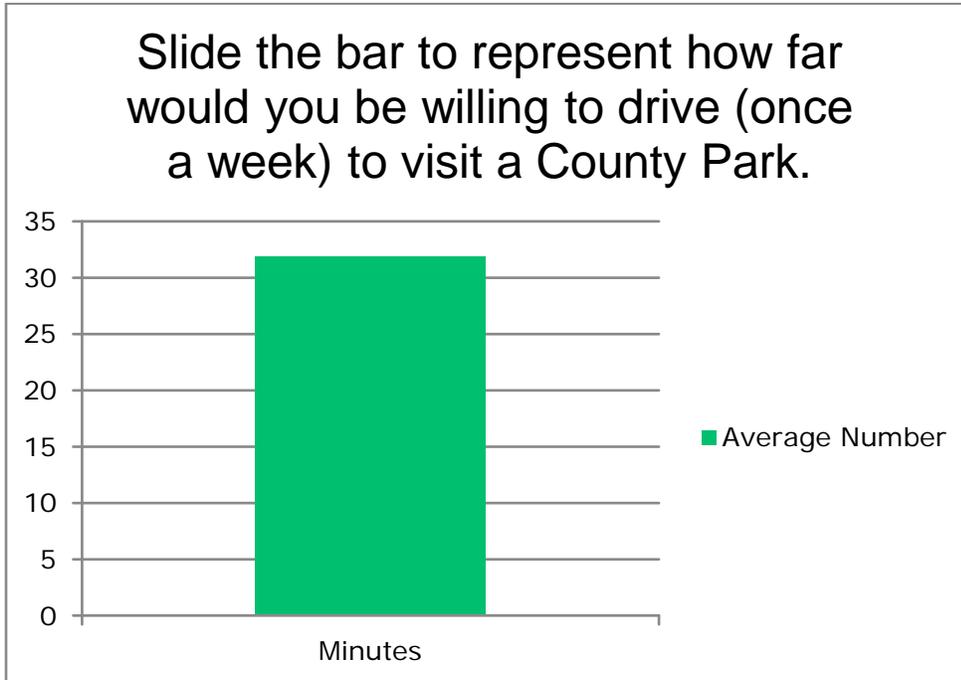
7. What is your zip code?

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
Bastrop	78602	106	66.7%
Cedar Creek	78612	14	8.8%
Elgin	78621	13	8.2%
Smithville	78957	8	5.0%
Red Rock	78662	6	3.8%
Paige	78659	5	3.1%
Del Valle	78617	4	2.5%
Rosanky	78953	1	0.6%
McDade	78650	1	0.6%
Hutto	78634	1	0.6%
		159	100%

Park Survey Responses by Zip Code

Legend
Survey responses Park Masterplan
- 1.00 - 22.00
- 22.00 - 43.00
- 43.00 - 64.00
- 64.00 - 85.00
- 85.00 - 106.00

8. Do you live within the city limits of the following cities?

Answer Choices	Responses	
City of Elgin	6.21%	10
City of Bastrop	35.40%	57
Cit of Smithville	1.86%	3
I do not live within the city limits of any of the above cities	56.52%	91
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0

Do you live within the city limits of the following cities?
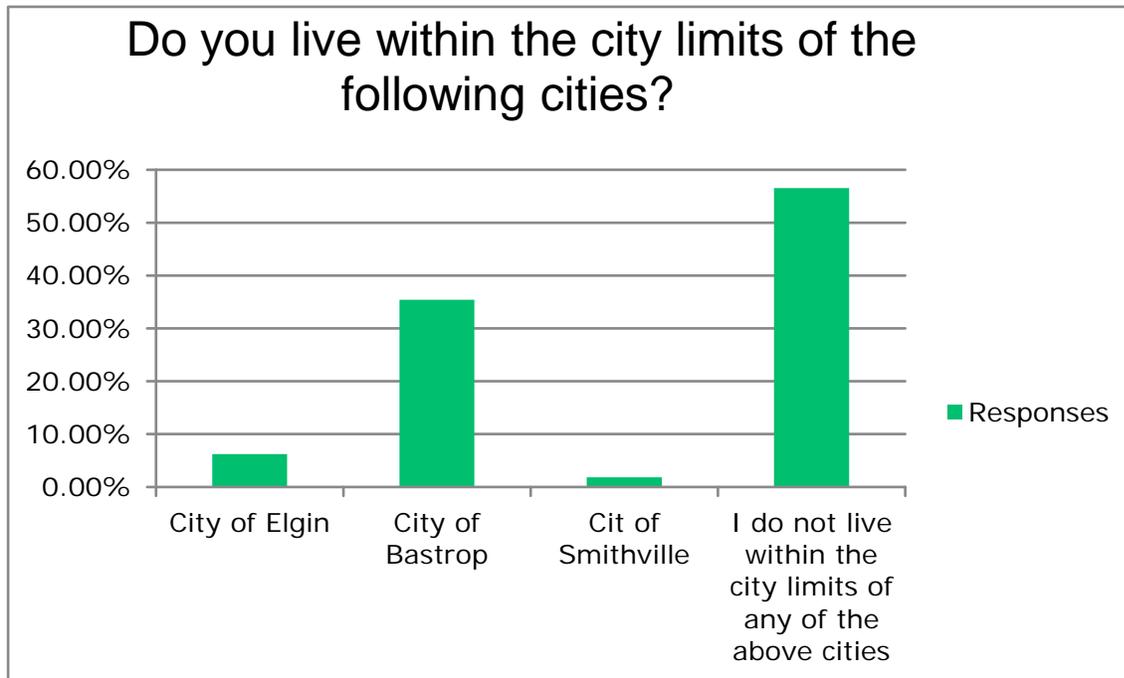
9. What age range best represents you?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	3.11%	5
25-34	9.32%	15
35-44	19.25%	31
45-54	22.98%	37
55-64	25.47%	41
65+	19.88%	32
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0

What age range best represents you?
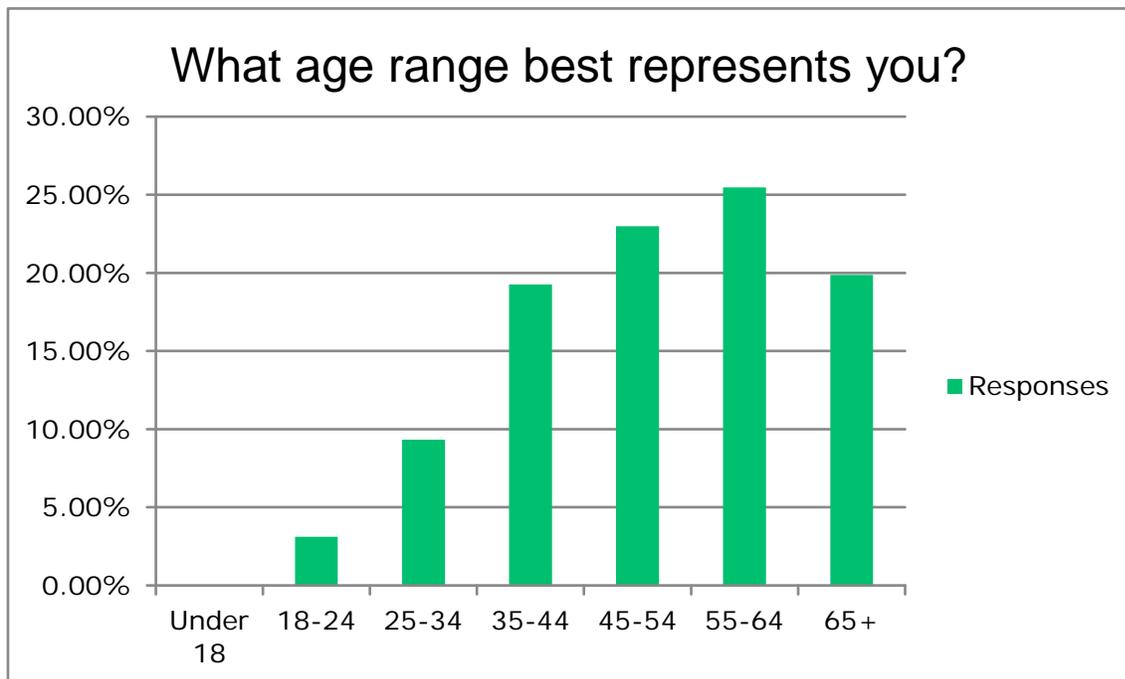
10. What is your gender?

Female	Male	Other	Total
76.77%	22.58%	0.65%	
119	35	1	155
Answered	156		
Skipped	5		

Gender
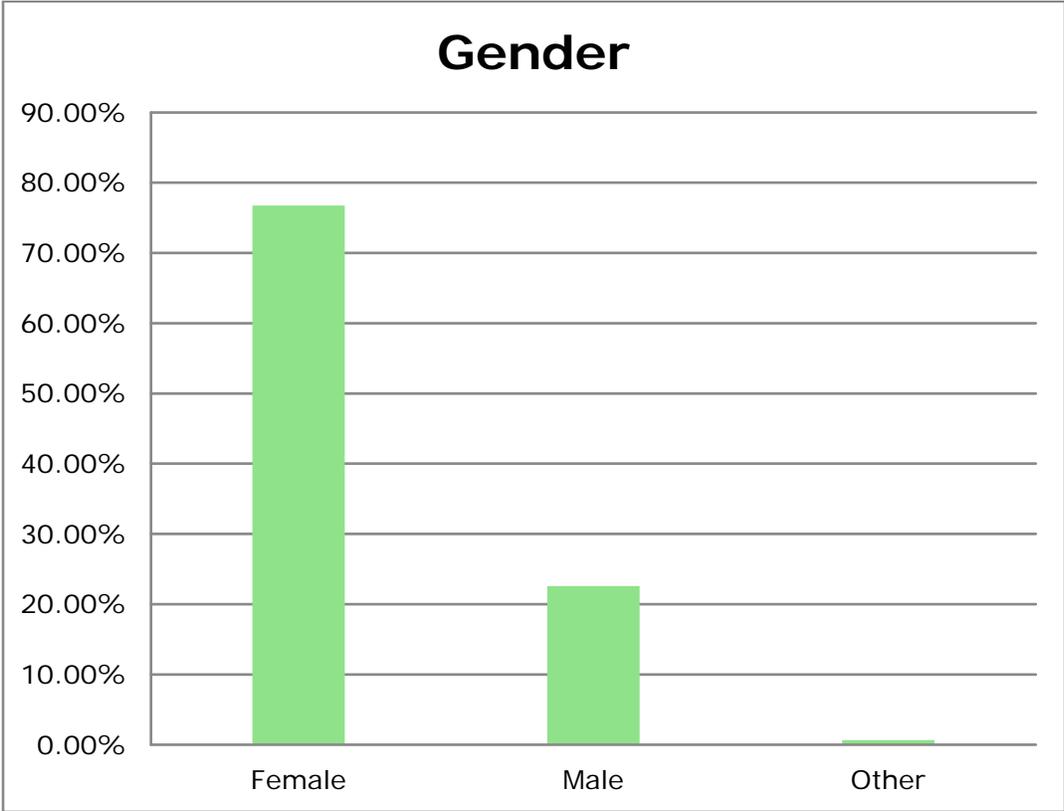
11. What race/ethnicity do you most identify with? Select all that apply. You may pick more than one.

| Answer Choices	Responses	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.63%	1
Asian or Asian American	0.63%	1
Black or African American	3.80%	6
Hispanic or Latino	15.82%	25
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
White	79.11%	125
Other	4.43%	7
	Answered	158
	Skipped	3

What race/ethnicity do you most identify with? Select all that apply. You may pick more than one.
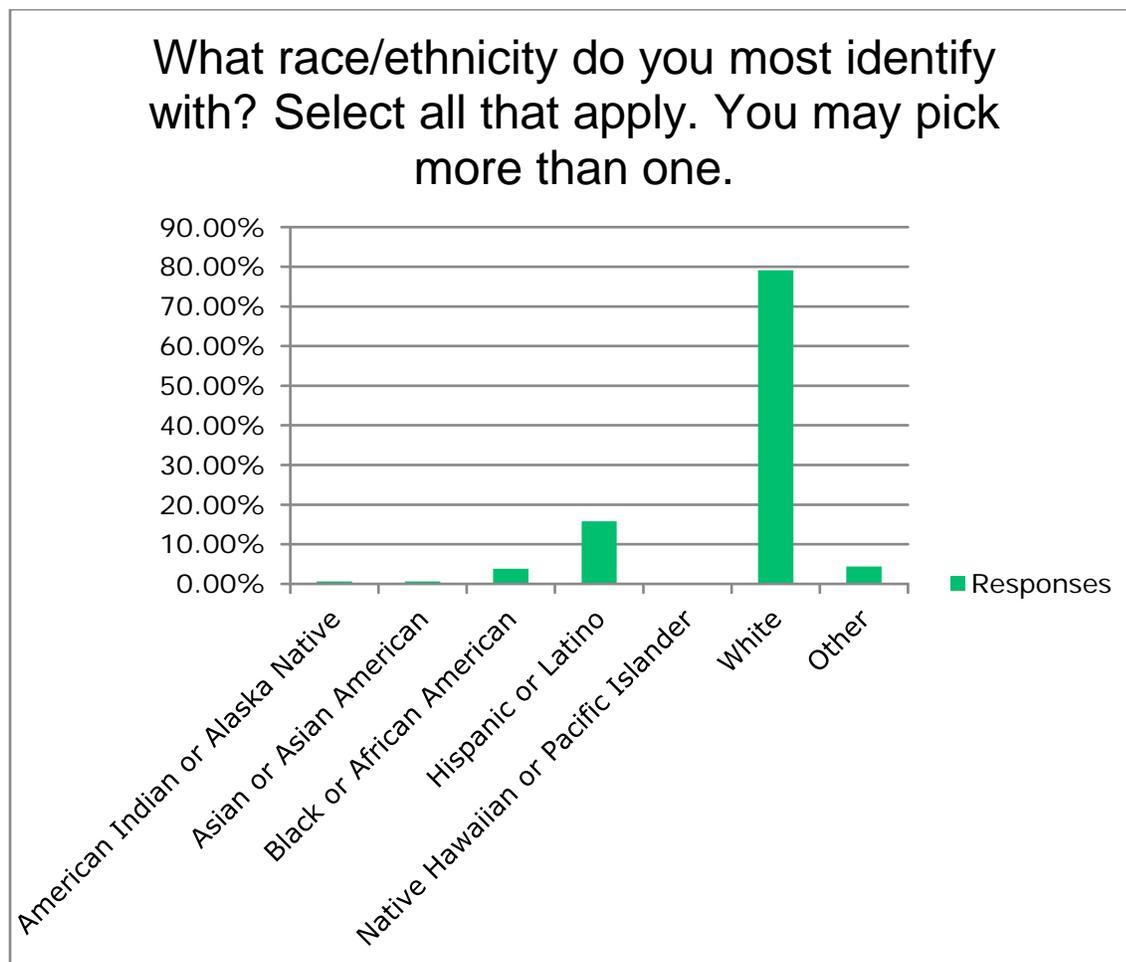
12. Do you or anyone in your household have a disability that keeps you from enjoying a County Park?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	8.13%	13
No	91.88%	147
If yes, please specify		6
	Answered	160
	Skipped	1

Do you or anyone in your household have a disability that keeps you from enjoying a County Park?
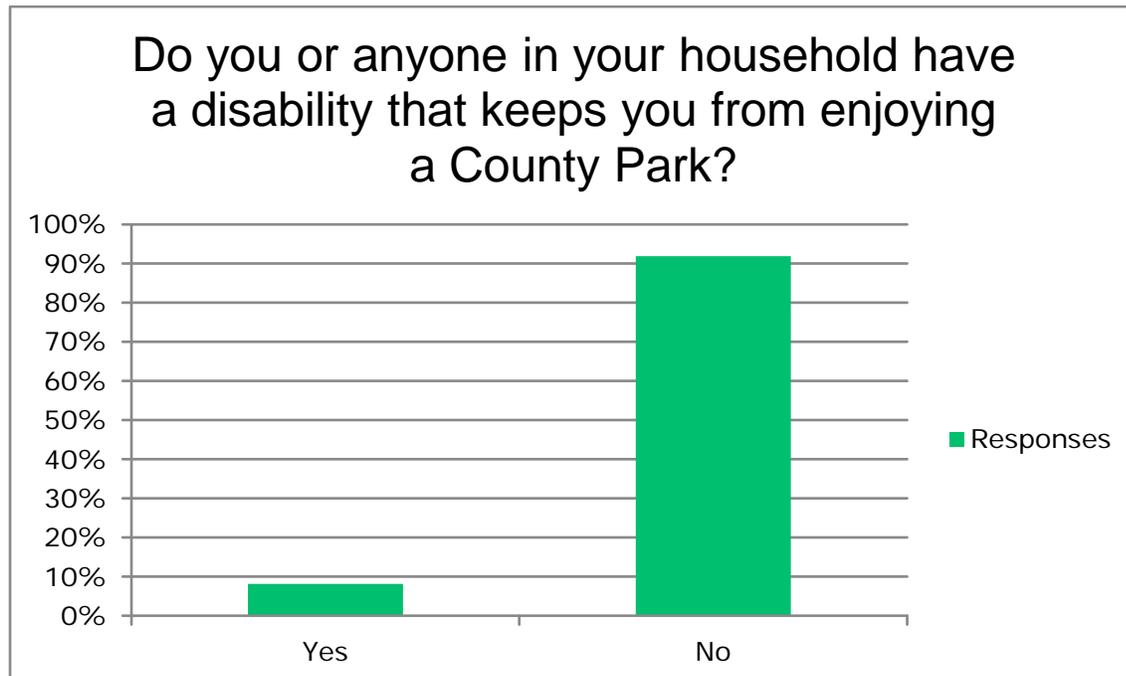
Specific answers

- Not a disability, but we have young children who do not walk yet
- I have to use a walker
- I use a cane to walk
- Surgery on my wife's disability
- Physical – can only use paved or pretty even trails
- Amputation

13. If amenities such as sidewalks were available, would you consider walking to a County Park from your home?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	73.13%	117
No	26.88%	43
	Answered	160
	Skipped	1

If amenities such as sidewalks were available, would you consider walking to a County Park from your home?

14. Do any of these things prevent you from going to County Parks? Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Biting insects	18.92%	28
Too hot	29.73%	44
Too much sun	20.27%	30
Not physically safe	14.19%	21
Lack of transportation	0.68%	1
Too far away	29.73%	44
Lack of time	18.24%	27
Lack of amenities	24.32%	36
I don't need to go to a County Park because I am already served by other types of parks near me (such as a city park, homeowners association park, LCRA Park or a state park)	27.70%	41
Other (please specify)	11.49%	17
	Answered	148
	Skipped	13

Specific answers

- You have to pay to enter
- The County Judge closing the parks
- Since Tahitian have (*given the park to the?*) county too many drug paraphernalia and booze litter left along river
- Too much poison ivy
- None of the above we love our park
- Snakes and critters
- The gates are not always opened, especially on weekends. Don't know why there are gates. City and State parks do not have gates but still have operating hours
- Too sterile/ cleared of trees and vegetation; not enough natural habitat
- Too isolated
- Nothing preventing me from going
- I go to my county park. Though I would like other amenities
- Trails not maintained well
- No outdoor exercise equipment for adults
- Poison Ivy or Oak
- Sometimes CC park is mowed enough especially on the wooded trails and I'm afraid of snakes. Trails need mowing more often. The other Bastrop parks are too far away.
- No sidewalks to our closest park
- Scary people

15. What are your favorite things about the County Parks? Select all that apply.

| Answer Choices	Responses	
Trails	77.50%	124
Playgrounds	28.13%	45
Trees	70.00%	112
Birds	54.38%	87
Benches	44.38%	71
Picnic tables	40.63%	65
Sports courts	15.00%	24
Peacefulness	61.88%	99
Creeks/river access	61.88%	99
Meeting with others	21.25%	34
Pavilion space	21.88%	35
Fresh air	68.75%	110
Ball fields	10.63%	17
Not applicable	6.88%	11
Other (please specify)	8.75%	14
	Answered	160
	Skipped	1

Specific answers

- Fishing
- Safe
- Swimming pools
- Nature kept natural as much as possible
- Restrooms
- Biking, cabins with A/C
- Pet friendly
- Native habitat
- The only County park I visit is the Nature Park and I like it over the other two parks because it is still wild – not polished like a city park.
- Other wildlife (deer, turtles)
- Need playground equipment, picnic tables
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Fish

16. Please use the matrix below to identify things you would like to see more of at each of the County Parks you go to. Only answer for the County Parks relevant to you. Select all that apply.	Bastrop County Nature Park		Stony Point Park		Cedar Creek Park		Total
Bathrooms	61.27%	87	16.90%	24	28.17%	40	112
Water fountains	46.48%	66	17.61%	25	21.13%	30	88
Shade	40.85%	58	13.38%	19	18.31%	26	78
Sidewalks within the park	41.55%	59	14.79%	21	16.20%	23	71
Benches	39.44%	56	12.68%	18	16.90%	24	69
Sidewalks to access the park	38.03%	54	10.56%	15	12.68%	18	65
Programming/ County Sponsored Events	35.21%	50	15.49%	22	19.01%	27	65
Picnic tables	35.21%	50	14.79%	21	17.61%	25	64
Splash pad	25.35%	36	18.31%	26	21.13%	30	59
Community garden	30.99%	44	14.08%	20	16.20%	23	57
Recreation Center	23.94%	34	14.08%	20	17.61%	25	52
Climbing wall	26.06%	37	9.15%	13	12.68%	18	50
Playground sets	24.65%	35	9.15%	13	12.68%	18	47
Barbecue pits	23.24%	33	11.27%	16	9.86%	14	44
Basketball court	14.08%	20	15.49%	22	14.08%	20	40
Volleyball court	14.79%	21	11.27%	16	11.27%	16	37
Skate park	12.68%	18	9.86%	14	11.27%	16	33
Tennis court	14.08%	20	4.93%	7	8.45%	12	30
Softball/ Little League field	9.86%	14	7.75%	11	7.75%	11	27
Soccer field	10.56%	15	11.27%	16	6.34%	9	27
Baseball field	9.86%	14	9.15%	13	8.45%	12	26
Football field	7.04%	10	6.34%	9	3.52%	5	20
Other or notes:							27
						Answered	142
						Skipped	19

Please use the matrix below to identify things you would like to see more of at each of the County Parks you go to. Only answer for the County Parks relevant to you. Select all that apply.
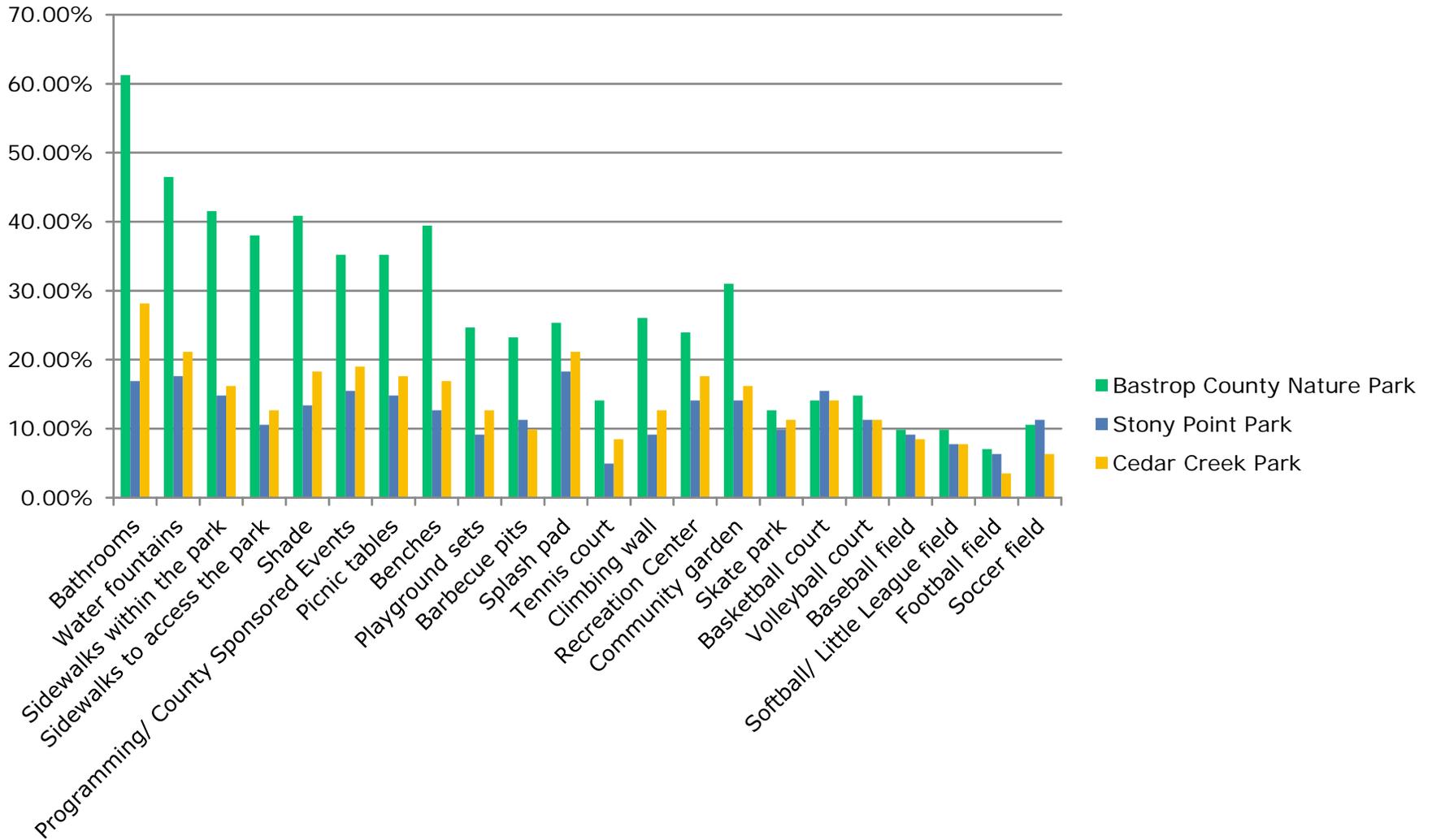
Specific answers to question 16

- More fun for kids all ages
- Fishing ponds
- More/longer trails to hike/run.
- Peaceful and quiet running, biking and kayaking park.
- Regular Police patrols!! Both in vehicle and foot or bicycle patrols. Park not safe
- More dog friendly amenities would be nice. I primarily use the parks to exercise my dogs. Especially when the city dog park is still closed by the local tyrants.
- Year round swimming pool.
- It's a "nature" park. So maybe more nature and less amenities
- Please don't mess up bastrop nature park with any concrete structures or playgrounds. Kids can. Learn about nature from nature. Don't junk it up please!!! Nothing needed but rest room and drinking fountain. Occasional benches. Period.
- They can find playgrounds where they can scream and jump around in other areas. You mess this one up and it's gone forever. Please don't. "
- I like for kids to have some activities but I love the peacefulness
- Small stocked fishing lake would be awesome
- Educational signage about the wildlife and nature.
- Off leash pet area.
- Programming.
- nature related displays, habitat restoration areas, nature education
- Butterfly garden
- The current playground set is for mainly toddlers
- I would use the park for walking, nature watching, not other recreation.
- I don't know which park is which
- Bastrop County Nature Park is just fine the way it is. Adding all those other things would take the nature out of the nature park and make it too much like a city park.
- Butterfly or pollinator garden area(s), bluebird houses, other nest boxes.
- Increase features at Cedar Creek.
- It would be great to create a group to Park Clean Up… some rude people litter, however we can work together to keep things clean!
- The homeless invading the park asking for things
- We love our BCNP just as it is
- Volleyball field w/o sand as it gets too hot to use in summer
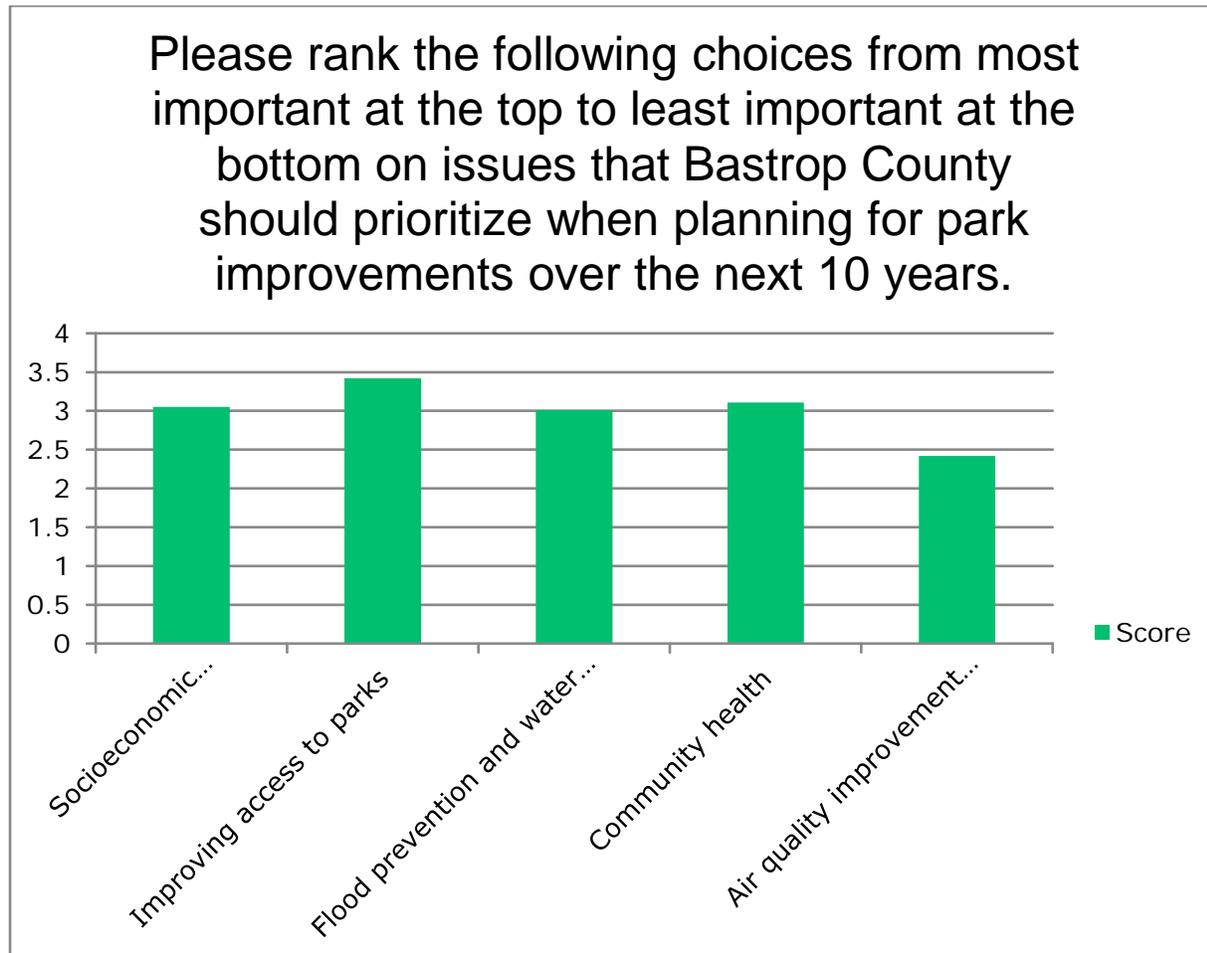- Addt'l trails. Current one is only 1/3 mile

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17. If more County sponsored events and programming were created, what kind of events would interest you? Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Small concerts	70.00%	105
Food events	62.00%	93
Kids events	44.00%	66
Sports events	20.00%	30
Senior events	34.67%	52
Farmers market	62.67%	94
Other (please specify)	13.33%	20
	Answered	150
	Skipped	11

If more County sponsored events and programming were created, what kind of events would interest you? Select all that apply.
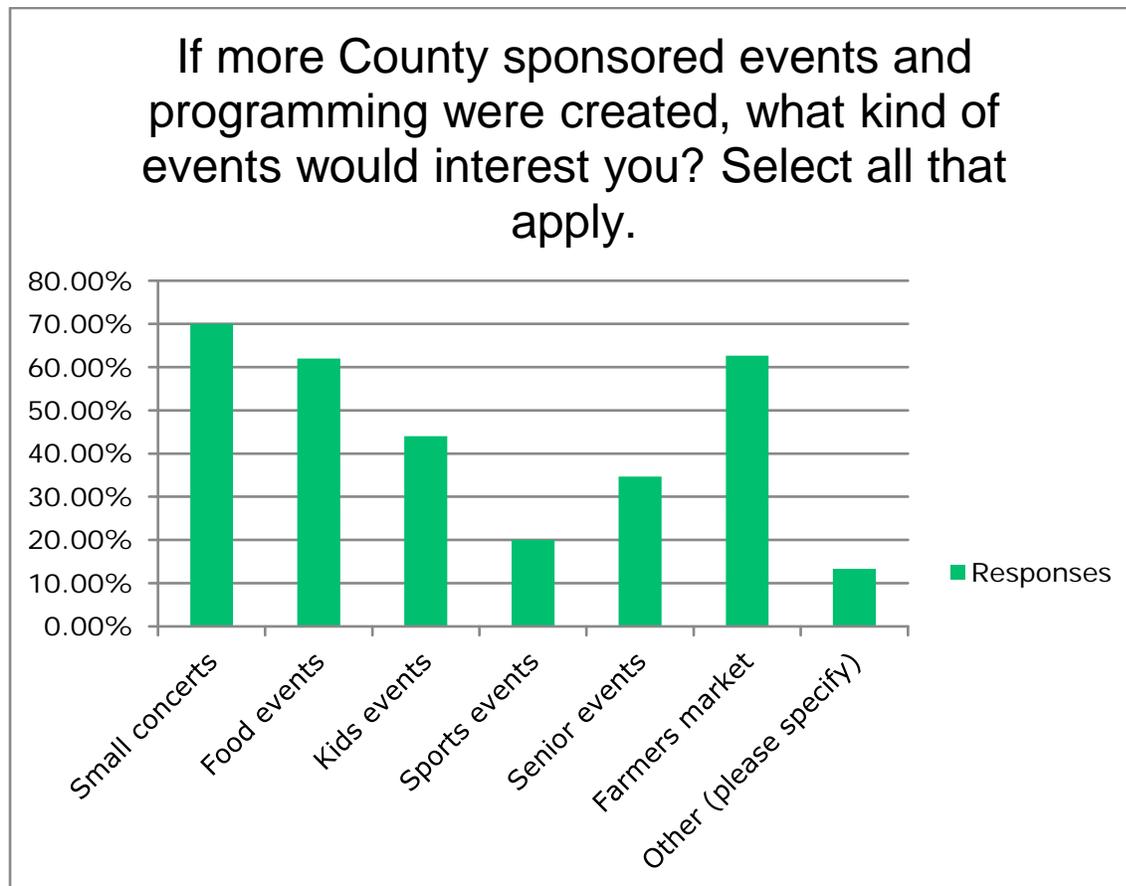
18. Please rank the following choices from most important at the top to least important at the bottom on issues that Bastrop County should prioritize when planning for park improvements

	Total	Score
Socioeconomic vulnerability- prioritize economically and social disadvantaged areas. E.g. ethnic minorities, low income, etc.	151	3.05
Improving access to parks	149	3.42
Flood prevention and water quality improvement	150	3.01
Community health	146	3.11
Air quality improvement and "heat-island" prevention	153	2.42
	Answered	157
	Skipped	4

Please rank the following choices from most important at the top to least important at the bottom on issues that Bastrop County should prioritize when planning for park improvements over the next 10 years.

19. Name some things the County could improve.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Sidewalks	44.37%	63
Playgrounds	38.73%	55
Basketball courts	16.90%	24
Picnic tables	33.10%	47
Trash pick up	47.18%	67
Other amenities (please specify)	29.58%	42
	Answered	142
	Skipped	19

Name some things the County Parks could improve
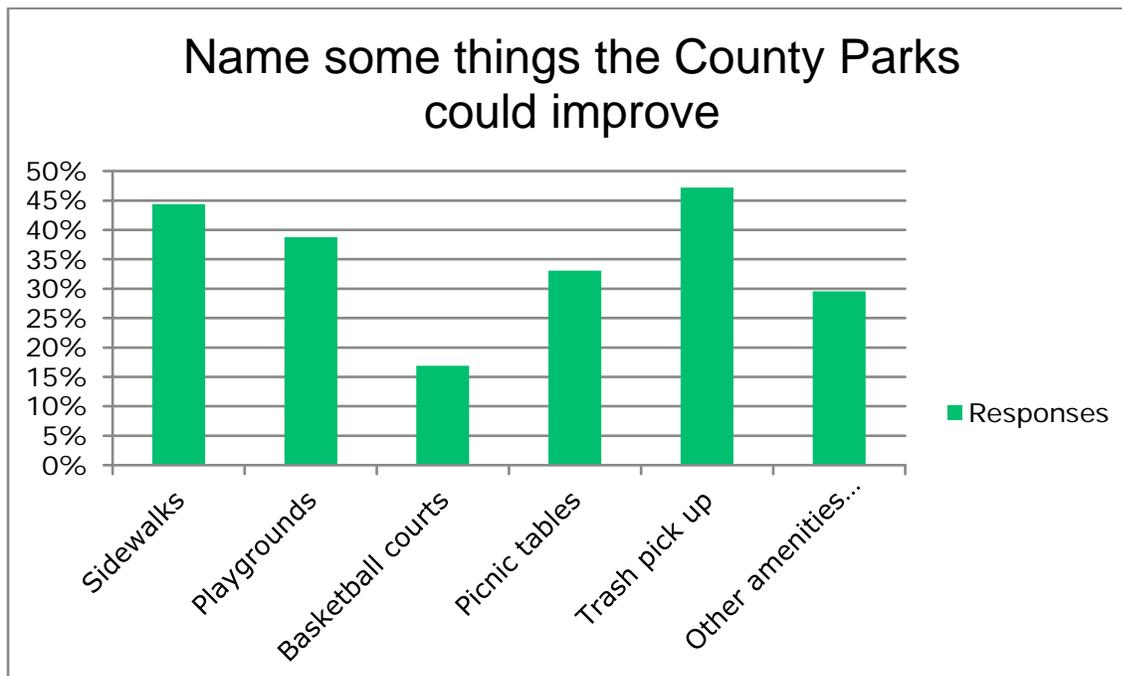
Specific responses

- Fishing ponds
- Build Recreational Center
- Safety
- Safety
- Water on trails

- Swimming pool
- Don't use anything but nature park. Never would. Don't want to be around children unless they are involved in nature and off the plastic junk

22

- Small stocked fishing pond with dock
- N/a
- Patrolling by law enforcement
- restrooms
- More of both
- Restrooms
- Swimming pools
- Pickle ball courts
- Opening gates
- Trails
- Programming
- Native habitat - it can be incorporated into the design if it's a typical park setting (sterile, few trees, etc.)
- Bathrooms and add water play area for children. The closest one is the small located in Fisherman's park.
- Security/preventing homeless populations
- trail and parking lot improvements
- Soccer fields
- Law enforcement patrol
- Restrooms, potable water
- Bastrop County Nature Park still has openings in traffic barriers
- where vehicles are still getting down on the beach
- Parking
- Don't know as I've never been to one
- Lighting
- Native plants and tree identification as a learning tool.
- Irrigation
- more parks
- Another playground would be good
- pool
- Parking and Safety
- Adding outdoor exercise equipment for adults
- At BCNP - remove some flood debris and create pocket meadows to diversity habitat.
- Trails
- would love to have tennis courts
- Longer trails w/ safe access to creek
- Sports courts, lighting, keeping the homeless from sleeping or loitering
- BATHROOMS

20. What bracket best represents your household's total annual income last year?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under $15,000	3.90%	6
Between $15,000 and $29,999	7.14%	11
Between $30,000 and $49,999	11.04%	17
Between $50,000 and $74,999	22.08%	34
Between $75,000 and $99,999	16.23%	25
Between $100,000 and $150,000	31.17%	48
Over $150,000	8.44%	13
	Answered	154
	Skipped	7
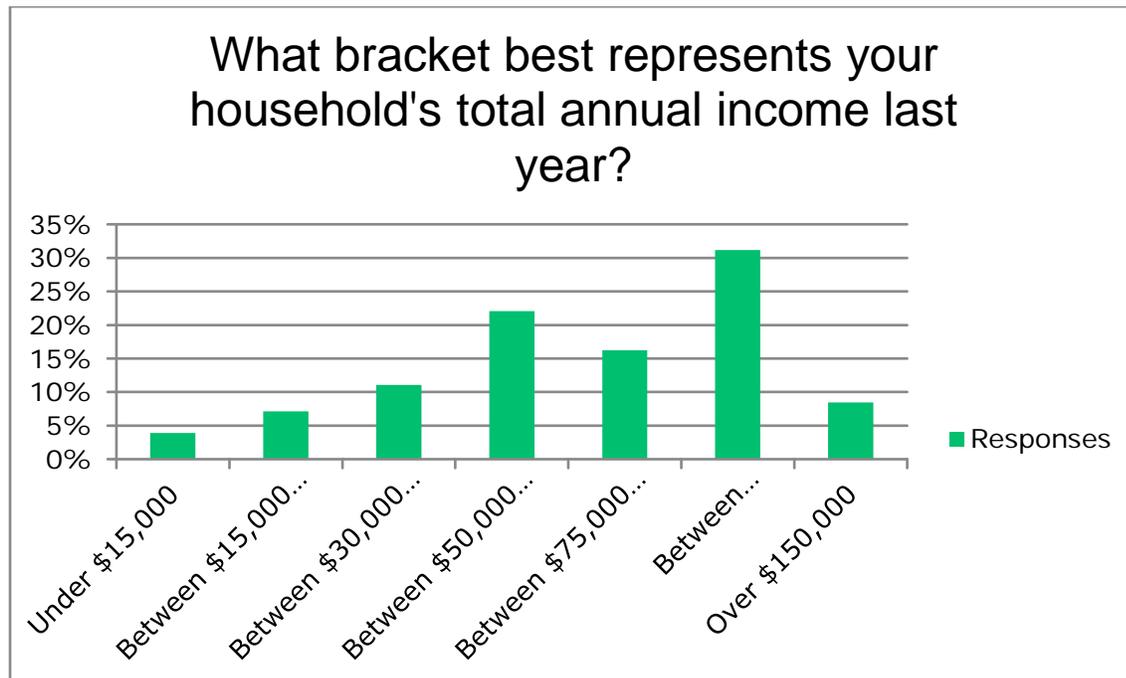
21. Do you volunteer at a County Park?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	10.69%	17
No	77.36%	123
No, but I would like more information on volunteering	11.95%	19
	Answered	159
	Skipped	2

Do you volunteer at a County Park?
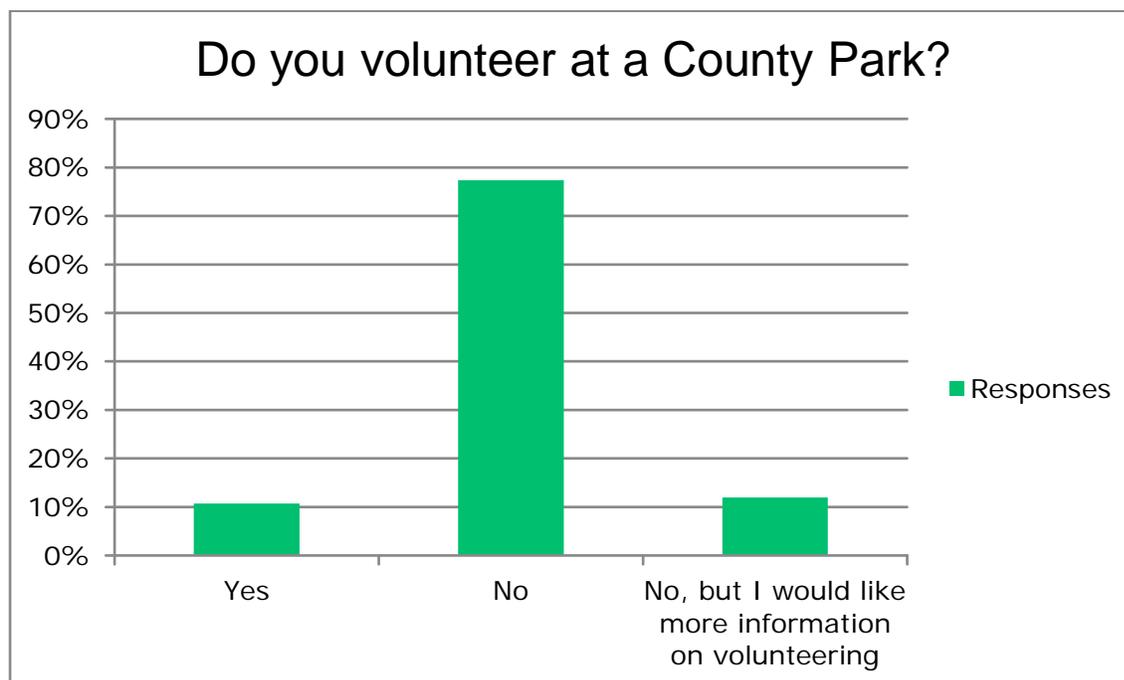
22. (Volunteering section) Please rank the following work from what you are most interested in at the top to what you are least interested in at the bottom.

	Total	Score
Conservation work- gardening	29	7.46
Conservation work- litter pick up/ recycling	28	6.63
Trail work and maintenance	30	6.41
Environmental education	28	6.04
Event assistance	26	6.92
Event organizing	28	6.74
Sports coaching/refereeing- adults	26	3.8
Sports coaching/refereeing- youth	27	4.23
Art projects	26	4.84
Park hosting/ welcoming and assisting the public	28	4
	Answered	31
	Skipped	130

Please rank the following work from what you are most interested in at the top to what you are least interested in at the bottom.
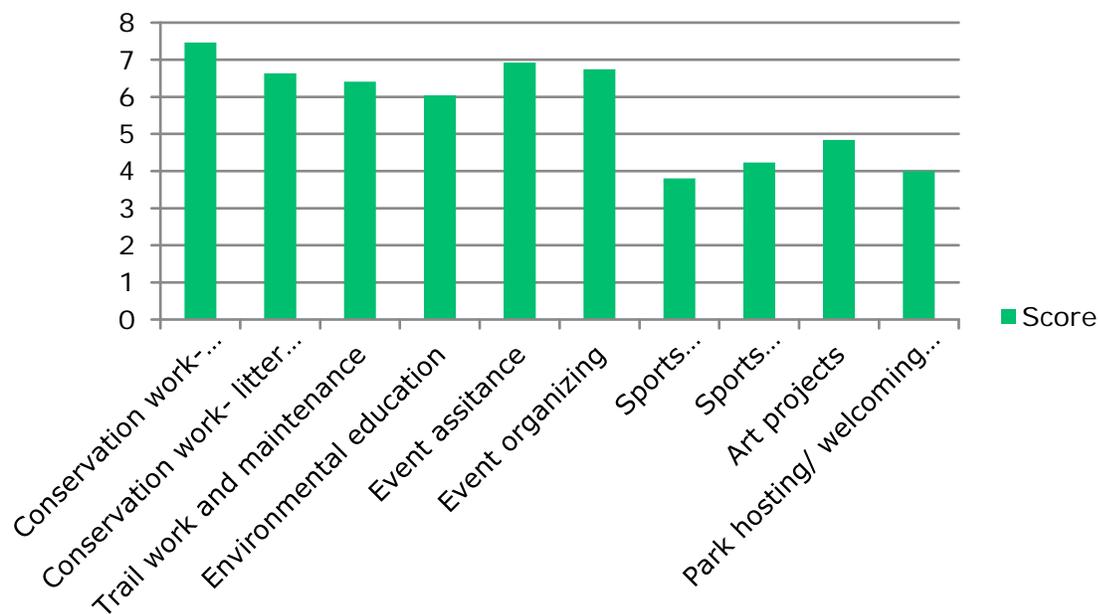
23. Do you have experience working with any of these organizations in Bastrop County?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Keep Bastrop County Beautiful	27.27%	9
Bastrop County Master Naturalists	24.24%	8
Bastrop County Master Gardeners	12.12%	4
Boy Scouts	3.03%	1
Girl Scouts	3.03%	1
No experience with any Bastrop County volunteering	36.36%	12
Other (please specify)	27.27%	9
	Answered	33
	Skipped	128

Do you have experience working with any of these organizations in Bastrop County?
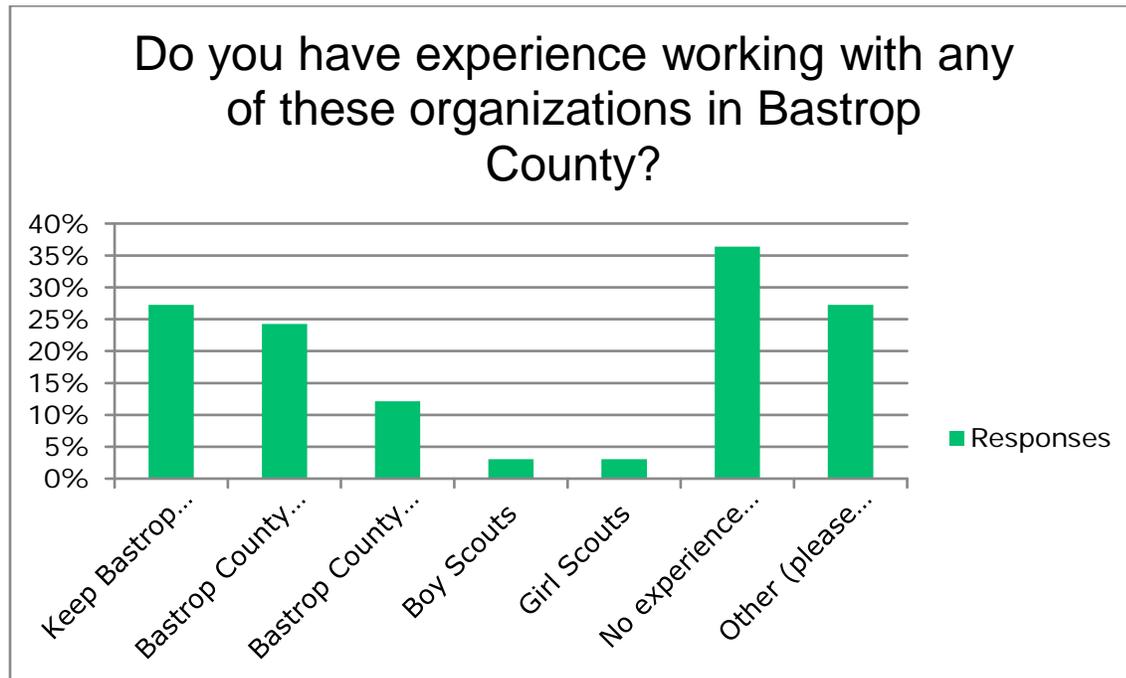
24. What choice best represents the times and days you would be available to volunteer. Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Weekday(Mon-Fri) Daytime	51.61%	16
Weekday(Mon-Fri) Evening	35.48%	11
Weekend(Sat-Sun) Daytime	58.06%	18
Weekend(Sat-Sun) Evening	38.71%	12
Other (please specify)	9.68%	3
	Answered	31
	Skipped	130

What choice best represents the times and days you would be available to volunteer. Select all that apply.
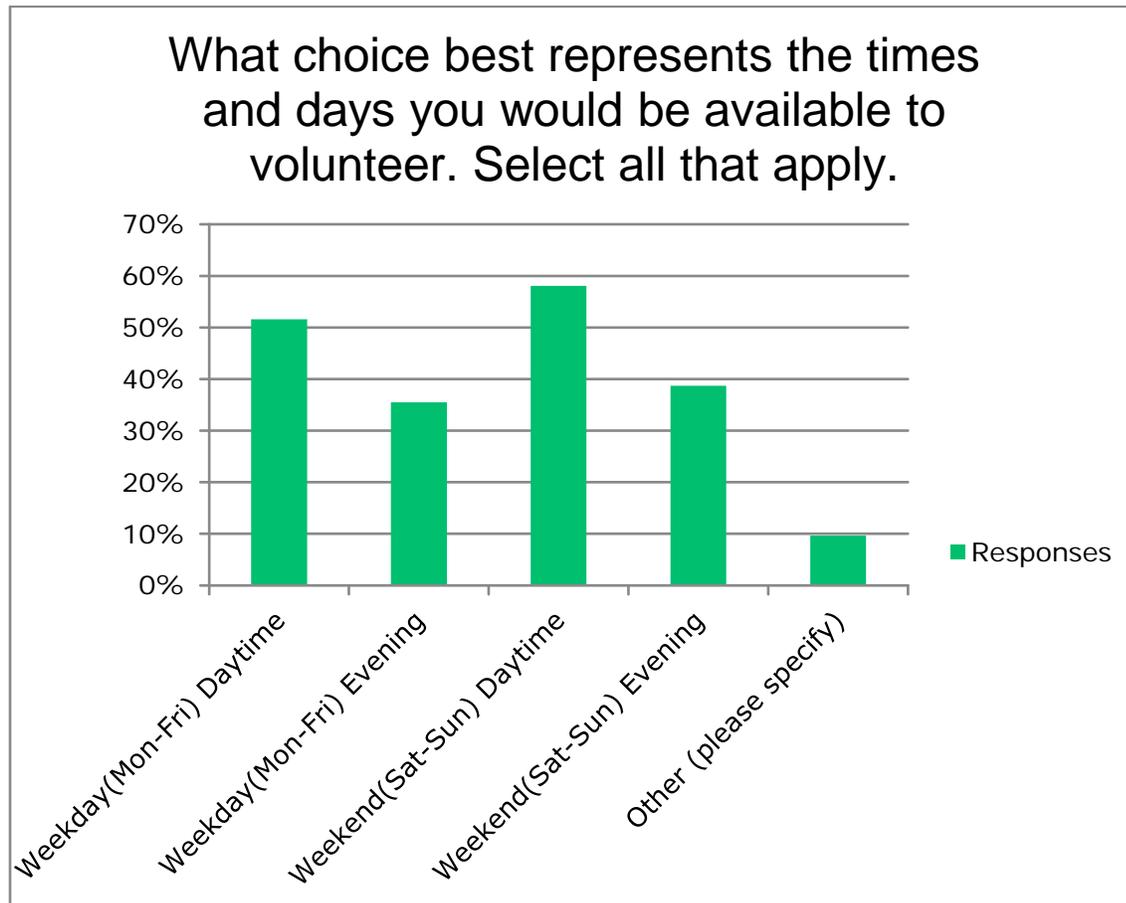
25. Do you speak any other language besides English? If so please specify.

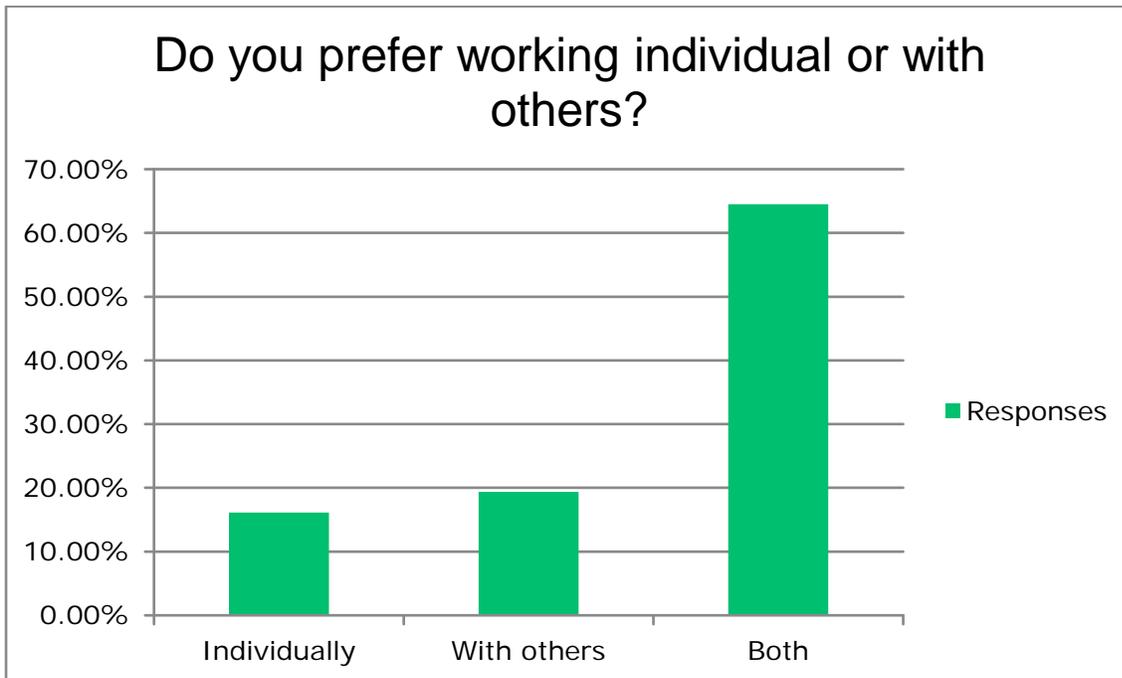| Answer Choices	Responses	
No	75.76%	25
Yes	24.24%	8
(please specify)		6
	Answered	33
	Skipped	128

Do you speak any other language besides English? If so please specify.

26. Is there anything that might prevent you from volunteering with Bastrop County Parks?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lack of transportation	0.00%	0
Lack of childcare	6.90%	2
Lack of eldercare	0.00%	0
Lack of time due to prior commitments	48.28%	14
Lack of time due to work	51.72%	15
Other (please specify)	10.34%	3
	Answered	29
	Skipped	132

Is there anything that might prevent you from volunteering with Bastrop County Parks?
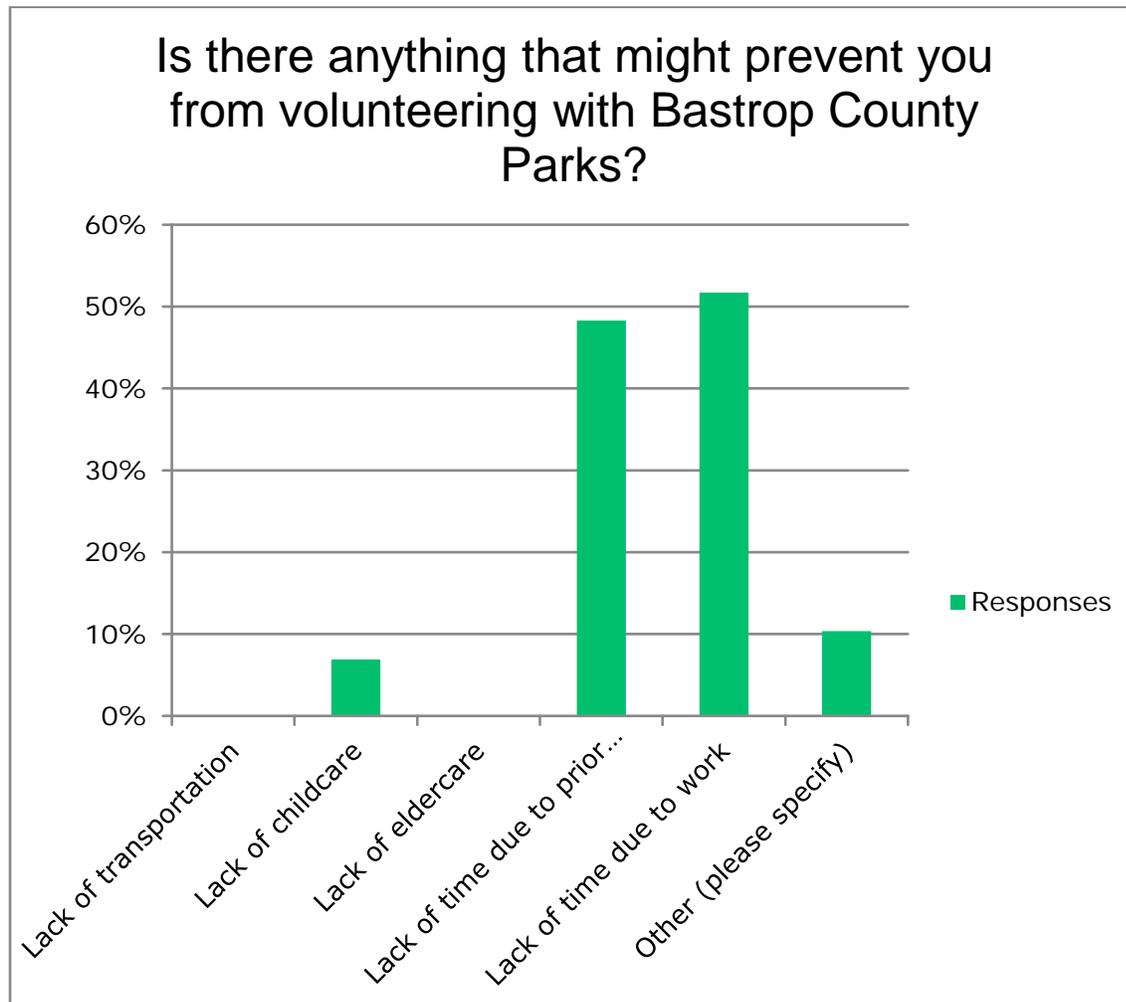
27. Do you prefer working individually or with others?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Individually	16.13%	5
With others	19.35%	6
Both	64.52%	20
	Answered	31
	Skipped	130

Do you prefer working individual or with others?

28. Would you be interested in any trainings provided to Bastrop County Park volunteers?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	73.33%	22
No	20.00%	6
If yes (please specify)	6.67%	2
	Answered	30
	Skipped	131

Would you be interested in any trainings provided to Bastrop County Park volunteers?

Specific responses

- Trail maintenance
- Leading nature or bird hikes, any other training

29. Do you have any feedback or know of additional resources that Bastrop County Parks should be aware of to run a successful volunteer program?

- Dedicated staff
- More fun
- Community badly needs understanding of these aged trees as a resource needing protected. 400 year old trees can be killed with improper use of chemicals. (Weeds and feed on lawns around post oaks for instance, as post packs are technically weeds)
- Appreciation for the natural habitats to protect it at home and in park usage.
- Contact the Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
- I know the Master Naturalists do a lot of volunteering. Maybe Master Gardeners do, too? Also Bastrop County Cares. Reaching out to the high schools, there might be a good number of students that would be interested in volunteer projects.
- The County should identify and interface with organizations/groups that have service requirements, including some high schools. Getting volunteers and keeping them active requires motivation, which in turn requires meaningful engagement (making a difference on something that matters). Good organization, adequate support (training, clear tasks/roles, engaging leadership), structure/with flexibility and feedback/recognition help.

Bastrop County Open Space Master Plan Update
September Public Meetings Summary

Bastrop County and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program hosted two digital public meetings in late September 2020 to gather public feedback that will guide the update of the Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, September 23 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and the second on Thursday, September 24 from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

The meetings included attendees from Bastrop County, Bastrop County Cares, Texas AgriLife, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Pines and Prairies Land Trust, as well as residents of Bastrop, Cedar Creek, Double Eagle Ranch, Elgin

The first hour of the meetings consisted of a presentation reviewing the current conditions of Bastrop County parks and the master plan update process. It included the following sections:

Section	Presenter
Welcome/Introductions	Gibran Lule (NPS) / County Judge Pape
State of the County Parks	Shawn Harris (Bastrop County)
Overview of 2001-2011 Master Plan	Julia Cleary (Bastrop County)
Overview of Master Plan Update Process	Julia Cleary (Bastrop County
Survey Results	Sydney Garcia / Gibran Lule (NPS)
Green Infrastructure	Josh Tuck (NPS)
County Park System Interviews	Sydney Garcia (NPS)

The last hour of the meetings consisted of interactive sections, where attendees were encouraged to provide feedback through polling, written comments, and open discussion.

Interactive / Feedback (60 min)

Item	Goal	Format
Master Plan Goals	Review eight goals for master plan update and poll attendees on their opinion of each.	Polling and open discussion
Project Ranking Criteria	Review sixteen project ranking criteria and poll attendees on their opinion on each.	Polling and open discussion
Potential Partners and Volunteer Organizations	Brainstorm additional community partners and organizations to consult for planning, volunteering, and implementation.	Facilitated brainstorm

Master Plan Goals

Participants reviewed the eight goals proposed for the master plan update and voted on each. After voting, participants were able to share comments and propose changes through audio or the chat box.

Goals:
- **Goal 1.** Parks and recreational facilities should be accessible to all county residents.
- **Goal 2.** Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations.
- **Goal 3.** Public recreation should be integrated with all public services
- **Goal 4.** Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation.
- **Goal 5.** Park planning should be coordinated with new development.
- **Goal 6.** Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts.
- **Goal 7.** Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community.
- **Goal 8.** Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system.

Voting options:
a. Great
b. Good, but could use some changes
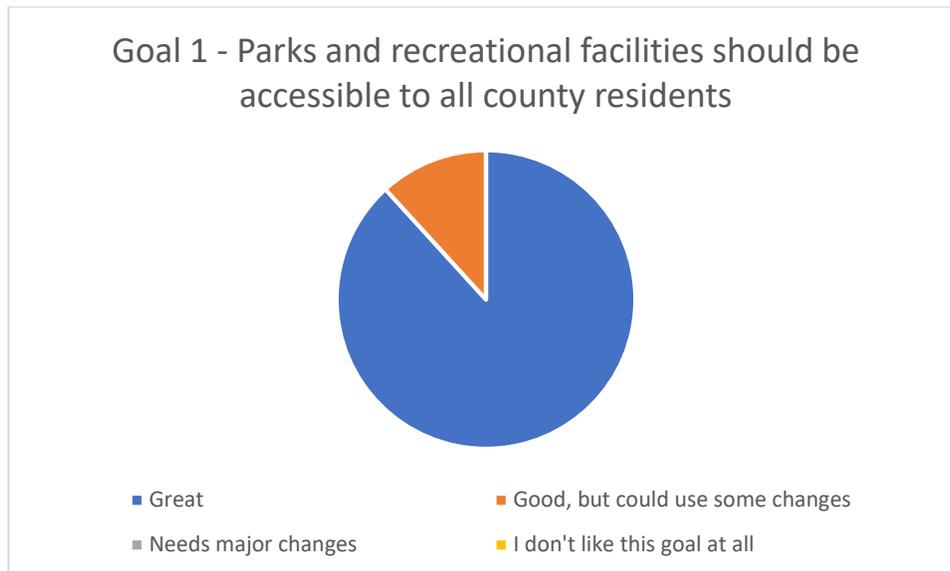c. Needs major changes
d. I don't like this goal at all

Polling Results and Comments

Goal 1.0

Parks and recreational facilities should be accessible to all county residents

- **Objective 1.1** All recreational facilities should be designed to provide access regardless of age, sex, income, cultural differences, location in the county, and handicap status.
- **Objective 1.2** Parks should be developed in tandem with incorporated communities so that existing resources can be leveraged to address the recreational deficiencies of rural residents
- **Objective 1.3** Parks planning should take into account population distribution and growth in the county so new parks can be placed where the population concentrations are the highest.
- **Objective 1.4** Where feasible, all parks should be equipped with sufficient supporting amenities such as bathrooms and accessible parking.

Goal 1 - Parks and recreational facilities should be accessible to all county residents	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	7	8	15	88.24%
Good, but could use some changes	2	0	2	11.76%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	9	8	17	

Goal 1 - Parks and recreational facilities should be accessible to all county residents

- Great
- Good, but could use some changes
- Needs major changes
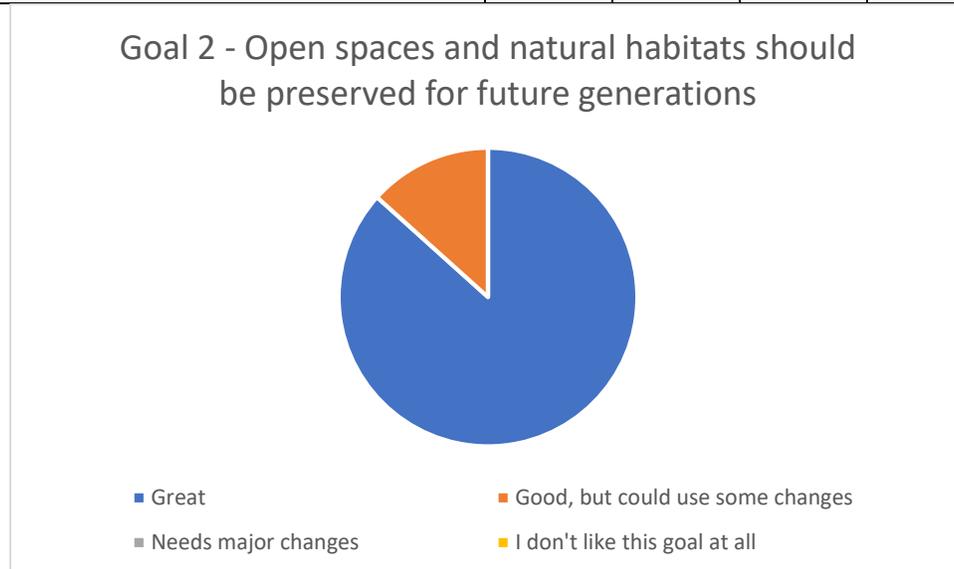- I don't like this goal at all

Comments:
- Keep equity in mind

Goal 2.0

Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations.

- **Objective 2.1** Parks should be integrated with the preservation of endangered species including, but not limited to, the Houston Toad and the Eastern Blue Jay.
- **Objective 2.2** Interpretive displays and other educational displays need to be incorporated with parks so that future generations do not lose the Bastrop legacy of its natural resources such as the Lost Pines.
- **Objective 2.3** Wetland and native species preservation should be considered during the acquisition and development of County Parks.

Goal 2 - Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	8	5	13	86.67%
Good, but could use some changes	1	1	2	13.33%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	9	6	15	

Goal 2 - Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations

- ■ Great
- ■ Good, but could use some changes
- ■ Needs major changes
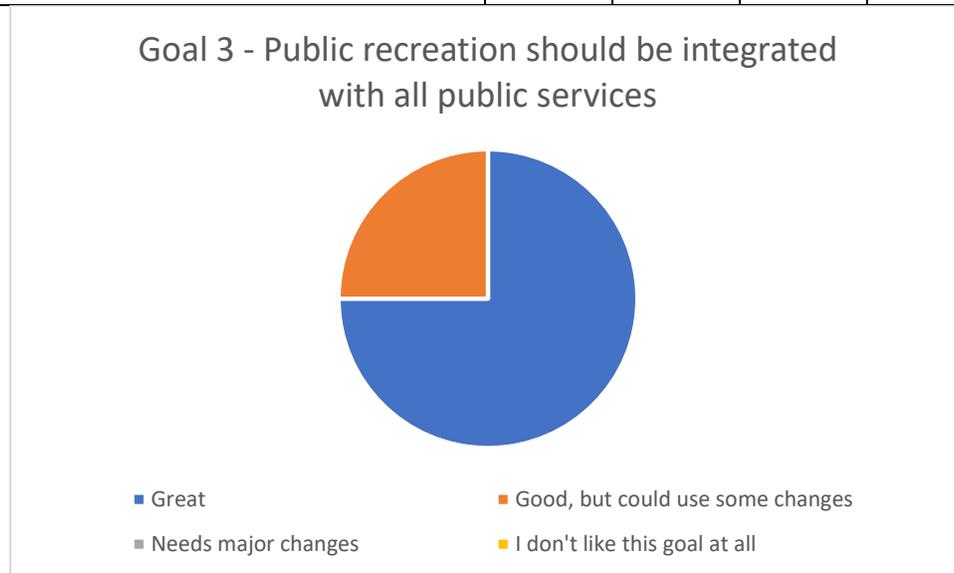- ■ I don't like this goal at all

Comments:

- Correction: eastern blue jay should be eastern bluebird
- Include other declining species like cougars, bobcats, armadillos
- Important to include environmental education in master plan
- 2.2 is the most important - interactive interpretive displays build a love of space in young children which starts their passion for nature early

Goal 3.0

Public recreation should be integrated with all public services

- **Objective 3.1** Park planning and management should be coordinated with the Sheriff's Department to ensure the safety of existing and future parks.
- **Objective 3.2** All transportation programs need to be linked to facilitating access to future County Parks. Transportation services need to be considered for residents who live in outlying areas.
- **Objective 3.3** The County should promote active transportation by identifying sidewalk projects which will link existing parks to nearby neighborhoods.
- **Objective 3.4** The County should develop partnerships with existing recreation providers to provide programming opportunities
-

Goal 3 - Public recreation should be integrated with all public services	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	6	6	12	75.00%
Good, but could use some changes	3	1	4	25.00%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	9	7	16	

Goal 3 - Public recreation should be integrated with all public services

■ Great ■ Good, but could use some changes ■ Needs major changes ■ I don't like this goal at all
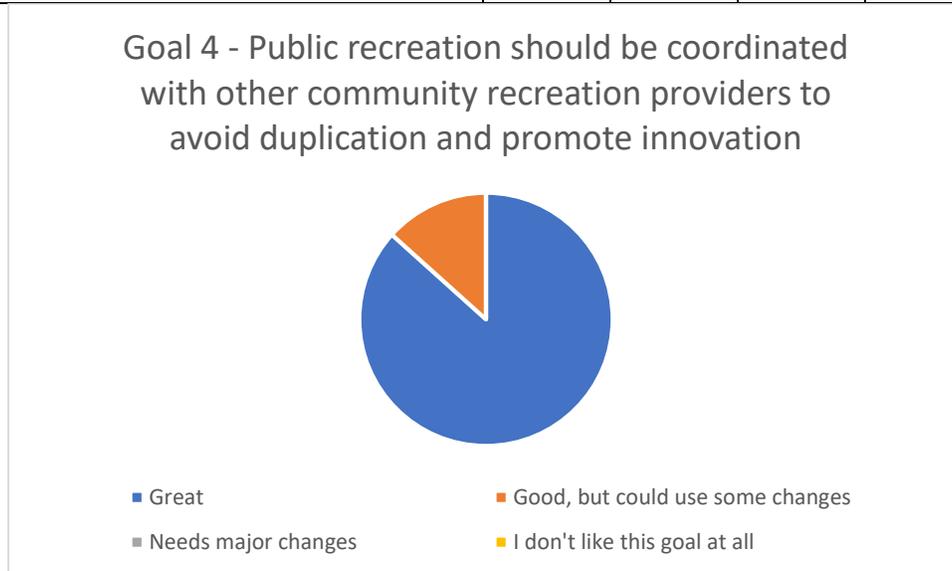
Comments:
- Sidewalk construction is an expensive and difficult goal that may be unrealistic
- The majority of population in the county are closer to city parks than county parks currently
- Safety and security should come from within the community
  - community watch with leads
  - community mentors for previously incarcerated or at-risk groups
- Specify departments/organizations other than the sheriff's department for security
- Ensure parks are a welcoming gathering space, not punitive places
- Include connections with Public Health officials or local Hospitals (ParksRx)
- Integration of bike signage and bike lanes

Goal 4.0

Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation

- **Objective 4.1** With limited financial resources, the County needs to consider joint venturing with incorporated communities, school districts, State installations and other non-governmental community organizations so that their resources can be leveraged to provide recreational opportunities in the County.
- **Objective 4.2** The County should coordinate with other public entities to identify surplus land that can be used for park development

Goal 4 - Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	8	5	13	86.67%
Good, but could use some changes	0	2	2	13.33%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	8	7	15	

Goal 4 - Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation

- Great
- Good, but could use some changes
- Needs major changes
- I don't like this goal at all

Comments:
- Consider bike share system
- Not necessary to avoid duplication if it is serving community more fully

Goal 5.0

Park planning should be coordinated with new development
- **Objective 5.1** As appropriate, the County should collaborate with developers to provide for the recreational needs of the future residents. The County should be open to accepting appropriate park and open space dedication in new subdivision plats.
- **Objective 5.2** Flood plains make ideal locations for open space recreational activities – the County should consider park and open space opportunities in the floodplain when approving new subdivisions and when contemplating buyouts for flood mitigation purposes.
- **Objective 5.3** Not all parkland is created equal – the County should develop a "Parkland Acceptance Policy" that identifies the criteria for accepting new parkland into the County system which considers both the long term maintenance burden on the County and the potential benefits to the wider community.

Goal 5 - Park planning should be coordinated with new development	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	6	5	11	84.62%
Good, but could use some changes	0	2	2	15.38%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	6	7	13	

Goal 5 - Park planning should be coordinated with new development

- Great
- Good, but could use some changes
- Needs major changes
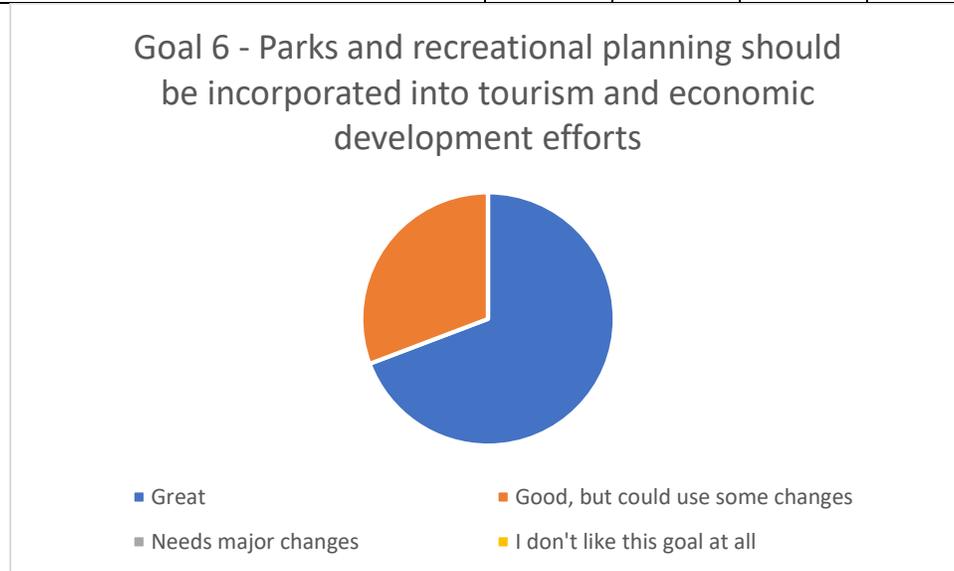- I don't like this goal at all
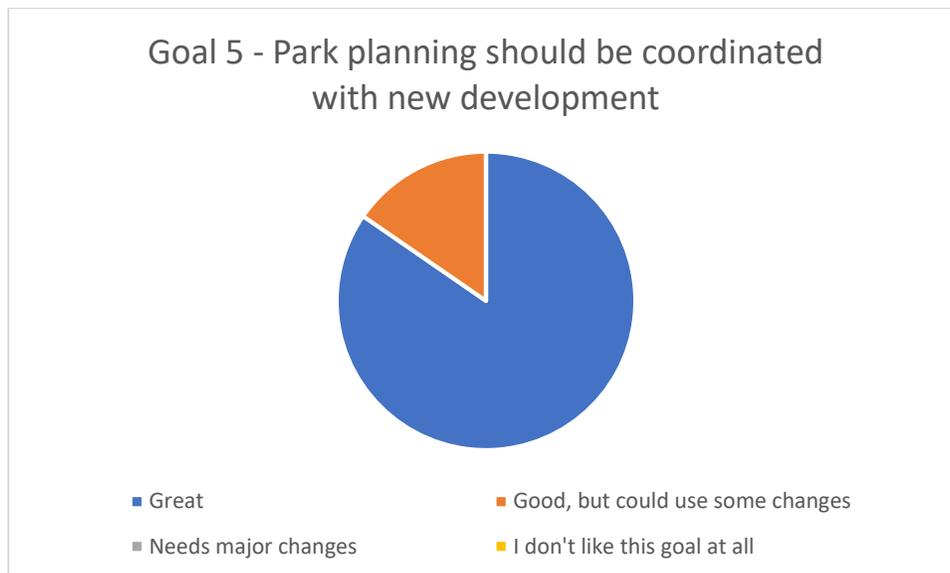
Comments:
- County should be able to monitor where parks are developed and ensure they are open to community
- Should we consider staying outside of the floodplain to prevent increased maintenance costs due to flooding/climate change?
- There are low-impact, low-development uses for areas in floodplains compatible with and resilient to flood events
- 5.3 is very important – consider fees in lieu of land if it is an option

Goal 6.0

Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts.

- **Objective 6.1** Parks and recreation facilities are economic development issues that affect a company or industry's locational decisions – the County should partner with organizations that will promote activities in the park and attract visitors, and clearly market all of its parks to the public.
- **Objective 6.2** Broadband development is critical to the economic resiliency of unincorporated Bastrop County. County parks should provide Wi-Fi connectivity to the public.
- **Objective 6.3** Bastrop County Parks should enhance and maintain public access to, and stewardship of, the Colorado River.

Goal 6 - Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	6	3	9	69.23%
Good, but could use some changes	2	2	4	30.77%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	8	5	13	

Goal 6 - Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts

■ Great   ■ Good, but could use some changes
■ Needs major changes   ■ I don't like this goal at all
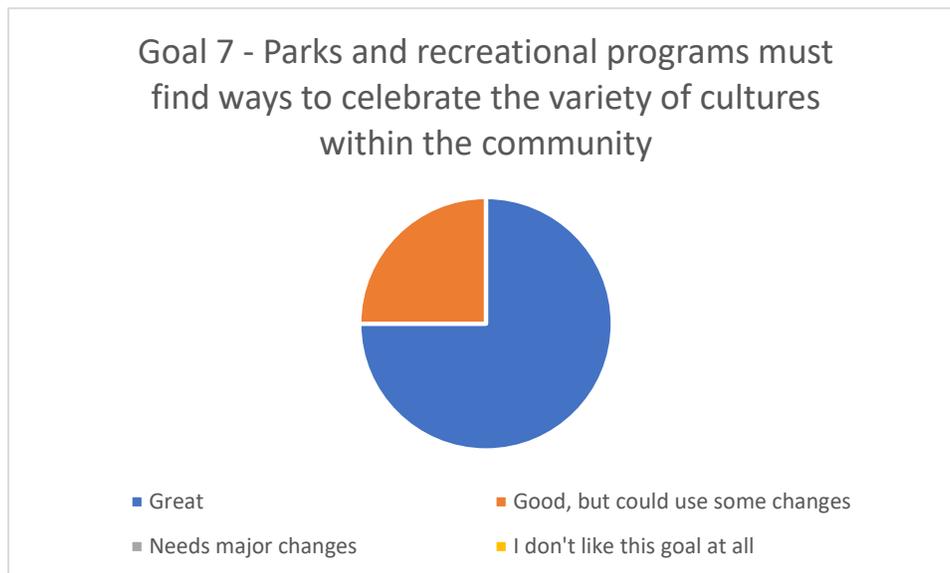
Comments:
- Consider which parks have wi-fi (prioritize for parks in communities with limited internet connectivity, but reconsider in parks meant to remain natural or undeveloped)
- There is a group in Austin that focuses on wireless internet systems for parks. Should meet with them to see if systems can be used in Bastrop.
- Prioritize wireless internet connectivity as ten-year master plan should look to the future to remain relevant and it is a key utility for access and economic development.
- Wi-fi in the park would encourage families to visit parks more frequently and stay longer, while also allowing them to connect to nature discovery and citizen science apps

Goal 7.0

Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community.

- **Objective 7.1** Parks need to be sensitive to the special contributions made by certain population groups in the county.
- **Objective 7.2** Special occasions or festivals that celebrate events in the County should be incorporated into park planning.
-

Goal 7 - Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	5	4	9	75.00%
Good, but could use some changes	2	1	3	25.00%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	7	5	12	

Goal 7 - Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community

- ■ Great
- ■ Good, but could use some changes
- ■ Needs major changes
- ■ I don't like this goal at all

Comments:
- Objective 7.2 should include promotion of events
- Clarify objective 7.1
  - "Parks need to be sensitive to the cultural contributions made by all population groups in the county.

Goal 8.0

Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system.

- **Objective 8.1** The Department of General Services should be renamed "Department of Parks and General Services" to clearly identify its role within the maintenance and management of existing and future County parks.
- **Objective 8.2** Fund raising for parks and recreational programs needs to be an ongoing effort.
- **Objective 8.3** Volunteers are critical to the long term sustainability of the Parks system. Bastrop County should establish and support a network of volunteers in partnership with local nonprofits, and develop a "Park Host" program to assist in the maintenance and security of the park system.

Goal 8 - Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	6	4	10	90.91%
Good, but could use some changes	1	0	1	9.09%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	7	4	11	

Goal 8 - Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system

- ■ Great
- ■ Good, but could use some changes
- ■ Needs major changes
- ■ I don't like this goal at all
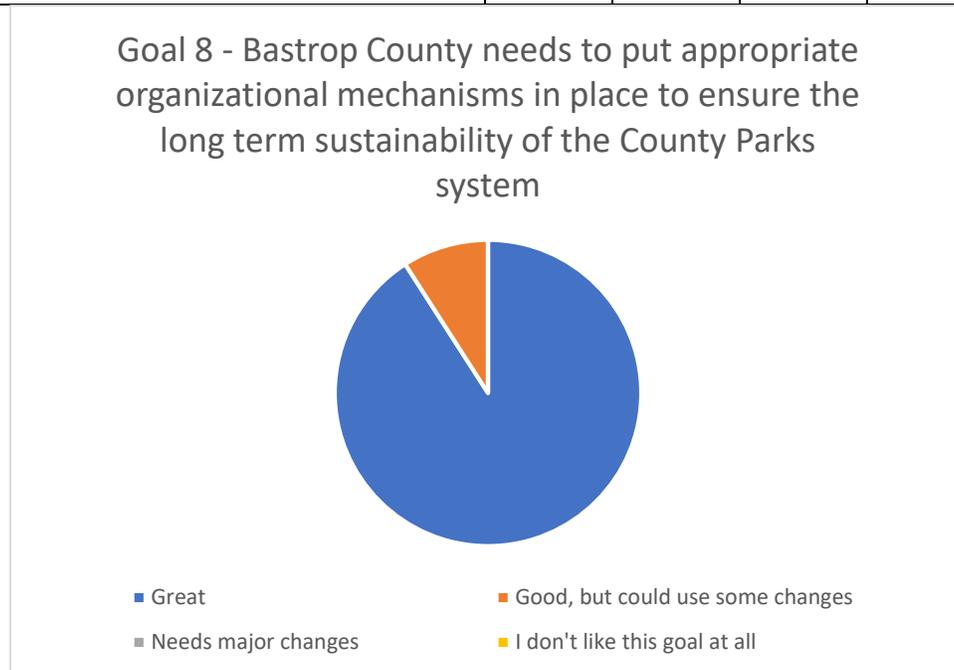
Comments:

- Volunteers are critical. Utilize platforms like Bastrop County Connects to build volunteer base.
- Support for "Parks and General Services" name change
- Learn from and build Stony Point Park's informal park host program

Project Ranking Criteria

Participants reviewed the sixteen proposed criteria for ranking potential parks projects to be included in the master plan update and voted on each. After voting, participants were able to share comments and propose changes through audio or the chat box.

Criteria

Number	Criteria	Goal	Proposed Weighting
1	Project provides an essential amenity in the park.	1	5
2	The project provides a new facility in an underserved area	1	15
3	The project will actively support or restore sensitive ecosystems and incorporates elements that cultivate support for natural resources, including the Houston Toad.	2	10
4	Project will promote active transportation by providing bike/ped infrastructure linking parkland to nearby residential neighborhoods and/or other parks.	3	5
5	Project will improve public safety within the parks.	3	5
6	The project will be undertaken in partnership with another organization.	4	10
7	Project will have a positive impact on the floodplain	5	10
8	The project will promote broadband connectivity within the parks.	6	5
9	The project will promote Tourism within Bastrop County	6	5
10	The project will enhance access to the Colorado River	6	5
11	The project actively protects and increases awareness of existing cultural resources	7	5
12	Project has a low ongoing maintenance requirement	8	5
13	Project will improve the efficiency and sustainability of park operations	8	5
14	Project is identified as a Top 10 need in the Bastrop County Parks Survey	n/a	10
15	Project improves facilities already located within an existing park.	n/a	5
16	Project does not require additional utility hookups (with the exception of "essential amenities")	n/a	5
		Total	**110**

Voting options:
a. Good as is
b. Should be weighted lower
c. Should be weighted higher
d. Needs some changes
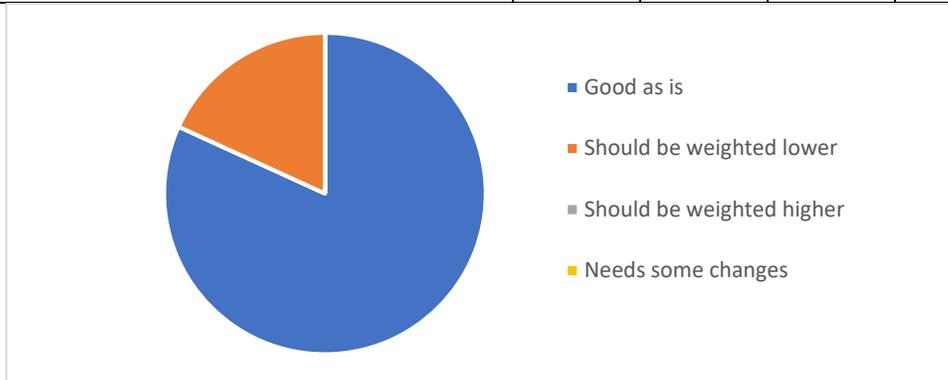e. I don't think this criterion should be included

Polling results and comments

Criterion 1

Project provides an essential amenity in the park (bathrooms, parking, waste infrastructure).

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 1	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	5	4	9	75.00%
Should be weighted lower	1	0	1	8.33%
Should be weighted higher	0	2	2	16.67%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	6	6	12	
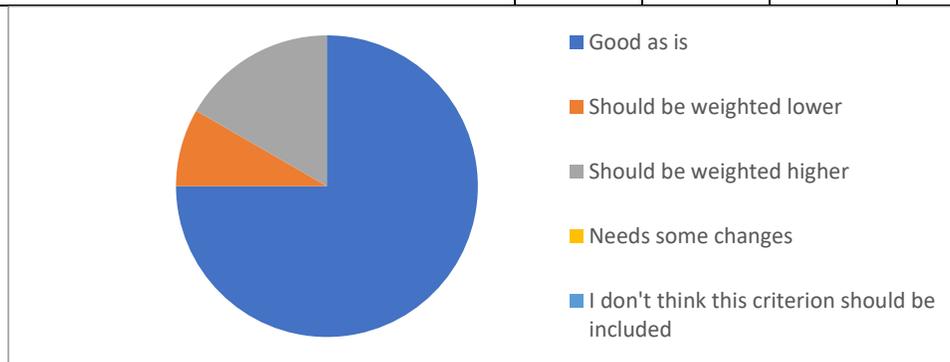
Criterion 2

The project provides a new facility in an underserved area

Draft weighting: 15 points

Criterion 2	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	81.82%
Should be weighted lower	1	1	2	18.18%
Should be weighted higher	0	0	0	0.00%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	5	6	11	
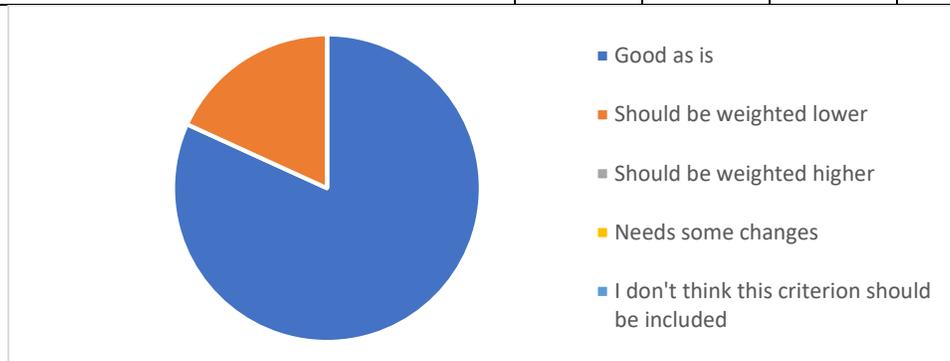
Criterion 3

The project will actively support or restore sensitive ecosystems and incorporates elements that cultivate support for natural resources, including the Houston Toad.

Draft weighting: 10 points

Criterion 3	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	81.82%
Should be weighted lower	1	1	2	18.18%
Should be weighted higher	0	0	0	0.00%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	5	6	11	

Comments:
- Change to read "including endangered species"

Criterion 4

Project will promote active transportation by providing bike/ ped infrastructure linking parkland to nearby residential neighborhoods and/or other parks.

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 4	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	3	4	7	63.64%
Should be weighted lower	2	0	2	18.18%
Should be weighted higher	0	2	2	18.18%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	5	6	11	
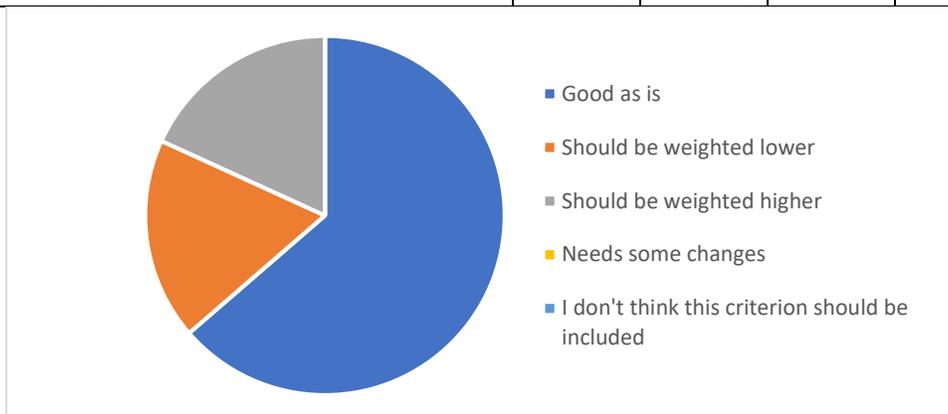
Criterion 5

Project will improve public safety within the parks.

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 5	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	4	8	61.54%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	2	2	4	30.77%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	1	0	1	7.69%
Total voters	7	6	13	
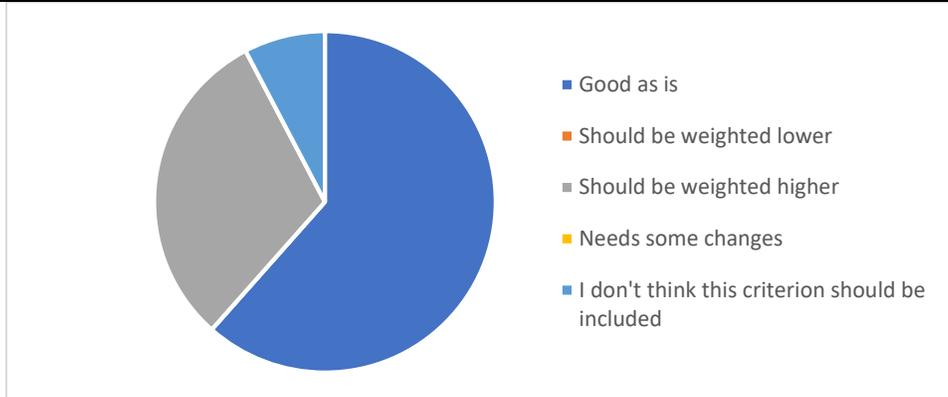
Criterion 6

The project will be undertaken in partnership with another organization.

Draft weighting: 10 points

Criterion 6	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	5	6	11	84.62%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	1	0	1	7.69%
Needs some changes	1	0	1	7.69%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	7	6	13	
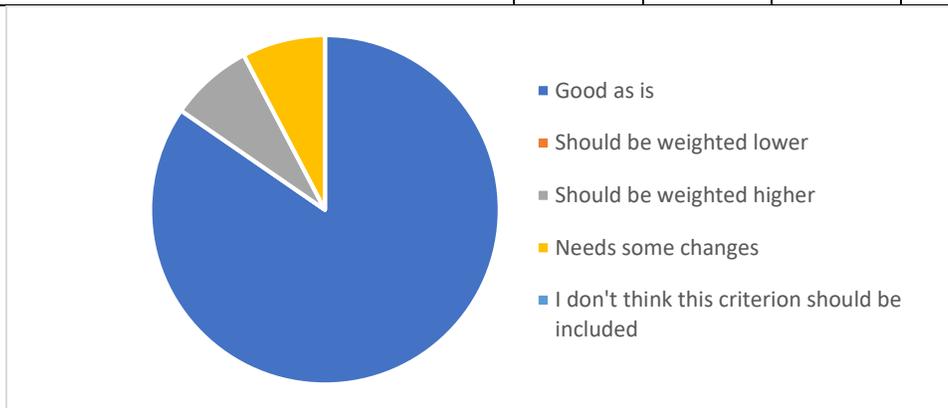
Comments:
- Should consider if project/proposal includes details on funding and maintenance from other organization

Criterion 7

Project will have a positive impact on the floodplain

Draft weighting: 10 points

Criterion 7	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	5	3	8	61.54%
Should be weighted lower	1	2	3	23.08%
Should be weighted higher	0	1	1	7.69%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	1	0	1	7.69%
Total voters	7	6	13	
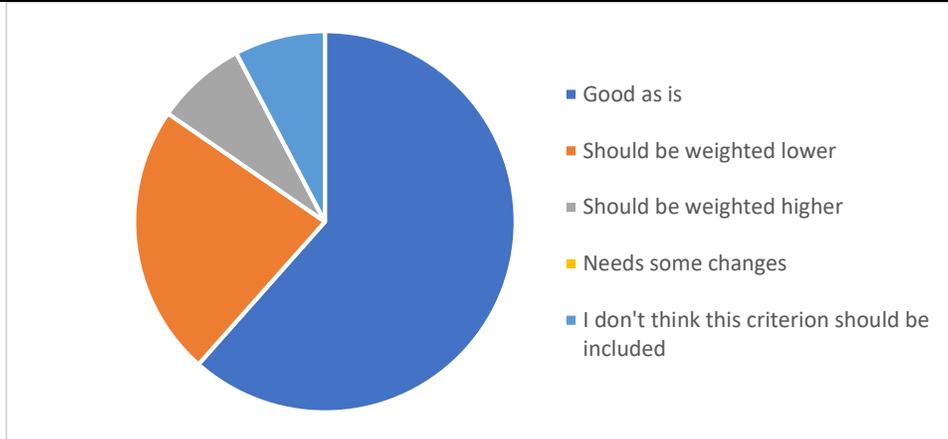
Criterion 8

The project will promote broadband connectivity within the parks.

Draft weighting: 5 points

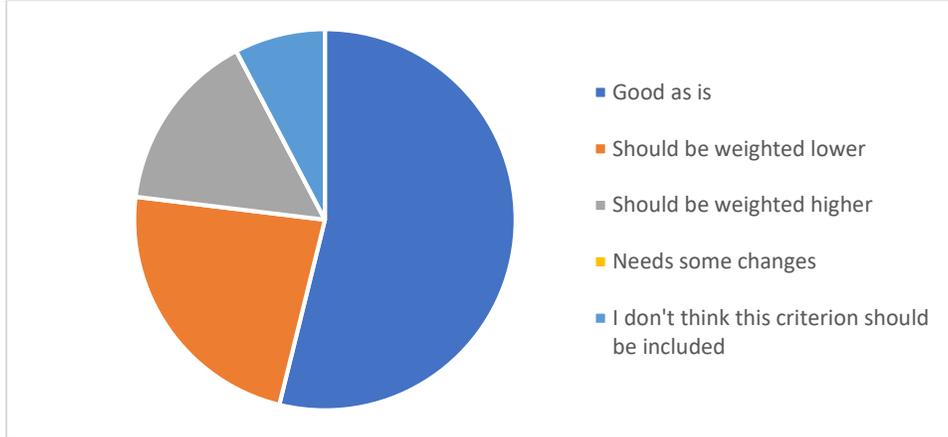| Criterion 8	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	5	3	8	66.67%
Should be weighted lower	1	0	1	8.33%
Should be weighted higher	0	1	1	8.33%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	2	2	16.67%
Total voters	6	6	12	
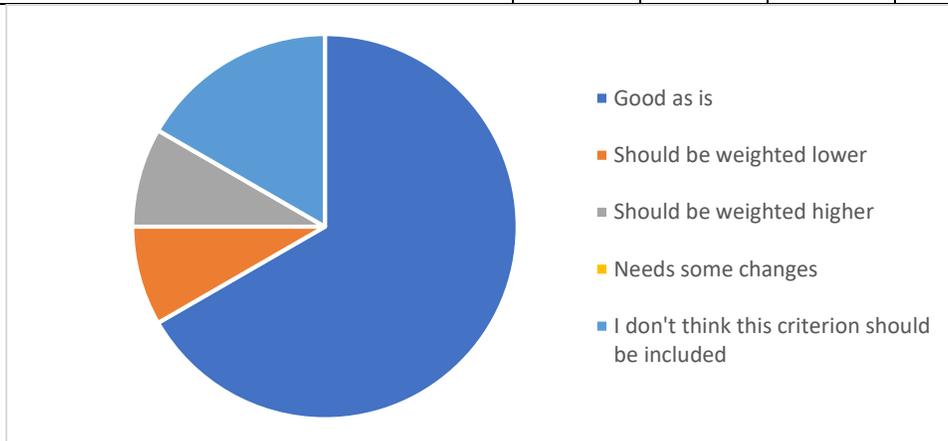
Criterion 9
The project will promote tourism within Bastrop County
Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 9	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	3	7	53.85%
Should be weighted lower	2	1	3	23.08%
Should be weighted higher	1	1	2	15.38%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	1	1	7.69%
Total voters	7	6	13	

Criterion 10
The project will enhance access to the Colorado River
Draft weighting: 5 points

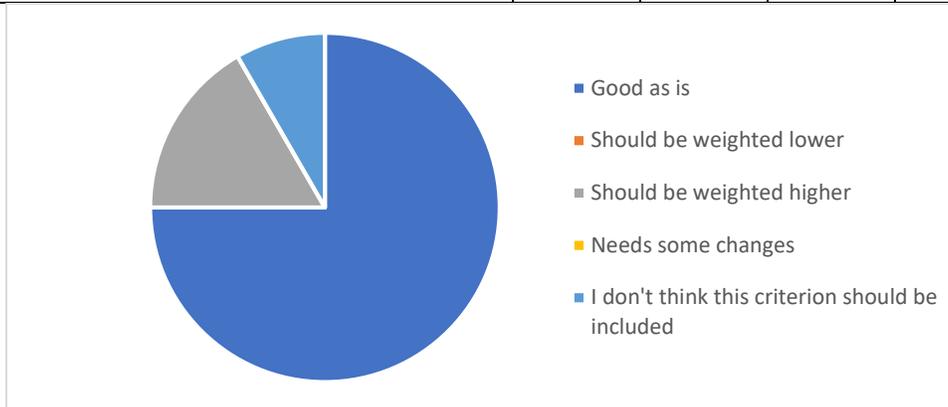| Criterion 10	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	6	5	11	91.67%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	0	1	1	8.33%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	6	6	12	

16
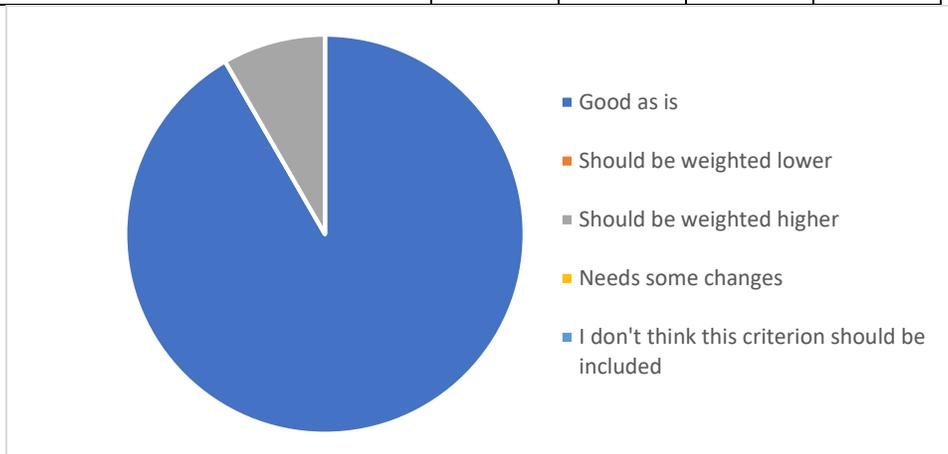
Criterion 11

The project actively protects and increases awareness of existing cultural resources

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 11	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	75.00%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	1	1	2	16.67%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	1	0	1	8.33%
Total voters	**6**	**6**	**12**	

Criterion 12

Project has a low ongoing maintenance requirement

Draft weighting: 5 points

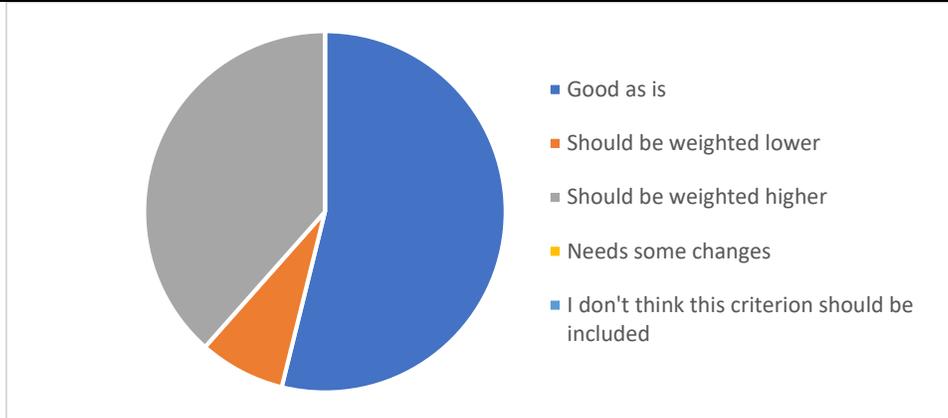| Criterion 12	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	2	3	5	41.67%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	4	3	7	58.33%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	**6**	**6**	**12**	
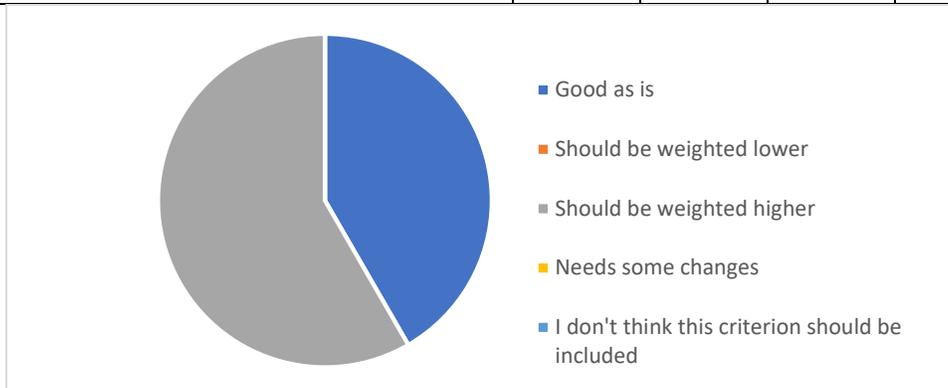
Comments:
- Important consideration; should be weighted way higher

Criterion 13

Project will improve the efficiency and sustainability of park operations

Draft weighting: 5 points

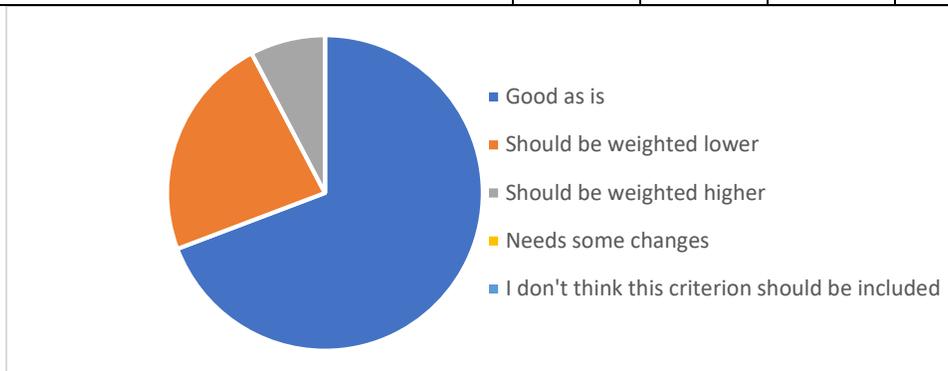| Criterion 13	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	3	4	7	53.85%
Should be weighted lower	1	0	1	7.69%
Should be weighted higher	3	2	5	38.46%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	7	6	13	

Criterion 14

Project is identified as a Top 10 need in the Bastrop County Parks Survey

Draft weighting: 10 points

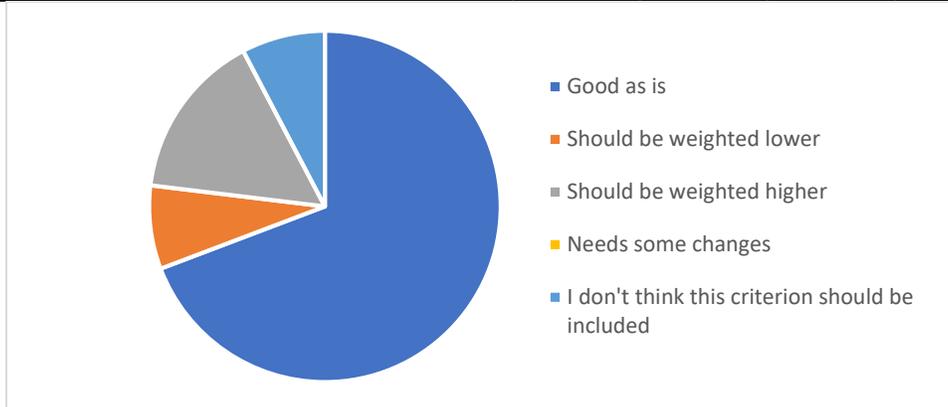| Criterion 14	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	69.23%
Should be weighted lower	2	1	3	23.08%
Should be weighted higher	1	0	1	7.69%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
Total voters	7	6	13	

Comment:
- Should have park survey every year to ensure identified projects reflect community's current desires.

Criterion 15

Project improves facilities already located within an existing park.

Draft weighting: 5 points

| Criterion 15	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	69.23%
Should be weighted lower	1	0	1	7.69%
Should be weighted higher	2	0	2	15.38%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	1	1	7.69%
Total voters	7	6	13	

Criterion 16

Project does not require additional utility hookups (with the exception of "essential amenities" [bathrooms, parking, waste infrastructure])

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 16	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	4	8	66.67%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	2	1	3	25.00%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	1	1	8.33%
Total voters	6	6	12	
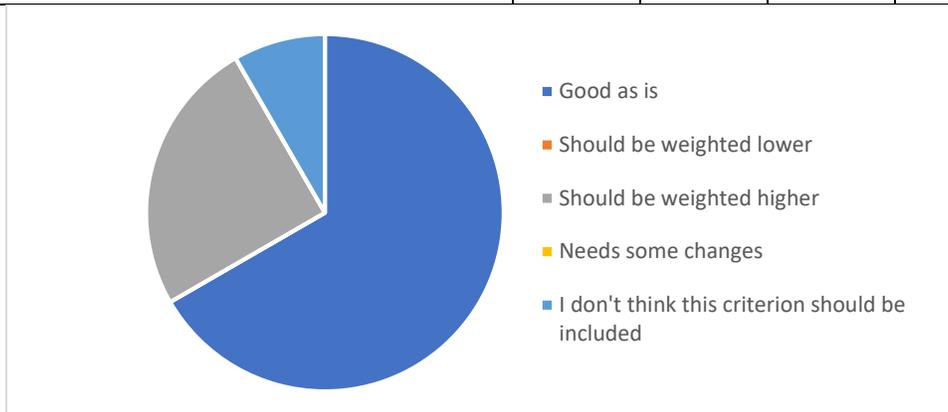
Potential Partners and Volunteer Organizations

During the last portion of the meeting, attendees were presented with a list of organizations already working with the county on parks and the master plan update (Fig. 1). Participants were then asked if they knew of additional potential partners to assist with planning, volunteering efforts, or outreach. The participants on the September 24 meeting generated the list below (Fig. 2).
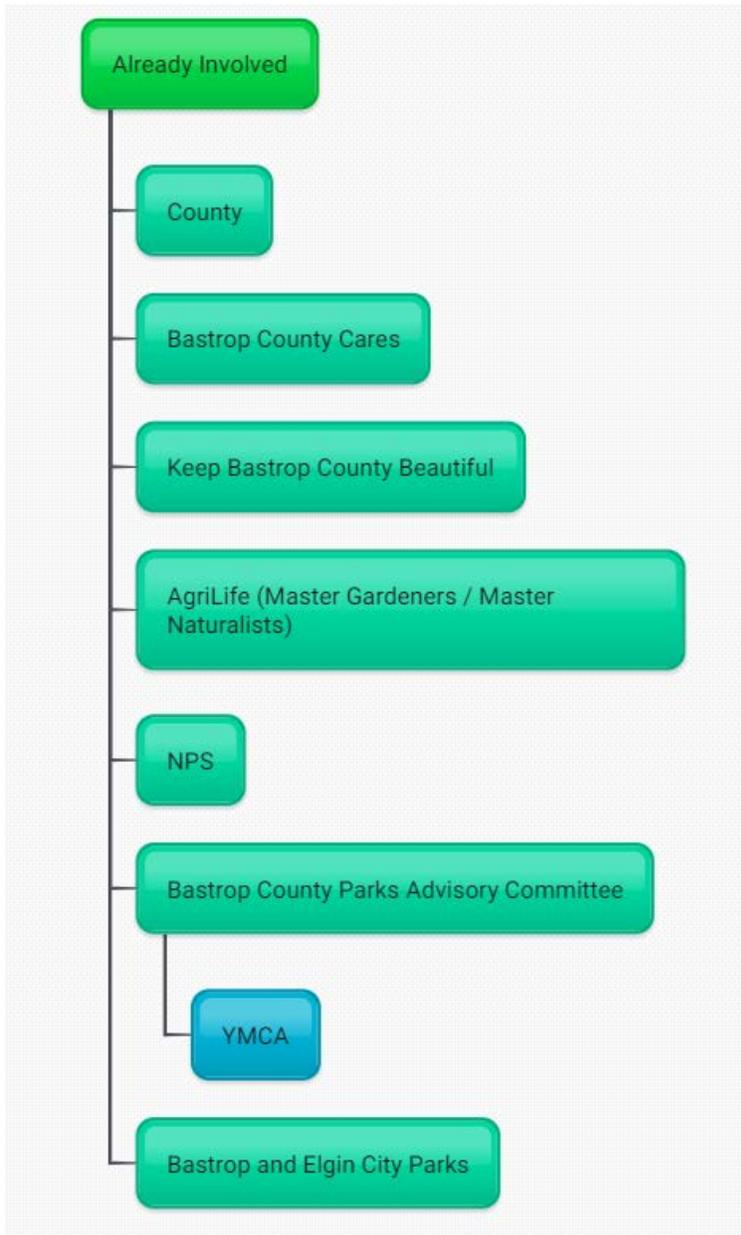
Fig 1: Groups Already Involved

Fig. 2: Potential Partners Suggested by Public Meeting Attendees