



**City Council Work Session**

# **CHANHASSEN**

**Parks & Recreation  
System Plan**

*February 13, 2017*



# SYSTEM EVALUATION

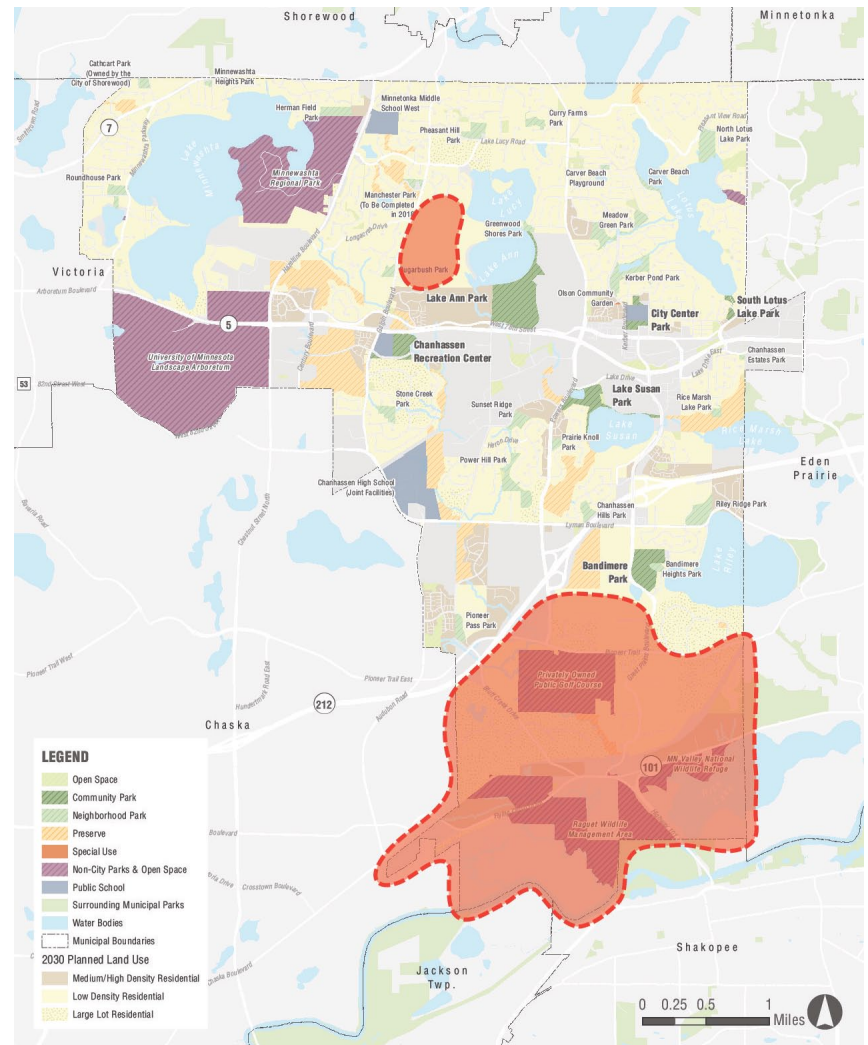
# SYSTEM EVALUATION

- » Gap and Distribution Analysis
  - GIS mapping process
  - Gap Analysis looks at residential areas within 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile of parks
  - Distribution Analysis looks at where certain facilities are located throughout the City



# GAP & DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

- » Neighborhood Parks
  - Most residential neighborhoods served
- » Community Parks
  - Core of City served
  - Minnewashta Regional Park serves the northwest area
- » Facility Distribution
  - Generally good access throughout community



# PEER COMMUNITY COMPARISON

- » **Compared to:** Chaska, Cottage Grove, Elk River, Inver Grove Heights, Lino Lakes, Prior Lake, Rosemount, Savage, Shakopee, Stillwater
- » Chanhassen is similar to or higher than average in most categories ~ other than the City has slightly fewer parks per 10,000 people
- » Number of diamond and rectangular fields are higher - though many diamond fields are smaller than desired

|   | <i>Chanhassen</i> | <i>Range</i> | <i>Average</i> |
|---|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Number of Parks per 10,000 people</i>                              | <b>12.3</b>       | 7.7 - 22.5   | 12.7           |
| <i>Acreage of Parks per 1,000 Population</i>                          | <b>36</b>         | 6.7 - 47.3   | 22             |
| <i>Total Trail Miles</i>  | <b>76</b>         | 15 - 113.8   | 42.5           |
| <i>Number of playgrounds per 10,000 residents</i>                     | <b>9.8</b>        | 4.1 - 14.7   | 6.7            |
| <i>Number of tennis courts per 10,000 residents</i>                   | <b>6.1</b>        | 0.4 - 5.4    | 2.6            |
| <i>Number of outdoor basketball courts per 10,000 residents</i>       | <b>7.8</b>        | 2.1 - 9.0    | 4.1            |
| <i>Number of outdoor ice rinks per 10,000 residents</i>               | <b>2</b>          | 1.5 - 5.3    | 2.9            |
| <i>Number of diamond fields per 10,000 residents</i>                  | <b>11.5</b>       | 5.6          | 8.8            |
| <i>Number of soccer/lacrosse/football fields per 10,000 residents</i> | <b>9</b>          | 1.6 - 18.1   | 5.1            |
| <i>Number of recreation centers</i>                                   | <b>1</b>          | 0 - 9        | 1.8            |
| <i>Number of shelters</i>   | <b>17</b>         | 5 - 35       | 13.9           |
| <i>Number of permanent bathroom facilities</i>                        | <b>3</b>          | 0 - 11       | 5.3            |

A collage of community activities. The top left shows a group of people dancing in a circle. The top right shows a group of ballerinas in white tutus performing. The bottom shows a group of people sitting at a table, possibly at a community meeting or event.

# COMMUNITY INPUT

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RECAP

## » Pop-Up Meetings

- 8 pop-ups

## » 2 Stakeholder Meetings

- Senior Commission
- Athletic Associations

## » 4 Online Engagement Efforts

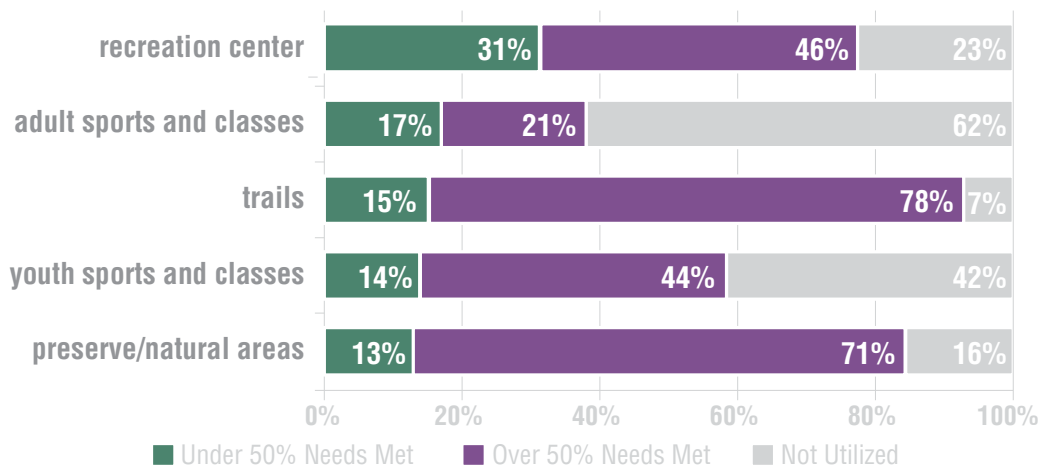
- General Community Survey (935 respondents)
- Recreation Center Survey (322 respondents)
- Senior Center Survey (120 respondents)
- Social Pin Point (170 respondents)



# GENERAL COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

- **Over 80%** of respondents use the system at least **once a week**
- Most **used** facilities: trails, neighborhood parks, community parks, beaches, recreation center, preserves
- Most **popular** programs: community events & youth activities
- Most **desired** facilities: natural play areas, indoor pool, outdoor pool

## Top 5 Unmet Facility & Programming Needs





# REC CENTER QUESTIONNAIRE

- **42%** of respondents use it **a few times a year**
- **20%** of respondents **never** use the Rec Center
- Most **popular** facility usage among respondents:
  - attending an event (39%),
  - participating in a class (35%)
  - using the fitness center (27%)
- **Additional** facilities and programs desired:
  - running/walking track
  - indoor pool
  - larger fitness center
  - more exercise classes / studios

Of Respondents That  
Never Use the  
Recreation Center:

**35%**



are not interested in what  
it has to offer

**18%**



use a recreation center in  
another community

**18%**



use private recreation  
facilities

**13%**



are unaware of it

# SENIOR CENTER QUESTIONNAIRE

- **33%** of respondents use the Senior Center **once a week** while **24%** use it **a few times per year**
- Most **popular** programs:  
field trips (51%) and art/education class (42%)
- **Additional** facilities/programs desired:
  - more programming
  - fitness class space
  - large meeting/event room
- Similar amount of support for maintaining Senior Center as is, replacing with new stand alone facility, and replacing with facility adjacent to Rec Center

Of Respondents That  
Never Use the  
Senior Center:

40%



are unaware of it

24%



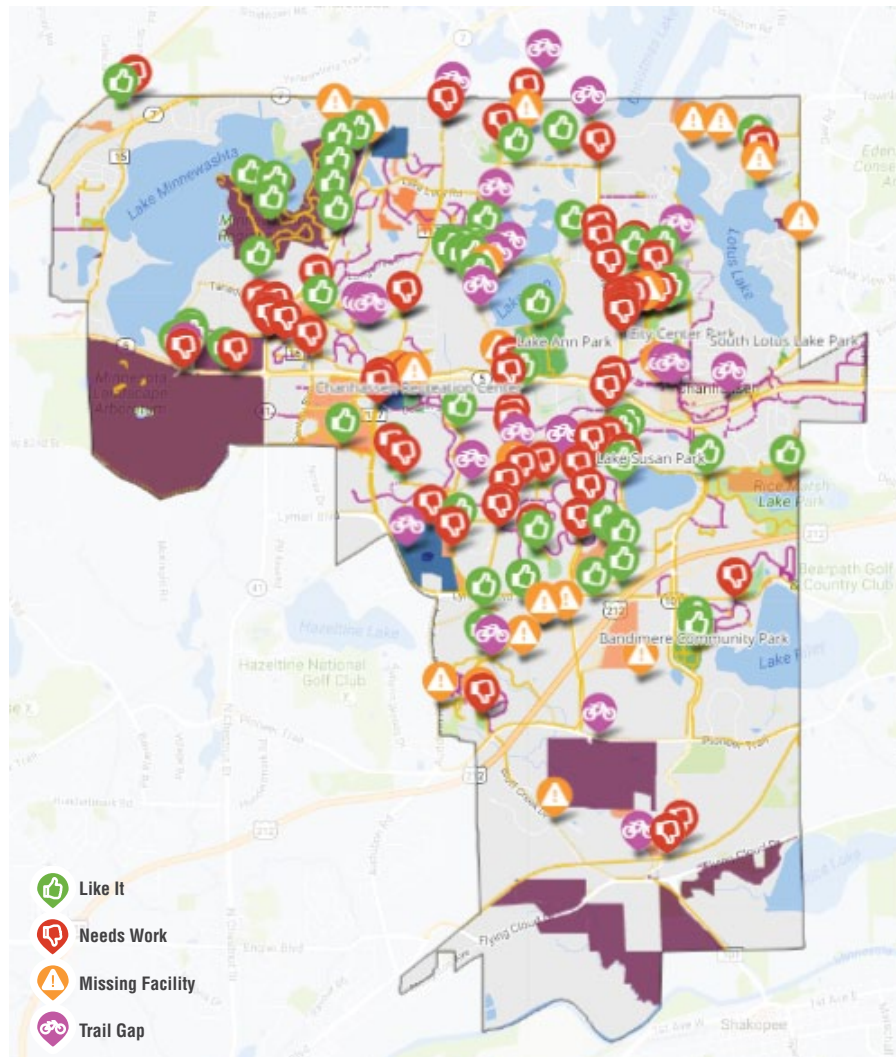
are not interested in what  
it has to offer

12%



use a senior center in  
another community

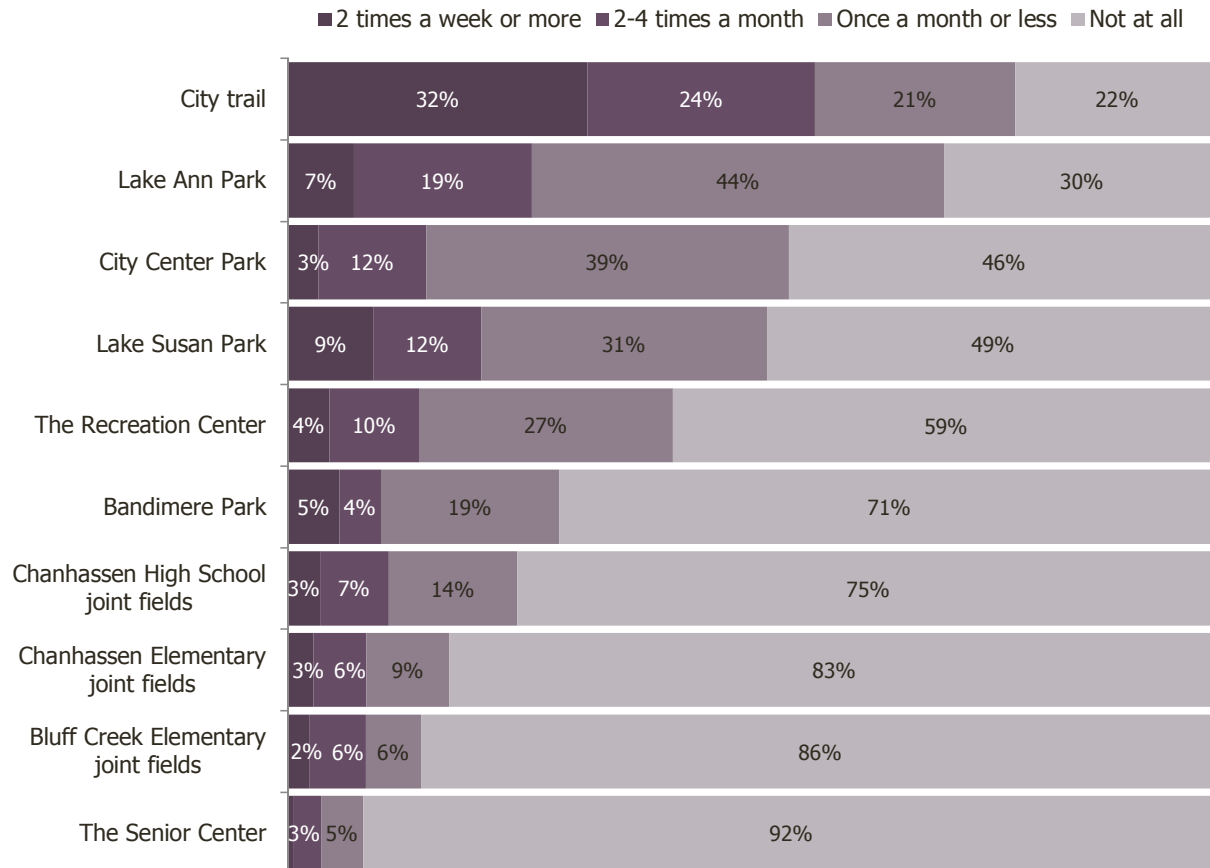
# SOCIAL PINPOINT



- Majority of comments were about the **trail system**: repairing trails, closing a trail gap, building a tunnel or need for a safe crossing
- Many comments related to **acquisition of additional open space around Lake Ann**
- High desire for **more natural and open space** throughout the city
- More **safe crossings** of Highway 5 desired as well as trail connection to Arboretum

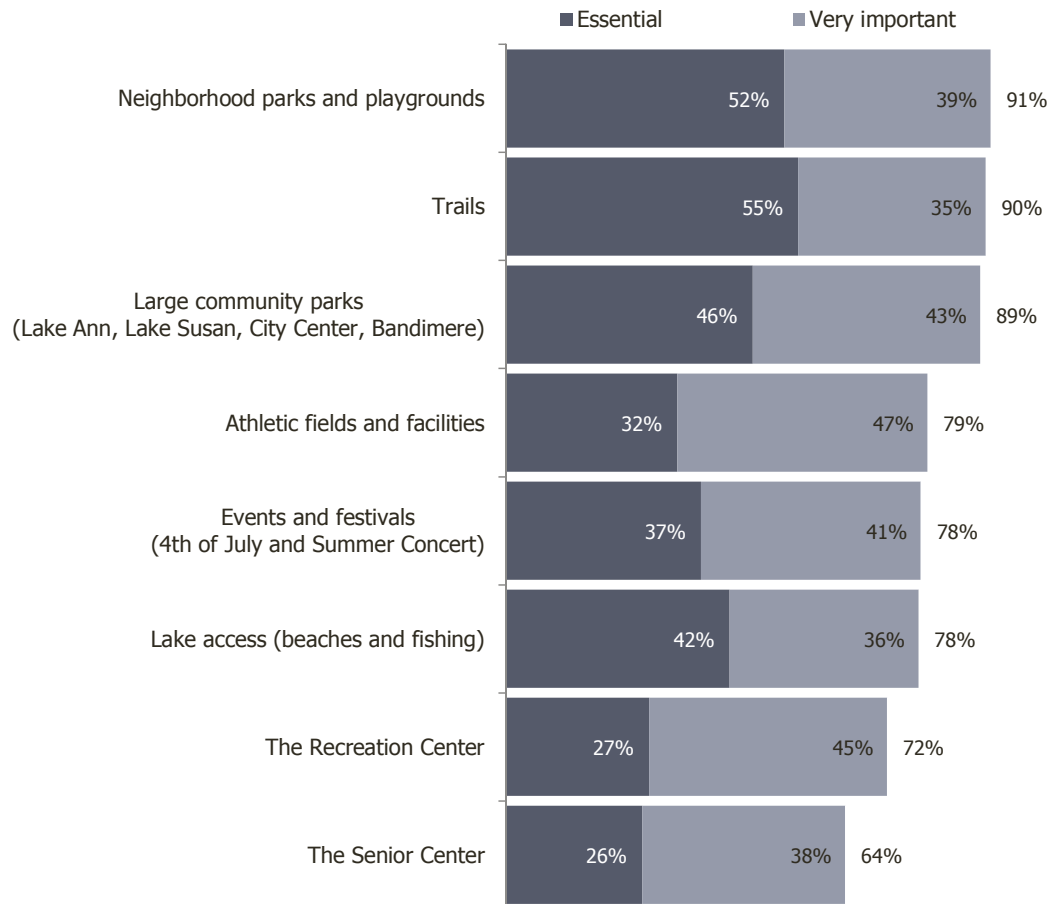
# CHANHASSEN NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY

## Use of Recreational Amenities



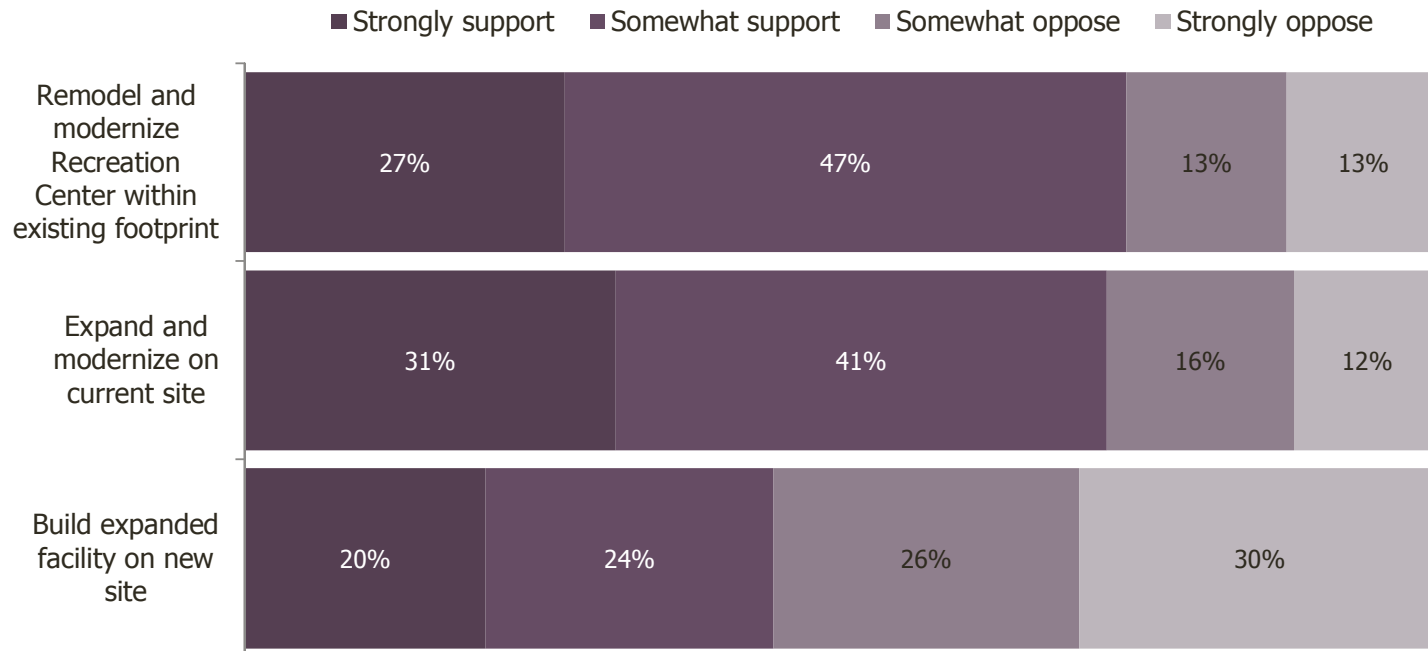
# CHANHASSEN NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY

## Importance of Recreational Amenities



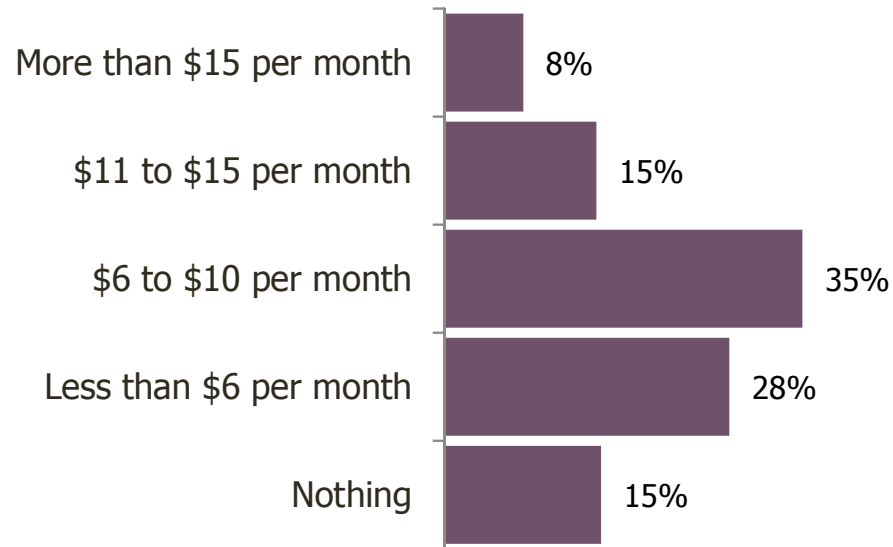
# CHANHASSEN NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY

## Support for Tax to Fund Recreation Center



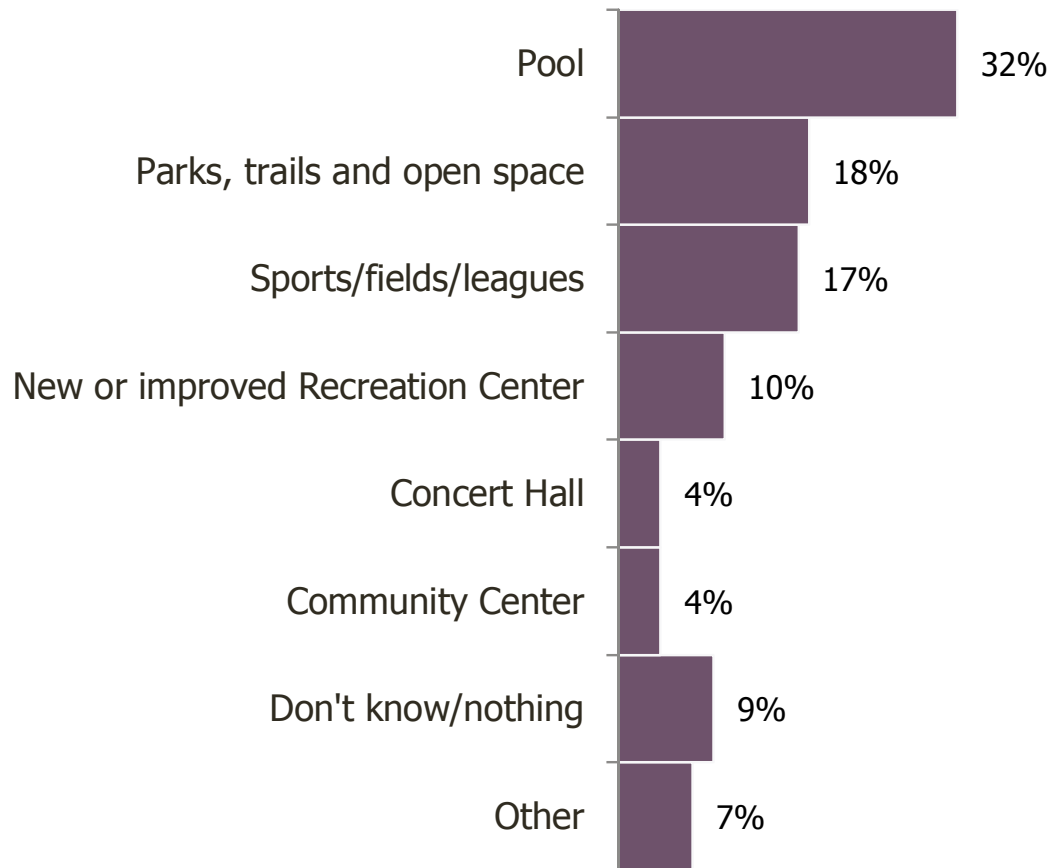
# CHANHASSEN NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY

## Property Tax Support



# CHANHASSEN NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY

## Number One Missing Recreation Amenity







# KEY FINDINGS

# KEY FINDINGS: PARKS

1. City has developed a comprehensive system with few significant gaps in access or distribution.
2. Future park development will be able to address areas of need - particularly in the south end of community.
3. Partnerships with school district have contributed positively to availability of facilities and efficiency of operations.
4. Interest in park amenities like permanent restrooms, shade, lighting, grills, wifi, etc.
5. Picnic shelters are in high demand and rent out quickly.

# KEY FINDINGS: FACILITIES

1. In comparison to other cities, Chanhassen meets or exceeds the amount of outdoor facilities and fields. While in good shape, there are improvements desired to serve users, such as lighting for fields, restrooms, etc.
2. There is a desire for an improved, state of the art Recreation Center.
3. Seniors appreciate the existing Senior Center offerings, but there is a desire for improvements. Increased awareness of Senior Center continues to be needed.
4. Chanhassen needs to continue to evaluate and respond to changing recreation trends.

# KEY FINDINGS: OPEN SPACES

1. Most residents are happy with the amount of natural open space.
2. There is an opportunity to improve connections to and awareness of the preserves to address interest in more natural play areas.
3. Residents want the city to acquire more natural open space (particularly around Lake Ann).

# KEY FINDINGS: PROGRAMMING

1. The city has good working relationships with recreation groups and associations, who do a good job of providing a variety of programs.
2. Interest in more teen, adult, and senior programming in arts, fitness, and outdoor education.
3. More community events desired.
4. Interest in the City providing more programming, such as aquatics, to meet the needs of those who can't afford private facilities.

# KEY FINDINGS: TRAILS

1. Most popular facility provided in community.
2. There is a strong desire to complete trail gaps, continue to expand the system, and to improve crossings of busy, high traffic roads. *High priority areas - crossing of Highway 5 and the completion of a trail around Lake Ann and Lake Lucy.*
3. Safety issues need to be addressed on the trail system.
4. Interest in natural surface trails.
5. Ongoing maintenance, lighting to expand nighttime use, and winter access important.

# KEY FINDINGS: MANAGEMENT/OPERATIONS

1. Concerns about deferred maintenance issues, especially on trails and in small neighborhood parks (playgrounds, basketball courts, hockey rinks).
2. Concerns about maintaining natural resources and lake water quality.
3. Expanded awareness needed that ongoing investments will be required to maintain the quality system developed.



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



# WHAT IS A VISION FRAMEWORK?

- » Identifies a core purpose and set of values
- » Guides what to preserve and what to change
- » Allows flexibility to respond to an ever-changing world while holding on to core tenets
- » City Vision: ***“Chanhassen is a Community for Life – Providing for Today and Planning for Tomorrow”***



# CONNECTIVITY

Connectedness will be at the heart of Chanhassen's Parks and Recreation System. The system itself will be connected; its parks, preserves, and trails knitted together to create a network of recreation and open spaces that reaches to every corner of the community. This network will connect residents, neighborhoods, and destinations to one another, strengthening the community and enabling all to enjoy safe, easy, and convenient travel throughout the community and to neighboring cities. Likewise, the system's facilities and programs will not only connect residents to one another, but they also will connect residents to the outdoors and to Chanhassen's wealth of natural resources.

# ENGAGEMENT

Chanhassen's Parks and Recreation system will welcome residents of all ages and all abilities, enabling them to lead active, healthy lives in which they explore the outdoors, experience art and culture, and engage with one another. Partnerships with private entities, neighborhood and community organizations, athletic associations, user groups, businesses, and schools will create a sense of shared ownership and pride across all segments of the community, leading to active participation in system planning, operation, and maintenance. The system's high quality facilities and programs will be a source of community pride that inspire life-long discovery, learning, and socializing.

# ADAPTABLE

As Chanhassen evolves, becoming a larger, more economically and culturally diverse community, its Parks and Recreation System will remain adaptable in the way it responds to new needs and challenges, and dynamic in its ability to deliver high-quality programs, facilities, and services. Increased partnerships with groups, organizations, and businesses representing all segments of the community will result in new and diverse sources of funding and an infusion of new ideas, energy and enthusiasm. These partnerships will increase the system's versatility, enabling staff and volunteers to adjust to lifestyle changes, respond to new trends, and enhance the system's quality and efficiency.

# STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship will continue to be one of the hallmarks of Chanhassen's Parks and Recreation System. An extensive network of preserves gives residents the opportunity to explore and learn about Chanhassen's rich web of natural resources. Greater awareness of Chanhassen's prairies, wetlands, lakes, rivers, forests, and wildlife will lead to a greater understanding of the role those resources play in making the community a great place. Chanhassen's citizens embrace their role as stewards of their city's natural resources. They understand the need to conserve Chanhassen's natural resources so they will continue to enrich future generations, and they advocate continuing to incorporate sustainability practices such as sustainable design, native plant diversity, and ecological maintenance into the system's planning and daily operations.

# NEXT STEPS

- » **Development of Goals, Policies, and Initiatives**
- » **Community Engagement in April**
- » **Draft plan early summer**