SECTION 4

WESTGATE PARK

Westgate Park, established in 1925, is an anchor for the historic Westgate community on the west side of Columbus.

COMMUNITY SURVEY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

This section builds on the public input and staff and stakeholder interview process by providing a summary of the major findings from the Community Interest and Opinion Survey. The 1,811 household survey respondents provided valuable information to the master planning process as a critical data point to consider as planning for the future of CRPD begins to take shape. Another essential part of this master planning analysis is a Level of Service Analysis that compares existing parks and facilities to national and regional standards. The resulting analysis identifies where parks and facilities meet standards and where there is room for improvement. This section concludes with a basic analysis of geographic priorities by Study Area. Where there is sufficient data, the survey results and Level of Service information are combined to suggest priorities per Study Area, and in other cases just the survey data is broken down per Study Area. Section 5 of this report will take this information, as well as information gathered in previous sections, and recommend strategies for moving ahead.

COMMUNITY INTEREST AND OPINION SURVEY

OVERVIEW OF THE METHODOLOGY

The planning team conducted a Community Interest and Opinion Survey Winter of 2014 to help establish priorities for parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the community. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Columbus. The survey was administered by mail and by phone.

The planning team worked extensively with the City of Columbus officials in the development of the survey questionnaire. This work allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to help determine recreation and parks priorities for the community.

A seven-page survey was mailed to a random sample of 7,000 households within the City of Columbus boundaries. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed each household that received a survey also received an automated voice message encouraging them to complete the survey. In addition, about two weeks after the surveys were mailed, the planning team began contacting households by phone. Those who had indicated they had not returned the survey were given the option of completing it by phone.

The goal was to obtain a total of at least 1,800 completed surveys. The planning team met that goal with a total of 1,811 surveys completed. The results of the random sample of 1,811 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision rate of at least +/-2.3%.

The Community Interest and Opinion Survey asked respondents, among other things, to convey the quality of programs offered by CRPD.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Since 1998, Leisure Vision (a division of ETC Institute) has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 700 communities in over 45 states across the country.

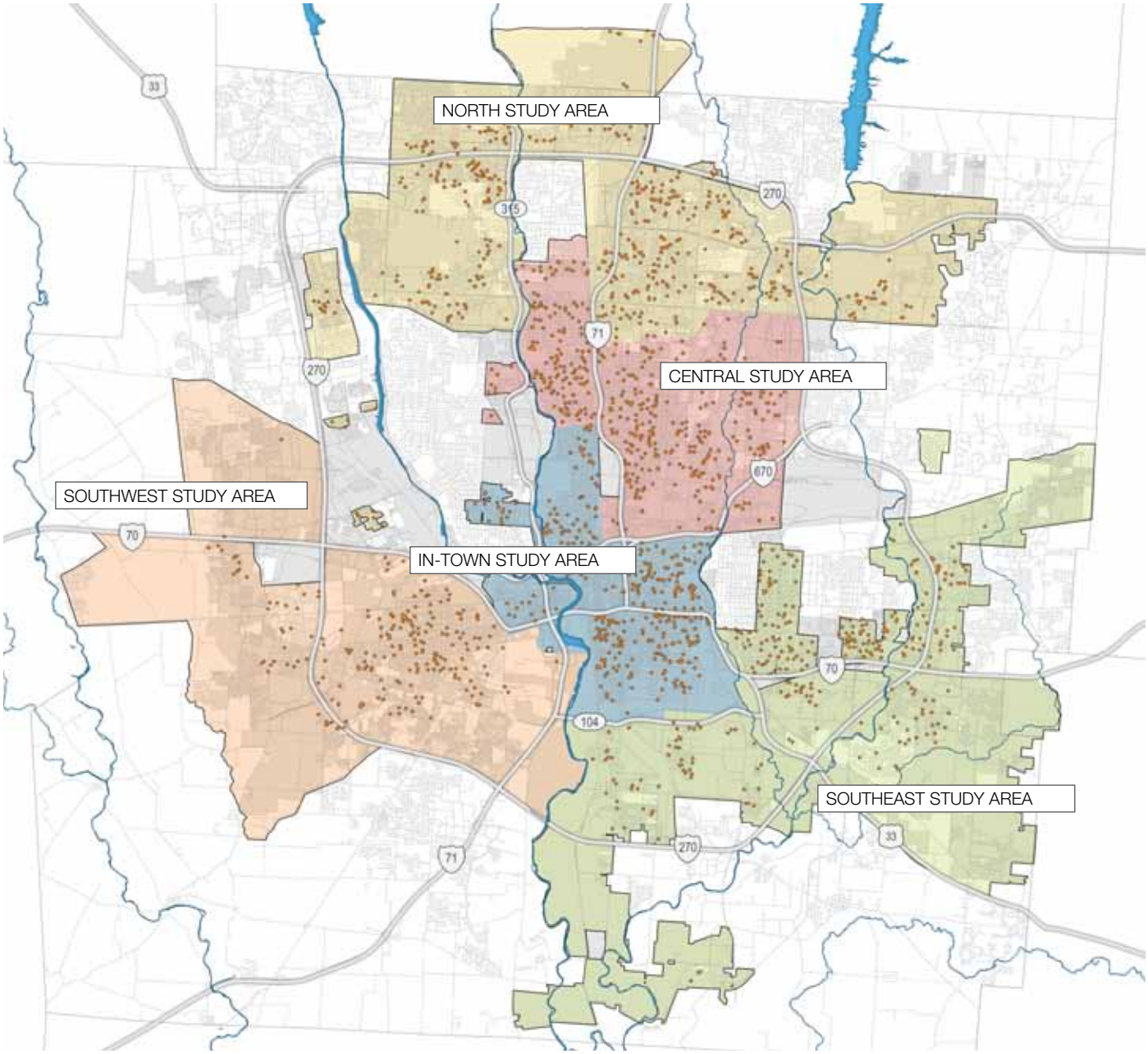
The results of these surveys has provided an unparalleled data base of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to “National Averages” and therefore provide a unique tool to assist organizations in better decision making.

Communities within the data base include a full-range of municipal and county governments from 20,000 in population through over 1 million in population. They include communities in warm weather climates and cold weather climates, mature communities and some of the fastest growing cities and counties in the country. “National Averages” have been developed for numerous strategically important parks and recreation planning and management issues including: customer satisfaction and usage of parks and programs; methods for receiving marketing information; reasons that prevent members of households from using parks and recreation facilities more often; priority recreation programs, parks, facilities and trails to improve or develop; priority programming spaces to have in planned community centers and aquatic facilities; potential attendance for planned indoor community centers and outdoor aquatic centers; etc.

To keep the benchmarking data base current with changing trends, Leisure Vision’s benchmarking data base is updated on an annual basis and only uses citizen survey results going back a maximum of five years in current benchmarking averages.

Results from household responses for the City of Columbus were compared to National Benchmarks to gain further strategic information.

Figure 4.1 Survey Respondents



Legend

- City of Columbus Boundary
- Hydrology
- Major Roads
- Individual Survey Respondent
- In-Town Study Area
- Central Study Area
- North Study Area
- Southeast Study Area
- Southwest Study Area

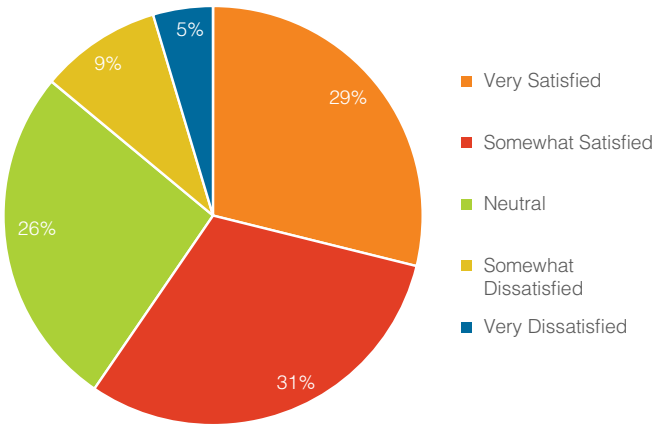
OVERALL SYSTEM

Overall a majority of respondent households to the Community Interest and Opinion Survey are Very Satisfied (31%) and Somewhat Satisfied (29%) with recreation programs, parks, trails and other services of CRPD. Access is also critically important to users, with 73% of respondent households reporting that they use City parks and facilities because they are close to their homes and residences. Improving physical fitness and health is one of the top reasons why respondent households use parks and facilities (50%) and it rates as most important benefits (66%).

Another key finding, especially as it compares to national benchmark figures, are reasons why household respondents do not use City parks and facilities. Forty-six percent of respondents in Columbus answered: "I do not know what is being offered," compared to the National Average of 21%. While there are other reasons listed, this answer stood out and could be related to data collected on marketing efforts (see Figure 4.4).

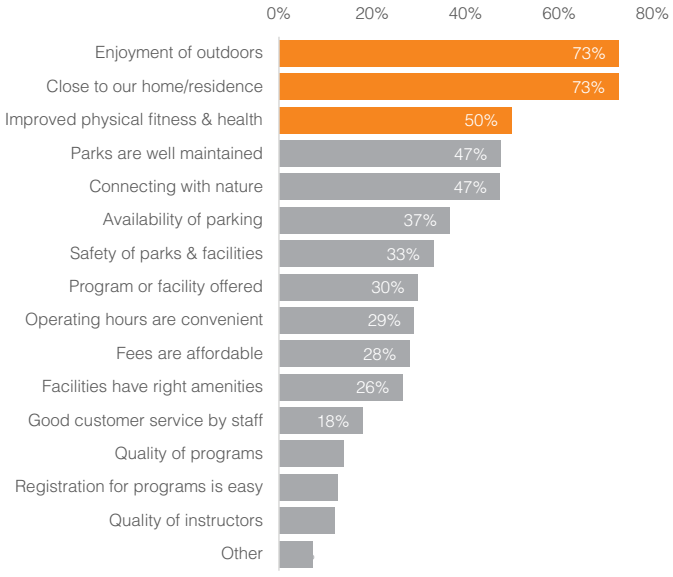
Budgetary priorities were also addressed by the survey and a clear direction was suggested by the results. Asked how they would allocate a hypothetical $100 in funds, $72 of those dollars would go to improvements/maintenance of existing parks ($29), improvements/development of walking, biking, hiking and running trails ($23) and improvements to existing community centers ($20).

Figure 4.2 How Respondent Households Rate Their Level of Satisfaction Regarding the Recreation Programs, Parks, Trails and Other Services of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department:



Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondent households are somewhat satisfied with the recreation programs, parks, trails and other services of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. Other levels of satisfaction include: Very satisfied (29%), neutral (26%), somewhat dissatisfied (9%) and very dissatisfied (5%).

Figure 4.3 Reasons Why Respondent Households Use Parks, Recreation Facilities or Programs of the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department:

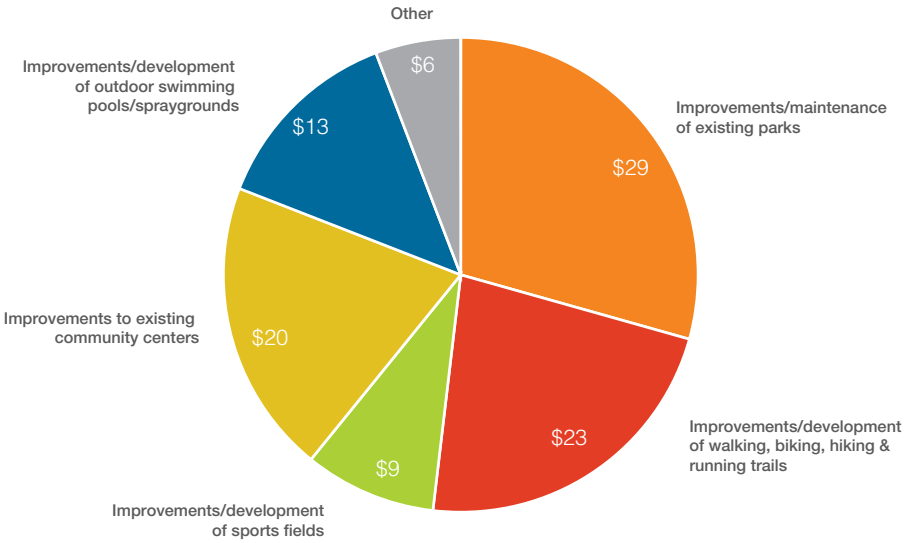


Seventy-three percent (73%) of respondent households' participate in parks, recreation facilities or programs of the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department because of the enjoyment of the outdoors. Other reasons include: Close to our home and residence (73%), improved physical health and fitness (50%), parks are well maintained (47%), and connecting with nature (47%).

Figure 4.4 Reasons Why Respondent Households Do Not use Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Parks, Recreation Facilities or Programs More Often:

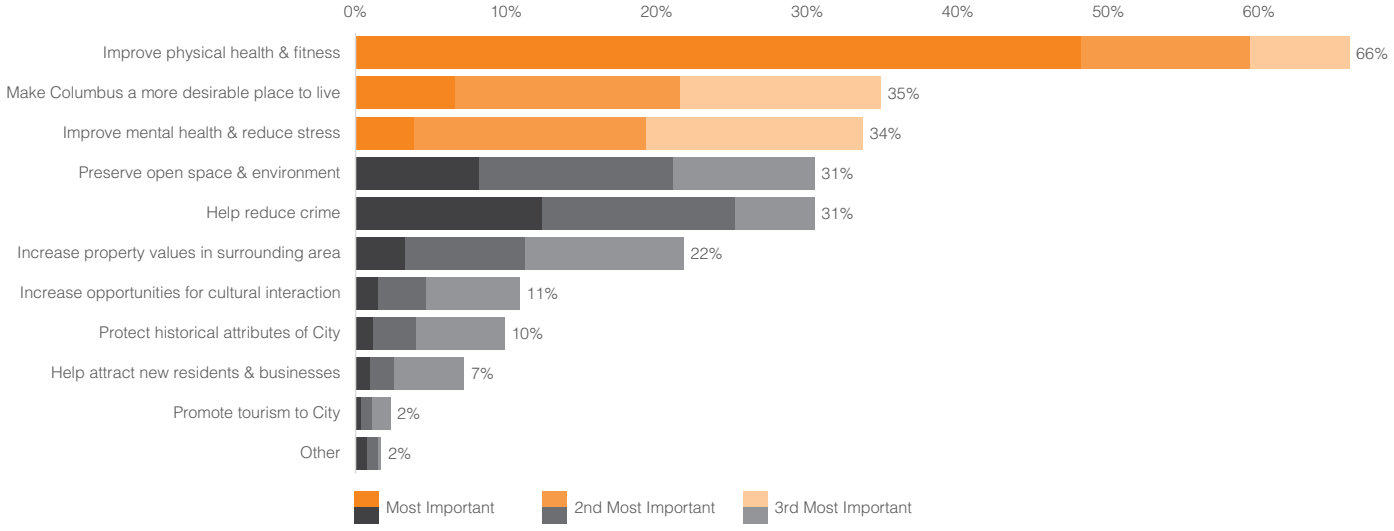
Forty-six percent (46%) of respondent households do not use Columbus Recreation and Park Department parks, recreation facilities or programs more often because they do not know what is being offered. Other reasons include: Too busy (39%), too far from residence (21%), program or facility is not offered (19%) and program times are not convenient (17%).

Figure 4.5 How Respondent Households Would Allocate $100 in Funds if it was Available for the City of Columbus Parks, Trails, Sports, and Recreation Facilities:



If respondent households had an additional $100 in funds to spend on City of Columbus parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities, respondent households would spend ($29.00) on improvements and maintenance of existing parks. Other fund allocations include: Improvements and development of walking, biking, hiking & running trails ($23.00), improvements to existing community centers ($20.00), improvements and development of outdoor swimming pools and spray grounds ($13.00), improvements and development of sports fields ($9.00) and toward other means ($6.00).

Figure 4.6 Benefits from Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities and Programs that Are Most Important to Respondent Households:



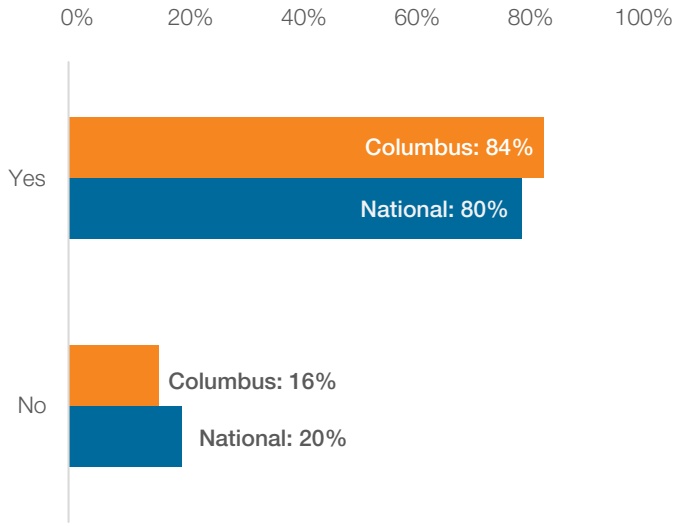
Based on the sum of respondent household top three choices, (66%) of respondent households most important benefit from parks, trails and recreation facilities and programs is improves physical health and fitness. Other most important benefits include: Makes Columbus a more desirable place to live (35%), improves mental health and reduces stress (34%) and preserves open space and the environment (31%).

PARKS AND FACILITIES

Columbus is outperforming the national benchmark when it comes to visitation of parks within the system. When it comes to rating park condition, however, the "excellent" rating is higher for the national benchmark and most Columbus residents would rate parking and facilities as "good."

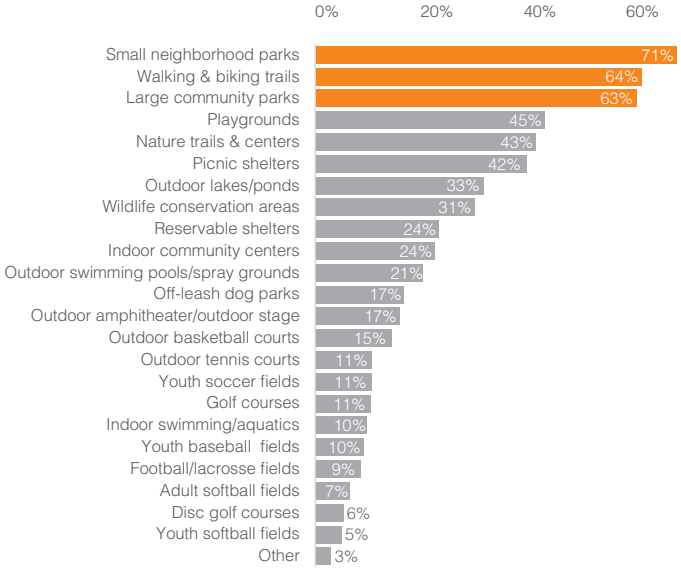
An interesting story also emerges in terms of the top parks and facilities need. Small neighborhood parks, large community parks and walking and biking trails are among the top three in terms of use and need. They are also among the top three in terms of need being met, although there are still more than 50% of the population who do not have 100% of their needs met for these parks and facilities. When compared to the national benchmark, the need for neighborhood parks, community parks and walking and biking trails also far outpaces other city park systems, suggesting a need for additional investment. While the need met figure is certainly lower for other park and facility types, there is also a corresponding lack of demand for these types of facilities. This is not to declare these unimportant, but going forward there is certainly a prioritization emerging that aligns the greatest need with the greatest demand system-wide. More detailed geographic analysis is provided in the Level of Service portion of this section (see page 90).

Figure 4.7 Have Respondent Households Visited any of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Parks During the Past 12 Months?



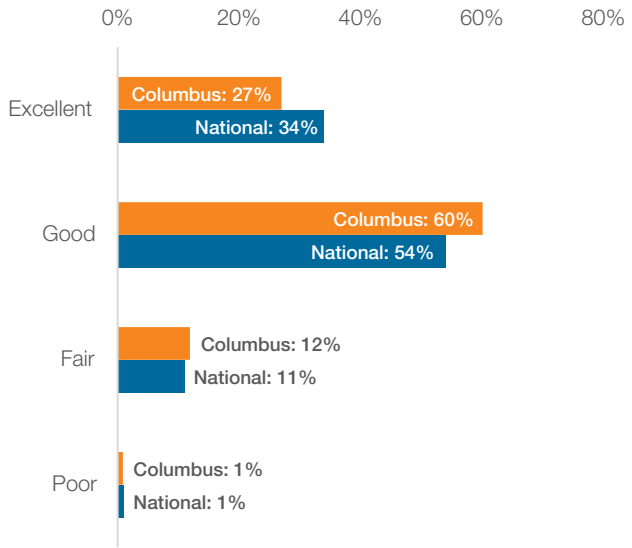
Eighty-four percent (84%) of respondent households indicated that yes they have visited Columbus Recreation Parks Department parks during the past 12 months. Fourteen percent (14%) stated that they have not visited Columbus Recreation Department Parks during the past 12 months.

Figure 4.8 Facilities Respondent Households Have Used or Visited in the City of Columbus Parks During the Past 12 Months



Seventy-one percent (71%) of respondent households have used small neighborhood parks over the past 12 months. Other facilities respondent households have used or visited in the City of Columbus Parks during the past 12 months include: Walking and biking trails (64%), large community parks (63%), playgrounds (45%), nature trails and centers (43%), and picnic shelters (42%).

Figure 4.9 How respondent households rate the overall condition of all the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department parks they have visited



Based on the percentage of respondents who have visited parks, (60%) rate the overall condition of the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department parks they have visited as good. Other respondent households ratings include: Excellent (27%), fair (12%) and poor (1%).

Figure 4.10 Facilities that Respondent Households Currently Have a Need for:

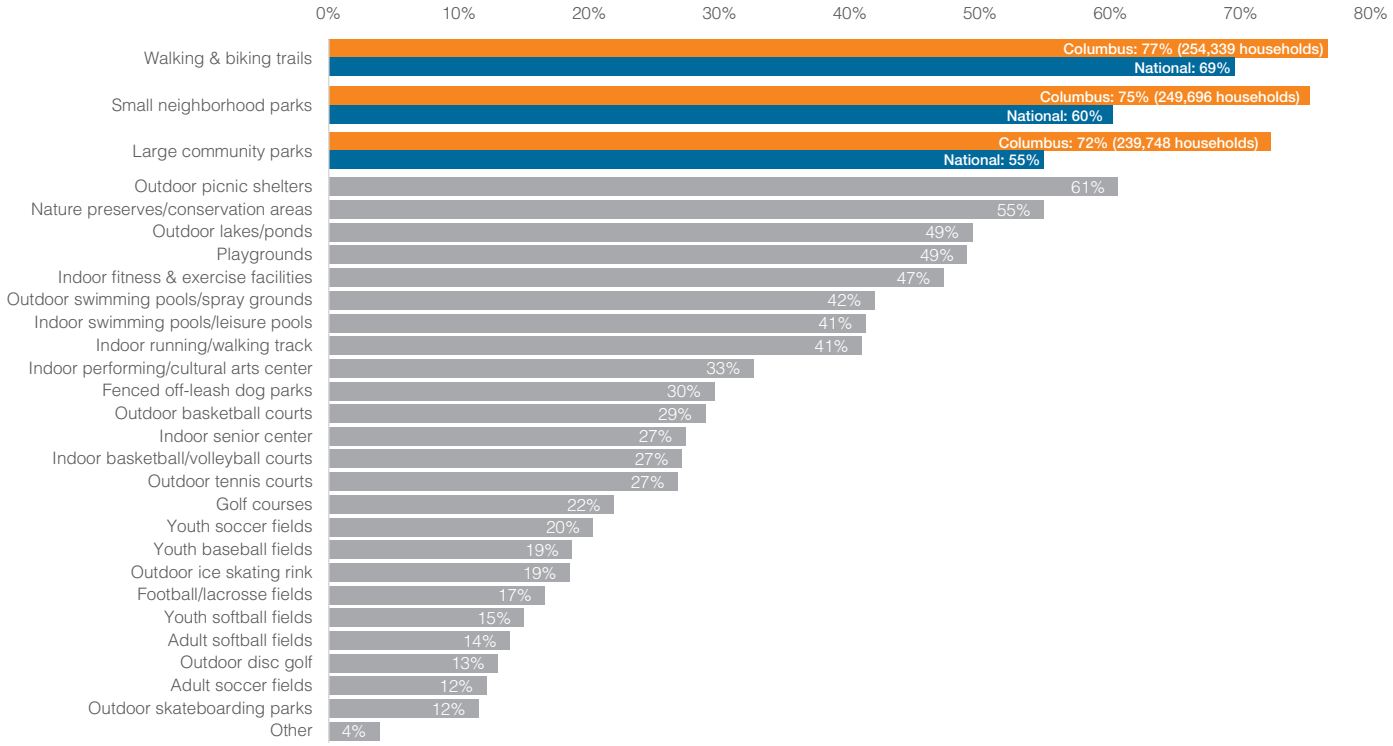
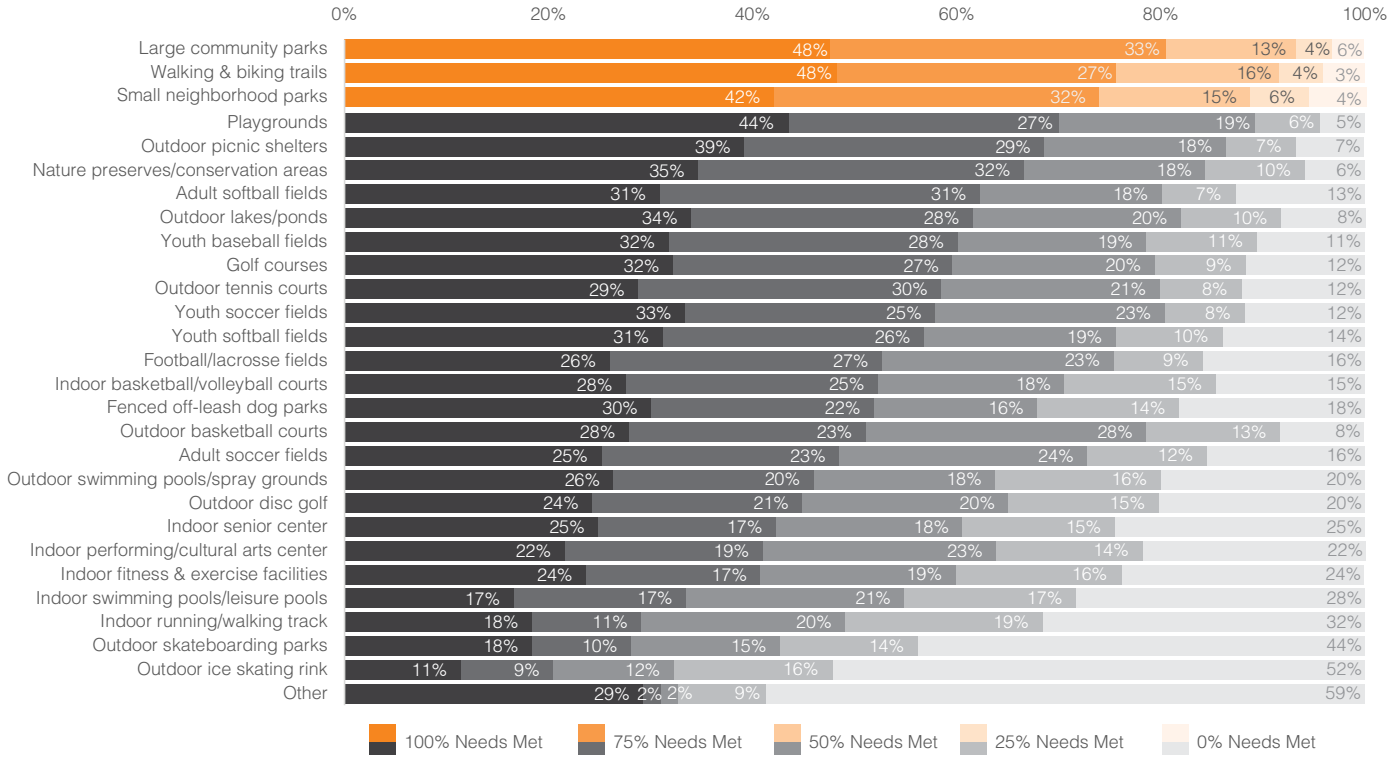


Figure 4.11 How respondents need for Facilities are being met:



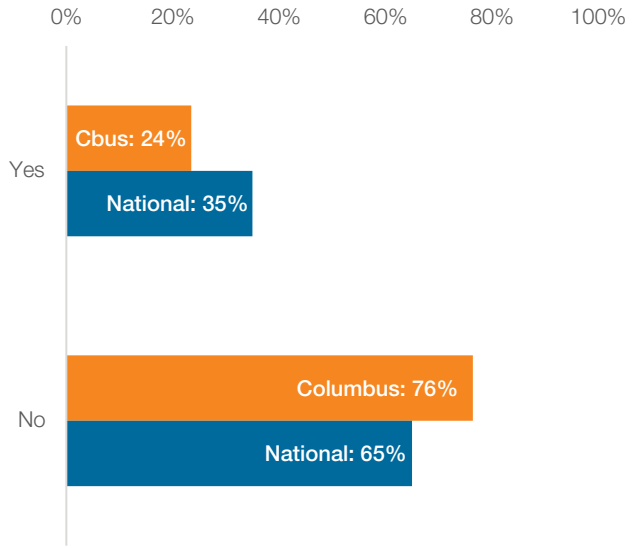
Seventy-seven percent (77%) or 254,339 households currently have a need for walking and biking trails. Other facilities that respondent household currently have a need for include: Small neighborhood parks (75% or 249,696 households) and large community parks (72% or 239,748 households).

RECREATION PROGRAMS

In terms of recreation programs, Columbus is behind the national benchmark with 24% of household respondents reporting that they had taken part in any programs over the past year, compared with 35% nationally. However, those that did participate in programs were overall impressed, with 34% rating the quality as excellent and 58% rating the quality as good. Improving how residents learn about programs and activities is one potential area for improvement that was highlighted in Public Workshops and Stakeholder and Staff Interviews and was also echoed in the survey results. Columbus households are far more likely to find out from talking to friends and neighbors (50%) than from a department brochure (36%). Nationally, a department brochure is the top way other residents in other cities learn about programs and activities (63%).

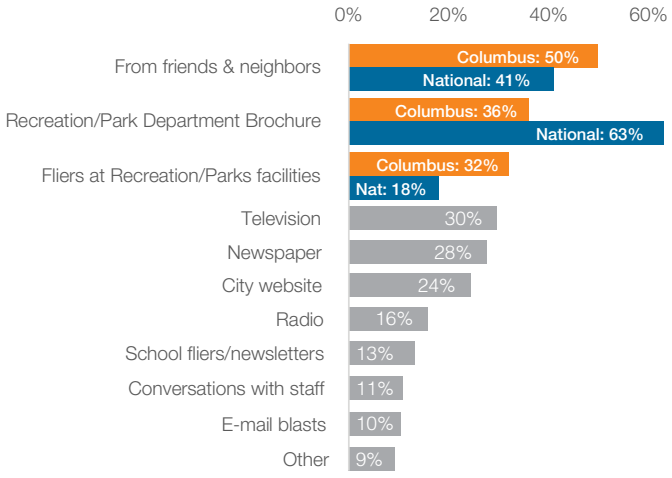
When needs for programs and needs met for programs were analyzed, another top three emerged. Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs, Community Special Events and Festivals, and Nature Programs and Outdoor Education where by far the most needed programs and outpace the national benchmark. However, other program needs also merit discussion based on needs and the current ability of the department to meet them. These include Water Fitness Programs, Adult Sports Programs, Adult Painting, Arts, and Sculpture Classes, Senior Programs, Youth Learn to Swim Programs and Youth Sports Programs. More detailed program and geographic analysis is provided in the Level of Service portion of this section (see page 90).

Figure 4.12 Have Respondent Households Participated in any Recreation Programs Offered by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department During the Past 12 Months?



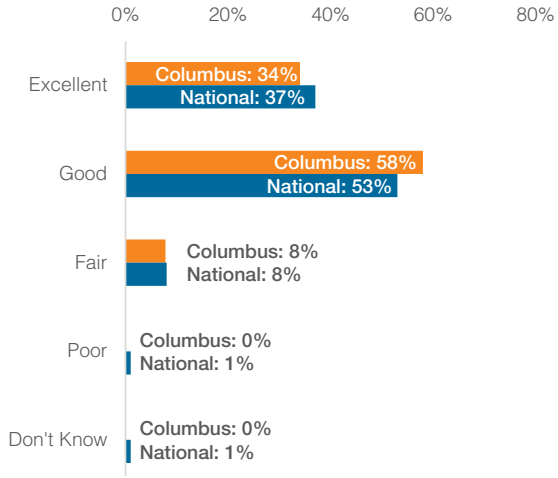
Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondent households have participated in recreation programs offered by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department over the past 12 months and (76%) of respondent households have not.

Figure 4.13 Ways that Respondent Households Learn About Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Programs and Activities during the Past 12 Months:



Fifty percent (50%) of respondent households learn about Columbus Recreation and Parks Department programs and activities from friends and neighbors. Other ways respondent households learn about Columbus Recreation and Parks Department programs and activities include: Recreation and Parks Department Brochure (36%), fliers at recreation and park facilities (32%), television (30%) and newspaper (28%).

Figure 4.14 How respondent households rate the overall quality of recreation programs or activities in which they have participated?



Based on the percentage of respondent households who have participated in programs or activities, (58%) rate the overall quality of recreation programs or activities they have participated in as good. Other respondent household ratings of the overall quality of recreation programs or activities they have participated in include: Excellent (34%), fair (8%) and less than (1%) stated poor.

Figure 4.15 Programs that Respondent Household Currently Have a Need for:

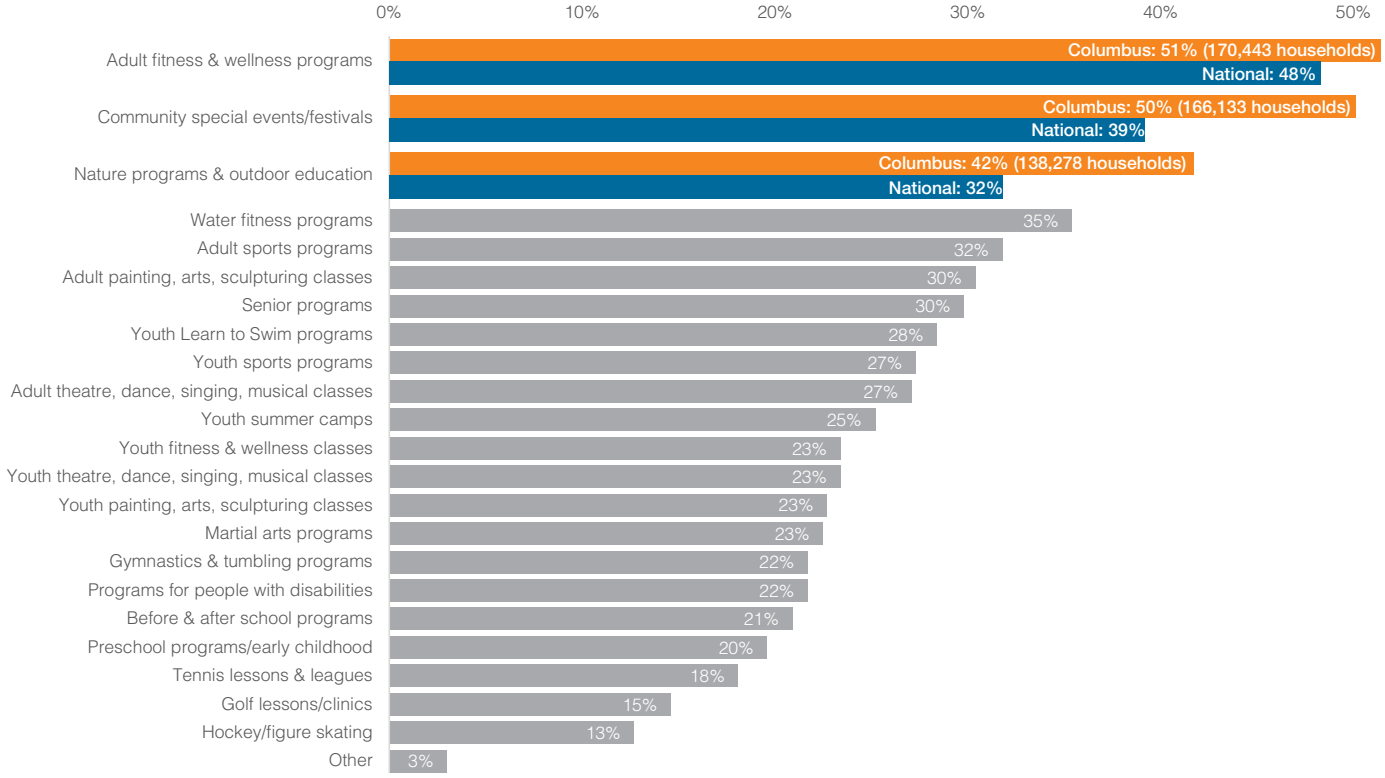
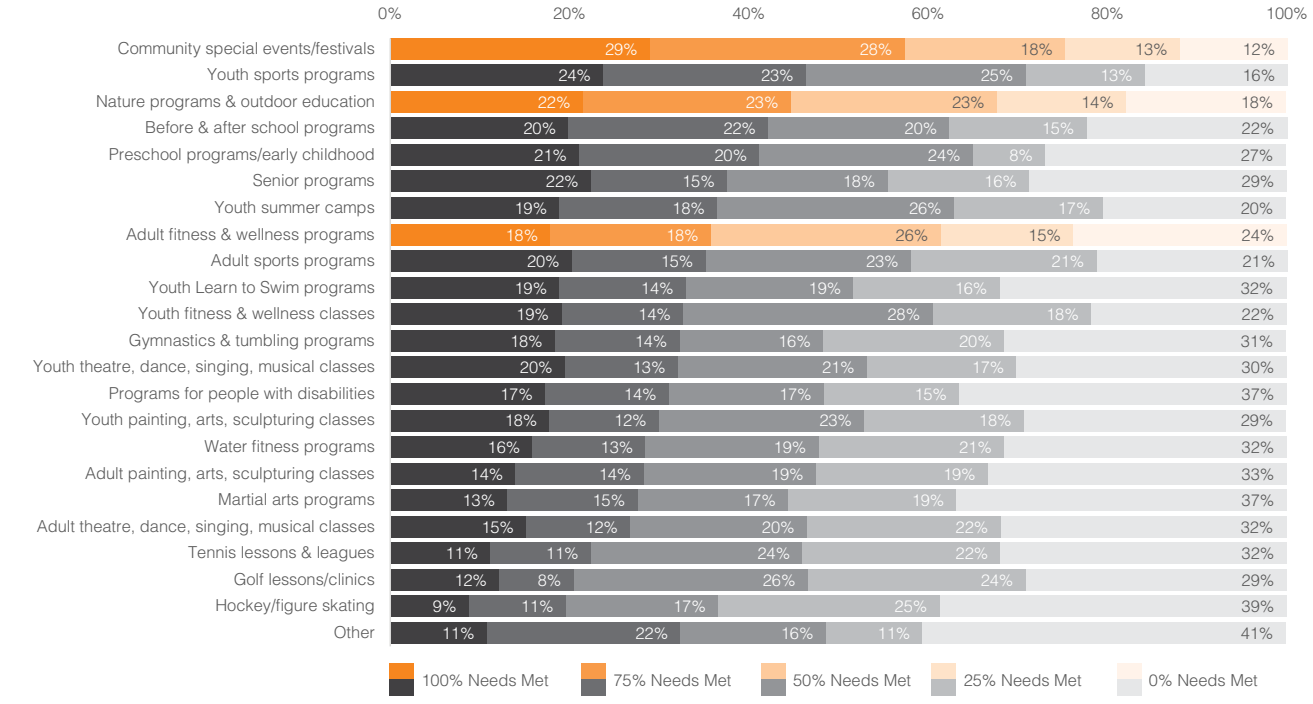


Figure 4.16 How respondents need for Programs are being met:



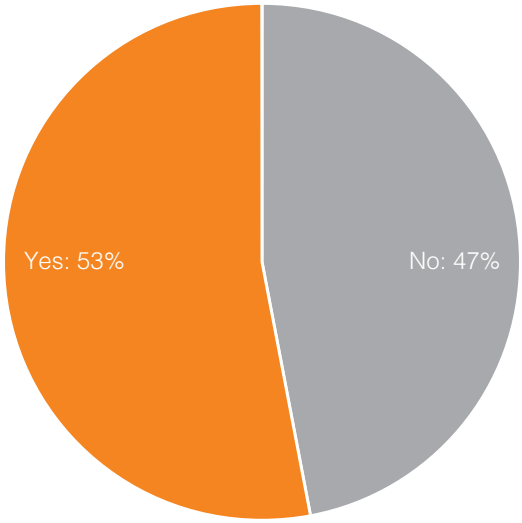
Fifty-one percent (51%) or 170,443 respondent households currently have a need for adult fitness and wellness programs. Other programs that respondent households currently have a need for include: Community special events and festivals (50% or 166,143 households), nature programs and outdoor education (42% or 138,278 households), water fitness programs (35%, 117,387 households).

COMMUNITY CENTERS

Fifty-three percent of respondent households have visited or used community centers in the past year. While many of the centers are within walkable neighborhoods, half of the respondents report that they are most likely to drive to the centers.

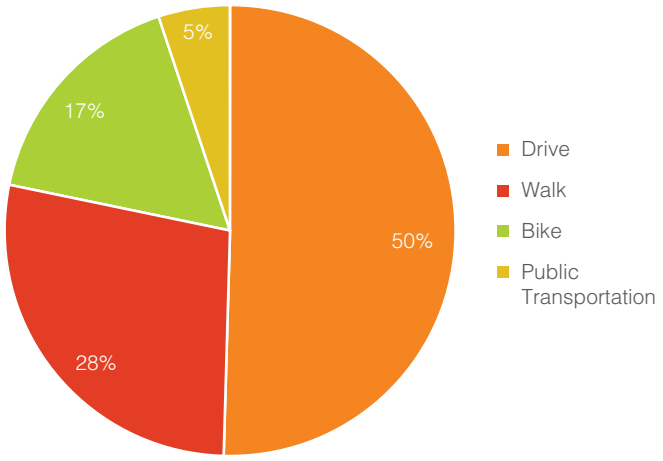
When it comes to improving programming and facilities at these centers, the top three respondent households would use if developed include, Walking and Jogging Track, Weight Room and Cardiovascular Equipment, and a Leisure Pool. When that answer was split between children and adults, different priorities emerged. For children, the top three include Leisure Pools, Arts and Crafts Rooms, and Walking and Jogging Tracks. For adults, the top three shift to Walking and Jogging Track, Weight Room and Cardiovascular Equipment and Exercise Facility for Adults 50 years and older.

Figure 4.17 Have Respondent Households Visited or Used any of the Community Centers Operated by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Over the Past 12 Months:



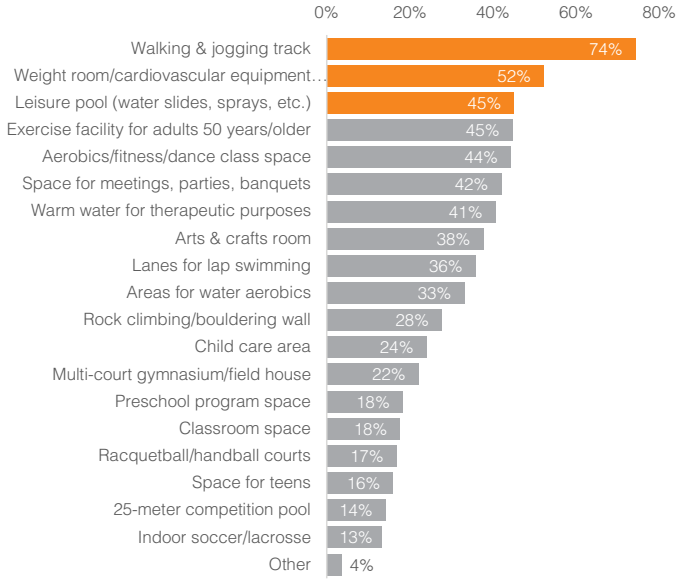
Forty-seven percent (47%) of respondent households have used or visited community centers operated by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department over the past 12 months and (53%) have not.

Figure 4.18 Ways Respondent households Travel to the Community Centers They Have Used:



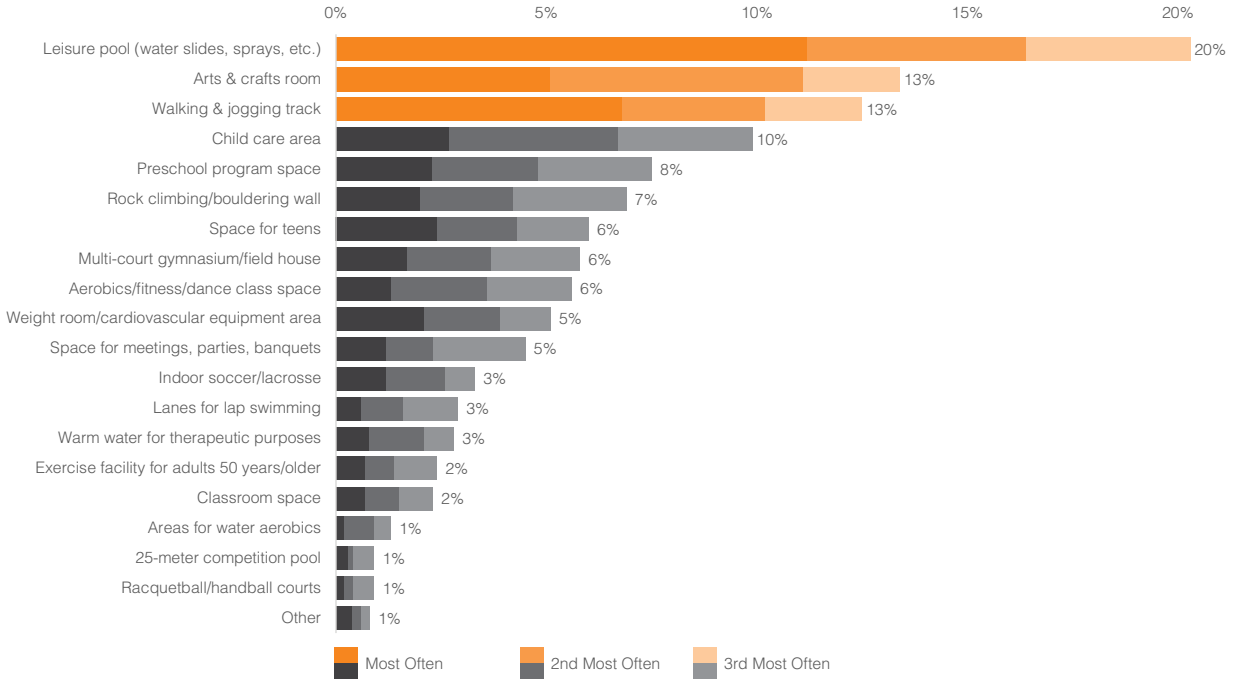
Fifty percent (50%) of respondent households drive to the community center they have used. Other means of transportation respondent households use to travel to the community centers they have used include: Walk (28%), bike (17%) and public transportation (5%).

Figure 4.19 Potential Programming Spaces Respondent Households Would Use if Developed at Community Center:



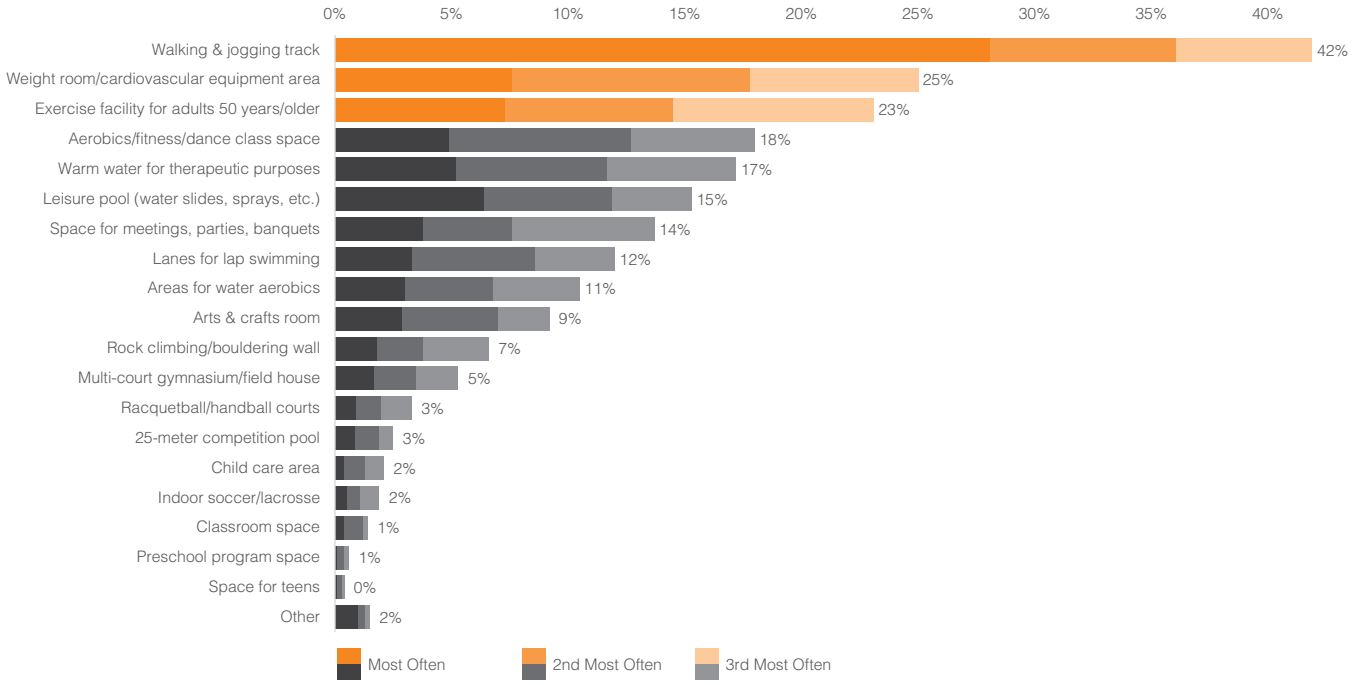
Seventy-four percent (74%) of respondent households would use a walking and jogging track. Other potential programming spaces respondent households would use include: Weight room and cardiovascular equipment area (52%), leisure pool (45%), exercise facility for adults 50 years and older (45%), aerobics, fitness and dance class space (44%), Space for meetings, parties and banquets (42%).

Figure 4.20 Program spaces that Children in Respondent Households Would Use the Most Often:



Based on the sum of their top three choices, (20%) of children in respondent households would use a leisure pool with water slides, sprays etc. the most often. Other program spaces that children in respondent households would use the most often include: Arts and crafts room (13%) and walking and jogging track (13%).

Figure 4.21 Program Spaces that Adults in Respondent Households Would Use the Most Often:



Based on the sum of respondent household top three choices, (42%) of adults in respondent households would use the walking and jogging track the most often. Other program spaces that adults in respondent households would use the most often include: Weight room and cardiovascular equipment area (25%), exercise facility for adults 50 years and older (23%).

INTRODUCTION TO LEVEL OF SERVICE

Survey respondents identified walking and biking trails, such as the Scioto Mile shown above, as the facility they have the most need for.

Level of Service Standards are guidelines that define service areas based on population that support investment decisions related to parks, facilities and amenities. Level of Service Standards can and will change over time as the program lifecycles change and demographics of a community change.

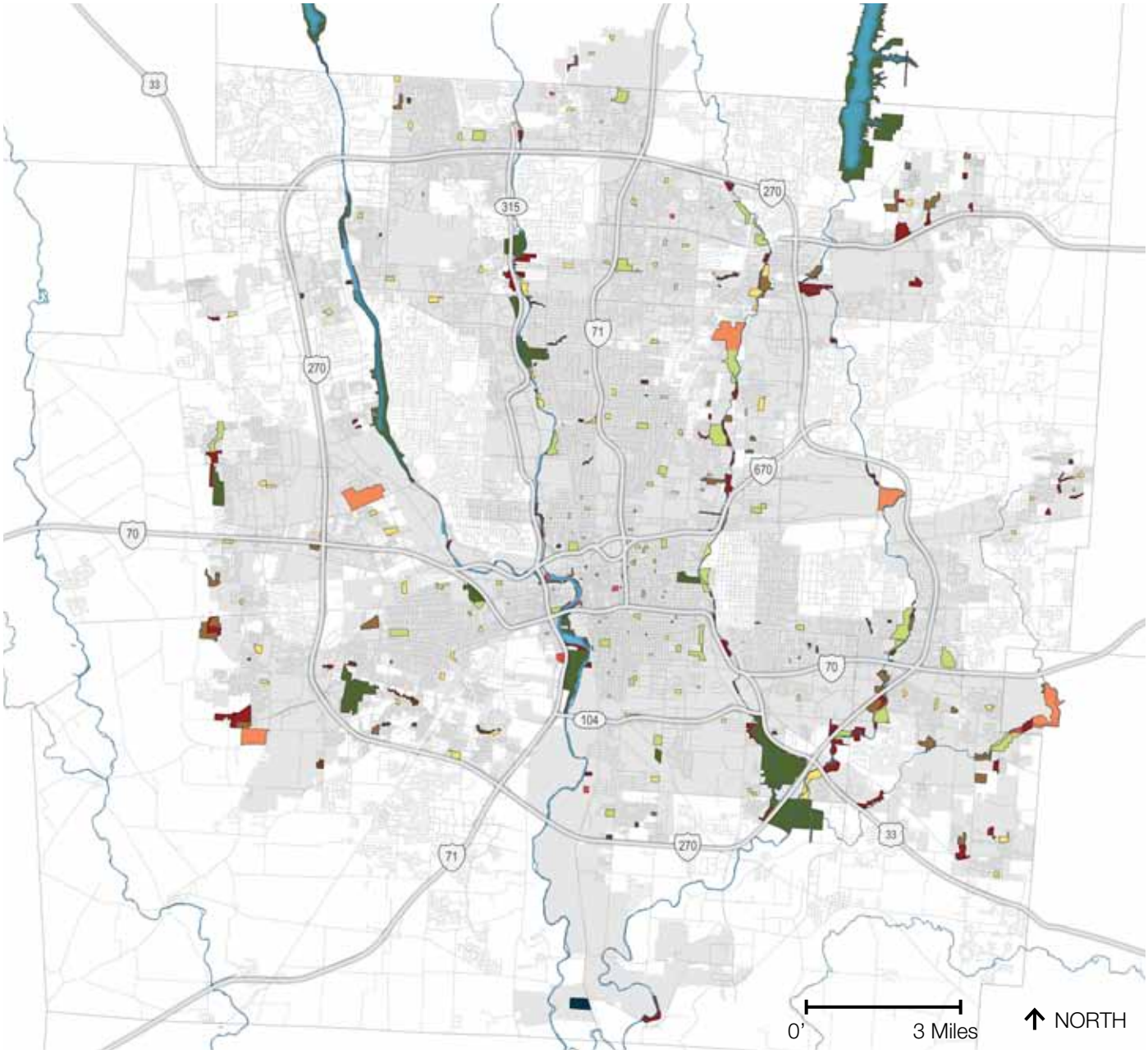
The planning team evaluated park facility standards using a combination of resources. These resources included: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines, recreation activity participation rates reported by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) 2013 Study of Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Participation as it applies to activities that occur in the United States and the Columbus area, community and stakeholder input, findings from the prioritized needs assessment report and general observations. This information allowed standards to be customized to the City of Columbus (see Table 4.1). The Level of Service guidelines were applied to the existing acreage of parks, amounts of facilities and square footage of community centers in the City of Columbus, also taking into account Metro Parks and YMCAs. A Level of Service analysis was not conducted for programs and activities due to a lack of proper data, although the Community Interest and Opinion Survey data provides insight into potential priorities.

These standards should be viewed as a guide. The standards are to be coupled with conventional wisdom and judgment related to the particular situation and needs of the community. By applying these facility standards to the population of Columbus, gaps and surpluses in park and facility/amenity types are revealed. Currently, there are needs to be met in Columbus to meet the needs of the community now and in the future. The standards outlined are not aggressive, but are conservative. However, it will likely not be physically or financially feasible to meet every standard.

For Columbus to meet the needs of the community; parks, trails and recreation facilities need to be a priority for the future. Total park acreage, which includes reservoirs, meets the Level of Service standards. Nearly every individual park type has a clear need given current levels of service, with the exception of reservoirs, conservation/natural areas and operations. Current amounts of outdoor amenities are also in need, with the exception of softball fields, basketball courts and playgrounds.

In this section of the report, city-wide parks and facilities are reviewed base on Level of Service recommendations. This is followed by a Level of Service analysis for each study area for park typologies and trails to provide additional geographic information.

Figure 4.22 Existing Parks By Type - Citywide



Legend

- City of Columbus Boundary
- Hydrology
- Major Roads
- Regional Park and Reservoirs
- Community Park
- Parkland Reserve
- Conservation/Natural Area
- Neighborhood Park
- Neighborhood Open Space
- Special Use Park or Facility
- Golf Course
- Operations/Non Park Area

Table 4.1 Park Facility Standards - Citywide

2013 Inventory - Developed Facilities							
Park Type	Columbus Inventory	Metro Parks	YMCA Facilities	Total Inventory	Current Service Level based upon population		
Neighborhood Parks	766.05			766.05	0.95	acres per	1,000
Community Parks	1,380.51			1,380.51	1.72	acres per	1,000
Regional Parks	2,277.41			2,277.41	2.84	acres per	1,000
Special Use	126.02			126.02	0.16	acres per	1,000
Golf	965.40			965.40	1.20	acres per	1,000
Reservoir	6,398.03			6,398.03	7.97	acres per	1,000
Neighborhood Open Space	216.48			216.48	0.27	acres per	1,000
Conservation/Natural Area	1,418.39	15,527.97		16,946.36	21.12	acres per	1,000
Parkland Reserve	762.04			762.04	0.95	acres per	1,000
Operations/Non-Park Area	86.92			86.92	0.11	acres per	1,000
Total Park Acres	**14,397.25**	**15,527.97**		**29,925.22**	**37.29**	**acres per**	**1,000**
OUTDOOR AMENITIES:							
Picnic Shelter Medium (50-100)	1.00	33.00		34.00	1.00	site per	23,601
Large Shelter (100+)	4.00	10.00		14.00	1.00	site per	57,317
Multi-Purpose Field (Soccer/Football/Lacrosse/Rugby/Cricket/ Kickball)	183.00			183.00	1.00	field per	4,385
Baseball Field	6.00			6.00	1.00	field per	133,740
Softball Field	104.00			104.00	1.00	field per	7,716
Basketball Courts	63.00	1.00		64.00	1.00	field per	12,538
Tennis Courts	93.00			93.00	1.00	court per	8,628
Disc Golf Course	2.00			2.00	1.00	court per	401,221
Playgrounds	184.00	142.00		326.00	1.00	site per	2,461
Dog Parks	4.00	1.00		5.00	1.00	site per	160,488
Sand Volleyball Courts	-			-	1.00	court per	-
Skate Park	1.00			1.00	1.00	site per	802,441
Trails (Miles)	92.45	189.00		281.45	0.35	miles per	1,000
Outdoor Pools	7.00			7.00	1.00	site per	114,634
Recreation Facilities (Square Feet)	718,322.00		616,034.00	1,334,356.00	1.66	SF per	person

2013 Estimated Population	802,441
2018 Estimated Population	838,107

2013 Inventory - Developed Facilities (Continued)				2013 Facility Standards			2018 Facility Standards		
Park Type (Repeated)	Recommended Service Levels			Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed		Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed	
Neighborhood Parks	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	36	Acre(s)	Need Exists	72	Acre(s)
Community Parks	2.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	224	Acre(s)	Need Exists	296	Acre(s)
Regional Parks	3.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	130	Acre(s)	Need Exists	237	Acre(s)
Special Use	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	676	Acre(s)	Need Exists	712	Acre(s)
Golf	1.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	238	Acre(s)	Need Exists	292	Acre(s)
Reservoir		acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Neighborhood Open Space	0.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	185	Acre(s)	Need Exists	203	Acre(s)
Conservation/Natural Area	21.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Need Exists	654	Acre(s)
Parkland Reserve	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	40	Acre(s)	Need Exists	76	Acre(s)
Operations/Non-Park Area		acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Total Park Acres	**31.00**	**acres per**	**1,000**	**Meets Standard**	**-**	**Acre(s)**	**Meets Standard**	**-**	**Acre(s)**
OUTDOOR AMENITIES:									
Picnic Shelter Medium (50-100)	1.00	site per	20,000	Need Exists	6	Sites(s)	Need Exists	w 8	Sites(s)
Large Shelter (100+)	1.00	site per	50,000	Need Exists	2	Sites(s)	Need Exists	3	Sites(s)
Multi-Purpose Field (Soccer/Football/Lacrosse/ Rugby/Cricket/Kickball)	1.00	field per	4,000	Need Exists	18	Field(s)	Need Exists	27	Field(s)
Baseball Field	1.00	field per	10,000	Need Exists	74	Field(s)	Need Exists	78	Field(s)
Softball Field	1.00	field per	8,000	Meets Standard	-	Field(s)	Need Exists	1	Field(s)
Basketball Courts	1.00	field per	20,000	Meets Standard	-	Field(s)	Meets Standard	-	Field(s)
Tennis Courts	1.00	court per	6,000	Need Exists	41	Court(s)	Need Exists	47	Court(s)
Disc Golf Course	1.00	court per	50,000	Need Exists	14	Court(s)	Need Exists	15	Court(s)
Playgrounds	1.00	site per	2,500	Meets Standard	-	Site(s)	Need Exists	9	Site(s)
Dog Parks	1.00	site per	50,000	Need Exists	11	Site(s)	Need Exists	12	Site(s)
Sand Volleyball Courts	1.00	court per	10,000	Need Exists	80	Court(s)	Need Exists	84	Court(s)
Skate Park	1.00	site per	50,000	Need Exists	15	Site(s)	Need Exists	16	Site(s)
Trails (Miles)	0.40	miles per	1,000	Need Exists	40	Mile(s)	Need Exists	54	Mile(s)
Outdoor Pools	1.00	site per	50,000	Need Exists	9	Site(s)	Need Exists	10	Site(s)
Recreation Facilities (SF)	2.00	SF per	person	Need Exists	270,526	SF	Need Exists	341,858	SF

NOTES:

- Conservation/Natural Area land for Metro Parks include conservation and preservation lands
- Columbus park acres make up 48% of total park acres

Table 4.2 Park Facility Standards by Study Area

2013 Inventory by Study Area - Developed Facilities							
Park Type	Park Type	Study Area Inventory	Metro Parks	Total Inventory	Current Service Level based upon population		
IN-TOWN STUDY AREA							
	Neighborhood Parks	58.09		58.09	0.43	acres per	1,000
	Community Parks	319.03		319.03	2.34	acres per	1,000
	Regional Parks	134.96		134.96	0.99	acres per	1,000
	Special Use	35.93		35.93	0.26	acres per	1,000
	Neighborhood Open Space	8.83		8.83	0.06	acres per	1,000
	Conservation/Natural Area	63.79	3,105.59	3,169.38	23.26	acres per	1,000
	Parkland Reserve	1.24		1.24	0.01	acres per	1,000
	Operations/Non-Park Area	14.00		14.00	0.10	acres per	1,000
	Total Park Acres	**635.87**	**3,105.59**	**3,741.46**	**27.45**	**acres per**	**1,000**
	Trails (Miles)	21.60	37.80	59.40	0.44	miles per	1,000
CENTRAL STUDY AREA							
	Neighborhood Parks	141.59		141.59	1.36	acres per	1,000
	Community Parks	296.29		296.29	2.84	acres per	1,000
	Regional Parks	155.06		155.06	1.49	acres per	1,000
	Special Use	0.09		0.09	0.00	acres per	1,000
	Neighborhood Open Space	30.01		30.01	0.29	acres per	1,000
	Conservation/Natural Area	144.51	3,105.59	3,250.10	31.14	acres per	1,000
	Parkland Reserve	61.93		61.93	0.59	acres per	1,000
	Operations/Non-Park Area	-		-	-	acres per	1,000
	Total Park Acres	**1,037.75**	**3,105.59**	**4,143.34**	**39.70**	**acres per**	**1,000**
	Trails (Miles)	12.00	37.80	49.80	0.48	miles per	1,000
NORTH STUDY AREA							
	Neighborhood Parks	216.05		216.05	1.02	acres per	1,000
	Community Parks	246.29		246.29	1.16	acres per	1,000
	Regional Parks	176.46		176.46	0.83	acres per	1,000
	Special Use	7.92		7.92	0.04	acres per	1,000
	Neighborhood Open Space	22.97		22.97	0.11	acres per	1,000
	Conservation/Natural Area	324.81	3,105.59	3,430.40	16.22	acres per	1,000
	Parkland Reserve	198.17		198.17	0.94	acres per	1,000
	Operations/Non-Park Area	-		-	-	acres per	1,000
	Total Park Acres	**1,192.67**	**3,105.59**	**4,298.26**	**20.32**	**acres per**	**1,000**
	Trails (Miles)	14.50	37.80	52.30	0.25	miles per	1,000

2013 Inventory - Developed Facilities (Continued)				2013 Facility Standards			2018 Facility Standards		
Park Type (Repeated)	Recommended Service Levels; Revised for Local Service Area			Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed		Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed	
IN-TOWN									
Neighborhood Parks	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	78	Acre(s)	Need Exists	84	Acre(s)
Community Parks	2.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Regional Parks	3.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	274	Acre(s)	Need Exists	292	Acre(s)
Special Use	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	100	Acre(s)	Need Exists	106	Acre(s)
Neighborhood Open Space	0.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	59	Acre(s)	Need Exists	62	Acre(s)
Conservation/Natural Area	22.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Parkland Reserve	0.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	67	Acre(s)	Need Exists	70	Acre(s)
Operations/Non-Park Area		acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Total Park Acres	**31.00**	**acres per**	**1,000**	**Need Exists**	**483**	**Acre(s)**	**Need Exists**	**671**	**Acre(s)**
Trails (Miles)	0.40	miles per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Mile(s)	Meets Standard	-	Mile(s)
CENTRAL									
Neighborhood Parks	1.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	15	Acre(s)	Need Exists	22	Acre(s)
Community Parks	2.50	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Regional Parks	2.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	54	Acre(s)	Need Exists	63	Acre(s)
Special Use	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	104	Acre(s)	Need Exists	109	Acre(s)
Neighborhood Open Space	0.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	22	Acre(s)	Need Exists	24	Acre(s)
Conservation/Natural Area	21.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Parkland Reserve	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	42	Acre(s)	Need Exists	47	Acre(s)
Operations/Non-Park Area		acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Total Park Acres	**31.00**	**acres per**	**1,000**	**Meets Standard**	**-**	**Acre(s)**	**Meets Standard**	**-**	**Acre(s)**
Trails (Miles)	0.40	miles per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Mile(s)	Meets Standard	-	Mile(s)
NORTH									
Neighborhood Parks	1.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	101	Acre(s)	Need Exists	115	Acre(s)
Community Parks	2.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	177	Acre(s)	Need Exists	196	Acre(s)
Regional Parks	2.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	352	Acre(s)	Need Exists	376	Acre(s)
Special Use	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	204	Acre(s)	Need Exists	213	Acre(s)
Neighborhood Open Space	0.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	83	Acre(s)	Need Exists	87	Acre(s)
Conservation/Natural Area	21.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	1,011	Acre(s)	Need Exists	1,209	Acre(s)
Parkland Reserve	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	13	Acre(s)	Need Exists	23	Acre(s)
Operations/Non-Park Area		acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Total Park Acres	**31.00**	**acres per**	**1,000**	**Need Exists**	**2,258**	**Acre(s)**	**Need Exists**	**2,550**	**Acre(s)**
Trails (Miles)	0.40	miles per	1,000	Need Exists	32	Mile(s)	Need Exists	36	Mile(s)

Table 4.2 Park Facility Standards by Study Area (Continued)

2013 Inventory by Study Area - Developed Facilities							
Park Type	Park Type	Study Area Inventory	Metro Parks	Total Inventory	Current Service Level based upon population		
SOUTHEAST STUDY AREA							
	Neighborhood Parks	173.94		173.94	1.07	acres per	1,000
	Community Parks	396.98		396.98	2.45	acres per	1,000
	Regional Parks	1,118.76		1,118.76	6.90	acres per	1,000
	Special Use	28.00		28.00	0.17	acres per	1,000
	Neighborhood Open Space	67.76		67.76	0.42	acres per	1,000
	Conservation/Natural Area	484.54	3,105.59	3,590.13	22.15	acres per	1,000
	Parkland Reserve	252.13		252.13	1.56	acres per	1,000
	Operations/Non-Park Area	72.92		72.92	0.45	acres per	1,000
	Total Park Acres	**3,001.88**	**3,105.59**	**6,107.47**	**37.68**	**acres per**	**1,000**
	Trails (Miles)	23.50	37.80	61.30	0.38	miles per	1,000
SOUTHWEST STUDY AREA							
	Neighborhood Parks	142.24		142.24	0.99	acres per	1,000
	Community Parks	121.93		121.93	0.85	acres per	1,000
	Regional Parks	692.18		692.18	4.80	acres per	1,000
	Special Use	19.82		19.82	0.14	acres per	1,000
	Neighborhood Open Space	82.77		82.77	0.57	acres per	1,000
	Conservation/Natural Area	236.97	3,105.59	3,342.56	23.17	acres per	1,000
	Parkland Reserve	211.40		211.40	1.47	acres per	1,000
	Operations/Non-Park Area	-		-	-	acres per	1,000
	Total Park Acres	**1,641.62**	**3,105.59**	**4,747.21**	**32.91**	**acres per**	**1,000**
	Trails (Miles)	3.80	37.80	41.60	0.29	miles per	1,000

	In-Town	Central	North	Southeast	Southwest
2013 Estimated Population	136,282	104,366	211,501	162,087	144,245
2018 Estimated Population	142,340	109,005	220,901	169,291	150,657

2013 Inventory - Developed Facilities (Continued)				2013 Facility Standards			2018 Facility Standards		
Park Type (Repeated)	Recommended Service Levels; Revised for Local Service Area			Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed		Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed	
SOUTHEAST									
Neighborhood Parks	1.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	69	Acre(s)	Need Exists	80	Acre(s)
Community Parks	2.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Regional Parks	2.50	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Special Use	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	134	Acre(s)	Need Exists	141	Acre(s)
Neighborhood Open Space	0.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	13	Acre(s)	Need Exists	17	Acre(s)
Conservation/Natural Area	21.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Parkland Reserve	1.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Operations/Non-Park Area		acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Total Park Acres	**31.00**	**acres per**	**1,000**	Meets Standard	**-**	**Acre(s)**	Meets Standard	**-**	**Acre(s)**
Trails (Miles)	0.40	miles per	1,000	Need Exists	4	Mile(s)	Need Exists	6	Mile(s)
SOUTHWEST									
Neighborhood Parks	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	2	Acre(s)	Need Exists	8	Acre(s)
Community Parks	2.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	167	Acre(s)	Need Exists	179	Acre(s)
Regional Parks	3.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Special Use	1.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	124	Acre(s)	Need Exists	131	Acre(s)
Neighborhood Open Space	0.50	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Conservation/Natural Area	21.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Parkland Reserve	1.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Operations/Non-Park Area		acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)	Meets Standard	-	Acre(s)
Total Park Acres	**31.00**	**acres per**	**1,000**	Meets Standard	**-**	**Acre(s)**	Meets Standard	**-**	**Acre(s)**
Trails (Miles)	0.40	miles per	1,000	Need Exists	16	Mile(s)	Need Exists	19	Mile(s)

NOTES:

- Conservation/Natural Area land for Metro Parks include a total of 15,527.97 acres of conservation and preservation lands. For this analysis, this acreage was evenly distributed across each study area (3,105.59 acres/area)
- Columbus park acres make up 48% of total park acres
- Metro Parks trails total of 189.00 miles throughout Columbus. For this analysis, this acreage was evenly distributed across each study area (37.8 mi/area).

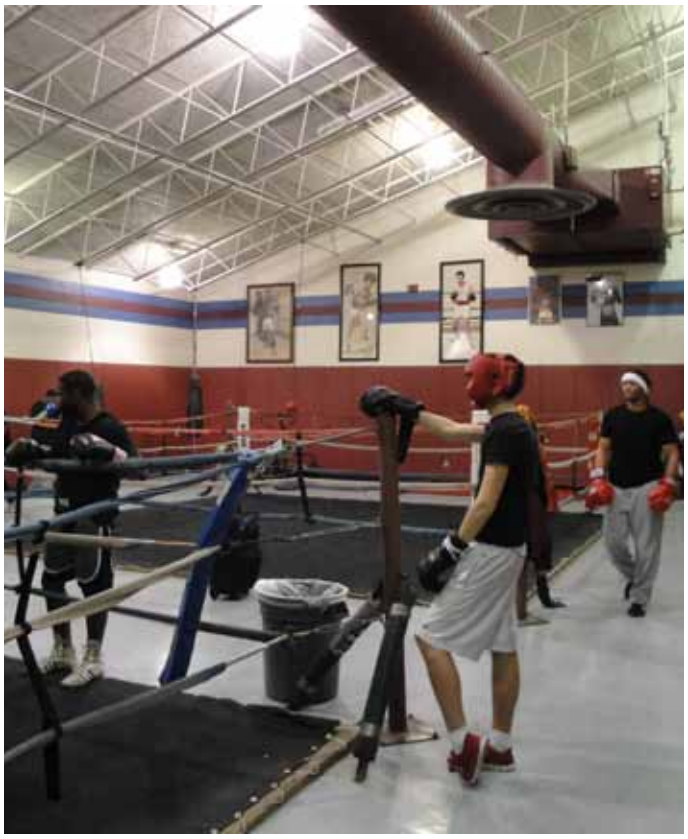
PRIORITIZATION ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

Following the Community Interest and Opinion Survey and Level of Service Analysis, the planning team worked with CRPD staff to combine data where possible to begin to suggest geographic priorities. For Walking and Biking Trails, Small Neighborhood Parks, and Large Community Parks, survey results were able to be combined with Level of Service analysis. For other park facilities and programs and activities, geographic priorities were identified using just survey data. This additional data and analysis is not meant to provide the final answer, but is one more piece of information to consider (along with population projections, public meeting input, staff and stakeholder interviews, budgetary priorities, etc.) when planning future improvements and additions to parks and facilities.

Figure 4.23 summarizes the overall recommendations for parks, facilities and programs. Using survey information, park facilities that had the largest amount of unmet needs are identified by study area. Then the top three parks and facility types are identified and comparing unmet needs from the survey results and the Level of Service analysis priorities are suggested by study areas. For programs, survey information on largest amount of unmet need are identified for each study area. The top three programs in terms of overall need are also prioritized by study area.

Taken together with multiple other pieces of information and data gathered throughout the planning process, this analysis informs the recommendations, strategies and tactics for continued park and facilities improvements that are discussed in the next section of this Master Plan.



The Community Interest and Opinion Survey respondents indicated a strong need for health and wellness programs

Overall Recommendations

Facilities

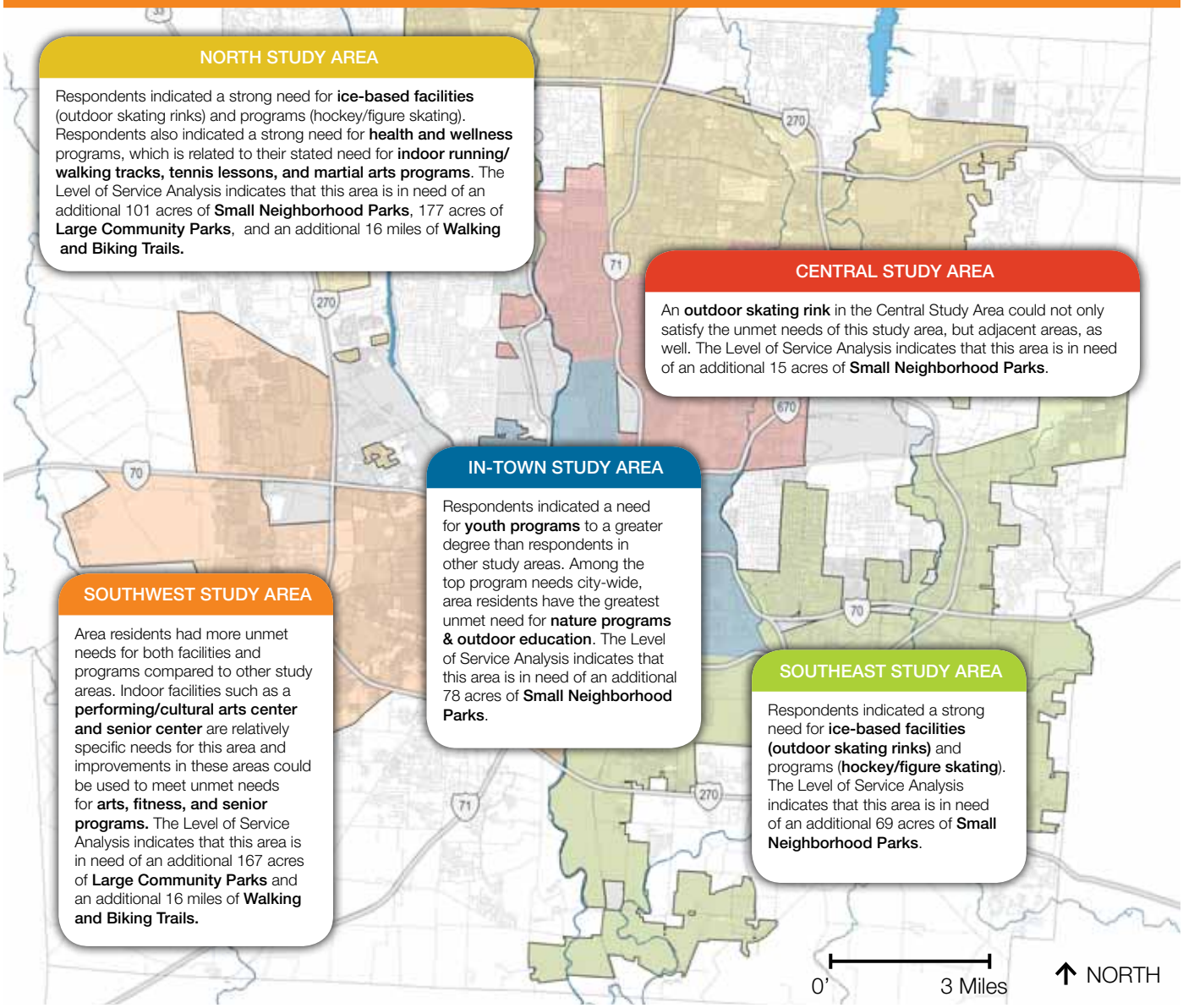
- Among their top facility needs overall, respondents indicated a need for walking and biking trails, small neighborhood parks and large community parks.
- As parkland is improved or expanded, outdoor skating rinks and outdoor skating parks will fulfill the most unmet needs across the city.
- Outdoor skating rinks and outdoor skating parks are well suited for large community parks and should be given priority consideration during future large park community design.

Programs

- Large community parks should also be designed with priority consideration given to accommodating community special events/festivals and nature programs & outdoor education.
- As programs are expanded, arts programs for adults will fulfill the most unmet needs across the city.
- Among their top program needs overall, respondents indicated a need for community special events/festivals and nature programs & outdoor education.

Figure 4.23 Unmet Needs for Facilities And Programs - Overall *(Survey and Level of Service)*

The Community Interest and Opinion Survey and the Level of Service Analysis identify the following unmet needs by study area:

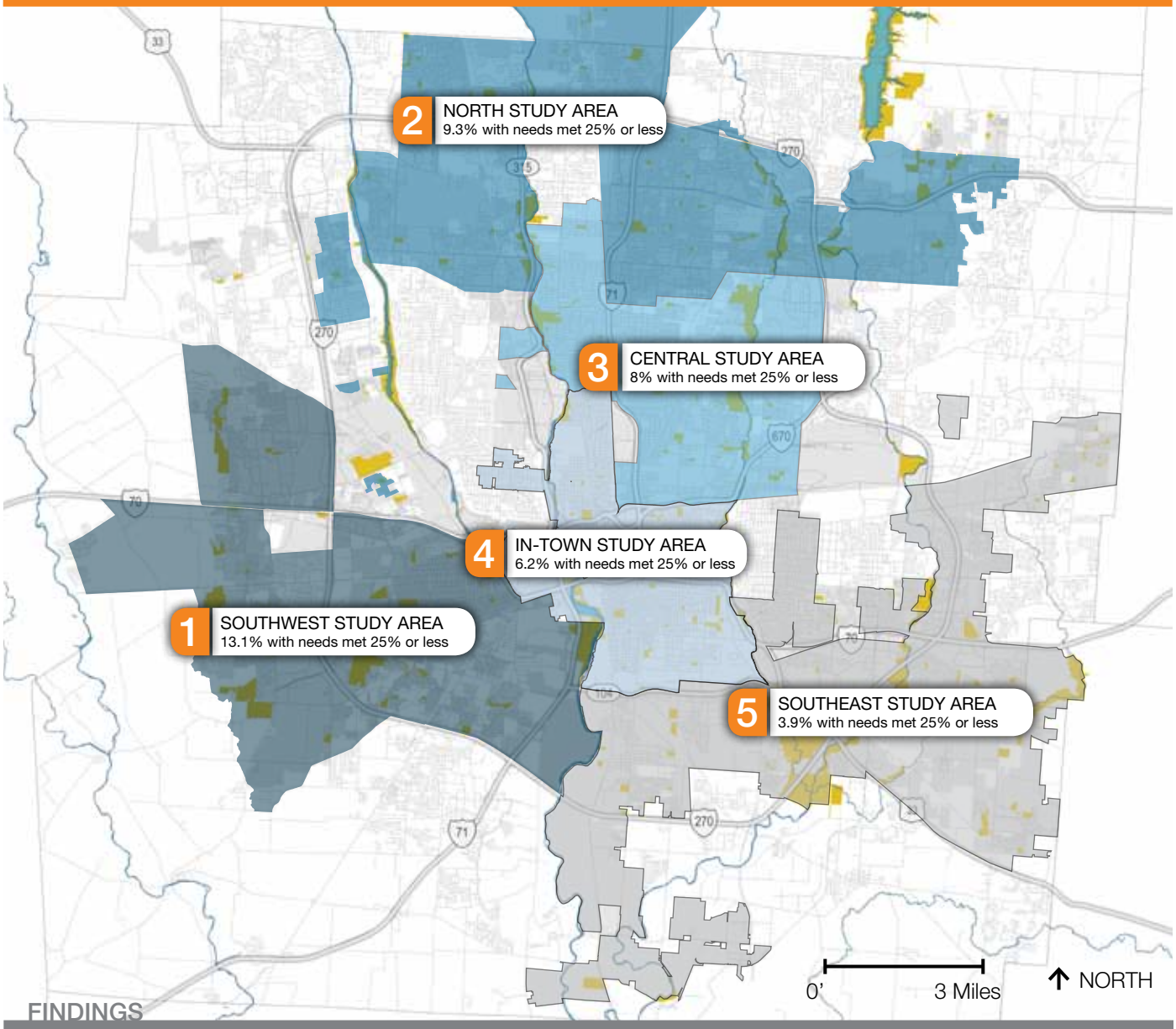


Legend

- City of Columbus Boundary
- Hydrology
- Major Roads
- In-Town Study Area
- Central Study Area
- North Study Area
- Southeast Study Area
- Southwest Study Area

Figure 4.24 Unmet Needs for Facilities - Walking and Biking Trails *(Survey and Level Of Service)*

77% of Columbus residents have a need for walking and biking trails



FINDINGS

Walking & biking trail improvements should focus on the SOUTHWEST and NORTH areas in order to fulfill unmet needs, based on both Survey results and the Level of Service Analysis. The Level of Service also indicates a need for additional trail miles in the SOUTHEAST.

Legend

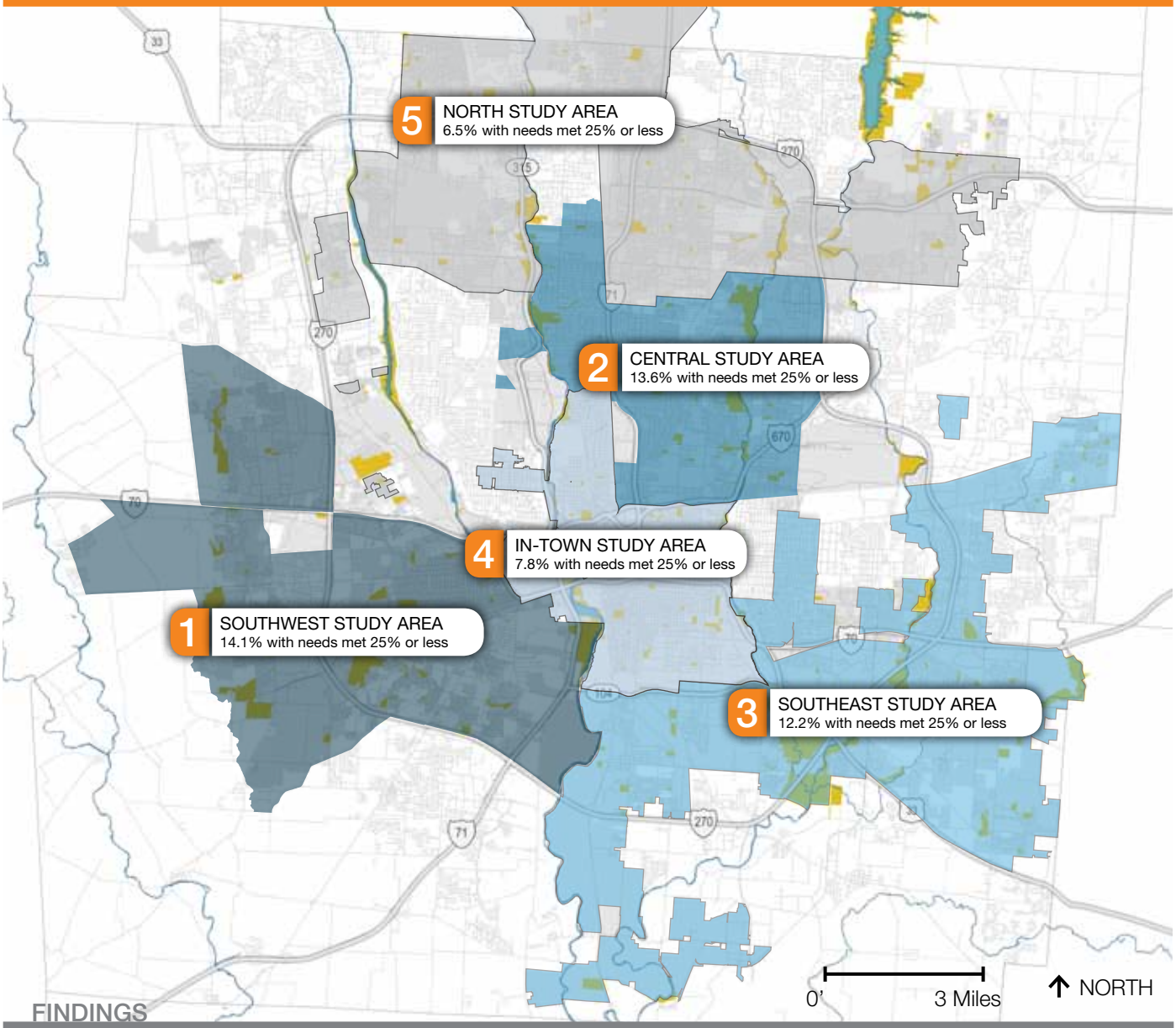
- City of Columbus Boundary
- First Priority
- Second Priority
- Third Priority
- Fourth Priority
- Fifth Priority

Table 4.3 Level of Service for Walking and Biking Trails by Study Area

Study Area	Meet Standard/Need Exists			
	2013	Additional Needed	2018	Additional Needed
In-Town	Meets Standard	-	Meets Standard	-
Central	Meets Standard	-	Meets Standard	-
North	Need Exists	32 Miles	Need Exists	36 Miles
Southeast	Need Exists	4 Miles	Need Exists	6 Miles
Southwest	Need Exists	16 Miles	Need Exists	19 Miles

Figure 4.25 Unmet Needs for Facilities - Small Neighborhood Parks *(Survey and Level Of Service)*

75% of Columbus residents have a need for small neighborhood parks



FINDINGS

Survey results suggest Neighborhood Park improvements focus on the SOUTHWEST and CENTRAL areas. The Level of Service Analysis indicates a need for additional acreage in all study areas, with the NORTH and IN-TOWN areas showing the most need for acreage.

Legend

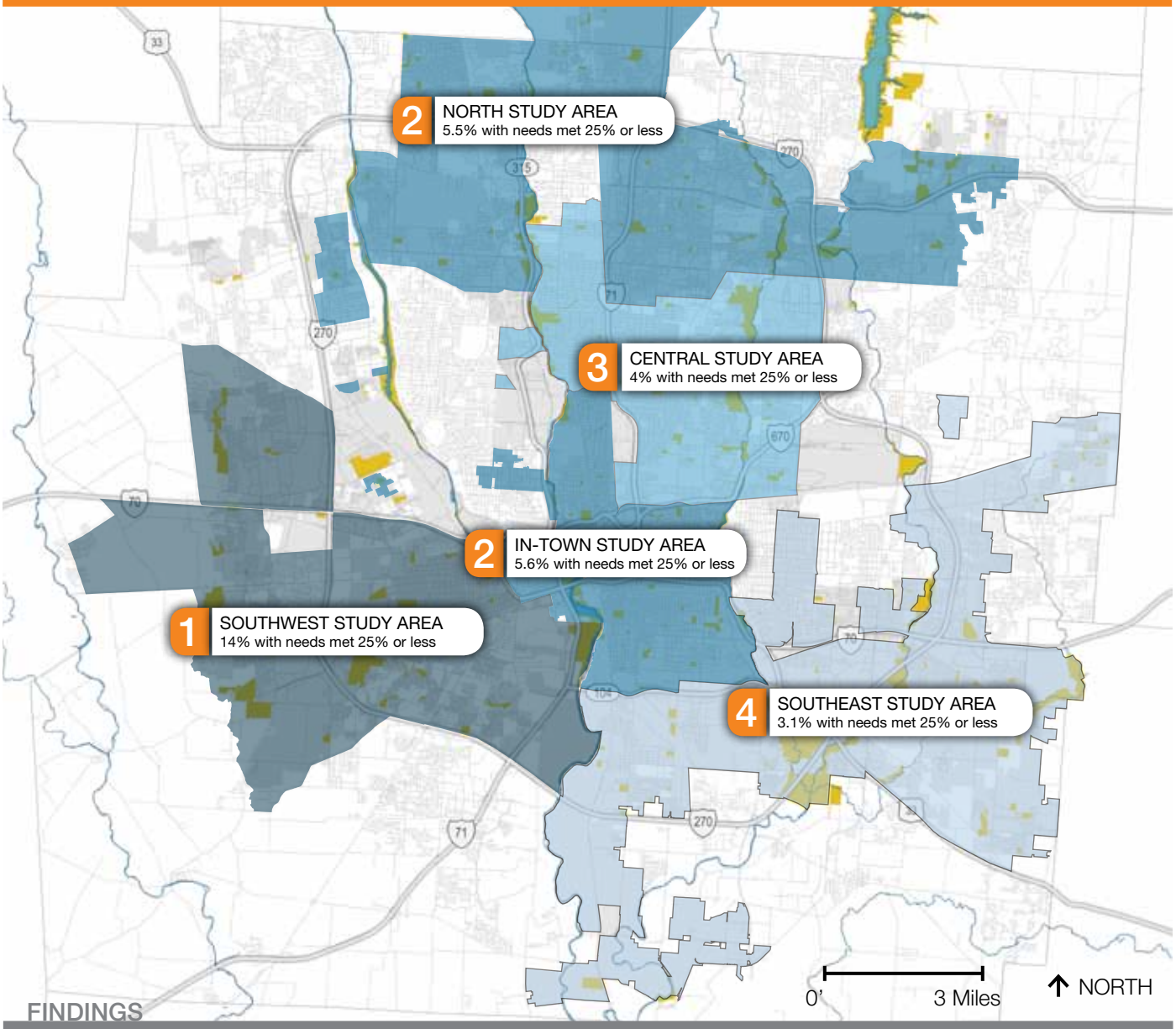
- City of Columbus Boundary
- First Priority
- Second Priority
- Third Priority
- Fourth Priority
- Fifth Priority

Table 4.4 Level of Service for Small Neighborhood Parks by Study Area

Study Area	Meet Standard/Need Exists			
	2013	Additional Needed	2018	Additional Needed
In-Town	Need Exists	78 Acres	Need Exists	84 Acres
Central	Need Exists	15 Acres	Need Exists	22 Acres
North	Need Exists	101 Acres	Need Exists	115 Acres
Southeast	Need Exists	69 Acres	Need Exists	80 Acres
Southwest	Need Exists	2 Acres	Need Exists	8 Acres

Figure 4.26 Unmet Needs for Facilities - Large Community Parks *(Survey and Level Of Service)*

72% of Columbus residents have a need for large community parks



FINDINGS

Both Survey results and the Level of Service Analysis suggest Large community park improvements should focus on the SOUTHWEST and NORTH areas in order to fulfill unmet needs.

Legend

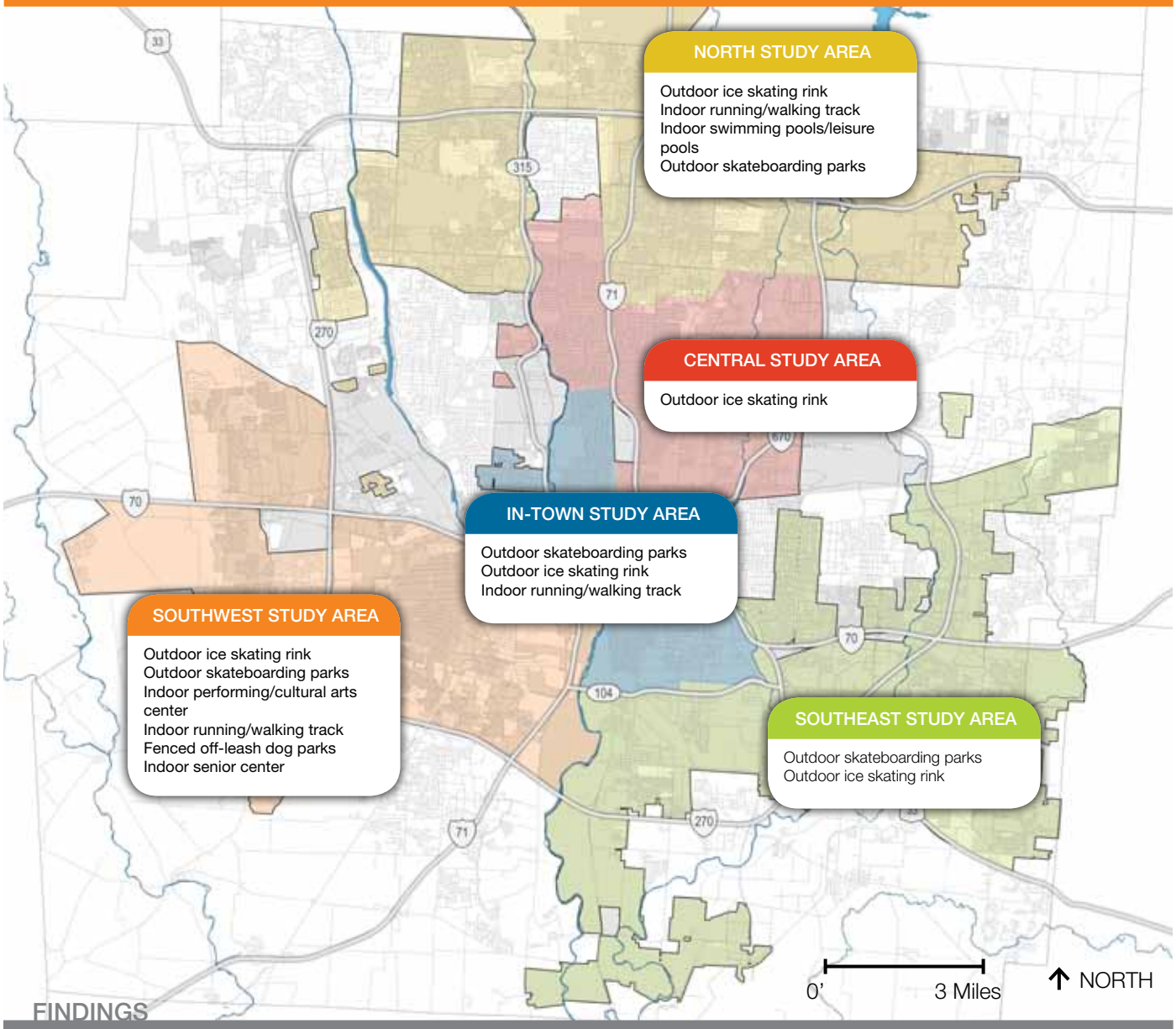
- City of Columbus Boundary
- First Priority
- Second Priority
- Third Priority
- Fourth Priority
- Fifth Priority

Table 4.5 Level of Service for Large Community Parks by Study Area

Study Area	Meet Standard/Need Exists			
	2013	Additional Needed	2018	Additional Needed
In-Town	Meets Standard	-	Meets Standard	-
Central	Meets Standard	-	Meets Standard	-
North	Need Exists	177 Acres	Need Exists	196 Acres
Southeast	Meets Standard	-	Meets Standard	-
Southwest	Need Exists	167 Acres	Need Exists	179 Acres

Figure 4.27 Unmet Needs for Facilities - Overall *(Survey)*

Over half of respondents reported that their needs were met 25% or less for these facilities



FINDINGS

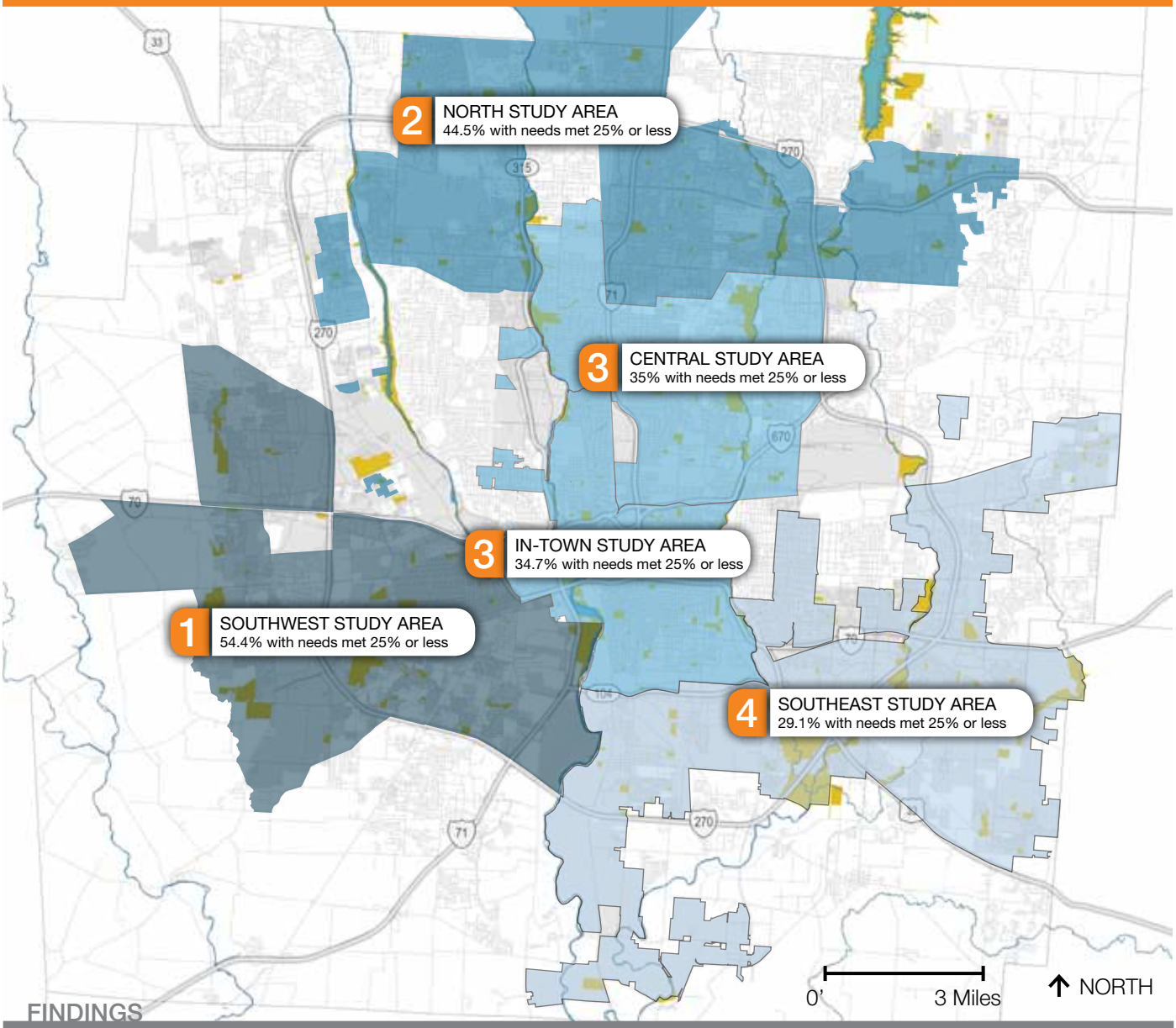
- Respondents had unmet needs for outdoor facilities in every Study area
- The SOUTHWEST Study area had the highest number (6) of facility types where less than 25% of needs were met
- In every study area, a majority of respondents indicated that their needs for outdoor skating rinks were less than 25% met
- In four of five study areas, a majority indicated that their needs for outdoor stakeboarding parks were less than 25% met

Legend

- City of Columbus Boundary
- Hydrology
- Major Roads
- In-Town Study Area
- Central Study Area
- North Study Area
- Southeast Study Area
- Southwest Study Area

Figure 4.28 Unmet Needs for Programs - Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs *(Survey)*

51% of Columbus residents have a need for Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs



FINDINGS

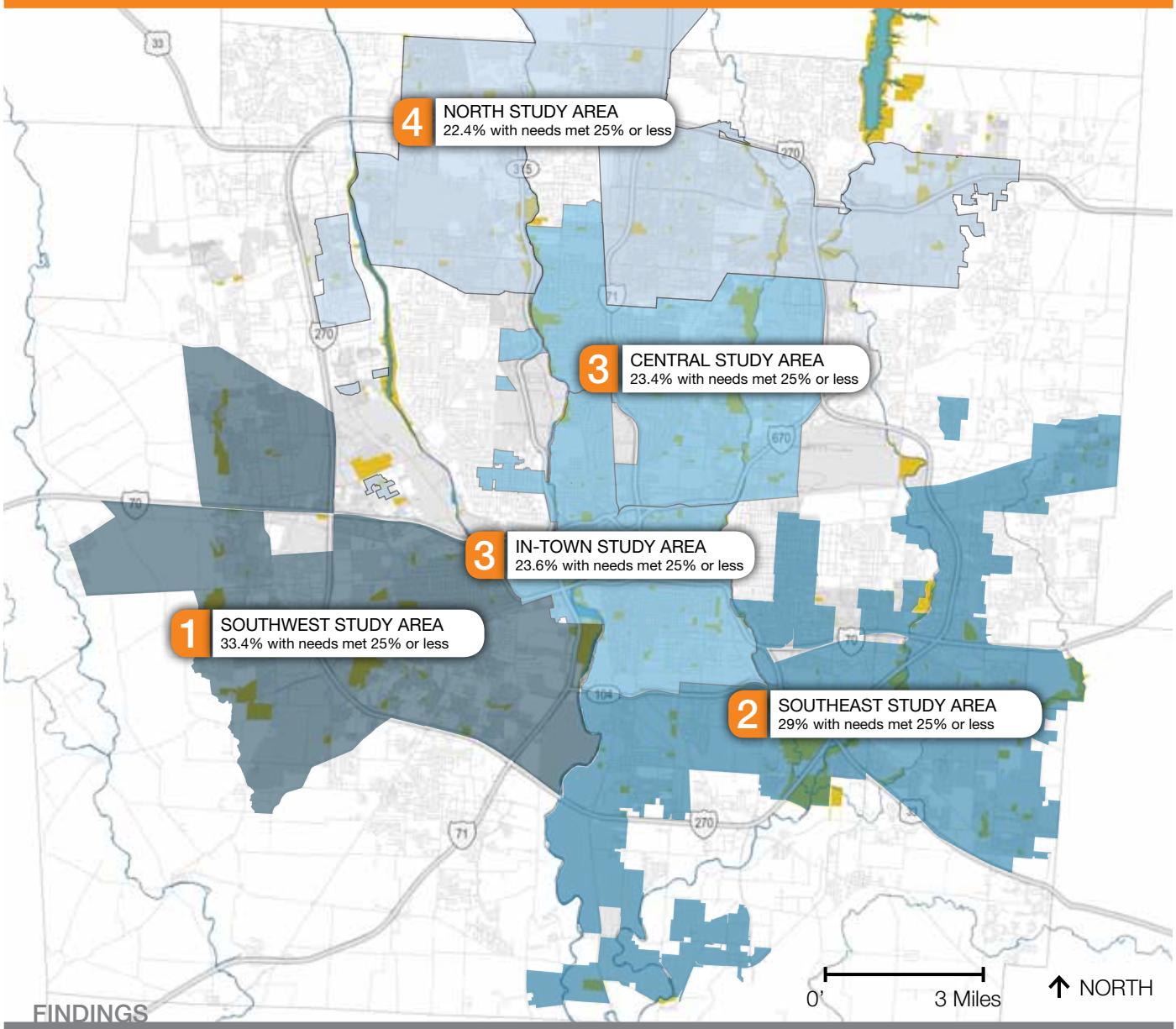
Adult fitness & wellness programs should be expanded in the SOUTHWEST area first and the NORTH area second to fulfill unmet needs.

Legend

- City of Columbus Boundary
- Hydrology
- Major Roads
- First Priority
- Second Priority
- Third Priority
- Fourth Priority
- Fifth Priority

Figure 4.29 Unmet Needs for Programs - Community Special Events/Festivals *(Survey)*

50% of Columbus residents have a need for Community Special Events/Festivals



FINDINGS

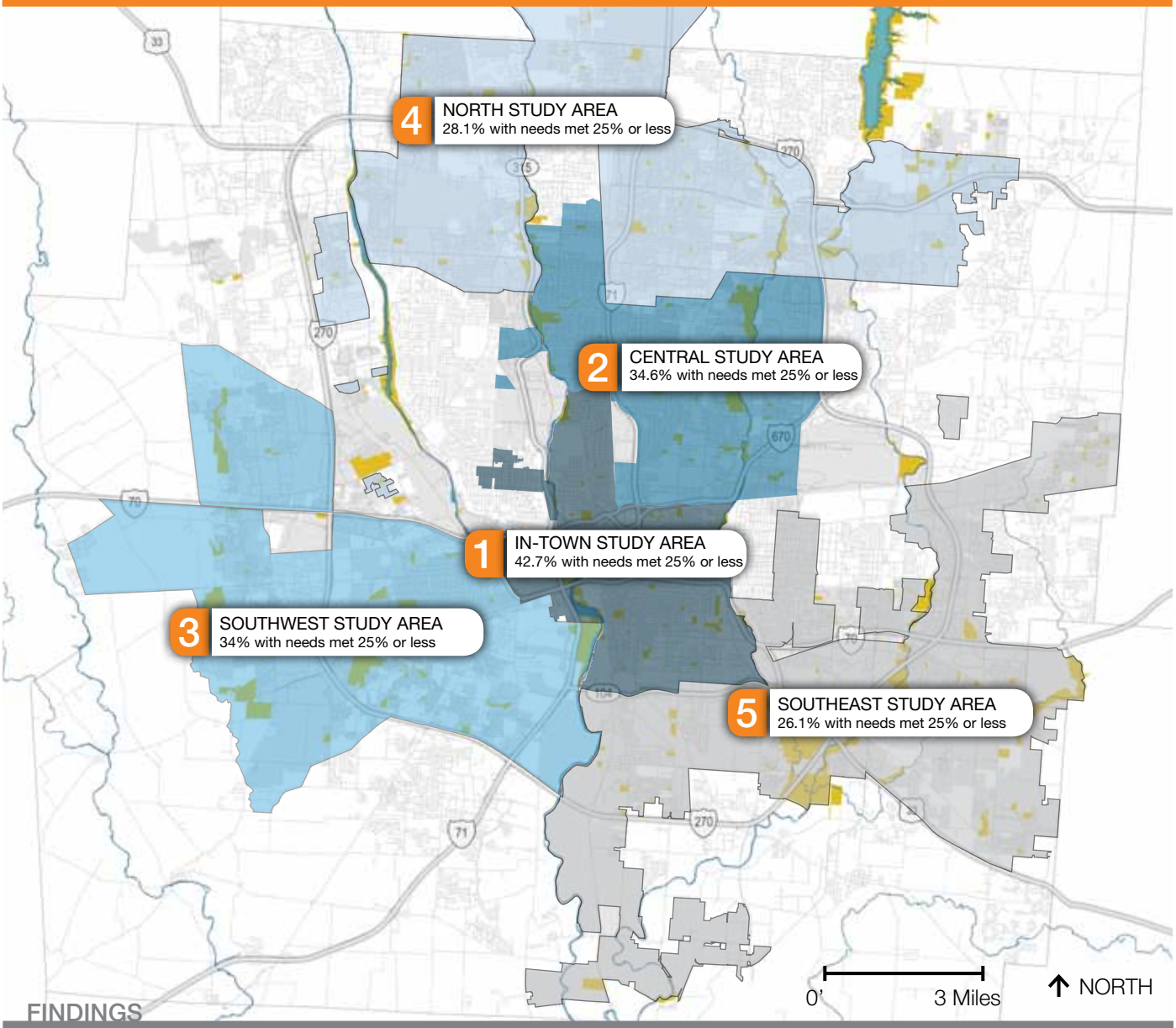
Community special events/festivals should be expanded in the SOUTHWEST area first and the SOUTHEAST area second to fulfill unmet needs.

Legend

- City of Columbus Boundary
- Hydrology
- Major Roads
- First Priority
- Second Priority
- Third Priority
- Fourth Priority
- Fifth Priority

Figure 4.30 Unmet Needs for Programs - Nature Programs and Outdoor Education *(Survey)*

42% of Columbus residents have a need for Nature Programs and Outdoor Education



FINDINGS

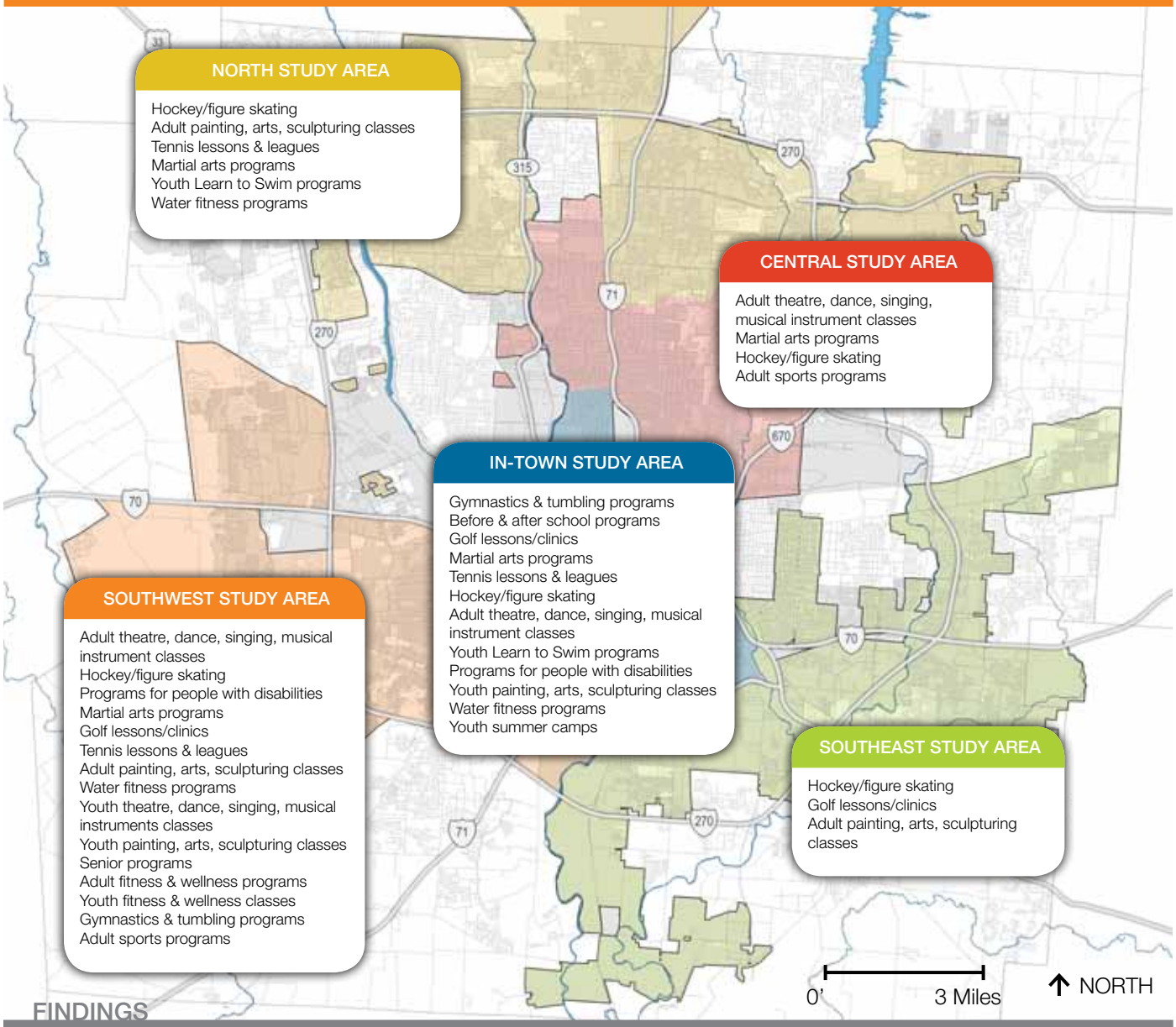
Nature programs & outdoor education should be expanded in the IN-TOWN area first and the CENTRAL area second to fulfill unmet needs.

Legend

- City of Columbus Boundary
- Hydrology
- Major Roads
- First Priority
- Second Priority
- Third Priority
- Fourth Priority
- Fifth Priority

Figure 4.31 Unmet Needs for Programs - Overall *(Survey)*

Over half of respondents reported that their needs were met 25% or less for these programs



FINDINGS

- In every study area, a majority of respondents indicated that their needs for hockey/figure skating programs were less than 25% met.
- Respondents had unmet needs for arts programs for adults in every study area.
- The SOUTHWEST study area had the highest number (15) of program types where less than 25% of needs were met.

Legend

- City of Columbus Boundary
- Hydrology
- Major Roads
- In-Town Study Area
- Central Study Area
- North Study Area
- Southeast Study Area
- Southwest Study Area