



## TRANSMITTAL NOTE

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**DATE:** August 4, 2023

**TO:** Aaron Stewart, Director of Parks and Recreation

**FROM:** Jared Wasinger, Assistant City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Preliminary Community Survey Results – Parks and Recreation Questions

The full report and analysis of the 2023 Community Survey will be presented to the City Commission at their August 15 City Commission meeting. Provided below and attached are preliminary results related to Parks and Recreation questions from the survey that may be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for their August 7 board meeting. I will be in attendance to present and take any questions from the Board or if they'd like to understand any further analysis regarding the information that I can pass along to the consultant as the report is finalized.

The full report will be included in the City Commission packet published on Thursday evening August 10. I'd encourage the board to tune into the City Commission meeting on August 15 for the presentation from Dr. Schafer regarding analysis of the full results.

The 2023 community survey reached 11,565 households in the City of Manhattan, Kansas, in April of 2023 with a response rate of 22% (2,503 households). This response rate is consistent with 2019, 2017, and 2015 surveys. The 2023 sample of households included 6,838 by email and 5,000 by postcard, with only a few hundred households having bounced emails or undeliverable addresses with returned postcards.

The response rate included a fair representation from all neighborhoods in Manhattan, including a representative sample from almost all demographic via U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey's 5-year estimates variables from the 2021 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey's 5-year estimates. The only demographics that were considered unrepresented in the survey were the opinions of those 18-24 years old, make less than \$24,999 a year, and rent as compared to own their homes. These demographics have been consistently hard to reach in past surveys as well.

Based on our population, sample, and response rate, our consultants can calculate a confidence interval and a margin of error, using common formulas. Generally, they can say, that 95% of the time the range of opinions that we see in the sample will be precise to the population within two percentage points above or below the sample number.

Attached are the preliminary results for the Parks and Recreation questions from the 2023 Community Survey.

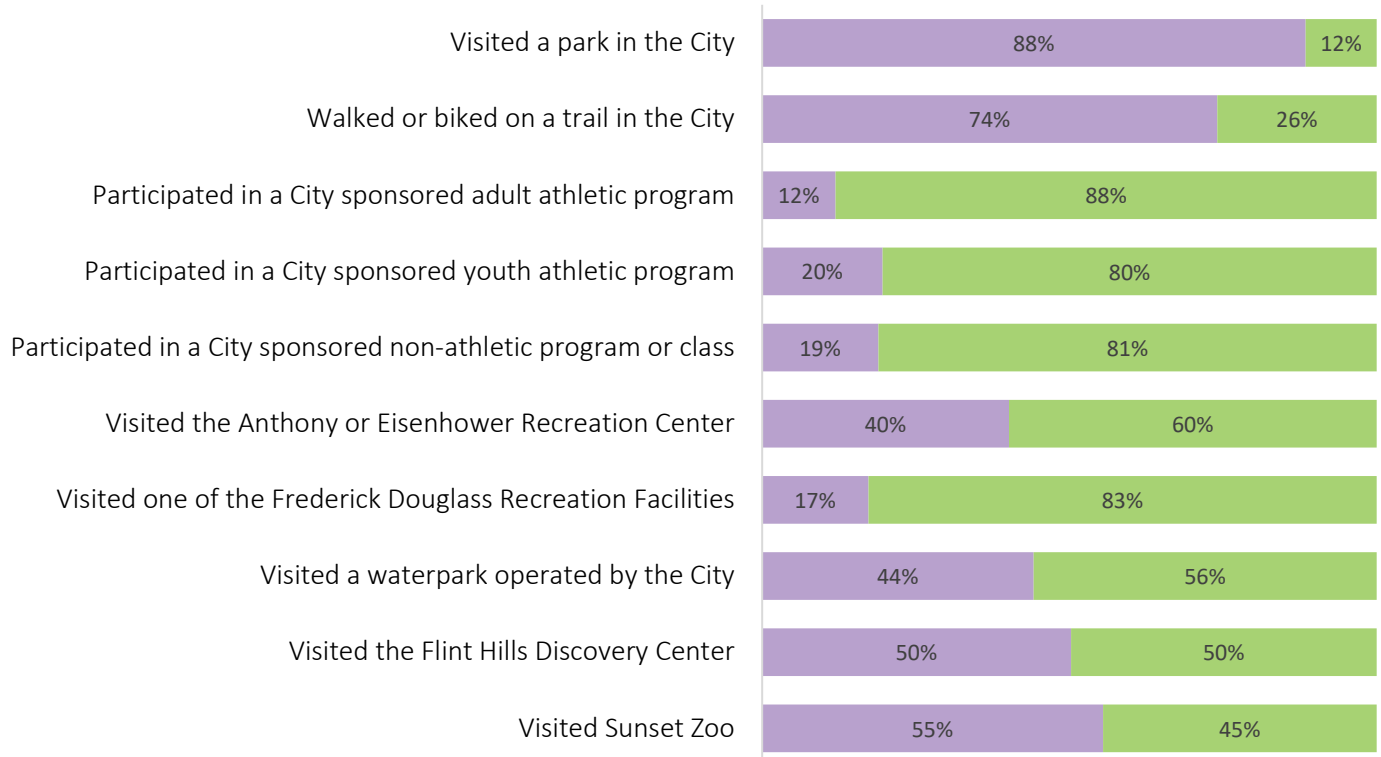


# PARKS AND RECREATION QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY 2023

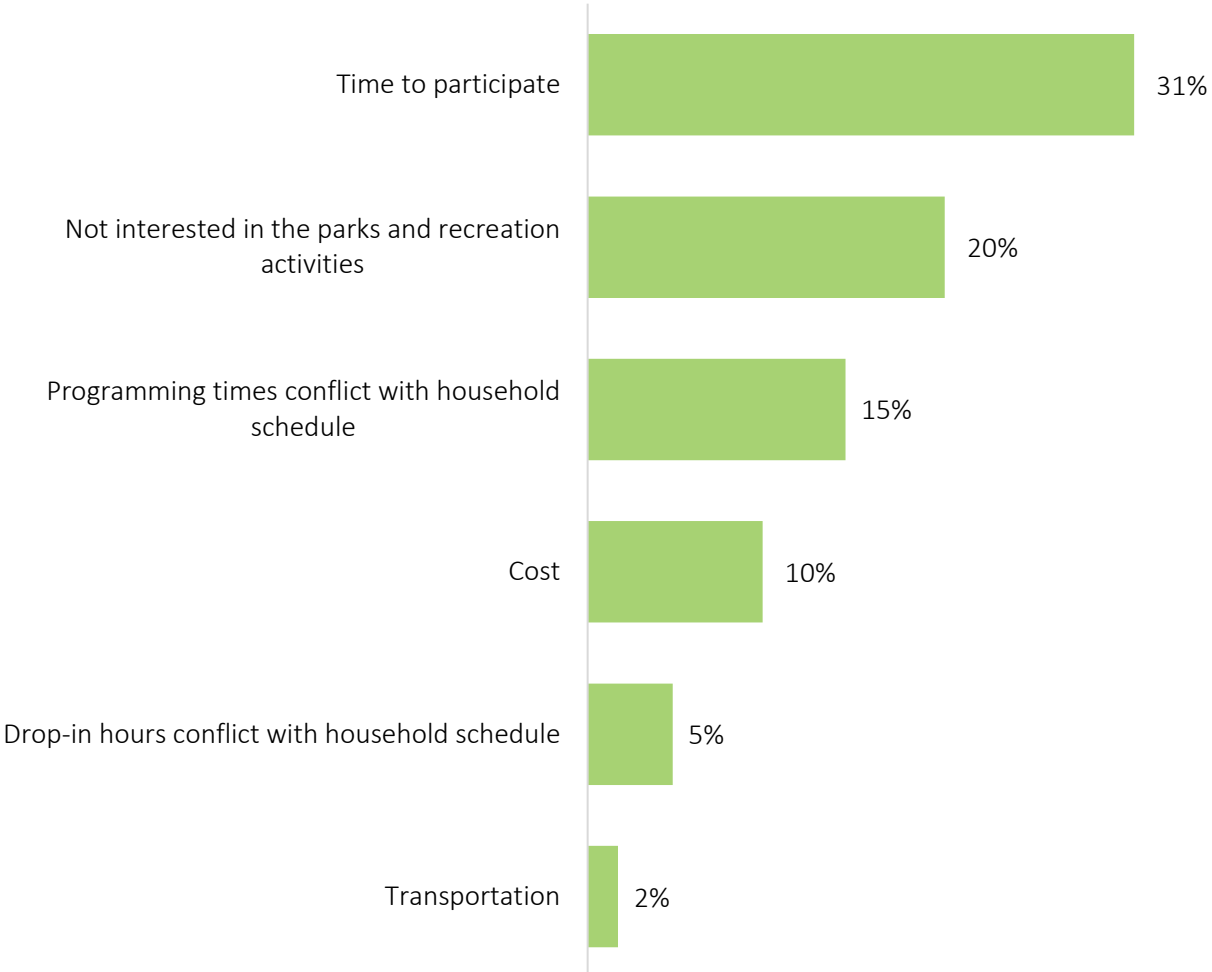
## PARKS AND RECREATION

In the past 12 months, have you or a member of your household participated in any of the listed Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) activities?

Yes No

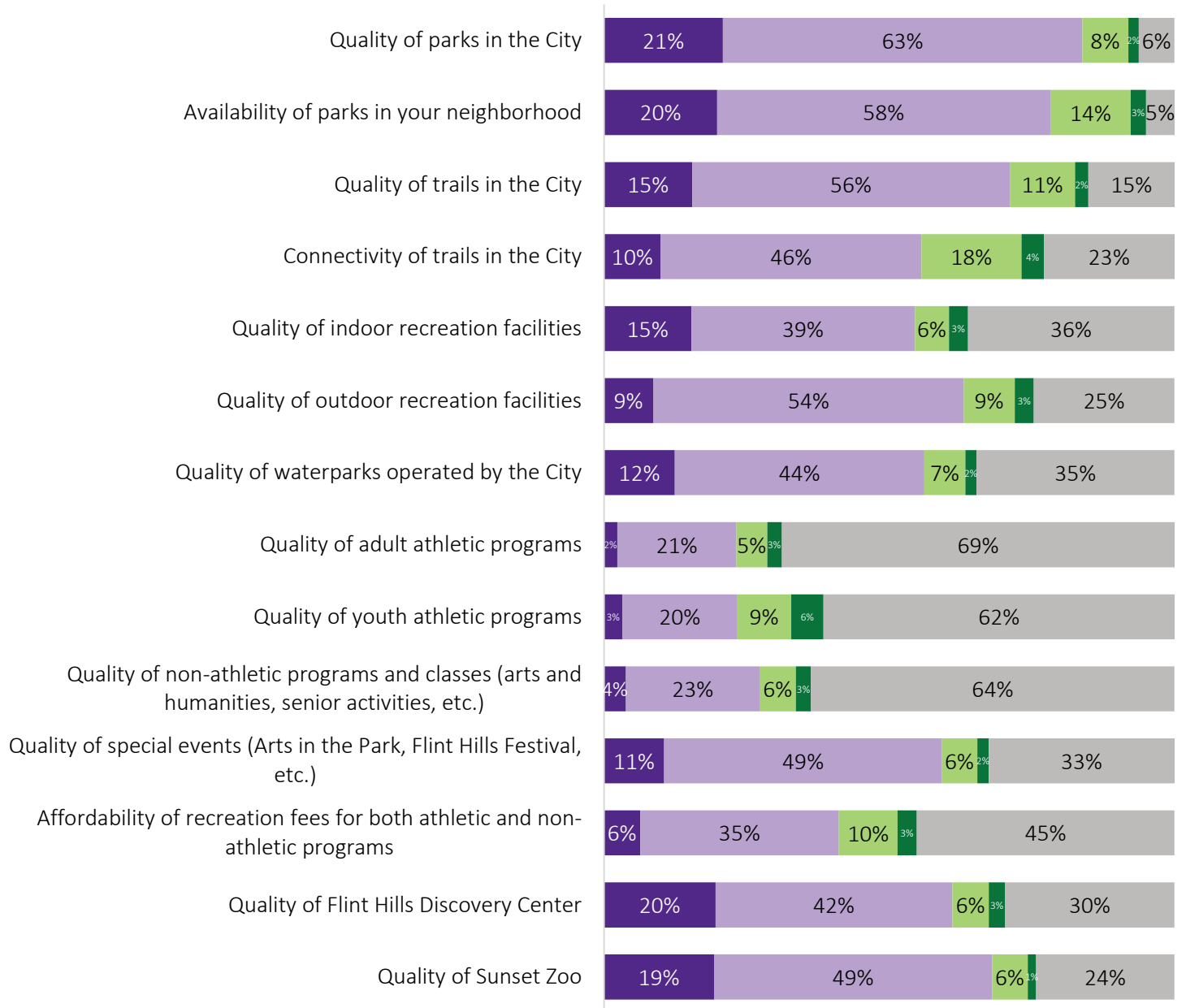


If you answered no to participating in any parks and recreation activities, what are the barriers that keep your household from participating?



## What is your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the parks and recreation services listed?

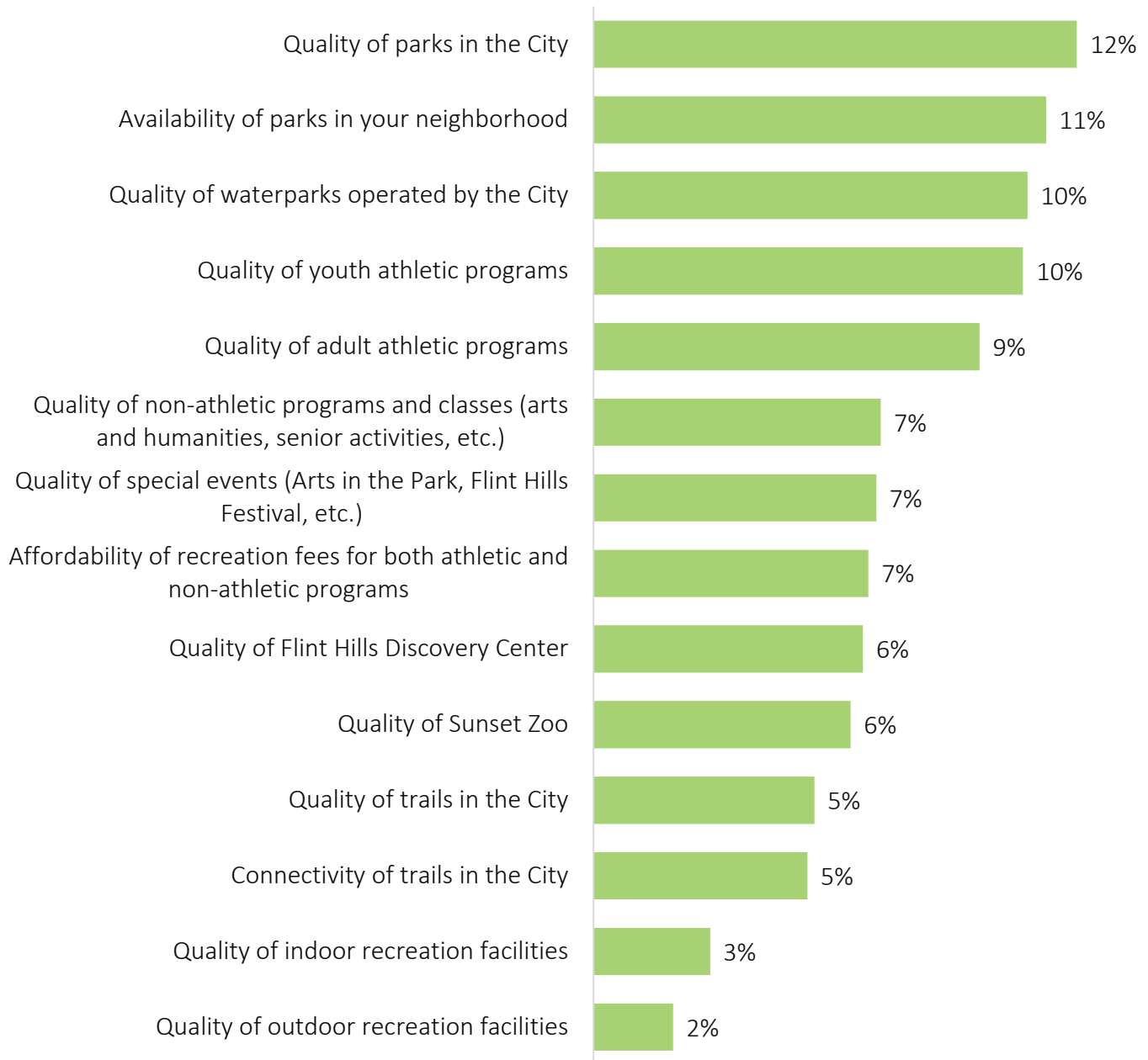
■ Very Satisfied  
 ■ Satisfied  
 ■ Dissatisfied  
 ■ Very Dissatisfied  
 ■ Don't Know



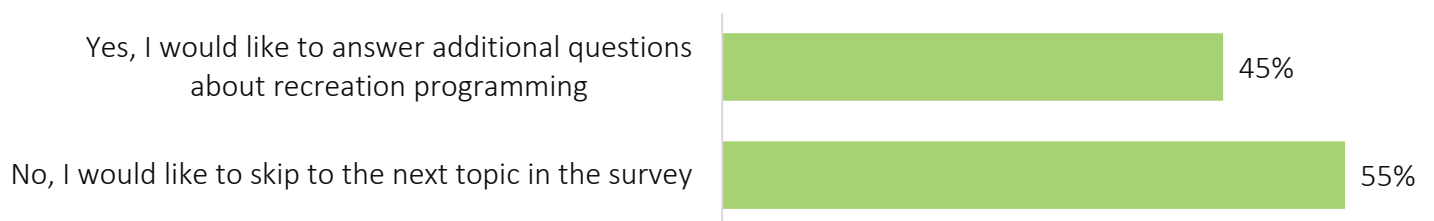
If you are dissatisfied with any of the parks and recreation services, we have provided this space to explain why you or your family are dissatisfied and/or suggest how the service can be improved.

<b>Write-in Answer</b>	<b>Number of Respondents Who Mentioned Theme</b>
Space is limiting for culturally and linguistically diverse community members	1
More nonathletic youth activities	25
More walking and biking trails that lead to places and are connected, some trails seem closed indefinitely.	53
Limited Rec center/ pool/ water park/ fitness clubs and gym drop-in hours and too short a season, hence overcrowding	40
Nothing convenient on West Side Miller Ranch area	1
Dirty and broken playgrounds, park equipment, parks, public restrooms (CiCo Park)	92
Need more volunteers, coaches, and offices for kids' sports	8
More organized sports for kids/ Slots fill up quickly and waitlists do not get opportunities	38
Sunset Zoo and Discovery Center are badly managed, overly priced, and lacking in exhibits	48
Bike Trails are full of debris and poorly managed	14
Roads are riddled with potholes and uneven turf	4
Need indoor swimming pool with dive capability	62
Membership and program fees are too high	46
Lack of parking spaces at public parks	6
Easier access to park and recreation information and what programs are offered	11
Need more family-oriented events, establishments, facilities like disc golf, outdoor games, food trucks, live music, movies, beer garden, arts in the park	20
More beginner sports and activity classes, options for seniors, and those with disabilities	13
More pickleball courts - Convert some tennis courts to pickleball courts	3
Lack of dog parks	5

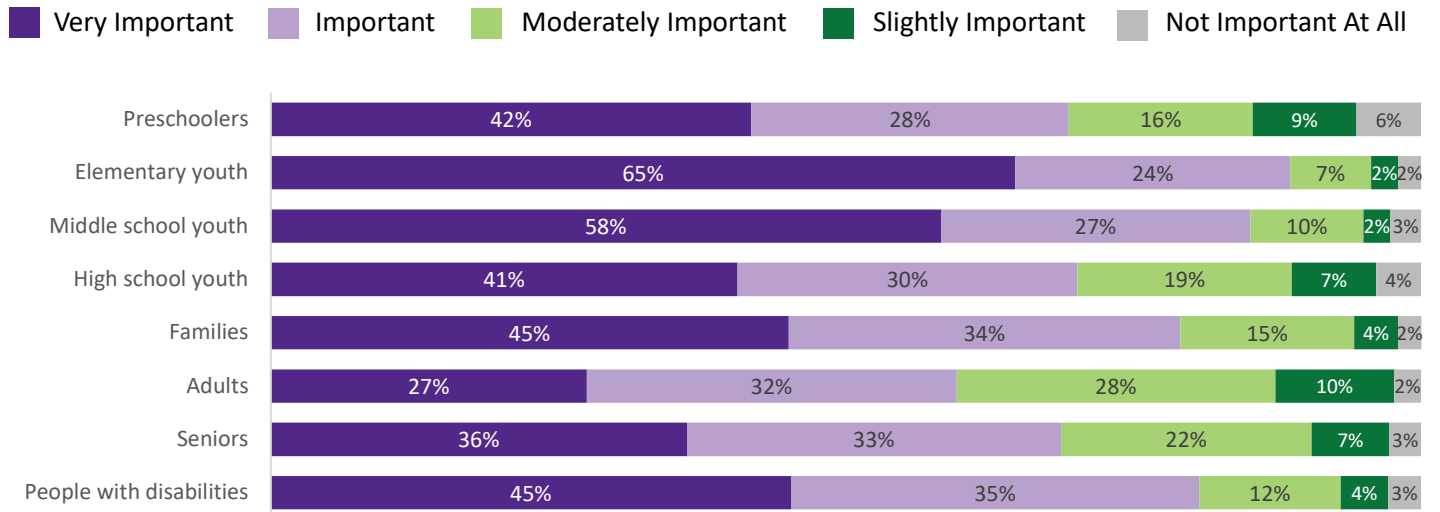
Which THREE of the parks and recreation services listed should receive the most attention from City leadership over the next three years?



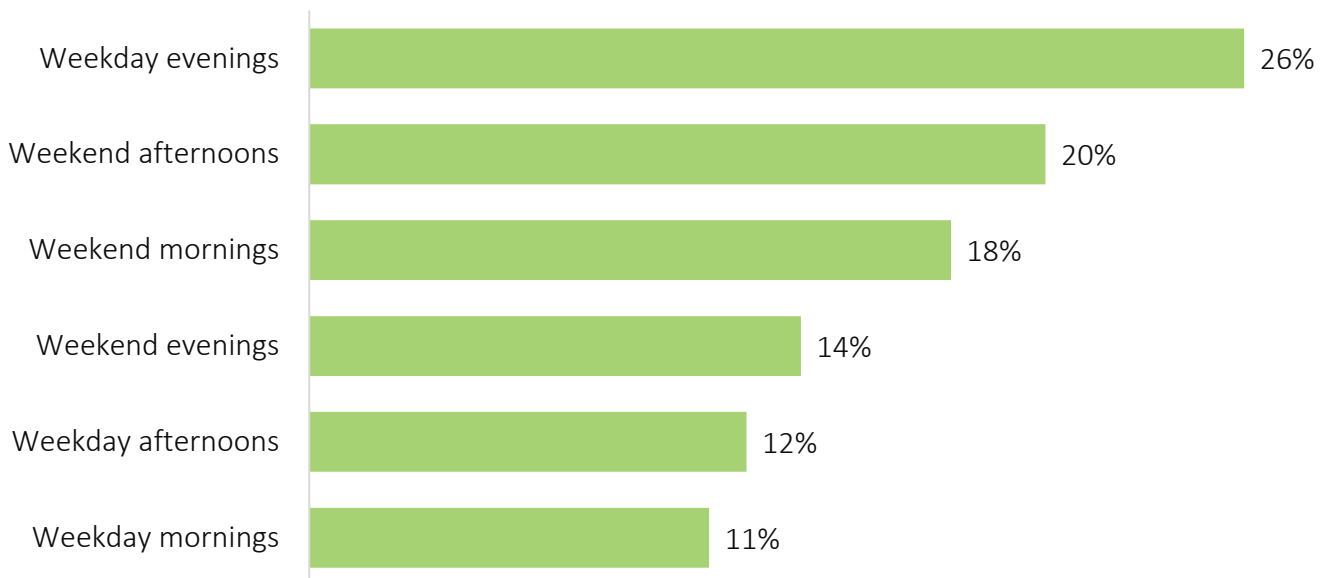
We have a few more questions about recreation programming and funding in the City.



The Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) currently provides programming for a range of groups. To help us prioritize program offerings and funding, how important or unimportant is it for MPRD to provide recreation programming for each of the following groups?

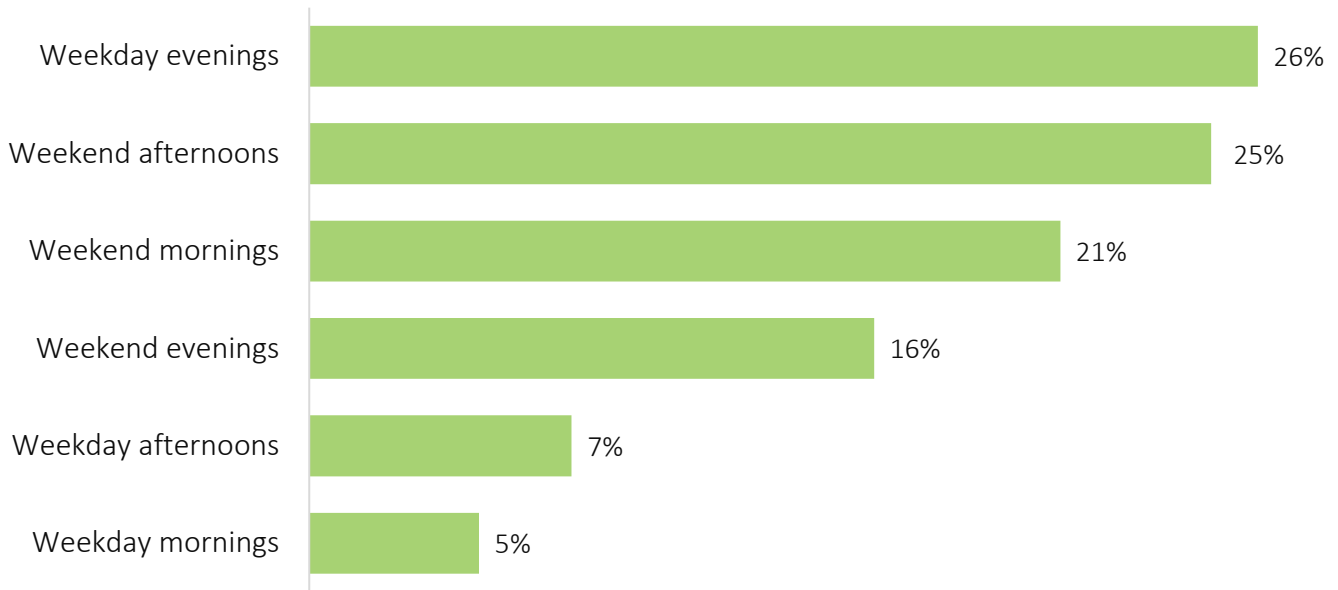


What are the most convenient times for members of your household to participate in scheduled city parks and recreation programs during the summer?

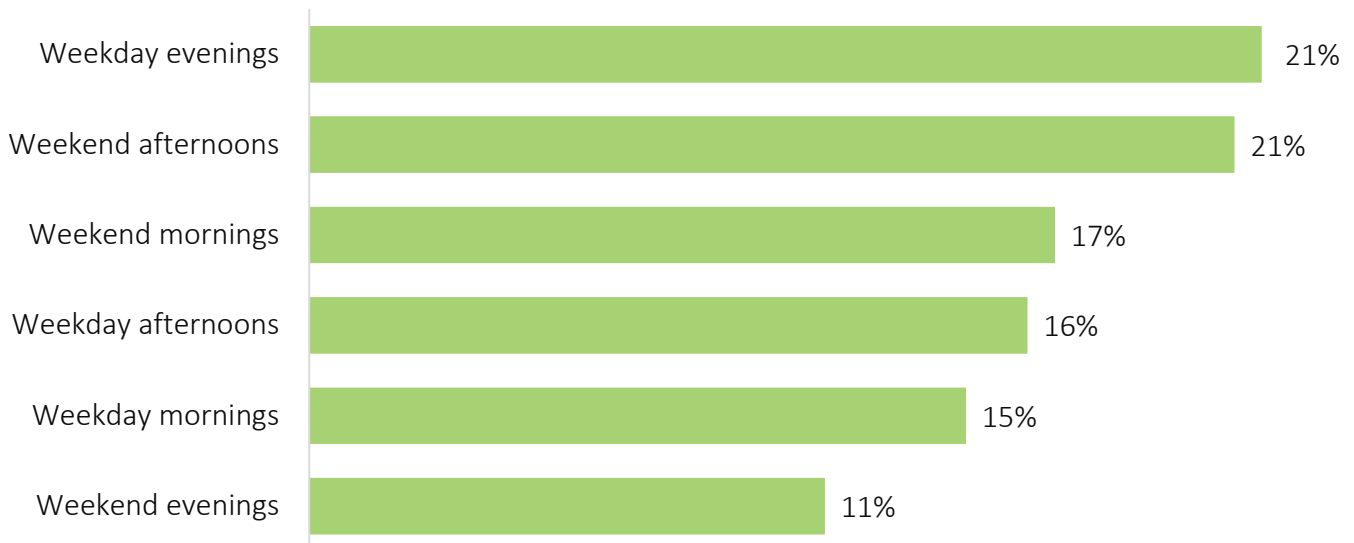




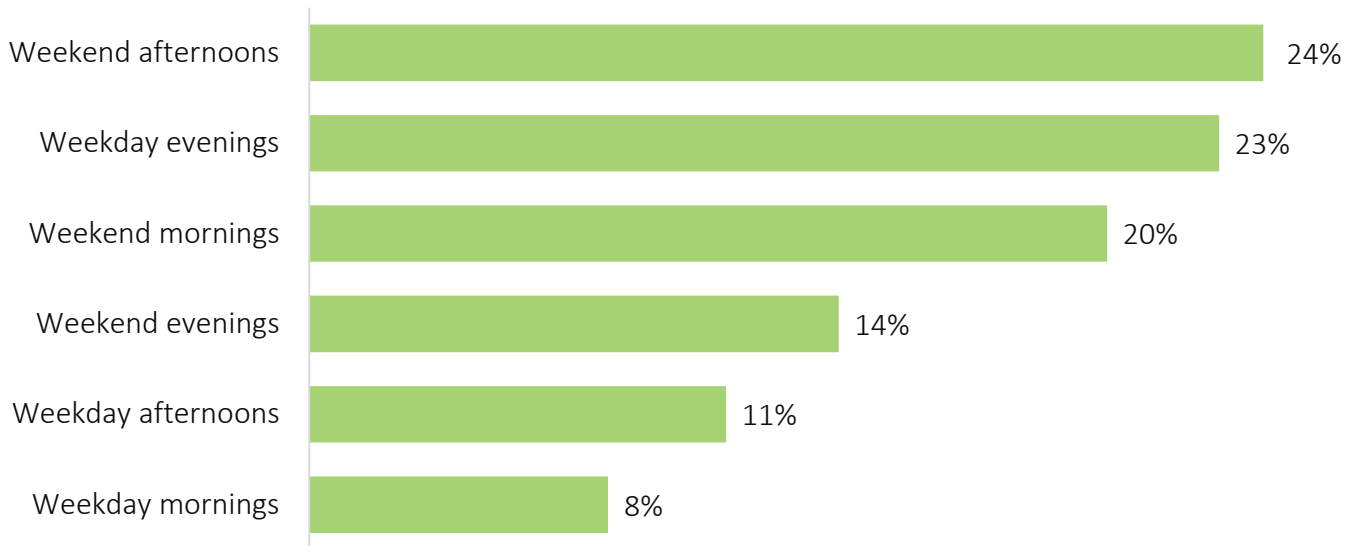
**What are the most convenient times for members of your household to participate in scheduled city parks and recreation programs during the school year?**



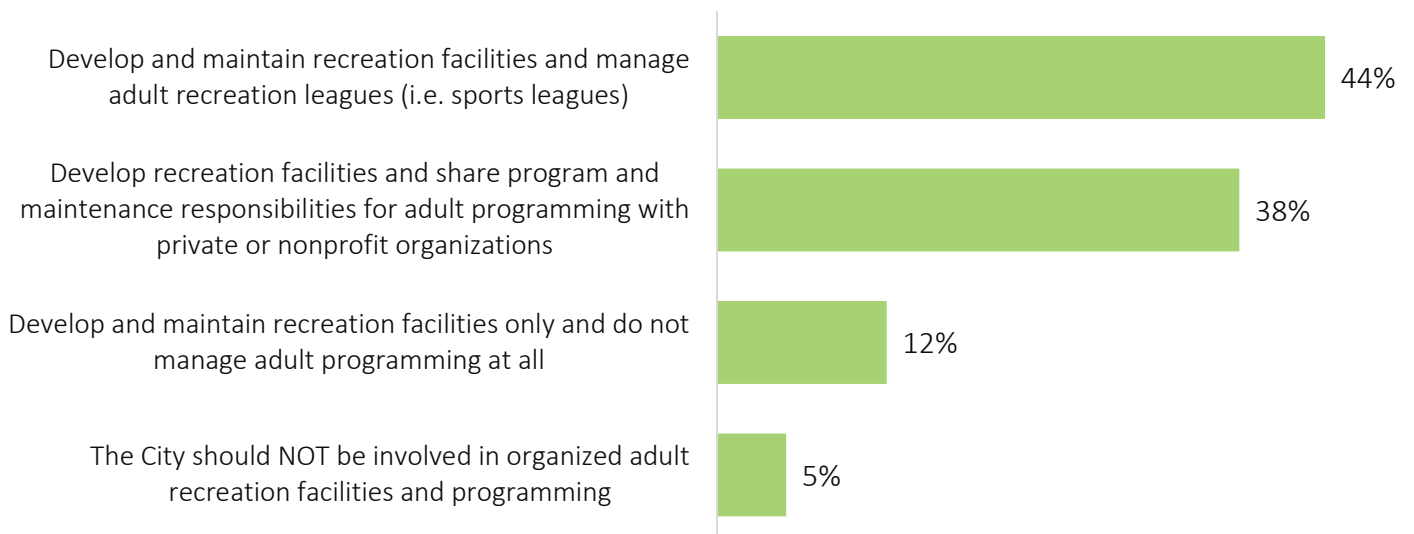
**What are the most convenient times for members of your household to participate in drop-in, non-programmed use of recreation facilities during the summer?**



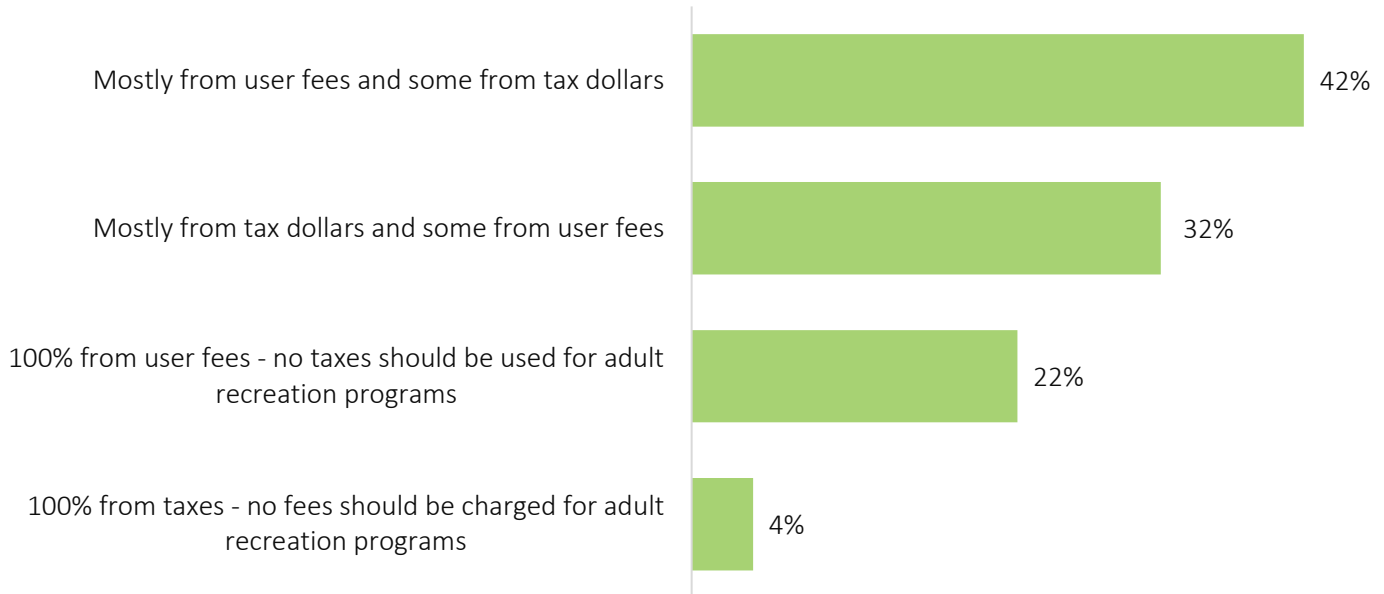
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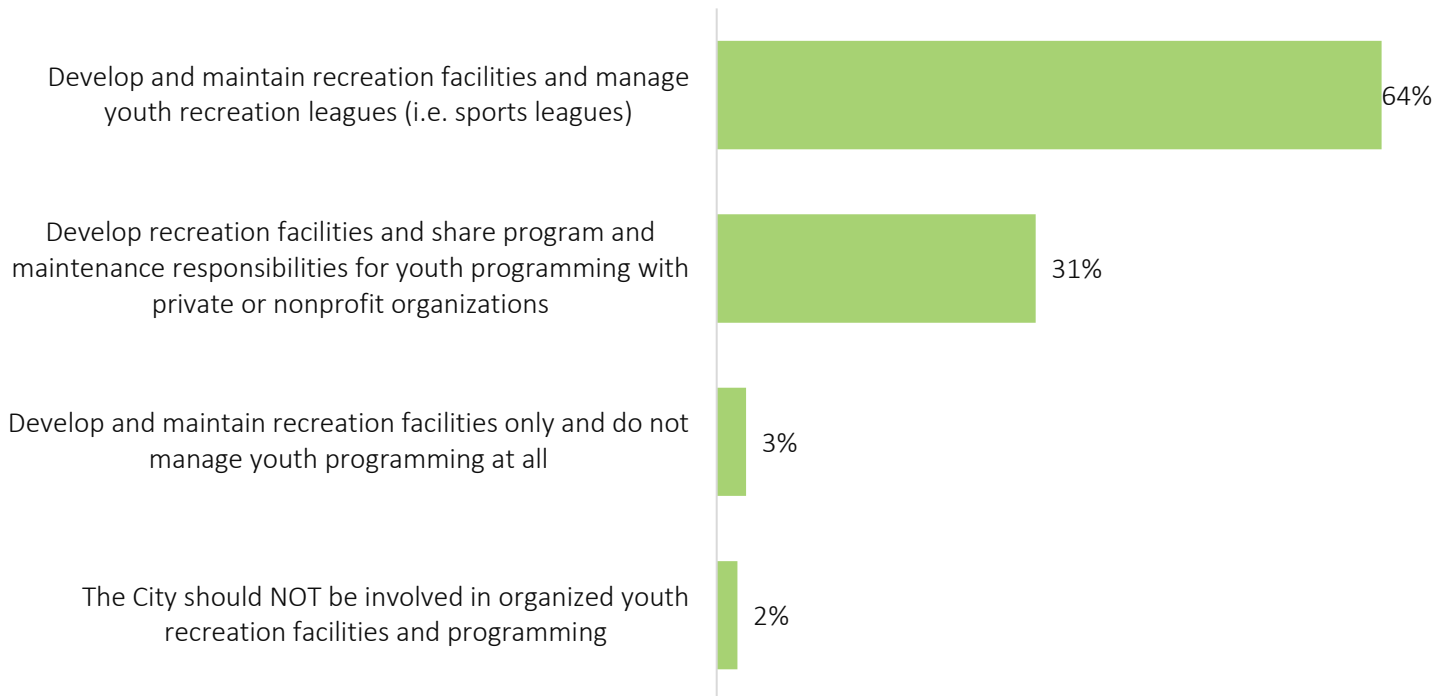
**There are several roles the City can play in parks and recreation programming for adults. What role do you think the City should assume in providing organized adult recreation facilities and programming.**



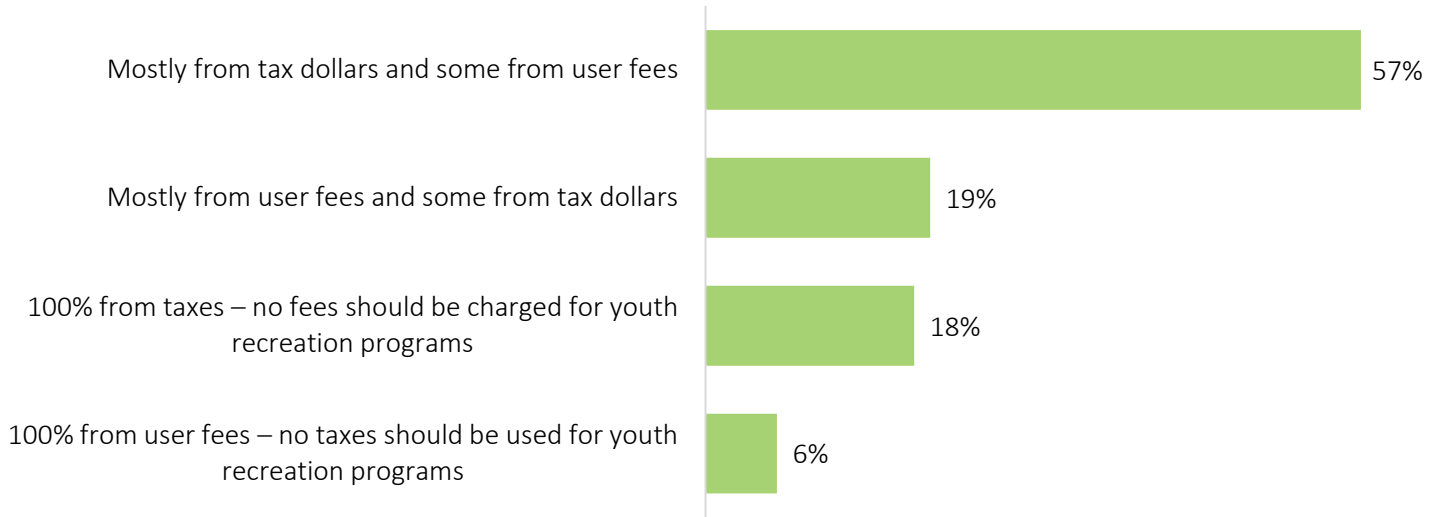
Currently, adult recreation programs in the City are paid for by a mix of tax dollars (funds in the general city account collected from tax dollars) and user fees (payments made by individuals to participate in specific program). Which one of the following statements best describes how you feel adult recreation programs and facility usage should be funded.



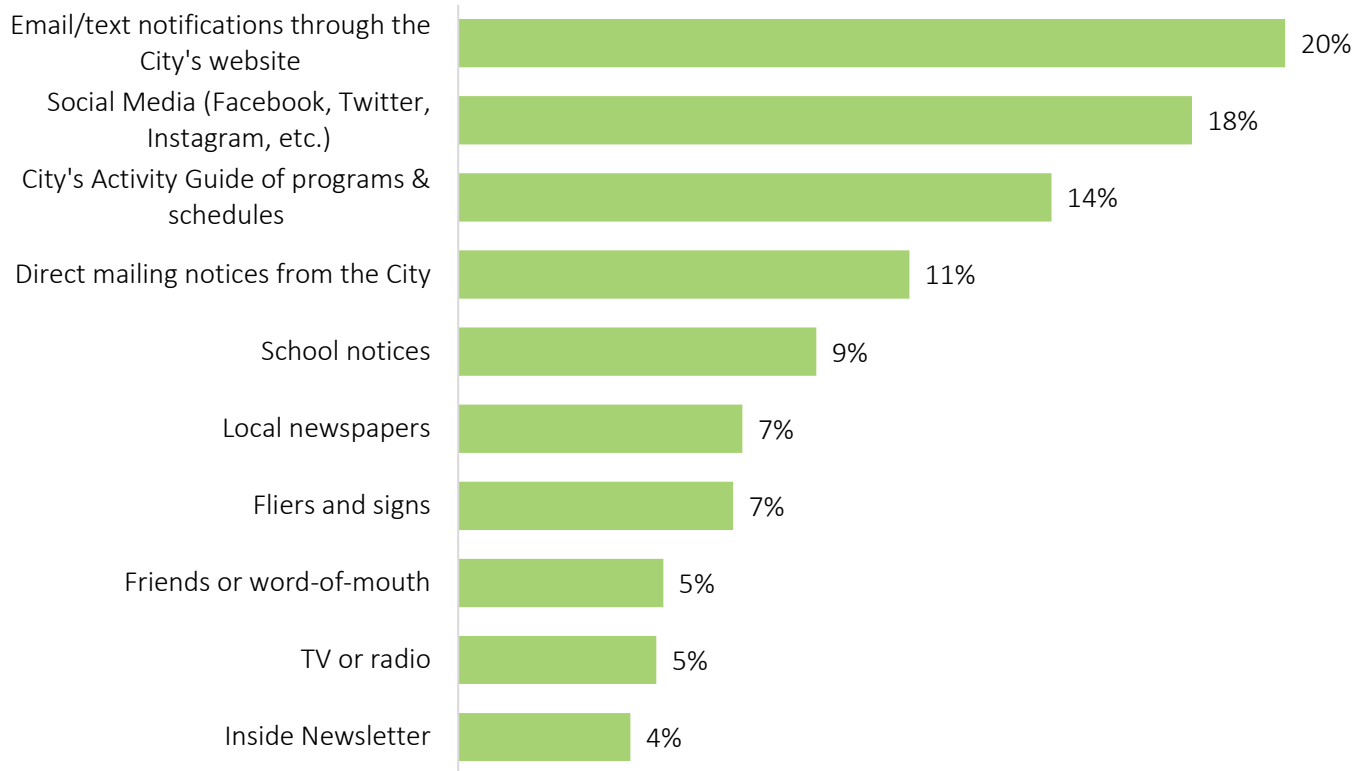
There are several roles the City can play in parks and recreation programming for youth. What role do you think the City should assume in providing organized youth recreation facilities and programming?



Currently, youth recreation programs in the City are paid for by a mix of tax dollars (funds in the general city account collected from tax dollars) and user fees (payments made by individuals to participate in a specific program). Which one of the following statements best describes how you feel youth recreation programs and facility usage should be funded?



**How would members of your household prefer to receive information about MPRD programs and services?  
Please select all that apply.**



**Of the ways the MPRD communicates with you, which THREE ways do you prefer to receive information?**

