

Portsmouth, VA

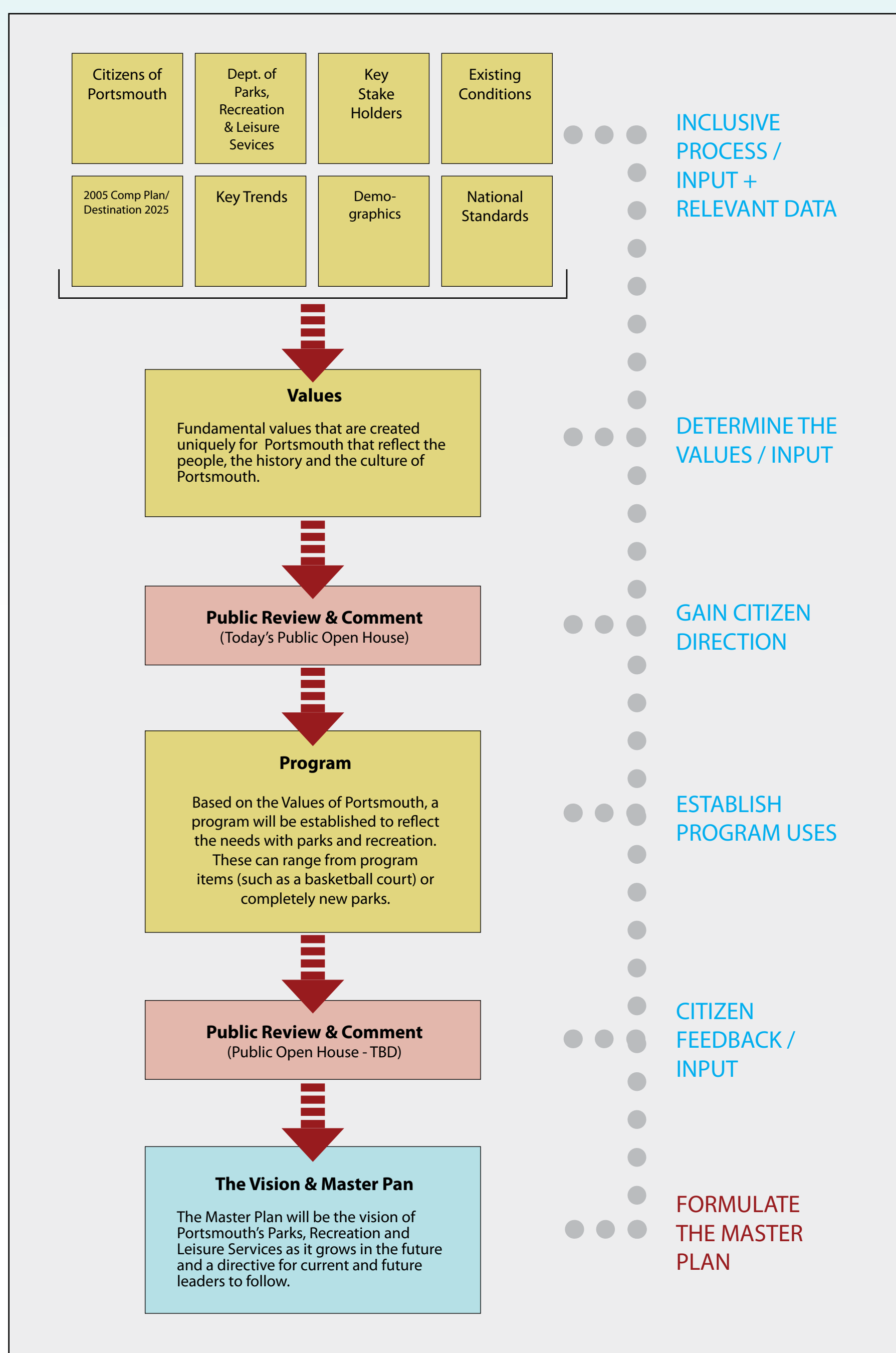
Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services Master Plan 2011

STATION 1

PURPOSE

- Assist decision-makers, stakeholders and the general public in determining needs, policies, and priorities related to services and facilities encompassing the parks, recreation, and leisure services needs
- Align everyone around shared values and common goals, ensuring that resources allocated follow agreed upon priorities
- Provide direction to the community for redevelopment, enhancement, and growth of its recreation and park system, covering a period of seven to ten years

PROCESS



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The 2005 Portsmouth Comprehensive Plan / Destination 2025 states the following:

- Education - A quality education system that establishes Portsmouth as a "Center of Knowledge"
- Land Use - A pattern of land uses that supports the City of Portsmouth's quality of life and economic vitality
- Economic Development - A healthy, diversified economy with a strong tax base and employment opportunities for all Portsmouth residents
- Housing and Neighborhoods - Quality, livable neighborhoods that retain long-time residents and attract new residents
- Community Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure - Community facilities, services and infrastructure that meet citizens' needs and contribute to quality of life in a cost effective manner
- Transportation - a multi-modal transportation network with enhanced features that support the City's quality of life and economic vitality
- Parks, Open Space, and Environment - a quality system of parks, open space, greenways and protected natural resources
 - Policy #1: Develop a comprehensive parks and recreation plan that defines the needs of Portsmouth's citizens for parks and recreational facilities and identifies strategies to meet these needs.
 - Policy #2: Open Space and Greenways - Develop a citywide open space and greenway network comprised of parks, environmental corridors (waterways, wetlands, etc.), utility right-of-ways, and landscaped roadways
- Community Appearance - an attractive, clean community that instills pride in residents, contributes to the appeal of the City for visitors and earns the reputation of being the cleanest municipality in the Hampton Roads region

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS & RECREATION

Quality of life has always been an important factor for the nearly 100,000 residents who call Portsmouth home. Quality of life encompasses many areas, including the ability to get good jobs, the ability to get around the city easily, the feeling that the city is a safe place to live, and the availability of quality homes and neighborhoods in which to live. In all of these areas Portsmouth is making great strides.

There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment. Parks and recreation have three values that make them essential services to communities:

1. Economic Value
2. Health and Environmental Benefits
3. Social Importance

Economic Value

- Parks improve the local tax base and increase property values.
- In a number of studies, quality parks and recreation are one of the top three reasons that business cite in giving a reason for relocating.
- Parks and recreation programs generate revenue directly from fees and charges, but more importantly, provide significant indirect revenues to local and regional economies from sports tournaments and special events such as arts, music, and holiday festivals.
- Urban trees save big money in stormwater quality.

Health and Environmental Benefits

- Parks and recreation programs and services contribute to the health of children, youth, adults, and seniors.
- Creating, improving, and promoting places where visitors are encouraged to be physically active improves individual and community health.
- Parks reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and improve physical health for park-goers.
- Parks improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve air quality, provide vegetative buffers to development, produce habitat for wildlife, and provide a place for children and families to connect with nature and recreate outdoors together.



Social Importance

- Parks provide identity for citizens and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life in a given community.
- Parks provide gathering places for families and social groups, as well as for individuals of all ages, physical abilities and economic status, regardless of their ability to pay for access.
- The majority of the national public views parks as an essential priority for government spending.
- Access to parks and recreation opportunities reduces crime and juvenile delinquency.
- Parks have a value to communities that transcend the amount of dollars invested or the revenues gained from fees.
- Parks provide a sense of public pride and cohesion to every community.

PARK CLASSIFICATION

Each park is classified to provide a general framework intended to guide open space and public facilities planning based on common typical characteristics.

1. Pocket Parks
2. Neighborhood Parks
3. Community Parks
4. Regional Parks
5. Specialty Parks
6. School Parklands

POCKET PARKS

The smallest park classification, parks pocket includes urban plazas, tot-lots, or landscaped public areas. Mini-parks generally have a localized service area.

Function: In an urban, neighborhood setting, pocket parks may provide a formal space for those with limited yards.

In both cases a pocket park may provide outdoor play experiences for youth under parental supervision. Pocket parks generate neighborhood communication and provide diversion from work and domestic chores while promoting neighborhood solidarity.

Size: generally one acre or less

Service Area: .25 mile radius

Length of Stay: one hour experience or less

Parking: none

Basic Facilities and Activities:

- Playground equipment and structures for pre-school and elementary school age children
- Conversation and sitting areas arranged to permit easy surveillance by parents
- Landscaped areas that provide buffering and shade
- Lighting for security at night (direct cut-off)

Examples:

- Lafayette Arch Park in Olde Towne
- Cottage Place Park



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

A neighborhood park by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for the immediate neighborhood in which it is located. It is considered an extension of neighborhood residents' "out-of-yard" and outdoor use area.

Function: Neighborhood parks provide a combination of active recreation and passive activities, both outdoor and indoor facilities and special features as required or needed.

Size: Generally 1 to 5 acres.

Service Area: Generally a half-mile radius, but actually defined by collector street patterns which form the limits of a neighborhood or recreation service area and the size of the park.

Length of Stay: One hour experience or less.

Parking: 10 to 20 vehicles with bike racks where park users can safely bike to the park.

Basic Facilities & Activities: Compatible with the neighborhood setting and park site constraints. Neighborhood parks may include the following facilities:

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and playgrounds.
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Lighting for security at night
- Not intended to be used for activities that result in overuse, noise, and increased traffic with the exception of limited use by youth teams.

Examples:

- Ebony Heights Park in Ebony Heights
- Westmoreland Recreation Area

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Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services Master Plan 2011

STATION 2



COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are larger than neighborhood parks and generally serve multiple neighborhoods.

Function: Community parks may include areas for intense recreation activities such as sports fields for games and tournaments and have quality facilities to meet these needs, swimming pools, tennis courts, volleyball courts, playgrounds, etc. Opportunities may exist for passive recreation such as trails for walking and biking, fishing, viewsheds, sitting and picnicking.

Size: Generally 10 - 50 acres

Service Area: Generally a 2 mile radius

Length of Stay: 2 - 3 hour experience

Parking: Off-street parking is typically provided with the addition to limited on-street parking. Community parks often include bike racks where biking is safe for park users. Public transportation is encouraged.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/walking trails, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball courts
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park
- Community Center building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use
- Lighting for fields and security at night

Examples:

- Simonsdale Athletic Complex
- Cavalier Manor Athletic Area



REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks typically provide more diverse recreational opportunities than community or neighborhood parks. While community parks serve numerous neighborhoods, regional parks can serve the entire city.

Function: A regional park focuses on activities and natural features not included in most parks and are often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity. Facilities could include those found in a community park but also have specialized features such as an art center, and amphitheater, boating facility, golf course, historic site, or natural areas with interpretative trails. Regional parks usually include an indoor recreation building.

Size: Generally 50+ acres

Service Area: Potentially an entire city (depending on city size).

Length of Stay: typically an all day experience

Parking: Off-street parking is typically provided with the addition to limited on-street parking. Community parks often include bike racks where biking is safe for park users. Public transportation is encouraged.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities that may be the sole location within the city, such as golf, indoor sports complexes, natatorium, etc.
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park
- Community Center building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use
- Lighting for fields and security at night

Examples:

- City Park
- Churchland Park
- Hoffer Creek Wildlife Refuge



SPECIALITY PARK

An enterprise created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. A special use park may also be a sports park combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource.

Function: Special events, fairs, festivals, expositions, symposiums, sports, community gatherings, ethnic/cultural celebrations, plays and numerous other recreational programs and activities, skate parks, splash parks.

Size: The actual size of a special use park is determined by land availability and facility/market demand for special uses or recreation programs.

Service Area: Community or area-wide and determined by the type of recreation program, special events or use activities.

Length of Stay: Varies depending on programmed activities.

Parking: Off-street parking is typically provided with the addition to limited on-street parking. Community parks often include bike racks where biking is safe for park users. Public transportation is encouraged.

Basic Facilities and Activities: Varies depending on programmed activities.

Examples:

- George Washington Park (skate park)
- Eighth & Washington (splash park - future)



SCHOOL PARKLANDS

NOTE: Currently, school parks in Portsmouth are not considered a guaranteed public use.

By combining the resources of two public agencies, the school park classification allows for expanding the recreational, social, and educational opportunities available to the community in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Depending on the circumstances, school park sites often complement other community recreation or open lands. As an example, an elementary/middle school site could also serve as a neighborhood park. Likewise, middle or high school sports facilities could do double duty as a community park or as youth athletic fields. Given the inherent variability of type, size and location, determining how a school park site is integrated into a larger park system will depend on case-by-case circumstances. The important outcome in the joint-use relationship is that both the school district and park system benefit from shared use of facilities and land area.

Size: The optimum size of a school park site depends on its intended use. The size criteria established for neighborhood park and community park classifications may apply.

Parking: Like the athletic and recreational components of the school, parking for the school can be shared.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and playgrounds
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Lighting for security at night

Examples:

- None in Portsmouth

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

One of the prime indicators of current and future recreational demand and interest is the recent pattern and future forecasts for demographic change. This section analyzes changes in age groups, household structure and economics and how those changes may affect the parks, recreation, and leisure services offered by the City of Portsmouth.

Aging Population

- Generally speaking, future behavior is influenced by past behavior. However, the 50-year-old of the future will not possess the same personal characteristics as the 50-year-old of today, because of changes in the community and society in general, improved health and fitness, social perspectives on aging and earlier retirement age.
- People are retiring at younger ages with relatively higher disposable incomes than generations before.
- There is an increased demand for more passive outdoor recreation pursuits and facilities (golf, walking, gardening, etc.).
- As the number of retirees increases, there will be more fit recreation users, and more demand for mid-day recreation programs.

Household Structure

- More families are postponing having their first child, which creates non-traditional/new leisure patterns. More people who are in their 20's have time to spend on recreational activities that fit their personal goals rather than their children's activities.
- An increasing number of single parent families are visiting recreation sites.
- More participants in recreational sites are single and in their 30's and 40's.
- For all of these groups, use of free time is perceived as an opportunity to spend time with their family and/or friends. Because of this trend, these groups want to participate in activities that allow for group participation. People are looking for diverse experiences and experiential trips in their leisure time rather than spending their time relaxing, with obvious implications for providers of outdoor recreational activities.

Economics

- An increasing split is occurring between those who have access to certain types of recreation and those who do not. In 2009 the poverty rate for Portsmouth was 16.7% compared to 10.6% for the average in Virginia.
- For affluent households with more discretionary income, these resources are often used for leisure activities, including travel and entertainment as well as memberships to private recreation facilities.
- Some cities work with private facilities (such as the YMCA) rather than duplicating services while others compete for household recreation dollars and for people's recreation time.
- Economics also play a role in leisure services and programs offered by cities. In 2000, over 12% of the households in Portsmouth were single mothers with children younger than 18.
- Working parents create an increased demand for recreational and program opportunities, such as after school and summer programs.

Rise in Number of Women Participating in Outdoor Recreation

- More women are recreating in activities traditionally dominated by men.
- Leisure opportunities for women are becoming more diverse, and often times less tied to family.
- Adventure activities, including camping, hiking, scuba diving, whitewater rafting, biking, and rock climbing, have seen significant increases in the level of participation by women. The rise in participation appears to be partially attributed to a shift in attitude and societal norms, as well as expanded product lines that better cater to women participants.

Increased Urbanization

- Portsmouth residents are more likely to participate in activities utilizing specialized facilities, such as city parks and recreational facilities, whereas rural residents are more likely to participate in activities associated with wilderness areas.
- Portsmouth, like most cities in America, has seen its population decrease. In the past few years that trend in America has changed and as the increased urbanization of Portsmouth grows, the need for specialized facilities will increase.

KEY TRENDS IN PARKS & RECREATION

The key trends listed in this section focus attention on happenings and indicators that alert decision-makers to shifts in recreational programming, participation and demand at a national or regional level. Understanding these indicators will allow the City to consider the impacts these trends may have on the diverse elements of the parks and open space system, from recreational programming to park facilities to natural resource and on operating culture.



General Trends in Lifestyle

- High levels of physical inactivity and obesity are being observed across the country, largely due to a lack of time and participation in sedentary forms of leisure (i.e. watching television, computer/online activities, etc.).
- Physical inactivity and poor nutrition is the second most common cause of death in the U.S. Some experts predict that, for the first time in our history, life expectancy among today's children will be less than that of their parents.
- The potential for social isolation is growing with increased amounts of watching TV and computer/online activities, with a focus on smaller social circles (self, family, and close friends).
- There is broadening personal identification with not only our work but our leisure time pursuits, and common leisure interest may serve as important "social glue" for connecting people.
- Overall recreation participation especially for the 12-24 age group is in severe decline.
- A depressed economy and rising energy costs are negatively affecting people's ability to vacation and travel; many are therefore pursuing recreation that's not too costly and is closer to home, including more park visits, daylong outings and weekend trips.
- There is increased interest in leisure at home ("home as sanctuary," "staycations").
- An overwhelming majority of those not retired but planning to do so, expect to do at least some work after retirement. They

want to continue to learn, try new things, travel, and pursue new hobbies or interests.

- Adults and older adults are embracing the "active living" or "wellness" philosophy, thus municipalities are orienting their programming to respond to these demands.
- There is growing awareness and concern by the public for environmental quality, environmental issues, and the environmental movement. People seek an active role for themselves in environmental protection and conservation, which manifests itself as a community-wide interest in environmental preservation and open space.
- Global warming is impacting outdoor recreation. Warm weather activities will last longer; cold weather activities will be shorter. Changes to the landscape resulting from less dependable climatological conditions will result in less dependable seasonal recreation.
- Water quality will impact use of our shoreline. Concerns about water quality, especially for the Chesapeake Bay has fostered more creative plans and uses for storm water collection systems.

General Trends in the Leisure System

- The five favorite leisure activities for all Americans are: watching television, reading, spending time with family, fishing, and gardening. (see Station 5 for Portsmouth's favorite activities)
- Demand for unorganized and drop-in activities are on the rise, at the expense of most organized and structured programs which are inflexible to people with limited free time.
- Municipalities are often entering into partnerships with community and private-sector organizations to maximize efficiencies associated with capital and operational costs, so long as the municipality and the community benefit as a whole.
- Volunteerism is in decline across the country, therefore, supporting local volunteers is critical to ensuring that these dedicated individuals continue to participate in civic life and that new volunteers can be recruited.

Key Trends in Sports & Recreation

- Fiscal pressures on recreational facilities and program development will come with rising energy costs, greater scarcity and high cost of land, rising operating costs and revenue limits, and increasing anti-taxation sentiment. Recreation is becoming more of a consumer market, meaning that activities are subject to more competition between private, public and non-profit competition. A broad definition of what constitutes public access to city sponsored facilities and programs may challenge the financial feasibility of building new and maintaining existing facilities. Subsidized programs and minimal use fees have been difficult to maintain in light of these conditions.
- There is a broad increase in overall outdoor recreation participation, however, fewer children and youth are participating in most organized sports in favor of casual activities that fit into their own schedule. There is an overall decrease in participation frequency.
- The “multi-use” facility and park concept is being increasingly viewed as the preferred development model since it consolidates a number of leisure activities at a single location, thereby providing a “one-stop shopping” venue for time-pressed individuals, offering cross-programming opportunities for a wide range of ages, and reducing municipal operational costs.
- Trails (both nature and paved) continue to be one of the most demanded “facilities.”
- Sport and nature-based tourism represents a growing market, thus necessitating a focus on family recreation and “destination” facilities, as well as passive outdoor sports and activities such as golf, hiking, bird watching, marine and waterfront activities, etc.
- “High-tech” recreation is growing through the use of special technology tools and advances in equipment.
- Extreme sports and risk/adventure pursuits continue to grow in popularity.

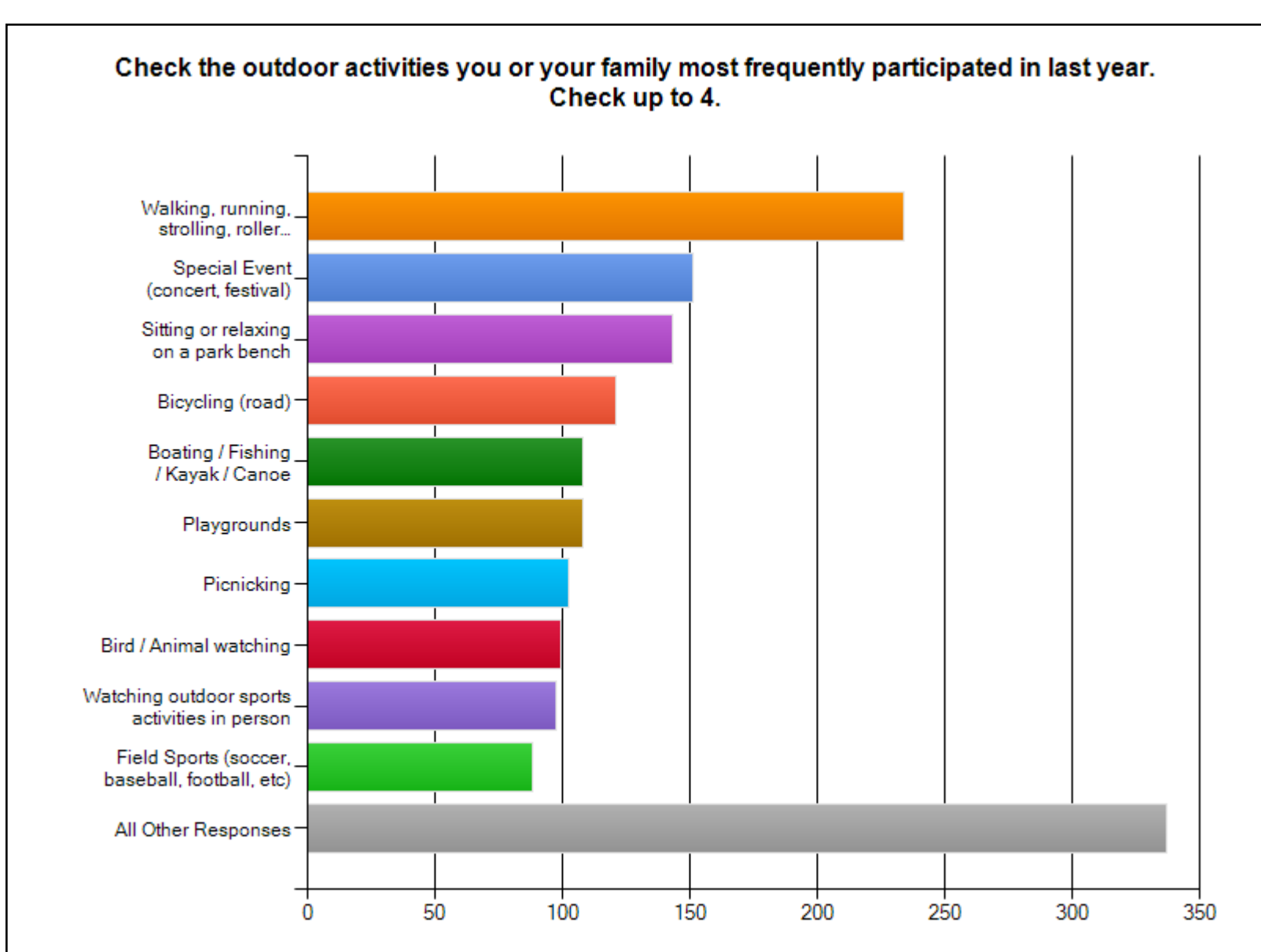
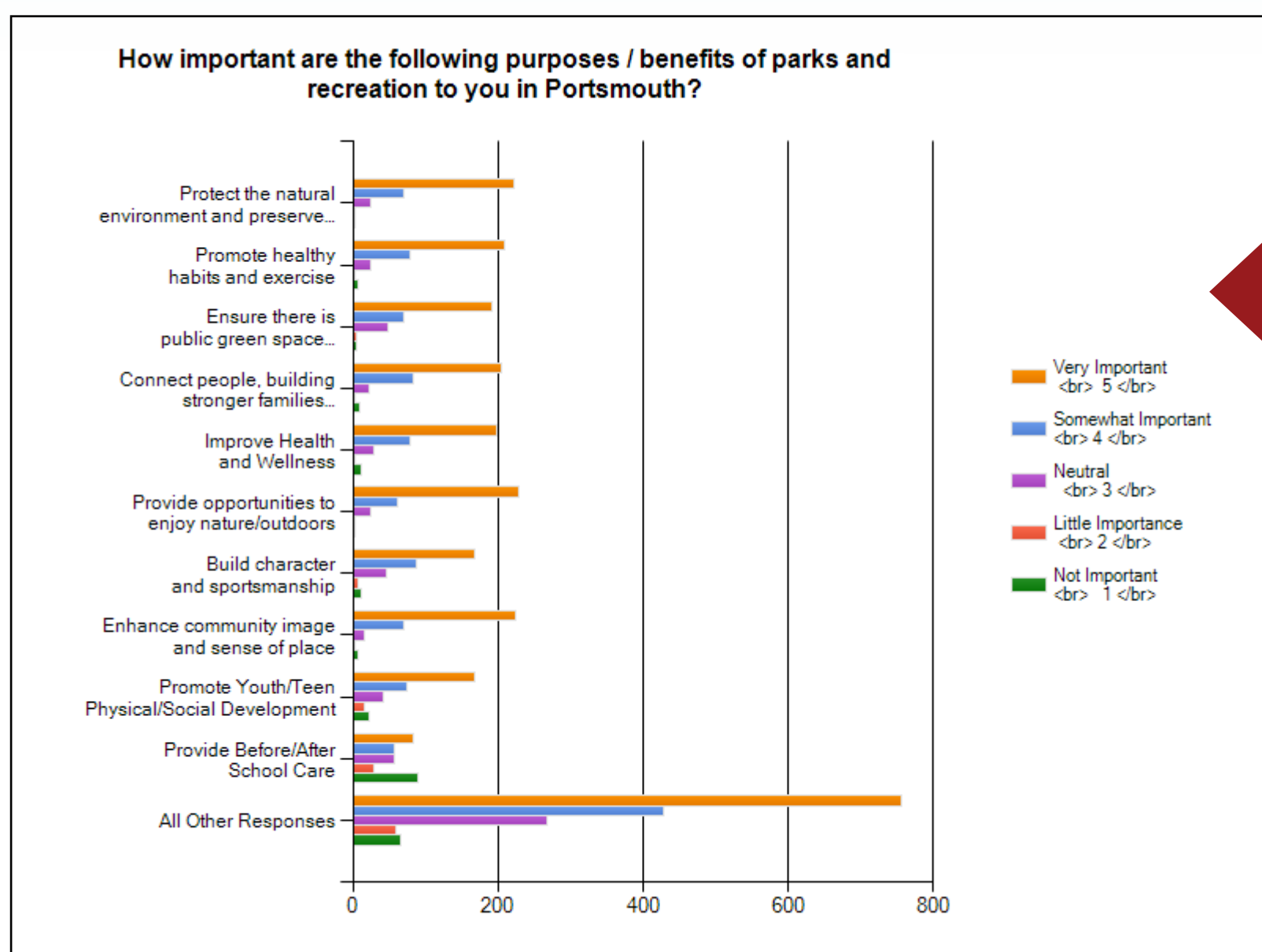
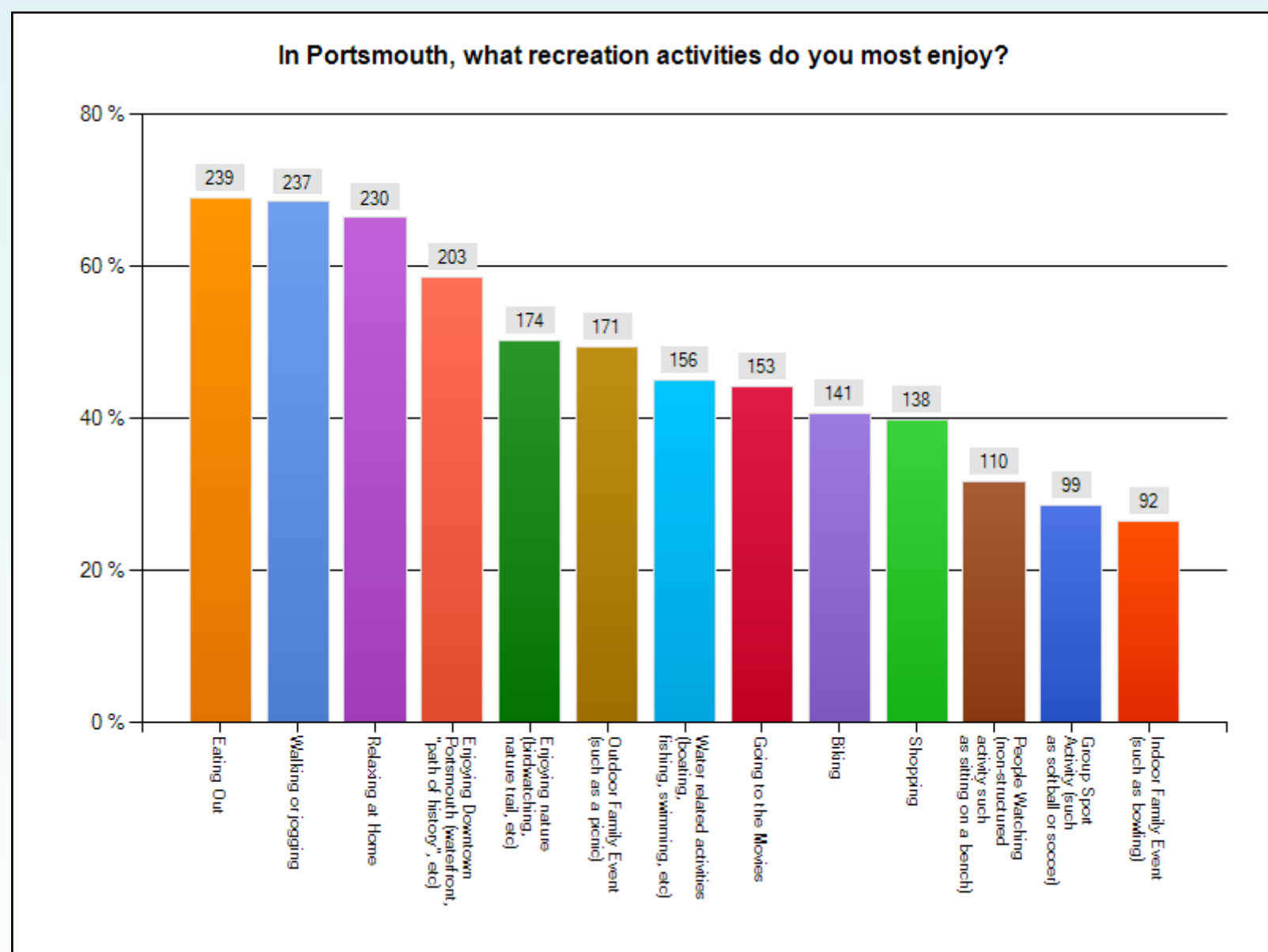


Key Trends in the Parks System

- People want to live near parks and open spaces as they are associated with a higher quality of life.
- Parks are increasingly viewed as an opportunity for non-programmed recreation and cultural activities, and can accommodate facilities targeted for all ages.
- Demands have been observed for gathering areas such as public picnicking areas, outdoor barbecues, etc., particularly in communities with diverse ethnic populations.
- As people become increasingly aware of benefits related to environmental protection, the integration of environmental features into active parks is becoming more apparent.
- Education and public awareness of environmental and park-specific issues are forming components of resource management strategies.

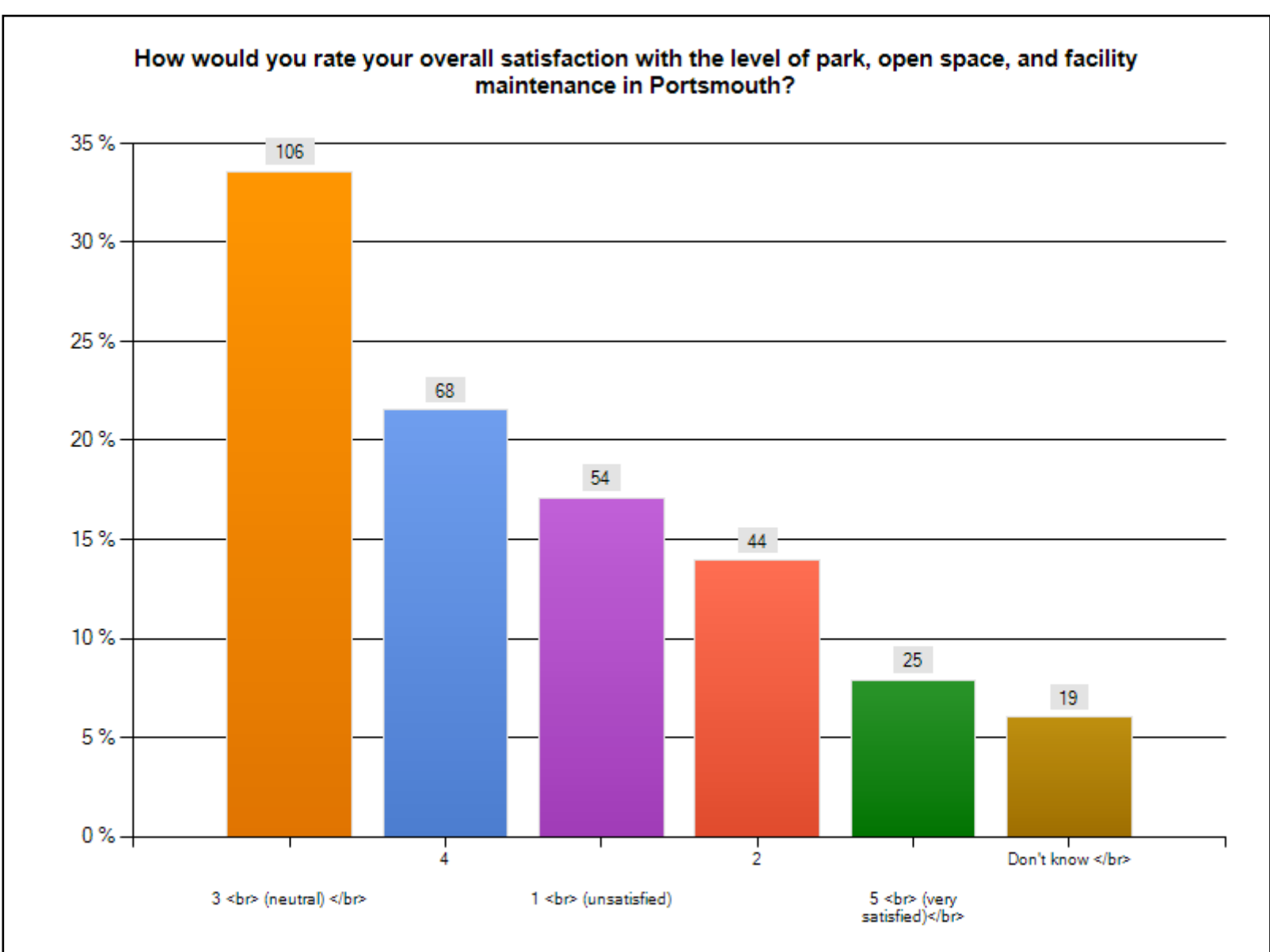
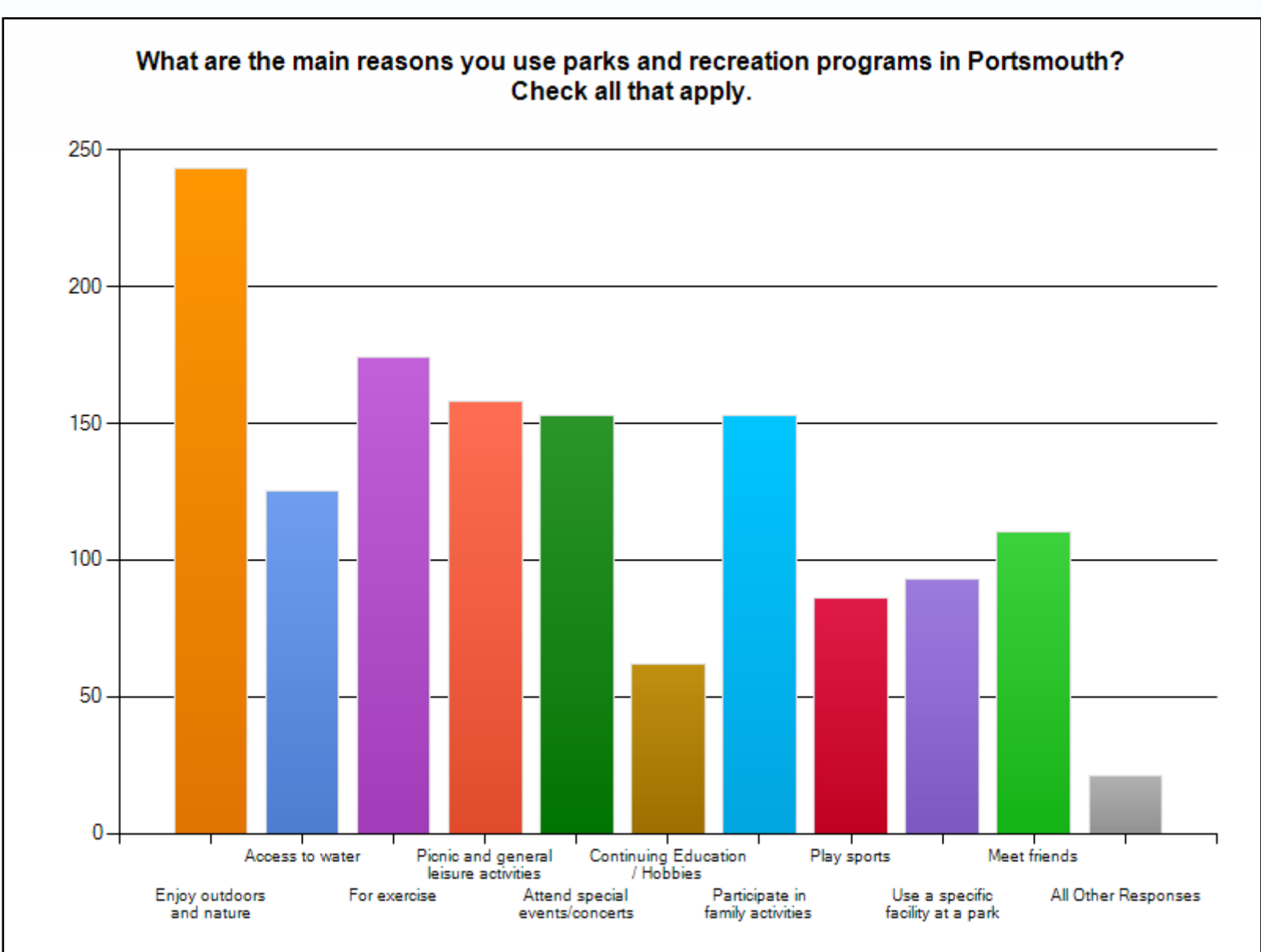
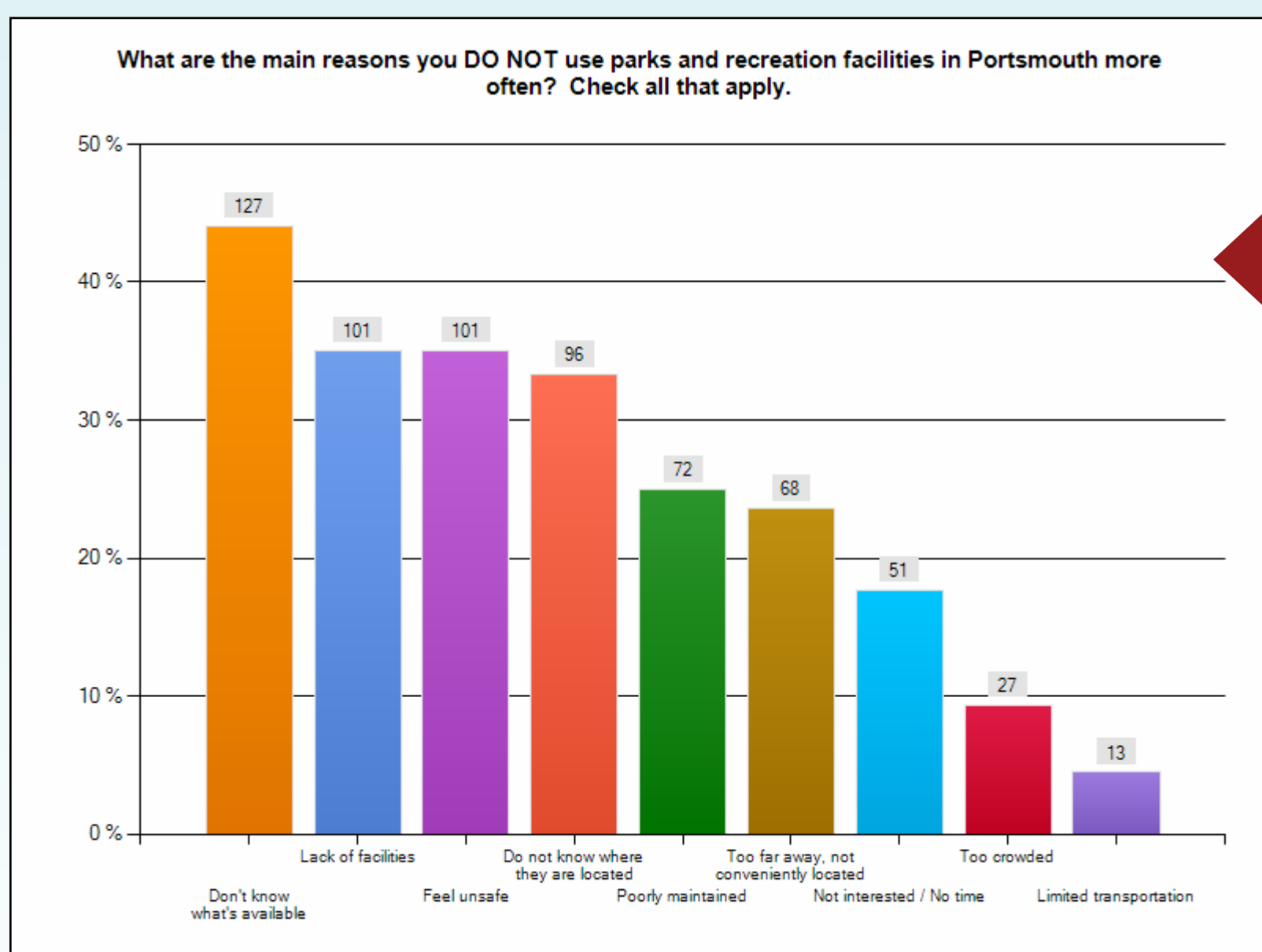
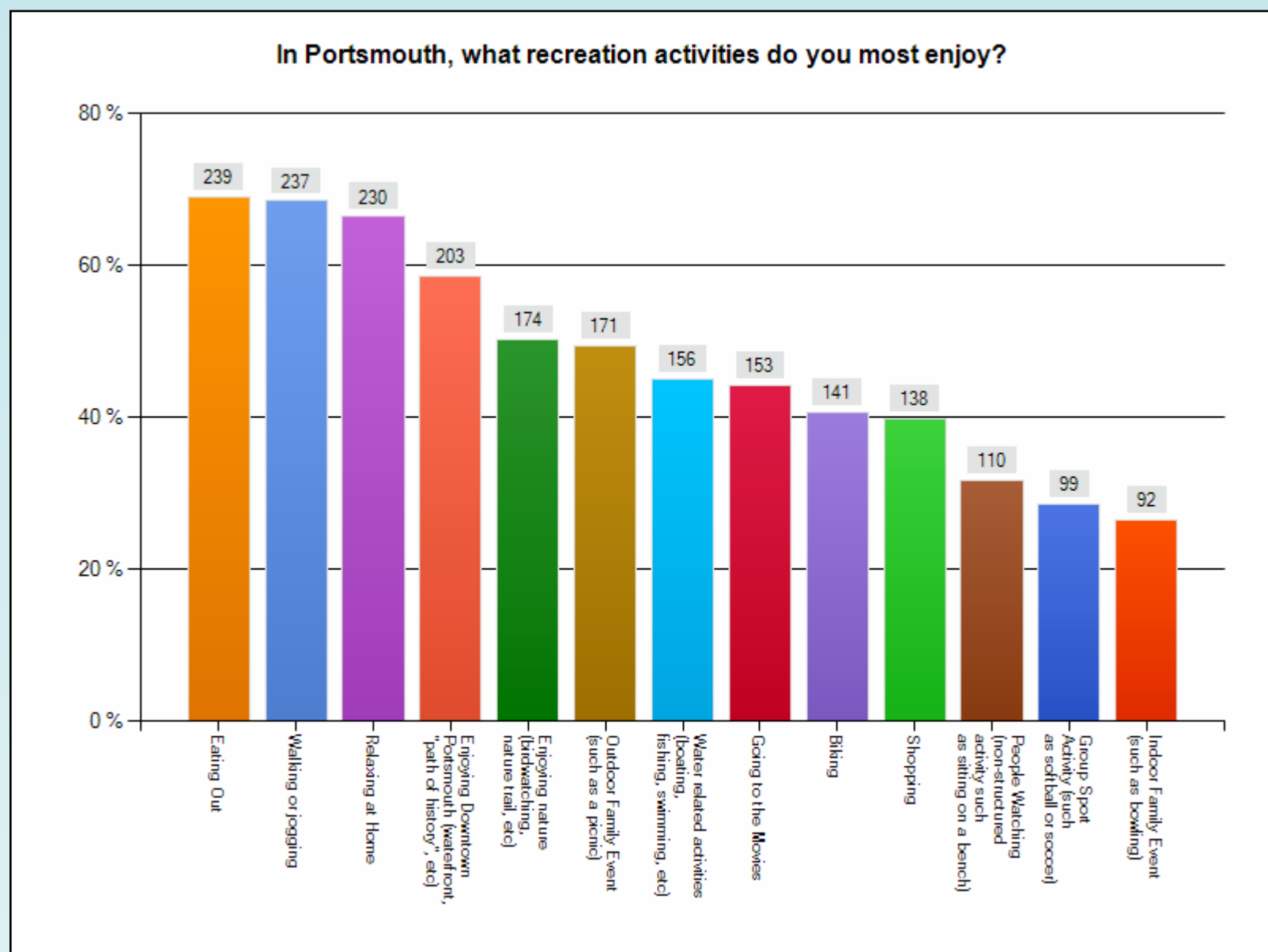
SURVEY RESULTS

Citizen input is vital to the success of the plan. Online and hard copy versions of the survey were conducted and responses were collected from May - August 2011. Citizens provide input on recreational activities (both outdoor and indoor) to formulate values and establish better programs and facilities.



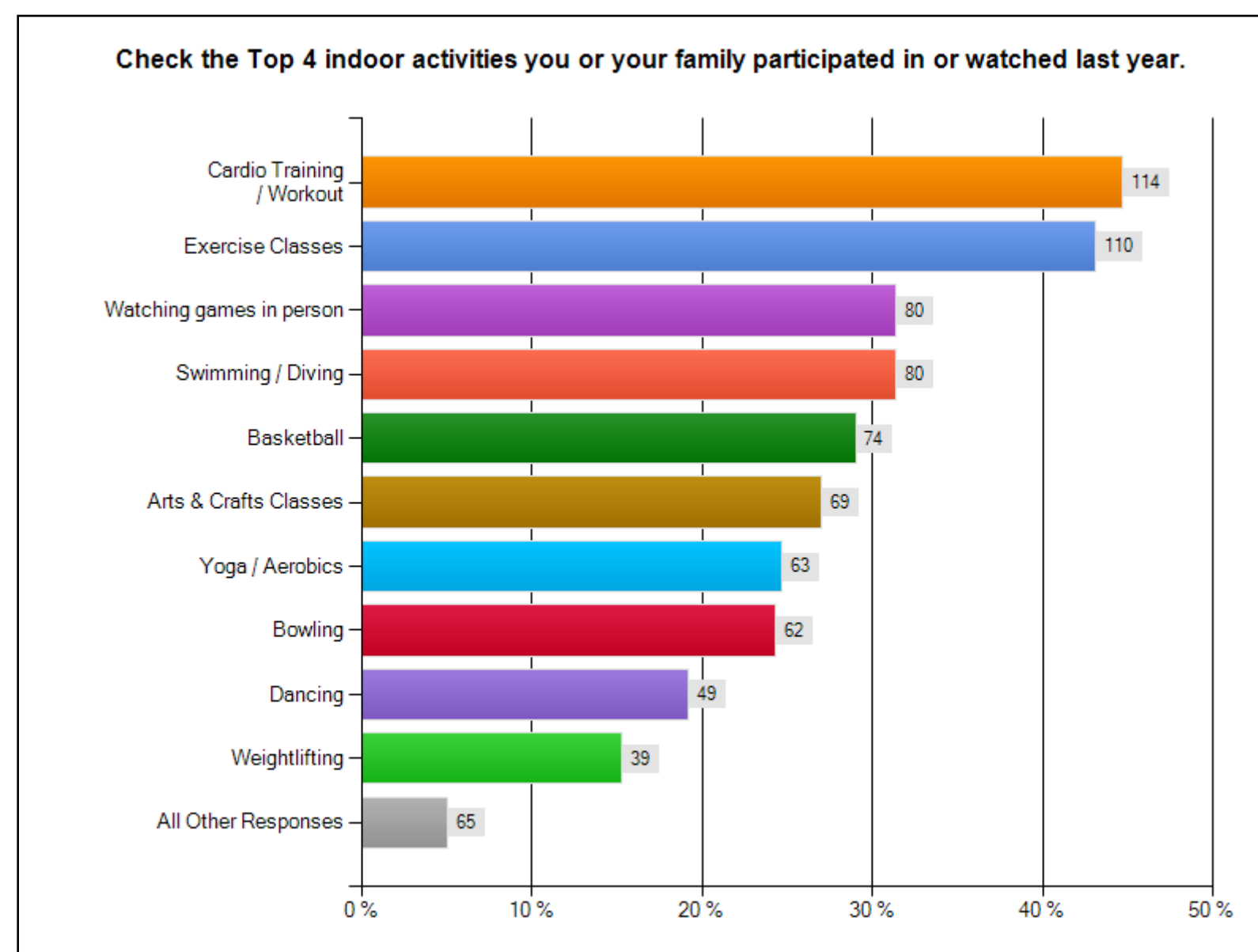
How important are purposes / benefits of parks and recreation to you in Portsmouth?

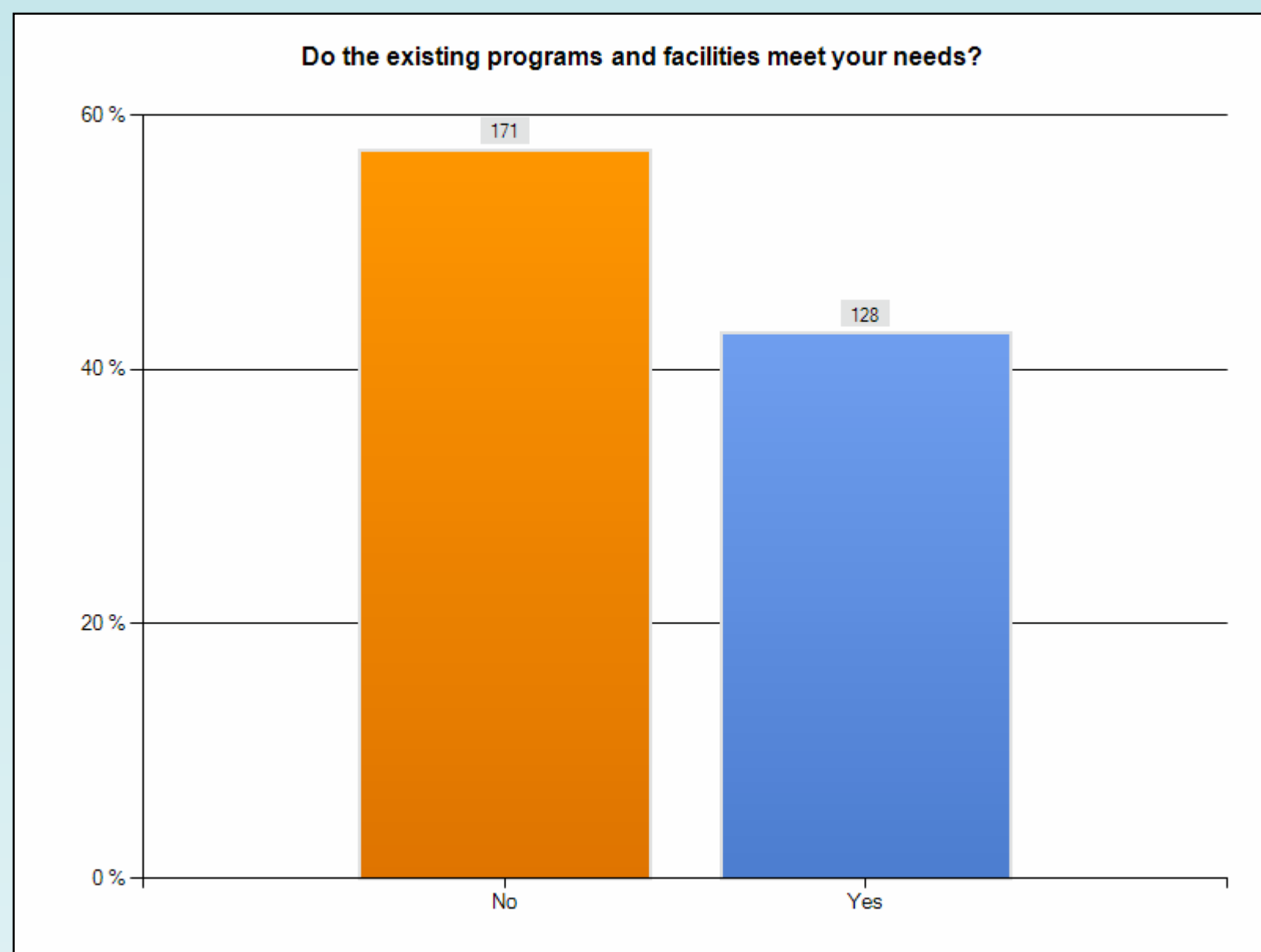
- It would be nice to have a place where you can interact with people.
- Growing up in Portsmouth, the Parks and Recreation was the greatest. In the summer (mostly high school students or grads) were employed to run a program at each school or ball park. There was arts and crafts and all kinds of sports. Softball tournaments with all playgrounds. Why can't the city do something like that for our kids today?
- Need to provide activities, education, socialization, reinforcing family and morals. Regaining sense of pride. Prejudice is not only a racial thing. It includes age, physical appearance and social standing. We need to help all walks of life to enjoy this city.
- We need safe places to go take walks outdoors
- I do believe it is a city's responsibility to provide outlets for recreation and cultural opportunities for all citizens. That might be on a fee based service for some activities - and it does not mean a basketball court in every neighborhood - but within reasonable access for all citizens.
- Connecting people and building families and neighborhoods is one of the visions, but the vision is somewhat distorted.
- I am leary of having a park close to my home since they are nothing more than a gathering place for drug dealers.
- More for the elderly to do
- Our pets are residents here too, and they need a place to run and play safely.
- All these ideas are great, but I would rather have more parks and greenspace than more programs. I believe that when people have access to nature, they become better and healthier people.
- I do not find that Portsmouth has many all encompassing fun and exciting cultural events and activities to enjoy outside of seawall fest....
- A lot of young families have said that as soon as the real estate market changes they are moving so their kids will have more things offered for them.
- I really think the one thing Portsmouth and all of Hampton Roads communities are missing is community pools.
- Provide plenty of smaller playgrounds for children within individual neighborhoods.
- Provide alternatives to video games and television for people of all ages and to gang/criminal activity for youngsters



What are the main reasons you DO NOT use parks and recreation facilities in Portsmouth more often?

- I have a very full life, am fortunate to be in relatively good health, and am able to meet many of my recreational needs in my own verdant neighborhood. A significant number of my fellow Portsmouth residents do not have those advantages.
- Not open late enough
- Portsmouth does not offer the activities my family and I enjoy - hiking trails (serious trails) and canoeing (no rental facilities).
- There is just nothing there
- I'm just busy
- Parks need repairs
- Too limited. Only have City Park for picnics, grilling out, etc
- We have nothing in our neighborhood except a playground that is located in the sun. There is nowhere for adults and families to walk to and relax, perhaps picnic under a tree.
- Loud abusive and crude (music)? that I am deeply offended by having to hear!!!!
- Poorly behaved patrons
- Too many kids
- People do not monitor their children or follow safety rules that are in place.
- The only facility for seniors is a "clique" where not everyone is welcome.
- Yea right - do you know where most of these neighborhood parks and rec centers are - safety?





Do the existing programs and facilities meet your needs?

General, Overall Impressions:

- If you don't have a boat or play golf or tennis, what is there for an adult to do?
- I am sick of driving to other cities to walk/hike.
- Most facilities are not local to my neighborhood and in areas of town that I do not wish to go to.
- Do not feel safe going to parks anymore
- So many of these "parks" you listed are just empty fields.
- Most of my family's "rec" time is spent walking in our neighborhood with its overgrown, cracked, and often non-existent sidewalks
- Waste of money. If people want to use them, then let them and not the taxpayer support the programs
- Waste of tax payer money to keep these open
- The parks and rec programs are a joke in this city and everyone in City Hall who has anything to do with them should be embarrassed by the condition of the ballfields
- Antiquated & Subpar
- I do not think our resources are sufficient.
- I didn't know all these places existed.
- I was really surprised to see all of the places listed. I really didn't know that all of these were available.
- Although many of these may not be of interest to me because of my age, etc., I do think that it would be helpful to make all of these places better publicized. It's also interesting to see this long list after hearing occasionally, "There's nothing for my kids to do in Portsmouth."
- Don't know anything about the programs because they are not advertised.

- I didn't know all of these places existed.
- Really not sure because I am unaware of what the facilities offer.
- There aren't a lot of facilities near me. In fact, I've never even heard of over half of the parks you listed
- I know little about them. They could probably benefit me, if I would only look into them to see what's happening.
- I don't know enough about most of these programs and facilities.

Programming:

- Could we have kayak rental at City Park? I would like more trails to hike. More lectures and learning opportunities.
- Hoffer Creek needs bathrooms.
- It would be benefit if City of Portsmouth had a track that was OPEN TO THE PUBLIC because it's not fair that we paid taxes on tracks & baseball fields that we CAN'T USE AT ALL.
- The waterfront is a valuable resource narrowly accessible to the average citizen
- I love the skateboard park in Cradock, but another one would be great, especially at City Park. I would gladly volunteer time and labor to make this happen

Activities.....too much? Not enough?

- I would like for my kids to participate in sports year round if possible but I feel that what p&r offers isn't enough or isn't advertised well enough
- I wish there were more activities to keep people busy/active besides sitting around.
- Most programs are geared toward children/family not for singles.
- Just would like to see a lot more offered
- Would like more small parks within the neighborhood with things to do
- We live in Churchland and the facilities in Churchland are mainly aimed at group sports (i.e. baseball, soccer, football). We need a general use facility that has more to offer.
- Although I'm a lot older and not engaged in as many athletic activities, I know that the kids in my neighborhood have no place to play. This forces them to hang on corners and may lead to opportunities for mischief

Portsmouth, VA

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STATION 5

VALUES

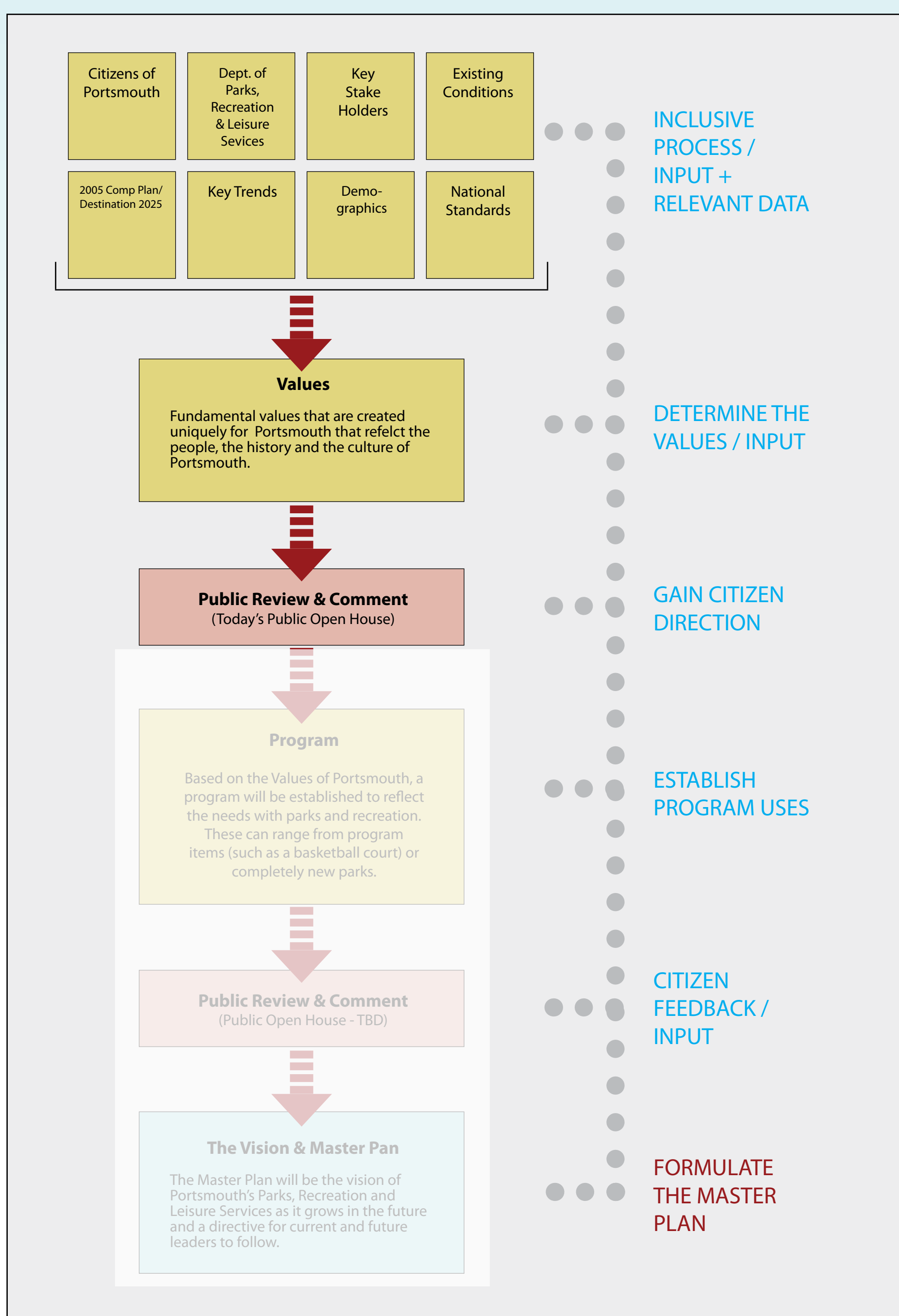
The following statements are proposed values that have been derived from the information gathered. The statements require your input and feedback to formulate fundamental values that are created uniquely for YOUR city that reflect the people, the history, and the culture.

Please read the following statement carefully and add your comments in the blanks provided.

Build a better community through quality parks, recreation, and leisure services.

- Use park's to connect people, build stronger families, and build strong neighborhoods.
- Encourage participation for all; recreation and leisure should be inclusive to all income levels.
- Enhance community image and sense of place by improving parks.
- Encourage a sense of ownership of neighborhood parks.

PROCESS



Enhance the quality of life by distributing park locations and activities through-out the city.

- Distribute equally park and recreation amenities that enhance the quality of life in every neighborhood each day.
- Provide desirable facilities in the city for recreation, events, and leisure. Eliminate the need to go to other cities for activities.

Are these your values?

What is missing?

We want to hear from you.

Value: Each park requires thoughtful, sustainable design and a variety of program opportunities specific to each neighborhood within the city.

- Develop unique parks.
- Promote individuality of each neighborhood park to create successful neighborhoods.
- Conserve natural resources and apply principles of sustainability to new parks and open spaces.
- Encourage a lifetime of learning and well being for people of all ages and abilities.
- Recognize that parks of all sizes are important to community (small pocket parks as well as large regional parks).
- We like recreational components (such as soccer or baseball). We love passive components (such as walking, enjoying nature, or fishing).

Modify and design parks, open space, facilities, and services to be free of crime and injuries.

- Safety is essential.

What else is important to you?

Add your thoughts in the space provided.

Garner a collaborative, working relationship between the Parks & Recreation Department and the community to collectively improve and maintain existing parks, design and implement new facilities and programs, and cooperative usage throughout the park system.

- Implement high standards for maintenance and improvements to existing parks.
- Collaborate to advise and provide assistance with the neighborhoods that want to improve their neighborhood parks.
- Offer opportunities for residents to participate in the design, planning, and implementation of existing and new parks and facilities.
- Encourage cooperation between the Parks and Recreation Department and other public agencies and private entities as it relates to development, maintenance, and shared use of recreational facilities and services.
- Maximize the City's assets by cooperating the usage of shared facilities with schools and school properties.
