



# RECREATION AND PARKS MASTER PLAN APRIL 2018





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# Executive Summary

## A. Purpose of this Plan

The Amherst Recreation and Parks Master Plan is a tool intended to help the local government meet the current and future recreation needs of the community. This citizen-driven plan serves as a source of applicable decision-making information, and establishes clear goals and actionable objectives to guide staff, advisory committees, and the Town Board in their work to maintain and enhance Amherst's system of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities over the next ten years.

## B. Key Findings Summary

Residents of Amherst have a lot to celebrate in their parks and recreation system. Throughout the community there are diverse opportunities to participate in sports and fitness activities, enjoy the great outdoors, or attend a special event or program. The lands, infrastructure, programs, and services Amherst dedicates to recreation directly contribute to community well-being and help make the Town an attractive place to live, work, and play.

While the existing parks and recreation system is generally meeting the recreation needs of the community, the master planning process identified key areas for strengthening current service delivery and preparing Amherst to continue to meet the recreation needs of its growing population, including:

- **Enhancing Communication**
- **Improving Opportunities to Recreate**
- **Creating Connections**

## C. Great Things to Come

Amherst is well positioned to leverage the many strengths of its existing parks and recreation system to ensure that residents continue to have access to diverse and high-quality opportunities to recreate, stay fit, and enjoy the outdoors. Goals developed through the master planning process focus on:

- **Goal 1: Organizational Enhancement** – Improve aspects of the municipal organizational structure that supports the provision and stewardship of the Amherst's parks, recreation facilities, programs, and affiliated services.
- **Goal 2: Programs and Service Delivery** – Increase awareness of Amherst's existing public recreation opportunities and enhance program offerings to meet existing and future community needs.
- **Goal 3: Facilities and Amenities** – Improve existing park amenities and recreation facilities to create more and better user experiences, increase the utility of parks, and elevate levels of satisfaction.
- **Goal 4: Level of Service** – Continue to regularly seek to enhance the level of service provided to residents by the Town's parks and recreation system.
- **Goal 5: Finance** – Continue to find new and innovative means to provide Amherst residents with expanded recreation opportunities.



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# I. Introduction to the Recreation and Parks Master Plan

## A. Purpose of this Plan

The Amherst Recreation and Parks Master Plan is a tool intended to help the local government meet the current and future recreation needs of the community. This citizen-driven plan serves as a source of updated information, and establishes a clear direction to guide staff, advisory committees, and the Town Board in their work to enhance Amherst’s system of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities over the next ten years.

## B. Planning Context Summary

Originally established in 1818, the Town of Amherst is now the largest and most populous suburb of Buffalo in Erie County, New York. For the purposes of this Plan, the Village of Williamsville was included in the Town of Amherst study area. Amherst is bordered to the north by the City of North Tonawanda, Wheatfield, and Pendleton; to the east by Clarence; and to the south by Lancaster, Cheektowaga, and the City of



Buffalo. Major institutions in the Town include Daemen College and the University at Buffalo, the flagship institution in the State University of New York’s 64 campus system. The Northtown Center at Amherst, a large sports complex operated by the Town, is an area recreation hub that hosts regional and national field-based and ice-based sports tournaments and league play.

Amherst encompasses an area of 53.6 square miles and was home to over 123,000 residents in 2016. The landscape of the Town is relatively flat with significant areas of wooded wetlands and floodplains associated with the Tonawanda Creek and Ellicott Creek. The area experiences incredibly pleasant summer weather, and cold, snowy winters. With the Town being listed among the “Top 100 Best Places to Live in America” by CNNMoney multiple times over the past decade, Amherst residents enjoy a high quality of life.

## C. Town Departments Providing Recreation Services

The responsibilities for the Town’s provision of parks, recreation facilities, and programs and services are divided between the following departments:

- **Youth and Recreation Department:** plays a central role in operating facilities, programs, and services for youth and adults.
- **Highway Department:** The Parks Division of this Department is responsible for the majority grounds maintenance, landscape enhancements, and implementation of repair and improvement projects at town parks.
- **Amherst Center for Senior Services:** provides programs for seniors and older adults.

This plan focuses on the park and recreation facilities, programs, and services of the Youth and Recreation Department, and those maintained by the Highway Department. Created in 2010, the Amherst Youth and Recreation Department consolidated the municipal provision of recreation services previously provided independently by the Town’s Youth Board and Recreation Department. According to its vision statement, the Youth and Recreation Department, “envisions Amherst as an active community where all children, adults, and families are valued, engaged, and celebrated.”

### Youth and Recreation Department Mission Statement:

The mission of the Amherst Youth and Recreation Department is to serve and engage the community through partnerships and advocacy; providing quality programs, resources, and facilities in order to develop character, foster sportsmanship, and involve youth, adults, and families in creating a safe and healthy town.

Amherst’s local government also includes the following advisory boards and committees whose missions include a focus on the Town’s provision of parks, recreation programs, and services for residents of all ages and abilities:

- **Recreation Commission**  
**Mission Statement** – To maintain a strong liaison with the Amherst Town Board, Youth and Recreation Department, activity volunteers, and the varied recreation and sport constituencies conducting programming and competition on Town property through sharing communication, trust, and strategies which serve and promote the advancement of recreational participation for all age levels in Amherst.
- **Senior Services Advisory Board**  
**Mission Statement** – To foster the physical and mental well-being of senior citizens by providing educational and recreational activities, nutritional, health-related, social and support services, and opportunities for volunteerism.
- **Youth Board**  
**Mission Statement** – The Amherst Youth Board is an organization offering varied services in support of children, youth, and families living in the Town of Amherst. Chartered by the Amherst Town Board and New York State Executive Law, the agency is governed by a policy-making board of 23 citizen volunteers, comprising both adults and youth. Members are appointed by the Amherst Town Board for three-year terms and participate in decisions affecting programming, policies, funding, and public relations for youth programs and services.



## D. Related Planning Efforts and Integration

This master plan is intended to complement existing guiding Town plans and documents. Documents and ongoing planning work by the Town considered during this planning process included:

- Amherst Comprehensive Plan
- Imagine Amherst Project (ongoing in 2017)
- Youth and Recreation Department Strategic Directions: 2012-2016
- Town of Amherst Access Management Planning: Transit Road Corridor Study
- Town of Amherst Recreation and Parks Master Plan 2004
- Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth (study 2016)

These guiding documents were reviewed by the consultant team, with relevant findings considered and integrated into the recommendations of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan, where applicable, and without conflict with existing community initiatives.

## E. Master Planning Process Methodology

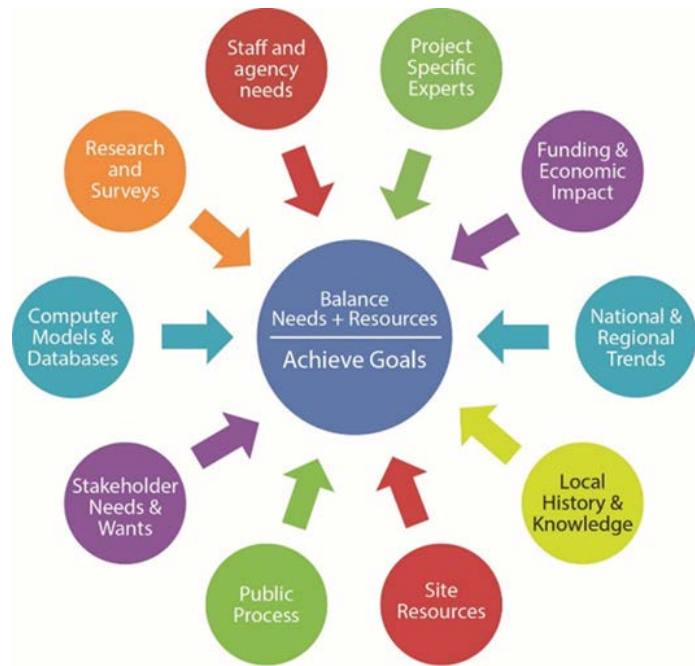
The project team, consisting of Town staff and the consultant team, guided this project through a multi-faceted process to gather and analyze quantitative and qualitative data on issues impacting the provision of municipal parks and recreation amenities and programs in Amherst. The collaborative, community-oriented approach leveraged the consultant team's expertise and local knowledge and institutional history provided by Amherst's staff and community members.

### Major Tasks in the Planning Process:

- Community Engagement
- Facility Inventory
- Level of Service Analysis
- Needs Assessment
- Operation and Marketing Analysis
- Recommendations: Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

### Community Engagement

Members of the community, stakeholders, and municipal staff provided valuable input and feedback regarding their use, satisfaction with, and overall perception in existing Town parks and recreation assets. Opportunities for engagement included a series of ten stakeholder and staff focus groups, multiple public meetings, and two town-wide surveys – one statistically-valid, random sample survey, and a second, open-link version of the survey that was open for any interested resident to participate. Both quantitative and qualitative data was collected from these mixed-methods that helped to identify and corroborate perceived strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for enhancing Amherst's parks, open spaces, and public recreation opportunities.



### **Facility Inventory**

The inventory of existing public parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces in Amherst was updated for 2017. The previous inventory of facility and land assets was completed in 2004. The updated inventory identifies current Town-owned or operated parks, open space areas, and recreation facilities; State of New York parks; and other quasi-public recreation providers.

### **Level of Service Analysis**

Existing individual parks and outdoor recreation amenities throughout Amherst’s system of public parks and recreation areas were evaluated for their condition, functionality, and ambiance. The distribution of assets throughout the community was also evaluated, and gaps in service were identified. Gaps in service represent geographic areas in Amherst where parks and recreation facilities are not present, or are not distributed in a manner that provides for close-to-home, walkable access for residents living in such areas of the community.

### **Operational and Marketing Analysis**

The existing organizational structure, staffing, and budgets that support the Town’s provision of parks, open spaces, and recreational services was evaluated to determine how well these resources are functioning as intended. Town departments that primarily support local parks and recreation opportunities include the Youth and Recreation Department, the Highway Department, and Amherst Center for Senior Services. Each department is responsible for providing targeted services and programs.

### **Needs Assessment**

Input and ideas collected throughout the information gathering process served to identify key program, facility, and service needs to target for improvement and enhancement.

## F. Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan for Enhancement

Key findings from the master planning process and a series of preliminary recommendations for improving parks and recreation facilities and services in Amherst were reviewed on December 12, 2017 with the project team, key municipal staff, Youth and Recreation Department staff, and at a public meeting of the Recreation Commission. Feedback from these sessions was utilized to develop five overarching goals, measurable objectives for each goal, and prescribed actions for the Town to implement to achieve its goals for improving parks and recreation opportunities for residents now and over the next ten years. The full action plan is included in **Section VIII. Great Things to Come**.

### **Goal 1: Organizational Enhancement**

Improve aspects of the municipal organizational structure that supports the provision and stewardship of the Amherst's parks, recreation facilities, programs, and affiliated services.

### **Goal 2: Programs and Service Delivery**

Increase awareness of Amherst's existing public recreation opportunities and enhance program offerings to meet existing and future community needs.

### **Goal 3: Facilities and Amenities**

Improve existing park amenities and recreation facilities to create more and better user experiences, increase the utility of parks, and elevate levels of satisfaction.

### **Goal 4: Level of Service**

Continue to regularly seek to enhance the level of service provided to residents by the town's parks and recreation system.

### **Goal 5: Finance**

Continue to find new and innovative means to provide Amherst residents with expanded recreation opportunities.

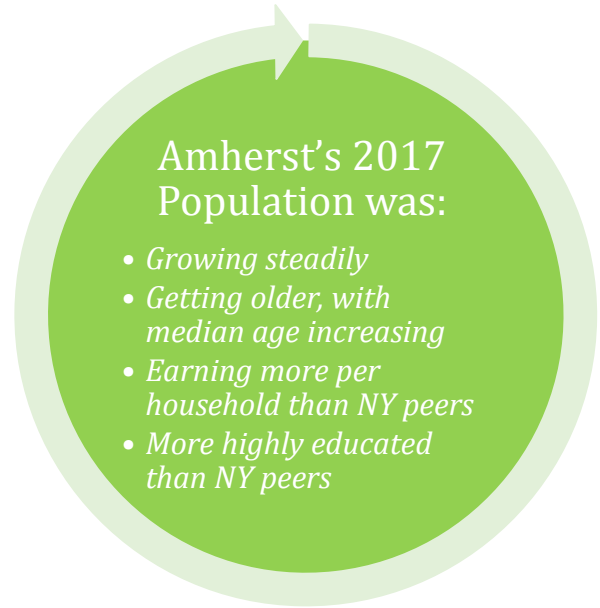


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## II. The Amherst Community – Population Characteristics

As this report details, Amherst residents highly value recreation and are regularly engaged in sports, leisure, and fitness activities year-round.

Understanding the characteristics of the local population is a key component of preparing a Recreation and Parks Master Plan. Esri Business Analyst was utilized to analyze data from the U.S. Census and create current population estimates and future projections, except where otherwise indicated.



**Table 1: Amherst Summary Demographics, 2016**

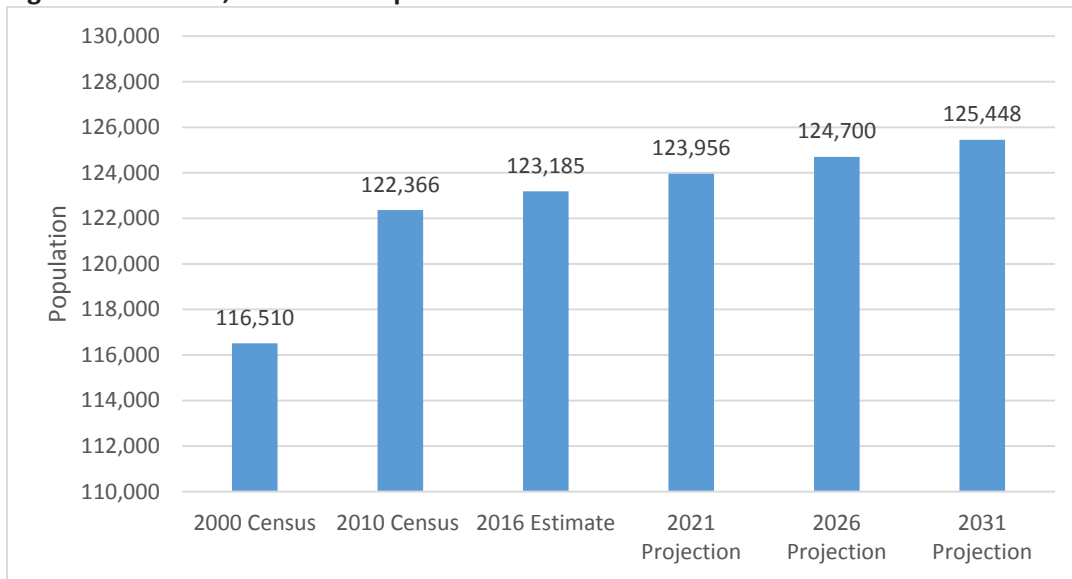
<b>Population</b>	<b>123,185</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>41.2</b>
<b>Households</b>	<b>49,733</b>
<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$67,654</b>

*Source: Esri Business Analyst*

### ***A Growing Population***

Amherst's population grew by more than 5,000 residents between 2000 and 2010. A slower rate of growth (0.12 percent annual) is projected between 2016 and 2021. This growth rate was used by the consultant team estimate the Town's total population for 2026 and 2031.

**Figure 1: Amherst, New York Population Growth Trend**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, and Esri Business Analyst

### Gender Distribution

Amherst’s 2016 population was almost evenly split between the sexes, with slightly more females (52.46%) than male (47.54%) residents. The populations of New York and the United States, are also roughly evenly divided between the sexes.

The existing and projected population of different age groups, or cohorts, within Amherst is illustrated in the following series of figures. **Figure 2** illustrates the 2016 population by age cohort, and **Figure 3** provides this breakdown for the 2010 population, 2016 estimated population, and 2021 projected population.

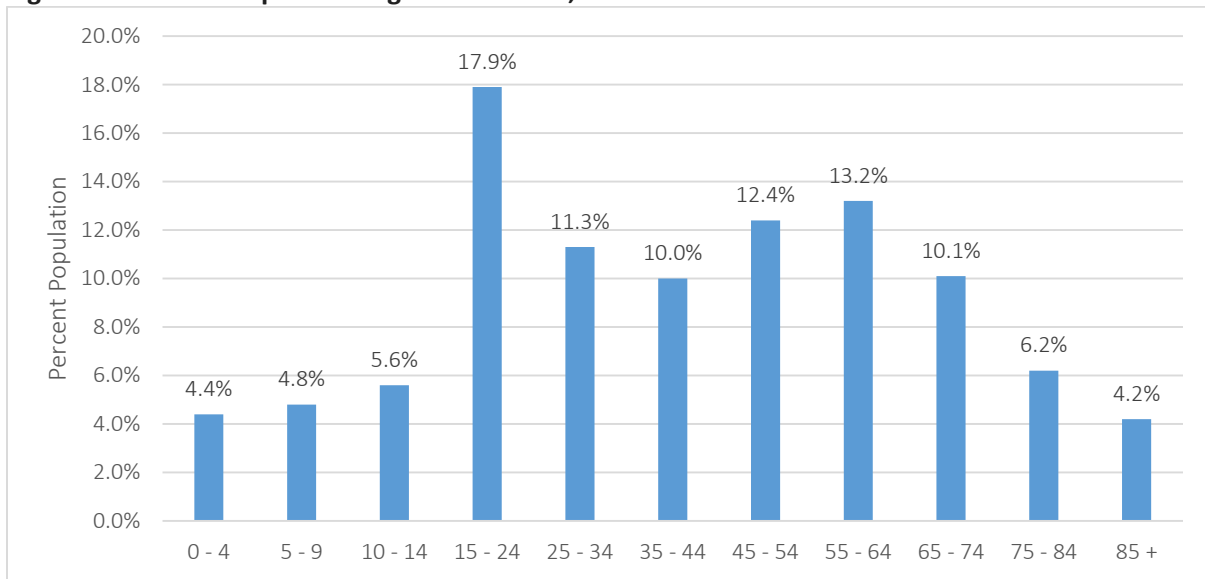
#### **An Aging Population**

Although the median age of residents was 41.2 years, the 2016 estimated population has a significant proportion of 15 to 24-year-old residents, as illustrated in **Figure 2**. This age group comprised 18 percent of the Town’s population in 2010, but it is predicted that this number will decrease to just under seventeen percent in 2021, as shown in **Figure 3**.

#### **The median age of residents is increasing.**

The U.S. Census Bureau reported the median age of Amherst residents to be 40.2 years in 2010. Esri estimates the median age of the 2016 population to be 41.2 years, and projects the median age to increase to 42.1 years by 2021.

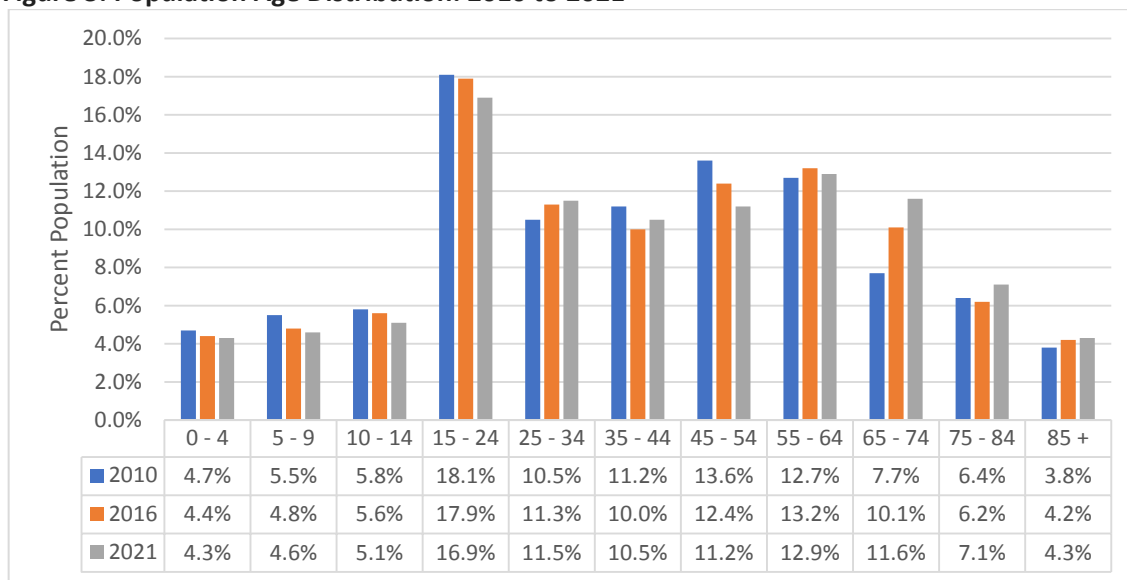
**Figure 2: Amherst Population Age Distribution, 2016**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

As illustrated in **Figure 3**, in general, the population of all age cohorts between 0 and 24 years, as well as those 45 to 54 years of age, are projected to decrease through 2021. During the same time period, the population of residents in age cohorts of 25 to 34 and 65 to 74 are expected to increase.

**Figure 3: Population Age Distribution: 2010 to 2021**

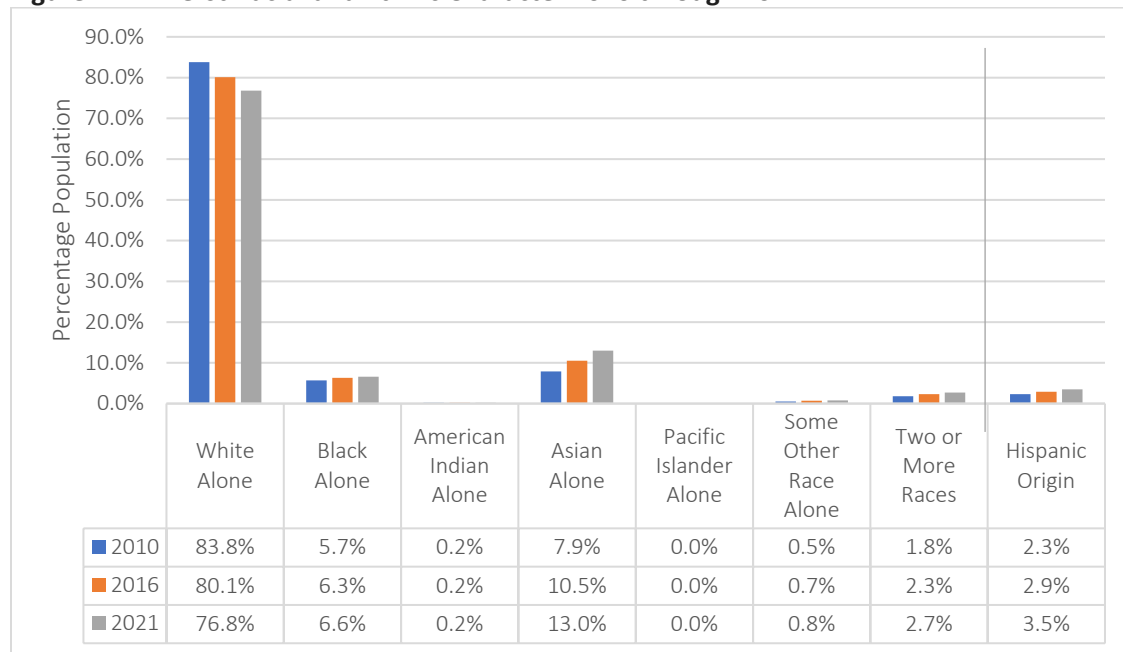


Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Esri Business Analyst

## Race/Ethnicity

**Figure 4** reflects the approximate racial/ethnic population distribution for Amherst based on the 2010 U.S. Census, along with the Esri 2016 estimates and 2021 projections. Overall, the racial and ethnic composition of Amherst has not significantly changed since 2010, and is not anticipated to change to a high degree through 2021. The majority of the Town’s population identified as Caucasians. The largest minority group, making up 10.5 percent of the population in 2016, were Asians. African American residents are estimated to make up 6.6 percent in 2021.

**Figure 4: Amherst Racial and Ethnic Character 2010 through 2021**



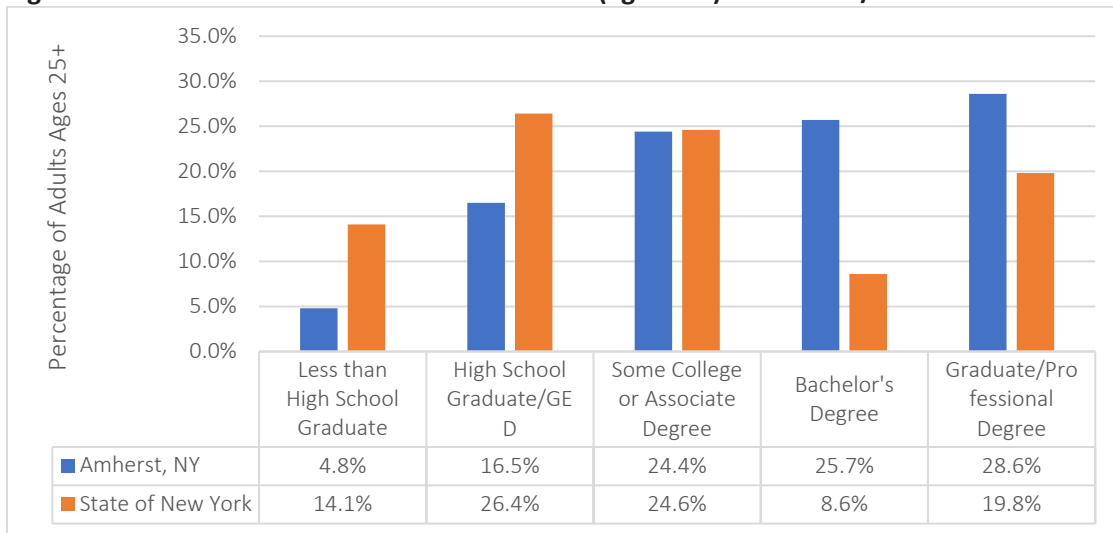
Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Esri Business Analyst

It is important to note that the U.S. Census classifies and counts individuals who identify as Hispanic in a different manner than other races or ethnicities. The Census views Hispanic Origin as the heritage, nationality, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors before arrival in the United States. In the U.S. Census, people who identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race and are included in all of the race categories. All race categories add up to 100 percent of the population. The indication of Hispanic origin is a different view of the population and is not considered an independent racial classification.

### An Educated Population

The educational attainment for Amherst residents over the age of 25 was measured. In 2016, roughly 67 percent of town residents were 25 years or older, and nearly 95 percent of these residents had attained a high school level education or higher. Nearly 29 percent of Amherst adults completed a graduate or professional degree. When compared to peers statewide, Amherst adult residents were more highly educated. As illustrated in **Figure 5**, in 2016, nearly 55 percent of Amherst adults had a completed a Bachelor’s degree or higher, whereas less than 30 percent of adults statewide had completed the same level of education.

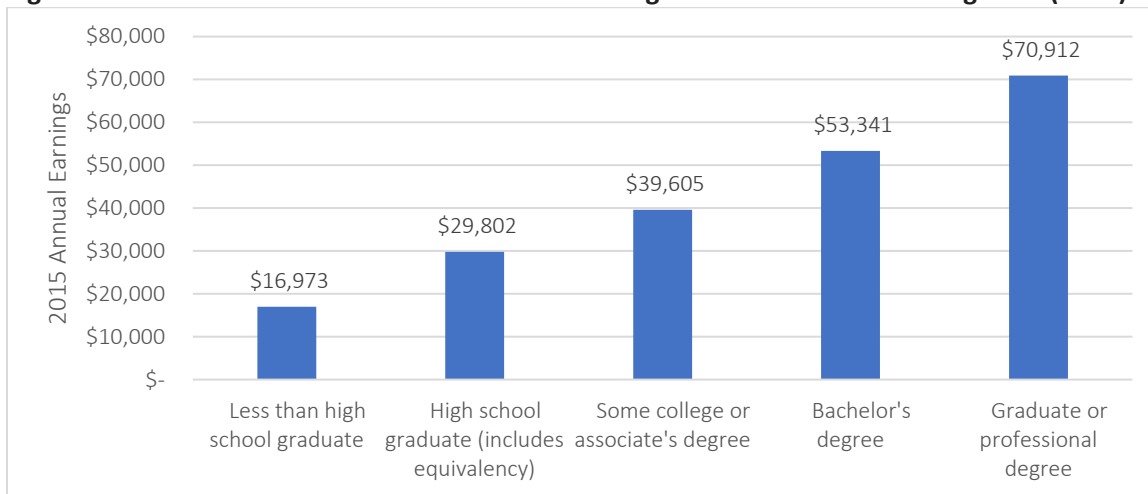
**Figure 5: 2016 Educational Attainment of Adults (ages 25+) – Amherst / State of New York**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

According to a Census study, education levels had more effect on earnings over a 40-year span in the workforce than any other demographic factor, such as gender, race, and ethnic origin.<sup>1</sup> This link between education and earnings appears clearly illustrated in Amherst. As **Figure 6** shows, the Census Bureau’s 2015 American Community Survey reported that Amherst residents (age 25+) with a bachelor’s degree earned triple that of residents who had not completed a high school education. Residents with graduate or professional degrees had median earnings that were nearly \$71,000 – more than double the income of high school graduates (\$29,802). **Figure 6** demonstrates the correlation between educational levels and median income earnings in Amherst.

**Figure 6: Educational Attainment and Median Earnings of Amherst Residents Age 25+ (2015)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015 American Community Survey

<sup>1</sup> Tiffany Julian and Robert Kominski, “Education and Synthetic Work-Life Earnings Estimates” American Community Survey Reports, US Census Bureau, <http://www.Census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-14.pdf>, September 2011.



## Household Information

### Housing Units

As reflected in **Table 2**, the total number of housing units and households in Amherst is projected to continue to increase slowly through 2021. The majority of residents live in owner-occupied housing units, but nearly 30 percent live in rental housing. For the time period reviewed, there is a slow decrease in the overall percentage of owner-occupied housing, and increase in renter-occupied housing.

**Table 2: Amherst Housing Profile 2010 to 2021**

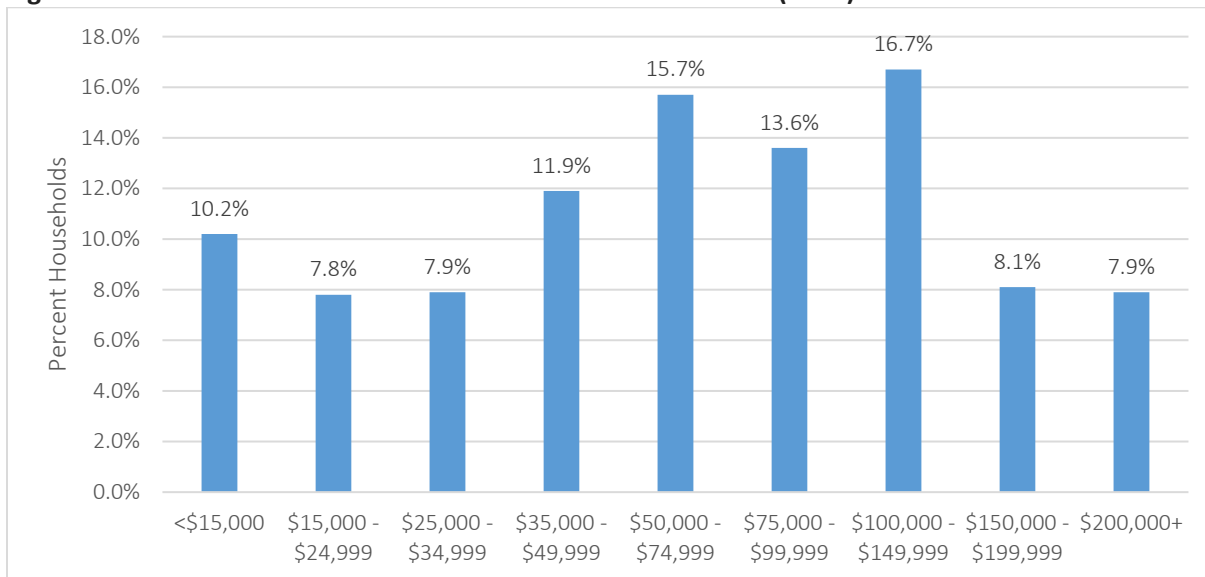
	2010	2016	2021
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	51,179	52,261	53,075
<b>Number of Households</b>	49,733	49,733	50,357
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.33	2.31	2.29
<b>Owner Occupied Housing Units</b>	68.20%	66.50%	65.70%
<b>Renter Occupied Housing Units</b>	27.40%	28.70%	29.20%
<b>Vacant Housing Units</b>	4.50%	4.80%	5.10%

Source: Esri Business Analyst

### Household Income

**Figure 7** illustrates the distribution of household median income by earnings bracket in Amherst in 2016. Although the median income in Amherst was \$67,654, almost 17 percent of households made an income between \$100,000 and \$149,999.

**Figure 7: Distribution of Median Household Income in Amherst (2016)**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

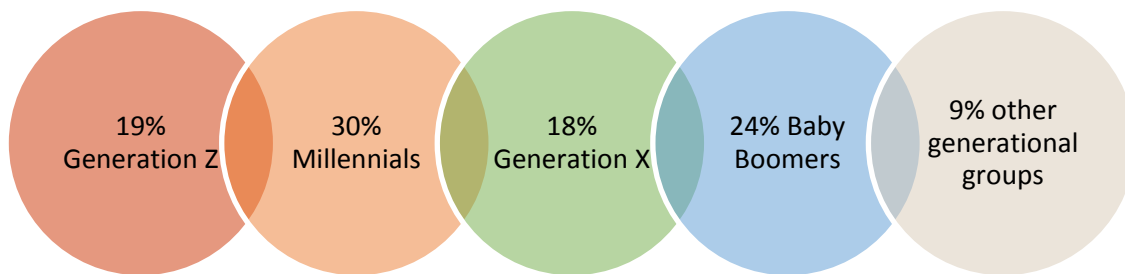
# III. Trends Influencing Recreation in Amherst

The provision of public parks and recreation services can be influenced by a wide variety of trends, including the desires of different age groups within the population, community values, and popularity of a variety of recreational activities and amenities. Within this section of the plan, a number of local and national trends are reviewed that should be considered by the Town when determining where to allocate resources toward the provision of parks, recreational facilities, and recreational programming to its residents and visitors. A detailed recreation trends report was provided to the Amherst Youth and Recreation Department as a staff resource document.

## A. Demographic Trends in Recreation

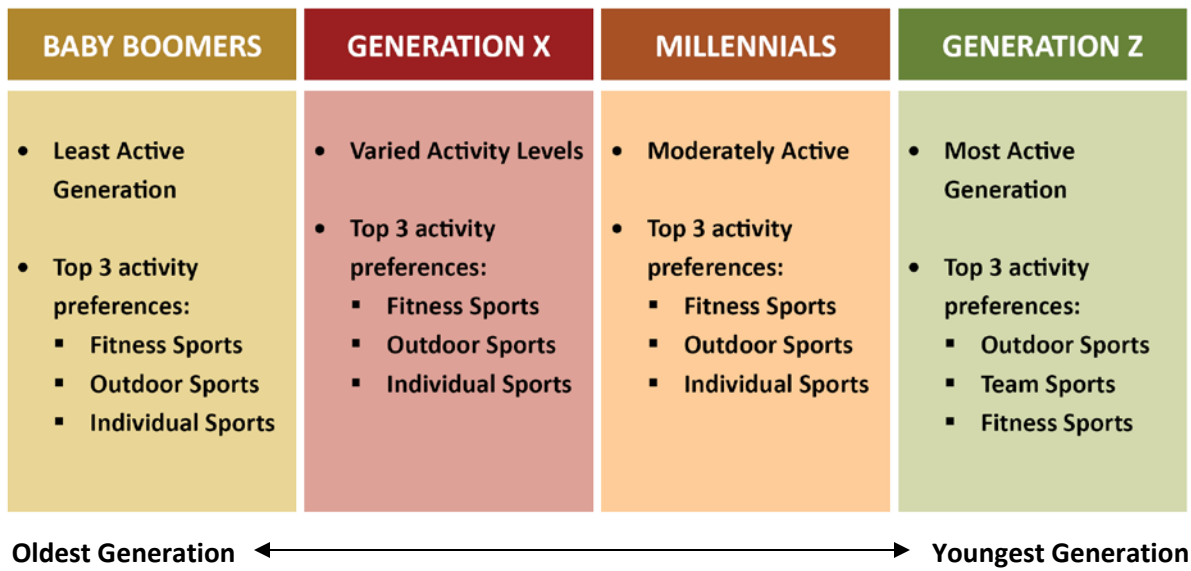
Nationally, four major generational groups, the Baby Boomers, Millennials, and Generation Z, are having significant impacts in the planning and provision of parks and recreation services. In 2016, 73 percent of Amherst’s residents were members of one of these three generational groups.

### Major Generational Groups in Amherst



The 2017 “Participation Report”<sup>2</sup> from the Physical Activity Council characterized generational participation in recreation, sports, fitness, and other physical activities as follows.

<sup>2</sup>Physical Activity Council, 2017 Participation Report, <http://www.physicalactivitycouncil.com/PDFs/current.pdf>; accessed June 2017



### Generation Z– National Trends

In the July 2012 issue of *Parks and Recreation* magazine, Emilyn Sheffield, Professor of Recreation and Parks Management at the California State University, at Chico, contributed an article titled “Five Trends Shaping Tomorrow Today.” In it, she indicated that the proportion of youth is smaller than in the past, but still essential to our future. As of the 2010 Census, the age group under age 18 forms about a quarter of the U.S. population. Nationwide, nearly half of the youth population is ethnically diverse, and 25 percent is Hispanic. In Amherst, roughly 19 percent of the population was under the age of 19 in 2016.

Characteristics cited for Generation Z, the youth of today, include:<sup>3</sup>

- The most obvious characteristic for Generation Z is the pervasive use of technology.
- Generation Z members live their lives online and they love sharing both the intimate and mundane details of life.
- They tend to be acutely aware that they live in a pluralistic society and tend to embrace diversity.
- Generation Z tend to be independent. They do not wait for their parents to teach them things or tell them how to make decisions, they Google it.

With regard to physical activity, a 2013 article published by academics at Georgia Southern University noted that the prevalence of obesity in Generation Z (which they describe as individuals born since the year 2000) is triple that of Generation X (born between 1965 and 1979). It suggests that due to increased use of technology, Generation Z spends more time indoors, is less physically active, and is more obese compared to previous generations. The researchers noted that Generation Z seeks social support from peers more so than any previous generation. This is the most competent generation from a technological standpoint, but Generation Z also tends to fear, and often struggles with, some basic physical activities and sports.

<sup>3</sup>Alexandra Levit, “Make Way for Generation Z,” *New York Times*, March 28, 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/29/jobs/make-way-for-generation-z.html>, accessed May 2016

## The Millennial Generation– National Trends

The Millennial Generation is generally considered those born between about 1980 and 1999, and in April 2016, the Pew Research Center reported that this generation had surpassed the Baby Boomers as the nation's most populous age group.<sup>4</sup> Millennials comprised approximately 30 percent of Amherst's 2016 total population. Millennials are the largest age cohort in Amherst. Having an understanding of some of their general characteristics can help guide decision making in the provision of parks and recreation services to this significant segment of the local population.

In their book, *Millennials Rising, the Next Great Generation*, authors William Strauss and Neil Howe identify the following seven characteristics of the Millennials<sup>5</sup>:

1. **Special:** Used to receiving rewards just for participating, Millennials are raised to feel special.
2. **Sheltered:** Millennials lead structured lives filled with rules and regulations. Less accustomed to unstructured play than previous generations and apprehensive of the outdoors, they spend most of their time indoors, leaving home primarily to socialize with friends and families.
3. **Team oriented:** This group has a "powerful instinct for community" and "places a high value on teamwork and belonging."
4. **Technologically savvy:** Upbeat and with a can-do attitude, this generation is "more optimistic and tech-savvy than its elders."
5. **Pressured:** Millennials feel "pressured to achieve and pressured to behave." They have been "pushed to study hard and avoid personal risk."
6. **Achieving:** This generation is expected to do great things, and they may be the next "great" generation.
7. **Conventional (and diverse):** Millennials are respectful of authority and civic minded. Respectful of cultural differences because they are ethnically diverse, they also value good conduct and tend to have a "standardized appearance."

In a 2011 study of the Millennial Generation,<sup>6</sup> Barkley Advertising Agency made the following observations about Millennials and health/fitness:

- Sixty percent (60%) of Millennials say they try to work out on a regular basis. Twenty-six percent (26%) consider themselves health fanatics.
- Much of this focus on health is really due to vanity and/or the desire to impress others – 73 percent exercise to enhance their physical appearance.
- Millennials are also fans of relaxation and rejuvenation, as 54 percent regularly treat themselves to spa services.
- Despite their commitment to health, Millennials stray from their healthy diets on weekends. There is a noticeable difference between their intent to work out regularly and the amount of exercise that they actually accomplish.

**Figure 8** illustrates contrasts between Millennials and Non-Millennials regarding a number of health and fitness topics.<sup>7</sup>

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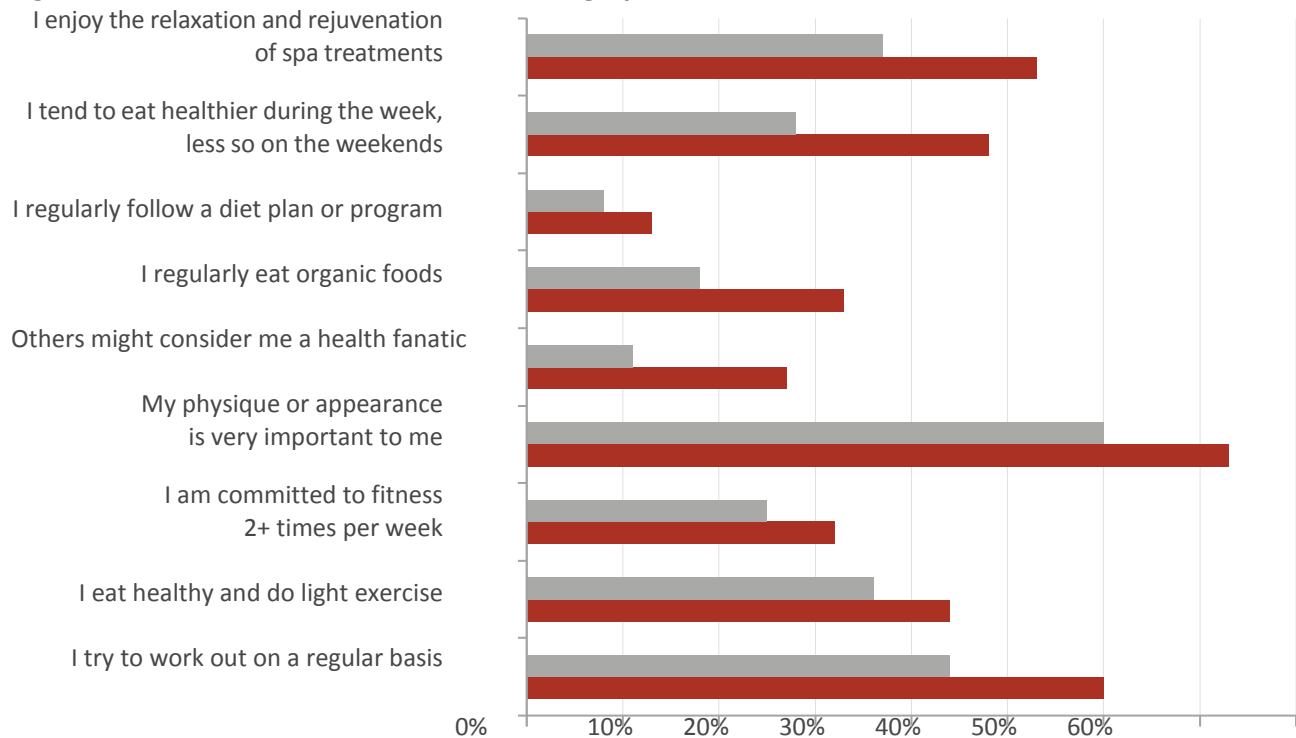
<sup>4</sup> Richard Fry, "Millennials overtake Baby Boomers as America's Largest Generation," *Pew Research Center Fact Tank*, April 25, 2016, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/04/25/millennials-overtake-baby-boomers/>, accessed May 2015

<sup>5</sup> William Strauss and Neil Howe, *Millennials Rising, the Next Great Generation*, Vintage: New York, New York, 2000.

<sup>6</sup> American Millennials: Deciphering the Enigma Generation, <https://www.barkleyus.com/AmericanMillennials.pdf>, accessed May 2015

<sup>7</sup> American Millennials: Deciphering the Enigma Generation, <https://www.barkleyus.com/AmericanMillennials.pdf>, accessed May 2015

**Figure 8: Millennials (red) Vs. Non-Millennials (grey) on Health and Fitness**



Source: *American Millennials: Deciphering the Enigma Generation*

As Millennials tend to be more tech-savvy, socially conscious, achievement-driven age group with more flexible ideas about balancing wealth, work, and play. They generally prefer different park amenities and recreational programs than their counterparts in the Baby Boomer generation. Engagement with this generation should be considered in parks and recreation planning. In an April 2015 posting to the National Parks and Recreation Association’s official blog, “Open Space,” Scott Hornick, CEO of Adventure Solutions suggests the following seven considerations to make your parks Millennial-friendly:<sup>8</sup>

1. Group activities are appealing.
2. Wireless internet/Wi-Fi access is a must – being connected digitally is a millennial status-quo, and sharing experiences in real time is something Millennials enjoying doing.
3. Having many different experiences is important – Millennials tend to participate in a broad range of activities.
4. Convenience and comfort are sought out.
5. Competition is important, and Millennials enjoy winning, recognition, and earning rewards.
6. Facilities that promote physical activity, such as trails and sports fields, and activities like adventure races are appealing.
7. Many Millennials own dogs and want places in which they can recreate with them.

<sup>8</sup> Scott Hornick, “7 Ways to Make Your Park More Millennial Friendly,” *Parks and Recreation Open Space Blog*, August 19, 2015, <http://www.nrpa.org/blog/7-ways-to-make-your-parks-millennial-friendly>, accessed May 2016

In addition to being health conscious, Millennials often look for local and relatively inexpensive ways to experience the outdoors close to home on trails, bike paths, and in community parks.<sup>9</sup> They, along with the Baby Boomer generation, highly value walkability, and in a 2014 study by the American Planning Association, two-thirds noted that improving walkability in a community is directly related to strengthening the local economy. The study also noted that 46 percent of Millennials and Baby Boomers place a high priority on having sidewalks, hiking trails, bike paths, and fitness choices available to them in their community. In fact, these community features were viewed by study respondents to be of higher preference than a great school system, vibrant centers of entertainment and culture, and affordable and convenient transportation choices.<sup>10</sup>

### **Generation X– National Trends**

This generational group is comprised of individuals in the 37 to 52 year old age range. In 2016, the median age of Amherst residents was 41.2 years, and 18 percent of the Town’s population was a member of Generation X. This was the largest single age group in the county in 2016. Many members of this generation are in the peak of their careers, raising families, and growing their connections within the community.

As suggested by the 2017 “Participation Report” from the Physical Activity Council, members of Generation X were “all or nothing” in terms of their levels of physical activity, with 37 percent reported as highly active, and 27 percent reported as completely inactive. As further noted in the report, over 50 percent of Generation X was likely to have participated in fitness and outdoor sports activities. An additional 37 percent participated in individual sports.

### **Baby Boomers – National Trends**

Baby Boomers are defined as individuals born between 1946 and 1964, as stated in “Leisure Programming for Baby Boomers.”<sup>11</sup> They are a generation that consists of nearly 76 million Americans, and comprised 24 percent of Amherst’s population in 2016. Boomers are not the largest age cohort in Amherst, trailing behind Millennials by six percent.

In 2011, this influential population began its transition out of the workforce. In her *Parks and Recreation* magazine article, Sheffield indicated that Baby Boomers are driving the aging of America, with Boomers and seniors over 65 composing about 39 percent of the nation’s population.<sup>12</sup> As Baby Boomers enter retirement, they will be looking for opportunities in fitness, sports, outdoors, arts and cultural events, and other activities that suit their lifestyles. With their varied life experiences, values, and expectations, Baby Boomers are predicted to redefine the meaning of recreation and leisure programming for mature adults.

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<sup>9</sup> “Sneakernomics: How The 'Outdoor' Industry Became The 'Outside' Industry,” *Forbes*, September 21, 2015, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/mattpowell/2015/09/21/sneakernomics-how-the-outdoor-industry-became-the-outside-industry/2/#50958385e34d>, accessed May 2016

<sup>10</sup> American Planning Association, “Investing in Place: Two generation’s view on the future of communities: millennials, boomers, and new directions for planning and economic development,” <https://www.planning.org/policy/polls/investing>, accessed May 2015

<sup>11</sup> Linda Cochran, Anne Roshchadl, and Jodi Rudick, “Leisure Programming For Baby Boomers,” *Human Kinetics*, 2009.

<sup>12</sup> Emilyn Sheffield, “Five Trends Shaping Tomorrow Today,” *Parks and Recreation*, July 2012, p. 16-17.



In the leisure profession, this generation's devotion to exercise and fitness is an example of its influence on society. When Boomers entered elementary school, President Kennedy initiated the President's Council on Physical Fitness; making physical education a key component of public education. As Boomers matured and moved into the workplace, they took their desire for exercise and fitness with them, and have continued to participate at high rates in their retirement. Boomers are second only to Generation Y and Millennials in participation in fitness and outdoor sports.<sup>13</sup>

## B. National Trends in Parks and Recreation

### Park and Recreation Facilities

According to *Recreation Management* magazine's 2016 "State of the Industry Report,"<sup>14</sup> an annual survey of parks and recreation facility operators and service providers, current national trends influencing recreation facilities included:

- **Partnerships** – The popularity of partnering with outside organizations to share facility spaces to extend programming capabilities or potentially increase funding is continuing to grow in popularity nationally. Over 87 percent of agencies reported partnering with another agency in 2016. Of these partnerships, nearly 3/5 were with local schools, and nearly 52 percent with local government agencies.
- **Cost Recovery** – More recreation, sports, and fitness providers are being tasked to recover higher percentages of their operating costs through increasing revenues. The average level of cost recovery from public organizations nationwide was approximately 43 percent, with levels of cost recovery varying widely between different types of providers and facilities. The most common operating cost reduction action taken by parks and recreation providers was to improve the energy efficiency of facilities. Over half of agencies surveyed reported investing in energy efficiencies as an overall cost reduction strategy.
- **Memberships and Usage Fees** – Nearly 60 percent of service providers surveyed charged membership or usage fees for their facilities. The vast majority of YMCAs (93.1%), health clubs (90.6%), and community recreation centers (69.3%) charged fees for memberships or facility use.
- **Facility Use** – In 2014 and 2015, the majority (59.8%) of survey respondents reported that they had expected use of their facilities to increase. In 2016, over 54 percent of survey respondents reported increased facility usage in the previous two years. Providers in urban areas were 10 percent more likely to have reported increased usage of their facilities when compared to rural providers.

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<sup>13</sup>Physical Activity Council, "Participation Report," 2012.

<sup>14</sup>*Recreation Management* magazine, 2016 "State of the Industry Report," <http://recmanagement.com/state-of-the-industry/>; accessed June 2017

- **Existing Facilities** – Park agencies reported providing a variety facilities and amenities. Compared to other recreation providers, parks agencies were more likely to provide:
  - Playgrounds
  - Picnic shelters
  - Outdoor sport courts
  - Community centers
  - Bike trails
  - Skate parks
  - Dog parks
  - Community gardens
  - Disc golf courses
  - Fitness trails or outdoor fitness equipment
  - Splash play areas
  - Golf courses
  - Water parks
  - Ice rinks
  - Bikes/BMX parks

The average age of the “main” recreation facility operated by survey respondents increased from 27.5 years in 2013 to 32.6 years in 2016. Over 60 percent of respondents noted their main facility was at least 21 years old.

- **Construction Plans** – With aging facilities being commonplace, and general increase of facility usage reported nationally, the majority (66.4%) of 2016 survey respondents reported having plans to renovate existing facilities or construct new ones to enhance service provision. This percentage of recreation service providers planning capital investments increased 3.7 percent from 2013 to 2016. The average planned capital improvement budget for public organizations in 2016 was expected to be \$3,887,000.

### Aquatics Facilities

According to the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA), swimming ranked third nationwide among recreational activities in terms of participation in 2014.<sup>15</sup> Nationally, there is an increasing trend toward indoor leisure and therapeutic pools. Swimming for fitness is the top aspirational activity for inactive individuals in all age groups, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) 2016 “Sports, Fitness and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report,” representing a significant opportunity to engage inactive populations.

Aquatic amenities such as splash pads, shallow spray pools, and interactive fountains are becoming increasingly popular attractions in the summer, and if designed for such, can be converted into ice rinks for the winter. These features can also be designed to be ADA-compliant, and are often cheaper alternatives to build and maintain than community swimming pools. Trends in the architectural design for splash parks can be found in *Recreation Management* magazine articles in 2014 and 2015.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> National Sporting Goods Association, “2014 Participation – Ranked by Total,”

<sup>16</sup> Dawn Klingensmith “Make a splash: Spraygrounds Get (Even More) Creative,” *Recreation Management*, April 2014 (and April 2015 updates), [http://recmanagement.com/feature\\_print.php?fid=201404fe01](http://recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=201404fe01)

## Dog Parks

Dog parks are increasingly popular community amenities and have remained among the top planned additions to parks and recreational facilities over the past three years. In fact, the 10 largest cities in the U.S. increased the number of dog parks in their parks system by 34 percent between 2005 and 2010. Dog parks not only provide safe spaces for animals to socialize and exercise, they are also places where dog owners socialize and enjoy the outdoors. They help build a sense of community and can draw potential new community members and tourists traveling with pets.<sup>17</sup>

In 2014, the National Dog Park Association was established and focused their mission on providing informational resources for establishing and maintaining dog parks. *Recreation Management* magazine<sup>18</sup> suggested that dog parks can serve as a relatively low-cost way to provide an oft-visited, popular community amenity. Dog parks can be as simple as a gated area, or more elaborate with “designed-for-dogs” amenities such as water fountains, agility equipment, and pet wash stations. Even splash pads are being designed for dog parks. Well-designed dog parks cater to users with design features for their comfort and pleasure. Some park agencies even offer creative programming at some dog parks for owners and their dogs.<sup>19</sup> Amenities in a well-designed dog park might include the following:

- Benches, shade, and water – for dogs and people
- At least one acre of fenced-in space with adequate drainage
- Double gated entry
- Ample waste stations well-stocked with bags
- Sandy beaches/sand bunker digging areas
- Custom designed splash pads or water-play feature for dogs
- People-pleasing amenities such as walking trails, water fountains, restroom facilities, picnic tables, and dog wash stations.

## Park and Recreation Programming

According to *Recreation Management* magazine’s 2016 “State of the Industry Report,” 96.5 percent of survey respondents provided recreation, sports, fitness, and leisure programs of some kind. The most common programming offered included:

1. Holiday/special events
2. Fitness programs
3. Educational programs
4. Day and summer camps
5. Youth sports teams
6. Mind-body/balance programs
7. Sports tournaments and races
8. Swimming programs
9. Adult sports teams
10. Active senior/older adult programs

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<sup>17</sup> Joe Bush, “Tour-Legged-Friendly Parks,” *Recreation Management*, February 2, 2016.

<sup>18</sup> Emily Tipping, “2014 State of the Industry Report, Trends in Parks and Recreation,” *Recreation Management*, June 2014.

<sup>19</sup> Dawn Klingensmith “Gone to the Dogs: Design and Manage an Effective Off-Leash Area,” *Recreation Management*, March 2014, [http://recmanagement.com/feature\\_print.php?fid=201403fe02](http://recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=201403fe02)

Approximately 31 percent of survey respondents indicated that they were planning to expand programming over the next several years. According to the 2016 “State of the Industry Report,” the most commonly planned program new or expanded programs planned included:

1. Educational programs
2. Fitness programs
3. Mind-body/balance programs
4. Teen programs
5. Active senior/older adult programs
6. Environmental education
7. Arts and crafts
8. Day camps and summer camps
9. Sports tournaments and races
10. Holiday events and other special events

### Fitness Programming

Fitness programming, and popularity of various activities has significantly evolved over the past fifteen years. The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) “Health and Fitness Journal” has conducted annual surveys since 2007 to gauge trends that would help inform the creation of standards for health and fitness programming. The survey focuses on trends in the commercial, corporate, clinical, and community health and fitness industry. **Table 3** compares the results of ACSM’s original 2007 survey, and findings from their survey conducted for 2017, preferences in fitness programming change over time. Some trends first identified in 2007 have remained popular while other activities and associated programs were widely popular for short durations. For example, Zumba was a top 10 fitness trend/activity in 2012 but quickly declined in popularity. Two years later, in 2014, it failed to register in the top 20. Body weight training and high-intensity interval training were highly popular in 2015. Fitness programs for older adults had been in the top 10 for a decade, but ranked as 11<sup>th</sup> in the 2017 survey.<sup>20</sup>

**Table 3: Top 10 National Fitness Trends – 2007 and 2017**

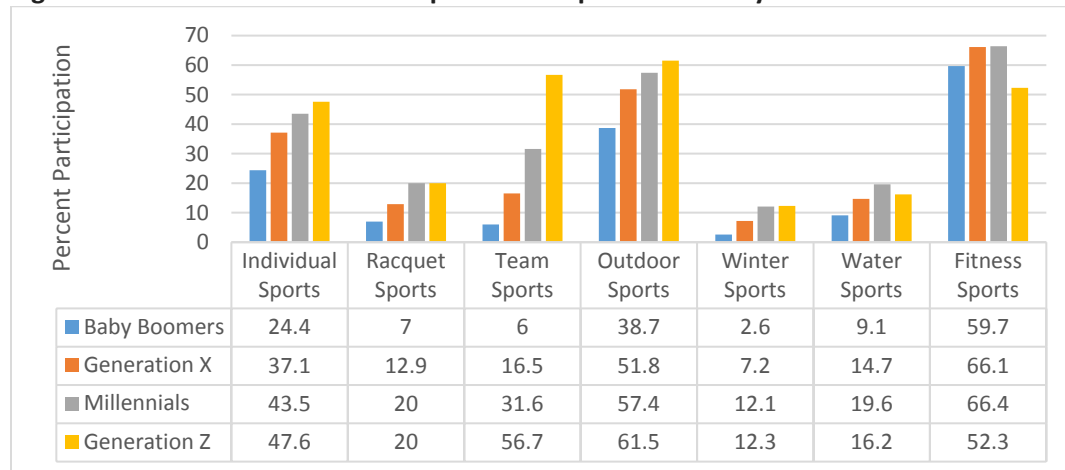
2007 Trends	2017 Trends
1.Children and obesity	1. Wearable technology
2.Fitness programs for older adults	2. Body weight training
3.Educated and experienced fitness professionals	3. High-intensity interval training
4. Functional fitness	4. Educated and experienced fitness professionals
5. Core training	5. Strength training
6. Strength training	6. Group training
7. Personal training	7. Exercise is Medicine
8. Mind/body exercise	8. Yoga
9. Exercise and weight loss	9. Personal training
10. Outcome measurements	10. Exercise and weight loss

Source: American College of Sports Medicine Health and Fitness Journal

<sup>20</sup> Walter R. Thompson, Ph.D., “Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends for 2017,” *Health & Fitness Journal*, Volume 20, Issue 6, American College of Sports Medicine, November/December 2016

According to the 2017 “Participation Report” by the Physical Activity Council, over half of each generation participates in fitness sports, with roughly 2/3 of Millennials and Generation Xers participating in fitness activities. Generation Z, those generally under the age of 18, participated at higher rates than their older peers in individual, team, and outdoor sports. Baby Boomers participated the least; however, roughly 1/4 of this generation participated in individual sports, more than 1/3 participated in outdoor sports, and nearly 60 percent participated in fitness sports. **Figure 9** illustrates participation rates by generation.<sup>21</sup>

**Figure 9: A Breakdown of Fitness Sports Participation Rates by Generation**



Source: Physical Activity Council 2017 Participation Report

### Festivals and Special Events

Festivals and other special events are often popular activities in communities that not only entertain, generate economic activity, and serve to celebrate community identity, they are also fantastic means of introducing people the community’s public parks and recreation system. Public parks and recreation agencies play a major role in planning, managing, and hosting festivals and other community programs that often serve to draw new users into their facilities. Attendants to events hosted in parks or recreation centers who enjoy their experience may want to return for another event or program, or simply to enjoy the park or recreation facility. Participants in these special programs can become interested in visiting other parks and recreation facilities or participating in programs.

<sup>21</sup> 2017 Participation Report,” Physical Activity Council, 2017

## C. Healthy Lifestyle Trends and Active Living Trends

### Active Transportation – Bicycling and Walking

In many surveys and studies on participation in recreational activities, walking, running, jogging, and cycling are nearly universally rated as the most popular activities among youth and adults. Walking, jogging, and running are often the most highly participated in recreational activity, and cycling often ranks as the second or third most popular activity. These activities are attractive as they require little equipment or financial investment to get started, and are open to participation to nearly all segments of the population. For these reasons, participation in these activities are often promoted as a means of spurring physical activity and increasing public health. The design of a community's infrastructure is directly linked to physical activity – where environments are built with bicyclists and pedestrians in mind, more people bike and walk. Higher levels of bicycling and walking also coincide with increased bicycle and pedestrian safety and higher levels of physical activity. Increasing bicycling and walking in a community can have a major impact on improving public health and life expectancy. The following trends as well as health and economic indicators are pulled from the Alliance for Biking and Walking's 2012 and 2014 Benchmarking Reports:

#### Public health trends related to bicycling and walking include:

- Quantified health benefits of active transportation can outweigh any risks associated with the activities by as much as 77 to 1, and add more years to our lives than are lost from inhaled air pollution and traffic injuries.
- Between 1966 and 2009, the number of children who bicycled or walked to school fell 75 percent, while the percentage of obese children rose 276 percent.
- Bicycling to work significantly reduces absenteeism due to illness. Regular bicyclists took 7.4 sick days per year, while non-bicyclists took 8.7 sick days per year.

#### Economic benefits of bicycling and walking include:

- Bicycling and walking projects create 8 to 12 jobs per \$1 million spent, compared to just 7 jobs created per \$1 million spent on highway projects.
- Cost benefit analyses show that up to \$11.80 in benefits can be gained for every \$1 invested in bicycling and walking.

#### National bicycling trends:

- There has been a gradual trend of increasing bicycling and walking to work since 2005.
- Infrastructure to support biking communities is becoming more commonly funded in communities.
- Bike share systems, making bicycles available to the public for low-cost, short-term use, have been sweeping the nation since 2010. Twenty of the most populous U.S. cities have a functional bike share system.

Bicycle-friendly communities have been emerging over the last 10 years. In addition to being a popular recreational activity, cycling has become a desirable, regular mode of transportation as people consider the costs and challenges of commuting by car or public transportation, their desire for better health, and concern for the environment.



The Alliance for Biking and Walking published its “Bicycling and Walking in the United States: 2014 Benchmarking Report,”<sup>22</sup> updating its 2012 Benchmarking Report. The report shows that increasing bicycling and walking are goals that are clearly in the public interest. Where bicycling and walking levels are higher, obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes levels are lower.

The Institute for Transportation & Development Policy published an updated “Standard for Transportation Oriented Design (TOD)” in March 2014, with accessible performance objectives and metrics, to help municipalities, developers, and local residents design land use and built environment “to support, facilitate, and prioritize not only the use of public transport, but the most basic modes of transport, walking and cycling.” The TOD Standard, along with its performance objectives and scoring metrics, can be found at <https://www.itdp.org/tod-standard>.<sup>23</sup>

### **Health and Obesity - National Trends**

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), obesity continues to be a serious issue in America, growing at an epidemic rate—almost tripling since 1990. Overall, more than one-third (35.7%) of adults and 17 percent of children in the United States are obese.<sup>24</sup> These statistics illustrate the importance of intervention and curbing of the epidemic in youth. As obesity in the United States continues to be a topic of interest for legislators and our government, there continues to be research suggesting that activity levels are stagnant among all age groups. For example, the CDC has reported that:

- Only 25 percent of adults and 27 percent of youth (grades 9-12) engage in recommended levels of physical activity.
- Fifty-nine percent (59%) of American adults are sedentary.
- Children nationally spend between 4.5 to 8 hours daily (30 to 56 hours per week) in front of a screen (television, computer, or another electronic device).

### **Trails and Health- National Trends**

Trails can provide a wide variety of opportunities for being physically active, such as walking/running/hiking, rollerblading, wheelchair recreation, bicycling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding. Trails and community pathways are a significant recreational and alternative transportation infrastructure, but are most effective in increasing public health when they are part of a system. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Trails for Health Initiative<sup>25</sup> concluded that a connected system of trails increases the level of physical activity in a community. Several groups, including American Trails have created resources explaining the many benefits of trails: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/benefits>.

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<sup>22</sup> Alliance for Biking and Walking, *2014 Benchmarking Report*, <http://www.bikewalkalliance.org/download-the-2014-benchmarking-report>, accessed January 2015

<sup>23</sup>Institute for Transportation & Development Policy, “TOD Standard, Version 2.1,” March 2014, <https://www.itdp.org/tod-standard/>

<sup>24</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “Obesity and Overweight – Facts,” <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/facts.html>, accessed on October 3, 2012.

<sup>25</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Guide to Community Preventive Services,” <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html>

The health benefits are equally as high for trails in urban neighborhoods as for those in state or national parks. A trail in the neighborhood, creating a “linear park,” makes it easier for people to incorporate exercise into their daily routines, whether for recreation or non-motorized transportation. Urban trails need to connect people to places they want to go, such as schools, transit centers, businesses, and neighborhoods.<sup>26</sup>

## D. Natural Environments and Open Space

### Conservation

Parks and public lands are critical to the quality of life for all Americans, and that quality of life, for everyone, in any community, is improved by clean, green, and accessible parks and open space. Parks and open spaces serve an essential role in preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing open space for current and future generations. Parks also provide an essential connection for Americans of all ages and abilities to the life-enhancing benefits of nature and the outdoors.<sup>27</sup> In 2013, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) further emphasized the critical role parks and recreation agencies play in conserving open spaces and natural resources when it included “conservation” as one of its “three pillars” or guiding themes (social equity, health and wellness, and conservation). The three pillars were created as a means of encapsulating all the areas where parks and recreation professionals make an impact into six words.<sup>28</sup>

In addition to being stewards of public open spaces and natural resources, parks and recreation agencies are extremely well positioned within communities to engage people of all ages with nature, educate the public about the outdoors and environmental issues; coordinate stewardship projects with public, non-profit, and private entities; and lead by example in land and resource conservation efforts. In defining its position on the role of parks and recreation agencies in conservation, NRPA noted the following benefits of conservation and environmental stewardship:

- Providing carbon-reducing sustainable landscapes that cleanse air and water, replenish aquifers, reduce storm water runoff, and protect wildlife habitat.
- Offering the public access to safe, affordable, and healthy ways to experience and appreciate nature.
- Contributing significantly to the economic well-being of communities through energy and resources conservation and providing many economic benefits to communities derived from outdoor recreation.

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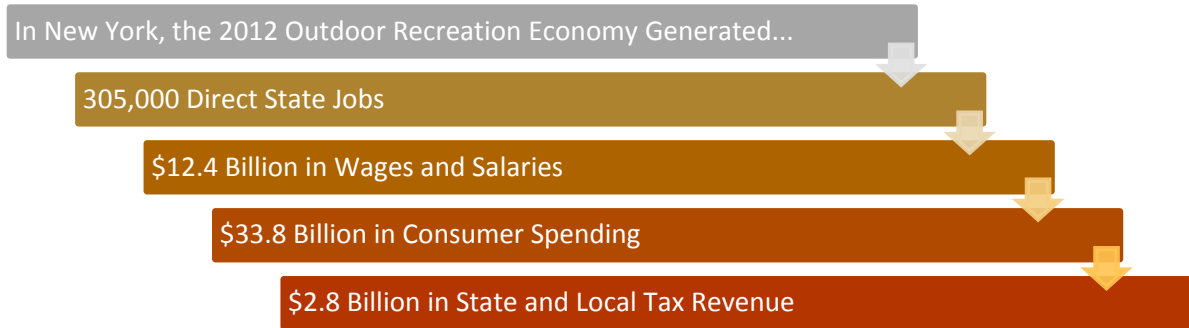
<sup>26</sup> National Trails Training Partnership, “Health Community: What you should know about trail building,,” <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/health/healthcombuild.html>, accessed May 2016

<sup>27</sup> National Parks and Recreation Association, “Role of Parks and Recreation in Conservation,” <http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Position-Statements/Role-of-Parks-and-Recreation-in-Conservation>, accessed May 2016

<sup>28</sup> [Elizabeth Beard, “Pillars of Our Community,” \*Parks and Recreation\*, April 1, 2016,](http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2013/April/Pillars-of-Our-Communities) <http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2013/April/Pillars-of-Our-Communities>, accessed May 2016

## Economic and Health Benefits of Parks – National and Regional Trends

There are numerous economic and health benefits of parks, including the following:



Source: *Outdoor Industry Association, The Outdoor Recreation Economy*

- In New York alone, outdoor recreation generated \$33.8 billion in annual consumer spending, and \$2.8 billion in state and local tax revenue. Outdoor recreation was also estimated to generate 305,000 in the State and an estimated \$12.4 billion in wages and salaries.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2017, the Outdoor Industry Association estimated that national consumer spending on outdoor recreation generated \$887 billion in consumer spending, and directly supported 7.6 million jobs.
- Trails, parks, and playgrounds are among the five most important community amenities considered when selecting a home.
- Research from the University of Illinois shows that trees, parks, and green spaces have a profound impact on people's health and mental outlook.<sup>30</sup>
- U.S. Forest Service research indicates that when the economic benefits produced by trees are assessed, the total value can be two to six times the cost for tree planting and care.<sup>31</sup>
- Nearly half of active Americans regard outdoor activities as their main source of exercise.<sup>32</sup>

"The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space," a report from the Trust for Public Land, makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental, and social benefits of parks and open space:<sup>33</sup>

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.
- Residential and commercial property values increase.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and act as natural air conditioners.
- Trees assist with storm water control and erosion.

<sup>29</sup> Outdoor Industry Association, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy*, [https://outdoorindustry.org/images/researchfiles/OIA\\_OutdoorRecEconomyReport2012.pdf](https://outdoorindustry.org/images/researchfiles/OIA_OutdoorRecEconomyReport2012.pdf); accessed December 2016

<sup>30</sup> F.E. Kuo, "Environment and Crime in the Inner City: Does Vegetation Reduce Crime?" *Environment and Behavior*, Volume 33, p. 343-367

<sup>31</sup> Nowak, David J., "Benefits of Community Trees," Brooklyn Trees, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report

<sup>32</sup> *Outdoor Recreation Participation Report 2016*

<sup>33</sup> Paul M. Sherer, "The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space," The Trust for Public Land, San Francisco, CA, 2006

- Crime and juvenile delinquency are reduced.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.
- Stable neighborhoods and strong communities are created.

### **Nature Programming – National Trends**

Noted as early as 2003 in *Recreation Management* magazine, parks agencies have been seeing an increase in interest in environmental-oriented “back to nature” programs. In 2007, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) sent out a survey to member agencies in order to learn more about the programs and facilities that public parks and recreation agencies provide to connect children and their families with nature.<sup>34</sup> A summary of the results follow:

- Sixty-eight percent (68%) of public parks and recreation agencies offer nature-based programming, and 61 percent have nature-based facilities.
- The most common programs include nature hikes, nature-oriented arts and crafts, fishing-related events, and nature-based education in cooperation with local schools.
- When asked to describe the elements that directly contribute to their most successful programs, agencies listed staff training as most important followed by program content and number of staff/staff training.
- When asked what resources would be needed most to expand programming, additional staff was most important followed by funding.
- Of the agencies that do not currently offer nature-based programming, 90 percent indicated that they want to in the future. Additional staff and funding were again the most important resources these agencies would need going forward.
- The most common facilities include nature parks/preserves, self-guided nature trails, outdoor classrooms, and nature centers.
- When asked to describe the elements that directly contribute to their most successful facilities, agencies listed funding as most important followed by presence of wildlife and community support.

## **E. National Trends in Adult and Youth Sports**

### **Adult Recreation: Pickleball**

No adult recreational sport is taking off faster than Pickleball.<sup>35</sup> Pickleball is a racquet sport played on a badminton court with a lowered net, perforated plastic ball and wood paddles. While it originated in the Pacific Northwest in the 1960s, it has grown exponentially since 2000. The USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) estimates that there were about 500 Pickleball players in 2000, with that number growing to 125,000 in 2013. It’s especially popular with the 50+ crowd because it is low impact but gets the heart rate pumping.<sup>36</sup> Pickle ball is an attractive programming option for recreation managers because it is adaptable to a variety of existing facilities – four Pickleball courts fit in one tennis court.

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<sup>34</sup> National Recreation and Parks Association, “NRPA Completes Agency Survey Regarding Children and Nature,” [http://www.narrp.org/assets/Library/Children\\_in\\_Nature/nrpa\\_survey\\_regarding\\_children\\_and\\_nature\\_2007.pdf](http://www.narrp.org/assets/Library/Children_in_Nature/nrpa_survey_regarding_children_and_nature_2007.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Chris Gelbach, “Never Stop Playing: Trends in Adult Recreational Sports” *Recreation Management*, September 2013, [http://recmanagement.com/feature\\_print.php?fid=201309fe02](http://recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=201309fe02), accessed January 2015

<sup>36</sup> David Crumpler, “Pickleball a fast-growing sport, especially for the 50 and older crowd,” *Florida Times Union*, January 26, 2015, <http://jacksonville.com/prime-time/2015-01-26/story/pickleball-fast-growing-sport-especially-50-and-older-crowd>, accessed January 2015

## Adult Sport Teams In and After the Work Place – National Trends

Adult sports teams of all sorts, from competitive volleyball to local flag football teams to casual kickball, are becoming increasingly popular around the country, especially among Millennials who grew up with a full extra-curricular schedule of team sports. While adult team sport participation is not limited to the Millennial generation by any means, a recent survey conducted on behalf of the Sports Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) found that Millennials are twice as likely as Generation Xers (born between 1965 and 1979) to participate in team sports as adults.<sup>37</sup>

Adult team sports are attractive as ways to be social, get exercise, or just for something to do after work. Instead of the bar scene, this provides a more comfortable form of interaction for many.<sup>38</sup>

Sports teams in the work place are also a growing trend in the United States as companies look for new ways to keep their employees healthy and happy. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) promotes tennis in the work place, citing the following benefits:

- Developing team-building
- Creating leadership opportunities
- Increasing employee morale and overall health

A story on National Public Radio examined sports participation among adults in Finland.<sup>39</sup> Finland consistently makes the top-five list of “most physically active European countries” according to European Commission studies. There is a strong tradition of employers encouraging sports participation among their employees, which started about a century ago with the forest industry. These days, about 90 percent of employers provide some kind of support for their employee’s physical activity. Finns say it’s understood that healthy employees do better work.

## Youth Sports – National Trends

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) produces a yearly report on sports, fitness, and leisure activities in the United States. The following findings regarding youth and sports were highlighted in the 2016 report:<sup>40</sup> In 2015 youth aged 6 to 16 (Generation Z) participation was highest for outdoor (62%), team (59%), and fitness sports (51%). Camping was a top interest for youth across the age spectrum, age 6 to 24.

In 2009, an article in *The Wall Street Journal* observed that toward the close of the last decade, lacrosse had become one of the country’s fastest growing team sports. Participation in high-school lacrosse almost doubled in the first decade of the century. An estimated 1.2 million Americans over age 7 played lacrosse in 2009.<sup>41</sup> A 2011 report, “U.S. Trends in Team Sports,” finds that lacrosse and other niche team sports, as well as volleyball, are continuing to experience strong growth for youth and adults.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Sarah M. Wojcik, “Millennials Fuel Rise of For-profit Recreation Leagues,” *The Morning Call*, <http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-millennials-adult-sports-leagues-20190727-story.html>, July 27, 2015, accessed July, 2015

<sup>38</sup> Liz Butterfield, “Adult Sport Leagues: The New After Work Social Scene,” *RVA News*, <http://rvanews.com/sports/adult-sport-leagues-the-new-after-work-social-scene/100639>, August 8, 2013, accessed July, 2015

<sup>39</sup> Rae Ellen Bichell, “How Finns Make Sports Part of Everyday Life,” *National Public Radio Morning Addition*, July 28, 2015, <http://www.npr.org/sections/healthshots/2015/07/28/426748088>

<sup>40</sup> Sports and Fitness Industry Association, *2016 Sports, Fitness and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report*, <http://www.sfia.org/reports/all/>.

<sup>41</sup> Evans and Trachtenberg, “Lacrosse Muscles Its Way West,” *The Wall Street Journal*, May, 2009.

<sup>42</sup> SMGA, “2011 Preview: U.S. Trends in Team Sports,” Fall 2011,”

## F. Outdoor Recreation

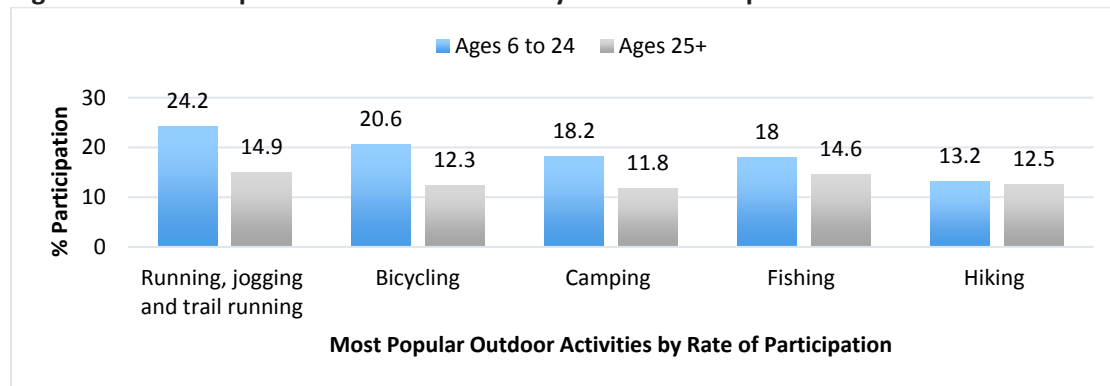
Outdoor recreation trends are also a recurring topic of study by the United States Forest Service through the Internet Research Information Series (IRIS). An IRIS report dated January 2012<sup>43</sup> provides the following recent nature-based outdoor recreation trends. Participation in walking for pleasure and family gatherings outdoors were the two most popular activities for the U.S. population as a whole. These outdoor activities were followed closely in popularity by viewing/photographing wildlife, boating, fishing, snow/ice activities, and swimming. There has been a growing momentum in participation in sightseeing, birding, and wildlife watching in recent years.

The Outdoor Foundation releases a “Participation in Outdoor Recreation Report” annually. According to the 2016 Topline Report,<sup>44</sup> nearly half (48.4%) of Americans participated in outdoor recreation activities in 2015. Additional key findings from the 2016 report include:

- In 2015, 48.4 percent of Americans ages 6 and older participated in at least one outdoor activity. This equated to 142.4 million Americans who went on a collective 11.7 billion outdoor recreation outings.
- Top five participation percentage increase in outdoor activities in the past three years were in stand up paddle boarding, triathlon (traditional/road), kayak fishing, triathlon (non-traditional/off-road), and trail running.
- Participation among youth ages 6 to 12 was at 63 percent, ages 13 to 17 was at 59 percent, and ages 18 to 24 was at 57 percent.
- Participation among adults ages 25 to 44 was at 56 percent, and 37 percent among adults ages 45 and older.

As illustrated in **Figures 10 to 12** the 2016 “Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report” also lists the most popular (by participation rate) and favorite (by frequency of participation) outdoor activities for youth and young adults ages 6 to 24, and adults over the age of 25 nationwide:

**Figure 10: Most Popular Outdoor Activities by Rate of Participation**



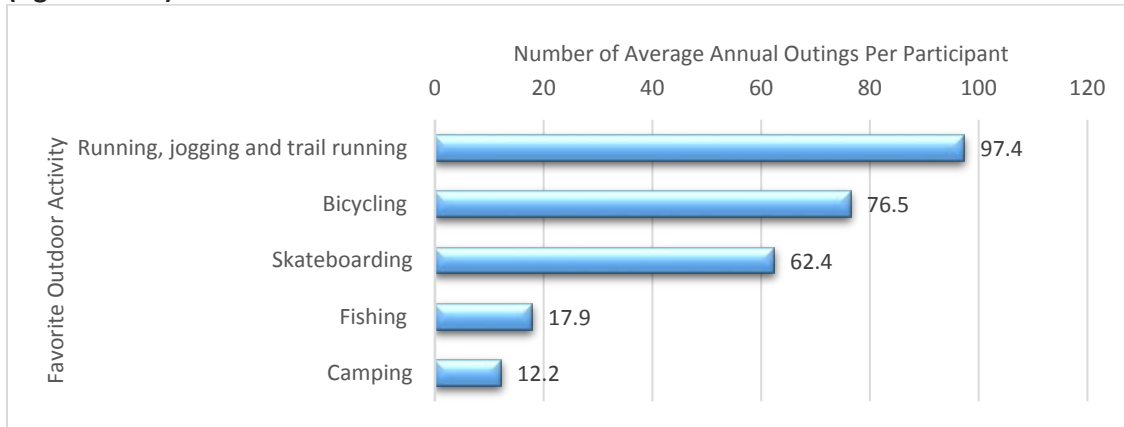
Source: 2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report

<sup>43</sup> USDA Forest Service, “Recent Outdoor Recreation Trends,” *Internet Research Information Series (IRIS) Research Brief*, January 2012, <http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/nrrt/nsre/IRISRec/IRISRec23rpt.pdf>, accessed August, 2012.

<sup>44</sup> *Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report 2016*

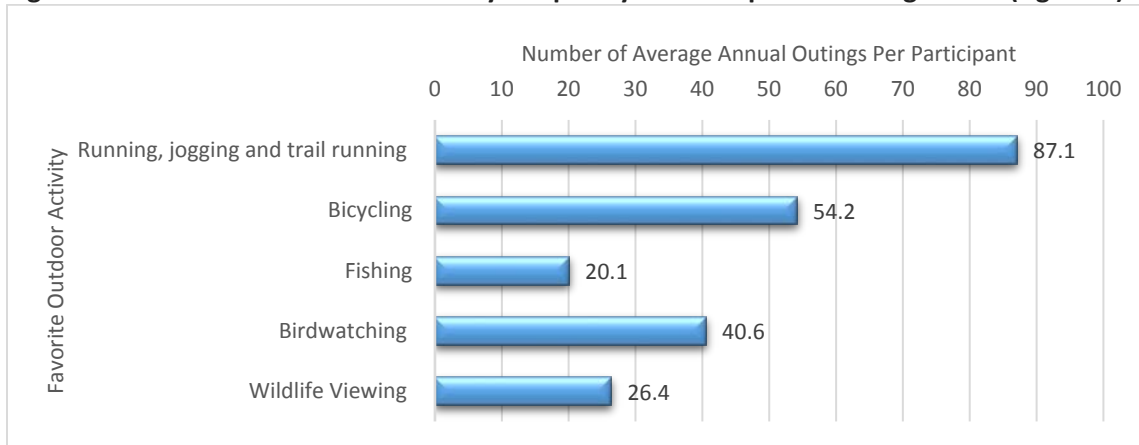


**Figure 11: Favorite Outdoor Activities by Frequency of Participation among Youths and Young Adults (Ages 6 to 24)**



Source: 2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report

**Figure 12: Favorite Outdoor Activities by Frequency of Participation among Adults (Age 25+)**



Source: 2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report

### Trail Recreation and Cycling Trends

For trail-related recreation activities such as hiking, bicycling, and running, the 2016 “Outdoor Recreation Topline Report” indicates a positive three-year trend for trail running, running/jogging, hiking, mountain biking, and BMX biking, as shown in **Table 4**. Additionally, participation in trail running and BMX biking is up significantly over the recent three-year period.

**Table 4: Cycling and Trail Recreation Participation by Activity (Ages 6+)**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	3 Year Average Change
<b>BMX Bicycling</b>	2,369	1,547	2,175	2,168	2,350	2,690	7.5%
<b>Bicycling (Mountain/Non-Paved Surface)</b>	7,161	6,816	7,714	8,542	8,044	8,316	2.8%
<b>Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface)</b>	39,320	40,349	39,232	40,888	39,725	38,280	-0.8%
<b>Hiking (Day)</b>	32,496	34,491	34,545	34,378	36,222	37,232	2.6%
<b>Running/Jogging</b>	50,713	52,187	54,188	51,127	49,408	48,496	-2.3%
<b>Trail Running</b>	5,136	5,610	6,003	6,792	7,531	8,139	10.7%

Source: 2016 Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report

### Other Cycling Trends

- Bicycle touring is becoming a fast-growing trend around the world, including the United States and Canada. “Travelers are seeking out bike tours to stay active, minimize environmental impact, and experience diverse landscapes and cityscapes at a closer level.”<sup>45</sup>
- Urban bike tours, popular in cycle-friendly cities in Europe, are taking hold in the United States as well. Bikes and Hikes LA, an eco-friendly bike and hike sightseeing company, offers visitors the opportunity to “see the city’s great outdoors while getting a good workout.” In New York, a hotel and a bike store are partnering to offer guests cruisers to explore the city during the summer of 2014.<sup>46</sup>
- One of the newest trends in adventure cycling is “fat bike,” multiple speed bikes that are made to ride where other bikes can’t be ridden, with tires that are up to five inches wide run at low pressure for extra traction. Most fat bikes are used to ride on snow, but they are also very effective for riding on any loose surface like sand or mud. They also work well on most rough terrain or just riding through the woods. This bike offers unique opportunities to experience nature in ways that wouldn’t be possible otherwise.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Hope Nardini, “Bike Tourism a Rising Trend,” *Ethic Traveler*, <http://www.ethicaltraveler.org/2012/08/bike-tourism-a-rising-trend/>, accessed March 2014

<sup>46</sup> Michelle Baran, “New Trend: Urban Bike Tours in Los Angeles and New York,” *Budget Travel Blog*, <http://www.budgettravel.com/blog/new-trend-urban-bike-tours-in-los-angeles-and-new-york,11772/>, accessed March 2014

<sup>47</sup> Steven Pease, “Fat Bikes, How to Get the Most Out of Winter Cycling,” *Minnesota Cycling Examiner*, <http://www.examiner.com/article/fat-bikes-the-latest-trend-adventure-cycling>, February 1, 2014.

## G. Therapeutic Recreation

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) established that persons with disabilities have the right to the same access to parks and recreation facilities and programming as those without disabilities. In 2004, The National Council on Disability (NCD) issued a comprehensive report, “Livable Communities for Adults with Disabilities.”<sup>48</sup> This report identified six elements for improving the quality of life for all citizens, including children, youth, and adults with disabilities. The six elements are:

1. Provide affordable, appropriate, accessible housing
2. Ensure accessible, affordable, reliable, safe transportation
3. Adjust the physical environment for inclusiveness and accessibility
4. Provide work, volunteer, and education opportunities
5. Ensure access to key health and support services
6. Encourage participation in civic, cultural, social, and recreational activities

Therapeutic services bring two forms of service for persons with disabilities into play, specific programming and inclusion services. Individuals with disabilities need not only functional skills but to have physical and social environments in the community that are receptive to them and accommodating individual needs. Inclusion allows individuals to determine their own interests and follow them.

Many park and recreation departments around the country are offering specific programming for people with disabilities, but not as many offer inclusion services. In “Play for All—Therapeutic Recreation Embraces All Abilities,” an article in *Recreation Management* magazine,<sup>49</sup> Dana Carman described resources for communities looking to expand their therapeutic recreation services.

Therapeutic recreation includes a renewed focus on serving people with the social/emotional challenges associated with “invisible disabilities” such as ADHD, bipolar disorders, spectrum disorders and sensory integration disorders. A growing number of park and recreation departments are making services for those with invisible disabilities a successful part of their programming as well. When done well, these same strategies improve the recreation experience for everyone.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> National Council on Disability, *Livable Communities for Adults with Disabilities*, December 2004, <http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2004/12022004>.

<sup>49</sup> Dana Carmen, “Play for All,” *Recreation Management*, February 2007, <http://recmanagement.com/200710fe03.php>, accessed May 2016

<sup>50</sup> Kelli Anderson, “A Welcome Inclusion,” *Recreation Management*, October 2010, <http://recmanagement.com/201010fe03.php>, accessed February 2015

## H. Local Government Trends Impacting Parks and Recreation

Collectively, these trends have created profound implications for the way in which local governments conduct business. Some local governments are now accepting the role of providing preventative health care through parks and recreation services. The following concepts are from the International City/County Management Association.<sup>51</sup>

- Parks and recreation departments should take the lead in developing communities conducive to active living.
- There is growing support for recreation programs that encourage active living within the community.
- One of the highest priorities is a cohesive system of parks and trails and accessible neighborhood parks.

In summary, the United States, its states, and its communities share the enormous task of reducing the health and economic burden of obesity. While numerous programs, policies, and products have been designed to address the problem, there is no magic bullet to make it go away. The role of public parks and recreation as a health promotion and prevention agency has come of age. What matters is refocusing its efforts to ensure the health, well-being, and economic prosperity of communities and citizens.

### Administration Trends for Recreation and Parks

Municipal parks and recreation structures and delivery systems have changed, and more alternative methods of delivering services are emerging. Certain services are being contracted out, and cooperative agreements with non-profit groups and other public institutions are being developed. Newer partners include the health care system, social services, the justice system, education, the corporate sector, and community service agencies. These partnerships reflect both a broader interpretation of the mandate of parks and recreation agencies and the increased willingness of other sectors to work together to address community issues. The relationship with health agencies is vital in promoting wellness.

The traditional relationship with education and the sharing of facilities through joint-use agreements is evolving into cooperative planning and programming aimed at addressing youth inactivity levels and community needs.

Listed below are additional administrative national trends:

- Level of subsidy for programs is lessening and more “enterprise” activities are being developed, thereby allowing subsidy to be used where deemed appropriate.
- Information technology allows for better tracking and reporting.
- Pricing is often determined by peak, off-peak, and off-season rates.
- More agencies are partnering with private, public, and non-profit groups.

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<sup>51</sup> International City/County Management Association, [www.ICMA.org](http://www.ICMA.org), accessed June 2012.

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# IV. Amherst's Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

## A. Inventory

### Creating the Inventory

The Level of Service analysis process involved assembly of a detailed inventory of public physical parks and recreation assets available for use by the Amherst community. This asset inventory was created to serve the Town in a number of ways, as it can be used for a wide variety of planning and operations tasks such as asset management as well as future strategic master plans. The assets inventory currently includes public parks, recreation, and trail facilities managed by the Youth and Recreation Department and the Highway Department, Parks Division. In addition to town-managed sites, there are an additional 2,195 acres of open space in Amherst that provide the public with access to nature and outdoor recreation opportunities.



### Inventory Assessment – Key Findings

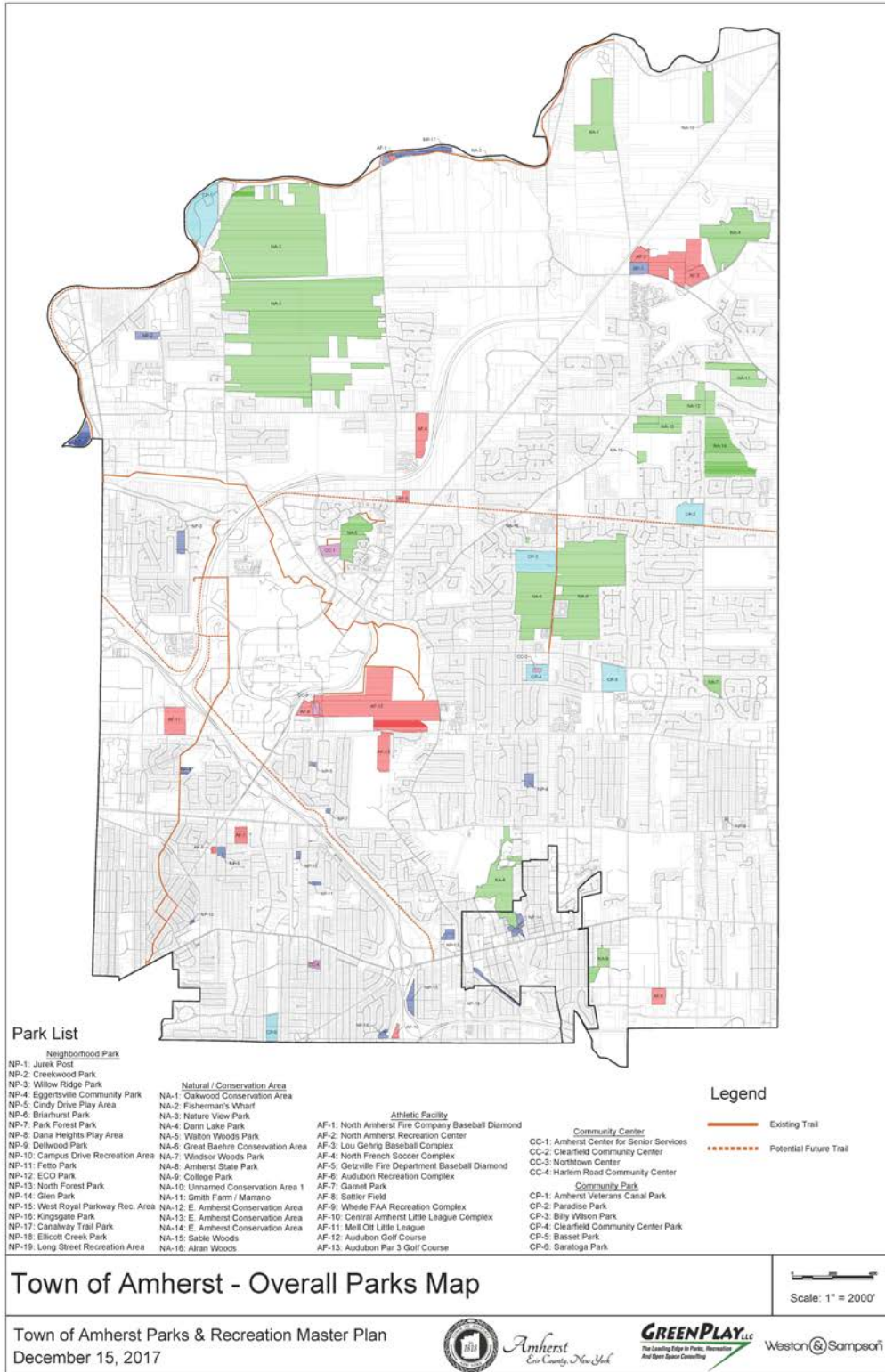
- Most parks are maintained and in good condition, but some have aged significantly.
- Some facilities have limited accessibility (parking, playgrounds, and park facilities).
- Most parks are athletic complexes or community parks (i.e. large area parks)
- The community and neighborhood parks are close to residential areas
- Excellent athletic facilities (ice sports, soccer, baseball, and softball).
- There is ample existing open space within parks, and a variety of amenities throughout the park system.
- The quality of turf throughout park system is high. However, some attention is needed to help with drainage and erosion in playing field areas and non-playing field areas at some locations.
- Other than in specialty parks, most parks do not incorporate cultural or historical aspects of the community.
- Several parks need site furnishings to be replaced/repared.
- Limited security lighting within parks.
- Difficult to find parks (wayfinding, signage).
- Some facilities are underutilized, while others lack non-organized sport areas.
- Limited connectivity with trails (neighborhoods to parks, and parks to parks).

The Town of Amherst has 64 park and recreation facilities operated and managed within the Town. These 64 sites include 1,230 acres of town-managed parks and recreation sites and 19 miles of bikepaths and trails. An additional 2,195 acres of conservation land and natural, open space areas in Amherst is also available for public outdoor recreation use. Overall, the park system is highly regarded within the community and regionally, offering a wide variety of recreational opportunities with quality maintenance and operations of these facilities.

Like many upstate New York communities, Amherst strives to keep up with the demand for sports fields and facilities within its park system. It has a long-standing relationship with the community youth and adult athletic organizations, and the University at Buffalo (State University of New York). The park facilities are coordinated with the Amherst, Sweet Home, and Williamsville Central School Districts.

**Figure 13** illustrates the location of Amherst’s parks and recreation facilities. Larger scale maps are found in **Appendix D**.

Figure 13: Amherst Parks and Recreation Facilities Map





## **Parks and Facilities Assessment**

As a part of this project, 43 of the 64 parks were assessed and analyzed. For the purposes of this assessment, Amherst's parks and recreation sites are categorized into five general facility types:

- **Athletic Facilities**
- **Community Centers**
- **Community Parks**
- **Natural/Conservation Areas**
- **Neighborhood Parks**

### **Athletic Facilities**

These are facilities that primarily serve a specific sport(s), such as baseball, softball, or soccer. These facilities range in size from 8 to 50 acres and tend to attract users from throughout the community. The following facilities are included within this category:

- North Amherst Fires Company Baseball Diamond
- North Amherst Recreation Center
- Lou Gehrig Baseball Complex
- North French Soccer Complex
- Getzville Fire Department Baseball Diamond
- Audubon Recreation Complex
- Garnet Park
- Sattler Field
- Wherle FAA Recreation Complex
- Central Amherst Little League Complex

### **Community Centers**

These are community center facilities that consist of a community building with meeting spaces, a gymnasium, ice rinks, and/or flexible use space. These facilities may include outdoor recreation facilities, such as sports fields, playgrounds, or courts. The following facilities are included within this category:

- Amherst Center for Senior Services
- Clearfield Community Center
- Northtown Center
- Harlem Road Community Center

### **Community Parks**

These are park spaces generally greater than 15 acres that include a variety of passive and active recreation park facilities from basketball courts and playgrounds to amphitheaters and walking trails. Community parks are facilities which attract residents from throughout the Town and may host community events or activities. The following facilities are included within this category:

- Amherst Veterans Canal Park
- Paradise Park
- Billy Wilson Park
- Clearfield Community Center Park
- Basset Park
- Saratoga Park

### **Nature/Conservation Areas:**

These areas are primarily preserved for their natural resource qualities and high conservation values. These sites vary in size, are mostly undeveloped and are dominated by their natural features including woods, wetlands, and waterbodies. Many of these sites provide natural resource-based recreation opportunities, including hiking and nature observation. The following facilities are included within this category:

- Oakwood Conservation Area
- Fisherman’s Warf
- Nature View Park
- Dann Lake Park
- Walton Woods Park
- Great Baehre Conservation Area
- Windsor Woods Park
- Amherst State Park
- College Park

In addition to these town-managed properties, there are an additional 2,195 acres of open space areas in Amherst that provide the public with access to nature and outdoor recreation opportunities.

### **Neighborhood Parks:**

These are park spaces generally less than fifteen acres. System-wide these sites provide a variety of recreation amenities from ballfields and walking trails to open spaces and picnic areas. Neighborhood parks also include smaller specialized areas, such as playgrounds or walking pathways. These facilities typically attract residents from nearby neighborhoods, and may host a localized event, rather than a community wide activity. The following facilities are included within this category:

- Jurek Park
- Creekwood Park
- Willow Ridge Park
- Eggertsville Community Park
- Cindy Drive Play Area
- Briarhurst Park
- Park Forest Park
- Dana Heights Play Area
- Dellwood Park
- Campus Drive Recreation Area
- Fetto Park
- ECO Park
- North Forest Park
- Glen Park
- West Royal Parkway Rec. Area
- Kingsgate Park

### **Facility Inventory Summary**

A complete Facility Inventory Summary Matrix is provided as a staff resource document for the 43 inventoried. This matrix represents the inventory and detailed assessment of each park component, completed by visiting every park in summer of 2017.

The inventory for this Master Plan was conducted using a Composite Values Methodology (CVM). Each component in the inventory was given a score to be used in the analysis based apparent fit for its intended purpose:

- Score of 1 = The component does not meet expectations for its intended purpose at this particular location.
- Score of 2 = The component meets expectations for its intended purpose at this location.
- Score of 3 = The component exceeds normal expectations for its intended purpose at this location.

## B. Assessment/Level of Service Analysis

### Level of Service Methodology

#### Overall Parks System

The overall parks system level of service was developed through the analysis of existing park resources, variety of offerings, and considering the locations of alternative service providers. For purposes of this study, the town limit boundary was used as the extent of the study area. However, it should be noted that public and private park and recreation facilities in neighboring municipalities, i.e., Clarence, Lockport, North Tonawanda, and the City of Buffalo, also provide town residents with opportunities to recreate.

#### Park Catchment Areas

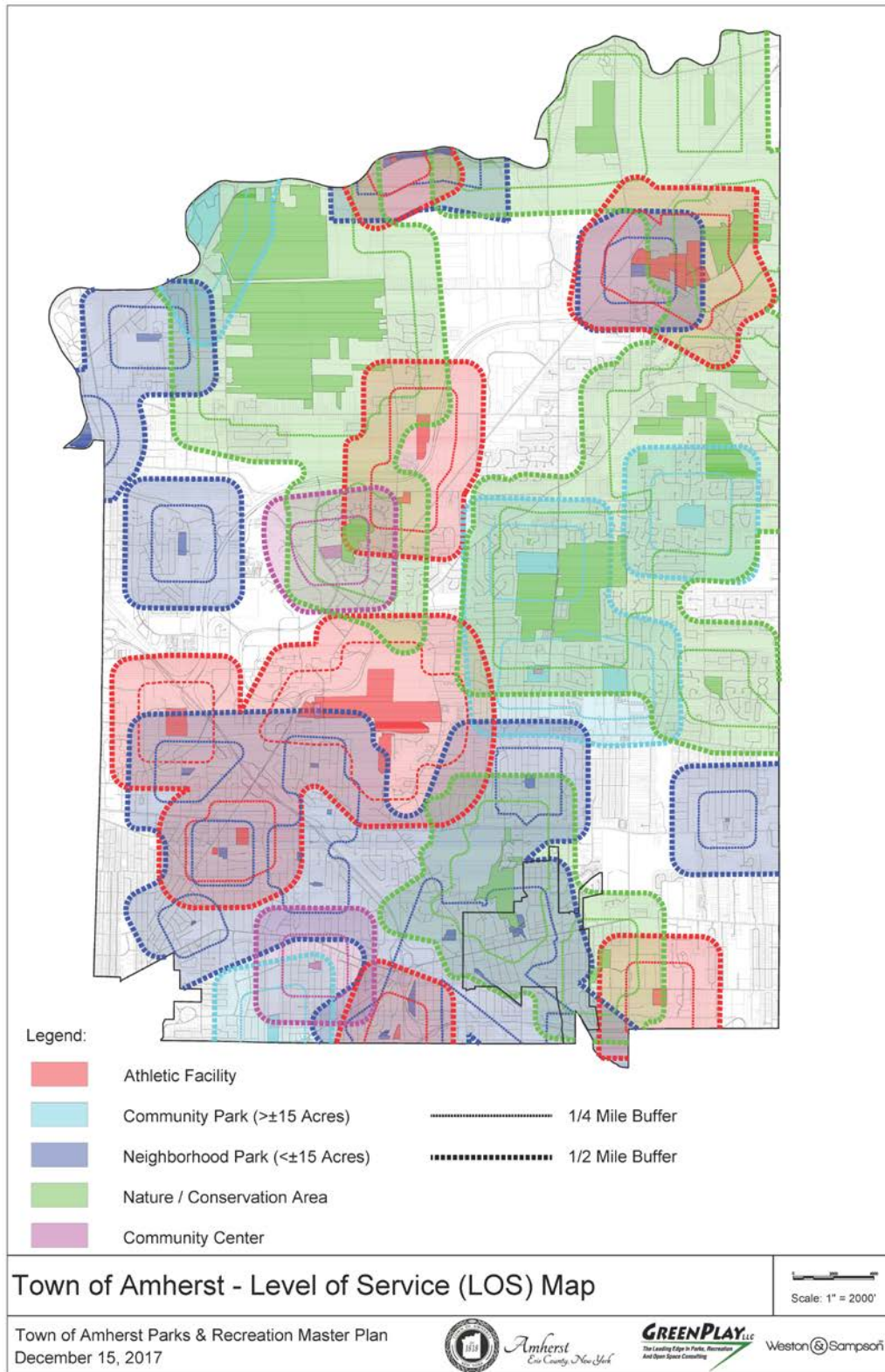
Park Catchment Areas, also called buffers, are used to display Level of Service areas in the community for each park or recreation area. A radius of a specific distance is drawn around each park, recreation site, or trail. People use a variety of transit modes to reach a recreation destination: on foot, on a bike, in a car, via public transportation, or any combination of these options. Currently, most park visitors access the park areas via automobile, while some of the neighborhood parks experience greater numbers of visitors through walking and biking. The overall level of service scoring from a driving standpoint was high and thus identified minimal need for improvement. Studies show that in general, park visitors will comfortably ride their bicycles between one-half and three-quarters of a mile, and comfortably walk between a quarter and half-mile to a park facility. This distance represents a travel time of seven minutes based on an average walking speed of three miles per hour, accounting for longer actual walking distances due to indirect routes, as are commonly found in a disconnected street network. As a result, quarter-mile and half mile buffers were developed around each park facility to illustrate the access potential of each park. It should be noted that residents will walk and bike to park facilities as long as there are safe and adequate facilities for access (i.e. sidewalks, multi-use pathways, and/or on-road bicycle facilities).

This plan does not address improvements to access to parks and recreation sites beyond the limits of the park facility; however, it is important to acknowledge that increased multi-modal access to parks improves neighborhood use of parks, provides health and safety benefits for the community, and reduces parking demands within park spaces.

#### Level of Service Analysis Findings

Through the level of service analysis, the park system was reviewed through several perspectives, including geographical distribution of park resources, proximity to neighborhoods, and variety of park resources. Refer to **Figure 14**.

Figure 14: Park and Recreation System Level of Service Map



In general, Amherst has great distribution of facilities and good motor vehicle access to parks and outdoor recreation facilities. Areas of high concentration of residential areas are notable, particularly in southern two thirds of town. This map demonstrates that a majority of Amherst residents are within one-half mile of a park or recreation facility.

**Figures 15 and 16** illustrate the level of service coverage separated by community and neighborhood parks, and athletic facilities, nature and conservation areas. As illustrated there are several gaps within the network of community and neighborhood parks within the residential areas primarily within the center of town, as well as within the south-western quadrant.

Figure 15: Community and Neighborhood Park Level of Service Map

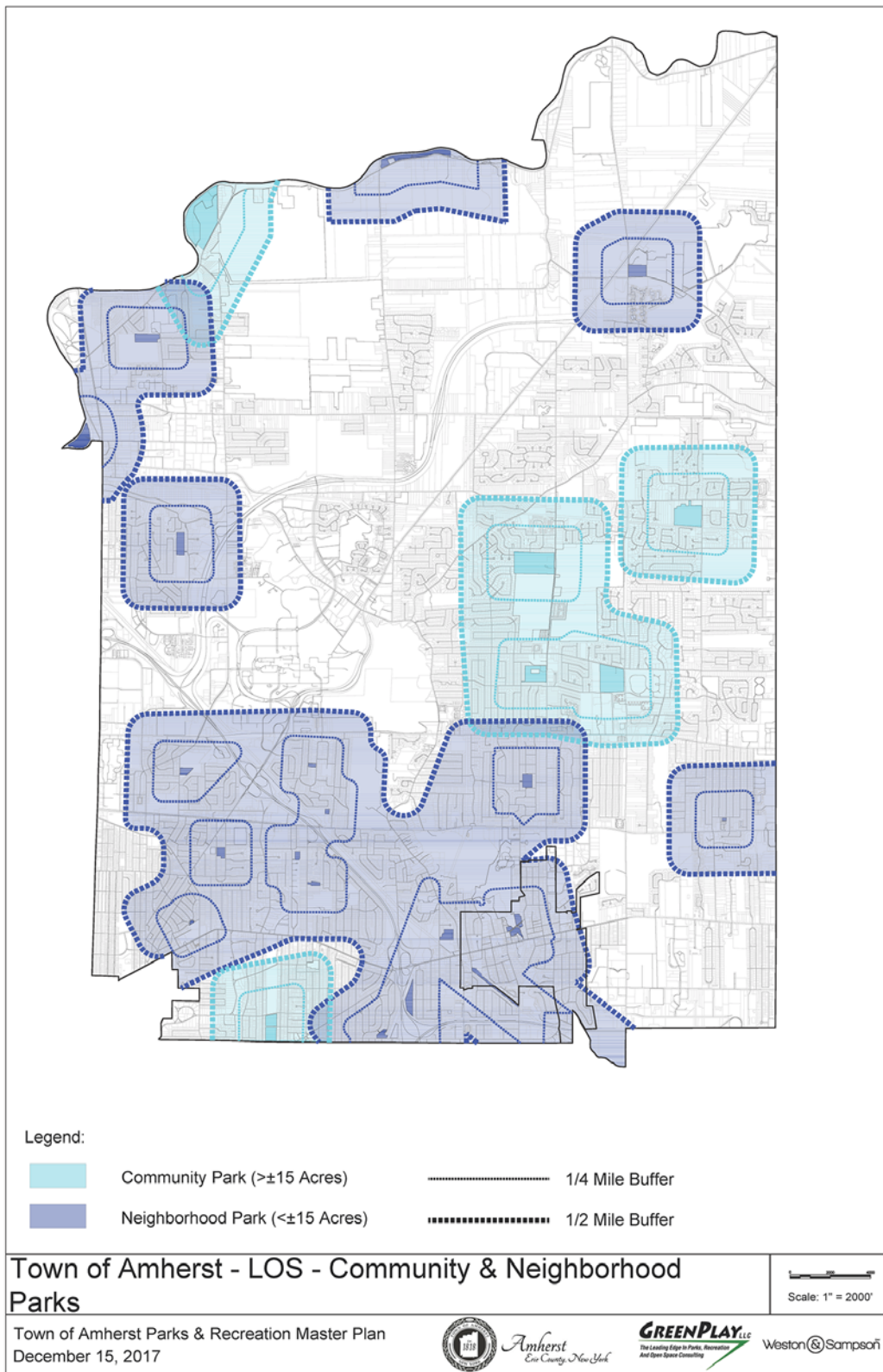
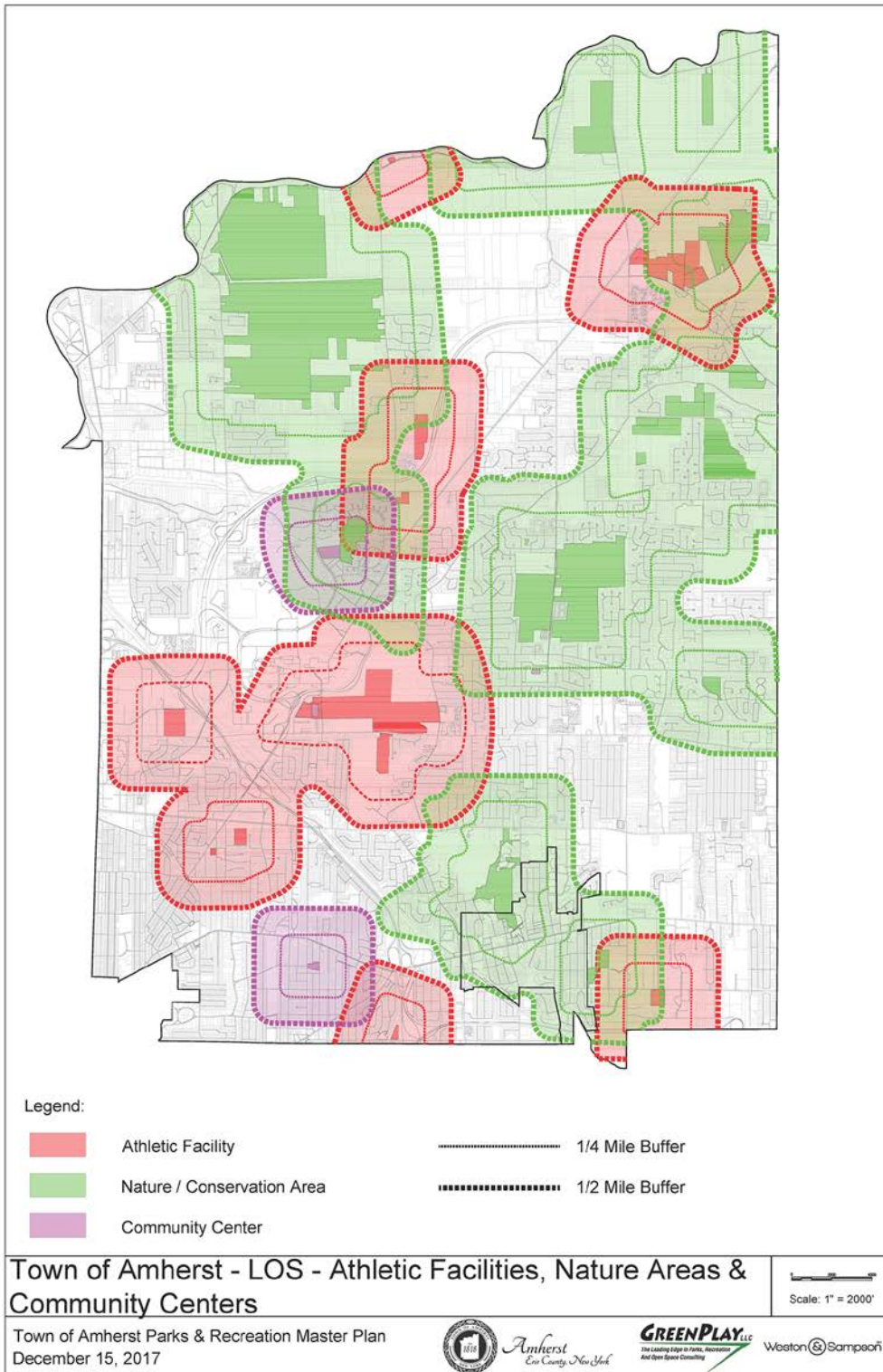




Figure 16: Athletic Facilities, Nature Areas & Community Centers Level of Service



## C. Key Level of Service Findings

- Parks are well distributed throughout Amherst with smaller neighborhood parks generally located in the southern side of town, and larger park spaces (community parks and nature/conservation areas) to the north.
- Residential areas with lower level of service tend to be in the northern quarter of the town.
- Access to most athletic facilities and community parks is currently via automobile due to major pedestrian barriers (i.e. major road corridor, limited sidewalks, or lack of trail connectivity).
- Overall connectivity (by foot or bicycle) within and between parks is limited. The existing system of multi-use paths, sidewalks, and trails has potential to be expanded to provide better pedestrian and bicycle connections within the town.
- Increase the outdoor recreational capacity around the Tonawanda Creek and larger nature areas in the northern portion of the town. Expand and connect trails; install educational, interpretive, and wayfinding signage: and improve opportunities for parking.
- Potential for specialty park areas and amenities exists (i.e. Dog Park, Skate Park, Fit Trails, Pickleball, etc.).
- Potential for improved aquatic facilities (existing and new opportunities).



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# V. Programs, Service Provision, and Participation

## A. Recreation Program Analysis

The Town of Amherst offers an array of year-round recreation programs and activities for all ages and abilities. These services are primarily provided by the following Departments and Divisions.

- **Youth and Recreation Department:** operates sports and recreation facilities, community centers, and provides recreation programs, camps, after school programs, year-round special events, and community services for youths and adults.
  - The Youth and Recreation Program Guide is produced seasonally and details program and activity offerings. The guide is available online at: [www.amherstyouthandrec.org](http://www.amherstyouthandrec.org).
- **Amherst Center for Senior Services:** provides a variety of health, arts, fitness, education, and recreation programs for community members over the age of 55.
  - The Center for Senior Services also produces a seasonal program and activity guide, which is available through the Town of Amherst website: <http://www.amherst.ny.us>.
- **Highway Department – Parks Division:** does not provide programs, but provides regular park maintenance (including landscaping, mowing, and repair of site amenities), and critical support for special events.

The Youth and Recreation Department and Amherst Center for Senior Services generally operate independently to provide programming and services, but regularly partner to host community events including the annual Holiday Happening.

### Program Categories

For the purposes of this Master Plan, the recreation programs and services offered by the Town of Amherst are grouped into the following categories:

- Youth Sports and Activities
- Adult Sports and Fitness
- Senior Programs and Services
- Camps, Childcare, and Activities for Young Children
- Family and Community Services
- Special Events and Community Activities
- Unorganized/Free Play Opportunities

### Youth Sports and Activities

The Youth and Recreation Department provides year-round youth sports programs ranging from archery, tennis, athletics, football, floor hockey, basketball, swimming, and aquatics. The Department also operates the traveling Imagination Station and Playmobile that brings arts, crafts, and games geared toward youth under the age of 12 to park and playground sites around Amherst during the summer.

In addition to the variety of programs offered by the Youth and Recreation Department, independent youth sports leagues and organizations have a strong presence in the community. These leagues offer team sports throughout the year, including basketball, baseball, football, and lacrosse.

### **Adult Sports and Fitness**

The Youth and Recreation Department provides year-round sports and recreation programs for active adults. Most programs are for age groups 16+ or 18+ years of age, or 30+ years of age. Coed, as well as men's and women's programs are offered. Pick-up style team sports programs are offered in basketball, kickball, volleyball, tennis, Pickleball, archery, horseshoes, and aquatics.

### **Senior Programs and Services**

The Amherst Center for Senior Services offers a variety of programs for resident and non-resident members over the age of 55. The range of programs offered throughout the year include arts and crafts, computers and technology, dancing, history and language courses, music, physical fitness and wellness, driver education, and other special events.

Adult programs offered by the Youth and Recreation Department are also open for seniors and active adults to participate.

### **Camps, Childcare, and Activities for Young Children**

The Youth and Recreation Department offers year-round family room, and toddler open gym times, as well as preschool services, tiny tots tennis, special needs programs, and after school programs. Camp programs are offered throughout the year, including during seasonal school recess periods.

The Department's traveling Playmobile and Imagination Stations have been fixtures programs in the community for generations. Staff and materials for travel between park sites in the community at scheduled times throughout the summer months, and provide alternative means for families and younger children to engage in recreation close to home.

### **Family and Community Services**

In addition to providing recreation and sports programs, the Youth and Recreation Department also offers and/or coordinates family services, counseling, and other community services programs. These initiatives include the Amherst Task Force for Healthy Community and Healthy Youth, the Be-A-Friend Program, and Family Assessment and Support Team (FAST). Special programs for teens are also provided, and include the Amherst Youth Engaged in Service Volunteer Programs, Amherst Youth Consortium, and Youthwork\$.

### **Special Events and Community Activities**

The Youth and Recreation Department is responsible for coordinating and managing special events held annually throughout the community. In 2017, special events and programs hosted by the Department included:

- Amherst Teen Idol
- Egg Hunt
- Middle School Activity Nights
- Valentine Variety
- Open Gym Events
- Winterfest
- Independence Day Celebration
- Nation Program Series
- Summer Blast
- Summer Concert Series
- Summer Outdoor Movie Series
- Summer Book Club

### **Unorganized/Free Play Opportunities**

In addition to structured programs and activities, the Youth and Recreation Department offers drop-in, free-play times at recreation facilities. For example, community centers schedule open gym time, and Northtown Center hosts free-skate times for residents of all ages to utilize the facility's ice rinks. Fitness centers and flexible use space at Youth and Recreation facilities are also regularly opened for community use. Outside of athletic fields and courts, many outdoor recreation amenities, including playgrounds, bike paths, and trails and open spaces are generally open for public use dawn to dusk daily.

### **Key findings – Existing Recreation Programs**

- The Youth and Recreation Department offers a full suite of year programs for all ages.
- Programming for most field-based sports is managed by local sports league organizations. These groups utilize Town fields and facilities through a permit system managed by the Youth and Recreation Department.
- The capacity for indoor programming is limited by the space and functionality of existing facilities.
- The ice and field facilities at the Northtown Center are important for local and regional sports events, league play, and tournaments.

## **B. Participation Trends**

Youth and Recreation Department programs and activities in 2017 saw strong rates of participation. Registration data and participation estimates for the year included:

- 2,114 individuals registered for Youth and Recreation Department programs
- 5,000+ local team sports leagues and partner organization registrations
- 2,500+ estimated participants at Special Events (no registration)
- 37,167 participants in open ice/skating sessions
- 100,000+ program participants and visitors estimated to all Amherst parks and recreation facilities. Unorganized/free play recreation opportunities are purposefully unstructured and do not require registration, and therefore participation figures are not known.

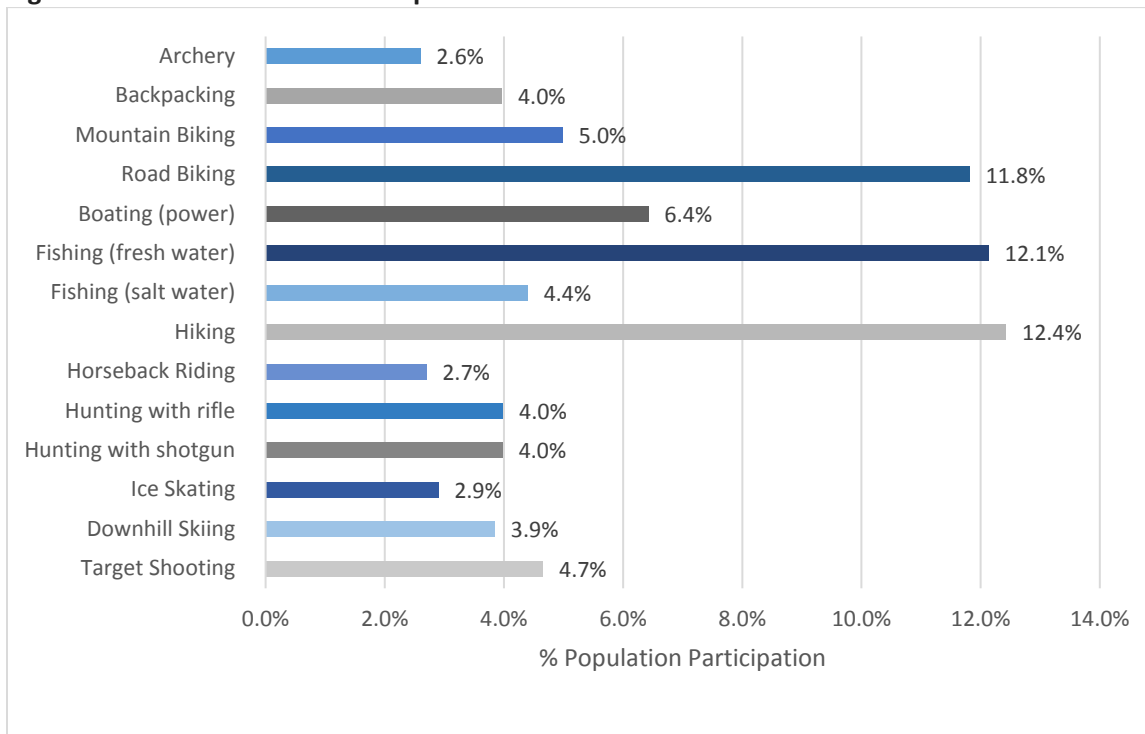
### **Key findings**

- Registration data reflects high interest and participation in existing Youth and Recreation Department programs and activities, and use of sports facilities.
- The Northtown Center ice facilities receive strong use by sports leagues and programs, as well as during public skating times.
- Community input received during the planning process indicated strong resident interest and participation in a variety of recreational activities at town parks and facilities throughout the year.

## Estimated Participation Rates

In addition to reviewing documented registration and participation rates tracked by the Youth and Recreation Department, and other providers, the consultant team utilized Esri Business Analyst to model a combination of information from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and other data sources that gauge Amherst’s adult population tendencies to participate in various recreation, fitness, and leisure activities. The results of the model yield estimates of adult resident participation in recreation, fitness, and leisure activities in Amherst. **Figures 17 through 20** review estimated Amherst adult participation rates in outdoor recreation activities, team and individual sports and fitness activities, and leisure activities.

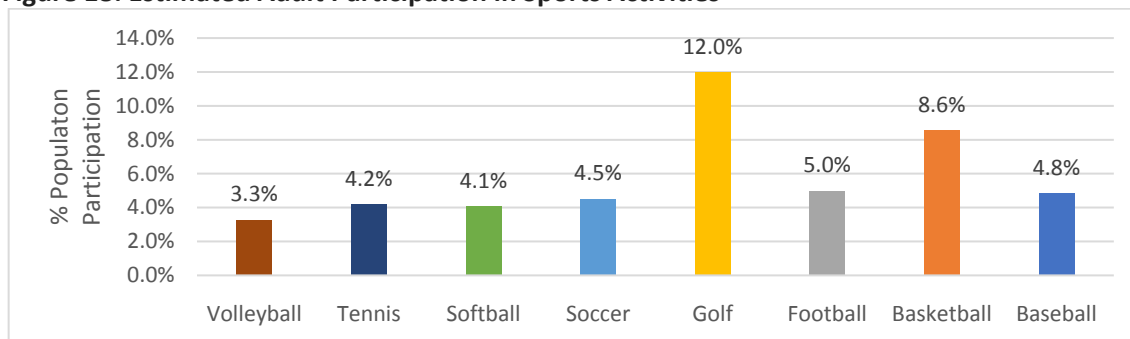
**Figure 17: Estimated Adult Participation in Outdoor Activities**



Source: Esri Business Analyst, Sports and Leisure Market Potential, June 2017

As illustrated in **Figure 18**, greater than one in ten Amherst adults went hiking, fresh water fishing, and/or road biking in the past year.

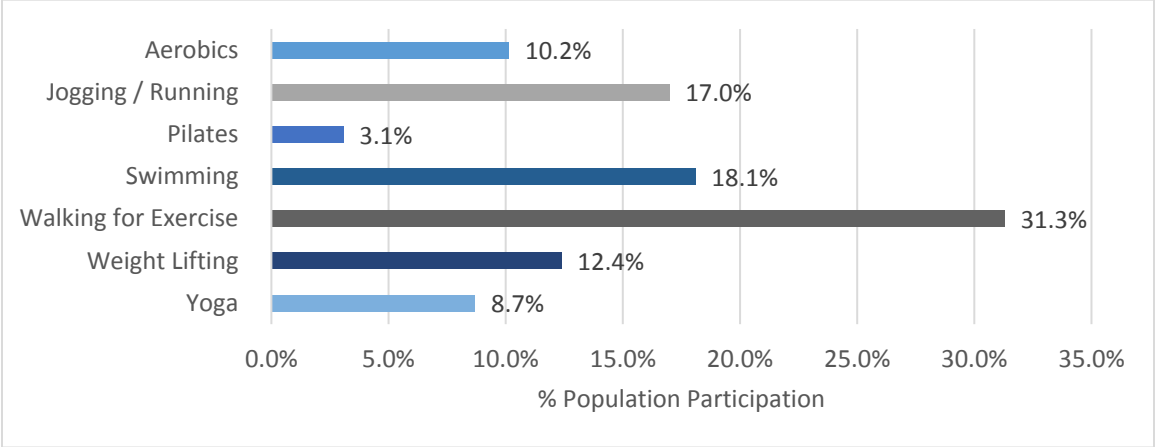
**Figure 18: Estimated Adult Participation in Sports Activities**



Source: Esri Business Analyst, Sports and Leisure Market Potential, June 2017

As illustrated in **Figure 18**, golf was the sport with the highest estimated adult participation rate over the past year (12%). In comparison, only 8.6 percent of adults were estimated to have played basketball, while all other team or individual sports had participation rates of 5 percent or lower. Adult participation in organized sports is generally lower nationally when compared to youth participation. Adult participants in organized sports are generally highly invested, regular participants in these activities.

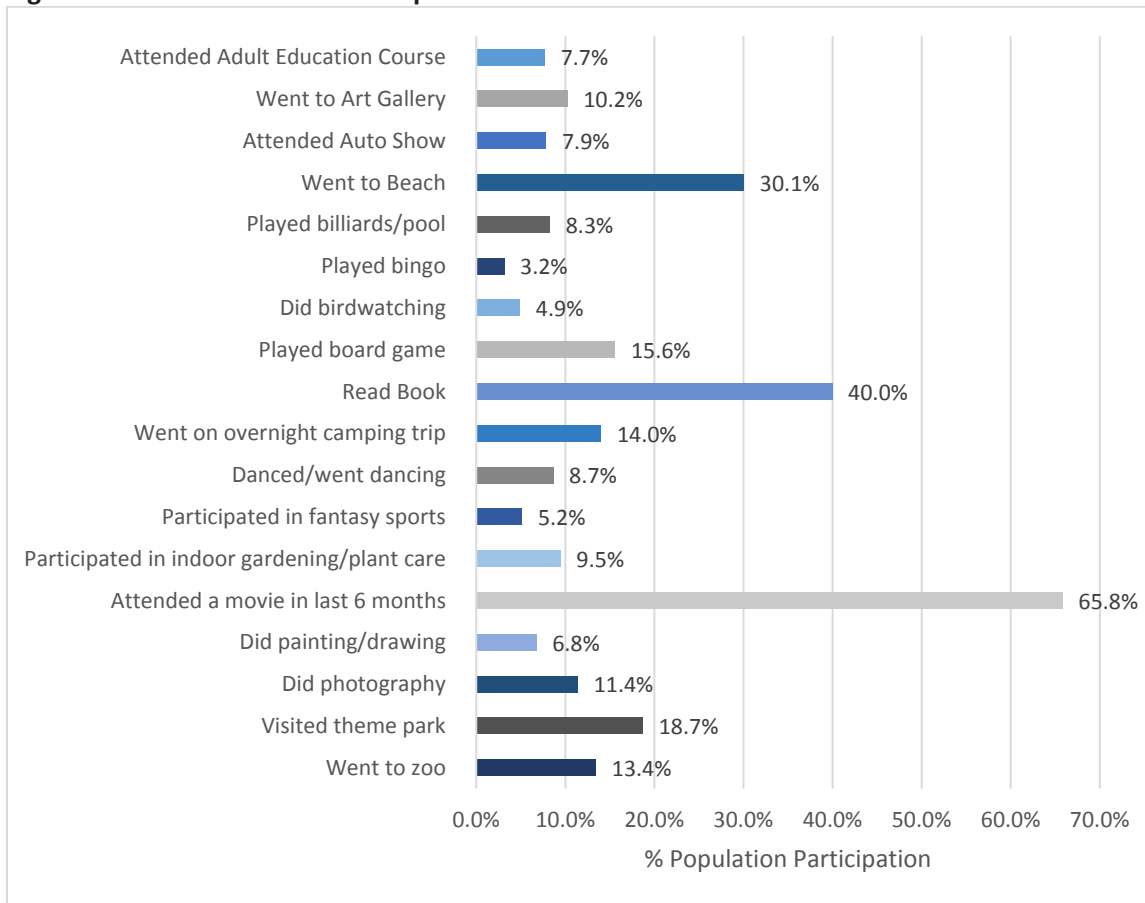
**Figure 19: Estimated Adult Participation in Fitness Activities**



Source: Esri Business Analyst, Sports and Leisure Market Potential, June 2017

As illustrated in **Figure 19** walking for fitness was the fitness activity with the highest participation level among Amherst adults. Nearly two-thirds of adults walked for fitness in 2016. Swimming and jogging/running also were popular fitness activities, with participation rates of 18.1 and 17 percent, respectively. Over 1 in 10 adults participated in either aerobics and/or weight lifting for fitness in 2016.

**Figure 20: Estimated Adult Participation in Leisure Activities**



Source: Esri Business Analyst, Sports and Leisure Market Potential, June 2017

In addition to offering recreation, fitness, and sports programs and facilities, many local public parks and recreation agencies also provide various art, culture, and leisure activities. As illustrated in **Figure 20**, nearly two-thirds of adults went to a movie in the past six months, and 40 percent read a book for leisure. Visiting the beach was the next most popular activity with a participation rate of 30 percent. Visiting theme parks (18.7 percent), playing board games (15.6 percent), and going on overnight camping trips (14 percent) received significant rates of participation by Amherst adults.

**Estimated Local Spending on Recreation**

Household participation in recreation activities by Amherst households generates economic activity. Esri Business Analyst models indicate that in 2016, the average Amherst household spent \$1,055 on recreation, totaling approximately \$52.5 million in spending on recreation by all of Amherst households.

**2016 Town Household Spending on Recreation**  
**\$52.5 Million**  
 Estimated total spending of all households  
**\$1,055**  
 Estimated average spending per household

### **Estimated Adult Participation– Key Findings**

- Adult participation in each activity type reviewed was generally strong.
- Participation estimates in trail and path-based activities, walking, running, jogging, hiking, and bicycling was consistently high in all applicable categories measured.

These findings based on estimated rates of adult participation in a variety of recreation, fitness, and leisure activities correlate to quantitative and qualitative findings of the community survey and public engagement discussed in **Section VI. Community Perceptions of Existing Town Recreation Opportunities.**

## **C. Maintenance of Parks and Facilities**

Residents and users are generally satisfied by the current level of maintenance at Amherst’s parks and recreation facilities, as supported by key findings of the community survey and focus groups reviewed in **Section VI. Community Perceptions of Existing Town Recreation Opportunities.** This is a very positive outcome worth celebrating, and it is a direct result of the hard work, collaboration, and shared vision for park stewardship between core user groups, the Highway Department – Parks Division and Youth and Recreation Department.

While positive overall, a major challenge for the Town moving forward will be to continue to maintain a strong stewardship program, and high levels of community satisfaction with parks and recreation facilities. As further discussed below, the current park maintenance program requires collaboration between the Youth and Recreation Department and Highway Department, the success of which is highly dependent on the working relationship between the directors of each agency, versus a defined set of basic maintenance standards and protocols. Over time, department staff will change, but the basic, regularly recurring maintenance needs of the Town’s parks will remain, and should be guided by today’s maintenance program and practices (at a minimum).

## **D. Organizational and Marketing Analysis**

The consultant team broadly assessed the organizational and management structure of the Town of Amherst that is directly involved in the operation and maintenance of Town parks and recreation facilities and the Youth and Recreation Department’s provision of recreation and community programs and services. This assessment focused on determining the general effectiveness and efficiency of the Town in meeting current and future recreation needs.

### **Organizational Analysis**

In Amherst, several municipal departments play key roles in providing the parks and recreation amenities and services residents depend on. These departments include:

- **Youth and Recreation Department**  
Operates recreation facilities, maintains athletic fields, and provides year-round indoor and outdoor recreation programs, and other community services for youth and active adults. Youth and Recreation staff also coordinate the permitting and regular use of town athletic fields and courts with local sports leagues and groups.



- **Highway Department – Parks Division**

Maintains landscaped areas, including regular mowing and pruning of vegetation, snow removal, and pavement maintenance, and repair of fixtures and structures in town parks and bike paths. Parks Division staff also provide key logistical support for special events, including the set-up and break down of temporary structures and amenities.

- **Amherst Center for Senior Services**

Provides year-round programs for senior residents, including arts, dancing, health and fitness, and organized outings. Most programming by the Center is hosted at the Town’s senior center, which is operated by the Center for Senior Services. The Center generally operates independently from the Youth and Recreation and Highway Departments.

The needs assessment – including input from staff interviews, community and key stakeholder engagement, and level of service analysis, along with the consultant’s expertise – **has identified the following opportunities for organizational improvements:**

- 1. Create a Formal Park Maintenance Agreement**

The responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of the town’s 64 parks and recreation facilities is divided between the Youth and Recreation Department and Highway Department – Parks Division. Management responsibilities at each site differ, but generally, the Youth and Recreation Department operates indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and parks, and maintains athletic fields. The Parks Division of Highway Department mows most turf and performs the majority of other regular, recurring grounds and infrastructure maintenance work on town parks and bike paths.

This type of split in recreation operations and park/grounds maintenance responsibilities is a fairly common municipal practice nationally. In the consultant’s experience, this model works best when the roles, responsibilities, and resources of each participating agency are defined in a written, formal agreement or memorandum of understanding. Such a document defines service provision expectations, and serves as a resource to best ensure that municipal parks and recreation facilities are maintained and operated consistently over time for the benefit of the community.

As of 2017, no such written, guiding document between the Youth and Recreation Department and Highway Department existed. The overall success of the current park maintenance operation is a direct result of the great working relationship between the present department directors, and collaboration between key staff in each department. However, both department directors recognize that the future stewardship of Amherst’s parks should be based on a foundational stewardship agreement between Youth and Recreation and the Highway Department that outlines shared expectations and the core responsibilities of each agency.

## 2. Marketing and Communication – Overcome internal hurdles and get active online

Residents participating in the planning process through focus groups, public meetings, and community survey consistently noted that it was difficult to easily find high quality information about current parks and recreation opportunities in Amherst. In fact:

- Two of the top five overall survey findings indicated a need for improving communication strategies to increase awareness of the Town’s parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- Focus group participants consistently noted difficulty in finding relevant information online, and reported that the Town’s website provided very little relevant information.
- Wayfinding and park location signage is limited. It can be hard to locate a park, locate parking, or learn what recreation opportunities are available at the site and where to go to find them.
- The Youth and Recreation Department has a sound marketing strategy that is not being fully implemented. Department staff report that their ability to easily build, share, and update information online (on the Town’s website and/or department’s other websites, social media accounts, etc.) is significantly limited by strong municipal information technology protocols.
- Based on the consultant’s experience, the Town of Amherst currently provides significantly less information online about its parks and recreation opportunities than comparable communities nationally.

With technology playing a key role in societal information sharing, there is generally a public expectation that basic information about local resources will be easily available online. Community input on this topic reviewed in **Section VI. Community Perceptions of Existing Town Recreation Opportunities** indicates that this expectation is not being met.

### Staffing Analysis

The consultant team reviewed the existing staff resources of the Youth and Recreation Department to determine if the Department has the best mix of staffing, in the most appropriate focus areas, to best support the mission of the Department. The staffing analysis processes included observations and assessments of:

- Community input
- Community satisfaction rates
- Staff group interviews
- Individual staff interviews
- Facility tours
- Observations of the quality of maintenance
- Volunteer support
- Hours of operation
- Participation in professional parks and recreation organizations
- Organizational chart
- Department budgets

The Youth and Recreation Department employed 45 full time equivalent staff (FTE) in 2017. This included a mix of administrative staff, facility operations and maintenance staff, and recreation program and service providers. Most Youth and Recreation staff work in and around the Town’s recreation and community centers. In addition to Town staff, recreation services in the community are highly supported by the work of volunteers who operate the youth sports and athletic leagues. These volunteers coordinate directly with Youth and Recreation staff and Highway Department – Parks Division regarding field permitting, usage, and maintenance concerns on behalf of league members.

## Staffing Considerations

In considering the organizational and service provision observations, and staffing assessment, the consultant team believes first, and foremost, that:

1. The Youth and Recreation Department is doing a fantastic job providing a diverse offering of high quality recreation programs and services for the residents of Amherst.

In continuously seeking to improve staff capabilities and service provision, the consultant has identified the following staffing focal areas for future consideration:

- A. Establishing a written agreement and memorialized understanding between the Youth and Recreation Department and Highway Department, Parks Division regarding routine parks and recreation grounds and amenity maintenance will allow both agencies to better plan and budget for existing and future maintenance staff needs.
- B. Current Youth and Recreation Department staff levels are providing a satisfactory level of service. However, with the population projected to continue to grow, the Town should expect a parallel increase in user demand, and plan to expand upon the current inventory of parks and recreation facilities and programs. Any expansion of facilities or services will require additional staff resources to support them and best ensure that the quality of programs and services continues to be high, and satisfies the needs of the growing community.
- C. Strong communication must be maintained between the Youth and Recreation Department and Highway Department, Parks Division to ensure regular, reoccurring maintenance tasks at Town parks and recreation facilities are promptly and efficiently addressed.
- D. Opportunities to grow recreation programming for seniors and active adults should be coordinated collaboratively between the Youth and Recreation Department and the Amherst Center for Senior Services.

## D. Financial Analysis

### Operating Funding – Youth and Recreation Department

The Youth and Recreation Department’s operating budget is appropriated through the Town of Amherst’s general fund. Budgets are distributed into seven-line items (below), with each including funding for staffing and facility operation expenses. Revenue generated by Youth and Recreation Department programs, services, facility rentals, and other sources of income are directed to the Town’s general fund.

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Amherst Recreation Complex	\$527,956	\$617,806	\$672,316
Clearfield Recreation Center	\$466,012	\$515,000	\$528,981
Basset Park	\$9,044	\$17,750	\$21,852
North Amherst Community Center	\$155,785	\$229,352	\$196,750
Recreation Joint Project	\$3,234,720	\$3,273,664	\$3,299,723
Ice Rink Facility	\$3,337,460	\$3,256,382	\$3,090,292
North Forest Park	\$29,633	\$36,824	\$32,574
Golf - Audubon	\$127,363	\$132,097	\$84,181
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$7,887,973</b>	<b>\$8,078,875</b>	<b>\$7,926,676</b>

**Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Funds:**

The Town of Amherst’s FY2017 – 2022 Capital Improvement request funding summary includes over \$11 million in proposed projects to improve recreation facilities and programs. All of these funds are requested in the 2017-2019 fiscal year budgets. These funding requests were made prior to the development of this master plan. Despite this fact, the projects included in the capital improvement program focus on many of the key issues and needs identified through the master planning process, including enhancing existing recreation facilities and parks, and opportunities for walking and biking. Park and recreation relevant projects in the capital improvement program are largely proposed to be funded through bonding, and several grants and include:

<b>FY2017</b>	
<b>Parks Division Projects</b>	
P-1: Billy Wilson Park Inclusive Playground Improvements Phase II	\$414,000
P-3: Amherst State Park Historic Stairs & Walls Restoration / Reconstruction	\$170,000
P-4: ECO Park Improvements – Phase II	\$20,000
P-5: Basset Park Accessibility and Pond Improvements	\$100,000
P-6: Northtown Center Parking Lot Expansion	\$44,000
Parks Division total:	\$748,000
<b>Youth and Recreation Department Projects</b>	
YR-1: Northtown Center Facility Expansion	\$750,000
YR-2: Ice Resurfacer Replacement	\$1,650,000
YR-3: Pool Improvements	\$220,000
YR-5: Northtown Center Storage Facility	\$110,000
Youth and Recreation Department total:	\$2,730,000
<b>Other Projects</b>	
B-3: Harlem Road Community Center Improvements	\$215,000
H-9: Pathway Safety Enhancement Projects	\$100,000
Other total:	\$315,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,793,000</b>

<b>FY2018</b>	
<b>Parks Division Projects</b>	
P-2: Amherst State Park Pedestrian Safety/Access	\$300,000
P-3: Amherst State Park Historic Stairs & Walls Restoration / Reconstruction	\$170,000
P-4: ECO Park Improvements – Phase II	\$120,000
P-9: Nature View Park Pedestrian Safety / Inclusive Access Improvements	\$30,000
P-11: University West Trail	\$170,000
Parks Division total:	\$790,000
<b>Youth and Recreation Department Projects</b>	
YR-1: Northtown Center Facility Expansion	\$5,750,000
YR-4: Playground Safety Surface Replacement	\$214,500
Youth and Recreation Department total:	\$5,964,500
<b>Other Projects</b>	
B-3: Harlem Road Community Center Improvements	\$210,000
H-9: Pathway Safety Enhancement Projects	\$100,000
Other total:	\$310,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,064,500</b>

<b>FY2019</b>	
<b>Parks Division Projects</b>	
P-6: Northtown Center Parking Lot Expansion	\$256,000
P-9: Nature View Park Pedestrian Safety / Inclusive Access Improvements	\$220,000
P-11: University West Trail	\$180,000
Parks Division total:	\$656,000
<b>Youth and Recreation Department Projects</b>	
no project budget requested	\$0
<b>Other Projects</b>	
no other projects requested	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$656,000</b>
<b>FY2017 - 2019 parks and recreation relevant CIP budget request total:</b>	<b>\$11,513,500</b>

### Other Sources of Support for Youth and Recreation Department services:

In addition to the programs, facilities, and services operated through local funding, public recreation opportunities in Amherst also receive support through:

- **Volunteerism:** The Youth and Recreation Department supports and benefits from the time, energy, and expertise of local volunteers who assist in supporting programs and special events. The Department also provides three organized volunteer programs that foster positive youth engagement in the community:
  - **Amherst Youth Consortium** – Members are high school and college students who have pledged to be substance-free and to be visible role models who live healthy lifestyles. They work to engaging children, youth, and adults in activities which promote wellness, asset building, and good decision making.
  - **YES – Youth Engaged in Service** – Provides the opportunity for young people ages 12-20 to experience personal growth and gain an understanding of their community. YES volunteers meet and help community members in need, including children, senior citizens, low-income families, persons who are mentally and/or physically challenged, and charitable organizations.
  - **YouthWork\$** – Connects Amherst residents in need of assistance with around-the-home jobs, such as gardening, light housework, childcare, leaf raking, or shoveling snow with Amherst youth ages 12-20 years who are a part of the program.
  
- **Partnerships:** The Youth and Recreation Department partners with a variety of organizations to offer services and support its operations. Partners currently include:
  - Big Brothers Big Sisters (Be-A-Friend)
  - Catholic Charities
  - School Intervention Service
  - Family Services Program
  - Child & Family Services
  - Search Institute
  - Amherst Skating Club
  - Amherst Youth Hockey
  - Performax Hockey Systems
  - USA Hockey
  - Front Row Sports
  - Performance Sports Training
  - WNY Roller Hockey League
  - Amherst Girls Softball
  - Amherst Adult Slow Pitch Softball
  - Central Amherst Little League
  - Connie Mack Little League
  - Lou Gehrig Youth Baseball and Softball
  - Mel Ott Little League
  - Mathewson McCarthy Babe Ruth Baseball
  - Amherst Youth Basketball
  - Sweet Home Junior Football/Williamsville Junior Football
  - Amherst Lacrosse
  - Amherst Soccer Association

- **Sponsorships:** The Youth and Recreation Department has been able to generate revenue through local and regional business sponsorships and advertising opportunities, most effectively at the Northtown Center at Amherst, the Town’s regionally significant ice sports and field sport complex. Sponsors of the Northtown Center include:
  - Northtown Automotive Companies
  - Siena Restaurant
  - 800 Maple Restaurant
  - Rocco’s Pizza
  - Richard Nachbar Rare Coins
  - Pace Landscaping and Ice Rinks
  - Inspire Dental Group
  - Pyramid Brokerage Company

**Funding Key Findings:**

- Funding for Youth and Recreation Department operations should continue to increase to ensure that high quality recreation services and facilities continue to be available to the Town's growing population.
- User fees for Youth and Recreation Department programs, rentals, field permits, etc. have been purposely maintained at highly affordable levels.
- Funding sources for some general, but not regularly recurring, recreation and park facility repair and maintenance tasks are not clear. Creating a budget line item for such work should be considered.
- Continuing to expand partnerships may be a cost-effective means for the Town to make other existing local (non-municipal) recreation opportunities available to residents, such as through lower registration or participation fees to use an aquatic or indoor recreation facility at a local institution or private club.



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# VI. Community Perceptions of Existing Town Recreation Opportunities

Feedback from the Amherst community was collected through engagement sessions with Town staff, focus groups held with community stakeholder groups and local officials, a public meeting, and through a community survey.

## A. Stakeholder Groups and Public Meeting Input Summary

To gauge how the community feels about the existing recreation opportunities within the Town, a series of small group discussions and a public meeting were hosted. At these meetings, the consultant team facilitated discussions with participants to learn about their level of satisfaction, concerns, ideas for improvement, and overall perception of Amherst's parks and recreation facilities and programs. Engagement sessions were hosted on May 9 and 10, 2017 and consisted of ten focus group discussions, held at the Northtown Center at Amherst and Harlem Road Community Center, and one public meeting held at Amherst Town Hall.

Participants in the focus groups included Town staff, the Amherst Recreation Commission, the Amherst Youth Board, representative of the Amherst Conservation Advisory Council, representatives of local sports leagues and other user groups, and private recreation providers including the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and YMCA. A total of 73 individual participants signed-in at focus group sessions, and approximately 30 additional community members participated in the public meeting. Input from the community obtained through these meetings helped to identify priority issues and concerns to consider in the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. As identified through the public meeting and focus group participants:

### **Strengths of Amherst parks and recreation facilities and programs:**

- Existing facilities and programs are generally well-used and highly appreciated by the community.
- Youth and Recreation managed programs are high-quality, especially for youth.
- Existing trails and paths are popular assets for walking, biking and jogging.
- The Northtown Center at Amherst is the Town's flagship recreation facility and serves as a regional hub for ice sports.

### **Challenges with existing facilities and programs:**

- Acquisition of additional land for recreation and/or conservation is challenging, and the Town has missed opportunities to acquire new assets.
- Many existing sports facilities (courts and fields) are heavily programmed, leaving little time for free play or open public use.
- Demand may be exceeding capacity for sports fields, Pickleball courts, pools, and indoor programs.
- Restrooms, picnic facilities, shade trees/structures, and other amenities that support usage and user comfort are lacking from some parks and recreation areas.
- Maintenance of parks and outdoor recreation areas is not consistently meeting user expectations.

- It can be difficult to easily find high quality information about Amherst’s parks and recreation opportunities, especially online.

**Priorities for Enhancement:**

- Create a Town-wide vision that embraces the quality of life values served by Amherst’s parks, recreation, and open space opportunities.
- Enhance the ability of the Town to regularly provide up-to-date information about parks and recreation programs and events to the community.
- Improve maintenance protocols for town parks and recreation assets.
- Leverage partnerships and joint use agreements to improve Amherst residents’ ability to access a greater number and variety of recreation programs and facilities close to home.
- Create an interconnected system of pedestrian and bicycle trails and paths.

## B. Community Survey Summary

The purpose of this study was to gather community feedback on the Town of Amherst’s parks, recreation facilities, services, and programs. The survey research effort and subsequent analysis were designed to assist in the development of Amherst’s Recreation and Park Facilities Master Plan.

The survey was conducted using three primary methods:

1. **A mail-back survey** (which included an invitation-only web survey option; Method #2 below)
2. **An online, invitation-only web survey** to further encourage responses from those residents already within the defined invitation sample
3. **An “open-link” online survey**, open to any member of the public

Survey methods 1 & 2 were used to conduct a statistically-valid sample and response. A total of 3,500 surveys were mailed to a random sample of Amherst residents in July 2017, with 560 completed responses received. The response rate was 16.3 percent. In the consultants’ experience, this is a strong response rate based on prior experience on similar projects regionally. The margin of error for the 560 statistically valid responses is approximately +/- 4.1 percentage points calculated for questions at 50 percent response. The open link survey received an additional 243 completed responses.

### Summary of Selected Findings

Results of the survey provided insight into the general sentiment of the Amherst community’s views of the town’s existing parks and recreation system, programs and services. The top ten findings from the survey are highlighted below. The complete Final Survey Report is included as **Appendix B**.

1. Residents are somewhat familiar with Amherst's offerings, but a smaller percentage are very familiar. There may be potential to increase awareness of the Town's parks and facilities.

2. Programs and parks are widely used by families with children at home. Those who do not have children seem to participate in programs and visit sites less. There may be new opportunities to attract households that without children.

3. Community /neighborhood parks and trail connectivity are very important to residents. Additionally, many would like to see improvements, additions, and expansions on into the future in this area.

4. A large share of comments around recreation needs and opportunities focus on a need to protect open space and continued expansion/linking of green space. This finding is consistent with results in Erie County.

5. Improving communication strategies may lead to a higher degree of effectiveness. Residents stated a moderate to low effectiveness rate currently and identify the Town newsletter as the best method of communication.

6. In general community needs are being met by the majority of the facilities. There are a few key areas to monitor as they have high importance, but low needs met. These include aquatic facilities and programs/events.

7. When allocating dollars to projects, residents signal two actions as most important: 1) making improvements/renovating existing amenities, and; 2) preserving open space.

8. Safety and security, well-maintained amenities, and pleasant settings are the primary drivers for why residents choose to visit parks. These three factors are vital reasons why residents pick their favorite areas to recreate.

9. Creating a foundation for parks is the most desirable funding options for the residents. On the contrary, respondents are much less likely to support sales tax increases or dedicated property taxes which fund parks.

10. Community events and fitness/wellness programs are most popular among Amherst's residents. These programs also receive high priority rankings. Close behind are programs which involve nature and outdoor recreation.

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## VII. Summary of All Key Issues

**The Key Issues Matrix**, provides a prioritized summary of all the key issues that surfaced during the master planning process. Key issues are organized under the following categories on the matrix:

- Organizational
- Programs and Service Delivery
- Facilities and Amenities
- Level of Service
- Finance

The qualitative data planning tools used to determine the priority of the key issues include:

- Consultant team expertise
- Staff input
- Stakeholder and Public Input
- Existing documents

The quantitative data planning tools used to determine the priority of key issues included:

- Community survey
- Town data
- Facility Assessment/Level of Service Analysis

Priorities are rated on the matrix using the following scale:

A = priority

B = opportunity to improve

C= minor or future issue

Blank = issue was not referenced

Preliminary recommendations listed for each key issue were presented to the master plan project team for input and development of specific goals, objectives, and prioritized action items for achieving goals.



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# Key Issues Analysis Matrix

Key Issue - Rating Scale  a - priority b - opportunity to improve c - minor or future issue blank means the issue didn't come up or wasn't addressed	Qualitative Data				Quantitative Data			Consultant's Analysis and Preliminary Recommendations	
	Consultant Team	Staff Input	Stakeholder & Public Input	Existing Documents	Community Survey	Town Data	Facility Assessment/LOS	Preliminary Recommendations	
<b>Organizational</b>									
Communication about services and facilities received low ratings	a	a	a		a				Working with the Town's IT Department, integrate the Department's Marketing Plan into the Town Plan
Citizens identified social media and the Town's website would be top way to get information	a	a	a		a				Integrate social media into the Department's marketing and branding efforts.
Access to internet and online services create restrictions and inefficiencies in Departmental functions	a	a	a		a				Work with the Town's IT Department to create greater access to the internet and research capacities of staff
Town's website impossible to use	a	a	a		a				Redevelop the Town's website to be more user friendly and increases the public engagement with the Department's web page.
Park grounds maintenance standards and protocols inconsistent in application	a	b	b		a			b	Develop a grounds management plan based on industry standard practices and protocols
Maintenance and repair roles not clearly defined	a	a		a			a	a	Working together to refine the roles and responsibilities between Youth and Recreation, and Highway/Parks and put into formal agreement.
Parks and recreation planning, maintenance, and operations divided between three departments	a	a	a				a	a	Explore opportunities to create a unified Parks and Recreation Department with operations, planning and maintenance
Staff doing a lot with a little	b	b	b		b	b	b	b	Hire and train staff for current and future programming and facility usage demand
Athletic fields reaching capacity			b						Review existing field allocation policy and industry best practices to update current policy
<b>Programs and Service Delivery</b>									
Increase awareness of available programs and events	a	a	a		a				Use electronic and social media outlets to promote programs and offerings
Enhance fitness and wellness programs	b				a				Expand fitness and wellness program offerings
Increase community events (festivals, parades, etc.)	a	b			a				Expand and support neighborhood & community special event opportunities
Enhance nature and outdoor recreation programs	b	b		b	a				Expand nature and outdoor recreation program offerings
Expand hobby/special interest programming (arts, crafts, etc.)	b				a				
Perceived lack of things to do in the winter	b	b	b		b	b	b	b	Explore opportunities to develop new offerings and promote current opportunities for winter recreation
<b>Facilities and Amenities</b>									
Trails and bike paths highly requested	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	Integrate a complete streets policy into the Town Comprehensive Plan
Lack connectivity park to park, neighborhood to park	a	a	a	a	a			a	Look at the Peanut Line and Lehigh Valley Trail as opportunities to create community connectivity
Improve existing parks and recreation facilities and amenities	a		a	b	a			b	Add new and enhance existing recreation amenities
Enhance comfort features at existing parks (seating, restrooms, shade, etc.)	a		a		a			a	Strategically add comfort features to existing sites; beginning at sites with greatest potential need/benefit from addition of features
Develop special parks features/areas (dog park, pickleball courts, fitness stations, bike repair stations, etc.)	a	b	a				b	a	Add unique amenities to targeted parks to serve specific community needs and keep current with trends in the industry
Continue to improve ADA accessibility	b	b		b				b	Continue to improve accessibility and ease of use of recreation facilities/amenities for people with disabilities.
Enhance lighting and safety features	b	b	b		a			b	Improve lighting, visibility, and other safety features at existing parks and facilities.
Need expanded use of outdoor fields and courts	b	b	a		a			b	Explore opportunities to add lights to athletic fields and courts to extend usage
Expand preserved open space inventory	b	b	a	a	a			b	Develop clear open space preservation goals, priorities and funding plan.
Expand aquatic recreation opportunities	b	b	b		c	b			Develop partnerships with existing aquatics facilities operators in/around Amherst to expand opportunities for residents.
Athletic fields reaching capacity	b	b	b		c	b			Explore opportunities to convert grass fields to turf to expand play opportunities
<b>Level of Service</b>									
Identify gaps that are in need of service based LOS	a		a					a	Consider geographic barriers when looking at future facilities and services



**Key Issues Analysis Matrix**

Key Issue - Rating Scale  a - priority b - opportunity to improve c - minor or future issue blank means the issue didn't come up or wasn't addressed	Consultant Team	Staff Input	Stakeholder & Public Input	Existing Documents	Community Survey	Town Data	Facility Assessment/LOS	   Preliminary Recommendations
Verify where outside service provides are/are not filling gaps	a						a	Continue to identify and map recreation opportunities offer by non-municipal providers
Develop LOS criteria for catchment areas and acreage by population	a						a	Using the NRPA's current Field Report as a benchmark, adopt LOS criteria for the Town
<b>Finance</b>								
Budgeting for parks maintenance, repairs and replacement of amenities divided between departments	a	a		a			a	Explore opportunity to create an equipment replacement fund to be used for repair and replacement of parks and recreation amenities
Utilize equitable user fees	a	a	a	a		a		Review current Cost Recovery Policy and adjust as needed
Pursue grant opportunities	a	a		a				Explore alternative funding opportunities
Explore the creation of a foundation dedicated to improving Town recreation, parks, and open space opportunities.	b	b	b			a		Investigate expanding the Amherst Youth Foundation to create a potential sustainable funding mechanism to improve Town parks, open spaces and recreation sites

# VIII. Great Things to Come

## A. Recommendations

This section describes recommendations to enhance the level of service and the quality of life through improvement of existing sites, future development of new facilities, organizational enhancements, financial improvements, increased programming, improved safety, and potential partnerships.

### Overall Recommendations

The Town of Amherst parks and recreation system has great facilities, offers high-quality programs and annual events, and provides a suite of valuable services that contribute to residents' high quality of life. These recommendations primarily focus on addressing existing challenges and leveraging opportunities identified through the master planning process. Amherst is well positioned to build upon current successes to best ensure that its public recreation and fitness opportunities meet the needs of the growing community over the next ten years.

#### General Recommendations:

- Maintain and improve existing facilities.
- Develop and implement a program for site-specific park master planning for enhancing or replacing aged facilities, and creating new recreation opportunities. Improve or replace existing aged facilities and outdated amenities that do not function well.
- Improve/enhance access to underutilized facilities and open spaces within parks.
- Provide universal access to all parks/facilities, and update the ADA Transition Plan to address areas that are not compliant.
- Provide comfort features (restrooms, lighting, shade, and seating).
- Implement standardized identification signage at all parks.
- Integrate parks and recreational facilities into an interconnected open space system of parklands greenways and trails.
- Acquire additional open space resources as they become available.

#### Recommendations for community connectivity to parks:

- Develop/expand more neighborhood parks in growing residential areas.
- Improve trail connectivity to park areas from neighborhoods (develop the Peanut Line).
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian connections to parks.
- Improve utilization of existing park spaces.
- As land adjacent to existing parks or recreation sites become available for sale, the Town should consider acquisition to expand existing assets.
- Embrace the Tonawanda Creek area – expand nature area, trails, and water-based/adventure recreational opportunities.
- Improve access and interpretation within parks and nature/conservation areas (wayfinding signage and education).
- Develop specialty park areas (dog park, skate park, fit trails, Pickleball, water access).
- Develop cultural/historical spaces within parks.

## B. Action Plan, Cost Estimates, and Prioritization

The following Goals, Objectives, and Action Items for the recommendations are drawn from the public input, inventory, level of service analysis, findings feedback, and all the information gathered during the master planning process with a primary focus on maintaining, sustaining, and improving the Town of Amherst’s parks, recreation, open space, and trails. All cost estimates are in 2017 figures where applicable. Most costs are dependent on the extent of the enhancements and improvements determined or known at this time.

Timeframe to complete is designated as:

- Short-term (up to 3 years)
- Mid-term (4-6 years)
- Long-term (7-10 years)

<b>Goal 1: Organizational Enhancement: Improve aspects of the municipal organizational structure that support the provision and stewardship of the Town’s parks, recreation facilities, programs, and services.</b>			
<b>Objective 1.1: Improve the ability of the Youth and Recreation Department to regularly share up-to-date information with residents and program users, especially online.</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
<b>1.1.a</b> Integrate the Youth and Recreation Department marketing plan with the Town’s communication and outreach program. Requires collaboration between Youth and Recreation Department and IT Department.	0	Staff time	Short-Term
<b>1.1.b</b> Strengthen the Youth and Recreation Department’s online presence and abilities to leverage Town website and other online social media platforms, a key to implementing the Department’s marketing plan. Requires collaboration between Youth and Recreation Department and IT Department.	0	Staff time	Short-Term
<b>1.1.c</b> Redevelop the Town’s website to be more user-friendly and increase the quality and quantity of available information.	0	Staff time	Mid-Term
<b>1.1.d</b> Improve the quality of content and ease of function of the Town’s website to allow residents easier access to information.	0	Staff time	Mid-Term

**Objective 1.2:****Improve and formalize the working relationship between Town departments actively engaged in parks and recreation operations, maintenance, and service provision.**

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
<b>1.2.a</b> Create a written agreement or memorandum of understanding between Highway Department – Parks Division and the Youth and Recreation Department, to formalize the roles and responsibilities of each agency in maintaining the Town’s parks grounds and facilities. Requires collaboration between the Youth and Recreation Department and Highway Department, Parks Division.	\$0	Staff time	Short-Term
<b>1.2.b</b> Develop an operations management plan and grounds/landscape maintenance standard for recurring maintenance tasks based on current industry best management practices. Requires collaboration between the Youth and Recreation Department and Highway Department, Parks Division, i.e. frequency of mowing, bathroom cleaning, etc.	\$0	Staff time	Short-Term (Landscape standards currently being developed by Town Staff)
<b>1.2.c</b> Hire and train staff for current and future programming and facility operation needs. Create and adopt level of service criteria for parks and recreation services using the National Parks and Recreation Association’s (NRPA) current FTE/acre and maintenance hours/acre.	\$0	Dependent on quantity and type of staff hired	Ongoing
<b>1.2.d</b> Review existing athletic field and sport court allocation policies and current industry best practices. Adjust allocation policy as needed to best ensure equitable distribution of field-time as use demands continue to increase.	\$0	Staff time	Short-Term

**Goal 2: Program and Service Delivery**  
**Increase awareness of Amherst’s existing public recreation opportunities and enhance program offerings to meet existing and future community needs.**

**Objective 2.1:**  
**Increase awareness of existing parks and recreation opportunities provided by the Town of Amherst.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
<b>2.1.a</b> Leverage electronic and social median outlets to promote the Town’s recreation programs, events, and opportunities.	\$0	Staff time	Short-Term

**Objective 2.2:**  
**Expand the number of recreation programs and special events hosted by the Youth and Recreation Department.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
<b>2.2.a</b> Expand fitness and wellness program offerings.	Program equipment	Additional staff	Short to Mid-Term
<b>2.2.b</b> Expand and support neighborhood and community special events.	Special event costs	Additional staff	Short to Mid-Term
<b>2.2.c</b> Expand nature and outdoor recreation program offerings.	\$0	Additional staff	Short to Mid-Term
<b>2.2.d</b> Promote existing winter recreation offerings and explore opportunities to develop new winter programs and events. Investigate grooming equipment for cross-country skiing on select trails/pathways.	Grooming equipment	Staff time	Mid-Term

**Goal 3: Facilities and Amenities**

**Improve existing park amenities and recreation facilities to create more and better user experiences, increase the utility of parks, and elevate levels of satisfaction.**

**Objective 3.1:**

**Enhance the functionality of existing parks and recreation amenities to allow for more, and better, user experiences.**

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
<p><b>3.1.a</b> Improve existing recreation amenities and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Depends on amenity repair/ replacement (refer to Park Specific Recommend)</p>	<p>On-going Maintenance/ Operations staff time</p>	<p>Short-Term</p>
<p><b>3.1.b</b> Strategically add comfort features to existing spaces. Begin at sites with the greatest potential need or benefit from the addition of new comfort features. Comfort features generally include: restrooms, potable water, shade, seating, etc.</p>	<p>Depends on features to be added (refer to Park Specific Recommend)</p>	<p>Additional staff time for future maintenance</p>	<p>Mid-Term</p>
<p><b>3.1.c</b> Add unique amenities to targeted parks to serve specific community needs and keep current with local trends (fit trail, dog park, gardens, etc.)</p>	<p>Depends on feature to be added (refer to Park Specific Recommend)</p>	<p>Depends on feature to be added/ maintenance requirements.</p>	<p>Mid-Term</p>
<p><b>3.1.d</b> Continue to improve accessibility and implement Town-wide accessibility transition plan. Improve ease of use of recreation facilities and amenities for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Depends on upgrade/ improvement</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>3.1.e</b> Improve safety lighting, line-of-sight/visibility, security cameras, and other safety features at existing parks and facilities.</p>	<p>Depends on upgrade/ improvements</p>	<p>Additional utility costs, and ongoing maintenance staff time</p>	<p>Mid-Term</p>
<p><b>3.1.f</b> Explore opportunities to add lights to existing outdoor athletic fields and sport courts to extend usage in compliance with Town lighting standards and zoning ordinance.</p>	<p>Depends on type/location of lightings: \$30,000 to 100,000 per court/field</p>	<p>Varies – may be offset by usage fees</p>	<p>Short-Term</p>

<p><b>3.1.g</b> Explore opportunities to convert existing grass fields to artificial turf to expand play opportunities.</p>	<p>Depends on type/size: \$400,000 - 600,000 per field</p>	<p>Staff Time</p>	<p>Mid-Term</p>
<p><b>Objective 3.2:</b> <b>Develop new recreation amenities and opportunities for residents with a focus on expanding trails and opportunities for walking and biking.</b></p>			
<p><b>Actions</b></p>	<p><b>Capital Cost Estimate</b></p>	<p><b>Operational Budget Impact</b></p>	<p><b>Timeframe to Complete</b></p>
<p><b>3.2.a</b> Refine and implement complete streets policy into the Town Comprehensive Plan.</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>Staff Time</p>	<p>Short-Term</p>
<p><b>3.2.b</b> Refine and implement a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to guide the creation of a Town-wide trail and bicycle facility network.</p>	<p>Consultant fees</p>	<p>Staff Time</p>	<p>Mid-Term</p>
<p><b>3.2.c</b> Pursue opportunities to create new sidewalks and pathways that connect the places people live, work, shop, and play in Amherst. Seek to enhance opportunities for residents to safely walk and bike for exercise, leisure, and transportation purposes.</p>	<p>\$65 to \$120/lf</p>	<p>On-Going Maintenance/ Operations Staff Time</p>	<p>Ongoing Effort</p>
<p><b>3.2.d</b> Reevaluate the potential for trail development in the “Peanut Line” corridor and Lehigh Valley corridor as opportunities to increase connectivity and expand opportunities for walking and biking. Continue to acquire lands for each trail corridor as necessary.</p>	<p>\$65 to \$120/lf</p>	<p>Staff Time</p>	<p>Mid-Term</p>

**Goal 4: Level of Service**  
**Continue to regularly seek to enhance the level of service provided to residents by the Town's parks and recreation system**

**Objective 4.1:**  
**Continue to review and improve the delivery of recreation service delivery to Amherst residents.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
<b>4.1.a</b> Create and adopt level of service criteria for parks and recreation services using the National Parks and Recreation Association's (NRPA) current Field Report data as a benchmark.	\$0	Staff Time	Short-Term
<b>4.1.b</b> Remove/eliminate barriers to walking and biking access throughout town, including in locations of future facilities and services.	\$0	Staff Time	Ongoing
<b>4.1.c</b> Continue to identify and map recreation opportunities offered by alternative service providers.	\$0	Staff Time	Ongoing

**Goal 5: Finance**  
**Continue to find new and innovative means to provide Amherst residents with expanded recreation opportunities.**

**Objective 5.1:**  
**Explore new funding and cost-saving mechanisms in order to maintain and enhance parks and recreation opportunities for residents.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
<b>5.1.a</b> Explore opportunities to create an equipment replacement fund to be used for repair and replacement of parks and recreation amenities.	\$0	Staff Time	Short-Term
<b>5.1.b</b> Review the Youth and Recreation Department's program cost recovery policy and adjust as needed.	\$0	Staff Time	Mid-Term
<b>5.1.c</b> Explore alternative funding opportunities (i.e. cell towers locations, land leases, etc.).	\$0	Staff Time	Ongoing



Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
<p><b>5.1.d</b> Investigate partnering with existing 501(c)(3) organizations and foundations to create a potential sustainable funding mechanism to improve Town parks, open spaces and recreation sites.</p>	0	Staff Time	Short-Term
<p><b>5.1.e</b> Strengthen existing public/private partnerships and explore opportunities to create new partnerships that increase recreation opportunities for Amherst residents. Prioritize partnerships that allow for expanded access to year-round aquatics facilities and indoor recreation spaces.</p>	0	Staff Time	Short To Mid-Term
<p><b>5.1.f</b> As applicable, develop bonding options to propose as a means for funding capital improvement projects.</p>	0	Staff Time	Mid-Term

# Appendix A: Demographics Study

Gaining a clear understanding of the existing and projected demographic character of the Town is an important component of the planning process for the Amherst Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. By analyzing population data, trends emerge that can inform decision making and resource allocation strategies for the provision of public parks, recreation amenities, and open spaces. For example, if the population of young children was steadily on the rise and existing public recreation facilities for young children, such as playgrounds, were barely meeting existing user demand, then the Town may want to consider targeting investments to meet the increasing needs of this growing segment of the population.

Key areas were analyzed to identify current demographic statistics and trends that can impact the planning and provision of public parks and recreation services in Amherst. Community characteristics analyzed and discussed consist of:

- Existing and Projected Total Population
- Age and Gender Distribution
- Ethnic/Racial Diversity
- Housing and Household Information
- Educational Attainment
- Employment
- State and Local Health Ranking

This demographic profile was completed using the most current data available (as of June 2017) from Esri Business Analyst, the U.S. Census Bureau data, and the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey. A summary of demographic highlights is noted in **Table 5** below, followed by a more detailed demographic analysis.

**Table 5: 2016 Amherst General Demographic Profile**

<b>Population</b>	<b>123,185</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>41.2</b>
<b>Households</b>	<b>49,733</b>
<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$67,654</b>

*Source: Esri Business Analyst*

Key general 2016 demographic comparisons – Town, State, and National:

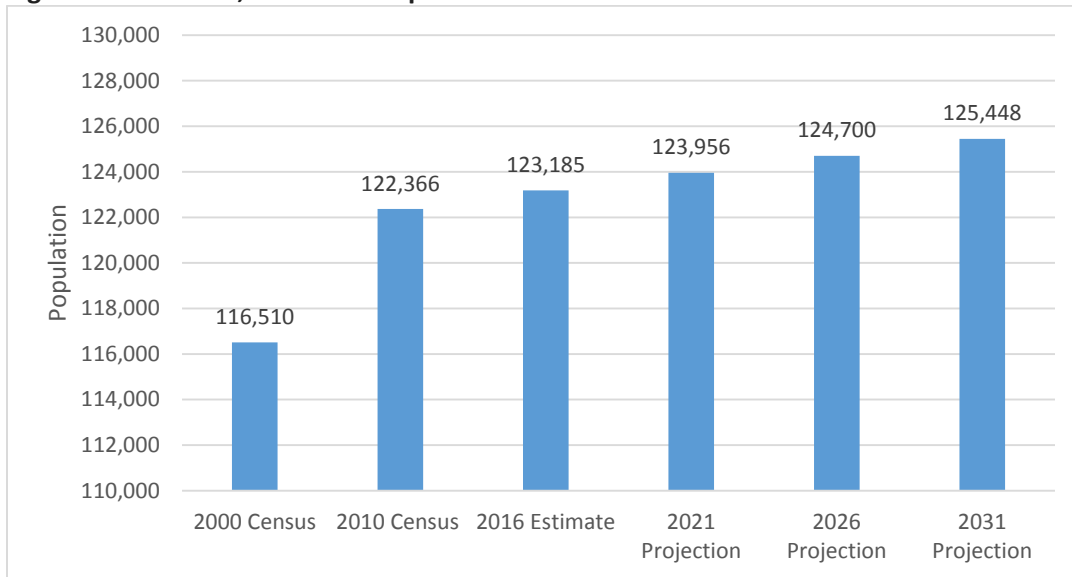
- The estimated median age of Amherst residents was 41.2 years, higher than both the median age for New York (38.7) and the United States (38).
- The median household income for Amherst in 2016 was estimated to be \$67,654. This is higher than the median household income of \$58,196 in New York, and higher than the national median household income of \$54,149.
- Amherst’s estimated population was almost evenly split between the sexes, with slightly more female (52.46%) than male (47.54%) residents. The populations of New York and the United States are also roughly evenly divided between the sexes.

# Amherst Population and Demographic Trends

## Population Projections

Although future population growth cannot be predicted with certainty, it is helpful to make growth projections for planning purposes. **Figure 21** contains actual population figures based on the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census for Amherst, and the Esri 2016 estimated population and 2021 projected population. Amherst’s population grew slightly between 2000 and 2010. Based on current Esri estimates and projections, an annual growth rate of 0.12 percent from 2016 to 2021 is projected. This growth rate was used to estimate the population through 2031.

**Figure 21: Amherst, New York Population Growth Trend**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Esri Business Analyst

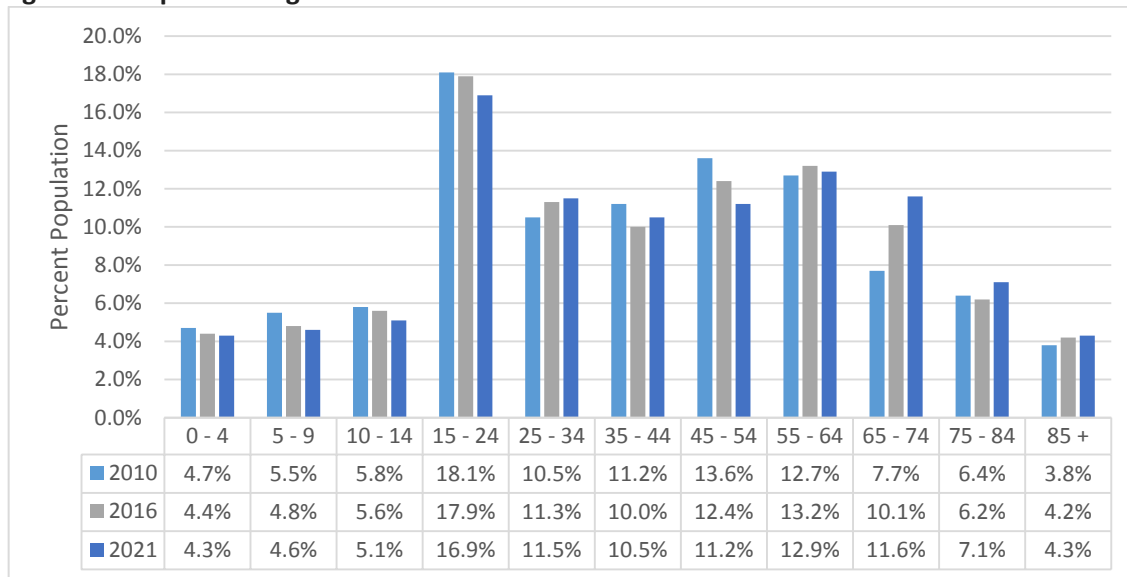
## Population Age Distribution

The existing and projected population of different age groups, or cohorts, within Amherst is illustrated in the following series of figures. **Figure 22** illustrates the 2016 population by age cohort, and **Figure 23** provides this breakdown for the 2010 population, the 2016 estimated population, and the 2021 projected population.

Several key age characteristics of the existing and projected Town population include:

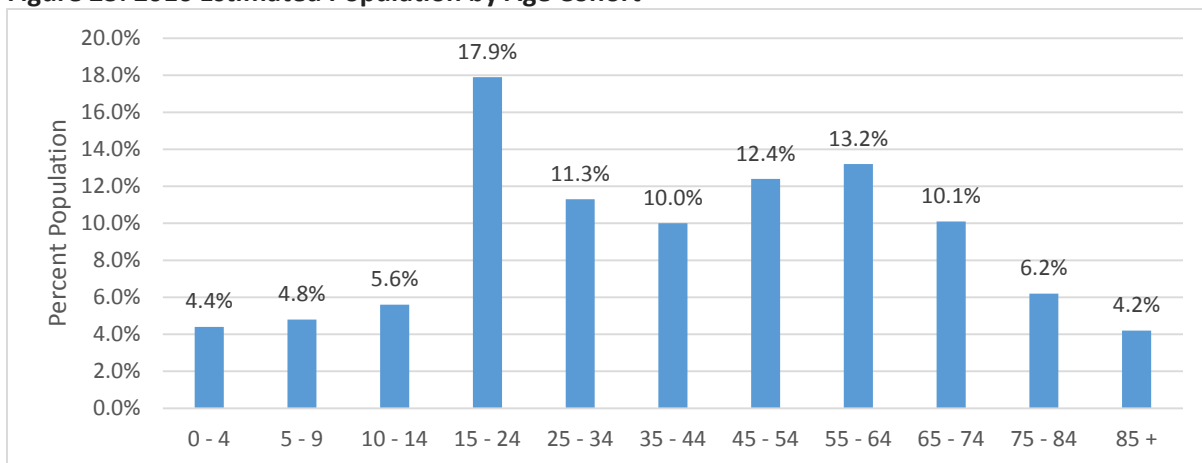
- The median age of residents is increasing. The U.S. Census Bureau reported the median age of Amherst residents to be 40.2 years in 2010. Esri estimates the median age of the 2016 population to be 41.2 years and projects the median age to increase to 42.1 years by 2021.
- As illustrated in **Figure 22**, in general, the population of age cohorts between 0 and 24, in addition to 45 to 54, are projected to decrease. Over the same time period, the age cohorts of 25 to 34 and 65 to 74 are expected to increase.
- As illustrated in **Figure 23**, the 2016 estimated population has a significant proportion of 15 to 24-year-old residents. These residents comprised 18 percent of the population in 2010, but it is predicted that this number will decrease to just under 17 percent in 2021.

**Figure 22: Population Age Distribution: 2010 to 2021**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Esri Business Analyst

**Figure 23: 2016 Estimated Population by Age Cohort**



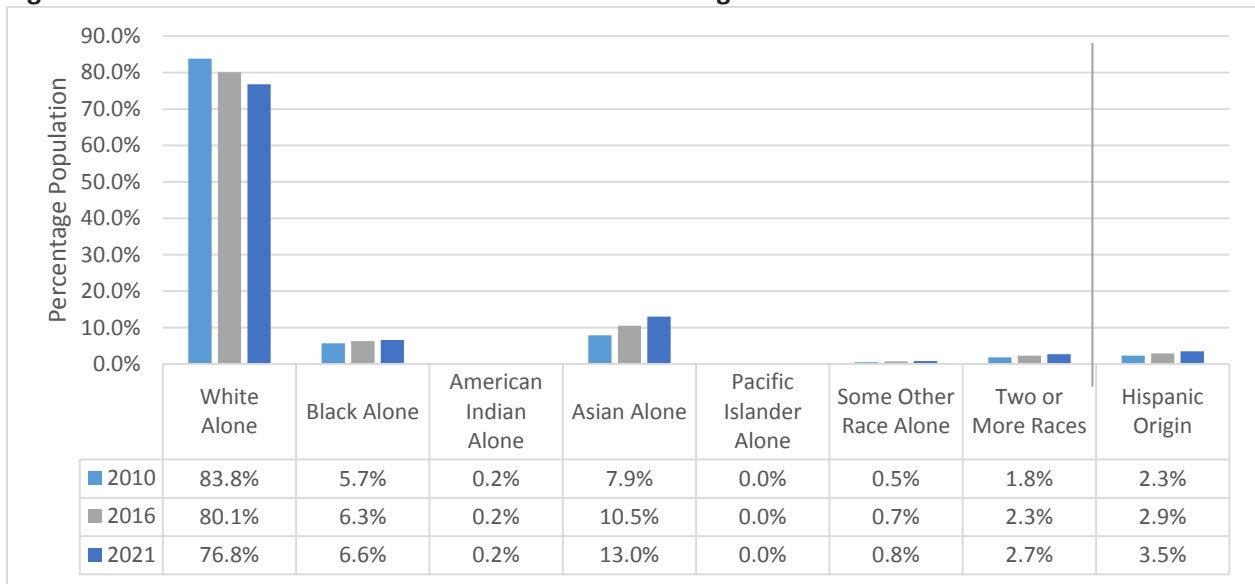
Source: Esri Business Analyst

### Race/Ethnicity

Prior to reviewing demographic data pertaining to a population’s racial and ethnic character, it is important to note how the U.S. Census classifies and counts individuals who identify as Hispanic. The Census notes that Hispanic origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors before arrival in the United States. In the U.S. Census, people who identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be any race and are included in all of the race categories. All race categories add up to 100 percent of the population; the indication of Hispanic origin is a different view of the population and is not considered a race.

**Figure 24** reflects the approximate racial/ethnic population distribution for Amherst based on the 2010 U.S. Census, and the Esri 2016 estimates and 2021 projections.

**Figure 24: Amherst Racial and Ethnic Character 2010 through 2021**

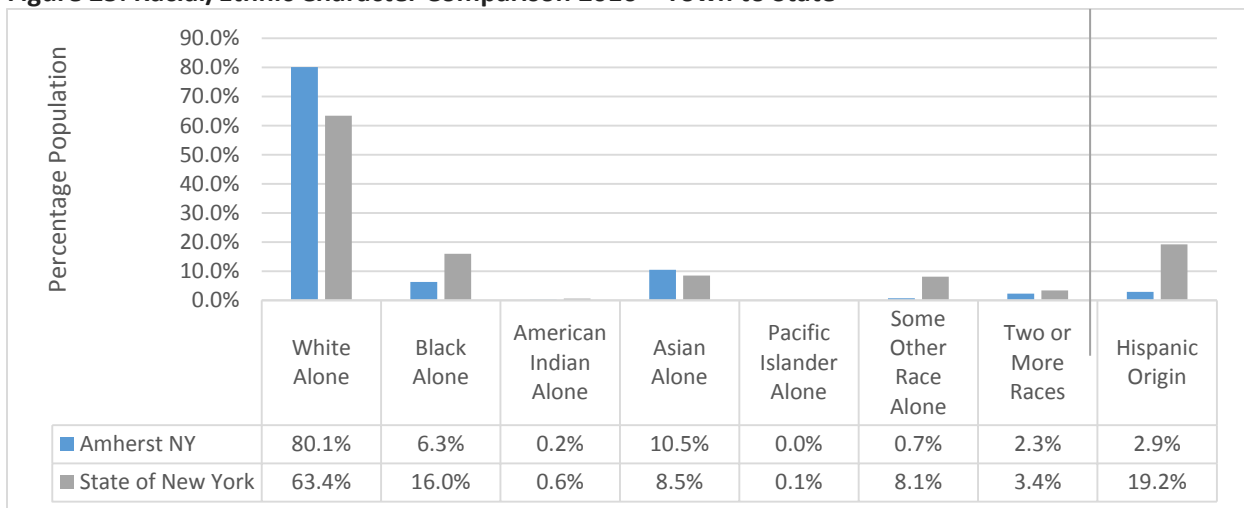


Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Esri Business Analyst

Overall, the racial and ethnic composition of Amherst has not significantly changed since 2010, and it is not anticipated to change to a high degree through 2021. The majority of the Town’s population identified as Caucasians. The largest minority group, making up 10.5 percent of the population in 2016, were Asians. Black residents are estimated to make up 6.6 percent in 2021.

As illustrated in **Figure 25**, the 2016 racial and ethnic composition of the population of Amherst was generally less diverse than that of the State of New York. As reflected in Census and Esri data, the Town’s population has been, and is projected to continue to be, predominantly Caucasian. In 2016, just 2.9 percent of Amherst’s population identified as Hispanic, compared to 19.2 percent of the state’s population. The State of New York also more residents identifying as Black (16%), compared to Amherst (6.3%).

**Figure 25: Racial/Ethnic Character Comparison 2016 – Town to State**

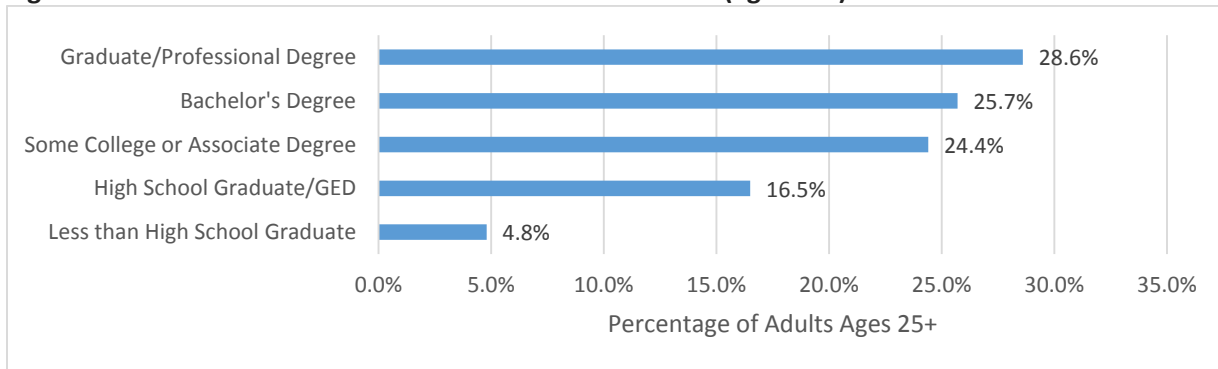


Source: Esri Business Analyst

## Educational Attainment

The educational attainment for Amherst residents over the age of 25 was measured. In 2016, roughly 67 percent of town residents were 25 years or older. As illustrated in **Figure 26**, roughly 95 percent of town residents had attained a high school level education or higher. Nearly 29 percent of Amherst adults completed a graduate or professional degree.

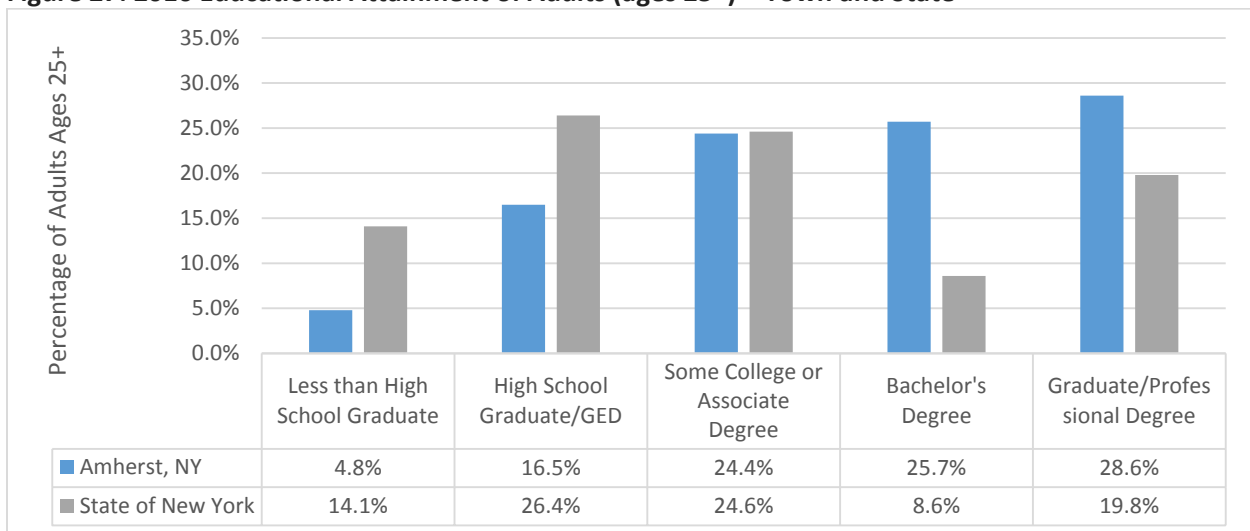
**Figure 26: 2016 Educational Attainment of Amherst Adults (ages 25+)**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

When compared to their peers at the statewide level, the Town's population has a higher percentage of Bachelor's and graduate/professional degrees. As illustrated in **Figure 27**, the State of New York had just over 14 percent of adults who did not complete high school or their GED, compared to just five percent of Amherst's population. The State of New York had more adults with a high school/GED education level than any other category.

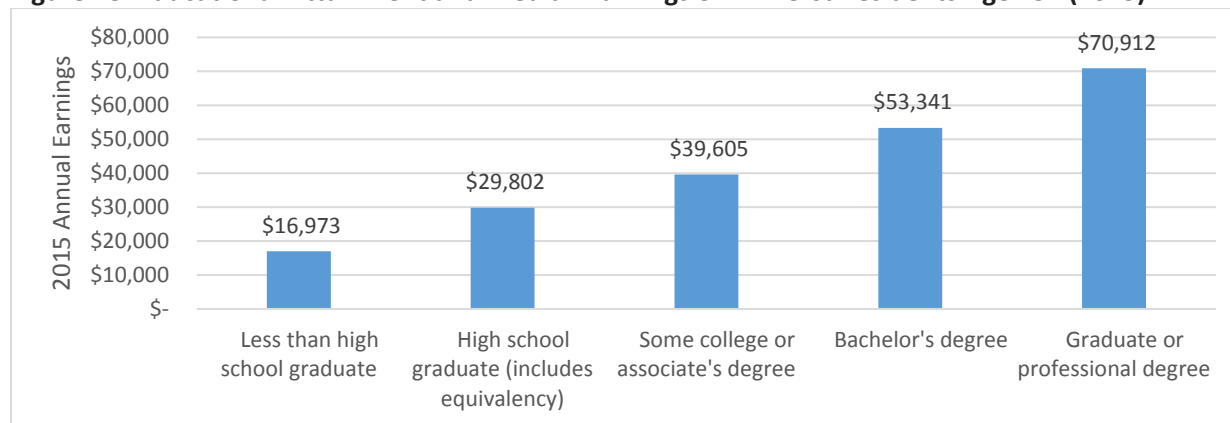
**Figure 27: 2016 Educational Attainment of Adults (ages 25+) – Town and State**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

According to a Census study, education levels had more effect on earnings over a 40-year span in the workforce than any other demographic factor, such as gender, race, and ethnic origin.<sup>52</sup> This link between education and earnings appears clearly illustrated in Amherst. As **Figure 28** shows, the Census Bureau’s 2015 American Community Survey reported that Amherst residents (age 25+) with a Bachelor’s degree earned triple that of residents who had not completed a high school education. Residents with graduate or professional degrees had median earnings that were nearly \$71,000, more than double the income of high school graduates (\$29,802). **Figure 28** demonstrates the correlation between educational levels and median income earnings in Amherst.

**Figure 28: Educational Attainment and Median Earnings of Amherst Residents Age 25+ (2015)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015 American Community Survey

## Household Information

As reflected in **Table 6**, the total number of housing units and households in Amherst is projected to continue to increase slowly through 2021. The average household size is slightly decreasing overtime, from 2.33 in 2010 to 2.29 in 2021. The majority of homes in the town are projected to continue to be owner-occupied, while just over 28 percent of housing units were renter-occupied in 2016. Rates of homeownership and housing vacancy are projected to remain relatively stable.

**Table 6: Amherst Housing Profile 2010 to 2021**

	2010	2016	2021
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	51,179	52,261	53,075
<b>Number of Households</b>	49,733	49,733	50,357
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.33	2.31	2.29
<b>Owner Occupied Housing Units</b>	68.20%	66.50%	65.70%
<b>Renter Occupied Housing Units</b>	27.40%	28.70%	29.20%
<b>Vacant Housing Units</b>	4.50%	4.80%	5.10%

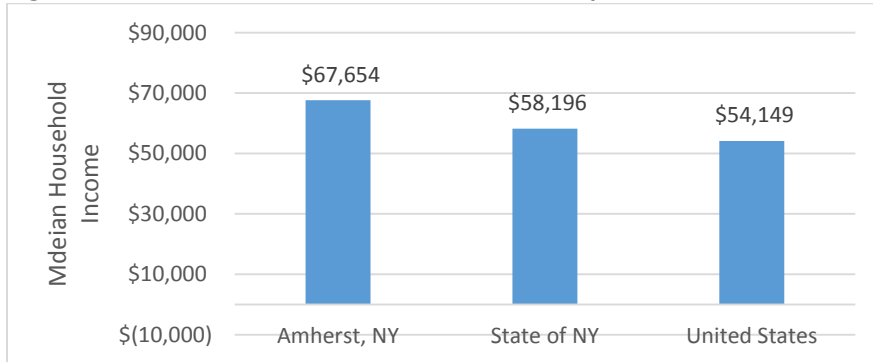
Source: Esri Business Analyst

<sup>52</sup> Tiffany Julian and Robert Kominski, “Education and Synthetic Work-Life Earnings Estimates” American Community Survey Reports, US Census Bureau, <http://www.Census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-14.pdf>, September 2011.

## Household Income

Data from Esri Business Analyst, illustrated in **Figure 29**, indicates that the 2016 median household income in Amherst was higher than the median household incomes in New York and the United States.

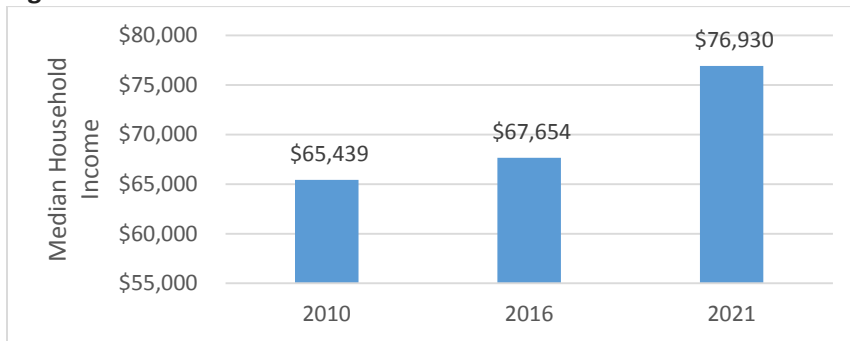
**Figure 29: 2016 Median Household Income Comparison**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

As **Figure 30** illustrates, the median income of Amherst households is predicted to rise significantly through 2021. In 2010, the median household income in the town was \$65,459. In 2016, income rose by \$2,215. By 2021, the median household income of Amherst households is projected to rise by over \$9,000, to \$76,930. **Figure 31** illustrates the distribution of household median income by earnings bracket in Amherst in 2016. Almost 17 percent of households made an income between \$100,000 and \$149,999.

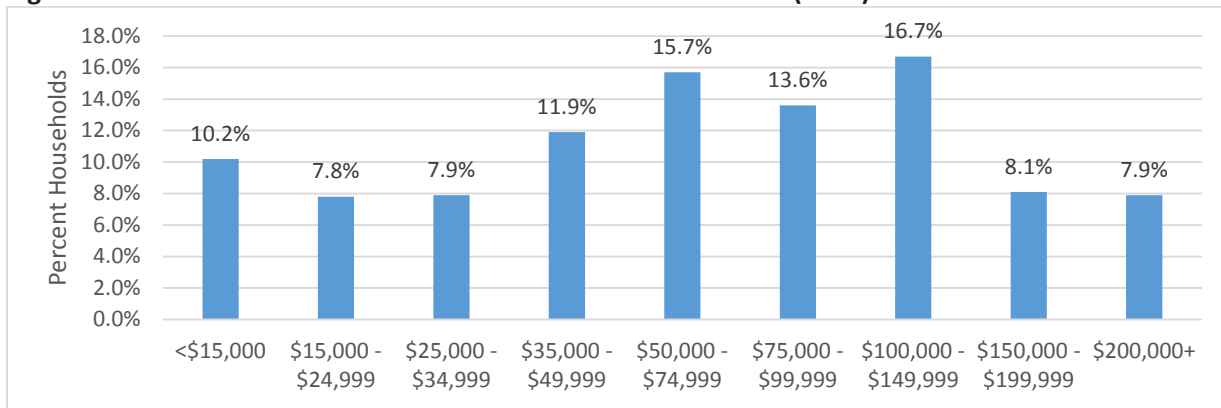
**Figure 30: Median Household Income 2010 to 2021**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Esri Business Analyst



**Figure 31: Distribution of Median Household Income in Amherst (2016)**

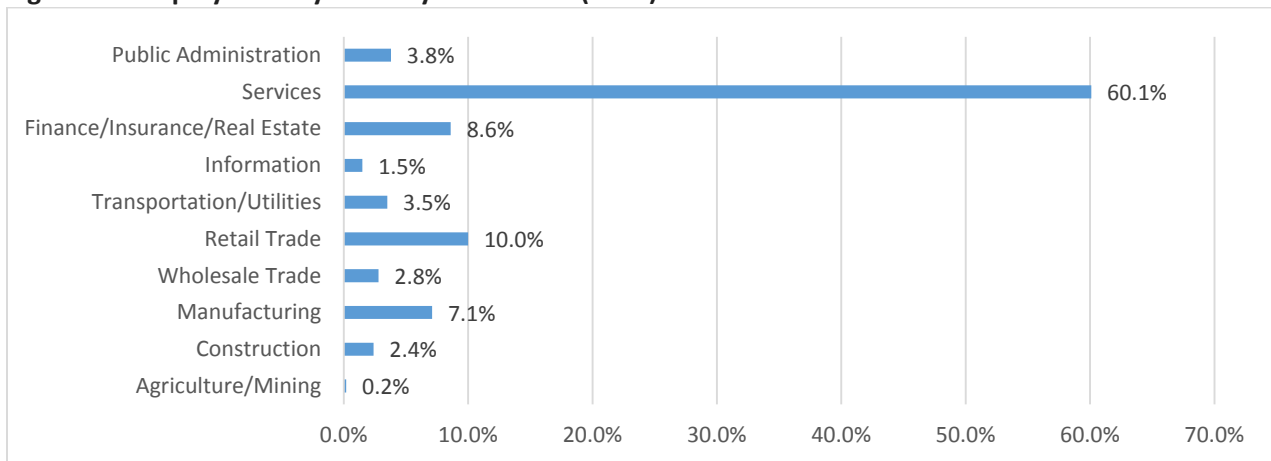


Source: Esri Business Analyst

### Employment

The eligible working population of Amherst residents (those ages 16+) was estimated to be 62,546 in 2016. Of these potential workers, 96.7 percent were estimated to be employed, and 3.3 percent were estimated to be unemployed. In 2016, the majority of working residents (age 16+) in Amherst were employed in jobs in the service industry (60.1%) as illustrated in **Figure 32**. Ten percent of the working residents were employed by the retail trade industry, and almost nine percent were employed by the finance/insurance/real estate industry.

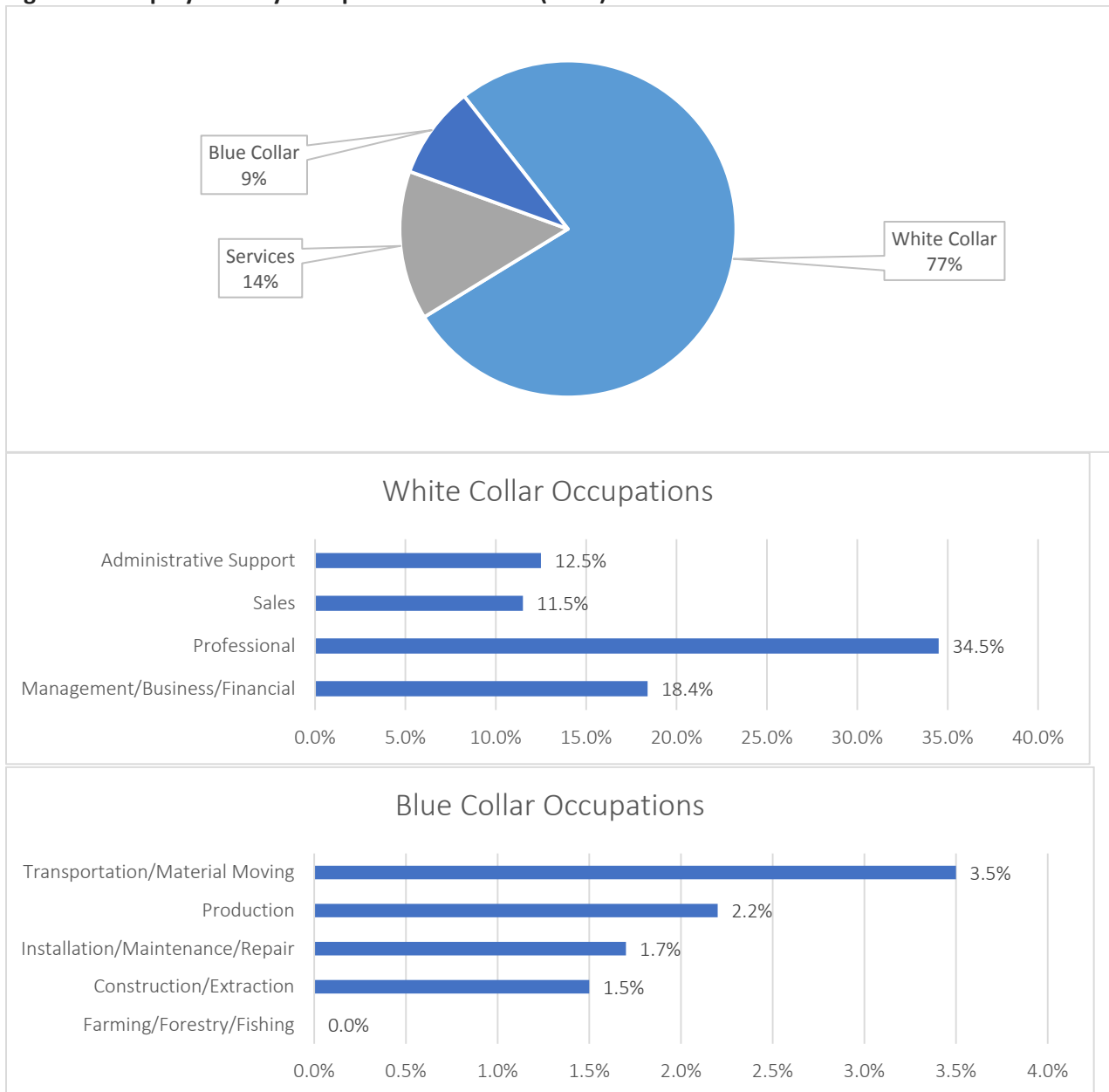
**Figure 32: Employment by Industry in Amherst (2016)**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

As illustrated in **Figure 33**, the majority (77%) of working residents were employed in white collar occupations, such as professional, management/business/financial, and administrative support jobs. Service jobs (14%) employed more residents than blue collar occupations (9%). Within blue collar occupations, transportation/material moving jobs employed the most residents at 3.5 percent.

**Figure 33: Employment by Occupation in Amherst (2016)**



Source: Esri Business Analyst

## Health Ranking

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s “County Health Rankings and Roadmaps” provide annual insight on the general health of national, state, and county populations. According to the foundation, its modeling of population health “emphasizes many factors that, if improved can help make communities healthier places to live, learn, work, and play.” The 2016 rankings model shown in **Figure 34** highlights the topic areas reviewed by the foundation.

The health ranking for Erie County, New York gauged the public health of the population based on “how long people live and how healthy people feel while alive,” coupled with ranking factors including healthy behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors.<sup>53</sup> Out of the 62 New York counties reviewed, Erie County was ranked as 50<sup>th</sup> for overall health outcomes, and 43<sup>rd</sup> for health factors. Several significant social challenges impacting the public health in the County included higher levels of premature death, poor or fair health, adult obesity, excessive drinking, high numbers of sexually transmitted infections, and high numbers of teen births.

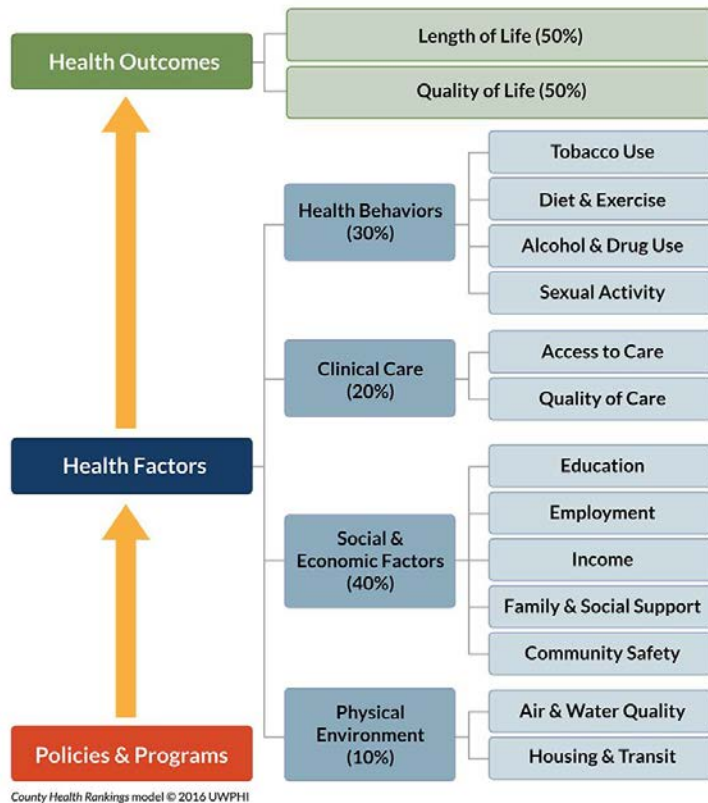
In 2016 the United Health Foundation’s “America’s Health Rankings Annual Report” ranked New York as the 13<sup>th</sup> healthiest state nationally. The health rankings consider and weigh social, environmental, factors that tend to directly impact the overall health of state populations. As illustrated in **Figure 35**, New York’s public health ranking strengths and highlights included:

- A low prevalence of obesity
- Higher number of primary care physicians
- Low premature death rate

Challenges for New York include:

- Low percentage of high school graduation
- High prevalence of physical inactivity
- High percentage of children in poverty

**Figure 34: County Health Ranking Model**

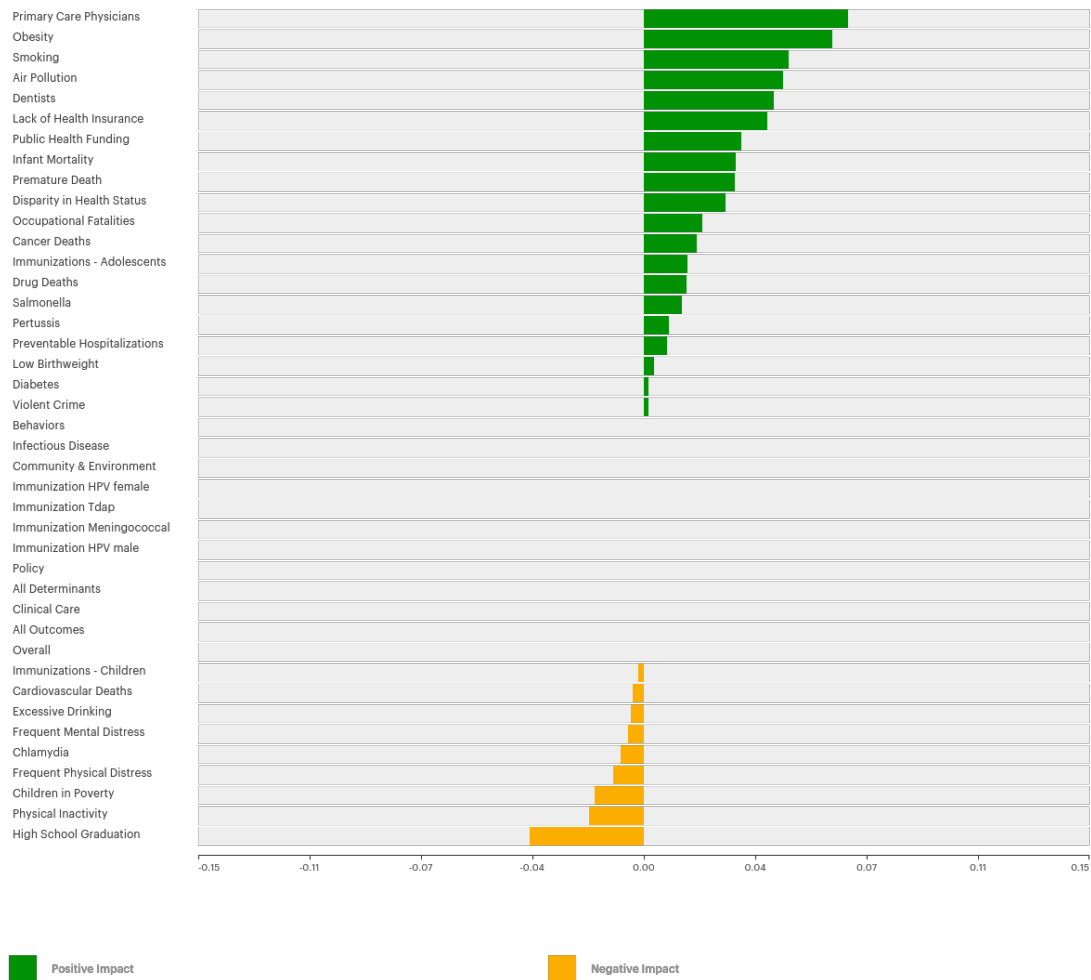


Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

<sup>53</sup>University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute & Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “County Health Rankings 2016,” <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

**Figure 35: 2016 New York Health Ranking Core Findings**

Core Measures Impact: New York, 2016 Annual Report



- SOURCE:**
- CDC, National Vital Statistics System, 2012-2014
  - CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015
  - US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2014-2015
  - America's Health Rankings Composite Measure, 2016
  - US Environmental Protection Agency, 2013-2015
  - CDC, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention Atlas, 2014
  - CDC, MMWR, Summary of Notifiable Infectious Diseases and Conditions, 2014
  - BLS, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries & Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2012-2014
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2015
  - US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2015
  - CDC, National Immunization Survey, 2015
  - US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2015
  - Trust for America's Health, 2014-2015
  - Special data request for information on active state licensed physicians provided by Redi-Data, Inc.
  - CDC, National Vital Statistics System, 2014
  - American Dental Association, 2015
  - The Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care, 2014
  - CDC, National Vital Statistics System, 2013-2014



Source: United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings Annual Report 2016

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# Appendix B: Community Survey Report

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# AMHERST, NY PARKS & RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS AUGUST 2017







# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to gather public feedback on the Town of Amherst, NY parks and recreation facilities, services, and programs.

This survey research effort and subsequent analysis were designed to assist the Town of Amherst in updating their master plan regarding existing and potential future facilities and services.



# METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted using three primary methods:

- 1) a mail-back survey,
- 2) an online, invitation-only web survey to further encourage response from those residents already within the defined invitation sample, and
- 3) an “open-link” online survey for members of the public who were not part of the invitation sample. The analysis herein primarily focuses on responses from the statistically-valid invitation sample.

The primary list source used for the mailing was a third party list purchased from Melissa Data Corp., a leading provider of data with emphasis on U.S., Canadian, and international address and phone verification as well as postal software. Use of the Melissa Data list also includes renters in the sample who are frequently missed in other list sources such as utility billing lists.



# METHODOLOGY

A total of 3,500 surveys were mailed to a random sample of Town of Amherst residents in July 2017. After accounting for undeliverable addresses (63 total), 3,437 surveys were delivered and 560 completed responses were received, resulting in a response rate of 16.3 percent. The margin of error for the 560 statistically valid responses is approximately +/- 4.1 percentage points calculated for questions at 50% response<sup>1</sup>. The open link survey received an additional 243 completed responses.

The analysis herein primarily focuses on responses from the statistically-valid invitation sample. However, invitation sample results are compared to those from the open link sample throughout the report. Furthermore, results were segmented and analyzed by presence of children in the household (invitation and open link samples combined to maximize sample size). Those results are presented in cases where meaningful differences were observed

<sup>1</sup>For the total invitation sample size of 560, margin of error is +/- 4.1 percent calculated for questions at 50% response (if the response for a particular question is “50%”—the standard way to generalize margin of error is to state the larger margin, which occurs for responses at 50%). Note that the margin of error is different for every single question response on the survey depending on the resultant sample sizes, proportion of responses, and number of answer categories for each question. Comparison of differences in the data between various segments, therefore, should take into consideration these factors. As a general comment, it is sometimes more appropriate to focus attention on the general trends and patterns in the data rather than on the individual percentages.



# WEIGHTING THE DATA

The underlying data were weighted by age to ensure appropriate representation of Amherst, NY residents across different demographic cohorts in the sample.



Using the U.S. Census Bureau 2015 American Community Survey five-year estimates, the age distribution within the invitation sample were adjusted to more closely match the 2015 demographic profile of the Town of Amherst.



Due to variable response rates by some segments of the population, the underlying results, while weighted to best match the overall demographics of residents, may not be completely representative of some sub-groups of the Town of Amherst population.



# TOP 10 FINDINGS

1

Residents are somewhat familiar with Amherst's offerings, but a smaller percentage are very familiar. There may be potential to increase awareness of the Town's parks and facilities.

2

Programs and parks are widely used by families with children at home. Those who do not have children seem to participate in programs and visit sites less. There may be new opportunities to attract households that without children.

3

Community /neighborhood parks and trail connectivity are very important to residents. Additionally, many would like to see improvements, additions, and expansions on into the future in this area.

4

A large share of comments around recreation needs and opportunities focus on a need to protect open space and continued expansion/linking of green space. This finding is consistent with results in Erie County.

5

Improving communication strategies may lead to a higher degree of effectiveness. Residents stated a moderate to low effectiveness rate currently and identify the Town newsletter as the best method of communication.



# TOP 10 FINDINGS

6

In general community needs are being met by the majority of the facilities. There are a few key areas to monitor as they have high importance, but low needs met. These include aquatic facilities and programs/events.

7

When allocating dollars to projects, residents signal two actions as most important: 1) making improvements/renovating existing amenities and 2) preserving open space.

8

Safety and security, well-maintained amenities, and pleasant settings are the primary drivers for why residents choose to visit parks. These three factors are vital reasons why residents pick their favorite areas to recreate.

9

Creating a foundation for parks is the most desirable funding option for residents. On the contrary, invitation residents are much less likely to support sales tax increases or dedicated property taxes which fund parks.

10

Community events and fitness/wellness programs are most popular among Amherst's residents. These programs also receive high priority rankings. Close behind are programs which involve nature and outdoor recreation.



# COMPARING RESULTS TO ERIE COUNTY, NY

Trails and pathways continue to be of importance in at both the county and town level. In each study, trails and pathways rose to the top as the most important amenity in the region.

Preserving natural areas and access to open space is a top value throughout both studies. Protecting green space is a key concern for residents at the town and county level.

Awareness was rated moderately low by residents at the town and county level. Improving communications may increase awareness and use for park and recreation facilities across the region.

Lighting was a much more important area to focus on to increase usage at the town level. Lighting was indicated by only 38% of invitation respondents in the Erie County study vs. 60% in Amherst.





# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

About half of the invitation sample is female (51%) and half male (49%). Forty-three percent of invitation respondents are under age 45. Just under half of invitation sample respondents (45%) live with children at home, and an additional 23% are empty nesters. Open link respondents are very similar, but had a higher share of respondents within the 55-64 age range and are more likely to be couples with children (44%).

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Demographic Profile

		Invitation Sample	Open Link
<b>Gender</b>	Female	51%	55%
	Male	49%	45%
<b>Age</b>	Under 35	31%	16%
	35 - 44	12%	20%
	45 - 54	17%	17%
	55 - 64	16%	31%
	65 - 74	11%	14%
	75 or over	12%	1%
<b>Household Status</b>	Single, no children	15%	14%
	Single with children at home	4%	4%
	Single, children no longer at home	6%	5%
	Couple, no children	16%	13%
	Couple with children at home	41%	44%
	Couple, children no longer at home	17%	20%
<b>English Primary Language</b>	No	1%	
	Yes	99%	100%



# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Invitation sample households are generally more affluent, with 51 percent earning over \$100,000. Open link households exhibit a very similar income distribution. One percent of invitation respondents are African-American; 1% identify themselves as being of Hispanic/Latino origin; 1% identify as Asian/Asian Indian/Pacific Islander.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Demographic Profile

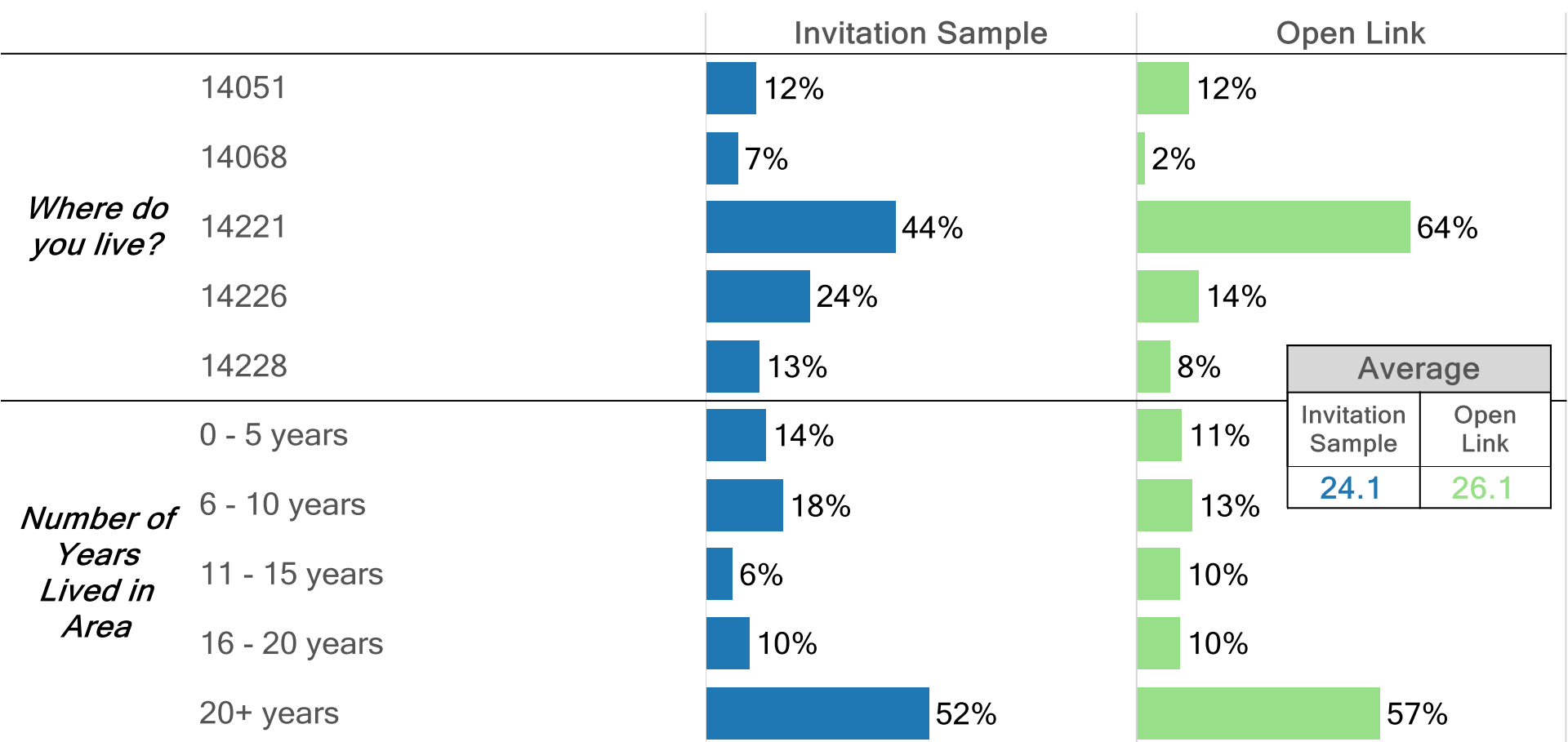
	Invitation Sample	Open Link
<b>Annual Household Income</b>	Under \$25,000	4%
	\$25,000 - \$49,999	9%
	\$50,000 - \$74,999	17%
	\$75,000 - \$99,999	19%
	\$100,000 - \$149,999	30%
	\$150,000 - \$199,999	14%
	\$200,000 - \$249,999	3%
	\$250,000 or more	4%
<b>Race</b>	White	95%
	Other	2%
	Black/African American	1%
	Asian/Asian Indian/Pacific Islander	1%
	Hispanic/Latino	1%
	Native American	0%



# RESIDENTIAL PROFILE

Amherst's 14221 zip code is strongly represented among invitation respondents (44%), followed by 14226 (24%), 14228 (13%), 14051 (12%), and 14068 (7%). Representation of zip code 14221 residents was particularly strong in the open link sample (64%). Over half of invitation respondents have lived in the area for more than 20 years (24.1 average).

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Residential Profile





# RESIDENTIAL PROFILE

The majority of invitation respondents are registered voters (97%) who own their home (92%). Seven percent of invitation respondents are renters. Six percent of invitation respondents require ADA-Accessible facilities/services. Open link responses are very similar.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Residential Profile

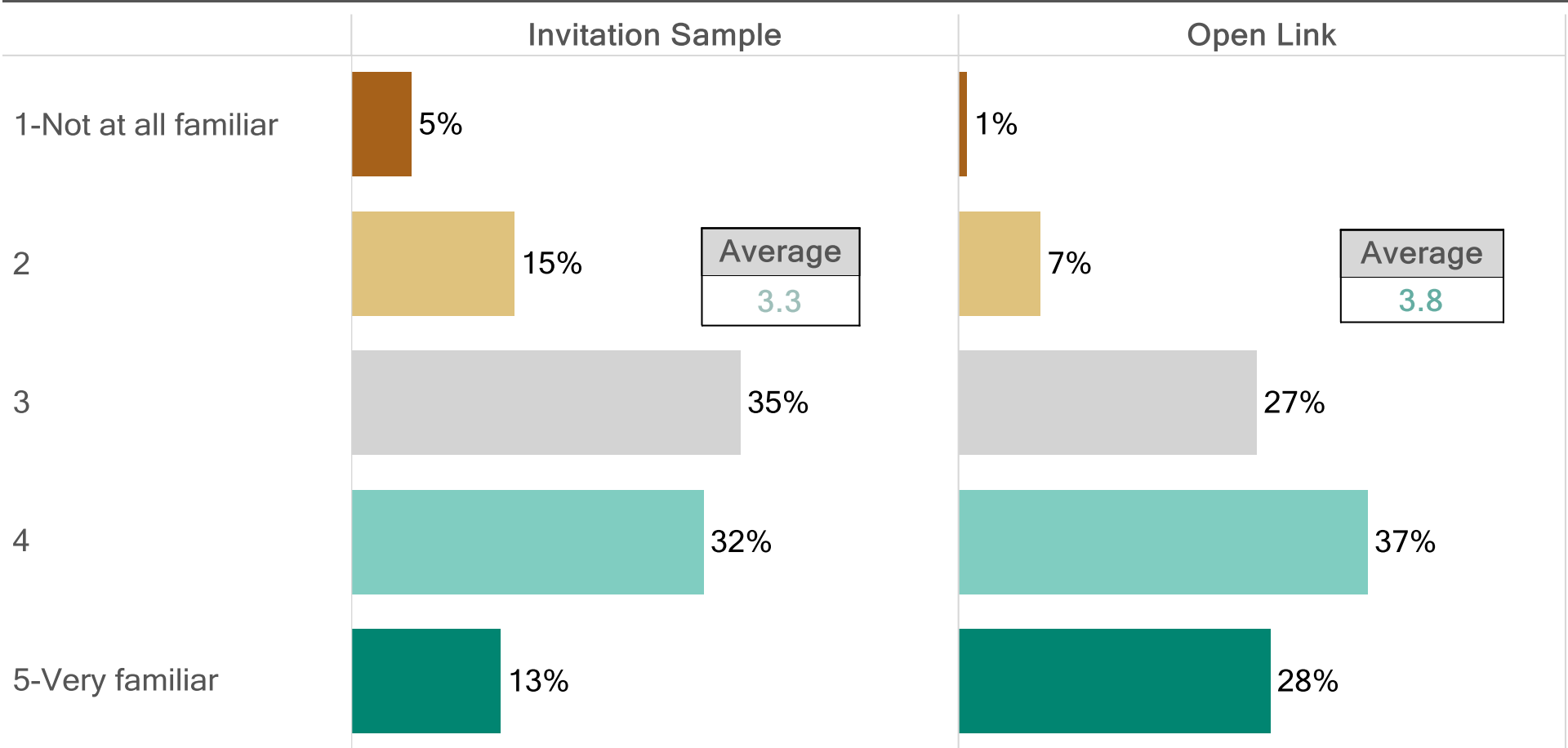
		Invitation Sample	Open Link
<i>Are you a registered voter?</i>	Yes	97%	97%
	No	3%	3%
<i>Do you Own or Rent Your Home?</i>	Own	92%	95%
	Rent	7%	2%
	Other	1%	2%
<i>Need for ADA-Accessible Facilities/Services</i>	Yes	6%	7%
	No	94%	93%



# FAMILIARITY WITH PARKS & RECREATION

Respondents were asked how knowledgeable/familiar they and their household are with Amherst parks and recreation amenities. Invitation respondents were moderately familiar with 35 percent responding with '3' familiarity and 32 percent responding with '4' familiarity. Open link respondents were slightly more familiar overall.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Familiarity with Parks & Recreation Offerings

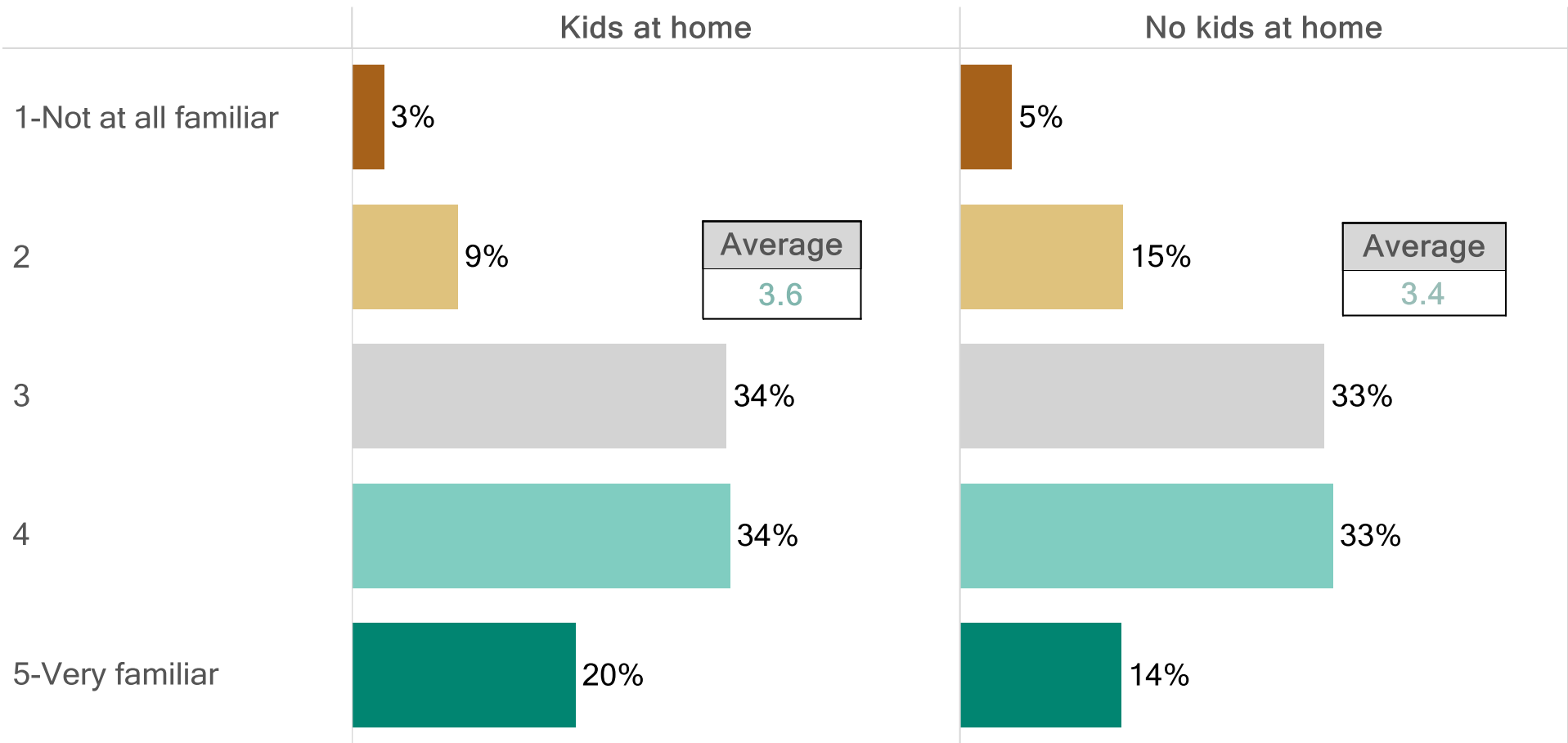




# FAMILIARITY WITH PARKS & RECREATION

Comparing by the presence of children in the home between all respondents, respondents who have children were slightly more familiar (3.6 average) than those who do not (3.4 average). A larger share of respondents who had children were 'very familiar' (20%) compared to those without (14%).

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Familiarity with Parks & Recreation Offerings

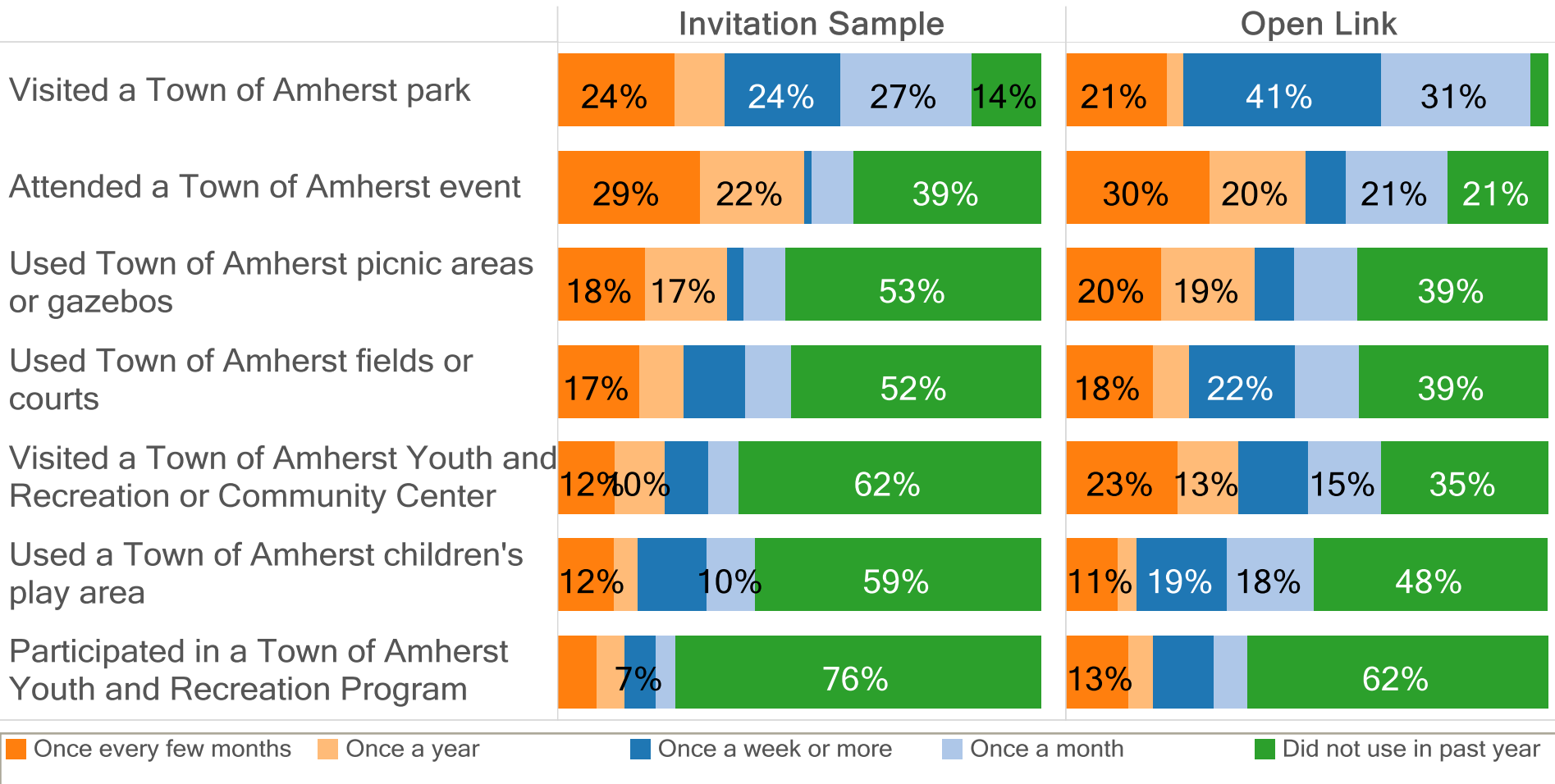




# USAGE OF PARKS/FACILITIES IN PAST YEAR

The most frequently used amenity were Amherst's parks (24% used once at least once per week), followed by fields or courts (13%), and children's play areas (15%). The lowest ranking sites were Youth and Recreation programs (76% did not use), Youth and Recreation/Community Center (62%), and picnic areas or gazebos (53%).

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Current Usage of Parks & Recreation Facilities

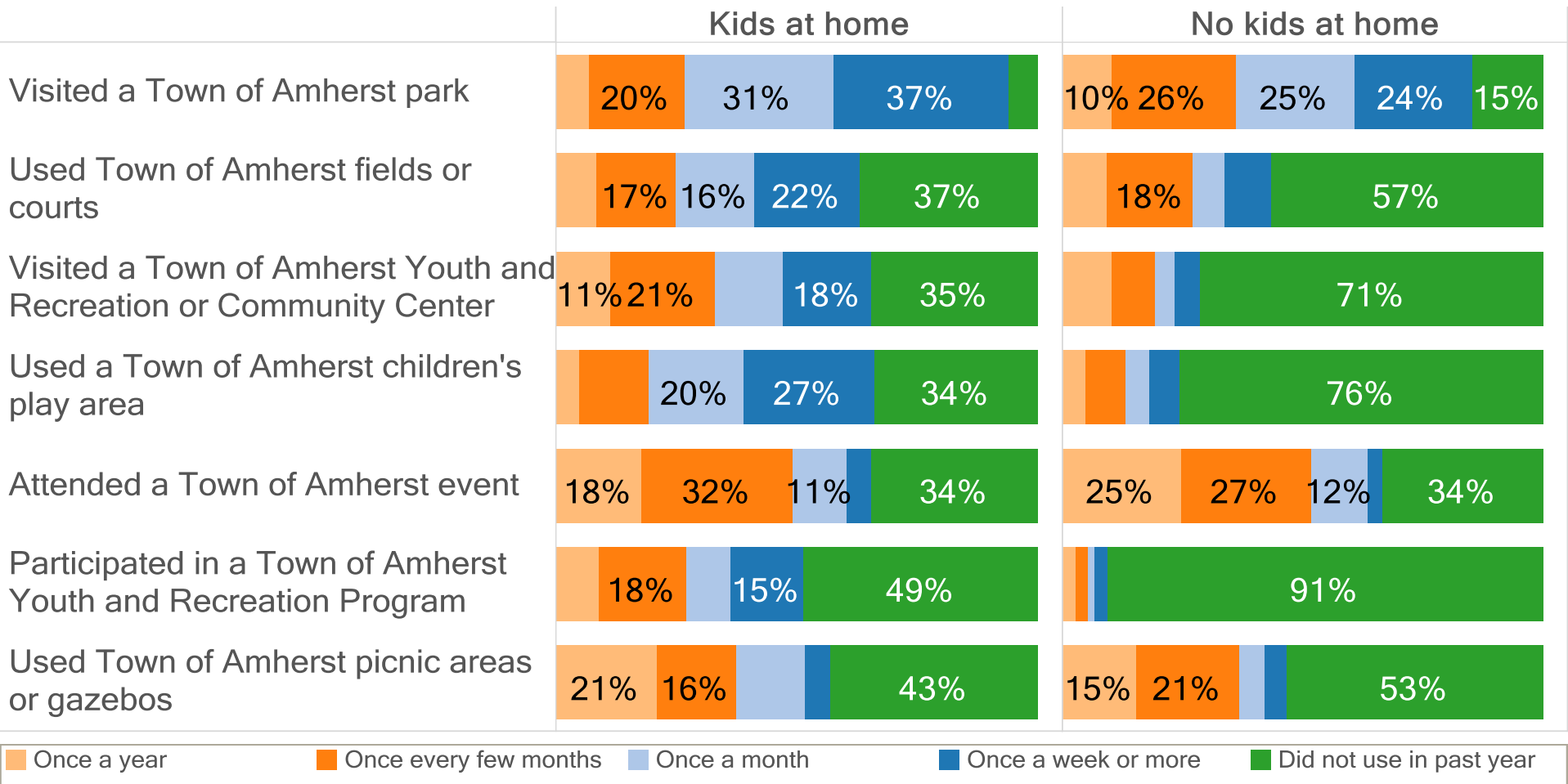




# USAGE OF PARKS/FACILITIES IN PAST YEAR

When assessed by whether children are present in the home for all respondents, respondents with children at home used all recreation sites more than those without children, especially fields or courts (63% use vs. 43% use), and the youth and recreation programming (51% use vs. 9% use).

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Current Usage of Parks & Recreation Facilities







# COMMENTS ON WHY RESPONDENTS USE THEIR PARKS

Respondents were asked why they choose to visit their favorite park. Commonly mentioned themes and a brief summary of suggestions for each are illustrated below, along with a selection of verbatim invitation responses relevant to each theme. The full listing of responses is provided in the appendix.

## Safety and Security

- Focus on safety/security
- Well lit and maintained
- Cleanliness

Safety, cleanliness, respects nature

Safety - lifeguards, trash collectors, etc.

Well lit and close to emergency services

## Green space and Trails

- Open natural areas
- Expansive trail systems
- Peaceful and relaxing

Excellent walk path

Bike paths- untouched woodland /forest, wildlife

Natural setting, not crowded, away from noise, traffic. Great to 'get away'

## Children Activities

- Multiple activities for children
- Ease of access
- Close to home

Close to home so I can take children after work

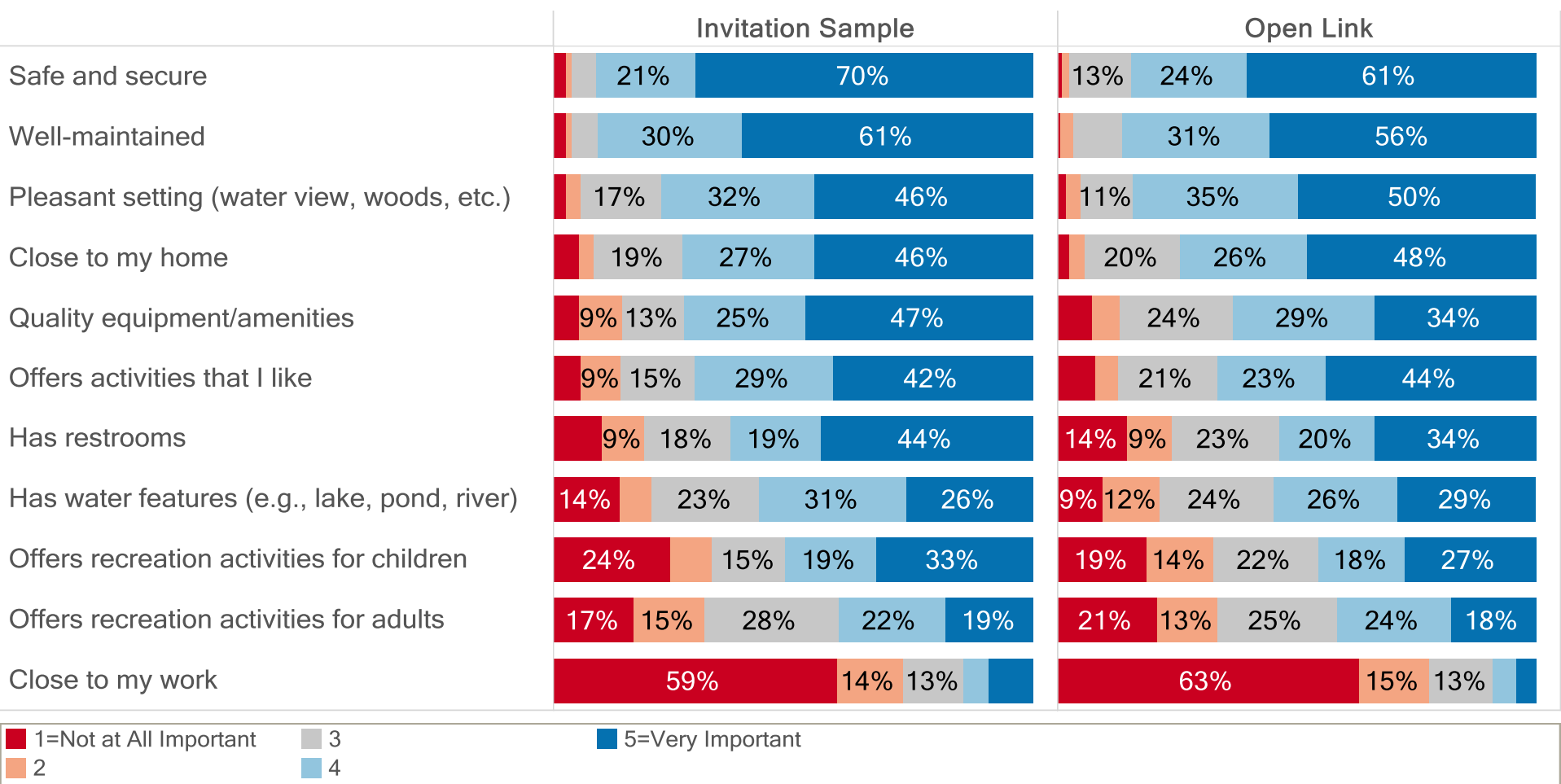
Playground equipment and kiddie pool all in one location is important. Sandbox should be upgraded.



# FACTORS FOR CHOOSING FAVORITE PARK

Respondents were asked to state why they choose their favorite park. Invitation sample respondents indicate safety and security (70%), well-maintained (61%), and the pleasant setting (46%) as ‘very important’ factors. Closeness to work (73% rated ‘1’ or ‘2’) and recreation activities for children and adults (33% and 32% respectively) rank low in importance. Open link responses were very similar to invitation.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Factors for why you choose a favorite park

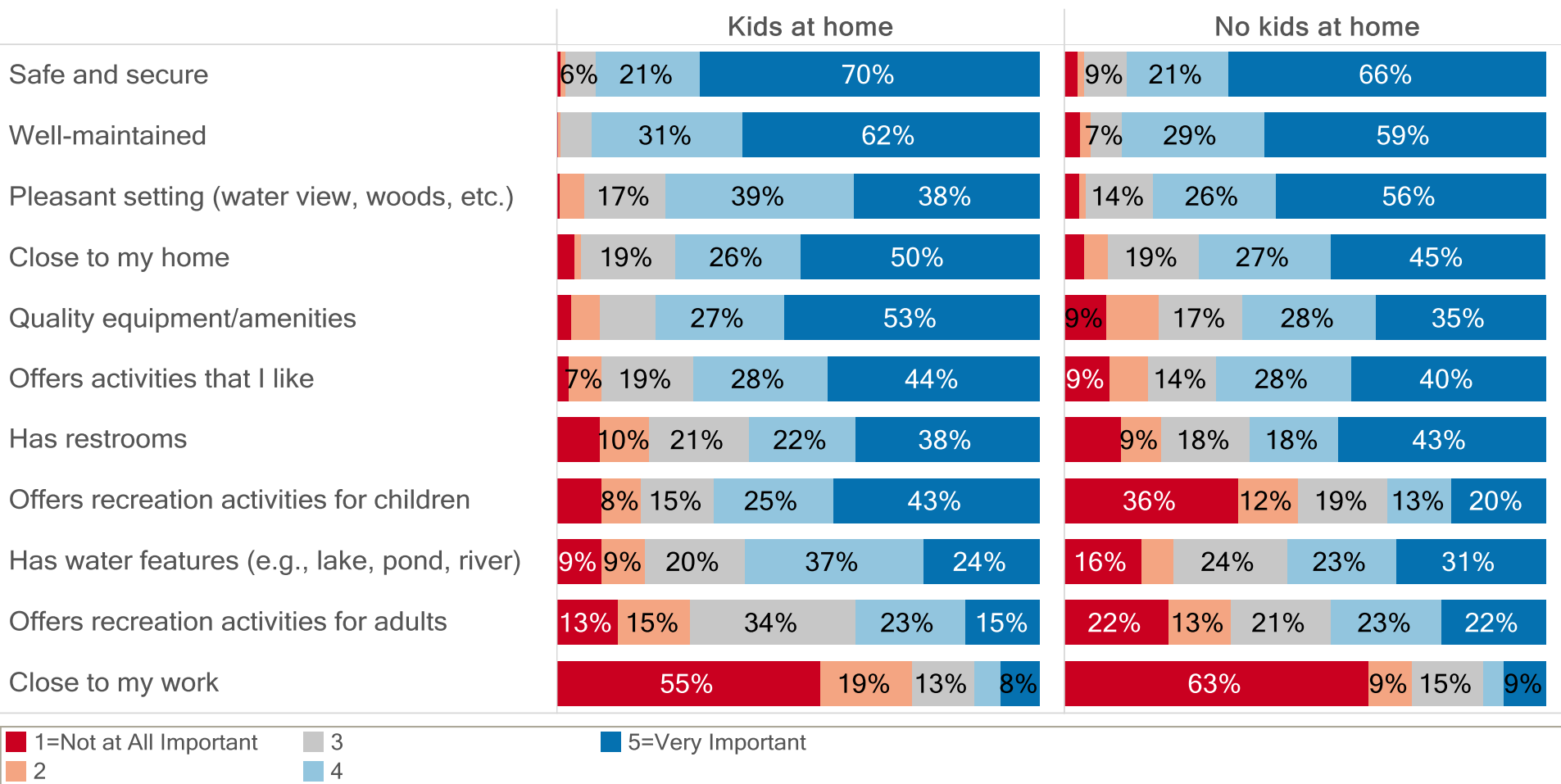




# FACTORS FOR CHOOSING FAVORITE PARK

Families with children at home between both samples reported similar preferences as the overall invitation sample. Those without children at home had a much lower priority for places that offer children's activities. Overall, responses tend to mimic those found between invitation/open link.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Factors for why you choose a favorite park

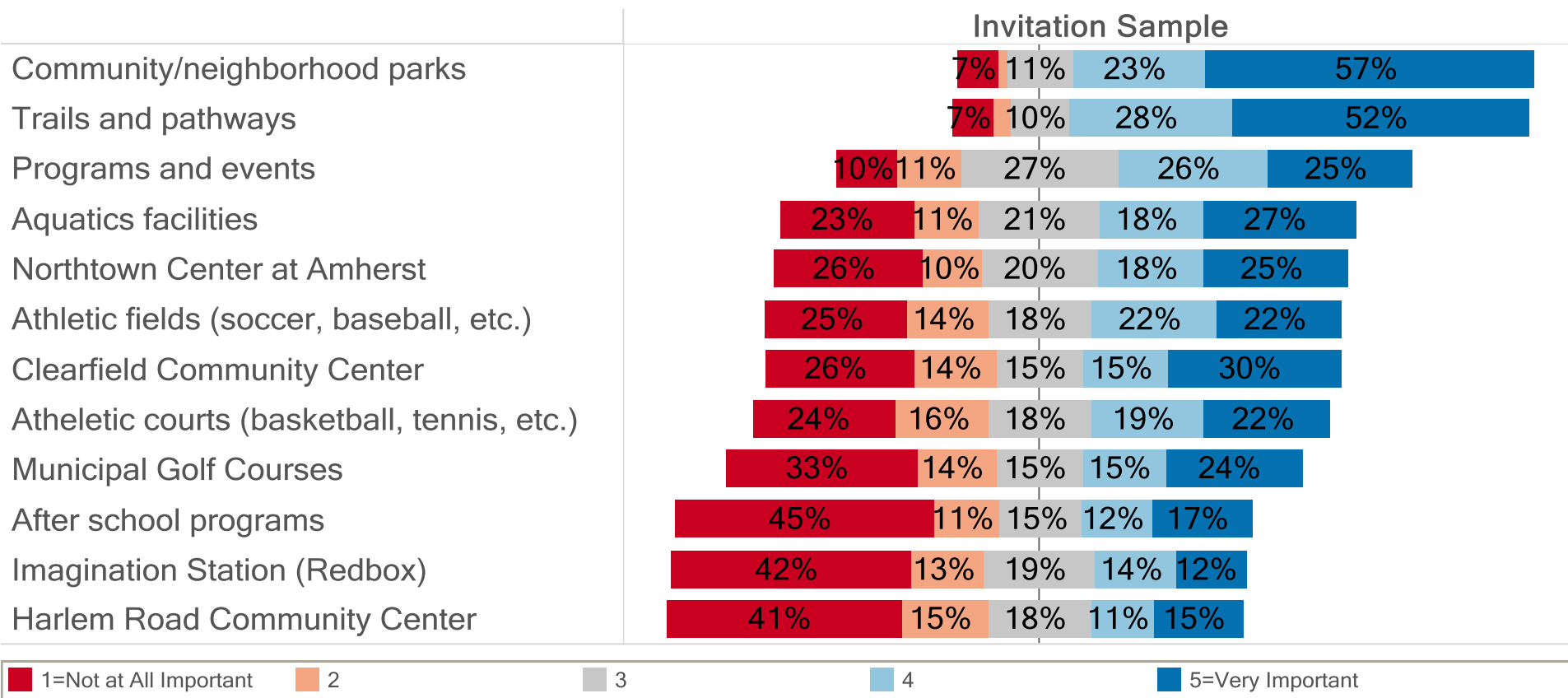




# IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES TO HOUSEHOLD

Invitation respondents noted community/neighborhood parks (80% rated '4' or '5'), trails and pathways (80% rated '4' or '5'), and programs and events (51% rated '4' or '5') as the most important facilities to their household. Less important are the Harlem Road Community Center (56 percent rated '1' or '2'), Imagination Station (55 percent rated '1' or '2'), and after school programs (56 percent rated '1' or '2').

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Importance of Facilities to Household *Sorted by Midpoint*

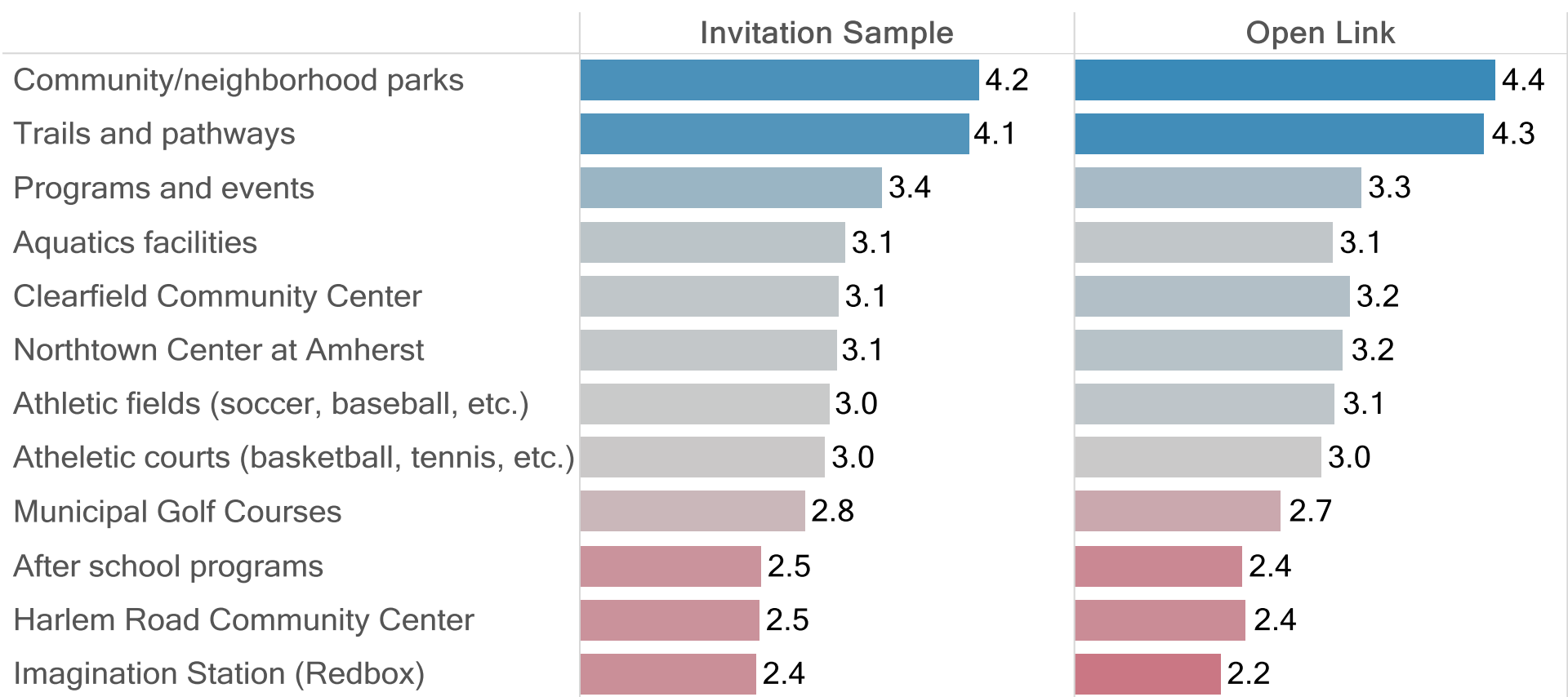




# IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES TO HOUSEHOLD

Community/neighborhood parks (4.2 average) and trails/pathways (4.1 average) rank highly among both open link and invitation respondents. Overall, response tended to be very similar across the two samples.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Importance of Facilities to Household *Average Rating (1=Not at All Important, 5=Very Important)*



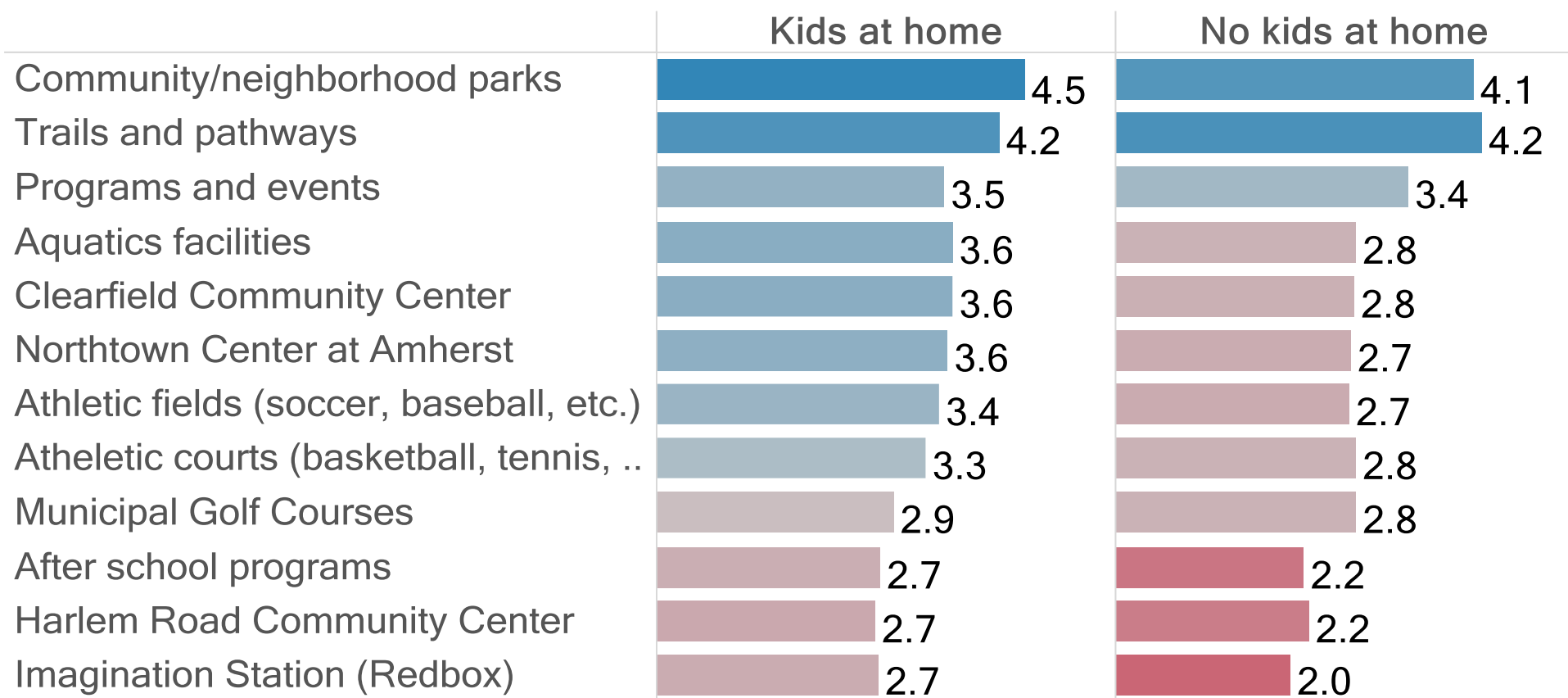


# IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES TO HOUSEHOLD

Community/neighborhood parks and trails/pathways rank highly in importance among both households with and without children. Households without children rank a number of facilities much lower in importance, particularly both community centers, athletic fields, Imagination Station, and aquatic facilities, than those with children.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Importance of Facilities to Household

*Average Rating (1=Not at All Important, 5=Very Important)*

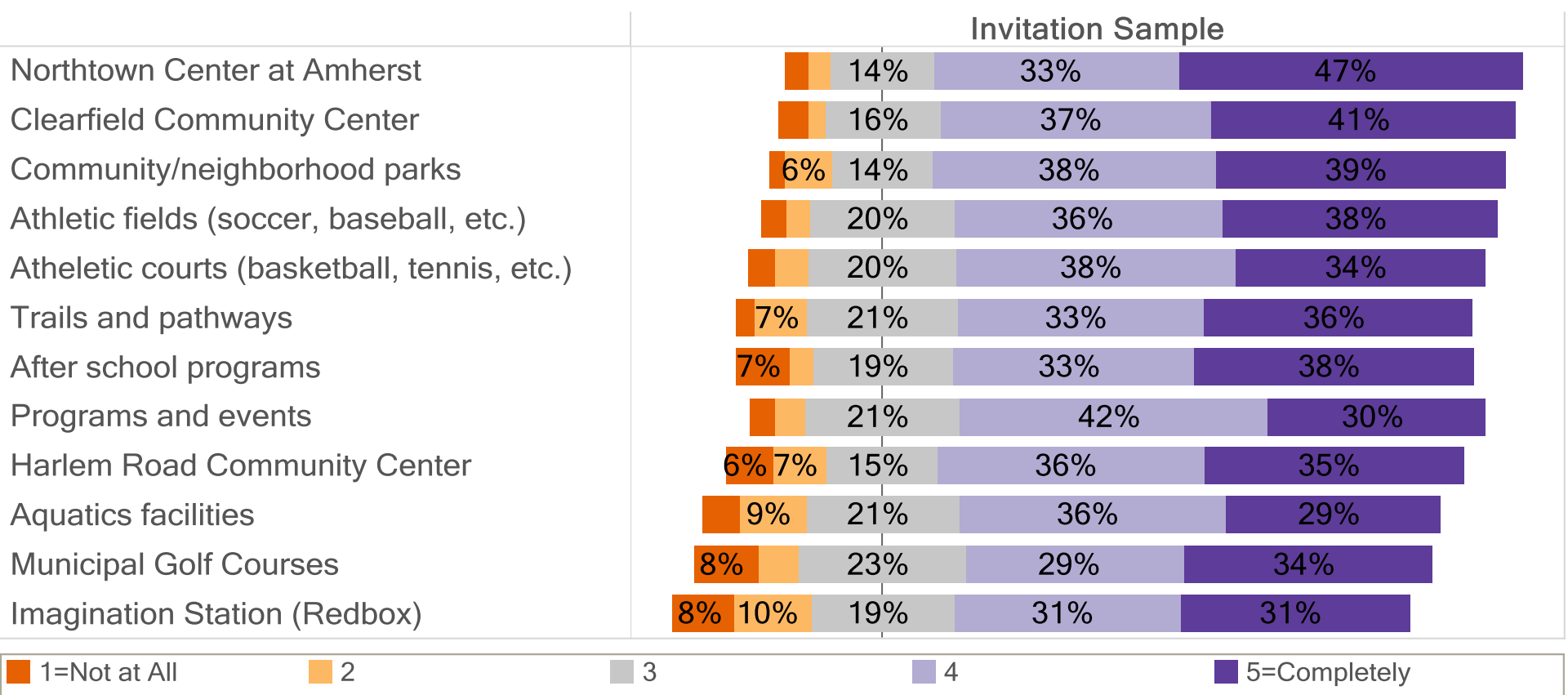




# DEGREE FACILITIES ARE MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS

The degree to which each facility meets the needs of Amherst tended to be relatively equal with only slight variations. The Northtown Center and Clearfield Community Center both rose to the top while the Imagination Station and municipal golf courses fell behind. That said, most facilities are meeting the needs of residents.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Degree to Which Facilities Meet Community Needs *Sorted by Midpoint*

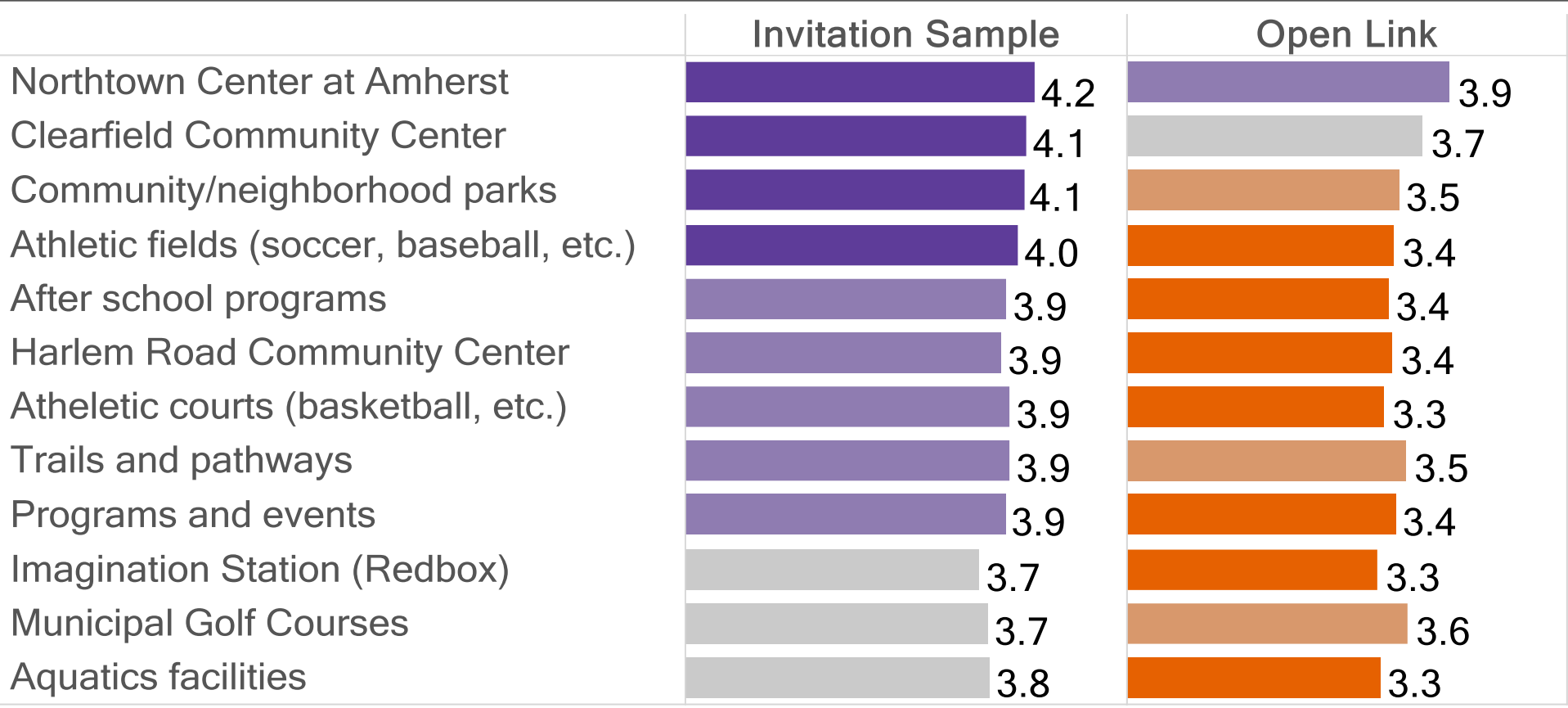




# DEGREE FACILITIES MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

Little difference was noted in the invitation sample as to the degree each facility is meeting community needs. Only a 0.5 difference was found between the lowest rated and highest rated facility, indicating relatively strong perceptions of current facilities meeting community needs. Open link responses had similar views, but slightly lower opinion overall of each facilities' average rating of meeting community needs.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Degree to Which Facilities Meet Community Needs *Average Rating (1=Not at All, 5=Completely)*





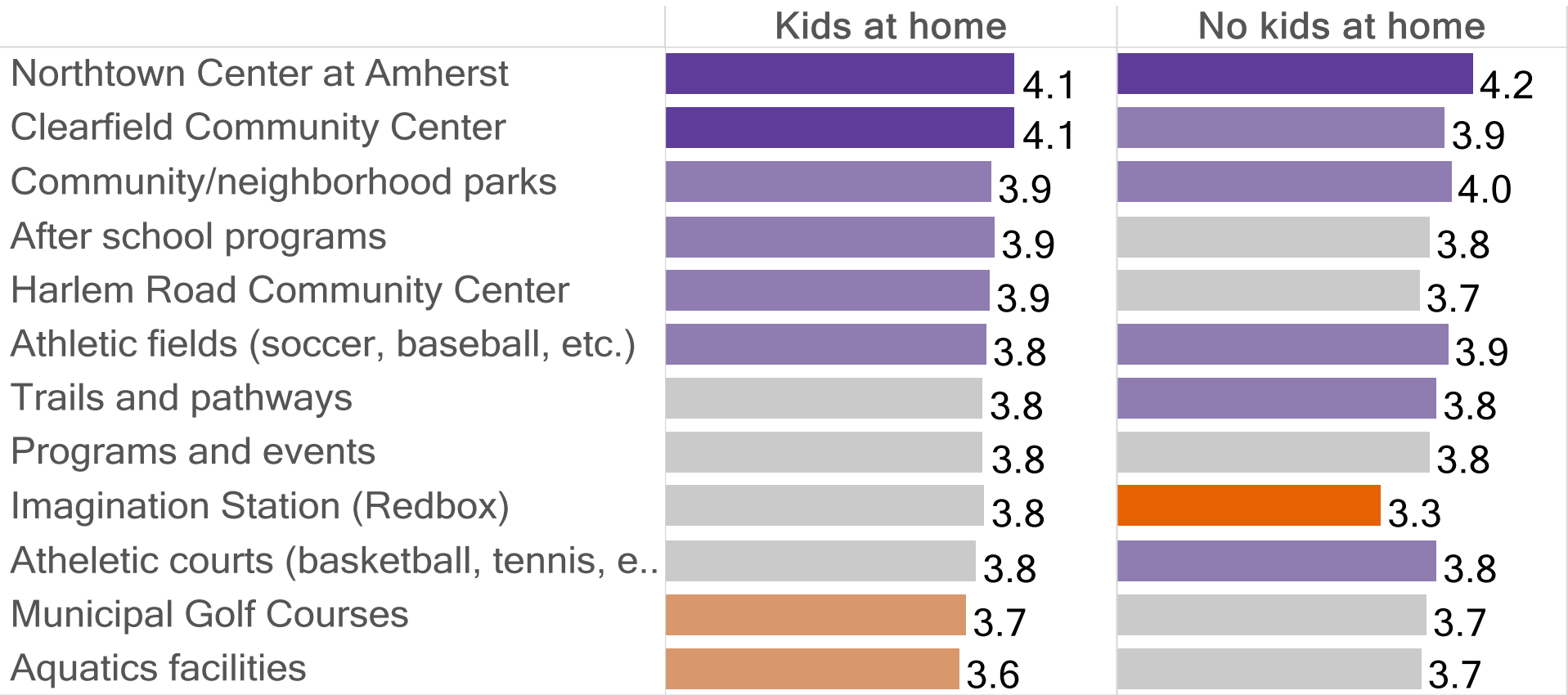


# DEGREE FACILITIES MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

Overall small variations occur in the degree each facility is meeting the community needs between households with and without children. The main difference is that households without children rate the Imagination Station lower (3.3 average) in needs met than those with children at home (3.8 average).

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Degree to Which Facilities Meet Community Needs

*Average Rating (1=Not at All, 5=Completely)*





# IMPORTANCE-PERFORMANCE MATRIX

## High Importance/ Low Needs Met

These are key areas for potential improvements. Improving these facilities would likely positively affect the degree to which community needs are met overall.

## High Importance/ High Needs Met

These amenities are important to most respondents and should be maintained in the future, but are less of a priority for improvements as needs are currently being adequately met.

These “niche” facilities have a small but passionate following, so measuring participation when planning for future improvements may prove to be valuable.

## Low Importance/ Low Needs Met

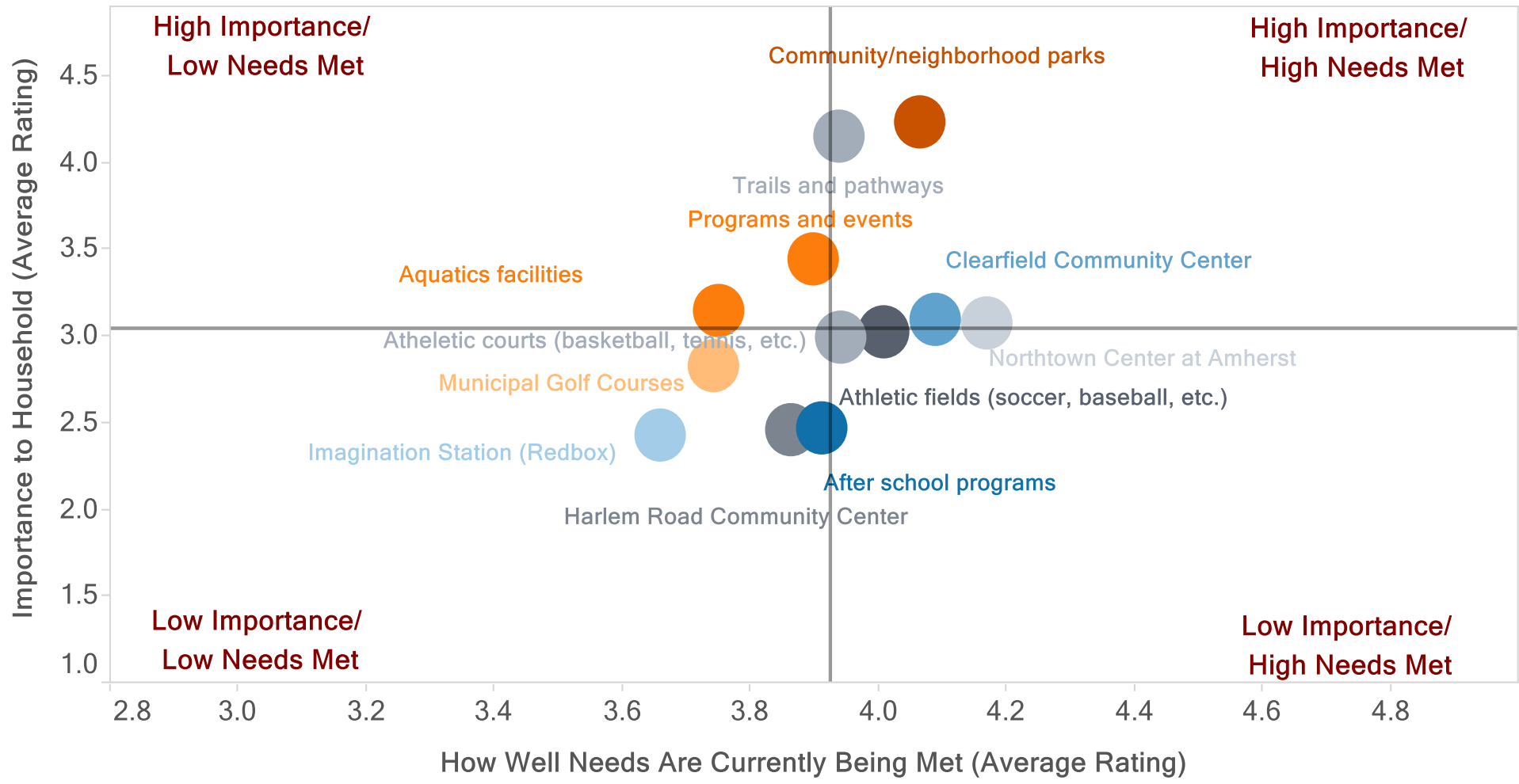
Current levels of support appear to be adequate. Future discussions evaluating whether the resources supporting these facilities outweigh the benefits may be constructive.

## Low Importance/ High Needs Met



# IMPORTANCE-PERFORMANCE MATRIX

Amherst Parks & Recreation | Level of Importance vs. Needs Met for Current Facilities

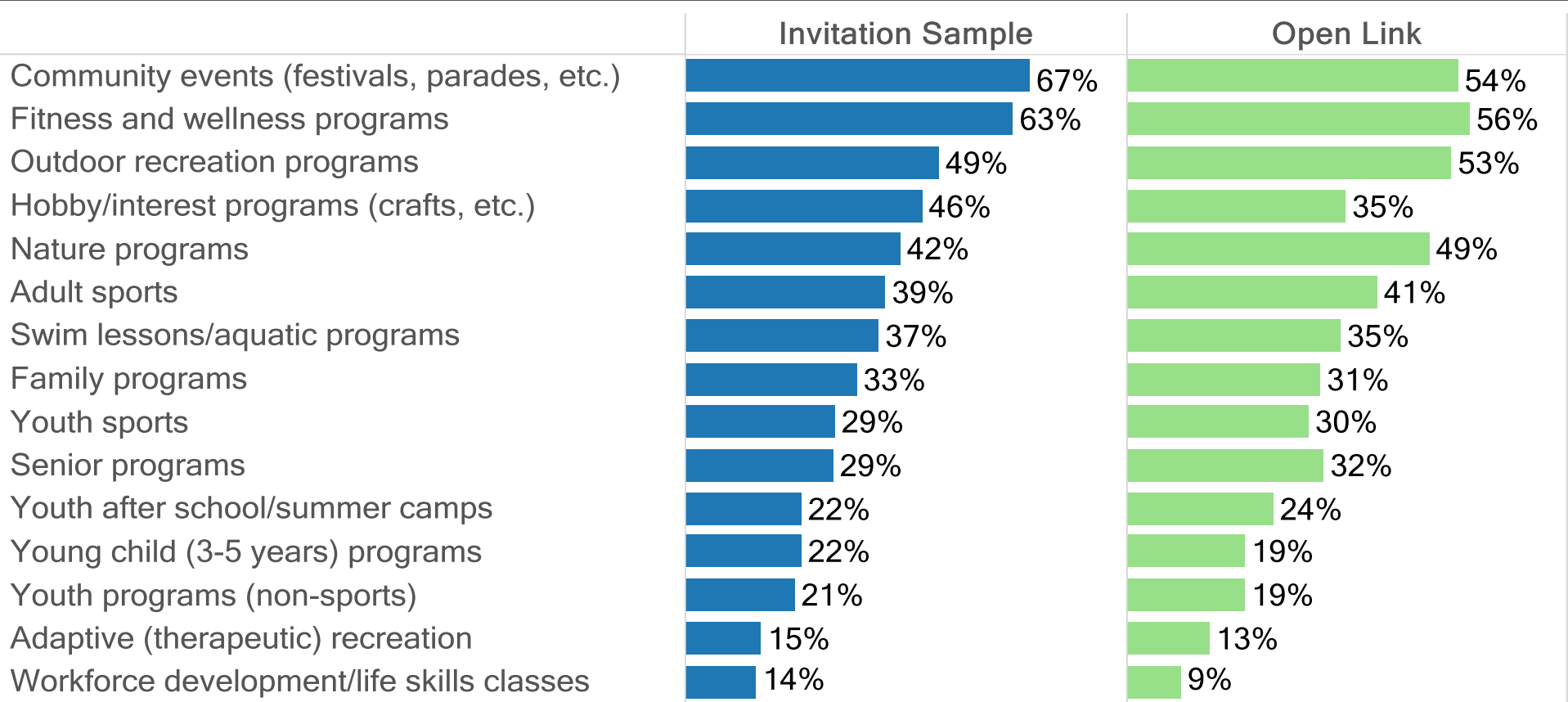




# TOP NEEDS FOR PROGRAMMING

The top programs needs by invitation sample respondents are community events (67%) and fitness/wellness programs (63%). Outdoor recreation programs (49%) and hobby/interest programs (46%) follow behind. Program needs for the top two offerings (community events and fitness programs) are much higher in the invitation sample than open link. Workforce development classes and adaptive recreation programs are least needed in both groups.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Does your household have a need for the following programs? *Percent Responding "Yes"*

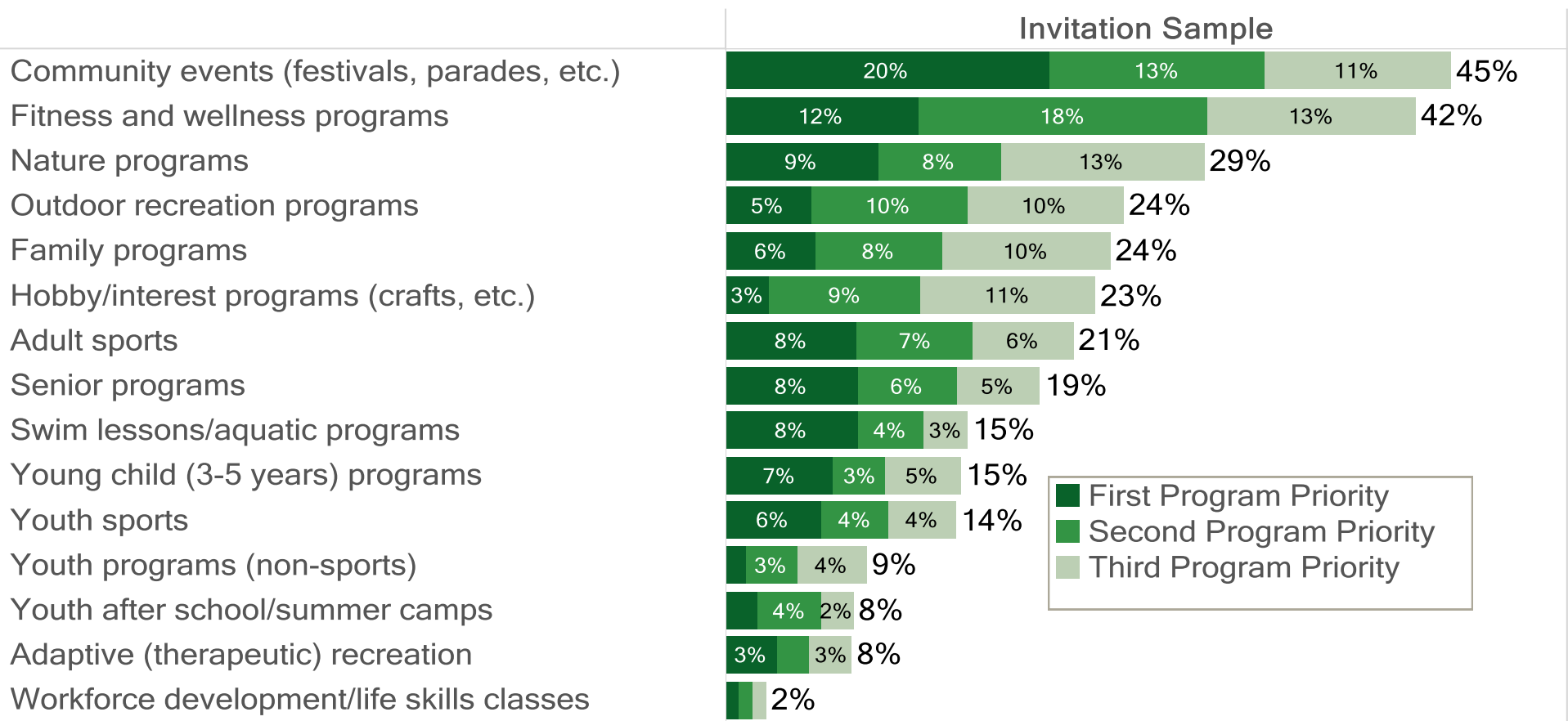




# TOP THREE HIGHEST PRIORITY PROGRAMS

Respondents were asked to rank their top priorities for programming. Invitation respondents ranked both community events and fitness/wellness programs high for first program priorities. However, a number of moderately ranked programs were high in first priority rankings such as adult sports (8% first rank), senior programs (8% first rank), and swim lessons/aquatic programs (8% first rank). Such programs may not be high priority for everyone, but retain a passionate following.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Top Three Highest Priority Programs



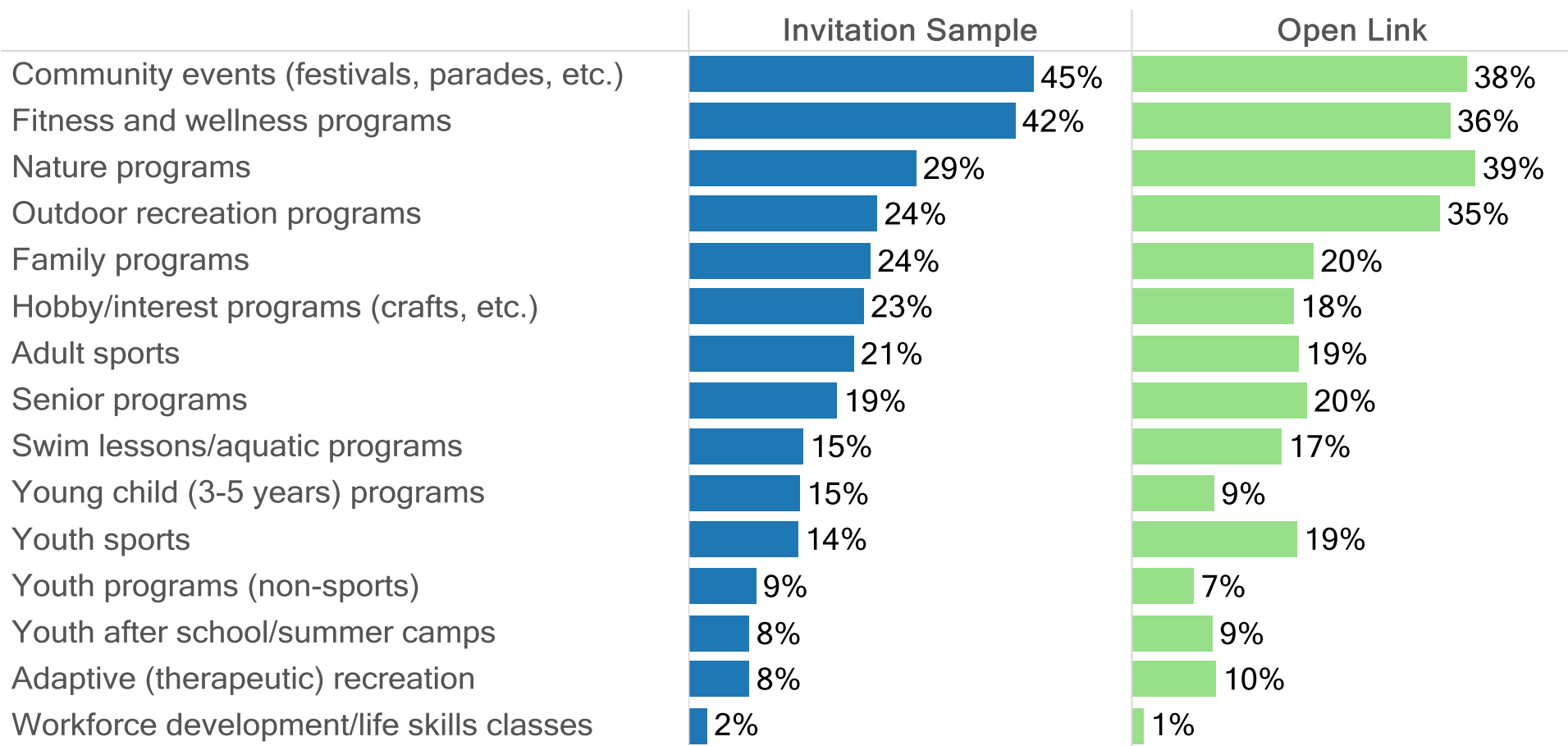
First Program Priority  
 Second Program Priority  
 Third Program Priority



# COMBINED PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Open link respondents tended to place more priority on nature programs (39%) than invitation sample respondents (29%) in addition to outdoor recreation programs (35% open link vs. 24% invitation). Open link users tend to be attracted to outdoor-oriented programming with less focus on youth programs.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Top Three Highest Priority Programs Combined

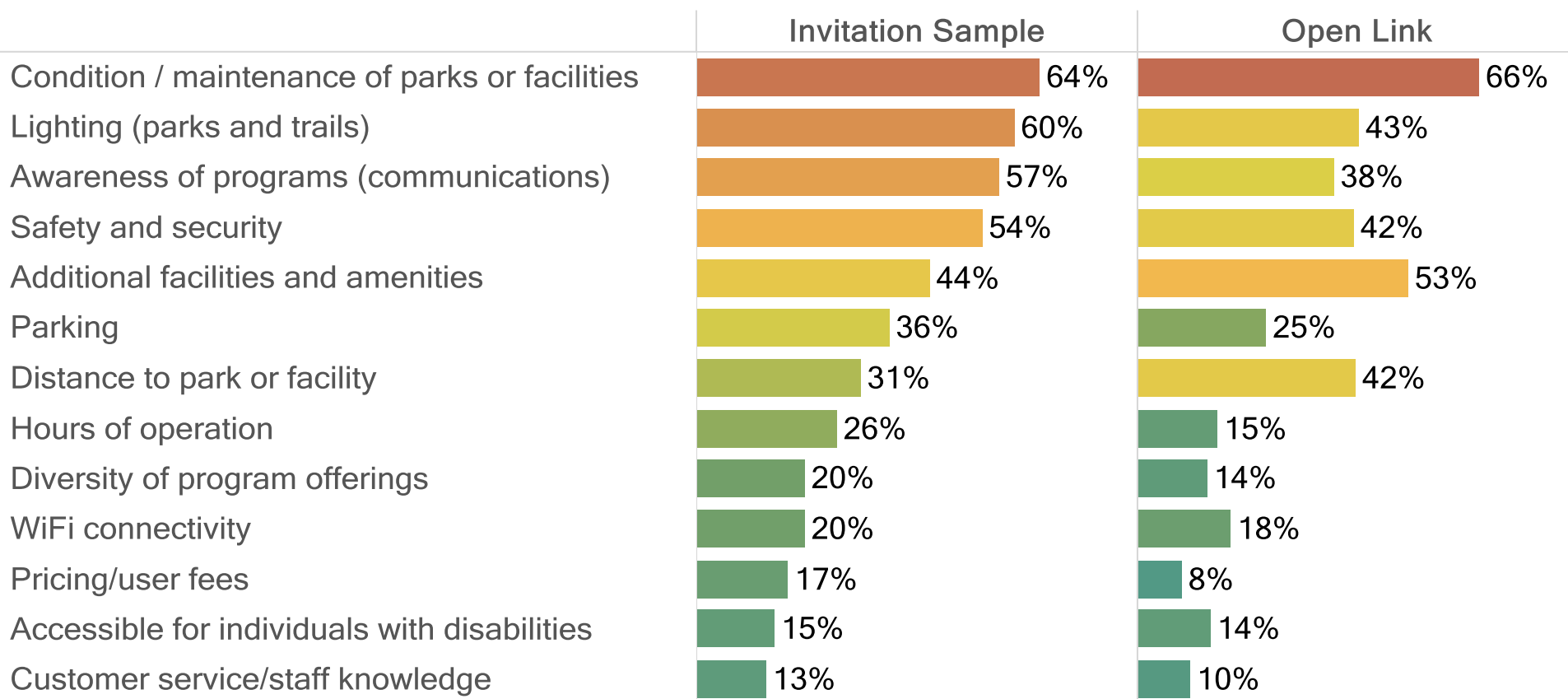




# FACTORS THAT WOULD INCREASE USAGE

Condition/maintenance of facilities (64%), lighting (60%), awareness of programs (57%), and safety/security (54%) are the primary drivers for increased usage for invitation respondents. Open link respondents place more importance on additional facilities (53% vs. 44%) and on distance (42% vs. 31%) than invitation respondents, but less importance on lighting, awareness, and safety.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Most Important Areas that, If Addressed, Would Increase Usage of Facilities

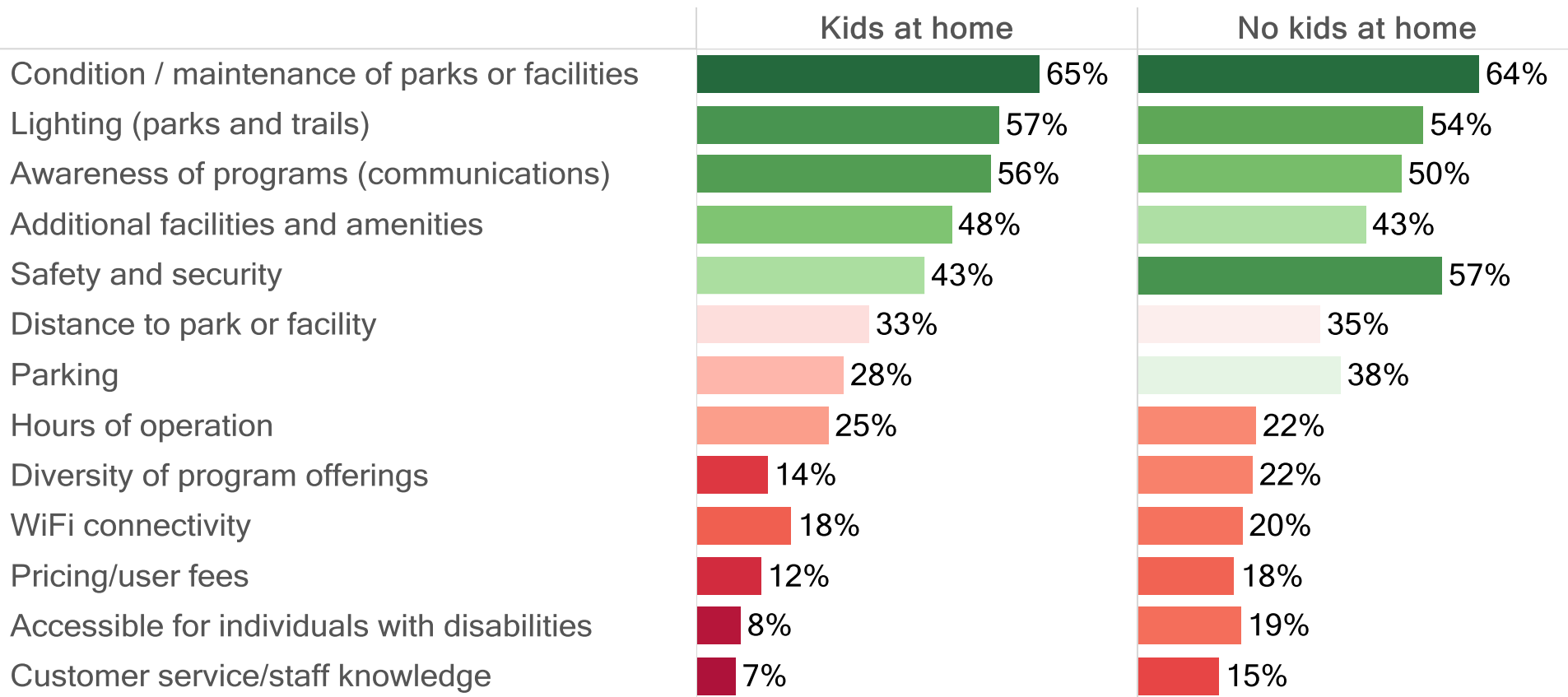




# FACTORS THAT WOULD INCREASE USAGE

Areas to be addressed in order to increase usage differed in a few key areas for those with children at home vs. those without. Specifically, those who do not have kids place higher priority on parking (38% vs. 28%), safety and security (57% vs. 43%), and disability access (19% vs 8%). Those with children placed a slightly higher priority on additional facilities (48% vs. 43%).

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Most Important Areas that, If Addressed, Would Increase Usage of Facilities



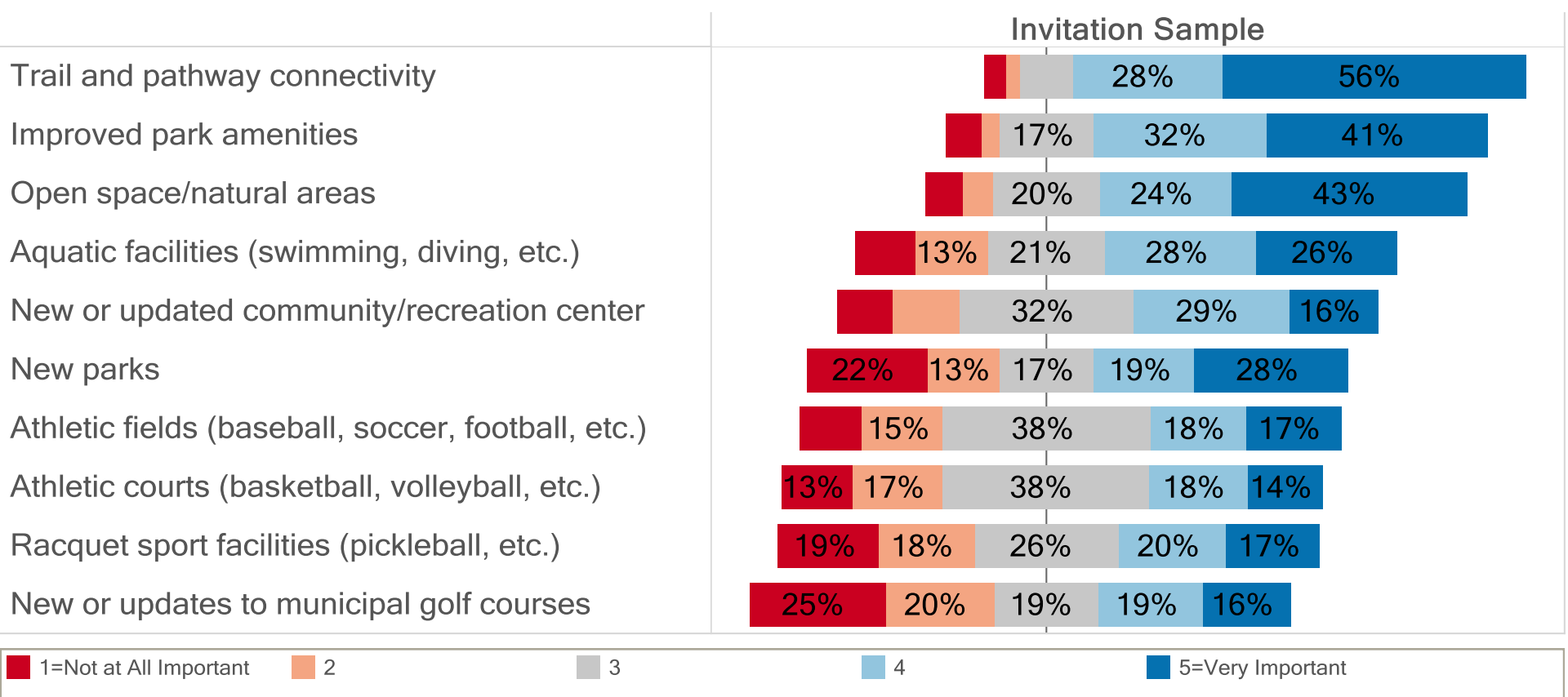




# IMPORTANCE OF ADDING, EXPANDING AND IMPROVING

Invitation respondents noted trail and pathway connectivity (84% rated '4' or '5'), improved park amenities (73% rated '4' or '5'), and open space/natural areas (67% rated '4' or '5') as areas to focus for improvements, additions, and expansions. New/updated to municipal golf courses (45% rated '1' or '2') and racquet sport facilities (37% rated '1' or '2') ranked near the bottom of the list, but tend to have very passionate followings to be considered.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Importance of Adding, Expanding, or Improving Facilities *Sorted by Midpoint*

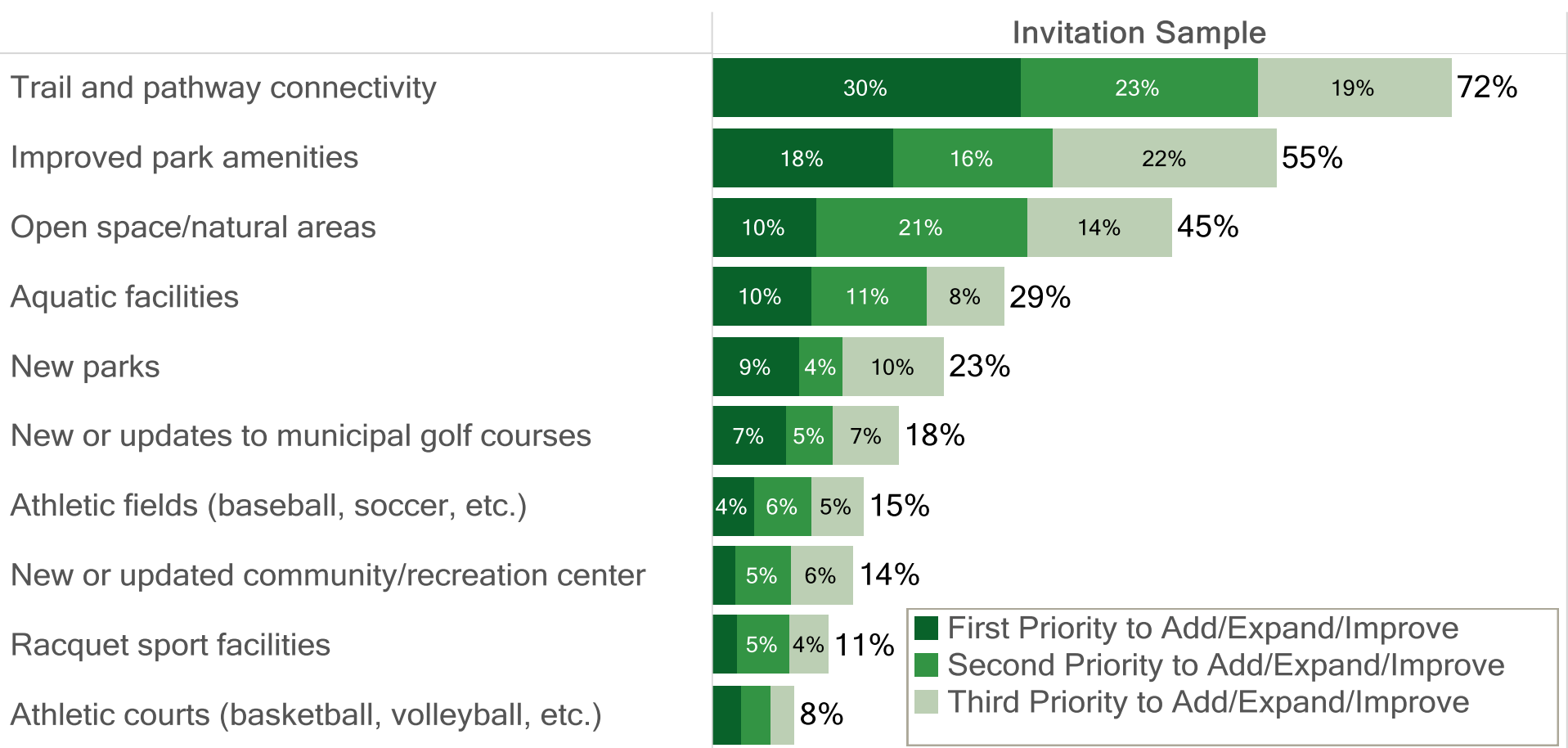




# IMPORTANCE OF ADDING, EXPANDING AND IMPROVING

In ranking areas of importance, trails and pathways saw 30% of invitation respondents ranking as top priority. Improved park amenities (18% first ranking), open space/natural areas (10%), and aquatic facilities (10%) followed behind in first priority rankings. Nearly three-quarters of all invitation respondents consider trail and pathway connectivity to be a top-three priority for future improvement.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Top Three Highest Priorities to be Added, Expanded, or Improved





# IMPORTANCE OF ADDING, EXPANDING AND IMPROVING

Compared to open link respondents, invitation respondents placed less importance on new parks (3.2 vs. 3.9 average) and on open space/natural areas (3.9 vs. 4.3). All other factors saw little difference between both groups. Other facilities mentioned in comments include pickleball courts, indoor pool, and creation of a park in Westwood.

**Amherst Parks & Recreation | Importance of Adding, Expanding, or Improving Facilities**  
*Average Rating (1=Not at All Important, 5=Very Important)*

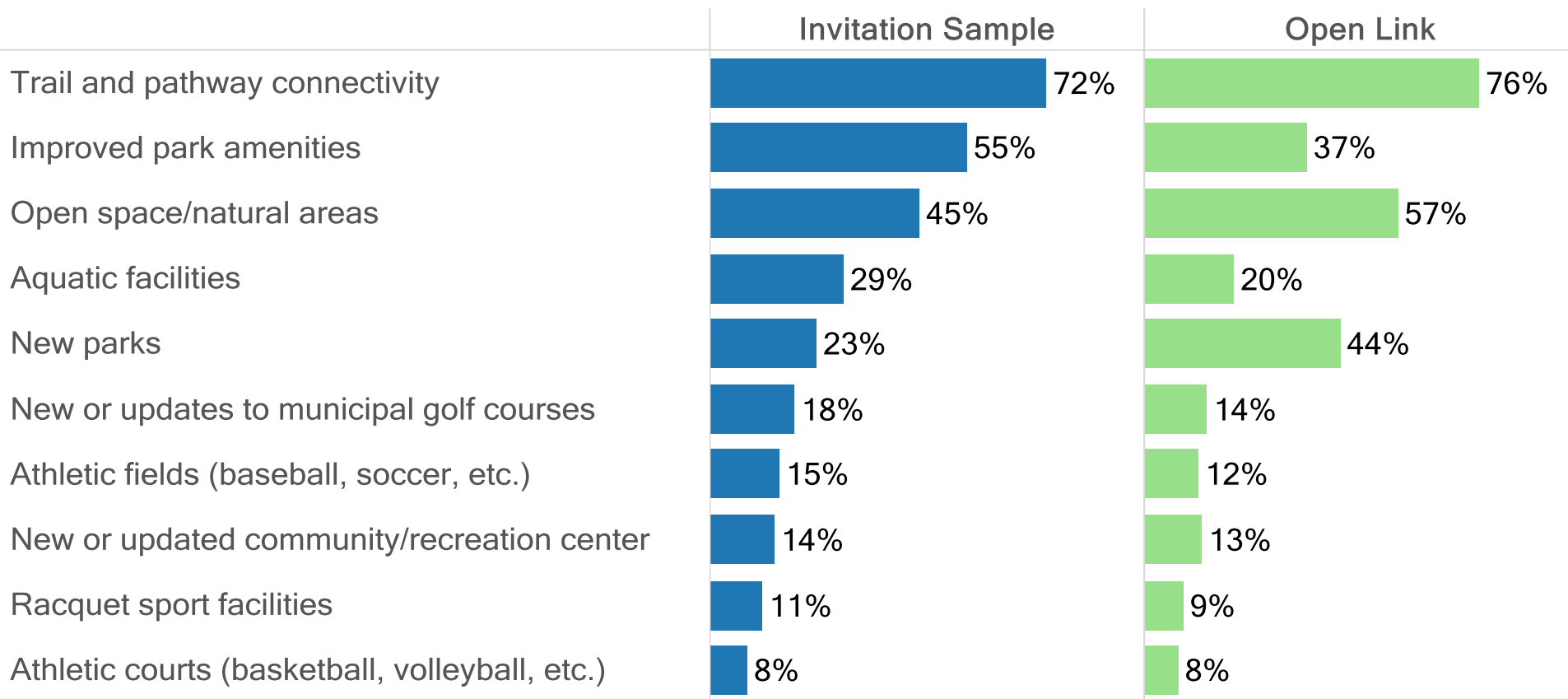
	Invitation Sample	Open Link
Trail and pathway connectivity	4.3	4.4
Improved park amenities	4.0	4.0
Open space/natural areas	3.9	4.3
Aquatic facilities (swimming, diving, etc.)	3.4	3.4
New or updated community/recreation center	3.3	3.2
New parks	3.2	3.9
Athletic fields (baseball, soccer, football, etc.)	3.1	3.0
Athletic courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.)	3.0	2.9
Racquet sport facilities (pickleball, etc.)	3.0	3.0
New or updates to municipal golf courses	2.8	2.9



# IMPORTANCE OF ADDING, EXPANDING AND IMPROVING

Invitation respondents placed higher priorities on improving park amenities than open link respondent (55% vs. 37%) with lower priority on new parks (23% vs. 44%). Both samples placed high importance on trail and pathway connectivity (72% and 76% respectively) and open space/natural areas (45% and 57% respectively).

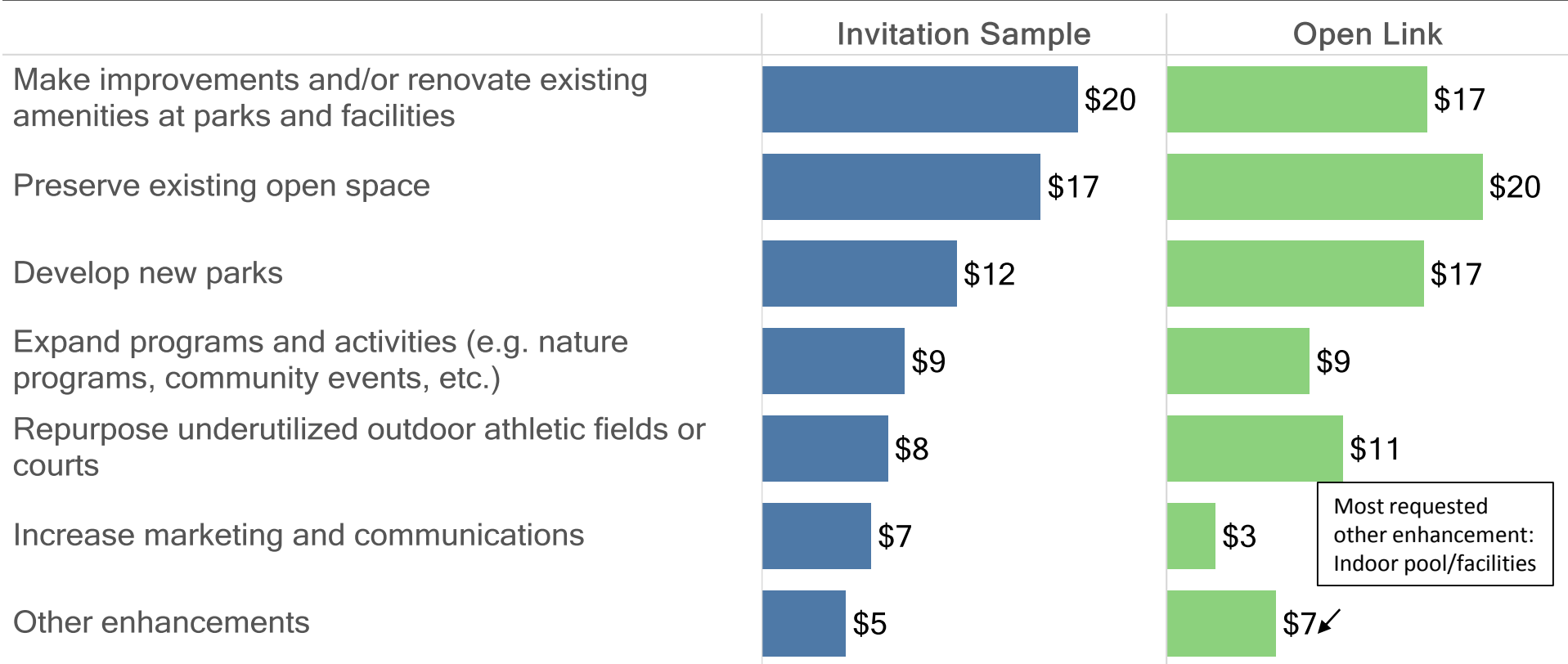
## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Top Three Highest Priorities to be Added, Expanded, or Improved Combined



# ALLOCATION OF \$100

Invitation respondents placed the highest allocation of dollars on making improvements or renovating existing amenities (\$20). Preserving open space ranked high (\$17) amongst invitation respondents as well. Less allocations were given to marketing (\$7) and repurposing underutilized fields/courts (\$8).

**Amherst Parks & Recreation | If you had \$100 to spend on parks and recreation facilities, services and/or programs, how would you allocate that \$100 across the following categories?**  
*Average Allocation Amount*

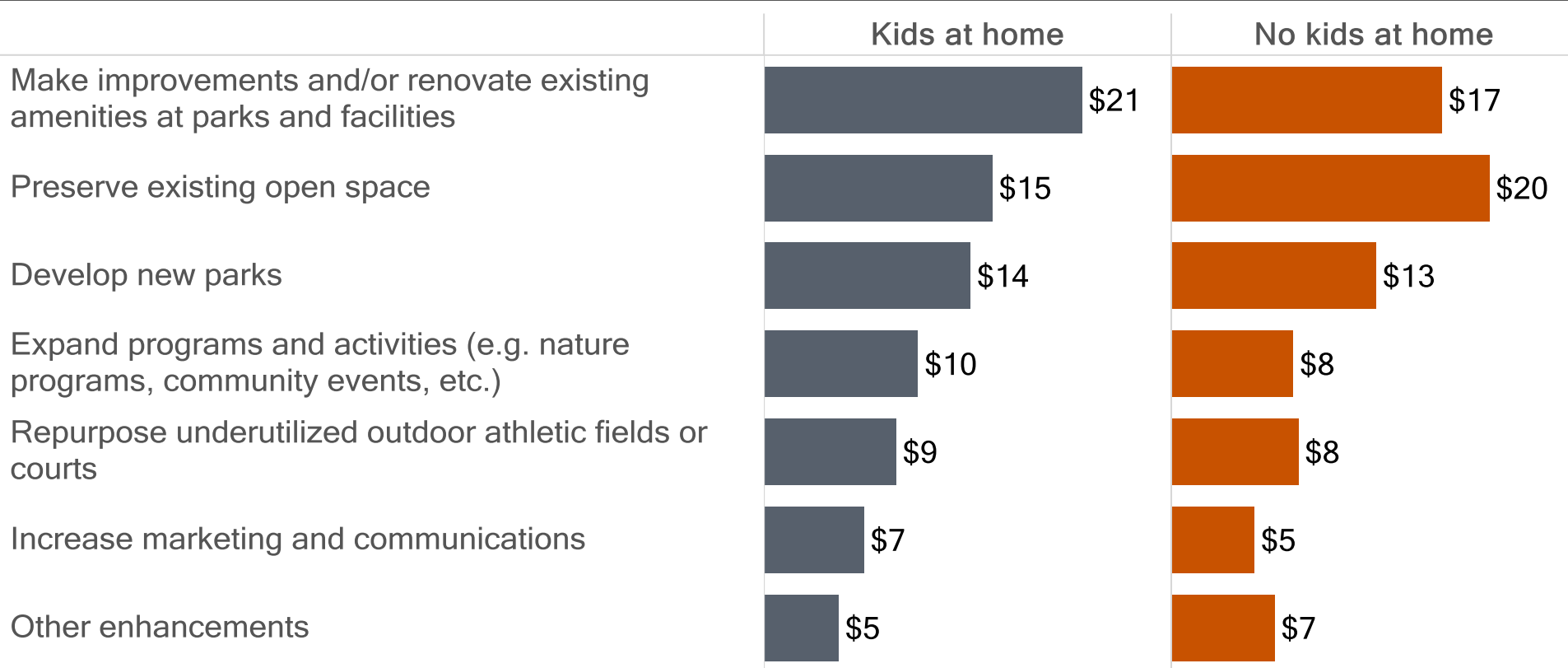




# ALLOCATION OF \$100

The differences in allocation for households with children and those without exist in two categories: 1) making improvements and 2) renovating existing amenities (\$21 with kids vs. \$17 without kids) and preserving open space (\$15 with kids vs. \$20 without kids). Other allocations tended to be very similar between both groups.

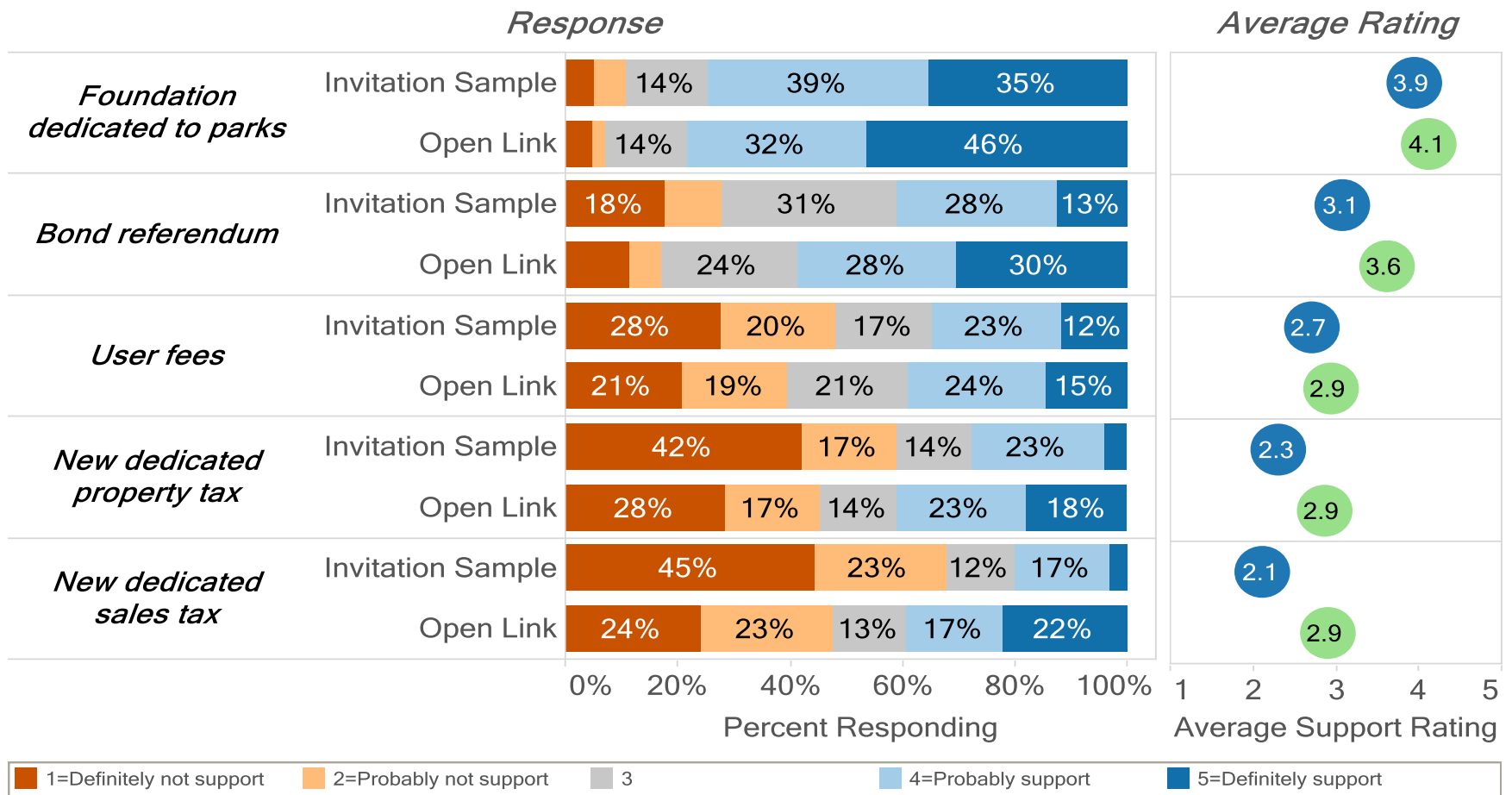
Amherst Parks & Recreation | If you had \$100 to spend on parks and recreation facilities, services and/or programs, how would you allocate that \$100 across the following categories?  
*Average Allocation Amount*



# \$ LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR FUNDING

When asked about increasing existing resources, invitation respondents were most supportive of a foundation dedicated to parks (74% rated '4' or '5') or a bond referendum (41% rated '4' or '5'), but were less likely to support new property taxes (59% rated '1' or '2') and an increase in sales tax (68% rated '1' or '2'). Open link respondents were more supportive of all the potential funding mechanisms.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Willingness to Support Parks & Recreation Funding Mechanisms

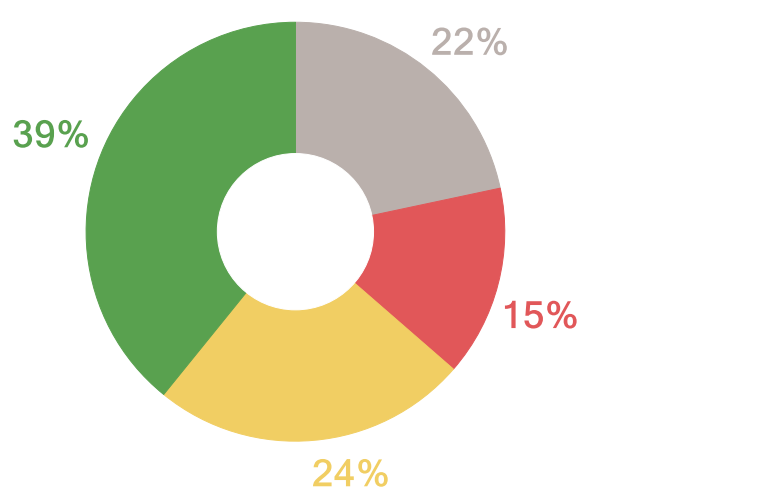


# \$ IMPACT OF USER FEE INCREASES ON USAGE

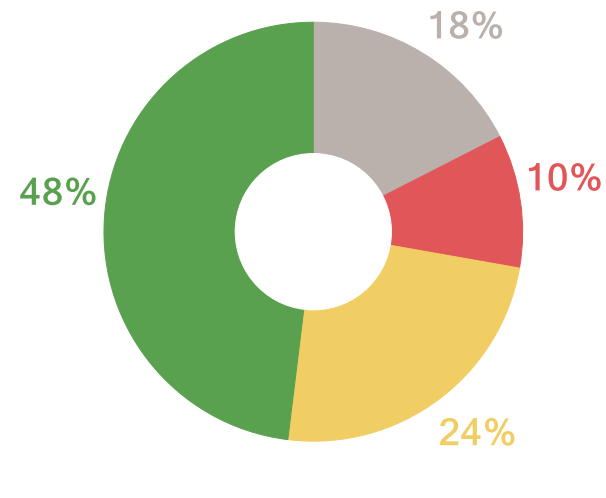
Thirty-nine percent of invitation respondents said moderate rental fee increases would not limit their ability to participate, while 24% said it would limit their participation somewhat and 15% said it would limit their participation significantly. Roughly a quarter (22%) didn't know. Open link respondents are less likely to be impacted by user fees overall.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Impact of Fee Increases on Parks & Recreation Participation

- Moderate fee increases would not limit my/our ability to participate at all
- Moderate fee increases would limit my/our participation somewhat or would have a minor impact
- Moderate fee increases would limit my/our participation significantly
- Dont know/uncertain



Invitation Sample



Open Link

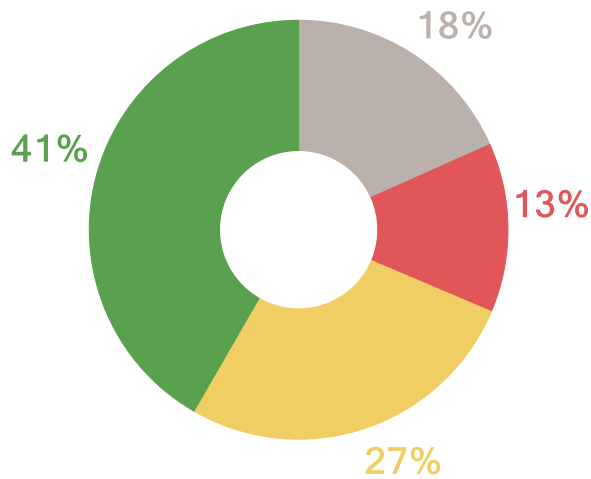


# \$ IMPACT OF USER FEE INCREASES ON USAGE

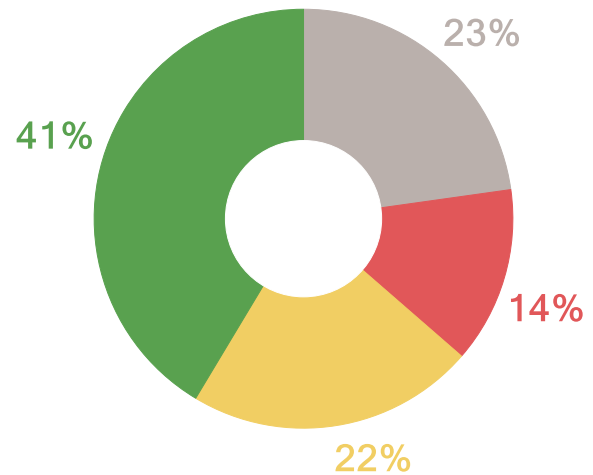
Households with children and those without had similar responses for whether user fees would impact their participation ability. Forty-one percent of households with children stated fee increases would not affect their participation, equal to households without children.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Impact of Fee Increases on Parks & Recreation Participation

- Moderate fee increases would not limit my/our ability to participate at all
- Moderate fee increases would limit my/our participation somewhat or would have a minor impact
- Moderate fee increases would limit my/our participation significantly
- Dont know/uncertain



Kids at home

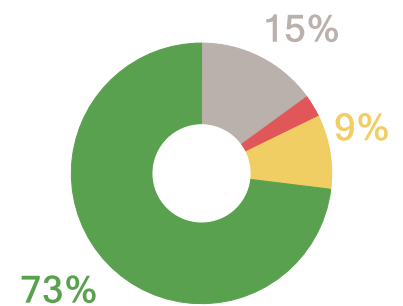
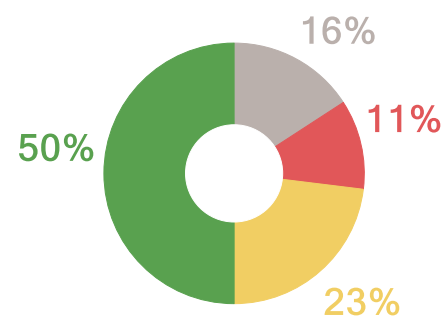
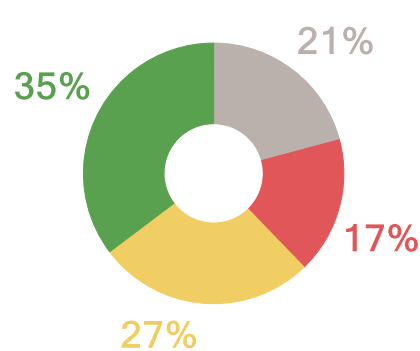
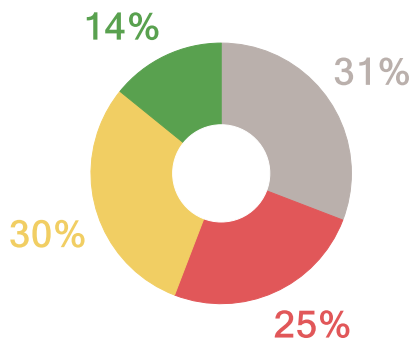
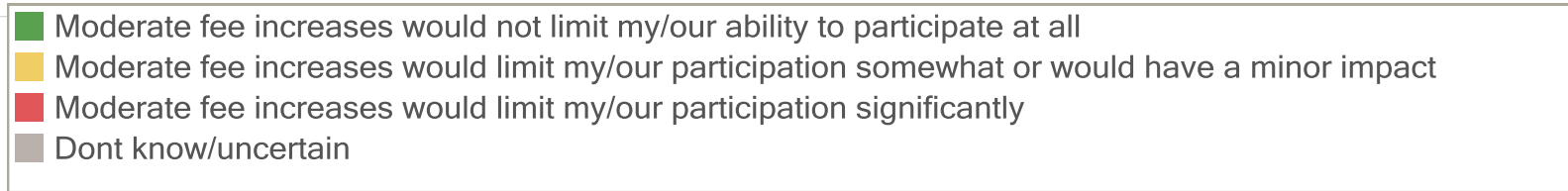


No kids at home

# \$ IMPACT OF USER FEE INCREASES ON USAGE

Perhaps not surprising, as income increases the impact user fees has on participation drops. For all respondents in both samples who make under \$50k, 14% say user fees will not limit their ability to participate compared to 73% of respondents who make at least \$200k.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Impact of Fee Increases on Parks & Recreation Participation



Under \$50,000

\$50k-\$99,999

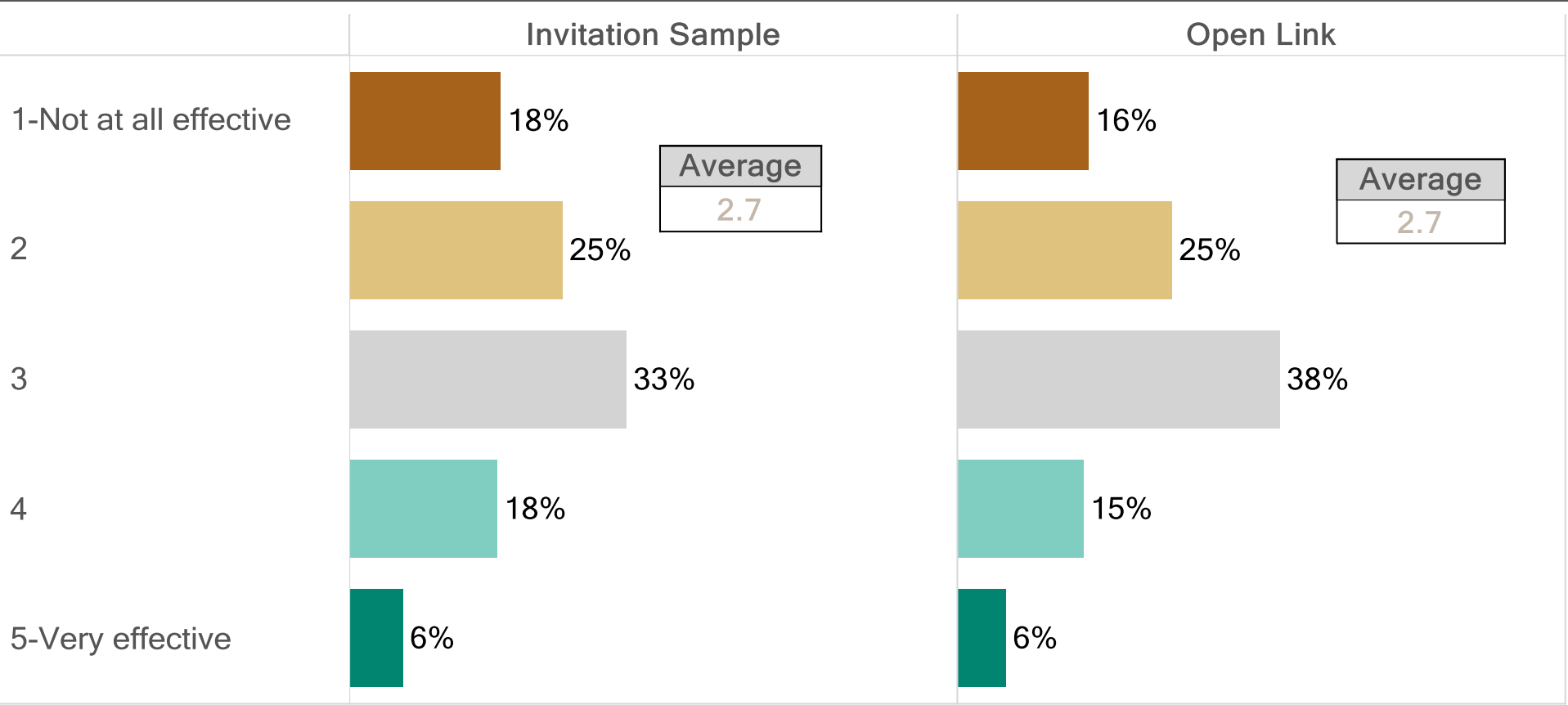
\$100k-\$199,999

Over \$200k

# EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

Communication effectiveness is an area that could be improved, as 43% of invitation respondents rated overall effectiveness a '1' or '2' on a 5-point scale. The average effectiveness rating among invitation respondents is 2.7. Only 24% rated current communication as effective.

Amherst Parks & Recreation | How effective are we at reaching you with information on parks and recreation facilities, services, and programs?

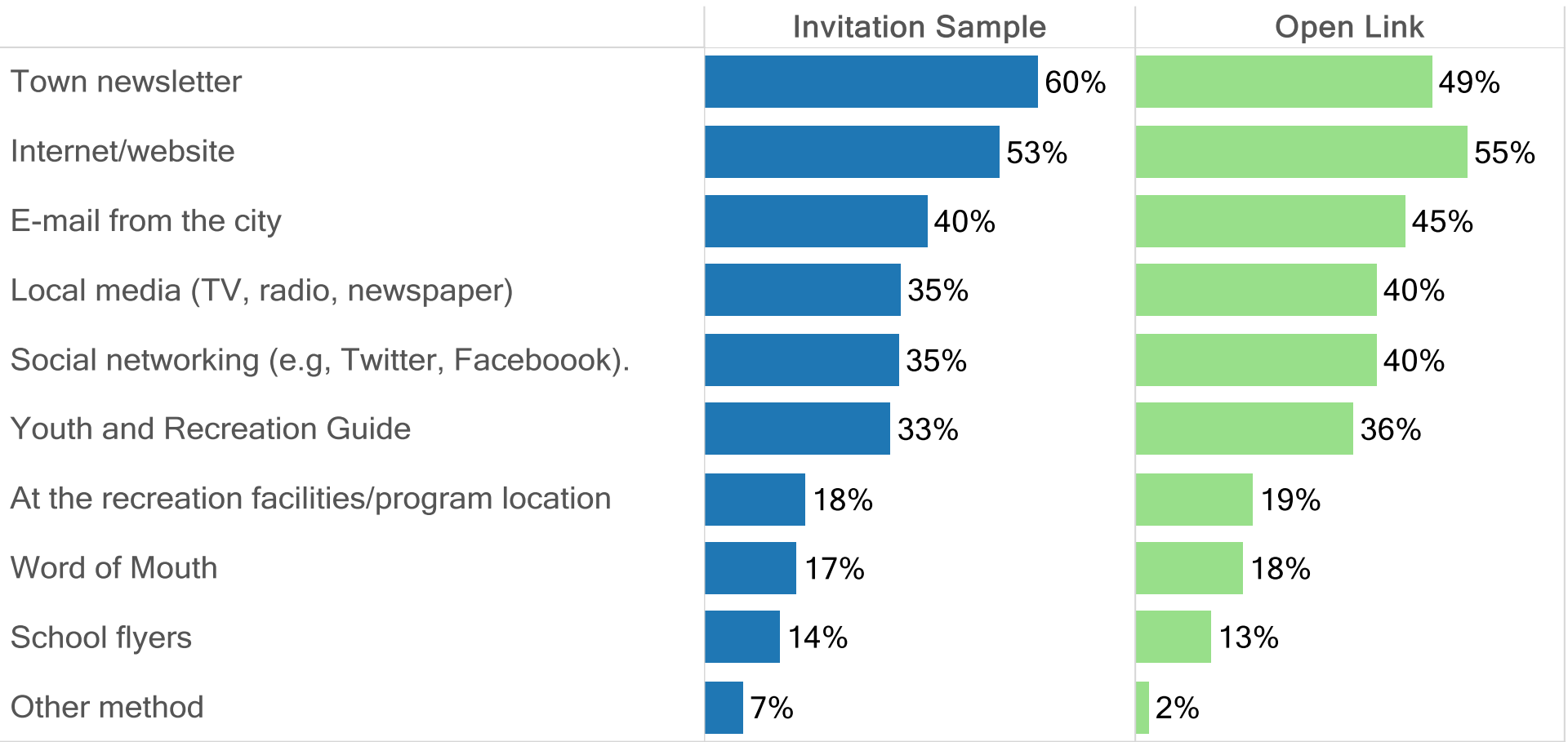




# BEST WAY TO RECEIVE INFORMATION

Invitation respondents indicated the Town newsletter (60%), internet/website (53%), and e-mail from the city (40%) are the best ways to reach them with information. Open link respondents were less likely to select the Town newsletter as a good communication avenue and preferred internet/website.

## Amherst Parks & Recreation | Best Way to Reach You With Parks & Recreation Information



# ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

At the end of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to provide any additional comments or suggestions for Amherst's Park and Recreation Department. Themes that came up frequently through the survey were again prominent in this comment field, including a desire for protecting the open space in Amherst, upgrades to existing parks/facilities, and increased trail and pathway connectivity. Many invitation respondents also took the opportunity to praise the efforts of the department. A selection of verbatim invitation responses is shown below. The full listing of responses is provided in the appendix.

Since the outdoor pools are only open 2 months of the year, we definitely need an indoor pool facility!

Amherst seems to have the privilege of having significant areas for further development without needing to expand into already reasonably inhabited areas. I would strongly support any and all efforts to keep the Westwood area green space. There is sufficient space elsewhere to build the types of facilities being proposed.

More information is needed about parks through media, PSA's , etc.

Open space is disappearing in Amherst. Preserving large, natural, passive space should be a priority before our town is built out and it's gone. Passive park space would be an asset to the health & well being to the entire town. Trailways connecting to other parks, bike paths would further enhance usage.

The programs for kids are very important. Although I no longer need them, they were beneficial to me as a single parent. They were affordable and taught life lessons in sports, teams, day care, and community.

# Appendix C: Facility Inventory Assessment

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**Town of Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Amherst State Park**  
 Address **390 Mill St, Buffalo, NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun.20**      GIS point       Area **77.1 ac**  
 Ownership (circle one): Client      Other:

Ambiance Score **3**      Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation      2=Meets Expectations      1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Park to be developed in accordance with the Amherst State Park Master Plan.

Action Plan Completed? **Unknown**      Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
ASP-1	SIGN (Entry)	2	1	Legible, difficult to see from the road, well maintained, lumped into sign for adjacent senior center
ASP-2	BATH	2	1	Port-O-Jon
ASP-3	PRK (Parking Area 1)	3		Pavement in good condition, ample amount of parking spaces, handicap parking striping & signs are not NYS standard
ASP-4	SFURN 1 (Trash Receptacles)	2	3	Standard Town of Amherst wheeled units - unsecured
ASP-5	SIGN (Informational)	3	2	Good graphics & colors, Kiosk includes maps, handouts, etc., signs are in good condition
ASP-6	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	2	-	Asphalt in fair condition (some areas are under construction), some slopes and areas are not ADA accessible
ASP-7	STRCT 1 (Retaining Wall)	2	-	Decent condition, some areas are crumbling
ASP-8	STRCT 2 (Stairs)	1	2	Treads are crumbling & uneven - larger set of stairs are roped off and under construction
ASP-9	PATH 2 (Stone)	2	-	Narrow width, not ADA compliant, dead-ends into fence at edge of site
ASP-10	NATR (Meadows)	3	-	Meadows are in good condition, trees appear to be being groomed into a successional growth system
ASP-11	NATR (Water)	3	-	Streams & ponds are in good condition, used for fishing
ASP-12	STRCT 3 (Bridge)	3	1	Bridge is in good condition, wood is not rotted, railings are in good condition
ASP-13	PATH 3 (Grass)	3	-	Path is not ADA accessible, appeared to be mowed and maintained through meadow area
ASP-14	STRCT 4 (Fence)	2	-	Fence is functional, some areas are rusted and uneven
ASP-15	LSCP 1 (Pathway Gardens)	2	1	Appeared to be community garden, unorganized, retaining wall around it is crumbling
ASP-16	PATH 4 (Concrete)	3		Concrete sidewalks are in good condition, even, appeared to be ADA compliant
ASP-17	SFURN 2 (Lights)	3	-	Historic in style, all are matching, spaced adequately and throughout the developed areas of the park
ASP-18	SFURN 3 (Bench)	2	-	Benches do not all match, some do not have ADA access, some are anchored
ASP-19	MEM (Memorial Trees)	3	11	Trees are healthy, memorial plaques are easy to read
ASP-20	MEM (Memorial Garden)	2	1	Garden does not have mulch, trash piled up in some areas
ASP-21	MEM (Veterans Memorial Plaza)	3	1	Water feature is functional, pavers & wall are in good condition, pavers were somewhat dirty
ASP-22	STRCT 5 (Storm)	2	-	Storm drains are debris filled and in OK condition
ASP-23	LSCP 2 (Front Gardens)	3	2	Gardens are well maintained, mulched, have signage, above ground sprinkler system present



ASP-24	SFURN 4 (Bike Racks)	2	1	No paved access to the bike rack, small
ASP-25	STRCT 6 (Pavilion)	2	1	Structure is in OK condition, roof is in poor condition - located at Youth Center off of Sheridan Drive
ASP-26	SPRTFLD 1 (Baseball)	2	1	Appeared to be a practice field, no dugouts, no fencing
ASP-27	SFURN 5 (Bleachers)	1	2	Bleachers are not ADA accessible
ASP-28	SFURN 6 (Picnic Tables)	2	-	Tables are in good condition, located beneath pavilion, no ADA tables are present

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Parks Recreation Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Amherst Veterans Canal Park**  
 Address **146 Brenon Road, Buffalo, NY 14228**

Inventory Date: **Jun.21**      GIS point       Area **34.1 ac**  
 Ownership (circle one): Client      Other:

Ambiance Score       Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation      2=Meets Expectations      1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Develop a second overlook/seating area on the east side of the boat launch.

**Action Plan:** Resurface parking area with asphalt paving.

Action Plans Completed?       Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
AVCP-1	PRK (Parking Area)	2		Asphalt is in good condition, ample parking spaces, curb stops are in poor condition, no ADA striping
ACVP-2	STRCT 1 (Overlook Areas)	2	2	Picnic area is well maintained, fencing is in good condition, right overlook does not have ADA access
ACVP-3	STRCT 2 (Pavilion)	2	1	Structure is in good condition, paint is chipping off, structure has ADA access
ACVP-4	SFURN 1 (Picnic Tables)	2	6+	Tables are in good condition, not all tables match, some do not have ADA access
ACVP-5	SFURN 2 (Benches)	2	5+	Benches are in good condition, not all benches match, some do not have ADA access
ACVP-6	SFURN 4 (Grills)	2	2	Grills are in OK condition, rusted, limited access to grills
ACVP-7	STRCT 3 (Boat Launch)	3	1	Launch is in good condition, concrete is in good condition, no lip - good water access
ACVP-8	STRCT 4 (Floating Dock Launch)	2	1	Railings have chipped paint
ACVP-9	STRCT 5 (Fence)	3	-	Fence is in good condition, paint is fresh
ACVP-10	LSCP (Lawns)	2	-	Mature trees, hilly, good interest, no garden spaces
ACVP-11	PATH 1 (Pavers & Asphalt)	2	-	Pavers are in good condition, Asphalt is in good condition, asphalt has weeds growing in some places
ACVP-12	STRCT 6 (Park Office)	3	1	Building is in good condition
ACVP-13	BATH	3	2	Bathrooms inside of Park Office in good condition, ADA access
ACVP-14	STRCT 7 (Boat Ramp)	2	1	Ramp is in good condition, no railings
ACVP-15	STRCT 8 (Kayak Ramp)	3	1	Ramp has ADA access, Railings, Wheels to help boat into water, somewhat dirty
ACVP-16	SFURN 4 (Trash)	2	2	Trash receptacles are unsecured, no recycling bins
ACVP-17	SFURN 5 (Bollards)	2	-	Randomly located, not all match
ACVP-18	NATR (Water)	3	-	Scenic canal views
ACVP-19	PATH 2 (Bike Trail)	3	-	Asphalt is in good condition, connects to bike path
ACVP-20	SFURN 6 (Bike Rack)	1	0	No bike rack present despite being on Bike Path
ACVP-21	SFURN 7 (Lights)	2	-	Limited site lighting, lighting on bollards along path

ACVP-22	MEM (Bench)	3	1	Bench & Plaque are in good condition, not very visible, peaceful area
ACVP-23	TREE	3	-	Mature trees, good shade, good variety
ACVP-24	SIGN (Informational)	2	-	Signs are in good condition, no entrance sign
ACVP-25	FLAG	2	1	Flag is not very visible from surrounding area, flag pole is in poor condition

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Audubon Recreation Complex**  
 Address **1615 Amherst Manor Drive Buffalo, NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun.20**      GIS point **[ ]**      Area **22.8 ac**  
 Ownership (circle one): Client      Other:

Ambiance Score **[ 3 ]**      Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation      2=Meets Expectations      1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Install light standards on one or more of the existing softball diamonds. *Only one field has lights.*

**Action Plan:** Develop two additional girls' softball diamonds.      Y

**Action Plan:** Install a basketball/multipurpose pad.      N

**Action Plans Completed?** **[ See above ]**      **Comments:** All Dugouts had bat holders

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
ARC-1	PRK 1 (Front Parking Area)	3		Asphalt & Striping in good condition, ample amount of spaces, handicap parking striping & signs are not NYS standard
ARC-2	SIGN 1 (Entry)	3	1	Large, visible from the road, in good condition
ARC-3	SFURN 1 (Trash)	2	20+	Numerous bins & recycling, not secured
ARC-4	SFURN 2 (Table)	2	20+	Spread throughout the complex, did not appear to be any ADA tables, various conditions
ARC-5	BATH (Concessions Building)	3	1	Located in the Concessions Building, ADA accessible
ARC-6	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	2	1	Roof is in poor condition, paint is chipping, patio beneath is uneven, structure itself is in good condition
ARC-7	SPRTFLD 11 (Football - "Bob Jones Field")	3	1	Signage on field is in good condition, fence is in good condition, lights/goal posts/scoreboard are in good condition, no striping
ARC-8	SFURN 3 (Bleachers)	2	10+	Functional, paint is chipped, metal is rusted, none appeared to ADA bleachers
ARC-9	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	3	-	Path is in excellent condition, part of the Elicott Creek Trail Way
ARC-10	SFURN 4 (Benches)	2	10+	Not all benches match, some are not ADA accessible
ARC-11	TREE	2	-	Mixed health, some smaller ones are dead, not mature enough yet to provide shade
ARC-12	SPRTFLD 11 (Soccer)	3	1	Level field, lawn is in good condition, no ADA access, no striping (may be a practice field)
ARC-13	SPRTFLD 9 (Softball)	3	1	Good infield, good outfield, dugouts did not have benches, no warning track, good backstop, has ADA access, good fencing
ARC-14	SPRTFLD 8 (Softball)	3	1	Good infield, good outfield, dugouts did not have benches, no warning track, good backstop, has ADA access, good fencing
ARC-15	SPRTFLD 5 (Softball)	2	1	Good infield, good outfield, dugouts have rusted roofs & no benches, no warning track, good backstop, has ADA access, rusted fencing
ARC-16	SPRTFLD 6 (Softball)	2	1	Good infield, good outfield, dugouts have rusted roofs & no benches, no warning track, good backstop, has ADA access, rusted fencing
ARC-17	STRCT 2 (Batting/Catching Area)	2	1	Catcher area did not have full fencing, back fence is warped, infield mix has weeds & is uneven
ARC-18	SPRTFLD 4 (Softball)	3	1	Good infield, good outfield, good dugouts with benches & roofs, no warning track, good backstop, has ADA access, good fencing
ARC-19	MEM 1 (Field Sign)	3	1	Plaque located on backstop fence of SPRTFLD 4, visible, legible
ARC-20	STRCT 3 (Maintenance Shed)	3	3	Structures are in good condition, located very close together
ARC-21	BATH 2 (Individual Structure)	2	1	Structure is in good condition, downspout is broken

ARC-22	STRCT 4 (Concessions Building)	3	1	Roof is in good condition, paint appears to be new, bulletin case appears to be new
ARC-23	SPRTFLD 3 (Softball)	2	1	Good infield, good outfield, dugouts have rusted roofs & no benches, no warning track, good backstop, has ADA access, rusted fencing
ARC-24	SIGN 2 (Softball)	3	1	Sign is in good condition, visible, legible
ARC-25	STRCT 5 (Batting Cage)	3	1	Fence is in good condition, nets are in good condition
ARC-26	SPRTFLD 2 (Softball)	3	1	Good infield, good outfield, good dugouts with benches & roofs, no warning track, good backstop, not ADA accessible, good fencing
ARC-27	SPRTFLD 1 (Baseball - UB Premier Field)	3	1	Good infield/outfield, good dugouts w/ benches & roofs, has warning track, good backstop, ADA access, good fencing, lights & scoreboard
ARC-28	MEM 2 (Field Sign)	3	1	Plaque located on backstop fence of SPRTFLD 1, legible, historic quality
ARC-29	SFURN 5 (Lights)	3	-	Parking area lights, all match, well spaced
ARC-30	STRCT 6 (Main Building)	3	1	Building is in good condition, good aesthetic, legible signage, well maintained
ARC-31	STRCT 7 (Pitching Cage)	2	1	Infield mix is low and worn, fencing is in good condition
ARC-32	LSCP 1 (Front Garden)	2	1	Garden has a bench for seating, very few plants, no good access route to paths (in middle of parking lot)
ARC-33	FLAG	3	1	Flagpole is in good condition, flag is in good condition
ARC-34	SFURN 6 (Bike Rack)	2	1	Bike rack is a good size, in good condition, not positioned well on site
ARC-35	PLAY (Playground)	1	1	Surfacing did not appear to be compliant, has ADA access, play structures are worn & faded
ARC-36	ROAD (Access Road)	2	-	Asphalt is cracking, ponding observed to occur in some spots
ARC-37	SPRTFLD 7 (Softball)	2	1	Good infield/outfield, good dugouts w/ benches (no roof), has warning track, good backstop, good fence & lighting, has ADA access
ARC-38	SFURN 7 (Water Fountain)	1	1	No housing unit, exposed pipe, did not function
ARC-39	PRK 2 (Rear Parking Area)	2		Asphalt in good condition, did not have any handicap markings
ARC-40	LSCP 2 (Rear Garden)	2	1	Very few plants, no good access route to paths (in middle of parking lot)
ARC-41	PATH 2 (Concrete)	3	-	Concrete is in good condition, pathway appears to be ADA compliant

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Amherst Center for Senior Services** Inventory Date: **Jun.20** GIS point  Area   
 Address **370 John James Audubon Pkwy, Buffalo, NY 14228** Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Develop bocce courts to expand outdoor recreation opportunities.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments: Nice woodlands surround area, ample space

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
ACSS-1	PRK (Parking Area)	3		Asphalt in good condition, good ADA access, ample amount of parking spaces, curbs were in poor condition
ACSS-2	SFURN 1 (Bench)	3	2	Sturdy, ADA accessible, both benches matched
ACSS-3	LSCP 1 (Gardens)	2	-	Sparsely planted, well maintained
ACSS-4	PATH (Concrete)	3	-	Concrete sidewalk in good condition, large width, well maintained, ADA accessible
ACSS-5	LSCP 2 (Vegetable Garden)	2	1	Small, container garden, well maintained
ACSS-6	TREE	2	-	Tree islands, around building, appear to be healthy
ACSS-7	FLAG	3	1	Flag and flagpole in good condition
ACSS-8	SFURN 2 (Bike Rack)	2	2	Small, outdated, functional
ACSS-9	STRCT 1 (Stage)	2	1	Temporary stage area, metal structure is in OK condition
ACSS-10	SIGN (Entry)	3	2	Sign is in good condition, legible, directional signage throughout area is in good condition
ACSS-11	SFURN (Table)	2	2	Tables are in good condition, no ADA access
ACSS-12	STRCT 2 (Patio/Pavilion)	2	1	Furnishings are in poor condition, pavers & concrete are in good condition, canopy is in good condition
ACSS-13				
ACSS-14				
ACSS-15				
ACSS-16				
ACSS-17				
ACSS-18				
ACSS-19				
ACSS-20				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

**Facility Name** 
**Inventory Date:** 
**GIS point** 
**Area**   
**Address** 
**Ownership (circle one):** Client  Other:   
**Ambiance Score** 
**Rating Key:** 3= Exceeds Expectation      2=Meets Expectations      1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Implement all elements of the park-specific master plan.

**Action Plan Completed?**  **Comments:**

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
BP-1	PRK 1 (Amphitheater)	2	1	No ADA access to the rest of the park, no delineated parking areas, only room for a few cars
BP-2	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	3	-	Wide, asphalt is in good condition, some slopes may not be ADA accessible
BP-3	BATH (Bathrooms)	2	1	ADA accessible, structure is in good condition
BP-4	LSCP (Meadows)	3	-	Rolling hills, no gardens, lawn is in good condition
BP-5	TREE	2	-	Most trees are mature, good shade trees, some have deadwood
BP-6	SFURN 1 (Bike Rack)	1	0	No bike racks
BP-7	SFURN 2 (Trash)	2	5+	Not secured fixtures, no recycling bins
BP-8	SFURN 3 (Bench)	2	5+	Standard town model, paint is worn, not ADA accessible
BP-9	SFURN 4 (Tables)	2	1	Tables are in good condition, not ADA accessible
BP-10	PLAY (Playground)	2	1	Surfacing in good condition, not ADA accessible, structures are in good condition
BP-11	NATR 1 (Pond)	2	-	Pond is clean, no signs of wildlife, no natural grasses or plantings
BP-12	STRCT 1 (Amphitheater)	3	1	Structure is new and in good condition, no ADA access to structure, great views over pond
BP-13	ROAD 1 (To Amphitheater)	3	-	Asphalt paving appeared to be new and in good condition, good width
BP-14	SIGN 1 (Kiwanis Playground)	2	1	Difficult to see from road, paint is chipping, sign is in OK condition
BP-15	SFURN 5 (Water Fountain)	2	2	Fountains are in OK condition, child & adult sizes, leaking
BP-16	STRCT 2 (Hotbox)	3	1	Good condition
BP-17	PRK 2 (Playground)	2	1	Gravel surfacing in good condition, no handicap striping, no ADA access to park
BP-18	MEM 1 (Tree Plaques)	3	2	Plaques are in good condition, legible
BP-19	COURT (Bocce)	3	1	Courts are in good condition, well defined, clean
BP-20	SIGN 2 (Bocce)	3	1	Sign is in good condition
BP-21	PATH 2 (Natural)	2	-	Parts are eroding, steep slopes
BP-22	SIGN 3 (Trail Markers)	1	0	No trail markers on site

BP-23	NATR 2 (Woods)	2	-	Woods have wet areas, small patches throughout park, dense vegetation
BP-24	STRCT 3 (Fence)	2	-	Wooden fence, some areas are worn and in disrepair

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Briarhurst Park**  
 Address **11 Craigmere Drive Buffalo, NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun.20** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Install a proper base and border around the swing set. Y

Action Plan: Remove the practice diamond backstop and shift the soccer field to the north. N

Action Plan: Paint the basketball nets and backboards. N

Action Plan: Repair soccer standards netting. N

Action Plan: Paint the tennis court surface. Y

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
BRP-1	PRK 1 (On Street Parking)	2		Only on street parking available, no ADA delineation present, no detectable warning at curb ramp
BRP-2	PATH 1 (Concrete)	3		Concrete sidewalk, ADA accessible, concrete in good condition
BRP-3	PLAY 1 (Swings)	2	1	Swings in fair condition, mulch has been displaced and is not ADA accessible
BRP-4	PLAY 2 (Playground)	2	1	Not ADA accessible from path, mulch has been displaced in areas, structure in fair condition
BRP-5	SIGN 1 (Entry)	3	1	Sign is in good condition, highly visible from the street
BRP-6	SFURN 1 (Bleachers)	2		Bleacher structure is in good condition, paint is chipping & worn, no ADA access
BRP-7	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Turf is in good condition, no garden spaces, trees are somewhat sparse
BRP-8	COURT 1 (Basketball)	2	1	Asphalt surface is in good condition, hoop & posts are stable, backboard paint is chipping & worn
BRP-9	COURT 2 (Tennis)	3	2	Asphalt surface is in good condition, nets & fencing are in good condition, surfaces are clean, ADA accessible
BRP-10	SFURN 2 (Tables)	2	2	Tables are in good condition, not ADA accessible
BRP-11	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	1		Metal frame is in poor condition, structure is rusted
BRP-12	LIGHT 1 (Park Lighting)	1		No park lighting is present
BRP-13	SPRTFLD 1 (Softball)	2	1	Infield is in good condition, fence is rusted, no dugouts or foul line fencing, backstop fence is in poor condition
BRP-14	SPRTFLD 2 (Baseball)	1	1	Apparent practice field, no amenities (dugouts, etc.), no ADA access, backstop fence is rusted
BRP-15	LSCP 2 (Fields)	2		Turf is in good condition, dry in some areas
BRP-16	SFURN 3 (Trash)	2	2	Not secured fixtures, no recycling containers
BRP-17	BATH 1 (Restrooms)	2	1	1 ADA port-o-jon, not very clean, no soap available in unit

BRP-18	SFURN 4 (Benches)	2	1	Bench is in fair condition, no ADA accessible
BRP-19	SFURN 5 (Water Fountain)	1	1	Not functional
BRP-20	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Trees are small, do not provide much shade, appear to be healthy
BRP-21	MEM 1 (Tree Memorial)	3	1	Plaque is in good condition, easy to read

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Billy Wilson Park**  
 Address **1290 Hopkins Amherst NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun. 20** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Evaluate two acre area near cell tower as a possible location for a leash free park. N

Action Plan: Develop trails linking the park to adjacent residential neighborhoods. Y

Action Plan: Examine possibility of developing nature center. Unknown

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
BWP-1	PRK (Parking Area)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, ADA stalls are present, signs & marking are using old symbol
BWP-2	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, somewhat narrow
BWP-3	SPRTFLD 1 (Soccer)	2	1	No nets on goal posts, field is level, no striping
BWP-4	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Mix of mature and young trees, healthy, provide shade on parking area
BWP-5	PLAY 1 (Playground)	3	1	Under Construction - furnishings appeared to be all new
BWP-6	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	2	1	Structure is in fair condition, minor repairs needed, walk does not go fully around the building
BWP-7	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	3	1	Structure is in good condition, ADA access is under construction
BWP-8	SFURN 1 (Tables)	2	6	Tables are in good condition, no ADA table present
BWP-9	SFURN 2 (Trash)	2	4	Units are unsecured
BWP-10	SFURN 3 (Benches)	1	0	No benches present on site
BWP-11	SIGN 1 (Entry)	3	1	Visible, good coloring, sign is in good condition, promotes ADA accessibility
BWP-12	SIGN 2 (Playground)	3	1	Sign is in good condition, displays rules and regulations
BWP-13	SFURN 4 (Bike Rack)	3	1	Bike rack is in good condition
BWP-14	STRCT 2 (Pavilion)	2	1	ADA access is under construction, roof is in poor condition
BWP-15	PATH 2 (Permeable Pavers)	2		Panels are uneven, difficult to walk over
BWP-16	SFURN 5 (Grill)	2	1	Grills are rusted, functional
BWP-17	SFURN 6 (Water Fountain)	1	0	No water fountain present on site
BWP-18				
BWP-19				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Campus Drive Recreation Area**  
 Address **409 Campus Drive Buffalo, NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun.19** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client  Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Undertake park-specific master plan.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
CDRA-1	SIGN 1 (Entry)	1	0	No entrance sign present
CDRA-2	PRK 1 (On-Street Parking)	2		Plenty of space to park, no delineation
CDRA-3	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	1		Asphalt in poor condition, path has heaved in many areas, curb ramp is deteriorated
CDRA-4	SFURN 1 (Trash)	1		Unsecured, blocked pathway
CDRA-5	LSCP 1 (Lawn)	2		Field is in good condition, somewhat uneven grade
CDRA-6	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Trees are mature in height, appear to be healthy, good shade
CDRA-7	STRCT 1 (Fence)	2		Fence is structurally in good condition, areas have rusted and been overgrown
CDRA-8	SPRTFLD 1 (Baseball)	1	1	No amenities (dugouts, infield, etc.), backstop is in place and rusted
CDRA-9	SFURN 2 (Bench)	1	1	Bench has been vandalized, not ADA accessible
CDRA-10	LIGHT 1 (Site Lighting)	1	0	No site lighting present
CDRA-11	STRCT 2 (Gate)	1	1	Netting with posts, was rolled up and tucked against side of path, created a trip hazard
CDRA-12	SFURN 3 (Tables)	1	0	No picnic tables present
CDRA-13				
CDRA-14				
CDRA-15				
CDRA-16				
CDRA-17				
CDRA-18				
CDRA-19				
CDRA-20				
CDRA-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Central Amherst Baseball Complex**  
 Address **480 Wherle Drive, Buffalo, NY 14226**

Inventory Date: **Jun.19** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Install washrooms. Y

Action Plan: Install undertake minor repairs to benches, bleachers, and backstops. Y

Action Plan: Resurface parking area with asphalt paving. N

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
CABC-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	1		Asphalt is in poor condition, no striping is present, asphalt is cracked, some areas are gravel
CABC-2	SPRTFLD 1 (Baseball)	3		Backstop is in good condition, infield & outfield are in good condition, good signage
CABC-3	STRCT 1 (Dugout)	3	2	Bench & Fence are in good condition, bat holders present, full roof was in good condition, signage in good condition
CABC-4	SFURN 1 (Trash)	3		Many located throughout, premanent structures, recycling units are present
CABC-5	FLAG 1	3	1	Flag and pole are in good condition
CABC-6	STRCT 6 (Concessions Building)	3	1	Structure is in good condition, lighting was present, paint in good condition, support posts are slightly worn
CABC-7	STRCT 7 (Storage Sheds)	3	1	Structure is in good condition, siding & colors match other buildings
CABC-8	SFURN 2 (Bleachers)	2	7	Bleachers are in good condition, not all of them match, no ADA units present, some may not be compliant (ADA, railings, etc.)
CABC-9	PATH 1 (Asphalt & Pavers)	3		Donation pavers in good condition, asphalt is fairly even & level, ADA accessible
CABC-10	SFURN 3 (Tables)	2	8	Tables are in good condition, no ADA tables present
CABC-11	SPRTFLD 2 (Baseball)	3		Backstop is in good condition, infield & outfield are in good condition, good signage
CABC-12	STRCT 2 (Dugout)	2	2	Bench paint is chipping, fence is in good condition, bat holders present, tarp roof in good condition, signage in good condition
CABC-13	SPRTFLD 3 (Baseball)	2		Outfield is well maintained, partial infield present, no scoreboard, fencing and backstop are in good condition
CABC-14	STRCT 3 (Dugout)	2	2	Bench paint is chipping, fence is in good condition, bat holders present, tarp roof in good condition, signage in good condition
CABC-15	SPRTFLD 4 (Baseball)	2		Outfield is well maintained, partial infield present, no scoreboard, no outfield fencing
CABC-16	STRCT 4 (Dugout)	2	2	Bench paint is chipping, fence is in good condition, bat holders present, dugouts did not have roofs, signage in good condition
CABC-17	STRCT 8 (Fence)	1		Perimeter fence is rusted, bent, very poor condition
CABC-18	MEM 1 (Plaque)	2	1	Plaque is visible, located at flagpole, small in size, area surrounding it is weedy & unkempt
CABC-19	BATH 1 (Restrooms)	2	1	Port-o-Jons are not ADA accessible
CABC-20	SPRTFLD 5 (Baseball)	2		Outfield is well maintained, partial infield present, no scoreboard, no outfield fencing

CABC-21	STRCT 5 (Dugout)	2	2	Bench paint is chipping, fence is in good condition, bat holders present, dugouts did not have roofs, signage in good condition
CABC-22	SFURN 4 (Bike Racks)	2		Bike racks are in fair condition
CABC-23	STRCT 9 (Batting Cage)	1		No fencing

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Cindy Drive Play Area**  
 Address **75 Cyndy Drive Buffalo, NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun.20** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client  Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Hold neighborhood meeting regarding the future of the park, including potential uses and parkland amenities.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
CDPA-1	PRK 1 (On-Street)	2		On-Street parking only, no ADA curb cuts are present to sidewalk
CDPA-2	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Lawn is mowed, street trees are in good condition
CDPA-3	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Street trees (Red/Norway Maples), trees are healthy
CDPA-4	LSCP 2 (Lawns)	3		Turf is in good condition
CDPA-5	SFURN 1 (Bench)	2	2	Benches are in fair condition, no ADA access to bench
CDPA-6	PATH 1 (Concrete)	2		Sidewalk is in good condition, does not lead into park, runs around perimeter of park
CDPA-7				
CDPA-8				
CDPA-9				
CDPA-10				
CDPA-11				
CDPA-12				
CDPA-13				
CDPA-14				
CDPA-15				
CDPA-16				
CDPA-17				
CDPA-18				
CDPA-19				
CDPA-20				
CDPA-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Clearfield Community Center**  
 Address **730 Hopkins Rd, Williamsville 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun.20** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client  Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Install a retractable wall or netting in the large gymnasium to allow the court to be devided in two.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
CCCP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, ample spaces are provided, striping is in good condition, ADA markings & signs are present but with old symbol
CCCP-2	SFURN 1 (Bike Rack)	2	4	Bike racks are in poor condition, more than enough spaces provided for the site
CCCP-3	SFURN 2 (Trash)	2		Unsecured units, no recycling
CCCP-4	POOL 1 (Swimming Pool)	3		Pool is large, appears to be clean, area around the pool is in good condition
CCCP-5	POOL 2 (Splash Pad)	3		Play features are in good condition, water appeared to be clean
CCCP-6	PATH 1 (Front Concrete Walk)	2		Concrete is in fair condition, appears to be heaving in some areas
CCCP-7	SIGN 1 (Entry)	1		Sign is in poor condition, missing pieces, paint is very worn
CCCP-8	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Lawn is in good condition, garden at front of building is in fair condition
CCCP-9	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Trees are in good condition, sparcely spaced and do not provide much shade
CCCP-10	STRCT 1 (Fence)	2		Decorative fence at building is in fair condition, paint is fading
CCCP-11	BATH 1 (Restrooms)	2	2	Port-o-jons are ADA accessible, located outside of building (additional restrooms are inside)
CCCP-12	ROAD 1 (Access Road)	1		Ashpalt is in poor condition, road is cracking and heaving
CCCP-13	STRCT 2 (Building)	2		Main building is in fair condition,
CCCP-14	STRCT 3 (Pool Fence)	3		Fence is in good condition, paint is in good condition, tall enough to provide safety
CCCP-15	PATH 2 (Maintenance)	1		Concrete is in poor condition, cracking and heaving is evident
CCCP-16	PATH 3 (Concrete Sidewalk)	3		Concrete is in good condition, adequate width
CCCP-17	STRCT 4 (Utility Fencing)	1		At rear of building, fence is in poor condition, fence is overgrown and leaning
CCCP-18	SIGN 2 (Entrance)	2		Paint is fading, difficult to read
CCCP-19				
CCCP-20				

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

Residential and commercial areas abutting the property could use more screening

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Ownership (circle one): Client  Area   
 Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Correct draingage problems on mini soccer fields and at the east end of the park

**Action Plan:** Install an outdoor sand volleyball court.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
CCCP-1	PRK 1 (Parking)	3		Asphalt pavement is in good condition, striping is in good condition, ADA spots are delineated (old symbol), well lit
CCCP-2	SIGN 1 (Entry)	3	1	Sign is in good condition, shared with the Communtiy Center, visable from road
CCCP-3	BATH 1 (Restrooms)	2	2	Port-o-Jons, ADA accessible, additional restrooms located in the Communtiy Center
CCCP-4	SPRTFLD 1 (Baseball)	2	1	No warning track, dugout benches are in good condition, good infield,outfield,fencing, backstop is good, no ADA access, no lights
CCCP-5	COURT 1 (Tennis)	3	4	Pavement is in good condition, striping is in good condition, fences are in good condition
CCCP-6	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Trees are mature, provide good shade
CCCP-7	STRCT 1 (Fence)	1		Fence is rusted, bulging in areas, overgrown, does not match
CCCP-8	PLAY 1 (Playground)	2	1	Trees provide shade over play area, no ADA access, mulch is displaced, some surfacing may not be compliant
CCCP-9	LSCP 1 (Field)	3		Lawn and meadow are in good condition
CCCP-10	COURT 2 (Basketball)	1	1	Backboards are rusted, posts are heaving, no striping, no ADA access
CCCP-11	SPRTFLD 2 (Soccer)	3	1	Striping is good, team benches are good, no lighting, goal posts are good, turf is in good condition, no ADA access
CCCP-12	SPRTFLD 3 (Soccer)	3	1	Striping is good, team benches are good, no lighting, goal posts are good, turf is in good condition, no ADA access
CCCP-13	SPRTFLD 4 (Kids Soccer)	3	1	Child size nets are in good condition, striping is in good condition, turf is level and well maintained, no ADA access
CCCP-14	SPRTFLD 5 (Kids Soccer)	3	1	Child size nets are in good condition, striping is in good condition, turf is level and well maintained, no ADA access
CCCP-15	SPRTFLD 6 (Kids Soccer)	3	1	Child size nets are in good condition, striping is in good condition, turf is level and well maintained, no ADA access
CCCP-16	SPRTFLD 7 (Kids Soccer)	3	1	Child size nets are in good condition, striping is in good condition, turf is level and well maintained, no ADA access
CCCP-17	SFURN 1 (Bleachers)	2	6	Bleachers are in fair condition, paint is chipping, no ADA accessibility, some wooden planks are rotting
CCCP-18	SFURN 2 (Trash)	2		Unsecured units, recycling is present
CCCP-19	SFURN 3 (Lights)	2		Only present in parking area, all fixtures match
CCCP-20	SPRTFLD 8 (Kids Soccer)	2		Striping is not fully delineated, turf is good, full size nets are in good condition, team benches are good, no ADA access
CCCP-21	SFURN 4 (Bench)	1		No ADA accessibility, paint is very worn

CCCP-22	SFURN 5 (Table)	1		No ADA accessibility, paint is very worn
CCCP-23	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	2		Asphalt is in fair condition, connects playground to pool area, ADA compliant

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **College Park**  
 Address **200 Richfield Drive Buffalo, NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun.19**      GIS point       Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client      Other:

Ambiance Score       Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation      2=Meets Expectations      1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Develop park for passive recreation; install playground, trails, benches, and picnic tables.

Action Plans Completed?       Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
CP-1	NATR 1 (General)	2		Appeared to be mostly wetland
CP-2	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Mostly open field
CP-3	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	2		Located at the end of a dead-end street, no striping, informal area
CP-4				
CP-5				
CP-6				
CP-7				
CP-8				
CP-9				
CP-10				
CP-11				
CP-12				
CP-13				
CP-14				
CP-15				
CP-16				
CP-17				
CP-18				
CP-19				

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

Appears to be solely a wetland bank/stormwater facility

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Creek Woods Park**  
 Address **370 Sundridge Drive Buffalo, NY 14228**

Inventory Date: **Jun.21** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Repave tennis courts/remove vegetation around fence or remove courts. Y

Action Plan: Repair vandalized nets and cut back vegetation on fence. Nets (N) Fence (Y)

Action Plan: Connect park trail to proposed NW connector road bike trail. N

Action Plan: Remove sandbox. Y

Action Plan: Consider developing a small paved parking area. Y

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
CWP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	2		Asphalt is in fair condition, striping is faded, curb stops are in poor condition, ADA signage has old symbol
CWP-2	SIGN 1 (Entrance Sign)	2	1	Sign is in good condition, paint is beginning to fade
CWP-3	PLAY 1 (Playground)	1	1	Structure is faded, not ADA accessible, concrete pads in some areas (non-compliant), structure is worn
CWP-4	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	2		Asphalt is in good condition, does not connect to all park areas
CWP-5	COURT 1 (Basketball)	3	4	Surfacing is in good condition, nets are in good condition, large play area
CWP-6	COURT 2 (Tennis)	2	2	Surfacing is in good condition, fence is in good condition, nets were not present
CWP-7	BATH 1 (Restrooms)	2	1	1 ADA accessible port-o-jon
CWP-8	SFURN 1 (Benches)	2	7	Benches in fair condition, not all benches match, no ADA benches present
CWP-9	SFURN 2 (Tables)	2	3	Picnic Tables are in fair condition, not all tables match, no ADA tables present
CWP-10	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Turf fields are level, no garden areas
CWP-11	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Many trees are young & immature, several are dead, others appear to be healthy
CWP-12	PLAY 2 (Swings)	2		Not ADA accessible, S-Hooks appeared to be uncompliant, some rusted areas on swing set
CWP-13	STRCT 1 (Fence)	3		Entrance fence is in good condition
CWP-14	SFURN 3 (Trash)	2	2	Unsecured units, no recycling bins
CWP-15	LSCP 2 (Lawn)	3		Turf on playing fields is in good condition, well maintained
CWP-16	LIGHT 1 (Site Lighting)	1	1	1 light present on site, did not match style of park
CWP-17	SFURN 4 (Grills)	1	1	Grill is in poor condition, rusted
CWP-18	SPRTFLD 1 (Softball)	2	1	Infield & outfield in good condition, no dugouts present, no foul lines present

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Dana Heights Recreation Area**  
 Address **79 Shetland Drive Williamsville , NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun.19** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Install a swing set.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
DHRA-1	PRK 1 (On-Street)	2		On-street parking facility, no curb ramp present from street to park
DHRA-2	PATH 1 (Concrete)	1		Concrete sidewalk is buckled and in poor condition, narrow, no ADA access to parts of the site
DHRA-3	PLAY 1 (Playground)	2		Some features are rusted, no ADA access to the play area
DHRA-4	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Several small trees, appear to be healthy, do not provide much shade
DHRA-5	SFURN 1 (Bench)	1	0	No benches present on site
DHRA-6	SFURN 2 (Tables)	2	1	Picnic table is in good condition, not ADA accessible
DHRA-7	LSCP 1 (General)	2		No garden areas present, turf is in good condition
DHRA-8	PATH 2 (Lawn)	1		No ADA access from apartments to the playground
DHRA-9	SIGN 1 (Entry)	3	1	Sign is in good condition, sign is visible from road
DHRA-10	SFURN 3 (Trash)	1	0	No trash cans present on site
DHRA-11	BATH (Restroom)	2	1	1 Porta-john, not ADA accessible
DHRA-12				
DHRA-13				
DHRA-14				
DHRA-15				
DHRA-16				
DHRA-17				
DHRA-18				
DHRA-19				
DHRA-20				
DHRA-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Develop master plan for passive recreational use, trails, and environmental enhancements.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
DLP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	2		Gravel parking area is in good condition, small space, no striping, no ADA parking stalls
DLP-2	SIGN 1 (Entry)	1	1	Sign is not marked, not visible from road
DLP-3	NATR 1 (General)	3		Open meadow area in good condition
DLP-4	PATH 1 (Natural)	2		Grass/mowed path, not ADA accessible, wide
DLP-5	STRCT 1 (Storm)	2	1	Gravel over culvert to drainage area, structure is in fair condition
DLP-6	NATR 2 (Lake)	3		Lake appeared to be clean, provides screening for nearby residences
DLP-7				
DLP-8				
DLP-9				
DLP-10				
DLP-11				
DLP-12				
DLP-13				
DLP-14				
DLP-15				
DLP-16				
DLP-17				
DLP-18				
DLP-19				
DLP-20				
DLP-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Install picnic areas.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
DP-1	PRK 1 (On-Street Parking)	2		On-street parking only, curb ramp allows access to park, no ADA spaces
DP-2	SFURN 1 (Lighting)	3		Light fixtures are in good condition, all fixtures match
DP-3	PATH 1 (Concrete)	2		Concrete is in fair condition, some areas are heaving and cracking
DP-4	SIGN 1 (Entry)	2	2	Sign is in fair condition, visible from the road, posts are heaving
DP-5	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Trees are in good condition, healthy, mature
DP-6	PLAY 1 (Playground)	2	2	Mulch has been displaced, there is no ADA access, swings do not appear to be compliant, Play Structure is in good condition
DP-7	SFURN 2 (Benches)	2	2	Benches are in fair condition, no ADA benches present
DP-8	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	2	2	Pavilions are in good condition, roofs need minor repairs, fence posts are missing in some places
DP-9	SFURN 3 (Table)	2	3	Tables are in good condition, no ADA tables present
DP-10	SFURN 4 (Trash)	2	2	Unsecured units, no recycling
DP-11	BATH 1 (Restrooms)	1	0	No restrooms present on site
DP-12	LSCP 1 (General)	3		Lawn is in good condition, trees provide adequate shade
DP-13	COURT 1 (General)	1	1	Asphalt is in poor condition, cracking, no striping or nets present
DP-14	SPRTFLD 1 (Softball)	1	1	Infield is in poor condition, outfield is not level, no dugouts, no fencing, bases are in poor condition
DP-15	SPRTFLD 2 (Softball)	1	1	Outfield is not level, no dugouts, no fencing, no infield, no bases
DP-16				
DP-17				
DP-18				
DP-19				
DP-20				
DP-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Conduct neighborhood plan, develop park plan, install playground equipment, and other passive recreational amenities.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
ECP-1	PRK 1 (Parking)	3	17	Asphalt pavement and striping are in good condition, ADA stalls are delineated (old symbol), curb stops are in good condition
ECP-2	SFURN 1 (Trash)	2	1	Unsecured units, no recycling
ECP-3	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	2		Asphalt is in fair condition, some cracks and heaving throughout, allows access to trail
ECP-4	PLAY 1 (Playground)	2	1	Play structure is in fair condition, rubber mulch is displaced in areas
ECP-5	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Several young trees are dead, most are in fair condition, young, does not provide shade
ECP-6	SFURN 2 (Bench)	2	5	Benches are in fair condition, all match, no ADA bench present
ECP-7	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	3	1	Pavilion is in good condition, very little noticeable wear
ECP-8	SFURN 3 (Table)	2	2	Tables are in good condition, no ADA table present
ECP-9	NATR 1 (General)	2		Small creek nearby, wooded area with trail, few mature trees present
ECP-10	COURT 1 (Basketball)	2	1	Pavement is in good condition, court is relatively level, paint is in good condition
ECP-11	SIGN 1 (Entry)	2	1	Sign is in fair condition, paint is fading, visible from road
ECP-12	STRCT 2 (Fencing)	2		Fencing is in good condition, some areas are damaged, beams have fallen over
ECP-13	STRCT 3 (Storm)	1	3	Piping has evident cracking & tears, causing heaving of pathway, not fully functioning
ECP-14	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Some trees are dead, lawns are in good condition, well maintained
ECP-15	BATH 1 (Restrooms)	1	0	No restrooms present
ECP-16	SFURN 4 (Bike Rack)	1	0	No bike racks present
ECP-17				
ECP-18				
ECP-19				
ECP-20				
ECP-21				

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**





**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
EP-1	PRK 1 (On-Street Parking)	2		On-Street parking only, curb cuts allow ADA access, no delineated ADA
EP-2	PATH 1 (Concrete)	3		Concrete sidewalk is in good condition, does not provide ADA access to site
EP-3	SFURN 1 (Benches)	2	2	Benches are in fair condition, all match, no ADA benches present
EP-4	SFURN 2 (Trash)	1	1	Unsecured unit, no recycling
EP-5	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Lawn is in good condition, trees are healthy
EP-6	STAIRS 1 (Stone)	2		Stairs are in fair condition, do not connect to anything
EP-7	LIGHT 1 (Lights)	2		Single light pole in center of park, fixture is in fair condition, does not appear to adequately light park
EP-8	SIGN 1 (Entry)	1	0	No sign present
EP-9	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Trees are healthy, mature, provide adequate shade
EP-10	STRCT 1 (Bike Rack)	1	0	No bike racks present
EP-11	BATH 1 (Restrooms)	1	0	No restrooms present
EP-12	SFURN 3 (Table)	1	0	No picnic tables present
EP-13				
EP-14				
EP-15				
EP-16				
EP-17				
EP-18				
EP-19				
EP-20				
EP-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Implement elements of a park-specific master plan.

Action Plans Completed?

Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
FP-1	PRK 1 (Parking)	1		No on-street parking, 2 stalls located off site at one end of the park, striping is in poor condition
FP-2	PATH 1 (Concrete)	3		Concrete is in good condition, path is wide,
FP-3	SFURN 1 (Lights)	3		Light fixtures are in good condition, all match, adequately sapced
FP-4	LSCP 1 (General)	3		Turf and trees are in good condition
FP-5	SIGN 1 (Entry)	1	1	Entrance sign on Harlem Road is in good condition, ornate, difficult to access site from that side unless walking or biking
FP-6	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Trees at edge of park are in good condition, trees along pathway are young, in fair condition, some deadwood
FP-7	SFURN 2 (Bench)	2	5	Benches are in good condition, no ADA bench present
FP-8	SFURN 3 (Trash)	2	2	Permanently secured fixtures, ornate, no recycling
FP-9	MEM 1 (Tree Plaque)	3		Securely attached at base of tree, good condition, legible
FP-10	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	3	1	Pavilion is in good condition, appears to be new, interior lighting in good condition
FP-11	SFURN 4 (Table)	1	0	No tables present
FP-12	ART 1 (Fountain)	2	1	Rock founain with bubbler, very low water flow
FP-13	SFURN 5 (Bike Rack)	1	0	No bike racks present
FP-14	SFURN 6 (Hotbox)	2	1	Functional, in good condition, not aesthetically pleasing
FP-15	LSCP 2 (Entrance Gardens)	1	2	Plants are in poor condition, many weeds, not well maintained
FP-16	STRCT 2 (Rock Wall)	3		Rock retaining wall is in good condition, located at entrance with ornate sign
FP-17	PATH 2 (Pavers)	3		Pavers are in good condition at entrance
FP-18	STRCT 3 (Storm)	2		Drains are in good condition, some standing water present at exit invert of pipe
FP-19	NATR 1 (General)	2		Woodland and meadow area are in fair condition, not a lot of space in the park
FP-20	STRCT 4 (Fence)	3		Wooden fence is in good condition, stable
FP-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Develop a parking area on the south side of Tonawanda Creek Road.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
FW-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	1		Gravel pull off area from Tonawanda Creek Road, poor site lines, no ADA access
FW-2	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	2		Part of the adjacent bike trail, does not connect to water front, asphalt is in good condition, connects to pavilion
FW-3	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	3		Pavilion is in good condition, ADA accessible
FW-4	SFURN 1 (Bench)	2	2	Benches are in fair condition, not ADA accessible
FW-5	SFURN 2 (Table)	2	2	Tables are in good condition, no ADA tables present, not all match
FW-6	SFURN 3 (Grill)	2	2	Grills are in fair condition, not ADA accessible
FW-7	NATR 1 (General)	3		Waterfront area, Tonawanda Creek is located to the north, trees are in good condition
FW-8	LSCP 1 (Lawn)	3		Lawn is in good condition, well maintained
FW-9	STRCT 2 (Storm)	1		Culvert empties onto walkway and into a swale, standing water present on the pathway
FW-10	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Trees are generally in good condition, a few are dead or have deadwood visible
FW-11				
FW-12				
FW-13				
FW-14				
FW-15				
FW-16				
FW-17				
FW-18				
FW-19				
FW-20				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Ownership (circle one): Client  Area   
 Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Install permanent washroom facilities. Y

Action Plan: Stripe the parking lot. N

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
GP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	2		Level, Asphalt is in good condition, curb stops are in poor condition, no ADA striping
GP-2	SIGN 1 (Information)	2		Legible, good condition
GP-3	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	2		Asphalt is in fair condition, heaving and cracking in spots, wide
GP-4	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	2	2	ADA accessible
GP-5	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	2	1	Paint is chipping, structure is in good condition, roof is in poor condition, dirty
GP-6	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Trees are mature, in good condition, generally healthy
GP-7	LSCP 1 (Turf)	2		Turf is in good condition, landscaping at buildings is in poor condition
GP-8	SFURN 1 (Trash)	1	4	Units are not secured, 1 recycling receptacle
GP-9	SFURN 2 (Benches/Tables)	1	0	No benches are tables present
GP-10	SPRTFLD 1 (Baseball)	2		Dugouts are ADA accessible, no warning track, fence is in fair condition, infield is under construction
GP-11	STRCT 2 (Batting Cage)	2		Fence is in poor condition, rusty, functional
GP-12	STRCT 3 (Dugouts 1)	2		Nails in roof, limited entrance area, minor vandalism, roof is in fair condition
GP-13	SFURN 3 (Bleachers 1)	2		Bleachers are in fair condition, no ADA units
GP-14	STRCT 4 (Concessions)	2		Structure is in good condition, accessible, paint is worn, no shade around
GP-15	ROAD 1 (Concessions)	1		Asphalt is in poor condition, no parking delineation
GP-16	SIGN 2 (Scoreboard)	2		Scoreboards are worn and faded, not highly visible
GP-17	SPRTFLD 2 (Baseball)	2		Fence is in poor condition (rusted), field is under construction, no warning track
GP-18	STRCT 5 (Dugouts 2)	1		Wood has rotted, structure is in poor condition, no bench
GP-19	SFURN 4 (Bleachers 2)	2		Mismatched, paint is fading, no ADA units
GP-20	ROAD 2 (Baseball)	2		Asphalt is wide, in good condition, no parking stalls, no shade
GP-21	STRCT 5 (Storm)	1		Storm structures are filled with debris

GP-22	STRCT 6 (Fence)	1		Storage area, filled with old fence & bleachers, no defined space
GP-23	LIGHT 1 (Lights)	2		Few in number, outdated style, do not adequately light park, poles are in fair condition
GP-24	STRCT 7 (Hotbox)	3		Unit is in good condition

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Great Baehre Conservation Area**  
 Address **1600 Youngs Road Buffalo, NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun. 20** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Develop trails linking conservation area to adjacent residential neighborhoods.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
GBCA-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	2		Parking from Billy Wilson Park, pull-off area at DEC sign on Hopkins Road
GBCA-2	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, wide, level, minimal cracking & heaving
GBCA-3	PATH 2 (Boardwalk)	2		Paint is fading, Boardwalk is in good condition, some railings are rotting
GBCA-4	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	2		No formal entry sign, signs at trailhead are in good condition
GBCA-5	SIGN 2 (Informational)	2		Laminated signs, good condition
GBCA-6	SFURN 1 (Bike Rack)	2		Bike rack is in good condition, not located appropriately
GBCA-7	SFURN 2 (Bench)	1	0	No benches present on site
GBCA-8	SFURN 3 (Trash)	2		Units are not secured, no recycling
GBCA-9	NATR 1 (Wetlands)	3		Ponds, wetlands, forested, numerous trees, all appear to be healthy
GBCA-10				
GBCA-11				
GBCA-12				
GBCA-13				
GBCA-14				
GBCA-15				
GBCA-16				
GBCA-17				
GBCA-18				
GBCA-19				
GBCA-20				
GBCA-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:





**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Examine site's potential use as a trailhead for the peanut line multi-use trail.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
GFDP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Lot)	2		Asphalt is in good condition, no striping, no ADA stalls
GFDP-2	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	2	1	Port-o-Jon, ADA Accessible
GFDP-3	PATH 1 (Grass)	1		No ADA access to fields
GFDP-4	SFURN 1 (Bleachers)	2		Bleachers are in good condition, not ADA accessible
GFDP-5	SFURN 2 (Dugout Benches)	2		Benches are in fair condition
GFDP-6	SPRTFLD 1 (SE Baseball)	3	1	Field & infield are in good condition, fence is in good condition, backstop is in good condition, no warning track
GFDP-7	SPRTFLD 2 (NE Practice)	2	1	Fence is in poor condition, no infield, turf is in good condition
GFDP-8	LSCP 1 (Lawn)	2		Turf is in good condition, level
GFDP-9	TREE 1 (Trees)	1	0	No trees present
GFDP-10	SIGN 1 (Information Sign)	2	1	No entrance sign present, informational sign is in good condition
GFDP-11	SFURN 3 (Trash)	2	2	Units are not secured, no recycling
GFDP-12	STRCT 1 (Fence)	2		Fence is in fair condition, some areas of rust
GFDP-13	TURF 1 (Lawn)	3		Turf is in good condition, level
GFDP-14	STRCT 2 (Storm)	1		Above grade, not functional
GFDP-15	PRK 2 (Gravel Area)	2		Gravel pull-off area, very small, level
GFDP-16				
GFDP-17				
GFDP-18				
GFDP-19				
GFDP-20				
GFDP-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:       GIS point   
 Ownership (circle one): Client      Area  Other:

Ambiance Score       Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation      2=Meets Expectations      1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Replace steep path from Main Street with steps.

**Action Plan:** Install proper signage at park entrances.

**Action Plan:** Repair/replace benches.

**Action Plan:** Repave pathways.

**Action Plan:** Consider developing public washroom facilities.

**Action Plan:** Install ornamental lighting.

Action Plans Completed?       Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
GLP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Lot)	2		Asphalt is in good condition, no striping, no ADA stalls, across the street from park,
GLP-2	SFURN 1 (Trash)	2	20+	Units are not secured, no recycling
GLP-3	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	3	2	Sign is visible, attractive, inconsistent with other park signs
GLP-4	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	2		Asphalt is in fair condition, heaving and cracking in spots, steep areas, not ADA accessible
GLP-5	NATR 1 (Forested Area)	3		Ponds, wildlife, ample forested area, waterfall & creek, visible & accessible
GLP-6	SFURN 2 (Bench)	2	15+	Not all benches match, benches are in fair condition, not all are ADA accessible
GLP-7	STRCT 1 (Bridge)	3	1	Structure is in good condition, functional
GLP-8	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Healthy, mature, provide adequate shade
GLP-9	MEM 1 (Tree)	2	2	Plaques are chipping, difficult to read, tree itself is healthy
GLP-10	LSCP 1 (Gardens)	2		Garden areas & plants are in fair condition, weeds are prevalent in some areas
GLP-11	STRCT 2 (Fence)	2		Functional, inconsistent aesthetic
GLP-12	STRCT 3 (Railing)	2		Functional, inconsistent aesthetic
GLP-13	SFURN 3 (Plaza)	3	1	Pavers are in good condition, surrounding landscaping is in good condition, good views
GLP-14	FACIL 1 (Storm)	3		Bioretention area, good aesthetic

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Harlem Road Community Center**  
 Address **4255 Harlem Road**

Inventory Date: **Jun. 19**      GIS point       Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client      Other:

Ambiance Score       Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation      2=Meets Expectations      1=Below Expectations

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
HRCC-1	SIGN 1 (Entry)	3	2	Sign is in good condition, visible from road
HRCC-2	PRK 1 (Parking)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, striping is in good condition, painted Handicap Symbol is the new logo, signs are the old logo
HRCC-3	STRCT 1 (Fence)	1		Chain link fence is warped, bowing in places, wood fence is being propped up, not functional
HRCC-4	LSCP 1 (General)	3		Trees and lawn are in good condition
HRCC-5	PATH 1 (Concrete)	2		Does not allow for ADA access to pavilion, concrete is in fair condition, some minor cracking
HRCC-6	STRCT 2 (Storm)	2	2	Structures are in fair condition, some debris accumulation
HRCC-7	STRCT 3 (Pavilion)	2	1	Pavilion structure is in fair condition, paint is chipping, lighting is in good condition
HRCC-8	SFURN 1 (Table)	2	12	Tables are in good condition, no ADA table present
HRCC-9	STRCT 4 (Main Building)	2		Building is in fair condition, roof appears to need repairs and is dirty
HRCC-10	SFURN 2 (Trash)	2	2	Unsecured units, no recycling
HRCC-11	SFURN 3 (Bench)	2	6	Benches are warping, not on level surfacing, paint is chipping
HRCC-12	PLAY 1 (5-12 Playground)	2	1	No ADA access, mulch is displaced, play structures are in fair condition, no signage
HRCC-13	PLAY 2 (3-5 Playground)	2	1	No ADA access, mulch is displaced, play structures are in fair condition, no signage
HRCC-14	SFURN 4 (Water Fountain)	2	1	Water fountain is functional, in good condition, no ADA access
HRCC-15	FLAG 1 (Flag)	3	1	Flag and flag pole are in good condition, visible from road
HRCC-16	SFURN 5 (Bike Rack)	1	0	No bike racks present
HRCC-17				
HRCC-18				
HRCC-19				
HRCC-20				
HRCC-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Explore potential acquisition of Jurek Post for future recreational uses.

**Action Plan:** Paint the play equipment and shelter

**Action Plan:** Install Picnic tables

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
JP-1	PRK 1 (Gravel Area)	1		Gravel pull-off area is in poor condition, not well located
JP-2	SFURN 1 (Benches)	1	0	No benches present on site
JP-3	SFURN 2 (Tables)	1	0	No picnic tables present on site
JP-4	SPRTFLD 1 (NW Softball)	1	1	No dugouts, 1 foul line fence, infield is not mown, backstop is rusted, bleachers are outdated, benches are in poor condition
JP-5	SPRTFLD 2 (NE Softball)	2	1	No infield mix, benches are in poor condition, no bleachers, backstop is rusted, bases are in fair condition, foul line fence is fair
JP-6	SPRTFLD 3 (SE Softball)	2	1	Infield is in good condition, benches are in poor condition, backstop is rusted, bases are in fair condition, foul fence is good
JP-7	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	3	1	Entrance sign is in good condition, legible
JP-8	LSCP (General)	2		Turf is well maintained, very few trees
JP-9	STRCT 1 (Small Pavilion)	1	1	Structure is in poor condition, rusted, appeared to be unstable
JP-10	PLAY 1 (Swings)	1	1	Structure is in poor condition, rusted, appeared to be unstable
JP-11	PLAY 2 (Slide)	1	1	Structure is in poor condition, rusted, appeared to be unstable
JP-12	STRCT 2 (Large Pavilion)	3		Structure is in good condition
JP-13	TURF (Playing Field)	3		Ample space, level, grass is in good condition, well maintained
JP-14	SFURN 3 (Trash)	2	1	Units are not secured, no recycling
JP-15				
JP-16				
JP-17				
JP-18				
JP-19				

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Replace the baseball backstop.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
KP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	2		Asphalt is in good condition, no ADA stalls
KP-2	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	2	1	Port-o-Jon, ADA Accessible
KP-3	LSCP 1 (General)	3		Turf is in good condition, trees are mature and healthy
KP-4	PLAY 1 (Playground)	2	1	No ADA access from lots, structures are in fair condition, mulch is uneven
KP-5	SFURN 1 (Benches)	2	3	Benches are in good condition, no ADA access
KP-6	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	3	1	Sign is in good condition, legible, not level
KP-7	SFURN 2 (Trash)	2	1	Units are not secured, 1 recycling bin on site
KP-8	PRK 2 (Street)	2		Roundabout at entrance sign, no ADA or striping
KP-9	SPRTFLD 1 (Little League Baseball)	2		Fence is in good condition, infield is in good condition, dugouts are good but uncovered, no foul fence
KP-10	SFURN 3 (Bleachers)	2		Bleachers are in fair condition, no ADA access
KP-11	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Trees are healthy and mature
KP-12	STRCT 1 (Fence)	2		Fence is in fair condition, some areas are rusted & in disrepair
KP-13	PLAY 2 (Swings)	2	2	Swing set chains are rusted, no ADA access
KP-14	PATH 1 (Concrete)	2		From residential areas, access to playground is not level
KP-15	STRCT 2 (Water Fountain)	2	1	Fountain is constantly running, area around it is heaving, older model
KP-16	LIGHT 1 (Lighting)	1	0	No site lighting present
KP-17	STRCT 3 (Pitching/Batting)	1	0	No pitching or batting cage area present
KP-18	SFURN 4 (Tables)	1	0	No picnic tables present
KP-19	SFURN 5 (Bike Rack)	1	0	No bike rack present
KP-20				
KP-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:





**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
LGP-1	PRK 1 (Smith Road Lot)	2		Gravel Lot, no striping, ADA signs in place, not ADA compliant, gravel is uneven in places
LGP-2	PRK 2 (Dann Road Lot)	2		Mix of gravel and asphalt area, ADA stalls & striping, old symbol is in place
LGP-3	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, ADA accessible
LGP-4	BATH 1 (Port-o-Jon)	2		Port-o-Jons, some are ADA Accessible
LGP-5	SPRTFLD 1 (Baseball - 325')	3	1	Markings, dugouts (roofed), infield, outfield, bases, netting, backstop are good, fence is rusted, no lights, no warning track
LGP-6	SPRTFLD 2 (Baseball) - 275')	3	1	Markings, fence, dugouts (roof), infield, outfield, bases, netting, backstop are good, no lights or warning track
LGP-7	SPRTFLD 3 (Softball - 200')	3	1	Dugouts (cover), infield, outfield, bases, scoreboard, lights are good, fence/backstop are rusted, no nets, markings or warning track
LGP-8	SPRTFLD 4 (Softball - 200')	2	1	Infield, outfield, dugouts (cover), markings, bases are good, fence/backstop are rusted, no lights or warning track, scoreboard faded
LGP-9	SPRTFLD 5 (Baseball - 215')	2	1	Infield, outfield, dugouts (cover), markings, bases, backstop are good, fencing is fair, no lights, nets, scoreboard panel, or warn.track
LGP-10	SPRTFLD 6 (Softball - 130')	3	1	Infield, outfield, fencing, dugouts (cover), markings, bases, nets, backstop are good, no lights, scoreboard or warning track
LGP-11	SPRTFLD 7 (Baseball - 190')	3	1	Infield, outfield, fence, dugouts (cover), markings, bases, backstop are good, no lights, scoreboard, nets, or warning track
LGP-12	SPRTFLD 8 (Baseball - 215')	3	1	Infield, outfield, dugouts (roof), lights, markings, scoreboard, bases, nets, backstop are good, fence is rusted, no warning track
LGP-13	SPRTFLD 9 (Softball - 220')	2	1	Infield, outfield, dugouts (cover), markings, scoreboard, bases are good, fence is fair, no lights, nets, warning track, backstop is poor
LGP-14	SPRTFLD 10 (Baseball - 375')	2	1	Infield, outfield, markings, scoreboard, bases, backstop are good, fence and dugouts are poor, no lights, nets, or warning track
LGP-15	SPRTFLD 11 (Baseball - 105')	2	1	Infield, fence, dugouts, bases are good, outfield is poor, markings are fading, no lights, scoreboard, nets, or warning track
LGP-16	STRCT 1 (Concessions)	2	1	Building is in good condition, paving beneath is sloped & cracked, signs are faded & dirty
LGP-17	BATH 2 (Structure)	2	2	Not ADA accessible, structure is in good condition
LGP-18	STRCT 2 (Batting Cage)	3	3	Fencing & furnishings are in good condition, not ADA accessible
LGP-19	STRCT 3 (Culvert Bridge)	3		Culvert and concrete are in good condition
LGP-20	SFURN 1 (Trash)	2	20+	Units are unsecured, trash & recycling present
LGP-21	SFURN 2 (Bleachers)	2	20+	Bleachers are in good condition, not all are ADA accessible, no ADA units
LGP-22	LSCP 1 (Gardens)	3		Functional, well maintained, mulched
LGP-23	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Mature trees are healthy, provide shade, some young trees are dead or in poor shape

LGP-24	NATR 1 (General)	3		Surrounding woods are in good condition
LGP-25	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	3		Sign is in good condition, legible
LGP-26	SIGN 2 (Informational)	3		Sign is in good condition, legible, good information
LGP-27	STRCT 4 (Storm Drain)	1		Catch Basins are above grade, not functional, in poor condition
LGP-28	FLAG 1 (Main Flag)	3		Flag pole & flag are in good condition
LGP-29	SFURN 3 (Tables)	2		Not all tables match, most are ADA accessible, no ADA units
LGP-30	MEM 1 (Bench)	2		Bench is in good condition, surfacing is uneven, not ADA accessible, gravel is uneven
LGP-31	MEM 2 (Stones)	3		Memorial plaque is in good condition, legible
LGP-32	STRCT 5 (Irrigation)	2		Functional, appears to only be for main field
LGP-33	STRCT 6 (Maintenance Shed)	3	2	Structures are in good condition, paint is in good condition
LGP-34	STRCT 7 (Small Concessions)	3	1	Structure is in good condition, ADA accessible
LGP-35	STRCT 8 (Practice Pitching Area)	3		Pitching area is in good condition

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **North Amherst Fire Company**  
 Address **2200 Tonawanda Creek Road Buffalo, NY 14228**

Inventory Date: **Jun. 21** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Transfer the ownership of 7 + acres to the North Amherst Fire District.

**Action Plan:** Install picnic tables.

**Action Plan:** Resurface the basketball court.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
NAFC-1	PRK 1 (Asphalt)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, striping is good, ADA access
NAFC-2	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	1		Lettering on building, no actual sign
NAFC-3	SPRTFLD 1 (Softball)	2	1	Infield is slightly overgrown, bases and backstop are good, outfield fence is good, no dugout fencing, dugout benches are worn
NAFC-4	STRCT 1 (FireHall)	3	1	Building is in good condition, clean
NAFC-5	COURT 1 (Basketball)	1	1	Asphalt is cracked and heaving, posts and nets are rusted, no ADA access
NAFC-6	LSCP 1 (Field)	3		Turf is in good condition, well maintained
NAFC-7	STRCT 2 (Pavilion)	1	1	No ADA access, structure is rusted and in poor condition, no concrete pad
NAFC-8	SFURN 1 (Bleachers)	1		Bleachers are in poor condition, worn, warped, paint is chipping
NAFC-9	SFURN 2 (Tables)	2	1	Tables are in fair condition, no ADA tables
NAFC-10	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	2	1	Port-o-Jon, ADA accessible
NAFC-11	PRK 2 (Gravel)	2		Connects to parking lot with ADA access
NAFC-12	PLAY 1 (Swing & Slide)	1		Structures are rusted and in poor condition, no safety surfacing is present, safety hazards
NAFC-13	MEM 1 (Bench)	2	1	Bench is in good condition, no ADA access
NAFC-14	PATH 1 (Concrete)	3		Sidewalk is in good condition
NAFC-15	LSCP 2 (Garden)	2	1	Plants are healthy and in good condition, no mulch, weeds are present
NAFC-16				
NAFC-17				
NAFC-18				

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **North Amherst Recreation Area/Center**  
 Address **4415 Millersport Hwy East Amherst, NY 14051**

Inventory Date: **Jun. 21** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client  Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Develop a maintenance garage to serve Northeast Amherst if the facilities are expanded.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
NARC-1	STRCT 1 (Maintenance Garage)	2	3	Structures are in fair condition, paint is fading
NARC-2	LIGHT 1 (Lights)	2		Lights are in fair condition, functional, outdated
NARC-3	PRK 1 (Parking Lot)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, ADA stalls & striping, old HC logo in place, curbs are damaged in areas
NARC-4	STRCT 2 (Recreation Department)	2		Building is in fair condition, appeared dirty, paint is fading
NARC-5	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	U		Bathrooms are located inside building
NARC-6	FLAG 1 (Flag)	3		Flagpoles & flags are in good condition
NARC-7	PATH 1 (Concrete)	2		Concrete is in good condition, separating from curb in places
NARC-8	LSCP 1 (Gardens)	2		Shrubs are untrimmed, messy
NARC-9	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	2		Sign is in good condition, paint is fading
NARC-10	STRCT 3 (Recreation Center)	2		Building is in fair condition, dirty, paint is fading, poor ADA accessibility
NARC-11	NATR 1 (Stormwater)	2		Wetlands & storm detention areas are in fair condition
NARC-12	STRCT 4 (Fencing)	2		Fence around utilities is rusted, overgrown, functional
NARC-13	SFURN 1 (Benches)	1	4	Wooden benches are rotting, in poor condition, paint is fading and peeling
NARC-14				
NARC-15				
NARC-16				
NARC-17				
NARC-18				
NARC-19				
NARC-20				
NARC-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

**Facility Name**   
**Address**

**Inventory Date:**  **GIS point**   
**Ownership (circle one):** Client  Other:

**Ambiance Score**  **Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations**

**Action Plans Completed?**  **Comments:**

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
NFP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Lot)	2		Asphalt is in fair condition, parking is ample, curb stops and signage are dislocated
NFP-2	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	3	1	Structure is in good condition
NFP-3	STRCT 2 (Retaining Wall)	2	2	Retaining wall is uneven in places, cap stones are falling off, concrete is chipping
NFP-4	STRCT 3 (Horseshoes)	2	3	Pits are functional, wooden backstop is outdated and paint is fading
NFP-5	SFURN 1 (Tables)	2		Picnic tables are in fair condition, paint is fading, not ADA units
NFP-6	LSCP 1 (Gardens)	1		Gardens in front of pool house are weedy, not maintained
NFP-7	POOL 1 (Swimming Pool)	3		Pool water appeared clean, well maintained, concrete around pool is in good condition
NFP-8	STRCT 4 (Fencing)	2		Fence is functional, overgrown
NFP-9	COURT 1 (Tennis)	2	3	Not ADA accessible, fence is overgrown with weeds, surface is in good condition
NFP-10	PLAY 1 (Structures)	1		Equipment is rusted, not ADA compliant
NFP-11	PLAY 2 (Swings)	2		Equipment is rusted, surfacing was in fair condition
NFP-12	LIGHT 1 (Lights)	1		Limited site lighting, fixtures are rusted, only at parking lot
NFP-13	PATH 1 (Concrete)	1		Concrete is heaving and cracking in places, in poor condition, overgrown
NFP-14	LSCP 2 (Overall)	2		Lawn areas are well maintained
NFP-15	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Trees are in good condition, some in need of pruning
NFP-16	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	U		Bathrooms located in pool house
NFP-17	SFURN 2 (Trash)	2		Units are not secured, no recycling
NFP-18	PATH 2 (Asphalt)	2		Asphalt is in fair condition, not all ADA accessible
NFP-19	SFURN 3 (Benches)	2	8	Benches are in fair condition, not all match, not all are ADA accessible
NFP-20	STRCT 5 (Pool Retaining Wall)	2		Concrete is in fair condition, heavy chipping at corners
NFP-21	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	3	1	Sign is in good condition, highly visible
NFP-22	SFURN 4 (Bike Rack)	1	1	Bike rack is in poor condition, rusted
NFP-23	STRCT 6 (Pool House)	3		Building is in good condition, clean

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

**Facility Name**   
**Address**

**Inventory Date:**  **GIS point**   
**Ownership (circle one):** Client  Other:

**Ambiance Score**  **Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations**

**Action Plan:** Facilitate development of a central building with a shelter, permanent washrooms, and concession stand. N

**Action Plan:** Install lighting on two soccer fields; develop two mini fields and one more full size field. N

**Action Plan:** Plant shade trees annually. N

**Action Plans Completed?**  **Comments:**

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
NFSC-1	PRK 1 (Parking Lot)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, ample amount of stalls, ADA markings, ADA signs use old logo
NFSC-2	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	2		Entrance sign is in fair condition, visible, paint is fading
NFSC-3	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	2		Port-o-Jons, identified men & women
NFSC-4	SIGN 2 (at Parking Area)	3		Informative, sign is in good condition, nice landscaped garden surrounding
NFSC-5	SIGN 3 (Information)	3		Informative, shows layout of fields, sign is in good condition
NFSC-6	SFURN 1 (Benches)	2	5+	Benches are in good condition, all match, no ADA access
NFSC-7	SFURN 2 (Trash)	2	5+	Units are not secured, no recycling
NFSC-8	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Garden at sign is in good condition, not many trees
NFSC-9	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	2		Path is ADA accessible, Asphalt is in good condition, does not allow access to individual fields
NFSC-10	SFURN 3 (Bleachers)	2	3	Bleachers are rusted, not ADA access
NFSC-11	SPRTFLD 1 (Soccer- Std)	3	1	Nets and goals are in good condition, turf is level and in good condition, benches are in good condition, fields markings are present
NFSC-12	SPRTFLD 2 (Soccer- Std)	3	1	Nets and goals are in good condition, turf is level and in good condition, benches are in good condition, fields markings are present
NFSC-13	SPRTFLD 3 (Soccer- Std)	3	1	Nets and goals are in good condition, turf is level and in good condition, benches are in good condition, fields markings are present
NFSC-14	SPRTFLD 4 (Soccer- Std)	3	1	Nets and goals are in good condition, turf is level and in good condition, benches are in good condition, fields markings are present
NFSC-15	SPRTFLD 5 (Soccer- Std)	3	1	Nets and goals are in good condition, turf is level and in good condition, benches are in good condition, fields markings are present
NFSC-16	SPRTFLD 6 (Soccer- Small)	3	1	Junior sized field, nets and goals are in good condition, turf is level and in good condition, field markings are present, benches good
NFSC-17	SPRTFLD 7 (Soccer- Small)	3	1	Junior sized field, nets and goals are in good condition, turf is level and in good condition, field markings are present, benches good
NFSC-18	SPRTFLD 8 (Soccer- Small)	3	1	Junior sized field, nets and goals are in good condition, turf is level and in good condition, field markings are present, benches good
NFSC-19	STRCT 1 (Water Fountain)	1	1	No ADA access, was not functional
NFSC-20	STRCT 2 (Storm Culvert)	3		Drainage ditch & culvert are in good condition

NFSC-21	NATR 1 (General)	3		Forested area behind fields are in good condition
NFSC-22	ROAD 1 (Access Road)	2		Gravel maintenance road, gravel is uneven, many weeds in gravel
NFSC-23	STRCT 3 (Practice Board)	2		Wood is warped & worn, paint is peeling

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Prepare master plan for this significant natural area.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
NVP-1	NATR 1 (General)	2		Natural area appeared to be in good condition, no clear access point to enter
NVP-2	PRK 1 (Parking)	1		No designated parking areas
NVP-3				
NVP-4				
NVP-5				
NVP-6				
NVP-7				
NVP-8				
NVP-9				
NVP-10				
NVP-11				
NVP-12				
NVP-13				
NVP-14				
NVP-15				
NVP-16				
NVP-17				
NVP-18				
NVP-19				
NVP-20				
NVP-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Expand Oakwood Golf course into the Conservation area to develop an 18-hole course.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
OCA-1	NATR 1 (General)			Area appeared to have converted into Golf Course
OCA-2				
OCA-3				
OCA-4				
OCA-5				
OCA-6				
OCA-7				
OCA-8				
OCA-9				
OCA-10				
OCA-11				
OCA-12				
OCA-13				
OCA-14				
OCA-15				
OCA-16				
OCA-17				
OCA-18				
OCA-19				
OCA-20				
OCA-21				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
PFP-1	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Flat lawn area, located behind car dealership
PFP-2	PRK 1 (Parking)	1		No defined parking areas or park entrance, did not appear to be accessible
PFP-3				
PFP-4				
PFP-5				
PFP-6				
PFP-7				
PFP-8				
PFP-9				
PFP-10				
PFP-11				
PFP-12				
PFP-13				
PFP-14				
PFP-15				
PFP-16				
PFP-17				
PFP-18				
PFP-19				
PFP-20				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Work with the Amherst Soccer Association to develop additional soccer fields at this site. Y

**Action Plan:** Pave and expand the parking lot. Y

**Action Plan:** Develop two tennis courts and one basketball court. Y

**Action Plan:** Develop an internal trail system and evaluate potential linkages to future on and off road bikeways. N

**Action Plan:** Install proper signs at park entrances. N

**Action Plan:** Regrade the existing kickball diamond. N

**Action Plan:** Facilitate development of a central building with a shelter, permanent washrooms, and a concession stand. N

Action Plans Completed?

Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
PP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, striping is in good condition, some damage to adjacent lawn
PP-2	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	1	1	Posts in place for sign, actual sign is missing
PP-3	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, level, ADA accessible
PP-4	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Most trees are healthy, trees around parking area are dead
PP-5	STRCT 1 (Pavilion)	2	1	Structure is in fair condition, paint is worn, ADA accessible
PP-6	SFURN 1 (Benches)	2		Benches are in fair condition, town standard benches
PP-7	SFURN 2 (Tables)	2		Tables re in good condition, not ADA accessible
PP-8	COURT 1 (Basketball)	3		Nets and posts are in good condition, paving is in good condition, not striped
PP-9	SPRTFLD 1 (Softball)	2	1	Backstop is in good condition, no bases, appeared to be a practice field
PP-10	SPRTFLD 2 (Soccer)	3	1	Lawn is in good condition, nets and goals are in good condition, field is striped, not ADA accessible, team bench is in good condition
PP-11	SPRTFLD 3 (Soccer)	3	1	Lawn is in good condition, nets and goals are in good condition, field is striped, not ADA accessible, team bench is in good condition
PP-12	SPRTFLD 4 (Soccer)	3	1	Lawn is in good condition, nets and goals are in good condition, field is striped, not ADA accessible, team bench is in good condition
PP-13	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	2	2	Port-o-Jon, ADA accessible
PP-14	SFURN 3 (Trash)	2		Units are unsecured
PP-15	PLAY (Playground)	1		Playground destroyed by fire



**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
SF-1	SPRTFLD 1 (Softball)	1	1	No bases, small size, fencing is in poor condition and rusted
SF-2	SPRTFLD 2 (Baseball)	2	1	No warning track, infield is in poor condition, no bases, no dugout, outfield fence is in fair condition
SF-3	SFURN 1 (Bleachers)	2		Bleachers are in fair condition, no ADA bleachers present
SF-4	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Very few trees for shade, lawn areas are in fair condition
SF-5				
SF-6				
SF-7				
SF-8				
SF-9				
SF-10				
SF-11				
SF-12				
SF-13				
SF-14				
SF-15				
SF-16				
SF-17				
SF-18				
SF-19				
SF-20				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
SP-1	PRK 1 (Street)	1		Only on-street parking available, no ADA stalls
SP-2	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	1	0	No entrance sign present
SP-3	PATH 1 (Stone Dust)	2		Trail system located on site, stone dust is displaced in areas
SP-4	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Lawns are unmaintained, meadow areas are in good condition
SP-5	SFURN (Trash)	3	3	Labeled, units are secured & permanent, units are in good condition
SP-6	SFURN (Bench)	1	2	Concrete pads are installed for a bench, but no benches are present
SP-7	TRAIL 1 (Walking Path)	2		Trail is in good condition, easy walk, level surface, no signage, appeared to be some community/neighborhood connections
SP-8	NATR 1 (General)	2		Surrounding forest is in fair condition, numerous invasives present
SP-9	MEM 1 (Tree)	2	2	Not highly visible, plaques and trees are in good condition
SP-10				
SP-11				
SP-12				
SP-13				
SP-14				
SP-15				
SP-16				
SP-17				
SP-18				
SP-19				
SP-20				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Ownership (circle one): Client  Area   
 Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Install proper signage at park entrances (mandated by NYS grant requirements)

**Action Plan:** Extend the park entrance closer to the Amehrst Center for Senior Services.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
WWP-1	PRK 1 (Parking Area)	2		Asphalt is in good condition, shared parking with Adult Day Center, not clear how to get to park
WWP-2	SFURN 1 (Benches - At Senior Center)	3	4+	Benches are in good condition, limited ADA access
WWP-3	FISH 1 (Fishing Area)	2		Fishing area near Adult Day Center
WWP-4	PATH 1 (Asphalt - Lake Path)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, multi-use, wide, goes around pond
WWP-5	NATR 1 (General)	3		Pond & woodland areas are in good condition, scenic
WWP-6	SIGN 1 (Directional)	2		Directional signage, signs are in fair condition
WWP-7	PRK 2 (Parking Area at Little Robin Rd.)	2		No ADA access, no striping, no ADA markings
WWP-8	SFURN 2 (Benches - In Park)	2	5+	No ADA access from path
WWP-9	STRCT 1 (Pavilion at Little Robin Rd.)	3	1	Structure is in good condition, minor graffiti
WWP-10	NATR 1 (Lawns)	3		Turf is in good condition
WWP-11	PATH 1 (Asphalt - Lawn Area)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, wide
WWP-12	TREE 1 (Trees)	3		Forest Trees are mature and in good condition, small trees around ponds are in good condition
WWP-13	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Gardens are not weeded, sparse
WWP-14	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	1		No bathrooms present on site
WWP-15	SFURN 3 (Trash)	1	1	Unit is not secured, only 1 unit present
WWP-16				
WWP-17				
WWP-18				
WWP-19				
WWP-20				

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**



**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **Wehrle FAA Recreation Area**  
 Address **1995 Wehrle Drive Buffalo, NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun. 19** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Expand the parking lot. Y

Action Plan: Install an irrigation system. Unknown

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
WFRA-1	PRK 1 (Parking Lot)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, ADA stalls are clearly marked, signs & markings use old ADA logo
WFRA-2	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	2		Asphalt is in good condition, wide, does not allow access to bleachers
WFRA-3	SPRTFLD 1 (Baseball)	3	1	Infield, outfield, dugouts (cover), fence are in good condition, backstop is fair, bleachers are not ADA accessible
WFRA-4	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Trees are in fair condition, some have die-off
WFRA-5	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	2		Sign is in fair condition, does not match other park signs, difficult to read
WFRA-6	SFURN 1 (Benches)	2	4	Wood benches are in fair condition, some are ADA accessible
WFRA-7	SFURN 2 (Tables)	2	6	Located under pavilion, tables are in good condition, no ADA units
WFRA-8	STRCT 1 (Batting Cage)	2	1	Batting cage is in fair condition
WFRA-9	STRCT 2 (Fence)	3		Fence is in good condition, functional, minimal rust
WFRA-10	STRCT 3 (Concessions)	2		Building is in good condition, provides good shade, water spigot is leaky
WFRA-11	SFURN 3 (Trash)	2	5	Units are not secured
WFRA-12	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	U	1	ADA accessible, located in concessions building
WFRA-13	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Gravel in lawn/tree areas, flower beds are small, gardens are in fair condition
WFRA-14	STRCT 4 (Pavilion)	2		Structure is in fair condition, siding is warped, interior wood paint is fading & peeling
WFRA-15	LIGHT 1 (Sports Lighting)	2		Field lights are in fair condition, no path lighting, not all match
WFRA-16	SPRTFLD 2 (Baseball)	3	1	Infield, outfield, dugouts (cover), fence are in good condition, backstop is fair, bleachers are not ADA accessible
WFRA-17	SFURN 4 (Trash - Recycling)	2	1	Unit is unsecured
WFRA-18	SPRTFLD 3 (Baseball)	2		Infield, outfield, dugouts (cover) are in good condition, fence is bowing, backstop is fair, benches are not ADA accessible
WFRA-19	STRCT 5 (Water Fountain)	2		Fountain is functional, flow rate is too high (overshoots the bowl)
WFRA-20	STRCT 6 (Pavilion)	2		Pavilion is in fair condition, dirty, no ADA access
WFRA-21	MEM 1 (Memorial Plaque)	2		Plaque located at pavilion, memorial is in fair condition

WFRA-22	SPRTFLD 4 (Baseball)	2	1	Infield, outfield, dugouts (cover), fence are in good condition, backstop is fair, bleachers are not ADA accessible
WFRA-23	SPRTFLD 5 (Softball)	2		No ADA access, dugout roof paint is fading, appeared to be a practice field (limited infield mix, fencing, etc.)
WFRA-24	STRCT 7 (Maintenance Building)	2		Structure is in fair condition
WFRA-25	STRCT 8 (Score Board)	2	4	Scoreboards are older models, unsure if they are working

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
WRP-1	PRK 1 (Asphalt)	2		Asphalt is in good condition, no ADA markings or signs, no pavement markings
WRP-2	SFURN 1 (Benches)	2	5	Benches are in good condition, paint is peeling, not ADA accessible
WRP-3	SFURN 2 (Tables)	2	1	Not ADA accessible, table is in fair condition
WRP-4	SFURN 3 (Bike Rack)	1	1	Bike rack is outdated, difficult to support modern bikes
WRP-5	PLAY 1 (Small Child Area)	2	1	Platforms are rusted, structure is in fair condition overall, not ADA accessible
WRP-6	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	1	0	No entrance sign present on site
WRP-7	PLAY 2 (Large Child Area & Swings)	1	1	Not ADA accessible, swings are in good condition, graffiti, rusted
WRP-8	FLAG 1 (Flags)	2	1	Flag pole is in good condition, no flag present
WRP-9	PATH 1 (Concrete)	3		Concrete is in good condition, connects to facilities, ADA accessible
WRP-10	SFURN 4 (Water Fountain)	3		Functional, ADA accessible
WRP-11	STRCT 1 (Fence)	2		Fence is in fair condition, some areas are collapsed & rusted
WRP-12	LSCP 1 (General)	2		Turf is in good condition, no garden areas present on site
WRP-13	NATR 1 (General)	3		Natural areas are in good condition, vegetation appeared to be healthy
WRP-14	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Trees are in good condition, provide adequate shade
WRP-15	COURT 1 (Tennis)	3	4	Surfacing is in good condition, fence is good, ADA accessible, striping is in good condition, pickleball striping provided as well
WRP-16	SFURN 5 (Bleachers)	1		Bleachers are in poor condition, paint is chipping, structure is falling apart
WRP-17	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	2		Port-o-Jons, ADA accessible
WRP-18	SFURN 6 (Trash)	2		Units are not secured, no recycling
WRP-19	MEM 1 (Tree Plaque)	3	1	Tree is healthy, plaque is clean and legible
WRP-20	STRCT 2 (Fence at School)	2		Posts are heaving from ground, fence is in fair condition
WRP-21	STRCT 3 (Storm)	1		Concrete around rim has heaved above grade, no functional
WRP-22	STRCT 4 (Culvert)	2		Plastic pipe has ruptured, still functional, located in the middle of field, safety hazard
WRP-23	STRCT 5 (Cleanout)	1		Cleanout at playground is broken, not functional



**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name **West Royal Parkway Recreation Area**  
 Address **187 West Royal Parkway Buffalo, NY 14221**

Inventory Date: **Jun. 19** GIS point  Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

**Action Plan:** Undertake minor repairs to the baseball backstop.

**Action Plan:** Install swings.

**Action Plans Completed?**

**Comments:**

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
WRRRA-1	PRK 1 (Parking Lot)	2		Asphalt is in good condition, no striping, no ADA markings
WRRRA-2	BATH 1 (Bathrooms)	2	1	Port-o-Jon, ADA accessible
WRRRA-3	SPRTFLD 1 (Baseball #4)	1		Fencing is rusted, no infield, backstop is overgrown, no bases, no ADA access
WRRRA-4	STRCT 1 (Baseball Dugout #4)	1		Benches are worn, fencing is rusted, no roof or cover
WRRRA-5	SPRTFLD 2 (Baseball #2)	1		Fencing is rusted, no infield, backstop is in fair condition, bases are present, no ADA access
WRRRA-6	STRCT 2 (Baseball Dugout #2)	1	2	Benches are worn, fencing is rusted, no roof or cover
WRRRA-7	SFURN 1 (Trash)	2	2	Trashcan is unsecured, dumpster is in fair condition
WRRRA-8	COURT 1 (Basketball)	2	1	Asphalt is in good condition, striping is worn, topcoat is wearing, nets are in poor condition
WRRRA-9	COURT 2 (Tennis)	1	2	Fence is rusted, court surfacing has weeds, color is faded, nets & posts are in poor condition
WRRRA-10	PLAY 1 (Playground)	1	1	Equipment is rusted, footings are exposed, mulch is displaced, ADA access appears to be under construction
WRRRA-11	SFURN 2 (Bleachers)	1		Bleachers are in poor condition, rusted, worn, not ADA accessible
WRRRA-12	TREE 1 (Trees)	2		Trees are in fair condition, healthy, sparsely placed
WRRRA-13	SIGN 1 (Entrance)	2	1	Sign is in fair condition, dirty, small
WRRRA-14	LSCP 1 (General)	3		Lawn is maintained, in good condition
WRRRA-15	STRCT 3 (Maintenance Building)	2	1	Structure is in fair condition, graffiti
WRRRA-16	STRCT 4 (Fence)	2		Fence is rusted, overgrown, functional
WRRRA-17	SPRTFLD 3 (Baseball #3)	1		Fencing is rusted, no infield, backstop is overgrown, no bases, no ADA access
WRRRA-18	STRCT 5 (Baseball Dugout #3)	1		Benches are worn, fencing is rusted, no roof or cover
WRRRA-19	SPRTFLD 4 (Baseball #1)	1		Fencing is in fair condition, no ADA access, foul line fence is in good condition, infield is poor, bases are in fair condition
WRRRA-20	STRCT 6 (Baseball Dugout #1)	2		Benches are in fair condition, no cover, paved floor is in good condition, no ADA access
WRRRA-21	LIGHT 1 (General)	1	1	No sports field lighting, 1 light near play area, pole is crooked

WRRRA-22	SFURN 3 (Benches)	2		Benches are in fair condition, not ADA accessible
WRRRA-23	PATH 1 (Asphalt)	3		Asphalt is in good condition, limited length, connects to playground
WRRRA-24	SFURN 4 (Water Fountain)	1	1	Fountain is in poor condition, ADA accessible, rusted, water is discolored

**Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:**

**Town of Amherst Parks Facilities Inventory**

Facility Name   
 Address

Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Area   
 Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan: Install creative playground equipment.  
 Action Plan: Remove debris from the property.  
 Action Plan: Develop trails along road frontage and the stream located along the southern property line.

Action Plans Completed?  Comments:

**Facility Component**

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
WW-1	PRK 1 (Parking)	1		No parking area appeared to be present; greenspace was not accessible
WW-2	PATH 1 (General)	1		No access to the site was found; appeared to be undeveloped and adjacent to a busy intersection
WW-3				
WW-4				
WW-5				
WW-6				
WW-7				
WW-8				
WW-9				
WW-10				
WW-11				
WW-12				
WW-13				
WW-14				
WW-15				
WW-16				
WW-17				
WW-18				

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

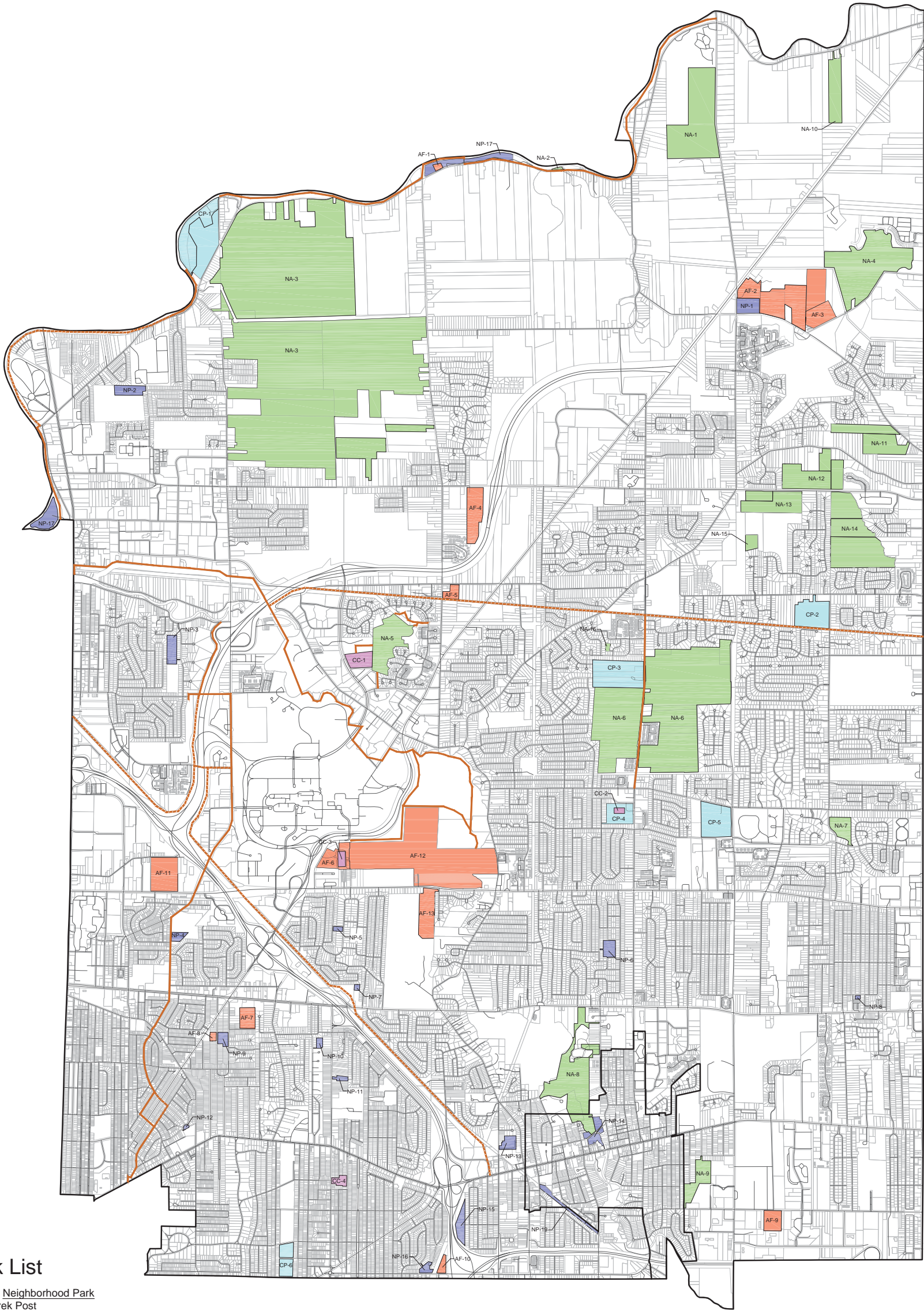




# Appendix D: Large Format Maps – Inventory and Assessment

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**Park List**

Neighborhood Park

- NP-1: Jurek Post
- NP-2: Creekwood Park
- NP-3: Willow Ridge Park
- NP-4: Eggertsville Community Park
- NP-5: Cindy Drive Play Area
- NP-6: Briarhurst Park
- NP-7: Park Forest Park
- NP-8: Dana Heights Play Area
- NP-9: Dellwood Park
- NP-10: Campus Drive Recreation Area
- NP-11: Fetto Park
- NP-12: ECO Park
- NP-13: North Forest Park
- NP-14: Glen Park
- NP-15: West Royal Parkway Rec. Area
- NP-16: Kingsgate Park
- NP-17: Canalway Trail Park
- NP-18: Ellicott Creek Park
- NP-19: Long Street Recreation Area

Natural / Conservation Area

- NA-1: Oakwood Conservation Area
- NA-2: Fisherman's Wharf
- NA-3: Nature View Park
- NA-4: Dann Lake Park
- NA-5: Walton Woods Park
- NA-6: Great Baehre Conservation Area
- NA-7: Windsor Woods Park
- NA-8: Amherst State Park
- NA-9: College Park
- NA-10: Unnamed Conservation Area 1
- NA-11: Smith Farm / Marrano
- NA-12: E. Amherst Conservation Area
- NA-13: E. Amherst Conservation Area
- NA-14: E. Amherst Conservation Area
- NA-15: Sable Woods
- NA-16: Alran Woods

Athletic Facility

- AF-1: North Amherst Fire Company Baseball Diamond
- AF-2: North Amherst Recreation Center
- AF-3: Lou Gehrig Baseball Complex
- AF-4: North French Soccer Complex
- AF-5: Getzville Fire Department Baseball Diamond
- AF-6: Audubon Recreation Complex
- AF-7: Garnet Park
- AF-8: Sattler Field
- AF-9: Wherle FAA Recreation Complex
- AF-10: Central Amherst Little League Complex
- AF-11: Mell Ott Little League
- AF-12: Audubon Golf Course
- AF-13: Audubon Par 3 Golf Course

Community Center

- CC-1: Amherst Center for Senior Services
- CC-2: Clearfield Community Center
- CC-3: Northtown Center
- CC-4: Harlem Road Community Center

Community Park

- CP-1: Amherst Veterans Canal Park
- CP-2: Paradise Park
- CP-3: Billy Wilson Park
- CP-4: Clearfield Community Center Park
- CP-5: Basset Park
- CP-6: Saratoga Park

**Legend**

- Existing Trail
- - - - - Potential Future Trail

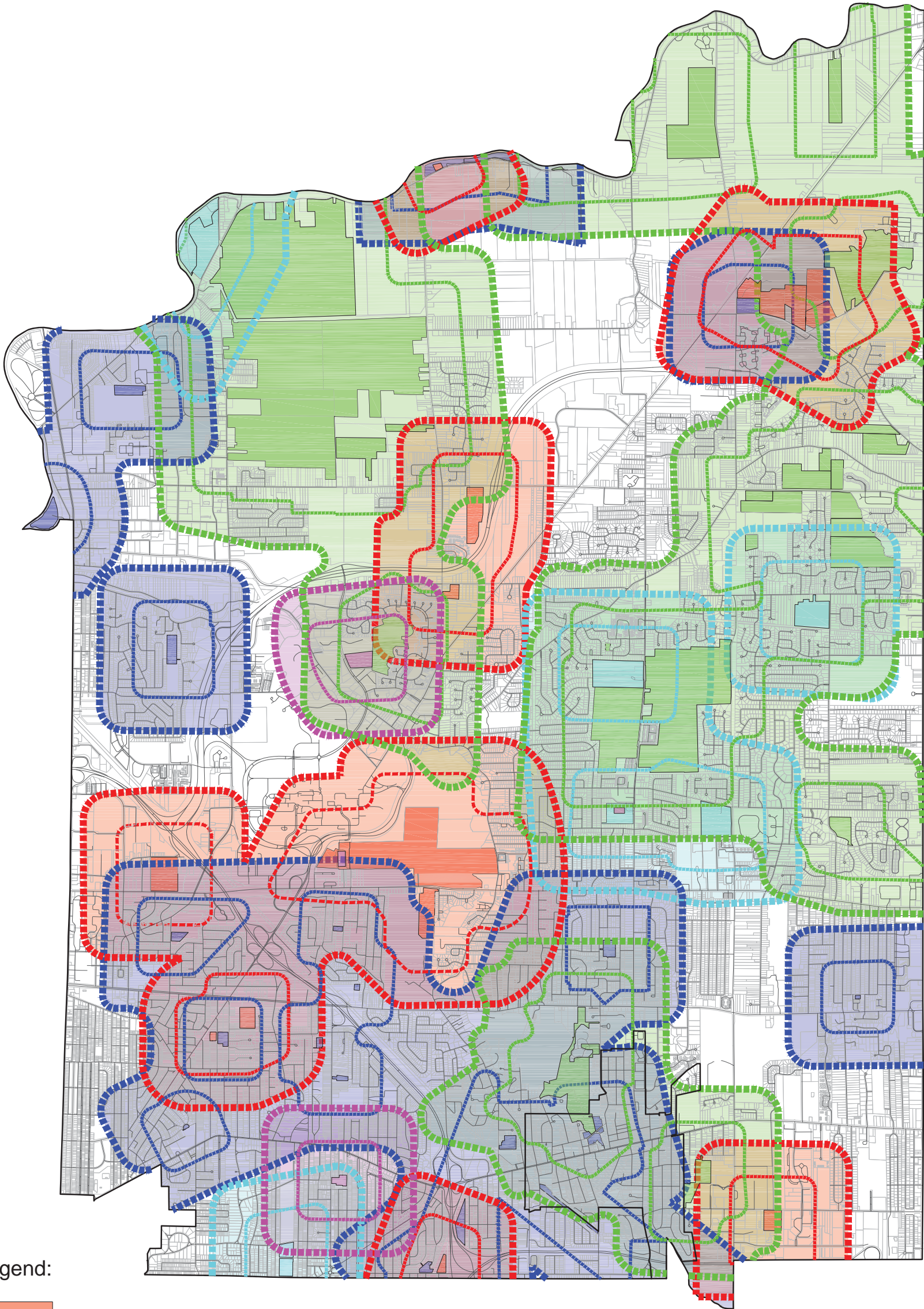
**Town of Amherst - Overall Parks Map**

0 2000 4000  
Scale: 1" = 2000'





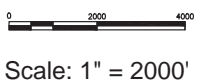




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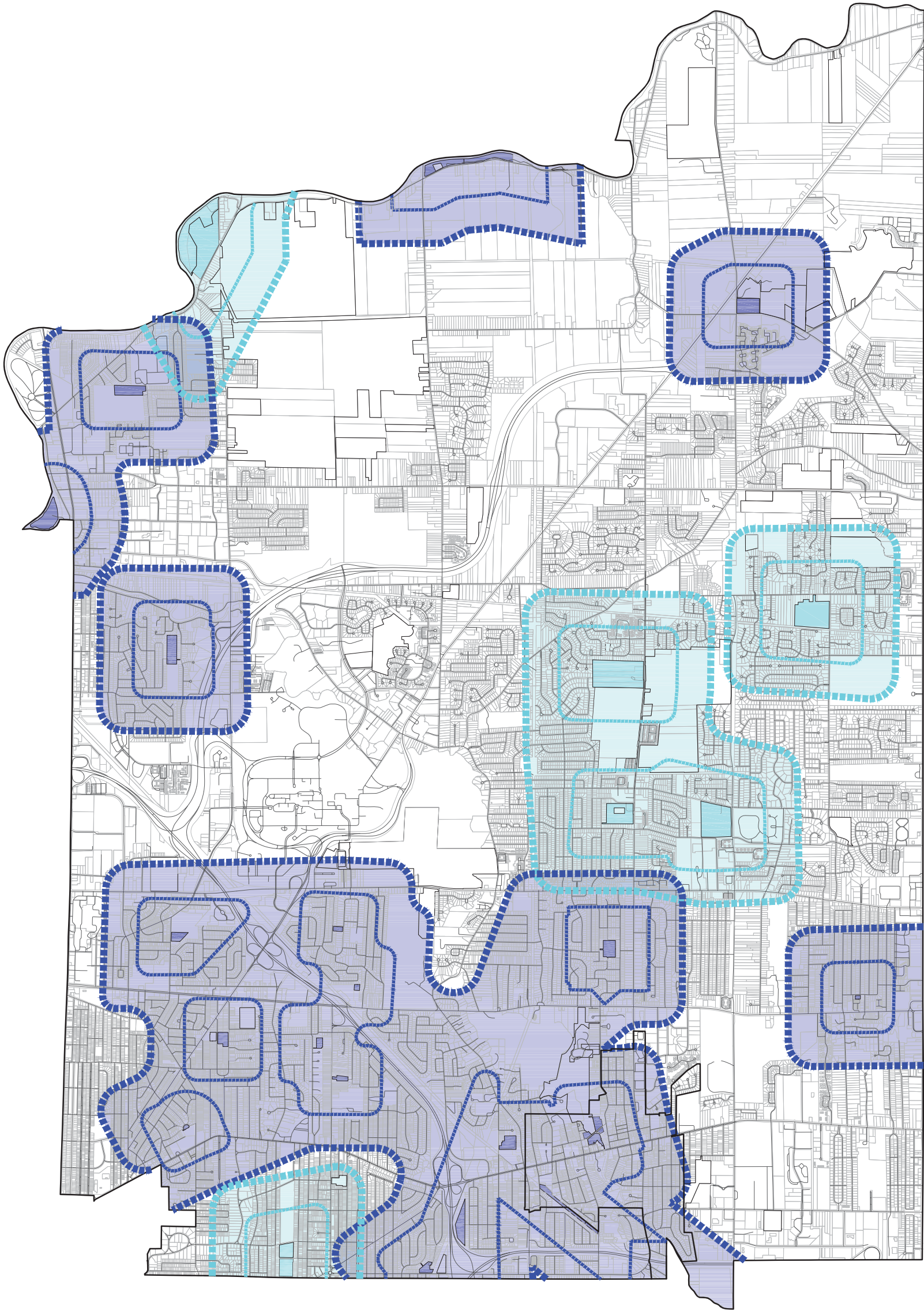
- Athletic Facility
- Community Park (>±15 Acres)       1/4 Mile Buffer
- Neighborhood Park (<±15 Acres)       1/2 Mile Buffer
- Nature / Conservation Area
- Community Center

## Town of Amherst - Level of Service (LOS) Map

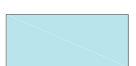








Legend:



Community Park (>±15 Acres)



1/4 Mile Buffer

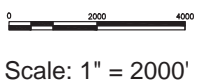


Neighborhood Park (<±15 Acres)



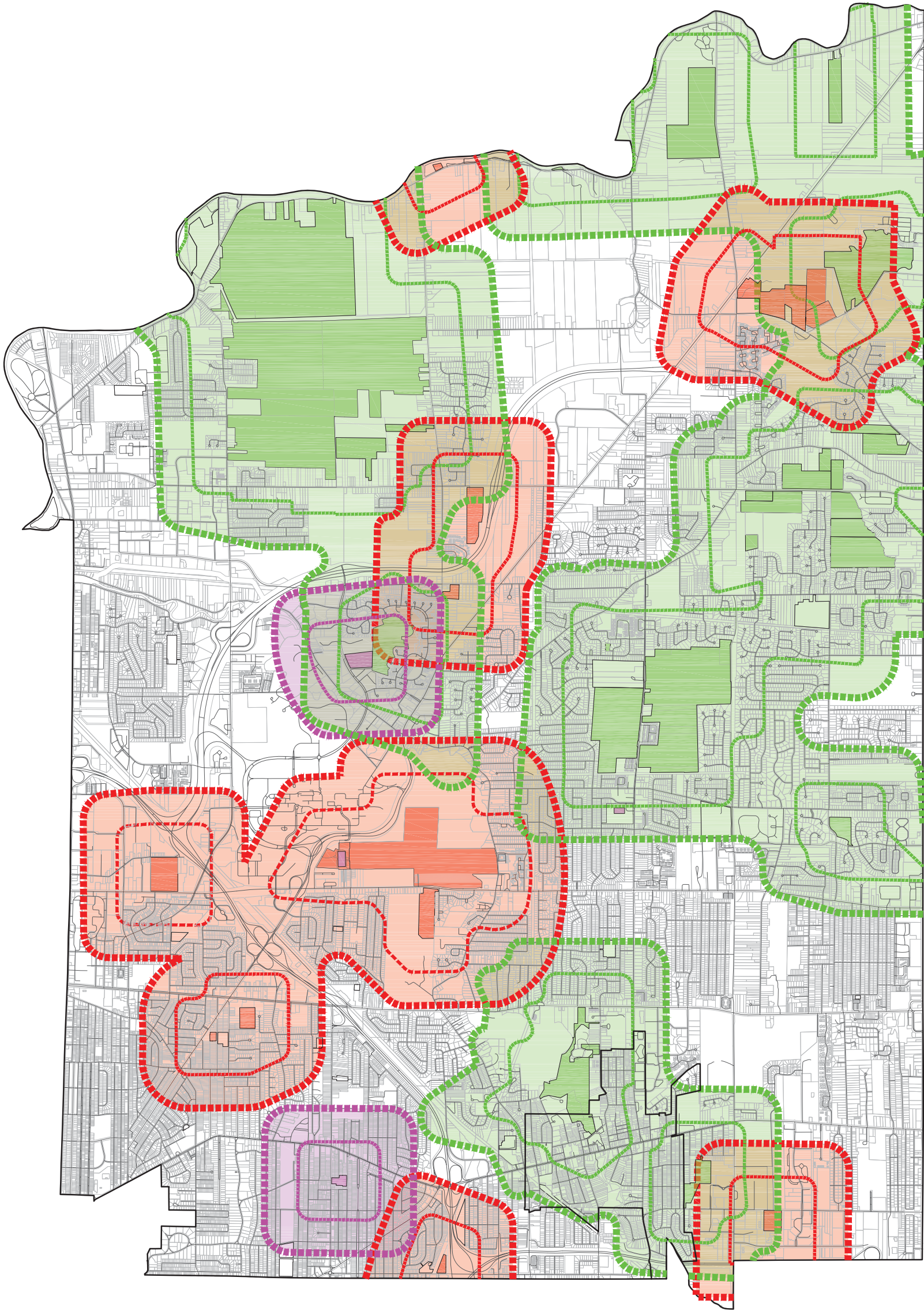
1/2 Mile Buffer

# Town of Amherst - LOS - Community & Neighborhood Parks









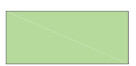
Legend:



Athletic Facility



1/4 Mile Buffer



Nature / Conservation Area

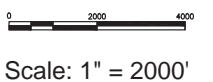


1/2 Mile Buffer



Community Center

# Town of Amherst - LOS - Athletic Facilities, Nature Areas & Community Centers







# Appendix E: Park Specific Improvement Recommendations

Although the Town of Amherst Park system has great facilities and is well maintained, there are multiple recommendations to further improve the system. Below is a summary of recommendations for each park facility. Recommendations which are currently included in the Town Action Plan and items currently programmed in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are noted below.

## Amherst State Park

- Planning: Park to be developed in accordance with the Amherst State Park Master Plan (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Site Structures: Restore retaining wall. Restore staircase (\$170,000 in funds allocated for 2018 restoration – bid documents ready for winter/spring bid).
- Boardwalk/Trails: Improve pathways to provide ADA access. Complete stone dust trail through orchard. Construct boardwalk and stone dust trail on east side of Ellicott Creek between Ellicott Creek Bridge and Glen Avenue/Glen Park (\$575,000 proposed in 2019 CIP for construction).
- Drainage: Correct drainage to prevent water from ponding on pavers; maintain storm drains. Daylight the storm sewer located adjacent to concrete walkway at bottom of stairs – create natural water course utilizing grading and native riparian plantings.
- Lighting: Remove existing lights over wall. Design and install new lighting to illuminate names on memorial wall.
- Parking Lot: Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards.
- Signage: Relocate sign/separate signs to direct visitors and increase visibility; provide new sign that is consistent with NYSOPRHP sign standards.
- Site Furnishings: Replace aging benches and picnic tables with accessible, matching models. Relocate and replace bike rack to improve access.
- Site Maintenance: Mow orchard area annually after September 1st. Mow meadow area on west side of creek every two or three years after September 1st. Grass paths can be mowed regularly during the year. Regular mowing along the edges of stone dust trails is encouraged.
- Structure Maintenance: Remove graffiti from bridge railings as necessary.
- Trash: Secure trash cans. Provide recycling receptacle. Provide DogiPot at trail entrance.
- Trees/Landscape: Weed, replenish, and maintain garden areas. Prune existing trees for safety and maintenance purposes; remove dead trees and restore orchard with new fruit and nut trees as appropriate.
- Impacts to Baseball Field at Sheridan Drive Youth Center. Repair pavilion roof. Provide accessible bleachers. Maintain turf at practice field.

### **Amherst Veterans Canal Park**

- Accessibility: Improve ADA access at northeast overlook. Improve ADA access to grills. Provide railing at boat ramp.
- Lighting: Repair/replace bollard lights.
- Parking Lot/Entrance Drive: Replace curb stops. Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards. Install crossing signage/pavement markings where bike path crosses entrance roadway to protect bikers.
- Signage: Install entrance sign visible from road; new sign should be consistent with new Town-wide park sign design. Consider renaming park “Amherst Canal Park.”
- Site Furnishings: Replace aging picnic tables and benches with accessible, matching models. Replace aging grills. Consider removing bollards if not serving a purpose. Install bike rack for bike path users to increase utilization of park. Replace flag pole.
- Site Maintenance: Weed asphalt paths.
- Site Structures: Paint pavilion. Paint railings at floating dock.
- Trash: Secure trash cans. Provide recycling bins.
- Trees/Landscape: Restore ground cover plantings under Birch Trees. Restore ornamental grass plantings in islands formed by bike path.

### **Audubon Recreation Complex**

- Lighting: Install light standards on one or more of the existing softball diamonds (only one field has lights – currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Accessibility: Provide accessible route to soccer field.
- Baseball/Softball Fields: Replace/repair fence at batting cage. Improve turf. Improve accessibility at Softball Field 2. Improve infield at pitching cage. Construct warning tracks at softball fields.
- Courts: Install a basketball/multipurpose court.
- Parking Lot/Access Road: Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards. Repave access road. Provide ADA signage at rear parking area.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible picnic tables. Repaint bleachers and provide accessible bleachers. Replace aging benches with matching, accessible benches. Relocate bike rack to improve access and visibility.
- Site Structures: Replace roof on pavilion. Replace concrete floor at pavilion. Repair downspout at bathroom near softball fields. Repair water fountain.
- Trash: Secure trash & recycling bins.

### **Amherst Center for Senior Services**

- Courts: Develop bocce courts to expand outdoor recreation opportunities (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Garden: Develop community garden/seating & outdoor space in conjunction with library.
- Parking Lot: Repair/replace curbs.
- Site Furnishings: Replace bike rack with improved design; relocate to improve access & visibility. Provide accessible picnic tables. Repair/replace site furnishings at pavilion area behind building.
- Trails: Provide pedestrian connection to Walton Woods Park.

## **Bassett Park**

- **Planning:** Implement all elements of the park-specific master plan (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- **Accessibility:** Implement Town approved plans for ADA accessible parking and paths to amphitheater audience area, paths around pond, and to the bathrooms. Improve overall accessibility along existing paths.
- **Courts:** Renovate existing bocce court and add second court per Town Action Plans.
- **Parking Lot:** Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards at playground parking lot.
- **Playground:** Provide accessible surfacing at playground.
- **Pond:** Reconfigure pond, planting with natives, coir logs, and limestone boulders for shoreline stabilization (implement approved plans).
- **Site Furnishings:** Provide bike rack. Replace aging benches and tables with accessible, matching benches. Secure trash bins. Provide recycling containers.
- **Site Structures:** Repair leaking water fountains. Repair wooden fencing where needed.
- **Signage:** Provide new main park sign and new Kiwanis Playground Park Sign – design to be consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- **Trails:** Install trail markers. Replace existing path with stone dust or asphalt. Expand trail system throughout park. Construct accessible stone-dust trail through woodlands.

## **Briarhurst Park**

- **Baseball/Softball Field:** Provide ADA access to baseball practice field. Paint backstop fence. Repair backstop fence at softball field. Paint softball field fence. Remove the practice diamond backstop (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- **Accessibility:** Install detectable warning at curb ramp.
- **Courts:** Paint the basketball nets and backboards (currently included in Town Action Plan). Repaint backboard at basketball court.
- **Soccer Field:** Shift the soccer field to the north (currently included in Action Plan). Repair soccer standards netting (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- **Lighting:** Consider limited park lighting.
- **Playground:** Provide accessible surfacing at swing set. Provide accessible route and surfacing at playground.
- **Restrooms:** Maintain portable toilet.
- **Signage:** Provide new sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- **Site Furnishings:** Repaint bleachers. Provide accessible bleachers, picnic tables, and benches. Secure trash containers and provide recycling containers.
- **Site Structures:** Repair or replace existing pavilion. Repair/replace water fountain.
- **Trees:** Plant trees for shade in select locations.

### **Billy Wilson Park**

- Planning: Examine possibility of developing a nature center (currently included in Town Action Plan). Evaluate two-acre area near cell tower as a possible location for an off-leash dog run (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Invasive Species: Develop Invasive Plant Species Management Plan for Park and Conservation Area.
- Accessibility: Provide ADA accessible walk at restrooms. Provide accessible paths to grills.
- Maintenance: Consider no-mow/wildflower areas in expanses of rolling lawn.
- Parking Lot: Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards.
- Signage: Provide new sign on stone/concrete base and flagpole per Town approved concept plan (\$15,000 estimated cost).
- Playground: Implement second phase of new playground (\$123,000 proposed in CIP for 2018-2019).
- Fit Trail: Consider development of a fit trail.
- Trails: Renovate and widen existing path where needed to meet ADA standards. Expand path system to connect park to stub streets on north and west sides of park (\$390,000 proposed for trail improvements in the CIP for 2020).
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches and picnic tables. Secure trash cans and provide recycling receptacles. Repair grills or replace. Provide DogiPot and Dogi drinking fountain.
- Site Structures: Repair roof on pavilion. Provide new ADA accessible water fountain near playground.
- Access Road: Reset permeable pavers to correct uneven walking surface.

### **Campus Drive Recreation Area**

- Planning: Undertake park-specific master plan (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Parking Lot: Delineate recreation area parking. Provide accessible parking, signage, and pavement markings.
- Paths: Repair entrance path. Repair curb ramp at sidewalk.
- Playground: Consider installation of inclusive playground.
- Signage: Install entrance sign consistent with new Town-wide Park identification design standards.
- Site Furnishings: Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling receptacles. Provide accessible benches and picnic tables.
- Site Structures: Paint fence where rusted. Install proper entrance gate. Consider development of picnic area or pavilion.
- Sport Field: Paint fence at backstop.

### **Central Amherst Baseball Complex**

- Baseball Fields: Fence batting cage. Install scoreboard at Baseball 3. Install scoreboard and outfield fencing at Baseball 4. Construct roofs over dugouts. Install scoreboard and outfield fencing at Baseball 5. Construct roofs over dugouts.
- Parking Lot: Resurface parking area with asphalt paving (currently included Town Action Plan). Provide accessible parking, signage, and pavement markings.
- Landscape: Improve landscaping at memorial.
- Washrooms: Install ADA accessible washrooms (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible picnic tables and benches. Replace aging bleachers with accessible models. Paint benches. Replace bicycle racks.
- Site Structures: Repair/replace perimeter fence.

### **Cindy Drive Play Area**

- Planning/Community Engagement: Merge the two parcels into one parcel with Lyndon Lane Address. Hold neighborhood meeting regarding the future of the park, including potential uses and parkland amenities (currently included in Town Action Plan). Prepare concept plan based on community input.
- Signage: Provide park sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards. Consider renaming park to Lyndon Lane Park, as majority of frontage is on this street.
- Parking: Install ADA curb cuts at on-street parking.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches.
- Trees/Landscape: Plant trees for shade throughout park. Consider arboretum and consider development of community garden.
- Playground: Consider constructing playground
- Site Furnishings: Consider installation of bike racks.
- Site Structures: Consider development of pavilion/picnic area.
- Planning: Merge the two parcels into one parcel with Lyndon Lane Address.

### **Clearfield Community Center**

- Gymnasium: Install a retractable wall or netting in the large gymnasium to allow the court to be divided in two (Currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Parking Lot/Access Road: Replace curb stops. Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards. Resurface access road.
- Signage: Replace entry sign with sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- Site Furnishings: Replace existing bicycle racks. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers.
- Site Structures: Paint decorative fence at building. Repair utility fence at rear of building.
- Sidewalks: Repair concrete sidewalk at entrance. Repair concrete sidewalk at maintenance entrance.
- Trees/Landscape: Improve landscaping at front of building. Plant additional trees to provide shade and variation.

### **Clearfield Community Center Park**

- Drainage: Correct drainage problems on mini soccer fields and at the east end of the park (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Courts: Install an outdoor sand volleyball court (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Parking Lot: Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards.
- Baseball fields: Provide ADA access at baseball field. Install field lighting. Install warning track.
- Site Structures: Repair existing fence. Paint rusted areas of fence.
- Playground: Provide ADA access at playground, provide ADA surfacing at playground.
- Basketball Court: Reset posts and paint backstops at basketball court. Provide ADA access to courts.
- Site furnishings: Repair existing bleachers and paint; provide accessible bleachers. Secure trash receptacles. Provide accessible benches.

### **College Park**

- Planning: Develop park for passive recreation (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Parking: Provide parking/ADA access at end of Richfield Road.
- Trails: Develop path system around perimeter of park. Connect paths to office buildings and abutting streets/roads.
- Signage: Install interpretive signage to educate visitors about wetland/wildlife.
- Trees/Landscape: Enhance wetland with diverse plantings. Enhance existing border of shade trees to screen from nearby office and residential development.
- Community Engagement: Consider partnering with nearby business to promote stewardship of park.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches and picnic tables. Provide secured trash and recycling receptacles. Install DogiPot.
- Site Structures: Install picnic pavilion and ADA seating.
- Restrooms: Provide ADA portable toilet.

### **Creek Woods Park**

- Courts: Repair vandalized nets at tennis court (currently in Town Action Plan).
- Trails: Connect park trail to proposed NW connector road bike trail (currently in Town Action Plan). Extend accessible path around perimeter of park.
- Parking Lot: Restripe parking lot. Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards. Replace curb stops.
- Signage: Provide new park sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- Playground: Replace playground and swings with inclusive, ADA accessible structures.
- Site Furnishings: Replace aging benches and picnic tables with matching, accessible models. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers. Replace picnic grills.
- Site Structures: Construct picnic pavilion/shade structure.
- Trees/Landscape: Consider bioswales to manage stormwater. Replace dead trees. Plant additional trees for shade and biodiversity. Develop no-mow zones and wildflower meadows. Consider developing arboretum.
- Lighting: Expand site lighting.
- Sport Fields: Consider development of soccer/lacrosse field if demand is present.

### **Dana Heights Recreation Area**

- Playground: Install accessible swing set (currently in Town Action Plan). Provide ADA access to playground. Repair existing structure.
- Parking Lot: Provide curb ramps from street to park. Delineate ADA parking at site along street.
- Sidewalks: Repair/replace sidewalk to improve accessibility. Provide accessible route from apartments to playground.
- Trees/Landscape: Improve aesthetics of site with gardens/wildflower areas and additional tree planting.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches and picnic tables. Provide bicycle rack. Provide secured trash cans and recycling receptacles.
- Site Structures: Construct picnic pavilion. Install water fountain.
- Restrooms: Provide ADA compliant portable toilet.

### **Dann Lake Park**

- Parking Lot: Improve parking. Provide ADA parking per existing park master plan and Town approved site plan.
- Site Structures: Install accessible fishing platform, canoe/kayak launch per existing park master plan and Town approved site plan.
- Trails: Construct accessible boardwalk & stone dust trails per existing park master plan and approved site plan (\$255,000 in funding available for 2018, CIP proposes additional \$625,000 for 2020).
- Landscape: Restore lake front with native reeds, grasses, and aquatic plants.
- Signage: Install entrance sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards. Develop and install environmental interpretive signage.
- Community Engagement: Consider partnering with nearby residential developments for stewardship possibilities.

### **Dellwood Park**

- Parking lot: Provide ADA parking spaces along street at existing curb ramps.
- Sidewalks: Repair heaving/cracking sections in concrete sidewalk.
- Site Structures: Repair entrance sign posts. Repair roofs at pavilions, repair fence posts where needed.
- Playground: Provide accessible route to playground. Replace swing set with accessible model. Provide ADA compliant surfacing.
- Site Furnishings. Replace aging benches with matching, accessible models. Provide accessible picnic tables. Secure trash receptacles. Provide recycling containers.
- Restrooms: Provide ADA portable toilet.
- Courts: Repave basketball court. Install nets, posts, backboards etc. Provide ADA access to court.
- Softball Fields: Restore infield and level grade at outfield. Provide benches.
- Trees: Plant additional trees for shade.

### **Egbertsville Community Park**

- Parking Lot: Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches. Provide accessible picnic tables. Secure trash receptacles. Provide recycling containers. Provide bicycle rack.
- Trails: Repair existing asphalt trails and resurface existing trails with asphalt.
- Playground: Restore rubber mulch at playground.
- Landscape/Trees: Replace dead trees, expand tree plantings for shade. Plant wildflower meadow at edge of woodland overlooking park.
- Softball Fields: Repair backstop.
- Signage: Repaint entry sign.
- Site Structures: Repair fence where damaged. Install water fountain.
- Drainage: Repair existing storm drains & culverts.
- Restrooms: Provide ADA portable toilet.

### **ECO Park Playground**

- Planning: Implement Approved Site Plan.
- Parking: Delineate ADA parking spaces along road.
- Sidewalks: Extend concrete sidewalks to provide accessible route to site. Provide connection to proposed concrete walkway at bottom of stairs to link to Crosby Blvd. to the east and west.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible, matching benches. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers. Install water fountain.
- Lighting: Consider expanding lighting.
- Signage: Install entrance sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- Playground: New playground equipment has been designed and purchased. Installation of equipment and surfacing are anticipated to bid/proceed in early 2018 for 2018 construction.
- Trees: Plant trees at parking lot at edge of park (mixed-use building side) to screen view of lot.

### **Fetto Park**

- Planning: Implement elements of a park-specific master plan (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Parking Lot: Improve striping at small parking lot. Provide ADA parking/signage.
- Concrete: Consider replacing stamped concrete with new concrete/other surfacing.
- Trees/Landscape: Plant additional trees and shrubs. Screen hot box with landscape plantings. Improve meadow area with no-mow/wildflower areas; consider developing a plan to manage or eradicate common buckthorn in wooded areas.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches and picnic tables. Provide recycling containers. Provide bike racks
- Site Structures: Repair fountain (remove gravel from outflow pipe near top of pipe – consider removing gravel from area around boulder fountain and replace with river stone to prevent gravel from clogging fountain).
- Drainage: Maintain storm drains.



### **Fisherman's Wharf**

- Parking: Develop a parking area on the south side of Tonawanda Creek Road (currently included in Town Action Plan). Install ADA accessible parking stalls.
- Trails: Provide accessible route via trail to waterfront.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches and picnic tables.
- Accessibility: Provide access to grills.
- Trees/Landscaping: Restore shoreline along creek to promote biodiversity and discourage geese. Replace dead trees.
- Drainage: Improve storm water system. Divert culvert away from pathway.
- Site Structures: Install dock for fishing at waterfront.
- Signage: Install interpretive signage along creek.

### **Garnet Park**

- Parking Lot: Stripe the parking lot and replace curb stops. Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards.
- Trails: Restore asphalt along path and correct width variations.
- Site Structures: Replace roof at pavilion. Paint and clean pavilion. Provide accessible benches and picnic tables.
- Site Furnishings: Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers. Provide accessible bleachers.
- Trees/Landscaping: Improve landscape at buildings. Plant trees along access road to provide shade and improve aesthetics at park. Develop management plan for wooded areas – remove Common Buckthorn and plant native species of trees and shrubs that are compatible with wet soils.
- Baseball Fields: Install warning track at baseball fields. Improve dugout to provide ADA access. Repair roof to eliminate exposed nails. Repair chain link fence, paint where necessary. Restore or replace scoreboards.
- Concessions: Provide shade structure at concessions building, paint concessions building. Restore asphalt at concessions building. Remove unnecessary asphalt.
- Drainage: Maintain/clean storm drains and associated structures.
- Lighting: Replace site lighting with updated/energy efficient models to improve overall visibility in park.

### **Great Baehre Conservation Area**

- Trails/Boardwalk: Provide additional trails throughout the Conservation Area on both sides of Hopkins Road linking to adjacent residential areas and Youngs Road (currently included in Town Action Plan). Replace deteriorated railings at boardwalk.
- Signage: Install entry sign at trailhead consistent with new Town-wide Park identification design standards. Develop permanent interpretive signage at viewing areas.
- Site Furnishings: Relocate bicycle rack to better accommodate users. Provide accessible benches at viewing areas. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers. Install DogiPot.
- Planning: Develop invasive plant species management plan.

Note: Property is jointly owned by the Town of Amherst and the State of New York and is considered Parkland as defined by NYS. Any change of use or sale to private entity would require the property to go through the “Alienation of Parkland” process via the NYS legislature and governor. That is not likely for these parcels. Residential/Commercial Development is currently prohibited through a combination of ownership, zoning, and wetland regulations.

### **Getzville Fire Department Park**

- Trails: Review and analyze site as potential trailhead for the peanut line multi-use trail (currently included in Town Action Plan). Construct stone dust path to provide access to fields.
- Parking Lot: Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible bleachers. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers.
- Baseball Fields: Install warning track. Repair fence at practice field.
- Trees/Landscaping: Plant trees on site to provide shade. Consider memorial trees.
- Signage: Provide new sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- Site Structures: Paint areas of rust on fence.
- Drainage: Reset storm drain.

### **Glen Park**

- Accessibility: Develop comprehensive ADA integration plan for the park.
- Paths: Replace steep path from Main Street with steps (currently included in Town Action Plan). Repave pathways (currently included in Town Action Plan). Pave stone dust trail with asphalt.
- Signage: Install proper signage at park entrances consistent with new Town-wide Park identification design standards (currently included in Town Action Plan). Install interpretive signage at waterfall, creek, and bioretention area. Consider installing species markers at trees.
- Site Furnishings: Repair/replace benches (currently included in Town Action Plan). Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers. Replace aging benches with accessible, matching models.
- Site Structures: Replace sections of the fence that do not adhere to park aesthetic.
- Restrooms: Consider developing public washroom facilities (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Lighting: Install ornamental lighting (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Parking Lot: Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards.
- Memorial: Replace existing deteriorated memorial plaques.
- Trees/Landscape: Maintain existing landscapes and establish dense plantings to reduce weeds. Restore plantings at bioretention pond with native plants; monitor circulation of water to prevent algae accumulation. Utilize native plants to promote biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife.
- Watercourse: Reconstruct stream bed to contain flow continuously from upper pond to lower ponds.

### **Harlem Road Community Center**

- Signage: Replace sign with new sign consistent with new Town-wide park sign standard design.
- Parking Lot: Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards. Paint pavilion.
- Site Structures: Replace or remove wooden fence. Repair chain link fence.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible picnic tables. Repair roof of main building. Secure trash receptacles. Provide recycling containers. Replace aging benches with accessible, matching models. Install bicycle racks.
- Sidewalks: Provide accessible route to pavilion. Restore concrete sidewalk.
- Playground: Provide accessible route to playground. Update play structures. Restore rubber mulch.
- Accessibility: Provide accessible route to water fountain.

### **Jurek Post**

- Planning: Explore potential acquisition of Jurek Post for future recreational uses (currently included in Town Action Plan). Consider redevelopment of site for the following potential uses – dog park, soccer/lacrosse practice area, passive recreation area with walking paths, inclusive play area with splash pad.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible picnic tables and benches. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers.
- Parking Lot: Consider development of parking lot at more visible location. Provide ADA accessible parking.
- Trees: Plant trees throughout site to provide shade and enhance landscape aesthetic.
- Site Structures: Replace small pavilion with modern, safe structure.
- Playground: Replace swing sets and slide with inclusive, safe structures.
- Softball fields: Restore infield mix. Replace backstops. Replace benches and bleachers. Repair foul-line fencing. Consider alternate use of area if softball is not in demand at this location.
- Planning/Community Engagement: Obtain community input to determine best use of park and determine if purchase of leased parcel is desirable.

### **Kingsgate Park**

- Parking Lot: Provide ADA parking, associated signage, and pavement markings.
- Playground: Provide accessible route to playground. Restore mulch.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches. Secure trash receptacles. Provide recycling containers. Provide accessible bleachers. Provide accessible picnic tables. Install bike rack.
- Signage: Reset entrance sign to make level. Replace Ridgewood Drive park sign to be consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- Baseball Field: Install dugout roofs. Consider constructing pitching and batting cages.
- Trees: Plant trees to buffer adjacent residences.
- Site Structures: Repair fence where needed. Replace water fountain. Provide Dogi fountain.
- Playground: Provide ADA access to swing set. Repair rusted chains.
- Lighting: Consider site lighting to extend play hours.
- Paths: Provide additional accessible pathways throughout the park that connect with Central Amherst Little League and sidewalks on Wehrle Drive, Ridgewood Drive, and Bennington Road.

### **Lou Gehrig Amherst Park**

- Parking Lot: Provide ADA compliant parking and associated signage and pavement markings at Smith Road parking lot. Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards at Dann Road lot.
- Concessions: Repair paving at concessions building. Restore/replace signage.
- Restrooms: Provide ADA accessible bathroom facilities at existing structure.
- Batting Cage: Improve accessibility at batting cage.
- Site Furnishings: Secure trash receptacles. Expand recycling container locations. Provide accessible bleachers. Replace aging benches and picnic tables with accessible, matching models.
- Accessibility: Provide accessible route to bleachers. Provide ADA access route to picnic areas and benches.
- Trees: Replace dead trees.
- Drainage: Repair catch basins and reset to ensure drainage across site.
- Baseball & Softball Fields: Repair/paint fence where necessary. Consider additional site lighting to extend playing hours. Restore outfields & infields where necessary. Replace scoreboards where existing models are in disrepair. Construct roofs over dugouts as funding is available.

### **North Amherst Fire Company Recommendations**

- Planning: Transfer the ownership of 7 + acres to the North Amherst Fire District (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Site Furnishings: Install picnic tables (currently included in Town Action Plan). Provide accessible benches and picnic tables. Replace bleachers with accessible, matching models.
- Courts: Resurface the basketball court (currently included in Town Action Plan). Replace posts and nets. Provide accessible route. Remove court if underutilized.
- Signage: Install entrance sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- Baseball Fields: Replace dugout benches and install dugout fencing.
- Site Structures: Replace pavilion. Provide accessible route to pavilion.
- Playground: Remove slide and swing. Replace with safe, modern structures or build inclusive play area.

### **North Amherst Recreation Center Recommendations**

- Garages: Develop a maintenance garage to serve Northeast Amherst if the facilities are expanded (currently included in Town Action Plan). Repaint maintenance garages.
- Lighting: Consider replacement of outdated light posts with energy efficient, matching models.
- Parking Lot: Repair/replace damaged curbs. Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards. Repair concrete curb where necessary.
- Trees/Landscape: Plant trees within parking area islands and around perimeter. Restore landscape; remove invasive/overgrown shrubs.
- Building: Clean recreation department building and repaint. Enhance building entrance to improve aesthetics and promote membership.
- Signage: Repaint entrance sign.
- Accessibility: Improve accessible route to Recreation Center.
- Site Structures: Maintain fence around utilities and paint where rusted.
- Site Furnishings: Replace benches with matching, accessible models.

## North Forest Park

- Parking Lot: Repair/replace curb stops. Update ADA pavement markings/signage to meet NYS standards. Restore asphalt at later stage.
- Walls: Repair retaining wall. Replace capstones. Repoint concrete masonry. Repair retaining wall at pool.
- Horseshoes: Replace wood backstops at horseshoe pits.
- Site Furnishings: Replace aging picnic tables and benches with accessible, matching models. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers. Replace bicycle rack with modern design.
- Trees/Landscape: Restore landscape in front of pool house. Install dense plantings to reduce weed proliferation. Consider stewardship opportunities for gardens in front of building. Prune existing trees to facilitate growth and remove deadwood. Plant trees at locations where shade is needed. Consider no-mow/wildflower areas in steep sections. Consider construction of bioretention areas to accommodate stormwater and promote biodiversity through native plantings.
- Maintenance: Maintain/weed plants at fence.
- Courts: Provide accessible route to tennis courts. Stripe Pickleball courts.
- Playground: Replace play structures with ADA compliant, inclusive playground. Repair swing sets, paint to reduce rust, and replace unsafe components.
- Lighting: Evaluate existing site lighting to determine where more appropriate lighting may be installed. Replace aging fixtures with energy efficient models.
- Walkways: Restore/repair concrete walks.
- Paths: Relocate sections asphalt path system to improve ADA accessibility. Restore asphalt where needed.

## North French Recreation Area Recommendations

- Buildings: Facilitate development of a central building with a shelter, permanent washrooms, and concession stand (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Sport Fields: Install lighting on two soccer fields; develop two mini fields and one additional full-size field (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Trees/Landscape: Plant shade trees annually (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Parking Lot/Access Road: Update ADA signage and pavement markings to meet current standards. Maintain access road.
- Signage: Repaint entrance sign.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches. Provide accessible route to benches. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers. Replace rusted bleachers with accessible models. Replace practice kicking board.
- Trails: Extend accessible path to provide access to individual fields. Develop accessible stone dust path around perimeter of recreation area.
- Site Structures: Provide access to water fountain, repair to make functional or replace. Develop interpretive overlook at pond on south side of recreation area.

### **Northtown Center at Amherst**

- Baseball Field (existing lighting): Replace existing turf with synthetic turf.
- Trees/Landscape: Replace dead trees, monitor care and health of existing trees. Improve landscaping overall. Improve landscape at rear of building.
- Playground: Provide ADA compliant surfacing at playground. Repair existing play structure or replace with inclusive playground.

### **Nature View Park**

- A parking area is located on Tonawanda Creek Road at Brenon Road, and a new lot is under construction on Sweet Home Road at Glenhaven Dr. In the near-term, provide improved natural or stone dust trails/boardwalk trail to link these two parking areas.
- Planning: Develop master plan for this significant natural area (currently included in Town Action Plan).

### **Oakwood Conservation Area/Oakwood Golf Course**

- Planning: Expand Oakwood Golf course into the Conservation area to develop an 18-hole course (currently included in Town Action Plan).

### **Park Forest Park**

- Planning: Consideration should be given to either redevelopment of this property as a neighborhood park with a playground and security cameras. Alternately, abandonment of this parcel as a park could be considered due to its poor location and visibility. Potential exists for adoption by future office development adjacent to the west or sale to the adjacent car dealership or residences via the Alienation of Parkland process thru the State.

### **Paradise Park**

- Courts: Develop two tennis courts; include Pickleball striping (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Trails: Develop an internal trail system and evaluate potential linkages to future on and off-road bikeways (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Signage: Replace entrance sign with new sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification sign design standards (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Sport Fields: Regrade the existing kickball diamond (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Buildings: Facilitate development of a central building with a shelter, permanent washrooms, and a concession stand (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Parking Lot: Install curbs to keep drivers off lawns.
- Trees/Landscape: Replace dead trees; plant additional trees to provide shade.
- Site Structures: Repaint pavilion.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches. Provide accessible picnic tables. Secure trash receptacles. Provide recycling containers. Provide accessible benches at individual fields.
- Courts: Stripe basketball court.
- Playgrounds: Replace playground with inclusive structure. Provide accessible route and surface.
- Planning: Consider allowing the installation of commercial Cell Tower Facility to fund future park development.

- Trails: Develop accessible path system around park and field for walking/running. Link to Casey Road to north and to proposed trail on adjacent former railroad right-of-way. Consider developing a Fit Trail.
- Trees/Landscape: Plant trees along road to screen site. Plant varied shade trees throughout site. Consider no-mow/wildflower areas. Consider bioretention/wetland plant establishment in low-lying areas.

### **Sattler Field**

- Baseball/Softball Fields: Repair and paint fence at softball field. Install bases. Restore infield at baseball field. Install warning track, bases, etc. if demand is present.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible bleachers and accessible route to bleachers.
- Trees/Landscape: Plant shade trees and trees to screen road.

### **Saratoga Park**

- Parking: Designate accessible parking spaces at Saratoga Road.
- Signage: Install entrance sign consistent with new Town-wide park identification standards. Create trail marker system and develop interpretive signage at improved meadow and woodland.
- Trails: Restore stone dust trail. Ensure trail is level to promote accessibility. Consider paving all paths with asphalt to facilitate accessibility. Consider development of fit trail.
- Trees/Landscape: Consider establishment of native pollinator species in existing meadows. Consider limited mow area to create wet meadow in low area of park. Consider restoration of forest to remove invasives and establish native species to promote biodiversity. Consider development of arboretum along walking trails with memorial plaques.
- Site Furnishings: Install recycling receptacles. Install accessible benches at existing concrete pads.
- Site Structures: Install DogiPot and Dogi fountain. Install water fountain. Install pavilion.
- Planning: Consider development of dog park.
- Playgrounds: Construct inclusive playground/nature playground.
- Community Engagement: Explore stewardship opportunities in surrounding residential areas and adjacent Amherst Middle School.
- Winter: Re-establish ice-skating pond in low area near Saratoga Road. Preserve sledding opportunities on hill south of Yorktown Road.
- Planning/Community Engagement: Obtain community input to determine best use of park and determine if purchase of leased parcel is desirable.

### **Walton Woods Park**

- Signage: Install proper signage at park entrances as mandated by NYS grant requirements (currently included in Town Action Plan). Install directional signage and formalize trail entrance at Adult Day Center. Investigate where trail markers/directional signage is lacking and make improvements. Develop interpretive signage.
- Site Development: Extend the park entrance closer to the Amherst Center for Senior Services (currently included in Town Action Plan). Enhance entrance area (signage, landscape, information, etc.).
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible benches. Secure trash cans and provide recycling containers at key locations near trailheads.

- Site Structures: Consider construction of fishing pier at pond near day center.
- Trees/Landscape: Explore restoration opportunities to improve water quality at pond. Develop an invasive species management plan for the park. Plant native species of trees and understory shrubs/plants. Improve existing landscaping/gardens. Consider pollinator gardens.
- Parking Lot: Provide ADA parking spaces and associated signage and pavement markings.
- Restrooms: Provide ADA portable toilets or coordinate with local businesses for access to bathrooms.
- Community Engagement: Foster stewardship with surrounding residential neighborhood & businesses.

### **Wehrle FAA Recreation Area**

- Irrigation: Install an irrigation system (currently included Town Action Plan).
- Parking Lot: Update ADA signage and pavement markings to comply with NYS standards.
- Accessibility: Provide accessible routes to bleachers.
- Site Furnishings: Provide accessible bleachers and picnic tables. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling receptacles.
- Trees/Landscape: Prune existing trees to remove die-off. Replace dead trees. Plant trees to shade parking area.
- Signage: Replace entrance sign. Design to be consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- Site Structures: Repair water spigot at concessions building. Recalibrate flow rate of water fountain. Replace siding at pavilion. Repaint interior of pavilion. Repair fencing where damaged. Paint rusted fencing.
- Maintenance: Remove scattered gravel in lawn areas. Maintain existing gardens.
- Lighting: Replace site lights with energy efficient, matching models. Ensure adequate lighting throughout park.
- Accessibility: Provide ADA access to pavilions. Provide ADA access at softball field, paint dugouts.
- Baseball Fields: Update scoreboards as necessary.

### **Willow Ridge Park**

- Parking Lot: Provide ADA parking spaces and associated signage and pavement markings.
- Site Furnishings: Replace aging benches and bleachers with accessible, matching models. Provide accessible picnic tables. Replace bike rack with updated model. Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers.
- Playground: Paint playground to inhibit rust; provide accessible route and surfacing.
- Signage: Install entrance sign. Design to be consistent with new Town-wide park identification design standards.
- Site Structures: Repair chain link fence where necessary. Reset posts of chain link fence bordering school. Consider construction of pavilion.
- Trees/Landscape: Consider establishment of low-maintenance wildflower gardens/bioretention areas; regrade trouble spots to alleviate standing water in lawn areas – direct runoff to bioretention areas. Add tree plantings along sidewalks and to screen residential areas.
- Drainage: Reset storm drain and rim. Replace culvert pipe. Replace cleanout at playground.
- Trails: Consider establishment of fit trail. Consider development of stone dust/asphalt trail around perimeter of park with a connection to Hubbardston Place via the access-way.



- Community Engagement: Explore stewardship opportunities in adjacent residential neighborhood and Willow Ridge Elementary School.

### **West Royal Parkway Recreation Area**

- Baseball Fields: Undertake minor repairs to baseball backstops (currently included in Town Action Plan).
  - Baseball Field 1: Paint fence, restore infield, weed at backstop, install bases, and provide accessible route. Replace benches, paint fence, and construct roof at dugouts.
  - Baseball Field 2: Replace benches, paint fence, and construct roof at dugouts. Paint fence, restore infield, weed at backstop, install bases, and provide accessible route.
  - Baseball Field 3: Paint fence, restore infield, weed at backstop, install bases, and provide accessible route. Replace benches, paint fence, and construct roof at dugouts.
  - Baseball Field 4: Paint fence, restore infield, weed at backstop, install bases, and provide accessible route. Replace benches, paint fence, and construct roof at dugouts.
- Consider removal of one or more baseball fields.
- Playground: Install swings (currently included in Town Action Plan). Replace existing playground structure with inclusive playground and surface. Provide accessible route.
- Parking Lot: Provide ADA parking and associated signage and pavement markings.
- Site Furnishings: Secure trash receptacles and provide recycling containers. Replace bleachers and benches with accessible, matching models.
- Courts: Restore topcoat and replace hoops/nets at basketball court. Restore tennis court surface, replace nets & posts, paint fence. Alternately, consider striping for Pickleball or removal of tennis courts if demand is not present.
- Plant screen of deciduous and evergreen trees along interstate to screen roadway
- Signage: Replace entrance sign with new sign designed to be consistent with new Town-wide Park ID sign design standards.
- Trees/Landscape: Consider no-mow/wildflower meadows and/or bioretention areas. Plant trees to screen highway to make park more attractive to community.
- Maintenance: Remove graffiti at maintenance building.
- Site Structures: Paint perimeter fence, weed fence. Replace water fountain.
- Lighting: Replace lighting with energy efficient, matching models (assess/review site lighting locations).
- Trails: Consider construction of stone-dust perimeter trail.
- Community Engagement: Conduct community survey to determine best uses for this facility.

### **Windsor Woods**

- Playground: Install creative playground equipment (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Maintenance: Remove debris from property (currently included in Town Action Plan).
- Trails: Develop trails along road frontage and stream along southern property line.
- Community Engagement: Develop concept plan for the property with community input.