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The Parks in the City of Winter Park 2018: Executive Summary

July 23, 2018

Megan Olive, Lauren Daniel, and Amy Donley, Ph.D.

Between June 2018 and July 2018, 325 Winter Park residents were surveyed about their opinions of the City of Winter Park’s parks, how they used the parks, their specific neighborhood parks, and any changes they would like to see regarding the parks. Surveys were conducted over the telephone by trained ISBS employees. ISBS received a list of Winter Park residents’ phone numbers from the utility company to allow for the survey to be conducted.

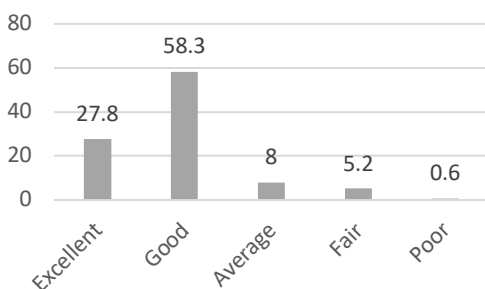
Findings

Park Quality

The first section of the survey assessed what residents thought about the quality of the city’s parks. Respondents were asked to rate the quality overall of the parks, and the majority responded “Good,” (51.1%) followed by “Excellent” (35.4%).



Condition of Parks & Recreation Facilities



Respondents were then asked how they would rate the general condition of the parks and recreation facilities. Similarly, the majority responded “Good,” (58.3%) followed by “Excellent” (27.8%).

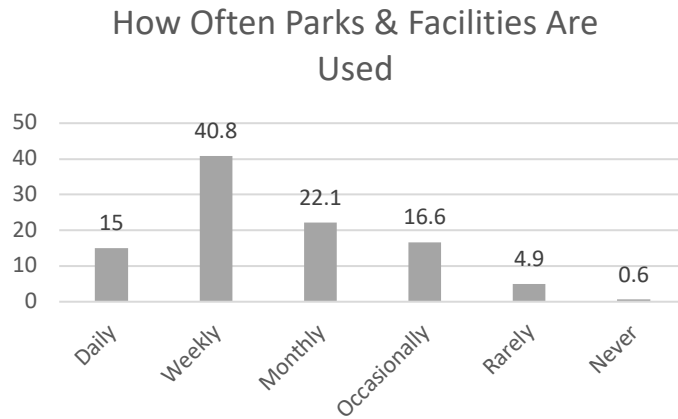
Park Usage

Next, respondents were asked questions about park usage. Most residents (78.6%) reported that they visited the parks with others, as opposed to by themselves (21.4%).

When asked what parks respondents used, Central Park was reported as the most popular, with 166 residents using it. Other top parks were MLK (87 residents), Phelps Park (72 residents), and Lake Baldwin Park and Mead Garden (66 residents each). Respondents were additionally asked how they would rate the parks they used as either “Excellent,” “Good,” “Average,” “Fair,” or “Poor”. Most users of Central Park rated it as “Excellent” (57.8%); MLK was most commonly rated as “Good” (47.1%), as was Phelps Park (50%), Lake Baldwin Park (51.5%), and Mead Garden (48.5%). Most users of all parks rated their parks as either “Excellent” or “Good.”

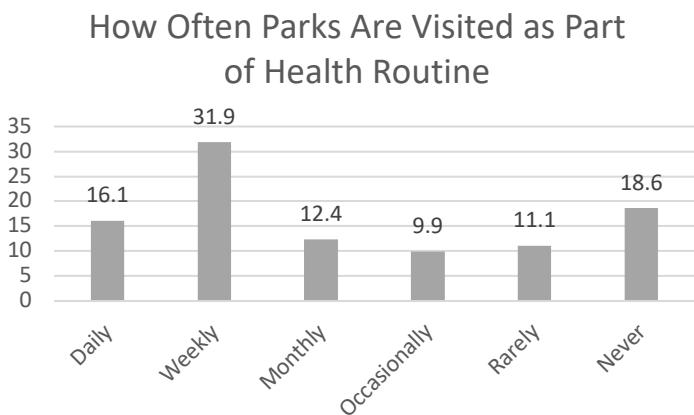
	N	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Average (%)	Fair (%)	Poor (%)
Park Facility	8	75	12.5	12.5	—	—
Central Park	166	57.8	36.7	4.2	1.2	—
Shady Parks & Spray Ground	8	37.5	25	25	12.5	—
Lake Baldwin Park	66	36.4	51.5	7.6	1.5	3
MLK	87	33.3	47.1	12.6	6.9	—
Mead Garden	66	40.9	48.5	7.6	3	—
Ward Park	44	36.4	45.5	11.4	4.5	2.3
Winter Park Community Center	15	46.7	46.7	6.7	—	—
Dinky Dock	23	39.1	39.1	13	4.3	4.3
Farmer’s Market	26	53.8	46.2	—	—	—
Cady Way Pool	13	46.2	30.8	15.4	—	7.7
Cady Way Bike Trail	33	36.4	42.4	21.2	—	—
Kraft Azalea Garden	49	51	44.9	2	2	—
Orwin Manor Park	3	—	100	—	—	—
Phelps Park	72	30.6	50	12.5	6.9	—
Trismen Park	2	—	100	—	—	—
Howell Branch Preserve	15	53.3	33.3	6.7	6.7	—
Winter Park Tennis Center	8	12.5	62.5	12.5	—	12.5
Azalea Lane Rec Center	38	28.9	57.9	2.6	10.5	—
Winter Park Golf Course	8	62.5	37.5	—	—	—
Other	51	45.1	47.1	—	2	5.9

Residents were then asked how often they use Winter Park’s public parks and facilities. A plurality of residents (40.8%) answered “Weekly,” followed by 22.1% reporting using them monthly.



Next, respondents were asked what activities they use the public parks and recreation facilities for. Most respondents reported using the parks for walking (182 residents), relaxing (103 residents), and the playground (90 residents).

	N		N
Walking	182	Dining/Picnic	22
Relaxing	103	Golf/Tennis	20
Playground	90	Soccer/Baseball	18
Place to bring kids	88	Other sports	15
Viewing nature	87	Swimming	8
Family time	59	Boating	8
Attending events	54	Learning/Education	6
Walking dogs	54	Fishing	4
Exercising	43	Volunteering	1
Biking	39	In-line skating	0
Other	26		



Participants were asked how often they visit the parks as a part of their exercise or health and fitness routine. The most common response was “Weekly” (31.9%) followed distantly by “Never” (18.6%).

The next question assessed what residents thought was missing from Winter Park’s public park offerings. Top answers included holding special events, such as music and yoga events (18 residents), having more seating (9 residents) and areas for dogs (11 residents).

	N		N
Special events (music, yoga, food vendors)	18	Transportation for elderly patrons	1
Nothing	11	Better access to sport activities (not rentals)	1
More dog parks/areas for dogs	11	Better treatment of gardens	1
More seating areas	9	Back racks	1
More swimming pools	8	Crowded by outside residents	1
Water park/splash pads	8	Dead tree at Ward Park that needs to be cut down	1
Updated playground equipment	7	Disc golf course	1
More shaded areas	7	Better lighting	1
More open spaces for sports and activities	7	Longer hours for the Farmer’s Market	1
Trash pick-up/maintenance	7	Mayor of Winter Park is not prioritizing Winter Park	1
Updated facilities	6	More community centers	1
More/updated restrooms	5	Rec center room needs more space/more workout equipment	1
More/improved walking and biking trails	5	Recycling bins	1
Surveillance/security	5	Outdoor pickle ball courts	1
Better regulation of dog rules	4	Relocation of pool of Hannibal Square made it small area; difficult to get out of	1
More/better parking	4	The [Cady Way Pool] hours don’t make any sense	1
Water fountains	4	Sand volleyball court	1
More parks	3	Skate park	1
More cleaning	2	Summer camps for kids	1
More gardens	2	Improved tennis courts	1
Landscaping	2	Homeless people around park	1
Improve water quality	2	Water skiing	1

Respondents were asked if there was a recreation activity that was not currently in Winter Park that they wanted to see added and supported; 67.8% of respondents reported no.

Of the respondents who said yes (32.2%), the most popular answers were “bike paths/trails” (10 residents); a community pool (8 residents); and a tennis court (6 residents).

	N
Bike paths/trails	10
Community pool	8
Tennis court	6
A recreation center with exercise equipment	5
Expand parks/activities for children	5
Yoga (indoor and outdoor)	5
Soccer field	5
Organized swimming activities	5
Canoes/kayaking	4
Disc golf	4
Elderly activities/exercise classes	4
Pickleball	4
More splash pads	4
Skate parks	4
Music activities	3
More access to boat ramps and aquatic activities	3
Paddle boarding	3
Tai Chi	3
Basketball courts	2
Beach volleyball area	2
Golf driving range	2
Shuffle board	2
Volleyball courts	2
Walking trails	2
Zumba	2
Racquetball	2

Neighborhood Parks

Residents were also asked about their neighborhood parks. Most respondents (77%) reported that they had a park that they considered their neighborhood park; 23% did not.

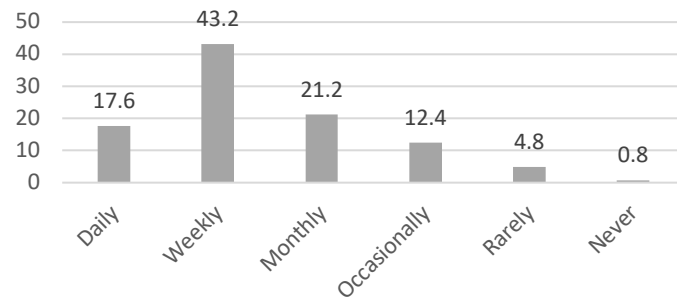
Next, respondents were asked which park they considered their neighborhood park. The most popular parks were Lake Baldwin Park (9 residents), Central Park (7 residents), and Mead Garden (6 residents).

	N		N
Azalea Lane Rec Center	3	Mead Garden	6
Lake Baldwin Park/Fleet People’s Park	9	MLK	4
Cady Way Bike Trail	4	Orwin Manor Park	2

Cady Trail Pool	1	Park Avenue Park	3
Central Park	7	Phelps Park	5
Dinky Dock	1	Showalter Field	2
Howell Branch Preserve	3	Timberlane Shores	1
Kraft Azalea Garden	4	Trismen Park	1
Lake Chelton	3	Ward Park	4
Lake Midget Park	1	Winter Park Community Center	1
Marvin Smiley Park	1	Winter Park Golf Course	1

How Often Neighborhood Parks Are Visited

When asked how often they visited their neighborhood parks, most residents responded “Weekly” (43.2%) or “Monthly” (21.2%).



Residents were asked what improvements or additions they would like to see added to their neighborhood park. Top suggestions included more overall maintenance (48 respondents), more benches or tables (42 respondents), and more bathrooms (37 respondents).

	N		N
Amphitheater	13	Sports courts/fields	10
Paths	18	Drinking fountains	32
Provide/increase park staff	14	Synthetic turf area	9
Pool	6	Gardens and flowers	30
Bathrooms	37	Track/fitness trail	12
Public art	17	Overall maintenance	48
Benches/tables	42	Tree planting/maintenance	35
Recreation/sports programing	11	Cleaning/litter removal	25
Children’s play equipment	29	More trash cans	16
Security	18	Lighting	16
Children’s spray park area	22	Disabled access	10
Signage	7	Other	81
Skate parks	5	None	63
Dog park area	22		

81 residents provided answers not on the survey. Top requests included more shade (8 residents), better parking (4 residents) and water fountains for dogs (4 residents).

	N
Add swings	3
More shade	8
Additional/updated exercise equipment	3
At Christmas park lights are typically distracting when red/too flashy	2
Band stand needs to be redone and updated	1

Basketball courts	2
Better bike lanes	2
Better water quality	2
Landscaping	3
Better parking	4
Better security	1
Dog waste bags	2
Water fountain for dogs	4
Don't like the library in its location	1
Eating areas	1
Vendors	1
More activities for kids	1
Expand park/more space	4
More variety	1
Grills	2
Picnic tables	1
Reduce the amount of homeless people	1
More gardens	1
Better maintenance of the pool	2
Liked it better when it was more "rustic/wild"	1
Enforce park rules during rentals	1
More bathrooms	3
Small dog park only	2
More bike racks	1
More trails	1
More concerts/shows	1
More culturally appropriate art	1
Better maintenance	3
More events at MLK	1
Soccer goals	1
More fencing	3
More seating	1
More play areas/playgrounds	3
More spray areas/splash pads	2
More trash pickup	1
Pest control	2
Preserve park spaces/no new buildings	1
Recreation activities for seniors	1
Recycling	1
Repairing boardwalk; be sure to prevent people from crossing it with borders; faster process for fixing the boardwalk	1
Replace equipment	2
Clean retention ponds	2
Solar energy on the train station	1
Update website	1
Splintering wood on play areas	1
Strongly opposed to dog parks	1
Tennis courts	1
Too plain	1

Utilizing West Meadow better	1
Water cooling systems tend to break down	1
Wish Showalter was open later in the evening	1
Wood repair on playground equipment	1

Park Issues

Participants were asked to rate their opinion of the importance of certain park issues as “Very important,” “Somewhat important,” “Not very important,” or “Not important at all.” Most respondents (63.4%) reported that keeping user fees/admission at the current levels was very important; 49.4% said that it was somewhat important to enhance offerings at existing parks; 69.8% reported that maintaining and renovating existing parks was very important. Concerning developing existing city land for new parks, 38.9% said this was somewhat important; 32.5% considered acquiring land for new parks was somewhat important.

	N	Very important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not very important (%)	Not important at all (%)
Keep user fees/admission at current levels	320	63.4	25.9	5.6	5
Enhancing offerings at existing parks	318	30.2	49.4	16.4	4.1
Maintaining and renovating existing parks	321	69.8	26.8	3.1	.3
Developing existing city land for new parks	319	32.9	38.9	21.3	6.9
Acquiring land for new parks	320	31.3	32.5	25.6	10.6

Residents were also asked about their reluctance to use certain parks, and why they were reluctant. Only 16.1% of residents reported being reluctant to visit certain parks. At Lake Baldwin Park, residents cited not wanting to be around dogs as a reason for not visiting this park. Crime and safety was reported as an issue for Cady Way Trail, Splash Pad Park, Castle Park, Hannibal Square, MLK, Phelps Park, and Ward Park.

- Lake Baldwin Park
- The dog park
 - Overcrowded
 - The dog park
 - The large dogs are not separate from the small dogs
 - People don't watch their dogs
 - Too many shrubs in certain area. Safety issue for exercising and walking
 - I do not support money going to this cause
 - The issue of dog poop and people maintaining their dogs when visiting. More doggy poop bags and trash cans requested
 - Does not want to go to a park with dogs
 - Does not support dog parks

- Not enough lighting

Cady Way Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There's some sketchy things on the bike trails ▪ Due to past incidents ▪ Issue with crime on trails
Central Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park does not allow dogs ▪ Parking issues
Dinky Dock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water levels ▪ Limited parking
Splash Pad Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety reasons
Castle Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety reasons
Hannibal Square	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety
MLK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parking area is a mess ▪ It is too difficult to supervise kids while they are on the playground/play areas ▪ It is very easy for people to drive away with children ▪ Safety concern ▪ Too crowded ▪ Rodent problem
Mead Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was not as nice as expected. It felt safe but unkempt overall.
Phelps Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety issues ▪ Geared towards kids and family mostly ▪ Security issues with theft ▪ Heard a lot of drug dealings there ▪ In despair
Trismen Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appears to be right in the middle of homes
Ward Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feels unsafe ▪ Very open ▪ Fence is not secure ▪ Their paved parking ▪ Not so clean and safe
Winter Park Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Too many vagrants in area
Additional Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not attend any park allowing dogs for safety reasons

Demographics

- The respondents ranged in age from 21 to 93; most respondents were 35 to 70 years old.
- 57.6% of the participants were female; 42.4% were male.
- 75.8% owned their homes, while 24.2% rented.
- 65.9% had children under 18 in their homes.

Conclusion

Overall, the residents of Winter Park are very happy with the parks that are available to them. 86.5% of participants rated the quality of the parks as excellent or good while 86.1% rated the general condition of the parks as excellent or good. In terms of specific parks, the most popular are Central Park, MLK, and Phelps Park. Residents also use the parks often with over three quarter of respondents stating they visit a park in Winter Park at least once a month. Many respondents offered ideas as to what is missing at the parks however no one idea received more than 18 supporters. Thus while a handful of residents thought more events or more dog parks were needed, no one idea was cited by more than a few people. In terms of respondents' neighborhood parks, increasing the number of benches and tables and improving "overall maintenance" were the most popular suggestions for improvements. While some improvements or changes could be made, the results of the survey show that overall, residents are very pleased with the parks and they are taking advantage of what the parks have to offer.

Appendix

Q28

Surveyor ID number

Q29

Phone number

Q1

Hello,

I am a student from UCF doing a research survey on behalf of the City of Winter Park. I am not selling anything! This survey is anonymous and takes about 5-8 minutes.

[ADD AS NECESSARY:]

You are being asked to participate in this survey as part of the city's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Process. In an effort to continue providing the citizens of Winter Park with the best available parks and recreation facilities, the city has begun updating its current Master Plan which is a blueprint for growth and development of our parks system.

The information you provide through answering this survey will be compiled and used to establish the foundation and direction for the future of Winter Park's park and recreational facilities. I hope you will take a few minutes to provide us with your honest opinion about our existing amenities and programs, as well as what you envision for the future.

Although you will not be asked to provide your name, there are several questions regarding demographics. The information is critical and will only be used for statistical purposes.

Q2

I can only interview people aged 18 and older. Are you at least 18 years old?

- No
- Yes

Q3

And are you a resident of Winter Park?

- Yes
- No

Q4

ok lets get started. Winter Park has more than 20 parks and public recreation facilities. Overall, how would you rate the quality of Winter Park's public parks? Would you say they are poor, fair, average, good or excellent?

- poor
- fair
- average
- good
- excellent

Q5

And using the same scale, how would you rate the general condition of Winter Park's public parks and recreation facilities? (re-read options if necessary)

- poor
- fair
- average
- good
- excellent

Q6

Which parks and recreation facilities are you or those in your household currently using and how do you rate each overall? (surveyor- only select the quality of the parks/facilities the participant names. After one park is named, ask if there are others they use and assess quality)

	poor	fair	average	good	excellent
Park Facility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Central Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shady Parks & Spray Ground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lake Baldwin Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MLK	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mead Garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ward Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter Park Community Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dinky Dock	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmer's Market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cady Way Pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cady Way Bike Trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kraft Azalea Garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Orwin Manor Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	poor	fair	average	good	excellent
Phelps Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trismen Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Howell Branch Preserve	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter Park Tennis Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Azalea Lane Rec Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter Park Golf Course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q7

How often do you use Winter Park's public parks and recreation facilities? (read options)

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

Q8

What are you using the public parks and recreation facilities for? That is to say what do you typically do when you are at one of the parks? (record answers)

- Biking
- golf/ tennis
- place to bring kids
- playground
- in-line skating

- dining/ picnic
- attending events
- family time
- soccer/ baseball
- swimming
- exercising
- volunteering
- learning/ education
- fishing
- walking dogs
- other sports
- boating
- walking
- viewing nature
- relaxing
- other

Q9

What, if anything, do you feel is missing from Winter Park's public park offerings?

Q10

Is there one park you consider your neighborhood park?

- No
- Yes

Q11

What park would that be?

Q12

How often do you visit your neighborhood park?

- daily
- weekly
- monthly
- occasionally
- rarely
- never

Q13

What, if any, improvements or additions would you like to see made to your neighborhood park? (record verbatim)

- amphitheatre
- paths
- provide/ increase park staff
- pool
- bathrooms
- public art
- benches/ tables
- recreation/ sports programming
- children's play equipment
- security
- children's spray park area
- signage
- skate parks
- dog park area
- sports courts/ fields
- drinking fountains

- synthetic turf area
- gardens and flowers
- track/ fitness trail
- overall maintenance
- tree planting & maintenance
- cleaning/ litter removal
- more trash cans
- lighting
- disabled access
- other

- none

Q14

Now I'm going to read a short list of park issues. Please rate the importance of each as not important at all, not very important, somewhat important, or very important.

	not important at all	not very important	somewhat important	very important
keeping user fees/ admission at current levels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
enhancing offerings at existing parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
maintaining and renovating existing parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
developing existing city land for more parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
acquiring land for new parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q15

In general, do you tend to visit the parks alone or with others?

- Alone
- With others

Q16

How often do you visit parks as part of your exercise or health and fitness routine? (read options)

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

Q17

Is there a recreation activity that is not available in Winter Park that you would like to see offered and supported?

- No
- Yes

Q18

What recreation activity would you like to see?

Q19

Are there any Winter Park parks you are reluctant to use?

- No
- Yes

Q20

Which parks are you reluctant to use and why?

Q21

Just a few more questions for statistical purposes and we will be done:

Q22

What is your age?

Q23

What is your gender? (Only ask if not obvious)

- Male
- Female

Q24

Do you rent or own your residence in Winter Park?

- Own
- Rent

Q25

Do you have children under the age of 18 in your home?

- No
- Yes

Q26

How many children do you have under 18 living at home?

Q27

Thank you for your participation in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey! Have a great day!