

Town of Buchanan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

June 11th, 2024



Agenda

- 1. Review Chapter One**
- 2. Survey Results**
- 3. Goals and Objectives**
- 4. Future Meeting Topics**



Chapter One: Introduction



PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE PLANNING

This is Buchanan's fourth comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, but its first since forming a permanent Parks Committee to specifically oversee park projects and improvements in July of 2022. The first CORP was adopted by the Town Board for the years 2009-2012, the second from 2013-2017, and most recently from 2018-2022. It is the goal of both the Town Board and the Park's Committee to maximize grant availability to assist in park project funding, so the current document is being updated to cover the years 2025-2029.

PARKS COMMITTEE

The Town Board did not sit idly on its hands during the time between the expiration of the prior CORP and the adoption of this one. In fact, it took significant steps to prioritize improvements to the Town's parks. In 2022, it created a permanent Parks Committee which meets monthly and reports directly to the Town Board. The Committee membership is made up of interested Town citizens who serve two-year terms.

In addition to creating the Committee, the Board substantially increased the budget allocation dedicated to improvements to parks. Throughout 2023 the Parks Committee undertook the planning process to map out improvements to Springfield Park. A master plan was approved by the Board and phase one of that plan was completed in the fall of 2023. The 2024 budget includes funding for the completion of Phase 2 of that project which includes new basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts, a paved trail connecting the park to nearby residential streets, and all new play equipment.

The objective of the Town over the next five years is to make substantial improvements to its other two neighborhood parks, as well as further develop a trail system that will allow for simpler and safer transportation and outdoor recreation options within the community.

EXISTING PLAN

In addition to reviewing the plan listed below have influenced recommendations in the

PARKS AND RECR (ADOPTED 2009)

In 2009, a needs assessment to enact an impact fee or acquisition, improvement Town's population and for capital purchases related

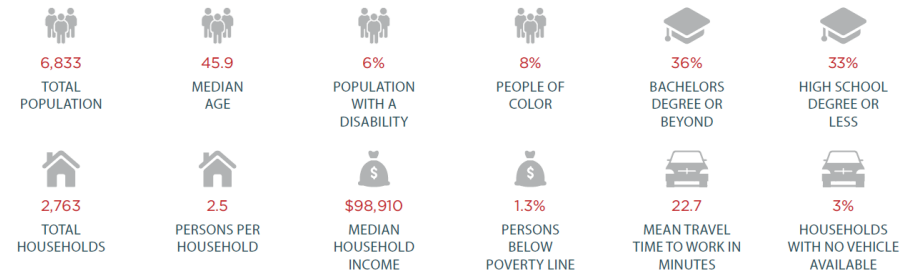
TOWN OF BUCHANAN (ADOPTED 2018)

The Comprehensive Plan and adopted in 2018. This such as housing, transportation environmental resources

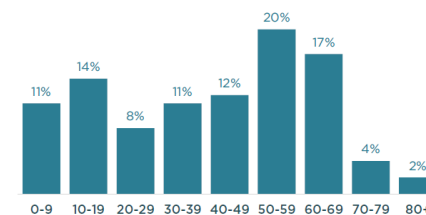
APPLETON AND C PEDESTRIAN PLAN

This plan was adopted in communities to each other creating a balanced network of Buchanan is included in Metropolitan Planning Organization

FIGURE 1-3. TOWN OF BUCHANAN DEMOGRAPHICS

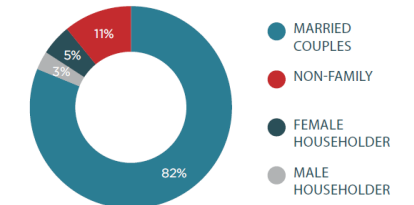


POPULATION BY AGE RANGE



Source: ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates

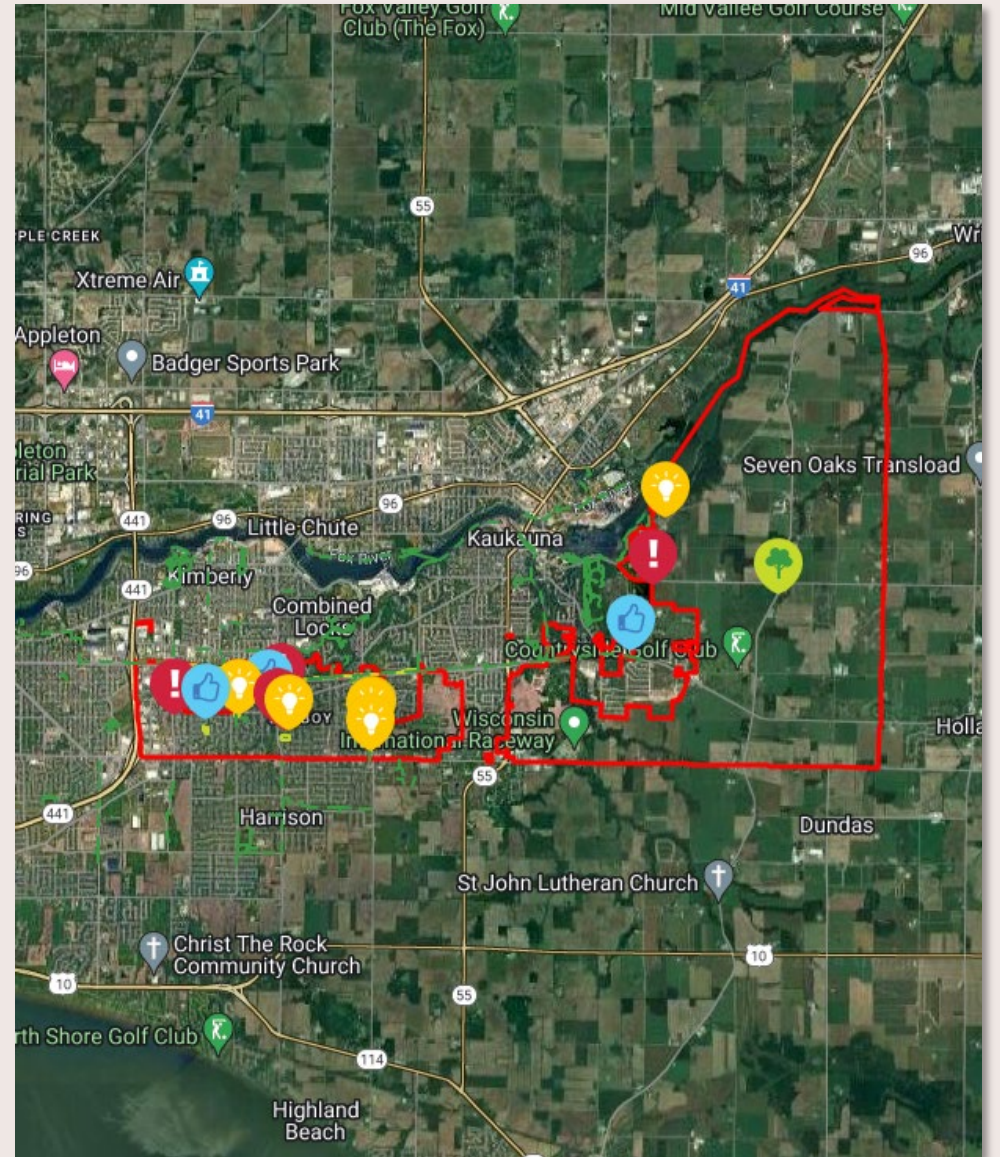
POPULATION BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE



Survey Results

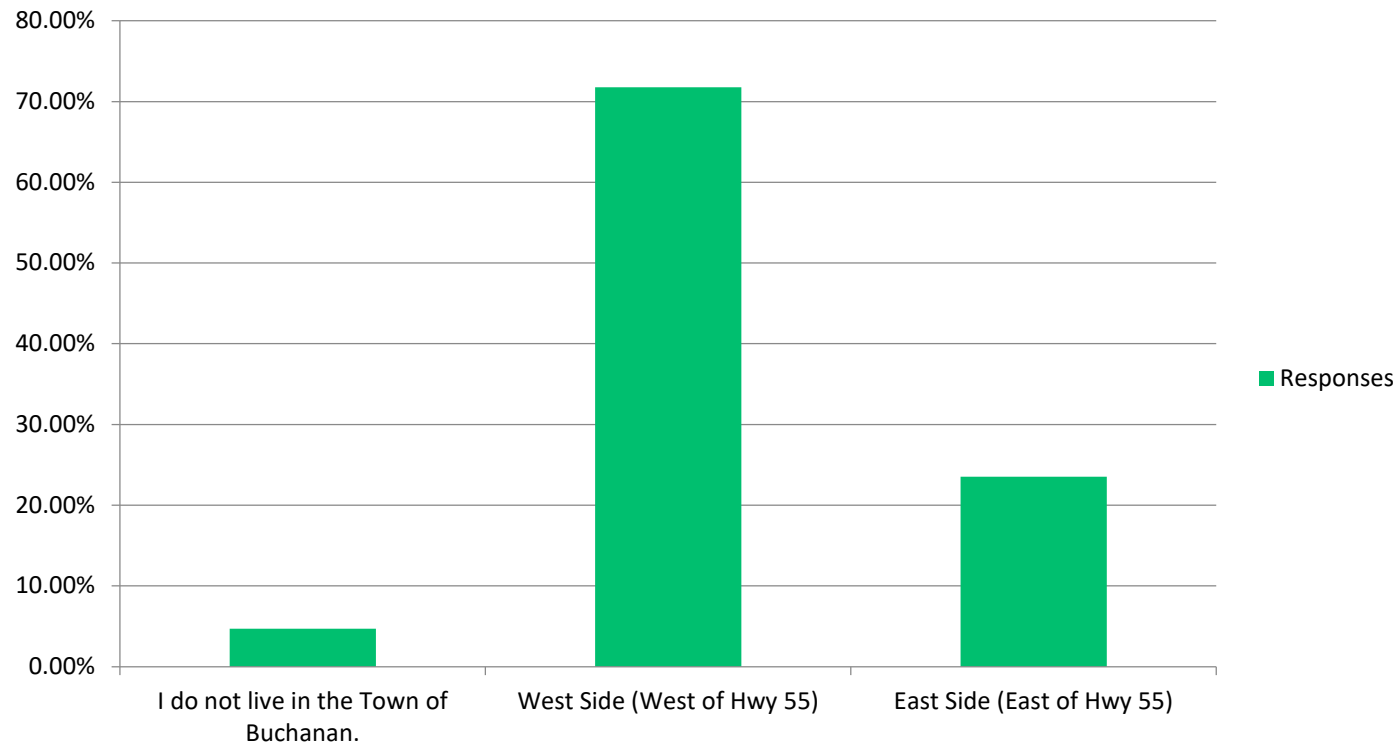
Overview

- April 1st to May 31st
- 91 survey responses
- 20 map comments
 - <https://ecwrpc.mysocialpinpoint.com/buchanancorp/map#/>



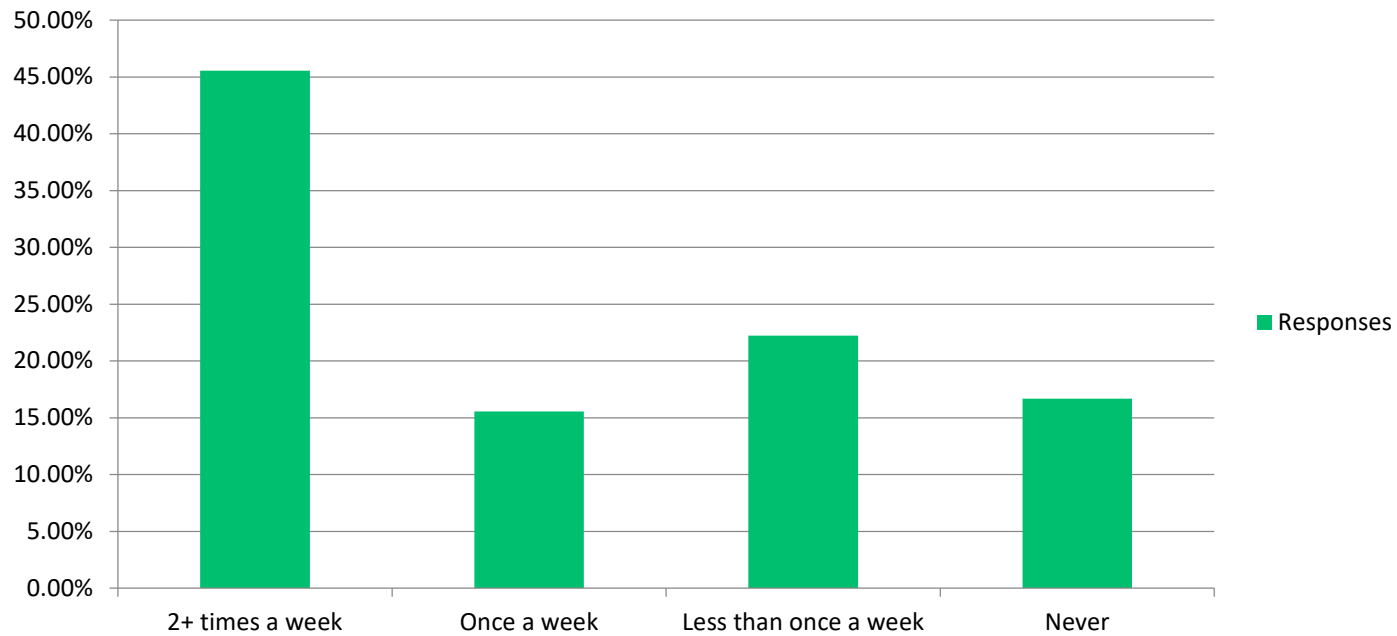
Q1

Where do you live in the Town of Buchanan?



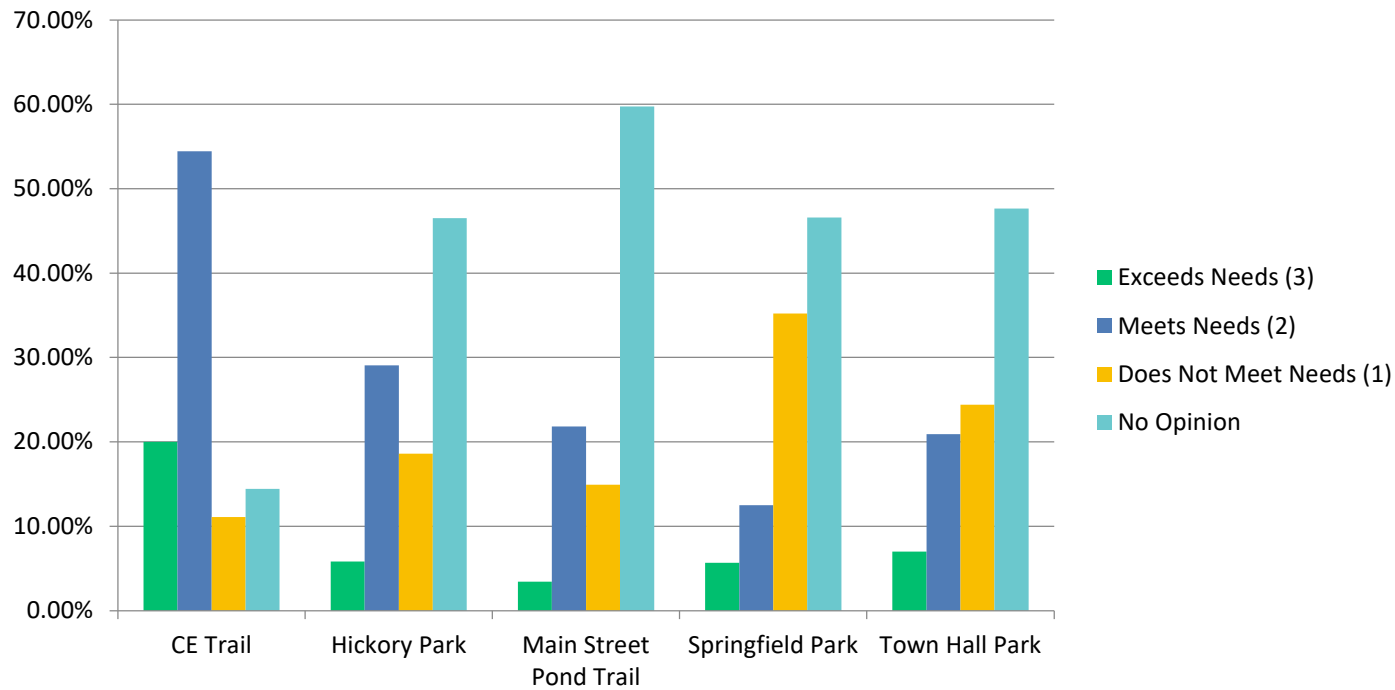
Q2

In the summer, how often do members of your household visit parks and/or utilize trails in the Town of Buchanan?



Q3

How satisfied are you with the following parks and trails in the Town of Buchanan? (scale of 1-3)



“Need trails that connect people to places not just in the parks.”

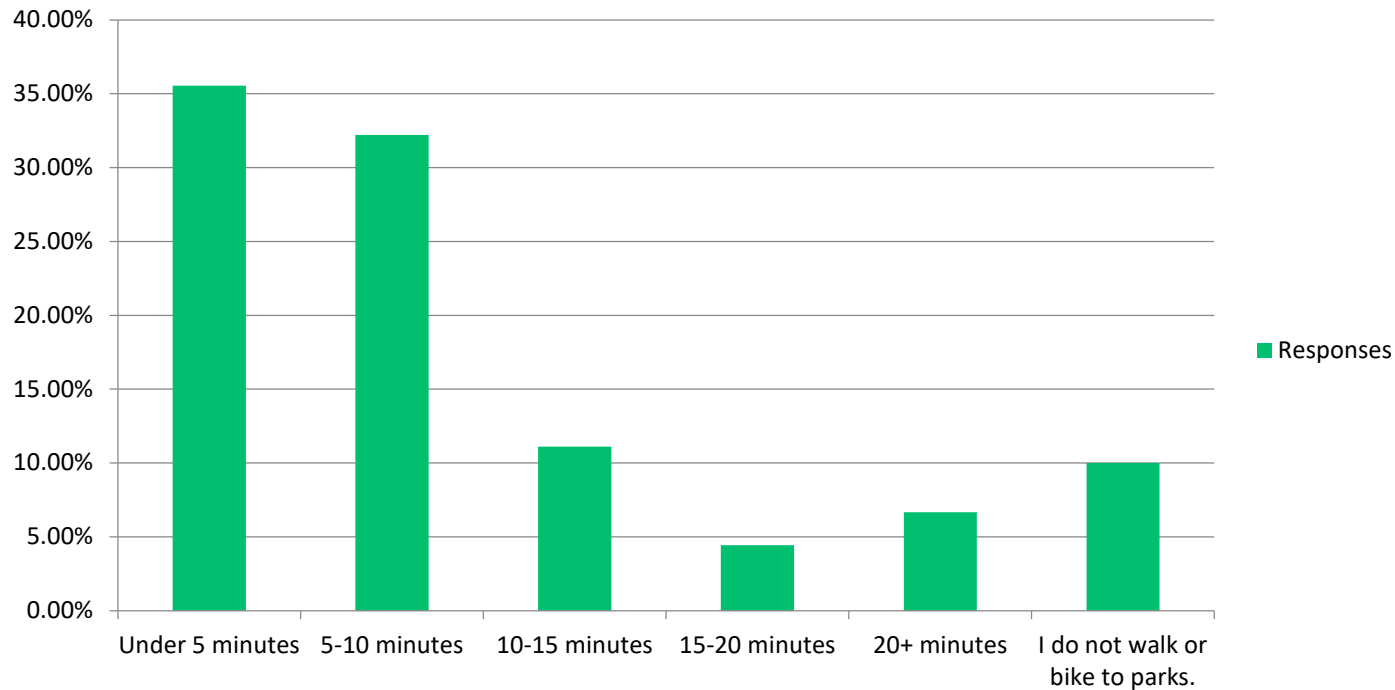
“All the parks need a face-lift. They have been around for a long time and need new amenities.”

“It would be nice to have electricity at Hickory Park. If so, we would consider utilizing it for parties.”



Q4

On average, how long does it take you to reach your neighborhood park via biking or walking?



“But I have to cross county N and there are no sidewalks or crosswalks”

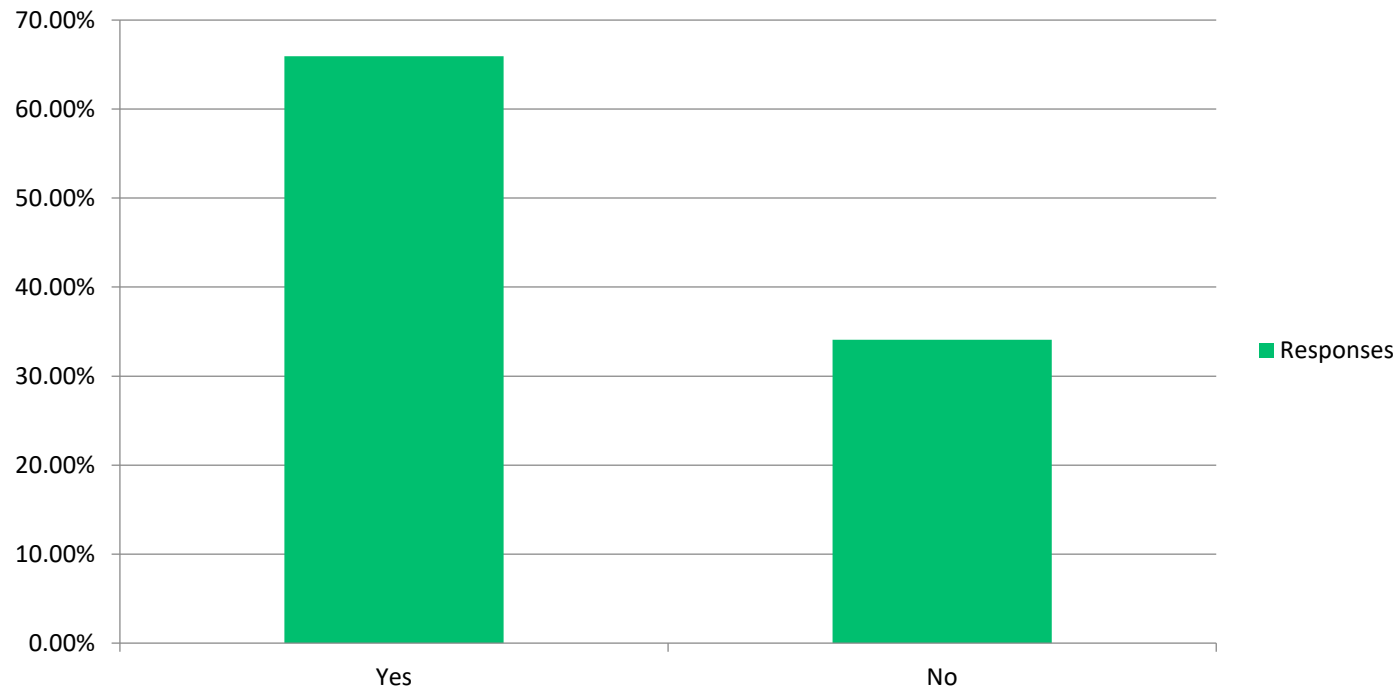
“There are barely any sidewalks on the east side of Buchanan :(I do not feel safe. Cars go drive a minimum of 40 mph and its very scary. If I do walk somewhere it will be via country roads to 1000 islands in Kaukauna.”

“We can walk to Town Hall Park in 10-15 minutes but it is small and my kids prefer to go to Hickory which is a 25 minute walk.”



Q5

Do you feel safe walking and/or biking in your neighborhood?



“For the most part I feel safe during the daylight hours, but I don't feel safe walking as evening hits because the streets aren't clearly lit and there are no sidewalks.”

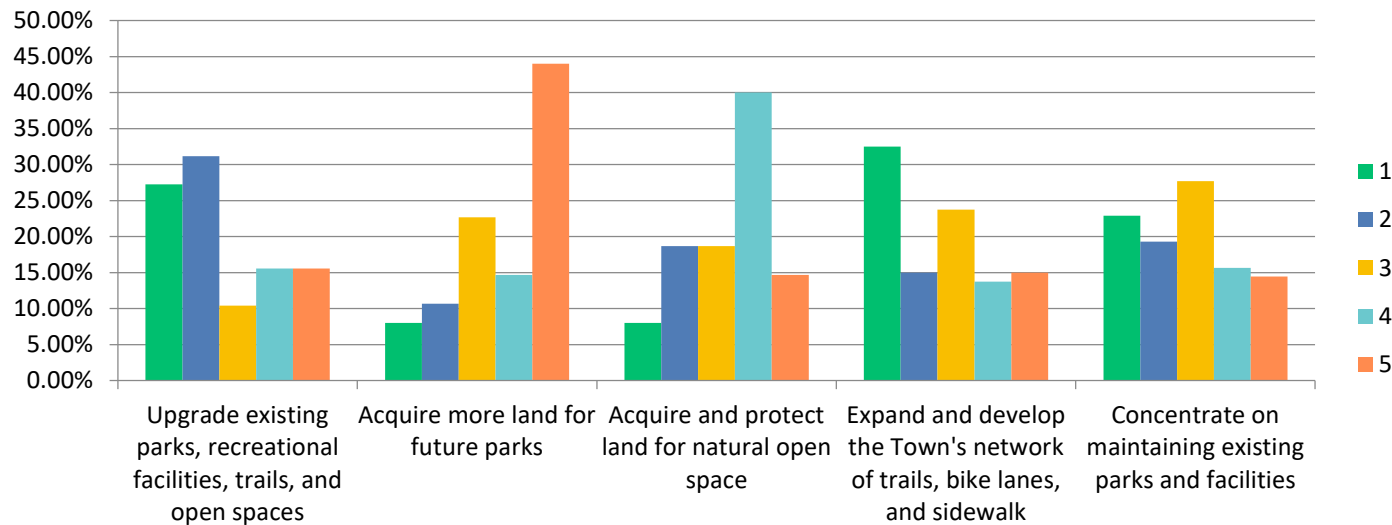
“We didnt used to feel safe, but now that there is a sidewalk on Emons, it made a huge difference in our kiddos being able to ride bikes or walk to Springfield park.”

“Block and Buchanan has heavy traffic and no sidewalks”



Q6

How can the Town of Buchanan best improve the local park system? Please rank the options below in terms of priority (1-5) where 1 is the top priority to you and 5 is the least important to you. Choose each number once.



Top Priority (avg. rank)

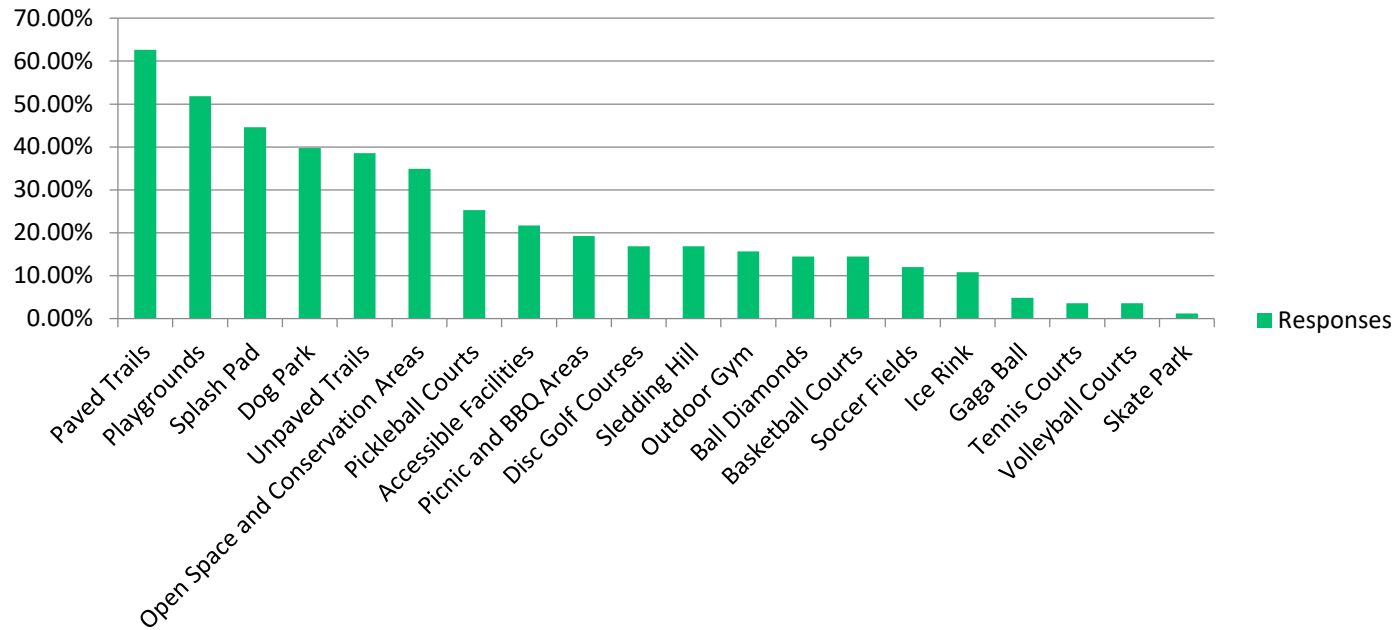
- Upgrade existing parks, recreational facilities, trails, and open spaces
- Expand and develop the Town's network of trails, bike lanes, and sidewalk
- Concentrate on maintaining existing parks and facilities
- Acquire and protect land for natural open space
- Acquire more land for future parks

Least Important



Q7

From the list below, please pick the top five (5) facilities that you think the Town should invest more in.



“Universal playground like Memorial Park in Appleton”

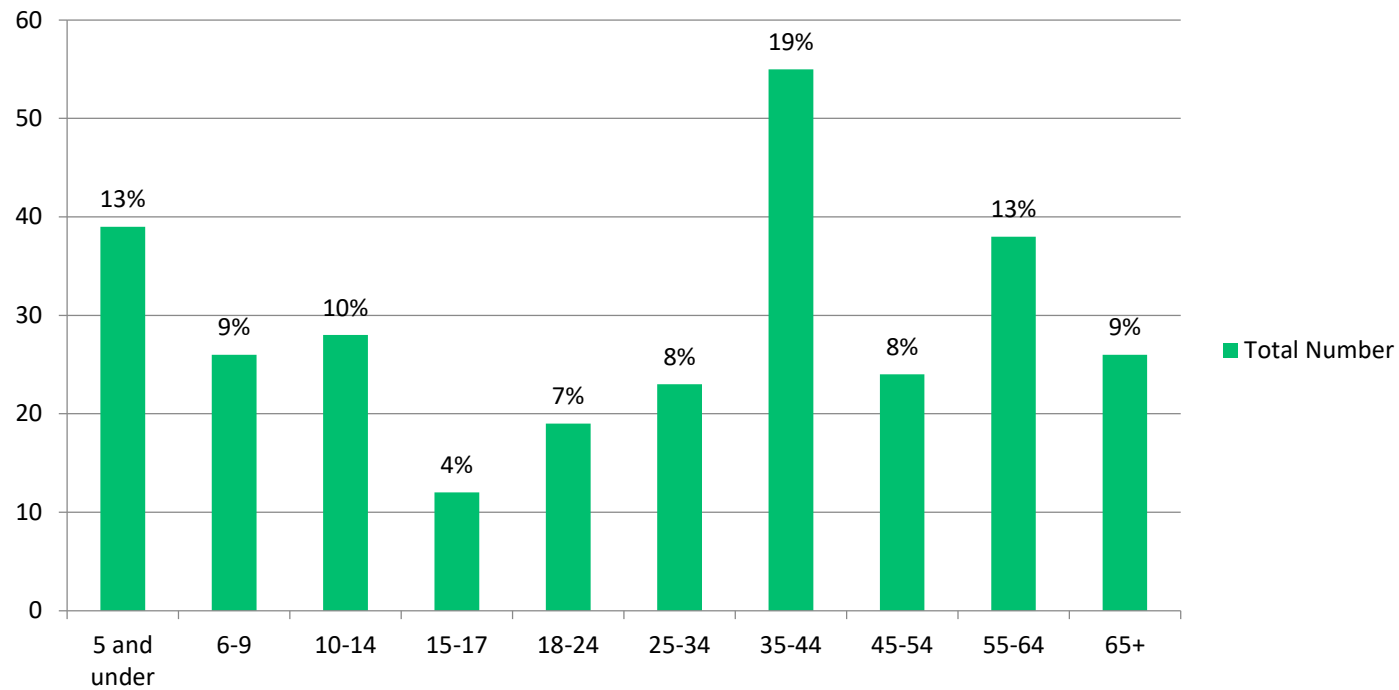
“Community/senior center
Destination sports park with ball diamonds/multi-use fields/courts/
accessible playground/etc.”

Implementing dog waste stations/waste station with a bench amongst our township.
Suggestion specifically: Main Street Pond path/side walk area on Emmons, Springfield park adog waste station and bench closer to the road. Along the CE trail”



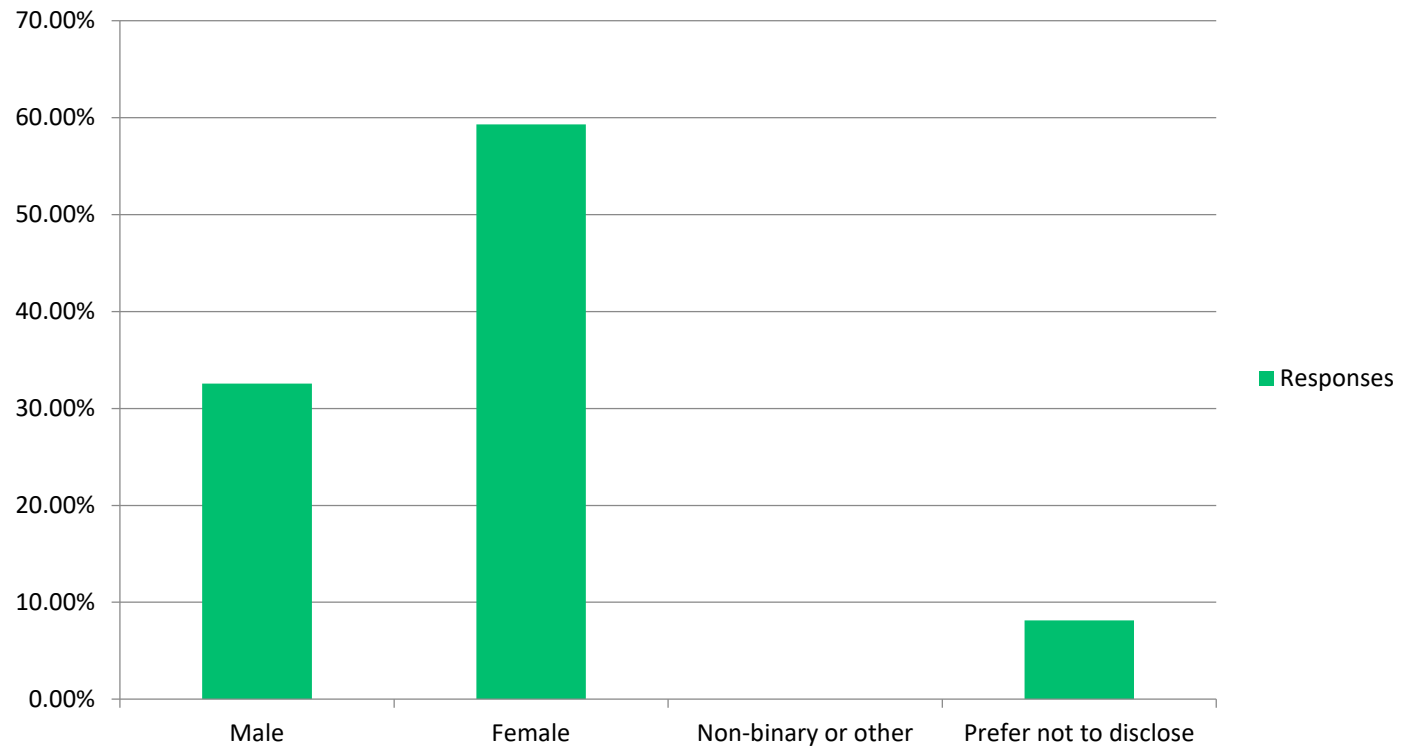
Q8

Please identify the number of people in each age group living in your household.



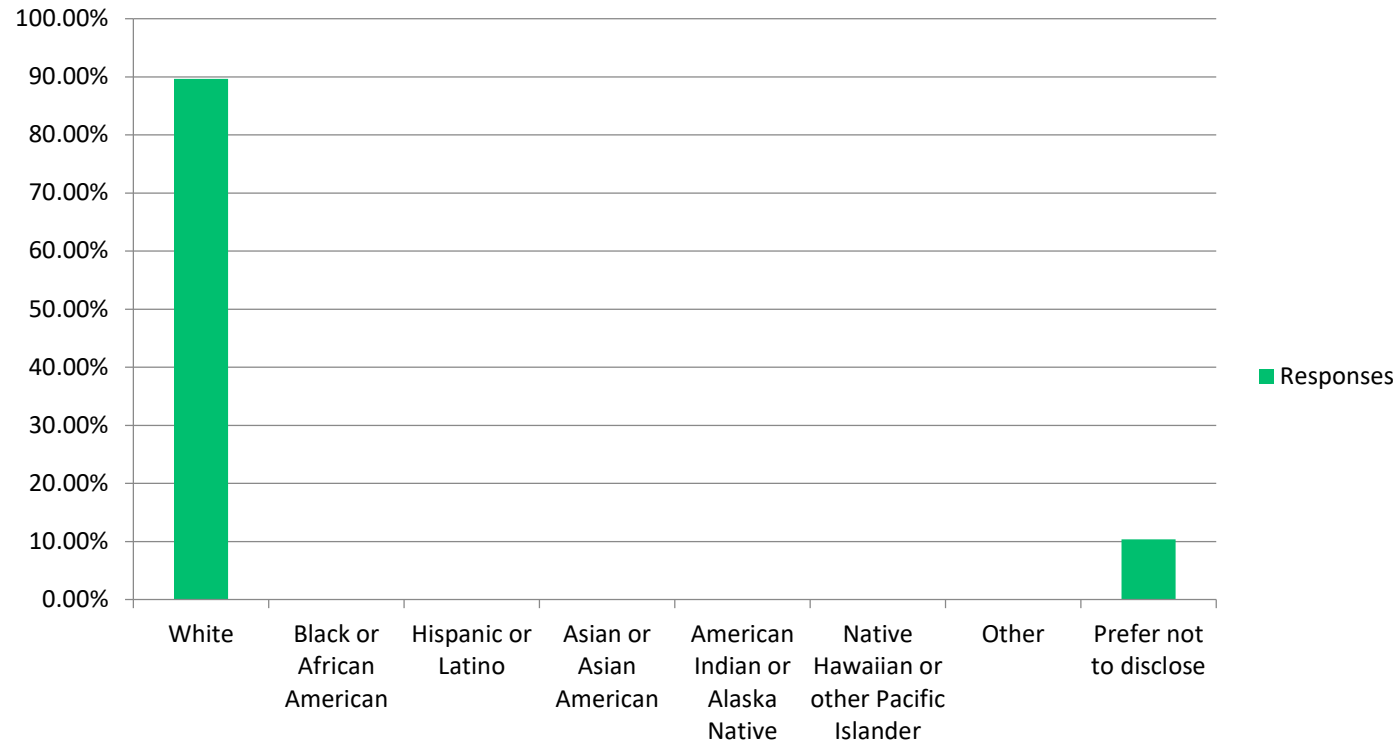
Q9

What is your gender?



Q10

What is your race or ethnic group?



Q11

Make sure to maintain what we have to prolong the useful life. That requires proper staffing levels to manage the park system. Require park dedication in new developments and utilize park impact fees to fund capital improvements. Provide more recreational programs or partner with neighboring municipalities.

In this current economy of huge inflation, I'm barely hanging on and would prefer to keep my taxes affordable as opposed to paying for parks that are 15 minutes driving from where I live.

"Connectivity from CE Trail to High Cliff and business areas needs to be prioritized. I avoid bicycling to or through Buchanan because of safety concerns of having to bicycle amongst traffic. This results in choosing other bike accessible locations to patronize. Buchanan and other communities need to adapt quickly to accommodate the demand that ebikes will drive."

"More Benches at the park, or picnic tables to sit without having to sit 3-4 deep on one bench. Sun shades/ covers over some seating to avoid sunburns. Start some clubs for kids to come to to meet neighbors and kids their age. Maybe a moms playgroup at one of the parks."

"I know everything costs money but parks are important to families and making a great community so I hope the Town is able to put some money into its parks and trails."

"We moved from Fox Crossing, there perks and recreational activities far exceeded those of the Town of Buchanan. I would like to see more activities offered."



Key Themes

Maintenance and Upgrades

- There are numerous requests for maintenance of existing facilities and upgrades to parks and trails, such as fixing muddy trails, replacing old equipment, and providing general face-lifts to parks.

1



2

Key Themes

Accessibility, Connectivity, and Safety

- Many comments focus on the need for better accessibility and safety, including paved trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and safer crossings. Concerns about fast traffic and the lack of sidewalks making areas unsafe for walking or biking are prevalent.



Key Themes

Additional Amenities

- There is a strong demand for additional amenities in parks, such as restrooms, electricity, dog waste stations, dedicated pickleball courts, and more benches and picnic tables.

3





Discussion



Updating Chapter Two

Overview

- Park Committee will coordinate with Michael Brown to write the goals and objectives for Chapter Two.
- Can reuse goals/objectives from existing CORP and Comprehensive Plan or write new goals/objectives (or a mix of both!)
- Goals/objectives should be clear, attainable and meaningful.

Town of Buchanan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018 - 2022





Updating Chapter Two

Things to Consider

- What needs to be accomplished?
- Has it already been accomplished?
- Is it realistically achievable?
- What steps need to be taken to achieve it?
- Does it reflect community feedback?
- Does it complement existing planning efforts?

Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

- **Vision:** A brief, inspiring description of what a community should be like in the future in relation to the purpose of the plan.
- **Goal:** A long-range statement which describes a desired future condition. Goals will address one specific aspect of the vision.
- **Objective:** A statement that describes a specific action or condition which will help attain the stated goals.
- **Recommendation:** Specific actions which must be performed to implement the goals and objectives.



Town of Buchanan Mission and Vision

Our Mission:

"We are dedicated to providing essential Town services through quality-driven, citizen-focused and fiscally responsible efforts."

Our Vision:

"In the spirit of Town government, Buchanan offers a thriving, attractive and safe community for living and doing business in the Fox Cities!"



Existing CORP Goals

- To establish a nature based park system to increase educational and recreational opportunities for Town residents and visitors (Comp Plan).
- To preserve the natural resource base, environmental corridors and natural resources which contribute to the ecological balance, economic well-being and natural beauty of the Town (Comp Plan).
- To encourage cooperation with adjacent municipalities, School Districts, local groups and organizations, and developers to maximize the cost-effectiveness of providing open space and recreational facilities.
- To encourage continued involvement of Buchanan residents when planning for park and recreational development.
- To develop diverse and maintained recreational opportunities throughout the township.

CORP: <https://www.townofbuchanan.org/home/showpublisheddocument/154/637388989152970000>

Comp Plan: <https://www.townofbuchanan.org/home/showpublisheddocument/186/637389027298100000>





Discussion



Future Meeting Topics

July Parks Committee Meeting

- * *ECWRPC staff will not attend this meeting*
- Finalize Chapter 2: Goals and Objectives
- Review Chapter 3: Recreational Resources
- Review Chapter 4: Recreational Needs

July

su	mo	tu	we	th	fr	sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



August

su	mo	tu	we	th	fr	sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Future Meeting Topics

August Parks Committee Meeting

- * *ECWRPC staff will attend this meeting*
- Review Chapter 5: Recommendations
- Discuss Chapter 6: Action Program



Future Meeting Topics

September Parks Committee Meeting

- * *ECWRPC staff will attend this meeting*
- Review Chapter 6: Action Program
- Final adoption

September

su	mo	tu	we	th	fr	sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					





Questions



Contact Us

- Rachel Roth
rroth@ecwrpc.org
920-886-6830
- Joe Stephenson
jstephenson@ecwrpc.org
920-886-6832

