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Regional Park Planning Survey Results - Sep/Oct 2008

Posted 7 Nov 08

Our thanks to each resident who completed a survey form!

The **paper survey** was mailed to 2,422 randomly-selected households across the five participating municipalities in the Centre Region in early-Sept. 166 surveys were undeliverable, which left a pool of 2,257 households. 499 (22%) completed surveys were returned and analyzed by Pashek and Associates. The answers have been arranged in order of popularity from the paper survey.

The **web-based survey** with the same questions was available on this website from 3-26 Oct 08. The availability of this survey was advertised in the Centre Daily Times. The form would accept only fully-completed survey forms. 538 forms were submitted for analysis & reporting by Elizabeth Covelli, a Penn State graduate student in Recreation, Parks & Tourism Mgmt.

Dear Centre Region Residents,

The five municipalities in the State College area have expanded their cooperation for parks and recreation to acquire, plan, and develop two "regional" parks. These parks will serve all residents in future years. The Oak Hall parklands consists of 68 acres and the Whitehall Road parklands is a 75-acre tract. The focus of these parks will be to:

- Provide outdoor, active recreation facilities close to home for families, groups and individuals;
- Promote the value of activity and fitness;
- Host community-based sport groups / organizations for both youth and adult activities;
- Continue multi-municipal cooperation to meet the needs of residents.

Your input from this questionnaire is an important component of preparing the Master Site Plans for each site. Funding assistance for these projects has been provided by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

1. Please tell us how your household has used the **municipal parks and outdoor school district facilities** in the Centre Region over the past five years. (Please check all that apply)

Paper (499)	Web (538)	
298	405	Went to walk or ride a bike for exercise
266	470	Used facilities as an individual or family (i.e. tennis, bocci, playground)
222	332	Picnicked (family or group)
195	284	Went to enjoy the environment / landscape
188	290	Went to relax (i.e. sunbathe, read a book, people watch)
182	282	Attended/participated in organized sports (i.e. baseball/softball, soccer, football, lacrosse, basketball)
176	331	Visited Millbrook Marsh Nature Center
168	262	Attended special events held in the parks
144	324	Visited Welch or Park Forest Swimming Pools
124	215	Walked a dog
56	145	Participated in classes & programs held in parks
52	5	We have not visited those facilities in the past five years
2,071 responses	3,145 responses	TOTAL

2. If you are not currently using park facilities, other than lack of time, what are your reasons?

Please click on one of the links to review those comments: [PAPER SURVEY](#) [WEB SURVEY](#)

3. We are planning park facilities for the two new regional parks in the area. What facilities do you think we should include in those parks? (Please select up to ten (10) facilities, then list the top three (3) facilities below.)

Paper (499)	Web (538)	
374	397	Walking trails
315	321	Picnic pavilions
305	313	Shade trees/flowers
283	312	Playground areas
198	255	Open space
185	237	Sledding area
166	228	Tennis courts
152	147	Swimming pool
142	305	Soccer fields
135	77	Adult/Senior Fitness Stations
133	154	Basketball courts
137	130	Community Garden Area

127	127	Dog park (fenced, off-leash area)
114	121	Amphitheater
105	133	Cross-country skiing trails
103	94	Baseball fields
96	79	Softball fields
88	82	Sand Volleyball Court
72	43	Horseshoe courts
62	54	Bocci courts
52	75	Skateboarding Facilities
46	85	Disc Golf course
34	47	Remote Control Airfield
31	58	Football fields
21	30	Lacrosse fields
3,476 TOTAL	3,957 TOTAL	TOTAL RESPONSES
To Listing...	To Listing...	Other

Please List Your Top 3 Facilities:

Please click on one of the links to review those rankings: [PAPER SURVEY](#) [WEB SURVEY](#)

4. What kinds of trails would you or members of your household use in a park? (Check all that apply)

Paper (499)	Web (538)	
408	475	Walking/jogging trails
336	403	Nature trails
48	0	In-line skating trail
71 (To Listing...)	93 (To Listing...)	Other

5. Are you satisfied with the park facilities in the Centre Region currently available to the members of your household?

Paper (499)	Web (538)	
361 (74%)	404 (75%)	YES
78 (26%)	234 (25%)	NO
439 responses	538 responses	

6. When you think of an attractive park you have visited anywhere, what made that park inviting or memorable for you?

Please click on one of the links to review those comments: [PAPER SURVEY](#) [WEB SURVEY](#)

7. Would members of your household increase their use of sports fields, tennis and basketball courts, if lighting were provided for evening use?

Paper (499)	Web (538)	
259 (53%)	363 (75%)	NO
191 (39%)	175 (25%)	YES
450 responses	538 responses	

8. As we plan for two new regional parks, what other suggestions or comments would you like to share with us?

Please click on one of the links to review those comments: [PAPER SURVEY](#) [WEB SURVEY](#)

9. Which municipality do you live in?

Paper (499)	Web (538)	Municipality	The paper survey was delivered to xx households in this municipality
83 (17%)	135 (25%)	State College Borough	700 less 47 undeliverable = 653 (29%)
88 (18%)	96 (18%)	College Township	400 less 30 undeliverable = 370 (16%)
123 (25%)	152 (28%)	Ferguson Township	512 less 52 undeliverable = 460 (20%)
114 (24%)	37 (7%)	Harris Township	400 less 13 undeliverable = 387 (17%)
75 (16%)	86 (16%)	Patton Township	410 less 23 undeliverable = 387 (17%)
2: "Potter" & "Boalsburg"	32 (6%)	Other	0
485 responses*	538 responses*	TOTAL	2,422 less 166 undeliverable = 2,257**

Regarding the percentages in each column (examples):

* 17% of the paper survey respondents and 25% of the web survey respondents live in State College Borough.

** 29% of the selected addresses were in State College Borough

10. How long have you lived in the region defined by the five municipalities listed above?

Paper (499)	Web (538)	
87	87	0-4 years
91	115	5-10 years
305	328	11+ years
483 responses	538 responses	

11. Please circle the number of people in your household in each age category.

Paper (499)	Web (538)	
75	112	0-4 years
78	196	5-9 years
89	204	10-14 years
96	121	15-19 years
212	155	20-34 years
149	242	35-44 years
212	193	45-54 years
168	80	55-64 years
207	22	65+ years
490 responses representing 1,286 individuals	528 responses representing 1,325 individuals	

12. Do you rent or own your residence?

Paper (499)	Web (538)	
421	488	OWN
62	50	RENT
483 responses	538 responses	

13. Please provide us with any additional comments:

Please click on one of the links to review those comments: [PAPER SURVEY](#) [WEB SURVEY](#)

[Learn more about the two regional park sites](#)

The CRPR Authority is a publicly-funded, municipal agency serving 5 municipalities since 1966. The Authority also maintains 501c3 status.
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