2014
Parks and Recreation Survey

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Survey Report
October 2014
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation — founded in January 2013 — is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Its mission is to be a collaborative partner with the Town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department, working to protect, enhance and expand its recreation activities and parks to improve the quality of life for all residents.

From May through July 2014, the Friends conducted a public survey as a service to the Parks and Recreation Department, to understand how the Town can best meet the needs and desires of its residents with respect to the provision of parks and recreational services. Notice of the 2014 Parks and Recreation Survey was disseminated through Town communication channels, the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, and The Spotlight, as well as by Friends board members at Town and community events.

The survey was confidential and open to all who were willing to participate. Over the three-month period, 345 respondents participated — exceeding the Friends’ goal of 300 respondents.

Since the respondents were self-selected rather than a scientific sample, inferences cannot be drawn as to the opinions of the population at large. The survey results represent the opinions of those who chose to participate.

Those wishing to take the survey accessed it via a link on the Friends website (friendsofbethlehemparks.org) to SurveyMonkey.com. Not every respondent completed every question; however, seven questions required a response to continue through the survey. Participants had the discretion whether or not to respond to the remaining questions. Also, individuals who provided a negative response to questions such as “Have you ever visited [a particular] Park?” did not see questions pertaining to that park.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The 2014 Parks and Recreation Survey focused on six specific areas:

- Town Park Facilities
- Recreational Activities & You
- Staying Informed
- The Value of Our Parks
- Spending on Parks
- Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation
Throughout all areas, average satisfaction levels were positive — all above 3.00 on a scale from 1.00 to 5.00, ranging between 3.05 for the snowmobiling area at Elm Avenue Park and 4.44 for the Olympic pool at Elm Avenue Park.

Many of the questions allowed for comments, and other open-ended questions asked for suggested improvements. Although the comments summarized throughout the report generally focus on opportunities for improvement, there were numerous positive comments throughout the survey as well, such as:

“Pools are great” (Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex)

“Glad we have a dog park in our town” (Town Dog Park)

“This is another gem!” (Henry Hudson Park)

“great hike with kids” (Moh-He-Con-Nuck Nature Preserve)

“All well done!” (Recreational Activities)

The most frequent responses are summarized in the accompanying survey report. However, every comment has been shared with the Parks and Recreation Department administration and will receive serious consideration. Following are highlights of the responses to the questions we sought to answer through the survey:

**Part I: Town Park Facilities**

**Do you visit Town parks?** Yes — of the respondents, at least 90% have visited Elm Avenue Park, 75% have visited Henry Hudson Park, and well over half — 58% — have visited one or more of the Neighborhood Parks.

**Are you satisfied with them?** Yes — the average satisfaction level for all the parks and their facilities exceeded 3.00 (on a scale from 1.00 to 5.00), with the highest overall average satisfaction level for an individual park of 4.40 earned by Maple Ridge Park.

**What prevents you from using Town parks?** Three types of barriers to park use were explored. Among facility issues, the most frequently selected answer choices were “Have no need for this type of facility” and “Location not convenient for me.” On the issue of fees, pool fees were selected most frequently. And as to personal reasons, the most frequent responses were “Not aware of availability” and “Lack of time.”

**In what ways would you like to see them improved?** The most frequently mentioned comments all referenced Elm Avenue Park — updating the pool restrooms and locker rooms, providing more shade in the pool area, improving maintenance of the playground, and improving and increasing trails. When asked about facilities not currently offered, “Canoe/kayak launch” was the answer choice that received the most responses.
Part II: Recreational Activities & You

Do you participate in Town of Bethlehem recreational activities? Yes – 90% of those who responded indicated a satisfaction level for at least one category of recreational activities, indicating that they, or a household member, had participated in such activities.

Are you satisfied with them? Yes – the average satisfaction levels for all categories of recreational activities ranged from 3.49 (Fitness--Youth) to 4.13 (Aquatics) on a scale from 1.00 to 5.00.

What prevents you from participating in Town recreational activities? “Lack of time” was the most frequently selected response, followed by “Not aware of what is being offered.”

In what ways would you like to see Bethlehem’s recreational activities improved? Respondents most frequently indicated that they would like to see more “Special events/concerts/performing arts” and “Events at the Neighborhood Parks.”

Part III: Staying Informed

What is the best way to keep you informed about the Parks and Recreation Department offerings? The Parks and Recreation Department “Playbook” and Town newsletter/ notices were the two modes of communication that received the most responses.

Part IV: The Value of Our Parks

What are your opinions on the value of municipal parks and recreation activities? When asked to agree or disagree with eight statements on the value of municipal parks and recreational activities, average agreement levels ranged from 3.64 (“Municipal parks and recreation programs promote local tourism”) to 4.44 (“Municipal parks and recreation programs preserve open space and the environment”) on a scale from 1.00 to 5.00.

Part V: Spending on Parks

How would you spend additional parks and recreation dollars? Of the $24,900 allocated by the 249 respondents (who “spent” $100 each), more than half was allocated to two areas: “Maintaining and improving existing facilities” ($8,968) and “Developing new trails and pathways (walking, running, hiking, biking)” ($4,203).

Part VI: Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation

How do you think the Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation can best support recreational activities and parks in the Town of Bethlehem? The most popular answer choices were “Raising funds for park improvements” and “Sponsoring additional activities and events.”
A WORD OF THANKS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Friends Bethlehem Parks and Recreation board would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2014 Parks and Recreation Survey for their time, input, and ideas. We also thank those who helped us promote the survey.

The survey was long – 47 questions for anyone who has visited all of Bethlehem’s parks. However, it produced a wealth of information, which will be of great value to the Town as it embarks on the development of a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan in the coming year, and to the Friends group as it continues to grow and focus its efforts in furtherance of its mission.

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SURVEY RESULTS

PART I: TOWN PARK FACILITIES

Elm Avenue Pool Complex

Question 1: Have you ever visited the Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex?
Answered: 345, Skipped: 0

Of the 345 respondents, 90% indicated that they have visited the Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex.

Question 2: Generally, during the past three years, how often did you visit the Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex?
Answered: 286, Skipped: 59  (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 1 saw this question.)

Of the 286 respondents to this question, 35% indicated that during the past three years, they generally visited the Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex 13 or more times per year.
Elm Avenue Pool Complex (continued)

Question 3: Please indicate your satisfaction level with the facilities at the Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex on a scale from "Very Satisfied" to "Very Dissatisfied."
Answered: 279, Skipped: 66  (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 1 saw this question.)

Responses were assigned a value from 1 to 5, with a value of 1 for “Very Dissatisfied” and 5 for “Very Satisfied.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL SATISFACTION</td>
<td>4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympic pool</td>
<td>4.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash Islands</td>
<td>4.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diving pool</td>
<td>4.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>L-shaped pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area surrounding pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concession</td>
<td>3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms / locker rooms</td>
<td>3.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average Overall Satisfaction level for the Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex was 4.30 on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00. The individual facilities with the highest ratings were the Olympic Pool (4.44) and the Splash Islands (4.37), with Restrooms / Locker Rooms and the Concession receiving the lowest ratings (3.22 and 3.85, respectively).

Of the 94 comments received on this question, the most frequently mentioned area is that the restroom/locker rooms need to be updated and better maintained (32 comments). In addition to 16 positive comments, other areas frequently mentioned were that the concession needs more healthy choices and lower prices (10 comments), that the pool area needs more shade (7 comments), and that better supervision is needed (6 comments) — particularly in the Splash Islands area.

Question 4: What improvements would you like to see at the Elm Avenue Park Pool Complex?
Answered: 139, Skipped: 206  (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 1 saw this question.)

The 139 responses to this open-ended question generally echoed the comments made in response to Question 3. The most frequently suggested improvements were:

1. Updating and better maintenance of restrooms and locker rooms (59 comments), with the addition of a family changing room
2. More shade in the pool area (29 comments)
3. More seating in the pool area (11 comments)
4. More healthy options and lower prices at the concession (9 comments)
Elm Avenue Park Athletic Fields (including Line Drive)

Question 5: Have you ever visited the Elm Avenue Park Athletic Fields?
Answered: 319, Skipped: 26

Of the 319 respondents to this question, approximately two-thirds — 66% — indicated that they have visited the Elm Avenue Park Athletic Fields.

Question 6: Generally, during the past three years, how often did you visit the Elm Avenue Park Athletic Fields?
Answered: 198, Skipped: 147 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 5 saw this question.)

Of the 198 respondents to this question (who at some time visited the Elm Avenue Athletic Fields) -- 35% generally have visited them 7 or more times per year during the past three years and 35% have visited them 0-1 times.
Elm Avenue Park Athletic Fields (including Line Drive) (continued)

Question 7: Please indicate your satisfaction level with the facilities at the Elm Avenue Park Athletic Fields on a scale from "Very Satisfied" to "Very Dissatisfied."
Answered: 197, Skipped: 148 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 5 saw this question.)

Responses were assigned a value from 1 to 5, with a value of 1 for “Very Dissatisfied” and 5 for “Very Satisfied.”

The average Overall Satisfaction level for the Elm Avenue Park Athletic Fields was 4.10 on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00. When asked about fields for individual sports, respondents’ average satisfaction level was highest for the soccer fields (4.03) and lowest for the lacrosse fields (3.52).

Of the 24 comments received on this question, the most frequently mentioned area is drainage on the fields (9 comments).

Question 8: What improvements would you like to see at the Elm Avenue Park Athletic Fields?
Answered: 52 Skipped: 293 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 5 saw this question.)

The responses to this open-ended question also mentioned field drainage most frequently (11 comments). In addition, four other suggested improvements were mentioned by several respondents in relatively equal frequency:

-- More seating (6 comments)
-- More bathrooms (6 comments)
-- More shade (5 comments)
-- Parking or drop-off area for soccer fields (5 comments)
Town Dog Park

Question 9: Have you ever visited the Town Dog Park?
Answered: 317, Skipped: 28

Of the 317 respondents to this question, approximately one quarter — 26% — indicated that they have visited the Town Dog Park.

Question 10: Generally, during the past three years, how often did you visit the Town Dog Park?
Answered: 80, Skipped: 265 (Note: Only those who answered "Yes" to Question 9 saw this question.)

Almost half of the respondents to this question (who at some time visited the Town Dog Park) — 48% — have visited it 0-1 times per year during the past three years.

Note: Percentages do not total 100% due to rounding.
Question 11: Please indicate your overall satisfaction level with the Town Dog Park on a scale from "Very Satisfied" to "Very Dissatisfied."
Answered: 81, Skipped: 264  (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 9 saw this question.)

Responses were assigned a value from 1 to 5, with a value of 1 for “Very Dissatisfied” and 5 for “Very Satisfied.”

![Overall Satisfaction Chart]

The average Overall Satisfaction level for Town Dog Park was 3.64 on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00.

Of the 18 comments received on this question, the most frequently mentioned related to lack of supervision by dog owners (4 comments) and cost (3 comments).

Question 12: What improvements would you like to see at the Town Dog Park?
Answered: 33, Skipped: 312  (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 9 saw this question.)

The 33 responses to this open-ended question most frequently mention the need for a small-dog area (7 comments). Other suggested improvements include:

-- More trees/shade/shelter (4 comments)
-- More seating/picnic tables (4 comments)
-- Better maintenance of the grass (e.g., mud, holes) (4 comments)
Elm Avenue Park, other than the Pool Complex, Athletic Fields, and Dog Park

Question 13: Have you ever visited Elm Avenue Park, other than the Pool Complex, Athletic Fields, and Dog Park?
Answered: 317, Skipped: 28

Of the 317 respondents to this question, the vast majority — 90% — indicated that they have visited the Elm Avenue Park, other than the Pool Complex, Athletic Fields, and Dog Park.

Question 14: Generally, during the past three years, how often did you visit Elm Avenue Park, other than the Pool Complex, Athletic Fields, and Dog Park?
Answered: 255, Skipped: 90 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 13 saw this question.)

Of those who had at some time visited Elm Avenue Park (other than the Pool Complex, Athletic Fields, and Dog Park), 45% generally have visited it 2-6 times per year during the past three years.
Elm Avenue Park, other than the Pool Complex, Athletic Fields, and Dog Park (continued)

Question 15: Please indicate your satisfaction level with the facilities at Elm Avenue Park, other than the Pool Complex, Athletic Fields, and Dog Park, on a scale from "Very Satisfied" to "Very Dissatisfied."
Answered: 267, Skipped: 78 (Note: Only those who answered "Yes" to Question 13 saw this question.)

Responses were assigned a value from 1 to 5, with a value of 1 for "Very Dissatisfied" and 5 for "Very Satisfied."

The average Overall Satisfaction level for the facilities at Elm Avenue Park, other than the Pool Complex, Athletic Fields, and Dog Park, was 4.13 on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00. When asked about individual facilities, the average satisfaction level was highest for the Pavilions (4.11) and the Picnic area (4.03) and lowest for the Snowmobiling area (3.05) and Shuffleboard (3.14).

Of the 51 comments received on this question, the most frequently mentioned areas were the need for maintenance on the playground (14 comments) and the fitness trail (5 comments).

Question 16: What improvements would you like to see at Elm Avenue Park other than at the Pool Complex, the Athletic Fields, and Dog Park?
Answered: 85, Skipped: 260 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 13 saw this question.)

The 85 responses to this open-ended question also most frequently mentioned the condition of the playground (24 comments). Another frequently mentioned area was “trails” — the condition of the fitness trail as well as the need for more biking, walking and running trails (20 comments). Other suggested improvements included improved maintenance of the tennis courts (7 comments), equipment rentals (5 comments), particularly skates, and allowing dogs in the park (4 comments).
**Henry Hudson Park**

**Question 17: Have you ever visited Henry Hudson Park?**

Answered: 305, Skipped: 40

![Pie chart showing 75% Yes and 25% No]

Of the 305 respondents to this question, three quarters — 75% — indicated that they have visited Henry Hudson Park.

**Question 18: Generally, during the past three years, how often did you visit Henry Hudson Park?**

Answered: 213, Skipped: 132 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 17 saw this question.)

![Pie chart showing percentage distribution of visits]

Of those who had at some time visited Henry Hudson Park, 40% generally have visited it 2-6 times per year during the past three years.
Question 19: Please indicate your satisfaction level with the facilities at Henry Hudson Park on a scale from "Very Satisfied" to "Very Dissatisfied."

Answered: 211, Skipped: 134 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 17 saw this question.)

Responses were assigned a value from 1 to 5, with a value of 1 for “Very Dissatisfied” and 5 for “Very Satisfied.”

![Graph showing overall satisfaction and individual facility satisfaction]

The average Overall Satisfaction level for Henry Hudson Park was 4.05 on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00. When asked about individual facilities, the average satisfaction level was highest for the picnic area (4.05) and lowest for the cross-country skiing area (3.16).

Of the 40 comments received on this question, there were 17 positive comments about this “beautiful spot on the river.” The most frequently mentioned areas of concern were that the park is “buggy” (5 comments) and that dog-walking is not allowed (3 comments).

Question 20: What improvements would you like to see at Henry Hudson Park?

Answered: 48, Skipped: 297 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 17 saw this question.)

The 48 responses to this open-ended question most frequently suggested improving the playground (7 comments), allowing dog-walking (6 comments), improving the shoreline (6 comments), and installing a kayak launch (6 comments).
Moh-He-Con-Nuck Nature Preserve

Question 21: Have you ever visited the Moh-He-Con-Nuck Nature Preserve?
Answered: 300, Skipped: 45

Of the 300 respondents to this question, 87% indicated that they have not visited the Moh-He-Con-Nuck Nature Preserve.

Note: The survey did not include a question regarding frequency of visitation because Moh-He-Con-Nuck officially opened in May 2014.

Question 22: Please indicate your satisfaction level with the Moh-He-Con-Nuck Nature Preserve on a scale from "Very Satisfied" to "Very Dissatisfied."
Answered: 37, Skipped: 308 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 21 saw this question.

Responses were assigned a value from 1 to 5, with a value of 1 for “Very Dissatisfied” and 5 for “Very Satisfied.”

The average Overall Satisfaction level for the Moh-He-Con-Nuck Nature Preserve was 4.22 on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00.

Question 23: What improvements would you like to see at the Moh-He-Con-Nuck Nature Preserve?
Answered: 24, Skipped: 321 (Note: Only those who answered "Yes" to Question 21 saw this question.)

The 24 responses to this open-ended question most frequently suggested gaining access to the river (8 comments) and a river view (4 comments) from the trails.
Neighborhood Parks (Maple Ridge Park, South Bethlehem Park, North Bethlehem Park, Selkirk Park, Firefighters Memorial Park)

Question 24: Have you ever visited ANY of the five Neighborhood Parks listed above?
Answered: 300, Skipped: 45

Of the 300 respondents to this question, well over half — 58% — indicated that they have visited at least one of the Neighborhood Parks.

Question 25: Generally, during the past three years, how often did you visit the following Neighborhood Parks?
Answered: 169, Skipped: 176 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 24 saw this question.)

The chart below displays for each park the number of the 169 respondents to this question who indicated that they generally visited that park two or more times per year during the past three years.

More than twice as many respondents visited Maple Ridge Park than visited any other of the neighborhood parks two or more times per year during the past three years.
Neighborhood Parks (Maple Ridge Park, South Bethlehem Park, North Bethlehem Park, Selkirk Park, Firefighters Memorial Park) (continued)

Question 26: Please indicate your satisfaction level with the five Neighborhood Parks on a scale from "Very Satisfied" to "Very Dissatisfied."
Answered: 163, Skipped: 182 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 24 saw this question.)

Responses were assigned a value from 1 to 5, with a value of 1 for “Very Dissatisfied” and 5 for “Very Satisfied.”

![Bar chart showing satisfaction levels for each park]

The average satisfaction level for the Neighborhood Parks on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00 was highest for the Maple Ridge Park (4.40) and lowest for Selkirk Park (3.53).

Of the 65 comments received on this question, the most frequent area mentioned for an individual park was the lack of shade at Maple Ridge Park (7 comments). Comments that were repeated with respect to more than one park included the problem of mosquitoes, bees, and ticks (7 comments), dogs not being allowed (6 comments), and the need for there to be more to do at certain parks (5 comments), particularly Firefighters Memorial Park in Slingerlands.

Question 27: Please specify any improvements you would like to see at any of the Neighborhood Parks. (Please specify the park to which you are referring.)
Answered: 30, Skipped: 315 (Note: Only those who answered “Yes” to Question 24 saw this question.)

Of the 30 responses to this open-ended question, the improvement suggested most frequently was to allow dogs in parks (5 comments).
Barriers to Use of Town Park Facilities

Question 29: If issues with Town park facilities are barriers to your use of Town parks, check all that apply. (Questions 28 and 29 are being reported in reverse order for ease of display.)
Answered: 134, Skipped: 211

This chart displays the number of respondents who selected the following answer choices by parks and facilities.

Across parks and facilities, barriers selected in the order of frequency were:
Have no need for this type of facility (195)  Overcrowding or facilities not available (25)
Location not convenient for me (49)  Safety/security concerns (23)
Lack of cleanliness/maintenance (44)  Lack of transportation or parking (22)
Lack of restrooms (38)  Lack of lighting (7)
Facilities not up to date (31)  Lack of accommodations for individuals with disabilities (3)

Other: Responses included ticks, dogs not being allowed, and lack of safe access to parks.
Barriers to Use of Town Park Facilities (continued)

Question 28: If fees are barriers to your use of Town park facilities, check all that apply. (Questions 28 and 29 are being reported in reverse order for ease of display.)
Answered: 102, Skipped: 243

The chart below displays the number of responses for each of the fees.

![Bar chart showing responses to fees]

By far, pool fees were reported more frequently as a barrier to the use of Town park facilities than the other fees. Of the 51 comments received on this question, the most frequently mentioned area was pool fees (8 comments), of which four specifically commented that guest fees were too high.

Question 30: If personal reasons are barriers to your use of Town park facilities, check all that apply.
Answered: 129, Skipped: 216

The chart below displays the number of responses for each of the personal reasons.

![Bar chart showing responses to personal reasons]

“Not aware of availability” and “Lack of time” are the personal reasons selected most frequently as barriers to the use of Town park facilities.

Other: Responses included dogs not being allowed.

Question 31: Comments regarding barriers to your use of Town parks:
Answered: 45, Skipped: 300

Of the 45 responses to this open-ended question, the most frequently mentioned barriers are being unaware of the parks and their facilities, lack of safe walking and biking access to the parks, and dogs not being allowed.
Facilities Not Offered

Question 32: The following is a list of facilities not currently offered at Bethlehem Town parks. Please check each type of facility you would like to see added.
Answered: 258, Skipped: 87

The chart below displays the number of responses for each of the facilities listed as answer choices.

![Facility Response Chart]

A kayak/canoe launch area and an outdoor amphitheater received the most responses and a small-dog park and a skateboard park received the least.

Other: Responses included a dog-friendly walking path and horseback riding.

Question 33: Comments on facilities not currently offered:
Answered: 45, Skipped: 300

Of the 45 responses to this open-ended question, the most frequently mentioned facilities were an outdoor theater (8 comments) and a kayak launch (4 comments).
PART II: RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES & YOU

Question 34: Please indicate your satisfaction level with Town Recreational Activities on a scale from "Very Satisfied" to "Very Dissatisfied."
Answered: 266, Skipped: 79

Responses were assigned a value from 1 to 5, with a value of 1 for "Very Dissatisfied" and 5 for "Very Satisfied."

![Satisfaction Level Chart](image)

The average satisfaction level on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00 was highest for Aquatics (4.13) and lowest for Fitness–Youth (3.49). Of the 55 comments, 20 were complimentary statements. Four comments mentioned the desire for more special events/concerts/arts.

Question 35: What are the barriers to your participation in Town Recreational Activities? Check all that apply.
Answered: 216, Skipped: 129

The chart below displays the number of responses for each barrier.

![Barriers Chart](image)

"Lack of time" was reported most frequently as a barrier to participating in Town recreational activities. "Lack of accommodation for individuals with disabilities" and "Too far from residence / Lack of transportation" were selected least frequently.

Other: Responses included “Childcare is an issue” and “No children in household.”
Question 36: Comments on barriers to your use of Town Recreational Activities:
Answered: 45, Skipped: 300

Of the 45 responses to this open-ended question, the areas mentioned most frequently were the need for evening classes to accommodate those who work during the day (5 comments) and that belonging to the YMCA reduced their need for Town programs (4 comments).

Question 37: Please check each category of Recreational Activities for which you would like to see more offerings. Check all that apply.
Answered: 220, Skipped: 125

The chart below displays the number of responses for each of the Recreational Activities listed as answer choices.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special events/festivals/concerts/performing arts</td>
<td>132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fitness offerings (indoor and outdoor)</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events at the Neighborhood Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental activities</td>
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<td>Family programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities in collaboration w/other public/private entities</td>
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<td>Adventure activities</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>Before- and after-school programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus trips to cultural events</td>
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<td>Arts and crafts programs (Adult)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water-based fitness and recreation (Adult)</td>
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<td>Senior programs</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus trips to sporting events</td>
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<td>Arts and crafts programs (Youth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organized youth sports</td>
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<td>Organized adult sports</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water-based fitness and recreation (Youth)</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hosting youth or adult sport tournaments</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs for individuals with disabilities</td>
<td>10</td>
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“Special events/festivals/concerts/performing arts” and “Fitness offerings (indoor and outdoor)” received the most responses and “Programs for individuals with disabilities” and “Hosting youth or adult sport tournaments” received the least.

Other: Responses included more activities for older children/teens and pickleball.

Question 38: Comments on Recreational Activities for which you would like to see more offerings:
Answered: 35, Skipped: 310

Of the 35 comments, the most frequently mentioned areas were cultural/performing arts (4 comments), organized tennis for youth and adults extended into the spring and fall (3 comments), and more adult leagues — men, women, and coed (3 comments).
PART III: STAYING INFORMED

Question 39: What are the best ways to KEEP YOU INFORMED of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department events and recreational activities? Please check your top 3 choices.
Answered: 282, Skipped: 63

The chart below displays the number of responses for each of the answer choices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Responses</th>
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<td>Town of Bethlehem electronic newsletter / notices</td>
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<td>Town of Bethlehem website</td>
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<td>Local newspapers (Spotlight, Our Towne Bethlehem)</td>
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<td>Municipal cable TV</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation “Playbook” received the most responses (230) and Municipal cable TV received the least (2).

PART IV: THE VALUE OF OUR PARKS

Question 40: What are YOUR OPINIONS about the value of municipal parks and recreational activities? The following phrases complete the sentence “Municipal parks and recreation programs …” Please rate the completed statements on a scale from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree.”
Answered: 276, Skipped: 69

Responses were assigned a value from 1 to 5, with a value of 1 for “Strongly Disagree” and 5 for “Strongly Agree.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Level of Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>… preserve open space and the environment.</td>
<td>4.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… improve residents' overall health and fitness.</td>
<td>4.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… improve residents' mental health and reduce stress.</td>
<td>4.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… increase property values.</td>
<td>4.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… attract new residents.</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… attract new businesses.</td>
<td>3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… reduce crime.</td>
<td>3.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… promote local tourism.</td>
<td>3.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average level of agreement on a scale of 1.00 to 5.00 was highest for “Municipal parks and recreation programs preserve open space and the environment” (4.44) and lowest for “Municipal parks and recreation programs promote local tourism” (3.64).
PART V: SPENDING ON PARKS

Question 41: If you had an additional $100 TO INVEST in the Parks and Recreation system, where would you allocate those funds? Please input a whole dollar amount next to each description. Your allocations must total $100.
Answered: 249, Skipped: 96

The 249 respondents allocated $24,900 ($100 each) as displayed in the chart below.

![Chart showing allocations of $100 to various park and recreation activities]

Over half — $13,171 — was allocated to two areas:
1. Maintain and improve existing facilities ($8,968)
2. Develop new trails and pathways (walking, running, hiking, biking) ($4,203)

PART VI: FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PARKS AND RECREATION

Question 42: In your opinion, how can FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PARKS AND RECREATION best support recreational activities and parks in the Town of Bethlehem? Please check your top 3 choices.
Answered: 258, Skipped: 87

The chart below displays the number of responses for each of the listed answer choices.

![Chart showing responses for various support activities]

Other: Responses included reducing costs and seeking grants and donations.
PART VII: DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Age: Answered: 264, Skipped: 81

30% of respondents were between the ages of 40 and 49.

Household composition: Answered: 272, Skipped: 73

The households of the 272 respondents to this question represented 885 individuals (including the respondents) — 37% of those were ages 25-54, 20% were ages 5-13, and 18% were 55 and over.
Gender: Answered: 268, Skipped: 77

69% of the respondents were female

How long have you lived in Bethlehem? Answered: 276, Skipped: 69

67% of the respondents have lived in Bethlehem for more than 10 years

Zip code: Answered: 278, Skipped: 67

63% of the respondents live in the 12054 (Delmar) zip code