



Executive Summary

Park Use

- Over half of the West U of residents use at least one West U park at least once a month (56%). 20-25% of residents use school facility open spaces and playgrounds out of school time at least once a month.
- Swimming (53%), playgrounds at five parks (23%, 40%, 31%, 21%, 19%), and walking paths/walkways (42%, 13%) are the most used park features.
- Almost 1/5 of residents use event facilities such as the party deck (22%) and pavilion (18%), multipurpose/party room (8%), and gazebo (10%).
- Passive features are used by 10-20% of residents. These include the picnic deck (23%), picnic tables / game tables (20%,11%), picnic facilities (9%), seating (13%), and shade arbor (9%, 15%).
- About 10-15% of survey respondents use fields and courts (tennis 12%, 15%; 15%; volleyball* 10%; and basketball 11%).
- 6-10% of residents also participate in leisure classes and group exercise.

Service Quality

- A majority of survey respondents agree West U parks provide safe places to recreate/ exercise (89%) and provide opportunities to interact with neighbors (77%). Residents also agree that parks and playgrounds are well-maintained (87% and 82%, respectively).
- 82% of residents indicate members of their household can easily walk to a West U park. About 1/10 of residents disagree.
- 11% of respondents felt there is not enough shade in West U parks.
- About half the residents (44%) agree that West U should have more open, unstructured greens spaces while 16% are not satisfied with the number of parks in West U.

Important Amenities

- Safe walking distances (70%); shaded seated (51%); open, unstructured spaces (51%); and walking paths in parks (42%) were the most important amenities in West U parks.

Parkland Acquisition and Funding

- Just under half of the survey respondents (38% and 45%) indicated they were neutral on acquiring parkland. 32% agree land should be acquired between Edloe and Buffalo Speedway while 30% disagreed. 22% agreed parkland was needed elsewhere but 32% of respondents disagree. Only 27% agreed that they would support a property tax increase to acquire and develop new parkland. Residents who were not neutral on the matter were almost evenly split on having a new neighborhood park near their home.
- A majority of residents were in favor of using private contributions to fund parks (96%). Residents also support using corporate sponsorship (85%). Only 31% of residents were in support of using revenue bonds repaid with increased property taxes.

*Note: Park staff and committee members indicate volleyball courts are also used as sandboxes.

Surveys were sent to all households in West U. A 27% response rate was acquired from 1,430 useable surveys. There is approximately a 99% confidence interval that the actual outcome in the population is +/- 3% for most findings.