Joplin Parks and Recreation
Community Attitude and Interest Survey

July 22, 2014

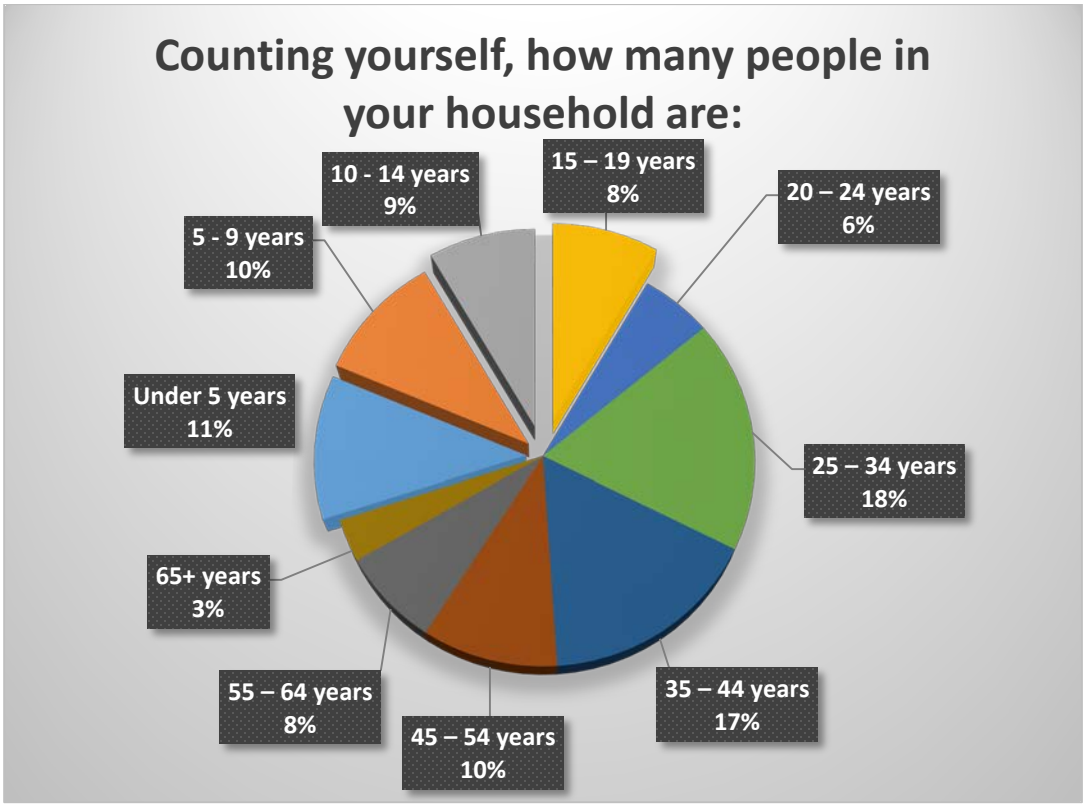
The City of Joplin Parks and Recreation Department conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey during May, June, and July in 2014 to establish priorities for the future improvement of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the community. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Joplin area based on the resources available. The survey was administered by paper and electronic means.

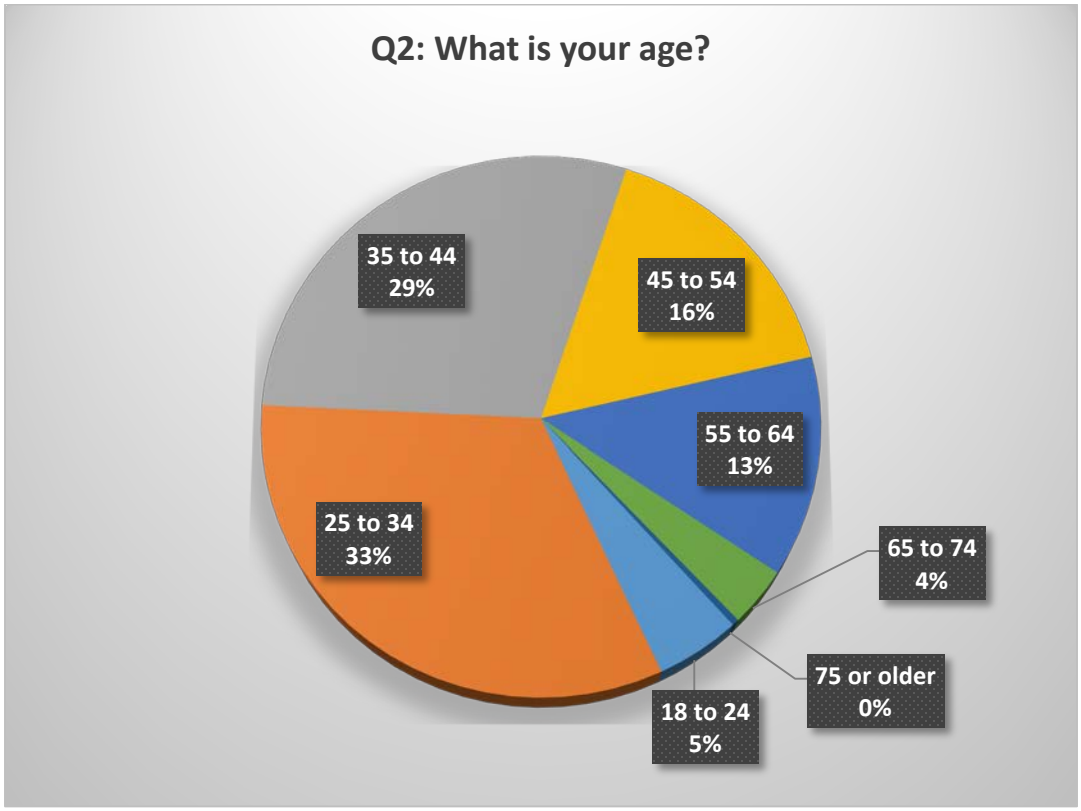
The goal was to obtain a total of at least 600 completed surveys. However, there were 466 surveys having been completed with a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 4.5%.

On the following pages are the highlighted results from that survey.

Respondents were asked to identify the number of individuals and their ages within the respondent's household.

- **Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondent households consist of persons 19 years or younger.**

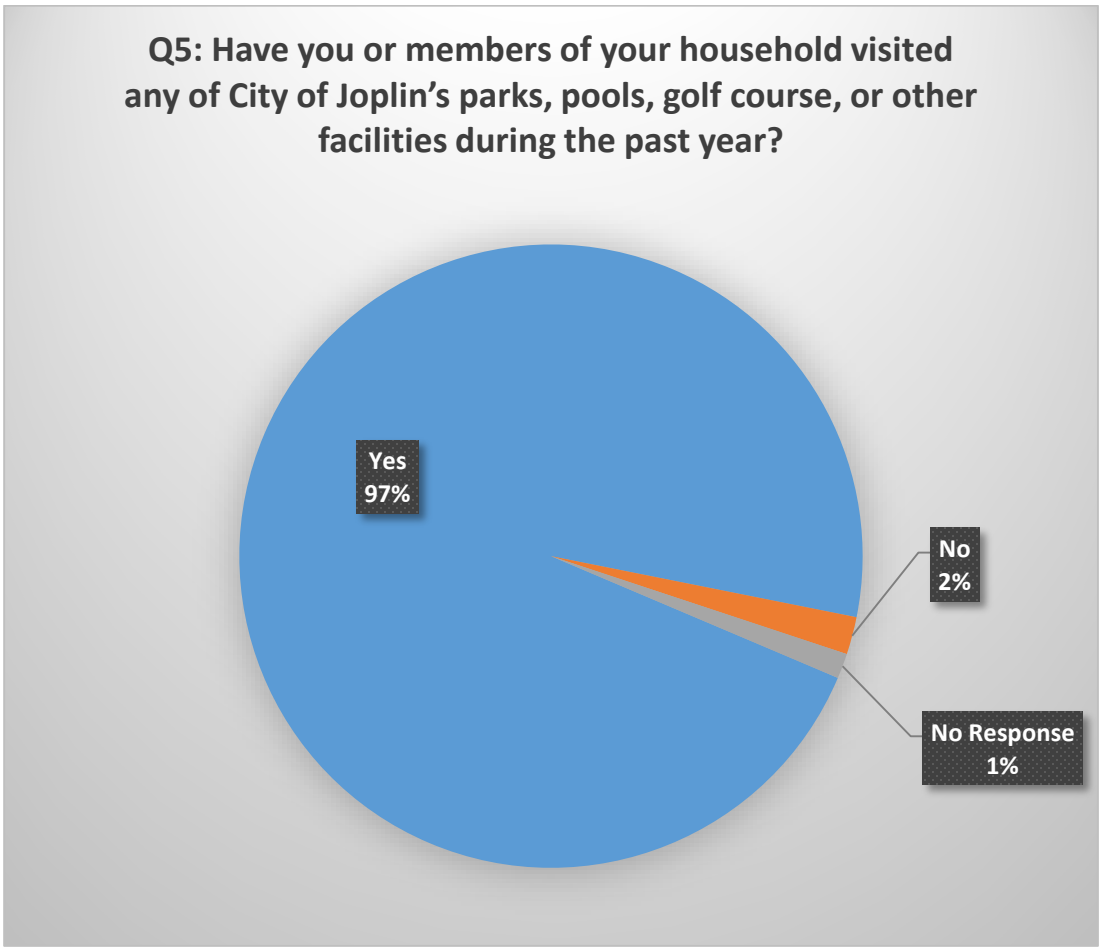




Visitation of City Parks and Recreation Facilities During the Past Year

Respondents were asked if they or any members of their household have visited any City of Joplin parks or recreation facilities during the past year. The following summarizes key findings:

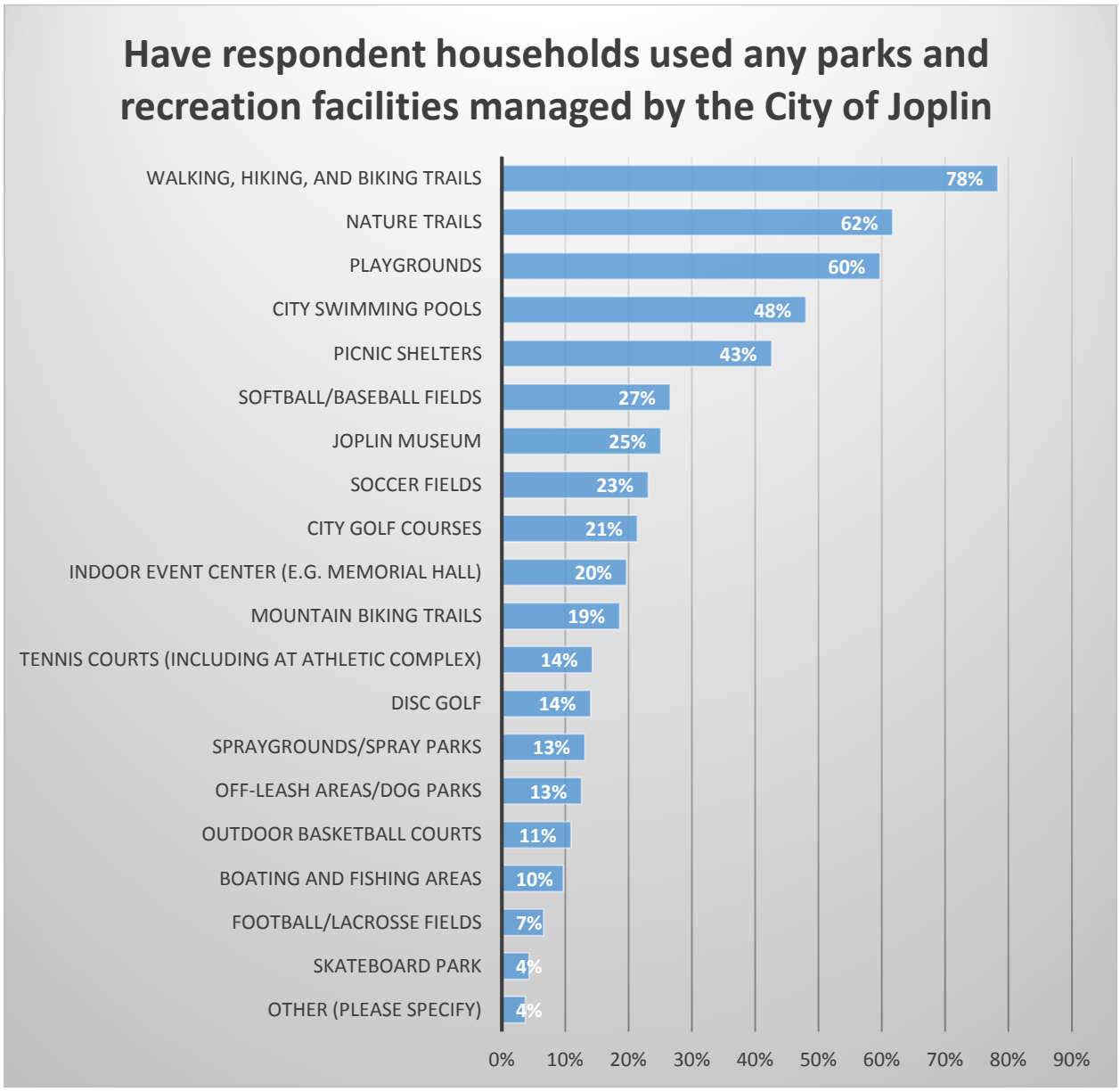
- **Ninety-seven percent (97%) of respondent households have visited City of Joplin parks or recreation facilities during the past year.**



Use of Various Parks and Recreation Facilities Managed by the City

From a list several options, respondent households that have visited City of Joplin parks or recreation facilities during the past year where asked to indicate all of the parks/facilities they have used. The following summarizes key findings:

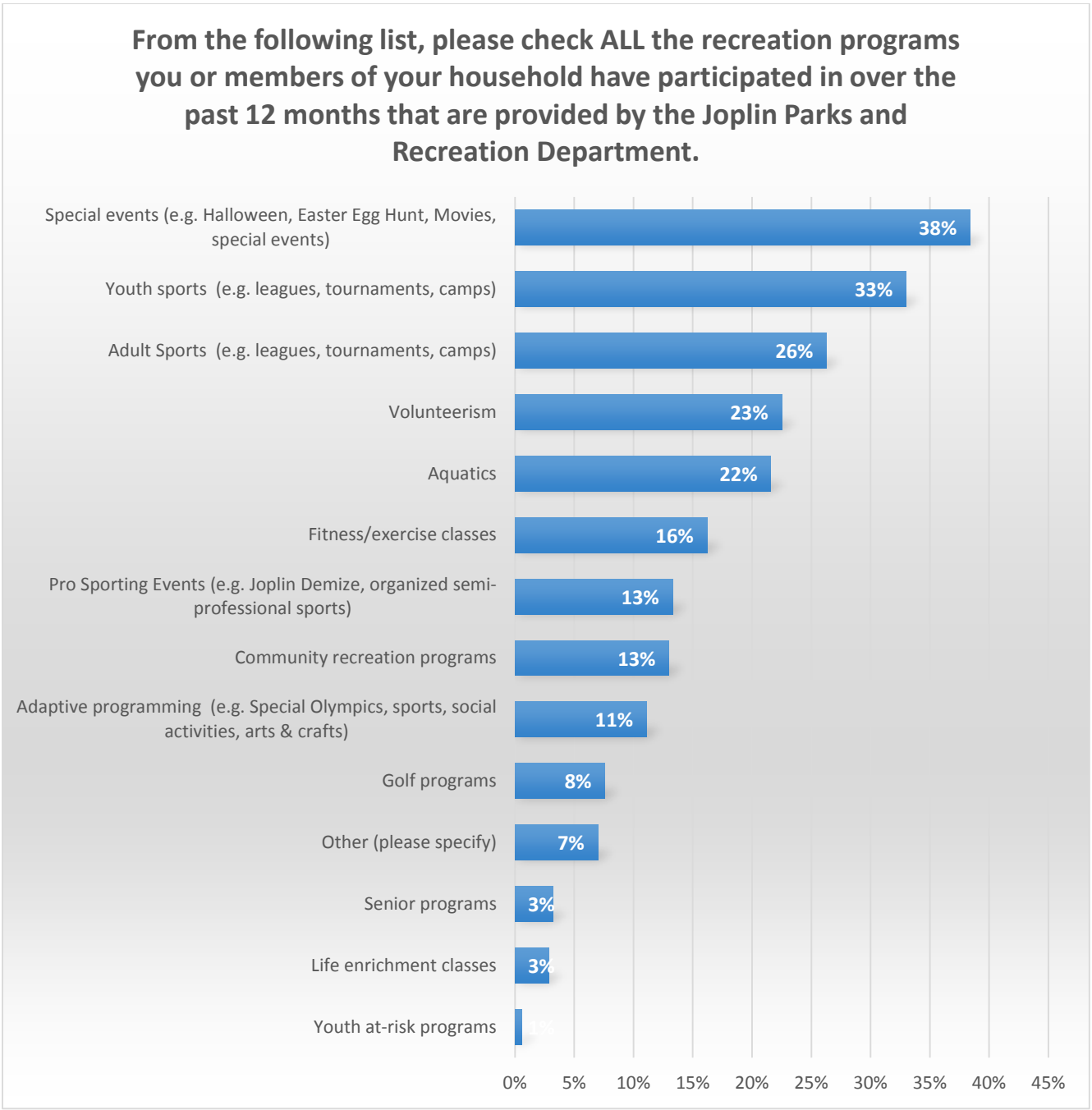
- **Of the 97% of respondent households that have visited City parks or recreation facilities during the past year, walking, hiking, and biking trails were used by 78% of respondents; followed by nature trails (62%), playgrounds (60%), and swimming pools.**



Use of Various Parks and Recreation Programs Managed by the City

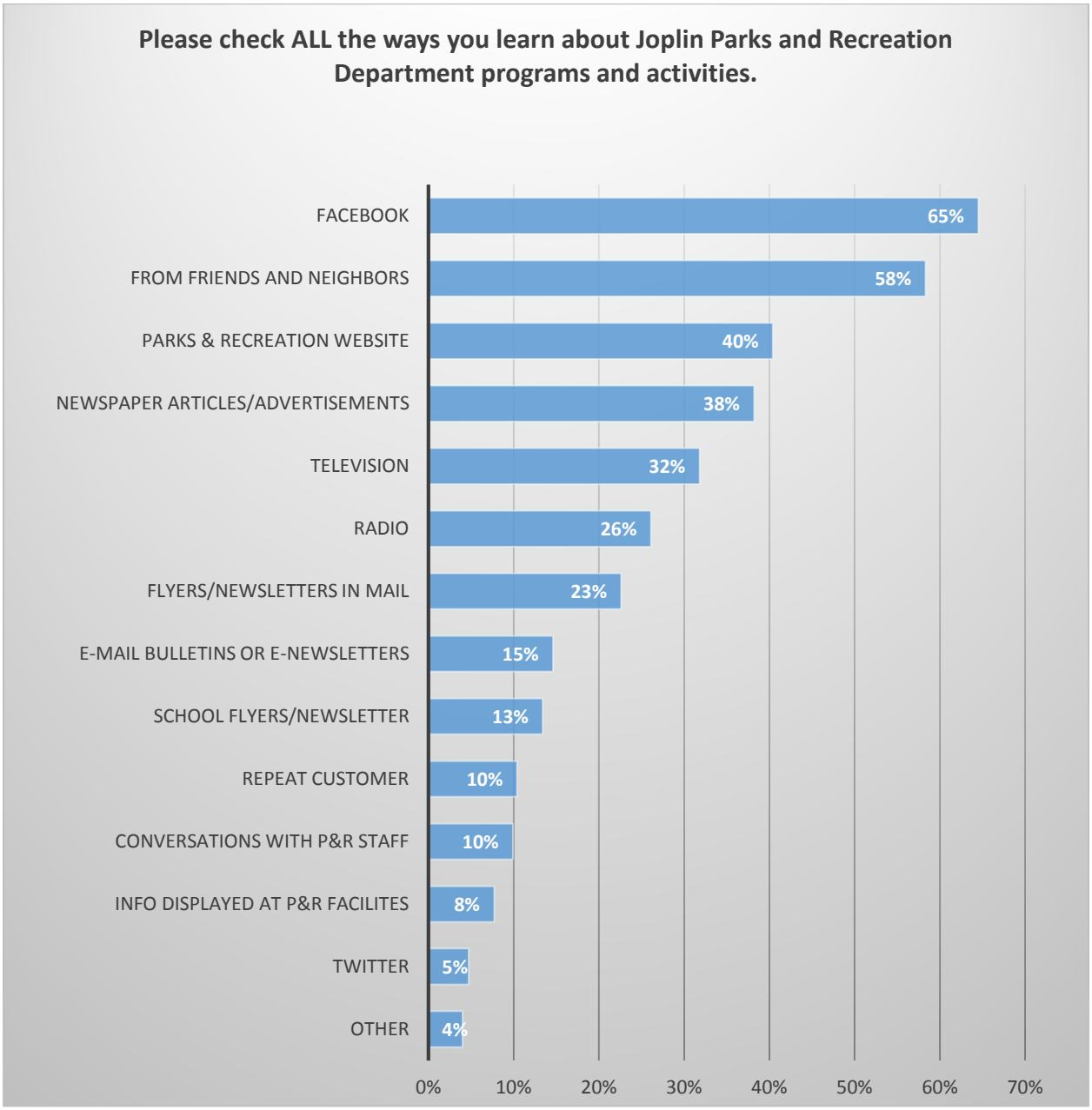
From a list several options, respondent households were asked to indicate all of the programs they have participated within the past year.

- **Respondents indicated that Special Events had the most participation at 38%, followed by youth sports (33%), adult sports (26%), Aquatics (22%), Fitness/exercise classes (16%), and pro sporting events (13%).**



From a list of 14 options, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ways they learn about City of Joplin Parks and Recreation programs and activities. The following summarizes key findings:

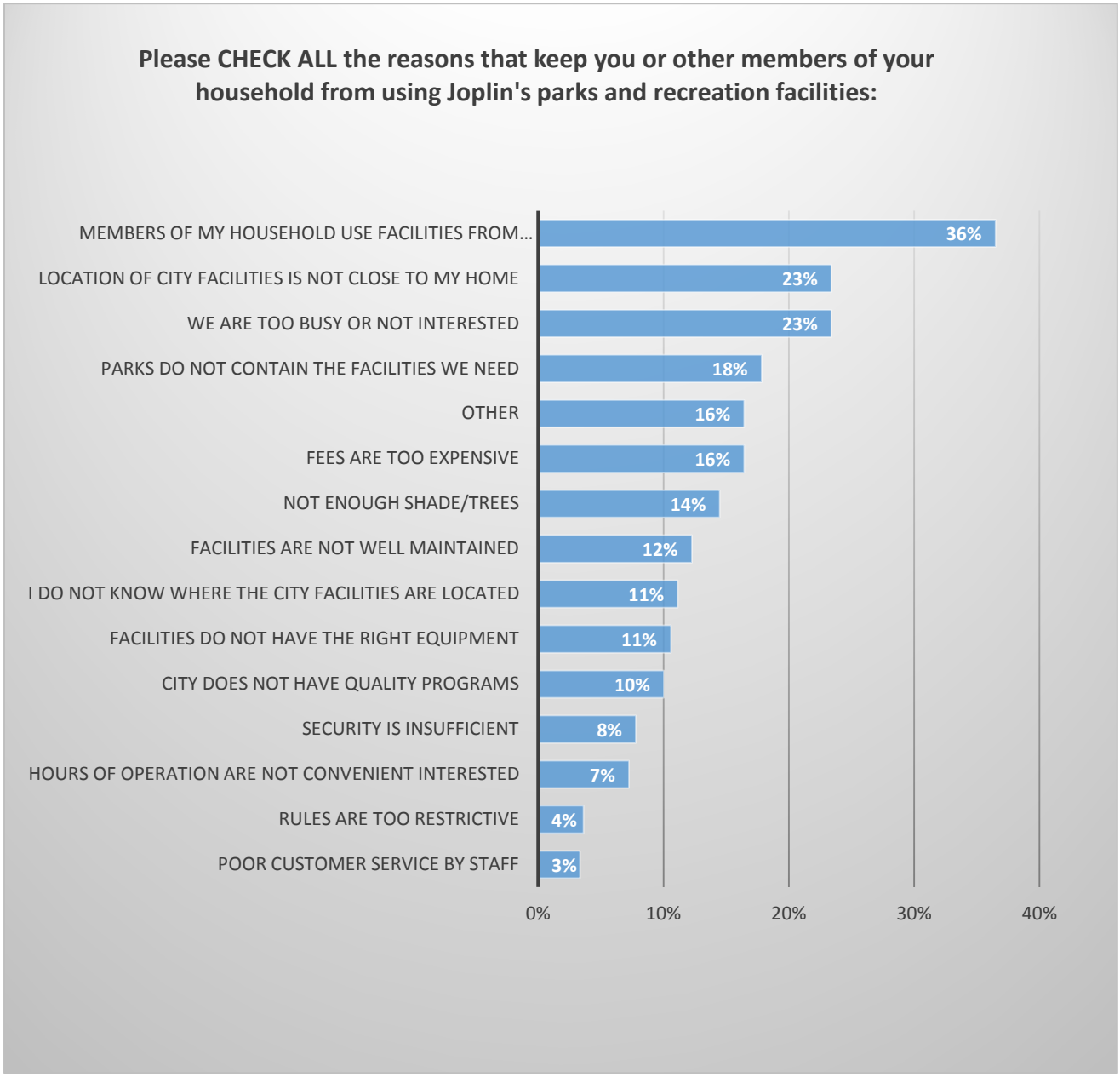
- **Facebook (65%), from friends and neighbors (58%), and the Parks and Recreation Website (40%) had the highest percentage of respondents indicate them as the way that they learn about City of Joplin Parks and Recreation programs and activities.**



Reasons Preventing Respondent Households from Using Parks, Recreation Facilities or Programs More Often

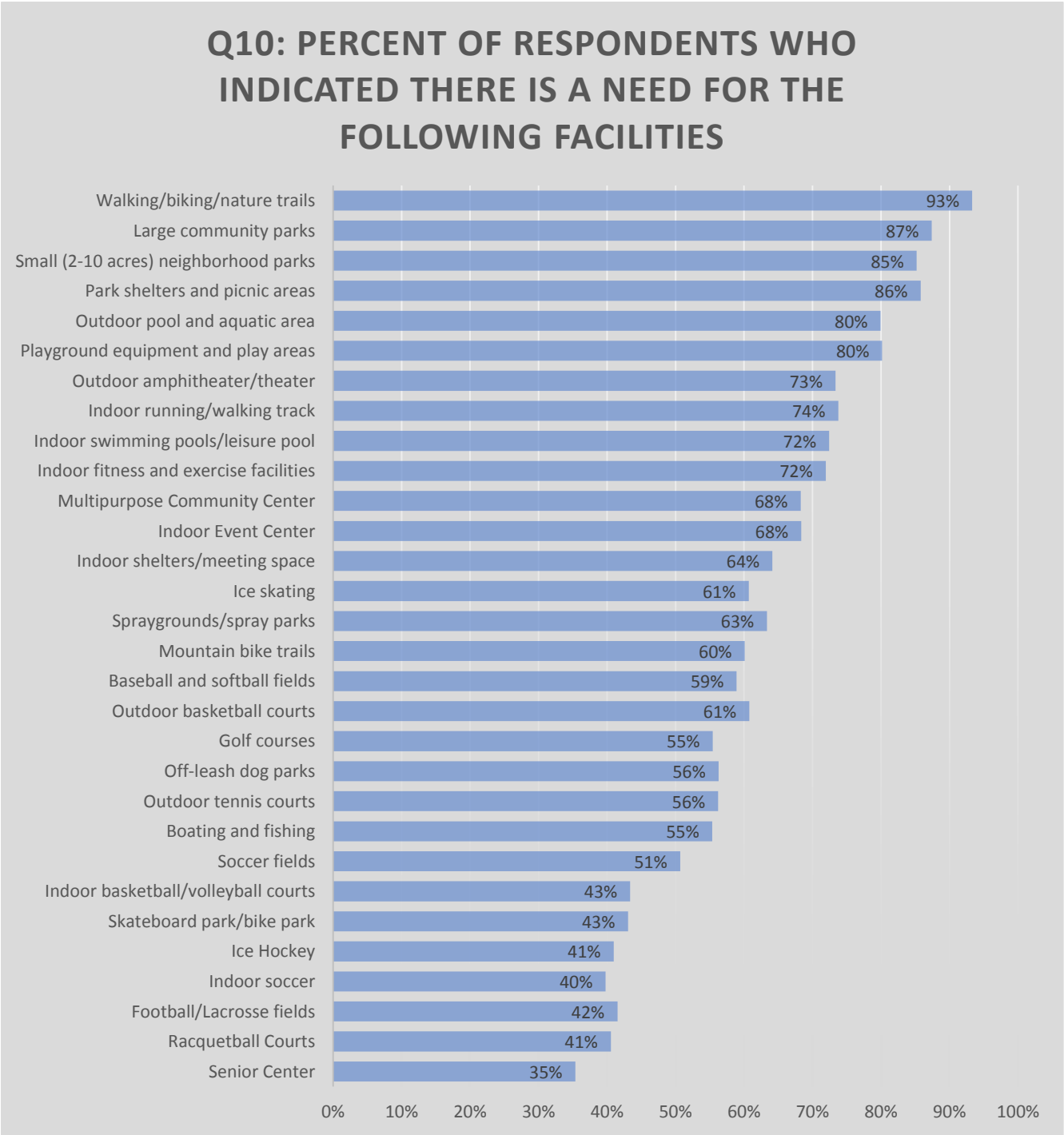
From a list of 15 options, respondents were asked to indicate all the reasons that prevent them and members of their household from using parks, recreation facilities or programs of the City of Joplin Park and Recreation Department more often. The following summarizes key findings:

The reasons preventing the highest percentage of respondent households from using parks, recreation facilities or programs of the City of Joplin Parks and Recreation Department more often are “members of my household use facilities elsewhere or from other organizations” (36%), “location of city facilities is not close to my home” (23%), “we are too busy or not interested” (23%) and “parks do not contain the facilities that we need” (18%).



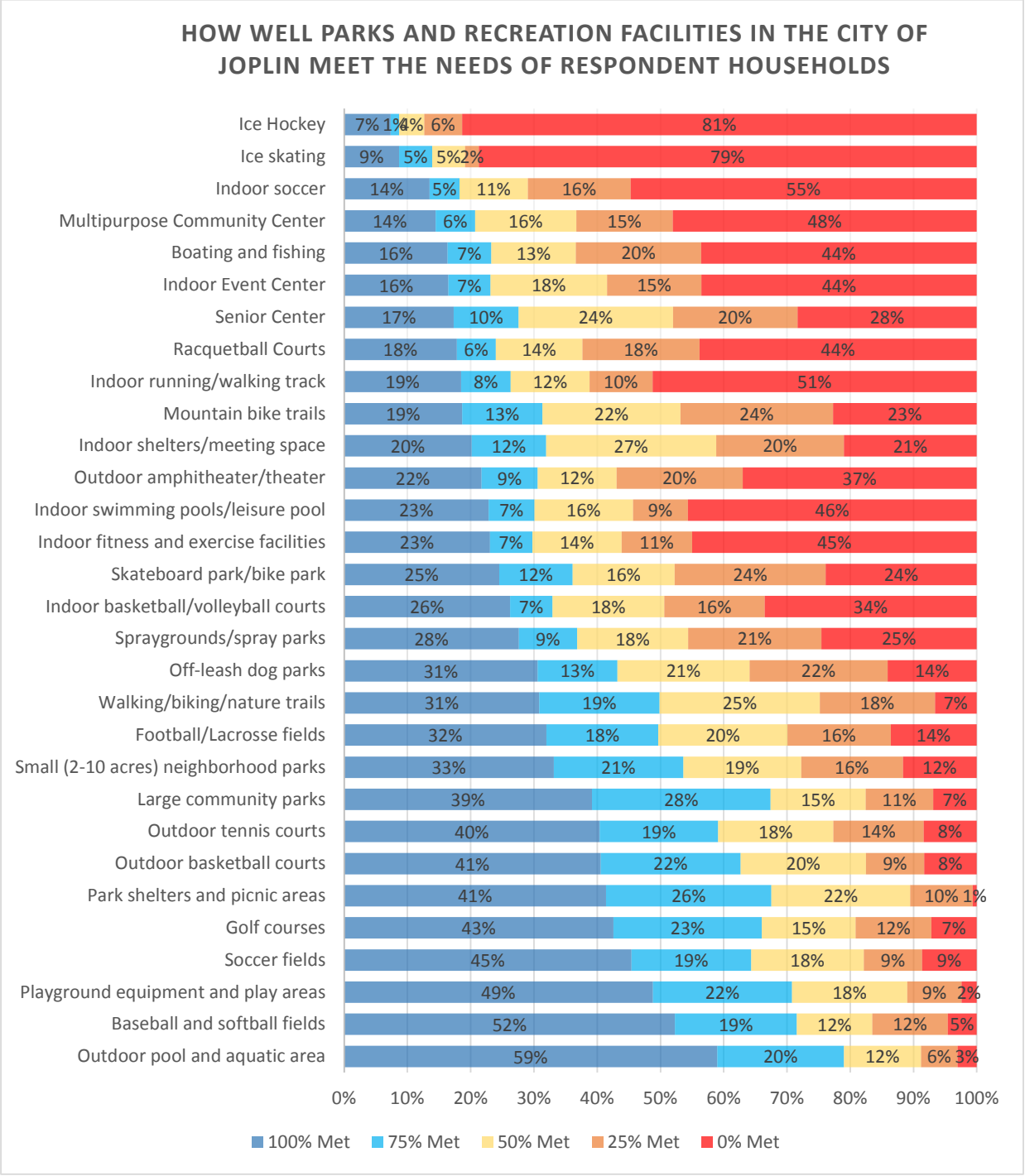
From a list of 30 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate the need for parks and recreation facilities. The following summarizes key findings:

The parks and recreation facilities that are most important to respondent households include: walking/biking/nature trails (93%), large community parks (87%), small neighborhood parks (85%), and outdoor swimming pools/aquatic center (80%). The top 7 choices where respondents expressed a need consisted of outdoor facilities, regardless of whether the needs has been met. However, when asked to identify whether the needs of those facilities have been met, it should be noted that when ranked in order of choice of needs not met, an indoor running/walking track (60%), multipurpose community center (58%), indoor event center (57%), and indoor swimming/leisure pools (56%) are among the top 6 items of needs not met.



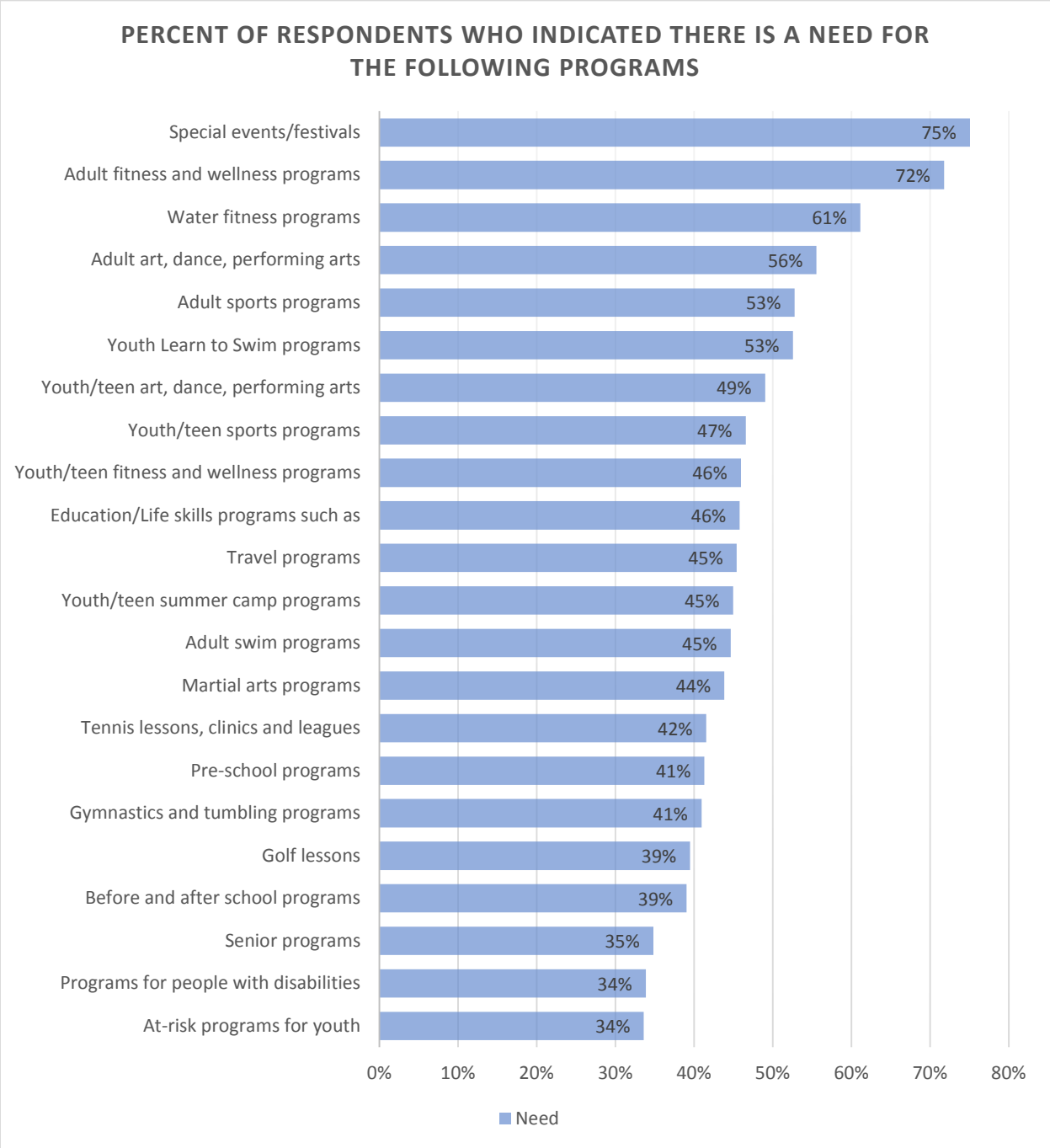
The chart below indicates how well parks and recreation facilities in the City of Joplin meets the needs of respondent households. The following summarizes key findings:

- **For 28 of the 30 parks and recreation facilities listed in which respondents indicated there is a need, less than 50% of respondents indicated the park/facility completely meets the needs of their household.**
- **Out of all the indoor facilities listed, less than 26% of respondents indicated the park/facility completely meets the needs of their household.**



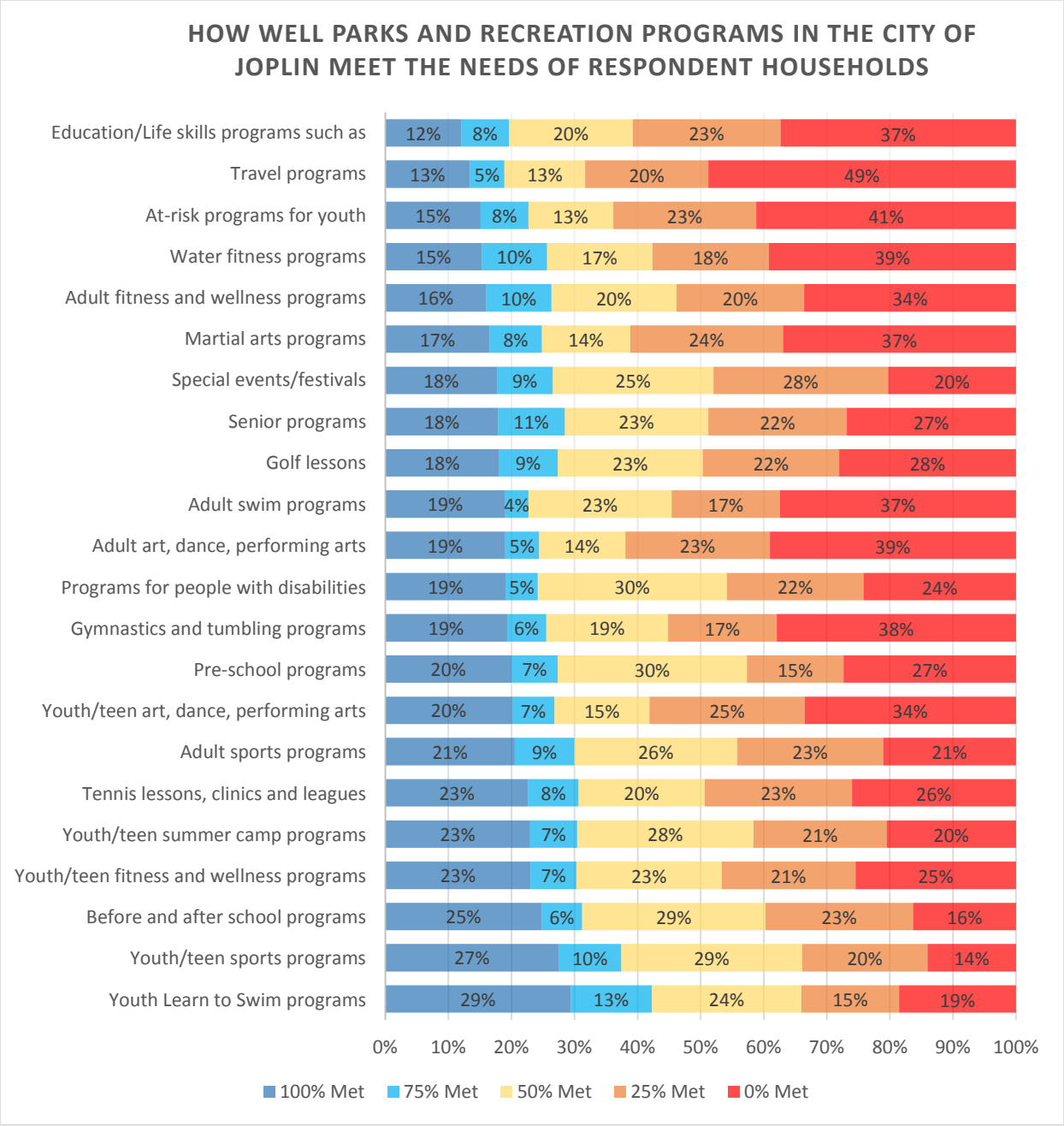
From a list of 22 parks and recreation programs, respondents were asked to select their needs from a list of programs. The following summarizes key findings:

The top parks and recreation programs that respondent households indicated there was a need include: special events (75%), adult fitness and wellness (72%), water fitness (61%), adult art, dance, performing arts (56%), adult sports programs (80%), and youth learn to swim programs (53%). This chart below indicates needs, regardless of how well they are met.



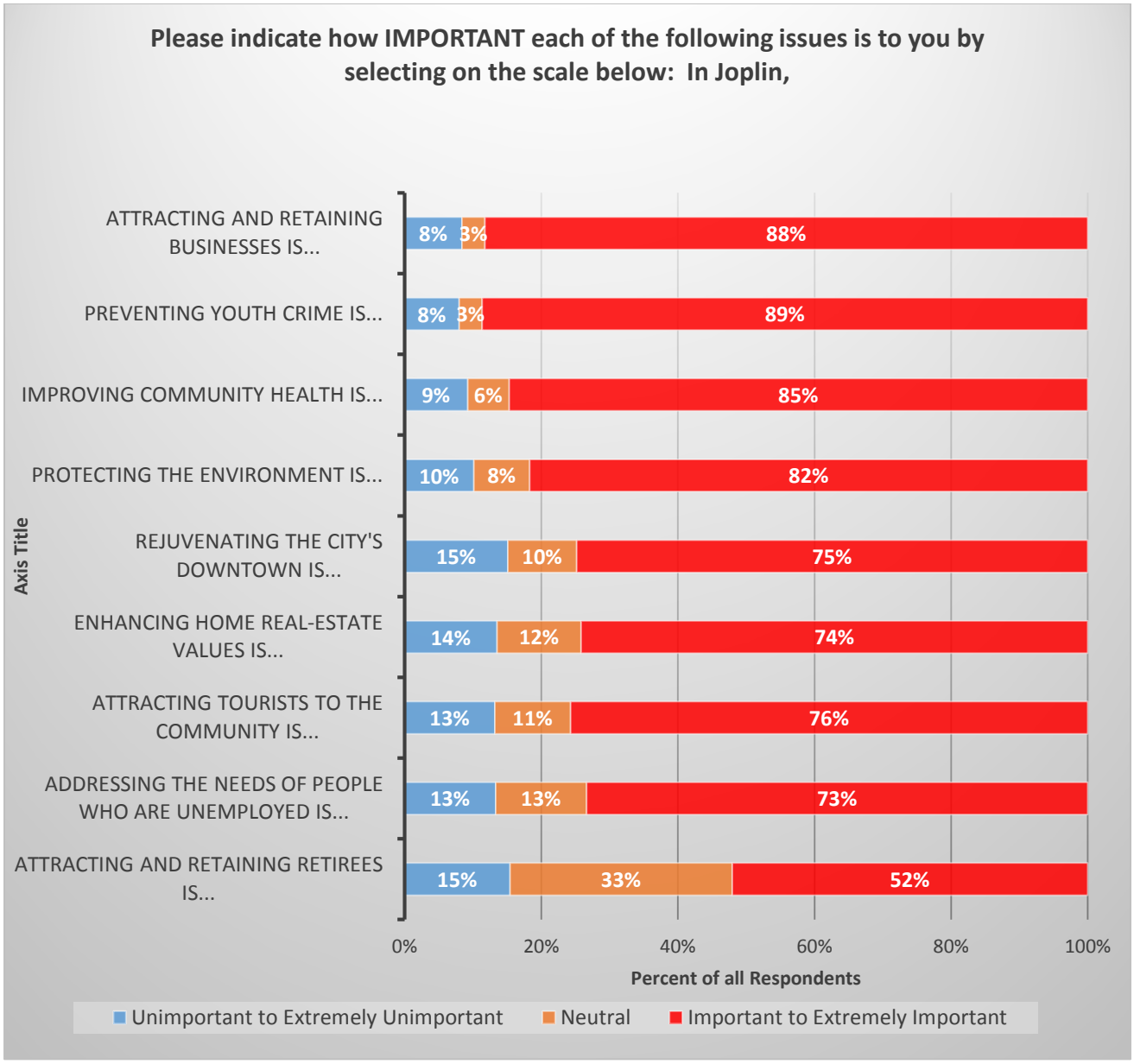
The chart below indicates how well parks and recreation facilities in the City of Joplin meets the needs of respondent households. The following summarizes key findings:

- **For all 22 parks and recreation programs, less than 30% of respondents indicated the program completely meets the needs of their household.**



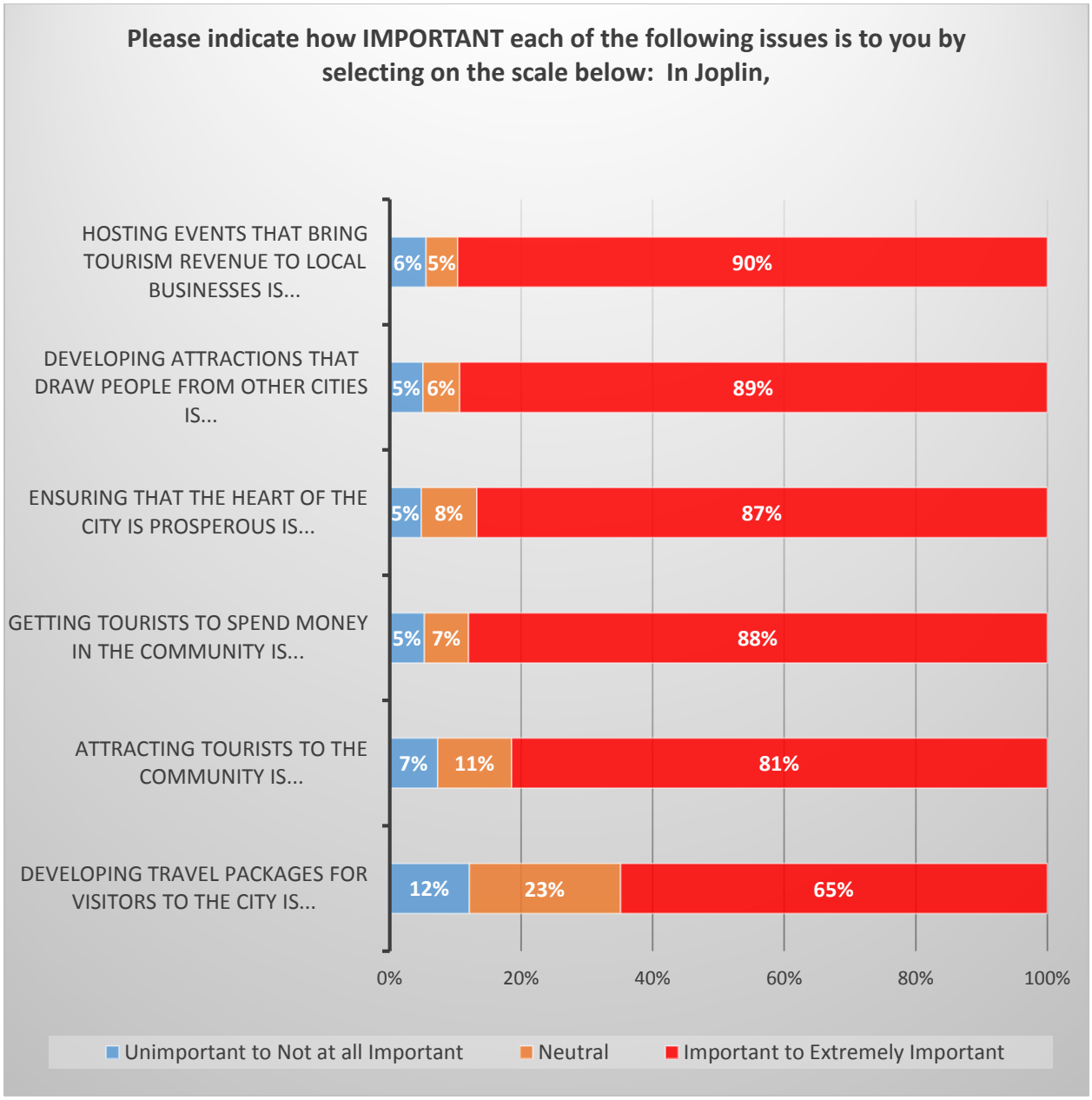
The issues that are most important to respondent households are: attracting and retaining businesses (88%), preventing youth crime (89%), improving community health (85%). It should also be noted that attracting and retaining businesses and improving community health had by a wide margin the highest percentage of respondents select them as extremely important as the benefit that is most important to their household.

- **On every issue, respondent households indicated more than 50% to be important to extremely important.**



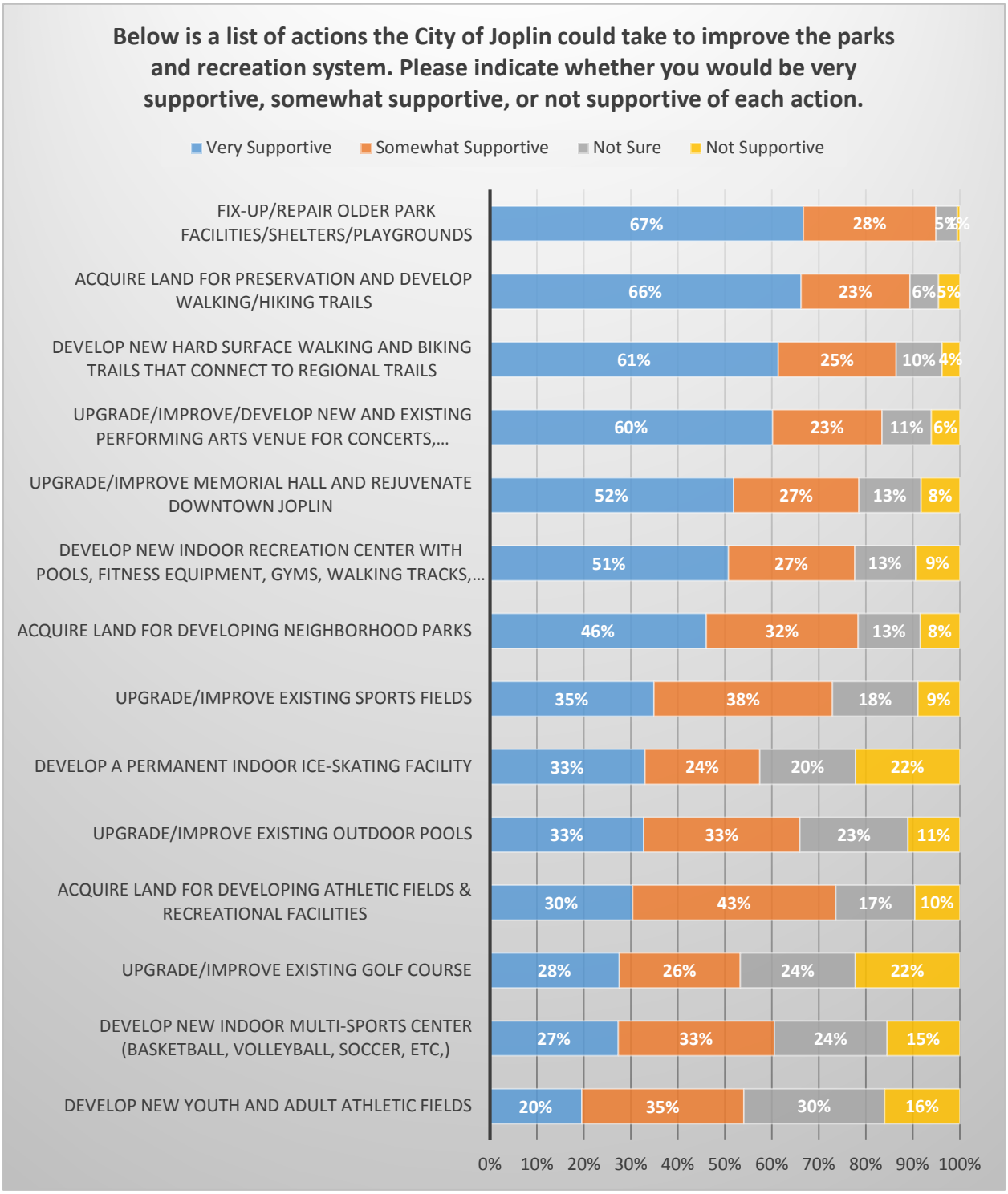
The issues that are most important to respondent households are: hosting events that bring tourism revenue to local businesses (90%), developing attractions that draw people from other cities (89%), ensuring that the heart of the city is prosperous (87%). It should also be noted that ensuring that the heart of the city is prosperous had highest percentage of respondents select it as extremely important as the benefit that is most important to their household.

- **On every issue, respondent households indicated more than 65% to be important to extremely important.**



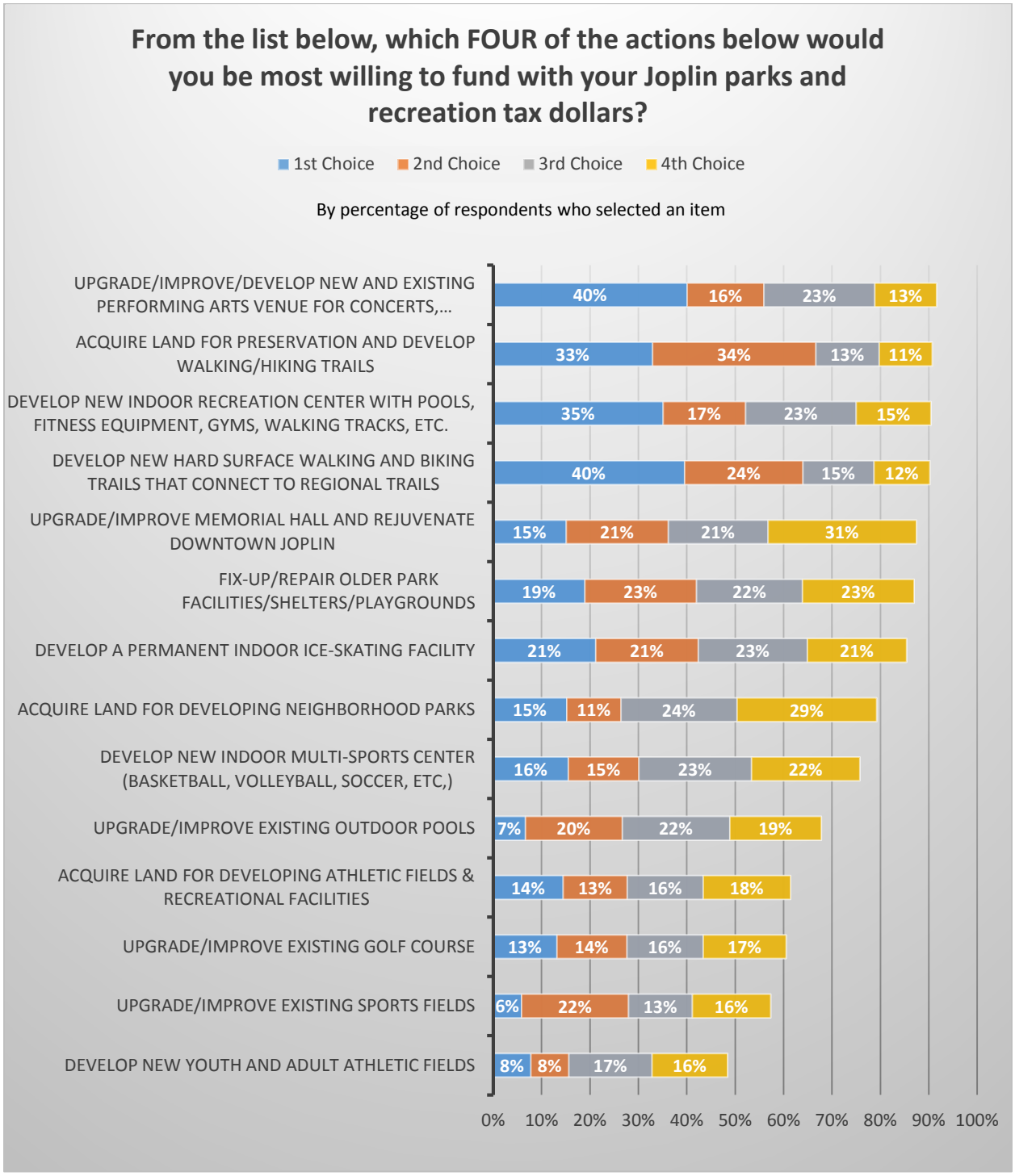
From a list of 14 actions that the City Joplin Parks and Recreation could take, respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for each action. The following summarizes key findings:

The top action items where respondents indicated they were somewhat supportive or very supportive were: Fix-up/repair older park facilities/shelters/playgrounds (95%), Acquire land for preservation and develop walking/hiking trails (89%), Develop new hard surface walking and biking trails that connect to regional trails (86%), Upgrade/improve/develop new and existing performing arts venue for concerts, professional sports, and conventions/exhibits (83%), upgrade/improve Memorial Hall and rejuvenate downtown Joplin (79%), and develop new indoor recreation center (78%).

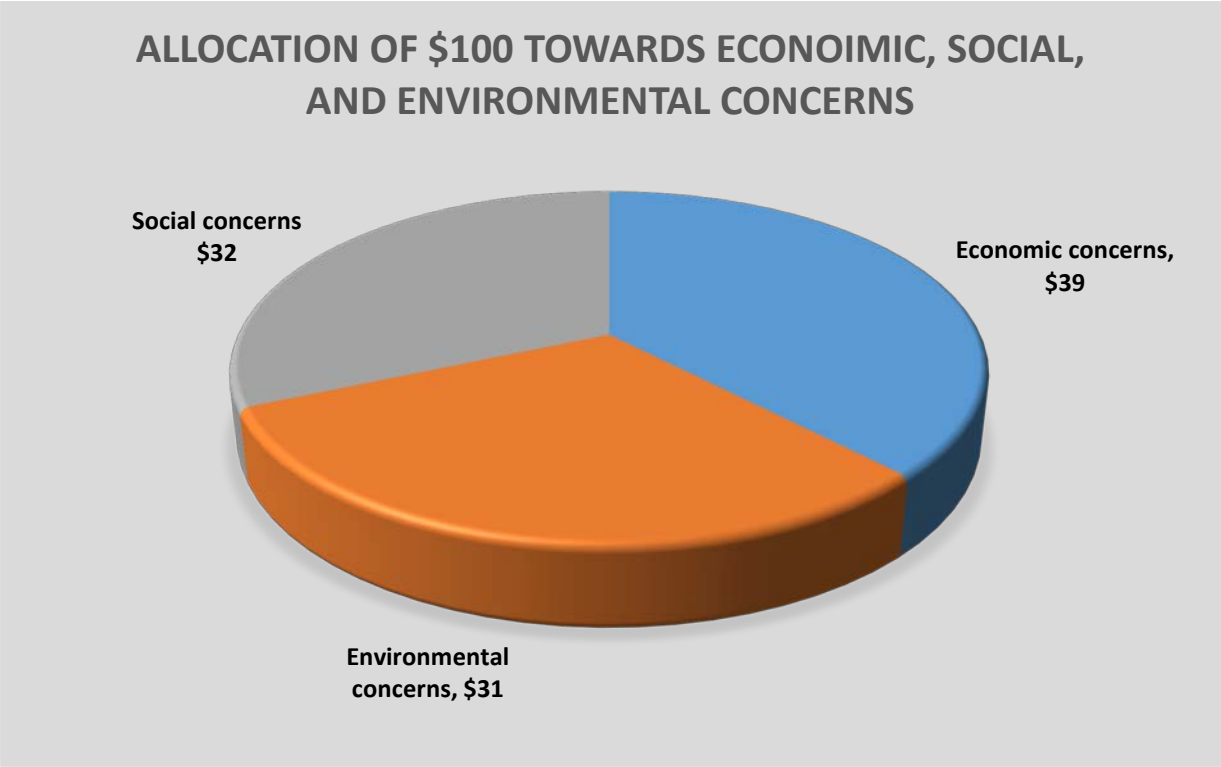


From a list of 14 actions that the City Joplin Parks and Recreation could take, respondents were asked to indicate which four actions are most important to them and members of their household. The following summarizes key findings:

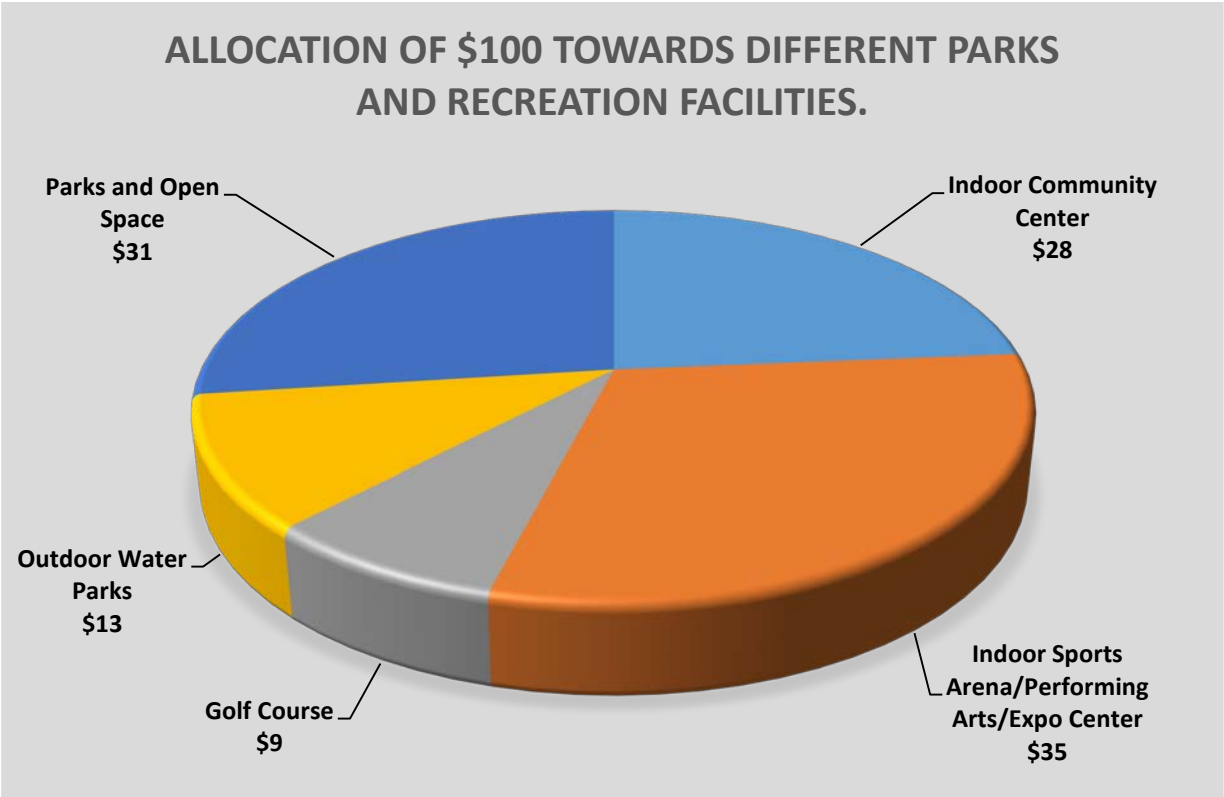
These 4 actions had by a wide margin the highest percentage of respondents select them as their first choice as the action that is most important to their household: Upgrade/improve/develop new and existing performing arts venue, acquire land for preservation and develop walking/hiking trails, develop new indoor recreation center, and develop new hard surface walking and biking trails that connect to regional trails.



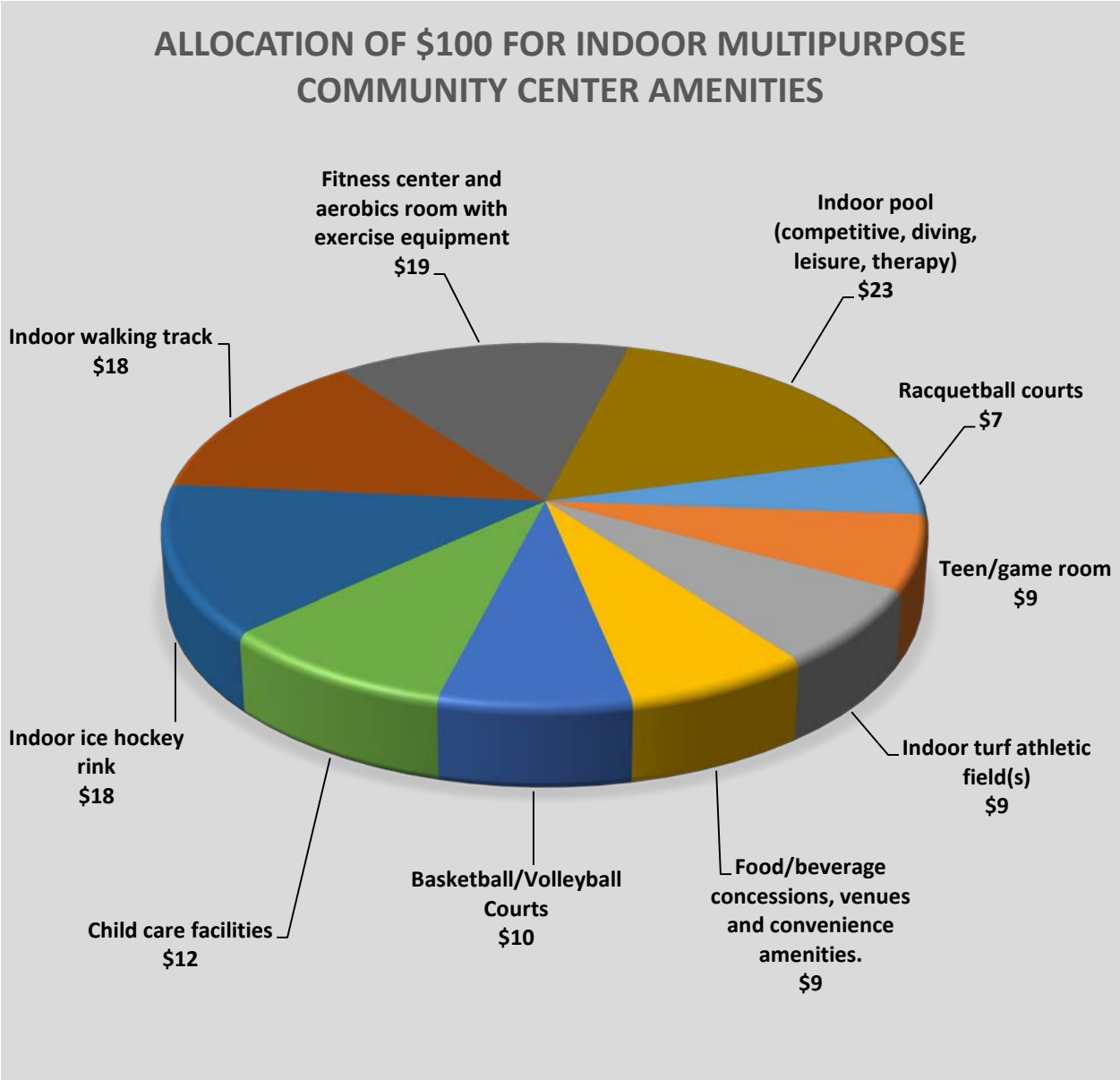
Respondents were asked how they would allocate $100 among three community issues as it relates to the City of Joplin.



Respondents were asked how they would allocate $100 among five City of Joplin parks and recreation facilities.

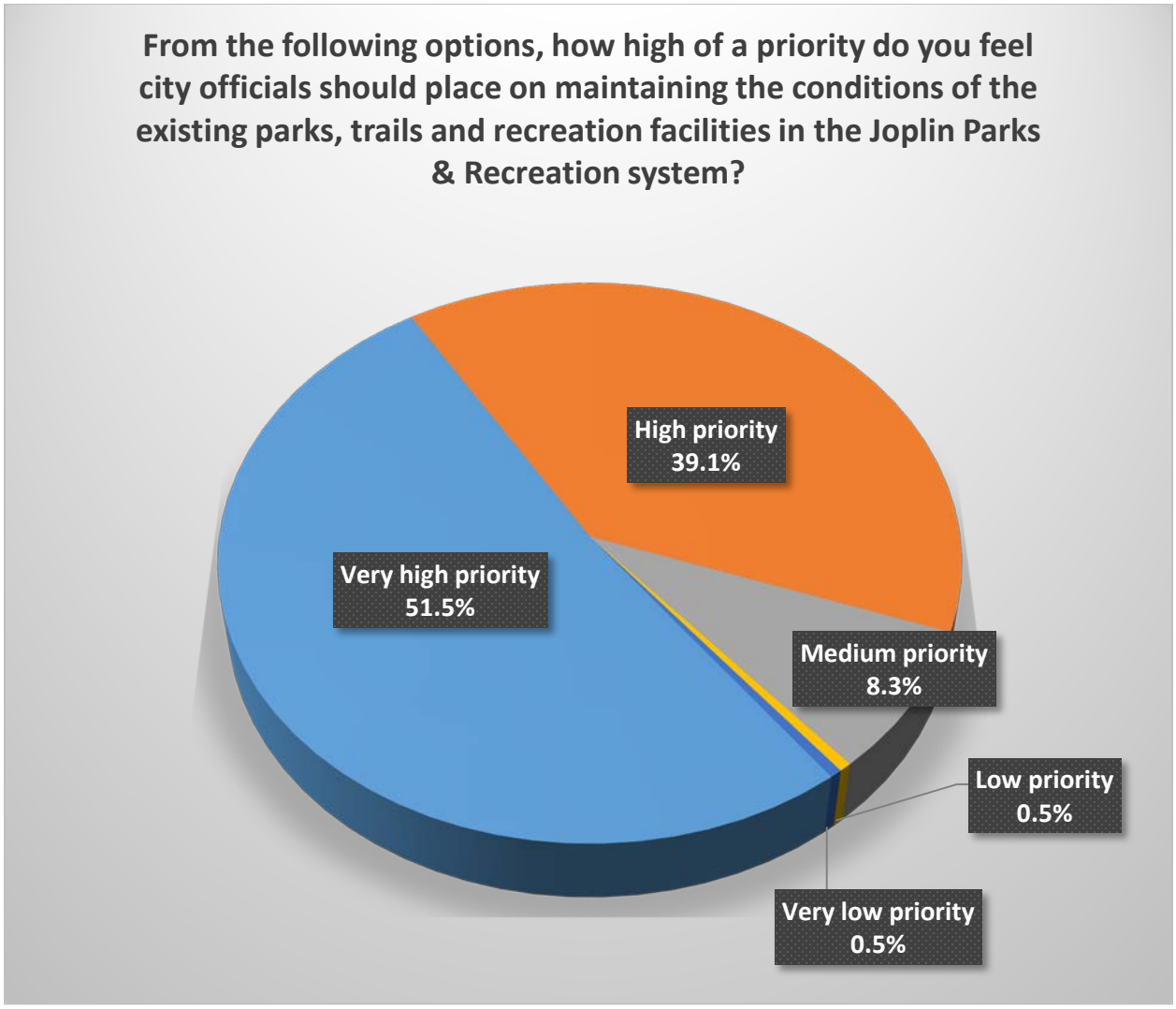


Respondents were asked how they would allocate $100 among 10 amenities for an Indoor Multipurpose Community Center.



Respondents were asked to indicate how high of a priority they feel city officials should place on maintaining the conditions of existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities in the Joplin Parks and Recreation System. The following summarizes key findings:

- An overwhelming 91% of respondent households indicated a high or very high priority should be placed on maintaining the conditions of existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities in the Joplin Parks and Recreation System.



APPENDIX

Open ended responses to questions

Q. Please CHECK ALL the reasons that keep you or other members of your household from using Joplin's parks and recreation facilities.

(Reponses listed below were listed verbatim, as they were entered on survey.)

"Other" responses:

- Do not know when events/programs are
- I spend lots of time in my big yard in Leawood Village.
- Wanting a skate park. Not just a little over crowded ramp
- Don't always know what is going on.
- No classes or programs of interest
- Again, these answers reflect a disappointment with the curren offering for the arts in Joplin. We can do better.
- They are ugly. When I moved here I drove by Shifferdecker park and was shocked at the state of the playground equipment and lack of shade.
- I have my own pool.
- Want more bike trails
- none
- Need more landscaping and other attractions like public art to make places seem more interesting. Cunningham is doing the best so far...
- The grass is kept mowed, therefore leading to ticks on us and our dogs.
- No reasons exist
- programs have too much emphasis on children and seniors
- we do not know what programs are offered
- Having a hard time getting information in a timely manner on these programs
- No actual skatepark, only have one "half pipe". City needs a skatepark just as badly as football players need a football feild, etc.
- We use both city and lrivate
- We do not feel safe at the playgrounds (have found needles in leaf piles twice, older kids unsupervised and using bad language, etc.)
- biking, and mountain biking trails are insufficient
- Not enough biking trails or lanes
- Cycling events?
- Need a lap pool
- no real skate park
- need indoor pool
- There are no sidewalks from my home to walk to nearby parks
- Restrooms are abused & left dirty
- We are not kept from using the parks. They are great!
- Parr Hill Park needs larger playground equipment. Like the one in Cunningham.
- the city does not have mountain bike trails
- Kids aren't old enough to do most things
- No good mountain bike trails.
- Not enough splash pads
- too crowded at times
- I would like to see the continuation on connecting the walking trails together
- I do not know what all is available, or when events occur. FB events would be a great tool for sharing!
- I do not know anything about park-related programs.

- sometimes there are too many people
- Bathrooms are often locked- BIG ISSUE
- Dog park is too small and having to register and get a card to get in is ridiculous.
- age restrictions
- insurance fees are too high. All other Parks do not require insurance.
- My age
- We don't live in city limits
- The only problem we have with any of the facitlities is the bathrooms not being unlocked during certain months. When I have my young children with me, I expect the bathrooms to be open. This has been a problem not just for me, but for other moms I know.
- Not interested in sports programs
- We are outdoor enthusiasts
- changing stations for babies not available
- need more up to date interesting facilities/activities
- Walking trails are mostly in northern part of Joplin
- website or fb could provide location addressess and pictures of what each location offers. For ex, park by Royal Hts I only learned of because a friend lives by it. It would be helpful to have covered sitting areas/benches by the playgrounds.
- I'm not fully aware of what is available
- LOVE mssu events - wish you supported them
- tennis courts are not able to be used in inclement weather
- info
- plantings are poorly maintained--seeing them makes me angry
- Many of the trails feel unsafe and are often covered in litter
- I don't know who to contact to get information about parks.
- Work schedule prevents me from using facilities regularly.

Q. What words come to mind when you hear "Joplin Parks and Recreation"?

(Reponses listed below were listed verbatim, as they were entered on survey.)

- Great Parks, pools that cost a lot to get into, developing
- old facilities, not well marketed, limited programming, forgettable
- Money not spent well.
- Making a valiant effort to increase the quality of our parks system but is a little narrow minded.
- Selective depending upon area
- play grounds and swimming pools
- unutilizied
- Cost, poorly rub
- childrens activities
- Outdoor activities, parks, and fun! That they must have a big job maintaining everything in Joplin.
- Pools, tennis courts, and golf
- Poorly communicated. Poorly managed and planned: like why not dam up the creek in Landreth Park where it is so wide? Why do we have walking/bike trails that don't connect?, and why is the only pretty trail in Joplin [at Wildcat] only walkers?)
- Abundant places and opportunities!
- Professional & good image
- Lack of a good skate park
- Amateur, Run-Down
- Family
- New skatepark. A cement park will be less noise too
- To much equipment and more space needed. Note: It would have been nice to have a comment section.
- I think of city parks, pools, events at Landreth and the Athletic complex.

- Parks, pools, golf
- A decent city department that tries. '
- Not enough walking trails!
- Sufficient, but not outstanding
- They don't get the word out very well of what is available.
- Growing and improving all the time
- MISMANAGED! Out of touch.
- Entertainment, leisure, for all community members, arts, recreation, social life
- outdoors
- lacking
- Hopeful
- summer programs
- Beautiful parks that were improved after the tornado
- I think of the golf course and Aquatic Center at Schifferdecker.
- getting betterimproving
- Good
- Improving, enhancing, growing
- variety of parks and opportunities
- baseball
- nice but could use some work
- Relaxation
- Extremely important to quality of life
- Lawnmowing and lifeguarding. Though I know that the department works tremendously hard at everything they do and do an excellent job at most things. So happy about the Schifferdecker water park and the golf course is looking really nice
- parks, trails, pools
- "Parks and Recreation" brings up happy thoughts of community growth through the fostering of love, reflection, and relationships through both outdoor and indoor investments.

  "Joplin Parks and Rec" calls up to mind a small board of people who think far to much like a small town country club rather than like a governing board of the fourth largest metropolitan area in Missouri. I do not mean that as an insult, I simply mean that as long as we keep funding this town like a middle school, the larger cities will continue to treat us like the redheaded step-city of Missouri. It takes city-sized budgets invested in the arts for any given city to be considered a power player which is exactly why Eureka Springs draws far more tourists than cities fifty times its size. I could cite countless examples of cities where this is the case, countless demographic studies where I ties explode after allocating better art budgets, and as a taxpayer concerned for the economic vitality of the city, it's obvious to me that we have plenty of sports investments to sustain our metropolitan growth for the next decade. Third Thursday alone—with a bare-bones budget—drew in more people and economic power than several decades of sports complexes.

  So any time you attach the name "Joplin" to a city government word, it tends to go from positive to negative in my mind. That could change with better stewardship of taxpayer dollars.
- youth sports,lots of trees to water
- Activities for families
- oxymoron
- sports, parks, pools
- Sports- but it shouldn't be... there is MUCH more to parks and recreation than sports!
- family activities and social programs .
- leisure time; health & fitness; outdoors
- Exercise and relaxation. Family time
- outdoor walking trails, summer youth programs, swimming
- Lots of parks but not much in them. Indoor facilities basically non-existent
- Soccer, museum, not much else
- Need more places for families to do things together

- For a town this size, you need to hear Joplin Parks and Recreation more in the media, especially written media.....
- Community shared activities and environment
- a fund and exciting group that helps kids grow through sports
- good
- Parks in our community
- Playground parks pools walking
- Parks and golf coursee
- sports, parks, children sports
- play
- improvement ... not replace the parks we have now but improve/maintain what we have to a higher standard. I wish there were a comments section here because I took this survey and it seems there is a common theme. "Ask the same question ... but in a different manor and see if the answers stay consistent"
- Parks and trails
- Parks, walking trails places to take my dogs, kids playing, a variety of things to do outside. I think to myself, why should I load my three dogs up and take them to a city park, only to find the grass knee high and obviously not mowed in far too long. I also ask myself, why does Dover Hill have to be locked up far too many months out of the year... During ice and snow, I understand it being locked, but my family loves to take our dogs there in the winter months just to walk. Please reconsider opening this area more often.
- Soccer, playgrounds, skate boarding, tennis
- Community developement
- Improving
- wasteful, don't mow the parks
- small town minded
- Run Down. Few if any teen hangouts/activities.
- we need a skate park. umm skate park
- New Joplin Sports complex. New possibilities of embracing new sports, but have limited money.
- programs primarily for children and seniors, excluding adult citizens
- organized, helpful. i've only had a few dealings with the parks and rec department and they've been great every time.
- Much better than we had before.
- I appreciate the effort and tax dollars that have been committed to the parks and green spaces in Joplin by the parks dept. We have outstanding playground equipment, stunning aquatic centers, fabulous trails, and amazing soccer, softball, and tennis facilities. What we lack, and I see as underrepresented in this survey, is a large municipal impoundment or reservoir for fishing and light watercraft. I understand we have an ozark stream; with the amount of private land on the banks of said stream and overload of drinkers on the public stretches, there are very few safe and family friendly waters for fishing or other open water activities. I typically drive my father-in-law and son to Carthage, Shawnee Trail (Mindenmines), or occasionally as far as Bushwacker/Grand Lake/Stockton Lake for fishing trips because I refuse to subject them to the coarse types that gather at Grand Falls or Low water Bridge. There are only two sanctioned public areas in Joplin proper on Shoal creek for fishing access: Stone's corner and Wildcat.
- Wish they would have something that's indoor to take the kids out to have fun all year
- needs expansion
- Lacking creativity
- behind, small but nice, not enough
- not in tune with the needs of cyclists, or the citizens of Joplin who are young adults in the 21-35 age group
- Joplin Parks and Open Space (Campbell Parkway, Landreth, etc); Joplin Athletic Facility
- Pools and trails
- Right now I hear low priority and hard to reach. Joplin needs a skatepark very badly. There are hundreds of kids that skateboard, scooter, bmx and they have nowhere to go, nowhere to practice, nowhere to stay out of trouble. Skateboarding/bmx/scootering is a huge sport/business these days

and it should be as high of a priority as getting football fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, etc. Chris Cotton is hard to get a hold of and we (skateboard/bmx community) hope that we can work with him to 1) pick a place to put the skatepark and 2) figure out a budget for 2015 that way we can get moving on this project.

- Great! I love all of the adult sports programs, especially adult baseball!
- no shade
- Better advertising of your programs.
- Clean
- Clean very nice buliding with very nice fields
- Doing the best they can.
- options. While I think we have alot of options for sports and rec items, we could certainly use more!
- Improving, but still a long way to go.
- Tennis facility and program is great.
- Excitement, fun, outdoors, sports, play
- Under-utilized, under-funded, not enough energy and vision, not enough education to the community about WHY it's ideas are good ones, seems to be somewhat political and running an agenda rather than giving the citizens what they want. THIS SURVEY IS A GREAT IDEA BUT NEEDS TO BE PUBLICIZED MORE!!
- limited
- outdoor events
- Lacking, vandalized, disrespected
- Old guard, static, not progressive, unhealthy
- is improving, has made major improvements and we are excited for what is next.
- joke
- The department that should be making our city one of the most desirable places to visit and/or live.
- Variety
- Programs for youth
  Athletic complex for teams
  Little change
- We care just enough to get by. Sadly most of the community does not care anymore than you do.
- Green
- Community.
- Sports, kids, community
- No skateboards
- outdoor, fun, green, family, life, youth
- Out of touch. Unrealistic. Unresponsive.
- What is it
- Beautiful manicured Green spaces.
- Much improved.
- None.
- landscape
- A group who oversees outdoor city options, trails, options for sports and lifetime activities.
  Side note I think you guys have been doing a GREAT job! keep up the good work!
- The disaster of a Easter Egg hunt you all put on this spring with horrible organization and no control over participants
- Many diff park options throughout town.
- Not accessible office staff. Needs to learn how to better let the community know whats going on.
- Improving
- The big sports complex by Scifferdecker Park, small neighborhood parks
- varied, useful
- Family Time.
- Lack of recreational and alternative transportation paths
- Still needs improvement.
- Mountain biking!
- Work in progress

- Value
- lacking
- Needs funding
- informative
- Softball
- Outside.
- Corrupt. Fun killing. Dated. Short sighted. Unimaginative. Stagnant.
- Needs vision & leadership! Also more funding.
- Refuses to install and maintain well designed and built public mountain bike trails.
- Not enough splash pads
- nothing comes to mind
- improve it
- Fun, nice get away, quiet, peaceful
- Much improved over the last few years.
- Has so much potential
- recent playground update, but events based outdated.
- Fun
- They are trying.
- Inadequate but improving
- Parks. Walking trails.
- Programs offered that have never really been beneficial to me, I'm not aware of current programs offered. I need to learn more about it.
- Not enough. Lazy.
- sports and play grounds for kids
- A vital part of what our City offers.
- outdoor facilities, playgrounds, walking trails, recreational acitives from child to adult
- expensive
- proud to be a part of the Joplin community
- Cunningham park
- Gate fees at youth baseball are outrageous. Can go see College baseball for less than it costs to get into Joplin complex to watch children play!!!
- Have come a long way. I'm an avid golfer and really don't like Shif, but I'm a good golfer and don't find Shif challenging enough. However, I feel city golf courses should be geared towards the bulk of golfers whos skills are those of beginners or intermediates, which Shif meets. LOVE the neighborhood parks. I utilize the tennis court across the street from my house all the time. Love the trails and the new swim parks although my kids are grown and I do not use them, they are good for our community. Love the Miracle Field, perhaps our greatest P&R assests!!! I don't use the sports complex, but it is very nice and an important asset to our community as well.
- upward trajectory, but not there yet.
- A great program that every city needs to give the residents many options to get out and be active which allows them to enjoy the things they love to do.
- Great People, Great Programs!
- Soccer
- n/a
- sports developement
- Golf, Softball and Disc Golf. Need more Disc Golf Courses in Joplin.
- not bad but wish there were a few more options
- Expensive
- Softball
- Small, unorganized
- Softball/ need mountain bike trails
- boring
- Seems very rec center, facility and sports driven and expensive. We prefer outdoor activities and spaces.
- Nice- clean-friendly-well-kept

- Wildcat Park
- ...I wish they had edible gardens!
- Disc golf, baseball
- family recreation
- Overpriced pools, parks that are not well-maintained. I hated taking my children to the park pre-tornado due to all the graffiti on the play equipment. We only go to the rebuilt park and play on the metal equipment that is harder to deface as they don't need to read what has been written on the wooden equipment.
- Maintaining recreational activities for families
- I wonder what is new?
- Improving
- School flyers. Crowds at the free events.
- sports and waterparks
- Sports
- Lol
- There are some hidden gems in Joplin
- Boring!! Outdated....lacking...uncultured
- Disc Golf
- Too small
- Parks, trees, fun, athletics, sports
- The pools and athletic complex
- City parks
- Ok
- Well planned and awesome!!
- Softball
- No info. Little awareness.
- Disc golf course
- City park up keep and maitance and disc golf
- Ok
- recreation in the local environment
- Neighborhood parks and poola
- Boring
  Trees
- Where can I find more info?
- When I think of joplin parks and recreation, I think of the disc golf course. Jpr does a pretty good job keeping the course mowed and kept up pretty well, but I would really like to see some expansion in this area. Disc golf seems to be a quickly growing sport, and soon, we will need another course besides mcclelland. If we can get a new course in the joplin area, it will increase tourism almost immediately, and therefore revenue for the city.
- Parks & sports
- Parks for little kids
- I'd just like to point out that you have Disc Golf mentioned in the beginning as a sport that one takes part in but it is not mentioned anywhere else in your survey after that. I am a member of the Joplin Disc Golf Club and am very happy with what they city has done to help with disc golf over the years but I think you guys are missing seeing the big picture of this sport. There are so many pros to this sport that bring out hundreds of people out to McClelland Park every week to play. The cost to put in other courses is so minimal (less than $20,000) when you compare it to the cost of playground equipment and other larger expense items that are located all over the city in every park. This is something that I strongly believe you guys should consider if only for the ROI on what is one of the most cost effective ways to provide a way for more people to enjoy our great parks. We'd love to sit down and go over some more specifics with the Parks & Rec department if given an opportunity and the Joplin Disc Golf Club is always more than willing to help with anything that you guys might ever need from us. Thank you for your time.
- Parks, playgrounds, athletic fields. It never really registered that the Parks & Rec Department oversees Memorial Hall. Does it also oversee the Museum Complex? If so, boy does that need some work!

- I think of Spiva Park and 3rd Thursday
- Theyve done a great job at improving Schifferdecker! The athletic complex is great and the new pool is, too. Of cunningham and Parr Hill are great now, but this shows what can P & R do without tornado grant money.
- Need more maintance
- LOVE mssu - wish you supported them
- A great start, but a long way to go. More sidewalks, bike lanes, connecting trails, Y is overcrowded, Community sponsored and low joining fees
- Not enough publicity..
- Family time, relaxation, nature.
- City parks
- doing a fine job, but joplin needs another disc golf course
- No big sports facilities to attract more people to Joplin. Glad we are getting a Minor League team.
- Trees. Chris Cotten. Cunningham Park memorial and Butterfly Garden.
- Golf course
- Taking too long to decide implementation of the proposed ideas.
- Needs upgrading and improvements asap
- Hard to reach on phone
- New adventures. fun,
- Tennis
- Everything new, while letting old facilities rot. Unresponsive.
- Playground
- The beautiful nature trails we have!
- We really enjoy the parks, but wish there was more variety of play structures. We love the wooden play ground at Cunningham because it is so different from the rest.
- Need a boost
- Need more sidewalks
- Schifferdecker Golf course and water park
- The complex at Schiffendecker.
- Needs help in informing the community what available in a reasonable amount of time before the activity, at a affordable cost, and with hours that are flexible to the working class and families.
- Mediocrity.
- Old, expensive
- Improving
- getting better
- I don't know much about Joplin Parks and Recreation -- although I guess there is a new dog park and that's good.
- Improving
- Frisco-greenway trail
- Outdoor parks
- Not well maintained facilities
- Rebuilt parks
- Outdated
- Soccer, swimming, softball
- Great parks just needs a community center.
- Parks
- Joplin athletic complex
- Okay not great
- San Francisco running trail
- Well kept old facilities.
- Unfortunately, nothing comes to mind. Joplin Parks and Recreation has a very low profile.
- Need updated all of our parks are mostly for small children and could use more for preteen /teens to do at them
- Parks
- improving

- Fun
- Average
- useless
- Summer program
- Outdoor activities
- Not much to offer but trying to improve
- I don't know much about the services offered.
- Fun
- Kid program
- parks, trails, athletic complex
- I think of playgrounds and paved walking trails (and, without criticism intended, walking trails with non-functioning drinking fountains).
- Facilities have seen better days.
- I don't know enough
- Wish we lived closer to some of them.
- Numerous parks and trails
- Maintenance
- Doesn't seem to want to be like other young towns attracting people. Bentonville, springfield, even Pittsburgh has more things to do outside.
- Not well maintained
- Ball park activity
- A lot of good facilities.
- Keeping the city recreation areas clean and serviceable.
- Family, fun, swimming, bbq, fishing, nature, friends
- Expensive summer programs. Great pools. Fairly good parks.
- Inadequate, needs work
- Great outdoor parks, and the potential to do much greater things.
- Open area
- Parks
- Having facilities that encourage my family and I to be active.
- Not committed to the areas we already have. The trees are over grown and not maintained. We do not find the areas to be attractive to spend time because of the lack of maintenance.
- outdoors, health

Q. What words come to mind when you hear "Quality of Life"?

(Reponses listed below were listed verbatim, as they were entered on survey.)

- Health physical and mental
- Maintaining an active lifestyle to ensure quality of life
- Vibrant community, active lifestyles, wellness, activity, art and design in environment and surroundings, music and movement, accessibility to favorite places
- Exercise, entertainment, fun...you can only use what you have available.
- There are so many ways the quality of life could be inproved in this city through our parks. People coming into this town want bike, walking trails. Bike lanes for cyclists (people in this town are jerks about having to share the road with bikes!) Adding a quality registered mountain bike trail. Follow models of other cities, like Bentonville, Springfield, Tulsa. Three years after the tornado and I don't see the city doing enough to rebuild the areas destroyed by the storm. They have a blank canvas to create something really special, especially aound the Main street area that could really revitalize that part of town. GET PEOPLE AWAY FROM RANGELINE!
- Interesting, safe, convenient, accessible
- insurance and hospitals
- fulfillment
- Staying active no matter your age

- safety/security
- Just how important it is to try and maintain and high "quality of life." Staying healthy and getting outside to have fun.
- We leave town often to participate in activities and entertainment that Joplin doesn't offer. It would be nice to stay home and spend those dollars here to improve our quality of life.
- Embarrassing. My family would move from Joplin in a heartbeat if our job would allow and it would solely be because of the quality of life issue. Third Thursday has proven people crave things to do in Joplin but we are significantly behind the times.
- Arts and culture!
- Arts of all types, public transportation, safety and low crime
- It has improved after the tornado with the replacements. Hope that attitude and forward thinking will continue.
- Continue to develop activities such as Third Thursday and we might actually have a quality standard of living in Joplin.
- Things that you can do from a walking distance and affordable to families
- Skateboarding
- Life to the fullest potential.
- Cultural amenities, good food options, green space.
- Arts and culture
- Arts and entertainment. Something that brings a little class to Joplin. I'm tired of the city mentality that the only thing citizens want is sports. The last time I went to a baseball game at the sports complex west of town, there were maybe 20-25 people in the stands. When we don't even fill that stadium, why should the city believe we can fill a minor league baseball stadium?
- Walking trails!
- Healthy community = Happy community
- More active activities for all ages, including new learning creative activities for the mind and coordination.
- What can I do with my family
- Please support economic development, SUPPORT THE ARTS, and QUALITY EDUCATION!
- relaxation, balance, fun, faith, family
- Arts, clean, family, safe, constant consecutive events
- activities
- dream
- Not in jopkin
- walking trails, well-maintained parks, access to the arts, dog park, library, community gatherings like 3rd Thursdays
- Plenty of things to do and experience in your own back yard
- I think of green, open spaces with lots of trees. I think of a safe place, with no worries.
- arts
  culture
  health
- Fitness
- Downtown Joplin, opportunity for growth
- something we need - a nice community to live in
- Arts
- Great Place to Live
- Outdoor activities that promotes health and wellness in many forms; equal community investment in arts and culture to that of sports and athletic recreation. Also be known as a community sensitive to long term environmental concerns such as curbside recycling.
- A rich, engaging and vibrant city with options for entertainment and relaxation that enriches residents. Green Spaces, Art and Cultural Diversity that serves to expose rooted citizens to outside influence.
- low crime, low taxes, abundant recreation options
- The book "For The Love of Cities" shows quite clearly through study after study that cities only grow economically and numerically when people fall in love with a place. The number one way to do that is to create unique Joplin-exclusive pieces of culture. There are minor league teams all around the area,

but what makes ours unique? Nothing. There are ice skating rinks all around Missouri. What makes ours unique? Nothing. There are sports complexes and laser tag arenas and indoor pools and golf courses galore in the whole of the four states, but what makes ours unique? Nothing much at all. But you put up one quality mural by a New York painter and people suddenly show up to see it while they're exploring tornado progress. You host one quality concert and people show up. You invest in youth-based art programs and we get national attention.

You may think I'm being dramatic, but this is one of the reasons I'm leaving Joplin an moving to a large city. If I find Joplin city management using taxpayer dollars more wisely than another sports park, I'll consider moving back. Until then, the Joplin quality of life remains remarkably low for the amount of funding they throw around. Invest in the arts, invest in new pieces of culture, invest in public spaces where people can foster love and community and deep reflection, and you'll find people falling in love with this place against all odds—even fiscal odds.

I love Joplin, but I'm disappointed in the way Joplin treats her artists, so I'm moving to a place where I am more welcome. But if there's a brain drain or an exodus of artists, this will never become the kind of place where movie stars, New York Times bestsellers, and piano virtuosos are born and raised.

- happiness, comfort
- clean living
- other than the arts and the audubon center, not here
- arts, entertainment, peaceful places for reflection
- the variety of areas that add to enjoying life for a variety of interests- jobs, recreation, arts, environment, entertainment, sports.
- healthy life and cultural events.
- places to go and things to do in leisure; entertainment/arts
- Family time. Fitness.
- needing more
- green space, parks, safe places for kids to play
- Nothing
- Poor, depressed
- Having a job and earning money to have a good quality of life.....not handouts
- Mental, emotional and physical well being.
- insuring the best for every person
- good
- Very important. The arts/culture should be a focus in this arena - a performing/visual arts center is something that would bring people to Joplin and keep them here.
- Geriatric
- Enjoy nature and have fun things to do
- leisure activities, entertainment, clean environment
- fun
- mediocre ... Joplin is a mix of income levels. And with that comes lower to better quality facilities, neighborhoods, and homes. Everyone knows you cant offer the greatest things on earth for free and you cant offer the worse conditions for premium costs. Is it possible to begin with rebuilding a town that retains, appreciates, and caters to it residents, before trying to bring others? I just feel like some day we are going to be one of the towns in which you hear "it's a nice place to visit but I wouldn't want to live there .....
- Health and happiness
- Good, healthy air to breath, clean parks and community gathering places for families to go, well-maintained areas to walk and enjoy the outdoors.
- recreation for all
- Longevity
- Keeping fit
- WALKING TRAILS AT ALL PARKS
- outdoor community centers for walking and relaxing
- able to have easy access to your needs

- Various options for outdoor lifestyle for all ages. Indoor/outdoor mix for young adults to hang out and have fun and be safe.
- A skate park, skate park
- Easy access to good mountain biking trails.
- Improving the area that people enjoy outside to make themselves healthier.
- happiness and fulfillment outside of the workplace
- walking trails and side walks, community centers, parks, Sports and entertainment concerts leagues teams, Joplin Outlaws, Joplin Demize, Joplin Cusaders, More atheletic leagues for adults,
- Events and activities that enrich the lives of both residents and visitors once the needs of a family are met. Ways to bond with friends and loved ones in a secure relaxed environment whether it be indoors or out.
- No clue
- needs improvement
- Healthy activities
- recreation, health, outdoor activities, events/festivals, museums,
- age gracefully, health, right to die
- city funded fitness programs, and bicycle lanes.
- Access to parks and open space that include walking and biking trails.
- Recreation facilities that are in good shape
- Quality of life is great, and would be even better if we had a skatepark.
- medium
- Movement for all persons to continue to live to their fullest.
- Multiple activities. Something other than baseball and soccer. A place for kids to be at fail after school. Safe environment with lots of athletic, art, dance options
- Lacking
- none
- Enjoying time with family
- again, options. Having options of things to do improves our local quality of Life, thus making this area more attractive to businesses. this will improve our overall economy. but, you can't limit it to sports. we need more items related to arts... visual, performance, dance, etc.
- Healthy lifestyle. Accessibility to walking/bicycling trails
- ?
- Churches, schools, hospitals, industry, economy, parks, running/hiking/walking trails,
- physical health
  Mental Health
  fitness
  aerobic exorcise
  travel
- exercise and fitness
- Fitness, education and respect.....respect for self and for the community
- Joplin can do better
- being healthy and enjoying life.
- Clean air, clean water, safe streets/parks/facilities, events.
- Fitness
- Activities for all ages
  Reasons to keep young people from moving away
- All of my spiritual, physical and mental needs are met
- Nature
- Fitness
- Variety of choices recreationally.
- Health, staying active, community
- Skatepark s
- fun, clean, family
- Northwest Arkansas
- Outdoor activities

- Community events and participation
- Relationships, opportunities and places to connect with others.
- Walking, playing, outdoors, trees, sun.
- having a positive image of the community
- A measure of all stressors in life that effect mental, physical, emotional health.
- Smoke free parks
- Family. Fresh air. Nature. Living life to the fullest.
- How happy a person is.
- Less work more family, healthy wholesome and educational experiences, nature, money not an issue
- Scandinavian Countries
- Safe and fun place to raise a family.
- Health, cycling, outside activities
- Needs improvement.
- Outdoor amenities
- Beauty
- motivation
- Joplin has a need for improvement in the area of social education
- Outdoor trails
- good
- Happy
- Minimal, bored, nothing to do.Nothing to do when it's cold.
- Outdoor activities.
- Get Allen Burt to fix his building. It's been three years. Whisky Tango Foxtrot?
- prosperity, education, arts, entertainment, cultural activities, music
- raise it
- Enjoying the outdoors
- n/a
- Personal responsibility.
- Living
- Need more nature!
- Happiness and adventure with family
- Not sure -- perhaps, making sure that everyone has access to facilities for exercise. I would like to say that if an indoor fitness facility is built, it should be available for use at little to no cost for those of us who cannot afford a membership at other fitness centers, please.
- The ability to live with a good balance of social, physical, mental rewards...a well-rounded and fully involved existence.
- Not there but getting better.
- Comfort, security and inviting
- preserving the enviorment, ehance and maintain a person life.
- good job
- new quality of life since 5-22-11
- Non-smoking outside areas
- Healthy and active
- Overall happiness including physical fitness.
- being able to enjoy the time you have with family and friends.
- Very important
- Stability
- n/a
- Enjoying what's going on right now in life.
- not bad
- Ability to move and participate
- Great outdoor activities and music concerts
- healthy, happy
- The enjoyment you get from life

- boring
- Greenspace, trails, and parks and playgrounds
- eating right-walking-better wages -improved older neighborhods-
- Being able to go into Nature to let go of the stresses of our life.
- Healthy, mindful, empathic = high quality of life
- fitness, community
- health
- recreation, family, fun
- A life that is worth living, well balanced between work and play
- How much one fully enjoys their life
- important, trails, parks, recreation, things to do
- Walking trails, connected parks, family rec center
- parks, open space, trails,
- Outdoor parks, trails, and amenities; things for families to do and interact with other families and friends
- Fun
- Utilizing public resources such as parks and trails can improve our quality of life
- Outdoor...health..enriching...culture..fun..happy...eventful
- Disc Golf
- Happiness
- Healthy, no stress,
- Healthy
- Living a healthy happy life.
- Safe
- Precious
- Trees
- Health, opportunity, community investment
- Good
- Healthy living and bieng active
- Pretty good
- food equity, recreation, entertainment, low crime, low unemployment
- Famiky
- Health, well-being, & happiness
- Not just living a long life but enjoying that life along the way. Things I enjoy are outdoor activities like running and biking and hiking and exploring, outdoor entertainment like concerts or art experiences. Also, quality of life includes feeling safe wherever I am.
- Enjoying your time here on earth (playing disc golf with loved ones)
- Healthy
- Trails for running and cycling and facilities to encourage people to be healthy and active.
- Safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, stable and quality employment, cultural activities (concerts, exhibits, etc), local dining options, grocery stores with good produce, farmers markets, family-friendly activities, good schools, good libraries, good doctors...
- Outdoors. Health. Walking
- A safe and healthy community
- Family, health, fitness
- health
- Plenty of outdoor activities
- Eat. Move. Balance. Breathe.
- Relaxation, Nature, Healthy Living.
- Adult care
- fine
- Almost non-existent.
- Fresh air, clean water, healthy citizens, commitment to protecting the environment.
- Fun, health

- Beautiful city
- Health
- Long lasting, happy,
- Family, business and friends.
- Healthy
- Having great family fun with my growing son in a safe and clean area.
- Walking trails
- IMPORTANT
- We need to be more active.
- Health, exercise
- Healthy lifestyle.
- Having the ability and resources to balance work and life through your relationship with Christ.
- Health & Fitness.
- Family, activities, outdoor, health
- Faith in Jesus, commitment to family, service to others and the enjoyment of God's creation.
- Quality of Life means I have the ability to get outside and enjoy nature. The opportunity exists to get away from all my screens and spend some time in the sunshine and fresh air.
- Get fit.
- Spending time outside
- parks, waking trails
- Improvements
- Community activities that will lift up the over all spirits and well being of the community ....that can bring unity to Joplin...that all can participate in regardless of income and Joplin being a leader in bring music....art....athletics .....family activities and community pride in the four states.....
- Exercise
- Vibrant, local and convenient, satisfying
- Entertainment venues
- Indoor fitness center.
- Good environment for the community
- Ample access to walking paths, playgrounds, other outside facilities for families to enjoy together.
- God, Family, Health, Community
- Running on beautiful trails
- Health and happiness!
- Nature outdoors family time
- Healthy opportunities
- important
- Good
- Ok
- not here
- Availability of resources to improve lives
- Healthy living
- Small town
- Health, Fitness, Family, Pets
- Health
- Running, health awareness
- clean air, pedestrian & bicycle friendly, recreation programs
- Vibrancy, health, activity, enrichment, community and relationships.
- Health, activities, time & means to enjoy amenities
- Health and happiness.
- Good health, exercise, neighborhood, friends, and family.
- Opportunities to get outside
- Healthy living
- Able to do things outside and have choices
- Health, money, community, God

- Having active life
- Great outdoor places to interact with family and friends.
- Being happy, healthy, and able to do all the things I love.
- Stupid question
- Family. Health.
- Strength, finding of self
- Staying active.
- Balance of economic, health and social activities
- Good
- Being able to enjoy life by being active and healthy.
- Running, walking, mountain bike trails, farmers market, promoting healthy lifestyles and good eating habits
- green space, recreational facilities, resources to maintain fitness