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Berks County
GREENWAY, PARK AND RECREATION PLAN
PUBLIC SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT



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2021 Berks County Greenway, Park, and Recreation Plan Update Public Survey

INTRODUCTION

The 2021 Berks County Greenway, Park, and Recreation Plan Update survey was conducted by the Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) and Berks County Parks And Recreation Department (BCPD). The survey was designed to evaluate the opinions and experiences of the public who engage in outdoor recreation throughout Berks County and to provide guidance in developing the Greenway, Park, and Recreation Plan update.

At the conclusion of the data collection period, a total of 1,009 respondents had completed the web survey. All data were collected between June 22 and July 30, 2021.

Data Analysis Notes

The following notes should be taken into account when reviewing the final dataset:

1. Because the survey was open-access and is not a random sample, the final dataset is considered to be representative only of the respondents who chose to participate.
2. While some results may be referenced from the 2004 survey conducted as part of the development of the 2007 Greenway, Park, and Recreation Plan for comparison purposes, all data are from the 2021 administration of the survey unless otherwise specified.

METHODOLOGY

Survey Development

During the first quarter of 2021 the project team, consisting of staff from the BCPC, BCPD and the consultant recreational practitioner assisting with the update, worked to develop, formulate, and design a survey for collecting data from Berks Countians who engage in outdoor recreation. Portions of the survey were adapted from a previous survey that was administered in 2004.

The survey was developed using Survey Monkey web survey software in both English and Spanish language versions. Survey Monkey's online survey platform allows for complex question patterns and advanced analytics to provide for a seamless experience for respondents as well as staff evaluating responses.

Data Collection

Surveys were self-administered through Survey Monkey's online survey platform. Survey responses were collected through the BCPC's web survey account between June 22 and July 30, 2021. Distribution of the survey link was the responsibility of the BCPC and BCPD. BCPC and BCPD partnered with several organizations to share the survey link through various distribution lists. The availability and the request for responses were also done through presentations that were open to the public, marketed through various advertisements, flyers and local television, posted to social media accounts and forwarded to over 2,200 county employees through the County's employee email system. Due to the open access nature of the survey, the sample is not considered to be randomly selected; consequently, results are considered to be representative only of those who chose to participate.

Survey Response

Because the City of Reading and some surrounding communities have high populations of Spanish speaking residents surveys were prepared in both English and Spanish language versions in order to engage populations that may not be comfortable answering in English. There were a total of 1,007 responses registered for the English version and two (2) responses to the Spanish version. Due to the open access nature of the survey, the total number of invited respondents is unknown. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate a response rate for this survey.

Study Limitations

Because the survey was open access, the total number of invited respondents is unknown. In addition, this non-random sampling method prevents the use of traditional statistical methods, meaning that a margin of error cannot be calculated for the survey. The results are only representative of those who chose to participate. Finally, BCPC did not receive a completed

survey from every possible respondent. Because the answers from these non-respondents could be different from those who did participate, non-response bias exists.

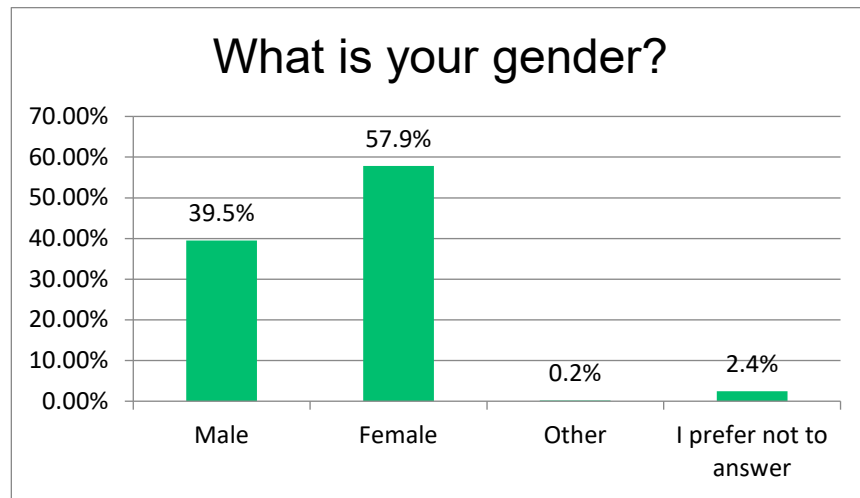
RESULTS

Respondent Profile

In total, 1,009 respondents provided data to at least some questions in the survey. A few questions were asked to develop a profile of the respondents completing the survey. The following section describes the respondent profile by gender, age, race / ethnicity, and Berks County municipality.

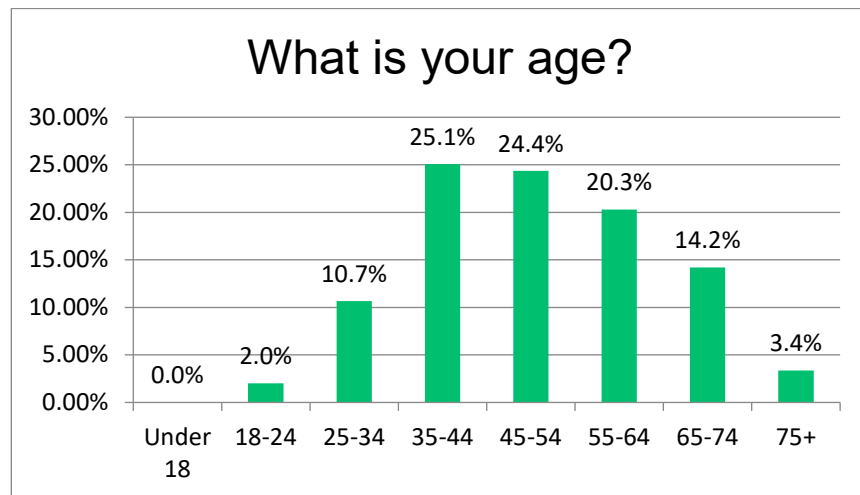
Over half of the respondents were female (57.9%), while 39.5% were male, .2% identified as something else, and 2.4% preferred not to answer, as seen in the following figure.

Figure 1. Gender



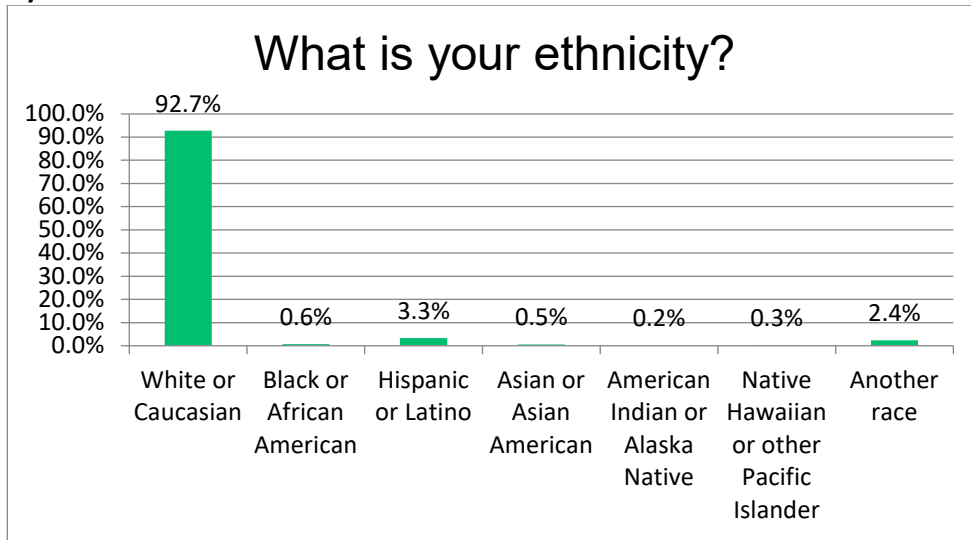
Nearly three thirds of the respondents (69.8%) were between the ages of 35 and 64, while 12.7% were between 18 and 34, 14.2% were between 65 and 74, 3.4% were 75 or older and there were no (0.0%) responses for anyone under 18 years of age, as seen in the next figure.

Figure 2. Age



The vast majority of respondents (92.7%) were white or Caucasian, while 3.3% were Hispanic or Latino, .6% were Black or African American, .5% were Asian or Asian American, .3% were Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, .2% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and 2.4% identified as another race altogether, as seen in the next figure.

Figure 3. Race / Ethnicity

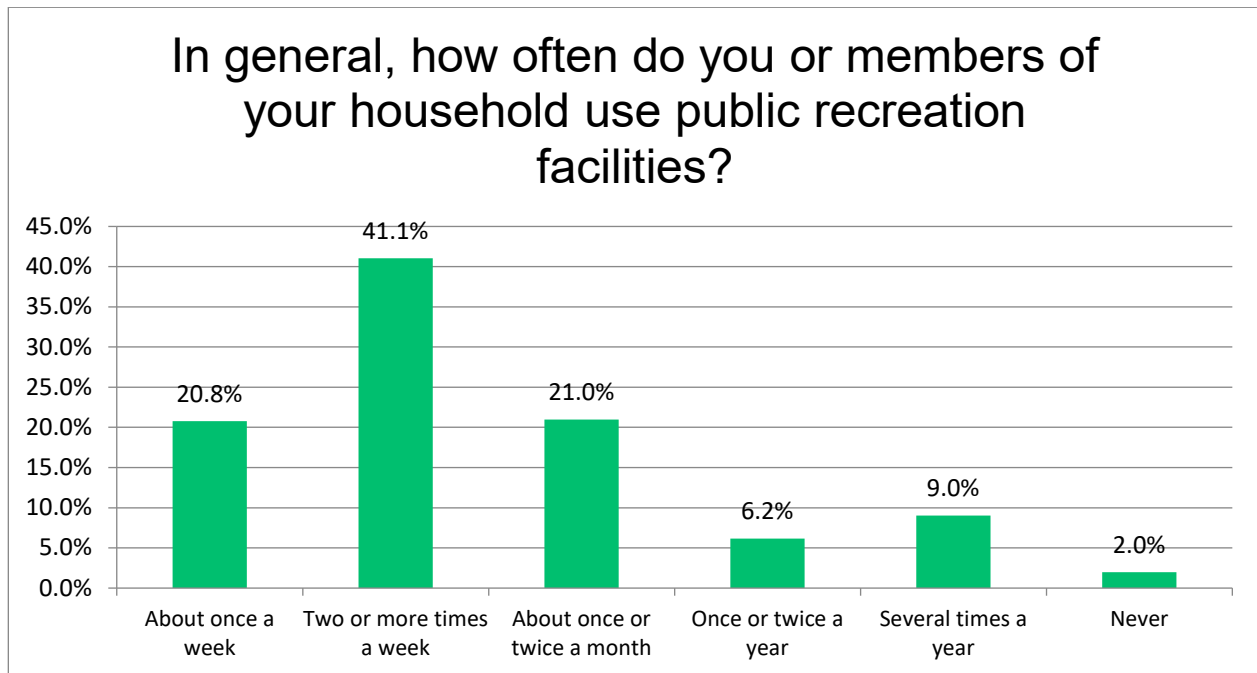


There is a total of 72 municipalities in Berks County. Respondents were, for the most part, evenly distributed throughout the County, with 8.9% and 8.4% residing in Spring Township and Wyomissing Borough respectively. 7.0% of respondents were from the City of Reading, 5.3% were from Hamburg Borough, 4.4 from Muhlenberg Township and 4.0% from Exeter Township. Just six of the County’s 72 municipalities had no respondents to the survey. Please refer to Appendix A for a list of all survey question responses to this question.

Participation in Outdoor Activities

Respondents were asked how often they or members of their household use public recreation facilities. Respondents most often indicated that they utilized public recreation facilities two or more times a week (41.1%). 20.8% indicated that they used public recreation facilities about once a week, 21% about once or twice a month, 6.2% once or twice a year, 9% several times annually, and 2% answered that they never use public recreational facilities.

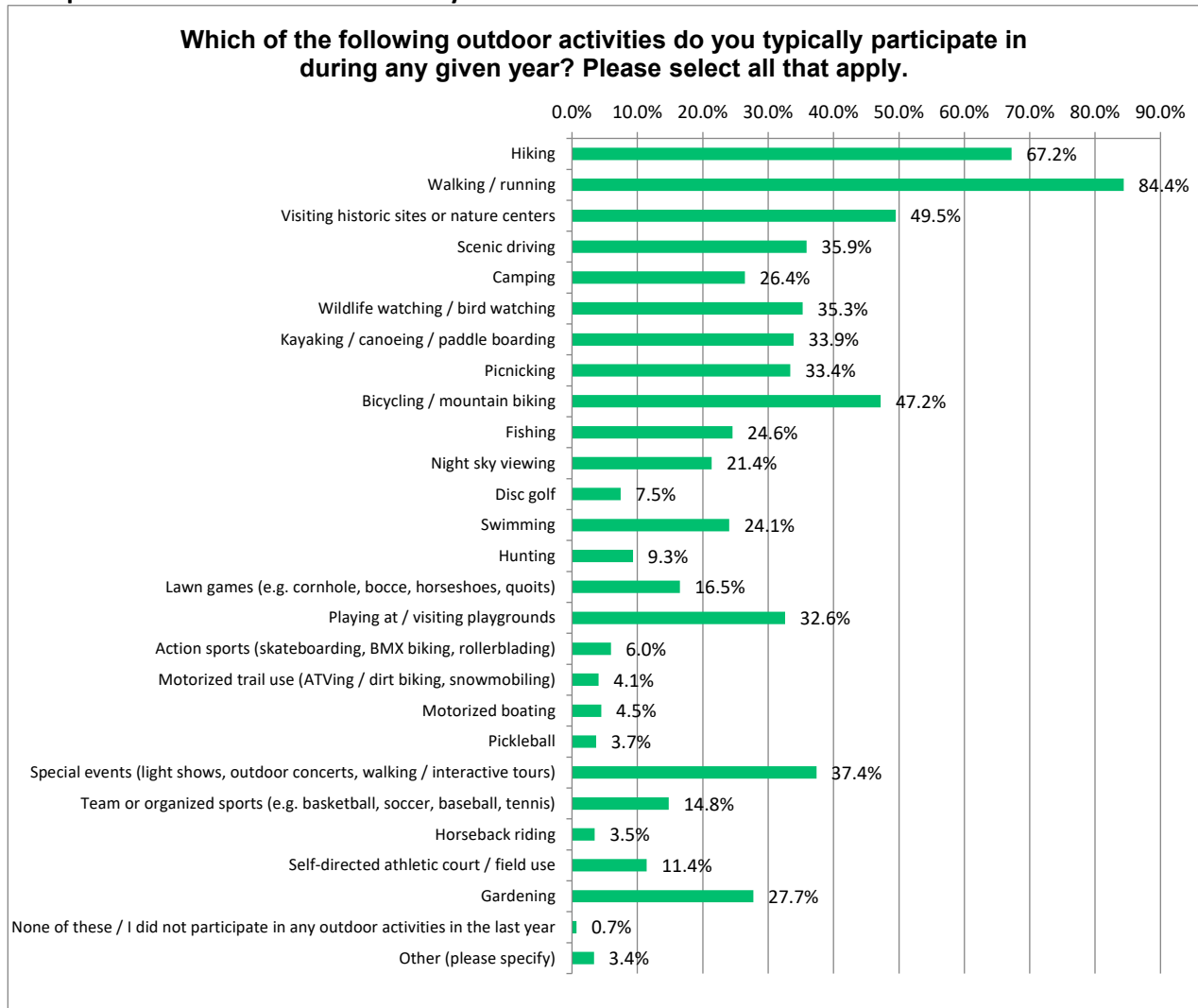
Figure 4. How Often Do You Use Public Recreation Facilities?



Respondents were asked to indicate which of the provided outdoor activities they typically engage in during any given year. Respondents most-often indicated that they participate in walking / running (84.4%) and hiking (67.2%), while almost half said

they visited historic sites or nature centers (49.5%) and bicycling / mountain biking (47.2%). 37.4% enjoyed special events and just .7% did not participate in any outdoor activities in the last year, as seen in the next figure.

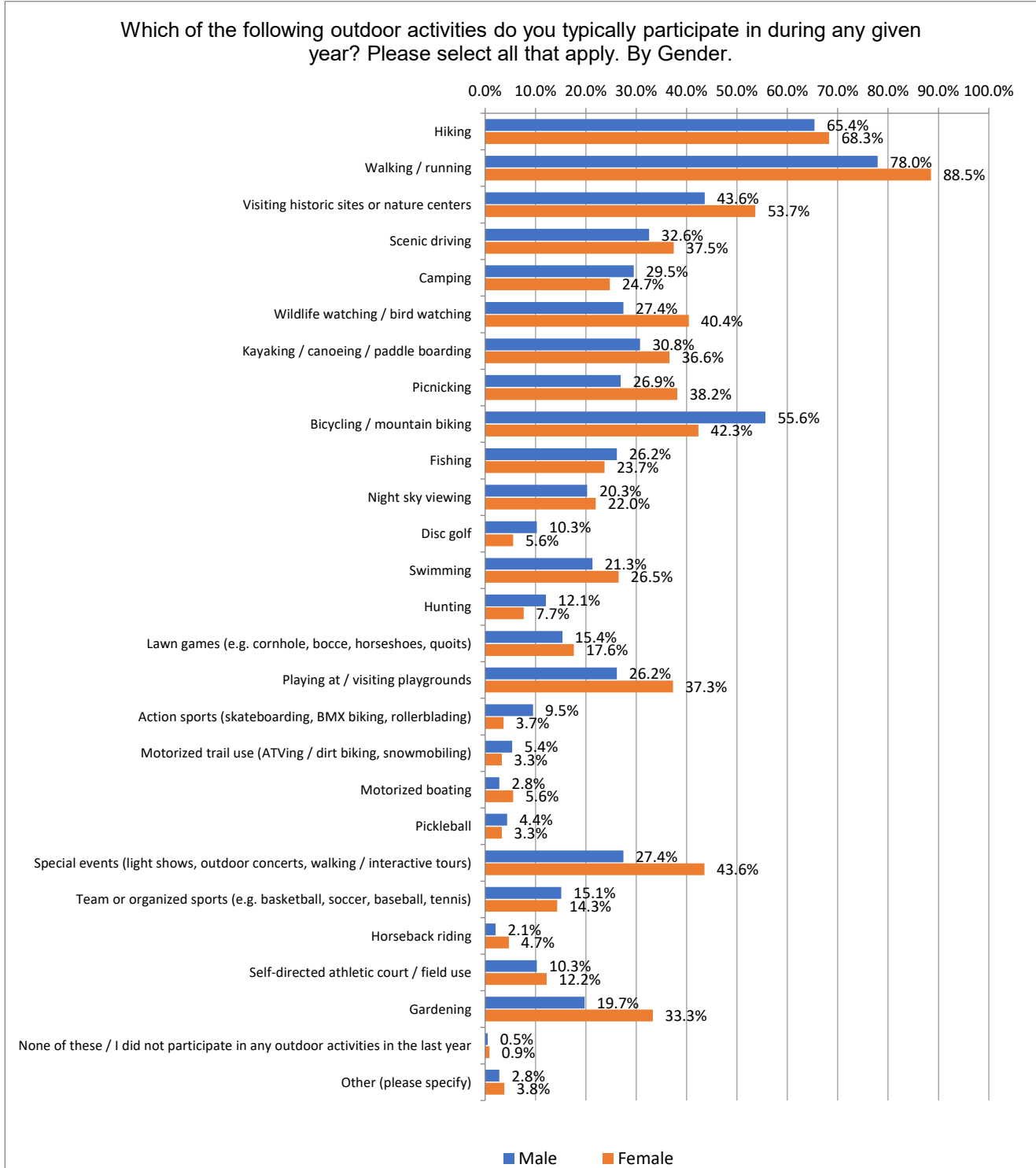
Figure 5. Participation in Outdoor Activities in any Given Year



In addition, 34 respondents provided some activity other than those listed. The most common Other responses were nature photography / photography, geocaching, and cross-country skiing / skiing.

There were several differences in responses by gender. More women than men participated in the majority of activities listed. This is in part due to the fact that more women responded to the survey than men. Men participated more in camping (29.5% versus 24.7%, respectively), bicycling / mountain biking (55.6% versus 42.3%), fishing (26.2% versus 23.7%), disc golf (10.3% versus 5.6%), hunting (12.1% versus 7.7%), action sports (9.5% versus 3.7%), motorized trail use (5.4% versus 3.3%), and team or organized sports (15.1% versus 14.3%), as seen on the following figure.

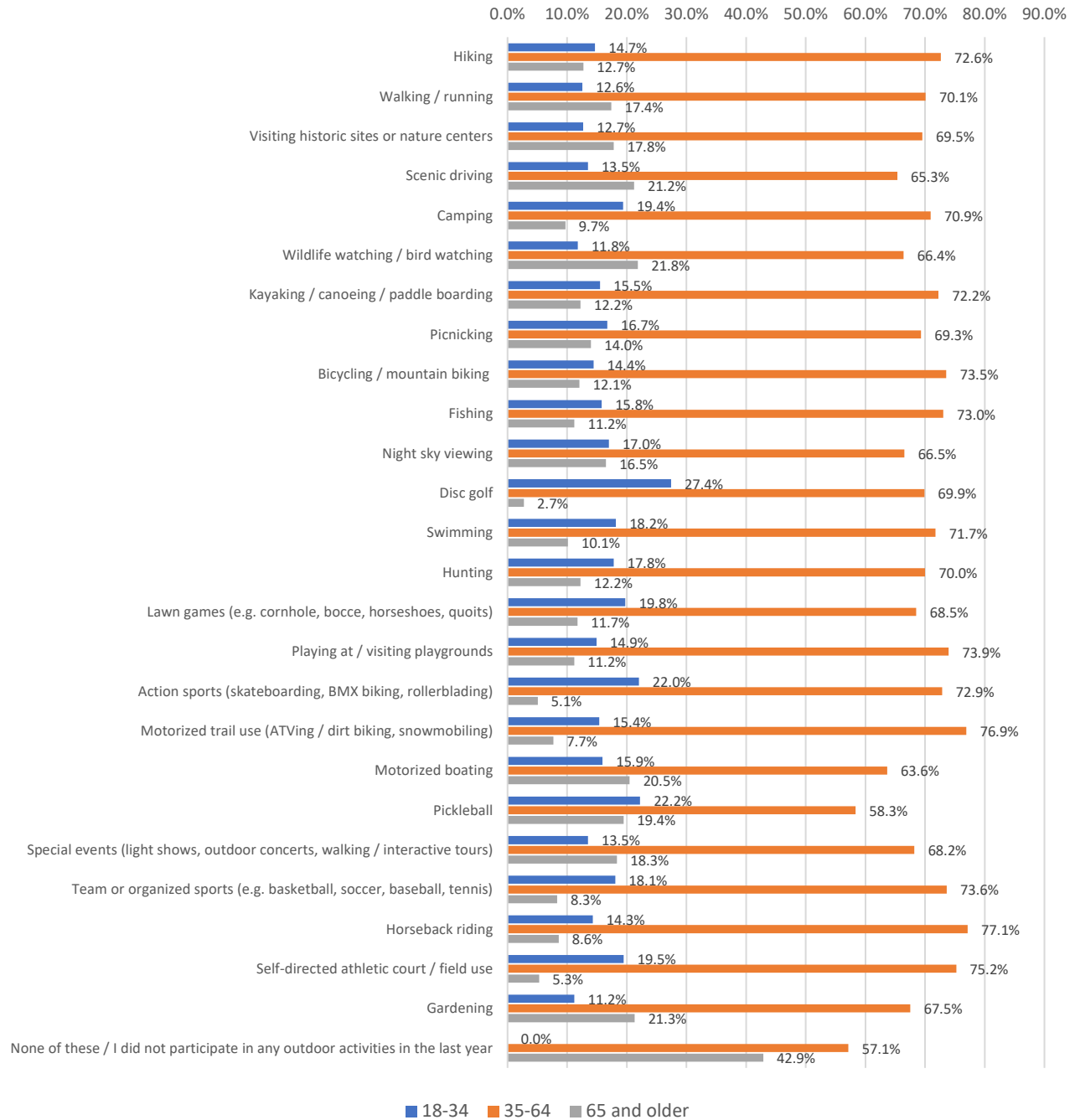
Figure 6. Participation in Outdoor Activities, by Gender



Differences in outdoor activity participation were also seen by age. Not surprisingly, more individuals between the ages of 18 and 34 than those 65 and older indicated that they participated in disc golf (27.4% versus 2.7%, respectively) and action sports (22.0% versus 5.1%). More of those 65 and older participated in wildlife watching / bird watching (21.8% versus 11.8%), motorized boating (20.5% versus 15.9%) than individuals between the ages of 18 and 34, as seen in the next figure.

Figure 7. Participation in Outdoor Activities, by Age

Which of the following outdoor activities do you typically participate in during any given year?
Please select all that apply. By age

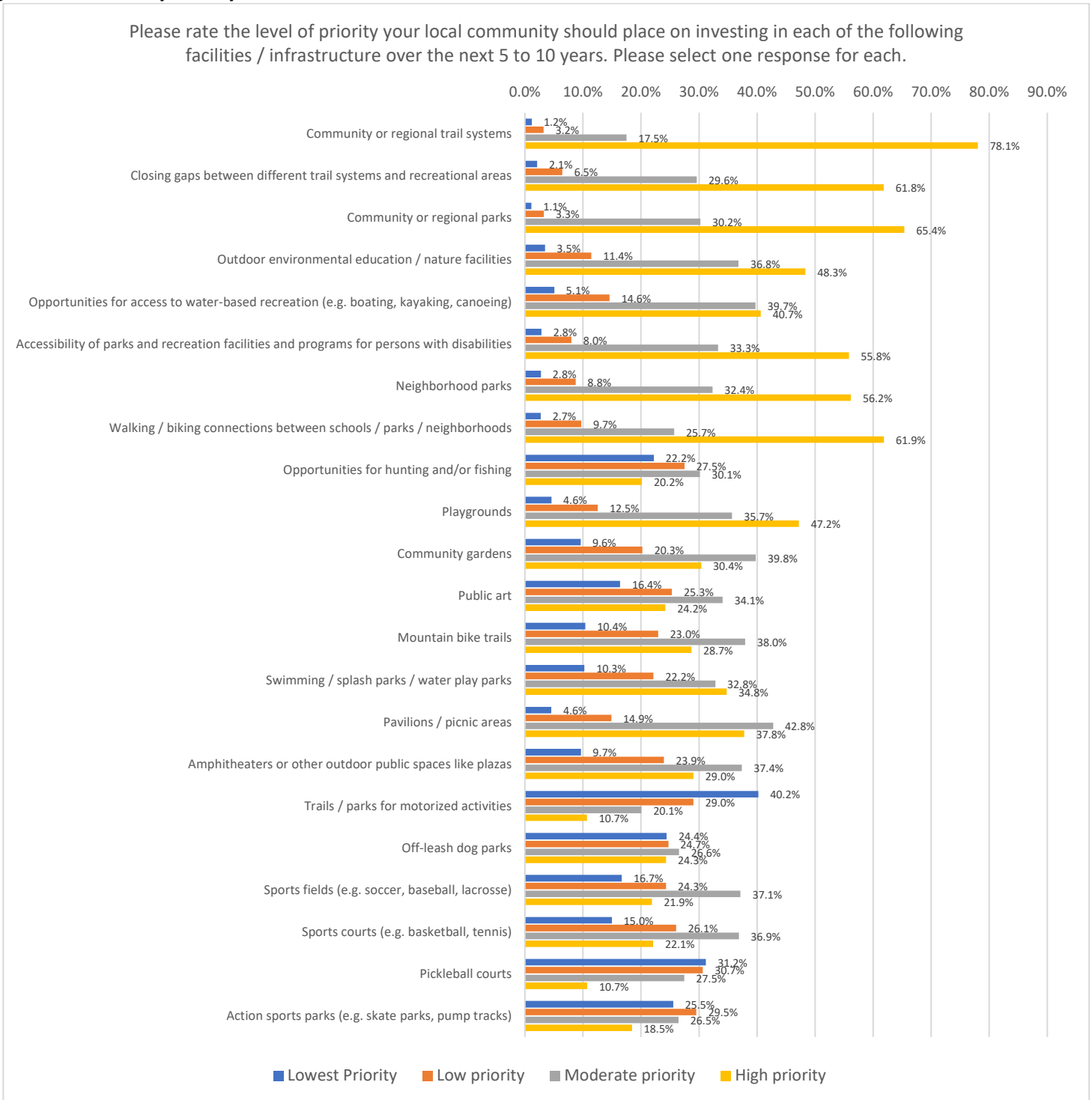


Investment Priorities

Respondents were then asked to rate the level of priority their local community should place on investing in various facilities or infrastructure in the next five to ten years, with 1 being the lowest priority and 5 being the highest priority. Choices of 4 and 5 were then combined to provide an indication of the proportion of respondents indicating that they believe their local community should place a high priority on a particular type of facility investment over the next five to ten years. The highest priority for investment according to respondents was for community or regional trail systems (78.1%). Respondents indicated that the second highest priority for investment should be for community or regional parks (65.4%). The difference between respondent answers for the third highest priority for investment was very close. Respondents indicated that walking / biking connections between schools / parks / neighborhoods and closing gaps between different trail systems and recreational areas were important (61.9% versus 61.8%). Respondents indicated that a moderate priority should be given to pavilions / picnic

areas (42.8%) and the lowest priority for community investment for trails / parks for motorized activities (40.2%). The total breakdown of respondent answers can be found on the following figure.

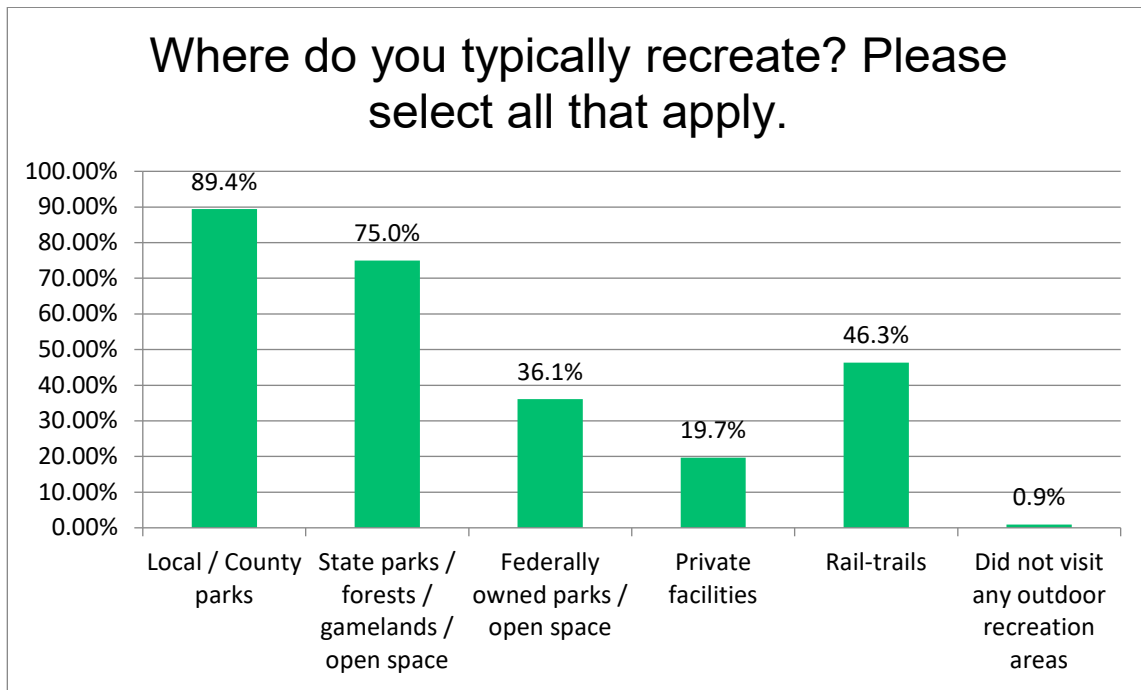
Figure 8. Community Facility Investment Preference



Where are people recreating?

Respondents were asked to indicate where they typically recreate. As you can see on the next figure, the majority of respondents indicated that they utilize local / county parks (89.4%). 75% typically recreate in state parks / forests / gamelands / open space. 46.3% use rail trails and 36.1% use federally owned parks / open space. Private facilities were utilized by 19.7% of respondents and .9% indicated that they did not visit any recreation areas of the type listed.

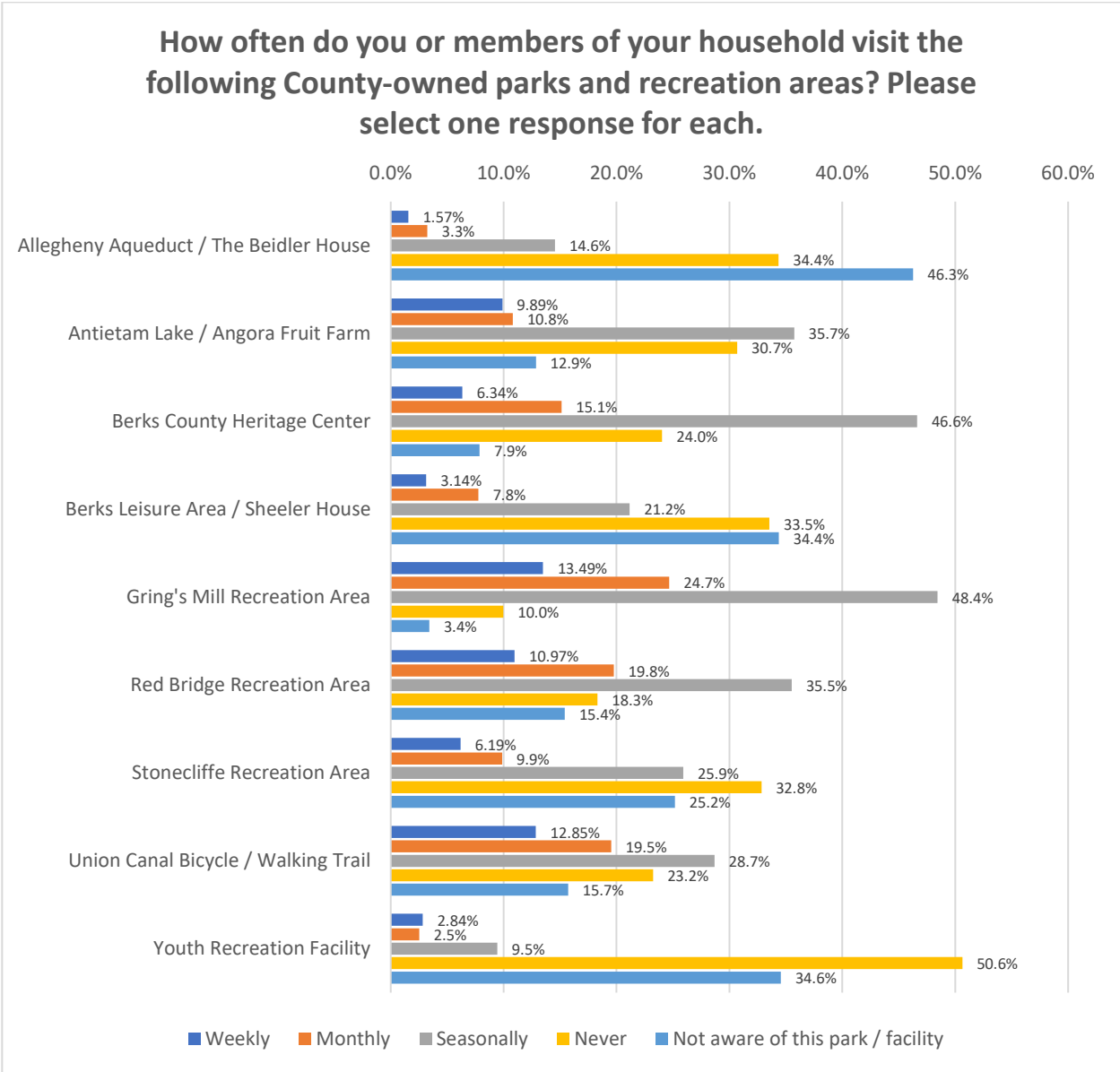
Figure 9. Where do you typically recreate?



County Owned Facility Usage

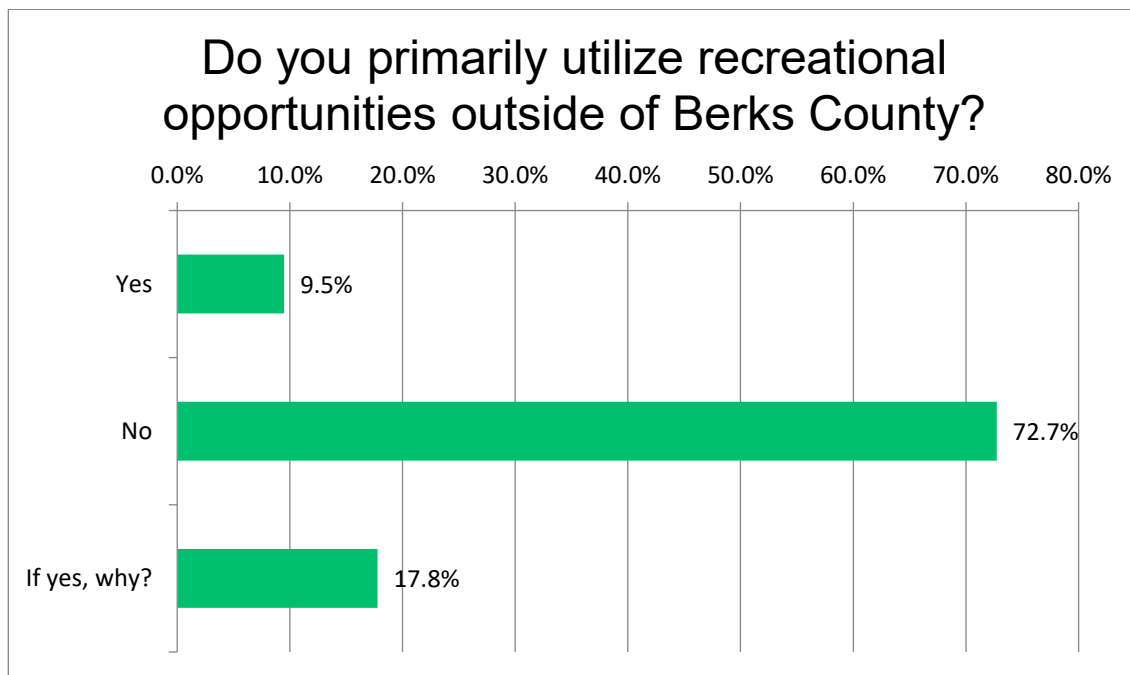
Berks County and the Berks County Parks Department owns and operates a total of nine parks and recreation areas throughout the County. Respondents were asked to indicate how often (weekly, monthly, seasonally, never) they or members of their household visit these facilities. Respondents were also asked whether they were aware that this park or facility existed. Based on the feedback to this question the most utilized County facility / park is the Gring’s Mill Recreation Area. The majority of respondents indicated that they use Gring’s Mill seasonally (48.4%). The Berks Heritage Area received the second highest seasonal percentage usage (46.6%). Conversely, a rather large percentage of respondents were generally not aware that three County parks / facilities existed. The Allegheny Aqueduct / The Beidler House, Youth Recreation Facility, and the Berks Leisure Area / Sheeler House scored high in this category (43.6%, 34.6% and 34.4% respectively).

Figure 10. What County-owned Parks and Recreation Resources do you Use and How Often



Respondents were also asked if they primarily utilized recreation opportunities outside of Berks County. The overwhelming answer was no (72.7%). However, there were some respondents (9.5%) who indicated that they do indeed primarily use recreation opportunities outside of Berks County, as seen on the following figure.

Figure 11. Do you Primarily Utilize Recreational Opportunities Outside of Berks County?



In addition, respondents were asked why they primarily utilize recreation opportunities outside of Berks County. The most common reasons were the trail systems were longer, better maintained, and safer. Proximity to where they live was another factor and parks in Berks County are not dog friendly was also another reason that rose to the top of all responses. The following word cloud provides a visual summary of responses. The larger the word, the more common that it appeared in responses.

Figure 12. Do You Primarily Utilize Recreational Opportunities Outside of Berks County? If yes, why?



Attitudes Towards Statements

As part of this survey staff developed statements and tasked respondents with answering whether they strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement as presented in question 7 of the survey. For purposes of evaluating and presenting the data the strongly agree and agree categories as well as the disagree and strongly disagree categories were combined. Also, this question was asked in 2004 during the development of the existing Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan. Staff wanted to compare answers from 2004 to what was received in 2021. When comparing these two different responses some interesting trends appear. Many of the same statements that respondents found agreement within the previous survey from 2004 were still important to them. However, in 2021 respondents seem to put a greater importance on greenway / trails connections, acquiring land and general marketing of existing recreational amenities and programs.

Figure 13. Agreement with Statements - 2021

Please indicate how you feel about the following statements. Please select one response for each.

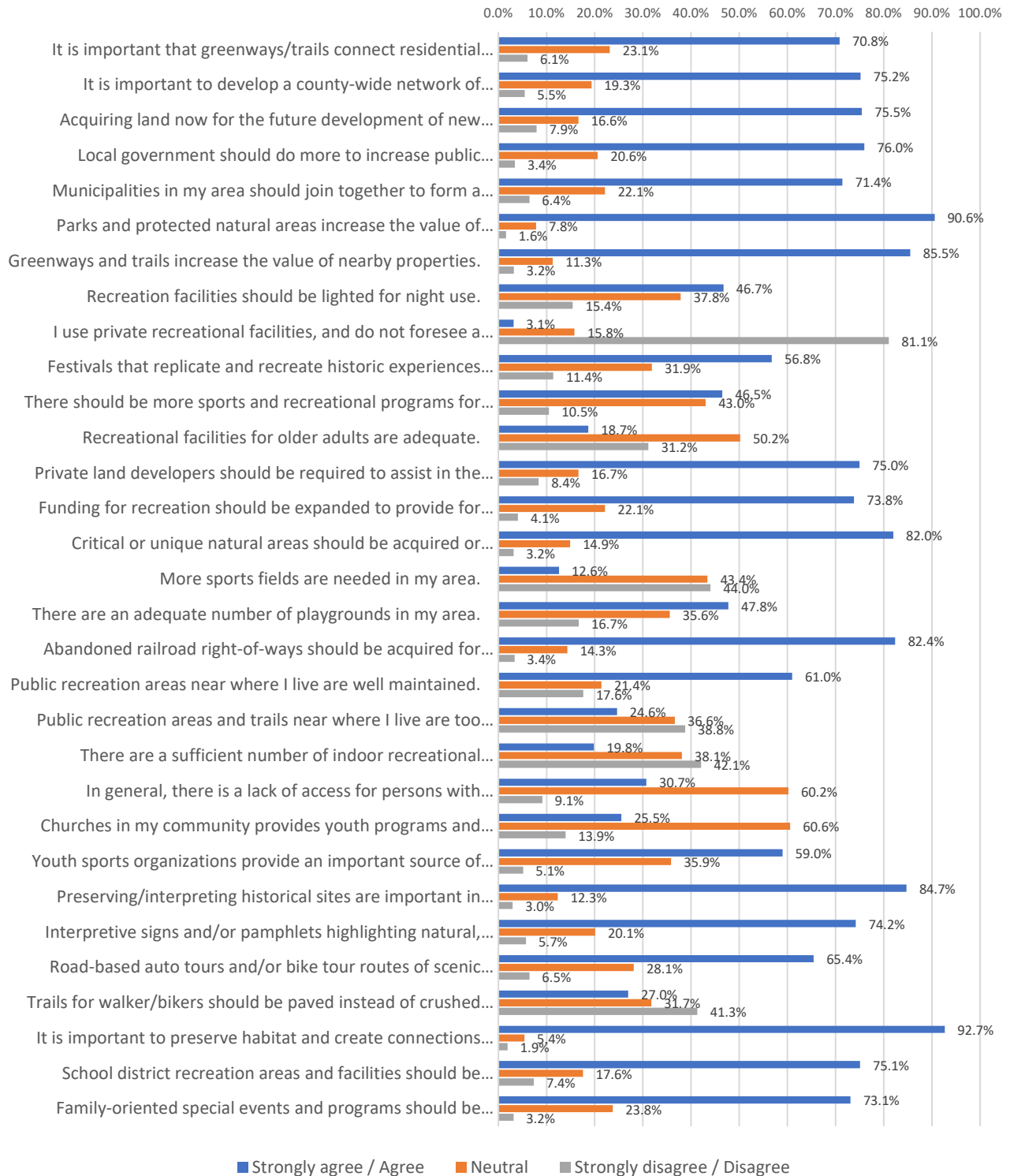
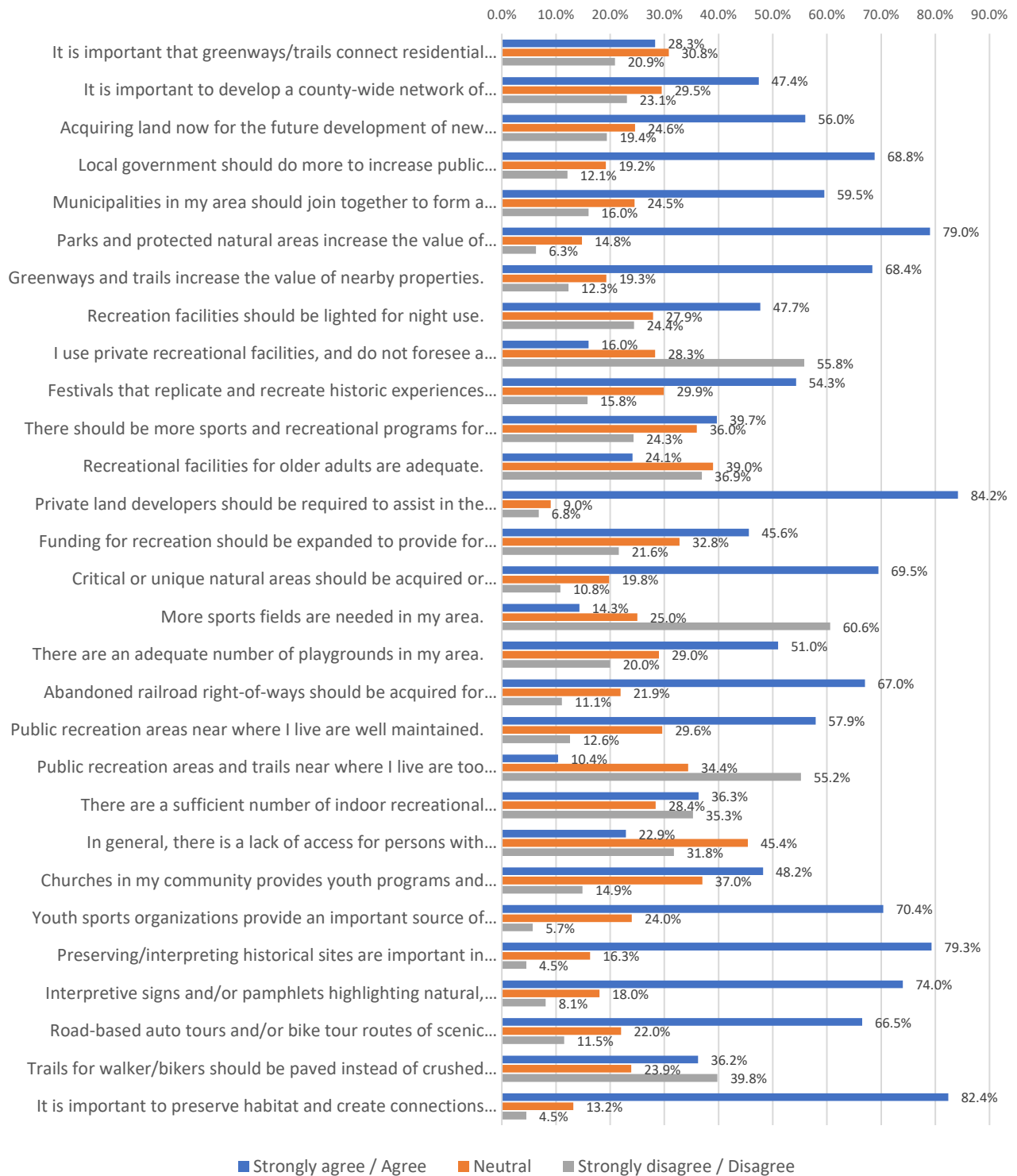


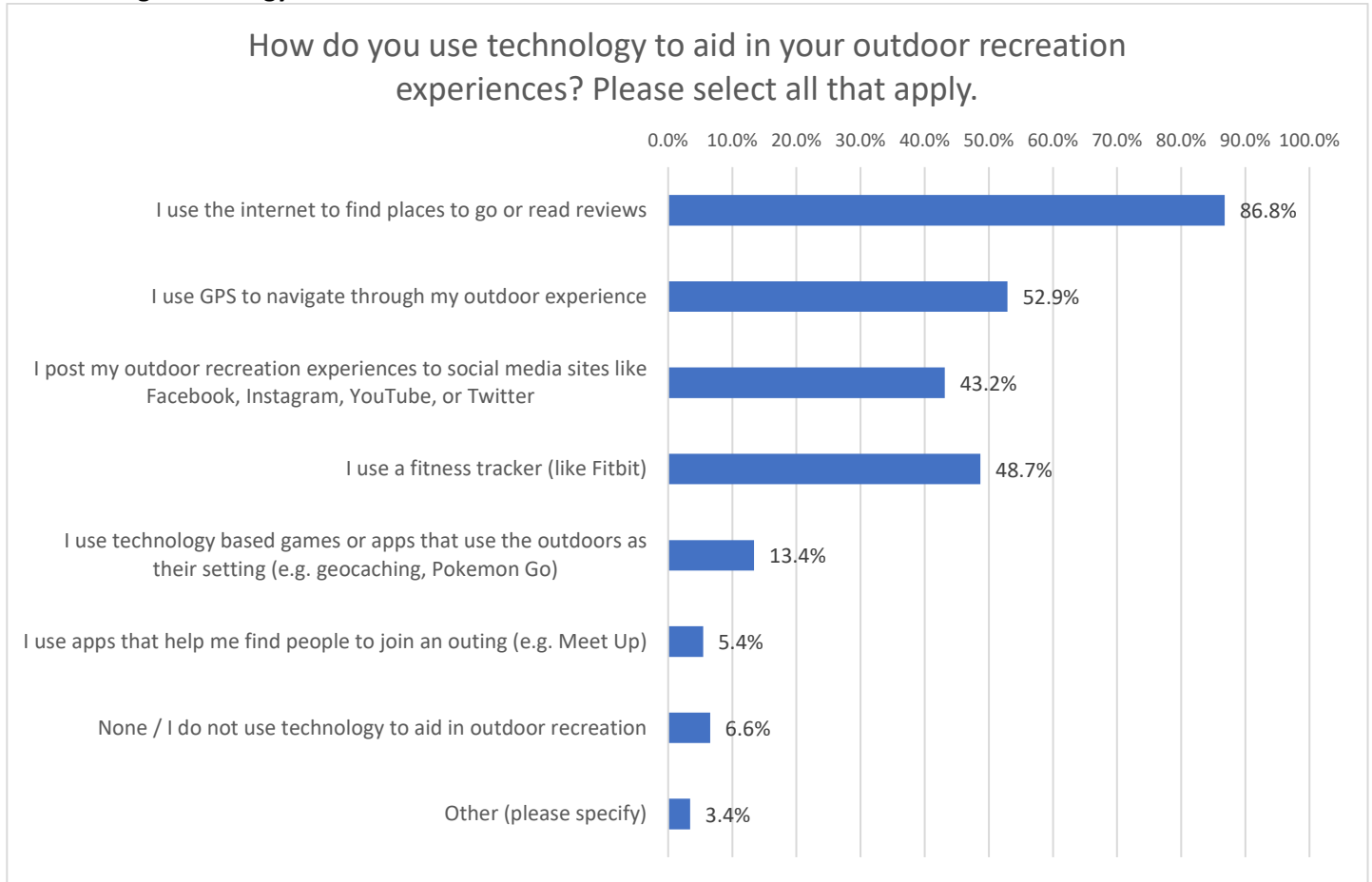
Figure 14. Agreements with Statements - 2004

Please indicate how you feel about the following statements. Please select one response for each.



Next, respondents were asked to indicate all sources of technology they use to aid in their outdoor recreation. Just 6.6% indicated that they do not use technology to aid in outdoor recreation, while an overwhelming 86.8% said that they use the internet to find places to go or to read reviews. A little over half said that they use GPS to navigate through their outdoor experience (52.9%). 48.7% said they use a fitness tracker (like Fitbit) and 43.2% post outdoor recreation experiences to social media sites. In addition, 13.4% said they use technology-based games or apps that use the outdoors as their setting (such as geocaching or Pokémon Go) and use apps that help them find people to join an outing (such as Meet Up; 5.4%), as seen in the next figure.

Figure 15. Using Technology to Aid in Outdoor Recreation



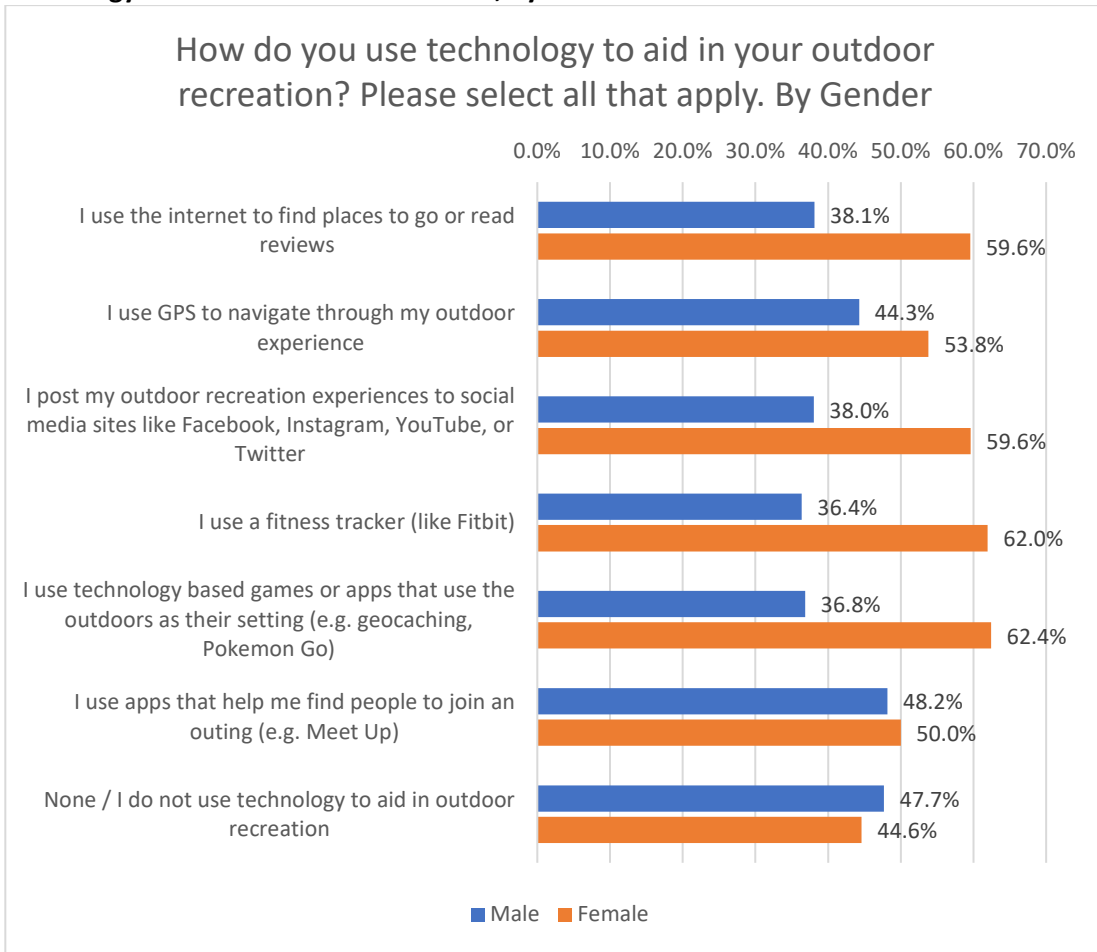
In addition, 3.4% of respondents mentioned some technology other than those listed. The most common Other responses included an app or site designed to enhance a specific experience (such as plant/animal identification, hunting/fishing, etc.), a trail app or site, a fitness app or site (such as Strava). The following word cloud provides a visual summary of responses. The larger the word, the more common that it appeared in responses.

Figure 16. Using Technology to Aid in Outdoor Recreation: Other, Please Specify



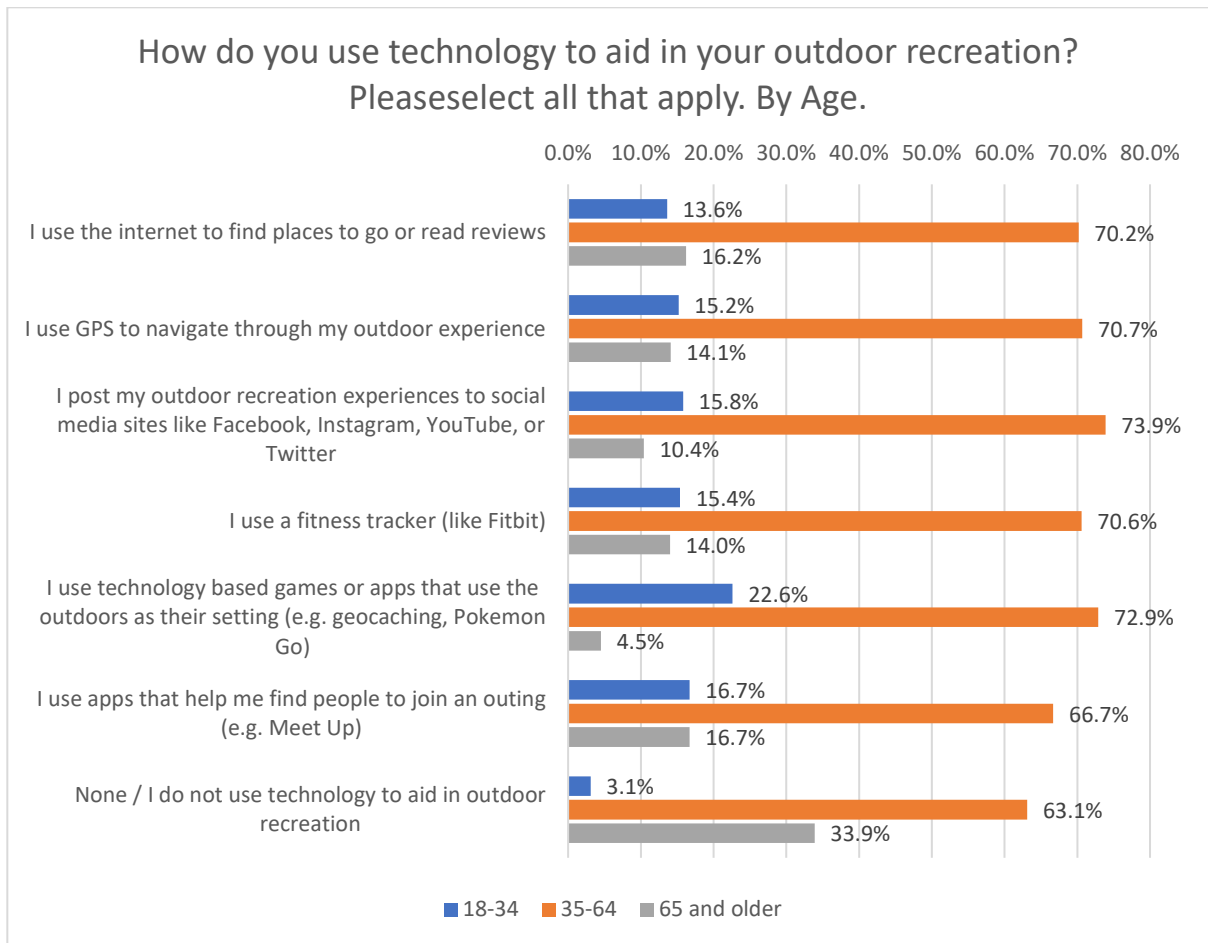
Technology use varied by gender and age. Overall, more women said that they used various forms of technology to aid in outdoor recreation than men. More men indicated that they do not use technology to aid in outdoor recreation (47.7% versus 44.6%, respectively), as seen in the next figure.

Figure 17. Using Technology to Aid in Outdoor Recreation, by Gender



Not surprisingly, the younger age bands (18 to 34) and 35-64 indicated that they use technology in their outdoor recreation activities more than those 65 or older. Interestingly, persons aged 18-34 and 65 and older that indicated that they use apps to help them find people to join an outing (e.g. Meet Up) had an identical response rate of 16.7%, as seen in the next figure.

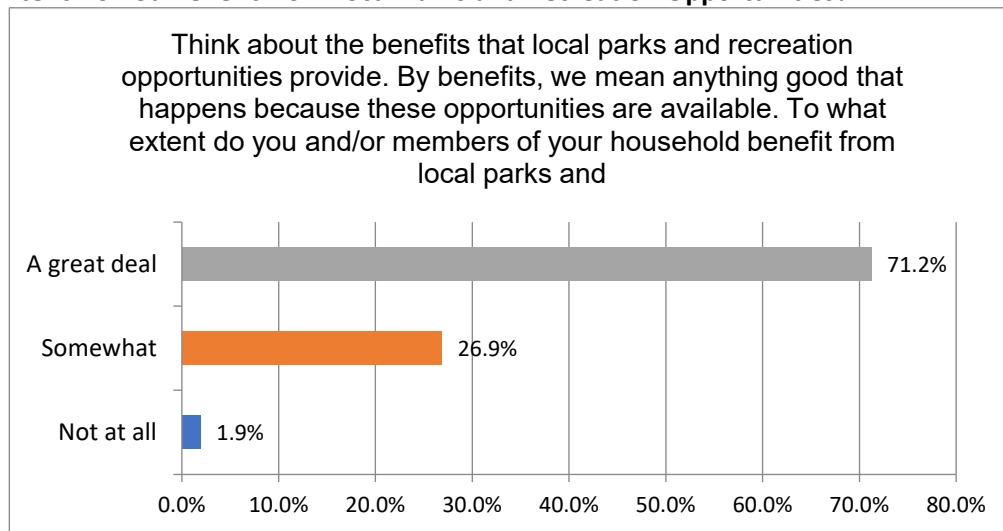
Figure 18. Using Technology to Aid in Outdoor Recreation, by Age



Benefits of Recreation

Respondents were then asked to indicate to what extent do they or members of their household benefit from local parks and recreation opportunities. Overwhelmingly, almost three quarters (71.2%) of the respondents indicated that they benefit a great deal from local parks and recreational opportunities, as seen on the following figure. Only 1.9% of the respondents indicated that they do not benefit at all from local parks and recreation opportunities.

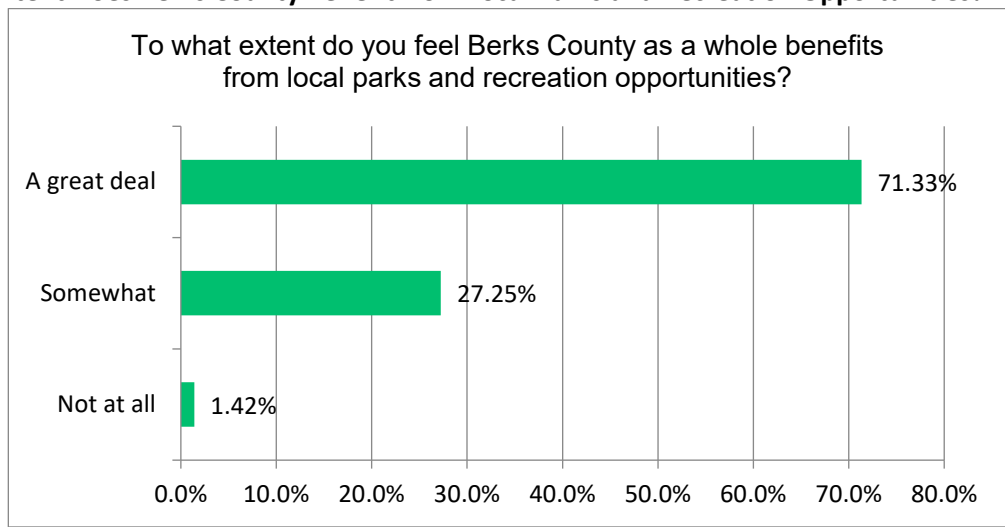
Figure 19. To What Extent Do You Benefit from Local Parks and Recreation Opportunities?



The question was then asked about to what extent does the respondent feel Berks County as a whole benefits from local parks and recreation opportunities. Again, the answer was predominantly *a great deal* as 71.3% of respondents indicated, and as

seen in the following figure. Only 1.4% of the respondents indicated Berks County as a whole does not benefit from parks and recreation opportunities.

Figure 20. To What Extent Does Berks County Benefit from Local Parks and Recreation Opportunities?

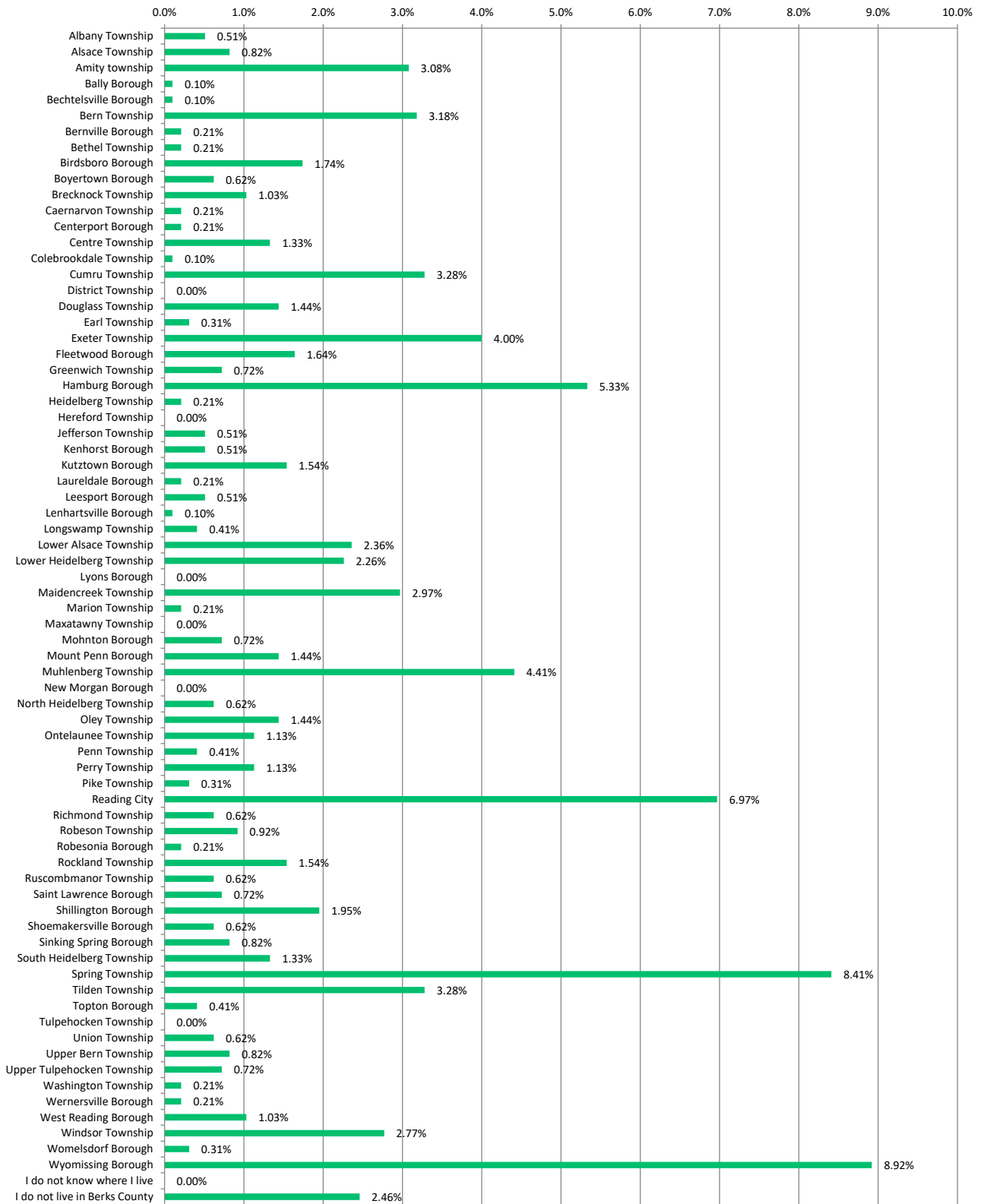


When “a great deal” and “somewhat” responses are combined, 98.1% indicated they personally benefit and 98.6% indicated Berks County as a whole benefits from local parks and recreation opportunities. This compares to national survey statistics of 83% of Americans saying that they personally benefit from local parks with 17% saying not at all; and 92% saying that their communities benefit from local parks with 8% saying not at all.

Additional Input Regarding Recreation in Berks County

Finally, respondents were given an open-ended question asking them to provide comment on anything else related to recreation in Berks County. Altogether, 353 respondents provided comment to this question. Common topics included maintenance of existing facilities, trail / water access for persons with disabilities, the County’s upkeep and request for opening Kaercher Creek Park, and general prioritization for funding. A list of all of the comments can be found in Appendix C.

What municipality (Township, Borough or City) do you live in?



Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan Update

YOUR INPUT COUNTS!

What's important to you? How do you utilize the parks?



The Berks County Planning Commission in cooperation with the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department invites you to participate in a short survey about the County Park system and your municipal park systems so that we can use your feedback to update the Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan.



Available online in English and Spanish!



The survey will take only a few minutes of your time to complete. Please be sure to fill out the entire survey so we can capture all the important information you are providing. We thank you in advance for your input into the future of the County's park and recreation systems!

Scan to take the survey now!



or visit [surveymonkey.com/r/BERKSGPRP](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BERKSGPRP)

1. In general, how often do you or members of your household use public recreation facilities?

- About once a week
- Two or more times a week
- About once or twice a month
- Once or twice a year
- Sevewral yimes a year
- Never

**2. Which of the following outdoor activities do you typically participate in during any given year?
Please select all that apply.**

- Hiking
- Walking / running
- Visiting historic sites or nature centers
- Scenic driving
- Camping
- Wildlife watching / bird watching
- Kayaking / canoeing / paddle boarding
- Picnicking
- Bicycling / maounting biking
- Fishing
- Night sky viewing
- Disc golf
- Swimming
- Hunting
- Lawn Games
- Playing at / visiting playgrounds
- Action sports (skateboarding, BMX biking, rollerblading)
- Motorized trail use (ATVing / dirt biking, snowmobiling)
- Motorized boating
- Pickleball
- Special events (light shows, outdoor concerts, walking / interactive tours)
- Team or organized sports (e.g. basketball, soccer, baseball, tennis)
- Horseback riding
- Self-directed athletic court / field use
- Gardening
- None of these / I did not participate in any outdoor activities in the last year
- Other (please specify)

3. Please rate the level of priority your local community should place on investing in each of the

following facilities / infrastructure over the next 5 to 10 years. Please select one response for each.

1 – Lowest priority, 2, 3, 4, 5 – Highest priority

- Community or regional trail systems
- Closing gaps between different trail systems and recreational areas
- Community or regional parks
- Outdoor environmental education / nature facilities
- Opportunities for access to water-based recreation (e.g. boating, kayaking, canoeing)
- Accessibility of parks and recreation facilities and programs for persons with disabilities
- Neighborhood parks
- Walking / biking connections between schools / parks / neighborhoods
- Opportunities for hunting and/or fishing
- Playgrounds
- Community gardens
- Public art
- Mountain bike trails
- Swimming / splash parks
- Pavilions / picnic areas
- Amphitheatres or other outdoor public spaces like plazas
- Trails / parks for motorized activities
- Off-leash dog parks
- Sports fields (e.g. soccer, baseball, lacrosse)
- Sports courts (e.g. basketball, tennis)
- Action sports parks (e.g. skate parks, pump tracks)

4. Where do you typically recreate? Please select all that apply.

- Local / County parks
- State parks / forests / gamelands / open space
- Federally owned parks / open space
- Private facilities
- Rail-trails
- Did not visit any outdoor recreation areas

5. How often do you or members of your household visit the following County-owned parks and recreation areas? Please select one response for each.

Weekly, Monthly, Seasonally, Never, Not aware of this park / facility

- Allegheny Aqueduct / The Beidler House
- Antietam Lake / Angora Fruit Farm
- Berks County Heritage Center
- Berks Leisure Area / Sheeler House

- Gring's Mill Recreation Area
- Red Bridge Recreation Area
- Stonecliffe Recreation Area
- Union Canal Bicycle / Walking Trail
- Youth Recreation Facility

6. Do you primarily utilize recreation opportunities outside of Berks County?

- Yes
- No
- If yes, why?

7. Please indicate how you feel about the following statements. Please select one response for each.

Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree

- It is important that greenways/trails connect residential neighborhoods and other elements of my community, such as schools and commercial areas.
- It is important to develop a county-wide network of interconnected greenways/trails linking municipalities and regional parks.
- Acquiring land now for the future development of new parks is just as important as maintaining existing public recreation areas and parks.
- Local government should do more to increase public awareness of the availability or recreation areas, programs and opportunities.
- Municipalities in my area should join together to form a joint park and recreation department and share park facilities and programs.
- Parks and protected natural areas increase the value of nearby properties.
- Greenways and trails increase the value of nearby properties.
- Recreation facilities should be lighted for night use.
- I use private recreational facilities, and do not foresee a need for additional public recreation facilities.
- Festivals that replicate and recreate historic experiences are as important as active recreational opportunities.
- There should be more sports and recreational programs for youth.
- Recreational facilities for older adults are adequate.
- Private land developers should be required to assist in the development of recreation facilities or protection of unique natural areas as part of new subdivisions.
- Funding for recreation should be expanded to provide for additional land/facilities, programs and personnel.
- Critical or unique natural areas should be acquired or otherwise protected for passive parkland or open space purposes.
- More sports fields are needed in my area.
- There are an adequate number of playgrounds in my area.
- Abandoned railroad right-of-ways should be acquired for use as trails.

- Public recreation areas near where I live are well maintained.
- There are a sufficient number of indoor recreational facilities (gyms, indoor pools, meeting rooms, community center) available for public use.
- In general, there is a lack of access for persons with disabilities to recreation facilities.
- Churches in my community provides youth programs and recreational opportunities.
- Youth sports organizations provide an important source of recreational opportunities for the youth in my community.
- Preserving/interpreting historical sites are important in keeping our heritage alive and should be incorporated into parkland where appropriate.
- Interpretive signs and/or pamphlets highlighting natural, cultural, and heritage resources should be available at parks.
- Road-based auto tours and/or bike tour routes of scenic and historical resources should be mapped and made available.
- Trails for walker/bikers should be paved instead of crushed gravel/cinder paths.
- It is important to preserve habitat and create connections that will allow for the movement of wildlife.
- School district recreation areas and facilities should be open for public use after school hours.
- Family-oriented special events and programs should be provided at the County parks.

8. How do you use technology to aid in your outdoor recreation experiences? Please select all that apply.

- I use the internet to find places to go or read reviews
- I use GPS to navigate through my outdoor experience
- I post my outdoor recreation experiences to social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, or Twitter
- I use a fitness tracker (like Fitbit)
- I use technology based games or apps that use the outdoors as their setting (e.g. geocaching, Pokemon Go)
- I use apps that help me find people to join an outing (e.g. Meet Up)
- None / I do not use technology to aid in outdoor recreation
- Other (please specify)

9. Think about the benefits that local parks and recreation opportunities provide. By benefits, we mean anything good that happens because these opportunities are available. To what extent do you and/or members of your household benefit from local parks and recreation opportunities?

- Not at all
- Somewhat
- A great deal

10. To what extent do you feel Berks County as a whole benefits from local parks and recreation

opportunities?

- Not at all
- Somewhat
- A great deal

11. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- I prefer not to answer

12. What is your age?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

13. What is your ethnicity?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian or Asian American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Another race

14. What municipality (Township, Borough or City) do you live in?

Insert dropdown list of 72 Berks County Municipalities

APPENDIX C – OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE

Q15 Do you have anything else you would like to add regarding recreation in Berks County?

Answered: 353 Skipped: 654

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More work is needed	8/2/2021 11:28 AM
2	I believe the recreational resources in the County need to be a top priority factor when attracting new residents and economic growth.	8/2/2021 9:46 AM
3	There are not enough parks for dog walking in Berks County. I'm fortunate to live in Muhlenberg where we have well maintained and police patrolled parks to walk in, but even then, sometimes I'm concerned walking alone with my dog. I drive to Fleetwood Park to walk, but that is getting scarier by the week with the group of kids that have taken over the park. I'm struggling to find a place to go outside of my neighborhood in Muhlenberg. Parks should be safe places to go to enjoy nature and quiet walks, not to have to listen to motor sports, loud music or dodge rude mountain bikers. I really wish there were more places to go with my dog. Please help!	7/31/2021 3:11 PM
4	Yes! Berks County needs to step up and invest in Kearscher Creek Park in Hamburg to maintain and re open picnic and park areas! Berks County should not keep passing the bill as they have been doing. This is a beautiful place to benefit northern Berks residents.	7/31/2021 2:05 PM
5	Stop ignoring what we already have & USE it for what it was intended. Stop making excuses!	7/31/2021 10:49 AM
6	Please make all parts of Kaercher Creek usable and welcoming to the public once again! This is a beautiful resource that has been ignored for too long!	7/30/2021 11:23 PM
7	Open Kerchner Park now!	7/30/2021 11:03 PM
8	Please reopen Kaercher Creek park! Such a beautiful area is going to waste.	7/30/2021 5:13 PM
9	Reopen Kaercher creek park	7/30/2021 2:03 PM
10	More adult connections for people that are retired.	7/30/2021 12:42 PM
11	Repair and reopen Kerschner Creek in Hamburg. If it was for the City of Reading it would already be done.	7/30/2021 12:38 PM
12	I would love for the properties that have gone by the wayside to be reinvigorated - including Kerscher Creek in Hamburg!	7/30/2021 11:57 AM
13	We have always loved Kaercher creek and would love to see it renovated and used well as a public community space.	7/30/2021 9:26 AM
14	Berks county needs to reopen kercher creek park ASAP!	7/30/2021 9:13 AM
15	Reopen Kaercher Creek Park.	7/29/2021 1:11 PM
16	Why is this survey called the Berks County Greenway, PARK and Recreation Plan when there are obviously multiple parks in Berks County? Whose idea was it to title the plan "PARK and Recreation Plan" (singular) instead of the plural as "PARKS and Recreation Plan" - which makes more sense?	7/28/2021 4:18 PM
17	Most all of my hikes and walks are in Berks County	7/26/2021 7:14 PM
18	Preservation, sustainability and enjoyment of nature are super important to me. Also, I would love to see additional pickleball courts established in Berks County. I would love to see more community gardens and community involvement opportunities, possibly cricket games and morning yoga return at the heritage center. Thanks to all who help maintain and staff Berks County parks dept.	7/26/2021 2:41 PM
19	Please reopen Kaercher Creek Park! It is such a nice place and it would be so wonderful to have a Berks County Park in Northern Berks again!	7/26/2021 8:09 AM
20	We need walking paths/areas in Rockland Township.	7/23/2021 3:13 PM
21	Parks closing at dusk is very unfortunate. Maybe a "use at your own risk" or something could be done, but night-time activities should be possible.	7/23/2021 11:59 AM

22	Grings mill and the whole union trail system are a gem to our community. I'm grateful that it connects to the blue marsh trail system. Though I wish there was a better way to get to the Thun trail than having to run through some streets in Reading. Many of my running friends try to connect these trails, and the Wyomissing trails, to Thun. It would be nice for them to be more formally connected for safety and just to help people get from one to the other! Thank you for all you do, regardless. The parks and trails were a literal life saver during the pandemic and they have becoming part of my life and the life of my family. I was just talking to my husband about how lucky we are to live in an area that offers so much and is so beautiful.	7/22/2021 5:23 PM
23	I am a disabled senior. I love to bike and kayak. I love kayaking on the Tulpehocken. We really need a kayak launch site at the Berks Leisure Center. Also kayak disability launches are great. There is one at Leaser Lake. I don't know if it is feasible on the Tulpehocken but perhaps other kayak locations in Berks County would attract other folks with disabilities. Paving the Grings Mill trail would be great for me as well. I had a terrible time this spring biking when large stones were used for a temporary fix. I want to remain active, love the local parks and opportunities and would appreciate whatever consideration you could give to those with disabilities/needs.	7/22/2021 4:00 PM
24	There needs to be more kayak ramps to exit the Tulpehocken Creek. After the portage at Gring's Mill, I cannot locate an exit ramp. My friends and I (one with a disability) have to climb up the bank at the Leisure Center to get out. There should be a boat launch/exit at the Leisure Center.	7/21/2021 10:10 PM
25	Berks County has a great mountain bike trail system that should be promoted more. Look at Asheville, NC and Bentonville, Arkansas. They have promoted their trail networks and have become a destination for tourism. Having traveled myself to Asheville, the experience was great, but the trails were not that much different than what could be here in Berks with some additional support.	7/20/2021 8:03 PM
26	They need to funnel more facilities and access to them from the inner city of Reading. Make it a hub or the recreation services.	7/20/2021 9:51 AM
27	Safety is a huge concern in certain areas of the county. Night lights would be a huge help.	7/20/2021 9:37 AM
28	no	7/20/2021 2:16 AM
29	no	7/19/2021 3:35 PM
30	Generally, it would be great if Shillington had another playground, even if it's smaller, for the kids on the North side of Lancaster Avenue (N. Brobst, Waverly, Pennsylvania Ave) to play at.	7/19/2021 3:29 PM
31	Green areas are too often sold to developers for profit by the municipalities instead of keeping them for the benefit of all.	7/19/2021 3:12 PM
32	The bike/walking path between Stonecliff and Reber's Bridge is becoming heavily used and, to keep up with usage, it might be beneficial to widen the path in the future.	7/19/2021 12:01 AM
33	When is Kaercher Creek park going to reopen?	7/18/2021 8:23 PM
34	Berks County has an excellent current park system. We need to continually expand the parks and preserve natural and historical areas for future generations. The Berks County Planning Commission should work with local municipalities to ensure that all Berks citizens have access to local parks and recreation facilities.	7/17/2021 3:51 PM
35	Don't abdicate to the feds and the state! We need to feel that natural spaces are supported locally as well and take responsibility for them locally. I did not grow up in Berks (or even PA) and one of the things I miss most about my place of origin was an active and well funded county parks system. They support rising property values while increasing quality of life. They are an investment, not an expense!	7/15/2021 4:29 PM
36	On several social media pages I follow, people often ask about family-friendly loop trails they can do and Berks County is lacking in loop trails. We have a huge variety of lengthy, extreme multi-use trails (like Blue Marsh) and tons of linear trails (Union Canal Trail, State game lands trails, pieces of the Sc. River Trail) but a nice 2-4 mile loop trail is a great way to spend time together with family, outdoors, and get exercise on a weeknight when you only have a few	7/15/2021 12:49 PM

hours. Blue marsh has the Squirrel Run Trail and the Great Oak Trail and the Lakeside Drive Trail (and the Sensory Trail for little kids) - all are loop trails, and while not heavily promoted we use them often as a family. It would be great if the County could create some loop trails on their land - even if it's mini loops off of the linear trails, that go into woods or through wetlands or to historic features. Connecting communities to these trails is also doubly important; we have several trails within 5 minutes of us but none of them connect and we can't safely access any of them without driving.

37	My family uses a variety of park programs. We walk. Im sad that the downtown concerts are not happen. I wish there was more connection between events in the city of RDG and outside the county.	7/15/2021 11:15 AM
38	I do not believe berks county does enough to illustrate the extent of the outdoor recreational areas available in the county. There seems to be a disconnect between county and local municipalities about connecting spaces and finalizing areas.	7/15/2021 11:01 AM
39	Update playground in Blandon please	7/14/2021 9:26 PM
40	Partner with the Rodale Farm to offer organic community gardening	7/14/2021 7:07 PM
41	No	7/14/2021 5:01 PM
42	since the school districts seem to spend a LOT on sports, I don't believe that the county needs to focus on that area for spending/development	7/14/2021 12:58 PM
43	Berks County has a lot of great outdoors spaces to offer and I'd really like to see the cities, towns, and municipalities promote, support, and maintain these spaces.	7/14/2021 9:07 AM
44	We need more dog-free parks and improved enforcement of leash laws. We often don't feel safe walking in Berks County because of loose dogs and dog owners who don't and won't control their dogs or keep them on leashes.	7/13/2021 5:41 PM
45	Providing safe places for people to spend time outside benefits the entire community. It is good for people of all ages and abilities.	7/13/2021 5:36 PM
46	Need more dog friendly trails	7/13/2021 11:24 AM
47	Love the trail system in Berks! BAMBA and their intro to mountain biking made a tremendous positive impact on my life. We are fortunate to have such a diverse series of trails in this area. I have since travelled all over and know our system can be destination worthy for other mountain bikers.	7/13/2021 6:59 AM
48	I wish there were more volunteers to clean up trash at Gring's Mill. I sometimes collect trash but I am only one person. I would also like to see native plants being added back to the area. I love the parks very much!	7/12/2021 9:31 AM
49	More preservation of natural lands are needed and a greater effort to create safe bicycling routes into Reading are needed. Also, a greater effort is needed to protect wildlife from auto collisions by building connections/corridors between natural areas is necessary.	7/12/2021 8:56 AM
50	I highly recommend and request a feasibility study for a sports complex in Berks County similar to Spooky Nook Sports in Manheim, PA. The multi-use facility concept was originally behind the thinking when Body Zone Sports was built, but it failed to capture the market for large-scale tournaments and events. The economic impact on the travel and tourism industry is seriously lacking in Berks County. We lost a railroad, airport, and the outlets. Everyone else is capitalizing on these revenue streams.	7/12/2021 8:44 AM
51	Multi-use trails like the River Trail and rail trails are great ways to beat stress. Taking care of them is important. Here in the city, sadly, there is continuous issues with the area population vandalizing/breaking bottles on the trail and partying along the river. Particularly between RAAC to Schuylkill Ave. to the west and Old Wyomissing Rd to the east are critical areas of abusive actions as mentioned. The dream would be to level heavy prosecution with severe fines and restoration requirements for offenders and not having reporting of such activity a low priority for police.	7/11/2021 6:08 PM
52	We are an active, outdoors, homeschool family with 4 young kids. Parks, playgrounds, and educational or historical programs play an essential role in our kids' education.	7/11/2021 10:37 AM
53	More attention need to be paid to the section of the srt that starts behind RACC and ends off of schuylkill ave.	7/10/2021 1:47 PM

54	I live in north Coventry township, Chester county but use the Schuylkill River trail in berks county several times a week	7/9/2021 7:19 PM
55	Please rebuild Happy Landings. A lot of kids played there but it was not maintained.	7/9/2021 7:01 PM
56	More bike lanes and ability to get around this county on safely marked roads and safe bikeways. Too many roads are not safe for bikes, and drivers are consistently polite.	7/9/2021 4:12 PM
57	Please consider refraining from using dangerous pesticides, herbicides, and chemicals around these parks. While maintaining these grounds is great, keeping them healthy and safe for the families who utilize them as well the environment around us.	7/8/2021 6:57 PM
58	I would really love more bike trails in our county that are family friendly. It was also be great to have the. Connecting neighborhoods with schools and sports fields/courts for kids to access these areas.	7/8/2021 6:36 PM
59	I would like the county park to plant more native garden areas / trees and less grass, especially in areas like the red bridge which is prone to wet/ flooding, should not be a grass landscape.	7/7/2021 10:55 PM
60	I have told a number of people what I feel should be done to a plot of land that would greatly benefit our area. I would love to be able to share my idea with someone that could help this become a reality. I have spoken to one Twnsp. manager and he thought it was a great idea. Wish I knew who to contact!	7/7/2021 8:17 PM
61	The biggest hurdle for parks is getting the word out. Stressing the ability for local citizens to use the park with ease is also important.	7/7/2021 6:42 PM
62	Bring back kaercher creek	7/7/2021 6:14 PM
63	There are WAY TO MANY man made trails on Mt. Penn, Neversink and Antietam Lake. Nature is being pushed aside by the number of trails that have been created over the last 10 years. It's now a jigsaw puzzle of trails where there was once a beautiful nature preserve. It's out of control.	7/7/2021 5:35 PM
64	There needs to be an established trail system around Ontelaunee lake for hiking and trail biking.	7/7/2021 4:05 PM
65	I enjoy walking in parks & am thankful for good trails.	7/7/2021 3:47 PM
66	Clean up Kaercher Creek Park, Hamburg. It's a beautiful park which the community used to use tremendously for all sorts of fun functions, activities and enjoyment. It should be a priority to clean it up for public use again.	7/7/2021 1:45 PM
67	Since I live adjacent to State Game Lands 110 and Bartram section of Schuylkill River Trail (1mile) it is important to me that land is conserved	7/7/2021 1:16 PM
68	I absolutely love Neversink and Antietam Lake trails! I love how they are not too commercialized and the use of trail markers instead of signs. The more people who come to these spots the more they get vandalized and trashed. I don't believe all of the trail systems should be connected because it is nice to be off the beaten path away from people.	7/7/2021 1:14 PM
69	I would love to see Kaercher Creek park restored/improved. I think it's ashame that it's so overgrown and unmaintained. We used to take my son there to play on the playgrounds, hike, geocache, fish and kayak. We still kayak there, but would love to see the other stuff come back for younger families. It's also increasingly more difficult to fish there as waters edges are getting more overgrown. Would also love to see a trail system thru Centre Two as rds are dangerous to walk on. It would be great if there was a park by the two building with walking/biking trails there that connect to neighborhoods.	7/7/2021 1:10 PM
70	It would be nice to have Kearcher Creek opened again	7/7/2021 12:10 PM
71	Biking in general. Take a trip and notes from Stowe Vt Caddy Trails and also Bentonville AR inner city and surrounding areas and how biking is BIG Business and a huge income opportunity for the City/County and local development.	7/7/2021 11:08 AM
72	We are a big fan of the family/ child programs through the parks service and participate in almost all of the free programs. Anything that gets the kids outside and learning about their surroundings is a big plus!! Great job!	7/6/2021 11:18 PM

73	Love the parks☐ Bring back the summer festivals at the heritage center!!	7/6/2021 10:57 PM
74	I am new to exploring the trails in Berks and primarily walk around Blue Marsh and the Angora trails in Mount Penn. I would LOVE to see that property maintained/updated... any plans? It would be such a great educational spot for all ages. It's the most beautiful, magical place and I hope the county will find a way to utilize the farm more! If there are opportunities to help be more involved, I am very interested. My email address is jformando@gmail.com. Thank you so much for taking care of Berks Nature!	7/6/2021 9:37 PM
75	More affordable or free school programs for kids (class trips).	7/6/2021 9:36 PM
76	Accessible playgrounds with adapted equipment (bucket swings, etc) at even just one location would be extremely appreciated and beneficial for children with disabilities. Kids are kids, and they all deserve a chance to play like their peers.	7/6/2021 7:17 PM
77	Adults with disabilities would enjoy playground equipment that was adult size. I think typically developed adult size children or adults would also enjoy it. Such as swings that are made for adults.	7/6/2021 6:39 PM
78	In the past ten years are local parks have fallen into a state of disrepair. Some of are parts like Mineral Spring, Englemans with great historical values are not even maintained anymore. The park system in the Reading, Mt Penn area used to attract people from all over . No not even the people who live here want to go to them. Are neighboring communities have prospered in this area and we continue to fall behind. Are elected officials are not doing their jobs.	7/6/2021 5:49 PM
79	I would like to see the County of Berks lease/manage Kerscher Creek Area again. I believe the county does not provide comparable recreational opportunities for residents of Northern Berks County in comparison to opportunities for other residents of the county. You are currently spending on other parks in the county, but nothing in northern Berks County.	7/6/2021 5:09 PM
80	Parks in the city especially need attention. We have lots of usable green space or areas that could be developed into parks. Exiting parks/playgrounds _must_ be better maintained. Playground is often outdated or dilapidated. If Reading is "open for business," then it must also be open for recreation. With all the downtown initiatives (e.g, Collegetowne and renewed interest in development) we must also prioritize usable, accessible, attractive green spaces for all residents if we are to truly be an attractive, livable community. Feel free to follow up with me: Marco Silva; silva.marco.h@gmail.com; 610.568.8805	7/6/2021 4:41 PM
81	I believe Berks does a great job providing recreation areas throughout our county. Thank you!	7/6/2021 3:22 PM
82	My area greatly lacks playgrounds and safe areas for children. Not much available. They demolished Happy Landings but never rebuilt. Great space for family time and it just sits there!	7/6/2021 1:55 PM
83	Nice work on maintaining the union Canal trail	7/6/2021 12:38 PM
84	Instead of information pamphlets, to eliminate waste you could post QR codes at trail heads, park entrances etc.	7/6/2021 12:37 PM
85	A little more information when you are in an area what wildlife is most common in that area	7/6/2021 11:49 AM
86	I would like to see more park services staff monitoring activities a county parks. There are some groups that play very loud music at their gatherings, which detracts from the calm and serenity many of us appreciate.	7/6/2021 11:17 AM
87	When we relocated to Berks County we were dismayed by the lack of affordable municipal youth leagues & recreational camps in the area.	7/6/2021 9:57 AM
88	After hour access to trash cans, bathrooms and water (even if latrines) is important to keep places clean and in use. More programs at area facilities will help to make the facilities more visible.	7/6/2021 8:52 AM
89	Would like to see more Natural Lands/Preserve areas like Green Hills and Crows Nest. Visited several in Chester, Montgomery counties.	7/6/2021 8:03 AM
90	Where will the results of this survey be posted? It would be interesting to read them.	7/6/2021 7:55 AM
91	Angora fruit farm could use a little facelift. I'm happy to see the fruit trees were not sprayed this year with chemicals to kill the fruit but the fields are not maintained well and the grass has gotten so high in some areas. I walk this area weekly and think it could be better taken care of.	7/6/2021 6:43 AM

Why not get a group to maintain the landscaping around the house as well. So overgrown. Whether it's empty or not. It could look alot better.

92	More disc golf courses would be a great addition to any community.	7/5/2021 11:48 PM
93	For local cycling, can we no longer use "oil & chips" for roads! VERY damaging and dangerous for cyclists	7/5/2021 11:18 PM
94	Not everyone has kids so don't exclude them with "family oriented" events. Make them for everyone to enjoy. Also, for some their pets are their kids, so pet friendly parks are important too. Also, I feel like runners have been completely forgotten in this survey. That needs to change.	7/5/2021 10:25 PM
95	Maintenance	7/5/2021 9:43 PM
96	More hiking trails should be developed and land acquired for new trails. Also, there are no county parks in Berks that have camping. Would love a county park with a lake and camping areas.	7/5/2021 8:44 PM
97	Shillington does a lot of things right, but it's disappointing that there's no playground within walking distance of my house. I think it's important that all communities have parks and playgrounds within walking range for all children's development. There's an empty area of land at the corner of West Elm St and N. Wyomissing Ave that I think could be a perfect playground area for children.	7/5/2021 8:12 PM
98	Just took a guided bird walk at French Creek State Park that I learned about in Reading Eagle. It was a great into to the park and the hobby.	7/5/2021 10:31 AM
99	It should be a high priority for Berks County to clean up, open, and maintain Kaercher Creek Recreation Area near Hamburg.	7/5/2021 9:52 AM
100	I feel the 20 and 30 year old (young adult) age group is critical. Members of this group have been released from their structured high school and/or college lives and are trying to find direction. They are often turning to drug use. I think they would benefit from joining groups and attending activities, especially in outdoor settings. Simple things like a trail clean up with a small social event (hotdogs and drinks, firepit s'mores) afterwards could improve the mental health of this group. Community sports teams, possibly using high school facilities could also be helpful. Many of this group were active in sports in high school and miss it.	7/5/2021 7:20 AM
101	I am highly involved in Hamburg Youth Football and Cheerleading and Hamburg youth baseball. Do you know Hamburg baseball only has one baseball field to share between 4 to 8 teams on any given year? Did you know that Hamburg Youth football and Cheerleading has to beg the school to use there fields? With all of the distribution centers going in there should be no reason why they can't set aside some land to build a football field, soccer fields, more baseball/softball fields.	7/5/2021 6:23 AM
102	Please pave the Union Canal Trail. The stone on the trail has gotten considerably worse over the last 10 years to the point that I won't run or bike on it.	7/4/2021 10:00 PM
103	With the exception of Blue Marsh and the West Reading weekend market, recreational facilities & community activities in Berks are strictly zip code dependent, which lends our communities to racially segregated systems & experiences. I find this unappealing, & prefer not to spend much time or money in Berks because of our homogeneous leanings. I'm white, but I'm not blind, and Berks--as it is--in this present, is pretty disgusting.	7/4/2021 7:21 PM
104	Berks has fantastic public places to get outdoors. Keep up the great work!	7/4/2021 6:22 PM
105	The County needs to play a larger role in the future of trail development throughout the County rather than leaving these decisions to local elected officials and administrators.	7/4/2021 6:22 PM
106	Most visitors to parks do not care if the park is federal state or locally owned. As such more coordination of events should be made between Berks County Parks and places such as Hopewell Furnace, French Creek State Park and Blue Marsh. One way to start would be a coordinated website to show events each place is offering.	7/4/2021 4:52 PM
107	I have participated in kayak and biking activities sponsored by Parks and Recreation and loved them!!!	7/4/2021 3:41 PM
108	Berks County is one of the least recreation friendly communities that I have ever been to. There is no public investment in facilities. This group of commissioners has stated over and	7/4/2021 10:16 AM

over that public investment in recreation is not their priority. Look at Kerscher Creek. A beautiful facility that they have allowed to fall into ruin. What they did at the Youth Recreation Facility was criminal. Berks County doesn't even allow dogs in it's parks. Most people who are concerned about their health are dog owners. Having a park system that isn't pet friendly is a waste of their time. The best way to improve the Berks County Parks system would be to get commissioners in office who care about their community.

109	We need more neighborhood playgrounds for kids in densely populated areas, preferably with shade from tree canopy.	7/4/2021 7:59 AM
110	Wheelchair accessibility is very important to me.	7/3/2021 9:54 PM
111	Some how ,the schuylkill river should be incorporated as A park with canoeing and rafting boat launch opporrunities with out the cumbersome state fish comission.	7/3/2021 8:14 PM
112	The County of Berks should take over the trail system in the City of Reading in order to have better connectivity.	7/3/2021 8:00 PM
113	The best trail biking is in Lancaster, Lebanon and Chester Counties. I drive an hour or more each time to get to well maintained rail trails, which are best for Seniors.	7/3/2021 6:09 PM
114	Generally satisfied with all the parks and trails and often choose a trail just because it has restroom facilities.	7/3/2021 5:36 PM
115	You should not ask the ethnicity question. All people need parks. In general, young people need sports related space, Middle Age people need family oriented outdoor activities, Older adults need accessibility and quiet spaces with available vehicles (horse drawncarriage, wheelchair, trails that are not steep or dangerous , etc. An idea: use old RR tracks into simple trolley type scenic viewing vehicles.	7/3/2021 5:32 PM
116	More, and easily accessible kayak launching points	7/3/2021 5:19 PM
117	There is an old tow path along Water St in Shoemakersville that I am assuming went along the old canal. I am assuming it is currently private property, but it would be a beautiful public trail. Parks really enhance my life here in Berks County and I thank you for all your work to keep them in good shape.	7/3/2021 4:36 PM
118	I know there is some signage where I visit (Union Canal trail) indicating NO PETS ALLOWED, but I often see people disregarding this rule and walking their dogs. I think this rule should be posted more prevalently and enforced. Perhaps bigger signs would get the point across to some of these people.	7/3/2021 4:21 PM
119	reopen Kaercher Creek - maintain it, advertise it and bring entertainment back - hire caretaker...	7/3/2021 3:55 PM
120	Keep the parks and open spaces CLEAN and SAFE for law abiders . Prosecute those who damage/misuse public property. School property could be available during daylight hours; BUT if it becomes a problem immediatly fence off and limit to school use only. SAFETY is most important. Use signage rather than handouts which become litter. Do not use public money to create remote spots that encourage more crime and mayhem.	7/3/2021 3:55 PM
121	connect biking and walking path from blandon to fleetwood schools; crisscross road is a disaster	7/3/2021 3:33 PM
122	As the babyboomer population gets older, they are more fit than the prior generation and want and need these park & recreational facilities. Great facilities will attract more people to come and relocate to Berks County. For example, more pickleball and perhaps booce courts should be available in addition to West Reading and other suburban areas.	7/3/2021 11:46 AM
123	There exists a wide range of recreational opportunities in Berks. They need to be well-maintained, improved, and added to	7/3/2021 11:19 AM
124	Half of the Twp Municipal Bldg is unused space and a sr citizen group should be started and meet there. Fleetwood has one and is smaller than Muhlenberg. Muhlenberg Sr. Citizens are forgotten. We need a place run like those and not little groups that meet once a month. We need daily place to go for companionship, exercise, games, things to improve our health.	7/3/2021 10:52 AM
125	Yes, Thank you all for the wonderful parks and the great way you maintain them. We are so lucky to live near them. GREAT JOB!	7/3/2021 10:47 AM

126	We live in an area with lots of natural beauty. Let's maintain it and make sure it's available for more local people for now and the future. Let's make taking care of the environment a big part of this...educate kids, teens, adults in how to do this by taking their trash with them and not leaving things strewn about the environment. Thanks.	7/3/2021 10:35 AM
127	Lake Ontelaunee should have more and better trails for bird watching and hiking	7/3/2021 10:32 AM
128	Stop getting rid of tennis courts and replacing them with pickleball courts! Both can exist simultaneously (and both will be used) as long as the courts are maintained.	7/3/2021 10:18 AM
129	Re-open Kaercher creek area.	7/3/2021 10:12 AM
130	I really think having a continuous open trail along the Schuylkill that runs all the way through Berks County would be amazing. In Ontelaunee there are not a lot of green space parks or trails. Even though we are a water-based community there are very few places where the public can park and have safe clean access to these areas. For instance along Wiley's Rd. there used to be a parking area where people could stop and fish and swim... it's now blocked off with large rocks. Las Cabanas camp is beautiful.. I wish the county would partner with them and help form a more public-oriented space. I believe they also are welcoming to our hispanic community providing access to all. There is a lot of flooding garbage along the trail on the other side of old Bower's bridge. That area is commonly used by public but again there's no parking allowed on either side. Also another pool and or parking facility for the greater Leesport area. The Leesport park is small and not updated. It's pool is far too small to support the size of the growing community around it. All farm land seems to go up for sale to warehouses, industry, private residential neighborhoods. It would be wonderful if the county could buy some of it and make a big park or preservation area.. Say the parcel still for sale near Ontelaunee Rd. and Wiley's. We don't need another Sheetz or Rutter's... we need green space! Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.	7/3/2021 10:07 AM
131	Blue Marsh is Berks County's gem!	7/3/2021 9:56 AM
132	I believe we need better sources of information, most likely web-based. For example, I just Googled Sheeler House to answer the above question & I still don't know where it is.	7/3/2021 9:52 AM
133	I am glad that Berks County is interested in having good recreational facilities and activities.	7/3/2021 9:36 AM
134	Getting the Schuylkill River Trail completed between the Penn Street Bridge up to the Hamburg Trailhead is needed. As a Trail Ambassador, I have had to give weekend travelers expecting to bike upstream from Phila/Pottstown the bad news	7/3/2021 9:12 AM
135	Need more flat/easy bike trails	7/3/2021 9:09 AM
136	Stop developing pristine land. Above all, stop allowing warehouses to be built!	7/3/2021 8:58 AM
137	Jim Dietrich park is a great place.. but it could be a heck of a lot better. The park needs a playground and a splash area for the summertime.	7/3/2021 8:46 AM
138	no	7/3/2021 8:40 AM
139	For decades my family has hiked in local parks and have had no problem sharing the trails with the mountain biking community. In the past three years we've had multiple "near misses" as we've scrambled off the trails to get out of the way of groups of bikers barreling down the trail seemingly oblivious to the presence of hikers. There used to be more civility, people knew the etiquette of sharing a space. I think some signs informing people that bikes should yield to hikers would be really helpful. I'd also like to see more educational signage to inform the public about invasive species and native species as well as ecosystem information in general. You'd be surprised at how few people can identify our state tree! Thanks for listening	7/3/2021 8:35 AM
140	I'd like to be more involved with anything regarding Antietam Lake. That place means a lot to me. My dad was the last caretaker there. I lived in the house that was there for 22 years. But I cannot find anyone to get in contact with. I just get passed from group to group without any real info.	7/3/2021 8:16 AM
141	Re-open Karcher creek recreation park in Hamburg, PA 19526.	7/3/2021 8:10 AM
142	N/A	7/3/2021 8:07 AM
143	Lincoln Park (Spring Township) needs a new playground and recreational facilities on the property from the demolished elementary school.	7/3/2021 7:13 AM

144	Many school programs and outings at Hamburg area parks and outdoor sites were planned by teachers of Hamburg elementary schools to introduce students to nearby facilities.	7/3/2021 6:44 AM
145	The city of Reading is NOT the only place our county government should always be worried about. Berks county consists of alot more than just Reading.	7/3/2021 6:37 AM
146	I don't know if Blue Marsh is a County Park or not but I would love to utilize the area but it is so crowded, noisy, and dirty. It's actually uninviting.	7/2/2021 10:23 PM
147	The dam at Bernharts needs to be repaired and saved.	7/2/2021 9:27 PM
148	Make volunteering available, such as maintenance, trash pickup.	7/2/2021 8:00 PM
149	Please reopen kershner creek recreation area!	7/2/2021 7:53 PM
150	plant more trees and emphasize environmental issues Do not have recreation based on fuel consuming vehicles	7/2/2021 6:55 PM
151	The reopening of Kaercher Creek Park should happen. Cut through the red tape, side step the blame game and come up with practical steps to reopen this park.	7/2/2021 3:58 PM
152	We have wonderful outdoor opportunities in Berks County. Stress cleaning up after one's dog.	7/2/2021 3:52 PM
153	Kaercher Creek Park is our favorite area. It needs to be brought back to what it used to be.	7/2/2021 3:03 PM
154	I feel that area parks have deteriorated over the years, (maintenance, cleanliness, unruliness) and lack of oversight and staffing seem to be an issue. Park visitors do not respect rules and leave trash. A lot of public education needs to happen to preserve our parks and keep them clean and safe. Trails are not maintained, and sometimes unsafe for hiking or biking. BAMBA is a joke, FYI.	7/2/2021 2:47 PM
155	Since covid a lot more people seem to be outdoors so it's more important to have areas that are not too crowded. Also would like to see an area where ATVs can be ridden legally.	7/2/2021 1:47 PM
156	we need better maintenance and trash removal	7/2/2021 1:46 PM
157	We waste more than enough money on parks. They should be consolidated and many of them closed. Only a small number of people use the local parks	7/2/2021 1:39 PM
158	Please reopen Kaercher Creek Park	7/2/2021 1:31 PM
159	Improving accessibility for county and municipal systems is paramount to the broad impact of this potential plan. I would encourage the planning committee to ensure diverse representation among its members, including people with disabilities. Targeting this issue is a high efficiency play. Improving access (whether it be linguistic/culturally appropriate programs and services, reduction of mobility barriers, and/or increasing inclusive opportunities in historically underserved areas) will clear intersectional barriers to access (curb cuts, for example, is the easiest way to view this sort of intersectional, highly efficient work). As a resident of Lincoln Park community, we have a couple open and underdeveloped spaces, for example, which, if given a significant investment of time and resources, would improve community connection, increase a sense of "place", and improve community health and wellness. The playground upon the Wilson School grounds is inaccessible (utilizing the most basic ADA lens) and, if given the funds and resources for community engagement (development of community park stewards, committee roles, etc.) and development, we could create a greater sense of place and increase usage for this increasingly diverse and young community, while also ensuring that we have an accessible built environment and programs that serve and support our local seniors. We could even look to connect the local senior communities to this space while also connecting the Lincoln Park community by creating a raised walkway, bird sanctuary (?) as an extension of Harvard Blvd to the Wyomissing Park System Pinewoods Trail. Berks could leverage, additionally, federal funds to improve accessibility to the Blue Marsh spillway area, creating paved surfaces near the spillway walls, so wheelchair users could throw out some lines. There are a variety of ways you can increase awareness about existing venues, events, and rec areas, but if the services aren't culturally relevant, grounds are physically inaccessible, and the respective communities aren't involved from the onset of planning development in a meaningful, authentic way, this endeavor would create another .pdf doc that is used at the county level as a justification for funding projects based on interpretations of data collected through this survey. While the philosophy of "rugged individualism" may be maintained within the county's dominate white cultural norms, the pandemic has clearly communicated the importance of interdependence, especially in communities made up of people with historically	7/2/2021 12:05 PM

marginalized social identities. The expansion of services, improved park and rec infrastructure, etc. can be a driver for critical community engagement, which may restore institutional faith that has been hollowed out over the years due to broader politics, paternalism, and/or inaction (county public health system in development?).

160	Thank you for offering this survey and working to expand outdoor opportunities that also help protect flora and fauna.	7/2/2021 10:23 AM
161	Would love to see more activities and opportunities for the entire community.	7/2/2021 10:22 AM
162	Build a dog park or two and then make all other parks off limits to dogs. There poop bags are all over the place, unleashed dogs chase the wildlife and there seems to be little enforcement of dog rules. Also, all parking areas of grings mill are loaded with lot cruisers (gay men looking for sex). Use the DA's office to clear the parks of this out in the open prostitution activity that's going on (the city had done this about 15 years ago in Egelman's park and it fixed the problem for a while)	7/2/2021 10:15 AM
163	Keep up the good work.	7/2/2021 9:44 AM
164	No	7/2/2021 9:21 AM
165	Thanks for surveying! Don't care much about dog parks but would love just to be able to "legally" have our well behaved dog with us (always leashed) to walk and enjoy the outdoors in more places!	7/2/2021 9:03 AM
166	Access to Public restrooms	7/1/2021 7:50 PM
167	Jim Dietrich Park and Laurelain Park with disc golf are great facilities in Muhlenberg. Nolde, Grings Mill and Blue Marsh are also excellent resources.	7/1/2021 1:17 PM
168	Trail maintenance and good signage are really important. I like dog-friendly parks and there are not many of them.	7/1/2021 7:15 AM
169	We need to have Kaercher Creek Park reopened. This is a Northern Berks gem that the public and local community thereof should be able to use and enjoy. It's high time the County takes responsibility to get this reopened.	6/30/2021 9:10 PM
170	Community gardens would be a great use of public space and an important way to educate residents about how to grow their own food and learn to form a relationship with the land.	6/30/2021 3:55 PM
171	bring back county wide summer playgrounds with inter playground sports	6/30/2021 2:08 PM
172	Programs to deter littering, disturbing wildlife and natural scenery should be implemented. As well as ways to prevent overcrowding	6/30/2021 1:29 PM
173	Reopen Kaercher Creek and bring it back to its original state for family and friends to enjoy the lake and have picnics etc	6/29/2021 10:51 AM
174	I use the Wyomissing park system daily. I also use the grounds around the Museum.	6/29/2021 10:48 AM
175	We have some great bike and walking trails in the county, but I would use them much more if they had better safety and less isolation. This is esp. important as a female. I am definitely missing out on a lot of great local trail hikes and trail bike rides for this reason. It's really a shame.	6/28/2021 5:01 PM
176	We need more progressive mountain bike trails. Currently there are no trails that help build skills such as jumping and flow trails.	6/28/2021 2:56 PM
177	The bicyclists on Grings Mill trail are psychopaths	6/28/2021 1:46 PM
178	Dogs on leashes should be permitted at more County parks.	6/28/2021 10:05 AM
179	A focus on connecting the SRT to other trails should be made a priority. I would not waste time of educational signs as no one reads them. I would recommend a focus on maintaining proven to be useful for trail connectivity. County parks and trails are very useful and benefit the County.	6/28/2021 9:36 AM
180	Thank you for this survey. I am concerned that all the county owned parks listed in question 5 are at least 30 minutes or more from me in Tilden. That is not accessible to me. Please consider why all the Berks County Parks are in the southern half of the county, and how Berks can provide more access to recreation and parks in the northern half. I would like to encourage	6/28/2021 7:39 AM

you to please take another look at Kaercher Creek Park and please reopen this valuable resource to the public asap as it is an existing park in northern Berks and can serve this area if reopened. We have a responsibility to care for our valuable resources, and this is one that should not be ignored. Thank you again.

181	I believe that our parks and trail systems should be monitored with trail cameras to a greater extent...especially in light of recent crime on the trails (assaults/robbery). Trails and park usage should be limited to persons with no criminal background. It concerns me that trails that I used as a child are no longer safe, especially in isolated areas. Trail cams, trail police, background requirements for use of public parks and trails applied for through the county. Safety in the parks and on the trails remains a great concern for parents.	6/27/2021 8:46 PM
182	Nothing extra to add at this time but thank you for taking the time to make this survey! We are happy to be moving to this area and have a deep connection with the outdoors and wildlife!	6/27/2021 8:33 PM
183	Allowing dog owners to walk their dogs in the park.	6/27/2021 10:59 AM
184	There are limited recreational areas well maintained near to home. I hike at Antietam Lake, use the Schuylkill River trail and Gring's Mill Trail for biking. I used to hike and kayak at Kaercher Creek and hike to the Pulpit yearly (it is too crowded with out of state people on weekends). It is hard to find a place to swim locally as Fleetwood Borough did not tell residents when they were selling tickets and were sold-out over a week before Memorial Day. I only swim for exercise and cannot even swim in my own Borough. The Borough said to check their website, when they simply could have had a lottery, if the date for purchasing tickets couldn't be given out. Disparate practices frustrate residents.	6/26/2021 9:29 PM
185	Kaercher Creek Park needs to be re-opened. County Commissioners have dragged their feet long enough.	6/26/2021 8:17 PM
186	It's terrific!!	6/26/2021 7:06 PM
187	I don't feel safe going anywhere alone anymore. So haven't even walked around the town anymore. And never go anywhere after dark. 😊	6/26/2021 5:38 PM
188	Open Kaercher creek park.	6/26/2021 9:05 AM
189	Our outdoor group of 10 planned to hike the AT starting at the Hamburg watershed. Past experience of parking availability for 5 vehicles led us to find an alternate for 4 vehicles. There is a large van that seats all of us. We found Kaercher Creek Park website. Did not feel our vehicles would be safe. Disrepair, building looked vandalized, little to no general maintenance. If I can't feel comfortable parking why would I go back to explore the paths or fish there. PLEASE consider maintaining this place!	6/26/2021 9:00 AM
190	Grants exist to aid with recreational improvements. A single source for that information would be immensely helpful. Be it DCNR, private funded grants, etc. we need to know about them, and it should be pushed to a point of contact for each municipality. We find ourselves "discovering" different grants because we read about what one municipality just did to their parks. Way too reactive!!	6/26/2021 8:52 AM
191	We need more wild natural areas and less warehouses please	6/25/2021 10:34 PM
192	I live near kershers creek its such a shame that the park is not open to enjoy again we always loved to take walks there and enjoy the scenery and its just wasting away now for no one to enjoy.	6/25/2021 9:55 PM
193	Any area needs to be safe to use and properly maintained	6/25/2021 6:13 PM
194	Revitalize kaerchner creek	6/25/2021 5:58 PM
195	I have watched Fleetwood Borough remove place where kids can play basketball, baseball and hockey for parking lots while the school district put up no trespassing signs when we pay to maintain those properties. Teens especially are outcast in this community and they wonder why kids are hanging out at the park and causing trouble. They gave them no place to go.	6/25/2021 4:11 PM
196	Berks County parks are good. Maintaining them is all that is really necessary.	6/25/2021 3:51 PM
197	I would like to see Kearcher creek park reopened. We had my daughters graduation at the pavilion years ago. It was a great place to have a picnic/party	6/25/2021 3:16 PM
198	Establish day camp opportunities for children 7-17 through schools or park, playgrounds.	6/25/2021 3:05 PM

199	I think increased walk-ability in neighborhoods is greatly needed and would increase quality of life as well as property values.	6/25/2021 2:56 PM
200	As a home owner, our taxes are high. I would not agree to additional tax hikes to make improvements	6/25/2021 2:14 PM
201	Kaercher Creek should be repaired. Lots of work to be done there.	6/25/2021 1:40 PM
202	They need to tear down the old sanatorium outside of Hamburg, Pa and make one big recreational park	6/25/2021 1:00 PM
203	My #1 priority is the preservation/safety of wildlife. The county should take no action which will destroy or disrupt any existing wildlands. At most, it would be reasonable to have trails through wild land areas, and occasional bathrooms. Nothing more. New public spaces should be built in/on prior developed land (including occasionally farm fields). My main recreational use is biking. I would love for some flatter areas to bike around. I'd love for towns to be more bike-friendly (places to secure bikes, I'd even pay for some sort of bike-locker that I can just wheel my bike into at the Boyertown parking lot in the center of town. Something where we pay say \$3/use to just fully secure a bike for 3 hours or something). Bike route maps that highlight particularly flat/safe routes would be helpful. I've found I have to scout out my route ahead sometimes to avoid overly steep hills (for example the hill behind the Bechtelsville Walmart particularly sucks to bike up). One ideal route I've had is to bike along Philadelphia Avenue between Boyertown and the Newhanover Wawa, though this route is slightly less safe due to traffic. I would like a Bike Lane, though I suspect it would be infeasible for some significant stretches of road due to narrowness of the streets. On-road parking for example, takes up a good bit of space. On-road parking along Reading Avenue is also a bit of a biking hazard, though I don't imagine that will be gotten ride of any time soon (maybe cut out some of the side walk to offset the car parking?). I would love to have a Planet Fitness in Boyertown. Or some form of budget-gym. Anytime Fitness is out of my budget, which leaves the nearest Gym all the way over in Pottstown. It would be nice to see Covid-safe movies at the park. Ideally these events should have marked out spacing in the grass to ensure appropriate distancing.	6/25/2021 12:40 PM
204	Add additional trails for runners, bikers, hikers, and horses. Maintain the trails with inspections on bridges and cutting weeds so the trails are safe and accessible. Police the parking lots for patrons who are abusing the trail parking lots and trails for their drug habits, drinking, and littering. Limit the number of people who are entering the parks. Do not allow loud music to play in the recreation areas of the parks.	6/25/2021 12:34 PM
205	Reopen Kaercher Creek Park	6/25/2021 11:43 AM
206	Kerchner Creek needs to become a thriving recreation area.	6/25/2021 11:25 AM
207	We used to bike on the Thun Trail, but now feel many of the trails are dangerous. Being older, we do not feel there is enough security along in our recreational areas. This is a financial problem also for the areas. it is expensive to keep patrols up. It is a quandry.	6/25/2021 11:22 AM
208	I have seen the benefits bike trails have added to communities. Also, with the increase in traffic, it is important to have trails that facilitate commuting	6/25/2021 11:00 AM
209	More live music events featuring local original music, not cover bands.	6/25/2021 10:56 AM
210	We need Kearcher Creek updated. We are losing a great area that will benefit people for years to come.	6/25/2021 10:40 AM
211	River Road in Muhlenberg needs bike/walking lanes!!! It is dangerous for all involved, the walker, biker and the cars.	6/25/2021 10:35 AM
212	Berks County is blessed with the great recreation and green space available. Preservation of the land and access for those with disabilities is imperative.	6/25/2021 10:14 AM
213	reopen Kaercher Creek Park	6/25/2021 10:01 AM
214	Please repair and open Kaercher Creek park. It was once pristine and highly used facility. We used to walk there, boat, fish and picnic and now it's all weeds.	6/25/2021 9:31 AM
215	Please don't pave over any more trails, there are hundreds of miles of roads to go on for that. We should also avoid developing undeveloped land to add more parks etc, it is easy to take	6/25/2021 9:25 AM

untouched land and develop it, it isn't so easy the other direction. - A 70MPW runner and Environmental Engineer

216	Reopen Kaercher Creek Park	6/25/2021 9:19 AM
217	Kaercher Creek, French Creek	6/25/2021 9:17 AM
218	Being able to find where to park along the trails close to my home so I don't have to drive further than needed to join the trail	6/25/2021 8:57 AM
219	Parks like the disc golf in laurel run . People playing should keep a certain distance from private owned properties.	6/25/2021 7:59 AM
220	Kaercher Creek Park Needs to be restored and reopened	6/25/2021 6:55 AM
221	Could use a website containing info on all Berks recreation locations and events. Include others that have events (churches, organizations) in a special section	6/25/2021 6:47 AM
222	Would like to see the reopening of kaercher creek park.	6/25/2021 6:10 AM
223	Reopen Kaercher Creek Park and actually take care of it this time	6/25/2021 5:16 AM
224	reopen this facility	6/25/2021 3:34 AM
225	I would like to have Kaercher Creek Park reopened. I had taken the grand kids there to fish off the floating piers that were there.	6/24/2021 11:29 PM
226	Please save and open and maintain Kershner creek	6/24/2021 11:29 PM
227	When riding my road bike, Google maps often puts me on a Berks County Trail. I have given up on that as a viable route. The trail is in such bad shape, especially in winter it is impossible to ride. I had to hike out bike on my shoulder to stay out of the muck.	6/24/2021 10:36 PM
228	Kershner Creek should be added to the park system	6/24/2021 9:54 PM
229	I would like to see more county parks distributed throughout Berks county, so that they are closer to people who live in the outlying parts with less driving to reach them. A good example is the former Kaercher Creek park which, when it was open, was convenient to people in Hamburg, Windsor Twp, Perry Twp, etc. I would urge Berks to reopen Kaercher Creek park.	6/24/2021 9:50 PM
230	Would love to use the track and tennis courts at Sch. Valley schools. Also only bike at grings mill but never as far as reading. Don't feel safe biking toward the city.	6/24/2021 9:45 PM
231	Reopen Kaercher Creek Park.	6/24/2021 9:33 PM
232	Open Kercher Creek as a County Park again.	6/24/2021 9:03 PM
233	Reopen Kershner Creek Park in Hamburg	6/24/2021 8:48 PM
234	wish the area of Kaercher Creek Park be reopened, was a very nice and well-maintained area !!!!	6/24/2021 8:30 PM
235	You forgot about the beauty and popularity of the Reading Museum grounds, it is outstanding there!	6/24/2021 7:40 PM
236	Open kaercher park	6/24/2021 7:30 PM
237	Kaercher Creek Park reopened for public use	6/24/2021 7:24 PM
238	fishing access for the HANDICAPPED	6/24/2021 7:24 PM
239	Kershner creek needs to be taken care by the county.	6/24/2021 6:55 PM
240	Reopen Kaercher Creek Recreation area	6/24/2021 6:14 PM
241	Keep the fruit farm open even if it snows. Thank you. Lisa Hahn. That's what plows are for(:	6/24/2021 5:47 PM
242	I'd like to see Kearcher creek park reopening the near future	6/24/2021 5:24 PM
243	More unlocked restrooms and cleaner port-o-potties Need a splash park not in Reading City.	6/24/2021 4:43 PM
244	bring back environmental ed programs--its about time! what is staff doing? people need the programs!	6/24/2021 4:38 PM

245	Kaercher Creek provides a beautiful natural space to both Hamburg and the surrounding communities with notable access to water, pavilions, and many public/family event opportunities for community engagement and outreach that should in my opinion be a top priority in the investment of money and resources to preserve and promote these activities.	6/24/2021 3:48 PM
246	to have Kaercher Creek Park reopened	6/24/2021 3:27 PM
247	Bring back Kaercher Creek Park!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Fully restore Kaercher Creek Park!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Serve northern Berks County!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	6/24/2021 2:36 PM
248	Please reopen and maintain Kaercher Creek Park in Hamburg (Windsor Township)	6/24/2021 2:20 PM
249	PLEASE REOPEN KAERCHER CREEK PARK! We have this wonderful, local resource that is already set-up for so many different recreational uses. It is an absolute shame how it has been neglected & deteriorated over the years.	6/24/2021 2:18 PM
250	MORE PARKS/TRAILS/PUBLIC LANDS, NO MORE WAREHOUSES!!!!!!!!!!	6/24/2021 2:02 PM
251	For outdoor walking trails, I think it should be necessary to possibly have both small stones and paved walkways for handicapped/wheelchair bound adults and children. And parks should be mandated to update their playground equipment to allow or have access to handicapped swings, etc... Each municipality should have a park and recreation specific group if they don't the county should step in and help. Local run down lakes and recreation areas should be helped financially to allow residents to frequent them again. EXAMPLE- Kaercher Creek Park in Hamburg, PA Local residents are fighting to have this park open for years now. Nothing is being done by commissioners or PAF&G or the current owners? We want this location beautified again as a child I recall going there every Sunday after church. What can be done to bring it back to life!?	6/24/2021 1:46 PM
252	More rail trails & greenways-would love yo be able to bike or walk between small towns without using dangerous roads with too many trucks! Also would be helpful to the Mennonite community! Plus it would make our area more attractive for recreational tourism.	6/24/2021 1:10 PM
253	I would love to see more gravel trails	6/24/2021 1:06 PM
254	Yes, please make trail maps available via OSM (public domain, Open Source Maps). Having PDFs of every park, separately, is confusing and not helpful to many, IMO.	6/24/2021 12:52 PM
255	Please add TENNIS to your survey list above. Tennis is mostly NOT done in Betks County as just a "team" activity. Also, do NOT eliminate tennis courts. Build more tennis courts, please.	6/24/2021 12:06 PM
256	There is no mention about safety in this survey. The public should have a way of knowing all incidents that occur on trails or at facilities for our personal choices and awareness for reporting problems. How to report a safety concern or call for help should be posted at trail heads and online. How does one describe where you are on a trail if you call 911? Cell service must be available or noted as a caution at the trailhead.	6/24/2021 12:01 PM
257	We are fortunate to have the Trail System we have ; when I was younger I used it almost every day for decades	6/24/2021 11:41 AM
258	I know Kaercher Creek Park isn't yet open. Hopefully it will be soon!	6/24/2021 10:59 AM
259	have a balance and a vision before tax money would be spent	6/24/2021 10:50 AM
260	Kaercher Creek Park should be reopened.	6/24/2021 10:44 AM
261	Please reopen the Kersher Creek Recreational Park.	6/24/2021 10:18 AM
262	Please reopen Kaercher Park.	6/24/2021 9:56 AM
263	I enjoy the Grings Mill/ Blue Marsh trail for running and walking, but find parking to be an issue (quantity and location). It's especially unsafe at the Iron Bridge. The trail also becomes crowded on weekends and can be an issue for bikes, runners, strollers, etc... to share. I also don't believe that painting bike markers on a road counts as a bike path or a connector. This does not provide a safe or logical recreation area. I don't think that paths or trails need to be paved. New pavement is great, but without a commitment to ongoing maintenance can become a hazard.	6/24/2021 8:40 AM
264	Really enjoy the modern mountain bike trails in area like Candy Hill Forrest in Stowe VT, or Trexler Game preserve in Allentown. Safe for all ages, fun and progressive. I wish we could	6/24/2021 7:52 AM

modify our amazing trails here to be more like that. Current trails in mt penn, never sink and even new ones at blue marsh feel more like hiking trails. The sport is really growing, people drive for miles to ride then eat after; and our trail building possibilities here are great. But we are dated in design and "falling off the map" as a destination.

265	While I do not live in Berks, I frequently hike and run trails there. T They are more crowded and often littered than in my area. There are however many beautiful, well-maintained areas, which are important for families and individuals.	6/23/2021 11:49 PM
266	Bring back full activities and programming to Berks Parks and Recreation Dept.! Make Allegheny Aqueduct and Beidler House more accessible to the public.	6/23/2021 11:13 PM
267	I feel we are fortunate to have both the county parks, local parks and the trails on the mountain.	6/23/2021 11:10 PM
268	Thank-you for all you do. Our family (which includes elementary-age children) appreciates it.	6/23/2021 10:30 PM
269	Needs properly built and public access jump parks and pump tracks for bicycles.	6/23/2021 9:12 PM
270	Walking daily in the parks helped us handle the stress of living through the pandemic. Thank you.	6/23/2021 9:08 PM
271	I would very much like to see control of invasive plant species which are eradicating the natural integrity of the Wyomissing Park system, including the creek banks. It should be a priority to maintain current parks before investing in new ones. Thank you for your consideration.	6/23/2021 8:23 PM
272	I live in North Coventry, but spend most of my recreation time in Berks. I feel extremely fortunate to be so close to such a beautiful county and its many recreational opportunities for me as a runner.	6/23/2021 6:36 PM
273	Please reopen Kaercher Creek park! It was my wife's and my dream to walk there every day in our retirement but then it closed 7 years ago. I am part of the "Saving Kaercher Creek" movement and so hope a new agreement can be worked out between the county and the PFBC.	6/23/2021 6:10 PM
274	Better maintenance of trails in Goose Run Park and a playground for Ironstone!	6/23/2021 5:56 PM
275	In Pennsylvania vehicles are required to stop for pedestrians in a cross walk but many drivers are not aware of this or ignore this. Signs at crosswalks telling drivers to stop for pedestrians would be a huge help.	6/23/2021 5:55 PM
276	I think preserving and expanding GREENSPACE is very important.	6/23/2021 5:40 PM
277	First, I think the parks in Berks County are gems. We are fortunate to have such a lovely, well-maintained system. One suggestion, though: Because the Gring's Mill trail along the Tully is fairly narrow and can get crowded during nice weather, is it possible to restrict bicycles to certain hours each day? The sometimes constant need to move to the right so a bicyclist can pass can be annoying, and some inexperienced or rude riders are just dangerous. It would be great for walkers and runners to have at least a few hours to themselves on the trail.	6/23/2021 5:36 PM
278	I really hope you consider bringing back public programs at the Berks County Heritage Center.	6/23/2021 4:50 PM
279	I am enjoying the yeti sightings.	6/23/2021 4:35 PM
280	I would love to see more interconnected green space throughout the county joining municipalities.	6/23/2021 4:35 PM
281	They have done a great job with the resources they have	6/23/2021 4:20 PM
282	Berks County should also perform analysis on recreation usage in neighboring counties and States.	6/23/2021 4:19 PM
283	City Park and Barbie Park needs a whole make over and a sprinkler system for all children.	6/23/2021 3:04 PM
284	I feel that it's imperative to support the efforts on behalf of the Berks County Parks & Recreation. They have always done a phenomenal job with their events and maintaining the parks as best that they can based on their budget. My motto is, "Physical Fitness is good for the mind, body and soul and even better when it includes outdoor adventures with a mix of history!	6/23/2021 2:22 PM

285	Berks county is one of the few places left where recreation is at the forefront of reasons to visit. Please do not become another Montgomery, Philadelphia, or Chester county. Berks county is also a family consideration for our next home, so long as it does not over develop.	6/23/2021 2:13 PM
286	No	6/23/2021 2:09 PM
287	It would be great if the County or another municipality could support Kaercher Creek Park outside Hamburg. I hike there at least 10 times over the course of one year. Thank you!	6/23/2021 2:08 PM
288	I would definitely like more horseback riding areas	6/23/2021 12:47 PM
289	Survey is too long	6/23/2021 12:35 PM
290	Re-open Kearcher creek area	6/23/2021 12:33 PM
291	Security! Our Rangers are not used correctly and you are giving the false sense of security to Patrons! Use your Rangers as its intended	6/23/2021 12:25 PM
292	Berks County has been losing mountain biking accessibility slowly over the last few years. I would like to see the expansion of mountain bike trail systems and facilities in Berks County and in more than willing to play a role in making that happen. 4846517875. Thank you, Kory	6/23/2021 12:15 PM
293	It would be great if more activities for families are added to city of reading and cleaning of streets in reference to weeds and clearing areas to make city look good 6th st by railroad tracks on amity are full of weeds by streets with no one maitaining that clean of shrubs	6/23/2021 12:13 PM
294	Recreational areas that do not allow dogs should be prohibited. There is no reason not to let them...they don't deal drugs, write grafted, set off illegal fireworks, vandalize, play loud music, etc. it encourages people to go out if they can take their dog and, importantly, it allows for single women to feel safe when using the facility if they can have their dog.	6/23/2021 12:10 PM
295	Thank you for asking for our input! My wife and I moved here because of the recreational variety Berks County and the surrounding area has to offer! We are avid cyclist (Mountain, Gravel and Road bikes) and my wife trail runs a lot as well. We really appreciate the mountain bike trails but we notice they could use a lot more regular maintenance and enhancement. PLEASE consider a skills park/pump track too! They are great for riders of all levels and abilities. There are so many communities that have embraced Mountain Biking (we are fortunate enough to travel/vacation to other areas that focus on their trail systems) culture and all the economic and property value benefits. Berks was once a benchmark and in the last 5 years has gone backward. We hope Berks County Parks and Recreation will lead the way to better trails, community, and culture! Thank you for all you do!!	6/23/2021 12:09 PM
296	BIKE TRAILS PARKING LOTS NEED CAMERA'S!! I USE TO BIKE WEEKLY & PARK AT RED REBERS BRIDGE TIL MY CAR WINDOW WAS BUSTED AND MY PURSE (under my seat) WAS STOLEN (SEPT 2019). HAVE NOT BEEN BACK SINCE. WHAT UPSET ME THE MOST IS WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER INFORMED ME THIS HAPPENS A LOT! NO WARNINGS/POSTINGS TO LET THE PUBLIC KNOW THIS HAPPENS OFTEN IS UPSETTING.	6/23/2021 12:00 PM
297	Berks county parks are a valuable resource but we need to upgrade existing parks and upgrade them. Many of the parks have not been updated since the 1960s and are not current with today's visitation numbers. County commissioners need to recognize how important the parks are.	6/23/2021 11:59 AM
298	We live near the Earl Pool Sanctuary and love and use it regularly!	6/23/2021 11:09 AM
299	I wish more trails were dog friendly (leashed). We aren't able to use some of these great spaces since we can't take our dogs.	6/23/2021 10:22 AM
300	Would love to see more running trails/areas that are closer to me (Exeter). The closest trail to me doesn't provide much distance and in the summer, the mosquitoes and bugs are too much. Would love to see some thing for longer distance runs and also something safe to take my young xc and track teams to, to train on.	6/23/2021 9:58 AM
301	Loved Kaercher Creek! Lots of Kaercher family reunions there!	6/23/2021 9:44 AM
302	I think more public dog parks, where dogs can play and run off-leash) would be a great use of resources.	6/23/2021 9:09 AM
303	Employees working in the Parks Dept. and ALL other Depts. should be paid at a Family	6/23/2021 8:59 AM

sustaining wage with healthcare benefits , vacation and all the benefits the administrators of OUR county receive!

304	Berks County needs to start backing mountain biking again. We are a huge community that wants nothing but the best for everyone.	6/23/2021 8:56 AM
305	I think Berks County has many wonderful parks and recreational areas. Maintaining them and adding additional areas is important for residents as it makes Berks a great place to live and work.	6/23/2021 8:54 AM
306	Please maintain the parks/lakes clean especially for the wildlife around us.	6/23/2021 8:48 AM
307	Open Kaercher Creek!!!!!!	6/23/2021 8:46 AM
308	I think it's very important for people to feel their vehicles are safe in parking lots so having cameras installed is very important. Nothing worse than coming back to your car and seeing it was broken into. So cameras for lot and angles to identify plates. Thanks	6/23/2021 8:40 AM
309	Security on trails and in parks must be addressed. More funding for playground activities should be allocated to local municipalities.	6/23/2021 8:27 AM
310	I very much enjoyed spending time outdoors in county parks over the pandemic. The Union Canal trail has been a wonderful place to walk and enjoy the beautiful weather while social distancing. I do miss the various programs held at the county parks, though. I was looking forward to trying paddle-boarding and I always enjoyed the nature classes like Maple Sugaring.	6/23/2021 8:14 AM
311	It is important to the success of any area to promote health and fitness for the public and also a benefit to the community regarding an alternate choice for commuting purposes.	6/23/2021 8:11 AM
312	The mountain biking in Berks county keeps me alive and youthful. It would be nice to see some trail systems progress and tie some of the trail systems together even internally and freshen up the mountains trail systems. I feel trail wise the more the merrier.	6/23/2021 8:06 AM
313	bring back kercher creek!!!	6/23/2021 7:42 AM
314	Not at this time.	6/23/2021 7:03 AM
315	Would love to see dining options at Grings mill. Would be a great place to include a restaurant near red bridge in that barn. Scenic deck. Farm to table food. Safety is always a concern. Would be nice to see more rangers visible on bikes on trails.	6/23/2021 6:18 AM
316	reopen Kaercher Creek Park	6/23/2021 6:04 AM
317	I ride natural, unpaved, nongravel, mountain bike singletrack (not fire roads)in Berks co. multiple times a week, primarily at Mt. Penn. Please devote more resources and energy to allow these trail systems to be maintained and to flourish. It's a huge part of why I live in berks co.	6/22/2021 8:48 PM
318	The mountain biking here in our area is great and attracts people from outside of our area who patronize our local businesses while they are here. We should continue to keep the mountain biking trails and hiking trails in good shape through proper maintenance and occasional rerouting where erosion persists.	6/22/2021 8:44 PM
319	Please reopen Kaecher Creek Park is Hamburg.	6/22/2021 7:53 PM
320	I would like to see kaercher creek reopened as a park/recreation area for public use.	6/22/2021 6:44 PM
321	You may be aware the Reading area is a destination for regional mountain bikers. This needs to be capitalized on (brew pubs, restaurants etc) and stress separation of aggressive mountain bike trails from hiking trails to avoid conflicts.	6/22/2021 6:40 PM
322	Jim Thorpe, Phoenixville and many towns rally behind water fronts and biking trails. Its a destination with tourists. Reading has the same available possibilities but chooses to allow crime, dirt bikes, Latinos blasting music at Pagoda, stupid loud exhaust noise, etc. I'm riding a bike near the Fire tower and guys are having sex in the woods, drug needles and condoms laying at the overlooks. The city will never make healthy activities safe for families to enjoy because the local 80% of the county destoy everthing they touch!!!	6/22/2021 6:35 PM
323	Please reopen Kaercher Creek Park! It was so important to the community and Berks County.	6/22/2021 6:00 PM
324	more open space and natural areas with passive trails . The parks and trails were overrun	6/22/2021 5:57 PM

during covid

325	Places are crowded. Kaercher Creek used to be a good option for my family.	6/22/2021 5:31 PM
326	We are truly blessed to have many parks that we take advantage of as a family. Often, after dinner we will take a walk at red bridge or the leisure area or most commonly, Wyomissing park. We are in those parks several times a week, every week.	6/22/2021 5:27 PM
327	While I agree with and enjoy open spaces and the outdoors, I do NOT agree that the government should be involved and should NOT use tax dollars to support such.	6/22/2021 5:06 PM
328	Berks county could be a mountain biking destination on the east coast if more money was put into maintaining the current trails, as well as building new trails for all skill levels. Look at Bentonville, AR as a case study	6/22/2021 5:06 PM
329	Make mountain biking great again	6/22/2021 4:44 PM
330	I miss Kersner Creek, a nice quiet family fun place	6/22/2021 4:29 PM
331	Bring back Kaercher Creek!	6/22/2021 4:28 PM
332	More mountain bike friendly trails and maintenance	6/22/2021 4:25 PM
333	Please reopen Kaercher Creek Park in Hamburg!	6/22/2021 4:12 PM
334	The fastest growing recreational activities in Berks county are mountain biking and its related counterparts. Please look into Bentonville Arkansas and see how they have done it. North west Arkansas economy is built around it and is flourishing. After experiencing it first hand I believe Berks county actually has more potential. If anything is to be considered in the way of mountain biking please reach out to Berks Trail Works.	6/22/2021 3:16 PM
335	Just a note for consideration - acquisition of land for recreational use and the idea of programming requires people to maintain, manage, and plan programs.	6/22/2021 3:13 PM
336	I think the protection of public and open spaces in Berks County is very important to connect people to nature and preserve historical spaces/environmental habitats so they are still here for generations to come.	6/22/2021 3:11 PM
337	Kaercher Creek should be opened.	6/22/2021 2:57 PM
338	OPEN KAERCHER CREEK PARK IN HAMBURG PA. THIS IS A PART OF MY YOUNGER LIFE AND I WANT MY KIDS TO ENJOY IT BUT IT NEEDS TO BE OPEN.	6/22/2021 2:39 PM
339	Start maintaining blue marsh trails!! Its pathetic what its become.	6/22/2021 2:17 PM
340	We need Kaercher Creek reopened. It needs to be updated and back in use. That was such a great area when I was a kid	6/22/2021 2:11 PM
341	Reopen Kaercher Creek Park to its fullest extent ASAP!	6/22/2021 2:07 PM
342	Reopen Kaercher Creek. The commissioners have failed this park.	6/22/2021 1:57 PM
343	Would like to see Kaercher creek reopened	6/22/2021 1:56 PM
344	Re open Kaercher Creek Park. Work with the Fish and Boat Commission.	6/22/2021 1:46 PM
345	Please work with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to reopen Kaercher Creek Park. It costs more to create a new park than to maintain an existing park. Thank you!	6/22/2021 1:14 PM
346	My son and I absolutely love going to local trails to run, bike, and walk. We try to go at least once a week together when he is home from college. Lots of memories as he grew up while going to local trails. I love how he always saw something different that would leave him with a sense of wonder through the years. Those memories will always stay with me, and I am super grateful. I wish I felt safer on some of the trails, but I believe that is just how society is going. I always go with pepper spray, and sometimes a taser too. I just outright avoid some trails, like the SRT close to Reading (even though they put cameras and stuff in).	6/22/2021 1:02 PM
347	Avid Mountainbiker and Gravel Rider. Mt. Penn mountainbiking was put on the map as a Gravity and technical ride area many years ago. The "Advanced / Progressive" riders have maintained and made Environmental Provisions to trails more than any other group. Reading Berks needs to follow the lead of Bentonville AR and Vermont Mountainbiking which will drive and sustain Tourism. Work with us and lets create a true destination.	6/22/2021 12:48 PM

348	Protect open space; promote existing trails, and connect more trails!	6/22/2021 12:36 PM
349	We have excellent outdoor activities areas in Berks. More help is needed for maintenanceupkeep and infrastructure development overall. User groups need to work together for thebetterment of our counties wonderful outdoor activities choices.	6/22/2021 12:18 PM
350	More greenways and pathways! Thanks for putting the survey together.	6/22/2021 12:09 PM
351	More bathroom facilities are needed along rail trail routes. Also, a crossing light is needed onthe intersection of route 724 and Old River Road where the Schuylkill River Trail crosses the road.	6/22/2021 11:49 AM
352	Trail system on Mt Penn should be made more navigable (with simplified blazes and hiking map) and secure (with consistent park ranger presence). Union Canal trail should be open todogs on leash.	6/22/2021 11:43 AM
353	The Parks and Recreation Department does an excellent job and should receive more support (financial/personnel/etc.) from County government.	6/22/2021 11:03 AM
