

# PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

## COMMUNITY INPUT

In an effort to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the existing park and trail system's current use, overall priorities and emerging themes from the user's perspective, several different outreach opportunities were held throughout the county. An on-line survey was available from April 14th through May 19th, 2017, during which time approximately 2,400 surveys were completed. The survey was provided in English and Spanish and hard copy forms were available.

The survey engaged a broad spectrum of residents and visitors in order to understand community needs and priorities related to parks and trails. Respondents indicated which of the 12 subregions they either live or recreate the most in. Those responses were used in cross-tabulations to identify trends and needs associated with different communities.

Focus Groups were held with key stakeholders and user groups in both the western and eastern portions of the county to open a fluid discussion about the parks and trails system with community members, leaders, and organizers who have deep insight into their communities' facilities and needs.

Throughout the planning process, stakeholders were reengaged to review trails mapping and give feedback on plan elements. Updates were provided at community levels through Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meetings and at the county level through Board of Supervisors meetings. Input was gathered and comments were incorporated at each stage of the process. Two rounds of MAC meeting presentations occurred, for a total of 32 individual community meetings.

The following section summarizes key takeaways from the countywide survey. Where significant, responses from particular regions are highlighted to indicate the different park needs throughout the county. Additional region-level responses are presented in Chapter 5, which summarizes the needs, recommendations, and priorities for each region.

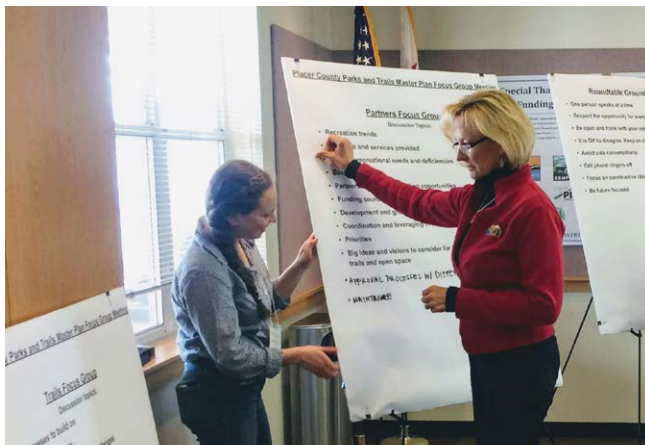
COUNTY OF Placer  
PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Using the map below as a reference, please select from the list the letter that corresponds with the area of Placer County your PRIMARY residence is located.

Using the map below as a reference, please select from the list the letter that corresponds with the area of Placer County your PRIMARY residence is located.

I do not live in Placer County

**~2,400** Surveys Completed



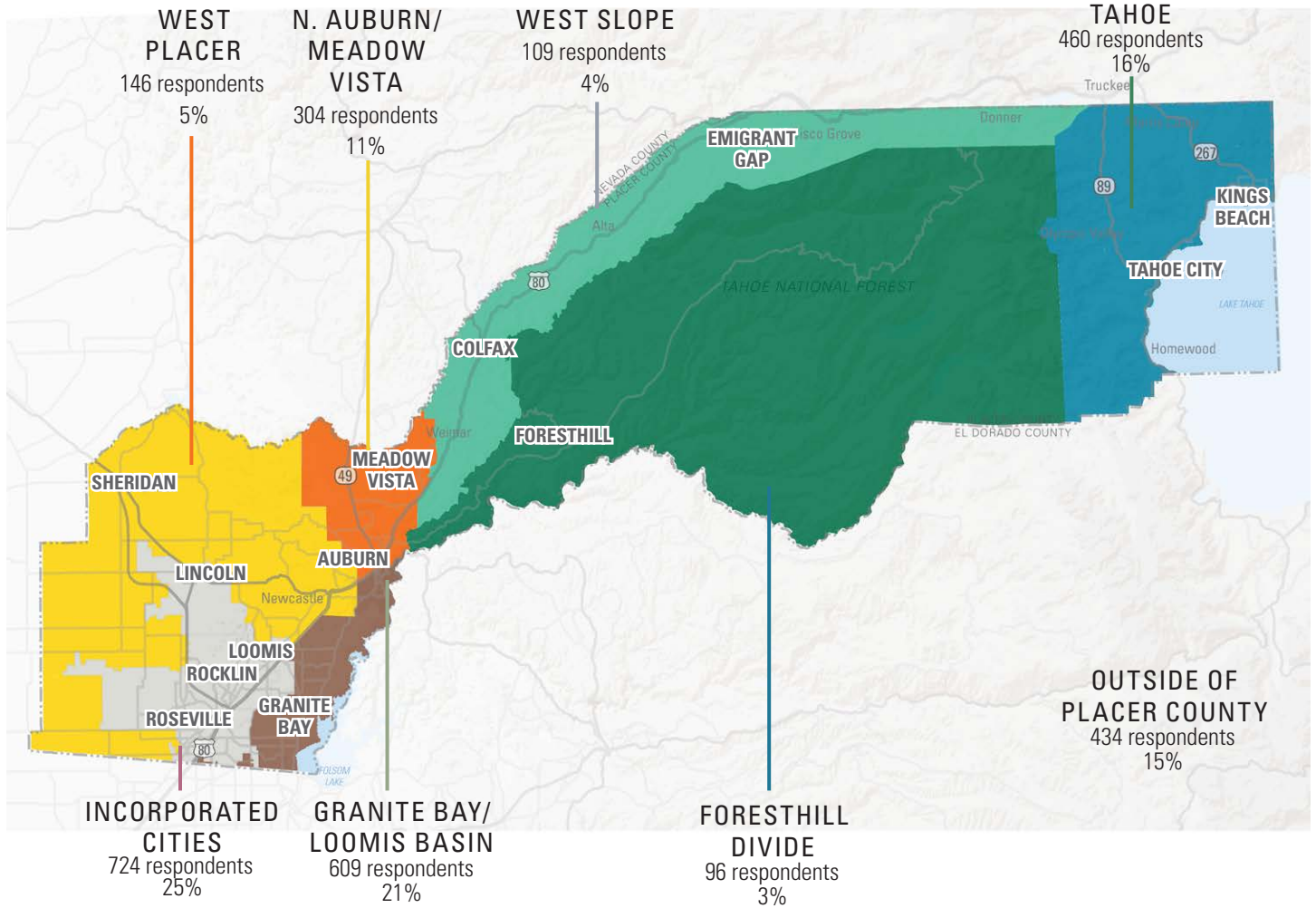
40 Tahoe Area Agencies and Organizations Engaged



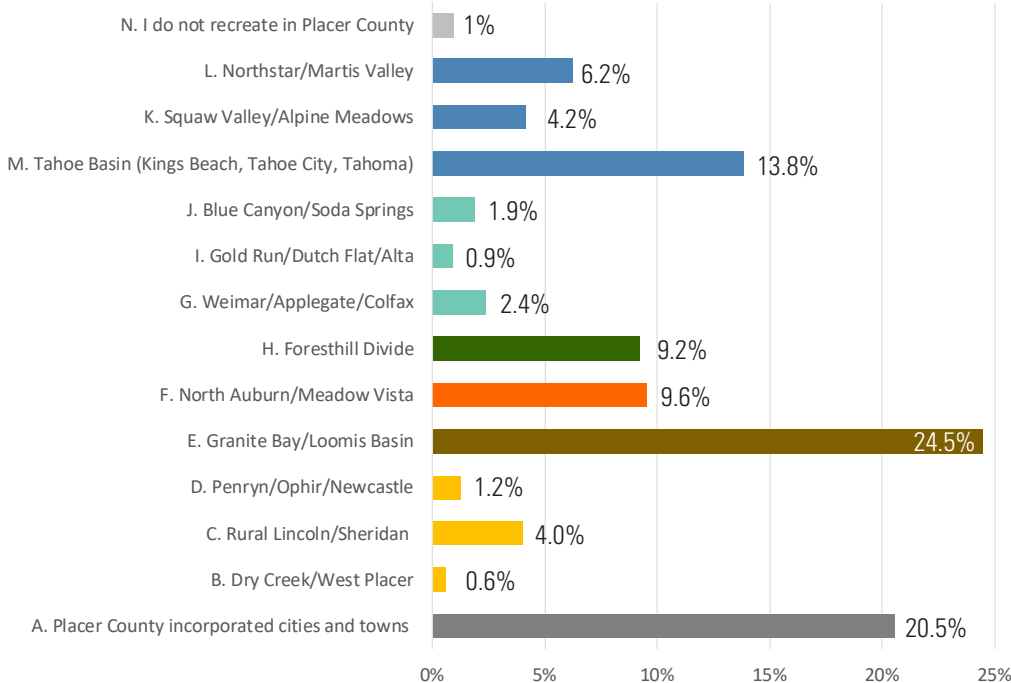
40 Valley Area Agencies and Organizations Engaged

# PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

## WHERE SURVEY RESPONDENTS LIVE



## WHERE SURVEY RESPONDENTS RECREATE



Respondents primarily recreate where they live. More respondents indicated they recreate in Tahoe Basin, Northstar, Rural Lincoln, and Foresthill Divide regions than the number of respondents indicating they live in those regions. This suggests these locations are used as destinations for regional and statewide recreation due to the presence of state parks, federal lands, Lake Tahoe, and Hidden Falls Regional Park.

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## QUALITY OF FACILITIES

The majority of facilities were rated as excellent or good. Beaches were shown as having less favorable quality. This is partially a result of more “don’t know” responses to the question because Placer County-owned beaches are located in the Tahoe region where not all respondents recreate.

**73%**  
Rate the quality of parks as excellent or good

Figure 1: Quality of Parks



## TOP ACTIVITIES OF PARTICIPATION

Over 50 percent of respondents indicated they participated in the following activities in the last 12 months:

- Walking
- Hiking
- Just enjoying nature
- Visiting a beach
- Swimming
- Accessing backcountry trails
- Biking/mountain biking
- Dog walking

The majority of responses show activities requiring trails and walking paths and low-impact recreation activities. Responses also support providing access to and facilities in open lands to support desired recreation activities.

**89%**  
Walked in the last 12 months

**78%**  
Hiked in the last 12 months

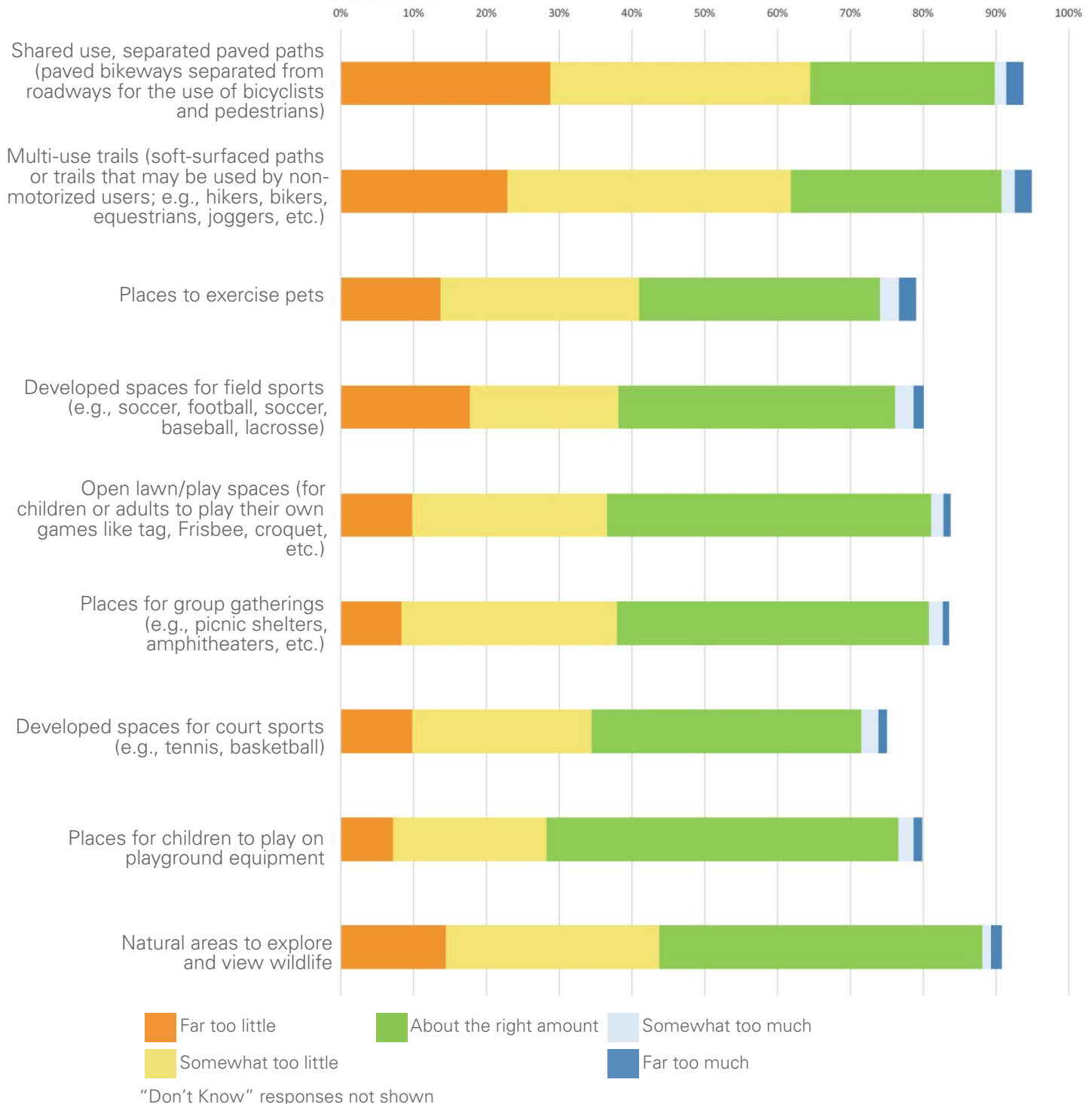
**77%**  
Just enjoyed nature in the last 12 months

# PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

## QUANTITY OF FACILITIES

Respondents indicated there was about the right quantity of facilities for the majority of the parks facility categories and for the amount of natural lands to explore. Categories where respondents felt there might be far or somewhat too little quantity available included both paved and natural surface trails. Significantly different than the rest of the county, 74% of the respondents from Granite Bay/Loomis area indicated there is far or somewhat too little number of sports fields. Categories with 28 percent or more “don’t know” responses are not shown.

**Figure 2: Quantity of Parks, Trails, and Open Space**



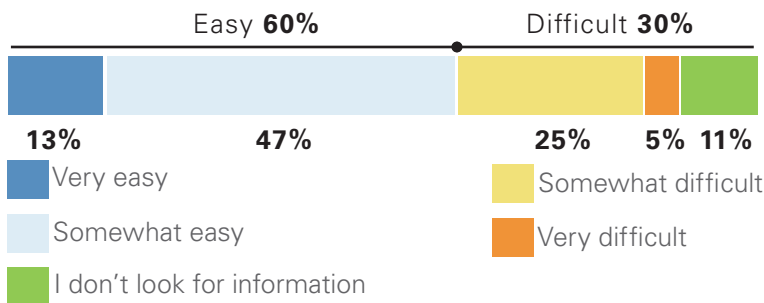
# PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

## COMMUNICATIONS

Overall respondents indicated being able to find information and locate parks facilities with relative ease. There is significant area for improvement, however, and the use of social media, web, and mobile applications to distribute information are areas of opportunity. In particular, trail mapping could be improved since 37 percent of respondents were neither satisfied or dissatisfied and 17 percent of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

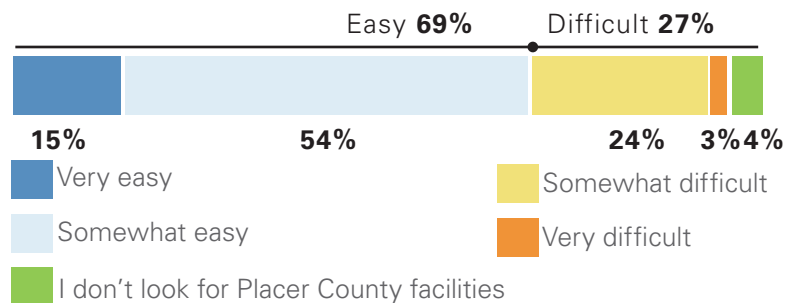
### Ability to Find Information

How easy or difficult is it to find information on Placer County's parks, trails, beaches and open space?



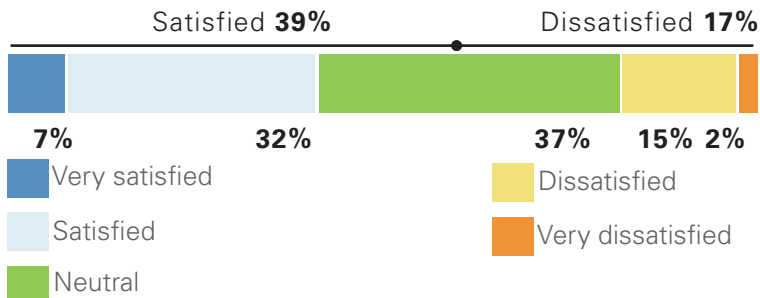
### Ability to Find or Locate Parks

How easy or difficult is it to find Placer County's parks, trails, beaches, and open spaces?

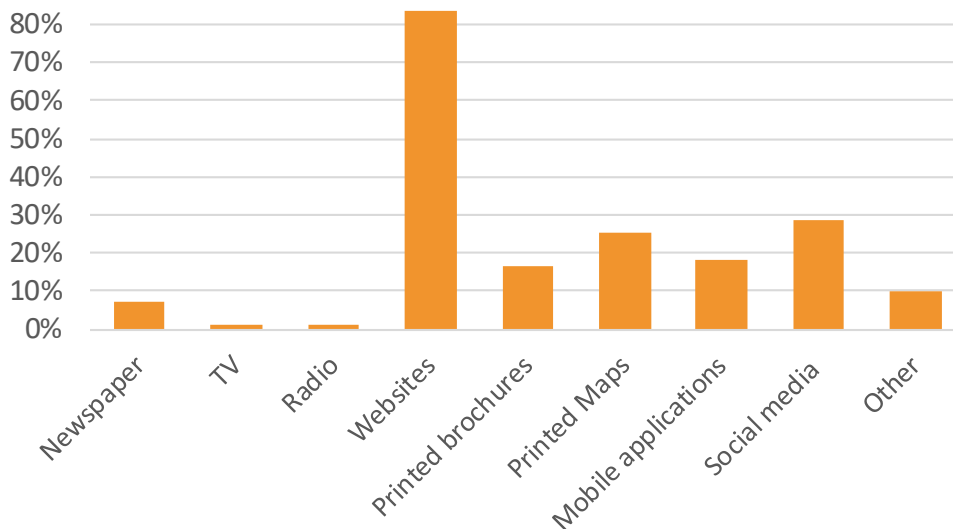


### Quality of Trail Mapping

Satisfaction with overall quality of trail mapping and directional signage.



### Top Two Ways of Getting Information



**59%**  
Use websites  
or social media  
to get info

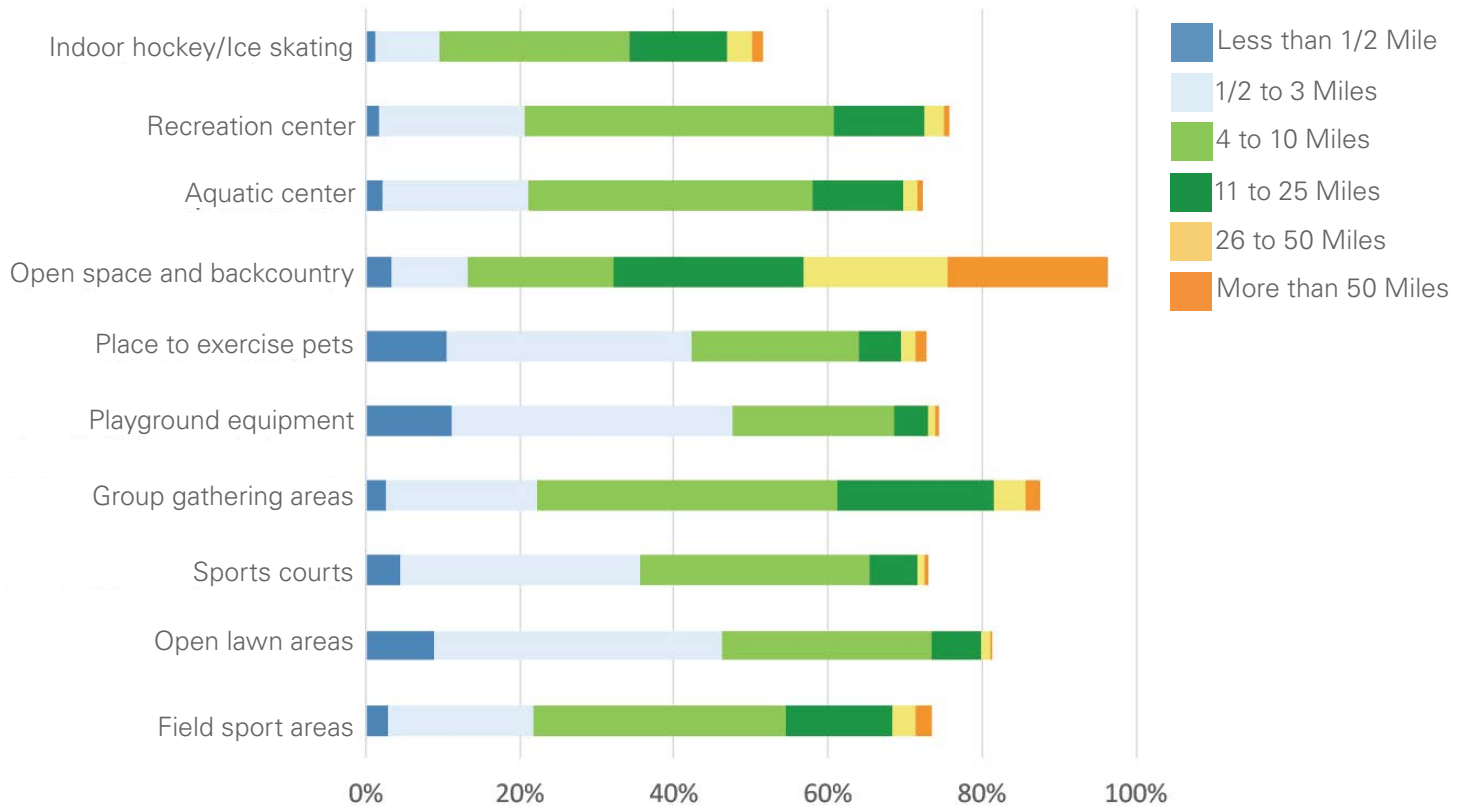


# PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

## DISTANCE WILLING TO TRAVEL

The majority of respondents were willing to travel between 1/2 mile to 10 miles to access developed park facilities. Access to parks by a connected trail system is important to allow residents a safe and comfortable alternative to access parklands by walking and biking. Respondents were willing to travel further to access open space and backcountry sites, likely because it is recognized that those are destination driven locations which can not be sited in every neighborhood.

**Figure 3: Distance Willing to Travel to Access Parks**



## ELEMENTS THAT PREVENT USE

Out of the 27 options for reasons that prevent respondents or members of their household from using Placer County's parks, trails, beaches, or open spaces more often, four items were selected by 20 percent or more of all respondents. The next four elements that prevented more use were selected by 16 to 17 percent of respondents. Improvements could be made in trail connectivity, parking, capacity of facilities, providing information, and trail design to minimize user conflicts.

*Trails don't connect to where I want to go*

*No parking is available for vehicles*

*Beaches are crowded*

*Trails are crowded*

**REASONS THAT PREVENT MORE PARK USE**

**>20%**

of **Respondents** indicated

*Unfamiliar with Placer County parks*

*Lack of restrooms*

*User conflicts on trails*

*Hard to find information about parks*

**REASONS THAT PREVENT MORE PARK USE**

**16-17%**

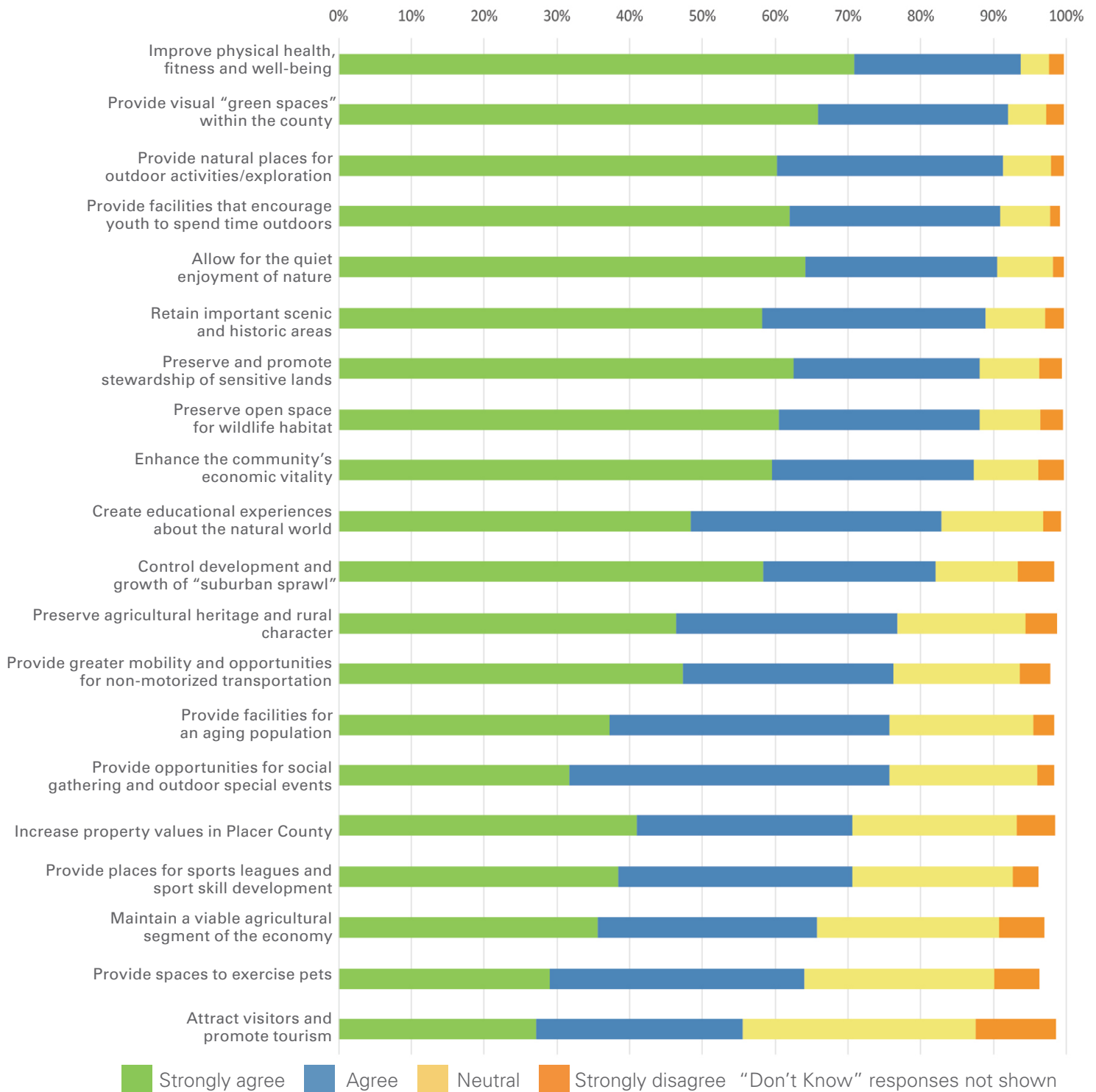
of **Respondents** indicated

# PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

## PRIMARY PURPOSE OF PARKS

Twenty options were presented in order to gain clarity for how respondents view the role or primary purpose of parks, trails, and open space in Placer County. Overall, respondents identified that parks are primarily for health, fitness, and well-being. Although respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with almost all of the purposes, items that received the strongest support included categories involving a connection to nature and the ability to explore the outdoors.

**Figure 4: Primary Purpose for Parks, Trails, and Open Space**



# PARK SYSTEM WANTS & NEEDS

## SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Respondents were asked to indicate their support or opposition to potential improvements to or new facilities for trails, parks, beaches, and open space facilities. Support for trail improvements to both paved and natural surface trails received the strongest support overall (over 90 percent of respondents Support or Strongly Support trail connectivity of both types, walking loops, and regional connections). In some instances, regions within the county had stronger support for certain facilities. These variances are summarized in Chapter 5 in conjunction with each of the region summaries. In general, greater support for more traditional park facilities and sports fields was received from respondents from the Granite Bay/Loomis Basin region. Respondents from the Tahoe region showed strong support for trails, snow removal of trails in the winter, a mountain bike course, and beach improvements.

*Provide more walkway loops that are easy for seniors and youths to use*

*Connect destinations with paved bikeways*

*Connect existing paved bikeways together*

*Create regional, paved bikeway connections*

### PAVED BIKEWAYS AND WALKWAYS IMPROVEMENTS

>90%

of **Respondents**  
Strongly Support  
or Support

*Connect existing dirt trails together*

*Provide new dirt trails in areas that lack them*

*Utilize dirt trails to connect destinations*

### DIRT TRAILS IMPROVEMENTS

>90%

of **Respondents**  
Strongly Support  
or Support

*Reduce user conflict thru trail design & management standards*

*Provide dirt paths adjacent to paved trails*

*Provide separate trails for different user groups*

*Provide a greater variety of trail types for backcountry*

### DIRT TRAILS IMPROVEMENTS

79-85%

of **Respondents**  
Strongly Support  
or Support

*Improve maintenance*

*Provide improved digital trail maps*

*Improve directional signage to trails and bikeways*

*Improve safety signage for trails and bikeways*

### TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS

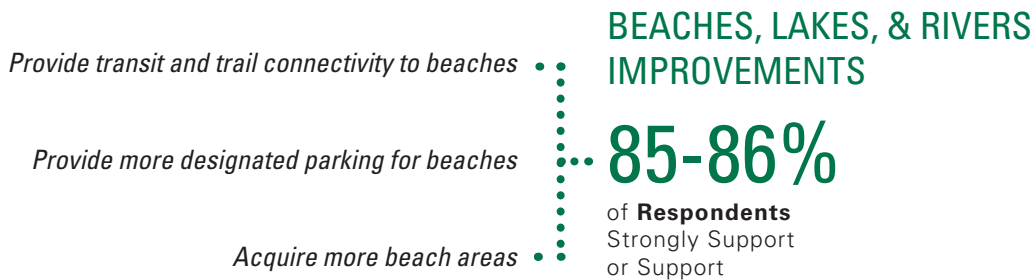
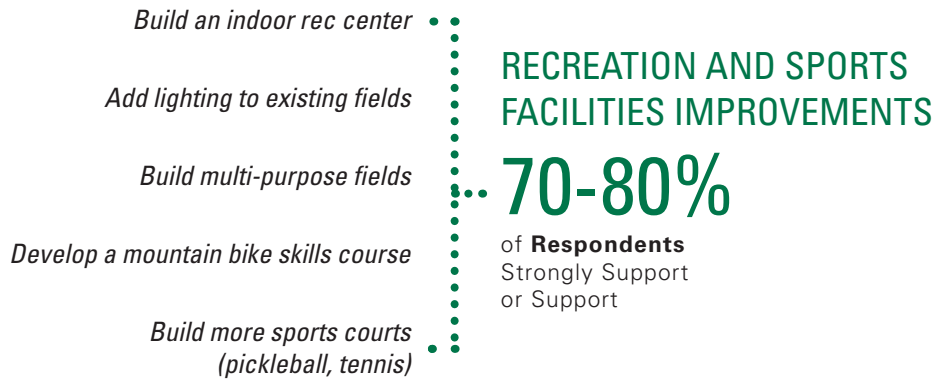
>90%

of **Respondents**  
Strongly Support  
or Support



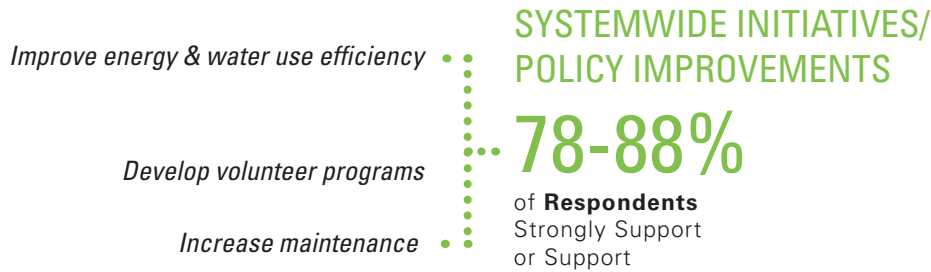
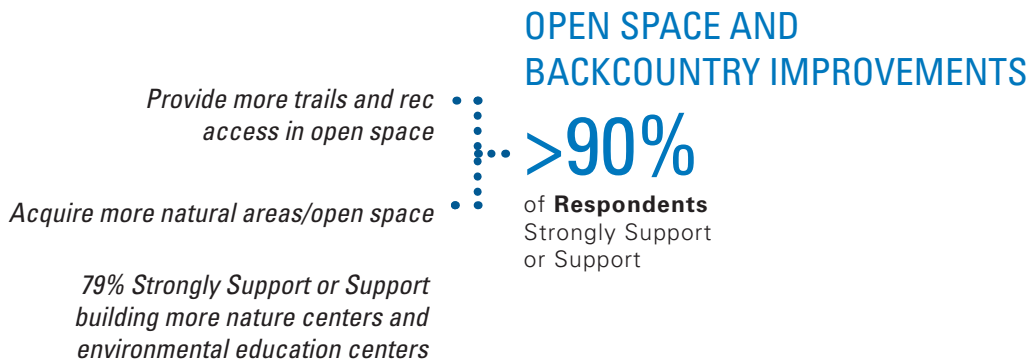
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## SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENTS



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## SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENTS



## PRIORITIES

Of the 2,000+ write-in responses, three of the top six priorities listed by respondents, include the following:

- Multi-use trails (13% of the write-in responses)
- Maintenance improvements (10% of the write-in responses)
- Acquire open space (8% of the write-in responses)
- Paved paths (6% of the write-in responses)
- Fields (4% of the write-in responses)
- Dirt bike trails (4% of the write-in responses)

## COUNTYWIDE PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Connected Trail System

Paved and Dirt Trails

Better Mapping & Wayfinding

Bicycle Skills Course/ Pump Track

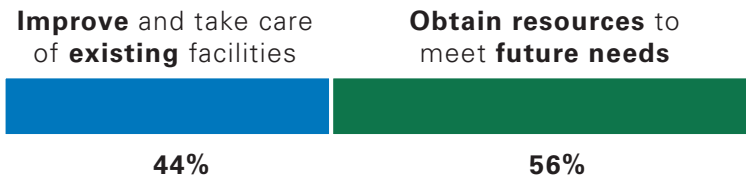
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## BUDGET PRIORITIES

Respondents were asked if the division budget for parks, trails, beaches, and open space should be used to focus on improving the capacity and condition of existing facilities or in investing and acquiring new lands and developing new facilities. Responses were somewhat balanced, with a desire to look to the future while maintaining the existing system.

In relationship to other County departments and funding responsibilities, over 60 percent respondents felt allocating funding was Essential and High Priority. The level of support for funding parks, trails, and open space reflects the significance they hold for county residents.

### Priority of Park's Budget



### Priority of Park Funding

What level of priority do you personally place on allocating funding for park, trail, beaches and open space services relative to other governmental services?

