

Parks and Recreation
Master Plan
General Survey

Executive Summary

URBAN DESIGN
DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) General Survey was created to gather substantial public input during the challenges presented by the 2020 pandemic. The online survey format generated a robust community response and was able to reach both year round and seasonal residents. The City heavily promoted the survey via the City's Facebook, Weekly Highlight Report, and through YouTube via Punta Gorda's Place to Play video updates. The survey opened in June 2020 and generated 354 responses before closing in September 2020.

The survey's 30-questions were separated into five (5) different sections:

- Seven (7) general questions
- Eight (8) amenities questions
- Three (3) maintenance questions
- Five (5) open-ended questions
- Seven (7) demographic questions.

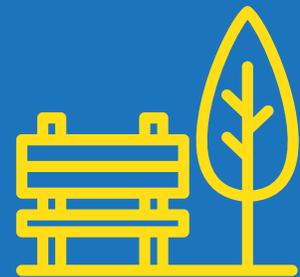
The sections were created to help the flow of the survey and to better identify the kind of questions being asked. These questions were designed to generate data on the public's use and general impressions of the current state of the parks and amenities. The survey also provides useful information from the public on opportunities they see for potential improvement.

Connectivity with People
Good Job of Mowing
Great Place to Socialize
Great Location
Likes Cleanliness
Love PRWC Coming

Comments from the Park Pop-Ins

KEY INFORMATION:

- Survey was open for total of four (4) months
- 354 total respondents on the survey
- 30-question survey
- Separated into five (5) sections
- Shared on multiple social platforms
 - Facebook
 - YouTube
 - Email
- Shared on a weekly to bi-weekly basis



GENERAL QUESTIONS

The first section of the survey asks seven (7) general questions. These questions range from asking how often respondents visit the park to asking if respondents think parks and recreation should be expanded. From the seven (7) questions, Staff learned that 99% of the respondents had visited at least one of the City's parks, 38% visiting the City's parks weekly. Staff wanted to know what might prevent someone from visiting the City's park system. Most of the respondents expressed that nothing prevented them from visiting the City's park system. From the options provided, 24.29% of the respondents stated that COVID-19 prevented them from visiting the City's park system. COVID-19 also limited the events and activities within the parks throughout most of 2020.

Respondents were also asked if any areas in the City lacked parks and recreation, with 45% respondents stating that they did not find any of the areas in City lacking parks and recreation and 63% of the respondents stating that there is currently a sufficient amount. A few of the respondents did make some suggestions with 18% indicating Punta Gorda Isles and another 14% indicating Southern Neighborhoods (Burnt Store Meadows, Seminole Lakes, et al) could use parks and recreational opportunities in those areas. These findings generally cement the idea that the majority of the respondents are content with the current size of the City's park system. Although most of the respondents expressed that there was no need for new park facilities, 58% of the respondents felt that the existing park facilities should be expanded. This could indicate that facilities may not be meeting all the community's needs or expectations for access. All in all, 60% of the respondents are generally satisfied with the City's park system.

99%

of respondents have visited at least one of the City's parks

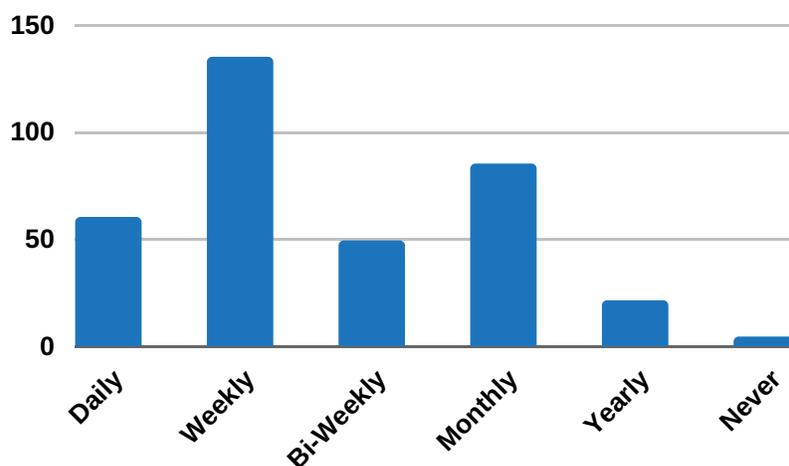
COVID-19

was one of the main reasons that prevents respondents from using the City's park system

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respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the City's park system

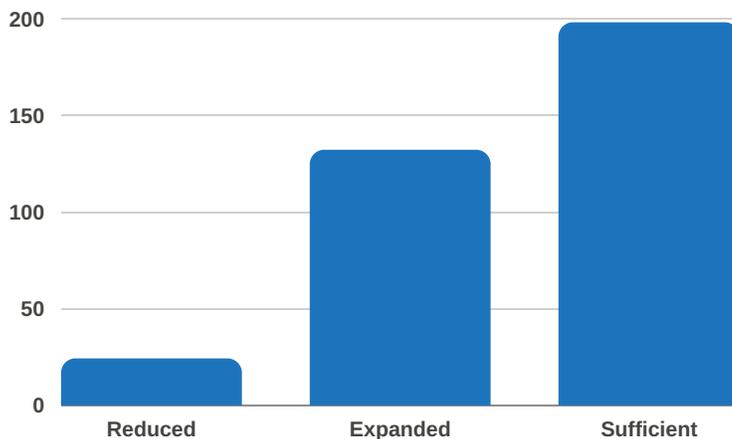
How often respondents visit the City's parks.



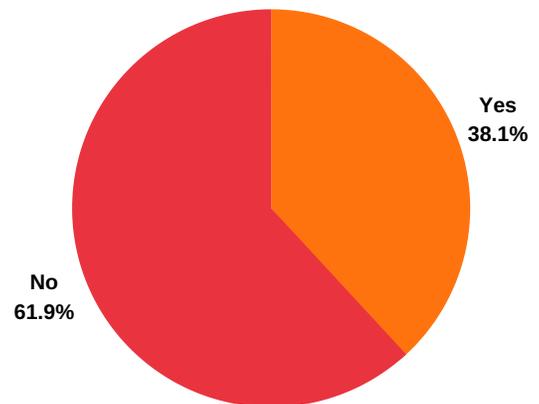
AMENITIES QUESTIONS

The amenities section of the survey asked eight (8) questions that were amenities, rentals, and events based. Staff asked the respondents their feelings towards water based, activity based, and general site amenities. A majority of respondents felt most park amenities across the three categories were meeting or exceeding their expectations. High points included waterfront access, walking paths, and lighting. On the other hand, a significant number of respondents felt that the several amenities were below expectations including kayak launches, bicycle paths, and parking areas. No amenities in the activity based category received below expectations responses above 28 percent.

In the category of water based amenities the respondents were generally well satisfied with waterfront access, fishing piers, and boat launches. Since Punta Gorda is a boating community there was a specific question regarding boat launch (ramp) usage, with respondents indicating that over 60 percent do not use these facilities. This may indicate that these facilities, while generally valuable to our community, are not vital to the average park user. Responses also indicated that the City should explore ways to enhance or provide more beach areas and paddle craft launch areas.



Should Special Events be expanded?



Do you use the City's boat ramp facilities?

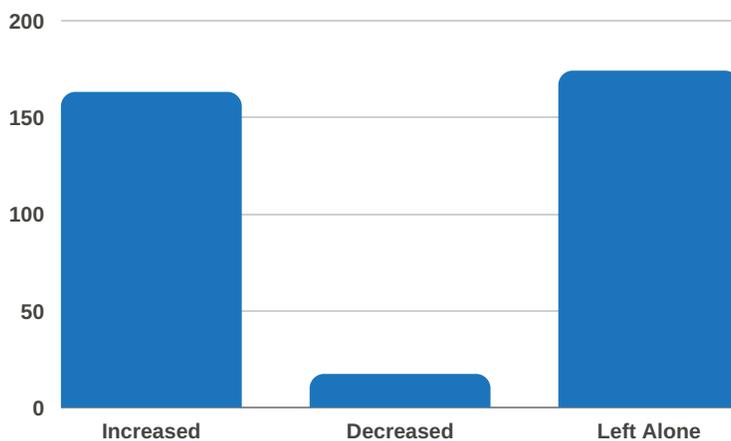


AMENITIES QUESTIONS

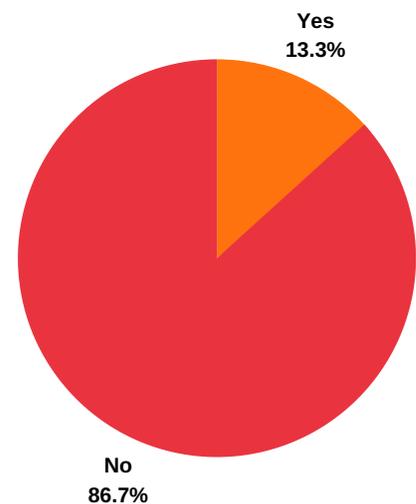
The survey respondents generally found the activity based amenities in the parks to meet or exceed their expectations with bicycle/walking paths, playgrounds, tennis courts, and fitness equipment receiving the highest positive responses. While “Below Expectations” responses were under 30% for all activity based amenities, bicycle paths, trails, and pickleball courts received the highest number of such responses.

The survey respondents also found the site based amenities, such as lighting and seating, in the parks to meet or exceed their expectations, with the exception of shade structures and parking areas. These two exceptions were also suggested as areas to improve upon in the open-ended questions.

The amenities section also inquired about events and park facility rentals. Over 80% of survey respondents indicated that they had never rented a park facility. This may be due to lack of need/interest or it may be because the general public is unaware that such facility rentals are available. On the event side, the overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that the number of special events should be maintained or increased. These responses are a good indicator of the desirability of the use of the parks for such special events.



Funding for City park facilities/amenities should be...



Have you ever rented a City park?



MAINTENANCE QUESTIONS

The three (3) maintenance related survey questions were based on a rating of good (highest), fair, and poor (lowest), with the option to choose “N/A.” When respondents were asked how they would rate the current parks conditions, the majority gave it a rating of good. Regarding maintenance, a little over 70% gave it a rating of good with over 75% of the respondents rating park cleanliness as good. These responses reflect well on the hard work of Public Works staff and contractors.

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RESPONDENTS

Feel that the current parks conditions are good (highest rating).

70%

RESPONDENTS

Gave the current parks maintenance a rating of good (highest ranking).

77%

RESPONDENTS

Find the parks to be very clean.



OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

The five (5) open-ended questions asked about other suggestions, improvements, and maintenance. Although some of the questions related to previous questions, Staff wanted to include all open-ended questions in one section so that respondents were not constantly going back and forth. The open-ended questions were provided for those respondents who wished to elaborate further.

Staff wanted to see if any of the respondents felt that there were any neighborhoods in need of a park. Although 60% chose no, 40% of the respondents still gave some suggestions. Some of the suggestions included Burnt Store Isles, Downtown, and on Aqui Esta. 152 of the respondents gave suggestions on where park access can improve. Some of the suggestions dealt with increased parking, improvements at Ponce de Leon Park, and pickleball courts. 215 respondents indicated that they wanted more specific amenities with more places to sit, kayak launches, bike access, event spaces, and more water stations.

Although the majority of the respondents rated maintenance a “good” in the specific maintenance questions, 157 of the respondents suggested some form of maintenance improvements. Suggestions included adding more flowers, trimming dead branches, dumpsters being emptied more often, and more personnel to make this all happen in the maintenance department. These comments appear to indicate a desire for a higher level of park maintenance.

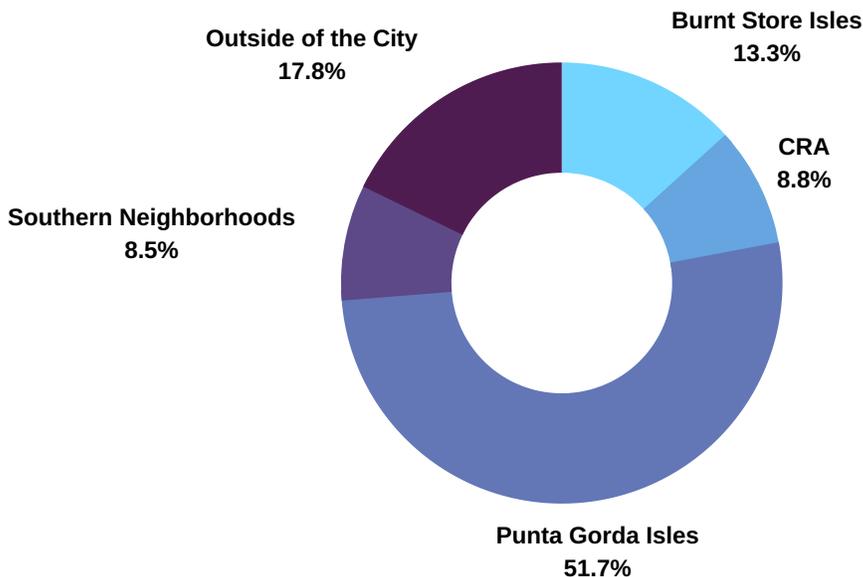
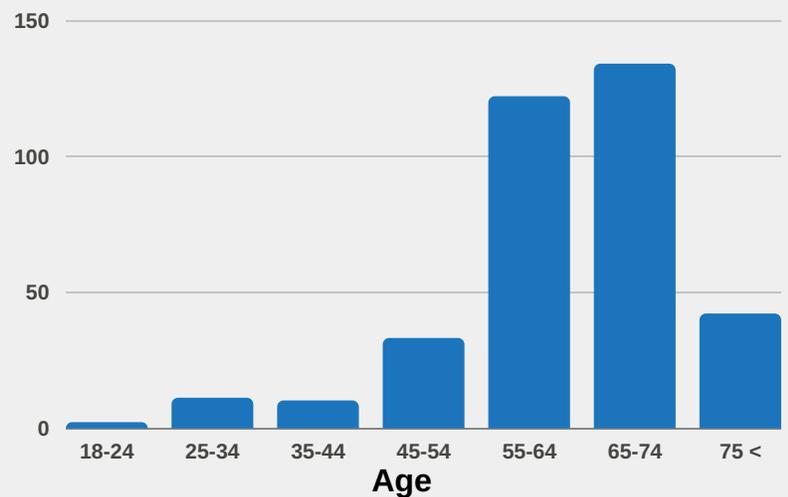


DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

To end the survey, seven (7) demographic questions were provided to have a better idea of who took the survey and how they use the City's park system. 72% of the respondents are in the 55-74 age group. As can be expected with the age demographics, over 90% of the respondents do not have any children under the age of 18, but 35% of the respondents did indicate that grandchildren/children under the age of 18 frequently visit. When it came to living situations, over 90% indicated they owned their home and over 50% stating that they live in Punta Gorda Isles. The majority of the respondents indicated that they lived in Punta Gorda year-round.

AGE

Data shows that the majority of the respondents were of ages 55-74. Although, a younger demographic still took part in the survey.



LIVING SITUATIONS

Over 50% of the respondents live in Punta Gorda Isles and 69% of the respondents have resided in Punta Gorda for at least 12 months.