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# Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Mailback Survey

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*Prepared by:*

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# PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION MAILBACK SURVEY

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## **SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

The Town of Pagosa Springs commissioned a survey to be conducted of residents and second homeowners in Archuleta County regarding their parks and recreation needs. A “mailback” survey approach was used, with 2,200 surveys mailed out in February, 2006. The primary source of names was derived from a random sampling of property owners within the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation district. In addition to the PAWS database, a random sampling of properties outside the water district using the County tax assessors’ database supplemented the PAWS list.

Of 2,200 surveys mailed, a total of 459 were returned resulting in a response rate of 21 percent. This is a quite strong response rate as typical responses for mailback surveys range from 10 to 20 percent. Note that second homeowners were also included in the sampling, and that individuals were not allowed to fill out a survey unless they had been randomly selected. The margin of error for this sample size is +/- 4.5 percent<sup>1</sup>.

The content of this report consists of a narrative section which discusses the overall findings; the survey instrument; comments in response to open-ended questions; and data tables. Key segments of the population were identified as being important in terms of their behavior and preferences, and have been segmented through cross-tabulation where appropriate. These population segments include: voters within the Town of Pagosa Springs; marital status/children in household; location of residence; second homeownership; and whether the person is an avid user of parks/recreation programs.

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<sup>1</sup> For a total sample size of 459, the margin of error is +/- 4.5 percent calculated for questions at 50% response.

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### General Improvements

- A key finding that emerged from the research was residents' strong enthusiasm for the community's parks, trails, and open space. Residents are active users of these downtown assets and would like to see expansion in all three areas. When asked to prioritize potential improvements in the areas of parks and recreation, "open space acquisition and preservation" was the top priority (84 percent). Also very important to residents was expansion of walking and bike trails -- within Town as well as linking the east and west ends of Pagosa Springs. Other improvements that were important were a new recreation center, improved "gateways" to Town, and an outdoor amphitheater for performing arts.
- The strength of the community's desire for "open space acquisition" is an interesting finding given the fact that Pagosa Springs is surrounded by public lands. Aside from the issue of ease of access and convenience to users, the data and comments suggest that residents would like to see more *integration* of public open spaces interspersed throughout the community—through neighborhood parks, bike paths and trails, and so on. Other research has shown that residents are quite concerned about urban sprawl, and that perhaps this strong advocacy for open space is another way of voicing support for mitigating sprawl through dedicated open space preservation, buffers, and wildlife corridors. In other words, this strong level of support may partially derive from a sense of urgency on the part of the community to ensure that there be a plan for open space preservation in light of the rapid pace of development in the community.

### San Juan River

- Regarding the San Juan River, respondents are focused on improving public access to the river. Again, similar to the issue with open space, this is perhaps an indication of the public's concern about preserving access to the river as development pressures increase along the river. Also important to residents is shore habitat improvement, parking access to the river, improved river trail system, and tubing areas. Somewhat less important are fishing habitat improvement, ADA/handicap accessibility to the river and parks, better boat and raft access, and kayaking features.

### Reservoir Hill

- Reservoir Hill is clearly a unique and important asset to the downtown experience in Pagosa Springs. However, one-quarter of respondents have never visited Reservoir Hill, with singles and families being the primary users. Nearly three-quarters of respondents would like to see improved on-site amenities to Reservoir Hill such as restrooms, water fountains, more picnic tables, and so on. Additional improvements receiving significant support include an expanded hiking trail system, more information on what is available on the Hill, and improved parking. It should be noted that the latter two improvements are not particularly capital intensive and would not require a significant monetary investment in order to increase the year-round usage of Reservoir Hill (assuming that the parking issue is more about raising awareness on where lots are located as opposed to increasing the capacity – rarely are the lots at the base of Reservoir Hill full).
- Interestingly, 58 percent of respondents wanted to see a dedicated area for snow sports activities, with one person commenting that they "*wish there was a small ski lift on*

*Reservoir Hill that only ran for small kids learning to ski. It's a long, expensive day if you take your kids to Wolf Creek if they are only learning how to ski. It should only be for beginners as the hill can't support many skiers at one time".*

- Less important are improved directional/interpretive signage, more activities on the Hill in general, and more points of access from Town. And finally, least important are "improved performing arts venues on Reservoir Hill," a nature center/environmental educational facility, vehicular access to the top of the Hill, and an expanded equestrian trail system.

### Recreational Needs of the Community

- Families are the primary users and supporters of expanded recreational programs and facilities. Many feel that the recreational needs of children, particularly middle and high schoolers, are underserved. Even older respondents recognized the need for more activities for youth – with one respondent saying: *"Better activities for the children of our community need to be available where the children can participate in a safe environment where children of all ages become involved and are role models for each other and growth potential becomes an asset to the child. Anything to help keep them involved and off the streets loitering."*
- A similar survey was fielded last year among junior high and high schoolers: over two-thirds of students felt that activities and recreational facilities for youth are "inadequate." Among students, development of a multi-purpose recreation center was by far the most important improvement that the Town could make to improve the youth experience in Pagosa Springs – 79 percent of youth indicated that the addition of a recreation center would be "important" to them. Parks were also important to youth, with 65 percent supporting "large parks dedicated to organized sports" and 53 percent for a "skateboarding/in-line skate park."

### Parks and Recreation Programs

- Approximately one-fifth of respondents participated in parks and recreation programs over the past two years, suggesting some opportunity for expanded penetration into the youth segment of the population. Based on the ratings, improving the scheduling/organization and quality of instruction of these programs may improve participation rates. In addition, over half (59 percent) of respondents indicated that they would like to see "more youth programs and activities."

### Recreation Center

- While improving and perhaps expanding youth programs might address some of the perceived lack of activities for children, a new recreation center was consistently mentioned among adults and youth themselves as being an important amenity that would directly serve the needs of children and families in the community. The most important features of a new recreation center were a weight room, indoor pool, multi-purpose space for meetings, and an area for teen activities and programs.
- The broad level of support for teen activities and programs – including even support from those *without* children – is an interesting and somewhat surprising finding. There was not this same degree of consensus regarding programs for children in other age categories, suggesting that the population as a whole considers healthy and active programs for teens to be a pressing community-wide issue. As one respondent put it:

*All residents of Archuleta county and the town of Pagosa benefit [from these programs] even if they never personally use them. It empowers our youth to become accountable and responsible by directing energy to positive activities that build character and a sense of community. This is a win- win opportunity.*

- Financing for a new recreation center should come from user fees, a sales tax increase, and impact fees. A number of respondents also mentioned grants and fundraising as important sources of revenues that should be explored. Receiving little support was the option of increasing property taxes through the formation of a special recreation district. Detractors from this approach felt that it was unfair to tax those who would not be the primary users of the facility. Others felt that there were higher priorities for public dollars, such as roads, health facilities, schools, and expanded infrastructure.

In summary, most respondents recognized the need to address the issue of providing adequate recreational programs and facilities in the community, especially for children. As one person put it: *“Although we, as seniors, have not participated in youth or adult sports activities, we have enjoyed watching your family members play.”* As Pagosa Springs continues to attract retirees and second homeowners, it becomes increasingly important to balance the needs and demands of the diverse population segments that make up the community. Reflective of these diverse needs was the desire for a wide array of recreational amenities, such as open space, trails and bike paths, parks, a recreation center, and so on.

Developing a long-term strategic plan that prioritizes and phases these improvements with an eye toward the anticipated change in demographics of residents and visitors is strongly recommended as a priority for the Town. Formation of an advisory board to guide this strategic planning process that includes residents, Town and County staff, representatives of the tourism and recreation industries, etc. would provide the diverse perspectives that are necessary for a thorough and comprehensive public input process. It is important that key stakeholders be identified and their needs further explored through small meeting/focus group formats. This will serve to refine the priorities that emerged from this quantitative survey approach as well as begin the public outreach element that should be part of the plan.

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# REPORT FINDINGS

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## DEMOGRAPHICS

- Demographics of respondents to the mailback survey are shown in Figures 1 and 2. Survey respondents were generally evenly split between male and female (47/53 percent, respectively); more strongly families (31 percent) and empty nesters (40 percent); moderately affluent (one-third earn over \$75,000/year); and older (average age of 54 years).
- As compared to U.S. Census data (Figure 2), respondents to the survey tended to be older and more affluent than the resident population. It should be noted however that Census data do not include second homeowners. Nearly one out of four homes in Archuleta County are second homes (defined by the Census as vacant homes for “seasonal, recreational, or occasional use”). These second-homeowners are not represented in the Census data if they have listed their primary residence as another location. Clearly, this is an extremely affluent segment of the population that we anticipate to grow as baby-boomers mature into their retirement years and purchase second homes. This segment of the population not only boasts high income levels, but also has needs and desires that will have a growing impact on desirable retirement communities such as Pagosa Springs. We highlight this dynamic as it obviously has an impact on the parks and recreation needs of the community.

FIGURE 1  
RESPONDENT PROFILE

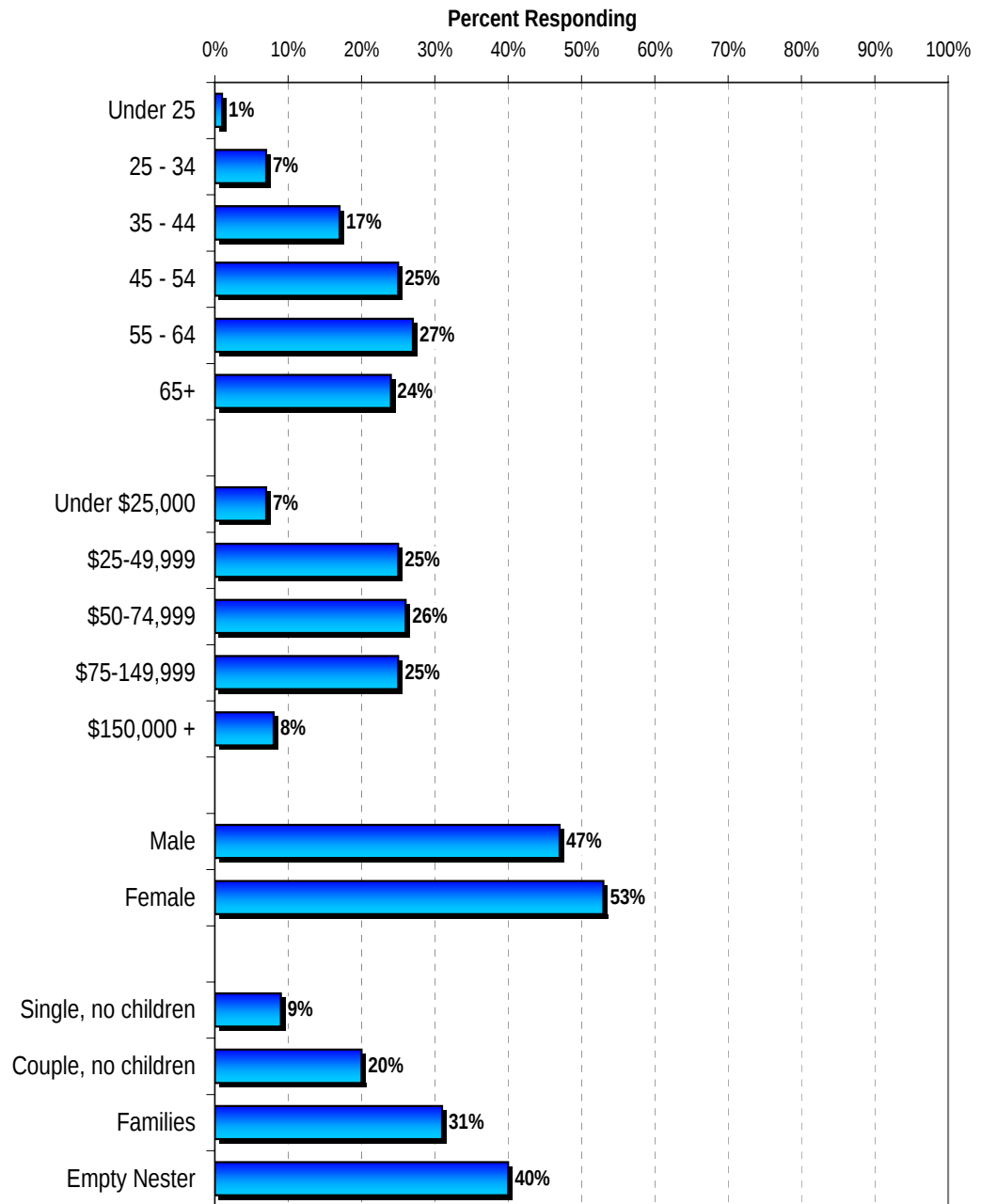
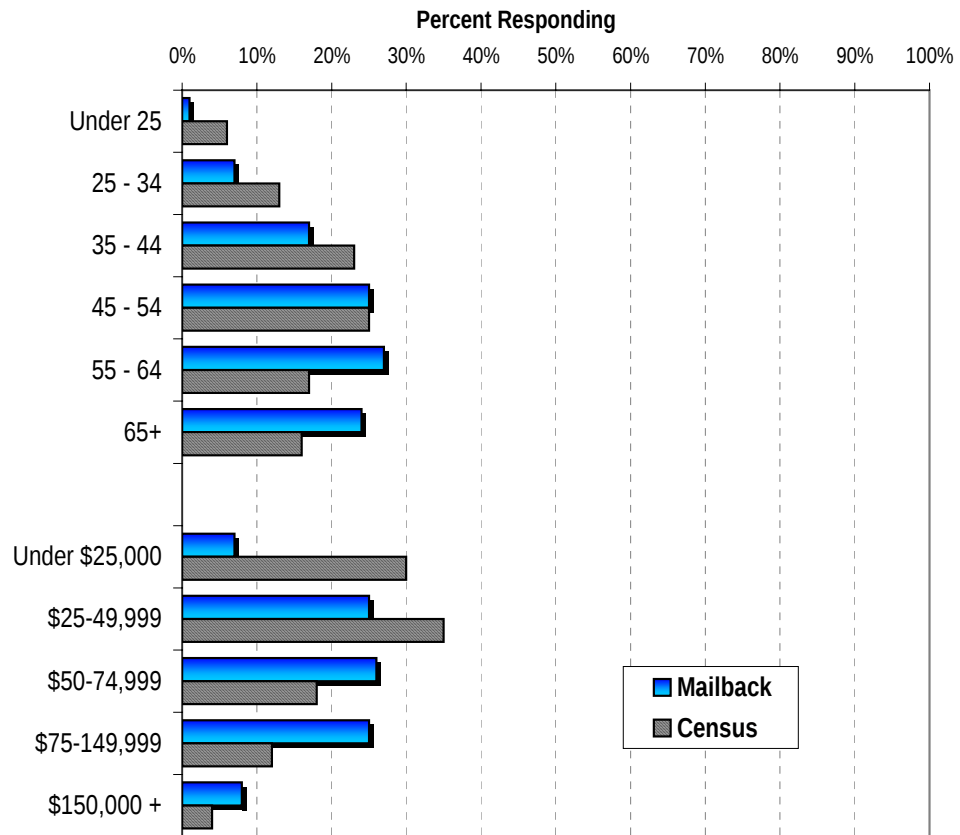


FIGURE 2  
PROFILE COMPARISON TO 2000 U.S. CENSUS DATA

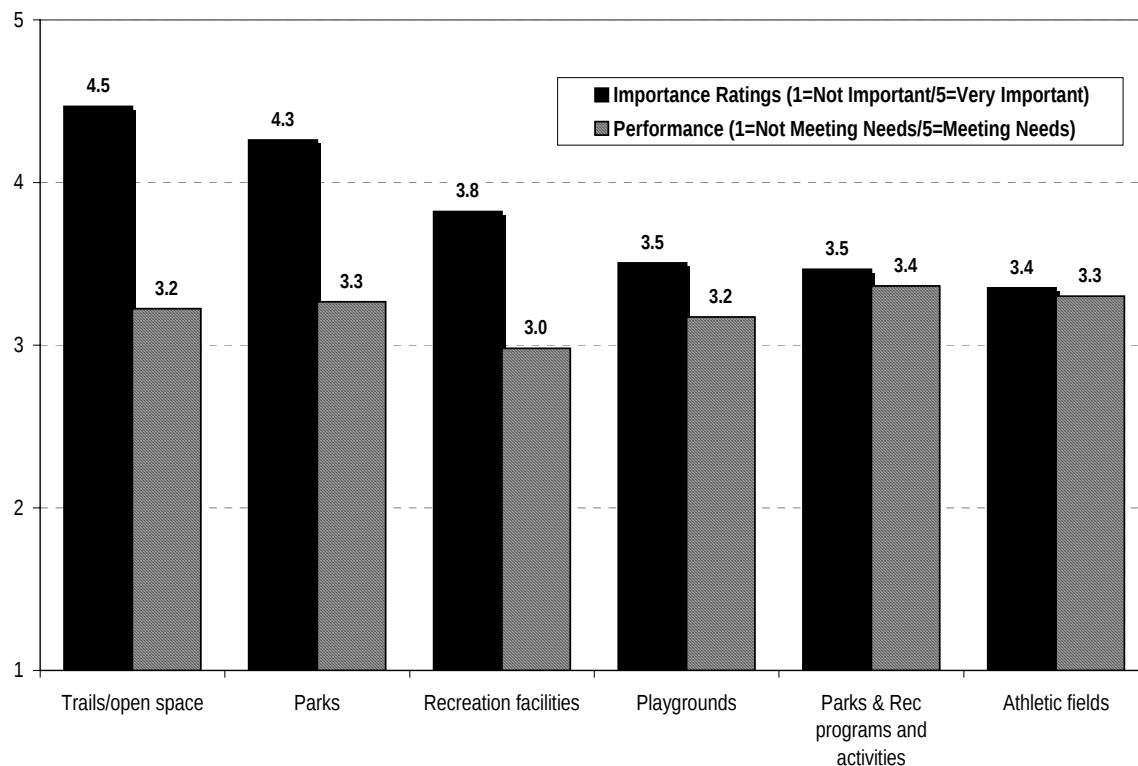


**Note:** No adjustments were made for wage inflation to the 2000 U.S. Census income data.

## GENERAL PRIORITIES OF THE COMMUNITY

- Respondents were asked to rate how important general aspects of parks and recreation are to them personally, and then how well the needs of the community are being met in those areas. As shown in the figure below, trails/open space and parks are most important to respondents, followed by recreation facilities, playgrounds, parks/recreation programs, and athletic fields.
- In terms of how well the community's needs are being met in these areas, there is a significant "gap" in performance with respect to trails/open space, parks, and, to a lesser extent, recreation facilities. The community's playgrounds, parks/recreation programs, and athletic fields perform better in terms of meeting public needs relative to their overall importance.

FIGURE 3  
HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING TO YOU?  
AND HOW WELL ARE THEY MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY?



- Activities and recreational facilities for adults, seniors, and elementary students are perceived to more adequately meet these group's needs as compared to preschoolers and middle/high school students.
- As shown in the table below, 45 percent felt preschooler's needs were being met; 50 percent for elementary; and 37 percent for middle/high school – the lowest rate of satisfaction of all the groups. By comparison, 49 percent felt adult recreation needs were answered and senior activities/facilities received the strongest positive response, at 70 percent.

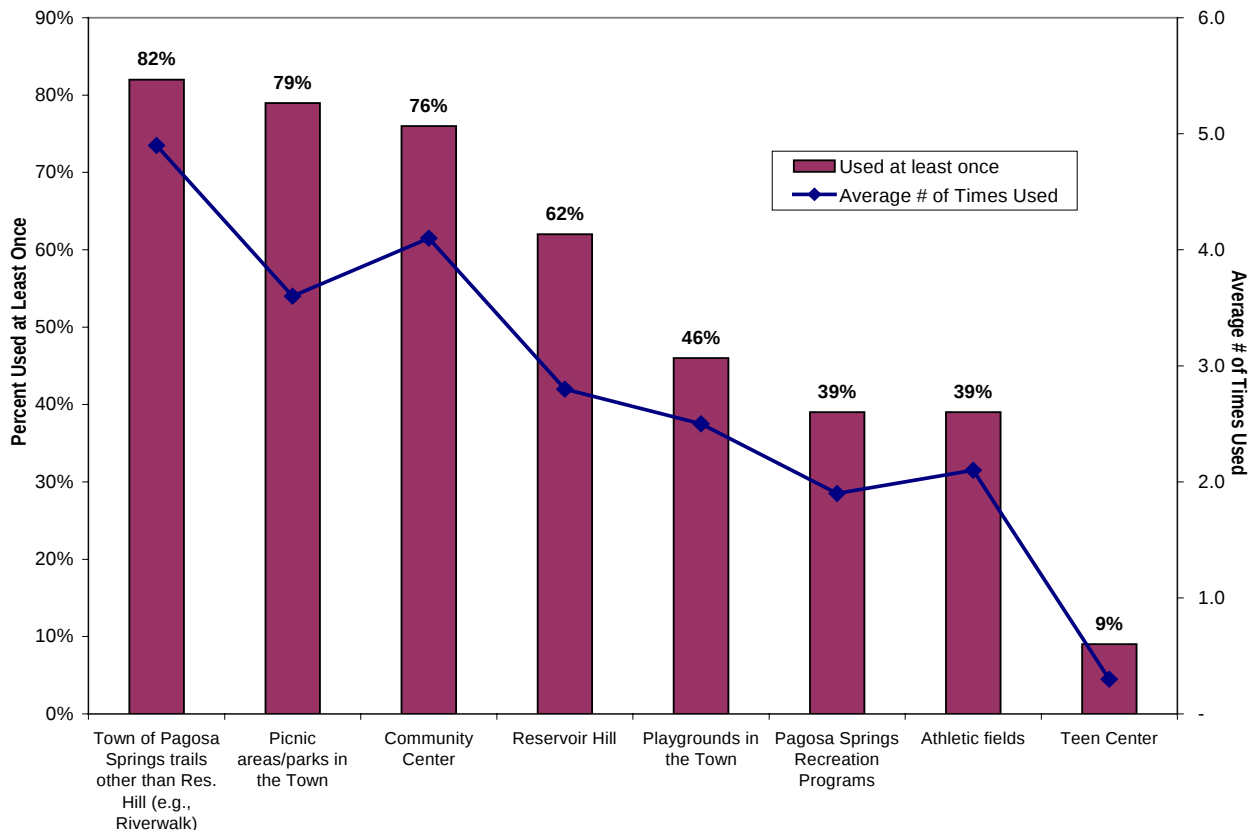
TABLE 1  
DO YOU FEEL THERE ARE ADEQUATE ACTIVITIES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN  
PAGOSA FOR THE FOLLOWING AGE GROUPS?

|                    | YES | NO  |
|--------------------|-----|-----|
| Preschool          | 45% | 55% |
| Elementary         | 50  | 50  |
| Middle/High School | 37  | 63  |
| Adults             | 49  | 51  |
| Seniors            | 70  | 30  |

## FREQUENCY OF USAGE: RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

- Respondents were asked how many times in the past twelve months they had used recreation facilities and programs. As shown in the figure below, the most commonly used amenity is “trails in Town” (other than Reservoir Hill): 82 percent had used a trail within the past 12 months for an average of five times. The second most popular park/recreation amenity is “picnic areas/park in town” (79 percent; average 3.6 times/year) and the Community Center (76 percent; 4.1 times).
- Regarding the Community Center, the data suggest that users of the facility patronize the Center more frequently than other parks/recreation amenities relative to its overall usage patterns. In other words, while the Community Center ranks third in terms of the percentage who have visited the facility *at least once in the past year*, the average number of times that it is used ranks it second in the overall hierarchy of programs and facilities.
- Reservoir Hill is the fourth most patronized parks/recreation amenity, with 62 percent of respondents visiting the Hill at least once, generating 2.8 visits per year. (A more in-depth analysis of visitation patterns of Reservoir Hill is presented in a subsequent section of this report.) Ranking lower in overall patronage are Town playgrounds (46 percent; 2.5 visits); athletic fields (39 percent; 2.1 visits); and recreation programs (39 percent; 1.9 times). Least used by the general community is the Teen Center (9 percent; 0.3 visits).

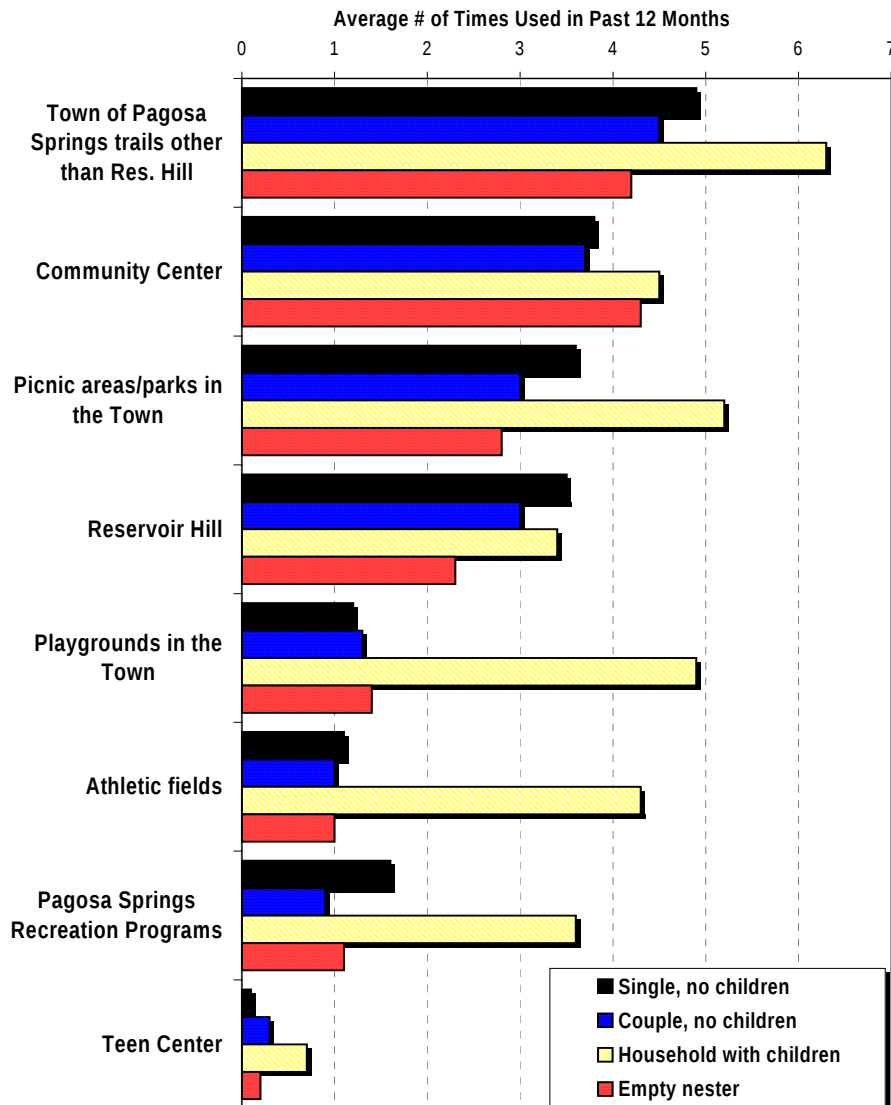
FIGURE 4  
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU USED THE FOLLOWING IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS?



In comparing usage of facilities/programs by various population segments, we find the following differences that are important to note:

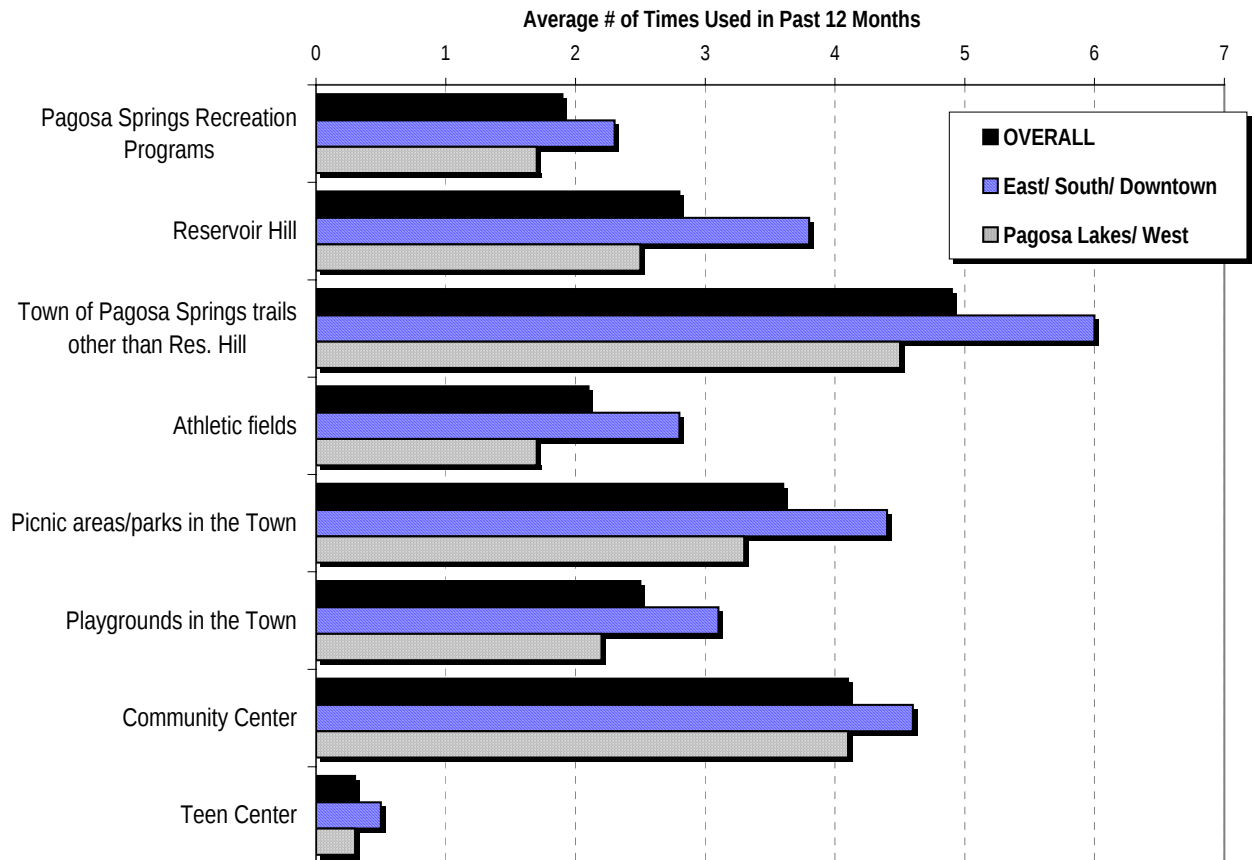
- Families are by far the strongest users of all parks programs and facilities, especially playgrounds, athletic fields, and parks/recreation programs, not surprisingly. However, families are also disproportionately strong supporters of trails and picnic areas.
- Singles are the second strongest user group, favoring in particular Reservoir Hill.
- Couples without children and empty nesters were the least active users of any program or facility with the exception of the Community Center, in which empty nesters vie with families for being the strongest user segment, not surprisingly.

FIGURE 5  
USAGE OF PARKS/RECREATION PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES BY MARITAL STATUS



- As might be expected, those who live downtown are more active users of parks/recreation programs and facilities.

FIGURE 6  
USAGE OF PARKS/RECREATION PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES BY LOCATION OF RESIDENCE



## **PUBLIC PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT**

Respondents were asked to prioritize potential future improvement by rating how important the individual improvements would be to them personally. A ratings scale of 1 to 5 was used, with 1 being “Definitely Not Needed” and 5 being “Very Important”. While obviously an important part of the equation, for the purposes of this question, respondents were asked to not consider the issue of funding in their decision-making regarding priorities.

### **Top Priorities: Open Space, Trails and Bike Paths, and More Parks**

- “Open space acquisition” and “trails” are the top priorities for capital projects that could be implemented as part of a parks and recreation improvement plan. When asked whether certain improvements were needed in the community, the vast majority of respondents indicated that “open space acquisition and preservation” was the most important improvement (84 percent ranked it as “important” or “very important”).
- Open space was followed closely by trails and bike paths, both within Town as well as linking downtown to uptown. Seventy-nine percent supported a trail/bike path connecting downtown to the west end of town) and 74 percent supported “more trails/bike paths within Town.
- Also a top priority to residents is the “expansion of large parks for general park use (including picnicking, informal field sports, special events, etc.), with over three-quarters of respondents supporting this initiative.

### **High Priorities: Gateway, Outdoor Performing Arts Venue, Recreation Center, Small Neighborhood Parks, and Reservoir Hill**

- Receiving between 60 and 68 percent of support were “better aesthetics/improved gateway identity for the Town” (68 percent); outdoor amphitheater or auditorium for performing arts (65 percent); multi-purpose recreation center (64 percent); more small neighborhood parks (62 percent); and enhancements to Reservoir Hill (60 percent).
- Note that families were considerably more likely to support the recreation center as compared to other groups. Also, second homeowners tended to show stronger support for an outdoor venue for performing arts, perhaps indicative of a desire for more arts/cultural programs during the seasons that they are typically in town.

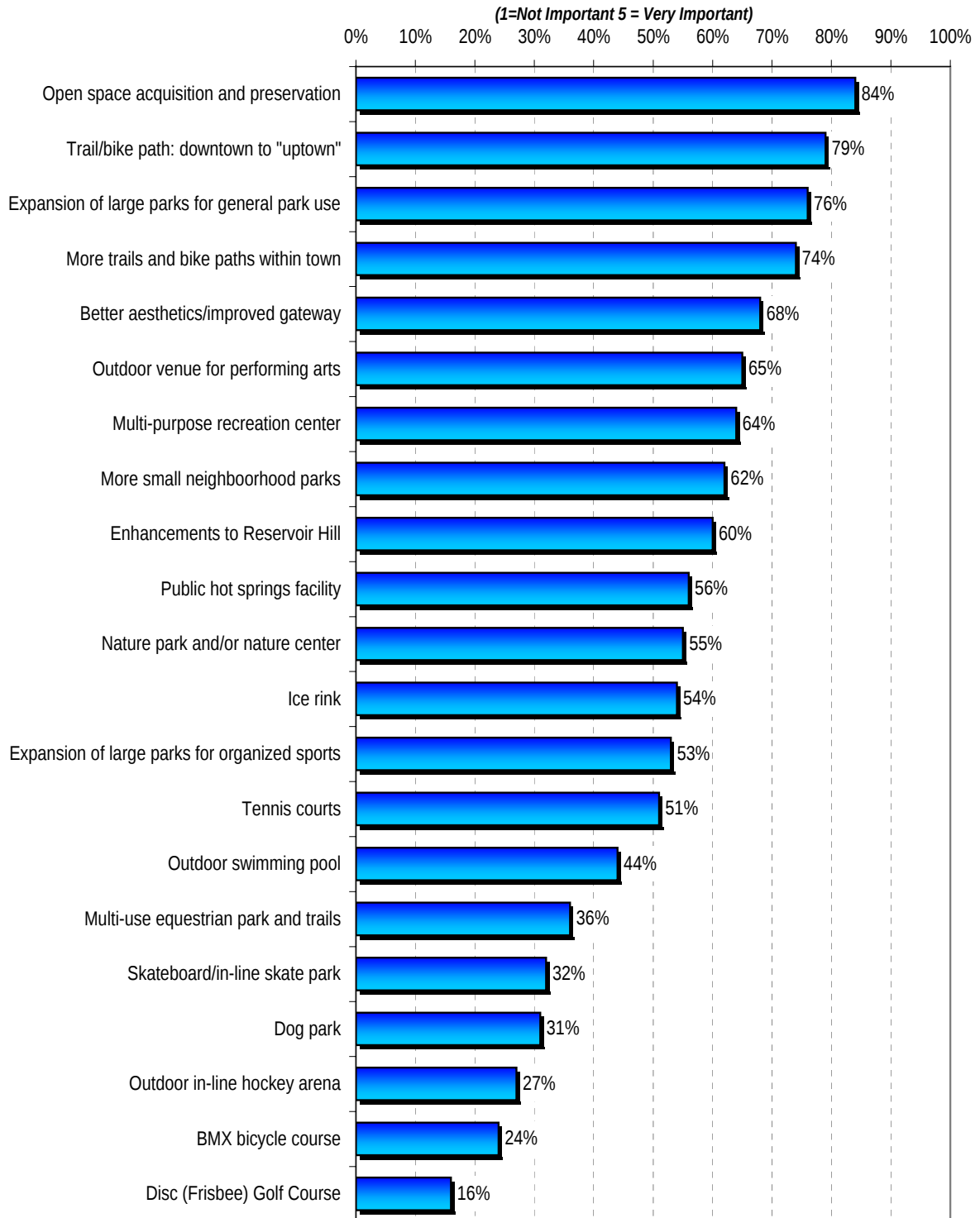
### **Moderate Priorities: Public Hot Springs, Nature Park, Ice Rink, Parks for Organized Sports, Tennis Courts**

- Just over half (between 51 and 56 percent) of respondents supported the following improvements which tended to be more singularly focused and appealing to a specific niche as compared to the broader, more general improvements such as open space and trails.
- These improvements include public hot springs (56 percent), nature park/center (55 percent), ice rink (54 percent), expansion of large parks dedicated to *organized* field sports (53 percent), and tennis courts (51 percent).

**Lower Priorities: Outdoor Pool, Equestrian Park, Skate Park, Dog Park, In-line Hockey Arena, BMX course, and Frisbee Golf**

- Weaker support was demonstrated for an outdoor pool (44 percent), equestrian park and trails (36 percent), skateboard/in-line skate park (32 percent), dog park (31 percent), in-line hockey arena (27 percent), BMX course (24 percent), and Frisbee Golf course (16 percent).
- Again, it is not surprising that these improvements would receive comparatively less support given that they appeal to a more narrow and prescribed niche. As such, these improvements should not necessarily be discounted simply on the basis of lack of widespread support, but should be considered as part of a strategic capital improvement plan that strives to address the needs of all segments of the visitor and resident population base to the extent feasible.

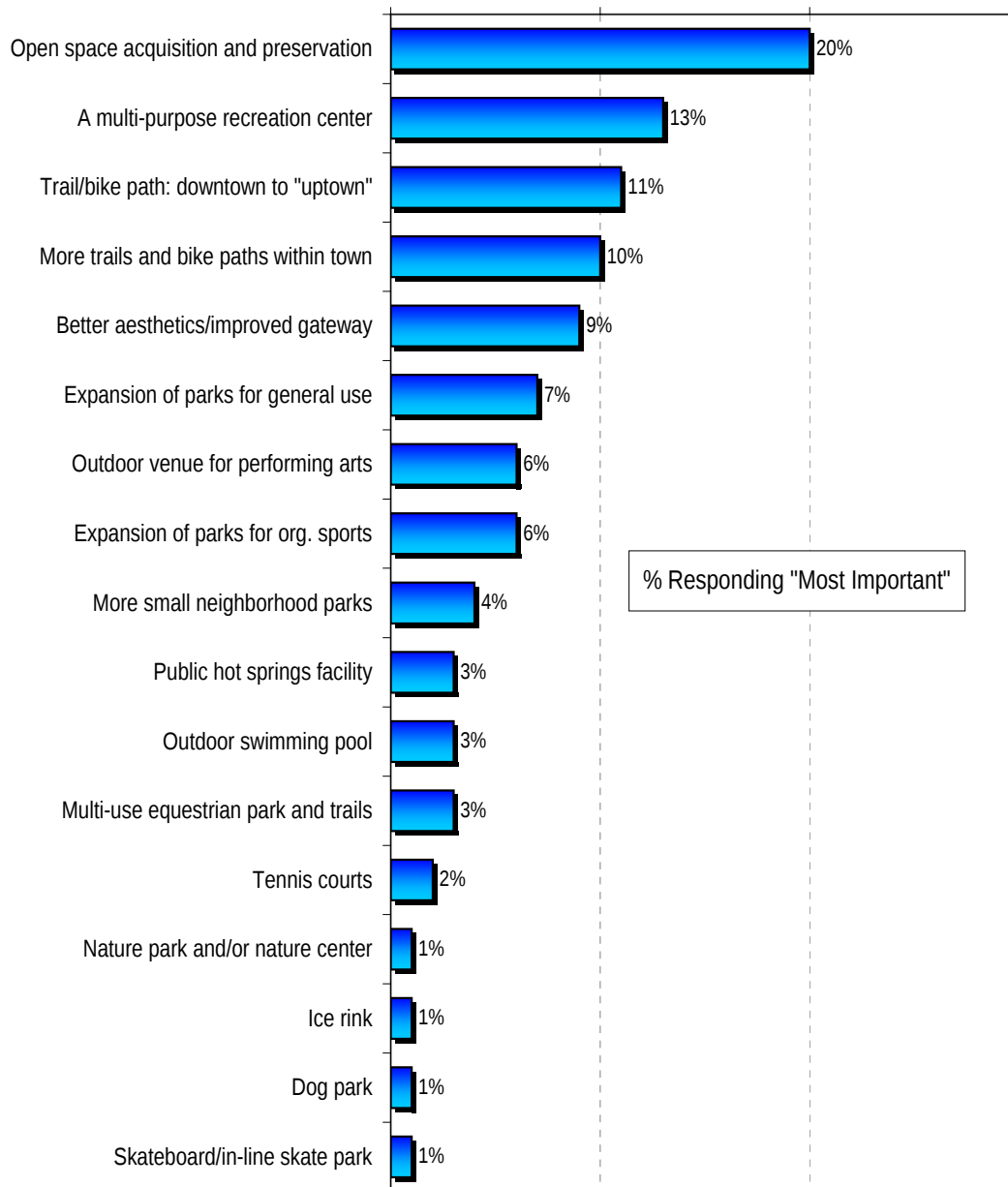
FIGURE 7  
 RATE HOW IMPORTANT YOU FEEL THE FOLLOWING GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS  
 WOULD BE TO YOU  
 (ASSUME THAT FUNDING IS NOT A CONSIDERATION)



### ”Single Most Important” Priority: Open Space Acquisition, Recreation Center, and Bike Paths

- When respondents are forced to single out the “most important” improvement, the overall ranking changes slightly. As shown in the figure below, open space acquisition, a recreation center, and bike trails were the top priorities. This is a slightly different hierarchy than if respondents aren’t forced to choose one option to the exclusion of another. The most dramatic difference is that, when singling out one improvement, a recreation center rises to the second most important improvement, topping trails and bike paths, an improved gateway feature, parks, and an outdoor venue for performing arts.

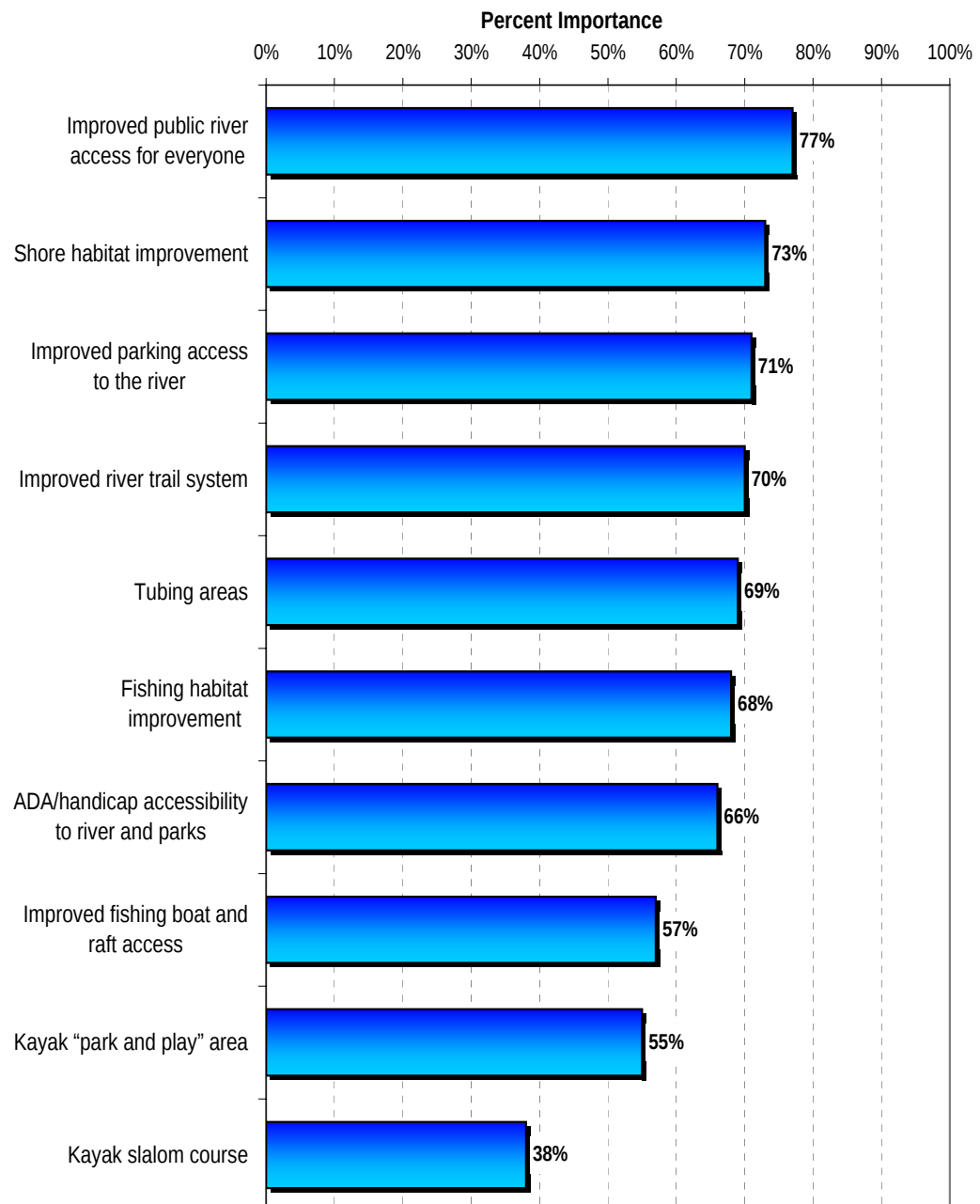
FIGURE 8  
WHAT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY?



## SAN JUAN RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

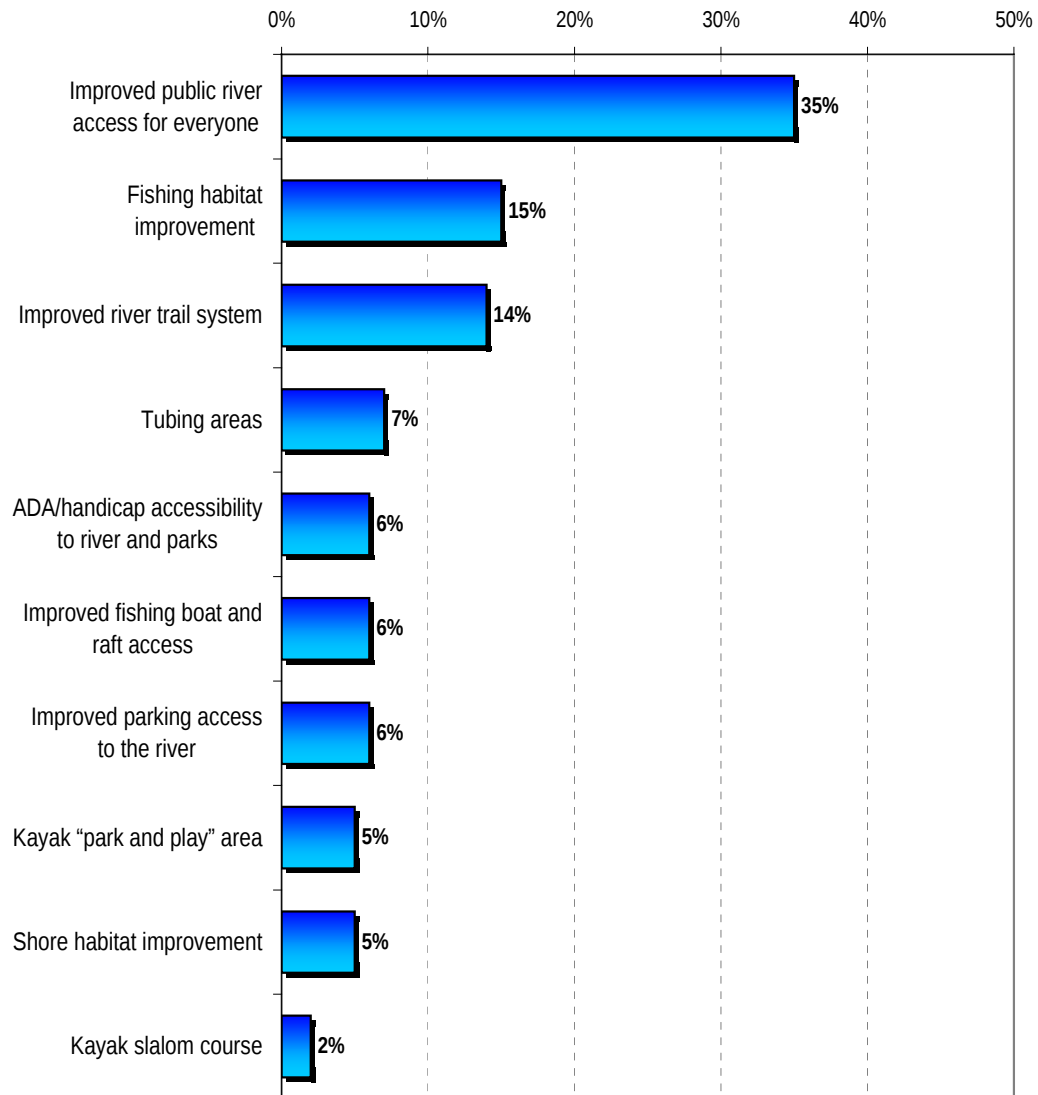
- When asked about potential enhancements to the San Juan River, over three-quarters of respondents wanted “improved public river access for everyone” (77 percent). This is followed by “shore habitat improvement” (73 percent), improved parking access to the river (71 percent), improved river trail system (70 percent), and tubing areas (69 percent). Somewhat less important are fishing habitat improvement (68 percent), ADA/handicap accessibility to the river and parks (66 percent), better boat and raft access (57 percent), and kayaking features (“park and play” at 55 percent; slalom course at 38 percent).

FIGURE 9  
RATE HOW IMPORTANT YOU FEEL THE FOLLOWING RIVER IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE TO YOU



- Again, when forced to single out a single choice for river improvement, the hierarchy of priorities changes somewhat. While retaining public access to the river remains by far the number one priority (35 percent), improving the fishing habitat and the river trails both increase in the ranking (15 and 14 percent, respectively). We also see the issues of parking and shore habitat improvement dropping in the ranking when juxtaposed against these other competing priorities.

FIGURE 10  
WHAT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT RIVER IMPROVEMENT?



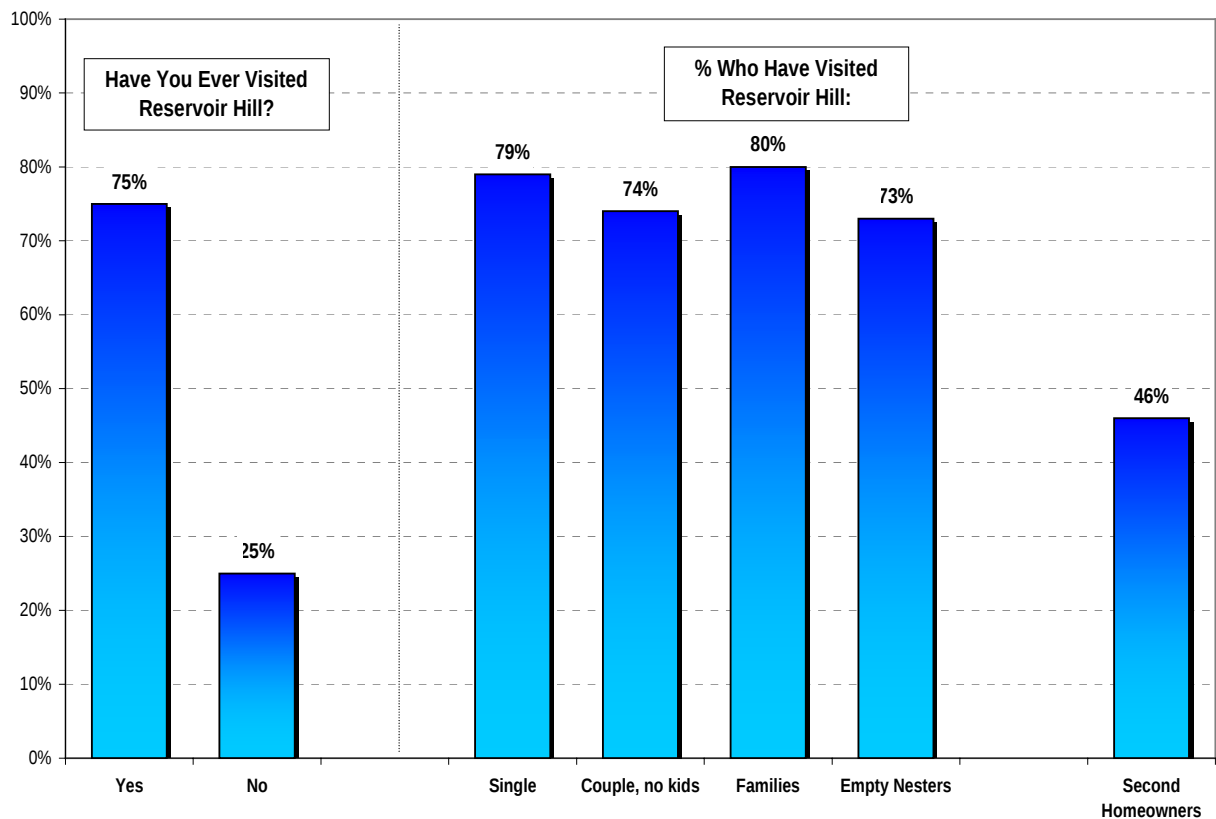
## RESERVOIR HILL

Reservoir Hill is clearly a unique and important asset to the downtown experience in Pagosa Springs. A series of questions was asked about the frequency and type of usage of the Hill as well as improvements – if any - that the community would like made to the experience.

### *Usage Patterns*

- One-quarter of respondents have *never* visited Reservoir Hill. Recall that, of the 75 percent who have visited Reservoir Hill in the past, 62 percent did so within the past twelve months, indicating fairly recent usage patterns among those frequent the Hill.
- Families and singles are more likely to be users of Reservoir Hill (80 and 79 percent, respectively), as compared to couples, empty nesters, and particularly second homeowners (*fewer than half* of second homeowners have ever visited Reservoir Hill).

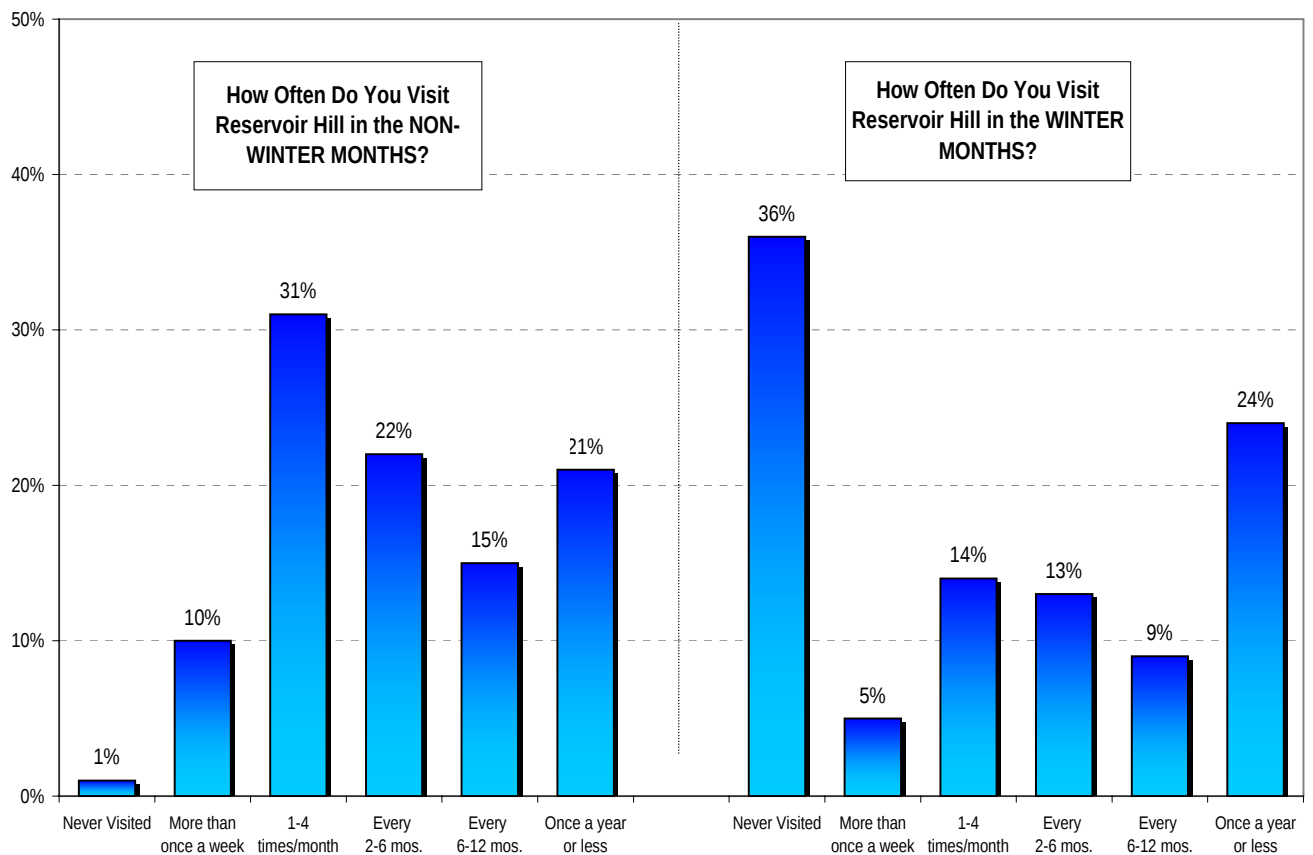
FIGURE 11  
RESERVOIR HILL VISITATION PATTERNS



### Seasonal Visitation Patterns

- In terms of seasonal usage, clearly the spring/summer/fall months receive the heaviest usage, with 10 percent visiting very frequently (more than once a week); 31 percent visiting 1-4 times per month; 22 percent every 2-6 months; 15 percent every 6-12 months; and 21 percent once a year or less.
- Predictably, winter usage of Reservoir Hill is considerably lower, with over one-third having never visited the Hill in the winter (36 percent). Other winter distribution patterns are shown in the figure below.

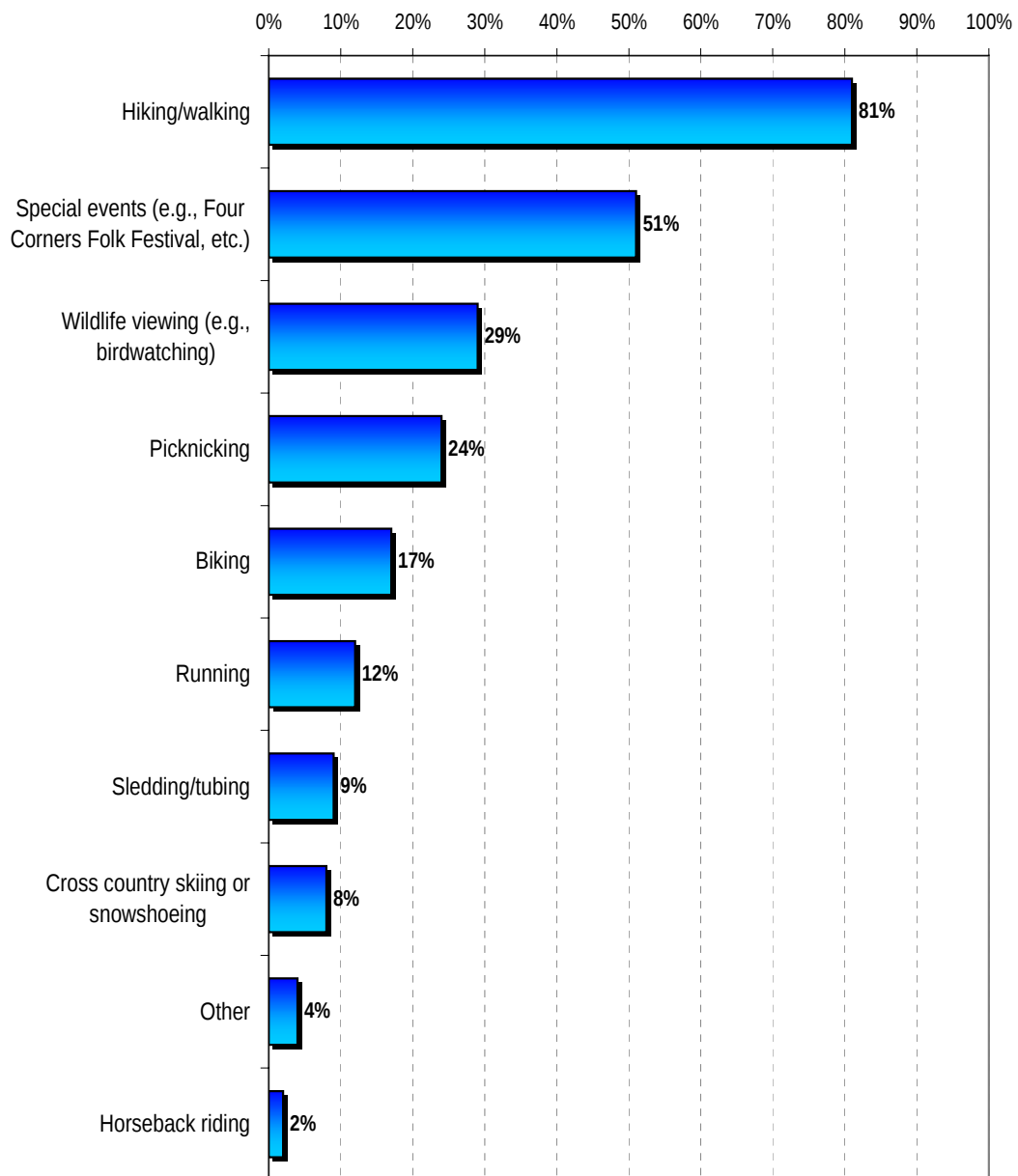
FIGURE 12  
HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT RESERVOIR HILL IN THE  
WINTER AND NON-WINTER MONTHS?



*Reservoir Hill Activities*

- The most popular activities on Reservoir Hill are hiking/walking (81 percent); special events (51 percent); wildlife viewing (29 percent), picnicking (24 percent), and biking (17 percent).
- Less popular activities include running (12 percent), sledding/tubing (9 percent), cross country skiing/snowshoeing (8 percent), and horseback riding (2 percent).

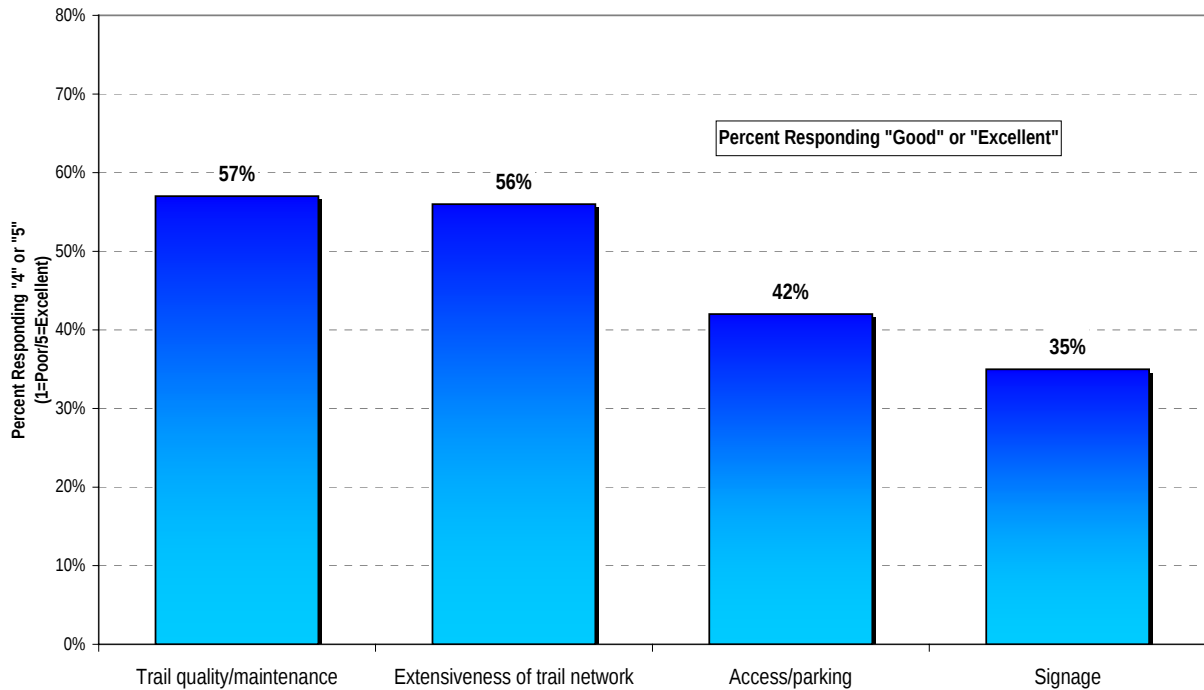
FIGURE 13  
IN WHAT RESERVOIR HILL ACTIVITIES HAVE  
YOU/YOUR FAMILY PARTICIPATED OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS?



### *Ratings of Reservoir Hill*

- The “extensiveness of the trail network” and “trail quality/maintenance” were the most highly rated aspects of the Reservoir Hill experience. Lower rated were access/parking (42 percent rated it “good” or “excellent”) and signage (35 percent).

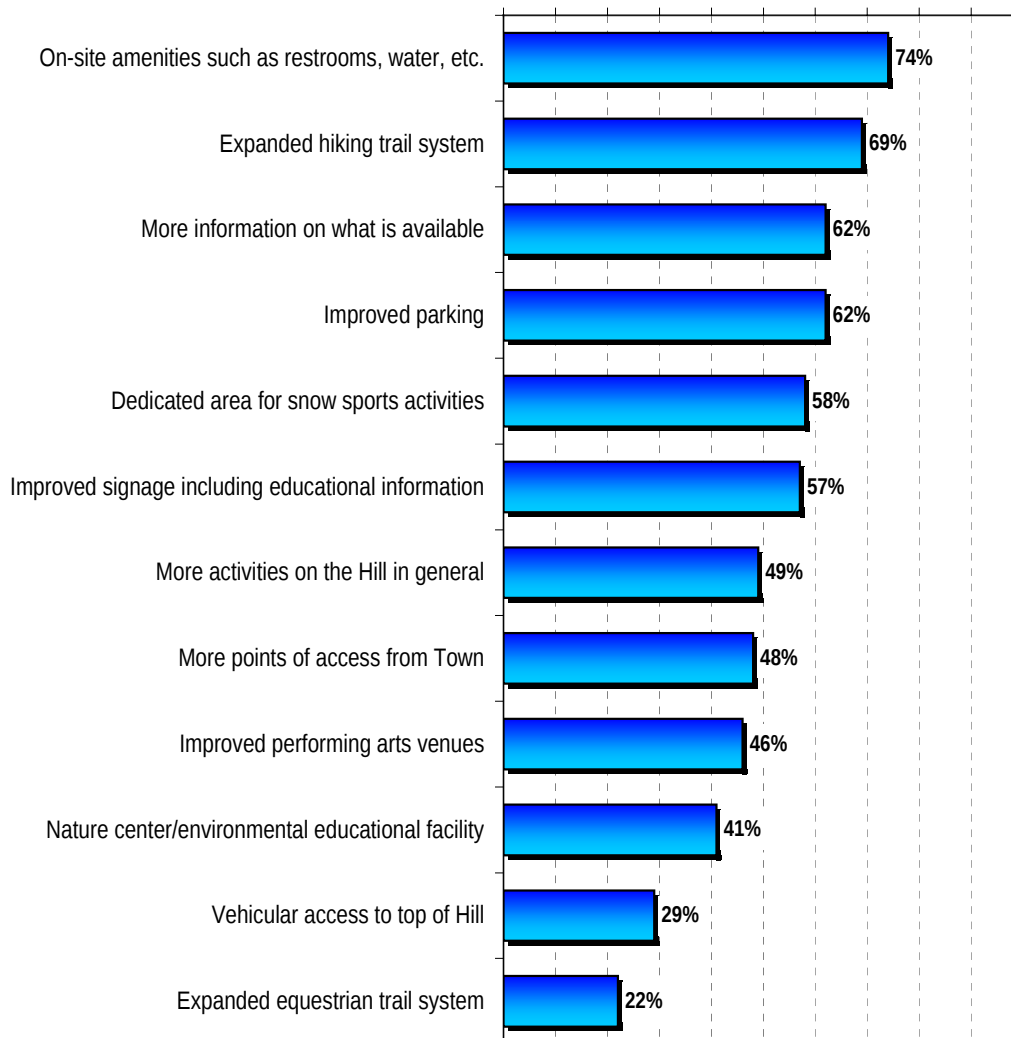
FIGURE 14  
HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF RESERVOIR HILL IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS?



### *Improvements to Reservoir Hill*

- Nearly three-quarters of respondents would like to see improved on-site amenities to Reservoir Hill such as restrooms, water fountains, more picnic tables, and so on (74 percent). Additional improvements receiving significant support include an expanded hiking trail system (69 percent), more information on what is available on the Hill (62 percent), and improved parking (62 percent).
- Moderately important to the community is a dedicated area for snow sports activities (58 percent), improved directional/interpretive signage (57 percent), more activities on the Hill in general (49 percent), and more points of access from Town (48 percent).
- Less important are improved performing arts venues (46 percent), a nature center/environmental educational facility (41 percent), vehicular access to the top of the Hill (29 percent), and an expanded equestrian trail system (22 percent).

FIGURE 15  
RATE HOW IMPORTANT THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS TO RESERVOIR HILL WOULD BE TO YOU?



### *Long-Term Vision for Reservoir Hill*

The long-term vision for Reservoir Hill in terms of intensity of usage was posed to respondents through the following question:

In terms of long-term vision for usage of Reservoir Hill, please rate the degree to which you would like to see the Hill utilized by the public. Use a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning "Minimal Usage/Strictly Open Space" and 5 meaning "High Recreational/Special Event Use".

| MINIMAL USAGE<br>(STRICTLY OPEN SPACE) |      |      | HIGH USAGE<br>(RECREATIONAL/SPECIAL EVENT) |      |          |
|----------------------------------------|------|------|--------------------------------------------|------|----------|
| 1                                      | 2    | 3    | 4                                          | 5    |          |
| = 12%                                  | =12% | =30% | =29%                                       | =17% | mean=3.3 |

Nearly half (46 percent) wanted to see relatively high usage of Reservoir Hill by the public. Comments pertaining to Reservoir Hill include:

*For better usage of Reservoir Hill in the snow months, some paved trails would be nice*

*I like Reservoir Hill the way it is, a quiet respite from the city*

*I wish there was a small ski lift on Reservoir Hill that only ran for small kids learning to ski. It's a long, expensive day if you take your kids to Wolf Creek if they are only learning how to ski. It should only be for beginners as the hill can't support many skiers at one time.*

*Make Pagosa a pedestrian friendly town with walking and biking accessibility. Beautify the river area. Add a walking/biking path for an extensive part of the river (as in Salida, Durango, etc.) Beautify town park for festivals and events by adding an outdoor amphitheater area (as in Salida and Flagstaff put one in their town square). By adding frisbee golf course to Reservoir Hill it provides a free and healthy entertainment for teens as well as families.*

*Restrooms at the trailhead and top of Reservoir Hill, a better more permanent skate park, check out website [www.skatepark.org](http://www.skatepark.org), public tennis courts a must*

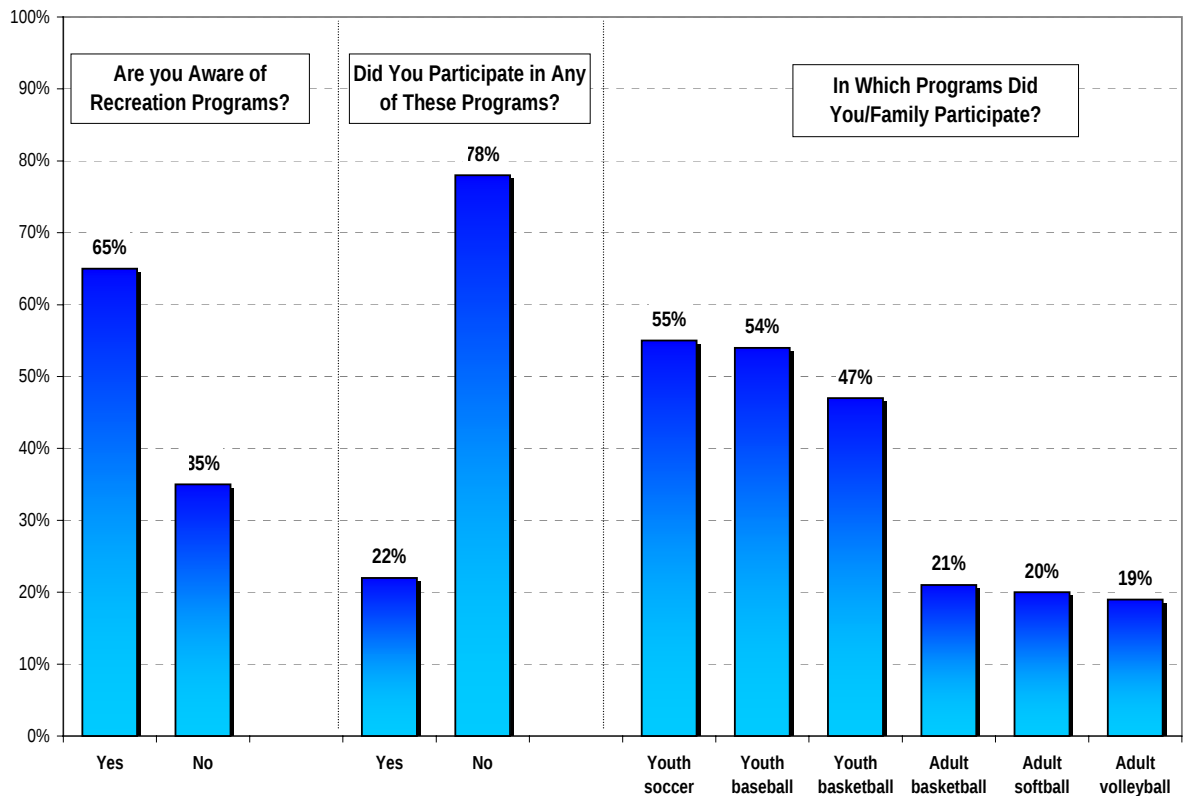
*There is enough open space in the form of public lands around town. Reservoir Hill, located in the center of downtown, should definitely be capitalized upon as a promoted high use area.*

*I have been very clear about my feelings concerning the river, Reservoir Hill. Try not to make us a metro area with "something for everyone." We are surrounded by National Forest, rivers, etc. They are not hard to find. I see no reason for the "Town" to duplicate what is already available and funded by our tax dollars.*

## PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

- Awareness of parks/recreation programs was high, with nearly two-thirds of respondents (65 percent) aware of these programs. As might be expected, awareness was higher among families and downtown residents.
- Of the total population, 22 percent actually *participated* in the programs (or 34 percent of the two-thirds who were aware of the programs). Again, families, downtown residents, and registered voters tended to be stronger participants in parks/rec programs as compared to other population segments.
- The most popular programs were youth soccer (55 percent), youth baseball (54 percent), and youth basketball (47 percent). Less well patronized were adult sport programs.

FIGURE 16  
PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM ISSUES



- Ratings of the parks/recreation programs were unexceptional, with most ratings categories earning a “3” (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “very dissatisfied” and 5 being “very satisfied”). In other words, most program users were neither strongly positive *nor* negative about their experience with parks and recreation programs. In general, the basketball programs tended to earn slightly higher ratings while baseball programs were rated somewhat lower as compared to the other two youth programs.
- In all cases, the registration process earned the highest ratings, particularly with respect to basketball and soccer. “Quality of instruction” was the most variable rating, with baseball and basketball instruction ratings notably higher than soccer.
- Ratings indicate that an area in need of attention in all programs is “scheduling and organization.” Comments lend more insight into this finding:

*The youth programs need scheduled practices. The game season should be at least 2 months. The coaches can't teach during the game. Then need practice.*

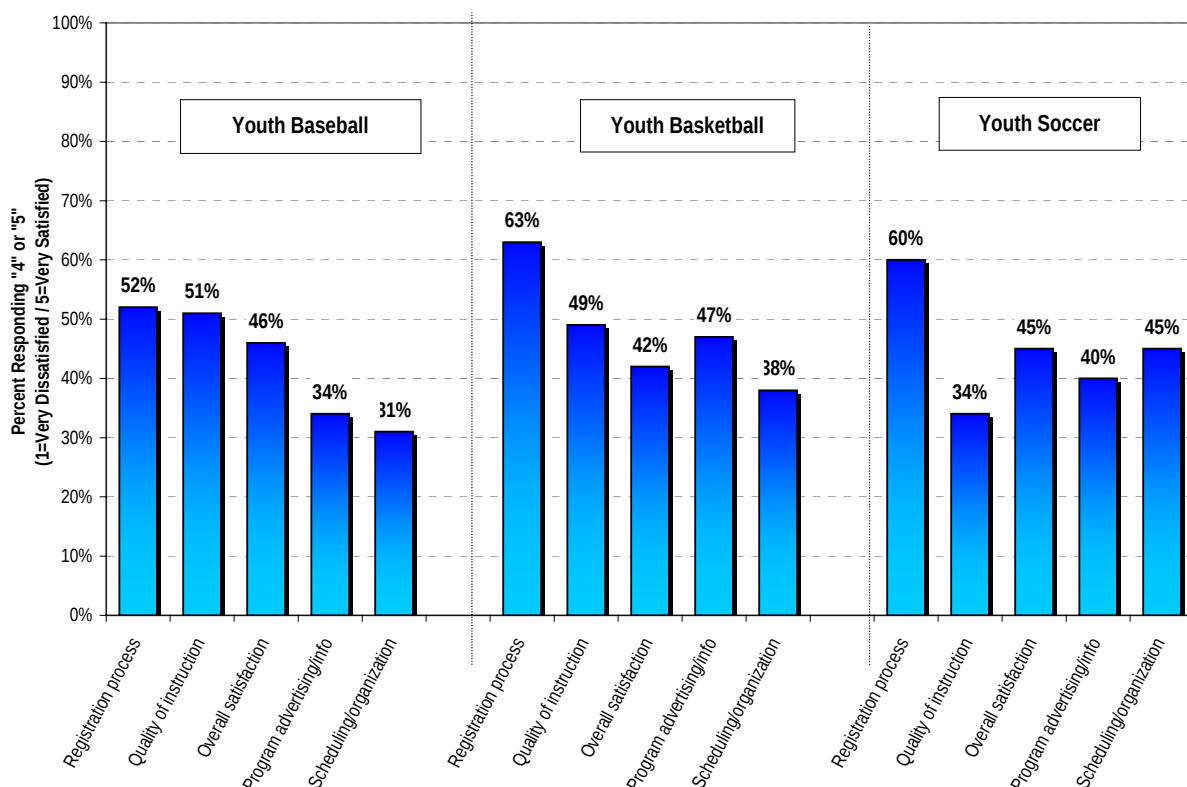
*Volleyball has been in the past, very "loosely" organized and poorly run*

*Lack of organization, scheduling and planning is very frustrating*

*Last year's soccer club team was highly unprofessional, we do not want club teams*

*The lack of organization dealing with team pictures is a nightmare. Realizing that the town doesn't control this aspect, may we suggest that it is put out for bids. Also many children cannot afford price of team pictures.*

FIGURE 17  
PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM RATINGS



- While not directly the responsibility of the parks/recreation department, the most desired programs that the community would like to see offered are “more special events, concerts, and festivals” and “cultural/performing arts programs” (62 percent each) – see figure on next page. There was higher support for these programs among singles, as well as among Pagosa Lakes residents (as compared to those living downtown).
- Obviously, organizing these types of events and programs typically does not fall to traditional municipal parks/recreation departments. However, this information is relevant in not only underscoring the desire for more events and cultural programs in the community but also should be considered in the design or planning of future facilities that may provide additional venues for these types of events.
- Other programs that are desired are, in order of importance, fitness classes, a wider variety and number of youth *and* adult programs, day hikes/backpack trips, life skills programs, and winter snowshoeing day trips.
- Moderately important are year-round swim lessons, cross-country ski trips, biking trips, and more senior programs/activities.
- Least important to respondents were adult dance classes, tennis tournaments, flag football leagues, martial arts, and adult soccer.
- Other comments related to desired programs include:

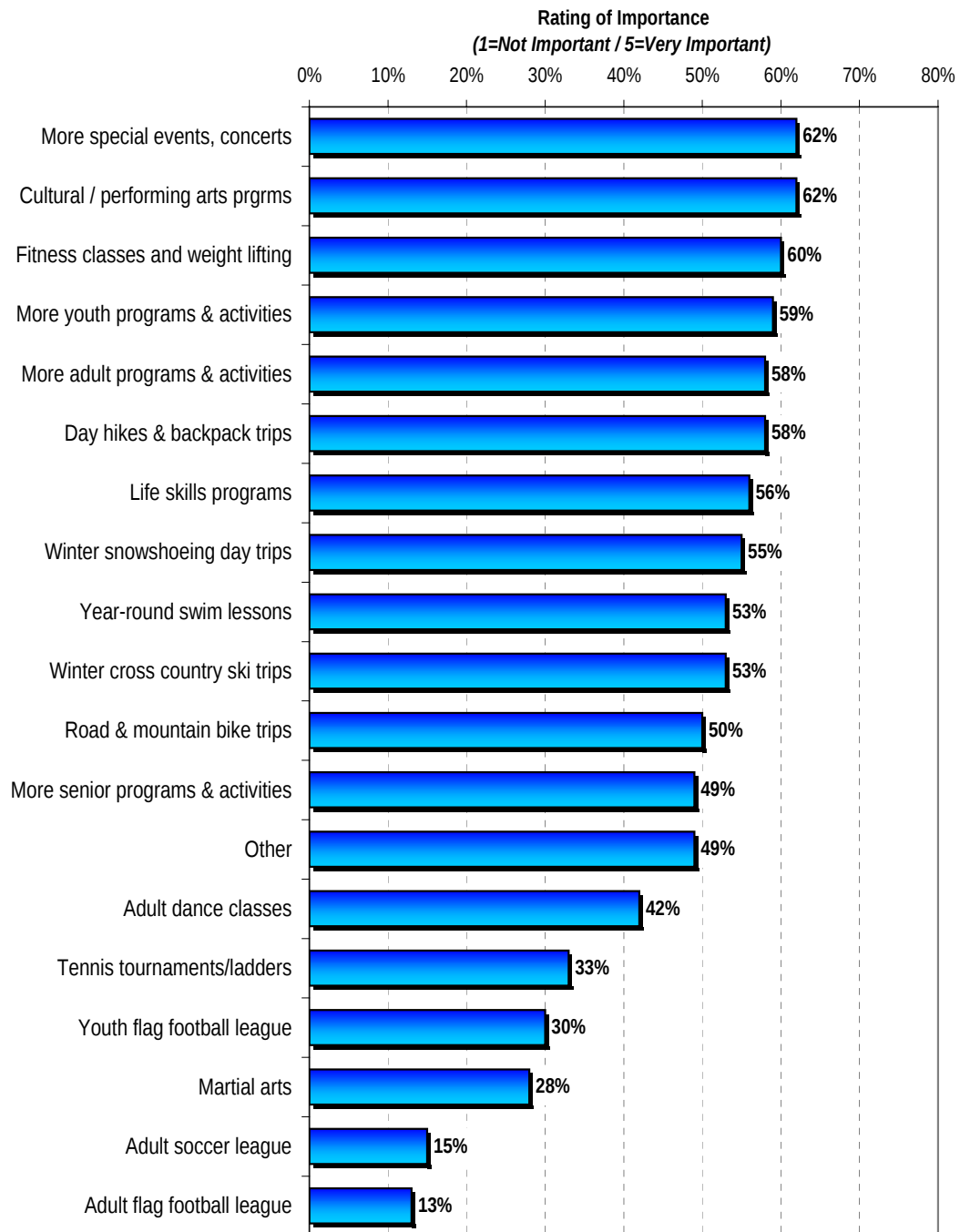
*Need adult exercise programs in early evening 5:30-6:00 pm.*

*We need girl's softball included*

*Would like to see A, B, C leagues for adult basketball. Consistency is key, it seems like scheduling was always different. Also, I hate T-ball in March and April.*

*Would love to have adult soccer and flag football*

FIGURE 18  
 WHAT ADDITIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE OFFERED?  
 (PERCENT RESPONDING "SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT" AND "VERY IMPORTANT")



## RECREATION CENTER ISSUES

A primary objective of the survey was to measure the level of support for a new recreation center and desired amenities to be offered through this facility. This series of questions was followed by a section on funding, testing the receptivity to different types of financing tools to support the construction and ongoing maintenance of the facility.

### *Recreation Center Amenities*

In terms of the features potentially housed in a new recreation center, the following amenities and their relative ranking are:

#### Top Priority

1. Weight room and cardio fitness
2. Multi-purpose space for meetings
3. Indoor pool with lap lanes
4. Teen program and activities area

#### High Priority

5. Basketball/volleyball courts
6. Senior program/activities
7. Child care
8. Outdoor amphitheater for performing arts

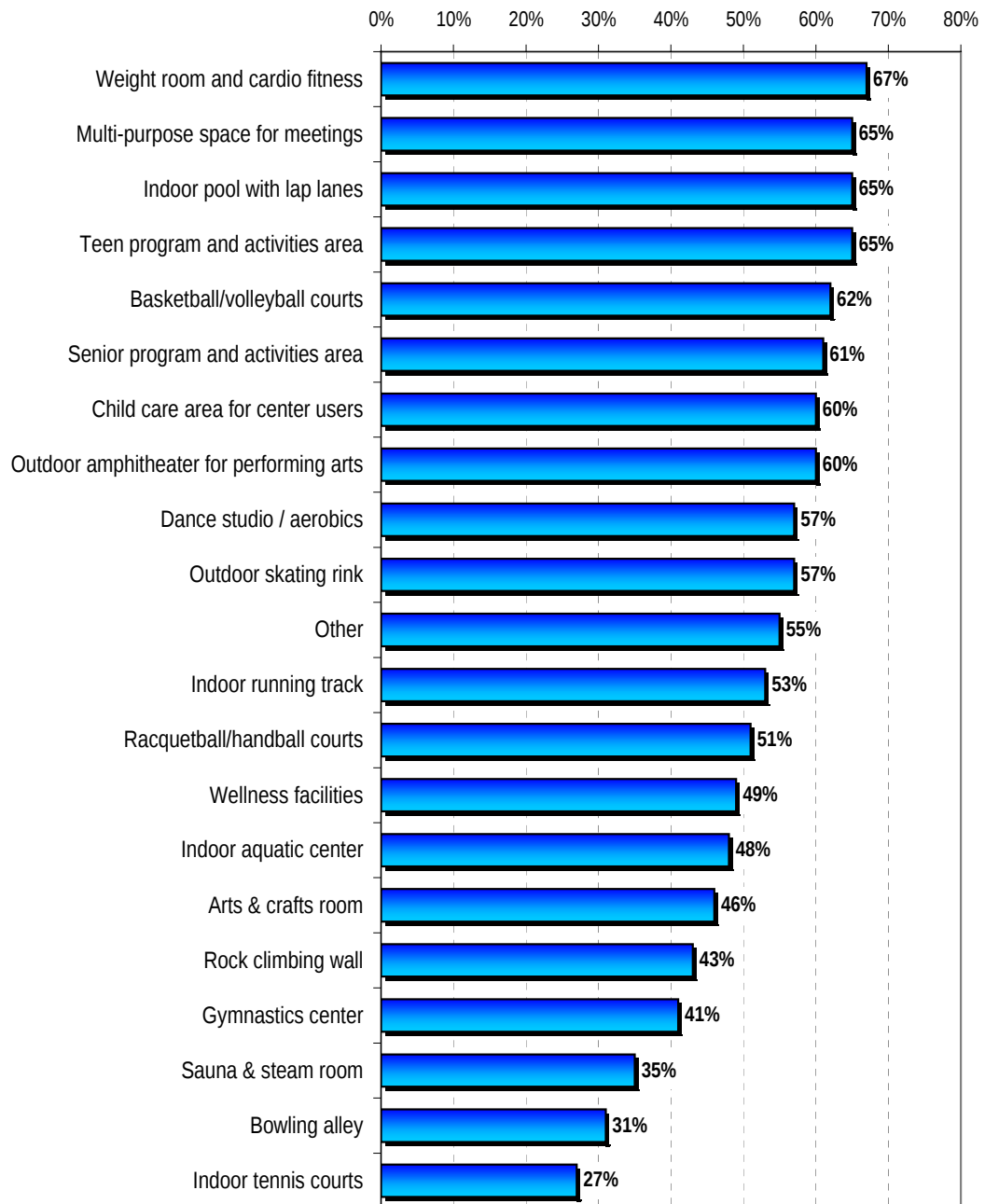
#### Moderate Priority

9. Dance studio
10. Outdoor skating rink
11. Indoor running track
12. Racquetball/handball courts

#### Low Priority

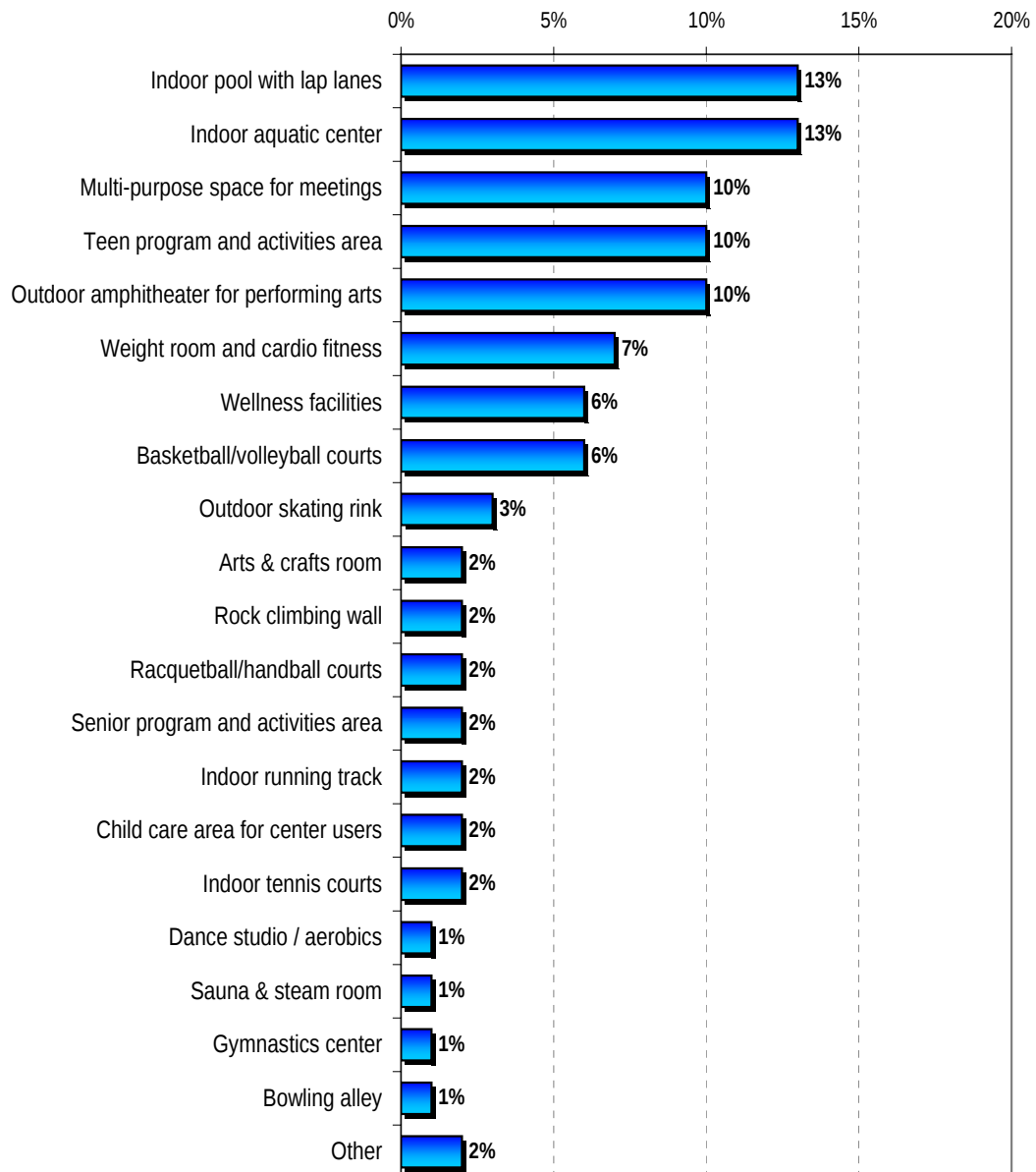
13. Wellness facilities
14. Indoor aquatic center
15. Arts/crafts room
16. Rock climbing wall
17. Gymnastics center
18. Sauna and steam room
19. Bowling alley
20. Indoor tennis courts

FIGURE 19  
WHAT FEATURES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN A FUTURE RECREATION CENTER?



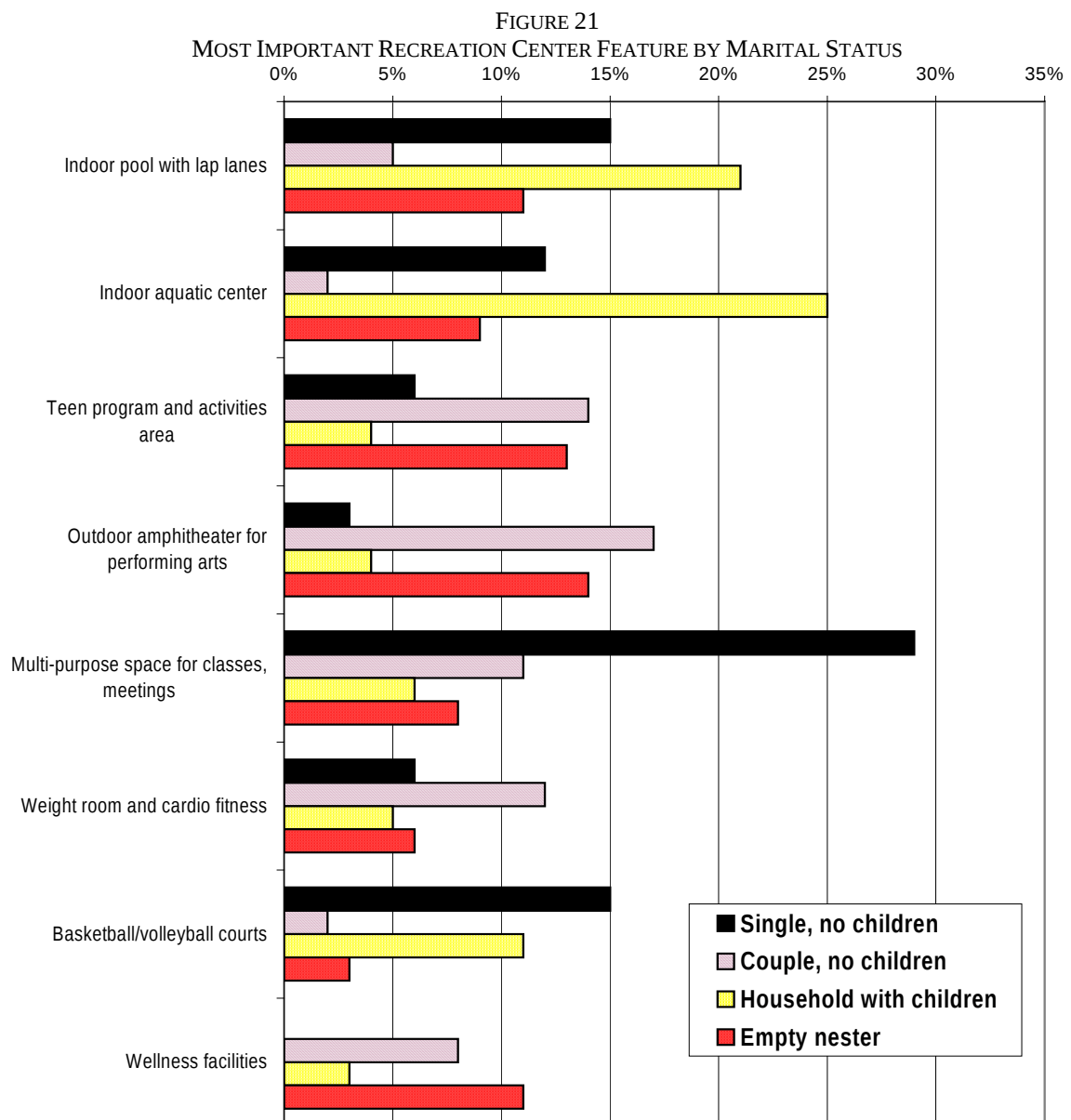
- When asked to single out the top priority for recreation center features however, the ranking changes somewhat. While an indoor pool with lap lanes remains a top priority, for some, the addition of an indoor aquatic center is critical. Similarly, “wellness facilities” are very important to a certain contingent of the population, ranking seventh in terms of “most important” features.
- It remains that, regardless of whether ranked by “most important” or by the ordinal ratings scale, there were several amenities that were universally agreed upon as being important: 1) an “indoor pool with lap lanes”; 2) teen programs and activities area; 3) weight room and cardio fitness area; and 4) multi-purpose space for meetings. At a minimum, any new recreation center facility should include these amenities unless adequate provisions are going to be made elsewhere for these community needs.

FIGURE 20  
WHAT SINGLE RECREATION CENTER FEATURE IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?



It is helpful to look at the different population segments that are particularly favorable towards a certain recreation center amenity. The data show that:

- **Singles** tend to be more supportive of an indoor pool, meeting space, and basketball/volleyball courts;
- **Families** are more likely to favor an indoor pool and aquatic center and basketball/volleyball courts;
- **Couples without children/empty nesters** tend to support wellness facilities, an outdoor amphitheater, and, interestingly, a teen center. The latter finding may derive from a desire for increased segregation between age groups which is currently somewhat of a challenging issue at the Community Center.



### *Recreation Center Financing*

Fundamental to any consideration of a new recreation center in Pagosa Springs is the question of funding. Can money be raised to build and operate a recreation center? If so, how much and through what funding mechanisms?

It has been established that there is desire among residents for a new recreation center. However, without attaching a 'price tag' to that project, there is no true measure of level of support among residents without also considering the tradeoffs and competing priorities for public dollars. To that end, a series of questions was asked about residents' current level of satisfaction with public expenditures towards parks/recreation as well as other services such as roads, schools, and so on.

- In terms of the overall ranking of funding priorities in the community, the category of "recreational needs such a recreation center and parks" was ranked sixth out of ten possible options. Considered more important to respondents were roads, health services/facilities, schools, infrastructure expansion, and open space acquisition/preservation. It is important to note that obviously these various community needs are served through other public and private funding sources such as impact fees, property and district taxes, etc. The purpose of this question isn't to influence policy decision-making by positioning one service against another, but to gain a clearer sense of the public's perspective on the urgency of what are often perceived as competing needs. Obviously, all of these areas are important to maintaining a healthy community and quality of life, and should be viewed accordingly.
- Less priority was given to publicly funding new trails and bike paths, a performing arts facility, and historic/cultural museums.

TABLE  
RANKING OF PRIORITIES REGARDING ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC DOLLARS

| RANK                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Road construction and maintenance                          |
| 2. Health services/facilities                                 |
| 3. Schools                                                    |
| 4. Infrastructure expansion (e.g., water, sewer, etc.)        |
| 5. Open space acquisitions and preservation                   |
| 6. Recreational needs such as a new recreation center & parks |
| 7. Developing new trails and bike paths                       |
| 8. Performing arts facilities                                 |
| 9. Historic and cultural museums                              |
| 10. "Other"                                                   |

- When asked about the level of funding currently directed by the Town towards developing new parks and recreation facilities, half said that they “didn’t know.” An additional 29 percent said “too little,” 18 percent said “about right”, and just three percent said “too much.”

TABLE  
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION CONCERNING THE AMOUNT OF DOLLARS CURRENTLY  
BEING SPENT BY THE TOWN IN DEVELOPING NEW PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES?

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Too little           | 29% |
| About right          | 18% |
| Too much             | 3%  |
| Don't know/uncertain | 50% |

### *Recreation Center Financing Tools*

There are several potential financing options for construction and operation of a recreation center. Four of these options were tested with the public in terms of general level of support for each option as well as opinions on how to apportion the funds. The following introduction was provided to respondents as background on the project:

A new recreation center in Pagosa Springs that could include features such as a swimming pool (lazy river, family area, lap pool, etc.), fitness area, rock wall, activity rooms, etc. would cost approximately \$9 million to construct with annual maintenance costs of roughly \$700,000/year. Given the following descriptions of each financing option, please indicate how much you personally would support each approach to pay for the debt service and maintenance of the facility.

### Funding Option #1: Sales Tax Increase

- A sales tax increase would amount to ½ of one percent, or \$.50 on a \$100 purchase. This would generate approximately \$700,000 per year and would be paid for by visitors and residents. Respondents were largely in favor of this option, with **over half (59 percent) supporting a sales tax increase to fund a recreation center.**

How much would you support the implementation of a **sales tax increase** to fund the construction and ongoing maintenance of a new recreation center?

| WOULD NOT AT ALL<br>SUPPORT |       |       | WOULD DEFINITELY<br>SUPPORT |       |          |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1                           | 2     | 3     | 4                           | 5     |          |       |
| (20%)                       | (10%) | (11%) | (21%)                       | (38%) | mean=3.5 | n=424 |

Funding Option #2: Property Tax/Special Recreation District

A second option would be a commercial and residential property tax that would be levied within Recreation District boundaries (within a 5 mile radius of Town boundaries). The District would be established through election by property owners and would be paid for by property owners within the district. The amount of tax would be a mill levy of 3.00, generating approximately \$570,000/year. Respondents were generally not in favor of this option, with **over half (58 percent) indicating they would not support a property tax increase to fund a recreation center.**

How much would you support the implementation of a **property tax increase** through the creation of a special recreation district to fund the construction and ongoing maintenance of a new recreation center?

| WOULD NOT AT ALL<br>SUPPORT |       | WOULD DEFINITELY<br>SUPPORT |       |       |          |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1                           | 2     | 3                           | 4     | 5     |          |       |
| (41%)                       | (17%) | (12%)                       | (14%) | (16%) | mean=2.5 | n=393 |

Funding Option #3: User Fees

User fees would be used to fund a portion of the recreation center expenses – it is simply a question of how high the fees would need to be in order to cover costs and yet remain affordable to users. These fees are assessed to users of facilities through passes, punch cards, etc. and would be paid for by users of facilities, including both locals and visitors

Responses were generally in range of other recreation center fees – an average of \$3.86 and median fee of \$4.00.

It would be necessary to charge a “user fee” for usage of the recreation center facility which would be in the form of daily and annual passes, punch cards, etc. How much would you be willing to pay for a **one-time only, daily pass** to the recreation center (note that Durango and Cortez charge \$4.00 for an adult daily pass)?

**Mean = \$3.86**

**Median = \$4.00**

#### Funding Option #4: Impact Fees

- A fourth option would be fees assessed on new residential development proportional to its level of impact on the community. This fee would be paid for by developers and buyers of property; the fee would be \$850/single family residence and would generate approximately \$280,000/year.
- The option of impact fees received a level of support similar to a sales tax increase, with **58 percent in support of using impact fees to support a new recreation center.**

How much would you support the implementation of **impact fees** through the creation of a special recreation district to fund the construction and ongoing maintenance of a new recreation center?

| WOULD NOT AT ALL<br>SUPPORT |       |       | WOULD DEFINITELY<br>SUPPORT |       |          |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1                           | 2     | 3     | 4                           | 5     |          |       |
| (19%)                       | (11%) | (12%) | (17%)                       | (41%) | mean=3.5 | n=382 |

#### *Allocation of Revenues Streams*

- Respondents were asked to allocate the funding into the four potential funding categories, assigning dollar amounts so that the annual debt service and operational expenses of \$1.3 million would be covered.
- Median funding allocations deriving from each source were \$600,000 from a sales tax increase; \$100,000 from a special recreation district; \$250,000 from user fees; and \$280,000 from impact fees. As shown in the table, it is clear that there is little support for a recreation district as 47 percent were unwilling to allocate any funding from this source. Removing this source from the equation, funding that is supported by the public totals \$1.13 million, slightly short of the desired goal of \$1.3 million. It should be noted that, if approved, sales tax and impact fee revenues would likely exceed these thresholds; however, given the fact that these revenue streams can be variable, these conservative estimates are prudent for this level of preliminary analysis.

TABLE  
FUNDING ALLOCATION

|                                               | Median \$<br>Allocation | % Wanting NO Funds<br>Deriving from this Source |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Sales tax increase (\$600 - \$800,000)        | \$600,000               | 9%                                              |
| Property tax/rec district (\$500 - \$700,000) | \$100,000               | 47%                                             |
| User fees (\$200 - 300,000)                   | \$250,000               | 4%                                              |
| Impact fees (\$200 - \$400,000)               | \$280,000               | 15%                                             |
| <b>GOAL=\$1,300,000</b>                       | <b>\$1,230,000</b>      |                                                 |

Excerpted comments related to recreation center funding are provided below. A full listing of comments is provided in the Appendix.

Comments on recreation center financing:

- A property tax/ special rec district is not equitable, it places the burden of payment unfairly on those who happen to live near town with no regard to who is actually using the center*
- A quality rec center would greatly enhance the town and county, for residents and visitors. Go for it, but do it right.*
- A recreation center must not compete with private enterprises and should be financially self-supporting*
- A recreation center would be for the people living here and those to come. Impact fees should be proportional for its use, not bearing the majority of the burden, if any.*
- After thinking about the funding alternatives, total cost and current use of community center, I'm not sure a rec ctr is a good idea. It appears the money would be better used on developing the river, trails, and the town aesthetics*
- Buy land to preserve open space - especially at entrances to area east and west 160, south 84 - before rec center.*
- Consider efficiency in design and in manpower to operate. Take advantage of solar and geothermal potential to save energy costs. Don't think new people coming in, who will also be paying property and sales tax should have to pay more. We don't think we should expect someone else to pay for what we want. If you want it, be willing to pay for it.*
- Do not pinpoint a certain group to pay. Make sure whole community pay their share, which in the long run will improve their life.*
- Downsize your plans and reduce the cost. Privatize many of the activities. Taxpayers should not be viewed as endless sources of revenue.*
- Durango has a great rec center. It is well equipped and reasonable admission. Let's spend the money to have a great one in Pagosa.*
- Find more grants and possibly a larger sales tax*
- Forget it unless it has a performing arts center with seating for 100*
- How about re-allocating some of the monies spent on promoting tourism to this project?*
- However it is financed, it is a must for our community to not necessarily attract more tourists, but to attract families who will stay and help build and improve our community. If we want to be competitive with Cortez/Durango/Farmington in attracting young, active community-minded families, and active, healthy contributing senior citizens, this effort must proceed.*
- I do not support the rec center described herein for Pagosa at this time. I believe a much larger population is necessary to support a facility of this size. Programs should be strengthened, especially for youth, before building additional facilities.*
- I don't think a new facility is needed. Outdoor recreation of high quality is already available near town or in a short drive! We would disapprove of any increase in our taxes for a recreation center we probably would not use!*
- I would like to see the money spent more wisely than the current community center, which is in effect only a senior center due to the high cost of gymnasium rental. \$100 an hour is out of reach of any small groups in the community.*
- It is extremely important to maintain growth in our community. Construction is a major employer in our community. Our low property taxes help to bring in new families. So this must be a strong consideration in our attempts to raise capital for this project. How about a drive in the private sector to raise a portion of the 1.3 million?*

*Possibly grants or open up for donation/fund raising*

*Property tax would only be fair if a larger area were included. Pagosa Lakes residents will use this facility more than town residents. Why not annex the Lakes and implement the property tax on those residents.*

*Sales tax is the way to go for generating revenue, keeping user fees low will allow more people to use the facility*

*User fees should be kept to a minimum. There are many recreational options for those who can pay. We need a public facility.*

*User fees, impact fees and sales tax are better than raising taxes and putting the burden on local residents. Just because people are in the rec district doesn't mean they'll be the ones using the facility.*

*We already have a Community Center with many of the above-mentioned facilities that is underutilized. We do not need an additional recreation center until our other infrastructure problems are solved.*

*With our beautiful environment and great outdoors we don't need organized recreation*

*Would prefer avoiding another political body! Impact fees on new developments are somewhat unfair, but would be preferable over a recreation district, sales tax and user fees seem to be the best option, how does Durango do it? Perhaps their model could work in Pagosa. We need it yesterday, thank you for your efforts!*

# SURVEY INSTRUMENT

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The Town of Pagosa Springs is in the process of evaluating its parks and recreation needs as part of its strategic planning process. We need your valuable input; you and your family play a critical role as we plan for recreation facilities to serve our long-term needs. Please take a few minutes of your time to share your wishes regarding parks, trails, and recreation needs in Pagosa Springs. ALL responses are important and will be kept confidential. Please return your questionnaire **within 10 days** of receipt in the enclosed self-addressed postage paid envelope. Thank you.

## CURRENT PROGRAMS and FACILITIES

1. Below is a list of community facilities and services that are funded through public dollars. Please indicate how important each of these is to you personally.

| (CIRCLE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR EACH)    | NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT |        |        |        | EXTREMELY IMPORTANT | DON'T KNOW |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------|------------|
| Parks .....                               | 1.....               | 2..... | 3..... | 4..... | 5.....              | X          |
| Trails/open space.....                    | 1.....               | 2..... | 3..... | 4..... | 5.....              | X          |
| Recreation facilities.....                | 1.....               | 2..... | 3..... | 4..... | 5.....              | X          |
| Parks & Rec programs and activities ..... | 1.....               | 2..... | 3..... | 4..... | 5.....              | X          |
| Athletic fields.....                      | 1.....               | 2..... | 3..... | 4..... | 5.....              | X          |
| Playgrounds.....                          | 1.....               | 2..... | 3..... | 4..... | 5.....              | X          |

2. Overall, how well do you think the public parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs & activities are currently meeting the needs of the community? Would you say they are:

| (CIRCLE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR EACH)    | NOT AT ALL MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY | NOT MEETING THE NEEDS VERY MUCH | SOMEWHAT MEETING THE NEEDS | MOSTLY MEETING THE NEEDS | COMPLETELY MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY | DON'T KNOW |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Parks .....                               | 1.....                                        | 2.....                          | 3.....                     | 4.....                   | 5.....                                        | X          |
| Trails/open space.....                    | 1.....                                        | 2.....                          | 3.....                     | 4.....                   | 5.....                                        | X          |
| Public recreation facilities .....        | 1.....                                        | 2.....                          | 3.....                     | 4.....                   | 5.....                                        | X          |
| Parks & Rec programs and activities ..... | 1.....                                        | 2.....                          | 3.....                     | 4.....                   | 5.....                                        | X          |
| Athletic fields.....                      | 1.....                                        | 2.....                          | 3.....                     | 4.....                   | 5.....                                        | X          |
| Public playgrounds.....                   | 1.....                                        | 2.....                          | 3.....                     | 4.....                   | 5.....                                        | X          |

3. How many times have you or members of your household used the following recreation facilities and programs in the last twelve months? (CHECK "HAVEN'T USED/NONE" IF APPROPRIATE)

|                                                                         | HAVEN'T USED/ NONE | 1 TO 3 | 4 TO 6 | 7 TO 9 | 10 TO 20 | 21 OR MORE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|------------|
| Pagosa Springs Recreation Programs .....                                | 0.....             | 1..... | 2..... | 3..... | 4.....   | 5.....     |
| Reservoir Hill .....                                                    | 0.....             | 1..... | 2..... | 3..... | 4.....   | 5.....     |
| Town of Pagosa Springs trails other than Res. Hill (e.g., Riverwalk) .. | 0.....             | 1..... | 2..... | 3..... | 4.....   | 5.....     |
| Athletic fields.....                                                    | 0.....             | 1..... | 2..... | 3..... | 4.....   | 5.....     |
| Picnic areas/parks in the Town.....                                     | 0.....             | 1..... | 2..... | 3..... | 4.....   | 5.....     |
| Playgrounds in the Town .....                                           | 0.....             | 1..... | 2..... | 3..... | 4.....   | 5.....     |
| Community Center.....                                                   | 0.....             | 1..... | 2..... | 3..... | 4.....   | 5.....     |
| Teen Center.....                                                        | 0.....             | 1..... | 2..... | 3..... | 4.....   | 5.....     |

4. Do you feel there are adequate activities and recreational facilities in Pagosa Springs for people in each of the following age groups?

| YES                      | NO                       | DON'T KNOW               |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Preschool          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Elementary school  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Middle/high school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adults             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Seniors            |

## FUTURE GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS

We would like to get your input on the importance of several large improvement projects that could be made in Pagosa Springs. **Assume that, for the purposes of this question only, funding is not a consideration.**

5. After each of the following potential improvements, please tell us if you think it is very important, somewhat important, probably not needed, or definitely not needed. If you feel neutral, just indicate so. **(CIRCLE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR EACH)**

| DEVELOPMENT OF:                                                                                                                                                                      | DEFINITELY<br>NOT NEEDED | PROBABLY<br>NOT NEEDED | NEUTRAL | SOMEWHAT<br>IMPORTANT | VERY<br>IMPORTANT | DON'T KNOW/<br>UNCERTAIN |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. More trails and bike paths within town .....                                                                                                                                      | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 2. Trail/bike path connecting downtown to west end of town<br>(on Putt Hill) .....                                                                                                   | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 3. Open space acquisition and preservation.....                                                                                                                                      | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 4. Expansion of large parks for general park use<br>(including picnic use, <u>informal</u> field sports, children's<br>play areas, special events, large gathering areas, etc.)..... | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 5. Expansion of large parks dedicated to <u>organized</u> field sports<br>(soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.).....                                                          | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 6. More small neighborhood parks.....                                                                                                                                                | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 7. Nature park and/or nature center.....                                                                                                                                             | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 8. A multi-purpose recreation center (possibly including courts,<br>pool, meeting rooms, fitness areas, etc.).....                                                                   | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 9. Outdoor swimming pool.....                                                                                                                                                        | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 10. Public hot springs facility.....                                                                                                                                                 | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 11. Skateboard/in-line skate park .....                                                                                                                                              | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 12. Outdoor in-line hockey arena.....                                                                                                                                                | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 13. Disc (Frisbee) Golf Course .....                                                                                                                                                 | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 14. BMX bicycle course .....                                                                                                                                                         | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 15. Multi-use equestrian park and trails.....                                                                                                                                        | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 16. Ice rink .....                                                                                                                                                                   | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 17. Tennis courts .....                                                                                                                                                              | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 18. Outdoor amphitheater or auditorium for performing arts .....                                                                                                                     | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 19. Enhancements to Reservoir Hill (e.g. amenities,<br>improved trail system, etc.) .....                                                                                            | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 20. Dog park .....                                                                                                                                                                   | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 21. Better aesthetics/improved gateway<br>identity for the Town.....                                                                                                                 | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |

Any others that would be important to you and your family? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Of the facilities listed above, which do you consider to be the highest priority? And second, third and fourth most important?  
**(Insert one number from the list above for highest priority, second most important, and so on.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Highest priority    \_\_\_\_\_ Second most important    \_\_\_\_\_ Third most important    \_\_\_\_\_ Fourth most important

## RECREATION CENTER

7. Following is a list of indoor features that could be included within a future recreation center. After each one, please tell us if you think it is very important, somewhat important, probably not needed, or definitely not needed (recognizing that adding features adds to the overall cost of the center). If you feel neutral, just indicate so. **(CIRCLE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR EACH)**

|                                                                                                                       | DEFINITELY<br>NOT NEEDED | PROBABLY<br>NOT NEEDED | NEUTRAL | SOMEWHAT<br>IMPORTANT | VERY<br>IMPORTANT | DON'T KNOW/<br>UNCERTAIN |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>RECREATION CENTER</b>                                                                                              |                          |                        |         |                       |                   |                          |
| 1. Arts & crafts room .....                                                                                           | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 2. Rock climbing wall .....                                                                                           | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 3. Multi-purpose space for classes, meetings and small<br>conferences, receptions, and parties .....                  | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 4. Dance studio / aerobics .....                                                                                      | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 5. Wellness facilities (e.g., massage, spa therapy, routine health<br>care such as cholesterol screening, etc.) ..... | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 6. Basketball/volleyball courts .....                                                                                 | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 7. Indoor pool with lap lanes for competition &/or fitness swimming ..                                                | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 8. Indoor aquatic center with pool, water slide, lazy river, etc. ....                                                | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 9. Racquetball/handball courts .....                                                                                  | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 10. Teen program and activities area .....                                                                            | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 11. Senior program and activities area .....                                                                          | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 12. Sauna & steam room .....                                                                                          | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 13. Weight room and cardio fitness .....                                                                              | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 14. Indoor running track .....                                                                                        | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 15. Gymnastics center .....                                                                                           | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 16. Child care area for center users .....                                                                            | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 17. Bowling alley .....                                                                                               | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 18. Indoor tennis courts .....                                                                                        | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 19. Outdoor skating rink .....                                                                                        | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 20. Outdoor amphitheater or auditorium for performing arts .....                                                      | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 21. Other: .....                                                                                                      | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |

8. Of the facilities listed above, which do you consider to be the highest priority for construction by the Town of Pagosa Springs? And second, third and fourth most important? **(Insert one number from the list above for highest priority, second most important, and so on.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Highest priority    \_\_\_\_\_ Second most important    \_\_\_\_\_ Third most important    \_\_\_\_\_ Fourth most important

## SAN JUAN RIVER

9. Following is a list of river-related features and potential improvements. After each one, please tell us if you think it is very important, somewhat important, probably not needed, or definitely not needed. If you feel neutral, just indicate so. **(CIRCLE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE)**

|                                                                                                   | DEFINITELY<br>NOT NEEDED | PROBABLY<br>NOT NEEDED | NEUTRAL | SOMEWHAT<br>IMPORTANT | VERY<br>IMPORTANT | DON'T KNOW/<br>UNCERTAIN |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>RIVER</b>                                                                                      |                          |                        |         |                       |                   |                          |
| 1. Improved public river access for everyone .....                                                | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 2. ADA/handicap accessibility to river and parks .....                                            | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 3. Kayak "park and play" area .....                                                               | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 4. Kayak slalom course .....                                                                      | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 5. Improved fishing boat and raft access .....                                                    | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 6. Fishing habitat improvement .....                                                              | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 7. Shore habitat improvement .....                                                                | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 8. Tubing areas .....                                                                             | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 9. Improved parking access to the river .....                                                     | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 10. Improved river trail system (i.e., interpretive signage,<br>wetlands information, etc.) ..... | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |

10. Of the potential facilities and amenities listed above, which do you consider to be the highest priority? And second, third most important, etc.? **(Insert one number from the list above for highest priority, second most important, and so on.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Highest priority    \_\_\_\_\_ Second most important    \_\_\_\_\_ Third most important    \_\_\_\_\_ Fourth most important

## RESERVOIR HILL

11. Have you ever visited Reservoir Hill?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No, I have never visited Reservoir Hill (**GO TO Q. 17**)

12. In terms of **average** usage, how often would you say you visit Reservoir Hill in the non-winter months? And in the winter months?

**NON-WINTER    WINTER**

- |                          |                          |                                                           |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I have <u>never</u> visited Reservoir Hill in this season |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | More than once a week on average                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2-4 times per month                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Once a month                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Once every 2-6 months                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Once every 6-12 months                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Once a year or less                                       |

13. Over the past 12 months, in what activities did you/your family participate when you visited Reservoir Hill (**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**)?

- |                                                                      |                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/walking                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Running                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross country skiing or snowshoeing                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biking                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding/tubing                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events (e.g., Four Corners Folk Festival, school trip, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing (e.g., birdwatching, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                                          |

14. Please rate your most recent experience on Reservoir Hill in terms of the following:

|                                      | POOR |   |   |   | EXCELLENT |  | N/A |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|---|---|-----------|--|-----|
| Extensiveness of trail network ..... | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5         |  | X   |
| Trail quality/maintenance .....      | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5         |  | X   |
| Signage.....                         | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5         |  | X   |
| Access/parking.....                  | 1    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5         |  | X   |

15. If funds were available to improve the experience on Reservoir Hill, please rate how important the following potential improvements would be to you and your family:

|                                                                                               | DEFINITELY<br>NOT NEEDED | PROBABLY<br>NOT NEEDED | NEUTRAL | SOMEWHAT<br>IMPORTANT | VERY<br>IMPORTANT | DON'T KNOW/<br>UNCERTAIN |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| More information on what is available.....                                                    | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| Expanded hiking trail system .....                                                            | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| Expanded equestrian trail system.....                                                         | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| More activities on the Hill in general .....                                                  | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| On-site amenities such as restrooms,<br>water fountains, more picnic tables, etc.....         | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| Improved signage including educational/<br>interpretive information .....                     | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| Improved parking .....                                                                        | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| More points of access from Town.....                                                          | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| Improved performing arts venues .....                                                         | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| Nature center/environmental educational facility.....                                         | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| Vehicular access to top of Hill.....                                                          | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| Dedicated area for snow sports activities<br>(e.g., skiing, snowboarding, tubing, etc.) ..... | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |

Are there other improvements that you would like to see made to Reservoir Hill?

16. In terms of long-term vision for usage of Reservoir Hill, please rate the degree to which you would like to see the Hill utilized by the public. Use a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning "Minimal Usage/Strictly Open Space" and 5 meaning "High Recreational/Special Event Use".

| MINIMAL USAGE<br>(STRICTLY OPEN SPACE) |   |   | HIGH USAGE<br>(RECREATIONAL/SPECIAL EVENT) |   |  | N/A |
|----------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------------|---|--|-----|
| 1                                      | 2 | 3 | 4                                          | 5 |  | X   |

## PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

17. Are you aware of programs offered by the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department (list of programs is shown in **Q.18**)?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No, I am not aware of any of these programs (**GO TO Q. 20**)

18. Did you or any member of your family participate in any of these programs in the past two years?  
☐ No, I/we have not participated in any of these programs (**GO TO Q. 20**)  
☐ Yes, we participated in the following programs:

### PARTICIPATED IN:

- ☐ Youth Baseball  
☐ Youth Basketball  
☐ Youth Soccer  
☐ Adult Volleyball  
☐ Adult Basketball  
☐ Adult Softball

19. The Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to providing programs that are open to all ability levels in a non-competitive environment. In the effort to improve the parks/recreation programs, we would like your feedback on those programs in which you or your child participated. Please rate your satisfaction on these programs below.

|                                           | VERY<br>DISSATISFIED |   |   |   | VERY<br>SATISFIED | DON'T KNOW/<br>UNCERTAIN |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b><u>Youth Baseball</u></b>              |                      |   |   |   |                   |                          |
| Program advertising and information ..... | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Registration process .....                | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Scheduling/organization.....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Quality of instruction .....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Overall satisfaction with program.....    | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| <b><u>Youth Basketball</u></b>            |                      |   |   |   |                   |                          |
| Program advertising and information ..... | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Registration process .....                | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Scheduling/organization.....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Quality of instruction .....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Overall satisfaction with program.....    | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| <b><u>Youth Soccer</u></b>                |                      |   |   |   |                   |                          |
| Program advertising and information ..... | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Registration process .....                | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Scheduling/organization.....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Quality of instruction .....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Overall satisfaction with program.....    | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| <b><u>Adult Volleyball</u></b>            |                      |   |   |   |                   |                          |
| Program advertising and information ..... | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Registration process .....                | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Scheduling/organization.....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Quality of instruction .....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Overall satisfaction with program.....    | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| <b><u>Adult Basketball</u></b>            |                      |   |   |   |                   |                          |
| Program advertising and information ..... | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Registration process .....                | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Scheduling/organization.....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Quality of instruction .....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Overall satisfaction with program.....    | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| <b><u>Adult Softball</u></b>              |                      |   |   |   |                   |                          |
| Program advertising and information ..... | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Registration process .....                | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Scheduling/organization.....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Quality of instruction .....              | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |
| Overall satisfaction with program.....    | 1                    | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                 | X                        |

Comments on parks and recreation programs and personnel/administration:

20. What additional programs would you like to see offered by the Parks and Recreation Department for you, your family, and the community? After each one, please tell us if you think it is very important, somewhat important, probably not needed, or definitely not needed. If you feel neutral, just indicate so. **(CIRCLE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR EACH)**

|                                                                                   | DEFINITELY<br>NOT NEEDED | PROBABLY<br>NOT NEEDED | NEUTRAL | SOMEWHAT<br>IMPORTANT | VERY<br>IMPORTANT | DON'T KNOW/<br>UNCERTAIN |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Year-round swim lessons.....                                                   | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 2. Fitness classes and weight lifting.....                                        | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 3. Martial arts .....                                                             | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 4. Life skills programs<br>(social skills, cooking, computer classes, etc.) ..... | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 5. More youth programs & activities.....                                          | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 6. More adult programs & activities.....                                          | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 7. More senior programs & activities.....                                         | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 8. Adult soccer league .....                                                      | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 9. Adult flag football league.....                                                | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 10. Youth flag football league .....                                              | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 11. Tennis tournaments or tennis ladders.....                                     | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 12. Adult dance classes (country, Latin, etc.) .....                              | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 13. More special events, concerts & festivals .....                               | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 14. Day hikes & backpack trips.....                                               | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 15. Road & mountain bike trips.....                                               | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 16. Winter snowshoeing day trips .....                                            | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 17. Winter cross country ski trips .....                                          | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 18. Cultural / performing arts programs .....                                     | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |
| 19. Other: .....                                                                  | 1                        | 2                      | 3       | 4                     | 5                 | X                        |

21. Are you aware of the Teen Center located at the Community Center?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

22. Are you aware of the Senior Center located at the Community Center?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

## SUGGESTIONS

23. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions that you would like to offer regarding parks, trails and recreation services in Pagosa Springs?

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The Town of Pagosa Springs allocates tax dollars to funding programs and facilities for the Parks and Recreation Department. These tax dollars help build, operate, and maintain facilities, parks and recreation programs as well as pay for staff. When new facilities and parks are built, additional funds must be designated to pay for the increase in operations, maintenance, and staffing of the facilities. The series of questions below addresses the issue of how to potentially fund any new facilities such as a recreation center and/or new programs.

- Rank Order (1, 2, 3, etc.)

Other facilities and services you desire (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Too little  
☐ About right  
☐ Too much  
☐ Don't know / Uncertain

A new recreation center in Pagosa Springs that could include features such as a swimming pool (lazy river, family area, lap pool, etc.), fitness area, rock wall, activity rooms, etc. would cost approximately \$9 million to construct with annual maintenance costs of roughly \$700,000/year. Given the following descriptions of each financing option, please indicate how much you personally would support each approach to pay for the debt service and maintenance of the facility.

**SALES TAX**

**Amt. generated:** Approximately \$700,000/year

- DON'T KNOW**

X

## FUNDING OPTION #2: PROPERTY TAX / SPECIAL RECREATION DISTRICT

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### PROPERTY TAX / SPECIAL RECREATION DISTRICT

**Description:** Commercial and residential property tax levied within Recreation District boundaries which would encompass an area within a 5 mile radius of Town boundaries. District established by election of property owners.

**Paid for by:** Property owners within recreation district

**Amount of tax:** Mill levy of 3.00

**Amt. generated:** Approximately \$570,000/year

27. How much would you support the implementation of **property tax increase** through the creation of a **special recreation district** to fund the construction and ongoing maintenance of a new recreation center?

| WOULD NOT AT ALL<br>SUPPORT |   |   |   | WOULD DEFINITELY<br>SUPPORT |   | DON'T KNOW |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|---|------------|
| 1                           | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                           | x |            |

## FUNDING OPTION #3: USER FEES

---

### USER FEES

**Description:** Fees assessed to users of facilities through passes, punch cards, etc.

**Paid for by:** Users of facilities, including both locals and visitors

28. It would be necessary to charge a "user fee" for usage of the recreation center facility which would be in the form of daily and annual passes, punch cards, etc. How much would you be willing to pay for a **one-time only, daily pass** to the recreation center (note that Durango and Cortez charge \$4.00 for an adult daily pass)?

PLEASE FILL IN BLANK: I would be willing to pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **per day for one-time, single person use** of this facility

## FUNDING OPTION #4: IMPACT FEES

---

### IMPACT FEES

**Description:** Fees assessed on new residential development proportional to its level of impact on the community

**Paid for by:** Residential developers/property tenants

**Amount of tax:** \$850/single family residence paid for by the developer

**Amt. generated:** Approximately \$280,000/year

29. How much would you support the implementation of **impact fees** to fund the construction and ongoing maintenance of a new recreation center?

| WOULD NOT AT ALL<br>SUPPORT |   |   |   | WOULD DEFINITELY<br>SUPPORT |   | DON'T KNOW |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|---|------------|
| 1                           | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5                           | x |            |

## SUMMARY OF RECREATION CENTER FUNDING OPTIONS

|                                   | SALES TAX                                                          | PROPERTY TAX/<br>SPECIAL REC. DISTRICT                                                                                                     | USER FEES                                                              | IMPACT FEES                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description:</b>               | Tax paid on goods within Town commercial area                      | Commercial and residential property tax levied within Recreation District boundaries. District established by election of property owners. | Fees assessed to users of facilities through passes, punch cards, etc. | Fees assessed on new residential development proportional to its level of impact on the community |
| <b>Paid for by:</b>               | Visitors and local residents                                       | Property owners within recreation district                                                                                                 | Users of facilities, including both locals and visitors                | Residential developers/ property tenants                                                          |
| <b>Amount of tax/fee:</b>         | Increase sales tax by ½ of one percent, or \$.50 on \$100 purchase | Mill levy of 3.00                                                                                                                          | Estimated \$4.00/visit                                                 | \$850/single family residence                                                                     |
| <b>Approximate amt generated:</b> | Approximately \$700,000/year                                       | Approximately \$570,000/year                                                                                                               | Approximately \$250,000/year                                           | \$280,000/year                                                                                    |

30. To construct a recreation center facility, the Town would be required to annually pay approximately **\$1.3 million in debt service and operational expenses**. How much would you look to each of the above funding mechanisms to make these payments, with the objective being to allocate the payments in a manner that is fair and that you would support? **Insert an amount(s) from some or all of the funding options summing to a total of \$1.3 million)**

|                                               |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sales tax increase (\$600 - \$800,000)        | _____              |
| Property tax/rec district (\$500 - \$700,000) | _____              |
| User fees (\$200 - 300,000)                   | _____              |
| Impact fees (\$200 - \$400,000)               | _____              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>\$1,300,000</b> |

COMMENTS ON RECREATION CENTER FINANCING: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Just a few more questions about yourself to assist in classifying your responses . . .**

31. Are you:  
☐ Male  
☐ Female
32. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_
33. Which of these categories best applies to your household?  
☐ Single, no children  
☐ Single with children at home  
☐ Single, children no longer at home (empty nester)  
☐ Couple, no children  
☐ Couple with children at home  
☐ Couple, children no longer at home
34. \_\_\_\_\_ Including yourself, how many people live in your household?  
\_\_\_\_\_ How many members of your household are under age 18?
35. Do you own or rent your residence in Pagosa Springs?  
☐ Own  
☐ Rent
36. How long have you lived in Pagosa Springs?  
\_\_\_\_\_ years **OR** ☐ Check here if less than a year
37. Do you live within Town limits or in unincorporated Archuleta County?  
☐ Town or city limits  
☐ Unincorporated county  
☐ Don't know
38. Specifically, where in the Pagosa Springs area do you live?  
☐ East of Pagosa Springs (San Juan River Resort, etc.)  
☐ South of Pagosa Springs (Highway 84 or Trujillo Rd.)  
☐ Downtown PS (including Four Mile, Snowball Road)  
☐ Pagosa Lakes Area (north of Hwy 160)  
☐ Meadows/Timber Ridge  
☐ West of Pagosa (Aspen Springs, Vista, etc.)  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
39. Is this your primary residence or a second home?  
☐ Primary residence  
☐ Second home
40. Are you a permanent year-round resident or seasonal resident?  
☐ Year-round resident  
☐ Seasonal resident (less than 6 months per year)  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
41. Are you a registered voter in the Town of Pagosa Springs?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
42. Most people think of themselves as belonging to a particular ethnic or racial group. Do you consider yourself to be:  
☐ Caucasian/Anglo (not Hispanic)  
☐ African American  
☐ Hispanic/Latin  
☐ Asian  
☐ Native American  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
43. Which of these categories best describes the total gross annual income of your household (before taxes).  

|                                         |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under \$25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 – 149,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 – 49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 – 199,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 – 74,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 – 249,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75 – 99,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250,000 or more |

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME**

## QUALITATIVE COMMENTS

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## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 19) Comments on parks and rec programs**

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- ♦ Don't like soccer starting before school. Too many games per week for basketball and times are too late on school nights.
- ♦ Don't see much advertising for these available sports. Always hear after they start.
- ♦ It seems to me that youth basketball seasons are way too short. I have been told that it is because there's a high number of participants and not enough gym time available to elongate the season. I'd like to see practices interspersed throughout the season instead of 2-4 practices then games from there on out.
  
- ♦ It seems you try to have good programs, but your personnel who are to implement the programs have been lacking in friendliness, helpfulness and concern for what participants are looking for. I think you need more and better trained officials. This could be accomplished by advertising and offering training programs. For several years we have been told what the rules are, only to have them change in the middle of a game. It would be helpful to have a pre-season practice to help less experienced players feel confident enough to join organized teams.
- ♦ Lack of organization, scheduling and planning is very frustrating
- ♦ Last year's soccer club team was highly unprofessional, we do not want club teams
- ♦ Need adult exercise programs in early evening 5:30-6:00 pm.
- ♦ New management has been great. Tom is helpful and available. Great refs, they explain calls to players.
  
- ♦ No children - did not participate.
- ♦ No kids at home.
- ♦ Parents shouldn't be allowed at games. Teach kids better sportsmanship.
- ♦ The lack of organization dealing with team pictures is a nightmare. Realizing that the town doesn't control this aspect, may we suggest that it is put out for bids. Also many children cannot afford price of team pictures.
- ♦ The youth programs need scheduled practices. The game season should be at least 2 months. The coaches can't teach during the game. Then need practice.
- ♦ Too much politics is involved. It matters who you know within the organization. There is preferential treatment given to some and when complaints were voiced, then you were snubbed by the administration and his personnel. Non-competitive should be just that. Yet some teams were made up of the best skills level and dominated over the other teams with very little skills.
- ♦ Volleyball has been in the past, very "loosely" organized and poorly run
- ♦ We need girl's softball included
- ♦ We need higher quality fields and more gym space
- ♦ Where is the information at above programs available?
- ♦ Would like to see A, B, C leagues for adult basketball. Consistency is key, it seems like scheduling was always different. Also, I hate T-ball in March and April.
- ♦ Would love to have adult soccer and flag football

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 23) Comments or suggestions regarding parks, trails and services**

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- ♦ A better skate park would be great, also public access to hot springs and a nice recreational indoor swimming pool and rock wall and fitness center
- ♦ A community garden, recycling program which could be coordinated with local waste management. This would include distribution of separate bins for paper, plastic, and cans. These could be picked up biweekly or monthly.
- ♦ A community pool or water park, a community auditorium for performing arts
- ♦ A multi-purpose, well designed recreation center could help alleviate many of the problems encountered by the recreation programs. Many places we've lived utilized Colorado Lottery dollars to help fund very nice, affordable recreation centers.
- ♦ A new rec center should not in anyway compete with the Community Center. If a rec center is all athletic related "services" then the Community Center should be changed to be all arts and crafts, cooking classes, other classes and the gym could be converted into a multi purpose room for the community dances (wonderful program offered each month), banquets, wedding receptions etc. For these events it would be nice to have it be a real room rather than a decorated gym. I think the town would keep it booked year round if it were converted and a gym(s) were a new rec center.
- ♦ A new recreation center is top priority to allow kids of all ages to access courts, pools, activities and learning opportunities, we are behind the curve now and need it ASAP
- ♦ A place to walk indoors in winter
- ♦ A soccer field is a must.
- ♦ Although we, as seniors, have not participated in youth or adult sports activities, we have enjoyed watching your family members play
- ♦ Anything we can offer the kids to keep them busy and entertained is what this town needs. Growing up here is hard because there is such a lack of youth activities.
- ♦ Better activities for the children of our community need to be available where the children can participate in a safe environment where children of all ages become involved and are role models for each other and growth potential becomes an asset to the child. Anything to help keep them involved and off the streets loitering.
- ♦ Build a skate park. This town is 10 years behind almost every other town in the state.
- ♦ Classes for cross country skiing, canoeing, kayaking, back country skiing, fly fishing.
- ♦ Create a large playground and adventure park type area with smaller satellite playgrounds interconnected along the river trail system. Also, a fitness trail integrated along the river walk with chin up bars, sit up bench, etc.
- ♦ Current economic conditions require activities that are free or very low cost, especially for children and young families
- ♦ Don't duplicate what's available, have a teen and senior center, need the regular adult stuff, definitely more family activities
- ♦ Easier access, groomed cross country trails, convenient parking for hikes and cross country trails
- ♦ Excellent organization of public dances since fall 2005. Attention to details, decorations, music very well done! Good public attendance. Non-smoking, safe, accessible environment and lots of sun.
  
- ♦ Expand trail at river from Town Parr to River Center
- ♦ Extend River Walk where feasible. Public art along River Walk.
- ♦ Family based events
- ♦ Finish the San Juan River improvement with boulders Finish river walk to Apache Bridge. Install wetlands board walk. Close South 6th to pedestrian traffic only.
- ♦ For a community this size there are a lot of activities offered. Preserving open natural spaces within town is very important, especially for folks unable to get out into the National Forest
- ♦ For better usage of Reservoir Hill in the snow months, some paved trails would be nice
- ♦ Give more activities to teens to keep them busy and out of trouble
- ♦ How about doing something to keep all kids from drugs or even getting them off drugs. I'm sure someone can try to figure out a program for these kids.
- ♦ I don't believe they offer enough for the kids at the teen center

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 23) Comments or suggestions regarding parks, trails and services**

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- ♦ I don't think the town does enough and what it has done is rag-tag. Class it up a bit. Don't leave it to the developers to do. Be proactive not reactive. Get with it.
- ♦ I enjoy what we have and am looking forward to completion of the river trail to the south. I am not in favor of a recreation center. Many private businesses provide opportunities. Grants and other state monies can be acquired for parks, river trail, etc.
- ♦ I feel like the programs for kids and parents tend to be low on the priority list in this town. This town seems to care more about tourists and lynx than their kids!
- ♦ I feel that Pagosa Springs is perfect the way it is. Any attempt at improving this beautiful place only spoils it.
- ♦ I have been very clear about my feelings concerning the river, reservoir hill. Try not to make us a metro area with "something for everyone." We are surrounded by National Forest, rivers, etc. They are not hard to find. I see no reason for the "Town" to duplicate what is already available and funded by our tax dollars.
- ♦ I like Reservoir Hill the way it is, a quiet respite from the city
- ♦ I think it is important to duplicate activities and facilities provided at the public schools
- ♦ I think it would be great to see a youth football league with pads and everything.
- ♦ I wish there was a small ski lift on Reservoir Hill that only ran for small kids learning to ski. It's a long, expensive day if you take your kids to Wolf Creek and they are only learning how to ski. It should only be for beginners as the hill can't support many skiers at one time.
- ♦ I would like to compliment Jim and his staff for keeping the parks clean and well maintained. I am proud to take our family and guest to Pagosa for a picnic or walk along the river.
- ♦ I would like to see a city park all along the river with a bike path, trees, grass, picnic tables, and benches
  
- ♦ I would like to see more equestrian pursuits including cattle and roping events, and team sorting. Especially team sorting, this is very easy event for amateur cowboys.
- ♦ I would like to see more mountain biking trails, if you could get close to Durango that would be good, run the lifts at Wolf Creek for biking, my friends come from out of state and find it hard to believe the lack of mountain biking, those that are here are hard to locate- like Treasure Falls Trail
- ♦ I would not like to see the community center wasted by duplicating facilities in a new rec center. The biggest need for neighborhood parks is in the lakes area, which, unfortunately, is probably beyond the scope of the "town."
- ♦ If you allow Wal-Mart to be built in town, it would provide hundreds of jobs and millions in tax dollars to help provide all this. We also need a 24 hour emergency center, hospital, childbirth center.
- ♦ Ice rink needed
- ♦ I'd like to see a family friendly, reasonably priced, open to the public, swimming facility, like the Durango Rec center, here in Pagosa. This should include a deep pool/ diving facility, lap lanes, and a large shallow pool with slides, fountains for smaller, younger children. Also a large waterslide for older kids and adults, hot tub and family dressing rooms.
- ♦ If those that benefit and those that impact the town pay the bill, as a Pagosa Lakes resident I already have a recreation center that I pay for with PLPOA dues and user fees, I will not pay for another, let those people pay this time
- ♦ If you were to get a good rec center with a competitive size pool it would bring in a lot of money for the town through swim meets. You could contact the PLPOA Rec center for coaches phone numbers and discuss it with them.
- ♦ I'm confused- there is already a community center, it seems some of the programs you propose are already available, I hope this isn't a Pork Barrel for only a few who have special interests
- ♦ Improve town image, high quality signs, attractive high quality public areas- form an attractive image plan for parks open areas and recreation centers
- ♦ In the three plus years I have been here, I have only seen about one dozen bike riders or pedestrians using the No Pagosa Trail. I also wonder the use of the Blvd City Park. Chili Competitions and other things for all ages should be planned.

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 23) Comments or suggestions regarding parks, trails and services**

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- ♦ Increased trails are needed extending from the river trail to connect with 6th street, we need bike paths along many routes
- ♦ It appear that the current town center is under utilized
- ♦ It seems like a grandiose idea but who is going to pay for all of this without raising taxes
- ♦ It seems like the teen center and senior center provides some of these activities
- ♦ It would be nice to have more smaller, neighborhood parks where kids could play after school and families could meet. It would be nice to have a family rec ctr like the Durango Rec ctr that has a waterslide, courts, indoor track, dance studios, rock climbing wall, all in one place and available to the entire town, not just the residents of Fairfield.
- ♦ Junior does a great job
- ♦ Keep maintained, keep snow off, I walk the trails five times a week and find the snow removal in winter to be pretty bad!
- ♦ Keep open space and create more, don't fill up the parks with every manner of things
- ♦ Keep taxes down, we didn't buy property here to see it become another screwed up area, let's get a first rate medical center here- not more merchants and unsupportable infrastructure, stop being greedy with my hard earned money
- ♦ Maintain open space and don't over use natural areas, be careful building facilities, focus on programs
  
- ♦ Making Pagosa a pedestrian friendly town with walking and biking accessibility. Beautify the river area. Add a walking/biking path for an extensive part of the river (as in Salida, Durango, etc.) Beautify town park for festivals and events by adding an outdoor amphitheater area (as in Salida and Flagstaff put one in their town square). By adding frisbee golf course to Reservoir Hill it provides a free and healthy entertainment for teens as well as families.
- ♦ Many trails need better marking
- ♦ More bike lanes and better shoulder on roads for biking. Keep shoulders clean, sweep off glass and debris. Cyclists can't use the shoulders if they're always trying to avoid road hazards. Check out Davis, CA for ideas on how to become a bike friendly community. Long bike/ rollerblading paths would be fantastic. Pagosa has a lot of natural beauty. Let's figure out how to enjoy it from outside of a car or RV.
  
- ♦ More bike paths linking all of downtown with Pagosa Lakes. More open areas for kids to pass a ball, soccer pitch type grass areas outside well kept basketball courts, volleyball.
- ♦ More planting; trees, bushes, flowers along park trails - a far better toilet facility and one farther down the part trail.
- ♦ More public access to Hot Springs (free).
- ♦ More restrooms, more parks around town, parks gated for young children
- ♦ More space for all youth sports. No room to practice or have games. Have Mr Brown build one for the community and the kids.
- ♦ More venues so all youth programs could be scheduled at better times, 7:30 games are too late for 8-12 year olds
- ♦ More walking paths downtown and up Putt Hill
- ♦ Most of the activities mentioned are available to those who want them - the mountains are here - reachable, usable, wonderful and don't need the town to program for them.
- ♦ Need a recreation center ASAP
- ♦ Need bags and receptacles for cleaning up after animals
- ♦ Need bike paths
- ♦ Need bike trails along main county roads, for safety
- ♦ Need more soccer fields, volleyball courts (outdoor), running trails, and martial arts programs
- ♦ Need public, preferably lit) tennis courts. Need bike trail alongside highway from west end to town for safety.
- ♦ Need to have some focus on west end of town
- ♦ New theatre
- ♦ Open the teen center. What a waste- it isn't even available to the kids!

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 23) Comments or suggestions regarding parks, trails and services**

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- ♦ Our playground equipment is very poor. Cortez parks are a great example of attractive/ child pleasing park facilities.
- ♦ Pagosa needs more space to have events downtown so the business district receives more traffic. Any activities would be great.
- ♦ Pagosa Springs is in a phase of rapid development. Change is not always better. Some things are best left alone.
- ♦ Patrol them better so vandalism won't keep happening
- ♦ Please adopt a transfer of development rights program or acquisition of open space
- ♦ Please balance real needs vs. overuse. Don't lose Jim Miller, get more smart, dedicated hardworking people like him.
- ♦ Please build an indoor pool, our community needs one
- ♦ Please do not turn the downtown park area into a parking lot. I know parking space is at a premium, but is that something the town has to provide to business owners? Can't business owners scale down buildings to allow room for parking?
- ♦ Please don't let the developers take away all the river frontage with condos, etc.
- ♦ Please don't over extend. Better to have one thing done exceptionally than ten done at 40%. Look at the BMX track for example.
- ♦ Please put in parks! We need a nice park for everyone to visit and enjoy.
- ♦ Public tennis courts
- ♦ Public tennis courts and golf are a must.
- ♦ Quality people organizing programs, Tom is doing a great job, was glad to see other staff move on, I did not feel they were very passionate about the program nor qualified, they seemed to be happy doing nothing, hire more qualified people
- ♦ Regular shuttle service to Wolf Creek Pass Ski Area during ski season.
- ♦ Restrooms at the trailhead and top of Reservoir Hill, a better more permanent skate park, check out website [www.skatepark.org](http://www.skatepark.org), public tennis courts a must
- ♦ Secure play area for families with young children, different levels of playground equipment to separate young kids and older kids so no one gets hurt, include sand boxes and simple slides and low equipment for little kids
- ♦ Services need to be supported by those who use them. I am leaving Arizona because of taxes to pay for other people i.e. golf. A minimal attempt of city involvement that is public supported, after that I am more than willing to pay for what I want and use. This used to be an American custom before we degenerated into a socialist country. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness should still be mine but they are taxed away from me.
- ♦ Sidewalks in residential areas are high priority
- ♦ Some of the activities you list would interfere with private businesses such as swimming pools, martial arts, exercise. The town has several businesses that offer these activities.
- ♦ Staffing? Confusion and chaos with staff hiring/firing regarding teen center, rec problems, etc. Conflict, competition, interface with Chamber of Commerce, county, private enterprise?
- ♦ Thanks you for all you're doing to keep up with growth and change
- ♦ The community center is not managed well, management cannot maintain schedules
- ♦ The emphasis of this survey is definitely on a recreation center. Let's do more outdoor improvements. The aesthetics of this town are generally weekly enforced. Curbs, lighting, paving, landscaping, less mud, more plants! Street signs especially downtown could be more attractive, obvious and lit!
- ♦ The park space in this town is disgraceful. Need more areas for young families.
- ♦ The parks and rec administration has been lacking for several years. Too many jobs are placed on the director. They need a secretary. There are too many kids to shuffle into teams, uniforms, fields. Now you've got Tom working days, nights, weekends probably with not much compensation. Even if we have to go to club sports you still need someone who can chase down information or make calls.

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 23) Comments or suggestions regarding parks, trails and services**

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- ♦ The present recreation center is so poorly thought out and built I would hesitate to give the town any money for a new one unless outside research is performed
- ♦ The questionnaire asking for community feedback is excellent. Seems you will have disproportionate numbers of boomers to satisfy, like me. However, you will not vote but should be highly involved in survey and survey results. Boomers.investor input should be considered but local people should be separately surveyed. Suggest survey (random sample) of downtown shoppers or mail survey of those that live in Pagosa 12 months a year. This is a resort town. To use small farming town or big city evaluation system of this survey may not get best results. Good beginning.
- ♦ The Silver Fox Den offers recreation for seniors, the school grounds for kids. I think Pagosa Springs has already done a good job.
- ♦ The town needs a shooting range
- ♦ The youth programs are too crammed so you have to be out 3 nights/ week. Would like to see the schedule stretched a bit to 1-2 nights/week only. Too much stress, in fact that was one of the reasons we dropped out of youth soccer. Thank you for asking.
- ♦ There is enough open space in the form of public lands around town. Reservoir Hill, located in the center of downtown, should definitely be capitalized upon as a promoted high use areas.
- ♦ There is not enough done to keep your young adults interested in staying in town. After high school ages find there is nothing here for them, no college, wages too low to afford to live on their own, not a lot to do activity wise
- ♦ There is so much opportunity for various outdoor recreation activities on public land, the town does not need to provide everything, but some development for organized sports and activities is good
- ♦ Trail connection, River walk downtown to west end of town. Most important thing to do. Community connectivity, get it?
- ♦ Utilize parts of old railroad right of way for bike and hike trails
- ♦ Walking is universally beneficial for health and well being. Making trails and paths an important community asset. Providing safe and conducive walking routes should be a high priority. Equally important is engaging youth in physical activity and recreation. Every effort should be made to provide venues for activities popular with young people.
- ♦ We are doing great, we are lucky to have the community center
- ♦ We currently have a community center that is not utilized. More money needs to be spent in other areas, trails, parks, etc.
- ♦ We definitely need more for kids and teens to keep them busy. It would also be great to add evening culture events. I think Pagosa would be a great area for outdoor concerts of all types of music.
  
- ♦ We do not need a recreation center
- ♦ We have a home in Pagosa, but don't live there, we just visit and are not aware of the programs, when we move there will take part in activities
- ♦ We love the community center!
- ♦ We need a cultural arts center or performing arts center at least as large as high school auditorium with learning classrooms
- ♦ We need a non-motorized trail system connection popular public use areas, including connections between Pagosa lakes and town, within town connecting public use areas, and an extended river trail (recreational). Better access, non-motorized, from the Hwy 84 corridor to town also needed. It is also important that our youth have access to public swimming pools with lessons available. Public tennis courts. Parks and open space along trails, when possible/practical.
- ♦ We need a public swimming pool that people can afford. A good outdoor walking area for all people. We are senior citizens and it would be nice to have a walking area without dogs.
- ♦ We need a rec center. Somewhere for families and children to go and have recreation time together. We all drive to Durango, why not keep the money here. Please don't let them put the jail house by the community center.

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 23) Comments or suggestions regarding parks, trails and services**

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- ♦ We need more for the little kids. A kid friendly pool would be great and a bigger park. They can't enjoy pools when they can't reach. All we have is a normal pool which isn't kid friendly. Also make swimming affordable. Durango rec ctr is great for kids and also very affordable. Too bad we have to drive an hour.
- ♦ We need more neighborhood maintained parks. Parks are very important.
- ♦ We need safe and useable trails that our children can hike and walk on, they need to be connected and go somewhere, we need a safe way to get from up town, Fairfield area, to downtown, give our kids a chance to be healthy by hiking or walking safely
- ♦ We need tennis courts!
- ♦ We should utilize the hot spring for an outdoor public swimming pool and spa, have a pool cool enough for lap swimming and a warmer general space
- ♦ We think they are really trying hard to give everyone something that they like, a big change over the years, we think the town really needs a recreation center like Durango so people can have a place to swim and work out that is affordable
- ♦ We would like to see a trail for equestrians to ride through town with hitching posts and some watering holes at possible eateries. Let's not lose "Old Pagosa" equestrian community.
- ♦ We would rather not see large scale government programs funded by taxing of citizens, we would like to see creative incentives for local business and private charities to provide these needs
- ♦ Welcome Wagon should inform newcomers on facilities available in parks and rec area
- ♦ With National Forest everywhere, there is no need for trails
- ♦ Would definitely love to see an extensive network of paved trails for roller blading
- ♦ Would like improved river access and a river trail system
- ♦ Would like to see an officially sponsored horseshoe pitching tournament
- ♦ Would like to see more organized group activities for newer residents. We moved here because of all the advertised activities, but if you don't know the "how tos" you're afraid to try. Would be nice to see the town emphasize more on beginner classes for some of the sports, i.e. hiking, hunting, snowshoeing, snowmobiling. Have less craft fairs for tourists, and more real community stuff.
- ♦ Would like to see more picnic areas along the river if possible
- ♦ Yes, we could not only use more mountain bike trails, but it would be nice to have some more single track and/or 40 inch ATV/dirt bike trails

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 30) Comments on recreation center financing**

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- ♦ A new center would be great for our community
- ♦ A new rec center should be funded by users, not tax dollars
- ♦ A property tax/ special rec district is not equitable, it places the burden of payment unfairly on those who happen to live near town with no regard to who is actually using the center
- ♦ A quality rec center would greatly enhance the town and county, for residents and visitors. Go for it, but do it right.
- ♦ A rec center is not needed. There is already one in the county.
- ♦ A recreation center must not compete with private enterprises and should be financially self-supporting
  
- ♦ A recreation center would be for the people living here and those to come. Impact fees should be proportional for its use, not bearing the majority of the burden, if any.
- ♦ After thinking about the funding alternatives, total cost and current use of community center, I'm not sure a rec ctr is a good idea. It appears the money would be better used on developing the river, trails, and the town aesthetics
- ♦ All local residents and visitors that use facility should be responsible, taxing property owners and developers is a penalty and does not help growth in Pagosa, cut spending on facility and adjust
- ♦ All of above should be important sources of funds
- ♦ Am not sure of how to fund, but currently our taxes are too high and not properly handled, so basically an increase would end up in a few pockets, an alternative means needs to be worked out
- ♦ Business license in lieu of property tax
- ♦ Buy land to preserve open space - especially at entrances to area east and west 160, south 84 - before rec center.
- ♦ Consider efficiency in design and in manpower to operate. Take advantage of solar and geothermal potential to save energy costs. Don't think new people coming in, who will also be paying property and sales tax should have to pay more. We don't think we should expect someone else to pay for what we want. If you want it, be willing to pay for it.
- ♦ Continued concentration on open space and trails for hiking and biking could alleviate some of the need for all the money and effort to go into a "facility"
- ♦ Do not pinpoint a certain group to pay. Make sure whole community pay their share, which in the long run will improve their life.
- ♦ Don't even consider it. Our taxed are already excessive.
- ♦ Don't need it
- ♦ Downsize your plans and reduce the cost. Privatize many of the activities. Taxpayers should not be viewed as endless sources of revenue.
- ♦ Durango has a great rec center. It is well equipped and reasonable admission. Let's spend the money to have a great one in Pagosa.
- ♦ Durango seems to have lots of trouble with their center
- ♦ Enhance current facility to include improvements and new purposes
- ♦ Financing should be provided by use not by people who have no desire to use the facilities
- ♦ Find more grants and possibly a larger sales tax
- ♦ Forget it
- ♦ Forget it if you have to raise taxes
- ♦ Forget it unless it has a performing arts center with seating for 100
- ♦ Fund raisers with matching grants
- ♦ Fundamentally against more debt, prefer to start above taxation with plan to build x years from now with no debt
- ♦ Good luck, you've got to have more community members spending and staying in their community
- ♦ Have impact fee start on homes over \$175,000 in value, exempt affordable housing
- ♦ How about donations from all land developers. Charge them a percentage of what they make to go to parks and recreation
- ♦ How about re-allocating some of the monies spent on promoting tourism to this project?

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 30) Comments on recreation center financing**

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- ♦ However it is financed, it is a must for our community to not necessarily attract more tourists, but to attract families who will stay and help build and improve our community. If we want to be competitive with Cortez/Durango/Farmington in attracting young, active community-minded families, and active, healthy contributing senior citizens, this effort must proceed.
- ♦ I am unsure of the amount of each but I would be more likely to support user fees, impact fees and possibly an increase in sales tax. I would not support the property tax increase for the special rec district only.
- ♦ I am very much opposed to any tax increase to support the town or county. My position is centered on the fact that the commissioner decided to stop any road work on my street. No grading, no snow removal etc. despite the fact that I pay high taxes and get nothing in return. I believe that Pagosa Lakes pays 3-5 times more taxes than the village of Pagosa Springs and yet they get the services and we pay for nothing. Until this disparity is corrected myself and my neighbors will withhold support and vote accordingly.
- ♦ I believe property taxes will already be raising too much, they need to tax in other areas because salaries in this area do not compensate for the cost of living here
- ♦ I didn't answer number 30 because it seems like the majority of needs are caused by growth. The fair way to finance these items is for developers to pay for improvement and infrastructure as they build and for those who want added facilities to pay a use fee. An example would be for developers to be financially responsible for adequate parking and other infrastructure burdens. The tax payer shouldn't pay for these items so the developer can increase their profit.
- ♦ I do not agree that Rec Center is priority. Priority is diverse community themes generation tax dollars. Rec Center takes money, not makes money. Inherently good for community, but first market Pagosa, so people from all over will want to come here.
- ♦ I do not support the rec center described herein for Pagosa to this time. I believe a much larger population is necessary to support a facility of this size. Programs should be strengthened, especially for youth, before building additional facilities.
- ♦ I don't think a new facility is needed. Outdoor recreation of high quality is already available near town or in a short drive! We would disapprove of any increase in our taxes for a recreation center we probably would not use!
- ♦ I don't think we need another rec center
- ♦ I don't want any tax money spent for a recreation center.
- ♦ I feel non local visitors should be obligated to pay more and the local residents should get a discount
- ♦ I really feel that user fees should pay for most of the needed funds i.e. \$750,000-800,000 with impact fees generating the remaining funds
- ♦ I think commercial rent is going to go up quite a bit for downtown over the next several years. I'm not sure how much more money they can handle.
- ♦ I think funds from the town and county should be used to help support this as everyone will use this recreation center if the price is right
- ♦ I think our tax dollars could be used elsewhere because the kids always destroy everything that has been done for them throughout the years
- ♦ I think the above figure is overestimated.
- ♦ I would imagine that there are grants available for such a project as well
- ♦ I would like to see funding for a recreation center.
- ♦ I would like to see the money spent more wisely than the current community center, which is in effect only a senior center due to the high cost of gymnasium rental. \$100 an hour is out of reach of any small groups in the community.
- ♦ I would support user fees but would not support any other funding options. The facilities are not necessary.
- ♦ If a mill levy is implemented, property owners should be waived the user fees
- ♦ If an equestrian facility is not included I see no reason to support a recreation facility at all

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 30) Comments on recreation center financing**

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- ♦ If it can't pay for itself thru user fees, it should not be built. Taxpayers should not have to subsidize something they may never use.
- ♦ If it costs that much, forget it
- ♦ If it is open to all, all should pay for it rather than new construction, property tax, etc.
- ♦ If taxes are increased in any manner they should go to roads first. Roads are the major priority before any rec center is built.
- ♦ If the facility cannot be funded primarily by its users then it is not a realistic endeavor
- ♦ If you build it, they will come
- ♦ I'm not sure we need a town rec center. Non PLPOA members can access the current rec center for a daily fee. If a new facility is built, it should be funded by users, not tax dollars.
- ♦ I'm not whiz- use them all! Pay down debt if there is extra, or if you decrease recreation district funding.
  
- ♦ Impact fee is very essential
- ♦ Impact fees are an excellent idea and should be used to the maximum amount possible. Our town is growing at an unprecedented rate, let's make the most of it.
- ♦ Impact fees are better for infrastructure development and land acquisition, down years in construction could cause financial problems
- ♦ Increase radius from town for special rec district
- ♦ It can't place a burden on those locals that wouldn't be able to use it, but also can't penalize those who own property
- ♦ It is extremely important to maintain growth in our community. Construction is a major employer in our community. Our low property taxes help to bring in new families. So this must be a strong consideration in our attempts to raise capitol for this project. How about a drive in the private sector to raise a portion of the 1.3 million?
- ♦ It would be nice if user fees could be kept low so more people can afford to go more often. This in turn might raise the amount collected.
- ♦ It's definitely something we need here, I am most supportive of the sales tax, but regardless, out family would use the center a lot. Also, Durango just raised their price to \$4.50
- ♦ It's time the city annexed the homes now in homeowners association areas that are being serviced by the county and pay county tax into City of Pagosa Springs tax base. Hatcher, Twin Creek, etc. Time to start acting like a growing city.
- ♦ Keep it simple
- ♦ Keep user fees very low to nothing
- ♦ Leave as is
- ♦ Let our dogs run free
- ♦ Let those who use I pay for it. Treat everyone equally. If I don't use it why should I pay.
- ♦ Let's make it work
- ♦ Make it happen
- ♦ More mundane community needs like roads and water supply, even trails and open space are more important to me than a new public recreation center.
- ♦ My dollar is shrinking all too quickly with increased grocery prices, gas, propane, water, property tax, etc. I live on a fixed income and though it provides a comfortable living style now, I see each increase having me make decisions about where I need to cut my spending
- ♦ New building tax, use the developer as they are using you. Commercial building tax would pay for all of this. Nine million - get real. New subdivision tax. Airport tax - any plane carrying over three persons.
  
- ♦ No increase of property tax, create higher user fees or new construction fees
- ♦ No increase to property taxes. The locals are going to be forced out because we can't afford to live here anymore.

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 30) Comments on recreation center financing**

- ♦ No on rec center. If users can pay and private entity would build it fine. We already have at least 5 places to exercise inside including PLPOA rec center, several small private concerns and lots of outside opportunities in town and out of town. The Outdoor Club and Gray Wolves have group activities throughout the year for recreation and exercise. School Ski Days are great too at Wolf Creek ski area.
- ♦ No recreation center needed, we live in a beautiful open space area- use it!
- ♦ No tax increase for this
- ♦ None - Let those who use it, fund it and pay for it. Donations could be an alternative.
- ♦ Not fair to assess impact fee on new properties only, user fees should be primary
- ♦ Not interested in having a recreation center!
- ♦ Not needed
- ♦ Parking fees
- ♦ People live here because of all of the recreation that is available to everyone. Any rec center should be funded solely by user fees, not charged to those who won't or can't use it. If it can't support itself it shouldn't be built. It is irresponsible to spend tax dollars on something such as this when we can't even get our infrastructure taken care of such as roads and health services.
- ♦ People living in the Pagosa Lakes community have a recreation center which they support
- ♦ Please consider approaching the YMCA to construct a facility.
- ♦ Please contact Dave Brown who said he would help with seed money. Seriously explore grant money using senior therapy and teens as "needy users". Get citizens to help and explore all other town's methods of funding.
- ♦ Possibly grants or open up for donation/fund raising
- ♦ Property tax would only be fair if a larger area were included. Pagosa Lakes residents will use this facility more than town residents. Why not annex the Lakes and implement the property tax on those residents.
- ♦ Sales tax and property tax is a secured funding source that should only increase as the county grows. All residents of Archuleta county and the town of Pagosa benefit from these types of amenities even if they never personally use them. It empowers our youth to become accountable and responsible by directing energy to positive activities building character and a sense of community. This is a win win opportunity. I would strongly encourage the use of grant dollars in the construction phase of the project.
- ♦ Sales tax is the way to go for generating revenue, keeping user fees low will allow more people to use the facility
- ♦ Sell bonds
- ♦ Senior discounts should be given
- ♦ Several people live in the county, try to get county to help pay fees
- ♦ Since I live in Pagosa Lakes, Meadows, and have a rec center available for which I pay PLPOA yearly, I'm not really interested in a Rec Center. If taxes are to be increased, the county should have as a priority road maintenance.
- ♦ Since we already have a Community Center, I feel it should be left alone. Adding the new things elsewhere as close as possible.
- ♦ Take a good look at who's actually going to use the facility. Is the teen center currently used? What's the average income of potential user? Are potential users renters? Homeowners?
- ♦ Tax tourists, where is their bed tax on hotels? How much would a dollar per bed generate?
- ♦ Taxes are getting too high now on property so I would not support raises in taxes
- ♦ Thank you for caring. I really like the sales tax because it is evenly distributed - also users should be happy to pay/ local and visitors - your property taxes are higher than Santa Fe!
- ♦ The larger community should not have to finance facilities which only a small percentage of the community use
- ♦ The only real concern I have is no medical facilities. I am in favor of a tax increase for that without a doubt.

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### **(Q. 30) Comments on recreation center financing**

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- ♦ The property tax that would reach within a 5 mile radius of town boundaries doesn't seem to reach far enough. Too many people live outside this radius and would benefit from the rec center as well. It's not fair to just tax those in that radius. I would support a property tax if it reached more of the area. I believe I live outside the 5 mile radius right now, but I would be willing to pay a property tax to have a better rec ctr.
- ♦ This is not needed nor can the people of Pagosa support it. Brown's town can support it.
- ♦ This town absolutely needs to build on its commercial side. As that happens, more people will move here and the sales tax option will be a fair way to help pay for things like this.
- ♦ Those that want to use it should pay for it.
- ♦ To: Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, I will not support any kind of tax increase until we get something for the tax dollars. I am already paying road maintenance. This survey is a waste of tax dollars. Politicians always do as they please.
- ♦ Use combination of funding options based on individuals ability to pay
- ♦ User fees are the most equitable way to pay for recreational facilities
- ♦ User fees for locals should be set according to whether or not they own or live within the town limits. Within town limits should get better prices since they will carry the brunt of the property tax mill levy levied on their properties. Other locals and visitors using the facilities should be charged a higher usage fee, to offset any of the above.
- ♦ User fees should be kept to a minimum. There are many recreational options for those who can pay. We need a public facility.
- ♦ User fees will eliminate many families- just like the springs
- ♦ User fees, impact fees and sales tax are better than raising taxes and putting the burden on local residents. Just because people are in the rec district doesn't mean they'll be the ones using the facility.
- ♦ Visitors and part time residents users should pay higher fees than local, full time permanent residents
- ♦ Wal-Mart and visitors
- ♦ We already have a Community Center with many of the above-mentioned facilities that is underutilized. We do not need an additional recreation center until our other infrastructure problems are solved.
- ♦ We do not have the public population to support this. There is the Eaton Rec. Center open to anyone with a reasonable punch card fee. We have Hot Springs pool and the pool at the Eaton center is currently used by the swim team.
- ♦ We do not need another recreation center!
- ♦ We don't need more taxes except for necessary improvements - not a wish list like you show here.
- ♦ We don't need a big fancy center. Pagosa Lakes has one.
- ♦ Why don't "you" allow Wal Mart to come in, on the condition that they build a rec center, prior to their commencing operation
- ♦ Why not have the youth and adult leagues do fund raising and 100% of that goes into the rec center fund
- ♦ With our beautiful environment and great outdoors we don't need organized recreation
- ♦ With such great outdoor activities, I don't see why we need to spend more on a recreation center
- ♦ With the most probable increase of special road taxes up coming to maintain county roads it is unfair to the property owners to have to bear a recreation tax also!
- ♦ Would not support
- ♦ Would prefer avoiding another political body! Impact fees on new developments are somewhat unfair, but would be preferable over a recreation district, sales tax and user fees seem to be the best option, how does Durango do it? Perhaps their model could work in Pagosa. We need it yesterday, thank you for your efforts!
- ♦ You use it, you pay for it

## PAGOSA SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY 2006

### Other general (misc.) comments

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- ♦ Does Pagosa Springs have a developer donation ordinance for park and school sites?
- ♦ Don't mess with the San Juan River. It is just fine the way it is.
- ♦ Excellent questionnaire
- ♦ First priority should be to fix and plow the roads
- ♦ Good job. Very comprehensive survey.
- ♦ Great survey, nice job!
- ♦ I can envision Pagosa as an alternative Olympic training area for facilities in Colorado Springs. It is world renown for health, purity of physical environment.
- ♦ I have enjoyed my place in Pagosa for 5 years. I have been coming for over 20 years. The last 3-4 years, Pagosa is becoming over developed. The water quality of the river is not near what it was just 5-6 years ago. The water used to be crystal clear. Now there is mud on the rocks, etc. Once the town is over developed there will be no turning back. It will be gone forever. There are also cattle in the National Forest ruining the hiking trails. Pagosa is unique. Please don't turn it into every other town.
  
- ♦ I realize this questionnaire is administered by the Town of Pagosa Springs. Please don't underestimate the importance of this facility to county residents who out number town residents 3:1. Our willingness to fund this project as partners with town residents will make or break this project.
  
- ♦ I use the forest two to three times a week and am surprised more people don't.
- ♦ I would like to see funding for a recreation center
- ♦ It appear that all of the parks are located in the downtown area and there does not seem to be any public parks west of 8th street in the developing areas
- ♦ Let all the billionaires in town pay for new facilities
- ♦ More parks!
- ♦ Pets- need a "bark park", a safe fenced area to run dogs, self clean up
- ♦ Reservoir Hill not well advertised, I've lived here two years and don't even know how to access it or what is there
- ♦ Take out items like rock wall, activity center and add basic that can be charged per individual, we do not need a fitness area that is publicly funded to compete against private industry, narrow down what Pagosa needs, 9 million is too much, maybe 4.5 million, community center can still provide activity areas, do not duplicate what is already available
- ♦ The teen center just opened after being closed all summer when the teens could have really used it!
- ♦ There are plenty of activities, however, facilities are too tightly booked with all the groups using them. For instance, my son's basketball team couldn't get any indoor court for a practice session this season.
  
- ♦ There should be impact fees for new development of residential and commercial, commercial should be paying a higher amount because of usage of water and sewer
- ♦ This is a very long and complex survey. We question that you will get adequate input. More important than the park is limiting and regulating growth. There doesn't seem to be a good plan in place.