

Town of Mammoth Lakes Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Prepared for
Town of Mammoth Lakes, California

by
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parks and recreation opportunities in Mammoth Lakes contribute to the Town's quality of life throughout the year, and allow people to experience the area's spectacular natural environment. Combined with the area's abundant open space and recreation trails, parks and recreation facilities promote a healthy, active community and enhance the Town's economic vitality. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan assesses the Town's recreation needs for the future and establishes goals and policies that will guide park improvements. It contains an analysis of the supply, demand, and needs for park and recreation facilities and services within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and includes a comprehensive assessment of public and private facilities available in and around Mammoth Lakes. It also recommends implementation strategies to help meet the challenges of providing parks and recreation facilities.

The recommendations for parks and recreation elements outlined in this Master Plan are based on the results of field analysis, inventories, demand analysis, workshop planning sessions, and survey results from residents and second households. The Plan outlines the vision for developing parks and recreation within Mammoth Lakes for the next 18 years. It anticipates future conceptual designs for parks and lands in the Town inventory. These lands may be subject to further study and coordination with public and private participants, which may modify the outcome of some aspects of the Plan. When implemented, this Plan will enable the Town to provide accessible parks and recreation facilities for its residents and visitors, and foster a sense of community through its facilities and programs.

Public Involvement

This Plan has resulted from extensive input provided by the residents of Mammoth Lakes, as well as interested public agencies and recreation organizations. The input provided has informed the vision and goals set forth in this Plan. The need for public involvement will not end with this Plan—it is expected that public input will be critical as the Town implements this Plan and continually re-evaluates its recreation needs in the future.

Values, Vision, and Goals

The Mammoth Lakes community has indicated that parks and recreation should reinforce what makes living in the area so special: access to the outdoors year-round, opportunity for a variety of physical activities in a beautiful setting, and ability to connect with others in the community through recreation and events in public places. This Plan sets forth the following vision for the Town's parks and recreation:

The Town of Mammoth Lakes parks and recreation vision is to provide multipurpose, year-round, indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities accessible to all residents and visitors. Our parks and recreation system will promote personal health and well-being, foster community interaction, promote connectivity within and beyond the Town, nurture collaborative partnerships, and encourage appreciation of the Town's spectacular natural environment.

Parks and recreation facilities in Mammoth Lakes should advance the following six goals:

- Goal 1: Maintain parks and open space within and adjacent to town for outdoor recreation and contemplation.
- Goal 2: Provide additional parks within town.
- Goal 3: Create a Master Plan for an integrated trail system that will maintain and enhance convenient public access to public lands from town.
- Goal 4: Provide and encourage a wide variety of outdoor and indoor recreation readily accessible to residents and visitors of all ages.
- Goal 5: Link parks and open space with a well-designed year-round network of public corridors and trails within and surrounding Mammoth Lakes.
- Goal 6: Provide parks and recreational facilities and programs that foster a sense of community and nurture the emotional connection people have with each other and Mammoth Lakes.

Actions

To meet the recreation needs of residents and visitors into the future, the Town of Mammoth Lakes will need to increase the maintenance level of existing parks and recreation facilities, upgrade existing parks, add more usable park acreage, and develop additional facilities to address unmet recreation needs. More specifically, the Town should:

- Maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreation facilities to improve accessibility, usability, and service capacity.
- Expand partnerships with public agencies, private organizations, and businesses to share resources in providing facilities and programs.
- Design additional park improvements and recreation facilities to meet recreation needs in all seasons. These facilities include (in alphabetical order):
 - Aquatic center
 - Dog park
 - Event and performance venues
 - Picnic areas
 - Multi-use recreational/cultural facility
 - Sports fields and courts
 - Winter children's play areas
- Ensure that the Town's parks and recreation facilities will become part of an integrated system that encompasses parks, activity centers, trails, and access to public lands around Mammoth Lakes.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Plan is to outline a vision of parks and recreation facilities to serve the year-round recreational needs of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, while also reinforcing the expressly stated values of the Mammoth Lakes community. As an updated vision for parks and recreation, it may be used to replace the 1990 Parks and Recreation Element of the Town's General Plan. It is anticipated that parks and recreation will be coordinated with the Town's trails, which will undergo a separate planning process in the near future. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an outcome of a collaborative process, and provides the following:

- An assessment of existing parks and recreation facilities.
- A presentation of goals and policies that reflect community values.
- Analysis of parkland and recreation facility needs.
- Recommendations of parks and recreation facilities to address unmet community needs.
- An implementation and phasing strategy that considers funding and partnerships.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Mammoth Lakes

This Master Plan primarily concerns developed parks and recreation facilities for the Town of Mammoth Lakes. These amenities contribute to the Town's quality of life by encouraging year-round activity and appreciation of nature, and are just a portion of the significant outdoor open space that the Town's residents and visitors find so compelling. Development of this Plan has considered open space resources in addition to the Town's parks. These include:

- Federal public lands (primarily U.S. Forest Service, but also Bureau of Land Management) in and around Mammoth Lakes
- Open space associated with the Mammoth Creek corridor
- Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve
- Undeveloped green space within the Town's urban growth boundary
- Lands owned and managed by the City of Los Angeles

The surrounding public lands are especially crucial. They function not only as a year-round recreational resource (especially for trail uses, such as biking, hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling), but they also provide much of the scenic context for the Town. These lands also are an important place for people to "get away from it all" and enjoy the peace and beauty of nature.

Planning and programming of parks and recreation facilities in Mammoth Lakes should be *integrated with* and *complementary to* these additional open space resources. *Integration* maximizes all these resources by allowing them to work as a multi-functional system that satisfies many needs, including recreation, contemplation, and experiencing the outdoors. Parks and recreation facilities also should *complement* the additional open spaces by providing something different. In developing this Plan, it has become clear that parks and recreation facilities in Mammoth Lakes are about community—that is how they differ from other open space. Parks are a place to gather and play with family and friends, and celebrate with the community. This Master Plan acknowledges that places for recreation and leisure in Mammoth Lakes should help bring people together.

VISION

Mammoth Lakes has grown and changed since the Parks and Recreation Element of the Town's General Plan was first adopted in 1990. As the community is experiencing this growth, there is a strong desire to retain the Town's unique small-town feel and preserve its incredible scenic quality. During recent efforts to update the Town's General Plan, the people of Mammoth Lakes articulated a community vision, which can be used to help guide overall planning and decision-making. In a similar vein, this Parks and Recreation Master Plan presents a vision for parks and recreation in Mammoth Lakes. This vision embodies the values for parks and recreation expressed by the community, and it reinforces the overall community vision¹.

Community Vision²

Surrounded by uniquely spectacular scenery and diverse four-season recreation opportunities, the community of Mammoth Lakes is committed to providing the very highest quality of life for its residents and the highest quality of experience for its visitors.

To achieve this vision, Mammoth Lakes places a high value on:

- 1. Sustainability and continuity of our unique relationship with the natural environment. As stewards, we support visitation and tourism as appropriate means to educate and share our abundant resources. We are committed to the efficient use of energy and continuing development of renewable resources.*
- 2. Being a great place to live and work. Our strong, diverse yet cohesive, small town community supports families and individuals by providing a stable economy, high quality educational facilities and programs, a broad range of community services and a participatory Town government.*
- 3. Adequate and appropriate housing that residents and workers can afford.*
- 4. Being a premier year-round resort community based on diverse outdoor recreation, multi-day events and an ambiance that attracts visitors.*
- 5. Protecting the surrounding natural environment and supporting our small town atmosphere by limiting the urbanized area.*
- 6. Exceptional standards for design and development that complement and are appropriate to the Eastern Sierra Nevada mountain setting and our sense of a "village in the trees" with small town charm.*
- 7. Offering a variety of transportation options that emphasize connectivity, convenience and alternatives to use of personal vehicles with a strong pedestrian emphasis.*

Parks and Recreation Vision

The Town of Mammoth Lakes parks and recreation vision is to provide multipurpose, year-round, indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities accessible to all residents and visitors. Our parks and recreation system will promote personal health and well-being, foster community interaction, promote connectivity within and beyond the Town, nurture collaborative partnerships, and encourage appreciation of the Town's spectacular natural environment.

¹ It should be noted that the Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Recreation Commission has been guided by the following mission statement: "Enhance the social, environmental, and economic well-being of Mammoth Lakes."

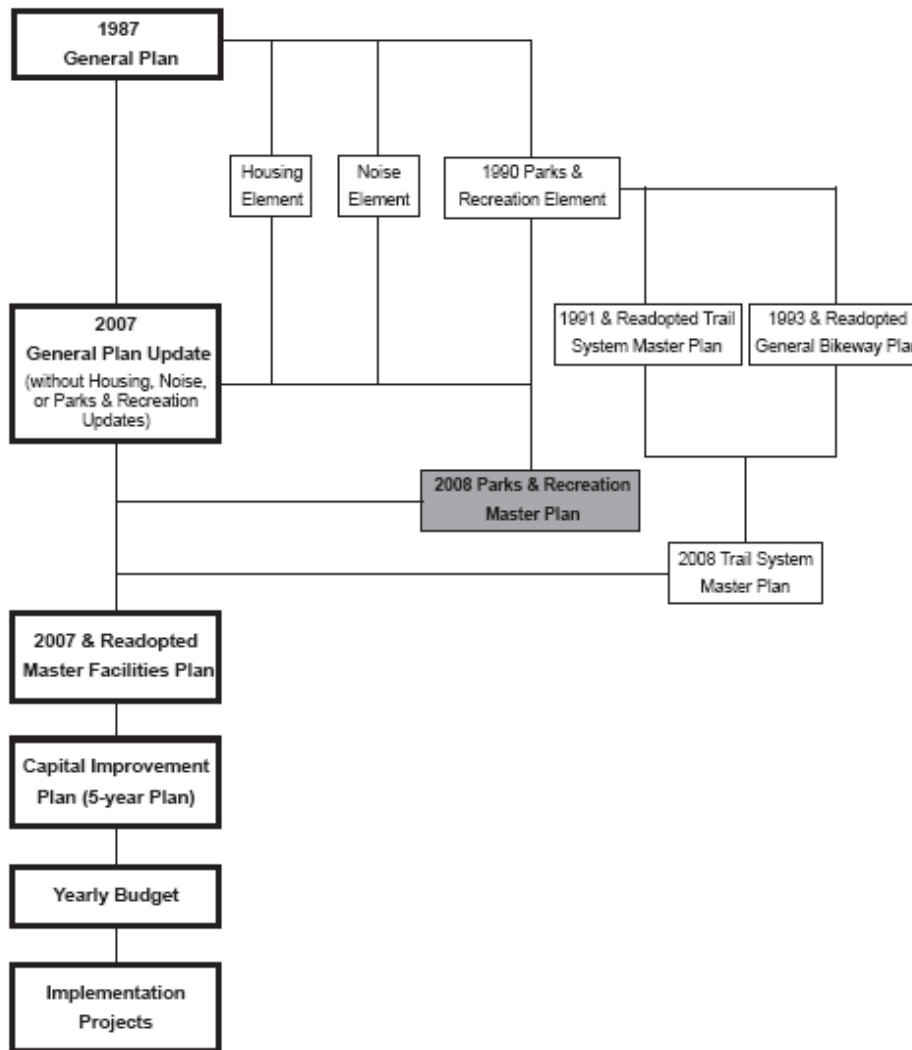
² From the Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan 2007

BACKGROUND

Planning Context

Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has recently updated its General Plan, which includes a section on Parks, Open Space, and Recreation. The Mammoth Lakes town limit and urban growth boundary are within a broader planning area considered in the General Plan (Figure 1, page 10). The approved General Plan Update, from August 2007, lists goals, policies, and actions for Parks, Open Space, and Recreation that are the foundation for the goals and policies in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This Plan directly implements the following action stated in the Town's General Plan: "Develop a comprehensive and integrated year-round Parks and Recreation Master Plan." In addition, goals and policies presented in this plan are intended to support other General Plan goals, especially those related to *Mobility*, *Economy*, and *Community Design*. The diagram below shows this Master Plan in the context of the Town's General Plan and implementation.



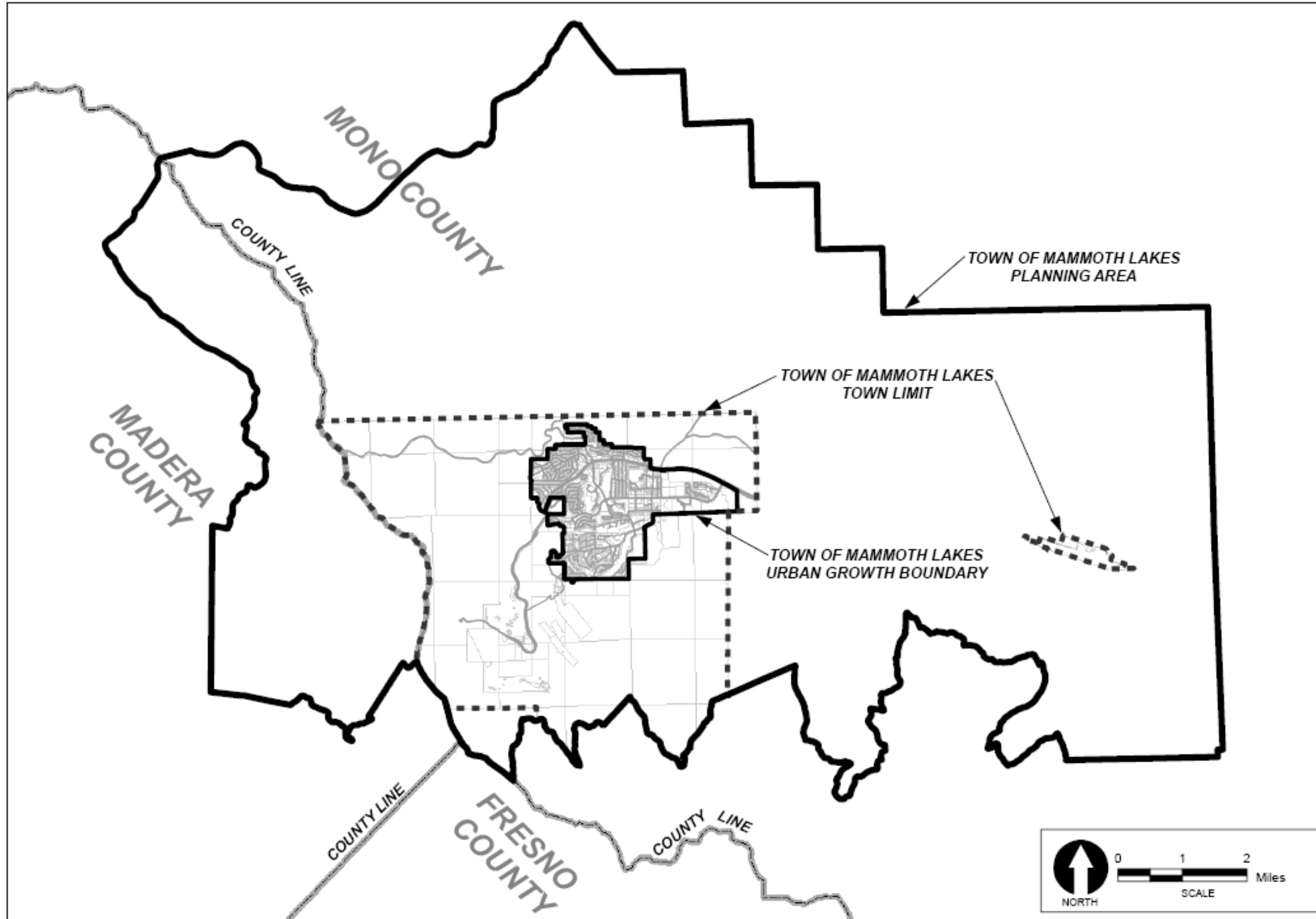
General Bikeway Plan, Trail System Plan, and Mobility Element of General Plan

A comprehensive, integrated trail system has recreation benefits in addition to providing alternatives to motor vehicles, and is a significant amenity for visitors. Although the current trail system comprises nine linear miles of paved trails, much work remains to develop a year-round network that links residential and resort areas with commercial and recreational activity centers. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan recognizes the importance of integrating trail access and recreation with parks and open space. It should be noted that more detailed treatment of these components is presented in the Town's General Bikeway Plan, Trail System Plan, and General Plan's Mobility Element, which are briefly described here.

Mammoth Lakes is striving to increase mobility options, by providing alternatives for pedestrian and bicycle transport. To this end, the Town approved its General Bikeway Plan in 1995, which has since been updated several times. The General Bikeway Plan is aimed more toward facilitating bicycle commuting; as a result, many of the bikeways are on-street bike lanes and routes. Class I paths are also necessary to provide essential connections.

In addition to accommodating bicyclists, trails for pedestrians are also important to the Town's recreation and mobility goals. Mammoth Lakes adopted a Trail System Master Plan in 1991, which incorporates needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers. This 1991 plan is a product of the trail system envisioned in the Town's 1990 Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan. It is designed to connect parks and open spaces, and provide access to schools, business areas, recreation sites, and residential areas. The Trail System Master Plan focuses primarily on accommodating walking, jogging, biking, and cross-country skiing uses; equestrian and snowmobile uses should be the subject of future planning efforts.

More recently, the Town's 2007 update of its General Plan includes a Mobility Element, which considers a comprehensive approach to multi-modal transportation in Mammoth Lakes. This includes pedestrian and bicycle paths, trailheads, staging areas, streets and parking facilities. Figure 2 (page 11) presents a conceptual diagram that summarizes existing and potential mobility features.



PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
PLANNING AREA MAP



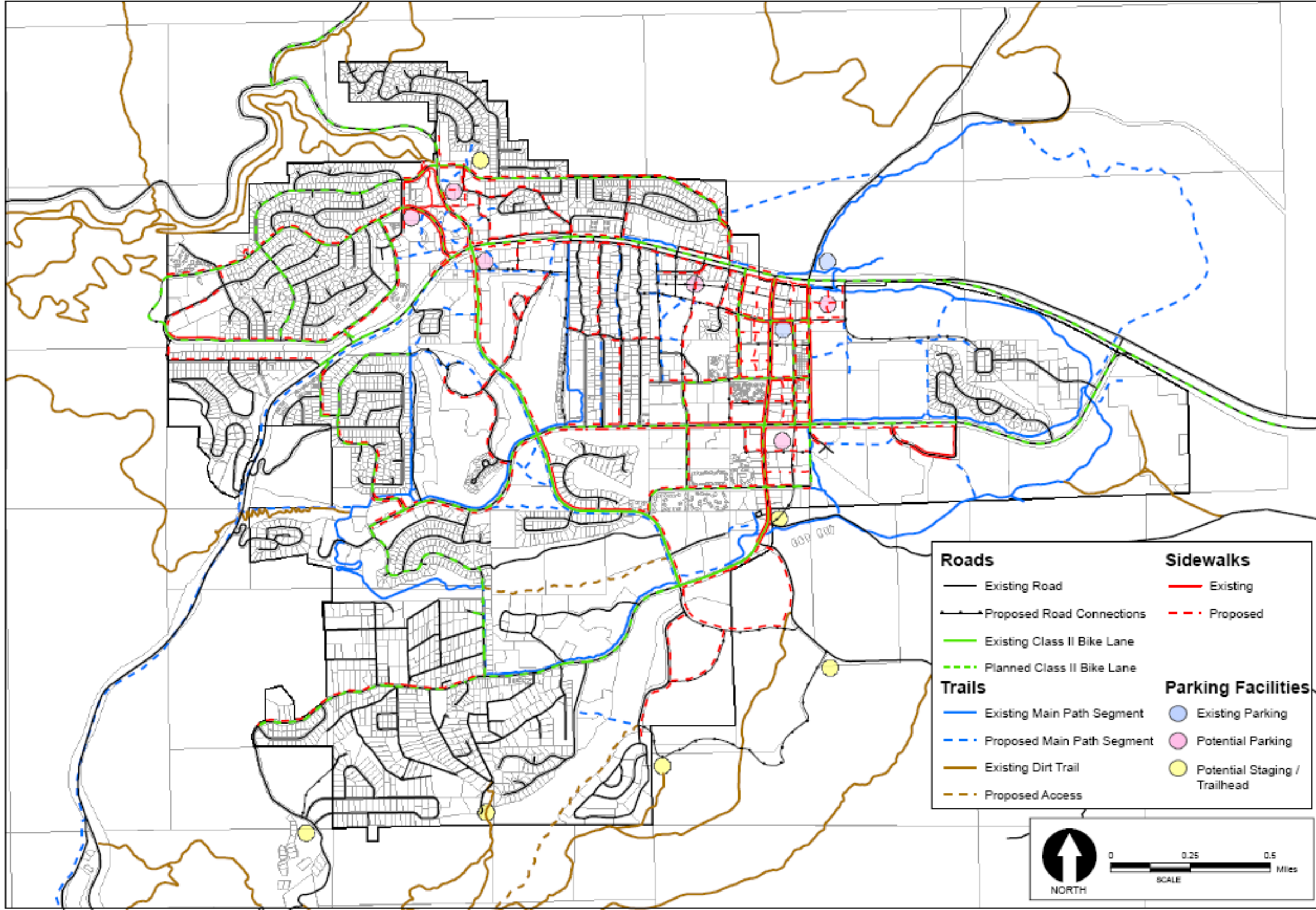
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FIGURE 1



PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

MOBILITY DIAGRAM



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FIGURE 2

Changes for Parks and Recreation Since 1990

There have been some changes for parks and recreation since the Town's first Parks and Recreation Element was adopted in 1990. These changes involve the facilities themselves, as well as the evolving nature of recreation and its role in the Town's economy.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has expanded its recreation facilities since 1990; more details on the Town's existing parks and recreation facilities are presented in the following section. Since 1990, extra amenities have been added to Shady Rest Park, Mammoth Creek Park West has had more landscape and playground improvements, and a large new skate park has recently been built. Moreover, the Town has added more paved trails, and this effort is ongoing. This expansion has occurred in addition to facility maintenance and upgrades, and provision of recreation programs for a growing population.

Outdoor recreation has long been important for the Town's residents and visitors. Although downhill skiing will likely continue as a significant component of Mammoth Lakes' tourism-based economy, additional recreational and leisure opportunities are necessary to provide greater economic stability and satisfy changing recreational needs. The changes in outdoor recreation anticipated in Mammoth Lakes, and largely confirmed by public input received during development of this Plan, reflect trends that are expected statewide. These include:³

- Acquiring more parkland and recreation facilities to serve a growing population
- Balancing the different recreation and leisure needs of families, those who prefer more solitary activities, and people with different physical abilities
- Responding to needs of an aging population and greater numbers of retirees
- Providing facilities and programs to accommodate increased racial and cultural diversity in the population
- Meeting demand for novel and "extreme" recreation experiences, often associated with travel and adventure
- Using trails to enhance the visitor experience and integrate recreation with routines of daily life
- Recognizing that parks and recreation programs can address health issues, such as obesity, heart disease, and stress
- Forming strategic partnerships to provide and operate recreation facilities and deliver recreation programs

³ From *Park and Recreation Trends in California*, California State Parks, 2005
(http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/recreation_trends_081505.pdf; accessed February 8, 2007)

Planning Process

This Plan is the product of considerable effort by Town staff and input from residents and interested agencies. It also has benefited from recent efforts to update the Town's General Plan, through extensive public and other stakeholder input on many issues that are relevant to parks and recreation.

The following steps outline the process that has resulted in the development of this Plan.

1. Background review
 - a. Data collection (demographic information, document review, etc.)
 - b. Mapping
 - c. Facility inventory and assessment
2. Facility needs assessment
 - a. Public meetings
 - b. Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey
 - c. Interagency meetings and other stakeholder input
 - d. Level of service analysis and recommendations
3. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Development
 - a. Draft vision, goals, and policies
 - b. Development of level of service (LOS) standards for facilities
 - c. Recommendations for maintaining and improving existing facilities, and acquiring and developing new facilities
 - d. Suggested implementation strategy
4. Review of draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - a. Presentation to public through Town of Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Recreation Commission meeting
 - b. Revisions per comments on draft and other input
5. Adoption of Parks and Recreation Master Plan by Town Council

As this plan is implemented in the future, it is anticipated that additional phases may include feasibility studies and design concepts for specific areas, in which recommendations of this Plan are carried out in greater detail.

A key element of planning is that it reflects an ongoing process. It should be emphasized that Mammoth Lakes will continue reviewing its parks and recreation facilities and programs in the future, and modify standards for parks as needed. Included in this review is the importance of obtaining public input on their recreation needs.

EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Different public, quasi-public, and private parks, recreation facilities, and trails are available in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. These areas complement other open space areas in and around Town. An overview of the Town's open space and park locations is shown in Figure 3 (page 16). Existing parks and recreation opportunities are presented in the following sections.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

The Town of Mammoth Lakes owns and/or operates six public parks that contain recreation facilities for public use (Figures 4 and 5; pages 17 and 18). Table 1 (page 20) summarizes the parks and recreation facilities currently owned or operated by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

The condition of existing facilities is noted in Table 1. In terms of compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), Town staff indicate that the existing inventory is at varying levels of compliance. An updated summary of ADA compliance concerns for the Town's existing parks is presented in Appendix 1, *Town of Mammoth Lakes—Report on Section 504 Self-Evaluation*.

The usage and reserve capacity of existing parks and recreation facilities have been estimated by Town staff, with the following observations:

Community Center and Park

- The Community Center is reserved for use a majority of the time, although there are occasional openings during weekdays (especially on Fridays) and select weekends.
- The tennis courts are well-used from May through September; the most difficult times to access a court are during tournaments or other special events such as free social doubles. Staff estimate that the courts are used to about 60% of capacity.

Shady Rest Park

- Baseball and softball: the three ball fields are used in May and June for Little League baseball, and in July and August for adult softball league (daily evening use). There is room for growth for both programs. Although the ball fields are not operating at capacity, maintenance issues preclude them from being readily adapted for other sports programming during this time.
- Soccer: the two soccer fields and all three ball fields are used by AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) in September and October. Town staff indicate that use of Shady Rest Park for soccer is at capacity.
- Other amenities: because use of other amenities at Shady Rest Park is rarely reserved or otherwise recorded, documented evidence of the park's reserve capacity is unavailable. However, observations by Town staff suggest that summer use of this park, especially by visitors, is at capacity. More parking is needed as well.

Mammoth Creek Park West: Use of this park is not documented. Staff observations indicate that summer use of the park by visitors is at capacity.

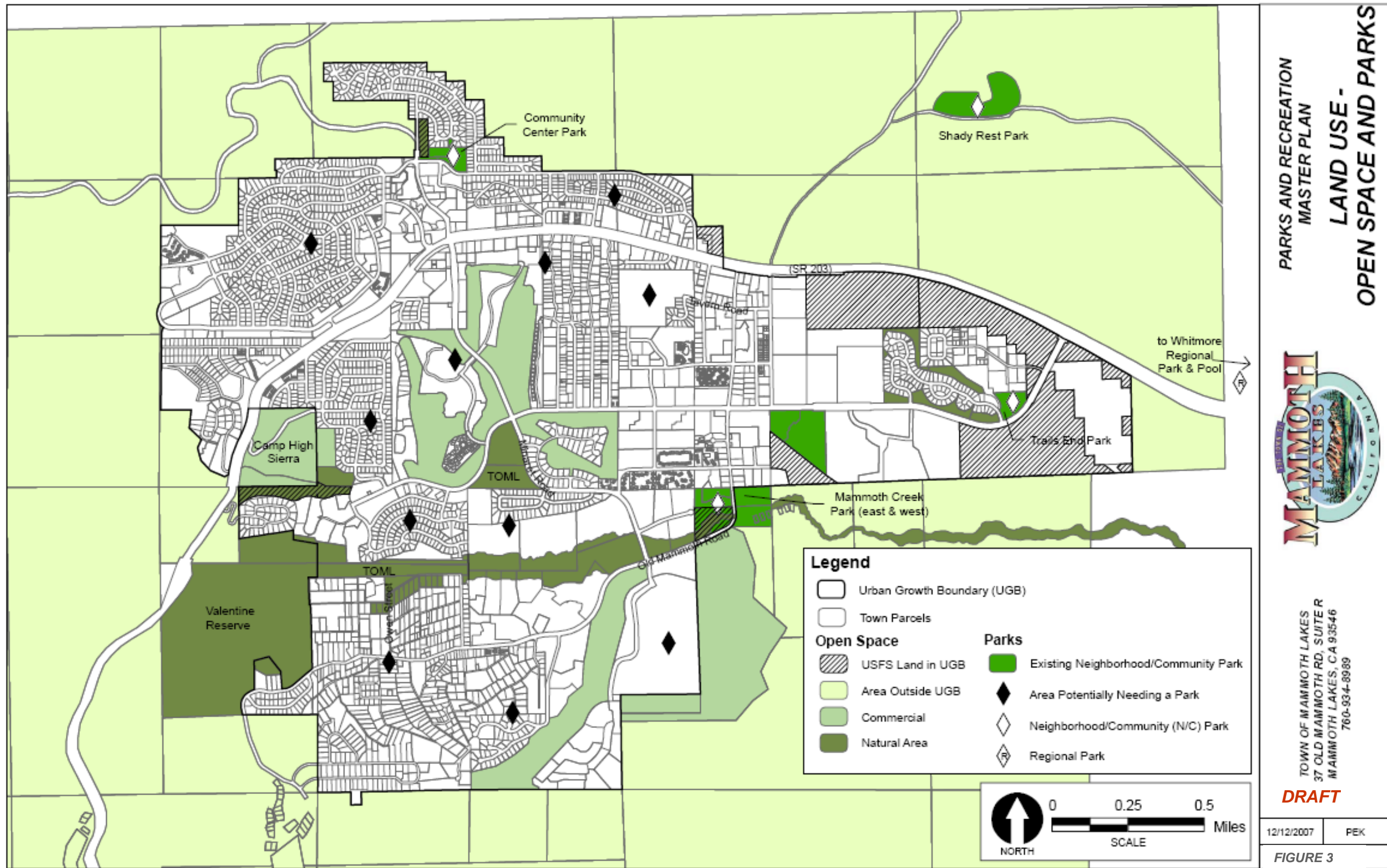
Whitmore Park

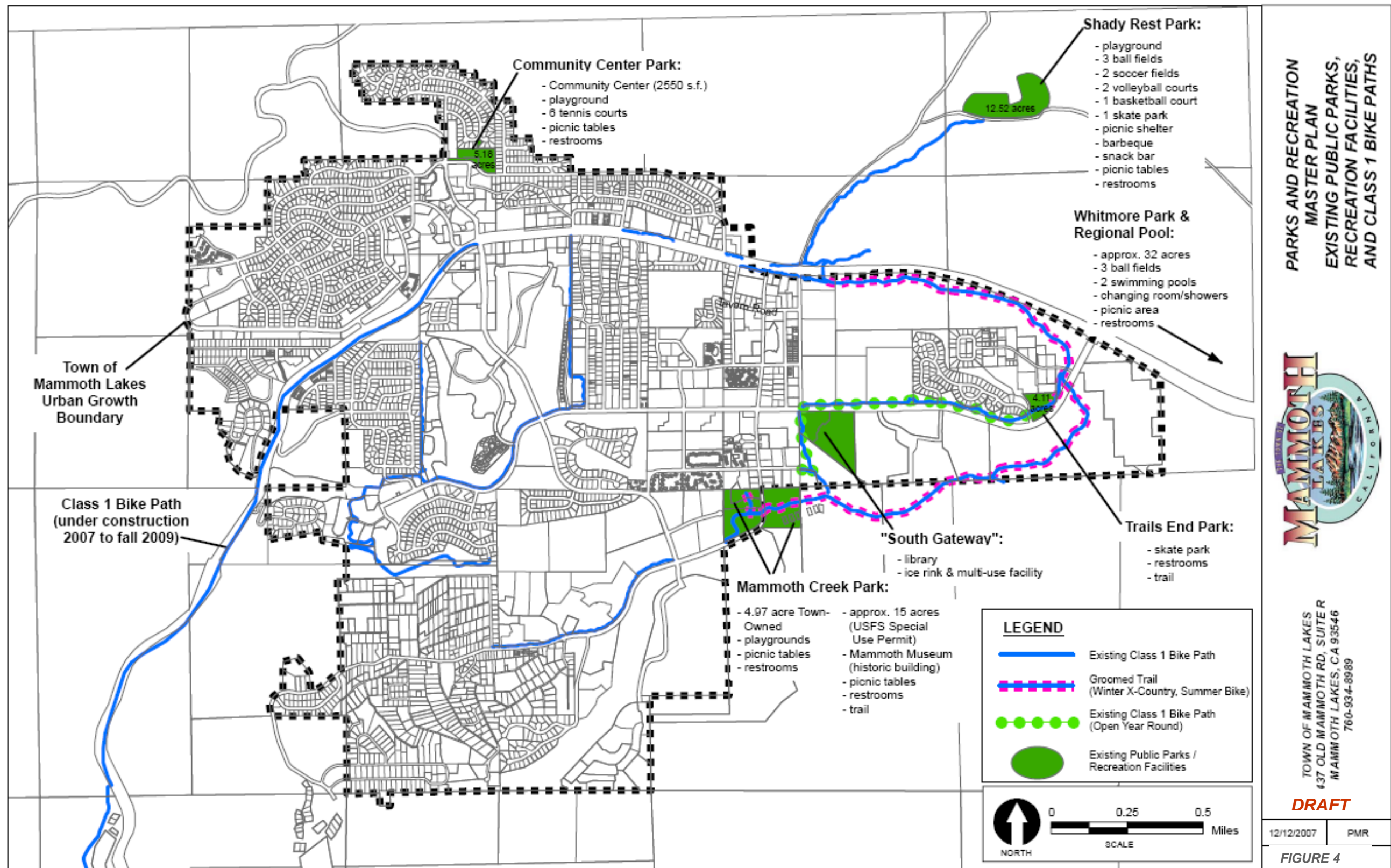
- Ball fields: peak use of these fields occurs in March and April, with use by high school baseball and softball programs, and by Little League baseball (Little League use occurs until the Shady Rest fields are cleared after their later snowmelt). Summer and fall use of these fields appears well below capacity, although the youth football program will usually appropriate a field for its exclusive use.
- Swimming pool: use of the larger pool may be near capacity during the warmer months of the year. In May and June, the pool is used for lap swim during the morning and by the swim team at other times of day. The pool is used for its full summer session of public swimming in July and August, with continued use by the swim team as well.

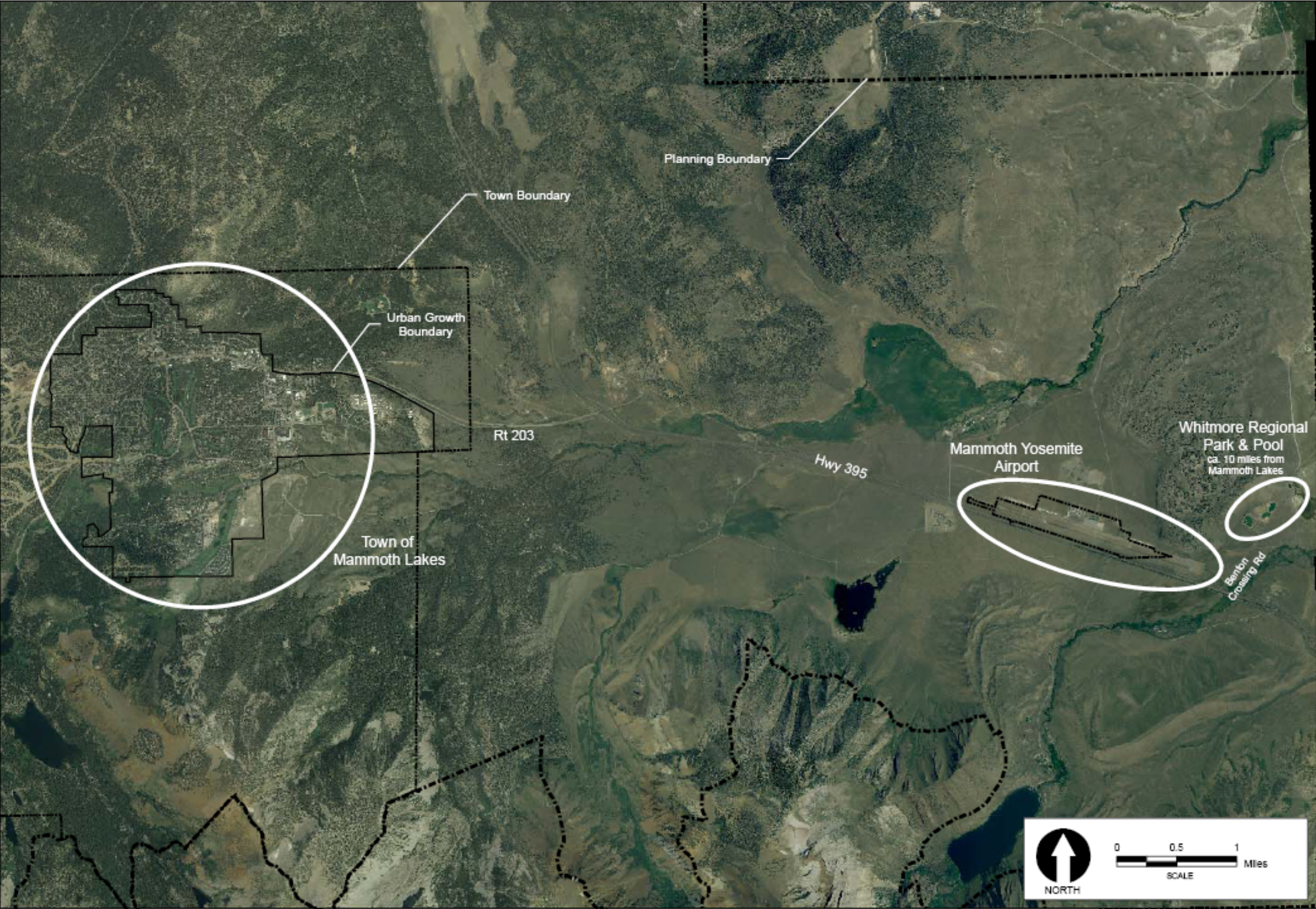
Trails End Park: Because this park is still quite new, it is too soon to estimate its use and reserve capacity. Anecdotal reports from Town staff indicate that the park is used by residents and visitors alike, and the skate park has been well-received by teens in particular.

Parks and Recreation Facility Proximity to Mammoth Lakes' Neighborhoods

The provision of improved parks and other recreation facilities is just one aspect of meeting the community's recreation needs. The location of these facilities in relation to the Town's neighborhoods is also important, to encourage greater use of these facilities and promote non-motorized access to parks. Figure 6 (page 19) shows the distribution of the Town's major parks and recreation facilities in light of neighborhood areas (the names and approximate boundaries of these neighborhoods correspond with neighborhood identity in the Town's Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey). Most public parks tend to be located in the eastern part of Town, resulting in many residents having little quick access to public parks. This same situation also is evident for proximity to private recreation facilities.







**PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN**

**LOCATION OF WHITMORE
REGIONAL PARK & POOL**

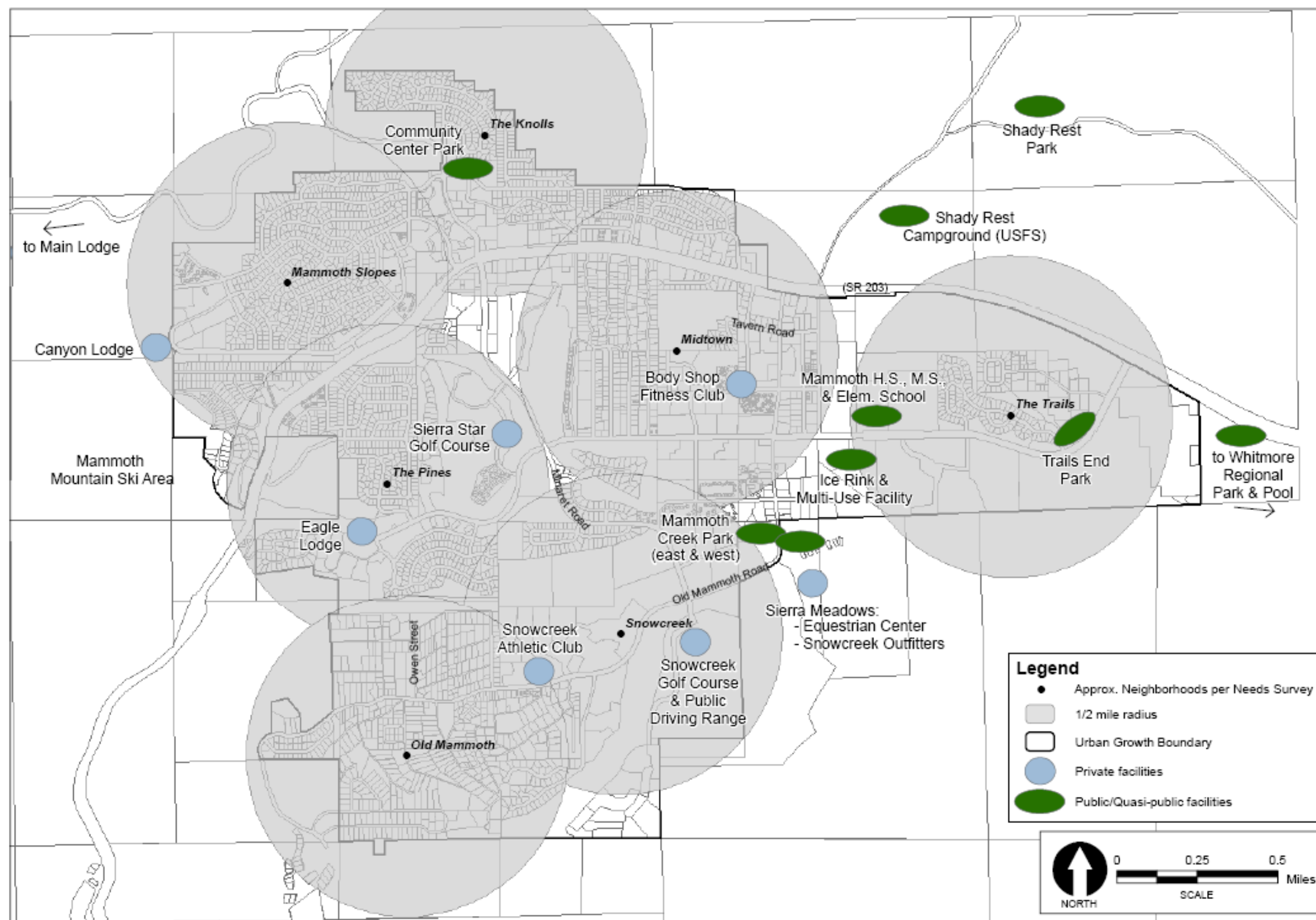


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FIGURE 5



**PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN**

**NEIGHBORHOOD PROXIMITY TO
PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES**



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FIGURE 6

Table 1: Existing Town of Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Facilities

Facility	Size (acres)	Playground	Tennis court	Ball field	Soccer field	Volleyball court	Basketball court	Skate park	Swimming pool	Picnic table	Picnic shelter	Restrooms	Other comments, including any changes since 1990 Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan
Community Center and Park	5.18	1	6							2		1	Contains 2,550-s.f. Community Center with main room, kitchen, storage, and restrooms. Building is used frequently for classes, meetings, and private gatherings. Building needs some maintenance; playground equipment needs updating for safety concerns; and tennis courts may need to be fully resurfaced. Adjacent library building to be surplus. Over 25 parking spaces for Center; about 15 spaces for tennis courts.
Shady Rest Park ¹	12.52	2		3	2	2	1	1		30	1	2	Park has increased from 6 acres in 1990, with the addition of 2 ball fields, 1 soccer field, basketball court, small skate park, snack bar with cooking and cold food storage, and extra picnic tables. Park is well-used for team sports, programmed recreation activities, social gatherings, and as staging for access to USFS trails nearby. There is parking for 200, plus additional unpaved parking.
Trails End Park	4.11							1				1	New facility since 1990. Large (40,000 s.f.) Volcom Brothers skate park. Paved bike trail system along edge of park. Parking currently for 26. Playground and picnic tables expected during Phase 2 improvements.
Mammoth Creek Park East ¹	15									6		1	Primarily used for passive recreation; Mammoth Creek also provides fishing opportunities. Paved trail along Mammoth Creek is an improvement since 1990.
Mammoth Creek Park West	4.97	1								5		1	Park has been improved since 1990 with the addition of play equipment, landscaping, and restrooms. Paved parking for about 30 vehicles.
Whitmore Park ²	32			3					1	2		1	Park is about 10 miles from Town. Pool includes 1 swimming pool and 1 wading pool, plus changing rooms with showers. One ball field has been added since 1990. Field lights do not work. One field is sized for regulation baseball, used for high school games. Other non-school sports teams and clubs also use the park, and the pool is programmed additionally for swimming lessons and lap and recreational swimming.
Total	73.78	5	6	6	2	2	1	2	2	45	1	7	

¹ These Town facilities are on U.S. Forest Service property, covered by a Special Use Permit.

² Considered a regional park. Leased by the County of Mono from the Los Angeles Department of Power and Water; operated and maintained by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Existing Trails

The Town of Mammoth Lakes currently has about nine miles of paved off-street trails, as shown in Figures 2 and 4. These trails are a product of the Town's Trail System Plan, with a network of proposed trails gradually being constructed to implement the plan and increase mobility for non-motorized uses. Currently, the segment of paved trail from Chateau Road to Meridian Boulevard and Trails End Park is kept open year-round, as part of the Safe Routes to School Program. Another segment of trail is groomed by Mammoth Nordic⁴ during winter for cross-country skiing; this extends east from Mammoth Creek Park, south of the Cerro Coso campus, and then north and west toward Sawmill Cutoff Road near Shady Rest Campground. Other portions of paved trail are not maintained in winter. In addition to paved off-street trails, there is a discontinuous network of public sidewalks and on-road bicycle lanes (Figure 2).

Numerous unpaved trails extend into public (U.S. Forest Service) lands surrounding the Town. They are used extensively year-round for hiking, bicycling, skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. In addition, private (fee-based) trail recreation opportunities are provided by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for mountain biking, and by Tamarack Ski Area for cross-country skiing in the Lakes Basin southwest of Mammoth Lakes. Because of the proximity of federal public lands to Town, the interface between the two is an opportunity. Two critical issues are apparent regarding trails and public lands in the Mammoth Lakes area: first, public access points to the public trails may be increasingly limited with additional development; and second, conflicts among motorized vs. non-motorized uses must be addressed, as well as potential conflicts with use of groomed trails in winter by non-skiers (e.g., snowshoers and dog walkers). Trails outside of Town are not indicated on maps in this Plan, because an inventory of them (and their access points from Town) is still being developed. The issue of unpaved trails is not feasible to address in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, because it is a complex situation involving multi-jurisdictional concerns and private property ownership. It is expected that the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Plan will be updated in July 2008, providing an opportunity for the community to thoroughly assess trail routes, access, and uses. This planning effort was initiated by the local non-profit *Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access*, as described in Appendix 2.

Public Facilities Proposed or in Progress

The Town is constructing a Class I bicycle path along Lake Mary Road, from the intersection of Minaret Road and Main Street to Twin Lakes, Lake Mary, and Horseshoe Lake (Figure 4). Completion is anticipated in fall 2009. This path will add 5.3 miles of paved trail to the Mammoth Lakes trail system, and will provide non-motorized recreational access to the Lakes Basin. In addition to this path, construction of a portion of the Main Trail segment (0.46 mi) from the Snowcreek Athletic Club along Old Mammoth Road is part of the Snowcreek VII development.

A new library is underway for the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Although this facility is not used for active recreation, it is a significant public amenity and will be an improvement over the existing library, which is located adjacent to the Community Center. The relocation of the library presents an opportunity for future use of the current library building for additional indoor recreation facilities and programs, once the current building is no longer needed for library purposes.

⁴ Mammoth Nordic is a local club whose mission is "supporting, developing and promoting alternatives in Mammoth Lakes for Nordic Recreation." It has collaborated with the Town for winter trail grooming efforts, and with Mammoth Unified School District for promoting winter trail recreation opportunities for school children.

A regulation-sized ice rink is planned to be operational in winter 2007-08. The proposed location is in the South Gateway area, between Mammoth schools and Mammoth Creek Park (Figure 6). Although it will be an outdoor facility, it will be covered to extend the seasonal usage of the ice surface for ice hockey and recreational ice skating. It will include a Plexiglas surround, spectator bleachers, overhead lighting, and windscreen netting. During summer, the facility can be used for roller hockey, half-court basketball, and concerts or other special events.

Summary of Other Recreational and Leisure Facilities

The Town's residents and visitors have additional choices for recreation, including public, private, and fee-based facilities. There are also school facilities which have the potential to meet some of the Town's needs. Table 2 below contains a partial list of other recreation facilities available in Mammoth Lakes and vicinity.

Table 2: Other public, semi-public, private, and commercial recreational facilities in Mammoth Lakes (partial list)

Type of Facility	Number	Location(s)
Boating/Fishing	3	Lakes Basin, Crowley Lake, Convict Lake
Camping	18+	Shady Rest/USFS, Pine Glen, Sherwin Creek, Lake Mary, Lake George, Coldwater, Agnew Meadows, Pine City, Agnew Meadows (group) Upper Soda Springs, Pumice Flat, Pumice Flat (group) Minaret Falls, Devil's Postpile, Red's Meadow, Convict Lake, Camp High Sierra, Mammoth Mountain RV Park
Cross Country Skiing	3	Tamarack Ski Center (Lakes Basin), Sierra Meadows, Shady Rest/USFS
Dog Sledding	2	Smokey Bear Flat, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
Downhill Skiing	2	Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, June Mountain Ski Area
Equestrian Facilities	4	Agnew Meadow, Red's Meadow/Devil's Postpile, Lakes Basin (several), Sherwin Lakes, Convict Lake
Football Stadium/Soccer	1	Mammoth High School
Golf	2	Snowcreek, Sierra Star
Gymnasium	2	Mammoth High School, Snowcreek Athletic Club
Handball & Racquetball Courts	5	Snowcreek Athletic Club (5 courts)
Hiking/Backpacking Trailheads	5+	Agnew Meadow, Red's Meadow/Devil's Postpile, Lakes Basin (several), Sherwin Lakes, Convict Lake
Historic Sites	4	Hayden Cabin/Museum, Mill City, Mammoth City, Mammoth Consolidated Mine
Hot Springs	2	Hot Creek (temporarily closed), Red's Meadow
Interpretive Centers	1	Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and Rangers Station
Meeting Facilities	6	Mammoth Mountain Inn, Sierra Nevada Roadway Inn, Canyon Lodge, Sierra Holiday Trailer Parks, Fire Station, Mammoth Mall
Moto Cross	1	Mammoth Moto Cross Track
Multi-Use Field	2	Mammoth High School/Mammoth Middle School, Mammoth Elementary School
Natural Reserves	1	Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve
Picnic Areas	3+	Minaret Vista, Lakes Basin, Earthquake Fault
Playground	5	Mammoth Middle School, Mammoth Elementary School (4)
Snow Play Area	1	Sledz
Snowmobiling	4	Sierra Meadows, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Shady Rest/USFS, Smokey Bear Flat
Swimming Pools	2+	Snowcreek Athletic Club (1 indoor/ 1outdoor), plus others in private developments
Tennis Courts	5	Snowcreek Athletic Club (5 outdoor), plus others in private developments

Source: Town of Mammoth Lakes, March 2007

Event Venues

In addition to more “traditional” recreation facilities, venues are used for a range of community events in Mammoth Lakes, such as Jazz Jubilee and Art-a-la-Carte. These events are important to the Town’s tourism-based economy, and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to gather and socialize. Attendance varies widely for the different events, from several hundred to several thousand; some are multi-day and multi-venue events. Although some events occur on public land (e.g., U.S. Forest Service Land, Mammoth Creek Park, Shady Rest Park), many commonly used venues are on private property. Table 3 summarizes most of these venues in Mammoth Lakes (listed in descending order of usage or attendance):

Table 3: Summary of event venues commonly used in Mammoth Lakes

Property	Venue (size in sq. ft.)	Event(s)
Sam Walker	Sam’s Woods (174,240 sf)	Bluesapalooza & Festival of Beers; Labor Day Festival of the Arts; Mammoth Wine & Jazz Festival
U.S. Forest Service	Motocross Site (1,024,346 sf)	Mammoth Motocross
	Horseshoe Lake (61,500 sf)	Fireman’s Canoe Races & BBQ
	U.S. Forest Station 2 (18,450 sf)	4th of July Fire Safety Fun Festival
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area	Canyon Lodge (10,270 sf)	Mammoth Life & Wellness; Mammoth Wine & Jazz Festival
	Main Lodge (on-snow event)	West Coast Invitational - Fiesta de la Pipa
	Mountain Center at the Village (4,600 sf + Plaza)	West Coast Invitation Rail Jam
The Village at Mammoth	Village Plaza (Plaza)	Villagestock; Oktoberfest at the Village at Mammoth; Villagefest; Cinco de Mayo Celebration at the Village at Mammoth; Village at Mammoth Tree Lighting Ceremony; Valentines Day Wine Walk at the Village at Mammoth; Fourth of July, Home-Town Celebrations at the Village at Mammoth
The Town of Mammoth Lakes	Mammoth Creek Park (19,000 sf)	Art-a-la-Carte; Mammoth Rock Race
	Shady Rest Park (249,860 sf)	Annual Fireman’s Picnic
	Whitmore Pool and surrounding land (17,300 sf)	4th of July Triathlon at Whitmore Pool
	Roads in Mammoth Lakes (varies)	Mammoth Rock Race; 4th of July Freedom Mile; Mammoth Chart House 5k / 10k Road Run
Minaret Village Mall	Inside Mall (4,800 sf)	Presidents Holiday Art Festival; Thanksgiving Art Festival; Christmas Art Festival; New Year’s Art Festival
Snowcreek Real Estate Office	Fly Fishing Pools (43,560 sf)	Children’s Fishing Festival
Footloose Sports	Parking Lot (15,375 sf)	Old West Days Arts & Crafts Show; Holiday Tree Lighting
Kittredge Sports	Parking Lot (10,000 sf)	Mammoth Lakes Fine Arts Festival
Rodeway Inn	Parking Lot (46,200 sf) & Meeting Room (3,000 sf)	Mammoth Lakes Motorshow; Mammoth Mean Mountain Motorcycle Run
Southern Mono Historical Society	Hayden Cabin (8,700 sf)	Annual Country Western Dance & BBQ
Mammoth Mall	Parking Lot (68,200 sf)	Lion’s Club Pancake Breakfast
Multiple	Multiple Venues (sf varies)	Mammoth Lakes Jazz Jubilee; Troutstock; Elevation - Mammoth’s Gay Ski Weekend; Mammoth Lakes Music Festival; Sierra Summer Festival

Source: Town of Mammoth Lakes, December 2007

Event venues on public land can be considered a component of the Town's parks and recreation facilities, because they help contribute to the vision for Parks and Recreation. These venues can be indoor or outdoor, and the events help foster community interaction, promote connectivity, nurture partnerships, and encourage appreciation of the natural environment. According to Town staff, there are several concerns about the event venues currently used in Mammoth Lakes:

- Many commonly used venues are on private property. Because some of this property is being developed, the result is a gradual loss of venues.
- Parking is an issue. The Village at Mammoth has very little parking; this will be exacerbated in the near future with continued construction in the area. The Town is intending to build a public parking garage to eventually relieve the problem. At other venues, participants have to park along the street (Old Mammoth Road for events at Mammoth Creek Park, and along Minaret Road for events at Sam's Woods). This can create traffic and safety problems, and requires the assistance of the police and plenty of signage by the event producer.
- There are no areas in Town specifically designated as "event venues" and "event parking". Event producers must be creative and ask for favors from Mall owners, business owners, and residents when staging events.
- All the venues in town currently used for events regularly receive complaints about noise and parking violators; the Town's noise ordinance does not permit noise after 10:00 pm.
- The only potentially large indoor and outdoor venue space is owned by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (Canyon Lodge), but outdoors requires grading and has high land preparation costs. The indoor space is rarely used for non-mountain events, and if it is, it is very expensive to rent.
- Most events have to be outside because of the lack of indoor venue space. Many tents are required.
- Some venues are technically on U.S. Forest Service Land. This requires extra efforts to obtain a special use permit, and requires paying the U.S. Forest Service a fee of 5% of gross event income.

Recreation Programs

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Recreation Department sponsors recreation programs for youth and adults. These programs are held at several of the Town's recreation facilities, along with other locations (depending on the activity). As shown in Table 4, the programs span the entire calendar year, providing residents with recreation opportunities that take advantage of the different seasons.

Table 4: Typical year-round recreation programs in Mammoth Lakes

Season	Program	Adult/ Youth/ All	Location
year-round	Shozen Martial Arts Classes	all	Community Center
year-round	Yoga	adult	Community Center
year-round	Kidbits Play Group**	youth	Community Center
spring	Easter Egg Hunt and Playday*	youth	Community Center
spring-summer	Lap Swimming	adult	Whitmore Pool
spring-summer	Swim Lessons	youth	Whitmore Pool
spring-summer	Dog Obedience	adult	Whitmore Park
spring-summer	UK International Soccer Camp	youth	Shady Rest Park
spring-summer	Tennis Clinics (beginner and intermediate/advanced)	all	Comm. Center Tennis Courts
spring-summer	Tennis: Social Doubles	all	Comm. Center Tennis Courts
spring-summer	Mono County/Mammoth Lakes Little League	youth	Whitmore Park & Shady Rest Park
summer	Mammoth Lakes Swim Team**	youth	Whitmore Pool
summer	Softball League and Tourney (men's and co-ed)	adult	Shady Rest Park
summer	Horseback Riding Lessons	youth	Sierra Meadows Ranch
summer	Youth Climbing	youth	multiple sites
summer	Skate Camp	youth	multiple sites
summer	Wilderness Camp	youth	multiple sites
summer	Youtheatre Camp (drama)	youth	multiple indoor sites (incl. Community Center)
summer	Cruisers Camp (variety of activities)*	youth	multiple sites
summer	Sports Camp*	youth	multiple sites
summer-fall	Soccer (AYSO)**	all	Shady Rest Park
fall	Women's Fall Soccer Clinics	adult	Shady Rest Park
fall	Flag Football League	adult	Whitmore Park
fall	Halloween Carnival*	youth	Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Canyon Lodge
fall-winter	Hot Shots Youth Basketball	youth	Mammoth Elementary
fall-winter-spring	Tiny Toes and Little Feet**	youth & parent	Community Center
winter	Dodgeball League	adult	Mammoth High School Gym
winter	Ice Skating	all	Mammoth Ice Rink
winter	Town Tree Lighting*	all	Old Mammoth Road & Main St.
winter	Holiday Crafts in the Mall*	youth	Minaret Village Mall
winter	Visit with Santa*	youth	Minaret Village Mall
winter	Special Day of Giving*	all	Community Center
winter-spring	Winter Indoor Soccer League	adult	Mammoth High School Gym

Source: Town of Mammoth Lakes, September 2007 (recreation programs for summer and fall 2007)

* Single- or limited-day programs

** Existing Community Partner Programs

COMMUNITY SETTING, VALUES, AND NEEDS

Summary of Demographic, Environmental, and Economic Context⁵

Mammoth Lakes is the population center of Mono County, with about 56% of County residents living in the Town. The permanent resident population of Mammoth Lakes was estimated at 7,789 for the year 2006. The population is fairly young (2006 median age estimated at 34.96 years), educated, and tends to live in small households with no children. Residents are largely transient, and live disproportionately in rented housing. About 28% of the population in 2006 was Hispanic or Latino. The Town's population growth is expected to slow somewhat compared with its more recent rapid growth; the 2025 population is projected to have 11,228 permanent residents. There also is a substantial number of second homeowners (slightly over 6,400 in 2006⁶) who visit Mammoth Lakes throughout the year. This, combined with an economy based on recreation and tourism, leads to dramatic swings in the number of people in the Town at any given time—from the low permanent resident population of under 8,000, up to around 35,000 during peak visitor weekends. This wide variation in the number of people in Mammoth Lakes presents a challenge when planning for parks and recreation facilities that can provide a large capacity with the resources of a smaller population base.

The Town's economy is based largely on high-quality outdoor recreation experiences, which also contribute to residents' quality of life. The region's strong seasonality provides the framework for the wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities, allowing a variety of recreation experiences year-round. It is estimated that 1.5 million people visit Mammoth Lakes during the winter, and 1.6 million visit in summer. Popular winter recreation and leisure activities include downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, sight-seeing, shopping, and dining. During summer, the surrounding National Forest lands accommodate additional major recreation activities, including fishing, hiking, and mountain biking. Opportunities to play golf and tennis are provided in town. The area's natural beauty plays a large role in attracting residents and visitors alike—the surrounding mountains, abundant forests, natural water features, and sage meadows all characterize the landscape that is so important to the Town's identity. The community has expressed the desire to protect these scenic and other sensitive environmental resources with future development; recreation facilities and programs also must respect this need for resource protection.

The success of Mammoth Lakes as a destination resort will depend in part on meeting the changing expectations of visitors. Not only is it important to provide more traditional recreation experiences, but an increasingly broader array of activities is needed—especially to attract visitors during the “shoulder” seasons and encourage extended visits beyond the weekend. These activities include festivals and performances, specialized high-altitude training opportunities, educational experiences, and shopping and nightlife. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan proposes facilities that support the Town's goal of having a sustainable resort economy, by accommodating diverse indoor and outdoor recreation needs, and providing park infrastructure for both recreation and events. At the same time, recreation opportunities should remain affordable for the Town's permanent residents, because many households have limited funds due to the high cost of housing and relatively low wages earned by most residents.

⁵ Information from: 1) Town of Mammoth Lakes April 2005 General Plan Draft (revised September 2005); 2) *Report to The Town of Mammoth Lakes*, by the UCSB Economic Forecast Project (Susan Dalluddung, Terri Swartz, and Bill Watkins), with assistance from Dan Hamilton and Mike Smith (produced in 2006)

⁶ According to Town of Mammoth Lakes staff, the March 2007 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey was sent to 6,427 second homeowners, and represents a fairly complete accounting of this group

Summary of Public Involvement

Because parks and recreation opportunities help define the quality of life in Mammoth Lakes, extensive input was solicited from the public and other key stakeholders, including government agencies (city, county, and federal). This *combined input* has informed development of this Plan. Public input was provided in a series of meetings held specifically for developing this Master Plan, and public comment relevant to parks and recreation also came during open meetings conducted for updating the Town's General Plan. In addition, members of the community were invited to participate in a survey about parks and recreation usage and needs.

Public Meetings

This Master Plan in part responds to values and needs expressed by the community at public gatherings. Table 5 summarizes major findings from a public meeting conducted for the Town General Plan update, plus a series of public meetings held specifically for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. More details on input received at these meetings are presented in Appendix 4.

Table 5: Summary of comments received at public meetings

Meeting	Major Values and Needs	
December 8, 2003: public workshop #2 for General Plan update—collective ranking of different facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performing arts center 2. Recreation center 3. Outdoor community venue 4. More trails 5. Youth center 6. Indoor ice rink 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Conference center 8. Neighborhood parks 9. Visual arts facility (museum) 10. Competitive athletic training facility 11. More sports fields 12. Interpretive center
March 5, 2007: public comments received for parks and recreation master plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations & sponsorship of festivals • Retain Bell-Shaped Parcel as primarily open space with some recreational improvements • Community Center: indoor tot play area; re-use adjacent library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a recreation center for indoor activities and programs (e.g., senior clubs) • Other: need dog park and dog training area; more informal turf/play areas; more sheltered picnic areas; indoor badminton • Explore variety of funding sources
March 12, 2007: public comments received for parks and recreation master plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program needs: Nordic programs • Need for “quiet winter sports” & trails • Integrate TOML parks with surrounding public lands; preserve USFS access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter considerations: use of paths on private golf courses • Need a multi-use recreation facility • Funding through yearly passes and visitor day passes
March 26, 2007: public comments received for parks and recreation master plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program needs: better summer camps; teen programs & center; adult classes; childcare • Winter considerations: indoor programs; indoor-outdoor play areas; family activities • Trails: improve trail connectivity; connect remote locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Center: re-use adjacent library; staff for daily use and activities; improve parking • Other: need places for dogs • Partnerships: coordinate with County for programming; use of school facilities; partner with Mammoth Nordic
April 23, 2007: public comments received for parks and recreation master plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important for facilities to provide for multiple users and activities • Support for Town collaboration with other agencies to provide facilities and programs • Need parks and recreation to foster sense of community and connect people and the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and recreation goals should be relevant and current: Mammoth is not only a destination resort • Critical to have facilities available for year-round and evening use • Tailor level of service standards to Mammoth: its unique location, seasonality, and population • Trails & trail access are very important

Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

The Town of Mammoth Lakes conducted a survey during March 2007 to evaluate usage of and needs for parks and recreation facilities and programs. Paper and online surveys were made available to residents of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake, and Crowley Lake, as well as those who have second homes in Mammoth Lakes. A report detailing the results of the Town's 2007 Parks and Recreation Facility Needs Assessment Survey is presented in Appendix 10. Highlights of the survey's major findings follow.

Respondent usage rates of parks and recreation facilities demonstrate that Mammoth Lakes is a physically active community. In addition, the vast majority (77%) indicated that physical fitness and health were the main benefits they sought from recreation. As a result, parks and recreation facilities and programming should respond to the community's propensity for frequent, active recreation that promotes health and well-being.

Use of existing Town parks shows that lawn areas, picnic facilities, and playgrounds are top outdoor amenities in these parks; the Mammoth Creek Trail system also was a frequently used facility. Because trails were otherwise not included in survey questions, many respondents used their written comments to express the importance of trails in their daily life and recreation activities. These results suggest that parks should continue to offer features that accommodate passive outdoor recreation, active children, and social gatherings, and that trails are an important component of a parks and recreation system.

Second homeowners comprised about 45% of survey respondents. They indicated that they visit Mammoth Lakes quite frequently (78% of them visit at least every other month and almost one-third visit once per month, on average). Because the Town's seasonal and second-homeowner population is so high, and because the second homeowners visit so often, parks and recreation facilities should have the capacity to accommodate these users.

Regarding needs for facilities and programs, it is important to note that nearly half (47%) of all respondents use an indoor athletic club (42.6% use Snowcreek Athletic Club, and another 4.3% use The Body Shop). This suggests that indoor recreation centers are an important component of recreation and fitness for people in Mammoth Lakes, and that an additional recreation center would be welcome—especially if it provides facilities and programs desired by residents and visitors. Although the survey did not ask directly about the need for a recreation center per se, it did ask about more specific amenities and programs, some of which could be integrated in a recreation center. When examined in greater detail, responses to questions about needed facilities and programs indicate the following “first tier” and “second tier” needs (based on priority rankings and expression of need vs. no need) shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Top recreation facility and program needs resulting from Needs Assessment Survey

Facility Needs		Program Needs	
First Tier	Second Tier	First Tier	Second Tier
Performing arts center	Indoor running track	Hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, climbing	Bicycling programs
Dog park	New tennis courts	Fitness center & aerobics	Before & after school programs
Band shell	Senior facilities	Holiday/seasonal celebrations & fairs	Camps during school recess and vacation
New aquatic facilities	New picnic facilities	Yoga, meditation, stress relief	Senior programs
New open grass areas	Teen/youth club	Science & nature instruction	Pre-school care

Consistency of Survey with Other Public Input

Overall, there is general consistency of the Needs Assessment Survey with input received at public meetings. The most agreement appears to be on the need for performance venues and a multi-use recreational facility for indoor activities. In addition, trails and integration with surrounding public land received much attention in public meetings, and the importance of trails was a frequent comment in the written portions of the survey. Accommodating the area's strong seasonality and year-round recreation also is an area of agreement. Areas of inconsistency include addressing needs of specific age groups (small children, teens, and senior citizens)—in these cases, the survey indicated a lower overall need to address these issues, compared with the input at public meetings. Also, the survey showed a strong need for a dog park, which was not consistently a major topic in public comments. Finally, outreach efforts to members of the Hispanic/Latino community, who are not well-represented in the Needs Assessment Survey, indicate a need for additional picnic facilities and soccer/multipurpose fields.

Summary of Other Stakeholder Input

Other Agencies

As part of this planning process, the Town engaged several agencies in a series of four meetings in March, April, May, and June 2007. The following agencies were invited and/or represented: U.S. Forest Service, Mono County Public Works (Parks), Mono County Office of Education, Mammoth Unified School District, MLTPA (Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access), Mammoth Hospital (Human Performance Lab), Mammoth Community Water District, the Tourism and Recreation Commission, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Several key points have emerged from the interagency meetings:

- Partnership opportunities should be explored to:
 - Share facilities
 - Share capital and maintenance costs, and obtain funding jointly
 - Promote use of exiting facilities through expanded marketing and programming
- Coordinate planning efforts to accommodate projected visitor growth and the broad range of recreational experiences they require
- Promote public health through facilities and programs
- Ensure that facilities and programs are accessible and affordable
- Ensure that facilities and programs accommodate year-round use
- Consider the interface of public lands with the Town's boundaries
- Provide safe, non-motorized mobility choices and routes to U.S. Forest Service lands
- Improve connections among existing and planned parks and recreation facilities
- Provide a central indoor recreation center for shared use
- Accommodate the recreation needs of different age groups (especially young children)
- Expand the potential visitor market through parks and recreation:
 - Offer more events
 - Provide more recreation options immediately within town
 - Focus on "shoulder season" programming
 - Broaden use of U.S. Forest Service land within Town limits
 - Capitalize on the increasing popularity of Mammoth Lakes with elite athletes for high-altitude training

Other Organizations

Various organizations and clubs were invited to provide their input through a questionnaire distributed in March 2007. Two groups responded: Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra and Mammoth Nordic. Complete comments from both these organizations, as well as a listing of other organizations invited to participate, are presented in Appendix 5.

The main points from Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (whose program offers accessibility for those with disabilities) include:

- It is important to always consider accessibility for those with disabilities, for all-inclusive participation and facility use.
- There is need for an open area to teach bike-riding to kids, and an ice skating rink would be appreciated.
- The organization is willing to help the Town address accessibility issues.

Several major comments from Mammoth Nordic (which promotes Nordic recreation in Mammoth Lakes) include:

- The Town should meet the recreation needs of all users in all seasons.
- The Mammoth Lakes Trail System should be maximized for year-round use.
- Promote quiet winter sports to enhance the quality of life year-round.
- Improve the provision and maintenance of parks, and link them with well-maintained, year-round community trails.
- The organization is willing to partner with the Town to expand Nordic recreation opportunities.

Summary of Other Relevant Reports

SLOSAR (Sensitive Lands, Open Space, and Recreation) Working Paper⁷

This paper was provided by a focus group of 12 members representing several interests, including Planning Commissioners, Tourism and Recreation Commissioners, environmental activists, Nordic skiers, and snowmobile enthusiasts. The working paper summarizes major ideas and issues regarding open space and recreation in Mammoth Lakes, and is intended to help the Town develop implementation strategies for sensitive lands, open space, and recreation. Although this group was convened as part of the General Plan Update process, several key points from their working paper have implications for the Parks Master Plan:

- Comprehensive plans for sensitive lands, open space, and recreation should address indoor, outdoor, and seasonal opportunities and goals. These plans should list the interests and objectives that have been expressed by the community, which help form the basis of the plans.
- Plans and plan implementation need elements of public education and outreach, which can enhance appreciation of sensitive land resources and help address recreation-related conflicts.
- It is critical to protect and enhance access portals to public lands surrounding the Town. Doing this will also reinforce the unique character of Mammoth Lakes being “a town within a park.”

⁷ Provided by the Town of Mammoth Lakes (document is dated May 16, 2006)

- A connected year-round trail system for recreational and commuter use is a high priority; the focus group also indicates that trails for motorized uses are needed.
- Conflicts among different recreational uses should be alleviated by providing a greater number and variety of recreation choices and facilities.
- The Mammoth Creek Corridor should be the subject of a focused plan.
- The paper indicates that the Town's sensitive lands programs should focus on ecological integrity and connectivity—this issue could also be incorporated in the Parks Master Plan.

2001 Facility Needs Assessment

This report was based on research conducted to recommend facility types and locations for Mammoth Lakes, to help the Town accommodate anticipated growth. Two public meetings provided a forum for community input, and Town staff were also consulted. Top priorities for recreation-related facilities in the 2001 report are:

- High priority: recreation center
- Medium-high priority: performing arts center, indoor ice rink, ball fields

The report evaluated potential locations for the various community facilities. Table 7 summarizes the report's suggested parcels for the recreation-related facilities. The report also presents one conceptual schematic diagram of a facility development scenario for each of the sites. Since the 2001 Facility Needs Assessment report was issued, the facility that has moved forward is the ice rink, which was discussed in the section on *Public Facilities Proposed or in Progress*. The proposed ice rink is not an indoor facility, although the design calls for the rink to be covered.

Table 7: Highlights from 2001 Facility Needs Assessment

Facility	Possible Location	Comments
Recreation center	Community Church/RV Park (Hwy 203/Sierra Park Rd area; 81 acres)	High visibility is an attractive feature
	Mammoth Unified School District site (18 acres)	This location would also allow facility use by school district and college students; terrain may require extensive earthwork to accommodate building and parking
	Bell-Shaped Parcel (16.6 acres in center of town)	Central location is good, although presence of wetlands is an issue, as is compatibility of scale with neighboring buildings
	Mammoth Community Water District site (66 acres owned by USFS)	Least desirable option because location is neither central nor visible
Performing arts center	Cerro Coso Community College	Appears to be the only feasible site; facility use by college would help justify cost; relatively low priority
Indoor ice rink	Co-locate with recreation center	Location with recreation center allows sharing of parking and locker/shower rooms; should also include outdoor ice rink if possible
Ball fields	Community Church/RV Park (Hwy 203/Sierra Park Rd area; 81 acres)	This site has enough area for a decent-sized complex, and is located to serve residents and schools well
	Mammoth Unified School District site (18 acres)	Also a good location, although size and topography would limit the number and configuration of fields
	Mammoth Community Water District site (66 acres owned by USFS)	Terrain and trees restrict the number of fields; site is less accessible to K-12 students, although can be readily used by college

GOALS AND POLICIES

Goals and policies are used to help guide decision-making for the Town's park and recreation facilities and programs, in a way that promotes collective values and aspirations. They serve to illustrate the intent of particular recommendations or directions and should be referred to as conditions change over time. Much work preceding the development of this Plan has led to the goals and policies presented here. This includes the work of Town staff and extensive public input for the update of the Town's General Plan.

The first five goals here have been developed and presented in the 2007 Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan, for the Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Element. An additional (sixth) goal was developed as a result of public input during the Park Master Plan process. Relevant policies of the Town's General Plan are presented here as Parks and Recreation Master Plan policies. Additional proposed policies specific to this Master Plan are presented as well (these are presented after the policies that come from the Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan).

These goals underlie a system of parks and recreation facilities, which will support the vision for Mammoth Lakes as a premier destination resort that also is a great place to live and work. By providing adequate and diverse parks and recreation facilities that capitalize on the Town's unique conditions and context, the facilities (and associated programming) allow a variety of year-round experiences for residents and visitors, and enhance the Town's identity as a destination for recreation and events. Through these goals and policies, parks and recreation in Mammoth Lakes will:

- Enhance the quality of life of residents
- Promote a healthy community through opportunities for physical activity
- Help provide visitors with a high-quality recreational experience that contributes to the Town's economy
- Take advantage of the Town's unique setting and proximity to public lands and natural open space

Goal 1: Maintain parks and open space within and adjacent to town for outdoor recreation and contemplation.

[There are no policies for this goal in the 2007 Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan].

Proposed policies for Goal 1:

1. Protect the scenic beauty and natural resources of Mammoth Lakes through a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that includes parks, open space, and a trail system.
2. Continue to maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreation facilities, and design all new facilities to ADA standards and provide for accessibility and enjoyment by physically impaired citizens.
3. Upgrade parks and recreation facilities to promote efficient and cost-effective maintenance practices.
4. Ensure adequate funding for ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation of existing parks and recreation facilities.

Goal 2: Provide additional parks within town.

[The following are policies for this goal in the 2007 Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan].

Policy 2A: Coordinate open space programs and policies with the Inyo National Forest, City of Los Angeles, and Mono County.

Policy 2B: Require usable public recreation open space in all master planned developments.

1. Action: Develop a comprehensive and integrated Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
2. Action: Actively seek grant funds for parks, open spaces, and recreational activities.
3. Action: Maintain a Master Facility Plan and Development Impact Fee schedule.

Policy 2C: Maximize parks and open space through flexible form-based zoning, development clustering and transfers of development rights within individual districts.

1. Action: Establish zoning districts that allow parks, recreation, and ancillary facilities.

Policy 2D: Increase understanding and appreciation of the cultural, natural and historical resources of the region and town through development of programs, facilities and interpretive signage.

Policy 2E: Include interpretive signage in parks, trails and public rights-of-way.

1. Action: Plan, design, and implement an interpretive signage program.

Additional proposed policies for Goal 2:

1. Promote Mammoth Lakes' quality of life with parkland and recreation facility acquisition and development at or above the level of service standards recommended in this Plan.
2. Provide parks and recreation facilities in a timely manner with existing and planned development.
3. Engage continued citizens' involvement in planning parks and recreation facilities, and periodically re-evaluate the provision of these facilities through a needs assessment study.
4. Seek funding from a variety of sources to acquire and develop new parks, and maintain adequate funding for operation and maintenance of new parks and recreation facilities.
5. Design and build parks and recreation facilities to ensure compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood and natural environment.
6. Assure that new parks and recreation facilities comply with ADA standards, for safe use and enjoyment by physically impaired citizens.

7. Develop parks and recreation facilities to facilitate efficient and cost-effective maintenance practices.

Goal 3: Create a Master Plan for an integrated trail system that will maintain and enhance convenient public access to public lands from town.

[The following are policies for this goal in the 2007 Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan].

Policy 3A: Ensure public routes for access to public lands are provided in all developments adjacent to National Forest lands.

Policy 3B: Coordinate with multiple organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions to plan, steward, interpret, promote, and sustain trails, public access, and outdoor recreation amenities in the Mammoth Lakes region.

Policy 3C: Identify and acquire points of public access to public lands (from within the Urban Growth Boundary to surrounding public lands) through cooperative arrangements including easements, purchase, or other means of title acquisition.

Additional proposed policy for Goal 3:

1. Support the construction of trails to provide public access from Town to public lands.

Goal 4: Provide and encourage a wide variety of outdoor and indoor recreation readily accessible to residents and visitors of all ages.

[The following are policies for this goal in the 2007 Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan].

Policy 4A: Expand recreational opportunities by proactively developing partnerships with public agencies and private entities.

Policy 4B: Provide an affordable and wide range of year-round recreational opportunities to foster a healthy community for residents and visitors. Activities include but are not limited to:

downhill skiing & snowboarding day & backcountry hiking cross-country skiing walking back-country skiing & snowboarding interpretive trails & signage snowshoeing climbing sledding touring	dog sledding street & mountain biking ice skating camping snowmobiling fishing sleigh rides fall color viewing tennis birding	swimming health & fitness soccer off-highway vehicles racquetball equestrian activities snow play BMX skateboarding
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Policy 4C: Ensure balance of use, enjoyment and separation where appropriate between motorized and non-motorized modes of recreation.

1. Action: Specifically address use, needs and operations of motorized and non-motorized recreation users in a year-round comprehensive recreation plan.

Additional proposed policies for Goal 4:

1. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, coordinate planning for compatible recreational uses and facilities on and adjacent to USFS lands.
2. Partner with Mammoth Unified School District to fully utilize existing Town recreation facilities by students, and broaden public use of school facilities after school and during evenings and weekends.
3. Partner with private organizations to deliver recreation programs and provide and/or operate special purpose facilities.
4. Acquire, construct, or upgrade indoor recreation facilities to accommodate desired indoor recreation activities and leisure programs.
5. Provide recreation facilities, programs, and classes that are available to all citizens, including people of all ages, abilities, ethnic background, and income levels. Keep programs affordable, and develop program packages for those with more moderate incomes (including seasonal workers).
6. Develop a reservation and pricing policy for exclusive use of certain facilities.⁸
7. Develop a Town Park Management Program.
 - i. The Program could include a Park Ranger to monitor park use and activities.
 - ii. Park Rangers could help conduct programs.
8. Promote awareness of the Town's parks and recreation facilities, programs, and special events.

⁸ Note: cannot provide for exclusive or preferential pricing or use on USFS lands.

Goal 5: Link parks and open space with a well-designed year-round network of public corridors and trails within and surrounding Mammoth Lakes.

[The following are policies for this goal in the 2007 Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan].

Policy 5A: Create open space corridors by combining open space on neighboring properties.

Policy 5B: Design and construct trails as components of a regional and local network for recreation and commuting.

Policy 5C: Require new development to incorporate linked public trail corridors identified in the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Plan into overall project site plan.

1. Action: Prepare an expanded Master Plan to link trails, parks and open space.

Policy 5D: Design public and private streets not only as connections to different neighborhood districts, but also as an essential element of the open space system. Include parks and plazas, tree-lined open spaces and continuous recreational paths in design.

Policy 5E: Design parks and open space to be accessible and usable except when set aside for preservation of natural resources, health and safety.

Policy 5F: Ensure provision of parkland dedications or payment of in-lieu fees through project approvals or development impact fees.

Policy 5G: Identify, zone and procure land for new and expanded parklands including:

- pocket parks
- natural pockets of forest
- community gardens
- greenbelts
- streamside parks
- street way linear parks
- active parks
- open space
- snow play
- festival and special events areas
- passive parks

Policy 5G: Dedicated parkland shall be suitable for active recreation uses shall have a maximum slope of 10%, be accessible to the community, and be free of significant constraints.

Additional proposed policies for Goal 5:

1. Develop an integrated trail system in cooperation with federal agencies and consistent with the Town's General Plan (Mobility Element), by updating the General Bikeway Plan and Trail System Plan.
2. The trail system should accommodate winter and summer use by a variety of users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and Nordic sports enthusiasts.
3. The trail system should connect parks, schools, other designated activity centers, and trails on public lands adjacent to Mammoth Lakes.
4. Create an integrated way-finding system that encompasses trails, parks, and recreation facilities with unified and consistent signage design.

Goal 6: Provide parks and recreational facilities and programs that foster a sense of community and nurture the emotional connection people have with each other and Mammoth Lakes.

Policies proposed for Goal 6:

1. Plan parks and recreation facilities and develop recreation programs with public input.
2. Distribute parkland within the community to increase walkability from key residential nodes.
3. Offer and accommodate events and activities that foster community gathering and celebration.
4. Encourage neighborhood district identity and cohesion through events and programs.
5. Provide facilities and programs that support togetherness within and among families.

Relationship of Proposed Goals to the 1990 Parks and Recreation Element

In order to illustrate that this planning is an ongoing process, subject to evolving values, concerns, and contextual issues, the goals and objectives presented in the Town's 1990 Parks and Recreation Element are compared with the current goals in Table 8. It follows that the current goals and policies will be revisited and reconsidered in the future, to continue meeting the changing needs of the Mammoth Lakes community.

Table 8: Comparison of current and previous goals for parks and recreation

Goals and Associated Objectives from the 1990 Parks and Recreation Element	Relationship to Proposed Goals and Policies
<p>Goal 1: To develop the Mammoth Lakes community as a quality year-round recreation destination resort</p> <p>Objective 1A: Promote a quality recreation experience by continuing to work closely with all facets of the community which provide recreation services and facilities including the Inyo National Forest Service, the County of Mono, the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and all other public and private recreation service providers.</p> <p>Objective 1B: Provide a broader range of visitor, resident and second homeowner recreation services.</p>	<p>Proposed Goals 2, 3, and 4 each contain policies that embody Goal 1 from 1990</p> <p>This Objective (and Policies therein) is reflected in proposed Policies 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, and 4A</p> <p>This Objective (and Policies therein) is reflected in proposed Policies 2D and 4A</p>
<p>Goal 2: To assure the availability of adequate park and recreation facilities for the existing and future citizens of the Town of Mammoth Lakes</p> <p>Objective 2A: Pursue all avenues available for the Town to acquire sufficient parkland.</p> <p>Objective 2B: Pursue all avenues available for the Town to provide sufficient recreational facilities for its citizens.</p> <p>Objective 2C: Establish a system of trails for the entire community.</p>	<p>The first five proposed Goals contain policies that embody Goal 2 from 1990</p> <p>This Objective (and Policies therein) is reflected in proposed Policies 2B and 5F</p> <p>This Objective (and Policies therein) is reflected in proposed Policies 2B, 3B, 4B, and 4C</p> <p>This Objective (and Policies therein) is reflected in proposed Policies 2A, 3A, 3C, 5A, 5B, and 5C</p>

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY PLAN

Parks and Recreation Standards

Throughout most of the 1900s, many communities adopted specific level of service (LOS) standards that were recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). These standards prescribed the number of park acres and recreation amenities (e.g., ball fields and swimming pools) needed for a given population size; the standards also defined different park types and their service areas. NRPA standards have been adopted by many communities regardless of their size, geographic context, demographic makeup, and community needs.

More recently, as communities across the United States reassess their parks and recreation needs, there is increasing awareness that the NRPA standards may not be best suited to meet community-specific needs. Indeed, this has been acknowledged by the NRPA, which has encouraged communities to tailor parks and recreation standards to better respond to their concerns. As a result, recently adopted parks and recreation master plans of many communities reflect this new approach to recommending levels of service, based on more specific community desires. The plans often include less emphasis on strict standards, and thereby accommodate a more flexible approach to providing parks and recreation facilities.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Mammoth Lakes also takes a tailored approach to recommending standards for parks and recreation facilities, due to the Town's unique demographic and environmental characteristics.

- Because Mammoth Lakes is a resort community containing year-round residents, second homeowners, and a seasonal worker population, fluctuating population levels and different recreation needs among these groups make it challenging to assess the demand for and adequacy of parks and recreation facilities.
- Equally important, many people live in and visit Mammoth Lakes because it is a special place—respecting the character of the place is critical, and must be considered when developing parks and recreation standards.
- The strong seasonal climate makes many parks and recreation facilities unavailable or unusable during winter; maintaining year-round levels of service is critical to providing year-round recreation opportunities.
- Finally, the relatively small size of the Town (both population and developed area) makes it difficult to prescribe levels of service for distinct park types, such as “neighborhood” or “community” facilities. Different parks should serve the everyday recreation needs of local neighbors, but should also have some community-serving component. This distributes the pressure among all the parks and recreation facilities during population peaks, while minimizing the likelihood of any facility becoming a “dead zone” when the population is at low levels. Although there may not be a recommended standard for acreage of a specific park type, Mammoth Lakes should have an overall standard for developable park acreage, because it sets an overall benchmark for developed park facilities. However, the Town should strive to provide more equitable distribution of parks, such that residential areas have access to a nearby park, even if a small pocket park or tot lot.

The only suggested standard from the Town's 1990 Parks and Recreation Element is the recommendation of 10 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents. This land cannot include

Whitmore Park, which is considered a regional facility. Mammoth Lakes has not adopted a Quimby-type ordinance (which specifies minimum parkland dedication and/or in-lieu fees for new development); other California communities with Quimby ordinances require 3 to 5 acres of developed parks per 1,000 residents. One goal of this current Master Plan is to evaluate the Town's park and recreation level of service (LOS) and recommend LOS standards. The following steps describe the approach for developing LOS standards for Mammoth Lakes' parks and recreation facilities:

1. Calculate LOS for the Town's different recreation facilities and park amenities. Current LOS estimates were derived using the parks and recreation facility inventory, and using either the Town's 2006 resident population size of 7,789⁹ (for park acreage LOS, which is used in case the Town adopts a Quimby ordinance for parkland dedication with new development), or a "recreation population" size for other recreation facility and amenity LOS, that incorporates the year-round resident population (7,789) plus a number to represent the recreation-related impact of second homeowners who visit the Town periodically (617). This second number is based on a multiplier derived from the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey as follows:
 - a. The number of second homeowners is 6,427 (this is the number contacted by Town staff to participate in the 2007 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey).
 - b. According to second homeowners who responded to the survey, the median number of visits per year is 7, and the median number of nights per visit is 5. Multiplying these values results in an estimate of 35 user-days per visitor per year.
 - c. A multiplier for second homeowners based on their visitation equals 35 user-days per visitor per year divided by 365 days per year, or 0.096.
 - d. For the purposes of calculating LOS for facilities and amenities, second homeowners add the equivalent of about 617 persons to the recreation population (from multiplying 0.096 by 6,427 second homeowners).¹⁰
2. Gather information on other LOS standards: National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), plus other communities with similar population, geographic, and/or economic characteristics as Mammoth Lakes. These include:
 - a. State of Colorado Small Community Park & Recreation Planning Standards (2003)
 - b. Grass Valley CA Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2004)
 - c. McCall ID Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2005)
 - d. Vail CO Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Final Document Draft for Review, Winter 2006-2007)
 - e. Woodinville WA Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2005 Draft)
 - f. Snoqualmie WA Vicinity Comprehensive Plan—Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element (2003)
 - g. Moraga CA Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2007 Draft)

⁹ TOML population estimates for 2006 are provided in *Report to The Town of Mammoth Lakes* (Forecast Overview Tables, "Part 1."), by the UCSB Economic Forecast Project (Susan Dalluddung, Terri Swartz, and Bill Watkins), with assistance from Dan Hamilton and Mike Smith (produced in 2006)

¹⁰ This likely underestimates the number of people associated with second-homeowner visits, as there are no data on the number of people within a second-homeowner party. It is recommended that homeowner surveys be conducted in the future to ascertain the number of people in a party, to derive a more accurate estimate of second-homeowner impact. Likewise, future park monitoring and visitor surveys can help determine recreation-related impacts of visitors who do not own homes in Mammoth Lakes.

- h. Truckee CA 2025 General Plan—Conservation and Open Space Element (2006)
 - i. Silverthorne CO Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan (2001)
 - j. Santee CA Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Draft standards 2007)
3. Compare Mammoth Lakes LOS with other standards (see Appendix 8 for more details)
 4. After analyzing results of the LOS comparison and public and other input, evaluate whether LOS standards for Mammoth Lakes should be adjusted, and propose new LOS standards as needed:
 - a. For developed parkland acreage, this Plan recommends adopting a standard of 5 acres of local park per 1,000 residents. This is consistent with a Quimby-type ordinance, should the Town decide to adopt one. Regarding regional park acreage, the Town's current LOS is the recommended standard. In addition to park acreage, it also is important that public access to public lands around Mammoth Lakes be preserved, as this open space is considered essential to community recreation, even though it does not count toward parkland LOS.
 - b. For those facilities or amenities considered to be offering inadequate LOS ("First Tier" and "Second Tier" needs based on the broad range of community and agency input, plus the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey), this plan proposes LOS standards derived from recently adopted standards of other communities with similar population and/or geographic characteristics. The standard for first tier facilities should be set to the top of the comparison LOS range. The standard for second tier facilities should be adjusted so it is midway between the current Town LOS and the top of the comparison LOS range¹¹. The following are identified as first tier needs: outdoor events venue, amphitheater, multi-use recreational/cultural facility, indoor swimming pool, and paved multi-use trails. Second tier needs are: picnic tables, picnic shelters, tennis courts, soccer/multiuse fields, dog parks, and 0.25-mile running tracks.
 - c. If a given facility type or amenity level is not considered a "First Tier" or "Second Tier" need, then the current LOS for these amenities has been recommended as the standard for the Town of Mammoth Lakes.
 - d. For paved trails, the LOS has been determined by estimating the number of miles needed to complete critical gaps in the Town's trail system, and adding this mileage to the current mileage to calculate the recommended standard.
 5. This Plan acknowledges that a facility's quality, access, and amenities will affect its utility and capacity. For example, a thoughtfully designed and appointed 0.5-acre park may serve as many users as a poorly sited or maintained 2-acre park. The process for deriving LOS standards and facility recommendations in this Plan also reflected public input relating to quality, as much of the input reflected a need to improve existing facilities in addition to providing new ones.

Table 9 summarizes the level of service comparison and recommendations for the Town's parks and recreation facilities. It is important to reiterate that this Plan is part of an ongoing process. It is expected that the Town of Mammoth Lakes will periodically review its ability to serve the recreation needs of residents and visitors, by soliciting their input and adjusting the parks and recreation standards as needed (see Appendix 7 for an example of this continued commitment).

¹¹ The exception is for 0.25-mile running tracks, for which only one peer community has a suggested LOS (of 0.10 per 1,000). It is recommended that the Town of Mammoth Lakes adopt this standard as well.

Table 9: Level of service comparison and recommendations for Mammoth Lakes

Park and Recreation Facility or Amenity ^a	Range of LOS standards: other communities	Average LOS standard: other communities	Avg. standard for smaller communities ^b	Avg. standard for the two resort towns ^c	Current LOS for Mammoth Lakes ^d	Recommended LOS standard for Mammoth Lakes ^e
parkland acreage	4.00-14.00	8.50	8.94	[14]	5.36	5.00
specific park types (acres)						
mini park	0.25-0.5					
neighborhood park	1.0-2.5					
community park	3.0-8.0					
local park subtotal (TOML)					5.36	5.00 ^f
regional park	5.0-10.0				4.11	4.11
facilities in TOML inventory						
picnic tables	1.77-6.25	4.76	4.76	[6.25]	5.12	5.69
picnic shelters	0.20-1.00	0.58	0.68	0.68	0.12	0.56
playgrounds	0.16-1.00	0.62	0.69	[1]	0.36	0.36
park bench	7.69	7.69	7.69	[7.69]	1.78	1.78
tennis courts	0.13-1.00	0.61	0.69	0.99	0.71	0.86
(outdoor) basketball courts	0.17-0.91	0.35	0.38	[0.17]	0.12	0.12
(sand) volleyball courts	0.04-0.50	0.23	0.26	0.32	0.24	0.24
soccer/multiuse fields	0.10-1.00	0.56	0.74	0.98	0.24	0.50
ball fields (unspecified)	0.50-0.63	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.59	0.59
baseball fields (adult)	0.05-0.28	0.19	0.23		0.12	0.12
skateboard parks (small)	0.16	0.16	0.16	[0.16]	0.12	0.12
skateboard parks (large)	0.02-0.06	0.05	0.06	[0.06]	0.12	0.12
outdoor swimming pool (ea)	0.12	0.12	0.12	[0.12]	0.12	0.12
community center (ea)	0.05-0.10	0.08	0.08		0.12	0.12
paved multi-use trails (miles)	0.20-1.50	0.89	1.03	[1.04]	1.07	1.62
potential TOML facilities						
outdoor events venue (acres)	1.34	1.34	1.34	[1.34]	0	1.34
band shell/amphitheater (ea)	0.10	0.10	0.10	[0.1]	0	0.10
dog park (ea)	0.05-0.34	0.14	0.16	[0.34]	0	0.17
potential partner facilities						
recreation centers/gyms (ea)	0.03-0.20	0.13	0.14		0	0.10
recreation centers (sq ft)	2,000	2,000				2,000
ice hockey rink (ea)	0.10	0.10	0.10	[0.1]	0	0.10
running track (0.25 mile)	0.10	0.10	0.10		0	0.10
indoor swimming pool (ea)	0.05	0.05	0.05		0	0.05
Indoor swimming pool (sq ft)	540-1,500	1020	540.82			1,000

^a Standards expressed as number of units per 1,000 residents; see Appendix 8 for more details

^b Excludes Santee CA and NRPA standards (see text for a list of communities used in this comparison)

^c Standards for McCall ID and Vail CO. Number in bracket indicates that only 1 value was available (no average could be calculated).

^d 2006 TOML population estimate of 7,789 from *Report to The Town of Mammoth Lakes* (2006), by the UCSB Economic Forecast Project (Susan Dalluddung, Terri Swartz, and Bill Watkins), with assistance from Dan Hamilton and Mike Smith (Forecast Overview Tables, "Part 1."). This population size is used for calculating parkland acreage LOS. LOS for other facilities uses a "recreation population" of 8,406 that has both the 2006 TOML population of 7,789 and an adjusted second homeowner population of 617 (see text for how this was derived, in "Parks and Recreation Standards" point #1).

^e See text for description of adjustments to LOS ("Parks and Recreation Standards" point #4). First tier amenities: outdoor events venue, amphitheater, multi-use recreational/cultural facility, indoor swimming pool, paved multi-use trails. Second tier amenities: picnic tables, picnic shelters, tennis courts, soccer/multiuse fields, dog parks and 0.25-mile running tracks.

^f LOS for specific park types is not indicated, to allow flexibility in parkland acquisition. However, developed public parks and recreation facilities should be equitably distributed, such that residential areas are within 0.25 mi of a public park (minimum 0.25 acre), public-access recreation facility, or public trail.

Park and Recreation Facility Needs Based on Recommended Standards

The Town should provide additional amenities to meet the LOS recommendations presented in Table 9. Table 10 summarizes the present number of facilities, plus the number needed to meet the LOS recommendations for the 2006 population and in 2025. To estimate the second homeowner contribution to the 2025 “recreation population,” it is assumed that this group will grow at the same rate as permanent residents (33.57% by 2025), because population projections are not available for this group.

Table 10: Recreation facilities needed to meet recommended LOS standards

Park and Recreation Facility or Amenity	Recommended LOS standard for Mammoth Lakes ^a	Existing number of TOML facilities	Additional facilities to achieve LOS for 2006 ^b	Total additional facilities to achieve LOS by 2025 ^c
parkland acreage	5.00	41.78	0	14.36
specific park types (acres)				
mini park				
neighborhood park				
community park				
local park subtotal (TOML)	5.00	41.78	0	14.36
regional park	4.11	32.00	0	14.15
facilities in TOML inventory				
picnic tables	5.69	43	5	26
picnic shelters	0.56	1	4	6
playgrounds	0.36	3	0	1
park benches	1.78	15	0	7
tennis courts	0.86	6	1	4
(outdoor) basketball courts	0.12	1	0	0
(sand) volleyball courts	0.24	2	0	1
soccer/multiuse fields	0.50	2	2	4
ball fields (unspecified)	0.59	5	0	2
baseball fields (adult)	0.12	1	0	0
skateboard parks (small)	0.12	1	0	0
skateboard parks (large)	0.12	1	0	0
outdoor swimming pool (ea)	0.12	1	0	0
community center (ea)	0.12	1	0	0
paved multi-use trails (miles)	1.62	9	4.60	5.20 ^d
potential TOML facilities				
outdoor events venue (acres)	1.34	0	11	16
band shell/amphitheater (ea)	0.10	0	1	1
dog park (ea)	0.17	0	1	2
potential partner facilities				
recreation centers/gyms (ea)	0.10	0	1	1
recreation centers (sq ft)	2,000		16,812	24,104
ice hockey rink (ea)	0.10	0	1	1
running track (0.25 mile)	0.10	0	1	1
indoor swimming pool (ea)	0.05	0	0	1
swimming pool (sq ft)	1,000		8,406	12,052

^a Standards expressed as number of units per 1,000 TOML residents (for park acreage) or 1,000 members of the “recreation population” (for other amenities). Estimates of TOML population are from *Report to The Town of Mammoth Lakes* (2006), by the UCSB Economic Forecast Project (Susan Dalluddung, Terri Swartz, and Bill Watkins), with assistance from Dan Hamilton and Mike Smith (Forecast Overview Tables, “Part 1.”); recreation population includes an adjustment for second homeowners (see text for how this was derived, in “Parks and Recreation Standards” point #1).

^b 2006 recreation population of 8,406 has 7,789 residents plus 617 “equivalent” recreation impact of second homeowners.

^c 2025 recreation population of 12,052 has 11,228 residents plus 824 “equivalent” recreation impact of second homeowners.

^d Note that 2025 trail miles include the Lake Mary Road bike path (5.3 miles, not in existing facility inventory)

To achieve the recommended levels of service for parks and recreation facilities by 2025, the Town of Mammoth Lakes must provide an additional 14.36 acres of developed local parks, which can contain many of the amenities that also will be needed (picnic shelters, etc.). In addition, 14.15 more acres of regional parkland should be available to Town residents by 2025. Several capital-intensive projects also are recommended: an outdoor events venue with band shell or amphitheater, multi-use recreational/cultural facility, and indoor swimming pool/aquatic center. Although the apparent need for some new facilities appears low, in actuality they should be supplemented to provide year-round service. For example, the need for new playgrounds appears to be low, based on the current number of playgrounds. However, these facilities are not available in winter, although children should still have play options for this time of year (ideally for both indoor and outdoor play). Provision of year-round service can be accomplished by adding new facilities and/or by retrofitting existing outdoor facilities for year-round use.

Because Mammoth Lakes will need to provide additional park acreage and facilities to meet recreation needs, several factors should be considered when selecting locations for this expansion:

- Proximity of parks and recreation facilities to Town residents
- Feasibility of expanding or adding needed improvements to existing parks
- Affordability and availability of land
- Compatibility with neighboring land uses
- Potential for multi-jurisdiction ownership and/or operation
- Utility for staging and access to adjacent public lands' recreation opportunities and facilities
- Ability to integrate the site within the Town's trail system
- Capacity for year-round and multi-purpose facility use
- Physical characteristics for supporting parkland and facility development (e.g., related to size, access, topography, drainage, sensitive resources)
- Views and other distinguishing features to enhance the experience of users

Opportunities

Many options are available to accommodate the recreational activities highlighted in Goal 4, Policy 4B of the Town's General Plan. Existing and potential locations of these activities is summarized in Table 11, and other opportunities are presented below.

Upcoming Facilities and Projects

As previously mentioned, the in-progress Lake Mary Road bicycle path and proposed ice rink will be welcome additions to the Town's inventory of recreation assets when they are completed. In addition, the old library will be available in the near future, when that space is no longer needed for library use. This structure is conveniently located in the Community Center Park area, and has the potential to complement existing programming in that park.

Several pending applications for new land development also present opportunities to serve both the development and broader community with recreation facilities and/or trail connections. These include Snowcreek VIII, The Sherwin, Shady Rest/Hidden Creek, and Clearwater, to name a few.

Town-Owned and Federal Public Lands

Mammoth Lakes owns several parcels throughout the Town. There is deed-restricted open space along the Mammoth Creek corridor (just east of Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve) that can serve passive recreational uses and offer trail routes; the Town's deed-restricted open space along Meridian Boulevard (between Mammoth Schools and Trails End Park) already has a trail.

Federal lands, especially U.S. Forest Service (USFS) holdings, are extensive in the Mammoth Lakes area. As previously mentioned, among their uses is trail recreation throughout the year. Significantly, there are USFS lands within and near Mammoth Lakes' urban growth boundary, creating an opportunity for the Town to acquire and/or develop these lands for public parks and recreation facilities. For example, Mammoth Creek Park East has great potential for additional development to serve recreation needs. This park is on USFS land, covered by a Special Use Permit. It currently has few improvements. The park has space for facilities that may require more land (e.g., amphitheater, playing field, or dog park), and its proximity to Mammoth Creek and Mammoth Museum affords interpretive opportunities. It also can serve as a staging area and portal for activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. More planning and design is warranted for this park.

Because the Town of Mammoth Lakes has limited in-town acreage for developing new parks and recreation facilities, opportunities to jointly develop facilities on other public and private property should be pursued with the appropriate agencies (as has been done already with the ice rink, for example).

Other Public Resources

Mammoth Unified School District has schools with outdoor fields, playgrounds, and indoor areas that have the potential to be used for public recreation and leisure programs. Joint-use agreements between the School District and the Town can allow shared use of these resources, with the Town possibly providing support through maintenance and staffing.

Additional partnership opportunities are available with Mono County as well, which would expand on the existing partnership the County and Town share with the Whitmore Park regional facility. These opportunities include Town use of other County-owned sports fields, and sharing programming, maintenance, and operation functions.

Public-Private Partnerships

Collaborative relationships of the Town of Mammoth Lakes with private entities can provide significant recreational benefits to the Town's residents. For example, partnerships with the two golf courses in Mammoth Lakes can be established to enable winter use of golf course land for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. As another example, a partnership with Snowcreek Athletic Club offers the opportunity for programming its facilities for occasional public use (e.g., tennis courts). The Town should be ready to explore these and other partnership options as they arise, including those with non-profit organizations.

Table 11: Existing and potential locations of recreation activities for General Plan Policy 4B

Activity	Location (existing and *potential)
Winter activity (snow-dependent)	
Downhill Skiing & Snowboarding	MMSA, June Mountain
Cross-Country Skiing	Tamarack, Town Main Path, Blue Diamond Trails, Mammoth Nordic and USFS groomed trails. Staging at Mammoth Creek Park, USFS Shady Rest, Community Center Park, and Sherwin Creek Meadows
Back-Country Skiing & Snowboarding	Sherwin Mountains, Lakes Basin, Knolls/Mammoth Lakes Scenic Loop, USFS Lands. Staging at Lake Mary Road Gate, Mammoth Scenic Loop, *Snowcreek and Tamarack.
Snowshoeing	Shady Rest Park, Town Main Path, Sherwin Creek Meadows, USFS Lands
Sledding (Snowplay)	Old Church Site, Mammoth Scenic Loop, *Snowcreek
Dog Sledding	MMSA, Sherwin Creek Meadows
Ice Skating	Twin Lakes, Town Ice Rink
Snowmobiling	MMSA, Shady Rest, Sherwin Creek Meadows, USFS Lands
Sleigh Rides	TBD
Other Activity (not snow-dependent)	
Tennis	Community Center Park, Snowcreek Athletic Club, Various condominium projects, *Mammoth Creek Park
Swimming	Whitmore Pool, Various condominium projects, *Multi-Use Recreational/Cultural (South Gateway)
Soccer	Shady Rest Park, *Whitmore Ball Fields, *Mammoth Creek Park East
Racquetball	Snowcreek Athletic Club
Skateboarding	Shady Rest Park, Trails End Park
Day & Backcountry Hiking	Lakes Basin, Sherwin Mountains, Shady Rest, USFS Lands. Staging Areas: Mammoth Creek Park East, Lakes Basin.
Interpretive trails and signage	*Sherwin Meadow Wetland Mitigation Area, *Bell Shaped Parcel
Climbing	Warming Wall, Mammoth Rock, Crystal Crag, MMSA Climbing Structure, *Multi-use Recreation/Cultural Center
Biking – Street	Town of Mammoth Lakes Streets and Roads, State Highway 203 & 395, Mono County Roads, Town Main Path
Biking – Mountain	MMSA Fee Area, USFS Land
Biking – BMX, Terrain Park	Hidden Creek (Shady Rest Tract) *Mammoth Creek Park West
Camping	Lakes Basin, Shady Rest, Sherwin Campground, USFS Lands
Fishing	Mammoth Creek, Lakes Basin
Fall-Color Viewing	General Town wide locations
Birding	Mammoth Creek, Sherwin Meadows
Health & Fitness	Snowcreek Athletic Club, Body Shop Fitness Club, Community Center
Off-Highway Vehicles	USFS Lands
Equestrian Activities	USFS Lands, Lakes Basin, Sherwin Ranch

Recommendations for Facility Maintenance, Improvements, and New Facilities

This Plan outlines several recommendations that are intended to enhance parks and recreation in Mammoth Lakes. These recommendations include maximizing existing facilities through maintenance and improvements, developing new facilities to address unmet and underserved recreation needs, and considering trail development and access. In addition to physical additions and improvements, this Plan proposes several administrative recommendations.

Existing parks and recreation facilities

This Plan recommends that existing assets are maintained and upgraded for user safety and convenience, compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act; refer to Town's Report on Section 504 Self-Evaluation in Appendix 1), ease of maintenance, and aesthetics. In addition, improvements should be considered that will increase capacity of these existing facilities. Table 12 summarizes recommendations for existing parks and recreation facilities. Recommendations for new facilities are described in the section following Table 12.

Table 12: Recommendations for existing parks and recreation facilities

Existing Park and Recreation Facility
Community Center and Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADA upgrades per <i>Report on Section 504 Self-Evaluation</i> (see Appendix 1)• Conduct needed repairs and maintenance of Community Center building• Update playground equipment for child safety• Resurface tennis courts• Bear-proof trash and recycling stations• Install picnic shelter and/or additional picnic tables• Trail surfacing• Irrigation system• New sign• Create plan for eventual re-use of old library building
Shady Rest Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADA upgrades per <i>Report on Section 504 Self-Evaluation</i> (see Appendix 1)• Rehabilitate sports fields as deemed necessary• Upgrade restrooms and snack bar as needed• Install additional picnic tables and one more picnic shelter• Playground• Create 50 additional parking stalls
Trails End Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADA upgrades per <i>Report on Section 504 Self-Evaluation</i> (see Appendix 1)• Complete planned playground and addition of 2 more parking spaces (Phase 2)• Install picnic shelter and/or additional picnic tables, with barbecue
Mammoth Creek Park East
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create master plan for further park improvements
Mammoth Creek Park West
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADA upgrades per <i>Report on Section 504 Self-Evaluation</i> (see Appendix 1)• Update playground equipment• Install picnic shelter and/or additional picnic tables
Whitmore Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADA upgrades per <i>Report on Section 504 Self-Evaluation</i> (see Appendix 1)• Rehabilitate sports fields as deemed necessary• Upgrade restrooms at ball fields

New facilities

New facilities are needed to provide expanded and year-round recreation opportunities, and meet anticipated level-of-service increases with future population growth. Potential locations for new facilities and park expansion are shown in Figure 7 (page 52). This Plan recommends the following eight items in terms of new parks and recreation facilities:¹²

- **Additional parkland.** The Town should acquire and develop more in-town park acreage to meet future LOS needs as the population grows. The estimated area needed by 2025 is an additional 14.36 acres of developable land in Town for active recreation, and another 14.15 acres of regional parkland. The expansion of parkland can occur in several ways:
 - Adding to existing parks: this is an option for Community Center Park, with the acquisition of an adjacent USFS parcel.
 - Developing new parks on land owned or acquired by the Town: the smaller parcels in residential areas can be developed as pocket parks for passive use and children's play, or one parcel could possibly be used as a dog park (depending on parcel size and ability to buffer neighboring parcels from nuisance issues). These parcels also can be sites for snow storage in winter. Pocket parks near residential areas that currently have limited access to nearby parks should be provided (see Figure 6 for areas in Town that lack park space). The service radius of these parks should be 0.5 mile (ideally within 0.25 mile), and the parks can be 0.25-0.5 acre.¹³ It may be possible for the Town to acquire additional land from U.S. Forest Service holdings through exchanges or similar agreements, and if necessary to purchase property from private owners.
 - Having new development projects provide parks that are open to the public and possibly dedicated to the Town of Mammoth Lakes.
 - Acquiring and/or improving additional acreage near Town to meet regional parkland needs.
- **Aquatic center.** Although the swimming pool at Whitmore Park meets some of the community's need for aquatic recreation, it is limited by being operational only part of the year (because it is an outdoor facility) and because it is not located within Town. This Plan recommends developing an in-Town aquatic center with an indoor swimming pool. This facility could also meet indoor play area needs by having a children's aquatic "playground." An aquatic center would benefit from partnership of the Town with agencies such as Mammoth Unified School District, Cerro Coso Community College, Mammoth Hospital, and Mono County. If a suitable location is identified, the aquatic center and recreation center could be co-located to share parking, changing rooms, and lobby and office space. As an interim measure, the Town should consider enclosing Whitmore Pool so that it can provide year-round service.

¹² Note that the action items in this section are not prioritized in any way; they are presented alphabetically.

¹³ Sources: National Recreation and Parks Association (Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, 1996); peer community standards (e.g., Grass Valley CA, McCall ID, Snoqualmie WA)

- **Dog parks.** Mammoth Lakes' residents have expressed a need for off-leash dog areas, or dog parks. These parks must be located to minimize disturbing neighbors; park size is ideally at least one acre. More successful dog parks are planned and operated with maintenance in mind and involvement of an active dog park group. Anecdotal evidence suggests that one large, well-designed and adequately maintained dog park is more successful than several smaller, poorly maintained dog parks.¹⁴ The recommended LOS standard for Mammoth Lakes indicates an immediate need for one dog park, with a second dog park needed by 2025. As this standard is based on very limited precedent, it should be re-assessed in the near future after a dog park becomes operational in Mammoth Lakes. Because a dog park is essentially a single-use facility, it is suggested that Mammoth Lakes concentrate resources for development and maintenance on one high-quality dog park. After several years, the Town should re-evaluate the level of service provided by this facility, and adjust the standard as necessary.

- **Event and performance venues.** These facilities should accommodate large crowds (several thousand); safety and crowding concerns appear when density exceeds 1,600 persons per acre in an event situation.¹⁵ The Town should consider providing venues in different contexts. For example, an "urban" site can host smaller, frequent events that would benefit from easy in-Town access. Alternatively, a "nature" site could accommodate events that could capitalize on the Town's unique setting. At least one venue should provide a band shell or similar sheltered area that allows convenient access and set-up for staged programs. There also should be an option for indoor events, perhaps in a multi-purpose facility. When not used for events, the venues should have the potential to accommodate other activities. Some possible outdoor venue sites to consider include Mammoth Creek Park East, The Shady Rest Tracts/Hidden Creek area, The Barrow Pit site on USFS land south of Snowcreek, the Base of the Bluffs (USFS land), and the planned Town of Mammoth Lakes Civic Center. The following concerns need to be addressed for siting outdoor events venues:
 - Adequate space to accommodate anticipated crowds
 - Access by trail system and transit or shuttle service, to reduce the amount of on-site vehicle parking
 - Neighboring land uses, to minimize noise and traffic concerns
 - Accommodating event logistics, such as restrooms and concessions

- **Picnic areas.** The community has expressed the need for additional picnic areas, including picnic shelters for protection from the elements. This Plan recommends adding up to six more picnic shelters and 26 more picnic tables by 2025. Ideally, at least one shelter should be available within each park, to better distribute the supply of picnic areas throughout Town.

¹⁴ From *Guidelines for Establishment and Maintenance of Successful Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas*, University of California-Davis Program in Veterinary Behavioral Medicine, 2003 (http://www.vmeth.ucdavis.edu/home/beh/Dog_Park/Dog_Park_Management_Guidelines.pdf; accessed May 14, 2007)

¹⁵ State of Colorado Small Community Park & Recreation Planning Standards (2003)

- **Multi-use recreational/cultural facility.** Construction of such a facility is needed to accommodate indoor recreation and programs. It also can maintain year-round levels of service by providing indoor amenities for winter and evening use, when outdoor facilities are unavailable. Like the recommended aquatic center, a multi-use recreational/cultural facility is a prime facility for joint agency funding and operation; possible partnering agencies include Mammoth Unified School District, Cerro Coso Community College, Mammoth Hospital, and Mono County. Partnership opportunities for this facility have already been explored for locating it in the South Gateway area; Appendix 8 describes this extensive effort in more detail. This facility should be affordable to the community, and ideally should provide amenities not available in private facilities. Based on public input, suggested amenities for a multi-use recreational/cultural facility include:
 - Large open area for multipurpose use, such as indoor soccer, court sports (tennis, basketball, and volleyball), and indoor public events
 - Running track
 - Children's play area
 - Classroom and studio space for recreation and leisure programs
 - Climbing wall for desired climbing/mountaineering programs
 - Space for a youth/teen center
 - Sports training
 - Batting cages
 - Golf nets

- **Sports fields and courts.** There is a more immediate need for a multipurpose field that can be used for soccer, as well as a facility for indoor soccer games. Looking toward the future, additional soccer fields, tennis courts, and ball fields will be needed to meet LOS standards. There are two multi-purpose fields and one football field associated with Mammoth High School and Mammoth Middle School; through a joint-use agreement with Mammoth Unified School District, these facilities could become available to the public when not being used by students. A similar arrangement could extend use of the Mammoth High School gymnasium for indoor sports to the public, and be available for joint use by schools. A new multi-use recreational facility can provide space for indoor soccer and court games. Additional tennis courts could be included in new development projects. The projected need for two additional ball fields (for baseball or softball) will be difficult to accommodate in Town because of the space they require; if possible, expansion of Whitmore Park can provide these fields. In addition, Mono County would like use of its new ball field for Crowley Lake maximized—this facility may be an option to meet service needs, if a joint-use agreement is developed. If new outdoor sports fields are developed, it may be desirable to include an outdoor running track with one of them. Public comments indicate a need for this facility, which also could be used by schools and elite athletes for high-altitude training.

- **Winter children's play areas.** Opportunities for year-round children's play should be provided by indoor or other sheltered play areas and outdoor places for winter play in the snow. Indoor play areas may be accommodated in a new multi-use recreational/cultural facility and possibly the old library building. Snow play areas should be safe from traffic and other hazards, and should include a hill, mound, or other sloped area for sledding. Locations to consider for snow play areas include Trails End Park, Shady Rest Park, the knoll near the Snowcreek VIII-area gravel pit, and near Scenic Loop Road.

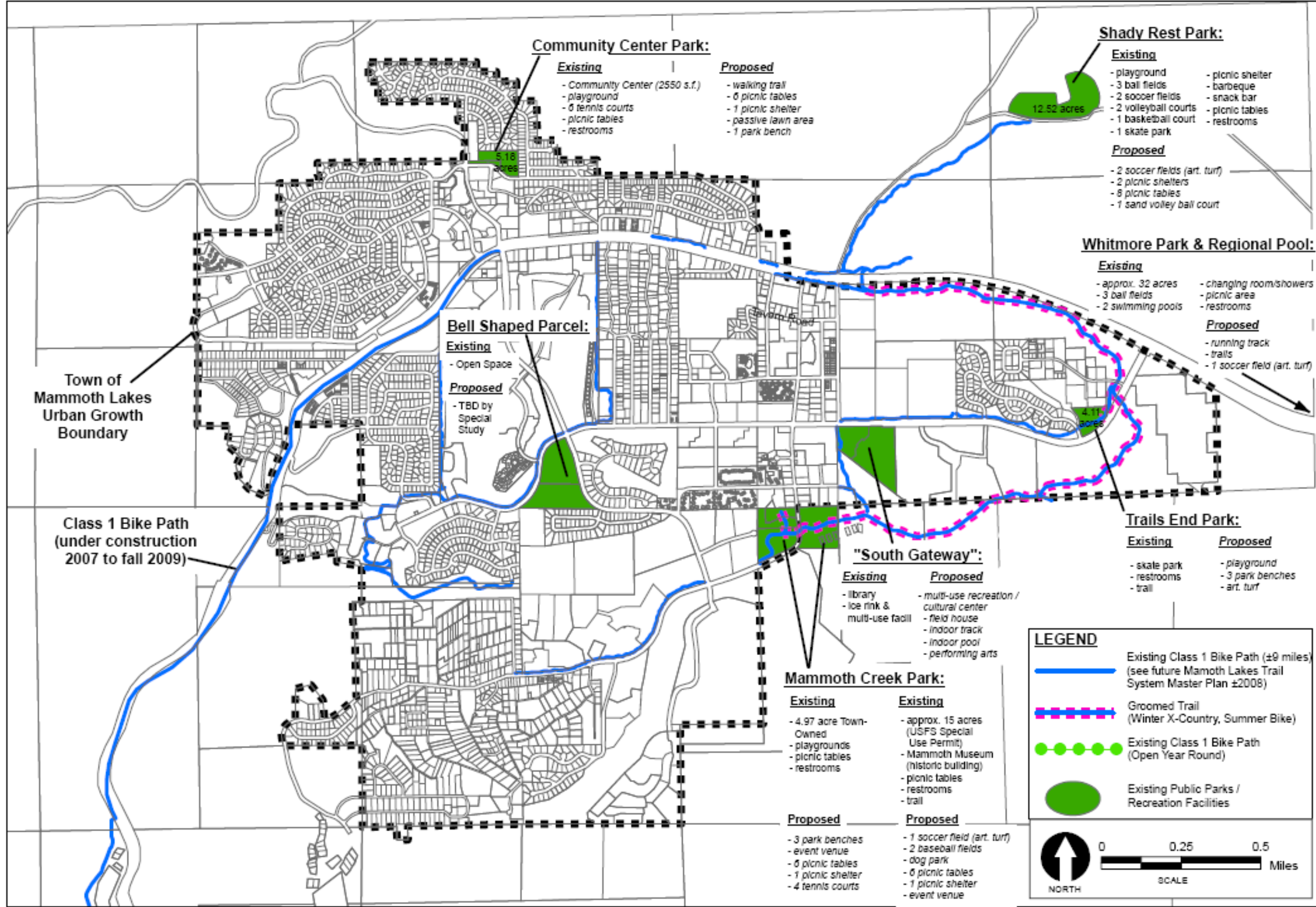
Trails

This plan recommends the development of 5.2 miles of additional paved recreation trails to meet projected 2025 LOS needs. These trails should help create a cohesive system of parks and recreation facilities, by linking open space and activity areas, and by accommodating desired trail recreation in and of itself. The trails also should contribute to the Town's goal of providing additional mobility options for residents and visitors. Closure of gaps in the existing in-town trail network should receive high priority. It also is important that winter trail needs by different users be considered. Planning and development of the additional trails should be the focus of updating the Town's Trail System Master Plan. This update also should build on considerations for signage as initiated in *Mammoth Lakes Trail System Sign Provisions* (report prepared by L.K. Johnson and Associates, June 1996).

In addition to paved trails, it is critical that access points to unpaved trails outside of Mammoth Lakes be preserved. Trail recreation in these public lands not only meets recreation needs, but also provides desired backcountry experiences that are so important to residents and visitors. These points should be more fully considered as part of updating the Town's Trail System Master Plan.

Administrative recommendations

1. Create a plan for partner opportunities and develop joint-use agreements with partner agencies (see Implementation section).
2. Develop and implement a system to document park usage and reservations, in order to track capacity of recreation facilities.
3. Develop a maintenance plan based on:
 - A complete "maintenance inventory" of parks and recreation facilities
 - Routine evaluation of the condition of park assets
 - Maintaining asset value through proportional maintenance investment and an increasing focus on preventive maintenance
4. Ensure adequate financial commitment and funding allocation from the Town of Mammoth Lakes to build and maintain parks and recreation facilities.
5. Evaluate Town-owned/leased special study areas for their ability to accommodate new outdoor and recreation facilities.
6. Evaluate development and redevelopment projects for their potential to provide public parks and other public-access recreation facilities, trails, and trail access or staging areas.



**PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN EXISTING AND
PROPOSED PUBLIC FACILITIES,
RECREATION FACILITIES,
AND CLASS 1 BIKE PATHS**



TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES
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DRAFT

12/12/2007 PMR

FIGURE 7

IMPLEMENTATION

Delivering a community-serving parks and recreation system requires resources that are in short supply. As a result, it is necessary to:

- Explore partnership opportunities to maximize resources and increase the ability to obtain outside funding
- Identify funding sources to help the Town realize its vision for parks and recreation
- Prioritize projects and develop a phasing timeline

Partnerships

As described in the “Opportunities” section, parks and recreation in Mammoth Lakes can benefit from relationships among different agencies and organizations, which can share facilities, human resources, and financial costs. The development of this Plan included outreach to several agencies that have expressed the desire to partner with the Town for mutual benefit. Agency representatives have offered ideas for collaboration that can help serve recreation needs of the community. Some specific examples are summarized in Table 13; these represent the response to outreach efforts associated with this planning process. This Plan recommends and anticipates further exploration of these and other partnerships (e.g., similar to the effort with South Gateway Partners for the ice rink), and development of joint-use agreements or memoranda of understanding to develop parks and recreation facilities, provide programs, and operate and maintain parks and recreation facilities.

Table 13: Partnership Opportunities for Parks and Recreation

Opportunity	Partner
Facilities	
Large meeting space	Mammoth Hospital
Use of Crowley Lake Ball Field	Mono County
Programs and Events	
Community education in health and wellness (e.g., heart health classes, family fitness, arthritis management, diabetes education, weight management, winter sport conditioning classes)—use hospital’s human resources.	Mammoth Hospital
High-altitude training camps: expand on existing sponsorship relationships with Running USA and the U.S. Ski Team. High altitude training camps would attract sports enthusiasts where they come for 1-2 weeks for professional testing, training, education, camaraderie, and to enjoy the beautiful Sierras. The hospital has equipment and staff for human performance testing and education; the town and eventually the college may have housing available; and high-profile resident athletes might be able to give motivational talks and draw people to come to the camp.	Mammoth Hospital
Expanded role for the Town for region-wide facility programming	Town of Mammoth Lakes
Help sponsor athletic events (running, triathlons, cycling, etc.) that attract visitors	Mammoth Hospital
Operations and Maintenance	
Shared training opportunities and programs	Mono County
Expanded role for the Town for region-wide facility maintenance and management	Town of Mammoth Lakes
General Funding and Promotion	
Expand current marketing partnership by promoting what the Town can offer athletes and recreation enthusiasts. Share tent space, personnel, and travel for promotion at selected events (e.g., marathons, cycling events, cross country races, etc.) that draw this potential market.	Mammoth Hospital
Collaborate with other agencies to obtain grant funding for specialized facilities and other recreation amenities and programs (e.g., handicapped-access pool, childhood obesity programs). Multiple-agency proposal submissions may be more successful.	Mammoth Hospital

Costs

The draft cost comparison table on pages 56-57 shows a comparison of facility and maintenance costs from several comparable parks and recreation master plans. It also includes suggested assumed costs for Mammoth Lakes (some of which are derived from the Town's Master Facility Plan). It is difficult to estimate unit costs for improvements. Variation in these estimates stems from:

- whether money is needed for land acquisition (e.g., a facility built on donated or Town-owned land will be less expensive than the same facility built on land that the Town must buy)
- specific site characteristics that may necessitate greater investment in utilities, other infrastructure, and earthwork
- the quality of materials and degree of amenity (e.g., it costs more to add lighting and special surfacing for an upgraded tennis court).

For the estimated Town of Mammoth Lakes cost items, it should be noted that their total exceeds the current budgeted amounts, even though these amounts have been increasing in recent years. The following is a list of relevant line items from the Tourism and Recreation Department portion of the Town's 2007-08 budget, and includes a percentage change of each item from the 2006-07 budget:

- Whitmore Park and Pool: \$227,676 (16% increase)
- Park maintenance for Community Center Park, Shady Rest Park, Mammoth Creek Park East, and Mammoth Creek Park West: \$489,702 (11% increase)
- Park maintenance for Trails End Park: \$109,138 (2% decrease)
- Trails maintenance (clearing, sweeping, grooming): \$35,000 (17% increase)

Town staffing consists of year-round and seasonal employees, as noted in the cost comparison table section for operations and maintenance. Current staffing levels appear inadequate for covering special events that occur on weekends. An example of the accounting used to track park maintenance is provided in Appendix 9; Town staff use this to monitor maintenance tasks and project staffing needs, which can be done in greater detail for each facility.

Potential Funding Sources

Funding for parks and recreation facilities and programs can come from a variety of sources, including dedicated Town revenue (from taxes and development impact fees), state and federal programs, and private grants, among others. It is important to note that some funding sources may only be used for capital projects (and not maintenance or programs). The following list outlines possible funding sources:¹⁶

- development impact fees (DIF)
- general fund/Mello Roos (for both development and maintenance)
- Capital Improvement Program
- state and federal grants
- bond issues for capital projects
- developer installations or development agreements
- Quimby exactions
- joint use/maintenance agreement with school district
- Donation Committee to help identify and procure funding
- partnership with service organizations, sports leagues, etc.
- non-profit fundraising or grants
- state and federal appropriations (e.g. TEA-21)
- California Dept Fish and Game
- state bicycle funds
- California Parks and Recreation Dept Recreation Trails Program
- California Youth Soccer Recreation Program Grant
- user fees; increased fees for non-residents
- landscape and lighting assessment districts for maintenance
- land and water conservation funds (NPS)
- revenue-producing facilities in parks
- endowed maintenance fund, or a “replacement fund” for updating and repairing unsafe or damaged facilities

¹⁶ Most of these sources are recommended in the Grass Valley CA 2004 Parks and Recreation Plan

DRAFT Cost Comparison Table (for internal review)*

	Grass Valley CA Park Standards 2004	Moraga CA Parks & Rec Master Plan (Jan 2007 draft)	McCall ID 2005 Parks & Rec Master Plan	Colorado Small Comm. Park & Rec Standards 2001	Silverthorne CO 2001	East Grand Valley (Mesa County CO) Parks Master Plan 2000	Assumed costs for Mammoth Lakes 2007 Parks & Recreation Master Plan ***
facility planning							
neighborhood park (ea)		\$50,000					\$300,000
trails (ea)		\$10,000					\$45,936
Multi-use recreational/cultural facility (ea)		\$100,000					\$2,307,575
facility development							
park construction cost for developed & redeveloped parks (per acre)	\$126,000		\$44,000- \$300,000				\$1,000,000- \$1,300,000
park construction cost for new parks (per acre)	\$142,000	\$300,000	\$106,000- \$230,000	\$58,000-\$82,000	\$73,000- \$1,170,000	\$84,000	\$2,400,000- \$2,675,000 **
trail dvpmnt (8' wide paved; per mile)	\$438,000	\$500,000		\$200,000	\$220,000- \$1,750,000		\$500,000-\$1,100,000
trail dvpmnt (4-6' wide soft; per mile)	\$164,000	\$50,000		\$9,400-\$14,000			\$312,000
playground improvements (ea)	\$55,000- \$110,000			\$24,000-\$35,000			\$275,000
multi-use recr. center (cost per sf)	\$197	\$300					\$460
aquatic center (8000 sf water surface; cost per sf)	\$300						\$460
swimming pool (3600 sf outdoor pool); estimate is for pool only (cost per sf)				\$33-\$66			n/a
Class A baseball/softball (ea)				\$230,000			\$1,100,000
Class B baseball/softball (ea)				\$108,000			\$780,000
soccer/football fields (ea)		\$35,000		\$70,000-\$111,000			\$692,000
signs (ea)		\$5,000			\$88,000 (system)		\$2,500-\$5,000
tennis court (ea)				\$30,000-\$65,000			\$160,000
basketball court (ea)				\$35,000-\$53,000			\$52,000
sand volleyball court (ea)				\$7,000-\$12,000			\$14,000

* Cost estimates in 2007 dollars (use inflation calculator at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>); table continued next page

** Number derived from estimate in TOML 2007 Master Facility Plan

*** Mammoth Lakes cost items exceed the current budgeted amounts. See text page 52 for line item details.

DRAFT Cost Comparison Table (for internal review)*

	Grass Valley CA Park Standards 2004	Moraga CA Parks & Rec Master Plan (Jan 2007 draft)	McCall ID 2005 Parks & Rec Master Plan	Colorado Small Comm. Park & Rec Standards 2001	Silverthorne CO 2001	East Grand Valley (Mesa County CO) Parks Master Plan 2000	Assumed costs for Mammoth Lakes 2007 Parks & Recreation Master Plan ***
operations and maintenance							
• Staffing							
P&R maintenance staffing level	0.05 FTE per acre existing			0.2-0.3 FTE per acre			8.5 FTE existing (ca. 0.11 FTE/ac)
Winter/summer seasonal							5/7 existing
Multi-use recr/cultural facility staffing level		7.5 FTE					
• Maintenance							
open space/undvdpd parkland (per acre)	\$660	\$500			\$175		n/a
neighborhood & community parks (per acre)	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$21,000-\$26,000	\$4,000-\$5,300		\$10,345 **
regional parks (per acre)	\$6,600						\$6,600
paved multi-use trails (per mile)	\$8,800				\$2,300-\$4,700		\$12,800
soft-surface trails (per mile)	\$4,400				\$1,750		n/a
proposed unit maint cost: buildings (per SF)		\$8					TBD
Resurface tennis courts every 5 years							\$15,000
• Operations							
baseball/softball annual O&M (ea)				\$19,000-\$24,000			\$24,303
soccer/football annual O&M (ea)				\$13,000-\$17,000			\$14,930
tennis court annual O&M (ea)				\$1,400-\$1,600			\$2,710
basketball court annual O&M (ea)				\$1,000-\$1,300			\$1,510
sand volleyball court annual O&M (ea)				\$900-\$1,300			\$2,180
skateboard park annual O&M (ea)				\$1,400-\$1,900			\$17,400
playground annual O&M (ea)				\$1,600-\$2,100			\$8,240
outdoor swimming pool annual O&M (ea)				\$19,000-\$25,000			\$132,300

* Cost estimates in 2007 dollars (use inflation calculator at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>); table continued from previous page; FTE = Full Time Employee

** Number derived from estimate in TOML 2007 Master Facility Plan

*** Mammoth Lakes cost items exceed the current budgeted amounts. See text page 52 for line item details.

Phasing

Because the recommended parks and recreation maintenance and improvements are so costly, a long-term schedule for implementation is needed. Phasing in upgrades and new projects will allow the Town to gradually increase its inventory of parks and recreation facilities, thereby keeping pace with LOS recommendations as the population increases. The following table provides estimates of the Town's recreation population for 2006, 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2025:¹⁷

Population Projections	2006	2010	2015	2020	2025
TOML permanent resident	7,789	8,532	9,447	10,345	11,228
Equivalent of second homeowner impact	617	676	749	821	824
Recreation population	8,406	9,208	10,196	11,166	12,052

As shown on the following page, the proposed implementation schedule is based primarily on meeting LOS standards as the population grows. It does not yet integrate budget allocations and other anticipated funding, as this information is not yet available. The schedule may need to be adjusted slightly as a result. In addition, schedule modifications may be necessary if unique, one-time funding opportunities arise—for example, if matching funds for a facility become available in a given fiscal year, or a promising short-term grant program is initiated. As a result, project priorities and the implementation timeline should be annually re-evaluated.

¹⁷ Estimates of TOML population come from *Report to The Town of Mammoth Lakes* (2006), by the UCSB Economic Forecast Project (Susan Dalluddung, Terri Swartz, and Bill Watkins), with assistance from Dan Hamilton and Mike Smith (Forecast Overview Tables, "Part 1."). The recreation population includes an adjustment for the recreation impact of second homeowners (see *Park and Recreation Facility Plan* section for how this was derived, in "Parks and Recreation Standards" point #1).

DRAFT Implementation Schedule for TOML Parks and Recreation Facilities (for internal review)*

	TOML Current LOS (using 2006 recreation popn estimate)	TOML Recommended LOS Standards	Additional facilities needed for 2006 LOS	Cumulative additional facilities needed 2006-2010	Cumulative additional facilities needed 2006-2015	Cumulative additional facilities needed 2006-2020	Cumulative additional facilities needed 2006-2025
estimated recreation population*			8,406	9,208	10,196	11,166	12,052
local parkland acreage **	41.78	5.00	0	0.88	5.46	9.95	14.36
regional park acreage **	32.00	4.11	0.01	3.07	6.83	10.52	14.15
facilities in TOML inventory							
picnic tables	43	5.69	5	9	15	20	26
picnic shelters	1	0.56	4	4	5	5	6
playgrounds	3	0.36	0	0	1	1	1
park benches	15	1.78	0	1	3	5	7
tennis courts	6	0.86	1	2	3	4	4
(outdoor) basketball courts	1	0.12	0	0	0	0	0
(sand) volleyball courts	2	0.24	0	0	0	1	1
soccer/multiuse fields	2	0.50	2	3	3	4	4
ball fields (unspecified)	5	0.59	0	0	1	2	2
baseball fields (adult)	1	0.12	0	0	0	0	0
skateboard parks (small)	1	0.12	0	0	0	0	0
skateboard parks (large)	1	0.12	0	0	0	0	0
outdoor swimming pool (ea)	1	0.12	0	0	0	0	0
community center (ea)	1	0.12	0	0	0	0	0
paved multi-use trails (miles)	9	1.62	4.60	0.60 ***	2.20 ***	3.77 ***	5.20 ***
potential TOML facilities							
outdoor events venue (acres)	0	1.34	11	12	14	15	16
band shell/amphitheater (ea)	0	0.10	1	1	1	1	1
dog park (ea)	0	0.17	1	2	2	2	2
potential partner facilities							
recreation centers/gyms (ea)	0	0.10	1	1	1	1	1
recreation centers/gyms (sq ft)	0	2,000	16,812	18,416	20,392	22,332	24,104
ice hockey rink (ea)	0	0.10	1	0	0	0	0
0.25-mile running track (ea)	0	0.10	1	0	0	0	0
indoor swimming pool (ea)	0	0.05	0	0	1	1	1
indoor swimming pool (sq ft)	0	1,000	8,406	9,208	10,196	11,166	12,052

* See page 58 for summary table of population estimates of permanent residents and "recreation population" due to impact of second homeowners.

** Estimates of park acreage needed to meet LOS are based only on permanent TOML resident population (per Quimby Act).

*** These numbers take into account the 5.3 miles for the Lake Mary Road Bicycle Path currently under construction (i.e., each value presented is trail mileage needed beyond existing trails and the Lake Mary Road trail).

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is the first step forward toward creating a system of parks and recreation facilities to serve the recreation needs of Mammoth Lakes' residents and visitors. As a comprehensive system, it should be effective throughout the year and underscore the stated values of physical activity, community-building, and nature appreciation.

As a first step, this Plan articulates a vision for parks and recreation, describes anticipated recreation needs, proposes general standards, and outlines a broad strategy to realize the vision. The next steps involve careful implementation of the Plan. To make the most of the Town's resources, it is crucial to identify funding opportunities and formalize collaborative partnerships. With a fuller understanding of the available resources, the Town can be more specific when scheduling facility maintenance, upgrades, and development. Another key implementation effort lies in parkland expansion and development. More immediate next steps here involve assessing particular sites for new facilities—this includes analysis of program feasibility, consideration of each facility's role in a comprehensive and linked parks and recreation system, and developing conceptual plans for these areas of focus. These steps will be additional opportunities to engage the public in the planning and design process in much greater detail, bringing the Mammoth Lakes community closer to having integrated parks, recreation, and open space.

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 1: TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES—SUMMARY OF REPORT ON SECTION 504 SELF-EVALUATION¹⁸

Element	Location	Observation
Community Center (10/9/2007)		
Accessibility Route	Tennis Court lot	The pathway is bare minimum for a wheelchair and would not allow two wheelchairs to pass.
Accessibility Route	Tennis Courts	This part of the park is not accessible from the community center or community center parking lot. While not a violation it would be nice to connect all areas of the park with paths.
Accessibility Route	Community Center Building	The signage for the handicapped accessibility route is inadequate.
Accessibility Route	Community Center Building	The handicapped ramp is too steep.
Accessibility Route	Community Center Building	Transition from the parking area to the ramp is uneven.
Accessibility Route	Community Center Building	There is not sufficient pavement in from of the handicapped parking space for a wheelchair to pass in front of the vehicle – a person must pass behind the vehicle in the parking lot.
Accessibility Route	Community Center Building	The door to the community center is not accessible to handicapped individuals – it does not have the right handle, does not open completely, the tension is too strong, and it closes too quickly.
Accessibility Route	Community Center Building	The threshold of the doorway is too high – greater than ½ inch.
Accessibility Route	Restroom Corridor	The coat hands could present a danger to visually impaired individuals. They also present a danger to individuals in wheelchairs or electric wheelchairs.
Kitchen	Kitchen	Kitchen is not ADA accessible in any way. Completely out of compliance.
Kitchen	Kitchen	The counter is too high for wheelchair access (this counter is used to hand food to individuals using the CC main floor.)
Parking	Tennis Courts	There is no handicapped parking in this lot
Parking	Community Center Building	5% of parking is not set aside for handicapped individuals.
Parking	Community Center Building	The handicapped parking sign is too low and not set firmly in the path. (The sign is wobbling)
Parking	Community Center Building	Handicapped spot is not stripped properly.
Restroom	Community Center	Men's and Women's Restrooms: the mirror is too high
Restroom	Community Center	Men's and Women's Restrooms: the sink is not shielded
Restroom	Community Center	Men's and Women's Restrooms: the dispensers are too high/seat covers, etc.
Restroom	Community Center	Men's and Women's Restrooms: The flush lever is on the wrong side of the toilet.
Restroom	Community Center	Men's and Women's Restrooms: No handicapped signage / Braille
Restroom	Community Center	Women's sink handle could not be operated by a person in a wheelchair
Restrooms	Tennis Courts	Men's Restroom: Urinal too high
Restrooms	Tennis Courts	Men's Restroom: Toilet stall is barely legal – not enough room for a wheelchair to maneuver because the stall is not long enough.

¹⁸ ADA Self-report on Mammoth Lakes' parks provided by Town of Mammoth Lakes staff, December 2007

APPENDIX 1 (continued): TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES—SUMMARY OF REPORT ON SECTION 504 SELF-EVALUATION

Element	Location	Observation
Mammoth Creek Park West (10/2/2007)		
Accessibility Route	Parking Lot	Uneven surface from parking lot to park pathways. (Transition ramp uneven)
Accessibility Route	Parking Lot	A large rock intrudes on the pathway adjacent to the parking area and an uneven surface prevents a wheelchair from going around it.
Fountain	Restroom Structure	Drinking fountain has a cement block in front of it that prevents wheelchair access.
Parking	Parking Lot	No striping on handicapped parking.
Parking	Parking Lot	No handicapped standing sign.
Parking	Parking Lot	No sign indicating one would be fined if for parking in a handicapped stall.
Parking	Parking Lot	5% of parking is not set aside for handicapped individuals.
Restroom	Women's Restroom	No handicapped sign on door.
Restroom	Women's Restroom	Sink is ½" too high.
Restroom	Women's Restroom	Toilet is too far from wall.
Restroom	Women's Restroom	Sinks pipes are not covered.
Restroom	Men's Restroom	No handicapped sign on door.
Restroom	Men's Restroom	Sink is ½" too high.
Restroom	Men's Restroom	Toilet is too far from wall.
Restroom	Men's Restroom	Sinks pipes are not covered.
Restroom	Men's Restroom	Mirror is too high.
Restroom	Men's Restroom	The toilet cover paper dispenser is placed too high.
Restroom	Men's Restroom	The latch on handicapped stall is not compliant.
Shady Rest Park (10/2/2007)		
Parking	Parking Lot	Handicapped parking sign is too high.
Restroom	West Restroom. Men's.	No handicapped signage.
Restroom	West Restroom. Men's.	Restroom door is not wide enough for a wheelchair to pass through.
Restroom	West Restroom. Women's.	No handicapped signage.
Restroom	West Restroom. Women's.	Restroom door is not wide enough for a wheelchair to pass through.
Restroom	East Restroom. Women's.	No handicapped signage.
Restroom	East Restroom. Women's.	Threshold is too high.
Restroom	East Restroom. Women's.	No covering on sink's pipes.
Restroom	East Restroom. Men's.	No handicapped signage.
Restroom	East Restroom. Men's.	Threshold is too high.
Restroom	East Restroom. Men's.	No covering on sink's pipes.
Restroom	East Restroom. Men's.	Men's urinal is slightly too high.

APPENDIX 1 (continued): TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES—SUMMARY OF REPORT ON SECTION 504 SELF-EVALUATION

Element	Location	Observation
Trails End Skate Park (10/19/2007)		
Restroom	Restroom / Men's and Women's	No handicapped signage.
Restroom	Restroom / Men's and Women's	The latches on stalls are not handicapped accessible.
Restroom	Restroom / Men's and Women's	Dryers are hard to turn on with one hand.
Whitmore Ball Park (10/12/2007)		
Facility	Whole Park	This park is not accessible to handicapped individuals. No accommodations have been made anywhere in the park for handicapped individuals.
Accessibility Route	Parking / Field	There is no way for handicapped people to make it to ball field – no pavement / walkways.
Parking	Parking	There is not handicapped parking at ball field: the whole area is unpaved with no designations and no striping.
Restroom	Restrooms	There are no handicapped accessible restrooms at the park.
Whitmore Pool (10/12/2007)		
Accessibility Route	Parking lot to pool	The ramp is angle is too steep and uneven.
Accessibility Route	Pool	There is no lift for a handicapped person to enter and exit the pool.
Parking	Parking Lot	No handicapped signage in the parking lot.
Parking	Parking Lot	The handicapped parking stall needs to be painted and striped correctly.
Restroom	Men's & Women's Restroom	<p>In general both restrooms are totally out of ADA compliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No signage. • No railings. • Toilets too low. • Toilet handles on wrong side. • No shower chair or way for handicapped person to take a shower. • Shower handles are hard to operate. • Mirrors in restroom are too high. • The drains are set too low in the floors – can't roll over them with a wheelchair.

APPENDIX 2: A BRIEF HISTORY OF MLTPA AND THE CAMP (CONCEPT AND MASTER PLANNING) PROCESS¹⁹

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has been described as “a town within a park,” as its Urban Growth Boundary defines the town within Inyo National Forest, effectively containing a 4.5-square-mile urban environment within hundreds of square miles of public lands. Residents and tourists alike come to Mammoth for its abundant and spectacular natural beauty, peaceful seclusion, and, most notably, the numerous outdoor recreation activities this landscape affords, from fishing, mountain biking, and camping, to skiing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. Mammoth serves as a premier portal to the Eastern Sierra, hosting approximately 2.8 million visitors annually, and is a top recreation destination for Southern California.

To date, however, a lack of proper planning and management of trails and public access has engendered a “path of least resistance”—style nest of shortcuts to recreation areas that has negatively affected the quality and health of the area’s recreation and natural resources. Identified and maintained portals do exist, as does a partially completed network of Class 1 pathways in town, but many trails and access points remain in questionable legal status, as public easements are few and far between. Without a comprehensive, legal, and cooperative system, the area cannot sustain the United States Forest Service’s predicted 98,000-person increase in visitors to Inyo National Forest by 2025, nor the Town’s projected peak population of 52,000 as noted in the 2007 General Plan Update.

To help prevent this daunting scenario from becoming a reality, the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA), a local nonprofit, brought together the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, the United States Forest Service, and the community in partnership to launch CAMP, the Concept and Master Planning process for trails and public access in Mammoth, in the spring of 2007. The project’s roots stretch back to December 2005, when current MLTPA Foundation President and Acting Executive Director John Wentworth, a member of the Mammoth Lakes community, informally initiated the nonprofit group in response to concerns regarding skier/snowboarder egress from the Sherwin Range—a popular “human-powered” frontcountry ski area—back to town. The Town of Mammoth Lakes Sensitive Lands, Open Space and Recreation (SLOSR) working group, of which Wentworth became a member, subsequently identified public access to surrounding public lands as a top priority. Building on his initial efforts with the Sherwins egress issue and his participation in this working group, Wentworth and a handful of community volunteers—including current MLTPA Communications Manager Kim Stravers and current MLTPA Foundation Treasurer Jo Bacon—compiled the 125-page “Mobility Plan Resources Report” (MPRR), which identified 100 trails and points of public access in the Mammoth Lakes area (approximately 125 square miles). The report was supplemented with information on Western peer resorts, their trail systems, and their trails nonprofits, and was presented at a joint meeting of the Town Council and the Planning, Tourism & Recreation, and Public Arts commissions, held to consider a draft mobility plan, on July 26, 2006. The MPRR prompted Council to award MLTPA a \$10,808 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Inventory Contract to more thoroughly document those points as a means of enriching its GIS planning database; twenty-three volunteers assisted with the next round of fieldwork. This data set would later be supplemented with additional GPS data, analog and digital maps, planning documents, and other resources to form the MLTPA Data Library, which serves the Concept and Master Planning (CAMP) process today.

¹⁹ Provided December 2007 by John Wentworth of Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access

To spread community awareness of the need for comprehensive trails planning, on November 4, 2006, MLTPA convened a Public Meeting on the future of trails and public access in Mammoth Lakes. The event featured nationally recognized presenters, gave the public an opportunity to comment on the data collection work MLTPA had completed, and attracted a standing-room-only crowd of more than 200 people. Concurrently, MLTPA held an invitation-only Strategic Conference throughout the weekend, designed to bring together community leaders to think collaboratively and creatively about how the formation of a trails nonprofit in Mammoth Lakes could help propel the trails master-planning concept into action. Representatives from the United States Forest Service (USFS), TOML Community Development, Public Works, and Tourism & Recreation departments, TOML Planning and Tourism & Recreation commissions, Town Council, Mono County Community Development Department, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA), Eastern Sierra Land Trust, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mammoth Lakes Housing, the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers (ALIMAR), Caltrans, and the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce attended this two-day workshop. Ten of these participants volunteered their time in a follow-up Interim Working Group tasked with developing an Action Plan to outline the organization's future and its role in the master planning process. This Action Plan was delivered in February 2007; by May of that year the MLTPA Foundation was incorporated in the State of California as a non-profit public benefit corporation and also received official 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. Seven prominent community leaders stepped forward to form the inaugural Board of Directors.

At the close of its November 2006 Public Meeting, MLTPA promised to present to the community within six months a plan for the future of Mammoth's trails and public access system. In order to meet this commitment, MLTPA engaged members of the USFS, TOML Public Works and Tourism & Recreation departments, TOML Tourism & Recreation Commission, and MMSA in a Task Force whose efforts would eventually culminate in the "MLTPA Planning Proposal." This brief set of documents provided a series of program goals, steps, responsibilities, and deliverables relevant to a master planning effort in Mammoth Lakes, as well as an estimated value of such an effort. The Planning Proposal was formally submitted to and accepted by the Mammoth Lakes Tourism & Recreation Commission on May 1, 2007, at which time the commissioners voted to recommend the proposal to Town Council for consideration. Council voted to approve a \$100,000 commitment toward MLTPA Concept and Master Planning (MLTPA CAMP) on June 1, 2007, triggering a matching \$100,000 pledge from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and \$25,000 from Cardinal Investments via the Developers' Forum, a joint effort of MLTPA and the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce to initiate and sustain communication with the development community about trails and public access as it relates to growth. CAMP had officially begun.

To date, MLTPA has been able to leverage these initial commitments into a total of \$145,099 in additional funding, \$25,000 of which was dedicated by a second member of the Developers' Forum, Mammoth Crossing. With a considerable portion of CAMP's estimated costs secured, the Town was able to seek and interview qualified trails planning consultants specializing in paved surfaces and natural surfaces so as to integrate both types of trail opportunities into a comprehensive master plan. In October 2007 Town Council voted to officially authorize the CAMP consultant contracts with Alta Planning + Design (paved surfaces) and Trail Solutions (natural surfaces), as well as to approve Town Staff's agreement with MLTPA to conduct formal public outreach and data coordination and collection services for the master planning process.

MLTPA has facilitated the formation of three official partner groups for the CAMP process—Funding, Planning, and Jurisdictional—that bring together representatives from the TOML, the

USFS, the development community, and MMSA. These are working partnerships designed to address the communication challenges of a multi-jurisdictional effort such as CAMP. A general MLTPA MOU has been signed by several of the CAMP Partners, and in December of 2007 was agreed to and signed by Mono County. To fulfill the public-outreach aspect of its own role in CAMP, MLTPA has successfully initiated, produced, and managed large-scale community workshops as a means of facilitating data collection for the consultant teams, spreading awareness of the CAMP effort, and strengthening MLTPA's connection to the community as its non-profit advocate—enabling locals, second homeowners, seasonal employees, and visitors to feel as though the process belongs to and is designed to directly benefit them. The first event, CAMP: SUMMER, was conducted November 1–4, 2007, and its counterpart, CAMP: WINTER, is scheduled to take place February 7–12, 2008. The events are distinguished by summer and winter themes so that consultants and the community may focus on seasonal recreation, as access points and trail uses shift according to snow cover. These events (and CAMP itself) are “big tent” efforts, such that both motorized and non-motorized recreation and mobility, as well as urban and natural-surface trails, are taken into account equally and workable solutions are derived for both, separately and together.

The end product of CAMP—a trails master plan update for the land within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), and a conceptual-level understanding of how Town lands interface with Inyo National Forest along the UGB perimeter—is designed to make certain that access to public lands from anywhere in town is convenient, pleasurable, and economically and environmentally responsible. The Draft Master Plan is slated for delivery in late spring 2008, at which time the community will be able to offer public comment. The CAMP Partners look toward having the final Master Plan ready for presentation and receive comments prior to the CEQA process by fall of 2008—bringing MLTPA one step closer to keeping its promise: “Connecting People with Nature.”

APPENDIX 3: COMMUNITY GOALS²⁰

Community Goals

Economy

- E.1. Be a premier destination community in order to achieve a sustainable year-round economy.
- E.2. Achieve sustainable tourism by building on the area's natural beauty, recreational, cultural, and historic assets.
- E.3. Achieve a more diversified economy and employment base consistent with community character.

Arts, Culture, Heritage and Natural History

- A.1. Be a vibrant cultural center by weaving arts and local heritage and the area's unique natural history into everyday life.
- A.2. Encourage public art and cultural expression throughout the community.

Community Design

- C.1. Improve and enhance the community's unique character by requiring a high standard of design in all development in Mammoth Lakes.
- C.2. Design the man-made environment to complement, not dominate, the natural environment.
- C.3. Ensure safe and attractive public spaces, including sidewalks, trails, parks and streets.
- C.4. Be stewards of natural and scenic resources essential to community image and character.
- C.5. Eliminate glare to improve public safety. Minimize light pollution to preserve views of stars and the night sky.
- C.6. Enhance community character by minimizing excessive noise.

Land Use

- L.1. Be stewards of the community's small-town character and charm, compact form, spectacular natural surroundings and access to public lands by planning for and managing growth.
- L.2. Substantially increase housing supply available to the workforce.
- L.3. Enhance livability by designing neighborhoods and districts for walking through the arrangement of land uses and development intensities.
- L.4. Be the symbolic and physical heart of the Eastern Sierra: the regional economic, administrative, commercial, recreational, educational, and cultural center.
- L.5. Provide an overall balance of uses, facilities and services to further the town's role as a destination resort community.
- L.6. Establish an Urban Growth Boundary to maintain a compact urban form; protect natural and outdoor recreational resources; prevent sprawl.

Mobility

- M.1. Develop and implement a townwide way-finding system.
- M.2. Improve regional transportation system.
- M.3. Emphasize feet first, public transportation second, and car last in planning the community transportation system while still meeting Level of Service standards.

²⁰ From 2007 *Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan*

- M.4. Encourage feet first by providing a linked year-round recreational and commuter trail system that is safe and comprehensive.
- M.5. Provide a year-round local public transit system that is convenient and efficient.
- M.6. Encourage alternative transportation and improve pedestrian mobility by developing a comprehensive parking management strategy.
- M.7. Maintain and improve safe and efficient movement of traffic, people and goods in a manner consistent with the feet first initiative.
- M.8. Enhance small-town community character through the design of the transportation system.
- M.9. Improve snow and ice management.

Parks, Open Space, and Recreation

- P.1. Maintain parks and open space within and adjacent to town for outdoor recreation and contemplation.
- P.2. Provide additional parks within town.
- P.3. Create a Master Plan for an integrated trail system that will maintain and enhance convenient public access to public lands from town.
- P.4. Provide and encourage a wide variety of outdoor and indoor recreation readily accessible to residents and visitors of all ages.
- P.5. Link parks and open space areas with a well-designed year-round network of public corridors and trails within and surrounding Mammoth Lakes.

Resource Management and Conservation

- R.1. Be stewards of habitat, wildlife, fisheries, forests and vegetation resources of significant biological, ecological, aesthetic and recreational value.
- R.2. Maintain a healthy regional natural ecosystem and provide stewardship for wetlands, wet meadows and riparian areas from development related impacts.
- R.3. Preserve and enhance the exceptional natural, scenic and recreational value of Mammoth Creek.
- R.4. Conserve and enhance the quality and quantity of Mammoth Lakes' water resources.
- R.5. Minimize erosion and sedimentation.
- R.6. Optimize efficient use of energy.
- R.7. Be a leader in use of green building technology.
- R.8. Increase use of renewable energy resources and encourage conservation of existing sources of energy.
- R.9. Reduce volume of solid waste.
- R.10. Protect health of community residents by assuring that the Town of Mammoth Lakes remains in compliance with or improves compliance with air quality standards.

Public Health and Safety

- S.1. Support high quality health care and child care for Mammoth Lakes' residents and visitors.
- S.2. Keep Mammoth Lakes a safe place to live, work and play.
- S.3. Minimize loss of life, injury, property damage, and natural resource destruction from all public safety hazards.
- S.4. Maintain adequate emergency response capabilities.
- S.5. Support high quality educational services and life-long learning resources within the community.
- S.6. Enhance quality of life by encouraging and supporting high quality facilities and services.

APPENDIX 4: PUBLIC INPUT—OPEN MEETINGS

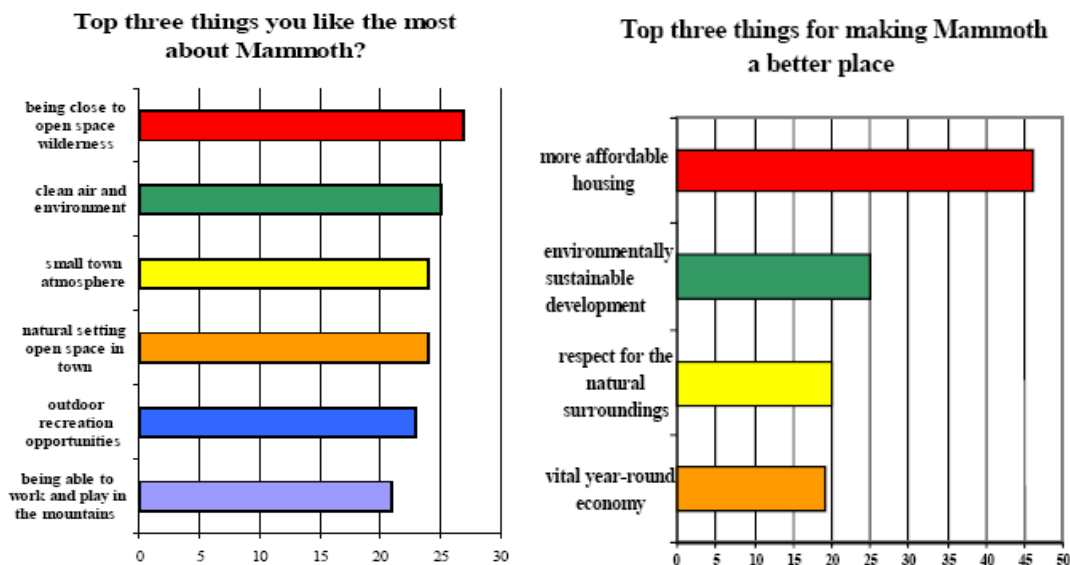
December 8, 2003 public workshop #2²¹

As part of General Plan update, over 125 participants voted on needs of recreation and cultural facilities, with the following expressed preferences (listed in rank order):

1. Performing arts center
2. Recreation center
3. Outdoor community venue
4. More trails
5. Youth center
6. Indoor ice rink
7. Conference center
8. Neighborhood parks
9. Visual arts facility (museum)
10. Competitive athletic training facility
11. More sports fields
12. Interpretive center

Community values presented in a public workshop held for General Plan Update²²

Results of a values survey conducted during the one public workshop were presented during the subsequent public workshop; two especially relevant graphs follow:



²¹ Summary of comments provided by Steve Speidel of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development and Tourism & Recreation Departments

²² Town of Mammoth Lakes April 2005 General Plan Draft (revised September 2005), page I-40

Based on the community values solicited and presented in the public workshops, the Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Master Plan should be consistent with the values shown above by providing parks and recreation facilities that:

- Enhance access to open space and wilderness
- Encourage enjoyment of clean air and environment
- Are compatible with the small town atmosphere
- Allow opportunities for outdoor recreation
- Are developed in an environmentally sustainable manner
- Promote respect for the natural surroundings
- Contribute to year-round economic vitality

Public Comments Received 3/5/07²³

Parks Master Plan Public Meeting

March 5, 2007 5-7 pm @ the Mammoth Lakes Community Center

The following public comments were received during a public meeting discussing Parks and Recreation needs. They are not in any particular order; they reflect “brainstorming” and general input ideas. The comments are listed here as a reference that will aid future planning efforts. They are to be used to augment the user survey data.

1. Maintain the Community Center Park and tennis courts
 - Use indoor area for Play Groups ages 1-5 yrs. & provide supervision
 - Provide an area for indoor dog training
 - Provide a DMV service to Locals 2x per month
 - What will become of the Library Bldg? Reuse it!
 - Provide Turf area for informal play
 - Provide Volleyball Court
 - Provide more picnic & BBQ areas w/ shelter
 - Provide Badminton court
 - How is the Park booked for users?
2. Where and who will put on the various “Festivals” of the Past?
 - Winter Fest w/ dog sleds, snowmobiles, outdoor plaza area
 - October Fest
 - Jazz Jubilee, best location? @ private property or public land?
3. Bell Shaped Parcel, mostly as open space
 - Feet First
 - Walking paths
 - Tot-lot
 - Wildlife viewing areas
 - Dumpsters & recycle bins
 - “Low impact” recreational development

²³ Summary of comments provided by Steve Speidel of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development and Tourism & Recreation Departments

4. Need for a Dog Park

- Blue Bag dispenser
- Fenced for lease off
- Small fenced area for leased use
- Benches for seating
- Restroom facility
- Fine gravel vs. turf due to maintenance and water use

5. Recreation Center

- Senior club use area (sim. to Jackson Hole)
- Indoor tennis courts (sim. to Park City)
- Indoor area w/o carpet for dog training

6. Funding, sources of monies, and Labor

- Bond issue
- Grants
- DIF \$
- User fees, may limit use by locals, rental fees for programs & classes
- TOT \$, Hotel issued coupons
- Volunteer groups or clubs for service projects

Public Comments Received 3/12/07²⁴

Parks Master Plan Public Meeting

March 12, 2007 5-7 pm @ Suite Z in the Minaret Village Shopping Center

The following are public comments received during a public meeting discussing the Parks and Recreation planning effort. They are listed in a format that does not reflect the order in which they were presented, but in an organized format relating to subject matter. These comments will be used to augment the Needs Assessment Survey.

1. Need for “quiet winter sports”

- *What would you change?* Open Shady Rest in the winter; plow the access road.
- How do people get to the Public Lands (USFS)?
- Need to integrate the Town Parks with the natural open spaces
- What we can do for ourselves is what we can offer the visitor
- *Is the existing parks system balanced?* No, it does not provide for all users (trails access)
- Promote Feet First year round

2. Expand use of private golf courses to winter use of cart paths

3. Parks programs to include X county skiing and Nordic groups

4. Need for a multi-use multi-function facility

²⁴ Summary of comments provided by Steve Speidel of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development and Tourism & Recreation Departments

5. Develop a yearly program pass for a one-time fee to offset costs & visitor could pay a day fee pass
6. *What does it look like 10 years from now?* Year round access to the outdoors.... Mammoth is the interpretive and use portal to the eastern Sierra.

Public Comments Received 3/26/07²⁵

Parks Master Plan Public Meeting

March 26, 2007 5-7 pm @ the Mammoth Lakes Community Center

Public Comments Regarding Park Facilities and Programs

- Please keep Shady Rest Park.
- Focus better on indoor winter activities/programs, possibly a swimming pool, dog training, etc.
- Consider Mammoth Creek West as a location for a Recreation Center
- Keep the Community Center.
- Use the library building adjacent to the Community Center.
- Improve the parking at the Community Center
- Develop more playing fields such as baseball and soccer at Shady Rest
- Does the Town own the land where the old elementary school was? (Adjacent to hatchery)
- Whitmore sports fields are underused.
- Develop an indoor/outdoor winter play area
- There is a need for more facilities and maintenance of current facilities
- Develop facilities that are family centers for winter, possibly allowing for dogs
- Open and staff the Community Center for various daily activities.
- Develop a dog training indoor facility
- Concentrate resources and energies on existing facilities
- Library next to Community Center is a great location to program for children to seniors.
- Develop an outdoor events center possibly at Mammoth Creek East/West
- Town needs childcare
- Consider using the adjacent parking at the Village parking lot for the Community Center/Library
- Integrate the transportation plan with the parks and recreation plan to connect remote locations
- Trail Connectivity is very much needed.
- Consider heating the sidewalks and trails with propane/geothermal
- Town co-op with Nordic Trail is a good.
- Increase and support Adult program offerings such as language courses and yoga
- Is it fair for the Town to compete with private recreational business owners?
- Consider an inter-agency coordination for programming between the Town and the County
- Current summer camps are lacking in enough variety and level progression
- Can parks and recreation use the school facilities for programs?

²⁵ Summary of comments provided by Steve Speidel of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development and Tourism & Recreation Departments

- Need teen programs or a teen center (activities such as rock climbing, yoga, arts, mtn. biking, horseback riding, etc.)
- There used to be elaborate, extended camps for children during the 20's 30's and 40's
- Many appreciate the survey and asking for their input.

Public Comments Received 4/23/07

Parks Master Plan Public Meeting

April 23, 2007 5-7 pm @ the Mammoth Lakes Community Center

Public Comments Regarding Park Facilities and Programs

The following are comments received during a public meeting discussing the Parks and Recreation planning effort; about 16 people attended. The discussion was part of a presentation by the Town's consultant on progress in developing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Discussion about results of the needs assessment survey:

- Audience members questioned the generality of the major themes that emerged in terms of recreation needs, and wanted to discuss more specific issues; e.g., the location of the ice rink next to library, and the need for cultural facilities. An additional concern about financial support for maintaining tennis courts was stated.
 - The Town's consultant responded by noting their specific concerns, but assuring them that the general policy direction first needed to be established, and that this is the current focus of the process. Other audience members agreed.
- There were questions about the number of survey respondents and statistical accuracy, and participants felt that weighting was appropriate if certain population segments were underrepresented. This discussion occurred after an audience member brought up estimating the recreation needs of the Latino community in Mammoth Lakes.

Discussion about a vision for parks and recreation:

- Vision elements should look at integrating parks and town.
- Additional components to include in a vision statement:
 - Facilities and parks space should provide for multiple users and activities rather than a single use
 - Should look towards collaboration with other agencies and interested organizations to share resources and provide facilities and services
 - Parks and recreation programs should foster a sense of community and provide connections among people and with the environment

Discussion about goals:

- Look beyond 1990 goals and make them relevant to today's Mammoth community and General Plan direction. Mammoth Lakes is not just a destination resort.
- Add to goal #5: acknowledge how this goal advances transportation choices stated elsewhere in the General Plan update.
- Include in goals the importance of sense of community and fostering relationships through parks and recreation programs.
- Include consideration of year-round use of public trails.

Discussion about considerations in developing LOS standards for Mammoth Lakes:

- General park acreage and amenities:
 - Make standards specific to Mammoth
 - Look to residents *and* visitors
 - Look at resort community standards
 - Consider location of Mammoth
 - Consider seasonality: LOS should apply at all times of year
 - Consider more social activity
 - Look at different users (part time, etc.)
- Sports and athletics:
 - Consider indoor winter/evening activities
 - Incorporate the Mountain in summer
- Other/special amenities:
 - Education (especially regarding dog leash and clean-up policies)
 - Access and trails
 - Trailheads and staging areas
 - Dog parks can also foster a sense of community; visitors bring their dogs too

USFS Winter Recreation Needs Survey²⁶

This survey was undertaken during the winter of 2003-04 in part to address increasing conflicts between motorized and non-motorized winter recreation uses in and around Mammoth Lakes, especially in the Shady Rest Park area. The top winter recreation activities were cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, and snowmobiling. People also engaged in hiking/running/camping, snowshoeing, snow play/ice skating, and snowboarding. In terms of the quality of their experience, cross-country skiers were the most unsatisfied user group (20% indicated a below-expectation experience), while snowboarders and snowmobilers tended to have more experiences that exceeded their expectations. For those who were disappointed by their experience, the top reasons given were: 1) encounters with other trail user, 2) trail conditions, and 3) lack of signage. In general, local residents who responded to the survey appear to be less satisfied with winter recreation than visitors. When respondents were asked to describe what they value about the Mammoth Lakes region, the most frequently used words were: beauty, scenery, quiet, wild, natural, and peacefulness.

²⁶ *Mammoth Lakes Region of the Inyo National Forest: Winter Recreation Needs Assessment Survey Findings—Working Report* (prepared by the Inyo National Forest, Town of Mammoth Lakes, and California State Parks, with assistance from the Center for Collaborative Policy, California State University – Sacramento; February 2005)

Regarding the provision and condition of recreation amenities, respondents lamented the lack of warming huts; public restrooms also were noted for concerns about cleanliness and lack of supplies. Respondents were also less favorable about parking/staging areas, lack of winter camping sites, and inadequacy of informational/interpretive signage. Opinions were most favorable about the condition of groomed trails, as well as trail locations.

When asked about their willingness to pay for preserving and improving winter recreation in Mammoth Lakes, 49% were willing to pay a user fee, and 33% were not. Additional comments that could be considered in light of developing the Mammoth Lakes Parks Master Plan include:

- Some snowmobilers believe that cross-country skiers should pay a fee that is similar to the snowmobile registration fee
- Some snowmobilers would like legal trail access from Shady Rest to the Sherwins and Lakes Basin
- Many snowmobilers requested more open areas for use
- Cross-country skiers and snowshoers requested that the groomed trails around town be improved, along with installation of more trail signage
- Cross-country skiers and snowshoers requested more grooming of existing trails as well as more groomed tracks
- Some respondents indicated that cross-country and snowshoe trails should be separate, and that there should be greater buffers between snowmobile and cross-country ski areas
- Some respondents requested the following:
 - More off-leash dog areas that are closed to snowmobile and cross-country ski use
 - More opportunities for winter camping
 - More snow parks with adequate parking and restrooms

APPENDIX 5: OTHER STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Agency Comments Received 3/12/07²⁷

Interagency Meeting

March 12, 2007 3-5 pm @ the Mammoth Lakes Community Center

The following Agency comments were received during an inter-agency meeting discussing the Park & Recreation needs for our community. The order of the subject matter is organized around the participants' area of interest and agency represented. The ideas are expressed as responses to questions about common goals, existing conditions, shared facilities, unique facilities, and implementation strategies. Also, questions were asked regarding perceived values, mandates, balanced service, and "The one thing you would change."

1. Mammoth Hospital, Human Performance Lab
 - High Altitude Training opportunity, joint marketing with the Town, ability to bring in Speakers and have joint presentations
 - Runners are a large user group
 - Swimmers also
 - Prevention medicine or training
 - There has been some past use of Snowcreek Athletic Club as a follow up facility for clients
 - See a great need for a "central indoor recreational" facility
 - Explore the ability to team up on grant applications & provide the "public health" component
2. Mono County
 - Joint use of Crowley Lake sports fields through programming
 - Joint use of Whitmore existing facilities
 - Explore future needs and development of Whitmore
 - Expand the use of Mono County facilities (ball fields) by the Town; the more they are used, the more monies become available
 - Goal to keep Community Center space rentals low to promote use
 - May be updating Parks Master Plan in near future
3. Town of Mammoth Lakes
 - This coming season, focus on Whitmore use by relocating soccer during Shady Rest fields upgrade
 - Develop ways to get more users of all facilities
 - Effective maintenance with divided labor force
 - Fill the needs for Kids
 - Need a Multi-use facility with accessible programs
4. U.S. Forest Service
 - May be going through similar planning efforts in the near future
 - +/- 98,000 new visitors per year, up to 2 million by 2025
 - How to handle or manage all visitors?
 - How to provide for the different experiences that they require?
 - How to interface with the Town's boundaries?

²⁷ Summary of comments provided by Steve Speidel of the Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development and Tourism & Recreation Departments

- De-facto USFS land within the Town of Mammoth Lakes zoned as “open space”
 - Need for safe walking, bike lanes, and pedestrian routes to access USFS lands
5. MLTPA (Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access)
- Wants to promote the idea of thinking about a larger planning area
 - Need for connections to existing facilities and between
 - Need for a Snow Play area
 - Provide for many other informal uses at the edges
 - Promote “Feet First” throughout the Town
 - Make no boundaries or obstructions to access USFS lands
6. Brainstorming discussions
- Focus on increased use during “Shoulder Seasons” (esp. April-May)
 - Create events to bring in users i.e. via a Recreation Center
 - There is a need to provide more things to do with very young kids
 - Explore more things to do or access the Hidden Lakes
 - Visitors may limit their travels to a 2 mile radius once in Town; provide more to do w/in the radius
 - Expand uses on USFS land; provide the greatest use for the greatest number. In order of popularity: walking/hiking; Automobile touring/site seeing; picnicking; fishing
 - Provide accessibility to spots or nodes, be able to drive to nodes
 - USFS has a report on users and user data

Agency Comments Received 4/23/07

Interagency Meeting

April 23, 2007 3-5 pm @ the Mammoth Lakes Community Center

The following Agency comments were received during an inter-agency meeting in which participants were presented with results of the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey, as well as draft vision concepts and goals, and a level of service analysis. Participants represented the following agencies: U.S. Forest Service, Mono County, Mammoth Hospital (Human Performance Lab), MLTPA (Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access), Tourism and Recreation Commission, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

- Ideally, new facilities should not duplicate the amenities provided by existing facilities (especially important regarding a new indoor recreation center, compared with Snowcreek Athletic Club)
- Needs of disabled users should be addressed (for both facilities and programs)
- Comments on vision concepts:
 - Strive for consistency with Mammoth Lakes’ community vision
 - Access for all
 - Seamless transition between Town and surrounding open space
 - Connectivity
- Level of service standards should apply both winter and summer

List of Groups Invited to Provide Input on Parks and Recreation Questionnaire for Organizations²⁸

- American Youth Soccer Organization
- Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra
- Eastern Slope Performers Educational Services
- Mammoth Elementary School Husky Club
- Mammoth Middle School XC Ski Team
- Mammoth Ski and Snowboard Education Foundation
- Mammoth Youth Football league
- Mono County Little League
- Mono County Friday Night Live
- Mammoth Nordic

Input Received on Parks and Recreation Questionnaire for Organizations: Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra

The following shows questions and responses received April 26, 2007, from Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (response text is italicized):

1. Has your organization used any of the Town of Mammoth Lakes parks, recreation facilities, or programs?

Yes: Bike paths, Shady Rest Park, we hope to use xc skiing areas in the future

2. Has your organization used other recreation providers (either public, private or not-for-profit) in the Town?

Forest Service – Lakes Basin, MMSA

a. For your group's purposes, how do they compare with the Town's facilities and/or programs?

All are very good!

3. What are the strengths of the Mammoth Lakes Tourism & Recreation Department that we need to build on for this plan?

4. How would you describe your organization's values as applied to parks and recreation facilities or recreation programs?

Recreational facilities and programs are essential for our program. Our program offers accessibility for those with disabilities.

5. What do you consider to be the Town of Mammoth Lakes mandates for Parks & Recreation?

a. How do you feel the Town is delivering on those mandates, as they relate to your organization?

6. How balanced does your group think the Town is in providing neighborhood parks, community parks, trails and natural area parks?

Quite well

²⁸ Comments were provided by Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra and Mammoth Nordic. Their complete responses follow this list.

a. Are there areas of the Town not being served adequately by parks and/or recreation facilities?

7. What, if any, are your organization's unmet recreation program needs in the Town?
We would love an open area (not a parking lot) for learning to bike ride with kids. Also an ice skating rink

8. What, if any, are your organization's unmet recreation facility needs in Mammoth Lakes for either indoor or outdoor facilities?
We would love an open area (not a parking lot) for learning to bike ride with kids

9. Are there any operational or maintenance issues, related to your group's use of the Town's park and recreation facilities that need to be addressed in the plan?
Accessibility for those with disabilities should always be addressed

10. What park and recreation facilities or programs do you feel should be the basic provisions by the Town and free of charge?

Biking areas, parks

- a. What premium recreation facilities or programs is your organization willing to pay for?
Ice skating
- b. Should there be a different fee schedule for year-round residents and visitors?
Yes, discounts for residents

11. What role do you see for partners (potentially including your organization) in Mammoth Lakes for working with the Town in the development of recreation facilities or in the delivery of programs?

It would be good if accessible issues were address and all populations including those with disabilities could participate and use facilities. Disabled Sports could help with this.

12. If you could change one thing in parks and recreation in Mammoth Lakes in the next 10 years (as it relates to your organization), what would it be?

Add an ice skating rink

Input Received on Parks and Recreation Questionnaire for Organizations: Mammoth Nordic

The following shows questions and responses received April 4, 2007, from Mammoth Nordic (response text is italicized):

1. Has your organization used any of the Town of Mammoth Lakes parks, recreation facilities, or programs?

Mammoth Nordic is interested in maximizing the year-round use of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System by providing a quality, groomed Nordic opportunity for locals and visitors alike. We delivered on this goal this winter.

2. Has your organization used other recreation providers (either public, private or not-for-profit) in the Town?

Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center, in the Lakes Basin, provides fee-based groomed Nordic trails. At this point, the quality of experience exceeds any available community-based Nordic opportunity. Our goal is to narrow this gap.

3. What are the strengths of the Mammoth Lakes Tourism & Recreation Department that we need to build on for this plan?

I believe the one area most lacking has been a continuity of effort towards completing a Master Plan for year-round Recreation Needs. Without this, projects cannot be prioritized, planned, funded then implemented. I also believe DIF contributions need to play a very targeted role in how specific projects are funded. I sincerely hope that this initial effort will be seen through to completion.

4. How would you describe your organization's values as applied to parks and recreation facilities or recreation programs?

Our mission is supporting, developing and promoting alternatives in Mammoth Lakes for Nordic Recreation. Our goal since day one has been to provide a social framework that creates opportunities for persons that share a common interest, indeed passion, for quiet winter sports to make the most of the place we choose to live in or visit. The best way to describe our ambition is year-round enhancement of quality of life.

5. What do you consider to be the Town of Mammoth Lakes mandates for Parks & Recreation? *Mammoth Nordic believes that our community has an obligation to safely and aesthetically meet the recreation needs of all users in all seasons. The town's willingness to partner with Mammoth Nordic is the first step, we believe, towards delivering quality, community-based Nordic opportunities that are long overdue.*

6. How balanced does your group think the Town is in providing neighborhood parks, community parks, trails and natural area parks?

At this point, neighborhood parks are inadequate and our crown jewel community park- Shady Rest Park- is not open or maintained half the year. A concerted effort is needed to safely link areas of the community together year-round with well-maintained, well-signed, well-promoted community trails.

7. What, if any, are your organization's unmet recreation program needs in the Town?

We are interested in creating Nordic sports education and training opportunities in partnership with the town.

8. What, if any, are your organization's unmet recreation facility needs in Mammoth Lakes for either indoor or outdoor facilities?

As demonstrated this winter, Mammoth Nordic is willing to invest both capital and labor into providing a Nordic experience for our community that we can all take pride in.

9. Are there any operational or maintenance issues, related to your group's use of the Town's park and recreation facilities that need to be addressed in the plan?

Mammoth Nordic is interested in strengthening our partnership with the town regarding safe storage of our equipment and sharing operational costs of our equipment on the Mammoth Lakes Trail System.

10. What park and recreation facilities or programs do you feel should be the basic provisions by the Town and free of charge?

The modest Nordic trail system we were able to provide this winter, in our view, needs to be a free amenity for both locals and visitors alike. We plan to refine and improve the quality of Nordic experience at every opportunity. We also plan to expand the number of kilometers we regularly maintain. I believe our Nordic Trail System came into being following Town Council acknowledgement of what is important for our community in the long term. As a result of being deemed important, Mammoth Nordic was allowed to deliver on our long-standing promise to enhance recreation. We believe expanded, quality Nordic opportunities will be so well received that a modest fee structure can be implemented that supplements the Operating Budget. In addition to off-setting operation costs, a daily use pass or "season pass" provides grateful patrons of our Nordic trails to feel vested in a great thing. I can provide numerous examples of this phenomenon upon request.

11. What role do you see for partners (potentially including your organization) in Mammoth Lakes for working with the Town in the development of recreation facilities or in the delivery of programs?

I believe Mammoth Nordic will play a vital role in the planning, pursuit of grant funding and private sector investment, implementation and operation of our community-based Nordic Trail System. Our multi-year pursuit of this goal speaks for itself.

12. If you could change one thing in parks and recreation in Mammoth Lakes in the next 10 years (as it relates to your organization), what would it be?

I sincerely hope that our community works to streamline the implementation of quality of life enhancements brought forward by willing and capable organizations. Mammoth Nordic believes the steps we are taking today to enhance Nordic recreation will serve as a model for future partnerships established between the town and organizations with similar interests.

Issues, opportunities, and constraints matrix

This document, from May 2006, was compiled by Town staff and with input from two focus groups: the Urban Form Group, and the Sensitive Lands, Open Space and Recreation Group. It lists a suite of issues, opportunities, and constraints for developing improvement strategies for the Town. Included are those associated with special events, sensitive lands and open space, recreation, and trails, all of which have implications for developing the Parks Master Plan. The table below lists the issues, opportunities, and constraints that affect parks and recreation planning and design; it does not include issues related primarily to funding, programming, or maintenance.

ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES	CONSTRAINTS
Special Events		
Lack of outdoor and indoor event venues	Exclusive events in unique venues (unique natural setting and remote location)	Seasonal and weather conditions
No stage with built in production equipment	Opportunity to create different events venues located throughout town	Limited site and development opportunities
No large to medium enclosed facilities	[Per Steve Speidel: what about school gyms?]	Accessibility of venue sites
No fixed seating venues		
Limited facilities with on-site built in food and beverage		
Sensitive Lands and Open Space		
There is no comprehensive and unified management plan for the Mammoth Creek corridor	Opportunity to create a statement for the Eastern Sierra	Multiple agency jurisdictions
Fragmented ownership along Mammoth Creek	Opportunity to make a bridge over Mammoth Creek as a landmark	Property rights and private property safety
Many often competing uses for the Creek corridor	Opportunity to establish ecosystem connectivity from Town's western to eastern boundary and create a scenic connection to trail system	Current ownership of sensitive lands
Sensitive sites along Mammoth Creek may be developed in the future	Opportunity to educate the public about sensitive lands and resource conservation and preservation. Incorporate educational programs to attract people to creek and gain support for sensitive lands	Keeping the setting "real" or natural
Lack of sensitive lands linkage, they are in a hop-scotch pattern	Establish a management plan that focuses on sound ecological, hydrological and riparian data, and focuses on interpretation and recreation	Resources located outside the urban limit
Not enough playground area for children	Conservation, use, preservation and restoration of lands through ownership and easements	Coordination with other agencies and organizations
Lack of consensus about the need for a variety of more parks versus no new parks because of the town's surroundings	Opportunity to create a diverse recreational, educational, spiritual experience for a variety of users	Limited land
Lack of parks of various kinds within walking distance of neighborhoods	Develop pocket parks (especially in the Sierra Valley sites)	
Parks and trails systems are not fully integrated and connected with surrounding public lands	Opportunity for a children's nature center with interpretive events, classes, camps, etc.	
The uncertain future of the Bell-Shaped Parcel	Opportunity to have both passive and active recreation in the same locations	
	Opportunity to create a highly walkable community with an integrated trail system connecting recreation access points, residential areas and business districts	

ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES	CONSTRAINTS
	Continue to “close the loop” on sections of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS)	
	Opportunity to create a connected year-round trail system and incorporate into Mobility Plan (create bus stops at parks/pocket parks, etc.)	
	Opportunity for winter staging area at Shady Rest Park	
	Opportunity to give the town a concrete sense of identity based in natural resources and setting	
	Opportunity to create criteria to define “Sensitive Lands and Open Space” that integrates ecology, recreation and community values	
Recreation		
Limited indoor recreation facilities and programming	Spectacular setting	Weather conditions
Limited programs and facilities designed to serve specific users – youth, young adult, adult and families (gym for kids)	Opportunity to create more indoor recreation opportunities that meet the needs of a variety of users, especially locals	Location for a recreation center
Lack of affordable, accessible and up to date facilities	Take advantage of our 300 days of sunshine	Lack of facilities
Limited access and staging for surrounding public lands	Opportunity to partner with USFS and other partners, like CURES, to expand interpretive, educational and recreational programs	Land area and appropriate development sites
Lack of public-private and public-public partnerships	Opportunity to collaborate with all kinds of groups and pool resources	Outside agency ownership, restrictions, regulations and involvement (land use dictated by other organizations)
Lack of alternative leisure, recreation and entertainment activities and venues for visitors and residents	Work with Mammoth Nordic to support, develop and promote alternatives for Nordic Recreation for all ages	USFS limits expansion of Shady Rest facilities and programs
No snow park in Town for winter use	Provide access corridors on Town land	No comprehensive, convenient transportation system (does not serve most recreation sites)
Children not involved in programming and design	Encourage the use of the hundreds of backcountry trails	Poor communication and collaboration
Lack of consensus on community needs, alternatives, implementation and funding	Promotion of clean air and clear sky	Not enough varied public input
Lack of more exciting playground equipment (crazy slide)	Extensive outdoor recreation assets and opportunities	Lack of receptiveness to facilitation in meetings/outreaches
No flexible indoor field house (soccer, basketball, handball, tetherball, motocross, volleyball)	Opportunity to partner with landowners to provide access points	Wind

ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES	CONSTRAINTS
No large public gym or recreation center	Opportunity to create integrated trail system and public transit system to provide access	Facilities
No place to ride a bike in winter	Opportunity to form public agency, private and developer partnerships	Loud events and other types of events that need very specific venue areas
Conflict among users (ski vs. snowmobile, group training vs. wilderness, hikers vs. 4x4 drivers)	Opportunity to connect built landscape with natural areas	Limited exit points and difficult exit for snowboarders from the Sherwins
Natural assets not utilized or programmed to the fullest like Mammoth Creek	Opportunity to disperse people to different areas of recreation, reducing impact on the land and increasing user experience	Limited parking
Limited night-time recreation venues and programs	Opportunity to integrate education and public awareness of natural resources in recreation	Lack of consensus about "All Season Outdoor Recreation" as a unique asset of the Town of Mammoth Lakes
Recreational activities are not affordable	Opportunity to shape character of our Town through the activities we offer	
Limited space for outdoor venues	Shady Rest as an outdoor venue and winter park	
Conflicts with redevelopment along Old Mammoth Road and Main Street	Opportunity to attract athletic training programs and facilities	
Mammoth Nordic Trail System not sufficient	Stream viewing channel at Mammoth Creek	
Lack of access for Sherwin Bowl ski/board	Opportunity to develop public fitness facilities and programs	
Adverse impacts from unmanaged recreation	Create more trails with exercise stops/Interp. Signage	
Need to recognize that "All Season Outdoor Recreation" is the primary and unique economic asset of the Town of Mammoth Lakes.	Opportunity for more community based activities	
No inventory of the Outdoor Recreation Opportunities in the Mammoth Lakes area	Opportunity to reestablish existing dog recreational areas	
No long term plan to maximize and integrate the Outdoor Recreational Opportunities in Mammoth Lakes – both Winter and Summer.	Opportunity to relieve pressure on existing staging areas	
No defined standard to which all Recreation Opportunities (Indoor/Outdoor, Summer/Winter) should be held (world class, family friendly, cutting edge, ease of use, etc) and use this standard in the planning and building of all facilities.	Opportunity to encourage diversification of activities, e.g. riding a bike, learn to XC ski, etc.	
	Opportunity to develop educational programs, signage and/or brochures	
	Opportunity to designate specific lands for specific uses and accommodate everyone (establish separate trail systems)	
	Opportunity for a high-altitude training center	

ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES	CONSTRAINTS
	Opportunity to identify which assets need to be improved, built, and prioritize their implementation	
	Provide options for all ages	
	Opportunity for the old gravel pit on USFS land	
	Improve events by location	
	Opportunity for the Town to be more aggressive with the USFS to meet the needs of the town	
	Create parks	
	Enhance Nordic trail system and revitalize historic trails	
	Save and enhance existing exit points	
	Opportunity to preserve assets that contribute to outdoor recreation that may be under immediate or short-term threat from development.	
	Inventory the primary and unique recreation assets of the town regardless of jurisdiction.	
	Create documentation of important town assets in a way that will help decision makers prioritize and make choices.	
	Create an inventory of the points of ingress/egress important to members of the community as well as our visitors	
	Team sports, university training	
	Opportunity to support nonprofits providing music concerts and theater	
	Interpretive signage on linked trails since it is a minimal cost and the research is already done (groups and individuals would sponsor signs)	
Trails and Bicycle Routes		
Can't effectively walk or bike to work or other amenities year-round	Opportunity to increase connections and linkage through new development	Weather
The trail system is disjointed and incomplete	Opportunity to promote a complete trail circling the town for bikers and hikers	Geography and development pattern
Conflicts with shared bicycle and pedestrian facilities	Connect bike and hiking trails	Limited rights-of-way to provide room for bike lanes
Access to the surrounding public lands is limited	Opportunity to partner with USFS and private development and business	Disconnected and low density neighborhoods
Access to a pick-up staging area from the Sherwin's is limited	Separate trails designated	Land use and development patterns
Conflict between groomed and ungroomed trail uses	Opportunity to complete the main path system	No or limited trail-head parking, especially in winter

ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES	CONSTRAINTS
Lack of a public trail from Old Mammoth Road to Mammoth Rock Trail and the meadow trail	Opportunity to link neighborhoods and districts by bike and walking trails	Existing land ownership and development
The summer trail system is unavailable during our winter season	Opportunity to incorporate utility easements for trails	
	Opportunity for additional trailhead staging	
	Development of the Shady Rest Winter Park	
	Development of a Winter Trails System	
Pedestrian Access		
Can't effectively walk or bike to work year-round	Opportunity to increase pedestrian connections and linkage with new development	Weather (snow to plow)
Pedestrian access on SR 203 is not safe during the winter	Opportunity to partner with private developers and INF to integrate pedestrian routes	Geography and development pattern
Limited sidewalks		Disconnected and low density neighborhoods
		Land use and development patterns
		Existing land ownership and development

Recreational Access Corridors (prepared by Mammoth Area Mountain Bike Organization, received by TOML April 23, 1999)

The document stresses the need to retain public access to public lands surrounding Mammoth Lakes, and identifies 14 possible corridors for non-motorized uses. It states that “Hikers and mountain bikers should not have to use roads or drive to recreate.”

1. North Village Trail can distinguish Bike Park (MMSA) and trails that are open to the public. A short trail, it can link the Town to Mountain View and two proposed trails, and would be the likely trail to June Lake.
2. The broad right-of-way along Lake Mary Road can accommodate trails to access the Lakes Basin. Development along here should preserve continuity along the corridor, by maintaining the current setbacks.
3. There is potential to link the paved trail in the Juniper Springs development with Lake Mary Road, next to the tunnel.
4. Beyond Tamarack Street in Old Mammoth, the Water District right-of-way can preserve access to Lost Lake at the base of the Sherwins; this trail is flat and is a prized route into USFS lands. This trail connects with several primitive trails crossing a meadow, and it also leads south of Snowcreek, where it eventually connects an unpaved road.
5. Trail access is desired from the Sierra Meadows Pack Station area (Sherwin Creek Road, along Snowcreek 8 site) to Lost Lake. This route could be incorporated along the edge of the proposed golf course.
6. There should be a trail corridor along Mammoth Creek that could eventually extend to Hot Creek and Bishop. The north side of the creek is preferable.
7. A trail near the water treatment plant can provide a linkage to Sherwin Creek Road across Hwy 395 (at the Sheriff's substation).
8. A trail corridor should be preserved along Hwy 203 on the south side. This could connect to the existing paved trail.
9. Along the north side of Hwy 203, across from the Industrial Park area, a fiber optic cable right-of-way could provide an excellent single-track bike trail.
10. Shady Rest Park provides a jumping-off point to a desired trail through USFS land to the ridge west of Hwy 395.
11. Another trail from Shady Rest Park should extend north to Sawmill Summit and beyond.
12. A one-way uphill trail from Shady Rest Park to the Burn Area Interpretive Trail will slow bikers enough to enable safe sharing of the trail with hikers. A parallel downhill bike trail can offer views of Mammoth Lakes.
13. A trail can originate near the Scenic Loop and end on a downhill segment at Shady Rest Park.
14. USFS land adjacent to Forest trail can provide a steep, challenging trail.

In addition to these 14 trail corridors, the document includes a proposal for the Eastern Sierra Regional Bike Trail. It describes the routing and general vision of the trail, to meet recreational needs while also supporting historic tourism in the region.

Mammoth Lakes Region of the Inyo National Forest: Winter Recreation Needs Assessment Survey Findings—Working Report (prepared by the Inyo National Forest, Town of Mammoth Lakes, and California State Parks, with assistance from the Center for Collaborative Policy, California State University – Sacramento; February 2005)

This survey was undertaken during the winter of 2003-04 in part to address increasing conflicts between motorized and non-motorized winter recreation uses in and around Mammoth Lakes, especially in the Shady Rest Park area. The top winter recreation activities were cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, and snowmobiling. People also engaged in hiking/running/camping, snowshoeing, snow play/ice skating, and snowboarding. In terms of the quality of their experience, cross-country skiers were the most unsatisfied user group (20% indicated a below-expectation experience), while snowboarders and snowmobilers tended to have more experiences that exceeded their expectations. For those who were disappointed by their experience, the top reasons given were: 1) encounters with other trail user, 2) trail conditions, and 3) lack of signage. In general, local residents who responded to the survey appear to be less satisfied with winter recreation than visitors. When respondents were asked to describe what they value about the Mammoth Lakes region, the most frequently used words were: beauty, scenery, quiet, wild, natural, and peacefulness.

Regarding the provision and condition of recreation amenities, respondents lamented the lack of warming huts; public restrooms also were noted for concerns about cleanliness and lack of supplies. Respondents were also less favorable about parking/staging areas, lack of winter camping sites, and inadequacy of informational/interpretive signage. Opinions were most favorable about the condition of groomed trails, as well as trail locations.

When asked about their willingness to pay for preserving and improving winter recreation in Mammoth Lakes, 49% were willing to pay a user fee, and 33% were not. Additional comments that could be considered in light of developing the Mammoth Lakes Parks Master Plan include:

- Some snowmobilers believe that cross-country skiers should pay a fee that is similar to the snowmobile registration fee
- Some snowmobilers would like legal trail access from Shady Rest to the Sherwins and Lakes Basin
- Many snowmobilers requested more open areas for use
- Cross-country skiers and snowshoers requested that the groomed trails around town be improved, along with installation of more trail signage
- Cross-country skiers and snowshoers requested more grooming of existing trails as well as more groomed tracks
- Some respondents indicated that cross-country and snowshoe trails should be separate, and that there should be greater buffers between snowmobile and cross-country ski areas
- Some respondents requested the following:
 - More off-leash dog areas that are closed to snowmobile and cross-country ski use
 - More opportunities for winter camping
 - More snow parks with adequate parking and restrooms

APPENDIX 6: GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION CAFÉ—PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

The following summarizes items covered at café held September 29, 2007, to involve the public in implementing the Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan. These items are related to parks, open space, and recreation. This café illustrates the Town's ongoing commitment to obtaining public input on parks and recreation, and that public feedback does not end at the planning stages, but continues through implementation as well.

Initiatives (volunteer commitments) and formation of Parks, Open Space & Recreation Working Group

- Toddlers/Youth—lack of programming and facilities
- Affordable athletic club facilities
- Summer Festival space (outdoors/indoors)
- Comprehensive collateral/information development (messaging what we have)
- Interpretive programming
- Facility development
- High altitude training
- Running track
- Golf driving range
- Golf course access in winter (Nordic ski)
- Finish existing parks
- Form MASC (Mammoth Area Sports Council)

Assets/Possibilities List

- Mammoth community and two local golf courses must determine how to retain a driving range in town
- X-country ski on golf cart paths on golf courses
- Youth activities (toddler age)
- Summer Festival space
- Replicate the summer sense of community in winter (winter facilities/programming—Shady Rest in summer is fabulous, why can't we have that in winter?)
- Form partnerships with schools, golf courses, college & other facilities to provide affordable public recreation opportunities
- Snowplay areas developed for public use throughout the community
- Nurture and celebrate our ability to recreate in this incredible place (take advantage of what we have naturally)
- Recreation center—affordable, accessible to the entire community (residents and guest, but emphasizing residents)
- Winter access to golf courses
- Multi-use winter recreation facility that doubles as summer use
- Better connectivity and mapping
- Pocket parks in Sierra Valley Estates
- Mesh and leverage incremental facilities with others to actually build parks, teen center, tracks, performance sites
- Develop full spectrum of recreational opportunities
- Programming of unique opportunities

- Focus on and articulation of unique assets
- Integration of unique assets into public/private; full spectrum of rec opportunities
- Mammoth has the assets/activities; let's use it with our youth and all ages
- Work with the Forest Service to expand our recreational possibilities
- Complete parks (MCP)—event site and trailhead)
- Indoor winter programming for kids
- Need to increase money for parks
- Bell Parcel as open space/park
- Mapping and signage
- Neighborhood pocket parks
- Improve and maintain what we have
- Community planning needs to be based on recreation and the town's assets. This town is based on outdoor recreation opportunities and that should be exploited above all else.

List of community organizations for collaboration

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • CURES | • Mammoth Lakes Tennis Club |
| • AYSO | • MMSA |
| • Mono County Little League | • USFS |
| • Youth Football | • NPS |
| • Swim Team | • Roadside Heritage |
| • MLTPA | • 4WDrive |
| • Mammoth Nordic | • Mammoth Snowmobile Club |
| • Eastern Sierra Disabled Sports | • Southern Mono Historical Society |
| • Eastern Sierra Velo Club | • Sierra Club |
| • TriClub | • SNARL/Valentine Reserve |
| • High Sierra Striders | • Sierra Cycling Foundation |
| • Running USA | • Sport Fishing Association |
| • MUSD | • Friends of Inyo |
| • T&R Commission | • Mono Lake Committee |
| • Mono Council for the Arts | • Eastern Sierra Land Trust |
| • Equestrian | |

List of community organizations to form:

- Golf Club
- Climbing Club
- Ice Hockey
- High Altitude Coalition
- MASC

APPENDIX 7: SOUTH GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP AND RECREATION CENTER HISTORY²⁹

South Gateway Partnership:

DRAFT 9-25-06
Resolution Agreeing to Work Together
Concerning the Development of a Community
Recreation, Education and Cultural Center in the South Gateway Area

This Agreement is made by each of the following agencies: the Kern Community College District (KCCD), Mammoth Lakes Foundation (MLF), Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD), Mono County Office of Education (MCOE), and the Town of Mammoth Lakes (Town), together known as the South Gateway Partners (Partners).

Recitals

1. In 1999, the Mammoth Lakes Foundation completed a land exchange with the United States Forest Service for 86 acres of land located on the south side of Meridian Boulevard. This property is known as the South Gateway property. At the request of the KCCD, the Foundation donated 27 acres in the South Gateway to the KCCD and sold 17 acres to the MUSD. In 1995-96 the KCCD envisioned a Master Plan for the South Gateway property which included educational and cultural facilities for KCCD and MUSD. The KCCD contracted for an EIR that analyzed and evaluated the environmental impacts of the plan. The Master Plan and EIR were prepared and certified by the KCCD. The Town's General Plan designates all property in the South Gateway planning area as Institutional/Public (IP).
2. The KCCD built and operates the Dave and Roma McCoy Learning Center which includes classrooms, labs and offices on the 27 acres of land acquired from the Foundation as a satellite campus of the Cerro Coso Community College. The KCCD built this facility in 2001-2002 using State bond funds and local general obligation bond funds authorized in 1997 and 1999. The general obligation bond known as Measure "C" supports a range of facilities to develop the Mammoth Campus-Eastern Sierra College Center, including the Phase I college building, a Science Lab, an Astronomy Center, Faculty/Staff housing, a Fine Arts Center, Library and Culinary Arts.
3. The MUSD retained 12.66 acres of land which it purchased from the Foundation. The MUSD Administration, Continuation and Education Programs are located on a portion of the land. The balance is currently vacant.
4. The MUSD sold 4.49 acres of the original 17 acres to the MCOE which built the MCOE offices, The Mono County Community School, and a new library.
5. The Mammoth Lakes Foundation owns the remaining 42.25 acres of land upon which it intends to develop Student Apartments, Faculty/Staff Housing, and support facilities for higher education and cultural activities. The Foundation built Edison Hall in 1998 for College/Foundation use and has recently converted the building to a Ski Museum and gallery. The building is also used for community meetings and functions.
6. The Town of Mammoth Lakes has had plans for development of a Recreation Center and ice skating rink but has not secured a location for either facility. The unused portion of the MUSD property, MCOE property or KCCD property may accommodate such a facility.

²⁹ Provided by Town of Mammoth Lakes staff December 2007

7. Integration of several unmet needs of all Partners may also be appropriate within a single planned development to accommodate the future joint-use of meeting rooms, educational facilities, child care facilities, cultural facilities, and recreation functions.
8. The Partners hired Design Workshop, Inc., a private consulting and land planning group, to evaluate the needs of each of the stakeholders and update the South Gateway Master Plan. The Draft Master Plan was completed in June of 2005.

THE PARTNERS HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. In order to advance the planning effort for an integrated recreation, education and cultural center, the Partners agree to work together to create the South Gateway Education, Recreation and Cultural Center. The Partners agree that the facilities and programs will be shared and may consist of the following depending on a needs assessment conducted by each agency of their constituents:
 - a. Enhanced educational programs that jointly serve community college, continuing education and K-12 students.
 - b. A fully developed curriculum for Cerro Coso Community College and MUSD that capitalizes on the unique community characteristics of Mammoth Lakes and the Eastern Sierra.
 - c. A Fine Arts Center (Performing Arts Center).
 - d. A County Library/College Library.
 - e. A Culinary Arts Program with a possible attached food serving operation.
 - f. A child care center for community use, built in such a way to accommodate a learning center for KCCCD child development students.
 - g. An Ice Skating Rink.
 - h. A Recreation Center that serves the community at large, K-12 school programs, Community College programs and visitors.
 - i. Community rooms or "convertible facilities" able to accommodate educational and cultural programs, such as music, crafts, fitness, lectures, events, and community functions.
 - j. Commercial services such as a food court, book store or other small scale retail to serve users/visitors to the site.
 - k. A gateway entrance to all school facilities, including provision of safe parking, pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular access between sites.
2. The Partners agree that the following principles should govern future implementation of a South Gateway Education, Recreational and Community Center:
 - a. Enhance each agency's vision by working together on a common vision for education, culture and recreation. Each party must be successful in carrying out their own mission within a context where the sum is greater than the parts.
 - b. Create greater efficiency from joint occupancy and shared use of such facilities as parking lots and common space.

- c. Create cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors that do not currently exist in the community.
- d. Access funding from multiple sources, including but not limited to:
 - i. Private sources including sponsorships, partnerships with businesses and fund raising.
 - ii. Town developer impact fees.
 - iii. Grants.
 - iv. Visitor and resident user fees for services.
 - v. An exchange of services for use privileges.
 - vi. College financing sources, specifically the 1999 bond issue.
 - vii. State aid for school district and college facilities.
- e. Capitalize on a unique opportunity to master plan the entire 86 acres and specifically agree to develop a multi-use facility at the west end of the area without regard to property lines.

Agreement

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Partners agree as follows:

The Partners agree to work together to plan, develop and fund the construction of a South Gateway Education, Recreation and Community Center.

This Resolution is PASSED AND APPROVED by the Partners on the following dates:

Kern Community College District
Date: _____

Signature Printed Name and Title

Mammoth Lakes Foundation
Date: _____

Signature Printed Name and Title

Mammoth Unified School District
Date: _____

Signature Printed Name and Title

Mono County Office of Education
Date: _____

Signature Printed Name and Title

Town of Mammoth Lakes
Date: _____

Signature Printed Name and Title

Recreation Center History:

Recreation Center Workshop: Chronology of Needs Assessments

There have been a number of studies and policy statements made over the years relating to the need for a community recreation center. The following is a chronology of the past policy statements and studies. Complete copies of the documents referenced are available in the office of the Town Clerk.

General Plan

The Recreation Element of the General Plan, prepared in 1990, contained a needs assessment survey of the community. The highest rated facilities and programs desired by the community were an ice rink, indoor swimming facility, adult classes, golf, bowling, and indoor tennis. See attached survey. The current General Plan policies reflect the communities' values and include:

1A5: The Town shall investigate the economic and recreational feasibility of developing a municipal golf course, swimming pool, and ice skating rink,

1A6: The Town shall investigate the economic and recreational feasibility of developing a cultural arts center.

1B2: The town shall include more recreation programs designed for the short duration visitor and second homeowner (e.g. photo seminars, natural history workshops, etc.).

1B3: The Town shall promote and encourage special cultural events for the enrichment of residents, visitors, and second homeowners.

2A4: The Town shall strive to provide parkland at the standard of 10 acres per 1000 people.

2B1: The Town shall encourage developers to provide not only project-related recreation facilities, but public recreation facilities, including those projects identified in the Needs Assessment like playfields, parks and trails, through requirements and conditions in the Town Development Code.

2B4: The Town shall encourage multiple use of school facilities and establishment of joint use agreements for: a) inclusion of meeting and lecture halls in new school development for use by seminar and evening classes, b) dual design of school recreation areas for students and area residents.

2B6: The Town shall work with the Mammoth Unifies School District to enable greater use of gymnasiums, ball fields, and other recreational facilities.

2B7: The Town shall seek cooperative arrangements with other public and private recreation providers to enable greater use of available facilities for community recreation programs.

2B10: The Town shall provide additional public recreational facilities (i.e. tennis courts, basketball courts, racquetball courts, volleyball courts).

Over time, the Town has initiated implementation programs to address the above policies.

Master Facilities Plan

The Town began to plan for these projects by their inclusion in the 1997 Master Facilities Plan. Funds were first set aside beginning in 1997 when the Town adopted Development Impact Fees (DIF). Those projects that were on the DIF list since 1997 have been collecting funds for nearly 10 years and include development of Mammoth Creek Park, Shady Rest Park, a Gymnasium, a Youth Center, an Indoor Pool, an Ice Skating Rink, a Performing Arts Center, expansion of Whitmore Recreation Area, Pocket Parks, Monuments/Public Art, an Amphitheater, Child Care and an Events Site.

In 2005, the prior list of projects was re-described in the Master Facilities Plan and the fees were re-justified through the DIF update process. The list of projects now includes a festival/cultural site, recreation center, development of Trails End Park, town-wide mini-parks/snow storage areas, development of the Shady Rest Tract park, a winter play area, development of Mammoth Creek Park (ice rink), an expansion of the parking lot at Shady Rest Park, and development of the town-wide trails system. The performing arts center is still included but is not described as a Recreation Facility. Child care is still included but is now proposed by the Mono County Office of Education.

2003 Fine Arts Center Usage Report

The Mammoth Lakes Foundation commissioned a performing arts needs assessment in support of their goal to further higher education and cultural awareness in the community. In 1997, the Kern Community College District passed a bond measure to construct a two-year community college with ancillary facilities including a fine arts center/lecture hall. The study reviewed theater, dance, music, fine arts and presentation needs of the various arts groups within the community. The author of the study concludes that a facility holding 250 people would be most successful but that occasionally some activities would need to accommodate up to 500 people. Flexibility and variety of spaces is important. Management and operation is equally important to avoid conflicts and ensure economic sustainability.

2003 Design Workshop Recreation Center Plan

In 2003, the Town engaged a consulting team led by Design Workshop to hold a series of public workshops to determine the desired programming of a recreation center to be located on the South Gateway property. The MUSD, Mono County Office of Education, Mammoth Lakes Foundation, Town Commissioners and Council members and the public-at-large participated. The result was a design program that could be provided to an architect in the future to assist in the space planning, function and operation of the facility.

The elements of the recreation center desired by the public included an indoor swimming pool, ice rink, gymnasium, community rooms, youth center, climbing wall, hockey rooms, senior center, training rooms, high altitude training facilities, and indoor tennis courts.

2004 MUSD Housing and Facilities Summary Report

In 2003, the Mammoth Unified School District initiated a survey to study the potential uses of undeveloped MUSD properties. They surveyed staff, families and students to define the unmet needs. Thirteen categories of questions were asked. The conclusions of the community survey relative to recreation included a high desire to use undeveloped school land for recreation use and community services under a lease arrangement; the highest rated needs for MUSD were a leisure pool, lap pool and indoor playing fields; all felt that the pool should be located on the South Gateway site; a high desire to have year-round outdoor playing fields in Mammoth Lakes; and, a high desire to have a teen activity center as part of a recreation center.

2005 South Gateway Master Plan

Once again, the owners of the South Gateway properties met to discuss an overall master plan for the uses planned for the South Gateway area. The objective was to create a campus-like environment of facilities that was designed to further educational, cultural and recreational pursuits and to avoid duplication of services where possible. The concept of a shared value system where all parties would contribute their assets to support the needs of their constituents was paramount. Creating opportunities to produce the facilities by working together produced several multi-party agreements. All of the partners enthusiastically endorsed the master plan and the multi-party agreements. A preliminary design of the Recreation Center showed that it would be best located on the MUSD and MCOE parcels and designed to be integrated with the college facilities and the High School and Middle School. A performing arts theater was located adjacent to the Recreation Center to provide a central location of arts and culture for use by all of the partners.

2006 General Plan Update

In 2006, after the above surveys and master plans were prepared, the Town began working with a series of focus groups to better understand the communities' objectives relative to design, character, open space, recreation, and sensitive lands. In addition, the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area convened a group of citizens to further contribute public input on the primary objectives and strategies of the community. All of these groups have reaffirmed that recreation is important to maintaining a strong community and a sustainable resort. These groups requested that the Town locate, program and fund a community recreational facility and performing arts center in the South Gateway.

Merging all of the objectives contributed by the focus groups resulted in the compilation of the concepts. These are shown on the Physical Development Plan and the Mobility Plan. The concepts related to performing, visual arts and recreation are described as an integrated package of facilities to meet all cultural and recreation needs of the community. For instance, performances, shows and fairs can be held indoors or outdoors, at the "Bell Parcel" or the Village, at the future civic center or the future field house at Sherwins/Snowcreek, at the future

Recreation/Events/ Ice Center or the High School, at the USFS Auditorium or the old Plaza Theater, depending on the size and type of the event.

Funding Options

Based on all of the above, the Town has been programming the design of a recreation center in the Capital Improvement Plan for a number of years. Early on, there was a significant budget shortfall which caused the project to be programmed several years hence. As the project became more refined and economies and efficiencies became known, the cost of construction and operation became clearer.

If the governmental entities continue to collaborate on joint use of facilities, no one organization will have to fund a facility on its own. This approach will allow the community to achieve its goals sooner and with more efficient use of taxpayers' dollars. The MUSD has land, the MCOE has land, the Kern Community College District has bond money, the Town has General Fund, TOT, Development Impact Fee and grant money and all parties can share in the use of the facilities.

With joint-use agreements in place covering the operation of a single facility, the schools can offer programs to the students and the Town can offer recreation programs to the residents and visitors that would not be available without the partnership. The arts community can offer a larger capacities and quality venues for its functions.

The project would have to be phased. To achieve results quickly all parties must compromise and logistical and operational questions answered. Which use should be constructed first? How can the existing facilities throughout Town complement a new recreation center to avoid duplication of services? How can future facilities complement a new recreation center to avoid duplication of services?

Summary

We have invited a variety of user groups to attend a series of workshops in August to understand the needs and priorities of the community. The Tourism and Recreation Commission will make a recommendation to the Town Council about the potential design elements to be included in a Recreation/Events/Ice facility.

APPENDIX 8: LEVEL OF SERVICE COMPARISON OF MAMMOTH LAKES WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES AND NRPA STANDARDS

	Mammoth Lakes numbers													
	TOML existing facilities (real numbers, not per 1000 standard)	TOML Current LOS (using 2006 recreation popn estimate **)	Colorado Small Comm. Park & Rec Standards	Grass Valley CA Park Standards	McCall ID 2006 Parks & Rec Master Plan	Vail CO 2007 Parks & Rec Master Plan (final draft)	Vail CO 2007 P&R Master Plan (avg LOS of similar-size towns)	Woodinville WA	Snoqualmie WA Comp. Plan Parks & Rec Standards	Moraga CA Parks & Rec Master Plan (Jan 2007 draft)	Truckee CA Cons & Open Space Element	Silverthorne CO	Santee CA Draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan	NRPA standards
parkland acreage*	41.78	5.36	ca 14	6.25-10.5	14.00			4.00	10.25	4.50	7.50	11.00	5.00	6.25-10.5
specific park types (acres)*														
mini park				0.25-0.5					0.25					0.25-0.5
neighborhood park				1.0-2.0				1.00	2.00	1.00	2.50	2.5 (+ mini)	2 (+ mini)	1.0-2.0
community park				5.0-8.0				3.00	8.00	3.50	5.00	3.50	3.00	5.0-8.0
local parkland subtotal (TOML)	41.78	5.36												
regional park	32.00	4.11		5.0-10.0							5.00	5.00		5.0-10.0
facilities in TOML inventory*														
picnic tables	43	5.12	6.25		6.25			1.77						
picnic shelters	1	0.12	0.36		0.36	1.00	1.00						0.20	
playgrounds	3	0.36	0.16			1.00	1.00	0.60					0.33	
park bench	15	1.78	7.69		7.69									
tennis courts	6	0.71	0.97	0.42	0.97	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50				0.13	0.50
(outdoor) basketball courts	1	0.12	0.91	0.18		0.17	0.50	0.20	0.50				0.29	0.20
(sand) volleyball courts	2	0.24	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.50	0.20	0.20	0.50				0.04	
soccer/multiuse fields (unspecified)	2	0.24	0.95		0.95	1.00	0.50	0.32 (incl football)					0.10	0.10
ball fields (unspecified)	5	0.59	0.61		0.61	0.50	0.51			0.63				
baseball fields (adult)	1	0.12		0.21				0.28	0.20				0.05	0.20
skateboard parks (small)	1	0.12	0.16		0.16									
skateboard parks (large)	1	0.12	0.06		0.06								0.02	
outdoor swimming pool (ea)	1	0.12	0.12		0.12									
community center (ea)	1	0.12							0.10	0.05				
trail miles*														
paved multi-use	9	1.07	1.04		1.04			0.45	1.50	1.11			0.2	
potential TOML facilities*														
outdoor events venue (acres)			1.34		1.34									
amphitheater (ea)						0.10	0.10							
dog park (ea)						0.34	0.10			0.05			0.05	
potential partner facilities*														
recreation centers (sq ft)													2 sf/person	
recreation centers/gyms (ea)				0.03					0.20	0.18				0.10
ice hockey rink (ea)			0.10		0.10									
football fields				0.07					0.10					0.05
indoor swimming pool (ea)				0.05					0.05					0.05
swimming pool (sq ft)								540.82					1.5 sf/person	
population and economy														
population size (est.)		7,789 resid. + 617 = 8406 **		11,000	2,500 (+ 15,000 visitors/yr)	ca. 5,000		9,500	6,500	ca. 17,000	ca. 14,000	3,500	55,000	
economic base		tourism, skiing & outdoor rec		retail, services, manufrng	skiing & outdoor rec	skiing & outdoor rec; festivals		light ind., tourism & winery, retail	tourism and bedroom community			skiing, outdoor rec, tourism		
* Standards expressed as number of units per 1,000 residents. Note that these standards may or may not be met currently. TOML regional park is Whitmore Park, and is provided in partnership with Mono County.														
** TOML population estimates from 2006 UCSB economic/demographic report on persons at one time (Forecast Overview Tables, "Part 1.")														
Second homeowner addition of 617 to the recreation population is based on multiplier derived from median number of visits per year and median number of nights per stay (from Parks and Rec Needs Assessment Survey)														

APPENDIX 9: SAMPLE PARKS MAINTENANCE WORKPLAN³⁰

System-Wide Cumulative Analysis 1-27-2004													OPTIMUM NATIONAL STANDARD																				
Task & Codification						Months of the Year																											
Task Description		Object	Task	Time	Qty.	Prod.	JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUN		JUL		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV		DEC		TOTALS		
						Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs	Freq	Hrs				
Daily Tasks																																	
Open & check parks		3.01	113			0	33		33		36		110		127.5		123		124.5		127.5		133		64		33		31.5		976		
Check & close parks		3.01	113			0	0	0	0	0	0	180	52.5	217	54.25	210	52.5	217	54.25	217	54.25	210	52.5	93	23.25	0	0	31	15.5	359			
Pick up garbage/litter		2.02	202			0	54	13	54	13	54	165	242	232	294.5	225	287	294	387.5	278	379.5	270	369.5	108	211	13	54	17.5	58.5	2,446			
Routine restroom cleaning		2.01	201			0	0	0	0	0	0	150	90	217	139.5	211	136	217	139.5	201	131.5	196	128.5	93	62	0	0	0	0	827			
Athletic Fields																																	
Soccer -field preparation & set lights		8.01	802			0	30.69	84	27.72	93	30.69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	16	4	16	30	9.9	0	0	93	30.69	162			
Ball -field preparation & set lights		8.02	802			0	0	0	0	0	0	26	156	47	282	46	276	37	222	23	138	23	83	10	5	0	0	0	0	1,162			
Field renovation						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	40	1	40	0	0	0	0	176			
Benches, bleachers, dugouts, check, repr, replc.						0	1.5	2	1.5	5	3.75	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	3	4	3	32			
Tennis and Sport Courts																																	
Sport court maintenance		1.05	104			0	0		0		0	168		168		204		204		204		168		36		0		0		1,152			
Facility Maintenance																																	
Restroom winter/Dewinter: Incl. drink fount.						0	15.5	33	14.5	31	15.5	7	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	23	36	31	15.5	31	15.5	157			
Routine building and interior maintenance		1.01	101			0	15.5	28	14	31	15.5	37	38	37	38	36	37	37	38	37	38	37	38	48	42.5	30	15	31	15.5	345			
Major building & interior repairs & projects						0	0	0	0	10	40	11	42	6	22	2	6	1	2	1	2	6	22	6	22	0	0	0	0	158			
Graffiti/Vandalism repair		1.01	001			0	2	2	2	2	8	5.5	8	5.5	10	7.5	10	7.5	9	6.5	8	5.5	8	5.5	2	2	2	2	2	54			
Parking lot & hard surface maintenance		1.01	106			0	26	2	16	13	34	10	31	17	31	5	19	17	31	7	21	15	29	12	82	12	26	2	16	362			
Sign fabrication/installation		1.01	114			0	19	5	19	5	19	8	21	17	30	8	22	3	17	2	16	2	16	2	16	2	16	2	16	227			
Fence/gate/bollard maintenance		1.01	105			0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	5	10	6	8	3	5	4	6	3	8	4	6	0	0	0	0	50			
Play Area Maintenance																																	
Inspections		2.04	703			0	5.27		4.76	5.27	64.55	64		62		64		63		62		35.55		5.1		5.27		441					
Routine maintenance/cleaning		2.04	103			0	0.5	1	0.5	3	0.5	97	47.5	99	48.5	96	47	99	48.5	97	47.5	97	47.5	95	47	1	0.5	1	0.5	336			
Repairs/projects		2.04	103			0	4	1	4	3	4	6	23	2	0	4	16	13	83	2	0	3	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	150			
Graffiti on equipment		2.04	103			0	0	1	0	4	0	29	0.5	22	0	21	0.5	22	0	21	0.5	6	0	1	0.5	0	0	1	0	2			
Vandalism repair		2.04	103			0	0	1	0	0	0	37	1.5	24	0	29	1.5	24	0	29	1.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	0	1	0	5			
Picnic Area Maintenance																																	
Routine maintenance/cleaning		2.03	102			0	5.27		4.76	5.27	26.6	26.77		26.6		26.77		26.77		26.6		22.77		5.1		5.27		145.55					
Distribute/retrieve items						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Tables/benches repairs/projects		1.02	102			0	2		2	2	28.5	19	12	19	16	23	28	26	10	2	2	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	164				
Vandalism repair/reports		2.03	001			0	0		2	0	1	0.5	4	3.5	2	1.5	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13			
Grounds Maintenance/ Landscaping																																	
Floral bed change/planting						0	0		0	0	2	68		52		4	10	30	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	134				
Tree planting/removal						0	0		0	0	2	42		3	2	2	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87				
Shrubs -planting/removal						0	0		0	0	0	140		8	0	50	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	268				
Weeding/Weed control						0	0		0	16	36	52		53		53		56		20		0		0		0		339					
Ditches						0	0		0	2	4	102		4	2	2	52	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	218				
Tree trimming						0	0		0	2	3	74		37		28	10	42	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	228				
Shrubs -maintenance						0	0		2	0	0	20		14		14	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66				
Turf minor maintenance		1.01	501			0	0		0	0	27	9		25		5	25	5	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	121				
Leaf removal						0	0		0	0	0	232		20		0	80	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	432					
Fertilize						0	0		0	0	0	50		0		18	4	18	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	122					
Aerate/Thatch						0	0		0	0	4	47		4		39	36	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	145					
Topdress/Overseed						0	0		0	0	4	78		6		70	68	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	240					
Irrigation maintenance		5.01	601			0	0		0	0	11	90		18		19	14	34	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224					
Irrigation activate/deactivate						0	0		0	5	11	176		0		0	0	85	107	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	384					
Mow--24" hand mowing						0	0		0	0	36	76		36		36	36	76	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	328					
Mow--72" mowing						0	0		0	0	58	58		66		66	66	62	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	432					
Mow--Flail mowing						0	0		0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Edge		1.01	301			0	0		0	0	1	13		1		13	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38					
Trim-weed eater, & Blow		1.01	301			0	0		0	0	0	122		106		106		106		106		106		101		0	0	0	753				
Craft Tasks																																	
Carpentry						0	12		12	12	16	16		16		16	16	16	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	164					
Painting						0	0		0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Plumbing						0	0		0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Electrical						0	0		0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Other Tasks																																	
Beach						0	2		2	18	26	50		26		26	26	26	26	26	26	57	32	33	324								
Horse Arena						0	30		30	30	0	16		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	166								
Dock maintenance						0	40		40	40	32	52		52		52	52	48	4	40	40	40	40	492									
Roof maintenance						0	4		4	4	8	56		8		8	8	8	4	48	0	160											
Ice/Snow removal						0	102.5		102.5	102.5	0	0		0		0	0	0	4	94.5	102.5	509											
Storm Clean-up						0	197.5		197.5	197.5	0	0		0		0	0	0	197.5	181.5	972												
Hauling/Transporting materials						0	32		32	0	4	0		0		4	0	0	4	32	32	140											
Equipment Maintenance/fuel		1.06	107			0	0		0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Graffiti City Wide-not in parks		3.01	002			0	0		0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Recreation Program Support		3.01	108			0	0		0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Special Event Support		3.01	111			0	40		0	0	40	16		88		201	33	89	41	0	80	628											
Other department support		3																															

employees needed full-time 10.82

³⁰ Provided by Town of Mammoth Lakes staff December 2007

APPENDIX 10: REPORT ON THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Introduction

The Town of Mammoth Lakes conducted a survey during March 2007 to evaluate usage of and needs for parks and recreation facilities and programs. This survey was one of several avenues available for public input on community needs for future development and programming of parks and recreation facilities. Residents of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake, and Crowley Lake were invited to participate in the survey, as were second homeowners. The results of the survey have contributed to recommendations and implementation strategies presented in the Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Methods

The survey was designed to gather information in four general areas:

- Demographics
- Awareness of facilities and programs
- Use of facilities and participation in programs
- Needs for future facilities and programming

The *2007 Parks and Recreation Facility Needs Assessment Survey* was distributed in several ways to reach the target respondent group:

- Post Office Box inserts
 - 5,000 PO Box holders in Mammoth Lakes and Crowley Lake
 - 450 PO Box holders in June Lake
- 1,000 survey inserts (translated into Spanish) in *El Sol Del La Sierra*, the local Spanish language newspaper
- Available for pick-up from Town offices and the Tourism and Recreation office, and for pdf download from the Town's website
- 6,490 postcard mailings to second homeowners, to request their participation in an online version of the survey administered by Leisure Trends Group

In all, 12,940 surveys were distributed by March 2, 2007. Awareness of the survey also was broadcast by press releases to local media, the Town's Friday updates and Stu's News, announcement at public meetings and through local organizations, and by word of mouth communication. Respondents were asked to complete online surveys or return paper surveys (to several drop-box locations throughout Mammoth Lakes, plus locations in Crowley Lake and June Lake) by March 14, 2007. A copy of the actual survey is presented at the end of this report. Results from paper surveys were input into the online survey tool by Town staff, to consolidate results of paper and online surveys. Complete tabulated survey data were downloaded via the Leisure Trends online survey portal for analysis. Demographic-related crosstabs of survey data also were generated and downloaded.

In addition to the initial survey distribution described above, a "second wave" of surveys was distributed to families through local schools, to ensure participation of those who might have been underrepresented in the initial round. A total of 1,200 was distributed March 23, 2007 (60% in English and 40% in Spanish), and returned by April 6, 2007. Some of these additional

results are presented in this summary as well, although the numbers have not been combined with the original survey results. Instead, the “second wave” survey results are treated as additional public comment (similar to that received in public meetings).

Results

Of the 12,940 surveys distributed, 580 surveys were completed, for a response rate of 4.5%. Of the 1,200 “second wave” surveys distributed through the schools, 90 were completed, for a response rate of 7.5%. It is important to note that individual questions had varying response rates; i.e., some questions received more marked responses than other questions. Results of the survey are described below.

Demographics

Question 1 asked respondents where they lived. The majority (79.3%) of respondents live in Mammoth Lakes. A more detailed break-down of specific areas where respondents live is shown in Figure 1. Of those who indicated where they live outside of Mammoth Lakes, 42.9% reside in Crowley Lake and Sunny Slopes, 10.7% live in June Lake, and 8.9% live in the vicinity of Swall Meadows and Bishop. The remaining respondents not living in Mammoth Lakes reside in other Mono County communities as well as California cities beyond.

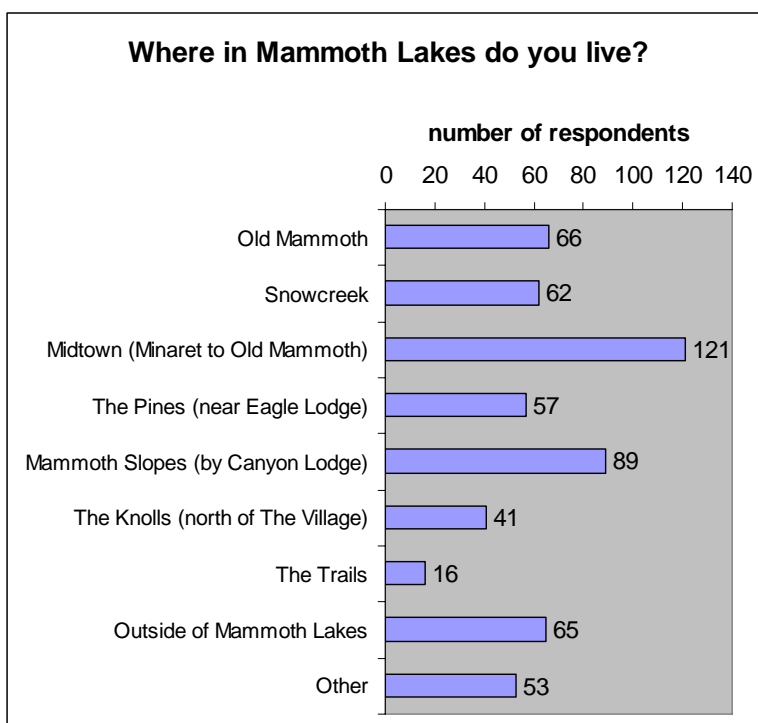


Figure 1—Detailed response tabulation indicating where respondents live

The survey asked two questions related to ages in the household. The age class distribution of heads of each household is shown in Figure 2. The frequencies of different age classes of respondents' household members are indicated in Figure 3. Not surprisingly, household heads tend to be in older age classes. Within each household, there tend to be few people in each age class.

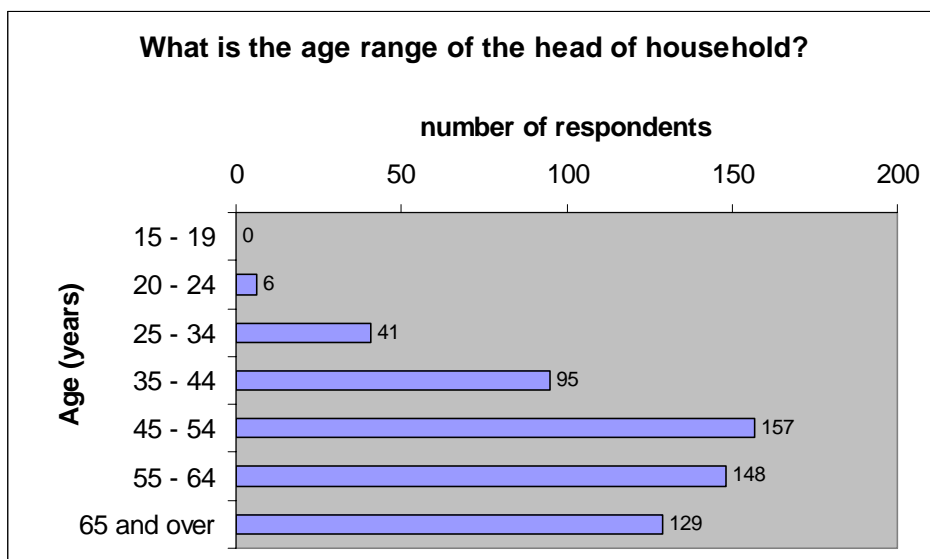


Figure 2—Age of respondents' head of household

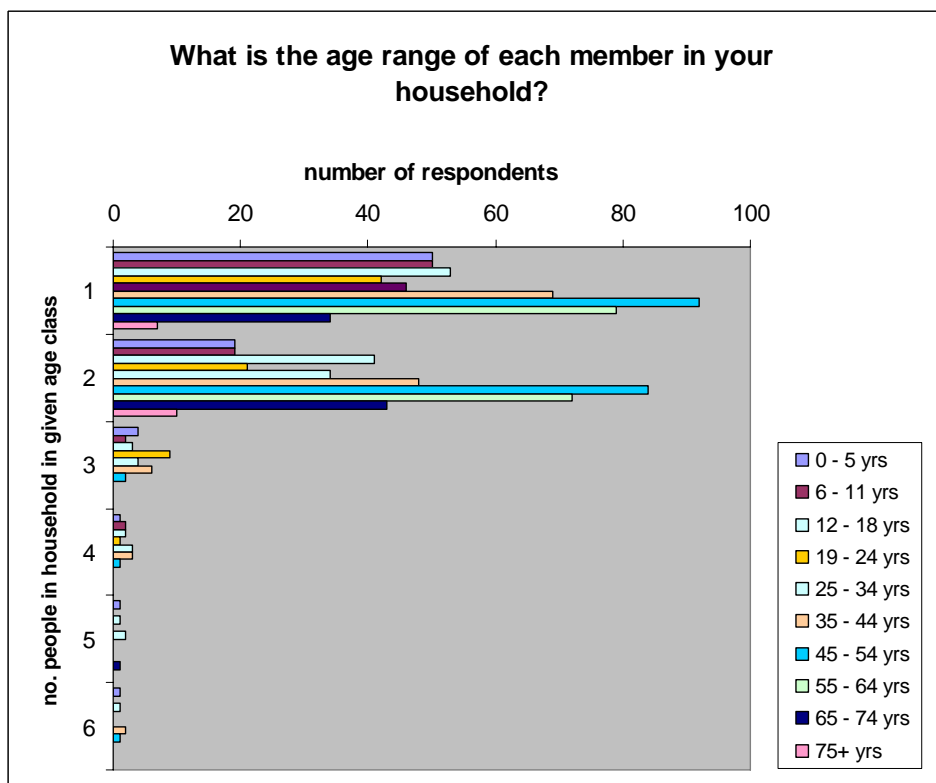


Figure 3—Age ranges within each respondent's household

For the demographic question asking about respondents' gender, Figure 4 shows that the number of male and female respondents is roughly equal. In terms of race, the results shown in Figure 5 indicate that the vast majority of survey respondents are white/Caucasian. This result is not consistent with other Mammoth Lakes demographic reports; most notable is the low representation (1.1%) of Hispanic/Mexican American individuals in the survey, compared with the 2006 estimate of the Mammoth Lakes population comprising approximately 28.2% Latino/Hispanic individuals.¹

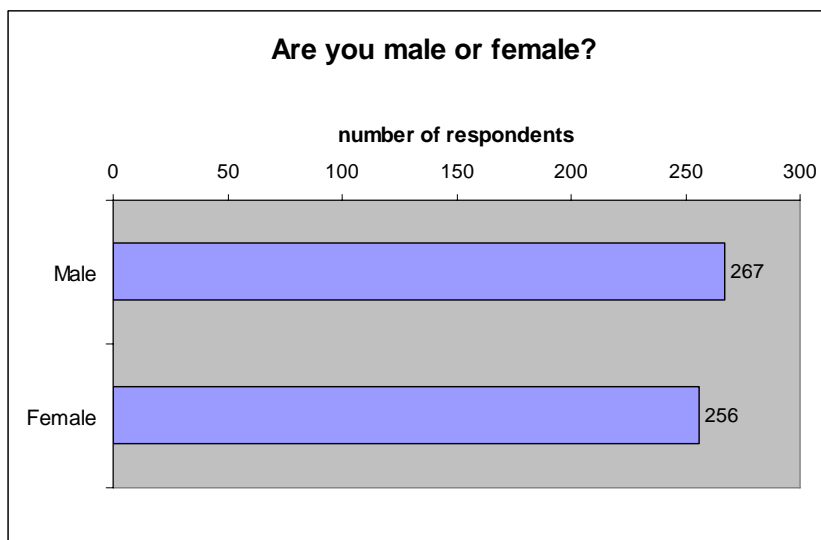


Figure 4—Gender of survey respondents

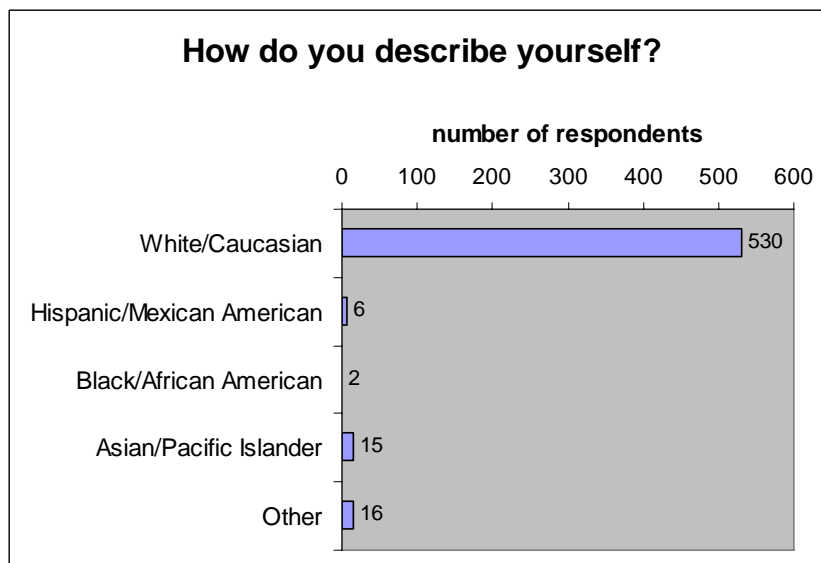


Figure 5—Race of survey respondents

¹ TOML population estimates for 2006 are provided in *Report to The Town of Mammoth Lakes*, by the UCSB Economic Forecast Project (Susan Dalluddung, Terri Swartz, and Bill Watkins), with assistance from Dan Hamilton and Mike Smith (produced in 2006).
Town of Mammoth Lakes

When asked about their household gross income, the majority (about 78%) of survey respondents reported an annual gross income of \$60,000 or more for their household. More detailed results are shown in Figure 6.

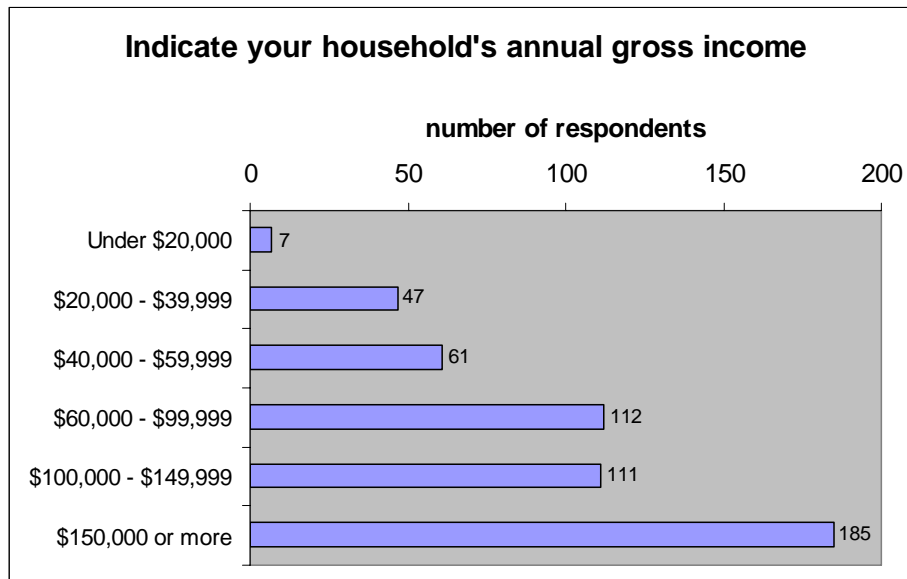


Figure 6—Respondents' annual household gross income

In terms of residency, about half (51.4%) of respondents claim they are permanent residents of Mammoth Lakes. Another 45.6% of respondents indicate that they are not permanent residents, but are instead second homeowners. The remaining respondents live elsewhere in Mono County. Figure 7 shows these results, including residency time for Mammoth Lakes' residents.

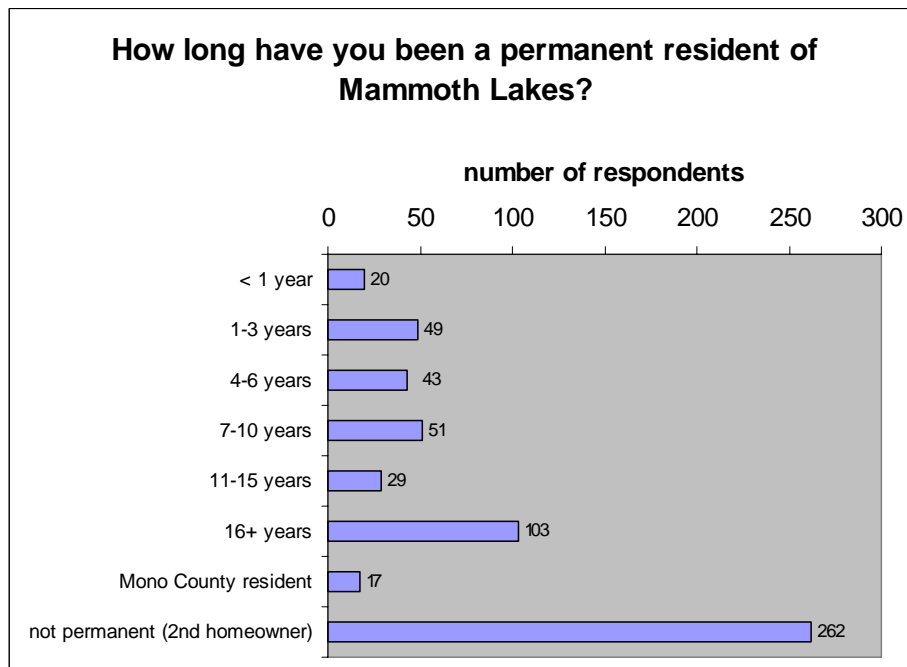


Figure 7—Residency of respondents in Mammoth Lakes and elsewhere

For those respondents who own a second home in Mammoth Lakes, the survey asked about the frequency and duration of their visits to the Town. About half of these respondents visit at least nine times per year, as shown in Figure 8. Figure 9 shows the duration of second-homeowner visits, with the majority of respondents staying five nights or less per visit.

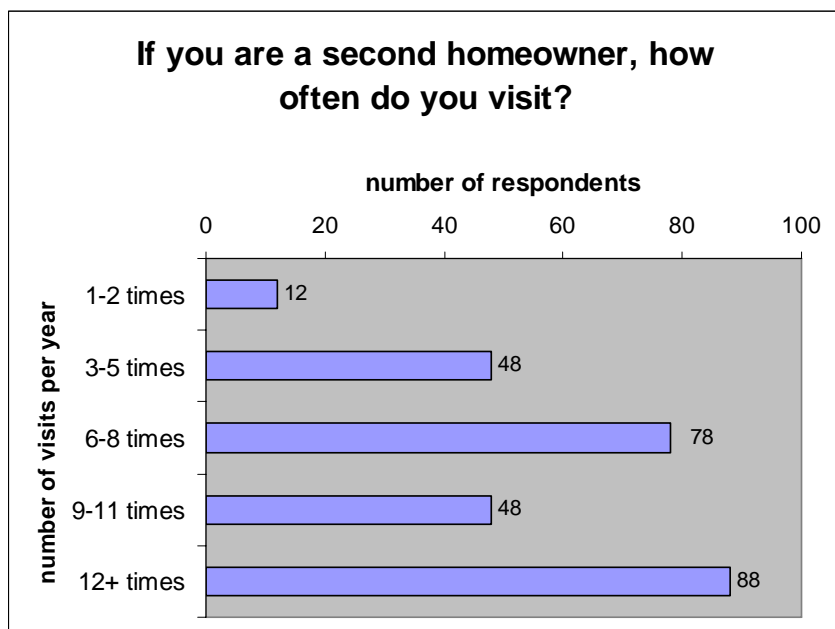


Figure 8—Frequency of second-homeowner visits to Mammoth Lakes.

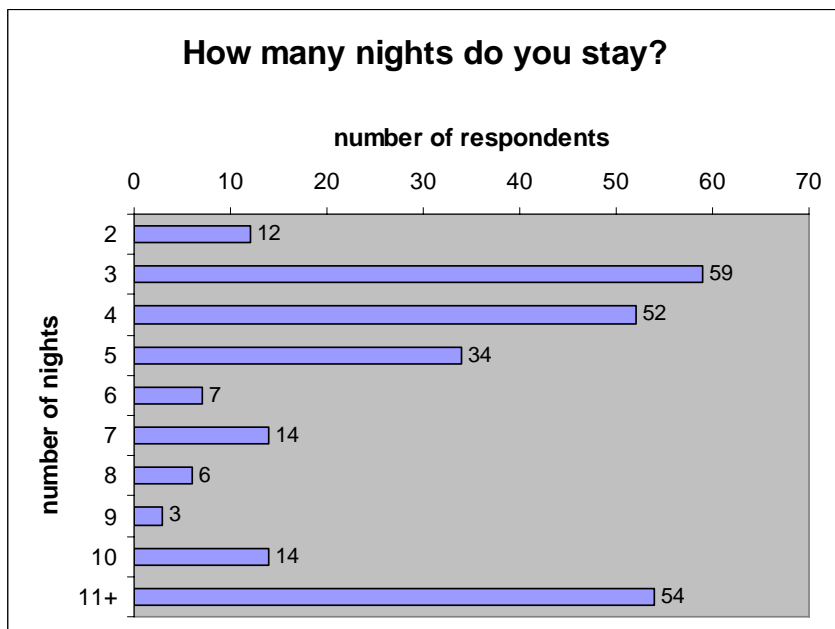


Figure 9—Duration of visits by second homeowners in Mammoth Lakes

Awareness and Information

The 2007 *Parks and Recreation Facility Needs Assessment Survey* asked respondents where they obtain information about facilities and programs related to parks and recreation in Mammoth Lakes. People get this information from a broad range of sources; the top three sources of this information are newspapers, the Internet, and friends/families/neighbors. More detailed responses are indicated in Figure 10. Some of the “other” information sources include mailings and brochures, as well as the Town’s Tourism and Recreation Department.

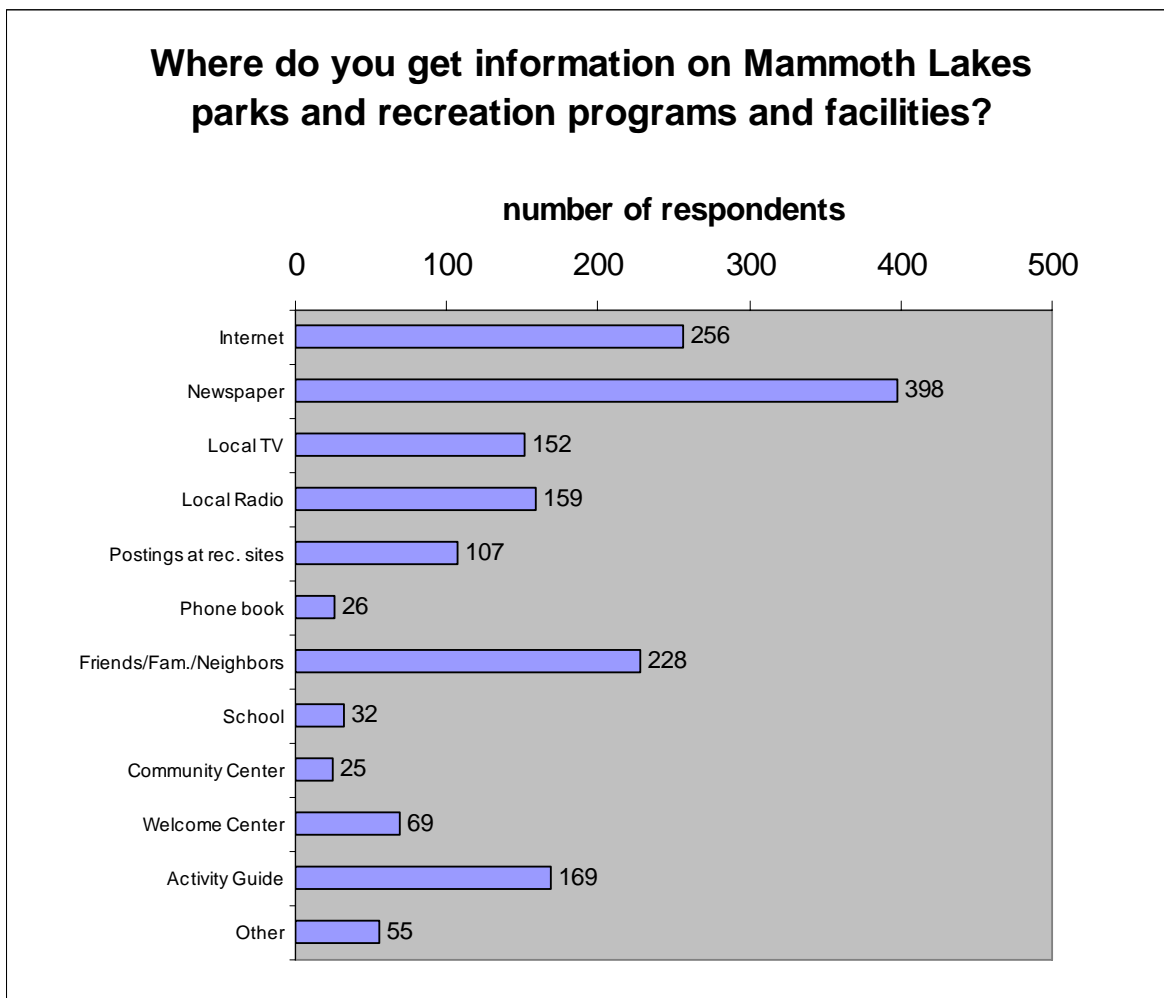


Figure 10—Major sources of information for Mammoth Lakes parks and recreation

When asked what recreation-related benefits they find especially important, survey respondents by far indicated that the prime benefits they sought were physical fitness, health, and well-being. Figure 11 shows how the different benefits compare.

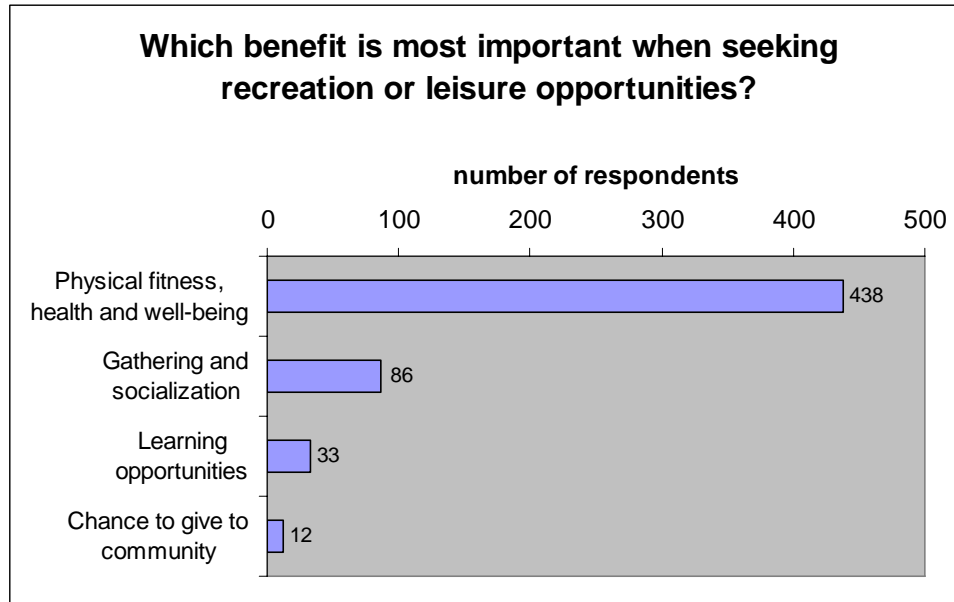


Figure 11—Benefits considered by respondents when seeking recreation opportunities

Participation and Usage

An important purpose of this survey was to gather input on use of existing parks and recreation facilities and programs by respondents. Respondents first were asked about the frequency with which members of their household used the Town's parks and recreation facilities in the last year. Figure 12 shows that almost half (46.4%) of respondents use these facilities at least once per month.



Figure 12—Frequency of use of TOML parks and recreation facilities

For those respondents who did not use any of the Town's parks or recreation facilities, they were given the chance to indicate why they did not use the facilities. As depicted in Figure 13, the top single response cited was "no need or interest," followed by "do not have time." Many respondents who did not use the Town's parks and recreation facilities presented other explanations in addition to the choices offered in the questionnaire. Of these "others," one-third indicated that respondents did not use the facilities because they were unaware or uninformed about what is available; and over one-fourth (26.7%) reported that they do not use the Town's facilities because they take advantage of recreation opportunities in the public lands surrounding Mammoth Lakes.

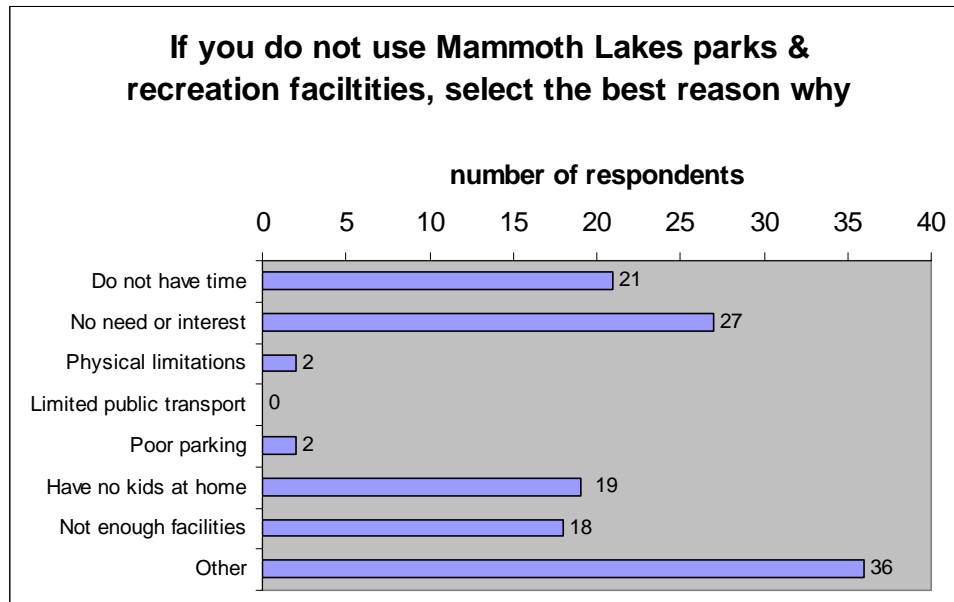


Figure 13—Reasons for respondents' non-use of TOML parks and recreation facilities

When asked more specifically about use of Town parks and recreation facilities, it is clear that all facilities are used by members of respondents' households. Figure 14 shows usage details of TOML parks and recreation facilities, including the use of amenities associated with each facility. In general, Shady Rest Park is most frequently used, and Whitmore Park (the most distant facility) is least frequently used; the order for frequency-of-use of all Town-operated facilities is:

1. Shady Rest Park
2. Mammoth Creek Park West
3. Trails End Park
4. Mammoth Creek Park East
5. Community Center and Community Center Park
6. Whitmore Park

Which TOML parks or recreation facilities did your household use in the last year?

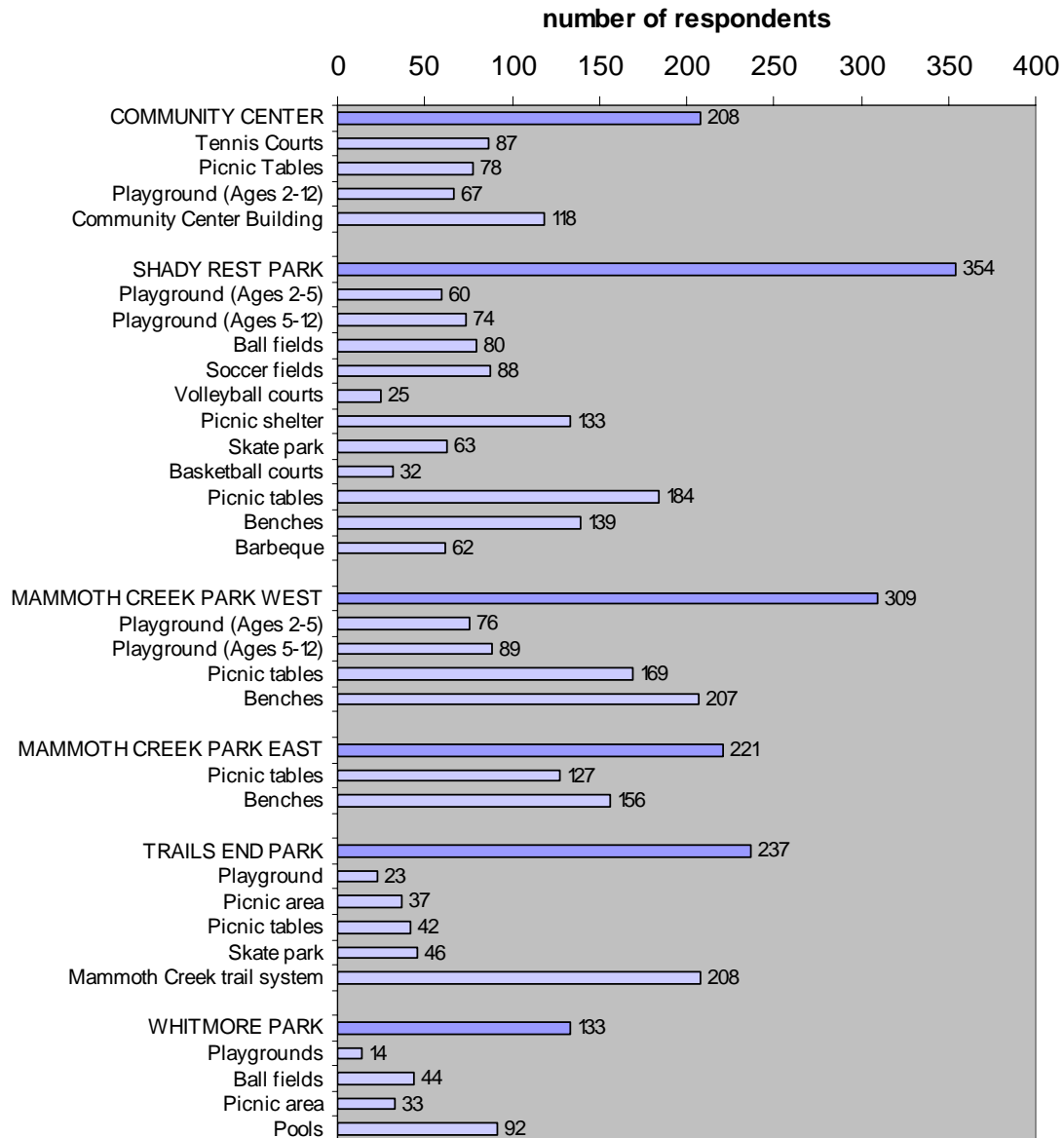


Figure 14—Frequency of use of Mammoth Lakes' public parks and recreation facilities

Of interest is the extent to which Mammoth Lakes' public park facilities are used by year-round residents and second homeowners. These data are shown in Figure 15, and show that the majority of public facility users are permanent residents, although it is clear that second homeowners are an important user group.

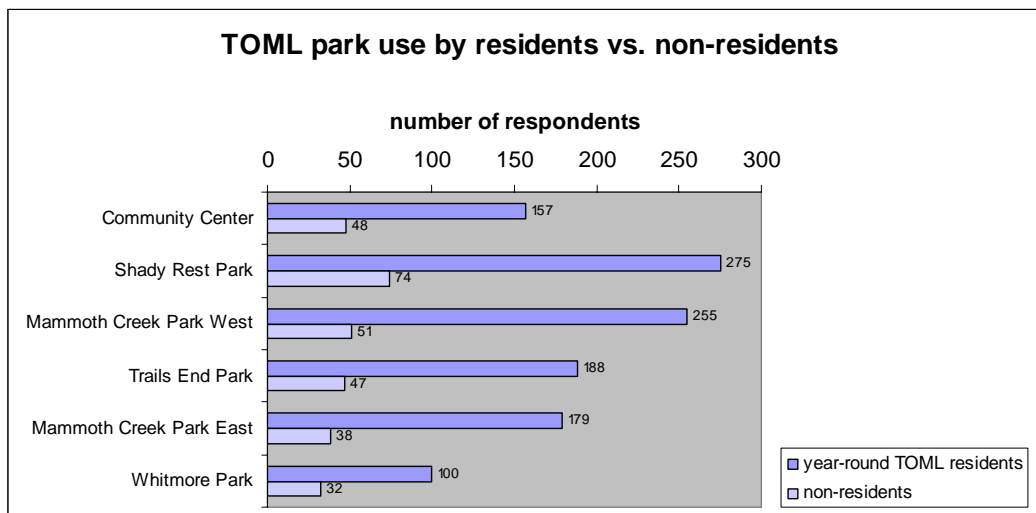


Figure 15—Frequency of use of Mammoth Lakes' public parks and recreation facilities

In addition to Town-operated parks and recreation facilities, the survey asked about usage of non-TOML facilities. A large number of respondents report use of Snowcreek Athletic Club, as shown in Figure 16. Of the 70 respondents who specified what "other" non-TOML recreation facilities they use, the following list shows the top five facilities:

1. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (22.8%)
2. Paved and unpaved trails within and beyond Mammoth Lakes (21.4%)
3. Tamarack Cross-Country Ski Area (11.4%)
4. Yoga and Pilates studios (11.4%)
5. Sierra Star and Snowcreek Golf Courses (4.3%)

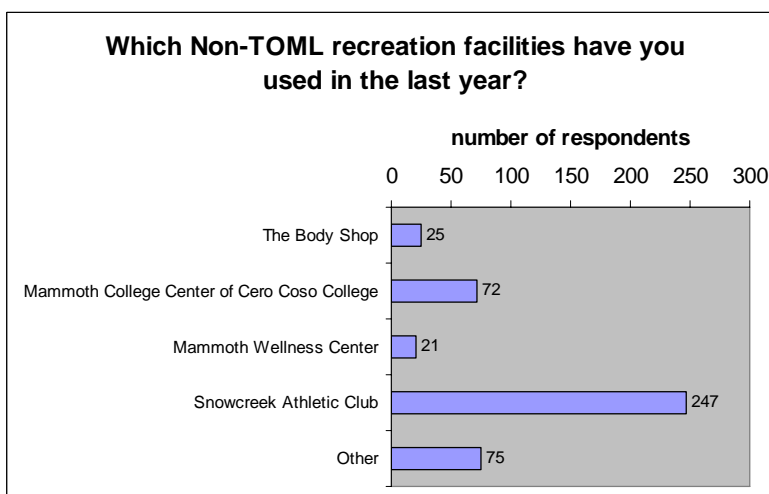


Figure 16—Frequency of use of non-TOML recreation facilities

The use of these non-TOML facilities was examined in greater detail. One area of interest is the relationship between income and use of these other facilities, as they (especially Snowcreek Athletic Club) may be less accessible to lower-income households. These data are presented in Figure 17, and show that Snowcreek Athletic Club tends to be used more frequently by more wealthy households, although those with lower incomes are also users of this facility. Another area of interest is the difference between year-round residents and second homeowners in their use of non-TOML facilities. As shown in Figure 18, permanent residents use these facilities more frequently than second homeowners. Moreover, the observed use by permanent residents is greater than would be expected (based on their percentage in the respondent pool), and the observed non-TOML facility use by second homeowners is lower than expected. This trend is especially pronounced for Snowcreek Athletic Club.

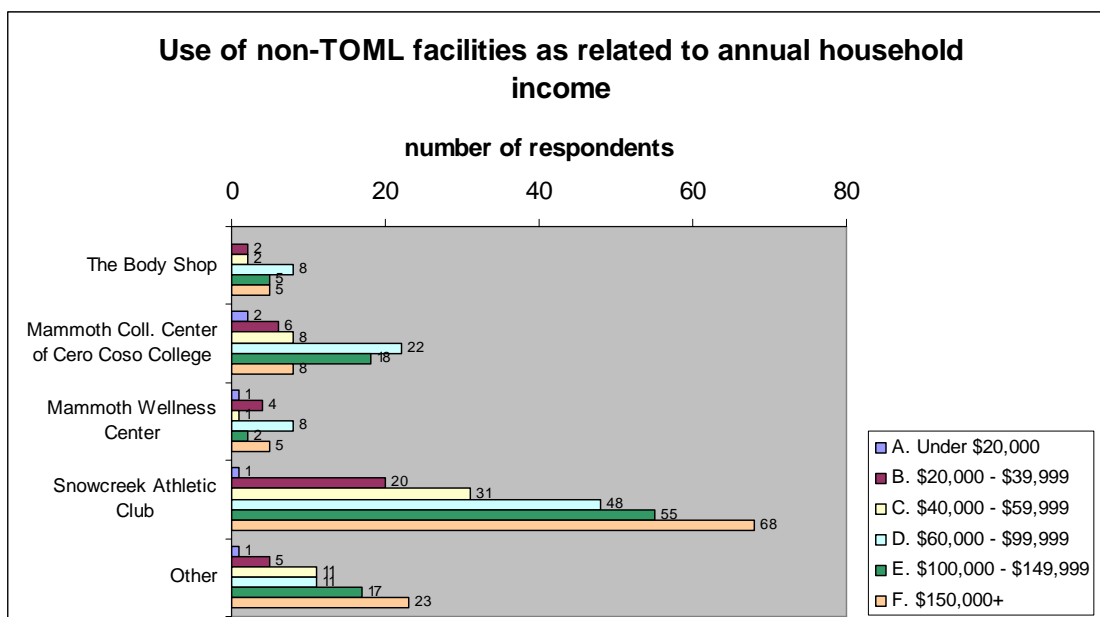


Figure 17—Use of non-TOML recreation facilities as a function of income

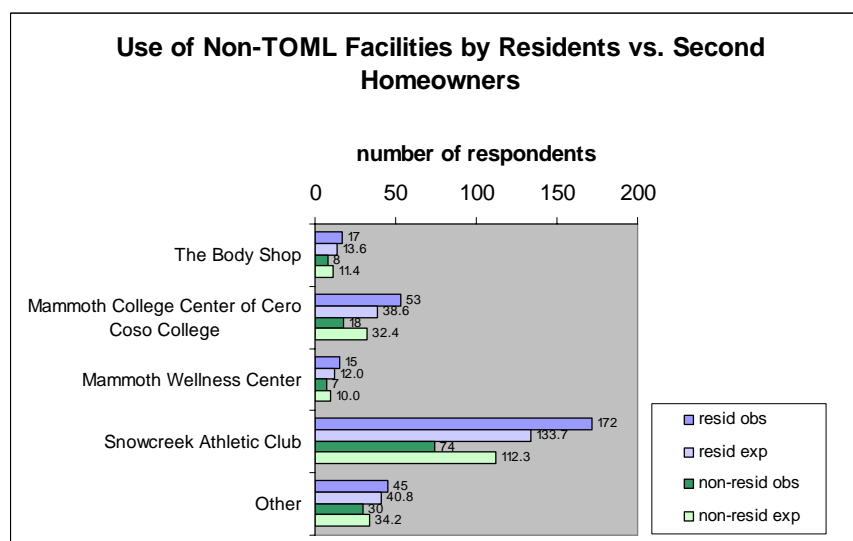


Figure 18—Use of non-TOML recreation facilities as a function of residency

Survey respondents were asked not only about how often members of their households used parks and recreation facilities, but they also were asked to indicate their level of participation in specific recreation activities. As shown in Figure 19a, the different recreation activities can generally be divided into three major categories:

1. Those associated with being in a park (more passive or unstructured use)
2. Informal athletic activities
3. Structured team sports activities

More passive park activities tend to have the greatest participation, while the least participation occurred in league sports activities. Of the more informal athletic activities, tennis and swimming had the greatest number of participating households. For league sports, the most frequent participation occurred in youth soccer and adult softball. For the “second wave” of people who responded to the school-distributed surveys, the results are similar, although there tends to be greater participation in playground use, swimming, and youth soccer league. These results are presented in Figure 19b.

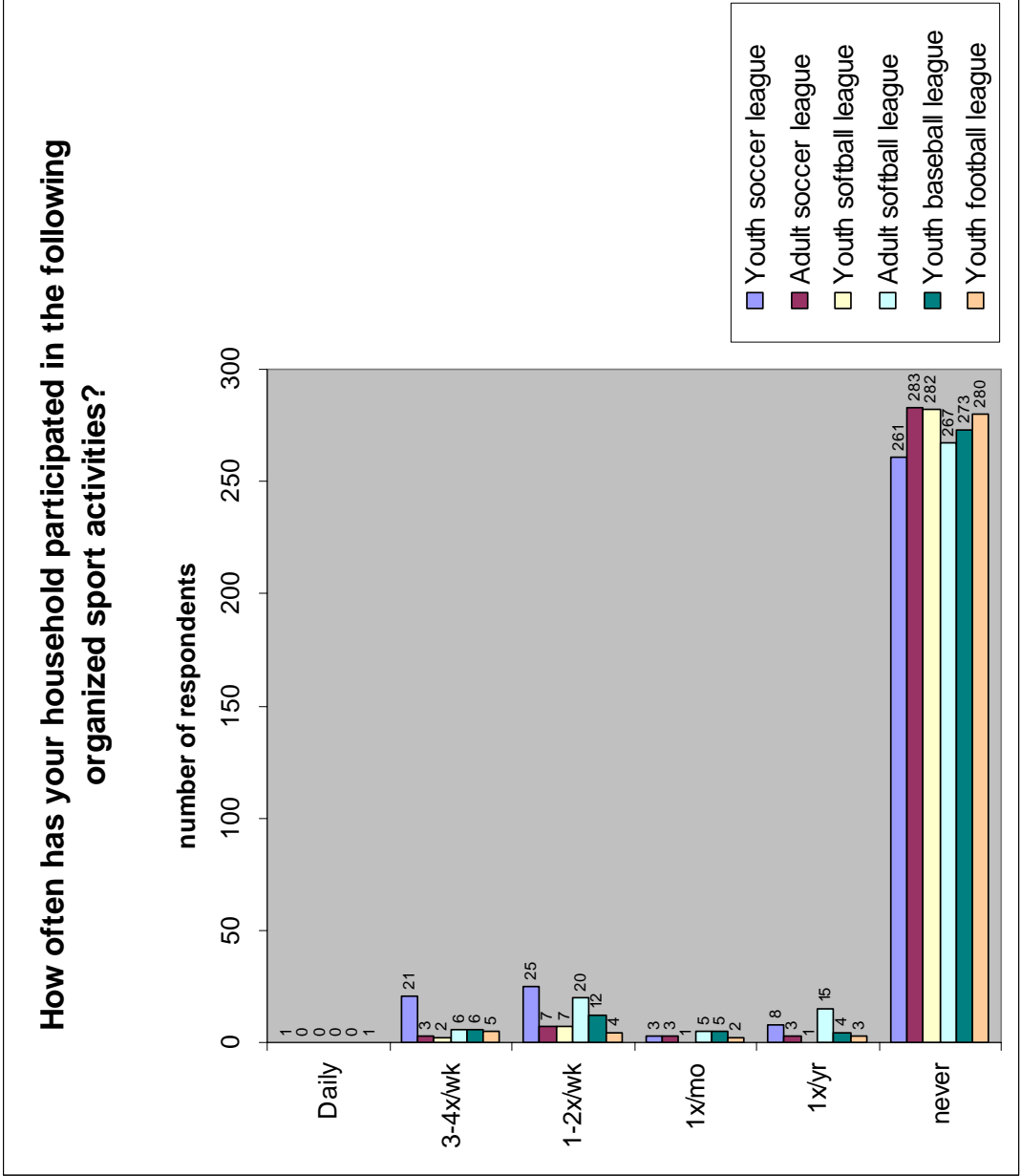
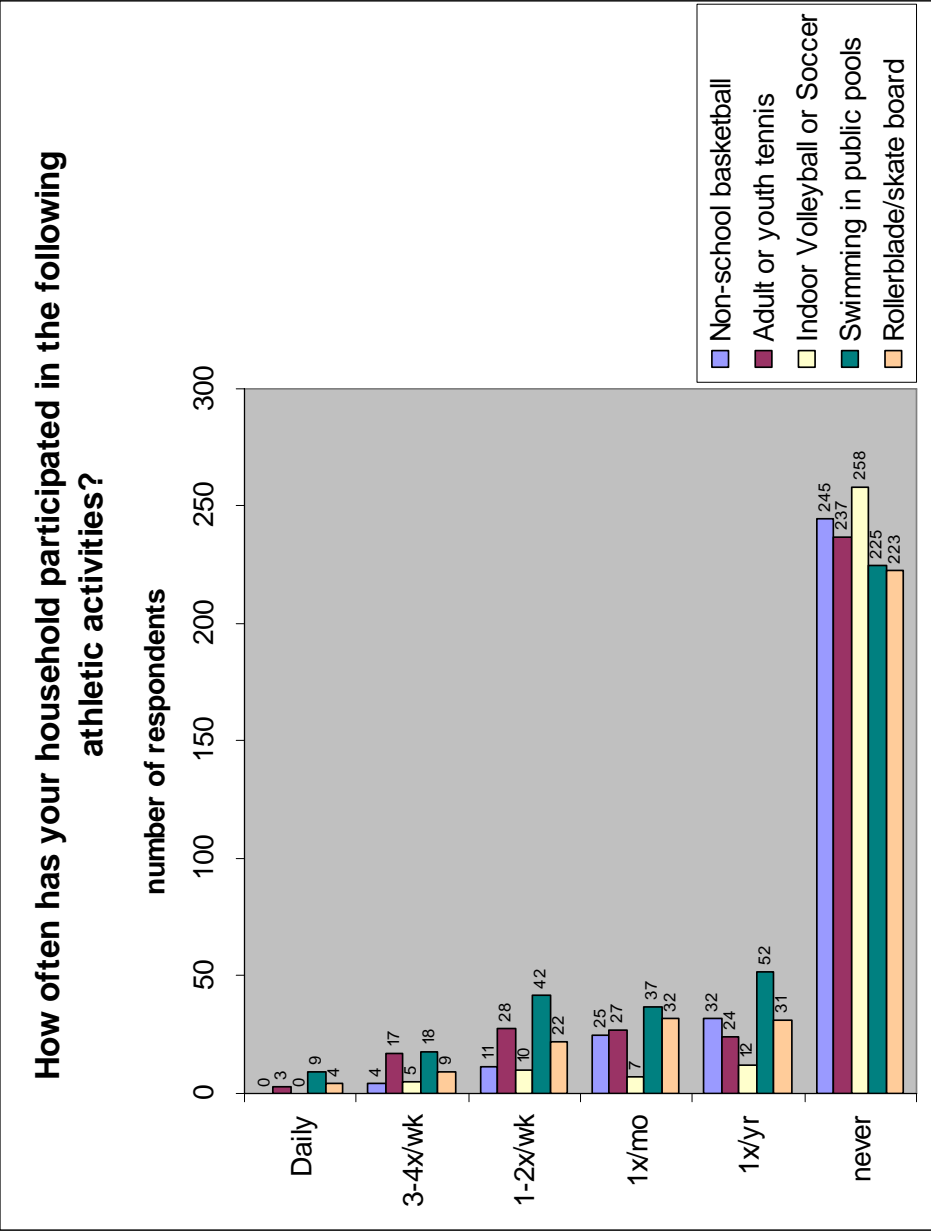
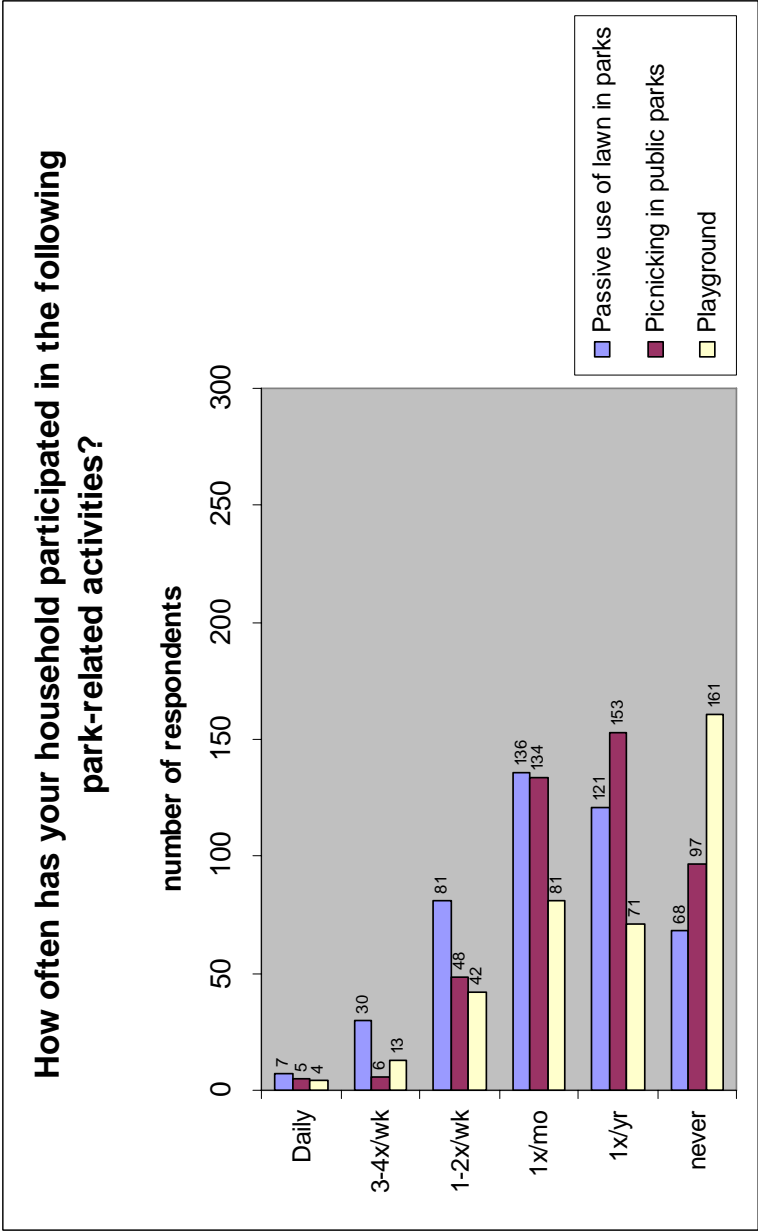


Figure 19a—Household participation in different recreation activities (from initial survey distribution)

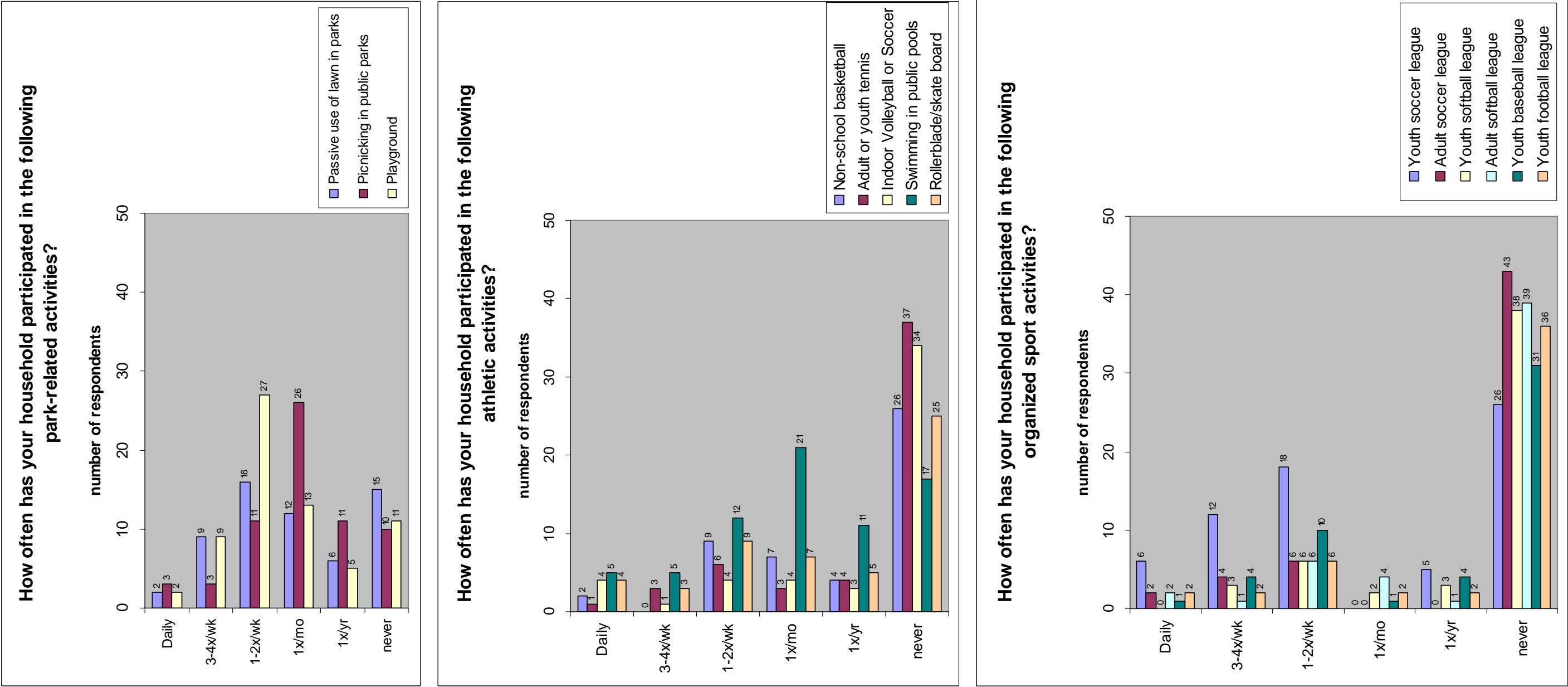


Figure 19b—Household participation (“second wave” results) in different recreation activities

Respondents were asked about household participation in indoor recreation programs or classes. Results are shown in Figure 20. There is great disparity in participation in recreation programs or classes: more than one-fifth of respondents participate at least once per week (23.5% for those under 18 years, 21.6% for those 18 years and older), while a substantial number do not participate (67.2% for those under 18 years, 60% for those 18 years and older).

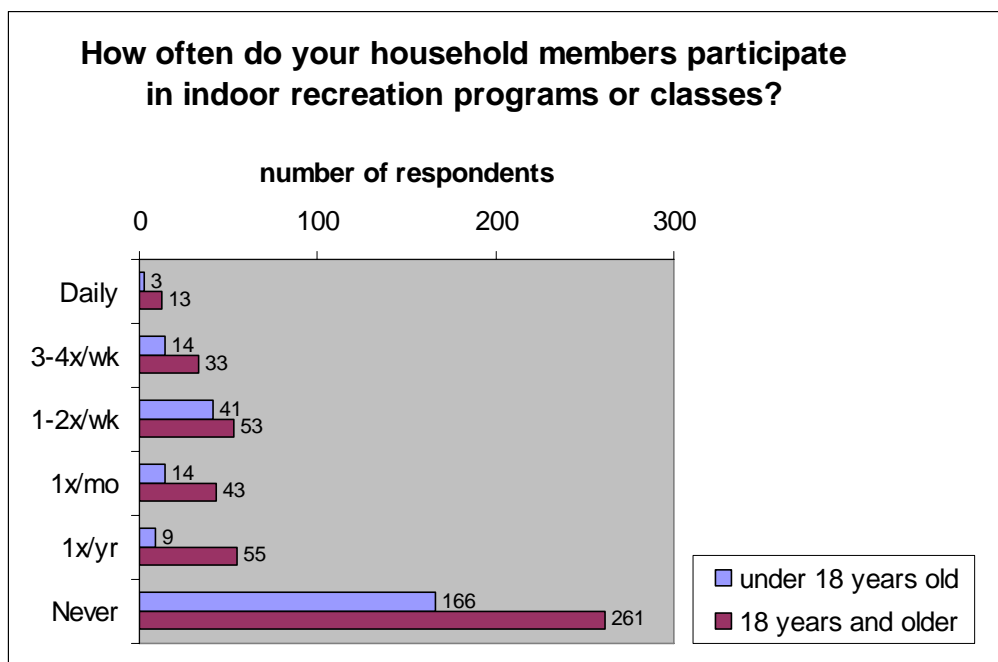


Figure 20—Participation in indoor recreation programs or classes

Programming and Facilities

Survey respondents were asked about their household needs for recreation facilities and programs, to help guide choices about development of future facilities and programming. Respondents were presented with a list of facilities and programs, and were asked to do the following with each listing:

- Indicate whether there is or is not a need for the given facility/program
- Indicate whether the facility/program is needed indoors, outdoors, or both
- Assign each facility/program with a priority ranking from 1 to 4, with 1 being highest priority for the facility/program, and 4 being the lowest priority

Results for this portion are shown in Figures 21 and 22. For comparison, results for facility and program needs and priority rankings from the “second wave” survey are shown in Figures 23 and 24. In addition, priority rankings by permanent residents versus second homeowners are shown in Figures 25 (for new facilities) and 26 (for programs).

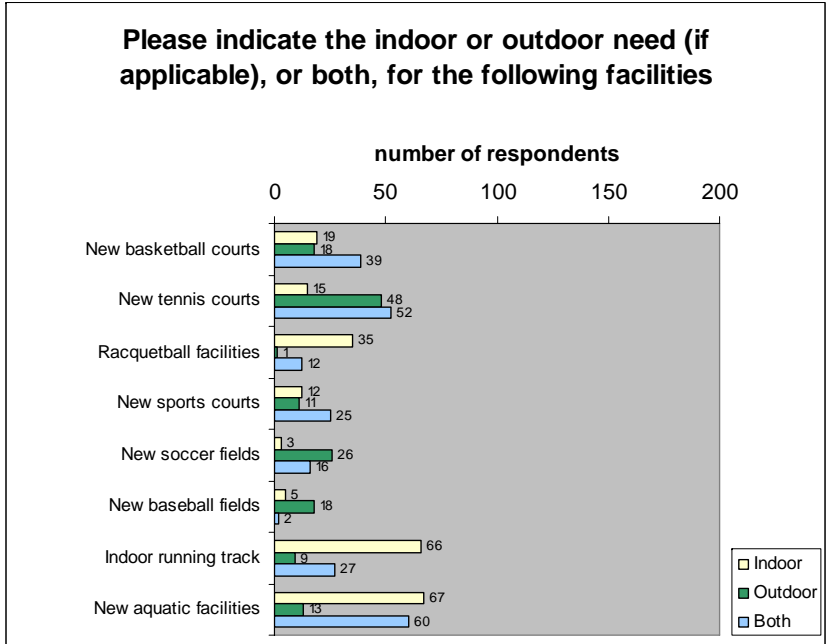
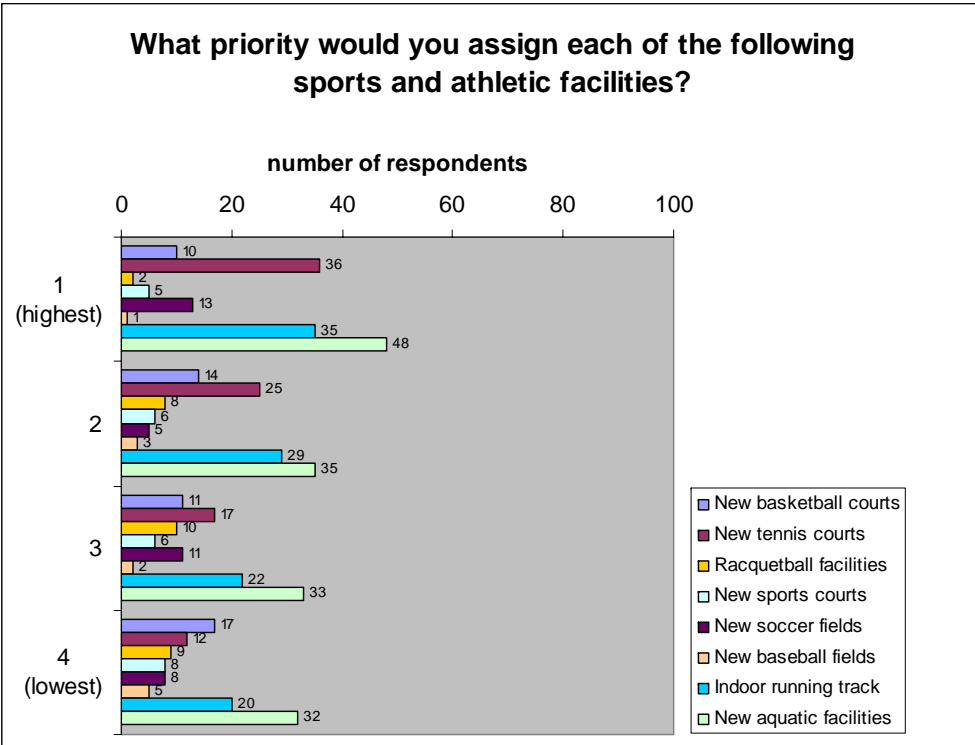
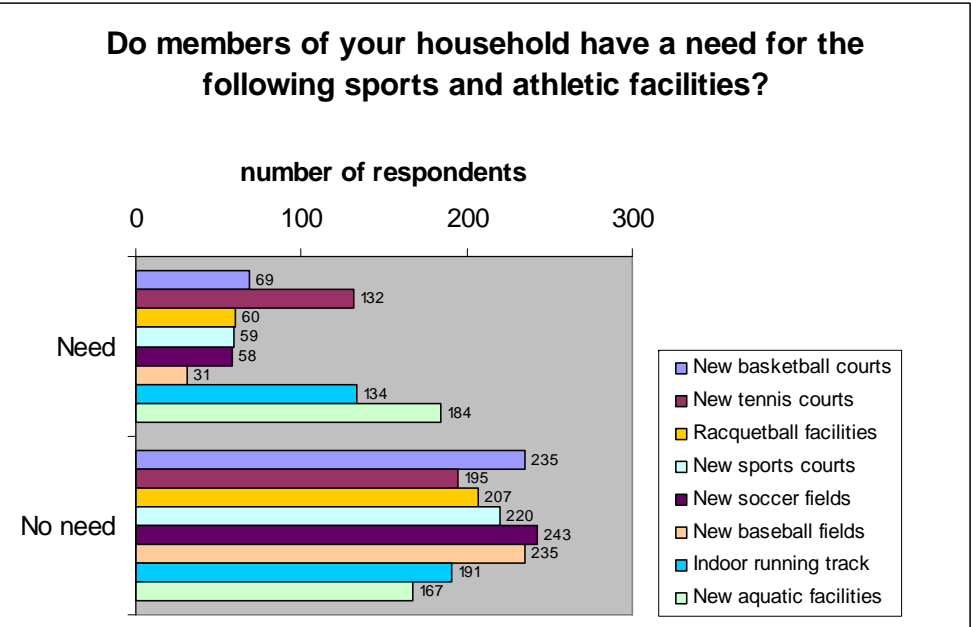
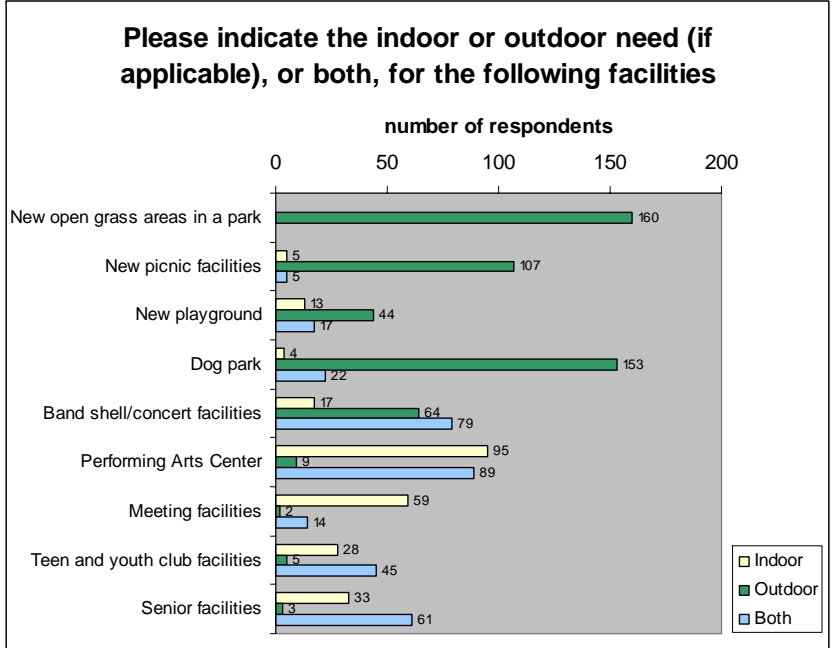
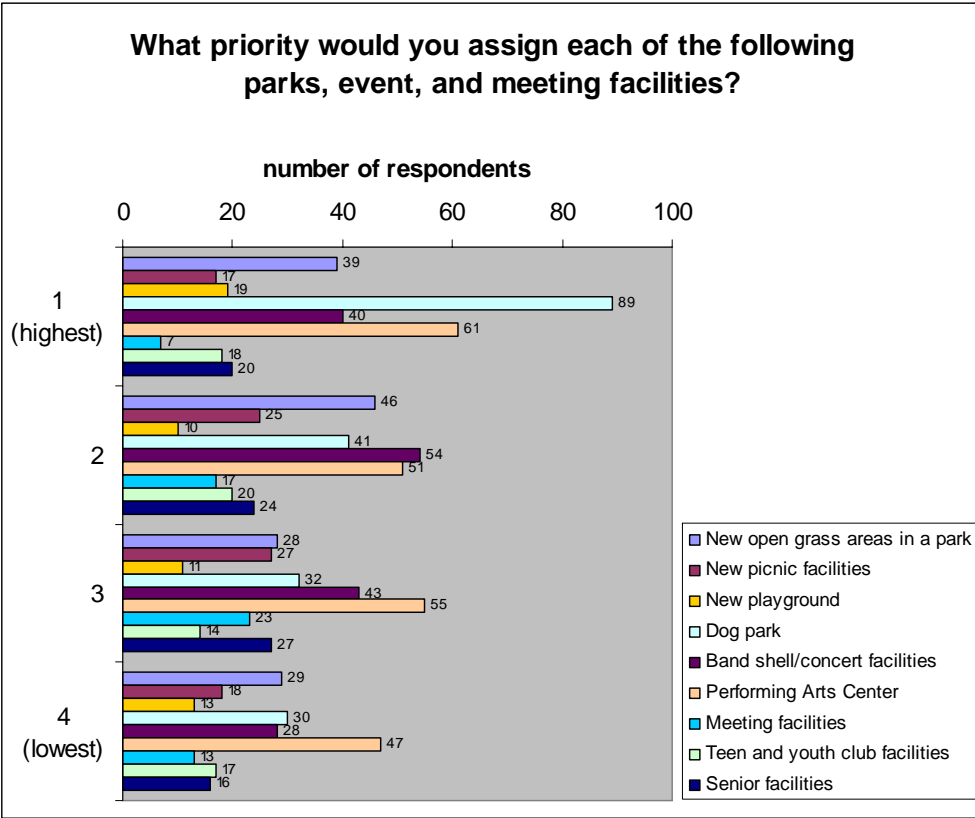
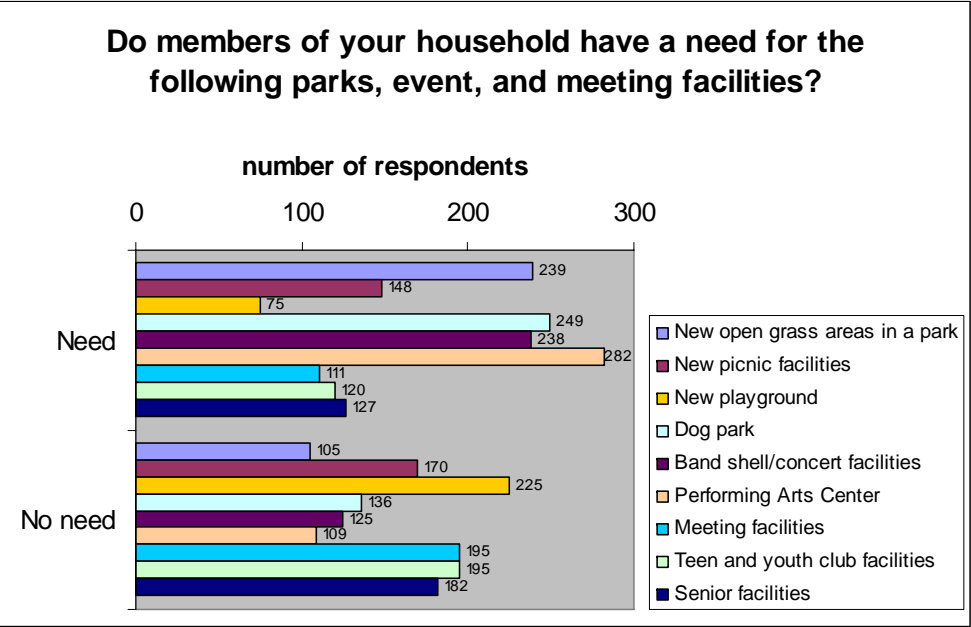


Figure 21a (above)—Respondents' needs for parks and recreation facilities

Figure 21b (above)—Priority rankings for parks and recreation facilities

Figure 21c (above)—Need for facilities located indoors, outdoors, or both

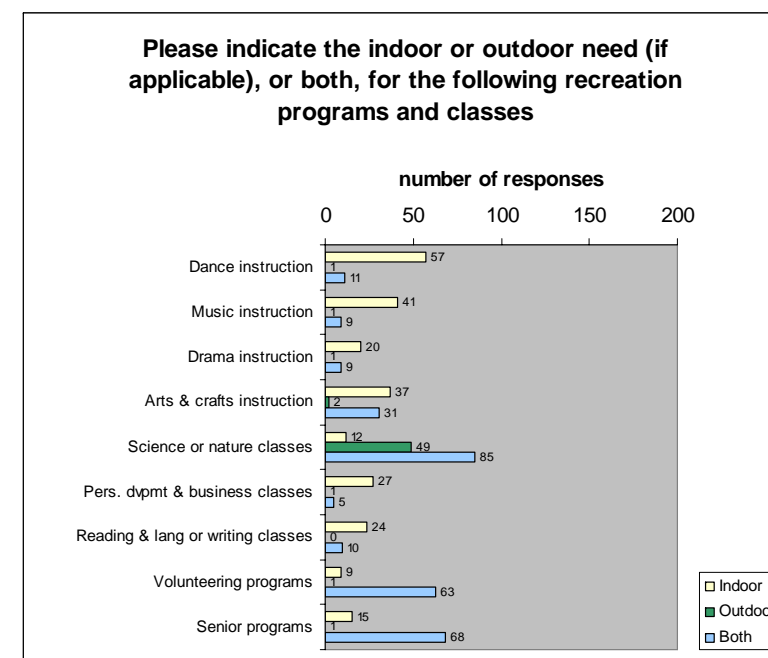
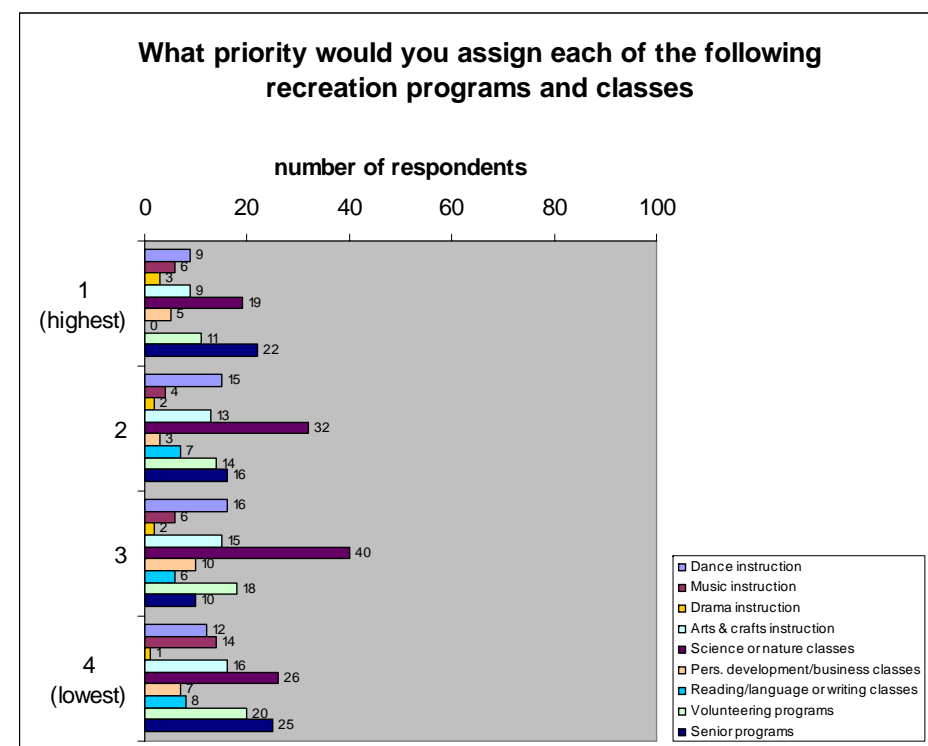
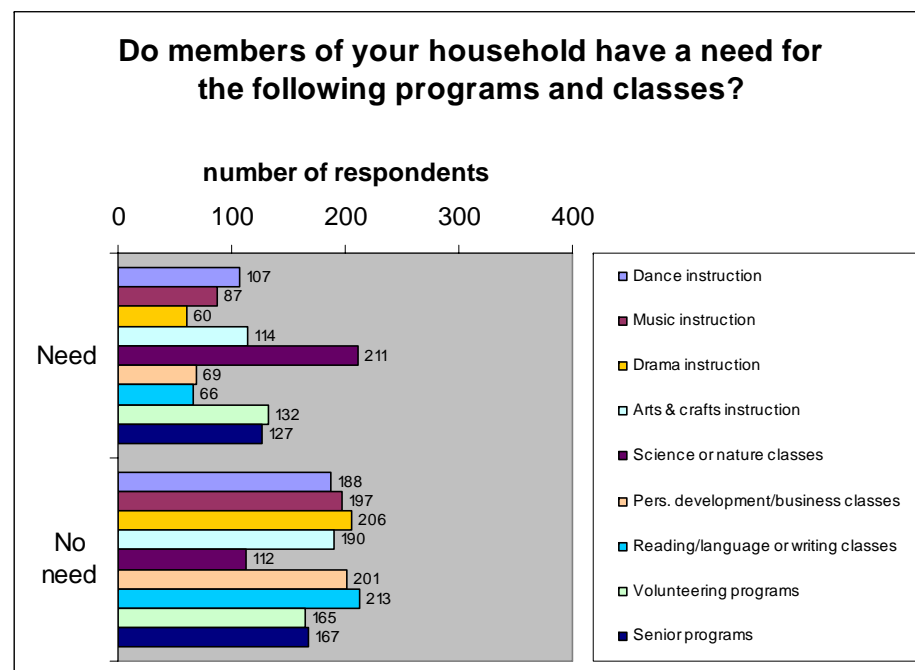
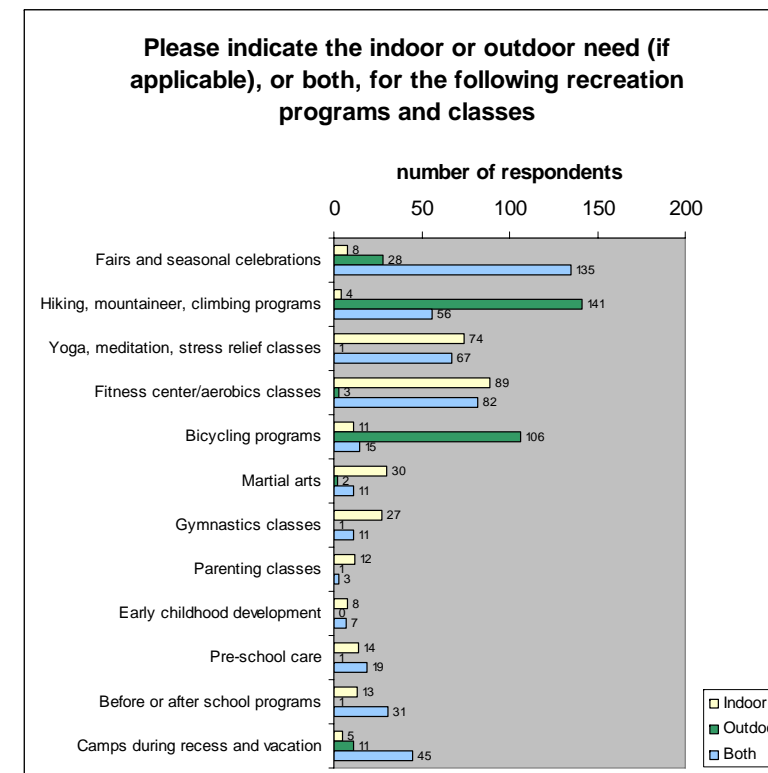
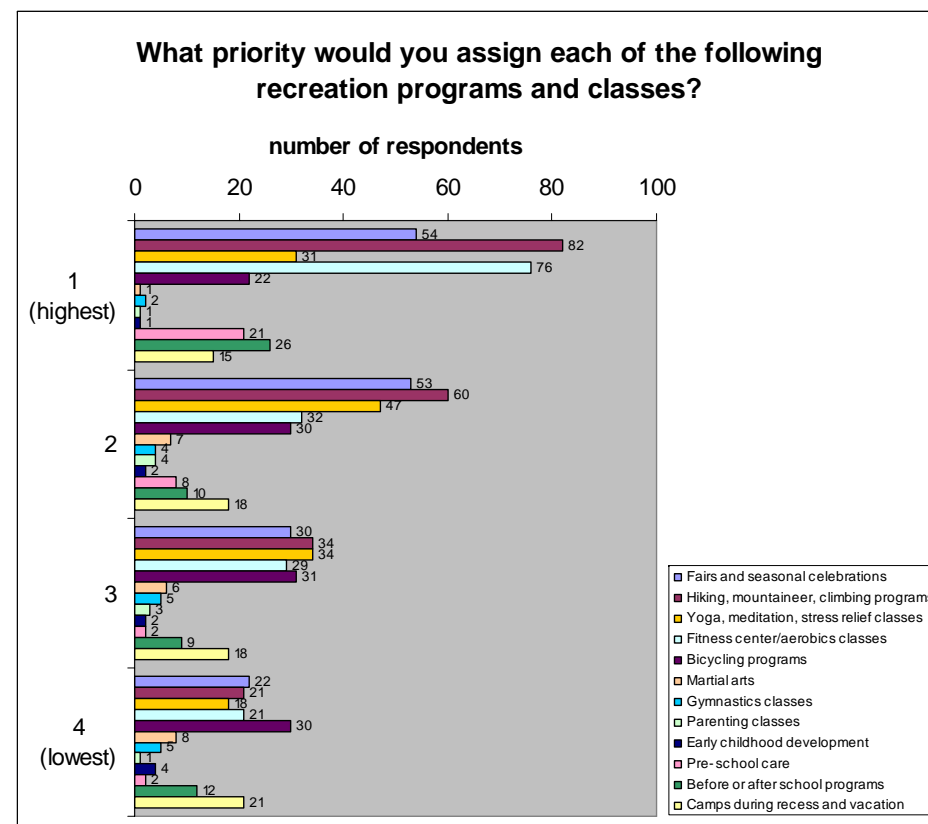
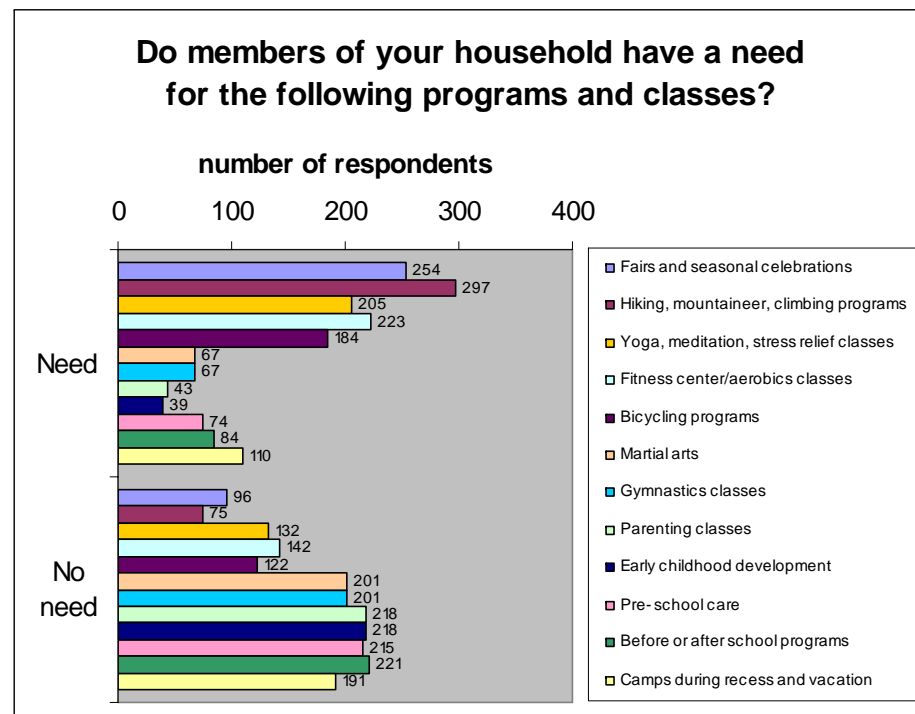


Figure 22a (above)—Respondents' needs for recreation programs & classes

Figure 22b (above)—Priority rankings for recreation programs & classes

Figure 22c (above)—Need for programs located indoors, outdoors, or both

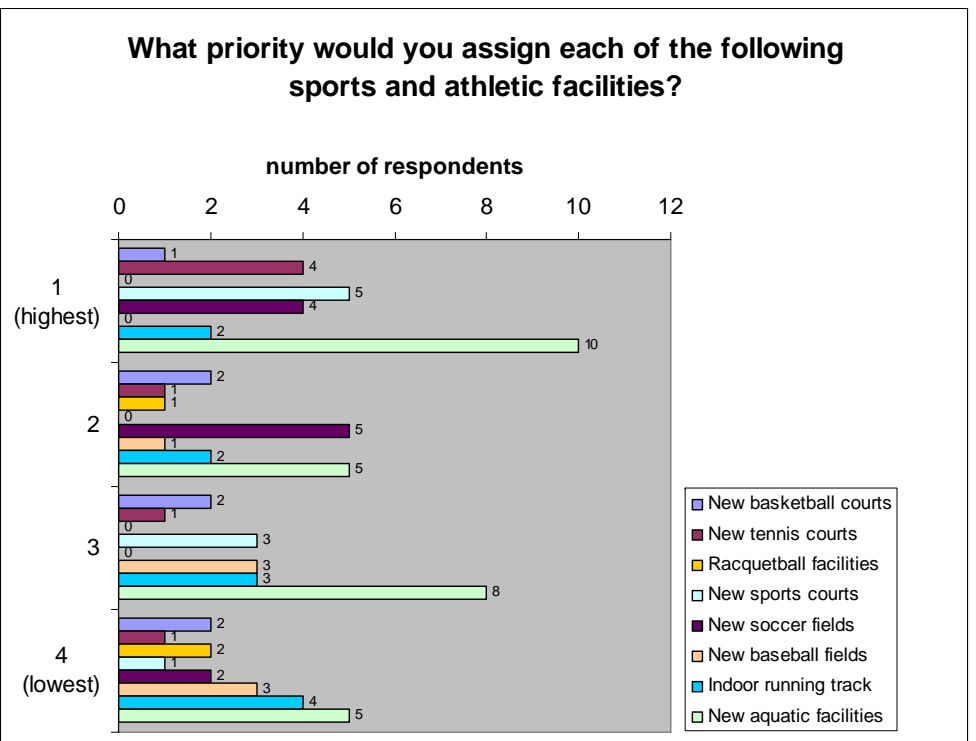
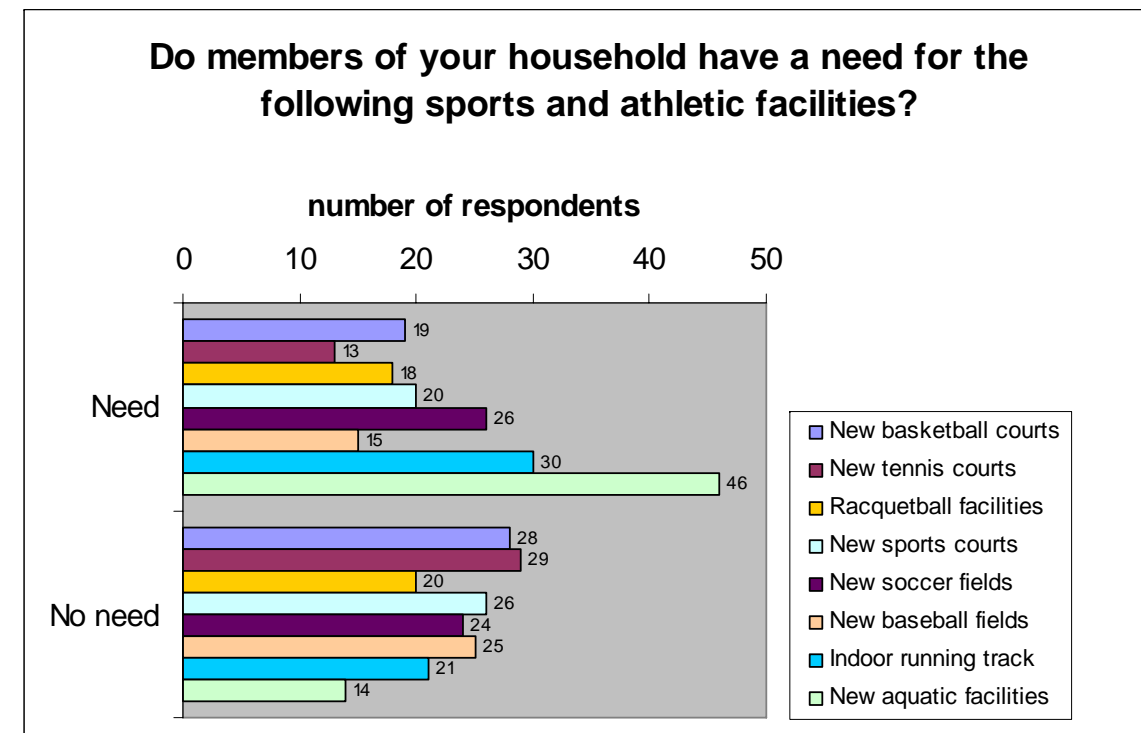
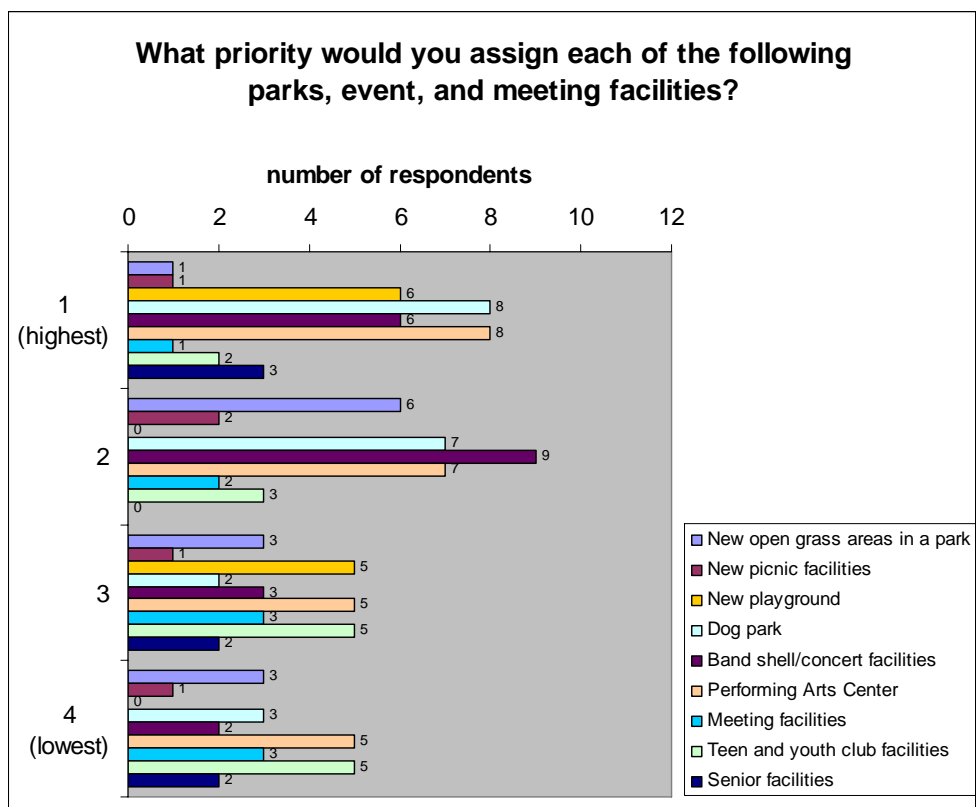
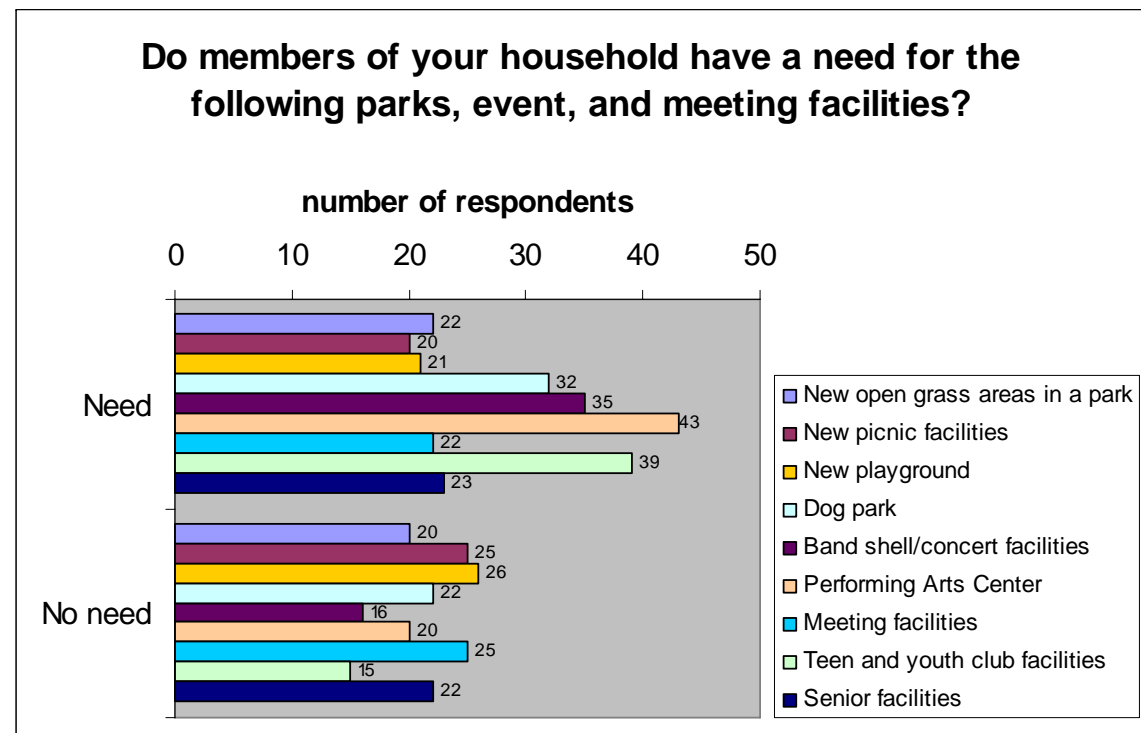


Figure 23a (above) —“Second wave” survey respondents’ needs for parks and recreation facilities

Figure 23b (above) — “Second wave” priority rankings for parks and recreation facilities

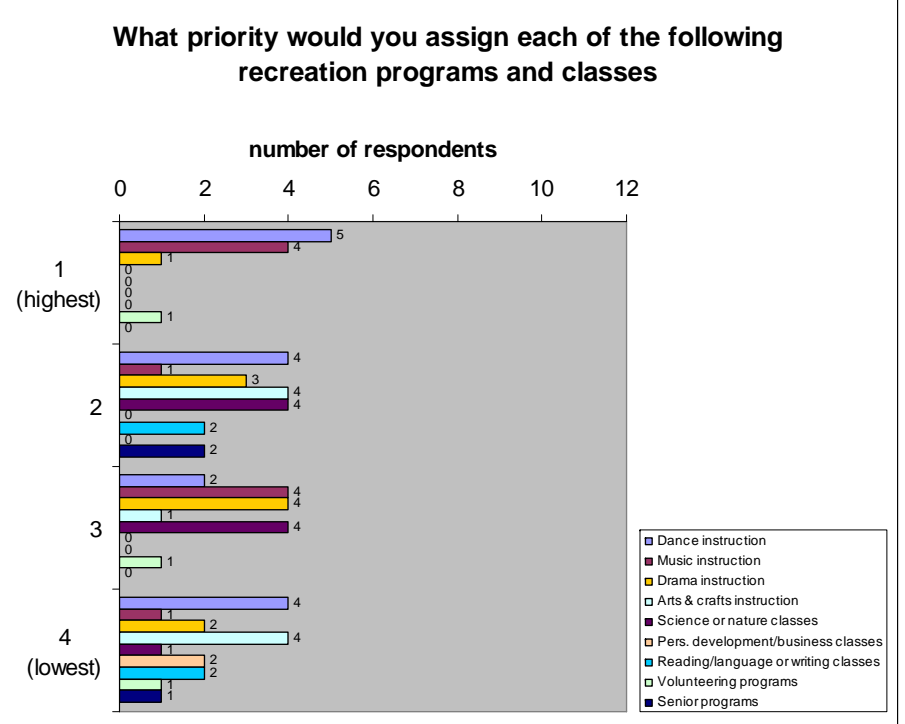
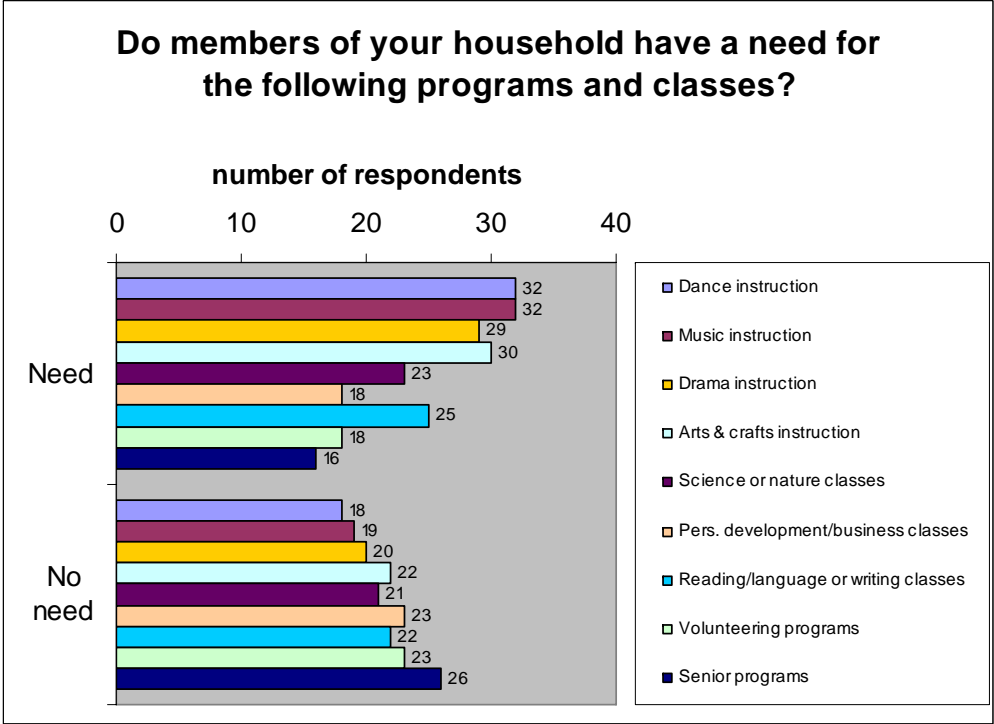
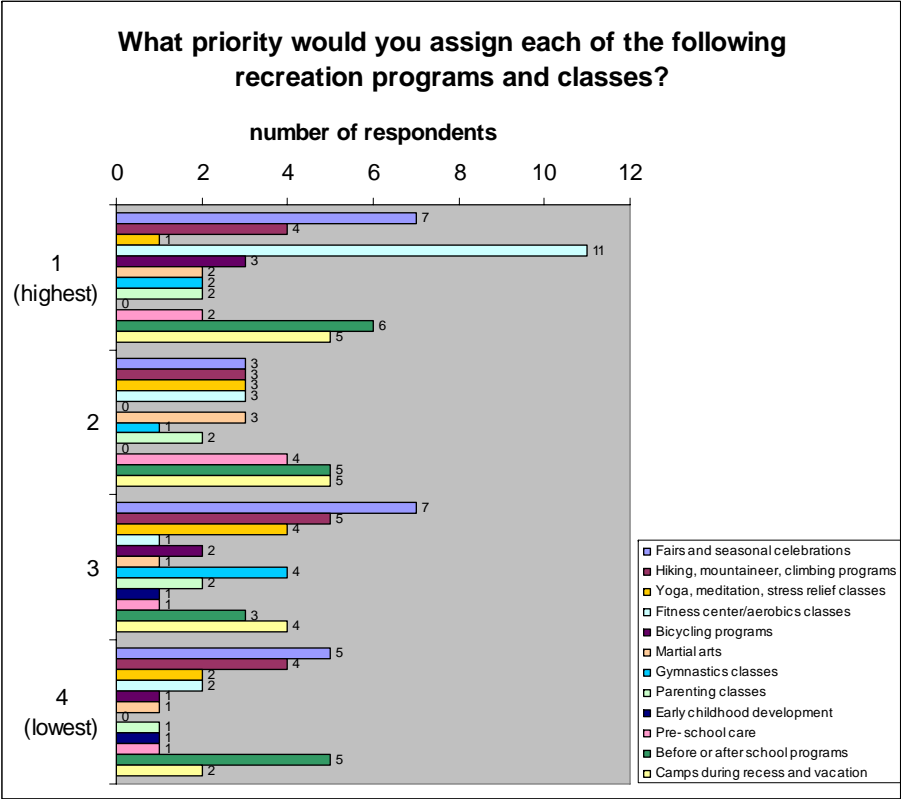
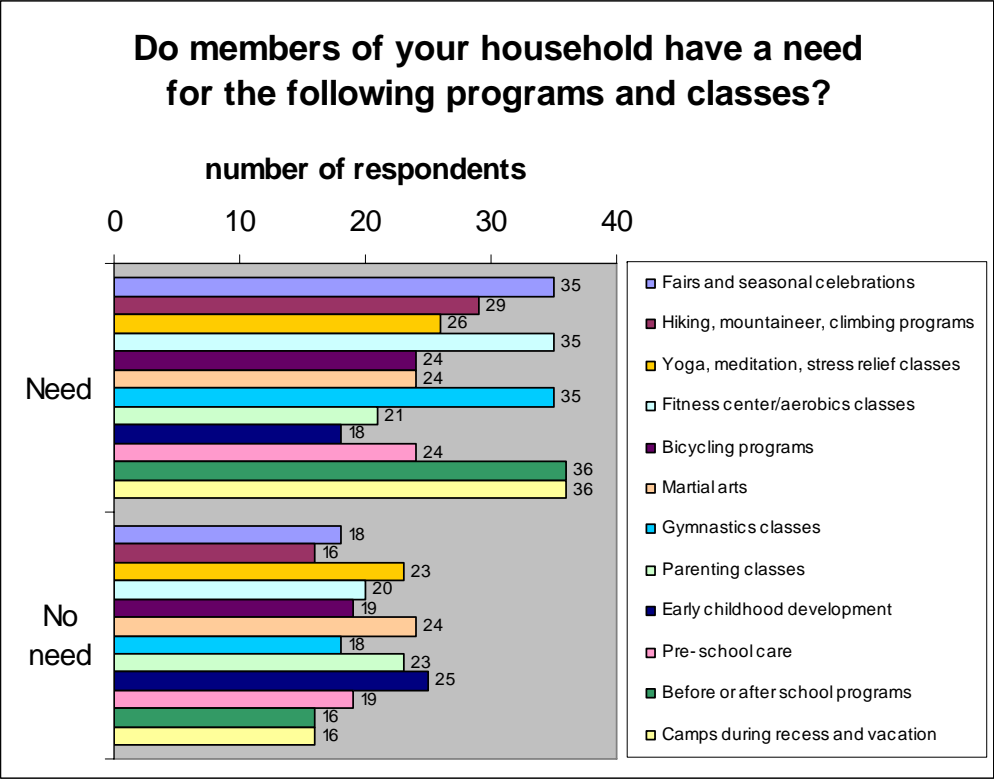


Figure 24a (above)—“Second wave” survey respondents’ needs for recreation programs & classes

Figure 24b (above)— “Second wave” priority rankings for recreation programs & classes

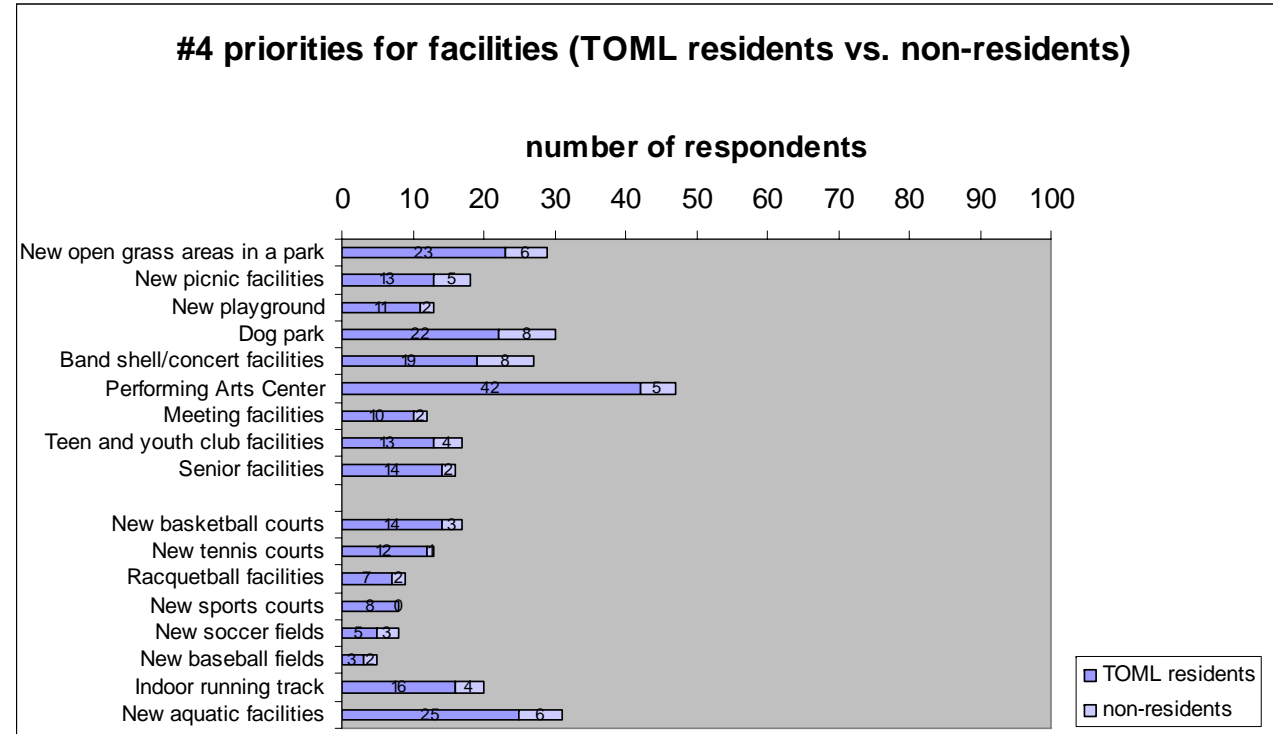
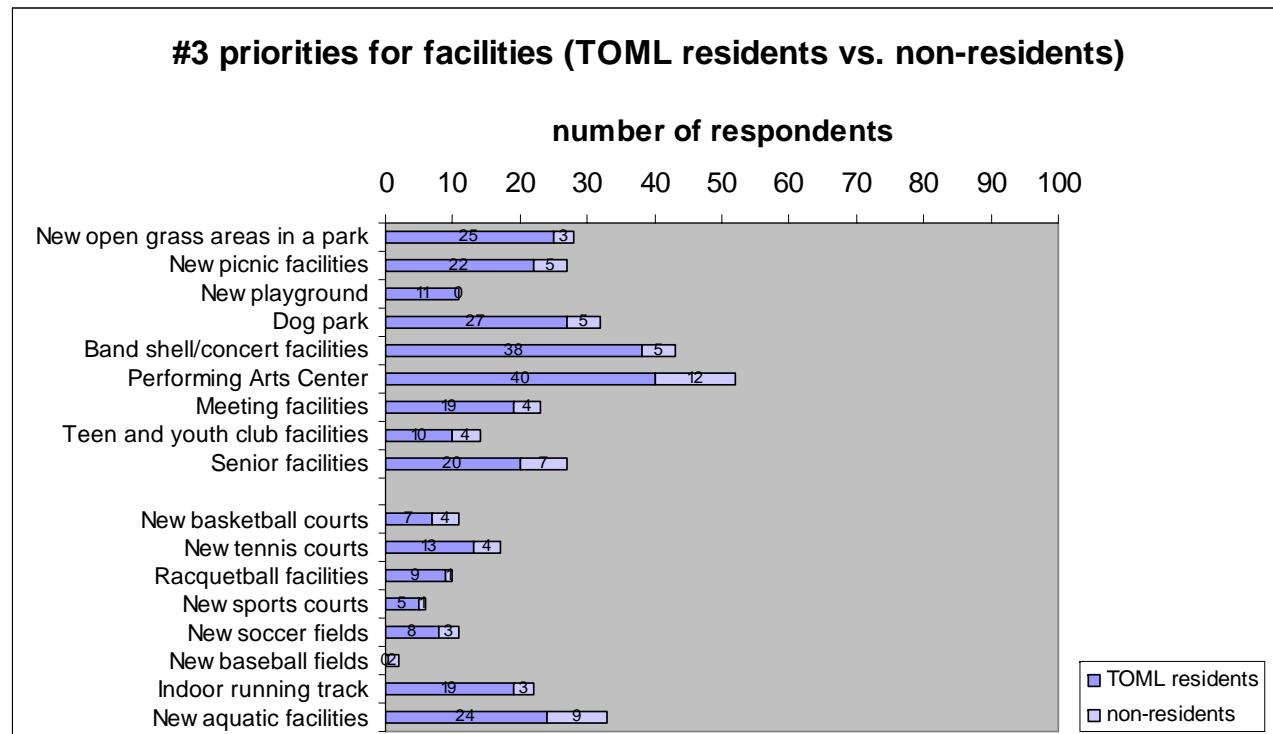
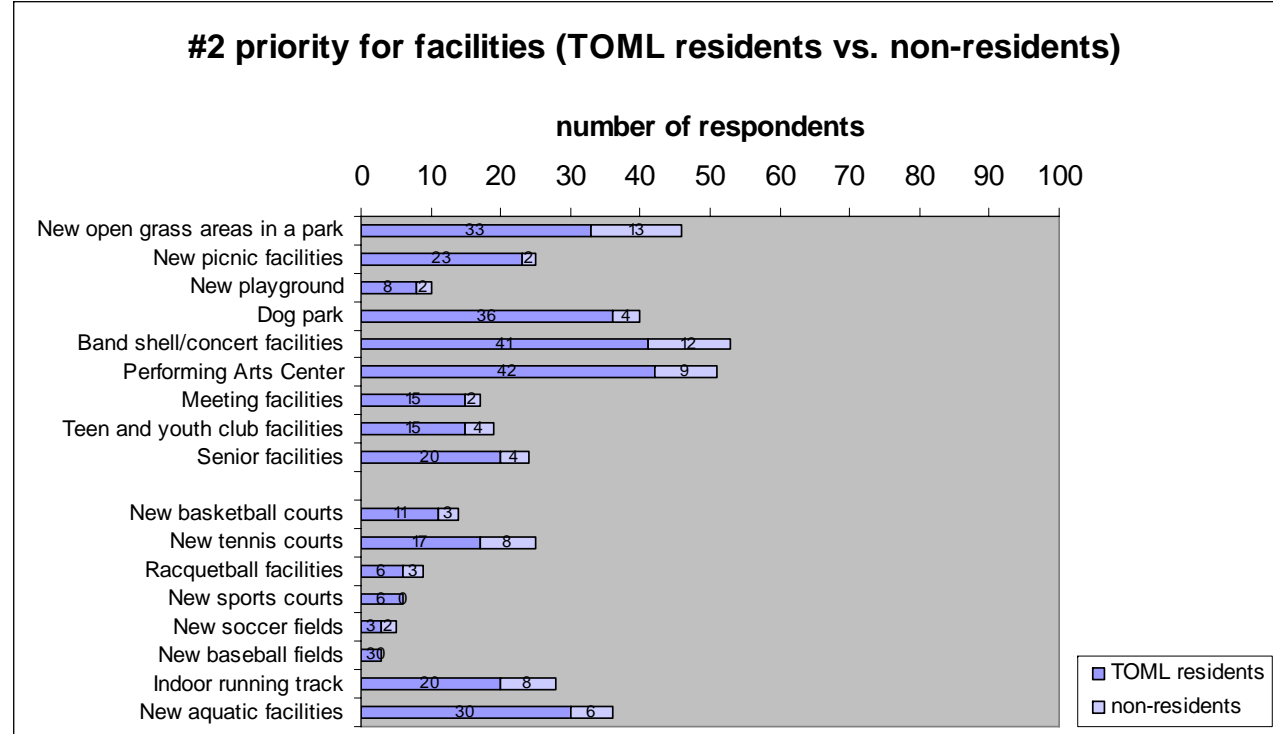
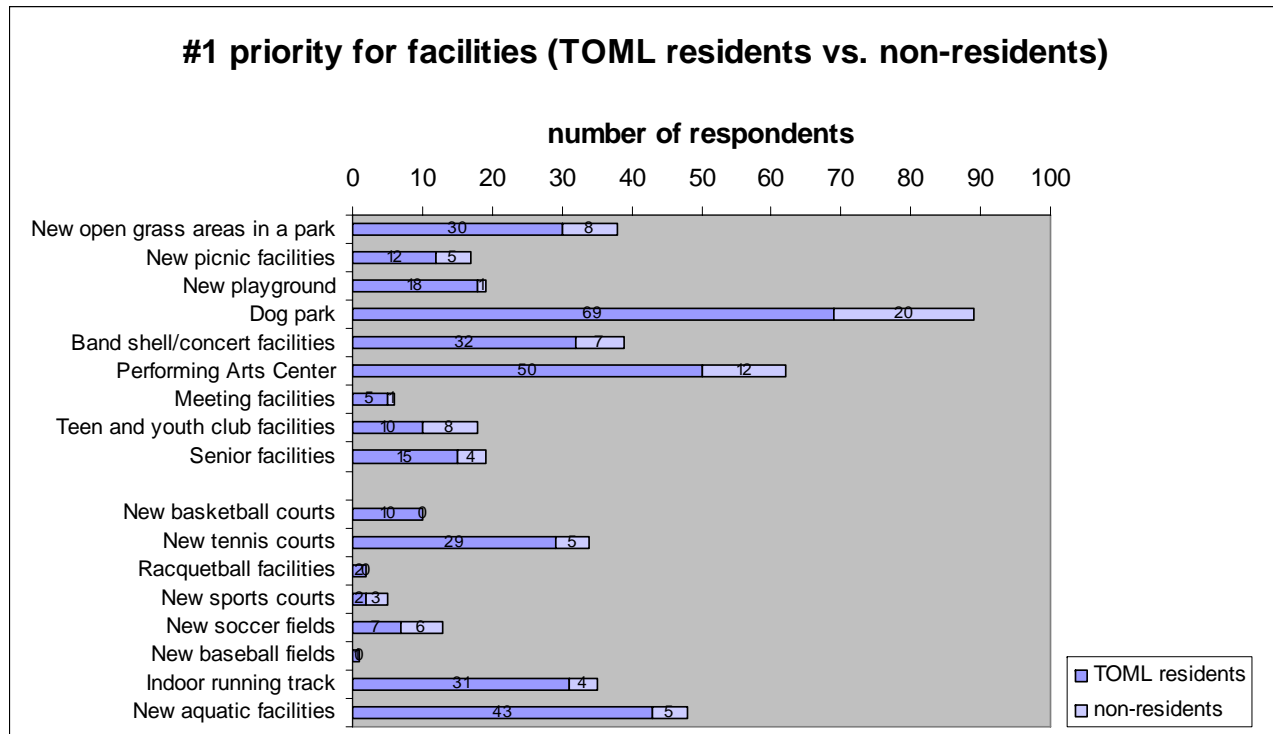


Figure 25—Priority rankings for new parks and recreation facilities by year-round residents and second homeowners.

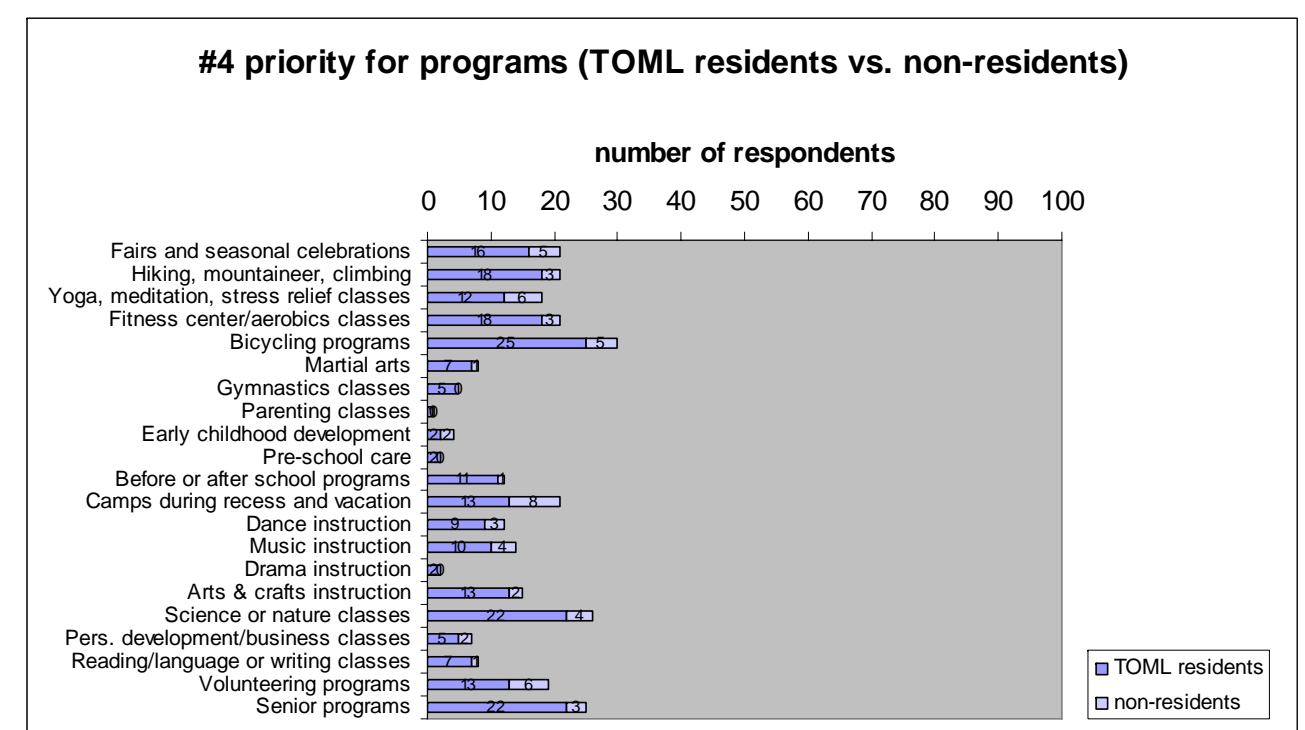
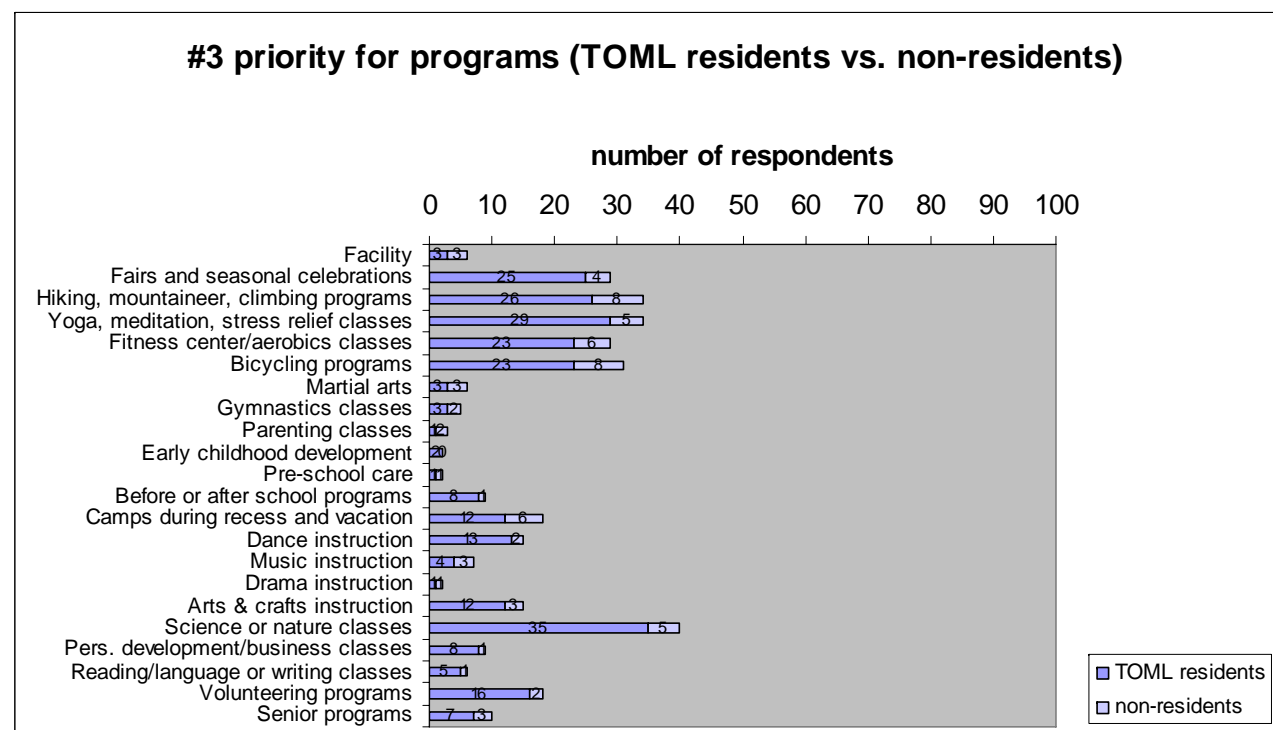
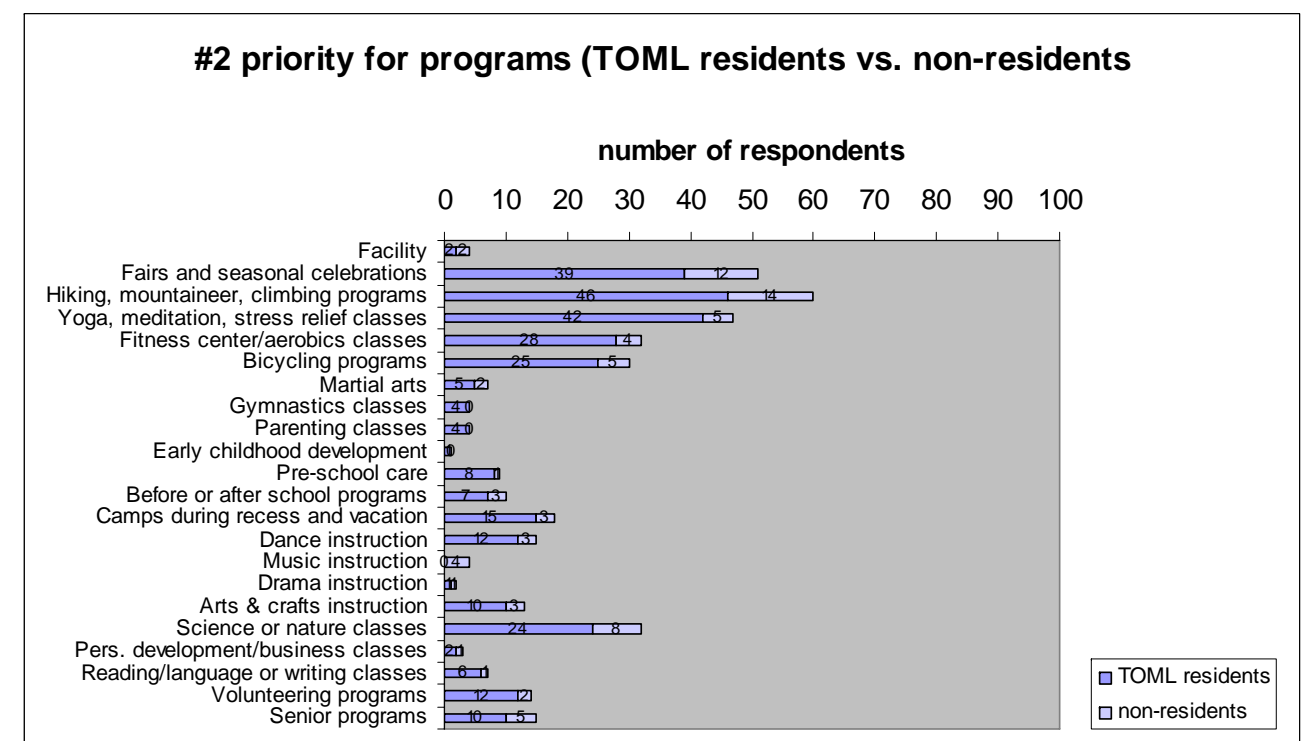
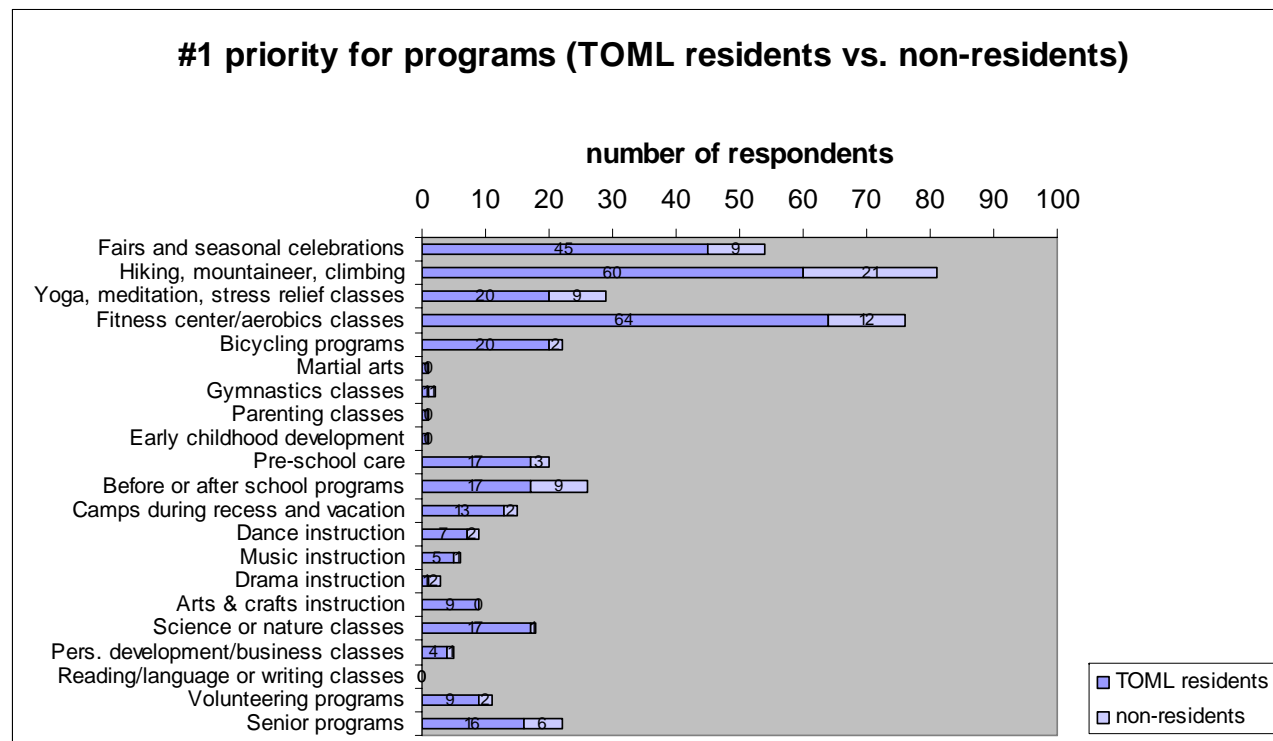


Figure 26—Priority rankings for recreation programs by year-round residents and second homeowners.

The last question in the survey asked respondents about their willingness to support a tax measure to do any of the following:

- Maintain existing parks
- Improve existing parks
- Acquire more parks
- Preserve open spaces
- Develop more recreation facilities

Respondents were given the option of several levels of support: unconditional, conditional (with support depending on facilities and/or amount of tax), or no support. The results are shown in Figure 27.

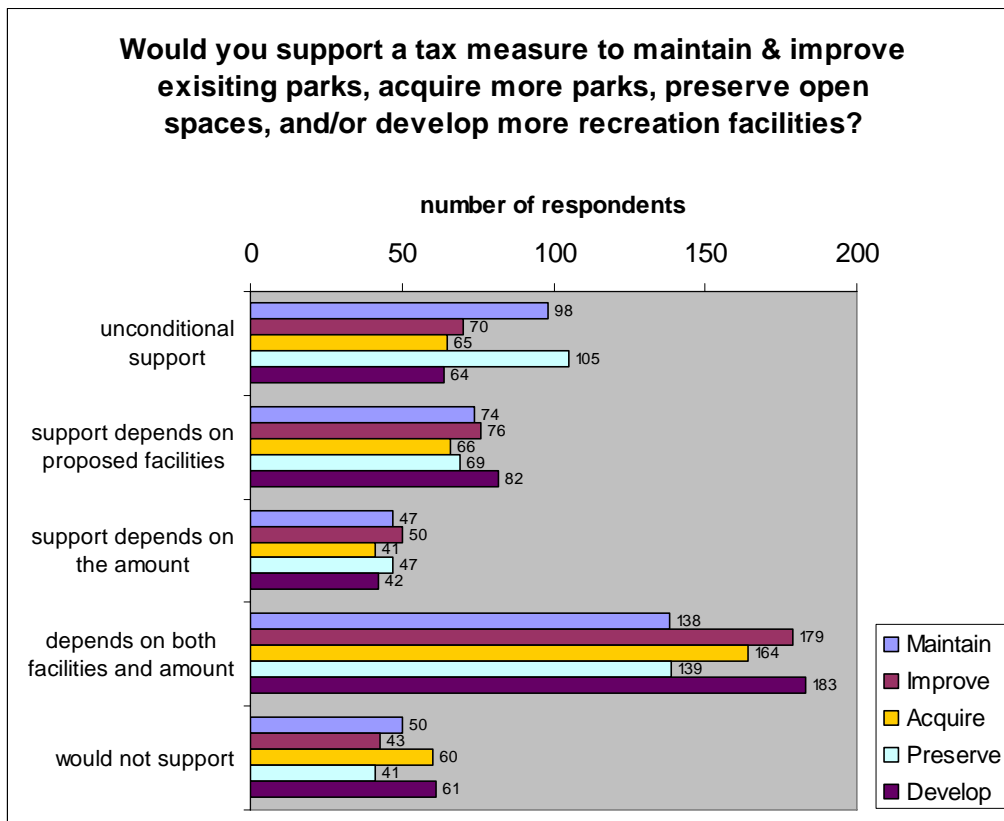


Figure 27—Level of support for tax measure to fund parks and recreation

Written Comments

The *2007 Parks and Recreation Facility Needs Assessment Survey* gave respondents the opportunity to provide additional written comments about the existing and future parks and recreation system. A complete listing of these comments (verbatim) is provided at the end of this report. The following points summarize the majority of comments regarding the existing parks and recreation system:

- Existing TOML parks and recreation facilities are very much appreciated, and there is concern that existing facilities be well-maintained before new facilities are added.
- Although parks and recreation facilities are considered important, it is also desirable to maintain undeveloped open space in the Town.
- A comprehensive and connected trail system is critical to recreation and quality of life for residents and visitors. Key concerns include:
 - Availability of trails for use both summer and winter
 - Balancing needs to have some trails in winter groomed for cross-country skiers and others cleared for pedestrians
 - Addressing conflicts between motorized and non-motorized trail use
- Provision of indoor recreation facilities is very desirable, especially for winter and evening activities.
- An ice rink is a welcome facility, although there is concern that fair access should be provided for recreational (i.e., non-team) skaters.
- There should be improved information:
 - Let people know about the availability of facilities, programs, and events
 - Improve parks and trail signage
 - Educate dog owners about leash and clean-up policies
- It is important to accommodate age-specific concerns:
 - Activities and winter play areas (both indoor and outdoor) for small children
 - Safe places and programs for pre-teens and teenagers outside of school
 - Programs geared for active seniors

Conclusions and Implications for Parks and Recreation

Respondent usage rates of parks and recreation facilities demonstrate that Mammoth Lakes is an active community. In addition, the vast majority (77%) indicated that physical fitness and health were the main benefits they sought from recreation. As a result, parks and recreation facilities and programming should respond to the community's propensity for frequent, active recreation that promotes health and well-being.

Use of existing Town parks shows that lawn areas, picnic facilities, and playgrounds are top outdoor amenities in these parks; the Mammoth Creek Trail system (an amenity noted in Question 13D) also was a frequently used facility. Because trails were otherwise not included in survey questions, many respondents used their written comments to express the importance of trails in their daily life and recreation activities. These results suggest that parks should continue to offer features that accommodate passive outdoor recreation, active children, and social gatherings, and that trails are an important component of parks.

Second homeowners comprised a large portion of survey respondents. They indicated that they visit Mammoth Lakes quite frequently (78% visit at least every other month and almost one-third visit once per month, on average). Because the Town's seasonal and second-homeowner population is so high, and because the second homeowners visit so often, parks and recreation facilities should accommodate their needs as well as permanent residents.

Regarding needs for facilities and programs, it is important to note that nearly half (47%) of all respondents use an indoor athletic club (42.6% use Snowcreek Athletic Club, and another 4.3% use The Body Shop). This suggests that indoor recreation centers are an important component of recreation and fitness for people in Mammoth Lakes, and that an additional recreation center would be welcome—especially if it provides facilities and programs desired by residents and visitors. When examined in greater detail, responses to questions about needed facilities and programs indicate the following “first tier” and “second tier” needs (based on priority rankings and expression of need vs. no need) shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: Top facility and program needs, as expressed by respondents to initial needs assessment survey

Facility Needs		Program Needs	
First Tier	Second Tier	First Tier	Second Tier
Dog park	New aquatic facilities	Hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, climbing	Pre-school care
Performing arts center	Indoor running track	Fitness center & aerobics	Before and after school programs
Band shell	Tennis courts	Holiday/seasonal celebrations & fairs	Science and nature instruction
New open grass areas			Senior programs

Based on results from the “second wave” survey that was distributed through the schools, the facility and program needs are similar to those listed in the table above, although there is some variation. This can be expected because the second wave respondents comprise exclusively families with school-aged children, who also live in the area year-round. It is also important to recall that this survey group is much smaller than the initial group (90 “second wave” respondents vs. 580 initial respondents). The results for the “second wave” survey group are summarized in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Top facility and program needs, as expressed by respondents to “second wave” survey

Facility Needs		Program Needs	
First Tier	Second Tier	First Tier	Second Tier
New aquatic facilities	Teen/youth club	Fitness center & aerobics	Hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, climbing
Performing arts center	New soccer fields	Holiday/seasonal celebrations & fairs	Dance instruction
Band shell	New playgrounds	Before and after school programs	Music instruction
Dog park	Indoor running track	Camps during school recess and vacation	Pre-school care

When data from both initial and “second wave” surveys are combined, Table 3 below shows First Tier and Second Tier needs for facilities and programs, based on expression of need versus no need, as well as priority ranking.

Table 3: Top facility and program needs for combined survey results

Facility Needs		Program Needs	
First Tier	Second Tier	First Tier	Second Tier
Performing arts center	Indoor running track	Hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, climbing	Bicycling programs
Dog park	New tennis courts	Fitness center & aerobics	Before and after school programs
Band shell	Senior facilities	Holiday/seasonal celebrations & fairs	Camps during school recess and vacation
New aquatic facilities	New picnic facilities	Yoga, meditation, stress relief	Senior programs
Open grass areas	Teen/youth club	Science and nature instruction	Pre-school care

Written Comments on Existing Parks and Recreation

Respondents were asked to respond directly to the following request:

Please indicate what additional information you would like to provide in regards to the existing parks and recreation system.

Many respondents expressed their surprise that trails were not mentioned in the survey, and trails in general received much attention in the comments. Both directly entered and transcribed responses follow, and include any misspellings or grammatical errors provided in the raw data summary from Leisure Trends. The responses are organized into the following categories:

1. General Impression of Parks and Recreation
2. Comments on Specific Parks and Recreation Facilities:
 - Community Center and Park
 - Shady Rest Park
 - Trails End Park
 - Mammoth Creek Park
 - Whitmore Park
 - Other Recreation Opportunities
 - Ice Rink
3. Access
4. Paths and Trails
 - General Comments
 - Pedestrian Use
 - Bicycle Trails
 - Nordic Skiing
5. Room for Improvement
 - Needed Facilities
 - Maintenance
 - Dogs
 - Activities and Programs
 - Meeting Needs of Different Age Groups
 - Information and Awareness
 - Aesthetics and Open Space Conservation

1. General Impression of Parks and Recreation

- I know it is not part of coml, but the forrest service /chsmber building is very good. also the mammoth historical cabin is very interesting and well documented.
- They seen to be totally adequate, given the wide range of recreational opportunities readily available nearbu, such as in the National Forest.
- I have loved TOML parks and rec for the past 20 years. We think you are doing a great job! Thanks...
- Fairly good.
- You are doing a fine job.
- The existing system needs to be connected via trails and pathways into a true system.
- Excellent!

- They are well maintained and much appreciated. The ball fields and picnic grounds are wonderful. We also use the paved trails for walking and bikes. We are concerned about graffiti that is appearing.
- adequate as is for my purposes
- There is so much natural outdoors that developed parks seem unnecessary to me unless there is a specific facility (like basketball courts) there.
- They are great but people disobey the signs: "Dogs on Leash" or "Pick up after your dog" Those rules should be enforced by a fine, then humans will learn.
- Keep up the good work!
- I am happy with the existing programs & services, the trail system and parks are well maintained and always clean. My family uses the programs & services during the winter and daily in the summer.
- I have been very happy with the kids summer camp program. Tracy & Michael were great trip leaders.
- My family is pretty happy with the existing parks especially for younger children.
- We ski in the winter and hike, bike and play tennis in the summer
- greatly enjoy most of the programs we are currently involved i. we use parks and rec facilities/programs as an integral part of our lives primarily in the summer.
- Our parks are great!
- so far so good
- barely adequate
- overall we are very happy with the existing programs and facilities
- our guest visit town parks and playground and use the athlete park
- we're fed up and disappointed with the town's lack of consistency and professionalism. give up on the ice rink idea. let a developer do it on their project\$\$\$
- park facilities are adequate in the summer.
- existing parks should stay in tact with existing open space. not removed blocked with more buildings
- good parks - well maintained.
- Great Skate Parks in town
- My main use is for festivals such as 'Art a la Carte'
- I'm not completely aware of what exists now.

2. Comments on Specific Parks and Recreation Facilities

Community Center and Park (including tennis courts)

- We would like to see the Park by the Community Center and Tennis Courts expanded with more picnic tables and playground equipment.
- Need a practice backboard at the community tennis courts.
- Please improve the Forest Trail Park & Community Tennis Courts. it needs signage, a name, and some love!
- Would like to see the park and tennis courts on Forest Trails improved. Especially need play ground equipment for children.
- Tennis courts need resurfacing. Indoor court/s would allow play year-round and when raining.
- I would like to see them improve & clean up Community Center park with more picnic tables & playground equipment, grass & bike/roller skating trails that connect throughout town.
- Keep the community tennis courts.

- Park at Forest Trail needs preservations, attention including tennis courts & childrens park.
- Please keep the Community Center Tennis Courts and the Community Center where it is. It provides much needed family recreation opportunities.
- the park at the community center needs to be maintained and improved. The child play areas there are in poor shape and need attention, especially since the park gets increased usage from visitors and owners at the village
- Please refurbish and maintain the existing tennis courts in the Community Center area.
- Community tennis courts could use re-surfacing by a quality contractor.
- We truly enjoy playing tennis in the summer at the Community Center Park.
- i love the TOML community tennis courts we need more
- please keep the community center tennis courts alive and well
- need to upgrade and sign the community center park. it is a nice facility and it should be properly maintained
- cc tennis courts better maintenance
- I hope that the community center/tennis courts will be maintained on Forest Trail and that you ADD more facilities elsewhere in town.
- I love the community tennis courts.
- Would very much appreciate back board at Community tennis courts.
- We like the tennis courts at Forest Trail and would like to see them remain.
- upgrade park near community center should be priority

Shady Rest Park

- My wife and I really enjoy Shady Rest Park . . . especially picnicing and just hiking or biking around the park.
- i think shady rest, aside from the dog issue mentioned below is a great park. i use it for so many things: dog walking, skiing, sports, snowmobiling, firewood, hiking etc. it truly is a multi use public space.
- Shady Rest is used, used and used some more.
- shady is awesome soccer field has holes in it.
- Shady rest can use an "upgrade" since it is so well used.
- I love running and walking, winter and summer out near Shady Rest Park.
- shady rest park should be developed into a winter rec area restricted to non-motorized snow-shoe-frisbee-sledding w/public transportation

Trails End Park

- add lights to the Mammoth Skateboard park if there aren't any there already.
- I look forward to using the Trails End Park.
- There is a total lack of compliance at the skate park due to virtually no oversight.
- More services at Trails Park. Also, I think the entrance to the Trails and the Trails Park would look much nicer if there was a burm to hide the industrial park.
- brothers skate park is great keep going
- the skate park needs to include bikers, the skaters do not welcome bikers please check out "the cove" in santa monica, run by the parks and rec. they have skater hours, biker hours and it works. there is not need to call the police on bikers.

Mammoth Creek Park

- Mammoth Creek park is quite nice. I very much enjoy the annual wine/art fair. It would be good to have a paved walk between the end of Meadow Lane and the park itself.

- The Mammoth Creek Park is great, unfortunately it closes in the winter even if there is no snow.
- Love the playground at mammoth creek park
- cleaner/better sand at mammoth creek park
- where is mammoth park east

Whitmore Park

- Whitmore is great! Needs to stay open longer!

Other recreation opportunities

- More fishing access.
- Open moto-cross track year round.

Ice Rink

- The Ice rink should be by the Village
- Ice Rink voted #1.
- I feel the loss of the ice rink has had a very negative effect on the community and would very much like to see it restored/re-opened.
- The ice skating rink should be in The Village. This would increase use of stores & restaurants.
- i would like to see the new ice rink available for more "night" free skate. Before it always seemed to be booked for hockey at night.
- ice skating rink needs to be open to the public in the evening not exclusively for hockey teams. they can use it late afternoon until 6:30 or 7. then it must be open for family and public
- ice skating rink with cover and ability to use during non-winter is a good accomplishment by the town

3. Access

- Suggest community bus system to parks
- Good free public transprt to our parks and recreation facilities.
- the trolley is wonderful in the summer especially because it goes to the mammoth creek park

4. Paths and Trails

General Comments

- A comprehensive trail and sidewalk system needs to be thoughtfully planned to connect the fragments of trails that now exist. A continuous loop between Main St., the Village, Old Mammoth Road, Snowcreek and the Meadows, and Meridian would be a great start to providing access for all.
- The trail system is good, but should during the winterseason be prepared for cross country skiing, snowshoing, etc. Mammoth is generally dog friendly. Keep it that way, or even more!
- I'd like to see continued more linkage of the trails system and I hope the trail along the east side of the golf course will be back in business soon if not already.
- Improve hiking, skiing and bicycle trails.
- More groomed XC ski trails where snow mobiles are prohibited. Also area where runners can be free of motor dirt bikes and bicycles. Also, running teams shouldnt be allowed in

Lakes Basin in summer. They over run the roads and parking lots and take up too much rooms. Some with big RV's up there.

- Maintain & expand quiet winter trail system.
- Ski / bike trails need to be on the list. #1 priority for me.
- Biking, walking & cross country ski trails in town are fragmented and almost useless. They need to be more interconnected & maintained.
- We wish continued support of the existing Nordic Trail System and would like to limit the use of snowmobiles and motorized transport on our trails.
- Mountain bike and Nordic ski trails are adequate by few and poorly marked. Upgrade and additions are needed.
- The Mammoth creek bike trail is a wonderful project
- We really enjoy the trails for running, biking, and cross country skiing.
- love the existing trail system!
- separate motorized vehicles from hikers x-c skiers both in and outside of town
- however the in town trail system is severely lacking
- Great trails system.
- Walking, XC skiing and snowmobile trails and access need to be addressed.
- A better longer bike path. Separate lane for walkers. One in Boulder, Co is excellent one to visit.
- trail system in and out of town should be expanded and access assured
- Love the trails system, would like to see it completed.
- the trail system is inadequate , disconnected incomplete, anemic, in disrepair and should be world class for year round use
- I really appreciate the great trail system around here. It is unlike any other place that I have ever lived.
- Trail system is a joke and embarrassingly bad.
- Basic sidewalks & trails to walk from one end of town to another. Maintained for year-round use. Multiple benefits including health, congestion, relief, transit support, etc.
- trail system not finished. winter x-country/snowshoe not properly groomed or maintained
- keep expanding trail system.
- improve/add to existing bike trails
- The more off -road trails and ways to navigate around ML the better! No pleasure to walk along roadways - too many cars!
- I would like to see the bike trail system expanded for summer use and cross country skiing in the winter. For the latter, grooming/tracking is needed, which has not been done in the past. (2007 not applicable -- no snow)

Pedestrian Use

- More walking paths so off busy roads (eg Old Mammoth past town)
- Winter walking on sidewalks is a priority, so snow removal budgets and building this is a priority.
- I like to go for a walk in town (easy, not hiking) and I think that there is not enough park space to do it. The path along Mammoth Creek Park is quite short and then I have to walk by the side of the road, which may not be safe. More paths with benches and shade trees would be great - does not have to be in this park, but somewhere in town.
- Increase the number of walking paths

Bicycle Trails

- We need more open space and areas to enjoy bicycling. Connecting bike paths throughout the town should be a number one priority.
- Would like more contiguous biking available in town
- Expand the bike trails as much as you can.
- Better maintenance of paved bike trails
- More mountain bike trails open.
- We love the bicycle trails, and would love more!
- The bike paths in town should all link together, as there seems to be paths that die out.
- Continue to maintain mountain bike trails.

Nordic Skiing

- We value the existing Nordic Trail System because we enjoy cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and walking with our dog in the winter. We hope that this can be expanded in the future.
- I would really like a system of cross country ski trails from snowcreek to town.
- Was very pleased that a town cross-country skiing system with tracks has been started.
- XC skiing trails. Lets expand on what Mammoth Nordic has started.
- Cross Country trail system needs to be expanded and supported.
- The Town needs to provide more support for XC skiing and snowshoeing on the existing Nordic Trail System.
- More grooming of cross country ski trails and keep the snowmobiles out
- I love having the Nordic trails to cross country ski and walk my dog.
- The implementation of a Nordic trail system was something long needed in Mammoth. These trails are a wonderful addition to the TOML.
- What happened to the plan for XC skiing? i supported the plan where snowmobiles do not start out at the parking lot at Shady Rest, but instead down the road. The 2 needs to be separated. I want more support of grooming for skiing on the town trails too.
- The Nordic trail system and grooming at Shady Rest and around town is very important.
- Thanks for finally starting a program of XC trail grooming in the town.
- The existing Nordic Trail System is excellent, so happy that theres something available for free.
- Nordic Trail system is important and should be better maintained.
- The start of the nordic trail system is great news, and should be expanded.
- Improve facilities / trails for x-country & snowshoe-some blue diamond x-c trails are neglected.
- Grooming of the trails between Mammoth Creek Park and Shady rest park was a nice addition.
- I mostly use all nordic trails and hope they will be a priority in the future.
- thanks for the new x country ski system through and around town. now some snow
- very excited about the new nordic trail system
- we used the town ski trail recently (8 people) and like it very much. a good place to cross country ski without driving a distance.

5. Room for Improvement (in addition to suggestions already mentioned for specific facilities and trails)

Needed Facilities

- Better Bike and walking paths along all the creeks and near water in Mammoth, more open spaces along Old Mammoth Road, with picnic tables, open and covered and toilet facilities
- I think the additional bike trails and new park/playgrounds are nice and should be expanded
- It would be nice to be able to have a rec facility for when I do visit that offers classes and such for me and my family.
- More playground equipment
- Running Track
- Need to continue with winter park idea at shady rest. Would like to see further separation of cross country ski experiences vs osvs.
- More bathrooms.
- Mammoth needs more parks or pocket parks. In summer to play & picnicing in winter for snow storage.
- Places to lock up bikes and maybe lockers to store personal belongings while there.
- It would be fantastic to have a public YMCA type facility. A public indoor/outdoor year round swimming pool is top on my list.
- Preserve existing parks and develop them some more.
- There should be facilities to accommodate as many as possible. You should not get rid of a sole facility to add some more of something we already have. Once we already have it, it is only the cost to maintain it.
- more parks more open space
- Open space and more community areas.
- We need a northend park, rec center, tennis courts.
- Would like to endow a bench on the bicycle/walking/jogging path east of old mammoth road. Let me know the costs. *[respondent's email address omitted]*
- I would like to see a world class Ice Skating facility like Vail so we can have people come here that dont ski.
- would like to see more options for winter indoor pool facility play area, etc. need indoor multi-use area for winter including dog training. more option for winter facilities with young children and k-5th grade. this was very difficult to narrow programming/facilities down to top 4.
- we need to expand trails system and open space throughout town
- open space (parks) in town should be expanded.
- Why no questions about maintaining bike, hiking, and XC trails? Doesnt this fall into TOML Parks & Rec? Having a system for walk/bike/ski throughout town would be my households largest need. Second is community ice rink. I would have liked to respond to needs of the community as well as own household needs.
- Dance hall for real dancing. West coast swing, ballroom, hustle etc.
- We must continue to have community tennis courts, if not in the current location, someplace else.
- Indoor play facility for winter and cold days with good ventilation.
- there should be a wood chip running trail around shady rest used exclusively for running and we need an outdoor and or indoor track. Mammoth attracts the best track runners in the world. WE have two medalists in town and no track. That is unheard of. The cross country camps bring in a lot of revenue for the town in the summer.

- Snowcreek needs updating!
- Outdoor running track.
- I would like to have a park space with gentle small hills to take kids sledding. It seems like people make unofficial sledding parks along Minaret, and it's not always the safest location, with the busy street being so near.
- Make Mammoth more pedestrian friendly with sidewalks and places to hang outside in the summer.
- we need a running track
- we need an indoor playground in the winter besides McDonald's
- Needs to be more integrated into the town, and more connected, with better signage/information about type/location of facilities.
- There really needs to be an outdoor running track. It is probably the only city in the US without one, and for such an active demographic with so many runners coming up in the summer to train in Mammoth Lakes, there is a great need for it
- Mammoth has a very nice start to a great parks and recs system it just needs a little bit more to really open up the opportunities that Mammoth could offer to both locals and visitors as a mountain resort.
- As Mammoth becomes "upscale", we just need to ensure that the "common areas" (recreational areas and parks) meet our needs and demographic
- park facilities should be walkable (able to walk to not drive)
- upgrade community center parks, add walking paths through bell shaped parcel, indoor tennis courts
- my observation is that more ball fields etc for organized out door youth activities are needed
- more year round facilities and police patrols longer pool access
- a linked, easily accessible trail system to get around and to parks with improved signage with better trail info. also staging areas
- please add 2 more new tennis courts to the current 6 courts.

Maintenance

- better to maintain existing facilities
- Better care for soccer fields and baseball fields.
- keep them clean, more police patrol to see that people follow the rules and regulations
- Some of the aforementioned areas don't need replacement, but much refurbishment is needed.
- We need volunteer program to pick up fish line and hooks around our lakes, streams and creeks.
- take care of what we've got. ie trail from matsu to meridian, its a mess
- New equipment at the Crowley Lake Park. Its very old except plastic equipment.
- Before you build more, spend the money on maintenance & upkeep.
- continue keeping current facilities in optimal condition
- sand needs to be cleaned frequently. new sand should be placed. the current sand is very dusty and gets in eyes, even when the wind blows. more swings that don't squeal.

Dogs

- We need a dog park where dogs can be off leash.
- Buckle down hard on loose dogs (The owners of) and pet owners not cleaning up animal waste. The pet waste at shady rest, especially in the winter is criminal, unhealthy and inexcusable.

- I had to drive to Crowley for dog training classes because my instructor could not use the community center. Why not?
- More dog areas.
- There needs to be a safe place for dog owners to let their well-mannered, obedient dogs off-leash to socialize here in town.
- Dog training facility. Indoors.
- We need more doggy poop pick-up bag dispensers and frequently emptied trash barrels in areas where dogs are walked.
- The parks are great but we need a dog park.
- Would like to have use of appropriate facilities for dog exercise and training during winter months also.
- Dog park enclosed very important for year-round use.
- Best to make Horseshoe Lake a dog park.
- Enforcement of "No Dogs" on lawns. Also enforce dog rules i.e.: pick up after dogs.
- Too many dogs off-leashes!! Dog poop.

Activities and Programs

- More programs that are a single day rather than a series
- The parks are fine. More activities that are for the community would be great.
- Where's the Fireworks?
- I truly believe that most all facilities & programs should incorporate indoor & outdoor aspects when possible. Nature is important! Start up a Community Garden at the Mammoth Creek Park near playsets. I would help get this started. Families, children and seniors.
- More use of existing facilities through events.
- We need a better variety of classes too-Spanish, adult swimming, ceramics, etc.
- encourage walkable activities clustered in same location to discourage more traffic!
- Please do not change the activities that occur at existing facilities so that existing residential units are annoyed or disturbed by noise, trash, graffiti and parking.

Meeting Needs of Different Age Groups

- I think the parks should be geared towards use by youth, to keep them out of gangs. Mammoth has some nasty gangs that beat up my kids.
- We have no grandchildren and we thus do not use parks as much as families. We are seniors and anything to assist our age group would be desirable. Maybe short-term classes for non-residents would be good. More lists in local papers to indicate where volunteers are needed. Ski classes for seniors to ski with and meet other skiers. Also more hiking type availability for all age groups.
- We need after-school & vacation/break facilities for our children that is diverse and safe for all children from middle school up for after school & for other children anytime.
- A good adult exercise program 2-3x's a week.
- Please continue to build programs for kids during the summer and times when the kids are not in school. The holiday times are difficult for families in our community when parents are so busy at work and kids are out of school with not a lot to do because it is so crowded in town.
- P&R course Request: For Mammoth Creek Park west in undeveloped section by kids swings. The adults need some close-by stations for adult development.

- You need an indoor playground for young children (like "under the sea" there is NOTHING to do with young children during the winter when they DO NOT SKI!!!!!! I am referring to the age of 1-6.
- More classes for pre school children & young children.
- NEED ACTIVITIES FOR TODDLERS
- we need a place for kids to hang out... bowling alley, basketball courts, cafe, couches, video games, movies, books at a low cost.
- parks and rec needs to address the needs of our growing older population not just the young family

Information and Awareness

- Advertise in the MT all events at least 3 weeks before the scheduled event. The Times has a way of taking 2 weeks to get delivered to out-of-towners.
- Maps of bike paths, and trails. Signs showing rules, so that no motorized bikes or snowmobiles do not go on bike paths and nordic trails.
- Would like clearer more available regional bike maps.
- Schedule of events, fairs, etc.
- Web site reference for local activities
- Better signage
- Maps of bike trails & path systems. Maps of XC ski trails. Signs at Shady Rest area explaining proper trail use rules. ie: no motorcycles on bike trails. No snowmobiles on XC ski trails.
- Better signage about tobacco alcohol and drug free area.
- Better signage on bike trails especially in shady rest and all trails not part of the bike park
- We need Good signage in town to direct people to our parks. Well signed walking paths in town and between our public parks and recreation facilities.
- More "green space" or natural space with trails and plant identification and fauna identification/interpretation.
- Information needs to be more accessible. Miles, feet, hours etc. of pools, tennis courts, etc.

Aesthetics and Open Space Conservation

- protect open natural spaces. Resist Development.
- Please keep the trees!
- Save the creek.
- The cutting down of big beautiful trees for a park is a crime.
- Leave as much of the nature as possible, we don't need any more man-made stuff.

Written Comments on Future Parks and Recreation

Respondents were asked to respond directly to the following request:

Please indicate what additional information you would like to provide in regards to the future parks and recreation system.

Many respondents expressed their surprise that trails were not mentioned in the survey, and trails in general received much attention in the comments. Both directly entered and transcribed responses follow, and include any misspellings or grammatical errors provided in the raw data summary from Leisure Trends. The responses are organized into the following categories:

1. General Comments
2. More Specific Parks and Recreation Facilities
 - Paths and Trails
 - Dog Parks
 - Bicycles
 - Swimming Pools
 - Indoor Recreation
 - Ice Rink
 - Snow Park
 - Events Venues
 - Misc. Facilities
3. Access
4. Aesthetics and Open Space Conservation
5. Misc. Programs and Classes
6. Meeting Needs of Different Age Groups
7. Information and Awareness
8. Maintenance
9. Funding

1. General Comments

- more parks, more open green space
- There seems to be no real need beyond what we have now.
- More outdoor use off busy highways
- Please insure there are adequate open spaces around both indoor and outdoor facilities.
- Get as much pedestrian and bus traffic to and from mountain, and town, as possible. If you have been to Val-de-Isere and other true mountain destinations, that is what to build.
- Please balance the community needs with preserving the natural beauty of Mammoth Lakes, as well as keeping in mind the history of the area. Too much of Mammoth Lakes is being developed for today, without any thought as to how it will impact the future, and forgetting about the past.
- More small community parks in local neighborhoods.
- Would like to see indoor pool, performing arts center, concert/ amphitheatre on college campus.
- Slow development as our wonderful town is becoming too crowded.
- Need more open space connected by people paths. All over town. Winter and summer access.

- None-Maintain what you have.
- Non-motorized recreation.
- Ponds, bike trails, walking trails, an ice skating rink (I guess you covered that at the beginning)
- Parks and recreation are vital to a city's community spirit and nurturing children and families through public programs is a key necessity for family health and seniors in our society. All park space is so needed for outdoor fun. All recreation programs are wonderful ways for all ages to meet, learn and grow.
- There can never be enough, it brings great value to any community.
- Mix it up year after year. Seems like the offerings are the same (good prog.) but need various. Add lots of open grassy areas, please, there is so much dirt.
- "Pocket Parks" need to be formed in many zones of the town to provide for decompression buffers for the separation of residential and commercial interests.
- Focus on even more multi-use facilities: trail development/maintenance/signage; performing arts/festival space (ie, use of a tent, building an outdoor stage, etc). Mammoth doesn't need a dog park, but it would be nice to have both an outdoor and indoor area in town where dog obedience/training classes could take place.
- in town signage, in town walking paths, public transport, and dog poop bags and trash barrels
- Come to hearings & keep our park w/comm. ctr. & courts on ground level. Improve what we have. It is ML responsibility to maintain our northend park & courts.
- Supportive of new ice rink & indoor pool (i.e. Whistler).
- It would be a good idea to find out what people do on their own for recreation. We more often drive out of town for walks-cross country-snowshoe- & with our dogs. Dogs often not welcome. Leash law needs enforcement. Get behind x-country & snowshoe.
- Think: individual activity-biking, X-C skiing, snowshoeing, dog walking, ice skating!
- Provide MORE natural green space & open space.
- Please don't take away, but feel free to add more facilities.
- Please don't build new facilities so that existing residential units are annoyed or disturbed by noise, trash, graffiti and parking.
- be more community oriented
- Full budgetary and equal support for all facilities. more frequent visits and inspections are needed.
- parks should be spaced around the community to provide each sector with a park close enough to be used by families and young children. currently the parks are concentrated away from residential communities making it difficult for them to be accessed easily.
- Need to balance the sometimes different needs of permanent residents and second homeowners/vacationers.
- Be strict with the above mentioned rules. No dogs allowed in parks where small children are playing.
- Keep snow mobiles out of the parks. They have ruined Shady Rest in the winter.
- We would love to see a new performing arts/pool center here in town. Also where is that playground that was promised at trails end park?
- More meadowside of town, parks with views ex:gravel pit.
- none
- would hate to see existing programs canceled but also would like to see new programs/facilities
- i support future parks and recreation opportunities for the community. for me recreation is preferred outside town urban boundaries. quiet recreation is not available within the town.

- We don't need new parks but to improve and maintain what we have.
- expanded as needed assure development impacts and fees are accurate and collected
- if you build it we will come
- continue to get public input...great idea
- not enough open space and designated paths within town boundaries. we need in town x-country paths. all aged skiers or snow-shoers, free from snowmobile traffic. we need more open space summer and non-snow season as alternatives to transportation by vehicle.
- only that we think about future generations...lost/maint, etc
- need quiet open space (no lawns) native preserves and parks wildlife viewing , nature learning, move x-country/snowshoe trails unpaved walking trails. need access to public lands. need snow playarea
- more pocket parks and connected trails throughout town (to parks) Access to forest land at urban growth boundary. would like to see area south of hayden cabin developed w/ open space and aux. facilities

2. More Specific Parks and Recreation Facilities

Paths and Trails

- Off road connecting bike path circling the town of Mammoth
- Would like more trails for walking and biking
- I use the bike and nordic trails, yet you don't even list them in your survey. I would like to see these expanded.
- We need more places for cross country skiing away from snowmobiles.
- I love to walk and hike and continued improvements in the trails would be good.
- We would like to see more trails in town for walking in the summer.
- I'd like to see continued more linkage of the trails system and I hope the trail along the east side of the golf course will be back in business soon if not already.
- Groomed XC skiing facilities.
- See more development in the hiking trails signage, etc. That could also be used for cross country skiing, snow shoeing & running. Some separate trails for bicycling.
- Real Bike lanes - not just paint and 6 inches of rocky asphalt. Pool - Community. Indoor and outdoor running tracks.
- The Town needs to support expansion of the Nordic Trail System for additional XC skiing and snowshoeing activity.
- more trails for hiking and biking
- We need more areas to cross country ski or walk away from snowmobiles. They are dangerous, loud and stink!
- We need lots of bike/walk ski trails in and around town. The automobile traffic is serious problem at this time and will only get worse. Promote quiet winter & year round activities and work toward reducing driving traffic, air pollution, noise pollution etc.
- Future parks and recreational funds should be focused on additional parks with access to the existing trail/bike path network and to the creation of new trails/bike paths to connect existing parks. The creation of a comprehensive trail/bike path system around the town of Mammoth will have a lasting and beneficial impact on the town, its inhabitants and visitors.
- Please expand Nordic trails in the future. Also there is a large population in town with animals.
- I would like to see the town focus its efforts on quiet, clean sports like hiking, biking and Nordic skiing
- XC ski trails

- As Ive moved to Big Pine, Im not qualified to comment on this. However, Id gladly buy a resonably priced pass to the trail system (for visitors) Say, \$20-25 for seniors like me.
- We need more XC ski, snowshoe trails around and near to town (especiall snowcreek, meadow area. All other key winter sports resorts have better Nordic sports that Mammoth. If we are to compete we need for more emphasis on the quiet winter sports. XC ski, snowshoe, dog walking.
- I would lide to see more support given toward increasing the trail system. In addition, it would be great to see continued support in the area of grooming, ie: support grooming all trails, inforcement of no-motorized access too.
- Expand/extend trail system. Summer: for hiking/ biking. Winter: quiet users only. All year: Dog friendly.
- Expansion of and maintenance to a winter trails system for walking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and dog walking.
- We think the town should aggressivley support Nordic Activity including cross country skiing and snowshoeing and develop activities around these sports.
- More extensive, better signed and interconnected Mountain bike and Nordic ski trails. Less snowmobiles.
- Expand XC ski trails gooming.
- It would be nice to have more pedestrian trails to walk around town, especially because it's so dangerous walking on the streets.
- There needs to be a bike trail going up to the Lakes basin and arund all the driveable lakes.
- Bike path to Lakes Basin and around the Lakes Basin.
- Need more in-town trails/paths. The town is not walking user friently.
- Trail system in town and connection to Forest Service trails.
- Keep grooming XC ski tracks when snow allows.
- Extend bike trail between Mammoth Creek Park and Juniper Springs, Little Eagle Lodge. Provide indoor recreation alternative to the very expensive Snowcreek club.
- We need a Nordic Trail System
- Please complete the bike/waling trail system and give Mammoth a quality trail system as is seen in so many other resort communities. It needs to be a groomed ski trail system in the winter.
- Nordic Ski Trail and complete trail system.
- Integrated parks & trails system including public arts installations.
- More bike trails throughout town-all connecting and safe.
- Groomed X-C ski trails.
- Improve Town trail system by signage, maps & directions & mileage at each intersection.
- Please plow Mammoth Creek Trail in the wiwnter. There are more walkers than x-country skiers. Needed!
- Bike paths, hiking trails
- More x-country and hiking and biking trails away from motorized recreation. We, and the 15 children, grandchildren, husbands and wives plus numerous friends use our condo frequently for the above activities. The two of us live in Mammoth 1/2 the year.
- would love to see the bike path/cross country system extended beyond what it is.
- more trails for walking and biking
- More nordic trails.
- need for open space and trails system (mostly improved) bell shaped parcel preserved as open space trail system all along mammoth creek (valentine preserve to 395
- Put a walking path along Lake Mary road and Main street, at least to Kelly Road

- Expand bicycle trail system especially to lakes basin.
- Cross country ski trails throughout the city. Example: Along Meridian at the golf course (where the x-country signs are now. Also a x-country ski trail thru the Meadow.
- More bike and walking trails that allow you to walk or bike around without having to be on the streets.
- what is being done to ensure the continuation of nordic trail grooming on the summer bike trails and shady rest area? had it been listed as a facility i would have ranked it #2 and if listed as a program i would have listed #1
- better bike/run paths and ski trails
- more walking paths trail system
- a trail system that can be used by foot/bike/ with dogs and possibly horses
- parks and facilities throughout town should be connected to each other and the surrounding wilderness by a safe and usable system of trails or just sidewalks year round.
- Provide trails and safe sidewalks to get around without a car and to exercise on.
- The Questionnaire lacked recognition that the trail system is a recreational amenity. A completed year-round trail system, linked to transit should be a top priority.
- provide area for staging of snowmobiles keep working on expansion of trail system and access to wilderness - provide better wayfinding/signage
- more x- c trails groomed for both visitors & mmh residents

Dog Parks

- dog park
- Residents have many large dogs that require room to run every day. At present the area south and east of the USFS Pack Station/Sherwin Ranch extending up towards the motocross area is used by dozens of residents/dogs daily and needs to be preserved for this purpose (at least).
- dog park, dog park, dog park
- The most important is a dog park.
- There needs to be somewhere that dog training classes can be held even in the winter.
- A dog park would be a great asset to the town in especially during winter months.
- It would be nice to have a dog training location that we could use in the winter and not have to drive to Crowley. I would love to see dog agility here year round.
- Need for off leash dog park
- More dog parks.
- Develop a dog park! Woof!
- we need a dog park with such huge dog population and indoor location for dog training especially during winter
- we need an indoor dog training facility for winter use
- I don't want to have to drive to Crowley or Bishop for dog training in the winter. We need an indoor facility for dog training for winter. A multi-purpose facility would be great as well.
- Need indoor & outdoor facility for dog play and training. These activities are for adult recreation as well.
- DOG PARK. Dog training classes have been excellent. They need to continue!!
- A dog park would be great.
- Dog Park - off leash.
- we definitely need a place where dogs can run free
- what i miss most since moving to mammoth is a fenced in dog park where my dog can safely run free and socialize with other dogs. it's a nice way for people to meet, too.

- Clearly indicate dog owners responsibility to "pick up - leave not trace" after their animals ... and provide poop bags (like you often do). Thank You.
- shady rest is becoming "dog poop park" a dedicated dog facility is needed
- People with dogs need to be more considerate by cleaning up better after their dogs.
- Dog parks needed!
- Please provide more doggie clean up stations. I really dislike all the dog poop everywhere. Maybe cite people who dont comply.
- fenced dog park

Swimming Pools

- A public, indoor swimming pool is really needed in Mammoth. It's a major source of recreation and fitness for people of every age.
- Open Whitmore Pool year round for hot pool soaking.
- Definitely an indoor 50 meter pool. We might attract more triatheletes and swimmers.
- it would be nice to have an indoor swimming pool in town. it could be used all year round. S.L. Tahoe has one
- aquatic ctr #2
- we need an aquatic facility
- More lap hours at pool.

Other Indoor Recreation

- An family friendly indoor recreation center with non-resident access would really be a great benefit.
- You need some sort of Indoor field house, especially for basketball in winter months.
- I would like to see a town recreation center. It is noticably absent.
- Mammoth needs a state of the art community events and recreation center. Convertible for different activities like swimming, indoor volleyball, basketball , soccer, music concerts, festivals, jazz jubilee, art center show, performing arts, running track, conventions, fitness center and more.
- An indoor fitness center as an alternative to the very expensive Snowcreek Athletic Club would be great
- We need a multi purpose indoor facility which shoud include swimming, villeyball ad other court play, and rental / useable space for dog training and other classes.
- Inddor facility to include swimming and volleyball with additional space for dog training and or meetings.
- Need indoor tot lots for kids in winter.
- a recreation center
- Indoor would be great (well ventelated).
- year round indoor facility pool, weight room, track, racquetball
- as an avid soccer player the HS gym is inadequate for the amt of teams and level of play.
- Indoor Aquatic Center is needed and a indoor sports field with running track.
- A indoor tennis court,pay for use, would benefit both locals and visitors.
- Public recreation center is a definite must have.
- What about an indoor tennis court?
- more indoor athletic opportunities for the non skiers/boarders
- we need a year round swimming pool IN mammoth we need an indoor track to walk in winter

Ice Rink

- Ice Rink open as much as possible
- What happened to skating rink plan?
- perhaps our grandkids would like the ice skating rink.
- We do not need a ice skating facility. Let the Mountain provide it!
- ice skating rink
- I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE IDEA OF AN OUTDOOR ICE SKATING RINK IN THE OPEN SPACE ADJACENT TO THE MAMMOTH CREEK PARK AS THE SPACE IS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMODATE ACTIVITY LET ALONE AN ACCEPTABLE BUFFER TO THE ADJACENT HOMES AND BUSINESSES. WHY DOES MAMMOTH LAKES CONTINUE TO APPROVE PROJECTS THAT MAKE THINGS DENSER AND DENSER IN TOWN?
- Outdoor ice rink
- Do not put ice rink at Mammoth Creek Park!
- We are looking forward to the new community ice rink. Please insure that there is plenty of time for open skating.
- This would have been a good winter to have that ice rink operating.
- We need an ice skating rink!
- I think an ice rink is great
- No need for ice rink?
- The ice rink is long overdue!
- i would like to see plans for ice skating. it's missed
- indoor year round icerink

Snow Park/Winter Play

- A family sledding area away from the road and traffic would be a welcome addition
- Snow play areas for families.
- More outdoor winter activities
- more winter use parks with playgrounds
- Would like a designated place where we could take small kids sledding.

Events Venues

- A small bandshell or small multi-use ampitheater would be a great addition to any park area for summer events.
- We need desperatly a amphitheater where people can go listen to music, all kinds.
- #1 need - performing arts center
- The town lacks good live music venues this faculty could also be used for plays, movies, slide shows etc.
- concert/amphitheater facilities
- When we were in town 2 weeks ago we realized that there was not much to do there in the evening except of going out to eat or to the bar. We think that Mammoth Lakes needs more cultural events to make it more alive, a good Performing Art Center (with interesting programs) could be the place to bring people in. And it should be advertised well. Mammoth Lakes, as a place of destination, also needs some good marketing.
- We need- performing arts center.
- what is being done to ensure that sufficient venues are available for the jazz jubilee or any other special event that may become as important to the community?
- the 2 highest priorities should be to dev a performing arts cntr and a nature cntr. both would benefit locals and tourists alike.

- performing arts ctr #1
- A performing arts center is a must!
- the need is there for a performing arts center. before any more money is spent on additional child programs or a skate ring which should be privately operated

General Park Amenities

- It would be most convenient to have lockers and restroom facilities available for venues in fixed positions.
- Please continue to provide well-maintained picnic tables and barbeque facilities. The covered tables are especially nice during inclement weather.

Running Track

- We need an outdoor track as well as some wood chip trails for running and walking.
- An outdoor track would be great. The town has so many runners. I know that a lot of them, including me, would make great use of it.
- An outdoor track would be a great addition. Can we lease any land near the animal shelter? Raising the money will be the easy part. A shell or half-dome would be awesome for performances and concerts...add some more culture to this beautiful place.
- we need a running track
- We need an outdoor track!
- An outdoor track is necessary, and indoor one to supplement it would be even better
- We could really use a track in Mammoth considering the long and cold winters (with the exception of this winter of course).

Misc. Facilities

- indoor skateboard park
- Id like to see an outdoor area for paintball/airsoft activities and target practice.
- An equestrian park would be nice--with overnight camping for horse and owners. Right now we're limited to the commercial stables and those are often expensive.
- More dirt bike areas. More community events for moto x riders. Theirs money in the event
- I would like to see the development of several cross town equestrian trails. IE: from town to Main Lodge, from the stables across to Main St., from Shady Rest to Village & from Canyon thru Eagle to stables.
- Roller skating area, games area from hopscotch to basketball.
- A water park, batting cages and ice rink.
- the equestrian program should be expanded
- add more tennis courts to the community courts facility
- add more tennis courts to the community center courts
- womens ice hockey league bowling alley would be nice
- There is a great need for a bowling alley in Mammoth.

3. Access

- Community bus system to parks

4. Aesthetics and Open Space Conservation

- Places to relax and enjoy the scenery are always great.
- Protect empty spaces . Try to not develop unnecessarily. Preserve natural park space in the town.

- Mammoth Lakes is situated in an outdoor wonderland. Suburban parks would provide a taste of L.A.
- Do not allow the hotel to be built on the creek along Old Mammoth Road and Mineret, keep for open space and activities (tennis etc)
- Please stop cutting the trees for more parking and condos.
- Even though the community is surrounded, we still need open space in the town.
- Save the creek.
- Preservation of creeks.
- Preservation of the natural beauty, especially around Mammoth Creek
- Public areas that are natural & info signage about our environment-Nature Park Info.
- Provide open space and quiet spaces for enjoyment of nature. Natural history tours of Meadow and creeks.
- more open space throughout town, Jackson, Wy has that
- Protect the wildlife especially the birds. Stop cutting down the trees. I would support a tax measure to preserve open spaces and fund a budget for regular shoreline trash pickup incl. fishing line & hooks all around our lakes, streams and creeks. A budget to protect our resources. Educate the Fisherman about "Leave No Trace"
- our entire area is a park we don't need to turn this place into so cal. please keep future parks passive no lighting the distributes our beautiful sky
- Preserve the Mammoth Creek
- Don't build them if they take away the natural surroundings.
- most important to create and keep green space
- Preserve/more Open space and natural settings. These are a major asset of/draw for Mammoth Lakes.
- We really need to improve the looks of Mammoth in general and parks may help. Make sure no trees are removed to build a park. It's just the town (buildings,etc.) that is soooooo unattractive.
- Don't over-organize ML! We leave/left the city to enjoy nature here!

5. Misc. Programs and Classes

- I would like to see more variety as to the choices for summer camps such as adding a letterboxing camp where the kids look for existing letterboxes around Mammoth as well as designing and placing their own letterbox.
- Relative to cycling - many communities have very active riders that meet for group rides on a regular basis. In case Mammoth Lakes does not have such a group, we would find it highly desirable from its recreational, health and social benefits.
- Include an annual class on bears and other wildlife in the area. One such class was offered last July and would be appreciated again this year.
- I would really like to see a youth 8-14 Gymnastics program.
- More youth programs and parks n rec programs geared towards locals. Can help build a community.
- more info re flora and fauna of the area
- More cultural diversification such as Italian & French language classes. Definitely need more music & theater events.
- The Town of Mammoth has needs things for the families to do when the mountain is closed due to the weather. New activities have to be offered when visitors want to take a day off from riding on the mtn.
- Combined fly fishing and hiking program. Casting pond in one of the parks.
- a summer masters swim coach would be great at whitmore

- i'd like to see an ohv/osv plan for the town w/ access for green sticker vehicles to a gas station and restaurant(s).
- Lots of music! Social events for the community year round.
- we need more arts/cultural activities on a spread-out basis/ boozapalooza and jazz festival are not designed for local but rather for tourism.

6. Meeting Needs of Different Age Groups

- More adult activities in parks, not swing sets, but perhaps par-training-courses and athletic /active /obstacle trails.
- My wife and I are interested in indoor and outdoor activities for seniors to stay fit.
- I think the parks should be geared towards youth to keep them out of gangs. Mammoth has some nasty gangs, that beat up my kids.
- arts/drama programs for kids
- Lack of child care (preschool and infant care) is a huge concern for me. Working parents in this town have very few options, and those options are ever dwindling as current providers retire or otherwise close on a continual basis. I feel much more emphasis needs to be place in the area of child care for working parents.
- Critical need for whole weekday programs for kids 6-18. Parents must be able to work and know their kids are supervised. Current programs mix age groups that cannot do same activities ex: 6-12 y/o. There needs to be separate programs for 11/12 -14/15 year olds. Separate programs for 10 &under. Current camps have been M-Tu-W then over night Thurs, that hardly helps local parents. parks n Rec needs to consider child care for post-husky club kids, Not just what is fun or for tourists.
- Less focus on kids and more focus on active, older youths and adults.
- We need- teen youth center, senior center.
- Child care, pre schools & youth after school programs are extremly needed. The Lutheran pre school is closing in Aug 2007. They service up to 45 children.
- I would love to see more activities for 3-5 year olds during the summer rec program.

7. Information and Awareness

- Newsletter
- General information would be great. As a non resident homeowner, I am not always aware of the facilities available.
- plans of their developments and programs
- We are second time owners and are not aware of all you offer you need to some how let us know what you have to offer - I had no idea you have a swimming pool - is this open to the public and are you open during the winter - where is it located?????
- Would like to know where to go to get info. Is there a website? Is there a homeowner newsletter? Even in brief, a quarterly newsletter to homeowners could list special events and park information

8. Maintenance

- Control Bee's better. Fix water sprinkler systems better.

9. Funding

- Make it great for both visitors and residents, especially in the summer! I would support it with a higher sales tax. Do not put the burden on bed tax, it is already higher that almost ant destination and needs to be reduced to keep people coming.

- Please use the additional revenue brought into town from all the development to improve the facilities without taxing owners. Those charges should be passed on to renters and non-residents.
- Comment for down below #21: Ahead of this kind of support I propose to form a Donor committee and set a "goal of Donations" depending on the \$ amount.
- Question #21: I do not see the need for a tax measure when building permits are as high as they are. If the Town would run like a business there would be plenty to adequately provide the public with amenities. Quit the waste!
- no more taxes we saw how well the gov't squandered our money away on the last ice rink
- I think new development should pay for new facilities.
- i am weary of supporting any facility that caters to the tourists because prices will then be too high for the locals
- Regarding the next question (21): The property tax base in Mammoth Lakes is HUGE. It appears to me that the town must be swimming in money with so many "2nd Home" owners who make no demands on schools, etc. So why would you need new taxes for parks improvements?
- do not follow the lead of the federal government and other cities, by increasing spending and taxes. attempt to spend as if the money comes out of your personal bank account.