



ALABASTER PARKS

Parks Needs Assessment
June 2020

Prepared by:

BARGE
DESIGN SOLUTIONS.

Alabaster Parks Needs Assessment

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Acknowledgments

City of Alabaster Mayor and Council

Marty Handlon, Mayor

Ward 1 - Councilperson Sophie Martin

Ward 2 - Councilperson Rick Ellis

Ward 3 - Councilperson Stacy Rakestraw

Ward 4 - Councilperson Greg Farrell

Ward 5 - Councilperson Russell Bedsole

Ward 6 - Councilperson Scott Brakefield

Ward 7 - Councilperson Kerri Pate

Brian J. Binzer, City Administrator/City Planner

Alabaster Parks and Recreation Staff

Tim Hamm, Director

Special thanks to those who volunteered their time to participate in the Stakeholder Workshop and completed the online survey.

This report was prepared by:



1.0 Introduction

The City of Alabaster is a 20.6-square-mile city located in north central Alabama, approximately 30 miles south of downtown Birmingham. Located in Shelby County, Alabaster is geographically characterized by mountain ridges and their associated valleys. Named after the white limestone originally mined in the City, Alabaster was officially incorporated in 1953.

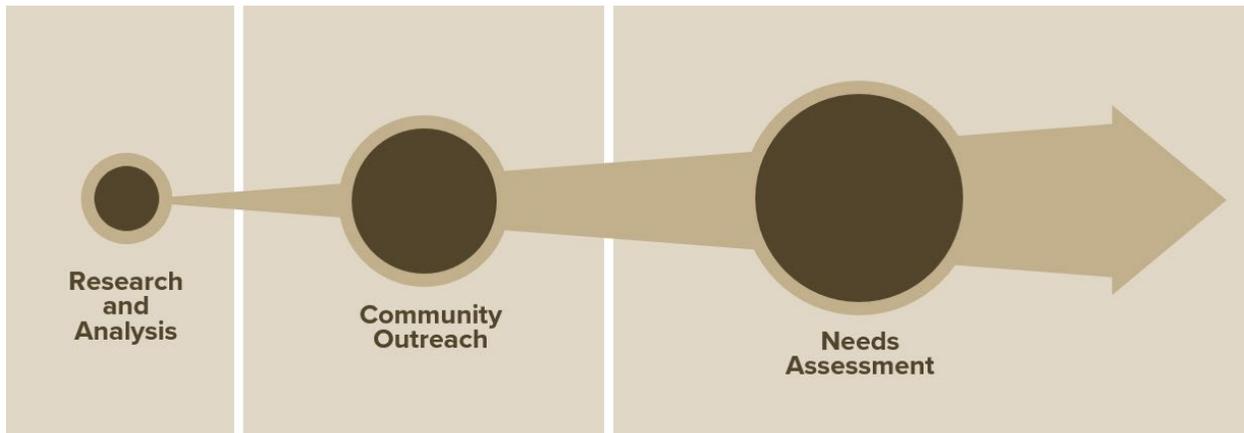
The City of Alabaster engaged Barge Design Solutions (“the consultant” or “consultant team”) to help create a Parks Needs Assessment. A Parks Needs Assessment differs from a Park System Master Plan in several ways. Traditionally, a Park System Master Plan is a five-phase planning process: Research and Analysis, Community Outreach, Needs Assessment, Development Plan and Recommendations, and Implementation Plan. The Park System Master Plan requires detailed research, site visits to all parks within a municipality, and focus group and public meetings, among other action items. The Park System Master Plan acts as a complete guide to aid communities in their parks and recreation planning over a set period of time, generally ten years.

Contrarily, a Parks Needs Assessment is only a three-phase planning process: Research and Analysis, Community Outreach, and Needs Assessment (see Figure 1-2). A Parks Needs Assessment gathers demographic information, as well as data about existing parks and recreation facilities, and collects input from stakeholders and the community in order to evaluate the needs of a particular park system. The resulting document will enable the City to assess their needs and make future parks and recreation planning decisions based on those needs and the wants of the community. The project description below further explains the phases and the specific information gathered during each phase.



Figure 1-1: Location map of Alabaster, Alabama. (Source: Barge Design Solutions)

Figure 1-2: Three-phase planning process



Project Description

The City of Alabaster, Alabama, in cooperation with the consultant, produces a Parks Needs Assessment to evaluate the current park system level of service (LOS) and the future LOS that will be needed over the course of the next ten (10) years based on City-provided demographic data. The purpose of the project is to identify how the current park acreage and existing park facilities relate to the current and projected population. The plan also acquires input from park system stakeholders through a Stakeholder Workshop. Some of the information gathered from the focus group meetings is used to develop questions that relate specifically to the City of Alabaster for the Community Input Survey.

The three tasks of the Needs Assessment depicted in Figure 1-2 and described below can be performed individually, and each provides useful information on which the City can make decisions about the future development of the park system and/or individual parks. However, the three tasks build on each other in the order in which they are listed to provide Needs Assessment results that are based on data, park user personal input, and statistically valid community-wide input. The consultant team put the Needs Assessment scope of work together in this way to provide the City with options to move forward with all three tasks or any combination of tasks. All tasks are performed in-house by the consultant team, who are all experienced in park system master planning.

Demand/Needs Analysis

The City provides the consultant demographic data on the geography and population specific to the City, including projected growth figures for the time period of the plan: 2020 through 2030.

The City also provides the consultant team an inventory of parks and recreation facilities offered by City Parks, as well as other public and not-for-profit providers within the City.

The consultant team then assesses how the various demographic characteristics affect the recreational habits of the City residents and determines how existing park facilities could be modified to better meet the needs of those residents.

Based on the analysis of the demographic information, the evaluation of the current Level of Service, and the outcomes of the public involvement process, the consultant team prepared a Needs Assessment specific to Alabaster. This data provides the basis for determining the priorities and needs of the City for parks and recreation facilities, greenspace acquisition and protection, and the development of trails over the next ten (10) years.

Stakeholder Workshop

The consultant team works with the City of Alabaster to create a list of stakeholders to attend a Stakeholder Workshop. The consultant team plans the agenda, dates, locations, and related logistics for the meeting. As part of the Stakeholder Workshop, the consultant team prepares a presentation and facilitates an interactive workshop to gather critical input from the participants. The results are documented and the information utilized to help develop questions for the community survey.

Community Survey

The consultant team develops and conducts an online survey to support the public outreach goals of the plan. The survey is designed in close partnership with the City of Alabaster and input from the Stakeholder Workshop. The survey is conducted using a secure system that allowed for only one use per respondent's IP address. In this effort, the City promoted the survey using example text and suggestions for promotion in order to help achieve a representative demographic makeup of the City of Alabaster.

Questions on the survey are developed with input from City staff, stakeholders, and suggestions from the consultant team. After several drafts, the survey is approved, and a "pretest" is conducted to verify that all questions are understood and could be answered by respondents. The survey for the City of Alabaster Parks Needs Assessment includes 20 questions, some with multiple components. Once the survey closed, the consultant team analyzes the results and summarizes the data, which is provided in Section VII of this document.

2.0 Demographic Trends Analysis

Population

Alabaster's population is on an upward trend, rapidly increasing over the next two decades. In 2018, the population of the City of Alabaster was 33,340. By 2040, the population is projected to increase by 49% to 49,739¹. With a growing population, it is imperative the parks and recreation facilities and programs meet the demand. The parks and recreation system will need to strategically invest, develop, and maintain parks and recreation facilities in relation to current and future housing development areas.

Age Segment

The age of the residential population in Alabaster is relatively balanced among the major age segments, with the largest group being 35-59, making up 37.4% of the population; and the second largest group being 60 and older, making up 16.3% of the population. However, the median age of the City is becoming slightly older. In 2010, the median age was 35.6 to an estimated 36.2 in 2014.² According to 2018 U.S. Census information, 51.1% of Alabaster's population was female.³

Providing access to services and programs will need to simultaneously focus on multiple age segments, as different age segments have different preferences toward activities. The fairly balanced age distribution will require the City to continue to provide programs, services, parks, and facilities that appeal to all residents of the community.

Racial Composition

In analyzing the City's racial composition provided by the 2018 U.S. Census Bureau, the current population is predominantly White Alone, with 71.7% of the City's population falling into that category. The Black or African American Alone category makes up 14.5% of the population, representing the largest minority in the City. Additionally, 10.1% of the City's population is

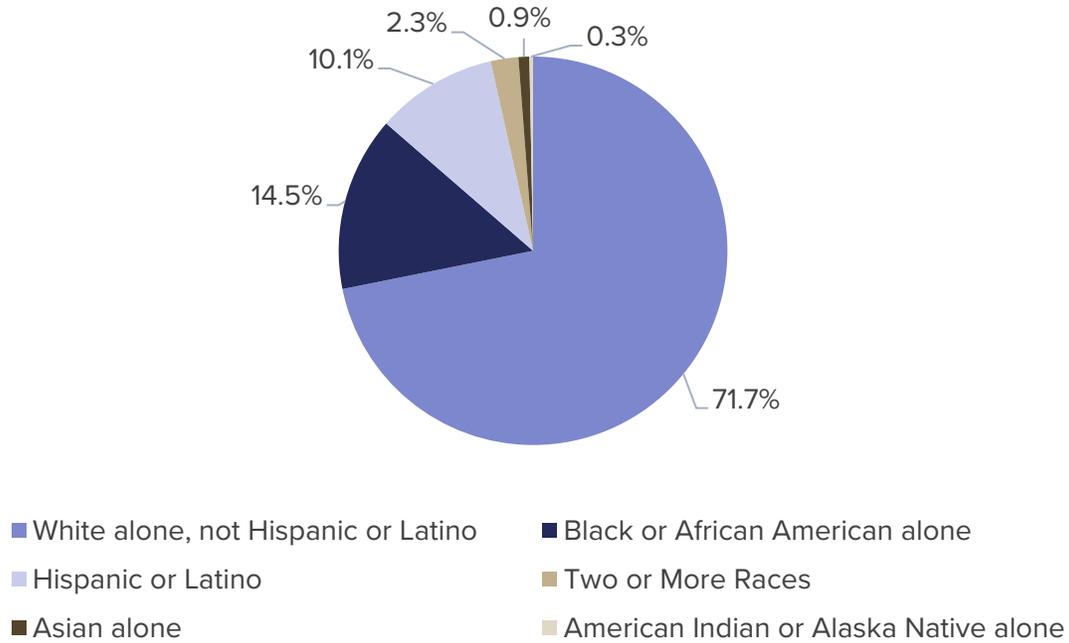
¹ Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB) Forecasts: <https://www.rpcgb.org/transportation-system-information-forecasting>

² 2017 U.S. Census Bureau

³ 2018 U.S. Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/alabastercityalabama>

Hispanic or Latino. American Indian and Alaska Native Alone (0.3%), Asian Alone (0.9%), and Two or More Races (2.3%) make up the remaining 3.5% of the City’s population.⁴

Figure 2-1: Racial Composition of Alabaster



Median Household Income

From 2000 to 2014, the City of Alabaster’s median household income increased from \$58,379 to an estimated \$71,905, a 23% increase. While the median household income for the state of Alabama has virtually remained unchanged during that time, the City of Alabaster and Shelby County have both experienced an increase in household median income. This is primarily due to comparably higher wage jobs, higher rates of economic mobility and opportunity, and a low unemployment rate among the City’s labor force.⁵ The implications of this data suggest the City could consider options for fee-based facilities and programs, with waivers provided on the basis of need.

⁴ 2018 U.S. Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/alabastercityalabama>

⁵ *Alabaster Forward: City of Alabaster Comprehensive Plan Update*

3.0 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

This section provides a brief description of City facilities managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. Table 3.1 shows the current park inventory by classification, along with their acreages. Figure 3.1 shows the locations of the parks within the City. The City of Alabaster’s current inventory of park and recreation facilities includes eight (8) parks, totaling approximately 284 acres.

Table 3-1: Existing Alabaster Parks by park type and acreage

Alabaster Parks		
Park Name	Park Type	Acreage
Willie B. Arrington Park	Pocket Park	0.64
Abbey Wooley Park	Neighborhood Park	4.30
Hero's Park	Neighborhood Park	6.00
Alabaster Municipal Park	Community Park	30.10
Buck Creek Park	Community Park	26.80
Warrior Park	Community Park	19.30
Veterans Park	Regional Park	98.70
Limestone Park	Special Use Park	98.10
Total Park Acreage		283.94

Figure 3-1: Existing parks and recreation facilities in Alabaster

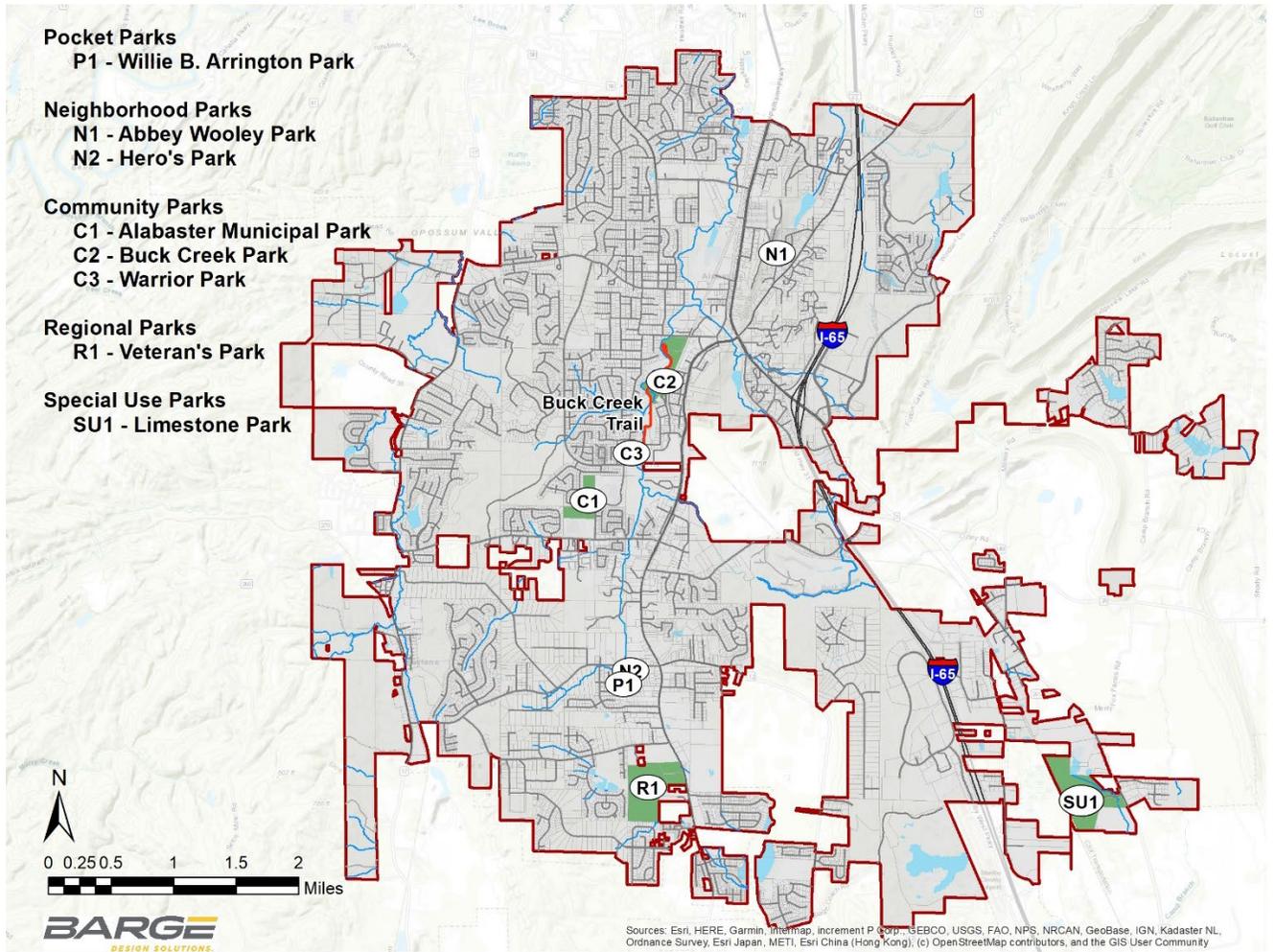


Figure 3-2: Willie B. Arrington Park



Location: 215 Yellowhammer Drive, Alabaster, Alabama 35007

Size: 0.64 acres

Classification: Pocket Park

Amenities: Not applicable

Currently, the Department does not oversee programs at Willie B. Arrington Park and this site does not have any facilities. The City is considering added a playground with seating areas, a pavilion, and potentially a restroom facility.

Figure 3-3: Abbey Wooley Park



Location: 320 Park Road, Alabaster, Alabama 35007

Size: 4.3 acres

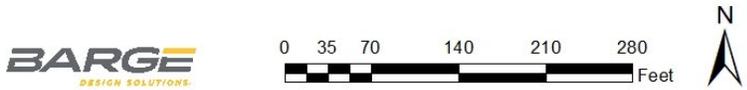
Classification: Neighborhood Park

Amenities:

- Walking trail (1/4 mile)
- Basketball court
- Playground
- Pavilion with tables (rentable)
- Water fountain
- Small parking lot
- Swing set

Currently, the Department does not oversee programs at Abbey Wooley Park. Upcoming projects include resurfacing and extending the walking trail; renovating the existing basketball court and adding LED lighting; building a new restroom facility; re-roofing the existing pavilion; and providing improvements to the playground including adding seating areas around it.

Figure 3-4: Hero's Park



Location: 1950 Butler Road, Alabaster, Alabama 35007

Size: 6.00 acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Amenities:

- Walking track (1/8 mile)
- Playground
- Swing set
- Port-a-let bathrooms
- Fire station attached to park

Currently, the Department does not oversee programs at Hero's Park; however, they are considering adding a pavilion and restroom facility and making repairs to the existing walking track.

Figure 3-5: Alabaster Municipal Park



Location: 500 Warrior Drive, Alabaster, Alabama 35007

Size: 30.1 acres

Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- 9 acres of soccer fields
- 4 tennis courts
- Basketball courts (2 half courts and 1 full court)
- 2 pavilions (rentable)
- Playground with swing sets

Youth soccer and municipal special events are run out of Alabaster Municipal Park. The City is considering providing artificial turf field(s), a new pavilion, a restroom and concession building, adding LED lighting, and enhancing the existing playground at this park.

Figure 3-6: Buck Creek Park and Trail



Location: 701 6th Avenue SW, Alabaster, Alabama 35007

Size: 26.8 acres

Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- Youth football field
- 3 baseball/softball fields
- Walking track (1/4 mile)
- Playground with swing set
- Football equipment building with press box and attached restrooms
- 1 standalone restroom facility
- Maintenance facility
- Entrance marquee
- Buck Creek Trail attached to park
- Buck Creek borders park

Department-run programs at Buck Creek Park include youth tackle football, youth soccer, youth baseball and softball, and adult softball. The City is considering updating the playground and potentially adding a splash pad in a central location as part of the City Hall renovation project. Other improvements may include a new pavilion, repairs to the walking track, netting for ballfield fences, new field fencing and adding LED Lighting. The Buck Creek Trail should be extended.

Figure 3-7: Warrior Park



Location: 100 City Park Lane, Alabaster, Alabama 35007

Size: 19.3 acres

Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- 4 baseball/softball fields
- Press box with attached concessions and restrooms
- Storage facility (converted from former restroom building)
- Playground with swing sets
- 2 batting cage areas (7 total cages)
- 3 paved parking areas
- Entrance marquee
- Buck Creek Trail and Buck Creek bisect the park

The City is considering updating the press box/concession area, adding a pavilion, laser grading the athletic fields, repairing /replacing the lower parking lot pavement, updating the playground, and adding LED lighting.

Figure 3-8: Veterans Park



Location: 7305 Highway 119, Alabaster, Alabama 35007

Size: 98.7 acres

Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- 5 baseball/softball fields
- Press box with attached concessions and restrooms
- Walking track (2.1 miles)
- 2 standalone restroom facilities
- 18-hole disc golf course (certified)
- Beneful Dream Dog Park
- 2 playgrounds with swing sets
- 1 covered batting cage area (9 hitting areas)
- 1 uncovered batting cage area (4 hitting areas)
- Skate park with office building
- Maintenance facility
- Temporary parks office building
- Veterans Memorial
- Large open play meadows
- 3 lakes
- 2 paved parking areas
- 5 bin aggregate storage area

Department-run programs at Veterans Park include youth baseball and softball, flag football, adult softball, kickball, crossing country, and various events. The City is currently developing over 16 acres of frontage into more multipurpose sports fields, walking trails, and additional parking. The City will also add a park entrance sign and move the existing park entrance road.

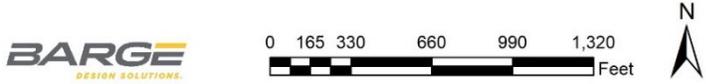
Current projects:

- Artificial turf fields and Natural turf Fields with LED lighting
- Extending Walking Track
- Adding bathroom
- Pavilion pads for future use
- Re-locating Entrance
- Adding Digital reader Sign at New Entrance
- Adding Parking spaces

Proposed Projects:

- Pickle Ball Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Sand Volleyball Courts
- Repair existing walking track
- Replace existing Skate Park building
- Add 2nd entrance/exit to Park
- Add LED Lighting

Figure 3-9: Limestone Park



Location: 2400 Highway 31 S, Alabaster, Alabama 35007

Size: 98.10 acres

Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- Radio control airfield
- Bird observatory deck
- Community garden
- Public works facility
- Alabaster Police Department firing range
- Lake

Limestone Park is part of the Alabama Birding Trail. Currently, the Department does not oversee programs at the park, and no major projects are currently planned for Limestone Park.

In addition to the improvements noted for each individual park, the City is considering adding the following elements to a piece of property referred to as the Mountain property. The proposed projects could include a tree top ropes course, zip line course, and hiking trails. Programming at this site could include canoe/kayak classes since it has water access.

In the next section, underserved areas by parks are identified. When planning and allocating funds for new improvements, the City should work to acquire new park land as outlined in the next section. The City should also look to improve existing trails in the parks and expand them. Capital improvement funding and maintenance should be identified for all the improvements noted in this section and include new facility projects, such as a new recreation center and developing improvements at the old YMCA property.

4.0 Level of Service Analysis

Level of Service (LOS) standards are guidelines that define service areas based on population that support investment decisions related to parks, facilities, and amenities. LOS standards change over time. As the population increases, the need to acquire additional land and develop parks also increases, as does the cost for doing so. Additionally, the LOS standards should be viewed as a guide. The standards should be utilized with conventional wisdom and judgment related to the particular situation and needs of the community. These standards should be used to make informed decisions-makers when planning to develop new parks, facilities, and amenities.

The consulting Team evaluated LOS standards using a combination of resources. These resources included National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines; community and stakeholder input; and general observations. This information allowed standards to be customized to the City of Alabaster Parks and Recreation Department.

The standards include a recommended service level based on acreage for each type of park, for total park acreage, and for important outdoor amenities (pavilions, baseball fields, multipurpose fields, etc.) based on quantity. The standards include a current LOS based on a population of 33,340, according to the U.S. Census Bureau⁶, and a recommended service level in 2030, and 2040 based on population growth projections from the City's Comprehensive Plan Update.

By applying the LOS standards to the population of Alabaster, gaps and surpluses in park and facility/amenity types are revealed. Currently, there are multiple needs to be met within Alabaster to properly serve the community now, as well as in the future. Alabaster currently provides a total LOS of 8.5 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents based on the City's 2018 estimated population. Developed parkland describes any park that is open to users of all abilities and that has infrastructure in place to support safe park use. Those uses may include, but are not limited to, parking area(s), restrooms, and basic park amenities such as trails, open play space, etc.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/alabastercityalabama>

Table 4-1: Level of Service for Existing Alabaster Parks

Park Type	City of Alabaster Inventory	Current Service Level Based Population		
Pocket Parks	0.64	0.0	acres per	1,000
Neighborhood Parks	10.30	0.3	acres per	1,000
Community Parks	76.20	2.3	acres per	1,000
Regional Parks	98.70	3.0	acres per	1,000
Special Use Parks	98.10	2.9	acres per	1,000
Open Space/ Conservation Parks	0.00	0.0	acres per	1,000
Total Developed Park Acreage	283.94	8.5	acres per	1,000

Alabaster is fortunate to have a sizable amount of parkland, primarily in the form of regional and special use parks but based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines, park land of other types are deficient. After much consideration, the consulting team recommends increasing the overall LOS standard from 8.5 to **10.0 acres/1,000 population** as a goal. This means that currently, the City is **deficient by 49.5 acres** of developed parkland.

Table 4-2: Recommended Level of Service

Park Type	City of Alabaster Inventory	Recommended Developed Park Service Levels; Revised for Local Service Area		
Pocket Parks	0.64	0.20	acres per	1,000
Neighborhood Parks	10.30	0.30	acres per	1,000
Community Parks	76.20	2.00	acres per	1,000
Regional Parks	98.70	2.50	acres per	1,000
Special Use Parks	98.10	2.50	acres per	1,000
Open Space/Conservation Parks	0.00	2.50	acres per	1,000
Total Developed Park Acreage	283.94	10.0	acres per	1,000

To keep up with the growing population the City will need to acquire 142 acres by 2030 and roughly 214 acres by 2040 to achieve the recommended standard (see the following table).

Acquiring new parkland could occur by City land acquisition or dedication of land by a private owner or a public/non-profit agency. Development by the private sector that is not dedicated to the City would not be included in the calculations unless it was open to the general public.

Table 4-3: Level of Service for Existing Alabaster Parks (Current and Future)

Park Type	City of Alabaster 2019 Inventory	Current Population (33,340)	2030 (42,596)	2035 (46,168)	2040 (49,739)
Pocket Park	0.64	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Neighborhood Parks	10.30	0.31	0.24	0.22	0.21
Community Parks	76.20	2.29	1.79	1.65	1.53
Regional Parks	98.70	2.96	2.32	2.14	1.98
Special Use Parks	98.10	2.94	2.30	2.12	1.97
Open Space/Conservation Parks	0.00	-	-	-	-
Total Developed Park Acreage and LOS (no new acres added)	283.94	8.52	6.67	6.15	5.71

However, just adding land is not the intent of the recommendation. The key is adding certain types of parks and in strategic locations. When comparing the inventory to the recommendations, it is easy to see that the largest park type deficiency is in the open space/conversation park category. There is also a need for pocket parks. It is important to highlight that simply adding acres to the system will not address the recommended goals. As Figure 5-2: Service Area Gaps shows, the parks need to be distributed throughout. The next table provides recommendations for outdoor amenities level of service.

Table 4-4: Outdoor Amenities Level of Service Recommendations

Outdoor Amenities Level of Service Recommendations			
Outdoor Basketball	1	per	5,000
Multi-propose fields/Soccer	1	per	4,000
Football Fields	1	per	30,000
Tennis Courts	1	per	2,500
Volleyball Courts	1	per	5,000
Baseball	1	per	5,000
Softball Fields	1	per	6,000
Picnic Pavilion	1	per	2,000
Picnic Sites	1	per	5,000
Running /School Track	1	per	20,000
Multi-use Trails/Greenway (paved)	1	mile per	2,000
Playground	1	per	1,000
Dog Park	1	per	5,000
Skate Park	1	per	50,000
Outdoor Swimming Pool	1	per	100,000
Recreation Center	1	per	30,000

By using these standards, the consulting team calculate the surplus of facilities (in green) and the deficiencies (in red). As the table below shows, more than half of the categories are deficient. In the short-term, the largest need appears to be multi-use trails/greenway (paved) and tennis courts.

Table 4-5: Outdoor Amenities Level of Service Surplus and Deficiencies

Outdoor Amenities	#of Existing Facilities	Current Population	2030	2035	2040
Outdoor Basketball Courts	3	-4	-6	-6	-7
Multi-Purpose/Soccer	13	5	2	1	1
Football Fields	1	0	0	-1	-1
Tennis Courts	4	-9	-13	-14	-16
Volleyball Courts	-	-7	-9	-9	-10
Baseball Fields	12	5	3	3	2
Softball Fields	-	-6	-7	-8	-8
Picnic Pavilions	13	-4	-8	-10	-12
Picnic Sites	18	11	9	9	8
Running/School Track	-	-2	-2	-2	-2
Multi-use Trails/Greenway	4	-13	-17	-19	-21
Playgrounds	7	0	-2	-2	-3
Dog Parks	1	0	0	0	0
Skate Parks	1	1	1	1	1
Outdoor Swimming Pool	-	-1	-1	-2	-2
Recreation Center	-	-1	-1	-1	-1

Legend: Surplus  Deficient 

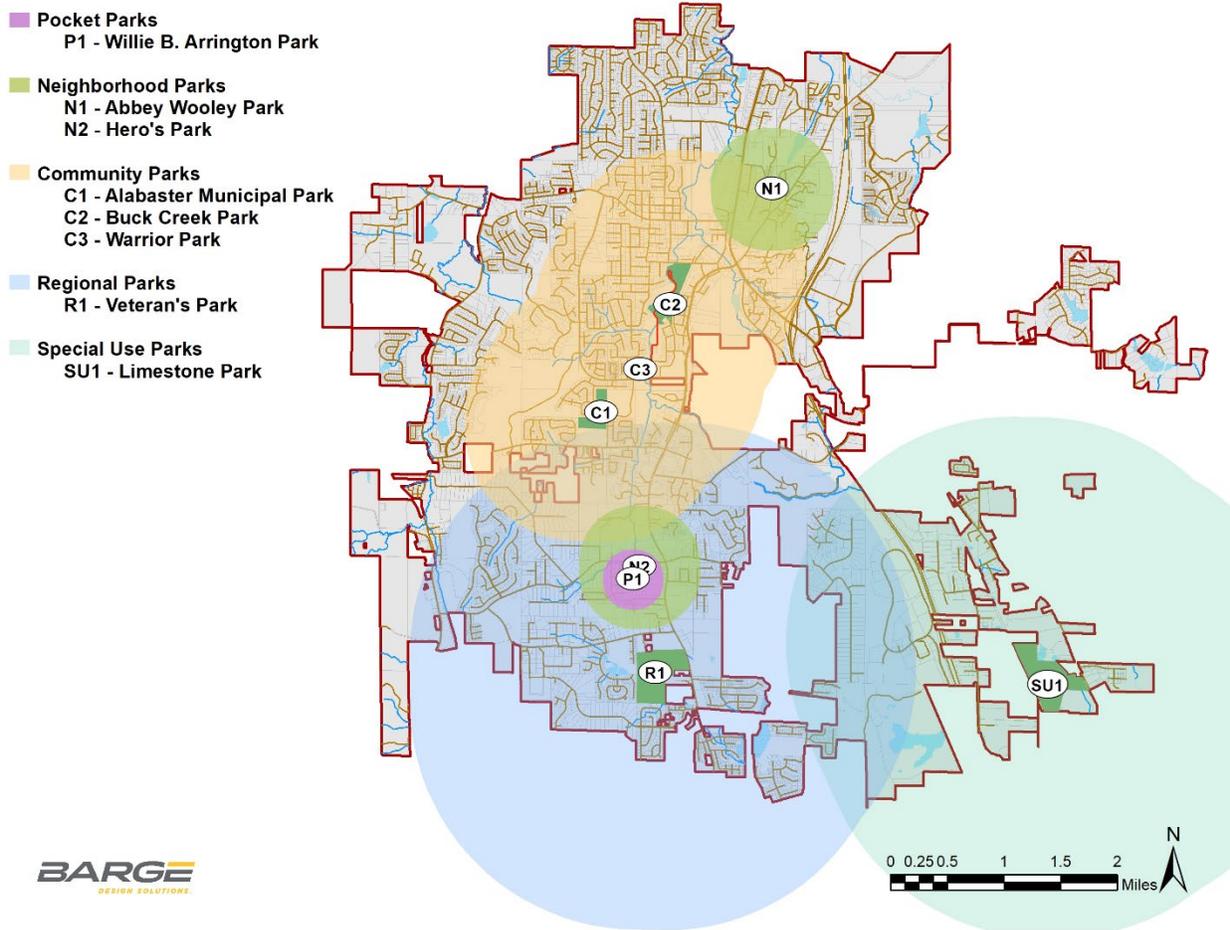
And while recreation center is actually an indoor amenity, the table includes it with a conservative recommendation of 50,000 square feet in size. The City does not have a recreation center, which is pushing the demand onto schools and other providers. Throughout the input gathering process, the consulting team consistently heard the desire for indoor recreation space with meeting rooms and other amenities.

5.0 Service Area Analysis

Figure 5-1 illustrates the service radii around the existing City-owned parks used for recreation. Given that much of the City is more urban or suburban residential in character and could have a pedestrian network, it is a reasonable goal to locate a park within a short walking distance of all homes in Alabaster. Park space within walking distance is an important element in providing quality recreation experiences and in increasing the health and fitness of community residents. People will walk down the street to a park after dinner to exercise or let their children play but are much less likely to do so if they must get in a car. Generally accepted standards for how far people are comfortable walking to a park indicate 1/4 mile is acceptable, and 1/2 mile is the maximum distance people are typically willing to walk. This assumes that there is a safe sidewalk or trail that can be used; otherwise the distance does not matter as people will not walk when it is not safe.

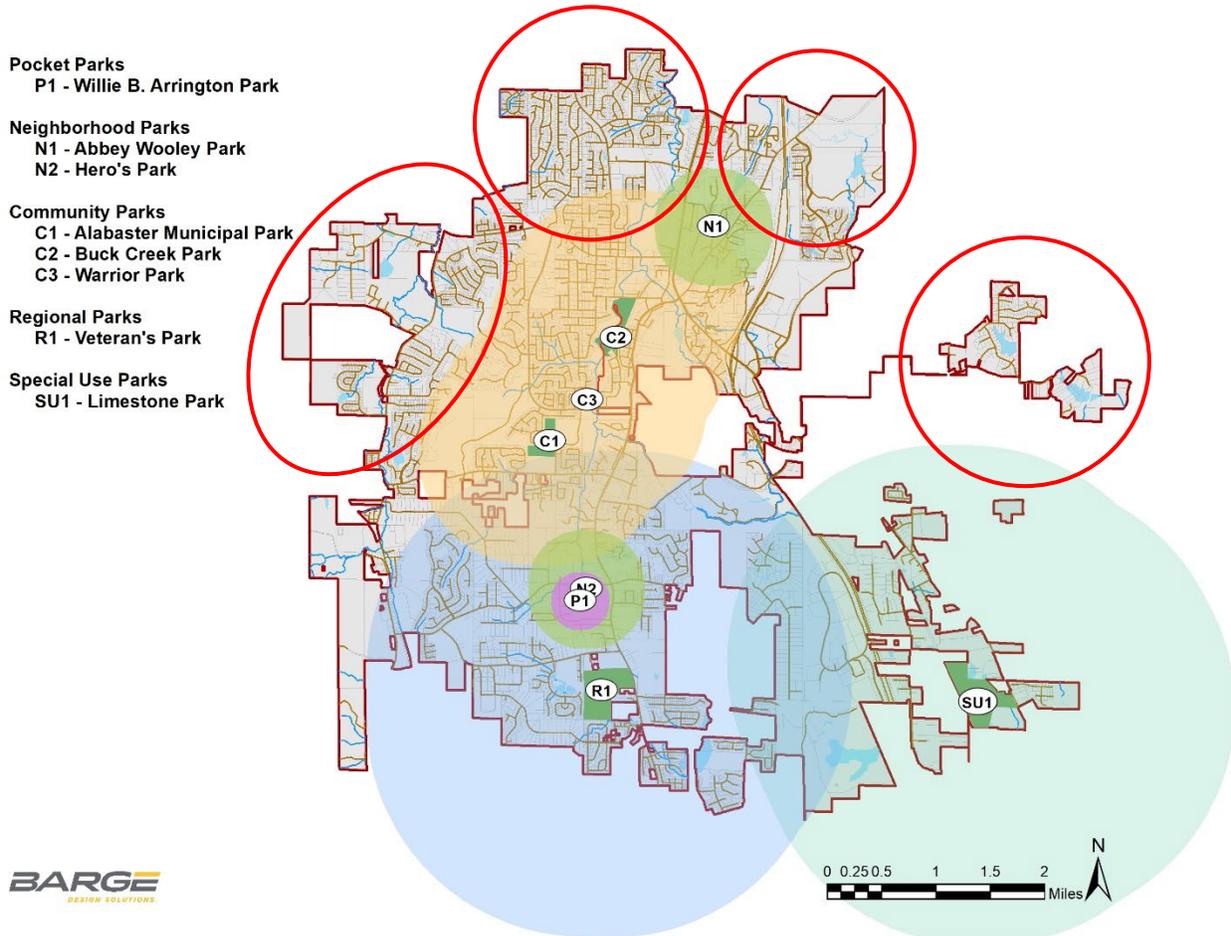
When analyzing the service area, it is important to consider where homes are located. In less populated areas, having gaps in service is acceptable. In more populated areas with gaps, the consulting team recommends adding parks.

Figure 5-1: Alabaster Parks Service Areas



Gaps in the areas of service currently exist in the northwestern, northern, and northeastern perimeters of the City (see Figure 5-2).

Figure 5-2: Service Area Gaps



6.0 Stakeholder Workshop

With the help of the Alabaster Parks and Recreation Department staff, the consulting team conducted one focus group discussion in Alabaster on December 2, 2019. A total of 23 participants signed attendance sheets in the focus groups. The focus groups were identified and invited by Department staff. The following is a listing of the individuals and that were involved in the process:

- Jason Griffin
- Ben Williams
- Jeff Herren
- John Burt
- Jayme Aman
- Tim Hamm
- Ethan Southern
- Kenneth Bruce
- Nelson Grice
- Jeff Atkins
- Brian Pavlick
- Laura Tucker
- Josh Van Zandt
- Derrick Morrissette
- Kyle Koring
- Allen Anderson
- Rusty Martin
- Morgan Lawley
- Sharon Allen
- Vu Quang
- Brent Byars
- Kaine Martin
- Jason Holsomback



A presentation of the project/planning process was given to the stakeholders. Then, each person was asked a series of questions on the strengths and weaknesses related to the park system in the City of Alabaster. Each person was also provided the opportunity to give input related to their particular interest. The following is a summary of the responses.

List the top five strengths of Alabaster programs and facilities related to parks and recreation?

Priority	Top Five Strengths
1	City employees/Parks and Recreation staff
2	Offer a variety of sports and programs
3	Veterans Park
4 (tied)	Locations of parks
4 (tied)	Well-organized sports and programs
4 (tied)	Beneful Dream Dog Park
4 (tied)	Communication with directors/City staff/leadership
5 (tied)	Baseball fields
5 (tied)	Potential to add new parks within the City

List the top five biggest challenges that Alabaster is facing related to parks and recreation?

1. No recreation/community center
2. Not enough basketball (indoors or outdoors)
2. Not enough gyms and fields
3. Red light at Veterans Park
3. Parks need updating
4. Poor field conditions
5. Traffic on Highway 119 to Veterans Park
5. No indoor batting cages
5. Parking
5. Maintaining existing facilities

What top facilities and programs would you like to add to Alabaster? (dream big)

Facilities:

- Recreation/community center
- Aquatics center/indoor pool(s)/outdoor pool(s)
- Splash pad
- Citywide multiuse trails
- Indoor and outdoor basketball courts

Programs:

- Lacrosse
- Volleyball/youth volleyball
- Youth and adult basketball
- Youth and adult tennis
- Archery/competitive archery

If there was just one thing that you would like to make sure that the master plan covers, what would that be?

- Building a rec center
- Rec center for indoor sports
- Multipurpose facility/gym
- Rec center for the City. Many options available for public and for pay-to-use through a rec center
- Focus it to be inclusive to everyone regardless of social or economic class
- Rec center
- The City would benefit greatly from an indoor rec center. Not just for sports, but meeting space, etc. Might use weights and cell membership, etc. REC CENTER!
- Our need for a rec center!! It's sad that we have much smaller neighboring cities with rec centers
- Make sure to consider bike trails. I highly recommend splash pads
- To improve community outreach to help give access to parks, sports, and the area
- Many large, synthetic grass fields to host tournaments for Alabama and accommodate growing youth interest and Hispanic population
- Create a way to connect parks for runners and bikers – we have a pipeline system and used for a small running trails; would like to see it expanded; add lights for safety
- Greenspace, trails, passive recreation. Recreation center
- Add more options that do not require the YMCA; i.e., basketball, aquatic center, and recreation center
- Rec center
- Rec center; comprehensive trail system; amphitheater
- Rec center that allows no “school system” access providing clinic/programs to involve children and adults access to not only bog 3 sports but tennis, paddleball, etc... that are lifetime sports
- What can we (residents) see in 2020, one year? New adult leagues. What can we see in 2022, three years? Smaller building projects. What can we see in 2024, five years? Larger building projects
- A rec center that can used for basketball, volleyball, etc.
- Community center with basketball courts
- A stand-alone soccer facility for program soccer, with the existing field for public use. A rec center for program basketball and the addition of volleyball programming
- Adding the community for Alabaster. We could use the old TIS building to add on to without using other land. Adding an adult basketball league would be next on the list.
- Soccer fields at Veterans Park along with more tennis courts and a splash pad. Also, clean up Municipal Park and make it a place Alabaster can be proud of when visiting teams come and play

Is there anything else that you would like to share that we haven't asked you?

- Handicap baseball park
- Update Warrior Park. Same as it was 30 years ago
- There needs to be a focus on maintaining current facilities and upgrades also

- With all that has been done for the new high school, our little league parks need to keep up
- The parks department does a great job keeping public bathrooms clean – we still need more bathrooms available
- Funding considerations for new facilities: are there public/private opportunities, like YMCA? Public/public opportunities between the City and city schools?
- Would like to see more paved bike trails and more connectivity to the parks via paved trails
- Travel ball (baseball and softball) has depleted the park city. City pride and unity is a casualty due to this. It would be great to find a way to entice young kids to stay in the park system.
- Don't just limit park and rec to sports and active. Maybe: recording studios/places bands can play; garages to work on cars; campground areas?
- In addition, I would like to see additional fields be added similar to those in Hoover at Liberty Park that can serve multiple purposes, ex. football, flag football, baseball, lacrosse, soccer, and softball. Tournament can be hosted that will continue to bring people into our community
- How about just a park that is aesthetically pleasing to walk through for the sake of enriching your life?

The stakeholders were also asked to vote for their priority facilities and programs by placing a dot next to the facilities and programs they would like to see in the community. The results are listed on the following page.

PROGRAMS	Vote
Adult basketball/volleyball programs	17
After-school programs/out-of-school camps	8
Youth basketball/volleyball programs	8
Golf lessons/clinics	5
Programs for people with special needs	5
Youth baseball/softball programs	5
Youth lacrosse programs	5
Gymnastics	4
Tennis and Pickleball lessons and leagues	4
Community special events (concerts, festivals, etc.)	3
Fitness and wellness programs (Yoga/Tai Chi, etc.)	3
Running events (5K, 10K, Marathons)	2
Walking/jogging/running clubs	2
Art classes (pottery, painting, etc.)	1
eSports leagues and tournaments	1
Gardening classes, farm-to-table classes/events	1
Recreation/competitive swim team	1
Youth learning/enrichment classes	1
Youth soccer programs	1
Adult learning classes (language, tech, etc.)	
Bicycle lessons and clubs	
Environmental education and programs	
Outdoor programs (nature programs, etc.)	
Performing arts programs	
Sand volleyball programs	
Senior programs and services	
Water fitness programs/lap swimming	
Youth football programs	
Youth learn-to-swim programs	

Free clinics for high school youth	6
Youth fishing	4
Youth Disc Golf	1
Women's Field Hockey	

FACILITIES	Vote
Recreation center/gymnasium	24
Basketball courts	11
Splash pad	11
Meeting rooms/community center rooms	6
Tennis courts	6
Walking and biking trails (multiuse paved)	6
Soccer/lacrosse multipurpose fields	5
Outdoor swimming pool	4
Archery range	2
Banquet/meeting rooms	2
Fishing pier/docks	2
Mountain bike trails	2
Walking and hiking trails (natural surface)	2
Baseball fields	1
Concession stands	1
Football fields	1
Playgrounds	1
Aerobics/dance rooms/dance floors	
Community gardens	
Disc golf course	
Dog parks	
Outdoor exercise equipment	
Pavilions/picnic sites	
Pickleball Courts	
Restroom buildings	
Sand volleyball courts	
Senior center	
Softball fields	
Zipline and adventure ropes course	

Bike lanes	3
Stage/Amphitheater	2
Bowling Facilities	

7.0 Online Survey Results

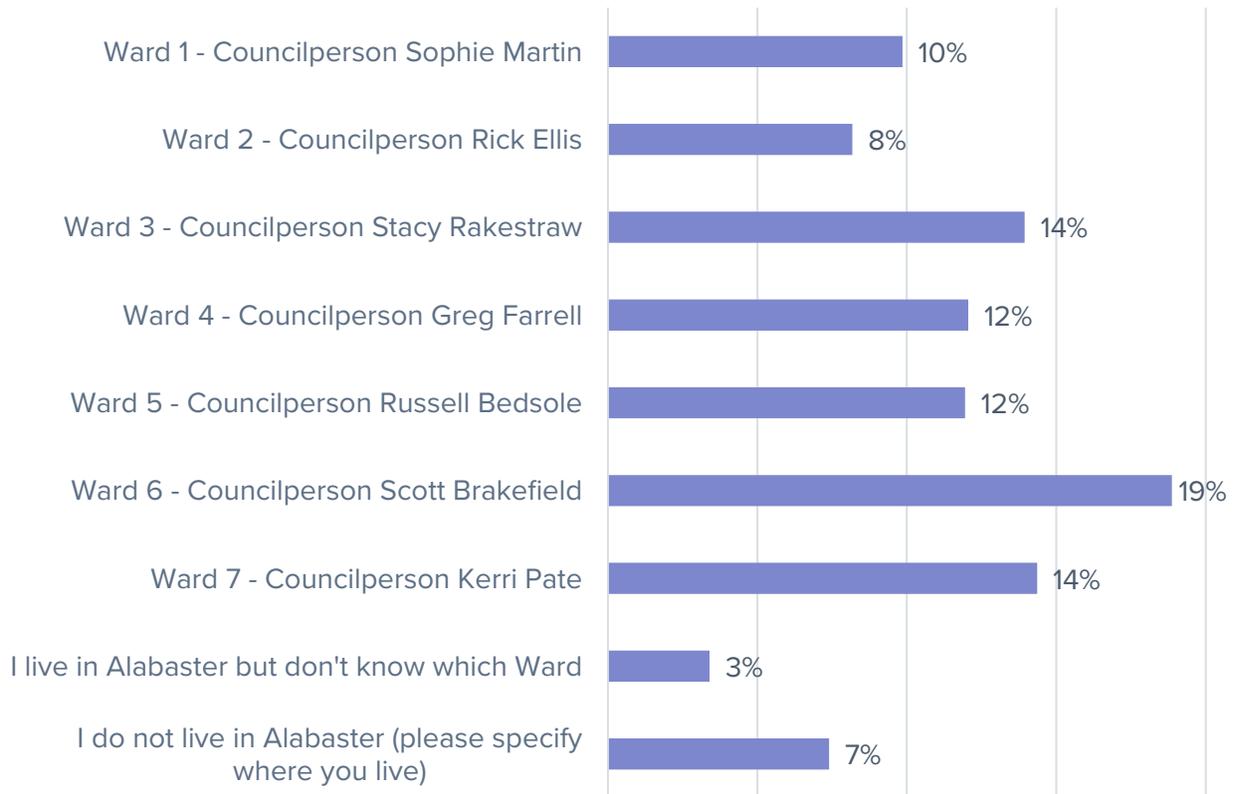
Next, an online survey was launched on January 25, 2020, and closed on March 10, 2020. Questions for the survey were developed based on input received during the focus group and public input meetings. The consultant team worked with Alabaster Parks and Recreation staff during a back-and-forth review process to refine questions. The survey was promoted through various methods including direct emails, social media outlets, and promotion in a monthly newsletter sent to 11,000 households.

The target response level was a minimum of 380. The survey exceeded that goal with 1,140 online responses and 33 paper surveys, for a total of 1,173 surveys completed. Based on this simple metric, we have a confidence level of 95% and confidence interval of 2.8, which means that we can be reasonably confident that these results represent the opinions of the community by ± 2.8 points of the results provided. However, we also review the demographic information provided. While this information is optional and relies on the honesty of the participants, we can compare the statistical significance of the sample. Using this comparison method, the consultant team can determine if there is a difference in how certain response groups answered various questions. During the analysis, we did not find cases of statistical significance between gender, race, and residents. We specifically compared the questions related to the desire for new programs and facilities. Minor differences in preference are noted in the analysis on the following pages.

Location and Demographics of Respondents

In the survey, we included several demographic questions and a residency question in order to determine if we were able to reach a typical representation of the community. The residency question was near the end of the survey and asked, “In which Ward in Alabaster do you live?” Respondents were able to select from a list, and a link to an Alabaster Ward map was provided for those who did not know in which Ward they live. The highest response was Ward 6 with 18.9% and the lowest was Ward 2 with 8.2%; however, the consulting team did not find a vast difference in the overall responses. While some responded that they do not live in Alabaster, they then noted in the comments that they live in Alabaster but were not sure in which Ward they live. In the chart below, the consulting team decided to separate those responses, which total 3%. Many of the written responses included a note that the person worked in the City or lived just outside the City limits. Within this 7%, several noted that they live in Calera, Montevallo, Maylene, or other locations outside the City.

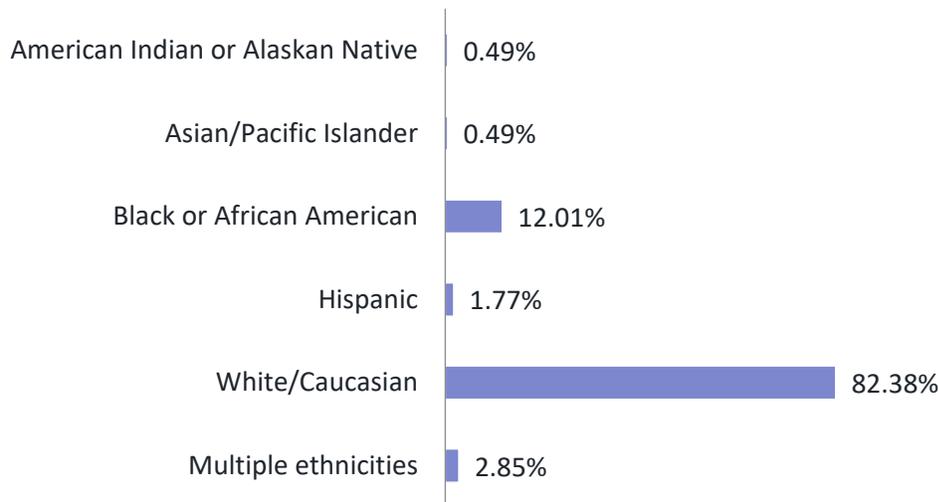
Figure 7-1: Respondents’ Location



In addition to asking where respondents live, we asked about their gender. In the results, we find that females represent the majority at 67%, with 33% male respondents. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau, the female population in Alabaster is 51%. While we have a disproportional number of females responding, many of our questions asked about opinions of the household. In our experience, we often find that females are more likely to take online surveys. During our analysis, we isolated responses from males and females on several questions to determine the statistical significance between groups. Unless noted below in the question analysis, gender does not appear to alter the outcome of the overall results.

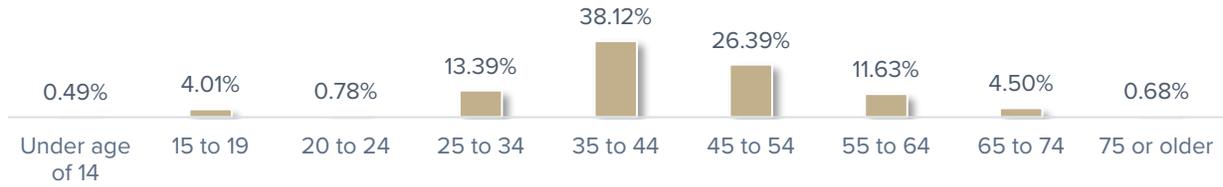
Similarly, we analyzed several questions for statistical significance between groups due to the disparity of race and ethnicity of respondents, with White/Caucasian at 82.38%. The reason for asking this question is to determine if we were able to reach a typical representation of the community and, if not, were their opinions about parks and recreation in Alabaster vastly different from the other groups. We looked closely at certain questions, such as the desire for new programs and facilities. If differences in preference were found, they are noted in the analysis on the following pages.

Figure 7-2: Respondents' Race and Ethnicity



In addition to gender and race, we asked respondents to provide their age. The majority responded with 35-44. According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2016 American Community Survey, the median age for Alabaster is 35.6, and the largest age group is 35 to 44, with 60 and older being the second largest age group.

Figure 7-3: Respondents' Age



And within the households, respondents were asked to provide the number of children by age living in the home. Approximately 32% of respondents answered zero or skipped the question. Of the roughly 68% responding, the largest group was 6 to 12 years old, and the smallest group was five years old and under. In addition, a respondent noted that they have an adult child who lives with them. It is important for the consultant team to see a variety of household types taking the survey. Overall, the consulting team was pleased to see a healthy mix of households ranging in age, with some having young children, some mid-range, and some with older children, as well as households without children or growth children.

Are Parks and Recreation a Priority?

Where a community spends money makes a strong statement about its priorities. In order to determine how the community rates parks and recreation, the survey asked how parks and recreation rated compared to other priorities in the community, such as schools, infrastructure, public safety, etc. Incredibly, a **total of 75.5%** rate parks and recreation as important (72.4%) or more important (3.1%) compared to other priorities in the community, such as schools, infrastructure, public safety, etc.

Figure 7-4: Priorities

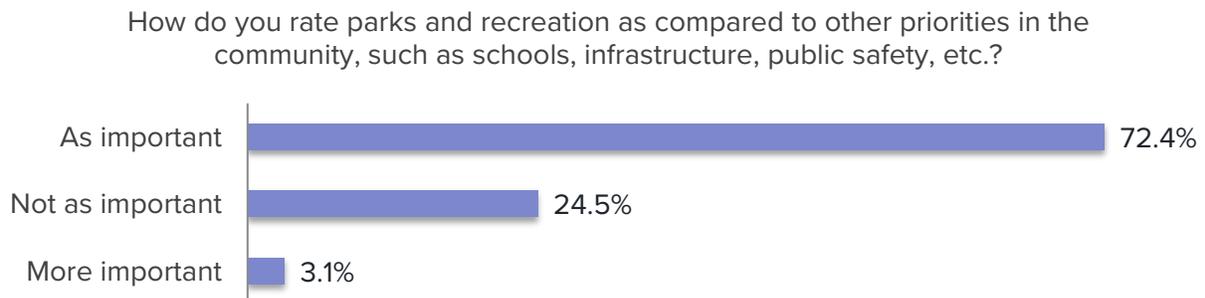
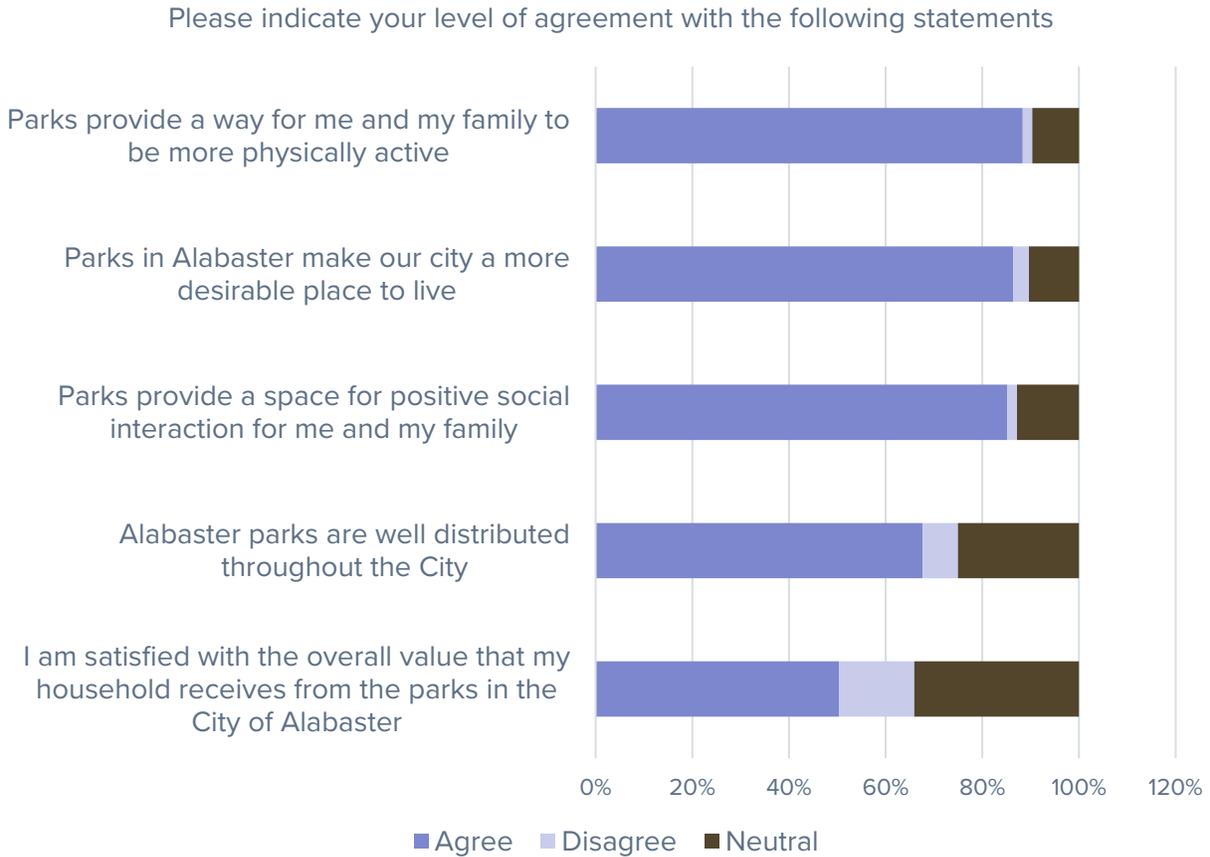


Figure 7-5: Opinions on the Role of Parks in the Community



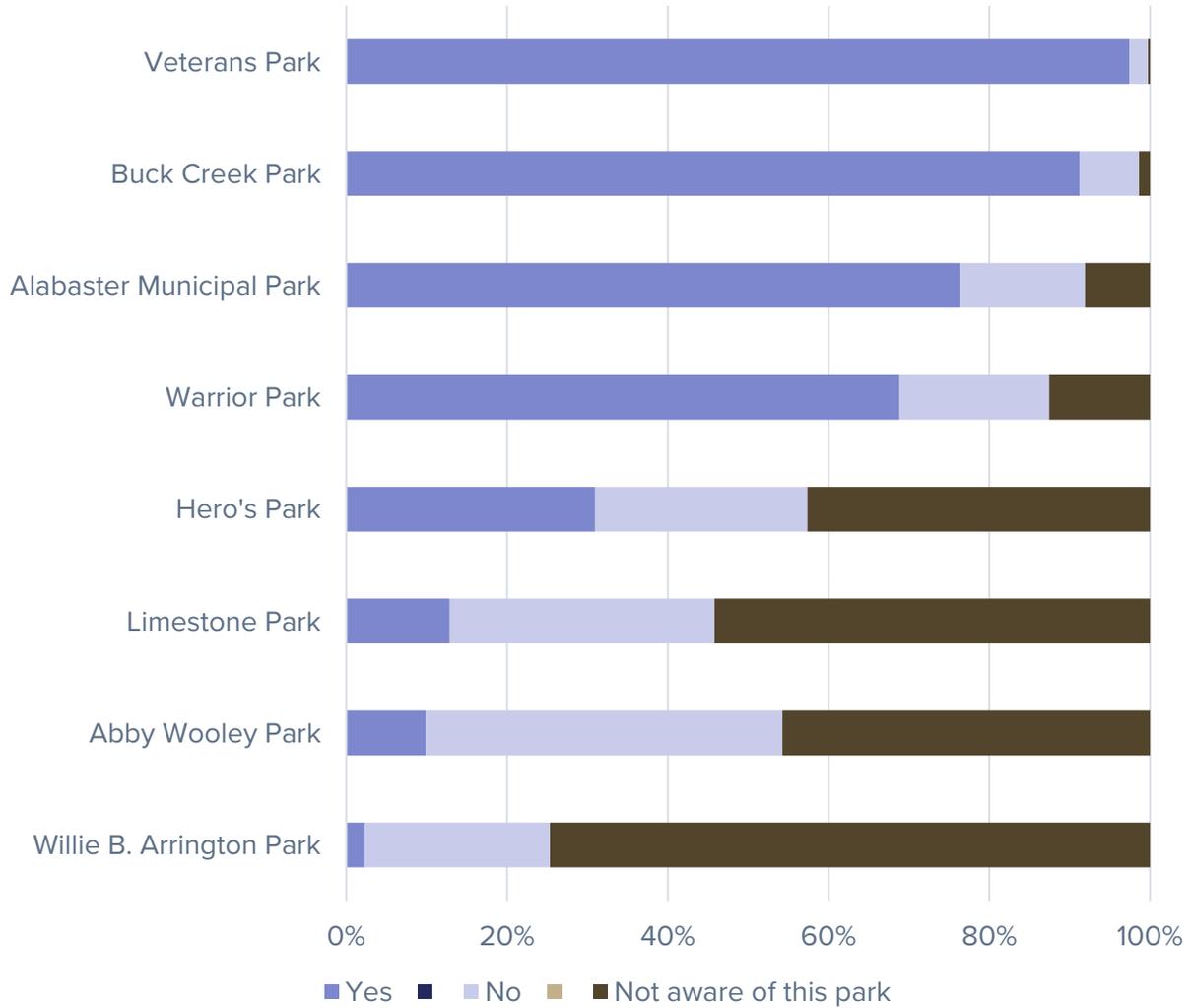
As part of the same question, the survey also asked respondents if they would be willing to volunteer to help improve the parks. Roughly half of the respondents agreed that they would volunteer, while 41% were neutral, and 9% selected the option that they disagreed with this statement.

Park Usage

To understand what parks are being used by the respondents, we asked respondents to indicate if they or any member of their household has used the following parks. The most used park, based on survey input, was Veterans Park, with 97% of respondents replying that they or a member of their household had used this park. This is not surprising considering that Veterans Park is a regional park with recreational offerings ranging from team sports to a dog park, catering to a wide array of levels and interests. Buck Creek Park was also noted as being used often, with 91% of respondents indicating their usage.

Figure 7-6: Park Usage

Please indicate if you or any member of your household has used the following parks in Alabaster.



Desire for Programs

Programs provide a conduit to engage the community in a variety of activities. To learn what programs Alabaster residents desire, we asked respondents to indicate if they or any member of their household currently use parks and recreation programs listed below. We find youth baseball/softball at the top of the list, with youth soccer, football, and basketball/volleyball also mentioned as programs currently used. These responses align with input provided by the stakeholder group related to needs for a variety of youth sport facilities and programming.

Community special events followed, and based on our experience, we typically find these community events rank high.

Top five Programs “CURRENTLY USE”	Votes
Youth baseball/softball programs	457
Community special events (festivals, etc.)	273
Youth soccer programs	220
Youth football programs	208
Youth basketball/volleyball programs	164

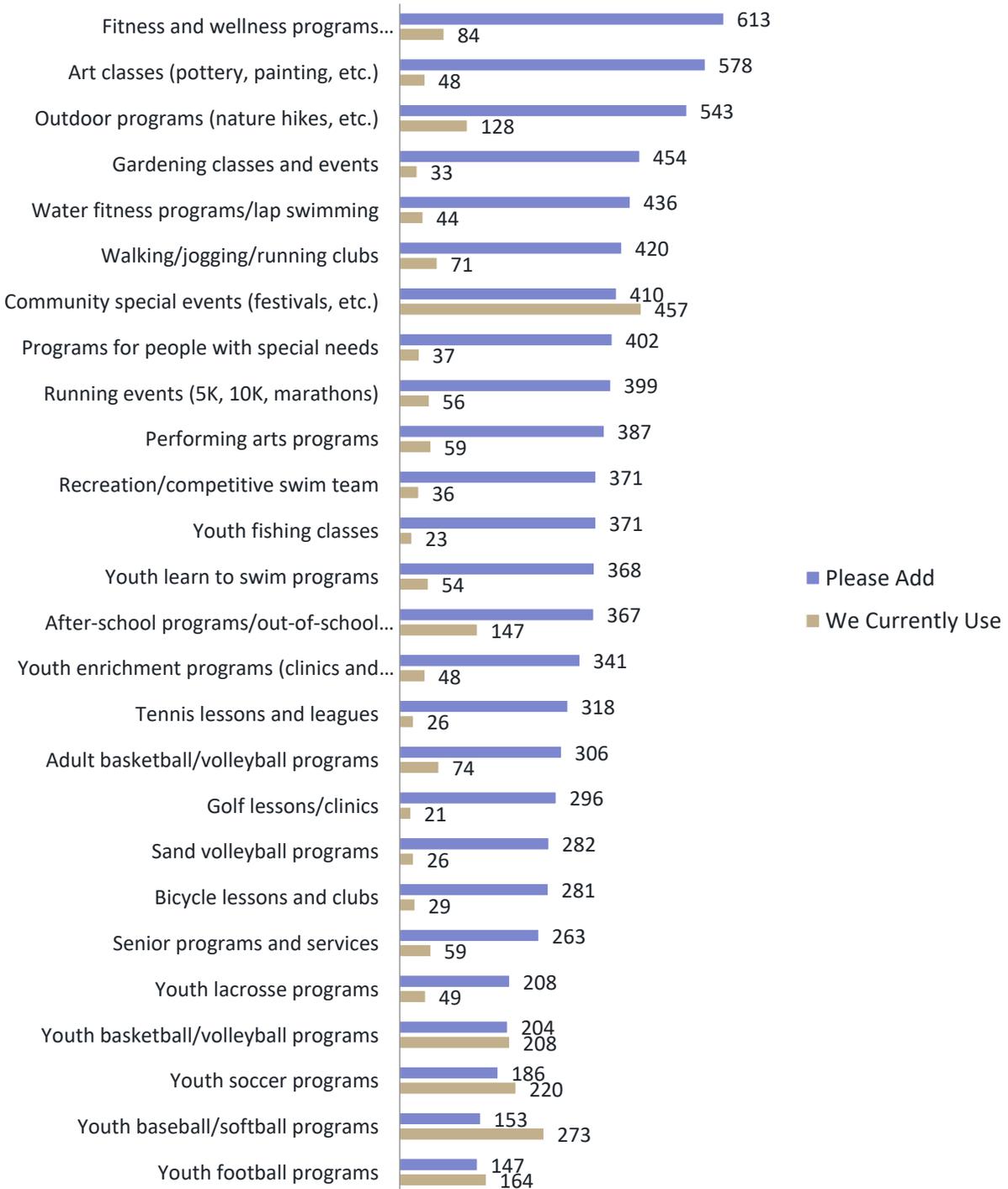
We asked respondents to indicate the programs that they would like added in the future, along with other non-sport programs where it is easy for any level of ability to participate. A desire for fitness and wellness programs was indicated. The variety of the top ten aligns with discussion from stakeholder engagement and it is important to note that it includes a desire for programs for people with special needs, which is part of the mission of community parks and recreation programs to provide opportunities for participation by wide segments of the community.

Top Ten Programs “PLEASE ADD”	Votes
Fitness and wellness programs (Yoga/Tai Chi, etc.)	613
Art classes (pottery, painting, etc.)	578
Outdoor programs (nature hikes, etc.)	543
Gardening classes and events	454
Water fitness programs/lap swimming	436
Walking/jogging/running clubs	420
Community special events (festivals, etc.)	410
Programs for people with special needs	402
Running events (5K, 10K, marathons)	399
Performing arts programs	387

High numbers in the items in Figure 7-7 suggest that there is pent-up demand for new programs across all groups.

Figure 7-7: Desired Programs

Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need/desire for the parks and recreation PROGRAMS listed below by checking "We Currently Use" and/or "Please Add" to the City of Alabaster.



Desire for Facilities

To determine the desire for facilities, both existing and not, we asked survey participants to indicate if they or any member of their household has a need/want for each of the parks and recreation facilities listed below. We find the number one desire is for walking and biking trails (paved), followed by a desire for restroom buildings in parks. Enhancements such as pavilions/picnic sites and playgrounds are also in demand.

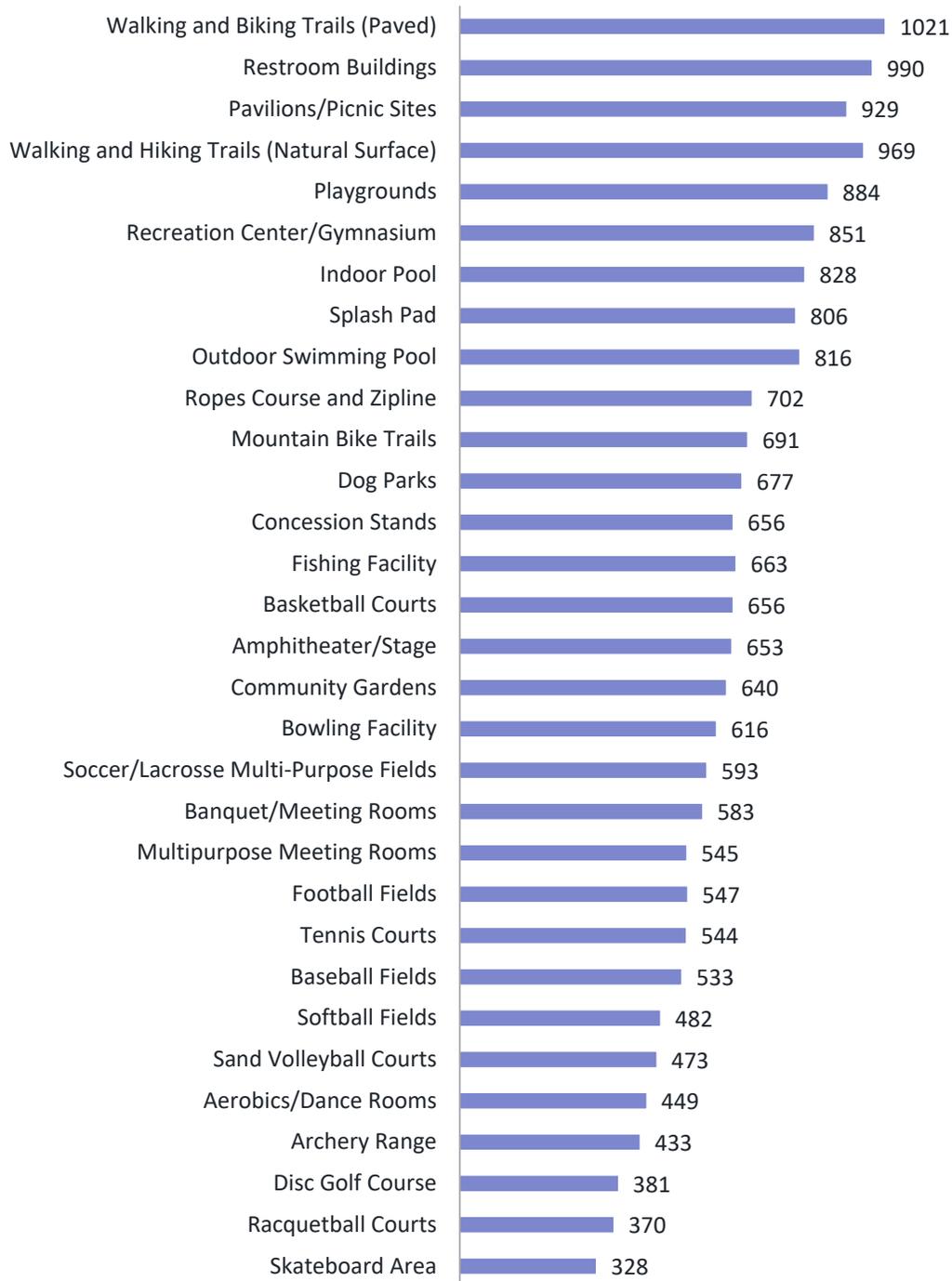
Top Ten Facilities	Votes
Walking and Biking Trails (Paved)	1021
Restroom Buildings	990
Pavilions/Picnic Sites	929
Walking and Hiking Trails (Natural Surface)	969
Playgrounds	884
Recreation Center/Gymnasium	851
Indoor Pool	828
Splash Pad	806
Outdoor Swimming Pool	816
Ropes Course and Zipline	702

With the high ranking of paved walking and biking trails and restrooms, we believe that the Parks and Recreation Department would have strong support for adding these facilities at existing parks. The top five items listed were similar when comparing responses from male and female. When comparing results from majority and minority races, with one difference, the responses were similar except for indoor pool outranking walking and hiking from residents that identified as Black or African American.

On the following page is a full listing of the desire for park facilities in Alabaster.

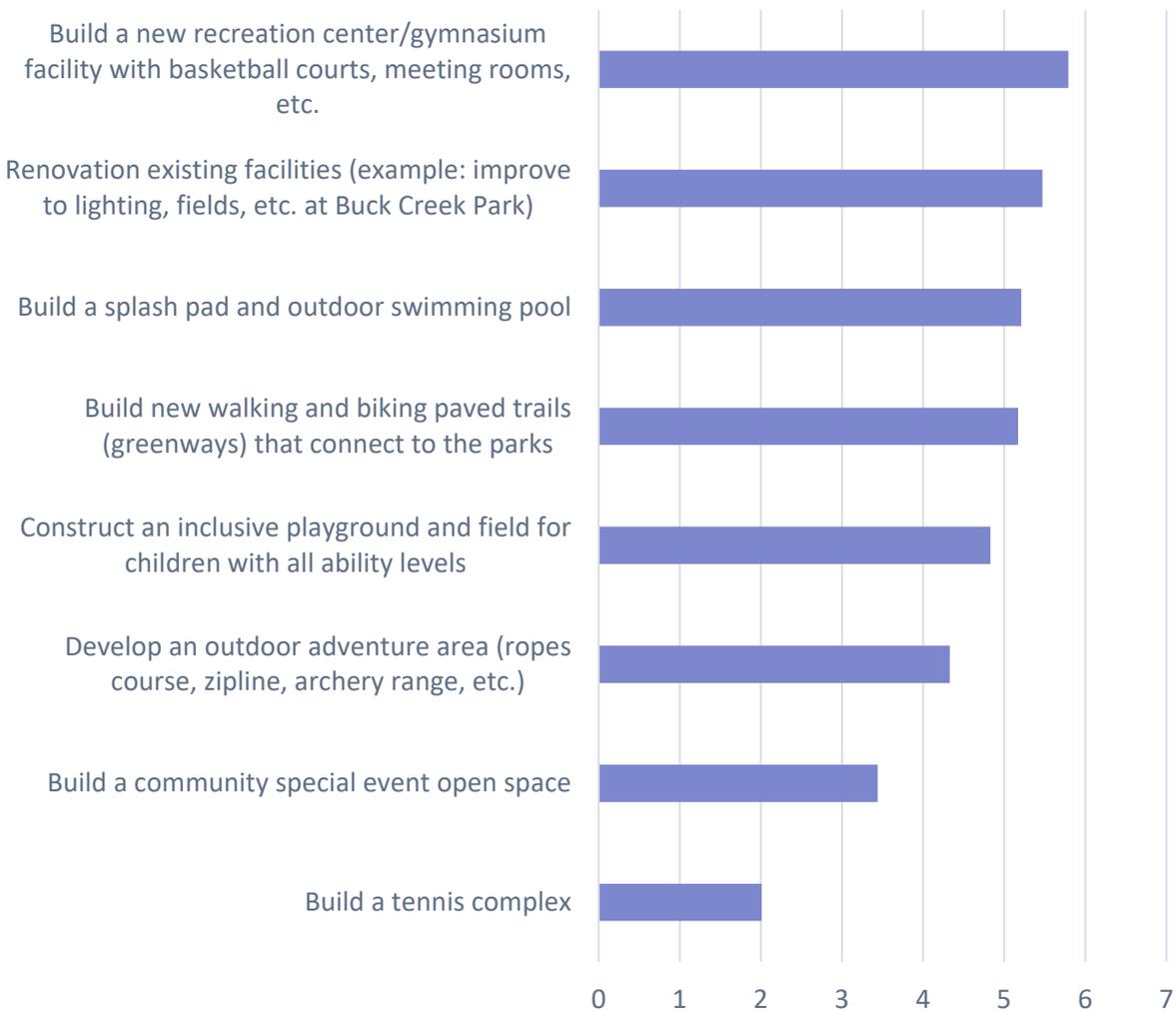
Figure 7-8: Desired Park Facilities

Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need/want for each of the Parks and Recreation FACILITIES listed below by checking either "Yes" or "No" Yes



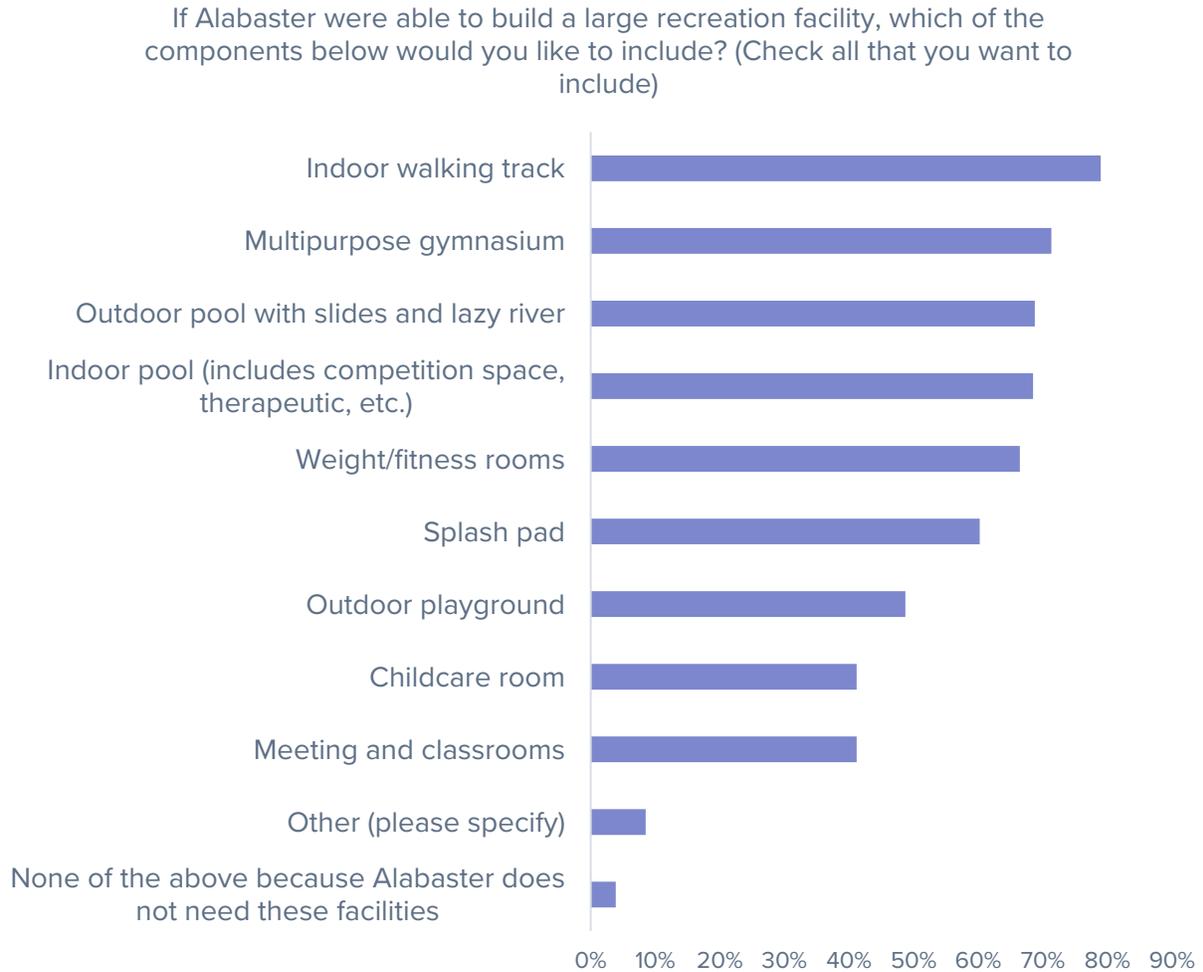
Next responders were asked to help prioritize the improvements. The options were developed from the results of the stakeholder meeting, where a number of "dream big" ideas emerged for the future of the parks and recreation system. From the list below, respondents were asked to rank them in order from 1 to 8, with 1 being the highest priority. The results were close, but the highest ranked improvement was to build a new recreation center/gymnasium facility with basketball courts, meeting rooms, etc. While the lowest score was for building a tennis complex, it still received a lot of votes. Currently, the community has a deficit of tennis courts and a strong desire for building new courts; however, the overall support for a larger tennis complex is a lower priority based on the results of this ranking question.

Figure 7-9: Prioritization of Desired Improvements



Next, the survey included a question to find out what components residents would like to have if the City were able to build a large recreation facility. Indoor walking track ranked the highest on the list.

Figure 7-10: Desired Recreation Center Components

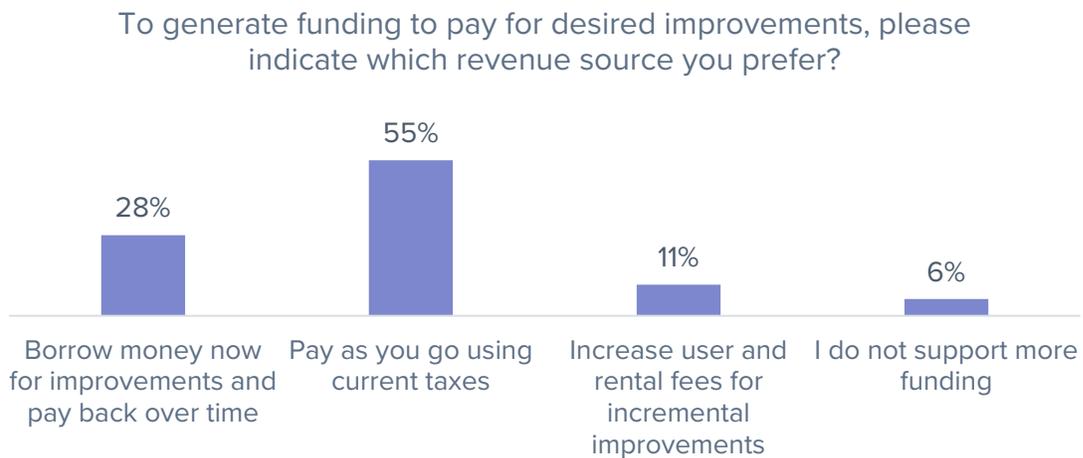


Items not mentioned in the provided list but were mentioned by several under "Other (please specify)" included tennis courts and archery range. The comments also included the need for soccer, lacrosse, and football fields. There were also several unique ideas, including a climbing wall, racquetball courts, disc golf, bike racks, pickleball courts, snack bar, game room, and facilities for special needs. And while it is not related to parks and recreation necessarily, four comments request recycling or a recycling center.

Funding

The critical issue in every parks and recreation system is how to fund new parks and maintain what is currently existing in Alabaster. To understand the respondents' point of view on funding, we asked them to indicate which revenue source they prefer. Fifty-five percent (55%) of respondents chose paying as you go using current taxes. Next, we find some support (28%) for borrowing money to pay for improvements and paying it back over time. A small percentage (6%) do not support more funding of any kind. The Department will need to look at a combination of approaches as budgets tighten and the demands on the system increase.

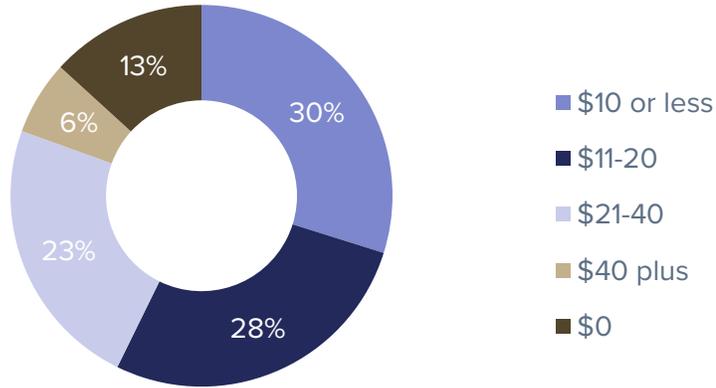
Figure 7-11: Funding



Next, we asked, if Alabaster were able to build a large indoor recreation facility, how much would they be willing to pay per month to utilize it. Close to thirty percent indicated that they would pay \$10 or less, followed by 28% indicating that they would be willing to pay \$11-20 per month. A group of 13% indicated that they would be unwilling to pay anything for these services.

Figure 7-12: Monthly Recreation Center Fees

How much would you be willing to pay per month per household for a new recreation center/gymnasium facility in Alabaster?



Trail Connectivity

From the stakeholder input and responses to the other questions in the online survey about the desire for new facilities, responses have indicated a desire for citywide multiuse trails. Many communities have used these trails to leverage economic benefits in their community by providing connections from residential areas to nearby businesses and/or attractions such as parks. We asked if residents would like to see more multiuse paths connecting parks, businesses, and area attractions. A large majority (89%) support these connectors in the community.

Figure 7-13: Desire for Multiuse Paths as Connectors

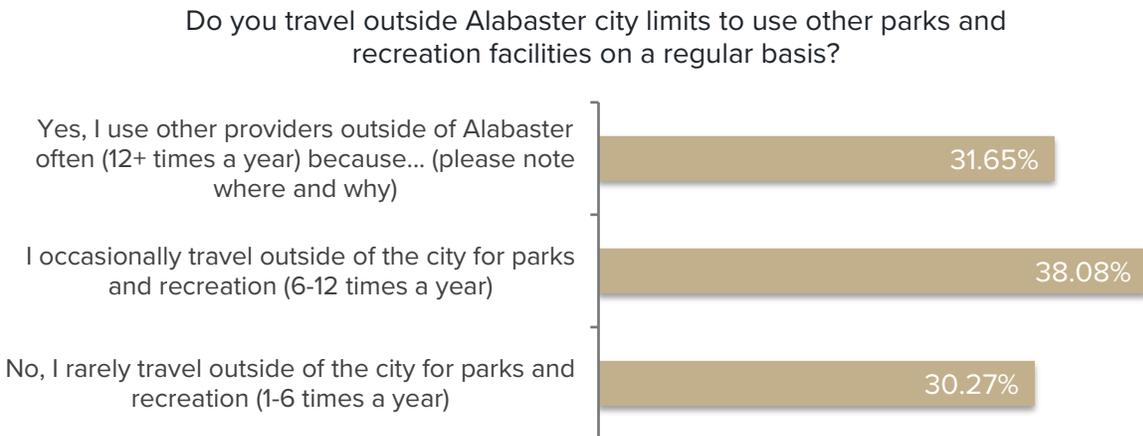
Would you like to see more multiuse paths connecting parks, businesses, and area attractions?



Other Park Providers

As part of our research, the consulting team wanted to find out if respondents are traveling outside Alabaster city limits to visit other parks and recreation facilities. We asked, “Do you travel outside Alabaster city limits to use other parks and recreation facilities on a regular basis?” The results are split roughly equally between the three options (see Figure 7-14: Travel to Other Park Providers), with slightly more indicating that they do occasionally travel outside the City for parks and recreation (6-12 times a year). Compared to past studies in other communities, the amount who travel 12+ times a year is high. Open responses indicated that they are travelling to parks in the surrounding area, such as Birmingham, Pelham, Hoover and Helena, because these places offer amenities not found in Alabaster.

Figure 7-14: Travel to Other Park Providers



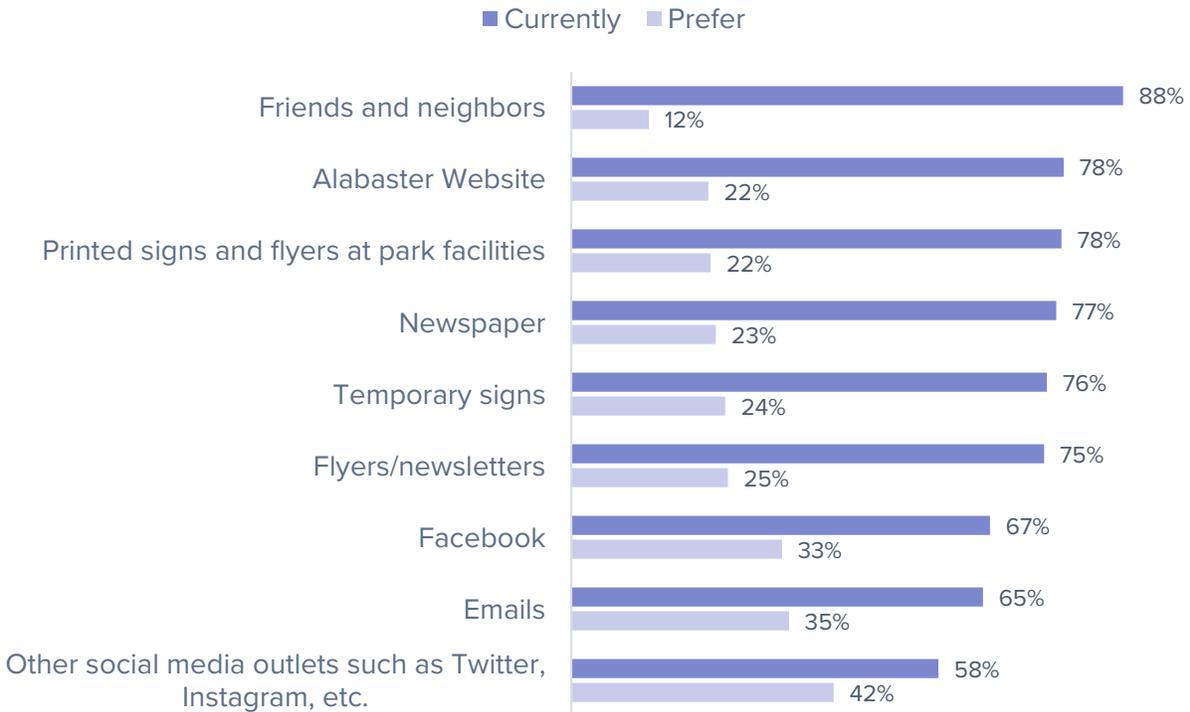
Communication

Next, we asked, “Which of the following ways do you learn about recreation programs and activities in Alabaster? Please check all that apply.” Alabaster Parks and Recreation Department uses a variety of communication methods to engage the community. To determine which methods are reaching the respondents, we asked what ways they learn about programs and provided a multiple-choice list. From the responses, we find that most are learning about happenings through friends and neighbors (88%), looking at the Alabaster website (78%), and/or looking at printed signs and flyers at park facilities (78%) to find out what activities are available.

Newspaper, other flyers and signs, email, and social media are also noted as places where respondents frequently learn about programming and events.

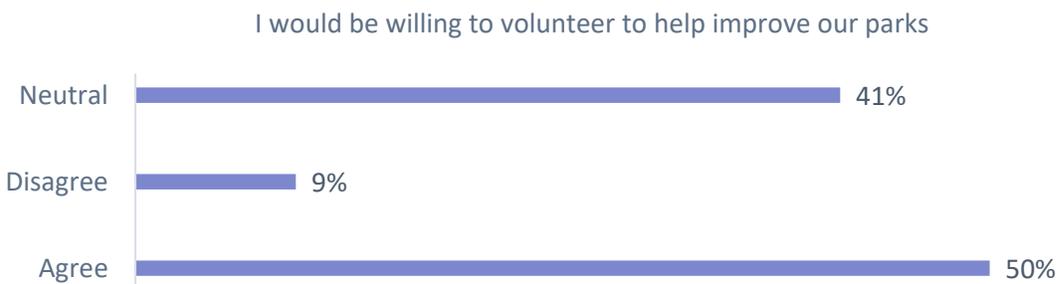
Figure 7-15: Communication

Which of the following ways do you learn about recreation programs and activities in Alabaster? Please check all that apply.



The survey also asked respondents if they would be willing to volunteer to help improve parks. Notably, 50% indicated that they would be willing with 41% neutral and only 9% unwilling to help.

Figure 7-16: Willingness to Volunteer



8.0 Needs Assessment Summary

Based on results from the stakeholder meeting, the online survey, and the level of service analysis, it is evident that the residents of Alabaster desire more places to walk/jog/ride bikes (multiuse trails), greenspaces to enjoy with their friends and family, and they would like to have restrooms at many of the parks. The consulting team recommends the City acquire new park land as the community continues to grow and they will need to add staff to management and maintain the new park facilities and activities. Below is a short-term priority list of the recommendations.

DRAFT Priority List:

- Maintain existing facilities (fields, playgrounds, etc.)
- Provide sidewalks and multi-use trails that connect residents to parks
- Provide indoor gym space with meeting rooms
- Build picnic areas and restroom buildings
- Expand the park acreage from 8.5 to 10 acres per 1,000; begin by acquiring conservation parkland with greenways and trails
- Use a pay as you go approach utilizing current tax revenue

While the Parks Needs Assessment identifies a number of deficiencies, the City of Alabaster has many assets and accomplishments to be proud of within their current system. The community residents are engaged, and the City has strong leadership focused on improving parks. Building on the strengths to address the needs will be critical as the City moves forward to meet the growing demand for parks and recreation in the community.

Appendix

Online Survey Additional Comments, Questions, or Concerns

One of the final questions on the survey, we asked an open-ended question. We had approximately 280 comments. The ones that said “none”, “NA” or did not pertain to Alabaster were removed from the list below.

- *Would love to have free access to indoor walking track*
- *Please add addition to senior center- we do not have enough room. The noise is loud sometimes you cannot hear in the senior center!*
- *I would like to see sidewalks on streets for safety.*
- *Survey has some good ideas but there is going to be a tax increase for us. Vet park was a beautiful area at our time, what happened to it? Seems nobody cares to take care of parks...*
- *One of the biggest issues with our parks is they are not kept up. Mowing grass is fine but trash pick up is lacking esp. after a tournament at Vet. Need to honor veteran's better at Vet Memorial...*
- *My husband & I use Alabaster Senior Center regularly. We would like to see an expansion of the crowded building as somedays it's packed.*
- *We need a bigger library. The Alabaster YMCA should start taking silver sneakers*
- *We enjoy the flowers and greenery the city provides. Keep your grounds maintenance guy we like him-very knowledgeable.*
- *I love Alabaster- the library the parks the events! I love outdoor areas but I really want a splash pad here, so we don't have to drive. The kids should be able to see other kids from our community.*
- *Municipal Park soccer fields have been an eyesore for years. My son has played city league and competitive soccer on these fields and have always been in bad condition compared to other cities' facilities. Each year the field conditions to get worse. Please make these a priority.*
- *Need to expand library facility. Better park maintenance.*
- *Restrooms at the municipal soccer fields are embarrassing!! No one wants to use the ladies. Please tear this down immediately and build a nicer facility. This is an IMMEDIATE need with our soccer program as large as it is. Please visit Calera's facilities for comparison.*
- *Please widen 119. Traffic is terrible in the evenings*
- *Better scheduling of sports practice (ex: basketball). Why can't there be steady nights for practice. I didn't like not knowing when my child had practice each week. It often co flicks with other activities my other kids were doing, and we ended up missing because of last minute scheduling and practice inconsistency.*
- *We have several special needs children in our area, we need a Miracle League Field and inclusive playground for these children*
- *I have a special needs child and we have NOTHING in our community for those children. A MIRACLE LEAGUE FIELD AND AN INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND FOR STARTERS.*
- *Stop giving the schools more money. They need to work on a budget and are over spending. The parks and recs have been a back burner for a while and Alabaster is way behind compared to other cities. Alabaster is losing money to other cities in regards to outside activity and play*
- *Need “No Littering” signs posted throughout the city. Increase the fine amounts, and enforce it. Another good way to increase the revenue, and make our city more attractive. The litter is getting out of hand. ☹️*

- Roads and infrastructure should be the primary focus as there are so many congestion points in the city. This particularly makes some neighborhoods unsafe due to alternate routes to avoid the congestion points.
- I love Alabaster . It's a wonderful city for all ages. I would love to see us organized enough that we can park our cars and walk for dinner& walk a short distance for that hot fudge sundae 🍦 less reliant on our cars ! I don't want us to become disorganized
- Before worrying about parks right now let's focus on widening Hwy 119 and Hwy 11 and create another exit so we can get into alabaster off 65 a bit more smoother also hire or retrain better garbage service people so that they won't beak your garbage cans every-time they pick up the trash
- We need some type of recycle center. This needs to be s priority. And we need junk pick up back as a reg service.
- The City of Alabaster would be well served with improving their facilities but if they are not maintained better than he facilities we have it will be money wasted.
- Love to see an indoor walking track for cold/hot days.
- We should not have built an overly extravagant, Taj Mahal high school. We already have a YMCA and we do not need to add another pool or splash pad. Residents can invest in their own slip n slid, sprinklers, etc. We don't need to add anymore taxes, especially for those who do not have young kids in the household.
- Just give us something affordable for the summer for the kids to do. Everyone can't afford the y, we need and affordable pool or splash pad. An indoor facility to practice different sports activities.
- I am really looking forward to seeing my Father's park, Willie B. Arrington Park, be developed. It has been established for over 15 years, and nothing has yet to be added for others to enjoy the beauty of the property... It would be a joy to share with my family and others a memorable place that was erected in order to honor the late, and Great Willie Benjamin Arrington, who has done so much for his community and the city at large. Please let us (the family) know if we can help in any way, to guide you in setting the tone of "Willie B. Arrington Park". Thank you so much in advance!
- I hope we are able to make even some of those things happen if not all. Honestly, it's the first thing I mentioned, after moving here 2 years ago, to someone that had lived here all their lives, "where's the rec and park center?"..."what? I thought every city had one"... "go to the ymca? Why give them all that money when I could be giving it to my city facility!?"
- Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions on this subject.
- This is a huge need for the city! In order to compete with big metropolis cities around us, we need to improve our facilities! This includes not only updating/renovating our current facilities or rebuilding. We traveled to Emerson, GA and they have a phenomenal outdoor/indoor facilities at LakePoint Sports Complex! Truly what Alabaster needs!!!
- Buck Creek and Heros Park need some attention and love. Especially Heros Park, it's a shame for a park to be so run down, that resides next to our fire station and is named Heros park. We can do better there.
- If the multipurpose building had a space of 150x100, my flyball team would absolutely rent it out about 4-5 weekends a year as long as the flooring is scratch-proof.
- Feel it would be better to wait to start any other building programs until we pay for the projects we already have.
- I love living in Alabaster.
- Really need just a facility to go play tennis. Any adult sport with group classes like tennis and golf(driving range only)
- Trash pickup should be taken seriously...trash is dumped out on the street weekly by whatever company is picking up the garbage. They do not care to keep the streets clean, if they drop something. Also, I wish weekly trash/junk/rubbish piles would be brought back —to be picked up.
- Please build a splash pad!

- *Please put in a Splash Pad. PLEASE!!!!*
- *Providing these things for our community would be amazing to have! It would raise our house values and draw people to Alabaster.*
- *I think a rec center would do a lot for Alabaster - the one in Pelham is so nice for the residents!*
- *Splash pad and tennis courts would be an amazing add. Plus anywhere to bike would be great and keep people from leaving the city for such activities*
- *We need to get a handle on recycling before we do ANYTHING else. If Montevallo and Birmingham can recycle, we can too. Maybe our leadership(?) is lacking at the top!*
- *Our city could greatly benefit from the items listed...*
- *I'd like to see talk of annexing Savanna Pointe neighborhood into the city. We are very close to Meadowview Elem. It is a shame we are not a part of the city.*
- *Facility safety is important to us. We no longer allow our middle school sons to go the municipal courts alone because of safety concerns. On one occasion, an adolescent brought a gun to the courts. We regularly use the park system and would love to see it expanded. It enhances our family's quality of life. Our sons live playing sports with their friends, and we'd love for there to be more spaces that facilitated this.*
- *The ward map link resource was useless and did not help me find my ward. The city website needs a lot of help and to be updated and reflect a city that is growing not stale. I think our parks are great and provide family friendly activities to enjoy together. I think Nick McCrimmon does a great job and many people know him. The survey maybe should have broken questions down by park, I've never been to some that were named and don't know where they are? In my opinion Abbey Wolly Park is not safe and too hidden away from the street.*
- *Please build a gymnasium ASAP so my kids don't have to practice on a side goal w three other teams at the same time. Please keep it free like Helena does...please look at Vestavia's girl's night out summer basketball clinics with jsmith hoops-our high school basketball stinks and its because there is No development or opportunities early on to influence kids.*
- *Hope the youth sport are taken better care of*
- *Alabaster Blvd. needs fixing/paving*
- *I absolutely do. My Grandfather's Park, Willie B Arrington Park, has sat for over 10-15 years with nothing added to it. We are doing a celebratory/family reunion in May 2020, and I would love to be able to at least have a bench or gazebo...something in order to make our family proud of my grandfather's legacy. He has done so much for his community over time, and it is very disheartening to see that nothing has been done in order honor his many improvements for Alabaster. I do understand that the City of Alabaster has been growing rapidly, and may have its hands very full, but I would love to see the park be developed in the near future! If you need to reach me, my number is: (205)233-5248, and email is Sherilynn_lvy@aol.com.*
- **RECREATION CENTER IS NEEDED 1ST AND FOREMOST FOR A CITY OF OUR SIZE.**
- *Update or tear down the restrooms at municipal. They are never clean. It's embarrassing when out of Towners visit.*
- *I've been hoping for a rec center in alabaster for years!*
- *Please add more safe walking trails and basketball courts, both indoor and outdoors. If you add courts the school basketball teams will be better, and we will be more competitive to area teams. The outdoor ones are always packed.*
- **NEED SIDEWALKS CONNECTING HOMES AND SCHOOLS AND THS**
- *Alabaster needs more directors who care about bettering the division they are in charge of.*
- *Would love to see a rec center that is more affordable than the YMCA rates we pay for the occasional family usage. Similar to what Pelham offers. A splash pad like Hoover's with all ability Access and more play ground options for special needs kiddos in our community. My family would volunteer our time and available to help out parks. Thank you!*
- *Willie B. Arrington Park is named for my great grandfather but it's never been developed. Would love to see that space utilized for neighbors in the area.*
-

- *Looking forward to future developments*
- *Would love to know why nothing ever became of the park space donated in my grandfather's names Willie B. Arrington Park. Many of my family also wonders why it was never developed. Extremely surprised to see it even listed here*
- *Please build a pool! I will volunteer to do any work I can!*
- *We need to hire paid coaches daddy ball is bad it all needs to have better checks and balances*
- *I feel like the old school that is not being used off of 119, It is next and attached to the Linda Nolan Center, should be used a community center.*
- *Need to have same inclusion for all sports levels for both male and female. Specifically, basketball.*
- *I would love to see an additional shopping area carrying such stores as Hobby Lobby, Home Goods, Newks Eatery.*
- *Would love to see a city lake with picnic spaces and walking trails with lots of trees.*
- *I live in Saddle Lake, it would be great to have a kid friendly park, even if it were small, out towards this way.*
- *Please add more sidewalks (especially in older neighborhoods).*
- *Make ways people can walk to parks easily*
- *I would love to see more trails, walking paths, bike paths, etc. to connect various areas of the city. Even better if a partnership could be formed to eventually connect some of these paths to other surrounding cities.*
- *Would love for our soccer fields to be updated and the bathrooms maintained better.*
- *Would like rec center like Pelham but with indoor pool added. Something young people would be attracted to but Something for active for more senior citizens to get use from also.*
- *Before ANY of this is considered, PLEASE reinstate a curbside trash pickup at least quarterly for unwanted items so they don't wind up on our roadsides!!!!*
- *Our current tennis courts are filled with cracks & the playing surface is in terrible shape. I would love to see more youth tennis programs in Alabaster, so we won't have to continue to drive to Pelham for decent courts & tennis leagues. Alabaster has none. We could host tennis tourneys like Pelham & Greystone which brings in much needed funds.*
- *I am all about expanding the Parks offerings but, currently, I live by veterans. No additional traffic flow needs to be on 119 until it is widened. In the spring and summer weekends, you can not go up 119 due to traffic. This was to start 2 years ago and here we still sit. Literally every morning. (I take 2 kids to school at 2 different schools on opposite sides of city- most days it takes me 40 minutes round trip because of 119 traffic.) I now know church of the highlands has bought 10 acres on 119 and is planning on fast tracking construction. More delays is what this says to me. I understand Alabaster wants and needs to grow but we have to make the necessary traffic adjustments before we can add additional recreation that puts more people on one main road just to sit and wait to get nowhere.*
- *I would only be willing to pay a membership fee for a recreation center of there is a pool.*
- *We really need more accessible playground equipment. There is an adaptive swing at Buck Creek park, but there should be more than just 1 swing. Every playground should have swings, sensory tables/toys, and accessible walking paths.*
- *A multipurpose with the ability to rent out space is much needed. We always have to travel to Pelham or Hoover to have events.*
- *will liability insurance be calculated into the cost of any project selected or will that be a separate cost that isn't well communicated?*
- *We need a community center with multipurpose rooms, indoor gym, and pool.*
- *Alabaster needs to focus on improving current facilities and adding multi use fields to support growth and encourage child participation.*
- *I would love to see the playground area and equipment updated and made safer as well as bathroom facilities added to several parks basketball courts added back in for youth and an*

- expansion of library facility is long overdue. The youth are now gathering in parking lots nightly out of boredom a bowling alley would be great!*
- *Beach volleyball, and big accessible playgrounds for children with and without special needs... inclusion is the future!*
 - *A top priority for Alabaster is to increase the walk ability of our city.*
 - *Please provide bicycle lanes, please bring back recycling.*
 - *Thank you for wanting to improve our community spaces. The additional green space and walk ability is great. I know I feel unsafe biking around Alabaster right now. Was there any discussion on including stationary fitness equipment on trails? Similar to Red Mountain Park (pull up bar and sit up station)*
 - *Thank you for the Study and the opportunity to contribute.*
 - *Please have someone monitor the Veterans dog park more often. There is a Pitbull problem with multiple dogs that have had to go to the vets because of attacks. Kids in diapers walking around bare foot in the big dog section. Tons of little tiny lap dogs in the big dog section. It's out of control, many of us have stopped going because of some of the aggressive pits.*
 - *Please upgrade the tennis courts. Thank you!*
 - *I am very very concerned about recycling stoppage. Was a study done to see how all the extra garbage/landfill will affect our rivers, atmosphere, etc??? More landfills cost money and appearance is detrimental. If we have money for \$7m water board do we not have money for recycle. Also upset over lack of control over trees being knocked down. We are suppose to be a tree preservation city. My neighborhood Msple Ridge also. I see no restraint in amount of trees coming down. We also keep building more strip malls when do many are abandoned and ugly. Why can't we revitalize and reuse what we have?*
 - *The criteria to be a volunteer for programs! The coach we had for 3rd grade cheer last summer was absolutely horrible.*
 - *I absolutely love veterans park but, i have personally seen many of the locals disrespect this park by throwing trash on the ground.*
 - *Buck creek needs some serious updates if that is where TYF is going to continue to play there. If there is no where else for those TYF games to be played, I would like to see that before building a new rec center. I love that the city is asking the residents about their needs and wants and I think all of these are great ideas for our city as a whole, even if it's things my family wouldn't be interested in. I think the park's and rec team do a fantastic job and they have always been so helpful to us when we've had things come up. I think it would nice if we could increase that staff as well in order to accommodate some of these wishes.*
 - *Adult basketball leagues would be greatly appreciated.*
 - *Thank you so much for considering our input!*
 - *An indoor facility such as the one in Pelham would be amazing. My family and I are members of the Alabaster YMCA but facilities and opportunities are limited due to space. We would gladly pay monthly for recreation center.*
 - *We need sidewalks*
 - *Need 119 widened more than anything. Also let them teen drivers out in increments. To many after school accidents*
 - *I would love to see more events that allow the community to come together. Angel Warriors food truck frenzy is a fun event - I would love to see more of this type of event. Concerts / craft fairs / and food truck events. I would also like to see our farmers market expand - add a craft component. Helena market days is awesome with samples and chef's preparing dishes for inspiration. They also typically have something for children - petting farm, bounce house...*
 - *Bathrooms at Municipal park, and prob all others as well, need to be updated*
 - *Will these things actually happen?*
 - *Would love to see an indoor soccer area. Could host leagues, tournaments, clinics, etc. Would love more biking trails for families.*
 - *I would be nice to have a good community pool that people from Alabaster and maybe surrounding communities can be able to go to during the summer*

- *Make the basketball courts in municipal park leveled they are uneven and make playing harder*
- *I strongly encourage fixing what we already have like the lighting at Buck Creek and continuing the trail. I also ask for continued special needs programs such as Special needs Top Soccer; Special needs baseball, Bike Riding lessons (there is a specific program that can be brought in). We have gone to Calera and Birmingham for these activities. Use current monies from taxes and build as you have the money within reason. Keep in mind things like splash pads.. while fun .. will bring in others to the area.. good for bringing in money, but our traffic is horrible and can't handle a bunch of "tourists". And do our citizens want to go to overcrowded parks? Will this proposed general purpose area be similar to other towns..Hueytown/Homewood/Pelham? Good ones to look at for pros and cons.*
- *We are out of the district now, but we still use the Alabaster Parks for recreation frequently.*
- *Thank you! I would be happy to volunteer.*
- *Please please please provide a splash pad for the kids.*
- *If nothing else, can we seriously put sidewalks throughout as much of the city as possible? It is unbelievable to me that walking is not a safe option in a town that wants to constantly throw it's "growth and expansion" in everyone's faces.*
- *I think it would make Alabaster an even more desirable place to live with some of these improvements, but I don't think the City should go into debt to do it all at once. Do one thing at a time.*
- *Connect our parks & the one in Montevallo*
- *Please add a basketball court in veterans park. It's the only thing missing.*
- *Parks and community service opportunities should be advertised to high school students more. The Thompson JROTC would love to volunteer for different projects and can provide a decent number of people*
- *More disc golf courses because the one that we have is usually flooded or you have to play around pick up soccer games.*
- *User fees could also be utilized to pay for improvements like gym membership fees.*
- *More fields so Larry Simmons isn't : football, lacrosse, soccer. Field markings get confusing.*
- *We already pay taxes. Learn to live within your budget like we do.*
- *Can you please add indoor basketball courts, there are 100s of teenagers that want it added and would very much use it everyday.*
- *Would love a splash pad and multi use fields for lacrosse.*
- *I would love to see a splash pad and inclusive playground like the one in Hoover.*
- *More than a rec center, I would LOVE to see a bike/walk path connecting parks such as from Buck Creek to Veterans Park. That would be a fabulous trail... especially on bike. There are no safe places to ride a bike in Alabaster.*
- *I would like to see better maintenance of the park facilities. The walking track at Hero's Park is atrocious!! It would also be nice to have access to "real bathrooms" there. The playgrounds at Veterans Park need re-surfaced; the benches near the playground all have rusty spots; the handicap swing needs the security straps replaced; there is plentiful tree debris along the walking track at Veterans (yes, I realize that's part of nature, but it is really looking kind of scruffy. Maybe even clear out some of the underbrush privet); the walking track there is also getting pretty rough (ie., dangerous/trip hazard).*
- *Please consider offering shooting lessons and opening the shooting range at Limestone Park for public use on limited hours.*
- *With the nice skateboard park at Veterans Park, please consider offering skateboard lessons. There seems to be a person at the skateboard park most of the time - is he a city employee?*
- *Consider adding storm shelters to parks if strategic.*
- *We used the athletic fields a lot while our sons were growing up but our main usage now is the walking tracks (on a very regular basis) and playgrounds when our granddaughters visit.*
- *there is no ball/soccer/ open fields that is in the city parks that families can go to and play ball anytime. disc golf course is wet and un-competitive.*

- *Yes, I would like to figure out a way to bring recycling pick up back.*
- *I have lived in Alabaster for over 15 years. I support a recreation center. However if you cant build a really nice facility then dont build it all.*
- *Add more REC teams for our kids. Not everyone can make competitive or afford competitive. So many are left out! Add BMX rec team and park!!*
- *I feel that new ideas are great and exciting, but I feel that we need to be careful to maintain what we all ready have. Walk through Warrior Park toward Buck Creek Park. Just look at the trash that litters the creek. This shouldn't be acceptable. However, the fact is that by our lack of doing anything about it that is what it has become.*
- *It would be nice if the facilities would be able to be used by all (young, old, working people). Right now everything is either scheduled for children, stay at home parents and retired residents.*
- *The city needs bicycle racks. If the city cannot afford recycling programs, how can we afford parks and recs improvements?*
- *Would love to see a splash pad/accessible park for our Alabaster Community. Also, more indoor basketball court options open for public use.*
- *Alabaster needs to enforce the rule prohibiting dogs on walking tracks and trails at the parks. People ignore this rule all the time. Others, including myself don't feel comfortable sharing walking tracks with animals. This rule should be enforced.*
- *I would like to see a few bike racks in our parks. It would be nice to ride to and then lock up bikes and enjoy the parks.*
- *We need more Teen and Adult activities such as runs, festivals, concerts*
- *It would be really nice if there was a playground for Special Needs Kids. I know an have seen new playground places that are for Children with Special Needs. Helping kids with Sensory issues being a key part of this type park. With Someone working there daily for Assistance when needed.*
- *It's time for Abbey Woolley to given attention*
- *You need to hire more people to run Parks and Rec. A lot of things fall to the side, as Morgan appears overwhelmed. He can only do so much alone and having more assistance would result in better experience for everyone.*
- *Need to improve our Soccer Fields before adding multipurpose indoor facility like a Gym. We can get revenue from Soccer tournaments and such and feel proud of our facilities unlike the current situation with our fields. We also have access to the brand new Highschool for some of the indoor facilities.*
- *Veterans' Park gets all of the attention. Our other parks in the city need major improvements: restrooms, playground equipment, lighting, landscaping*
- *I think a Rec center with an outdoor/indoor pool, splash pad, playground, gym, etc. is exactly what Alabaster needs. I've been to others in different cities and they are so nice.*
- *I travel to other parks and rec areas for indoor basketball, archery range, indoor walking area, and splash pads/water slides.*
- *Buck Creek needs to be more appealing. Be more aware of what goes on at dog park and enforce accountability.*
- *Exciting to see!!*
- *Please build a pool with a splash pad! Our kids love both! Indoor pools would be great!*
- *It would be great if we could get more neighborhood watch programs started throughout the city. We live off of Palm Drive and I would like to see us have one in our area.*
- *We do not have any children under the age of 18, but do have a special needs son and 3 year old granddaughter who is here frequently.*
- *Sports need to be more organized especially during evaluations. It should not take several hours to evaluate players. It's frustrating for the parents and the kids.*
- *Please make this phenomenal recreation center happen!*
- *Would love a splash pad and more bicycle trails that the whole family can safely use*

- Yes. Parents who coach in the Alabaster city league, year after year, should be given a discount of 10%. It's not fair to ask for coaches and offer no other incentive than 'you're developing your child.' Coaching and dealing with parents is a commitment and that should be considered.
- Need more improvements with sporting programs, recruiting, and handling unfortunate situations. Our community is large enough to have more female participation but there is not as much advertisement for park ball.
- THS needs sidewalks connecting area homes
- Thank you for sending this survey. This is all I've been talking about lately...some public, indoor space to enjoy physical activities and meeting rooms for different interest groups and other programs.
- Love the quality of uniforms provided for city league sports. So much better than other cities around us.
- I absolutely love the idea of a multipurpose building. If rental fees are in budget, I can already tell you that the dog sport team I'm a part of would rent out 3 day weekends 4-5 times a year to host our tournaments. We currently travel to Jeff State in Clanton. We would need a space 140x80 with flooring that dog nails and crates couldn't scratch.
- Safe sidewalks to the library and public parks would be a priority to me. Also a shuttle to the Shopping areas from areas that can be walked to from neighborhoods
- I feel more needs to be done to grow this city, so that the City can afford to improve current and proposed facilities.
- Build a Rec Center Please. And Do Not Charge your residents to use it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- The bathrooms at Warrior park need improvement. Every other bathroom facility we have used when traveling with soccer games has been nicer. I believe it gives visiting teams the wrong impression about our city.
- On a side note we would love and pay for a leaf service. A mulching truck that could vacuum up leaves collected at the edge of the road.
- The option wasn't there, but I would be willing to look at a reasonable tax increase to put towards the funding as well.
- WITH THE REVENUE OF THE MULTI MILLION HIGH SCHOOL AND COLONNADE, ALL FACILITIES SHOULD BE UPGRADED WITH SOME OF THE REVENUE TOO AND ALSO FOR OUR TRASH PICK UP!
- Please update, improve or create new well maintained parks!
- I would like to see Alabaster have a Rec center like Pelham and Hoover.
- It would be nice to have a kid friendly place to go after dark. Bowling or something would be nice here in the city
- First and foremost, I would think that the city should increase it's commitment to maintaining and/or upgrading EXISTING facilities. The lighting, nets, and turf at the Warrior Park cages; the condition of Buck Creek Park and Warrior Park fields and fencing; the concession stands/or lack thereof. There are a number of parks in surrounding communities that put ours to shame when it comes to upkeep and features, such as Helena Sports Complex; the Pelham Rec Center and Pelham City Park. The city of Troy Alabama has an outstanding rec facility, as does Pell City. What is most important though, is that we take care of the facilities that we DO have with a properly funded maintenance budget and staff. What about a work-study program with THS?
- It would be nice to have a playground that does not have mulch as it gets very muddy. I like Joe Tucker at Helena because it stays usable even after heavy rain. It would be nice of there was a usable playground on the south side of 31. Also an indoor play museum like Gadsden, Florence, or Tuscaloosa would be nice. They have corporate sponsors that fund each exhibit.
- Again the parks and recs Directors are apathetic and non-responsive to the needs of youth sports, particularly girls and it has created very negative community stigma.
- Alabaster is the ONLY municipality in Shelby County that offers 3-4 year old youth sports and that is very important.
- Some of the facilities for youth basketball in this city are awful. We have more gyms than ever before. There is no reason for use of the old 6th grade center or the old TIS.

- *STILL NEED SIDEWALKS CONNECTING NEW HIGHS SCHOOL AND OTHER SCHOOLS TO NEIGHBORHOODS. WHO BUILDS \$88 MILLION SCHOOL WITH NO SIDEWALKS TO AND FROM THOUSANDS OF HOMES NEARBY?!?!*
- *The parks in Alabaster need more & better playground equipment for children.*
- *Please put a back entrance to Vet. park 1st please*
- *I think a Rec center would be great but a Tennis Facility would not. Look at the failure it has been in Pelham and now is a financial drain.*
- *A system of natural surface trails would be amazing!! I would absolutely be willing to volunteer time to make that happen!*
- *I am waiting to see sidewalks emerge. We could all walk more with the safety of sidewalks.*
- *I like the thinking. Continue to think big. You will always overestimate what you can accomplish in 1 year and underestimate what you can accomplish in 5 years!*
- *I believe many of the facilities should only be utilized by Alabaster Residents - for example pools, weight room, etc. unless competitions are games are Happening.*
- *We relocated to Alabaster 3 years ago and have lived in several areas of Alabama. Alabaster is by far our favorite. This is home for us. I love how much Alabaster wants to better the lives of the children of the community and would personally love to see the current parks be fixed up before any new facilities are built. The playground at Buck Creek is in need of some updates for certain. That playground isn't very safe to play on in my opinion. We love that park because of the shade from the trees and the short commute from our home and would love to be able to visit it more often.*
- *I support a city pool and would pay for a membership. Alabaster needs 2 pools , one on each end of Alabaster .*
- *My son plays basketball for the city. When it rains and we play at the old TIS we play around trash cans for all the leaks. Not only is it a safety issue but an embarrassment. This is unacceptable.*
- *A splash pad would be phenomenal! We drive to Hoover now to use theirs.*
- *Increased patrols on Weatherly Club Drive and Alabaster Blvd. The speeding, reckless driving, and running stop signs is completely out of hand and Alabaster Police have done very little to curb this behavior in both areas. Eventually someone is going to get killed and God forbid it is a child because someone is driving recklessly in the designated "bike lane."*
- *Horse trails would be awesome*
- *Splash pad - prevent kids from using dog park!*
- *Special needs population is large in our area. Please address their needs.*
- *Currently there are no spaces that residents can reserve to hold small events (crafting, knitting) on Saturday without unreasonable rent levels. I would support a Recreation Center that includes event rooms and meeting rooms that are available to be reserved by residents of the city. I thought the Senior Center would fill that need -- but it is closed on the weekend, and based on rent charge beyond reach for those who just want to get a group of crafters together for a social. I applaud the number of youth events in the city (there seem to be many options for kids). I like our parks, use them, walk the trails (mostly Veteran's). A recreation center would also be nice for adults to walk on poor weather days - and possibly meet other residents. A rec center would be a positive addition to the city --- as long as the membership cost remains reasonable, and accessibility focused on afternoon, evenings and weekends*
- *Safety on walking trails graffiti*
- *I would support funds being spent on more facilities for seniors. Especially some type of safe park for people with Dementia.*
- *I dont want to see us go crazy in new facilities, focus one at a time. Currently new PD proposed. Recreational facility can wait, if they are doing amphitheater. Are we utilizing the parks we have now to say yes to a rec area. Let's not do it to keep up with Jones, let's make wise choices w/money*
- *a bike or walking path along side 119 would be great!*

- *I would be willing to help design promotional materials for free. And also provide photography services if needed.*
- *I think a community center is very important for the community. A place to come together safely.*
- *Would be nice to have a recycling drop-off center like Montevallo, Hoover and other cities*
- *We have PLENTY for baseball and football. Please invest in some of the minor sports.*
- *Buck Creek Park playgrounds need attention, a lot is broken. Alabaster NEEDS a splash pad!*
- *Need functional and more lighting on existing walking paths and need more dedicated paths (walking, cycling and running). Bicycles shouldn't be allowed on walking and running tracks. It's a definite safety issue.*
- *Updating Warrior Park facilities is needed.*
- *I would love to see a LEGO League and EGaming started in our community for children who do not enjoy the activities offered by parks.*
- *Fill the pot holes in the roads before you build any more parks*
- *A pool would be incredible!*
- *I'm from Fultondale but moved to Alabaster in 2012. I used to use the Gardendale Civic Center for workouts and loved it. They offered classes like boot camp and Les Mills, which I loved. I would really like to see this happen in Alabaster. I also would like for police, teachers, and other city employees to receive free or discounted membership.*
- *Please turn the lights off at the ballfields in a timely manner.*
- *I would enthusiastically support a recreation complex similar to what Hoover & Homewood have. Indoor/All season access to a walking track & pool (exercise & laps) as well as an outdoor water park with splashpad, lazy river, and pool for families/summer fun would make a huge difference in our growing community. Thank you for considering this. :)*
- *Sidewalks or trails to get to parks*
- *I feel that a splash pad and a more inclusive playground would benefit our community immensely!*
- *Splash pad!!! Please!*
- *Do to physical limits I can no longer walk the paths maybe more handicap areas in the park would be nice*
- *Indoor walking track greatly needed*
- *Alabaster needs a splash pad or swimming facility. Alabaster pool is crowded and the Y is too expensive.*
- *I'd like to walk the track at Buck Creek but I am afraid to do so because disability makes me vulnerable.*
- *I would love to see more nature trails and free places to go to exercise. Thank you!*
- *We need the roads paved first. I have lived in my house over 30 years and there is bare dirt on the road in front of my house and I have been told this would be fixed on a need basis. We need!*
- *My main concern is repairing the falling mill dam at Buck Creek. Also to preserve the abundant wildlife the area has, I'm already seeing less herons and beavers. Crucial to promote activities that is more outdoorsy and less tear-down-and-build. Much of the appeal in Alabaster is the naturalness. Don't want to turn into a carbon copy city. IF you are going to build a facility, please do so where there is already empty space, such as the old Foodland store. Don't tear into more land, please!! It isn't fun seeing displaced deer running through the neighborhood, dodging cars. We can preserve the natural state and also have what the citizens feel they need.*
- *A city the size of Alabaster really needs a recreation center. Certainly before a "justice center" is built for millions of dollars.*
- *It would be wonderful to have a traffic light at the entrance/exit of veterans park. Exiting the park is difficult when there is an event going on.*
- *Love the direction the city is going. Proud to call Alabaster home.*
- *Recycling drop off locations?*

- *Would like to have programs for adults with special needs.*
- *I would love to see more children's party and play facilities. Pelham has a trampoline park, bowling, ice rink, pump it up, etc. Alabaster has nothing. The Splash pad, rec center would help though.*
- *Need more options on the North side of town*
- *Child care options are greatly appreciated by parents and a potential money maker for the city.*
- *It's fun to dream big, but none of these things are truly necessary.*
- *We need to bring more things for families and teens...roller skating, bowling, arcades....*

We also need space for wedding receptions or parties...

- *I do wish there was a better job done running the football program. Last year multiple kids quit the 5th grade team before the end of the year. The 4th grade team split up and half the kids went to Helena due to a disagreement with coaches. The 3rd grade team only had 15 kids which was way down from the year before. If we are going to continue to have an excellent High School team we are going to need to continue to develop them when they are younger.*
- *I don't think that it would be fair to charge a per/house fee to build because of the households that would not use it.*
- *We love Alabaster! More adult programs and activities like kickball, volleyball would be great.*
- *Please build an indoor pool!*
- *More hiking trails, bike paths (especially off the road) or start making Alabaster bike friendly, more sidewalks/trails (especially to schools) from surrounding neighborhoods,*
- *Alabaster's growth has and will continue to be strong! But keeping tax dollars here and families happy in the summer months is important and having a place year round to have events can open many other community opportunities!*
- *I really enjoyed the kickball league that started last year at Veterans. Would like to see it expanded to a Spring, Summer, and Fall league.*
- *Making the city more accessible by walking or biking would be amazing. We currently live about a mile from Thompson high. My daughter spends an HOUR on the bus in the morning and afternoon. I'd much rather have her walk or bike to/from school if it were a safe pathway. Creating bike lanes and sidewalks on main roads would increase physical activity, provide social opportunities, and potentially increase neighborhood/city wide involvement.*
- *As a longtime resident the road infrastructure continues to be a concern also, the tax revenue should be able to cover this expansion also I see job opportunities with the city for people to run, up keep facilities. I enjoy all the current park options in Alabaster in the past my children were very involved in rec programs. having a community fitness center like Hoover would be great!*
- *I would like to see more investments in what the city offers to the entire community in places like the library.*
- *Buck Creek is lacking for youth football compared to every other field in the league Most charge admission to help the facilities we don't most parents don't mind paying the admission if it's to improve the park. A youth field away from the train tracks would be ideal so play isn't stopped for trains*
- *More healthier restaurants, for example Newk's, Zoe's. Can Alabaster inquire about getting a Whole Foods or Sprouts? And a skating rink and/or bowling alley?*
- *RECONSTRUCTION ON ROAD 119 BY SMOKEY ROAD PLEASE GET DONE FASTER!!! (4 lanes)*
- *Widen 119 before adding activities to Veterans*
- *Soccer fields are in terrible condition. Disproportionate funding for baseball vs other sports.*
- *Sidewalks!!! Can we please get some along Thompson road and warrior dr? Kids could walk to from school that live nearby if there were sidewalks.*
- *The biggest problem with Alabaster is that it is SO car-centric. People can't get anywhere in the city without a car. You have thousands of homes within 2 miles of our schools and no way to get to school without a car or bus. You cannot get from one park to another by bicycle or by walking/running. We need trails and greenways...*

- *A splash pad is a terrible idea!!! They require so much maintenance and the people they attract are just looking for somewhere to let their kids run with little supervision! I have 3 young children and we do not visit splash pads often bc they are overcrowded and hard to keep clean. However, a beautiful park and place for families to walk, play and gather would be amazing. I playground for kids of all ages, nice walking and biking paths, a small BMX bike track would be wonderful! Our current facilities could use a little TLC. Warrior park need attention. We okay baseball there and the fields are rough ... not to mention the bathroom!! The soccer field are atrocious here!! There are bald patches they aren't level and ant hills in the fields. It's embarrassing having people travel from all over to play on those fields!!! We have the Y with a pool. I feel like the liability and up keep of a pool is over the top when we need better parks!! Vet is nice! The exiting is a nightmare during baseball season. The park is nice but there are not enough swings or things for older kids to do. It would be nice to have a basketball court there but that would increase traffic issues. The current city basketball plays in the old TES gym - the bathrooms are gross and those facilities are so old. Then you travel and play at new Calera schools - 😊. Would love a dirt BMX track for bikes like what is at Oak Mountain*
- *I'm very disappointed in the quality of life aspects the city has at this time. We are a very stagnant city and as a longtime resident, I've watched Calera, Chelsea, Helena, and Pelham surpass as with activities and facilities for their city. As an adult, I do not want to have to use a school system facility to play basketball, tennis, etc. I am sad to see so many tax dollars sunk into a city garbage service when our community needed a Rec Center, walking trails and other quality of life aspects that we would use on a daily basis.*
- *More than ANYTHING, we need SIDEWALKS and CROSSWALKS that connect our neighborhoods to their neighboring schools! Our schools are embedded in residential areas, and our kids are constantly walking in muddy and unsafe areas before and after school. We need sidewalks and crosswalks on Thompson Road, Warrior Drive, Kent Dairy Road, County Rd 11, and 12. Also connect our neighborhoods to ALL CITY PARKS with sidewalks and crosswalks. Make our city more pedestrian friendly and the family and active life here (as well as SAFETY) will be extremely attractive to all future businesses and residents.*
- *Municipal Park's facilities need improvement. They are an embarrassment when hosting soccer teams from other cities.*
- *We need sidewalks on Thompson Road and in the high school!!! Those kids have NO WHERE to walk! It's embarrassing that we spent that much money and didn't provide a safe way for them to get there.*
- *I know they are set to make improvements to Abbey Wooley, but I wanted to emphasize the atmosphere around the park. I live within walking distance and have barely used it (in fact my husband is uncomfortable with me taking our baby there) because it doesn't feel safe. I don't think many in our neighborhood do. It is little known and doesn't get much traffic/passers by outside of the 2-3 immediate communities. While you're working on it please consider these aspects. Good lighting and maybe an emergency pole (with the button to call the police). I was so excited to live so close to a park, but I've barely used it since we moved here due to our first bad experience.*
- *Fix 119 south before you add anything anywhere. Doing that would provide much more recreation and health benefits to residents who live near Veteran's Park than anything else. Even if it only saved 30 minutes a day for a round trip commute over a year that would add several days back to every resident's free time.*
- *Recreation Center is a must for the City of Alabaster*
- *I would like to see something done and enforced about dogs being in playground areas - especially at Veteran's Park. Even on leashes, dogs should not be permitted in that area. I've also seen dogs being allowed inside the fences around the baseball fields during tournaments.*