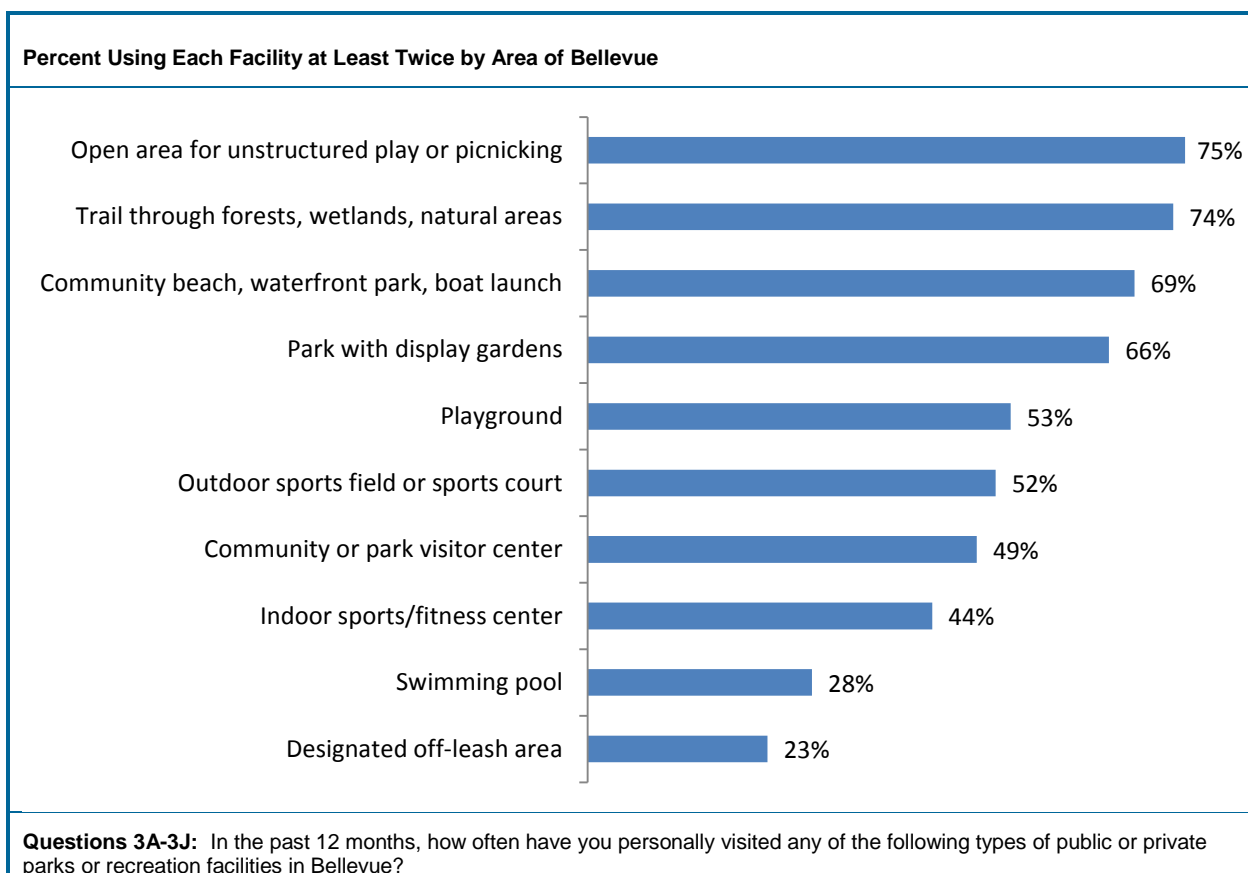


THE RECREATIONAL SYSTEM IN BELLEVUE

The recreational system available to Bellevue residents is a complicated web of private, non-profit and public service providers. Each has their own specific focus and niche within the overall market. Most providers find their niche of the market based on motivations for profit or organizational mission.

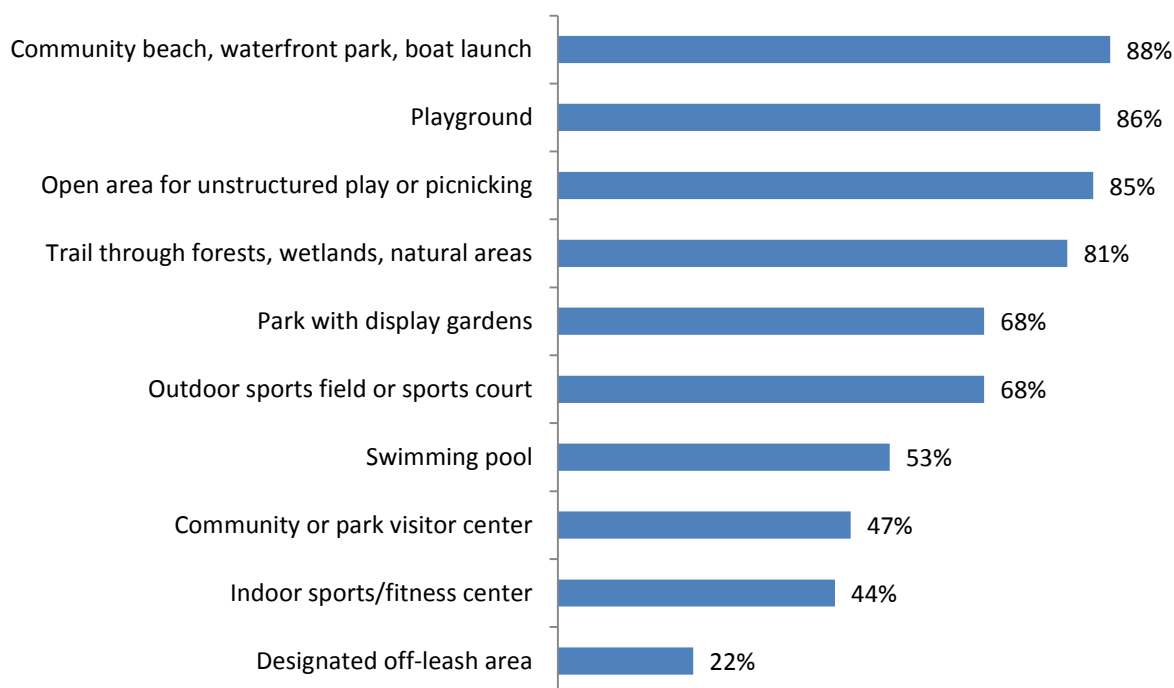
Bellevue resident surveys taken annually from 2011-2014, find that 88-91% of households visit Bellevue parks or park facilities every year. To collect detailed information, a 2009 survey of Bellevue residents collected data on what types of recreation facilities are used by most residents. This chart lists common recreational facilities (public or private) with the percent of Bellevue residents that visited these at least twice in the prior year.



The same question was asked for children and youth under the age of 18. The following chart shows the frequency of recreational facility use by that age demographic. In general terms, there is a moderate re-ordering of the frequency of specific facilities, but the top six facility types are the same for both groups. The survey also showed that frequency of use is more for youth populations in just about every category.



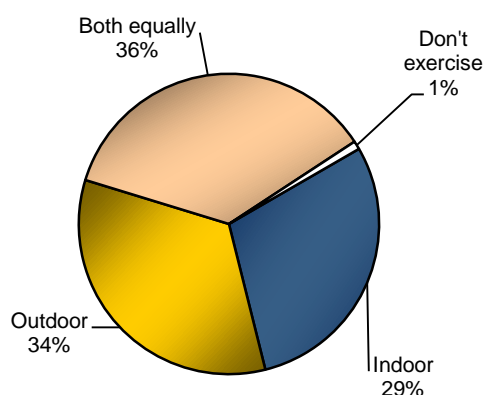
Percent of Households with Children that Use Each Facility at Least Twice per Year by Area of Bellevue



Questions 3BA-3BL: In the past 12 months, how often has any member of your household under 18 visited any of the following types of public or private parks or recreation facilities in Bellevue?

Another interesting finding of the survey is the frequency of use of outdoor recreational facilities. In Bellevue, outdoor recreation seems to be more common for youth and adults alike. 78% of survey respondents noted that their primary use of parks was for individual or family activities. Further, the survey found that a primary reason for the use of these facilities was to enjoy and experience nature and open spaces.

Preferred Exercise Location



Question 7A: When you do exercise, is it more often in an indoor environment, outdoor environment or about equal between both?

Recreational facilities are also used for exercise by 2/3 of Bellevue residents. To find out more about this, a question was asked regarding individuals preferred environment for exercise – indoor, outdoor, or both. As shown in the table, preference was even split between all three categories. This shows strong demand for all types of recreational facilities to serve people's exercise preferences.

Survey data such as this is helpful in evaluating Parks & Community Services' role in provision of recreation services to Bellevue residents. This role considers the highest and best use of the City of Bellevue's inventory of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. It also considers how the Parks & Community Services can be a community partner, working with other recreation providers to provide the highest level of recreation access possible to Bellevue residents.

VISION FOR RECREATION

Bellevue's vision for recreation is a healthy community where all residents participate in a range of recreation activities of their own choosing that are offered by multiple public and private organizations. By participating in recreation activities, residents are physically and mentally healthier, and they are better connected to their neighbors and to the community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles serve as a guide for all of the City's recreation programs:

ACCESSIBLE

Provide access to all individuals to ensure that barriers (such as finances, permanent or temporary disability, transportation, etc.) do not prevent participation in quality recreation services. Methods to achieve this goal include: pricing, scholarships, partnering, brokering, and information and referral.



CULTURALLY COMPETENT

Provide culturally competent recreation programs and community services across the multiple dimensions of diversity represented in Bellevue including age, race and ethnicity, ability and other factors. Study Bellevue's changing demographics and cultural preferences when evaluating current and new recreation programming.



HEALTH FOCUSED

Implement services and program curriculums that promote healthy individuals, families, neighborhoods and community. Support local, regional and national initiatives when appropriate. Incorporate a collective impact approach to programs and service delivery that promotes physical, social and mental health. Employing this framework will ensure that City-sponsored activities support the work that schools, families, and other organizations do collectively to promote the healthy development of people.

EFFICIENT USE OF CITY FACILITIES

Efficiently use City resources invested in parks and recreation facilities. Parks & Community Services seeks to achieve full use of existing and future park buildings and facilities distributed throughout the City to effectively meet recreational needs.

TRUSTED COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Provide recreation services and facilities where the customer can expect quality staff, programs, and facilities which will ensure that:

- Staff and volunteers are well-trained and knowledgeable;
- Programs are age appropriate;
- Vulnerable clients are cared for; and
- Programming is universally of high quality.



The general public can expect that proper management controls are in place to ensure that:

- Financial resources are handled appropriately;
- Safety risks in recreational pursuits are prudently managed; and
- Each and every person is treated equitably.

The public must trust the City, volunteers, partners, and contractors to maintain quality in all recreation services.

*WELL-COORDINATED*

Fill specific niches within the array of public and private recreation services in the community through City programming. Each year, new demands arise that cannot be fully met by existing recreation providers. City staff will work with other recreation organizations to facilitate coordination of activities and the joint offering of recreation activities. When the demands are consistent with stated goals and objectives, and resources are available, new recreation services and facilities will be created to address needs in our changing community. From time to time, as community needs and service availability are analyzed, historic precedent does not ensure that a program will continue to be offered.