



ELEVATE

PARKS & RECREATION



PARKS SURVEY REPORT



OCTOBER 2021

ELEVATE

PARKS & RECREATION



INTRODUCTION

In October of 2019, the Elevate Advisory Committee approved a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation subcommittee to conduct a community survey about parks and recreation within the City of Tuscaloosa. The objectives of the survey were: 1) to identify who does and does not use parks and recreation facilities, 2) to understand public perception of existing facilities, and 3) to gather ideas for improving the facilities. The City hired the University of Alabama Institute for Social Science Research (UA ISSR) to conduct and analyze this survey as a neutral third party.

The Elevate Parks and Recreation subcommittee and the UA ISSR worked collaboratively to develop the content of the survey. After it was approved by the UA's Institutional Review Board (IRB), the City launched a pilot survey of City of Tuscaloosa employees. The objective of the pilot survey was to determine if the survey design and content were clear and easy to understand. A total of 287 employees participated in the pilot survey.

Following the pilot survey, the parks survey was opened to anyone who lives or works in Tuscaloosa County on January 5, 2021. The survey was available online and in a paper format, in English and Spanish, for 12 weeks (Appendix A).

MARKETING & AWARENESS



Mayor Walt Maddox, PARA Director Gary Minor (left), and UA ISSR Statistical Consultant Dr. Jane Daquin (right) at the survey launch press conference

The City, the Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation Authority (PARA) and the UA ISSR held a joint press conference to announce the launch of the survey on January 5, 2021. Following a press release from the City, the survey was covered by Tuscaloosa News, Tuscaloosa Thread, Patch, Nick 97.5, ABC 33/40, CBS 42, and Good Morning Alabama.

The survey was promoted on the City website and the Elevate Tuscaloosa website. The City used social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and NextDoor), digital ads on Google and Facebook, digital billboards throughout the city and radio advertisements to increase awareness of the survey and encourage participation.

Additionally, yard signs with take-home postcards were placed at parks throughout the city that featured a QR code and a link to the online survey.

COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTION

The City of Tuscaloosa collaborated with 55 stakeholder groups (Appendix B) to increase awareness and distribution of the survey. Groups who work with populations that were less likely to have reliable Internet access were asked to assist with distributing paper copies of the survey. Throughout the survey period, the City sent periodic reminders to these groups to encourage the continued distribution of the survey.

Some examples of community participation resulting from these efforts are: paper surveys available at each branch of the YMCA, informational fliers in the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority's monthly statements, and Spanish surveys distributed through the Latino Coalition of Tuscaloosa.



Promotional yard sign at a community park

TIMELINE

- »» **October 10, 2019:** Elevate Parks and Recreation subcommittee recommends parks survey
- »» **October 24, 2019:** Elevate Advisory Council approves subcommittee's recommendation
- »» **December 12, 2019:** UA ISSR meets with Parks and Recreation subcommittee to develop survey
- »» **February 4, 2020:** Tuscaloosa City Council adopts a resolution for ISSR to conduct survey
- »» **May 20, 2020:** UA's Institutional Review Board (IRB) approves survey
- »» **October 1, 2020:** Pilot survey is launched
- »» **October 24, 2020:** Pilot survey is closed
- »» **January 5, 2021:** Press conference announces survey launch
- »» **January 5, 2021:** Survey opens
- »» **March 17, 2021:** Survey closes
- »» **September 30, 2021:** ISSR meets with Parks and Recreation subcommittee to present findings

RESULTS

A total of 2,913 people completed the survey (including pilot responses).

- Electronic responses: 2,572 (2,568 English, 4 Spanish)
- Paper responses: 54 (51 English, 3 Spanish)

The ISSR used Qualtrics, a software program that allows for efficient data analysis captured through web-based surveys, as the survey platform. Paper survey responses were also input into Qualtrics. Because the survey included both multiple choice and open-ended questions, the ISSR used the statistical software SPSS for quantitative data analysis, and the software NVIVO for the qualitative data analysis.

Through NVIVO, the ISSR team uncovered recurring themes in the responses to open-ended questions. Qualitative response coding was completed by two independent coders and the resulting data was audited for agreement by a third coder.

The final parks survey report from the UA ISSR is found in the following pages.



Institute for
**Social Science
Research**
College of Arts & Sciences

Elevate Tuscaloosa Parks and Recreation Survey

Findings from the 2021 Combined City Employee and General Population Surveys

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Prepared by Jane Daquin and Sarah Dunlap, The University of Alabama Institute for Social Science Research.

Methodology: Data collection and analyses were conducted in multiple phases. In phase 1, the survey was piloted using a sample of City employees. The survey was administered online through Qualtrics. The purpose of the pilot was to (1) evaluate the clarity of the survey questions and (2) to ensure that the survey questions adequately captured information about facility usage and improvement. The data from the pilot study was then used to revise questions to improve clarity as well as additional questions. Phase 2 consisted of administering the survey to community. The survey was administered online and on paper. Paper and online survey results were pooled for analysis.

Data Analysis: All quantitative analyses were conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), which is a comprehensive statistical analysis software. Using SPSS, descriptive statistics (i.e., percentages and counts) were produced for all closed-ended questions. All qualitative analysis was conducted in NVivo, which is a qualitative coding software that allows researchers to assign each response to specific themes. Additionally, once all the data are coded summary reports can be generated. The coding of the qualitative responses occurred in multiple changes. Stage 1 consisted of deductive coding, where the research team generated an initial list of codes (or themes). Using the list of codes, the pilot data were coded. Stage 2 consisted of inductive coding, where the research team identified additional codes during the coding process that were not captured in the initial list. The inductive coding yielded a comprehensive list of codes (total 67 codes). In Stage 3, the complete list of codes was used to code the responses from the community sample. A total 12,813 individually coded responses. Most respondents provided multiple responses for each question.

Results Highlights:

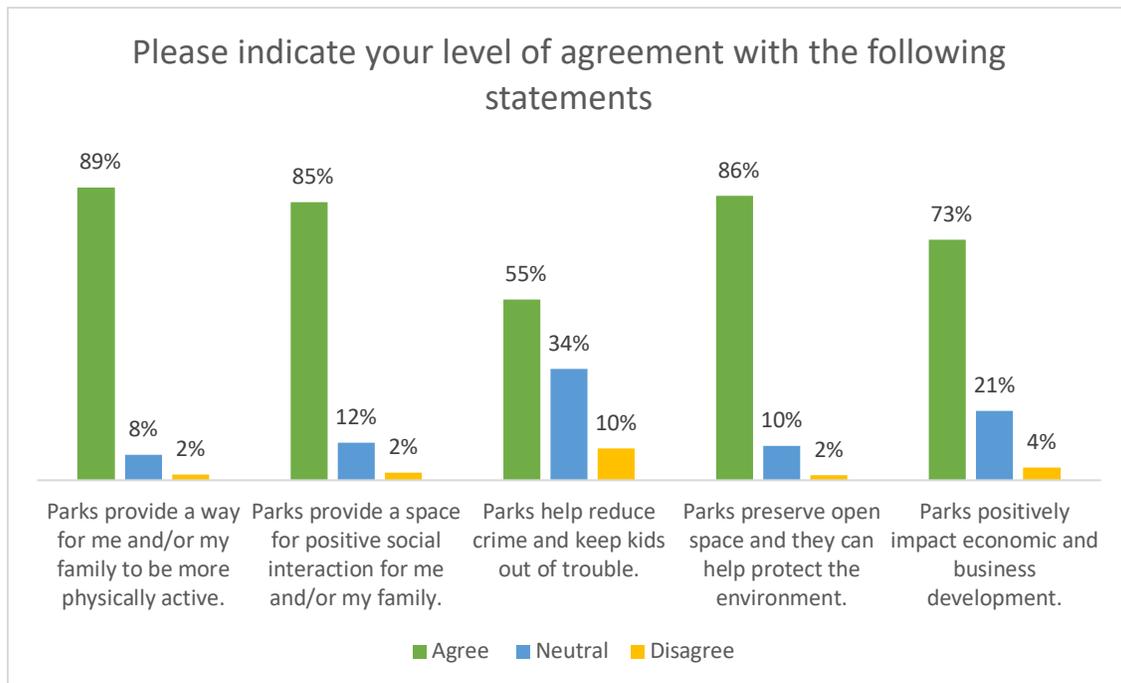
- The two most-used parks are Sokol Park and the Tuscaloosa Riverwalk.
- Most respondents indicated using the facility they visit most often on a weekly basis.
- Most respondents report that they visit the parks by driving their own vehicle.
- The most common reasons identified for using a particular facility are “for exercise, fitness, sports,” and “convenient location.”
- The largest category for the explanation of why respondents do not use the facilities more often was “too far from my residence”; “there are no activities that I enjoy” was the next most common choice.
- The majority of respondents indicated that their child (or children) use(s) the local facilities and that their child(ren) participates in sports.
- The largest category for children’s participation in sports selected by respondents was soccer, followed by baseball.
- The majority of respondents reported having used a parks and recreation facility outside of Tuscaloosa.
- The two categories with the most responses indicating why facilities in other areas were preferred were that respondents believed the other facilities 1) were in better condition and 2) had more activities available than Tuscaloosa facilities.
- The majority of respondents indicated that there were features of facilities outside of Tuscaloosa that they would like to see in Tuscaloosa.
- The most common among suggestions for improvement to local facilities was “features for pets,” followed by “features for children or teens” and “classes or educational programs.”
- The majority of respondents indicated that they would be willing to travel to other facilities if transportation was not an issue. The most common reason given for willingness to travel was “better experience,” followed by “change of scenery” and “accessing specific amenities, programs or features.”

- Respondents were asked to indicate what additional recreational features they would be willing to pay for. The most common response was “water activities,” followed by “other specialized programs (dance, vendors),” and “sports activities.”
- The number one response among those listed as desired new features was paved walking and biking trails with mile markers.
- The top request for new programs desired were for those for people with special needs.

Value and Benefit of Parks

Note: All percentages throughout the report may not add up to 100 percent in some cases due to rounding.

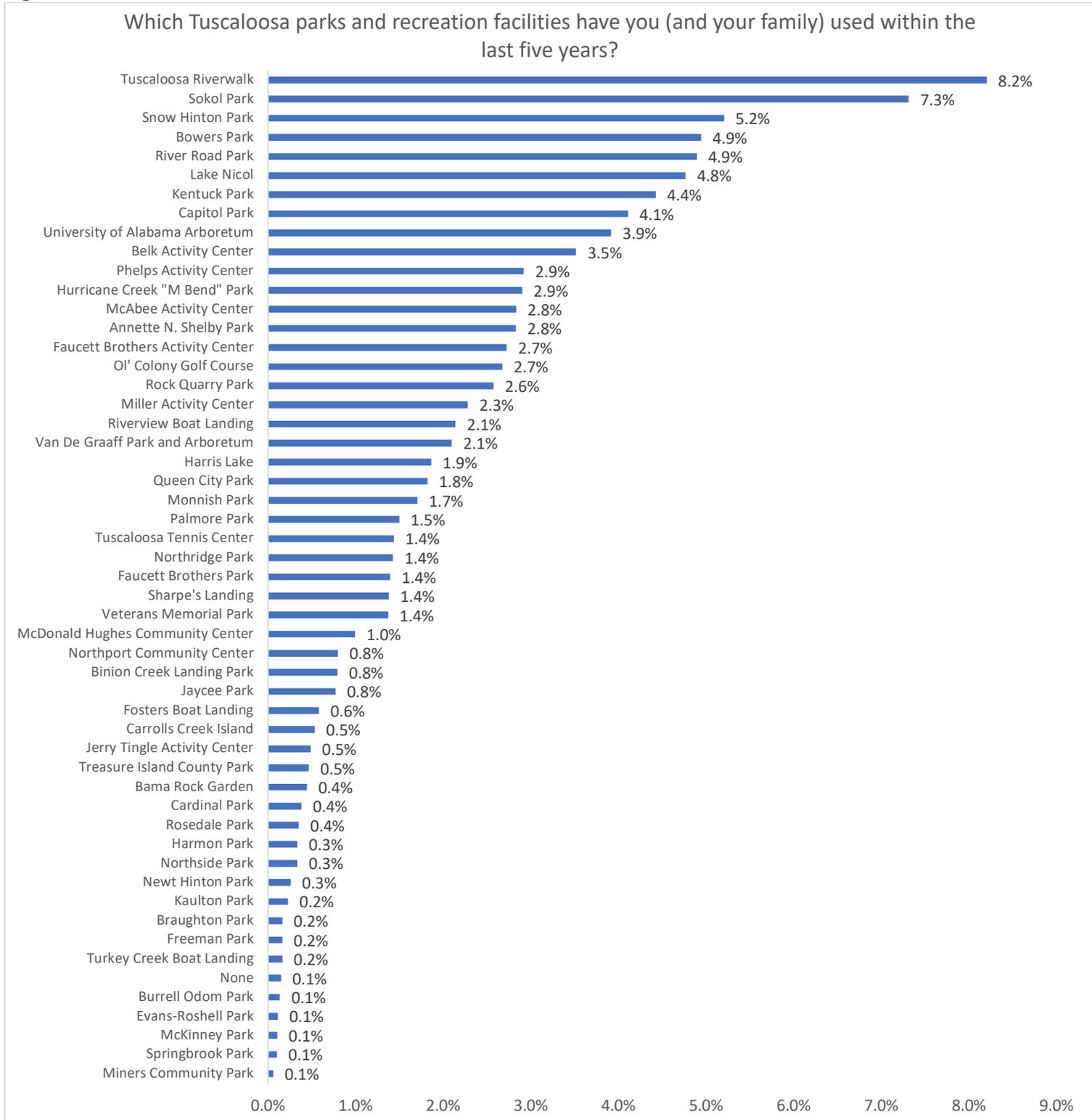
Figure 1-1: Value and Benefit of Parks



Fifty-five percent to 89% of respondents agree that parks have a positive impact on the community. The largest disagreement concerns parks reducing crime and keeping kids out of trouble.

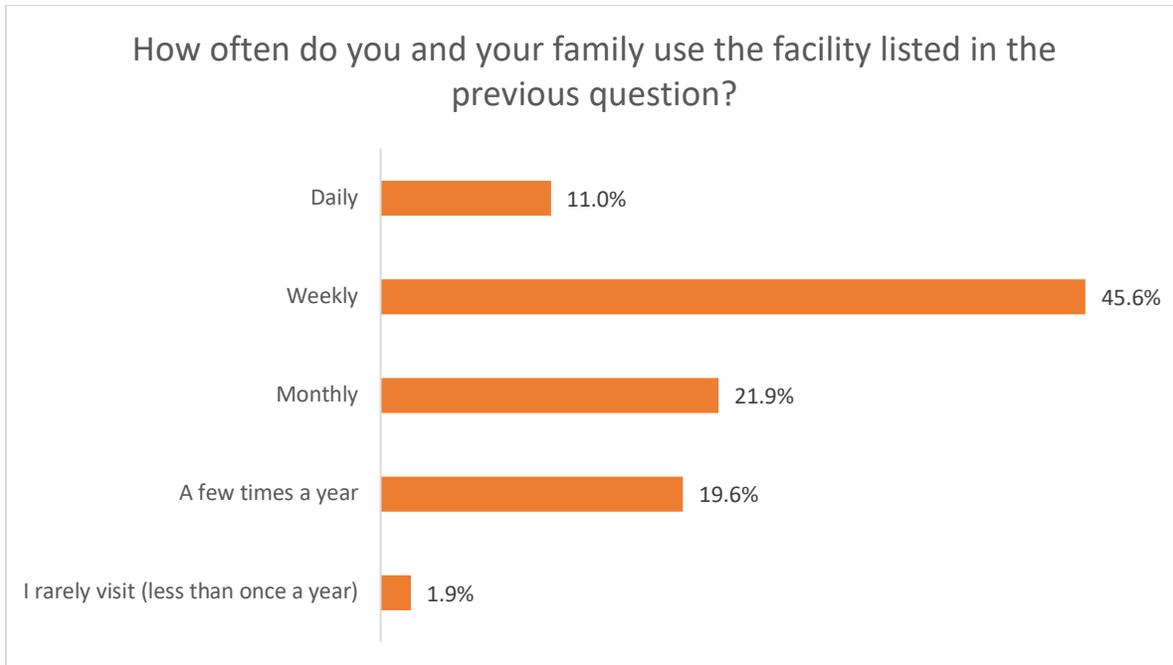
Parks and Recreation Facility Usage

Figure 2-1: Facilities Used



Respondents could choose as many options as were applicable. The two parks with the most responses were the Tuscaloosa Riverwalk and Sokol Park. In a follow up question, these were also the two parks that the largest percentages of respondents indicated that they used most often with Sokol Park listed most often (22.9 percent of respondents) and Tuscaloosa Riverwalk listed by 16.9 percent.

Figure 2-2: Frequency of Park Usage



Most respondents indicated using the facility they visit most often weekly.

Table 2-1: Reasons for using the facility

Theme	% of Responses
For exercise, fitness, sports	26.81%
Convenient Location	20.67%
Other Sports, Recreation	14.02%
Access to nature or views	7.80%
Clean, well-maintained, safety, good experience	7.40%
Access to pet-friendly features	6.99%
Organized Sports Leagues or Lessons	5.40%
Special Events, Festivals, Facility Rental	4.07%
Access or proximity to water	2.96%
For Relaxation	2.33%
Access to some other amenity	1.00%

Respondents were also asked to indicate why they use the facility. Twelve themes were identified for the 2,704 reported reasons provided. The most common reason for using the facility is “for exercise, fitness, sports,” followed by “convenient location,” then for “other sports, recreation.”

For the “exercise, fitness, sports” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “It has the best walking area.”
- “Has indoor swimming facilities that best fit my recreational preferences.”
- “Walking trails and riding trails.”
- “My husband uses it to run. I use it to take the kids for a walk and then to the playground.”
- “Hiking and or biking”

For the “convenient location” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “It is the closest park to our apartment, within walking distance. Close to house/school.”
- “Convenient place for my lunch break.”
- “Most convenient to where I live.”
- “In the middle of town so easy access.”
- “Easy access by road, easy parking.”

For the “other sports, recreation” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “This is the best public golf course in West Alabama”
- “We play a LOT of disc golf at all of the available places in town”
- “Weekly pickup soccer games with friends”
- “Play basketball”
- “Because it is a top notch tennis facility”

For the “access to nature or views” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “Wonderful hiking trails.”
- “Enjoy the walk and the scenery.”
- “Wonderful spot of hard-core nature.”
- “Sokol is great for that and offers an easy place to see local wildlife.”

For the “clean, well-maintained, safety, good experience” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “An excellent facility that is well run”
- “Because it's clean and populated”
- “Fields at Bowers are amazingly well prepped each time we use it. Park, restrooms, dugouts are always clean and nice”
- “Easy to go on a long walk with baby in stroller”
- “Huge space overall keeps different park activities nicely spaced, well maintained”

For the “access to pet-friendly features” theme, all respondents indicating using the facility because of either the “dog park” or more generally because it is “great for walking my dog.”

For the “organized sports leagues or lessons” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “Tennis lessons, tournaments and clinics, as well as playing tennis for fun. The entire family plays there and we could be playing at one of the country clubs but far prefer TTC to the club.”
- “Sokol park is utilized by our baseball team.”
- “My children practice and play soccer at Sokol Park.”
- “I am a High School Cross Country and Track coach and the kids use the parks to run in.”
- “Youth basketball.”

For the “special events, festivals, facility rental” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “For use of pavilions.”
- “Farmer’s market.”
- “Community garden.”
- “Community functions/gatherings, church events.
- “Kentuck Art Festival,”

For the “access or proximity to water” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “Its the only boat landing on that section of river.”
- “Stand up paddle boarding.”
- “We use these lakes to kayak.”
- “Access to the river.”
- “Great for swimming”/ “Has a swimming pool.”

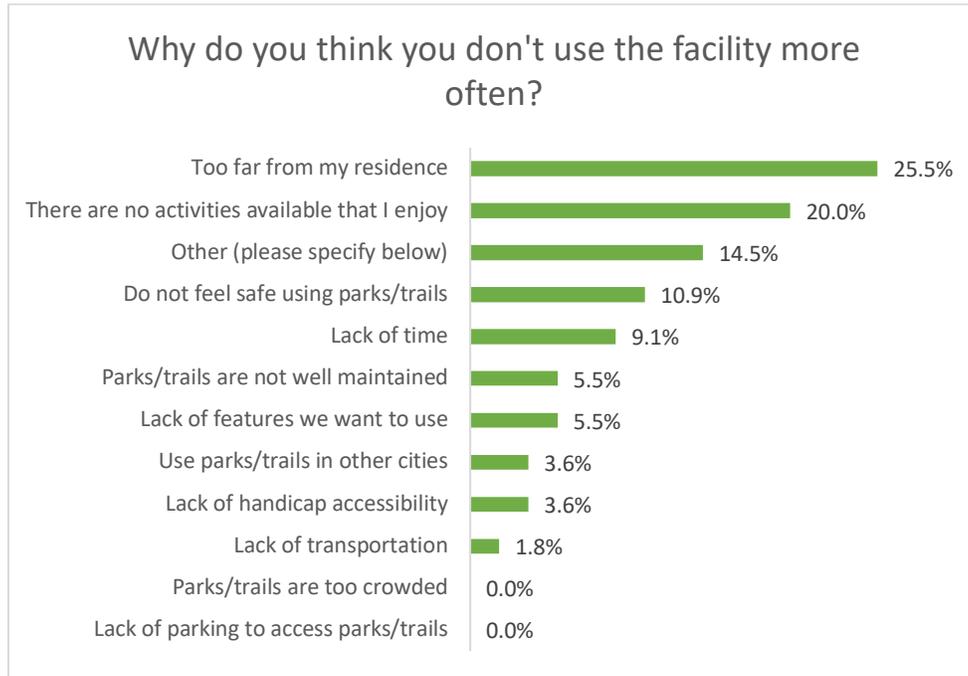
For the “for relaxation” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “Family time, picnics.”
- “I also like that there are places to enjoy brunch as well on the Riverwalk and places to lounge and let kids play when you aren't being active.”
- “To relax and enjoy nature.”
- “Spend time with friends and as a way to get outside safely.”

For the “access to some other amenity” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

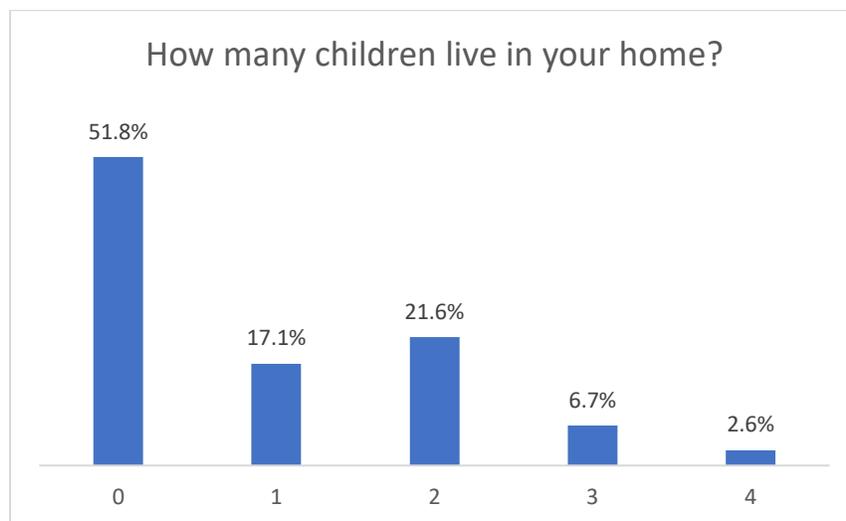
- “For business at the farmer’s market.”
- “They have a toddler swing and a convenient place to have a lunch outside as a family.”
- “Our family uses the Phelps Center because of the Therapeutic Recreation activities that are available there.”

Figure 2-3: Reasons for not using facilities



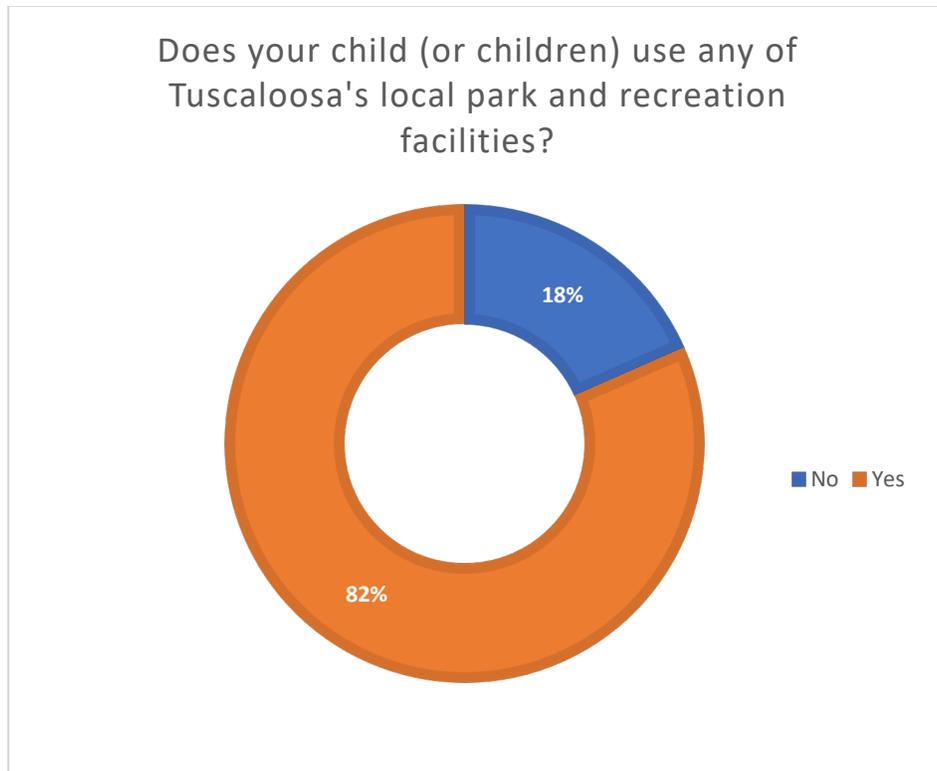
For this item, multiple responses were allowed. The largest category for the explanation of why respondents do not use the facilities more often was “Too far from my residence” “There are no activities that I enjoy” was the next most common choice. Examples of “other” responses included reasons ranging from “too expensive” to “I’m a member of a private club.”

Figure 2-4: Children in the home



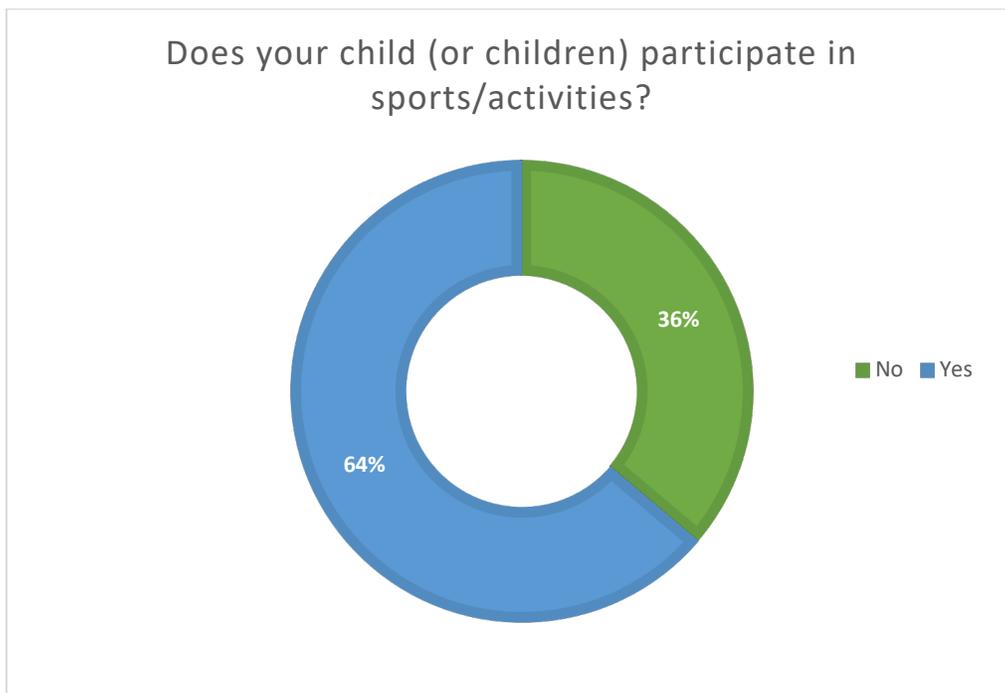
Just over half of respondents reported that there were no children living in their home. Some respondents included their adult “children” (those over 18 years of age) in their responses.

Figure 2-5: Child's facility usage



The majority of respondents indicated that their child (or children) use(s) the local facilities.

Figure 2-6: Child's Participation in Sports



The majority of respondents indicated that their child(ren) participates in sports.

Table 2-2: Reasons for child(ren)'s lack of participation

Theme	% of Responses
Too young or old to participate	38.05%
Not interested in sports	15.34%
COVID	9.73%
Too expensive	9.73%
Scheduling conflicts, time commitment	7.67%
Participate in individual sports	5.01%
Play sports with school team or org other than PARA	4.13%
Special needs	2.95%
Lack of options	2.65%
Lack of organization; structure	2.36%
Just moved to Tuscaloosa	1.47%
Lack of awareness	0.59%

Respondents who indicated that their child(ren) did not participate in sports were asked to provide a reason for the lack of participation. Twelve themes were identified for the 339 reasons provided. The most common reasons for lack of participation, other than COVID-19, is because the child(ren) is “too young or old to participate,” followed by “not interested in sports,” and “too expensive.”

For the “too young or old to participate” theme, all respondents indicated that the child was either “too young to participate” or “played sports throughout school years. Aged out.”

For the “not interested in sports” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “Participates in dance. Never interested in sports.”
- “Though he exercises regularly, he finds organized sports boring.”
- “Not interested. Lack of friends participating.”

For the “too expensive” theme, all respondents indicated that it was too costly for their child(ren) to participate.

For the “scheduling conflicts, time commitment” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “Time constraints with working parents.”
- “Not enough free time to dedicate to organized sports.”
- “Soccer is too many days a week.”
- “My work schedule doesn't allow them to participate right now.”

For the “participation in individual sports or other activities” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “Prefers individual sports like archery (does use PARA archery range) and mountain biking.”
- “Runner...individual activity unaffiliated with any group.”
- “We use a private karate facility but would love to see that as an option at bowers or miller.”

For the “play sports with school team or organization other than PARA” theme, examples of the most common response were:

- “Participate through school and not rec.”
- “Participate in Dixie youth and private gymnastics.”
- “Marching band.”

For the “special needs” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “One uses a wheelchair and there are not many offerings for differently abled children.”
- “I don’t know if any that are available and my three-year-old is deaf so I worry that he won’t have an interpreter and access to communication with his teammates.”
- “Has health issues.”
- “My son has autism.”

For the “lack of options” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

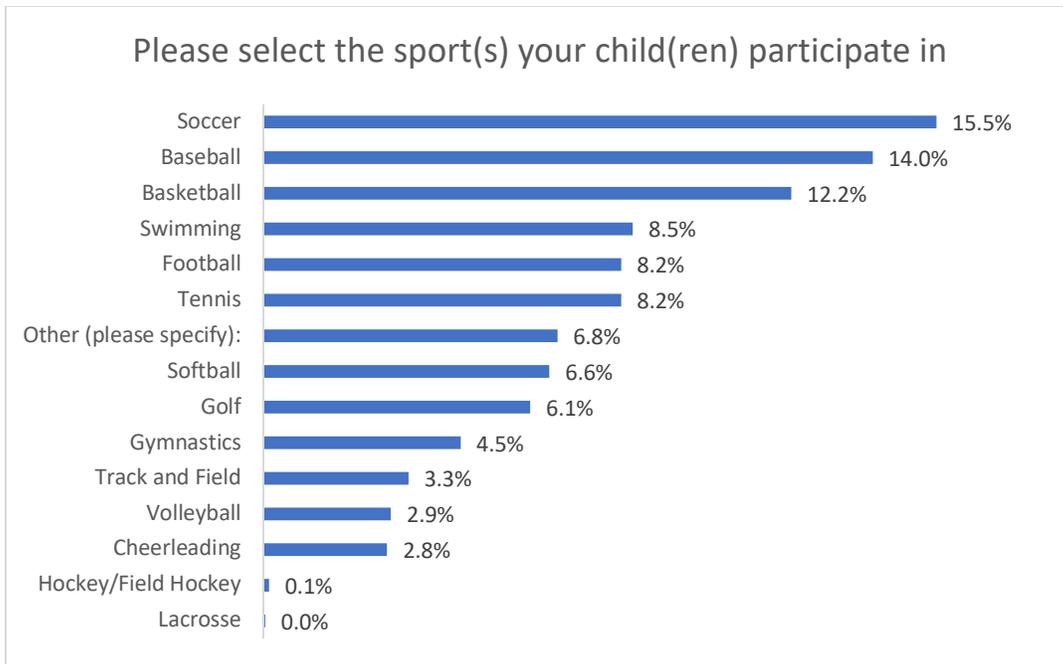
- “I have not been able to find any girls’ basketball or soccer sports being offered for her age.”
- “Enjoyed PARA soccer, but fewer opportunities with age.”
- “Lack of sports for age group.”

For the “lack of organization, structure” theme, examples of the most common responses were:

- “We used to participate in soccer and baseball, but management of athletic teams, coaching, and organization were so poor that we stopped participating. The product is not worth the money and frustration.”
- “We played soccer and had a not great experience. He hasn't wanted to participate again. It was very disorganized and communication not great and facility could use some improvement.”

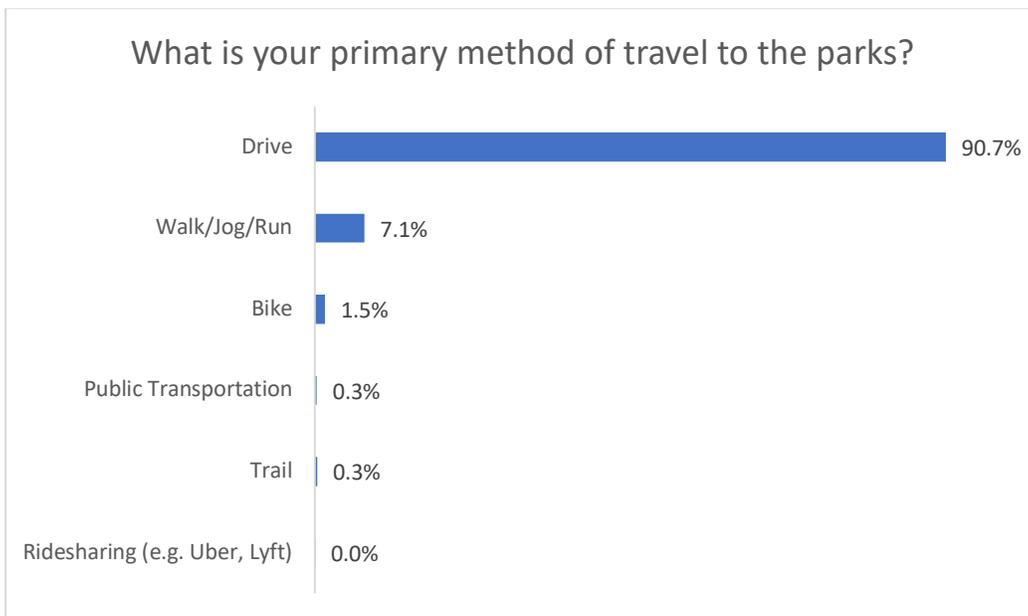
For the “just moved to Tuscaloosa” theme, respondents indicated having just moved to Tuscaloosa as the reason why their child(ren) is not currently participating in sports.

Figure 2-7: Types of Sports



For this item, multiple responses were allowed. The largest category selected by respondents was soccer, followed by baseball. About 6.8% indicated other, which included karate, taekwondo, dance, walking, disc golf, running, mountain biking, kayaking, rowing, pickleball, hunting, camping, fishing, shooting, horseback riding, rock climbing, bowling, lacrosse, wrestling, boxing, archery, skateboarding, rollerblading, hiking, scouting, color guard, baton, and racquetball.

Figure 2-8: Travel to Parks

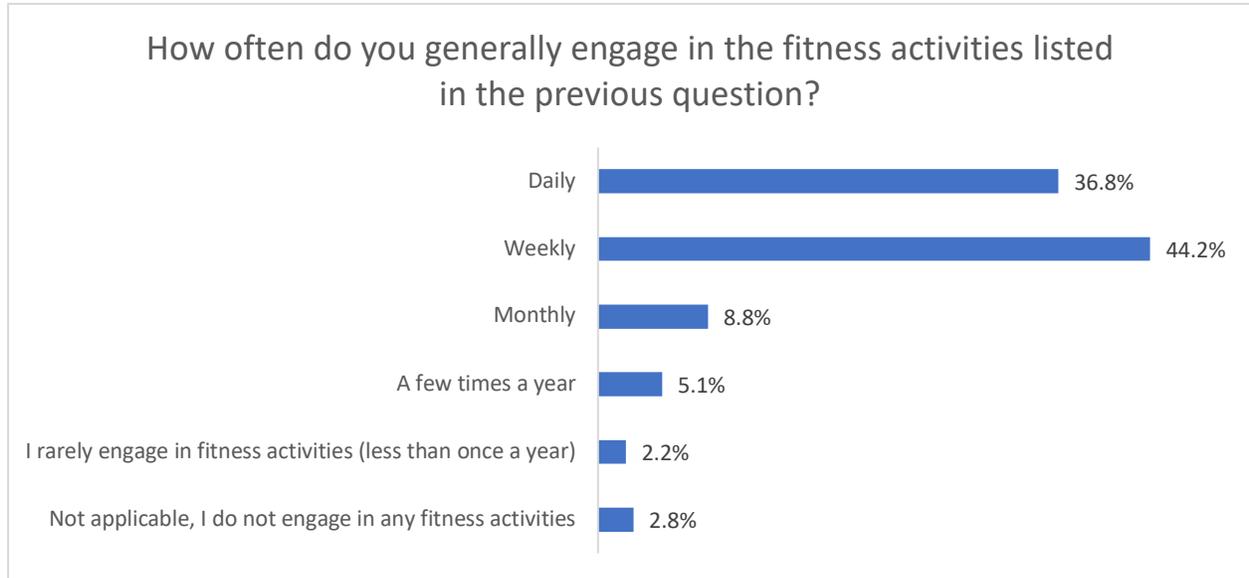


Most respondents reported that they drive to parks.

Type of Recreation and Fitness

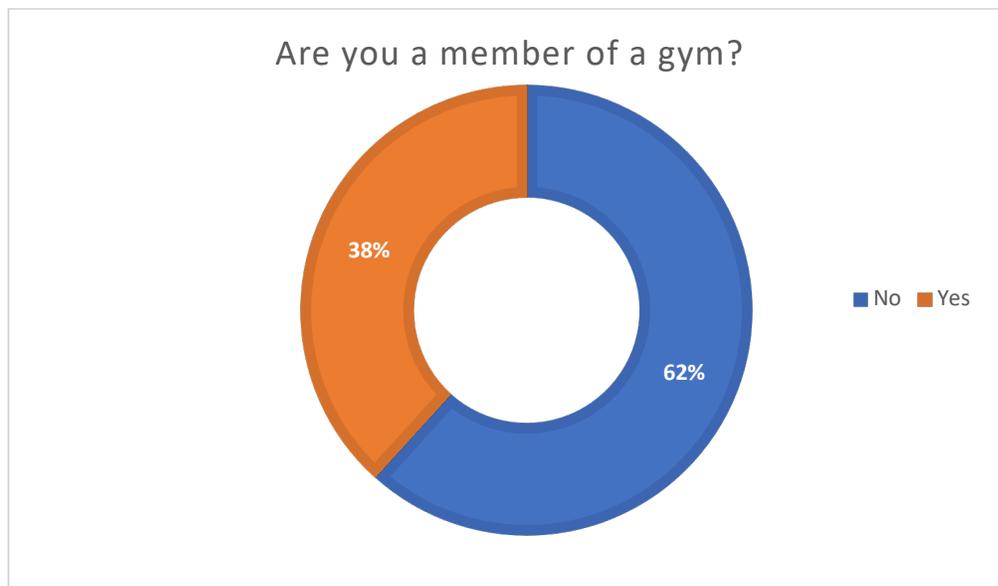
Respondents were asked to indicate what activities they (and their families) participate in. The majority of the sample indicated walking, running, swimming, bike riding, and hiking.

Figure 3-1: Frequency of Fitness Activities



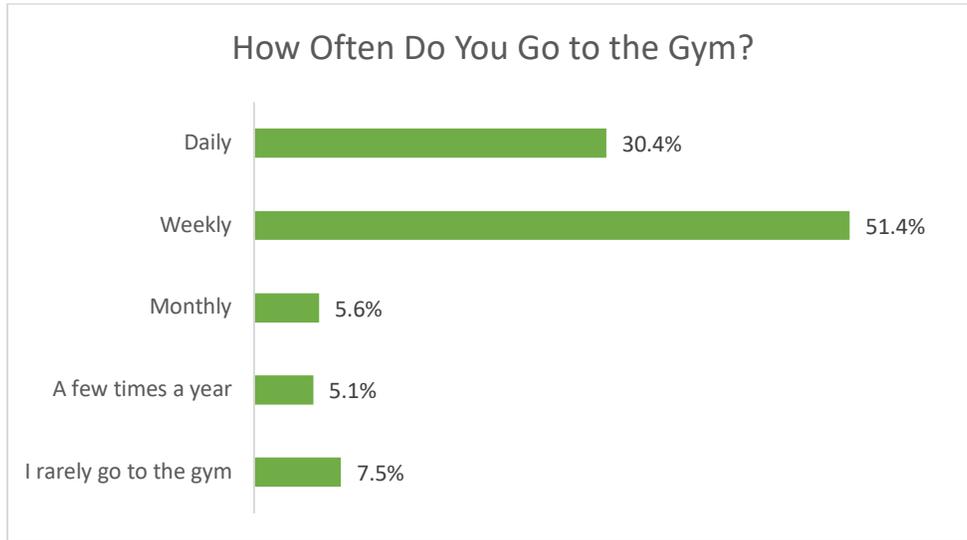
Participants were asked “What type of fitness activities do you or your family participate in?” They were then asked how often they generally engaged in these activities. The majority of the sample indicated participating in fitness activities weekly or every day.

Figure 3-2: Gym Membership



The majority of respondents indicated that they are not currently a member at a gym.

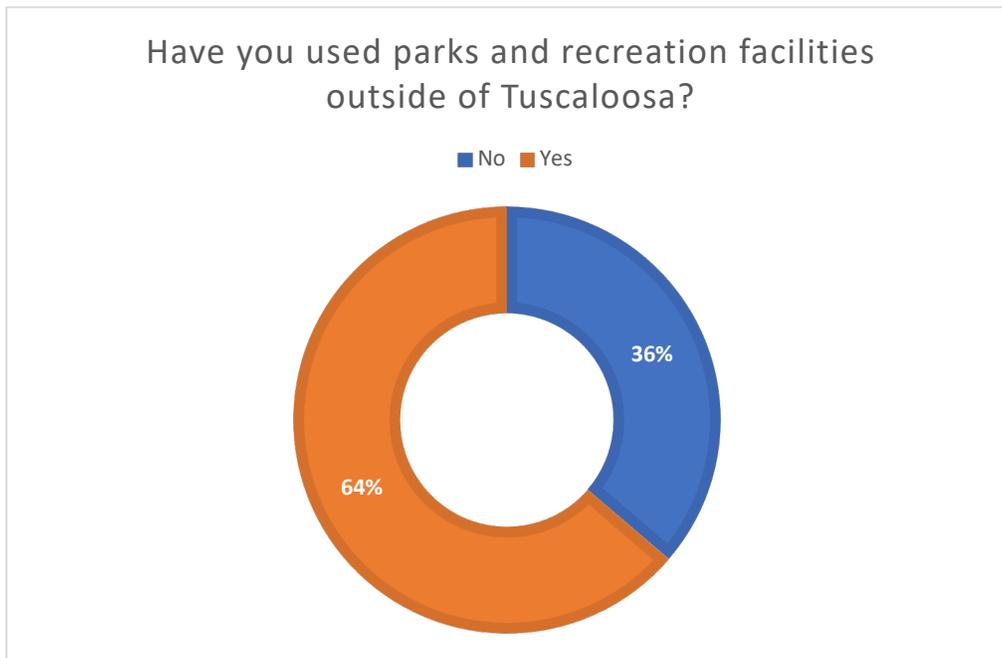
Figure 3-3: Frequency of Gym Usage



The majority of respondents indicated going to the gym on a daily or weekly basis

Facility Improvement

Figure 4-1: Usage of Facilities Outside of Tuscaloosa



The majority of respondents reported having used a parks and recreation facility outside of Tuscaloosa.

Table 4-1: Location of facility

Theme	% of Responses
Out-of-state location	27.12%
Birmingham or Jefferson County Area	25.78%
In-state (other than Birmingham)	24.07%
In or near Tuscaloosa; no specific location	23.03%

Respondents were asked to provide the name and location of the facility (or more than one) at which they have had an exceptionally good experience. Four general locations were identified from the 1,051 reported facilities or parks. Roughly one-quarter of respondents indicated a facility or park in either “Jefferson County area,” “in-state in a location other than Birmingham,” “out-of-state,” or “in or near Tuscaloosa/No specific location.”

For the “out-of-state” theme, examples of the facilities/parks provided were:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Stone Mountain, Georgia | City Park, New Orleans, Louisiana |
| Tennessee Riverwalk, Chattanooga | Falls Park, Cleveland Park, Greenville, South Carolina |
| Central Park, New York | |

For the “Birmingham or Jefferson County area” theme, the most frequently reported facilities/parks were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Railroad Park | Hoover Met Complex |
| Oak Mountain State Park | Botanical Garden |
| Red Mountain Park | |

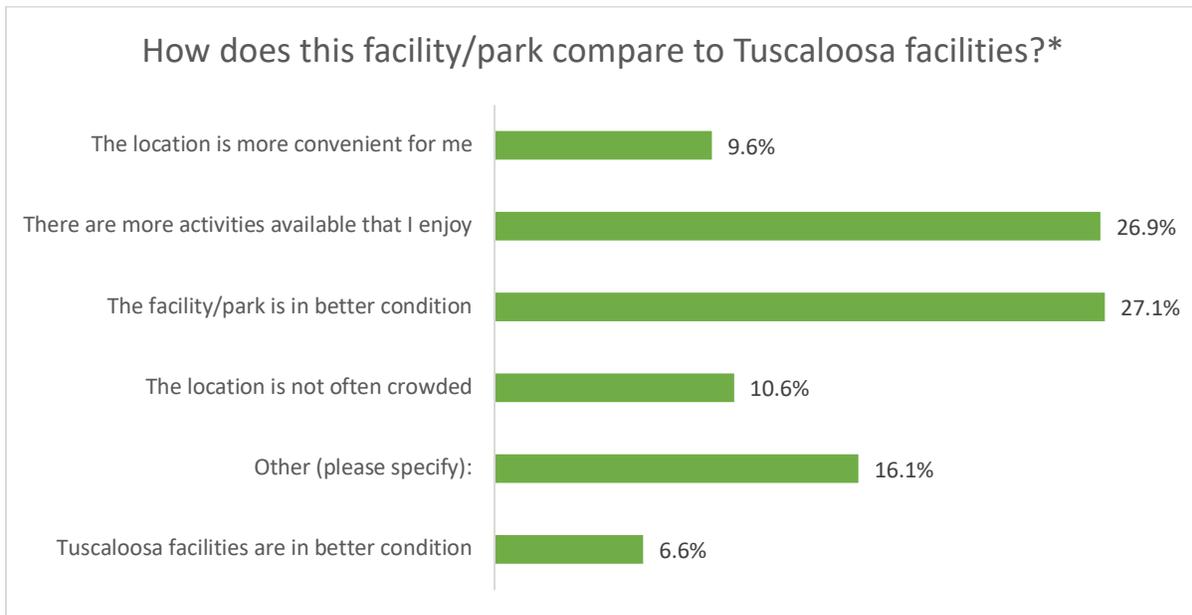
For the “in-state (other than Birmingham)” theme, the most frequently reported facilities/parks were:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fayette Water Park | Huntsville Aquatic Center |
| Gulf Shores State Park | Cheaha State Park |
| Chewacla State Park | |

For the “in or near Tuscaloosa; no specific location” theme, the most frequently reported facilities/parks were:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Veteran’s Park | Lake Lurleen State Park |
| University of Alabama facilities | School playgrounds (e.g., Verner Elementary, Moundville Elementary) |
| Tannehill State Park | |

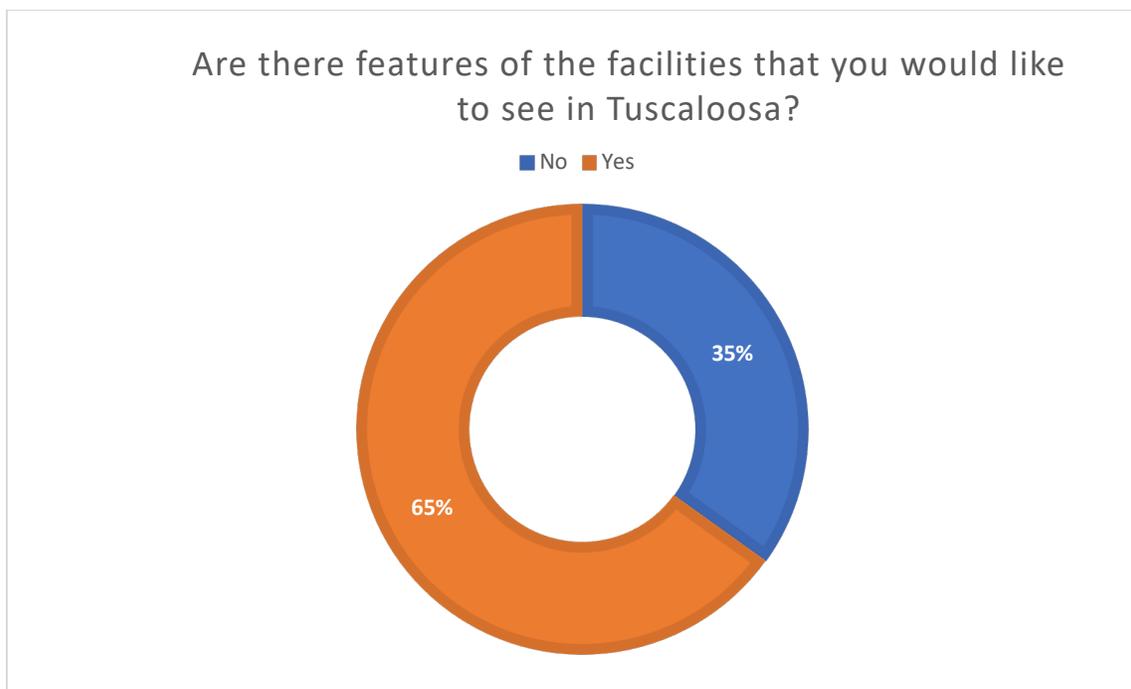
Figure 4-2: Comparison of Other Facilities/Parks to Tuscaloosa Facilities



The two categories with the most responses (approximately 27% each) indicated that respondents believed the other facilities was in better condition and had more activities available than Tuscaloosa facilities. Examples of specific “other” responses included “ability to walk to restaurants” and “more benches and lights”.

*The option “Tuscaloosa facilities are in better condition” did not appear in the pilot survey resulting in percentages here totaling less than 100%

Figure 4-3: Whether there are features respondents would like to see



The majority of respondents indicated that there were features of the facilities outside of Tuscaloosa that they would like to see in Tuscaloosa.

Table 4-2: Desirable features at the other facility

Theme	% of Responses
Outdoor recreation activities & features or amenities	28.37%
Facilities were better (well-kept, well-managed, cost effective, better equipment, new, etc.)	17.83%
Outdoor Park	14.79%
Sports activities (participation-based) & features or amenities	13.78%
Entertainment activities	13.27%
Specific type of programming	4.96%
Outdoor fitness activities & features or amenities	3.75%
Indoor recreation activities & features or amenities	1.72%
Indoor fitness activities & features or amenities	1.52%

Respondents were asked to indicate if there were any features at the other facilities they would like to see in Tuscaloosa. Nine themes were identified from the 987 reported features. The most common theme was “outdoor recreation activities & features or amenities,” followed by “facilities were better,” and “outdoor park.”

For the “outdoor recreation activities & features or amenities” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “Sculptures to look at while walking around”
- “Very large fenced in areas or relaxed tether laws for active people that cycle and kayak fish that own non aggressive well behaved dog”
- “Longer trail for biking and running with bike fix stations/air pumps and pet water fountains.”
- “Love the wave pool and ice skating rink in Decatur Al.”
- “A vast system of paved trails that connects businesses with residential areas like the Atlanta Beltline.”

For the “facilities were better” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “These previous facilities offer opportunities for walking/biking without worrying about road traffic. The Riverwalk is GREAT start. We enjoy it regularly. The larger PARA parks (Sokol as an example) do not provide facilities (improved multi-purpose) for extended walking/biking (NOT mountain biking) without worrying about traffic.”
- “Clean and Safe bathrooms - located in well-lit public areas near park patrol stations, that are locked during hours of park inactivity. A routine maintenance beat. Dedicated recycling spaces. A civic plexiglass board - announcing opportunities for civic input, engagement, and activity.”
- “Clearly visible park rangers and other crime deterrents.”

- “Cleaner area, more information about the nature (trees, wildlife, etc.) and history of the area.”

For the “outdoor park” theme, examples of the features provided were:

Water Park
Dog parks
Skate parks

Interactive playground equipment
Larger playgrounds with updated equipment

For the “sports activities (participation-based) & features or amenities” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “More baseball/softball fields.”
- “Turf field that will support multiple sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, etc)”
- “Outdoor pickleball courts specifically built for pickleball.”
- “Aquatic center with at least two competition pools.”

For the “entertainment activities” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “Food carts/trucks allowed on or near park properties.”
- “Incorporating local history (especially Native American Indian), geology (fossils, rocks), art (Kentuck), music, river, and trains into our parks and walking paths.”
- “Free live music and theater in spring/summer in park, restaurants and races along swamp rabbit trail.”
- “Boat rentals. Bike rental. Scooter rental.”

For the “specific type of programming” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “Activities for specific age groups of children”
- “Archery” and “Bow and arrow practice areas, gun practice areas”
- “More classes for seniors”
- “More fitness classes” (e.g., spin, Tai Chi)
- “Swim programs for all ages;” and “Adult swim lessons”

For the “outdoor fitness activities & features or amenities” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “Different types of trails (paved and natural)”
- “More connected trails”
- “Outdoor stretching and exercise equipment”
- “Add work out equipment on the trails (pull up bars, stretching stations, etc)”
- “More trails for runners”

For the “indoor recreation activities & features or amenities” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “Rock climbing gym.”
- “More swimming facilities and activities. Indoor diving boards, slides and deeper pools.”
- “Wintertime/cold weather activities.”

For the “indoor fitness activities & features or amenities” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “More types of water exercise.”
- “More spacious workout facility.”
- “Upgraded cardio equipment.”
- “Indoor track.”

Table 4-3: General Facility Improvement

Theme	% of Responses
Outdoor recreation activities & features or amenities	39.83%
Sports activities (participation-based) and features or amenities*	16.35%
Facility upkeep & improvement*	11.18%
Features for pets	5.66%
Indoor recreation activities & features or amenities*	5.14%
Features for children or teens	4.41%
Entertainment activities*	4.17%
Classes or educational programs	4.13%
Outdoor fitness activities & features or amenities*	2.05%
Safety	1.98%
General Comments	1.56%
Indoor fitness activities & features or amenities*	1.39%
Features for special-needs people	0.97%
Features for seniors	0.94%
Online updates or amenities	0.24%

*Denotes themes that also appear in Table 4-2, and therefore are not reported again with Table 4-3

Respondents were also asked, in general, what about the parks/facilities need improvement. Fifteen themes were identified from the 2,880 responses, although only the seven unique themes are presented below. Of the seven themes, the most common was “features for pets,” followed by “features for children or teens” and “classes or educational programs.”

For the “outdoor recreation activities & features or amenities” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “Paved pump track for bikes. Other mountain bike skills development features.”
- “Increased mileage of trails. Connectivity. Nature-based programs. Ecological conservation areas. Well maintained access to trails (also ADA access).”
- “Boat rental.”
- “Multi-use parks with places to ride bikes, ride skateboards, etc.”
- “Garden facilities and community vegetable garden.”

For the “features for pets” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “A dog park south of the river”
- “Dog training areas.”
- “A covered arena for dog sports.”
- “I would love to see more dog parks. I would specifically like to see larger dog parks. For example, Memphis, TN has so many large, open fields for dogs to run off-leash. I would love to see something like that in Tuscaloosa.”

For the “features for children or teens” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “Events that children can come to and learn about the environment around them, as well as the historical details when applicable”
- “More activities for children like Tuscaloosa Children’s Theatre and art classes”
- “More playgrounds and programming for children”
- “Activities for teens and young adults, such as basketball hoops”

For the “classes or educational programs” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “Weight training classes. Specifically, not just included with a regular class.”
- “Education tutoring year-round.”
- “An adult art center with professional teaching artists, galleries, workshops, etc.”
- “Nature center with educational programs and walking trails.”
- “More fitness classes (e.g., spin, Pilates, yoga)”
- “Late afternoon, early evening classes.”

For the “safety” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “More safe, well-lit, and easily accessible park spaces in east Tuscaloosa.”
- “Police maintained at outdoor areas for security even in daylight hours.”
- “Security cameras, emergency phones like on the Riverwalk as well. Perhaps a dedicated phone line to report illegal activities or breakage of park rules.”
- “More well-lit areas for running/walking at night”

- “I would like to see an emergency phone station in case there is some type of emergency. Maybe, it can be something like The University of Alabama has throughout its campus. Also, extra lighting can help combat potential crime.”

For the “general comments” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “I think we have a wide variety of offerings. I would like to see less offerings at higher quality.”
- “I would like one park in town where no dogs were allowed, and the rule was enforced.”
- “More accessibility to lower-income families. Nicer parks in the west end with more rec opportunities for lower-income children.”
- “Better facility hours: Some facilities open earlier than others. I would like to see facilities open longer, and on the weekend.”

For the “features for special-needs people” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “More inclusive playground equipment for disabilities and wheelchairs.”
- “More hiking and walking trails that are more wheelchair and walker accessible.”
- “Indoor workout facilities for disabled.”

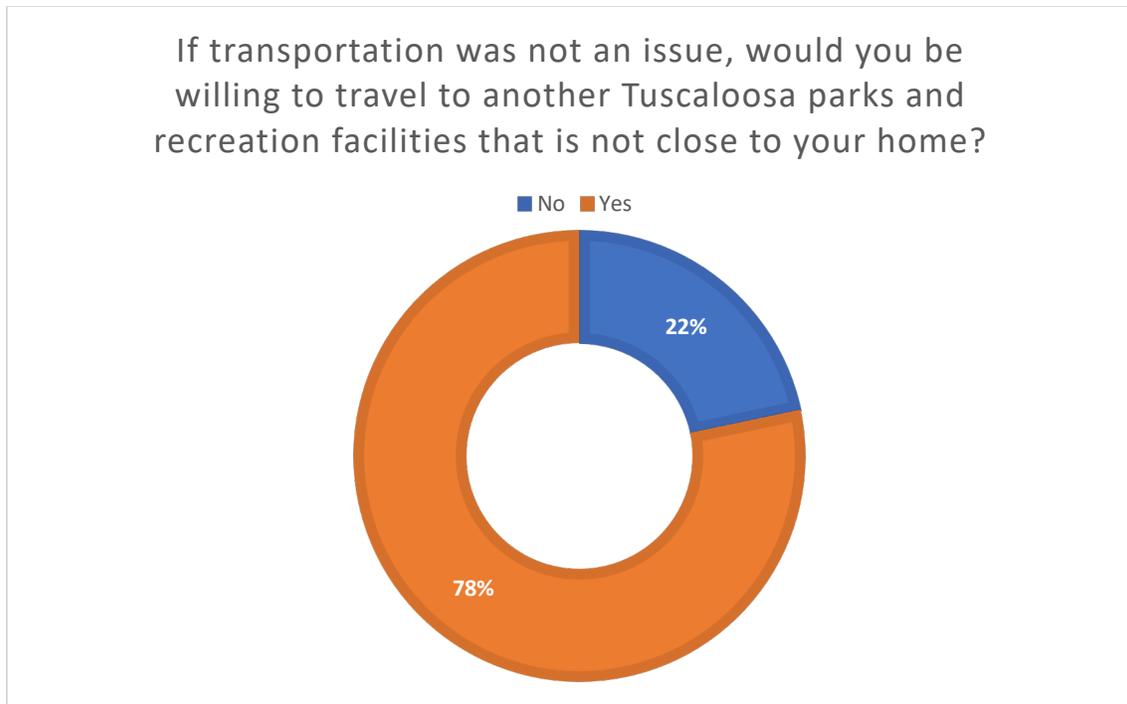
For the “features for seniors” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “More senior activities indoor and outdoor on the western cluster.”
- “More exercise and yoga classes for adults mid age to older.”
- “More activities for the elderly that allow exercise independently. Walls to bounce balls off of, lowered basketball goals, Areas available for slow walking (with restrooms nearby) Tai chi groups daily.”

For the “online updates or amenities” theme, examples of the features provided were:

- “Improved online/virtual reservation system for ball fields and other items for reservation or rentals”
- “Not enough parks are known, A brochure-online would be great to see the variety listed in this survey.”
- “A city webpage for newcomers and visitors indicating where all of these places are located!”
- “I'd like it to be made more publicly known that we have a(n)...archery range, because that's cool. Also, generally more awareness efforts for existing facilities.”
- “Really just more public information/marketing about what's available. The current website is hard to navigate and could have a lot more information, photos, etc.”

Figure 4-4: Willingness to travel to another facility



The majority of respondents indicated that they would be willing to travel to another facility if transportation was not an issue.

Table 4-4: Reasons for willingness to travel

Theme	% of Responses
Better experience	31.27%
Accessing specific amenities, programs, or features	22.29%
Change of scenery	20.19%
Better outdoor recreation amenities or features	18.15%
Better equipment	8.09%

Respondents were asked to indicate why they would travel to use a different facility in Tuscaloosa. Five themes were identified from the 1,570 responses. The most common was “better experience,” followed by “change of scenery” and “accessing specific amenities, programs or features.”

For the “better experience” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Crowded, more aesthetically pleasing”
- “I would travel to use a facility that was more accessible for the age of my children and usable in the summer heat, which many facilities are not due to lack of shade.”
- “Area away from crime.”
- “Better activities, views, less crowded”

For the “accessing specific amenities, programs, or features” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Because it had something to offer that wasn't closer to me.”
- “Not all facilities have the same amenities available, so some travel is required to do certain activities.”
- “Better condition/amenities.”
- “If there was program available that was not near me.”

For the “change of scenery” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “To see something different on our walks”
- “To explore other parks.”
- “Different interaction and people in different neighborhoods”
- “For fun, a different experience for my kids, unique equipment”

For the “better outdoor recreation amenities or features” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Longer/different hiking trails.”
- “Better softball/baseball fields.”
- “A different disc golf option. Every course is different.”
- “If improved/better site for RC flying was available.”
- “Better swimming pool.”

For the “better equipment” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “More playground options.”
- “Pickleball and tennis court availability.”
- “For swimming pools and better work out facilities.”
- “For access to courts (e.g., tennis, basketball).”

Table 4-5: Features willing to pay for

Theme	% of Responses
Water activities	25.38%
Other specialized programs (dance, vendors)	20.84%
Sports activities	14.69%
Gym or fitness classes	13.50%
Outdoor recreation services and activities (bike trails, hiking)	11.77%
Children's programs	7.02%
Campgrounds, fishing, or hunting	3.13%
Golf or disc golf	3.02%
Senior citizen programs	0.65%

Respondents were asked to indicate which features they would be willing to pay for. Nine themes were identified from the 926 responses. The most common was “water activities,” followed by “other specialized programs (dance, vendors),” and “sports activities.”

For the “water activities” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Our Riverfront parks offer no real access to water activities. I'd be willing to pay for those.”
- “Swimming pool access”
- “Swim lessons.”
- “Splash pads.”
- “Boat rentals”

For the “other specialized programs (dance, vendors)” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Community education classes in areas like art, photography, archery, etc.”
- “I wouldn't mind paying a small fee to cover the cost of an instructor and/or band for the dance lessons.”
- “Dog park with agility equipment and splash pads. Outdoor dog washing equipment.”
- “Special events like, theater in the park.”
- “Food and beverage.”

For the “sports activities” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Team sporting events (either admission fees or team entry fees)”
- “Outdoor basketball courts.”
- “Pickleball leagues, lesson.”

For the “gym or fitness classes” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Yoga or guided meditation. Even Tai Chi.”
- “Rock climbing walls.”
- “Outdoor fitness classes.”
- “Fitness training/fitness trainer.”
- “Spin classes; Body pump classes; Pilates reformer classes”

For the “outdoor recreation services and activities” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Guided walks or hikes.”
- “I would be very interested in outdoor activities centered around exploring nature around the area. These would be things like naturalist classes, guided nature hikes, etc.”
- “Gardens”
- “Zipline”
- “Bike or boat rentals.”

For the “children’s programs” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Childcare so parents could do activities”
- “Swim safety lessons for young children/babies.”
- “Kid’s fitness classes.”
- “Outdoor educational options for kids.”
- “Indoor playground.”

For the “campgrounds, fishing, or hunting” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Affordable Yurts, glamping tents, Tiny home or small cabin rentals.”
- “Ponds for fishing.”
- “Rentals (kayak, bike, camping equipment) etc.”

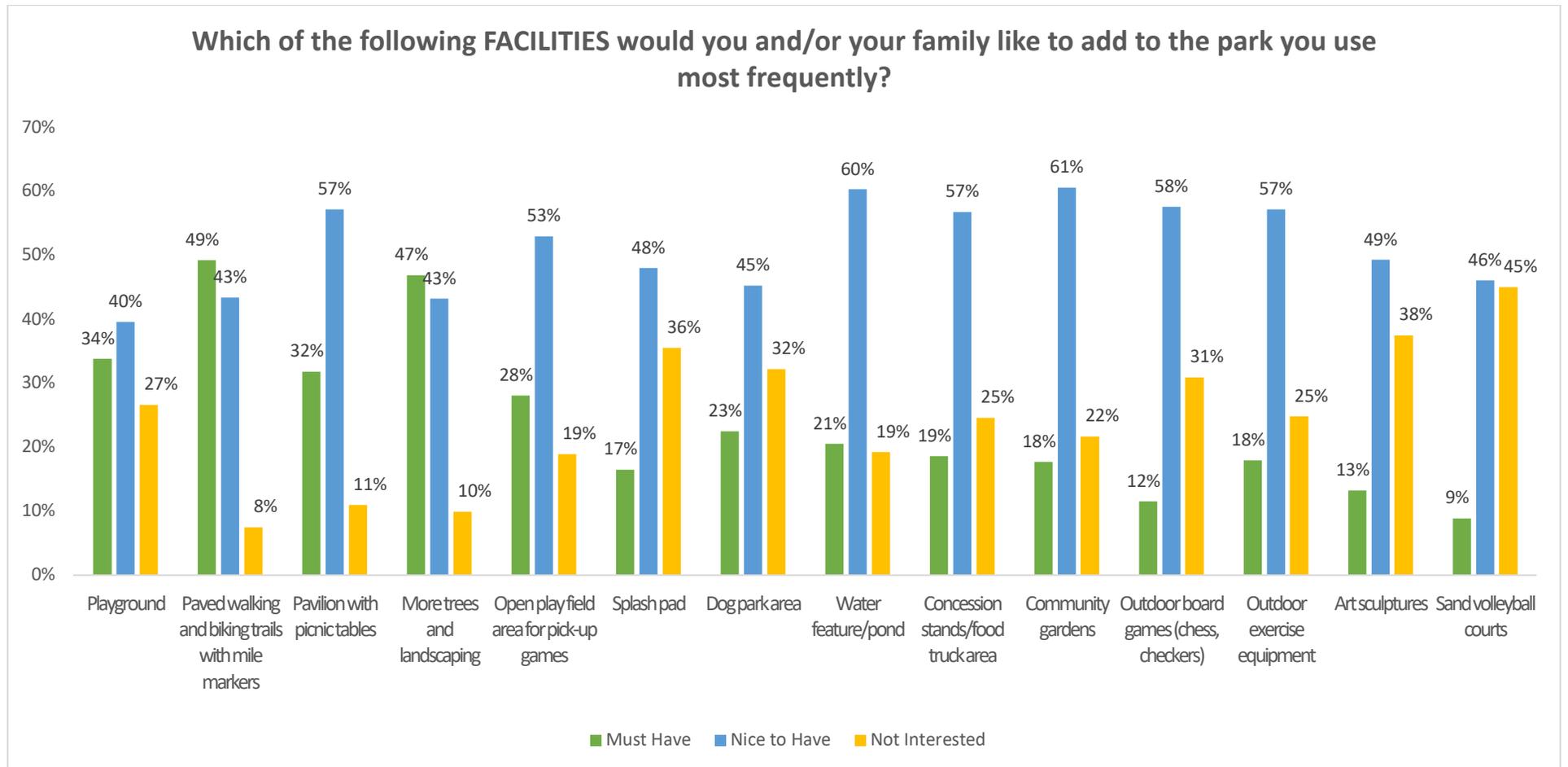
For the “golf or disc golf” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “Better golf facilities.”
- “A golf membership that includes cart fees discounted for Alabama professors and students”
- “Miniature golf.”
- “Golf course – south of town.”

For the “senior citizen programs” theme, examples of the responses provided were:

- “More Senior programs in West End.”
- “Senior mobility training”
- “Exercise classes for seniors.”
- “Regular walking groups available in the larger parks -- especially for seniors who can no longer jog.”
- “Facility for the older age bracket and offer classes, travel, cooking.”

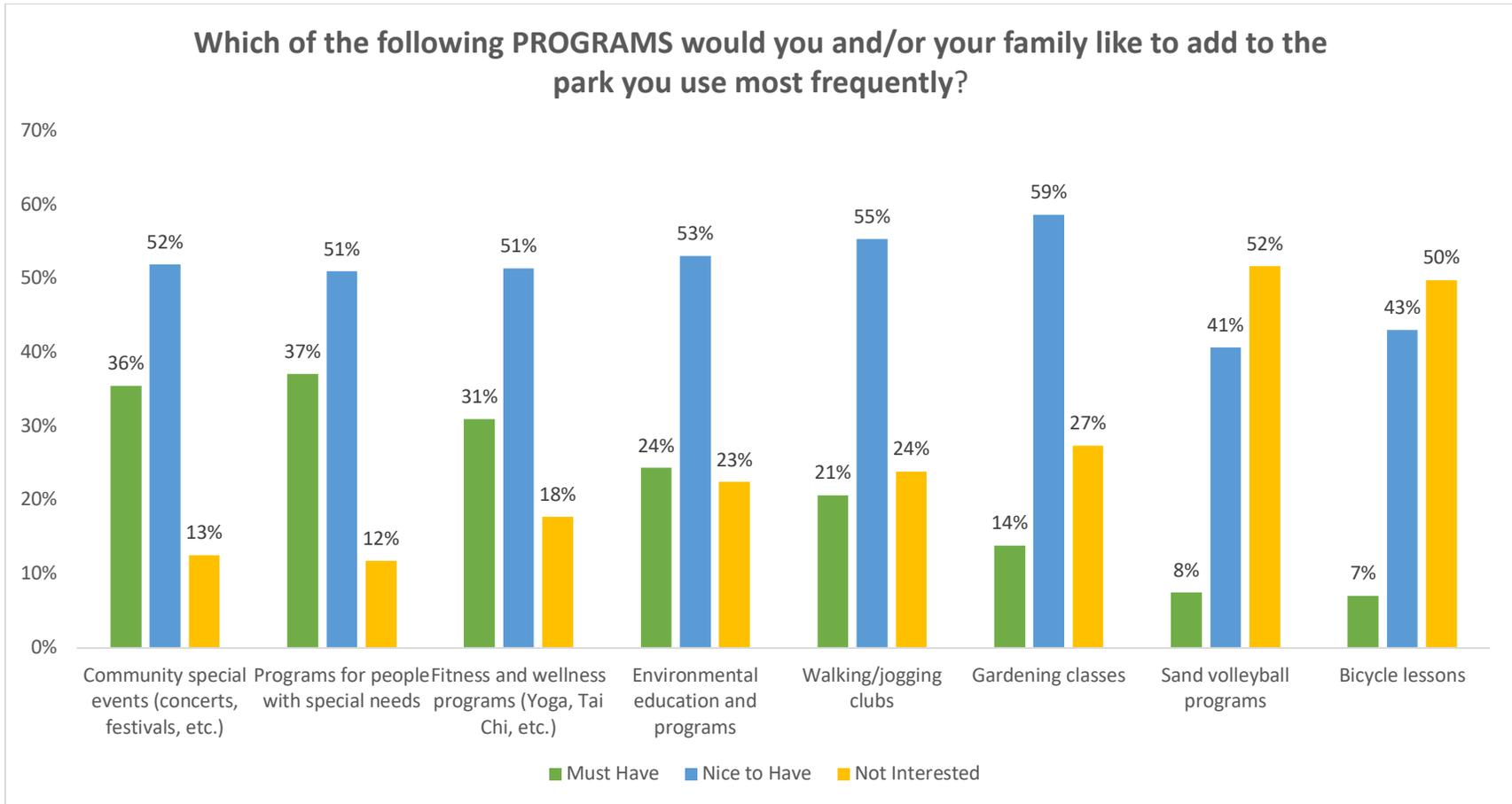
Figure 4-5: Facilities respondents would like to see added



To determine the desire for new facilities, we asked survey respondents to indicate which ones you or your household would like to added to the facility they use most frequently. With over 2900 responses to this question, the number one desire/must-have is paved walking and biking trails with mile markers. In summary, below are the top five in each possible selection.

Must Have	
1	Paved walking and biking trails with mile markers
2	More trees and landscaping
3	Playground
4	Pavilion with picnic tables
5	Open play field area for pick-up games
Nice to Have	
1	Community gardens
2	Water feature/pond
3	Outdoor board games (chess, checkers)
4	Pavilion with picnic tables
5	Outdoor exercise equipment
Not Interested	
1	Sand volleyball courts
2	Art sculptures
3	Splash pad
4	Dog park area
5	Outdoor board games (chess, checkers)

Figure 4-6: Programs Respondents would like to see added



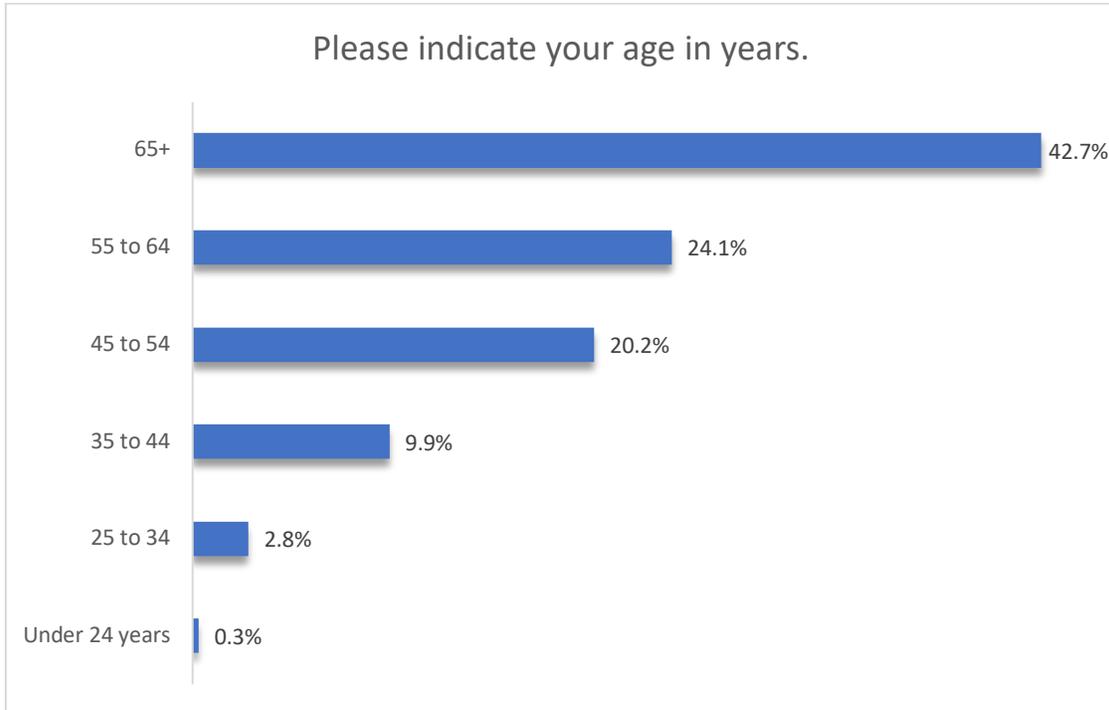
To learn what programs Tuscaloosa residents desire, we asked respondents to indicate if they or any member of their household has a need/want for each of the Parks and Recreation programs listed below. With over 2000 responses to this question, we find the number one desire/must-have is programs for people with special needs. In summary, below are the top five in each possible selection.

Must Have	
1	Programs for people with special needs
2	Community special events (concerts, festivals, etc.)
3	Fitness and wellness programs (Yoga, Tai Chi, etc.)
4	Environmental education and programs
5	Walking/jogging clubs
Nice to Have	
1	Gardening classes
2	Walking/jogging clubs
3	Environmental education and programs
4	Community special events (concerts, festivals, etc.)
5	Fitness and wellness programs (Yoga, Tai Chi, etc.) and Programs for people with special needs
Not Interested	
1	Sand volleyball programs
2	Bicycle lessons
3	Gardening classes
4	Walking/jogging clubs
5	Environmental education and programs

Participant Demographics

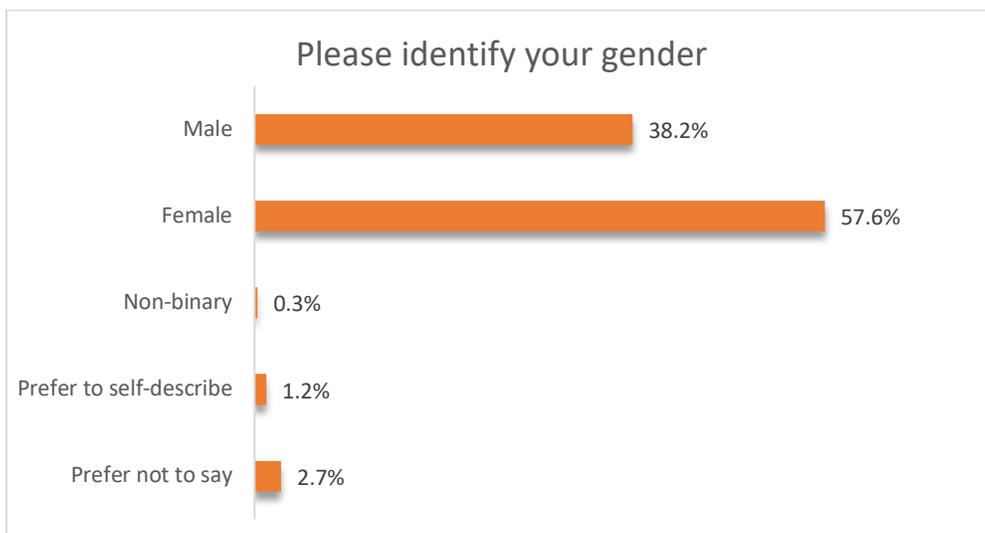
Respondents were asked to provide various demographic information, which are presented in this section.

Figure 5-1: Age of Respondents



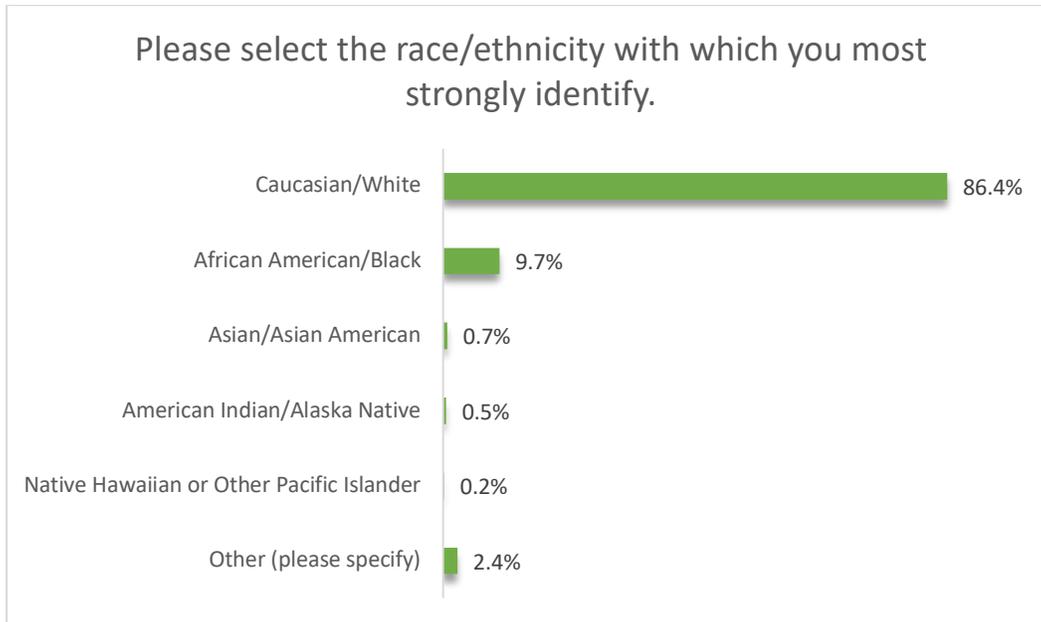
The 65 and older category was the largest age group. The median age of the sample was 61.00 (SD = 15.91). The median age of Tuscaloosa County is 33.00.

Figure 5-2: Gender of Respondents



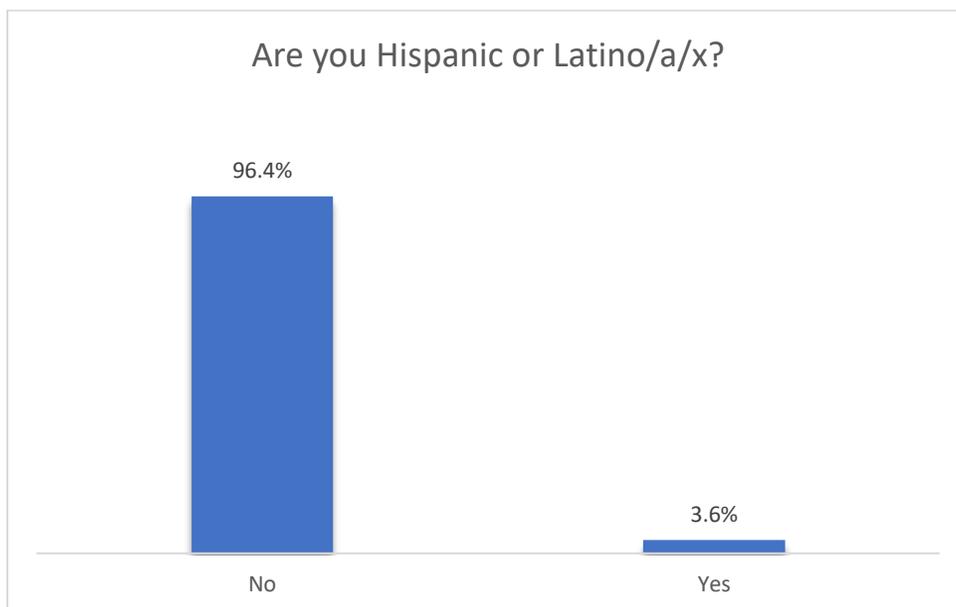
The majority of respondents identified as female. 51.9% of Tuscaloosa County's population is female.

Figure 5-3: Race/Ethnicity of Respondents



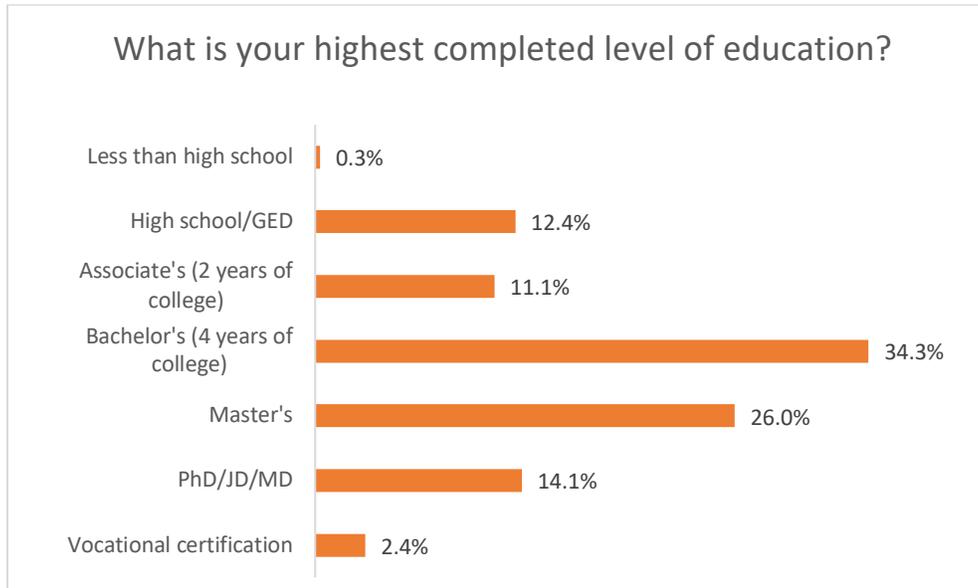
The majority of respondents were Caucasian/White. The Caucasian/White population of Tuscaloosa County is 64.2%.

Figure 5-4: Hispanic Origin



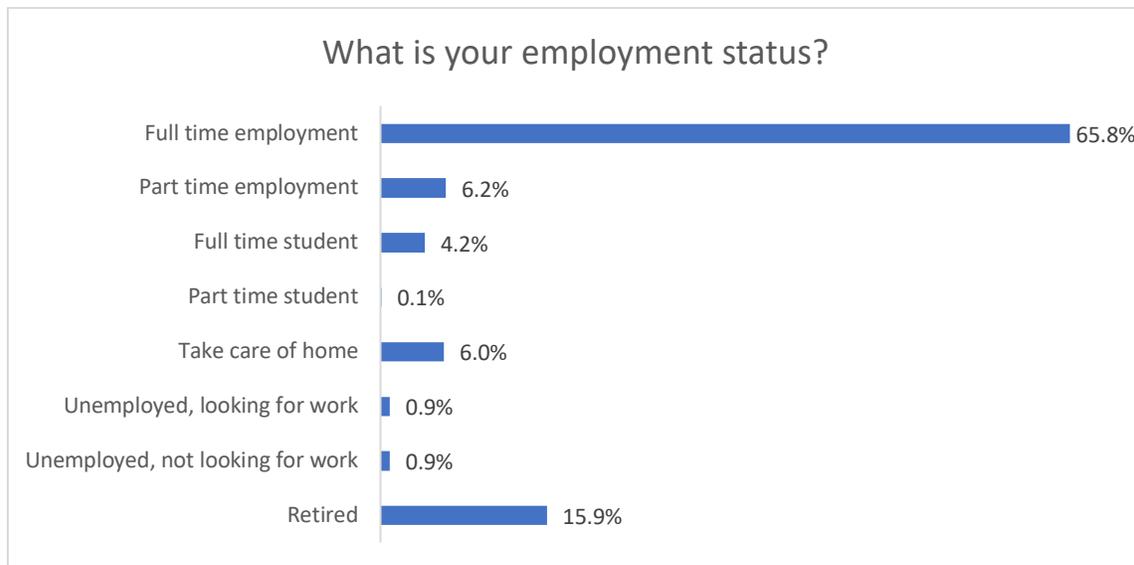
Approximately 3.6% of respondents identified as Hispanic. 4% of Tuscaloosa County's population identifies as Hispanic or Latino.

Figure 5-5: Highest Education Level Attained



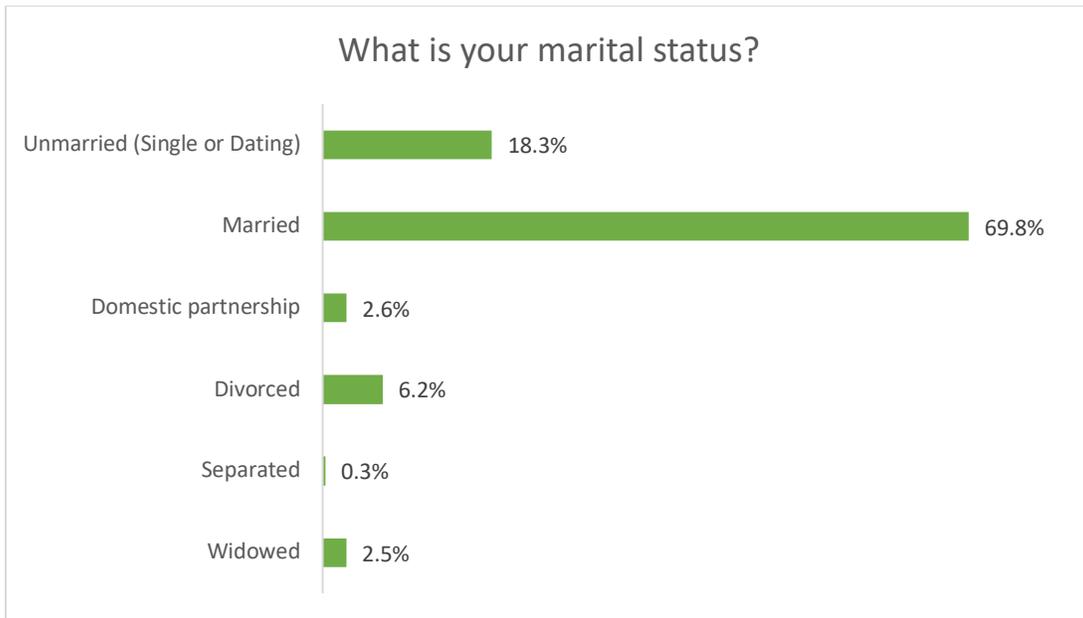
The largest group were respondents with a Bachelor’s degree, followed by those with a Master’s degree. 30.7% of Tuscaloosa County’s population has a Bachelor’s degree or higher.

Figure 5-6: Employment Status



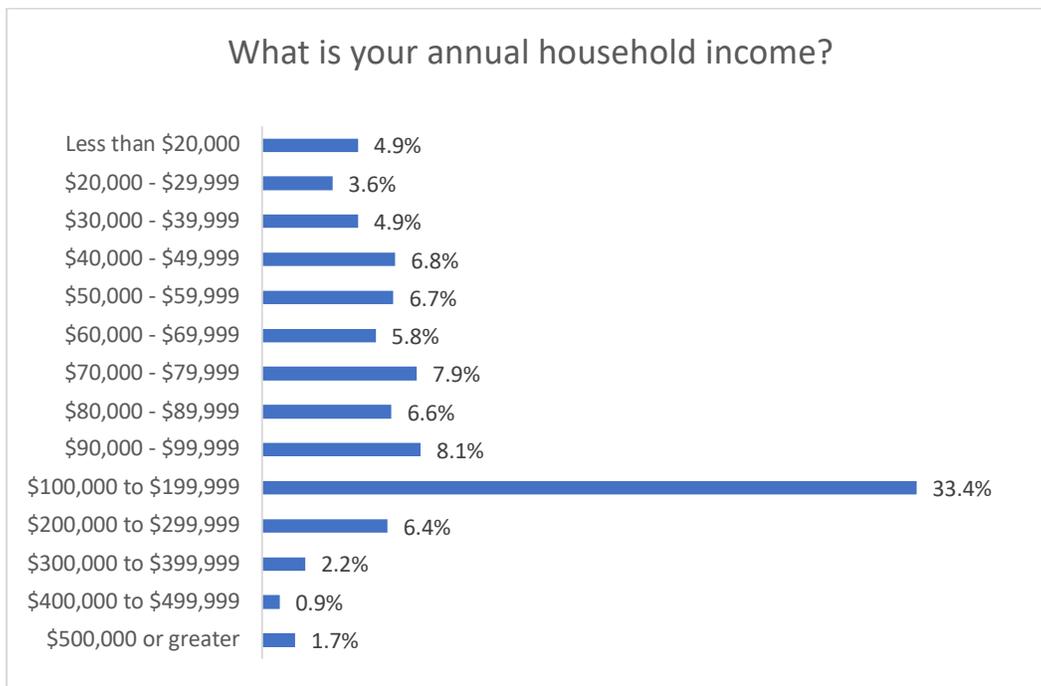
The majority of respondents reporting being employed full time.

Figure 5-7: Marital Status



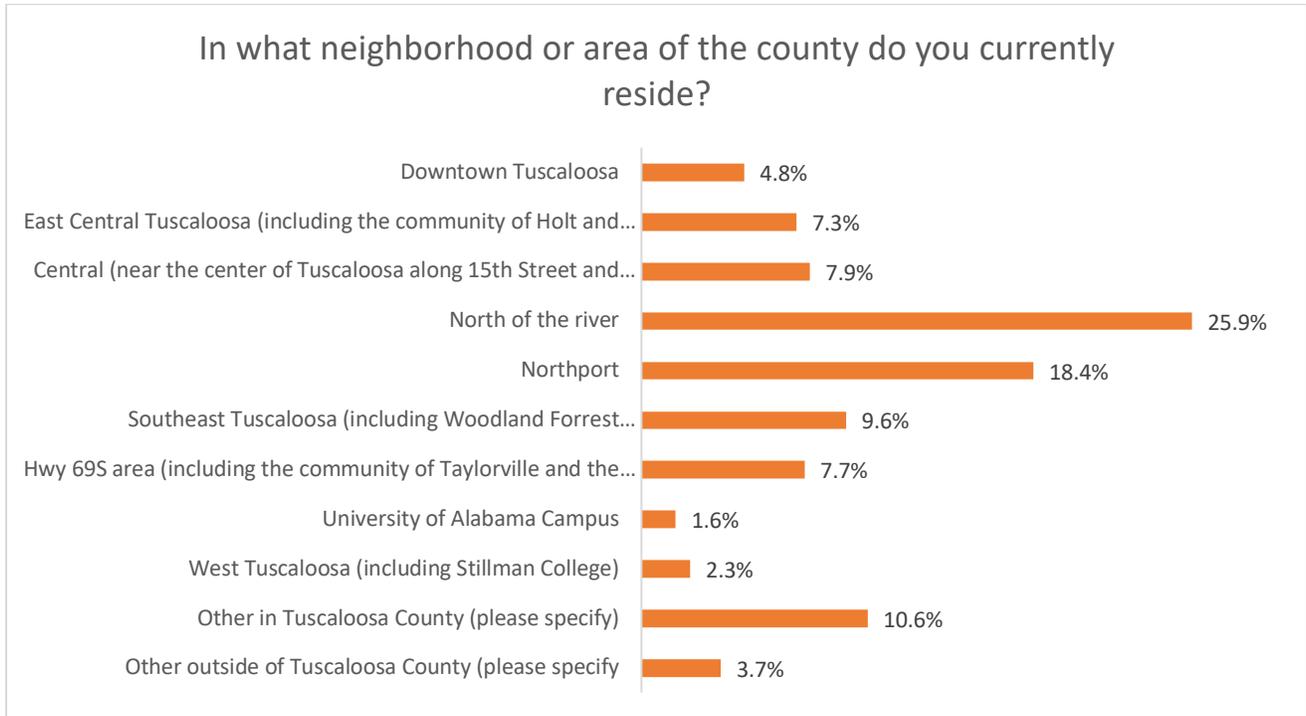
The majority of the respondents indicated that they were married.

Figure 5-8: Annual Household Income



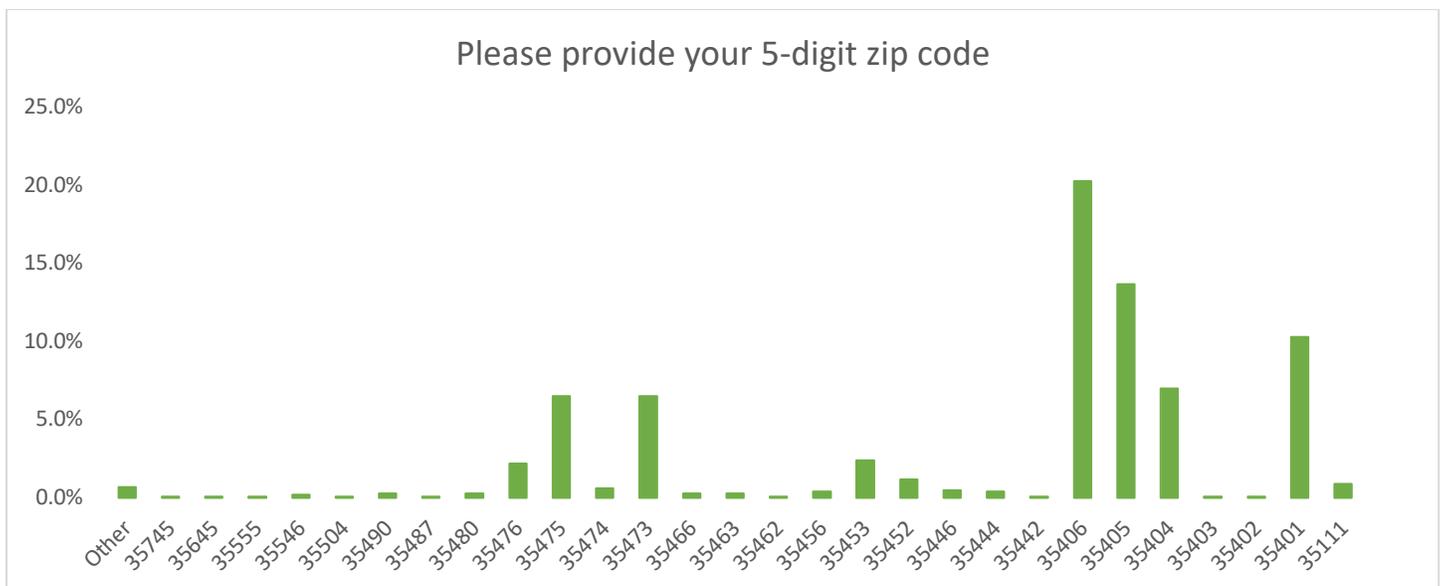
The majority of respondents reported a household income of between \$100,000 and \$199,999. The median household income in Tuscaloosa County is \$53,326

Figure 5-9: Neighborhood of Residence



The largest group were those who selected “North of the River” followed by those reporting Northport as their residence. An additional question asked in what city or county participants worked. The vast majority of respondents indicated that they worked in “Tuscaloosa” but whether that was in the city or the county was generally unspecified.

Figure 5-10: Zip Code



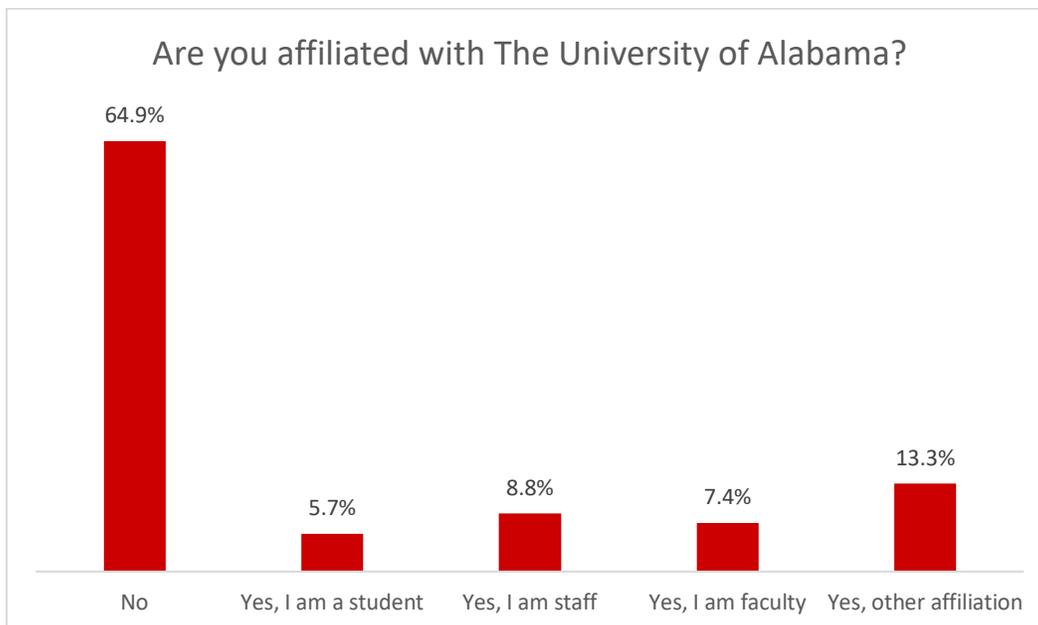
The largest group was for the 35406 zip code, followed by 35405 and 35401.

Figure 5-11: Sources for Learning about Parks Programs



The most common source for learning about parks programming was “Friends and Neighbors” followed by “Facebook”.

Figure 5-12: University of Alabama Affiliation



The majority of respondents had no affiliation with the University of Alabama. 5.7% were UA students.

*This question was not included in the pilot survey and percentages reported here represent those for the population that received the question.

CONCLUSION

The city's comprehensive plan, Framework, outlines a goal of "Superior community amenities, including a wide range of parks and recreational facilities..." including an objective to "Expand and enhance the community's parks and recreational facilities."

The goal of this survey was to learn who uses Tuscaloosa's parks and facilities, who doesn't use Tuscaloosa's parks and facilities, and how the parks system can be improved. The results of this survey will help the City of Tuscaloosa to make data-driven decisions about the future of our parks and recreation facilities.

Some of the preliminary considerations discussed by the Parks and Recreation subcommittee after reviewing the parks survey data included:

- The demand for additional walking and hiking trails
- Increasing access to and awareness of parks and recreation facilities
- Improving public access to Lake Tuscaloosa
- The northern migration of Tuscaloosa's population center
- Improvements to existing sites such as the Phelps Center
- Offering additional & more diverse programming

As Tuscaloosa moves forward in improving and expanding its parks and recreation portfolio, community focus groups that target the underrepresented demographics in this survey may serve as an effective strategy for getting any feedback not captured in the survey.

The results of this survey and any additional research will be used to guide the City of Tuscaloosa as it continues to work with the citizens of Tuscaloosa, PARA, and local stakeholders to ensure that the parks and recreation system meets and exceeds the needs of the community, now and into the future.

NOTES

Percentages:

Because data from the pilot survey was combined with data from the official survey, some percentages may not add up to 100%. One reason for this discrepancy is that two questions were added to the survey after the pilot survey indicated that additional questions would provide clarity.

Demographics:

Because the demographics of survey respondents was different from the demographics of Tuscaloosa's population, the UA ISSR analyzed responses for discrepancies between participants based on age and race and determined that the differences were not statistically significant.

ELEVATE

PARKS & RECREATION





PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY

INFORMED CONSENT

Thank you for your interest in participating in our survey as part of our research project entitled, "Perceptions about Parks and Recreation Facilities among Tuscaloosa Residents". We are inviting you to take part in this research because you are a resident of Tuscaloosa County. This survey is an initiative of the Elevate Tuscaloosa Parks and Recreation Subcommittee. The survey results will be used to make decisions about potential improvements to city recreational facilities in the future.

Please read this informed consent carefully before you decide to participate in the study.

Consent Form Key Information:

- Participate in a 20-minute study about Tuscaloosa parks and recreation facility usage
- Take 1 survey on paper
- No information collected that will connect your identity with responses
- There are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this study

Purpose: The purpose of the study is to identify (1) who is using the parks and recreation facilities in Tuscaloosa; (2) who is not using the facilities and why; and (3) public perception of what can be changed or added to improve the facilities.

What you will do: You will be asked about whether you (or your family) use any of the Tuscaloosa Parks and Recreation facilities, which facilities/parks you typically use and why, and whether there are any features that can be modified or added to improve the quality of the facilities. During the survey you may skip any questions that make you uncomfortable. You may stop the survey at any time.

Time required: The study will require about 20 minutes of your time.

Risks: There are no anticipated risks in participating in this study.

Benefits: There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this research study. The study may help us understand public perceptions of the Tuscaloosa parks and recreation facilities. This information will be used to make decisions about improvements to Tuscaloosa recreational facilities in the future.

Confidentiality: The information that you give in the study will be handled confidentially. No identifying information will be collected so your responses will be completely anonymous. All completed surveys will be stored in the locked office of Dr. Daquin. Electronic surveys and data will be stored on an encrypted computer that only Dr. Daquin has access to. Paper surveys will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in Dr. Daquin's locked office. Additionally, only aggregate data for the sample will be presented.



Voluntary participation: Your participation in the study is completely voluntary.

Right to withdraw from the study: You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

How to withdraw from the study: If you want to withdraw from the study, you can stop the survey at any time. There is no penalty for withdrawing, however, any completed data will still be available to the researchers.

Compensation/Reimbursement: You will receive no payment for participating in the study.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about the study or need to report a study related issue please contact:

Principal Investigator: Jane C. Daquin, PhD

Title: Assistant Professor

Department: Institute for Social Science Research, Univ. of Alabama

Email: jcdaquin@ua.edu

Principal Investigator: Sarah T. Dunlap, MA

Title: Research Associate

Department: Institute for Social Science Research, Univ. of Alabama

Email: sarahd@as.ua.edu

If you have questions about your rights as a participant in a research study, would like to make suggestions or file complaints and concerns about the research study, please contact:

Ms. Tanta Myles, the University of Alabama Research Compliance Officer at (205)-348-8461 or toll-free at 1-877-820-3066. You may also ask questions, make suggestions, or file complaints and concerns through the IRB Outreach Website at <http://ovpred.ua.edu/research-compliance/prco/>. You may email the Office for Research Compliance at rscompliance@research.ua.edu.

CONSENT AGREEMENT

Before continuing to the survey, do you consent to the terms of this study? **(Response required)**

- I agree to participate in the research study described above.
- I do not agree to participate in the research study described above.



ONLINE SURVEY

If you would prefer to complete this survey on your mobile device, please scan this QR code using your phone's camera. If you would prefer to complete the survey online, please visit elevatetuscaloosa.com/parksurvey.



Instructions: For the questions that follow, we are interested in your honest attitudes about the topics related to parks and recreation. **All of your answers are anonymous.** There is no “right” or “wrong” answer. *Fill out the survey by checking the response that best applies. There are several questions where you will be asked to write out your response, please write neatly.*

VALUE AND BENEFIT OF PARKS

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements. (Mark the response that best applies)

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1. Parks provide a way for me/my family to be more active.			
2. Parks provide a space for positive social interaction for me/my family.			
3. Parks help reduce crime and keep kids out of trouble.			
4. Parks preserve open space and can help protect the environment.			
5. Parks positively impact economic and business development.			

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY USAGE

This section includes questions about your use of parks and recreation facilities.

6. Which Tuscaloosa parks and recreation facilities have you (and your family) used within the last five years? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annette N. Shelby Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Jaycee Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Queen City Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bama Rock Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Tingle Activity Center | <input type="checkbox"/> River Road Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belk Activity Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Kaulton Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverview Boat Landing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Binion Creek Landing Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentuck Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Quarry Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowers Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Nicol | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosedale Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Braughton Park | <input type="checkbox"/> McAbee Activity Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharpe's Landing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burrell Odom Park | <input type="checkbox"/> McDonald Hughes Comm. Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Hinton Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capitol Park | <input type="checkbox"/> McKinney Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Sokol Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinal Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Miller Activity Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Springbrook Park Treasure Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrolls Creek Island | <input type="checkbox"/> Miners Community Park | <input type="checkbox"/> County Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evans-Roshell Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Monnish Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Creek Boat Landing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faucett Brothers Activity Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Newt Hinton Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuscaloosa Riverwalk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faucett Brothers Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Northport Community Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuscaloosa Tennis Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fosters Boat Landing | <input type="checkbox"/> Northridge Park | <input type="checkbox"/> University of Alabama Arboretum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freeman Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Northside Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Van De Graaff Park and |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harmon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Ol' Colony Golf Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Arboretum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harris Lake | <input type="checkbox"/> Palmore Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Memorial Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane Creek "M Bend" Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Phelps Activity Center | <input type="checkbox"/> None |

7. Which facility/park from the list in the previous question do you/your family use most often?

8. How often do you/your family use the facility listed in the previous question?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> I rarely visit (less than once a year) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable, I do not use any of the facilities (Skip to Question 10) |



9. Please explain why you use this facility in the space below.

10. What other offerings/activities would you like to see become available through Tuscaloosa's local parks and recreational facilities? Please use the space below.

11. If you indicated above that you do not use any of the facilities (or if you use them only rarely), why do you think you don't use the facilities more often? (Check all that apply).

- Too far from my residence
- There are no activities available that I enjoy
- Parks/trails are not well maintained
- Parks/trails are too crowded
- Lack of features we want to use
- Lack of time
- Do not feel safe using parks/trails
- Use parks/trails in other cities
- Lack of parking to access parks/trails
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of handicap accessibility
- Other (please specify): _____

12. Do you have a child (or children)?

- No (Skip to question 18)
- Yes (Go to question 13)

13. Please indicate your child or children's age in years and the gender in the spaces below.

Child 1: Age____ Gender_____ Child 2: Age____ Gender_____

Child 3: Age____ Gender_____ Child 4: Age____ Gender_____

14. Does your child (or children) use any of Tuscaloosa's local park and recreation facilities?

- No
- Yes

15. Does your child (or children) participate in sports?

- No (Skip to question 17)
- Yes (Go to question 16)

16. Please mark which sports your child (or children) participate in.

- Baseball
- Softball
- Football
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Soccer
- Gymnastics
- Golf
- Volleyball
- Cheerleading
- Hockey/Field Hockey
- Track and Field
- Lacrosse
- Other: _____

17. Please explain why your child (or children) do not participate in sports.

18. What is your primary method of traveling to the parks?

- Drive
- Bike
- Walk/Jog/Run
- Public transportation
- Trail
- Ride sharing (e.g. Uber, Lyft)



RECREATION AND FITNESS ACTIVITIES

This section includes questions about the types of recreation and fitness activities you and/or your family participate in.

19. What type of fitness activities do you or your family participate in? (e.g., spin, CrossFit, boxing, swimming). Please list the activities below.

20. How often do you engage in the fitness activities listed in the previous questions?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- A few times a year
- Rarely (less than once a year)
- Not applicable

21. Are you a member of a gym?

- No (Skip to question 23)
- Yes (Go to question 22)

22. How often do you go to the gym?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- A few times a year
- I rarely go to the gym (less than once a year)

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT

In this section we include questions about facility improvement and provide you with the opportunity to give recommendations for improving current parks and recreation facilities.

23. Do you have any recommendations for improving the current parks and recreation facilities?

- No (Skip to question 26)
- Yes (Go to question 24)

24. What about the parks and/or facilities needs improvement?

25. What other types of parks, recreation, or facilities would you like to see added?

26. Have you used parks and recreation facilities outside of Tuscaloosa County?

- No (Skip to question 30)
- Yes (Go to question 27)

27. If yes, and you had an exceptionally positive experience or impression of the facility or park, please provide the name and location below. You may indicate more than one.

28. How does this facility compare to Tuscaloosa facilities?

- The location is more convenient to me
- There are more activities available that I enjoy
- The facilities are in better condition
- The location is not often crowded
- Tuscaloosa facilities are in better condition
- Other (please specify): _____

29. Are there features of the facility (or facilities) that you would like to see in Tuscaloosa?

- No (Skip to question 31)
- Yes (Go to question 30)



30. What are some of the features available at the other facility that you would like to see in Tuscaloosa?

31. If transportation was not an issue, would you be willing to travel to another Tuscaloosa park or recreation facility that is not close to your home?

- No (Skip to question 33) Yes (Go to question 32)

32. Why would you travel to use a different facility?

33. Are there any features or programs you would be willing to pay for if they were available at one or more of Tuscaloosa’s parks and recreation facilities? Please explain.

34. Please indicate which of the following FACILITIES you and/or your family would like to add to the park you use most frequently. (Check the response that best applies for each facility).

	<i>Must Have</i>	<i>Nice to Have</i>	<i>Not Interested</i>
Playground			
Paved walking and biking trails with mile markers			
Pavilion with picnic tables			
More trees and landscaping			
Open play field area for pick-up games			
Splash pad			
Dog park area			
Water feature/pond			
Concession stands/food truck area			
Community gardens			
Outdoor board games (chess, checkers)			
Outdoor exercise equipment			
Art sculptures			
Sand volleyball courts			

35. Please indicate which of the following PROGRAMS you or your family would like to add to the park you use most frequently. (Check the response that best applies for each program).

	<i>Must Have</i>	<i>Nice to Have</i>	<i>Not Interested</i>
Community special events (concerts, festivals, etc.)			
Programs for people with special needs			
Fitness and wellness programs (Yoga, Tai Chi, etc.)			
Environmental education and programs			
Walking/jogging clubs			
Gardening classes			
Sand volleyball programs			
Bicycle lessons			



DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

We have included a series of demographic questions to determine the representation of the community.

36. Please indicate your age. _____

37. Please identify your gender. (Check one)

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe: _____
- Prefer not to say

38. Please select the race/ethnicity with which you most strongly identify. (Check one)

- Caucasian/White
- African American/Black
- Asian/Asian American
- American Indian/ Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other (please specify): _____

39. Are you Hispanic/Latinx/o/a?

- No
- Yes

40. What is your highest completed level of education? (Check one)

- Less than high school
- High school/GED
- Vocational certification
- Associate's (2 years of college)
- Bachelor's (4 years of college)
- Master's
- PhD/JD/MD

41. What is your employment status? (Check all that apply)

- Full time employment
- Part time employment
- Full time student
- Part time student
- Take care of home
- Unemployed, looking for work
- Unemployed, not looking for work
- Retired

42. What is your marital status? (Check one)

- Unmarried (single or dating)
- Married
- Domestic partnership (living with an unmarried partner)
- Divorced
- Separated
- Widowed

43. What is your annual household income? (Check one)

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$69,999
- \$70,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$89,999
- \$90,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$299,999
- \$300,000 - \$399,999
- \$400,000 - \$499,999
- \$500,000 or greater

44. In what neighborhood or area of the county do you currently reside? (Check one)

- Downtown Tuscaloosa
- East Central Tuscaloosa (including Holt and Alberta)
- Central (near the center of Tuscaloosa along 15th Street and McFarland)
- North of the river
- Northport
- Southeast Tuscaloosa (including Woodland Forrest and Cottondale)
- Hwy 69S area (including Taylorville and Hillcrest)
- University of Alabama Campus
- West Tuscaloosa (including Stillman College)
- Other in Tuscaloosa County (please specify):

- Outside of Tuscaloosa County (please specify):

45. In what city and county do you currently work?

46. Please provide your 5-digit postal code.



ENCUESTA DE PARQUES Y RECREACIÓN

CONSENTIMIENTO INFORMADO

Gracias por su interés en participar en la encuesta que forma parte de nuestro proyecto de investigación llamado «Percepciones de los residentes de Tuscaloosa acerca de los parques y las instalaciones recreativas». Lo invitamos a participar en esta investigación porque usted vive en el condado de Tuscaloosa. Esta encuesta es una iniciativa del Subcomité de Parques y Recreación de Elevate Tuscaloosa. Se usarán los resultados de esta encuesta para tomar decisiones sobre posibles mejoras a las instalaciones recreativas de la ciudad en un futuro.

Por favor, lea atentamente este consentimiento informado antes de decidir si participará en la encuesta.

Información clave del formulario de consentimiento:

- Participará en un estudio de 20 minutos sobre el uso de los parques y las instalaciones recreativas de Tuscaloosa.
- Realizará una encuesta en papel.
- No se conectará su identidad con sus respuestas; no se reunirá información a tal efecto.
- No hay riesgos previsible asociados con la participación en este estudio.

Objetivo del estudio de investigación: El objetivo del estudio es identificar (1) quiénes usan los parques y las instalaciones recreativas en Tuscaloosa; (2) quiénes no usan las instalaciones y por qué; y (3) la opinión del público de lo que se puede cambiar o agregar para mejorar las instalaciones.

Qué hará usted en este estudio: Como parte del estudio, se le preguntará si usted (o su familia) usa alguno de los parques y las instalaciones recreativas, qué parques o instalaciones usa usualmente y por qué, y si hay algo que se pueda modificar o agregar para mejorar la calidad general de las instalaciones. Durante la encuesta, puede saltar cualquier pregunta que le haga sentir incómodo. También puede dejar de completar la encuesta en cualquier momento.

Tiempo necesario: La encuesta le llevará aproximadamente 20 minutos.

Riesgos: No se prevén riesgos por la participación en este estudio.

Beneficios: No hay beneficios directos para usted por participar en este estudio. El estudio puede ayudarnos a comprender la opinión del público sobre los parques y las instalaciones recreativas de Tuscaloosa. Esta información se usará para tomar decisiones sobre las mejoras a las instalaciones recreativas de Tuscaloosa en un futuro.

Confidencialidad: La información que proporciona en este estudio se tratará de forma confidencial. No se solicitará información de identificación, por lo que sus respuestas serán completamente anónimas. Todas las encuestas completas se guardarán bajo llave en la oficina de la Dra. Daquin. La información y las encuestas electrónicas se guardarán en una computadora encriptada a la que solo tiene acceso la Dra. Daquin. Las encuestas en papel se guardarán en un archivo bajo llave en la oficina de la Dra. Daquin. Además, solo se presentarán datos agregados de la muestra.



Participación voluntaria: Su participación en este estudio es completamente voluntaria.

Derecho a retirarse del estudio: Tiene derecho a retirarse del estudio en cualquier momento sin penalización alguna.

Cómo retirarse del estudio: Si quiere retirarse del estudio, puede dejar de contestar las preguntas en cualquier momento. No hay penalización por retirarse del estudio, pero los investigadores podrán consultar los datos ya completados.

Compensación/Rebolsó: No se le pagará por participar en el estudio.

Si tiene preguntas sobre el estudio o necesita informar sobre un asunto relacionado con el estudio, por favor póngase en contacto con:

Nombre del investigador principal: Jane C. Daquin, PhD

Cargo: Profesora adjunta

Nombre del Departamento: Institute for Social Science Research (Instituto de Investigación de Ciencias Sociales), Universidad de Alabama

Correo electrónico: jcdaquin@ua.edu

Nombre del investigador principal: Sarah T. Dunlap, MA

Cargo: Investigadora asociada

Nombre del Departamento: Institute for Social Science Research (Instituto de Investigación de Ciencias Sociales), Universidad de Alabama

Correo electrónico: sarahd@as.ua.edu

Si tiene preguntas sobre sus derechos como participante del estudio de investigación, le gustaría hacer sugerencias o quejas, o tiene inquietudes sobre el estudio de investigación, por favor póngase en contacto con:

Tanta Myles, responsable de cumplimiento de normas relacionadas con la investigación en la Universidad de Alabama, al teléfono (205)-348-8461 o en forma gratuita al 1-877-820-3066. También puede hacer preguntas, sugerencias y quejas a través del sitio web de Divulgación del IRB: <http://ovpred.ua.edu/research-compliance/prco/>. Puede enviar un correo electrónico a la oficina de cumplimiento de normas relacionadas con la investigación a la dirección rscompliance@research.ua.edu.

Antes de continuar con la encuesta, ¿acepta los términos de este estudio? **(Respuesta obligatoria)**

- Acepto participar en el estudio de investigación descrito anteriormente.
- No acepto participar en el estudio de investigación descrito anteriormente.



Si prefiere completar esta encuesta en su teléfono móvil, escanee este código QR con la cámara de su teléfono. Si prefiere completar la encuesta en línea, visite elevatetuscaloosa.com/parques.

Instrucciones: Para las siguientes preguntas, estamos interesados en saber su opinión honesta sobre temas relacionados a los parques y la recreación. TODAS SUS RESPUESTAS SON ANÓNIMAS. No hay respuestas correctas o incorrectas, solo se trata de opiniones. Le agradecemos de antemano por su honestidad.

EL VALOR Y LOS BENEFICIOS QUE BRINDAN LOS PARQUES

Por favor, indique su nivel de acuerdo o desacuerdo en cuanto a las siguientes afirmaciones:

	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>
1. Los parques nos proporcionan a mí y a mi familia la oportunidad de hacer más actividad física.			
2. Los parques nos brindan a mí y a mi familia un espacio para la interacción social positiva.			
3. Los parques ayudan a reducir la delincuencia y a que los niños no se metan en problemas.			
4. Los parques preservan espacios abiertos y pueden ayudar a proteger el medioambiente.			
5. Los parques tienen un impacto positivo en el desarrollo económico y comercial.			

USO DE LOS PARQUES Y LAS INSTALACIONES RECREATIVAS

Esta sección incluye preguntas sobre el uso de los parques y las instalaciones recreativas.

6. ¿Cuáles de los siguientes parques e instalaciones recreativas de Tuscaloosa ha usado usted (y su familia) durante los últimos cinco años? (Seleccione todas opciones que correspondan)

- Annette N. Shelby Park
- Bama Rock Garden
- Belk Activity Center
- Binion Creek Landing Park
- Bowers Park
- Braughton Park
- Burrell Odom Park
- Capitol Park
- Cardinal Park
- Carrolls Creek Island
- Evans-Roshell Park
- Faucett Brothers Activity Center
- Faucett Brothers Park
- Fosters Boat Landing
- Freeman Park
- Harmon Park
- Harris Lake
- Hurricane Creek "M Bend" Park
- Jaycee Park
- Jerry Tingle Activity Center
- Kaulton Park
- Kentuck Park
- Lake Nicol
- McAbee Activity Center
- McDonald Hughes Comm. Center
- McKinney Park
- Miller Activity Center
- Miners Community Park
- Monnish Park
- Newt Hinton Park
- Northport Community Center
- Northridge Park
- Northside Park
- Ol' Colony Golf Course
- Palmore Park
- Phelps Activity Center
- Queen City Park
- River Road Park
- Riverview Boat Landing
- Rock Quarry Park
- Rosedale Park
- Sharpe's Landing
- Snow Hinton Park
- Sokol Park
- Springbrook Park Treasure Island County Park
- Turkey Creek Boat Landing
- Tuscaloosa Riverwalk
- Tuscaloosa Tennis Center
- University of Alabama Arboretum
- Van De Graaff Park and Arboretum
- Veterans Memorial Park
- None

7. ¿Qué parque/instalación de la lista de la pregunta anterior usted (y su familia) usa con más frecuencia?

8. ¿Con qué frecuencia usted (y su familia) usa el parque que mencionó en la pregunta anterior?

- Diariamente
- Semanalmente
- Mensualmente
- Unas pocas veces al año
- Casi nunca (menos de una vez al año)
- No corresponde (Pase a la pregunta 10)

9. Por favor, explique en el espacio a continuación por qué usa ese parque o esa instalación.

10. ¿Qué otras actividades le gustaría que ofreciéramos en los parques locales y las instalaciones recreativas de Tuscaloosa? Escriba su respuesta en el espacio a continuación.

11. ¿Si anteriormente indicó que no usa ninguna de las instalaciones (o si las usa muy poco), ¿por qué le parece que no las usa con más frecuencia? (Seleccione todas las que correspondan).

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Queda demasiado lejos de mi casa. | <input type="checkbox"/> Falta de estacionamiento para acceder a los parques |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No hay actividades allí que me gusten | <input type="checkbox"/> Falta de transporte |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Los parques no están bien mantenidos | <input type="checkbox"/> Falta de accesibilidad para personas con discapacidad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Los parques están demasiado llenos de gente | <input type="checkbox"/> Otras razones (aclare la razón aquí abajo): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No tienen las características que nos gustarían | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Falta de tiempo | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No nos sentimos seguros al usar los parques | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usamos parques en otras ciudades | |

12. ¿Tiene hijos?

- No (Pase a la pregunta 18)
 Sí (Pase a la pregunta 13)

13. Por favor, indique la edad y el sexo de sus hijos en los espacios a continuación.

Niño 1: Edad _____ Sexo _____ Niño 2: Edad _____ Sexo _____
Niño 3: Edad _____ Sexo _____ Niño 4: Edad _____ Sexo _____

14. ¿Sus hijos usan algunos de los parques locales o las instalaciones recreativas de Tuscaloosa?

- No Sí

15. ¿Sus hijos practican deportes?

- No (Pase a la pregunta 17) Sí (Pase a la pregunta 16)

16. Por favor indique en qué actividades deportivas participan.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Béisbol | <input type="checkbox"/> Natación | <input type="checkbox"/> Animación deportiva |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sóftbol | <input type="checkbox"/> Fútbol | <input type="checkbox"/> Hockey/Hockey sobre césped |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fútbol americano | <input type="checkbox"/> Gimnasia artística | <input type="checkbox"/> Atletismo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Básquetbol | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tenis | <input type="checkbox"/> Vóleibol | <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____ |

17. ¿Por qué sus hijos no practican deportes?

18. ¿De qué manera viaja a los parques generalmente?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> En automóvil | <input type="checkbox"/> Camino/troto/corro | <input type="checkbox"/> Por un sendero |
| <input type="checkbox"/> En bicicleta | <input type="checkbox"/> En transporte público | <input type="checkbox"/> En un vehículo compartido (p. ej., Uber, Lyft) |

ACTIVIDADES DE RECREACIÓN Y EJERCICIO FÍSICO

Esta sección incluye preguntas sobre los tipos de actividades de recreación y ejercicio físico que realiza usted y su familia.

19. ¿Qué tipo de ejercicio físico realiza usted o su familia? (p. ej., bicicleta fija, CrossFit, boxeo, natación). Por favor, escriba las actividades a continuación.

20. ¿Con qué frecuencia realiza el ejercicio físico que indicó en la respuesta anterior?

- Diariamente
- Semanalmente
- Mensualmente
- Unas pocas veces al año
- Casi nunca (menos de una vez al año)
- No corresponde, no realizo actividad física.

21. ¿Usted es cliente de un gimnasio?

- No (Pase a la pregunta 23)
- Sí (Pase a la pregunta 22)

22. ¿Con qué frecuencia va al gimnasio?

- Diariamente
- Semanalmente
- Mensualmente
- Unas pocas veces al año
- Casi nunca voy (menos de una vez al año)

MEJORAS A LAS INSTALACIONES

En esta sección, incluimos preguntas sobre el mejoramiento de las instalaciones y le brindamos la oportunidad de recomendar mejoras a los parques y las instalaciones recreativas actuales.

23. ¿Tiene alguna recomendación para mejorar los parques y las instalaciones recreativas actuales?

- No (Pase a la pregunta 26)
- Sí (Pase a la pregunta 24)

24. ¿Qué mejoras necesitan los parques o las instalaciones recreativas?

25. ¿Qué otros tipos de parques, actividades o instalaciones recreativas le gustaría que se agregaran a lo que ya hay disponible?

26. ¿Ha usado parques e instalaciones recreativas fuera del condado de Tuscaloosa?

- No (Pase a la pregunta 30)
- Sí (Pase a la pregunta 27)

27. Si respondió «sí» a la pregunta anterior y tuvo una experiencia excepcionalmente positiva en el parque, por favor escriba el nombre y la ubicación del lugar. Puede incluir más de un parque.

28. ¿En qué se diferencia ese lugar de las instalaciones de Tuscaloosa? (Seleccione todas las que correspondan).

- La ubicación me es más conveniente
- Allí hay más actividades que me gustan
- Las instalaciones están en mejores condiciones
- El lugar generalmente no está lleno
- Las instalaciones de Tuscaloosa están en mejores condiciones
- Otras diferencias (específiquelas aquí abajo): _____

29. ¿Hay alguna característica del parque o la instalación recreativa que le gustaría ver en Tuscaloosa?

- No (Pase a la pregunta 31) Sí (Pase a la pregunta 30)

30. ¿Cuáles son las características del otro parque que le gustaría ver en Tuscaloosa?

31. Si la cuestión del transporte no fuera un problema, ¿usted estaría dispuesto a viajar a otro parque de Tuscaloosa que no esté cerca de su casa?

- No (Pase a la pregunta 32) Sí (Pase a la pregunta 31)

32. ¿Por qué viajaría para usar otro parque o instalación recreativa?

33. ¿Hay algún elemento, actividad o programa por el que estaría dispuesto a pagar si los encontrara en los parques o instalaciones recreativas de Tuscaloosa?

34. Indique cuáles de las siguientes **INSTALACIONES** a usted le gustaría agregar al parque que usa con más frecuencia. (Seleccione la respuesta que mejor corresponda para cada instalación).

	<i>Es imprescindible</i>	<i>Sería bueno tenerlo</i>	<i>No estoy interesada</i>
Área de juegos			
Senderos pavimentados para caminar			
Pabellón con mesas de picnic			
Más árboles y jardines			
Área abierta de juegos para partidos informales			
Juegos con agua			
Área para perros			
Fuente o estanque			
Puestos de venta/camiones de venta de comida			
Jardines comunitarios			
Juegos de mesa al aire libre (ajedrez, damas)			
Equipo para hacer ejercicios al aire libre			
Esculturas			
Canchas de arena para vóleybol			

35. Indique cuáles de los siguientes **PROGRAMAS** a usted o su familia le gustaría agregar al parque que usa con más frecuencia. (Seleccione la respuesta que mejor corresponda para cada programa).

	<i>Es imprescindible</i>	<i>Sería bueno tenerlo</i>	<i>No estoy interesada</i>
Eventos comunitarios especiales			
Programas para necesidades especiales			
Programas de bienestar y ejercicio físico			
Programas y educación medioambiental			
Grupos para correr/trotar			
Clases de jardinería			
Programas de vóleybol en cancha de arena			
Clases de ciclismo			

PREGUNTAS DEMOGRÁFICAS

Hemos incluido una serie de preguntas demográficas para determinar cómo está representada la comunidad.

36. Por favor, escriba su edad _____

37. Por favor, identifique su género. (Seleccione uno)

- Masculino
- Femenino
- No binario
- Prefiero describirme: _____
- Prefiero no compartir esta información

38. Por favor, seleccione la raza/grupo étnico con el que se identifica más. (Seleccione uno)

- Caucásico/blanco
- Afroamericano/negro
- Asiático/estadounidense de origen asiático
- Indígena americano/nativo de Alaska
- Nativo de Hawái u otras islas del Pacífico
- Otra (indique cuál): _____

39. ¿Es usted hispano o latino?

- No
- Sí

40. ¿Cuál es el nivel máximo de educación que ha completado? (Seleccione uno)

- Nivel inferior a la escuela secundaria
- Escuela secundaria/Diploma de Educación General
- Certificación de formación profesional
- Estudios universitarios de 2 años
- Estudios universitarios de 4 años
- Maestría
- Doctorado
- PhD/JD/MD

41. ¿Cuál es su situación laboral? (Seleccione todas las opciones que correspondan).

- Trabajo a tiempo completo
- Trabajo a tiempo parcial
- Estudio a tiempo completo
- Estudio a tiempo parcial
- Me ocupo de la casa
- Estoy desempleado y busco trabajo
- Estoy desempleado y no busco trabajo
- Estoy jubilado

42. ¿Cuál es su estado civil? (Seleccione uno)

- Soltero
- Casado
- En pareja (vivo con mi pareja pero no me he casado)
- Divorciado
- Separado
- Viudo

43. ¿Cuál es su ingreso familiar anual? (Seleccione uno)

- Menor a \$20,000
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$69,999
- \$70,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$89,999
- \$90,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$299,999
- \$300,000 - \$399,999
- \$400,000 - \$499,999
- \$500,000 o superior

44. ¿En qué barrio o área del condado vive actualmente? (Seleccione uno)

- En el centro de Tuscaloosa
- En la región central del este de Tuscaloosa (incluye la comunidad de Holt y Alberta)
- En la región central (cerca del centro de Tuscaloosa sobre la calle 15 y McFarland)
- Al norte del río
- En Northport
- En el sureste de Tuscaloosa (incluye el barrio Woodland Forrest y Cottdendale)
- En la zona de la carretera 69S (incluye Taylorville y Hillcrest)
- En el campus de la Universidad de Alabama
- En la región oeste de Tuscaloosa (incluye la zona de Stillman College)
- Otra región del condado de Tuscaloosa: _____

- Fuera del condado de Tuscaloosa (indique en qué condado): _____

45. ¿En qué ciudad y condado trabaja actualmente?

46. Escriba el código postal de 5 dígitos del lugar donde vive: _____

ELEVATE

PARKS & RECREATION



Contact Groups
1. Elevate Advisory Council (EAC)
2. American Christian Academy
3. Assorted Running Clubs
4. Boys and Girls Club of West Alabama
5. Capitol School
6. Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama
7. City of Tuscaloosa Employees
8. Diverse Business Council
9. Diverse Business Council of West Tuscaloosa (Project Unity)
10. Druid City Bicycle Club
11. Embassy Suites Downtown
12. FOCUS 50+
13. Forest Lake Neighborhood Association
14. Habitat for Humanity
15. Holy Spirit School
16. Homebuilders Association of Tuscaloosa (HBAT)
17. Kentuck
18. Mayor's Cup Participants
19. Ministerial Alliance
20. OLLI at the University of Alabama
21. Original City Association
22. Paddleboard Group
23. Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, and Zoning Board of Adjustment
24. Pritchett-Moore (EAC)
25. Project Unity (All 56 members)
26. Raymond James (EAC)
27. Restart Tuscaloosa
28. Shelley Jones (EAC)
29. Shelton State Community College (EAC)
30. Stillman College
31. The Arts & Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa & member organizations (EAC)
32. TotalCom Marketing Communications (EAC)
33. Tuscaloosa Academy
34. Tuscaloosa Association of Realtors (TAR)
35. Tuscaloosa Builds
36. Tuscaloosa City Council
37. Tuscaloosa City Schools
38. Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority members
39. Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority (EAC)
40. Tuscaloosa Housing Authority (All tenants)
41. Tuscaloosa Latino Coalition
42. Tuscaloosa Public Library
43. Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports (TTS) and Hospitality Groups (EAC)
44. Tuscaloosa.com & Elevatetuscaloosa.com
45. Tuscaloosa's One Place
46. UA Outdoor Rec
47. UA Panhellenic
48. University of Alabama
49. Warner Johnson (HOAs)
50. West Alabama Mountain Bike Association
51. West Alabama Works
52. Whatley Health Services (EAC)
53. Woodland Hills and Woodland Forrest area
54. YMCA (Project Unity)
55. Young Tuscaloosa