

Westchester County Resident Recreation Preference Survey Results 2022

Westchester County Parks conducted its first comprehensive resident recreation preference user survey since 2008. The County commissioned WBA Research, Lanham, Maryland in 2022 to conduct an updated survey in an effort to respond accordingly and help guide the department in strategic planning, future investment, maintenance and improvements to its parks. The survey also obtained information from residents regarding their use of County facilities, what they think of those facilities, and how more residents can be attracted to use County recreational facilities.

Quantitative Methodology

- Conducted July 3 through October 3, 2022.
- 15,000 random addresses equally weighted/sampled and defined by zip code for the southern, central and northern regions.
- Letter included a link for on-line survey or telephone, followed up by calls from WBA.
- 792 completed surveys.
- 95% confident level (+/- 3.5%)

The provided full survey contains complete detail and data. Below are some key findings.

Park Usage

- Increased usage of Parks across the board when compared to 2008.
- 94% have visited at least one County Park in the past 12 months.
(Top Three: Kensico Dam Plaza, Bronx River Reservation, Saxon Woods & Glen Island Parks).
- 84% have visited at least one County Recreation Facility in the past 12 months.
(Top Three: Playland Park, County Center, Muscoot Farm).
- 88% use walking, hiking and biking trails.
- 54% use nature trails and centers.

Park Benefits

- 97% agree County Parks improve physical health and fitness.
- 96% parks preserve open space and environment.
- 95% agree parks make Westchester a more desirable place to live.
- 95% agree parks improve mental health and reduce stress.
- 91% have positive impressions of the physical conditions of parks (84% in 2008).
- 80% are satisfied with overall value of County Parks (67% in 2008).

Park Investment (allocation of funds)

- 75% Improve and maintain existing parks
- 61% new trails and pathways
- 56% Water-based recreation (swimming, boating)
- 52% Open Space
- 43% County Center

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Needs Assessment (sampling of needs being met)

- 89% Walking, Hiking, Biking being met (76% in 2008)
- 84% Nature Trails and Nature Centers (67% in 2008)
- 77% Golf Courses (69% in 2008)
- 76% Picnic Areas (73% in 2008)
- 73% Playgrounds (62% in 2008)
- 45% Cricket Pitch (n/a 2008)
- 39% Cross Country Skiing (29% in 2008)
- 38% Overnight Camping (30% in 2008)
- 35% Outdoor Ice Skating Areas (30% in 2008)
- 26% Pickle Ball Courts (n/a in 2008)

County Center Reopening – (what should return or new)

- 76% Concerts
- 56% Family Entertainment
- 44% Recreational Events
- 41% Professional Sporting events
- 33% Trade Shows

Covid Park Usage

- 43% of residents increased usage
- 37% plan to maintain increased usage (North 41%; Central 43%; South 30%)